



Transgender Clients Attending A Sexual Health Clinic In Sydney

Pollack AS¹, Scally E¹, Bourne C^{1, 2}, Callander D²

¹Sydney Sexual Health Centre (SSHC)

²Kirby Institute UNSW Australia

Sydney Sexual Health Centre (SSHC)

- Oldest sexual health service in NSW, operating since 1933
- Our service is focussed on priority population groups including men who have sex with men, sex workers, youth <25yo and people living with HIV



Disclosure of interest

- No conflicts to declare



Background

- People identifying as transgender and/or gender diverse (TGD) may have different sexual lives and risk profiles compared to their cisgender peers
- Unfortunately published research remains sparse
- Differences in behaviour are not a feature of gender diversity itself but instead are likely to arise from minority stress



Methods

- Retrospective case review of people identified as TGD who attended SSHC between Sept 2016 and May 2018
- Data collected included:
 - Demographics
 - STI/BBV diagnoses
 - Risk behaviours



Results - Demographics

- 117 TGD clients identified
 - = 0.56% of all clients who attended SSHC
- Majority (86%) identified as trans women
 - 8% trans men, 1% non-binary, 5% unspecified
- Thailand (65%) and Australia (17%) were the most common countries of birth
 - Three clients identified as Aboriginal Australian



Results – STIs

- 60% (70/117) of all TGD clients had any bacterial STI or BBV diagnosis during the study period
 - 61% (62/101) of trans women had any diagnosis
 - 44% (4/9) of trans men
 - 50% (3/6) of those with unspecified gender
- Most common bacterial STIs were
 - rectal chlamydia (26%)
 - pharyngeal gonorrhoea (24%)
 - rectal gonorrhea (22%)
- 5% were living with HIV



Results - Behaviours

- Number of non-paying partners in the previous 3 months was low
 - Average 0.25 female partners (median 0, range 0-10)
 - Average 2.6 male partners (median 1, range 0-30)
 - 19% had had no sex in their private life in that time
- 72% had a history of sex work – 52% currently, 20% previously
 - Only 64% (39/61) of current sex workers reported 100% condom use for anal/vaginal sex with clients



Challenges

- Identifying TGD clients
- Small numbers for trans men, non-binary and those with unspecified gender identity
- Bias from clinic services being restricted to priority groups
 - Includes MSM (cis or trans) and sex workers of any gender but not TGD alone



Lessons learnt

- The population of TGD clients attending SSHC appear to be predominantly trans women born in Thailand currently or previously engaged in sex work
- Likely a result of:
 - targeted outreach work with Thai sex workers
 - Health promotion officer for sex workers who also has links to The Gender Centre
 - Which priority groups able to attend SSHC





Questions?