

Findings from the CHANGE trial: a cluster randomised controlled trial to assess the impact of a multi-level intervention to reduce men's perpetration of intimate partner violence against women

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SVRI Forum

Background

- Rates of Intimate partner violence (IPV) in South Africa are high
 - Lifetime prevalence among women (18-49 years): 28-55.5% (Jewkes et al. 2001; Dunkle et al. 2004; Machisa et al. 2011)
- Population-based studies have estimated prevalence of men's use of physical and/or sexual violence against a partner at 27.5 - 42% (Jewkes et al. 2015; Abrahams et al. 2005)

Harmful masculinity norms & perpetration of IPV

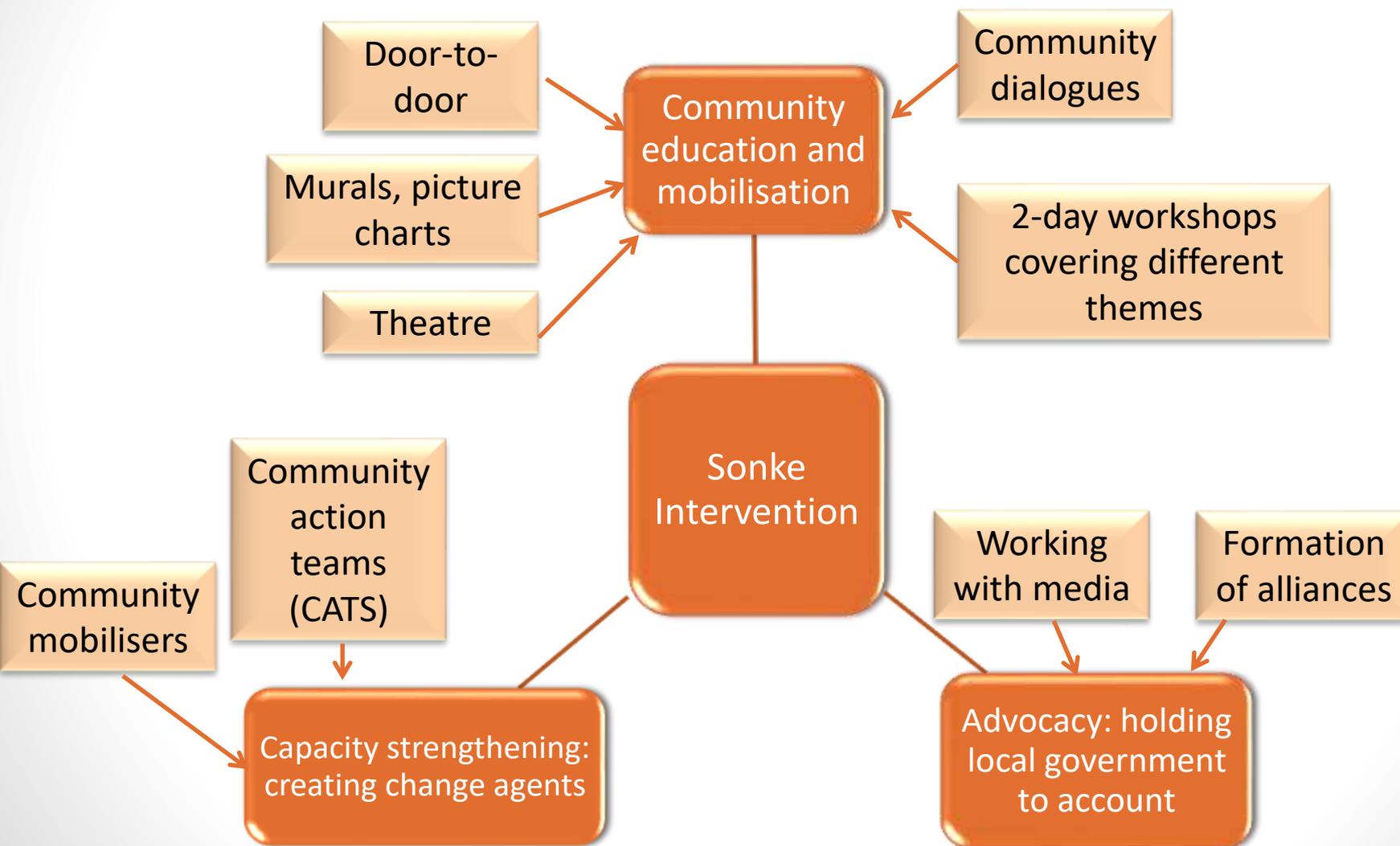
- Dominant masculinity norms (e.g. toughness, virility, power) are a key underlying factors (Fulu et al. 2013)
- Heterosexual performance is linked to men's control over women which can lead to physical and / or sexual violence (Jewkes et al. 2011)
- Inequitable gender beliefs & attitudes condoning gender-based violence are characteristics of dominant masculinity norms

