

Preliminary exploration of experiences and perpetration of violence among an MSM sub-sample

Findings from the UN Multi-country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific

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Background

MSM

Public health behavioural category to describe men who engage in sexual practices with other men, regardless of sexual orientation

- Growing body of population-based prevalence research on men who have sex with men (MSM), and their experiences and perpetration of violence in Asia and the Pacific
- UN Multi-country Study on Men and Violence in Asia-Pacific was first time questions around male-male sexual attraction and behaviours were asked at this scale

UN MCS on Men and Violence

- Standardized population-based household surveys conducted with men on health, gender attitudes and violence in Asia-Pacific
 - 9 sites: Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and PNG
 - Respondents used audio-enhanced PDAs
 - 10,178 men completed the survey (85% average response rate)
- MSM analysis does not include Bangladesh

Research questions

- What is the prevalence of MSM across the study sites and what are the socio-demographic characteristics of this sample, including health and livelihoods?
- Among the population of men who have consensual sex with men, what is the prevalence of victimization and perpetration of different forms of violence?

Creating the MSM sub-sample

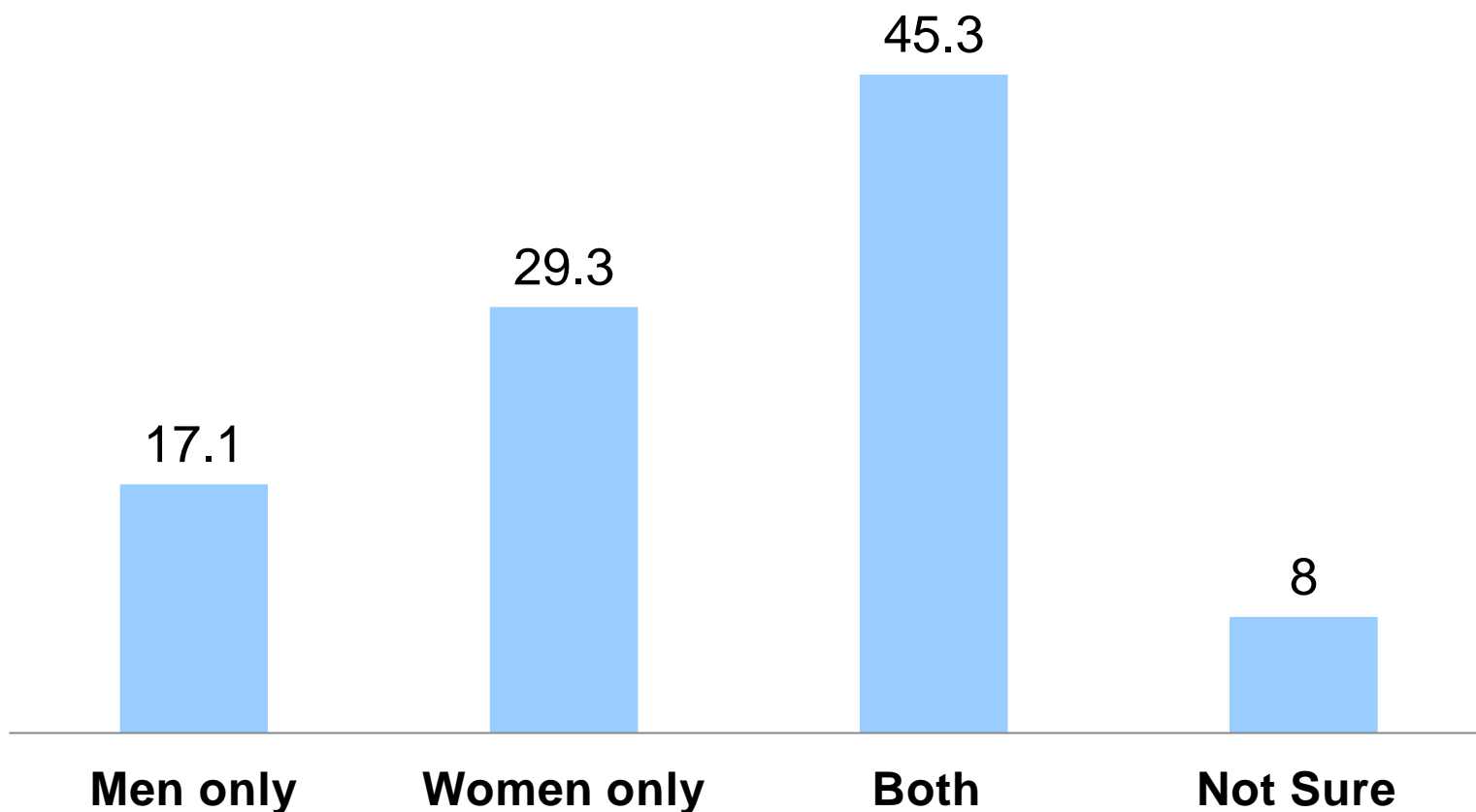
- Variable captured reported sexual preference, as well as sexual practices
 - What gender attracts you sexually?
 - Have you ever had sex or done something sexual with a boy or man? (anal, oral, masturbation, thigh)
 - Have you ever had sex with a prostitute or sex worker (M/TG)
- Questions were self-administered using APDAs
- Variable does *not* include forced sex with a man

