

Brothers



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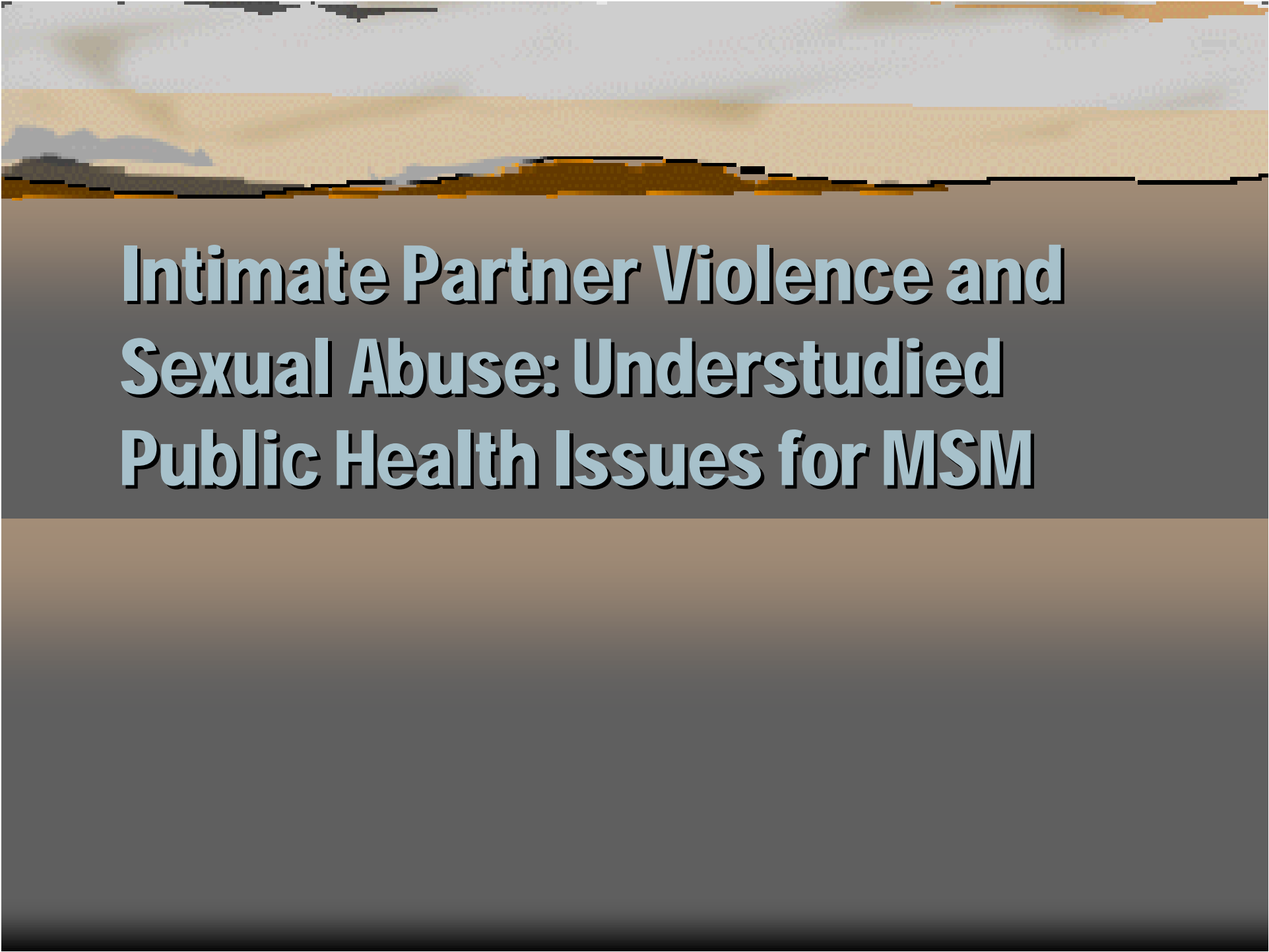
Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Abuse Among Black men who have sex with men

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* The information in this presentation is based on a preliminary analysis. Please do not quote or use these findings without speaking with a study team member





Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Abuse: Understudied Public Health Issues for MSM

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

- ↓ Under-reported and understudied within MSM communities.
- ↓ Studies attempting to assess IPV among MSM suggest it occurs at a similar rate to heterosexuals.
- ↓ Victims of IPV can be at risk for HIV if the abusive partner is HIV-positive and refuses to use protective measures during sexual activity.
- ↓ The impact of IPV on victims include: death, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
- ↓ Few services exist around the country for MSM victims of IPV, making it even more difficult for LGBT victims to leave abusive situations and recover from the abuse.

Sexual Abuse

- ↓ Also under-reported and understudied among MSM.
- ↓ According to a literature review on Childhood Sexual Abuse by Malow, Dévieux & Lucenko (2006) the rate of CSA among MSM is estimated to be between 25-39%.
- ↓ Several studies indicate that sexual abuse, both in childhood and adulthood may have negative effects on mental health (ex: depression, dissociative disorders, PTSD) and self esteem.
- ↓ Scant attention is given to sexual abuse in HIV prevention work with MSM, which may be hindering prevention efforts among MSM who have histories of sexual abuse.

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Background of the Brothers y Hermanos Study

CDC Cooperative Agreement

- ↓ In 2001, Philadelphia was one of four sites chosen by CDC for a national study of Black and Latino MSM called Brothers Y Hermanos
 - PHMC – Philadelphia – Black men
 - NY Health Dept – New York City – Black men
 - Educational Development Center – New York City– Latino men
 - LA Health Dept – Los Angeles – Latino men
- ↓ Study locally known as the Black Men's Health Survey

Black Men's Health Survey



Study Objectives

- ↓ Assess prevalence and incidence of HIV infection
- ↓ Identify factors related to HIV risk including:
 - cultural
 - structural
 - social network
 - psychological
 - behavioral

Quantitative Data Collection Procedures

- ↓ 540 Black MSM recruited via Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS) in Philadelphia.
 - Data collected between June '05-December '05.
 - Anonymous self-interview on a laptop computer
 - Confirmatory blood test for men who self-reported being HIV positive
 - Rapid HIV test for men who self-reported being HIV-negative
 - Blood sample for STARHS test - known HIV positive or with reactive rapid test – to identify recent infection

Eligibility Criteria for Survey

- ⇩ Identify as a Black male
- ⇩ Had sexual contact with a man in the past 12 months
 - Oral, anal or mutual masturbation
- ⇩ Live in the metropolitan Philadelphia area
- ⇩ 18 years or older
- ⇩ Do not identify as transgender

Recruitment Process

- ↓ After each participant completed the survey and HIV test, he was asked if he was willing to recruit additional participants.
- ↓ If he agreed, he was given a short training and three referral tickets to give to other Black men he knows.
- ↓ Participants were paid for completing the survey and were also compensated for each eligible participant they referred who actually came in and completed the survey.

