

#### 4. Género e sexualidades

OC - (23164) - ""THEY SUSPECT, BUT I DON'T TALK ABOUT IT": IMPLICATIONS OF INTERSECTIONAL MICROAGGRESSIONS AND HEALTH INEQUITIES FOR LATINO/X MALE SEXUAL MINORITIES IN PUERTO RICO"

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**Background and Purpose:** Despite significant medical advances in HIV treatment and prevention, Latino/x Male Sexual Minorities (MSM) continue to be disproportionately impacted by the epidemic. Health inequities and exposure to microaggressions among Latino/a/x populations vary due to complex intersectional factors based on nationality, indigenous, immigration, language, and geographical area. This study aims to understand the lived experience of Puerto Rican (PR) MSM related to how intersectional microaggressions influence health inequities and implications for HIV-related services.

**Methods:** An exploratory-descriptive qualitative study design was administered to understand the lived experience of PR MSM on how intersectionality and microaggressions influence health inequities. Young adult (ages 21-30) PR MSM from San Juan, Puerto Rico completed a bilingual in-depth individual interview (14 in Spanish and 1 in English). A thematic analysis based on the original language of the interviews was conducted using NVivo.

**Findings:** Fifteen PR MSM completed a semi-structured interview in Spanish (n = 14) and the majority reported an HIV negative status (n=12), identified as gay (n=14), household income under \$20,000 (n=10), and at least some college or higher (n=12). Six prominent themes were identified through the data analysis: 1. Religious microaggressions – Being gay is bad because God doesn't like it; 2. Gender microaggressions – Gay is not good because it's not for men; 3. Sexuality microaggressions – This one is a homosexual, coming out as a sexual minority; 4. Trans microaggressions – Drag queens create an illusion; 5. Internalized microaggressions – Battling with internalized homophobia; and 6. Mitigating microaggressions – Establishing a supportive community.

**Conclusion:** Findings suggest that multiple forms of microaggressions based on the intersectionality of sexuality and gender manifest from straight as well as gay communities. PR MSM demonstrated their resiliency by assessing interactions with others to mitigate risks and enhance supportive networks.

**Palavras-chave :** Intersectionality, Microaggressions, Sexuality, Gender, HIV