Findings from the CHANGE trial: a cluster randomised controlled trial to assess the impact of a multi-level intervention to reduce men’s perpetration of intimate partner violence against women

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23 October 2019

SVRI Forum
Background

• Rates of Intimate partner violence (IPV) in South Africa are high
  • Lifetime prevalence among women (18-49 years): 28-55.5% (Jewkes et al. 2001; Dunkle et al. 2004; Machisa et al. 2011)

• Population-based studies have estimated prevalence of men’s use of physical and/or sexual violence against a partner at 27.5 - 42% (Jewkes et al. 2015; Abrahams et al. 2005)
Harmful masculinity norms & perpetration of IPV

- Dominant masculinity norms (e.g. toughness, virility, power) are a key underlying factors (Fulu et al. 2013)
- Heterosexual performance is linked to men’s control over women which can lead to physical and / or sexual violence (Jewkes et al. 2011)
- Inequitable gender beliefs & attitudes condoning gender-based violence are characteristics of dominant masculinity norms
Context

- Peri-urban and informal setting to the north-west of Johannesburg
- 250,000-500,000 residents
The multi-level intervention

- Community education and mobilisation
  - Door-to-door
  - Murals, picture charts
  - Theatre

- Sonke Intervention
  - Community dialogues
  - 2-day workshops covering different themes
  - Working with media
    - Advocacy: holding local government to account

- Community mobilisers
  - Community action teams (CATS)
  - Formation of alliances

- Capacity strengthening: creating change agents
Aim

• The aim was to determine the effectiveness of the Sonke CHANGE intervention to prevent men’s use of sexual and or physical violence against an intimate partner and reduce the severity of perpetration by men aged 18 to 40 years living in a peri-urban South African settlement over two years of follow-up.

  • Registration: ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02823288, registered on June 30 2016
Outcomes of interest

• Primary outcomes:
  • A reduction in any use of intimate partner physical violence and/or any use of sexual violence in the past 12 months
  • Reduction in Intensity of physical and or sexual violence use in the past 12 months against an intimate partner

• Secondary outcomes:
  • Any rape of a non-partner in the past 12 months
  • Male Controlling Behaviour
  • Gender attitudes
  • Depressive symptoms
  • Problem alcohol use
  • Transactional sex with khwapheni (longer term concurrent partner) or casual partner past 12m
  • Parenting as measured by the Parent-Child Conflict Tactics Scale
  • Social cohesion
Sonke CHANGE Trial (2016-2018)

• 18 clusters, 9 intervention & 9 control
• 120-144 men per cluster, aged 18-40 years, resident >1 year in area
• Randomization occurred after (most) baseline data collection
• Fieldwork team was blinded to randomisation at baseline
• Endline data collection occurred 24 months after enrollment
Sonke CHANGE Trial

Proposed Diepsloot Clusters
Feb 2016

- Police
- Jaguar
- Hawk
- Snake Cobra
- Buffalo
- Cheetah
- Elephant
- Meerkat (aka Baobab)
- Kudu
- Rhino
- Giraffe (aka Protea)
- Warthog
- Vulture
- Tiger
- Zebra
- Unicorn
- Cheetah
- Rhino
- Panda
- Elephant
- Flamingo
- Rabasotho Combined School
- Kalandula Combined School
- Oudtshoorn
- Eersterivier caves
Fig 1. Sonke CHANGE
Trial study design

Baseline data
(n=2,406)

Assignment

Follow-up visits
(n=310)

Follow-up visits
(n=308)

Phone calls / Texts

Home visits

Travel to other cities/provinces

Clusters=9
n=1195

Endline
(n=1,211)

Clusters=9
n=1,211

Endline
(n=1,195)
Data analysis

• Intention to treat analysis – analysis based on baseline allocation to intervention or control condition
• Analysis at the cluster level
• Compared the difference in the risk of perpetrating IPV among men in the intervention & control clusters
• Analyses adjusted for baseline levels of IPV and socio demographic characteristics: age, educational attainment, number of children, and relationship status
• Adjusted for missing data using inverse probability weighting
Data analysis

