

An Overview of the Challenges of Violence Against Women and Rape and their Links to HIV

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Gender-based violence in South Africa

- South Africa faces a globally unprecedented burden of mortality and morbidity from violence and injuries
- They are the second leading cause of death in the country (after HIV) and the leading risk factor after unsafe sex for loss of Disability Adjusted Life Years
- Our rate of female homicide by an intimate partner is six times the global average, with a woman killed every 6 hours by her husband or boyfriend
- 25% of women in general population and in 40-50% in targeted studies have been a victim of physical intimate partner violence
- Over 40% of men have perpetrated violence against a female partner

Rape: victims

- 54,926 rapes of women and children reported to the police in year 2005-6 (SAP 2008)
- Research shows these are a small proportion of all rapes – at most 1 in 9
- One in 5 women disclose being forced into sex by an intimate partner
- 9.6% of men disclosed that they had been forced into sex by a man

Rape: perpetration – community-based random sample of men from E cape and KZN

- Any rape of a woman or girl: 27.7%
- Rape of a man or boy: 2.9%
- Rape of a woman in the past year: 4.6%
- 46.3% of men who raped had done so more than once
- 73% of men who will rape do so by the age of 20

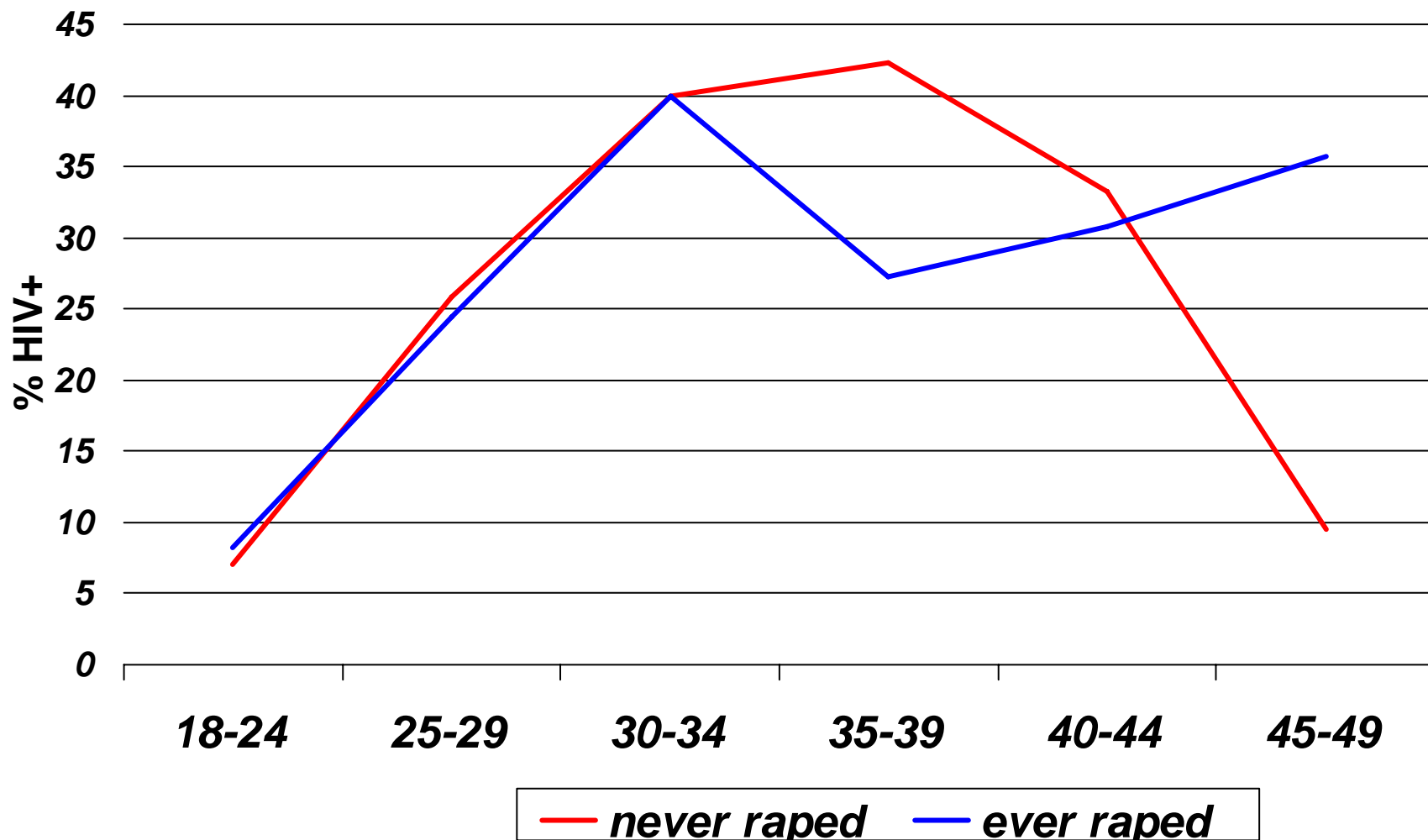
Sexual abuse and rape of children

- 40% of all rapes reported to the police are of children under 18 years and 15% are of children under 12
- In Gauteng province in 2003, 1 in 35 rapes reported to the police were of children 1-3 years
- 39% of girls in rural E Cape reported an experience of sexual abuse (forced sex, unwanted touching or exploitation by a man 5+ years older) before the age of 18

Gender-based violence and HIV

- Compelling evidence that women who are abused and men who abuse are more likely to have HIV
- Women who have experienced physical/sexual intimate partner violence are 54% more likely to have HIV (Dunkle et al 2004)
- Men who have perpetrated physical/sexual intimate partner violence are more than twice likely to have HIV (adjusted Odds Ratio 2.23) (Jewkes et al 2008)

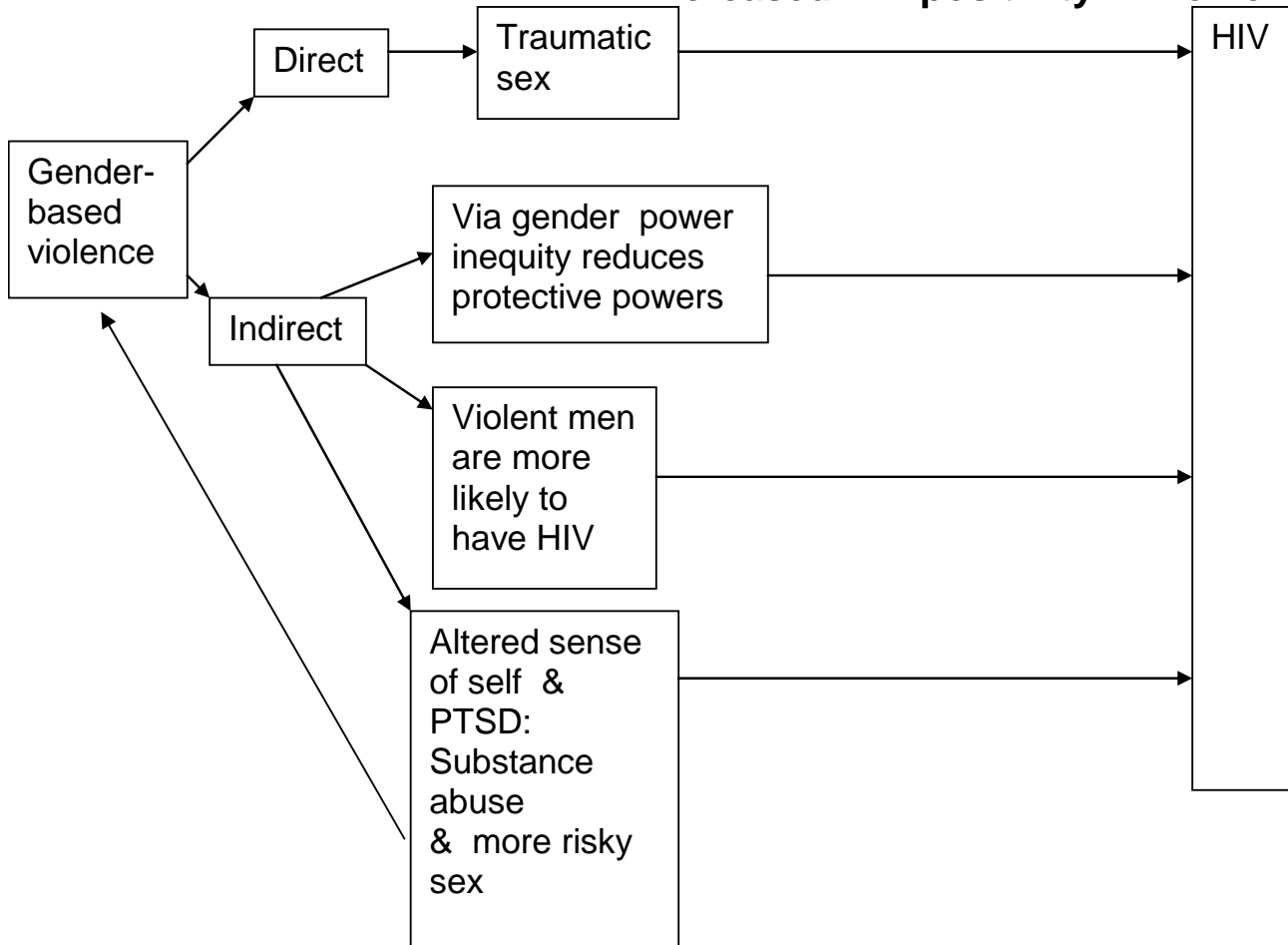
Age-specific HIV prevalence in men who have and have not raped a woman (E Cape and KZN)



