Phone diaries to capture contextual features of STI/HIV-risk that could impact disease acquisition among female sex workers (FSW).

Methods Women engaging in transactional sex in the prior 90 days were recruited utilising incentivized snowball sampling. Participants completed STI testing and baseline exit surveys. Over 4-weeks, they completed twice daily electronic diaries assessing event level sexual behaviour, condom use, and drug use. Weekly in-person interviews used open ended questions to explore geographical characteristics of sexual encounter locations as well as acceptability of event-level monitoring.

Results 25/26 participants (median age 43.5 years) completed the 4-week study. At baseline, 27% tested positive for a STI. Participants completed 84.5% of 1,518 expected surveys and 95% of 106 expected interviews. Patterns of diary compliance were stable over time. Partner sexual activity was captured in 21.4% of diaries. At the participant level most reported giving oral sex (84.7%) or vaginal sex (96.1%); fewer (19.2%) reported engaging in anal sex. Among women reporting partnered sexual behaviour with any partner type (i.e., new/regular customers, romantic partners), using condoms was reported 39.2%, 45.5% and 83.3% of the time for giving oral sex, vaginal sex, and anal sex respectively. At the event level the frequency of giving oral sex, vaginal sex or anal sex did not significantly change over time.

Conclusions It is feasible to engage and retain FSW in a technologically advanced study to characterise risk contexts of sexual events. Adherence to study protocol was high indicating event level monitoring using cell phone based diaries is acceptable. These data can be utilised to improve our understanding of the individual, relational and environmental factors that influence STI/HIV acquisition among FSW.

Summary of findings

P4.039 HIV-POSITIVE CLIENT REPRODUCTIVE DESIRES AND HEALTH CARE PROVIDER PERSPECTIVES OF PREGNANCY IN HIV-POSITIVE WOMEN IN ETHEKWINI DISTRICT, KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA


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Background The Province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa has among the highest concentrations of people living with HIV However, with improved access to ARVs and PMTCT, PLWHIV are now able to have children with minimal risk. There is therefore a need to explore current fertility and contraceptive desires of this population to ensure appropriate and accessible sexual and reproductive health (SRH) counselling.

Methods Baseline and Endline surveys were conducted in 2009 and 2011 with providers and clients at seven healthcare facilities, before and after the implementation of a SRH service integration model, in eThekwini District. HIV-positive clients’ fertility intentions, contraceptive use and providers’ perceptions of pregnancies among HIV-positive women were explored. Descriptive statistics were generated using SPSS.

Results At baseline 46 providers and 86 HIV-positive clients (14 male, 72 female) and at endline 44 providers and 144 HIV-positive clients (45 male, 101 female) were interviewed. 18.6% and 38% of clients at baseline and endline, respectively, wanted more children. At baseline and endline, females with HIV-positive partners were less likely than those with HIV-negative partners to want more children. Concerns about the health of the baby and self were common reasons for not wanting more children. At baseline, of those who wanted children, half the women and all men were using contraception. At endline, 80% of women and 72% of men who wanted children were using contraception. Male condoms were the most common contraceptive used. At baseline, 48% of providers thought healthy HIV-positive women could consider having children, compared with 66% at endline.

Conclusion There is a need for reproductive choices and family planning to be integrated with HIV services. Comprehensive policies and programmes should be developed to address SRH counselling needs of HIV-positive men and women, and address the values and training needs of providers.

Summary of findings

P4.040 STUDY TO EXPLORE THE SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR AND PRACTISES, AND DRUG USE PATTERN AMONG FEMALE INJECTING DRUG USERS IN SIKKIM


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Background North East of India is a hub of Drug Use activities (NACO 2007). Although the government has specific programme to reduce the risks and vulnerabilities of Injecting Drug Users and cater to their health needs, it focuses on the male IDUs, ignoring the vulnerabilities of Female Injecting Drug Users; not recognising their variety of backgrounds to enjoy pleasure and “recapture” ideas of freedom that were suppressed under the Maoist regime. For women working in these spaces, however, the unequal social relations they encounter reflect the limited opportunities that women more generally encounter in post-socialist China.

Conclusion Any intervention that seeks to reduce risk behaviours in sex work venues must account for how sexual risk practices and vulnerabilities are rooted in larger political economic realities.