



Exploring Contextual Differences for Receptive and Insertive Role Strain among Transgender Women and Men Who Have Sex With Men in Lima, Peru

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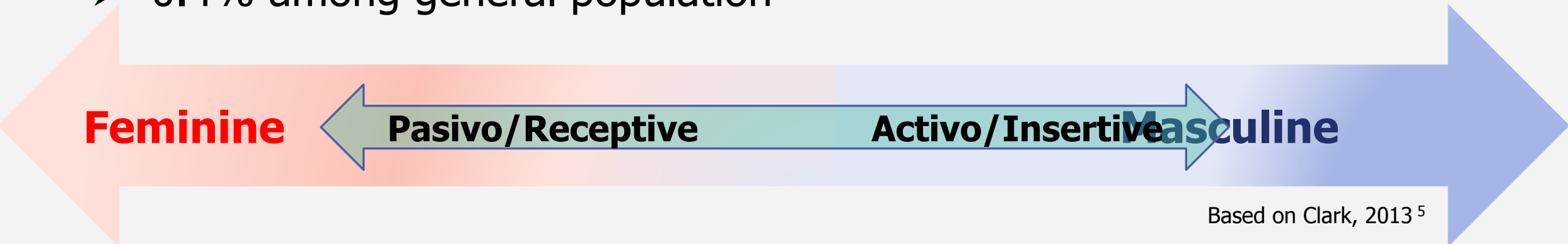
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BACKGROUND

Peruvian Sexual and Cultural Context:

- HIV prevalence of 29.6% among transgender women (TW) ¹
 - 12-22% among men who have sex with men (MSM) ²⁻⁴
 - 0.4% among general population ³



Conceptualizing Sexual Role Strain:

Role theory describes the challenge of negotiating social and interpersonal role demands within the context of one’s role decision resources and the costs/benefits of role transactions and role performance

- Traditional role strain defined as “felt difficulty in fulfilling role obligations”

Adapting this theory to our study of sexual behavior may allow us to assess the influence of the role demands dictated by local gender and sexual politics and their impact on health risks, including HIV/STIs

- Sexual Role Strain:** practicing a different sexual role than preferred
- Pasivo Role Strain:** practicing the activo role despite pasivo role preference
- Activo Role Strain:** practicing the pasivo role when one prefers the activo role

Purpose

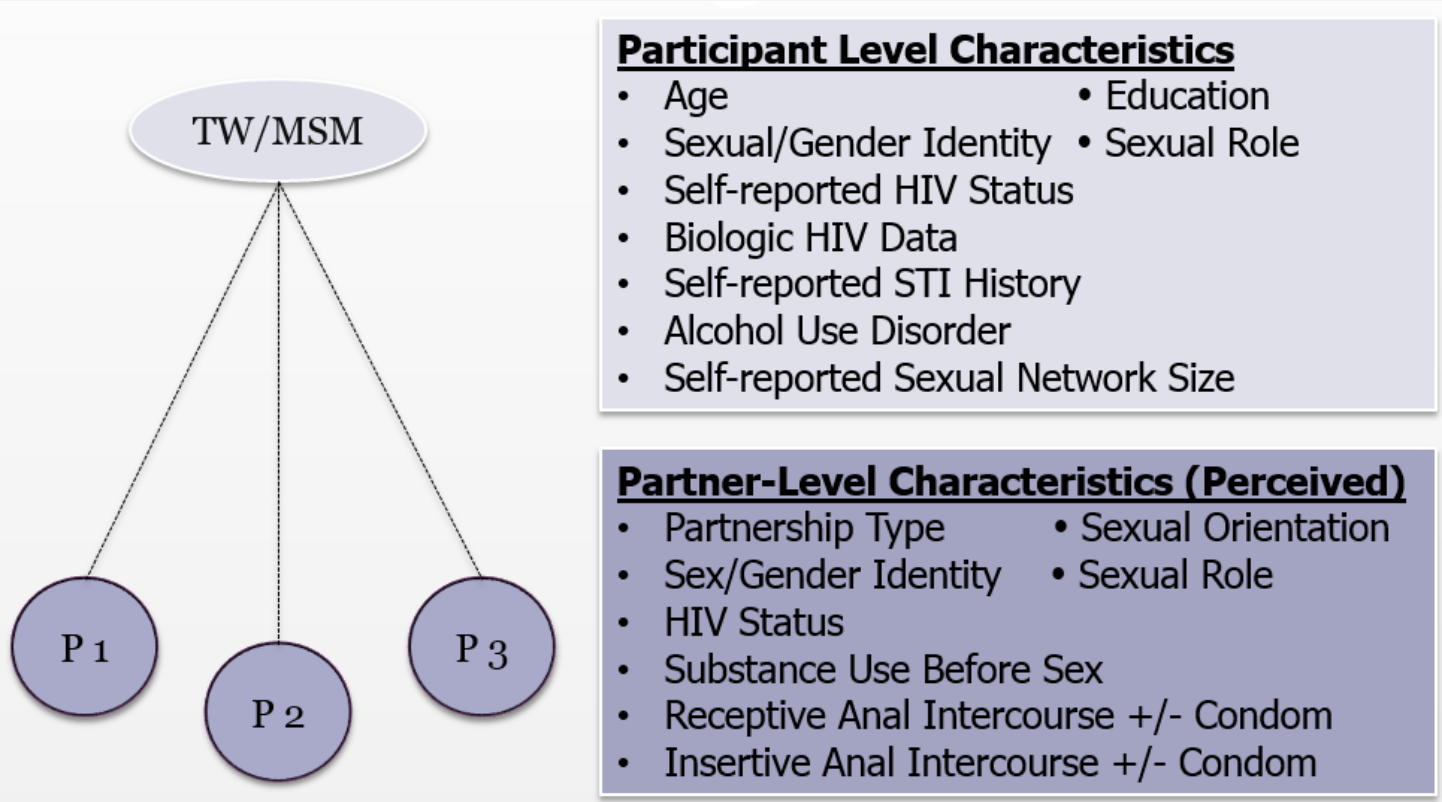
To explore the partnership contexts within TW and MSM in Lima Peru experience activo and/or pasivo role strain, as well as the association between role strain, condom use during anal intercourse, and testing positive for HIV.

