Supplemental Digital Content

I. Study Populations and Informed Consent

A. Inclusion criteria

Inclusion criteria for each study are as follows:

Sabes: Age ≥18 years, assignment of male sex at birth, self-report of a cisgender male or transgender woman sexual partner in the previous 12 months, lack of awareness of HIV status, and elevated risk for HIV based on previously described criteria, such as sex work, having an HIV-positive sex partner, or having a sexually transmitted disease in the past six months.

Feminas: Age ≥18 years, assignment of male sex at birth, identifying as a transgender woman or on the trans-feminine continuum (e.g., trans, travesti, transgender, or transsexual), and being unaware of their HIV status, or HIV positive but not engaged in HIV care. **Microepidemics:** Age ≥18 years, assignment of male sex at birth, being unaware of their HIV status, and willing to undergo HIV pointof-care testing and pre- and post-test counseling.

B. Removing duplicate data

All studies included in analyses were overseen by Asociación Civil Impacta Salud y Educación (IMPACTA). IMPACTA maintains a central secure tracking system of participants in all studies, in which participants are assigned a code that is linked to their national identification number. While the data we used was de-identified and we used study-specific participant ID numbers for all analyses, we were provided this code to verify any repeat participants. This allowed us to include only one sample from each person even if they were enrolled in multiple studies.

C. Defining early infection

Early infection was defined as incident infection during study follow up of initially HIV-uninfected participants. The number of participants categorized as early versus late infection are shown below in sTable1. In Sabes, early infections were identified within 3 months of HIV acquisition based on prior negative HIV test (testing was conducted monthly) and HIV RNA testing. Participants with early infection were either seronegative but HIV RNA+ or seropositive for HIV; all had an HIV-negative test within the past 3 months. In Feminas, HIV serology testing was performed every three months, with three incident infections diagnosed during study follow up. Participants who were HIV seropositive at the screening visit for Sabes or Feminas who did not have a documented prior HIV-negative test were classified as presumed prevalent, which we defined as samples collected >6 months after presumed HIV acquisition or for which no data were available about date of HIV acquisition. Microepidemics used cross-sectional data collection and therefore all participants from Microepidemics were labeled as presumed prevalent.

sTable 1. Source and types of data used in molecular epidemiology analysis

D. Informed Consent

Sabes and Microepidemics explicitly obtained informed consent for the use of samples for HIV phylogenetic analyses. Feminas sought informed consent for the use of samples for future research. The exact language, as it appeared in the consent forms, is provided in sTable 2.

sTable 2. Language related to future use of samples that was included in consent forms Sabes Samples for Phylogenetic Analysis of HIV: If you agree, left over blood from the sample collected for HIV testing will be saved and stored. If HIV is detected, this sample will be used for detailed studies of HIV (phylogenetic analysis). Samples for sequencing will be processed from all HIV+ persons who are identified shortly after the infection occurs. The results of this analysis will be posted on a shared database. The data will not have any of your personal identification and only researchers will be able to look at it. **Microepidemics** We cannot predict exactly how your samples and information will be used if you decide to donate them. Any study that uses these samples or information will be reviewed by an institutional review board (IRB)/Ethics Committee at the research institution that requests the samples or information. This Board will make sure that the proposed study protects your privacy and your rights. The studies may include genetic tests. Your genes are passed down from your mother and father. The researchers will not examine all your genes, only those related to immunologic system and HIV related illness. The researchers will not disclose the results of tests performed on your samples to you, to this clinic, or to your doctor. The results will not register in your medical history. Any other studies using your samples and information will not represent any personal benefit. They will not be necessary for your medical care. Rather, the studies will be done to help to the community through new scientific discovery. If your tests results are positive, part of the specimens will be analyzed in the laboratory to know how different is the virus in your body in comparison with the virus of other people who acquired HIV recently. This analysis is called 'phylogenetic analysis'. **Feminas** You have qualified and have voluntarily agreed to participate in a free program of hormonal therapy for feminization to which you would go monthly, regardless of your diagnosis of HIV infection, in order to know if this strategy in conjunction with a health mentor program, it can increase the effectiveness of diagnosing, testing, treating and maintaining transwomen in HIV health care. While you are participating in the study, blood samples will be drawn and tested for your health. We ask that you give us your permission to store some of the blood that is not used in these tests, so that it can be used in the future in tests that will evaluate the health of transgender women. This format contains information so that you can decide to authorize us to store your samples for future use. The decision to allow researchers to store your blood samples for future testing is entirely voluntary. What you decide will not affect your participation in the main study or the care you receive here. If you do not wish to authorize your samples to be stored and analyzed in the future, the samples will be destroyed at the end of the study. There is no time limit for storing your samples. You can change your mind about the storage and authorization of the use of your samples at any time. If that happens, let us know and all your stored samples will be destroyed. Once they are destroyed, we will let you know. The stored samples may be shared with researchers in the United States and in other countries. We will not sell your stored blood samples or pay you for them. We will not share any information that makes it possible for researchers to identify you. We will share information without identification, which may include characteristics such as your age, use of hormones, race, health status, including your HIV status. If you decide to authorize storage of your samples, we cannot predict exactly how your samples will be used. Any study that uses those samples and the information you provide will be reviewed by an Institutional Review Board / Ethics Committee at the research institution requiring the samples and information. That Board or Committee will ensure that the proposed study protects your privacy and your rights. You, this clinic, or the study doctor will not have access to the results of future tests on your stored blood samples. They will not be recorded in your medical record either. The tests performed on your stored blood samples will not impact your personal benefit or be necessary for your medical care. Those analyzes will be

