

Informing HIV and STI prevention programs for men who sell sex to men in Mombasa, Kenya

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Horizons

Horizons is a global operations research program implemented by the Population Council in collaboration with the International Center for Research on Women, International HIV/AIDS Alliance, PATH, Tulane University, Family Health International, and Johns Hopkins University.

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Background

- Population Council/Horizons collaborated on MSM exploratory studies in Senegal (2003) and Nairobi (2004)
 - Many MSM respondents were sex workers
 - Overall, MSM vulnerable to HIV/STIs, stigma, and violence
- Intervention study to reduce HIV/STI risks of male sex workers (MSWs) in Mombasa launched in 2006
 - Ethical approval from Kenyatta National Hospital Ethics and Review Committee and Population Council

Prevalence and Incidence of HIV among MSM in Kenya

- KEMRI/UW vaccine trial cohort in Kilifi
 - Recruitment since end-2005; ongoing
- Liverpool VCT in Nairobi
 - Providing MSM-friendly services since 2004

	HIV Prevalence	HIV Incidence
Kilifi (KEMRI/UW) 2007	12-44%	8.8-20.4
Nairobi (LVCT) 2004-2007	18%	--

Project Activities and Methods

- Enumeration of MSWs in Mombasa (May 2006)
 - Capture-recapture methodology at 77 locations
 - Final estimate: 739 (95% CI: 690-798)
- Baseline survey (October to December 2006)
 - Assess sexual risk-taking and treatment-seeking behavior
 - Time-location sampling design; 425 survey interviews, 10 in-depth interviews, 3 focus group discussions completed
- Intervention (January 2007 to present)
 - Drop-in centre, peer education outreach, service provider sensitization
 - Informed by research findings

