

Risky Women

Disrupting simple notions of women's HIV risk

K Rivet Amico, PhD rivetamico@Comcast.net

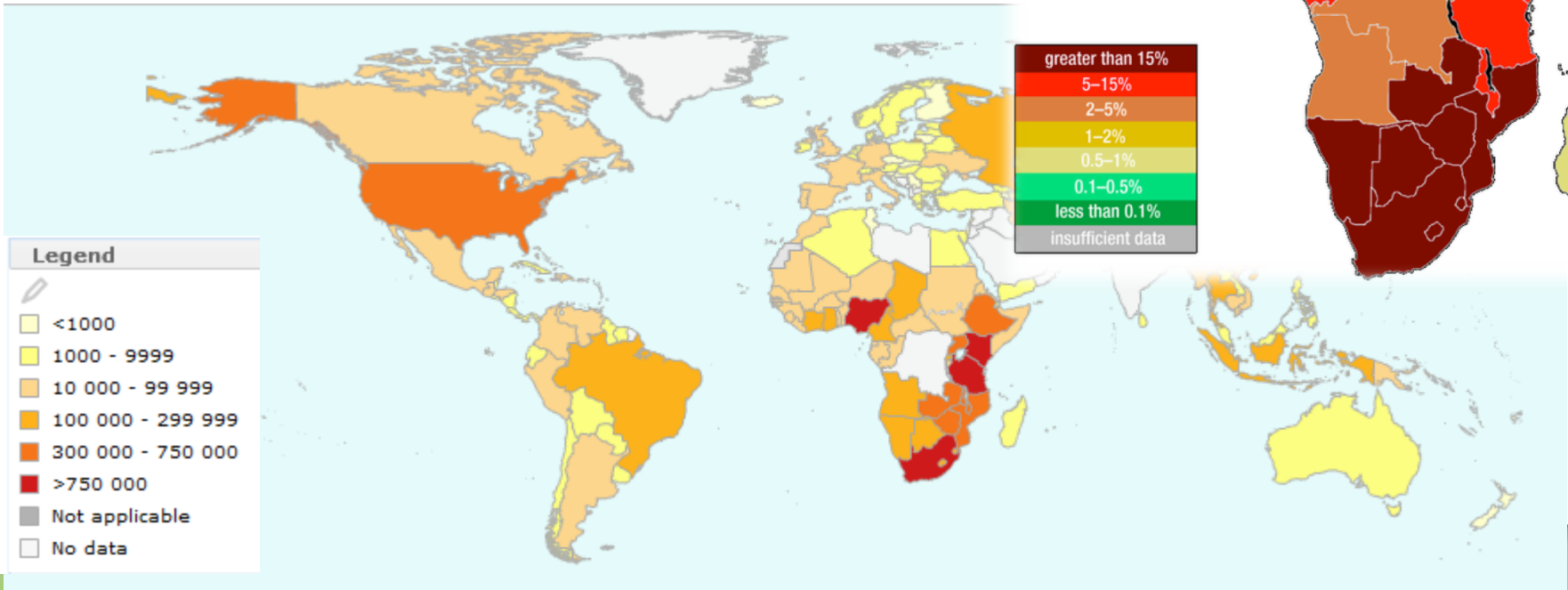
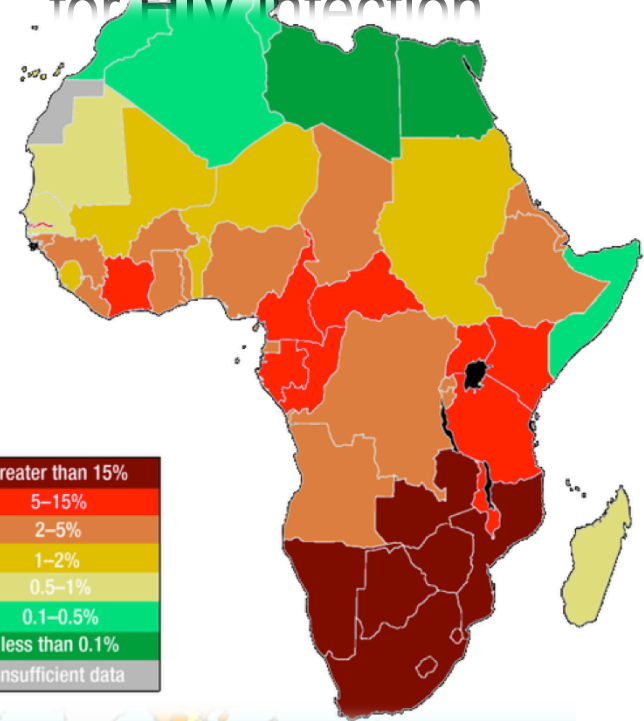


