Background

Epidemiology of HIV in Haiti:

• Spectacular reduction over the years in the general population
• High concentration among most at risk populations (MARPs)
• No national prevalence data for MARPs

Need for evidence based interventions

• Adapted BCC messages
• Evaluation of the interventions
Methodology

- National level transversal study
- Financial collaboration: PSI, KfW, USAID, UNDP, GFATM, and Housing Works
- Steering committee: MSPP/PNLS, PSI, UNAIDS, FOSREF, SEROvie, POZ, IBESR, UNDP
- Sampling: RDS – 1200 FSWs, 1200 MSM
- 12 data collection centers
- Structured questionnaire and HIV/STI testing
- Ethical approval by the Haitian Biomedical Ethics Board
- Data collection: October-December 2011
- Analysis: RDSAT and SPSS
Results: FSWs, meet Nadya

- 1235 eligible participants
- Mean age: 23.6 years
- Formal education: 7.8 years average
- Marital status: 90% singles
- Religion: Catholic 62.7%
- Mean monthly income: 5051 g. ($125)
- Age at first intercourse: 15.1 years
- Age at first SW act: 18.4 years
- Workplace: 31% brothel, 39% street
- Gender-based physical violence: 37%
- Sexual violence: 31%
Nadya’s sexual behavior and prevalence

- Average number of clients: 9.9/week
- Mean number of casual non paying partners: 1.5/year
HIV positivity among FSWs: **8.4%**
Factors associated with HIV infection among FSWs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>HIV Negative</th>
<th>HIV positive</th>
<th>OR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Years of formal education</td>
<td>7.88</td>
<td>5.88</td>
<td>.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working place</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restaurants, bars, discos vs</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
<td>2.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brothel, street</td>
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Results: MSM, meet Ricky

- 1028 questionnaires
- Mean age: 23.2 years
- Formal education: 10.1 years
- Marital status: 82.5% singles
- Religion: catholic 49.7%
- Average monthly revenue: 5922 g ($150)
- Domicile: Urban 81%
- Internet use: 27.4%
Ricky’s sexual behavior and prevalence

- Age at first intercourse: 14.3 years
- Age at first intercourse with a man: 17.3 years
- Sexual orientation: gay: 45.5%, bisexual 47.7%
- Mean number of sexual partners: 7.1 (4.8/2.3)/year
- HIV prevalence: 18.1%
HIV Infections among MSM: 18.1%
Factors associated with HIV infection among MSM

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<th>Variable</th>
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<th>OR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passive role in the couple</td>
<td>.000</td>
<td>5.367</td>
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<td>Perceived brand attribute (Pantè)</td>
<td>.001</td>
<td>.584</td>
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<td>Percieved parental support</td>
<td>.001</td>
<td>.697</td>
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<tr>
<td>History of sexual violence</td>
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<td>1.803</td>
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<td>Use of lubricant at last anal intercourse</td>
<td>.000</td>
<td>2.238</td>
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<td>Perceived severity</td>
<td>.008</td>
<td>.557</td>
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<td>History of homophobia –caused abuse</td>
<td>.032</td>
<td>1.546</td>
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<tr>
<td>History of physical violence</td>
<td>.015</td>
<td>1.846</td>
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<td>Income (above 2,500G)</td>
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<td>1.587</td>
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<td>Perceived social support</td>
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<td>1.525</td>
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Limitations

- Recruitment challenges
  - seeds,
  - no cross-recruitment,
  - screening for non-eligible respondents
  - double participation
  - Refusal to provide blood sample

- Potential desirability, recall bias
- Reaching special groups of FSWs
- Reaching MSM with high income and from rural areas
Conclusions

• Both FSWs and MSM are highly affected by the HIV epidemic
• Sexual behavior
  – Sub-optimal condom use
  – Lubricant use
• HIV counseling and testing
• Violence
• Stigma

AND

• First Haitian program funded by the MSPP aiming to prevent HIV infections among FSWs and MSM
Mesi anpil!