Context



- Peri-urban and informal setting to the north-west of Johannesburg
- 250,000-500,000 residents

The multi-level intervention





Aim

- The aim was to determine the effectiveness of the Sonke CHANGE intervention to prevent men's use of sexual and or physical violence against an intimate partner and reduce the severity of perpetration by men aged 18 to 40 years living in a peri-urban South African settlement over two years of follow-up.
 - Registration: [ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02823288](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT02823288), registered on June 30 2016

Outcomes of interest

- Primary outcomes:
 - A reduction in any use of intimate partner physical violence and/or any use of sexual violence in the past 12 months
 - Reduction in Intensity of physical and or sexual violence use in the past 12 months against an intimate partner
- Secondary outcomes:
 - Any rape of a non-partner in the past 12 months
 - Male Controlling Behaviour
 - Gender attitudes
 - Depressive symptoms
 - Problem alcohol use
 - Transactional sex with khwapheni (longer term concurrent partner) or casual partner past 12m
 - Parenting as measured by the Parent-Child Conflict Tactics Scale
 - Social cohesion

Sonke CHANGE Trial

(2016-2018)

- 18 clusters, 9 intervention & 9 control
- 120-144 men per cluster, aged 18-40 years, resident >1 year in area
- Randomization occurred after (most) baseline data collection
- Fieldwork team was blinded to randomisation at baseline
- Endline data collection occurred 24 months after enrollment



