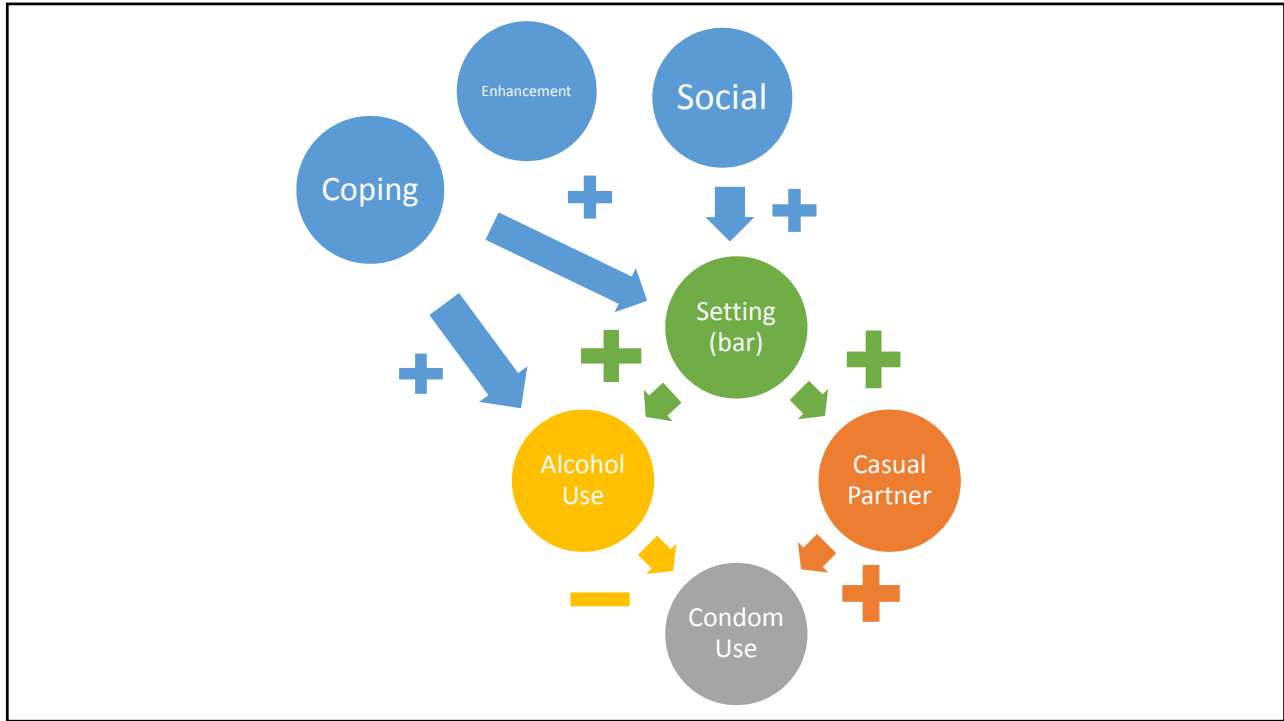# An Exploration of HIV Risk Behaviors Among Patrons in Sexual Minority Drinking Environments
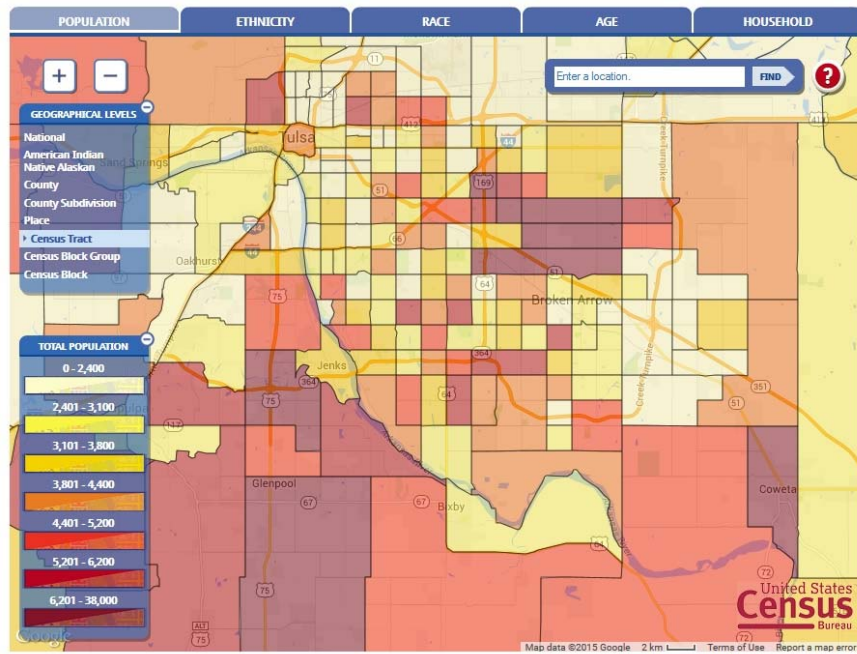
