

include addressing payment and access barriers, developing a sexual healthcare model for men which could include standing orders for frequent syphilis screening for MSM seeking STD or HIV services along with other recommended STD screening, vaccinations and prevention interventions, monitoring adverse outcomes of syphilis in MSM such as neurosyphilis and ocular syphilis, and aligning HIV and syphilis surveillance systems and prevention messages.

Conclusion The prevention of CS and MSM syphilis depend on a successful call to action defining ways that healthcare providers, health departments, communities and policymakers can contribute to syphilis prevention and control.

P6.12 SEX AND TRAVEL: MSM UTILITY – LOCATION BASED SOCIAL NETWORKING/DATING SMART PHONE APPLICATION IN PAKISTAN

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Introduction GRINDR is an MSM-specific location-based social networking application for smart phones originally developed as a free service in 2009. Study also shows that 6 Million users logon to GRINDR an average of 8 times a day in 2013. Pakistan has population of over 200 Million people, usage of GRINDR is getting very common in MSM population in Pakistan due to availability of smart phones on economical price also availability of economical Internet packages. Studies showed that one in five travellers had casual sex, and 50% of these travellers had unsafe sex. One of the review concluded that at least 30%–35% of MSM now use Internet to find sexual partners.

Methods To review previous studies which conducted outside of Pakistan to see whether these applications may be possible tools to enhance HIV/STI prevention interventions within Men who have sex with Men (MSM) community in Pakistan.

Results Review showed that GRINDR is an efficient and effective tool for the identification of a targeted high-risk MSM population in Los Angeles who are vulnerable to contract HIV/STI. There was no significant difference between using hookup apps and contracting HIV.

Conclusion During travel, GRINDR is overused in MSM population to allow users to find other men through on-line dating services. This experience from these studies encourages venereologists to explore MSM smartphones applications' ability to target specific sub-groups within Pakistan's MSM population who are vulnerable to contract HIV/STI, also there is a need to conduct further studies by using smart phone recruitment approach.

P6.13 MIDWIVES IN SCHOOLS: A STRATEGY FOR INCREASING STI KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE IN CHILE

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Introduction In Chile, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are a public health problem and require a comprehensive

approach for effective control. Although the provision of clinical services has improved; the incidence and prevalence of STIs such as HIV, syphilis and gonorrhoea have remained stable over the last decade. In this study, we investigated healthcare providers' (HCP) understanding of patients' perceptions of STIs and explored which strategies might improve STI control locally.

Methods 48 semi-structured face-to-face interviews were conducted with HCP. A third of the interviews were transcribed verbatim and translated from Spanish to English for thematic analysis, which followed an inductive approach based on grounded theory. Following the identification of themes, remaining interviews were coded utilising a method of constant comparison to highlight concordance and dissonance of participant views.

Results Participants perceived that the majority of patients were not concerned about STIs other than HIV, as campaigns are regularly launched in Chile principally focused on improving HIV awareness. Participants also recognised that symptoms are the primary impetus for patients attending health services and they are less likely to attend for STI prevention. However, HCP in this study also highlighted their work in schools which focuses on primary prevention by improving the sexual health knowledge of young people. There was strong agreement by participants that this was the most appropriate strategy to disseminate STI information to this cohort. Participants proposed that midwives could play a key role by working closely with young people at schools as part of a comprehensive sexual health educational program.

Conclusion We recommend strengthening STI control through continuation of existing activities at PHC centres and enhancing current interventions in schools through a greater investment of resources focused on improving the sexual health literacy of Chilean young people.

P6.14 DETERMINANTS OF CONDOM USE AMONG FEMALE SEX WORKERS IN KENYA: A CASE-CROSSOVER ANALYSIS

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Introduction We evaluated predictors of consistent condom use among female sex workers (FSWs), a core group for controlling the spread of HIV.

Methods In an analysis of data collected in 2004–2005 from 140 Kenyan FSWs who completed questionnaires administered during a baseline study visit and three bimonthly follow-up visits, we used a case-crossover design to identify predictors of consistent condom use during all coital acts in the preceding 2 weeks, overall and by partner type.

Results Participants (n=140) completed the baseline visit and 390 bimonthly follow-up visits. Alcohol use during sex was negatively associated with consistent condom use with helping partners (defined as regular sex partners to whom the woman could go for help or support if needed) (adjusted odds ratio [AOR], 2.6, 95% confidence interval [CI] 1.0–6.5) but not associated with condom use with other partners. Coital frequency was associated with condom use with other partners

only. Women who reported 1–5 (AOR 11.0, 95% CI 4.3–28.3) or 6–9 recent coital acts (AOR 3.8, 95% CI 1.7–8.8) with other partners were more likely to report consistent condom use with those partners than were women who reported ≥ 10 acts. Having a recent partner delay payment was inversely associated with consistent condom use with helping, other, or all partners.

Conclusion Correlates of consistent condom use differed by partner type. By using a case-crossover design, we were able to identify potentially modifiable factors associated with consistent condom use by FSWs who used condoms consistently with a given partner type during some periods but not others.

P6.15 SHORT-TERM MOBILITY AND THE RISK OF HIV INFECTION AMONG MARRIED COUPLES IN THE FISHING COMMUNITIES ALONG LAKE VICTORIA, KENYA

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Introduction Mobility has long been associated with high HIV prevalence. We sought to assess sex differences in the relationship between mobility and risk for HIV infection among married couples in the fishing communities.

Methods We conducted 1090 gender-matched interviews and rapid HIV testing with 545 couples proportionally representing all the different sizes of the fish-landing beaches in Kisumu County. We contacted a random sample of fishermen as our index participants and asked them to enrol in the study together with their spouses. The consenting couples were separated into different private rooms for concurrent interviews and thereafter reunited for couple rapid HIV counselling and testing. In addition to socio-economic and behavioural data, we collected information on overnight travels and divided couples in 4 groups as follows both partners not mobile, both partners mobile, only woman mobile, and only man mobile. Other than descriptive statistics, we used X^2 and U tests to compare groups of variables and multivariate logistic regression to measure association between mobility and HIV infection.

Results We found significant differences in the number of trips women travelled in the preceding month (mean 4.6, SD 7.1) compared to men (mean 3.3, SD 4.9; $p < 0.01$) and when the women did travel, they were more likely to spend more days away from home than their male partners (mean 5.2 [SD 7.2] versus 3.4 SD 5.6; $p = 0.01$). With an HIV prevalence of 22.7% in women compared to 20.9% among men, mobile women who had non-mobile spouses had 2.1 times the likelihood of HIV infection compared to individuals in couples where both partners were non-mobile.

Conclusion The mobility of fishermen's spouses is associated with HIV infection that is not evident among fishermen themselves. Therefore, interventions in this community could be a combination of sex-specific programming that targets women and combined programming for couples.

P6.16 EVALUATION OF LAY HCT COUNSELLORS EXPERIENCES OF THEIR SERVICES AT REGION E FACILITIES IN THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

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Introduction HIV/AIDS Health Program implemented the Early Warning Indicators Revised SA WHO 90-90-90 Strategy in September 2015 at Region E facilities. This Health Services Research therefore, seeks to assess Lay HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT) Counsellors' experiences of their services. This knowledge is crucial for the HCT Program because Lay HCT Counsellors' role as promoters of behaviour modification in the communities. Research findings would inform service design and allocation of resources for quality improvement and management of the HIV/AIDS Health Program run by Lay HCT Counsellors.

Methods Forty-six Counsellors' were interviewed using a mixed methods approach to collect data. Trained field staff administered a semi-structured questionnaire. The participants were asked to indicate their experiences at Region E health facilities. The study was conducted in March 2016. Double data entry method of data capturing used followed by data coding and analysis using EPI.INFO. Thematic analysis and was conducted.

Results A total of 7 participants were permanently employed. Most (54%) Counsellors worked 6 hours daily and 36 counselled 5–15 clients daily. A total 30% of counsellors were debriefed, 37% appropriately mentored and 59% attended in-service training in HIV/AIDS related issues. There is only one mentor allocated for the whole region. Lay HCT Counsellors also indicated that they would like their stipend to be increased and they would like to be integrated into government structures. They would also like to receive regular debriefing sessions, mentoring session and in-services training. Workload is not evenly distributed and also exceeds what is expected according to their job description, due to shortage of professional nurses.

Conclusion Lay HCT Counsellors challenges should be addressed to enable Region E meet the 90-90-90 set targets together with the provider initiated counselling and testing. Need to increase mentors and Lay HCT Counsellors to focus on HIV/AIDS-related duties.

P6.17 SYPHILIS RAPID TEST EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT: BRAZIL'S EXPERIENCE

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Introduction Policies promoting access to syphilis diagnosis have led to the widespread use of rapid tests (RT) in health facilities of different complexities throughout Brazil. To monitor the quality of the testing procedures, the Ministry of Health introduced the National Program of External Quality Assessment for RT (EQA-RT). This involves healthcare

professionals registering on an online platform to receive a panel with four dried tube specimens with unknown reactivity for syphilis. The respondents test the samples as if they were from their own patients and submit the results online for subsequent analysis.

