Determinants of gender and racial inequality in HIV in South Africa: results from the 2012 population-based national survey

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BACKGROUND
• South Africa carries the largest share of the global HIV burden; the epidemic disproportionately affecting women than men, and is highest among Black Africans compared to other race groups.
• Much attention has been paid to seeking to explain the gendered nature of the HIV epidemic within sexual relationships in the absence of the racial dimension.
• More evidence is needed to advance the understanding of factors that continue to contribute to gender-based racial inequalities in HIV especially given the changing epidemiology of the epidemic in the country.

AIM
• To investigates socio-demographic and behavioural factors that perpetuate gender and racial inequalities in HIV using the 2012 population-based national household survey.

METHOD
Study design
• The study is based on a large multi-stage cross-sectional sampling design from national representative household-based survey conducted in 2012.
• Primary outcome: HIV prevalence Stratified by gender and race.
• Explanatory variables: Socio-demographic factors, sexual risk behaviours, alcohol use, self-perceived risk of HIV, ever test for HIV and awareness of HIV status.

Statistical analysis
• Bivariate and multivariate logistic regressions analysis were used to determine socio-demographic and HIV related risk factors associated gender and racial inequalities in HIV prevalence.

CONCLUSION
• Gender and racial inequalities premised on structural and contextual inequalities remain important factors in the maintenance of the generalized HIV epidemics in the country.
• HIV prevention interventions needs to cut across all strata of the South African society and target identified risk factors salient for specific groups.
• Improvements in gender and racial inequality should also be viewed as part of a broader public health strategy.

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