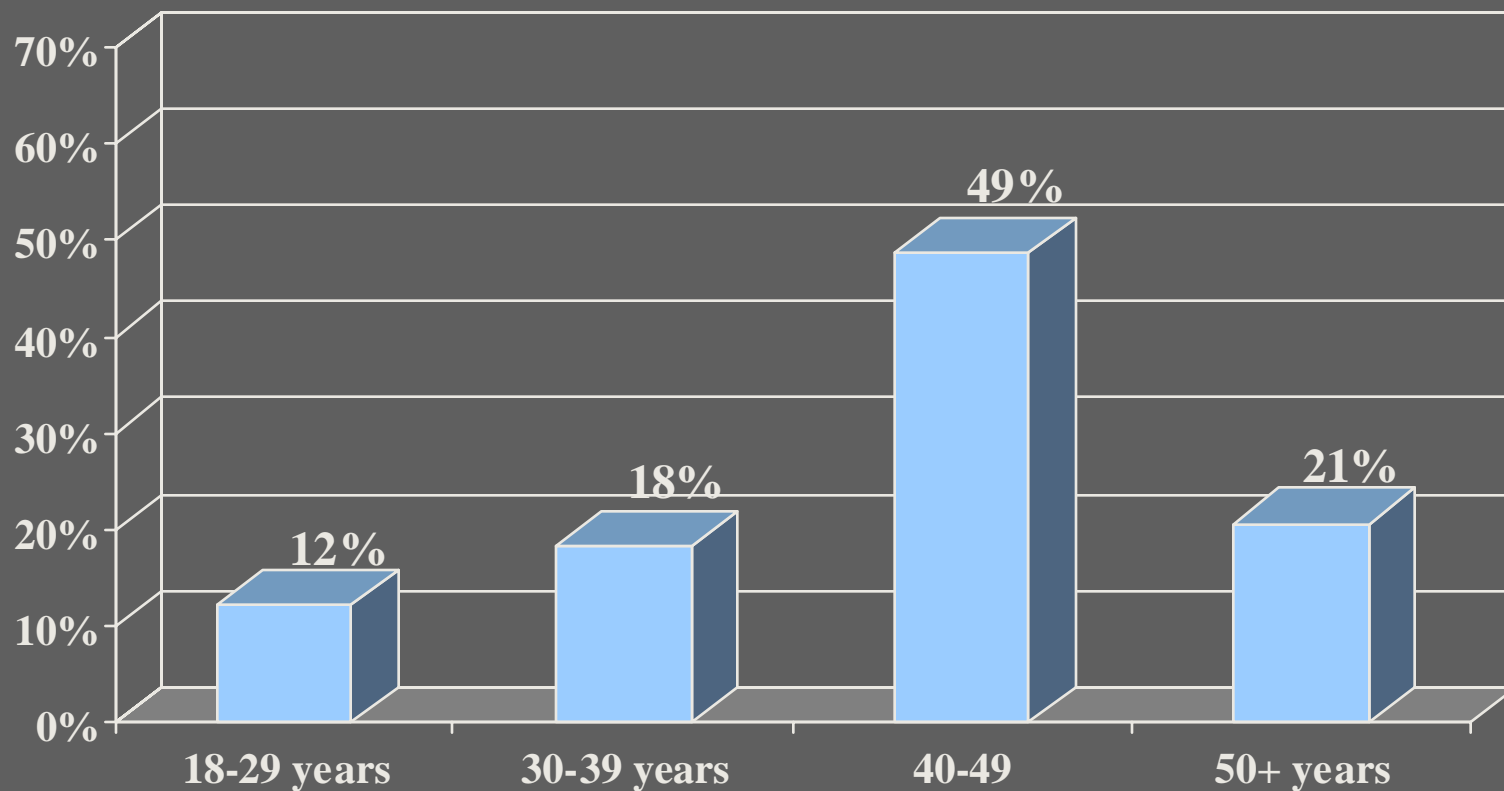
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Characteristics of the Study Sample

