

Male sex workers: day to day working activities and HIV prevention

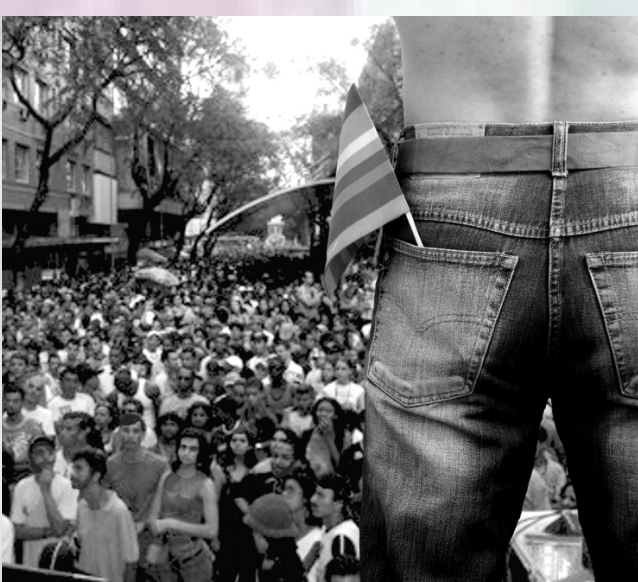
Belo Horizonte, Brazil

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Background:

Libertos Comunicação, is a NGO for Human Rights LGBT and STD/AIDS prevention, work carried out with sex workers. The difficulty of access added to lack of information on this population led to this research. The objective is to identify social and behavioral characteristics associated with sexual risk behaviors among male sex workers in Belo Horizonte city.

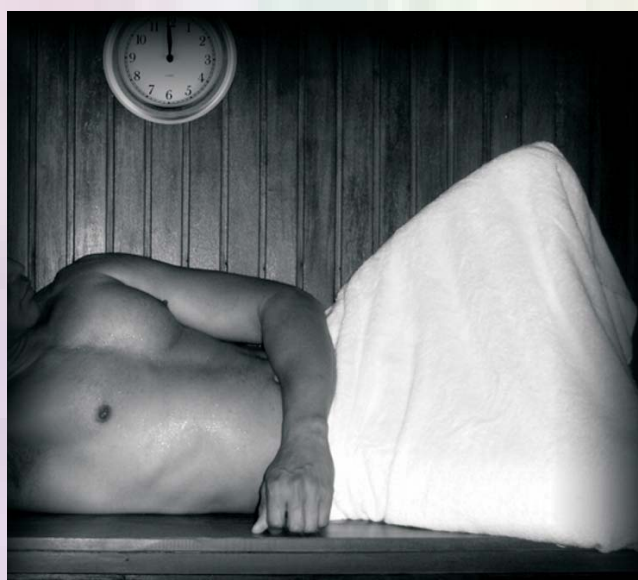


Methods:

Using time location sampling 100 male sex workers were invited to participate in a cross-sectional survey. A structured questionnaire was administered and comprising questions such demographic characteristics, work context. Individual/confidential interviews were conducted in places of prostitution (may to september 2009).

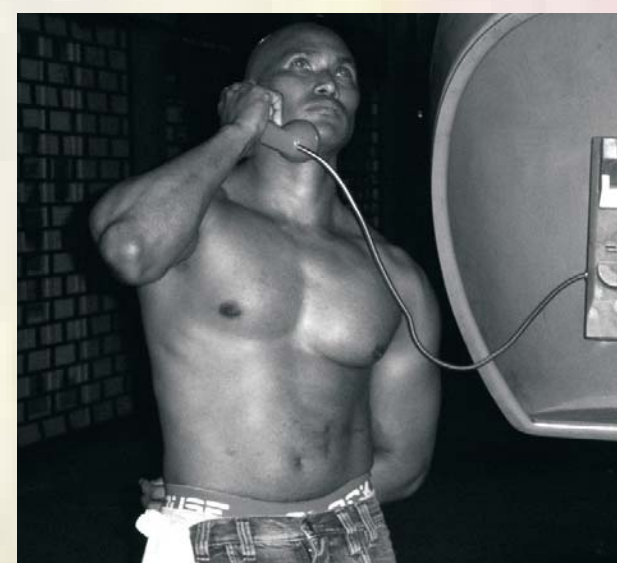
Results:

Univariate analyses showed: mean age was 26 years, 51,6% were white, 65% single and 57,3% had elementary school.



Income was 3-6 brazilian minimum wages (53.8%). Sauna was the most common place for client search (54,9%). Median value for sexual program was R\$ 50,00.

The majority (65.1%) is sex worker more than 5 years and this was the main occupation for 34% of respondents. Some of them (38%) attended exclusively men and 62% men, women and couples. Insertive sex (41.9%), Insertive and receptive sex (53.3%).



They did not report any difficulty in negotiating condom use with their clients. Nevertheless the majority (78%) feel at risk due to the possibility of condom rupture. HIV testing was reported by 59,4%, half of them in public institutions. The majority got last test for over 2 years.

Illicit drugs during sexual encounter was mentioned by 31.7%, especially cannabis (67.5%) and cocaine (22.5%).



Conclusions:

We observed that the consistent condom use is a priority in the daily work of the respondents.

However, a significant parcel never been tested for HIV or are irregularly. This may associated with their difficulty in participating in health services or specific programs. It's necessary to implement preventive programs and investments in health services