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## Estimating the Influence of Incarceration on Subsequent Experience With Violence Among Black Men Who Have Sex With Men in the HPTN061 Study

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### Abstract

Black men who have sex with men (BMSM) are disproportionately incarcerated in the United States. Incarceration is a barrier to health equity and may be a risk factor for experiences of interpersonal violence. However, the effect of incarceration on experienced violence among BMSM is understudied. We examined associations between recent incarceration on subsequent experiences of race- or sexuality-based violence, intimate partner violence, or community violence. We analyzed data from the HPTN 061 study. Analysis includes data on 1,169 BMSM recruited from 6 U.S. cities who were present at baseline as well as 6- and 12-month follow-up interview. We tested if self-reported incarceration between baseline and 6 months was associated with self-reported outcomes between 6 and 12 months using logistic regression with inverse probability of treatment weighting and multiple imputation methods. Experienced outcomes included violence due to race or sexuality, intimate partner violence and aggression, and community violence (i.e., gang violence, robbery, shooting). Approximately 14% reported incarceration between baseline and 6 months and 90% reported experiencing violence between 6 and 12 months. In adjusted analyses, incarceration was associated with subsequent race- or sexuality-based violence [aOR (adjusted odds ratio) range: 1.25–1.41, 95% CI (confidence interval) range: 1.00–1.74], experiences of physical abuse and aggression from intimate partners (aOR: 2.35; 95% CI: 1.50, 3.70) and community violence (OR 1.82; 95% CI: 1.23, 2.72). Recent incarceration experience increased risk of exposure to future violence in this population. Mixed methods research examining mediating paths between and downstream effects of incarceration and violence on the wellbeing and health of BMSM is needed. We implore researchers to study

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violence and incarceration among BMSM. Practitioners should implement strategies such as trauma-informed interventions, and policies strengthening the social and economic support needs of Black populations.

### Keywords

community violence; domestic violence; cultural contexts; domestic; violence; GLBT; violence against; sexuality

### Introduction

It is well recognized that Black men who have sex with men (BMSM) are disproportionately impacted by HIV in the United States (U.S.) (Centers for Disease Control Prevention, 2014). Growing evidence indicates that incarceration and violence are two social-structural factors associated with HIV risk and poor service utilization among BMSM and may also contribute to the high burden of HIV among this population (Duncan et al., 2019; Millett et al., 2012; Quinn et al., 2016; Williams et al., 2015). Black men are disproportionately impacted by incarceration in the U.S. (Fullilove, 2011; Glaze LE, 2010; Gramlich, 2020; Harawa & Adimora, 2008; The Pew Center on the States, 2008; William, 2011). For example, the incarceration (i.e., prison) rate among Black men in 2018 was 2,272 prisoners per 100,000 Black men, compared with 1,018 prisoners per 100,000 Hispanic men and 392 prisoners per 100,000 White men (Gramlich, 2020; The Pew Center on the States, 2008). Men who have sex with men, including BMSM also face disproportionate levels of criminal justice involvement (Lim et al., 2011). Incarceration rates among sexual minorities in 2012 were 1,882 per 100,000, more than 3 times that of the U.S. adult population (Meyer et al., 2017). A large multisite longitudinal study among BMSM showed a 35% annualized incarceration incidence and 60% lifetime history of incarceration among this population (Brewer et al., 2014a, 2014b).

The mass incarceration of Black men, including BMSM in the U.S. is a significant barrier to the achievement of health equity (Forman, 2012). Penal institutions in the U.S. perpetuate the second-class citizenship of Black Americans as a permanent racial underclass deprived of fundamental civil rights created by slavery, replacing de jure segregation as a mechanism for creating and maintaining racial hierarchy (Alexander, 2010; Carbado & Richardson, 2017). Likewise, targeted aggressive policing, increased poverty (Ceccato, 2017; Muggah, 2012), distress (e.g., depression), and substance use (Carter et al., 2020; Duke et al., 2018; Lim & Lui, 2016; White et al., 2019), contribute to involvement in social/sexual networks and exposure to settings where substance use may be high, as well as behaviors associated with violence, HIV risk, and poor or delayed engagement in services (Holliday et al., 2019; Hotton et al., 2019; Quinn et al., 2016; Stansfield & Doherty, 2019; Tracy et al., 2019). During detainment, individuals who are incarcerated face exposure to physical violence from numerous sources including correctional staff and/or others who are incarcerated. For example, a study by Boxer and colleagues showed that violent encounters during incarceration were significantly related to aggressive and antisocial behavioral tendencies as well as emotional distress and that individuals who were witnesses, as well

as victims, of violent crime showed the poorest adjustment postrelease (Boxer et al., 2009). Violence during incarceration may result in hyper-vigilance both within the prison walls and outside, impacting mental health upon release, including elevated and sustained anxiety and antisocial behavior (Boxer et al., 2009). Antisocial personality disorder and antisocial personality traits are also linked to experiencing violence (Palmstierna, 2016). Therefore, incarceration may potentially contribute not only to interpersonal violence (Waters et al., 2005) in community settings but also to violence within families (Mowen & Visher, 2016).

