

Increased risk of HPV infection, but not increased risk of cervical dysplasia:  
HIV-negative commercial sex workers in Senegal

Angela K. Ulrich

A thesis  
submitted in partial fulfillment of the  
requirements for the degree of

Master of Public Health

University of Washington

2013

Committee:

Stephen E. Hawes

Rachel L. Winer

Program Authorized to Offer Degree:  
School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology

©Copyright 2013

Angela K. Ulrich

University of Washington

**Abstract**

Increased risk of HPV infection, but no increased risk of cervical dysplasia:

HIV-negative commercial sex workers in Senegal

Angela K. Ulrich

Chair of the Supervisory Committee:

Stephen E. Hawes

Department of Epidemiology

Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a causative agent in cervical cancer development and commercial sex workers (CSW) are at high risk for exposure to STDs, including HPV. From October 1994-January 1998, CSW and non-CSW were interviewed, cervical swabs were taken for HPV DNA testing, and cervical cytology was conducted. We found that CSW have a higher prevalence of current HPV infection with high-risk HPV-16 (OR: 2.56, 95% CI: 1.46-4.46) and HPV-18 (OR:2.08, 95% CI:1.03-4.20) compared to non-CSW. Likewise, CSW had a higher rate of incident HPV-16 DNA detection (HR: 3.01, 95% CI: 1.20-7.54). However, prevalence of low and high grade squamous intraepithelial lesions (LSIL) and (HSIL) were not significantly higher in CSW compared to non-CSW (OR: 0.61, 95% CI: 0.32-1.16 and OR: 0.21, 95% CI: 0.07-0.65, respectively) and neither were incident cases of LSIL or HSIL (HR: 0.95, 95% CI: 0.051-1.77 and OR: 0.76, 95% CI: 0.30-1.91, respectively). We hypothesize that unmeasured immune responses in repeatedly exposed women may be responsible for the lack of association between commercial sex work and cervical dysplasia despite the increased risk of infection with high-risk types of HPV.

## **Introduction**

Worldwide, cervical cancer is the third most frequent cancer in women and is disproportionately high in low-resource countries where access to routine screening is limited (1, 2). Human papillomavirus (HPV), the most common sexually transmitted disease (STD), has been recognized as a necessary cause of cervical cancer and HPV DNA has been found in 99.7% of cervical cancers (3-6). HPV types 16 and 18 account for a disproportionate number of cervical cancer cases—approximately 70% of invasive cervical cancer (ICC) can be attributed to HPV-16 or HPV-18 (7, 8). Development of cervical cancer typically spans a period of 5-20 years and involves a number of steps: infection of the cervix with HPV, persistence of HPV infection, progression to precancerous squamous intraepithelial lesions (SIL), and development of invasive cancer (9). Factors associated with cervical cancer are much the same as factors shown to be associated with acquiring HPV infection, some because they increase the risk for HPV infection and others because they promote HPV related carcinogenesis. These include a high number of sexual partners, early age at first sexual intercourse, increased frequency of intercourse, prostitution, the sexual behavior of the women's sexual partners, tobacco smoking, high parity, inconsistent condom use, other STDs, and long-term use of oral contraceptives (3, 10-17).

Although persistent infection with high-risk types of human papillomavirus (HPV) is causally associated with development of disease in the genital tract (18-22), mounting evidence suggests that most HPV infections are self-limiting and only a minority progress to invasive cervical cancer (2, 23). Most genital HPV infections are benign, subclinical,

and self-limited and a high proportion of HPV associated with low grade SIL (LSIL) regress spontaneously (9, 23). It remains unclear why some untreated cases of HPV progress to cervical cancer while others do not (24). One hypothesis is that an immune response may mediate the progression to cervical cancer: a number of studies have investigated the role of the immune system in development of high grade SIL (HSIL) and ICC by looking at immunocompromised individuals (HIV-positive) and the effect of persistence of HPV on the development of HSIL/ICC (25, 26).

Because risk for HPV infection has been associated with an increased number of sex partners and increased frequency of sex, (10, 15, 27-32) female commercial sex workers (CSW) are considered a high-risk group for HPV infection, but there is mixed evidence of the true risk sex workers are at for acquiring infection or developing HPV-related cervical abnormalities. In a study from Eastern India, the prevalence of HPV of any type in female sex workers was high (73.3%)(33). In a study in Spain of commercial sex workers and controls from a family planning clinic, commercial sex work was associated with a higher incidence and persistence of high-risk HPV infection (34). However, in a cross sectional study conducted of female sex workers in Madagascar, the prevalence of HPV infection (36.7%) was lower than that observed in the United States' National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) (42.5%) (50). Regardless of their high-risk status, there were no cases of HSIL detected in sex workers in the Madagascar study (15). In a study of commercial sex workers and controls in Sydney, HPV-related cytological abnormalities were more common in CSW, but there was no significant difference in the rates of cervical HPV infection between CSW and controls (35).

It has been hypothesized that sex workers may have differential immunological responses to infection with HPV due to more consistent and repetitive exposure to HPV compared to the general population (27, 36). A number of studies of CSW suggest that older women, who remain sexually active with multiple partners, have significantly lower risk of HPV detection (12, 37-39) which may be indicative of immune protection. Likewise, in a study from Mexico City, CSW involved in prostitution for less than a year were at higher risk of HPV acquisition than more experienced sex workers (40). In addition, Hernandez, et al. found that infection with any type of HPV was less prevalent among sex workers that had the highest number of clients (27). To expand the immunological hypothesis, it has been suggested that the use of oral contraceptives compared to condoms is associated with decreased risk for HPV infection, possibly because of the influence of estrogens and progestins on the local immune response (20). Laurence postulates that local cellular immunity to HPV can be elicited in women with multiple sex partners and that male-to-female transmission of HPV can be blocked by local mucosal-based responses that require repetitive, uninterrupted exposure to a pathogen (36).

