



# **HIV, TRANSACTIONAL SEX & EXPERIENCES OF SEXUAL COERCION AMONG MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN (MSM) IN THE JOHANNESBURG/ETHEKWINI MEN'S STUDY (JEMS)**

Laetitia Rispel,<sup>1</sup> Carol Metcalf,<sup>2</sup>  
Allanise Cloete,<sup>2</sup> Vasu Reddy<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Centre for Health Policy, Wits School of Public Health

<sup>2</sup> Social Aspects of HIV & Health Programme, Human Sciences Research Council

<sup>3</sup> Gender & Development Unit, Human Sciences Research Council



**Centre** for Health Policy

University of the Witwatersrand,  
Johannesburg



# Outline

- Background to Johannesburg/eThekweni Men's Study (JEMS)
- Methods
- Highlight findings related to HIV, sexual coercion and transactional sex
- Concluding comments



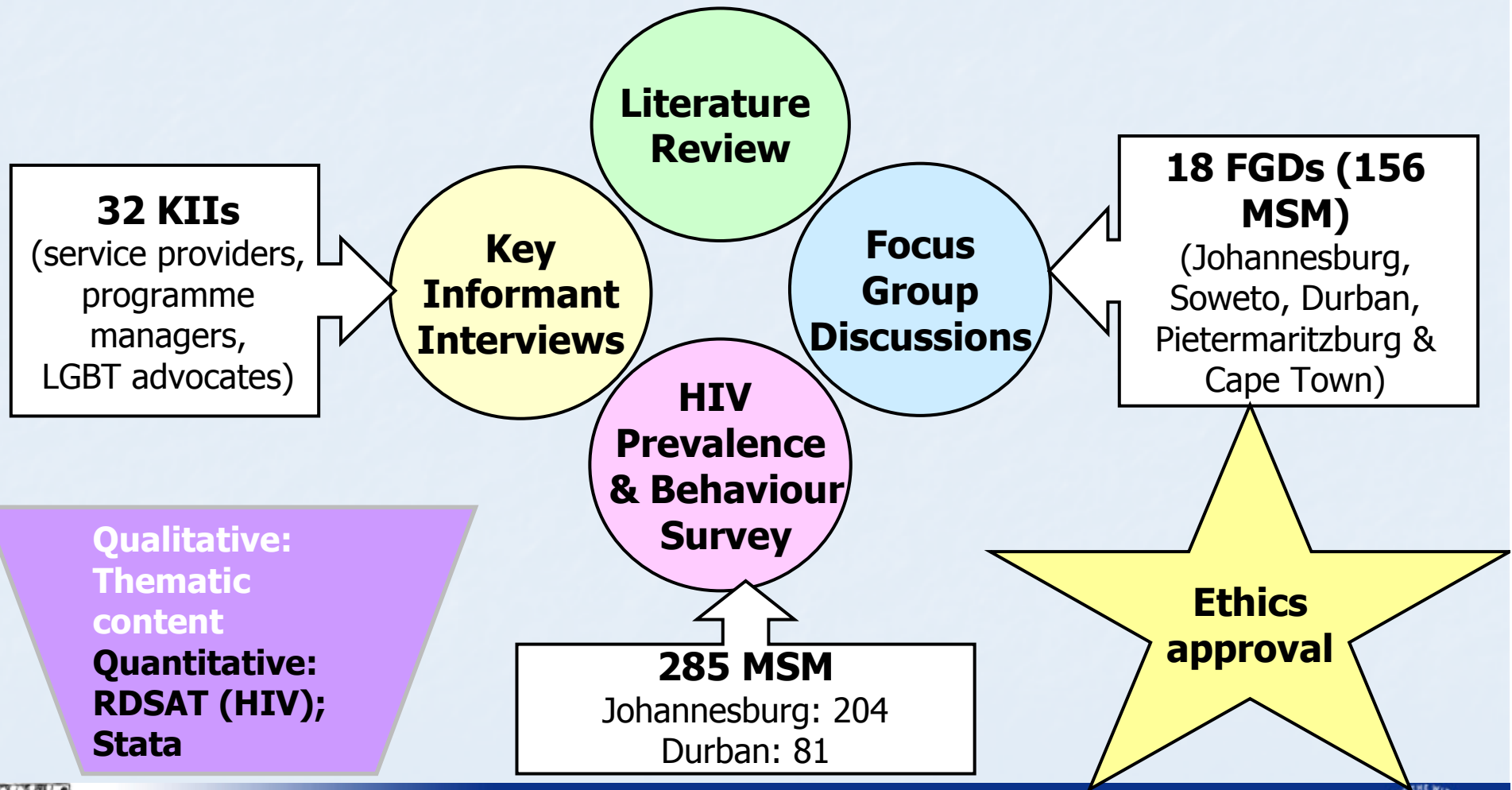
# Background

- Globally, HIV continues to affect Men who sex with Men (MSM) disproportionately
  - Markedly higher HIV prevalence than the general population (Baral et al, 2007; Beyrer, 2007; Caceres et al, 2008)
  - Limited information, but same pattern found in some countries in sub-Saharan Africa
- JEMS conducted to provide information on:
  - HIV among MSM
  - HIV risk factors among MSM
  - Programmes and services available to MSM



# Methods

**Steering Committee / Community Advisory Board**



# Sexual Coercion

- “Sometimes when you meet somebody, you really don’t want to have sex immediately. You want to at least meet the person..... there’s this pressure of this person wanting to do that and if you say no or whatever, the chance [is] that you're going to break up ...”

(Banana Boys FGD, Durban)



# Sexual Coercion

- “Because most of them come out of jail, you see and when they are sleeping with you, they want to like not having sex with you, they rape you. You see, they rape you, like it happened to them. That is what happened to me... and when they are done with you, they hit you.”

(Westbury FGD, Johannesburg)





# Transactional Sex

- “Most gay people, they spoil these boys. They buy them this, buy them that, buy them booze and everything... someone says to you, ‘I’ve put down a lay-bye for shoes some few months back and now I need R200.00.”

(Westbury FGD, Johannesburg)

- “Most of us date sugar daddies for monetary purposes. It is difficult in the gay life, because men come and go in one’s life.”

(Divas FGD, Durban)



# Sexual Coercion & Transactional Sex Survey Questions

- Has anyone ever made you to have sex with them, even though you did not want to have sex?  
(also past 12 months)
- Have you ever made anyone to have sex with you, even though they did not want to have sex?  
(also past 12 months)
- In the past 12 months, have you given another man money, gifts, food, transport, drugs, or a place to stay, in exchange for having sex with you?
- In the past 12 months, has another man given you money, gifts, food, transport, drugs, or a place to stay in exchange for you having sex with him?



