

Assessing The HIV Prevention Needs of Trans and Nonbinary Participants in the Gay Community Periodic Surveys 2019-23

Bandlora A, Chan C, Smith AKJ, Bavinton B, Gray J, Mao L, MacGibbon J, Holt M



Background

Trans and gender diverse people in HIV research

Data on trans and gender diverse people in HIV in Australia is sparse

- Internationally, there is a focus on trans women, less attention to trans men, and even less to non-binary people.
- Trans men, trans women, and non-binary people are often grouped together (low sample sizes, legacy data capturing systems)

There is much more data among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men

Table 3 Characteristics of HIV notifications with a first ever diagnosis in Australia, 2014 – 2023

| | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|---------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Gender | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 974 | 919 | 913 | 846 | 755 | 791 | 540 | 475 | 460 | 619 |
| Female | 102 | 108 | 88 | 107 | 81 | 94 | 78 | 61 | 85 | 96 |
| Trans and gender diverse ^b | 3 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 10 | 8 | 5 | 8 | 7 |

HIV notifications in 2023. Between 2014 and 2023 there were 60 notifications reported among trans and gender diverse people, although it is likely that this figure is an underrepresentation due to potential under reporting of gender diversity in HIV notifications data (Table 3).

Aims

1. Use behavioural HIV surveillance to better understand the HIV and sexual health needs of transgender men and non-binary people who have sex compared with cisgender men.
2. Identify similarities and differences between cisgender men, transgender men, and non-binary participants in terms of demographics and behavioural outcomes, and use of sexual health services

Importantly, treating non-binary people and trans men as separate categories

Methods

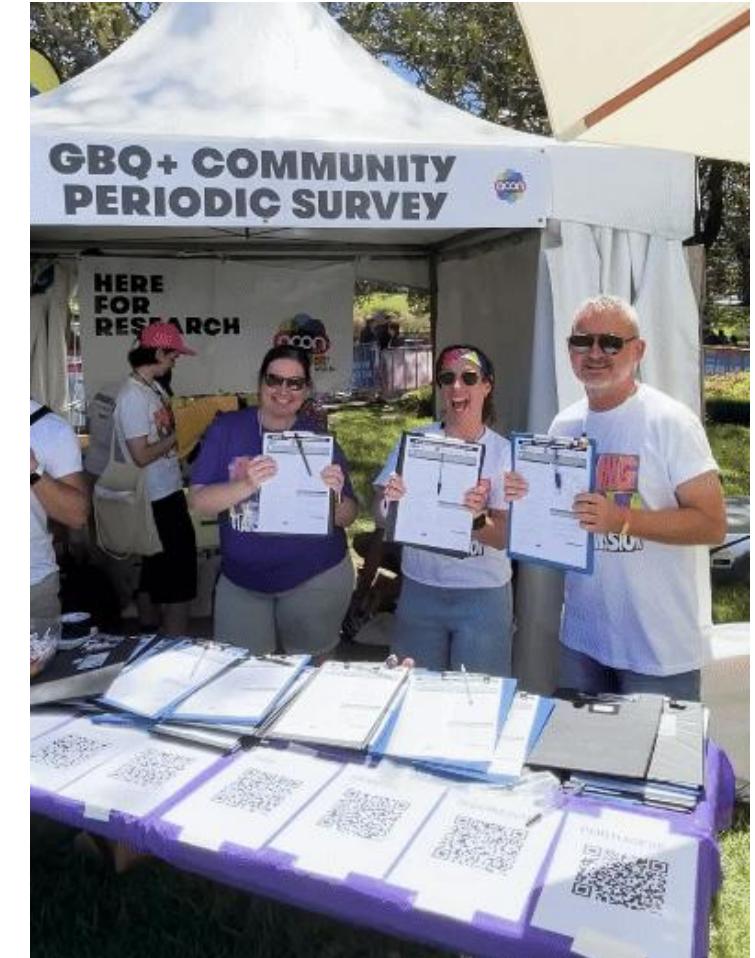


UNSW
Centre for Social
Research in Health



GBQ+ Community Periodic Surveys

- Repeated national cross-sectional surveys of gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men since 1996
 - Changed now to include non-binary people who have sex with men in 2024
- Recruited face-to-face and online
- Some states recruited annually (NSW, Vic, QLD) and other states every second year (ACT, SA, Tas, WA)



Measures and analysis

- Analyses restricted to 2019-2023
- Gender identity and sex at birth assessed with two questions. Participants were categorised as
 - Cisgender man
 - Transgender man
 - Non-binary person
- Demographic and behavioural variables were assessed
 - Age, First Nations status, sexual identity, education level, employment status, recency of arrival to Australia, and area of residence
 - HIV status, PrEP use, HIV testing frequency, STI testing
 - Sexual behaviour, social engagement with gay men
- Comparison were assessed with multinomial logistic regression