METHODS

We analyzed cross-sectional, egocentric data from TW and MSM screened for a 2012-2014 Partner Management study in Lima, Peru.

Inclusion Criteria

- Self-identified TW
- MSM with a reported sexual orientation
- Self-reported preference for pasivo (receptive) or activo (insertive) sex role
- Anal intercourse (AI) with at least 1 of their last 3 non-female partners



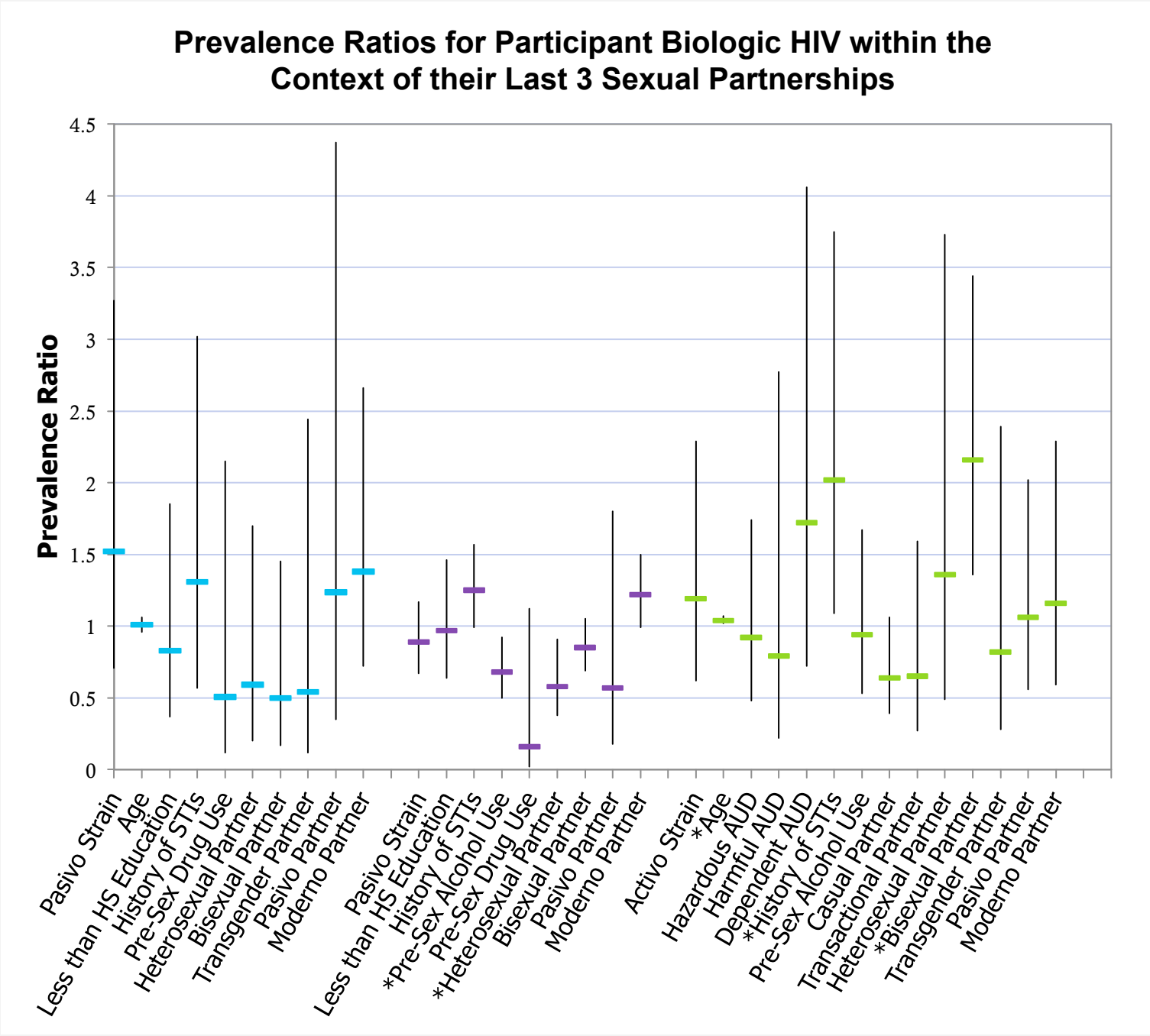
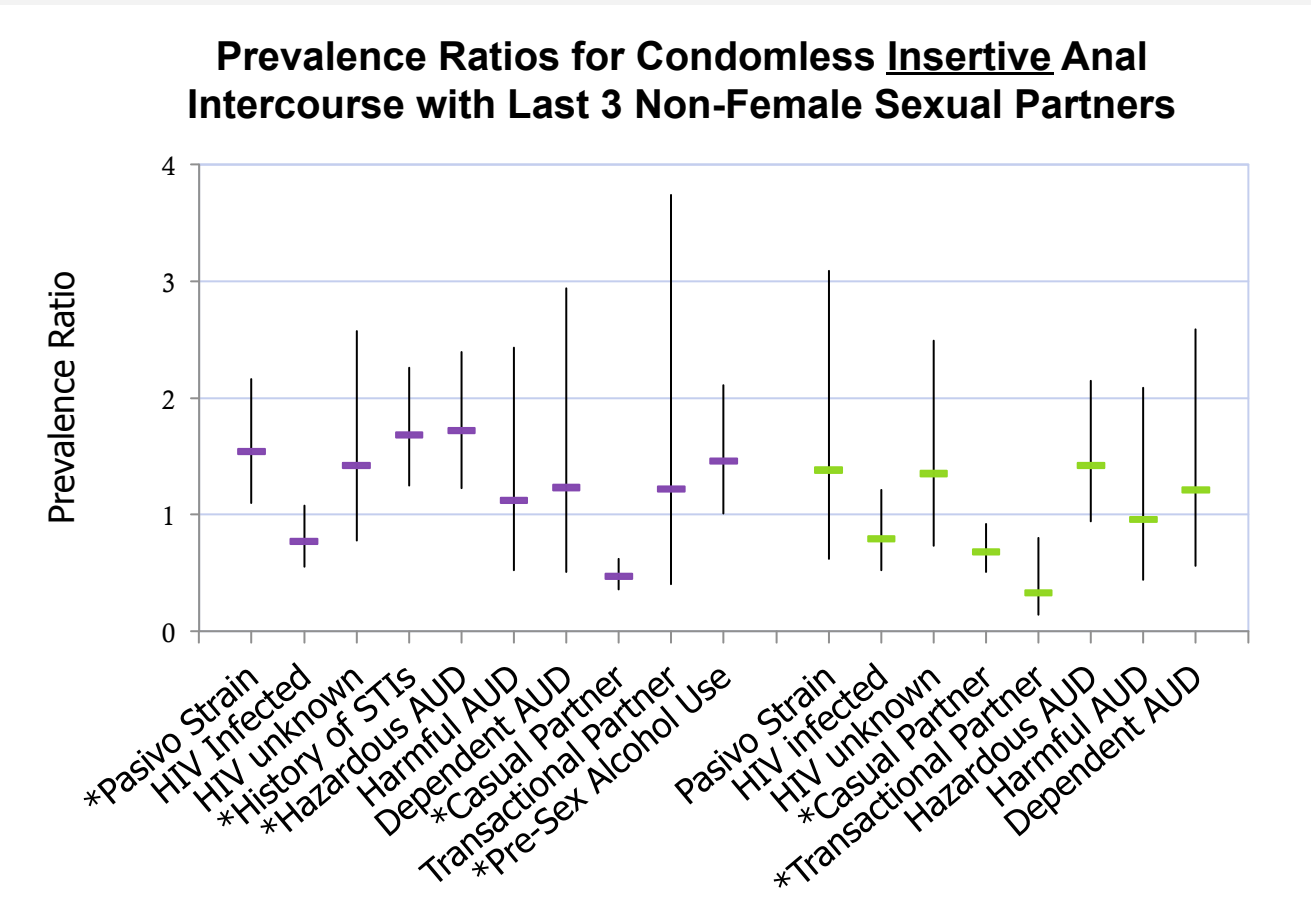
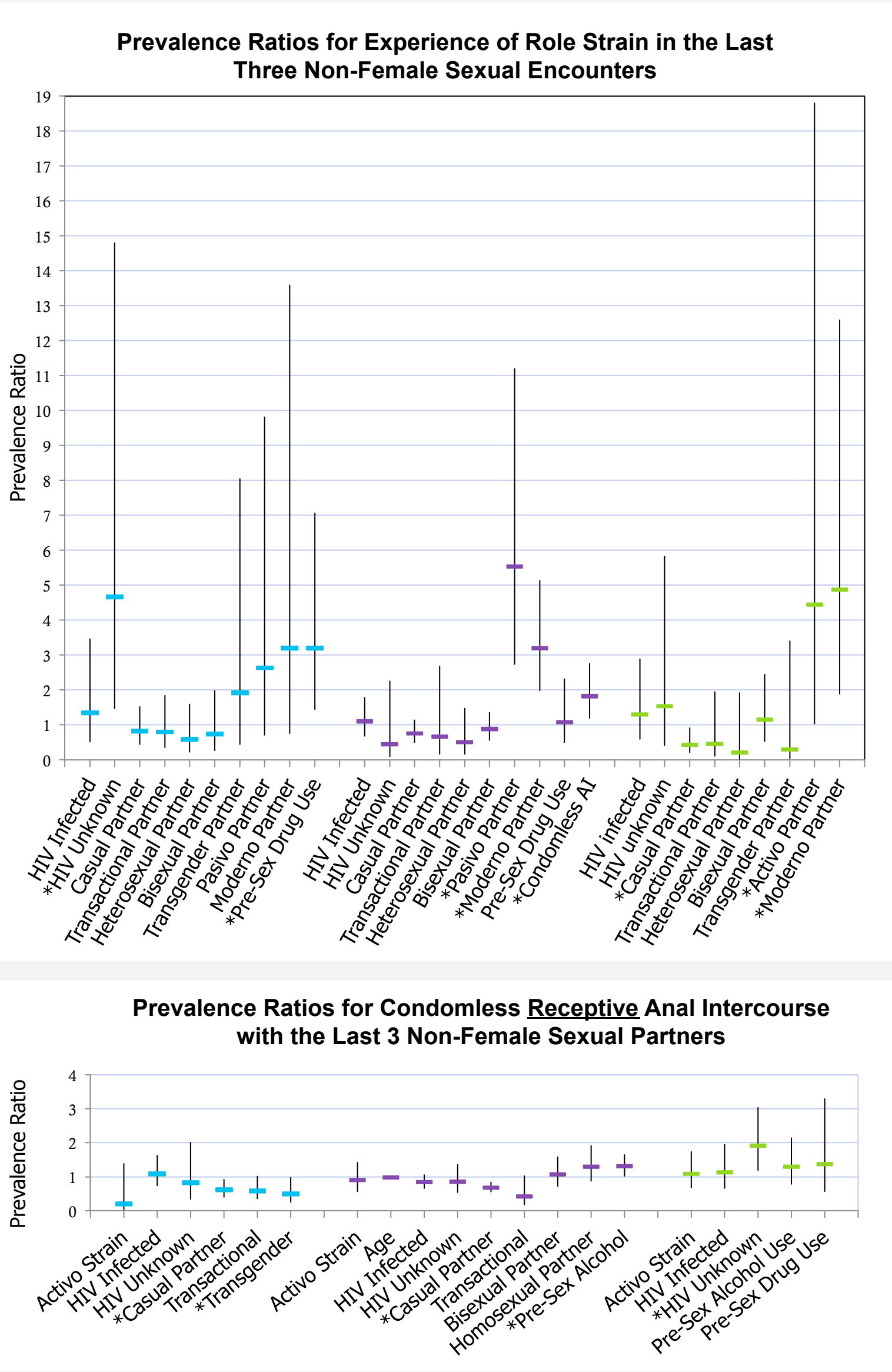
Statistical Analysis

