

Validation of Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (KAPREP) among Key Populations in Honduras: A new tool

Authors: L.I Zambrano, L.A. Medina, I. Fuentes, F. Muñoz, I. Lorenzana, E. Palou, A.L. de Souza, M. Cooper

Background

The provision of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) as an antiretroviral therapy for HIV has been introduced by the Government of Honduras in its public health service since 2023. To assess the usage patterns and related knowledge, attitudes, and practices, a psychometric scale was developed to serve as a screening tool for monitoring different Honduran key populations. This is a joint project between Ministry of Health, Global Communities and National University of Honduras. The aim of this study is to present KAPREP's validation results.

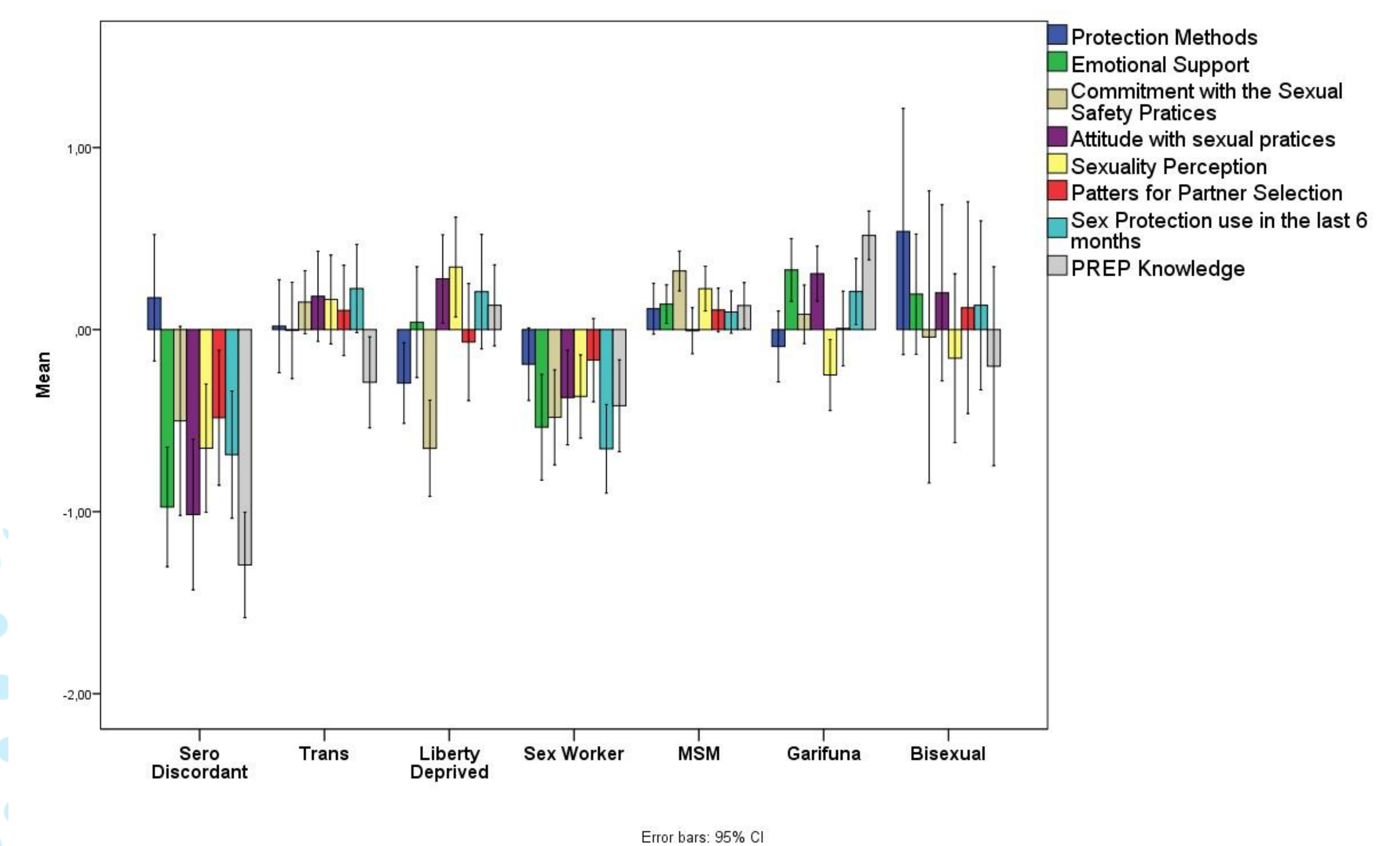
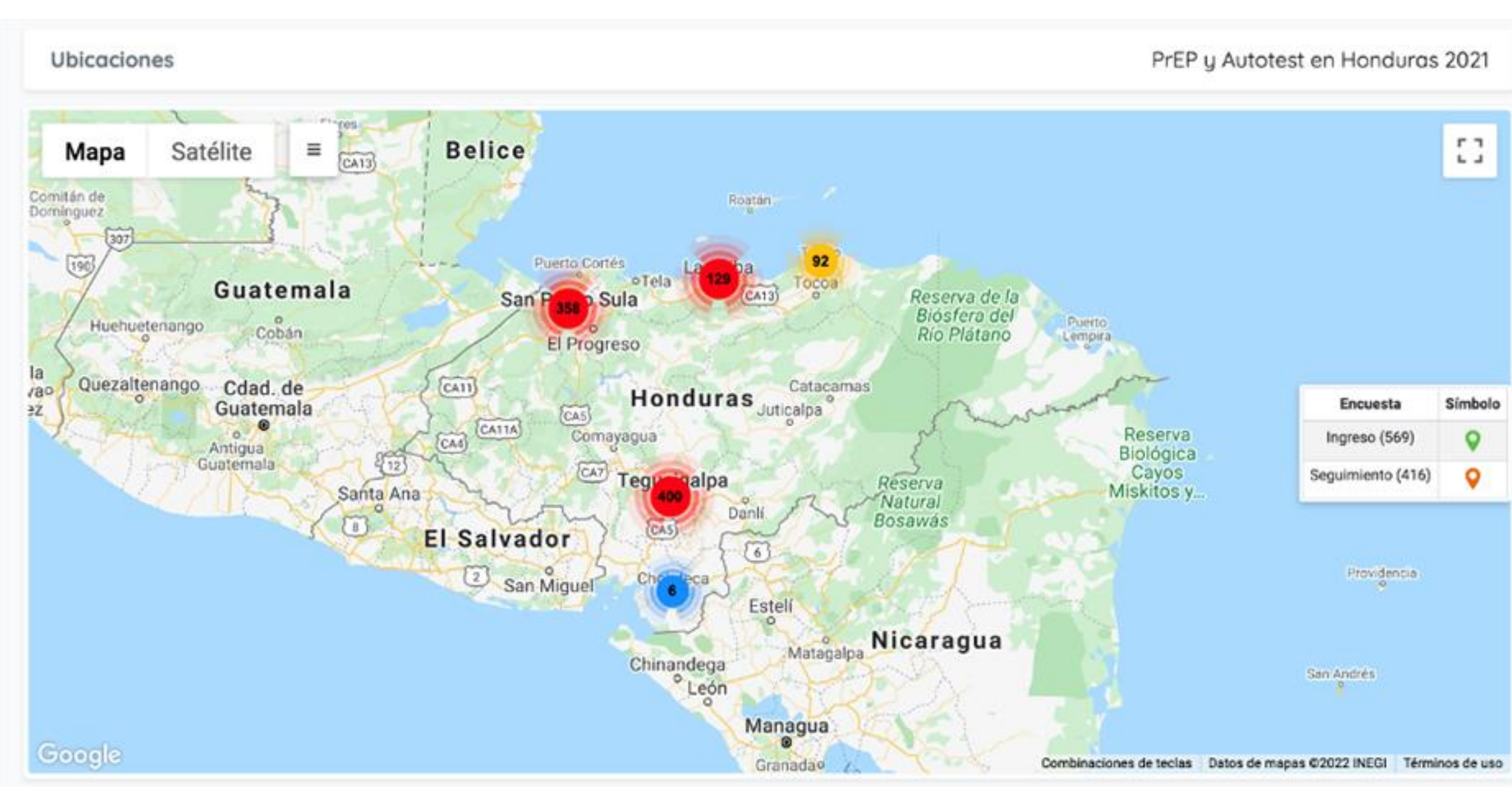
Methods

This study was carried out during years 2021-2022, in the 5 main cities of the country. A total of 557 individuals participated, including Garifuna, Sex Workers, Transgender individuals, Gays, Bisexuals, serodiscordant couples and people in prisons.

