



The regional challenges in stigma & discrimination – the roles of healthcare providers and the rights of key populations

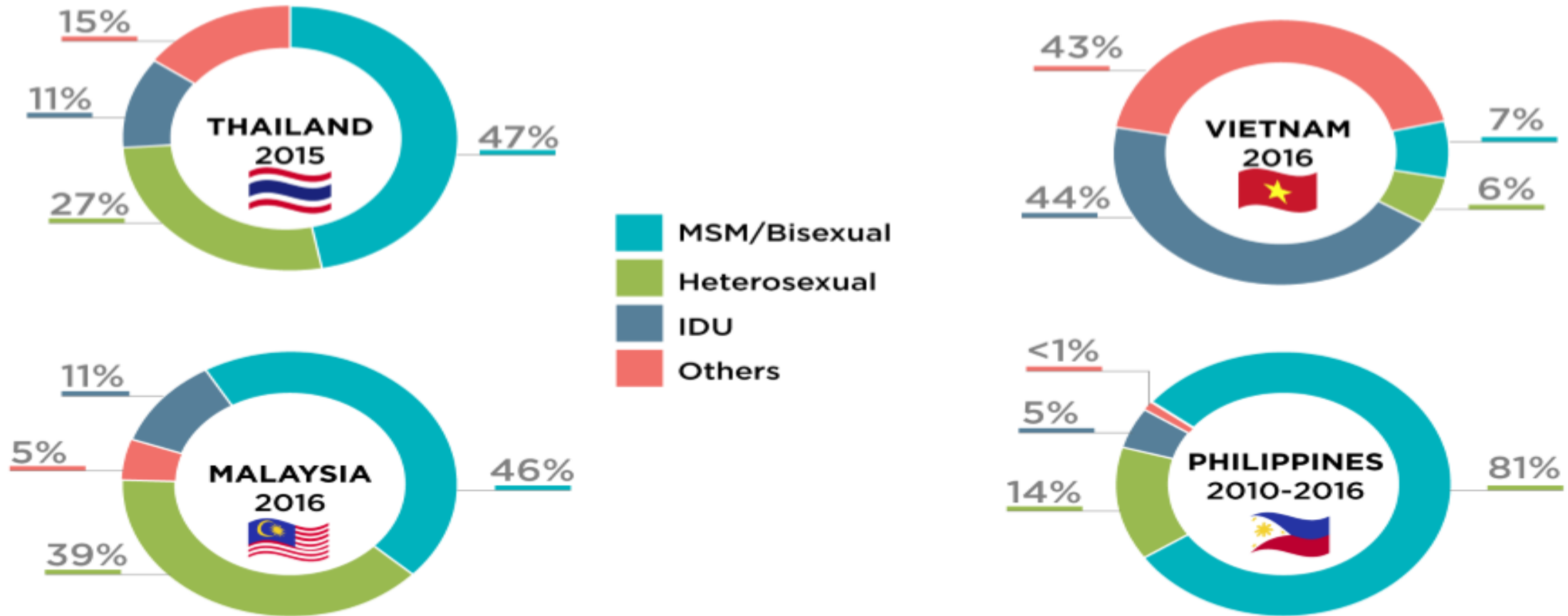
Adeeba Kamarulzaman

FRACP, HonLLD (Monash)

