PREVALENCE AND HIV RISK-RELATED CORRELATES OF EMOTIONAL, PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AMONG WOMEN AT RISK IN THE UNITED STATES: DATA FROM HPTN 064 (THE WOMEN’S SEROCOLLABORATION)

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BACKGROUND

- Violence against women (VAW) is a critical public health concern in the US. 1
- Based on nationally-representative samples, it is estimated that nearly 1 in 4 US women has been the victim of severe physical violence and 1 in 5 has been raped.2
- Women experiencing emotional, physical, and sexual violence not only suffer the injury of the initial trauma, but also have higher rates of depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, re-victimization, and high-risk sexual behavior. 3,4
- Although VAW is associated with increased HIV risk, few large studies have examined prevalence and correlates of VAW among women living in US communities with high levels of poverty and HIV. 5
- Data from HPTN 064, a multi-site prospective observational cohort study, were used to assess prevalence of and factors associated with emotional, physical, and sexual violence experienced by enrolled women. 6

METHODS

- The study population included women aged 18-44 years who were self-identified women and enrolled in HPTN 064, from 10 US communities (6 geographic locations), using venue-based sampling (Figure 1): North=New York NY, Newark NJ, Mid-Atlantic=Baltimore MD, Washington DC; South= Raleigh-Durham NC, Atlanta GA. 
- Emotional abuse was identified via participant responses (e.g., laundry removed) identified via detailed ethnographic mapping of study communities
- Rapid HIV testing and audio-computer-assisted self-interviews (ACASI) conducted at baseline and 6 and 12 months, including study exit.

RESULTS

- 2,099 women (86% Black, median age 29 years, and 65% unemloyed) were enrolled.
- Overall prevalence of emotional, physical, and sexual violence, and experiencing multiple types of violence in past 12 months were 32% (n=665), 19% (n=410), 7% (n=148), and 17% (n=355), respectively.
- Types of violence were highly associated with each other (all pairwise OR <0.0001).
- Emotional abuse was significantly associated with each of the three HIV risk behaviors (Table 1). One other violence variable was associated with fewer risk behaviors.
- Sexual violence had the strongest associations with HIV risk behaviors.

Table 1. Logistic Regressions and Correlates for Type of Violence or Abuse in Past 6-months: HPTN 064 Women’s Serocollaboration (N=2099)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Type of abuse or violence (OR, 95% CI)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sociodemographics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23-34 vs 18-26</td>
<td>NI</td>
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<tr>
<td>34-42 vs 18-26</td>
<td>NI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital status</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-partnered vs Married</td>
<td>NI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incarcerated in the last 5 years</td>
<td>0.78 (0.61, 1.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childhood abuse</td>
<td>2.01 (1.59, 2.51)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food insecurity</td>
<td>1.68 (1.32, 2.15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical care</td>
<td>1.23 (0.93, 1.63)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unstable housing</td>
<td>1.13 (0.89, 1.42)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>1.73 (1.22, 2.43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTSD positive</td>
<td>2.04 (1.57, 2.64)</td>
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Table 2. Type of sexual violence (rates per 1,000 women) among HPTN 064 participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Type of sexual violence (rates per 1,000 women)</th>
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| Experiences of emotional, physical, and sexual violence were assessed based on the responses of all study participants.
- Bivariate and multivariate analyses were conducted using chi-square tests and t-tests for categorical and continuous variables, respectively.
- For each of the three violence types, the bivariate relationships that were found to be significant at p < 0.1 were included in multivariate logistic regression analyses.
- In multivariate analyses, p < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.
- Pain scale ratings with 95% confidence intervals were calculated to examine the association between types of violence.
- All analyses were performed using SAS 9.2.

CONCLUSIONS

- VAW was common, especially among younger women and survivors of childhood victimization.
- Findings support prior research on the sydemic in which HIV risk, violence, mental health, and risky sexual partnerships overlap.
- Experiences of violence were associated with HIV risk behaviors, suggesting comprehensive behavioral interventions to prevent HIV should focus on women who have experienced violence.

REFERENCES