

The association between violence and HIV/STI risk behavior among men who have sex with men and transgender women in Central America.

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Background

- 9.3% of DALYS are due interpersonal violence in Central America, reaching up to 11.4% and 15.2% in Guatemala and El Salvador (IHME, 2010)
- High levels of stigma/discrimination against MSM and TW lead to double burden of violence in these groups (AIDS-Alliance, 2010)
- From 2008 to 2011 826 TW have been murdered in Latin America, 90 of those (10.9%) in Central American countries (REDLACTRANS, 2012).



Objective

- To understand the association between any type of violence (psychological, verbal, physical, sexual) and behavioral outcomes that put men who have sex with men and transgender women at increased risk for HIV/STIs, including:
 - Condom use
 - Alcohol use
 - Drug use
 - STI symptoms



Location



Central América



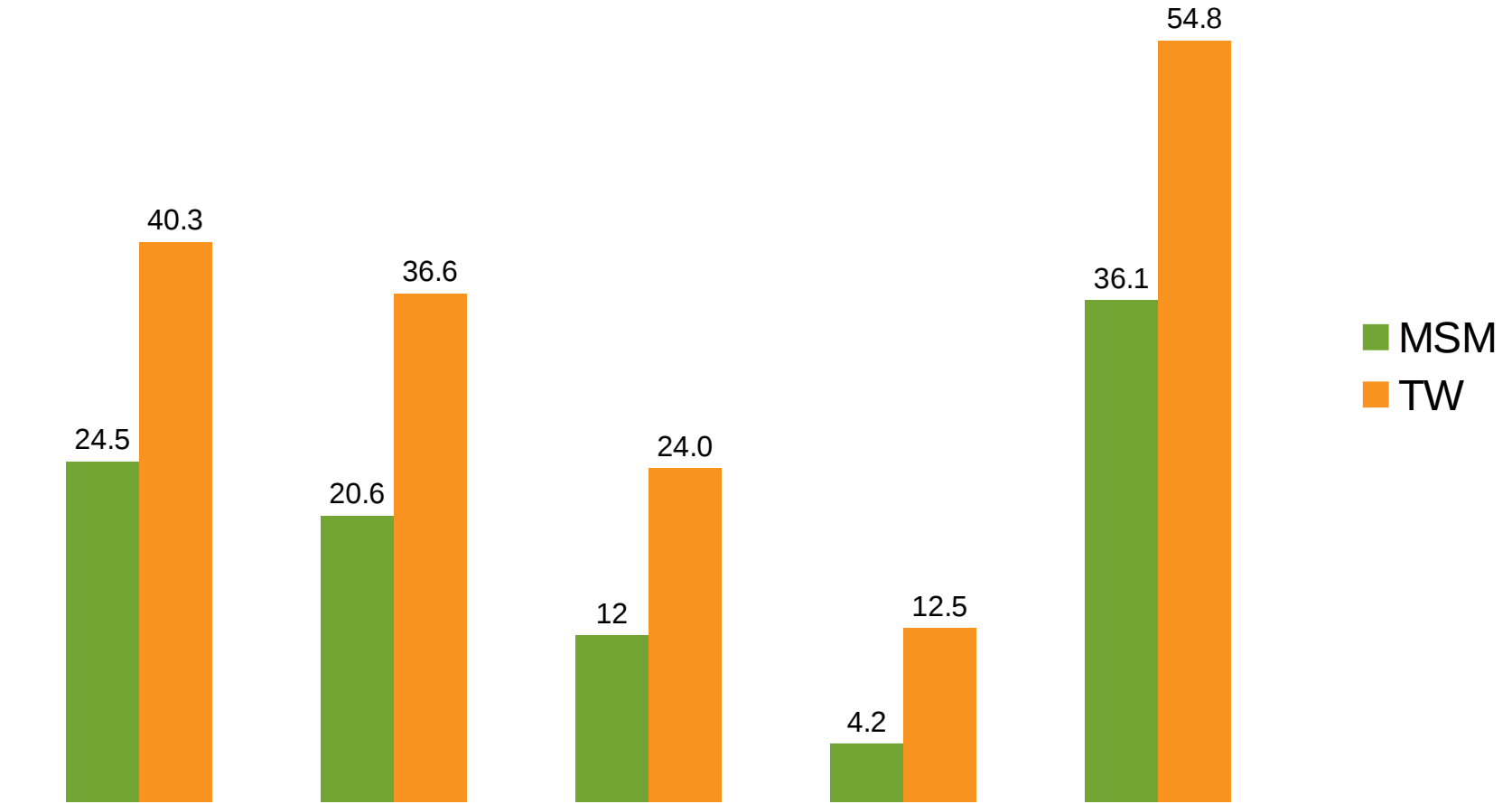
Methods

- Respondent Driven Sampling
- Analysis with pooled data testing the association b/t experiencing any form of violence and risk behavior
- N= 3,531 MSM & 418 TW
 - El Salvador: 630 MSM; 104 TW
 - Guatemala: 750 MSM; 45 TW
 - Nicaragua: 618 MSM; 164 TW
 - Costa Rica: 736 MSM; 16 TW
 - Panamá: 797 MSM; 89 TW