Sonke CHANGE Trial

Proposed Diepsloot Clusters
Feb 2016

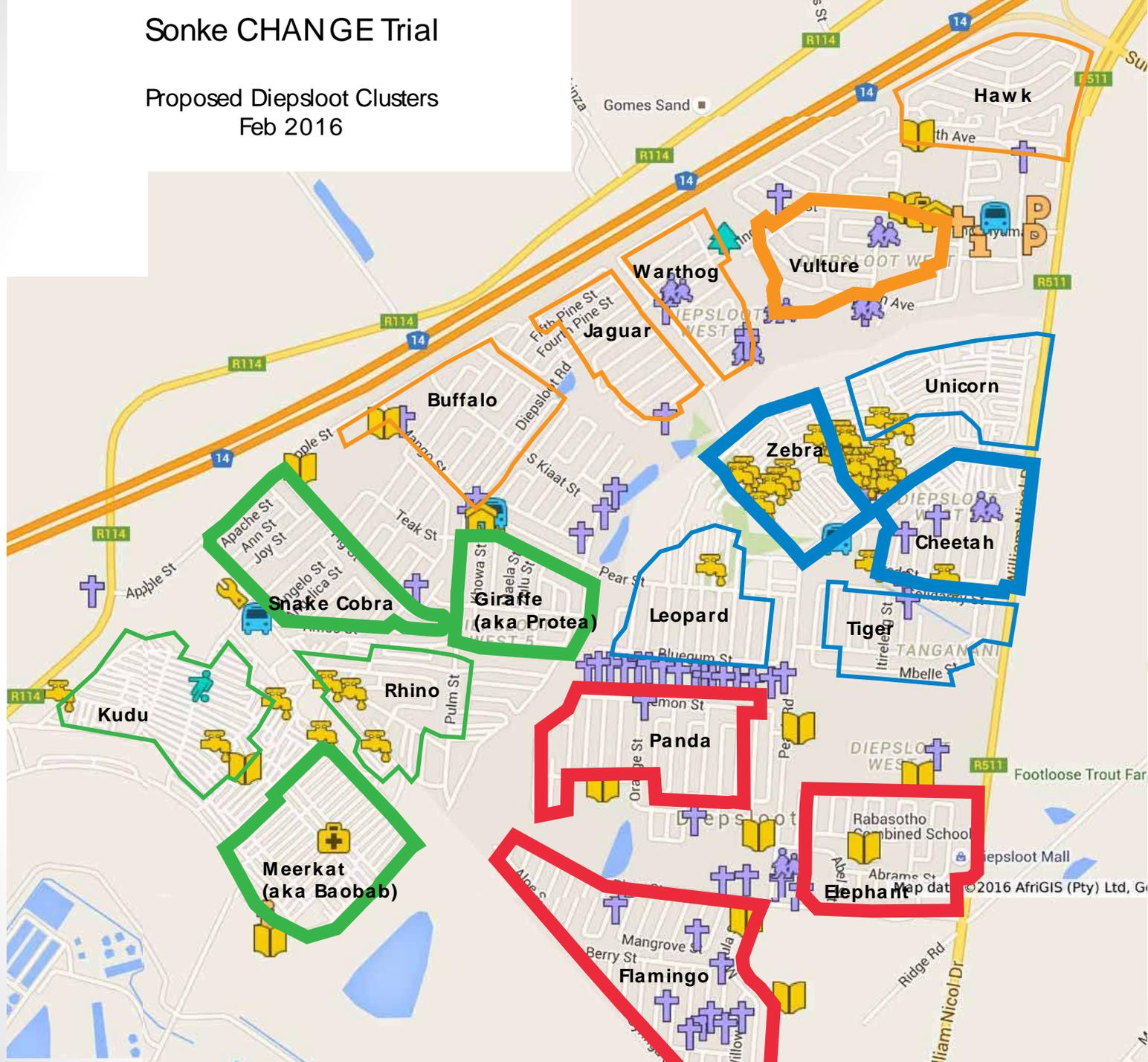
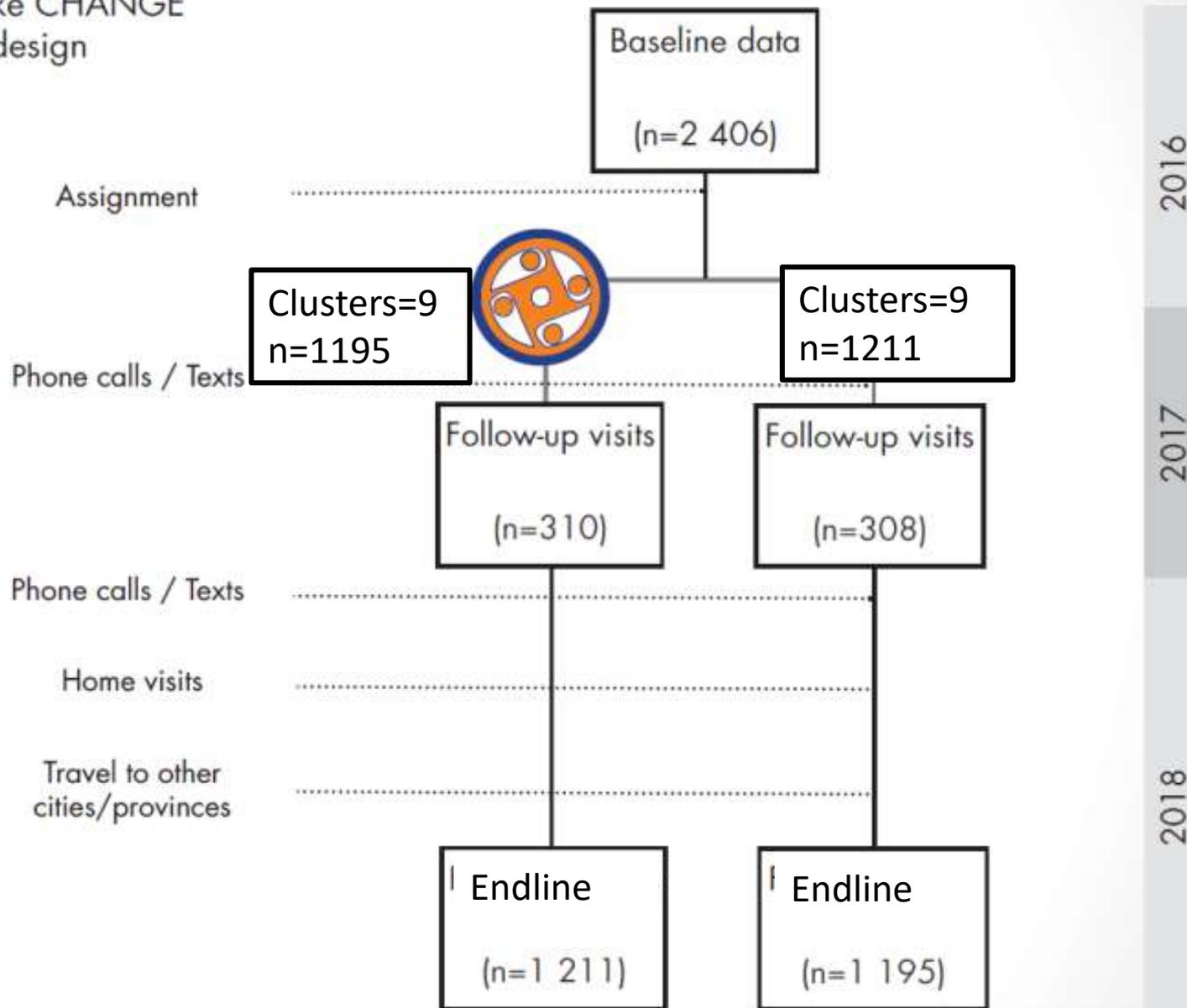


