

Table S1. Detailed description of the study variables.

| Variable | Type | Medical Record | Categories / Transformations |
|--|---|----------------|---|
| Year of consultation Crisis | Categorical polychotomous | Yes No | - This variable was obtained from the year of consultation, establishing two categories: Non-Crisis (including medical records whose year of consultation corresponded to the period 2000–2007) and Crisis (medical records corresponding to the period 2008–2014). These two periods were established because 2008 is the year in which the financial crisis began in Spain. |
| Sex | Categorical dichotomous | Yes | Male, Female. |
| Age | Continuous | Yes | - |
| Citizenship | Categorical polychotomous / dichotomous | Yes | For statistical analysis, citizenship was transformed into a dichotomous variable to differentiate Spanish citizenship from the other identified nationalities, which were grouped in a category called "immigrant". |
| Occupation | Categorical polychotomous | Yes | For statistical analysis, occupation was transformed into a variable with three categories: Sex worker/former sex worker, Student, and Other occupation/unpaid occupation. |
| Employment | Categorical polychotomous | Yes | Active, Unemployed, Retired, Student. |
| Educational level | Categorical polychotomous | Yes | No studies, Primary/Elementary/General Basic Education (EGB, Spanish acronym), Secondary/Baccalaureate, Vocational Training, College. |
| Civil status | Categorical polychotomous | Yes | Single, Married/Domestic partner, Separated/Divorced/Widowed. |
| Reason for consultation | Categorical polychotomous | Yes | Symptoms, Control, Follow-up of contacts, HIV. |
| Prior consultation | Categorical dichotomous | Yes | Yes, No. |
| Who provided prior consultation | Categorical polychotomous | Yes | When the answer to the previous variable was affirmative, the type of department where the consultation took place was recorded, showing great heterogeneity. For statistical analysis, this variable was transformed into the following categories: Specialist consultation, Primary care, Emergencies, Private clinic, Specific STI center, Social services, Other. |
| Number of subsequent visits | Continuous | No | The data corresponded to the number of visits resulting from the first reason for consultation, which were obtained by reviewing the follow-up history appearing in the medical record, organized by date. Each date was preceded by a number so that zero corresponded to the follow-up record related to the first reason for consultation. |
| Number of subsequent new episodes | Continuous | No | The procedure to determine the data of this variable was similar to that described above. Here, when the episode differed from the initial one, the professionals coded the follow-up date with a number different from zero, so that one corresponded with a new episode, and so on. |
| STI diagnosis | Categorical dichotomous | No | Yes, No. This variable was created from the clinical findings recorded in the history of each subject. |
| Sexual behavior | Categorical polychotomous | Yes | Heterosexual, Bisexual, Homosexual, Transsexual. |
| Regular partner | Categorical dichotomous | Yes | Yes, No. |
| Days since last unprotected sexual intercourse | Categorical polychotomous / Continuous | Yes | Never, Less than one month, one to six months, six to 12 months, and over 12 months. For statistical analysis, sexual intercourse was transformed into a continuous variable, with the scores ranging from one to five, corresponding to the categories mentioned above. This scoring system measured the intensity of condom use; low scores reported inconsistent and infrequent condom use, and high scores reported consistent use. |
| Sexual partners in the last month | Categorical polychotomous / Continuous | Yes | 0–1, 2, 3–5, over 5, Prostitution. As in the previous case, the variable was transformed into a continuous variable, also with scores ranging from one to five. |
| Sexual partners in the last year | Categorical polychotomous / Continuous | Yes | 0–1, 2, 3–5, 6–10, 11–20, over 20, Prostitution. This variable also became a continuous scale variable, in this case with scores ranging from one to seven. |

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| Sex life | Categorical polychotomous / Continuous | Yes | 0–10, 10–20, over 20. Following the trend of the previous variables, this variable also became a continuous scale variable for the analysis, with scores ranging from one to three. |
| Contact with a sex worker | Categorical dichotomous | Yes | Yes, No. |
| Frequency of contact with a sex worker | Categorical polychotomous | Yes | Usually, Occasionally, Once. |
| Suspicious contact | Categorical dichotomous | Yes | Yes, No. |
| Usual partner with symptoms | Categorical dichotomous | Yes | Yes, No. |
| Drug use | Categorical dichotomous | Yes | Yes, No. |
| Frequency of drug use | Categorical polychotomous | Yes | Usually, Occasionally, Not currently. |
| Parenteral Drug Administration (PDA) | Categorical dichotomous | Yes | Yes, No. |
| Age at first sexual intercourse | Continuous | Yes | - |