Fae Frederick, M.A. & Julie Croff, Ph.D.
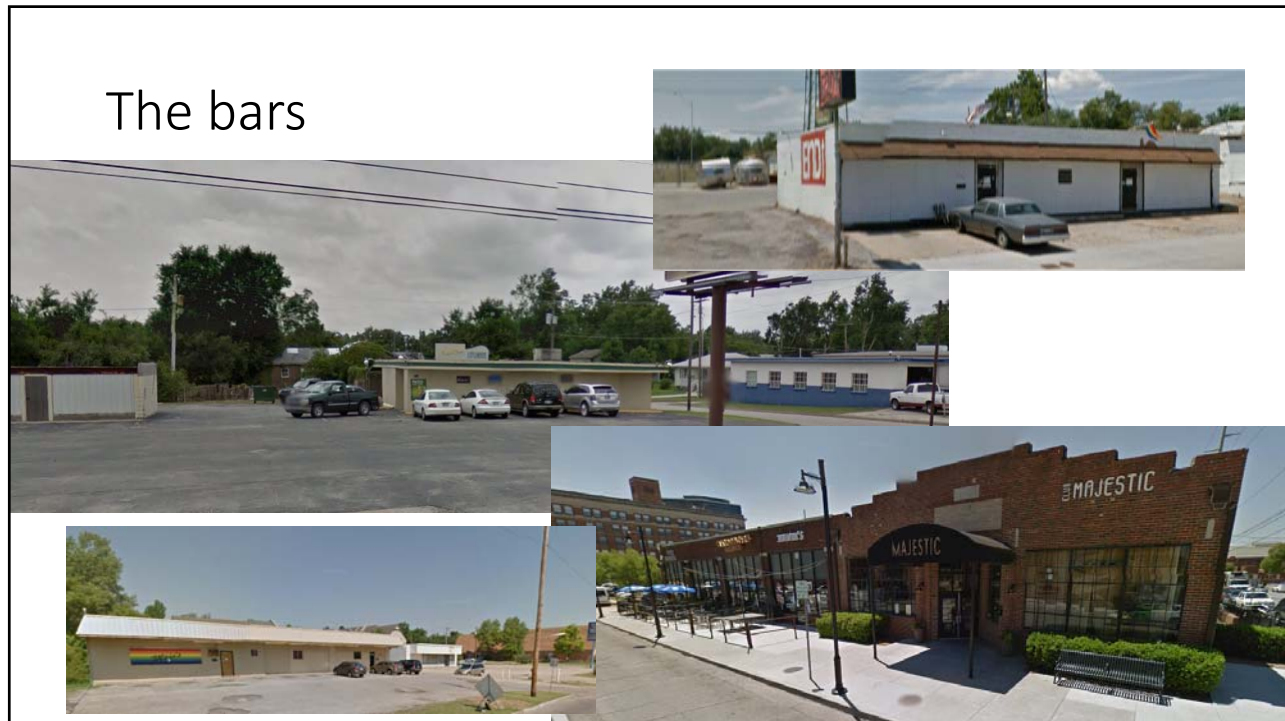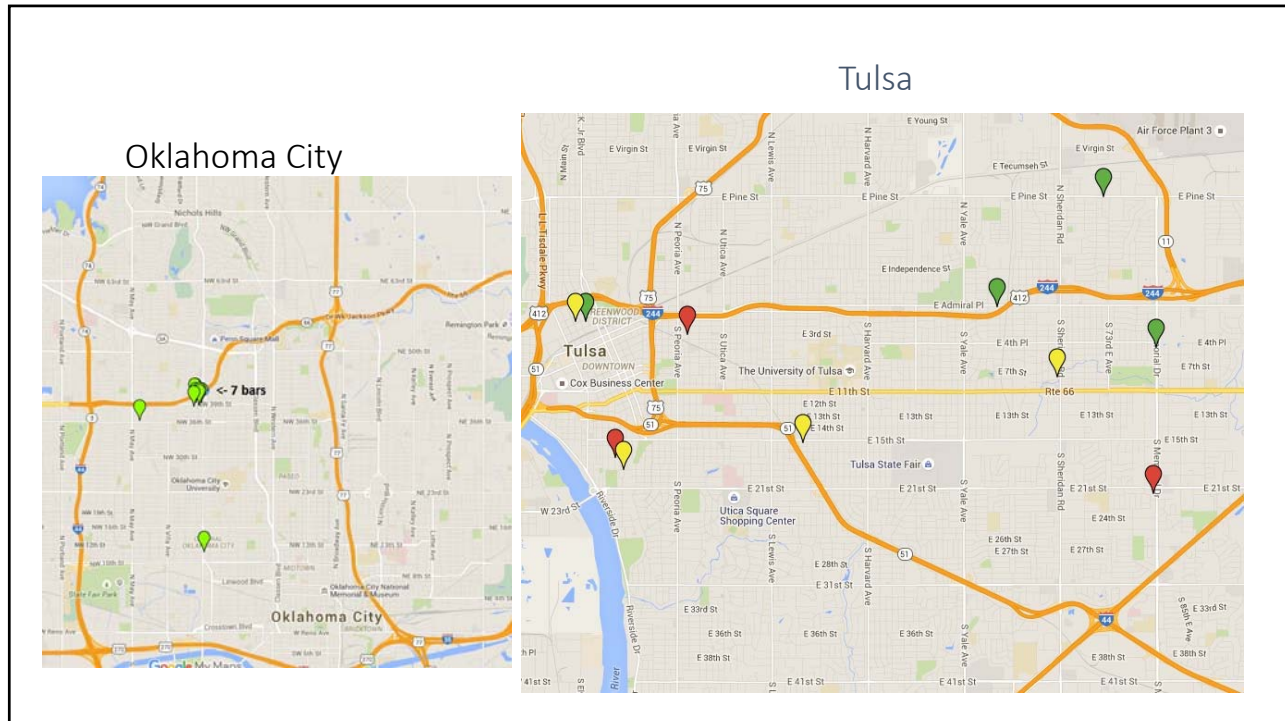
Oklahoma State University

