

Confronting HIV as a Stereotypical Infection of Sexual Minorities

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Abstract

My goal is to challenge the stereotype associating HIV infection primarily with non-heteronormative males. Using Bayesian logistic regression models and risk profile analysis, I argue that risky behaviors, rather than sexual identity or gender, are the primary drivers of HIV infection.

The research employs a dataset created from a survey conducted in Polish HIV diagnostic centers. Poland is currently experiencing a rise in new HIV infections, with non-heteronormative males constituting the majority of new cases. However, the findings reveal that high-risk behavior serves as a better predictor of infection than gender or sexual identity. This highlights the complexity of the factors driving new infections among non-heteronormative males.

This research underscores the critical need for comprehensive awareness and testing to combat the ongoing HIV epidemic. It prompts a reevaluation of the assumptions surrounding the causes of the domination of non-heteronormative males among the newly infected.

Keywords: HIV, Stigma, Bayesian Logistic Regression, Sexual Identity, Risk Profile Analysis

1 Introduction

The year 1980 is proclaimed as the start of the HIV epidemic. Since then, scientists around the world have been diligently working to find new ways to protect the global public from infection and treat those who have been infected ([Sharp and Hahn, 2011](#)). Thanks to increased awareness and breakthroughs in medical achievements, it is now