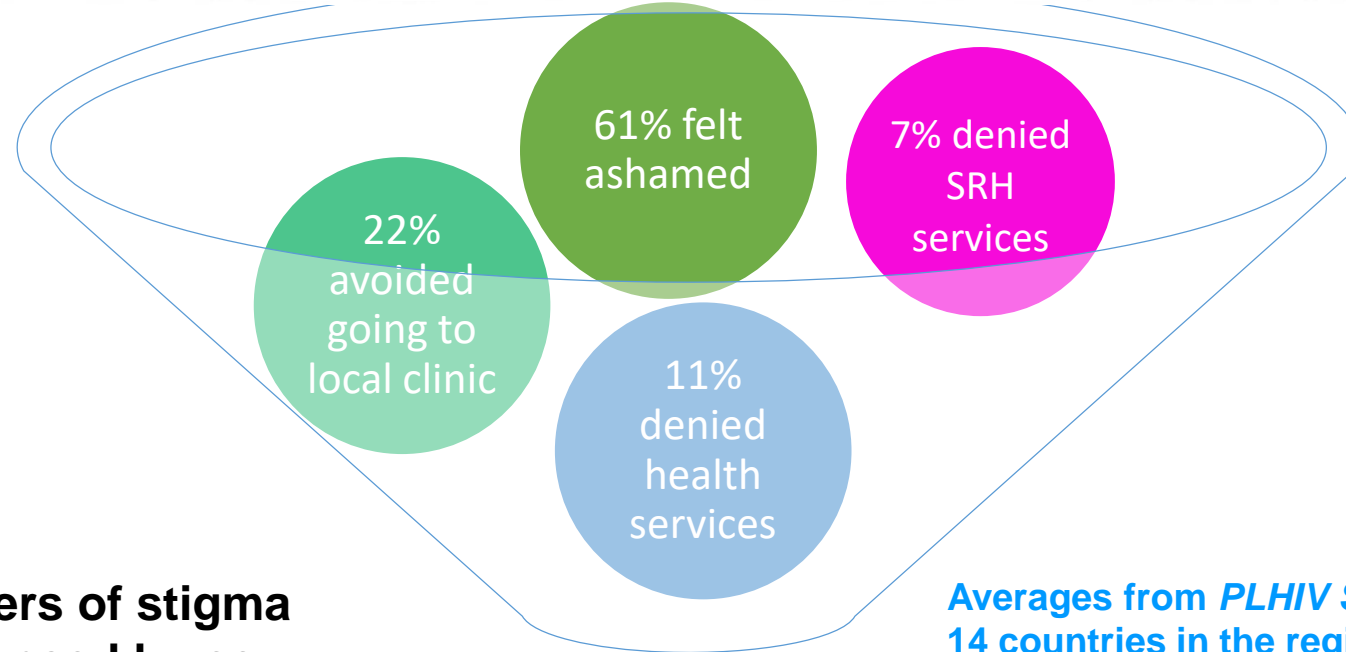
University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur

President-Elect IAS

78% of new HIV infections are among key populations and their partners



Stigma: a Major Barrier to HIV Services



Multiple layers of stigma also experienced by sex workers, MSM, TG, people who use drugs, migrants.

