

# Intimate Partner Violence and Relationship Power as Psychosocial Challenges to Reducing HIV Risk

Gloria Maimela

**L**  **NDON**

**FAST-TRACK CITIES 2019**

SEPTEMBER 8-11, 2019 | BARBICAN CENTRE

SPONSORED BY:



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



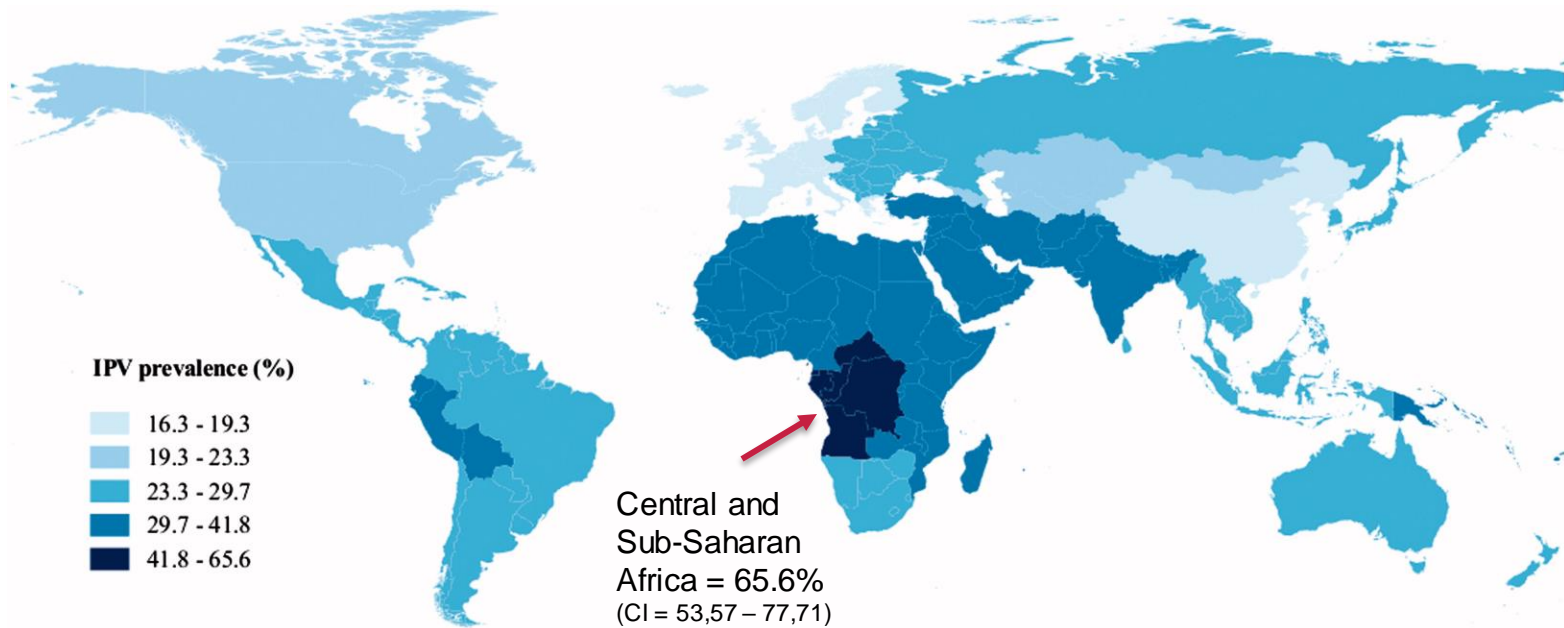
# Intimate Partner Violence

- Definition: (Mitchell J et al, 2016)  
Physical, sexual, financial and psychological abuse towards a partner within an intimate relationship.
- A global health problem
- Heterosexual or same sex relationships
- Overwhelming burden experienced by women, perpetrated by men



Image source: dreamstimes.com

## Global prevalence of IPV against women aged 15 years and above



Source: Devries, Mak, García-Moreno, et al. (2013).

