

Sex Worker Health & Harm Reduction 101



MAIN TAKE-AWAYS

Sex worker health and harm reduction is much more than sexual health.

Sex work is the exchange of sexual services for material resources.

There is no one profile of a sex worker. Sex workers come from every identity and background, but the impacts of structural violence disparately harm marginalized sex workers.

Not everyone will use the term “sex work” or “sex worker” to describe their experience or identity. With clients, reflect their language.

Different areas of sex work have different levels of risk and not all behaviors carry the same risk for all people.

We confront our narratives and ideas about sex workers by connecting to sex worker community, expanding our media consumption and being self-reflective.

Sex workers identify both structural and interpersonal barriers to accessing care.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Outreach and Health Service Organizations to Seek out and Engage

NASTAD Sex Worker Health & Harm Reduction [TA call](#) and [listserv](#)

Sex Workers Outreach Project ([SWOP-USA](#) and local SWOP chapters)

[St. James Infirmary](#), San Francisco, CA

[HIPS](#), Washington, DC

[Maggie's Toronto Sex Worker Action Project](#), Toronto, ON

[Reframe Health and Justice](#)

[Sex Workers Advocacy Project](#)



Guides On Sex Worker Health and Harm Reduction

St. James Infirmary, [Occupational Health and Safety Handbook](#)

L. Synn Stern, [Tricks of the Trade](#)

World Health Organization, [Implementing Comprehensive HIV/STI Programmes with Sex Workers: Practical Approaches from Collaborative Interventions](#)

B. Schulte and Support Ho(s)e, [Sex Work Centered Guide for Health/Wellness Professionals](#)

HOOK and the National Harm Reduction Coalition, [Male Sexwork Handbook: A Basic Guide to Working Safe, Sane, and Smart in the Sex Industry](#)

Criminalization and the Sex Trades

SWAN and Yale Global Health Justice Partnership, [Four Legal Approaches to the Sex Sector](#)

Global Network of Sex Worker Projects, [The Impact of Criminalisation on Sex Workers' Vulnerability to HIV and Violence](#)

Information on Trafficking in the Sex Trades

SWAN and Yale Global Health Justice Partnership, [Sex Work vs Trafficking: How They Are Different and Why It Matters](#)

Freedom Network USA, [Human Trafficking and Sex Workers Rights](#)

Sex Workers Share their Stories

Global Network of Sex Worker Projects, [Sex Workers Speak Out](#)

David Henry Sterry and R.J. Martin, Jr. (editors), [Hos, Hookers, Call Girls, and Rent Boys: Professionals Writing on Life, Love, Money, and Sex](#)

Rachel Aimee, Eliyanna Kaiser, and Audacia Ray (editors), [\\$pread: The Best of the Magazine that Illuminated the Sex Industry and Started a Media Revolution](#)