

INCREASED RUSHED CLIENT NEGOTIATION AFTER THE ADOPTION OF A CLIENT-TARGETED POLICING APPROACH AMONG SEX WORKERS WHO USE DRUGS IN VANCOUVER, CANADA, 2008-2014

What was our study about?

In order to increase the safety of sex workers, in 2013, the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) changed their sex work policy to discontinue targeting sex workers while still policing clients and third parties.



Criminalizing purchase of sexual service fails to protect the health and safety of sex workers.

What did we do?

The study examined the potential impact of the VPD policy change on trends of rushing negotiations with clients due to police presence among sex workers (SW) who use drugs in Vancouver, Canada.

Between 2008 and 2014, 359 drug-using SW who resided within VPD's jurisdiction were interviewed every 6 months.

What we found?

Approximately 1 in 4 drug-using SW reported rushed negotiation with clients due to police presence.

Rushed client negotiation significantly increased among female SW after the VPD policy change.

Those who rushed client negotiations were more likely to experience client perpetrated violence.

What's next?

There is an urgent need to fully decriminalize sex work in order to mitigate the harms associated with rushed client negotiation, particularly violence.

Landsberg, A., Shannon, K., Krüsi, A., DeBeck, K., Milloy, M.-J., Nosova, E., Kerr, T., & Hayashi, K. (2017). Criminalizing Sex Work Clients and Rushed Negotiations among Sex Workers Who Use Drugs in a Canadian Setting. *Journal of Urban Health*, 94(4), 563-571.

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28470544/>