done to help your community through new scientific discoveries.

II. Molecular Epidemiology Sensitivity Analysis

A. Methods

In primary analyses, pairwise genetic distances were calculated using the TN93 model, and cluster membership was defined using a relatively conservative genetic distance threshold of 1·5%. To examine if genetic distance thresholds affected the results of these analyses, sensitivity analyses were conducted using pairwise genetic distance with a less conservative genetic distance threshold of 3% to define cluster membership.

sFigure 1. Phylogenetic tree. This phylogeny includes data from three study populations (Sabes, Feminas, and Microepidemics) and South American pol sequences from the Los Alamos National Database. Colors indicate group (Blue: MSM; Yellow: transgender women; Red: MSTW; Gray: Los Alamos sequences, group unknown).

B. Results

Using pairwise genetic distance, 302 of 470 (65%) study participants were found in clusters (of \geq 2 participants) using a genetic distance threshold of 0·03 substitutions per site. Three participants were dropped from analysis due to being only found in clusters with reference sequences in the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) HIV Sequence Database. The 467 remaining participants were found in 59 clusters with between 2 and 48 participants. In this analysis, the likelihood of appearing in a cluster did differ somewhat between the groups. We found 70% of MSM appearing in clusters, compared to 55% of transgender women and 52% of MSTW. Compared to MSM, transgender women were 21% less likely to appear in a cluster (PR=0·79, 95% CI=0·66-0·93) and MSTW were 26% less likely, however the difference in cluster membership between MSM and MSTW was not statistically significant (PR=0·74, 95% CI=0·51- $1 - 09$) (sTable 3).

Using a genetic distance threshold of 3%, we found that having an early HIV diagnosis (≤6 months after HIV infection) was associated with an 18% increase in likelihood of appearing in a cluster $(PR=1.18, 95\% \text{ CI}=1.01-1.37)$ compared to prevalent diagnoses (>6 months after HIV infection or no data available on previous testing). In analyzing possible demographic or behavioral predictors of being found in a cluster, age 35 years or older was associated with reduced likelihood of being found in a cluster (PR=0·60, 95% CI=0·42-0·87) compared to age <25 years.

In this sensitivity analysis, 72% of clustered transgender women were found in a cluster with MSM and 71% of clustered MSM were found in a cluster with transgender women. Clusters containing both transgender women and MSM accounted for 42% of all clusters found in this analysis. Among MSM and transgender women, in-group clustering was more common than between-group clustering; 80% of transgender women clustered with transgender women and 95% of MSM clustered with MSM. We had a limited sample of MSTW who were found in clusters $(n=13)$, but this group was more likely to cluster with transgender women (77%) and MSM (77%) than with each other (15%). In the analysis of predictors of all cisgender men (both MSM and MSTW) clustering with transgender women, when using a genetic distance of 3% bisexual identity was significantly associated with clustering with TW compared to gay identity (PR=1·22, 95% CI=1·01-1·47) (sTable 4). No other characteristics were predictive of clustering with transgender women in this analysis.

C. Interpretation

Varying the threshold to define cluster membership did not change the inference from this analysis. While we found some variability in statistical significance of correlates in these analyses compared to the primary analysis, this is likely due to a difference in power to detect associations. In sensitivity analyses, we found that transgender women were less likely to be found in a cluster (PR=0·79, 95%) $CI=0.66-0.93$ and that those with early diagnosis (<6 months) were more likely to be found in a cluster (PR=1·18, 95% CI=1·01- $1 - 37$).

