Prevalence of genital infections with Chlamydia trachomatis, Neisseria gonorrhoea and Trichomonas vaginalis in hard-to-reach sex workers in Germany: The STI-Outreach Study

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Background & Objectives

In Germany, few data exist about the prevalence of infections with Chlamydia trachomatis (CT), Neisseria gonorrhoea (NG) and Trichomonas vaginalis (TV) in sex workers (SW)

CT, NG and TV mostly asymptomatic, but can lead to e.g. infertility, miss carriage, pelvic inflammatory disease

KABP-Survey on STI in female SW in Germany (2010-2011): SW without regular contact to local public health authorities (LPHA) at high risk for STI

Aims of STI Outreach-Study

To measure prevalence of CT, NG and TV among hard-to-reach SW (♀, ♂, transgender) in Germany

to describe sociodemographic characteristics

to analyze risk factors for acquiring CT, NG and TV

to obtain access to gynaecological/ urological health services and LPHA

Methods

Low threshold multicenter approach in Berlin, Hamburg, and North Rhine-Westphalia

Voluntary and anonymous participation

Oral informed consent without signature of SW

Sample and data collection directly at workplace of SW

Easy self-collection of vaginal swabs (♀) or urine (♂, transgender)

Collaboration with LPHA and other NGO experienced in outreach-work with SW and specialised prevention and medical care of HIV/STI

Extensive cultural and language mediation

Very short questionnaire to ensure applicability at workplace of SW

Personal information of test results

Free treatment for SW tested positively

Results

Sociodemographic Characteristics

As of 27.6.2013, 1,020 ♀, 59 ♂ and 11 transgender SW enrolled by 18 LPHA

88.8% of female SW not born in Germany (figure 2)

39.9% of non-German female SW without German language skills (table 1)

Prevalences and risk factors

Overall prevalences were 10.8% for CT, 4.7% for NG, and 12.2% for TV

For potential risk factors of univariate analyses for CT, NG and TV see table 2

Conclusions

For the first time, “hard-to-reach” SW were screened for CT, NG, and TV in a low threshold multicenter approach in Germany

Lacking German language skills, no health insurance, rare contact to LPHA, and mostly foreign origin characterised a large proportion of study population

These factors were partly associated with positive STI test results in female SW in univariate analyses

High prevalences of CT, NG, and TV demonstrated a high need to foster prevention and health service for “hard to reach”-SW in terms of a comprehensive sexual health approach

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