Eduard Sanders
KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme, Kilifi
IAVI-ADVANCE-PI meeting, Kigali
20 September 2017

MSM health research consortium
Outline

History

Community engagement

MSM Health Research consortium
Strong Advocacy and Response in the US

- Strong reactions from the gay community
  - raised awareness of both HIV and LGBT rights
  - increased funding for research, and
  - helped streamline the process of drug development
Homophobia and Hate Crimes

Kenya: Mob Attacks Gay Men – “This is Not Allowed, These People Need To Be Burned”

Legislate Equality, Criminalize Hate

Justice for David Kato
Our Demands:
* Scrap the Anti-Homosexuality Bill in Uganda!
* Enact the Anti-Discrimination Act in the Philippines!

The Solution to Gay Marriage

Leviticus 20:13
If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, committed with a woman, committed
both of them: they shall surely be put to death; an abomination is it among their
blood shall be upon them.
In 2005, Wade et al. published a survey of 463 MSM in Dakar, demonstrating an HIV prevalence of 21.5% and a syphilis prevalence of 4.8%.
HIV Prevalence Estimates Amongst African MSM (through 2008)

- Mauritania 2007: 19%
- Senegal 2004: 21.5%
- Senegal 2007: 21.8%
- Cote D'Ivoire 2006: 18.5%
- Ghana 2006: 25%
- Nigeria 2006: 13.4%
- Nigeria 2007: 13.5%
- Namibia 2008: 12.4%
- Botswana 2008: 19.7%
- Cape Town 2005: 10.4%
- Cape Town 2005: 34.3%
- 6.2%: Egypt 2008
- 9.3%: Sudan 2005
- 7.8%: Sudan 2008
- 10.6%: Nairobi 2005
- 24.6%: Mombasa 2006
- 12.3%: Zanzibar 2007
- 21.4%: Malawi 2008
- 33%: Zambia 2006 **
- 28.9%: Soweto 2008
- 14.1%: Guateng, KwaZulu Natal, W. Cape 2004 **

** studies using self reported HIV status
Religious leaders in an MSM sensitivity training

www.marps-africa.org
Men who have sex with men sensitivity training reduces homoprejudice and increases knowledge among Kenyan healthcare providers in coastal Kenya

Elise M van der Elst¹, Adrian D Smith², Evanson Gichuru¹, Elizabeth Wahome¹, Helgar Musyoki³, Nicolas Muraguri²,³, Greg Fegan¹,², Zoe Duby⁴, Linda-Gail Bekker⁴, Bonnie Bender⁵, Susan M Graham¹,⁶, Don Operario⁷ and Eduard J Sanders⁵,¹,²

Knowledge reduced homoprejudice in HCW assessed 3 months post-training.
The MSM Health Research Consortium (MHRC) designs and implements studies that identify and address HIV, health and other challenges faced by gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men in East Africa.

Representatives from LGBT (G10), and IAVI

Membership listed on http://mhrcons.org/
## HIV-1 incidence estimates in MSM, Kenya

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th># HIV- in FU</th>
<th>Inc/ 100 PY</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
<th>Author, year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kenya, Nairobi</td>
<td>2006-08</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>5.4-17.5</td>
<td>Price, 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya, Coast</td>
<td>2006-11</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>6.7-11.0</td>
<td>Sanders, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya, Nairobi</td>
<td>2009-12</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>10.9</td>
<td>7.4-15.6</td>
<td>McKinnon, 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Researchers from Kisumu, Nbi, and Coastal Kenya formed the MSM health research consortium
Meetings (2-3 times a year)
Yearly funding (120k US $, IAVI)
Identify research questions / activities
Develop protocols
Write papers
Build staff capacity
Planned…

- Develop strategic plan / define roles and responsibilities of members
- Aim: conduct a large collaborative study
Anza Mapema Study (AMS), Nyanza Reproductive Health Society, Kisumu

- Largest Find-Test-Link-to-Care cohort study in Africa (n=700; ~600 HIV- and 100+ MSM; completed)
- 83% retention at month 12
- High incidence (5.2% HIV incidence)

- New study: PrEP for HIV Negatives (start Oct ‘17)
- N= 160 high risk MSM
  - Assess proportion of HIV-negative MSM eligible for PrEP and proportion accepting PrEP when offered
  - Assess adherence to PrEP among those initiating
Main Aim

- To describe the unmet need for prevention, diagnosis and treatment for HIV among MSM in Nairobi
- Respondent Driven Sample (N=600): 404/600 enrolled (Sept 2017).

- Mean Age – 26.3 years (range 18–60 yrs)
- 97% - self identified as gay/homosexual or bisexual
- Education level – 82% with secondary and higher
- Employment – 53% in formal employment
- Had sex with women past 3 months – 25.6%
- HIV prevalence – 24.9%
Kilifi – MSM cohort study, since 2005

Estimated HIV-1 Incidence by year, 2006 - 2017

Open B Cohort

Positive Cohort

HIV Incidence (Per 100 PYO)

Calendar Year

inc  upper/lower

Active in Follow-up

No PrEP  On PrEP  Discontinued

MSM  FSW

No ART  On ART

MSM  Ht.  FSW  Women
Depressive symptoms and problematic alcohol and other substance use in 1,476 GBMSM at three research sites in Kenya – *paper under review*

- Kisumu, Nairobi, and Coastal Kenya
  - 194 (13%) reported moderately severe to severe depressive symptoms (PHQ-9 ≥15)
  - 637 (44%) reported hazardous alcohol use (AUDIT ≥8)
  - 749 (51%) reported problematic substance use (DAST-6 ≥1)

- Transactional sex, recent trauma, and a history of childhood abuse were associated with adverse mental health outcomes
A systematic review of HIV incidence and factors associated with HIV acquisition among MSM globally that may help to answer the question: which are the best behaviour risk questions currently?
IAVI-MHRP collaboration – new opportunity

- Determine HIV incidence and retention rates in cohorts of participants at high risk of HIV infection in East Africa
  - Kilifi: 250 MSM; Nairobi: 250 MSM; Kisumu: 500 MSM
- Additional cohorts from fishing communities
SAN THE-supported MSc or MPH training by distance learning at LSHTM for staff at MSM consortium sites, 2017-19

Oscar Chirro
KWTRP, Kielfi
Clinical Trials

Rhoda Kabuti
SWOP clinic, Nairobi
Health Policy

Duncan Okall
NRHS, Kisumu
Epidemiology

Geoffrey Ombati
KAVI, Nairobi
Public Health
Study protocol developed by MHRC investigators

Aim: To describe HIV-1 introduction, spread and transmission networks within and between risk groups (MSM, FSW and HET men and women) at 3 geographic locations in Kenya

George Makau (PhD student); Amin Hassan (KWTRP) & Joakim Esbjornsson (Lund University)
Summary

- MSM health research consortium in Kenya
  - *Strong will to collaborate & form partnerships*

- Community engagement is key to success of cohort studies & intervention trials
  - *But how, with whom, how often, and what support structure needed should be topic of research*

- HIV researchers serving MSM should become public health activists
  - *PrEP, ART access, STI diagnosis and care, mental health and work hand in hand with LGTB groups*
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