



Challenging Stigma Facing Gay and Bisexual Men

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TALK OVERVIEW

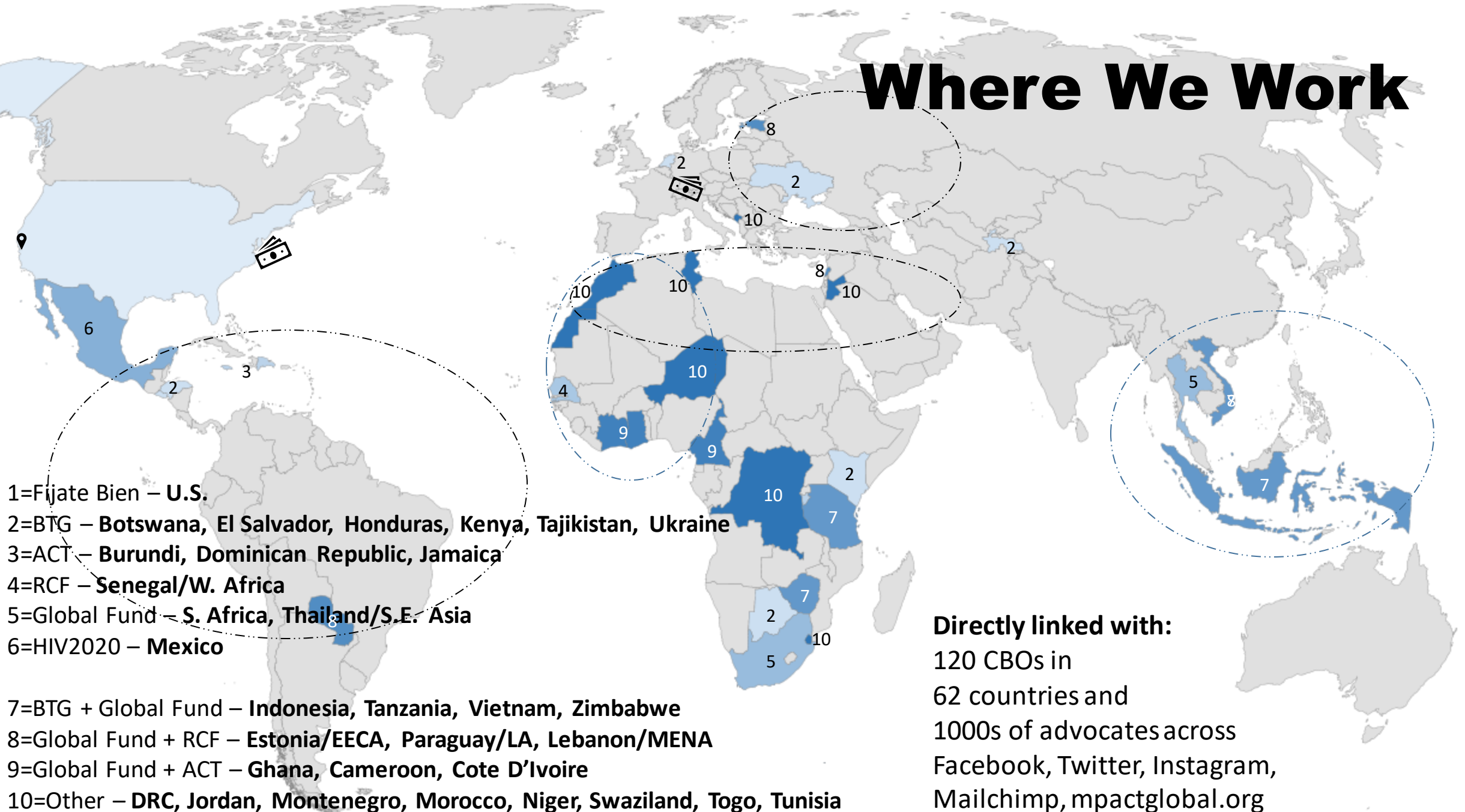
- About MPact
- HIV among gay and bisexual men worldwide
- What we've learned from GMHR
- What health professional can do



MPact Global Action for Gay Men's Health and Rights

MPact's mission is to ensure equitable access to sexual health services (including HIV services) for gay and bisexual men, while promoting health and human rights worldwide.

