



# Intergenerational Sex as a Risk Factor for HIV Among Young Men Who Have Sex with Men: A Scoping Review

## Importance of this study

- Growing evidence suggests that intergenerational sexual partnerships (age gaps  $\geq 10$  years) may raise the risk of HIV infection among YMSM.
- Unfortunately, there has yet to be a comprehensive review examining intergenerational MSM partnerships and how they may relate to HIV risk behaviour.
- This scoping review will help inform this gap, as well as future research directions and potential HIV prevention programming for YMSM.

This study sought to explore the relationships between age-mixing, HIV risk behaviour, and seroconversion among young men who have sex with men (YMSM)

**Factors that influence YMSM in intergenerational relationships to engage in high risk sex are highly complex and require greater understanding**

## How this study was conducted

- A scoping review methodology explored the associations between intergenerational relationships, HIV risk behaviour, and HIV seroconversion among YMSM.
- During data extraction and analysis, relevant findings were compiled into narrative descriptions and thematic categories.

## What the study found

- This study identified several individual, micro-, and meso-system factors that shape HIV risk among YMSM in intergenerational relationships
  - Individual level factors – experiencing childhood physical and/or sexual abuse, difficulty coming of age and embracing sexual identity, substance use.
  - Micro-level factors – lack of family and/or social support, being in a more serious relationship, having a history of intimate partner violence, less of a connection to the gay community
  - Meso-level factors – Belonging to a racial/ethnic minority group, lower socio-economic status, greater use of the Internet to meet sexual partners.

## What this means

- These findings highlight the need for age-specific HIV education and prevention strategies.
- Potential venues for these interventions include school-based sexual education program, community-based outreach services, and Web-based messaging.

**Citation:** Anema A, Marshall BD, Stevenson B, Gurm J, Montaner G, Small W, Roth EA, Lima VD, Montaner JS, Moore D, Hogg RS. Intergenerational sex as a risk factor for HIV among young men who have sex with men: a scoping review. *Curr HIV/AIDS Rep.* 2013 Dec;10(4):398-407. doi: 10.1007/s11904-013-0187-3. Review. PubMed PMID: 24272070.

