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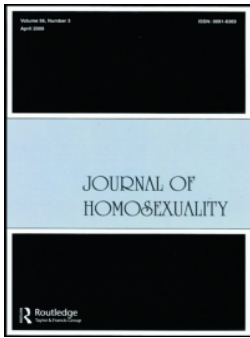


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## Difference in Condom Use Between Bear Concordant and Discordant Dyads During the Last Anal Sex Event

Phillip W. Schnarrs, PhD<sup>a,b</sup>, Joshua G. Rosenberger, PhD, MPH<sup>c</sup>,  
Vanessa Schick, PhD<sup>d</sup>, Adolph Delgado<sup>a,e</sup>, Lindsay Briggs, PhD, MPH<sup>f</sup>,  
Brian Dodge, PhD <sup>g</sup>, and Michael Reece, PhD, MPH<sup>g</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Kinesiology, Health and Nutrition, The University of Texas at San Antonio, San Antonio, Texas, USA; <sup>b</sup>The South Texas Consortium for HIV & STI Research, San Antonio, Texas, USA; <sup>c</sup>Department of Biobehavioral Health, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania, USA; <sup>d</sup>Division of Management, Policy and Community Health, The University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston, Texas, USA; <sup>e</sup>San Antonio AIDS Foundation, San Antonio, Texas, USA; <sup>f</sup>Department of Health and Community Services, California State University at Chico, Chico, California, USA; <sup>g</sup>Department of Applied Health Science, Indiana University School of Public Health at Bloomington, Bloomington, Indiana, USA

### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to understand how bear identity influenced condom use during the last anal sex event. Participants were recruited to complete an online, anonymous self-report survey through bear-related sexual and social networking websites. A total of 1,080 men who identified as gay or bisexual and as a member of the bear community and were 18 years or older completed the survey. Overall, fewer than a third of men reported condom use during the most recent receptive (28%) and insertive (30%) anal sex event. Men in bear concordant pairings were less likely to use a condom during receptive and insertive anal sex compared to those in discordant pairings ( $p < .05$ ). Findings suggest that bear identity concordance influences condom use during anal sex after accounting for an individual's relationship to their most recent partner as well as other confounding variables.

### KEYWORDS

Anal sex; bear community; condom use; gay men; identity; MSM; sexual behavior

## Introduction

Gay and bisexual men continue to be disproportionately burdened by HIV compared to other groups and account for 56% of all HIV cases as of 2010 (Oglesby, Smith, & Alemagno, 2014). Pre-exposure prophylaxis offers an effective prevention strategy; uptake and access remain considerably low. Currently, condom use still remains the most effective and readily available means of preventing HIV transmission during sexual activity (Oglesby, Smith, & Alemagno, 2014). While condom use is effective in preventing HIV infection, recent research suggests that about 1 in 4 gay and bisexual men used a condom during the sexual event (Rosenberger et al., 2011). Many factors have been examined to understand decisions regarding condom use, including substance

**CONTACT** Phillip W. Schnarrs  [phillip.schnarrs@utsa.edu](mailto:phillip.schnarrs@utsa.edu)  The University of Texas at San Antonio, One UTSA Circle, Main Building 3.410, San Antonio, TX 78704, USA.

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use (Groß, 2012), sociocontextual factors (Hensel, Rosenberger, Novak, & Reece, 2012; Torres et al., 2013), sexual partner characteristics (Carballo-Diéguez, Dolezal, Nieves, Diaz, Decena, & Balan, 2004; Groß, Parsons, & Bimbi, 2010), and peer group norms (Willoughby et al., 2008).

Physical characteristics of sexual partners have been shown to influence decisions regarding sexual behavior (Carballo-Diéguez et al., 2004; Groß et al., 2010). Carballo-Diéguez et al. (2004) found that men who perceived their most recent sexual partner to be more or less masculine, physically attractive, older, or darker-skinned were more likely to take the insertive or receptive role, respectively, during anal sex. Additionally, factors such as sexual partners' penis size impacted sexual decision making (Groß et al., 2010). These studies suggest that the perception of a sexual partner's body and personality influences decisions regarding sexual behaviors.

