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# Concordance in Reporting of Sexual Risk Behaviors in the HIV Sero Discordant Couples From Central Region, Uganda.

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## Background

Measurement and evaluation of sexual risk behavior in at-risk populations has been critical to HIV epidemiology and the targeting of HIV prevention responses. Evaluation of concordance of reports of sexual behavior within couples offers insight into potential bias and the direction of the bias in different populations, whether men or women, HIV-infected or HIV-uninfected partners tend to under or over report certain behaviors. This study examined HIV sero discordant couples (SDCs)' concordance of self-reported sexual behavior and predictors of discordant reporting for couples who had been in a relationship longer than 6 months.



Figure 1. Map of Kampala, Uganda

## Methods

### RESEARCH QUESTIONS

What is the level of concordance of reporting of sexual risk behavior among persons in HIV serodiscordant couples attending, Kasangati Health center IV ?

What factors are associated with a concordance of reporting of sexual risk behavior among persons in HIV serodiscordant couples attending, Kasangati Health center IV ?

### Study Design and Sample

The COS study screened 1012 participants (506 couples) and enrolled 400 heterosexual HIV-discordant couples.

### Data Collection

Secondary data from the Partners in Prevention Couples' Observational Study (COS)

A longitudinal data analysis among HIV SDCs using univariable and multivariable regression models.

### Data Analysis

An analysis on secondary data collected among HIV serodiscordant couples to assess the level of concordance of reporting of sexual risk behaviors and associated factors was done.

## Results

### Descriptive Categories

Majority of index participants were male; 51.8% (207/400) while majority of partner participants were female; 51.8% (207/400). Majority (46.8% (187/400)) of the index participants were aged between 28 to 37 years while majority (37.5% (150/400)) of the partner participant were aged between 18 to 27 years. Majority (54.4 % ( 217/400)) of the index participants spent less than 8 years in school compared to the partner participants where majority (51.0 % ( 204/400)) spent 8 or more years in school. Majority of both the index (54% (216/400)) and partner participants (52.3 % ( 209/400)) reported to earn an income furthermore; majority of both index (68.8 % ( 275/400)) and partner participants (71.5 % ( 286/400)) earn less than 100,000 Uganda shillings per month. Majority of both the index participants' (91.5% (366/400)) and partner participants (89.5 % ( 358/400)) reported to have only one spouse.

Table 1. Participant Characteristics

Age group (years)	Overall N (%)	Partner (HIV negative) n(%)	Index (HIV positive) n(%)
18-27	262(32.7)	112 (28.0)	150 (37.5)
28-37	327(40.9)	187(46.8)	140(35.0)
Above 37	211(26.4)	101(25.2)	110(27.5)
<b>Sex</b>			
Male	400(50.0)	207(51.7)	193(48.3)
Female	400(50.0)	193(48.3)	207(51.7)

### Level of concordance of reporting of sexual risk behavior

The level of agreement between the index participant and the partner participant regarding the number of sexual acts that the couple had in the previous one month was good at a kappa (p value) of .647,(0.000).The level of agreement between the index participant and the partner participant regarding the number of times a condom was used by the couple in the previous one month was fair at a kappa(p value) of 0.555, (0.000)

