

HIV and gay men and other men who have sex with men



2023 GLOBAL AIDS UPDATE FACTSHEET

Gay men and other men who have sex with men are one of the populations that are disproportionately affected by HIV. In 2022, HIV prevalence among gay men and other men who have sex with men was 11 times higher than among adults in the general population (aged 15–49 years).¹

Criminalization of same-sex relationships, stigma and discrimination, and violence based on sexual orientation remain significant barriers to accessing HIV prevention, testing and treatment, and to ensuring health for all without discrimination. These barriers drive the significant disparity in health outcomes, and lead to the denial of social justice and equality for gay men and other men who have sex with men.

In numbers

Global median HIV prevalence among gay men and other men who have sex with men is 7.7% ranging from 0% and 41.2% (87 reporting countries), which is much higher than the estimated global prevalence of 0.7% in the adult (aged 15–49 years) population. The global median prevalence among gay men and other men who have sex with men aged under 25 years is 4.9%, and 10.5% among those aged 25 years and over (50 reporting countries).

Antiretroviral therapy coverage is low among gay men and other men who have sex with men, with a global median of 78.3%, ranging from 1.3 to 97.9% (44 reporting countries).

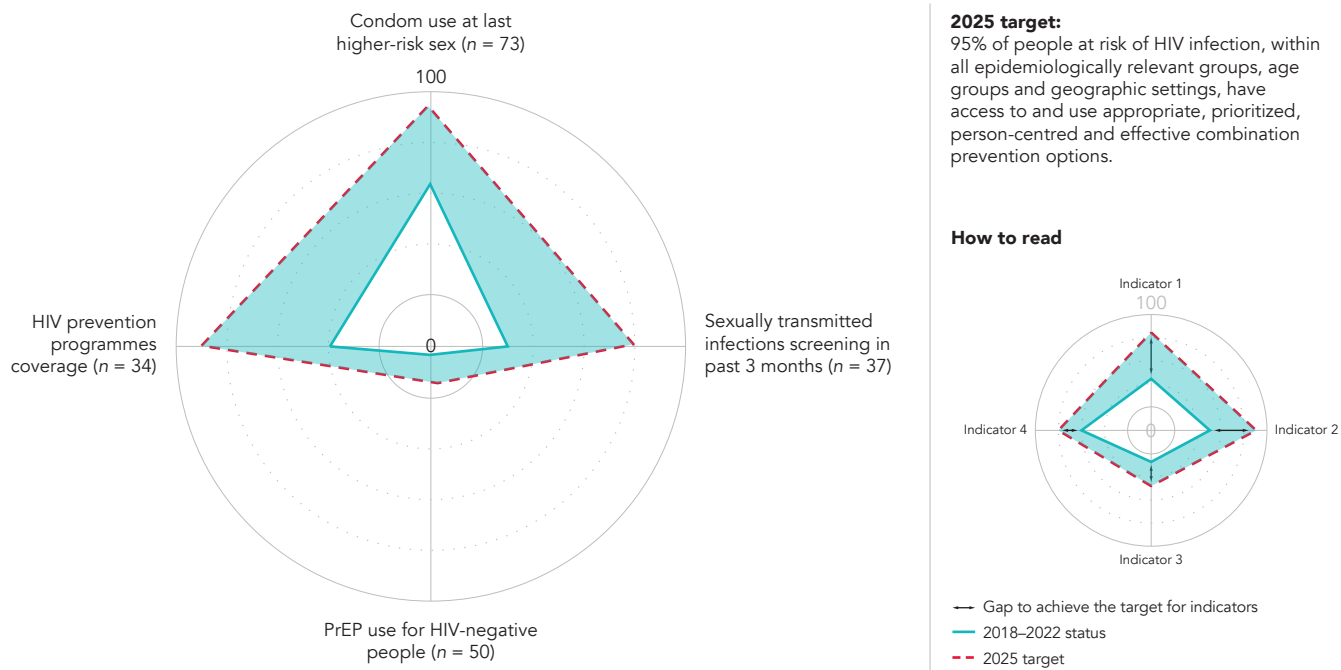
Gay men and other men who have sex with men continue to be excluded from or undercounted in national population estimates, which denies their existence. A total of 138 countries have ever reported population size estimates of gay men and other men who have sex with men. Among these, only 26 refer to national estimates derived by probabilistic methods within the past five years.

