



Brief Report: HIV Biological and Behavioral Surveillance among males who have sex with males (MSM) in Dili and Baucau, Timor-Leste, 2017

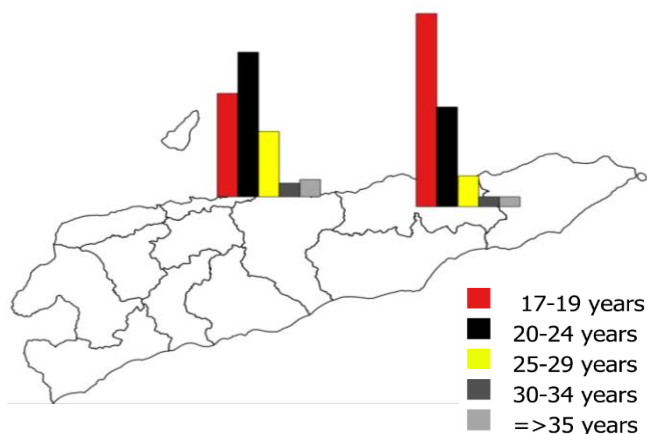
Background

HIV Integrated Biological and Behavioural Surveillance (IBBS) surveys were conducted in 2016-2017 among males who have sex with males (MSM) in Dili and Baucau, Timor-Leste to track the HIV epidemic, monitor sexual risk behaviours, and to measure access to intervention programs in responding to HIV. MSM were defined as biological males, aged 17 to 49 years, having had anal sex with a male in the past 12 months, and living in the survey area. This survey resulted in a sample of 200 FSW in Dili and 105 FSW in Baucau.

Sociodemographic characteristics

The majority of MSM in both Dili and Baucau were under the age of 25 years (72% in Dili and 84% in Baucau) (Figure 1) and unmarried (more than 90% in both sites).

Figure 1. Age groups of MSM

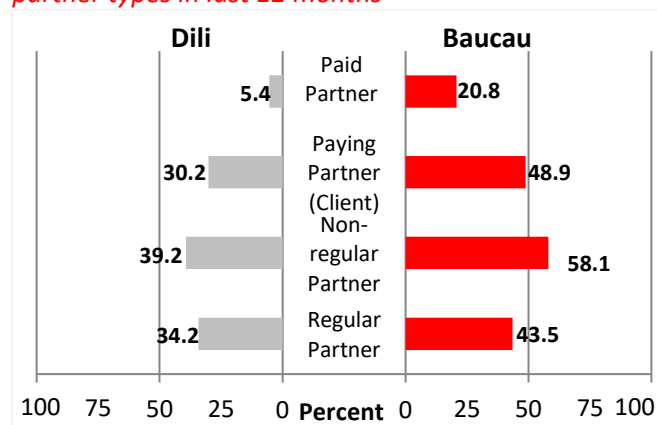


Eleven percent of MSM in Dili and 3% in Baucau identified themselves as Transgender, rather than male.

Sexual risk and condom use

MSM in both Dili and Baucau reported a median age of 16 for their first sexual intercourse experience and reported their first sexual partner being female (63% in Dili and 60% in Baucau). Condom use at last sexual intercourse with different male partner types in the past 12 months ranged from 5 to 39% in Dili and from 21 to 58% in Baucau) (Figure 2).

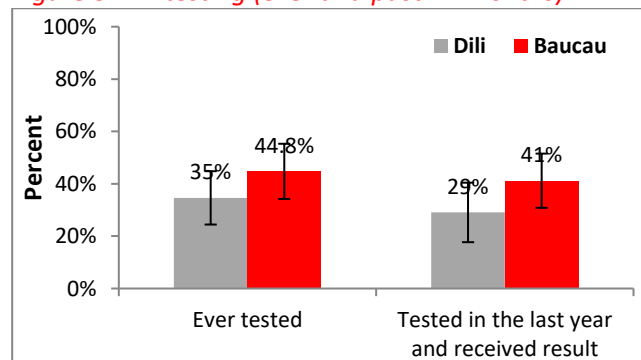
Figure 2. Last time condom use with different male partner types in last 12 months



HIV testing

Less than 50% of MSM reported ever having a test for HIV and only 29% of MSM in Dili and 41% in Baucau were tested and received their results in the past year (Figure 3).

Figure 3. HIV testing (ever and past 12 months)



HIV and syphilis prevalence

No HIV was found in Baucau. In Dili, HIV prevalence was 0.4%. Active syphilis was found among 4.9% of MSM in Dili and 1.1% in Baucau (Figure 4).

Figure 4. HIV and syphilis prevalence

