Childhood Sexual Abuse and Association with HIV Risk in Female Adolescents and Youth in Greater Buenos Aires, Argentina:

Understanding Knowledge, Attitudes, Behaviors, and Self-Efficacy

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Issues to Address

• Background on Childhood Sexual Abuse (CSA)
• HIV epidemic in Argentina
• Study Objectives and Methodology
• Preliminary results and conclusions
Childhood Sexual Abuse (CSA)

- 7%-36% of girls, 3%-69% of boys - WHO
- 2%-62% - prevalence other studies

Large prevalence ranges

WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT TO STUDY CSA?
Consequences of CSA: WHAT DO WE KNOW?

Adolescents in Zambia
<10% - sexual abuse by family member

↓ HIV/AIDS knowledge
↓ Positive attitudes towards prevention
↓ HIV/AIDS self-efficacy

CSA Experiences

Sexual Risk Behaviors

Earlier sexual initiation
Multiple sex partners
Sex Work -
Sex in exchange for $, drugs, shelter

Infrequent Condom use
CSA - Latin America & Argentina

- Studies from 1990s: 17-32% of women
- Recent studies (2008): 4.6-7.8% of women
- No national statistics in Argentina
- Argentine women are susceptible to HIV and CSA
1.5-2.1 million people living with HIV in Latin America

30 - 36 million people living with HIV worldwide (2007)
Young Women and HIV/AIDS in Argentina

- 130,000 people living with HIV
- Feminization of the epidemic
  - 1987: 92 men: 1 woman
  - 2006: 1.5 men: 1 woman
- Young women are more vulnerable to HIV

Feminization of epidemic

Assess factors that may increase risk behaviors and HIV vulnerability among women
Study of CSA and HIV risk among young women in Greater Buenos Aires

Objective: Analyze CSA and HIV risk among female adolescents and youth residents of Greater Buenos Aires, Argentina

Methodology: Exploratory, descriptive study

Sample: 88 female adolescents and young women (15-24 years), residents of low-income zones of Greater Buenos Aires

Questionnaire: Administered using ACASI (Audio Computer-Assisted Self Interview) to increase reporting of sensitive issues

Effective in Argentina
Results: Sample Characteristics
N = 88 female adolescents and youth (15-24 yrs)

Age
- 15-19 years: 62.5%
- 20-24 years: 37.5%

Nationality
- Argentine: 86.4%
- Paraguayan: 8.0%
- Bolivian: 5.7%

Educational Level
- “Secondary” complete or more: 27%
- 15-19 year-olds “Secondary” incomplete: 58.2%
- 20-24 years-olds “Secondary” complete: 39.4%

Knowledge of HIV Transmission
- Vaginal Sex: 92.0%
- Anal Sex: 70.5%
- Oral Sex: 53.4%
- Sharing Needles: 90.9%
- Transfusions: 87.5%
- VT (preg.): 84.1%
- VT (birth): 71.6%
- VT (breastfeeding): 59.1%
- Tattoo needles: 86.4%
- Drinking mate: 87.5% (not a mode)
- Kissing: 85.2% (not a mode)

Discrimination
- High: 40.9%
- Medium: 30.7%
- Low: 28.4%

HIV Testing
- Tested at least once: 46.6%
Sample Characteristics: Sexual Risk Behaviors

- Sexual Initiation between 14-16 years: 61%
- Condom Use during Sexual initiation: 58.7%
- Condom Use during last sexual intercourse, stable partner: 26.2%
Sample Characteristics: CSA

Age
- 15-19 years: 76.9%
- 20-24 years: 23.1%

Nationality
- Argentine: 86.4%
- Bolivian: 15.4%
- Paraguayan: 0%

Educational Level
- “Secondary” complete or more: 23.1%
- 15-19 year-olds “Secondary” incomplete: 70%
- 20-24 years-olds <“Secondary” complete: 100%

Results: CSA
- 13 cases, 14.8% of sample
- 69.2% - abuse occurred more than once
- 5 cases - abuse was sexual initiation
Correct HIV Transmission Knowledge, by mode

CSA vs. No CSA

Mode of Transmission

- Vaginal
- Anal
- Oral
- Needles
- Transfusions
- VT (Preg.)
- VT (Birth)
- VT (Breastfeed)
- Tattoo Needles
- Drinking mate
- Kissing

No CSA

CSA

% of sample
General Correct HIV Transmission Knowledge
(CSA vs. No CSA)

Score HIV Transmission Knowledge

- CSA
- No CSA
Condom Use at Sexual Initiation:

- 60% of sexually-active Non-CSA women used condoms during consented sexual initiation
- 45.5% of sexually-active CSA women used condoms during consented sexual initiation
Condom Use, CSA vs. No CSA

Frequency Condom Use, Stable Sex Partner

Frequency Condom Use, past year

Frequency of Condom Use

Frequency Condom Use, Occasional Known Sex Partner

Frequency of Condom Use
Condom Use, CSA vs. No CSA

Frequency Condom Use, Occasional Unknown Sex Partner

Frequency of Condom Use

Condom Use, Last Sexual Intercourse

Type of partner

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stable partner</th>
<th>Occasional Known Partner</th>
<th>Occasional Unknown Partner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSA</td>
<td>No CSA</td>
<td></td>
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[Charts showing data on condom use frequency and type of partner]
Preliminary Conclusions

- Study confirms ACASI as an effective tool
- Rate of CSA/sexual violence in sample falls within range reported by international studies
- Female adolescents and youth w/ CSA history report higher rates of:
  - Consumption before/during sex
  - Exchange of sex
- Female adolescents and youth w/ CSA history report:
  - Lower overall HIV transmission knowledge
- Female adolescents and youth w/ CSA history are significantly more likely to:
  - Report multiple sexual partners
  - Sample w/ CSA history: using condoms, higher rates of use than non-abused girls

✔ Lessons learned
✔ Limitations
✔ Further Research
THANK YOU!

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Sources