In the United States, several known sexual subcultural communities compose the larger gay community, including leather men (Mosher, Levitt, & Manley, 2006), circuit partiers (Colfax, Mansergh, Guzman et al., 2001), and drag queens (Taylor & Rupp, 2005), as well as others. Two studies have established the perceived existence of distinct sexual subcultural communities comprised by the larger LGBT community (Clausell & Fiske, 2005; Peacock, Eyre, Quinn, & Kegeles, 2001). Research suggests each of these subcommunities has its own identity, meeting places, symbols, and language apart from the larger gay culture (Hennen, 2005; Peacock et al., 2001). Further, many of these subcommunities enact sexual behaviors that are different from one another. For example, Moskowitz et al.'s (2013) recent work found that men who identified as bears were more likely to report atypical (i.e., fisting, voyeurism, piss play) sexual behaviors compared to individuals who did not self-identify as bears.

The bear community formed during the 1970s and 1980s as an outgrowth of both the leather community and the big men's movement in San Francisco, California (Hennen, 2005). Research suggests that the bear community emerged as a subversive community attempting to present other "types" of gay men different from the iconic Adonis imagery of the gay community (Gough & Flanders, 2009; Hennen, 2005; Monaghan, 2005). This was an attempt to challenge the norms of the "ideal" gay body and to dismantle the socially constructed relationship between homosexuality and effeminacy (Hennen, 2005; Manley, Levitt, & Mosher, 2007). Large bodies, body hair, and masculine demeanor were celebrated among this community, with representations of "authentic" masculinity such as the lumberjack and the woodsman being idealized (Hennen, 2005; Monaghan, 2005; Textor, 1999).

Social identity theory posits that one's belief that he or she belongs to a social group influences appearance, behavior, and attitudes (Abrams & Hogg, 1988). Social identity theory suggests that members of a given group (*in-group*) are perceived to differ from others (*out-group*) across "cognitive, attitudinal, and behavioral lines" (Stets & Burke, 2000, p. 226). Previous research suggests that

members of the bear community believe they are different from other gay men and are perceived to be different by other gay men as well. Previous research on men who identify as bears indicates that this group is more likely to participate in atypical sexual behaviors (Moskowitz et al., 2013) as well as higher-risk sexual behaviors (Willoughby et al., 2008) compared to other gay men. Atypical sexual behaviors and risk taking may be related to the value bears place on hegemonic forms of masculinity (Hennen, 2008). Using social identity theory as a framework for examining sex, sexual behaviors may differ based upon the perceived social identity of a sexual partner. In other words, the sexual behaviors an individual engages in may partly be informed by the physical characteristics of a sexual partner. This has been shown in previous research with regard to sexual partners race and sexual risk (Clerkin, Newcomb, & Mustanski, 2011). Similarly, it may hold that perception of sexual subcultural identities influenced sexual behaviors, including condom use during anal sex.

Little is known about the sexual behaviors and experiences of men who identify with the bear community. Willoughby et al.'s (2008), study assessing the health and risk behaviors of sexual subcultures, found that men self-identifying as bears were more likely than men belonging to other sexual subcultures to engage in receptive anal sex without condoms with someone they just met. More recently, research has suggested that bears and cubs—typically younger men belonging to the bear community—are more likely to participate in atypical behaviors (i.e., fisting, voyeurism, and anilingus) compared to non-bears (Moskowitz et al., 2013). While both studies have assessed the impact of bear identity compared to non-bear identity, no research to date has examined sexual behaviors at the event level or the potential influence of bear identity concordance on sexual behaviors. Further, there is a limited understanding of how open or closed subcultural groups are regarding sex. Research has shown that our social identities influence who our sexual partners are, as well as what sexual behaviors we engage in depending upon our perception of our sexual partners (Laumann & Youm, 1999; Schneider et al., 2013). If men who identify as bears are less likely to use condoms with other men they perceive as bears compared to those they do not perceive as bears, this may put men who identify as bears at a disproportionate level of HIV risk compared to other “types” of gay men. The purpose of this study was to assess the potential differences in anal sex behaviors and condom use during the last anal sex event between men who perceived their most recent sexual partner to be a bear (concordant bear identity) and those who did not (discordant bear identity).

