

The Influence of Dyadic Partnerships on Condom Use among Male to Female Transgender (*Waria*) in Yogyakarta Indonesia

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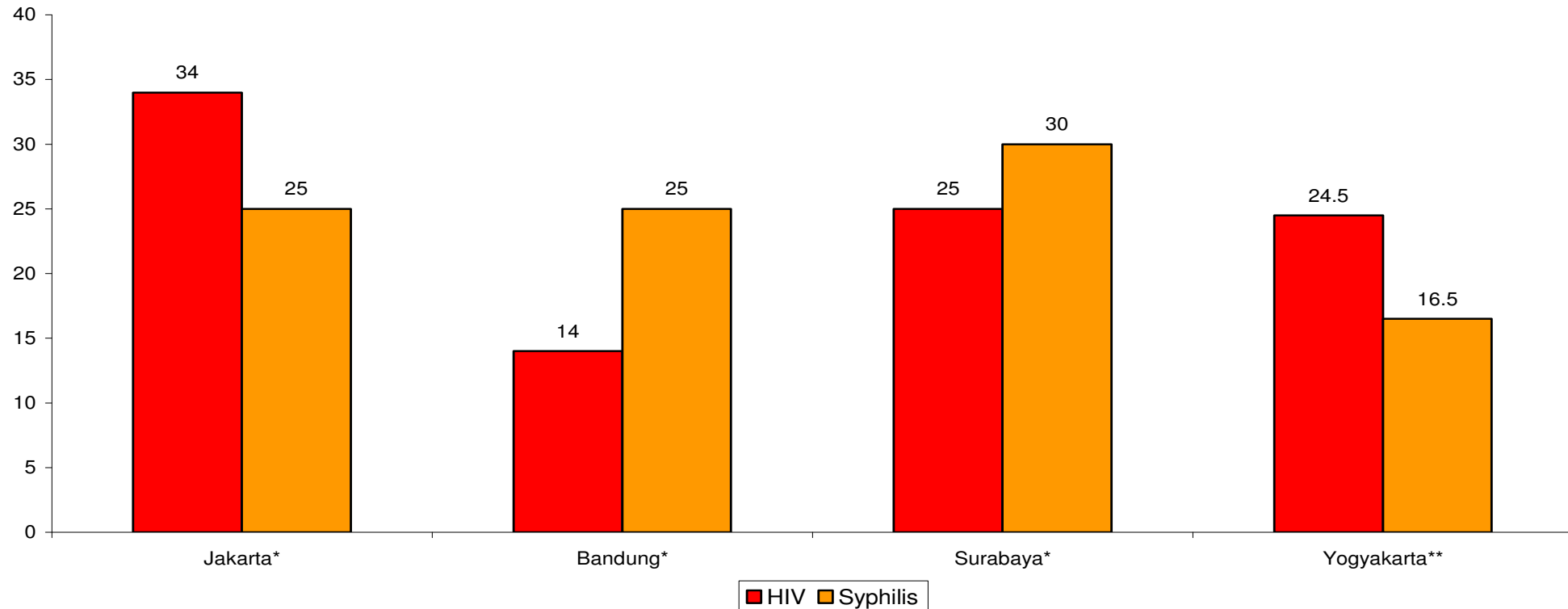


