Monitoring Illicit Drug Use and Substance Dependency Among Female Sex Workers in Europe, 2000–2009: An Overview

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**Introduction** Worldwide, illicit drug use and substance dependency will remain important public health problems during the next decades. Clinical evidence suggests that sex workers (SW) are a high risk group with increased prevalence. The study describes the state of affairs regarding monitoring illegal drug use among female sex workers in Europe and the existing gaps in our knowledge about the prevalence of use and dependency.

**Methods** Literature review: literature published between 2000 and 2009 was searched with PubMed. Moreover, the National Reports (N=222) provided yearly by the National Focal Points to the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction, were reviewed.

**Results** Prevalence estimates of illicit drug use in SW were found regarding 16 countries. Levels of illicit drug use and substance dependency were found to be high compared to the general population and differed by geographical area, age and working environment. Available data suggest a trend towards increasing illicit drug use among SW in Europe.

**Conclusion** There is substantial evidence that prevalence of illicit drug use and substance dependency are considerably higher in SW. However, because most European countries lack surveys and surveillance systems that provide solid estimates of drug use in this vulnerable population, additional research is needed. Feasibility of monitoring drug use by population-specific health services should be studied as this approach would facilitate timely interventions.

Influence of Gender on Positive Mental Health of Young People in Kerala

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**Introduction** We examined gender differences in the positive mental health (PMH) status, which encompasses positive states of minds and positive functioning, among young people of Kerala state, India.

**Methods** Using a scale development and validation process with 323 randomly selected subjects, we constructed and validated a scale for measuring PMH. This was administered to the study sample (453; 230 males, 223 females) in the age group of 18–24.

**Results** Males scored higher than females in the scale (males, 5.70, p=0.01). Of the four domains of PMH, three showed significantly higher scores in males: own potential: male-M=21.34, SD=5.38, female-M=19.648, SD=5.784; coping abilities: male-M=15.130, SD=4.274; female-M=10.910, SD=3.969; productivity: male-M=15.830, SD=4.099; female-M=15.475, SD=5.838. Among subjects in the highest quartile of the score, 62.8% are males and 37.2% are females, out of a total of 113 (24.9% of the total population).

**Conclusion** We found a perceptibly higher PMH score for men compared to women in this population. The role that parenting (perceived parenting style, gender preferences of the parents and single parenting) and traditional role stereotypes play, may be the strong factors deciding this difference in the scores.

What is the Role of Occupational Transmission in the Epidemiology of Helicobacter pylori?

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**Introduction** One of the surprising features of H pylori, is that we still do not know how the organism is usually acquired. Two possible avenues for transmission are direct infection from person to person, or through an intermediary such as the water supply, flies or animals. If transmission is person to person, the organism may be transmitted faeco-oral, oro-oral, or by gastro-oral route.

**Methods** In order to study some of these aspects we performed a number of cross-sectional studies, the results of which are reported here.

**Results** Faeco-oral transmission: In a cross-sectional study in 587 employees working in 2 institutions for children with mental disabilities with a documented high prevalence of H pylori infection, using multiple regression analysis to adjust for confounding variables, we found an almost 2.5 increased risk in workers having contact with faces of inhabitants. Other risk factors for H pylori infection were not significant in multiple regression analysis. In another cross-sectional study in 198 nursing home workers, the age-adjusted prevalence of H pylori was not higher than in a reference population and no association with any other risk factors was found.

Waterborne transmission: In a cross-sectional study in 317 wastewater workers, the age-adjusted prevalence of H pylori was not higher than in a reference population and there was no association with any activity by which workers were exposed to wastewater.

**Conclusions** Results of our studies show the difficulty in interpreting cross-sectional studies. There is a need for cohort studies with an exact exposure assessment to all possible transmission routes.

Social Stigma as a Determinant for Leprosy Elimination in Cameroon


**Objective** To investigate the role of social stigma as a determinant for leprosy elimination in a leprosy endemic region of Cameroon.

**Methods** Focus group discussions, in-depth interviews and structured questionnaires were used to investigate leprosy social stigma among lepers, their contacts and a control group consisting of patients attending a health facility for reasons other than leprosy. Informed consent was sought and gained before the commencement of the study.

