

IUSTI ASIA PACIFIC SEXUAL HEALTH CONGRESS 2018

Characteristics of Women with Gonorrhoea in NSW, 2018: a Case Series Investigation

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BACKGROUND/AIMS AND METHODS

- **Background:** Gonorrhoea notification rates increasing across Australia
- **Issue:** Risk factors in women need to be identified. Travel associated sex?
- **Research question:** What are the characteristics of women notified to New South Wales (NSW) Health with gonorrhoea, and their partners?
- **Study design:** Case series
- **Participants:** NSW women aged ≥ 18 years, for whom a gonorrhoea notification had been made from 21 May to 17 June 2018
- **Method:** Questionnaire. Sex workers reported on non-paying partners only
- **Statistical analysis:** A descriptive analysis was conducted

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RESULTS

- **Response rate:** 58% - 68/118 eligible women
- **Personal characteristics:**
 - 31% sex workers, 3% Aboriginal, 63% Australian born and 91% urban residents
 - Median age: 30
 - Routine STI check: 57% sex workers, 13% non-sex workers
 - In 3 months prior to diagnosis, only 3% respondents had sex overseas
- **Partner characteristics:**
 - 84% male, 54% Australian born, 32% non-regular partners, and 10% travelled overseas
 - 76% heterosexual, 6% bisexual, and 3% did not know (missing 15%)
- **Condom use:** was low

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CONCLUSION

- **Conclusion:** increase appears to be related to local, heterosexual, condomless transmission
- **Limitations:** incomplete follow up, missing data, no control group
- **Next steps:**
 - Raise awareness and promote regular STI screening among this population
 - A future study with a control group
 - A future study with a qualitative aspect

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