

# National HIV Behavioral Surveillance among Transgender Women (NHBS-Trans)

## Surveillance Special Report



[HIV Infection, Risk, Prevention, and Testing Behaviors Among Transgender Women—National HIV Behavioral Surveillance, 7 U.S. Cities, 2019–2020. HIV Surveillance Special Report 27.](#)



# **Project Description**

# NHBS-Trans, 2019-2020

- **Goal: conduct an HIV-related bio-behavioral survey to monitor behavioral risks, prevention usage, and HIV prevalence**



**Transgender women**



**Minority HIV/AIDS Fund  
(formerly Secretary's Minority AIDS Initiative Fund)**

# NHBS-Trans project areas, 2019-2020

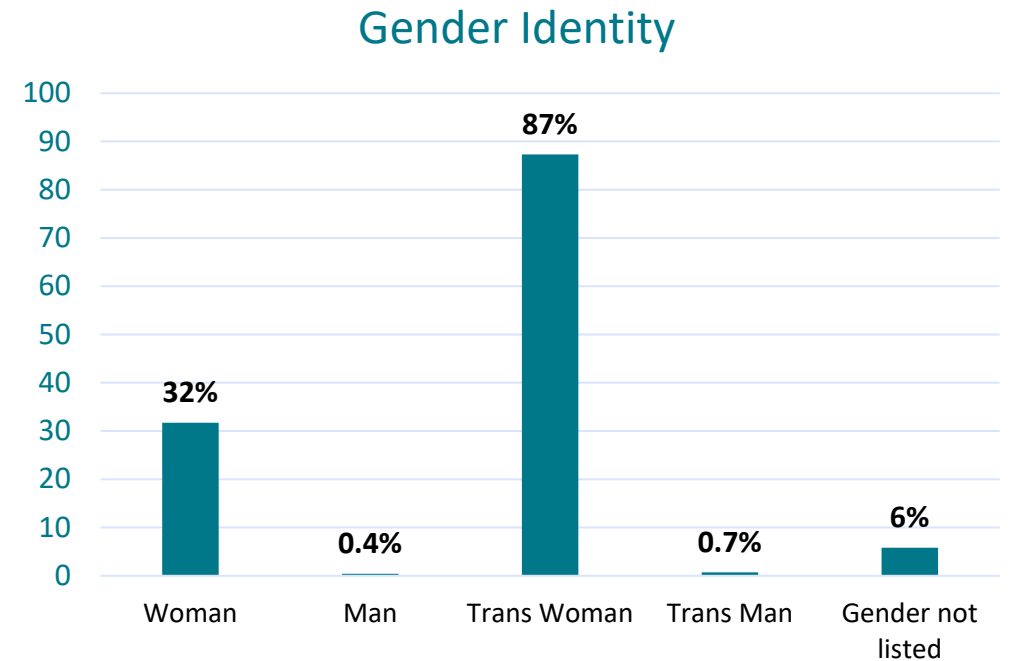
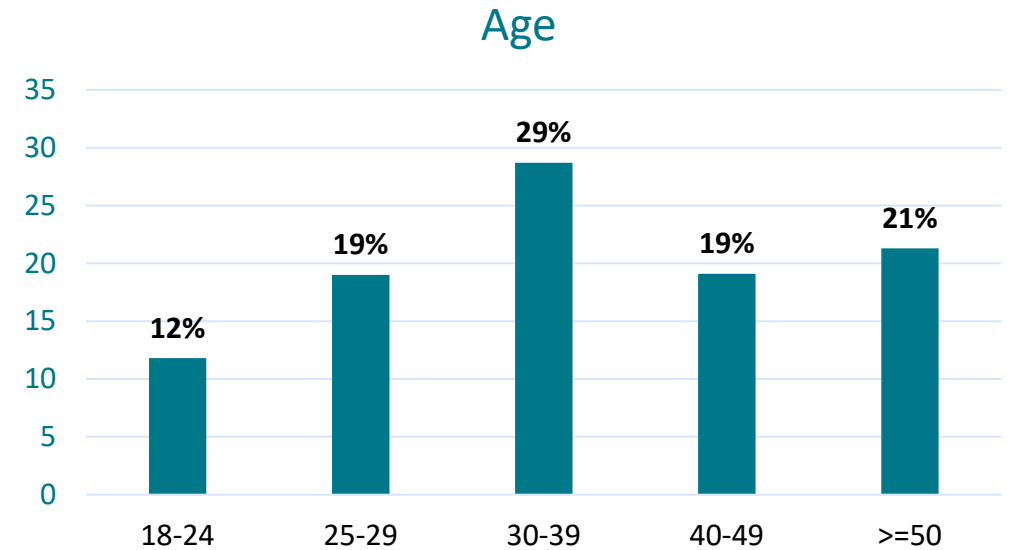




**Results**

# Demographics, n=1,608

Race/Ethnicity	
American Indian/Alaska Native	1%
Asian	2%
Black/African American	35%
Hispanic/Latina	40%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	3%
White	11%
Multiple Races	8%