Specifically, incarceration disrupts community ties including relationships with families which can contribute to relationship instability, relationship infidelity, and partnership concurrency which are known HIV risk factors (Adimora & Schoenbach, 2002; Brewer et al., 2014a, 2014b; Fullilove, 2011; Khan et al., 2008, 2009). Relationship infidelity is also a strong risk factor for intimate partner violence and aggression (IPVA) (De Santis et al., 2014; Heath et al., 2020; Jansen & Agadjarian, 2016; Kubicek et al., 2015; Stephenson & Finneran, 2013; TracyStone, 2017), defined as a pattern of controlling, abusive behaviors within an intimate relationship consisting of physical, verbal, emotional, and/or sexual abuse (Basile & Saltzman, 2002). Among MSM, having social networks comprised of closeted sex partners or closeted gay friends was associated with increased reporting of IPV victimization and perpetration, which may suggest other predictors, including internalized homophobia (Stephenson et al., 2013).

Research on the connection between recent experiences of incarceration and interpersonal violence and aggression has not been extensively examined among BMSM. There is a need to measure this relationship among racial/ethnic minority and sexual minority men and document the context of gender and sexuality in violence experience to best understand incarceration-related effects in this group. By doing so, we will be able to better tailor interventions and harm reduction programs to address and reduce these specific violent experiences post release.

This study thus addresses gaps in previously published literature by examining the association between recent incarceration and experiences of violence due to race or sexuality, IPVA, and community violence (i.e., gang violence, robbery, shooting) after release. We hypothesized that incarceration would increase exposure to violence due to race and/or sexuality, as well as violence and aggression perpetrated by an intimate partner and community violence.

## Methods

### Study Design and Participants

We used data from the HIV Prevention Trials Network 061 (HPTN 061) study to evaluate the longitudinal relationship between recent incarceration and postrelease changes in violence due to race or sexual orientation, IPV, or experiences of violence (including experiencing a shooting, robbery, kidnapping, or gang violence). The study's enrollment and recruitment methods have been described comprehensively elsewhere (Brewer et al., 2014a). HPTN 061 sought to test the feasibility and efficacy of interventions to prevent the acquisition and transmission of HIV among BMSM. Enrollment took place from 2009 to

2010 in six U.S. metropolitan cities: Atlanta, New York City, Washington D.C, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Boston. Men were recruited directly from the community or as sexual network partners referred by index participants.

Individuals were eligible to participate in the study if they self-identified as Black, African American, Caribbean Black, or multiethnic Black; identified as a man or assigned male at birth; were at least 18 years old; reported ≥ 1 instance of unprotected anal intercourse with a man in the prior six months; resided in one of six metropolitan areas; did not plan to move away during the course of the study; and provided informed consent for the study. Individuals were ineligible if they were enrolled in any other HIV interventional research study, had been a participant in an HIV vaccine trial, or were a community-recruited participant in a category that had already reached its enrollment cap. Prescreening to determine eligibility was performed either in person or over the telephone. Institutional review boards at all participating institutions approved the study.

### Study Procedures

Self-reported data was collected through audio computer-assisted self-interview (ACASI) at baseline and 6- and 12-month follow-up that assessed demographic information, HIV risk behaviors, experiences of violence (including IPVA), and internalized homophobia, and were tested for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) using blood, urine tests and rectal swabs, and for HIV using rapid HIV testing with confirmation of results via Western blot testing; HIV status was confirmed at the HPTN Laboratory Center, Baltimore, MD. During the six-month visit, participants were also asked if they had been incarcerated in the previous six months (i.e., during the time since baseline) (Figure 1).

### Exposure Variable

**Incarceration status.**—At six-month follow-up, participants reported the number of times they spent one or more nights in a jail or prison during the previous six months. Given that nearly half of participants reported no incarceration events across all three time points (i.e., baseline, 6 months, or 12 months) and the majority of previously incarcerated participants reported only one or two periods of incarceration in the previous six months, we defined recent incarceration as no incarceration versus ≥ 1 period of incarceration.

**Outcome variables.**—All questions were asked at baseline (which reported on lifetime experiences), as well as at the 6- and 12-month follow-up visits (which asked about the period six months prior to the visit date).

**Race- or sexuality-based violence.**—Participants were surveyed on several race- and sexuality-based violent outcomes and violent experiences. Three questions asked participants whether they felt their experiences with violence were due to their race or sexuality (each of the questions were asked based on race and then sexuality for a total of six responses from participants) and included (1) being threatened with physical violence due to race or sexuality, (2) being punched, kicked or beaten, or having an object thrown at me due to race or sexuality, and (3) being threatened with a gun, knife, other weapon because of race or sexuality (del Pino, Under Review; Koblin et al., 2013).

