

**AIDS  
2022**

**Challenges and  
Opportunities for MSM:  
90-90-90 Targets**  
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PRE-CONFERENCES  
30 JUNE - 3 JULY

**VIRTUAL**

# Challenges and Opportunities for MSM: The 90-90-90 Targets

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# 90-90-90: Treatment for all



There are 37.9 million people living with HIV



79% know they are HIV-positive  
The rest do not



Three out of five people living with HIV are on antiretroviral therapy



Only 53% of people living with HIV have undetectable levels of the virus

## 90-90-90 HIV treatment targets

30 million people on treatment by 2020

90% of people living with HIV know their status

90% of people who know their HIV-positive status are on antiretroviral therapy

90% of people on antiretroviral therapy are virally suppressed

## A mixture of results...

- Based on the latest progress report from UNAIDS, the pace of progress toward the 90-90-90 targets is slowing down. The report shows some countries making impressive gains while others are experiencing rises in new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths.
- Globally, around 1.7 million people became newly infected with HIV in 2018, a 16% decline since 2010, driven mostly by steady progress across most of Eastern and Southern Africa.
- There have been worrying increases in new HIV infections in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (29%), in the Middle East and North Africa (10%), and in Latin America (7%).
- The number of people newly on treatment every year has steadily increase since 2010, reaching 23.3 million of the 37.9 million people living with HIV last year.
- Around 770 000 people died from AIDS-related illnesses, a significant reduction from the 1.7 million people who died at the peak of the epidemic in 2004.



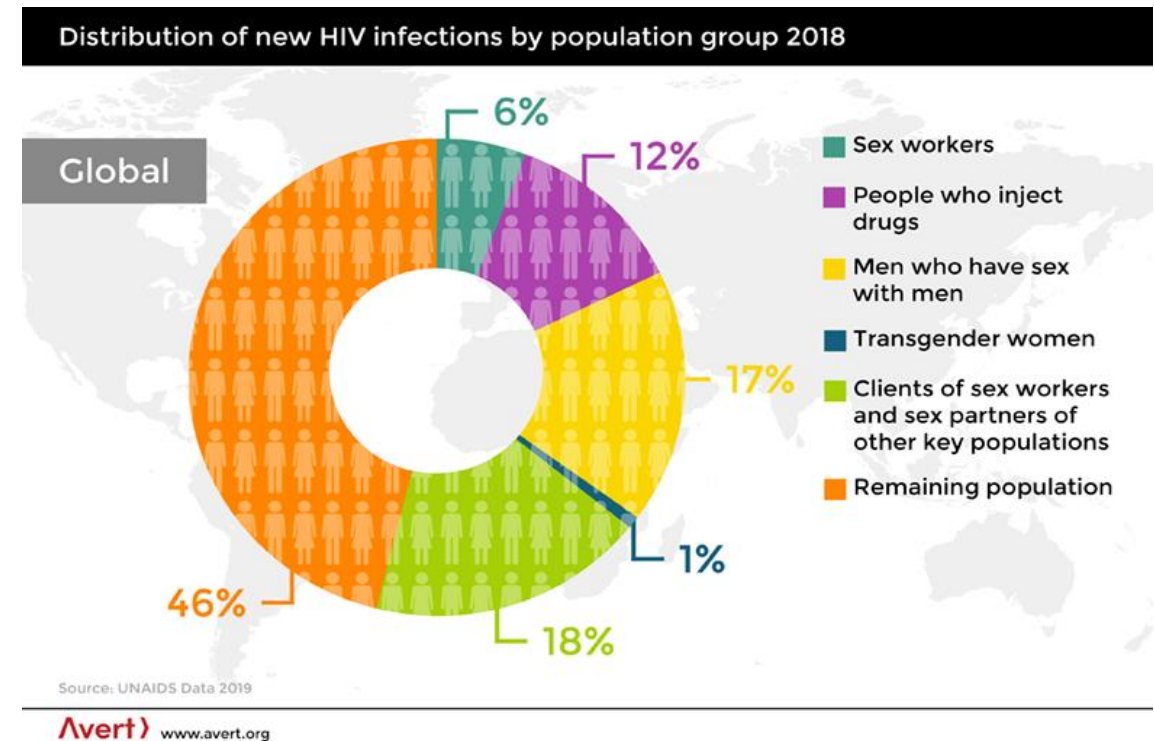
## Key Populations are still facing stigma and discrimination

- Discriminatory attitudes towards people living with HIV remain extremely high in far too many countries.
- We must eliminate the underlying structural drivers of inequalities and barriers to prevention and treatment.
- Criminal laws, aggressive law enforcement, harassment and violence continue to push key populations to the margins of society and deny them access to basic health and social services.

