



Health
Hunter New England
Local Health District

Improving Access to Sexual Health Screening for Asian Sex Workers in Newcastle

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Disclosures



- No interests to disclose

Background / aims



- Background:
 - Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) sex workers may be at greater risk for HIV-STIs and not in contact with sexual health services¹
 - Newcastle introduced mobile outreach to both Asian and Caucasian parlours in 2012 providing on-site screening for chlamydia and gonorrhoea
- Aims: Quality improvement activity
 - better understand the sex worker population attending local services
 - evaluate outreach activities including access by Asian sex workers



¹ R Berg, J Bates, C Harcourt. "Gap Analysis 'At Risk' Sex Workers Report," South Eastern Sydney and Illawarra Health Region, 2011

Methods



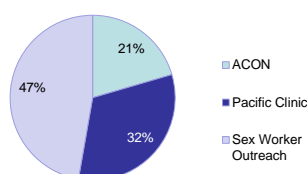
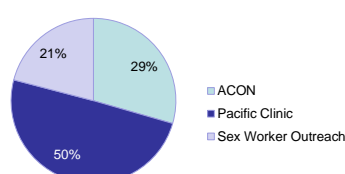
- Study design:
 - retrospective data analysis, 01/2011 – 11/2016
 - demographics, location of service and first visits for non-CALD (Caucasian) and Asian sex workers
- Study population:
 - 500 current sex workers seen on 1517 occasions
 - Ethnicity
 - 160 (32%) Asian / 321 'non-CALD' (64%) / 19 other or NS
 - Location of services:
 - 1090 (72%) Pacific Clinic / 240 (16%) ACON / 187 (12%) Outreach



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Results

Service and location	Asian (160 workers)	Non-CALD (321 workers)	RR
Total face to face visits	448	1035	
Pacific Clinic	313 (70%)	754 (73%)	0.96 (0.89-1.03)
ACON	44 (10%)	193 (19%)	0.53 (0.39-0.72)
Outreach	91 (20%)	88 (9%)	2.39 (1.82-3.13)
<i>Only seen in outreach</i>	55 (34%)	31 (10%)	RR 3.56, (2.39-5.30)
<i>First service in outreach</i>	60/127 (47%)	27/129 (21%)	RR 2.26, P < 0.0001

1st service: Asian workers1st Service: non-CALD workers

Conclusions/implications

- Asian sex workers in Newcastle were more likely (RR 2.26) than their Caucasian peers to make their initial contact with sexual health via mobile outreach to parlours, and are more likely (RR 3.56) to be seen *only* during outreach visits
- This confirms that mobile outreach activities including on-site STI testing are a useful strategy for improving access for sex workers, and in particular, the more vulnerable Asian sex workers
- We have introduced blood testing as well as chlamydia and gonorrhoea screening on site in parlours as a result of this study, and have found this is very acceptable to both Asian and Caucasian sex workers

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