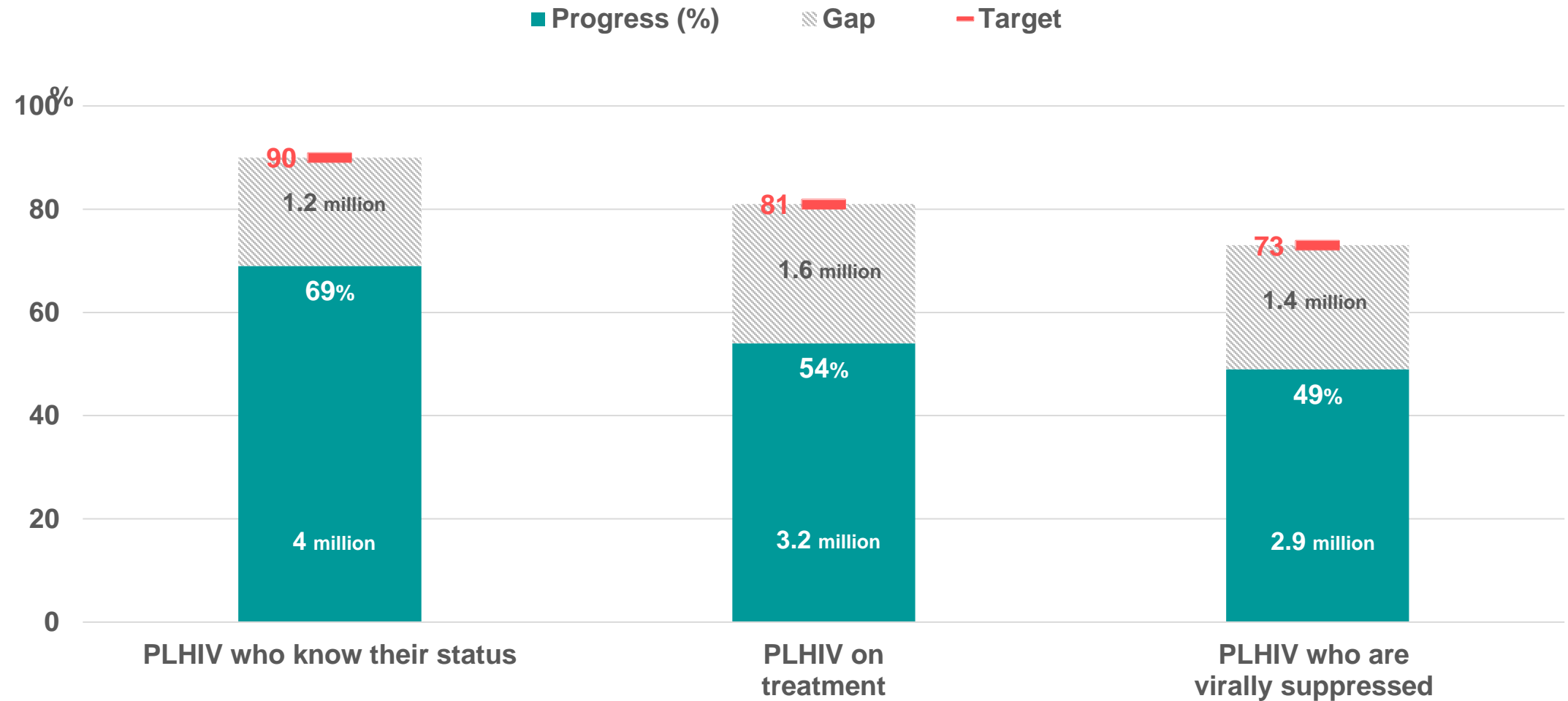


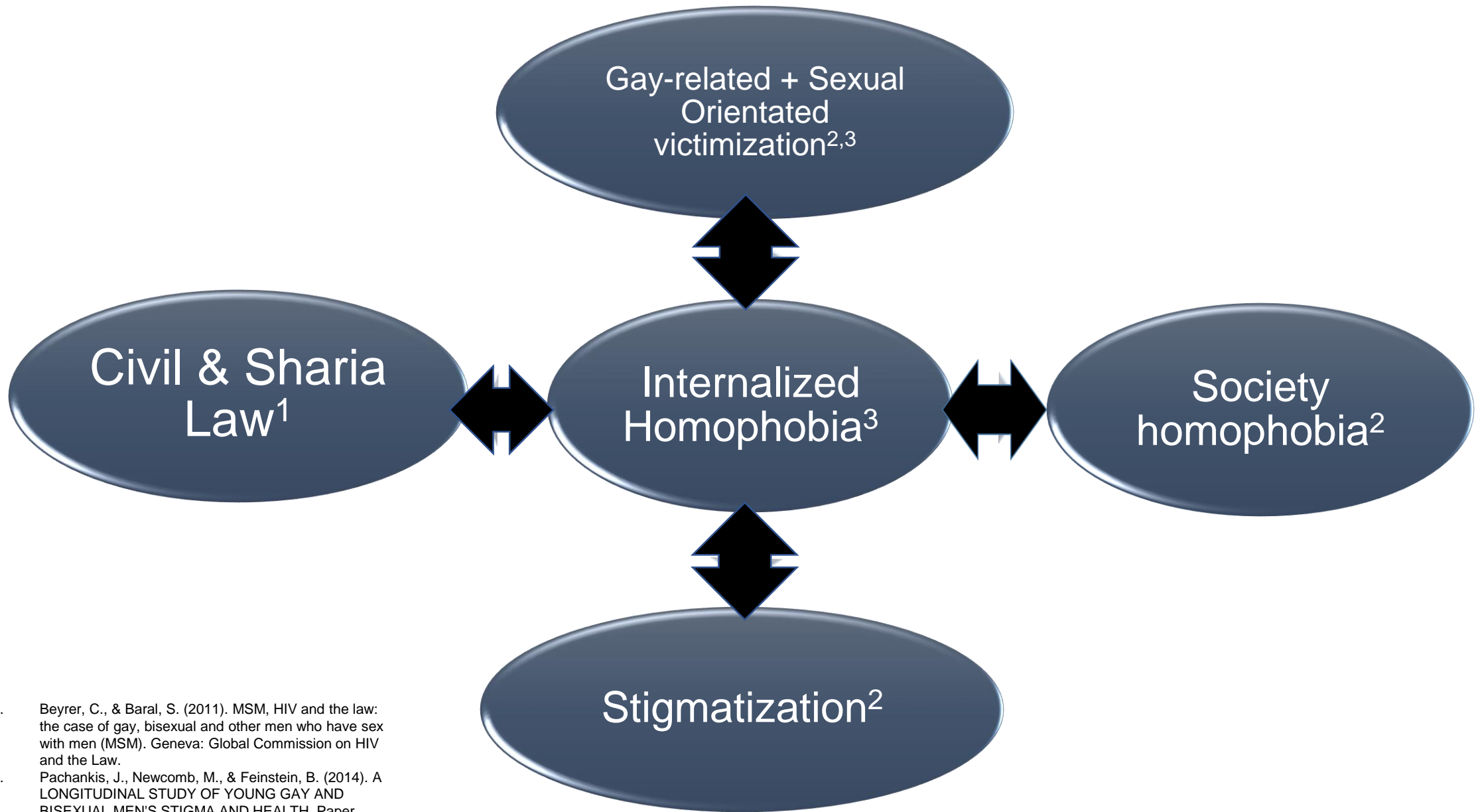
Access to health services



About half of people who inject drugs, sex workers, gay men and other MSM and transgender people in the Asia Pacific region **are unaware of their HIV status**

HIV testing and treatment cascade, Asia and the Pacific, 2018





1. Beyrer, C., & Baral, S. (2011). MSM, HIV and the law: the case of gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM). Geneva: Global Commission on HIV and the Law.
2. Pachankis, J., Newcomb, M., & Feinstein, B. (2014). A LONGITUDINAL STUDY OF YOUNG GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN'S STIGMA AND HEALTH. Paper presented at the Annals of Behavioral Medicine.
3. Pachankis, J. E. (2015). A transdiagnostic minority stress treatment approach for gay and bisexual men's syndemic health conditions. Archives of sexual behavior, 44(7), 1843-1860.

Objective

To Determine the Association of Syndemic of Psychosocial Factors with Inconsistent Condom Use (ICU) during Anal Intercourse & HIV Positive Status in MSM

