load in each tract. A negative binomial regression model was used to test the association between violent crime events and CVL, including spatial lag from shared-boundary census tracts as well as mean age, proportion male, labor force participation, educational attainment, and residential instability as key covariates.

**Results** The annual violent crime rate in Baltimore City in the 5-year period from 2012–2016 was 29.5 per 1,000 population; rates varied widely between census tracts, ranging from 2 to 189.4 per 1,000. The mean CVL was 4.27 per 1,000 population, with a range from 0 to 18.8 by census tract. In the adjusted model, a 100-unit increase in violent crimes was associated with a 19% increase in CVL (RR: 1.19, 95% CI: 1.13, 1.27).

**Conclusion** Our study shows a statistically significant association between violent crime rates and HIV transmission risk in local areas. This study highlights the need for community-level interventions aimed to address effects of violence exposure in order to effectively combat the ongoing HIV epidemic among vulnerable populations in urban settings.

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