Personal characteristics, drug use, and experience of client violence by prostitutes working indoors or outdoors. Values are numbers (percentages) of prostitutes unless stated otherwise.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Work setting</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Outdoors</td>
<td>Indoors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean (SD) age</td>
<td>25.7 (6.7)</td>
<td>26.4 (6.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean (SD) age first paid for sex</td>
<td>19.6 (5.1)</td>
<td>22.7 (5.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean (SD) years in prostitution</td>
<td>4.8 (5.0)</td>
<td>4.3 (4.9)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Main reason for prostitution:
- Household expenses and children: 32 (28) vs 93 (74), <0.001
- To pay for drugs: 72 (63) vs 1 (1), <0.001
- To save up for something: 5 (4) vs 23 (18), 0.001
- Other: 6 (5) vs 8 (6), 0.696

Illegal drug used in past six months: 107 (93) vs 86 (69), <0.001

Type of illegal drug used:
- Heroin: 90 (78) vs 9 (8), <0.001
- Other opiate: 45 (39) vs 12 (10), <0.001
- Tranquilizers: 43 (37) vs 99 (79), <0.001
- Crack cocaine: 37 (32) vs 5 (4), <0.001
- Amphetamine: 13 (11) vs 38 (30), <0.001
- Cocaine: 20 (17) vs 19 (15), 0.646
- Cannabis: 70 (61) vs 62 (50), 0.080
- Injected drugs in past month: 56 (49) vs 4 (3), <0.001
- Ever experienced client violence: 93 (81) vs 60 (48), <0.001
- Experienced violence in past six months: 58 (50) vs 32 (26), <0.001

Type of violence ever experienced:
- Strapped, punched, or kicked: 54 (47) vs 17 (14), <0.001
- Threatened with physical violence: 45 (39) vs 18 (14), <0.001
- Robbery: 42 (37) vs 12 (10), <0.001
- Attempted robbery: 30 (26) vs 6 (5), <0.001
- Beaten: 31 (27) vs 1 (1), <0.001
- Threatened with weapon: 28 (24) vs 8 (6), <0.001
- Held against will: 29 (25) vs 19 (15), 0.053
- Attempted rape (vaginal or anal): 32 (28) vs 21 (17), 0.040
- Strangulation: 23 (20) vs 7 (6), 0.001
- Kidnapped: 23 (20) vs 3 (2), <0.001
- Forced to give client oral sex: 20 (17) vs 4 (3), <0.001
- Raped (vaginal): 25 (22) vs 2 (2), <0.001
- Attempted kidnap: 14 (12) vs 1 (1), <0.001
- Slashed or stabbed: 8 (7) vs 0, 0.003
- Raped (anal): 6 (5) vs 8 (6), 0.696

Reported at least one incident of client violence to police: 41/93 (44) vs 11/60 (18), <0.001

Comment

Half of prostitutes working outdoors and over a quarter of those working indoors reported some form of violence by clients in the past six months. These levels of violence need to be addressed and reported attacks responded to more effectively in terms of service provision, police intervention, and judicial processes. Recognising that violence by clients occurs to women working both indoors and outdoors would be an important step towards preventing or reducing the incidence of violence.

The sexual health of prostitutes is just one element of service need in circumstances where they confront potentially abusive clients. The range and content of comprehensive health services for prostitutes is an area that should be addressed with some urgency if levels of morbidity and mortality from violence by clients is to be reduced.

We thank all the women who participated in the study, the staff of the three outreach services in Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Leeds, and Catherine Benson for her contribution to the design of the questionnaire, data collection, and data entry.

Contributors: SC helped review the literature, helped collect and enter the data, performed the data analysis, formulated conclusions, wrote the first draft of the manuscript, and revised the manuscript. MH performed the data analysis, formulated the conclusions, and helped revise the manuscript. MB had the original idea for the study, helped review the literature, sought ethical approval and funding, helped with data collection, formulated the conclusions, supervised the overall conduct of the project, and helped revise the manuscript. GH had the original idea for the study, supervised the overall conduct of the project, and helped revise the manuscript. MB and GH will act as guarantors for the paper.

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References

Corrections and clarifications

Lipid concentrations and the use of lipid lowering drugs: evidence from a national cross sectional survey

Because of an error on the part of the BMJ, the authors (Paola Primastata and Neil R Poulter) of this paper (25 November, pp 1322-5) were said to have no competing interests, whereas in fact Professor Poulter has received funds from several pharmaceutical companies to attend symposiums, speak, organise education, consult, and support research and members of staff. Professor Poulter ticked our form to say that he had received this support but then ticked the box to say that he had no competing interests. Our form did not make sufficiently clear that we regard receiving funds for these reasons as being a competing interest. We failed to pick up on the inconsistency in Professor Poulter’s form, and we apologise to him for that. We have amended the form, which is on our website at bmj.com/cgi/content/full/317/7154/291/DC1#aut

Endpiece

Freedom of press

Freedom of press is limited to those who own one.

H L Mencken, American editor, author, and critic, 1880-1956