



Prevalence and Correlates of Violence among Partners of PWID Living with HIV in Kenya

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BACKGROUND

- Violence is common among PWID living with HIV and their sexual and/or injecting partners and may lead to decreased uptake of HIV services, increased HIV risk behaviors, and increased HIV transmission
- Definition of violence: any physical harm, threatened harm, or forced sexual acts inflicted on a person by anyone in the past year
- The combined epidemic of drug use, violence, and HIV causes a disproportionate burden on the marginalized PWID population in Kenya
- Understanding the nature of violence and its correlates among PWID and their partners will inform population-specific public health interventions and policy recommendations

OBJECTIVES

- Determine the prevalence of violence among PWID and their partners in Kenya
- Identify correlates of experiencing violence among the study participants
- Examine the effect of participants' gender and HIV status on the association between correlates and experiencing violence

METHODS

- Study design: cross sectional study nested in a prospective cohort study conducted in 8 public health centers, methadone clinics, and needle syringe programs in Nairobi, Kilifi, and Mombasa counties in Kenya
- Participants: 3302 sexual and/or injecting partners of PWID living with HIV recruited through assisted partner services
- Prevalence and correlates of violence were identified using Chi-squared or two-sided Fisher's exact tests; stratified analyses with Woolf test for homogeneity were done to assess for effect modification of gender and HIV status

RESULTS

- Among 3302 participants, 1439 (44%) experienced violence within the past year
- Physical violence was the most common form of violence experienced (35%), followed by being threatened (23%), and sexual violence (7%)

RESULTS

Table 1. Socio-demographic characteristics of study participants

Socio-demographics Characteristics		Total N = 3302	Male N = 2336 (71%)	Female N = 966 (29%)
Age years (Median, IQR)		33 (27 – 39)	34 (28 – 40)	30 (25 – 36)
Region	Nairobi	1714 (52%)	1088 (47%)	626 (65%)
	Coast	1588 (48%)	1248 (53%)	340 (35%)
Marital status	Single	1368 (41%)	898 (38%)	470 (49%)
	Married	857 (26%)	669 (29%)	188 (19%)
	Partnered	221 (7%)	114 (5%)	107 (11%)
	Div/ Sep/ Widowed	854 (26%)	654 (28%)	200 (21%)
	Missing data	2		
Partner types	Sexual	590 (18%)	367 (16%)	223 (23%)
	Injecting	2326 (70%)	1685 (72%)	641 (66%)
	Both sex and inject	380 (12%)	279 (12%)	101 (10%)
	Missing data	6		
	Sexual Orientation	MSW	2138 (65%)	2138 (92%)
	MSM	190 (6%)	190 (8%)	-

Table 2. Correlates of violence among study participants

Variables*	Any Violence PR [95% CI]	Physical PR [95% CI]	Threatened PR [95% CI]	Sexual PR [95% CI]
Sex: Female (Ref: Male)	0.8 [0.7 - 0.9]	0.9 [0.8 - 1.0]	0.6 [0.5 - 0.7]	2.1 [1.7 - 2.7]
Region: Coast Region (Ref: Nairobi)	1.5 [1.4 - 1.7]	1.4 [1.2 - 1.5]	2.1 [1.8 - 2.4]	3.6 [2.6 - 4.8]
Marital status: Partnered (Ref: Single)	1.4 [1.2 - 1.6]	1.3 [1.1 - 1.6]	1.7 [1.4 - 2.1]	1.8 [1.2 - 2.7]
Partner Type: Both sex & injection (Ref: Injection)	1.2 [1.1 - 1.3]	1.3 [1.1 - 1.4]	1.1 [0.9 - 1.3]	1.2 [0.8 - 1.7]
Sexual orientation: MSM (Ref: MSW)	1.4 [1.2 - 1.5]	1.3 [1.1 - 1.5]	1.96 [1.7 - 2.3]	3.8 [2.6 - 5.5]

Table 3. Stratified analysis by Gender

Variable*	PR (95% CI) All participants (N = 3302)	PR (95% CI) Males (N = 2336)	PR (95% CI) Females (N = 966)	p-value for interaction
Region: Coast Region (Ref: Nairobi)	1.5 [1.4 - 1.7]	1.4 [1.2 - 1.5]	2.0 [1.8 - 2.4]	<0.001
Partner Type: Both sex & injection (Ref: Injection)	1.2 [1.1 - 1.3]	1.8 [1.5 - 2.2]	1.0 [0.9 - 1.2]	<0.001

*Only those variables with a significant association are displayed in the table. Other candidate variables included age, employment, housing, HIV status, ART status, drug use, and methadone status.

Experiencing any form of violence was associated with being male, both a sexual and injecting partner, a man who has sex with other men (MSM) and living in coastal Kenya. Sexual violence was the most common form of violence among females, MSM, and participants from the coast.

CONCLUSIONS

Study results highlight the prevalence and correlates of violence among partners of PWID in Kenya. Interventions focusing on the underlying determinants and needs of specific sub-groups, such as MSM, women, and those who are in partnerships, should be considered to reduce the violence and HIV burden among key populations in Kenya.

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Protocol for Parent Study

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