



HIGH PREVALENCE OF GENDER-  
BASED VIOLENCE AND  
ASSOCIATED HEALTH OUTCOMES  
AMONG TRANSGENDER WOMEN  
IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN  
UNITED STATES: PRELIMINARY  
RESULTS FROM THE LITE COHORT

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STUDY HIV ACQUISITION IN HIGH RISK AREAS* STUDY GROUP

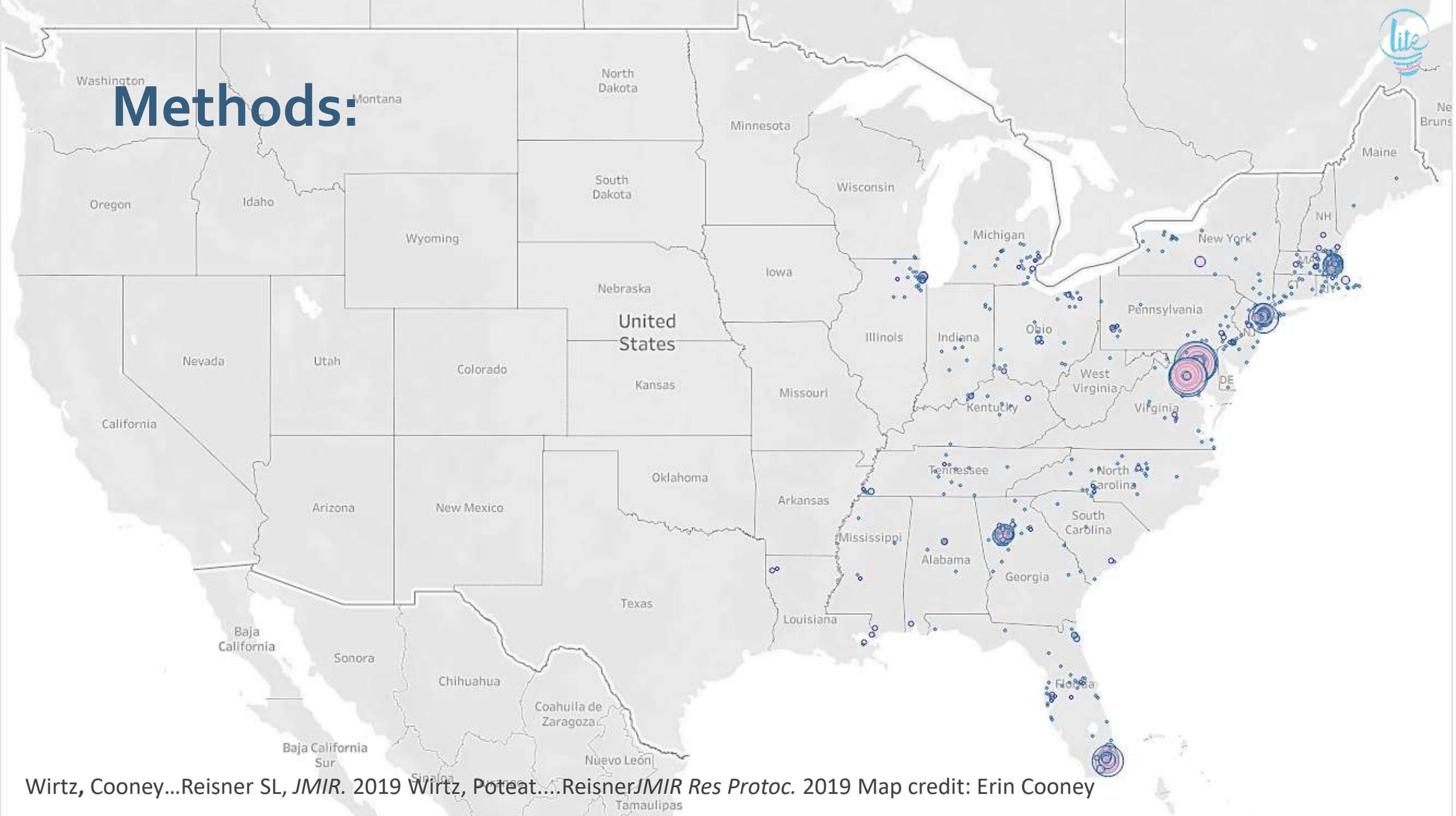
# Background on Gender- based Violence

*“any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person’s will and that is based on **socially ascribed (i.e. gender) differences** between males and females... including physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion, and other deprivations of liberty”*

