BACKGROUND

- HIV-negative married women experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV) may be a priority population for HIV prevention, but few studies have measured associations between IPV and sexual risk behaviors in this group.
- In Zimbabwe, 35% of women experienced physical violence, 14% ever married women experienced sexual violence and 32% married women experienced spousal emotional violence according to 2015-2016 Demographic and Health Survey estimates (1, 2).
- Recent data from 2019 reported that approximately 1.2 million people are living with HIV in Zimbabwe (3). In Manicaland, there is higher prevalence among women at 12% compared to males at 8.2% (3).
- We measured the associations and the condom IPV prevention cascade for uninfected married women experiencing IPV in a high HIV prevalence population in Manicaland, Zimbabwe.

METHODS

- Data on IPV, sexual risk-behaviors and HIV prevention cascades were collected in a general-population HIV survey between August 2018 and December 2019 (N=9803) as part of the Manicaland HIV Prevention Cascade Study.
- Main analyses were restricted to women aged 15–54 years: currently married/cohabiting, uninfected, and self-reported being sexually active in the last 12 months.
- Proportions of women experiencing physical only, sexual only, and both physical and sexual IPV were calculated.
- Associations between physical and sexual IPV in the last 12 months and individuals at risk of HIV-exposure were measured in age-adjusted logistic regression models.
- Condom IPV prevention cascades (4) were populated and compared for women experiencing and not experiencing IPV in the priority populations.
- Priority populations for IPV prevention included: 1) women with concurrent sexual partners and/or at least one non-regular partner in the last 12 months; started sex before age 17 or who drink alcohol; with a regular partner living with HIV or another STI; and have a regular partner who has other sexual partners.

RESULTS

- 15.7% (387/2460), 5.2% (127/2460), and 3.5% (86/2460) of uninfected married women reported physical only, sexual only, and both physical and sexual violence from an intimate partner in the last 12 months.
- IPV was associated with younger age, women's educational attainment, partner's educational attainment and place of residence.
- Physical, sexual, and physical and sexual violence were associated with early sexual debut, having a regular sexual partner with an STI and/or other sexual partners. Women who reported physical sexual violence, and sexual violence had higher odds than women not reporting IPV of consuming alcohol and having concurrent sexual partners. Women who reported sexual violence had increased odds of having had sex with a non-regular partner (Table 1).
- Large gaps in motivation (reflecting low risk perception and perceived negative consequences [reduced sexual pleasure]), access (reflecting lack of adequate provision, affordability) and in capacity to use condoms effectively (reflecting partner resistance and lack of negotiating skills) were found in the condom HIV prevention cascades of women experiencing and not experiencing IPV (Figure 1A & 1B).
- Women exposed to IPV had 0.81 (95% CI:0.62-1.0) times the odds of being motivated to use male condoms, compared to women not exposed to IPV. Women experiencing IPV had 0.83 (95% CI:0.51-1.38) times the odds of effective male condom use compared to women not experiencing IPV.

Table 1: Associations between physical and sexual violence in the last 12 months and HIV risk behaviors in HIV-negative married women (15-54 years), in Manicaland, east Zimbabwe, 2018-19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>AOR</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>AOR</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>AOR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical and sexual violence</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
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<td>Controlled sexual partner</td>
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<td>9.7</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>19.8</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.95-1.37</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>1.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-regular partner(s)</td>
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<td>2.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>0.40-1.54</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at first sex (Yrs)</td>
<td>26.9</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.40-1.54</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol consumption</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.10-1.43</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.6</td>
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<td>Partner use of condom</td>
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<td>0.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0-1.00</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>5.7</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner STI</td>
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<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0-1.00</td>
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<td>Partner has bad other partner</td>
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<td>0.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0-1.00</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>1.8</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES


ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- Sexual violence
- Risk behaviour
- Yes | No | AOR
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