



Kalysha Closson^{1,2}, Melanie Lee⁹, Andrew Gibbs³, Valerie Nicholson^{2,9}, Rebecca Gormley^{2,9}, Erin Ding², Jenny Li², Neora Pick⁴, Mona Loutfy^{5,6}, Alexandra de Pokomandy⁷, Saara Greene⁸, Carmen Logie^{5,6}, Angela Kaida⁹

1 School of Population and Public Health, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada 2 British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, Vancouver, BC, Canada 3 South African Medical Research Council, Cape Town, South Africa 4 Oak Tree Clinic, Women's Hospital, Vancouver, BC, Canada 5 Women's College Hospital, Toronto, ON, Canada 6 University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada 7 McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada 8 School of Social Work, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada 9 Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC, Canada

BACKGROUND

- Lower sexual relationship power (SRP), including controlling behaviours within intimate relationships, has been linked with increased HIV-risk,¹ low condom use,² and experiences of violence.^{3,4}
- Among women living with HIV (WLWH), few studies have examined associations between SRP and condom use, violence, and resilience

OBJECTIVES

- To examine the psychometric properties, prevalence, and relative associations of the relationship control (RC) SRP sub-scale

METHODS

- Baseline data (2013-2015) was drawn from sexually active WLWH (≥16 years) enrolled in the Canadian HIV Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Cohort Study (CHIWOS)
- Questionnaire data was collected from peer-research associates in the provinces of British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec
- Pulerwitz's RC sub-scale⁴ was trichotomized and low/medium scores were compared to high scores (higher scores=greater SRP equity)
- Exploratory factor analysis and Cronbach's alpha assessed scale reliability
- Crude and adjusted logistic regression models examined associations between resilience (RS-14, higher scores indicating greater resilience) and RC
- Multinomial logistic regression examined associations between RC and condom use (never [ref], consistent, and inconsistent), any violence ([sexual, physical and/or emotional], never [ref], previous but not in the last 3 months, current [in the last 3 months]), and sexual violence (never [ref], previous but not in the last 3 months, current [in the last 3 months]),
- All models adjusted for potential confounders based on a priori knowledge, including education, age, ethnicity, income, housing stability, and gender discrimination (everyday discrimination scale-sexism, higher scores indicating greater gender discrimination)

RESULTS

- Of the 1422 WLWH in CHIWOS, 473 (33%) reported being sexually active and completed the RC sub-scale
- Overall WLWH in our sample at baseline:

85% ≥high school education

Age

- 15% 16-29
- 38% 30-39
- 33% 40-49
- 15% ≥50

Province of residence

- 43% Ontario
- 29% British Columbia
- 28% Quebec

Ethnicity

- 42% White
- 24% Indigenous ancestry
- 27% Black
- 32% Mixed or other

66% made <20k/year personal income

RESULTS-Continued

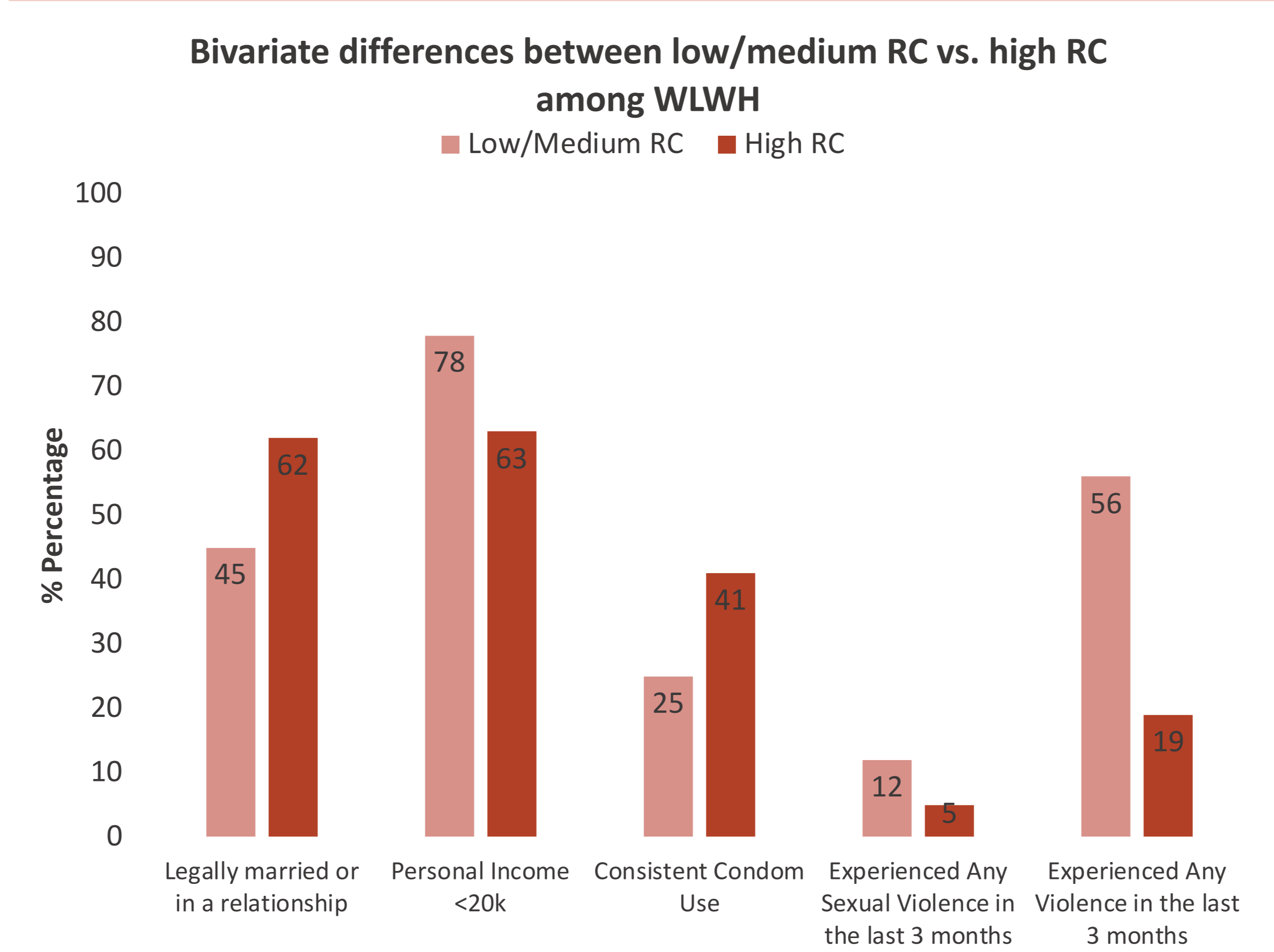


Table 1- Responses to SRPS RC sub-scale items total scale study Cronbach's alpha at Baseline = 0.915

Item: Response Options:	n(%)			
	SA	A	D	SD
1. Strongly Agree (SA)				
2. Agree (A)				
3. Disagree (D)				
4. Strongly Disagree (SD)				
<i>If I asked my partner(s) to use a condom, s/he would get violent</i>	<5	15 (3.2)	139 (29.4)	311 (65.8)
<i>If I asked my partner(s) to use a condom, s/he would get angry</i>	6 (1.3)	29 (6.1)	141 (29.8)	292 (61.7)
<i>Most of the time we do what my partner wants to do</i>	24 (5.1)	97 (20.5)	184 (38.9)	166 (35.1)
<i>My partner won't let me wear certain things</i>	10 (2.1)	24 (5.1)	200 (42.3)	237 (50.1)
<i>When my partner and I are together I am pretty quiet</i>	52 (11.0)	89 (18.8)	152 (32.1)	178 (37.6)
<i>My partner has more say than I do about important decisions that affect us</i>	16 (3.4)	66 (14.0)	177 (37.4)	213 (45.0)
<i>My partner tells me who I can spend time with</i>	16 (3.4)	48 (10.2)	154 (32.6)	254 (53.7)
<i>If I asked my partner to use a condom, s/he would think I'm having sex with other people</i>	12 (2.5)	37 (7.8)	163 (34.5)	257 (54.3)
<i>I feel trapped or stuck in our relationship</i>	15 (3.2)	50 (10.6)	160 (33.8)	236 (49.9)
<i>My partner does what s/he wants, even if I do not want her/him to</i>	22 (4.7)	73 (15.4)	166 (35.1)	210 (44.4)
<i>I am more committed to our relationship than my partner is</i>	25 (5.3)	52 (11.0)	178 (37.6)	208 (44.0)
<i>When my partner and I disagree, s/he gets her/his way most of the time</i>	23 (4.9)	89 (18.8)	170 (35.9)	180 (38.1)
<i>My partner gets more out of our relationship than I do</i>	18 (3.8)	79 (16.7)	184 (38.9)	174 (36.8)
<i>My partner always wants to know where I am</i>	40 (8.5)	122 (25.8)	141 (29.8)	164 (47.7)
<i>My partner might be having sex with someone else</i>	17 (3.6)	63 (13.3)	136 (28.8)	226 (47.8)

