Decomposing Gender Inequalities in HIV/AIDS in Kenya, Lesotho, and Tanzania

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Word Count
Abstract: 276; Text: 3016

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Keywords: HIV, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, gender, Inequalities, Sub-Saharan Africa.

Key messages: (1) Persistent gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS exist in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA); (2) The sources of gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS infection varied across countries, but did not vary over time within countries; (3) In Tanzania, *differences in distributions* of HIV risk factors between men and women contributed to inequalities; (4) The *differential effect* of risk factors contributed to inequalities in Kenya & Lesotho, implying that gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS would persist in Kenya and Lesotho even if men and women had similar distributions of HIV risk factors.

Abstract

Within sub-Saharan Africa, women are disproportionately at risk for acquiring and having human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). It is important to clarify whether gender inequalities in HIV prevalence in this region are explained by differences in the distributions of HIV risk factors, differences in the effects of these risk factors, or some combination of both. We used an extension of the Blinder-Oaxaca decomposition approach to explain gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS in Kenya, Lesotho and Tanzania using data from the Demographic and Health and AIDS Indicator Surveys. After adjusting for covariates using Poisson regression models, female gender was associated with a higher prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Kenya [prevalence ratio (PR)=1.73, 95% confidence interval (CI)=1.33, 2.23) in 2003] and Lesotho (PR=1.39, 95% CI=1.20, 1.62 in 2004/2005), but not in Tanzania. Decomposition analyses demonstrated two distinct patterns over time. In Tanzania the gender inequality in HIV/AIDS was explained by differences in the distributions of HIV risk factors between men and women. In contrast, in Kenya and Lesotho this inequality was partly explained by differences in the effects across men and women of measured HIV/AIDS risk factors, including socio-demographic characteristics (age and marital status) and sexual behaviors (age at first sex); these results imply that gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS would persist in Kenya and Lesotho even if men and women had similar distributions of HIV risk factors. The production of gender inequalities may vary across countries, with inequalities attributable to the unequal distribution of risk factors among men and women in some countries and the differential effect of these factors between groups in others. These different patterns have important implications for policies to reduce gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS.

Key words: HIV, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, gender, Inequalities, Sub-Saharan Africa.

INTRODUCTION

No region has been more affected by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) pandemic than sub-Saharan Africa. In 2010, this region included 68% of all persons living with HIV/AIDS worldwide, but only 12% of the world's population (ONUSIDA 2011; United Nations 2011). Within sub-Saharan Africa, women are disproportionately at risk for acquiring and having HIV/AIDS. Women account for 59% of all HIV/AIDS infections in this region, and 15 to 24 year old sub-Saharan African women are more than twice as likely to become newly infected with HIV as men the same age (ONUSIDA 2011; United Nations 2011).

Differences in the distributions of biological, behavioral, and social determinants of HIV infection between men and women may explain the increased risk for HIV infection among sub-Saharan African women.(Beegle & Ozler 2007; Gillespie 2008; Piot 2008). For example, women's lack of financial security and independence may contribute to higher HIV risk through mechanisms such as the exchange of sexual favors for physical or financial resources or the inability to negotiate safe sex behaviors because of financial dependency (Bandali 2011; Mojola 2011; Njue et al. 2011; Test et al. 2012). Differences in sexual decision-making power, domestic and partner violence, and societal norms regarding acceptable sexual behaviors for men and women also might contribute to gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS prevalence (Amaro 1995; Audet et al. 2010; Bouare 2009; Gupta 2002; Jewkes et al. 2010; Magadi 2012; Shisana 1999; Shisana & Davids 2004; Zierler & Krieger 1997), such as the prevalence of intergenerational sex between older men and younger women (SA & Larsen 2008; Shannon et al. 2012). In Tanzania, women with a male partner more than 10 years their age were at increased risk for HIV infection (SA & Larsen 2008).

While gender differences in the distribution of HIV risk factors might contribute to gender inequalities in infection, it is also possible that these characteristics have differential effects on HIV risk for men and women. For example, women are physiologically more vulnerable to HIV infection through sexual intercourse than men (Quinn & Overbaugh 2005). Therefore, gender inequalities in HIV infection may arise even in the absence of differences in sexual risk behavior. Similarly, the effects of socioeconomic characteristics, like equivalent educational attainment, on HIV infection may be different for men and women due to socio-cultural factors including discrimination against women in the labor market. Few studies have examined whether risk factors for HIV have differential effects for men compared to women.(Reniers 2008; Watkins 2004). A recent study from Kenya suggested that associations between socioeconomic status and HIV serostatus differed for men and women (Ishida et al. 2012).

It is important to clarify whether gender inequalities in HIV prevalence in sub-Saharan Africa are explained by differences in the distributions of HIV risk factors, differences in the effects these risk factors, or some combination of both. This knowledge is crucial for designing more effective HIV prevention policies and programs. For example, if gender inequalities in HIV prevalence are explained mainly by the distribution of socioeconomic characteristics by gender, then programs that reduce gender differences in socioeconomic resources might mitigate gender inequalities in HIV prevalence. However, if HIV gender disparities are primarily due to men and women's differential ability to use similar resources to alter their HIV risk, then programs that focus solely on equalizing resources may not achieve their objectives and may even exacerbate HIV differences by gender.

In this study, we used an extension of the Blinder-Oaxaca decomposition for nonlinear models (Blinder 1973; Oaxaca 1973) to investigate the relative contributions of variations in the distributions of HIV risk factors versus their differential effects in producing gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS prevalence in Kenya, Lesotho and Tanzania over time.

METHODS

Data

Data from the international Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) program and the AIDS Indicator Survey (AIS) were used to examine the relation between socioeconomic factors, gender and HIV prevalence. The DHS are nationally-representative household surveys that include comparable cross-national information on socio-demographic, behavioral, nutrition, health and other characteristics in 44 sub-Saharan African countries over time (Measure DHS 2009; Rutstein & Rojas 2003). The AIS provides nationally-representative HIV prevalence data based on anonymous testing in men aged 15-59 and women aged 15-49 (Pullum 2008; Wirth et al. 2006). The comparative nature of the DHS and the possibility to link socio-demographic, behavioral and other information from the DHS to HIV status from the AIS provides a unique opportunity to examine factors contributing to gender disparities in HIV/AIDS in different contexts in Africa. Three countries had overlapping socioeconomic data from the standard DHS and HIV prevalence data from the AIS for two consecutive time periods: Kenya (2003 and 2008/2009), Lesotho (2004/2005 and 2009/2010) and Tanzania (2003/2004 and 2007 / 2008) and were used in these analysis.

