

DO YOU CARE ABOUT ME?

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INTRODUCTION

The activity that develops through male prostitution called "Sex Work", is defined as the **exercise and negotiation of sexual services in exchange for economic treatment** (Osborne, 2004), with certain characteristics:

- With or without the intervention of third parties.
- When the services that are advertised and offered are in general, in a space available for exercise.
- When the prices of the different services reflect the pressure of supply and demand.

In the **scant literature on male prostitution**, it is often found that MSWs generate negative self-verbalizations towards the activity they perform, and many would like to leave that activity. That is, because they generally do not have higher education, they consider that the best way to get "easy money" is through non-conventional work. (Ballester & Gil, 1996). The studies that have lent themselves to focus their attention on the social aspects, sexual history, mental health or the personality of the MSW are limited. In addition, this type of research on **mental health in females sex workers has been exported to that of men when the phenomenon is very different.** (Chudakov, Ilan, Belmaker & Cwikel, 2002).

OBJECTIVES

1. Demonstrate that the **emotional aspects** of MSWs are being neglected.
2. Clarify possible **related factors** about mental health problems.
3. Establish for decades the study of **sex work according to mental health.**

1960-1969

2 PAPERS

1967: The meat rack: A study of the male homosexual prostitute. (U.S)

1969: The young male prostitute. (U.S.)

1980-1989

1 PAPER

1985: Entering male prostitution. (U.S.)

1990-1999

5 PAPERS

1990: Early family and sexual experiences of male and female prostitutes. (CANADA)
1993: Male Prostitution. (U.K.)
1994: Verbal and physical abuse as stressors in the lives of lesbian, gay male, and bisexual youths: Associations with school problems, running away, substance abuse, prostitution, and suicide. (U.S.)
1995: The social meanings behind male sex work: Implications for sexual interactions. (U.K.)
1996: Male prostitution. Psychosocial study in our context. (SPAIN)

2000-2009

5 PAPERS

2002: Suicide and prostitution among street youth: A qualitative analysis. (CANADA)
2004: "Trabajador@s del sexo: Derechos, migraciones y tráfico en el siglo XXI". (SPAIN)
2007: "Nobody's ever going to make a fag Pretty Woman": Stigma awareness and the putative effects of stigma among a sample of Canadian male sex workers. (CANADA)
2007: Sexual behavior, mental health, substance use, and HIV risk among agency-based male escorts in a small U.S. City. (U.S.)
2008: Street workers and Internet escorts: Contextual and psychosocial factors surrounding HIV risk behavior among men who engage in sex work with other men. (U.S.)

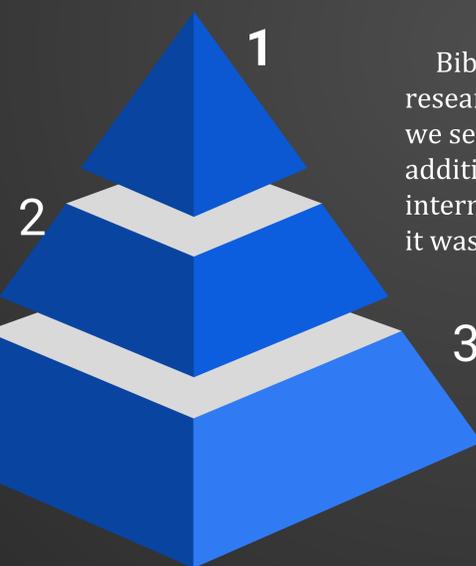
2010-2018

5 PAPERS

2011: Psychosocial Profile of Male Sex Workers. (SPAIN)
2011: Male street prostitution in Dublin: A psychological analysis. (IRELAND)
2012: A resilience-based lens of sex work: Implications for professional psychologists. (U.S.)
2014: Prevalence and Behavioral Correlates of Depression and Anxiety Among Male Sex Workers in Vietnam. (VIETNAM)
2018: Intersections of stigma, mental health, and sex work: How Canadian men engaged in sex work navigate and resist stigma to protect their mental health. (CANADA)

DATABASES

- ❑ **Psycarticles:** mental health and male sex work (0 results); mental health and male prostitution (18 results with 2 was useful).
- ❑ **PsycNET:** mental health and male sex work (158 results without any useful); mental health male sex work (3.850 Results for Any Field, with 7 useful); mental health male prostitution (260 Results for Any Field, without any useful)
- ❑ **Google academic:** male sex work mental health (2.730.000 results, 18 available), **trabajo sexual masculino y salud mental** (51.000 results, with 2 useful).



METHOD

Bibliographic review. On the evidence that we have available, frame how MSWs research has evolved over the decades through the development of graphs. To do this, we searched in the following databases: *Psycarticles*, *PsycNET* y *Google academic*. In addition, the search strategy in different databases has been both nationally and internationally. The search was developed in Spanish and English, and in all databases it was done without a date limit. Below, we show what was found:

CRITERIA

After the explore with the initial search 2,923,286 publications, 2,923,268 were excluded that were not relevant for our objective. From this, 18 publications were selected. For this, the abstracts were reviewed to decide if the information was useful for our work. Later, the search was expanded through combinations of search terms. In addition, a manual search was made of some references cited in relevant studies. Those with male sex workers and mental health were selected. On the other hand, those articles that in some way worked on some component of mental health were included.

RESULTS

A review of 18 studies has been done. All of these studies were selected because of, they have shown information on mental health in male sex workers. The oldest article corresponds to Ginsburg with the title of "The meat rack: A study of the male homosexual prostitute" in **1967** where he talks about the social conditions of the MSWs. The country with the highest number of publications has been U.S. with 7 publications, then Canada with 4 publications, then Spain with 3 publications and those that only had 1 publication were Ireland and Vietnam. The **only work** where mental health is **directly evaluated** in male sex workers is a publication made in **Canada in 2018**.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded in our study, that the only work where mental health is directly evaluated in male sex workers is a publication made in Canada in 2018. This fact shows us: firstly, that there is a concern for this type of population. Secondly, that MSWs have been seen as a dangerous object for society and not as people with feelings. This is because most people believe that male sex work is a dangerous, degrading and exploitative task.

With special attention in Spain, mental health or personality (such as self-esteem, depression, etc.) **has not been explored in Male Sex Workers**. However, there are two studies that investigated personal and sexual factors of MSWs in Spain. Finally, to say that these workers are people like any other and therefore, we must protect them. And for that, we have to generate a lot of research in this regard.



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- Ginsburg, K. N. (1967). The "meat-rack": A study of the male homosexual prostitute. *American Journal of Psychotherapy*, 21(2), 170-185.
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