# IPV and HIV...body of evidence

*Intimate partner violence and HIV infection among women: a systematic review and meta-analysis* Ying Li<sup>1,2</sup>, Caitlin M Marshall<sup>2</sup>, Hilary C Rees<sup>2</sup>, Annabelle Nunez<sup>2</sup>, Echezona E Ezeanolue<sup>3</sup> and John E Ehiri<sup>§,2</sup>

*Intimate partner violence is associated with incident HIV infection in women in Uganda* Kouyoumdjian, Fiona G.a; Calzavara, Liviana M.a; Bondy, Susan J.a; O'Campo, Patriciaa; Serwadda, Davidb; Nalugoda, Fredc; Kagaayi, Josephc; Kigozi, Godfrey c; Wawer, Mariad; Gray, Rond

*Intimate Partner Violence and HIV Risk Among Urban Minority Women in Primary Health Care Settings* Elwin Wu, Nabila El-Bassel, Susan S. Witte, Louisa Gilbert, Mingway Chang

*Drugs, Sex, Gender-Based Violence, and the Intersection of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic with Vulnerable Women in South Africa* [Wechsberg WM](#), [Parry CDH](#), [Jewkes RK](#)

*Intimate partner violence against women living with and without HIV, and the associated factors in Wolaita Zone, Southern Ethiopia: A comparative cross-sectional study* [Meskele M1](#), [Khuzwayo N2](#), [Taylor M3](#).

- Women who are abused and men who abuse are more likely to have HIV
- Women who have experienced physical/sexual intimate partner violence are 54% more likely to have HIV (Dunkle et al 2004)
- Men who have perpetrated physical/sexual intimate partner violence are more than twice likely to have HIV (adjusted Odds Ratio 2.23) (Jewkes et al 2008)
- HIV-infected women more likely to have experienced multiple forms of IPV than HIV-uninfected women
- 68% - 95% of women living with HIV reported a lifetime experience of IPV (Hatcher A et al, 2015)

# IPV, HIV and AGYW

- IPV prevalence estimates high among adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) (Decker et al, 2014)
  - Physical IPV = 30.9%
  - Sexual IPV (transactional; coerced) = 18.3%
- Multiple partnerships
- Lack of sexual control
- Inability to negotiate condom use
- Disparate age relationships and power

