

# AN INTERNET SURVEY OF LUBRICANT USE AND PREFERENCES FOR ANAL SEX IN LATIN AMERICA



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## Background

▶ Successful introduction of Rectal Microbicides (RM) will require understanding lubricant use and preferences among people who practice anal intercourse (AI).

▶ Few data exist specific to Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) where RMs may be introduced.

## Methods

▶ An international internet survey during 29 weeks in '07.

▶ Examined lubricant use and preferences among men and women reporting AI in the previous six months.

## Results

▶ 202 (2.4%) of 8,495 worldwide respondents were from LAC, reported AI in the previous 6 months and answered lube questions; See Box 1.

▶ Unprotected receptive AI was common: 39.1% never or rarely used a condom.

▶ Reasons for *not* using lube during AI (Figure 1):\*

- Used saliva (56.2%), lube unavailable (41.9%), used lubricated condom (24.8%), self or partner was rushed (25.7%);

- A minority reported lube cost (7.6%), disliking lube (6.7%), or partner refusal of use (4.8%).

▶ Lube use did not interrupt sex for 69.9% of respondents.

▶ Few participants specifically preferred lubes that were flavored (10.1%), colored (0.6%) or fragranced (9.2%), but 72.8% preferred water-based lubes.

## Conclusions

▶ RMs formulated as water-based, flavorless, colorless and odorless lubricants would likely be acceptable to this population if available.

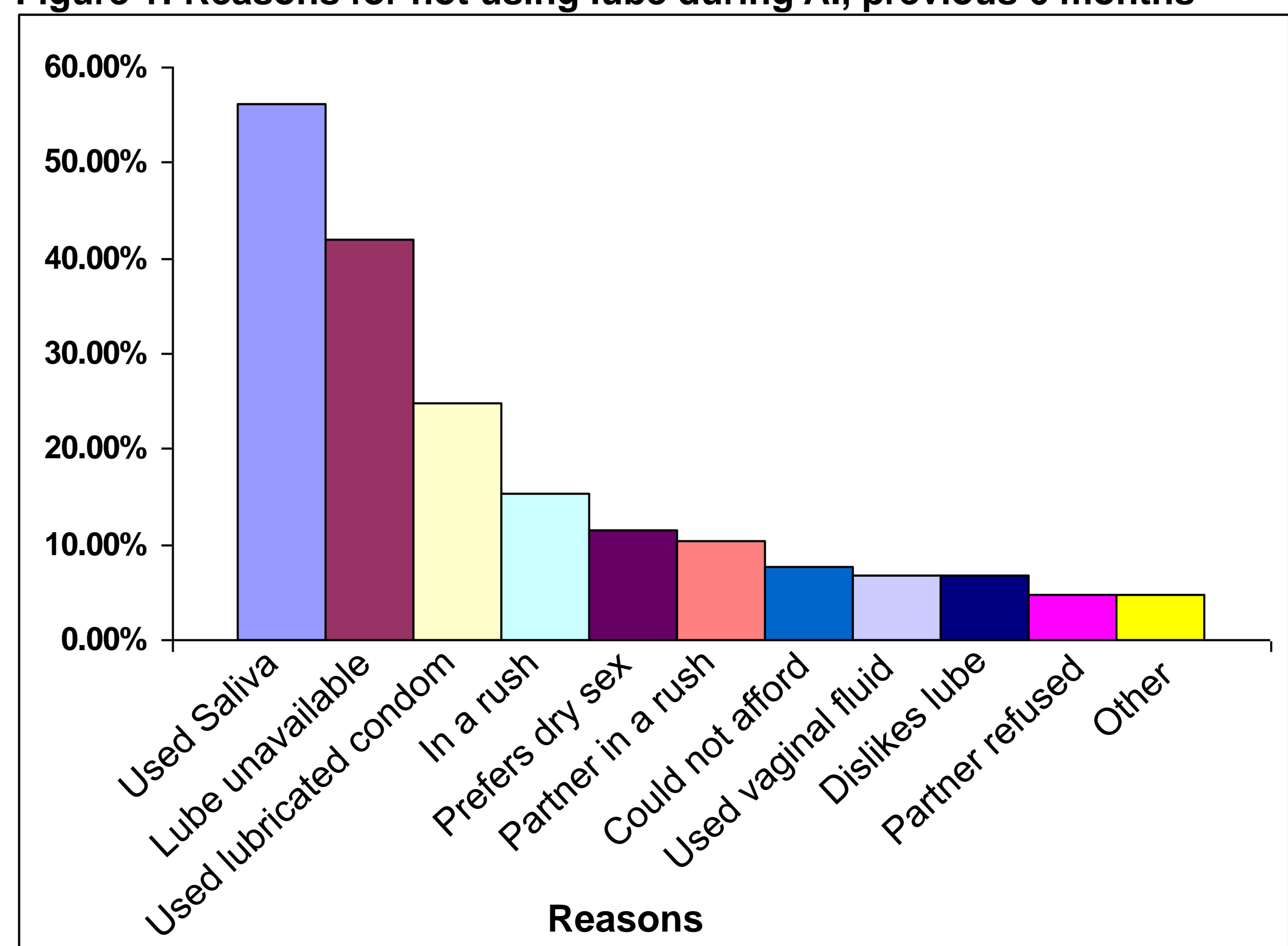
▶ No major lube use barriers identified, but RMs may require special interventions for those who only use saliva, lubricated condoms or are rushed.

**Box 1: Participant characteristics and number of respondents per country (n=202)**

<b>Number of countries in LAC represented</b>	24	
<b>Countries with most respondents (%)</b>	Mexico 63 (31.2), Brazil 34 (16.8), Puerto Rico 22 (10.9)	
<b>Sex (%)</b>	Male	179 (88.61)
	Female	22 (10.89)
	Transgender (M-F)	1 (0.50)
<b>Age, yrs</b>	<25	27.7%
	25-34	25.5%
	35-44	31.7%
	Over 45	15.4%

**Also Included (N):**  
Aruba (1), Bahamas (2), Bermuda (1), "Caribbean" (1)

**Figure 1: Reasons for not using lube during AI, previous 6 months\***



\*Multiple responses allowed