How Can Programs Better Support Female Sex Workers to Avoid HIV Infection in Zimbabwe? A Prevention Cascade Analysis

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Background: “HIV prevention cascades” have been proposed to support programs by identifying gaps in demand for, access to, and capability to adhere to HIV prevention tools, but there are few empirical examples to guide development. We apply a prevention cascade framework to examine prevention coverage and factors associated with condoms and/or PrEP adherence among female sex workers.

Setting: Seven sites across Zimbabwe.

Methods: Seven respondent-driven sampling surveys from the intervention sites of a pragmatic cluster-randomized trial in Zimbabwe in 2016 were analyzed, and 611/1439 women testing HIV-negative included. We operationalized key components of an HIV prevention cascade including demand, supply, and capability to adhere to 2 tools for HIV prevention: condoms and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). We used adjusted logistic regression to identify determinants of adherence to condoms and PrEP in turn, examining the effect of adherence to one tool on adherence to the other.

Results: There were 343/611, 54.7%, women reporting adherence to condoms and/or PrEP, leaving almost half uncovered. Although women were aware that condoms prevented HIV and reported good access to them, only 45.5% reported full adherence to condom use. For PrEP, a new technology, there were gaps along all 3 domains of demand, supply, and adherence. Alcohol use decreased adherence to PrEP and condoms. Younger and newer entrants to sex work were less likely to take PrEP every day.

Conclusions: HIV prevention programming among female sex workers in Zimbabwe could consider increasing awareness of PrEP alongside supply, alcohol use interventions, and approaches to engaging younger women.

Key Words: HIV prevention, condoms, pre-exposure prophylaxis, sex workers, sub-Saharan Africa, Zimbabwe

INTRODUCTION

UNAIDS has set ambitious goals for reducing global HIV incidence through its HIV Prevention 2020 framework. Meeting these targets requires increasing coverage of populations at risk of HIV acquisition, including female sex workers (FSWs). Programs will need to ensure that demand for primary HIV prevention is high, evidence-based and rights-affirming HIV prevention tools are available and
accessible, and adherence to prevention tools over time is monitored and supported.

In Zimbabwe, sex work is illegal and stigmatized, and FSWs are at high risk of HIV. Incidence has been estimated at 10% per year\(^2\) and site HIV prevalence estimates range between 40% and 80%\(^3,4\). Regionally, HIV prevalence is 13.5 times higher among FSWs than among all women aged 15–49 years\(^5\). Structural factors including poverty and economic shocks, criminalization, and stigma interact to raise the risk of HIV acquisition among FSWs through causal pathways affecting their vulnerability to violence, ability to negotiate with clients, access, carry and use condoms, and receive services and sensitive health care\(^6–10\).

Two tools that HIV-negative FSWs could use to reduce their risk of acquiring HIV are (1) consistently taking pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and (2) using condoms consistently. To increase the proportion of FSWs effectively using these prevention tools, programs will need to achieve 3 aims. First, they must ensure that there is high “demand” for these tools among FSWs by supporting them to perceive their risk of HIV, providing information and education about their effectiveness, and working toward a normative environment that supports their use. Second, programs will need to ensure that FSWs have geographic, financial, and stigma-free access to these tools (“supply”). Third, programs will need to work to ensure FSWs are capable of using the tools consistently over the period when they are at risk of acquiring HIV, which may require addressing both individual and structural factors that could inhibit adherence. These 3 “steps”—demand, supply and capability to adhere—have been proposed as an “HIV prevention cascade” analogous to the HIV treatment cascade, to help programs identify gaps in HIV prevention programs, to target their efforts, and to select among possible interventions.

Although templates for HIV prevention cascades have been suggested for individual prevention tools\(^11–15\), programs need to understand how use of different prevention tools might interact with each other, for instance, in terms of risk compensation or with respect to how experience with one tool might affect demand for another, and how individual FSW characteristics might influence coverage. In this study, we apply a novel “dual” prevention cascade framework to measure the extent to which HIV-negative FSWs from 7 sites in Zimbabwe had demand for, were supplied with, and reported adherence to 2 prevention tools: either condoms and/or PrEP. Previous studies have found that lower levels of condom use among FSWs are associated with alcohol consumption\(^16\), unsupportive relationships with other FSWs\(^17\), experience of violence, and police harassment\(^18\). Condom use can differ by partner type (spouse or steady partner versus a commercial client) and strength of relationship with clients\(^19,20\). Once introduced to PrEP conceptually, FSWs have expressed high interest in using it\(^21\), although as yet, there is limited evidence on factors influencing PrEP adherence among FSWs specifically. Among men who have sex with men and transgender women, adherence to PrEP has varied by structural factors including race, education, and economic security\(^22–24\). Across demonstration trials, being younger than 30 years was found in meta-analysis to be associated with lower PrEP adherence\(^25\).

