Abstracts

CORRELATES OF HIV TESTING AMONG POLYSUBSTANCE USERS IN 10 BRAZILIAN CITIES: A RESPONSIVE DRIVEN SAMPLING SURVEY

CJ Baptista*, 1Dourado, 2IM Andrade, 1S Brigol, 3Fi Bastos. 1Instituto de Saúde Coletiva, Universidade Federal Da Bahia; 2Faculdade de Medicina Da Bahia, Universidade Federal Da Bahia; 3Instituto de Comunicação E Informação Científica E Tecnológica Em Saúde, Fiocruz.

Introduction The goal to end HIV/aids pandemic by 2030 has a number of policies such as 90% of people living with HIV knowing their HIV status, therefore early diagnosis is fundamental as component of a comprehensive HIV prevention. In Brazil, 33.6% of interviewees in the general population reported never been tested for HIV in 2005. Little is known about HIV testing among illicit polysubstance users (PSUs). Our aim is to assess correlates of never been tested for HIV among illicit PSUs.

Methods A cross-sectional study recruited 3,449 PSUs in 10 Brazilian cities through respondent driven sampling in 2009. Data was collected using computer-assisted self-interview. Estimates were weighted by the inverse of the participant’s social network size.

Results Overall, 56% had never tested for HIV. Statistically significant odds ratios of never tested were: being male 0.43 (0.36–0.51), non-white 0.75 (0.64–0.88), < 30 years old 0.65 (0.57–0.76), income <US$200 (0.71, 0.60–0.86), no-income 0.62 (0.51–0.74), < 10 years of education (0.82, 0.69–0.98), and no formal education (0.48, 0.35–0.65). Never testing for HIV were also correlated to the following factors: sex exchange (0.85, 0.73–0.98), disagree that sex without condom can transmit HIV (0.30, 0.18–0.50) and that people apparently healthy should be HIV infected (0.53, 0.36–0.77); not receiving counseling on STIs in the last 12 months before the interview (0.73, 0.61–0.88), not knowing free HIV testing services (0.22, 0.19–0.26), and never had syphilis in lifetime (0.77, 0.60–0.99).

Conclusion There is a need to increase access to and uptake of HIV testing among PSUs in Brazil. The availability of self-testing is a possibility to further expand early diagnosis of HIV. However, sociodemographic disparities, stigma and discrimination among PSUs need to be addressed before implementation.

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SEXUAL BEHAVIOURS AND UNPROTECTED SEX WITH CASUAL AND COMMERCIAL PARTNERS AMONG POLYSUBSTANCE USERS IN BRAZIL: FINDINGS FROM A RESPONSIVE DRIVEN SAMPLING STUDY

CJ Baptista*, 1Dourado, 2IM Andrade, 1S Brigol, 3Fi Bastos. 1Instituto de Saúde Coletiva, Universidade Federal Da Bahia; 2Faculdade de Medicina Da Bahia, Universidade Federal Da Bahia; 3Instituto de Comunicação E Informação Científica E Tecnológica Em Saúde, Fiocruz.

Introduction Unprotected sexual intercourse (USI) is a known risk factor for HIV infection. And bisexual men (BSM) who engage in USI with casual and commercial partners may be at a higher risk. Our aim is to estimate prevalence of men having sex with men (MSM), BSM, and USI to guide prevention via sexual route among polysubstance users (PSUs).

Methods A total of 3,449 PSUs were recruited in a cross-sectional study in 10 Brazilian cities through respondent driven sampling in 2009. Data was collected using audio computer-assisted self-interview. Estimates were weighted by the inverse of the participant’s social network size.

Results Among 2,682 (73.7% of the sample) males, 4.4% referred having sex only with men (MSM), 16.2% with both men and women (BSM). 64.8% engaged in USI with commercial partnerships; whereas 47.1% of those exchanged sex for money/drugs 12 months before the interview. Casual partnerships 12 months before the interview were reported by 47.9% of men; whereas 62.3% of those reported USI with that casual partners.

Conclusion It is urgent to design interventions among males PSUs in Brazil who engage in commercial and casual USI. Social interventions, education in health, and linkage to health services are needed to prevent sexual transmission of HIV in this group most at risk.

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MOLECULAR IDENTIFICATION OF TREPONEMA PALLIDUM STRAINS FROM SYPHILITIC LESIONS IN STI CLINIC PATIENTS, LIMA, PERU

JA Flores*, 1SK Vargas, 1SR Leon, 1JA Konda, 1JH Chow, 1GM Calvo, 1HI Salvatiera, 1D Brown, 1JD Klausner, 1CF Caceres. 1Unit of Health, Sexuality and Human Development, and Laboratory of Sexual Health, Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru; 2Division of Infectious Diseases, David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, USA; 3Epicentro, Lima, Peru; 4Alberto Barton Health Center, Health Directorate of Callao, Lima, Peru; 5School of Public Health, University of California, Irvine, CA, USA.

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