



# XVII INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

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## Poster Exhibition

### Track C - HIV seroepidemiologic studies

#### MOPE0418 - Crisp - A territory wide community-based behavioural risk and prevalence survey for female sex workers in Hong Kong

D. Mak<sup>1</sup>, K. Lee<sup>2</sup>, B. Ng<sup>1</sup>, C. Wong<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Special Preventive Programme, Department of Health, Hong Kong, Hong Kong, <sup>2</sup>Stanley Ho Centre for Emerging Infectious Diseases, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, Hong Kong

**Background:** Female sex workers in Hong Kong scattered in different districts. Previous survey on sex workers were small scale and the result might not be generalisable to other sex worker population. Department of Health conducted a territory wide behavioural and prevalence survey for female sex workers with five major non-governmental organizations (NGO) which served female sex workers.

**Method:** A mapping exercise of sex venues by type and location and a size estimation of female sex workers were first conducted with NGO in August 2006. The survey was conducted between November 2006 and January 2007. Five NGO outreached to their familiar settings and frontline workers conducted interviews with female sex workers. The survey comprised collecting a urine sample for HIV test and an interviewer-administered standardised questionnaire on sexual behaviour, injecting drug use history and demographics. The urine samples were treated unlinked and anonymously.

**Result:** A total of 996 eligible samples with questionnaires were collected, with a response rate of 64.3%. Bars and karaoke nightclubs each contributed about one third of samples. Other participants were recruited from street and one woman brothel. 78% of respondents were Chinese. Their median age is 31. The consistent condom use rate for vaginal sex with customers among respondents was 92% while the condom use rate of last vaginal sex with customers was 93%. Five urine samples were tested HIV positive. After adjusted for the sampling proportion, the HIV prevalence of female sex workers in these settings was 0.19%.

**Conclusion:** The seroprevalence result of this survey was comparable with other similar data, e.g. STI Clinic attendees (0.17% in 2006). With high condom use rate, it suggested an effective preventive effort targeting sex industry in Hong Kong. However, the result may underestimate the situation because those sex workers did not cover by this survey may be at higher risk.

Presenting author email: [wlmak@dhspp.net](mailto:wlmak@dhspp.net)