# Socioeconomic factors



63%

were living at or below the Federal poverty level\*

42%

experienced homelessness in the past 12 months

34%

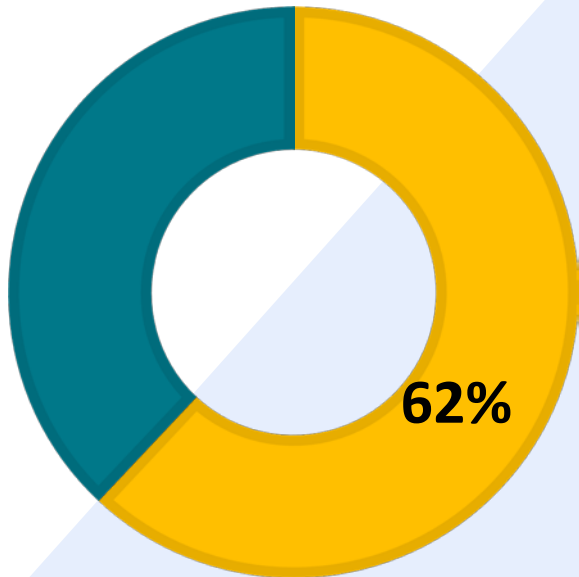
exchanged sex for money or drugs in the past 12 months

\*HHS poverty guidelines: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2018-01-18/pdf/2018-00814.pdf>