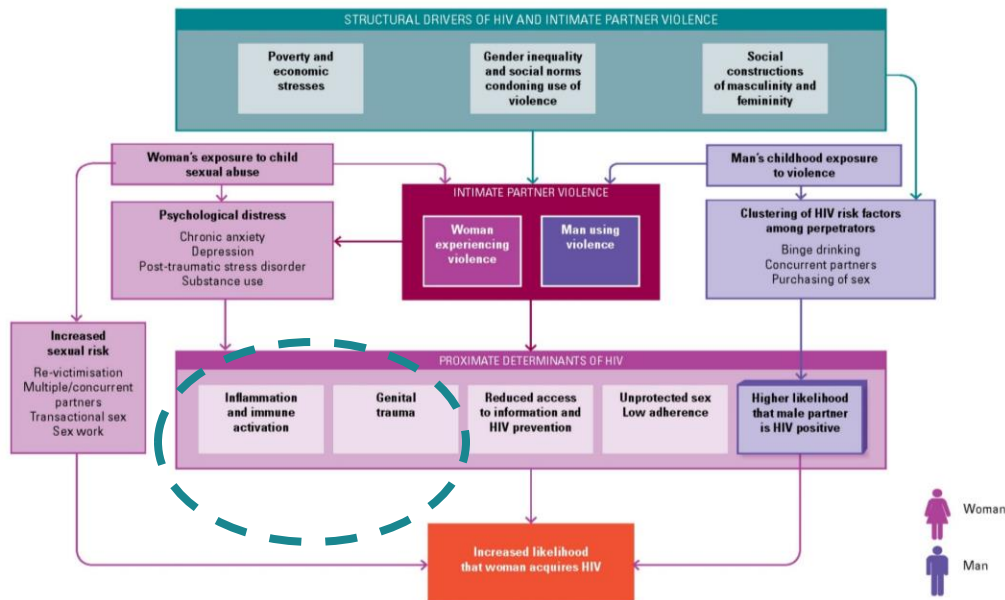


Image source: Avert



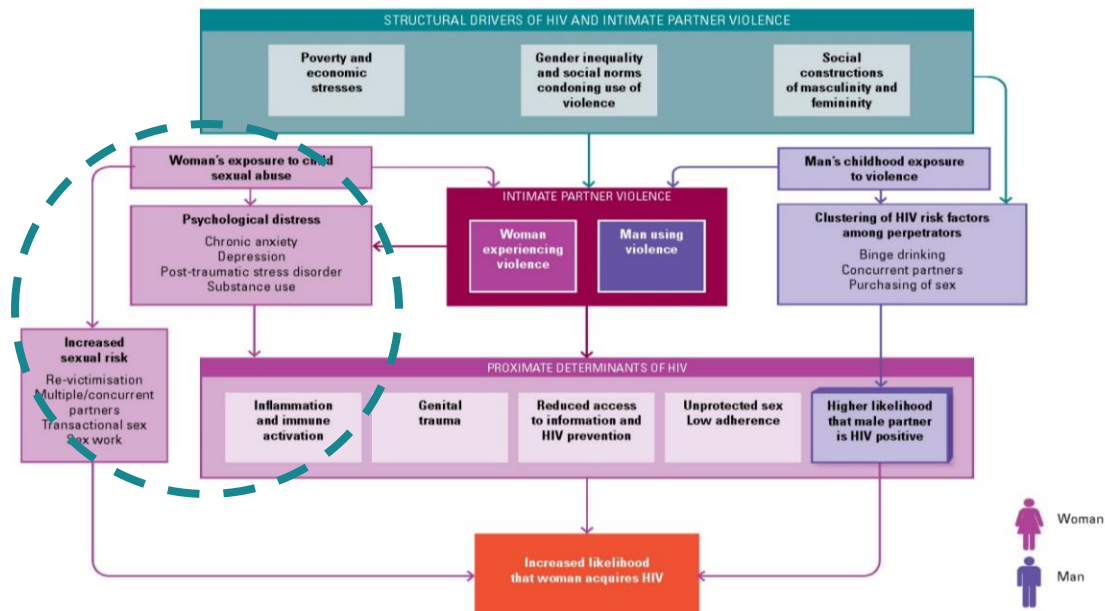
Higher risk of HIV infection

# Multiple pathways link violence and HIV



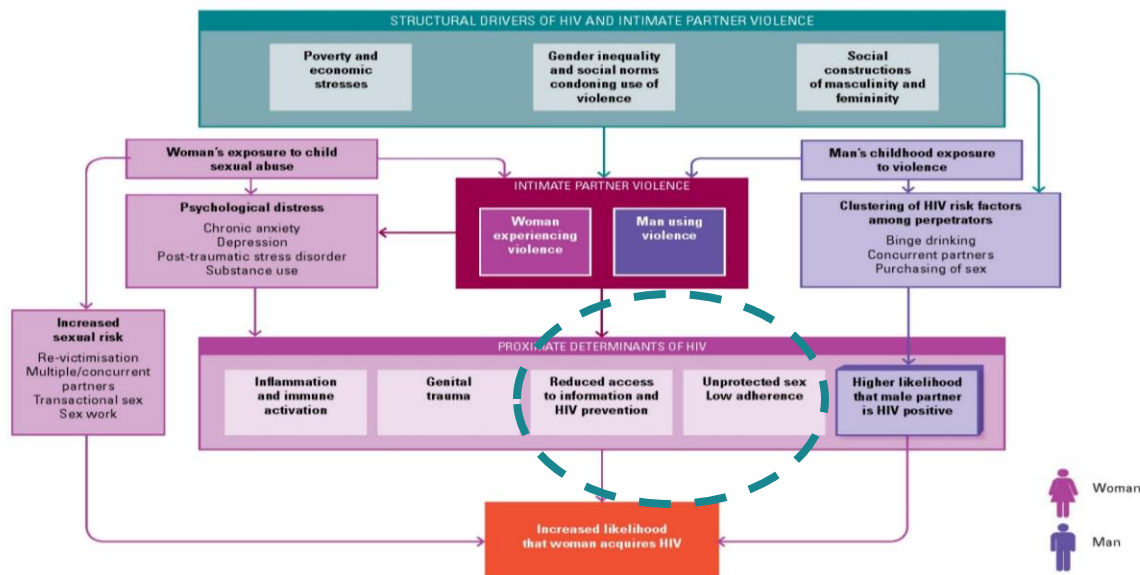
Source: STRIVE

# Multiple pathways link violence and HIV



Source: STRIVE

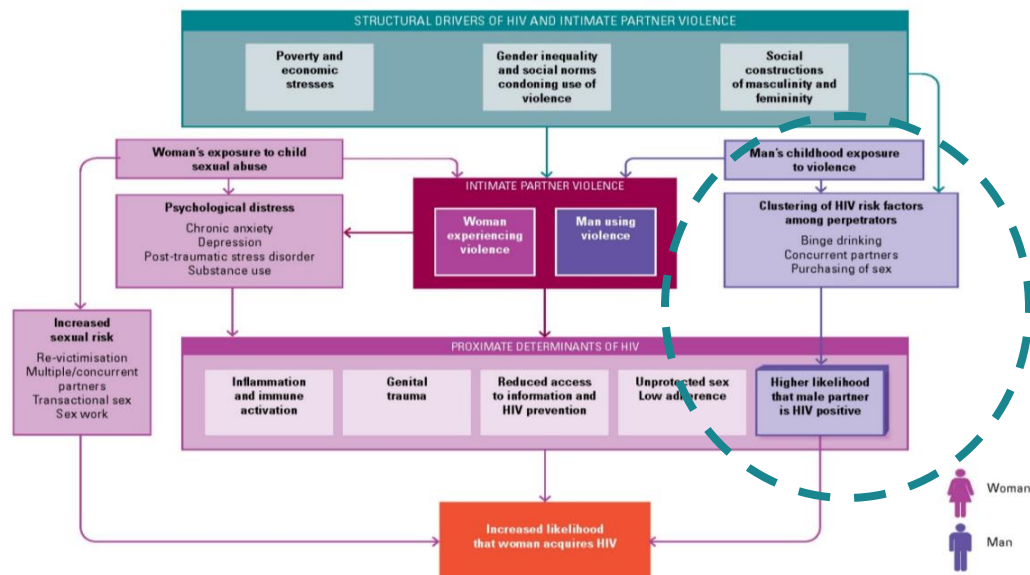
# Multiple pathways link violence and HIV



Source: STRIVE



# Multiple pathways link violence and HIV



Source: STRIVE

# IPV undermines HIV care and treatment success in women



## HIV testing

- Gender inequality undermines women's decision-making autonomy about HIV testing
- Fear of IPV prevented some women from accessing testing (variable results). One study suggested that IPV motivates HIV testing.



## ART initiation

- IPV was associated with inability to access care and treatment.
- IPV was associated with lower current ART use among women