Fig 1. Sonke CHANGE
Trial study design



Data analysis

- Intention to treat analysis –analysis based on baseline allocation to intervention or control condition
- Analysis at the cluster level
- Compared the difference in the risk of perpetrating IPV among men in the intervention & control clusters
- Analyses adjusted for baseline levels of IPV and socio demographic characteristics: age, educational attainment, number of children, and relationship status
- Adjusted for missing data using inverse probability weighting

Data analysis

- Latent class analysis (LCA) – sub group analysis
 - 6 variables define latent classes of men: IPV perpetration in the last 12 months (emotional, economic, physical and sexual), ever having been a gang member, having fought with a weapon/had an illegal gun in past 12 months, rape of a non-partner in past 12 months, drug use in past 12 months, transactional sex with a casual partner in past 12 months, sex with a sex worker and having had three or more sexual partners in the past 12 months
- Measures of fit used were log-likelihood (LL), likelihood ratio chi-squared statistic (L^2), Akaike Information Criterion (AIC), Bayesian Information Criterion (BIC), adjusted BIC (aBIC) and entropy

Results

- Followed up 1458 men at 24 months (63%)
- Number of men followed up per cluster ranged from 65 to 102

Descriptive data on cohort at baseline		
	Intervention	Control
	Mean (SD) or Number (%)	Mean (SD) or Number (%)
Age (years) (n=2406)	27.3 (5.6)	27.8 (5.7)
High school education	451(38.2%)	457 (38.2%)
Partnered, living together	453(38.3%)	479 (40.1%)
Partnered, living apart	553(46.7%)	502 (42.0%)
Single	178 (15.0%)	213 (17.8%)
Cross-border migrant	136 (11.4%)	174 (14.5%)
Internal migrant	730 (69.5%)	689 (67.0%)
Lived in informal housing	494(41.6%)	498 (41.3%)
Unemployed	423(35.5%)	450 (37.5%)
Food insecurity	663 (55.9%)	647 (53.9%)

