
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TRANSGENDER WOMEN AND MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN REFERRED FOR HIV PARTNER SERVICES IN NEW YORK CITY: 2007-2015

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DEFINITIONS

- **Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM)**
 - Sex at Birth=Male AND Current Gender=Male AND
 - Identified by NYC HIV Surveillance as MSM AND/OR Reported Male Sex Partners in their Lifetime
 - Lifetime Number of Partners >0
 - Past 12 Months Number of Partners>0
 - Yes/No
- **Transgender Women (TW)**
 - Sex at Birth=Male
 - Current Gender=Male-to-Female Transgender (MTF) OR Female

“The high vulnerability and specific health needs of transgender people necessitate a distinct and independent status in the global HIV Response.”

-WHO 2014 CONSOLIDATED GUIDELINES ON HIV PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT, AND CARE FOR KEY POPULATIONS

BACKGROUND

Public Health Research Often...

**Combines men
who have sex
with men and
transgender
women into 1
category**

**Doesn't have a
large enough
sample size of
transgender
women**

**Neglects to include
transgender
women at all**

BACKGROUND

- **1007 Transgender Women Currently Living With HIV/AIDS in New York City as of 12/31/2014**
 - NYC HIV Surveillance
 - Most likely an underestimate
- **HIV-positive men who have sex with men and transgender women in NYC**
 - Delayed timely linkage to care and viral suppression among transgender women
 - Despite similar immunological status at diagnosis
- **Social determinants of health and HIV transmission risk behavior?**

OBJECTIVE

To assess differences in sociodemographic characteristics, HIV transmission risk behavior, and clinical status between men who have sex with men and transgender women in New York City

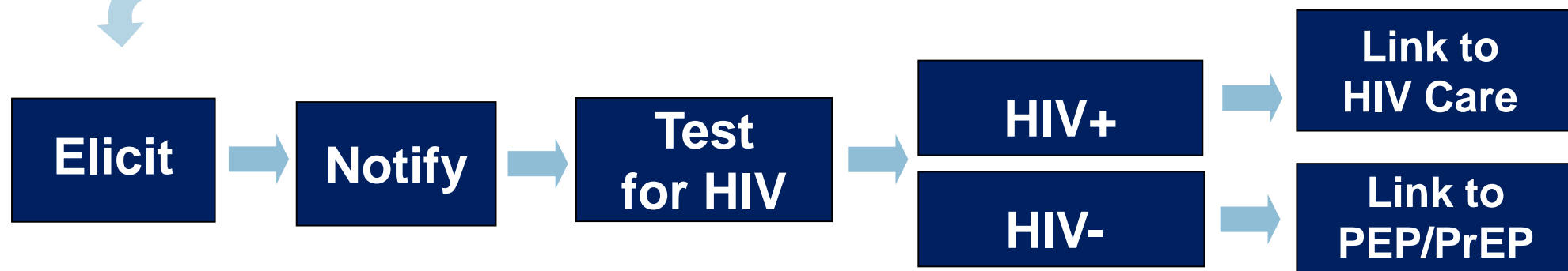


METHODS



HIV FIELD SERVICES UNIT (FSU)

- Established in 2006 to provide assistance with linkage to care and partner services for HIV-positive persons
- Disease intervention specialists interview HIV-diagnosed persons



POPULATION AND DATA SOURCES

- **Population**
 - Referred to FSU between January 2007 and December 2015
 - Newly diagnosed with HIV by a NYC provider
 - Did not receive partner services by the NYC Bureau of STD Prevention and Control
 - ≥ 13 years
 - Men who have sex with men or transgender women
 - Mutually exclusive categories
- **Data sources**
 - FSU case investigation form
 - NYC surveillance registry data

METHODS: STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

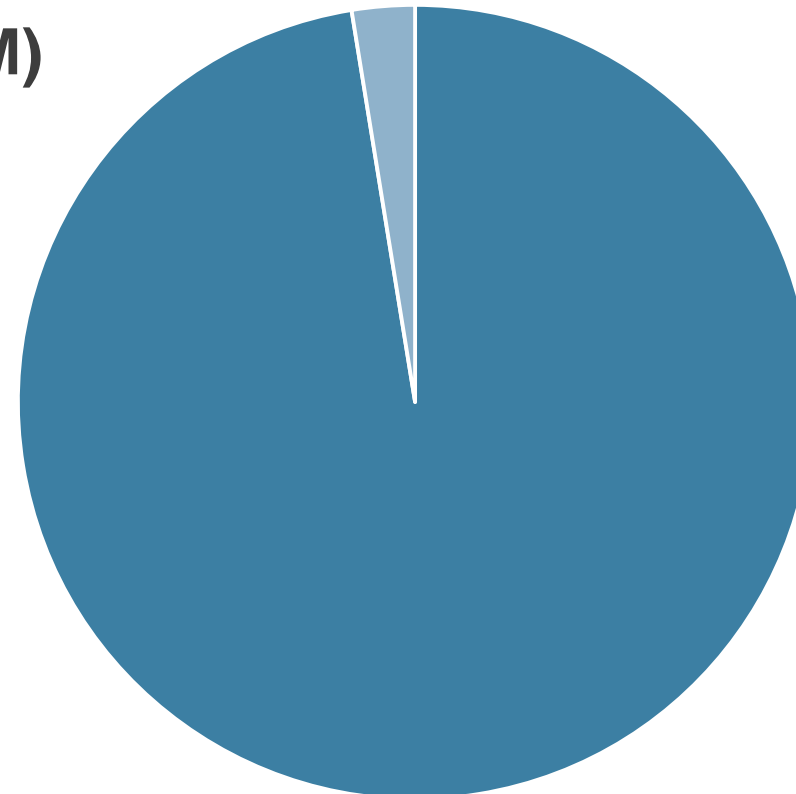
- **Bivariate statistics comparing transgender women with men who have sex with men**
- **Chi-square test of proportion and Fisher's exact test**
- **Alpha ≤ 0.05 and ≤ 0.10**
- **Statistical analysis software (SAS) version 9.3**

RESULTS

OVERALL: 2007-2015

- **Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM)**
 - 97.44%
 - N=5926
- **Transgender Women (TW)**
 - 2.56%
 - N=156