For these six race-or sexuality-based outcome questions, participants responded on a six-item scale ranging from “1: Yes, but it doesn’t bother me at all, 2: Yes, but it only bothers me a little, 3: Yes, and it bothers me somewhat, 4: Yes, and it bothers me a lot, 5: Yes, and it bothers me extremely, 6: Has never happened to me.” These responses were reverse coded and dichotomized such that response 6 = 0 (no) and responses 1–5 = 1 (yes) with yes indicating having experienced the event irrespective of the degree to which it bothered the participant, and no indicating that the violent event never happened to participant.

**Intimate partner violence and aggression (IPVA).**—Participants were asked three questions about IPVA: (1) have you experienced physical abuse from an intimate male partner, (2) were you stalked by an intimate male partner, and (3) were you pressured, forced, or intimidated by an intimate male partner (Williams et al., 2015).

For these three IPVA outcomes, participants responded on a scale ranging from “0 = no this has never happened, 1 = yes, but it rarely happened, “2 = yes, this has sometimes happened, 3 = yes this has often happened, and 4 = yes this has always happened.” and these variables were also dichotomized to “yes/no” variables, with yes indicating it had happened to the participant, and no indicating that it never happened to the participant.

**Community violence.**—Participants responded to four questions that assessed if they had ever experienced any type of violence that was classified into one of four categories: (1) gang violence, (2) robbery, (3) kidnapping, and (4) shooting. For each category, participants indicated a yes/no response if they had experienced that type of violence. Participants could answer yes to one, or all of the four violence outcomes. The prevalence of individual types of community violence was low (9% gang violence, 9% shooting, 10% robbery, and 1% kidnapping), so a combined community violence variable (any of the four types experienced, yes/no) was used in analysis.

## Statistical Analysis

Baseline demographic information and prevalence of 12-month violence outcomes were calculated for the sample. We then examined prevalence of the violence outcomes and aggregated the number of participants who experienced any of the violence outcomes at one, two, or all three data collection time points. Finally, in order to evaluate the association between incarceration at 6-months and violence outcomes at the 12-month follow-up visit, we estimated logistic regression models controlling for baseline covariates and baseline exposure to that type of violence.

We utilized multiple imputation by chained equations for missing data (Resche-Rigon & White, 2018) in the questionnaire responses, yielding 15 imputed datasets using predictive mean matching. Out of the 1,169 with information on incarceration exposure at 6 months, 146 (12.5%) were missing information on either a baseline covariate or baseline reporting of incarceration. Quality of the imputations was assessed via visual inspection of density plots of the imputed variables. The values of the imputed variables were checked to make sure that only plausible values were imputed.

Prior to multiple imputation by chained equations, we used mean imputation of scale scores for participants with 20% of scale items missing at baseline and 12 months (CES-D, Internalized Homophobia, Social Support scale, AUDIT, Racism, Externalized Homophobia). When >20% of scale items were missing, the scale score was coded as missing. The initial sample consisted of 1553 participants, of which  $N = 384$  were excluded due to missing information on recent incarceration resulting in a final analytic sample of  $n = 1,169$ . Imputed data was then used to calculate bivariate associations between 6-month incarceration and each of the 12-month violent outcome measures.

For the adjusted analysis, we used inverse probability of treatment weighting (IPTW) (Cole & Hernán, 2008) with stabilized weights to adjust for baseline confounding. Variables used to estimate the weights were measured at baseline and included transgender identity, any STI, unstable housing, high school education (high school or less; some college or more), problematic substance use (i.e., crack, cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin, unprescribed prescription drugs, or miscellaneous illicit drugs), weekly marijuana use, lifetime incarceration history, HIV testing history, insufficient income, whether the subject also has sex with women, alcohol use disorders identification test (AUDIT) score, either buying or selling sex, multiple partnership, concurrent partnership, city, cohabitation status, health coverage, HIV status at baseline, age, center for epidemiologic studies depression scale score (CES-D) (Radloff, 1977), social support scale (Sherbourne & Stewart, 1991), perceived homophobia scale (Koblin et al., 2013), perceived racism scale (Harrell, 2000; Harrell et al., 1997), internalized homophobia scale (Herek, 1996).

Predicted probabilities, also known as propensity scores, of recent incarceration were extracted and converted into inverse probability weights, which were stabilized in regard to the probability of the observed exposure (Hernán et al., 2006). Logistic regression with the Ridge penalty was conducted for each of the 15 imputed datasets, to create 15 sets of propensity scores, which were used to create 15 sets of inverse probability weights. These weights were then used in the adjusted analysis to assess the relationship between six-month incarceration status and the different violence outcomes.

