predominantly heterosexual. The aim of this study conducted in Cotonou, Benin, was to determine factors associated with unprotected sex among female sex workers (FSW), an important core group for the transmission of HIV and sexually transmitted infections (STI).

Methods We have recruited and followed 396 FSW in a reference center for STI treatment. Condom use was assessed at enrolment and 6 months thereafter. FSW were asked how often they have used condoms with their clients during the last 7 days of work. During the study, FSW were encouraged to always use condoms with their clients. A generalised estimating equation model for binomial distribution with repeated measures was used to isolate factors independently associated with failure to use condoms during any sexual act.

Results The cohort comprised 1) 149 HIV-positive FSW, of which 52 were treated with antiretroviral therapy (ART) and 2) 247 HIV-negative subjects. Mean age (standard deviation; sd) and mean number of clients (sd) during the last 7 days of work were, respectively, 38.8 (9.3) years and 28.4 (26.1) clients. The majority of the FSW (55.3%) did not practice in brothels or equivalent set ups. At enrolment, 5.6% of the FSW reported that they have never used condoms during the last week of work. The proportion of FSW with full use of condoms during the last 7 days of work increased from 77.8% at enrolment to 90.6% 6 months after. First assessment of condom use (enrollment into the study) [RR 2.17; 95% CI 1.44% to 3.26%], not working in a brothel (RR 2.22; 95% CI 1.39% to 3.54%), having a relatively low monthly income (RR 1.65; 95% CI 1.04% to 2.57%) and older age (RR 1.50; 95% CI 1.03 to 2.21%) were independently associated with failure to always use condoms with the clients. Being HIV-infected or being treated with ART was not associated with the issue of interest. The reasons reported by the FSW for not using condoms during the last sexual act were dominated by the refusal of the client (46%).

Conclusion As suggested by our results, interventions promoting condom use during any commercial sexual act are fruitful and need to target women outside brothels, economically more vulnerable and older FSW as well as their clients.
assessed and blood and urine samples were collected to test for STIs [Chlamydia trachomatis (CT), Neisseria gonorrhoeae (NG), syphilis and HIV]. Analysis at both the aggregate and state level was done. Adjusted ORs were obtained by including all socio-demographic variables associated with rounds of survey in multivariate models.

**Results**
At the aggregate level, among FSWs, prevalence of syphilis declined from 10.8% in R1 to 5.0% in R2 (AOR 0.39, p=0.001) and no significant change was observed in prevalence of HIV, NG or CT. Among FSW clients, STI prevalence was low in R1 (syphilis 4.7%, NG 0.4% and CT 2.4%) and no significant change was observed in R2. The state-wide trend shows that for FSWs in AP, a significant decline occurred in prevalence of both HIV (AOR 0.68, p<0.01) and syphilis (AOR 0.39, p<0.001) whereas in TN, only syphilis prevalence declined (AOR 0.20, p<0.001). The trend in MH differs from the other two states. In MH, prevalence of bacterial STIs (syphilis, NG and CT) declined significantly whereas HIV prevalence increased significantly (AOR 1.29, p=0.04). Among FSW clients, STI prevalence was low in MH (syphilis 4.3%, NG 0.7%, and CT 4.2%) and TN (syphilis 4.1%, NG 0.0%, and CT 0.8%) in R1 and remained unchanged in R2. However, a significant decline occurred in HIV prevalence in both states [MH: AOR-0.25, p=0.002; TN: AOR-2.3, p<0.05]. In AP, only prevalence of syphilis (AOR 0.18, p<0.001) declined and no change was observed in other STIs.

**Conclusion**
The prevalence of syphilis declined among both FSWs and their clients in all three states whereas no change was seen in other bacterial STI prevalence (NG or CT). Among FSW clients in MH and TN, STI prevalence remained unaltered. Tailored and sustained programmatic efforts are needed to address the disparity in prevalence of STIs and HIV in the three states.