

# HIV Prevalence among MSM in Soweto: Preliminary Results from the Soweto Men's Study

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Hurlbut Johnson Fund



# Outline

- **Background**
- **Objectives and Methods**
- **Results**
  - Demographics
  - Risk behavior
  - HIV Testing history & perceived status
  - HIV Prevalence
  - VCT Statistics
- **Preliminary Conclusions**
- **MSM HIV Needs**



# MSM Research at PHRU

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



# The Soweto Men's Study

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- **Objectives**

- Describe MSM population of Soweto
- Estimate HIV prevalence
- Estimate HIV risk behaviors

- **Methods**

- Respondent Driven Sampling (N=368)
- Behavioral questionnaire
- VCT and HIV rapid testing
- CD4, referral to care for HIV+

# Methods: RDS Recruitment

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- Begin with “seeds” - MSM who have large social networks
- Begin chains of peer-driven recruitment using study coupons
- Limit 3-5 coupons per participant
- Tokens of appreciation used to motivate peer recruitment (R30 Pick n Pay coupons)
- Recruitment continued until *equilibrium* in key demog. variables & target sample size achieved

# Methods: Seeds

Date	Seed ID	Location	Identity	# Coupons given
8-Feb-08	103	Molapo	MSM	3
12-Feb-08	105	Orlando	gay	3
12-Feb-08	107	Orlando	gay	3
12-Feb-08	108	Orlando	gay	3
12-Feb-08	106	Orlando	gay	3
13-Feb-08	115	Diepkloof	gay	3
21-Feb-08	117	Mapetla	straight	5
21-Feb-08	118	Mapetla	straight	5
16-Mar-08	121	Dube	gay	3
16-Mar-08	120	Meadowlands	bisexual	3
20-Mar-08	119	Dobsonville	bisexual	3
2-Apr-08	109	Dobsonville	gay	3
13-May-08	122	Diepkloof	bisexual	5
10-Jul-08	123	Moroka	gay	3
17-Jul-08	124	Chiawelo	gay	5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>15</b>			<b>53</b>

# Methods: Coupons



- Total coupons distributed : 840
- Total coupons returned: 353
- Coupon return rate: 42.0%

# Results: Demographics

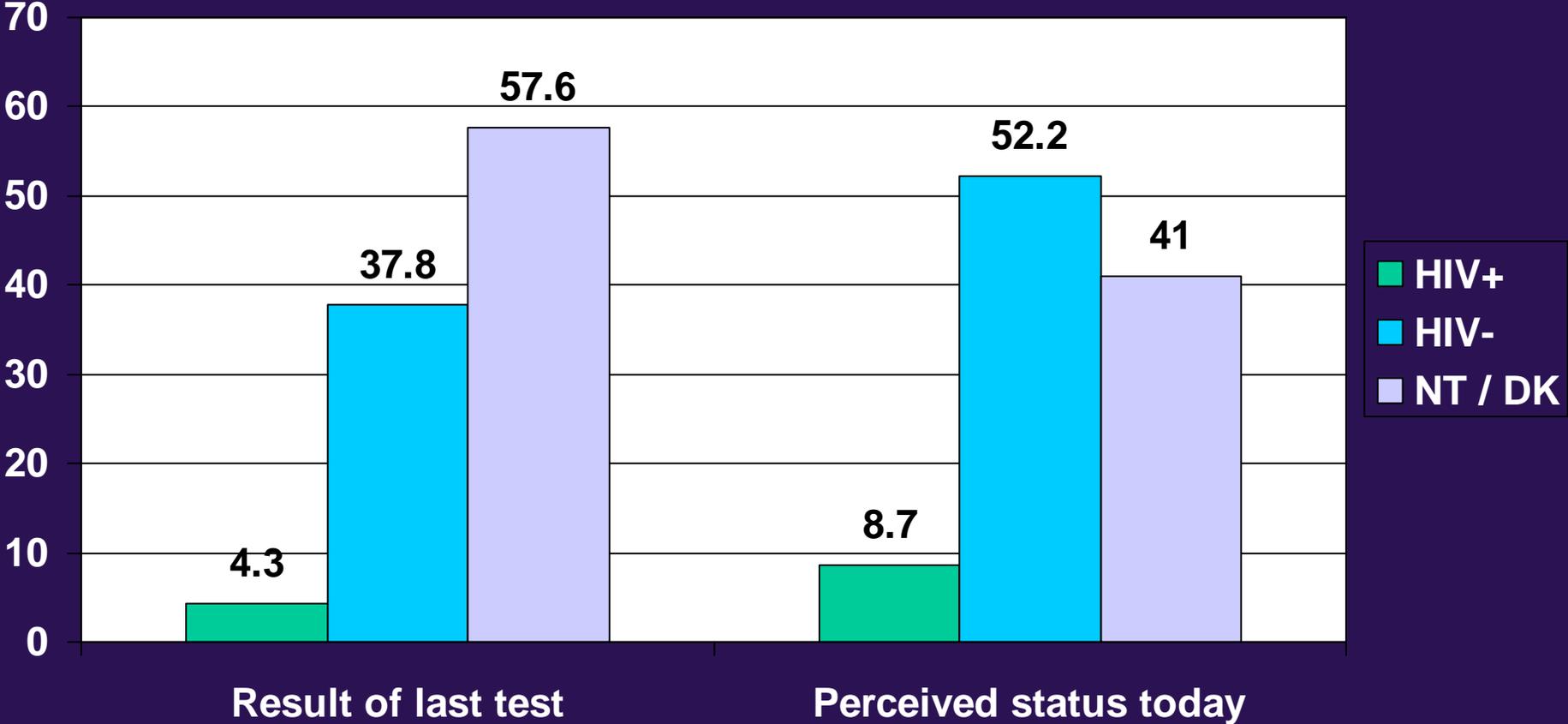
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- Recruited 368 MSM in 30 weeks (inc. 15 seeds)
- Crude sample N=368
  - 99.7% black South African men, resident in Soweto
  - Age: Mean 24 (range 18-58)
  - Education: Mean 12 years; 18% post-secondary
  - Income: 85% < R1000/month

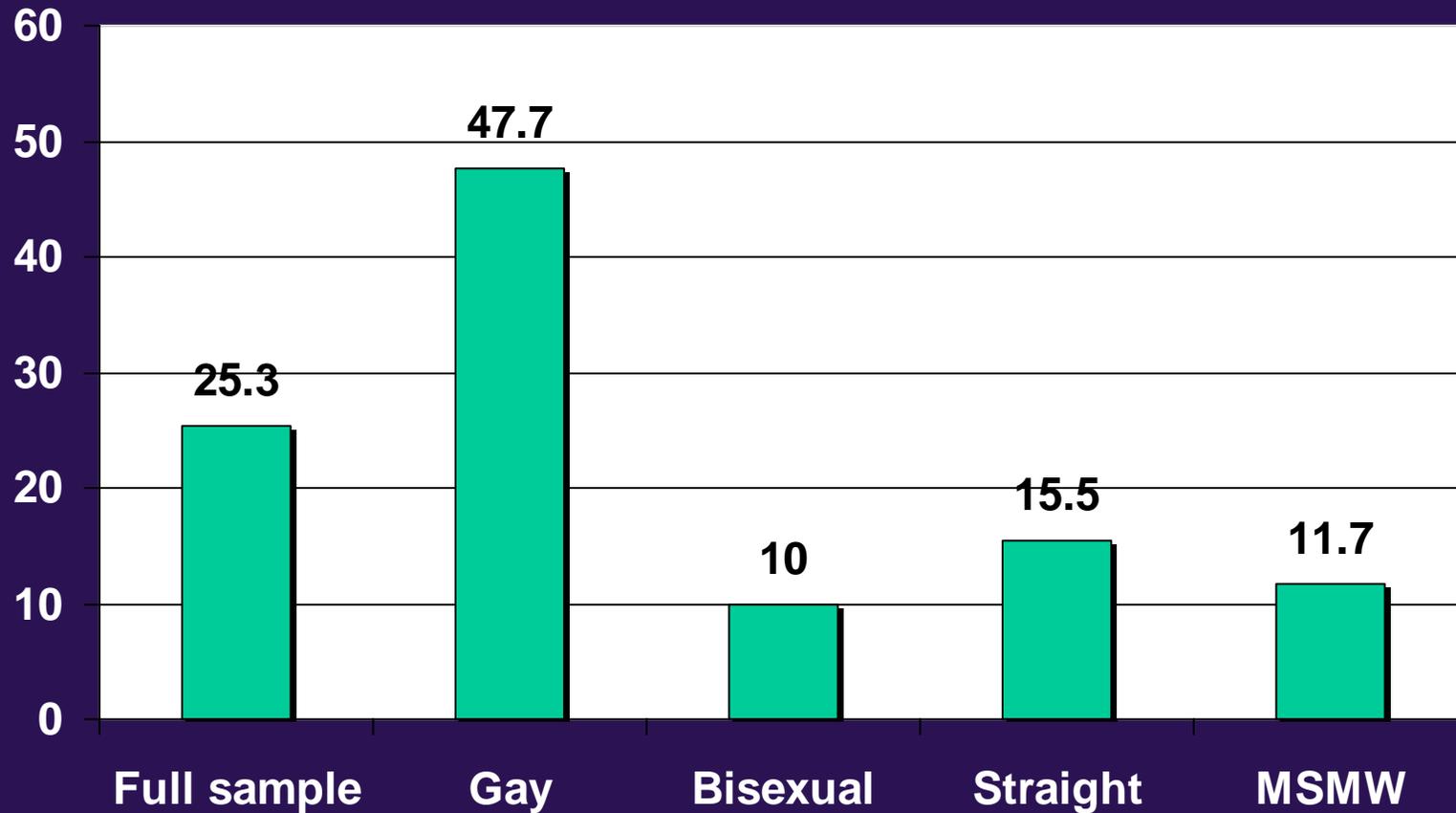
# Sexual Identity & Behavior

	Sample %	Regular female partner	Woman among last 5 partners (MSMW)
<b>Gay</b>	34.3%	3.1%	4.0%
<b>Bisexual</b>	30.0%	62.7%	59.1%
<b>Straight</b>	35.7%	83.2%	70.5%
<b>Total</b>	100%	50.0%	44.3%

# Testing history and perceived status



# HIV Prevalence in MSM groups



# MSMW risk behavior with men

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- 44.4% of men who reported a regular female partner reported UAI with other men (64/144)
- 33.1% of men who reported women among their last 5 partners report UAI with other men (54/163)
- >90% of UAI among MSMW is reported as insertive, but 39.6% reported unlubricated UAI

# VCT Statistics

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- 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)

# Preliminary Conclusions

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- Among MSM, gay-identified men are at highest risk for HIV infection
- Risk behavior among MSMW is cause for concern despite lower HIV prevalence
- Low uptake of results and treatment services among participants suggests high stigma against HIV+ MSM

# PHRU & MSM

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- Research to better understand and eliminate barriers to MSM HIV testing and treatment
- Support services for HIV+ MSM
- HIV prevention research and outreach to MSM
  - Challenge of hidden MSMW
- Increase access to condoms and free latex-compatible lubrication
- Links to “Health4Men”

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