



EPIC: ASSESSMENT OF RISK FACTORS FOR
SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS IN HIGH
RISK COMMUNITIES IN SANTO DOMINGO AND
LA ROMANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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OBJECTIVES

- Evaluate the prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in La Romana and Santo Domingo
- Explore risk factors associated with STIs in these populations:
 - People living with HIV/AIDS
 - Transactional sex workers
 - Pregnant adolescents
 - Trans women
 - Batey residents
 - Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)

JUSTIFICATION

- There are 38 million cases of curable STIs per year in Latin America and the Caribbean (WHO) [1]
- Information on STI prevalence in DR is essential to
 - Disseminate information about the impact of STIs in key populations
 - Design appropriate interventions to address the problem

METHODS: BATEY SELECTION



METHODS: STUDY PROCEDURE

- Time-location sampling (TLS) [2]
- Questionnaire
- STI testing
 - Gonorrhea, chlamydia, trichomonas, HPV, HIV, syphilis, hepatitis B & C, mycoplasma, ureaplasma
- Results/treatment visit



POSITIVE RESULTS: HIV

HIV	
N (203)	%
I	.49%

POSITIVE RESULTS: HEPATITIS B

Total: Hepatitis B Surface Antigen	
N (203)	%
19	9.3

Breakdown by Batey			
Batey I		Batey II	
N (27)	%	N (25)	%
9	33	8	32

POSITIVE RESULTS: ABNORMAL PAP AND HPV

Abnormal Pap Results	
N (116)	%
21	18

Total HPV Positive	
N (116)	%
36	31

Breakdown by HPV Serotype		
HPV 16 (%)	HPV 18/45 (%)	Indeterminate High Risk (%)
25	8.3	67

POSITIVE RESULTS: CHLAMYDIA,
TRICHOMONAS VAGINALIS, UREAPLASMA SPP.

Chlamydia (urine/cervical/ vaginal)		Chlamydia (anal)	
N (203)	%	N (203)	%
32	15.7	18	9.0

<i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>	
N (203)	%
27	13

<i>Ureaplasma spp.</i>	
N (203)	%
60	30

DISCUSSION: HIV RESULTS

- In 2007, HIV prevalence in the bateyes was 3.2%, four times higher than the national average of 0.8% [2, 3]
- HIV testing and prevention programs conducted by CFLR and other local health organizations in the bateyes over the past decade may have helped curbed prevalence of HIV infection.
- Analysis of study questionnaire data may help to establish potential correlations between the low rates of HIV and role that education and testing has had on the batey population.

DISCUSSION: HEPATITIS B RESULTS

- In a 2012 study looking at rates of HBsAg world-wide, less than 2% of individuals were reported to be HBsAg positive in Tropical and Central Latin America [4]. In a 2016 study looking at pregnant women in Haiti, 2.5% were HBsAg positive [5].
- In response to the study rates, Batey I (33%) and Batey II (32%), CFLR and the Ministry of Health established a Hepatitis B vaccination program for the bateyes.
- We are currently conducting testing to explore cases of acute and chronic Hepatitis B.

DISCUSSION: ABNORMAL PAP, HPV,
CHLAMYDIA, *TRICHOMONAS VAGINALIS*,
UREAPLASMA SPP.

- Little is known about the prevalence of STIs in this population, as no comprehensive STI screening available (in the general population)
- High rates of HPV, CT, *trichomonas vaginalis*, and *ureaplasma spp.* highlight the need for STI education and targeted prevention initiatives
- Particularly important is providing access to pap smear testing for prevention purposes, as the prevalence of abnormal pap smears is high.

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