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Track C - Prevention programmes for male and female sex workers

CDC0804 - HIV/AIDS prevention in Pakistan: dynamics of condom use among men having sex with men

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**Issues:** HIV/AIDS is at an early stage in Pakistan and patterns of risk behaviors facilitating rapid spread of infection are widespread. Majority of clients buying sex commercially do not use condom.

**Description:** Condom promotion among men having sex with men was a major component in service delivery package under World Bank funded Enhanced HIV/AIDS Control Programme, implemented with men having sex with men in Lahore, Pakistan. Counseling centers were established at Gurus' houses where targeted clients were provided with information about HIV/AIDS, motivated to have safe sex and offered condoms.

**Lessons learned:** Selected information on condom use was collected from 500 clients. Majority of clients (55%) were unmarried including adolescents. Among clients who did not have condom with them, 78% purchased condoms from counselor. Clients on average had anal sex at least once a day. Condom use rate was lower among married clients than unmarried. Average age of client was 22 years, one-fifth of them were adolescents and 42% used condoms at every sexual act. Condom use rate declined with increase in age and only 7% clients used condoms with their regular sex partners. Major reasons for non-use of condom were decrease in sexual gratification and non-affordability.

**Next steps:** Follow-up visits to targeted clients would be increased and condoms would be provided to non-affording clients.  
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