For all adjusted models, we additionally controlled for individual baseline experiences of the same type of violence (for instance, in assessing the relationship between incarceration at 6 months and experiencing community violence at 12-month follow-up, we controlled for baseline experiences of community violence in addition to variables included in the IPTW model).

In unadjusted and adjusted models, logistic regression with robust standard errors was conducted for each violence outcome in each of the 15 imputed datasets. Parameter estimates and variances were extracted from each model and were pooled to obtain odds ratios (ORs) and standard errors for the association between incarceration and different violence outcomes following Rubin's rules (Rubin, 2004). All statistical analyses were conducted using R Version 3.5.1 "Feather Spray" (R Core Team, 2017).



## Results

### Sample Characteristics

Participant demographics are described in Table 1. Approximately 60% of participants reported a lifetime history of incarceration and 14% of participants reported incarceration between the baseline and 6-month follow-up visit (not shown). The majority of participants were non-Hispanic Blacks and had limited employment; approximately 48.5% had at least a high school education, over 56.1% made less than \$20,000 per year, and 9.7% reported unstable housing. The main substances used included marijuana (55.4%), problematic substance use (42%), and binge drinking (47.4%). At baseline, approximately 84.6% of participants reported lifetime exposure to experiencing any type of violence [including experiences of race- and/or sexuality-based violence, IPVA, and other violent experiences (i.e., shooting, robbery, kidnapping, or gang violence)].

The frequency of experiences with race- and sexuality-based violence, IPVA, and other community violence per visit is presented in Table 2. Race- or sexuality-based violence was reported by 82.4% of participants and nearly one third of participants reported experiencing this type of violence at one data collection time point (28.2%) or all three data collection time points (26.4%). IPVA was reported by 41.4% of the participants at any time point, with 21.6% reporting IPVA at only one data collection time point, 10.2% reporting IPV at two data collection time points, and 9.6% reporting IPVA at all three data collection time points. Close to half of all participants (47.3%) reported experiencing community violence (i.e., shooting, robbery, kidnapping, or gang violence). Approximately 15% (14.8%) reported these experiences at two data collection time points and 5.7% reported these experiences at all three data collection time points.

Table 3 presents the bivariate and weighted analysis examining incarceration and subsequent race- and sexuality-based violence, IPVA, and community violence reported at the 12-month follow-up visit. Among those who had experienced incarceration between baseline data collection and the 6-month follow-up, 33.7% reported experiencing at least one race-based physical violence threat, 25.6% reported being threatened with a weapon because of race, and 27.5% experienced actual race-based physical violence at the 12-month follow-up. Also, among those who had experienced incarceration between baseline and the 6-month follow-up, 34.9% reported experiencing at least one sexuality-based physical violence threat and 27.6% experienced actual sexuality-based physical violence at the time point immediately following incarceration. Approximately 9% of those who were recently incarcerated reported experiencing physical IPV (9.4%). Additionally, roughly 10% reported aggression (i.e., stalking) at the time point following incarceration, while 7.8% reported being pressured, forced, or intimidated by an intimate partner after incarceration. Finally, 19.4% of recently incarcerated participants reported experiencing community violence following their incarceration.

Having reported recent incarceration at 6 months was associated with all race and sexuality-based violence outcomes at the 12-month follow-up visit in unadjusted analysis (*OR* range: 1.35–1.59; 95% CI range: 1.11, 1.97), all IPVA related outcomes (*OR* range: 1.69–2.47;

95% CI range: 1.09, 3.71), and having experienced at least one of the four community violence indicators (*OR* 1.58; 95% CI: 1.17, 2.12).

In adjusted analysis, all race- and sexuality-based violence outcomes at the 12-month follow-up visit remained statistically significant (aOR range: 1.25–1.41; 95% CI range: 1.00–1.74). Additionally, we found statistically significant associations at the 12-month follow-up visit for participants reporting having experienced physical abuse from intimate partners (aOR: 2.35; 95% CI: 1.50, 3.70). Finally, we found a statistically significant association with community violence in the adjusted analysis (aOR: 1.64; 95% CI: 1.20, 2.24).

## Discussion

This study sought to examine the association between recent incarceration and subsequent experiences with violence among BMSM post incarceration release. We found that recent incarceration increased risk of exposure to future violence in this population.

Criminal justice involvement is a traumatic experience that is disproportionately inflicted on Black men, including BMSM.

Confirming our hypotheses, BMSM who experienced incarceration in the past six months had increased risk compared to men who had not been recently incarcerated, of experiencing all three measured forms of race-based violence at 12-month follow-up: threat of race-based physical violence, threat of race-based weapon-based violence, and experience of race-based physical violence. The association between recent incarceration and violence remained after adjusting for a robust set of confounding factors including income and incarceration history, suggesting that recent incarceration is independently associated with postrelease violence risk and exposure, thus serving as a contributing factor.