- Emphasizes historical gender inequities and power imbalances
- Now includes gender-based violence perpetrated against cisgender men, as well as sexual & gender minority populations
- For transgender populations, violence is typically perpetrated on the basis of gender non-conformity

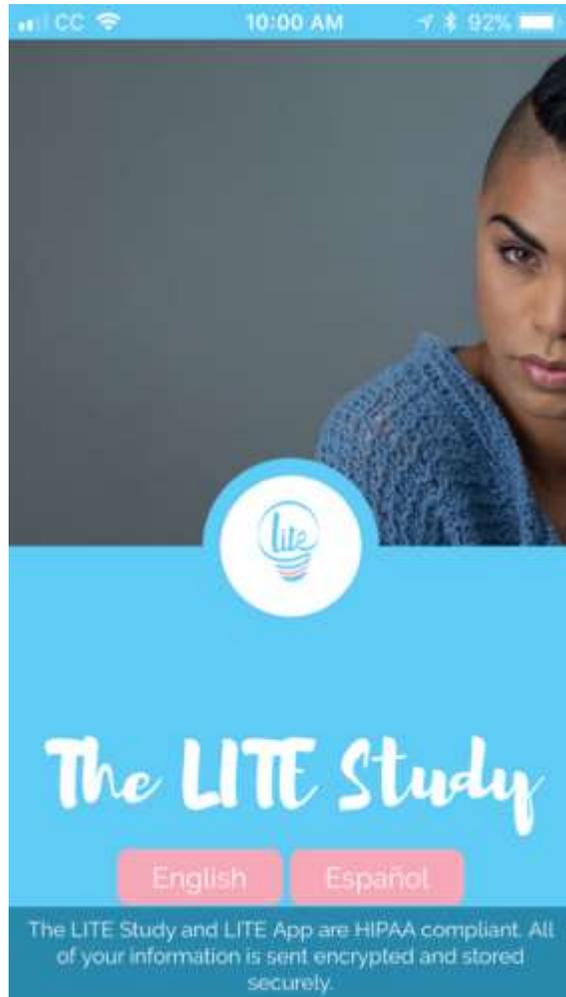


# Methods:



Wirtz, Cooney...Reisner SL, *JMIR*. 2019 Wirtz, Poteat...Reisner *JMIR Res Protoc*. 2019 Map credit: Erin Cooney

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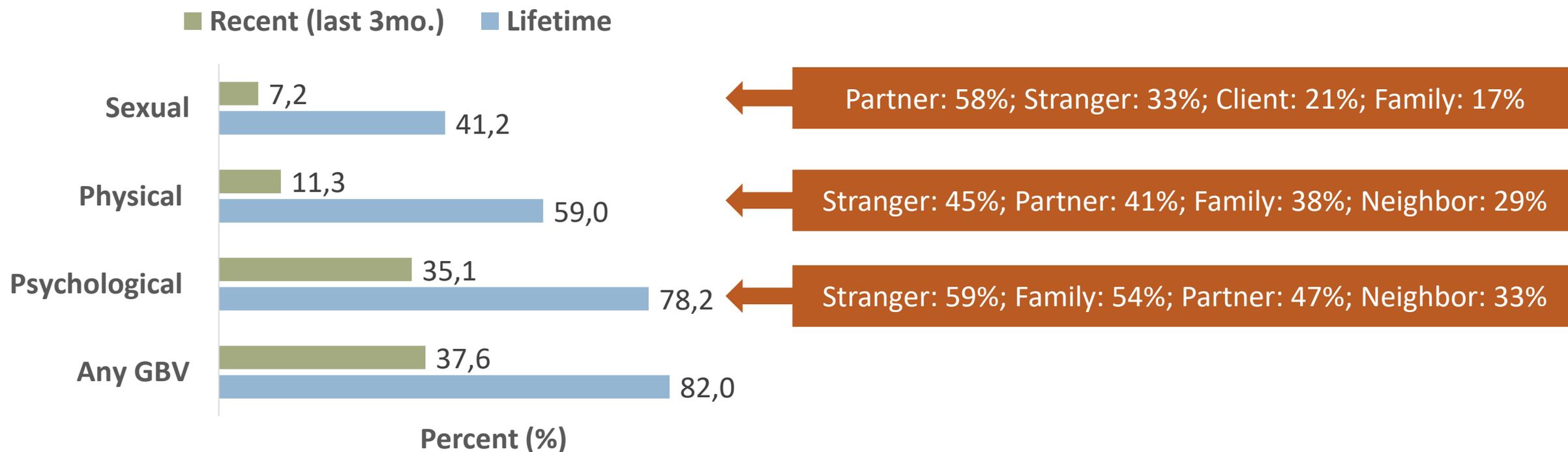


