

FSW and other women (cis/trans) visiting CBVCT centres in Germany – Annex to Half-Year Report 1/2025

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Since the start of data collection in 2018, 1097 visits by female sex workers (FSW – 968 cis and 113 trans) and 19 355 visits by other women without indication of sex work (18 789 cis and 464 trans) have been documented by CBVCT¹ centres participating in the joint data collection² – that is, a local AIDS service organisation or another counselling and testing facility affiliated with the German AIDS Federation. During each recorded visit, at least one test for HIV or another STI, or for HCV was performed.

This tabular short report analyses the characteristics and test results of all cis and trans women who visited one of the CBVCT centres listed below between 2018 and 2025. A distinction is made between women who engage in sex work and those who explicitly denied it. For each of these evaluated contacts—in some cases also as part of outreach work, such as by *Aidshilfe Freiburg-Offenburg*—at least one test for a transmissible disease was conducted. Only consultations with at least one test result are included — whether through rapid or laboratory tests for HIV, HCV, or syphilis, or through swabs for gonorrhoea and/or chlamydia.

The two tables in this annex essentially correspond to **Tables 1.1** and **1.5** from the current Half-Year Report. An additional table on country of birth, asked for European origin, was added (**Table 1.1b** at the end of the report).

The analysis of these extensive data provides important insights for the counselling of cis and trans women.

Table 1.1: Characteristics of female CBVCT¹ clients in the years 2018–2025

	FSW (cis)		FSW (trans)		Other Women (cis)		Other women (trans)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total	968	100.0 %	113	100.0 %	18 789	100.0 %	464	100.0 %
Gender identity								
Man	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %
Trans man	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %
Woman	968	100.0 %	0	0.0 %	18 789	100.0 %	0	0.0 %
Trans woman	0	0.0 %	113	100.0 %	0	0.0 %	464	100.0 %
Non-binary/other	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %
Sexual identity								
Heterosexual	495	53.7 %	31	27.7 %	12 867	69.1 %	112	24.5 %
Bisexual	225	24.4 %	22	19.6 %	4 018	21.6 %	133	29.1 %
Gay	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %
Queer	145	15.7 %	31	27.7 %	1 093	5.9 %	126	27.6 %
Lesbian	17	1.8 %	6	5.4 %	256	1.4 %	42	9.2 %
Other	40	4.3 %	22	19.6 %	391	2.1 %	44	9.6 %

¹Community-based voluntary counselling and testing. FSW: female sex workers.

² Augsburgener Aidshilfe; Berliner Aids-Hilfe; Checkpoint BLN; Fixpunkt. Drogenhilfe und Gesundheitsförderung in Berlin; Mann-O-Meter. Berlins schwuler Checkpoint; Katte. Rat & Tat Cottbus; aidshilfe dortmund; Aidshilfe Düsseldorf; AIDS-Hilfe Thüringen; Checkpoint Aidshilfe Freiburg; AIDS-Hilfe Halle/Sachsen-Anhalt Süd; CheckPoint Hannover; Aidshilfe Heidelberg; Checkpoint Aids-hilfe Unterland; AIDS-Hilfe Weimar & Ostthüringen. Beratungsstelle Jena; ZeSIA. Zentrum für sexuelle Gesundheit; Identität und Aufklärung Karlsruhe; Aidshilfe Kiel; Aids-Hilfe Konstanz; Zentrum für sexuelle Gesundheit. Aidshilfe Sachsen-Anhalt Nord; KOSI.MA. Zentrum für sexuelle Gesundheit Mannheim; Sub. Schwules Kommunikations- und Kulturzentrum München; AIDS-Hilfe Nürnberg-Erlangen-Fürth; AIDS-Hilfe Offenburg/Ortenaukreis; Fachstelle für sexuelle Gesundheit & Selbstbestimmung SPOT-LIGHT Pforzheim; AIDS-Hilfe Potsdam; Katte. Checkpoint Potsdam; Checkpoint Regensburg. Aidsberatungsstelle Oberpfalz; Aids-hilfe Saar; Aidshilfe Schleswig-Holstein; AIDS-Hilfe Schwäbisch Gmünd; AIDS-Hilfe Stuttgart; check-it. Aidshilfe Rhein-Sieg; Aids-hilfe Tübingen-Reutlingen; AIDS-Hilfe Ulm/Neu-Ulm/Alb-Donau; AIDS-Hilfe Weimar und Ostthüringen. Beratungsstelle Weimar