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Background

Prevalence of HIV and Syphilis among Waria in 4 cities in Indonesia



*) *Integrated Biological and Behavioral Survey (IBBS) 2007*

***) *Suswardana 2005*

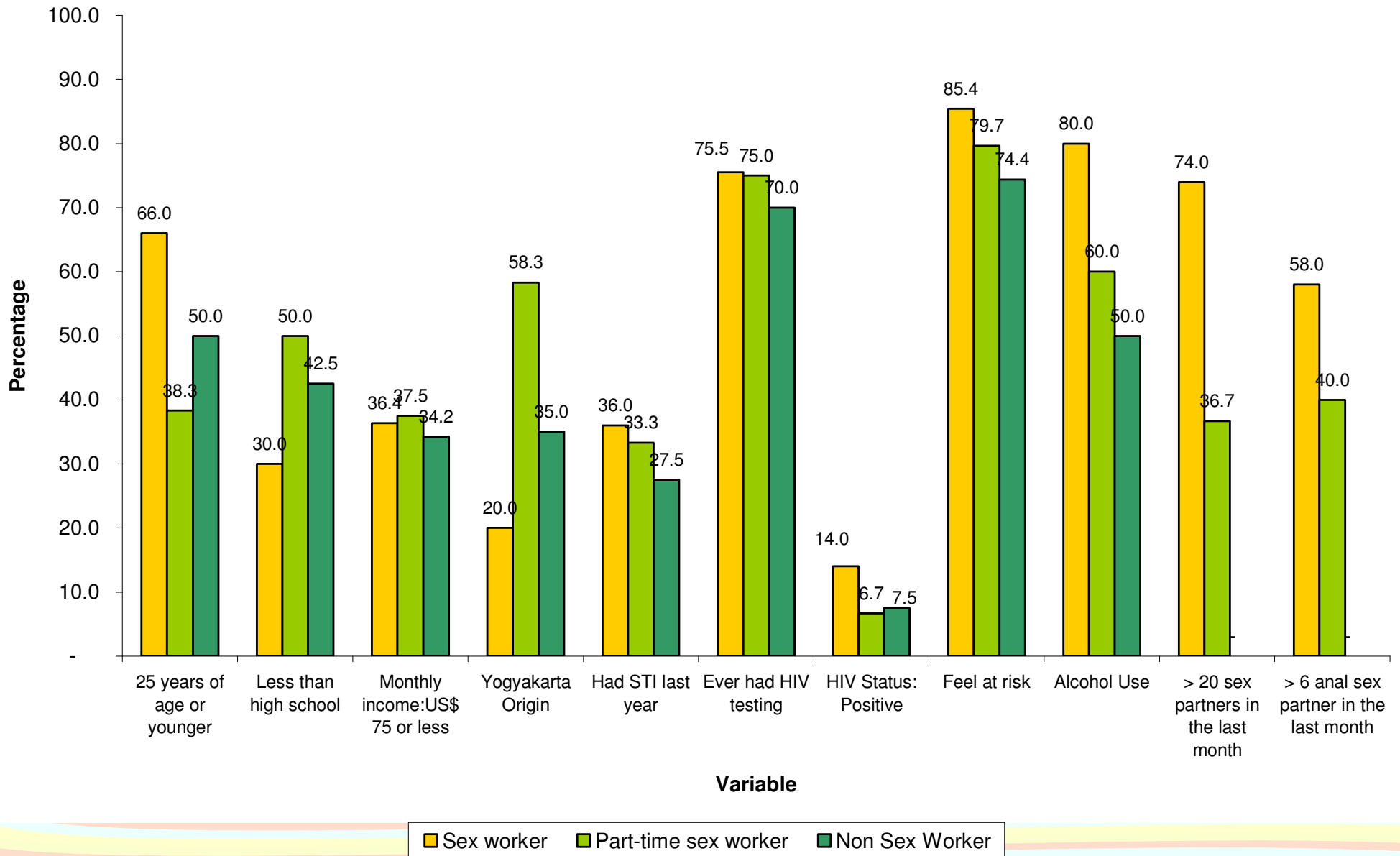
- The role of sexual partners may elevate or decrease the probability of being infected by HIV. To date, however, little information about sexual partners and the characteristics of sexual partnerships between waria and their sexual partners have been reported
- **This study examines the influence of sexual partnerships on condom use in anal sex among waria and their sexual partners in Yogyakarta, Indonesia**