Here, we examine where there are gaps in support for prevention, and which FSW characteristics and experiences are associated with adherence to condoms and to PrEP. We identify a number of limitations to our approach based on secondary data and discuss these in detail, hoping that we will inspire others to continue to strengthen the data available for prevention cascades. Nevertheless, based on our findings, we make recommendations for strengthening HIV prevention in Zimbabwe’s national sex worker HIV program.

**METHODS**

**Setting and Population**

This study is a secondary analysis including HIV-negative FSWs from 7 sites, which formed the intervention arm of the Sisters Antiretroviral Programme for Prevention of HIV: an Integrated Response (SAPPH-IRe) trial. This was a cluster (site)-randomized trial of an enhanced HIV care and prevention package for FSWs in 14 sites reflecting different sex work location types, including towns, growth points, collieries, and army bases. In all sites, the national sex work “Sisters with a Voice” programme (Sisters) provided free condoms and contraception, HIV testing and counseling, syndromic management of STIs, health education, community mobilization, and legal advice. In the 7 intervention sites, community mobilization was enhanced, clinical services to initiate ART and PrEP were available onsite, and community-based support for ART and PrEP adherence was provided. PrEP was offered to all women testing HIV-negative from July 2014 (November 2014 in one site) until endline in May 2016, along with a peer-based support programme and active follow-up. At this time in Zimbabwe, the SAPPH-IRe trial was the only way FSWs could access PrEP.

Cross-sectional respondent-driven sampling (RDS) surveys of approximately 200 women per site were conducted at study endline, with sample size determined by the primary trial outcome\(^26\). Women were eligible if they had sold sex for money in the past 30 days, were aged 18 or older, and had been living/working in the site for 6 months. Because SAPPH-IRe was a pragmatic trial, we used RDS to obtain population-representative estimates among FSWs at each site to assess the impact of the intervention on the FSW population as a whole, not only those who had had some contact with the enhanced Sisters intervention. We describe detailed procedures elsewhere\(^27\). Following mapping at each site, we purposefully selected initial “seeds” of 6 or 8 women, issued 2 coupons for recruitment, and reached 5 sample waves. Interviewers administered the questionnaire and entered data onto tablet computers, uploaded to a master database daily. A capillary blood sample was collected on dried blood spot for HIV antibody testing and, if reactive, HIV viral load measured.
Measures

HIV status was assessed using the AniLabsystems EIA kit (AniLabsystems Ltd., OyToilete 3, FIN-01720, Finland) and confirmed by detectable viral load using NuclisENS EasyQ HIV-1 v2.0, or a second confirmatory ELISA (Enzygnost Anti-HIV 1/2 Plus ELISA; Dade Behring, Marburg, Germany) if no viral load was detected, but the antibody test was positive.

Participants self-reported sociodemographic characteristics, FSW social network size, and sex work characteristics. For the prevention cascade analysis, we defined measures of adherent condom use or adherent PrEP use, denoting “coverage” by reporting the use of one or both prevention tools. We asked women to recall condom use with steady partners and clients over different periods (last sex and previous month), and used prompting questions for women reporting “always” using them to confirm this. For the primary analyses, we denoted women as “adherent to condoms” if they reported no instance of condomless sex: at last vaginal sex, last anal sex, last sex with a client, nor in describing frequency of condom use with clients in the past month, at last sex with a steady partner not reported to be known as HIV-negative, and not in describing frequency of condom use in the last month with a steady partner not known as HIV-negative. For PrEP, we considered FSWs as adherent if they self-reported that they were currently taking PrEP, and that they were taking it every day.

Next, we identified variables related to the concepts of “demand” and “supply.” In relation to demand for PrEP, we used self-reported data on whether women had heard of PrEP (recognizing this is only one dimension of demand). For condoms, we identified women who reported that condoms can prevent them from getting HIV, again recognizing that knowledge is a component of demand available in our data but does not describe it entirely. In relation to PrEP supply, we identified women who reported ever having been offered PrEP in the RDS survey. In relation to condoms supply, we measured whether women reported that condoms were “easily available” to them whenever needed. We recognize and discuss a number of limitations with these variables in Discussion and make recommendations for improvements in future efforts.

We identified variables that may be associated with demand, supply, and adherence to condoms and/or PrEP. We examined sociodemographic and sex work characteristics; frequency of alcohol consumption and binge drinking (6 or more alcoholic drinks in one night) in the previous 12 months; whether FSWs reported “good” or “very good” relations with other FSWs (concepts investigated in previous studies), whether they discussed health with other FSWs and were encouraged by them; recent experience of being stopped by the police (further Zimbabwe context); violence; and stigma related to being a sex worker (investigated in a previous study). In assessing condom adherence, we also considered source of condoms (Sisters clinic, peer educator, clients) whether women were stopped by the police for carrying condoms, had refused a client who was drunk or violent, or had not used a condom because they were drunk, or because a client was drunk.

Analytic Approaches

We have reported RDS diagnostics elsewhere. For these analyses, we further assessed whether site-specific estimates of condom and PrEP adherence appeared to converge over the recruitment waves (see Appendix 1, Supplemental Digital Content 1, http://links.lww.com/QAI/B282).