At Risk Women

- Studies conducted to date are framed as targeting individuals “at risk” or “at high risk” for HIV infection
- Women in...
 - **VOICE**: *Per participant report, sexually active, defined as having vaginal intercourse at least once in previous 3 months*
 - **Partners PrEP**: *Sexually active in sero-discordant relationship, defined as 6 or more vaginal sex episodes in previous 3 months.*
 - **CAPRISA 004**: *Sexually active in past 30 days, defined as having vaginal intercourse at least twice in that period*
 - **TDF2**: *Sexually active.*
 - **FEM-PrEP**: *At higher risk of becoming HIV infected- vaginal sex in past 2-weeks or more than 1 partner in past 30 days*

At Risk Women

- Studies conducted to date are framed as targeting individuals “at risk” or “at high risk” for HIV infection
- Women in...
 - **VOICE**: *Per participant report, sexually active vaginal intercourse at least once in previous*
 - **Partners PrEP**: *Sexually active in sero-*



‘At risk’ by way of being sexually active in sexual and social networks/communities with high HIV prevalence

Not necessarily on basis of risk behavior

Risk Behavior

- Survey or interviews assessing some aspect(s) of behaviors that increase risk of exposure to HIV:

How many times have you had vaginal sex in the past month?

With how many partners?

Of these partners, how many were HIV positive?

Of those partners who were HIV positive, how many times did you have vaginal sex?

Of those times, how many times was a condom used from start to finish?

REPEAT FOR HIV-NEGATIVE AND HIV-STATUS UNKNOWN PARTNERS

Risk Behavior

- Creative innovations in risk assessment
 - Ecological momentary sampling
 - SMS [Text assessment of daily events]
 - Phone apps [Blackbook]
 - Internet accessed [SexPro]

SEX PRO LOG OUT

Number of Male or Transgender Partners

Think about the last 3 months and male and transgender partners you have had anal sex with over that time. Anal sex refers to when your penis was in a partner's anus (butt) or his penis was in your anus (butt) regardless of whether or not condoms were used or whether or not cumming was involved.

How many male or transgender partners have you had anal sex with in the past 3 months?