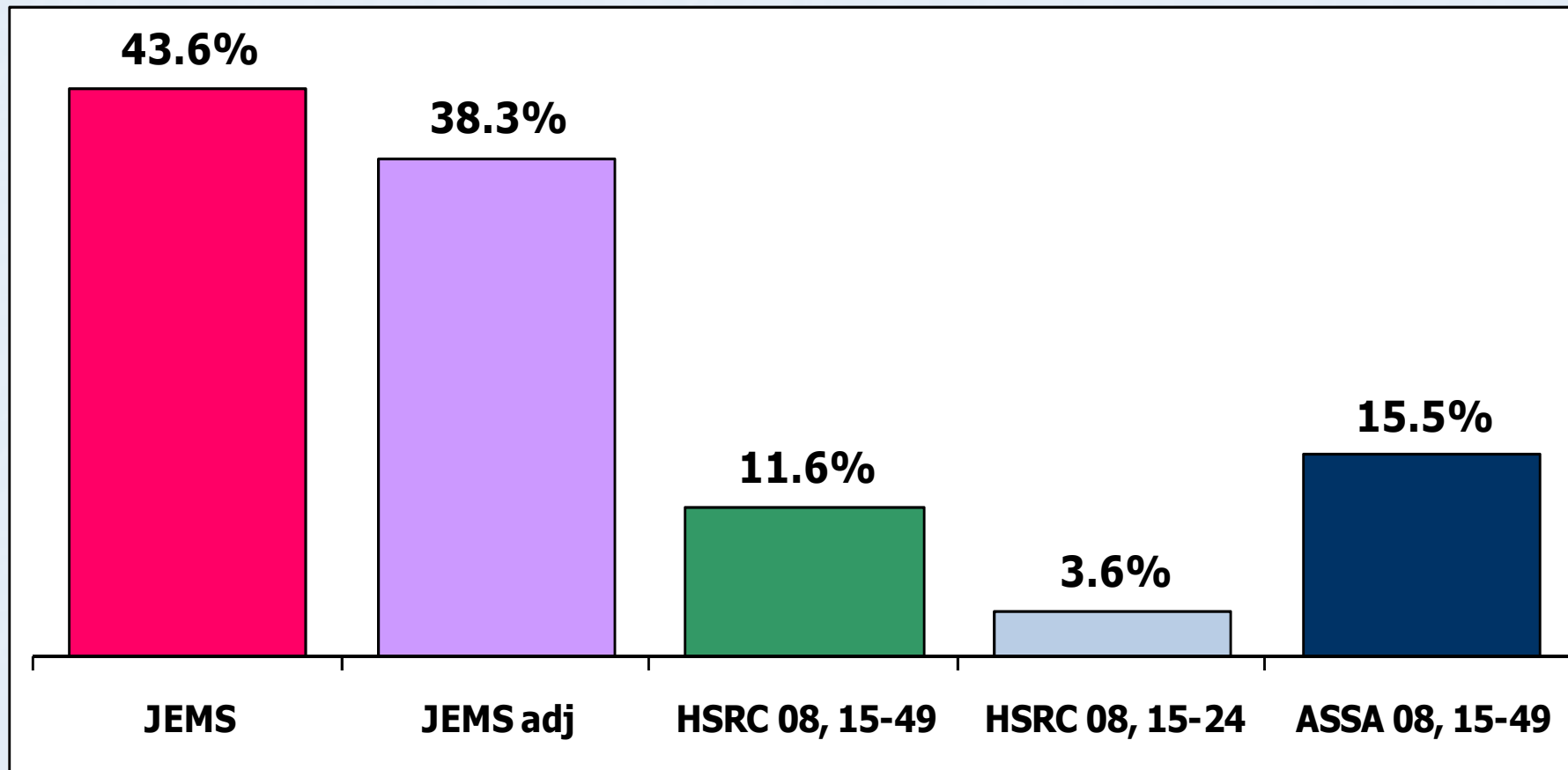


# Characteristics of Survey Participants

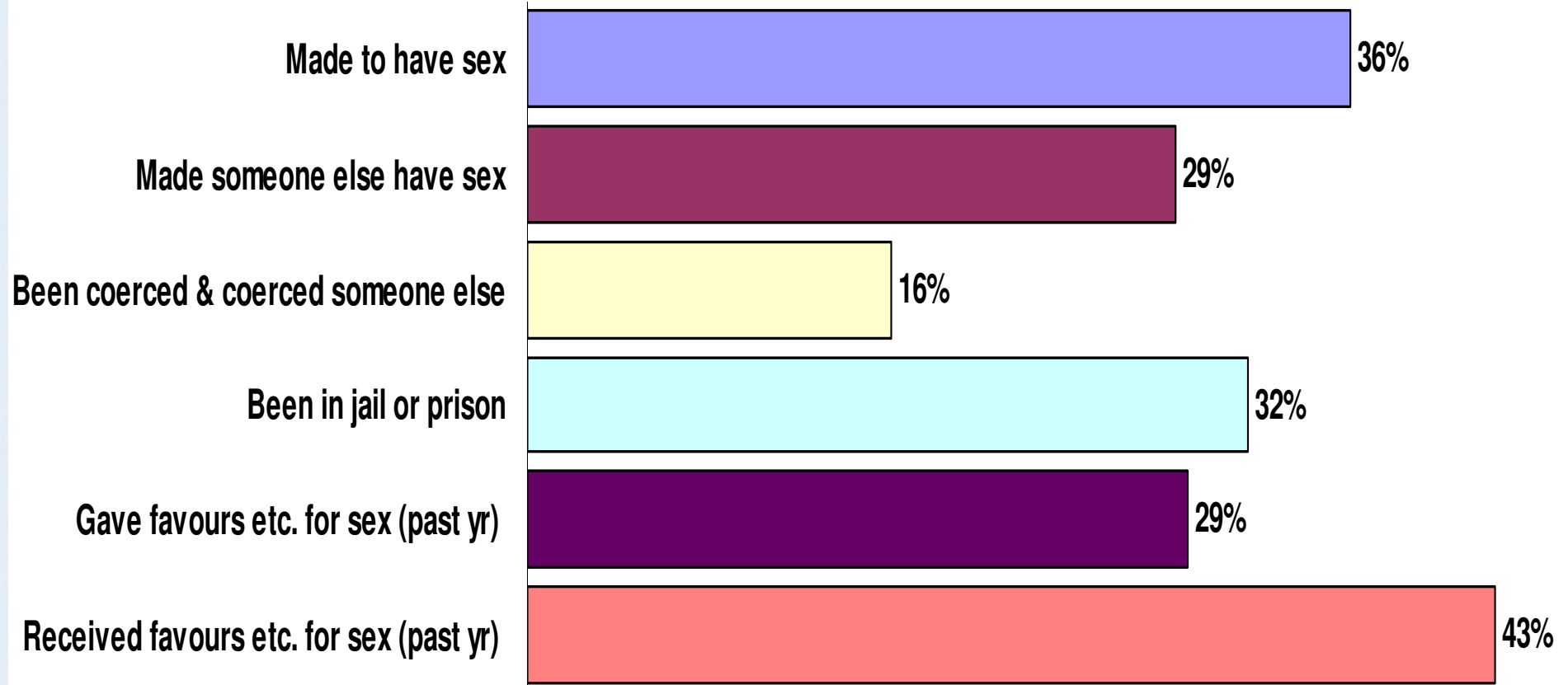
- 285 participants (204 Johannesburg, 81 Durban)
- 88% black African
- Age range 18 – 61 years, (mean 24.5 years, median 22 years, 67% < 25 years)
- 78% homosexual/gay, 19% bisexual, 2% heterosexual/ straight, 2% other
- 54% had  $\geq$  Grade 12 education
- 95% accepted anonymous HIV testing



