FACTORS INFLUENCING CERVICAL INFECTION AMONG FEMALE SEX WORKERS IN BENIN

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Background As female sex workers (FSW) continue to play a key role in HIV-1 epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa, programs aiming at reducing sexually transmitted infections (STI) involved in HIV acquisition and transmission are still needed. The objective of this study was to determine factors influencing STI acquisition among FSW in Cotonou, Benin.

Methods Three hundred and eighty seven (387) FSW were recruited in a medical center dedicated to STI treatment among female sex workers and their clients. Cervical infections by Neisseria gonorrhoeae (NG) and Chlamydia trachomatis (CT) were investigated at enrolment into the study. All infected FSW received adequate treatment for free. We used a multivariate logistic regression model to assess variables independently associated with cervical infection at enrolment (p value<0.05).

Results The FSW were essentially from Benin (39.5%) and neighbouring countries such as Nigeria (22.1%), Togo (21.8%) and Ghana (15.1%). One hundred and forty three subjects (143; 57.0%) were HIV-1 positive (52 were treated with antiretroviral therapy and 91 remained untreated because not yet meeting eligibility for treatment). Median age (IQR) and median duration (IQR) in the work spanned groups were identified.

Conclusions These data suggest potential pathways STD control programs to intervene with hard-to-reach populations, like commercial sex workers. In this project, a participant-informed approach was utilised that should result in increased uptake and utilisation of sexual health services because participants provided key insights into the programmatic considerations necessary for STD prevention efforts to be most effective.

CHANGES IN HIV KNOWLEDGE & RISK BEHAVIOURS IN FEMALE SEX WORKERS IN RWANDA - HIV PREVENTION IMPLICATIONS OF TREND ANALYSES IN BEHAVIOURAL SURVEILLANCE

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In Rwanda, existing empirical and analytical studies indicate that female commercial sex workers (FCSW) play an important role in the HIV epidemic. It is thus critical to track sexual risk behaviours in this group in order to develop effective prevention programs and services for sex workers. In this context, the Ministry of Health (MOH) of Rwanda and partners conducted two rounds of behavioural surveillance surveys (BSS) among FCSW in 2006 and 2010. We used time-location sampling based on geographic maps of sex work