



# XVII INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

3-8 August 2008 | Mexico City

## CD-ROM Publication

### Track C - Behavioral surveillance

#### CDC0194 - HIV/AIDS prevalence and sexual risk behaviors among transexuals, gays and men who have sex with men in four cities in the Dominican Republic, 2008

L. Johnston<sup>1</sup>, T. Caballero<sup>2</sup>, Y. Dolores<sup>3</sup>, S. Singh<sup>1</sup>, M. Castrillo<sup>4</sup>, N. Diaz<sup>2</sup>, F. Hernandez<sup>2</sup>, A. Espinal<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Tulane University, New Orleans, United States, <sup>2</sup>COPRESIDA, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, <sup>3</sup>Consultant, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, <sup>4</sup>World Bank, Washington DC, United States, <sup>5</sup>Hogar Crea, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

**Background:** HIV prevalence in the Dominican Republic is just over 1% in the general population but may be much higher in certain risk groups. Transexuals, Gays and Men who have sex with men (TGM) are assumed to be at high risk for HIV infection. In 2008 a survey was conducted to investigate HIV/STI and related risk factors among TGM in four provinces in the Dominican Republic.

**Methods:** We used respondent-driven sampling to recruit self-identified TGM. Men aged > 15 years were eligible if they were living/working in one of the four study locations and reported having anal or oral sex with another man in the past six months. After providing informed consent, participants were interviewed about their HIV risk behaviours; venous blood was tested for HIV, Syphilis, and Hepatitis B/C. Adjusted estimates were calculated using RDSAT 6.0 and unadjusted odds ratios (UOR) and corresponding 95% confidence intervals (CI) were calculated using RDSAT generated weights in STATA 9.0.

**Results:** Sixteen hundred TGM were enrolled in the survey. The mean age was XX.X years (range 15-XX). TGM reported a mean of X.X partners (range X-XX) in the previous month. Past month receptive anal intercourse without a condom was reported by XX.X% TGM. XX% TGM in Santo Domingo, XX% in Santiago, XX% in Barahona and XX% in La Altagracia were infected with HIV. XX.X% TGM were found to be infected with HIV; XX.X% were infected with Syphilis; XX.X% were infected with HCV; and XX.X% were infected with HBV. Compared to HIV-negative TGM, HIV-positive TGM were significantly more likely to have [variable here] (UOR X.X, CI: X.X - X.X) and [variable here] (UOR X.X, CI: X.X, X.X).

**Conclusions:** We will include HIV/STI findings; other important findings will be regional differences, differences based on self identified TGM type, injecting drug use and unsafe sexual practices.

Presenting author email: [lsjohnston.global@gmail.com](mailto:lsjohnston.global@gmail.com)