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INTRODUCTION

In Argentina, 64% of the new HIV infections among cisgender men in 2019-21 corresponds to condomless sex with other men, rising to 79.8%-87.4% among those between 15-24 years old. The proportion of new acquisitions of HIV in sexual relations with other cisgender men increased 10% compared to 2013-15.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this study was to **determine the prevalence of condomless anal sex (CAS) and its psychosocial correlates among HIV-negative young gay, bisexual and other cisgender men who have sex with men (GBMSM) from Buenos Aires, Argentina.**

RESULTS

Sociodemographic information

22 years median age (IQR=23-28)

38.5% migrants

61.5% were on PrEP

78.9% gays

16.2% bisexual

4.9% pansexual or other sexual orientations

7.7% (n=11) engaged in sex work

48.3% casual partners

19.6% open/non-monogamous relationship

Episodes of stigma, discrimination and violence related to sexual orientation

80.4% informed having experienced stigma and discrimination related to their sexual orientation at some point in their lives

↳ **62.2%** in the educational system

↳ **46.9%** from their families

67.6% experienced violence from family at least once

↳ **57.2%** psychological

↳ **47.9%** verbal






43.9% reported violence from an intimate partner

↳ **38.3%** psychological

↳ **32.1%** verbal

METHODS

One hundred and forty-three cisgender HIV-negative GBMSM between 16 and 30 years old completed an ad hoc survey at the HIV testing service of a NGO, between April and September, 2022. Data was gathered on:

-  sociodemographic variables,
-  sexual behavior,
-  substance use,
-  experiences of stigma and discrimination related to sexual orientation,
-  violence from family and intimate partners (psychological, verbal, physical and sexual).

Chi-square tests, odds ratios (OR) and confidence intervals (CI) were calculated to explore correlates of insertive and receptive CAS.

Substance use and prevalence of CAS

76.9% used substances before or during sexual relations in the last three months

↳ **61.5%** alcohol

↳ **53.8%** cannabis

↳ **23.8%** poppers

In the last month with at least one partner

↳ **54.5%** reported receptive CAS

↳ **52.4%** reported insertive CAS

Table 1. Descriptive statistics and variables associated with condomless receptive and insertive anal sex with at least one sexual partner in the last month (N=143)

	Condomless receptive anal sex in the last month		χ ²	p	OR (CI95%)	Condomless insertive anal sex in the last month		χ ²	p	OR (CI95%)
	Yes n = 78 (54.5%)	No n = 65 (45.5%)				Yes n = 75 (52.4%)	No n = 68 (47.6%)			
Sex work (yes)	9 (11.5)	2 (3.1)	3.575	.059		9 (12)	2 (2.9)	4.122	.042	4.50 (1.936-10.623)
Immigrant (yes)	35 (44.9)	20 (30.8)	2.979	.084		37 (49.3)	18 (26.5)	7.876	.005	2.705 (1.338-5.487)
Current partner status										
Casual partners (yes)	38 (48.7)	31 (47.7)	.015	.903		33 (44)	36 (52.9)	1.142	.285	
In a monogamous relationship (yes) 7 (9)	5 (7.7)	5 (7.7)	.076	.783		7 (9.3)	5 (7.4)	.182	.670	
In an open, non-monogamous relationship (yes)	14 (17.9)	14 (21.5)	.290	.590		18 (24)	10 (14.7)	1.956	.162	
Experiences of stigma and discrimination related to sexual orientation (lifetime)										
Violence from family (lifetime)	63 (80.8)	52 (80)	.013	.908		59 (78.7)	56 (82.4)	.308	.579	
Psychological	39 (52.7)	40 (62.5)	1.346	.246		42 (58.3)	37 (56.1)	.073	.787	
Verbal	44 (57.9)	23 (35.9)	6.712	.010	2.451 (1.237-4.858)	42 (57.5)	25 (37.3)	5.724	.017	2.276 (1.155-4.487)
Physical	24 (31.2)	17 (26.2)	.432	.511		24 (32.4)	17 (25)	.953	.329	
Sexual	16 (21.6)	13 (20.3)	.035	.851		21 (29.6)	8 (11.9)	6.460	.011	3.098 (1.263-7.598)
Violence from intimate partner (lifetime)										
Psychological	31 (40.3)	23 (35.9)	.276	.599		30 (40.5)	24 (35.8)	.331	.565	
Verbal	28 (36.4)	17 (27)	1.398	.237		28 (37.8)	17 (25.8)	2.334	.127	
Physical	14 (18.2)	9 (14.1)	.434	.510		14 (18.9)	9 (13.4)	.775	.379	
Sexual	14 (18.2)	9 (14.1)	.434	.510		14 (18.9)	9 (13.4)	.775	.379	
Use of any substance before or during sexual relations in the last 3 months	65 (83.3)	45 (69.2)	3.972	.046	2.222 (1.004-4.921)	62 (82.7)	48 (70.6)	2.931	.087	

Note: In bold significant values

Correlates of receptive and insertive CAS

Receptive CAS was associated with:

- ↳ verbal violence,
- ↳ substance use before or during sex.

Insertive CAS was associated with

- ↳ engagement in sex work,
- ↳ migration,
- ↳ verbal and sexual violence (Table 1).

• 52%-54% reported receptive or insertive CAS

• 77% used recreational substances before or during sexual relations

CONCLUSIONS

Violence from family, substance use and intersectionality of stigmas (e.g., related to sexual orientation, migrant status, and engagement in sex work) may impact young GBMSM's ability to engage in condom use during anal sex. Preventive intervention strategies for this group should incorporate a more comprehensive and intersectional approach, including harm reduction and trauma assistance components.