

INTRODUCTION

TRaC surveys allow knowing the level on key behaviors for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases reduction.

Follow-up surveys TRaC (Tracking Results Continuously) provide insight into the level of key behaviors in reducing the risk of acquiring HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and their changes over time; for which socio-demographic, sexual behavioral determinants of risk and exposure to prevention programs information is collected. These surveys provide evidence for social marketing decision making and at the same time help to measure the impact of different interventions and program activities. The surveys serve as tools to guide programs, through routine data collection between vulnerable populations to HIV and other STIs.

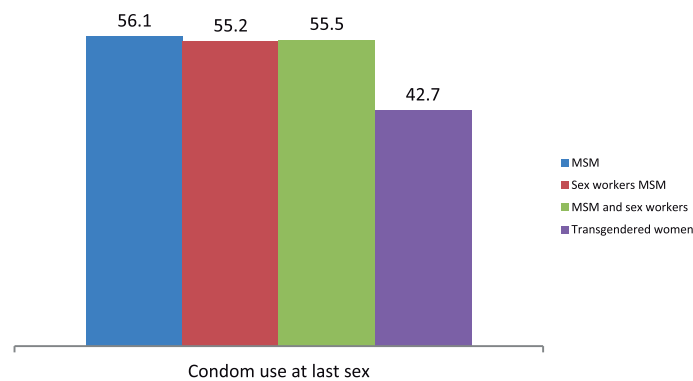
In 2012, the USAID HIV Combination Prevention Program in Central America, (hereinafter referred to as Combination Prevention Program) conducted a follow-up survey with MSM in Belize City, Orange Walk, Corozal, and Cayo. A total of 274 MSM and 8 Transgender women interviewed, which were selected through a respondent driven sampling strategy (RDS¹).

Below are the key findings: **1)** On key behavioral trends and changes, **2)** Determinants of condom use that may be the basis for prevention programs and 3) When applicable, attribution of the changes to interpersonal communication activities (CIP) and / or mass media messages from PASMO and the Combination Prevention Program.

BEHAVIORS

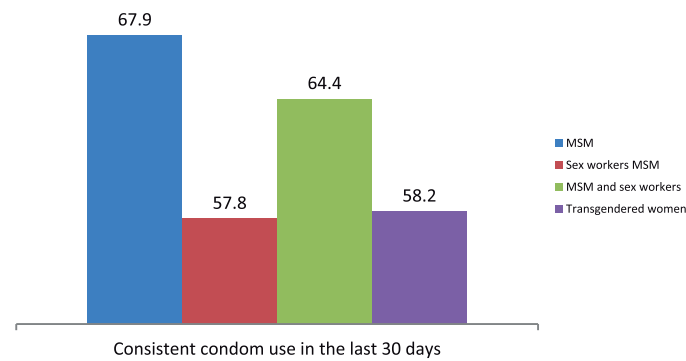
Condom use at last sex

Condom use at last sex with any male partner shows very similar results between MSM (56%) and sex workers MSM (55%), but a big difference is found on transgendered women where indicator is 13% lower (42%).



Consistent condom use in the last 30 days

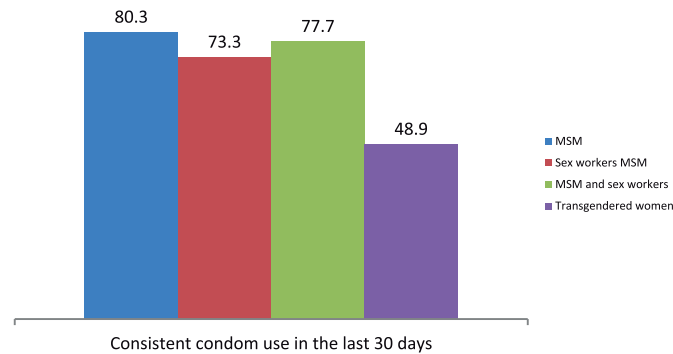
In the case of consistent condom use with male partners in the last 30 days, 67.9% of MSM indicate to be consistent users with their male partners, however, between the other populations the proportion is lower; 57.8% of consistent users between sex workers and 58.2% on transgendered women.



Knowledge and Beliefs.

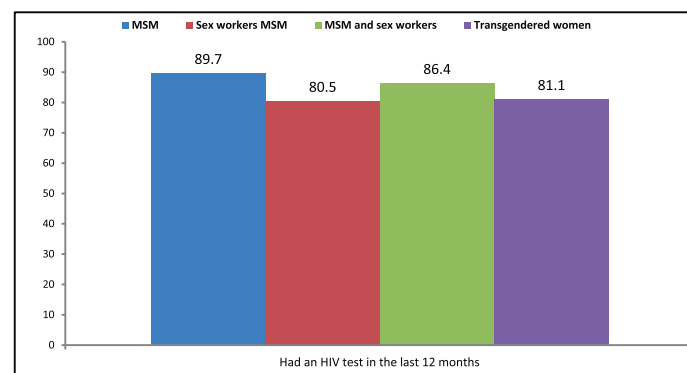
(Identify correctly prevention ways for HIV transmission and reject the major myths about HIV)

At least 80.3% of MSM report knowing the correct ways of prevention for HIV and reject major myths; This indicator decreases on the MSM sex worker population to 73.3% but the more dramatic decrease is on the transgendered women population where knowledge indicator is only 48.9%.



