

Violence victimisation and ART-defaulting in South Africa



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& the Mzantsi Wakho team

HIV+ ADOLESCENTS: UNDERSTANDING NON-ADHERENCE



Integrated research methods:

Qualitative research (2013-2018)

- In-depth qualitative research with **N=80 youth**, healthcare workers, social service providers, families and loved ones of youth participants
- Open-ended interviews, focus groups, home and school observations, clinic observations (1000+hours)
- Participatory exercises with youth and caregivers: dream clinics & consultations, youth summits, focus groups

Quantitative longitudinal panel study (2014-2018)

- **N=1,526** adolescents, **1060 HIV+**, **467 HIV-**
- Every adolescent who ever initiated ART in an urban/rural health district of the Eastern Cape: 53 health facilities
- Community-tracing, 3-year longitudinal tracking
- Clinical and interview data, standardised questionnaires

'Dream consultations' and 'Yummy or crummy' game



Dream consultations:
How youth imagine and
perform their ideal clinic visit

Yummy or crummy?

Mzantsi Wakho Masterchef: How youth
experience medicines-taking, and what social
and experiential factors influence adherence.





Teen Confidential

Teenagers have different ideas and feelings about sex. Nobrable often discuss with her (or)friends their thoughts about relationships, pregnancy and HIV. (It)he(s)he and his friends sometimes chat about other teens he is attracted to and his ideas about sex.



Can you tell us how your friends at school and home feel about sex and relationships? Remember it's totally confidential and no one will know what your responses are, it's just important that you tell us how you really feel.

a) 1. How many of your friends think that having sex at your age with as many people as possible is a cool thing for a (boy/girl) to do.

- None Some
 Most All

b) How many of your friends think that using condoms is like eating sweets in their wrapper?

- None Some
 Most All

c) 1. How many of your friends have had sex because they were drunk or high on drugs?

- None Some
 Most All

d) How many of your friends have been pregnant or have gotten someone pregnant?

- None Some
 Most All

e) Could you tell us a little bit about what people in your community think about HIV?

f) People in the community think that a person with HIV is disgusting?

- Most of the time
 Sometimes
 Never

g) People in my community think that HIV is a punishment from God or from ancestors.

- Most of the time
 Sometimes
 Never

h) Do you play or did you play a sport at school, like soccer, netball, running, rugby, drum majorettes, or cricket?

- Yes
 I don't/didn't play sports at school
 I was told not to play sports at school

GAME TIME

6. Who is your favourite sports player?



7. Do you support a team?



8. What are your favourite soaps?



9. Which soapie star are you most like?

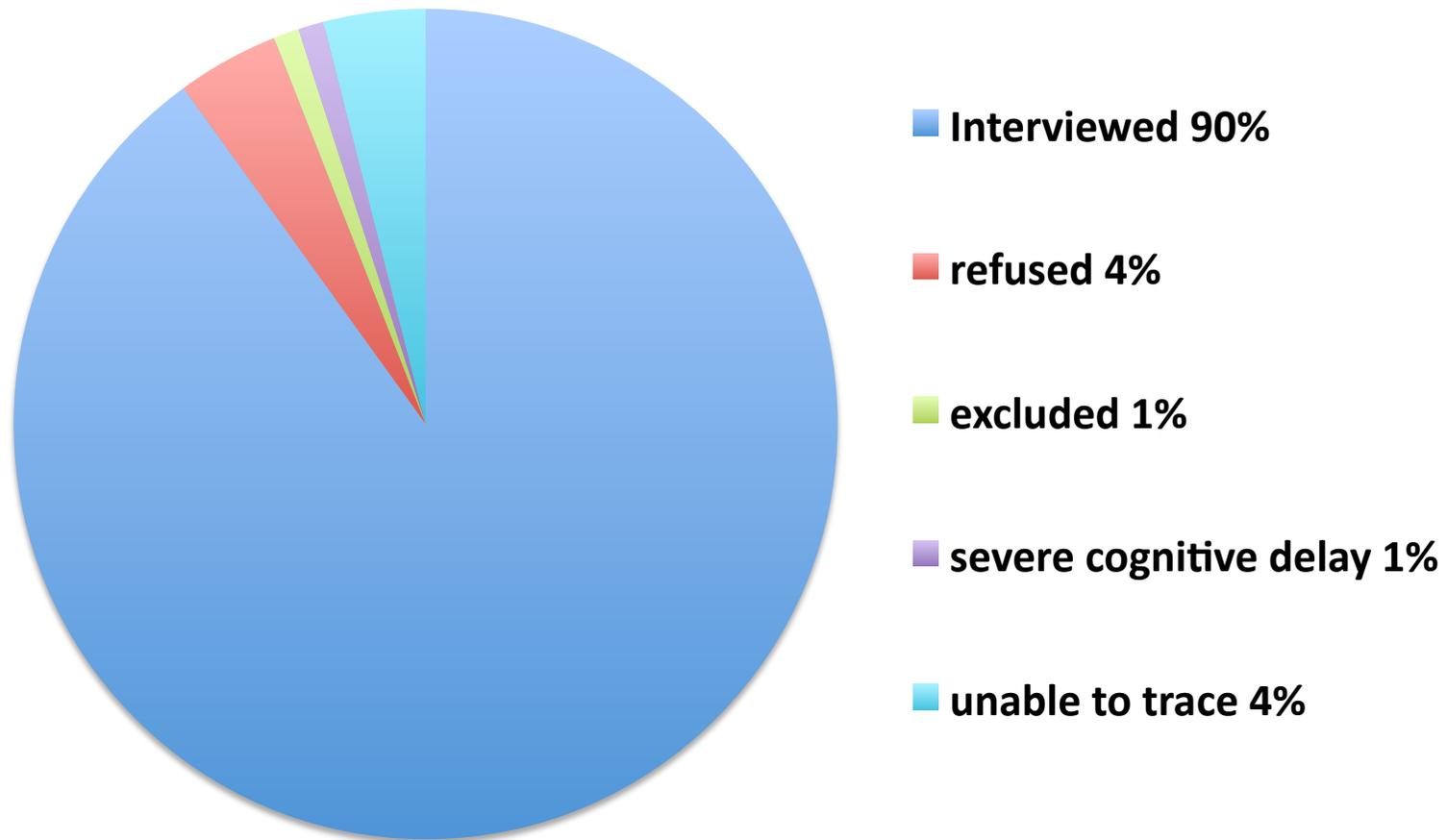
10. Why are you like them?



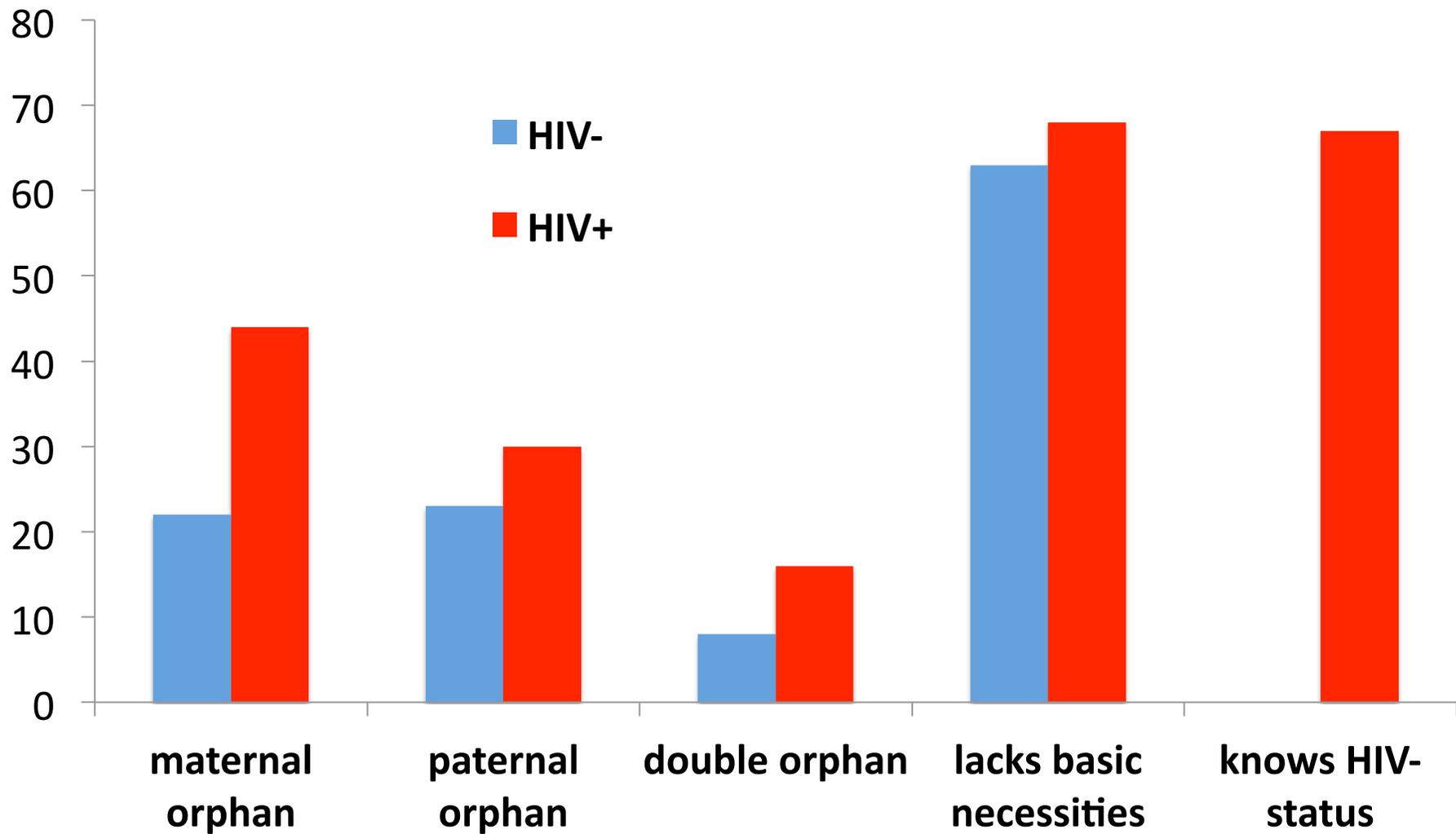
SAMPLE REPRESENTATIVITY

Eastern Cape, urban/rural/peri-urban health district

53 government facilities

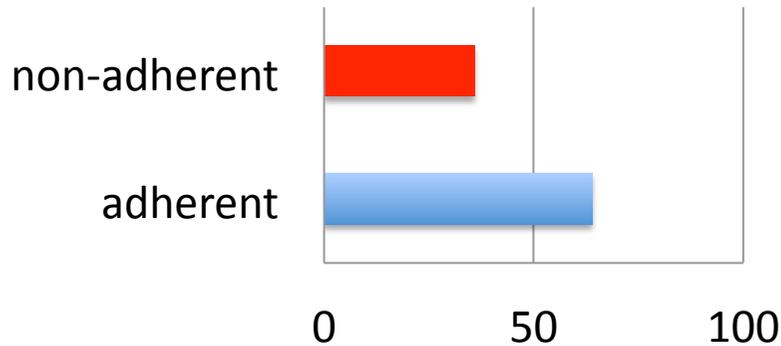


WHO ARE OUR SAMPLE? (n=1526)

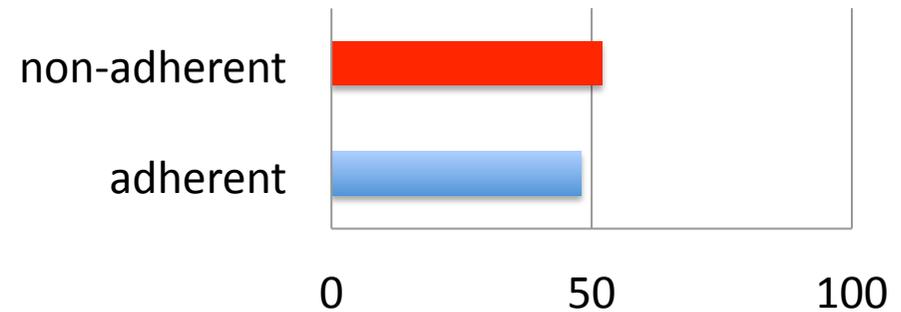


NON-ADHERENCE (n=1060 HIV+ adolescents)

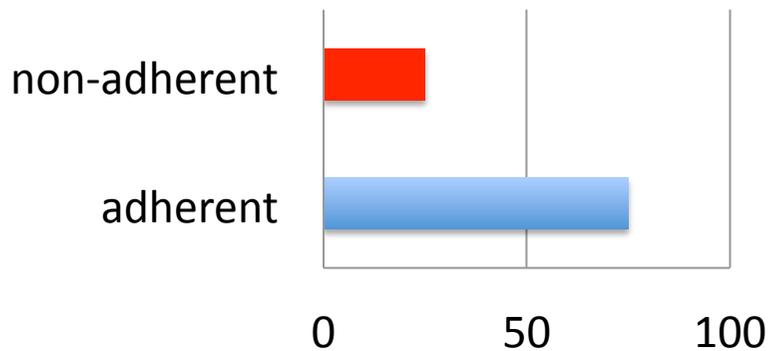
Past-week non-adherence to ART: 36% (self-report)