In this study, we investigated the prevalence and incidence of HPV infection and cervical dysplasia in a group of HIV-negative CSW, women presumably continuously exposed to HPV, compared to HIV-negative low-risk non-CSW. The purpose of this paper is 1) to compare the prevalence of HPV-16, HPV-18, and cytologic abnormalities related to HPV infection in a cross sectional study between CSW and non-CSW, 2) to compare the

incidence of HPV-16, HPV-18, and cytology in a longitudinal study between CSW and non-CSW and 3) to see if the association between HPV and cervical dysplasia differs between CSW and non-CSW.

## **Methods**

### *Study Population*

The study population, collection of specimens, and study procedures have been described in detail elsewhere (25, 26). In brief, from October 1994-January 1998, women over 15 years of age who presented at the University of Dakar outpatient infectious disease clinic (n=4349) and commercial sex workers attending an STD clinic in either Dakar (n=773) or M'Bour (n=270) were offered HIV testing as well as cytological screening with cervical swabs for detection of abnormal cervical cells and type-specific HPV DNA. Only individuals who were HIV-negative at baseline are included in the current analysis (893 CSW and 3907 non-CSW); HIV-positive individuals (150 CSW and 442 non-CSW) were excluded.

In the parent study, HPV and HIV positive women were oversampled for enrollment into follow-up for high grade dysplasia, with and 939 women were prospectively. As with the cross-sectional study, only HIV-negative individuals are included in this analysis (160 CSW and 236 non-CSW). Women were followed up every 4 months for a maximum of 5.4 years to assess the risk of developing cervical lesions. At each visit, women completed a detailed interview with questions about sexual behavior and medical history. Cervical HPV DNA detection was done with polymerase chain

reaction with HPV L1 consensus primers, HPV type-specific oligonucleotide probes (high-risk types 16, 18, 31, 33, 35, 39, 45, 51, 52, 56 and a generic probe). Initially, screening for the presence of high-risk HPV was done with a 10-probe mixture, testing for HPV DNA by PCR that used the consensus primers MY09 and MY11, which are specific for a highly conserved region in the L1 open reading frame. Positive samples were then reamplified to assess presence of 12 HPV types in primer groups for low-risk HPV types (i.e., combined HPV 6 and 11) and for high-risk HPV types (i.e., HPV 16; HPV 18; combined HPV 31, 33, 35, and 39; combined HPV 45 and 56; and combined HPV 51 and 52). When new probes were available in April, 1998, HPV detection and typing with probes for high and low-risk types was completed (high-risk types 16, 18, 26, 31, 33, 35, 39, 45, 51, 52, 55, 56, 58, 59, 68, 73, 82, and 83 and low-risk types 6, 11, 40, 42, 53, 54, 57, 66, 84). Details of PCR detection have been detailed elsewhere (41). Only women who were negative for the specific outcome of interest (HPV-16, HPV-18, LSIL, HSIL) at baseline were included in the follow-up analysis.

### *Cytology Screening*

Pap smears were interpreted and classified according to the Bethesda System as unsatisfactory, negative, atypical squamous cells of uncertain significance (ASCUS), low grade squamous intraepithelial lesions (LSIL), high grade squamous intraepithelial lesions (HSIL), or invasive cervical cancer (ICC). More detail can be found elsewhere (25).

### *Variables*

Outcomes of interest in this analysis are HPV-16, HPV-18, LSIL (mild dysplasia, koilocytic or condylomatous atypia), and HSIL (moderate to severe dysplasia). The variables for HPV-16 and HPV-18 are binary indicators of whether or not an individual has type-specific DNA positivity for HPV. A woman was considered to have dysplasia if cytology revealed LSIL or greater.

Potential confounders of interest included age, smoking status, alcohol use, contraceptive method, number of children, and previous Pap exam were obtained from the questionnaire. A categorical variable for age was created for individuals less than 35 years and 35 years and older in order to capture the risk of both younger and older individuals. Binary indicators for alcohol use (current use of alcohol) and smoking status (current smoker or non-smoker) were used in the modeling. A categorical variable was used to adjust for current contraceptive method—categories included were none, hormonal contraceptive, condoms, or other. The variable used for exposure to a previous Pap exam was a binary indicator of self-report of having received a Pap test prior to enrollment (ever or never).

### *Analysis*

All statistical analyses were performed using Stata 11. Unadjusted logistic regression models were first fit to compare CSW to non-CSW for the outcomes of HPV-16 DNA detection, HPV-18 DNA detection, low grade squamous intraepithelial lesions or greater, or high grade squamous intraepithelial lesions or greater. Age, as a categorical variable

(<25 years, 25-34 years, 35+ years), was evaluated as an effect modifier due to an *a priori* hypothesis that highest rates of HPV infection would be seen in the youngest and oldest age groups, due to evidence that prevalence peaks in the early twenties, is followed by an age-related decline, and in developing countries a second prevalence peak is observed in older women (42). However, no effect modification was observed in these age groups. Younger vs. older age (<35 years, 35+ years) was then considered as an effect modifier due to *a priori* information that younger individuals may be at a different risk than older individuals and the potential for a differential immune response to HPV infection by age. Age, as a continuous variable was also considered a potential confounder to more precisely adjust for age. Smoking status, alcohol use, contraceptive method, previous Pap test, and number of children were also considered potential confounders. Confounders were adjusted for in the model if they changed the point estimate of the odds ratio by 10% or more in a bivariate analysis. 95% confidence intervals were calculated for the odds ratio and associations were considered statistically significant at an alpha level of 0.05.

