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Scoping Review of Female Sex Workers Risk Factors and Interventions

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Purpose

The purpose of this research was to expand the occupational therapy scope to work with sex workers to enhance their health and wellbeing.

Background

- Estimated that there are between 40 and 42 million sex workers worldwide.
 - Sex work is highly stigmatized, even in places where it is legalized.
- FSWs enter the profession for a variety of reasons:
- Chronic poverty
 - Lack of education leading to lack of employment opportunities
 - Community or personal violence
 - To support heavy use of substances

Methods

Arksey and O'Malley (2005) Framework

1. Identify the research question
2. Identify relevant studies
3. Study selection
4. Chart the data
5. Collect, summarize, and report the results

Theoretical Framework

- PEO
- Life Course Health Development
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Results

| Theme | Number (n=48) | Percentage (%) |
|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| PEO Model | | |
| Person | | |
| Risk factors | 25 | 52.1 |
| Self-efficacy | 8 | 16.6 |
| Mental health | 5 | 10.4 |
| Environment | | |
| Police violence | 9 | 18.7 |
| Stigma | 7 | 14.5 |
| Access to programs | 27 | 56.3 |
| Social connectedness | 3 | 6.3 |
| Drug use as social norm | 3 | 6.3 |
| Geographical poverty | 4 | 8.3 |
| Occupation | | |
| Drug use as coping mechanism | 4 | 8.3 |
| Importance of programs | 27 | 56.3 |
| Violence from clients | 4 | 8.3 |
| Contextual Risk Factors | | |
| Low SES | 21 | 43.6 |
| Lack of education | 19 | 39.6 |
| Substance abuse | 14 | 29.2 |
| Violence | 11 | 22.9 |
| Lack of family support | 10 | 20.8 |
| Homelessness | 10 | 20.8 |
| ACES | 17 | 35.4 |

- Potential number of articles: 691
- Final number of articles included: 48

- 18 countries represented
- 12 in the United States
 - 6 in India
 - 5 in Cambodia
 - 4 in Mexico
 - 3 in China
 - 2 in the United Kingdom and the Philippines
- Publication Year
- 2000-2004: 2
 - 2005-2009: 8
 - 2010: 2014: 25
 - 2015-2020: 13

Discussion

- Many of the risk factors for entering and remaining in sex work link back to chronic poverty or low SES.
- Emphasis on HIV prevention and education programs instead of overall quality of life and health.
- Importance of social connectedness within the community for program attendance and increasing overall quality of life.
- Increased self-efficacy led to an increase in condom use with despite increased payment available.
- Stigma was linked to increased police violence.

Acknowledgement

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References

See provided reference list.