

## Decolonizing Public Health Teach-In

# PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY AND PEOPLE IN THE SEX TRADES

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### Abstract

Within the public health field, people involved in the sex trades are often labeled as “at risk” or described as engaging in risky behaviors without a critical interrogation of the policies and stigmatization that create risky environments. This workshop will focus on federal, state, and local policy and the ways law enforcement and the public interact with people in the sex trades to shape and maintain unsafe, and oftentimes, hostile environments. Developing interventions to change or limit risk behaviors among this population may unintentionally contribute to this if we do not also work to change environments and public discourse. Researchers and public health practitioners must also listen to people in the sex trades and center their voices and demands to provide effective support.

### Recommended Readings

- Shannon, K., Strathdee, S. A., Goldenberg, S. M., Duff, P., Mwangi, P., Rusakova, M., . . . Boily, M. C. (2015, January 03). Global epidemiology of HIV among female sex workers: influence of structural determinants. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25059947>
- Lutnick, A., & Cohan, D. (2009, December 03). Criminalization, legalization or decriminalization of sex work: what female sex workers say in San Francisco, USA. Retrieved from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0968808009344699>
- Swaner, Rachel, et al. (2016). *Youth Involvement in the Sex Trade: A National Study*. Center for Court Innovation.