

# Congressional Forum: HIV, Human Rights, and Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)

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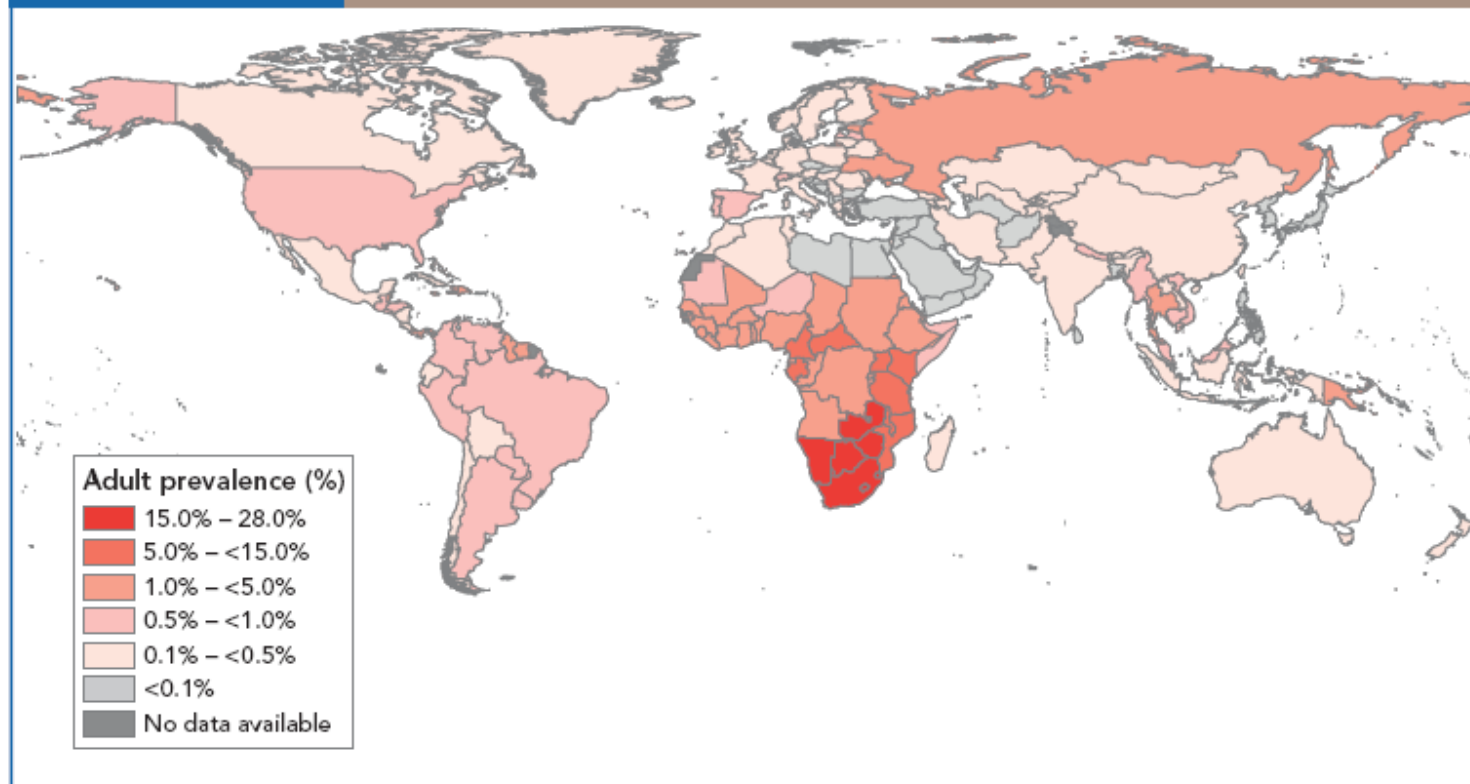
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# THE GLOBAL HIV AIDS EPIDEMIC

**FIGURE 3**

A global view of HIV infection, 2007  
33 million people [30 – 36 million] living with HIV, 2007



UNAIDS. 2008. Report on the Global HIV Epidemic. [http://data.unaids.org/pub/GlobalReport/2008/JC1511\\_GR08\\_ExecutiveSummary\\_en.pdf](http://data.unaids.org/pub/GlobalReport/2008/JC1511_GR08_ExecutiveSummary_en.pdf)

# Systematic Review of HIV among MSM in Low and Middle Income Countries (2007)

Number of Countries		Odds Ratios	95% Confidence Interval	MSM Prevalence
Region				
Latin America	15	33.3	32.3-34.2	16.1 (15.1-17.0)
Asia	7	18.7	17.7-19.7	11.4 (10.1-12.7)
<b>Africa</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.3-4.3</b>	<b>13.0 (10.6-18.1)</b>

- ❑ MSM are at high risk for being HIV infected across the lower and middle income countries of Latin America, Asia, and Africa
- ❑ Even in generalized epidemics of Africa, MSM are still at significantly increased risk of HIV infection

