

Correct condom use associated with lower STD rates

The effectiveness of condoms for HIV prevention is controversial. This study assessed the association between condom use errors and consistent condom users and prevalence of STD among patients at an urban STD clinic.

Among 1973 consistent condom users any condom use error was more frequently reported among women (57%) than men who have sex with women (48%) or men who have sex with men. The most common error was breakage. Men having sex with women, condom use error was associated with gonorrhea, chlamydia, and NGU. For women and men having sex with men, no condom error association was seen for any STD.

Condom errors were common among consistent users, and for MSW condom error was associated with increased STD risk. These data support the significance of using condoms correctly and consistently

SOURCE: Shlay, J. C., et al. (2004). Comparison of sexually transmitted disease prevalence by reported condom use: Errors among consistent condom users seen at an urban sexually transmitted disease clinic. *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*, 31, 526-532.

Adolescent women perceiving STD risk intend to delay coitus

Factors related to delay of intercourse among teens need further study. This study examined amount of time adolescents delayed intercourse with past main and casual partners and intention to delay with further partners. 205 teens from an STD clinic participated.

Factors influencing intention to delay intercourse with future main partners varied by gender. Females were positively influenced by perceived risk of STD, health values, and importance of intimacy in relationships. Males were negatively influenced by the importance of sex in relationships. Teens waited less time to have coitus with most recent casual than with most main partner. The amount of time waited with past partners was shorter than intended time to wait with future partners.

Reinforcing the value of health and realistic assessment of partner STD risk may encourage the use of condoms and delay the onset of sexual intercourse. Alternative sexual expression should be emphasized during risk reduction intervention.

SOURCE: Rosengard, C., et al. (2004). Perceived STD risk, relationship, and health values in adolescents' delaying sexual intercourse with new partners. *Sexually Transmitted Infections*, 80, 130-137.

Consistent condom use associated with lower PID

Sexually active women (N=684) with pelvic inflammatory disease were followed for a mean of 35 months. Persistent use of condoms during the study reduction the risk of recurrent PID, chronic pelvic pain, and infertility. Consistent condom use at baseline also reduced these risks.

SOURCE: Ness, R., et al. (2004). Condom use and the risk of recurrent pelvic inflammatory disease, chronic pelvic pain, or infertility following an episode of pelvic inflammatory disease. *American Journal of Public Health*, 94, 1327-1329.

New HIV cases attributed to trichomoniasis

A mathematical model of HIV transmission estimated that 746 new cases of HIV among women each year can be attributed to the facilitative effects of trichomoniasis on HIV transmission. The lifetime treatment cost of these HIV infections is about \$167 million

SOURCE: Chesson, H. W., et al. (2004). Estimates of the annual number and cost of new HIV infections among women attributed to trichomoniasis in the United States. *Sexually Transmitted Diseases*, 31, 547-551.

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The opinions expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the cooperating universities.

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*Rural AIDS/STD prevention. rap (rap) v. Slang. To talk freely and openly. Vol. 8, No. 9, September 3, 2004

Use of commercial sex workers is widespread among male Hispanic migrants

HIV and AIDS rates among Hispanics in the United States is disproportionately high. HIV transmission via heterosexual activity is increasing in prevalence among Hispanics. There is evidence that the HIV epidemic is expanding to rural areas in conjunction with migration. Relatively few studies have explored migrant sexual risk behavior although prior research has identified contact with commercial sex workers as one possible risk behavior. This study examined the prevalence and frequency of commercial sex worker use among a sample of Hispanic migrants.

Methodology

442 migrant Hispanic men were randomly selected for face-to-face interviews in Durham, North Carolina between April 2002 and July 2003. Semistructured questionnaires were used by interviewers to collect detailed information on demographics, social and economic characteristics, the migrant experience, family arrangements and partner characteristics, and sexual practices. Migrants were also asked if they had used the services of a commercial sex worker in the past year and, if so, the number of

occasions. A series of questions on condom use was also included.

Outcomes of the Study

71% were from Mexico, 16% from Honduras, 9% for El Salvador, and the remaining were other Central American countries. Average age was 29 years. The majority (62%) were married, but only 40% were married and living their spouse. The average wage was about \$10 per hour, and most had lived in Durham less than seven years. The typical cost for a 15-minute session with a commercial sex worker was \$30.

Major findings include:

- 28% reported using the services of a commercial sex worker within the past year. The rates reached 46% among single men and 40% among married men living apart from their wives.
- The frequency of annual visits varied by country of origin and ranged from 3.8 visits to 8 visits.
- The frequency of visits declined with greater education, higher hourly wage, and years of residence.
- 92% reported always using a condom. The use of condoms dropped to 87% if the man felt that the commercial sex worker had a good reputation and to

64% if they know her well.

- The decision to use a condom was made by the migrant 52% of the time, the commercial sex worker 23% of the time, and both 25% of the time.
- The majority of men scored perfectly on a 8-item AIDS knowledge test. However, AIDS knowledge did not predict commercial sex worker use.
- Those who perceived their risk of acquiring HIV to be high were less likely to visit commercial sex workers than men of lower perception of risk.

Implications for Prevention

The use of commercial sex workers was widespread among male Hispanic migrants in Durham, North Carolina. Although condom use was higher, it was not universal. Educational interventions are needed to help protect migrant workers and their partners from HIV infection.

SOURCE:

Parrado, E. A., et al. (2004). Use of commercial sex workers among Hispanic in North Carolina: Implications for the spread of HIV. *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, 36, 150-156.