Using the subset of individuals with follow-up data, Cox proportional hazards models were fit to compare incidence of DNA detection of any HPV types between CSW and non-CSW. Age, smoking status, alcohol use, contraceptive method, and number of children were considered *a priori* as potential confounders in the model. Confounders were adjusted for in the model if they changed the point estimate of the hazard ratio by 10% or more. 95% confidence intervals were calculated for the hazard ratio and associations were considered statistically significant at an alpha level of 0.05.

Incidence of LSIL or greater and incidence of HSIL or greater were compared between CSW and non-CSW using Cox proportional hazards models. Separate risk estimates were calculated for strata defined by high-risk HPV status (detection of HPV-16 DNA and/or HPV-18 DNA).

## **Results**

### *Socio-demographic characteristics*

A complete list of socio-demographic characteristics by sex-worker status can be found in Table 1. The age distribution in CSW and non-CSW was fairly similar, with approximately 20% less than 25 years of age. Non-CSWs had, on average, slightly more children than CSW (4.0 vs 2.6, respectively). CSW were less likely to be currently married and more likely to be single or previously married than non-CSW. CSW were also more likely to have had a previous Pap, use condoms as a form of contraception, be a current smoker, and use alcohol.

### *Prevalence of HPV detection and cervical dysplasia*

Prevalence of HPV infection and results of cytology comparing commercial sex workers to non-commercial sex workers can be seen in Table 2. Effect modification by age was assessed for all outcomes, but the point estimate of the odds ratio did not differ significantly between age groups for HPV-16, HPV-18, LSIL or greater, or HSIL or greater. The odds of being infected with any type of HPV differed between younger (<35 years) and older (35+ years) age groups and separate odds ratios were reported for these

two groups. Age was considered a residual confounding variable and was adjusted for as a continuous variable in all analyses.

The prevalence of any HPV infection was significantly greater in CSW than non-CSW in the younger age group after adjusting for contraceptive method, number of children and smoking status (OR=1.54, 95% CI: 1.07-2.20), but there was not a significant difference in prevalence of infection with any HPV between CSW and non-CSW of the older age group (OR=0.97, 95% CI: 0.43-2.16).

HPV-16 was more prevalent than HPV-18 in both CSW and non-CSW (5.1% vs 2.2% and 2.7% vs 1.6%, respectively). HPV-16 and HPV-18 infection were both significantly higher among CSW than among non-CSW. Controlling for age, contraceptive method, number of children and smoking status, CSW had 2.56 times the odds of HPV-16 DNA detection compared to non-CSW (95% CI: 1.46-4.46). Likewise, CSW had 2.08 times the odds of HPV-18 DNA detection compared to non-CSW (95% CI: 1.03-4.20).

Despite the higher HPV infection rate, the prevalence of LSIL or greater was somewhat higher in non-CSW compared to CSW (3.9% vs 3.3%, respectively), though not statistically significant. After adjustment for age, contraceptive method, number of children, and smoking status, the odds of LSIL or greater in CSW was 0.61 times the odds of development of LSIL or greater in non-CSW (95% CI: 0.32-1.16).

Prevalence of HSIL or greater was low in both CSW and non-CSW and the power to detect an association was low: there were only 8 cases on HSIL or greater in CSW. However, the odds of having prevalent HSIL or greater was significantly lower in CSW compared to non-CSW after adjusting for age, contraceptive method, number of children, and smoking status (OR=0.21, 95% CI: 0.07-0.65).

#### *Incidence of HPV detection and cervical dysplasia*

The number of individuals included in each of the follow-up analyses are shown in the risk tables in Figures 1 and 2. The cumulative incidences of HPV-16 (15 cases in CSW vs. 12 cases in non-CSW over 48 months) and HPV-18 (6 cases in CSW vs. 9 cases in non-CSW over 48 months) were higher among CSW than non-CSW (Table 3). After adjusting for age, smoking status, and contraceptive method, CSW were detected with HPV-16 DNA at 3 times the rate of non-CSW (95% CI: 1.20-7.54). The incidence of HPV-18 DNA detection was lower in CSW compared to non-CSW, though the difference was not significant (HR=0.64, 95% CI: 0.16-2.64).

The cumulative incidence of LSIL was higher in non-CSW compared to CSW (25 cases in CSW vs. 43 cases in non-CSW over 48 months) and the incidence of LSIL was higher among the group with current HPV DNA detection. After adjustment for age, smoking status, and contraceptive method, HPV-negative and HPV-positive CSW were less likely than non-CSW to develop LSIL (HR=0.34, 95% CI: 0.11-1.08 and HR=0.87, 95% CI: 0.39-1.97, respectively), though the difference was not significant. The cumulative incidence of HSIL was lower in CSW compared to non-CSW (12 cases in CSW vs. 21

cases in non-CSW over 48 months). Similar to LSIL, currently HPV-positive individuals were more likely to develop HSIL. After adjustment for age, smoking status, and contraceptive method, HPV-negative and HPV-positive CSW were less likely than non-CSW to develop LSIL (HR=0.30, 95% CI: 0.04-2.00 and HR=0.79, 95% CI: 0.25-2.47 respectively), though the difference was not significant.

