

Behavioural surveillance surveys of the male clients of female sex workers population in Hong Kong (MSS 241 R)

Executive summary

Aims and Objectives

This 3-year project aimed to provide population-based HIV behavioural surveillance survey (BSS) data among male clients of female sex workers (CFSW) in Hong Kong during 2015-2018. It represents a continual effort to keep track of HIV-related behaviours among CFSWs since 1998. It is one of the longest BSS series in the world.

Project design

Through anonymous random telephone interviews administered by experienced interviewers and with informed consent, 2000, 2009, and 2000 participants completed the identical BSS surveys in 2015, 2016, and 2018, respectively. Part I asked all participants non-sensitive questions to establish rapport. Part II connected all participants to a validated computer-assisted system with pre-recorded messages; participants keyed in their responses without talking to others to reduce social desirability bias.

Target population

The study population comprised Hong Kong Chinese males aged 18 to 60 years.

Main achievements:

All participants:

- 1) The percentages perceived high/very high efficacy of condom use for HIV prevention were 74.8%, 86.7%, and 90.7% in 2015, 2016, and 2018 respectively.
- 2) The percentages having patronized FSW were 4.9%, 3.8%, and 3% in the three years, respectively.
- 3) The percentages having non-regular female sex partners who were not FSW were 5.5%, 7.7%, and 8.3% in the three years, respectively; 41.7%, 28%, and 39.6% did not use condoms consistently with such partners.
- 4) In the three years, 9.2%, 10.4%, and 10.1% hence either visited FSWs or had non-regular female sex partners (e.g. one night stand).

For CFSWs

- 1) Perceived efficacy for condom use in HIV prevention has been high/very high (74.5%, 87%, and 83.1%).
- 2) The percentages that used condoms consistently with FSW increased slightly over time (73.5%, 77.9%, and 79.7% respectively).
- 3) The percentages that had performed HIV testing in the past six months dropped over time (12.2%, 14.7%, and 7%).
- 4) The percentages having visited FSW in mainland China were 29.6%, 22.7%, and 47.4% in the three years.
- 5) The percentages having >4 female sex partners were 4.1% in 2015, 3.9% in 2016, but escalated to 12% in 2018.

A paper using data collected in this and previous rounds of BSS of MCFSW has been published in *AIDS and Behavior* (Li et al., 2018).

Conclusions

About 10% of the male general population engaged in risky sex behaviors of visiting FSW or having non-regular female sex partners. The encouraging sign is a slightly increased prevalence of condom use with FSW but still about 1/5 was still inconsistent condom users. Furthermore, the HIV testing rate remained low and promotion efforts are greatly warranted. There are a few concerns in the pattern of HIV-related behaviors among CFSW in 2018, compared to data collected in 2016 or earlier. The prevalence of HIV testing has decreased over time. The percentage of CFSW who patronized FSW in mainland China doubled and the percentage of having ≥ 4 female sex partners tripled. Further continual surveillance and research are needed to understand the changes to see whether such risk behaviors have increased among CFSWs. Interventions for CFSW are still much required.

Reference

Li J, Lau JTF, Ma YL, Lau MMC. Trend and Factors Associated with Condom Use Among Male Clients of Female Sex Workers in Hong Kong: Findings of 13 Serial Behavioural Surveillance Surveys. *AIDS Behav.* 2018 Jul;22(7):2235-2247. doi: 10.1007/s10461-018-2148-8.

香港女性性工作者的男性客戶的行為監察調查 (MSS 241 R)

執行摘要

目的和目標

提供 2015 - 2018 年香港女性性工作者的男性客戶 (CFSW) 的愛滋病行為監測調查 (BSS) 數據。自 1998 年起追蹤 CFSW 的愛滋病相關行為，是世上最長 BSS 系列之一。

項目設計

匿名隨機電話訪談。2015 年、2016 年及 2018 年分別有 2000，2009 和 2000 位參加者完成相同調查。第一部分為非敏感問題，第二部分以經驗證的電腦輔助電話訪問方法減少回答敏感問題的偏差。

目標群組

18 至 60 歲香港男性。

主要結果

全部參加者:

- 1) 74.8%-90.7%認為使用安全套有效/非常有效預防愛滋病。
- 2) 大約 4%曾光顧 FSW。
- 3) 5.5%-8.3%有非固定女性性伴; 當中 28%-41.7%不經常使用安全套。
- 4) 9.2%-10.4%曾光顧 FSW 或有非固定女性性伴。

CFSW:

- 1) 74.5%-87%認為使用安全套有效/非常有效預防愛滋病。
- 2) 經常與 FSW 使用安全套 (73.5%，77.9%和 79.7%)。
- 3) HIV 檢測的百分比(12.2%，14.7%和 7%)。
- 4) 在國內光顧 FSW (29.6%，22.7%和 47.4%)。
- 5) 有≥4 位女性性伴 (4.1%，3.9%和 12%)。

一篇使用 BSS 收集的數據的論文發表在 AIDS 和 Behavior (Li et al., 2018)。

結論

大約 10%男性曾光顧 FSW 或有非固定女性性伴，與 FSW 使用安全套的比率略有增加。HIV 檢測率仍很低。2018 年與 2016 年或之前相比，在國內光顧 FSW 的比例增加一倍，有≥4 位女性性伴的比例增加三倍。需持續監督和研究以了解風險水平是否增加。仍然非常需要 CFSW 的干預措施。