



**Violence experiences
are associated with
HIV transmission risk
over one year among a
prospective sample of
sexual minority
adolescents in the
United States**

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Introduction

Sexual minority adolescents (SMA) bear disproportionate HIV risk

- Penetrative sex without condoms¹⁻⁴
- Sex while feeling the effects of drugs or alcohol^{1,4,5}

Established correlates of HIV risk

- Mental health symptomology (e.g. depression, anxiety)⁶⁻⁸
- Minority stress and discrimination⁹
- Interpersonal violence (e.g. dating violence, sexual assault)^{10,11}



Primary research question

How do mental health symptomology, minority stress experiences, and interpersonal violence contribute to HIV transmission risk behaviors over one year among SMA?



Methods

1,076 SMA recruited May 2018 through March 2019

- 14-17 years old
- Identify as **not** 100% heterosexual
- Live in the United States

Surveyed every 6 months for 3 years

Descriptive statistics and logistic regressions in Stata 17.0

Measures

Demographics

- **Age** (range 14-17)
- **Sex at birth** (female, male)
- **Race and ethnicity** (White/Caucasian, Latinx/Hispanic, Multiracial, Black or African American, Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American/American Indian/Alaskan Native)
- **Sexual identity** (Bisexual/Pansexual, Gay/Lesbian, Something else, Queer)

Mental health symptomology

- **Depression** (CESD-4; range 0-12)
- **Anxiety** (GAD-7; range 0-21)
- **Posttraumatic stress** (PCL-C; range 6-30)

Measures cont'd– Sexual Minority Adolescent Stress Inventory

Subscale	Sample Item
Social Marginalization	I have felt unsafe or threatened in the neighborhood where I live because I am LGBTQ.
Religion	I would not be accepted as an LGBTQ person in my family's religion.
Negative Expectancies	I think I will lose friends if I come out as LGBTQ.
Negative Disclosure Experiences	A family member told other family members that I am LGBTQ without my permission
Intersectionality	Other people who are in my racial/ethnic community judge me for being LGBTQ.
Internalized Homonegativity	There are times when I do not want to be LGBTQ.
Identity Management	I feel pressured to label my sexual orientation.
Homonegative Communication	My friends make jokes about LGBTQ people.
Homonegative Climate	I felt unsafe or threatened in school because I am LGBTQ.
Family Rejection	My family has told me that being LGBTQ is just a phase.

Measures cont'd – Interpersonal violence

During the past 12 months, how many times did someone you were dating or going out with...

...physically hurt you on purpose? (Count such things as being hit, slammed into something, or injured with an object or weapon.)

Violence Experiences
Physical Dating Violence
Sexual Dating Violence
Sexual Assault
Forced Sexual Intercourse

...force you to do sexual things that you did not want to do? (Count such things as kissing, touching, or being physically forced to have sexual intercourse.)

Have you ever been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when you did not want to?