We observed strong links between recent incarceration and race-based violence. This is not a surprising finding given the current climate in the U.S. (Black Lives Matter, 2020). A recent analysis of nearly 100 million traffic stops across the U.S. showed that Black drivers were 20% more likely to be stopped by law enforcement compared with White drivers relative to their share of the residential population (Pierson et al., 2020). Black drivers were also on average more likely to be searched by law enforcement and the bar for searching Black drivers was lower than that of White drivers (Pierson et al., 2020). Furthermore, African Americans are disproportionately affected by police violence in the U.S. with a death rate attributed to a fatal shooting by an on-duty police officer that is more than twice the rate than their white counterparts (The Washington Post, 2020).

We also observed an increased risk for sexuality-based violence for men who had been recently incarcerated compared to those who had not. This is well aligned with previous intersectionality research showing that BMSM experience increased vulnerability due to race and sexuality (Adimora & Schoenbach, 2002; Brewer et al., 2014a, 2014b; Callander et al., 2019; Fullilove, 2011; Khan et al., 2008, 2009; Quinn, 2019; Turpin et al., 2019). BMSM who have been incarcerated may struggle to deal with life stressors, postrelease that may place them at increased risk for engaging in high risk sexual behaviors, including



exchange sex, thereby also increasing risk for exposure to sexuality-based violence and aggression. Additionally, incarceration may increase risk for sexuality-based violence because individuals who do not fit the heteronormative mode are more likely to experience humiliation and abuse within correctional settings (Maschi et al., 2016; National Center for Transgender Equality, 2018).

Incarceration as a precursor to experiences of IPVA aligns also with extant literature highlighting that IPV is associated with increased odds of having been incarcerated (Erickson et al., 2020; Hotton et al., 2019). Incarceration may contribute to reduced support and serves as a stressor/barrier to the achievement of basic human needs (e.g., employment, housing, etc.), which may cause a strain in relationships leading to increased instances of violence (Travis et al., 2014; Wakefield & Uggen, 2010; Western, 2019).

Furthermore, our findings underscore the importance of addressing structural race-based and sexuality-based violence, as well as IPVA as exposure to these types of violence has been highlighted in the literature to contribute to disproportionately higher levels of HIV and STI (Quinn et al., 2020).

A strength of the study includes the temporal sequence with a causal framework analytic strategy using IPTW. Controlling for baseline exposure to violence and over 25 other important baseline covariates, while examining the longitudinal association between incarceration at 6-month follow-up and 12-month experience with violence provides evidence to suggest the experience of incarceration and release contributes to postrelease violence risk in this group. Our findings highlight the need for mixed methods research to examine mediating paths and downstream effects on wellbeing and health of BMSM. While the temporal sequence of events is strengthened by the longitudinal study design it is likely that experience with incarceration is correlated with experiences of violence and not causal, per se. That said, our study does support a strong inference of causality if all confounding has been addressed. The number of incarcerations (or a recent incarceration) might be both a consequence and an effect of a higher propensity to be both a victim and perpetrator of violence, that may result from other unmeasured factors (e.g., antisocial).

Although this analysis contributes to our understanding of the influence of recent incarceration and subsequent experience with violence, there are several study limitations to consider. The study, reliant on a historical context at baseline and 6- and 12-month follow-up, is subject to recall bias. The observed study findings cannot be generalized to BMSM as a whole since participants were recruited from a community sample of BMSM in six U.S. cities. Participants represent a high HIV risk population given the eligible criteria utilized for the parent HPTN 061 study. Self-reported incarceration during study follow-up as well as information on risky behaviors such as substance use, may have been underestimated as a result of social desirability bias given the stigma and discrimination associated with these behaviors and experiences. The perpetrator of violence is unknown and cannot be attributed to specific groups, nor can it be assumed that a participant would report that their experiences with violence were due to race, simply because the perpetrator was not of the same racial/ethnic group. The same can be said regarding violence due to sexual orientation. Just because someone is of the same racial/ethnic group does not necessarily mean that any

violence experienced must be due to something *other* than race/ethnicity, and in this case, sexual orientation. There were a small number of incarceration-related questions resulting in a limited analysis about the circumstances surrounding incarceration during study follow-up. Specifically, we did not assess incarcerations for new crimes versus parole violations, which may have a different impact on exposure to violence. We specified multiple plausible confounders, including prior incarceration. There is always some possibility of unmeasured confounding. Finally, it must be noted that the HPTN061 study was conducted between 2009 and 2011 which was 10 years ago, however it should be noted that incarceration and experienced violence have not substantially improved for BMSM since this period. Additionally, there is no evidence to suggest the relationship between these two factors would be remarkably different now compared to the period of data collection. Based on this, we do not suspect this limitation substantially alters our findings or the interpretation of them.

Despite these limitations, this analysis is the first to our knowledge to longitudinally describe the relationship between recent incarceration and subsequent experiences with violence among BMSM. We employed rigorous methods and observed strong, consistent associations between incarceration and postrelease interpersonal factors including risk of experiencing both race-related violence and IPV. Future causal-inference research into mechanisms of associations between incarceration and experienced violence is necessary for further understanding this association. The impact of violence, particularly racist and homophobic violence, towards recently incarcerated BMSM on their health and well-being cannot be understated; for this reason, social justice efforts focused on this population are absolutely critical to health equity overall.

The level of violence, particularly racist and homophobic violence, experienced by recently incarcerated BMSM is detrimental to their health and well-being. We provide the following recommendations for researchers and practitioners as it relates to incarceration and violence among their population: (1) these experiences should be systematically assessed among BMSM; (2) trauma-informed interventions should be implemented/integrated to respond to high levels of violence; (3) social and economic support systems should be ramped up to meet the multiple needs of BMSM to reduce their vulnerability to incarceration and violence; and (4) social justice efforts and intentional changes in policy focused on the needs of Black people are absolutely critical to health equity, overall.

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## Biographies

**Typhanye V. Dyer PhD** is an epidemiologist whose research examines the influence of social, psychological, and behavioral factors on STI/HIV disparities in Black populations. Her work involves examining syndemics among sexual minority Black men, including the impact of trauma, poor mental health, criminal justice involvement and STI/HIV.

**Jonathan Feelemyer MS** is a project director at the NYU School of Global Public Health and a doctoral student at NYU Grossman School of Medicine. His research interests include HIV, hepatitis C, sexually transmitted diseases, injection drug use, and harm reduction for at risk populations. His research is focused on international settings specifically in Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe.

**Joy D. Scheidell PhD** is an epidemiologist in the Department of Population Health at NYU Grossman School of Medicine. Her research examines intersections of mental health, substance use, and sexual and reproductive health, with a focus on vulnerable and marginalized populations.

**Rodman E. Turpin PhD** is an epidemiologist and biostatistician focused on HIV prevention among Black sexual minority men (BSMM). He is especially interested in how substance use, trauma, depression, racism, and homophobia are associated with HIV and STI prevention among Black sexual minority men. His methodological interests include latent class, profile, and transition analysis, structural equation modeling, and novel approaches to moderated mediation analysis.

**Russell Brewer DrPH** is an applied public health researcher and implementation scientist with a background in health disparities research. His research and intervention efforts are focused on understanding and eliminating the socio-structural barriers to HIV services

among persons living with HIV (PLWH), young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM), and criminal justice-involved (CJI) populations in the United States.

**Medha Mazumdar MS** is a biostatistician with expertise in longitudinal data analysis, mediation analysis, missing data, and multilevel modeling.

**Nicole Fortune BS** is an undergraduate student in the University of Maryland School of Public Health. Her career interests include health policy reform focused on health disparities and minority groups in low socioeconomic areas. In the future she plans to pursue a career in medicine while conducting research focused on public health efforts.

**MacRegga Severe BS** is a public health researcher. His training is in biotechnology and HIV drug development. His interest is in HIV prevention, especially in disenfranchised populations. He plans to pursue a career in medicine with a direct focus in primary care and HIV and STD prevention.

**Charles M. Cleland PhD** is a quantitative psychologist and biostatistician with more than 20 years of experience in the field of public health research. His methodological interests include longitudinal data analysis, meta-analysis, respondent-driven sampling, and multilevel modeling. His substantive research interests include health disparities, particularly in the areas of substance use and infectious disease.

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| MEASURE   | VARIABLE  | TIME POINT ASSESSED                                 | REFERENCE PERIOD                           |
|---|---|---|--|
| RECENT INCARCERATION                            | Spent $\geq 1$ nights in jail/prison  | 6-month follow-up                                   | Past 6 months                              |
| RACE- OR SEXUALITY-BASED VIOLENCE               | Being threatened with physical violence due to race or sexuality                            | Baseline<br>6-month follow-up<br>12-month follow-up | Lifetime<br>Past 6 months<br>Past 6 months |
|   | Being punched, kicked, or beaten, or having an object thrown at me due to race or sexuality | Baseline<br>6-month follow-up<br>12-month follow-up | Lifetime<br>Past 6 months<br>Past 6 months |
|   | Being threatened with a gun, knife, other weapon because of race or sexuality               | Baseline<br>6-month follow-up<br>12-month follow-up | Lifetime<br>Past 6 months<br>Past 6 months |
|   | Experienced physical abuse from an intimate male partner                                    | Baseline<br>6-month follow-up<br>12-month follow-up | Lifetime<br>Past 6 months<br>Past 6 months |
|   | Stalked by an intimate male partner   | Baseline<br>6-month follow-up<br>12-month follow-up | Lifetime<br>Past 6 months<br>Past 6 months |
|   | Pressured, forced, or intimidated by an intimate male partner                               | Baseline<br>6-month follow-up<br>12-month follow-up | Lifetime<br>Past 6 months<br>Past 6 months |
| INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND AGGRESSION (IPVA) |   |   |  |
| COMMUNITY VIOLENCE                              | Gang violence   | Baseline<br>6-month follow-up<br>12-month follow-up | Lifetime<br>Past 6 months<br>Past 6 months |
|   | Robbery   | Baseline<br>6-month follow-up<br>12-month follow-up | Lifetime<br>Past 6 months<br>Past 6 months |
|   | Kidnapping  | Baseline<br>6-month follow-up<br>12-month follow-up | Lifetime<br>Past 6 months<br>Past 6 months |
|   | Shooting  | Baseline<br>6-month follow-up<br>12-month follow-up | Lifetime<br>Past 6 months<br>Past 6 months |
|   |   |   |  |
|   |   |   |  |

