

Invitation for the online survey:

**Changes in sex work during the COVID-19 pandemic -
psychological distress and coping strategies**

What is at issue?

In the context of the "Corona pandemic", various measures have been taken since March 2020 to contain the spread of the virus. As a result, the meaning of physical closeness has changed significantly in a short period of time and to date. In this study, we aim to explore how sex workers experience these changes in the context of their sexual services. We would like to determine whether the contact restrictions and their consequences are accompanied by psychological distress (e.g. depressive and physical symptoms, anxiety) and what strategies are used to cope with this. We also want to investigate whether certain life events and circumstances increase the development of psychological distress. In this context, we ask, for example, about self-determination and self-stigmatization (the tendency to adopt social prejudices about sex work into one's own self-image).

Who can participate?

We invite all persons aged 18 years and older to participate in this study who have earned money with sexual services in the past two years, i.e. who have worked or are currently working as sex workers. In addition to sexual services with direct physical contact, we also include those without direct physical contact, such as online sex or the creation of pornographic videos/pictures.

How does the study work?

Filling out the anonymous online survey takes about 15 minutes. There are no wrong answers - this is all about your honest attitudes and your personal experience. Please only take the survey once, as multiple participations would distort the results of the study. You can end the online survey at any time without any disadvantages for you.

What are the benefits of my participation and are there risks?

With your participation in our study you make a significant contribution to support the development of ideas to improve the care situation of sex workers. Expenses cannot be reimbursed. There are no risks associated with your participation and you will not incur any costs.

Is my anonymity guaranteed?

The online survey does not collect any information that allows direct conclusions to be drawn about your identity. Furthermore, the technical conditions of the online survey comply with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation. The anonymous data will be used exclusively for research purposes and will only be evaluated by the study team and its staff in order to publish them in scientific journals. The data is password-protected twice, firstly the file itself and secondly the storage medium. The study design was reviewed by the Local Psychological Ethics Committee of the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf and assessed as unobjectionable.

Who do I contact for questions?

If you have any questions or problems, please contact us at any time at the following address:
derya.kaplan@student.medicalschool-hamburg.de

Link to the survey: [ogy.de/sexarbeitcovid](https://www.ogy.de/sexarbeitcovid)

Thank you for your interest, we look forward to your participation,
Your study team:

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