

The Characteristics of Sexual Partner Networks among MSM in gay bars, Hefei, China



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Background and Significance

Estimated HIV/AIDS cases in China

- 840,000 people live with HIV
- 11.1% via homosexual transmission
(MOH, 2004)

Estimated number of MSM is at least
10,180,000 in China (ZHANG Beichuan et al, 2002)

Cont'

- HIV prevalence is between 1-5% among MSM in China (MOH, 2003)
- MSM now ranks second among HIV infected in China after IDUs.
- In the future, MSM may become a high prevalence group due to their large number and their continued high-risk behavior (MOH, 2004)

Hypothesis

Sexual partner networks play an important role in the spread of HIV among MSM and then, from MSM to the general population.

Purpose

To characterize sexual partner networks and sexual behaviors among MSM in gay bars in Hefei

Specific Aims

- To determine the demographic characteristics of MSM who frequent gay bars.
- To determine the number, frequency and demographic characteristics of their sex partners.
- To estimate their HIV and STD prevalence through self-report.

Method

- Study was conducted in three gar bars
- Researchers trained two bar staff at each site to recruit subjects and gather data.
- Study time: February 16~28, 2004

Eligibility of participants

- Male ,
 - Have sex with other men in their life time,
 - Were present in the gay bar during study time,
 - Consented to participate in the study.
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- 34 refused to participate in survey.
 - 174 participate in survey.

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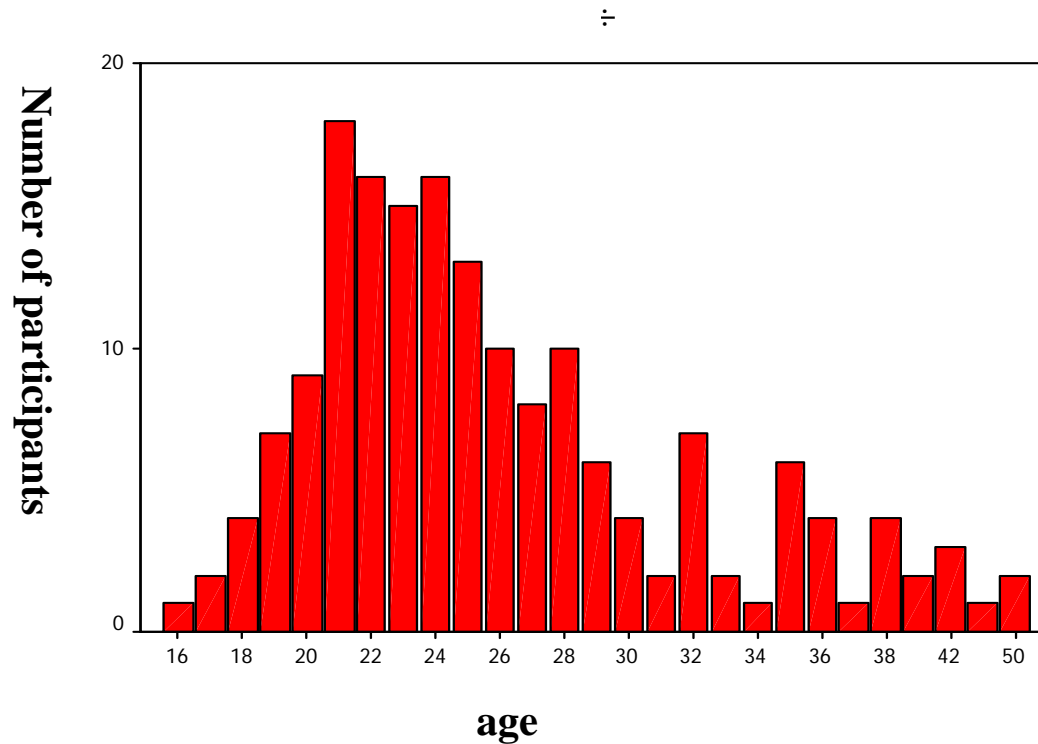
- During study, one researcher took questionnaires to one gay bar and stayed there for quality control.
- Bar staff recruited eligible participants
- After informed consent, bar staff gave out survey and showed participants how to answer the questionnaire.
- The questionnaire was enclosed in envelop, and was confidential.

