

# Queer Bashing in Vancouver A Prospective Cohort Study

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## Background - 1

### Hate-Bias Crime

**Criminal offense motivated by hate, prejudice or bias committed against a person (70%) or property (30%).**

**Targets identifiable group based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, **sexual orientation**, or similar factor.**

## Background - 2

### **Harm is Disproportionate**

- **Intrinsic component of self-concept is targeted**
- **Wider community perceives threat**

### **Canadian Federal Legislation (C-250, Sept 2003)**

**Systematic collection of hate-bias crime data**

## Background - 3

### Prevalence

**Victimization surveys: yield a broad range of estimates**

- **D**efinition
- **P**opulation surveyed
- **C**onvenience, not probability samples
- **N**eed to survive to survey to report it

### Incidence

- **N**o prospective studies

### Risk Factors

- **N**o prospective studies
- **O**nly one cross-sectional (albeit controlled) study of sequelae

# STUDY OBJECTIVES

- Measure the prevalence (at enrollment), incidence (during follow-up), and risk factors for self-reported queer bashing
- Estimate the (cumulative) probability of being bashed during extended follow-up
- Measure the potential relation between incident queer bashing and change in depression and self-esteem scores

# STUDY POPULATION

## VANGUARD PROJECT COHORT

- 15-30 years old
- Live in greater Vancouver area
- No previous HIV+ test result
- Self-identify as gay/bisexual or ever having had sex with other men

## QUEER BASHING ASSESSMENT

- Annual, self-administered questionnaires asked,

*“During the past year have you been physically abused - hit, punched, or beaten up ... because you are gay, bi[sexual], or transgendered, or because someone thought you were?”*

# STATISTICAL ANALYSIS - 1

## OBJECTIVE 1.

### PREVALENCE

- C ategorical analysis:  $\chi^2$ , Fisher's exact, Wilcoxon rank-sum tests
- U nadjusted and adjusted odds ratios, 95% confidence intervals (logistic regression)

### INCIDENCE

- A ssume date of bashing is midpoint between study visits (unbiased)
- R ates of queer bashing: number accounts / person-years accrued  
(Stukel method for computing 95% confidence intervals)

# STATISTICAL ANALYSIS - 2

## OBJECTIVE 2.

- Cumulative probability of being bashed during follow-up: Life-table method (log-rank tests)

## OBJECTIVE 3.

- Change in depression, self-esteem
  - Each incident case matched for season with (up to 4) controls
  - ANCOVA models were adjusted for age and for previous score

# RESULTS

## Comparison of Men Eligible (N=614) vs Ineligible (N=249) for this Analysis

Men with at least one follow-up study visit were significantly

- older at enrollment (26 vs 24 years)
- older when had first sex with a man (18 vs 17 years)
- better educated (42% vs 34% college)
- had higher self-esteem scores (Rosenberg score 33 vs 30)
- had lower depression scores (CES-D score 6 vs 7)

## RESULTS – OBJECTIVE 1

Bashing prevalence at Enrollment: 101 / 607 (16.6%)

### Independent Correlates of Previous Bashing

	<u>OR</u>	<u>(95% CI)</u>
Previous sex trade involvement	2.58	(1.56 – 4.27)
History of forced/coerced sex	2.44	(1.48 – 4.03)
Age of “coming out”	1.09	(1.03 – 1.15)

## **RESULTS – OBJECTIVE 1 (CONTINUED)**

**Median follow-up: 39 (IQR 24, 66) months**

- 58 accounts of queer bashing**
- 50 unique individuals (8.1%)**
- during 2,126 person-years of observation**

