



**WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE FOR EFFECTIVE RESPONSES TO HIV PREVENTION
- A PROGRAMME PERSPECTIVE**

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Prevention among sex workers is the most cost-effective intervention

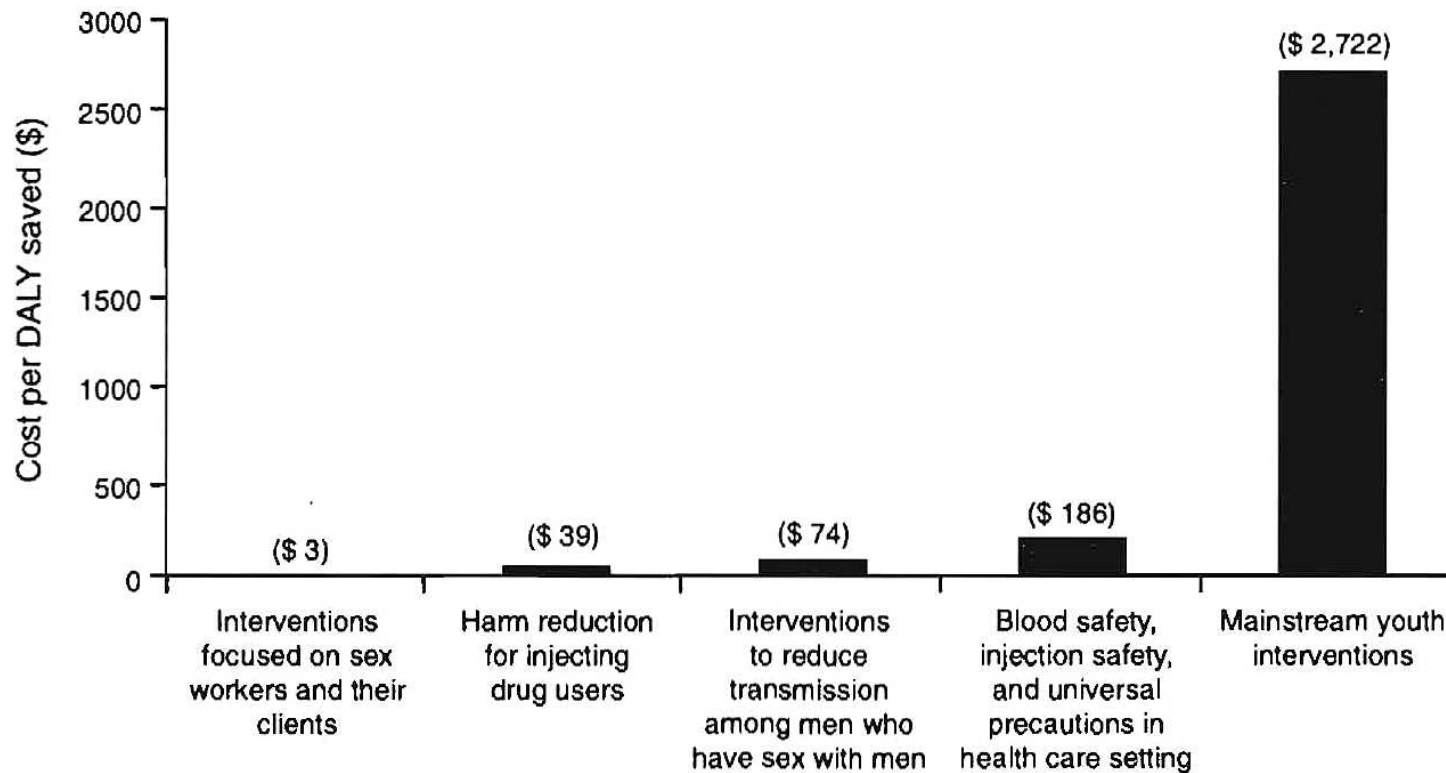


Figure 3.10: Prevention interventions: Cost per disability-adjusted life year (DALY) saved

YET : Flawed Policy

Governments in the region, though they officially recognized the importance of targeting and involving sex workers in their HIV prevention work,

Do not take responsibility for the **structural issues** that make sex workers vulnerable eg; **police violence and lack of protection under the law.**



YET : Flawed Practice



In practice, one branch of the government—the public health service—relies on the non governmental sector to provide condoms and information to persons at high risk, while another branch of government - the **law enforcement** establishment Use and confiscate condoms as evidence and abuses those who provide services.

YET : Flawed Laws

Both National and international **eg ITPA [India]**

“Prostitution and other sexual victimization are degrading to women and children... the sex industry, trafficking of individuals into such industry and sexual violence are additional causes of and factors in the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.” **United States Leadership Against Global HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003, D:23**

Such laws make it appear as if sex work, trafficking and sexual violence are one and the same thing.

RESULT : Flawed HIV, health programmes

- Being labelled & blamed as vectors of HIV
- client focussed instrumentalist interventions
- Rescues to Provider Initiated Testing
- immoral sex = sex workers = immoral disease
- Inadequate *Resources*

Monetary/ Supply of commodities / IEC material

Indifferent health care services

Few treatment options/services – esp. second line treatment

Lessons from the ground: **Rights based** Policy, Programming and Practice

- Recognising Sex workers as agents of social change capable of designing interventions for and with their community is critical – eg: [VAMP collective, Sangli India.](#)
- Will help protect people in sex work from violence, and to diminish vulnerability and risk. And create an environment that promotes respect, dignity and non discrimination

Challenges:

- Peer interventions and Outreach is challenged in criminalized environments
- Rescued without consent – Raids disrupt community work and HIV programmes
- Government Departments of health and law enforcement resolve reservations about HIV programmes
- States recognize that Laws that criminalize Sex work should go
- States recognize and act on the evidence that sex workers can avert the epidemic with the right support

STOP Moral Criminalisation



STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST SEX WORKERS

sexwork.asia