Partner and non-partner sexual violence among men who have sex with men in Mpumalanga, South Africa

Kristin Dunkle, Daniel MurdocK, Tim Lane, Tom Osmand, Alex Marr, Nkuli Mlotshwa, Mpho Silima, Nkosinathi Zuma, Helen Struthers, & James McIntyre

UCSF Center for AIDS Prevention Studies
Anova Health Institute
Emory University

Acknowledgements

Anova Health Institute

James McIntyre

Helen Struthers

Nkuli Mlotshwa

Nosipho Makhakhe

Kabelo Maleke

Mpho Silima

Nkosinathi Zuma

Glenn De Swardt

Columbia University

Theo Sandfort

Joanne Mantell

UCSF

Tim Lane

Tom Osmand

University of California
San Francisco
UCSF
AIDS Research Institute
Center for AIDS Prevention Studies

This Research is supported by a grant from the National Institutes for Health/National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIH/NIAID): R01AI89292. Additional support from Emory University Center for AIDS Research and Laney School of Graduate Studies.

Background

- Compared to male violence against women, little is known about
  - Prevalence of male-on-male sexual violence victimization / perpetration
  - Prevalence of intimate partner violence between men
  - Risks factors for SV and IPV among MSM
  - Health consequences of SV and IPV among MSM
- *Experience* of intimate partner violence is a proven cause of HIV among women in South Africa (*Jewkes et al, Lancet 2010*)
- *Perpetration* of violence is associated with prevalent HIV infection among South African men (*Jewkes et al, PLoS ONE, 2011*)
- Emerging international evidence suggests that similar associations between violence and HIV exist among MSM
- Preliminary exploration drawing on Mpumalanga Men's Study

The Mpumalanga Men's Study

- **Health Empowerment** is a collaborative community trial of an adapted form of *MPowerment*, an EBI for MSM in USA.
- Systematic adaptation and piloting of *MPowerment* core components in Mpumalanga, occurred in 2011-2012
- Adapted intervention "*Project Boithato*" launched in April 2013

- **Baseline behavioural and biological assessment** of the MSM population in Gert Sibande and Ehlanzni district municipalities in Mpumalanga.

Data Collection

- Baseline recruitment September 2012-March 2013
- Recruited men in Gert Sibande and Ehlanzeni districts via respondent-driven sampling (RDS)
  - 308 in Gert Sibande; 298 in Ehlanzeni (N = 606 total)
  - 18 or older; reported anal sex with a man in past 6 months
  - 90 minute behavioural survey with rapid test for HIV
- Physical and sexual IPV assessed with WHO VAW Instrument
  - Victimization and perpetration
  - Male and female partners
- Non-partner SV perpetration adapted from IMAGES
  - Perpetration against male and female victims
- Follow up assessments planned for 2014 and 2015

Demographics

	N	%
Age: *Median (range)*	*22.9*	*18-44*
• 18-24	408	67.3%
• >=25	198	32.7%
Black/African	598	98.7%
Completed Secondary Education	278	46.5%
Paid work in last 6 months	252	41.6%
Ran out of money for basic needs in last 6 months	289	47.7%
Relies on financial support from others	257	41.4%
Self-described identity:		
• Gay/homosexual	322	53.1%
• Bisexual	220	36.3%
• Heterosexual	20	3.3%
• Transgender/Woman	6	1.0%
• None reported	38	6.3%

Sexual Relationships

	N	%
Ever regular male partner	528	87.1%
Current regular male partner	442	72.9%
Lives with him	35	5.7%
Ever regular female partner	333	55.0%
Current regular female partner	181	29.9%
Lives with her	15	2.5%
BOTH male and female regular partners	121	20.0%
Only ever had sex with men	209	34.5%
Ever with women	397	65.5%

Intimate Partner Violence

	Male Part. (N=606)		Female Part. (N=397)	
	N	**%**	**N**	**%**
Experience from partner				
Physical IPV only	64	10.6%	39	9.8%
Sexual IPV only	58	9.6%	29	7.3%
Both physical and sexual IPV	57	9.4%	23	5.8%
Any IPV victimization	**179**	**29.5%**	**91**	**22.9%**
Perpetration against partner				
Physical IPV only	51	8.4%	37	9.3%
Sexual IPV only	24	4.0%	12	3.0%
Both physical and sexual	30	5.0%	22	5.5%