**Figure 1.**  
Exposure and Outcome Measures, Definitions, Time-Point Assessed, and Time-Period Referenced.

**Table 1.**

Select Baseline Demographics and 12-Month Violence Outcomes Among BMSM in the HPTN 061 Cohort ( $N = 1,169$ ).

|                           | Total Sample |      | Sex/Race Violence |      | IPV      |      | Experiences* |      |
|---------------------------|--------------|------|-------------------|------|----------|------|--------------|------|
|                           | <i>N</i>     | %    | <i>N</i>          | %    | <i>N</i> | %    | <i>N</i>     | %    |
| Age                       |              |      |                   |      |          |      |              |      |
| 18–30                     | 396          | 34.4 | 137               | 30.1 | 59       | 38.8 | 50           | 25.5 |
| 31–50                     | 611          | 53.1 | 261               | 57.4 | 78       | 51.3 | 129          | 65.8 |
| 50 and over               | 143          | 12.4 | 57                | 12.5 | 15       | 9.9  | 17           | 8.7  |
| Ethnicity                 |              |      |                   |      |          |      |              |      |
| Non-Hispanic              | 1079         | 92.4 | 421               | 91.9 | 135      | 87.1 | 186          | 91.2 |
| Hispanic                  | 89           | 7.6  | 37                | 8.1  | 20       | 12.9 | 18           | 8.8  |
| Education                 |              |      |                   |      |          |      |              |      |
| Greater than high school  | 601          | 51.5 | 273               | 59.7 | 95       | 61.7 | 104          | 51.2 |
| High school               | 566          | 48.5 | 184               | 40.3 | 59       | 38.3 | 99           | 48.8 |
| Insufficient income       |              |      |                   |      |          |      |              |      |
| No                        | 513          | 43.9 | 172               | 37.6 | 67       | 43.2 | 79           | 38.7 |
| Yes                       | 655          | 56.1 | 286               | 62.5 | 88       | 56.8 | 125          | 61.3 |
| Unstable housing          |              |      |                   |      |          |      |              |      |
| No                        | 1055         | 90.3 | 408               | 89.1 | 137      | 88.4 | 184          | 90.2 |
| Yes                       | 113          | 9.7  | 50                | 10.9 | 18       | 11.6 | 20           | 9.8  |
| City of residence         |              |      |                   |      |          |      |              |      |
| Washington DC             | 177          | 15.1 | 57                | 12.4 | 14       | 9    | 21           | 10.3 |
| Atlanta                   | 207          | 17.8 | 71                | 15.5 | 21       | 13.6 | 26           | 12.8 |
| Boston                    | 256          | 21.9 | 109               | 23.8 | 32       | 20.7 | 58           | 28.4 |
| Los Angeles               | 173          | 14.8 | 71                | 15.5 | 31       | 20   | 33           | 16.2 |
| New York City             | 207          | 17.7 | 80                | 17.4 | 32       | 20.7 | 38           | 18.6 |
| San Francisco             | 149          | 12.8 | 71                | 15.5 | 25       | 16.1 | 28           | 13.7 |
| Health coverage           |              |      |                   |      |          |      |              |      |
| No                        | 456          | 9    | 164               | 35.8 | 52       | 33.5 | 58           | 28.4 |
| Yes                       | 712          | 61   | 294               | 64.2 | 103      | 66.5 | 146          | 71.6 |
| Marijuana use             |              |      |                   |      |          |      |              |      |
| No                        | 510          | 44.6 | 178               | 40.1 | 52       | 34.4 | 83           | 41.5 |
| Yes                       | 633          | 55.4 | 266               | 59.9 | 99       | 65.6 | 117          | 58.5 |
| Problematic substance use |              |      |                   |      |          |      |              |      |
| No                        | 651          | 58   | 219               | 51.1 | 74       | 50.3 | 109          | 55.1 |
| Yes                       | 471          | 42   | 210               | 48.9 | 73       | 49.7 | 89           | 44.9 |

|                | Total Sample |      | Sex/Race Violence |      | IPV      |    | Experiences <sup>*</sup> |      |
|----------------|--------------|------|-------------------|------|----------|----|--------------------------|------|
|                | <i>N</i>     | %    | <i>N</i>          | %    | <i>N</i> | %  | <i>N</i>                 | %    |
| Binge drinking |              |      |                   |      |          |    |                          |      |
| No             | 602          | 52.6 | 218               | 48.9 | 71       | 47 | 108                      | 54.3 |
| Yes            | 544          | 47.4 | 228               | 51.1 | 80       | 53 | 91                       | 47.2 |

Note.

