



HPTN

HIV Prevention
Trials Network

Community Cultural Norms and Condomless Sexual Behavior Among Men Living with HIV Across Three Continents

HPTN 063

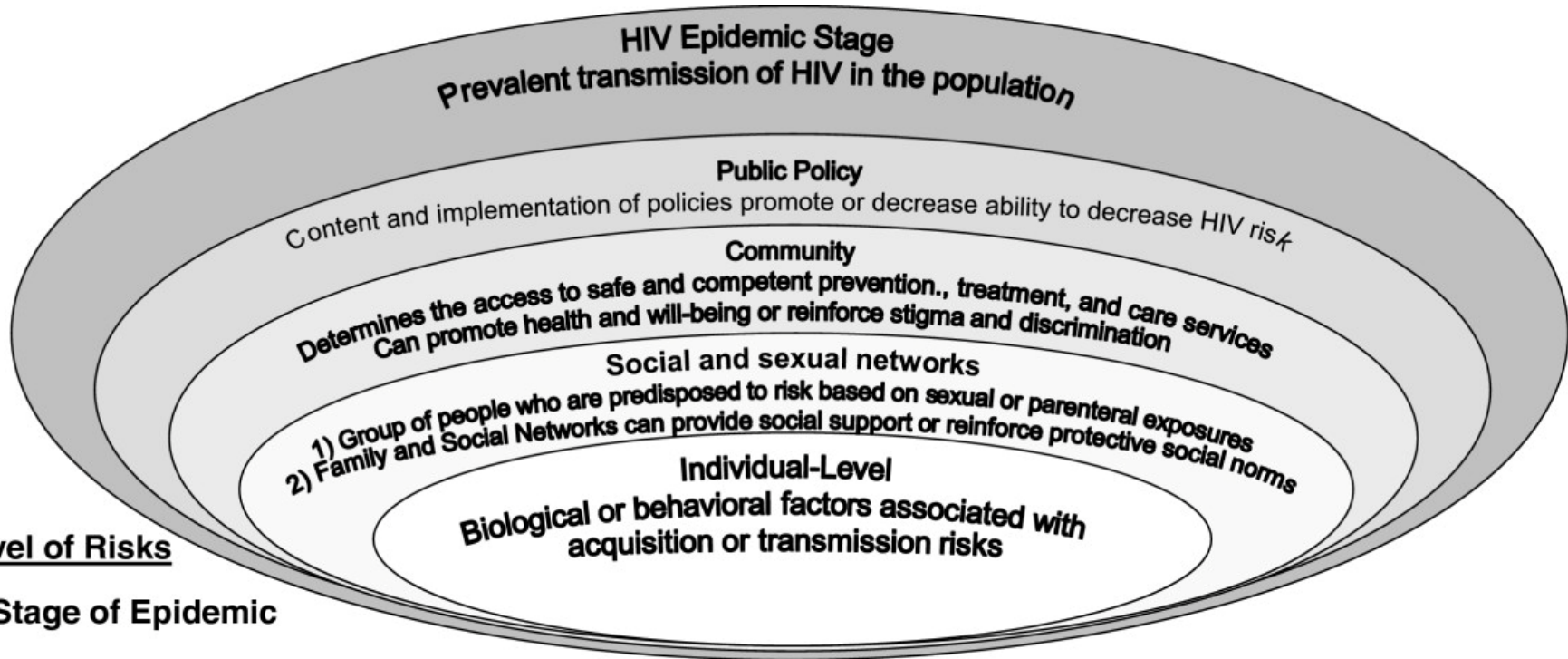
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Social-Ecological Model and HIV



Level of Risks

Stage of Epidemic
Public Policy
Community
Network
Individual

Ojikutu and colleagues (2016)

Study Purpose

To understand the impact of **community HIV stigma** and gender norms on disclosure among **women living with HIV** in different countries (HPTN 063).

Results

- 1) In multivariate analysis, among all women, endorsed anticipated stigma [OR 0.30, 95%CI (0.18, 0.50)] were less likely to disclose to current partners.
- 2) In an analysis stratified by marital status and cohabitation, unmarried and non-cohabiting women who perceived community HIV stigma were less likely to disclose to their sex partners.

Study Aim

- To characterize associations between community-level norms and condomless intercourse among a sample of HIV-infected men in care in global settings (HPTN 063).
- *Secondary Aim:* To explore the relationships between community-level norms and condomless intercourse by risk group: heterosexual men vs. MSM.

HPTN 063

Preparing for international prevention trials involving HIV-infected individuals in care settings

- Observational cohort study, involving high-risk HIV-infected individuals
 - Participants were followed for one year with interviews and assessments quarterly.
- Sample includes 751 HIV-infected participants in different countries, i.e., Thailand, Brazil, and Zambia including:
 - 251 heterosexual men
 - 162 MSM
 - N for this study=413



Independent Variables

- Perception on various *community-level norms*. Items will come from the Cultural Questionnaire.
 - All items begin with “In my community ...”
 - “... people believe it is prestigious for men to have multiple sex partners”
 - “... it is difficult to introduce condoms in a relationship when the couple has already been having unprotected sex”
 - “... asking to use a condom suggest that you distrust your partner”.

The following questions are asking what you think people in your community think about sex, condom use, and HIV. These questions are **not** asking you about your own opinion but what you think the **general opinion in your community** is. We will ask about your opinion in the next section.

Showcard #1

In my community...

1. people believe it is prestigious for men to have multiple sex partners.

strongly disagree

disagree

agree

strongly agree

Statistical Analysis

- Descriptive statistics (e.g. frequencies) were calculated for key study variables, including examining the distributions of the data.
- We conducted bivariate and multivariate regressions with condomless intercourse as the outcome (Aim 1).
- We evaluated effect modification (Aim 2) by formally inserting interaction terms as well as conducting stratified analyses.

Sample Socio-Demographics

	Heterosexual 251	MSM 162
Age (Mean)	41	36
Marital Status		
Not married	34.7	95.7
Married	65.3	4.3
Employment		
Unemployed	15.1	21.0
Employed outside home	84.9	79.0
Sex worker	0	0
Antiretroviral therapy		
Yes	93.6	74.7
No	5.6	23.5

Findings

- Overall 54% of variance retained with the 5 factors identified from the PCA analyses, including:
 - 1) Sexual expectations and beliefs;
 - 2) Power imbalance in condom negotiation;
 - 3) Sexual immorality and distrust;
 - 4) Condom beliefs for commercial sex workers; and
 - 5) Masculinity and condom beliefs
- No association between community-level norms and condomless sexual intercourse in bivariable or multivariable models ($p > 0.05$).
- No effect modification by risk group ($p > 0.05$).

Study Limitations

- Generalizability (e.g. individuals in care settings)
- No MSM in Zambia
- Power issues for site specific analyses
- Measure may not be fully capturing all the possible norms

Summary

- Community-level norms do not explain variation in condomless intercourse among men in this sample

Next Steps

- Characterizing condomless sexual intercourse
 - Monogamous HIV positive partner
 - Non-monogamous HIV positive partner
 - Non-monogamous serodiscordant partner
 - Multiple sexual partners
- Examine associations between community-level norms and:
 - HIV status disclosure
 - STIs

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