**Fluidity of gender and sexual identity among a cohort of black men who have sex with men**

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To date, most studies have focused on assessment of sexual identity of male and female youth, since the development of sexual orientation has been shown to occur between the ages of 14 and 21 (Perrin, 2002), and on bisexual and lesbian females (Diamond, 2008; Rust, 2000). Although a person’s sexual identity forms during adolescence, studies have shown that identity can change over time (Kinnish, 2005), especially with regards to broader acceptance of sexual minorities. A deeper understanding of the fluidity of gender and sexual identity among black MSM is important in designing culturally appropriate studies and programs to target this population at highest risk for HIV acquisition.

We hypothesize that black MSM will change their reports of gender and sexual identity over time, and that this change will be associated with changes in self-perceived homonegativity, perceptions of homophobia, and age.

This paper will use baseline and follow-up (6 month and 12 month) ACASI data for all participants who reported a gender and/or sexual identity at baseline.