Measures

HIV serostatus, the primary outcome, was determined by a confirmatory HIV-positive antibody blood serum result. Socio-demographic characteristics included urban/rural residence, the sex of the household head, respondent's age at the time of survey, educational attainment (none, primary, or secondary and above), marital status (married, never married, or separated, divorced, or widowed) and occupational type (agricultural, unemployed, domestic, trade, manual, office/service, or professional/manager). Adopting a relative approach to poverty (Kobiané 1998; Kobiané 2005; Sia et al. 2007), household wealth was measured by a composite index created by principal component analysis using information on household assets (ownership of radio, television, refrigerator, bicycle, motorcycle/scooter, car/truck, and telephone), housing quality, and environmental conditions (electricity, source of drinking water, type of toilet facility, floor material); the index was split into country-specific quintiles. Sexual behaviors included age at first marriage, age at first sex, premarital sex, risky sexual behavior (whether respondent used a condom at last intercourse with a partner other than spouse) and multiple sex partners in the past year. Following the approach of Magadi (Magadi 2011), a principal component analysis was used to create a country-specific index of HIV/AIDS awareness using nine questions on knowledge of the modes of HIV transmission and ways to avoid infection.

Statistical Analysis

We used two complementary approaches for explaining the gender inequality in HIV/AIDS. First, we used multivariable Poisson regression models to assess the relation between gender and the HIV/AIDS seropositivity in each country-year after adjusting for socio-

demographic factors, sexual behaviors, and HIV awareness. Second, we used an extension of the Blinder-Oaxaca method using Poisson regression models to decompose the gender inequality in HIV/AIDS prevalence in each country and time period into the part attributable to differences in the distribution of characteristics (the explained component or characteristics effects endowments, labeled *E*) between men and women and the part due to differences in the effects of these characteristics on HIV prevalence (the unexplained component or coefficient effects, labeled *C*) (Blinder 1973; Oaxaca 1973; Powers et al. 2011). In contrast to the standard regression approach that accounts for the differential distribution of characteristics between men and women, the Blinder-Oaxaca method additionally assesses the contribution of the differential effects of these characteristics on HIV/AIDS for men and women; this latter component is often used as a measure of discrimination (Jann 2008) and also reflects the effects of group differences in unobserved variables (Jann 2008; Jiménez-Rubio & Hernández-Quevedo 2011). Initially limited to continuous dependent variables, Blinder-Oaxaca decomposition has been extended to the case of non-linear dependent variables.(Even & Macpherson 1993; Fairlie 2005; Nielsen 1998; Sinning et al. 2008; Yun 2004). Estimates were obtained using the statistical routine designed for non-linear outcomes described by Powers, Yoshioka & Yun (*mvdcmp* command in Stata). This approach incorporates several recent contributions to overcome various problems related to path dependence and identification (Powers et al. 2011). All models used the DHS sampling weights and robust standard errors to account for the clustering effect at the household level. We used Stata version 12 software for all analyses.

RESULTS

Gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS

Data were available for 51,059 respondents across the three countries and two time periods (Table 1). HIV/AIDS prevalence was significantly higher among women compared with men in each country and time period examined. Over the 5-year period, the gender inequality in HIV prevalence increased in Lesotho (female-male difference=7.57% in 2004/2005 and 8.28% in 2009/2010) and Tanzania (female-male difference=1.44% in 2003/2004 and 2.05% in 2007/2008). In Kenya, the gender inequality in HIV/AIDS prevalence declined from 4.05% in 2003 to 3.43% in 2008/2009 (Table 1).

Sample characteristics

Descriptive analyses (Table 2) showed that, in general, men were more likely than women to be never married, whereas women were more likely to be married or separated, divorced, or widowed. Additionally, women were more likely than men to be unemployed or working as a homemaker. In Kenya and Tanzania, men were more likely than women to report completion of secondary school or above; however, women reported higher educational attainment in Lesotho. Men were more likely than women to report premarital sex and multiple sexual partners, older age at marriage, and younger age at first sexual intercourse (in Kenya and Lesotho). Women were more likely than men to report higher levels of HIV/AIDS awareness in Lesotho and Tanzania, but there was not a consistent difference in Kenya.

Characteristics associated with HIV/AID*S*

After adjusting for covariates using Poisson regression models (Table 3), female gender was associated with a higher prevalence of HIV/AIDS in Kenya [prevalence ratio (PR)=1.73, 95% confidence interval (CI)=1.33, 2.23) in 2003] and Lesotho (PR=1.39, 95%CI=1.20, 1.62 in

2004/2005), but not in Tanzania. Certain characteristics were associated with increased HIV/AIDS prevalence across country and years. For example, relative to being married, being separated, divorced, or widowed was associated with higher HIV/AIDS prevalence and being never married with lower prevalence. Additionally, adolescents 15 to 19 years of age had a lower prevalence of HIV/AIDS compared to adults 40 and older. However, there was also evidence of heterogeneous associations between individual characteristics and HIV/AIDS across countries and periods. Education, for example, was a risk factor for HIV infection in Kenya and a protective factor in Lesotho in the first period; five years later education was not associated with the prevalence of HIV infection in the three countries. Similarly, having multiple sex partners was associated with increased HIV/AIDS prevalence in Kenya and Lesotho over both periods, but not in Tanzania. Sexual risk behavior was associated with lower HIV/AIDS prevalence in Kenya and increased prevalence in Tanzania in the later periods.

Decomposing gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS

Decomposition analyses demonstrated two distinct patterns over time (Table 4). In Kenya and Lesotho, the gender inequality in HIV/AIDS was largely attributable to the difference in the effects of characteristics on HIV/AIDS (difference in coefficients effect). In Kenya, the proportion of gender inequality in HIV/AIDS explained by the difference in coefficient effect was 81.67% in 2003 and 98.73% in 2008/2009; most of this was due to the differential effects of unmeasured characteristics not included in the model (see Supplemental Table 1, Supplemental Digital Content 1, which shows the contribution of individual characteristics to gender inequality in HIV/AIDS prevalence in Kenya). In Lesotho, the proportion of the gender inequality in HIV/AIDS explained was 78.90% in 2004 / 2005 and 76.14% in 2009/2010. The differential

effects of measured characteristics explained 26.57% and 42.51% of the gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS in the first and second periods, respectively (see Supplemental Table 2, Supplemental Digital Content 2, which shows the contribution of individual characteristics to gender inequality in HIV/AIDS prevalence in Lesotho). Unlike Kenya and Lesotho, in Tanzania 141.88% and 94.57% of the gender inequalities in the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in 2003 and 2008, respectively, were explained by the differences in distributions of HIV risk factors between men and women. This implies that gender inequalities in HIV infection would be eliminated if men and women had similar levels of socio-demographic characteristics, sexual behaviors, and HIV/AIDS awareness. For example, if men and women had the same distribution of age at first sex, the gender inequality in HIV/AIDS prevalence would be reduced by 43.27% in 2003 and 29.45% in 2008 (see Supplemental Table 3, Supplemental Digital Content 3, which shows the contribution of individual characteristics to gender inequality in HIV/AIDS prevalence in Tanzania). HIV awareness did not contribute to gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS.