Where We Work



Field Strategies

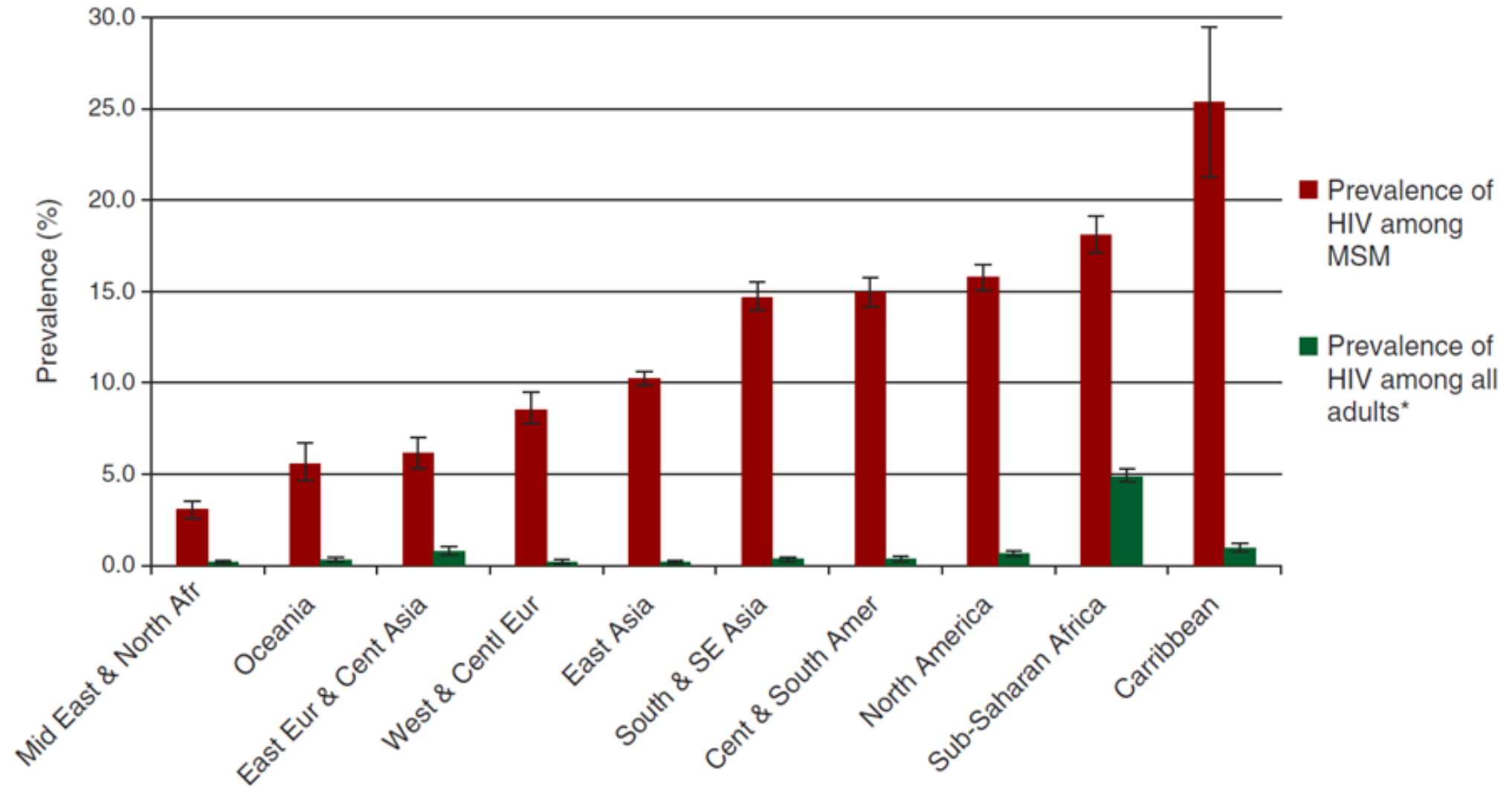


- Watchdog and advocate
- Analyze, monitor, and document
- Build/strengthen capacity, train
- Subgrant, fund community-based organizations/initiatives
- Expand peer-led information exchange, networking and support
- Partner and work in coalition



HIV Among Gay and Bisexual Men Worldwide

HIV prevalence is disproportionately high among gay and bisexual men worldwide.



HIV Incidence is also high among gay and bisexual men, even as it seems to be decreasing in the general population in most parts of the world.

Re-emergence of other sexually transmitted infections in gay and bisexual men suggests ongoing vulnerability to HIV and the need for sexual health responses.

