Although substance use is newly diagnosed HIV cases in Belize increased for males and females. Olam Belize (TOB) ramped up prevention efforts for FSW by:

**Drug Trafficking:**
- Belize is not typically a destination country for illegal drugs or precursor chemicals – although substance use is substantial.
- Belize is a major transport country for drugs destined for the U.S. from South America.
- Major modes of drug trafficking:
  - Vehicles/boats/person: Through unpopulated jungles on the Belize-Guatemala international border;
  - Airplane: Refueling in remote airstrips (Belize does not have air defense systems);
  - Boat: Traveling unpatrolled coastline through hundreds of cays.

**Women, Female Sex Workers, & HIV:**
- Newly diagnosed HIV cases in Belize increased for males and females, with the highest rates among females 20-24 and 60-64 years of age.
- Belize and Stann Creek have the highest rates of HIV among females.
- HIV testing among FSW is lower in Belize (65%) than in other Central American countries (e.g. 100% in Costa Rica).
- Data from 3,293 FSW in six Central American counties show over 80% reported consistent condom use. In Belize, only 60% of FSW reported consistent condom use with clients.
- Younger FSW showed a significant decrease in condom use (2010-2013) with all type of clients.

**References**

**Methods:**
- Data were drawn from international and national reports, research studies, and outreach activities reports.

**Acknowledgements:**
- The development of this report was supported by a 2016 award to Dr. Sally Stevens: The Mary Bernard Aguine Professorship Award.

**Drug Use & HIV:**
- Drug use and risky sex among Belizean and migrant FSW elevates their risk for contracting HIV.

**Substance Use:**
- Drug use has resulted in serious health problems in Belize.
- Alcohol is widely used by youth and adults.
- Marijuana, followed by crack cocaine, are the two most commonly used drugs.
- Increase in stimulant and inhalant use was noted in 2014; rates of methamphetamine and pharmaceutical drug use remain low.
- Assistance for and referrals to drug treatment have increased.

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**References**