3. What is your gender?

1 Male 2 Female 3 Non-binary 4 Other

4. What sex was recorded on your birth certificate?

1 Male 2 Female 3 Other

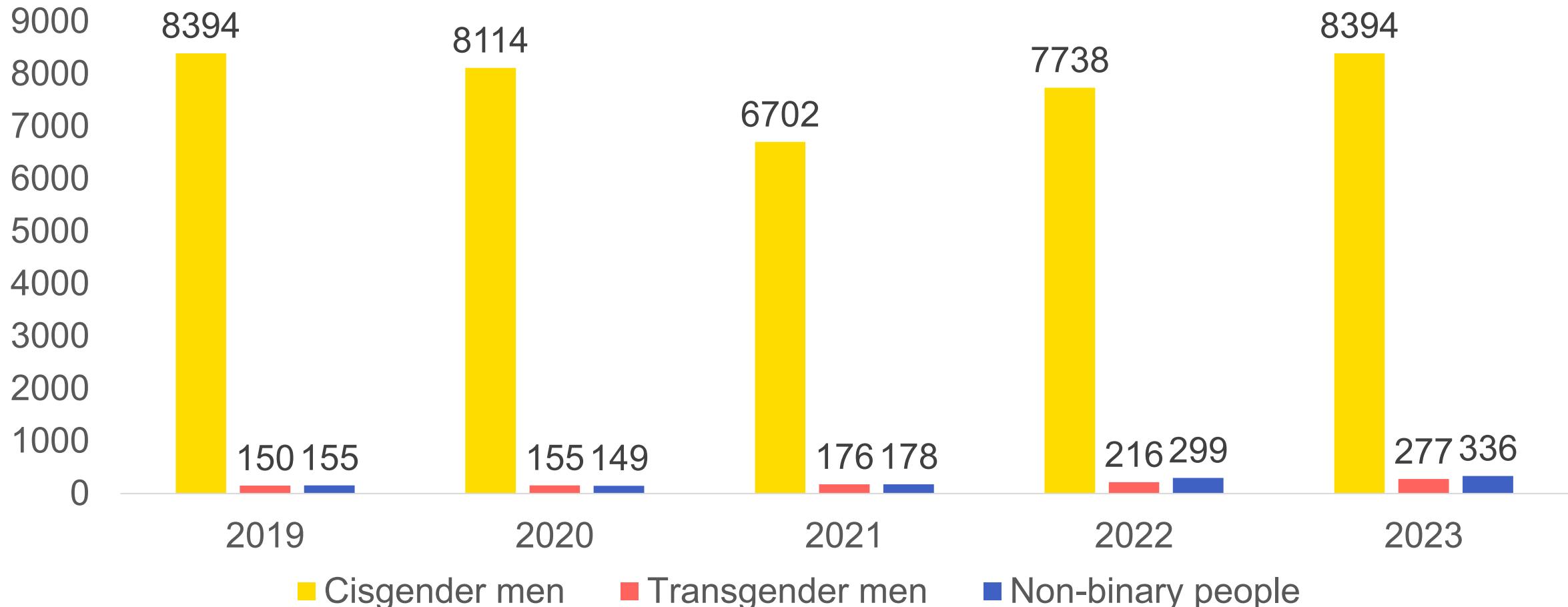
Results



UNSW
Centre for Social
Research in Health



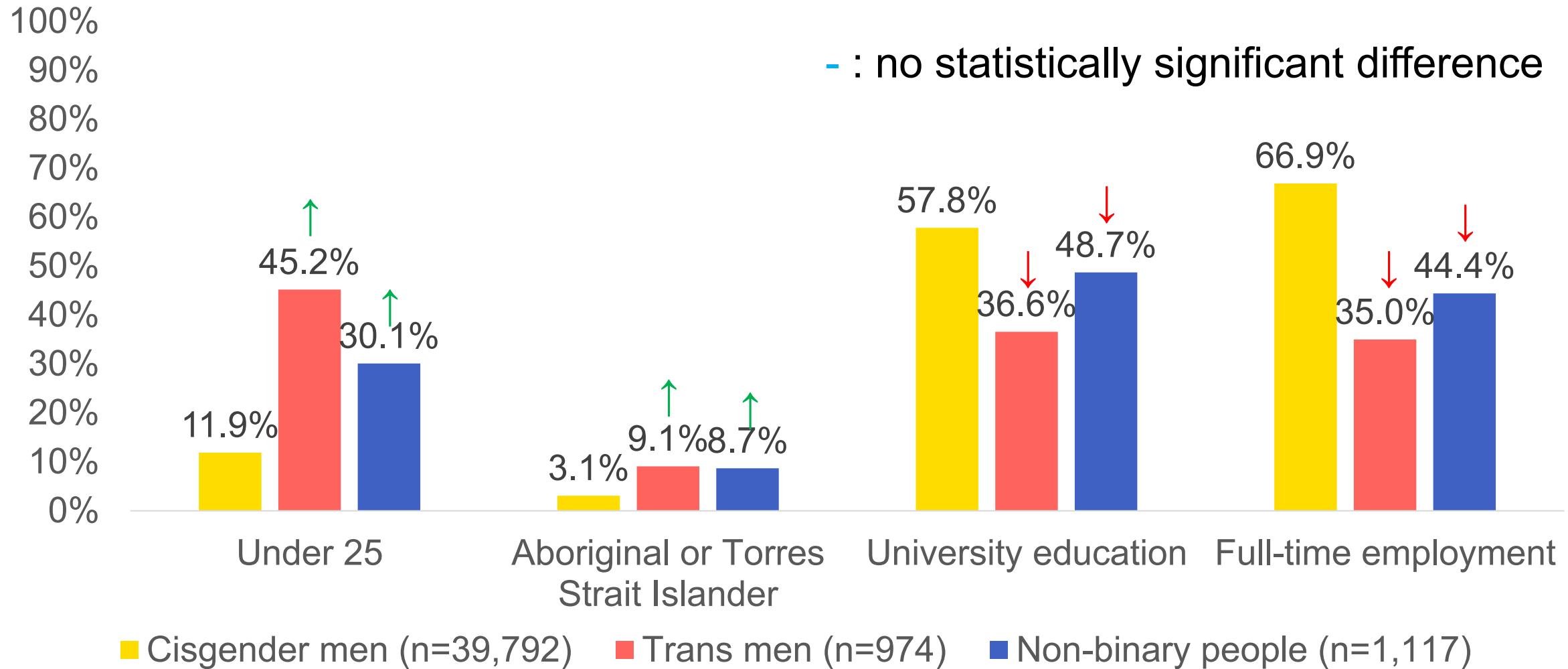