Table 1.1: Characteristics of female CBVCT¹ clients in the years 2018–2025 (continued)

	FSW (cis)		FSW (trans)		Other Women (cis)		Other women (trans)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total	968	100.0 %	113	100.0 %	18 789	100.0 %	464	100.0 %
Age median (IQR)	29	(25–35)	30	(25–35)	28	(25–33)	29	(25–34)
Health Insurance								
Yes	563	58.2 %	65	57.5 %	17 347	92.3 %	388	83.6 %
No	405	41.8 %	48	42.5 %	1 442	7.7 %	76	16.4 %
Migration background								
Yes	600	65.4 %	73	67.0 %	6 539	35.2 %	218	47.3 %
No	318	34.6 %	36	33.0 %	12 021	64.8 %	243	52.7 %
Country/region of birth								
Germany	338	36.9 %	39	36.4 %	13 001	70.4 %	259	56.4 %
Other Europe	324	35.4 %	24	22.4 %	3 086	16.7 %	70	15.3 %
Middle East	23	2.5 %	5	4.7 %	385	2.1 %	20	4.4 %
Other Asia	22	2.4 %	7	6.5 %	596	3.2 %	25	5.4 %
Africa	21	2.3 %	4	3.7 %	284	1.5 %	12	2.6 %
Latin America	132	14.4 %	13	12.1 %	626	3.4 %	37	8.1 %
USA, CA, AU, NZ	55	6.0 %	15	14.0 %	484	2.6 %	36	7.8 %
Sex work*								
Yes	968	100.0 %	113	100.0 %				
No					18 789	100.0 %	464	100.0 %
Steady partnership								
Yes	230	39.4 %	35	37.2 %	5 949	42.9 %	172	46.5 %
No	354	60.6 %	59	62.8 %	7 907	57.1 %	198	53.5 %
Number of sexual partners**								
0–2	102	15.2 %	13	12.3 %	9 232	50.7 %	159	35.2 %
3–5	136	20.3 %	13	12.3 %	6 237	34.3 %	159	35.2 %
6–10	157	23.4 %	23	21.7 %	2 153	11.8 %	74	16.4 %
>10	276	41.1 %	57	53.8 %	584	3.2 %	60	13.3 %
Number CAVI partners***								
0–2	310	53.1 %	37	44.6 %	13 742	81.7 %	301	77.0 %
3–5	169	28.9 %	19	22.9 %	2 661	15.8 %	59	15.1 %
6–10	63	10.8 %	13	15.7 %	355	2.1 %	14	3.6 %
>10	42	7.2 %	14	16.9 %	72	0.4 %	17	4.3 %
Last HIV test								
In the previous 6 months	363	39.2 %	71	62.8 %	3 364	18.0 %	169	36.5 %
Before	340	36.7 %	33	29.2 %	8 646	46.3 %	175	37.8 %
Never	223	24.1 %	9	8.0 %	6 674	35.7 %	119	25.7 %
PrEP								
Yes	7	1.1 %	23	21.7 %	57	0.4 %	29	6.9 %
No	610	98.9 %	83	78.3 %	15 775	99.6 %	394	93.1 %
Injection drug use								
Yes	28	2.9 %			47	0.3 %		
No	940	97.1 %	113	100.0 %	18 742	99.7 %	464	100.0 %
Hep. A vaccination								
Yes	270	32.0 %	43	41.7 %	7 563	41.2 %	150	33.1 %
No	573	68.0 %	60	58.3 %	10 789	58.8 %	303	66.9 %
Hep. B vaccination								
Yes	329	37.6 %	43	39.1 %	8 756	47.4 %	166	36.6 %
No	547	62.4 %	67	60.9 %	9 716	52.6 %	288	63.4 %
HPV vaccination								
Yes	23	37.1 %	2	20.0 %	1 861	50.6 %	15	23.4 %
No	39	62.9 %	8	80.0 %	1 816	49.4 %	49	76.6 %
Mpox vaccination								
Yes	1	1.4 %	3	23.1 %	61	1.6 %	4	5.2 %
No	72	98.6 %	10	76.9 %	3 850	98.4 %	73	94.8 %

