

Geographic Differences in Access to HIV Prevention Services and Care among Sexual Minority Men in Puerto Rico

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Abstract : Background: The nature of the HIV epidemic in Puerto Rico (PR) is less understood than in the continental U.S. There is evidence to suggest that there are differences in health care access based on geographical location, such that rural areas are less underserved and have less immediate access to HIV prevention resources. Methods: The current study consists of a cross-sectional online survey of self-reporting HIV-negative sexual minority men (SMM) residing in PR. Results: In this sample, there were no differences between urban and rural-based services for SMM. However, more than half of the sample reported that they have never disclosed their gender identity and sexual practices to a physician. Conclusion: HIV is a significant public health concern affecting Latinos/Hispanics in the U.S. Findings in this paper can have implications for HIV prevention services in PR specifically, as few studies have directly focused on the impact of HIV and health care services in PR outside of the continental U.S.

Keywords : HIV, Puerto Rico, infectious diseases , public health

Conference Title : ICHA 2021 : International Conference on HIV and AIDS

Conference Location : Baku, Azerbaijan

Conference Dates : October 04-05, 2021