

EXPERIENCES OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AS A CAUSE AND CONSEQUENCE OF HIV IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

There is a strong relationship between violence against those who sell sex and increased risk of infection with HIV or other STIs



Studies from the region show women are more likely to experience intimate partner violence if they are known to be HIV-positive



In India, married women who had experienced both physical and sexual violence from intimate partners were over three times more likely to be HIV-positive than those who had experienced no violence



In an on-line survey of MSM across Asia, 1/3 of respondents said they had experienced arrest, rape, blackmail and violence from the police or authorities because they knew they had sex with other men

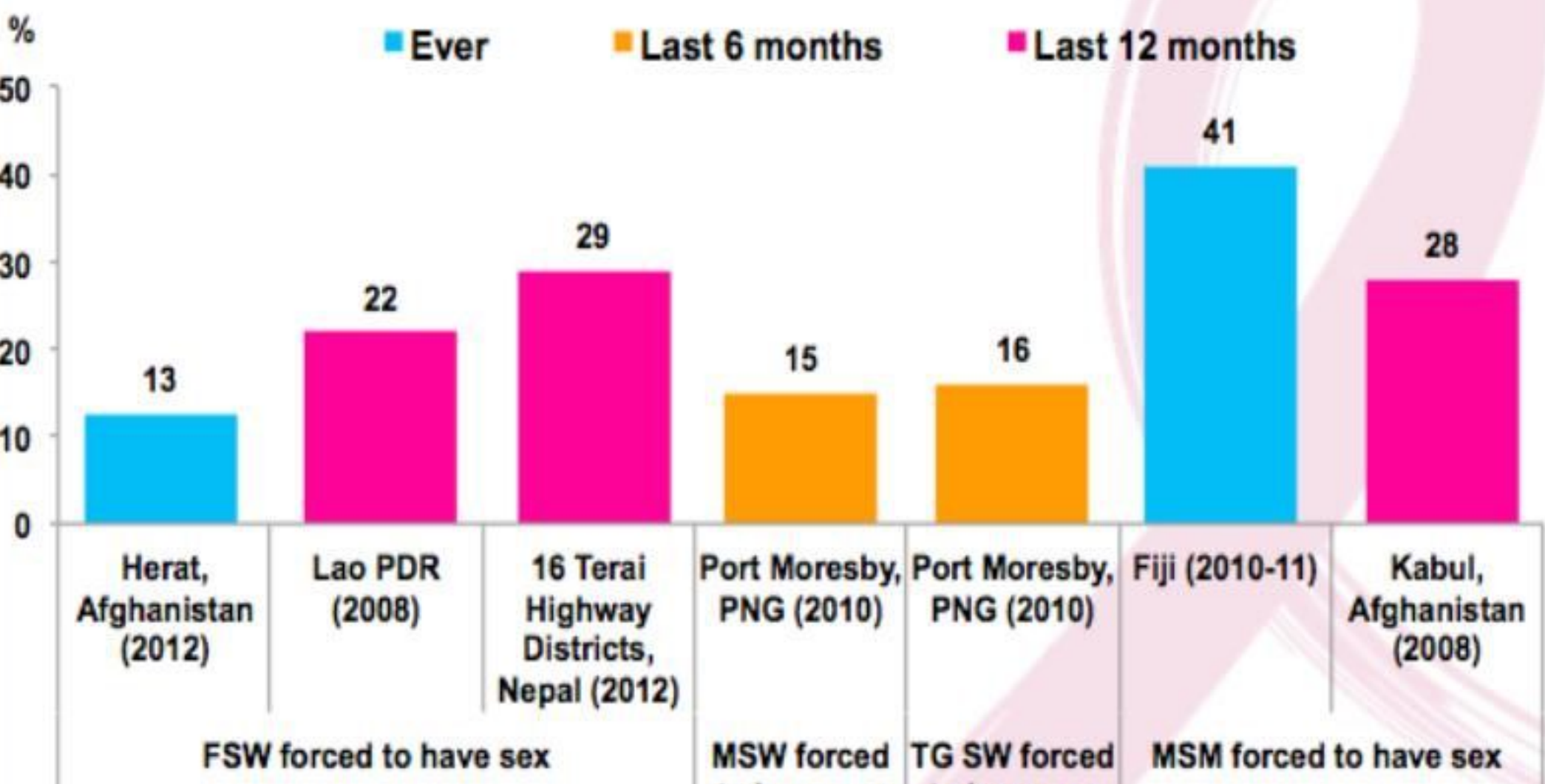


SDG #3: BY 2030, END THE EPIDEMIC OF AIDS BY 2030, ENSURE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH-CARE SERVICES

