



A plan for surveillance among persons attending alcohol consumption venues in Gaborone, Botswana

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Program Context

- High HIV prevalence (23.9%) among 15-49 yrs adults (BAIS III).
- 56.7% of 10-64yr olds have tested for HIV (BAIS III)
- 40% men and 25% women in 5 high HIV prevalence districts were problem drinkers (Weiser et al 2006)
- Alcohol use found to be strongest predictor of inconsistent condom use, MCP, transactional sex (Weiser et al 2007)
- Links between alcohol use, sexual risk and HIV transmission less documented in Botswana



Description of Intervention

Phase I: Identifying logistical issues

- Desk review, In-depth interviews, Venue screening

Phase II: Apply TLS methodology in Gaborone to

- Estimate HIV prevalence among men and women attending alcohol-consumption venues.
- Identify risk behaviors associated with HIV transmission



Results: Venue screening (n=120)

- Screening included space, parking, safety, health information
- 84/120 legal registered venues screened found to be eligible. Only 60 agreed to take part in Phase II
- 40% have space for HCT on/near premises
- 80% reported no violence incidents in the past month
- 11% have health information on site
- 83% vehicle visibility on/near premises
- Sample weighted towards bars (88%)



In-depth interviews (n=14)

- Identified areas with heavy alcohol drinking and those with high HIV prevalence rates
- Involvement of vendors and staff in recruitment might increase patron participation
- Information on study, local buy-in, incentives
- Training of HCT and data collectors
- Gender and age matching
- Timing of study: vendors against study being conducted during peak periods
- High mobility among patrons



Desk review: Stigma and labeling

- Problem drinking and HIV/AIDS issues associated with social stigma in local context
- Fear of judgment and labeling primary motivation for being untruthful
- Greater importance assigned to privacy over geographical or physical aspects of interview
- Unobtrusive approaches, private rooms for interviews, assurance of explicit confidentiality
- Community mobilization



Desk review: Characteristics of the interviewers

- Gender bias in attendance: Matching on gender during interviews suggested
- A strong preference for age matching
- Researchers from outside study area familiar with local culture



Other considerations

- Ability to adapt sampling methods to unpredictable nature of bar setting “Fluid sampling”
- Participant intoxication affect participation and quality of results
- Timing of data collection
- Expected financial or material reward
- Safety of study staff



Way forward

- Revise study protocol with Phase I information
 - To recruit about 700 patrons into study
 - Sufficient to observe a 15% change between survey waves
- Submit for IRB clearance (May)
- Conduct TLS training (July)
- Collect and analyze data (Aug–Dec)
- Develop bar-based prevention interventions

- Repeat survey periodically.



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