Baral, S. et al. Elevated Risk for HIV Infection among Men Who Have Sex with Men in Low- and Middle-Income Countries 2000–2006: A Systematic Review, *PLoS Medicine*, 2007

# HIV Prevalence Rates Among MSM West Africa

Country	Sample Size	MSM Prevalence (95% CI)	Reproductive Age Male HIV Prevalence
Senegal	943	21.6 (19.0-24.3)	0.7%
Ghana	N/A	25.0%	1.4%
Nigeria	1961	13.5 (12.0-15.0)	2.4%
Mauritania	21	19.0% (2.0-36.0)	1.2%
Cote D'Ivoire	54	18.5%	2.9%

Baral, S. et al. A Systematic Review of HIV epidemiology and risk factors among MSM in Sub-Saharan Africa 2000-2008. International AIDS Conference, Mexico City, 2008

Slide credit: Stefan Baral, MD, MPH. Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. "Burden of Infectious Diseases among MSM in Africa: Past Trends and Future Directions". PowerPoint presentation, 2009.

# HIV Prevalence Rates Among MSM Southern Africa

Country	Sample Size	MSM Prevalence (95% CI)	Reproductive Age Male HIV Prevalence
South Africa	574	15.3 (12.4-18.3)	15.89%
Zambia	641	32.9 (29.3-36.6)	15.72%
Malawi	201	21.4 (15.7-27.1)	11.46%
Namibia	218	12.4% (9.0-17.0)	10.8%
Botswana	117	19.7% (14.0-28.0)	18.1%

# ADDRESSING HIV AMONG MSM

## 1. Improve Research and Strategic Data Collection on Sexual Minorities

- Many African states do not recognize or address the needs of MSM in national HIV/AIDS prevention and control programs (Smith et al., 2009).

# ADDRESSING HIV AMONG MSM

## 2. Develop Programs and Services specific to sexual minorities

- Reports of MSM who believe they are not at risk for HIV – examples from Togo, Zambia, Kenya<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>
- Minimum Package of Services for HIV prevention among MSM<sup>4</sup>:
  - peer and outreach education,
  - distribution of condoms and lubricants,
  - use of targeted media (information, messaging and images relevant to MSM, delivered in a locally appropriate manner)
  - STI screening and treatment
  - voluntary HIV testing

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1. Geiss M, Kassegne S, V. Capo-Chichi V. 2008. *HIV prevention with men who have sex with men (MSM) in Togo, West Africa: an ethnographic study*. Presentation: 2008 International AIDS Conference, Mexico City. Population Services International.

2. Zulu K, Bulawo N, Zulu W. Understanding HIV risk behavior among men who have sex with men in Zambia. AIDS 2006 –XVI International AIDS Conference; Toronto, ON, Canada: Aug 13-18, 2006: Abstr WEPE0719.

3. Geibel S, Luchters S, King Ola N, Esu-Williams E, Rinyiru A, Tun W. 2008. Factors associated with self-reported unprotected anal sex among male sex workers in Mombasa, Kenya. *Sex Trans Dis*. 35:746-52.

4. WHO, UNDP, UNAIDS. 2009. *Health Sector Response to HIV/AIDS Among Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM): Report of the Consultation*. Hong Kong SAR (China), 18-20 February 2009.

# ADDRESSING HIV AMONG MSM

## 3. Use Evidence-Based Tools and Local Input to Develop Programs

- Make use of existing frameworks
- Locally-appropriate services and strategies
  - i.e. Use of cell phone technology, Ghana