Child sexual abuse: health consequences

- In young men aged 15-26
 - Alcohol abuse: 2 x as likely to abuse alcohol
- In young women aged 15-26
 - Depression: twice as likely to be depressed
 - Alcohol abuse: 4 x as likely to abuse alcohol
 - HIV: 64% more likely to acquire HIV over 2 years of follow up

Hypothesised pathways from gender-based violence to increased HIV positivity in women



Social dynamics underpinning problem of violence against women

- Poverty & inequality
 - Inseparably linked from other dynamics
- Research on 63 countries shows South Africa has the worst income inequality and homicide rates of any of them
- Income inequality and unemployment were more consistent correlates of homicide than any other indicator across the countries

Childhood and intergenerational cycling of violence

- Re-victimisation of girls: exposure to sexual abuse in childhood increases the risk of abuse as adults
- Boys: abuse in childhood increases the risk of perpetration, especially of rape
- Witnessing violence between parents:
 - one study showed that 27% of all IPV was attributable to men having witnessed abuse as children

Alcohol and drugs

- South Africa has the highest per capita alcohol consumption levels per drinker in the world
- Men who perpetrate are every often drunk
- As are women victims
 - Two thirds of women killed by intimate partners in the Western Cape were very drunk with the median blood alcohol level 0.11g/100ml (over 2x the legal driving limit)
- Alcohol abuse reduces women's ability to leave violent relationships and enhances risks of re-victimisation

Fire arms

- Rate of fire arms deaths is the highest in the world
- 30% of women killed by partners are shot
- 19% of men who kill their partners commit suicide within a week with their guns
 - 91.5% of deaths of these legal gun owners could be prevented if there had been no gun ownership

Masculinity

- Constructions of masculinity that are predicted on marked gender hierarchy and valorise toughness, bravery and defence of honour readily translate into risk-taking and a readiness to use violence in conflict or to assert power
- This results in a huge burden of violence and death from violence between men as well as the burden of violence against women

Frequencies of sexual risk taking behaviours in men who have perpetrated >1 episode of physical IPV and those who have not

	Physical IPV	No physical IPV	p value
20+ partners ever	51.5%	26.0%	0.0000
Any transactional sex	81.0%	59.7%	0.0000
Sex with a prostitute	31.6%	14.6%	0.0000
High levels of alcohol in past year	39.3%	19.2%	0.0000
Rape of woman	49.6%	18.8%	0.0000
Rape of a man	6.6%	1.1%	0.0000
Consistent condom use in past year	30.7%	41.0%	0.0002

