

Reducing community-wide IPV: lessons from gender-transformative program in informal settlements

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Partnership / acknowledgements

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Background / objectives

- Growing body of community-based, gender-transformative interventions with evidence of positive effects on SGBV/IPV
- Yet, some inconsistencies in results
 - Need to understand more about intervention intensity required to achieve effects, plus nuanced effects on violence types and severity
- Study objectives: Assess effects of the *Abisonisane* Community Responses program (community-based HIV/SGBV prevention)

Context / setting

- Large informal settlements in South Africa/across LMIC
 - 25% of global urban dwellers living in informal settlements
 - 12% of South African population
- Often high violence settings

KZN, South Africa

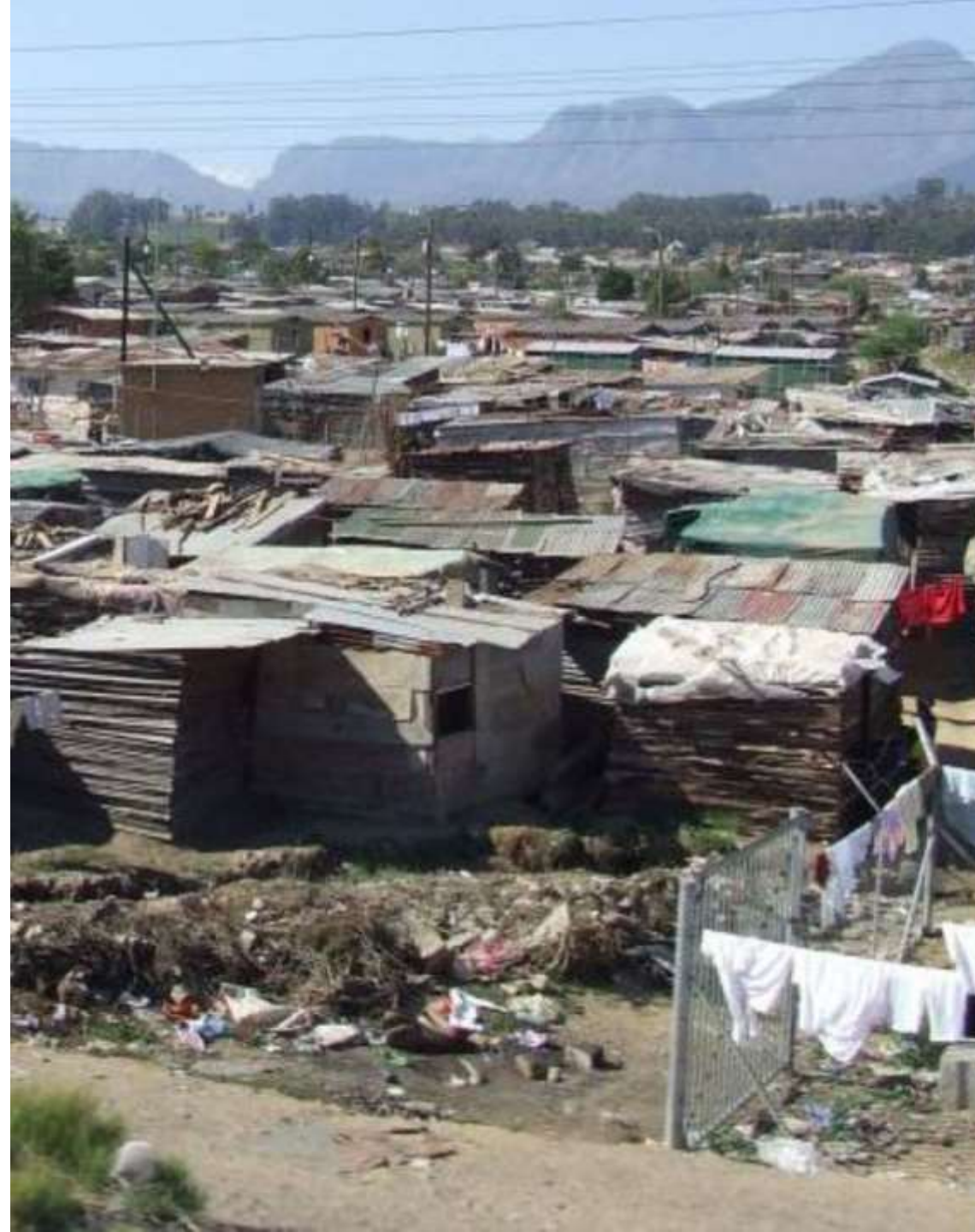


Methods overview

Study design	Stepped-wedge cluster randomized trial, with 4 rounds of data collection
Intervention roll out	Asibonisane Community Responses program implemented across 18 communities over time (6 at a time, in 3 groupings)
Study population	Women (aged 18–24) and men (aged 18–35) living in informal settlements
Survey	Representative household sample of 1,528 (~half women/half men) randomly selected participants; 78% men & 83% women interviewed 2+ times
Analytical sample	Participants with primary partner at baseline and at least one more round; interviewed at least twice (n=438 men and n=549 women.)

Intervention

Community Responses combined:
10-session relationship skills/communication strengthening and HIV/IPV prevention group workshops (Stepping Stones), supplemented with one-time community HIV education sessions, periodic SGBV sessions for men (One Man Can)



Measuring IPV

Key Outcome	Indicator