Methods

- Individuals were eligible for this study:
 - self-identified as waria;
 - 18 years of age and older;
 - sexually active in the past 12 months;
 - resided in Yogyakarta province for at least 6 months at the time of the study.
- 150 participants reported on a cumulative total of 460 dyadic sexual partnerships.
- Dependent variables:
 - condom use during last anal sex (n=460 dyads)
 - consistency of condom use with partnership dyad in the last 30-day period (n =250 dyads).
- Consistency was assessed by asking participants how often they used a condom with each of their partners in the last 30 days.
- Independent variables in the sexual partnerships:
 - power relationships,
 - HIV risk-related communication,
 - degree of emotional closeness within a dyad.
- Control variables:
 - demographic characteristics of the participants
 - HIV related-risk behaviors (number of sex partners, experience of having sexually transmitted diseases, experience of taking HIV testing, HIV status, alcohol use and perceived risk of HIV transmission).
- Statistical Analysis: logistic generalized estimating equation (GEE) modeling

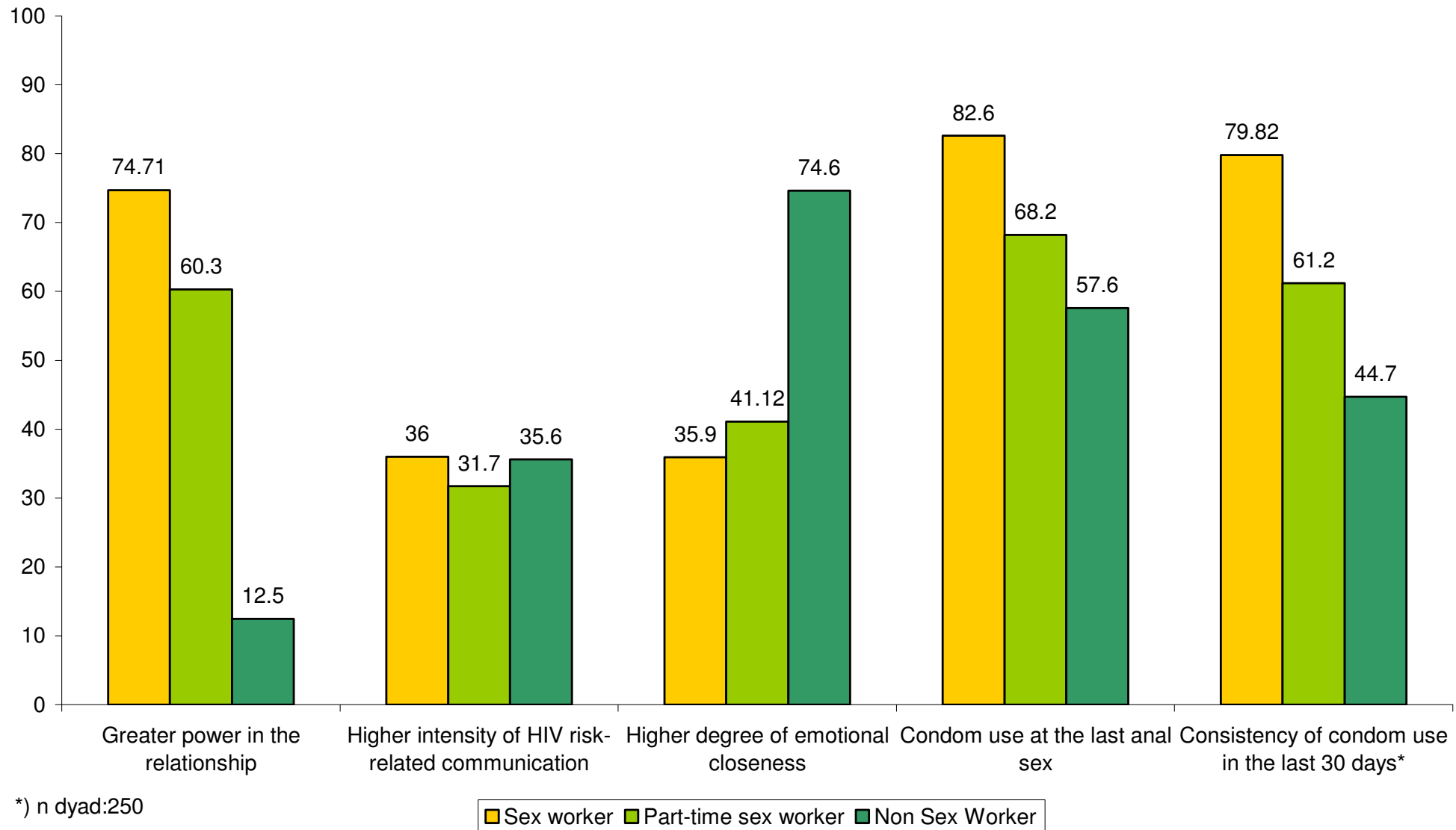
Results

Demographic, health status and behavioral characteristics based on status in sex work
 n sex worker=50; n part-time sex worker=60; n non-sex worker=40



Results (cont'd)

Sexual Relationships and Condom Use Based on Sex Work Status n dyad=460



Factors predicting condom use

Table 1. Final GEE model predicting condom use at the last anal sex within dyads

Variable	Adjusted Odds Ratio	95% Conf. Interval Lower Limit	95% Conf. Interval Upper Limit	p-value
Income				
<US\$ 75/month				
>US \$75/month	0.38	0.15	0.99	0.048
Ever tested for HIV				
No				
Yes	2.67	1.16	6.11	0.020
HIV risk-related Communication				
Lower Intensity				
Higher Intensity	2.41	1.23	4.69	0.010
Power Relationships				
Less Power				
Greater Power	3.27	1.76	6.07	0.000

Table 2. Final GEE Model predicting condom use in the anal sex in the last 30 days within dyads

Variable	Adjusted Odds Ratio	95% Conf. Interval Lower Limit	95% Conf. Interval Upper Limit	p-value
Ever tested for HIV				
No				
Yes	4.31	1.66	11.21	0.003
Status of sex work				
Full-time Sex worker				
Part-time sex worker	0.38	0.14	1.02	0.054
Non Sex Worker	0.33	0.11	0.98	0.046
HIV risk-related Communication				
