

Barriers to Condom Use Among High Risk Key Populations in Namibia



Authors: C. Russell¹, K. Tahlil¹, T. Amaambo², A. Kuthedze², M. Mukoroli², I. Pietersen³, N. Hamunime³, M. Davis¹, A. Winston¹, Alice Tang¹, S.Y. Hong²

(1) Department of Public Health and Community Medicine, Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, USA. (2) Society for Family Health, Windhoek, Namibia. (3) Directorate of Special Programmes, Ministry of Health and Social Services, Windhoek, Namibia

Background

- HIV disproportionately affects key populations (KPs) in sub-Saharan Africa, namely female sex workers (FSWs) and men who have sex with men (MSM).
- In Namibia's Integrated Biological and Behavioral Survey (IBBS), condom use among KPs was inconsistent, especially with non-client sex partners. More data is needed to understand specific reasons for inconsistent condom use among KPs.
- The Society for Family Health (SFH), a local non-governmental organization (NGO) in Namibia conducts a KP program aimed at expanding access, utilization and quality of HIV prevention interventions among KPs to achieve epidemic control.
- This study aims to determine predictors of poor condom use among KPs, as well as describe KP condom use barriers in 11 regions of Namibia.

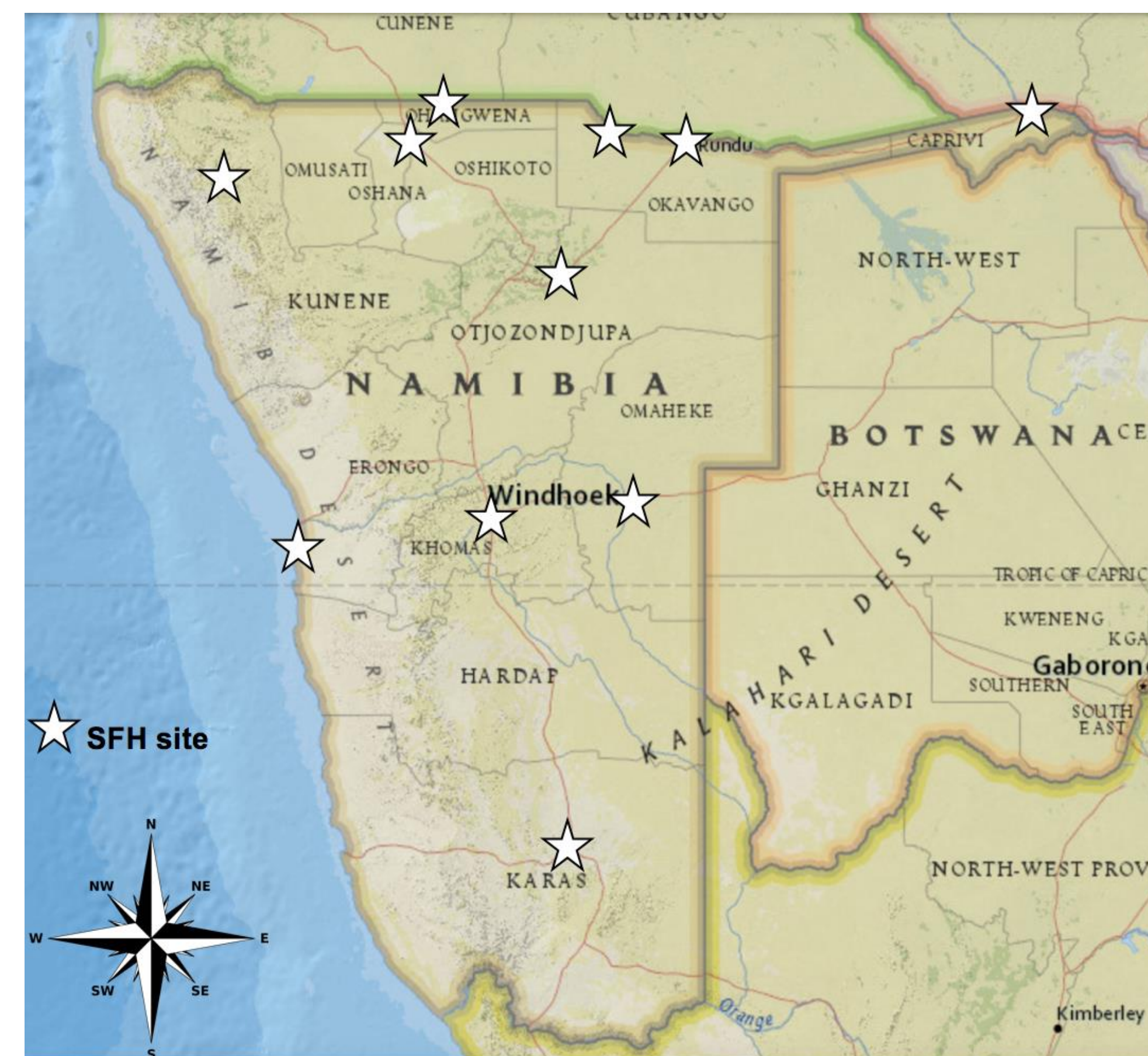
Methods

- We analyzed data for KPs routinely collected in the SFH electronic case management database from June 2016 to June 2017. Data were cleaned in MS Excel 2015 and analyzed in Stata IC 14.2 using bivariate and multivariate logistic regression models.

Table 1: Client Characteristics

Characteristic	Total n (%)	Consistent Condom Use (Always) n (%)	Poor Condom Use (Sometimes & Never) n (%)	P-value
Total	N = 621	N = 160	N = 461	
Key Populations (KPs)				
Female Sex Workers	432 (69.6)	94 (58.8)	338 (73.3)	
Other KPs (MSM, Other, & n/a)	189 (30.4)	66 (41.3)	123 (26.7)	
Age (years ± SD)	28.5 ± 12.2	28.5 ± 12.6	28.5 ± 12.0	0.94
Sex				
Female	457 (74.6)	98 (61.3)	359 (77.9)	
Male & Other	164 (26.4)	62 (38.8)	102 (22.1)	
Region				
//Karas	137 (22.1)	43 (26.9)	94 (20.4)	
Erongo	70 (11.3)	33 (20.6)	37 (8.0)	
Kavango East	44 (7.1)	0 (0.0)	44 (9.5)	
Kavango West	39 (6.3)	0 (0.0)	39 (8.5)	
Khomas	220 (35.4)	48 (30.0)	172 (37.3)	
Kunene	1 (0.2)	1 (0.6)	0 (0)	
Ohangwena	22 (3.5)	3 (1.9)	19 (4.1)	