Any IPV	<p>% of participants reporting perpetrating or experiencing physical, sexual or emotional violence within the previous 6 months (yes/no)</p> <p>Emotional (3 items) – e.g., partner threatened to hurt you Physical (6 items) – e.g., hit you with a fist Sexual (3 items) – e.g., forced you to have sex</p>
Number of violent acts	<p>Score measuring the total ‘type/number of violent acts’</p> <p>Good / adequate internal consistency reliability scores (.61 – .81)</p>
Frequency of violence	<p>Score measuring a summed ‘frequency of violence’ (never, once, a few times, many times)</p> <p>Good / adequate internal consistency reliability scores (.65 – .86)</p>

Analysis

- Compare those exposed to the program to those unexposed to the program, within the intervention communities
 - Given lower levels of program exposure than originally anticipated
- Logistic and linear regression to predict change in IPV
- Focus on Stepping Stones exposure
 - About 20% of the sample (20.6% of men and 21.3% of women)
 - Exposed does not include participated only in other CR activities (such as brief community meetings) - 12.3% of men and 7.8% of women

Demographics (baseline)

	% Women (n=768)	% Men (n=760)
Age, mean	21.3	25.1
Migration into community of residence**		
0–12 months	18.3	17.9
13–24 months	21.8	9.4
More than 24 months	60.0	72.7
Highest level of school attended		
Primary	3.1	5.4
Secondary	91.3	90.9
Tertiary	5.6	3.7
Employment status**		
Unemployed/No income	52.6	51.1
Employed	12.4	48.2
Social grants/Family	35.0	0.8

Notes: T-tests or chi-square tests compare women and men. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$. We also compared women and men who participated in the program, and who did not, and differences were found only amongst women, where fewer unemployed/no income women participated in the program.

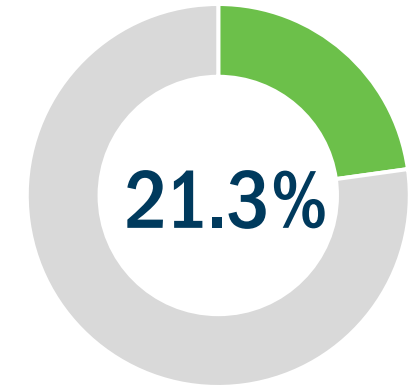
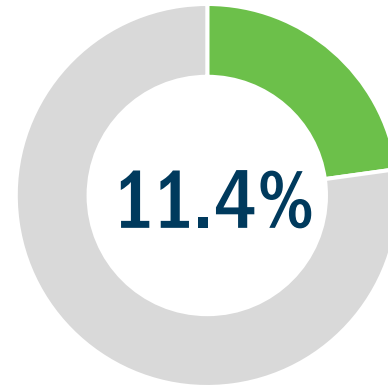
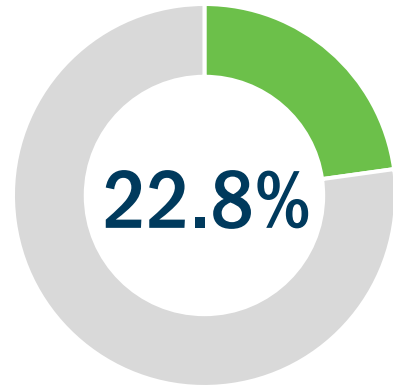
Other characteristics

