

Adult Film Performers Transmission Behaviors and STI Prevalence

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BACKGROUND

- Adult film work involves multiple sex partners, unprotected intercourse and frequent oral/rectal contact
- Data on sexual networks and sexual behaviors of adult film performers (AFPs) are limited

OBJECTIVE

- To describe the sexual risk behaviors (both off and on-set), sexual network characteristics, and prevalence of sexually transmitted infections among adult film performers

METHODS

- Cross-sectional study of adult film performers seeking testing for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) at two clinics in Los Angeles, CA
- Those eligible to participate included those who were:
 - at least 18 years of age years
 - male or female
 - performed in at least one adult film scene in the past year
- Computer assisted self-interviews used to collect information on:
 - Demographics
 - Sexual practice and risk behaviors both on-set and off-set
 - Substance use
 - Sexual network characteristics

- Laboratory testing was based on nucleic acid amplification testing (NAATs) and included urogenital, pharyngeal, and rectal Chlamydia/ gonorrhea

- Data collection conducted from August 2012 – June 2013

- Among the 366 AFPs participating in this study, the median age was 25.5 years (IQR 22-31); the majority of were female (75%; n=274) and identified as white (62%; n=219)

- Most (80%) reported adult film work in the past 30 days with most reporting a number of high risk scene types and low condom use on-set (Table 1)

Table 1. Adult film industry history and on-set sexual activities and events among participants in the Sexual Health of Performers study, 2012-2013

	n	%
Total	366	100.0
Adult film industry history		
Number of years as a performer	3 (1-6)	
Total number of scenes performed	80 (25-200)	
Number of days of adult film work, past 30 days	4 (2-10)	
Condom use on set, past 30 days		
Always	18	6.3
Some of the time	70	24.7
Never	196	69.0
Type of scenes		
Double penetration	105	36.5
Double anal	26	9.5
Gang-bang	123	42.4
Cream pie	177	57.8
Double vaginal	39	14.1
Fisting	68	24.4
Rimming	174	59.8
Had to perform sexual favors to get work	47	15.4
Physically hurt during a film shoot	32	10.3
Performed a sex act you did not want to do	42	13.6
Not paid at the end of a job	51	16.4

^data represents median and interquartile range

RESULTS

- Most reported a main partner (74%), 23% reported non-film transactional partners, and 26% reported sex with an AFP off-set; only 6% reported always using condoms on-set and 13% off-set (Table 2)

