Contextual influences on safer sex negotiation among female sex workers (FSWs) in Hong Kong

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Abstract

The present study examined the effects of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), FSWs' managers, and clients on FSWs' negotiation efficacy, condom use efficacy, and condom use consistency. One hundred nineteen FSWs in Hong Kong completed the questionnaire. Three self-constructed scales were used to measure perceived influence of NGOs, FSWs' managers and clients on their safer sex decision. Two factors, namely support and pressure loaded on both managers' and clients' scales. The internal consistencies of all scales were satisfactory. Negotiation and condom use self-efficacy, and condom use consistency of FSWs in last and all sexual episode(s) in the previous six months were also measured. Findings showed that condom use self-efficacy was related to consistent condom use in the previous six months (p<.05). Results from hierarchical regression models showed significant relationships of NGOs' influence, managers' pressure, clients' support and pressure on negotiation self-efficacy and managers' pressure on condom use self-efficacy. The present study suggested that within FSWs' ecology, influences from NGOs, pressure from managers, and both positive and negative influences from clients bear varied effects on FSWs negotiation and condom use practices. To further enhance the efficacy and condom use of FSWs, NGOs can extend their prevention service to managers and clients.