

The background of the slide is the flag of South Africa, featuring a red triangle at the top, a green triangle at the bottom, and a blue triangle at the bottom right. A white diagonal line runs from the top left to the bottom right, with a yellow and black chevron shape on the left side.

Homonegativity and Sexual Risk in South African MSM

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Research Question

Does homonegativity affect sexual risk behavior?

If so, is the effect of homonegativity direct, or indirect via mental health and alcohol/drug use problems?

What is Homonegativity?

Individual Level: Feelings, thoughts and behaviors that express a negative attitude towards same-sex sexuality

Structural Level: Practices and regulations that indicate a negative appraisal of same-sex sexual practices and lifestyles

Related terms:

- (Internalized) homophobia
- Social homophobia
- Egodystonic homophobia
- (Internalized) heterosexism
- Sexual minority stress
- Heteronormativity
- Sexual prejudice
- Lesbophobia
- Biphobia
- Sissyphobia

South Africa and Same-Sex Sexuality

- 1996: Adoption of Equality Clause in South African Constitution; the “Gay Rights”-clause
- Impact of gay rights clause is contested
- Clause is basis for legal action (e.g., lgb parenthood, same sex marriage)
- Discrimination continues (homosexuality as “unAfrican”)
- Social acceptance of homosexuality is extreme low, as in other African countries

Cross-National Acceptance of Homosexuality (1=low – 10=high)

Egypt	1.10	South Africa	2.92
Zimbabwe	1.10	Estonia	3.02
China	1.14	India	3.08
Tanzania	1.15	Puerto Rico	3.51
Iran	1.25	Argentina	4.34
Algeria	1.26	U.S.A.	4.77
Uganda	1.28	Great Britain	5.06
Saudi Arabia	1.38	Germany	5.34
Nigeria	1.50	Canada	5.48
Turkey	1.55	Sweden	7.72
Vietnam	1.65	Netherlands	7.83



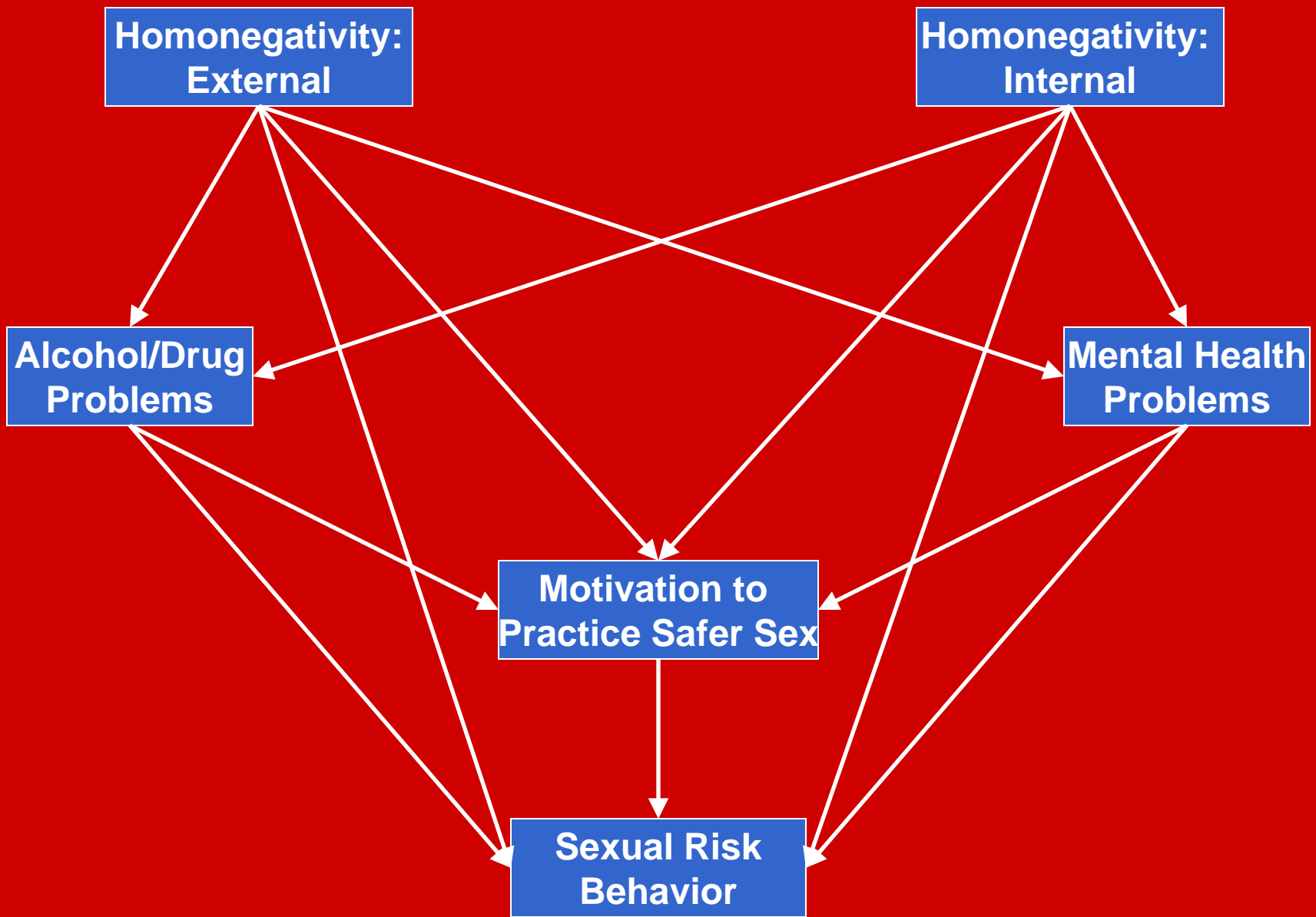
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Sample Characteristics