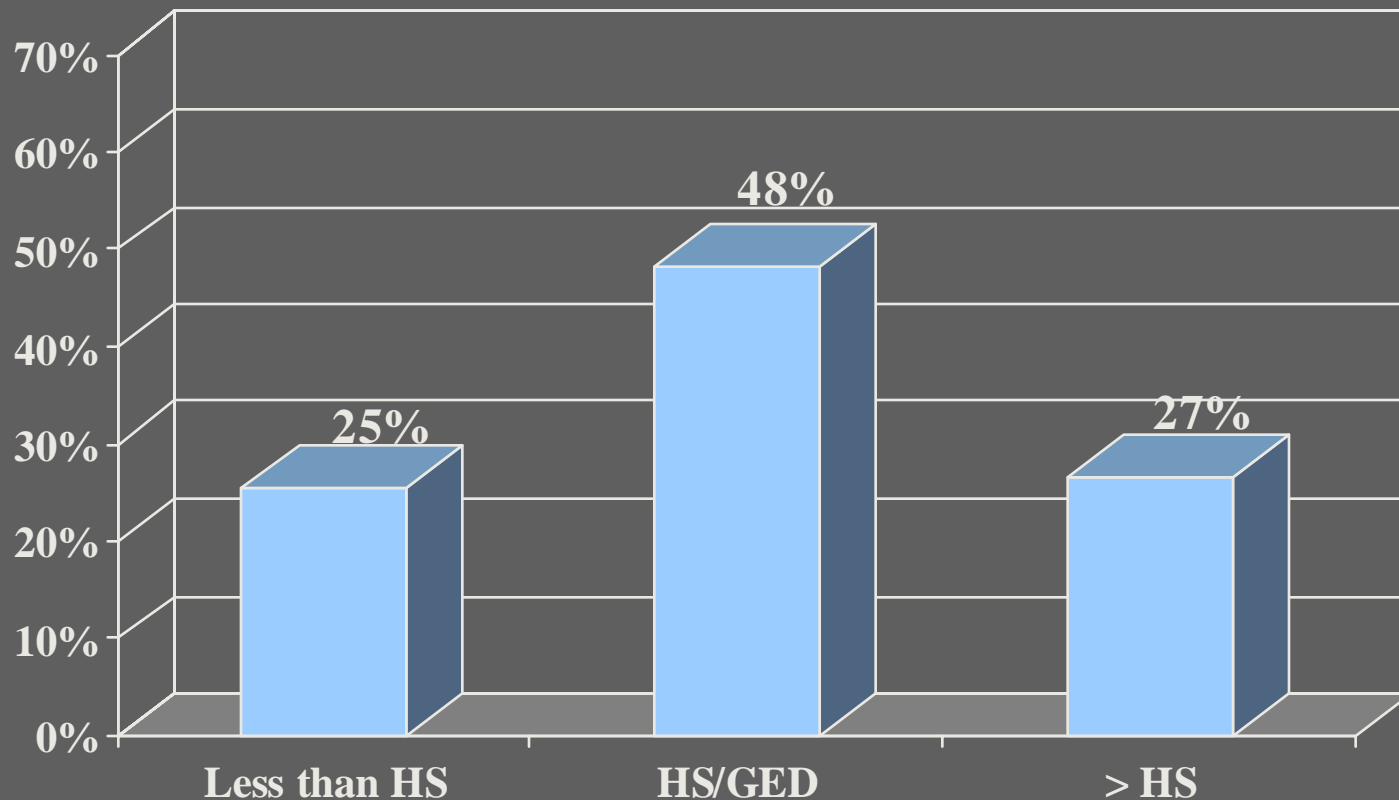
Age (N=540)



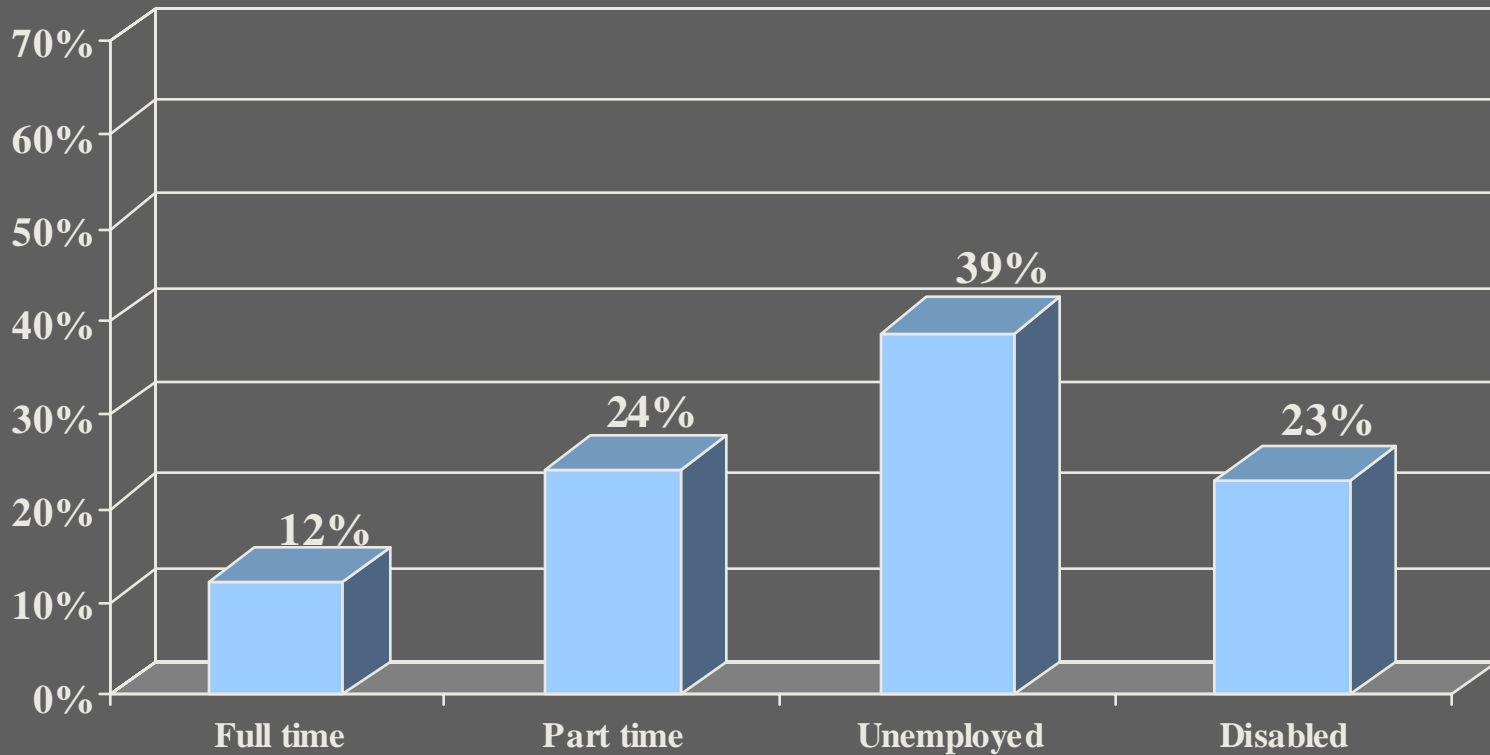
A positive attribute of this sample is that we were able to recruit a large number of older MSM, with 70% of the total sample being 40 years of age or older.



