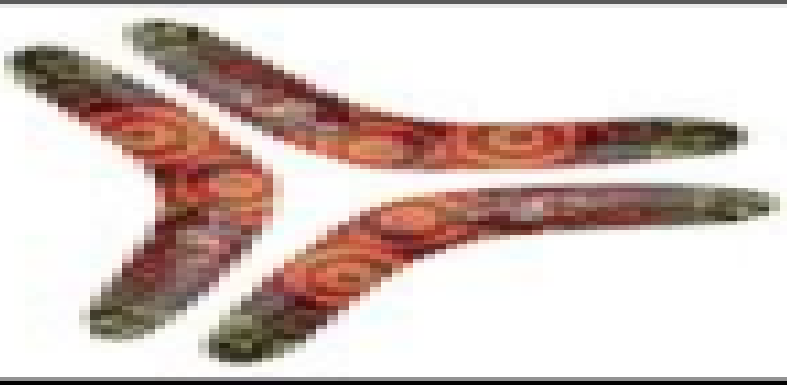




WOMEN SEX WORKERS LIVING WITH HIV IN A CAPITAL OF NORTHEASTERN BRAZIL - PRELIMINARY RESULTS



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INTRODUCTION

The HIV epidemic is concentrated in large urban centers with higher prevalence in the most vulnerable populations to HIV, such as drug users, men who have sex with men (MSM) and sex workers (PS) female. In Brazil, there is an estimated HIV prevalence in drugs users of 5.9%, 10.5% of MSM and sex workers of 4.9% (BRAZIL, 2012). Considering the Brazilian territorial dimension; its economic and cultural diversity and that female sex workers is considered populations most vulnerable to HIV, the information obtained in a region, can not represent the country as a whole in its various social classes. So, studies with this population are very important.

OBJECTIVE

Characterize the female sex workers living with HIV, considering the sociodemographic and behavioral aspects

METHODS

Cross-sectional study. It was conducted from January 2014 to February 2015 in a city northeast region of Brazil. A total 416 female sex workers were recruited, using the Respondent Driven Sampling method (RDS). All were interviewed and tested using the rapid test for HIV. The study complied with the ethical aspects.

RESULTS

All participants (n=416) agreed to conduct HIV research using rapid tests. Obtained reagents results in 12 samples, and thus the prevalence of HIV infection was 2.9%. Regarding the area of operation, it is noteworthy that 10 women with serological reagents results carry out their activities in central Teresina located in bars and squares.

Table 1: Characteristics of female commercial sex seropositive for HIV considering sociodemographic, Teresina-PI, Brazil, 2015

Variable	HIV		p value
	Positive n(%)	Negative n(%)	
Age group (years)			
18-24	1(8,3)	103(25,5)	
25-39	9(75)	250(61,9)	0,398
40-59	2(16,7)	51(12,6)	
Education			
Illiterate	4(33,3)	22(5,4)	
Incomplete primary education	4(33,3)	215(53,2)	
Complete primary education	1(8,3)	62(15,3)	0,003
Incomplete high school	2(16,7)	56(13,9)	
Complete high school	1(8,3)	49(12,1)	

The participants mentioned frequent use of alcohol and other illicit drugs in Brazil. 330 (79.3%) reported drinking alcohol; of this total 159 (32.2%) have high consumption when they ingest alcohol every day.

Regarding the use of illicit drugs, 236 (56.7%) were using this type of drug; of this total, 80 (19.2%) used marijuana, 31 (7.5%) cocaine, 79 (19.9%) used crack cocaine and 46 (11.1%) use more than one drug being the main crack drug used. In this study, there were no reports of injection drug use. The vaginal practice was reported more often and some women reported not using condoms.

Table 2: Characteristics of female commercial sex seropositive for HIV considering behavioral aspects. Teresina-PI, Brazil, 2015

Variable	HIV	
	Positive n (%)	Negative n (%)
Sexual practice		
Oral	0(0)	35(8,4)
Vaginal	10(2,4)	361(86,7)
Oral/vaginal/anal	2(0,4)	8(1,9)
Condom use with casual partner		
No	1(0,2)	84(20,1)
Yes	10(2,4)	316(86,7)
Not use in all sexual practice	1(0,2)	4(0,9)
Alcohol consumption		
Never	3(0,72)	83(19,9)
Light	0(0)	23(5,3)
Moderate	6(1,4)	142(0,29)
High	3(0,7)	156(37,5)
Drug		
Never	2 (0,4)	178(42,7)
Marijuana	4 (0,9)	76(18,2)
Cocaine	0 (0)	31(7,4)
Crack	4(0,9)	75(18)
More than one	2(0,4)	44(10,5)

CONCLUSION

Women begin her professional career very young; They have low level of education.

The alcohol consumption was high and puts women in the most vulnerable when they have little ability to negotiate condom use. The distribution of condoms without proper guidance becomes ineffective and puts these women at higher risk for HIV and other STDs.

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