## 4. Build Capacity among Decision-makers, Healthcare providers, and NGOs

- Clinical skills and equipment
- Education and anti-homophobia training

# ADDRESSING HIV AMONG MSM

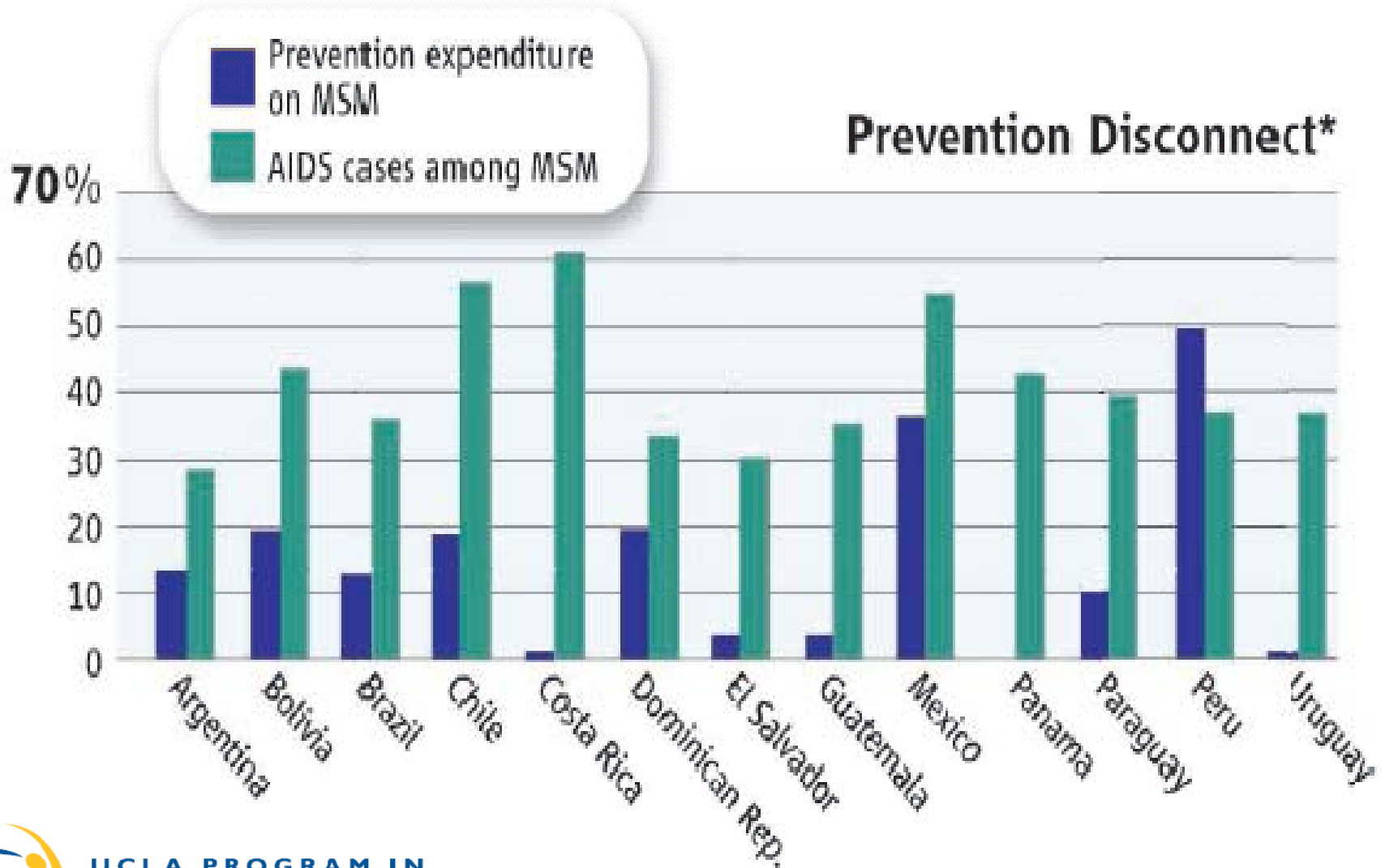
## 5. Allocate Adequate Resources to initiating and scaling-up programs for Sexual minorities

- **Disproportionate funding** allocated to addressing HIV among MSM, relative to the scale of the global epidemic
- Only 1.2% of global HIV prevention funding is targeted towards MSM (Saavedra et al., 2008).

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Saavedra J, Izazola-Licea JA, Beyrer C. 2008. Sex between men in the context of HIV: The AIDS 2008 Jonathan Mann Memorial Lecture in health and human rights. *Journal of the International AIDS Society*, 11(9): 1-7.

# Get the Simple Things Right



# ADDRESSING HIV AMONG MSM

## 6. Identify and Address Policy Reforms relevant to reaching MSM and other sexual minorities

### **Criminalization laws**

- In 2009, 80 Countries worldwide had criminal laws against same-sex acts between consenting adult men (ILGA, 2009).
- Homosexual acts are punishable by death in five countries – Mauritania, Sudan, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, as well as in regions of Nigeria and Somalia (ILGA, 2009).

### **Other laws**

- Age of consent laws, loitering/public nuisance acts
- Affirmative laws needed to protect PLWHA and MSM from discrimination, violence and harassment

# ADDRESSING HIV AMONG MSM

## 7. Improve Monitoring and Evaluation

- Establish clear targets
- Report at a minimum on the 5 UNGASS indicators relevant to MSM
- A review of 2008 UNGASS Progress reports found that
  - Almost half of the 128 country reports analyzed did not report any information at all on MSM – including seven of the 15 designated PEPFAR Focus Countries
  - A mere 32% reported on HIV sero-prevalence among MSM (amfAR, 2008).

# ADDRESSING HIV AMONG MSM

## 8. Develop Local Partnerships and Strengthen Advocacy Initiatives

- Facilitate meaningful participation of MSM
  - Address laws, policies and regulations that prohibit MSM groups from registering as non-governmental organizations, which prevents funding flows and hinder advocacy efforts
  - Stigma hinders meaningful MSM participation in National HIV Control Planning Bodies
- Strengthening Global Networks
- **MSM are not voiceless** – but in many cases, they simply are not heard.

## WAY FORWARD

- President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
- Foreign Relations Authorization Act (H.R. 2410)

Looking ahead:

- Foreign Assistance Reform
- Global Health Initiative

# WHY IT MATTERS

## Public Health

- Data increasingly demonstrates the heterogeneity of the global HIV epidemic
- Addressing most-at-risk populations critical to overall success

## Human Rights

- “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”
- UN Statement on Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity