



Screening for Violence Exposures in a Trauma-Informed Manner: Identifying an Optimal Screener for HIV Care Settings

Jessica M. Sales, PhD, Katherine Anderson, MPH, Melvin Livingston, PhD,
Selaem Hadera, BA, Eve Rose, MPH, Madelyn Carlson, MPH, Ameeta S. Kalokhe, MD

Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University
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Study Objective

- To examine the association between various violence screeners as well as proxy mental health screeners (i.e., depression, anxiety, PTSD) and HIV outcomes (retention in care and viral suppression) among a diverse sample of PWH in Atlanta, GA.



Methods

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- Between February 2021-December 2022, we conducted a cross-sectional survey among PWH (N=285) in Atlanta, GA



- **Recruitment:** 19 HIV service or research settings in four EHE priority counties (Fulton, DeKalb, Cobb, and Gwinnett):
 - 2 Ryan White-funded clinics (RWCs) and affiliated hospital system
 - 8 Independent RWCs
 - 8 AIDS service organizations (ASOs)
 - 1 Community-based clinical research site
- **Eligibility:** Participants needed to be living with HIV, age ≥ 18 years, have capacity to consent, and speak either English or Spanish fluently

Data collection

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Variable	Screenener
ACEs	CTQ-SF
IPV	CTS2
Non-partner violence	THQ; Modified Anti-Gay Violence and Victimization Scale
PTSD	PCL
Depression	PHQ-9
Anxiety	GAD-Y
Substance use	AUDIT; DAST-10

HIV Outcome Measure
Ever Virally Suppressed, past 12 months
Ever Virally Suppressed, past 24 months
Durable Viral Suppression, past 12 months
Durable Viral Suppression, past 24 months
Engaged in HIV Care, past 6 months
Retained in HIV Care, past 24 months



Study Sample Demographics (N=285)

- Middle age sample (median age of 50 years)
- Majority male (n=197; 69%)
- Predominately Black (n=258; 91%)
- Few Hispanic/Latinx (n=20; 7%)
- Many identify as gay/lesbian/same gender loving (n=120; 42%)
- High unemployment (n=190; 67%)
- Some with housing insecurity (n=39; 13%)



Descriptive Results

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Violence	Mental Health	HIV outcomes
97% Any ACEs	59% PTSD scores above diagnostic cutoff	~90% virally suppressed at some point (past 12m)
88% Any IPV (lifetime)	30% with moderate or greater depression scores	96% virally suppressed at some point (past 24m)
97% Any Non-partner violence (lifetime)	33% with moderate to severe anxiety	72% durable viral suppression (past 12m)
93% Experienced a hate crime (lifetime)		69% durable viral suppression (past 24m)
		80% had attended HIV care visit (past 6m)
		44% retained in care past 24m

Violence and HIV Outcomes

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Table 1. Lifetime Violence Exposure by HIV Outcomes among PLWH, Atlanta, GA, 2020-2021 (N=285)

Lifetime Violence Exposure	HIV Outcome																	
	Ever Virally Suppressed 12M		p	Ever Virally Suppressed 24M		p	Durable Viral Suppression 12M		p	Durable Viral Suppression 24M		p	Engagement in HIV Care 6M		p	Retention in HIV Care 24M		p
	Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No	
Any Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE)	97.29	95.83	0.5186	97.38	83.33	0.1714	97.22	96.92	1.000	97.12	96.55	1.000	96.71	100.00	0.6037	97.41	97.10	1.000
Any Lifetime Partner Violence (IPV)	86.36	100.00	0.1720	87.72	93.75	0.4795	85.39	93.94	0.2016	85.07	96.55	0.1050	87.74	90.91	0.6737	89.83	86.96	0.6143
Assault IPV	42.73	66.67	0.1135	46.49	62.50	0.2302	43.82	48.48	0.6455	40.30	51.72	0.3001	45.28	54.55	0.4282	42.37	50.72	0.3452
Sexual IPV	32.73	41.67	0.5336	35.09	31.25	0.7625	33.33	33.71	0.9690	31.34	41.38	0.3418	35.85	27.27	0.4409	35.59	33.33	0.7884
Injury IPV	29.09	41.67	0.3682	31.58	37.50	0.6353	28.09	36.36	0.3772	28.36	17.24	0.2481	33.02	22.73	0.3433	30.51	31.88	0.8671
Any Non-Partner Violence (NPV)	97.29	100.00	0.3950	97.37	97.14	0.9385	97.19	98.55	0.5334	97.10	98.39	0.5902	97.20	97.78	0.8269	96.52	97.90	0.4976
NPV: Crime	74.03	77.78	0.6725	72.57	75.00	0.7603	74.87	73.24	0.7891	72.92	67.19	0.3999	74.44	70.21	0.5497	68.91	77.33	0.1194
NPV: General Violence	94.69	100.00	0.2286	94.42	97.14	0.4998	93.99	98.55	0.1295	95.74	95.24	0.8707	94.98	93.33	0.6540	94.02	95.21	0.6697
NPV: Sexual Violence	69.03	57.69	0.2412	68.10	68.10	0.9558	66.48	71.43	0.4515	68.09	76.19	0.2405	68.35	69.57	0.8717	65.81	70.55	0.4115
Ever Experience of a Hate Crime	89.37	10.63	0.9878	92.31	97.14	0.2977	91.30	95.71	0.2326	89.44	96.83	0.0767	93.18	91.30	0.6530	90.68	94.56	0.2237

Violence and Mental Health

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Lifetime Violence Exposure	Mental Health Outcome								
	Depression		<i>p</i>	Anxiety		<i>p</i>	PTSD		<i>p</i>
	Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No	
Any Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE)	100.00	96.45	0.2037	99.11	96.18	0.2449	98.68	95.71	0.2453
Any Lifetime Partner Violence (IPV)	95.12	85.71	0.1150	94.92	83.56	0.0410	93.15	83.33	0.0749
Assault IPV	63.41	41.76	0.0212	59.32	38.36	0.0165	60.27	33.33	0.0020
Sexual IPV	39.02	31.87	0.4222	40.68	30.14	0.2064	45.21	21.67	0.0045
Injury IPV	43.90	27.47	0.0623	42.37	24.66	0.0308	39.73	23.33	0.0443
Any Non-Partner Violence (NPV)	100.00	96.35	0.0896	100.00	95.57	0.0234	99.37	94.69	0.0167
NPV: Crime	80.00	69.85	0.0850	77.31	69.14	0.1290	77.11	66.67	0.0536
NPV: General Violence	97.47	93.85	0.2174	99.14	91.88	0.0066	98.15	90.27	0.0034
NPV: Sexual Violence	73.08	67.18	0.3418	77.59	62.89	0.0092	78.88	53.51	<.0001
Ever Experience of a Hate Crime	94.94	92.86	0.5281	95.73	91.25	0.1454	96.95	87.50	0.0023

Mental Health and HIV Outcomes #CONTINUUM2024



Table 3. HIV Care Outcomes by Mental Health Outcomes among PLWH, Atlanta, GA, 2021-2022 (N=285)

HIV Care Outcome	Mental Health Outcome								
	Depression		<i>p</i>	Anxiety		<i>p</i>	PTSD		<i>p</i>
	Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No	
Ever Virally Suppressed, past 12 months	89.04	89.39	0.9361	87.96	90.41	0.5315	86.90	92.59	0.1467
Ever Virally Suppressed, past 24 months	83.12	87.89	0.3004	87.93	85.62	0.5815	83.54	90.91	0.0820
Durable Viral Suppression, past 12 months	64.38	75.98	0.0612	69.44	74.66	0.3580	65.52	81.48	0.0050
Durable Viral Suppression, past 24 months	64.29	70.95	0.3582	69.05	70.00	0.8843	61.74	78.65	0.0095
Engagement in HIV Care, past 6 months	77.63	84.57	0.1781	85.71	80.52	0.2687	79.08	87.50	0.0740
Retention in HIV Care, past 24 months	44.00	44.15	0.9825	48.21	41.18	0.2544	43.42	46.43	0.6271

HIV Outcomes by PTSD Score #CONTINUUM2024



Table 4. Binary Logistic Regression of HIV Outcomes by PTSD Score among PLWH, Atlanta, GA, 2021-2022 (N=285)

Outcome	Model 1*	Model 2**	Model 3***
	OR (95%)	aOR (95%)	aOR (95%)
Ever Virally Suppressed, past 12 months	0.53 (0.22, 1.26)	0.69 (0.27, 1.75)	0.77 (0.23, 2.62)
Ever Virally Suppressed, past 24 months	0.51 (0.23, 1.10)	0.64 (0.28, 1.46)	0.78 (0.27, 2.26)
Durable Viral Suppression, past 12 months	0.43 (0.24, 0.78)	0.52 (0.27, 0.99)	0.54 (0.23, 1.28)
Durable Viral Suppression, past 24 months	0.44 (0.23, 0.82)	0.51 (0.26, 1.02)	0.35 (0.14, 0.87)
Engagement in HIV Care, past 6 months	0.54 (0.27, 1.07)	0.56 (0.28, 1.16)	0.48 (0.19, 1.20)
Retention in HIV Care, past 24 months	0.89 (0.54, 1.45)	1.10 (0.64, 1.90)	0.90 (0.44, 1.85)

Note: Bolded values indicate significance at a level of p>0.05

*Unadjusted

**Adjusted for age, gender, race, ethnicity, education attainment, employment, housing insecurity

*** Adjusted for age, gender, race, ethnicity, education attainment, employment, housing insecurity, depression, anxiety, alcohol use, substance use



Discussion

- Experiences of violence were alarmingly high across various forms of interpersonal and community violence.
- High levels of violence coupled with lack of direct association with HIV outcomes suggests extensive violence screening, which may be re-traumatizing, may not be necessary.
- Instead, a universal trauma-informed approach to care should be considered with all patients.
- Screening resources should be dedicated to assessment of danger and/or potential mediators in the violence-to-HIV outcome pathways, such as PTSD screening.



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