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## Abstract

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**Background & Aim:**

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) have increased in the United States and are prevalent among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM). Most public health approaches to addressing STIs are state-specific. The goal of our study was to evaluate how interstate sexual partnerships (i.e., having sex partners in states other than where a person resides) are associated with STIs and associated risk factors. This is timely given the emergence of other sexually-associated infections such as monkeypox.

**Methods:**

We conducted a one-time cross-sectional survey of self-identified HIV-negative GBMSM across Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire from May 2020 to October 2021. Socio-demographics, PrEP history, and behaviors related to STI testing and risk including interstate travel with sexual encounters and substance use in the past six months were explored. Our key outcome of interest was out-of-state sexual partnership(s) in the past 6 months. Descriptive statistics, Pearson chi-square and Fisher's exact test were employed during bivariate analysis. Based on bivariate analyses, sociodemographic, sexual behavior, alcohol and drug use variables demonstrating significant relationships with interstate sexual encounters were entered into two logistic regression models.

**Results:**

Of N=685 GBMSM, 12.4% reported interstate sexual encounters, which were associated with ever having a STI (OR=3.18; 95%CI: 1.91-5.30), having ≥7 sexual partners in the past six months (OR=9.15; 95%CI: 2.40-34.79), drug use in the past six months (OR=2.67; 95%CI: 1.19-5.99), fewer sexual partners due to COVID-19 pandemic (OR=2.90; 95%CI: 1.24-6.79), and ever testing for STI other than HIV (OR=3.40; 95%CI: 1.16-9.93). Having an STI in the past six months and time since last STI test were similar to those without interstate sexual partnerships.

**Conclusion:**

Out-of-state sexual partnership is significantly associated with having a history of STIs and with risk factors such as recent high number of sexual partners and drug use among GBMSM. Public health efforts to address STIs and other infectious diseases associated with sex should include regional approaches.

**Clinical**

**Implications:**

Sexual health counseling efforts focused on STI prevention should consider exploring the relationship between interstate sex partnerships and risk, especially among MSM.