Methods We analysed reports from eight EQA-RT rounds conducted in 2014–2016. The quality of the professionals' performance was assessed by examining the degree of concordance between the results from the panel samples that were expected and those actually reported. A certificate of approval is issued in the event of 70% accuracy. Any professional receiving less than 70% approval rating is sent a report suggesting possible causes and solutions for issues that might have been responsible to prevent the quality of testing.

Results The average number of participants per round was 843 (545 in 2014, 909 in 2015 and 1.075 in 2016) distributed in 347 mainly primary healthcare units. It was interesting to note that many higher complexity services, despite registering in the program, failed to report the results (e.g. a 55% abstention rate in one of the rounds). Regarding the performance on EQA-RT, an average of 93% of respondents were approved per round, with 88% achieving 100% accuracy. The most common failures identified so far have been incorrect pipetted sample volumes and result reading times.

Conclusion The majority of healthcare professionals currently participating in Brazil's EQA-RT program are maintaining a high level of RT quality. While the number of participants doubled in 2014–2016, there is still a need for education work to encourage more adherence to the Program aimed at ensuring the reliability and credibility of the TR results.

P6.18 DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE ABOUT RAPID TEST FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS AS AN IMPORTANT STRATEGY TO INCREASE THE ACCESS TO SYPHILIS DIAGNOSIS

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Introduction Since 2015, Brazil has had a worrying epidemic of syphilis. From 2014 to 2015 there was a growth of 21% of congenital syphilis, reaching 19 228 cases in 2015. The reduction of mother-to-child transmission in 2017 is a priority goal of the government. Increasing access to diagnosis through rapid testing (RT) is one of the key strategies established to achieve this goal. Only in 2016, more than 6 million RT were distributed by the Ministry of Health (MoH) to healthcare facilities in the country. In addition, it is also necessary to increase the number of healthcare professionals capable to perform the RT. Considering the continental dimension of the country and the need for an alternative to on-site trainings, MoH offers a free distance learning course called TELELAB. We present the extent of the coverage of this education strategy.

Methods TELELAB provides online courses about diagnostic of sexually transmitted infection with video lessons and instruction manuals. After the course is completed,

professionals are awarded a certificate once they pass an exam with 70% or higher. We analysed TELELAB's database regarding the number of healthcare professionals who obtained certification in "Syphilis diagnose course" during 2016, their professions and city of residence.

Results In 2016, 7064 healthcare professionals were certified. Nursing is the profession with the highest number of certification (i.e. 72% of the total). 842 different municipalities were observed. Out of this, 4811 healthcare professionals (i.e. 68% of the total) reside out of capital, and many of them in remote and rural areas with no access to laboratory services.

Conclusion TELELAB is an important strategy to ensure greater access to syphilis diagnosis, since it better qualifies healthcare professionals, especially nurses, that are present in major basic care services and usually diagnoses and treat the patient. Considering that Brazil has 5561 municipalities, there is still need to widespread this modality of distance learning course and incentive for higher adherence.

P6.19 KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE AND PRACTICE ABOUT SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES AMONG UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN GHANA

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Introduction Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) remain an important cause of morbidity and mortality among women in the child-bearing age. In order to institute appropriate preventive measures there is need to establish the profile of knowledge of the predisposing factors and causation of STDs, attitude to sexual practice and sexual patterns among the susceptible young people, such as university students.

Method A detailed questionnaire identifying socio-demographic characteristics, sexual patterns, knowledge of STDs as well as attitudes towards prevention of STDs was administered to 400 non-medical students of University Of Cape Coast, Ghana.

Results Knowledge of the clinical features of gonorrhoea and AIDS was high; most knew the predisposing factors for STDs (multiple sexual partners 90%; unprotected sexual intercourse 93%; rape 81%; sex outside marriage 78%, and sex under the influence of alcohol 73%) but not so for syphilis. Males were three times more likely to contract STDs (27%) than their female (9%) counterparts. Whereas knowledge on methods of prevention was high (>90%) it was not followed by appropriate behavioural patterns. More female (33.5%) students had heard about *Trichomonas vaginalis* than males (23%); ($X^2=17.1$; $p<0.0001$). This study has shown that more female than male students got information from their parents ($X^2=25.3$; $p<0.001$) while more male students had their information from previous sexual intercourse ($X^2=12.9$; $p=0.001$).

Conclusion The level of knowledge about STDs and their prevention is not matched by sexual behavioural patterns, and male students undertake more risky sexual behaviour. Sexual education should be introduced at the university as a means of increasing students' awareness about the problem and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS.

