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BACKGROUND

- Despite efforts to stop HIV epidemic in Latin America, new HIV cases continue to increase in the region especially among young MSM (YMSM)¹.
- This study aims to assess social-economic and behavioral factors associated with HIV self-reported prevalence among YMSM participating in a survey conducted in Brazil, Mexico and Peru.

METHODS

- Through March to May, 2018, MSM were recruited to complete a web-based survey through advertisements on geosocial network dating apps (Grindr and Hornet) and on Facebook.
- Inclusion criteria were cisgender men, ≥18 years, living in Brazil, Mexico or Peru.
- For this analysis, we included YMSM aged 18-24 years who self-reported their HIV status (negative/positive).
- Multivariable logistic regression models assessed factors associated with HIV self-reported prevalence among YMSM for each country.
- The models were adjusted for geographical region within each country, race (only Brazil and Peru: white vs. non-white), monthly income (low vs. middle/high, according to countries' definition), schooling (>secondary school vs. ≤), steady partner (yes/no), sexual attraction (men, women or both) and time since last HIV testing (≤1 year vs. >1 year).
- Country-specific estimates were pooled using a Mantel-Haenszel fixed-effects model.

RESULTS

- Among 43,687 MSM that started the questionnaire, 27,475 (62.9%) reported their HIV status, 7,055 (25.7%) were YMSM and were included in the analysis.
- The majority of YMSM (83.1%) were recruited on apps.
- Most (83.3%) reported an HIV test in the past year, and 8.9% (630/7055) reported HIV positive status in Brazil, Mexico and Peru (Figure 1).
- **Low-income** was associated with higher odds of HIV self-reported prevalence in Brazil and Peru, but not in Mexico.
- **Lower education** was also associated with higher odds of HIV self-reported prevalence in Brazil, but not in Mexico nor in Peru.
- YMSM from the three countries **sexually attracted to men** had at least twice higher odds of HIV self-reported prevalence than those preferring women or both (Figure 2).

CONCLUSIONS

- In this large, cross-country study, HIV prevalence among YMSM was high.
- Social-economic disparities were associated with higher odds of HIV self-reported prevalence.
- Interventions to increase awareness to prevention technologies including PrEP targeting socio-economic disadvantaged YMSM are urgent in Latin America.

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Figure 1. HIV self-reported prevalence among YMSM (18-24 years) in Brazil, Mexico and Peru.

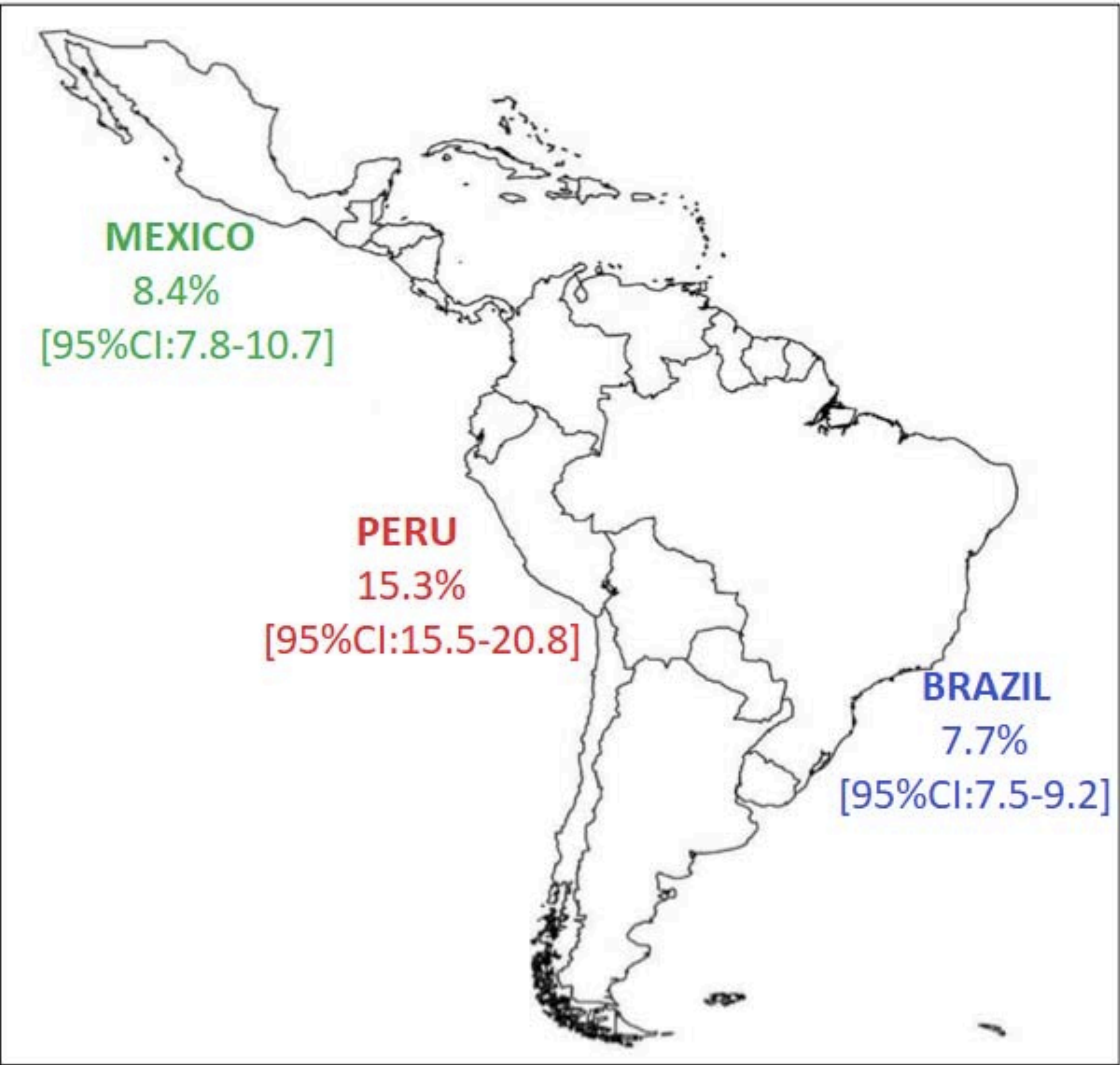


Figure 2. Factors associated with HIV self-reported prevalence among YMSM for each country.