We described the sociodemographic and sex work characteristics of women testing HIV-negative at time of interview. In describing the prevention cascade, we pooled data from across the 7 sites but also reported the range of site specific estimates. We used RDS-II weighting when calculating proportions and in regression analyses, dropping seed participants, and weighting each woman in each site by the inverse of her degree, which we normalized by site when pooling data. We developed a “dual” HIV prevention cascade, including both condoms and PrEP. We estimated the proportion of HIV-negative women who “demanded,” were “supplied,” and who were able to “adhere” to condoms and/or PrEP, and therefore the proportion of all HIV-negative women who were “covered” by either or both HIV prevention method.

To guide the Sisters programme in improving HIV prevention coverage, we examined associations between FSW characteristics and experiences and their reported adherence to condoms and to PrEP. We included factors found in previous research among FSWs to determine condom use or those hypothesized to affect adherence to PrEP and included adherence to PrEP in the model for adherence to condoms and vice versa. We used logistic regression, dropping seed participants, weighting by site-normalized inverse degree and including a fixed term for site. We present crude associations and associations adjusted for age, education, marital status, food insecurity, age started sex work, and number of clients in the previous week.

We examined whether associations differed for adherence to condoms with clients or with steady partners, among those reporting steady partners. We also conducted our analyses without weighting for normalized inverse degree (see Appendix 2, Supplemental Digital Content 1, http://links.lww.com/QAI/B282).

All analyses were conducted using R version 3.3.2.

Ethics

The SAPPH-IRE trial, including these analyses, received approval from the Medical Research Council Zimbabwe, University College London, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and RTI International.

Role of the Funding Source

The funder of the study had no role in study design, data collection, data analysis, data interpretation, or writing of the report.
Recruitment
There were 611 HIV-negative FSWs among 1439 women recruited to the 7 intervention sites in 2016. RDS recruitment worked well, and convergence of adherence and HIV measures was achieved in most sites (see Appendix 1, Supplemental Digital Content 1, http://links.lww.com/QAI/B282 and trial report).27

Description of Participants and Experience of Sex Work
Mean age among the women was 30.4 years. The majority of women had completed no or primary education only (68.2%) and were divorced/separated (63.1%), Table 1. Most women began sex work after age 20 (67.6%) and had 1-5 clients per week (60.3%). The majority reported “good” or “very good” relations with other FSWs (71.8%) and almost all agreed or strongly agreed that they felt comfortable discussing health issues with other FSWs (96.8%). Similar proportions reported that they experienced physical violence from intimate partners or clients in the past 1 month: 13.3% and 12.8%, respectively. There were 63.4% who reported that “they had been talked badly about” for being a sex worker and 29.2% said they had felt “ashamed” of being a sex worker. Three-percent reported being denied health services

### TABLE 1. Characteristics of FSW Across Seven Sites Testing HIV-Negative (n = 611)

| Characteristics of HIV-Negative FSW from 7 Sites, n = 611 | Unweighted n | Unweighted % | Weighted %* |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Age (mean, yrs) | 30.4 | 30.4 | 30.4 |
| Education | | | |
| None | 182 | 29.8 | 36.4 |
| Primary | 194 | 31.8 | 31.8 |
| Secondary | 235 | 38.5 | 31.8 |
| Marital status | | | |
| Married | 10 | 1.6 | 2.2 |
| Divorced/separated | 398 | 65.1 | 63.1 |
| Widowed | 78 | 12.8 | 14.5 |
| Never married | 125 | 20.5 | 20.2 |
| Experienced food insecurity in the past 4 weeks | 242 | 39.6 | 46.2 |
| No. of clients per week | | | |
| 0 | 31 | 5.1 | 5.7 |
| 1–5 | 339 | 55.5 | 60.3 |
| 6–9 | 158 | 25.9 | 23.5 |
| 10–15 | 39 | 6.4 | 4.7 |
| 16+ | 44 | 7.2 | 5.8 |
| Age started sex work | | | |
| <18 | 88 | 14.4 | 18.4 |
| 18–19 | 90 | 14.7 | 13.9 |
| 20–24 | 187 | 30.6 | 28.4 |
| 25–29 | 138 | 22.6 | 21.3 |
| 30+ | 108 | 17.7 | 17.9 |
| Alcohol consumption over the past 12 months | | | |
| Never | 262 | 42.9 | 45.0 |
| Once a month or less | 44 | 7.2 | 5.4 |
| 2–4 times a month | 77 | 12.6 | 14.6 |
| 2–3 times a week | 112 | 18.3 | 18.4 |
| 4 or more times a week | 115 | 18.8 | 16.5 |
| Had more than 6 alcoholic drinks in one night during last 12 months | | | |
| Never—have not had alcohol in last 12 months | 262 | 42.9 | 45.0 |
| Never—drank alcohol but no occasions of more than 6 drinks | 169 | 27.7 | 28.9 |
| Yes, at least one occasion | 178 | 29.1 | 25.7 |
| Relationships with other sex workers | | | |
| Reports good or very good relations with other sex workers | 450 | 73.6 | 71.8 |
| Discusses health with other sex workers | 593 | 97.1 | 96.8 |
| Recent experience of violence | | | |
| Stopped or harassed by the police in the last month | 43 | 7.0 | 6.4 |
| Experienced intimate partner violence in the past month | 77 | 12.6 | 13.3 |
| Experienced violence from a client in the past month | 80 | 13.1 | 12.8 |
| Stigma ever experienced as a result of being a FSW | | | |
| Reports lost respect or social standing | 267 | 43.7 | 40.0 |
| Reported feeling ashamed | 153 | 25.0 | 29.2 |
| Reports that she is talked badly about by others | 407 | 66.6 | 63.4 |

