female sex workers (FSWs) to instances of violence and disease. This paper analyzes factors associated with gender disempowerment and lack of condom use among FSWs in Salvador (Bahia), Brazil who engage in heterosexual interactions with male clients. An understanding of the sources of gender disempowerment is key to developing culturally-appropriate and effective policy interventions.
Structure/Method/Design: Over two, three-month periods (October-December 2011; May-August 2012), interviews were conducted with sixteen female sex workers and focus group discussions were conducted with 35 female sex workers at Projeto Força Feminina. The latter is an organization located in Pelourinho, the Historic District of Salvador, that works with FSWs to promote safe sexual practices and combat gender-based violence. Three life histories were also conducted with three of the sex workers. Additionally, Dr. Edivania Landim, the former head of the HIV/AIDS program of Bahia was also interviewed.
Outcomes & Evaluation: Of the 35 FSWs interviewed, all except one were Salvador natives. The median age was 27 (inter-quartile range: 19-56), with the majority of the women being in their mid twenties to early thirties. Most participants (56%) identified as single or not dating. None was married at the time of the study. Ten of the women had children with whom they lived. Over one-third (37.5%) of the women reported always using condoms. The top three reasons reported for lack of condom use were (1) clients offered higher wages for unprotected intercourse, (2) women were sexually assaulted by clients/police, (3) women offered unprotected sex to clients in order to steal clients from other FSWs.
Going Forward: Increased emphasis should be placed on female-specific forms of protection, e.g. female condoms, microbicides. Because organized prostitution is illegal in Brazil, the results indicate that lack of organization drives competition among FSWs, increasing health risks. Unionization is necessary to gain political acknowledgement of sex worker rights. Legalization of the trade will allow for regulation of the profession and increase the ability of FSWs to unionize.
Funding: This study was funded by Duke University via a Duke-Engage Independent Research Grant.
Abstract #: *01SEDH028*

Assessment of household water purification practices in the Milot Valley, Haiti

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Background: Haiti has faced a cholera epidemic since 2010. Government and non-governmental organizations have been promoting the importance of household water purification. In Northern Haiti's Milot Valley, recent research demonstrated high E. coli levels in public water sources, including those that would be considered "improved" by the World Health Organization. Given the high risk of waterborne infection, our research assessed current household water purification practices in the Milot Valley.
Methods: We performed a cross-sectional study via home visits in Milot and surrounding communities. From June to July 2014, 64 households were enrolled using convenience sampling and bilingual interpreters. Each household was represented by a single respondent at least 18 years old. Households were asked if and how they purified their drinking water. Presence of water purification products in the home was ascertained. If chlorination of drinking water was reported, a sample was tested for chlorine. To measure perceived personal risk, we asked if households knew someone who had been sick and/or died of cholera. The study was approved by the Institutional Review Board at Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, MA. Informed consent was obtained using an audio recording and verbal agreement.
Findings: Thirty-nine percent (25/64) of households reported "always" treating drinking water, 25% (16/64) reported "sometimes," and 11% (7/64) reported "never." Another 25% (16/64) reported obtaining pre-treated water. Sixty-four percent (41/64) reported chlorination as their treatment method; no households reported filtration or boiling water. Twenty-five percent (16/64) had a chlorine-based water purification product at home, and of these, 86% (14/16) knew its correct usage. Twelve of 41 (29%) households reporting chlorination had water available to test. Of these 12, three households did not currently have a water purification product at home, and all three tested negative for chlorine. The remaining nine households had a water purification product at home, and seven tested positive for chlorine (78%). Fifty percent (8/16) who reported "sometimes" treating their drinking water cited "cost" as a barrier. Eighty percent (51/64) knew someone who had been sick and/or died of cholera.
Interpretation: Our data suggest that Milot Valley communities recognize cholera's threat and their own high risk. Households with water purification products at home demonstrate correct usage. Despite this knowledge, a large proportion of households are not treating their drinking water. While our data suggest that cost remains an important barrier, future studies should focus on perceived self-efficacy of water purification methods among households not regularly purifying their water. Limitations of this study include households not having water available to test, relatively small sample size, and use of convenience sampling.
Funding: Funding was obtained through the Tisch College Summer Fellowship International Program at Tufts University, Medford, MA.
Abstract #: *01SEDH029*

Assessing early childhood nutrition knowledge and practices and perspectives in rural Kenya

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Program/Project Purpose: Early childhood nutrition is a critical determinant of physical and cognitive development. According to the Kenya Bureau of Statistics, in 2011, 23.7% of children under 5 in the Kisumu district were stunted, and 4.1% were wasted. In order to gain a better understanding of the etiology of this childhood malnutrition, University of British Columbia's Global Health Initiative (GHI), in collaboration with the local NGO Partners in Community Transformation (PCT), conducted focus group discussions (FGDs) with male and female caregivers, and community health workers (CHWs) over a six week period between June-July 2014. The project aimed to find ways to optimize early childhood nutrition practices such that overall health in Kisumu improves.
Structure/Method/Design: FGD questions were designed to assess general nutrition knowledge, and nutrition practices specifically related to mothers with children < 5 years old. All participants were selected by the PCT Community Health and Education Coordinator based on the following criteria: age ≥ 18, child caregiver or CHW status, and Kisumu district residency. A total of five FGDs were held in Kaila, Kit Miyaki, and Kajulu Koker; three FGDs were held with female caregivers, one with male caregivers, and one with CHWs. Each FGD had a maximum of 15 participants. In addition, nutritionists and representatives from the Ministries of Health and Agriculture were interviewed to gain a better understanding of the societal