

عنوان مقاله:

The Impact of Drug and Alcohol Consumption and Socio-demographic Variables on the Age of First Selling Sex among Iranian Female Sex Workers

محل انتشار:

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خلاصه مقاله:

**Background:** A significant proportion of Female Sex Workers (FSWs) as a vulnerable population begin selling sex at an early age, which may lead the person to develop sexually-transmitted infections (STIs) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Thus, this study seeks to identify the factors which influence the age of first sex for sale among the Iranian FSWS. **Methods:** In 2010, 872 FSWS from 21 centers in 12 Iranian provinces were selected through multistage sampling and were interviewed individually by a standard questionnaire. Survival analysis of interval censored data was used to investigate factors which influence the age of first selling sex. The collected data were analyzed using Weibull parametric model and the hazard ratio (HR) index was reported. The software employed in this study was R version 3.4.2 and icenReg package was used. **Findings:** The mean age of first selling sex was  $24.94 \pm 7.34$  years. About 22% of the participants started to sell sex before the age of 18. The risk of experiencing the first selling sex was 23% higher in those individuals who had experienced alcohol consumption (HR = 1.23) and 51% higher in those who had drug injections (HR = 1.51). Also, age, education, and marital status were significant variables. **Conclusion:** In order to cope with the issue of first selling sex at an early age, the following strategies are suggested: providing necessary trainings and building culture about the dangers of alcohol consumption and drug injections, poverty reduction, facilitating education and marriage for young females, and combating sex trafficking

کلمات کلیدی:

Sex workers, Age of onset, Iran, Survival analysis

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