## Hypotheses

H1: Participants in bear concordant pairings during the last anal sex event will be more likely to report insertive anal sex compared to participants

who were in bear discordant pairings, when adjusting for potential confounding variables.

H2: Participants in bear concordant pairings during the last anal sex event will be more likely to report receptive anal sex compared to participants who were in bear discordant pairings, when adjusting for potential confounding variables.

H3: Participants in bear concordant pairings will be less likely to report condom use during the last insertive anal sex event compared to participants who were in bear discordant pairings, when adjusting for potential confounding variables.

H4: Participants in bear concordant pairings will be less likely to report condom use during the last receptive anal sex event compared to participants who were in bear discordant pairings, when adjusting for potential confounding variables.

## Method

### *Participant recruitment and data collection*

A cross-sectional survey design was used in this study. A convenience sample of online users from various social and sexual gay networking websites that cater to members of the bear community (e.g., bear411.com, bigmusclebear.com, bearnation.com) were surveyed using an anonymous, online self-report questionnaire. Men had to identify with the bear community in order to participate in the study. Participants were recruited via e-mail notifications and web postings about the study and were directed to a website where they completed the survey materials. Of those men viewing the study information sheet and consent form, 1011 (71%) consented and completed the online survey. All study protocols were reviewed and approved by the institutional review board at Indiana University. Upon visiting the study website, individuals were able to read a more detailed description of the study and, if interested, proceeded to the study consent form. Those deciding to participate were able to move directly from the consent form to the study questionnaire. This study was completely anonymous and no identifying information was captured.

## Measures

### *Bear identity*

Survey respondents needed to indicate they belonged to the bear community (yes [1]/no [0]). If respondents indicated yes, they were asked, "How do you identify?"

(1) as a bear, (2) as a cub; (3) as an otter; (4) as a chaser; or (5) other. Men who identified as a bear were included in this analysis. Participants were asked to indicate whether their most recent sexual partner was a bear (*yes* [1]/*no* [0]). Those who indicated “yes” were considered to be in a concordant dyad during the last anal sex event, and those who indicated “no” were considered to be in a bear identity discordant pairing. Most recent sexual partner’s bear identity was used as the predictor variables during each of the four analyses that were completed.

### **Anal sex and condom use during the most recent sexual event**

Criterion variables include receptive and insertive anal sex as well as condom use during receptive and insertive anal sex. Men were asked to report whether they had receptive (*yes* [1]/*no* [0]) or insertive (*yes* [1]/*no* [0]) anal sex during the most recent sexual event. Those indicating receptive or insertive anal sex were then asked whether a condom was used during receptive or insertive sex depending upon their previous response. Men reporting only insertive anal sex were only asked about condom use during insertive anal sex. Similarly, participants indicating only receptive anal sex were only asked about condom use during receptive anal sex. Individuals reporting receptive and insertive anal sex during the last sexual event were asked about condom use during both receptive and insertive anal sex. Response options for condom use were the same for both insertive and receptive anal sex and included (1) “Yes, a condom was used the entire time”; (2) “We started having anal sex with a condom, but it was removed before we finished”; (3) “We started having anal sex without a condom, but used one before we finished having anal sex”; and (4) “No, a condom was not used at any point during anal sex.” Condom response options were reduced to a binary variable (*yes, a condom was used the entire time* = 1 and *no, a condom was not used the entire time* = 0).