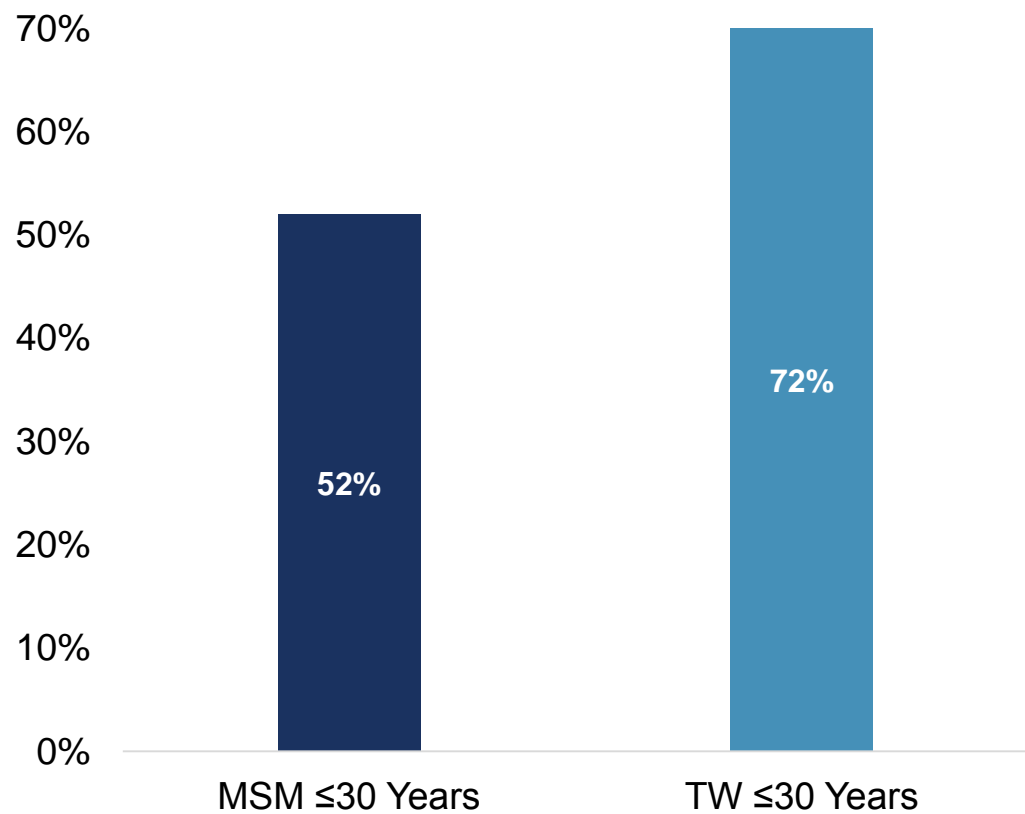
Total=6082



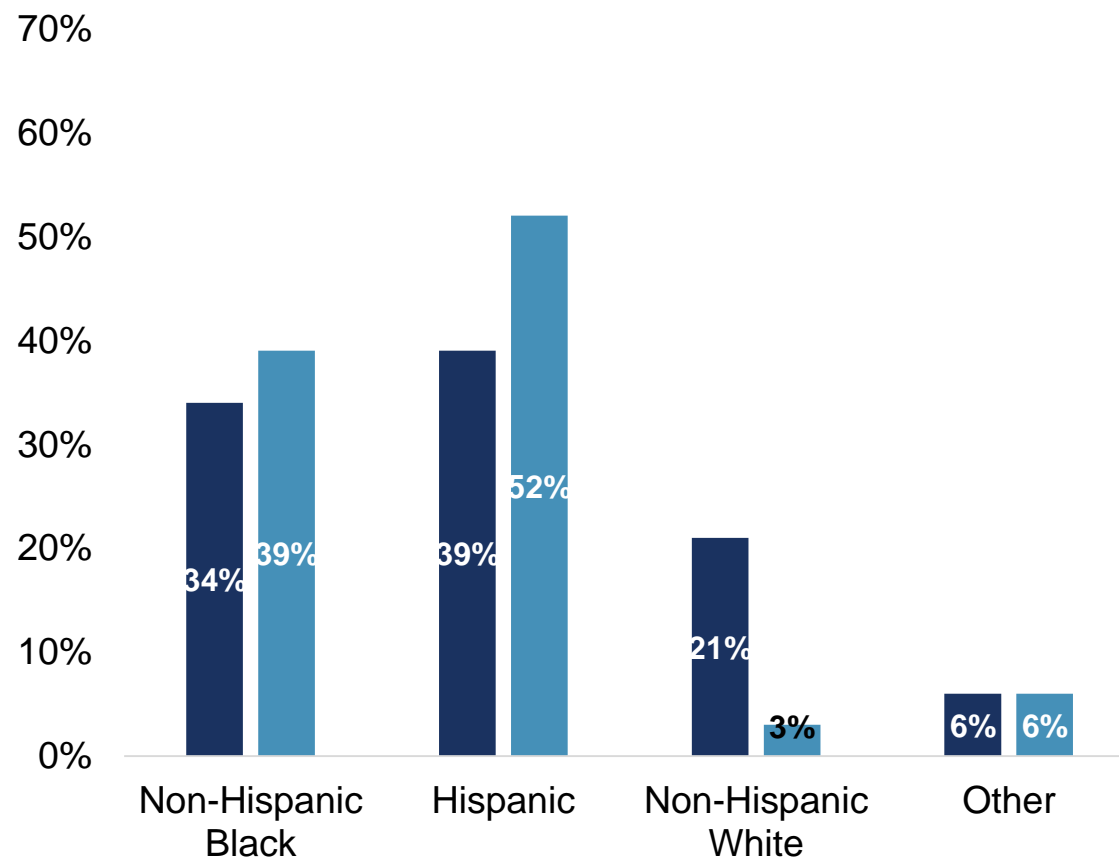
■ MSM ■ TW

COMPARED TO MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN, TRANSGENDER WOMEN WERE MORE LIKELY TO BE...

