

Title of the project	The Behavioral Surveillance Survey on Female Commercial Sex Workers and Adult Male Respondents
Conducted by	Center for Health Research, University of Indonesia
Supported/funded by	HAPP
Collaboration with	MOH
Date	1996-2000
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Background:

Behavioral surveillance surveys (BSS) form an important component of integrated surveillance systems for monitoring the HIV epidemic and are included in the 2nd generation surveillance systems recommended by UNAIDS and WHO. The BSS methodology is a monitoring and evaluation tool designed to track trends in HIV/AIDS-related knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors in sub-populations at particular risk of HIV infection, such as female sex workers, injection drug users, migrant men, and youth. However, groups included in a BSS depend on the state of the epidemic and the distribution of risk in populations.

The BSS consist of repeated cross-sectional surveys conducted systematically to monitor changes in HIV/STD risk behaviors. A key benefit of the methodology is its standardized approach to questionnaire development, sampling frame construction, and survey implementation and analysis. BSS findings serve many purposes: They yield evidence of project impact, provide indicators of project success and highlight persistent problem areas, identify appropriate intervention priority populations, identify specific behaviors in need of change, function as a policy and advocacy tool, and supply comparative data concerning behavioral risks.

This report highlights findings on female commercial sex workers (FCSWs) and adult males (specifically sailors and seaport workers and truckers and their assistants) from the first through the fifth waves of the BSS, conducted yearly in 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000.

Study Design and Methodology:

The BSS were designed to enable measurement of behavior change over time among specific sub-populations. Data on high-risk groups provide valuable information on the segments of the population having the greatest impact on the HIV and STD epidemics. Therefore, many of the groups included in the BSS were those at highest risk of infection and transmission, such as female commercial sex workers (FCSWs).

In addition to the high-risk groups, the BSS included other sub-populations that are considered ‘bridge’ groups, consisting of individuals who have significant sexual contact with both high- and low-risk groups. Bridge groups for these surveys included sailors/seaport laborers (S/SLs), and truck drivers and their assistants (TD/As).

The HAPP intervention sites of North Jakarta, Surabaya, and Manado were selected as the sites for the BSS. Besides being major entry ports for the country, these three cities have cosmopolitan and urban characteristics, with active sex industries. The study sites with the corresponding sub-populations for wave one through five is as follows:

Sample size calculations are extremely important in behavioral surveillance. Sample sizes were determined for each group and in each city on the basis of behavioral parameters, the behavior change to be detected, the degree of confidence in such a change, statistical power and design effects. Sample sizes were increased in the year 2000 wave to yield more precise estimates. A two-stage cluster design was employed with each group. During the first stage, clusters were

selected by probability proportional to size from a complete list of sites. Respondents were selected from the selected clusters during the second stage.

A sampling frame was initially prepared to provide the basis for selecting clusters. Brothel complexes were used as clusters for Lokalisasi-based sex workers while areas such as brothel houses, streets, massage houses, hotels, and discotheques, bars, and nightclubs were used for non-Lokalisasi sex worker clusters. Seaport areas were used as clusters for sampling sailors and seaport laborers, and truck pool areas were used for locating truckers and assistants. Information regarding clusters, such as city, population group, geography, and the estimated number of individuals per cluster, was recorded.

Result:

Analysis of trends across the five waves of data collection specifically among female commercial sex workers and adult males (namely sailors, seaport workers, truckers and their assistants) supports the following conclusions:

- Compared with the baseline data of 1996, there is now high percentages of respondents in all the surveyed sub-populations had heard of HIV/AIDS and their numbers have been increasing over the years.
- Both male (sailors and truckers) and FCSW respondents in all study sites showed increased knowledge of appropriate ways to prevent HIV transmission over the years.
- Since 1996, the level of knowledge of condoms increased for both male and FCSWs respondents during all the survey years.
- Knowledge of STDs has remained low throughout the survey years, mostly being limited to names of popular types of STD.
- The percentage of male respondents who reported having sex with an FCSW indicates to be increasing over the past years (especially from 1996 to 1998, stabilized in 1999, and inclined in 2000).
- Reported condom use in last sex with FCSWs among male respondents showed signs of increase in 1999 after several years of no change or decreased use. However, consistent condom use remains low.
- Condom use as reported by FSW increased in some sites but remained unchanged in others.
- Although the majority of those male and FCSW respondents who ever had STD in past year tend to seek medical treatment, most of those who did not tend to self-treat their last STD symptom, and their percentages seems to be increasing.