

## Partner Management Among Latino Men Who Have Sex with Men

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### Project Description

Literature on risk has historically focused on individual behavior (“How many partners have you had? How often do you use a condom? etc.”); however recent studies have begun to recognize the need to acknowledge the social and sexual context of risk behavior. For example, studies have examined the role of partner preferences, sexual situations, partner selection, sexual stereotypes and, most recently, seroadaptive behaviors. Additionally, studies of sexual risk behaviors integrate social influences that may impact sexual negotiations (homophobia, sexual silence, cultural influences, etc.). Building from this body of literature, the PI has introduced the term of “partner management” to describe a process in which men initiate behaviors to maximize their sexual pleasure and minimize the risk involved. We will conduct 36 in-depth interviews with participants to explore the partner management processes of Latino MSM (LMSM).

The specific research aims of this study are to:

- Understand the factors (social, cultural, psychological) that influence partner management among LMSM
- Describe the impact of acculturation processes (sexual scripts, cultural values, negotiated identities) on the partner management process of LMSM
- Characterize the ways in which partner management is operationalized when LMSM negotiate sexual situations

### Significance

LMSM constitute one of the most vulnerable groups in the US for the transmission of HIV. LMSM have disproportionately high rates of unprotected anal intercourse as well as high rates of HIV infection. Research has shown that HIV programs are effective when they link HIV prevention to the fulfillment of the other, non-HIV specific, pressing psychosocial needs. However, to date, the CDC’s Compendium of Evidence Based Interventions does not include an HIV prevention program that is specific to the needs of LMSM. This formative study recognizes the call for HIV interventions that contextualize the lives of LMSM, and the need to understand the process by which LMSM find themselves in sexual situations. As such, this study will gain critical insights into the partner management process of LMSM.

**Project Website:** [www.caps.ucsf.edu/CAPS/about/recruitment.php#PM](http://www.caps.ucsf.edu/CAPS/about/recruitment.php#PM)