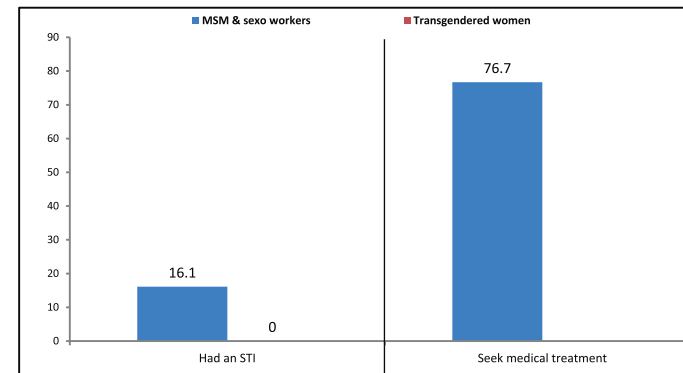
HIV Test and results

Very high indicators for HIV testing shows that 89.7% of MSM reported they had an HIV test in the last year, 80.5% between the sex workers MSM and 81.1% between the small sample of transgendered women interviewed in the study.



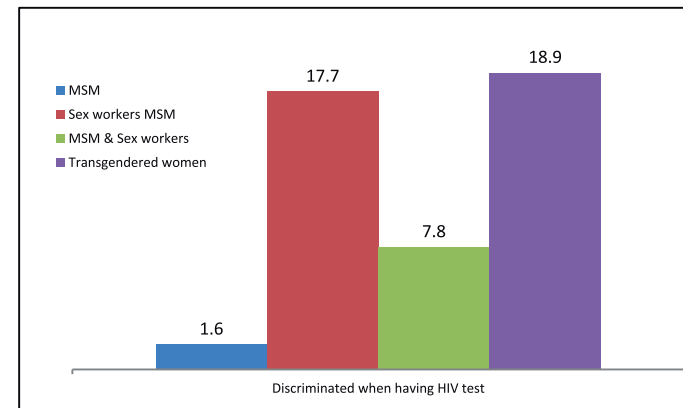
STIs and seek for medical attention

The proportion of MSM and sex workers MSM that had or suspected to have a sexually transmitted infection (STI) is 16.1% and none of the transgendered women reported having it in the last 12 months. Between those that reported having one, 76.7% of them indicated they seek for medical treatment.



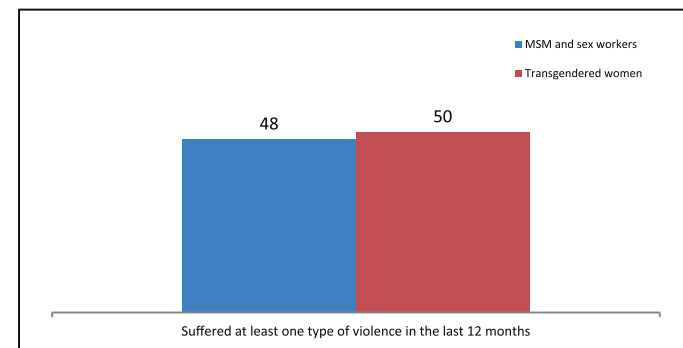
Discrimination during HIV testing

Discrimination during their last HIV test among MSM population shows to be almost null with 1.6%. However, among sex workers MSM and transgender women levels of discrimination turn higher (17.7% and 18.9% respectively).



Violence

The half of the populations reported they suffered at least one type of violence (psychological, physical, verbal or sexual) during the last 12 months because of their sexual orientation. MSM & sex workers (48%) transgendered women (50%).



FACTORS ASSOCIATED TO THE CONSISTENT CONDOM USE (DETERMINANTS)

In order to improve HIV prevention programs, analyzes were conducted with MSM and Transgendered women to determine what factors are associated with condom use, in order to incorporate these factors in behavior change methodologies and/or communication messages.

The analysis revealed that the odds of a MSM use condoms consistently with any male partner in the last 30 days increases among:

- MSM with positive attitudes towards HIV prevention and condom use (O.R: 5.25, p<0.001)

The odds that MSM do not use condoms consistently in the last 30 days with their male partners decrease among:

- MSM that are aware or affirm that social norms that discriminate them exist (OR: 0.312, p<0.001)

The analysis conducted in transgendered women in Central America showed that the probability of consistent condom use with a male partner decreases between:

- Transgendered women that reported suffering at least one type of violence (psychological, physical, sexual or verbal) (OR:0.31, p<0.001)

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Reinforce efforts on condoms use promotion, especially those messages that promote its use for HIV prevention, since this shows to be a determinant of use, according to the segmentation analysis.
- Introduce a strategy to reduce social norms that discriminate persons from both populations MSM and transgendered women, as a way to reduce violence and barriers that cause low condom use.
- Implement on educational methodologies messages to build up confidence and self-esteem in transgendered women as a way to reduce the effects that violence causes them, mainly on the issue of consistent condom use.



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Follow-up Study:

HIV and AIDS Prevention among Men
who have Sex with other Men (MSM) and
Transgender Women.



Combination
Prevention for HIV
Central America and Mexico



BELIZE 2013