Starting young: Intimate partner violence among very young adolescents in Cape Town, South Africa

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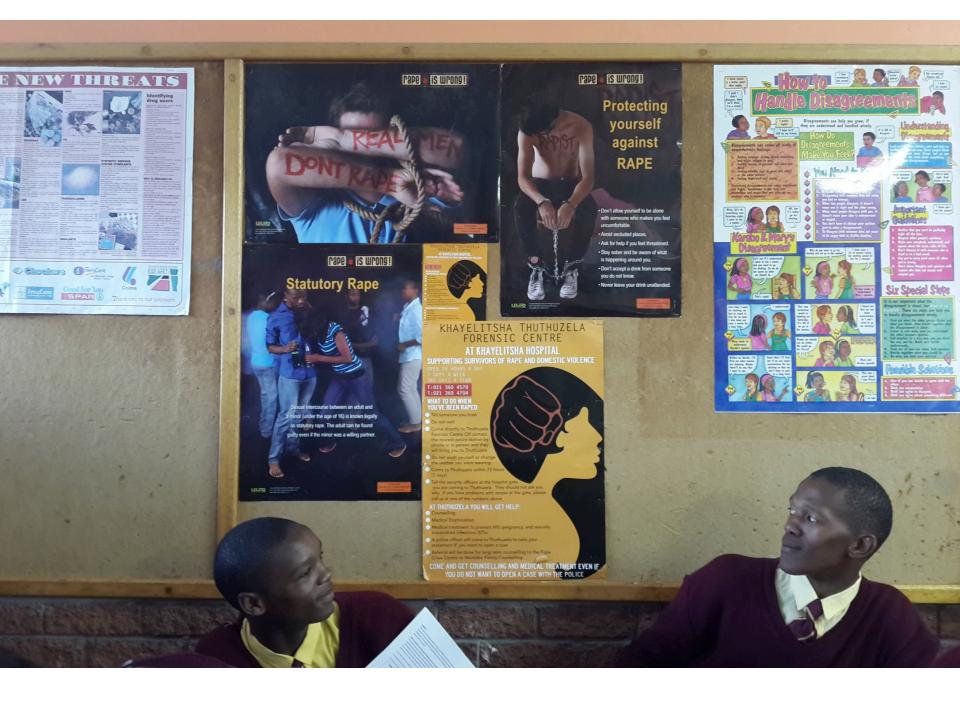


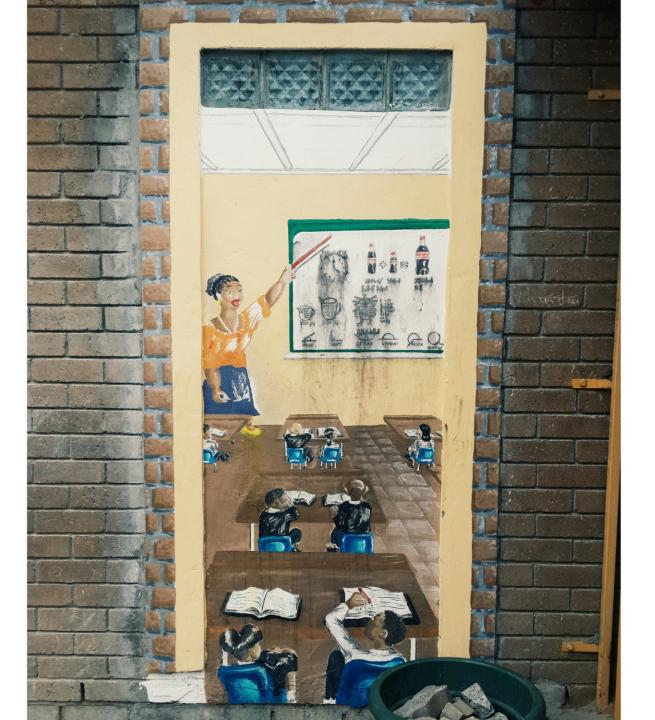












Socio-political context of Khayelitsha

- Legacy of forced removals and labour migration
- Material deprivation, un/insecure employment
 - 20% of learners: 'do not have enough money for food'
 - 30% of learners: 'enough money for food, but not other basic items e.g.
 clothes'
- Inadequate resource allocation & service delivery
- State violence normalised, high levels of violent crime, SGBV
- Active citizen participation and mobilisation
 - Khayelitsha Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of Police Inefficiency
 - Service delivery protests
 - Street committees



Survey methodology

- Multi-staged stratified random sampling
 - 662 male and female participants from 10 primary schools
 - Grade 6 & 7 (10 13 years)
- 48% have had a romantic partner ('boyfriend', 'girlfriend')
 - Our analysis focused on these learners' experiences
- Survey, administered on mobile phones, English & Xhosa
 - Experiences of IPV
 - Experiences of SIPV
 - Reporting of violence



"In the past 12 months...?"