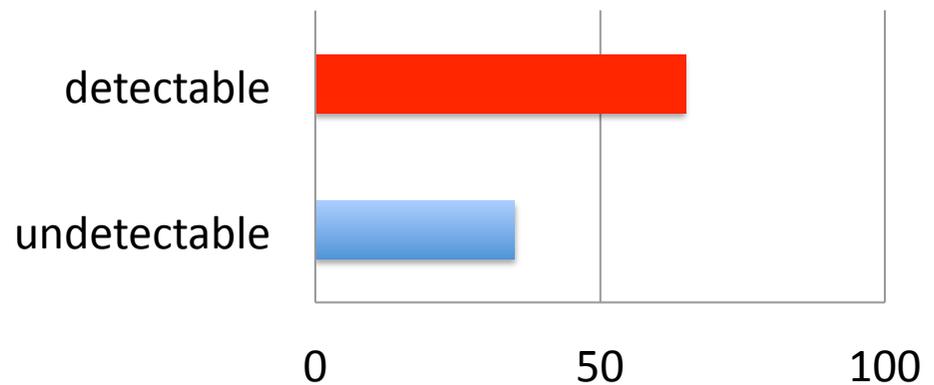
Past-year non-adherence to ART: 52% (self report)



Past-weekend non-adherence to ART: 25% (self-report)



Detectable VL (>75 copies/ml: clinic records)



IS SELF-REPORTED NON-ADHERENCE VALID?

Past-week non-adherence - associations with biomarkers

Current opportunistic infections

B.269
p<.006

Detectable Viral Load

OR 1.98, CI 1.13-4.45
p<.05

Controlling for: age, gender, perinatal/horizontal infection, rural/urban location, ethnicity, formal/informal home, maternal orphanhood, paternal orphanhood, health status, time on treatment, travel time to clinic

WEEKENDS

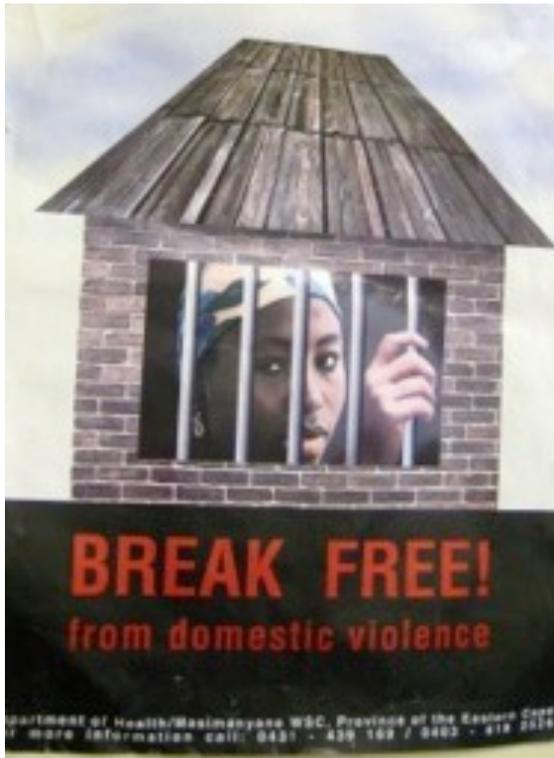
On weekends, Andiwe spends time with friends and family. Sometimes he travels to visit family members, or stays out late with his friends. Some weekends he stays at home, goes to church and helps out his parents and grandparents. It is not always easy for him to take his medication during Saturdays and Sundays, but he does his best. Think about last weekend – Saturday and Sunday.

1. What did you do last weekend?

- Stayed at home
- Visited relatives
- Played sports with friends
- Go out with friends
- Other

2. How many times did you not take your medication last weekend?

Adolescents experience violence in public and private settings, including those intended for health and social service provision



Two clinic posters: 'break free from domestic violence' and 'no guns in the maternity ward'

Interview with Anna, 16 years old, defaulting on ART

Athambile: There is a lot of crime this side.

Interviewer: What do they do?

Athambile: They rape people at night...

Interviewer: When you grow up, do you want to get married?

Athambile: No... I don't want a man.

Interviewer: How about children?

Athambile: Them too [shaking head].

