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Track C - Novel research designs in prevention research

CDC0159 - Study of social and cultural factors of condom use in MSM population in Chile

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Background: In Chile 95% of the epidemic is sexually transmitted. Of those affected, 89% are men, while 11% are women. More than 60% of those affected are men that have sex with men (MSM). Research shows that there is knowledge of how to use condoms in the MSM population, but that they are not used consistently. It is therefore necessary to investigate what sociocultural factors affect condom use in the MSM population.

Methods: We use three types of research: qualitative, content analysis, discourse analysis. We use key informants, focus groups and in-depth interviews with homosexual and bisexual subjects, both HIV negative and people living with HIV. We conducted 18 focus groups and 9 in-depth interviews in three regions of Chile.

Results: We find a traditional or conservative vision of sexuality in the homosexual population that hampers prevention work. We find a romantic conception of the construction of relationships that inhibits the perception of risk in stable relationships. We find a strong presence of homophobia in the homosexual population that affects that implementation of preventative measures.

Conclusions: It is necessary to foster a broader and more liberal vision of sexuality within the MSM population in preventive strategies. It is necessary to implement prevention strategies directed at showing the risk present in stable relationships. There is a need to campaign against homophobia and negative self-image within the gay community, as these affect the effectiveness of prevention work. It is difficult to carry out prevention work with people living with HIV because of their difficulty in assuming their sexual orientation and practices. Further work on sexism and discrimination by gender

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