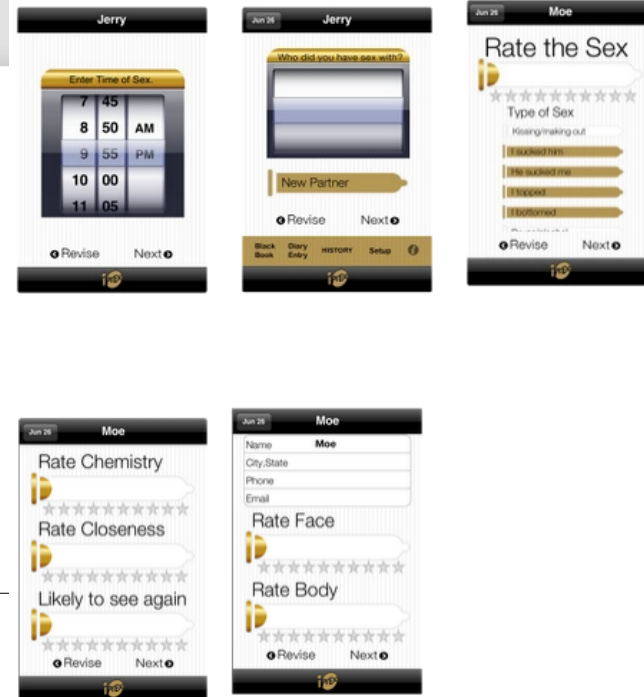
Partners of unknown HIV status

HIV positive partners

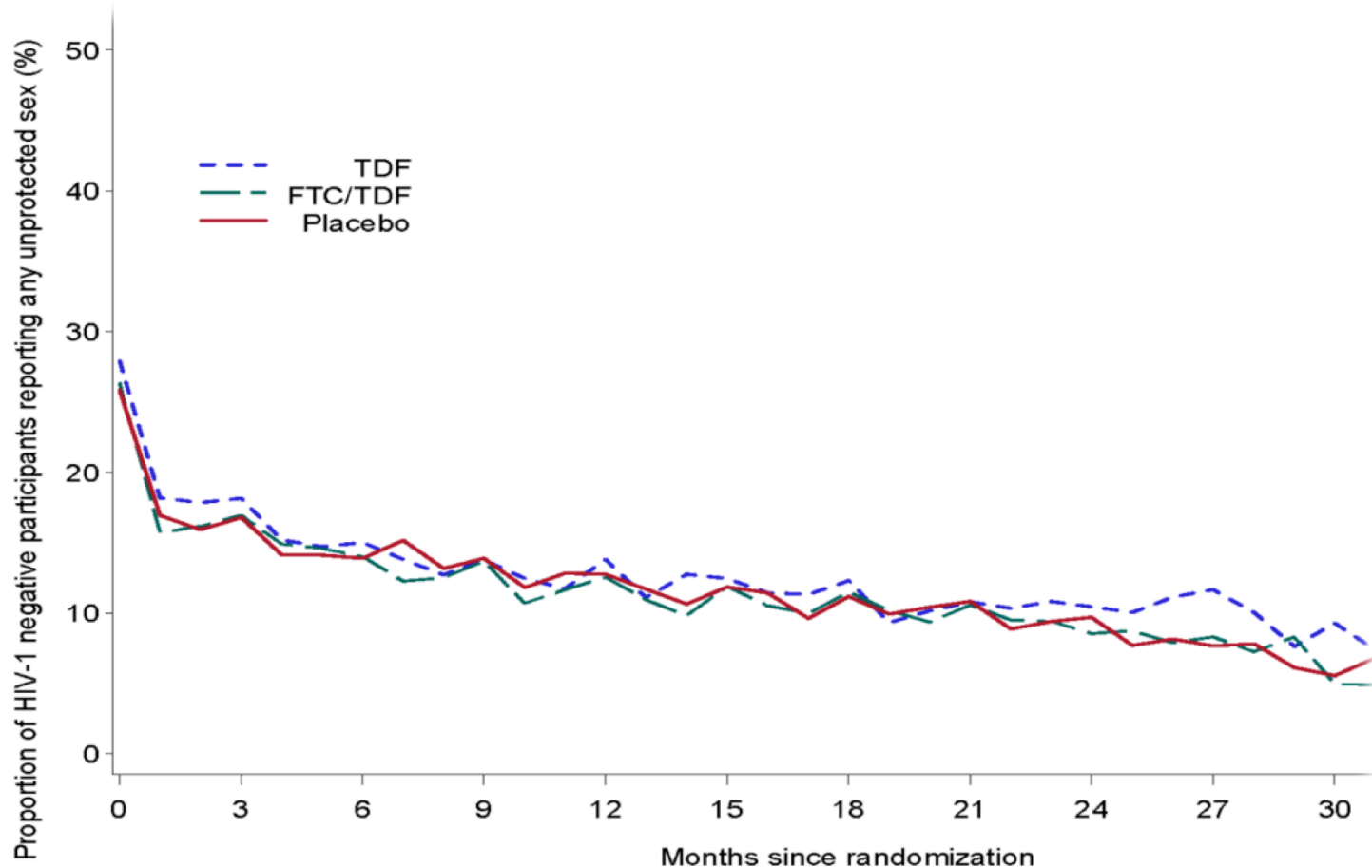
HIV negative partners

Next >

Blackbook



No Evidence to date for Risk Compensation...More data needed



Responses:

TDF	1584	1517	1487	1439	1296	1174	1017	862	700	490	280
FTC/TDF	1579	1523	1492	1434	1324	1196	1020	862	715	506	283
Placebo	1584	1521	1500	1434	1304	1174	1021	869	724	509	289

How at-risk and behavioral risk is defined and measured is important because...