Young, rural South African men:
 logistic regression models of violent & risk behaviours
 associated with rape (Jewkes et al 2006)

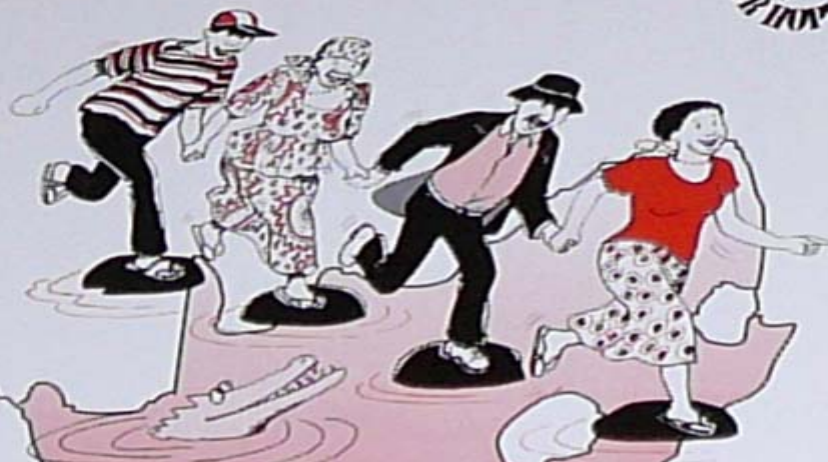
	Ever Sexual IPV (8% of sample)		Ever rape non- partner (16% of sample)	
	OR	95% CI	OR	95%CI
Ever physical IPV	2.78	1.79, 4.30	1.87	1.33, 2.62
Transactional sex with casual partner	2.06	1.30, 3,26	1.57	1.07, 2.29
No. of partners: 0-1	1.00		1.00	
2-5	2.29	0.79, 6.56	5.04	1.79, 14.18
6-10	4.09	1.39, 12.02	9.45	3.33, 26.78
11+	4.34	1.42, 13.24	17.11	5.95, 49.22

Stepping Stones: changing constructions of masculinity

- A gender transformative programme for HIV prevention that aims to improve sexual health through building stronger, more gender-equitable relationships
- Developed in Uganda in 1995, adapted for South Africa in 1998
- Comprehensive approach delivered over 50 hours to men and women
- Used participatory approaches and emphasises critical reflection and skills building

STEPPING STONES

A training manual for sexual and reproductive health communication and relationship skills



SS evaluation: cluster randomised controlled trial

- Setting: rural Eastern Cape, around Mthatha
- Design: cluster randomised controlled trial
- Setting : 64 villages and 6 townships
- Arms: Stepping Stones compared to a single 3 hour session on HIV and safer sex
- Participants: 2800 men and women, aged 17-23 years
- Data collection: interview and blood test (HIV & HSV2) at baseline, 12 months & 24 months
- Follow up for two years

Main impact on men:

- Two years after the intervention:
 - 33% reduction in new infections with genital herpes over two years of follow up
 - 38% reduction in perpetration of physical &/or sexual intimate partner violence
- One year after the intervention men who had been through Stepping Stones had:
 - Less problem drinking
 - Fewer partners in the last year
 - Less transactional sex

Conclusions

- South Africa faces an overwhelming problem of gender-based violence
- This is a massive violation of the human rights of women and girls, but is also major cause of mortality and morbidity
- Gender-based violence is a key driver of the HIV epidemic for women
- For men, the constructions of masculinity which are predicated on gender hierarchy and valorise toughness and risk taking are a key driver of the problem of gender-based violence, as well as the related problem of HIV

Prevention of rape and intimate partner violence needs a comprehensive, cross-sectoral approach

- This must include:
 - Reducing poverty and unemployment
 - Changing constructions of masculinity to those which are more gender equitable
 - Strengthening families and reducing exposure to violence
 - Reducing levels of alcohol consumption
 - Much stronger gun control
 - Developing a much strongly climate of enforcement and effective use of legislation