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Patterns of HIV prevention behavior and the self-perception of HIV risk among adolescent men who have sex with men and transgender women in Brazil: a latent class analysis

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Introduction

- Adolescents and young men in Brazil face a disproportionate HIV incidence ratio, which is increasing especially among those who are ≤ 25 years old.
- Self-perception of HIV risk is an important indicator of HIV prevention choices.
- HIV combination prevention is still limited among adolescents from key- populations.

OBJECTIVE - We aimed to identify patterns of HIV prevention behavior among adolescent MSM and TGW in Brazil

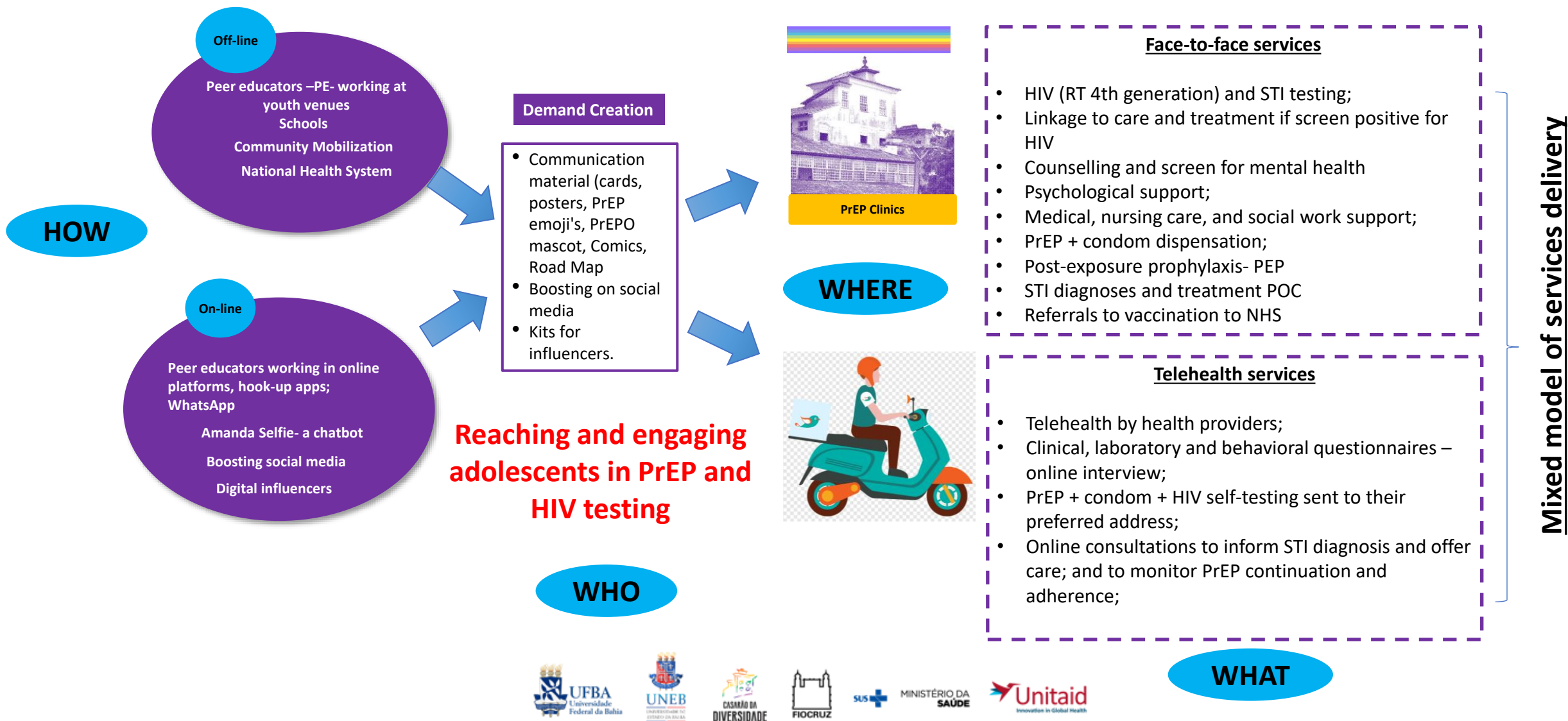
Methods



- PrEP1519 was a prospective, multicenter, demonstration cohort study of daily oral PrEP among adolescents men who have sex with men (AMSM) and transgender women (ATGW) aged 15 to 19 years old implemented in three large Brazilian capital cities (Belo Horizonte, Salvador, and São Paulo) (*Dourado, 2023*).
- Information on socio-demographic characteristics, sexual behavior and HIV prevention was obtained through face-to-face interviews using standardized questionnaires.
- Online and face-to-face demand creation strategies were conducted by peer educators to reach AMSM and ATGW.



