

Understanding the HIV prevention needs of MSM and their partners in Southern Africa: South Africa and Namibia



Study summary

- What is the role of relationship dynamics & minority stressors on HIV risk taking behaviors and HIV prevention uptake among MSM couples in Southern Africa

Research Question



- KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
- Namibia

Location



- MSM couples
- Above the age of 18

Target group



- **Formative phase**
- Nam: KIIs (15), FGDs (7), CIDs (11 couples)
- SA: KIIs (20), FGDs (8), CIDs (16 couples)

Sample size:
Phase 1



n = 25

- **Survey phase**
- Nam: 75 couples (150 individuals)
- SA: 150 couples (300 individuals)

Sample size:
Phase 2



n = 25

Stakeholder engagement process

- Site partners with extensive community networks
- Community preparedness and engagement
- Community Advisory Boards (CABs) established in Namibia and South Africa
- Gender sensitivity training for staff and communities
- Extensive engagement with MoHSS (Namibia): Ethics, protocol
- Stakeholder engagement regarding study name, logo and tagline
- Dissemination plan reliant on data – there have been delays in data collection

Preliminary qualitative results

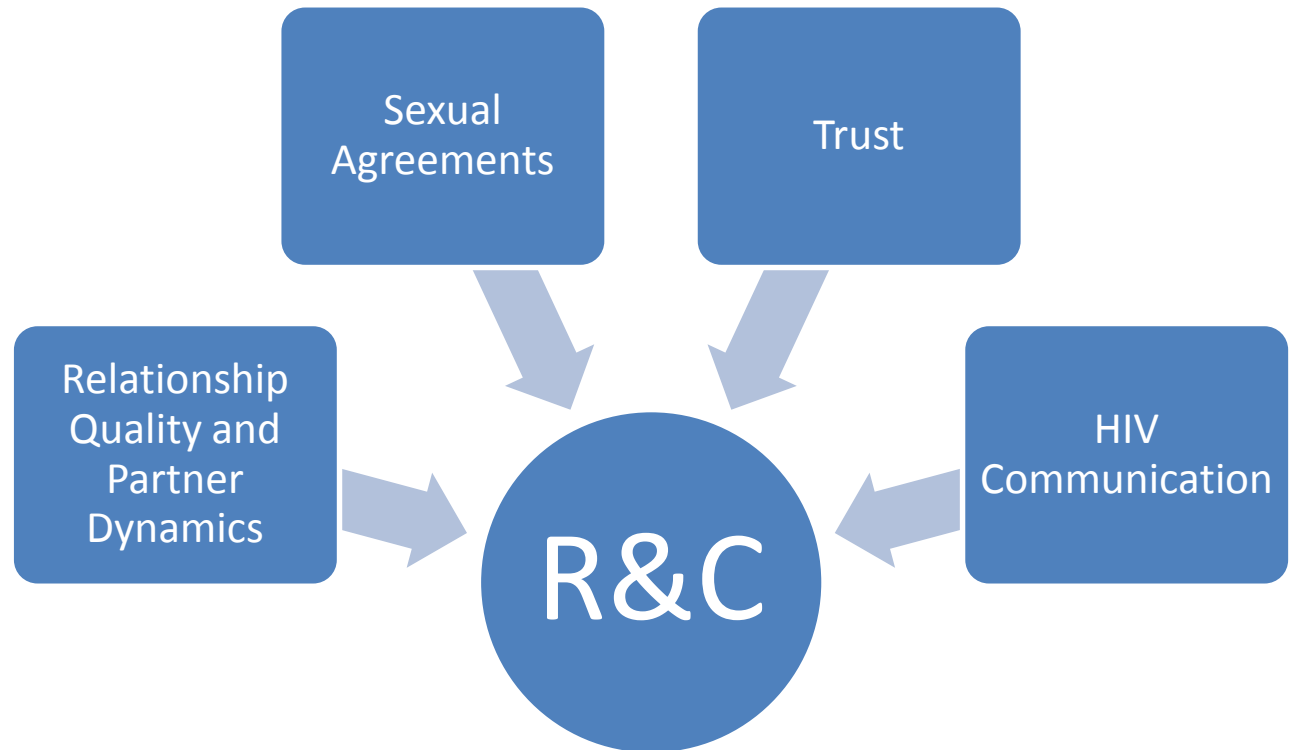
Code Manager [HU: TT Test project]

Codes Edit Miscellaneous Output View

Search (Name)

- 1.0 SP_SPACES/PLACES {1-0}~
- 1.1 SP_Social Venues {0-0}~
- 1.2 SP_Virtual Spaces/networks {0-0}~
- 1.3 SP_Sexualized Place {0-0}~
- 2.0 SAF_SAFETY {0-0}~
- 2.1 SAF_Emotional/psychological safety ...
- 2.2 SAF Physical Safety {0-0}~
- 3.0 RC_RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNI...
- 3.1 RC_Relationship Dynamics {3-0}~
- 3.2 RC_Sexual Agreements {0-0}~
- 3.3 RC_Trust {0-0}~
- 3.4 RC_HIV Communication {0-0}~
- 4.0 COMM_COMMUNITY {0-0}~
- 4.1 COMM_Physical community {0-0}~
- 4.2 COMM_Sense of Community {0-0}~
- 4.2.1 COMM_Sense of Community_Self-s...
- 4.2.2 COMM_Sense of Community_Other...
- 4.3 COMM_LGBT Community {1-0}~
- 5.0 HEALTH_HEALTH {0-0}~
- 5.1 HEALTH_Sexual Risk behaviour {0-0}~
- 5.2 HEALTH_Health Seeking Behaviour {...
- 5.3 HEALTH_HIV Services {0-0}~
- 5.4 HEALTH_HIV serostatus and disclosu...
- 6.0 COPING_Coping with challenges {0-...
- 7.0 SOGIE_SOGIE {3-0}~
- 8.0 RQI_Relationship Quality & Impact {...
- 8.1 RQI_Relationship Quality {1-0}~
- 8.2 RQI_Relationship Impact {1-0}~