Interviewer: Oh, why is that?

Athambile: Men beat up women.

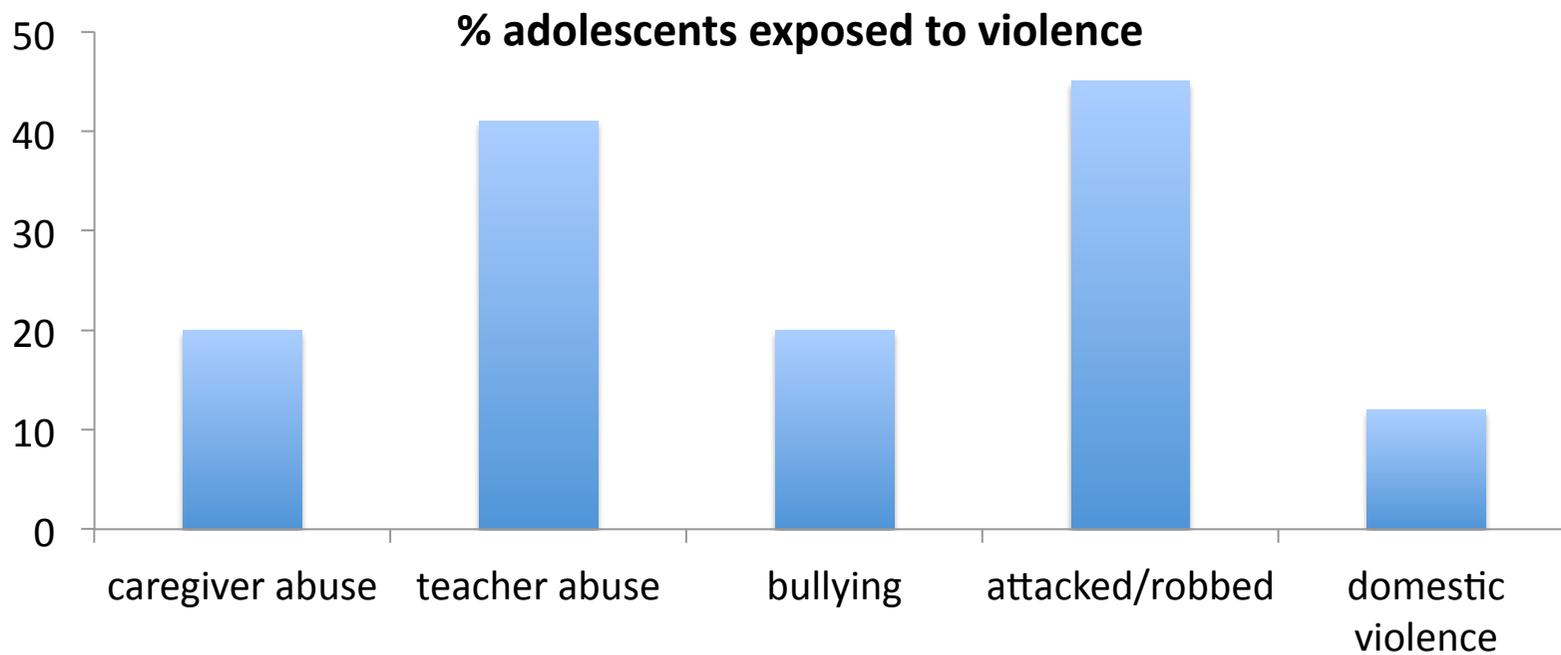
Interview with Zodwa, raped by her uncle when she was six months old:

'When I think about it, it makes me angry!.. It makes me hate myself sometimes.. I ask myself, 'Why me?', and 'Why did he do it to me when I was very little?'