Folded into guidelines for PrEP use and demonstration projects (Dr. Auerbach's presentation)

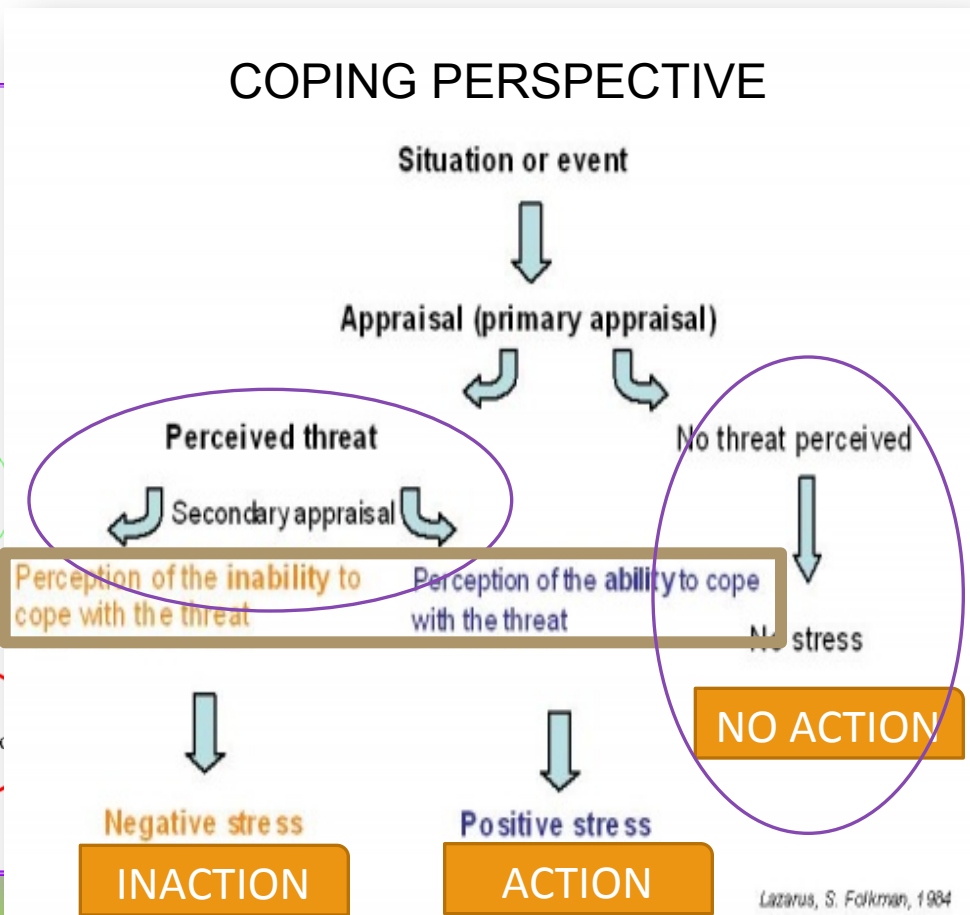
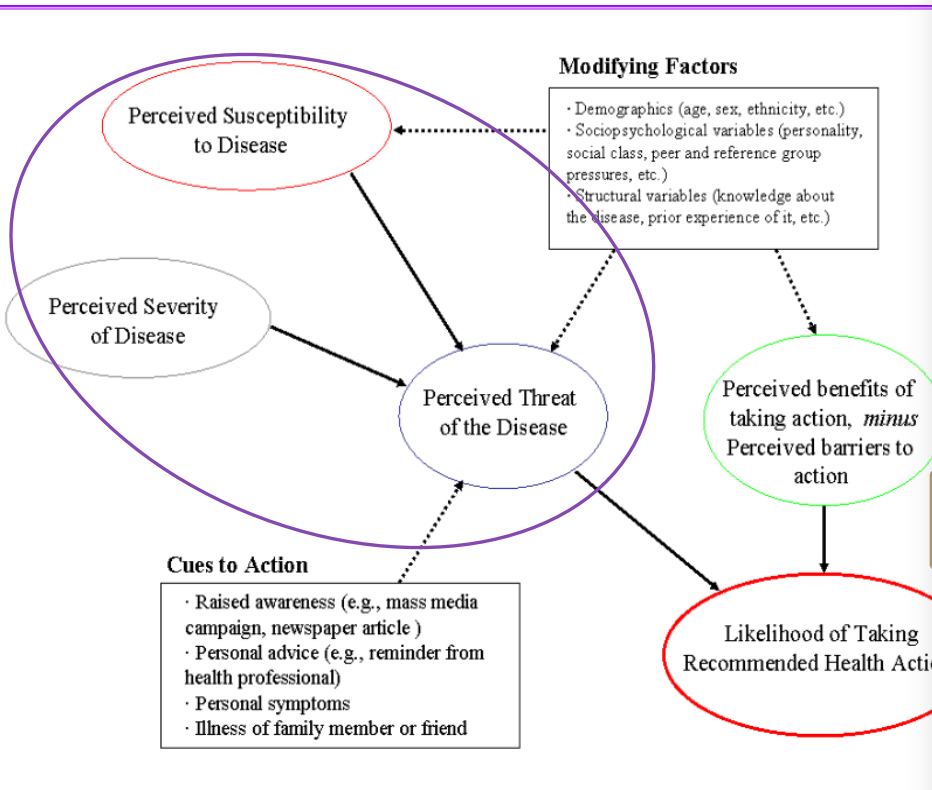
Relevant for monitoring risk compensation and prevention synergies

