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BACKGROUND

Sexually transmitted infections (STI) are prevalent in high risk groups including **female sex workers** (FSW). FSW face **barriers to access** sexual and reproductive health services including HIV testing, prevention and treatment. There is scarce information in Argentina of this population.

We **aimed** to describe the prevalence of HIV and the frequency of HIV testing in a cohort of cisgender (CGW) and transgender (TGW) FSW.

METHODS

“MAS por Nosotras” a prospective cohort of CGW and TGW FSW was established through a collaboration between a non governmental research organization in Buenos Aires, the Ministry of Health of Buenos Aires City, and a Canadian research team.



After providing written consent, participants underwent HIV/STI assessment. In those with HIV, viral load (VL) and CD4 cell count were performed.



Descriptive analysis from the baseline visit of the participants is presented.

RESULTS

From June-December 2023 → N = 116 FSW enrolled

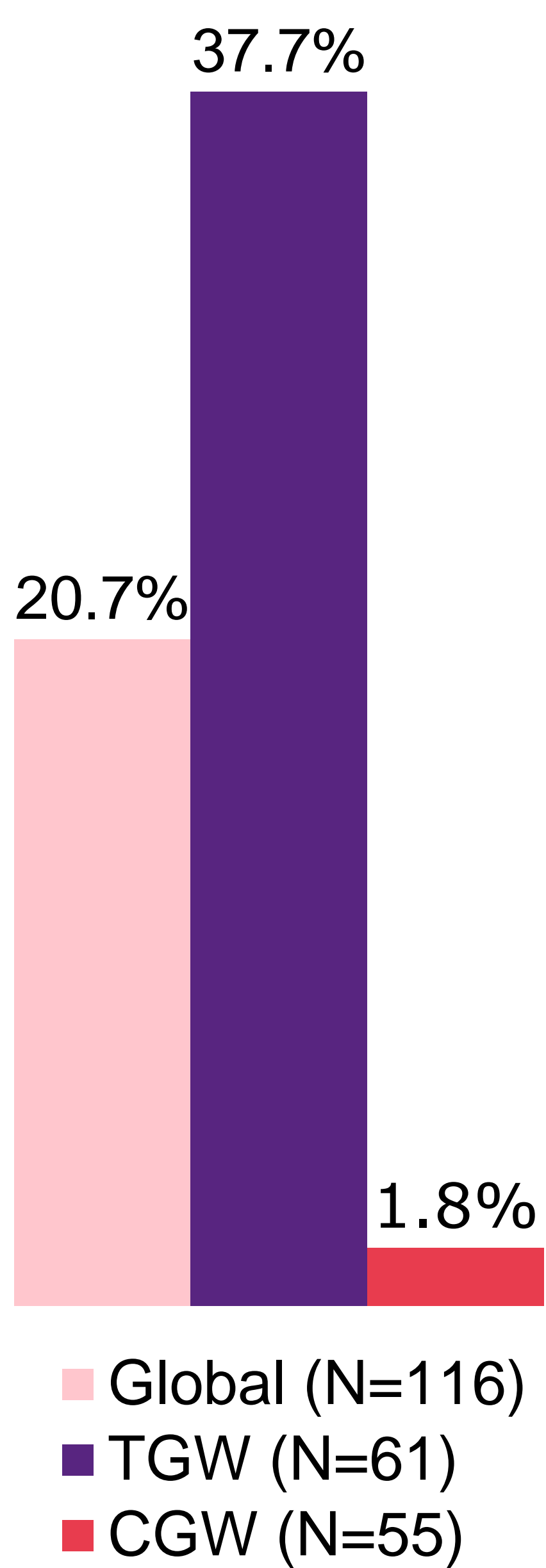
TGW = 61 and CGW = 55
PARTICIPANTS´ CHARACTERISTICS

AGE (median)	
TGW	CGW
29 years	41 years
(IQR 24-37)	(IQR 33-50)

SEX WORK			
	TGW (N=61)	CGW (N=55)	p
Age at sex work initiation (median [IQR])	18 [15-20]	23 [20-30]	<0.001
Years on sex work (median [IQR])	12 [6-19]		
>20 sexual partners in the last month (%)	51.7%	26%	0.006
Condomless anal or vaginal intercourses (%)	55.7%	47.3%	0.008
Street as work venue (%)	90%	40%	<0.001
Sex work as main source of income (%)	95%	80%	0.2

