

Abstracts

serum HCV VL >5 log₁₀ IU/mL ($p = 0.011$). The magnitude of paired rectal and serum HCV VLs were strongly correlated (correlation coefficient 0.688, $p < 0.001$). Based on the median quantifiable rectal VL in the absence of visible blood, the surface of an average human penis would be exposed to 2,496 IU of HCV for the duration of anal intercourse.

Conclusion This study provides the first documentation of the presence of HCV in non-blood rectal fluid. It is plausible that the combination of bathing of an inserted penis in rectal HCV, with the attendant friction of anal intercourse, could result in penetration of HCV into the inserted penis. The protection to the penis afforded by a condom would logically mitigate the risk of transmission by this mechanism. This study should inform public health policy concerning the primary prevention of sexually transmitted HCV.

Disclosure of interest statement There are no competing or financial interests to disclose.

P11.24 LANDSCAPE OF HSV2 AND HIV INFECTIONS AMONG MSMs IN MOROCCO: RESULTS FROM A RESPONDENT DRIVEN SAMPLING SURVEY

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Introduction Over the past two decades, Herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV2) became the most common cause of genital ulcer in the developed and the developing countries. It represents a risk factor for the acquisition and transmission of other sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV.

With regard to the lack of reports about HSV2 prevalence among Men having Sex with Men (MSMs) in Morocco, this study was conducted to determine the prevalence of the virus among MSMs associated to the risk behaviour.

Methods MSMs from two regions (Marrakech and Agadir) were recruited using Respondent-driven sampling, a chain referral sampling approach. Blood samples collected from 669 recruits were assessed for IgG antibody of HSV2 using ELISA method. Positive samples were tested for IgM to assess recent infection. HIV diagnosis was performed using ELISA test. Reactive samples were confirmed using western blot. Discordant tests were confirmed using PCR. Socio-demographic informations and behavioural data were collected to assess the risk factors associated with infections.

Results The results showed an overall HSV2 sero prevalence of 23%, and 4.2% for HIV1 infection. Co-infection with HSV2 among HIV positive recruits was estimated to 50%. Among HSV 2 reactive recruits, 7% were positive for HSV 2 IgM, which testifies a recent infection.

Only 22.4% of MSMs consistently used condoms with male partners and 35% had never been tested for HIV.

A Risky sexual behaviour and a lack of knowledge about STIs and HIV were the main driver of this situation.

Conclusion Findings suggest continuing STIs risk among MSM in Morocco and a need to strengthen prevention and testing.

P11.25 TIMOR-LESTE NATIONAL SIZE ESTIMATES AND BEHAVIOURAL DATA FOR KEY POPULATIONS AT RISK OF HIV AND OTHER STIS

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Introduction The Timor-Leste HIV/STI response is largely focused on the key populations of sex workers, men who have sex with men and transgender (MSM&TG) and people who use and/or inject drugs (PWUD/PWID). With no prior national size estimation (NSE), a NSE was undertaken to inform HIV/STI programming for these population groups. Behavioural surveying of FSW and MSM&TG in Dili was also completed.

Methods To improve reliability, several size estimation methods were used: Network Scale-Up; Service Multiplier; Successive Sampling – Size; and ‘Wisdom of the Crowd’. Estimates were cross-referenced with service records, estimates from comparable settings and key informant estimates. Plausible estimates were combined and extrapolated to non-assessed districts. A consensus process with key stakeholders was undertaken for validation. For behavioural data, a respondent-driven sampling (RDS)-based survey of FSW and MSM&TG was conducted in the capital of Dili.

Results

1. National size estimates

- **FSW:** 1688 (95% CI: 1333, 2044); 0.71% females aged 15–49
- **MSM&TG:** 8703 (95% CI: 7821, 9,585); 2.76% males aged 15+
- **PWUD:** 388 (95% CI: 208, 787); 0.07% adults aged 15–64
- **PWID:** 53 (95% CI: 10, 127); <0.01% adults aged 15–64

2. Behaviour

A total of 125 FSW and 229 MSM&TG participated in the Dili behavioural survey. Service interaction was mixed, with 67.8% (95% CI: 55.7%, 79.0%, n = 91) of FSW and 51.0% (95% CI: 40.6%, 61.1%, n = 124) of MSM&TG reporting ever having had an HIV test. About one-quarter of both FSW (25.7%, 95% CI: 16.1%, 34.3%, n = 39) and MSM&TG (26.1%, 95% CI: 18.8%, 33.5%, n = 51) reported always using condoms with their client/male sexual partner respectively. Reported illicit drug use among both populations was extremely low.

Conclusion Estimates produced were deemed plausible. The comparably low national PWUD/PWID estimates reflected an extremely low current prevalence of illicit drug use in the country. Behavioural data indicated ongoing HIV/STI risk factors for FSW and MSM&TG.

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P11.26 THE SOCIAL AND SEXUAL DYNAMIC BETWEEN GAY MEN/TRANSGENDER PEOPLE AND THEIR STRAIGHT-IDENTIFYING MALE PARTNERS IN TIMOR-LESTE

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