

# Socio-Economic Status as a Predictor of Sexual Behaviors Among Latino Immigrant MSM and Their Sexual Partners

Ben Parchem, Ana Maria del Rio Gonzalez, Andrew Barnett, Maria Cecilia Zea

Latino Health Research Center | George Washington University

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
WASHINGTON, DC

LATINO HEALTH RESEARCH CENTER  
COLUMBIAN COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

## Introduction

- Sexual risk for HIV is stratified by sexual role and activities.<sup>1</sup>
- Sexual role-based identity coincides with power dynamics between sexual partners.
- Latino MSM associate *pasivo* (receptive) roles with less power and *activo* (insertive) roles with more power.<sup>2</sup>
- SES differential has been shown to influence relational power dynamics among gay male couples.<sup>3</sup>
- Literature lacks a granular understanding of the role SES differential takes in HIV risk among MSM.
- Study aims to explore implications of SES for sexual activities among Latino immigrant MSM.

## Methods

### Participants

- Brazilian, Colombian, and Dominican immigrant MSM residing in New York City (N = 350)
- Inclusion criteria: most recent sexual encounter with single partner
- Mean age: 35.8 (Range: 20-70 years old)

### Measures

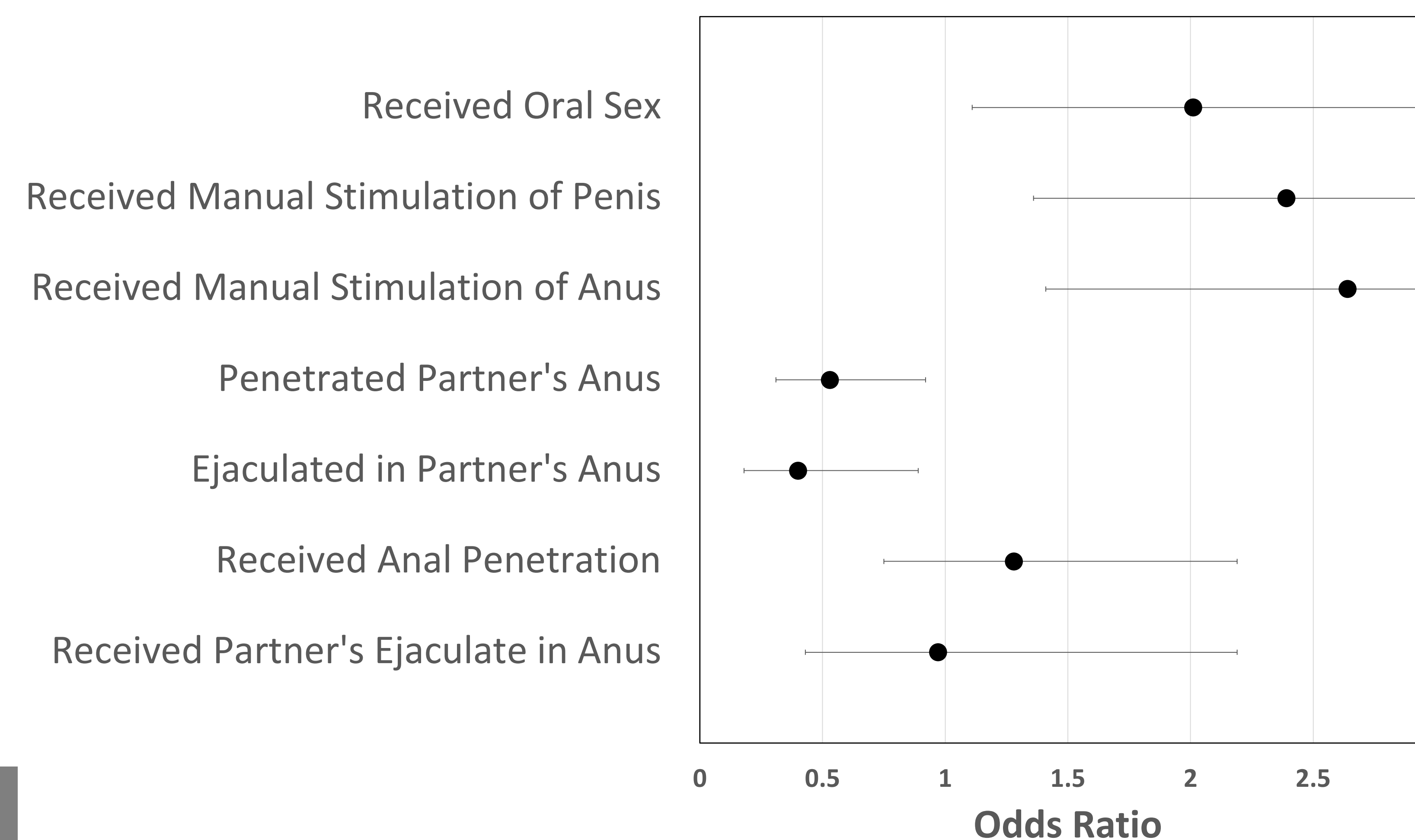
- SES differential was measured based on participant's perceptions of their sex partner's education and income compared to their own.
  - Item: *What do you think this person's income/education was?*
  - Responses: *Much higher than mine, More or less the same as mine, Much lower than mine*
- Sexual activities between sex partners were measured with self-report single items
  - Sample Item: *You watched your sexual partner masturbate.*
  - Responses: *Yes, No*