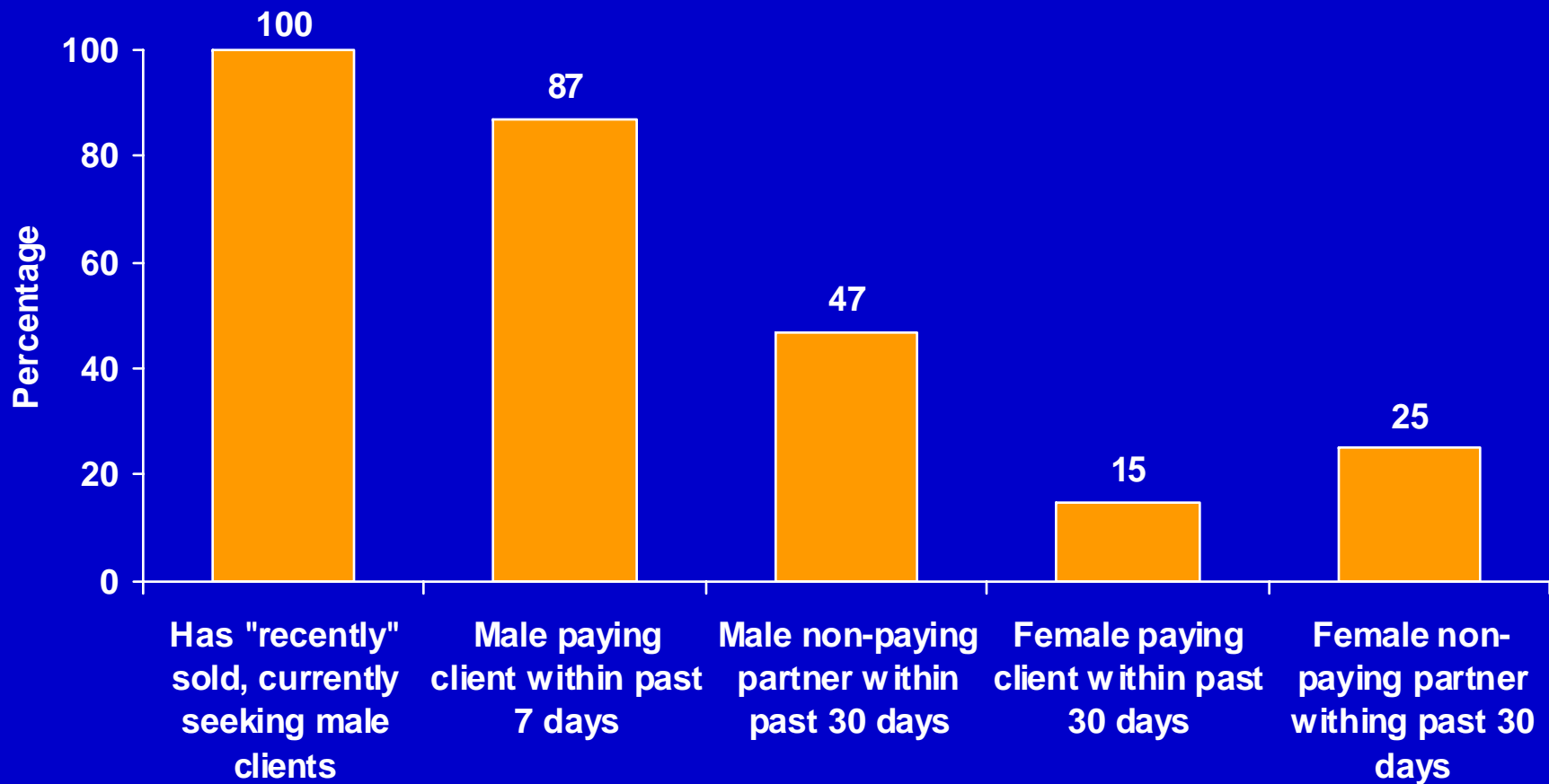
Baseline Sample Characteristics

Age (years, n=425)	Mean	27.2
	Range	16-60
Age of first sex with a male partner (years, n=411)	Mean	18.1
	Range	6-39
Age first received money for sex (years, n=412)	Mean	19.8
	Range	10-39

Baseline Sample Characteristics

