Predictors of initiation into prostitution among female street youth

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Vancouver conference, 16 June 2004
Prostitution among female street youth

Little known about incidence and determinants

No data previously reported based on follow-up

Objective: to determine incidence and predictors
Methods

Females 14-25 years

Enrolled 1995-2000

*In the previous year:*

-- without a place to sleep more than once
-- or regularly used the services of one of the Montreal street youth agencies
Methods

Baseline questionnaire

Two follow-up questionnaires per year

No report of prostitution (ever) at baseline

“the exchange of sex for money, gifts, drugs, a place to sleep or other things”
Results

330 female street youth

148: no history of prostitution at baseline

median age: 18.8

follow-up: 2.4 years
  (through September 2000)
Baseline characteristics (n=148)

- Ever without a place to sleep: 91 %
- Ever ran away from home: 60 %
- Ever kicked out of home: 43 %
- Drugs > than 2 times/week (last month): 51 %
- At least 4 types of illicit drugs (ever): 70 %
- Injection drugs (ever): 32 %
- Intra-familial sexual abuse (ever): 22 %
- Extra-familial sexual abuse (ever): 42 %
- Regular/casual female sex partner (ever): 18 %
Incidence

33 / 148 became involved in prostitution

incidence rate: 11.1/100 person-years
## Socio-demographic/personal characteristics and prostitution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>YES Rate</th>
<th>NO Rate</th>
<th>Ratio*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age &lt; 18 years</td>
<td>19.9</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 1st without a place to sleep &lt; 16 years</td>
<td>14.8</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

rates: per 100 person-years
p < 0.10
italics: multivariate was 2.0 (1.0-4.1) adjusting for age <18 years
## Substance use and prostitution (I)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>YES Rate</th>
<th>NO Rate</th>
<th>Ratio*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>In the last month:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug bingeing</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Drugs &gt; 2 times/week</em></td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 3 types of drugs</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injection drug (last 6 months)</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*rates: per 100 person-years*p < 0.10

*italics: multivariate were 2.3 (1.1-4.8) and 2.2 (1.1-4.6) adjusting for all other variables in the table*
## Substance use and prostitution (II)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>YES Rate</th>
<th>NO Rate</th>
<th>Ratio*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In the last month:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine, crack, freebase</td>
<td>20.4</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Heroin</em></td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Acid, PCP</em></td>
<td>19.8</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

rates: per 100 person-years
*p < 0.10
italic: multivariate were 2.2 (1.1-4.6) and 2.7 (1.2-5.9) adjusting for the other two variables in the table

Vancouver conference, 16 June 2004
## Sexual behaviors and prostitution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>YES Rate</th>
<th>NO Rate</th>
<th>Ratio*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular/casual female sex partner (last 6 months)</td>
<td>54.3</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female partner involved in prostitution (lifetime)</td>
<td>41.6</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Rates: per 100 person-years**

* p < 0.10

Italics: multivariate was 5.7 (2.6-12.9) adjusting for the other shown variable

Vancouver conference, 16 June 2004
# Cox models: predictors of prostitution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Hazard ratio</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age $1^{st}$ without a place to sleep &lt; 16 years</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.0-4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugs &gt; 2 times/week (last month)</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>1.1-4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injection drug (last 6 months)</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>1.1-4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin (last month)</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>1.1-4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acid, PCP (last month)</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>1.2-5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular/casual female sex partner (last 6 months)</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>2.6-12.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Combined model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hazard ratio</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age without a place to sleep &lt; 16 years</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.9-3.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular or casual female sex partner (last six months)</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>1.6-9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin (last month)</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>0.7-5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acid/PCP (last month)</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0.9-4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugs &gt; 2 times/week (last month)</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>0.9-4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injection drug (last 6 months)</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>0.3-2.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Estimates all adjusted for the other covariates listed in the table*

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