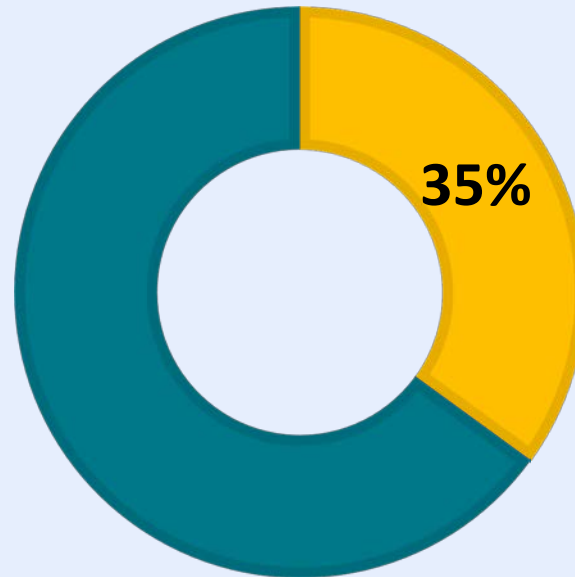
# 42%

**tested positive for HIV**

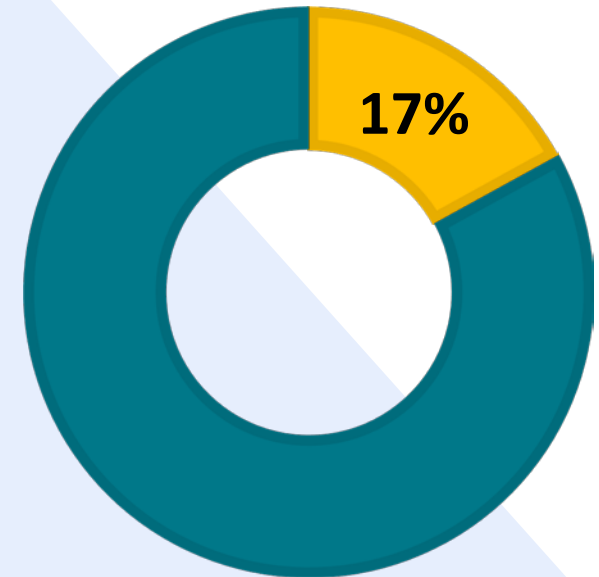
including



**of Black/African American  
participants**



**of Hispanic/Latina  
participants**

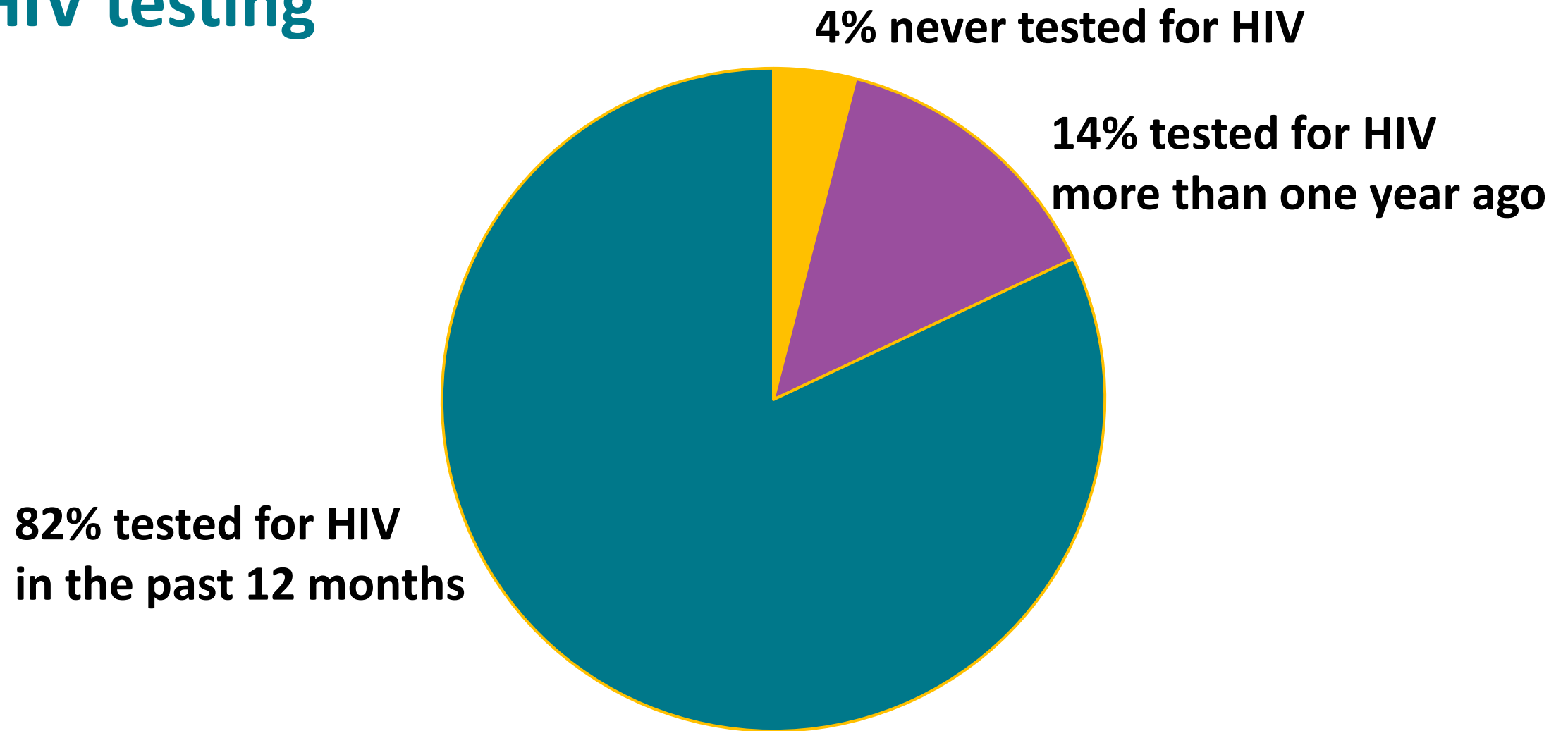


**of White  
participants**

Data include all participants with a valid NHBS HIV test result.