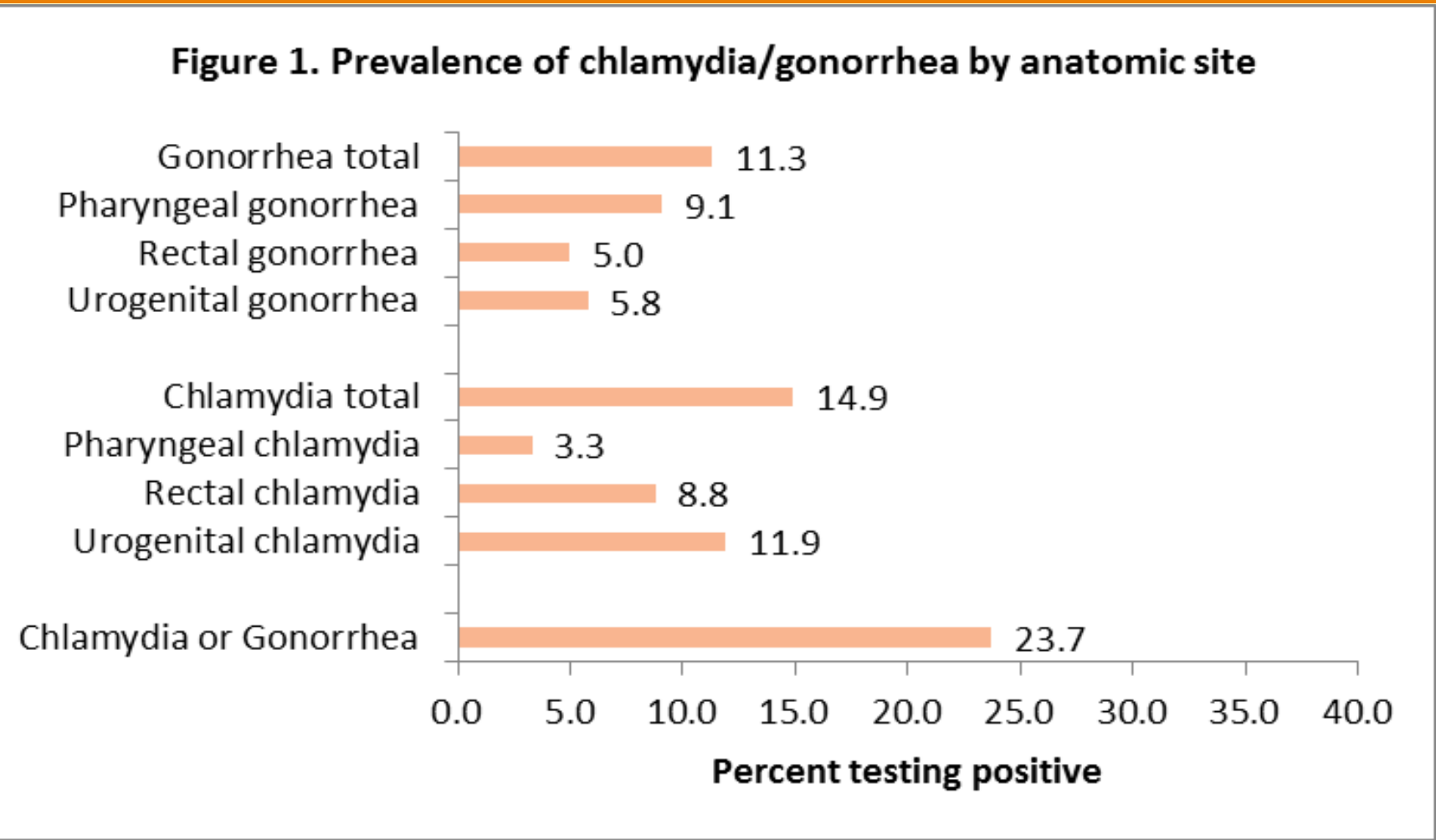
Table 2. Sexual partnership characteristics and substance use among participants in the Sexual Health of Performers study, 2012-2013 (n=366)

	n	%
Sexual Partners, past 3 months		
Number of partners, not including sex partners on set^	2 (1-4)	
Main partnerhsip	257	73.6
Condom use with main partner		
Never	201	79.1
Some of the time	33	13.0
All of the time	20	7.9
One time partner	126	36.4
Exchanged drugs/money for sex (not including film work)	78	23.3
Sex with adult film performer, not part of scene/shoot	89	25.5
Substance Use, past 3 months		
Any drugs (not including marijuana)	101	33.2
Methamphetamine	15	5.0
Ecstasy	55	18.3
Poppers	5	1.7
Special K	7	2.4
GHB	19	6.4
Cocaine	60	20.0
Heroin	7	2.4
Marijuana	189	58.7
LSD	17	5.7
Mushrooms	19	6.5
Oxycontin	8	2.7
Vicodin	38	12.7
Xanax	58	19.2

^data represents median and interquartile range

*based on laboratory testing (NAATs) at the time of the study visit

- Overall prevalence of chlamydia/gonorrhea was 24% (n=86) with varying prevalence by anatomical site (Figure 1)



- Prevalence of chlamydia/gonorrhea did not vary by gender but did by age (median 23 vs. 26 years; p-value<.01), time as a performer (median years 2 vs. 3; p-value=0.06), and days of adult film-work in the past 30 days (median 6 vs. 4 days; p-value=0.02)
- In multivariable analyses, age (adjusted odds ratio [AOR]=0.90; 95% confidence interval [CI] 0.85-0.96) and type of scene (AOR for double vaginal=2.89; 95% CI 1.29-6.48) were associated with chlamydia/gonorrhea

CONCLUSIONS

- Adult film performers had a high burden of chlamydia and gonorrhea at all anatomical sites

- Given that most performers had sexual partners outside of the industry with few reporting consistent condom use within the context of any partnership, targeted intervention strategies to limit the spread of STIs both within and outside of adult film work are needed