- Women were reluctant to, or did



## Viral load

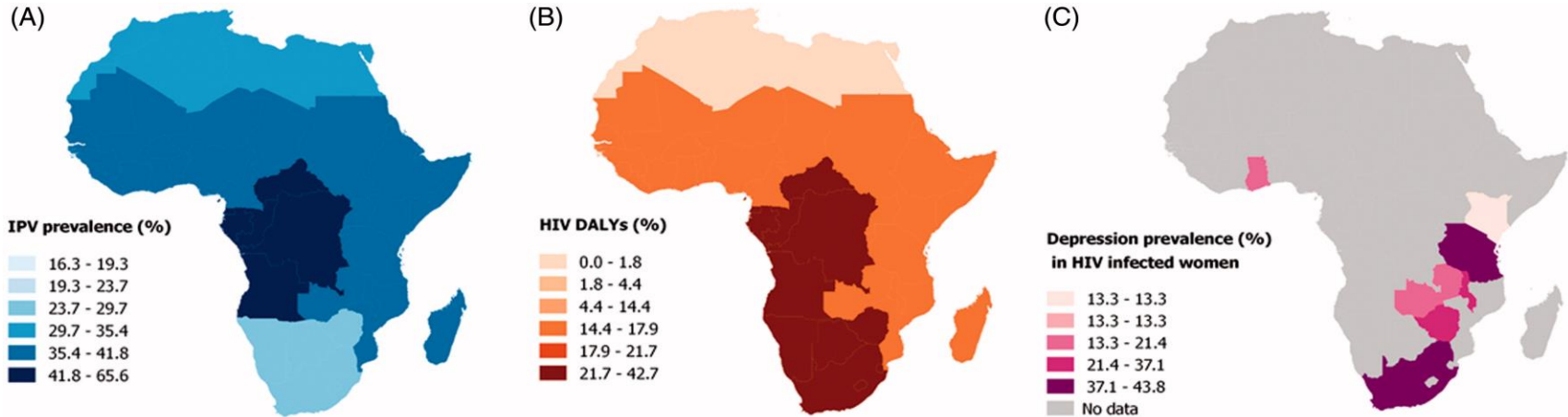
- IPV reduced odds of women adhering to ART by half.
- Partner abuse associated with poor adherence leading to poor clinical outcomes (CD4+, VL).
- IPV associated with

Source: STRIVE

# IPV, HIV and Mental Health

## Triple burden of disease:

“Emerging evidence linking experiencing IPV and/or HIV to a higher likelihood of experiencing mental health problems” *Mitchell J et al (2016).*



# IPV and HIV prevention in AGYW:

## EMPOWER study findings

*Is it feasible, acceptable and safe to integrate responses to gender-based violence and harmful norms into an HIV prevention programme offering PrEP for AGYW aged 16-24 years?*



Johannesburg, South Africa



Mwanza, Tanzania



Provision of services that are confidential, respectful, and non-judgement are highly acceptable to youth

Youth engagement in the design of services and interventions is critical

Partnerships across sectors are particularly important for developing referral pathways for young people

Source: EMPOWER 2018

# Key lessons from integrating GBV and HIV programming:

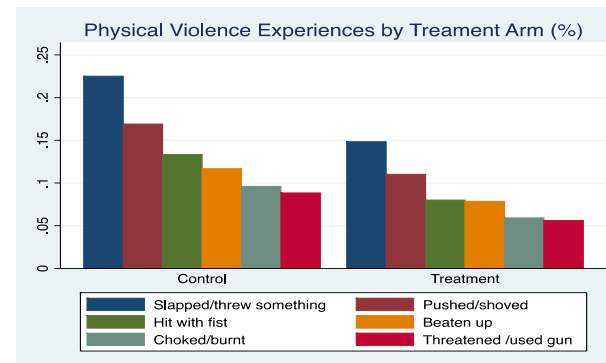
*Tathmini RCT, Mbeya, Tanzania (2018)*

Comprehensive package of services influenced:

- Knowledge, attitude, beliefs about gender based violence(GBV)/IPV
- Awareness of laws and policies on violence
- Less acceptance of partner violence for refusal of sex
- Shift towards gender equitable norms
- Better informed beliefs
- Use of referral networks?

# Swa Koteka RCT

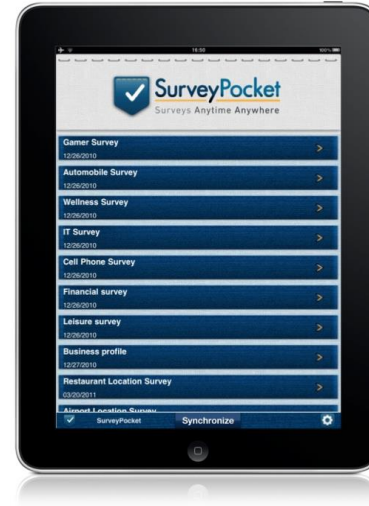
- Cash transfers conditioned on school attendance to reduce HIV
- Significant ↓ in physical IPV by 34%
- No significant effect on sexual IPV
- Effects driven partially by not engaging in sex or having fewer sex partners



Source: Kilburn, JIAS 2018

# Interventions: IPV screening and HIV prevention

- **Healthy Relationship Assessment Tool (HEART)**
  - *Administration by lay counselor on a tablet*
- Asks about gender norms, relationship traits, access to resources, decision-making, agency, influence in relationship, HIV prevention agency
- Assesses where women's relationships fall along a continuum from very supportive to abuse/controlling
- Counseling module recommended and selected by counselors



I think that a woman cannot refuse to have sex with her husband.

My partner does what he wants, even if I do not want him to.

I can talk about my problems with my family.

Source: CHARISMA

# Empowering women



## 1. Partner communication

Elements of communication, “I” statements, and conflict de-escalation

All other women receive this module



## 2. Ring disclosure and partner support

HEART indicates partner is *not* abusive but she has *not disclosed* ring use or she has disclosed and he is *not supportive*



## 3. Responding to IPV

HEART indicates any controlling behaviors, emotional abuse or physical abuse

Source: CHARISMA



# Engaging community, targeting men

- Community engagement workshops
- Community dialogues
- Soccer tournaments
- Media outreach
- Tavern mini-dialogues
- Door-to door campaigns
- Community murals
- Community action teams (CATs)
- WhatsApp groups to notify CHARISMA



participants of community events

Source: CHARISMA

# Pitfalls to successful interventions:

*Why interventions to prevent IPV and HIV have failed young women in Southern Africa, Mannell J et al (2019)*

- Interventions developed without meaningful involvement of women
- Focus on addressing risk factors instead of understanding the broader societal context and promoting women's agency
  - Is violence an acceptable part of a loving relationship?
  - Strategies to say no and still protect yourself from violence?
- Not adequately accounting for changes in gender norms and relationships
  - Women are increasingly taking on traditional male roles - threat
- The role of technology in perpetuating IPV
  - Use of social media to monitor partners

# Conclusion

- There is a strong body of evidence showing that IPV increases risk of HIV infection particularly in AGYW
- Causes are multidimensional, complex and require interventions at multiple levels
- Studies have shown that integrating IPV services with HIV programming services including HIV prevention is feasible and acceptable to women and have potential of shaping new gender norms
- Underutilization of referral links – need economic empowerment of women
- Need to design interventions that engage women from the onset, promote women's agency and are cognizant of evolving gender norms and the risks brought on by technology.

# Acknowledgements