DISCUSSION

Women in Sub-Saharan Africa have a higher prevalence of HIV/AIDS than men (Magadi 2011) and there is increasing recognition that prevention and treatment programs must address gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS (Carael et al. 2009). However, the mechanisms that engender these inequalities are poorly understood. We investigated the extent to which gender inequalities in the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in three sub-Saharan African countries were explained by gender differences in the distributions of HIV risk factors versus the differential effects of those risk factors.

The unequal distribution of HIV risk factors, including socio-demographic characteristics, sexual behaviors, and HIV/AIDS awareness, between men and women may contribute to gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS (Magadi & Desta 2011; Türmen 2003). A common approach for assessing whether gender differences in the distributions of risk factors explain gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS is to adjust for these covariates in a regression model and assess whether the gender inequality in HIV/AIDS persists. Using this approach, we found that socio-demographic characteristics and sexual behaviors partly explained the gender inequality in HIV/AIDS prevalence in Tanzania, a finding confirmed by our decomposition analysis; however, in Kenya and Lesotho, the effect of gender on HIV/AIDS prevalence was still significant. These results are consistent with prior work (Beegle & Ozler 2007; Gillespie 2008; Magadi 2011; Mishra et al. 2007; Piot 2008); for example, Magadi (2011) recently concluded that HIV risk factors, including sexual behaviors, did not explain the increased odds of HIV/AIDS among women relative to men using pooled data from 20 Sub-Saharan African countries (Magadi 2011). As we observed, men may be more likely than women to report certain risk factors, including having multiple sex partners (Do & Meekers 2009), suggesting that the differential distribution of these characteristics alone is unlikely to explain women's increased HIV risk.

Conditional on exposure, risk factors may have differential effects on HIV/AIDS risk for men and women and contribute to gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS. Using an extension of the Blinder-Oaxaca decomposition approach, we found that gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS in Kenya and Lesotho were partly explained by differences in effects across men and women of measured HIV/AIDS risk factors including socio-demographic characteristics (age and marital status) and sexual behaviors (age at first sex). However, gender inequalities were primarily

attributable to the differential effects of unmeasured characteristics. Prior work has suggested that gender modifies the effect of HIV risk factors on infection (Magadi & Desta 2011). Unmeasured biological factors may be important. For example, male-to-female transmission of HIV may be more biologically efficient than female-to-male transmission (Galvin & Cohen 2004; Glynn et al. 2001; Quinn & Overbaugh 2005; Temah 2009/5). Therefore, even if men and women had similar distributions of sexual risk behaviors, we would expect gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS to remain. Political, organizational and legislative,(Carael et al. 2009) social ,(Amaro 1995; Audet et al. 2010; Bouare 2009; Gupta 2002; Jewkes et al. 2010; Magadi 2012; Zierler & Krieger 1997) and cultural factors may also play important roles. For example, although it is hypothesized that socioeconomic disadvantage drives sexual risk behaviors, qualitative work from rural Tanzania showed that women continued to engage in transactional sex even after basic material needs were met and despite known risks, (Wamoyi et al. 2011) suggesting that economic interventions that ignore the broader socio-cultural factors that shape behavior may be ineffective.

Our results suggest that the sources of gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS vary across Sub-Saharan African countries, although they were relatively stable within countries over time. These results have important implications for the design of policies and interventions aimed at mitigating inequalities in HIV/AIDS between men and women. In countries like Tanzania, where the differential distribution of conventional HIV risk factors were the primary determinants of gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS,(Magadi & Desta 2011) targeted interventions that attempt to increase educational attainment and promote HIV/AIDS awareness and safer sexual practices among women may be effective. However, in other countries like Kenya and Lesotho, interventions that address the differential effects of HIV risk factors may be necessary. If

biological factors are implicated, for example, then interventions facilitating the prevention and control of sexually transmitted infections and use of vaccines and microbicides among women may reduce gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS. Cultural norms encouraging practices such as intergeneration sex (SA & Larsen 2008; Shannon et al. 2012) may also increase women's risk of infection conditional on exposure, implicating the need for social interventions. Future work should decompose gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS across a broader set of Sub-Saharan African countries and attempt to identify the specific characteristics that contribute to gender inequalities in each one.

There were several limitations to this study. First, the DHS/AIS provide estimates of HIV prevalence that are intended to be nationally representative. Nevertheless, given the voluntary nature of the test, estimates would be biased had refusal been associated with outcome status. However, prior reports (Fortson 2008; Mishra et al. 2006) showed that non-response was unlikely to bias national estimates of prevalence from the DHS. Second, gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS prevalence may be affected not only by differences in risk factors for infection, but also unmeasured factors that influence the duration of disease including access to treatment. Third, the cross-sectional nature of data cannot establish temporality between exposures and outcome status. For example, knowledge of HIV test results may influence sexual risk behaviors. We noted an unexpected protective effect of sexual risk behavior on HIV/AIDS that is not supported by the prior literature and may be a result of reverse causality. Finally, HIV risk factors were based on self-report and may be reported with error, for example, if individuals misreported sexual behaviors (Buvé et al. 2001).

CONCLUSION

Caveats considered, the use of novel methods to decompose gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS prevalence in Sub-Saharan Africa provides insights into developing prevention and control strategies. The production of gender inequalities may vary across countries, with inequalities attributable to the unequal distribution of risk factors among men and women in some countries and the differential effect of these factors between groups in others. These different patterns have important implications for policies to reduce gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS. In contrast to Tanzania, gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS would persist in Kenya and Lesotho even if men and women had similar distributions of HIV risk factors.

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Table 1: Response rate, samples size and prevalence (%) of HIV / AIDS by sex, by country and period

	Kenya		Lesotho		Tanzania	
	Period		**Period**		**Period**	
	2003	**2008/2009**	**2004/2005**	**2009/2010**	**2003/2004**	**2007/2008**
Male	4.64 (n = 2917)	4.55 (n =3095)	18.86 (n= 2234)	18.45 (n=3075)	6.26 (n = 4774)	4.56 (n = 6333)
Female	8.69 (n=3271)	7.98 (n=3811)	26.43 (n= 3020)	26.73 (n = 3849)	7.70 (n = 5969)	6.61 (n = 8711)
Female-Male prevalence	4.05 (p<0.001)*	3.43 (p<0.001)	7.57 (p<0.001)	8.28 (p<0.001)	1.44 (p=0.010)	2.05 (p<0.001)
Response rate (%) **	73	83	75	91	81	85

n: sample size

* P-values for two-tailed chi-square test comparing prevalence of HIV/AIDS in men and women

** Response information available from Measure DHS: http://www.measuredhs.com/What-We-Do/survey-search.cfm?pgtype=main&SrvyTp=country