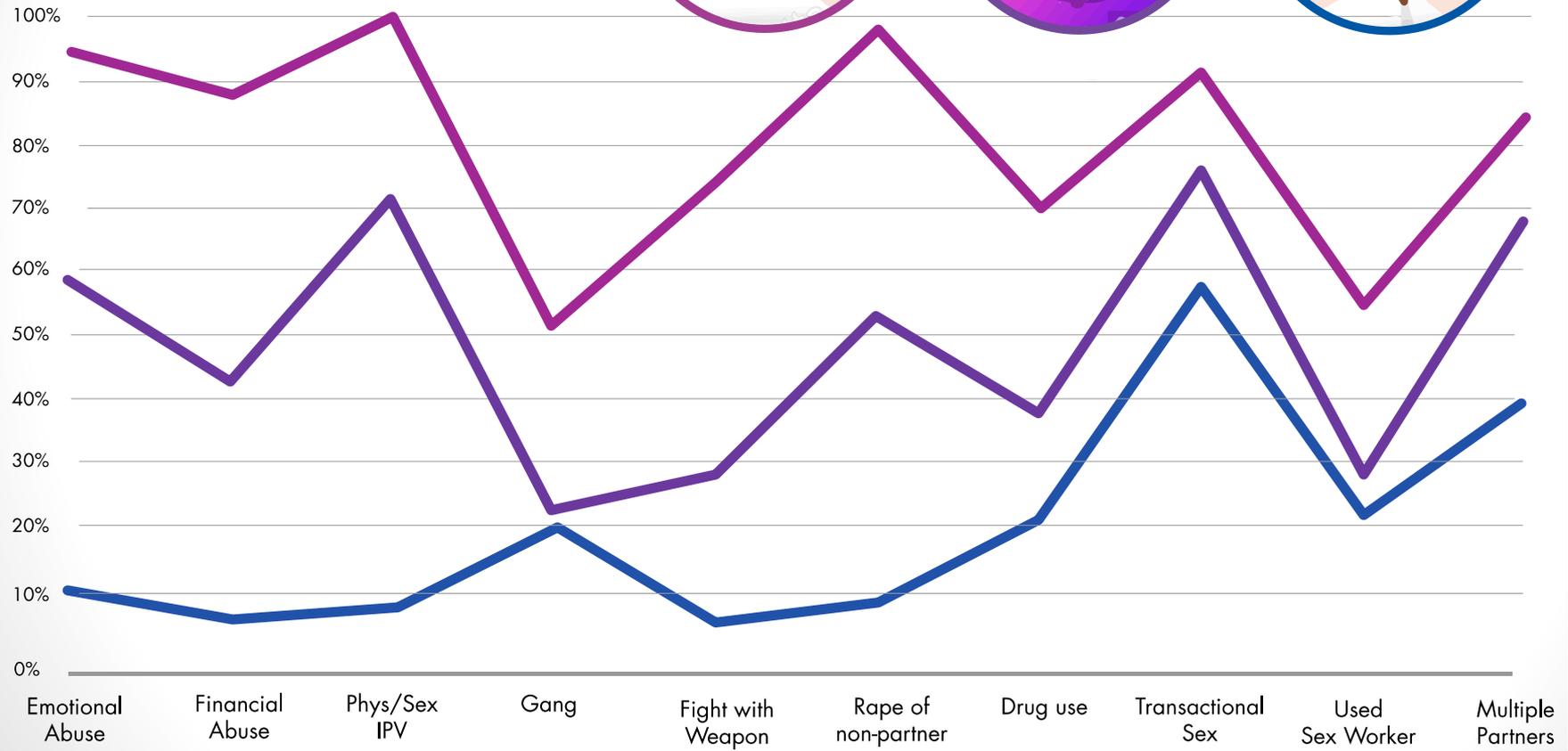
Differences from BL to EL for primary outcomes

	Baseline n (%)		Endline n (%)		Difference in cluster-level % at endline* (95% CI)		P- value
	Inter.	Control	Inter.	Control			
Physical abuse	465 (39.54)	487 (40.86)	176 25.62 (25.15)	167 (25.15)	0.002	(-0.07-0.08)	0.95
Sexual abuse	372 (31.71)	381 (31.96)	115 (15.01)	122 (16.53)	0.01	(-0.04-0.06)	0.58
Severe IPV	376 (32.90)	393 (33.82)	134 (17.54)	140 (18.97)	0.01	(-0.05-0.07)	0.74

* Controlling for BL levels & soc. dem characteristics

Secondary outcomes

- Similar patterns were observed for the secondary outcomes as well
 - Any rape of a non-partner in the past 12 months
 - Male Controlling Behaviour
 - Gender attitudes
 - Depressive symptoms
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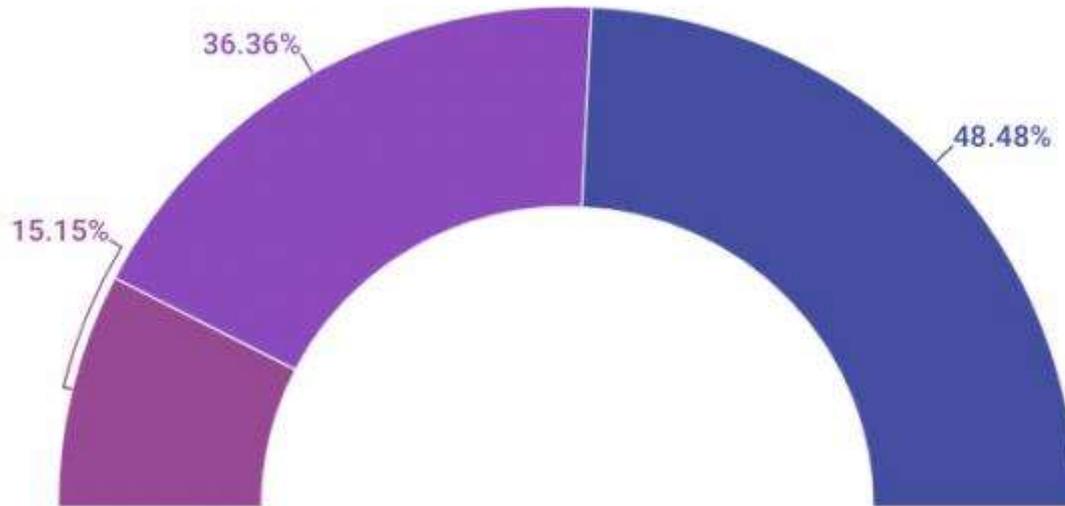
"Aggressors"