HIV services	The coverage and use of combination HIV prevention among gay men and other men who have sex with men (measured by receiving of at least two prevention services in the past three months) reported in recent years was low globally, with a median of 39.5% (34 reporting countries). A median of almost four in five gay men and other men who have sex with men globally either had taken an HIV test and received the results in the past 12 months or had previously tested positive for HIV (82 reporting countries).
Laws and policies	As of June 2023, 67 countries had punitive laws that criminalized consensual same-sex activity. There has been progress, with five countries repealing such laws between 2022 and 2023—but other countries have introduced or passed laws criminalizing consensual-same sex activity or increased penalties (1). ²
Stigma and discrimination	A median of 14.7% of gay men and other men who have sex with men have experienced stigma and discrimination in the past six months (12 reporting countries). A median of 7.6% of gay men and other men who have sex with men have avoided accessing health-care services due to stigma and discrimination in the past 12 months (27 reporting countries).
Violence	A median of 8.2% of gay men and other men who have sex with men have experienced violence in the past 12 months (19 reporting countries).

¹ Unless otherwise specified, the source for all quantitative data is Global AIDS Monitoring, 2023 (<https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/>) or UNAIDS epidemiological estimates, 2023 (<https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/>).

² See also references in Laws and Policies Scorecard figures in regional factsheets.

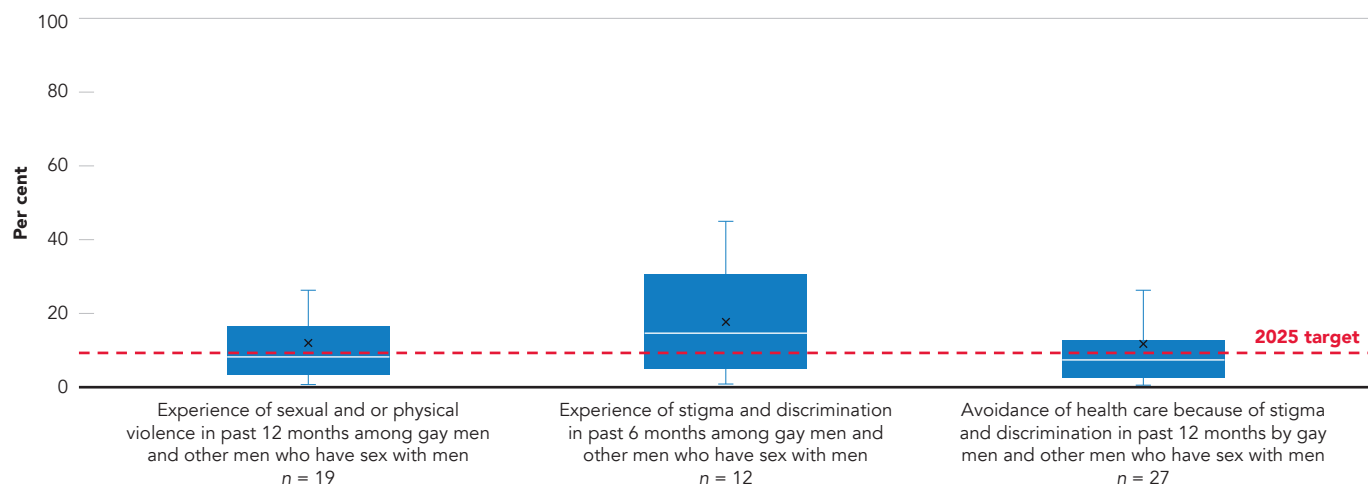
Figure 1 Gap to achieve combination prevention targets among gay men and other men who have sex with men, by intervention, global, 2018–2022



Source: UNAIDS Global AIDS Monitoring, 2023 (<https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/>); UNAIDS special analysis, 2023.

Note: n = number of countries reporting. "HIV prevention programmes coverage" refers to people from key populations who reported receiving at least two prevention services in the past three months. Possible prevention services received include condoms and lubricants, counselling on condom use and safer sex, and testing for sexually transmitted infections. Condom use at last higher-risk sex does not take into account people taking PrEP and therefore may be underestimated. PrEP targets were calculated based on the number of people who would most benefit from PrEP use, those with greatest vulnerability to HIV exposure within each key population. Reported numbers of PrEP users include all users regardless of vulnerability.

Figure 2 Experience of sexual and or physical violence, stigma and discrimination, and avoidance of health care among gay men and other men who have sex with men, reporting countries, 2018–2022



Source: UNAIDS Global AIDS Monitoring, 2023 (<https://aidsinfo.unaids.org/>).

Note: n = number of countries reporting.

Reference

1 Laws and policies analytics. Geneva: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (<http://lawsandpolicies.unaids.org/>, accessed 11 July 2023).

For additional data on HIV and gay men and other men who have sex with men see:

2023 global AIDS update report

2023 global AIDS update regional factsheets

UNAIDS Key Populations Atlas

HIV and gay men and who have sex with other men — Human rights fact sheet series 2021