What is the role of relationship dynamics & minority stressors on HIV risk taking behaviors and HIV prevention uptake among MSM couples in Southern Africa



Relationship Dynamics

- Characteristics of relationships; labels/names for partners; roles in the relationship; who initiates discussions, sex

We do care or we do care for each other, like giving attention, love and so forth...
(CIDI, Nam)

...he's now the women type, so I'm the guy now who is playing the man (CIDI, Nam)

okay, being devoted to someone or love that is there, there are challenges that surface, ...but what I do is hookup with them and do whatever and then go separate ways because the problem we have is that people commit themselves and love too much ... (CIDI, SA)

Sexual agreements

- Couples explicit agreements about partners outside the relationship (or the absence thereof)

Only dating one another there are no partners outside. (CIDI, SA)

No, we talked about it and I am aware that he had a girlfriend before me, that he was in a relationship with, but since we have met we are just together (CIDI, Nam)

He can sleep with other women but not with another man (CIDI, Nam)

Trust

- Discussions of trust/distrust within relationship; participants definitions of trust and its value in the relationship

you cannot love a person without trusting that person. There is no love where there is no trust
(CIDI, SA)

No man, look those years when we met okay when we started dating I was a little naughty behind his back I did what I did
(CIDI, Nam)

...trust is when he allows me to access his phone... that's trust, and is huge, above all trusts (CIDI, SA)

Because he admitted that he had sex with a lady ... so it was emotionally, it was like trust betrayal thing...
(CIDI, Nam)

HIV communication

- Includes discussions WITHIN THE RELATIONSHIP re: prevention strategies, disclosure of (or concealment of) status to intimate/sexual partners, encouragement to seek/engage in HIV care, adherence to ART, etc

He was a bit quiet, but later we talk and we talked and he accept it, and then told him also...did you know about your status?
(CIDI, Nam)

We have never talked about HIV
(CIDI, SA)


R: Okay we've been talking about it because we told ourselves the roles that okay the first thing we must condomise secondly (pause) we must use things that are used the... (Laughing and clapping hands) we must use condomise and use oil the lubricants.

I: Yes so why are you laughing.


R: No (laughing) lubricants and condoms always, always because we don't want anyone to get pregnant (CIDI, SA)

Section 6. RELATIONSHIP DYNAMICS


6.1 DYNAMICS OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP

 Next, we would like to understand more about the dynamics of your relationship with `_{Q(881941)}` and how the two of you interact

6.2 RELATIONSHIP SCALE

 Think about how your relationship is with `{Q(881941)}`. For each statement corresponds with how true the statement is.


6.3 SEX WITH PARTNER

 Sex with my partner is one of the most intimate forms of communication following questions on a scale of 1 (Not at all true) to 9 (Extremely true) (5=Neutral scale labeled Appendix II)

Expects a single option response (required)

- Not at all true 1 [1]
- 2 [2]
- 3 [3]
- 4 [4]
- Neutral 5 [5]
- 6 [6]
- 7 [7]
- 8 [8]
- Extremely true 9 [9]


6.4 SPENDING TIME

 I spend as much time with my partner as possible.

Expects a single option response (required)

- Not at all true 1 [1]
 - 2 [2]
 - 3 [3]
 - 4 [4]
 - Neutral 5 [5]
 - 6 [6]
 - 7 [7]
 - 8 [8]
 - Extremely true 9 [9]
-

6.5 ACTIVITIES

 I do as many activities with my partner as possible.

Expects a single option response (required)

- Not at all true 1 [1]
- 2 [2]
- 3 [3]
- 4 [4]
- Neutral 5 [5]
- 6 [6]
- 7 [7]
- 8 [8]
- Extremely true 9 [9]

Challenges

- Differences in ethics processes and decisions across sites
 - Participant reimbursement considerations (Stipend VS reimbursement)
 - Informed consent considerations given criminalisation in Namibia
- MSM vs SOGIE
- Formative phase
 - Gender Matching in Namibia
 - Challenges with recruitment in Namibia
 - Challenges with transcription and translation in SA
- Survey implementation:
 - Low uptake of HIV testing among MSM couples
 - Some concern in SA about fake couples

Significance for policy and programmes

- Critical reflection on terminology/language used
- The need and value of gender sensitivity training
- Core aim is to use data to develop scalable intervention development for MSM couples

T Together T Tomorrow

THE END

PARTNERSHIPS INFORMING THE FUTURE

UCSF

Center for AIDS
Prevention Studies



HSRC

Human Sciences
Research Council



GAY & LESBIAN NETWORK

equality | respect | acceptance
ukulingana | inhlonipho | ukwamukeleka