Young



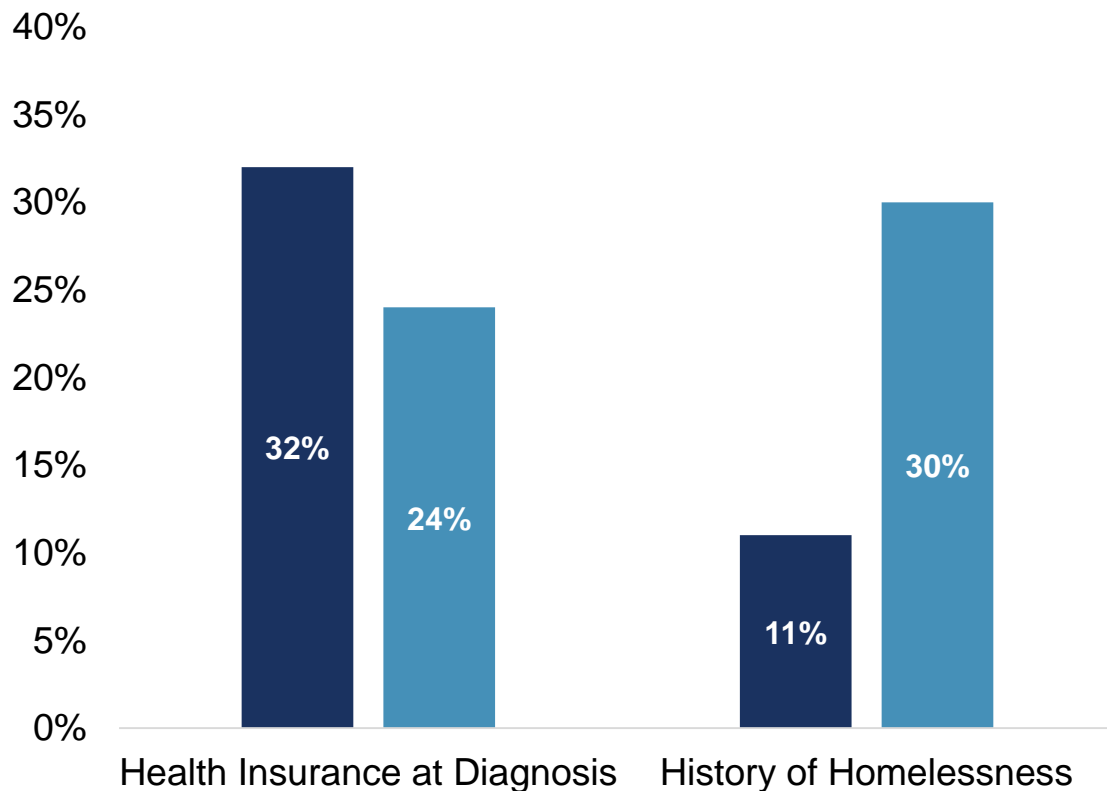
Black or Hispanic



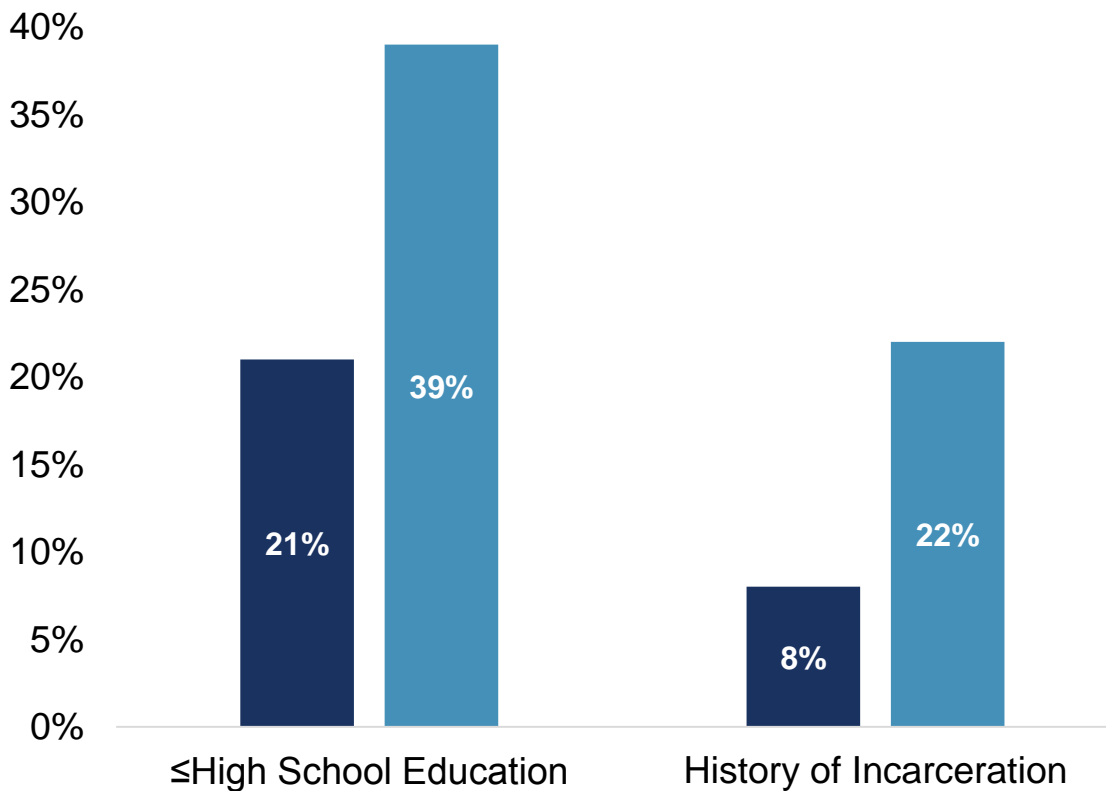
■ MSM ■ TW

COMPARED TO MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN, TRANSGENDER WOMEN WERE MORE LIKELY TO BE...