*Data pooled across 7 sites, seed participants dropped and weighted by inverse degree normalized by site.

RESULTS

Recruitment
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because they were sex workers. Almost half reported no alcohol consumption in the previous year; however, 16.5% reported drinking 4 or more nights per week and 25.7% reported drinking more than 6 drinks in one night at least once in the past 12 months. There were 9.7% and 10.3%, respectively, who reported that their own or client drinking had prevented them from using a condom at least once in the previous year.

Coverage of HIV Prevention: Demand, Supply, and Adherence to Condoms and/or PrEP

An estimated 54.7% of HIV-negative FSWs (site range 33.6%–61.8%) were either adherent to condom condoms and/or PrEP, Table 1 and Figure 1. Most (39.1% of all HIV-negative women) were using condoms consistently, but not taking and adherent to PrEP. There were 9.2% who were taking PrEP every day but not adherent to condoms, whereas 6.4% were adherent to both condoms and PrEP.

Some 94.0% of women reported that they knew that condoms could prevent HIV infection, and that they could access condoms, Figure 1. The proportion of women reporting that they were always adherent to condoms across all condom use questions was 45.5% (site range 30.0%–57.5%).

Some 60.9% of HIV-negative women had ever heard of PrEP, whereas 28.8% of HIV-negative women had ever been offered it. There were 15.6% of all HIV-negative women who reported currently taking PrEP and taking it every day.

Measures of Condom Adherence

Levels of condom adherence varied depending on the measure chosen, Figure 2. Use at “last sex” measures were higher than measures asking about use over the previous month, which had an additional prompt for those initially answering that they had “always” used a condom. Although 96.3% of women said they had used a condom at last sex with a client, only 50.4% said that they had “always” used condoms with clients over the last month, confirmed by a prompt question. Adherence with steady partners not known to be HIV-negative was 85.1%, of the 418 women who reported steady partners. Across partner types and ways of asking about condom use, the weighted percentage of women who reported no instance of condomless sex, except with a steady partner known to be HIV-negative, was 45.5%.

Factors Associated With Condom Adherence

Before adjustment, each additional year of age was associated with higher odds of condom adherence [crude odds ratio (OR) = 1.04, 95% confidence interval (CI): 1.02 to 1.07], as was starting sex work at an older age, Table 2. After adjustment, some evidence remained that starting sex work at an older age increased the likelihood of condom adherence [adjusted odds ratio (aOR) = 1.05, 95% CI: 1.00 to 1.11]. We did not find strong evidence for an association between condom adherence and education, marital status, food insecurity, relationships with other sex workers, or experience of stigma. Unadjusted, there was an association between being stopped or harassed by the police in the past month and reporting nonadherence to condoms (OR = 0.40, 95% CI: 0.17 to 0.94), but the evidence for this association reduced once adjusted (aOR = 0.50, 95% CI: 0.21 to 1.20). FSWs who had experienced client violence in the past month were also less likely to report condom adherence (crude OR = 0.46, 95% CI: 0.23 to 0.92), but after adjustment, the evidence for this association also reduced (aOR = 0.51, 95% CI: 0.25 to 1.23).

Frequency of alcohol consumption, although not binge drinking, was associated with decreased condom adherence. After adjustment, women who reported that a client’s drinking had prevented condom use had 0.22 times the odds of adherence compared with those who did not report this.
(95% CI: 0.07 to 0.64). Women who reported drinking alcohol 2 to 3 times or 4 or more times per week were also less likely to be adherent, (aOR = 0.34, 95% CI: 0.16 to 0.69 for 4 or more times, compared with no drinking).

Women who had received condoms from a peer educator were more likely to be adherent than those who had not (aOR = 1.64, 95% CI: 1.01 to 2.65). Women who reported using condoms brought by clients were less likely to adhere to them than those who did not, (aOR = 0.48, 95% CI: 0.30 to 0.78).

Factors Associated With Adherence to PrEP

Women reporting adherent use of PrEP were more likely to be older, aOR = 1.05 for each additional year of age (95% CI: 1.01 to 1.10), but to have begun sex work at a younger age, aOR = 0.94 (95% CI: 0.89 to 0.99) for each year, indicating they had a longer duration of sex work than those nonadherent to PrEP, Table 3.