Sub-sample prevalence by country

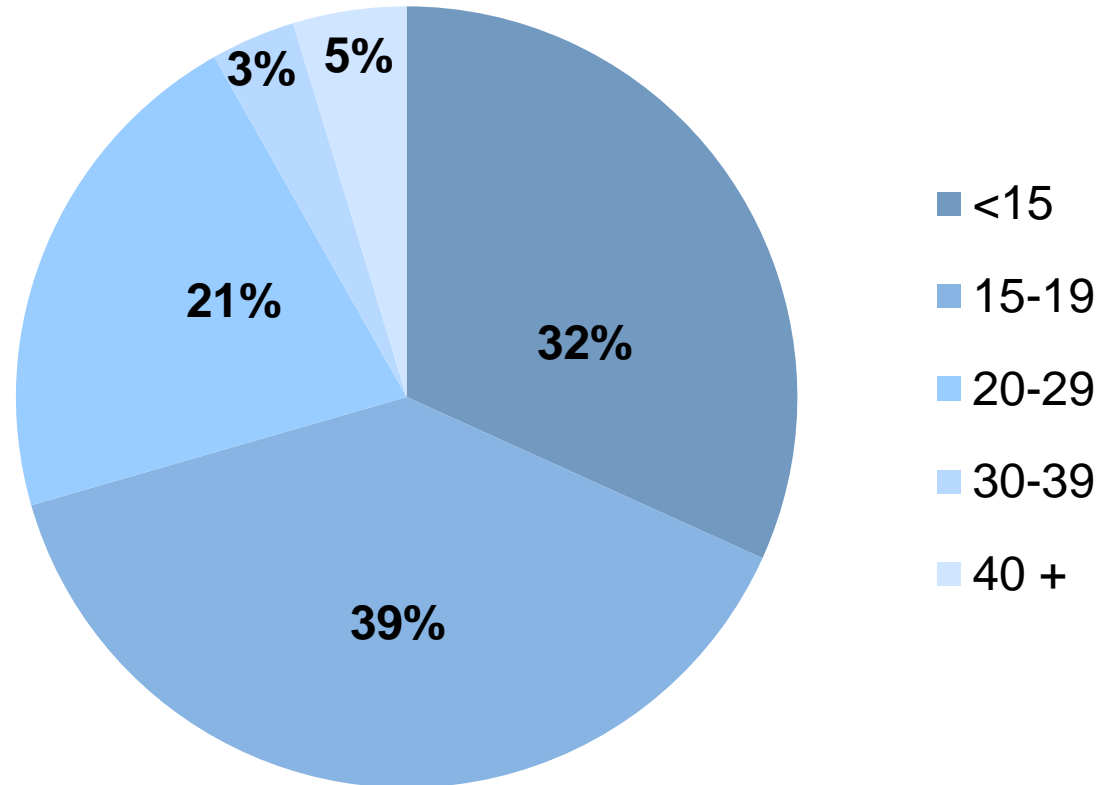
Total MSM sample = 776 | Total non-MSM sample = 6,784