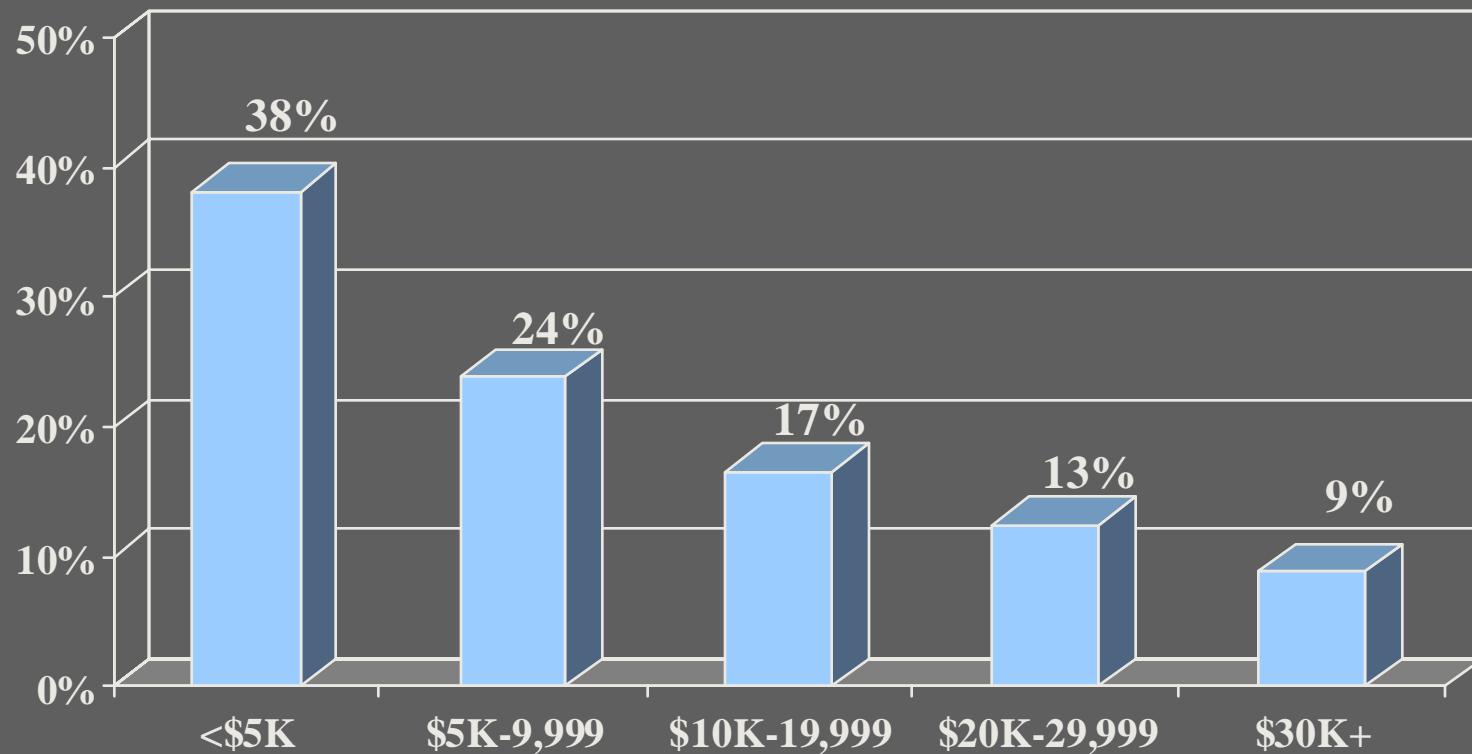
Education (N=540)



Employment Status (N=539)