## **Discussion**

HPV DNA of any type was detected in 19.0% of CSW and 11.3% of non-CSW less than 35 years of age, while HPV of any type was detected in similar proportions in both CSW and non-CSW (7.6% and 7.4%, respectively) greater than 35 years of age. Not surprisingly, as HPV-16 is the most prevalent type of HPV worldwide, (18) HPV-16 was more prevalent than HPV-18 in this population, with 5.1% of CSW and 2.2% of non-CSW testing positive for HPV-16 DNA and 2.7% of CSW and 1.6% of non-CSW testing positive for HPV-18 DNA.

CSW had over a two-fold increase in risk of being currently infected with high risk HPV (HPV-16 and HPV-18). Commercial sex work is associated with many of the well-documented risk factors for HPV-infection: higher number of sex partners, smoking, oral contraceptive use, inconsistent condom use, and infection with other STDs (10-15); even after adjustment for current smoking and contraceptive use, the risk was higher among CSW. This supports the hypothesis that CSW have more consistent and repetitive exposure to STDs, including high-risk HPV types (27).

The higher prevalence of high-risk types observed in CSW compared to non-CSW is confirmed in the increased incidence of high-risk types observed in the follow-up study; CSW who were HPV-16 negative at baseline were more likely than non-CSW who were HPV-16 negative at baseline to develop detectable HPV-16 in follow-up. Again, this is consistent with the literature that CSW are at increased risk for development of HPV infection (10, 15, 27, 34, 43-45). There was not a statistically significant increase in risk of detection of HPV-18 in CSW in the follow-up study, potentially due to small numbers.

Commercial sex work can serve as a proxy for measurement of both recent and lifetime sex partners and it makes intuitive sense that the greater the number of partners, the greater risk of infection. Previous work has shown that a high number of sex partners increases the risk of high-risk HPV infection, but that there may be a threshold for increasing risk (46). Future studies of this population should include the number of lifetime sex partners in order to determine if a similar threshold for HPV risk is observed among commercial sex workers.

Age did modify the association between CSW and detection of any type of HPV DNA. Detection of any type of HPV was significantly greater in CSW compared to non-CSW in women less than age 35. These findings are consistent with previous studies that have suggested older women who remain sexually active, even with multiple partners, have significantly lower risk of HPV infection compared to sexually active younger women (12, 37-39). CSW greater than age 35 were at no increased risk of detection of HPV of any type compared to non-CSW. This supports the hypothesis that consistent and

repetitive exposure to HPV could elicit a protective immune response to the virus (36). Another reason why there may be no difference between CSW and non-CSW in the older age group is because it is likely that type-specific infection elicits immune protection against subsequent reinfection (47) and may provide cross protection (48). It is likely that CSW were exposed to many types of HPV as young women, cleared the infection, and developed immunity.

It is possible that immune protection may play a role in our observation that age did not modify the association between CSW and detection of the high-risk types (HPV-16 and HPV-18). This finding may suggest that infection with high-risk types is more likely to persist than infection with low-risk types, however this study used cross-sectional data, making it difficult to assert anything about persistence in this population. Another explanation for the lack of effect modification by age for HPV-16 and HPV-18 is that prevalence may not have been high enough in this population for us to observe any effect modification by age.

In the absence of differential immunity to repeated HPV exposure, one might expect that CSW would have a higher risk of LSIL and HSIL due to the increased risk of infection with high-risk HPV and other STDs among CSW (3-6). However, there was not an increased prevalence of LSIL or HSIL among CSW compared to non-CSW and, in fact, there was a statistically significant decrease in the prevalence of HSIL in commercial sex workers. This may provide further evidence that sustained high levels of exposure to HPV could generate an immune response strong enough to decrease the risk of

developing cervical dysplasia (36). One limiting factor of this finding is that this was cross-sectional data and that there was a relatively small number of individuals with HSIL, resulting in limited study power.

CSW in the follow-up study were at a decreased risk for development of LSIL and HSIL compared to non-CSW. As expected, the hazard ratio for development of LSIL or HSIL comparing CSW to non-CSW was higher among those who had detectable high-risk HPV and those who did not. Again, this may suggest that sustained high levels of exposure to high-risk HPV confer natural immunity that is protective against development of cervical lesions and cervical cancer (27, 36, 40). However, it is important to note that low-risk types cause LSIL, so it is not surprising that high-risk types are not associated with LSIL development (49).

The incidence and prevalence of HPV detection in both CSW are lower than the estimates of HPV infection from CSW in other populations (15, 33), and lower than the rates seen recently in general populations (50). This may be because the PCR assays that were available when this study was conducted, and used in this analysis, were less sensitive than PCR assays used in more recent studies. However, we do not suspect any differential misclassification of HPV status between CSW and non-CSW, leading us to believe that the associations we observe are real, and not due to measurement error.

Commercial sex work in Senegal is unique because CSW are screened monthly for STDs and if they test positive, are treated for their STD (51). Infection with HPV has been

shown to be significantly associated with other STDs(20) and there is some evidence that other sexually transmitted diseases, including *Trichomonas vaginalis* (TV), *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT), and *Herpes simplex virus* type 2 (HSV2) may increase risk of development of HPV-related cervical cancers (52-54). In addition, CT is associated with the persistence of HPV (55), a known risk factor for the development of cervical cancer and CT and GC infections were associated with the development of HSIL(56, 57). If CSW in this population are being tested and treated for other STDs, perhaps there is a protective effect resulting in less development of cervical cancer.

One limitation the limited study power, particularly for HSIL, in this population. Future studies should seek to utilize a similar longitudinal study design, powered to detect the risk associated with commercial sex work and development of LSIL and HSIL.

Future studies of similar populations should determine if CSW have a decreased likelihood of persistent HPV infection and seek to quantify the effect of continuous exposure to high-risk HPV. Serologic studies comparing CSW to non-CSW could determine if antibody responses are associated with HPV clearance, and if level of continuous HPV exposure is associated with the strength of the antibody response. Future work should also further investigate the role of type-specific antibodies to HPV in the development of LSIL and HSIL. Finally, more work is needed to understand the biological role of repetitive and continuous exposure to high-risk types of HPV in the potential protection against LSIL, HSIL and invasive cervical cancers. A better

understanding of the natural immune response to HPV will help better prevent progression to invasive cervical cancer after infection with high-risk strains of HPV.

## Tables and Figures

**Table 1.** Demographic characteristics of HIV-negative commercial sex workers and non-commercial sex workers in Senegal.

	CSW (N=893)	non-CSW (N=3907)
	N (%)	N (%)
Age Category		
<25 years	180 (20.2)	731 (18.7)
25-34 years	456 (51.1)	1782 (45.6)
35+ years	257 (28.8)	1394 (35.7)
Number of Children (mean, SD)	2.6 (2.3)	4.0 (3.2)
Marital Status		
Single	304 (34.5)	416 (10.8)
Married	31 (3.5)	3070 (79.5)
Previously Married	547 (62.0)	374 (9.7)
Place of Birth		
Senegal	612 (69.4)	3659 (94.5)
Other	270 (30.6)	215 (5.6)
Ethnic Group		
Wolof	132 (28.1)	1042 (45.0)
Pulaar	81 (17.3)	476 (20.6)
Serere	57 (12.2)	271 (11.7)
Sarakhole	5 (1.1)	38 (1.6)
Mandjack	5 (1.1)	31 (1.3)
Diola	10 (2.1)	172 (7.4)
Other	179 (38.2)	285 (12.3)
Religion		
Muslim	336 (72.0)	2110 (91.2)
Christian	126 (27.0)	192 (8.3)
Other	5 (1.1)	12 (0.5)
Any School	296 (64.1)	1472 (63.7)
Contraceptive Method		
None	170 (19.2)	2152 (55.5)
Condoms	521 (58.8)	105 (2.7)
Hormone (pill, injection)	143(16.1)	712(18.4)
Other	52(5.9)	912 (23.5)
Previous Pap	221 (25.2)	620 (16.0)
Current Smoker	477 (53.7)	161 (4.1)
Any Alcohol Use	279 (31.6)	73 (1.9)

**Table 2.** Type-specific HPV infection and cytology outcomes by age category and commercial sex worker status.

	CSW		non-CSW		Odds Ratio <sup>a</sup>		
	n	%	n	%	OR	95% CI	p-value
Any HPV							
<35 years (N=3031)	119	19.0	279	11.3	1.54	(1.07, 2.20)	0.02
35+ years (N=1598)	19	7.6	102	7.4	0.97	(0.43, 2.16)	0.94
HPV-16 (N=4629)	45	5.1	85	2.2	2.56	(1.46, 4.46)	0.001
HPV-18 (N=4629)	24	2.7	60	1.6	2.08	(1.03, 4.20)	0.04
LSIL or greater (N=4498)	28	3.3	146	3.9	0.61	(0.32, 1.16)	0.13
HSIL or greater (N=4498)	8	0.9	57	1.5	0.21	(0.07, 0.65)	0.007

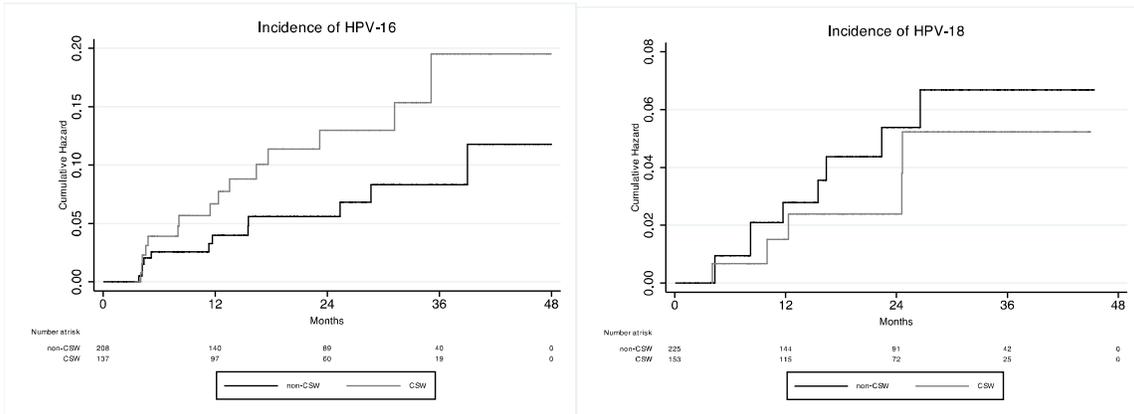
<sup>a</sup>Adjusted for age, contraceptive method, number of children, and smoking status.