\* Includes gang violence, robbery, kidnapping, and/or shooting.

**Table 2.**

Race/Sex Violence, IPVA, and Community Violence by Number of Visits Among BMSM in the HPTN 061 Cohort ( $N = 1,169$ ).

| Number of Visits at Which Violence Was Reported | <u>Violence Due to Race or Sexuality</u> |      | <u>Intimate Partner Violence and Aggression</u> |      | <u>Community Violence</u> |      |
|---|--|------|---|------|---------------------------|------|
|   | <i>N</i>                                 | %    | <i>N</i>  | %    | <i>N</i>                  | %    |
| 0 (never)                                       | 206                                      | 17.6 | 685   | 58.6 | 615                       | 52.6 |
| One visit                                       | 330                                      | 28.2 | 253   | 21.6 | 314                       | 26.9 |
| Two visits                                      | 324                                      | 27.7 | 119   | 10.2 | 173                       | 14.8 |
| Three visits                                    | 309                                      | 26.4 | 112   | 9.6  | 67                        | 5.7  |



**Table 3.**

Associations Between Incarceration at 6-Month Follow-up and Violent Experiences at 12-Month Follow-up Among BMSM in the HPTN 061 Cohort ( $N = 1,169$ ).

| Outcome Variable   | Total Sample <sup>+</sup><br><i>N</i> (%) | Incarcerated Status (Incarcerated/Not Incarcerated) <sup>+</sup><br><i>N</i> (%) | Unadjusted*<br><i>OR</i> (95% CI) | Adjusted With IPTW**<br><i>OR</i> (95% CI) |
|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Violence due to race or sexuality  |   |  |                                   |  |
| Being threatened with physical violence because of race                                | 394 (33.7)                                | 78 (47.3)  | 1.50 (1.25, 1.81)                 | 1.41 (1.15, 1.72)                          |
| Being threatened with physical violence because of sexuality                           | 408 (34.9)                                | 316 (31.5)   | 1.35 (1.11, 1.63)                 | 1.25 (1.01, 1.55)                          |
| Being punched, kicked, or beaten, or having an object thrown at me because of race     | 322 (27.5)                                | 74 (44.9)<br>334 (33.3)  | 1.48 (1.19, 1.85)                 | 1.33 (1.04, 1.69)                          |
| Being punched, kicked, or beaten, or having an object thrown at me because of sex      | 323 (27.6)                                | 63 (38.2)<br>259 (25.8)  | 1.59 (1.29, 1.97)                 | 1.37 (1.07, 1.74)                          |
| Being threatened with a gun, knife, other weapon because of race                       | 300 (25.6)                                | 67 (40.6)<br>256 (25.5)  | 1.55 (1.24, 1.95)                 | 1.34 (1.05, 1.71)                          |
| Being threatened with a gun, knife, other weapon because of sexuality                  | 300 (25.6)                                | 61 (36.9)<br>239 (23.8)  | 1.52 (1.21, 1.91)                 | 1.28 (1.00, 1.66)                          |
| Intimate partner violence and aggression   |   |  |                                   |  |
| Have you ever experienced physical abuse from an intimate male partner                 | 97 (9.4)                                  | 28 (19.2)<br>69 (7.8)  | 2.47 (1.64, 3.71)                 | 2.35 (1.50, 3.70)                          |
| Were you ever stalked by an intimate male partner                                      | 101 (9.8)                                 | 22 (15.1)  | 1.69 (1.09, 2.64)                 | 1.29 (0.78, 2.12)                          |
| Were you ever pressured, forced, or intimidated by an intimate male partner            | 80 (7.8)                                  | 79 (8.9)   | 2.03 (1.26, 3.27)                 | 1.44 (0.84, 2.47)                          |
| Community violence   |   |  |                                   |  |
| Four main experiences that are combined (gang violence, robbery, kidnapping, shooting) | 204 (19.4)                                | 42 (28.6)<br>162 (17.9)  | 1.58 (1.17, 2.12)                 | 1.64 (1.20, 2.24)                          |

Note.

<sup>+</sup>Totals in *N*(%) columns based on raw (nonimputed) data.

<sup>\*</sup>Bivariate analysis is based on imputed data (see methods for full details on imputation methods).

<sup>\*\*</sup>Includes imputation, IPTW, and controlling for baseline measure of each violence outcome (see methods for full details on these methods).