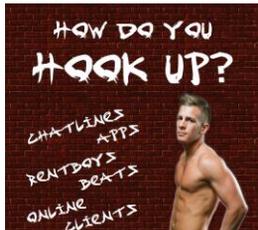




## Male sex workers and relationships with their clients

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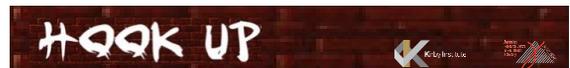
## Trust & familiarity as predictors of sexual risk behaviour

- Prior acquaintance, trust, and previous sex are associated with likelihood to engage in condomless sex, including with casual partners.
- On the other hand, Seroconversion Study finds that men recently infected with HIV are much less likely to have any prior contact with the man they believe had infected them.



## 'Safe sex' & male sex work

- As with female sex workers, most evidence has suggested that risky sex was uncommon in the context of male sex work & most men used condoms with clients
- This appeared to be less true of their private sexual encounters & relationships
- Some male sex workers appeared similar to other gay & bisexual men at increased risk of HIV infection.



## Hook Up study

- Funded by NSW and Queensland Health to assess levels of risk & access to services among male sex workers.
- Conducted in partnership with ACON & SWOP in NSW and with RESPECT in Queensland.
- To include informal & irregular sex work as well as ongoing professional sex work, we conducted broad-based online survey of gay & bisexual men, specifically targeting sex workers
  - Sample included occasional & 'opportunistic' sex workers, professional sex workers, their clients, past sex workers, & men who had never done sex work.
- Supplemented by qualitative interviews.



## Participant Numbers

Total completed the questionnaire	734 (100%)
Recent sex work	104 (14%)
Any sex work ever	152 (21%)
Non sex workers	582 (78%)
Recent clients of sex workers	113 (15%)



## Demographics

%	Recent sex work	No recent sex work
University education	41	50
Manager/professional*	28	52
Not (otherwise) employed*	34	26
Born overseas	16	20
Non anglo-celtic*	50	33
HIV-positive	13	8
Age (Mean)*	32.0	42.1
Sensation-seeking*	22.5	19.3

Sex workers were younger & less likely to be employed in higher status positions. Also less likely to be of anglo-celtic background. They scored higher on sexual sensation-seeking.



### Sexual relationships

%	Recent sex work	No recent sex work
Boyfriend/regular partner	45	41
- Condomless sex in previous 6 months*	38	29
Fuckbuddies*	74	64
- Condomless sex in previous 6 months*	53	34
Casual partners	81	80
- Condomless sex in previous 6 months*	56	35

Sex workers tended to have similar kinds of sexual relationships to non sex workers – although they were somewhat more inclined to have fuckbuddies.

Sex workers were more likely to engage in condomless sex with all partner types (see poster).



### Frequency of sex work

%	Recent sex work
Frequency in previous year	
At least weekly	33
At least monthly	15
Less than once a month	51
Unsure/unstated	2
Main source of income from sex work	10

Majority did not engage in sex work regularly.

Few relied on sex work as their main income.



### Most recent client

%	Recent sex work
Previous contact	61
More than once before	48
HIV status	
Said he was HIV-positive	3
Said he was HIV-negative	49
Unknown HIV status	49
Engaged in condomless sex	34

Many clients were regulars, and did not know HIV status of about half.

A third engaged in condomless sex.  
43% reported condomless sex with clients in the previous six months



### Predictors of condomless sex with most recent client

	Univariate		Multivariate	
	Odds ratio	P-value	Odds ratio	P-value
Age	0.99 (0.95-1.02)	0.438		
University education	0.30 (0.12-0.73)	0.008		
Professional/manager job	0.80 (0.30-2.14)	0.656		
HIV-positive	2.09 (0.63-6.96)	0.230		
Weekly sex work	0.58 (0.25-1.37)	0.216		
>10 partners	0.56(0.25-1.26)	0.162		
CLAI with casual partners	3.44 (1.54-7.70)	0.003	4.29 (1.31-14.07)	0.016
Gay social engagement	0.92 (0.74-1.15)	0.451		
Sensation-seeking	1.15 (1.04-1.27)	0.008	1.15 (1.03-1.28)	0.017
Client characteristics				
Previous contact	1.28 (0.55-3.00)	0.567		
Said he was HIV-negative	3.25 (1.46-7.28)	0.004	4.12 (1.45-11.70)	0.008



### Predictors of condomless sex with most recent client

	Multivariate	
	Odds ratio	P-value
CLAI with casual partners	4.29 (1.31-14.07)	0.016
Sensation-seeking	1.15 (1.03-1.28)	0.017
Client said he was HIV-negative	4.12 (1.45-11.70)	0.008

Condomless sex with clients was associated only with engaging in condomless sex with casual partners, sensation-seeking, & client indicating he was HIV-negative.

Factors not associated with condomless sex with client included:  
Mental health (see poster)  
Frequency of, or financial reliance on, sex work  
Prior contact with client



### Summary

- Sex work was often not the primary source of income.
- Mostly, sex workers were similar to, though younger than, other GBM.
- Sex workers tended to have elevated levels of sexual risk behaviour
  - And this was also reflected in sex with clients.
  - Sex workers were also more sexually adventurous.
- Commonly, sex workers had repeated interactions with clients
  - About half did not know their clients' HIV status.
- Sexual risk behaviour with clients tends to be related to factors such as being more sexually adventurous, and knowledge of their clients' HIV status.



## Questions and comments

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