BACKGROUND

Peruvian Sexual and Cultural Context:

- HIV prevalence of 29.6% among transgender women (TW)
  - 12.2% among men who have sex with men (MSM)
  - 0.4% among general population

Conceptualizing Sexual Role Strain:

- Role theory describes the challenge of negotiating social and interpersonal role demands within the context of one's own 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
- Practicing the activo role despite passive role preference
- Practicing the passive role when one prefers the activo role

Purpose:

To explore the partnership contexts within TW and MSM in Lima Peru experience active and/or passive 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 passive (receptive) or active (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:
  - Experience of active or passive role strain
  - Condomless receptive anal intercourse
  - Condomless insertive anal intercourse
  - 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

Prevalence Ratios for Experience of Role Strain in the Last Three Non-Female Sexual Encounters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Total Sample</th>
<th>Homosexual MSM</th>
<th>Non-Homosexual MSM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passive (n)</td>
<td>657 (28.2)</td>
<td>354 (53.5)</td>
<td>303 (54.6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active (n)</td>
<td>440 (21.5)</td>
<td>159 (36.2)</td>
<td>281 (37.9)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transgender</td>
<td>128 (5.8)</td>
<td>55 (43.1)</td>
<td>73 (57.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No MSM</td>
<td>621 (54.7)</td>
<td>331 (52.9)</td>
<td>290 (55.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No AI</td>
<td>629 (56.5)</td>
<td>349 (55.4)</td>
<td>280 (55.2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No condom</td>
<td>578 (51.8)</td>
<td>318 (55.2)</td>
<td>260 (55.4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Sample</td>
<td>2,278 (237)</td>
<td>1,038 (45.7)</td>
<td>1,239 (53.3)</td>
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Prevalence Ratios for Condomless Genital Anal Intercourse with the Last 3 Non-Female Sexual Partners

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SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

Role Strain

- More prevalent among TW who used drugs before sex or had an unknown HIV status
- More prevalent among homosexual and heterosexual when partner had similar role preference
- More prevalent among TW who used drugs before sex or had an unknown HIV status
- More prevalent among heterosexual and bisexual MSM during sex with casual partners
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Condom Use

- More prevalent among all groups during sex with non-primary sex partners
- More prevalent when TW have sex with transgender partners
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Screening Positive for HIV

- More prevalent among homosexual and bisexual MSM with alcohol consumption prior to sex
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Limitations:

We treated role strains as significant when, for any reason, individuals were in unstable relationships. We were unable to assess consent and/or preference for role-strained acts.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors thank the study subjects for their participation. Research support provided by the Fenway Institute’s Sexuality & Education, NIH grant R21 MH072232 and NIMH grant R23 MD000952 and R23 MD000951.