Table 2: Sample characteristics by sex and period

	Kenya				Lesotho				Tanzania			
	2003		2008/2009		2004/2005		2009/2010		2003/2004		2007/2008	
	Male (n = 2917)	Female (n = 3271)	Male (n = 3095)	Female (n = 3811)	Male (n = 2234)	Female (n = 3020)	Male (n = 3075)	Female (n = 3849)	Male (n = 4774)	Female (n = 5969)	Male (n = 6333)	Female (n = 8711)
Socio-economic and demographic characteristics												
Residence												
Rural	74.93	75.25	74.63	76.34	80.34***	75.78	72.01***	67.31	69.87	69.21	76.62*	74.75
Urban	25.07	24.75	25.37	23.66	19.66	24.22	27.99	32.69	30.13	30.79	23.38	25.25
Sex of household head												
Male	81.52	64.57	82.96	63.2	74.91	64.89	74.4	65.36	88.25	77.29	86.3	76.65
Female	18.48	35.43***	17.04	36.8***	25.09	35.11***	25.6	34.64***	11.75	22.71***	13.7	23.35***
Age group (in years)												
15-19	24.47	22.58	23.55	20.59	27.26*	24.07	25.84*	23.34	23.65*	21.47	26.44***	21.47
20-29	32.66	37.48***	31.71	37.68***	31.65	34.89*	33.12	36.36*	35.22	39.06***	30.52	36.11***
30-39	22.66	24.79	22.36	23.89	19.61	22.99*	20.44	23.44**	25.91	24.99	25.64	26.55
40 +	20.21***	15.15	22.39***	17.84	21.48**	18.05	20.6***	16.86	15.23	14.48	17.4*	15.87
Education level												
None	6.16	12.58***	3.81	8.76***	17***	2.301	12.99***	1.17	10.77	21.99***	11.67	21.12***
Primary	57.27	58.31	52.46	56.94**	57.37	58.8	49.15	47.32	78.47***	69.63	73.57***	69.46
Secondary and above	36.57***	29.11	43.73***	34.3	25.63	38.9***	37.86	51.5***	10.76**	8.378	14.76***	9.42
Standard of living												
quintile 1 (lowest)	21.51	21.62	20.09	21.42	23.37	22.28	17.88	17.16	16.94	18.44**	31.09	29.67
quintile 2	20	21.33	19.74	20.36	13.93	12.6	20.48**	17.41	20.11***	17.68	20.56	21.48
quintile 3	19.77	18.6	19.38	20.65	25.96	23.75	18.86*	16.88	21.98	23.01	17.92	16.99
quintile 4	20.03*	17.83	21.14	21.14	15.36	15.67	20.05	23.3**	19.8*	18.12	13.47	13.84
quintile 5	18.69	20.62	19.65	18.57	21.37	25.69**	22.72	25.26*	21.18	22.74	16.96	18.02
Occupation type												
Agricultural	32.96	30.05	36.37***	22.78	17.49*	14.3	35.42***	10.29	56.03	58.61*	56.9	57.68
Unemployed	23.8	37.91***	11.74	42.16***	55.09	55.4	30.49	55.25***	14.71	17.94**	19.78	19.73
Domestic	2.53	5.73***	2.62	3.51	0.28	5.11***	0.42	5.2	-	-	-	-
Trade	8.25	14.16**	7.279	5.728	2.25	6.87***	3.03	5.81***	13.03	18.12***	6.81	14.57***
Manual labor	19.23***	4.65	21.33***	5.74	17.8**	12.46	19.72***	11.92	12.54***	2.56	9.68***	2.66
Office / service	5.76***	3.21	2.375	2.65	4.726*	2.944	6.85	7.08	0.918	0.55	1.95	2.61
Professional / manager	7.48***	4.29	18.28	17.44	2.36	2.91	4.07	4.44	2.77	2.22	4.88***	2.75
Marital status												
Married	50.38	60.22***	50.3	58.6***	41.9	53.13***	42.03	53.48***	52.84	64***	52.44	64.01***
Never married	45.47***	29.16	45***	31.11	51.54***	32.45	52.26***	34.47	41.42***	24.17	42.78***	23.82
Separated / divorced / widowed	4.15	10.62***	4.702	10.3***	6.557	14.41***	5.705	12.06***	5.742	11.83***	4.78	12.18***

	Sexual behaviors											
Risky sexual behaviour[1]												
No	87.18	91.22	91.33	91.44	100	87.1	84.09	90.39	86.2	88.13	85.18	86.5
Yes	12.82***	8.78	8.67	8.56	0	12.9***	15.91***	9.61	13.8*	11.87	14.82	13.5
Premarital sex												
No	20.89	100	24.1	48.94	34.75	65.41	26.8	49.96	31.38	57.64	32.58	56.34
Yes	79.11***	0	75.9***	51.06	65.25***	34.59	73.2***	50.04	68.62***	42.36	67.42***	43.66
Multiple sex partners												
No	72.5	87.57	76	87.24	55.99	74.07	51.62	73.92	64.87	81.82	70.05	83.98
Yes	27.5***	12.43	24***	12.76	44.01***	25.93	48.38***	26.08	35.13***	18.18	29.95***	16.02
Age at first sex												
20 +	12.99	25.91***	15.39*	18.72	30.63***	20.12	23.11*	20.38	22.66***	13.13	20.01***	11.24
Never had sex	15.09	29.16***	15.99	16.56	17.95	15.94	12.88	14.27	16.57***	12.76	20.41***	13.36
< 16 years	39.85***	12.1	33.1***	22.49	18.15**	14.63	27.88***	17.45	18.78	27.08***	20.25	29.11***
16-17	15.99	15.47	19.24	23.13*	15.88	24.29***	20.47	24.59***	20.42	25.78***	18.64	26.58***
18-19	16.07	17.36	16.28	19.11	17.4	25.01***	15.65	23.31***	21.58	21.26	20.68	19.7
Age at first marriage												
20 +	47.08***	25.91	46.57***	27.8	42.22***	20.77	41.45***	24.49	46.05***	21.53	46.36***	22.2
Never married	45.47***	29.16	45***	31.11	51.7***	32.45	52.26***	34.47	41.44***	24.2	42.78***	23.82
< 16 years	0.67	12.1***	0.67	10.81***	0.21	8.59***	0.78	6.32***	1.78	15.81***	0.96	14.15***
16-17	2.02	15.47***	2.22	14.13***	1.43	18.43***	1.17	16.24***	2.90	20.12***	3.16	20.96***
18-19	4.75	17.36***	5.55	16.15***	4.435	19.76***	4.33	18.49***	7.83	18.34***	6.74	18.87***
	HIV/AIDS awareness											
HIV /AIDS awareness												
Low	26.93	36.93***	28.77	33.57*	37.92***	26.18	38.23***	24.59	35.28	33.44	33.3	32.88
Average	34.86	36.05	47.87	45.21	32.73	33.67	35.52*	31.84	33.34	32.13	39.44	37.54
High	38.21***	27.02	23.36	21.22	29.35	40.15***	26.25	43.58***	31.38	34.44**	27.26	29.58*