### **Participant and most recent sexual partner characteristics**

Measures included those related to a participant’s age, race (*White, African American, Asian/Pacific Islander*), Latino/Hispanic heritage (*yes* [1]/*no* [0]), and level of education (less than a bachelor’s degree or a bachelor’s degree or higher). Participants also responded to questions regarding their most recent sexual partner. These included their partner’s age, race/ethnicity (*White, Black/African American, Latino, Asian or Pacific Islander*), relationship to most recent sexual partner (*relationship partner, casual partner, or someone they just met*), and whether their most recent partner was a bear (*yes* [1]/*no* [0]). Response options for relationship partner included (1) *significant other/partner/husband*, (2) *boyfriend*, and (3) *someone I am currently dating*. Casual partner included (1) *friend* and (2) *acquaintance*. These variables were included in multivariable analysis as potential confounding variables.

## Analysis

Men included in this analysis were those who (1) self-identified as gay or bisexual, (2) reported that their most recent sexual event was with another man, (3) reported that their most recent sexual event was within the past year, (4) reported receptive or insertive anal sex during the last sexual event, and (5) and responded to questions regarding condom use and all socio-demographics. Additionally, only men who identified as bears were included in these analyses. Men who identify with the bear community may not identify specifically as bears, but as other subidentities such as cub, otter, or admirer, to name a few. The final sample included 444 (44.1%) men who met all inclusion criteria for these analyses. All analyses were conducted using SPSS version 22.0 (IMB Corp, 2013). Descriptive and univariate analyses were conducted to examine participant characteristics, last event sexual behaviors, and sexual partner characteristics. Bivariate analyses were done using chi-squares and independent samples *t*-tests to assess differences between the concordant and discordant groups. Finally, multiple logistic regressions were used to control for participant and partner characteristics when assessing differences in partner/participant bear identity across last event sexual behaviors with a *p* value  $\leq .2$  at the bivariate level.

### Participant and most recent sexual partner characteristics

The average age of the sample was 41 years ( $SD = 10.11$ ). The vast majority (91%,  $n = 229$ ) had a bachelor's degree and identified as White (95%,  $n = 240$ ). Twenty-two (9%) indicated that they were of Hispanic or Latino heritage, and 12% ( $n = 30$ ) reported that they were HIV-positive. No significant differences were found between discordant and concordant groups (see Table 1).

The average age of the participant's most recent sexual partner was 39 years ( $SD = 10.61$ ). The majority of participants reported that their most recent sexual partner was White, and more than two-thirds (69%,  $n = 174$ ) reported that their most recent sexual partner was a relationship partner and that their most recent sexual partner was a bear (68%,  $n = 173$ ). Using a chi-square analysis, a significant relationship was found between participants' relationship to their most recent partner and their most recent sexual partner's bear identity [ $\chi^2(253, 2) = 15.53, p < .001$ ]. Table 1 presents these findings.

### Condom use during the last anal sex event

Overall, 63% ( $n = 157$ ) and 62% ( $n = 156$ ) of participants reported insertive and receptive anal sex during the last sexual event, respectively (see Table 2). A smaller proportion of men reported insertive anal sex (61%,  $n = 104$ ) compared to participants whose most recent sexual partner was not a bear



**Table 1.** Participant and most recent sexual partner characteristics, stratified by bear identity concordance.

	Total Sample (N = 444)		Concordant (n = 303)		Discordant (n = 141)		p
	n	%	n	%	n	%	
<b>Participant characteristics</b>							
Age (M, SD)*	41	9.92	42	9.91	41	9.97	.613
Educational attainment							.561
< bachelor's degree	39	9	25	8	14	10	
≥ bachelor's degree	405	91	278	92	127	90	
Race							.399
White	430	97	11	4	3	2	
African American/Black	14	3	292	96	138	98	
Latino/Hispanic							.565
No	411	93	279	24	132	94	
Yes	33	7	24	8	9	6	
<b>Most recent sexual partner characteristics</b>							
Relationship to participant	289	65	214	71	75	53	< .001
Relationship partner	66	15	43	14	23	16	
Casual partner (friend/acquaintance)	89	20	46	15	43	31	
Just met							
Age (M, SD)*	39	10.33	40	9.29	38	12.12	.012
Race/ethnicity							.393
White	361	81	252	83	109	77	
Black/African American	18	4	10	3	8	6	
Latino	54	12	35	12	19	14	
Asian or Pacific Islander	11	3	6	2	5	4	

Note. \*t-tests were used to analyze differences between groups for these variables. All other variables were analyzed using chi-square analyses.

