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Track C - Risk factors for acquisition of HIV

CDC0052 - Elevated risk for HIV infection among money boys: a hidden group of MSM in China

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Background: Empirical research among money boys (MBs) in China is scant. MBs are men who have sex with men (MSM) for money. The objectives of this study were to estimate the prevalence of MBs among MSM and to compare HIV-related risks between MBs and non-MB MSM.

Methods: A respondent-driven sampling (RDS) was used to sample MSM in Shenzhen, China in 2007. RDS-adjusted estimations and RDS-weighted logistic regression were performed to estimate MB prevalence and to examine risk factors.

Results: After 5 waves of the RDS recruitment, 58 MBs and 293 non-MB MSM were recruited and interviewed. The RDS-adjusted prevalence of MB among MSM was 0.09 (95% CI: 0.05-0.13). Compared to non-MB MSM in the RDS-adjusted univariate analysis, MBs were younger (23 vs. 28 years old), more likely to work in entertainment venues (71% vs. 32%), and more likely to be unmarried (93% vs. 75%). The majority in both groups received at least middle-school education. More MBs than non-MB MSM reported having had multiple anal sex partners (79% vs. 67%) and multiple oral sex partners (91% vs. 71%) in the past 6 months, having had female sex partners (43% vs. 26%), having bought sex from female sex workers (14% vs. 4%) and from other MBs (16% vs. 9%), and having used drugs (21% vs. 12%). Half of MBs and non-MB MSM consistently used condoms. Multiple logistic regression analysis confirmed the results in the univariate analysis. No significant differences were found in self-perceived HIV risk, consistent condom use, and peer norms on condom use between the two groups.

Conclusion: This study demonstrates that both MBs and non-MB MSM are under high risk of acquiring and transmitting HIV. There is an urgent need to implement HIV intervention programs targeting MSM, especially MBs.

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