



# THE IMPACT OF GENDER INEQUITY AND VIOLENCE ON HIV PREVENTION WITH VULNERABLE WOMEN IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

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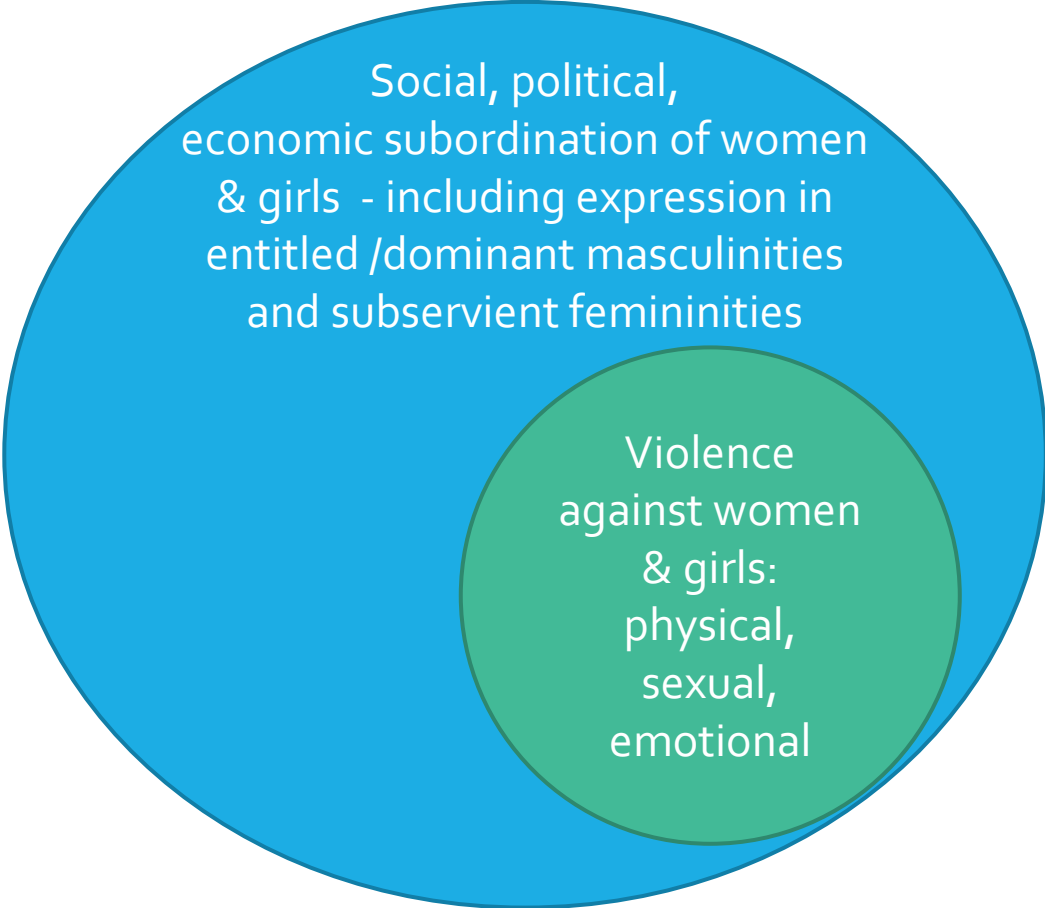
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# Gender inequity & violence



Social, political,  
economic subordination of women  
& girls - including expression in  
entitled /dominant masculinities  
and subservient femininities

Violence  
against women  
& girls:  
physical,  
sexual,  
emotional

# Gender inequity: impacts through a process of social norms x individual embracing of norms

- **Hegemonic masculinity:**

- ✓ Social dominant masculinity
- ✓ Predicated on dominance over and subordination of women
- ✓ Sexually entitled
- ✓ Emphasises strength and toughness (and demonstrations thereof)
- ✓ Performatively heterosexual

- **Subservient femininities:**

- ✓ Socially dominant femininities
- ✓ Subordinate to and controlled by men
- ✓ Partnered by a man (husband/BF)
- ✓ (Most) socially rewarded
- ✓ Do not challenge gender power status quo
- ✓ Actively involved in replicating gender status quo
- ✓ (Mostly) sexually submissive

# Gender inequity, violence and HIV prevention: central points of translation into HIV risk

- Women's economic disempowerment x men's sexual entitlement: → transactional sex and women's multiple partners
- Women's social subordination : → extreme difficulty in challenging husband, ending relationship/ marriage, asserting position → women's lack of sanctions against husband/boyfriends
- Women's sexual submission x men's sexual entitlement: → non condom use, difficulty in sexual refusal when man has STI,
- Men's sexual entitlement x women's subordinate position: → men's multiple partners