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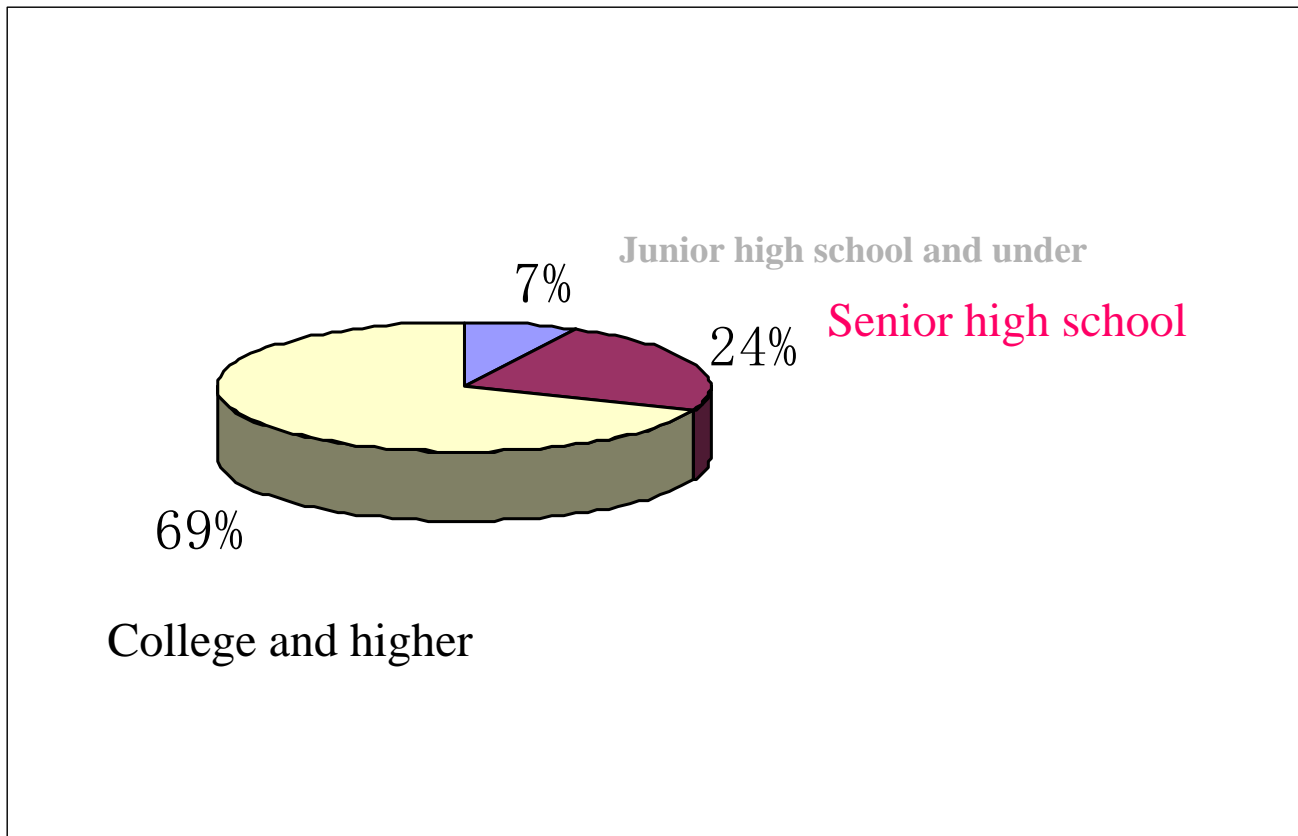
- Anonymous, self-administered questionnaire was completed by participants in the bar.
- Participants finished questionnaire and returned it to researcher, receiving a box of condoms as a gift.