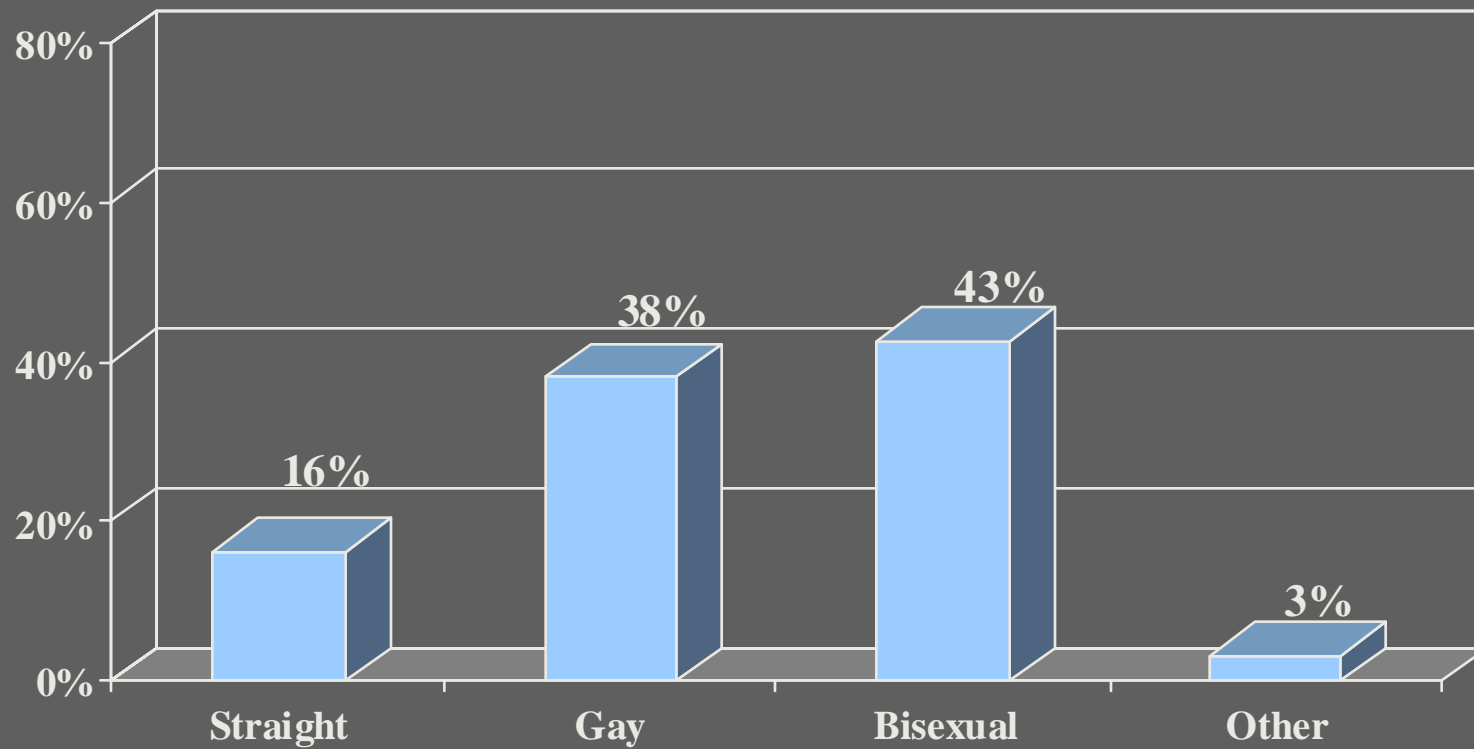


Annual personal income (N=525)



Our sample was skewed toward men who were low income with 79% of the sample reporting an income of less than \$20,000/yr.

Self-reported sexual orientation (N=538)



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Intimate Partner Violence/ Sexual Abuse

Measures

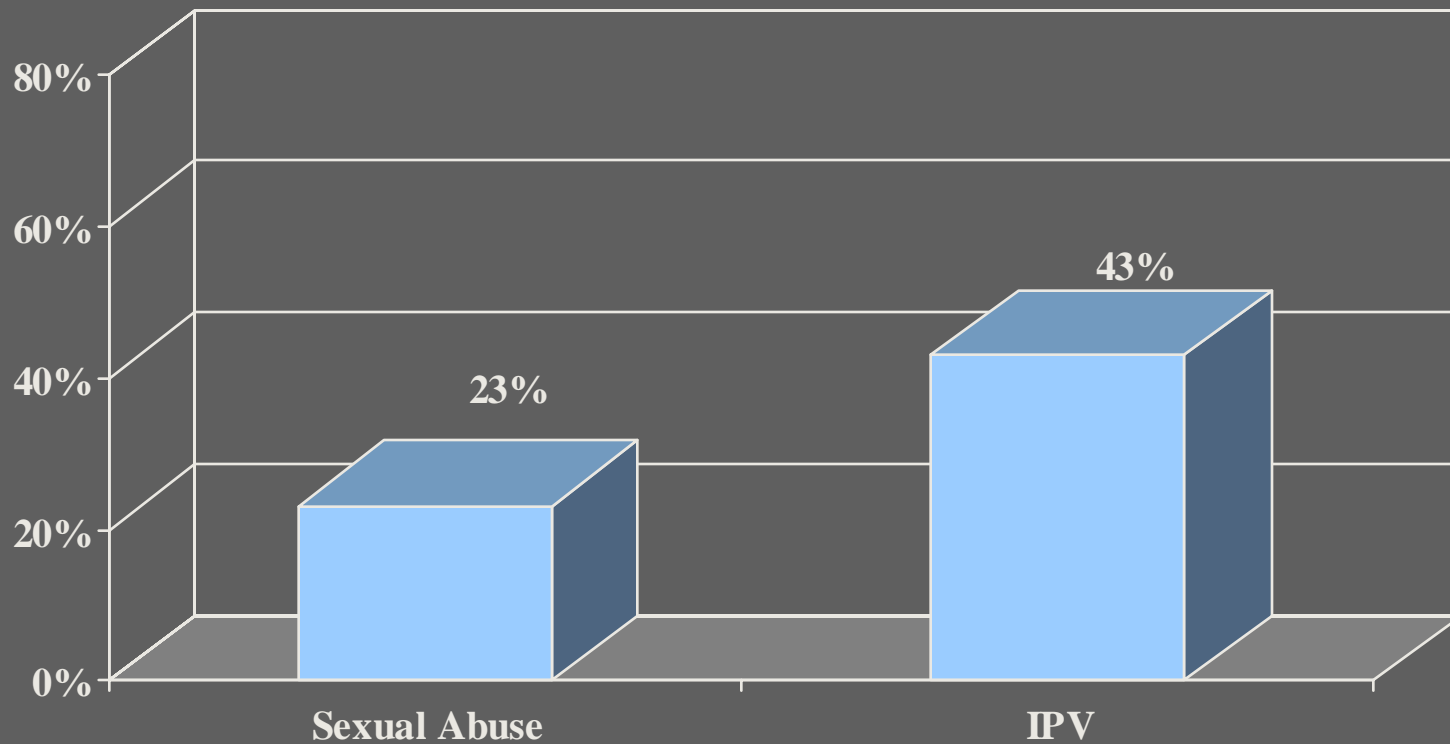
⇩ Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

- “Have you ever been hit, kicked, or slapped by a lover, boyfriend or girlfriend? We only mean times when that person meant to hurt you physically. Not when they were just playing with you.”