(Psychosocial Factors):

- Depressive Symptoms
- Suicidal Risk
- “Chemsex”
- Childhood Sexual Abuse (CSA)
- Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

Methodology

Self-administered online survey of
MSM
(July 2017~ Feb 2018)

Recruitment – social
networking apps & peer
introduction

20 minutes to complete

2718 users clicked through the advertisement
and reached the survey



1687 (62.1%) users continued to consent
page



1288 (47.4%) users provided informed
consent



622 (22.9%) users completed questionnaires



Prevalence of Psychosocial Factors

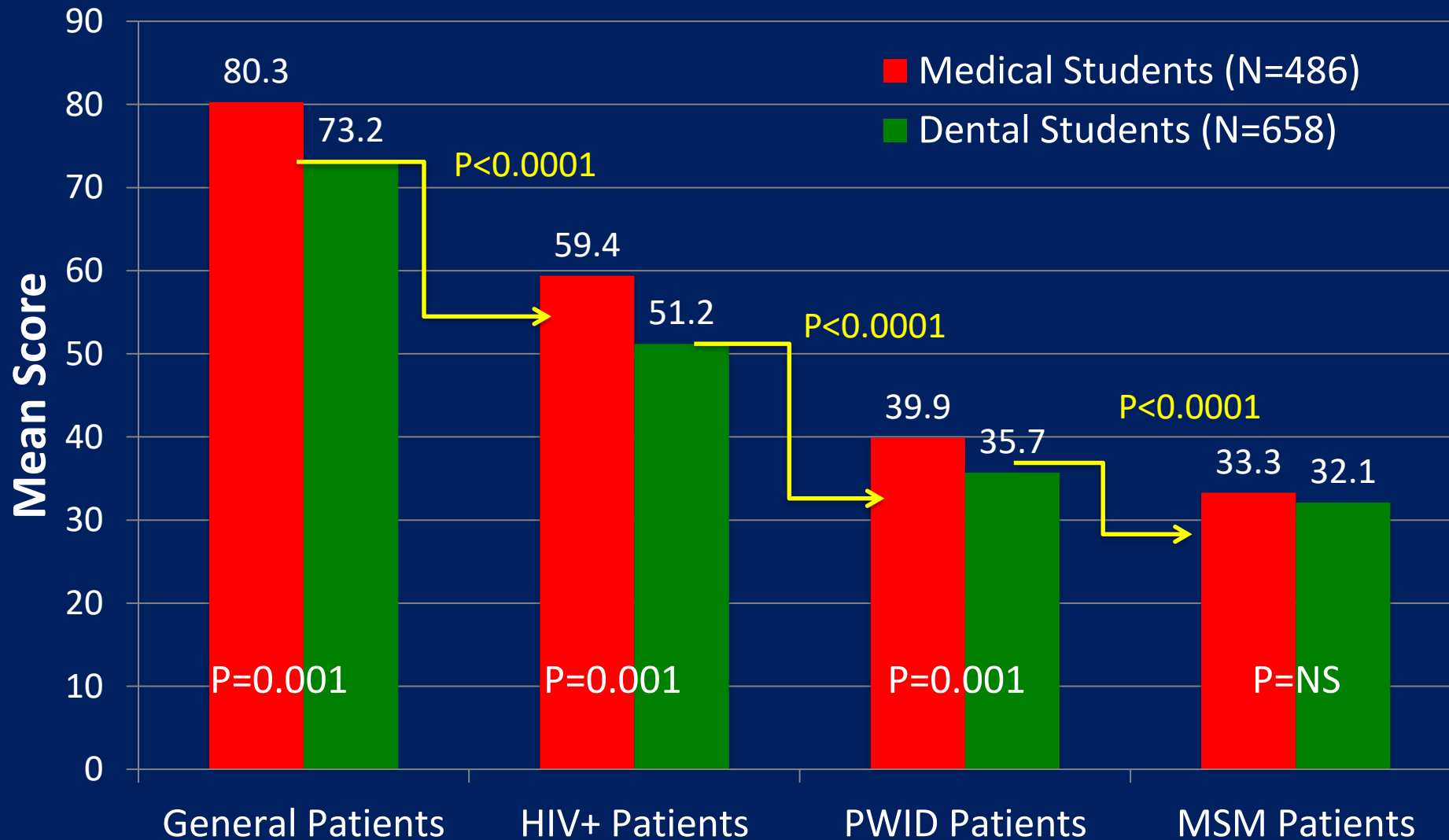
| Depressive Symptoms | Suicidal Risk | Chemsex before or during Anal Intercourse | Childhood Sexual Abuse (CSA) | Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) |
|---------------------|--------------------|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 378 (60.8%) | 191 (30.7%) | 140 (22.5%) | 77 (12.4%) | 153 (24.6%) |

