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Gender and HIV prevention: Socio-cognitive and situational determinants of condom use among internal migrants in Shenzhen, China

Xiaona Liu¹, Jingguang Tan², Vicki Erasmus¹, Lenneke van Genugten¹, Xinying Sun³ and Jan Hendrik Richardus¹

¹University Medical Center Rotterdam, The Netherlands

²Shenzhen Center for Disease Control and Prevention, China

³Peking University, China

Introduction: Although condom use has proven to be a cost-effective measure to prevent HIV infection, condom use among Chinese internal migrants is still low, and little is known as to what factors influencing actual condom use in the population. This study assessed socio-cognitive and situational determinants of condom use to develop an effective HIV prevention intervention targeting internal migrants in China.

Methods: A cross-sectional survey was conducted among 400 internal migrants in Shenzhen, between April 2013 and June 2013. Participants were asked by a self-administered anonymous questionnaire on socio-demography, socio-cognitive conditions (constructs of health belief model, social norm and self-efficacy) on condom use, and situational sexual behavior. Multilevel univariate and multivariable logistic regression analyses were performed across gender to study determinants of a) condom use during the last intercourse and b) consistent condom use in the preceding year.

Results: Of the 364 respondents who completed the questionnaire, 268 (130 males, 138 females) were sexually active migrants (73.6%) and included in analysis. During the most recent intercourse, 131 (48.9%) respondents used a condom: Condom use was more likely to occur in migrant males who were living with children (OR, 2.77; 95%CI: 1.23-6.26), had been in the city shorter (OR, 0.92; 95%CI: 0.85-0.99), perceived higher benefits (OR, 1.58; 95%CI: 1.10-2.27), and discussed condom use (OR, 3.02; 95%CI: 1.14-8.00). In migrant females higher educational level (OR_{high/low}, 7.47; 95%: 1.59-35.0; OR_{middle/low}, 2.95; 95%: 1.27-6.85) and higher self-efficacy (OR, 1.69, 95%CI: 1.06-2.72) were associated with condom use. In the preceding year, 89 (33.2%) respondents used condoms consistently; consistent condom use was more likely to occur in migrants who perceived less barriers (OR, 0.55; 95%CI: 0.32-0.93 in males; OR, 0.40, 95%CI: 0.22-0.73 in females).

Conclusions: Future HIV prevention interventions targeting Chinese internal migrants should consider barriers of condom use. Increasing perception of benefits, and encouraging discussion on condom use can contribute to increased condom use in migrant males, especially for those who have migrated a long time ago and are living with no children in the city. Migrant females may benefit by being empowered with higher education and self-efficacy.

Biography

Xiaona Liu, MD, MSc completed her Bachelor courses in medicine in Shanxi Medical University in 2008, and obtained her first master degree in social medicine and health education from Peking University in 2011. Since then, she moved to the Netherland and working as a junior researcher at the infectious disease control section in Erasmus MC, University Medical Center Rotterdam. She obtained her second master degree in Public Health from Netherlands Institute for Health Science in 2013, and expects to be entitled a PhD degree in 2015. She has published more than 17 papers (first author in 13) in reputed journals. Her current research interests mainly are social cognitive theory-based interventions, sexual risk prevention and HIV transmission in labor migration.

x.liu@erasmusmc.nl