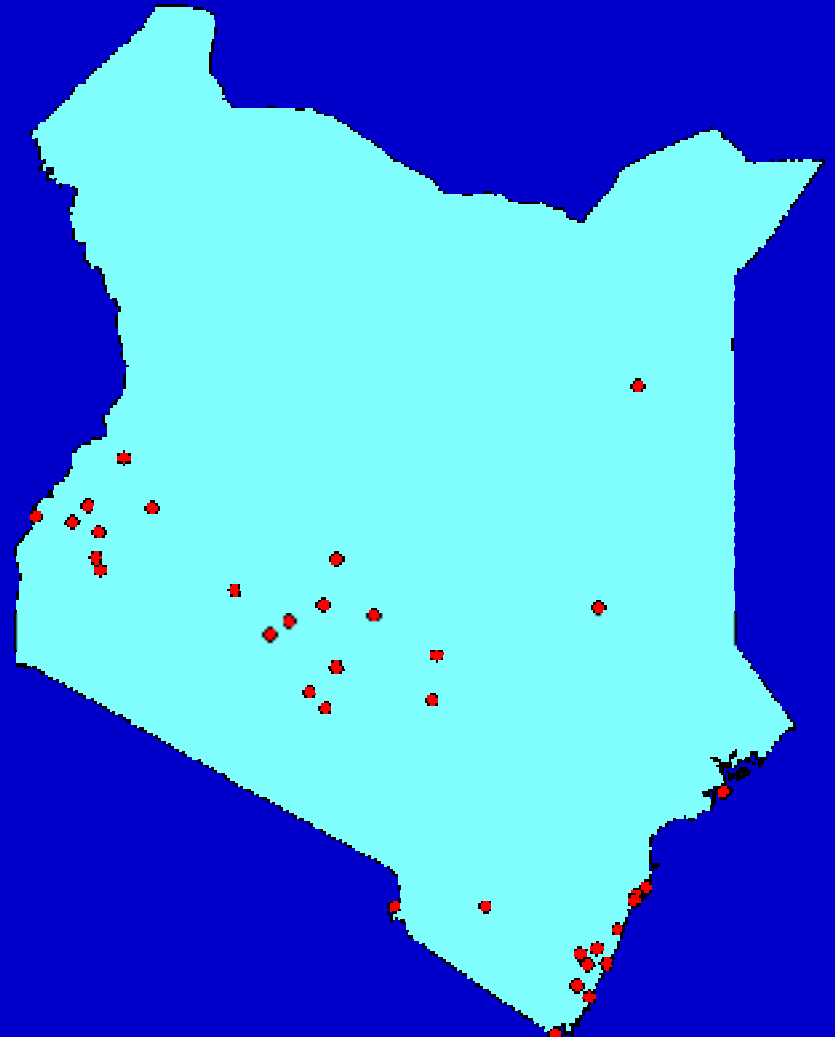
		n = 425 %
Education	None/incomplete primary	38
	Complete primary/incomplete secondary	40
	Complete secondary/higher level	21
Kenyan citizen		98
Currently married to a female		5
Currently living with other female sexual partner (not wife)		8