Why is this important?

- Less research with rural/conservative LGBTQ populations

- Bars are a safer place for LGBTQ individuals to gather in conservative areas

- Same-sex sexual contact remains the dominant cause of HIV transmission (Centers for Disease & Prevention, 2008)

- Alcohol use is reported to be higher among sexual minorities (gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer, or questioning) than among those who identify as heterosexual (Hatzenbuehler et al., 2008, Drabble et al., 2005)

- Sexual minority youth begin to use alcohol at younger ages than their heterosexual peers and use alcohol more frequently as college students during emergence into adulthood (DeBord, 1998)

- Drinking among sexual minority youth is associated with consumption of higher quantities of alcohol and with increased rates of heavy episodic drinking (Corliss et al., 2008)

The project

Tulsa

Oklahoma City

The bars

Methods

- Entrance survey
- Breathalyzer test (without display) [Wristband for identification]
- Exit survey
- Breathalyzer test (without display),
- Option to participate in follow up survey
- Follow up survey
  - Sex, alcohol, and drugs diary
  - Outness
  - Social support
  - Religiousness

Results

- 101 participants
- Demographics

	Sample % (n)
Sex	
Male	60.8% (70)
Female	39.1% (45)
Race/Ethnicity	
White	63.8 % (74)
Other	36.2% (42)
Sexual Minority Status	
LGBTQQ	63.9% (62)
Non-LGBTQQ	36.1% (35)

Results Entrance

Variables Theoretically Related to BrAC at Entrance to Bar

	Sample % (n)	BrAC at Entrance Mean (SD)	t (df)	p-value
Motivated to attend bar because of stress				
Yes	6.0% (7)	0.028 (0.021)	-1.22 (16.99)	n.s.
No	94.0% (109)	0.040 (0.068)		
Alcohol before bar attendance				
Yes	48.4% (46)	0.072 (0.082)	6.85 (62.53)	p<0.001
No	51.6% (49)	0.001 (0.006)		
Plan to Drive				
Yes	51.7% (60)	0.024 (0.045)	-2.80 (79.39)	p<0.01
No	48.3% (56)	0.055 (0.081)		
How much do you intend to drink tonight?				
Not enough to get buzzed	50.0% (58)	0.020 (0.046)	F = 15.52 (3)	p<0.001
Enough to get a slight buzz	31.0% (36)	0.042 (0.054)		
Enough to get a little drunk	12.9% (15)	0.042 (0.011)		
Enough to get very drunk	6.0% (7)	0.14 (0.052)		
Continuous Variables				
	Mean (SD)	Range	R²	p-value
Age	30.43 (8.6)	21 – 58	0.14	n.s.

