



Embracing positive living for our people

The Trans Women HIV Bio-Behavioural Survey:
A baseline assessment among trans women in the Cape Town and Johannesburg metropolitan areas, and Buffalo City Metro Municipality, South Africa

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RATIONALE FOR THE STUDY

Globally, trans women have been shown to be at high risk for HIV infection.

In South Africa we currently have no information regarding the specific HIV vulnerabilities of trans women.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- To identify the social, structural, economic and cultural factors that are related to HIV infection in trans women
- To understand individual behaviours and practices related to HIV in trans women
- To determine the percentage of trans women who are HIV positive in Cape Town, Johannesburg and East London
- To conduct a size estimation of trans women in the Cape Town and Johannesburg Metropolitan areas and Buffalo City Metro Municipality

STUDY SETTING

This study will be conducted:

- The Cape Town Metropolitan area, located in the Western Cape Province,
- Johannesburg metropolitan area in the Gauteng province,
- Buffalo City Metro Municipality located in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa.

The rationale for conducting the study within the aforementioned cities and metros is because of the existence of organisations working with trans women.

- Gender Dynamix
- SHE Feminist Collective in East London
- Sex Workers' Advocacy and Education Taskforce (SWEAT)
- Access Chapter 2 (AC2)

STUDY POPULATION

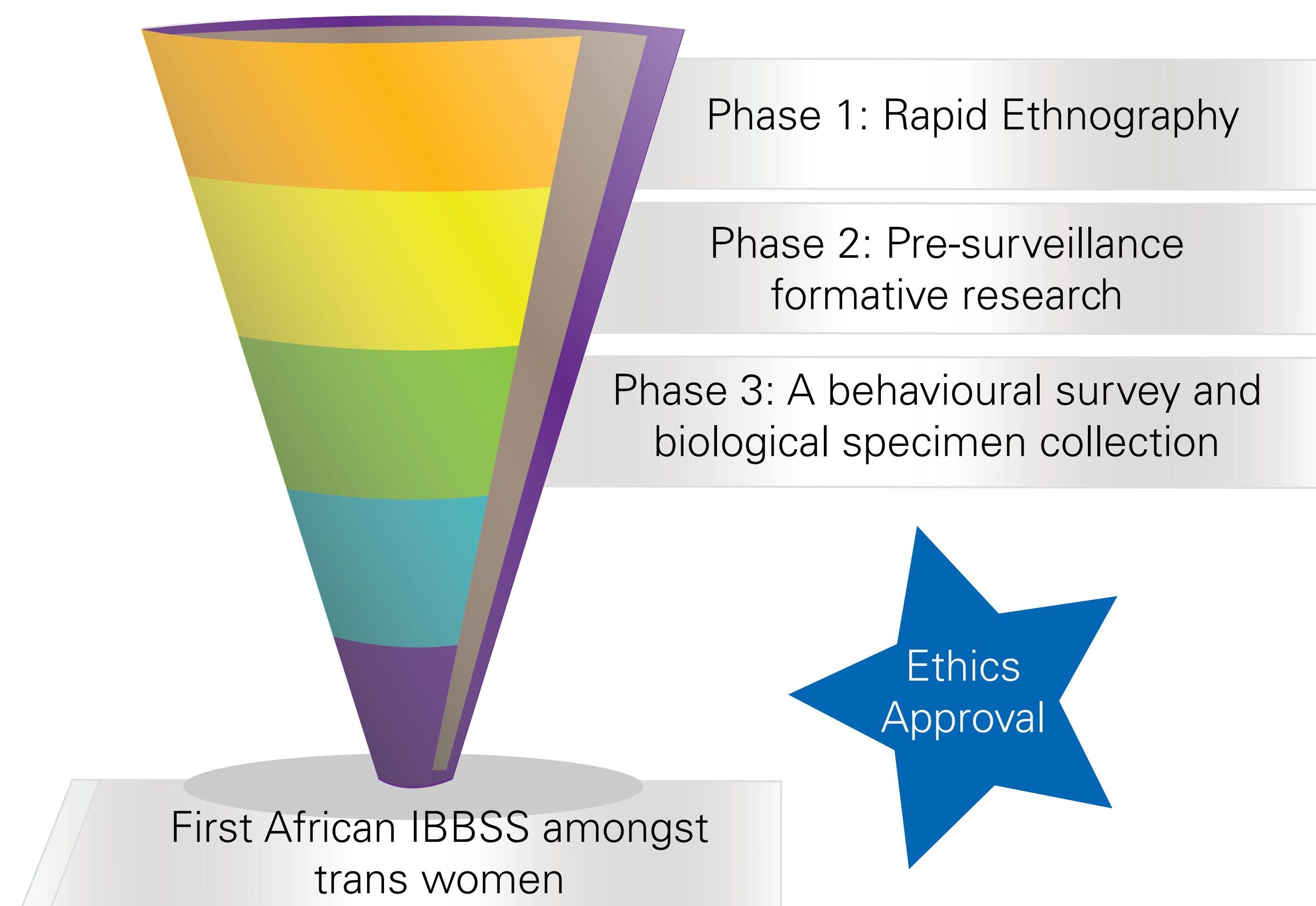
Trans women

The inclusion criteria for the following activities (FGDs, semi-structured interview and the survey) are:

- Aged 18 years or older
- (Self-reported) consensual sex* within the last 6 months
- Lives in the Cape Metropolitan area in the Western Cape Province, the Johannesburg metropolitan area in Gauteng as well as in the five districts of the Buffalo City Municipality
 - Sex at birth= male
 - Current Gender = Female or Trans*/gender/female or identify as "other" than male or man

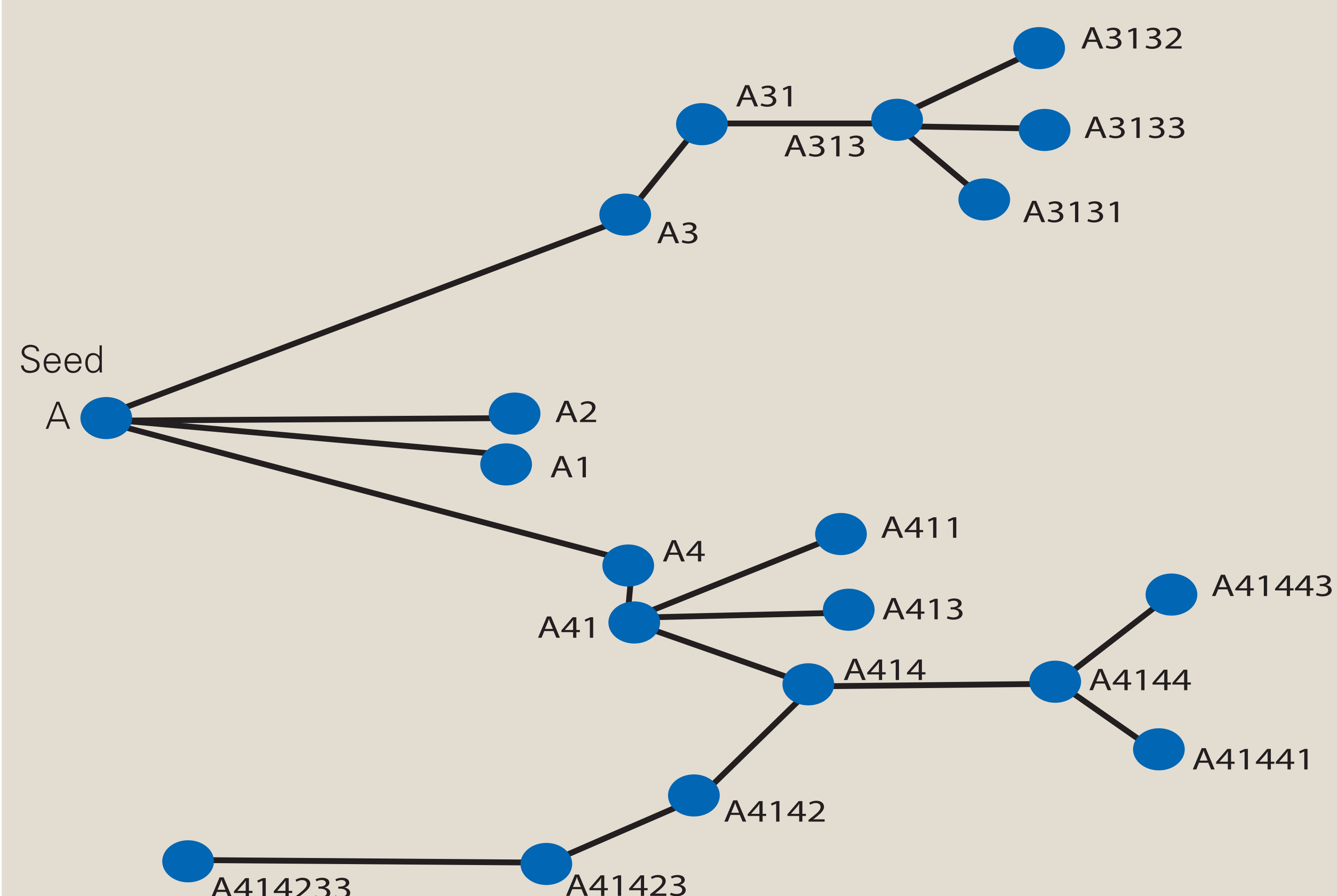
*For inclusion criteria purposes, sex is defined as oral, vaginal, or anal sex.

STUDY PROCEDURE



Phase 3: HIV Bio-Behavioural surveys using Respondent driven sampling (RDS) to recruit trans women

- RDS is a form of chain referral sampling used to recruit members of a "hidden" and a "hard-to-reach" population through their social networks
- RDS gets individuals to refer those they know, these individuals in turn refer those they know and so on.
- It assumes that those best able to access members of a 'hard-to-reach' (no sampling frame exists for them) and 'hidden' (behaviours that they engage in are often illicit or socially unacceptable) population are their own peers.



SIZE ESTIMATION METHODS

We currently do not know the number of trans women in South Africa.