Number of participants



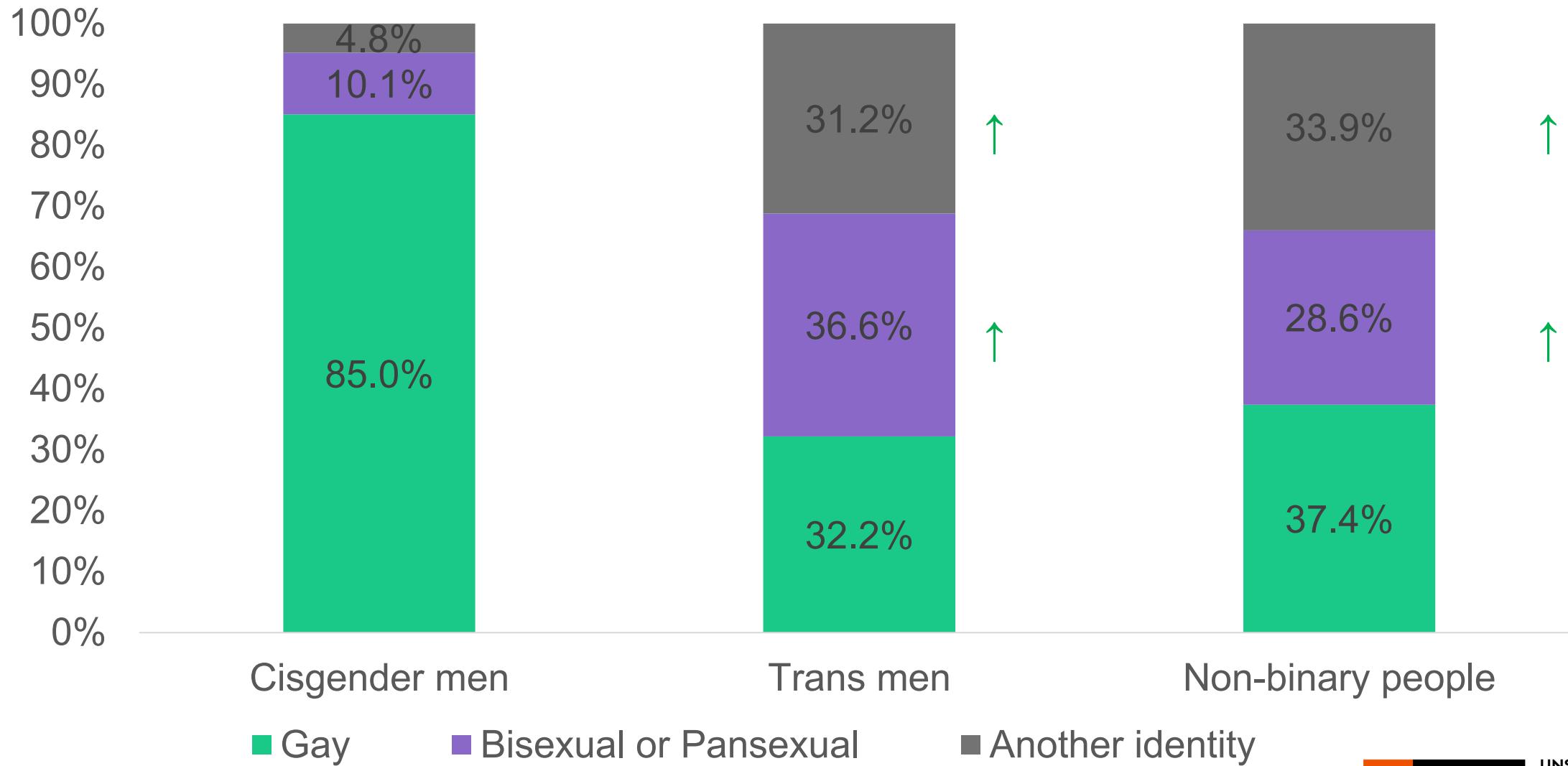
Demographics

↑ / ↓: Statistically significantly higher/lower compared to cisgender men after adjustment

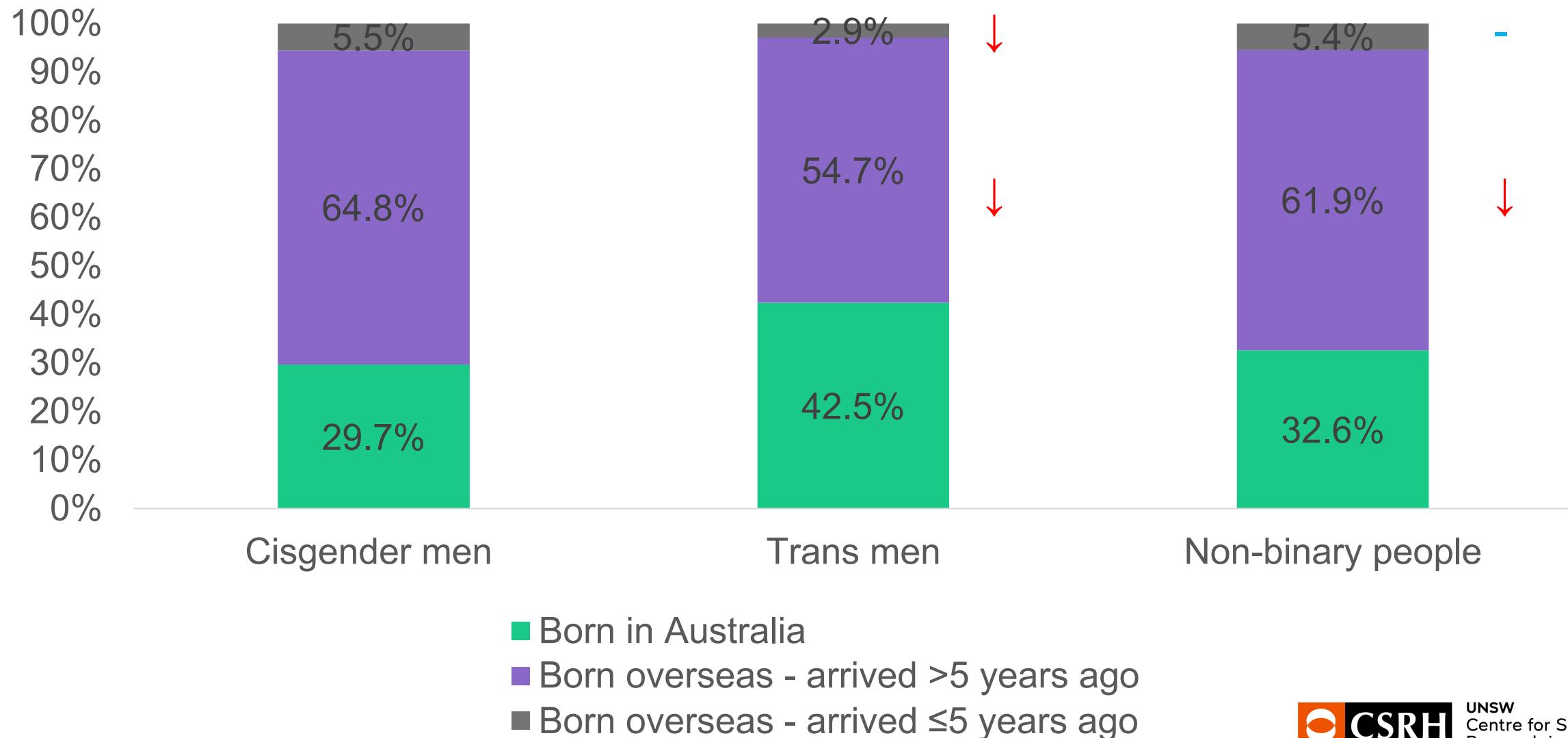
- : no statistically significant difference