	% MSM	% non-MSM	TOTAL
Cambodia	6.6	93.4	1,771
China	13.9	86.1	974
Indonesia	6.4	93.6	2,534
PNG	16.2	83.8	851
Sri Lanka	15.7	84.3	1,430
TOTAL REGIONAL	10.3	89.7	7,560

Percentages of reported sexual attraction among MSM population (n=772)



Percentages of men's reported age of first time sex with a boy or man (n=258)



Partner relationships & sexual life

Comparison between MSM and non-MSM groups

		% MSM	% non-MSM
Ever married/cohabiting with a woman		69.2 ^{ns}	71.6
Currently married/cohabiting with a woman		64.2 ^{ns}	67.8
Low satisfaction with sexual life with main (female) partner		13.1 ^{***}	6.2
Last sex not with main (female) partner		17.1 ^{***}	5.6
Number of sexual partners (last year)	1	62.0 ^{***}	72.2
	2-3	20.2	14.8
	4+	11.2	5.3

Asterisk denotes bivariate associations that are statistically significant based on the chi-square test; one test per variable ($p < 0.05$); ***: $p < 0.001$, **: $P < 0.01$, *: $p < 0.05$, ns==not significant

Childhood experiences of violence

Comparison between MSM and non-MSM groups

Victimization	% MSM (n=776)	% non-MSM (n=6,781)	aOR¹ (95% CI)	P-value
Teased or bullied by peers	38.1	28.7	1.5 (1.3 -1.8)	P<0.001
Childhood emotional abuse and neglect	41.4	29.4	1.5 (1.3 – 1.8)	P<0.001
Childhood sexual abuse	26.7	12.7	2.2 (1.8 – 2.7)	P<0.001
Perpetration	MSM (n=776)	% non-MSM (n=6,781)	aOR¹ (95% CI)	P-value
Teasing or bullying peers	35.6	28.4	1.3 (1.1 – 1.6)	P<0.001