Types of Sexual Partners

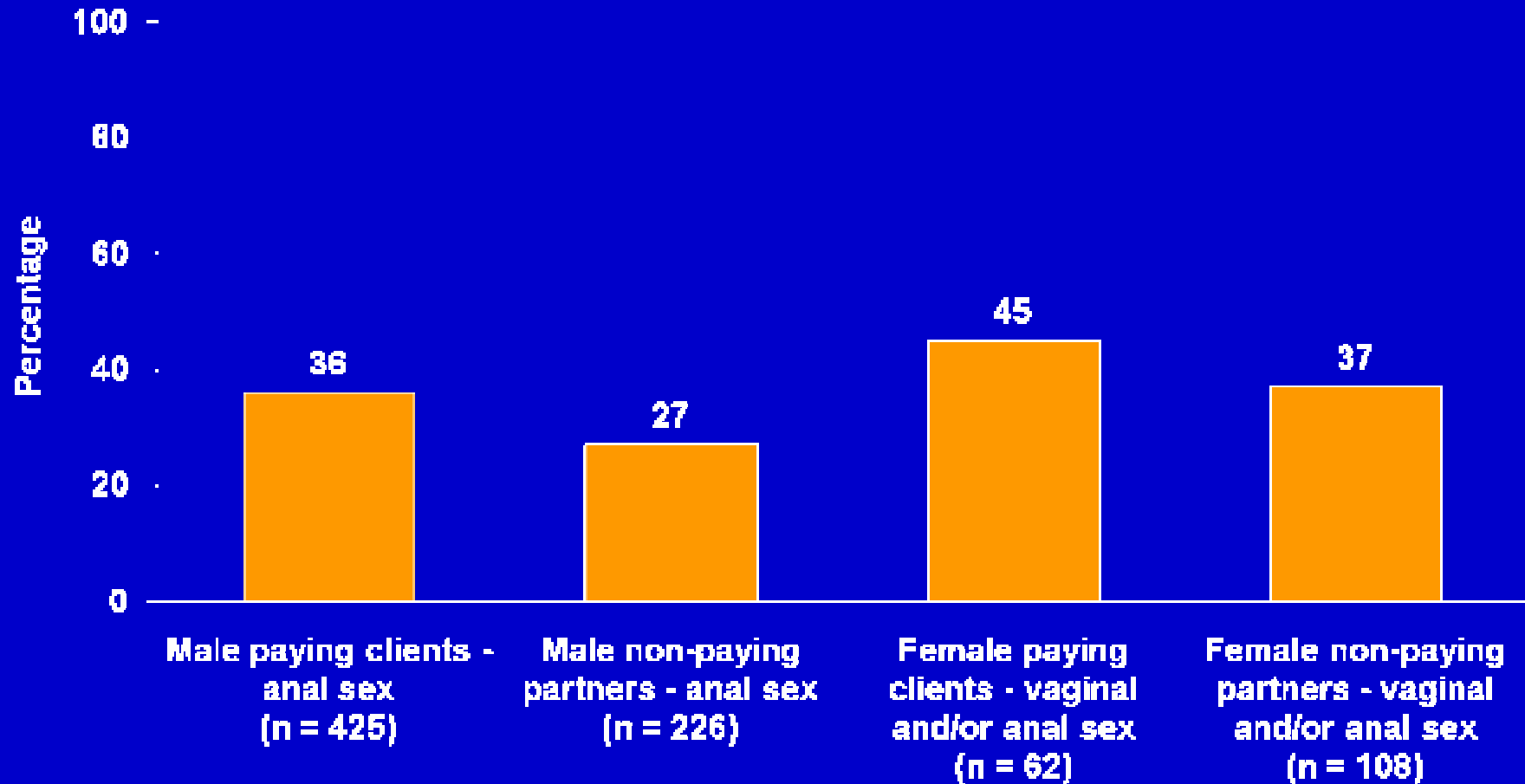


Partner Networks

- Majority of sex partners/clients are Kenyan
- 55% sold sex outside of Mombasa in the past 12 months



Consistent condom use: “Always”



Knowledge of Anal Transmission of HIV

- 35% did not know HIV can be transmitted via anal sex
 - *“I don’t believe that many MSW use condoms because with the information I get, illness is only in the vagina and not the anus... I have never heard of somebody getting an illness from the anus even from our teachers.”*
 - *“...mostly I think these diseases are found in the vagina and mouth, but I still can’t understand it well.”*

Factors Associated with Inconsistent Condom Use

- Multivariate analysis
 - Not knowing HIV can be transmitted via anal sex
 - ▶ OR: 2.11, 95%CI: 1.30-3.41 (p<0.01)
 - Drinking alcohol three or more days per week
 - ▶ OR: 1.61, 95%CI: 1.02-2.53 (p<0.05)
 - Self-reported burning urination in past 12 months
 - ▶ OR: 2.16, 95%CI: 1.22-3.83 (p<0.01)

Type of Lubrication Associated with Condom Breakage

Of those who ever used condoms and used lubrication with last male client (n = 252)	Type of lubricant used with last male client		p-value
	Water-based	Vaseline or Other	
Has experienced condom breakage	46%	61%	0.033

- Only 21% (n = 425) correctly knew that a water-based lubricant should be used with a latex condom

Programmatic Gaps and Barriers

- Programs addressing MSM or MSW limited to pilot programs in Nairobi and Mombasa
 - Liverpool VCT in Nairobi, ICRH in Mombasa
 - MSM vaccine trial cohorts provided limited services in Nairobi and Mombasa
- Stigma toward MSM high at national, community, and government levels.
- Male-to-male sex illegal – discourages health programs from targeting MSM

Mombasa Intervention: Accomplishments to Date

- Drop-in centre
- 40 peer educators recruited
 - Trained in prevention and basic counseling skills
- Distribution of condoms and water-based lubricant
 - Over 100,000 condoms distributed
 - Shipment of 8,000 sachets (5ml) of water-based lubricant and 6,000 distributed.
- Sensitization and training of treatment providers
 - 20 area service providers trained

Next Steps

- Follow-up survey in late 2007 or early 2008 to measure impact of intervention
 - National elections/campaigning through December may be problematic
- Intervention activities continuing via other PEPFAR programming
- Discussions with National AIDS Coordinating Committee (NACC) on developing national HIV policy for MSM

Partnerships

- Provincial Medical Office
 - Dr. A. Kahindi
- NACC
- KEMRI/UW
 - Dr. E. Sanders, Dr. S. Graham
- PEPFAR Kenya
- MSM who participated in this research