### Analysis

- Binomial logistic regression analysis

## Results

Odds of Sexual Activities for the Participant When the Partner Had Higher SES



Sexual activity	OR	95% CI
Received oral sex	2.01	[1.04, 3.66]*
Received manual stimulation of penis	2.38	[1.36, 4.17]*
Received manual stimulation of anus	2.60	[1.38, 4.88]*
Penetrated partner's anus	0.55	[0.32, 0.95]*
Ejaculated in partner's anus	0.39	[0.17, 0.89]*
Received Anal Penetration	1.25	[0.73, 2.15]
Received partner's ejaculate in anus	0.97	[0.43, 2.19]

Table 1: Odds of sexual activities for participant when the partner had higher SES. Analyses control for HIV status of the participant. \* $p < .05$

Participant SES as Compared to Partner	Percent
Higher	24
Lower	40.9
Equal	35.1

## Conclusions

- Findings suggest partners with a higher SES are more likely to command the sexual encounter.
- Although participants with lower SES were more likely to receive oral and manual stimulation, it did not confer an increased risk of HIV through receptive anal intercourse.
- The conceptualization of dyadic power between *activo* and *pasivo* partners was not aligned with SES.
- Sexual behaviors are more indicative of risk than sexual role-based identity.
- User-controlled forms of protection such as PrEP may be more of an acceptable option for Latino immigrant MSM.

Compared to participants with higher or equal SES, participants with lower SES than their sexual partner were...

- More** likely to *receive* oral sex and manual stimulation of their penis and anus.
- Less** likely to *penetrate* or *ejaculate* in their partner's anus.
- Not more or less** likely to *receive* anal penetration or ejaculation in their anus from their sexual partner.

## References

- Mayer, K. H., Wheeler, D. P., Bekker, L.-G., Grinsztejn, B., Remien, R. H., Sandfort, T. G. M., & Beyrer, C. (2013). Overcoming biological, behavioral and structural vulnerabilities: New directions in research to decrease HIV transmission in men who have sex with men. *Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome*, 63(2), S161-S167. <http://doi.org/10.1097/QAI.0b013e318298700e.Overcoming>
- Clark, J., Salvatierra, J., Segura, E., Salazar, X., Konda, K., Perez-Brumer, A., ... Coates, T. (2013). Modern love: Sexual role-based identities and HIV/STI prevention among men who have sex with men in Lima, Peru. *AIDS and Behavior*, 17(4), 1313-1328. <http://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-013-0553-6>. Knowledge
- Perry, N. S., Huebner, D. M., Baucom, B. R., & Hoff, C. C. (2016). The complex contribution of sociodemographics to decision-making power in gay male couples. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 30(8), 977-986. <http://doi.org/10.5588/ijtld.16.0716.Isoniazid>

Presented at GW Research Days 2018, Washington, D.C.