"Smooth Operators"



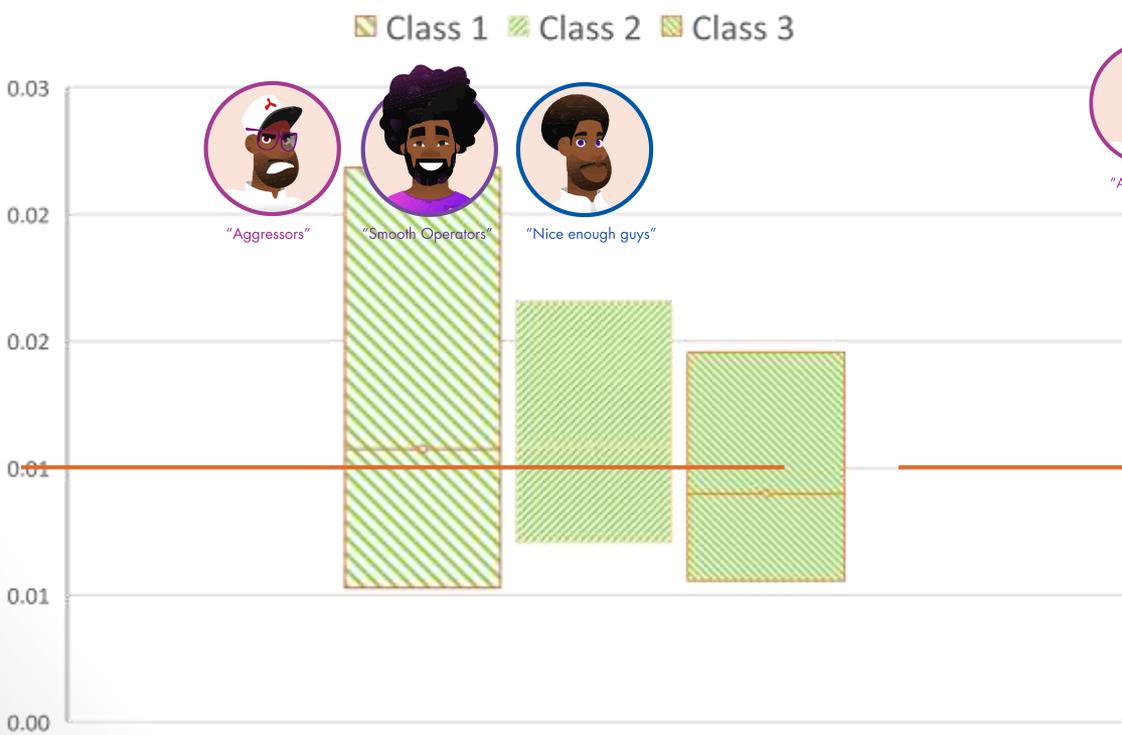
"Nice to know"



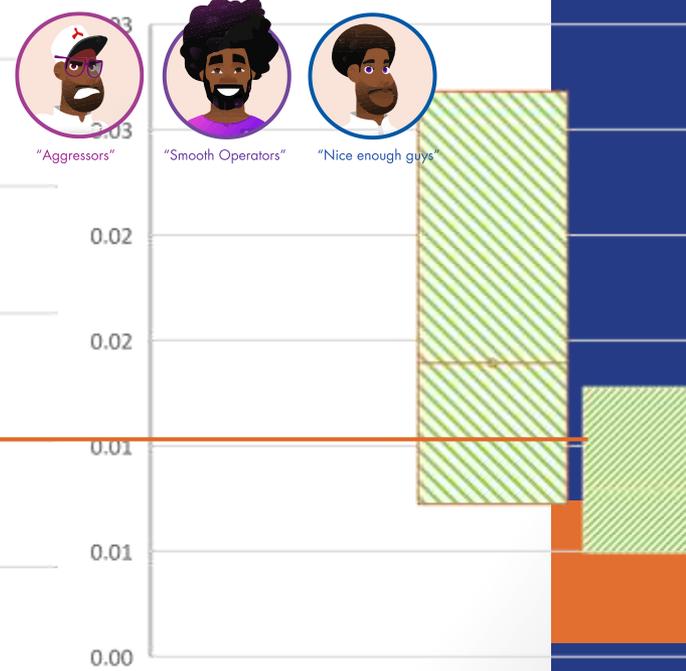
Impact of the intervention of physical and sexual IPV perpetration