RESULTS-Continued

- WLWH that had high RC were more likely to be **legally married or in a relationship** (62% vs. 45%, p-value=0.007), had **higher resilience scale scores** (median=65 [60-69] vs. 62 [57-67], p-value<0.001, and more likely to use **condoms consistently** (41% vs. 25%, p=0.002)
- WLWH with low/medium RC had **lower personal income** (78% <\$20K/year vs. 63%, p=0.012), experienced significantly higher **gender discrimination scores** (median=24 [12-31] vs. 16 [10-26], p<0.001, experienced any **violence in the last 3 months** (56% vs. 19%, p<0.001, and experienced **sexual violence in the last 3 months** (12% vs. <5%), p<0.001

Table 2- Adjusted model examining the association between resilience scores and RC (n=473)

	Unadjusted Odds Ratio (95%CI)	Adjusted Odds Ratio (95%CI)
Resilience Scale		
Median Q1, Q3	1.04 (1.02-1.06)	1.03(1.00-1.06)

All models adjusted for education, income, ethnicity, relationship status, employment and housing

- After adjusting for education, age, ethnicity, main source of income, relationship status, housing stability, and gender discrimination, with every 1-point increase in resilience scale score, the odds of having high RC increased by 3%

Table 3- Adjusted models examining the relationship between RC sub-scale scores and 1. consistent condom use, 2. Any Violence, and 3. Sexual Violence (n=473)

	Adjusted Odds Ratio (95%CI)
Model 1 - Condom use*	
Relationship Control sub-Scale	
Low/Medium (≤2.82)	Ref
High (>2.82)	5.38 (2.05-14.14)
Model 2- Any Violence	
Relationship Control sub-Scale	
Low/Medium (≤2.82)	Ref
High (>2.82)	0.49(0.15, 1.59)
Model 3- Sexual Violence	
Relationship Control sub-Scale	
Low/Medium (≤2.82)	Ref
High (>2.82)	0.21(0.06-0.65)

All models adjusted for education, income, ethnicity, relationship status, employment and housing
*Model didn't adjust for housing as cell counts were too small

- Keeping potential confounding factors constant, WLWH:
- With **high RC** scale scores had **5.38 times the odds of consistent vs. never condom use** compared to WLWH with low/medium RC, however there was no significant effect between inconsistent and never condom users
- Who **high RC** scores had **91% lower odds of experiencing any violence in the last 3 months** vs. those with low/medium RC scores
- Who had **high RC** scores had **79% lower odds of experiencing sexual violence in the last 3 months** vs. those with low/medium RC scores

DISCUSSION

- We found good reliability and validity for the RC SRP sub-scale among WLWH in Canada.
- The majority of WLWH in our study had high RC sub-scale scores, highlighting that Canadian WLWH in sexual relationships may experience low levels of relationship control
- Our results align with previous studies, finding that **high RC** was associated with reduced experiences of recent violence and increased consistent condom use.
- Findings highlight **fostering resilience may improve SRP equity, and in turn reduce experiences of violence, supporting improved HIV-outcomes and wellbeing among WLWH**.

REFERENCES

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