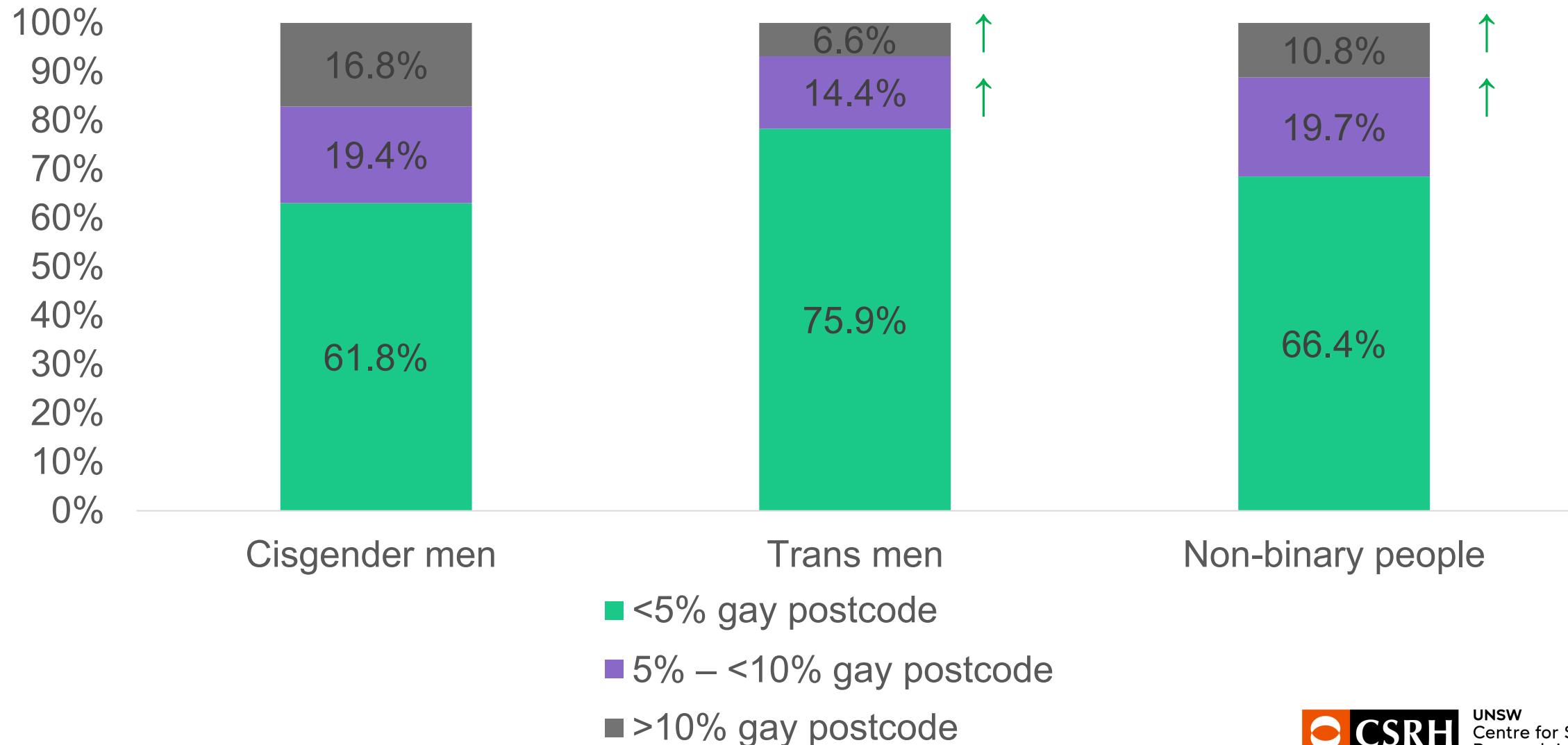
Sexual Identity



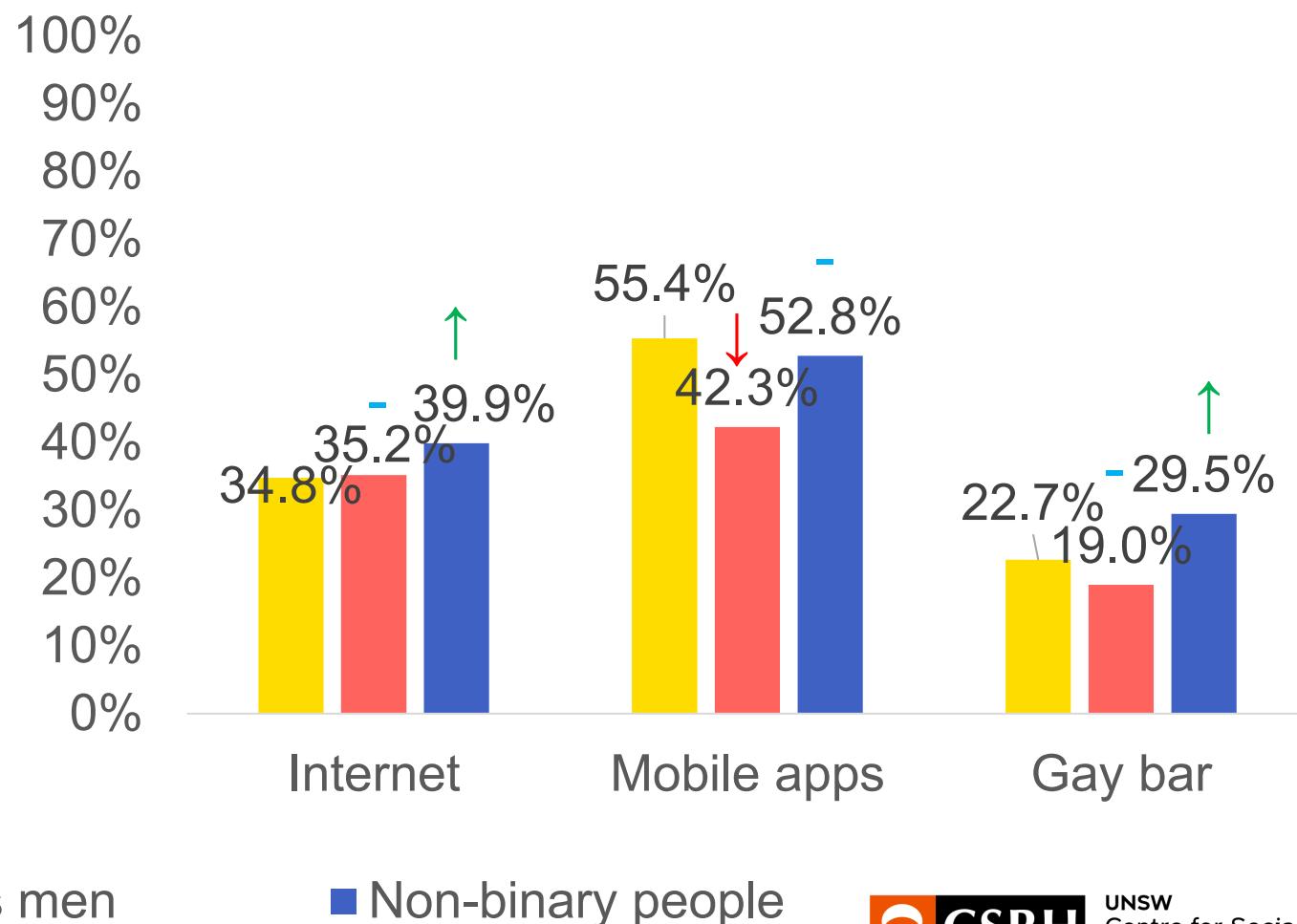
