Violence Screening and Viral Load Suppression among HIV-Positive African American Women

Women & HIV

- 242,178 women living with HIV nationwide (1 in 4 cases)
- 88% are aware of their status
- 45% engaged in care
- 12% virally suppressed

IPV & HIV

- 68.95% of clinical samples in resource-rich settings have experienced IPV in their lifetime
- IPV risk and consequence of HIV
- IPV is associated with high-risk behavior
  - Substance use
  - Multiple sex partners
  - Exchange sex
  - Coercive sex
  - Challenges negotiating safe sex
  - Sex with HIV-positive men and those with increased risk (injection drug use)
IPV & HIV
- 68-95% of clinical samples in resource-rich settings have experienced IPV in their lifetime
- IPV risk and consequence of HIV
- IPV is associated with poor health outcomes
  - Poorer physical health
  - Poorer mental health
  - Poorer HIV outcomes as well (high no-show, ART failure, detectable viral loads, low CD4 counts, higher OIs)

IPV Screening & Support

IPV Screening Methodology
- Need to deploy a variety of kinds of questions and tools over time to most fully screen for IPV
Study

78 African American HIV positive Women who were engaged in an intervention aimed at newly diagnosed, new to care, sporadically engaged or lost to care women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>22-65 yrs of age (n = 49 Yrs)</th>
<th>78% Single</th>
<th>69% renting housing or apartment</th>
<th>90% heterosexual</th>
<th>63% HS/GED</th>
<th>Majority unemployed or under-employed</th>
<th>58% living with $1000 or less a month income</th>
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</thead>
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Prevalence of Violence Concerns

- **Tools:**
  - WED
  - Screening questions:
    - Have you ever been emotionally or physically abused by your partner or someone important to you?
    - Are you afraid of a past or current partner?
    - Has anyone forced you to have sexual activities?
    - Barrier to HIV care - "Thought that partner might hurt you" ("a great deal" and "somewhat")
    - HIV infection through Sexual Assault ("Most likely" and "Somewhat likely")
    - Report of past or current concerns of safety on acuity measure
    - Identified individually between 12-40% of sample as having concerns with violence
    - Composite measure identified 68%

Viral Suppression (< 200 copies/mL)

- Overall high rate of suppression (80%)
- Responses to individual tools were not identified with suppression concerns
- Those identified using composite measure were more likely to not be virally suppressed ($\chi^2$ (1) = 6.15, p < 0.05)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violence Concerns</th>
<th>Suppressed</th>
<th>71.7%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Violence Concerns</td>
<td>96.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Suppressed</td>
<td>28.3%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
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