Sexual risk for HIV is stratified by sexual role and activities. 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. SES differential has been shown to influence relational power dynamics among gay male couples. 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.

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 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

Introduction

Methods

Participants

Participants
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- Inclusion criteria: most recent sexual encounter with single partner
- Mean age: 35.8 (Range: 20-70 years old)

Measures

Survey items were used to assess participants’ perceptions of their partner’s SES and recent sexual activities. Measures included items assessing income, education, and recent sexual activities such as receiving oral or manual stimulation and receiving partner’s ejaculate.

Analysis

A binomial logistic regression analysis was conducted to assess the association between participant SES and their partner’s SES, controlling for participant age and gender.

Results

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sexual activity</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>95% CI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Received oral sex</td>
<td>2.01</td>
<td>[1.04, 3.66]*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received manual stimulation of penis</td>
<td>2.38</td>
<td>[1.36, 4.17]*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received manual stimulation of anus</td>
<td>2.60</td>
<td>[1.38, 4.88]*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penetrated partner’s anus</td>
<td>0.55</td>
<td>[0.32, 0.95]*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ejaculated in partner’s anus</td>
<td>0.39</td>
<td>[0.17, 0.89]*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received anal penetration</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>[0.73, 2.15]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received partner’s ejaculate in anus</td>
<td>0.97</td>
<td>[0.43, 2.19]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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.

References


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