Under less conservative cluster membership thresholds, predictors of all cisgender men (MSTW and MSM) clustering with transgender women remained similar to the primary analysis. Results from the primary analysis suggested that bisexual cisgender men were more likely to cluster with transgender women, but this finding was not statistically significant. However, this association was statistically significant when a genetic distance threshold of 3% was used ($PR=1.22$, 95% CI=1.01-1.47). When observing clustering of transgender women and MSM with each other, results found in sensitivity analyses did not change the inference. While the prevalence of clustering changed as we used a wider definition of clustering, we still observed patterns of in-group clustering with some cluster overlap between MSM and transgender women. The patterns observed in the primary analysis are likely more meaningful than those observed in this sensitivity analysis, because primary analyses captured more genetically similar links, and therefore are more likely to infer recent transmission between identified sequences or through intermediaries not identified.

sTable 3. Predictors of being found in a cluster at cluster size ≥2 using TN93 3%

^aYear of diagnosis, study, group, and HIV diagnosis (early vs prevalent) are reported for all three studies. All other data is reported from Sabes and Feminas. ^bCity data missing for n=5 Feminas participants and n=1 Sabes participant.

 c Age data missing for n=1 Feminas participant and n=14 Sabes participants.

^dEducation data missing for n=1 Feminas participant. Education defined as any post-secondary or vocational training

^eSexual orientation data was not collected among TW in the Sabes study (n=82). In Feminas, n=27 TW identified their sexual orientation as transgender and are counted as missing for this analysis.

^fHousing status data missing for n=5 Feminas participants and n=14 Sabes participants

 S ex role data missing for n=5 Feminas participants

hSex worker data missing for n=15 Feminas participants and n=2 Sabes participants.

ⁱPartnership data reported from the last three sexual partners, beginning with the most recent.

jPurchasing and selling sex defined as exchange goods, services, a place to sleep, or money for sex. Sold/client refers to encounters in which the participant acquired goods, services, or money, while purchased refers to encounters in which the participant gave goods, services, or money.

PR: prevalence ratio; CI: Confidence Interval; MSM: men who have sex with men; TW: transgender women; MSTW: partners of transgender women

sTable 4. Correlates of clustering with TW among all cisgender men (MSM and MSTW) using TN93 3% (n=226)

^aData on reporting a TW partner and HIV diagnosis are from both Sabes (n= 129) and Microepidemics (n= 15) participants. All other variables include cisgender men from the Sabes study. TW found in the cluster could be from Sabes, Feminas, or Microepidemics.

bPost secondary education defined as any school after secondary school, or vocational training.

^cPurchasing and selling sex defined as exchange goods, services, a place to sleep, or money for sex. Data on purchased and sold sex missing for n=2 Sabes participants. TW: transgender women; PR: prevalence ratio; CI: confidence interval.

III. Structured Coalescent Modeling

Source code is available at [https://github.com/dianatordoff/LimaCoalescent.](https://github.com/dianatordoff/LimaCoalescent)

A. Model Specification

Three demographic groups were included in epidemic model—transgender women (TW), MSTW, and MSM—as well a source compartment. The source compartment represents the regional reservoir of HIV and is used to estimate the rate of imported lineages to Lima. The source sequences were represented by LANL reference genomes from other Latin and South American countries. Due to the relatively small sample size and limited data on the stage of infection at sampling, our model only includes one stage of infection and is estimated for all HIV subtypes. Using a system of ordinary differential equations (ODEs), we modeled transmission between groups as:

$$
\frac{dI_{tw}}{dt} = \rho_{msm2tw} \lambda I_{msm} + \rho_{mstw2tw} \nu I_{mstw} + \rho_{tw2tw} \mu I_{tw} - \delta I_{tw}
$$
\n
$$
\frac{dI_{mstw}}{dt} = \rho_{msm2mstw} \lambda I_{msm} + \rho_{mstw2mstw} \nu I_{mstw} + \rho_{tw2mstw} \mu I_{tw} - \delta I_{mstw}
$$
\n
$$
\frac{dI_{msm}}{dt} = \rho_{msm2msm} \lambda I_{msm} + \rho_{mstw2msm} \nu I_{mstw} + \rho_{tw2msm} \mu I_{tw} - \delta I_{msm}
$$

