

RHRU

Reproductive Health & HIV Research Unit
of the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa.

Access to Emergency Contraception among Sexual Assault Survivors: Knowledge, attitudes and practices of Health Workers and Police officers in Durban

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RHRU is a WHO
collaborating centre



Presentation Outline

- Background
- Aims and Objectives
- Methodology
- Ethical process
- Additional Information
- Time frame

Introduction

- High levels of rape in South Africa
- Women who have been raped tend to be young
- Unintended pregnancies also high
- Managing Sexual Assault among women
 - EC is a back-up contraceptive method in cases of unprotected sex, condom failure and rape, and may reduce the need for abortion
 - Rape Protocol
- This study was undertaken in response to the lack of information on the knowledge, attitudes and practices of health-care providers in hospitals and police officers on EC in SA

Research objectives

- **Aims**

- To assess the knowledge, attitudes and practices on EC among hospital health workers and police officers who attend to women who have been sexually assaulted.

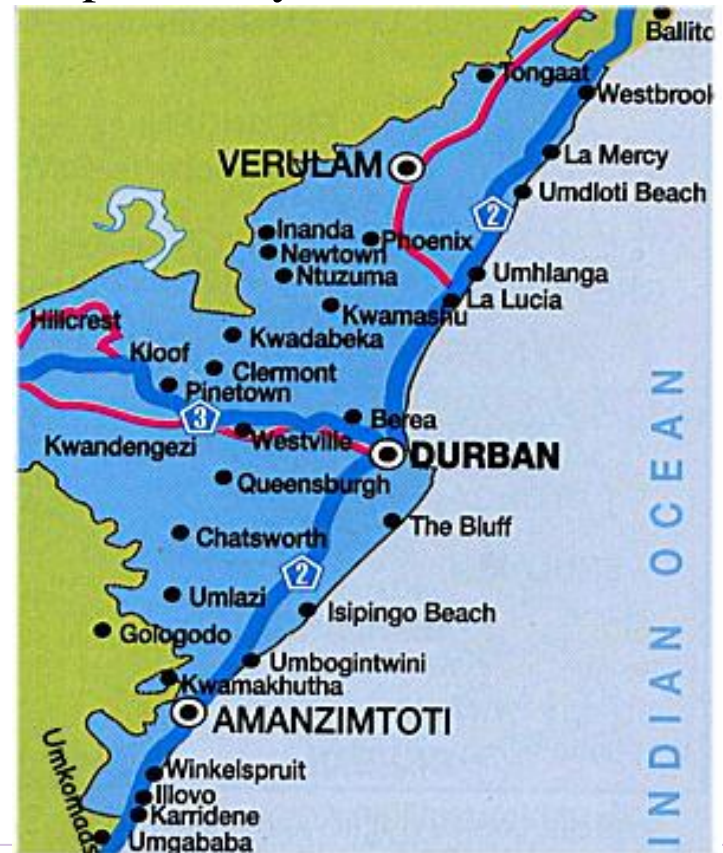
- **Objectives**

- To identify factors associated with health providers provision of EC to women who have been sexually assaulted.
- To assess whether health care professionals in hospitals and police services routinely provide counselling about EC during post-rape treatment, including counselling on the risk of HIV/STI's and pregnancy after unprotected sexual intercourse, and counselling about longer term contraceptive options.
- To determine if EC is available in Durban hospitals, and if so, which products (Ovral®; Nordiol®; Microval®; EgenC, Norlevo) are available?
- To assess whether hospitals routinely provide EC to women who have been sexually assaulted.
- To determine the accuracy of the information about efficacy and safety of EC and the EC dosage regimen advised by health providers.
- To determine whether health care professionals and police know about and follow the policies and procedures relating to preventing unwanted pregnancy.

Research Methodology

- **Study Setting**

- A city of eastern South Africa on Durban Bay, an inlet of the Indian Ocean. Durban is a major seaport and year-round resort. Population: 3,120,000.
- Why Durban?



Research Methodology

- **Study Setting**

- **Durban** is a city in KwaZulu-Natal Province located on the eastern part of South Africa. It is an inlet of the Indian Ocean. It has a population of about 3.1 million people with diverse cultures including a large Indian community making Durban the second largest city in South Africa.

- Why Durban?



Research Methodology

- **Study design**

- Cross-sectional study
- 3 hospitals and 6 police stations in hospital catchement area

- **Purposive sampling**

- Face to face interviews with health care providers (n=30) and police officers (n=20)

- **Information to be collected**

- Background characteristics
- Availability of EC
- Knowledge of EC
- Knowledge of the management of sexual assault guidelines
- Perceptions and attitudes towards EC
- Practices-EC dispensing practices and counselling, following protocol procedures

Ethical Process

- Approval- University of the Witwaterand ethics committee
- Voluntary participation and Informed consent- written and free to withdraw from the study
- Confidentiality-
- Risks and Benefits

Additional Information

- **Data Analysis Plan**

- Data will be captured and analysed using SPSS 14.0. Descriptive data using crosstabulations and Chi-square tests will be used. Analysis will take place during and immediately after data have been collected.