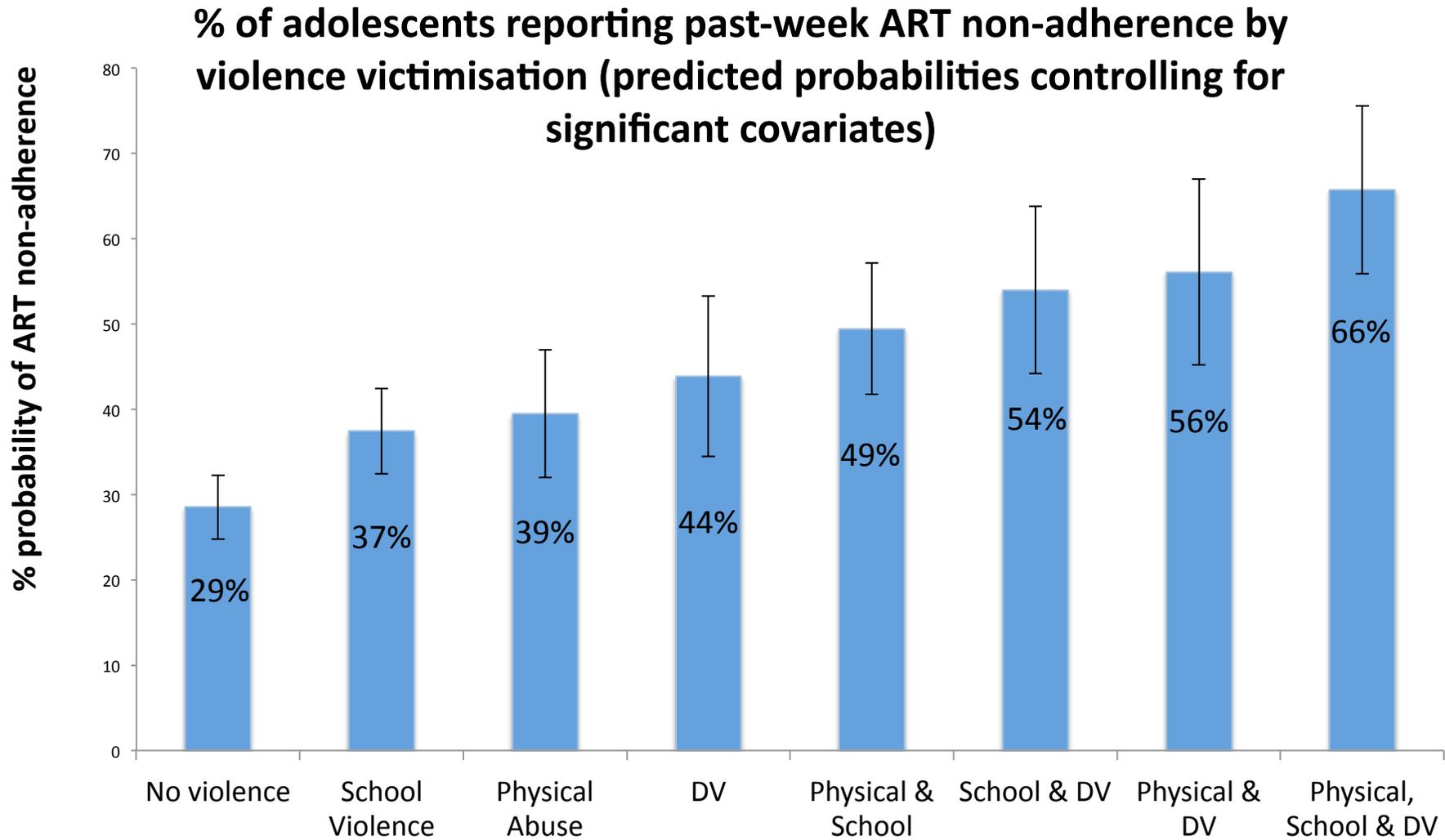
RATES OF VIOLENCE

controlling for socio-demographic and HIV covariates:

- Physical abuse at home - OR 1.7 CI 1.2-2.4 p<.001
- Teacher abuse – OR 1.5 CI 1.2-2.0 p<.001
- Domestic violence- OR 2.0 CI 1.4-3.0 p<.001



VIOLENCE EXPOSURE AND NON-ADHERENCE



Jasmine (16), perinatally-infected, switched to second line after persistent defaulting, missed ART doses at least weekly

Interviewer: Is there crime happening here?

Jasmine: *Yho*. Ja.

Interviewer: What kind of crime?

Jasmine: Stealing.

Interviewer: Does it happen in daylight or at night?

Jasmine: Any time.

Interviewer: Do girls get raped here?

Jasmine: Yes. My cousin was raped [...]

Interviewer: Is the [rapist] in jail now?

Jasmine: No.

Interviewer: Where is he?

Jasmine: Still at [the same place he was living at the time of the rape.]

Interviewer: Did you go to the police?

Jasmine: Yes, with her mother.

Interviewer: What did the police do?

Jasmine: I don't know...

Interviewer: It sounds like its not safe around here.

Jasmine: Yes.



Focus group with Jasmine and friends/family

INCREDIBLE TEAMS & TEENS

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