Where μ , ν , and λ are the HIV transmission rates per person-year for transgender women, MSTW and MSM, respectively. The proportion of overall infections between demographic groups is parameterized by the proportion of transmissions from transgender women to MSM (ρ_{tw2msm}), MSTW ($\rho_{tw2mstw}$), and to other transgender women (ρ_{tw2tw}); the proportion of transmissions from MSTW to MSM $(\rho_{mstw2msm})$, other MSTW ($\rho_{mstw2mstw}$), and transgender women $(\rho_{mstw2tw})$; and the proportion of transmissions from MSM to other MSM $(\rho_{msm2msm})$, MSTW $(\rho_{msm2mstw})$, and transgender women (ρ_{msm2tw}) . We constrained the proportion of transmissions to equal unity, such that:

 $\rho_{msm2msm} = 1 - \rho_{msm2tw} - \rho_{msm2tw}$ $\rho_{tw2tw} = 1 - \rho_{tw2msm} - \rho_{tw2mstw}$

 $\rho_{mstw2mstw} = 1 - \rho_{mstw2msm} - \rho_{mstw2tw}$ Therefore, we do not explicitly estimate within group transmission probabilities (i.e. $\rho_{msm2msm}$, ρ_{tw2tw} , and $\rho_{mstw2mstw}$). We chose this parameterization because our research question was primarily concerned with between-group transmission patterns.

Using methods similar to those described by Nascimento et al, we modelled a global reservoir

of HIV as having a constant effective population size using two parameters: the importation rate (ψ) and the effective population size of the source compartment $(N_e)^1$. We assume that migration of infections from the source population to transgender women, MSTW, and MSM compartments is bidirectional and equal in magnitude. Because these migrations do not impact the size of the infected compartments, these terms are omitted from the ODEs above. Lastly, we do not model the number of susceptible individuals through time and thus do not use mass-action terms in our system of ODEs. Thus, our model does not include the common assumption that incidence is proportional to the number of individuals within each demographic group.

The structured coalescent modeling approach decomposes epidemic models into births $F(t)$ (e.g. new infection or transmission events), migrations $G(t)$ (e.g. progression through different strata, included disease progression) and deaths $\eta(t)$, expressed as matrices²:

$$
G(t) = \begin{vmatrix}\n0 & 0 & 0 & \psi I_{tw} \\
0 & 0 & 0 & \psi I_{mstw} \\
0 & 0 & 0 & \psi I_{msm} \\
\psi I_{tw} & \psi I_{mstw} & \psi I_{msm} & 0\n\end{vmatrix}
$$
\n
$$
\eta(t) = \begin{vmatrix}\n\delta I_{tw} \\
\delta I_{mstw} \\
\delta I_{msm} \\
\frac{1}{2} \frac{I_{src}^2}{Ne}\n\end{vmatrix}
$$

B. Time-Calibrated Phylogeny

We estimates a time calibrated phylogeny using the date of sequence sampling and the *treedater* algorithm assuming a strict molecular clock.³ The estimated date of MRCA was 1976 and the mean substitution rate was 0.0019.

sFigure 3. Distribution of sequencing sampling times

C. Bayesian Model Fitting

We fit the mathematical model to the time-calibrated phylogeny using a Bayesian approach using the *BayesianTools* package in R. Model parameters were estimated using a differential evolution Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) *zs* sampler using 100,000 iterations. We used the *phydynR* package in R to calculate the likelihood of a parameter set given a time-calibrated phylogeny and the model compartment to which each sampled sequence belonged. We report the maximum aposteriori value (MAP)—or mode—and the 95% credible interval of the resulting posterior distribution of each model parameter.

D. Parameters

sTable 5. Fixed Parameters

E. Prior Distributions and Sensitivity Analyses

Prior distributions were used to constrain the parameters. Our primary analysis used informative priors, and we conducted additional sensitivity analyses using non-informative priors. We obtained similar results using both sets of prior distributions. Informative priors were determined based on a review of the literature on HIV incidence and self-reported partnership patterns among TW, MSTW, and MSM. Most data on partnerships among TW, MSTW, and MSM are from studies conducted in San Francisco $(n=7)$, Lima $(n=4)$, southern California ($n=2$), and national US studies ($n=2$); the remaining data came from a study conducted in Atlanta and Baltimore $(n=1)$, and a study conducted in several countries across Latin America $(n=1)$.

sTable 6. Literature Review for Informative Priors

16 22 72·7% (54·1-91·3%) 25 a *72.8% of the 273 gay and bisexual men who reported having any transgender partner who specifically reported partnering with transgender women*