[1] No condom use at last sex, with non-spousal partner

*: two-tailed chi-square test with p < 0.05

**: two-tailed chi-square test with p < 0.01

***: two-tailed chi-square test with p < 0.001

Table 3: Association between gender and HIV/AIDS seropositivity after adjusting socio-demographic characteristics, sexual behaviors,[a] HIV/AIDS awareness and the prevalence of HIV/AIDS by country and time period; multivariable Poisson regression models

	Kenya		Lesotho		Tanzania	
	2003	**2008/2009**	**2004/2005**	**2009/2010**	**2003/2004**	**2007/2008**
	Prevalence Ratio (95% CI)	**Prevalence Ratio (95% CI)**	**Prevalence Ratio (95% CI)**	**Prevalence Ratio (95% CI)**	**Prevalence Ratio (95% CI)**	**Prevalence Ratio (95% CI)**
Socio-economic and demographic characteristics						
Sex (male)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Female	1.73 (1.33-2.23)	1.46 (1.04-2.03)	1.39 (1.20-1.62)	1.40 (1.23-1.60)	0.94 (0.77-1.15)	1.09 (0.88-1.35)
Residence (rural)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Urban	1.53 (1.17-2.01)	1.16 (0.84-1.62)	1.05 (0.90-1.24)	1.16 (1.02-1.31)	1.48 (1.20-1.84)	1.71 (1.35-2.18)
Sex of household head (male)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Female	1.13 (0.89-1.43)	1.14 (0.85-1.54)	1.14 (1.00-1.30)	1.13 (1.00-1.27)	1.30 (1.04-1.62)	1.42 (1.13-1.78)
Age group (40 +)	1	1	1	1	1	1
15-19	0.37 (0.20-0.67)	0.58 (0.30-1.12)	0.48 (0.33-0.68)	0.20 (0.15-0.28)	0.34 (0.21-0.54)	0.31 (0.17-0.55)
20-29	1.11 (0.80-1.53)	1.02 (0.74-1.41)	1.26 (1.05-1.51)	0.83 (0.72-0.96)	0.79 (0.62-0.99)	0.92 (0.71-1.20)
30-39	1.18 (0.87-1.60)	1.26 (0.94-1.69)	1.72 (1.46-2.02)	1.30 (1.15-1.47)	1.15 (0.92-1.43)	1.42 (1.13-1.79)
Education attainment (none)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Primary	2.59 (1.59-4.20)	1.44 (0.83-2.51)	0.75 (0.62-0.91)	0.97 (0.79-1.18)	1.25 (0.96-1.62)	1.03 (0.81-1.30)
Secondary and above	2.01 (1.18-3.42)	0.95 (0.52-1.73)	0.72 (0.57-0.90)	0.96 (0.77-1.20)	1.35 (0.90-2.03)	0.85 (0.54-1.33)
Standard of living (lowest quintile)	1	1	1	1	1	1
quintile 2	1.11 (0.79-1.57)	1.13 (0.82-1.57)	1.22 (1.02-1.47)	1.16 (0.99-1.35)	1.28 (0.94-1.74)	1.06 (0.82-1.37)
quintile 3	1.01 (0.71-1.45)	1.46 (1.02-2.10)	1.30 (1.09-1.55)	1.32 (1.13-1.54)	1.08 (0.80-1.45)	1.24 (0.94-1.64)
quintile 4	1.24 (0.87-1.77)	1.29 (0.87-1.90)	1.32 (1.09-1.60)	1.20 (1.03-1.41)	1.77 (1.32-2.38)	1.29 (0.94-1.77)
quintile 5	0.99 (0.66-1.49)	0.92 (0.58-1.47)	1.16 (0.95-1.43)	1.00 (0.83-1.21)	1.31 (0.93-1.86)	1.35 (0.97-1.89)
Occupation type (agricultural)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Unemployed	1.32 (0.96-1.82)	0.81 (0.56-1.16)	0.96 (0.82-1.13)	1.03 (0.89-1.19)	1.44 (1.06-1.96)	0.83 (0.56-1.21)

Domestic[b]	1.47 (0.91-2.37)	1.20 (0.73-1.98)	1.32 (0.98-1.77)	1.40 (1.12-1.74)	-	-
Trade	1.29 (0.92-1.81)	1.25 (0.78-2.00)	1.31 (1.02-1.67)	1.20 (0.97-1.49)	1.45 (1.15-1.83)	1.22 (0.94-1.58)
Manual labor	1.59 (1.10-2.30)	1.02 (0.66-1.57)	1.26 (1.04-1.52)	1.19 (1.01-1.41)	1.09 (0.77-1.53)	0.83 (0.57-1.22)
Office / service	1.47 (0.92-2.36)	1.85 (0.97-3.55)	0.88 (0.61-1.28)	1.00 (0.81-1.24)	1.17 (0.52-2.64)	1.05 (0.62-1.78)
Professional / manager	1.68 (1.06-2.67)	1.44 (0.99-2.09)	1.15 (0.83-1.61)	0.83 (0.63-1.10)	1.18 (0.71-1.96)	0.80 (0.49-1.30)
Marital status (married)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Never married	0.45 (0.31-0.67)	0.60 (0.35-1.02)	0.66 (0.53-0.81)	0.66 (0.55-0.79)	0.76 (0.54-1.05)	0.62 (0.41-0.94)
Separated / divorced / widowed	1.89 (1.38-2.59)	3.35 (2.36-4.77)	1.35 (1.14-1.60)	1.38 (1.20-1.58)	2.05 (1.62-2.60)	1.99 (1.51-2.62)
Sexual behaviors						
Risky sexual behaviour[c] (no)	1	1	-	-	1	1
Yes	1.09 (0.72-1.64)	0.40 (0.24-0.67)	-	-	1.01 (0.78-1.31)	1.32 (1.03-1.68)
Multiple sex partners (no)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Yes	1.57 (1.09-2.27)	1.62 (1.11-2.37)	1.22 (1.06-1.40)	1.41 (1.26-1.59)	0.96 (0.76-1.21)	0.87 (0.66-1.14)
Premarital sex [d] (no)	-	-	1	1	1	1
Yes	-	-	1.28 (1.11-1.47)	1.09 (0.97-1.23)	0.91 (0.76-1.10)	1.52 (1.23-1.89)
Age at first sex [d] (20 +)	-	-	1	1	1	1
Never had sex	-	-	0.63 (0.40-1.00)	0.68 (0.44-1.03)	0.73 (0.41-1.30)	0.85 (0.42-1.73)
< 16 years	-	-	0.87 (0.71-1.06)	1.02 (0.88-1.18)	1.49 (1.14-1.93)	1.34 (0.99-1.80)
16-17	-	-	1.05 (0.90-1.23)	0.92 (0.80-1.06)	1.34 (1.04-1.72)	1.26 (0.94-1.69)
18-19	-	-	1.07 (0.92-1.25)	0.86 (0.75-0.99)	1.19 (0.93-1.53)	1.15 (0.86-1.56)
HIV/AIDS awareness						
HIV/AIDS awareness (low)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Average	1.02 (0.79-1.33)	1.20 (0.91-1.60)	1.17 (1.01-1.35)	0.94 (0.82-1.06)	1.00 (0.81-1.23)	0.95 (0.77-1.17)
High	0.85 (0.63-1.14)	1.36 (0.98-1.89)	0.96 (0.81-1.13)	0.99 (0.87-1.12)	1.07 (0.87-1.32)	0.82 (0.65-1.04)
_cons	0.01 (0.01-0.03)	0.02 (0.01-0.05)	0.14 (0.11-0.18)	0.17 (0.13-0.22)	0.03 (0.02-0.05)	0.03 (0.02-0.04)

[a] The variable "age at first marriage" was strongly correlated to the variables "age at first sex" and "premarital sex"; therefore it is not included in the Poisson regression models and decomposition of gender gap in HIV prevalence.