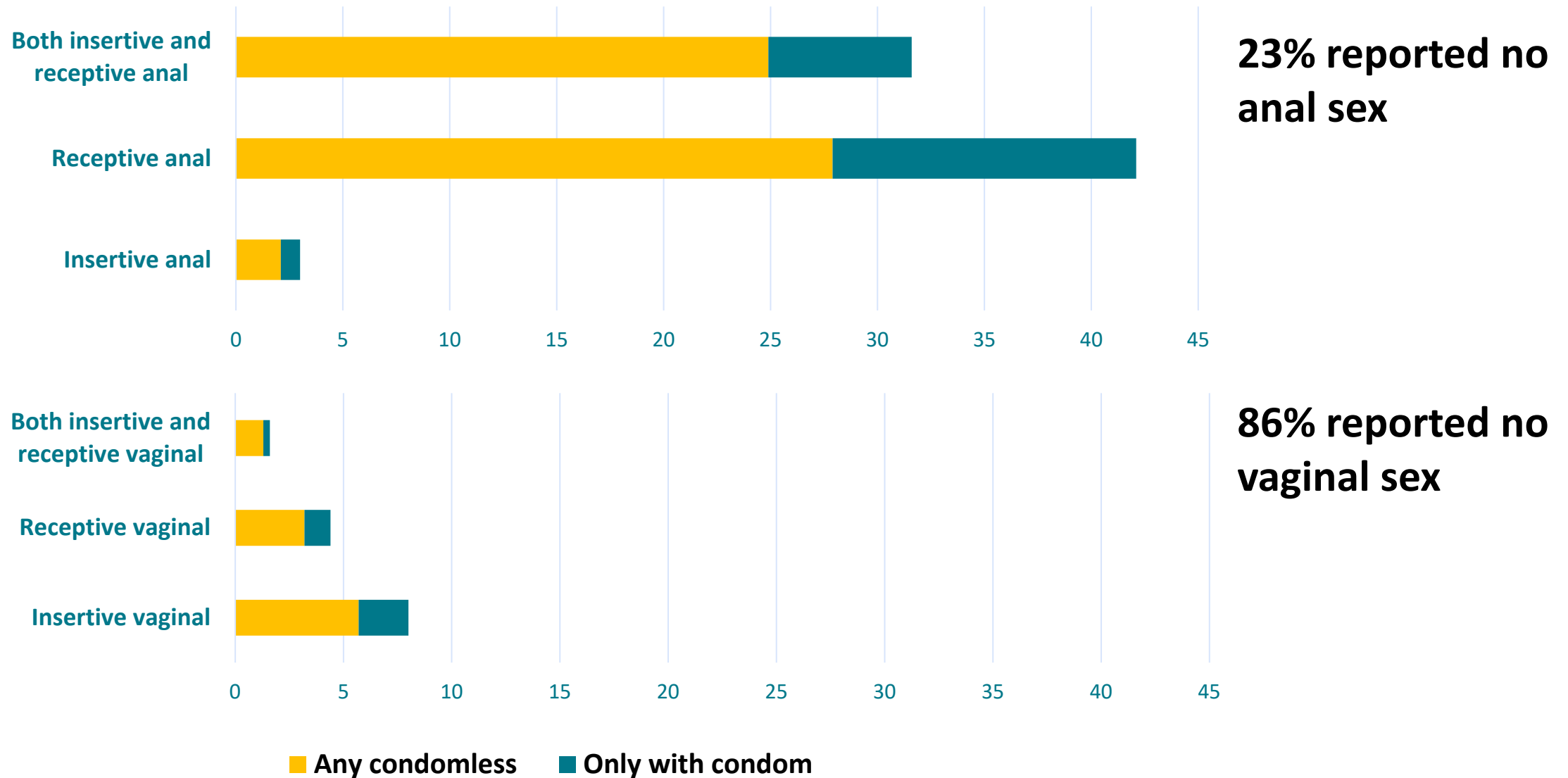


# HIV testing

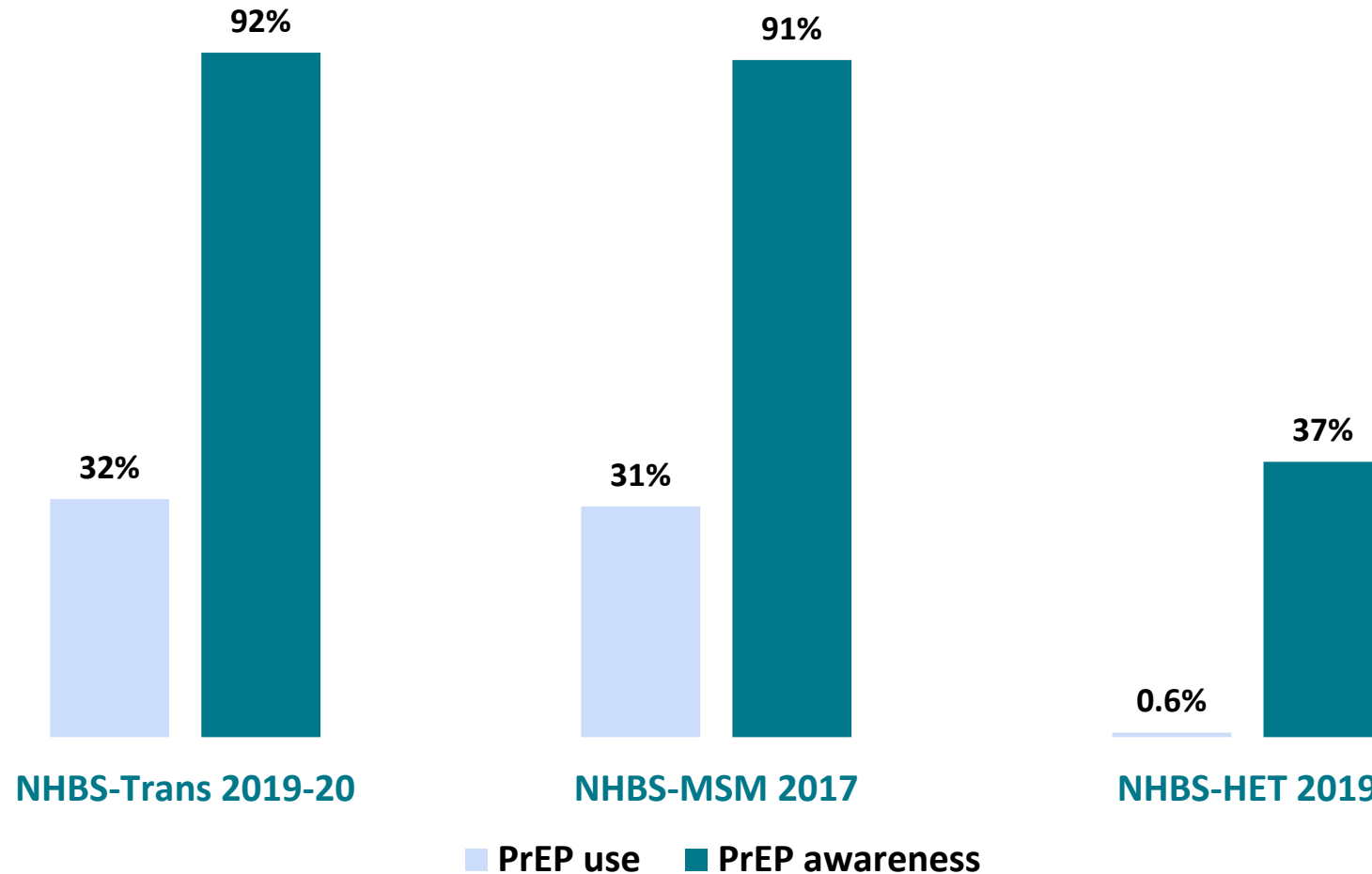


Data include all participants who did not report a previous HIV-positive test result and participants who received their first HIV-positive test result less than 12 months before interview.

# Sex behaviors in the past 12 months



# Preexposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) use and awareness among HIV-negative participants

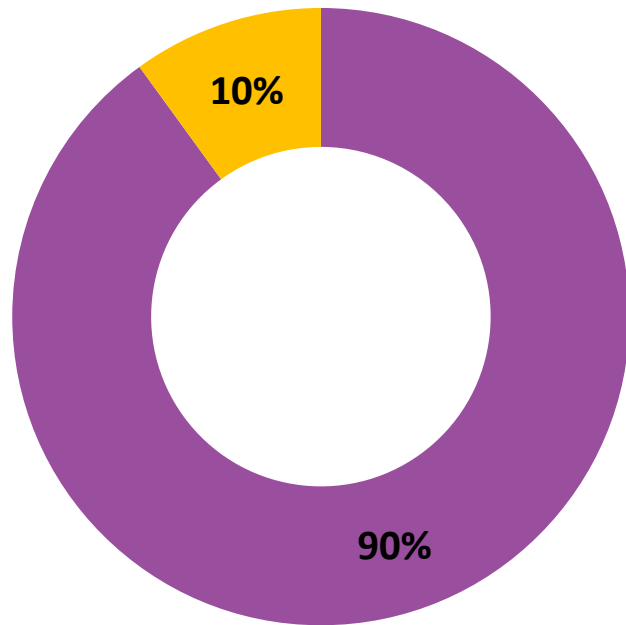


