

Correlation between illicit substances, unsafe sexual behavior and symptoms suggesting sexually transmitted infections among male clients of female sex workers in Bangladesh

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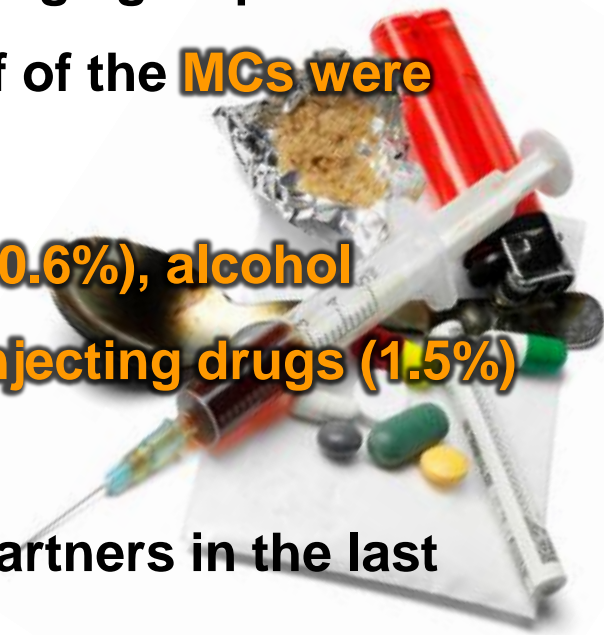
Background

- In Bangladesh HIV prevalence is low (<1.0%), but there high potential persists for a generalized epidemic due to:
 - high demand for commercial sex driven by male clients
 - unsafe injecting practices among injecting drug users
 - low condom use in sex trade settings
 - high prevalence of curable STIs, poor care seeking
- In Bangladesh, about 18% of the men from general population reported having had non-marital sexual relationship
- In Bangladesh, every year estimated 31 million unprotected non-marital sexual contacts take place by adult men
- Among male IDUs in Dhaka City, HIV prevalence increased from 1.4% in 1999 to about 7% in 2006



Summary

- Above one-third of the MCs were within ≤ 24 years age group and nearly 30% never attended school. Above one-half of the MCs were never-married.
- Nearly one-third of the MCs used ISs. Cannabis (60.6%), alcohol (51.9%), heroin (6.8%), sleeping pills (5.7%), and injecting drugs (1.5%) were used by these MCs.
- Consistent condom use with non-marital sexual partners in the last one month was reported by only 13.2% of the IS-users.
- Almost one-half (45.0%) of the IS-users experienced the symptom of STIs in the last 12 months.
- The IS-users were 1.7 times more likely to have symptom of STIs than the non-users.



Thank you