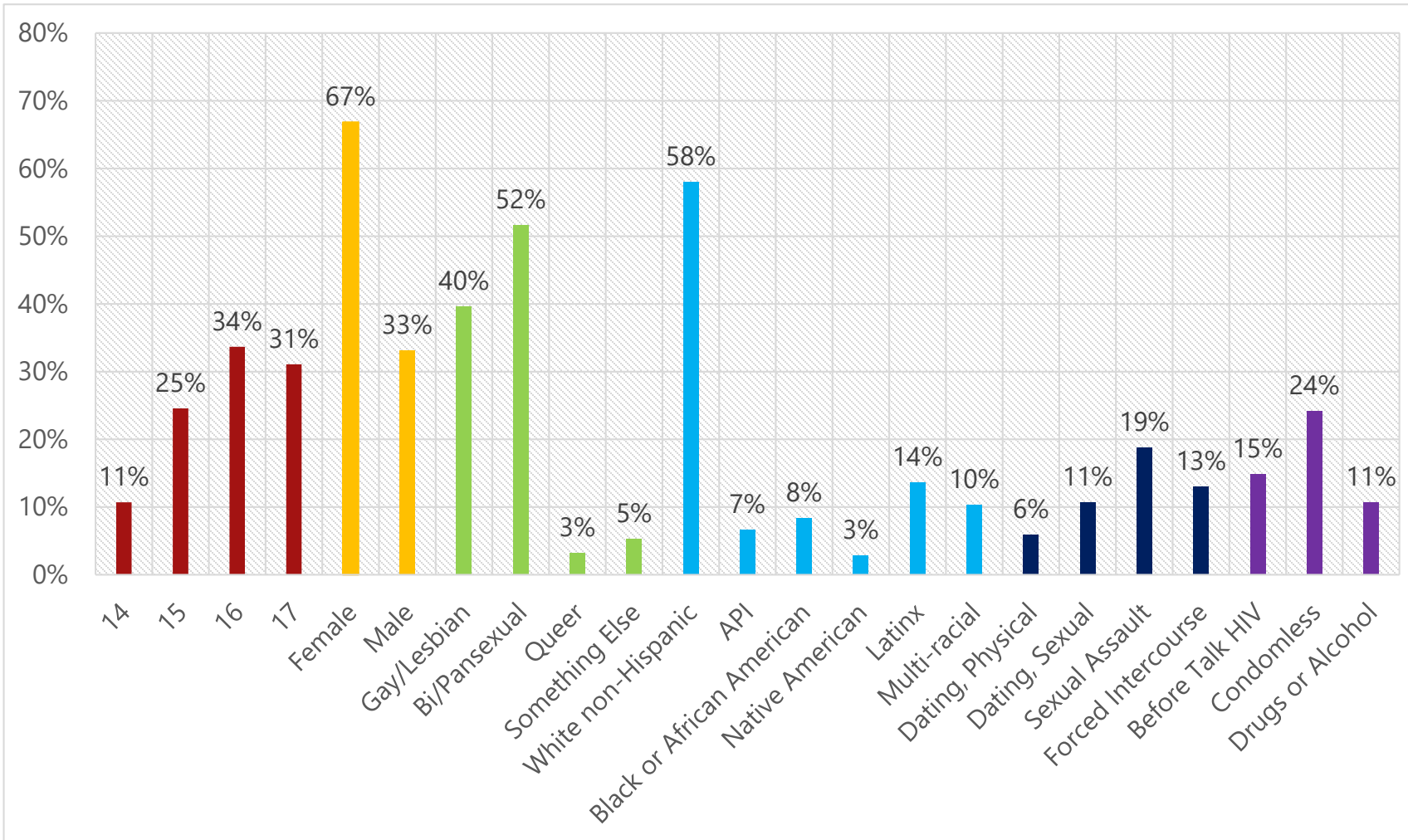
Measures cont'd – HIV transmission risk over the following year

Combined experiences at the 6-month and 12-month follow-up surveys

“Since the last time you took this survey on [date] have you had sex...”

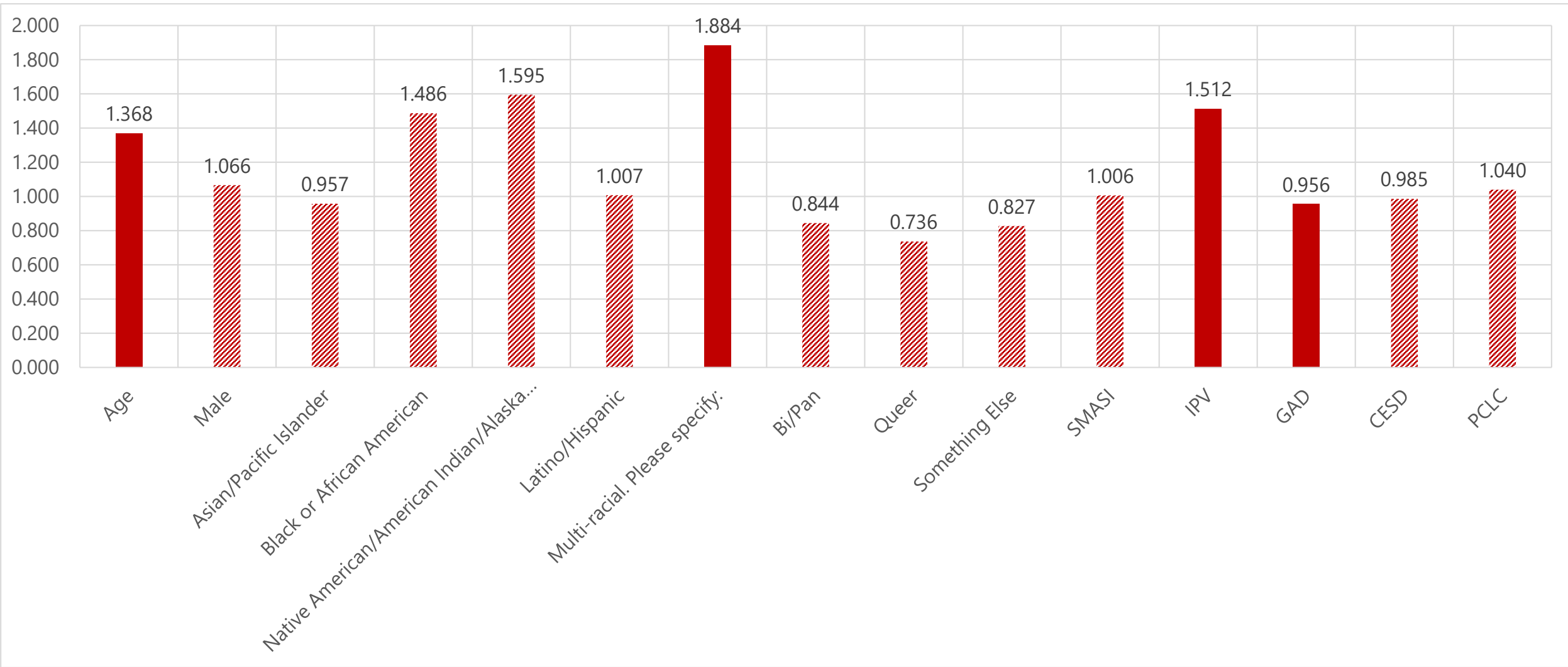
- **with someone without discussing their HIV status?**
- **with someone without using a condom?**
- **while feeling the effects of drugs or alcohol?**

