



Oropharyngeal infection is more common than urogenital gonorrhoea infection among female sex workers attending a sexual health centre in Melbourne, Australia

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Background



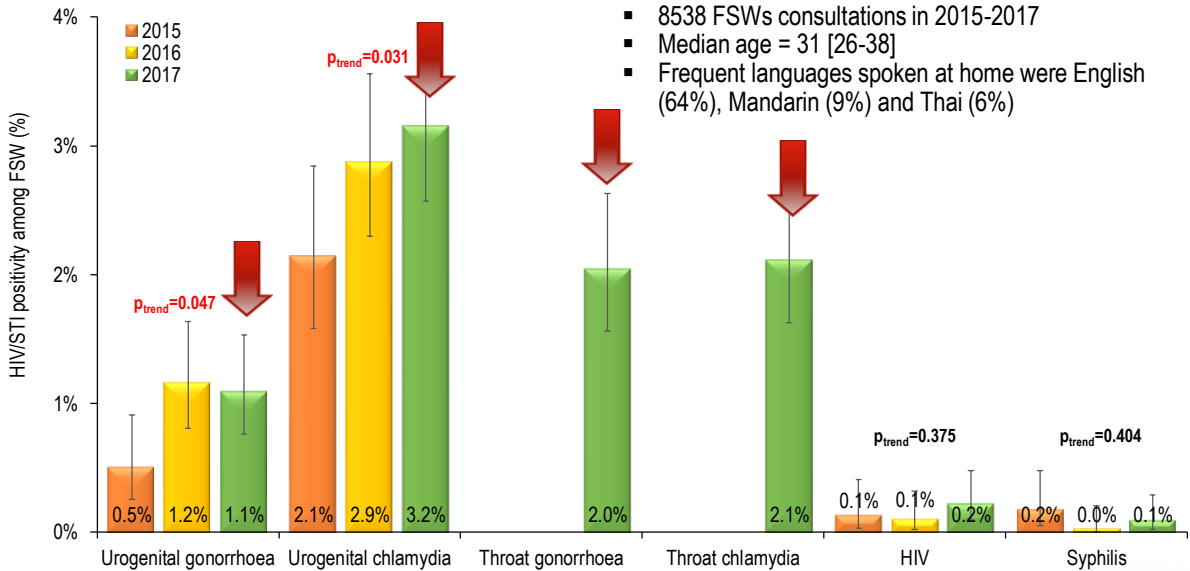
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- The laws that govern sex work in Australia vary in different states.
- In Victoria, sex work is legal and regulated.
 - Mandatory quarterly screening for HIV and STIs is required but the site of screening is not specified.
- As per the Australian STI screening guidelines,
 - Screening for oropharyngeal NG is only recommended among females who reported oral sex
 - Screening for oropharyngeal CT among females is not recommended.
- In 2017, routine oropharyngeal screening was introduced for all FSWs attending the Melbourne Sexual Health Centre.
- Aims of the study
 - To examine the trend of HIV/STI positivity among FSWs between 2015 and 2017; and
 - To explore the positivity of oropharyngeal CT and NG and the proportion of oropharyngeal infections would have been missed by urogenital-screening only.

Results – HIV/STI in FSWs in Melbourne



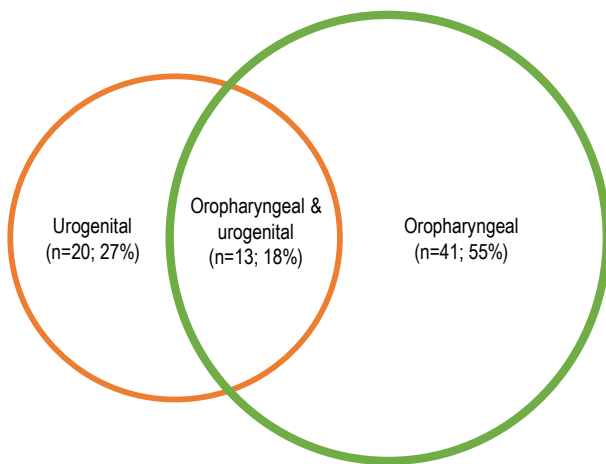
- 8538 FSWs consultations in 2015-2017
- Median age = 31 [26-38]
- Frequent languages spoken at home were English (64%), Mandarin (9%) and Thai (6%)

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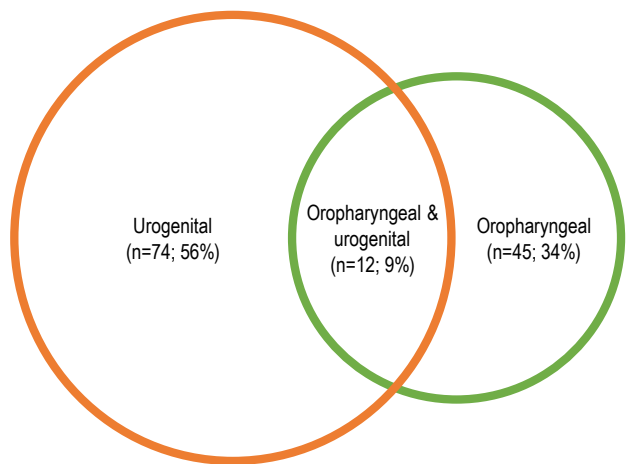
Gonorrhoea vs chlamydia



Gonorrhoea (N=74)



Chlamydia (N=131)



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Take-home messages



- From 2015-2017,
 - A **2-fold increase** in **urogenital NG** (from 0.5% to 1.1%)
 - A **1.5-fold increase** in **urogenital CT** (from 2.2% to 3.8%)
 - HIV (0.2%) and syphilis (0.1%) remained low and did not change over time
- Oropharyngeal NG (2.0%) is more common than urogenital NG (1.1%) ($p=0.003$)
- **BUT** CT positivity is similar in the oropharynx and urogenital
- Very limited data on sexual behaviours other than vaginal sex among FSWs in Australia
- FSWs did not have multiple sites of infections, this suggests urogenital-only screening for CT and NG might have missed a substantial proportion of oropharyngeal cases.

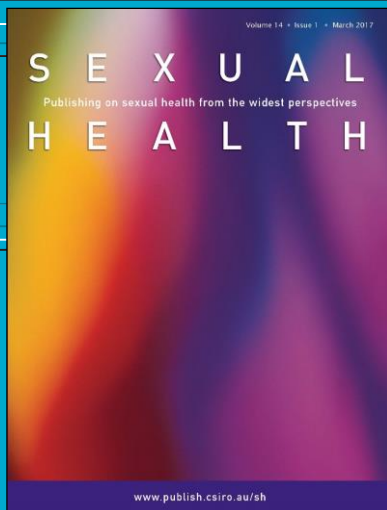
Frequency of tongue kissing, oral, vaginal and anal sex among female sex workers with male clients in Melbourne, Australia

Poster #70

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