

(32.8%) FSW. The self-reported mean number of sexual partners in the past 4 weeks was 125 (range 8–440) translating to 33,496 sex acts/month overall. HIV prevalence was 76.0%. Infectious hepatitis B was present in 13 (4.9%) and treponemal antibodies were detected in 54 (20.1%). Most (73.7%) of 196 FSW tested had evidence of one or more genital tract infection with: BV 173 (88.3%), MG 57 (29.1%), NG 28 (14.3%), TV 23 (11.7%) and CT 16 (8.2%). Only 49 (25%) FSW with laboratory-confirmed infections would qualify for syndromic management. All 21 cultured gonococci were susceptible to cephalosporins.

**Conclusion** There is a high prevalence of HIV and STIs among those FSW tested. The majority of STIs are asymptomatic.

**Disclosure of interest statement** The study was funded by USAID/PEPFAR and AIDS Fonds. SD bioline tests were provided by SD diagnostics.

#### P14.18 UNDERSTANDING THE INTENTION TO UNDERGO REGULAR HIV TESTING AMONG FEMALE SEX WORKERS IN BENIN: A KEY ISSUE FOR ENTRY INTO HIV CARE

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10.1136/sextrans-2015-052270.530

**Background** HIV testing constitutes an entry point for HIV prevention and access to care. Although access to tests has increased in most low- and middle-income countries in recent years, regular HIV testing among high-risk populations remains a challenge. Understanding the determinants of regular HIV testing is the key to improving treatment-as-prevention programs and access to care. This study aimed to identify psychosocial factors associated with the intention to be HIV tested every 3 months among female sex workers (FSWs) in Benin.

**Methods** We developed an interview questionnaire based on the Theory of Planned Behaviour and other theoretical variables. We interviewed 450 FSWs in their work place. Using Amos software, we applied structural equation modelling to identify the determinants of intention.

**Results** Previous testing was reported by 87% of FSWs, 40% of whom reported having been tested in the last 3 months. More than half of the FSWs (69%) showed a strong intention to be HIV tested during the next 3 months. The structural model indicates that 55% of the variance in intention is explained in descending order of importance (standardised coefficient weight, b) by perceived control ( $\beta = 0.26$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ); descriptive norms ( $\beta = 0.24$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ); control beliefs ( $\beta = 0.22$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ); habits ( $\beta = 0.20$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ); attitude ( $\beta = 0.12$ ,  $P = 0.01$ ); Perceived risk ( $\beta = 0.07$ ,  $P = 0.03$ ); and normative beliefs ( $\beta = 0.07$ ,  $P = 0.03$ ).

**Conclusions** This is the first theoretically based study identifying determinants of intention to undergo regular HIV testing among FSWs in sub-Saharan Africa. The results can inform development of interventions to maintain and increase regular HIV testing among FSWs, thus reinforcing primary prevention and supporting early access to care.

The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose. This study was funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (Grant no. ROH-115205).

#### P14.19 THE IMPACT OF SEX WORK ON WOMEN'S PERSONAL ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS

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10.1136/sextrans-2015-052270.531

**Introduction** Female sex workers are a diverse group of women who have previously been studied extensively in relation to prior rates of abuse, drug and alcohol use, mental and physical health and condom use. Very limited research has been done regarding sex workers' personal romantic relationships outside of work and the impact the nature of their work has on their relationships. The aim of this study was to explore the impact sex work has on personal romantic relationships and the experiences women have balancing their work and personal lives.

**Methods** Fifty-five Melbourne based indoor sex workers completed a self-report questionnaire about their work, personal relationships, condom use and rates of physical and sexual abuse. Following analysis of the questionnaire findings, a further six sex workers were independently interviewed face to face to 'member check' the findings and determine if the broader findings were representative of their experience.

**Results** For the majority of women, sex work was found to negatively impact their personal romantic relationships. The main ways sex work negatively impacted on their personal relationships included problems stemming from lying, trust, guilt and jealousy as well as stigma in the wider community. It was common for women to use various means to mentally separate their work and home lives as a coping mechanism. A small number of women reported sex work had a positive impact on their relationships, which they mainly attributed to their partners positive attitude toward their work.

**Conclusion** The findings of this study suggest that further larger scale research is required to explore the impact of sex work on romantic relationships, the coping mechanisms women use to manage the tensions between sex work and their romantic relationships, and the ways in which negative impacts could be minimised for women in this diverse group.

**Disclosure of interest statement** No conflict of interest.

#### P14.20 RELATIONSHIP MYTH BETWEEN SEX WORKERS, STI'S AND HIV

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10.1136/sextrans-2015-052270.532

**Introduction** For years Sex Workers in Australia, especially QLD, have been incorrectly attributed to the increase of STI's and HIV in the general community. This article will conclude that Sex Workers are not the cause of transmission increase in STI's and HIV. To the contrary Sex Workers have very low levels of STI's and HIV. Furthermore Sex Workers have helped to educated clients to reduce transmission of STI's and HIV. This article demonstrates the important role of Respect Inc in health promotion of Sex Workers with provision in education of STI's and HIV, so Sex Workers can keep themselves safe whilst doing Sex Work.

**Methods** The team will use a number of methods to collect data, all methods are traditional and dependent on targets. For example, we have used paper questionnaires to collect information from Sex Workers, this reduced barriers when asking Sex