Sample Characteristics

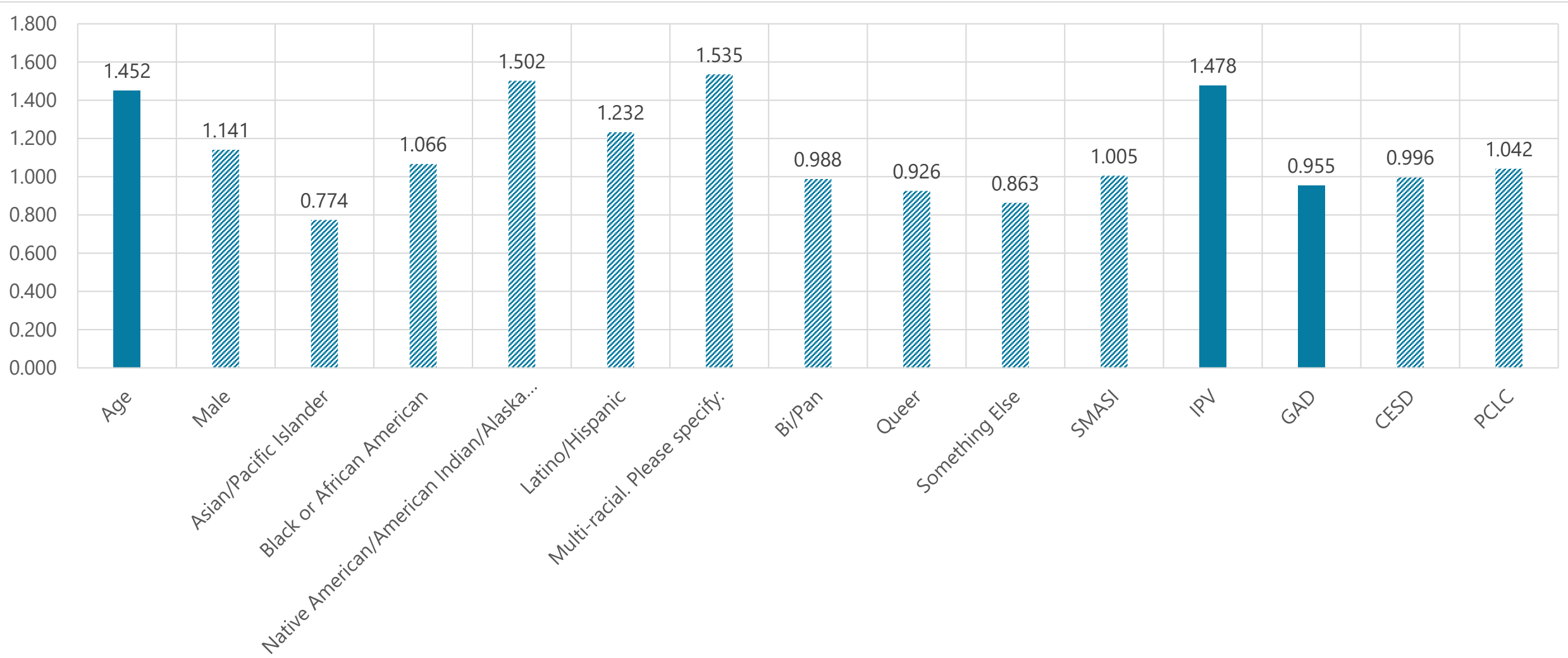


Variable	Mean	Std. dev.	Min	Max
Minority Stressors (SMASI)	20.94	9.60	0	50
Anxiety (Gad-7)	12.13	5.87	0	21
Depression (CESD-4)	6.49	3.40	0	12
Posttraumatic Stress (PCL-C)	17.74	5.73	6	30