**All
Participants
(n=483) (%)**

Intertwining Effect in Bivariate Analysis

- When experienced depressive symptom
 - suicidal risk (OR 4.02)
 - Intimate Partner Violence (OR 2.18)
 - Inconsistent Condom Use (ICU) (OR 1.57)
 - HIV positive (OR 1.16)
- ICU positively associated with
 - depressive symptoms (OR 1.57)
 - “chemsex” (OR 2.16)
- HIV positive status associated with
 - depressive symptoms (OR 1.16)
 - suicidal risk (OR 1.67)
 - “chemsex” (OR 2.16)

The Future HIV Healthcare Providers: Stigma & Healthcare Students in Malaysia



Survey of Factors Associated with Intent to Discriminate against PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) Amongst Healthcare Providers In Malaysia

Tee Ying Chew, Adeeba Kamarulzaman, Jeffrey Wickersham



FINDINGS

1) Discrimination intent among healthcare providers appears to be **lower** compared to medical and dental students.

- More contact, exposure, and experiences
- Higher knowledge about HIV/AIDS
- Professional code of conduct

2) **Stigma-related constructs** are the main factors that contribute to discrimination intent toward PLWHA.

more negative feelings toward PLWHA

internalized shame

fear, stereotype and greater disagreement on PLWHA deserve good care hold greater discrimination intent.

FINDINGS

- 3) **Surgical based specialties** are more likely to hold discrimination intent compare to non-surgical based practitioners.
- Perceived higher risk during surgical procedures
 - Lack of regular clinical contact with PLWHA
 - Lack of HIV-related training
 - Lack of knowledge about the disease
- 4) **Prejudice subscale** was not correlated with discrimination intent
- Knowledge and experience
 - professional code of conduct - despite exhibiting prejudice attitude they do not exhibit discrimination intent toward PLWHA

Multi-level Interventions to Stigma Reduction

- *Intrapersonal* - self-help, counseling, and treatment.
- *Interpersonal* - enhancement of care and support
- *Community* - reducing stigmatizing attitudes and behaviors using strategies such as education, contact, and advocacy.
- *Organizational/institutional* - training programs and institutional policies
- *Governmental/structural* - establishing and enforcing legal, policy, and rights-based structures



All **38** countries still have laws that impede HIV response

37 criminalize some aspects of sex work

11 have compulsory detention centres for people who use drugs

15 have the death penalty for drug-related offences

16 criminalize same-sex relations

10 impose some form of restriction on the entry, stay and residence of PLHIV based on their HIV status