⇩ Sexual Abuse

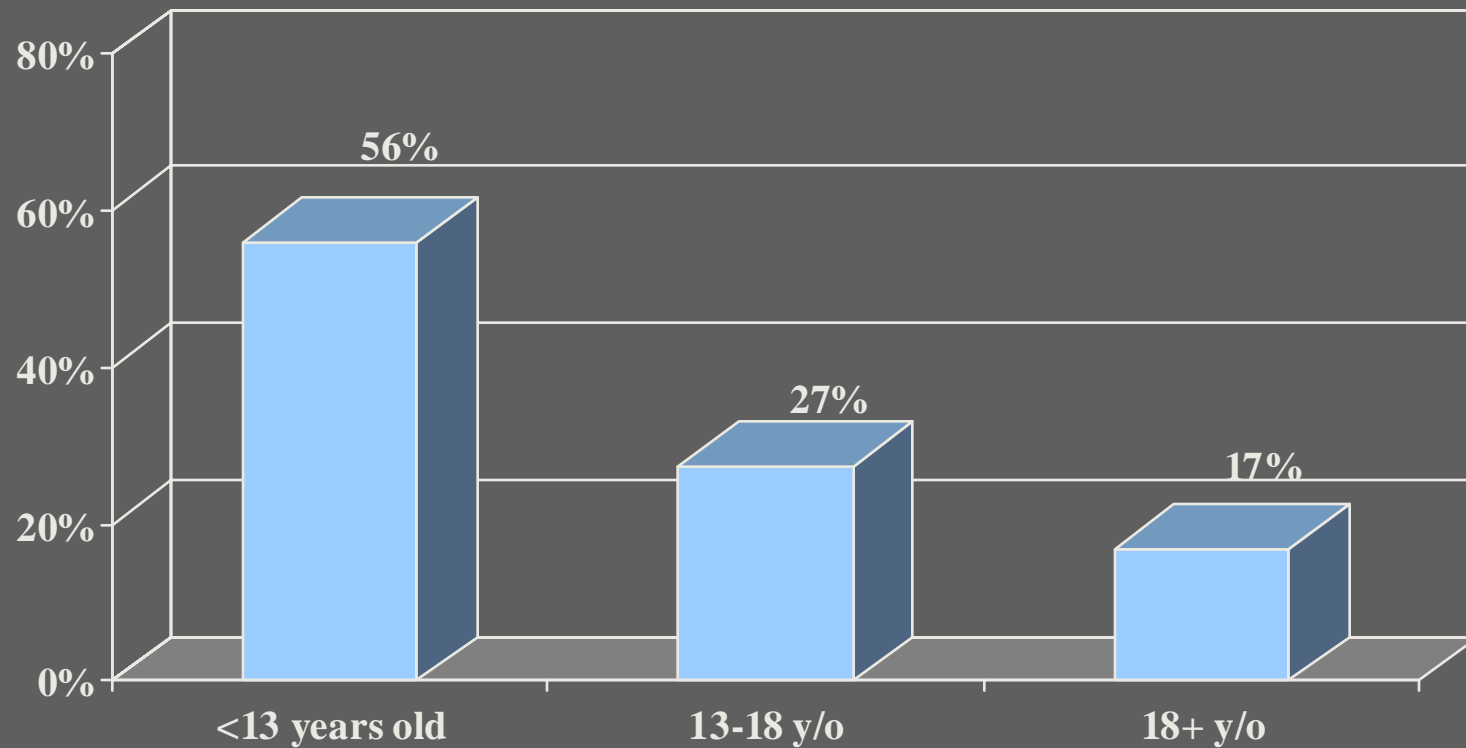
- “Have you ever been raped or forced to have sex?”

Percentage of Men Experiencing Sexual Abuse and IPV* (N=539)



* 17% of the total sample experienced both IPV & sexual abuse

"How old were you the first time you were forced to have sex?" (N=125)





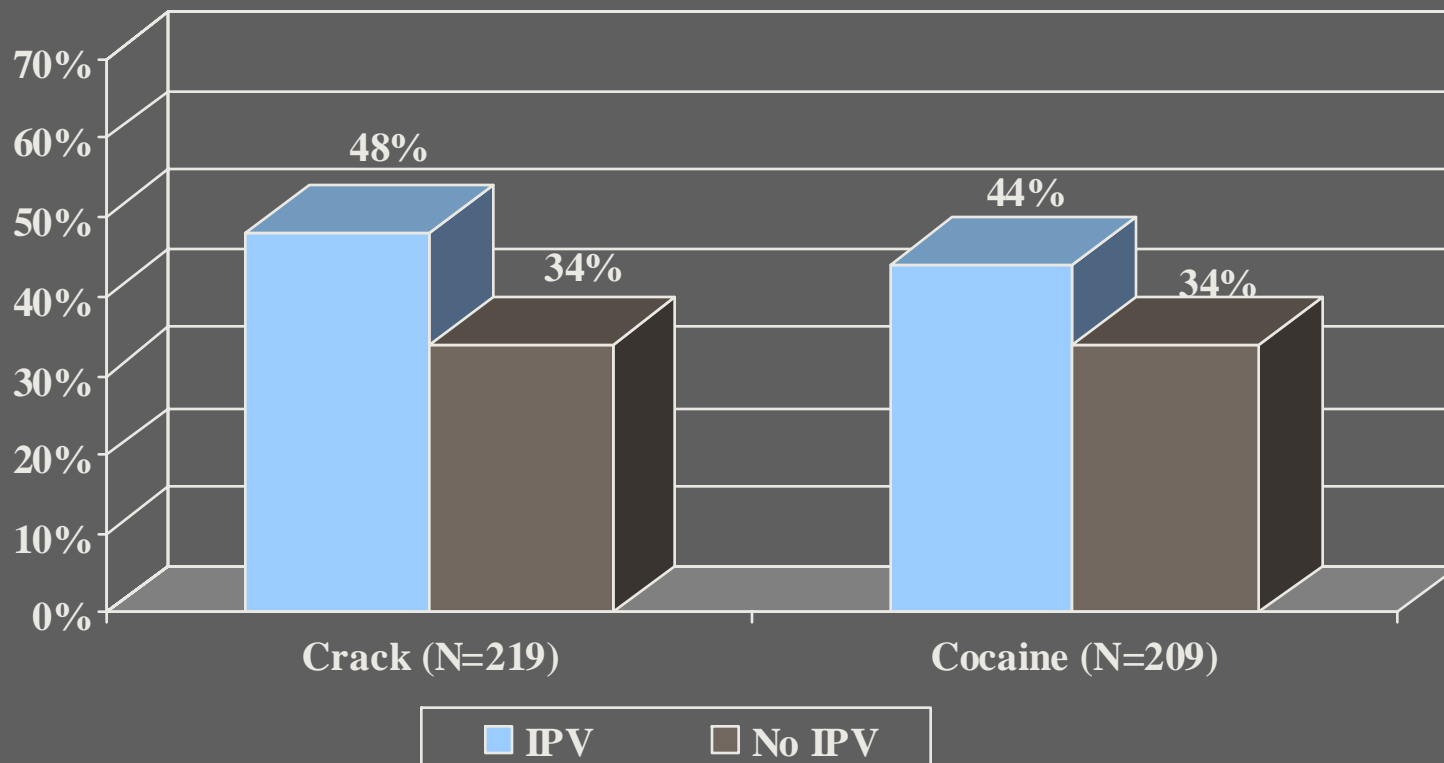
Relationship Between IPV & Sexual Abuse & HIV Risk