¹Community-based voluntary counselling and testing. FSW: female sex workers. IQR: interquartile range.

*In the previous six months; **Sexual partners in the previous six months; ***Sexual partners with condomless anal or vaginal intercourse in the previous six months. Column totals may differ from the overall total due to missing data, particularly for vaccinations against HPV and Mpox, which were only introduced during 2024.

The majority of cis women (67.6 %) describe themselves as heterosexual, while 21.5 % identify as bisexual. Notably, the significantly higher proportion of cis sex workers who identify as “*queer*” (15.7 %), compared with the other cis women (5.9 %), stands out.

A key finding concerns access to healthcare: a significantly higher proportion of sex workers — both cis (41.8 %) and trans (42.5 %) — are uninsured, in contrast to other women (7.7 % and 16.4 %; see **Table 1.1**).

Only a minority of sex workers originate from Germany. Common regions of origin include Latin America (14.4 % and 12.1 %) and Eastern Europe — notably Romania (10.4 % and 1.0 %), Bulgaria (3.6 % and 1.0 %), Ukraine (3.3 % and 0.0 %) and Spain (2.0 % and 4.9 %; see **Table 1.1b**).

In both groups, trans women report more sexual partners and more condomless vaginal or anal intercourse than cis women. This difference is especially pronounced among sex workers: about every sixth cis and every third trans sex worker reported condomless vaginal or anal sex with at least six different partners in the last six months (**Table 1.1**).

Also concerning is the high proportion of sex workers who are not vaccinated against Hepatitis B — this affects 62.3 % of them, regardless of gender identity. A large portion of sex workers in this dataset (about 58.1 %) are insured and could receive the vaccination free of charge.

It is also notable that 62.9 % of cis sex workers report no HPV vaccination — significantly more than the comparison group of cis women without indication of sex work (49.4 %; **Table 1.1**). This vaccination would also be advisable in many cases and is generally covered by statutory health insurance. Further information can be found in the article “[Vaccinations against infections transmitted in the context of sexual encounters](#)” in the **Fachportal Beratung** of Deutsche Aidshilfe (article available in German only).

Table 1.5: Documented test results among female CBVCT¹ clients in the years 2018–2025