Sexual

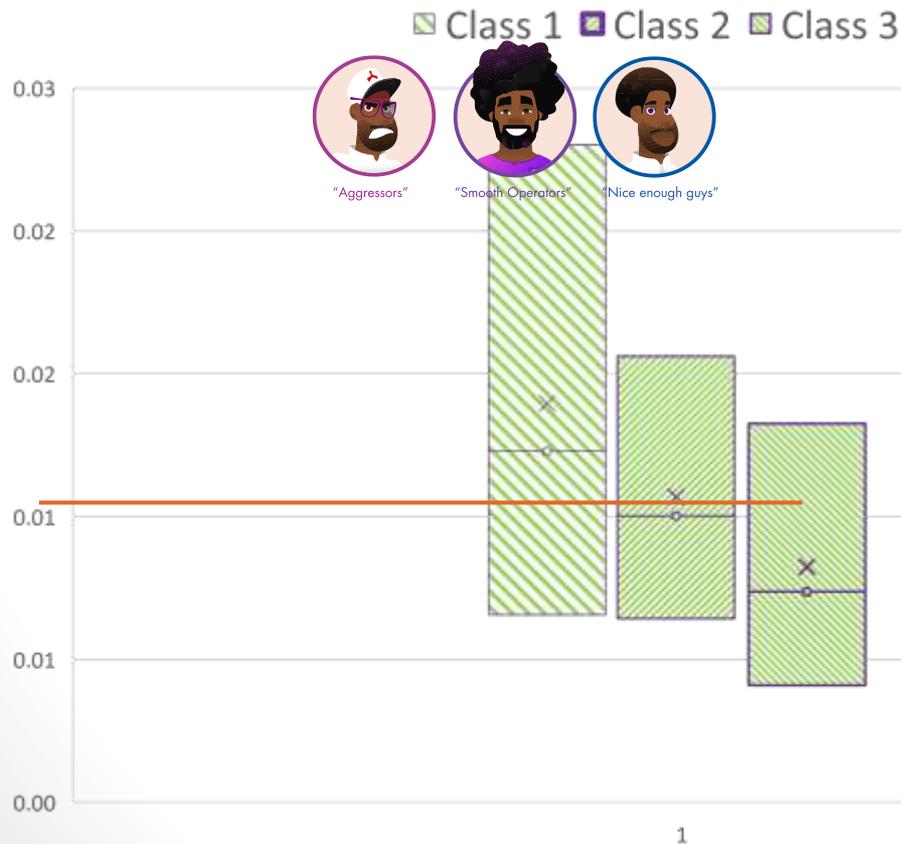
Physical IPV



Class 1 Class 2



More severe physical and or sexual IPV



- Intervention had little difference between classes of men on physical IPV alone
- There was some evidence that there may have been more effect on “smooth operator” and “nice to know” men for sexual IPV
- There is also some evidence of greater effect on “nice to know” (least violent) men for more severe IPV (aOR 0.74 95%CI 0.41, 1.33)

Limitations

- Number of clusters (n=18) was limited
- Contamination could have occurred
- Latent class analysis was underpowered
- Implementation challenges
 - Safety concerns affected some components
- Intensity of the intervention
 - Few participants were reached multiple times
- Context posed challenges that affected the implementation of the intervention (e.g. gazebos) and the follow up of participants

Conclusion

- There was limited effect of the intervention on reducing men's use of IPV when delivered in a peri-urban community
- Intervention may have had more impact on less violent men
- But there was resistance among most violent men
- Poverty, crime, and high levels of exposure to violence by residents suggested important modifications would be needed for successful IPV prevention in this context
- Sustained and more intensive approaches may be required

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