

CHAPTER 12

Sex Work and Antiretroviral Therapy among Transwomen of Color Living with HIV in New York City

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SUMMARY

Using data from the baseline component of the New York Transgender Project, this chapter presents findings regarding the prevalence and correlates of antiretroviral therapy (ART) among transwomen of color living with HIV in New York City. A significant minority (12.7%) were not receiving ART, and over one-third (37.5%) of those receiving ART self-reported a detectable viral load. Compared to those reporting no sex work, those who were highly involved were 70% less likely to report an undetectable viral load (OR = .30). This likelihood may reflect a lifestyle that is not conducive to adhering to treatment protocols. Better ways of engaging and promoting ART among HIV-positive transgender women highly involved in the sex trade are clearly needed.

KEY TERMS

antiretroviral therapy (ART); sex work; transwomen of color; viral load

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