

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND HIV IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Gender-based violence (GBV) as a cause and consequence of HIV:

Across Asia and the Pacific, key populations - including sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender people, people who inject drugs, as well as persons living with HIV - are subject to gender-based discrimination and violence.



Source: USAID/PEPFAR; 2013

Violence or the fear of violence can increase the vulnerability of key populations to HIV by making it difficult or impossible to set the terms of an equal relationship. It is more difficult for individuals to refuse sex when in a relationship, to get their partners to be faithful, or to use a condom. Violence can also be a barrier for key populations in accessing HIV prevention, care, and treatment services. This in turn limits their ability to learn their HIV status and adopt and maintain protective measures ranging from negotiating safer sex to getting and staying on treatment.

Data on GBV and HIV in Asia and the Pacific:

Available data and analysis on GBV and HIV in the region can be found on the HIV and AIDS Data Hub website. This includes information on groups affected by GBV, including women from key populations, transgender people, men who have sex with men, women and men living with HIV, young key populations, adolescents and children living with HIV. To find out more, view or download the following:

- Overview in slides
- Infographic showing key data on GBV against key populations in Asia and the Pacific

Settings where violence occurs:

Gender-based abuse and violence towards key populations (including people living with HIV) occurs in various public and private settings. These include the home (intimate partner violence); within the community (such as on the streets), other public spaces (health-care settings), places of work; and state-run institutions (e.g., health and social welfare facilities, police stations, among others).

Addressing the twin epidemics of GBV and HIV:

This involves a two-pronged approach of:

- integrating action on gender and GBV into existing programme packages for key populations (including people living with HIV); and
- integrating 'key population-inclusiveness' into mainstream gender, GBV, sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and HIV programs.

The balance between the two prongs will depend on the local context, such as the legal status of key populations (e.g. whether mainstream GBV services are even permitted to provide services to them). Combined, these approaches can add up to increased GBV awareness, information, support and services for key populations. The following resource provides more information on how this two-pronged approach can be applied in concentrated HIV epidemic settings:

- Aidstar 2/USAID (2013) *Technical Paper: Review of Training and Programming Resources on Gender-Based Violence against Key Populations: Addressing Sex Workers, Men Who Have Sex With Men, Transgender People and People Who Inject Drugs.*

Relevant links

→ More resources are listed in the 'Publications' section available at:
<http://www.aidsdatahub.org/Thematic-areas/Gender-based-violence>

UNAIDS: Eliminating gender inequalities
<http://www.unaids.org/en/targetsandcommitments/eliminatinggenderinequalities>

WHO: Violence against women and HIV
<http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/violence/hiv/en/>

USAID/PEPFAR: Addressing Gender and HIV/AIDS
<http://www.pepfar.gov/press/223084.htm>

UNFPA and WAVE:
<http://www.health-genderviolence.org/>

UNDP: Linkages between violence against women and HIV in Asia and the Pacific
http://www.asia-pacific.undp.org/content/rbap/en/home/library/democratic_governance/hiv_aids/discussion-paper--linkages-between-violence-against-women-and-hi.html

The People Living with HIV Stigma Index
<http://www.stigmaindex.org/>

UNFPA, UNDP, APNSW (CASAM): The Rights(s) Evidence: Sex Work, Violence and HIV in Asia
http://www.asia-pacific.undp.org/content/rbap/en/home/library/democratic_governance/hiv_aids/the-right-s-evidence--sex-work--violence-and-hiv-in-asia--a-mul.html