There are no published data on HIV incidence among MSTW (v) , so we use an uninformative prior for these parameters in the both the primary and sensitivity analyses. Lastly, we chose informative priors for δ , ψ , and N_e based on prior implementations of this phylodynamic model.¹

		Informative Prior (Primary Analysis)			Non-informative Prior (Sensitivity Analysis)		
#	Parameter	Prior	PSRF	MAP (95% CI)	Prior	PSRF	MAP (95% CI)
	λ	$gamma(\alpha = 2, \beta = 100)$	1.012	0.009(0.002, 0.055)	$gamma(\alpha = 1.5, \beta = 15)$	1.003	0.020(0.006, 0.183)
2	μ	$gamma(\alpha = 2, \beta = 100)$	1.020	0.016(0.002, 0.052)	$gamma(\alpha = 1.5, \beta = 15)$	1.002	0.035(0.007, 0.187)
$\overline{3}$	$\boldsymbol{\nu}$	$gamma(\alpha = 1.5, \beta = 15)$	1.002	0.055(0.007, 0.185)	$gamma(\alpha = 1.5, \beta = 15)$	1.001	0.060(0.007, 0.186)
$\overline{4}$	ρ_{msm2tw}	$beta(\alpha = 2, \beta = 25)$	1.004	0.049(0.010, 0.193)	$beta(\alpha = 1 \cdot 5, \beta = 3)$	1.001	0.109(0.035, 0.761)
$5\overline{5}$	$\rho_{msm2mstw}$	$beta(\alpha = 2, \beta = 15)$	1.009	0.072(0.014, 0.306)	$beta(\alpha = 1.5, \beta = 3)$	1.002	0.130(0.037, 0.761)
- 6	ρ_{tw2msm}	$beta(\alpha = 5, \beta = 45)$	1.005	0.118(0.034, 0.196)	$beta(\alpha = 1 \cdot 5, \beta = 3)$	1.002	0.790(0.237, 0.964)
	$\rho_{tw2mstw}$	$beta(\alpha = 30, \beta = 8)$	1.001	0.765(0.655, 0.903)	$beta(\alpha = 3, \beta = 1.5)$	1.000	0.156(0.033, 0.759)
- 8	$\rho_{mstw2tw}$	$beta(\alpha = 22, \beta = 10)$	1.014	0.679(0.528, 0.832)	$beta(\alpha = 3, \beta = 1.5)$	1.007	0.036(0.015, 0.052)
9	$\rho_{mstw2msm}$	$beta(\alpha = 8, \beta = 20)$	1.003	0.320(0.140, 0.463)	$beta(\alpha = 1 \cdot 5, \beta = 3)$	1.003	0.089(0.004, 0.194)
10	δ	unif $\left(\frac{1}{31}, \frac{1}{29}\right)$	1.012	0.033(0.031, 0.034)	norm $\left(\mu = \frac{1}{30}, \sigma = \frac{1}{100}\right)$	1.003	0.020(0.006, 0.183)
-11	ψ	$\exp(\lambda = 30)$	1.020	0.023(0.001, 0.104)	$\exp(\lambda = 2)$	1.002	0.035(0.007, 0.187)
12	$N_{\rm e}$	$\exp(\lambda = 20)$	1.002	0.007(0.001, 0.126)	$\exp(\lambda = 2)$	1.001	0.060(0.007, 0.186)

sTable 7. Prior distributions, PSRF, Estimates for Primary and Sensitivity Analyses

sFigure 5. Informative and non-informative prior distributions

sFigure 6. Comparing Maximum Aposteriori Value (MAP) and 95% Credible Interval Estimates for Informative and Noninformative Priors

F. Model Convergence and Trace Plots

Model convergence was evaluated based on the effective sample size (ESS), Gelman-Rubin's diagnostic for convergence using potential scale reduction factors (PSRF) and examining trace plots. Phylogenetic MCMC analyses are characterized by a high level of autocorrelation; In general, MCMC is significantly less efficient at exploring the parameter space for phylogenetic tree topologies.²⁶ Thus, phylogenetics often use a more pragmatic approach to evaluating MCMC; an ESS above 200 as considered to be a threshold that suggests the posterior distribution has been sufficiently sampled, and additional metrics (such as PSRF) can be used evaluate convergence and model fit for phylogenetic MCMC analyses.²⁷ For the primary analysis, the ESS was 1,084, all PSRFs were well below 1·200 (see sTable 7), and trace plots, which are all suggestive of model convergence.

IV. Summary of Mathematical Models including Transgender Women

To date, only six mathematical models of HIV transmission have included transgender women, including four set in Lima, Peru.

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