	FSW (cis)		FSW (trans)		Other Women (cis)		Other women (trans)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total	968	100.0 %	113	100.0 %	18 789	100.0 %	464	100.0 %
HIV								
Reactive	1	0.1 %	1	0.9 %	22	0.1 %	3	0.6 %
Confirmed positive	1	0.1 %	2	1.8 %	4	0.0 %	0	0.0 %
Negative	656	67.8 %	96	85.0 %	16 804	89.4 %	415	89.4 %
Not tested*	310	32.0 %	14	12.4 %	1 959	10.4 %	46	9.9 %
Syphilis								
Positive**	4	0.4 %	4	3.5 %	15	0.1 %	9	1.9 %
Serological scar	5	0.5 %	4	3.5 %	21	0.1 %	14	3.0 %
Negative	570	58.9 %	83	73.5 %	12 594	67.0 %	360	77.6 %
Not tested*	389	40.2 %	22	19.5 %	6 159	32.8 %	81	17.5 %
Gonorrhoea								
Positive	27	2.8 %	11	9.7 %	158	0.8 %	22	4.7 %
Negative	780	80.6 %	87	77.0 %	13 467	71.7 %	359	77.4 %
Not tested*	161	16.6 %	15	13.3 %	5 164	27.5 %	83	17.9 %
Chlamydia								
Positive	49	5.1 %	11	9.7 %	510	2.7 %	17	3.7 %
Negative	759	78.4 %	87	77.0 %	13 125	69.9 %	365	78.7 %
Not tested*	160	16.5 %	15	13.3 %	5 154	27.4 %	82	17.7 %
HCV								
Positive (AB)	10	1.0 %	0	0.0 %	29	0.2 %	1	0.2 %
Positive (RNA)	3	0.3 %	0	0.0 %	3	0.0 %	0	0.0 %
Negative	253	26.1 %	47	41.6 %	3 576	19.0 %	120	25.9 %
Not tested*	702	72.5 %	66	58.4 %	15 181	80.8 %	343	73.9 %
HBV								
Current infection	1	0.1 %	0	0.0 %	7	0.0 %	1	0.2 %
Past infection	0	0.0 %	1	0.9 %	3	0.0 %	0	0.0 %
Negative	123	12.7 %	25	22.1 %	1 821	9.7 %	51	11.0 %
Not tested*	844	87.2 %	87	77.0 %	16 958	90.3 %	412	88.8 %

¹Community-based voluntary counselling and testing. FSW: female sex workers.

*Not tested or result not documented in the database. **Syphilis in need of treatment, or further diagnostics initiated. Persons with confirmed positive HIV antibodies do not appear in the ‘reactive’ line, and persons with detected HCV RNA do not appear in the line for the positive antibody test (‘Positive (AB)’).

Regarding the test results, it is initially noticeable that 32.0 % of cis sex workers were *not* tested for HIV. In comparison, the proportions of untested individuals for gonorrhoea and chlamydia are significantly lower — more women were tested for these.

One possible explanation is that many sex workers first take advantage of a (often free) HIV or syphilis test at a local public health office, and only afterwards seek further STI diagnostics — such as for gonorrhoea or chlamydia — at a CBVCT centre within the German AIDS Federation. Another reason may be that, in the context of outreach work, often only swabs are taken, as the conditions on site are not considered sufficient to ensure adequate support and care in the event of a potentially reactive HIV test result.

Notably, trans sex workers have the highest rates of positive test results for HIV, syphilis, and gonorrhoea by a significant margin. They are followed by other trans women, then cis sex workers, and finally cis women without reported sex work. These three infections particularly affect two groups: sex workers and trans women. Individuals who belong to both groups face a particularly high risk and correspondingly greater disease burden, partly due to intersectional factors.

For chlamydia, the pattern is somewhat different: since this infection is more widespread overall, it occurs not only more frequently among trans women but also generally among sex workers (both cis and trans). This is likely linked to a higher number of sexual partners.

Moreover, 28 cis sex workers reported injecting drug use — which is reflected in an increased proportion of 1.3 % with chronic or past hepatitis C.

Recommendations for Action

From the available data, two key recommendations emerge for the work of CBVCT centres:

1. **Actively offer vaccination counselling:**

Sex workers, as well as women with multiple sexual partners, should be specifically targeted for vaccinations against Hepatitis B and HPV. Despite relatively narrow STIKO guidelines, many statutory health insurers now cover the cost of HPV vaccination **up to the age of 25 or 26**.

2. **Provide comprehensive testing:**

All sex workers attending a CBVCT centre should routinely be offered tests for HIV, syphilis, gonorrhoea, and chlamydia.

With available vaccinations and the early diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, effective prevention measures exist – especially for women in sex work. Given the rising number of syphilis cases among women in Germany during **2023 and 2024**, along with the fact that condomless sex is not uncommon, access to these measures should be urgently improved.