- ↴ Substance use
- ↴ Unprotected anal intercourse
- ↴ Reasons for engaging in sex
- ↴ HIV status

Relationship of Sexual Abuse & IPV to Substance Use

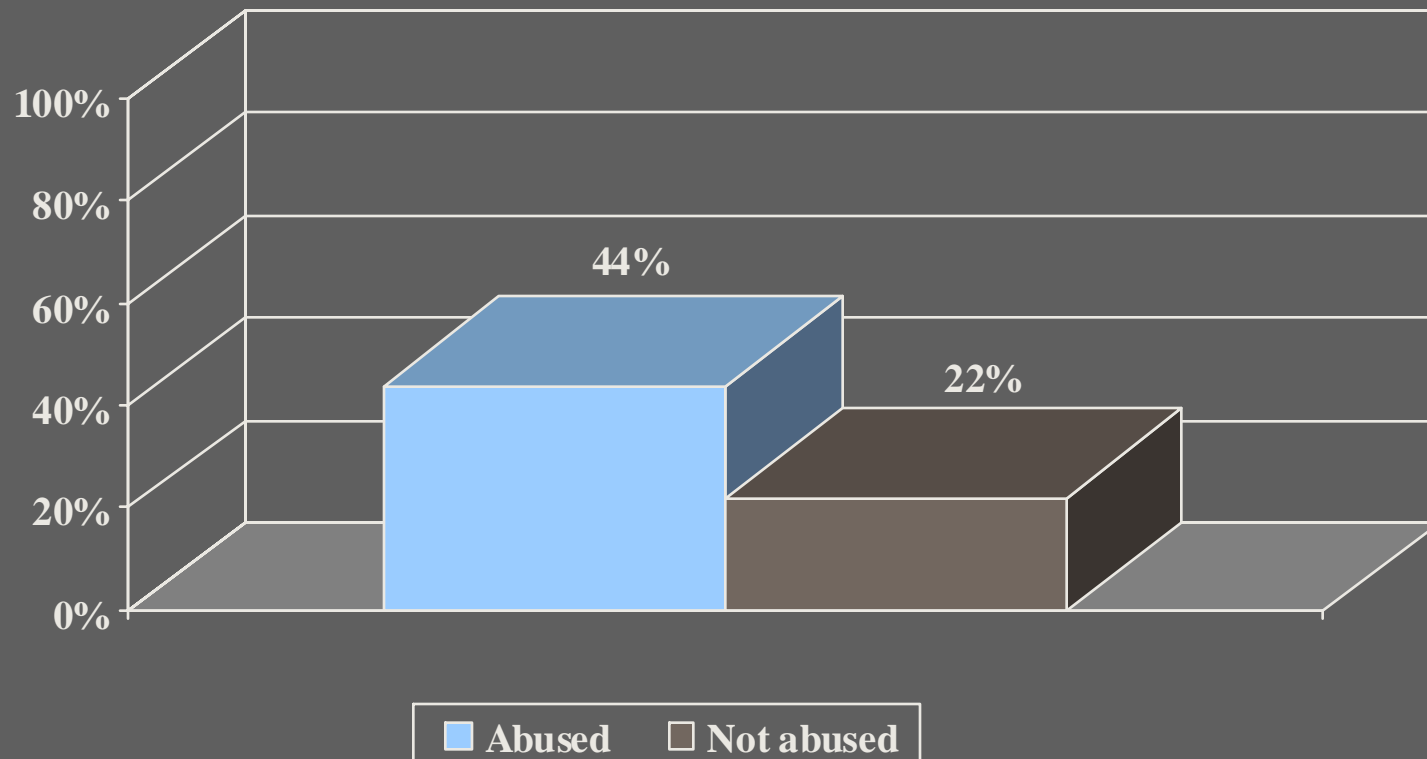
- ↓ In our sample, there was no significant difference on any of the substance use variables (crack, cocaine, marijuana, heroin, crystal meth and binge drinking) between men with sexual abuse histories compared to those without.
- ↓ Additionally, there was no difference between the use of marijuana, binge drinking, Heroin & Crystal Meth between men experiencing IPV and those that did not. The only exceptions were crack & cocaine.

Crack and Cocaine Use by IPV



Men reporting IPV were significantly more likely to report both crack and cocaine use ($p < .05$).
History of sexual abuse was not related to substance use.

Receptive Unprotected Anal Intercourse by Sexual Abuse (N= 71)



Men reporting a history of sexual abuse were significantly more likely to engage in Receptive UAI ($p < .001$) than men without this history. There was no association between receptive UAI and IPV.

Reasons Men Reported Having Sex* by IPV (N=528)

“In the past 3 months, which of the following were the main reasons you chose to engage in sex with other men?” (Check all that apply)

	IPV	No IPV	p
Sex made me feel better about myself	26%	19%	.05
I use sex to get money or other things I need	29%	18%	<.05
To overcome feeling lonely	32%	21%	<.05

* Based on selected reasons from a list of 9 choices. These items chosen because of their significance level to IPV.