- Latent class analysis (LCA) – sub group analysis
  - 6 variables define latent classes of men: IPV perpetration in the last 12 months (emotional, economic, physical and sexual), ever having been a gang member, having fought with a weapon/had an illegal gun in past 12 months, rape of a non-partner in past 12 months, drug use in past 12 months, transactional sex with a casual partner in past 12 months, sex with a sex worker and having had three or more sexual partners in the past 12 months
  - Measures of fit used were log-likelihood (LL), likelihood ratio chi-squared statistic (L²), Akaike Information Criterion (AIC), Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC), adjusted BIC (aBIC) and entropy
### Results

- Followed up 1458 men at 24 months (63%)
- Number of men followed up per cluster ranged from 65 to 102

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Intervention Mean (SD) or Number (%)</th>
<th>Control Mean (SD) or Number (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (years)</td>
<td>27.3 (5.6)</td>
<td>27.8 (5.7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school education</td>
<td>451 (38.2%)</td>
<td>457 (38.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnered, living</td>
<td>453 (38.3%)</td>
<td>479 (40.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>together</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partnered, living</td>
<td>553 (46.7%)</td>
<td>502 (42.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apart</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>178 (15.0%)</td>
<td>213 (17.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-border</td>
<td>136 (11.4%)</td>
<td>174 (14.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>migrant</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal migrant</td>
<td>730 (69.5%)</td>
<td>689 (67.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lived in informal</td>
<td>494 (41.6%)</td>
<td>498 (41.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>housing</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>423 (35.5%)</td>
<td>450 (37.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food insecurity</td>
<td>663 (55.9%)</td>
<td>647 (53.9%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Differences from BL to EL for primary outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Baseline n (%)</th>
<th>Endline n (%)</th>
<th>Difference in cluster-level % at endline* (95% CI)</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inter.</td>
<td>Control</td>
<td>Inter.</td>
<td>Control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical abuse</td>
<td>465 (39.54)</td>
<td>487 (40.86)</td>
<td>176 (25.62)</td>
<td>167 (25.15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual abuse</td>
<td>372 (31.71)</td>
<td>381 (31.96)</td>
<td>115 (15.01)</td>
<td>122 (16.53)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe IPV</td>
<td>376 (32.90)</td>
<td>393 (33.82)</td>
<td>134 (17.54)</td>
<td>140 (18.97)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Controlling for BL levels & soc. dem characteristics
Secondary outcomes

- Similar patterns were observed for the secondary outcomes as well
  - Any rape of a non-partner in the past 12 months
  - Male Controlling Behaviour
  - Gender attitudes
  - Depressive symptoms
  - Problem alcohol use
  - Transactional sex with khwapheni (longer term concurrent partner) or casual partner past 12m
  - Parenting as measured by the Parent-Child Conflict Tactics Scale
  - Social cohesion
Impact of the intervention of physical and sexual IPV perpetration

Physical IPV

Less violence
More severe physical and or sexual IPV

- Intervention had little difference between classes of men on physical IPV alone
- There was some evidence that there may have been more effect on “smooth operator” and “nice to know” men for sexual IPV
- There is also some evidence of greater effect on “nice to know” (least violent) men for more severe IPV (aOR0.74 95%CI 0.41, 1.33)
Limitations

• Number of clusters (n=18) was limited
• Contamination could have occurred
• Latent class analysis was underpowered
• Implementation challenges
  • Safety concerns affected some components
• Intensity of the intervention
  • Few participants were reached multiple times
• Context posed challenges that affected the implementation of the intervention (e.g. gazebos) and the follow up of participants
Conclusion

• There was limited effect of the intervention on reducing men’s use of IPV when delivered in a peri-urban community
• Intervention may have had more impact on less violent men
• But there was resistance among most violent men
• Poverty, crime, and high levels of exposure to violence by residents suggested important modifications would be needed for successful IPV prevention in this context
• Sustained and more intensive approaches may be required
Acknowledgements

• The Sonke CHANGE Trial was funded by the What Works to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls programme and UKAID

• Men taking part in this research
  • Fieldwork teams
  • Pirilani Banda
  • Nombuso Maneli

• Mobilisers
  • Brown Lekekela
  • Ncumisa Sopazi
  • Oscar Ramalivhana
  • Pamela Bhungane
  • Peter Mokhunoane
  • Thapelo Nkuna

• CAT members