IQR: Interquartile range

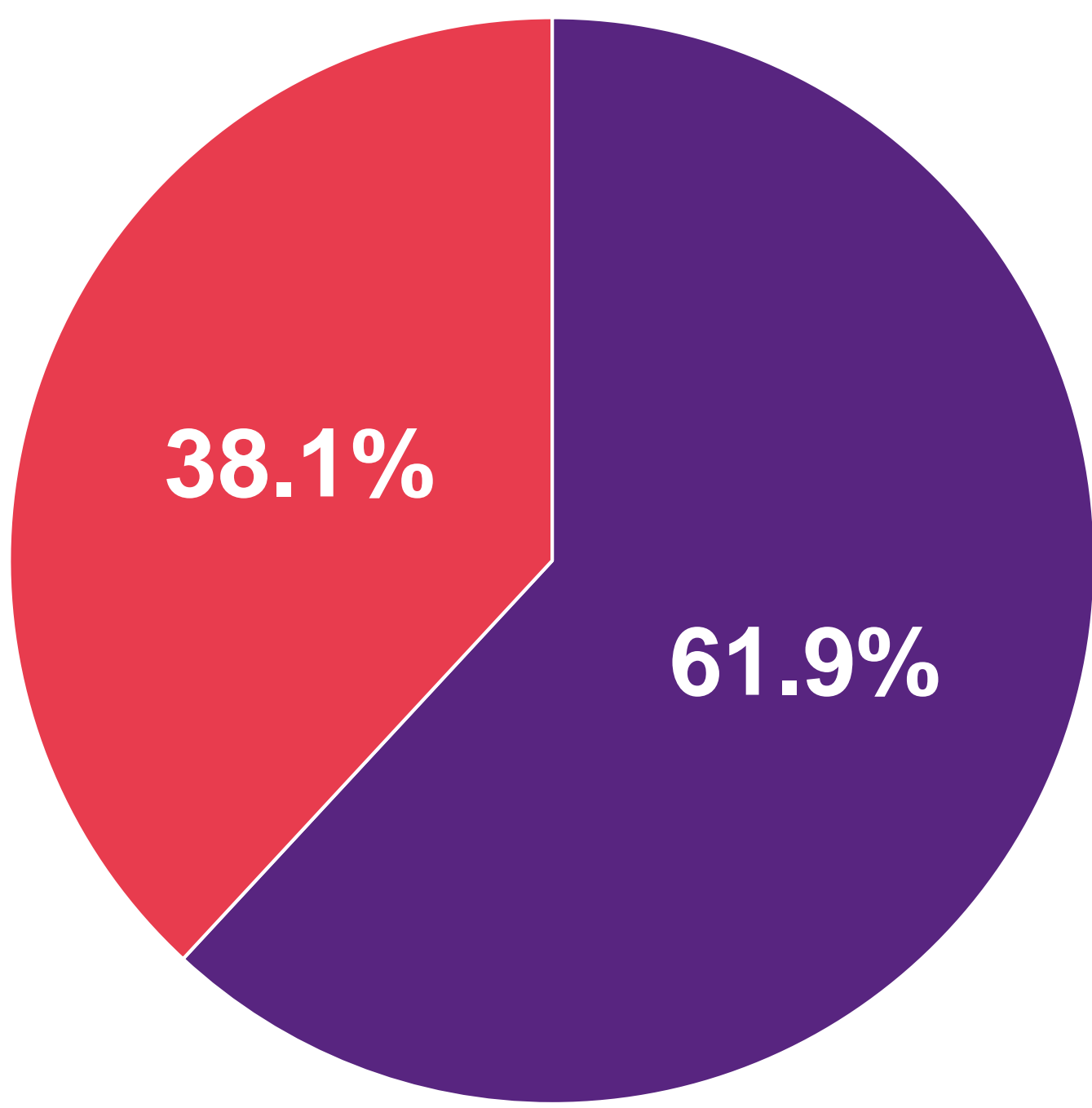
HIV PREVALENCE



3 new HIV diagnosis (all TGW)

PARTICIPANTS WITH HIV

Detectable VL
VL (median): 594 copies/ul (IQR: 51.9- 22012.3)
CD4 (median): 205 cells/ul (IQR: 51.3- 300.5)



Undetectable VL
CD4(median): 731 cells/ul (IQR: 497-892.5)

PARTICIPANTS WITHOUT HIV

	TGW	CGW
On HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis	26.8%	0%
Reported never having tested for HIV	7.3%	25.9%
Time since last HIV test (median- IQR)	3 months (IQR: 1-9)	20 months (IQR: 9.5-51)

CONCLUSIONS

HIV prevalence in CGW was low and a high percentage had never had an HIV test. Although **TGW** tested for HIV more frequently, HIV prevalence was **considerably higher and the viral control, suboptimal**. Our findings highlight the need to enhance access to healthcare to improve HIV prevention and treatment with a **gender specific perspective** in FSW in order to reach the 90:90:90 targets.