**Table 3.** Hazard ratios comparing the incidence of type-specific HPV infection, LSIL, and HSIL in CSW to non-CSW.

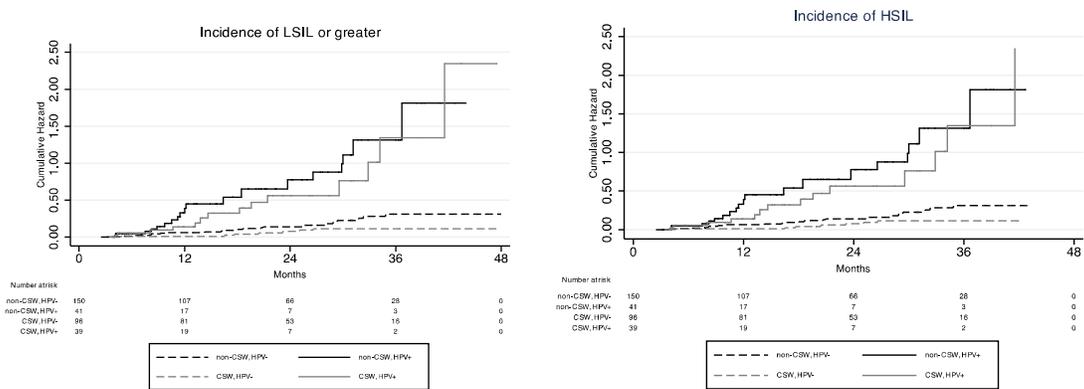
	Hazard Ratio <sup>a</sup>	95% CI	p-value
HPV-16	3.01	(1.20, 7.54)	0.02
HPV-18	0.64	(0.16, 2.64)	0.55
LSIL <sup>b</sup>	0.95	(0.51, 1.77)	0.87
HPV-	0.34	(0.11, 1.08)	0.07
HPV+	0.87	(0.39, 1.97)	0.75
HSIL <sup>b</sup>	0.76	(0.30, 1.91)	0.55
HPV-	0.30	(0.04, 2.00)	0.21
HPV+	0.79	(0.25, 2.47)	0.87

<sup>a</sup>Adjusted for smoking status, age, and contraceptive method.

<sup>b</sup>Detection of any HPV types.



**Figure 1.** Incidence of HPV-16 and HPV-18 by CSW and non-CSW status.



**Figure 2.** Incidence of LSIL and HSIL by CSW and non-CSW, stratified by presence or absence of HPV.

## References

1. Louie KS, de Sanjose S, Mayaud P. Epidemiology and prevention of human papillomavirus and cervical cancer in sub-saharan africa: A comprehensive review. *Trop Med Int Health*. 2009 Oct;14(10):1287-302.
2. Schiffman M, Castle PE, Jeronimo J, Rodriguez AC, Wacholder S. Human papillomavirus and cervical cancer. *Lancet*. 2007 Sep 8;370(9590):890-907.
3. Franco EL, Duarte-Franco E, Ferenczy A. Cervical cancer: Epidemiology, prevention and the role of human papillomavirus infection. *CMAJ*. 2001 Apr 3;164(7):1017-25.
4. Bosch FX, Manos MM, Munoz N, Sherman M, Jansen AM, Peto J, et al. Prevalence of human papillomavirus in cervical cancer: A worldwide perspective. international biological study on cervical cancer (IBSCC) study group. *J Natl Cancer Inst*. 1995 Jun 7;87(11):796-802.
5. Walboomers JM, Jacobs MV, Manos MM, Bosch FX, Kummer JA, Shah KV, et al. Human papillomavirus is a necessary cause of invasive cervical cancer worldwide. *J Pathol*. 1999 Sep;189(1):12-9.
6. Walboomers JM, Meijer CJ. Do HPV-negative cervical carcinomas exist? *J Pathol*. 1997 Mar;181(3):253-4.
7. Bosch FX, Burchell AN, Schiffman M, Giuliano AR, de Sanjose S, Bruni L, et al. Epidemiology and natural history of human papillomavirus infections and type-specific implications in cervical neoplasia. *Vaccine*. 2008 Aug 19;26 Suppl 10:K1-16.
8. Romanowski B. Long term protection against cervical infection with the human papillomavirus: Review of currently available vaccines. *Hum Vaccin*. 2011 Feb;7(2):161-9.
9. Schiffman M, Kjaer SK. Chapter 2: Natural history of anogenital human papillomavirus infection and neoplasia. *J Natl Cancer Inst Monogr*. 2003;(31)(31):14-9.

10. Couture MC, Page K, Stein ES, Sansothy N, Sichan K, Kaldor J, et al. Cervical human papillomavirus infection among young women engaged in sex work in phnom penh, cambodia: Prevalence, genotypes, risk factors and association with HIV infection. *BMC Infect Dis.* 2012 Jul 28;12:166,2334-12-166.
11. Palefsky JM, Holly EA. Molecular virology and epidemiology of human papillomavirus and cervical cancer. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev.* 1995 Jun;4(4):415-28.
12. Burk RD, Kelly P, Feldman J, Bromberg J, Vermund SH, DeHovitz JA, et al. Declining prevalence of cervicovaginal human papillomavirus infection with age is independent of other risk factors. *Sex Transm Dis.* 1996 Jul-Aug;23(4):333-41.
13. Sellors JW, Karwalajtys TL, Kaczorowski J, Mahony JB, Lytwyn A, Chong S, et al. Incidence, clearance and predictors of human papillomavirus infection in women. *CMAJ.* 2003 Feb 18;168(4):421-5.
14. Trottier H, Franco EL. The epidemiology of genital human papillomavirus infection. *Vaccine.* 2006 Mar 30;24 Suppl 1:S1-15.
15. Smith JS, Van Damme K, Randrianjafisamindrakotroka N, Ting J, Rabozakandraina T, Randrianasolo BS, et al. Human papillomavirus and cervical neoplasia among female sex workers in madagascar. *Int J Gynecol Cancer.* 2010 Dec;20(9):1593-6.
16. Schiffman MH, Brinton LA. The epidemiology of cervical carcinogenesis. *Cancer.* 1995 Nov 15;76(10 Suppl):1888-901.
17. Franco EL, Villa LL, Ruiz A, Costa MC. Transmission of cervical human papillomavirus infection by sexual activity: Differences between low and high oncogenic risk types. *J Infect Dis.* 1995 Sep;172(3):756-63.
18. Castellsague X. Natural history and epidemiology of HPV infection and cervical cancer. *Gynecol Oncol.* 2008 Sep;110(3 Suppl 2):S4-7.