Poor

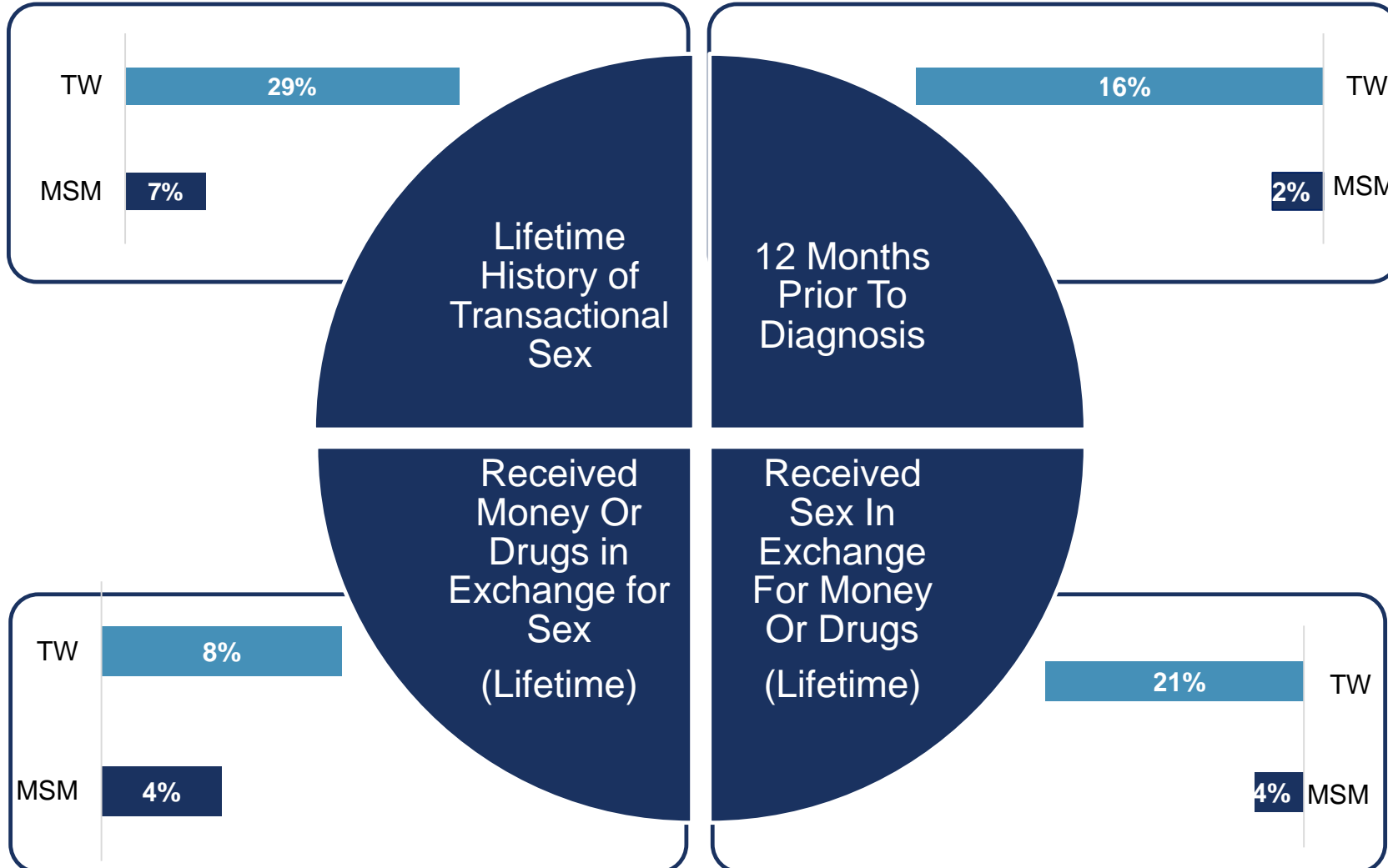


Disenfranchised

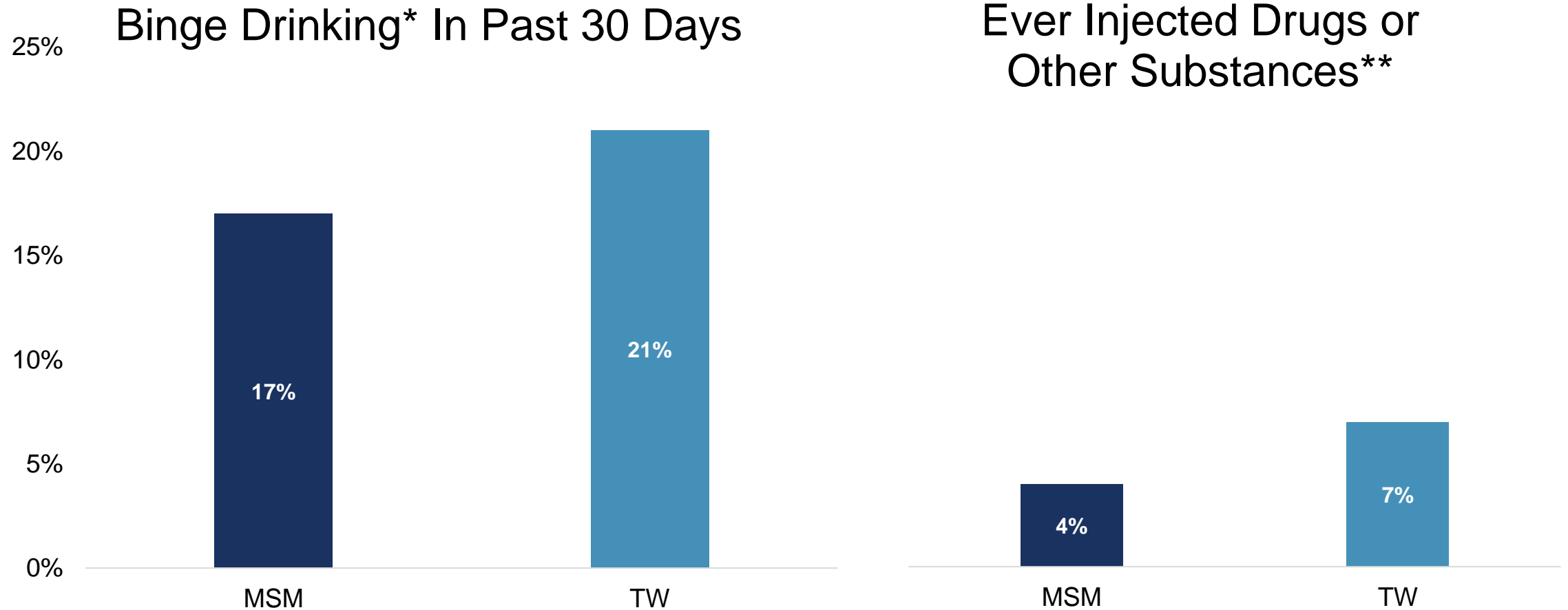


■ MSM ■ TW

COMPARED TO MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN, TRANSGENDER WOMEN ENGAGE IN TRANSACTIONAL SEX MORE OFTEN



COMPARED TO MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN, TRANSGENDER WOMEN REPORT GREATER SUBSTANCE RISK BEHAVIOR



