Sexually transmitted infections in male heterosexual Dutch clients who visited a cross-border female sex worker; a 3 year retrospective study

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INTRODUCTION

- Dutch male heterosexual clients report to visit cross-border Female Sex Workers (FSW), and may therefore be at risk for sexually transmitted infections (STI).

AIM

- The aim of this study was to assess whether having commercial cross-border sex is associated with being diagnosed with an STI more frequently than visiting an Dutch FSW.

Figure 1. Counties with STI clinics participating in current study (in purple)

RESULTS

- 535 clients had a known country of visit.
- Making cross-border visits to Germany was most frequently reported (38.7%), followed by visits to Asia (20.9%) and within the Netherlands (18.5%), see figure 2.
- STI positivity was 15% among clients making cross-border visits, 7.9% among clients visiting another country and 7.1% among clients who visited the Netherlands.
- In multivariable analysis (see table below) clients were more likely to be STI positive when they had 20 or more partners (OR=3.5; 95%CI 1.4 to 8.6) in the last 6 months and did not use a condom during last sexual contact (OR=2.3; 95%CI 1.2 to 4.3).

Table. Demographic and behavioral predictors for STI positivity among clients

	Univariable regression analysis OR(95%CI)	Multivariable regression analysis OR(95%)
Age		
<25 years	ref	nt
25-44 years	0.9(0.4-1.8)	
>45 years	1.1(0.5-2.5)	
Country of birth		
Netherlands	ref	ref
Other	0.4(0.1-1.1)	0.4(0.1-1.2)
No. of sex partners		
0-2	ref	ref
3-5	1.7(0.8-3.6)	1.7(0.8-3.6)
6-20	1.8(0.8-4.1)	1.6(0.7-3.9)
>20	3.7(1.5-9.0)	3.5(1.4-8.6)
Condom use		
Yes	ref	ref
No	2.1(1.2-3.9)	2.3(1.2-4.3)
Sex abroad		
No	ref	ref
Yes, cross-border	2.4(1.0-5.6)	2.1(0.9-5.2)
Yes, another country	1.1(0.4-2.7)	1.0(0.4-2.5)

CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

- Country of visit does not appear to be a risk factor for STI in clients of FSW.
- STI prevention advice should remain focused on reduction of multiple partners and adequate condom use.

METHODS

- An observational retrospective study was performed using patient-based data of 8 Dutch STI clinics bordering Germany (see figure 1), between 2011-2013.
- All male heterosexual clients of FSWs were selected and data on country of visiting FSW and occurrence of STI were used.

Figure 2. Visited countries by clients of FSW

CONTACT DETAILS

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