Abstracts

Understanding the correlates of STI-HIV co-infections among female sex workers in Kitui


Background Genital infections such as Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) increases the chances of acquiring and transmitting HIV. Kenya AIDS Indicator Survey showed that STI like syphilis was 2.5 times more common among people living with HIV. There is need to understand and respond to such co-infections in a HIV prevention Method An analysis of cohort data of 1513 Female Sex Workers (FSW) enrolled and receiving HIV services in the KP clinic managed by Hope Word Wide, Kenya in Kitui County was conducted. Cohort data for the period of October 2017 to September 2018 was used and analysed for the STI and HIV screening and diagnosis. The analysis also segregated the analysis by age, above 24 years and below 24 years. Odds Ratio was calculated to measure the association.

Results Out of 1513 FSWs, 1391 (92%) received HIV testing services at least once in the year while 1448 (96%) were screened for STI in the same period. A total of 130 (9%) and 29 (2%) FSWs received STI and HIV positive results respectively for the period. The Odds Ratio suggest that those FSWs who have STI had 1.2 times higher chances of being HIV positive. When desegregated by age, FSWs below 24 years with an STI had 2.1 times higher chances.

Conclusion There exists correlation between HIV and STI among Female Sex Workers in Kitui especially among those below 24 years. The intervention needs to screen, diagnose and treat STI among FSWs more aggressively as a response to HIV prevention.

Disclosure No significant relationships.

Women's encounters with venue-based HIV risk contexts in Abuja, Nigeria

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Background Venues where people meet sexual partners are understood to be important locations where HIV transmission risk plays out and represent potential intervention points. Women involved in sex work and those seeking casual partners spend time in the same venues, forming sexual partnerships with some of the same people and experiencing the same risks. This study provides a characterization of key venues where women meet new sexual partners in Abuja, Nigeria, and describes the sexual behaviours, sexual networking patterns, and challenges experienced by women in these venues.

Methods Key informant interviews were used to characterize 836 venues where people congregate for social activities in Abuja, Nigeria, in terms of number of patrons, busy times, and availability of harm reduction supplies. A questionnaire capturing demographics, behaviours, health, and experiences of violence was administered to 892 women who participate in sex work or casual sex at a random sample of 105 of the profiled venues. Descriptive analysis was conducted with stratification by type of venue.

Results A diverse set of venues were identified, with bars/nightclubs identified as having the highest volume of patrons. Most of the women indicated meeting partners at bars/nightclubs as well as hotels/lodges. Half of the women had experienced a miscarriage or abortion and perceived themselves to be at great risk of HIV infection. Eighteen percent had experienced condom breakage in the previous week, 15% had ever been arrested, and 8% had been beaten in the past year.

Conclusion A diverse set of venues intermingle at different venues and have a diverse set of needs, including reproductive health, violence reduction, and infectious disease prevention. By re-orienting HIV programs towards venues where sexual partnerships form instead of towards specific key populations who are often blamed for transmission, the broader needs of