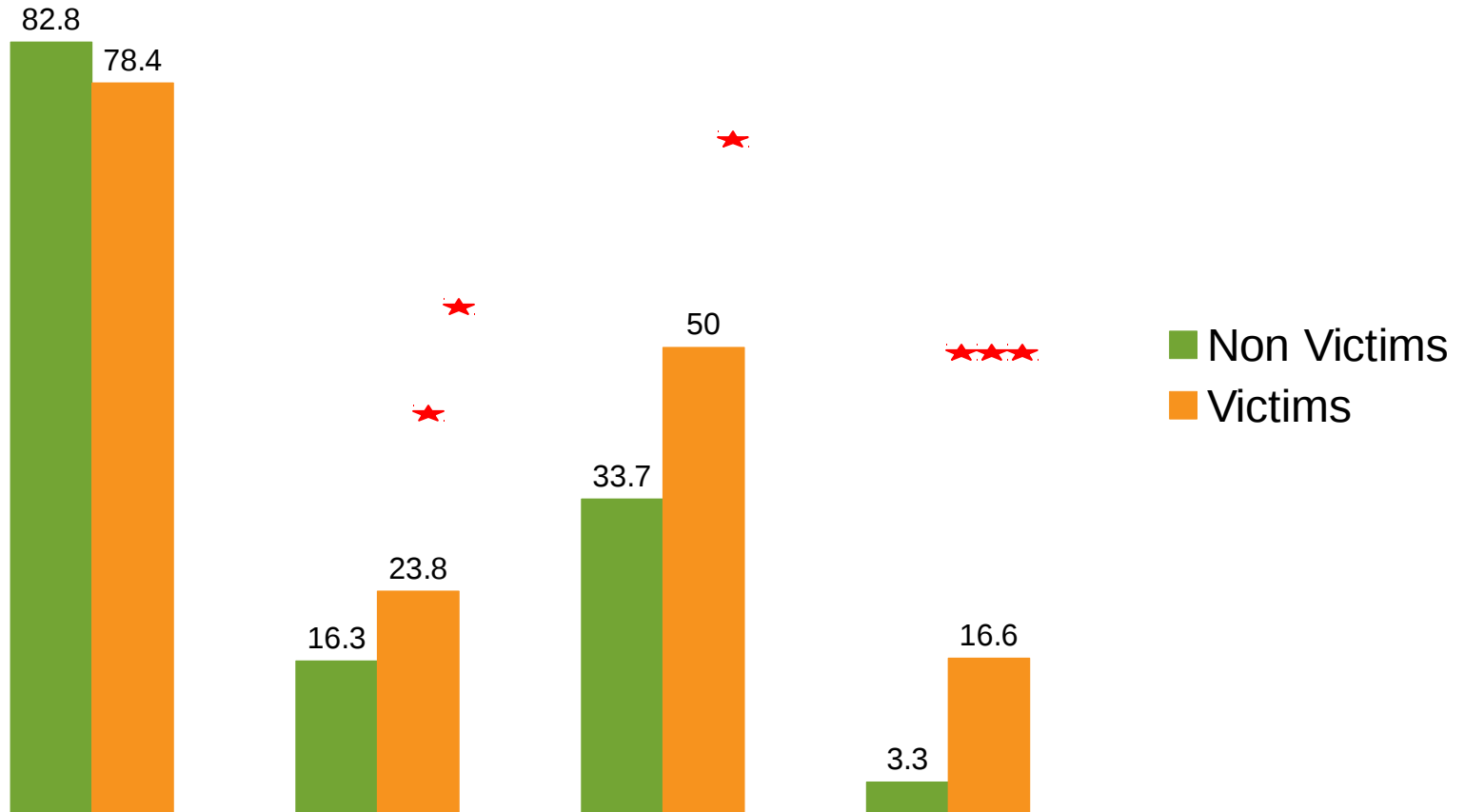
Descriptive

| | MSM | TRANSGENDER WOMEN |
|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 18-24 yrs (median) | 58.9% (23 yrs) | 59.6% (23 yrs) |
| Currently partnered | 14.6% | 17.0% |
| High School and more | 63.4% | 51.9% |
| Income at least 500 USD | 36.8% | 21.8% |