Age of participants

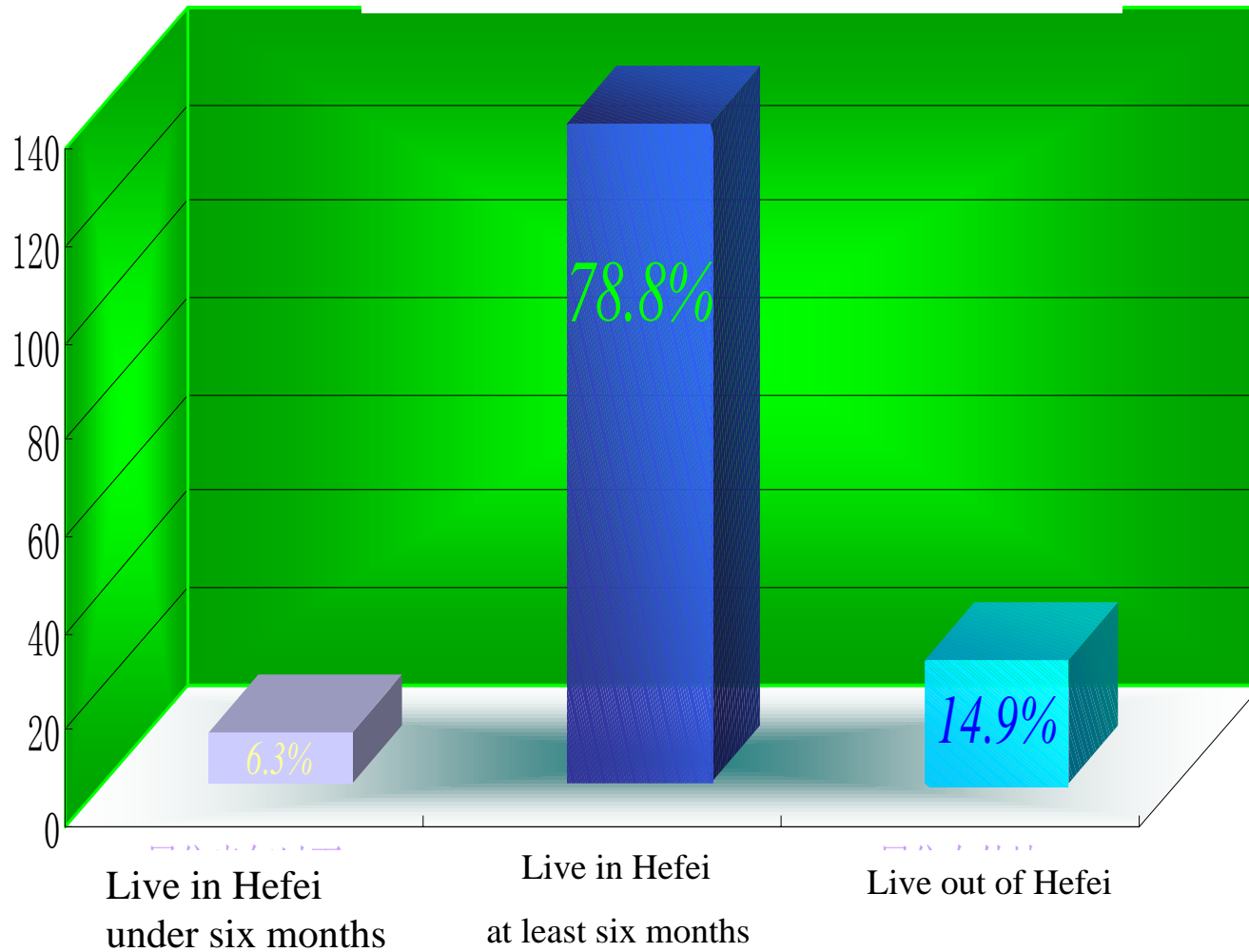
- Age ranges 16~50 and Mean is 26.14;
- 80% were under 30 years old.



Status of education



Percent of participants who live in and outside of Hefei



Self-reported HIV testing and infection

**9.2% (16 of 174)MSM
reported HIV testing**

**3.4% (6 of 174) MSM
reported HIV positive**

Self-reported history of STDs

10.3% reported history of
STDs

- ✓ 5.2% : Non-gonococcal urethritis
- ✓ 3.4% : Herpes simplex
- ✓ 2.9% : gonorrhea
- ✓ 1.1% : Syphilis
- ✓ 0.6% : Human papillomavirus

