



AIDS 2018



HIV Prevalence and Sexual Behavior among Trans Women in Paraguay, 2017

Aguilar Gloria^{1,2}, Mc Farland Willi³, Kawabata Anibal¹, Samudio Tania¹, Lopez Gladys¹, Estigarribia Gladys².

National HIV program¹, National University of Caaguazú², Global Health Sciences, University of California San Francisco³

Aim of the Study

The study aimed to estimate the prevalence of HIV / Syphilis / Hepatitis B and knowledge, risk behavior and attitudes of the population of the Trans population in Paraguay r 2017.

Background

Trans women may be the population most vulnerable to HIV in the world, with prevalence in Latin America ranging from 18-38%. In Paraguay too, HIV prevalence (26%) was higher among trans women than among men who have sex with men (MSM) and female sex workers (FSW) when first measured in 2014

Methodology

We conducted a cross-sectional survey-To maximize efficiency in reaching diverse trans women, we used a hybrid method ("Starfish Sampling") that combines venue recruitment, a random sample of clients, and short-chain peer referral. Participants complete a questionnaire on demographic characteristics and behavior, and blood samples were drawn for HIV antibody testing.

Results

A total of 304 trans women were enrolled. Participants were young, with 55.9% in their 20s. The majority had secondary education or less (74.5%).

HIV prevalence was 25.6% (95% confidence interval 19.3-31.9%).

Trans women reported a mean of 22.5 casual partners in the last 6 months, with whom condom use was 73.0%.

The proportion of Trans women who had sex for the first time under age 14 years was 58.6%. The majority of Trans women (82.6%) reported selling sex.

Figure 1. Use of condom, trans women in Paraguay, 2017 (N=304)

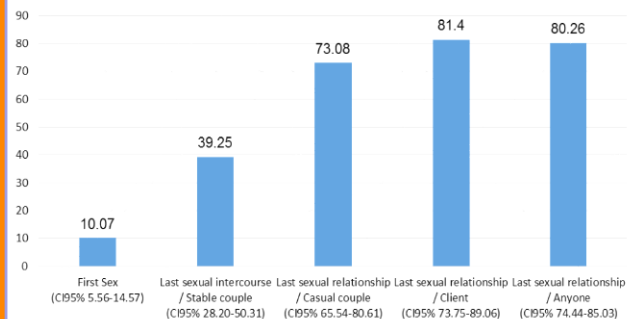
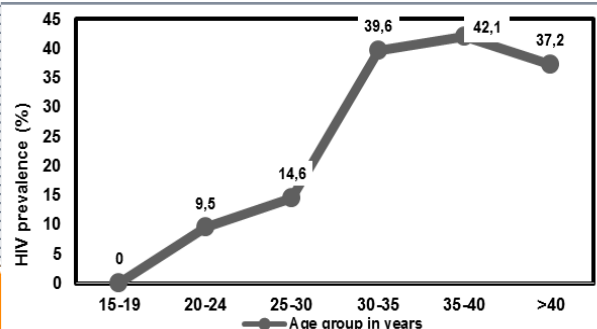


Figure 2. HIV prevalence by age, trans women in Paraguay, 2017 (N=304)



Conclusions

Our bio-behavioral survey found the prevalence of HIV consistently high among trans women in Paraguay, confirming this population remains the most severely affected.

The young age of the population, the young age of sexual debut, the high partner number, and inconsistent condom use point to high potential for continuing transmission. New strategies are necessary to improve education on reducing acquisition risk among transgender women.



Invirtiendo en nuestro futuro
El Fondo Mundial
De lucha contra el SIDA, la tuberculosis y la malaria