

## Coercive Sex and HIV among Adolescents in Uganda: Prevalence, Risk and Protective Factors

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\* Thank you for your interest in this presentation. Please note that analyses included herein are preliminary. More recent, finalized analyses can be found in: Ybarra M., Bull SS, Kivwansa J, Bangsberg DR, & Kordtmanns J. Prevalence rates of sexual coercion victimization and perpetration among Uganda adolescents. AIDS Care; 2012; 24(11): 1392-1400.

## Acknowledgement

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## Background: HIV in Uganda

- HIV/AIDS is a major contributor to morbidity and mortality in Uganda (UNAIDS, 2005)
- An estimated 6% of Ugandans are HIV positive. Recent data suggest a concerning increase in incidence (Shafer et al., 2006; Kamali, et al., 2002)

## Background: Coercive sex

- Sexual coercion is common among 15-19 year old women in Uganda (Neema, 2006):
  - 23% of women were not at all willing, 31% were somewhat willing the first time they had sex
  - Over 33% of females and 20% of males have been sexually assaulted (touched, kissed, grabbed, or fondled in a sexual way when unwanted)
  - 17% of females and 11% of males report being physically forced, hurt, or threatened into having sex.

## Motivation for the research

- Little is known about how common sexual coercion is among younger adolescents, specifically those that are less than 15 years of age.
  - Understanding the correlates of sexual coercion will help inform targeted prevention programs
- We report the prevalence rate of coercive sex victimization and perpetration among 12-18 year-old secondary school students in Mbarara, Uganda.

## Mbarara Adolescent Health Survey Methodology

- Mbarara, Uganda is the 6th largest urban center
- Eligibility:
  - Current student in grades S1-S4 in one of our 5 partner schools
  - Parental consent was required for day students / Head master consent for boarding students
  - Youth assent
- Participants were randomly identified
- 1,503 S1-S4 students were surveyed cross-sectionally
- Collected between September, 2008 – April, 2009
- On average, the survey took 1 hour to complete
- Estimated response rate: 87.5%

## Definition of Coercive sex

- Has anyone (have you ever) ever **lied, deceived or said something to you that he or she didn't really mean** so that you were more likely to have sex with him or her?
- Has anyone ever (have you ever) given you **alcohol or drugs** so that you are more likely to have sex with him or her?
- Has anyone (have you ever) ever **physically forced, hurt, or threatened** you into having sexual intercourse?
- Have you ever had sex because you were **too afraid to say 'no'**? \*

Victims: Cronbach's alpha = 0.70; Perpetrators: Cronbach's alpha = 0.68

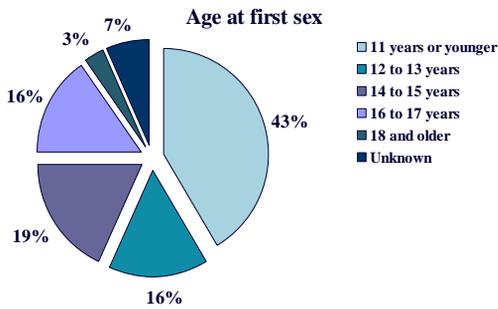
\*Victimization only

## Sexually active participants

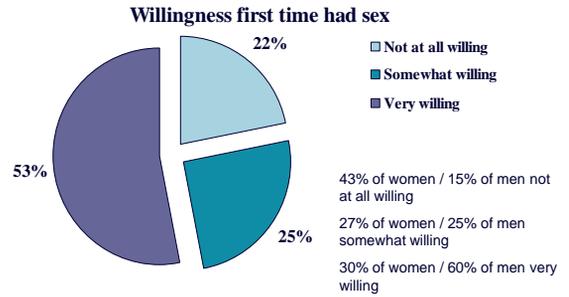
**27%** report having had sex (ever)

- Significantly more likely to be:
  - Male (74%) than female (26%),
  - Older (15.4 vs. 14.87 years)
- No significant differences in:
  - Boarding vs. day school
  - Class

Among those who have had sex.. (n=365)



Among those who have had sex.. (n=345)



Prevalence of sexual coercion

51% report victimization

37% report perpetration

→ 25% report both

Frequency of sexual coercion

Type	Victimization	Perpetration
Lied, deceived, or the person said something they didn't mean so you would have sex with them	38%	35%
Given money, gifts, clothes, a phone	32%	26%
Too afraid to say no	29%	n/a
Physically forced, hurt, or threatened into having sex	19%	14%
Given alcohol so you'll have sex	15%	8%

## Victims of sexual coercion

Female / male: OR = 2.0, p=0.003

Condom use at least some of the time: OR = 1.6, p=0.03

Age: OR = 1.3, p<.001

Age at first sex: OR = 1.12, p=0.006

HIV norms: OR = 1.02, p=0.05

HIV intentions: OR = 1.07, p=0.009

Social support: OR = 0.97, p=0.03

Chances of getting HIV: OR = 2.9, p=0.001

Very worried about health: OR = 2.8, p=0.002

*Been tested for HIV, HIV information, HIV behavioral skills, Self esteem, Orientation to the future, Physical health are not significantly related to victimization*

## Victims of sexual coercion

Of the potentially influential characteristics examined:

- Very worried about health: aOR = 5.4, p=0.003
- Female: aOR = 3.5, p=0.002
- HIV behavioral intentions: aOR = 1.1, p=0.005
- Social support: aOR = 0.9, p=0.003

## Perpetration of sexual coercion

Female / male: OR = 0.5, p=0.02

Condom use at least some of the time: OR = 1.8, p=0.01

Age: OR = 1.2, p=0.005

Age at first sex: OR = 1.2, p = 0.001

HIV norms: OR = 1.02, p=0.01

Been tested for HIV: OR = 2.6, p<0.001

*Worries about health, Chances of getting HIV, HIV information, HIV behavioral intentions, HIV behavioral skills, Self esteem, Orientation to the future, Social support, Physical health are not significantly related to victimization*

## Perpetration of sexual coercion

Of the potentially influential characteristics examined:

- Tested for HIV: aOR = 2.4, p=0.009
- Age at first sex: aOR = 1.2, p=0.02
- HIV behavioral norms: 1.05, p=0.01
- HIV behavioral skills: 0.9, p=0.03

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## Limitations

- This is a representative sample of youth in these five secondary schools. It's likely that youth not attending secondary schools and / or living in less urban areas "look" different.
- Valid data patterns suggest that the skips were confusing for some students
- English is a second language for everyone. It's possible that there were language barriers

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## Summary and implications

Sexual coercion is common: half of sexually active youth report victimization (51%) and more than one in three (37%) report perpetration.

- High rates of reporting perpetration suggests it may not be stigmatized behavior

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## Summary and implications

Girls are more likely to be victims and boys perpetrators.

BUT, 46% of sexually active boys report victimization and  
27% of girls report perpetration

- Sexual coercion is a problem for boys AND girls

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## Summary and implications

The average age of youth reporting having had sex is 15 years.

BUT, among those who report having had sex, more than 2 in 5 (43%) report having had sex the first time at 12 years of age or younger

- We need to work on increasing self-report

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## Summary and implications

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Over half of all adolescents report that they were not at all willing or somewhat willing the first time they had sex.

- Equal rates of men and women reporting being somewhat willing, but more than twice as many women (43%) as men (15) reporting being not at all willing
- More work needs to be done to help youth plan for a healthy and wanted first sexual experience