**Results** Focus group discussions and indepth interviews identified three types of stigma: lack of self-esteem, tribal stigma and complete rejection by society. From the 430 structured questionnaires administered, there were overall positive attitudes to lepers among the study population and within the divisions (p=0.0). The proportion of participants that felt sympathetic with deformed lepers was 78.1% (95% CI 74.4% to 81.8%) from a total of 480. 399 (83.1%) respondents indicated that they could share a meal or drink at the same table with a deformed leper (95% CI 79.7% to 86.3%), 405 (83.9%) [95% CI 80.7% to 87.3%] participants indicated that they could have a handshake and embrace a deformed leper. A total
of 85.2% (95.0% CI 81.9% to 88.4%) participants affirmed that they could move with a deformed leper to the market or church. 71.5% (95.0% CI 67.5% to 75.5%) participants stated that they could offer a job to a deformed leper.

**Conclusion** The high proportion of positive attitudes among the participants and in different divisions is a positive indicator that the elimination of leprosy social stigma is progressing in the right direction.

**SP5-21** ASSESSMENT OF THE SPATIAL CLUSTERS OF KNIFE VIOLENCE: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY IN NORTHWESTERN IRAN, USING GIS AND GPS, DURING 2009–2010

**Objective** To determine of spatial distributions of knife violence in Urmia, Iran, from 20 March 2009 to 21 March 2010.

**Material and Methods** In this cross-sectional study, we studied the data of 703 new knife-assault victims, who attended to Accident and Emergency departments of three general Hospitals of Urmia, capital of West Azerbaijan province, during a 1-year period. The “Average Nearest Neighbor” method was used to identify the statistically significant geographical clusters. χ² test was used for statistical analysis.

**Results** Countryside areas and shopping centers had significantly the most extensive spatial clusters of knife violence (p<0.001). In summer season, there was different pattern in the clusters of the knife assaults in parks and recreation centers at hours of 19:00 to 3:00, which these data were added to the clusters of the other seasons. Considering space-time and socio-demographic status, teenagers and young single males were commonly as the victims of knife assaults in mentioned areas (p=0.04).

**Conclusion** There is sufficient evidence about existence of knife stabbing violence clusters in Urmia. Understanding that, which areas of city have the high rates of the crime occurrence, provides potentially a unique opportunity for regional planners and policy makers by GIS (Geographic Information System)/GPS (Global Positioning System).

**SP5-22** THE ASSESSMENT OF CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS FOLLOWING THE 2009 PADANG EARTHQUAKE

**Introduction** The earthquake that hit Padang West Sumatra, Indonesia on 30 September 2009, extremely devastating one, registering 7.6-magnitude on the Richter scale. The destruction of health infrastructure and the displacement of population following the earthquake have increased the need of support with regard to the reproductive healthcare services in all health facilities. On the other hand, it has been demonstrated that providing reproductive health services is pivotal and especially to improving family planning during the earthquake.

**Methods** A community health center-based study was conducted to assess and examine the methods of contraception used contraception used before and within 1 year after the 2009 Padang earthquake. In total, 550 married women aged 15–49 years old participated.

**Results** The study found difference in the utilisation of contraceptive methods before and after the earthquake. Within 1 year of the earthquake, use of condom significantly increased after the earthquake and the percentage of participants who used injections and implants tended to decrease. When compared before and after the earthquake, availability, affordability and acceptability of services in access to family planning services showed significantly affected by the earthquake.

**Conclusion** The earthquake affected to access in the utilisation of contraceptive methods. Availability, affordability and acceptability of services in access to family planning services were important to improving family planning during the earthquake situation.

**SP5-24** FAMILY, SCHOOL AND SOCIAL LIFE OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE RECIPIENTS WITH ILLNESS/DISABILITIES IN KAGOSHIMA, JAPAN

**Introduction** Dengue/Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) is an emerging disease in India. It is endemic in some parts of country and contributes annual outbreaks of dengue/DHF.

**Methods** A cross-sectional study was conducted in Aligarh, India, in peri-urban area from October to November 2010 to assess knowledge, attitude and preventive practices on dengue. Randomly 120 adults were recruited by using Cochran’s formula. Standardised oral questionnaire was used to collect information on demographic and dengue related KAP after taking informed consent. Knowledge and practices were graded good, fair and poor using Bloom’s cut-off point and attitude was classified as positive, neutral and negative using Likert’s scale. Reliability of questionnaire was analysed by using Cronbach’s α Coefficient. The data collected was analysed by software SPSS version 17.0.

**Results** 42% respondents had low knowledge, 44% had positive attitude and 10.2% respondents followed good practices. Significant positive correlation was found between knowledge and practice (p<0.05), but no significance was found between attitude with knowledge or practice.

**Conclusion** The results suggested that good attitude does not translates into good practices, therefore health promotion activities should be strengthened for improving knowledge, ensuring people are receptive to the messages and making it easier for them to adopt desired change of behaviour.