Sample size: N = 300

Age: 26 yrs Mean

18 – 40 yrs Range

Race: Black 67%

White 33%

Self-labeling: Gay 85%

Bisexual 10%

Other 5%

Live in township: 53%

In intimate relationship: 56%

External Homonegativity

Discrimination while growing up (4 items)

As you were growing up, how often were you hit or beaten up for being attracted to other men?

As you were growing up, how often were you made fun of or called names for being effeminate?

Social Discrimination (preceding year; 9 items)

In the past year, how many times have you... (Never =0)

- had verbal insults directed at you?
- been threatened with physical violence?
- been spat upon?

Institutional Discrimination (lifetime; 7 items)

During your live, how many times have you...

- been denied a promotion or salary increase?
- been refused services in a bar, restaurant, club, or similar establishment?

Internal Homonegativity

Internalized homophobia (9 items)

Sometimes I dislike myself for being a man who has sex with other men
I wish I were only sexually attracted to women

Doubts about Sexual Orientation/Identity Confusion (4 items)

I get very confused when I try to figure out my sexual orientation
I keep changing my mind about my sexual orientation

Concealment of sexual orientation (5 items – answers reversed)

How many of the following people would you say know that you are sexually attracted to other men?

- a. Your current heterosexual friends?
- b. Your casual acquaintances who are heterosexual?

Internal and External Homonegativity

	B-TS	B-NTS	W
Internalized Homophobia	2.47	2.55	1.98
Sexual Concealment	2.74	2.82	2.37
Sexual Orientation Doubt	1.89	1.83	1.46
Discrimination Growing Up	2.06	1.93	2.01
Social Discrimination	2.39	1.45	1.39
Institutional Discrimination	0.87	0.90	0.91

Mental Health I

Scales (DASS) – 21 Item Version

Depression (7 items)

I found it difficult to work up the initiative to do things

I felt that life was meaningless

Anxiety (7 items)

I felt scared without any good reason

I felt I was close to panic

Stress (7 items)

I felt that I was using a lot of nervous energy

I felt that I was rather touchy

Mental Health II

Problematic Drinking (Alcohol) - Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT; 10 items)

Have you or someone else been injured as a result of your drinking?
I felt that life was meaningless

Problematic Drug Use - Drug Abuse Screening Test (DAST- 10 items minus 1)

Do you use more than one drug at a time?
Have you ever neglected your family because of your use of drugs?