**Table 2.** Receptive and insertive anal sex and condom use during the last anal sex event stratified by bear identity concordance.

Anal sex (N = 444)	Total Sample		Bear Concordant		Bear Discordant		$\chi^2$	p
	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Receptive	157	35	115	38	42	30	2.81	.094
Insertive	156	35	103	34	53	38	0.55	.460
<b>Condom use</b>								
Receptive (n = 156)	43	28	23	20	20	48	11.58	.001
Insertive (n = 157)	46	30	23	23	23	43	7.26	.007

(66%,  $n = 53$ ). After accounting for potential confounding variables including participant's age, education, and race as well as their most recent sexual partner's age, race, and relationship to the participant (i.e., *relationship partner*, *casual partner*, or *someone they just met*) using a multivariable logistic regression, showed no difference between concordant and discordant groups regarding receptive anal sex (AOR = 1.71, 95% CI [0.96, 3.02],  $p = .066$ ). Table 3 provides information regarding insertive and receptive anal sex during the last event.

Forty-six (30%) participants reported using condoms during the last insertive anal sex event and 28% ( $n = 43$ ) during the last receptive anal sex

**Table 3.** Multivariable logistic regression of receptive and insertive anal sex during the last sexual event ( $N = 444$ ).

	Insertive Anal Sex				Receptive Anal Sex					
	B	SE	AOR	95% CI	p	B	SE	AOR	95% CI	p
Most sexual recent partner was a bear										
No (ref.)										
Yes	-0.18	0.22	0.83	0.54, 1.29	.416	0.34	0.23	1.40	0.89, 2.20	.145
Most recent sexual partner's race/ethnicity										
White/Caucasian (ref.)										
African American/Black	0.34	0.52	1.40	0.51, 3.84	.512	0.15	0.54	1.16	0.41, 3.32	.777
Latino	-0.47	0.33	0.63	0.33, 1.20	.157	-0.27	0.32	0.76	0.41, 1.44	.404
Asian/Pacific Islander	-0.48	0.70	0.63	0.16, 2.43	.492	-0.28	0.70	0.75	0.19, 2.98	.687
Relationship to most recent partner										
Relationship partner (ref.)										
Casual/dating partner	-0.77	0.33	0.46	0.24, 0.89	.020	-0.64	0.32	0.53	0.28, 0.99	.047
Just met	0.03	0.26	1.03	0.61, 1.72	.919	-0.33	0.35	0.72	0.42, 1.23	.233
Participant's level of education										
Less than a bachelor's degree (ref.)										
Bachelor's degree or higher	0.01	0.36	1.01	0.50, 2.04	.987	-0.33	0.35	0.72	0.36, 1.43	.350
Participant's race										
White (ref.)										
African American/Black	-1.35	0.60	0.26	0.08, 0.84	.024	-2.12	0.68	0.12	0.03, 0.46	.002
Participant's Latino/Hispanic heritage										
No (ref.)										
Yes	0.64	0.38	1.90	0.91, 3.97	.086	0.30	0.38	1.35	0.64, 2.85	.425
Most recent sexual partner's age	0.01	0.01	0.99	0.97, 1.01	.288	-0.02	0.01	0.98	0.96, 0.99	.043
Participant's age	1.24	0.01	1.00	0.98, 1.03	.772	0.02	0.01	1.02	0.99, 1.04	.124

**Table 4.** Multivariable logistic regression of condom use during receptive and insertive anal sex during the last sexual event.

