

Low HIV testing rate among men who purchase sex (MWPS) in Bali, Indonesia, and predictors of it

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Abstract

Background:

Indonesia is one of the countries in Asia which has the fastest HIV epidemic growing. Heterosexual transmissions through prostitution industry remain the major HIV transmission route in this country. Despite the importance of knowing ones HIV status to provide necessary care and treatment, and risk of HIV infection among this group, limited attention has been put towards identifying rate of HIV testing among MWPS in Indonesia. This study was aimed at identifying the number of MWPS who have been HIV tested previously, and factors associated with it.

Methods:

A cross sectional study was conducted in 7 brothel areas in Bali. Survey among MWPS was conducted to identify HIV test history, sociodemographic characteristics, and sexual behaviour. Multivariate analysis using Firth's modified logistic regression was performed to identify predictors on reported HIV testing history.

Results:

Two hundreds men participated in the study, only 8.1% reported to have an HIV test previously. Men were more likely to report a history of HIV testing if they perceived themselves at high risk of HIV (OR: 13.2 [95%CI: 2.16-81]); had a higher level of HIV related knowledge (OR: 24.5[95%CI: 5.05-118.96]), were aware that confidential HIV testing is available (OR: 54.5[95%CI: 2.68-1108]), and reported history of genital ulcers or urethral discharge in the last 12 months (OR: 14.3 [95%CI: 2.2-91.7]).

Conclusion:

Study on HIV testing among MWPS in Asia is limited. This is the first published study in Indonesia which measure rate and predictors of HIV testing among MWPS in brothels. The low rate of HIV testing among this group and the association between HIV testing and awareness of confidential HIV testing signifies the needs of a more confidential HIV screening or testing strategy such as HIV self-testing to improve HIV testing rate among this group in this country.