

# Prevalence and patterns of men's perpetration of intimate partner violence, gender attitudes and related factors in an informal settlement near Johannesburg

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# Background

- Globally about a third of women experience IPV globally (WHO, 2013)
  - Leads to major health, social consequences & has high economic costs
- Rates of Intimate partner violence (IPV) in South Africa are high
  - Lifetime prevalence among women (18-49 years): 28-55.5% (Jewkes et al. 2001; Dunkle et al. 2004; Machisa et al. 2011)
- Population-based studies have estimated prevalence of men's use of physical and/or sexual violence against a partner at 27.5 - 42% (Jewkes et al. 2015; Abrahams et al. 2005)



# Harmful masculinity norms & perpetration of IPV

- Dominant masculinity norms (e.g. toughness, virility, power) are a key underlying factors (Fulu et al. 2013)
- Heterosexual performance is linked to men's control over women which can lead to physical and / or sexual violence (Jewkes et al. 2011)
- Inequitable gender beliefs & attitudes condoning gender-based violence are characteristics of dominant masculinity norms



# Context: peri-urban & informal settlement

- Characterized by high mobility, food insecurity and high levels of crime, may result in different prevalence and patterns of IPV perpetration



# Aim

- We investigated the prevalence, patterns of the use of intimate partner violence, gender attitudes and associated factors among a cohort of men enrolled in the Sonke CHANGE trial, in an informal settlement north of Johannesburg



# Methodology

- Data were collected for the baseline of a cluster randomised controlled trial, evaluating the effectiveness of the Sonke Intervention in reducing men's use of violence against women
- 2603 men aged between 18 and 40 years volunteered to participate in the study
- Questionnaires administered using audio-computer-assisted software on tablets in 4 languages
- Questionnaire covered self-reported socio-demographics, gender beliefs (using the gender-equitable men's (GEM) score), lifetime and current use of IPV & severity of IPV



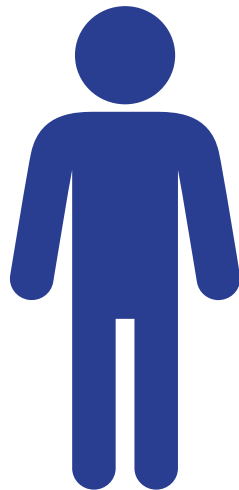
# Statistical analysis

- Logistic regression models
  - Dependent variable: lifetime physical and/or sexual IPV
  - Focal independent variable: Gender equitable beliefs (score categorised into: inequitable, less equitable and equitable)
  - Covariates: Child abuse, socio demographic characteristics
- Multinomial regression
  - Outcome: No IPV, single, multiple episodes of IPV use
  - Focal independent variable: gender equitable beliefs
  - Controlled for socio-demographic characteristics



# Results

2 603 men



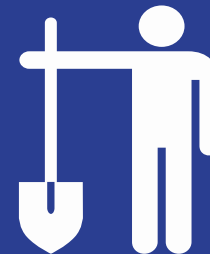
Age Median:  
27 years  
IQR: 23-32

## Socio-economics



Median  
monthly  
income

49.7%



Employed in  
past 3 months



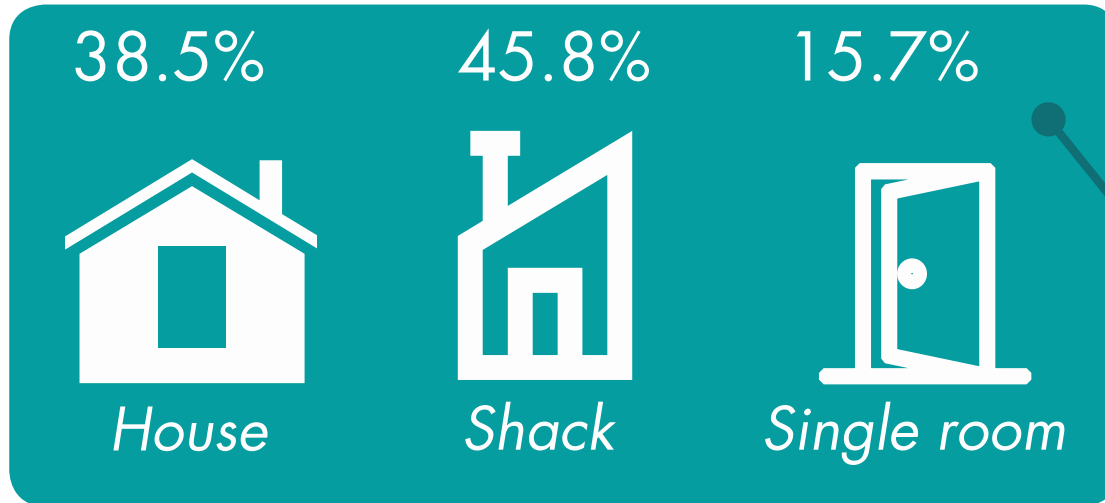
38.6% matric



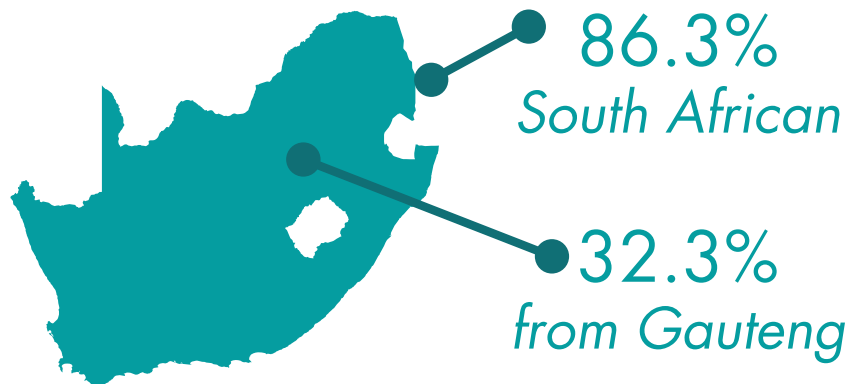


# Results

## Housing & Migration



Household Size  
3 people  
IQR: 2-5



Time Living in Diepsloot

Median:

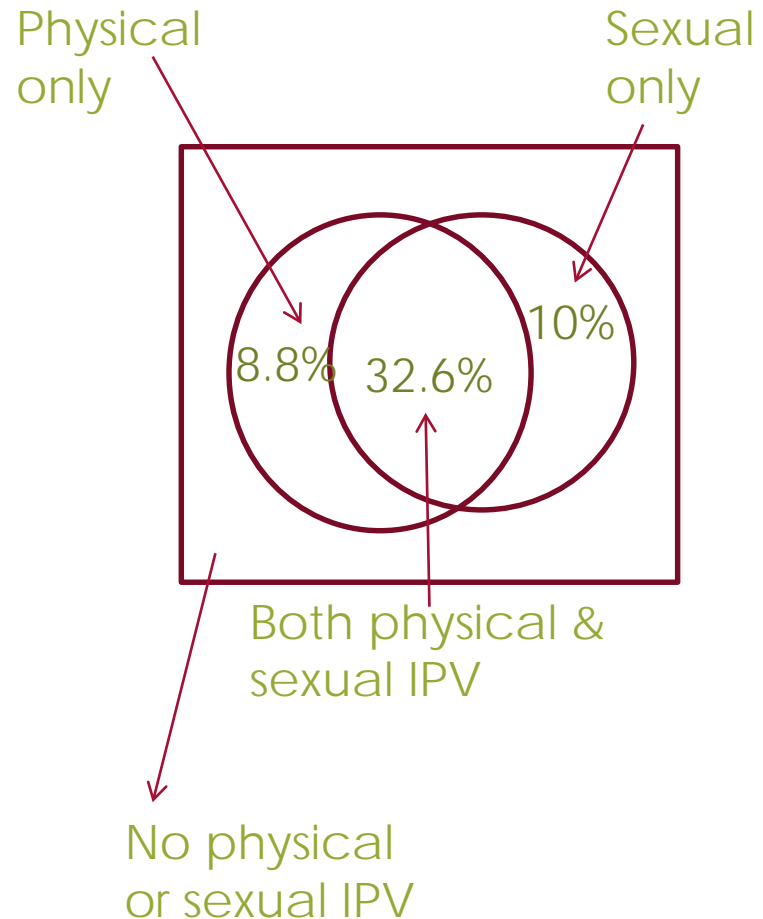
**7 years**

IQR: 4-12



# Perpetration of sexual and/or physical IPV

- 51.4% reported lifetime use of IPV
- 42.5% reported past-year
- 10.2% used IPV once only
- 31.7% reported multiple episodes



62.8% ever used emotional / financial IPV against a partner



# Gender equitable beliefs

- Examples of items:
  - A woman's most important role is to take care of her home and cook for her family
  - There are times when a woman deserves to be beaten
  - A man should have a final word about decisions in his home.
- Score:
  - Min: 11
  - Max: 44
- Mean: 23
  - IQR: 18-27

GEM beliefs	n	%
Inequitable	779	30.8
Less equitable	834	33.1
More equitable	910	36.1



# Factors associated with lifetime perpetration of IPV

	aOR	95% CI		P value
<b>Gender beliefs</b>				
- Equitable	Ref.			
- Less equitable	1.31	1.07	1.62	0.01
- Inequitable	1.67	1.36	2.05	<0.01
Child abuse	4.31	3.33	5.59	<0.01
Age	0.97	0.95	0.98	<0.01
Matric	0.73	0.63	0.88	<0.01
<b>Housing type</b>				
- Own house	Ref.			
- Own shack	0.69	0.54	0.89	<0.01
- Rented shack	0.67	0.54	0.82	<0.01
- Rented room	0.79	0.61	0.99	0.05
Employed past 3 months	1.15	0.97	1.34	0.1
Living with partner	1.20	1.01	1.44	0.05



# Relationship between gender beliefs & one / multiple episodes of IPV

	One IPV episode Adjusted RRR (95% CI)	More than once Adjusted RRR (95% CI)
<b>Gender beliefs</b>		
- Equitable	Ref.	Ref.
- Less equitable	1.00 (0.71-1.40)	1.59 (1.25-2.02)**
- Inequitable	1.10 (0.79-1.54)	1.77 (1.40-2.23)**
Child abuse	2.67 (1.72-4.16)*	5.90 (4.01-8.50)**
Age	0.97 (0.94-0.99)*	0.96 (0.94-0.98)**
Matric	0.96 (0.73-1.27)	0.68 (0.56-0.82)**



# Conclusion

- Rates of lifetime & past year perpetration of IPV are high
- Inequitable gender attitudes are associated with lifetime use of IPV & with perpetrating multiple episodes
- Experiencing child abuse is an important risk factor for perpetrating IPV
- Men living in peri-urban & informal settlements may be at higher risk (overall prevalence is higher than the country overall)



# Recommendations

- Interventions need to integrate gender transformation that shifts beliefs & norms
  - Beginning with young children throughout the lifespan
- Example of intervention addressing adults is Sonke Gender Justice intervention using community mobilisation and advocacy
  - Need to evaluate the effectiveness (currently underway)
- Parenting interventions are key to preventing childhood trauma



# Acknowledgements

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WhatWorks

TO PREVENT VIOLENCE

A Global Programme To Prevent  
Violence Against Women and Girls



UKaid

from the Department for  
International Development