19. Schlecht NF, Kulaga S, Robitaille J, Ferreira S, Santos M, Miyamura RA, et al. Persistent human papillomavirus infection as a predictor of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia. *JAMA*. 2001 Dec 26;286(24):3106-14.
20. Moscicki AB, Hills N, Shiboski S, Powell K, Jay N, Hanson E, et al. Risks for incident human papillomavirus infection and low-grade squamous intraepithelial lesion development in young females. *JAMA*. 2001 Jun 20;285(23):2995-3002.
21. Woodman CB, Collins S, Winter H, Bailey A, Ellis J, Prior P, et al. Natural history of cervical human papillomavirus infection in young women: A longitudinal cohort study. *Lancet*. 2001 Jun 9;357(9271):1831-6.
22. Ferenczy A, Franco E. Persistent human papillomavirus infection and cervical neoplasia. *Lancet Oncol*. 2002 Jan;3(1):11-6.
23. Baseman JG, Koutsky LA. The epidemiology of human papillomavirus infections. *J Clin Virol*. 2005 Mar;32 Suppl 1:S16-24.
24. Lin P, Koutsky LA, Critchlow CW, Apple RJ, Hawes SE, Hughes JP, et al. HLA class II DR-DQ and increased risk of cervical cancer among senegalese women. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev*. 2001 Oct;10(10):1037-45.
25. Hawes SE, Critchlow CW, Faye Niang MA, Diouf MB, Diop A, Toure P, et al. Increased risk of high-grade cervical squamous intraepithelial lesions and invasive cervical cancer among african women with human immunodeficiency virus type 1 and 2 infections. *J Infect Dis*. 2003 Aug 15;188(4):555-63.
26. Hawes SE, Critchlow CW, Sow PS, Toure P, N'Doye I, Diop A, et al. Incident high-grade squamous intraepithelial lesions in senegalese women with and without human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) and HIV-2. *J Natl Cancer Inst*. 2006 Jan 18;98(2):100-9.
27. Hernandez BY, Vu Nguyen T. Cervical human papillomavirus infection among female sex workers in southern vietnam. *Infect Agent Cancer*. 2008 Apr 23;3:7,9378-3-7.

28. Miyashita M, Agdamag DM, Sasagawa T, Matsushita K, Salud LM, Salud CO, et al. High-risk HPV types in lesions of the uterine cervix of female commercial sex workers in the philippines. *J Med Virol*. 2009 Mar;81(3):545-51.
29. Choi BS, Kim O, Park MS, Kim KS, Jeong JK, Lee JS. Genital human papillomavirus genotyping by HPV oligonucleotide microarray in korean commercial sex workers. *J Med Virol*. 2003 Nov;71(3):440-5.
30. Mak R, Van Renterghem L, Cuvelier C. Cervical smears and human papillomavirus typing in sex workers. *Sex Transm Infect*. 2004 Apr;80(2):118-20.
31. Winer RL, Lee SK, Hughes JP, Adam DE, Kiviat NB, Koutsky LA. Genital human papillomavirus infection: Incidence and risk factors in a cohort of female university students. *Am J Epidemiol*. 2003 Feb 1;157(3):218-26.
32. Vaccarella S, Franceschi S, Herrero R, Munoz N, Snijders PJ, Clifford GM, et al. Sexual behavior, condom use, and human papillomavirus: Pooled analysis of the IARC human papillomavirus prevalence surveys. *Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev*. 2006 Feb;15(2):326-33.
33. Ghosh I, Ghosh P, Bharti AC, Mandal R, Biswas J, Basu P. Prevalence of human papillomavirus and co-existent sexually transmitted infections among female sex workers, men having sex with men and injectable drug abusers from eastern india. *Asian Pac J Cancer Prev*. 2012;13(3):799-802.
34. Gonzalez C, Torres M, Canals J, Fernandez E, Belda J, Ortiz M, et al. Higher incidence and persistence of high-risk human papillomavirus infection in female sex workers compared with women attending family planning. *Int J Infect Dis*. 2011 Oct;15(10):e688-94.
35. Tideman RL, Thompson C, Rose B, Gilmour S, Marks C, van Beek I, et al. Cervical human papillomavirus infections in commercial sex workers-risk factors and behaviours. *Int J STD AIDS*. 2003 Dec;14(12):840-7.