- Models were created using GEE with Poisson distribution (Stata 10.0) to assess prevalence ratios and 95% confidence intervals for:
 - (1) Experience of activo or pasivo role strain
 - (2) Condomless receptive anal intercourse
 - (3) Condomless insertive anal intercourse
 - (4) Screening or diagnostic testing positive for HIV
- Adjusted for participant age, education, HIV status, STI history, alcohol use disorders, pre-sex drug use, pre-sex alcohol use, partner type, partner gender, and partner sexual role

RESULTS

Table 1: Characteristics of TW and MSM Participants; N=710				
Characteristics	Total Sample n (%)	Transwomen n=104 (14.6%)	Homosexual MSM n=388 (54.7%)	Hetero/Bisexual MSM n=218 (30.7%)
Age median (IQR)	27 (23-33)	27 (22-32)	27 (23-34)	27 (22-32)
Education				
Less than Secondary	99 (14.0)	34 (33.0)	34 (8.8)	31 (14.2)
Secondary Complete	190 (26.8)	39 (37.9)	87 (22.5)	64 (29.4)
University/Technical	419 (59.2)	30 (29.1)	266 (68.7)	123 (56.4)
HIV Status				
Infected	325 (45.8)	43 (41.3)	202 (52.1)	80 (36.7)
Uninfected	337 (47.5)	54 (51.9)	168 (43.3)	115 (52.8)
Unknown	48 (6.8)	7 (6.7)	18 (4.6)	23 (10.5)
Recent and Persistent STIs				
Yes	254 (38.7)	43 (44.8)	142 (39.6)	69 (34.2)
No	381 (58.0)	49 (51.0)	209 (58.2)	123 (60.9)
Unsure	22 (3.3)	4 (4.2)	8 (2.2)	10 (4.9)
Alcohol Use Disorders (AUD)				
No AUD	385 (54.5)	40 (38.8)	227 (58.8)	118 (54.1)
Hazardous Use	225 (31.8)	36 (34.9)	123 (31.9)	66 (30.3)
Harmful Use	50 (7.1)	14 (13.6)	17 (4.4)	19 (8.7)
Dependence Use	47 (6.6)	13 (12.6)	19 (4.9)	15 (6.9)
Male/Transgender Sex Partners in Last Month median (IQR)	2 (1-5)	10 (2-28)	2 (1-4)	2 (1-4)
Preferred Sexual Role				
Activo (Insertive)	266 (37.5)	6 (5.8)	85 (21.9)	175 (80.3)
Pasivo (Receptive)	444 (62.5)	98 (94.2)	303 (78.1)	43 (19.7)
Type of Anal Intercourse				
Insertive Only	213 (30.0)	2 (1.9)	64 (16.5)	147 (67.4)
Receptive Only	348 (49.0)	76 (73.1)	238 (61.3)	34 (15.6)
Insertive & Receptive	149 (21.0)	26 (25.0)	86 (22.2)	37 (17.0)
Pasivo Role Strain				
Yes	106 (23.4)	25 (25.5)	66 (21.8)	9 (20.9)
No	348 (76.6)	73 (74.5)	237 (78.2)	34 (79.1)
Activo Role Strain				
Yes	59 (21.0)	5 (83.3)	23 (27.1)	28 (16.0)
No	222 (79.0)	1 (16.7)	62 (72.9)	147 (84.0)

