

Special Issue on

Risks and Vulnerabilities to HIV and STI among Key Populations across Sub-Saharan Africa: Epidemiology, Emerging Prevention Approaches, and Access to Treatment

CALL FOR PAPERS

The HIV/AIDS epidemic remains a major public concern for low and middle income countries; and this is especially the case across Sub-Saharan Africa. Out of the 43 million people living with HIV, 90% are estimated to be from Sub-Saharan Africa. Data generated from the last decade has continued to improve our understanding of the specific HIV acquisition and transmission risks across the generalized HIV epidemics including sex work, same-sex practices, and drug use. Moreover, the increase of coverage of evidence-based HIV prevention, diagnostics, and antiretroviral therapy has decreased the numbers of new infections and improved the lives of those living with HIV. However, these interventions have not benefited these key populations with specific risks for HIV to the same extent resulting in an increasingly differentiated HIV epidemic, especially seen in West and Central Africa. Thus, there is a need for improved evidence to guide the implementation of evidence-based and human rights affirming interventions for key populations.

Globally, sex workers (SW), men who have sex with other men (MSM), and people who use drugs have been identified as having specific risks for HIV and higher burdens of HIV and STI. Likewise, incarcerated populations, mobile populations, and male clients of sex workers have also been observed to meet these criteria. While there is an increasing amount of data, consistent and high quality data on key populations remain relatively scarce in many settings of West and Central Africa, partly because of the stigma and the discrimination affecting their orientation, occupation, or practices. Taken together, there is value in synthesizing available data for key populations from across Sub-Saharan Africa to ensure improved responses moving forward for these men and women. To fulfill this gap, we propose the current special issue.

Potential topics include but are not limited to the following:

- ▶ Epidemiology of the HIV/AIDS and other STIs: prevalence, incidence, and trends of the HIV among key populations (SWs, MSM, people who use drugs, male clients, truck drivers, and incarcerated populations)
- ▶ Social and behavioral studies: stigma, discrimination, disclosure of the HIV status, and sexual behaviors of the key populations (SWs, MSM, people who use drugs, male clients, truck drivers, and incarcerated populations)
- ▶ Access to treatment and prevention strategies for key populations (SWs, MSM, people who use drugs, male clients, truck drivers, and incarcerated populations)
- ▶ Risk of virological and clinical failure during therapy, drug resistance after treatment failure and risk of transmitted resistance

Authors can submit their manuscripts through the Manuscript Tracking System at <http://mts.hindawi.com/submit/journals/art/kpha/>.

Papers are published upon acceptance, regardless of the Special Issue publication date.

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Submission Deadline

Friday, 30 June 2017

Publication Date

November 2017