	Condom Use During Insertive Anal Sex (n = 156)				Condom Use During Receptive Anal Sex (n = 157)					
	B	SE	AOR	95% CI	p	B	SE	AOR	95% CI	p
Most sexual recent partner was a bear										
No (ref.)										
Yes	-1.01	0.41	0.35	0.16–0.77	.010	-1.20	0.44	0.30	0.13, 0.71	.006
Most recent sexual partner's race/ethnicity										
White/Caucasian (ref.)										
African American/Black	-0.53	0.90	0.59	0.10–3.46	.556	-0.57	0.93	0.57	0.09, 3.46	.536
Latino	1.41	0.62	4.12	1.21, 13.91	.023	1.17	0.60	3.22	1.00, 10.33	.050
Asian/Pacific Islander	-0.43	1.31	0.65	0.05, 8.54	.744	1.24	1.34	3.47	0.25, 47.72	.353
Relationship to most recent partner										
Relationship partner (ref.)										
Casual/dating partner	1.57	0.64	4.81	1.37, 16.87	.014	1.72	0.62	5.63	1.68, 18.88	.005
Just met	0.76	0.51	2.41	0.79, 5.84	.136	1.72	0.53	5.60	1.98, 15.86	.001
Participant's level of education										
Less than a bachelor's degree (ref.)										
Bachelor's degree or higher	0.26	0.73	1.30	0.31, 5.41	.719	-0.10	0.68	0.91	0.24, 3.47	.888
Participant's race										
White (ref.)										
African American/Black	-0.66	0.81	0.52	0.11, 2.53	.416	-1.30	0.78	0.27	0.06, 1.24	.093
Participant's Latino/Hispanic heritage										
No (ref.)										
Yes	0.89	0.62	2.45	0.72, 8.30	.152	1.06	0.70	2.89	0.74, 11.26	.127
Most recent sexual partner's age	0.03	0.02	1.03	0.98, 1.07	.264	0.01	0.02	1.01	0.97, 1.06	.613
Participant's age	-0.01	0.02	0.99	0.95, 1.04	.753	-0.01	0.02	0.99	0.95, 1.04	.683

event. Men who reported that their last sexual partner was a bear were significantly less likely to report using a condom during receptive [ $\chi^2(1, 156) = 11.58, p = .001$ ] and insertive anal sex [ $\chi^2(1, 156) = 7.47, p = .006$ ]. This relationship held after accounting for potential confounding variables (see Table 3). Respondents who identified their most recent sexual partner as a bear were less likely to report condom use during the most recent receptive ( $AOR = 0.29, 95\% CI [0.12, 0.66], p = .004$ ) and insertive ( $AOR = 0.37, 95\% CI [0.17, 0.81], p = .012$ ) anal sex event when adjusting for their relationship to their most recent sexual partner, educational attainment, race, and age as well as their most recent sexual partner's age and race/ethnicity.

## Discussion

This is the first study to assess condom use during the last sexual event among a sexual subculture of the gay community. Additionally, it is the first to consider the influence of concordant subcultural identity on sexual behaviors and condom use. This is important given the saliency of subcultural identity for some gay men within the gay community (Hennen, 2008). Findings support two of our hypotheses that participants in bear concordant pairings would be less likely to use condoms during the last anal sex event after adjusting for potential confounding variables. Relying on previous research to explain these findings, it is possible that men belonging to the bear community have a strong attachment to traditional forms of masculinity and may also value those things associated with "authentic manhood" such as risk behavior, specifically not using a condom during insertive or receptive anal sex. Anal sex without condoms has been previously described as "what real men do" or "more natural" (Braun, 2013; Carballo-Diequez & Bauermeister, 2004; Holmes & Warner, 2005), which aligns with normative beliefs of members of the bear community whose appearance and behavior are often described by community members as real manhood, authentic masculinity, or being more natural (e.g., not trimming body hair) than other group or types of gay men (Hennen, 2008). In other words, anal sex without condoms may be more common among a group who adhere to more hegemonic forms of masculinity and this behavior may be more common when both men in the dyad share the same beliefs about authentic masculinity and natural behavior and appearance compared to those who do not adhere to these beliefs. Future research should investigate beliefs about masculinity among sexual subcultural groups to (1) assess potential differences in beliefs about masculine presentation and behavior and (2) assess how these beliefs about masculinity and manhood may influence risk-related behavior across sexual subcultural groups.