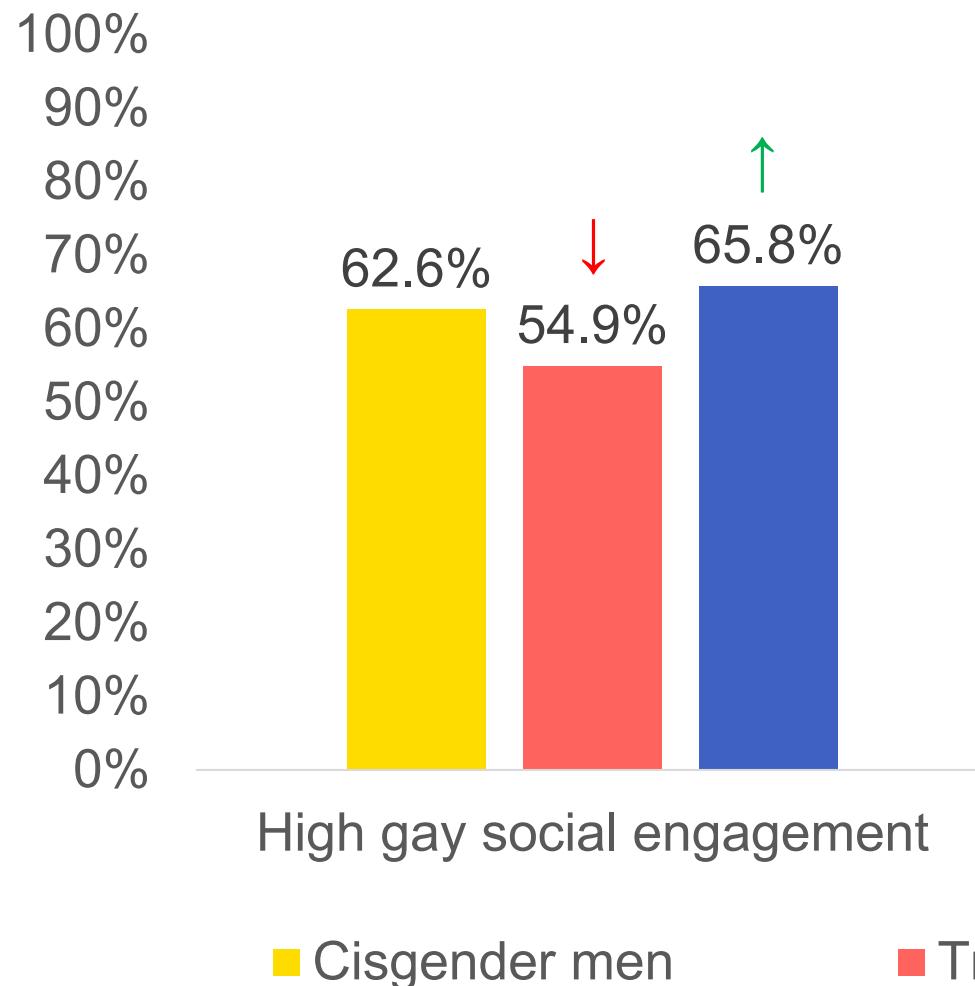
Country of birth and recency of arrival



