

HIV self-test, a modality to scale up HIV services for men who sell sex in Cross river State, Nigeria.

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Track E: Health Systems, Economics, and Implementation Science

Subcategory E18: Interventions for increase uptake of and retention in HIV services

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Background

Men who sell sex to men (MSSM) are a subpopulation of men who have sex with men (MSM). They participate in transactional sexual activities like orgy (group sex), bondage and discipline sadism and masochism (BDSM).

These activities expose them to high risk of contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. HIV prevalence of MSM community in Nigeria continue to increase from 13.5% in 2007 to 17.2% in 2010 and 22.9% in 2017 (IBBSS) yet providing HIV services to subpopulations like MSSM is very difficult because they are discrete and closeted.

The 2015 same sex marriage prohibition act passed by the Nigerian Government has made their activities even more confidential. The objective of this study is to determine HIV testing services acceptance level of men who sell sex to men living in Cross River State, Nigeria.

Methodology

This study was carried out in Akamkpa and Calabar South Local Government Area Nigeria.

153 MSSM were reached by 3 trained MSSM HIV service providers using a snowball technique (*Enhance peer outreach approach*) and risk stratification tool.

52 MSSM peers were offered HIV preliminary testing services using the blood base determine algorithm from January 2020 to June 2020.

101 MSSM were provided with HIV self-test kits from January 2021 to June 2021.

A comparative baseline data was collected from January 2020 to June 2021.

Objective

The objective of this study is to determine HIV testing services acceptance level of men who sell sex to men living in Cross River State, Nigeria.

Result

7(15. %) out of 52 MSSM accepted HIV testing service with a 0% positivity yield from January 2020 to June 2020 through blood-based preliminary HIV testing algorithm.

From January 2021 to June 2021 101(100%) out of 101 MSSM accepted HIV self-test kit and

51 returned for HIV confirmatory services with HIV positivity yield of 11 (22%).

40 of the negative clients were enrolled on PrEP.

Conclusion

Following the HIV self-test modality implemented from January 2021 to June 2021.

There is a significant increase in the acceptance level of HIV services among MSSM.

Recommendation

Therefore, it is recommended that HIV self-test should be scaled up among the peer network of MSSM in pursuant to achieving HIV epidemic control