Intersections between violence against women and violence against sexual minorities

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INTRODUCTION

• Men’s perpetration of violence against women remains a global problem (Abrahams et al. 2014; Devries et al. 2013)
• Violence against women is fundamentally about gender inequality (Jewkes, Flood and Lang 2015)
• A key violence prevention strategy is the engagement of boys and men
• Yet, men do not comprise a homogenous category (Flood 2015)
• Sexuality-based discrimination (homophobia) is central to the maintenance of gender inequality and stratifies groups of men (Fleming et al. 2015)
• If we shift our conceptual angle to include both gender inequality and homophobia, what is the implication for violence prevention?

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

• Is there a difference between sexual minority men & heterosexual men in their exposure to lifetime violence?
• Is the group with greater exposure to adversity more likely to perpetrate violence against women or other men?
• What are the implications for violence prevention?

METHODS

• UN Multi-country Study on Men and Violence conducted from 2012-2013 in Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea – Bougainville, and Sri Lanka (all men, all countries n=7,641)
• Multi-stage cluster sampled probability-based samples of men aged 18-49
• Comparable survey design in all countries
• Sexual minority men defined as men who reported sex with another man and/or attraction to other men (sexual minority men, all countries n=761)

RESULTS

Table 1. Multivariable logistic regression models of consensual same-sex sexual practices or reported same-sex preferences regressed on socio-demographic characteristics and adverse life experiences

CONCLUSIONS

• Sexual is a central axis of differentiation among men in Asia-Pacific
• Sexual minority men are disproportionately more likely to experience most measured forms of violence across the life course
• Implications for violence prevention include:
  1. Greater attention to sexuality in gender-based violence prevention interventions
  2. Integration of intervention efforts among sexual minority men (often related to HIV-related health work) and the broader population
  3. Future research on the effects of sexuality (e.g. meaning making) for men’s experiences and perpetration of violence

REFERENCES


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