Furthermore, women at CBVCT centres should be informed about the option of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) – including the possibility of having PrEP prescribed **via a private prescription** — specially in cases of lacking health insurance and/or only occasional risk.

Table 1.1b: Country of birth of clients of CBVCT¹ centres in the years 2018–2025

	FSW (cis)		FSW (trans)		Other Women (cis)		Other women (trans)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Total	968	100.0 %	113	100.0 %	18 789	100.0 %	464	100.0 %
Country of birth								
Germany	339	40.4 %	39	38.2 %	13 009	72.1 %	259	58.2 %
Albania	1	0.1 %	0	0.0 %	16	0.1 %	0	0.0 %
Austria	3	0.4 %	0	0.0 %	110	0.6 %	0	0.0 %
Belarus	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	31	0.2 %	0	0.0 %
Belgium	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	19	0.1 %	1	0.2 %
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	0.1 %	0	0.0 %	9	0.0 %	0	0.0 %
Bulgaria	30	3.6 %	1	1.0 %	45	0.2 %	0	0.0 %
Croatia	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	27	0.1 %	0	0.0 %
Cyprus	1	0.1 %	1	1.0 %	3	0.0 %	0	0.0 %
Czechia	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	26	0.1 %	1	0.2 %
Denmark	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	12	0.1 %	3	0.7 %
Estonia	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	9	0.0 %	0	0.0 %
Finland	2	0.2 %	0	0.0 %	24	0.1 %	0	0.0 %
France	7	0.8 %	3	2.9 %	272	1.5 %	8	1.8 %
Greece	2	0.2 %	0	0.0 %	53	0.3 %	2	0.4 %
Hungary	11	1.3 %	1	1.0 %	45	0.2 %	1	0.2 %
Ireland	2	0.2 %	0	0.0 %	36	0.2 %	2	0.4 %
Island	2	0.2 %	0	0.0 %	3	0.0 %	0	0.0 %
Italy	2	0.2 %	0	0.0 %	197	1.1 %	2	0.4 %
Latvia	2	0.2 %	0	0.0 %	18	0.1 %	1	0.2 %
Liechtenstein	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	2	0.0 %	0	0.0 %
Lithuania	3	0.4 %	0	0.0 %	17	0.1 %	0	0.0 %
Luxembourg	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	23	0.1 %	0	0.0 %
Malta	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	1	0.0 %	0	0.0 %
Moldova	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	25	0.1 %	1	0.2 %
Monaco	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	1	0.2 %
Netherlands	2	0.2 %	0	0.0 %	52	0.3 %	0	0.0 %
North Macedonia	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	2	0.0 %	0	0.0 %
Norway	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	17	0.1 %	1	0.2 %
Poland	9	1.1 %	0	0.0 %	220	1.2 %	3	0.7 %
Portugal	5	0.6 %	0	0.0 %	25	0.1 %	0	0.0 %
Romania	87	10.4 %	1	1.0 %	67	0.4 %	2	0.4 %
Russia	11	1.3 %	2	2.0 %	313	1.7 %	1	0.2 %
Serbia	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	19	0.1 %	0	0.0 %
Slovakia	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	17	0.1 %	0	0.0 %
Slovenia	0	0.0 %	0	0.0 %	12	0.1 %	0	0.0 %
Spain	17	2.0 %	5	4.9 %	95	0.5 %	5	1.1 %
Sweden	3	0.4 %	3	2.9 %	33	0.2 %	5	1.1 %
Switzerland	2	0.2 %	1	1.0 %	84	0.5 %	2	0.4 %
Türkiye	1	0.1 %	0	0.0 %	25	0.1 %	1	0.2 %
Ukraine	28	3.3 %	0	0.0 %	491	2.7 %	4	0.9 %
United Kingdom	13	1.5 %	1	1.0 %	155	0.9 %	9	2.0 %
Outside Europe	253	30.2 %	44	43.1 %	2 375	13.2 %	130	29.2 %

¹Community-based voluntary counselling and testing. FSW: female sex workers.