Sexual Violence and IPV overlap by gender

	Against men (N=606)		Against women (N=606)	
	N	**%**	**N**	**%**
SV against non-partner	42	7.0%	17	2.8%
ANY SV perpetration	85	14.0%	43	7.1%

IPV by Gender of partner	**Victimization**		**Perpetration**	
Neither	**368**	**60.7%**	**447**	**73.8%**
Men only	147	24.3%	88	14.5%
Women only	59	9.7%	54	8.9%
Both	32	5.3%	17	2.8%

Predictors of Male-on-Male IPV among all MSM

Controlling for sexual history with women and age (N=598)

	Victimization		Perpetration	
	OR	**95% CI**	**OR**	**95% CI**
Secondary education or higher	0.60	0.40 – 091	0.56	0.35 – 0.89
Perceives self as ‘woman’	2.41	1.54 – 3.87	1.97	1.23 – 3.14
Score on feminine id scale	1.07	1.01 – 1.13	ns	--
Score on index of experienced homonegativity	1.07	1.01 – 1.12	ns	--
Heavy alcohol use	1.82	1.21 – 2.73	1.51	1.24 – 3.08
Participation in transactional sex	2.29	1.52 – 3.44	1.95	1.24 – 3.08

Predictors of IPV with women among MSMW

Controlling for age (N=387)

	Victimization		Perpetration	
	OR	**95% CI**	**OR**	**95% CI**
Score on internalized homonegativity scale	1.15	1.06 – 1.25	1.09	1.00 – 1.19
Heavy alcohol use	2.09	1.24 – 3.52	1.79	1.02 – 3.14
Marijuana use	3.10	1.47 – 6.54	4.63	2.20 – 9.74
Participation in transactional sex	1.94	1.16 – 3.26	1.94	1.10 – 3.39

Differences from IPV with men

- No effect for education or measures of gender identity
- Internalized rather than experienced homonegativity
- Drug use now significant
- Correlation with men's TS participation consitent

IPV, SV and HIV

Controlling for age and risk behavior

	Victimization		Perpetration	
	OR	**95% CI**	**OR**	**95% CI**
Any male-on-male IPV	**1.96**	**1.26 – 3.04**	**1.82**	**1.11 – 3.02**
Any male-female IPV (among MSMW)	1.69	0.89 – 3.21	1.56	0.76 – 3.16
Any physical IPV				
Male-on-male	**1.88**	**1.16 – 3.05**	**1.84**	**1.05 – 3.24**
Male-female	1.62	0.79 – 3.32	1.46	0.68 – 3.16
Any sexual IPV				
Male-on-male	**2.10**	**1.28 – 2.45**	*1.85*	*0.97 – 3.56*
Male-female	**2.35**	**1.10 –**	1.39	0.53 –

Conclusions

- IPV and SV are highly prevalent among MSM and MSMW
- Some correlated factors are familiar from research on male violence against women
  - Drug and alcohol use
  - Transactional sex and other high risk sexual behavior
- Some correlated factors are unique to MSM
  - Increasing self-identification as feminine
  - Experience of discrimination and internalized homonegativity
- Violence is correlated with increased HIV risk
  - Male-on-male IPV linked to increased risk for victims and perpetrators
  - Reported sexual violence victimization increases risk regardless of gender of the perpetrator

Implications for future work

- Practice and intervention
  - Violence prevention is needed for MSM and MSMW, and must be tailored to address unique risk factors
  - HIV prevention for MSM should explicitly address IPV and SV
  - Care providers should be sensitive to potential experience among clients, and offer PEP and PrEP as appropriate
- Directions for future research
  - Overlap between IPV with male and female partners, and narrative detail on experience of violence from female partners
  - Exploration of links between self-identification and masculine and feminine and experience/perpetration of IPV and SV