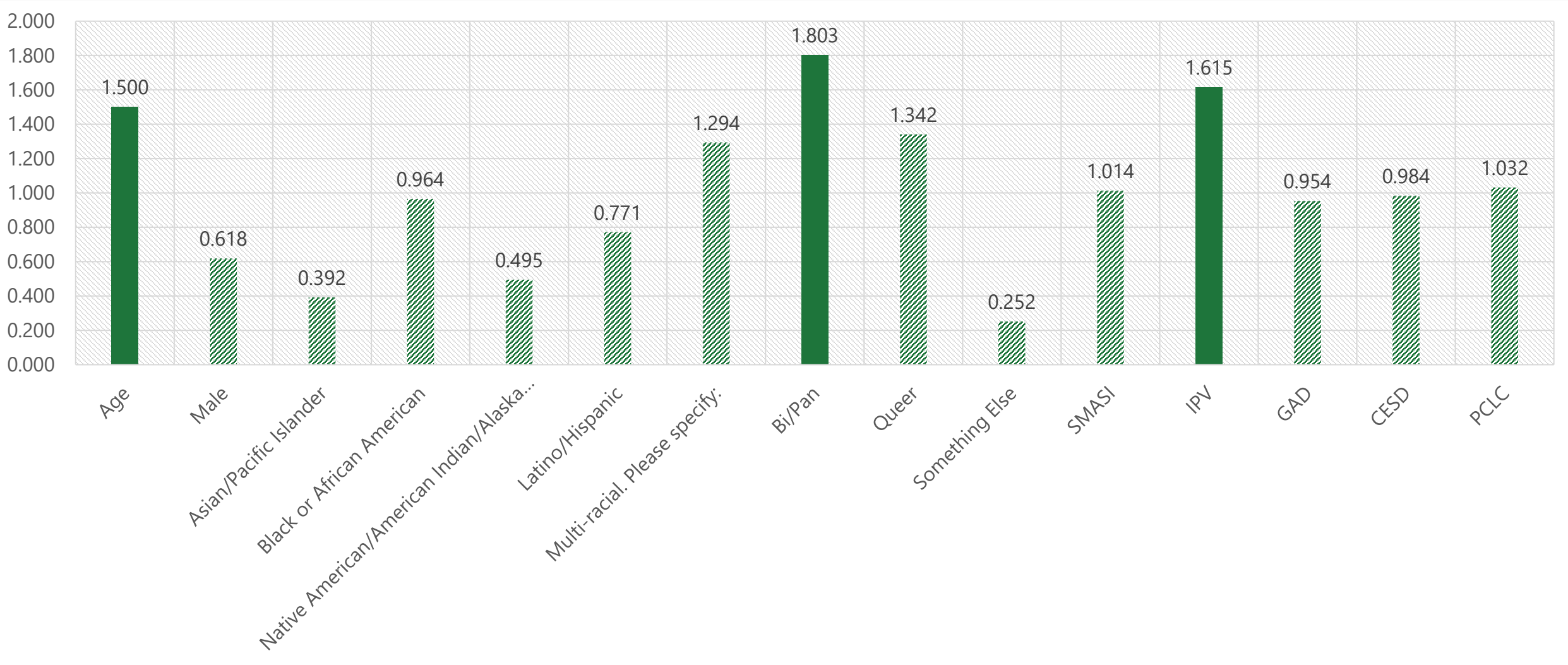
Sex before Discussing HIV Status



Penetrative Sex without a Condom



Sex while Feeling the Effects of Drugs or Alcohol



Conclusions

Experiences of interpersonal violence precede reports of sexual behaviors that put SMA at risk of HIV transmission over the following year.

The relationship between HIV transmission risk and minority stress or mental health symptomology largely wash away when considering IPV.



Future Directions

Next steps

- Latent factors
- Mediation
- Additional measures of IPV (e.g., perpetration)
- Substance use

New questions

- Are more anxious SMA reporting less sex, overall?
- Are subscales of minority stress better predictors?
- Where are SMA learning about relationships and sex?

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