NHBS-MSM 2017: [HIV Infection Risk, Prevention, and Testing Behaviors Among Men Who Have Sex With Men—National HIV Behavioral Surveillance, 23 U.S. Cities, 2017](#)

NHBS-HET 2019: [HIV Infection, Risk, Prevention, and Testing Behaviors among Heterosexually Active Adults at Increased Risk for HIV Infection—National HIV Behavioral Surveillance: 23 U.S. Cities, 2019](#)

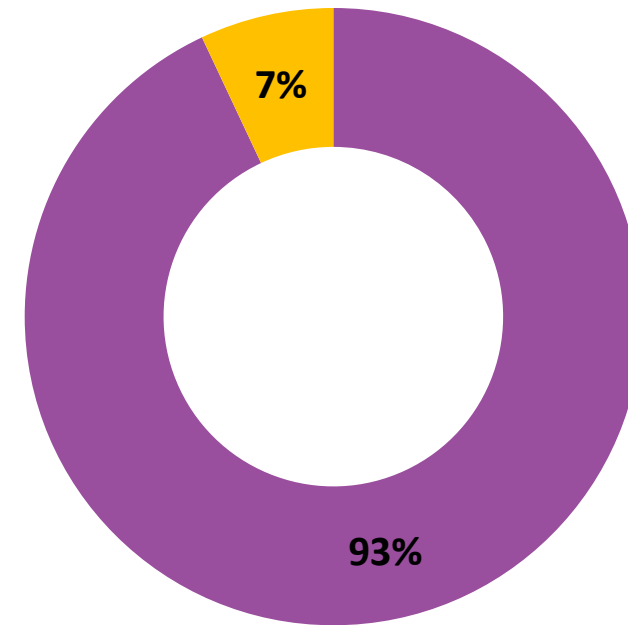
# Currently taking antiretrovirals (ART)