# How does violence fit it?

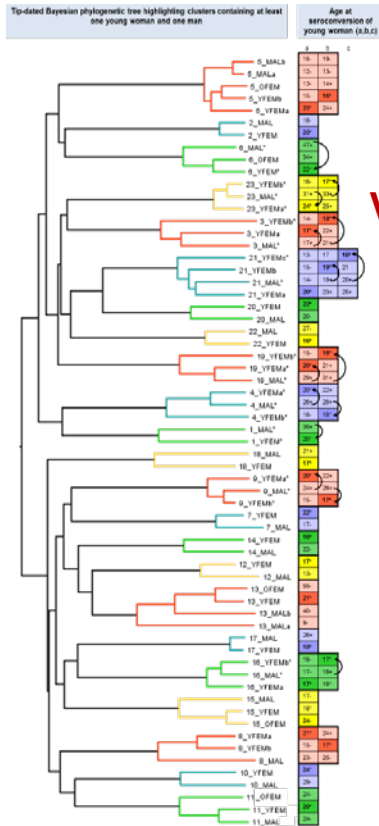
- Strategy to control women and assert dominance
  - Control through threats of violence
  - Violence as punishment for women's behaviour – perceived infidelity of women and women's expressions of denial of men's sexual 'rights'
- Sexual entitlement of men expressed in rape

Stepping Stones cohort, rural Eastern Cape: Poisson model, factors associated with incident HIV infections in women aged 15-26 (n=1027) adjusted for age & treatment

	IR	95%CI	P value
>1 episode of physical/sexual IPV	1.55	1.06, 2.26	0.024
Lowest relationship equity	1.46	1.01, 2.10	0.043
HSV-2	2.29	1.55, 3.39	<0.0001
Correct condom use at last sex before HIV result	0.57	0.40, 0.82	0.002
Transactional sex with a casual partner during follow up	2.06	1.22, 3.48	0.007

# Who is infecting who?

Africa Centre identified phylogenetically linked HIV transmission networks in Hlabisa



High HIV incidence men  
mean age 27 years (range  
23-35 years)



Very young women  
acquire HIV from  
men, on average,  
8 years older



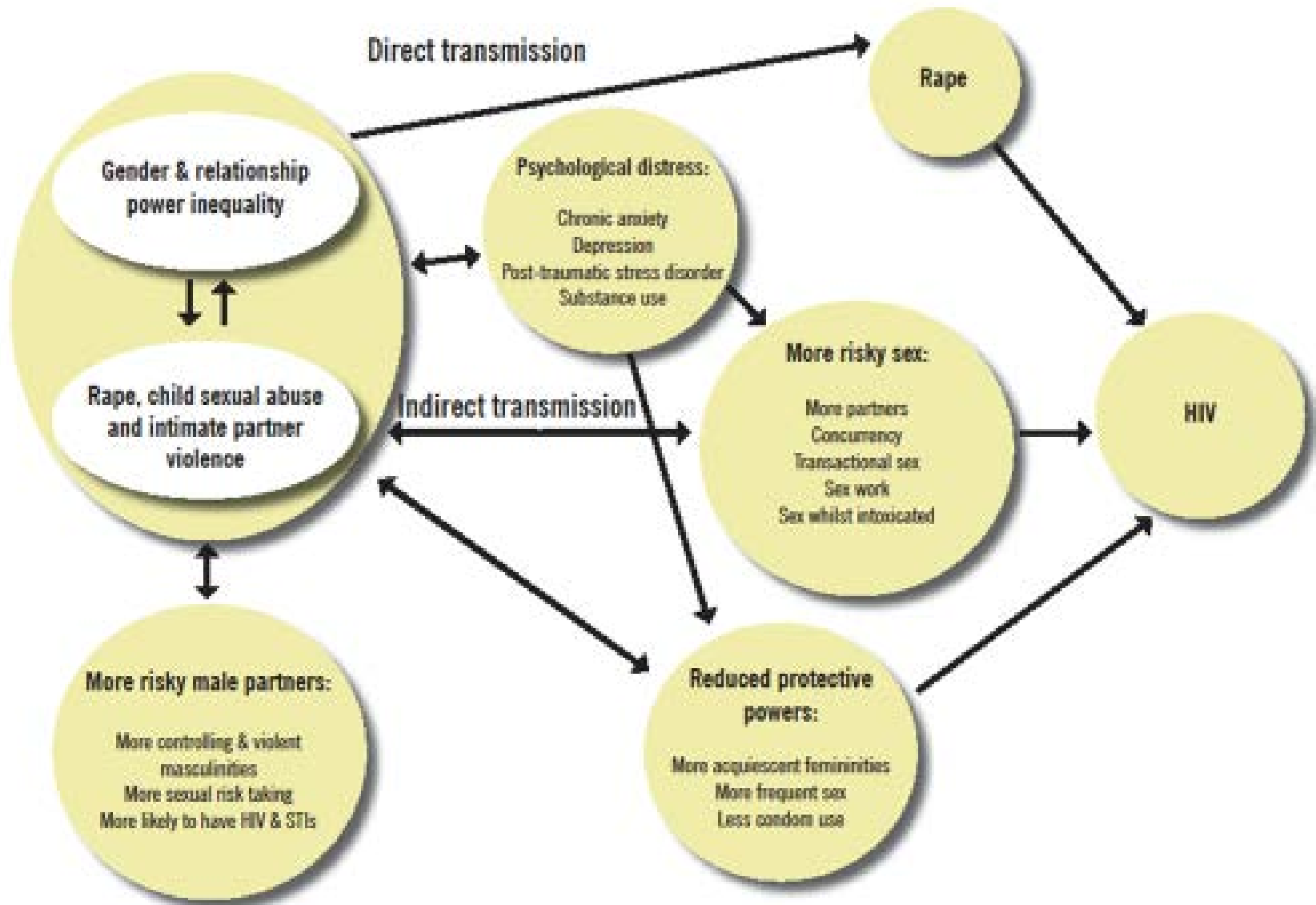
Men and women > 24  
years usually  
acquire HIV from  
similarly aged  
partners