SDG #5: ELIMINATE ALL FORMS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPHERES

VIOLENCE AGAINST KEY POPULATIONS

KEY POPULATIONS WHO WERE FORCED TO HAVE SEX, 2008 - 2011



Research from the region shows that violence has a direct and indirect bearing on the ability of key populations to protect themselves from HIV, prevent HIV transmission to their sexual partners (including intimate partners), and to access HIV testing, treatment and support.

POLICE VIOLENCE AGAINST SEX WORKERS



Police are among the most common perpetrators of violence against sex workers across the region.



Police in some countries are reported to frequently abuse and coerce young transgender women as well as young MSM for sex.



In India, sex workers who have experienced a police raid are three-times more likely to report an STI and four-times more likely to report client violence.



Studies of young males who sell sex have found large proportions reporting ever having experienced violence by the police (48% in Bangladesh and 30% in Hyderabad, India).

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV)

Studies from the region indicate that women from key populations experience higher levels of intimate partner violence compared to women in the general population

A study among women who inject drugs in Bangkok found that violence was an integral part of these women's lives; the majority of respondents reported that they regularly experience violence at the hands of their intimate male partners.

In a study of 1,022 female sex workers in China, 58% of respondents had experienced violence from their intimate partners as compared to 10-38% of women in the general population.

In Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka, female sex workers report more frequent and severe incidents of IPV than male and transgender sex workers. In most cases, the violence was described as severe, routine and chronic.

A study of 404 MSM in China, found that 51% of respondents reported emotional, physical, or sexual abuse from a male intimate partner. MSM who reported IPV reported more overall sexual risk behaviour, and specifically, more unprotected sex and more sex linked to alcohol and other substance use.

In a survey among 533 female sex workers in Pakistan, 66% reported physical violence and 34% reported sexual violence from their intimate partners.

INDONESIA
MYANMAR
NEPAL
SRI LANKA

THAILAND

CHINA

CHINA

PAKISTAN

YOUNG KEY POPULATIONS



Studies from India, Nepal and Thailand have found that initiation into selling sex prior to age 18 confers increased risk of physical and sexual violence and relates to a two to fourfold increase in HIV infection.

Young key populations from the region have reported violence from healthcare providers, including sexual assault. In a community consultation in Pakistan, more than half of the young men who sold sex said that they had been raped by a healthcare provider when they went to seek services.

