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BELIEF AND PRACTICE OF CONDOM USE AMONG WOMEN WHO TRADE SEX FOR AMPHETAMINE IN TAIWAN

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INTRODUCTION: In Taiwan, the street term Sugar Girl refers to an individual who performs a sex act in exchange for the amphetamine. The purpose of this study was to determine the prevalence and condom use of women who trade sex for amphetamine.

METHODS: Given the goals and objectives, eligible participants were asked to indicate their willingness to participate in by signing consent forms. A total of 270 female amphetamine offenders completed a self-administered questionnaire, including personal characteristics, sexual practices, and belief of condom use.

RESULTS: Our data indicated that 29 participants (10.7%) reported that they were sugar girls who exchanged sex for amphetamine six months preceding this interview. Only 14.4% of all participants and 11.8% of sugar girls used a condom during their last sexual coitus. The results from logistic regression showed that sugar girls were more likely to be younger, used substance at earlier age, more sexual partners, and experience of coerced intercourse by people who bought sex. The results also showed that condom use during the last sexual coitus was significantly associated with beliefs of condom use and exchanging sex for amphetamine.

CONCLUSIONS: Our data provide evidence that women who trade sex for amphetamine were engaging more HIV risk behaviors. Condom use rates are low enough to produce an outbreak, indicating consistency with recent trends of reported HIV cases associated with drug use in Taiwan. Intervention programs need to involve not only sugar girls, but also all substance users, including special efforts to convince them to use condoms while having sexual intercourse.

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Prevention | MoPp0201 | Tony Szu-Hsien Lee
10.7 238 10.7 Sexual transmission

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