

# HIV RISK IN RECENT ANAL INTERCOURSE EVENTS AMONG MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN (MSM) AND TRANSGENDER WOMEN (TGW) IN BALI, INDONESIA

## Authors:

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## Background:

In recent years, HIV prevalence has increased substantially in Bali, Indonesia, in men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women (TGW). There are extremely limited behavioural data in this population.

## Method:

We conducted an online behavioural survey of MSM/TGW in Bali in March-April 2018. Respondents were primarily recruited by HIV outreach workers; some through friends or advertisements. 718 respondents are included in this analysis. Respondents reported details about anal intercourse events (AIEs) with their last male/TGW romantic partner and/or last male/TGW casual partner (respondents could report on both if relevant). Significance was tested with generalised estimating equations.

## Results:

Median age was 27 (range=18-51). 90.0% identified as male and 7.1% as TGW. One-third was born in Bali. 85.5% had ever had an HIV test. 55.2% reported being HIV-negative, 14.2% HIV-positive, and 30.6% had unknown serostatus. Most (86.8%) reported sex with men, 8.9% with TGW, and 20.1% with women in the previous six months. Respondents described 703 AIEs (399/304 with romantic/casual partners, respectively; 185 reported on both). 56.3% of AIEs were protected by condoms and 7.4% by biomedical prevention (2.7% by PrEP in either partner, 4.7% by HIV treatments in either partner). Thus, 36.3% of AIEs were high-risk (40.6%/30.6% in romantic/casual partners, respectively), and were associated with casual sex ( $p<0.001$ ) and being born in Bali ( $p=0.002$ ). However, 25.2% AIEs had potentially reduced risk from behavioural risk reduction (strategic positioning=5.5%, withdrawal=12.4%, or serosorting=14.1%; not mutually exclusive); 29.8%/19.1% in romantic/casual partners, respectively. The remaining 78 AIEs (11.1% of the total) were thus highest-risk for HIV transmission (10.8%/11.5% in romantic/casual partners, respectively).

## Conclusion:

High-risk AIEs were more common for casual sex and among Balinese men. However, when taking behavioural risk reduction into account, about 10% of AIEs were highest-risk and were equally distributed among romantic and casual partners.

## Disclosure of Interest Statement:

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