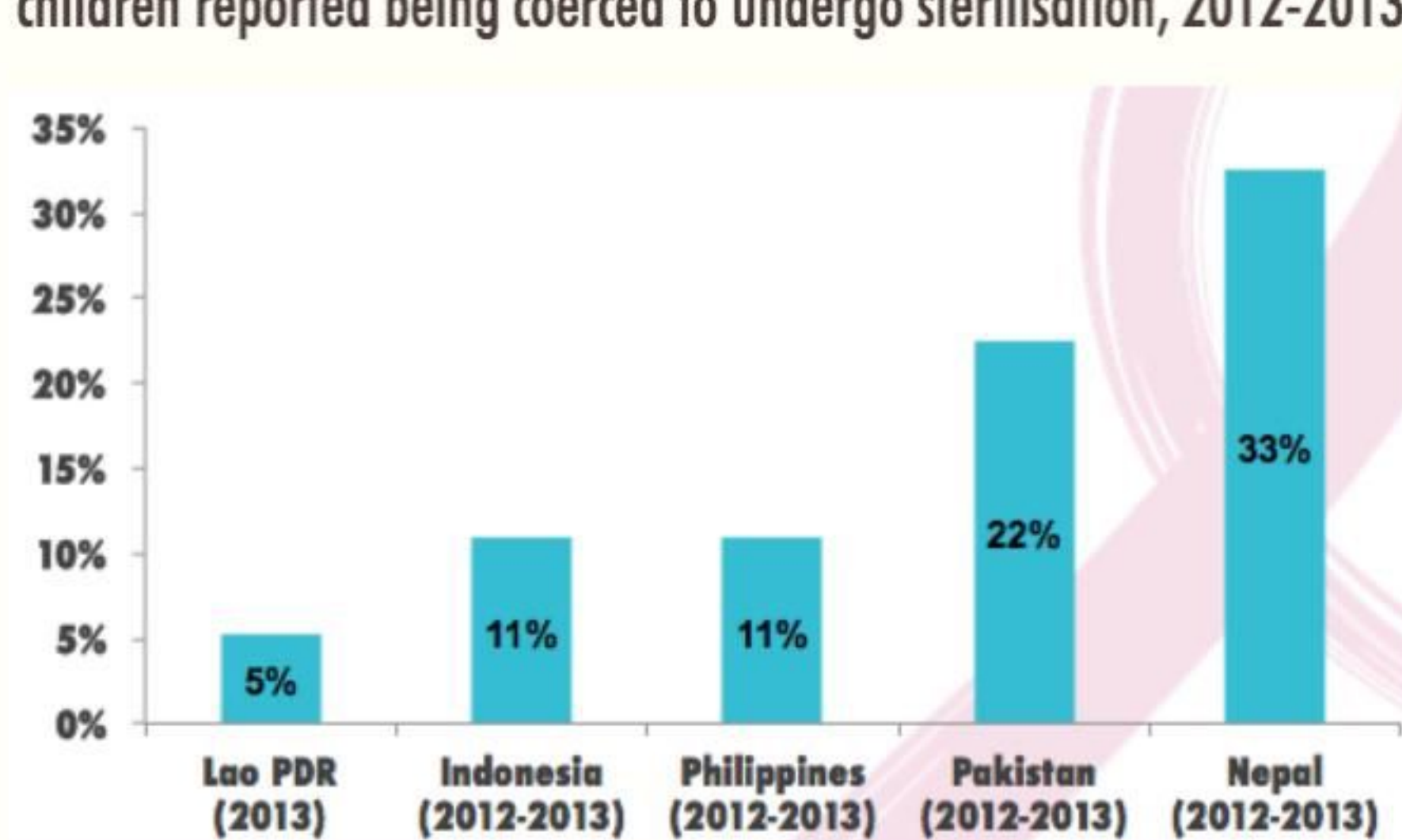
In community consultations with young MSM and transgender women in Pakistan, Philippines, and China, many participants reported having been raped. Rape and sexual abuse rates were self-reported as higher for young transgender women.

VIOLENCE AS A CONSEQUENCE OF HIV

Evidence across the region shows women living with HIV experience higher levels of intimate partner violence, denial of rights, and other forms of violence compared to women in the general population

The People Living with HIV Stigma Index shows that women living with HIV in Asia and the Pacific are more likely than men living with HIV in the same region to be the target of verbal abuse and physical violence as a direct result of their HIV status

Proportion of women living with HIV who had a desire to have children reported being coerced to undergo sterilisation, 2012-2013



HEALTH-CARE SETTINGS



FORCED OR COERCED STERILISATION

In a survey of 757 women living with HIV in Asia, 30% reported having been advised to undergo sterilisation. Many stated they did not feel they had the right to refuse the recommendation. More than half (61%) indicated these recommendations came from gynaecologists and HIV clinicians on the basis of the women's HIV-positive status.



COERCED ABORTION

The People Living with HIV Stigma Index report for Pakistan shows that 37% of the 228 female respondents stated that they had been coerced by a healthcare professional into an abortion.



FORCED DISCLOSURE OF HIV STATUS

The People Living with HIV Stigma Index report for Fiji revealed that 13% of respondents had experienced forced disclosure of HIV status to sexual partners. Forced disclosure of HIV status and breach of patient confidentiality by healthcare providers has the potential of increasing women's - as well as men's - risk of violence, including IPV.

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT:

www.aidsdatahub.org/Thematic-areas/

Data sources available at: www.aidsdatahub.org/Thematic-areas/