HIGH PREVALENCE OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND ASSOCIATED HEALTH OUTCOMES AMONG TRANSGENDER WOMEN IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN UNITED STATES: PRELIMINARY RESULTS FROM THE LITE COHORT

ANDREA L. WIRTZ, MERIDIAN HOWES, NANCY GLASS, ERIN COONEY, SARI REISNER, FOR THE AMERICAN COHORT TO STUDY HIV ACQUISITION IN HIGH RISK AREAS STUDY GROUP
Background on Gender-based Violence

“any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person’s will and that is based on socially ascribed (i.e. gender) differences between males and females... including physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion, and other deprivations of liberty”

• Emphasizes historical gender inequities and power imbalances
• Now includes gender-based violence perpetrated against cisgender men, as well as sexual & gender minority populations
• For transgender populations, violence is typically perpetrated on the basis of gender non-conformity

UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women
Methods:

Wirtz, Cooney...Reisner SL, JMIR. 2019
Wirtz, Poteat....Reisner JMIR Res Protoc. 2019

Map credit: Erin Cooney
Methods:

• **Enrollment**: 1,100 transgender women at risk of HIV in eastern and southern United States
  Additional group of trans women living with HIV enrolled at baseline

• **Study visits**: every 3mo. for 24 months (site-based or online)
  Survey + oral HIV testing every 3 months (6mo online)
  STI testing inc. self-collected swabs every 12 months (site)
  Baseline cross-sectional incidence testing (site)
  Serum specimens for future analysis (site)
  3mo follow-up survey among women who seroconvert
# Characteristics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>n</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median age (range)</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>(18-76)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>824</td>
<td>45.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>622</td>
<td>34.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than one race or other race</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>14.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinx</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US citizen</td>
<td>1708</td>
<td>94.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently employed full-time</td>
<td>603</td>
<td>34.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unstable housing (lifetime)</td>
<td>759</td>
<td>42.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrest (lifetime)</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>34.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex work (lifetime)</td>
<td>711</td>
<td>39.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N=1,808
Prevalence of baseline GBV:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Recent (last 3mo.)</th>
<th>Lifetime</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sexual</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>41.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>59.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological</td>
<td>35.1</td>
<td>78.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any GBV</td>
<td>37.6</td>
<td>82.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Partner: 58%; Stranger: 33%; Client: 21%; Family: 17%
Stranger: 45%; Partner: 41%; Family: 38%; Neighbor: 29%
Stranger: 59%; Family: 54%; Partner: 47%; Neighbor: 33%

N=1,808; KR-20: 0.877
## Correlates of Recent GBV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>PrR</th>
<th>[95% CI]</th>
<th>p-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age &lt;=24 (ref: &gt;24)</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>1.14</td>
<td>1.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifetime housing instability (ref: none)</td>
<td>1.17</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>1.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adverse Childhood Events</strong> (ref: 0)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score of 1-3</td>
<td>1.64</td>
<td>1.10</td>
<td>2.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score of &gt;= 4</td>
<td>2.01</td>
<td>1.16</td>
<td>3.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender non-affirmation (continuous)</td>
<td>1.06</td>
<td>1.04</td>
<td>1.07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GLM also controls for cohort arm; race; employment; income; baseline HIV result; and adjusts for nesting within sites

### Health Outcomes

- **Psychological Distress** (Kess-6): PrR 2.00, 95%CI: 1.78 - 2.15, p<0.001
- **Probable substance use disorder** (DAST): PrR 1.58; 95%CI: 1.50 - 1.66, p<0.001

N=1,808
Increased odds of laboratory confirmed STI infection at baseline (aOR: 2.3; 95%CI: 1.3-4.0)

Note: * statistically different at p<0.05; N=1,808
Transitional probability of violence victimization over time

Of 950 cohort participants with at least one follow-up visit:

- 27% of participants who reported no violence at baseline, later transition to report violence in subsequent follow-up visits

- Of those who report violence at baseline, 62% continue to report violence in subsequent visits
Vicarious Trauma

Of 89 completing the 12mo visit to date:

- **24%** personally know another trans woman who was a victim of homicide
  - Median: 2 peers (IQR: 1-5)

- **14%** know another trans woman who experienced a fatal overdose
  - Median: 2 peers (IQR: 1-3)

- **18%** know another trans woman who died of suicide
  - Median: 2 peers (IQR: 1-3)
Public Health Implications

- High burden of GBV with multiple perpetrators
- Events early in youth
- Structural factors
- Significant barriers to care
- Efforts to mitigate health effects of GBV and trauma
Next steps in LITE

• Adaptation of myPlan (PI: Glass) personalized safety plan and decision aid
• Psychometric testing of transgender specific IPV measures (PI: Reisner)

SVRI: Wed. 23 Oct @ 16:30 Exhibition hall 8.1
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