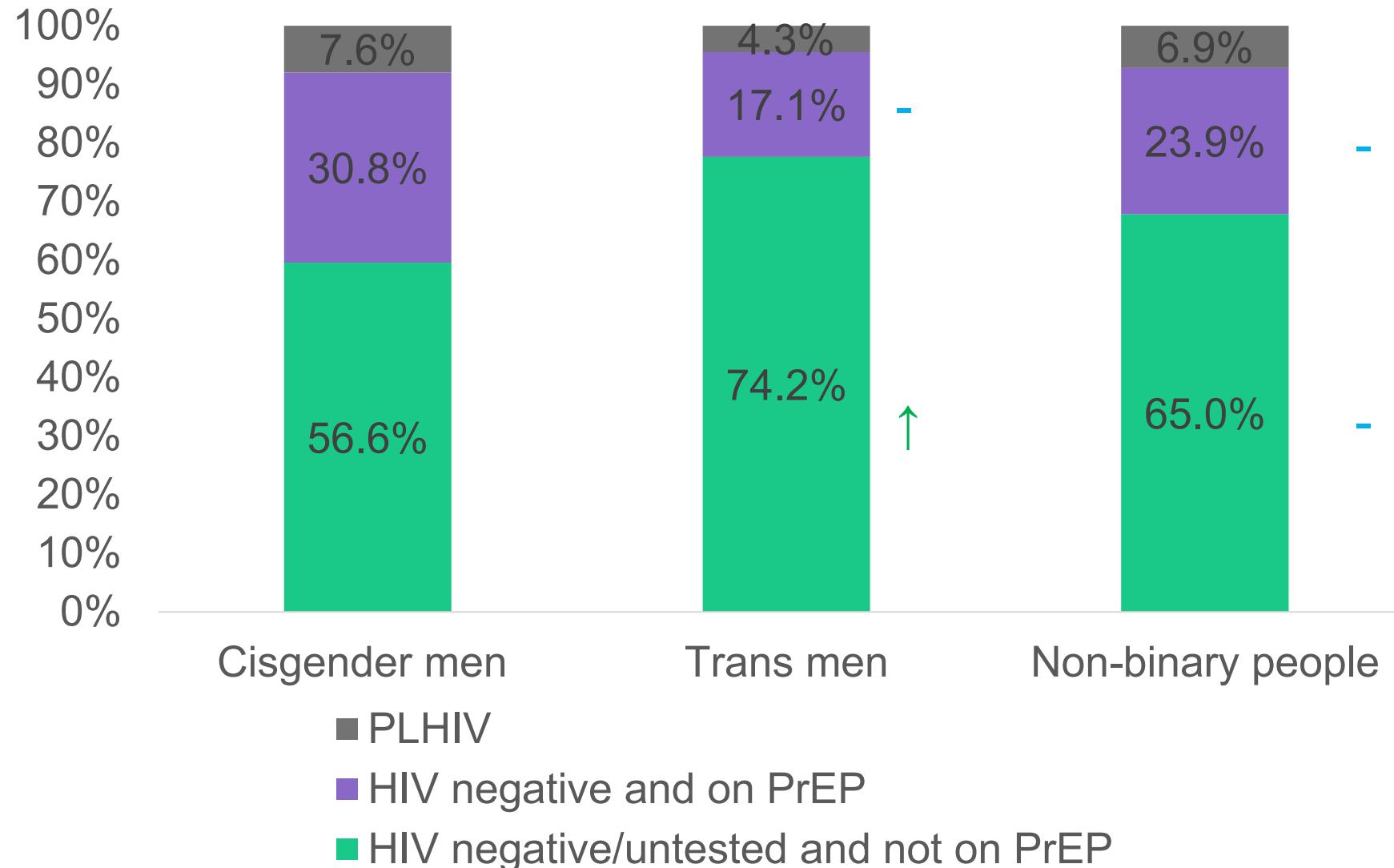
Area of residence



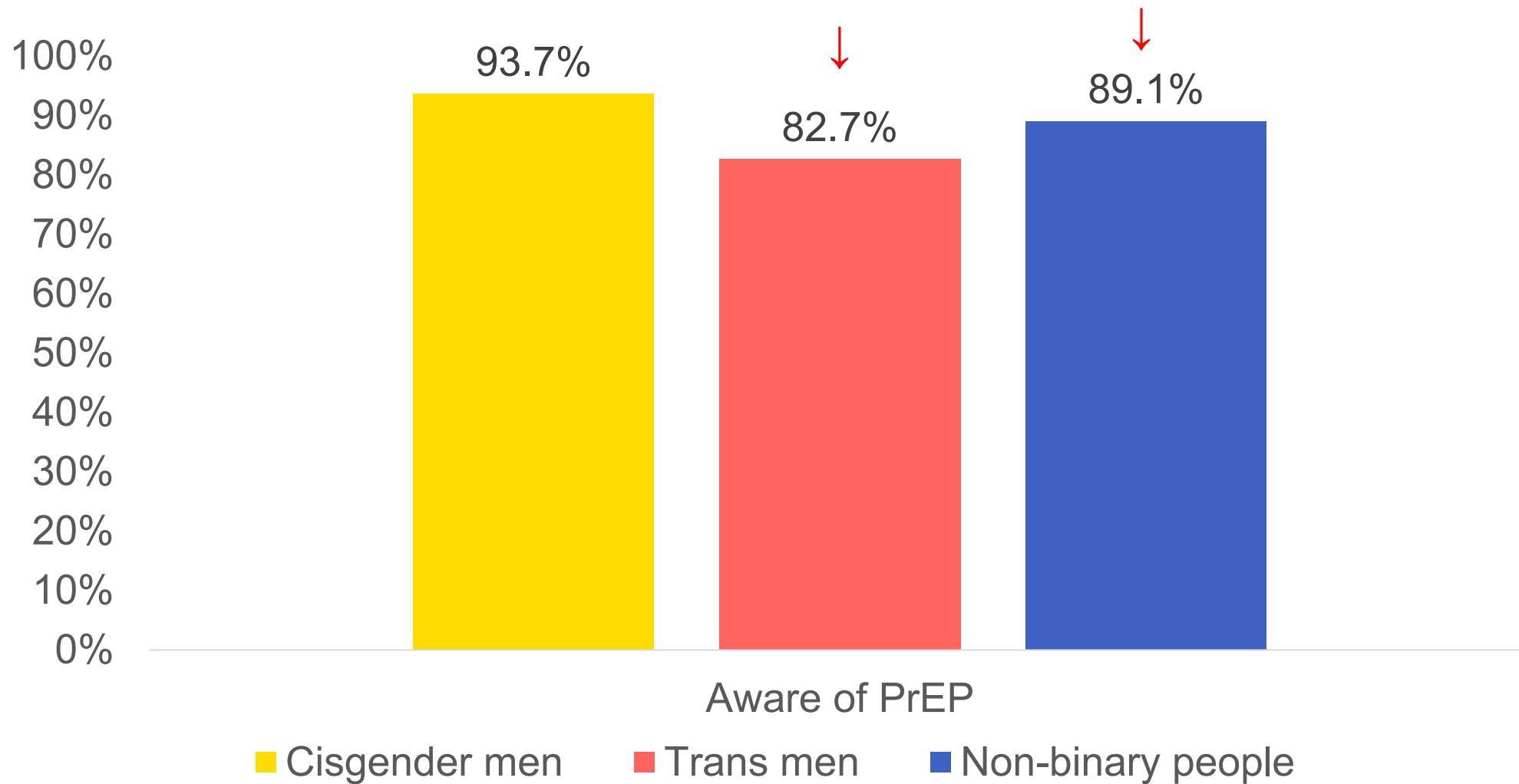
Gay social engagement and where they met sexual partners