[b] This category was not collected in Tanzania.

[c] The variable "risky sexual behavior" has one category empty for men in 2004 / 2005 in Lesotho so it is not included in regression and decomposition analyses for this country.

[d] In Kenya in 2003, the variables "premarital sex" and "age at first sex" are not included in the Poisson regression models and decomposition due to the fact that certain categories of these variables have zero persons for women. To make the results comparable, these variables were not included in these analyzes for the period 2008/2009 in Kenya.

Table 4. Results from Blinder-Oaxaca decomposition analysis of gender inequalities in HIV/AIDS prevalence in Kenya, Lesotho, and Tanzania by time period

	Kenya						Lesotho						Tanzania					
	2003 (n = 6188)			2008/2009 (n = 6906)			2004/2005 (n = 5254)			2009/2010 (n = 6924)			2003/2004 (n = 10743)			2007/2008 (n = 15044)		
Inequality in HIV / AIDS prevalence between men and women	4,05%			3.43%			7.57%			8.28%			1.44%			2.05%		
	Beta. (SE)	p-value	%[3]	Beta. (SE)	p-value	%[3]	Beta. (SE)	p-value	%[3]	Beta. (SE)	p-value	%[3]	Beta. (SE)	p-value	%[3]	Beta. (SE)	p-value	%[3]
Due to Difference in Characteristics (E)[1]	0.007 (0.007)	0.297	18.33	0.0004 (0.010)	0.965	1.27	0.016 (0.013)	0.215	21.10	0.021 (0.011)	0.050	23.86	0.019 (0.004)	0.000	141.88	0.017 (0.004)	0.000	94.57
Due to Difference in Coefficients (C)[2]	0.033 (0.010)	0.001	81.67	0.033 (0.012)	0.008	98.73	0.060 (0.018)	0.001	78.90	0.067 (0.014)	0.000	76.14	-0.006 (0.006)	0.379	-41.88	0.001 (0.005)	0.850	5.43

[1] Part of gender inequality in HIV/AIDS prevalence attributable to differences in the distribution of risk factors

[2] Part of gender inequality in HIV/AIDS prevalence attributable to differences in the effects of risk factors

[3] Using this method, the net percent contribution of components E and C always equals 100%. A contribution may be negative (less than 0%) or positive and can even exceed 100%. A positive contribution indicates that the component contributes to the greater prevalence of HIV/AIDS among women relative to men, whereas a negative contribution indicates the opposite.

Supplemental table 1: Decomposition of HIV / AIDS prevalence in Kenya and by period

	2003			2008/2009		
difference in prevalence of HIV / AIDS between men and women	**4,05%**			**3.43%**		
	Coefficient. (Standard Error)	P	Pct.* (%)	Coefficient. (Standard Error)	P	Pct.* (%)
Due to Difference in Characteristics (E)	0.007 (0.007)	0.297	18.33	0.0004 (0.010)	0.965	1.27
Due to Difference in Coefficients (C)	0.033 (0.010)	**0.001**	81.67	0.033 (0.012)	**0.008**	98.73
	Due to Difference in Coefficients (C)			Due to Difference in Coefficients (C)		
Socio-economic and demographic characteristics			*-1.70*			*4.79*
Residence			**7.11**			**-18.08**
urban	-0.0015 (0.0014)	0.284	-3.60	0.0032 (0.0020)	0.099	9.69
rural	0.0043 (0.0040)	0.284	10.71	-0.0093 (0.0056)	0.099	-27.77
Sex of household head			**13.18**			**-6.05**
male	0.0069 (0.0049)	0.159	16.96	-0.0025 (0.0075)	0.740	-7.43
female	-0.0015 (0.0011)	0.159	-3.78	0.0005 (0.0014)	0.740	1.39
Age group			**1.96**			**-1.77**
15-19	0.0097 (0.0039)	0.012	24.04	0.0055 (0.0046)	0.237	16.38
20-29	-0.0014 (0.0026)	0.595	-3.37	-0.0005 (0.0036)	0.895	-1.42
30-39	-0.0029 (0.0019)	0.127	-7.09	-0.0041 (0.0026)	0.113	-12.16
40 +	-0.0047 (0.0020)	0.016	-11.62	-0.0015 (0.0028)	0.585	-4.57
Education level			**-6.36**			**-0.80**
none	0.0005 (0.0010)	0.585	1.33	0.0000 (0.0008)	0.969	-0.09
primary	0.0002 (0.0050)	0.967	0.51	-0.0036 (0.0063)	0.562	-10.92
secondary and above	-0.0033 (0.0037)	0.371	-8.20	0.0034 (0.0057)	0.548	10.22
Standard of living			**-0.69**			**-0.90**
quintile 1	-0.0030 (0.0020)	0.137	-7.46	0.0032 (0.0023)	0.164	9.59
quintile 2	0.0041 (0.0022)	0.068	10.08	0.0024 (0.0023)	0.286	7.26
quintile 3	-0.0032 (0.0018)	0.069	-8.01	-0.0003 (0.0019)	0.867	-0.97
quintile 4	0.0001(0.0015)	0.946	0.25	-0.0043 (0.0026)	0.092	-12.90
quintile 5	0.0018 (0.0019)	0.335	4.44	-0.0013 (0.0027)	0.634	-3.88
Occupation type			**-5.65**			**20.57**
Unemployed	-0.0013 (0.0032)	0.692	-3.15	-0.0019 (0.0029)	0.514	-5.66
agricultural	-0.0005 (0.0032)	0.876	-1.22	-0.0017 (0.0043)	0.690	-5.13
domestic	0.0003 (0.0005)	0.558	0.75	-0.0010 (0.0005)	0.053	-3.14
trade	-0.0004 (0.0009)	0.645	-1.03	0.0001 (0.0014)	0.924	0.39
manual labor	-0.0003 (0.0020)	0.861	-0.86	0.0082 (0.0041)	0.047	24.47
office / service	0.0006 (0.0008)	0.431	1.55	0.0001 (0.0007)	0.916	0.22
professional / manager	-0.0007 (0.0010)	0.509	-1.68	0.0031 (0.0026)	0.221	9.42
Marital status			**-11.25**			**5.77**

