

Impact of childhood sexual abuse on risky sexual behaviors among men who have sex with men in Guangzhou



Tan Zhimin¹, Li Jing¹, Chen Xiaobin¹, Cheng Weibin², Xu Huifang², Jiang Hongbo¹, Yang Yi¹

1 Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Public Health, Guangdong Pharmaceutical University, Guangzhou, China

2 Department of AIDS Control and Prevention, Guangzhou Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Guangzhou, China

Objective

To explore the experience of childhood sexual abuse (CSA) among men who have sex with men (MSM) in Guangzhou, and to evaluate its impact on risky sexual behaviors in adulthood.

Methods

A non-probability sampling method was used to recruit MSM aged 18 years and over in Guangzhou. Sociodemographic characteristics, experience of CSA and risky sexual behaviors during the past 6 months were collected using an electronic questionnaire. Chi-squared tests were used to compare the prevalence of CSA among different sociodemographic characteristics. Logistic regressions were performed to assess the impact of CSA on risky sexual behaviors.

Results

Overall, 976 MSM were included with an average age of (28.35 ± 6.83) years old. Nearly one-quarter (26.95%, 263/976) of MSM experienced CSA. Participants who had multiple sexual partners (MSP) and unprotected anal intercourse (UAI) during the past 6 months accounted for 61.68% (602/976) and 47.95% (468/976), respectively.

Adjusted for age, ethnicity, household registration, local residence time, marital status, education, employment status, monthly income and sexual orientation, the results of multivariate logistic regression showed that, MSM who experienced CSA were likely to have MSP during the past 6 months (aOR: 1.62; 95% CI: 1.19~2.22) than those did not experience CSA. But the association between UAI and CSA was not statistically significant.

Conclusions

The prevalence of CSA among MSM in Guangzhou is high. CSA can substantially increase the risk of risky sexual behaviors in adulthood. Intervention to reduce the risk of sexual risk behaviors may need to be tailored for MSM who experienced CSA.

Table 1 Comparison of with and without CSA among participants in different general characteristics (N=976)

Characteristics	Number of cases (%)	CSA		χ^2	P
		Yes (%)	No (%)		
Age (years)				5.478	0.019
≤29	656(67.21)	192(29.27)	464(70.73)		
>29	320(32.79)	71(22.19)	249(77.81)		
Ethnicity ^a				3.803	0.051
Han	928(97.07)	244(26.29)	684(73.71)		
Others	28(2.93)	12(42.86)	16(57.14)		
Birthplace				0.001	0.973
Guangzhou City	348(35.66)	94(27.01)	254(72.99)		
Others	628(64.34)	169(26.91)	459(73.09)		
Duration in Guangzhou (years)				0.034	0.853
≤1	112(11.48)	31(27.68)	81(72.32)		
>1	864(88.52)	232(26.85)	632(73.15)		
Marital status				1.050	0.306
Never married	849(86.99)	224(26.38)	625(73.62)		
Married/cohabitation/divorced/widowed	127(13.01)	39(30.71)	88(69.29)		
Education				9.128	0.003
≤High School	241(24.69)	83(34.44)	158(65.56)		
≥College	735(75.31)	180(24.49)	555(75.51)		
Occupation ^b				5.052	0.025
Employed	787(80.72)	63(33.51)	125(66.49)		
Unemployed	188(19.28)	200(25.41)	587(74.59)		
Monthly income (Yuan)				11.365	0.001
≤3000	214(21.93)	77(35.98)	137(64.02)		
>3000	762(78.07)	186(24.41)	576(75.59)		
Sexual orientation				1.562	0.458
Homosexual	723(74.08)	189(26.14)	534(73.86)		
Bisexual	208(21.31)	63(30.29)	145(69.71)		
Heterosexual/unsure	45(4.61)	11(24.44)	34(75.56)		

^a Twenty case were missing race information. ^b One case was missing occupation information.

Table 2 Logistic regression analysis of the impact of CSA on risky sexual behaviors of participants

Characteristics	Multiple sexual partners in prior 6 months ^a		Unprotected anal intercourse in prior 6 months ^b	
	cOR (95% CI)	aOR (95% CI)	cOR (95% CI)	aOR (95% CI)
CSA				
No	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Yes	1.61(1.19~2.17)	1.62(1.19~2.22)	1.28(0.97~1.70)	1.20(0.89~1.61)

^a Multiple sexual partners = having ≥2 male sexual partners. ^b Unprotected anal intercourse = having at least condomless anal sex with male sexual partner. cOR (95% CI) = crude odds ratio and confidence 95% interval computed by univariate logistic regression analysis. aOR = adjusted odds ratio for age, ethnicity, birthplace, residence, marital status, education, monthly income and sexual orientation.

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