Omaheke	1 (0.2)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.2)	
Oshana	48 (7.7)	32 (20.0)	16 (3.5)	
Otjozondjupa	7 (1.1)	0 (0.0)	7 (1.5)	
Zambezi	30 (4.8)	0 (0.0)	30 (6.5)	
Not Available	2 (0.3)	0 (0.0)	2 (0.4)	
Education				0.001
None & Primary	155 (25.0)	24 (15.0)	131 (28.4)	
Secondary & Tertiary	466 (75.0)	136 (85.0)	330 (71.6)	
Latest HIV Status				0.001
Positive & Unknown	208 (33.5)	36 (22.5)	172 (37.3)	
Negative & Not Available	413 (66.5)	124 (77.5)	289 (62.7)	
Latest HIV test				0.016
< 30 Days & 1 – 6 months	387 (62.3)	87 (54.4)	300 (65.1)	
6 – 12 months & > 1 Year & Not Available	234 (37.7)	73 (45.6)	161 (34.9)	
Condom-Compatible Lubricant Use				<0.001
Always	84 (13.5)	71 (44.4)	13 (2.8)	
Sometimes & Never	537 (86.5)	89 (55.6)	448 (97.2)	
Ever Treated for an STI				0.054
Yes	143 (23.0)	28 (17.5)	115 (24.9)	
No & Not Available	478 (77.0)	132 (82.5)	346 (75.1)	
Ever Treated for TB				0.070
Yes	89 (14.3)	16 (10.0)	73 (15.8)	
No & Not Available	532 (85.7)	144 (90.0)	388 (84.2)	
Type of Sex				0.494
Genital				
Yes	534 (86.5)	135 (84.4)	399 (86.6)	
No	87 (14.0)	25 (15.6)	62 (13.4)	
Anal				<0.001
Yes	102 (12.5)	45 (28.1)	57 (12.4)	
No	519 (83.6)	115 (71.9)	404 (87.6)	
Oral				<0.001
Yes	179 (28.8)	71 (44.4)	108 (23.4)	
No	442 (71.2)	89 (55.6)	353 (76.6)	
Situations in which you did not use condoms				
Client refused				<0.001
Checked	112 (18.0)	0 (0.0)	112 (24.3)	
Unchecked	509 (82.0)	160 (100)	349 (75.7)	
Client paid extra				<0.001
Checked	133 (21.4)	1 (0.6)	132 (28.6)	
Unchecked	488 (78.6)	159 (99.4)	329 (71.4)	
I refused				0.001
Checked	33 (5.3)	0 (0)	33 (7.2)	
Unchecked	588 (94.7)	160 (100)	428 (92.8)	
I trust the client				<0.001
Checked	140 (22.5)	0 (0)	140 (30.4)	
Unchecked	481 (77.5)	160 (100)	321 (69.6)	
Condoms were not Available				<0.001
Checked	135 (21.7)	1 (0.6)	134 (29.1)	
Unchecked	486 (78.3)	159 (99.4)	327 (70.9)	
Under the influence of drugs/alcohol				<0.001
Checked	151 (24.3)	1 (0.6)	150 (32.5)	
Unchecked	470 (75.7)	159 (99.4)	311 (67.5)	
Afraid of violence				0.003
Checked	24 (3.9)	0 (0)	24 (5.2)	
Unchecked	597 (96.1)	160 (100)	437 (94.8)	
Threat from client				0.003
Checked	25 (4.0)	0 (0)	25 (5.4)	
Unchecked	596 (96.0)	160 (100)	436 (94.6)	
Other				0.117
Checked	7 (1.1)	0 (0)	7 (1.5)	
Unchecked	614 (98.9)	160 (100)	454 (98.5)	