never married	0.0024 (0.0045)	0.592	5.95	0.0068 (0.0069)	0.325	20.45
married	-0.0073 (0.0044)	0.097	-18.15	-0.0045 (0.0058)	0.437	-13.65
separated / divorced / widowed	0.0004 (0.0004)	0.381	0.95	-0.0003 (0.0006)	0.552	-1.03
Sexual behavior factors			*-11.31*			*3.63*
Risky sexual behaviour			**-14.78**			**15.53**
no	-0.0070 (0.0078)	0.369	-17.32	0.0057 (0.0120)	0.635	17.16
yes	0.0010 (0.0011)	0.369	2.54	-0.0005 (0.0011)	0.635	-1.63
Multiple sex partners			**3.47**			**-11.90**
no	0.0023 (0.0048)	0.638	5.57	-0.0059 (0.0067)	0.383	-17.65
yes	-0.0009 (0.0018)	0.638	-2.11	0.0019 (0.0022)	0.383	5.75
HIV/AIDS awareness			*3.43*			*-7.22*
HIV/AIDS awareness			**3.43**			**-7.22**
low	-0.0036 (0.0019)	0.057	-8.80	-0.0013 (0.0029)	0.661	-3.85
average	0.0015 (0.0019)	0.429	3.77	-0.0046 (0.0033)	0.167	-13.81
high	0.0034 (0.0024)	0.162	8.47	0.0035 (0.0023)	0.129	10.45
_cons	0.0369 (0.0132)	0.005	91.25	0.0345 (0.0170)	0.043	**103.57**

*: Giving a variable, a negative percentage indicates the expected increase in gender inequality in HIV/AIDS prevalence, if women had the same returns to risk, or behavioral responses, as men

Supplemental table 2: Decomposition of HIV / AIDS prevalence in Lesotho and by period

difference in prevalence of HIV / AIDS between men and women	2004/2005			2009/2010		
	7.57%			**8,28%**		
	Coefficient. (Standard Error)	P	Pct.* (%)	Coefficient. (Standard Error)	P	Pct.* (%)
Due to Difference in Characteristics (E)	0.016 (0.013)	0.215	21.10	0.021 (0.011)	0.050	23.86
Due to Difference in Coefficients (C)	0.060 (0.018)	**0.001**	**78.90**	0.067 (0.014)	**0.000**	**76.14**
	Due to Difference in Coefficients (C)			Due to Difference in Coefficients (C)		
Socio-economic and demographic characteristics			**16.83**			**25.59**
Residence			**-4.16**			**-4.87**
urban	0.0010 (0.0023)	0.653	1.36	0.0027 (0.0030)	0.379	3.05
rural	-0.0042 (0.0094)	0.653	-5.51	-0.0069 (0.0079)	0.379	-7.93
Sex of household head			**-3.70**			**-4.03**
male	-0.0043 (0.0072)	0.549	-5.60	-0.0054 (0.0085)	0.523	-6.21
female	0.0015 (0.0024)	0.549	1.90	0.0019 (0.0030)	0.523	2.18
Age group			**10.85**			**14.20**
15-19	0.0270 (0.0091)	0.003	35.24	0.0038 (0.0100)	0.704	4.34
20-29	0.0042 (0.0061)	0.493	5.46	0.0263 (0.0091)	0.004	30.07
30-39	-0.0096 (0.0032)	0.002	-12.59	-0.0072 (0.0031)	0.021	-8.19
40 +	-0.0132 (0.0044)	0.003	-17.25	-0.0105 (0.0035)	0.003	-12.01
Education level			**5.98**			**20.03**
none	-0.0033 (0.0034)	0.336	-4.25	-0.0062 (0.0038)	0.100	-7.09
primary	0.0053 (0.0074)	0.476	6.89	0.0169 (0.0091)	0.062	19.32
secondary and above	0.0026 (0.0042)	0.539	3.34	0.0068 (0.0076)	0.368	7.80
Standard of living			**1.18**			**-0.27**
quintile 1	0.00004 (0.00371)	0.992	0.05	-0.0012 (0.0033)	0.705	-1.42
quintile 2	0.0011 (0.0024)	0.657	1.39	0.0057 (0.0037)	0.128	6.47
quintile 3	-0.0013 (0.0038)	0.736	-1.66	0.0031 (0.0031)	0.306	3.60
quintile 4	-0.0045 (0.0027)	0.093	-5.87	-0.0044 (0.0032)	0.174	-5.01
quintile 5	0.0056 (0.0042)	0.181	7.26	-0.0034 (0.0046)	0.454	-3.91
Occupation type			**15.70**			**-11.46**
Unemployed	0.0079 (0.0100)	0.432	10.28	0.0020 (0.0086)	0.818	2.27
agricultural	0.0020 (0.0038)	0.600	2.61	-0.0032 (0.0097)	0.742	-3.67
domestic	-0.0001 (0.0002)	0.536	-0.15	0.0004 (0.0003)	0.267	0.41
trade	0.0001 (0.0007)	0.832	0.19	-0.0012 (0.0011)	0.267	-1.39
manual labor	0.0021 (0.0037)	0.572	2.73	-0.0036 (0.0052)	0.491	-4.10
office / service	0.0002 (0.0019)	0.904	0.30	-0.0034 (0.0023)	0.142	-3.88
professional / manager	-0.0002 (0.0009)	0.827	-0.25	-0.0010 (0.0016)	0.554	-1.11
Marital status			**-9.02**			**8.99**

never married	0.0017 (0.0095)	0.859	2.20	0.0257 (0.0114)	0.025	29.36
married	-0.0099 (0.0063)	0.115	-12.97	-0.0175 (0.0068)	0.010	-20.07
separated / divorced / widowed	0.0013 (0.0011)	0.239	1.76	-0.0003 (0.0008)	0.746	-0.30
Sexual behavior factors			**9.65**			**16.22**
Premarital sex			**5.08**			**2.29**
no	-0.0044 (0.0041)	0.276	-5.76	-0.0009 (0.0028)	0.743	-1.04
yes	0.0083 (0.0076)	0.276	10.84	0.0029 (0.0089)	0.743	3.33
Multiple sex partners			**0.94**			**-0.08**
no	0.0032 (0.0051)	0.536	4.14	-0.0015 (0.0048)	0.763	-1.66
yes	-0.0025 (0.0040)	0.536	-3.21	0.0014 (0.0046)	0.763	1.58
Age at first sex			**3.63**			**14.01**
Never had sex	-0.0101 (0.0095)	0.287	-13.18	-0.0201 (0.0089)	0.024	-23.03
< 16 years	0.0044 (0.0043)	0.308	5.74	0.0099 (0.0066)	0.134	11.33
16-17	0.0020 (0.0031)	0.508	2.64	0.0052 (0.0045)	0.249	5.99
18-19	-0.0011 (0.0032)	0.719	-1.48	0.0083 (0.0038)	0.029	9.49
20 +	0.0076 (0.0061)	0.211	9.91	0.0090 (0.0050)	0.075	10.24
HIV/AIDS awareness			**0.09**			**0.70**
HIV/AIDS awareness			**0.09**			**0.70**
low	-0.0038 (0.0047)	0.415	-4.99	0.0057 (0.0048)	0.237	6.49
average	0.0100 (0.0042)	0.017	13.05	-0.0040 (0.0042)	0.343	-4.57
high	-0.0061 (0.0039)	0.118	-7.96	-0.0011 (0.0032)	0.740	-1.23
_cons	0.0401 (0.0236)	0.090	**52.33**	0.0320 (0.0299)	0.284	**36.63**

*: Giving a variable, a negative percentage indicates the expected increase in gender inequality in HIV/AIDS prevalence, if women had the same returns to risk, or behavioral responses, as men.