NHBS-Trans 2019-20



■ Currently taking ART ■ Not currently taking ART

Medical Monitoring Project 2018-19

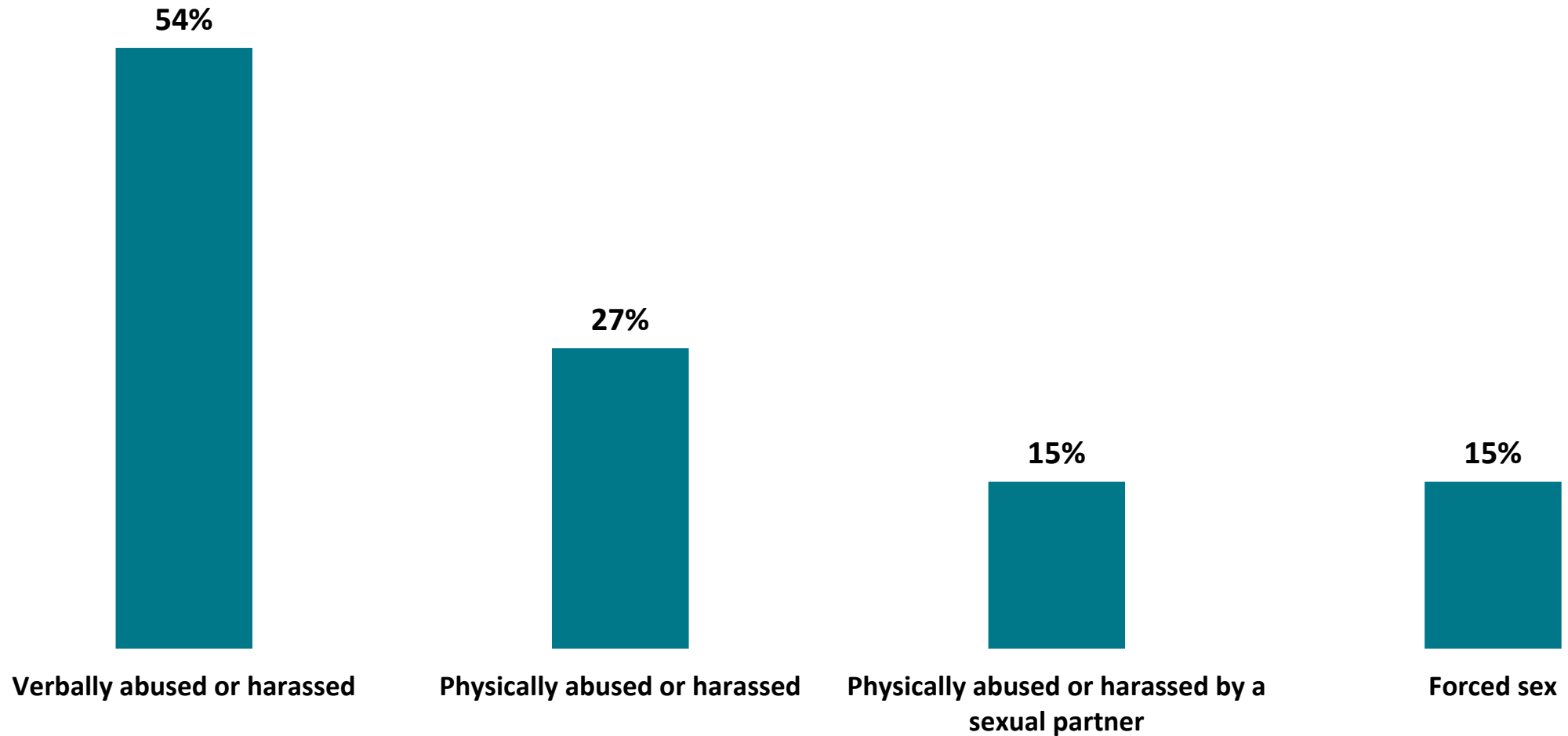


■ Currently taking ART ■ Not currently taking ART

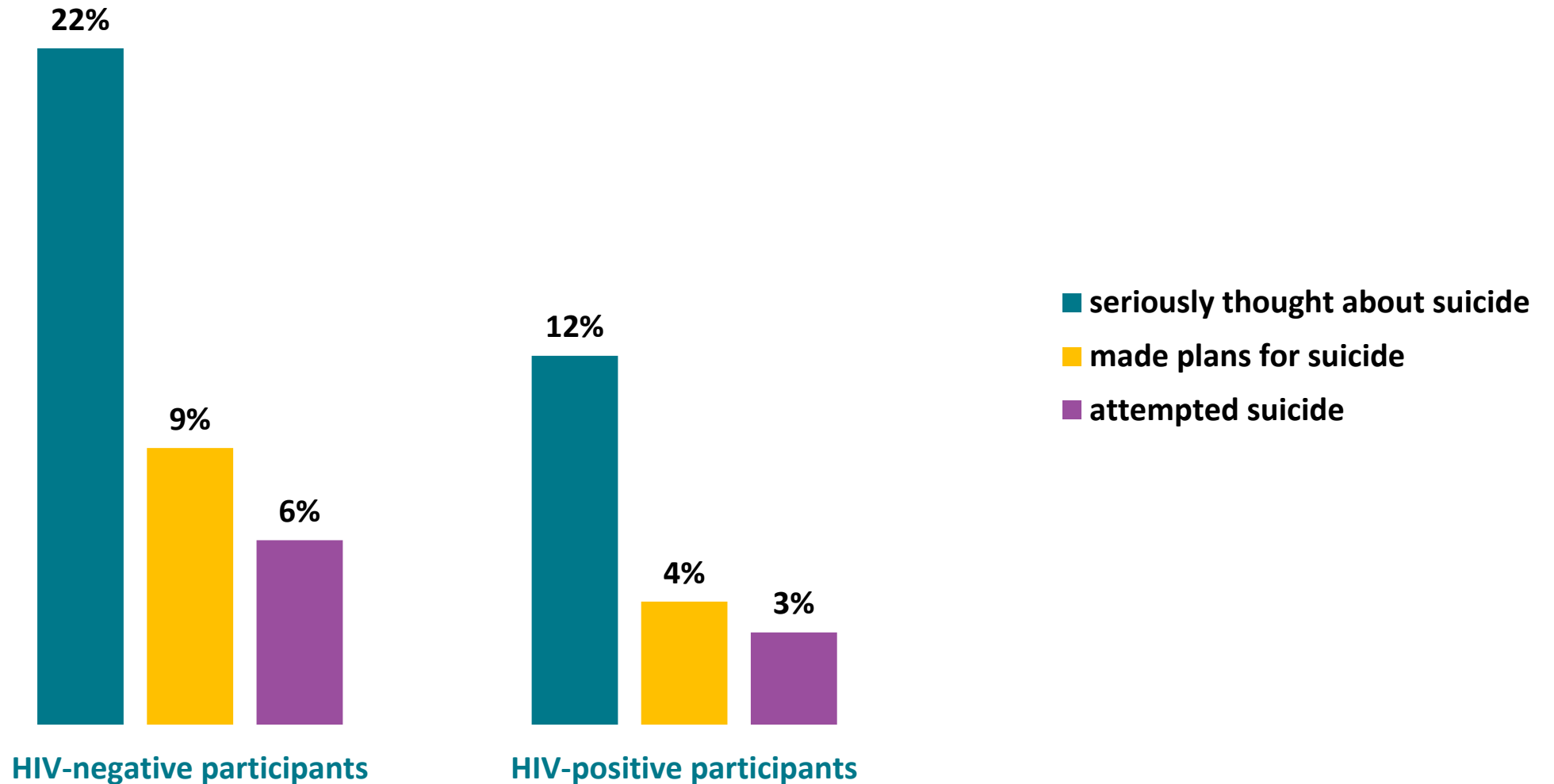
# Hormone use for gender affirmation



# Abuse and harassment in the past 12 months



# Suicidal ideation and behavior in the past 12 months





# Key Takeaways

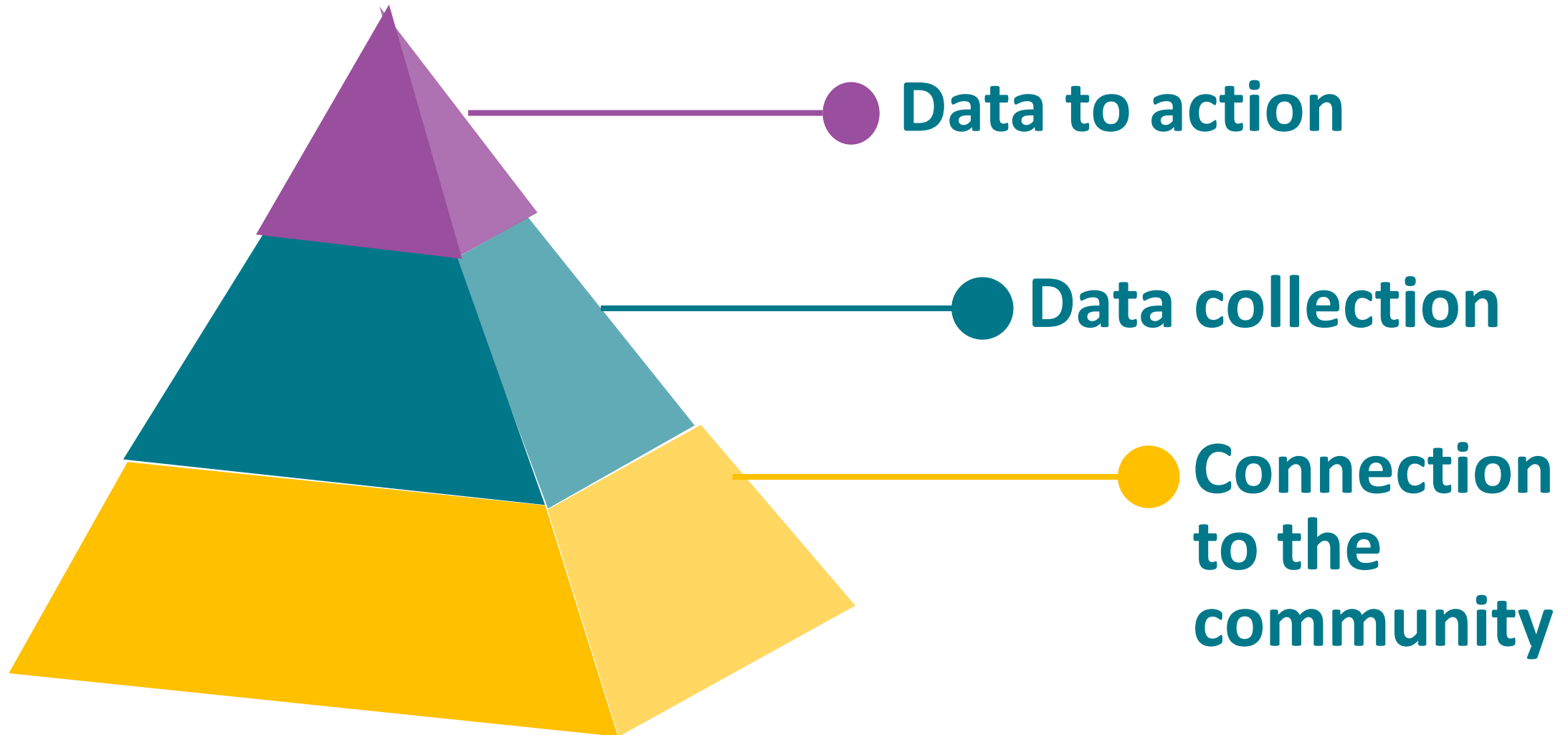


# What did we learn in NHBS-Trans?

- **Transgender women need to be a priority population**
- **HIV prevalence was high**
  - Result of complex layering of syndemics\*
  - Social and economic factors

\*Singer M, Bulled N, Ostrach B, Mendenhall E. Syndemics and the biosocial conception of health. Lancet. 2017 Mar 4;389(10072):941-950.

