



The Future of European Prevention among MSM

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Abstract Title

RISK AND VULNERABILITY: MOTIVES AND MEANINGS ON THE SEXUAL RISK BEHAVIOURS OF YOUNG MSM IN BARCELONA

Abstract Text

Objective: To provide an understanding of some reasons why a group of young men who have sex with men (YMSM) had unprotected anal intercourse (UAI) in the last 3 months with casual sexual partners. Methodology: A qualitative study was carried out with 71 young men (aged 18-28): 42 in individual interviews and 29 in 3 discussion groups. The sample was divided into: general YMSM, Latin Americans and HIV-positives. A Grounded approach was used to analyze the data. Results: A fifth of interviewees reported they had any practice of UAI in the last 3 months. UAI episodes occurred in the context of "slip-ups" or "lapses", i.e. there was not intentionality and when they occurred, there was risk awareness. Many of the events of UAI occurred in situations that were not related to sexual aspects (e.g. pleasure), but with aspects that are considered psychological or emotional needs (e.g. search for intimacy, loneliness, depression, being in love) which were channeled through sex. Trust was an element referred to as a strong motive that led many YMSM to have UAI with both steady partners and casual partners. This trust is built from the impressions conveyed sexual partner but also from assumptions about his health status (this reason was found mainly among young Latin American). Some YMSM were involved in UAI when they

established relationships with "fuck buddies". In these relationships, the partner's serostatus was assessed on the basis of trust, even in some cases, YMSM have reached agreements on the use of condoms outside these relationships. Not having condoms available was also often found as a reason of UAI and they thought that nothing would happen if they would have UAI only once. In these situations, not carrying condoms is due to the fact that many YMSM do not expect to have sex when they go out. While acknowledging the effectiveness of HIV treatments, no YMSM think that this is influencing so that other YMSM have UAI. All HIV-negative YMSM mentioned to be afraid of getting HIV infection. Conclusions: In this study, YMSM are a group which is not at high sexual risk but they have features that can make them more vulnerable at HIV risk. In many cases, the trust-mistrust dichotomy and beliefs and assumptions on sexual partner's seroestatus are what motivate to use or not condoms. The prevention programs should pay more attention to this type of motives and include them in their messages.

Tracks

2 TRACK 2: Vulnerability and social determinants -

Keyword

06 TRACK 2: Prisoners, migrants, age, transgender, religious minorities, poor people, sex workers, etc.

04 TRACK 1: Risk behaviors

02 TRACK 1: Social and Behavioral Sciences

Poster or Oral Presentation*

Oral

References

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