

Researching MSM:

Diversity, Definitions and Direction

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MSM Research at PHRU

- **Soweto-Hillbrow MSM Study (2003)**
- **Gauteng MSM Survey (2004-05)**
- **Gauteng MSM Ethnography (2006-07)**
- **Soweto Men's Study (2008)**



Questions

How can we be sure that we are getting a representative sample of MSM?

What is the denominator?

How can we be sure that the diversity of MSM are represented?

Most of the participants in the studies are young... what about the older MSM?

Soweto Men's Study VCT results

- **18% of sample declined VCT (68/368)**
- **Of 300 who accepted pre-test counseling:**
 - **40% declined their results (120/300)**
 - **36% of HIV + declined their results (27/76)**
 - **42% of HIV- declined their results (93/224)**

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Towards standard definitions

- **Sexual partners**
 - **Bisexual – have sex with women**
 - Ever?
 - Within the last year?
 - Within the last 5 partners?
 - Would like to?
- **Sexual diversity**
 - What is the denominator?
 - What should we expect in a community?

HIV

- **Concerns:**
 - In the Soweto study many of the participants did not want their HIV results
 - What can we offer MSM participants?
 - Health services
 - Health4Men
 - What preventive research has been focused on MSM?
 - PREP
 - Male circumcision
 - Rectal microbicides



Going forward

- **Integrate ethnographic, sociological and anthropological research with prevalence studies**
- **Agree on definitions so that comparisons can be made**
- **Have health services that MSM can be referred to**

