

Pelvic Floor

WHORE

#2

ALLIES OF SEX WORKERS EDITION



Pelvic Sanctuary

PELVIC HEALTH IS FOR EVERY BODY

Mission

To destigmatize and decolonize pelvic health education, making it accessible and inclusive for all, especially marginalized communities.



Vision

To be the leading force in transforming pelvic health education, championing inclusivity, cultural competence, and empowerment. We envision a world where pelvic health is understood, respected, and accessible to everyone, regardless of their background.

www.pelvicsanctuary.org

Obstacles in Healthcare



Sex workers frequently encounter stigma and judgment from healthcare providers due to societal biases against their profession. This affects their quality of healthcare and can make seeking services anxiety-inducing and result in avoidance even if there is access.





Stigma and Judgment: Sex workers often encounter stigma and judgment from healthcare providers due to societal biases against their profession, which can affect the quality of care they receive.

Lack of Cultural Competence: Healthcare providers need training and understanding of the unique needs and challenges faced by sex workers, leading to insensitive or inadequate care.

Limited Access to Services: Sex workers may face barriers in accessing pelvic health services due to financial constraints, lack of insurance coverage, or limited availability of services that are non-judgmental and inclusive.

Assumptions and Stereotypes: Healthcare providers may hold assumptions and stereotypes about sex workers, impacting their interactions and the care provided. This can include assumptions about sexual practices, health risks, and lifestyle choices.

Fear of Disclosure: Sex workers may fear disclosing their occupation due to concerns about confidentiality breaches, judgment, or legal repercussions, which can hinder open communication with healthcare providers and lead to misdiagnosis or inadequate treatment.

Potential Occupational Affects on Pelvic Health for Sex Workers

Repetitive Physical Strain: Depending on their work, sex workers may engage in repetitive physical activities that can *strain pelvic muscles and tissues*, such as certain sexual positions or prolonged periods of physical exertion.

Sexual Practices: Sex workers may engage in sexual practices that involve different positions, frequencies, and types of sexual activity, which can impact pelvic health, including *muscular tension, pelvic floor disorders, and injuries*.

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs): Sex workers may have a higher risk of exposure to STIs due to their occupation, which can lead to *pelvic inflammatory diseases, chronic infections, and other reproductive health issues* if untreated.

Trauma and Violence: Some sex workers may experience physical trauma or violence during their work, which can result in *pelvic injuries, muscle tension, and psychological stress affecting pelvic health*.

Inconsistent Healthcare Access: Due to stigma, legal concerns, or financial barriers, sex workers may face challenges in accessing regular healthcare services, leading to *delays in addressing pelvic health issues or receiving preventive care*.



No Judgments



Substance Use: Substance use, whether recreational or as a coping mechanism, can affect pelvic health through *its impact on overall health, immune function, and hormonal balance.*

Hormonal Changes: Some sex workers may use hormonal contraceptives, hormone replacement therapy (HRT) or undergo hormonal fluctuations due to the nature of their work, which can influence *pelvic health, menstrual cycles, and reproductive health.*

Mental Health Considerations: Sex workers may experience higher rates of stress, anxiety, depression, or trauma-related disorders, which can manifest physically and affect pelvic health through *muscular tension, pain, and other symptoms.*

Lack of Education and Prevention: Sex workers may have *limited access to comprehensive sexual health education, including information on pelvic health, preventive measures, and early signs of health issues.*

Social Determinants of Health: Socioeconomic status, housing instability, and discrimination can contribute to health disparities and affect access to pelvic health resources and support.

Here are some supporting statistics you can use to underscore the urgent need for advocacy and policy changes to address stigma, discrimination, and medical violence against sex workers in healthcare. By highlighting these issues, advocates can promote awareness and support initiatives that ensure equitable access to pelvic health and other essential healthcare services for sex workers.



Legal and Policy Barriers:

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), criminalization of sex work contributes to stigma and discrimination in healthcare settings, hindering access to essential health services including reproductive health and HIV prevention.

Impact on Health Outcomes:

Studies, such as those reviewed by the Lancet Global Health, show that stigma and discrimination against sex workers in healthcare settings contribute to poorer health outcomes, higher rates of untreated sexually transmitted infections, and increased vulnerability to violence and exploitation.



Stigma and Discrimination:

A study published in the Journal of the International AIDS Society found that 20-50% of sex workers reported experiencing verbal or physical abuse from healthcare providers due to their occupation.

Access to Healthcare:

Research from the Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP) indicates that sex workers are less likely to access healthcare services due to fear of stigma, discrimination, and criminalization, leading to increased health risks and untreated medical conditions.

Healthcare Provider Attitudes:

A survey by the American Journal of Public Health found that 60% of healthcare providers surveyed believed that sex workers should be denied some healthcare services, reflecting underlying biases and discriminatory attitudes

Violence and Trauma:

Research from the World Health Organization (WHO) highlights that sex workers experience high levels of violence, including physical and sexual violence, which can result in pelvic injuries, chronic pain, and psychological trauma affecting pelvic health.

Reproductive Health Risks:

According to a study published in the Journal of Infectious Diseases, sex workers face increased risks of reproductive health complications, including pelvic inflammatory diseases, ectopic pregnancies, and infertility, often exacerbated by limited access to healthcare services. (Source: Journal of Infectious Diseases)

Physical Injuries:

Research reviewed by the Lancet Global Health indicates that sex workers may experience physical injuries related to their work, such as pelvic muscle strain, injuries from sexual practices, and repetitive stress injuries, which can impact pelvic health and overall well-being. (Source: Lancet Global Health)

IMPACTFUL STATEMENTS YOU CAN USE TO STAND UP FOR SEX WORKERS' RIGHTS TO PELVIC HEALTH SUPPORT.



"Sex workers deserve access to comprehensive pelvic health care that respects their autonomy and dignity."

"Pelvic health is a fundamental part of overall well-being, and sex workers should have equal access to preventive screenings, treatments, and support services."

"Addressing pelvic health issues among sex workers is crucial for promoting safer practices, reducing health disparities, and enhancing overall quality of life."

"Healthcare providers must receive training on the specific needs of sex workers to deliver non-judgmental, culturally competent care that meets their health goals."



"Sex workers deserve healthcare environments free from stigma and discrimination, where they can openly discuss their health concerns without fear of judgment."

"Pelvic health support should be inclusive of diverse identities and experiences, including LGBTQIA+ sex workers and those from marginalized communities."

"Promoting pelvic health awareness among sex workers empowers individuals to prioritize their health, seek timely care, and make informed decisions about their bodies."

"Supporting pelvic health initiatives for sex workers aligns with principles of equity, justice, and respect for human rights in healthcare."



Drypoint by Los Angeles-based artist
and Sex Worker Kalya Tange post-
endometriosis surgery.

Based on photos by Luka Fisher

www.pelvicsanctuary.org

OPEN CALL

WE INVITE SEX WORKERS AND
HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS TO
PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAMS AND PANEL
DISCUSSIONS

INFO@PELVICSANCTUARY.ORG

**Help us expand programs to improve
pelvic health for Sex Workers.**

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