spp., *P. timonensis* and *Eggerthella* spp., were strongly associated with all four clinical signs defined by Amsel's criteria.

Conclusion *Lactobacillus* species including *L. iners* and *L. gasseri* are the predominant vaginal species found in the vaginal tract of Indian women of reproductive age. A heterogeneous vaginal community marked by the presence of *G. vaginalis*, *Sneathia* spp., *Atopobium* spp., *Prevotella* spp., *Eggerthella* spp., is associated with BV and its clinical symptoms.

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ACCESS TO HIV-PREVENTION IN FEMALE SEX WORKERS IN UKRAINE BETWEEN 2009 AND 2017: COVERAGE, BARRIERS AND FACILITATORS

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10.1136/sextrans-2021-sti.406

Background The comprehensive prevention package (PP) is an important intervention in reducing the burden of HIV amongst female sex workers (FSW) worldwide. According to the UNAIDS 90–90–90 goal, 90% of people at risk of HIV infection were to have access to the PP by 2020, however, in 2015 and 2017, only 46% and 48% of Ukrainian FSWs accessed the PP. Hence, we aimed to identify the barriers and facilitators associated with the access to HIV prevention amongst Ukrainian FSWs between 2009 and 2017.

Methods We began by conducting a comprehensive literature review to develop a literature-informed conceptual framework. We then conducted a document analysis to identify the items of the Ukrainian prevention package (PP). Identified by our conceptual framework, we then conducted descriptive analyses using the Integrated Bio Behavioural Surveillance Surveys, to explore PP coverage from 2009 to 2017 and the influence of factors associated with access to the PP.

Results Our conceptual framework illustrates that most thematic clusters which influence access to HIV prevention operate at the macrostructural level. 24 prevention items were included in the PP in 2012 and 2013, however this dropped to 7 items in 2014. Access to the Ukrainian PP increased from 2009 to 2013, where it peaked at 67.42%, however dropped to 32.10% in 2017. Our analyses of the IBBS identified that being a client of a non-governmental organisation, street and highway solicitation, non-condom use, and knowledge of HIV were associated with access to HIV prevention in the Ukrainian context.

Conclusions Our novel study calls for colleagues designing future HIV prevention interventions to strongly consider the barriers and facilitators identified in our conceptual framework and the multiple structural levels on which barriers and facilitators operate. Colleagues can draw upon our findings to bolster the level of access for FSWs in their own countries.

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GENDER AND SEX – WHAT SHOULD BE MEASURED AND HOW? LEARNINGS FROM BRITAIN'S NATIONAL SURVEY OF SEXUAL ATTITUDES AND LIFESTYLES

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10.1136/sextrans-2021-sti.407

Background Many social surveys have purported to measure 'sex', but this has been through interviewers' observation of outward appearance (e.g. clothing, name). In previous rounds of the decennial large-scale probability sample surveys of the British general population (www.natsal.ac.uk), this approach was used to make assumptions about the respondents' anatomy in the rest of the questionnaire. This is not appropriate and results in some misclassification. Although often used interchangeably, sex and gender refer to different concepts, and can differ. Here, we consider what aspects of sex and gender are relevant for a sexual health survey, and how these can be measured in a way that captures diversity, is acceptable, and is comprehensible to the general population. This informed development of questions for Natsal-4.

Methods First, we reviewed international literature for questions about gender/sex in social surveys, censuses and sexual health research, including national (BASHH) recommendations. Second, we conducted stakeholder engagement. Third, we synthesised the findings from both activities into questions deemed appropriate for use with general population samples. Finally, questions were cognitively tested among 30 members of the general population (including three people who identified as trans/had a trans history).

Results Several questions from the literature had undergone general population testing, however, there were no definitive or 'harmonised' questions. No existing set of questions captured the elements of sex and gender most relevant for a sexual health survey. Few studies addressed how to tailor detailed sexual partnership questions to account for trans partners. Our developed questions were found to be well understood and accepted by both trans and non-trans people in cognitive testing.

Discussion We used a multi-stage process to identify a set of questions that seem to balance the needs of a diverse group of participants. These questions are subject to further piloting before being finalised for inclusion in Natsal-4.

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ETIOLOGY OF CERVICITIS – ARE THERE NEW AGENTS IN PLAY?

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10.1136/sextrans-2021-sti.408

Background Considering the changing causative and resistance pattern of agents implicated in Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), etiological diagnosis is imperative especially in countries practicing syndromic management. This study was designed to diagnose cervicitis and to identify etiological agents associated with cervicitis.

Methods Female STI clinic attendees presenting with cervico-vaginal discharge were examined for presence of cervicitis as per standard protocol. Endocervical swabs were collected for gram staining and Real time PCR was performed for various bacterial and viral STI agents in patients presenting with cervical discharge and clinical signs of cervicitis. A vaginal swab was also evaluated for bacterial vaginosis by Nugent's criteria. **Results** Of 64 patients with clinical cervicitis, 26.6% and 12.5% patients complained of genital itching and lower abdominal pain respectively. Mean of 36.6 pus cells/hpf were observed, appreciably greater number in patients with *N.gonorrhoeae* (NG) and *C.trachomatis* infections (p value 0.0063 and 0.0032 respectively). Pus cells were high (mean 68 pus