	% Women (n=768)	% Men (n=760)
Had a primary partner within the past 6 months	77.7	66.1
Ever been pregnant	68.2	—
Reported HIV positive status	14.3	7.6

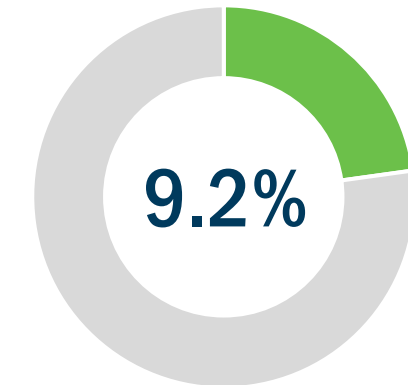
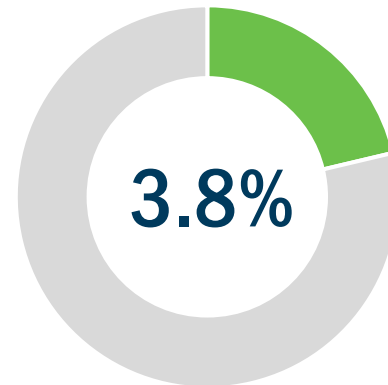
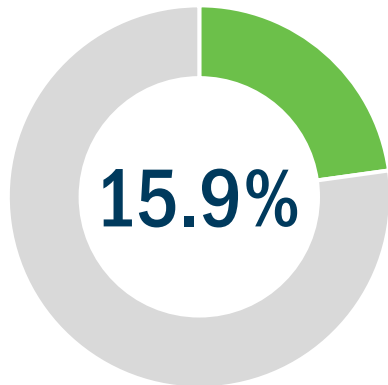
Notes: No differences found between women and men at baseline and those who participated in the program.

IPV among those with primary partner

Women
(n=597)
reported
experiencing



Men (n=502)
reported
perpetrating



Likelihood of emotional IPV after program exposure

Type of violence	Women			Men		
	Experienced any violence	Number of violent acts experienced	Frequency of violent acts experienced	Perpetrated any violence	Number of violent acts perpetrated	Frequency of violent acts perpetrated
Emotional	Not significant	↓	↓	↓	↓	Not significant

Likelihood of physical IPV after program exposure

Type of violence	Women			Men		
	Experienced any violence	Number of violent acts experienced	Frequency of violent acts experienced	Perpetrated any violence	Number of violent acts perpetrated	Frequency of violent acts perpetrated
Physical	Not significant	Not significant	Not significant	↓	↓	Not significant

Likelihood of sexual IPV after program exposure

Type of violence	Women			Men		
	Experienced any violence	Number of violent acts experienced	Frequency of violent acts experienced	Perpetrated any violence	Number of violent acts perpetrated	Frequency of violent acts perpetrated
Sexual	Not significant	↓	↓	Not significant	Not significant	Not significant

Overview of IPV effects

Type of violence	Women			Men		
	Experienced any violence	Number of violent acts experienced	Frequency of violent acts experienced	Perpetrated any violence	Number of violent acts perpetrated	Frequency of violent acts perpetrated
Emotional	Not significant	↓	↓	↓	↓	Not significant
Physical	Not significant	Not significant	Not significant	↓	↓	Not significant
Sexual	Not significant	↓	↓	Not significant	Not significant	Not significant

Conclusions / implications

- A reduction in IPV found as reported by both women and men.
- Nuanced positive effects that would not be captured by the most common ways of reporting violence.
 - Track carefully to assess progress towards community-wide IPV reduction.
- Supports replication/scale-up, especially in high prevalence settings such as informal settlements

Thank You!

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