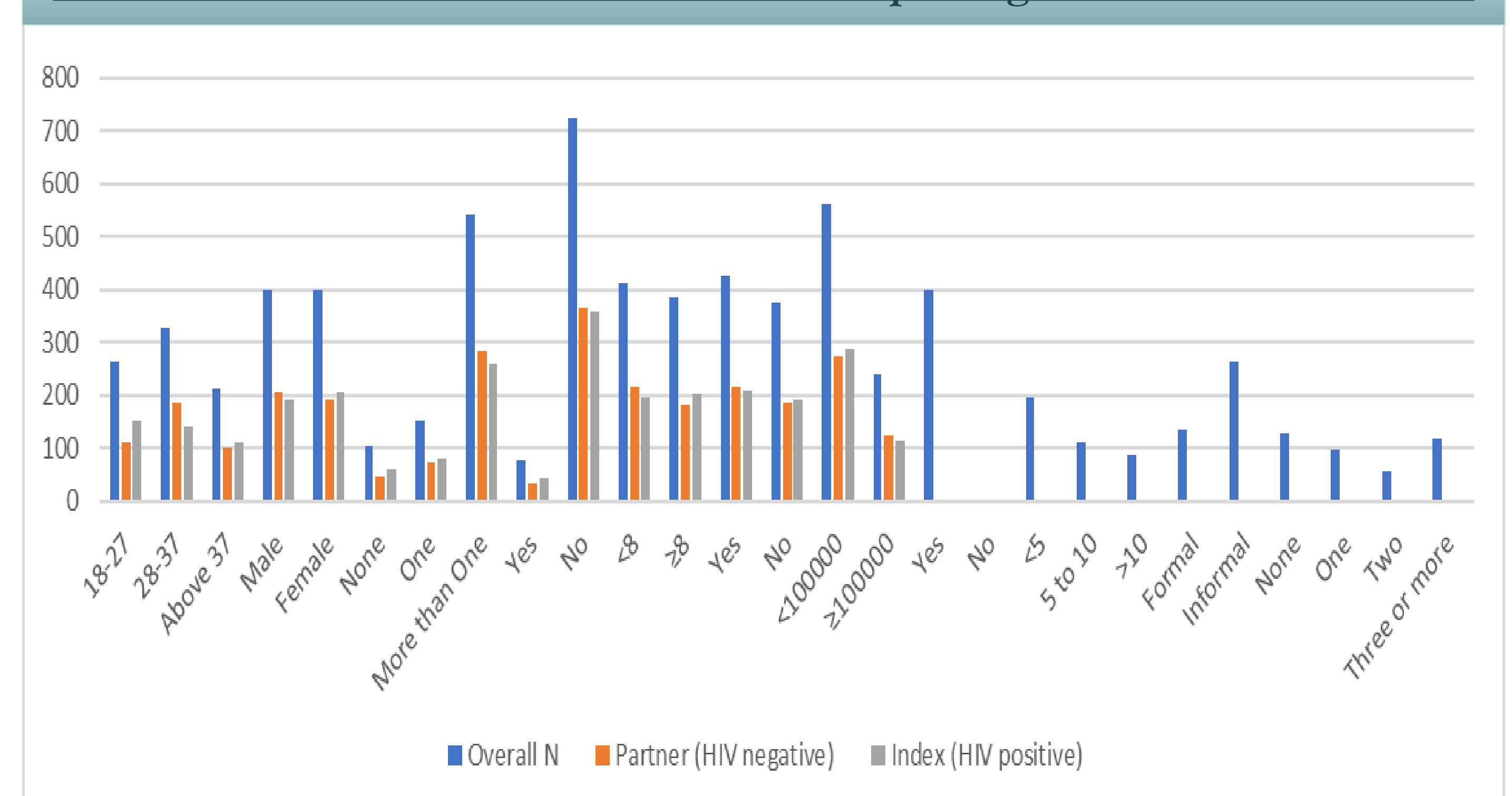
Table 2. Participants level of concordance of reporting of sexual risk behavior among the discordant couples

VARIABLE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)	Kappa statistic (P value)
Concordance of number of sexual acts (n=399)			
Yes	346	86.7	0.647 (0.000)
No	53	13.3	
Concordance of number of times a condom was used (n=315)			
Yes	273	86.7	0.555 (0.000)
No	42	13.3	

### Index participant factors associated with concordance of reporting of number of sexual acts in the previous 1 month

Index participants were more likely to have concordance of reporting of the number of sexual acts in the previous month with their partners; individuals aged between 28 and 37 years were 2.18 times more likely to have concordance of reporting of number of sexual acts in the previous month compare to those that were aged between 18 to 27 years (OR: 2.18; CI: 1.149-4.137)

### Overall Factors related to concordance of reporting of sexual risk behavior



Age (18-27, 28-37, >37); sex( M,F);No. of participant's children ( 0,1, >1) , ≥1) spouse (Y/N) ; Years in school (<8, ≥ 8); Earn income (Y/N); Monthly income in shs (<100000, >100,000); Couple living together ( Y/N); Duration of living together ( <5, 5-10, ≥ 10); Settlement type ( formal, informal); No. of children within couple( 0, 1, 2, ≥ 3)

### Conclusion

The level of concordance of reporting of number of sexual acts and number of times a condom was used during sexual intercourse was good.

### Recommendations

The level of concordance of reporting of number of sexual acts and number of times a condom was used during sexual intercourse was good. Therefore the use of self-reporting to study sexual risk behavior among HIV discordant couples is recommended.

More studies to explore concordance of sexual behavioral reporting should be done and validated with bio sex makers like incidence of Sexually transmitted diseases, Pregnancy and control for confounding factors.

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