- **Enrollment**: 1,100 transgender women at risk of HIV in eastern and southern United States
  - Additional group of trans women living with HIV enrolled at baseline
- **Study visits**: every 3mo. for 24 months (site-based or online)
  - Survey + oral HIV testing every 3 months (6mo online)
  - STI testing inc. self-collected swabs every 12 months (site)
  - Baseline cross-sectional incidence testing (site)
  - Serum specimens for future analysis (site)
  - 3mo follow-up survey among women who seroconvert

# Characteristics:

	n	%
Median age (range)	29	(18-76)
Race		
White	824	45.6
Black	622	34.4
Asian	111	6.2
More than one race or other race	267	14.8
Latinx	363	20.0
US citizen	1708	94.2
Currently employed full-time	603	34.0
Unstable housing (lifetime)	759	42.3
Arrest (lifetime)	610	34.4
Sex work (lifetime)	711	39.8

# Prevalence of baseline GBV:



# Correlates of Recent GBV

Characteristic	PrR	[95% CI]		<i>p-value</i>
<b>Age</b> ≤24 (ref: >24)	1.20	1.14	1.25	<i>p</i> <0.001
<b>Lifetime housing instability</b> (ref: none)	1.17	1.01	1.36	0.034
<b>Adverse Childhood Events</b> (ref: 0)				
Score of 1-3	1.64	1.10	2.44	0.015
Score of ≥ 4	2.01	1.16	3.48	0.013
<b>Gender non-affirmation</b> (continuous)	1.06	1.04	1.07	<i>p</i> <0.001

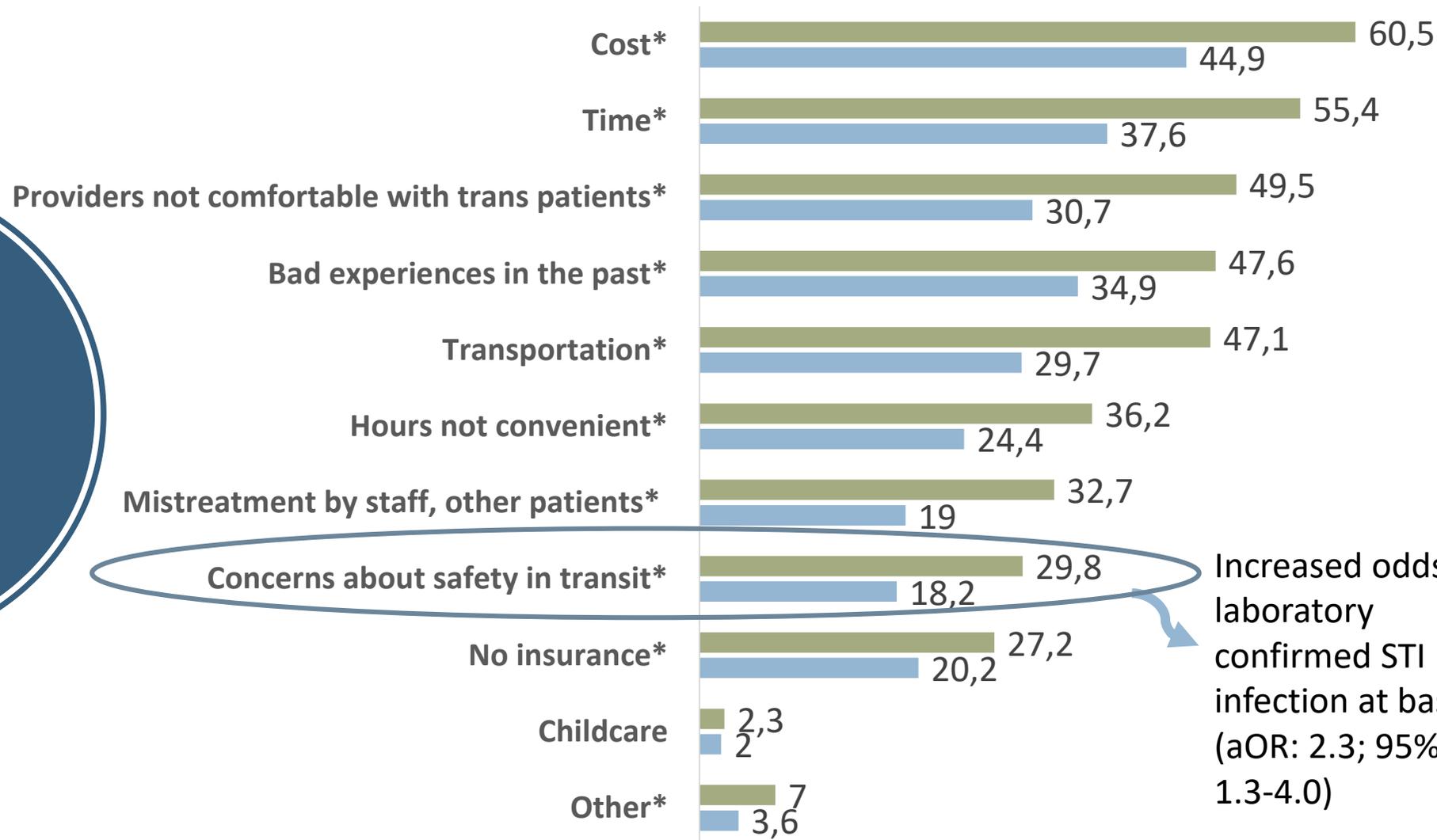
GLM also controls for cohort arm; race; employment; income; baseline HIV result; and adjusts for nesting within sites