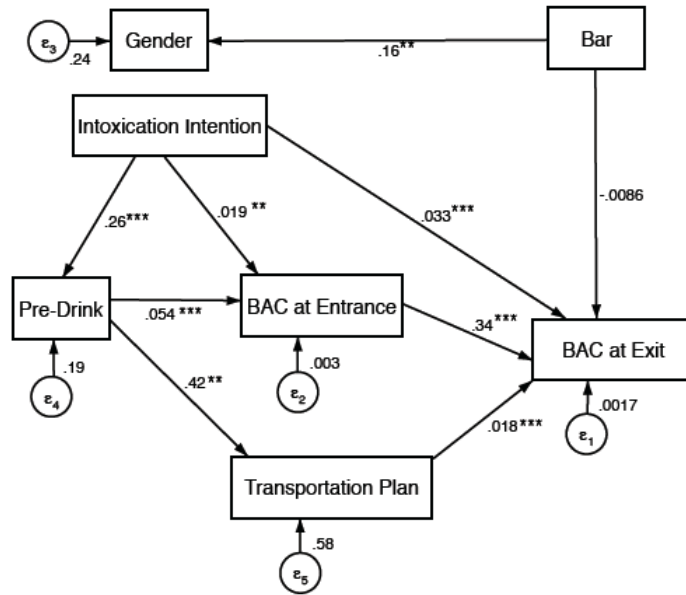## Results Exit

Variables Theoretically Related to BrAC at Exit from Bar

	Sample % (n)	BrAC at Exit Mean (SD)	t (df)	p-value
Motivated to attend bar because of stress				
Yes	4.0% (4)	0.100 (0.120)	0.736 (3.07)	n.s.
No	96.0% (97)	0.059 (0.063)		
Alcohol before bar attendance				
Yes	48.5% (49)	0.093 (0.065)	5.47 (99)	p<0.001
No	51.5% (52)	0.030 (0.050)		
Plan to Drive				
Yes	50.5% (51)	0.035 (0.041)	-4.27 (75.28)	p<0.001
No	49.5% (50)	0.087 (.075)		
How much do you intend to drink tonight?				
Not enough to get buzzed	52.5% (53)	0.027 (0.006)	F = 20.87 (3)	p<0.001
Enough to get a slight buzz	27.7% (28)	0.078 (0.011)		
Enough to get a little drunk	13.9% (14)	0.11 (0.015)		
Enough to get very drunk	5.9% (6)	0.086 (0.035)		
Continuous Variables				
	Mean (SD)	Range	R²	p-value
Age	30.43 (8.6)	21 – 58 (116)	-0.077	n.s.
Entrance BrAC	0.039 (0.066)	0.00 – 0.40 (95)	0.61	p<0.01

Results

Figure 1: Path model of BrAC at exit from bar

Sexual Behavior	Monogamous relationship	Have had sex before (friends with benefits)	An acquaintance never had sex with before	Someone I met tonight	Total
Gave oral sex without a condom/ dental dam	2	3	1	1	7
Received oral sex without a condom/ dental dam	2	4	1	1	8
Unprotected vaginal sex	0	3	0	0	3
Unprotected insertive anal sex (top)	1	0	0	0	1

Results/Conclusions

- Low BrAC
- Those planning on driving home were well below legal limit
  - Due to location
    - Far from Tulsa residential areas
    - Many participants drove to Tulsa from other cities
  - Lack of public transit
  - Fewer taxi options (which might have been very expensive considering where they lived)
- Individuals who did engage in unplanned sex had high BrACs
- Sexual minorities scored marginally lower than sexual majorities on outness subscale, outness to world

Prevention Programming

- Future intervention work in similar social contexts may consider emphasizing transportation plans as a mechanism to reduce elevated BrACs and alcohol-related problems.
- Tests of safe ride programs in this community may be helpful for identifying whether safe drinking plans influence rates of intoxication.

Future considerations

- Older mean age may contribute to more responsible drinking/sex behaviors overall?
- Controlling for "post-homosexual" or post-mo atmosphere (Nash, 2013)
  - Technology makes connecting easier, bars not necessary
  - Social environment increases gentrification
- Control for perception of home environment (Why did you travel 50 miles to come to this gay bar tonight?)
- Explore interaction of structural stigma