¹ Adjusted for age, education, food insecurity and country

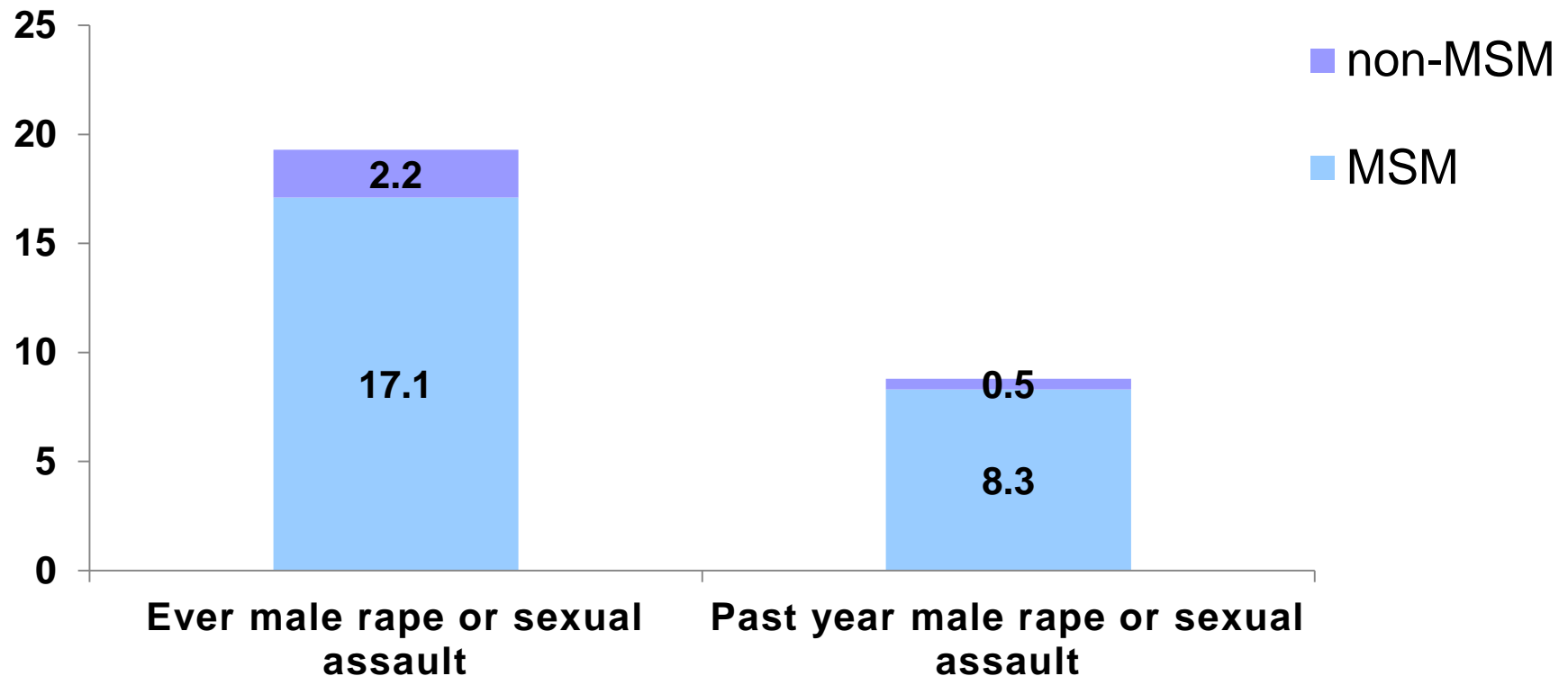
Adult experiences of violence

Comparison between MSM and non-MSM groups

Victimization	% MSM	% non-MSM	aOR ¹ (95% CI)	P-value
	(n=773)	(n=6,778)		
Violence outside the home (last 12 months)	29.2	14.2	2.7 (2.2–3.3)	P<0.001
	(n=771)	(n=6,753)		
Homophobic abuse	11.5	2.2	4.5 (3.3–6.0)	P<0.001
	(n=769)	(n=6,760)		
Male rape	16.5	2.8	7.7 (5.9–10.0)	P<0.001

¹ Adjusted for age, education, food insecurity and country

Prevalence of male rape and sexual assault perpetration between MSM and non-MSM groups ¹



¹ $p=0.001$ and adjusted for age, education, food insecurity, gang involvement and country

Prevalence of perpetration of violence against women compared between MSM and non-MSM

Perpetration	% MSM	% non-MSM	aOR (95% CI)	P-value
	(n=498)	(n=4,586)		
Physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence (lifetime among currently married or cohabiting)	58.6	43.7	1.6 ¹ (1.3 – 1.9)	P<0.001
	n=768	n=6,765		
Non-partner rape (single perpetrator presumed)	23.0	9.9	2.6 ¹ (2.1 – 3.2)	P<0.001
Gang rape of a woman	15.2	3.3	4.1 ² (3.1 – 5.5)	P<0.001

¹ Adjusted for age, education, food insecurity, and country

² Adjusted also for gang involvement

Conclusions and implications

- Sexual violence prevention in Asia-Pacific must take into account specific issues faced by MSM – to prevent sexual violence within the community, and to prevent violence against women
- Recommendations include:
 - Decriminalize homosexuality
 - Reduce stigmatization and marginalization of LGBT communities
 - Build sexual education programmes to address sexual diversity and health sexual practices among younger boys and men

Thank you!

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