Table 2: Characteristics of the Last 3 Non-Female Sexual Partners of TW and MSM; N=1,937				
Characteristics	Total Sample n (%)	Transwomen n=286 (15.2%)	Homosexual MSM n=1,058 (56.3%)	Hetero/Bisexual MSM n=536 (28.5%)
Partner Type				
Primary	681 (35.2)	109 (38.1)	354 (33.5)	193 (36.0)
Casual	1,104 (57.0)	111 (38.8)	668 (63.1)	301 (56.2)
Transactional	152 (7.8)	66 (23.1)	36 (3.4)	42 (7.8)
Partner Gender				
Male	1,827 (94.3)	264 (92.3)	1,048 (99.1)	468 (87.3)
Transgender	110 (5.7)	22 (7.7)	10 (0.9)	68 (12.7)
Partner HIV Status				
Infected	151 (7.8)	16 (5.6)	90 (8.5)	39 (7.3)
Uninfected	227 (11.7)	47 (16.4)	119 (11.3)	55 (10.3)
Unknown	1,559 (80.5)	223 (78.0)	849 (80.2)	442 (82.5)
Partner Sexual Orientation/Identity				
Heterosexual	291 (15.0)	114 (39.9)	113 (10.7)	52 (9.7)
Bisexual	630 (32.5)	123 (43.0)	331 (31.3)	169 (31.5)
Homosexual	850 (43.9)	22 (7.7)	563 (53.2)	248 (46.3)
Transgender	64 (3.3)	7 (2.4)	2 (0.2)	48 (9.0)
Other	31 (1.6)	9 (3.1)	7 (0.7)	13 (2.4)
Don't Know	71 (3.7)	11 (3.8)	42 (4.0)	6 (1.1)
Participant Pre-Sex Alcohol Use				
Yes	396 (20.4)	75 (26.2)	192 (18.2)	115 (21.5)
No	1,513 (78.1)	206 (72.0)	856 (80.9)	414 (77.2)
Unsure	28 (1.5)	5 (1.8)	10 (0.9)	7 (1.3)
Participant Pre-Sex Drug Use				
Yes	108 (5.6)	34 (11.9)	31 (2.9)	33 (6.2)
No	1,813 (93.6)	247 (86.4)	1,022 (96.6)	501 (93.5)
Unsure	16 (0.8)	5 (1.7)	5 (0.5)	2 (0.4)
Partner Sexual Role				
Activo	1,034 (53.4)	228 (79.7)	651 (61.5)	133 (24.8)
Pasivo	497 (25.7)	22 (7.7)	169 (16.0)	287 (53.5)
Moderno	350 (18.1)	28 (9.8)	211 (19.9)	105 (19.6)
Other	23 (1.2)	2 (0.7)	10 (.9)	10 (1.9)
Don't Know	33 (1.7)	6 (2.1)	17 (1.6)	1 (0.2)
Type of Anal Intercourse				
Insertive Only	629 (32.2)	10 (3.5)	211 (19.9)	380 (70.9)
Receptive Only	1,084 (55.5)	233 (81.5)	724 (68.4)	109 (20.3)
Insertive & Receptive	242 (12.3)	43 (15.0)	123 (11.6)	47 (8.8)
Insertive Anal Intercourse				
Activo (Concordant)	676 (79.2)	46 (86.8)	224 (67.1)	414 (97.0)
Pasivo (Strain)	177 (20.8)	7 (13.2)	110 (32.9)	13 (3.0)
Receptive Anal Intercourse				
Activo (Strain)	96 (7.3)	12 (4.4)	39 (4.6)	117 (75.0)
Pasivo (Concordant)	1,212 (92.7)	264 (95.6)	808 (95.4)	39 (25.0)



SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

Role Strain

- More prevalent among TW who used drugs before sex or had an unknown HIV status
 - Given “genderization” of sexual roles in Peru⁵, role strain may trigger gender dysphoria and psychological distress among TW, with substance use as a maladaptive coping resource
- More prevalent among homosexual and hetero/bisexual when partner had similar role preference
- Activo role strain less prevalent among hetero/bisexual MSM during sex with casual partners
 - Suggests hetero/bisexual MSM may have more control during role negotiation

Condom Use

- More prevalent by all groups during sex with non-primary sex partners
- More prevalent when TW have sex with transgender partners
- Less prevalent by homosexual MSM with alcohol use prior to sex, hazardous AUD, or history of STI

Screening Positive for HIV

- More prevalent for hetero/bisexual MSM with history of STIs
- Less prevalent for homosexual MSM with alcohol consumption prior to sex
 - Unclear if reflects risk behavior or change in behavior after HIV diagnosis

Limitations: We treated role preferences as fixed, when may be more fluid in real life. Due to cross-sectional nature of data, we were unable to assess consent and/or preference for role-strained acts.

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