BACKGROUND

HIV among adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) in sub-Saharan Africa

- AGYW ages 15–24 account for 74% of all new infections and AGYW are the leading cause of death among African adolescent girls.
- In South Africa, HIV prevalence is highest among young women ages 15-24.
-„Sexual partner type is critical for HIV transmission and risk behaviors.

SEXUAL PARTNERS PLAY A CRITICAL ROLE IN HIV TRANSMISSION

- Connect AGYW to different risk networks.
- Identify six distinct sexual partner types, which differed by age, school enrollment, concurrency, risk behaviors.

RESULTS

AGYW characteristics at first eligible visit:

- Average age: 17 years, 94% school enrolled, 96% female sex workers, 7% dual optioner, 64% depressed, 1 partner in past 12 months (3% with >3 partners).
- Sexual risk behavior at baseline with 1 sexual partner (N=2140 AGYW): (average 2 risks per AGYW) in 2865 sexual partner reports (average 1.4 partner reported per AGYW visit). 63.7% of LCA identified partner types were labeled “not partnered”.

METHODS

EFFECTS OF CASH TRANSFER FOR THE PREVENTION OF HIV IN YOUNG SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN (HPTN 068)

- Sample size: 1400 young women in rural Eastern, South Africa.
- AGYW randomized to receive monthly cash transfers (control) or to receive additional food, non-food, cash (intervention). 80% school enrolled.
- 85% of AGYW lived in rural or urban areas.

IDSNTIFIED SEXUAL PARTNER TYPES: 2 APPROACHES

- Phenotypical partner labels: Self-report.
- Specified partner labels: LCA.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

- Latent Class Analysis (LCA):
  - Model selection based on posterior probability, model fit statistics; conditional independence assumption.
  - Risk ratio, 95% CI for association between sexual partner type and risk behaviors

CONCLUSIONS

- Sexual relationships are complex and designing approaches that capture and addresses complexities not will be.
- “Not partnered” may be the most common sexual partner type in this population.
- Target different behaviors for different types of sexual partner types.
- Socioeconomic interventions should target all sexual partner types.

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