Women who had alcohol 2–3 times per week were less likely to adhere to PrEP than those who never drank (aOR = 0.38, 95% CI: 0.15 to 0.96), although there was not a clear dose–response relationship, and there was no evidence for decreased adherence among those reporting binge drinking compared with those who drank alcohol but who did not report binge drinking. Adherence to condoms with all partners or with clients only was not associated with PrEP adherence. However, among those women who had steady partners, reported adherence to condoms with those partners was associated with increased likelihood of also being adherent to PrEP (aOR = 6.86, 95% CI: 1.90–24.74), Appendix 2, Supplemental Digital Content 1, Table 4 http://links.lww.com/QAI/B282.

Sensitivity Analyses

There were 47 women missing responses to frequency of condom use with clients in the past month, which seemed to be differential by PrEP adherence. We repeated our analyses (1) without weighting participant respondents by normalized inverse degree; (2) with a different treatment for a missing condom use variable; and (3) examining condom adherence with clients and steady partners separately. These results are reported in full in Appendix 2, Supplemental Digital Content 1, http://links.lww.com/QAI/B282, but did not alter the overall conclusions from the primary analysis.

DISCUSSION

We used an HIV prevention cascade framework11 to investigate levels of prevention coverage among HIV-negative FSWs at 7 sites in Zimbabwe in 2016. Approximately half of HIV-negative FSWs were currently adherent to condoms and/or to PrEP; almost half of HIV-negative FSWs are in need of additional strategies to prevent them from acquiring HIV.

Nearly all FSWs were aware that condoms could prevent HIV, an aspect of demand, and were able to access condoms when needed, an aspect of supply. However, there were gaps in adherence: condom use at all occasions, except with a steady partner believed to be HIV-negative, was reported by less than half of women (45.5%). A minority of women reported high alcohol consumption, but this was associated with nonadherence to condoms, and some sex workers reported that own or client alcohol use had caused them to have sex without a condom in the past year. Among Kenyan FSW, an adaptation of WHO’s Brief Intervention for Hazardous and Harmful Drinking reduced alcohol use32 and experience of client violence, which could be applicable for FSW in Zimbabwe.33 Programming could consider how to support women to use condoms even in situations where they

![FIGURE 2. A comparison of measures of condom adherence among 611 HIV-negative FSW from 7 sites. Bar values indicate estimates from 7 sites that are pooled, weighted by inverse degree normalized by site with seed participants dropped. Not all measures applied to all women, (eg, Depending on whether the woman reported having a steady partner or declined to answer the question). The summary condom adherence measure is based on no reporting of noncondom use for any of the above measures. There were no participants for whom all variables were missing and the only measure with significant missingness was “always used a condom with a client in the last month,” which 47 participants declined to answer.]()
## TABLE 2. Factors Associated With Adherence to Condoms Among 611 HIV-Negative FSW From Seven Sites

| Characteristics of HIV-Negative Sex Workers, n = 611 | n condom Adherent | Weighted % Condom Adherent | Crude Odds Ratio 95% CI | Adjusted Odds Ratio 95% CI |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Adherence to condoms among all HIV-negative FSW | 293/611 | 45.5 | | |
| Age in years | Mean 31.8 adherent | Mean 29.3 nonadherent | 1.04 to 1.07 | 1.01 to 1.06 |
| Education | | | | |
| None | 91/182 | 47.1 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| Primary | 91/194 | 43.2 | 0.78 to 1.41 | 0.82 to 0.86 |
| Secondary | 111/235 | 45.9 | 0.80 to 1.42 | 0.80 to 1.42 |
| Marital status | | | | |
| Currently married | 5/10 | 61.1 | 1.04 to 1.07 | 1.01 to 1.06 |
| Divorced/separated | 185/398 | 44.0 | 0.78 to 1.42 | 0.80 to 1.42 |
| Widowed | 47/78 | 53.9 | 1.06 to 1.12 | 1.04 to 1.12 |
| Never married | 56/125 | 42.5 | 1.00 to 1.06 | 1.00 to 1.06 |
| Experienced food insecurity in the past month | 105/242 | 41.6 | 0.78 to 1.22 | 0.71 to 1.45 |
| No. of clients in the last week | Mean 5.5 adherent | Mean 6.5 nonadherent | 0.98 to 1.02 | 0.96 to 1.02 |
| Age in years that started sex work | Mean 25.8 adherent | Mean 22.8 nonadherent | 1.06 to 1.09 | 1.00 to 1.11 |
| Relationships with other sex workers | | | | |
| Good or very good relations with other sex workers | 214/450 | 44.7 | 0.67 to 0.99 | 0.60 to 0.97 |
| Don’t talk about health with other sex workers | 13/18 | 76.5 | 0.80 to 10.33 | 1.01 to 15.87 |
| Stigma ever experienced as a result of being a FSW | | | | |
| Reports lost respect or social standing | 122/267 | 43.2 | 0.61 to 1.49 | 0.65 to 1.61 |
| Reported feeling ashamed | 74/153 | 49.0 | 0.76 to 2.20 | 0.68 to 2.00 |
| Reports that she is talked badly about by others | 183/407 | 41.6 | 0.42 to 1.09 | 0.44 to 1.17 |
| Ever denied health services | 8/24 | 37.9 | 0.19 to 2.24 | 0.23 to 3.09 |
| Ever verbally assaulted | 72/163 | 43.3 | 0.42 to 1.27 | 0.44 to 1.31 |
| Recent experience of harassment or violence | | | | |
| Stopped or harassed by the police in the last month | 15/43 | 24.7 | 0.17 to 0.50 | 0.21 to 1.20 |
| In past year, stopped carrying condoms because afraid of police | 10/29 | 43.0 | 0.28 to 2.56 | 0.27 to 2.95 |
| Experienced intimate partner violence in the past month | 29/77 | 30.5 | 0.27 to 1.07 | 0.29 to 1.19 |
| Experienced violence from a client in the past month | 30/80 | 28.4 | 0.23 to 0.92 | 0.25 to 1.03 |
| Ever refuse a client because he was drunk or violent | 135/314 | 44.5 | 0.56 to 1.38 | 0.65 to 1.61 |
| Frequency of alcohol consumption | | | | |
| Never | 139/262 | 50.9 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| Once a month or less | 26/44 | 61.7 | 1.61 | 1.43 |
| 2–4 times a month | 39/77 | 49.2 | 0.91 | 0.89 |

