

**KNOWLEDGE AND PERCEPTION ON
AMPHETAMINES USE AMONG THE
ADOLESCENTS (GRADE 9 AND 10 STUDENTS)
IN HPA-AN TOWNSHIP**

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ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional study of knowledge and perception on Amphetamines use among adolescents was conducted in Hpa-an Township, Kayin State from October to November, 2013. A total of 240, grade 9 and grade 10 students from all Basic Education High Schools (BEHS) were sampled by stratified random sampling method and surveyed by using semi-structured self-administered questionnaire with the general objectives of studying of the knowledge and perception among the study population. The present study revealed that the students' ages were between 12 and 14 years old. The majority of the students were living with both parents. Their parents' education level was mainly high school level. Most of their fathers did owned business but most of their mothers were dependents. Only 28.8% of the students knew the most common street names of Amphetamines and most of them were confused with other narcotic drugs like heroin and marijuana. They knew the general information of this drug included in life skill curriculum like forms, ways of use, high risk persons and common selling places. There were limited knowledge level on effects, consequences and reasons for use. The main sources of information about Amphetamines were from health talks and life skill curriculum. The present study found that 51.2% of the students had high level of knowledge about Amphetamines and 57.1% of the students had non-risk perception towards Amphetamines use. Quantitative data was analyzed by using SPSS- version 16 to perform Chi-square test for analysis of bivariates. The level of knowledge and perception were not associated with the students' grades, sex groups and schools. It was concluded that although the respondents had got good level of knowledge, there were some incorrect knowledge about Amphetamines. Although, the respondents had had same experience on life-skill curriculum about Amphetamines, the knowledge gap was still present among them. Thus, health education about Amphetamines should be intensified to reduce incorrect knowledge and the school children to be able to differentiate the various kinds of narcotic drugs, and have essential information about each narcotic drug.