## Gay men and other men who have sex with men

- Men who have sex with men (MSM) bear disproportionate burdens of HIV but often have the least access to HIV services.
- Stigma and discrimination remain as major factors in MSM vulnerability to HIV and lack of access to services.
- Gay men and other men who have sex with men accounted for an estimated 17% of new HIV infections globally
- Including more than half of new HIV infections in western and central Europe and North America, 40% in Latin America and 30% in Asia and the Pacific.

Distribution of new HIV infections among MSM and Gay Men in 2018.





# Gay Men and other Men that have sex with Men: Strengthening communities

## Challenges

- Criminal laws and violence
- Stigma and discrimination
- Socioeconomic status
- Psychosocial and self-stigma
- Structural drivers of inequalities
- Geography and country status (Low income vs High income)
- Lack of community-based responses

## Opportunities

- Continued advocacy against criminalization laws (Homosexuality)
- Continued efforts to empower PLWH and to provide communities with comprehensive HIV education
- Continued and increase funding to community-based education, provision of services and advocacy
- Cost free access to prevention and care that is patient centred





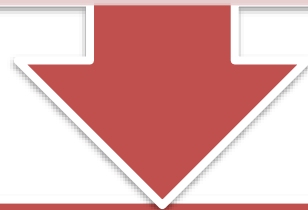
# COVID-19 Impacts Gay and Bisexual Men's Mental Health, Sexual Behavior, and Access to HIV/STI Services

Findings from a sample survey of over 1,000 gay, bisexual found men reporting that the COVID-19 pandemic was having an adverse impact on:

Their Mental health,

Economic security

Access to sexual health services.



The impacts were particularly high among young men ages 15 to 24.

- A total of 1,051 men completed the survey;
  - 70% of the respondents were white,
  - 14% Latinx,
  - 8.5% Black, and
  - 6% marked multiracial or “other.”
  - The median age was 35 years old. T
  - 12% were living with HIV, and
  - one person said they were diagnosed with COVID-19.

**COVID-19 Impacts Gay  
and Bisexual Men's  
Mental Health, Sexual  
Behavior, and Access to  
HIV/STI Services**

**-CONTINUED-**

*“COVID-19 has produced widespread changes to U.S. economic resources, social networks, and health care services,” wrote the authors of the study. “Our study provides the first evidence of the scope of these disruptions among U.S. MSM, including direct impacts on sexual partnering and access to HIV prevention and treatment.”*

*“Characterizing the Impact of COVID-19 on Men Who Have Sex with Men Across the United States in April, 2020,” AIDS Behav. April 29, 2020. [doi.org/10.1007/s10461-020-02894-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-020-02894-2)*

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**-CONTINUED-**

**Mental and Emotional Health**

- 73% reported having increased levels of anxiety, and 56% had decreased connection to friends.

**Sexual behaviors**


- When asked if they used the apps to meet men in person, 49% of all respondents had decreased meeting potential partners in person, while 45% reported no change in their behavior.

**When it came to substance use:**

- 10% of all participants said that their use of recreational drugs had increased during the COVID-19 pandemic,
- but 18% of men up to the age of 24 reported increased drug use.
- About 31% of those 15 to 24 years old and nearly 25% of men over 25 reported drinking more alcohol.

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**-CONTINUED-**

- **Accessing HIV/STI Services**
    - Despite social distancing one-third of respondents attempted to seek STI/HIV testing. High proportions of those men reported some challenges to getting an appointment, due to COVID-19.
    - Among those living with HIV, few reported problems accessing or maintaining their antiretroviral therapy. However, far more reported problems with keeping appointments with care providers due to COVID-19 restrictions on what are considered essential care visits.
    - Researchers conclude that HIV prevention and care services must be prepared to actively meet this new paradigm (Covid-19) to serve the prevention and care needs of MSM.
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**-CONTINUED-**

*“To avoid exacerbating health disparities, we must also make rapid progress on deploying large-scale seroprevalence studies to better understand potential co-morbidity of HIV and SARS-CoV-2 among MSM from across the U.S.,” they write. “Ultimately, systematically characterizing the outcomes and mitigation strategies of both the U.S. COVID-19 epidemic and associated impacts on HIV prevention and care represents a rapidly emerging priority for gay men and other MSM in 2020.”*

*“Characterizing the Impact of COVID-19 on Men Who Have Sex with Men Across the United States in April, 2020,” AIDS Behav. April 29, 2020. [doi.org/10.1007/s10461-020-02894-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-020-02894-2)*

**THANK YOU!**

