

Mapping Social Networks of Women in India



Presented by: Hod Tamir, PhD.
Consortium of Universities in Global Health
Conference
March 2017

Personal Background

Academic Training:

- T32 ICAP at Columbia University
- T32 Global Health Equity Scholarship
FIC/NIH
- PhD Developmental Psychology, FIU
- M.S. Developmental/Mental Health, FIU

Fogarty Fellowship Site:

- Public Health Research Institute of India

Fogarty-Funded Research Project:

Understanding Social Networks of Women with HIV in South India

Primary Mentors: Purnima Madhivanan & Dionne Stephens (FIU)

Specific Aims

- ◆ Measure the impact of HIV diagnosis on Indian women's mental health
- ◆ Evaluate perceived and enacted HIV-related stigma, including intersectionality.
- ◆ Utilize findings to help mitigate stigma and improve mental health outcomes among women with HIV



Results

Family

- ◆ Mothers were 13% less likely to support daughters with HIV
- ◆ Husbands were 20% less likely to support wives with HIV
- ◆ Brothers, sisters, and fathers showed 6%, 7%, 2% less support respectively.
- ◆ Sons and **daughters** however increased support by 5% and **33%**

Friends

- ◆ 20% of HIV-negative participants reported very close friendships where HIV-positive participants reported **none**.
- ◆ There was a 28% decrease of good friends (circle 2) among HIV-positive women.
- ◆ 27% decrease in acquaintances (circle 3).
- ◆ However, 98% of HIV-positive women reported increased close friendships (98%, circle 2) and acquaintances (37%, circle 3) from other women in their support group.

Implications

- ◆ Role of support groups as a buffer and/or substitute in the absence of other important relationships.
- ◆ Dependence on support from adult children
- ◆ Prevention/intervention programs might include family/friends.



Lessons Learned & Advice

- ◆ **Plans are useless, but planning is indispensable.** -Eisenhower
- ◆ Network and interview in-country specialists.
- ◆ Take advantage of Mentors
- ◆ Importance of Global experience/data
- ◆ All hands on deck approach
- ◆ Relevance and urgency in Global Health



Next Steps

Current Projects:

- IS mental health methods in India
- PrEP for older LGBT
- Social and sexual networks of young women in South Africa

Questions/Comments

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◆ Thank you



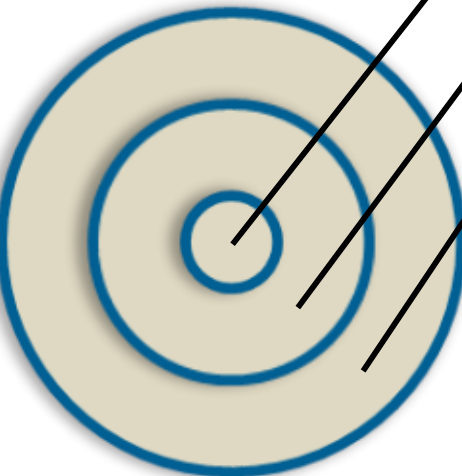
Extras



Results

HIV Negative Participants

HIV Positive Participants

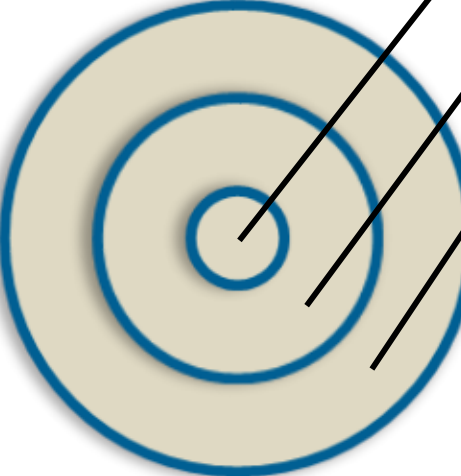


Mother 77%. Husband 74%.
Brother 67%. Sister 66%. Son 55%.
Daughter 47%. Father 35%.
Friends 20%.

Friends 98%. Sister. 37%.
Brother 18%

Friends 41%

HIV-Negative Indian Women, $n=288$



Daughter 80%. Mother 64%.
Brother 61%. Son 60%. Sister 59%.
Husband 54%. Father 33%

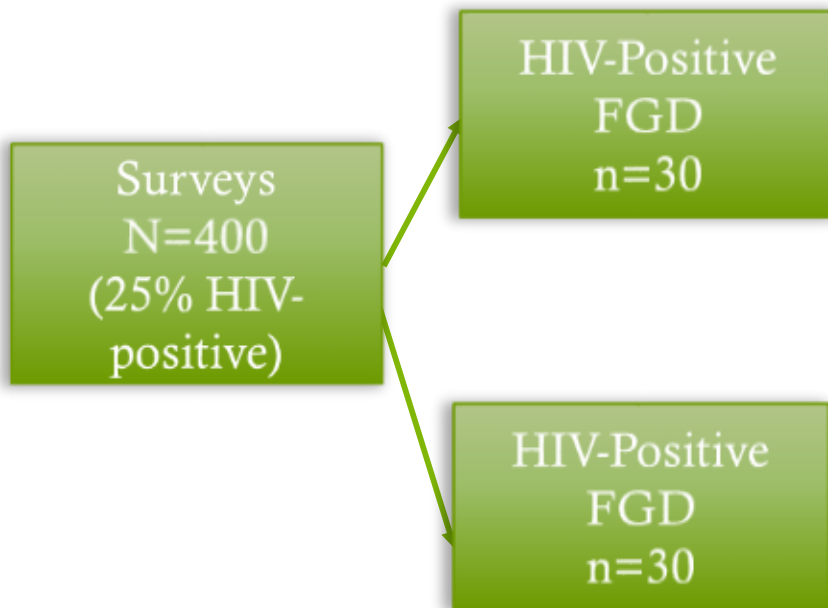
HIV-Network Members 96%.
Friends 70%

HIV-Network Members 37%.
Friends 14%

HIV-Positive Indian Women, $n=98$

Mixed-method design

Sample



Model