# The need for a strong foundation

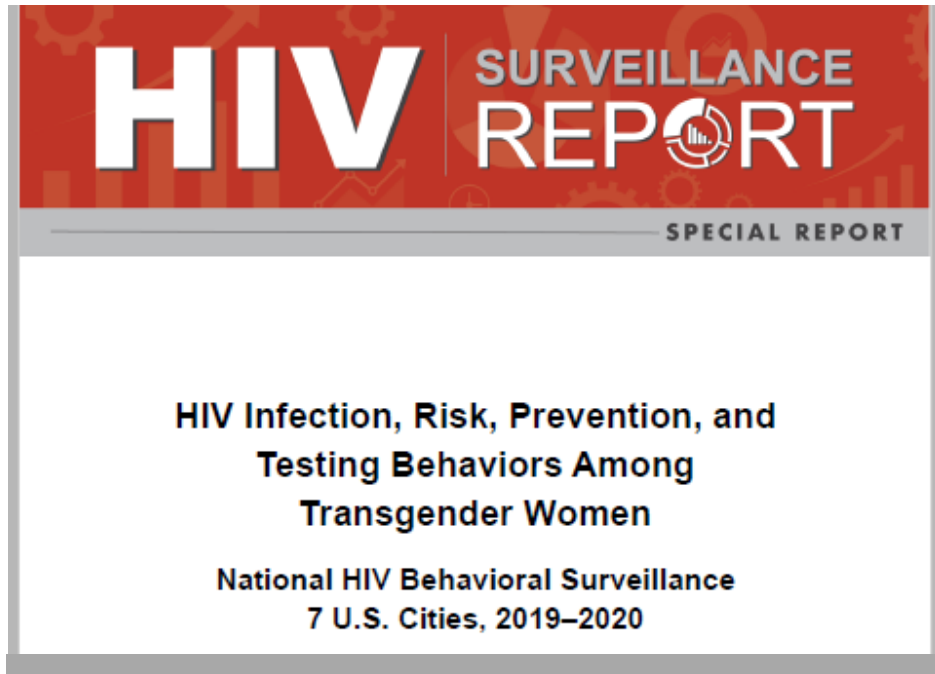


# Transgender and gender non-conforming (TGNC) staff integration

- **Project site staff included TGNC people at nearly every level**
- **Benefits to the project**
  - Community buy-in
  - Provide same-day, Community Advisory Board-level insights
- **Benefits to communities**
  - Employment and training opportunities to people in communities disproportionately impacted by unemployment, low income, and job discrimination
  - Over 20 TGNC staff across all project sites
  - Many transitioned to full-time employment after NHBS-Trans



# Data Dissemination



**PED0884**

SYNDEMIC PSYCHOSOCIAL FACTORS ARE BARRIERS TO THE HIV CARE CONTINUUM AMONG TRANS WOMEN IN SAN FRANCISCO

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Transgender Health, Ahead of Print |

normal

# Disparities in Sexually Transmitted Infection Testing and the Need to Strengthen Comprehensive Sexual Health Services for Trans Women

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<https://tcher.cc>

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- Philadelphia, PA: Kathleen A. Brady, Tanner Nassau, Andrea Harrington
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The findings and conclusions in this presentation are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control And Prevention.

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