



Research on HIV among Sex Workers in Pakistan

Sexual activity, especially unsafe sex practices, have the potential to result in the transmission/spread of HIV/AIDS. As a result, sex workers are at an increased risk of contracting or transmitting HIV. This PDF includes a list of research articles exploring the prevalence and impact of HIV on sex workers in Pakistan.

Size estimation, HIV Prevalence and Risk Behaviours of Female Sex Workers in Pakistan

Altaf, Arshad, et al. "Size estimation, HIV prevalence and risk behaviours of female sex workers in Pakistan." *J. Pak. Med. Assoc.* 62(6), 551-57 (2012). ([Link to Full Article](#))

Abstract

Objective: To provide size estimation and to determine risky behaviours and HIV prevalence among female sex workers in Pakistan, which has progressed from a low to concentrated level of HIV epidemic.

Methods: A cross-sectional study (geographic mapping and integrated behavioural and biological survey-IBBS) was conducted between August 2005 to January 2006 in Karachi, Hyderabad and Sukkur. A detailed questionnaire and dry blood spot (DBS) specimen for HIV testing were collected by trained interviewers after informed consent. The study was ethically approved by review boards in Canada and Pakistan.

Results: About 14,900 female sex workers were estimated to be functional in Sindh. A total of 1158 of them were interviewed for the study. Average age of sex workers was 27.4 ± 6.7 years, and the majority 787 (67.9%) were married, and uneducated 764 (65.9%). Sindhi (26.4%) was the predominant ethnicity. Mean number of paid clients was 2.1 ± 1.2 . Three workers were confirmed HIV positive (0.75%, 95 percent CI 0.2-2.2%) from Karachi. Condom use at last sexual act was highest (68%) among brothel-based workers from Karachi, and the lowest in Sukkur where only 1.3% streetbased workers reported using a condom at last sexual act. Overall use of illicit drugs through injections was negligible.

Conclusion: HIV prevalence among female sex workers in Sindh, Pakistan is low but risky behaviours are present. Well organised service delivery programmes can help promoting safer practices.