## HIV prevalence among MSM in JEMS compared to men in the general population, South Africa, 2008



# Sexual coercion and transactional sex



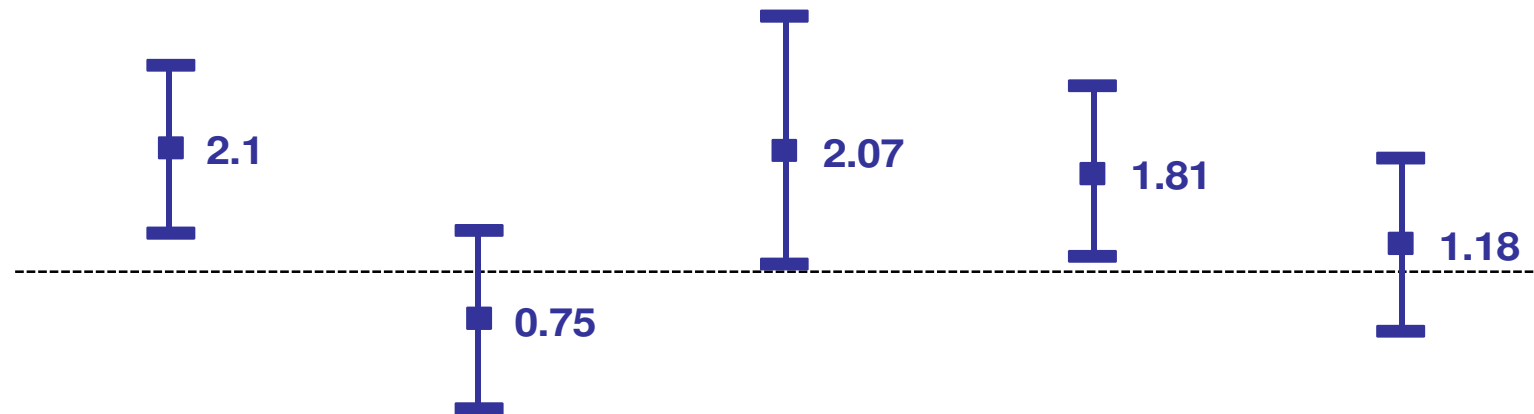
# Sexual Coercion & HIV Risk

Characteristic	aOR	95% CI aOR
Made to have sex with someone else*	2.10	1.27 – 3.48
Made someone else have sex	0.75	0.44 – 1.29
Made to have sex <u>AND</u> made someone else have sex	1.09	0.57 – 2.10
Sex under 13 yrs*	2.07	1.04 - 4.63
Sex under 16 yrs*	1.81	1.09 – 3.03
Been in jail or prison	1.18	0.70 – 1.98

\*  $p < 0.05$



# Sexual Coercion & HIV Risk



Made to have sex    Made someone else have sex    Sex under 13    Sex under 16    Jail or prison

- LL ■ aOR - UL



## Conclusion

- MSM are a vulnerable group in terms of risk of HIV infection
- JEMS found that:
  - High proportion of MSM experienced sexual coercion
  - Victims of sexual coercion-increased risk of HIV infection
  - Transactional sex common





# Recommendations

- Further research needed:
  - Larger sample
  - Racially representative
  - Different cities
- Interventions for MSM urgently needed to prevent HIV, address sexual coercion & risks associated with transactional sex
- Focus on targets set in National Strategic Plan



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# Thank you

- Questions/ comments: [laetitia.rispel@wits.ac.za](mailto:laetitia.rispel@wits.ac.za)

