

Media Release

Key Findings of the HIV Risk Hotspot Mapping and Key Populations Size Estimation Report

For Immediate Release

Correct knowledge about HIV/AIDS considerably high among Key Populations

Results from a recent study conducted by IntraHealth Namibia through the USAID funded Key Populations – Strengthening Technical Assistance and Response for Sustainable HIV prevention and Treatment (KP-STAR) project reveals that a high number of Key Populations (KPs) have correct knowledge about HIV/AIDS.

The study titled HIV Risk Hotspot Mapping and Key Population (KP) Size Estimation was carried out between August 2021 and February 2022 to identify, map and document places where KPs, specifically Female Sex Workers, Men who have Sex with Men and Transgender individuals, frequent in nine (9) Priority Geographic Areas where the KP-STAR project is implemented namely Oshikango, Oshakati, Otjiwarongo, Katima Mulilo, Rundu, Swakopmund, Walvis Bay, Gobabis and Keetmanshoop. A total of 111 hotspots were mapped and a total of 289 Key populations have taken part in the study.

According to study results, almost all KPs who took part in the study knew where to go for an HIV test if they needed one and 93% have ever been tested for HIV.

The study was carried out to increase understanding of different implementation aspects of the KP-STAR project including where female sex workers find their clients, and where men who have sex with men meet friends and/or look for potential sexual partners.

The results of the hotspot mapping exercise will support program planning, evidence-based decision making and tailor-make targeted interventions of the KP-STAR project. Additionally, the results will further improve knowledge of where the KPs frequent, during what days of the week, and what times of the day.

Key Highlights

- ✓ Of the 111 hotspots mapped, the highest number (17) of hotspots was found in Swakopmund.

- ✓ Bars, guesthouses, and night clubs constituted 70% of all hotspots mapped.
- ✓ The estimated KP population size was 6 606 with 1 405 MSM, 3 717 FSW, and 1 484 TG across all nine PGAs.
- ✓ Of all those who took part in the study, 22.8% were transgender individuals, 54.4% were Female Sex Workers, and 22.8% were Men who have Sex with Men.
- ✓ Six in ten KPs were unemployed, highest unemployment recorded in Katima Mulilo (77.8%) and Rundu (86.2%).
- ✓ The average number of sexual partners in the past 12 months was recorded as nine (9) with Katima Mulilo, Otjiwarongo, and Walvis Bay each averaging the highest number of sexual partners at 15.
- ✓ 15% of hotspots mapped had received or had access to the full range of HIV prevention services, which include condoms, lubricants, access to HIV/AIDS information through Peer Educators or community health workers, sexual and reproductive health or sex education, and onsite HIV testing services for staff and patrons.
- ✓ 20.9% of the KPs indicated that their risk to HIV infection was low, 13% stated that they didn't know their respective risk levels of HIV infection, and 5% stated that their risk of HIV infection was impossible.
- ✓ About 8% of KPs self-reported to be living with HIV
- ✓ Over 59% of the hotspots reported having witnessed or experienced some form of violence on site with 12% indicating to have experienced sexual violence on site. On the other hand, 42% of KPs reported experiences of forced sex.
- ✓ 51% of KPs did not use a condom the last time they had vaginal sex and 60% did not use a condom the last time they had anal sex.

THE END

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