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INTRODUCTION

- ◆ Men who have sex with men (MSM) are more likely to experience intimate partner violence (IPV) during their lifetime than heterosexual couples.
- ◆ HIV-status and related HIV stigma may play an important role in IPV within intimate partnerships among MSM.
- ◆ HIV- and MSM-related stigmas are common among Chinese MSM, yet there is sparse literature on IPV and its relationship with stigma in this vulnerable population.
- ◆ We evaluate the prevalence of IPV and its relationship with HIV- and MSM-related stigma among newly diagnosed HIV-infected MSM in Beijing, China.

OBJECTIVES

- ◆ To evaluate the association between HIV-stigma and stigma related to identifying as a man who has sex with other men (MSM) and reporting of intimate partner violence (IPV) among newly HIV-diagnosed MSM in Beijing, China.

METHODS

- ◆ Data were collected in the baseline survey among newly HIV-diagnosed Chinese MSM in a randomized clinical trial via face-to-face interviews.
- ◆ Simple and multiple logistic regression analyses were performed to assess the associations between IPV and HIV- and MSM-related stigma.

RESULTS

- ◆ Of 367 newly as likely HIV-diagnosed Chinese MSM, 23.7% experienced any IPV, including 16.6% physical, 7.4% psychological and 5.2% sexual IPV. Positive associations were found between HIV- and MSM-related stigma and IPV. Men with high HIV-related stigma (score ≥ 27) were 1.68 times as likely to experience any IPV as those with low stigma (adjusted odds ratio [AOR]: 1.68, 95% confidence interval [CI]: 1.03-2.76).
- ◆ Men with high MSM-related stigma (score ≥ 6) were 1.98 times as likely to experience any IPV as those with low stigma (AOR: 1.98, 95% CI: 1.19-3.31). Men with high HIV- and MSM-related stigma were 2.86 times to experience any IPV as those with low stigma (AOR: 2.86, 95% CI: 1.44-5.69).

Table 1. Association between sociodemographic and behavioral factors of IPV and stigma among 367 newly HIV-diagnosed Chinese MSM

Factors	Any IPV N (%)	P	High HIV- related stigma N (%)	P	High MSM- related stigma N (%)	P
Age (year)		0.24		0.83		0.04
≤30	61(25.6)		119(50.0)		125(52.5)	
>30	26(20.2)		66(51.2)		82(63.6)	
Ethnicity		0.97		0.51		0.71
Han	81(23.7)		174(50.9)		192(56.1)	
Other	6(24.0)		11(44.0)		15(60.0)	
Marital status		0.59		0.05		0.56
Single	78(24.2)		169(52.3)		184(57.0)	
Currently married	9(20.5)		16(36.4)		23(52.3)	
Currently living with		0.83		0.58		0.36
Male sexual partner	18(22.8)		42(53.2)		41(51.9)	
Others	69(24.0)		143(49.7)		166(57.6)	
Education		0.12		0.47		0.96
Junior middle school or lower	15(30.0)		23(46.0)		29(58.0)	
high school	12(34.3)		15(42.9)		20(57.1)	
College	60(21.3)		147(52.1)		158(56.0)	
Employment		0.19		0.97		0.11
Employed	72(23.7)		154(50.7)		178(58.6)	
Unemployed	7(18.0)		19(48.7)		16(41.3)	
Student	8(33.3)		12(50.0)		13(54.2)	
Personal monthly income, Chinese yuan		0.14		0.54		0.19
<5000	58(26.4)		108(49.1)		118(53.6)	
≥5000	29(19.7)		77(52.4)		89(60.5)	
Have a health insurance plan		0.04		0.58		0.60
Yes	40(19.7)		105(51.7)		117(57.6)	
No	47(28.7)		80(48.8)		90(54.9)	
Place of birth		0.52		0.20		<0.01
Urban	59(22.8)		125(48.3)		133(51.4)	
Rural	28(25.9)		60(55.6)		74(68.5)	
Registered Beijing household (Hukou)		0.91		0.31		0.95
Yes	16(24.2)		37(56.1)		37(56.1)	
No	71(23.6)		148(49.2)		170(56.5)	
Duration of living in Beijing, year		0.15		0.43		0.11
<5	49(26.9)		88(48.4)		95(52.2)	
≥5	38(20.5)		97(52.4)		112(60.5)	
Drinking alcohol in the past 3 months						
Yes	46(22.8)	0.64	104(51.5)	0.65	121(59.9)	0.13
No	41(24.9)		81(49.1)		86(52.1)	
Using illicit drugs in the past 3 months						
Yes	26(21.5)	0.48	65(53.7)	0.37	73(60.3)	0.29
No	61(24.8)		120(48.8)		134(54.5)	

Table 2. HIV- and MSM-related stigma by IPV type among 367 newly HIV-diagnosed Chinese MSM

Stigma	Participants N(%)	Any IPV		Physical IPV		Psychological IPV		Sexual IPV	
		N(%)	P	N(%)	P	N(%)	P	N(%)	P
HIV-related stigma			0.05		0.36		0.18		0.11
Low	182 (49.6)	35 (19.2)		27 (14.8)		10 (5.5)		6 (3.3)	
High	185 (50.4)	52 (28.1)		34 (18.4)		17 (9.2)		13 (7.0)	
MSM-related stigma			0.01		0.11		0.05		0.28
Low	160 (43.6)	28 (17.5)		21 (13.1)		7 (4.4)		6 (3.8)	
High	207 (56.4)	59 (28.5)		40 (19.3)		20 (9.7)		13 (6.3)	
HIV- or MSM-related stigma			0.01		0.07		0.06		0.22
Both low	103(28.1)	14 (13.6)		10 (9.7)		5 (4.9)		3 (2.9)	
One high/one low	136(37.1)	35 (25.7)		28 (20.6)		7 (5.2)		6 (4.4)	
Both high	128(34.9)	38 (29.7)		23 (18.0)		15 (11.7)		10 (7.8)	

Table 3. Association between HIV- and MSM-related stigma and any IPV among 367 newly HIV-diagnosed Chinese MSM

Covariate	Any IPV	
	Crude OR (95% CI)	AOR(95% CI)
HIV-related stigma		
Low	1.0	1.0
High	1.64(1.01-2.68)*	1.68(1.03-2.76)*
MSM-related stigma		
Low	1.0	1.0
High	1.88(1.13-3.12)*	1.98(1.19-3.31)**
HIV- or MSM-related stigmas		
Both low	1.0	1.0
One high one low	2.20(1.11-4.36)*	2.33(1.17-4.64)*
Both high	2.68(1.36-5.29)**	2.86(1.44-5.69)**

*Significant at P <0.05; **Significant at P <0.01

CONCLUSION

- ◆ HIV- and MSM-related stigma was positively associated with IPV experiences among newly diagnosed MSM in China. The manner in which stigma may exacerbate IPV, and/or the influence of IPV on worsening stigma should be further evaluated.
- ◆ The high prevalence of IPV and stigma in this population suggests that interventions should be taken to reduce stigma and prevent this risky behavior among MSM.