

Gender-based Violence, HIV and Key Populations in the Caribbean

PANCAP Parliamentarians Meeting

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*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Broadening Understanding of Gender-Based Violence

- “Gender” is not just a women’s and girls’ issue
 - Gender and sexual minorities also affected
- Linking work to address gender equality and human rights

Rational for GBV Assessment

- GBV is a major barrier to HIV-related services and a factor that must be addressed
- Need research to better understand the specific experiences of violence of KPs that are not as often catalogued

Key Populations and HIV Risk

- HIV prevalence among sex workers is **12 times** greater than among the general population.
- Gay men and other men who have sex with men are **19 times** greater
- Transgender women are **49 times** greater than other adults of reproductive age.

Source: UNAIDS Gap Report, 2014.

Study goals

- 1) To generate high-quality evidence on of the nature of violence and discrimination experienced by sex workers, MSM, and transgender women
- 2) To explore the connections between violence, HIV risk, and service seeking behaviors for key populations
- 3) To inform GBV service delivery programming, including the design and evaluation of interventions to prevent and respond to GBV experienced by key populations

Study goals

- 4) To empower members of key populations to conduct and interpret research
- 5) To strengthen partnerships among various stakeholders to promote a comprehensive response to GBV among key populations

Study Sites

- Caribbean
 - Bridgetown, Barbados
 - Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago
 - Port-au-Prince, Jacmel & Ouanaminthe, Haiti
- Latin America
 - San Salvador, El Salvador

Methodology

- Adapted the methodology from the multi-country qualitative UNDP study: *The Rights(s) Evidence: Sex Work, Violence and HIV in Asia*
- Highly participatory, peer-lead approach
- Qualitative interviews with three groups
 - Gay men and other men who have sex with men
 - Female sex workers
 - Transgender women

Sample Size

- 226 interviews
 - 63 men who have sex with men
 - 104 female sex workers
 - 59 transgender women

Interview domains

- Interview guides explored experiences in the following settings:
 - Health care
 - Sex work
 - On the street
 - Police
 - Partners
 - Before the age of 18
 - Religious settings
 - State institutions
- Overall impact of violence and participants' needs
 - **Impact of violent/discriminatory experiences**
 - **Risk of HIV because of violent/discriminatory experiences**
 - Drug use and risk of violence/discrimination
 - Services wanted and health care support

Study data

- Interviews included a series of questions about experiences with violence or discrimination and a checklist of yes/no questions related to each setting
- Individual interviews help us understand:
 - Experiences of individuals
 - *Why* individuals think/feel/believe what they do
- These data cannot be used to make generalizations about the entire community of each population.
 - The participants have shared their own unique experiences
 - They were not asked to comment on how frequent such experiences are in their communities

Types of violence

- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional
 - Includes threats of physical violence
- Economic
 - Use of money to control an individual, refusing to pay money that is earned
- Other human rights violations
 - Denied basic necessities or health care
 - Arbitrarily stopped, detained or jailed



Results

Health Care Settings

Country	Type	Total N	Emotional	Physical	Other HRV
Barbados	FSW	7	Some	None	Few
	MSM	8	Some	None	Few
	TGW	5	Few	Few	Few
	Total	20	Some	Few	Few
Trinidad	FSW	8	Many	None	None
	MSM	12	Half	Few	None
	TGW	10	Half	Few	None
	Total	30	Half	Few	None
Haiti	FSWB	51	Most	N/A	Half
	FSWS	36	Most	N/A	Half
	MSM	35	All	N/A	Half
	TGW	42	All	N/A	Half
	Total	164	Most	N/A*	Half

None
Few
Some
Half
Many
Most
All

Health care

- Emotional violence most common
 - Insults, disdain & negative comments
 - Lecturing, scolding
 - Gossip, not treating information as confidential
 - Blaming clients for illness or injury
 - Discrimination from other patients (Trinidad & Barbados)
 - Sexual comments (Haiti)
- Human rights violations
 - Delaying or denying services
- Economic violence
 - Extortion, blackmail or demanding money (Haiti)

