BACKGROUND

• The U.S. population of immigrants has grown rapidly over the past two decades. Knowledge about reasons for migration and their association with HIV-related behaviors is limited.

• We explored patterns in reasons for migrating to the U.S. among cisgender gay, bisexual, and other sexual minority men (SMM) and determined their associations with HIV risk and prevention behaviors.

METHODS

• We used data from the American Men’s Internet Survey (AMIS) (2018-2020) and performed a Latent Class Analysis (LCA) to identify patterns in the reasons for migration. SMM were aged ≥15 years, assigned male at birth, resided in the U.S., and reported oral/anal sex with a man at a man once at least.

• We restricted analyses to participants who were born outside of the U.S., reported no prior HIV diagnosis, and reported a reason for migrating to the U.S. (n=1,657).

• Chi-square or Fisher’s exact tests were used to determine whether demographic characteristics, HIV risk and drug use behaviors, and HIV prevention behaviors differed by class.*

• Multivariable logistic regression controlling for demographic characteristics (See Table) assessed class association with condomless anal sex (CAS), illicit drug use, marijuana use, other drug use, HIV testing, and PEP use.*

RESULTS

• LCA identified 6 distinct classes in reasons for migration:

Multivariate Analyses:

• Class 4 (purposive opportunities while living openly) had greater odds of CAS (aOR: 1.56, 95%CI: 1.03-2.36) and other drug use (aOR: 1.79, 95%CI: 1.08-2.96) than Class 5 (not my decision) (aOR: 1.79, 95%CI: 1.07-2.98).

• Class 3 (personal freedom related to being gay) was less likely to report marijuana use (aOR:0.52, 95%CI:0.29-0.93) and have tested for HIV (aOR:0.52, 95%CI:0.29-0.93) than Class 4 (purposive opportunities while living openly) (aOR:0.60, 95%CI:0.37-0.96).

LIMITATIONS

• The AMIS survey was only available in English and our sample excludes immigrant SMM who were unable to complete the survey in English.

• AMIS survey respondents are recruited using convenience sampling and our results may not be generalizable to all SMM who have immigrated to the U.S.

CONCLUSIONS

• Observed differences in HIV-related risk and prevention behaviors in this sample of foreign-born SMM highlights the need to consider the diverse reasons for migrating to the U.S. as a potential strategy for improving HIV prevention efforts for immigrant communities.

• Future research should consider the buffering effects of social and contextual factors that may interact with or shape the influence of the reasons for migrating to the U.S on HIV prevention outcomes.

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Patterns emerged in sexual minority men’s motivations for migrating to the U.S. and were linked to specific HIV risk and prevention behaviors.

Table: Demographic Characteristics of SMM by Migration Class Membership

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Class 1</th>
<th>Class 2</th>
<th>Class 3</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Family &amp; Friends</td>
<td>Financial</td>
<td>Freedom Related to Being Gay</td>
<td>Opportunities while Living Openly</td>
<td>Educational Purposes</td>
<td>Not My Decision</td>
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Figure: Migration Classes Identified by the LCA (n=1,657)

Table: Number of Individuals (n=304) Reporting Reasons for Migration

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* All outcomes reported for the last 12 months

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