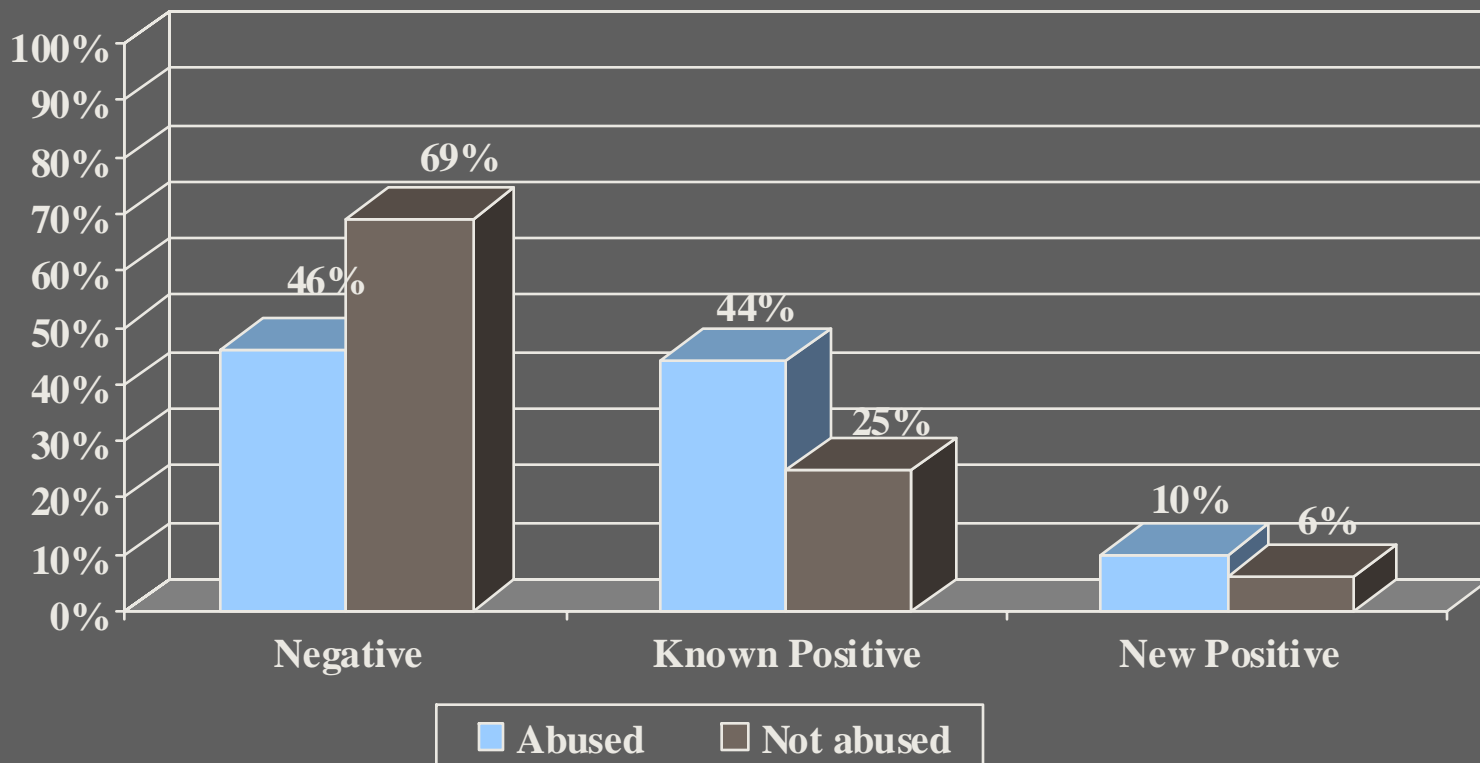
Reasons Men Reported Having Sex* by Sexual Abuse (N= 527)

“In the past 3 months, which of the following were the main reasons you chose to engage in sex with other men?” (Check all that apply)

	Forced sex	No forced sex	p
To show my partner I love him	25%	17%	.05
I feel I'm addicted to sex	28%	15%	.001
To overcome feeling lonely	41%	22%	<.001
I felt pressured to have sex	11%	6%	.05

* Based on selected reasons from a list of 9 choices. These items chosen because of their significance level to sexual abuse.

Result of HIV Test by Sexual Abuse (N= 537)



Men reporting a history of sexual abuse were significantly more likely to be HIV-positive ($p < .001$) than men without this history. History of IPV was not related to HIV status.

Relationship of Sexual Abuse & IPV to Other Variables

- ↓ No significant relationship was found between forced sex nor to IPV on the following:
- Trading sex behavior (giving or receiving)
 - Insertive unprotected anal intercourse

What our Data says on Sexual Abuse and IPV Among Black MSM

- ↓ Nearly a quarter of men reported being raped or forced to have sex. Nearly half of them experienced physical violence in their relationships. Close to one fifth of them experienced both IPV and forced sex experiences.
- ↓ Numerous studies have found an association between a history of sexual abuse and HIV status. Our findings support this, as 54% of men who experienced forced sex were HIV-positive.
- ↓ IPV was associated with crack and cocaine use. Both IPV and crack/cocaine use fail to get enough attention in MSM HIV prevention work.

Study Limitations

- ↓ The use of RDS resulted in an over-sampling of men from low SES backgrounds.
- ↓ The use of RDS also resulted in an under representation of men 29 years old and younger.
- ↓ This lack of representativeness in the sample makes it difficult to generalize these findings to the larger Black MSM population.
- ↓ In contrast, most studies to date have used venue based sampling, which often results in over-sampling of men who are gay identified and of middle to upper SES.

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Conclusions and Application of Findings

Implications of Findings

- ↓ This data suggests IPV and sexual abuse are public health issues in need of attention to improve health outcomes for Black MSM. Because of the mental health implications associated with these issues, HIV/AIDS & behavioral health systems should work in tandem to improve outcomes.
- ↓ This data also suggests that direct service providers who work with Black MSM, should develop screening protocols for sexual abuse and IPV and refer clients to appropriate and culturally sensitive resources if possible.
- ↓ Given the lack of interventions and services in the country for MSM victims of IPV and sexual abuse, these data can be used to help underscore the need for resource allocation toward developing culturally specific interventions for this group of men.

What do we Need to Know More About?

- ↓ The impact of multiple psychosocial stressors on Black MSM. More mixed methods research (qualitative and quantitative) is needed to understand the impact of these issues.
- ↓ More research is needed to help understand the prevalence and impact of childhood sexual abuse on its adult victims.
- ↓ We need more data on the prevalence and impact of IPV in same sex relationships.
- ↓ We need to improve our understanding between untreated mental health issues and their impact on negative health outcomes for Black MSM.



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