Background

Male sex workers (MSW) in China, known as “money boys”, have been identified as a bridging population for transmission of HIV/STIs between communities of men who have sex with men (MSM) and the general population.

Method

Based on geographic mapping and enumeration results in Chengdu, a sample of sex work venues (n = 23) was selected and profiled to understand the network operation and formation of the MSW industry in Chengdu. To reduce the social desirability bias of face-to-face interviews, Polling Booth Survey (PBS) was used to document the risks behaviours of MSWs (n = 130). Data from voluntary counselling/testing (VCT) of MSW (N = 531) and general MSMs (N = 1908) were analysed for HIV prevalence.

Results

On average, MSW provided sexual services to 4–6 clients (mean = 2.4 ± 3.5) per day, with as many as 10 clients (mean = 7.1 ± 5.25 std) in a peak day. All respondents reported 100% condom use during face-to-face interviews. PBS results, however, revealed that only 74% of MSW used condoms every time and 76% in last anal sex. Using condoms with permanent sex partners was lower (44% last month anal sex). 14% of MSW had anal sex 3+ times, and 4% had anal sex 7+ times in one day. VCT data showed a relatively lower HIV prevalence (6%) in MSW (N = 531) compared to the HIV prevalence (10%) in MSM in 2012. 29% of MSWs identified as heterosexual, 20% as bisexual, and 51% as gay.

Conclusion

Male sex work in urban China has grown into a thriving industry. Due to high client volumes, unprotected anal sex, multiple concurrent sexual partners, and participation in sexual networks that span various cities throughout China, MSWs are at a higher risk for HIV/STI transmission. PBS is a more reliable method to examine risky sexual behaviours among high risk populations.

Background

Inaccurate suspicions of infidelity among married couples can affect trust and intimacy in a relationship. We sought to document the risks behaviours of MSWs (n = 43) and investigate the factors driving MSM to high-risk for HIV.

Methods

We conducted a cross-sectional survey of 454 couples. We contacted a proportion to size simple random sample of fishermen on each beach as our index participants and asked them to enrol with their spouses. The consenting couples were separated into different private rooms for simultaneous gender-matched interviews. In addition to socio-economic and behavioural data, we collected information on extra-marital sex partners and infidelity suspicions among spouses. We used descriptive statistics and multivariate logistic regression for analysis.

Results

A quarter (27.2%) of the women and 16.9% of the men suspected their spouses of infidelity but only 6.2% of the women and 32.1% of the men reported extra-marital relationship. Overall, 43.2% of the women and 6.5% of the men accurately suspected their spouses with sensitivity of 36.6% and 17.6% respectively. Correlates of women accurately suspecting their spouses were: men being mobile (OR, 0.58; 95% CI: 0.39–0.85), couple being in polygamous marriage (OR, 0.48; 95% CI: 0.25–0.90), taking longer time during sexual intercourse (OR, 0.97; 95% CI: 0.95–0.99), men’s higher score on male dominance scale (for all our scales, higher score better) (OR, 1.08; 95% CI: 1.03–1.13) and higher score on domestic violence scale (OR, 1.27; 95% CI: 1.12–1.44). Conversely, correlates of men accurately suspecting their spouses of infidelity were: women being denied preferred sex position (OR, 0.50; 95% CI: 0.26–0.98), couple being in polygamous marriage (OR, 2.51; 95% CI: 1.01–6.23) and higher score on domestic violence - higher e scale (OR, 1.83; 95% CI: 1.15–1.54).

Conclusion

High rates of inaccurate infidelity suspicions in this community may be detrimental to marital relationships. Couples need to consider correlates that aid accurate suspicion before bring up the issue for discussion.