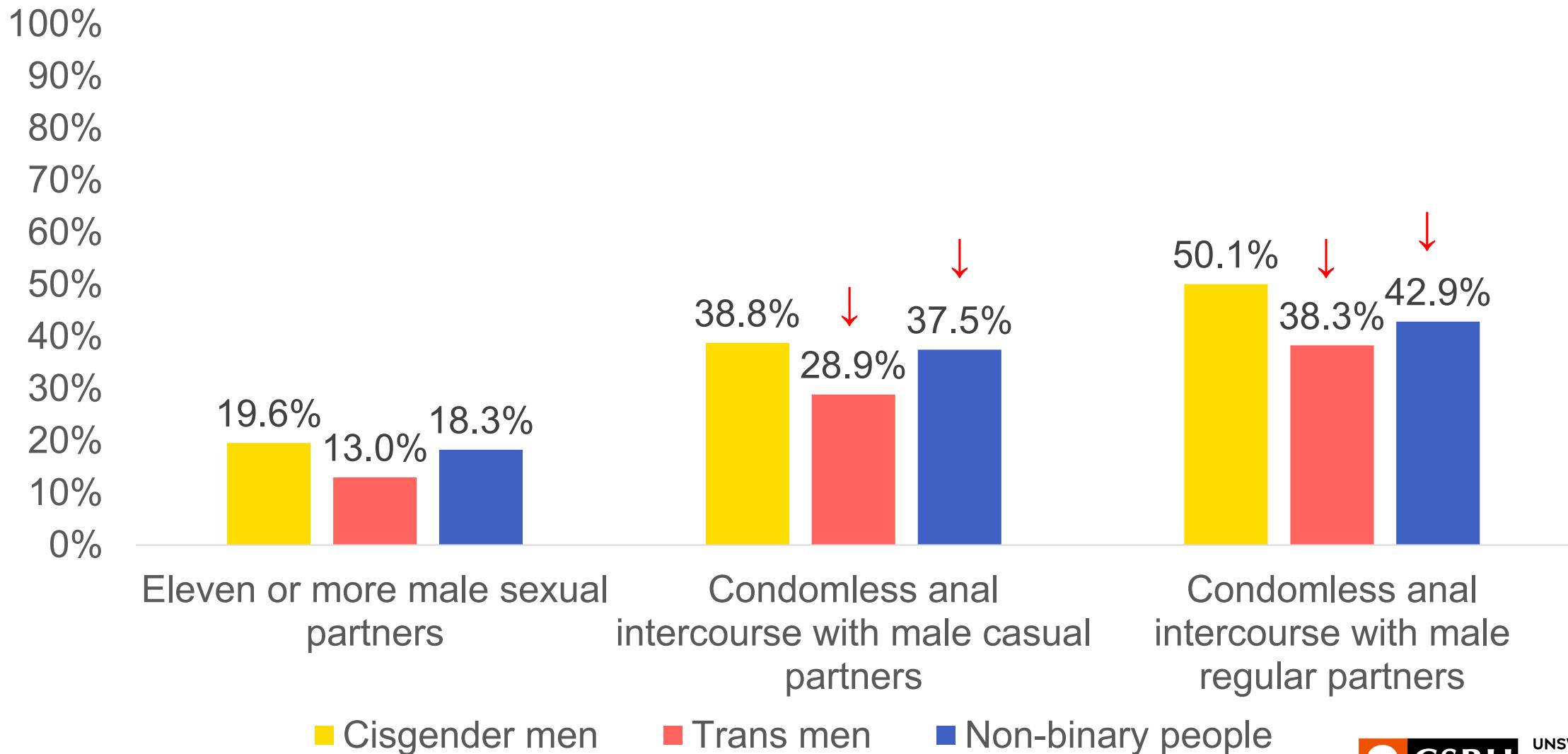
HIV Status and PrEP use



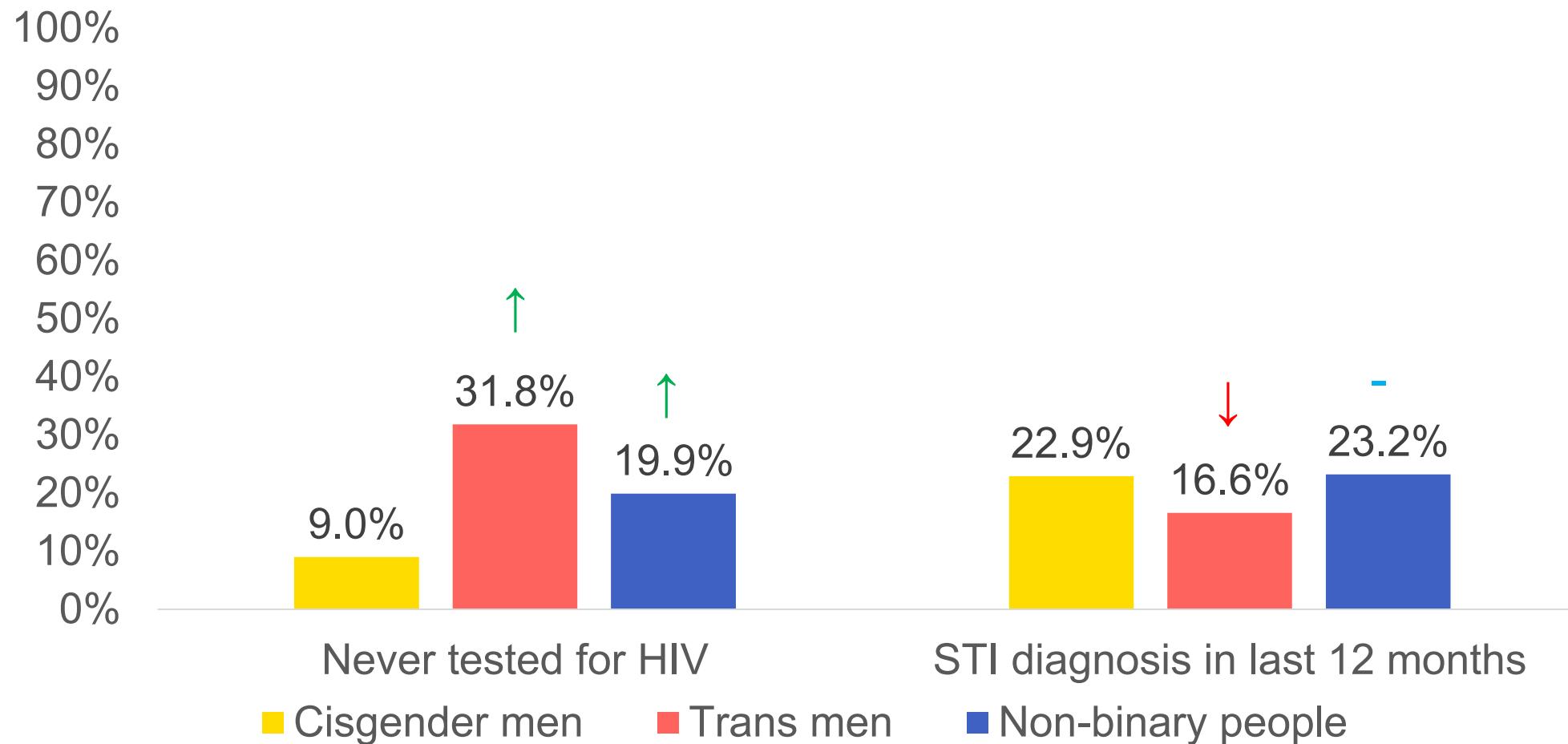
Aware of PrEP



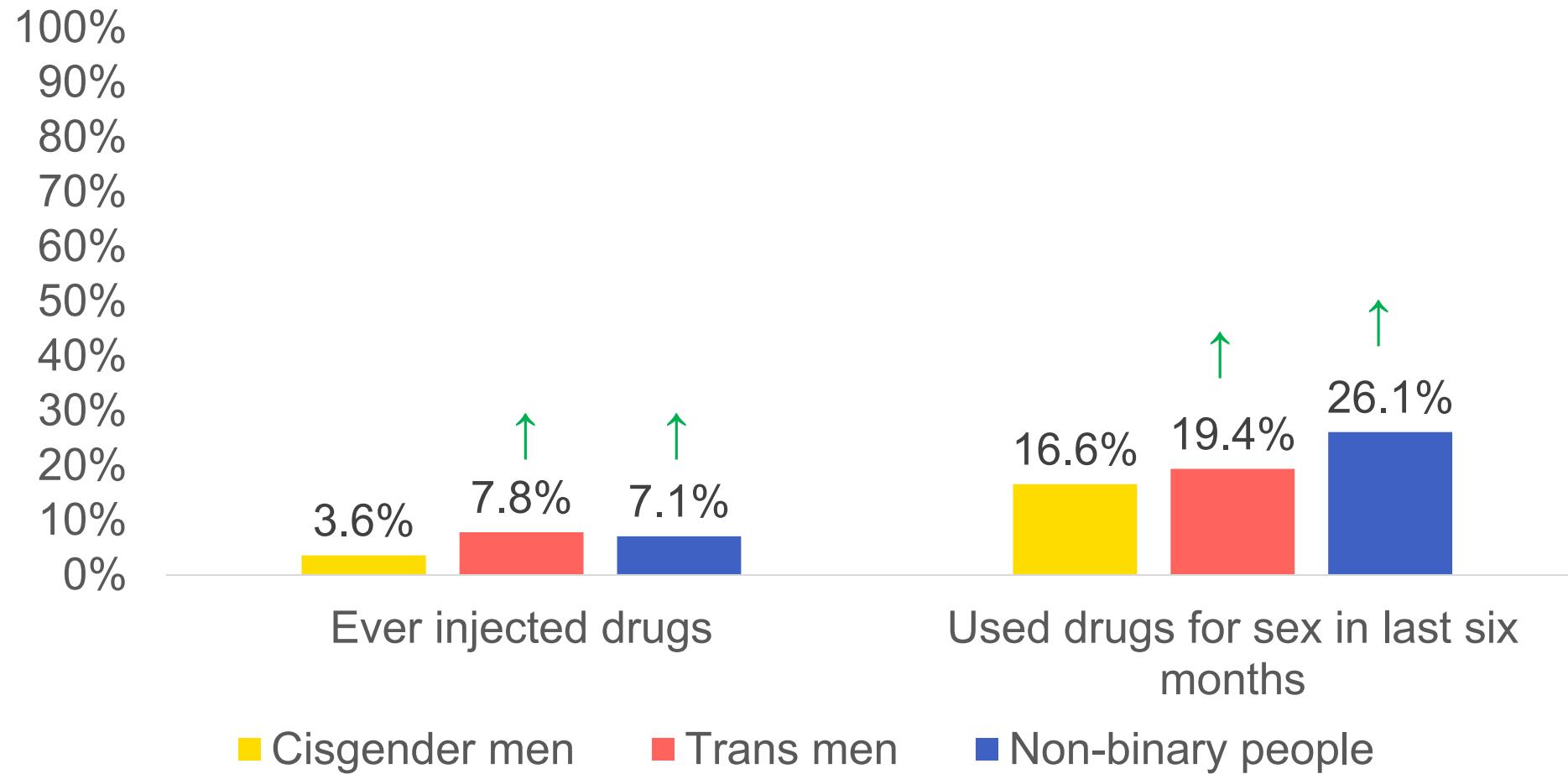
Sexual behaviour



HIV Testing and STI diagnosis in last 12 months



Drug use



Implications

Takeaways from results

Trans men and non-binary people were more likely to be younger, bisexual, pansexual, or another sexual identity, and unemployed compared to cisgender men.

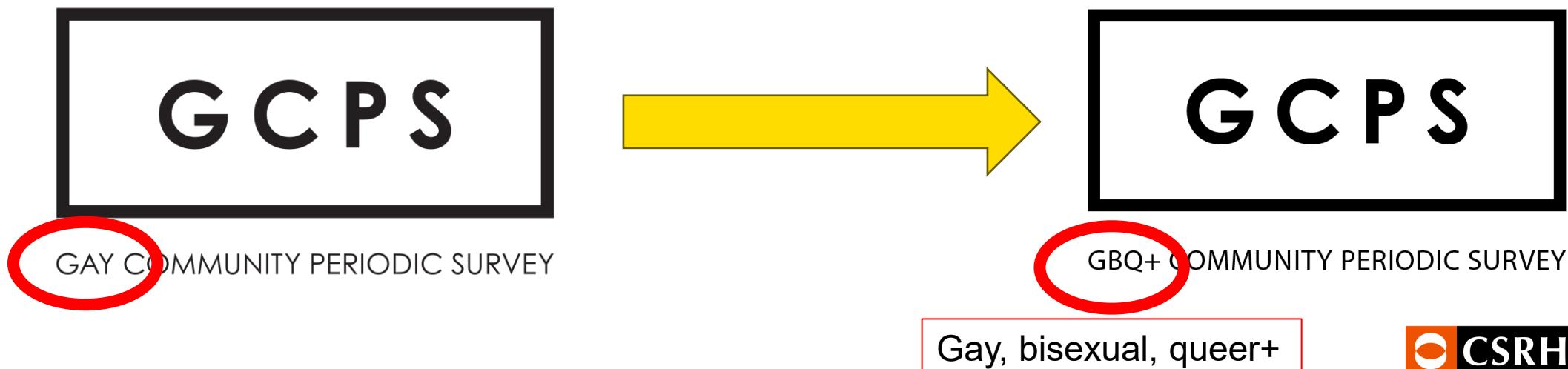
- Cost likely to be a more important barrier in accessing sexual health services for these key populations

Lower HIV testing and PrEP awareness among trans men and non-binary people

- Importance of promoting HIV prevention strategies in a gender-affirming and inclusive way

Limitations and changes to the GCPS

- Survey from 2019-2023 focused on sex with men, including legacy questions that may be difficult to answer for trans and gender diverse participants.
- GCPS changes in 2024 to be more gender and sexuality inclusive, including name change (see presentation by Anthony KJ Smith)



Future research directions



www.tgdsexualhealth.com



Link to the survey

Acknowledgments

We thank all the participants of the GCPS, including people living with HIV, and the community organisations who make recruitment possible.

The Centre for Social Research in Health, the Kirby Institute, NAPWHA, and Health Equity Matters are supported by the Australian Government Department of Health. The GCPS is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, state and territory health departments, and the National Health and Medical Research Council (GNT2002625). No pharmaceutical grants were received for this research.