P6.20 MANAGING HIV/AIDS COMMUNITY NETWORK CARE IMPORTANT STRATEGY MOBILISATION

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Introduction An emergency of strange disease? Many sick people visited had similar signs and symptoms. Christians, church pastor and physician visited, prayed and held the patients hand as they were praying. All interventions tried curbing these emerging diseases were in vain, later it was found to be incurable HIV. This was birth of Rescue Hope International (RHI), a community non-governmental organisation applying community network for care fighting HIV/AIDS.

Methods In September 2002, 10 community volunteers successfully completed their treatment after training in TB management to support, supervisor and monitor new clients on treatment at a ratio of 1:14 clients. After introduction of ARVs in 2004, 15 TB supporters were trained in home-based care, management of patients on ARV medication and basic knowledge of palliative care in partnership of ministry of health (MOH) thus becoming; Community ARV TB Treatment Supporters (CATTS). Being first contact of new clients in program, visiting clients in their homes; monitoring adherence to medications and doing initial assessment for clients' support. Having been clients themselves, they act as a good source of peer support to fellow clients. Today >1500 clients on ART are home visited weekly by 45 (CATTS).

Results General improvement in health of PLWHAs who act as role models in their own communities >90% adherence to ART. Creation sense of family and community spirit to HIV/AIDS regardless of sex, religion, race, tribe or social status. Reduced stigma and discrimination among PLWHAs and increased disclosure at family and community level.

Conclusion Replication of community Network for care in other community based organisation is very essential other success of community HIV/AIDS prevention programs.

P6.21 THINKING OF NEW STRATEGIES TOWARDS THE END OF PRENATAL HIV IN ARGENTINA. MINISTRY OF HEALTH, AIDS AND STIS PROGRAM

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Introduction In the context of the National Strategic Plan for HIV-AIDS, STIs 2013–2017 and the responsibility assumed in the Strategy for Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV, Syphilis, the National Program compile the results of qualitative investigations were carried out by different professionals working in the public system to evaluate the possibility of defining and implementing effective and creative strategies to get better diagnosis and treatment to reduce prenatal HIV transmission. Generate new strategies of action and intervention to reduce the gap in the prenatal transmission of HIV and Congenital Syphilis in Argentina.

Methods We collected the results of four qualitative investigations: "HIV-AIDS: vertical transmission. Incidence of social and health factors" "Representations around the vertical transmission

of HIV/AIDS: the construction of meaning from the perspective of professionals and mothers of children with HIV/AIDS" "Women living with HIV/AIDS, maternity and mental health: social support, psychic suffering and relationship with health services" and "Qualitative study on the perspective of mothers residing in the provinces with the highest HIV prevalence in Argentina". The main conclusions of each study were analysed to interpret how to generate new lines of political organisation in health to reduce the prenatal transmission rate of 5% to 2%.

Results The possible strategies proposed were: Include safety support from social workers, include of mental health practices as part of the comprehensive care of pregnant women with HIV, Decentralise the hospital level for follow-up and treatment in the prevention of prenatal HIV transmission, Active offer HIV testing of the pregnant woman's partner - Involve civil society as promoters in the prevention and companions of families with HIV to improve access to the health system and promise a cooperative action work with the health system.

Conclusion The prenatal HIV elimination strategy is a complex network between different social actors and an efficient health system.

P6.22 STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY ADVOCACY & SOLIDARITY FOR HIV VACCINE RESEARCH

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Introduction AIDS vaccine research is complex; the role of an AIDS vaccine advocate is challenging. Explaining the hopeful, yet slow and complicated progress in AIDS vaccine research to non-scientific stakeholders requires someone with relatively deep knowledge of complex science, research process, and related technical issues. Likewise, the critical role of representing stakeholder concerns to AIDS vaccine researchers requires someone who can speak in language that commands scientist's attention and respect.

Methods Through the Vaccine Advocacy Resource Group (VARG) a global team of AIDS prevention research advocates play a critical liaison role in a highly complex scientific field. Since 2014, the VARG has been convened virtually largely through teleconferences and email to receive research updates, discuss advocates perspectives and priorities, and to move forward key actions. Since 2015 this engagement has increasingly happened in person at some of the worlds largest HIV Vaccine Trial gatherings, elevating the role of community based advocates in a traditionally scientific space.

Results These efforts have been impactful in terms of coalescing the team of vaccine-specific advocates, building VARG members skills and understanding to a certain degree, and preparing them for conferences and scientific meetings.

Conclusion This poster aims to demonstrate how building the capacity of community advocates on the science of HIV Prevention Research Advocacy, particularly how it relates to vaccine research can strengthen community ownership of clinical trials and result in AIDS competent communities long before the trial has ended, as that community continues to advocate for increased awareness of, access to and uptake of existing HIV and STI prevention options