Supplemental table 3: Decomposition of HIV / AIDS prevalence in Tanzania and by period

	2003 / 2004			2007 / 2008		
difference in prevalence of HIV / AIDS between men and women	**1.44%**			**2.05%**		
	Coefficient. (Standard Error)	P	Pct*. (%)	Coefficient. (Standard Error)	P	Pct.* (%)
Due to Difference in Characteristics (E)	0.019 (0.004)	**0.000**	**141.88**	0.017 (0.004)	**0.000**	**94.57**
Due to Difference in Coefficients (C)	-0.006 (0.006)	0.379	-41.88	0.001 (0.005)	0.850	5.43
	Due to Difference in Characteristics (E)			**Due to Difference in Characteristics (E)**		
Socio-economic and demographic characteristics			**72.39**			**80.88**
Residence			**2.36**			**2.38**
urban	0.00017 (0.00007)	0.011	1.30	0.00014 (0.00005)	0.002	0.78
rural	0.00014 (0.00006)	0.011	1.06	0.00029 (0.00009)	0.002	1.60
Sex of household head			**21.61**			**10.38**
male	0.00143 (0.00064)	0.026	10.70	0.00100 (0.00040)	0.013	5.49
female	0.00146 (0.00066)	0.026	10.91	0.00089 (0.00036)	0.013	4.89
Age group			**9.90**			**13.80**
15-19	0.00131 (0.00040)	0.001	9.77	0.00186 (0.00064)	0.004	10.17
20-29	0.00049 (0.00033)	0.136	3.62	0.00057 (0.00026)	0.025	3.14
30-39	-0.00040 (0.00009)	0.000	-2.98	0.00013 (0.00004)	0.000	0.71
40 +	-0.00007 (0.00010)	0.480	-0.50	-0.00004 (0.00009)	0.674	-0.21
Education level			**-12.58**			**0.45**
none	-0.00138 (0.00115)	0.231	-10.31	0.00003 (0.00053)	0.953	0.17
primary	0.00001 (0.00060)	0.983	0.09	-0.00016 (0.00021)	0.454	-0.88
secondary and above	-0.00032 (0.00031)	0.303	-2.36	0.00021 (0.00045)	0.636	1.16
Standard of living			**-6.93**			**1.16**
quintile 1	-0.00033 (0.00018)	0.075	-2.43	0.00019 (0.00009)	0.040	1.05
quintile 2	-0.00002 (0.00027)	0.934	-0.17	0.00001 (0.00004)	0.870	0.03
quintile 3	-0.00013 (0.00008)	0.123	-0.95	-0.00005 (0.00007)	0.512	-0.26
quintile 4	-0.00050 (0.00013)	0.000	-3.71	0.000001 (0.00001)	0.893	-0.01
quintile 5	0.00005 (0.00019)	0.815	0.34	0.00006 (0.00005)	0.189	0.35
Occupation type			**32.21**			**13.55**
Unemployed	0.00061 (0.00047)	0.194	4.53	0.00001 (0.00002)	0.723	0.03
agricultural	-0.00041 (0.00033)	0.222	-3.04	0.000002 (0.000003)	0.452	0.01
trade	0.00116 (0.00069)	0.090	8.68	0.00114 (0.00053)	0.031	6.25
manual labor	0.00292 (0.00253)	0.248	21.78	0.00135 (0.00118)	0.252	7.38
office / service	-0.00013 (0.00014)	0.333	-0.99	0.000003 (0.00008)	0.971	0.02
professional / manager	0.00017 (0.00014)	0.250	1.24	-0.00003 (0.00026)	0.920	-0.14
Marital status			**25.82**			**39.15**
never married	0.00340 (0.00197)	0.084	25.36	0.00529 (0.00168)	0.002	28.93

married	-0.00266 (0.00114)	0.020	-19.86	-0.00043 (0.00076)	0.570	-2.35
separated / divorced / widowed	0.00272 (0.00057)	0.000	20.32	0.00230 (0.00052)	0.000	12.57
Sexual behavior factors			**74.16**			**4.91**
Premarital sex			**11.48**			**-27.88**
no	0.00077 (0.00126)	0.539	5.76	-0.00249 (0.00076)	0.001	-13.60
yes	0.00077 (0.00125)	0.539	5.72	-0.00261 (0.00080)	0.001	-14.29
Risky sexual behaviour			**-2.26**			**-1.23**
no	-0.00016 (0.00015)	0.292	-1.19	-0.00006 (0.00003)	0.028	-0.33
yes	-0.00014 (0.00014)	0.292	-1.07	-0.00017 (0.00008)	0.028	-0.91
Multiple sex partners			**21.67**			**4.58**
no	0.00146 (0.00116)	0.208	10.90	0.00040 (0.00069)	0.560	2.19
yes	0.00144 (0.00114)	0.208	10.76	0.00044 (0.00075)	0.560	2.39
Age at first sex			**43.27**			**29.45**
Never had sex	0.00302 (0.00096)	0.002	22.53	0.00249 (0.00147)	0.090	13.62
< 16 years	0.00246 (0.00086)	0.004	18.35	0.00160 (0.00059)	0.007	8.76
16-17	0.00110 (0.00050)	0.028	8.22	0.00117 (0.00054)	0.031	6.42
18-19	-0.00003 (0.00001)	0.022	-0.25	-0.00008 (0.00013)	0.532	-0.45
20 +	-0.00075 (0.00109)	0.494	-5.58	0.00020 (0.00086)	0.816	1.10
HIV/AIDS awareness			-1.03			-0.86
HIV/AIDS awareness			**-1.03**			**-0.86**
low	-0.00013 (0.00015)	0.383	-0.97	-0.00004 (0.00008)	0.623	-0.23
average	0.00004 (0.00006)	0.484	0.32	-0.00003 (0.00004)	0.532	-0.15
high	-0.00005 (0.00020)	0.803	-0.38	-0.00009 (0.00008)	0.272	-0.48

*: Giving a variable, a positive percentage indicates the expected reduction in gender inequality in HIV/AIDS prevalence, if women were equal to men on the distribution of this variable.