## Health Outcomes

- **Psychological Distress (Kess-6):**  
PrR 2.00, 95%CI: 1.78 - 2.15, *p*<0.001
- **Probable substance use disorder (DAST):**  
PrR 1.58; 95%CI: 1.50 - 1.66, *p*<0.001

■ Recent GBV (last 3mo.) ■ No GBV

# Barriers to Care



Increased odds of laboratory confirmed STI infection at baseline (aOR: 2.3; 95%CI: 1.3-4.0)

Note: \* statistically different at p<0.05; N=1,808



## Transitional probability of violence victimization over time

Of 950 cohort participants with at least one follow-up visit:

- **27%** of participants who reported **no violence** at baseline, later **transition to report violence** in subsequent follow-up visits
- Of those who **report violence** at baseline, **62%** **continue to report violence** in subsequent visits

# Vicarious Trauma

**Of 89  
completing  
the 12mo  
visit to date:**

24% personally know another trans woman who was a victim of homicide

- Median: 2 peers (IQR: 1-5)

14% know another trans woman who experienced a fatal overdose

- Median: 2 peers (IQR: 1-3)

18% know another trans woman who died of suicide

- Median: 2 peers (IQR: 1-3)

# Public Health Implications



**High burden of  
GBV with  
multiple  
perpetrators**



**Events early in  
youth**



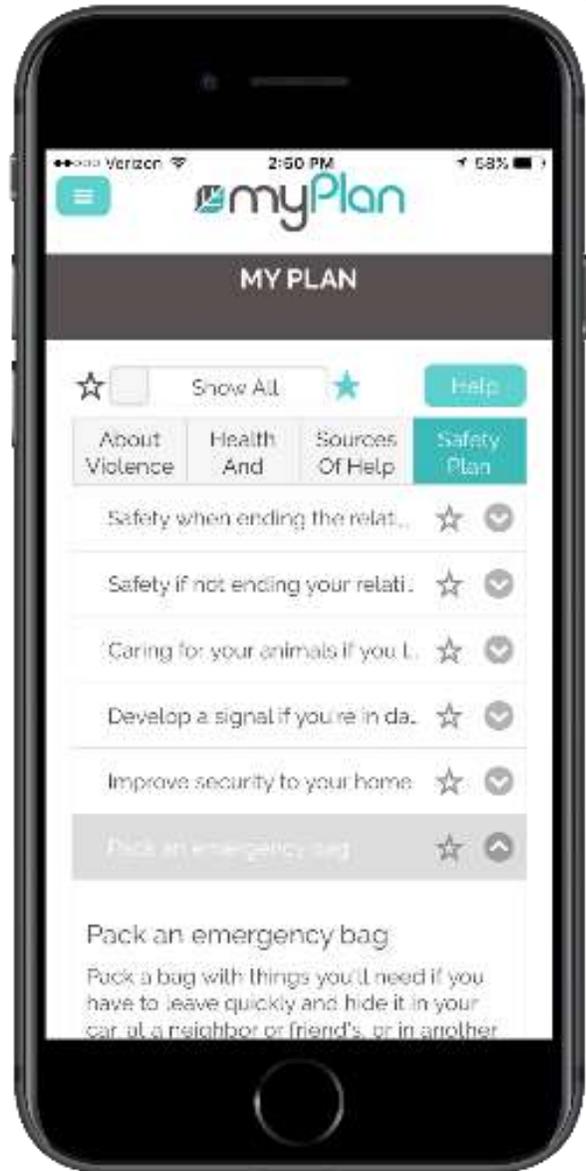
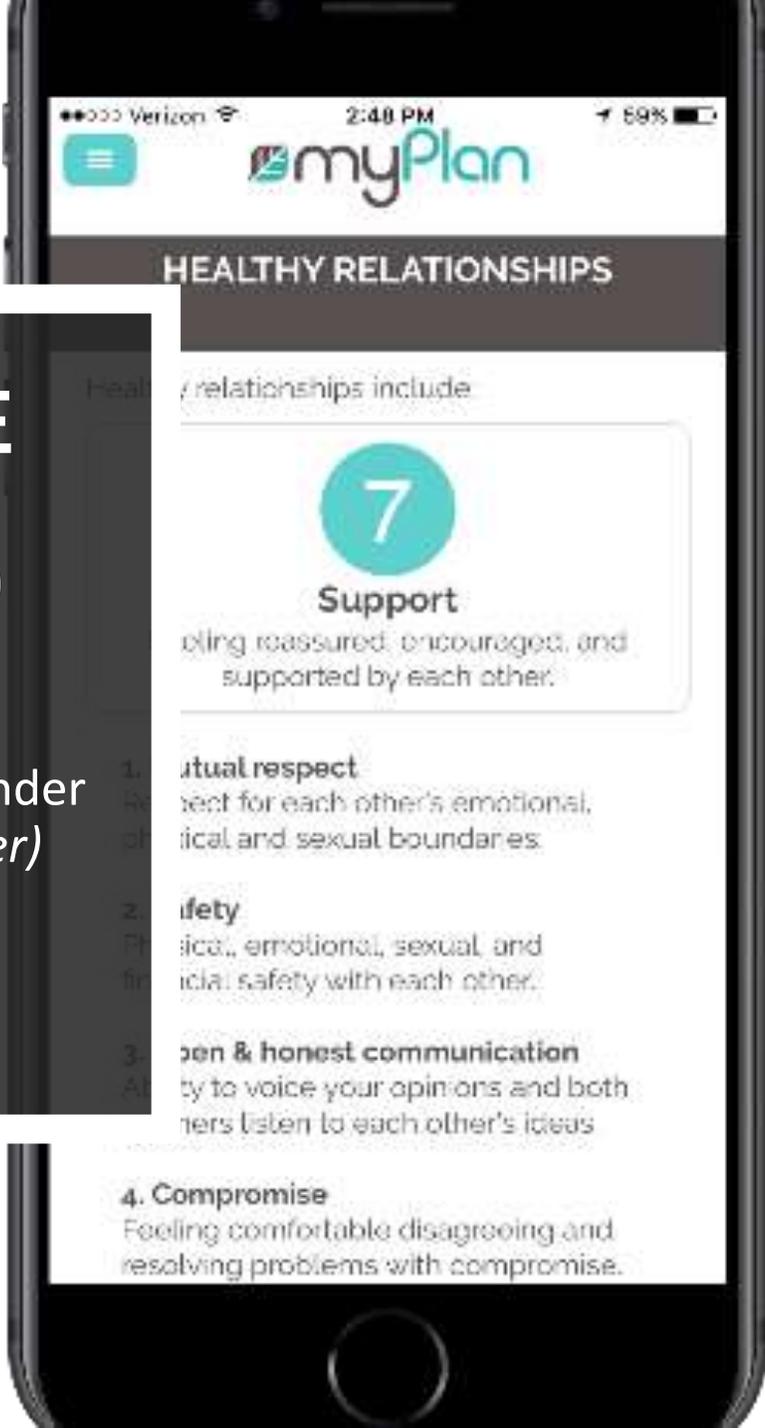
**Structural  
factors**



**Significant  
barriers to care**



**Efforts to  
mitigate health  
effects of GBV  
and trauma**



# Next steps in LITE

- Adaptation of *myPlan* (PI: Glass) personalized safety plan and decision aid
- Psychometric testing of transgender specific IPV measures (PI: Reisner)

SVRI: Wed. 23 Oct @ 16:30  
Exhibition hall 8.1

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Photo Credit: LITE Atlanta Community Photo Shoot



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