Mental Health

	B-TS	B-NTS	W
Depression	1.53	1.54	1.45
Anxiety	1.56	1.48	1.38
Stress	1.64	1.60	1.56
Problematic Drinking	10.4	10.2	10.2
Problematic Drug Use	1.51	1.14	1.63

Information
Motivation
Behavior

HIV Knowledge (12 items)

Attitudes towards Condoms (4 items)

Social Norms Condom Use (4 items)

Safer Sex Self-Efficacy (6 items)

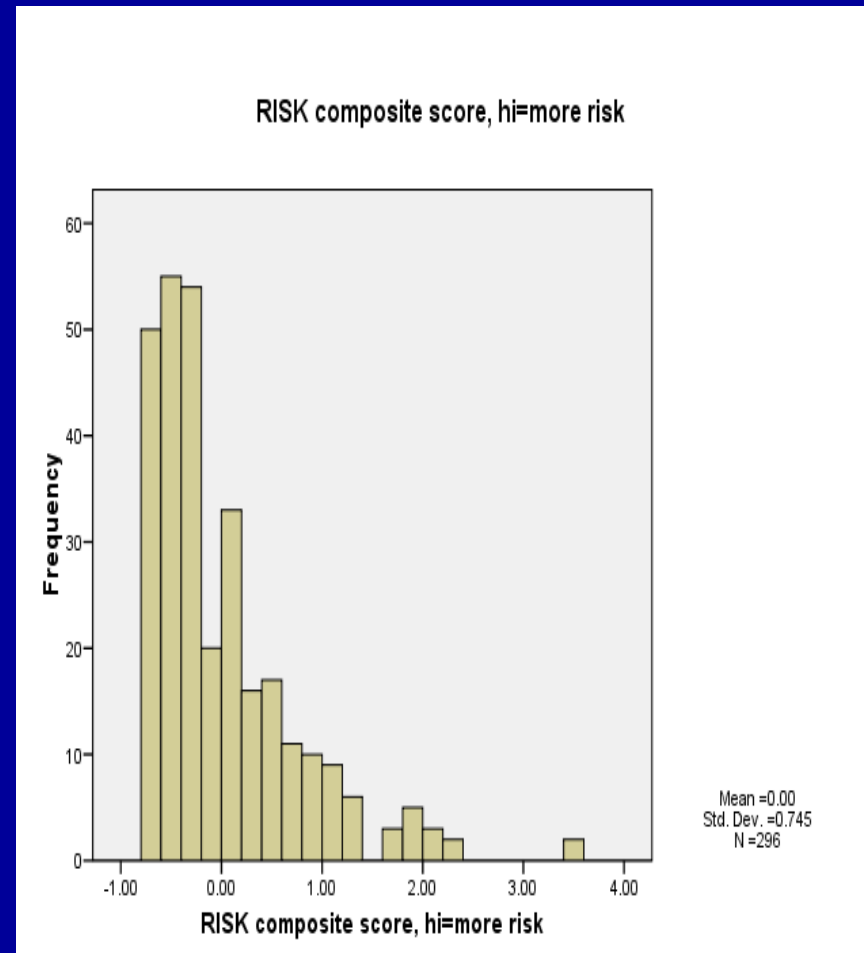
Safer Sex Intentions (3 items)