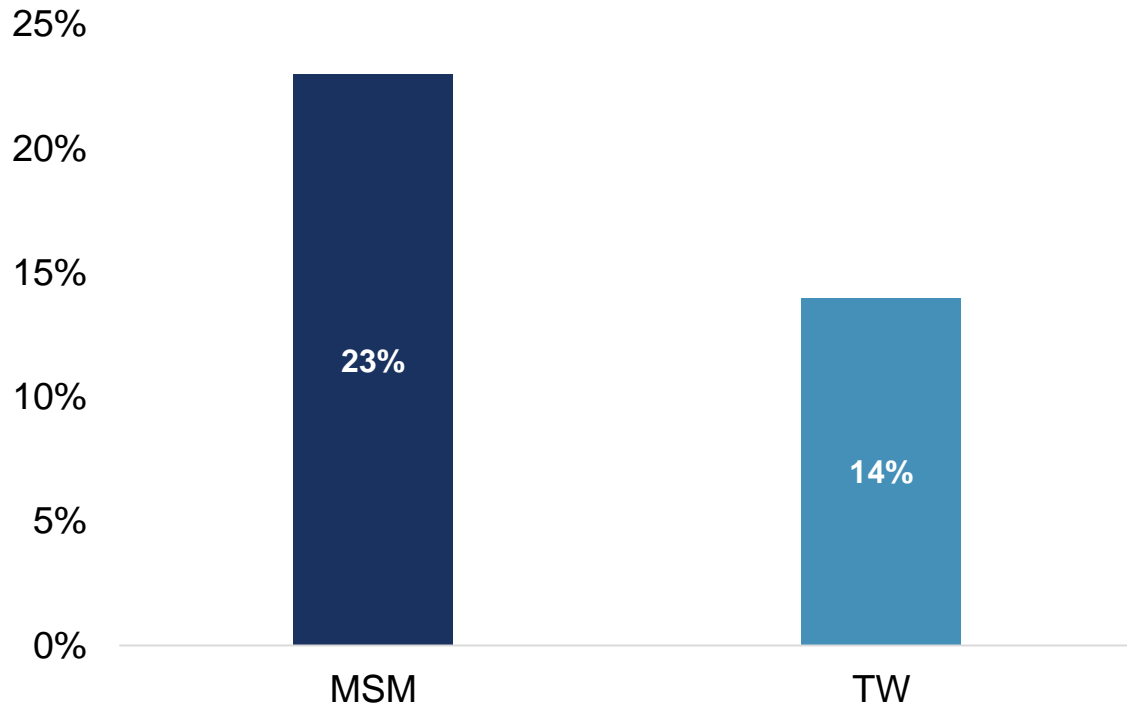
*5+ Drinks During One Occasion

**May include non-illicit substances

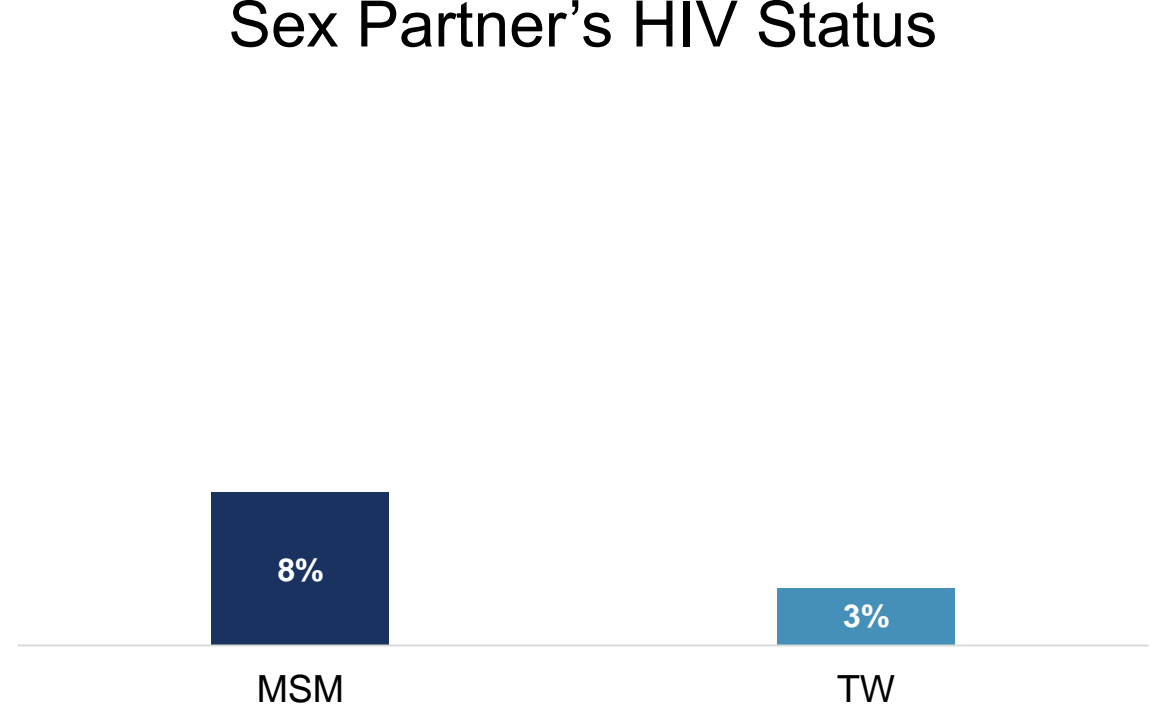
■ MSM ■ TW

COMPARED TO MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN, TRANSGENDER WOMEN ARE LESS LIKELY TO...

Report Sex With Known HIV-Positive Partner



Receive Notification of HIV Exposure or Was Informed of Sex Partner's HIV Status



COMPARED TO MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN, TRANSGENDER WOMEN ARE LESS LIKELY TO LINK TO CARE*



*0.10 Level of Significance

■ MSM ■ TW

DISCUSSION

Compared To Men Who Have Sex With Men, Transgender Women...

- **More likely to**
 - **Be young, poor, and disenfranchised**
 - **Engage in riskier sex and drug risk behavior**
- **Less likely to**
 - **Identify as non-Hispanic White**
 - **Have received notification of exposure**
 - **Report sex with a known HIV-positive person**
 - **Link to HIV-Care**
- **Several other statistically significant differences were reported**

DISCUSSION

- **Conflating men who have sex with men and transgender women together**
 - **Fails to take into account the distinctly different epidemiologic profiles**
 - **Could alienate those most at risk**
 - **Implications for HIV service delivery programs**

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THANK YOU!

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