Beyrer ET al., lancet, 2016

HIV among Gay and Bisexual Men Worldwide

- Gay and bisexual men are 28 times more likely to become HIV positive
- We are less likely to have easy access to sexual health services
- We are criminalized, stigmatized, and experience high rates of discrimination and violence





The Global Men's Health and Rights Survey (GMHR)

Global Men's Health and Rights Survey

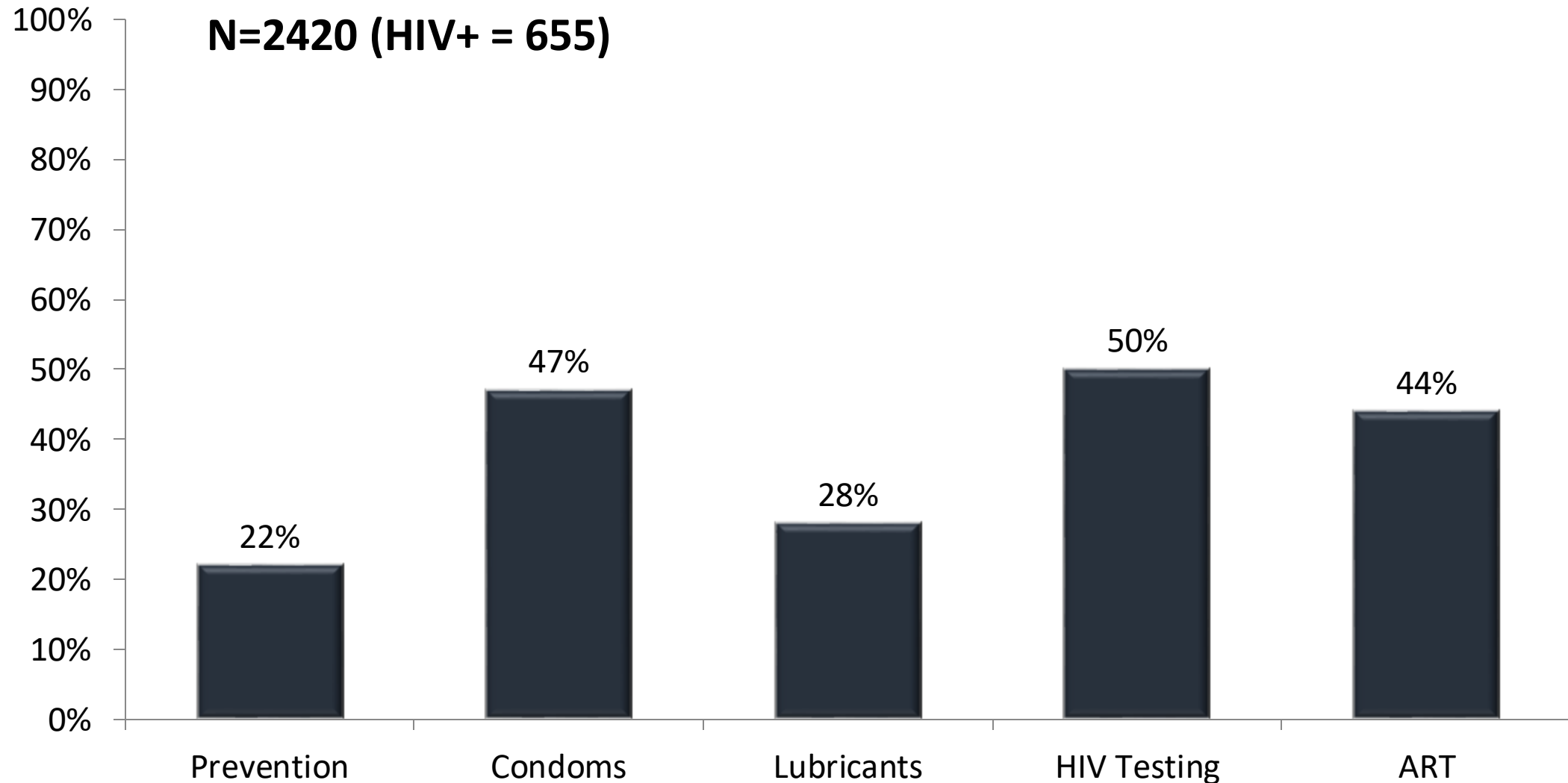
- International, multilingual, online survey
- Structural facilitators of/barriers to service access and utilization
- General trends in gay/bi men's sexual health more broadly
- Rapid turnaround of study results
- Regional and sub-group analyses
- Galvanizing effect
- 15,000 respondents from nearly 200 countries

	GMHR 1	GMHR 2	GMHR 3*
Year Conducted	2010	2012	2014
Sample Size	5,002	5,784	4,777
No. of Countries Sampled	37	160	136
Percent from Global South	30%	28%	60%
Percent from Global North	70%	72%	40%