**Bashing incidence: 2.6% (1.9 - 3.3)**

## RESULTS – OBJECTIVE 1 (CONTINUED)

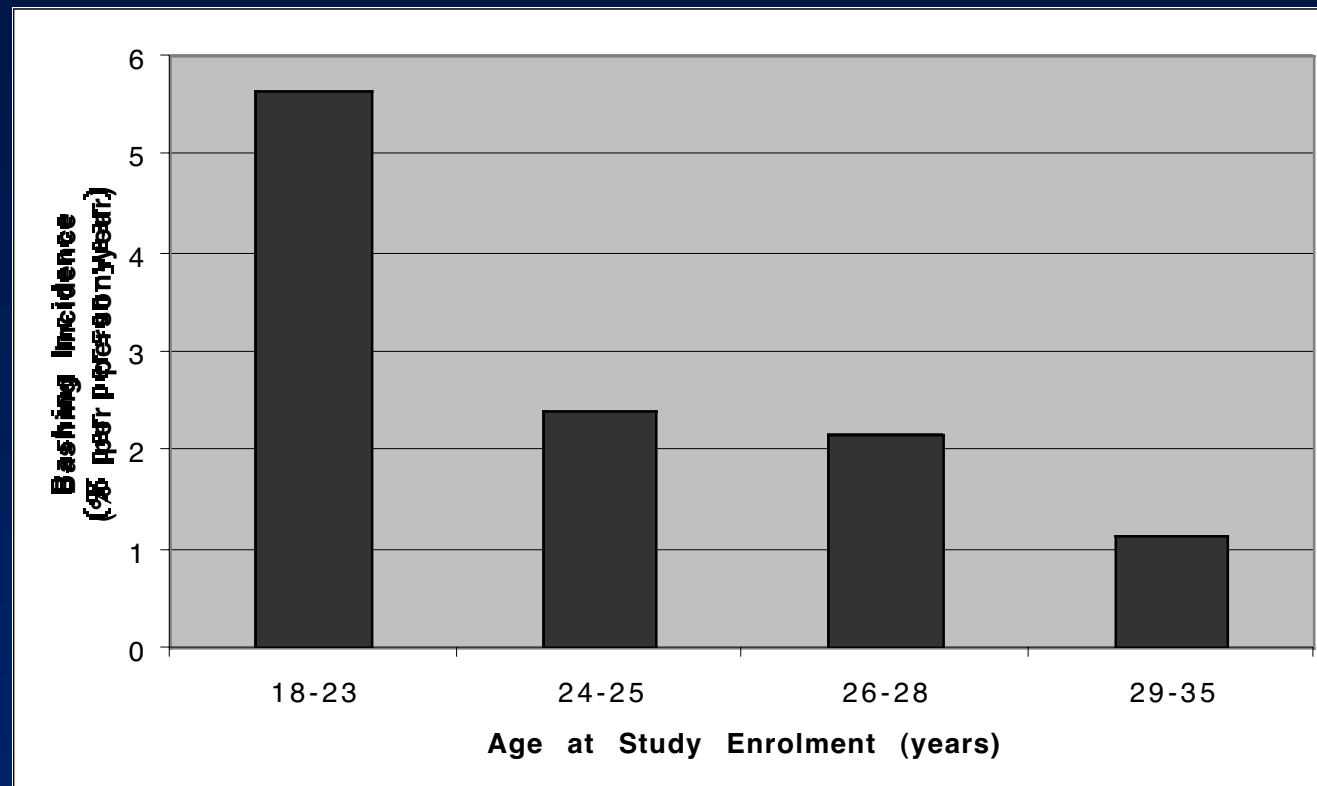
### Multivariate Analysis of Follow-up Data

### Independent Correlates of Incident Bashing

	<u>RR</u>	<u>(95% CI)</u>
Age	0.83	(0.8 – 0.9)
First Nations (vs White/Other)	2.2	( 1.1 – 4.4)

## RESULTS – OBJECTIVE 1 (CONTINUED)

Annual Incidence of Queer Bashing, By Age at Enrollment



Adjusted Relative Risk: 3.3

2.0

2.0

1.0

## **RESULTS – OBJECTIVE 2**

### **CUMULATIVE PROBABILITY**

**Of being bashed by:**

**12 months follow-up: 4.3%**

**36 months follow-up: 7.6%**

**72 months follow-up: 11.3%**

## RESULTS – OBJECTIVE 3

Change in depressive symptoms and self-esteem scores in relation to being bashed during follow-up

	N	Pre-Bash Study Visit Mean ( $\pm$ SD)	Pre-Post Score Difference Mean ( $\pm$ SD)	Age Adjusted P-value
<b>Self-esteem score</b>				<b>0.054</b>
Men bashed	50	31.19 (5.63)	0.51 (0.37)	
Controls	155	32.59 (5.37)	- 0.99 (0.69)	
<b>Depressive symptoms score</b>				<b>0.30</b>
Men Bashed	50	8.65 (5.37)	-0.08 (4.79)	
Controls	158	6.64 (5.45)	-0.08 (5.47)	

# SUMMARY

- Strong age-dependence in bashing prevalence (age “came out”) and incidence (age at study enrollment)
- Significant elevated risk among First Nations men

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Patterns of risk strongly support the call to improve the safety of sexual minority youth in schools and in the community
- Incorporation of bashing assessment into large, prospective studies feasible
- Efficient sampling for studies of risk factors for sequelae, interventions

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Vanguard Project Participants

Study Team Members

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