Perceptions of risk are implicated in social behavioral models for adoption of prevention practices

What we construct as “driving” risk determines targets of intervention activities and policy focus

RISK IN HEALTH BEHAVIOR MODELS

Health Belief Model (and most risk behavior models) position risk perception as a determinant or moderator of adoption of health behavior/reduction of risk



RISK IN HEALTH BEHAVIOR MODELS

- Perceived risk is gateway to considering a prevention method.
 - Necessary but insufficient condition for adoption of a behavior

GENDER

- Continues to be narrowly or ill defined
- Norms, power, violence, dominance, sex ratio, prevention strategy
- Perceived likelihood (probability it will happen)

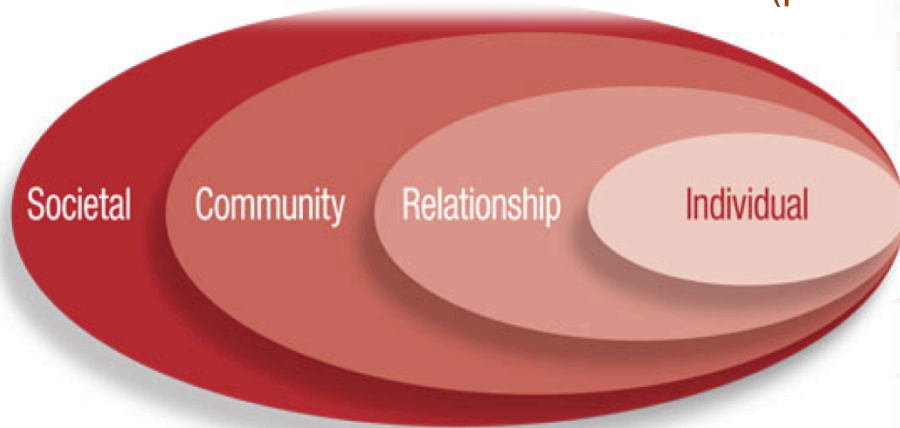


Figure 1.2. The Social-Ecological Model: A Framework for Prevention

Causal pathways to Prevention

...feeling “at risk”, threat of infection cannot directly lead to conditions where

(1) strategic and/or

(2) multiple more immediate and negative consequences

- PrEP may offer a unique benefit to a strategic strategy (vs condoms, couples HIV)
- Not clear how privately one can agree to disclosure of use to partner(s)