36. Laurence J. Repetitive and consistent cervicovaginal exposure to certain viral pathogens appears to protect against their sexual acquisition in some women: Potential mechanisms. *J Reprod Immunol*. 2003 Feb;58(1):79-91.
37. Ho GY, Bierman R, Beardsley L, Chang CJ, Burk RD. Natural history of cervicovaginal papillomavirus infection in young women. *N Engl J Med*. 1998 Feb 12;338(7):423-8.
38. Kjaer SK, Svare EI, Worm AM, Walboomers JM, Meijer CJ, van den Brule AJ. Human papillomavirus infection in danish female sex workers. decreasing prevalence with age despite continuously high sexual activity. *Sex Transm Dis*. 2000 Sep;27(8):438-45.
39. Rousseau MC, Pereira JS, Prado JC, Villa LL, Rohan TE, Franco EL. Cervical coinfection with human papillomavirus (HPV) types as a predictor of acquisition and persistence of HPV infection. *J Infect Dis*. 2001 Dec 15;184(12):1508-17.
40. Juarez-Figueroa LA, Wheeler CM, Uribe-Salas FJ, Conde-Glez CJ, Zampilpa-Mejia LG, Garcia-Cisneros S, et al. Human papillomavirus: A highly prevalent sexually transmitted disease agent among female sex workers from mexico city. *Sex Transm Dis*. 2001 Mar;28(3):125-30.
41. Rowhani-Rahbar A, Hawes SE, Sow PS, Toure P, Feng Q, Dem A, et al. The impact of HIV status and type on the clearance of human papillomavirus infection among senegalese women. *J Infect Dis*. 2007 Sep 15;196(6):887-94.
42. de Sanjose S, Diaz M, Castellsague X, Clifford G, Bruni L, Munoz N, et al. Worldwide prevalence and genotype distribution of cervical human papillomavirus DNA in women with normal cytology: A meta-analysis. *Lancet Infect Dis*. 2007 Jul;7(7):453-9.
43. Hoang HT, Ishizaki A, Nguyen CH, Tran VT, Matsushita K, Saikawa K, et al. Infection with high-risk HPV types among female sex workers in northern vietnam. *J Med Virol*. 2013 Feb;85(2):288-94.

44. Carcamo CP, Campos PE, Garcia PJ, Hughes JP, Garnett GP, Holmes KK, et al. Prevalences of sexually transmitted infections in young adults and female sex workers in peru: A national population-based survey. *Lancet Infect Dis.* 2012 Oct;12(10):765-73.
45. Chen XS, Yin YP, Liang GJ, Wang QQ, Jiang N, Liu Q, et al. The prevalences of neisseria gonorrhoeae and chlamydia trachomatis infections among female sex workers in china. *BMC Public Health.* 2013 Feb 8;13:121,2458-13-121.
46. Winer RL, Hughes JP, Feng Q, Xi LF, Lee SK, O'Reilly SF, et al. Prevalence and risk factors for oncogenic human papillomavirus infections in high-risk mid-adult women. *Sex Transm Dis.* 2012 Nov;39(11):848-56.
47. Hibma MH. The immune response to papillomavirus during infection persistence and regression. *Open Virol J.* 2012;6:241-8.
48. Durham DP, Poolman EM, Ibuka Y, Townsend JP, Galvani AP. Reevaluation of epidemiological data demonstrates that it is consistent with cross-immunity among human papillomavirus types. *J Infect Dis.* 2012 Oct;206(8):1291-8.
49. Ciszek B, Heimrath J, Ciszek M. The application of human papilloma virus genotyping for the identification of neoplasm lesions in the cervix of women with abnormal cytology smears. *Adv Clin Exp Med.* 2012 Nov-Dec;21(6):759-66.
50. Hariri S, Unger ER, Sternberg M, Dunne EF, Swan D, Patel S, et al. Prevalence of genital human papillomavirus among females in the united states, the national health and nutrition examination survey, 2003-2006. *J Infect Dis.* 2011 Aug 15;204(4):566-73.
51. Meda N, Ndoye I, M'Boup S, Wade A, Ndiaye S, Niang C, et al. Low and stable HIV infection rates in senegal: Natural course of the epidemic or evidence for success of prevention? *AIDS.* 1999 Jul 30;13(11):1397-405.
52. Viikki M, Pukkala E, Nieminen P, Hakama M. Gynaecological infections as risk determinants of subsequent cervical neoplasia. *Acta Oncol.* 2000;39(1):71-5.

53. Bulhak-Koziol V, Zdrodowska-Stefanow B, Ostaszewska-Puchalska I, Mackowiak-Matejczyk B, Pietrewicz TM, Wilkowska-Trojnieł M. Prevalence of chlamydia trachomatis infection in women with cervical lesions. *Adv Med Sci.* 2007;52:179-81.
54. Schlott T, Eiffert H, Bohne W, Landgrebe J, Brunner E, Spielbauer B, et al. Chlamydia trachomatis modulates expression of tumor suppressor gene caveolin-1 and oncogene C-myc in the transformation zone of non-neoplastic cervical tissue. *Gynecol Oncol.* 2005 Sep;98(3):409-19.
55. Samoff E, Koumans EH, Markowitz LE, Sternberg M, Sawyer MK, Swan D, et al. Association of chlamydia trachomatis with persistence of high-risk types of human papillomavirus in a cohort of female adolescents. *Am J Epidemiol.* 2005 Oct 1;162(7):668-75.
56. Koutsky LA, Holmes KK, Critchlow CW, Stevens CE, Paavonen J, Beckmann AM, et al. A cohort study of the risk of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia grade 2 or 3 in relation to papillomavirus infection. *N Engl J Med.* 1992 Oct 29;327(18):1272-8.
57. Lehtinen M, Ault KA, Lyytikäinen E, Dillner J, Garland SM, Ferris DG, et al. Chlamydia trachomatis infection and risk of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia. *Sex Transm Infect.* 2011 Aug;87(5):372-6.