Sexual behavior

in the last six months

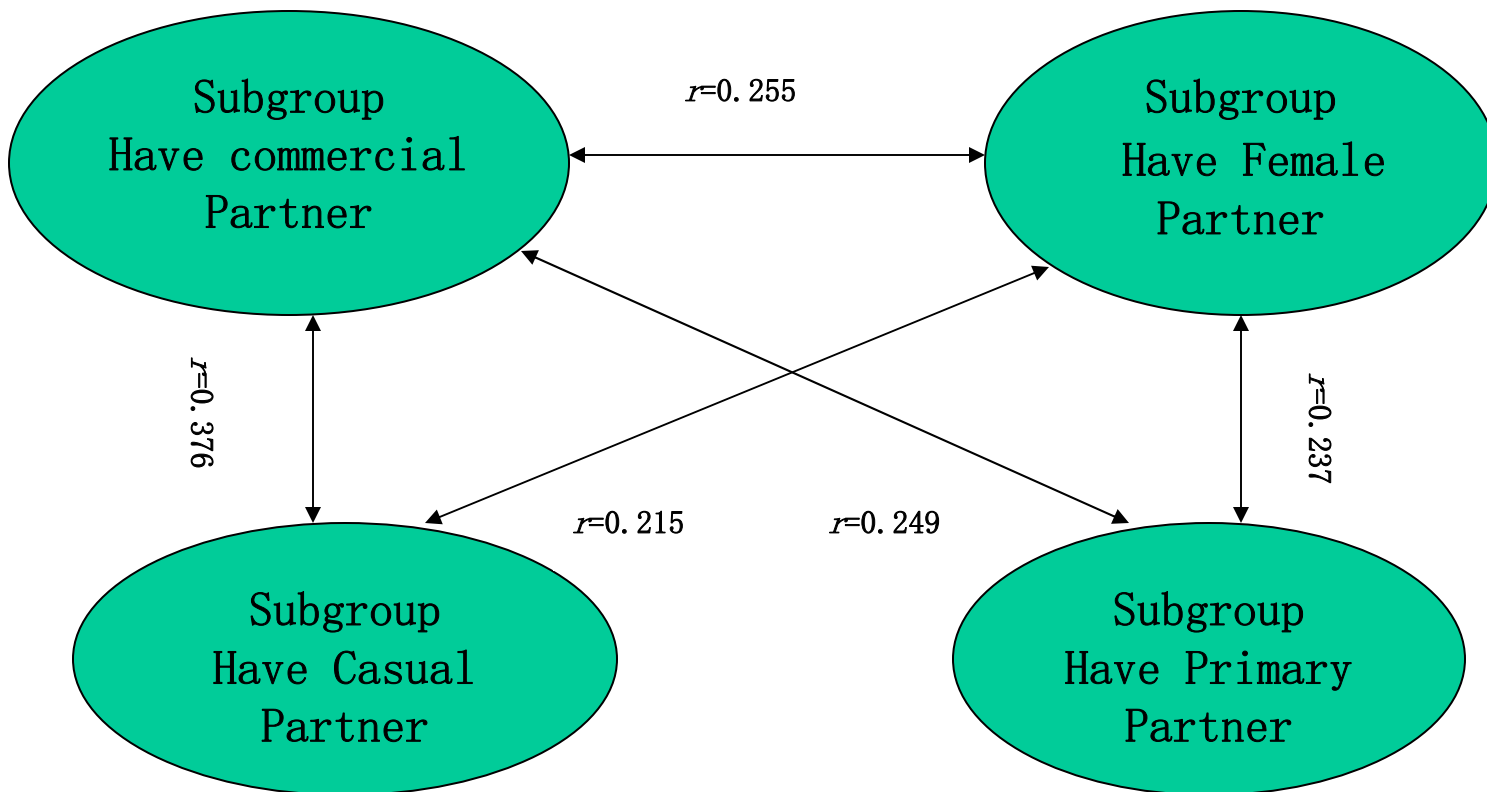
- **82.8% MSM have anal sexual intercourse**
- **16.0% MSM always use condom in anal sexual intercourse**
- **25.7% MSM never use condom in anal sexual intercourse**
- **21.6% MSM always use condom in vaginal sexual intercourse**
- **32.0% MSM never use condom in vaginal sexual intercourse**

Type of sexual partner

- **50.0% of participants have casual homosexual partner in the last two months.**
- **17.8% of participants have a same-sex commercial sexual partner in the last two months.**
- **63.8% participants currently have a same-sex primary sexual partner.**
- **55.7% participants have female sexual partner during lifetime.**
- **19.5% and 12.6% of participants have 3 and 4 types of these sexual partners, respectively.**

Network of sexual partner

r : contingency coefficient



Discussion and Conclusion

- MSM are at high risk for HIV and STDs infection.
- These sexual network sub-groups, with different types of sexual partners, are closely associated.
- The core epidemic groups are the sub-groups who have female partner and commercial partner.

Cont'

- MSM who go to these gay bars are connected with each other through a sexual network of multiple partners.
- This presents a risk to their primary partners (both female and male) and may become a transmission bridge from these MSM into the general population.