

Conclusion Even in a relatively small context such as Timor-Leste, a large variation was reported in the degree to which sex work was accepted. Ongoing social and law enforcement challenges for FSW highlight the need for continued investment in sex work advocacy and community building.

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012.2 UNDERSTANDING THE RELATIONSHIP DYNAMICS BETWEEN FEMALE SEX WORKERS AND THEIR INTIMATE PARTNERS IN KUMASI, GHANA

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Introduction Intimate partners (IP) of female sex workers (FSW) are a population of growing interest in Ghana. The study objectives were to: explore the emotional, financial, and power dynamics within these relationships; describe the sexual behaviours and HIV knowledge and vulnerabilities of both partners; and document the perceived availability and accessibility of social support and health services.

Methods In-depth interviews (IDIs) were conducted with 24 male IP of FSW. Two focus group discussions were conducted with 13 male IPs and three with 20 FSWs. The age range of IPs was from 20–60 years and FSWs from 18–50.

Results The IPs met their FSWs through introductions by close friends, patronising FSW's services and/or by FSWs going after the IPs. The nature of relationships ranged from the IP offering protection for financial support (transactional), meeting emotional needs (intimate) to consensual reciprocal relationships. Forty percent of IPs were monogamous with their FSW partner, and about 50% of IPs and FSW couples used condoms. Lack of condom use was considered a sign of intimacy. The majority of respondents had some knowledge of HIV transmission and consequences. All respondents understood that condoms offer protection against HIV infection, but many FSW respondents reported difficulty in convincing regular clients to use condoms. Over half of the men who participated in the IDIs had recently tested for HIV, and half the men knew their FSW partner's HIV status. Respondents showed varying levels of awareness of HIV testing options and pricing, and had suggestions for how to improve services.

Conclusion Study results show a nuanced picture of IP of FSW relationships, and these dynamics are important in the context of HIV and STI transmission prevention. Expanded community-based services for FSW and IP and initiatives that increase availability and acceptability of condom use should be pursued.

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012.3 MULTICULTURAL SURVEY – 20 YEARS ON: TRENDS IN CHINESE AND THAI FEMALE SEX WORKER DEMOGRAPHICS AND SEXUAL HEALTH IN SYDNEY

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Social policy, behavioural change, psychosocial or psychosexual issues related to sexual health.

Background Studies from Sydney Sexual Health Centre (SSHC) in 1993 and 2003 found changes in demographics and safe sex practices of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) sex workers attending SSHC over time. We aimed to establish if there are further changes in 2014.

Methods A cross sectional survey of CALD sex workers attending SSHC and parlours visited on outreach, was conducted from June 2014 to February 2015. The survey included questions from surveys conducted in 1993 and 2003, so trends could be identified. All studies used an anonymous questionnaire translated into Thai and Chinese. Results were analysed by pair-wise comparisons.

Results In 2014, 338 participants were included in the analysis, compared to 65 and 91 participants in 2003 and 1993 respectively. Comparing 2014 to 2003, there was a 91% ($p < 0.001$) increase in workers with <10 years of education, matched by a similar trend in poor levels of spoken English. Two thirds (66%) of workers were on student visas in 2014 compared to 26% in 2003. Workers who have been on contract decreased from 27% in 1993 to 9% in 2003 ($p = 0.0001$) and 8% in 2014 ($p = 0.67$).

Consistent condom use for vaginal sex increased by 49% ($p < 0.001$) in 2014 compared to 1993. However there was a 9% ($p = 0.038$) decrease between 2014 and 2003, with similar trends in consistent condom use for oral sex. The provision of free condoms has decreased from 63% in 1993 to 22% ($P < 0.001$) in 2014.

Conclusion From 2003 to 2014, there has been a decrease in the level of education and English proficiency among CALD sex workers, which may impact on the ability to negotiate sex work safely. There is increased consistent condom use in 2014 compared to 1993, but there has been a downward trend in the last 10 years. Education and access to health services remains crucial for CALD sex workers.

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