While the hypotheses regarding concordant dyads was that they would be more likely to report receptive and insertive anal sex compared discordant

couplings did not hold, this may be due to anal sex being common practice across subcultural groups. Moskowitz et al. (2013) found that bears were more likely to report atypical sexual behaviors compared to men who did not identify as bears. Given both of these findings, it may be more pertinent to examine differences in atypical behavior among bears in concordant and discordant pairings during the last sexual event. Additionally, examining an array of sexual behaviors across subcultural groups in concordant and discordant dyads may help further our understanding of how subcultural identity influences sexual behavior decisions and also how sexual partners' subcultural identity influences these behaviors and, to some extent, how specific subcultural identities may elicit certain sexual behaviors.

Finally, Willoughby et al.'s (2008) work suggests that bears were more likely to report not using a condom during receptive anal sex with someone they just met compared to other subcultural identity groups. This study shows similar rates of condom use compared other recent studies of gay and bisexual men (Rosenberger et al., 2011). Additionally, the current study extends this past research by showing that condom use was less common among individuals in concordant bear pairings compared to discordant pairings when adjusting for potential confounding variables shown to influence condom use, suggesting that the subcultural identity of a sexual partner may influence decisions about condom use. Findings suggest that public health efforts to reduce rates of HIV and sexually transmitted infection (STI) may need to be specific to sexual subcultures. Additionally, given that there was a difference in condom use between concordant and discordant pairings, there may be implications for understanding the potential for a continuing HIV epidemic within social networks defined by physical and social sexual subcultural boundaries. If HIV risk behaviors are found to be more common within a specific sexual subcultural group as opposed to outside this group, then certain sexual subcultural identities may put an individual at greater risk for HIV infection compared to other identities. While focused on racial and ethnic risk and transmission, Laumann and Youm (1999) found that differences in HIV and STI could be explained through racial and ethnic social and sexual networks. Coupled with Schnieder et al.'s (2013) work indicating that sexual behaviors and HIV risk are influenced by sexual networks, (1) men who identify as bears may participate in high-risk sexual behaviors more frequently with other men who identify as bears because of social grouping and sexual attraction and (2) these behaviors may be supported by enablers in the bear community who may see sex without condoms as more masculine and therefore more sexually desirable. This cannot be clearly discerned from the current data; however, further research in the area of sexual behavior should start to consider the influence of sexual or relationship partners' sexual subcultural identity as well as the sexual behavior norms associated with specific sexual subcultural

communities and the influence of social networks on HIV risk and transmission within and across sexual subcultural boundaries.

While this study is the first to begin to unravel the importance of subcultural identity concordance with regard to sexual behavior and sexual risk practices, it is not without limitations. First, given that these data draw conclusions from an online convenience sample, they may not be generalizable to the entirety of the bear community. Second, while there are benefits to collecting online samples, such as reduced social desirability bias (Kreuter, Presser, & Tourangeau, 2008), there is potential that the men recruited from sexual networking websites participate in higher-risk sexual activity compared to those who do not (McFarlane, Bull, & Rietmeijer, 2000). Third, while last event sexual analysis allows for the control of many variables that influence sexual decision making, there are other variables that this study did not account for such as the context of the last sexual event (e.g., where the sex occurred), and HIV status of the most recent sexual partner. Additionally, not all partner characteristics that have been shown to influence sexual positioning and condom use were accounted for, such as penis size, HIV status, and psychological characteristics like trust, love, and emotional connection. Finally, given that these data were collected prior to the widespread introduction of pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention, research should consider the way that PrEP might influence the sexual behaviors of different sexual subcultures.

## ORCID

Brian Dodge  <http://orcid.org/0000-0003-4491-6603>

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