Sex work clients

None
Few
Some
Half
Many
Most
All

Country	Type	Total N	Emotional	Physical	Sexual	Economic
Barbados	FSW	7	Half	Some	Half	Half
	MSM	2	All	Half	None	Half
	TGW	1	All	None	None	None
	Total	10	Many	Some	Some	Half
Trinidad	FSW	7	Half	Few	Many	Half
	MSM	5	Many	Some	Some	Many
	TGW	4	Some	Many	Some	All
	Total	16	Half	Some	Half	Many
Haiti	FSWB	52	Most	Some	Many	Many
	FSWS	37	Most	Half	Most	Most
	MSM	14	Many	Some	Many	Many
	TGW	25	Many	Some	Many	Half
	Total	128	Most	Some	Many	Many

Sex work clients

- Emotional violence
 - Insults, name calling, derogatory comments
 - Threats of physical and sexual assault
- Economic violence
 - Clients refuse to pay, demand free services or blackmail/demand money
- Sexual violence
 - Rape and being forced to engage in unwanted sex acts
- Physical violence
 - Choking, forced to use drugs, left in isolated/dangerous areas (esp. in Trinidad)

Police

None
Few
Some
Half
Many
Most
All

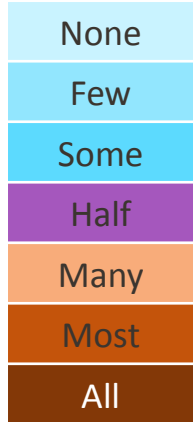
Country	Type	Total N	Emotional	Physical	Sexual	Economic	Other HRV
Barbados	FSW	7	Half	None	Half	None	None
	MSM	8	Some	None	None	None	None
	TGW	5	Many	None	Few	None	None
	Total	20	Half	None	Some	None	None
Trinidad	FSW	8	Many	None	None	Some	None
	MSM	12	Half	Some	None	Few	Half
	TGW	10	Many	Few	None	None	Few
	Total	30	Many	Few	None	Few	Few
Haiti	FSWB	44	Half	Some	Some	Few	N/A
	FSWS	35	Many	Some	Many	Few	N/A
	MSM	34	Half	Some	Some	Few	N/A
	TGW	40	Many	Some	Some	Half	N/A
	Total	153	Half	Some	Half	Some	N/A*

*Participants in Haiti were not asked about other human rights violations by police.

Police

- Emotional violence
 - Blaming participants for violence committed against them
 - Harassment, lecturing, scolding
 - Negative, stigmatizing, insulting or humiliating comments
- Sexual violence
 - Sexual assault or demanding sex for freedom
- Physical violence
- Economic violence: demanding/stealing money
- Human rights violations
 - Denial of services, negligent or delayed response to requests for help
 - Unfair arrest (Trinidad)

Street and public settings



Country	Type	Total N	Emotional	Physical	Sexual	Economic
Barbados	FSW	7	Half	Few	Few	None
	MSM	8	Many	None	Some	None
	TGW	5	All	All	None	None
	Total	20	Many	Some	Few	None
Trinidad	FSW	8	Some	Some	None	None
	MSM	12	Many	Some	None	None
	TGW	10	Many	Some	None	None
	Total	30	Half	Some	None	None
Haiti	FSWB	46	Many	Half	Some	Some
	FSWS	37	Many	Many	Half	Half
	MSM	42	Many	Many	Some	Some
	TGW	44	Most	Many	Many	Many
	Total	169	Many	Many	Half	Half

Street and public places

- Emotional violence
 - Verbal harassment; rude, negative or discrimination comments
 - Threats of physical violence or inciting others to commit violence
 - Questions on participants' appearance or gender identify
- Physical violence
 - Assault & attacks with weapons
- Sexual violence (Barbados & Haiti)
 - Harassment and assault

Impact of violence & discrimination

- Negative affects on mental health common
 - Feeling hurt, sad, judged, humiliated, depressed
 - Suicidal thoughts
- Reports of altering behavior/movement to avoid violence and discrimination
 - Not wanting to go in public or to work
- Some reported discrimination made them stronger or taught the importance of not judging and believing in yourself

Impact of violence & discrimination: HIV risk

- In Haiti & Barbados, few participants felt that violence or discrimination has put them at risk of HIV
 - Higher for transgender women and FSWs
 - Very low for MSM
- In Trinidad approximately half reported violence increased HIV risk and half did not

Conclusions

- Violence and discrimination is common across countries and populations
- Violence & discrimination is accepted and normalized
 - Affects access to vital state services
- HIV risk due to violence/discrimination underestimated by participants
 - Ability to access acceptable health care, address violence is limited