High rates of drug and gang violence, makes Honduras one of the most violent countries in the world. A social context of traditional values, homophobia and machismo create an environment that makes men who have sex with men (MSM) vulnerable to suffer different types of violence. Even with the importance of this social issue, there has been no recent quantification of violence towards them. The Pan American Social Marketing Organization (PASMO) conducted a population-based study to assess the USAID Combination Prevention Program for HIV and quantify the proportion of this population experiencing some forms of violence.

The complexity of this social phenomenon reveals that only some MSM, that suffer any type of violence, tend to denounce it to a governmental office or to a non governmental organization (NGO) that gives support to this population. In this survey, those who reported suffering any type of violence, 29% denounced it in Tegucigalpa, 38% in San Pedro Sula and 38% in La Ceiba.

The results showed considerable levels of violence towards MSM due to their sexual preferences. Other important finding refers to the complexity of this phenomenon and the difficulties to denounce it to the corresponding institutions.

It is important to develop communication strategies to reinforce the need to denounce any type of violence suffered by MSM, in order to reach an egalitarian society.

The study also showed how violence can influence healthy behaviors, like condom use or HIV testing; therefore, it is important for HIV prevention programs to promote violence prevention activities and offer psychological support at clinic level.

Other results, in this survey, related to HIV prevention, have shown that suffering some type of violence may reduce the chances of using condom at last sex (OR 0.694 [0.511-0.943], p < 0.05), and may increase the probability of conducting an HIV test (OR 1.536 [1.214-1.942], p < 0.001).