44% of learners report some form of intimate partner violence

Threatened to use or used a gun, knife, other weapon against you (6%)

Kicked, dragged, beaten up, choked, burnt you on purpose (5%)

Threatened to hurt you, someone you care about (23%)

Pushed you or pulled your hair (10%)

Slapped you or thrown something at you that could hurt you (11%)

Physically forced you to have sex when you didn't want to (6%) Hit you with their fist / something else that could hurt you (6%)

*Multiple selection possible

"In the past 12 months...?"*

42% of learners report some form of sexual violence by a partner

20%

23%

23%

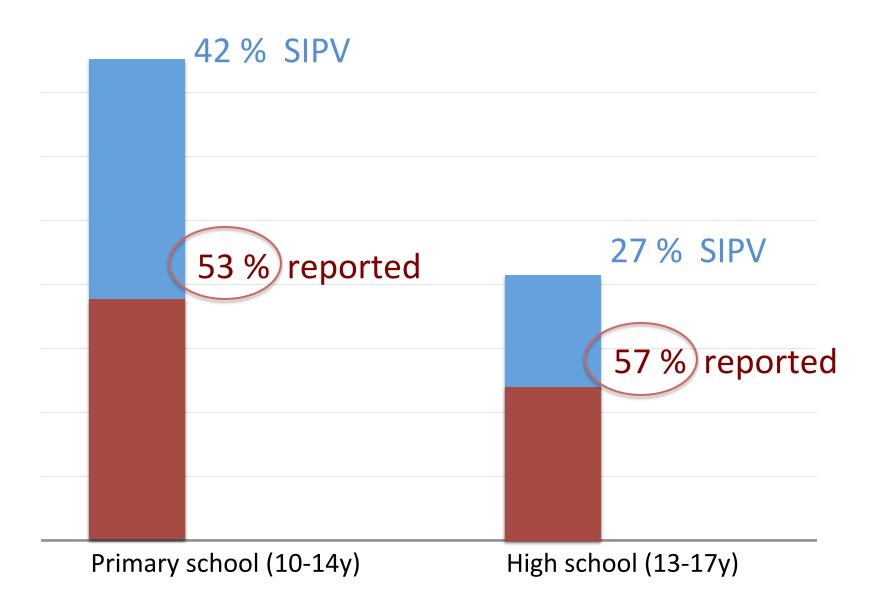
Forced to have sex because you were afraid

Forced to have sex because your partner made you feel bad

Forced to do something sexual that was humiliating or shameful

*Multiple selection possible

"Did you tell someone?"



"Who did you tell?"*

- My mother (47%)
- My friends (42%)
- Infrequent: other family member, teacher, police, counselor, peer educator



"What happened then?"*

- The person was told to stop (31%)
- I was given medical help (23%)
- Infrequent: given psychological help, reported to police

7/10 learners said that telling someone put an end to the violence



"Why didn't you tell someone?"*

What happened wasn't wrong



37%

Interpretation of violence: Is it violence? Is it wrong?

Consequences:
Blame, punishment,
retribution

Lack of faith, trust in teachers, adults

Normalisation of violence Victim-blaming / shaming Systemic failures

*Multiple selection possible

More questions...

- Meanings of 'partner'?
 - Teacher-perpetrated and 'non-partner' violence high
 - Overlaps?
- Partner / boyfriend / girlfriend characteristics?
 - Age, other disparities linked to power differentials?
 - Reported experiences of IPV seem to correlate with selfreported perpetration among same age group
- Heteronormativity in current research?
 - 20-30% of participants identified as LGB or 'other', further analysis needed

Some implications

- Address systemic challenges (e.g. lack of SRGBV policy)
- Role of prohibitive discourses in adult communication?
 - Provokes 'silence, denial, shame' (Francis, 2010)
 - Pre-empts *relationship* education
 - Contributes to low reporting
- Interventions sufficiently nuanced to enable naming?
 - 'forced to have sex', 'threatened', 'pushed'
 - // 'raped', 'assaulted'
- Clear need for early intervention
 - Relational and affective (how to 'do' ethical relating)
 - Pleasurable aspects of sex
 - Active knowers: engage their sexual knowledge

Thank you

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