Title of Article: Knowledge, Attitude and Prevention Mechanism against HIV/AIDS among Off-Street Sex Workers in Metropolitan Lagos.

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Abstract: The home based category of prostitutes is completely shielded from any form of societal pressures, stigmatization and discrimination unlike their counterparts on the street. The study captured this not too known category as understanding them will assist in the campaigns and programmes towards effective prevention/reduction of HIV/AIDS in Nigeria. The study adopted a quantitative research method in data gathering. Non-probability informant technique sampling procedure was adopted for the study. 168 off-street female sex workers were selected from suburbs of Lagos metropolis and interviewed on face-to-face using semi-structured questionnaires. The study revealed that about 64.3% of the respondents belong to the Christian faith and 35.7% are currently married though not living with their husbands. It also revealed that more than half (55.4%) of the respondents have attained secondary level education; 78.6% of them have no other regular means of livelihood; an overwhelming proportion of them (87.5%) have never attended any programme on HIV/AIDS and another huge proportion (98.2%) do not or occasionally use condom. Regression analysis shows that religious affiliation, marital status, remarriage intention and family size are negatively related to attending programme on HIV. While family size and remarriage intention are statistically significant, education attainment and income level are positively associated with attending HIV/AIDS counseling or programme. The paper, recommends massive sexual and health education as well as financial empowerment through occupational rehabilitation.

Key words: Knowledge, off-street sex workers, attitude, empowerment, home based, prostitute