
Machismo as a determinant for HIV/STD risk behavior among Latino MSM

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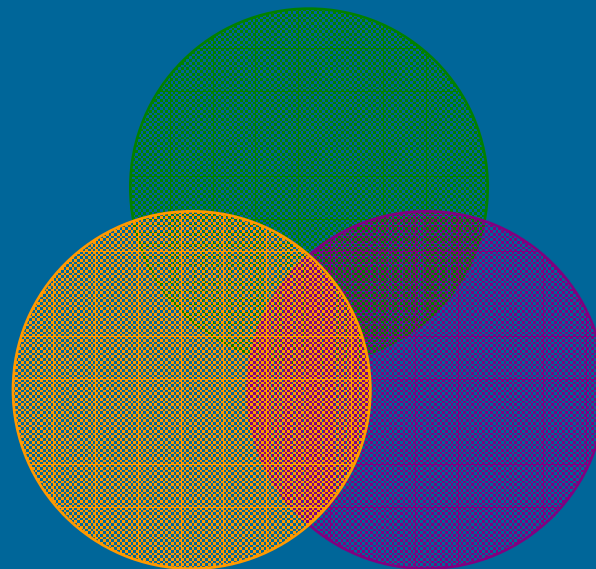
HIV and MSM

- In 2005
 - 5 - 7% of men in the United States reported having sex with other men.
 - MSM accounted for 53% of all new HIV/AIDS cases and
 - 71% of existing cases in male adults and adolescents.

Determinants of HIV Transmission

Cultural, Social, Psychological

Existing
STDs

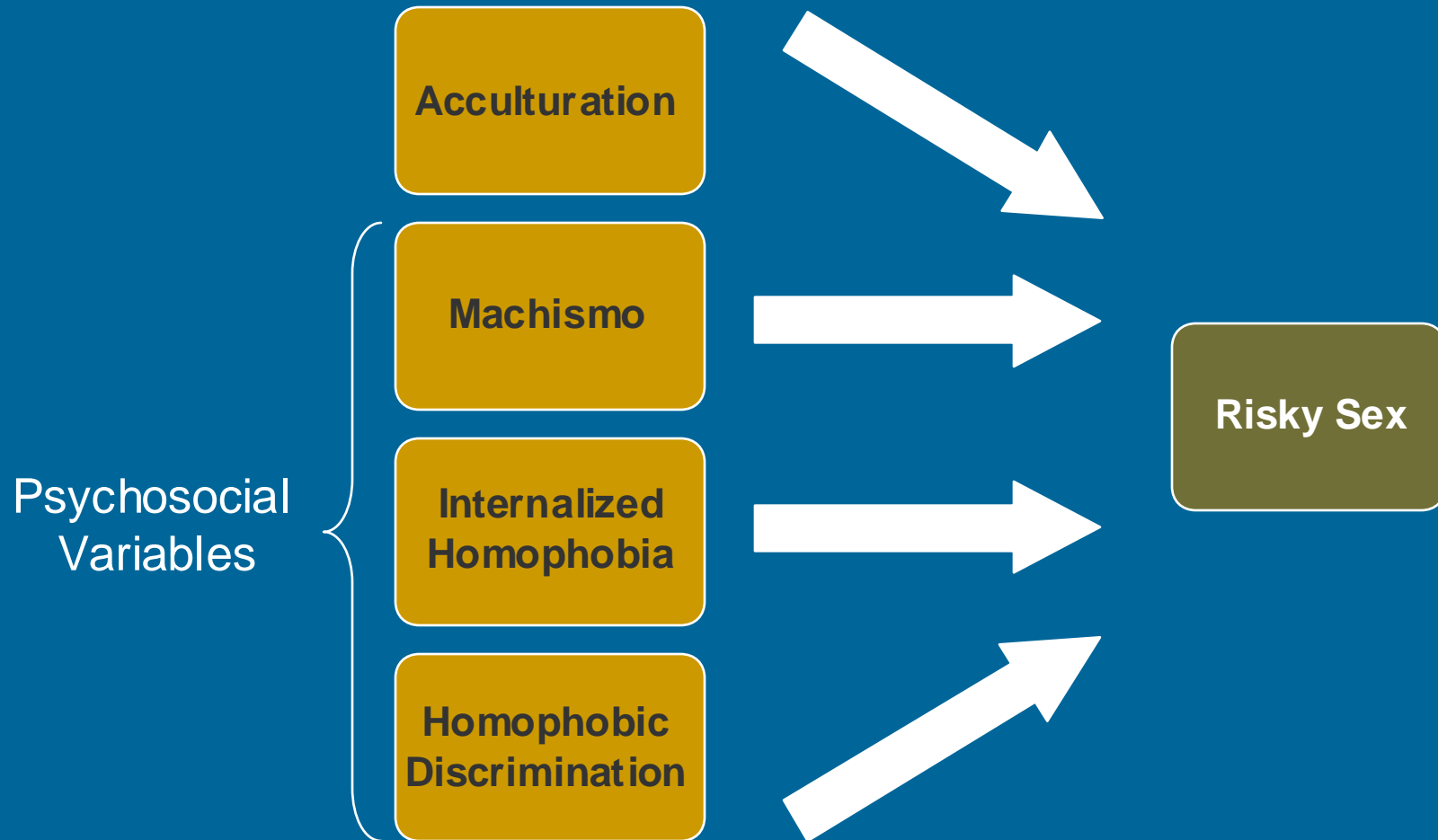


Behavior

Latino Community

- Disproportionately affected by HIV
 - Rates of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses almost twice that of non-Latino whites (2005)
- Face challenges accessing
 - Health care
 - Prevention services
 - HIV treatment
- New cases of HIV infection are likely to increase
 - Rapidly growing population
 - Majority live in areas where prevalence of HIV is high

