

BRAZIL

Double vulnerabilities of violence and HIV among women in Brazil:

A latent class analysis

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BACKGROUND

More than 13 million women in Brazil are victims of intimate partner violence (IPV). According to the World Health Organization, Brazil also has the seventh highest rate of femicide (women murdered by men) of 84 countries worldwide, with nearly one woman killed every two hours. To address this

public health problem, the Maria de Penha law was enacted in 2006 in Brazil to provide victims with legal means to prevent IPV and to prosecute IPV perpetrators. Recent data indicate that, even though most women are aware of the law, they are not accessing services after IPV victimization.

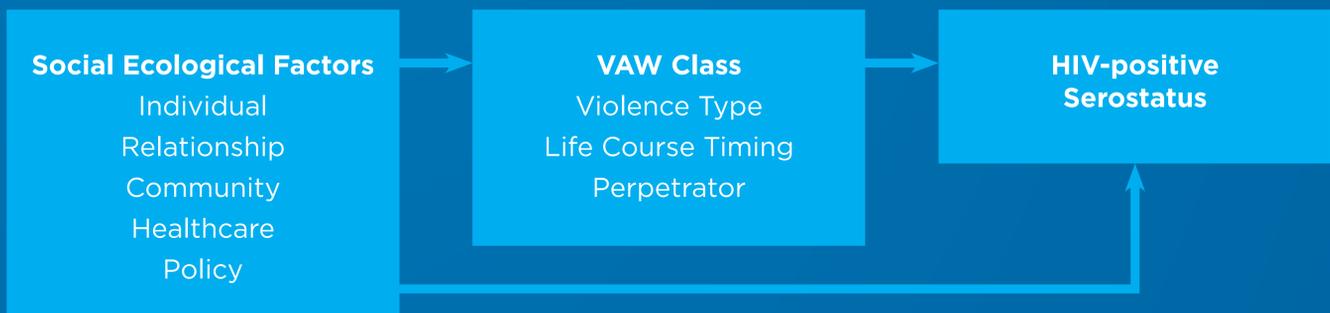
PROJECT AIMS

This project aims to extend current knowledge beyond prevalence estimates of violence against women (VAW) by conducting a secondary data analysis (see Figure 1), in order to:

1. Classify typologies or classes of violence experienced by women over their life course in South and Southeastern Brazil using latent class analysis.
2. Identify associated risk and protective factors at different socio-ecological levels (i.e., individual, relationship, community, healthcare, policy) for each violence victimization class or typology.

3. Examine the intersection of violence victimization against women and HIV: Logistic regression analysis will be used to identify individual-, relationship-, community-, healthcare-, policy-level, and violence victimization class correlates with HIV-status to understand how socio-ecological factors and violence victimization confer risk for HIV infection. Additionally, sub-analyses will be done to describe the additional stigma experienced by women living with HIV in Brazil.

Figure 1. Socio-Ecological Model of Violence Against Women (VAW) & HIV Across the Life Course



PROJECT METHODS

This study will merge two population-based studies with similar sampling methodologies conducted in São Paulo (n=2,000) and Porto Alegre (n=1,323) in 2013-14. Women ages 18-49 years were sampled from public health centres and administered surveys that gathered extensive data on violence victimization and social ecological factors on stigma and access to preventative health services. Latent Class Analysis, a novel statistical technique, will be used to classify typologies of violence over the life course (i.e., type [physical, sexual, psychological];

timing [childhood, adulthood, both]; perpetrator [intimate partner, friend, etc.]). Regression models will identify risk and protective factors for each IPV typology at various levels of the socio-ecological theoretical model (e.g., individual, relationship, and community, structural). Given that 98% of women living with HIV in Brazil report a lifetime history violence (79% prior to diagnosis), and that HIV is concentrated in South and Southeastern Brazil, we will also examine nuances in IPV victimization by HIV serostatus.

PROJECT IMPACT

This bi-national collaboration will facilitate the development of a viable socio-structural intervention to prevent violence, connect victims to Brazil's socialized healthcare system, facilitate access to the legal process offered by the Maria da Penha law, and possibly integrate violence prevention within extant HIV care services.

The secondary analysis will result in:

- Identifiable targets for IPV prevention intervention at each level of the social ecological model, and;
- Widespread research dissemination (e.g., ≥3 peer-reviewed publications, present findings at ≥1 international conference).