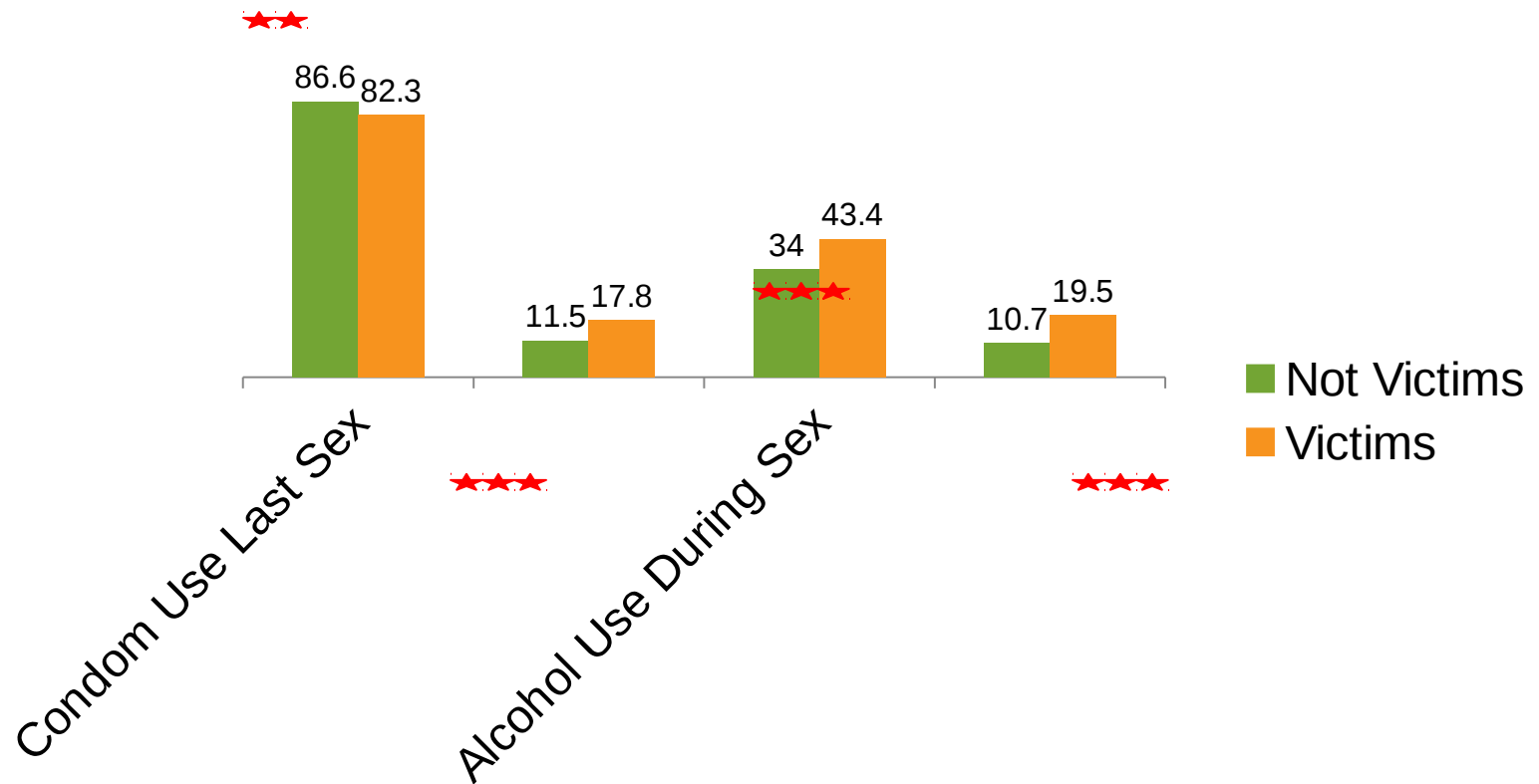
% MSM & TW experiencing violence previous year



Transgender women



Men who have sex with men





Conclusions & Recommendations

Comprehensive Health Programs towards MSM & TW should include violence reduction strategies to be more effective in combatting HIV/STI infection

PSI-PASMO through the combined prevention program is

- Giving referrals for complementary services that include violence (with more than 70 organizations)
- Developing materials with educational messages to address:
 - Violence recognition
 - Violence categorization

Program activities against violence

- In Guatemala the program is working in along with the government to restructure the law to address violence.
- Developing manuals for reducing stigma and discrimination to be used with public services providers
- Implementing workshops with journalists on stigma and discrimination reduction





Discrimination and violence prevention programs

Creation of the “generation zero” movement which is oriented to the zero discrimination in the countries:

- Addressing discrimination and violence strategies through cooperation with organizations and government, and
- A “generation zero” mass media campaign





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