Study purpose



Study Population and Data Collection

Sampled n=354

Exclusion criteria

Reported:

No sex with men (n=63)

No sex in the past three months (n=36)

N=255

**Three urban areas
in Virginia:
Tidewater,
Northern Virginia,
and Richmond**



Survey available in Spanish and English

Acculturation variable:

- Created as a proxy for true acculturation
 - Language used most often to read and speak
 - Number of years in the United States

*(Jarama LS, et al.1999)

Psychosocial variables:

- *Machismo*
- *Sexual Discrimination*
- *Internalized Homophobia*

- *3 point-Likert Scale*
 - *Agree, disagree, don't know*
- *Responses assigned quantitative value and combined to create scales*

*(Jarama LS, et al. 1999)

Machismo variable, example

- ❑ I have to be the inserting partner when I have sex with men
- ❑ I can't control my sexual impulses when I'm sexually turned on by a man
- ❑ Men need to have sexual experiences with various sexual partners.
- ❑ It is only OK for men to have sex with men if there are no women available

Higher composite score indicated greater machismo values

*(Jarama LS, et al.1999)

Outcome variable: HIV/STD sexual risk behavior

- Composite variable 'risky sex' was created to reflect a dichotomized value of "risk"
 - Combined 7 statements of risk: paid for sex, been paid for sex, number of male and female partners in the past three months, monogamy agreement between primary partners, and how often condoms were used for vaginal and anal sex
- Respondents who reported engaging in any one or more of the 7 risk variables were assigned a risk value of "1" while those reporting no risk behaviors were assigned a risk value of "0"

Table 1: Characteristics of the Study Population

Latino/Mestizo or Latino/White	44.2% and 43%
Mean age (years)	27
Attended some college or achieved a technical degree	41.4%
Earned less than \$30,000 per year Average: \$16,500	84.5%
Scored low or medium on acculturation scale	59.6%
Scored low on the machismo scale	59.7%
Scored low on sexual discrimination scale	59.9%
Scored low on the Internalized homophobia scale	71.8%
Categorized as “at risk” for contracting HIV	65%

Variable	Total (N)	HIV Risk			95% CI	
		Value		OR		
		Yes	No			
RACE						
Hispanic/Latino Black	20	6	14	0.44	0.09	2.21
Hispanic/Latino Mestizo	107	37	70	0.89	0.33	2.42
Hispanic/Latino White	104	34	70	1.00		
Other	11	6	5	0.31	0.04	2.63
AGE						
<25	47	15	32	2.19	0.50	9.61
25-35	133	48	85	1.63	0.52	5.12
>35	54	18	36	1.00		
HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED						
Less than High School	35	11	24	6.54	0.63	67.95
High school Graduate	40	12	28	1.54	0.25	9.46
Some College/Associates or other	99	33	66	1.16	0.31	4.32
College Degree and Above	65	25	40	1.00		
INCOME PER YEAR						
<15000	108	38	70	0.62	0.11	3.53
15,000-24,000	78	24	54	1.12	0.27	4.57
> 24,000	34	14	20	1.00		
ACCULTURATION						
Low	64	23	41	0.43	0.12	1.60
Medium	51	21	30	0.55	0.19	1.61
High	78	20	58	1.00		
MACHISMO						
Low	111	69	73	1.00		
High	108	16	81	5.53	1.85	16.47
SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION						
Low	127	51	76	1.00		
High	85	23	62	1.50	0.61	3.74
INTERNALIZED HOMOPHOBIA						
Low	183	63	120	1.00		
High	13	3	10	1.23	.10	14.51

Adjusted Odds Ratios for Risk

	Odds Ratio	95% CI
MACHISMO		
Low	1.00	,
High	5.53	1.85 , 16.47

Machismo as a predictor for risky sex

- Men with high machismo values are more than five times as likely to engage in behaviors that put them at risk for contracting HIV, and other STDs, than men with low machismo values

>5x

Discussion

- Machismo is a determinant for HIV/AIDS risk behavior
 - Previous research supports main finding
 - May be a source of disempowerment
 - Sex may be “validating”
- Lack of association among all other variables was not what we expected
 - Difficult-to-identify population, convenience sampling
 - Process of acculturation is complex
 - Existing proxies may not fully describe its true nature
 - Assimilation into American culture may not occur as we would expect.

Next Steps

- 1** Machismo values should be considered when designing HIV/STD risk reduction programs that target Latino MSM
- 2** Additional studies are needed to investigate the causal relationships that may exist between psychosocial factors and risky sexual behaviors
- 3** Additional studies are needed to investigate the relative extent that machismo values are present in other cultures, and determine if the association between HIV risk behaviors and machismo holds true across cultures.

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Questions?