

Determinants of Intention to Use Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Condom Use among Cisgender Female Sex Workers (FSWs) in Madrid, Spain

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BACKGROUND

- Spain recognized FSWs as a population at high risk of acquiring HIV and granted them with subsidized access to PrEP in 2019-
- The national PrEP campaign targets men who have sex with men, with FSWs representing just 0.3% of PrEP users in Spain in 2021-
- There is scarcity of data about PrEP usage among cisgender FSWs in Europe

The objective of this study was to identify the determinants of intention to use oral PrEP and condom use among FSWs in Madrid, Spain.

METHODS

- A cross-sectional 82-item survey on: demographics, HIV risk, intention to use PrEP, as well as individual, social, occupational, and structural barriers to PrEP and condom use
- The survey was delivered in person between January and March 2022, along with point-of-care HIV testing, to FSWs in Madrid.
- Stepwise regression analyses were used to identify variables associated with intention to use PrEP and condoms use.



RESULTS

Descriptive statistics

- A total of 102 HIV-negative FSWs were interviewed
- Mean age was 38.7 years (± 10), years as sex worker 6.8 (± 7.2), and number of clients per day 6.1 (± 4.4). Most FSWs were migrants (64.7%); 71.6% worked in the street; 45% were homeless; 52% used cocaine and/or heroin (smoked and/or injected); and 25.5% used condoms inconsistently in the previous 3 months.
- Few FSWs knew about PrEP (9.8%) or post-exposure prophylaxis (5%), and none had used PrEP before the study-
- 72% (74/102) expressed intention to use PrEP:

	Intenders N=61	Not intenders N=41
I do not worry about contracting HIV; I do not need to take PrEP (Yes)*	6 (9.8%)	17 (41.5%)
I always use condoms; therefore, I do not need PrEP (Yes)*	11 (18%)	26 (63.4%)
I would feel protected against HIV if I took PrEP* (Yes)*	59 (96.7%)	30/39 (76.9%)
I would take PrEP even if it did not protect me 100% against HIV (Yes)*	53 (86.8%)	24/40 (60%)
I do not want to take PrEP because I worry about side effects (Yes)*	13 (21.3%)	18 (43.9%)
It is difficult to take daily pills (Yes)	25 (39%)	24/40 (60%)
Condom rupture with clients (Yes)**	20/59 (33.9%)	7/40 (17.1%)
Migrant (Yes)*	35 (57.4%)	31 (75.6%)

*Variables for which we found significant ($p < 0.05$) differences in bivariate analysis; ** during the previous 3 months

Figure 1. Final model multivariate regression analysis for intention to use oral PrEP

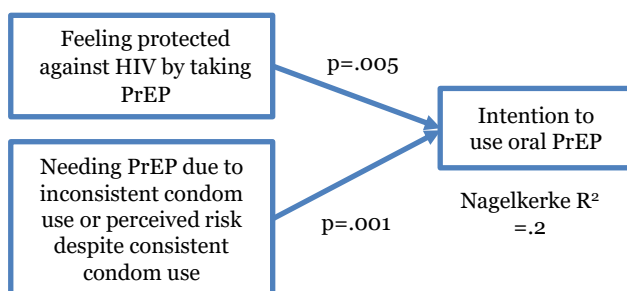
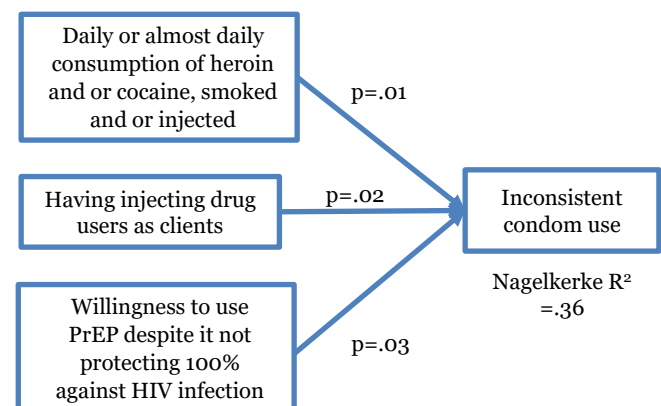


Table 2. Condom use*

	Consistent N=77	Inconsistent N=25
Drug use (Yes)	34 (44.2%)	22 (91.7%)
Moderate to severe depression (Yes)	21 (27.3%)	15 (60%)
I always use condoms; therefore, I do not need PrEP (Yes)	34 (44.2%)	3 (12%)
I do not have a place to keep the pills (Yes)	11 (14.3%)	11 (44%)
Street-based work (Yes)	48 (64%)	24 (96%)
Av. number of clients per day (mean \pm SD)	5.4 \pm 3.8	8.2 \pm 5.2
Condom coercion (Yes)*** [¥]	34 (44.2%)	19 (76%)
Victim of violence exerted clients (Yes)** [¥]	36 (46.5%)	17 (68%)
Clients with drug injection habits (Yes) [¥]	4 (5.2%)	11(44%)
Victim of violence exerted by partner (Yes)** [¥]	5 (6.5%)	7 (28%)
Migrant (Yes)	57 (74%)	9 (36%)
Police detention during the last year (Yes)	21 (27.2%)	15 (60%)
Homelessness (Yes) [¥]	26 (33.8%)	20 (80%)
Attends primary healthcare center (Yes)	43 (57.4%)	7 (28%)
Receptor of NGO services (Yes)	35 (45.5%)	21 (84%)

*Variables for which we found significant ($p < 0.05$) differences in bivariate analysis; **verbal or physical;*** when the sexual partners refuses to wear a condom or removes it despite previously agreeing to use it; [¥] during the previous three months.

Figure 2. Final model multivariate regression analysis for condom use



CONCLUSIONS

- PrEP awareness was low among FSWs in Madrid but intention to use PrEP was high.
- Interest in oral PrEP did not correlate with social and structural determinants, but with participants' feeling of protection with condoms and PrEP.
- FSWs with frequent use of drugs (smoked/injected) were more likely to engage in condomless sex.

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"la Caixa" Foundation



Mobile unit from NGO Madrid Positivo carrying on the study