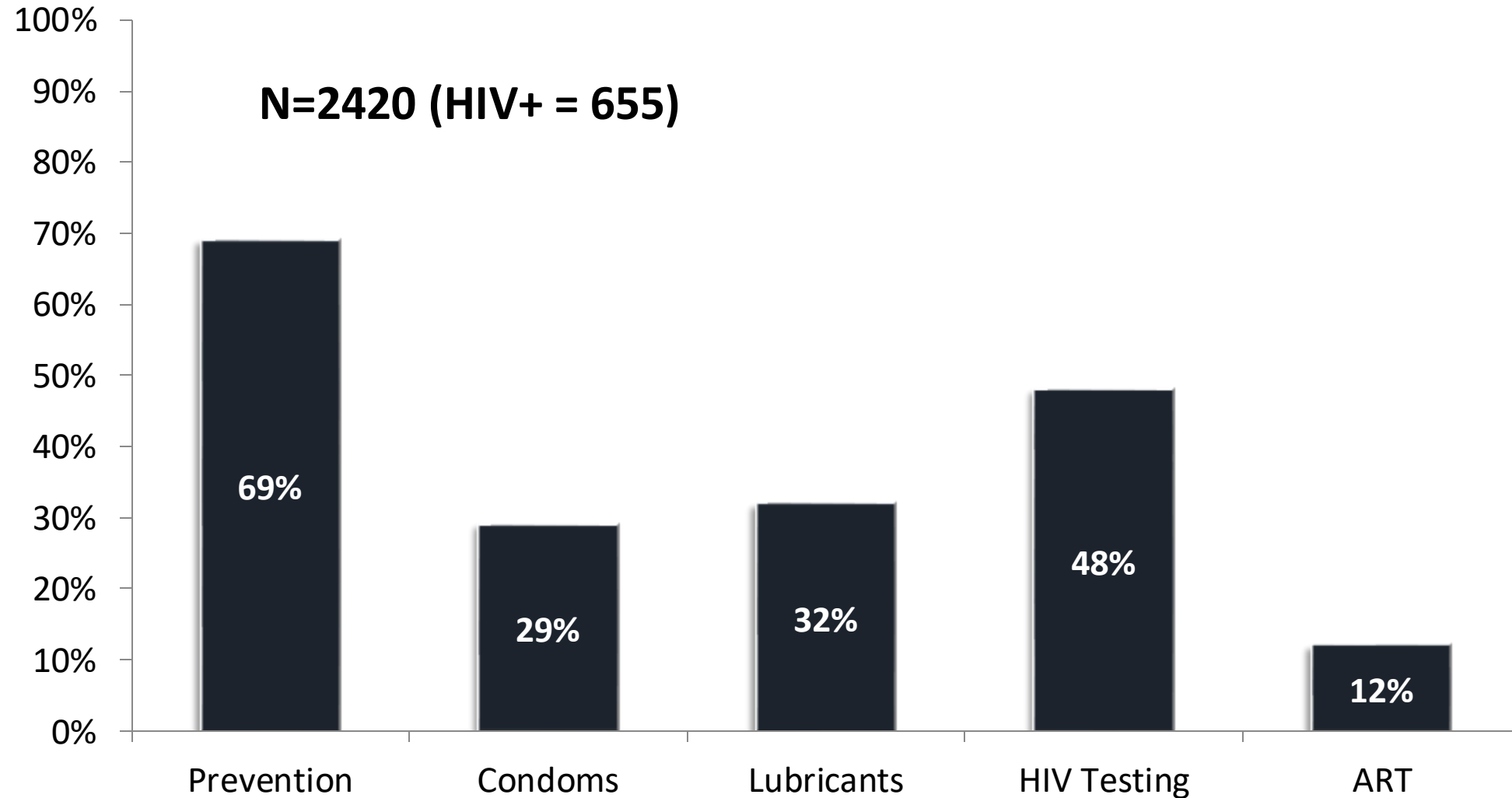
*Baseline only (i.e., exclusive of 6-month and 12-month follow-up data)