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had more than 6 alcoholic drinks in one night during last 12 months

Never—have not had alcohol in last 12 months

Never—drank alcohol but no occasions of more than 6 drinks

Yes, at least one occasion

Supply of condoms

Received condoms from Sisters Programme in past year

Ever received condoms from a peer educator

Clients bring their own condoms

Use condoms brought by clients

Adherent to PrEP

| Characteristics of HIV-Negative Sex Workers, n = 611 | n condom Adherent | Weighted % Condom Adherent | Crude Odds Ratio | 95% CI | Adjusted Odds Ratio | 95% CI |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| 2–3 times a week                                     | 50/112            | 38.8                        | 0.49            | 0.26 to 0.92 | 0.50 to 0.94   |       |
| 4 or more times a week                               | 38/115            | 28.9                        | 0.34            | 0.17 to 0.69 | 0.34 to 0.69   |       |
| Had more than 6 alcoholic drinks in one night        |                   |                             |                 |       |                     |       |
|during last 12 months                                 | 139/262           | 50.9                        | 1.54            | 0.89 to 2.67 | 1.59 to 2.73   |       |
|                                                      | 81/169            | 40.9                        | 1.00            |            | 1.00             |       |
|                                                      | 71/178            | 40.2                        | 0.84            | 0.45 to 1.57 | 0.84 to 1.58   |       |
| Received condoms from Sisters Programme in past year| 189/367           | 48.1                        | 1.43            | 0.89 to 2.32 | 1.48 to 2.44   |       |
| Ever received condoms from a peer educator           | 187/380           | 48.6                        | 1.54            | 0.97 to 2.44 | 1.64 to 2.65   |       |
|                                                      | 148/296           | 48.9                        | 1.15            | 0.73 to 1.82 | 1.16 to 1.86   |       |
|                                                      | 99/218            | 39.0                        | 0.52            | 0.32 to 0.85 | 0.48 to 0.78   |       |
|                                                      | 48/98             | 40.8                        | 0.92            | 0.50 to 1.69 | 0.90 to 1.71   |       |

RDS-II weighted %, all models drop seeds weight by inverse site-normalized degree and include a fixed term for site. Adjusted models are adjusted for age, education, marital status, food insecurity, number of clients, and age started sex work. Where not shown, reference groups are those who have not experienced or reported the given factor.

and/or their clients are drinking. Although our study found weak statistical evidence for an association between condom adherence and experience of violence and police harassment, alcohol consumption and experiencing violence and harassment have been found to be related in other FSW populations34 and should be explored further.

Women whose clients provided condoms were less likely to be adherent than those who did not, whereas women who received condoms from a peer educator were more likely to be adherent. FSW depending more on clients could have had a less reliable and trustworthy supply in practice. Women who meet peer educators are given condom negotiation training and education, which could additionally benefit their condom adherence.

Our measurement of condom adherence confirms the recommendation to use multiple questions in measuring coverage of condom use.35 The UNAIDS Global AIDS Monitoring indicator of condom use among FSW—condom use at last sex with a client1—measured adherence at 96%, whereas this dropped to 48% when asking whether women had always used condoms in the previous month. Our findings point to the need for caution when applying this indicator to constructing prevention cascades for FSW, which could give a false impression of high condom adherence.

