HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infection Risk among Racial/Ethnic Minority Populations: Methodological Innovations and Implications for Interventions

Call for papers to appear in the Special Issue of *Archives of Sexual Behavior* (Guest Editors: Derek T. Dangerfield II and Lawrence M. Scheier)

Publication Timeline:

November 1st, **2025** (abstracts **must** be submitted to receive preliminary feedback for manuscripts to be considered for review)

Dec 15th, 2025 (potential authors notified whether their full paper would be considered for review)

Mar 15th, 2026 submission deadline

June 1st, 2026 first stage peer review decision letters

September 15th, 2026 revisions due

Nov 1st, 2026 final decisions

Prospective authors should submit a brief (1-2 page) pre-proposal (abstract) that details their contribution's emphasis on methodological innovation and intervention implications, including a brief outline of their research methodology and the implications of their work for intervention development.

Pre-proposals and any inquiries regarding topic or scope for the special section can be sent to the Guest Editors: Derek T. Dangerfield II (ddanger2@gwu.edu) and Lawrence M. Scheier (scheier@larsri.org).

Submission references should comport with APA Style.

Journal IF 3.8.

Call for Special Section Submissions: HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infection Risk among Vulnerable Populations: Methodological Innovations and Implications for Interventions

*Archives of Sexual Behavior (*Editor-in-Chief, Ken Zucker, PhD) invites manuscripts for a ***Special Section*** examining novel methodological approaches that can be used to classify HIV/STI risk among vulnerable populations. The goals of the issue are to offer novel perspectives for intervention design and implementation. For example, studies have shown that Black gay and bisexual men are more likely than other racial/ethnic men to engage in HIV prevention behaviors such as condom use, HIV testing, and drug use before sex but are more likely than others to acquire HIV and other STIs. Studies also show that the increased access and use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention combined with destigmatization campaigns have changed perceptions of STI disease severity in some communities. Moreover, studies typically focus on HIV and STI risk separately and thus may offer narrow perspectives for sexual health promotion. Research that classifies and clarifies STI vulnerability for vulnerable populations is needed to improve healthcare engagement, patient-clinician communication, and uptake of effective contemporary prevention medications (e.g., PrEP and doxy-PEP).

The proposed *Special Section* will include articles that advance the research on HIV/STI vulnerability to guide interventions with greater specificity and cultural responsiveness for affected populations. Approaches using multivariate and person-centered methods such as latent class analysis or latent transition analysis are welcome. Studies should be sure to use culturally relevant theoretical frameworks, psychometrically accurate measures, and posit clear mechanisms of vulnerability for affected populations. Review papers are also welcomed. Implications for behavioral, health communication, or clinical interventions should be identified.

All submitted manuscripts will undergo the journal's regular peer review process. An initial screening will be conducted by the two Guest Editors, and manuscripts that dovetail with the central themes of the Special Section will be sent out for masked peer review. An invitation to submit a full manuscript is not a guarantee of acceptance or publication.