

# Sexually transmitted infections in male heterosexual Dutch clients who visited a cross-border female sex worker; a 3 year retrospective study

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## INTRODUCTION

- Dutch male heterosexual clients report to visit cross-border Female Sex Workers (FSW), and may therefore be at risk for sexually transmitted infections (STI).

## AIM

- The aim of this study was to assess whether having commercial cross-border sex is associated with being diagnosed with an STI more frequently than visiting an Dutch FSW.



Figure 1. Counties with STI clinics participating in current study (in purple)

## METHODS

- An observational retrospective study was performed using patient-based data of 8 Dutch STI clinics bordering Germany (see figure 1), between 2011-2013.
- All male heterosexual clients of FSWs were selected and data on country of visiting FSW and occurrence of STI were used.

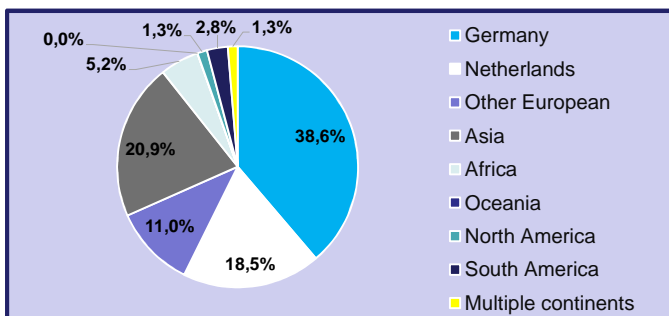


Figure 2. Visited countries by clients of FSW

## RESULTS

- 535 clients had a known country of visit.
- Making cross-border visits to Germany was most frequently reported (38.7%), followed by visits to Asia (20.9%) and within the Netherlands (18.5%), see figure 2.
- STI positivity was 15% among clients making cross-border visits, 7.9% among clients visiting another country and 7.1% among clients who visited the Netherlands.
- In multivariable analysis (see table below) clients were more likely to be STI positive when they had 20 or more partners (OR=3.5; 95%CI 1.4 to 8.6) in the last 6 months and did not use a condom during last sexual contact (OR=2.3; 95%CI 1.2 to 4.3).

Table. Demographic and behavioral predictors for STI positivity among clients

	Univariable regression analysis OR(95%CI)	Multivariable regression analysis OR(95%)
<b>Age</b>		
<25 years	ref	nt
25-44 years	0.9(0.4-1.8)	
>45 years	1.1(0.5-2.5)	
<b>Country of birth</b>		
Netherlands	ref	ref
Other	<b>0.4(0.1-1.1)</b>	0.4(0.1-1.2)
<b>No. of sex partners</b>		
0-2	ref	ref
3-5	1.7(0.8-3.6)	1.7(0.8-3.6)
6-20	1.8(0.8-4.1)	1.6(0.7-3.9)
>20	<b>3.7(1.5-9.0)</b>	<b>3.5(1.4-8.6)</b>
<b>Condom use</b>		
Yes	ref	ref
No	<b>2.1(1.2-3.9)</b>	<b>2.3(1.2-4.3)</b>
<b>Sex abroad</b>		
No	ref	ref
Yes, cross-border	2.4(1.0-5.6)	2.1(0.9-5.2)
Yes, another country	<b>1.1(0.4-2.7)</b>	1.0(0.4-2.5)

## CONCLUSIONS and RECOMMENDATIONS

- Country of visit does not appear to be a risk factor for STI in clients of FSW.
- STI prevention advice should remain focused on reduction of multiple partners and adequate condom use.



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