Lower Intensity				
Higher Intensity	2.33	1.25	4.37	0.008
Power Relationships				
Less Power				
Greater Power	2.70	1.47	4.98	0.001

- Participants who reported having greater power within a dyad relationships were three times more likely than those reporting lesser power to use a condom during last anal sex and almost three times more likely to report consistent condom use in the last 30 days.
- Dyads that reported a higher intensity of HIV risk-related communication were almost two and half times more likely than lower intensity dyads to use a condom during last anal sex and two times more likely to report consistently using a condom in the last 30 days during anal sex.
- Participants who had been tested for HIV were three and half times more likely to use a condom at last anal sex than those who had never been tested and four times more likely to consistently use a condom during anal sex in the last 30 days.
- Waria who were non sex-workers were three times less likely than full-time sex workers to consistently use a condom in the last 30 days
- Participants with an average income of less than \$ 75 USD were almost three times more likely than those with a better income to use a condom during last anal sex.

Conclusion

- Regardless length of the relationship, a greater power in the relationships and a higher intensity of HIV risk-related communication in a sexual dyad predict the higher likelihood of protective anal sex.
- This study also points to the importance of HIV testing as a prevention effort given its findings showing that having been tested increases the likelihood of condom use either at last anal sex and also within the context of an ongoing sexual relationship.
- Condom use was shown to be higher among sex worker than non sex-worker waria. Possibly, the nature of commercial sex and the lesser emotional closeness between sex workers and their partners provide a better opportunity to introduce protective efforts in sexual relationship. Also, this finding may reflect the positive results of many years of prevention campaigns targeting sex worker populations.
- Current intervention must address these dynamics of sexual relationships in developing prevention strategies if they are to successfully promote safer anal sex among waria and their partners

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