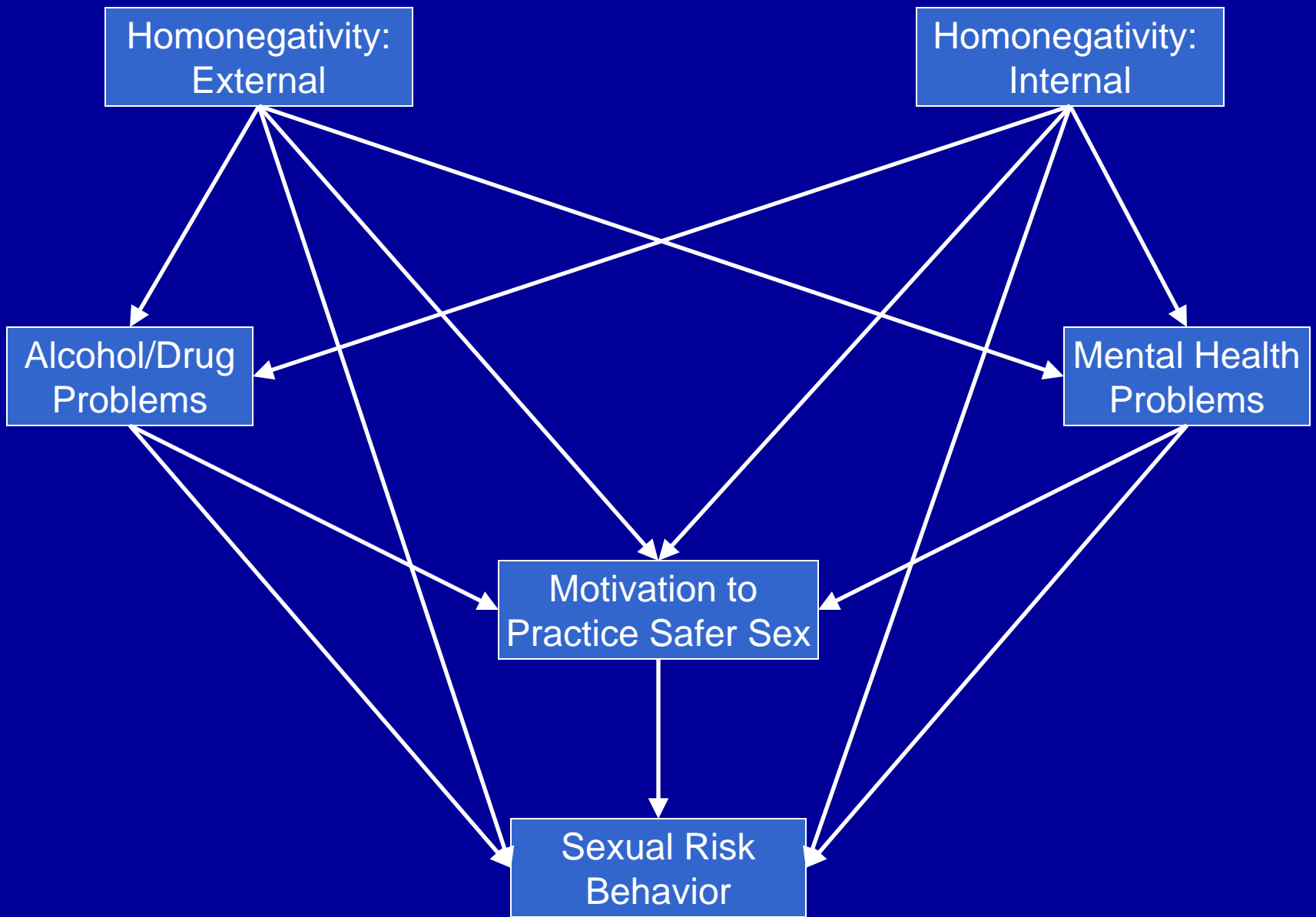
InformationMotivationBehavior

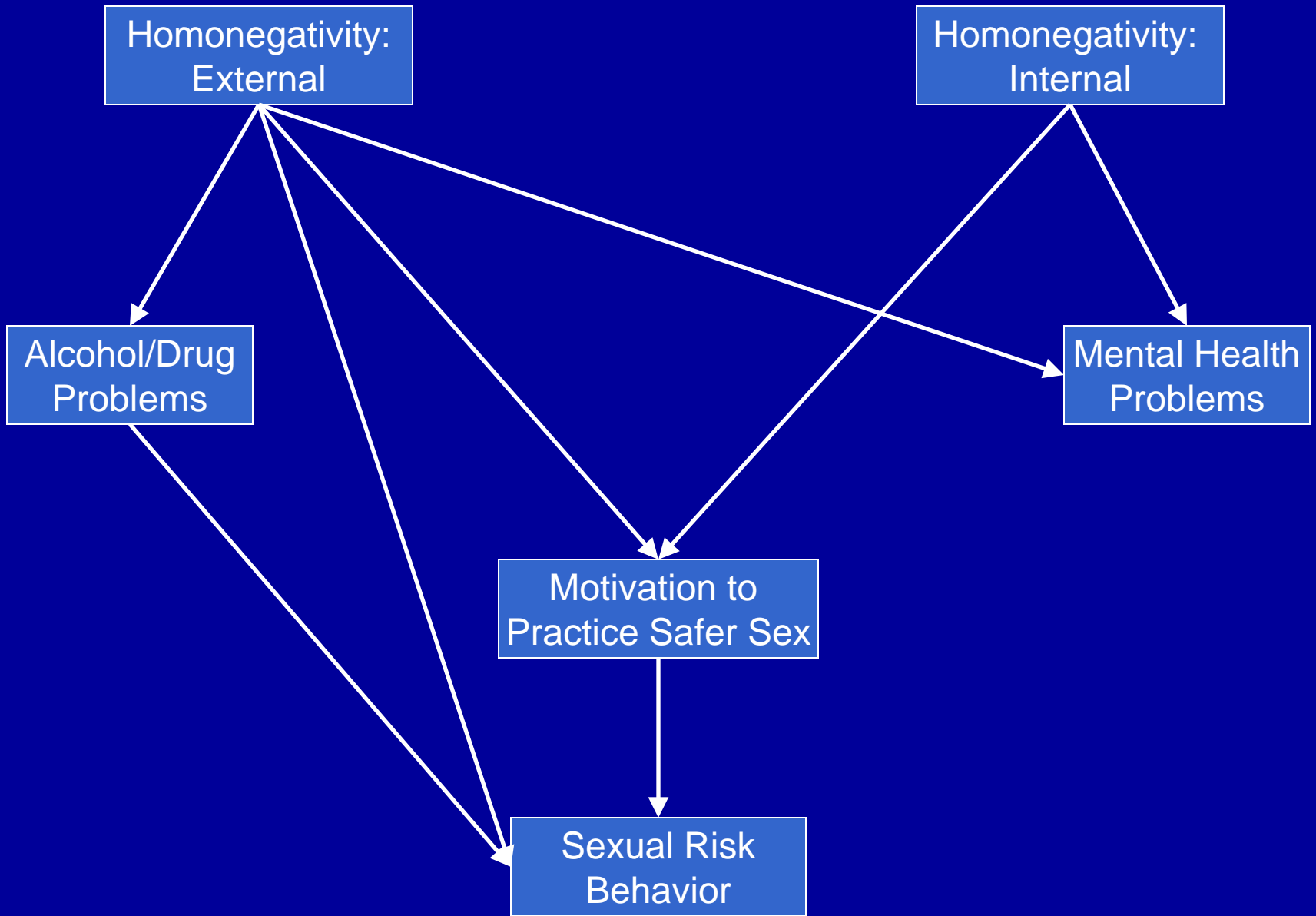
	B-TS	B-NTS	W
HIV Knowledge	11.09	11.98	11.81
Attitudes towards Condoms	3.80	4.53	4.05
Safer Sex Self-Efficacy	3.03	3.26	4.01
Social Norms Condom Use	3.82	4.34	4.26
Safer Sex Intentions	3.99	4.43	3.97

Unsafe Sex

- **Unprotected receptive anal sex occasions**
- **Unprotected insertive anal sex occasions**
- **Number of partners**







Future Studies

- Replicate model
- Understand how MSM deal with homonegativity
- Individual/group interventions that address homonegativity in MSM
- Structural interventions addressing homonegativity in communities

Implications for Prevention

- Integrate attention for alcohol/drug problems in prevention efforts
- Exclusive focus on IMB not effective, changes unlikely to be sustainable
- Processing past homonegativity trauma is vital
- Supporting skills to cope with future homonegativity is essential
- Addressing homonegativity in community is critical

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