- **Data dissemination**

- Dissemination of the results will be presented in a workshop with stakeholders (Departments of Health and South African Police Services). A Report and scientific journal article will also be written.

- **Staffing**

- The study will be staffed by existing RHRU employees and two research assistants registered for a Masters degree programme.

- **Collaborators**

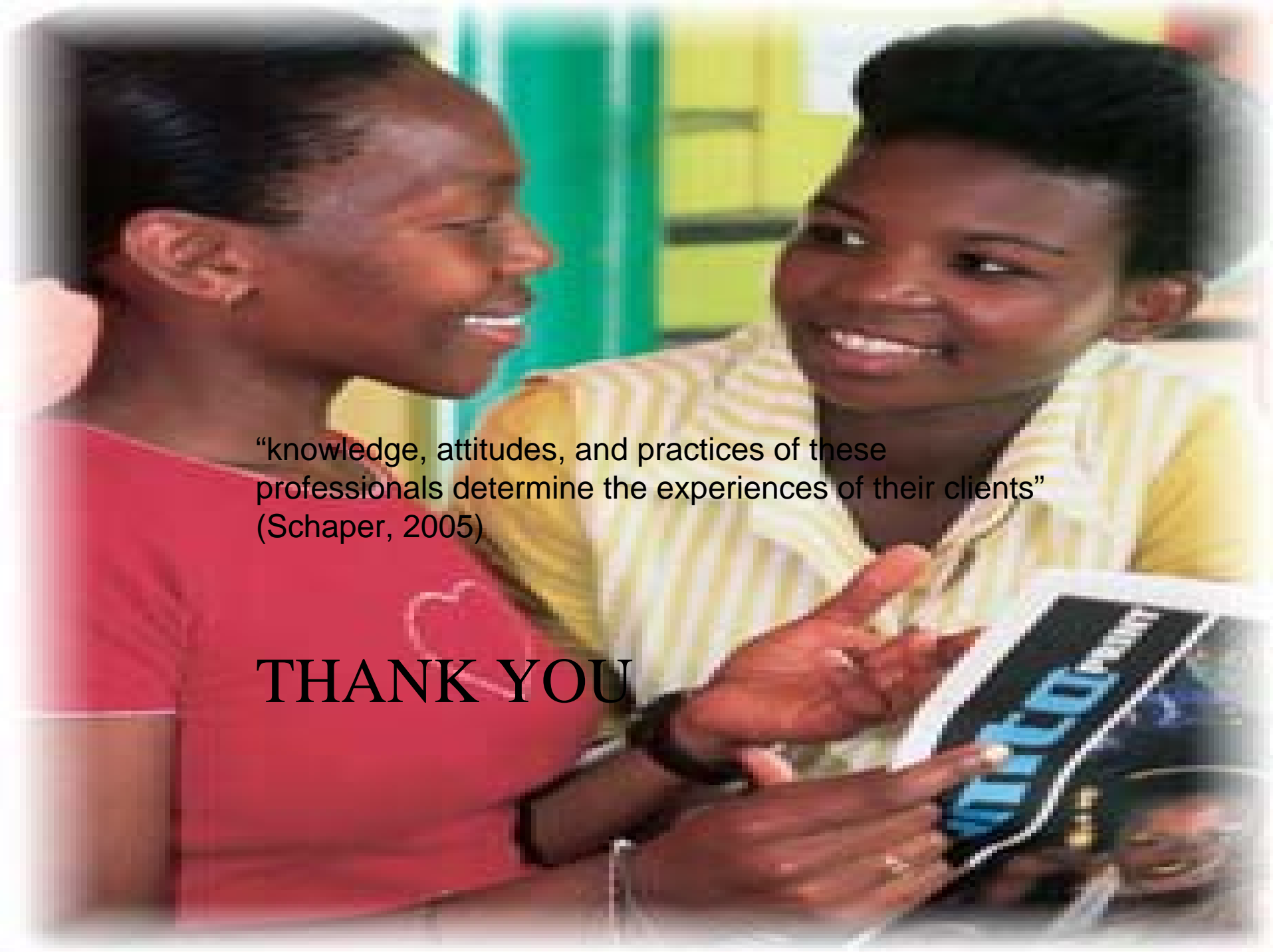
- Ibis Reproductive Health and WHO

- **Capacity Development**

- The study will also include two masters students registered at the University KwaZulu Natal and are available to work on the project.

Time Frame

Item	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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P			█									
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A photograph of two young Black women sitting at a table, smiling and looking at a tablet computer. The woman on the left is wearing a red shirt, and the woman on the right is wearing a yellow and white striped shirt. They appear to be in a classroom or workshop setting. The background is slightly blurred, showing green and yellow vertical panels.

“knowledge, attitudes, and practices of these professionals determine the experiences of their clients”
(Schaper, 2005)

THANK YOU