High HIV risk women  
Mean age 18 years  
(range 16-23 years)

High HIV prevalence women  
Mean age 26 years  
(range 24-29 years)

When teen women  
reach mid-20s they  
continue the cycle





## Incident HIV and child abuse: Stepping Stones women, (Jewkes et al Child Abuse & Neglect, 2010)

	IRR (95%CI)	p value
Physical punishment: none	1.00	
some	1.51 (0.65, 3.54)	0.34
<b>often</b>	<b>2.13 (1.04, 4.37)</b>	<b>0.04</b>
Sexual abuse: none	1.00	
some	1.32 (0.88, 2.00)	0.18
<b>often</b>	<b>1.66 (1.04, 2.63)</b>	<b>0.03</b>
Emotional abuse: none	1.00	
<b>some</b>	<b>1.70 (1.12, 2.57)</b>	<b>0.01</b>
<b>often</b>	<b>1.96 (1.25, 3.06)</b>	<b>0.003</b>

# Impact of violence against women on ART use and adherence

- Systematic review of the association between IPV and engagement in care: (Hatcher et al AIDS 2015)
- ✓ Meta-analysis showed IPV to be significantly associated with lower ART use [OR 0.79 95% CI 0.64-0.97].
- ✓ IPV was associated with poorer self-reported ART adherence (OR 0.48, 95% CI 0.30-0.75)
- ✓ IPV was associated with lower viral load suppression (OR 0.64, 95% CI 0.46-0.90)

## Associations between men's use of IPV and men's HIV serostatus:

**Table 3: Multivariable model showing factors associated with having HIV (n=1142)**

	OR	95% CI		p value
age<25 & no IPV	1.00			
age<25 & P IPV	2.08	1.07	4.06	0.031
age>25 & no IPV	8.29	5.03	13.65	<0.0001
age >25 & P IPV	10.03	5.74	17.52	<0.0001
<b>African</b>	4.92	2.38	10.16	<0.0001
<b>Had a genital ulcer</b>	1.90	1.32	2.73	0.001
<b>Circumcised</b>	0.48	0.32	0.74	0.001

# What is the evidence from intervention?

Results of Stepping Stones RCT (Jewkes et al BMJ 2008):  
Primary outcome HIV incidence, secondary outcome HSV  
2 incidence (men and women combined)

	<b>Stepping Stones</b>	<b>Control</b>			
	<b>rate per 100 person yrs</b>	<b>rate per 100 person yrs</b>	<b>IRR</b>	<b>95% CI</b>	<b>p value</b>
<b>HIV</b>	<b>3.45</b>	<b>4.07</b>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>0.67, 1.35</b>	<b>0.78</b>
<b>HSV 2</b>	<b>3.24</b>	<b>4.62</b>	<b>0.67</b>	<b>0.47, 0.97</b>	<b>0.036</b>

## Men: secondary outcomes

		aOR/ effect	95% CI	p value
>1 incident of physical or sexual IPV	12m	0.73	0.50 to 1.06	0.1
	24m	0.62	0.38 to 1.01	0.05
Any transactional sex with a casual partner	12m	0.39	0.17 to 0.92	0.03
	24m	1.02	0.39 to 2.65	0.97
Problem drinking	12m	0.68	0.49 to 0.94	0.02
	24m	1.1	0.81 to 1.49	0.56
Mean no.past year partners	12m	-0.088	-0.18 to 0.0046	0.06
	24m	-0.067	-0.15 to 0.018	0.12

# Conclusions

- There is strong evidence linking gender inequity, violence and HIV
- Social norms on gender are important
- A central element of this relates to sexual practices of men and women which flow from gender identities as well as the emotional and material context within which sexual behaviours are enacted
- Violence against women and girls is one element of the risk driven by gender inequity
- Prevention of HIV needs to embrace the building of gender equity as well as violence prevention