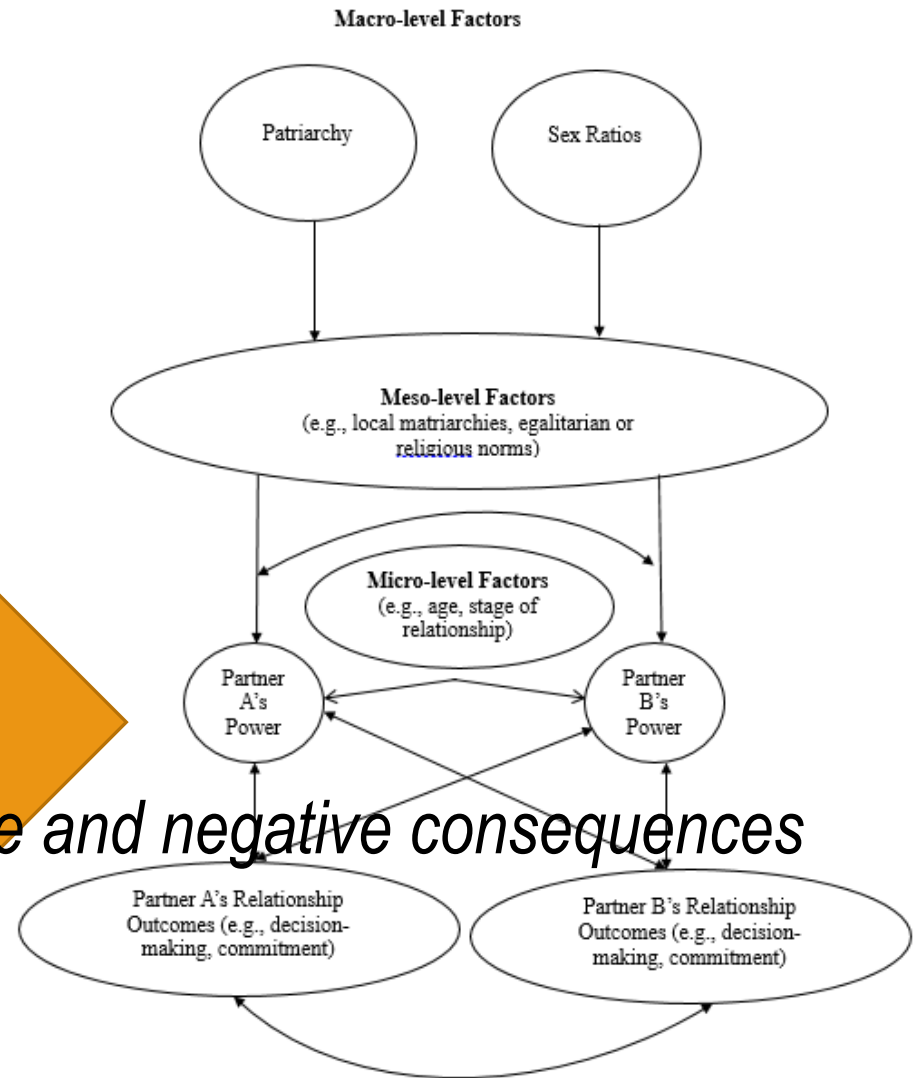
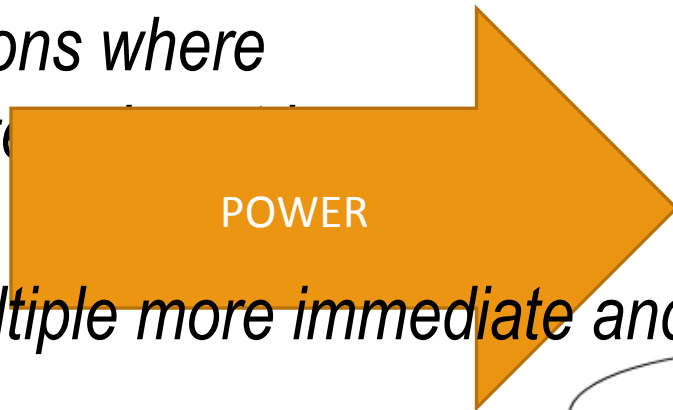


Figure 1: An illustration of multilevel influences on power in relationships

HIV risk and Prevention for Women

Constructions of risk and prevention among women require greater sensitivity to the relationships, power, and social-contextual dynamics that facilitate and challenge sexual health protection.

To reduce HIV among women we do need to aggressively identify effective female-centered options.

Even with these options, risk reduction efforts should also encompass the factors that propel risk, including:

- gender-based violence and inequitable gender norms
- systematic discrimination that promotes poverty and ongoing economic disparities and dependencies



THANK YOU