For PrEP, as expected for a new tool (and in this case available only as part of a trial), there were gaps across demand, supply, and adherence. Programmes might need to support younger and newer entrants to sex work to take up and adhere to PrEP, as well as those women with a higher alcohol consumption, the latter also a concern identified by FSW in Kenya.36 PrEP is more likely than condoms to be taken at a time other than when alcohol is being consumed, which might be an advantage. However, our data use a cross-sectional measure of adherence, and while other studies of FSW have found strong interest in PrEP once FSW are made aware of it, they highlight the need for long-term support to take it.37,38

Our findings point to the importance of considering prevention tools together in a dual prevention cascade. It is important to understand whether women who are not able to use condoms consistently are able to use PrEP. There are also fears of “risk compensation” in relation to PrEP usage, whereby those on PrEP increase their frequency of condomless sex, although the evidence for changes in sexual risk behaviors, reported condom use, and STIs among men who have sex with men, and transgender women starting PrEP has been mixed.39,40 Overall, we did not find a statistically significant relationship between condom and PrEP adherence except among women with steady partners in our study, where condom adherence with partners not known to be HIV-negative was associated with a higher likelihood of PrEP adherence than condom nonadherence. These women might have been more capable of adhering to prevention in general. However, there was possible differential condom use reporting bias by PrEP adherence status, making conclusions about
| Characteristics of HIV-Negative Sex Workers, n = 611 | n PrEP Adherent | Weighted % PrEP Adherent | Crude Odds Ratio | 95% CI | Adjusted Odds Ratio | 95% CI |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------|---------------------|--------|
| Adherence to PrEP among all HIV-negative sex workers | 98/611 | 15.6 | 1.02 | 0.99 to 1.05 | 1.05 | 1.01 to 1.10 |
| Age in years | Mean 34.2 adherent | Mean 29.8 nonadherent | 1.00 | 0.99 to 1.05 | 1.00 | 0.99 to 1.01 |
| Education | None | 31/182 | 18.6 | 0.46 to 2.97 | 0.39 to 1.68 | 0.39 to 1.68 |
| | Primary | 31/194 | 15.5 | 1.28 to 2.95 | 1.03 to 2.33 | 1.03 to 2.33 |
| | Secondary | 31/235 | 12.3 | 0.56 to 2.95 | 0.37 to 1.30 | 0.37 to 1.30 |
| Marital status | Currently married | 2/10 | 1.08 | 0.16 to 7.30 | 0.69 to 8.30 | 0.69 to 8.30 |
| | Divorced/separated | 58/398 | 14.5 | 0.61 to 2.83 | 0.89 to 2.39 | 0.89 to 2.39 |
| | Widowed | 20/78 | 14.5 | 2.32 to 2.83 | 5.62 to 6.96 | 5.62 to 6.96 |
| | Never married | 18/125 | 10.7 | 0.45 to 1.63 | 0.69 to 1.30 | 0.69 to 1.30 |
| Experienced food insecurity in the past month | 40/242 | 15.5 | 0.45 to 1.63 | 0.69 to 1.30 | 0.69 to 1.30 |
| No. of clients in the last week | Mean 5.3 adherent | Mean 6.2 non-adherent | 0.98 | 0.93 to 1.03 | 0.98 to 1.03 | 0.98 to 1.03 |
| Age started sex work | Mean 24.7 adherent | Mean 24.0 non-adherent | 0.99 | 0.96 to 1.03 | 0.94 to 0.99 | 0.94 to 0.99 |
| Relations with other sex workers | Good or very good relations with other sex workers | 78/450 | 17.5 | 0.48 to 2.90 | 0.52 to 2.73 | 0.52 to 2.73 |
| | Don’t about health with other sex workers | 3/18 | 7.6 | 0.14 to 3.56 | 0.09 to 0.16 | 0.09 to 0.16 |
| Recent experience of violence | Stopped or harassed by the police in the last month | 4/43 | 15.5 | 0.15 to 2.61 | 0.58 to 2.12 | 0.58 to 2.12 |
| | Experienced intimate partner violence in the past month | 12/77 | 14.7 | 0.25 to 2.41 | 0.79 to 2.23 | 0.79 to 2.23 |
| | Experienced violence from a client in the past month | 12/80 | 14.2 | 0.18 to 3.03 | 0.21 to 2.87 | 0.21 to 2.87 |
| Stigma ever experienced as a result of being a FSW | Reports lost respect or social standing | 34/267 | 13.9 | 0.38 to 1.52 | 0.43 to 1.87 | 0.43 to 1.87 |
| | Reported feeling ashamed | 19/153 | 14.7 | 0.49 to 2.42 | 1.09 to 2.50 | 1.09 to 2.50 |
| | Reports that she is talked badly about by others | 56/407 | 12.5 | 0.25 to 0.96 | 0.56 to 1.10 | 0.56 to 1.10 |
| | Ever denied health services | 7/24 | 40.2 | 1.06 to 13.27 | 2.88 to 11.37 | 2.88 to 11.37 |
| | Ever verbally assaulted | 18/163 | 7.4 | 0.21 to 1.05 | 0.22 to 1.06 | 0.22 to 1.06 |
| Frequency of alcohol consumption | Never | 40/262 | 18.9 | 0.38 to 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |
| | Once a month or less | 5/44 | 9.3 | 0.04 to 0.37 | 0.37 to 1.31 | 0.37 to 1.31 |
| | 2–4 times a month | 21/77 | 20.9 | 0.06 to 1.07 | 1.09 to 2.73 | 1.09 to 2.73 |
| | 2–3 times a week | 16/112 | 7.4 | 0.45 to 0.36 | 0.38 to 0.15 | 0.38 to 0.15 |
| | 4 or more times a week | 16/115 | 13.3 | 0.07 to 0.70 | 0.28 to 1.97 | 0.28 to 1.97 |
how PrEP and condom use interact difficult. We need longitudinal cohort studies and ongoing monitoring to better determine how women use condoms and PrEP, why they choose one or the other, and whether this varies by partner type and other circumstances.

