resources in an online PN “toolkit” available to support people diagnosed with STI is ideal.

Disclosure of interest statement The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

**P02.05** SEXUAL HEALTH LITERACY – AN EMERGING FRAMEWORK FOR RESEARCH AND INTERVENTION TO IMPROVE SEXUAL HEALTH FOR GAY MEN

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Introduction Health literacy is an important determinant of health yet has not been formally applied to sexual health. An expert event brought 38 researchers, community members, and service providers together to explore gay men’s sexual health literacy (SHL).

Methods Using a World Café method, three rounds of discussion posed questions about SHL in relation to gay men, providers, and underlying systems. Documented notes were analysed thematically through two rounds of group synthesis and a subsequent review by one investigator.

Results SHL was influenced by ways men access information, through peer networks, and coded communications with prospective partners. The Internet influences access to, delivery of and engagement with information, while new technologies and changing sexual norms complicate message consistency and risk assessment. Actionable risk assessment requires numeracy skills. Gay men were generally perceived to have high SHL with concern that SHL may be lower for some sub-populations (e.g., youth, immigrant men). Participants valued bottom-up/community-based over top-down/expert models of providing SHL. Health care provider attitudes, cultural competency, knowledge and communication skills were seen as key determinants of SHL and non-traditional health sectors also play key roles (e.g., education, pornography). Underlying determinants of SHL included stigma related to HIV or sexual orientation, access and organisation of health care services, systemic shifts to self-care models, political ideologies and funding. Syndemic, intersectional, and holistic health approaches to SHL were advocated. Participants recognised the strong history of activism and mobilisation within gay communities as integral to SHL.

Conclusion Critical health literacy has been a core component of the gay men’s health movement to date. Innovations in biomedical technologies and access to online information are critically shaping experiences of SHL for gay men. The expanded theoretical framework emerging from these findings serves as a starting point to inform enhancing SHL and designing effective interventions.

Disclosure of interest statement The authors have no conflict of interest to disclose.

**P02.06** IDENTITIES IN MOTION: CYBERSPACE AND MYANMAR MEN HAVING SEX WITH MEN

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Introduction Sexuality is not the only issue faced by the gay community. The gay community faces the challenge of differential social and economic discrimination as well as discrimination based on sex, age, and religion. The efficacy of an intervention providing sexual health awareness depends on the attitude of health service providers and the knowledge of volunteers.

Methods The study was conducted in Yangon, Myanmar from January 2013 to August 2013. Hair and blood samples were collected from 592 MSM, aged 18 years and above for STIs and HIV by the sexual health monitoring tool and the microbicide adherence monster. Data was analysed by the Mann Whitney U test.

Results The prevalence of HIV was 0.8% and STIs was 10.5% (62/592). The prevalence of HIV significantly differed among MSM aged 18–24 years (p = 0.011) and those aged 25–39 years (p = 0.001). The prevalence of HIV was significantly lower in those aged 18–24 years (p = 0.023) and those aged 25–39 years (p = 0.001). The prevalence of STIs was significantly lower in those aged 18–24 years (p = 0.001)

Conclusion The prevalence of HIV and STIs was higher among MSM aged 25–39 years. Therefore, adolescents and young MSM need to be targeted for intervention.
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**P03.01 AGE OF FRIENDS AND NORMS ABOUT SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR ARE ASSOCIATED WITH HIV AND HSV-2 STATUS AMONGST YOUNG SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN IN THE HPTN 068 STUDY**

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**Introduction**

Friends can be an important inﬂuence on HIV and sexual health via connexions to sexual partners, inﬂuential sexual behaviour norms, or provision of social support. In this study from rural South Africa, we examined associations between the characteristics of young women’s friendships and their risk of Herpes Simplex Virus Type 2 (HSV-2) and HIV infection.

**Methods**

In 2011–2012, we tested 2325 13–20 year-old young women participating in the HPTN 068 study baseline for HIV and HSV-2 and we collected descriptions of 5 friendships. We used logistic regression to analyse associations between HIV and HSV-2 and generated friendship net summary measures of the 5 friends’ socio-demographic characteristics and the number of friends perceived to have had sex. We excluded those HIV positive and reporting never having had sex from the HIV analyses, as likely perinatal infections (n = 37).

**Results**

Adjusted for participant and friendship net socio-demographic characteristics, each additional friend at least one year older than the participant was associated with raised odds of HIV (adjusted Odds Ratio = 1.45, 95% CI 1.22–1.73, p < 0.001). Each additional friend perceived to have had sex also raised the odds of HIV (aOR = 1.21, 95% CI 1.06–1.38, p = 0.005).

**Conclusion**

We found evidence that the ages of young women’s friends and her perceptions of their sexual behaviour increase her risk for HSV-2 and HIV infection. While further longitudinal research would assist in disentangling causal relationships, the extent to which policies or programmes inﬂuence age-mixing and young people’s normative environments, for example in school classes and youth groups, should be examined.

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