A statistical confirmatory factor analysis was conducted, combining 15 different scales previously used in other HIV and PrEP studies. Questions with lower factor loadings were excluded, resulting in the final KAPREP scale comprising 39 questions divided into 8 factors. Analyses were performed using the JAMOVI software.

6 months", and "knowledge about PrEP". Factorial adequacy was good (CMIN = 2.1, RMSEA = 0.03, TLI = 0.91). We found significant differences between the Key Population groups on the average score of the factors described above: Sex Workers and Serodiscordant individuals present lower scores on all KAPREP scale factors compared to other groups.

RESULTS	FACTOR							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Factor #1 Methods of Protection in Sexual Practices								
In the last month, have you not been practicing safe sex?	0.928							
In the last 3 months, have you not been practicing safe sex?	0.925							
You have not been practicing safe sex and do not intend to do so in the next three months.	0.902							
In the last 6 months, have you not been practicing safe sex?	0.9							
Normally, I do not have safe sex, but I intend to start using condoms in the next 3 months.	0.8							
Normally, I do not have safe sex, but I intend to start using condoms in the next 30 days.	0.791							
Factor #2 Need for Emotional Support								
I often receive emotional support and help from my friends.		0.89						
I often keep in touch with my friends.		0.883						
I often provide emotional support and help with day-to-day things to my friends.		0.837						
I often provide emotional support and help to my blood relatives.		0.794						
I often stay in contact with my relatives.		0.763						
I often receive emotional support and practical help from my blood relatives.		0.76						
Factor #3 Adherence to Safety Measures in Sexual Practices								
Have you ever asked a partner to wait while you get a condom?			0.769					
Have you ever asked a sexual partner to use a condom?			0.746					
Have you ever refused to have sex because your partner refused to use a condom?			0.728					
Have you ever refused to have sex with a partner because you were not in the mood?			0.715					
Have you ever refused to engage in sexual practices that you did not like?			0.689					
Have you ever complained to a partner about how they treated you sexually?			0.623					
Do you feel confident that you will be able to use a condom when having sex with a new partner?			0.561					
Do you believe you can convince a new partner to use a condom?			0.463					
Factor #4 Attitude Towards Sexual Practices								
I try to understand how I got into a situation, to understand it better.				0.811				
I do not give up until I solve my problems.				0.75				
I can often predict how things will happen.				0.718				
I often find a good side to a bad situation.				0.717				
I often make plans in advance.				0.668				
I avoid taking risks.				0.605				
Factor #5 Perception of Sexuality								
I like exploring my sexuality.					0.831			
I like new and exciting sexual experiences and sensations.					0.827			
I am interested in experiencing new sexual sensations.					0.718			
Factor #6 Patterns for Choosing a Partner								
My sexual partners probably see me as someone who likes to take risks in sexual practices.						0.634		
I like watching pornographic videos.						0.607		
I like uninhibited (open) sexual encounters.						0.554		
I have said things that were not necessarily true to get someone to have sex with me.						0.547		
I appreciate the company of sexy people.						0.433		
Regarding sex, physical attraction is more important to me than getting to know the person well.						0.401		
Factor #7 Level of Protection in Sexual Practices in the Last 6 Months								
I always have protected sex, at least for the last six months.							0.841	
I have always had protected sex; it has been more than six months.							0.804	
Factor #8 Knowledge of PrEP								
Do you believe that using pre-exposure therapy will make you immune to HIV?								0.769
Do you believe that PrEP does not have long-term side effects?								0.577



Results

Participants recruited from all states of Honduras, the generated factors include "Methods of protection in sexual practices", "need for emotional support", "commitment to safety measures in sexual practices", "attitudes towards sexual practices", "perception of sexuality", "partner selection standards", "levels of protection in the last

Conclusions

In this study, we introduce a new tool based in previous different validated scales, yielding a more comprehensive metric with good psychometric quality for general use in other studies aiming to monitor and measure diverse perceptions, practices, and attitudes regarding PrEP use in a single questionnaire, as well as partner perception and social support for vulnerable key populations.

This study was financed by The Global Fund