This is a secondary analysis, and there are limitations with the application of a prevention cascade framework to these data. A core aim of our work was to try to operationalize the prevention cascade framework, and to reflect on limitations and suggest improvements for future applications. Concepts of demand and supply are multidimensional and are not fully described by the variables available here. We used having heard of PrEP and awareness of condoms as preventing HIV infection as necessary, but not sufficient, measures of demand. Other factors hypothesized to affect demand, such as encouragement to take PrEP by other sex workers, are included in our risk factor analyses, but we did not measure individual risk perception or make more detailed assessment of norms. We considered supply measures from the perspective of individual sex workers rather than examining programme outputs, for example. In future applications, it could be beneficial to consider programme and user perspectives in tandem to assess whether they align. We did find some variation in cascade components across sites, particularly for PrEP. Our data are from intervention sites of a cluster-randomized trial and might not be generalizable to a later roll-out of PrEP in this population, although the trial was pragmatic and thus closer to routine delivery than an efficacy trial.

As strengths, our data were collected from a diverse group of sites using identical protocols and RDS, designed to be representative of the population of sex workers, unlike data from small, non–population-based demonstration projects. Although our outcomes were self-reported and subject to reporting biases, we were able to biologically determine which women were HIV-negative.

In future applications of the prevention cascade, more nuanced data describing concepts of demand (knowledge, attitudes, perceived risk, and normative environment) and supply could be developed. Measuring demand in the context of multipurpose products such as condoms should also be considered. It might not be the case that these concepts are best measured using a single quantitative survey, and methods such as discrete choice experiments and participatory ranking might be informative, as well as combining data from programme records and surveys. Future applications might also consider these intermediate cascade steps as outcomes to understand what factors are particularly associated with demand for or supply of HIV-prevention tools. Zimbabwe has a PrEP implementation plan for which roll-out has begun, and as PrEP usage expands, analyses of the differences between subgroups of those covered by no prevention tools, covered by both PrEP and condoms, or covered by either PrEP or condoms could help to further understand which subgroups might adopt which prevention strategy and in what circumstances.

We have shown a dual cascade HIV prevention framework of demand, supply, and adherence to be informative in determining levels of prevention coverage among FSW at high risk of HIV acquisition, and in identifying programmatic gaps and possible strategies. In line with a combination prevention approach, we recommend that prevention cascades consider demand, supply, and capability to adhere to different prevention tools together and investigate the role of structural, community, and individual-level factors in determining coverage.

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**TABLE 3. (Continued) Factors Associated With Adherence to PrEP Among 611 HIV-Negative FSW From Seven Sites**

| Characteristics of HIV-Negative Sex Workers, n = 611 | n PrEP Adherent | Weighted % PrEP Adherent | Crude Odds Ratio 95% CI | Adjusted Odds Ratio 95% CI |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Had more than 6 alcoholic drinks in one night during last 12 months | | | | |
| Never—have not had alcohol in last 12 months | 40/262 | 18.9 | 1.80 | 0.72 to 4.51 | 1.57 | 0.64 to 3.84 |
| Never—drank alcohol but no occasions of more than 6 drinks | 34/169 | 15.8 | 1.00 | 0.27 to 2.34 | 1.00 | 0.33 to 3.08 |
| Yes, at least one occasion | 24/178 | 10.0 | 0.80 | 0.27 to 2.34 | 1.00 | 0.33 to 3.08 |
| Adherent to condoms | 48/293 | 14.0 | 0.92 | 0.50 to 1.69 | 0.91 | 0.47 to 1.75 |
| Adherent to condoms with clients | 54/329 | 15.0 | 1.18 | 0.62 to 2.22 | 1.12 | 0.57 to 2.19 |
| Adherent to condoms with steady partners, among those with a partner, n = 418 | 62/364 | 17.5 | 7.67 | 2.08 to 28.37 | 6.86 | 1.90 to 24.74 |

RDS-II weighted %. All models drop seeds and weight by inverse site-normalized degree and include a fixed term for site. Adjusted models are adjusted for age, education, marital status, food insecurity, number of clients, and age started sex work. Where not shown, reference groups are those who have not experienced or reported the given factor.
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