What GMHR Teaches Us

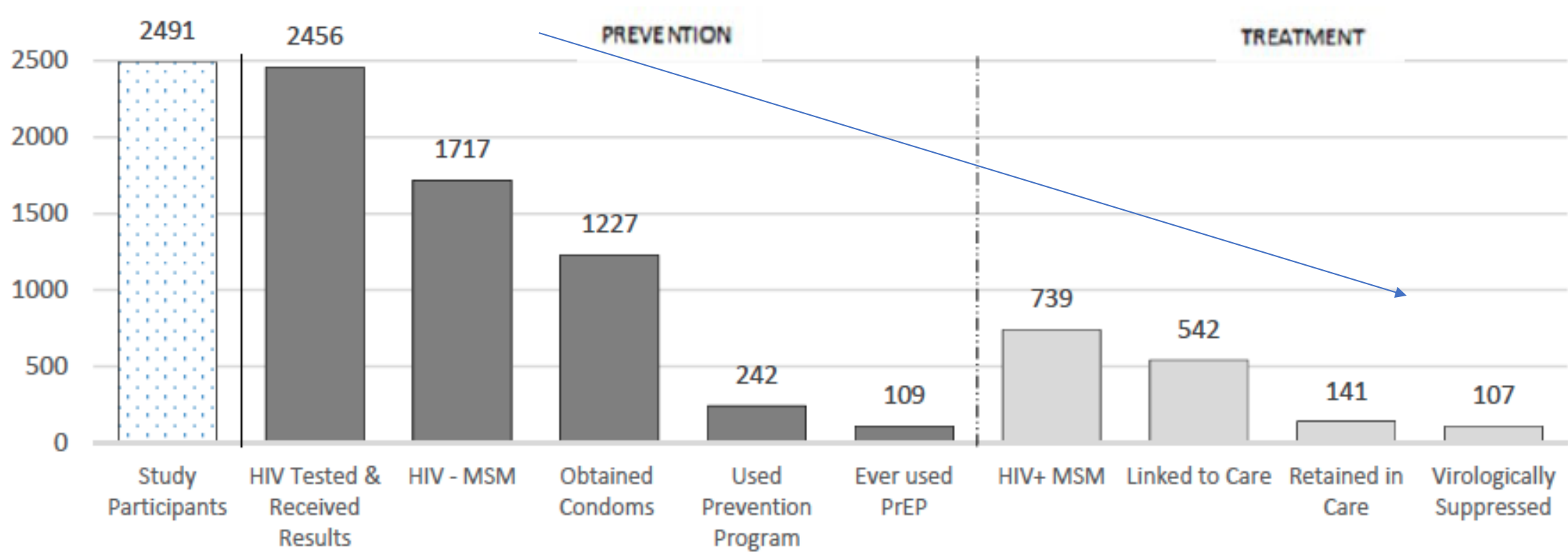
Gay and bisexual men have difficulty accessing services.



Too many gay and bisexual men never use services.



We are losing gay and bisexual men along the way.





It matters how gay and bisexual men are treated.

- Men who felt comfortable with their healthcare provider were significantly more likely to:
 - have had an HIV test (aOR=1.22, CI=1.12 to 1.33)
 - report ever having used PrEP (aOR=1.4, CI=1.2 to 1.7)
 - be retained in care (aOR=1.18, CI=1.03 to 1.35)
- The odds of being tested for HIV within the past 12 months (aOR=1.63, CI= 1.20 to 2.22) and participating in prevention programs (aOR= 19.89, CI=13.43 to 29.49) were considerably higher for men who accessed these services from **CBOs led by or serving LGBT people.**

Accessing and Using Services

- The odds of being linked to care (aOR=0.52, CI=0.31 to 0.86) and being virologically suppressed (aOR=0.44, CI=0.23 to 0.84) were significantly **reduced** by greater experiences of **provider discrimination**.
- Viral suppression as also negatively associated with **sexual stigma** (aOR=0.48, CI=0.29 to 0.82).
- Virally suppressed men were also more likely to report **having a regular healthcare provider** (aOR=2.91, C=1.20 to 7.07).



**What health
professionals can do**

Health Professionals Can Be Advocates

- Normalize sexuality and sex
- Be transparent
- Ask permission
- Offer option to not answer questions
- Offer choices
- Avoid asking for opinions
- Be specific when asking questions
- Listen

Health Professionals Can Be Advocates

1 Health professionals play a central role in reducing stigma and discrimination

2 Educate ourselves and each other

3 In health settings, health professionals can:

- Promote a welcoming atmosphere
- Educate co-workers to ensure respect and dignity for gay men and other MSM

4 Outside of health settings, health professionals can:

- Empower gay and bisexual men to participate in community activities
- Lobby local authorities to support gay and bisexual men and the programs they lead
- Understand HIV in the broader context of gay and bisexual men's lives

“...it will be important to find some way to evade the choice between the rational subject and the pathological subject, as well as some way to take the drama out of the practice of risk. To do that, we may need to move HIV/AIDS away from the center of all thinking about gay men’s sexual health.”

–David Halperin



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www.mpactglobal.org

THANK YOU!