PrEP1519 Implementation Model: recruiting, enrolling and linking adolescents MSM and TGW to PrEP



Methods

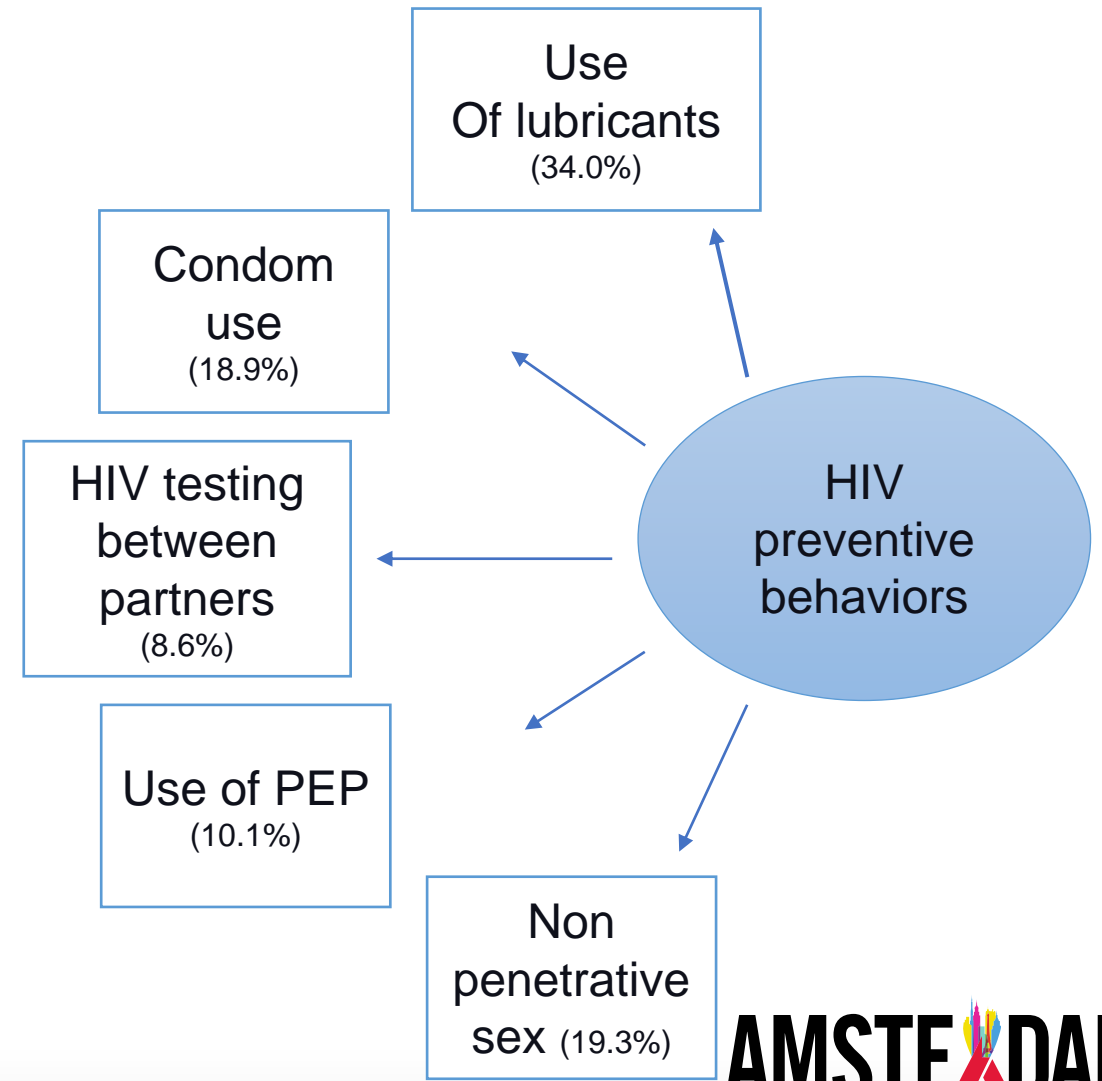


- For this cross-sectional analysis, we included 1,441 adolescents enrolled in the cohort from February 2019-February 2023.
- Latent class analysis (LCA) grouped adolescents with similar patterns of HIV-preventive behaviors. And which group were associated with self-perception of HIV risk.
- Further, we analyzed sociodemographic factors associated to each pattern using LCA with covariates.