Figure 1: Geographic Location of SFH Sites



- 11 Regions
- //Karas
- Erongo
- Kavango East
- Kavango West
- Khomas
- Kunene
- Ohangwena
- Omaheke
- Oshana
- Otjozondjupa
- Zambezi

Table 2: Reasons for Not Using Condoms

Situations in which you did not use condoms	FSW (n, %)	Other KP (n, %)
Total	432	189
Client Refused	103 (23.8)	9 (4.8)
Client Paid Extra	119 (27.5)	14 (7.4)
I refused	18 (4.2)	15 (7.9)
I trust the client	96 (22.2)	44 (23.3)
Condoms were not available	86 (19.9)	49 (25.9)
Under the influence of drugs/alcohol	108 (25.0)	43 (22.8)
Afraid of violence	23 (5.3)	1 (0.5)
Threat from client	24 (5.6)	1 (0.5)
Other	2 (0.5)	5 (2.6)

Results

- Total 621 KP clients were identified with condom use data: 432 FSW and 189 other KPs (MSM and other high-risk clients). Mean age for FSWs was 28.4±12.9 years, and 28.8±10.2 years for other KPs.
- Bivariate analyses identified the following factors associated with poor condom use ("never" and "sometimes" vs "always" used condoms with sexual partners): FSWs (p=0.001), no or only primary education (p=0.001), HIV-positive or unknown status (p=0.001), HIV testing <6 months ago (p=0.016), poor condom-compatible lubricant use (p<0.001), sexually-transmitted infection treatment in the past 3 months (p=0.054), and reporting no anal (p<0.001) or oral (p<0.001) sex.
- In the final multivariate model, factors associated with poor condom use were: FSWs compared to other KPs (OR 1.78; 95% confidence interval (CI)=1.27 to 2.74), primary or no education (OR 2.11; 95% CI=1.29 to 3.43), and an unknown or positive HIV status (OR 1.78; CI=1.16 to 2.72).
- Reasons for not using condoms included: alcohol and drug use (25% FSWs and 23% other KPs), no condom availability (20% FSW and 26% other KPs), clients paying extra (28% FSW), and clients refusing a condom (24% FSW).

Conclusions and Recommendations

- FSWs, less educated, and HIV-positive or unknown KPs report poor condom use. FSWs cited alcohol and drug use, and client preferences as major barriers to condom use.
- Targeted condom use campaigns, education for FSWs, and initiation of PrEP among KPs could significantly reduce HIV transmission.

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