

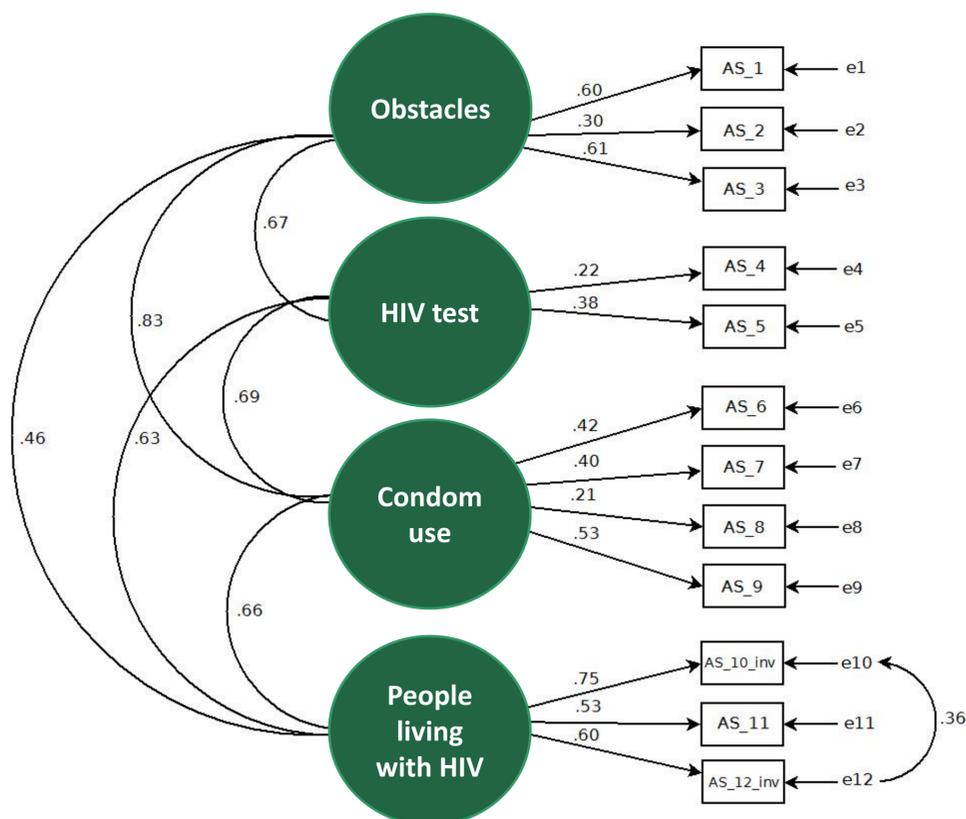
# The HIV-related Attitudes Scale (HIV-AS): Factor structure and psychometric properties in Portuguese adolescents

## Introduction and Aims

- The HIV Attitudes Scale (HIV-AS) is a brief multidimensional tool to measure HIV/AIDS related attitudes among adolescents, widely used in Spain.
- Because of the high risk of HIV in adolescents in Portugal and the scarcity of multidimensional measures to assess attitudes towards HIV-related aspects, reliable and valid instruments are essential for understanding sexual risk behaviors in this population.
- **The aims of this study were to validate the Portuguese version of the HIV-AS and analyze its psychometric properties with Portuguese adolescents. Factor structure, internal consistency, and temporal stability were examined.**

## Results

- Results of confirmatory factor analysis using EQS 6.1 confirmed the four-factorial structure of HIV-AS, including attitudes towards obstacles to safe sex, HIV testing, condom use and, people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Reliability of the Portuguese version of the HIV- AS was excellent ( $\alpha = .82$ ), while temporal stability was moderate ( $r = .51$ ).



## Conclusions

- **The Portuguese version of the HIV-AS seems to be a valid and reliable tool to assess important dimensions of attitudes towards HIV-related aspects in adolescent population of Portugal.**
- More research is needed to consolidate these findings and to generalize them to other populations and countries.

## Method

### Sample

- Participants were recruited from 10 high schools located in 6 cities of Portugal:

- 71.8% Funchal
- 9.9% Santa Cruz
- 8% Santana
- 3.7% São Vicente
- 3.3% Ponta del Sol
- 2.2% Machico.



Analyses were conducted based on a sample of **624** adolescents aged **15-18** ( $M = 17.06$ ;  $SD = 0.79$ ).

### Measures

- Sociodemographic characteristics (ad hoc).
- HIV Attitudes Scale (HIV-AS; Espada et al., 2013).
- It is made up of 12 items each rated on a 4 point scale, from 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 4 (Strongly Agree).

### ITEMS OF THE SCALE TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH

1. If my partner would ask me to have unprotected sex I would refuse it.
2. If my partner would want to have sex without a condom, I would try to convince her/him to use it.
3. If I were going to have sex and realize that I have no condoms, I would wait until I have them to maintain sexual intercourse.
4. I would be willing to be tested for AIDS if I had had a risk behavior.
5. I would recommend a friend to get tested for HIV if he/she had had sexual risk behaviors.
6. I would be willing to say that I agree with the use of condoms in front of my group of friends.
7. I would be willing to publicly defend the use of condoms.
8. I would be willing to carry condoms for my use.
9. I would be willing to use condoms in a sexual relationship.
10. If a friend became infected with HIV, I probably would distance myself from him
11. I would be uncomfortable if someone with the AIDS attended to my class.
12. I would be willing to kiss on the cheek to an HIV positive person.

## Reference

- Espada, J. P., Ballester, R., Huedo-Medina, T. B., Secades, R., Orgilés, M., & Martínez-Lorca, M. (2013). Development of a new instrument to assess AIDS-related attitudes among Spanish youngsters. *Anales de Psicología*, 29(1), 83-89.