Indicator variables for LCA of HIV preventive behaviors:

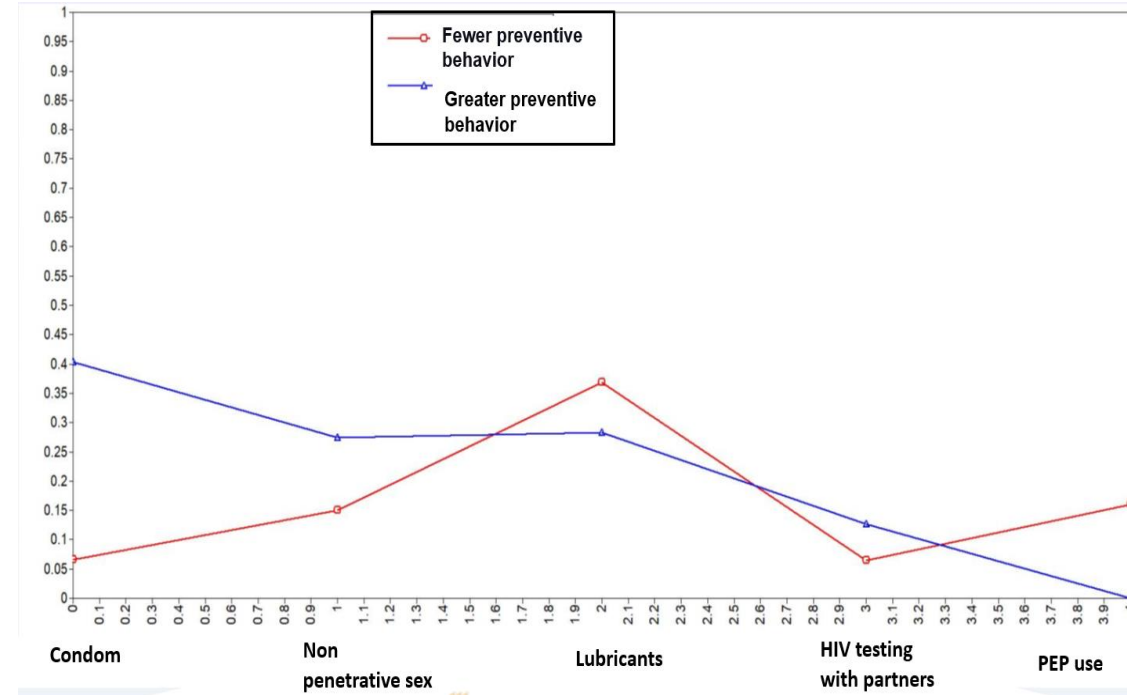


Values for LCA Models		
	2 classes	3 classes
Akaike - AIC	5.081	5.058
Bayesian - BIC	5.166	5.190
Entropy	0.31	0.3



Results

- Most participants were AMSM (91.2%), aged 18 to 19 years (74.5%), had brown or black skin color (71.5%), and had more than 12 years of schooling (54.8%).
- Two distinct groups came out and were characterized by:



Class 1: Fewer preventive behavior (N=1,108; 76.9%)

Characterized by infrequent condom use (6.6%), having non-penetrative sex (15.1%), greater use of lubricant (36.9%), performing an HIV test with a partner (6.4%), and PEP use (16.0%);

Class 2: Greater preventive behavior (N=333; 23.1%)

Characterized by frequently condom use (40.3%), having non-penetrative sex (27.5%), infrequent use of lubricants (28.3%), performing an HIV test with a partner (12.7%), and nobody use PEP (0.0%).



Results

Association of the sociodemographic covariates with LCA Preventive Behaviors groups

	OR	Fewer HIV prevention behavior 95% CI	
Age			
15 to 17 yo	1		
18 and 19 yo	0.95	0.42	2.18
Gender			
AMSM	1		
ATGW	0.97	0.36	2.67
Schooling			
Elementary to high school	1		
College education	0.68	0.39	1.19
Race/Skin color			
White	1		
Blacks and brown	1.31	0.66	2.60
HIV risk perception			
Low risk	1		
Moderate to high risk	7.47	2.02	27.62



Conclusions

- Fewer HIV preventive behavior was used by adolescent MSM and TGW.
- Perception of an HIV risk was associated with fewer use of the preventive behavior analyzed.
- Oral and injectable long acting PrEP is highly accepted among sexual minority adolescents and should be offered as a choice in a large scale.



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Thank you!

