

# People left behind: Transgender people

[Link with the pdf, Transgender people](#)

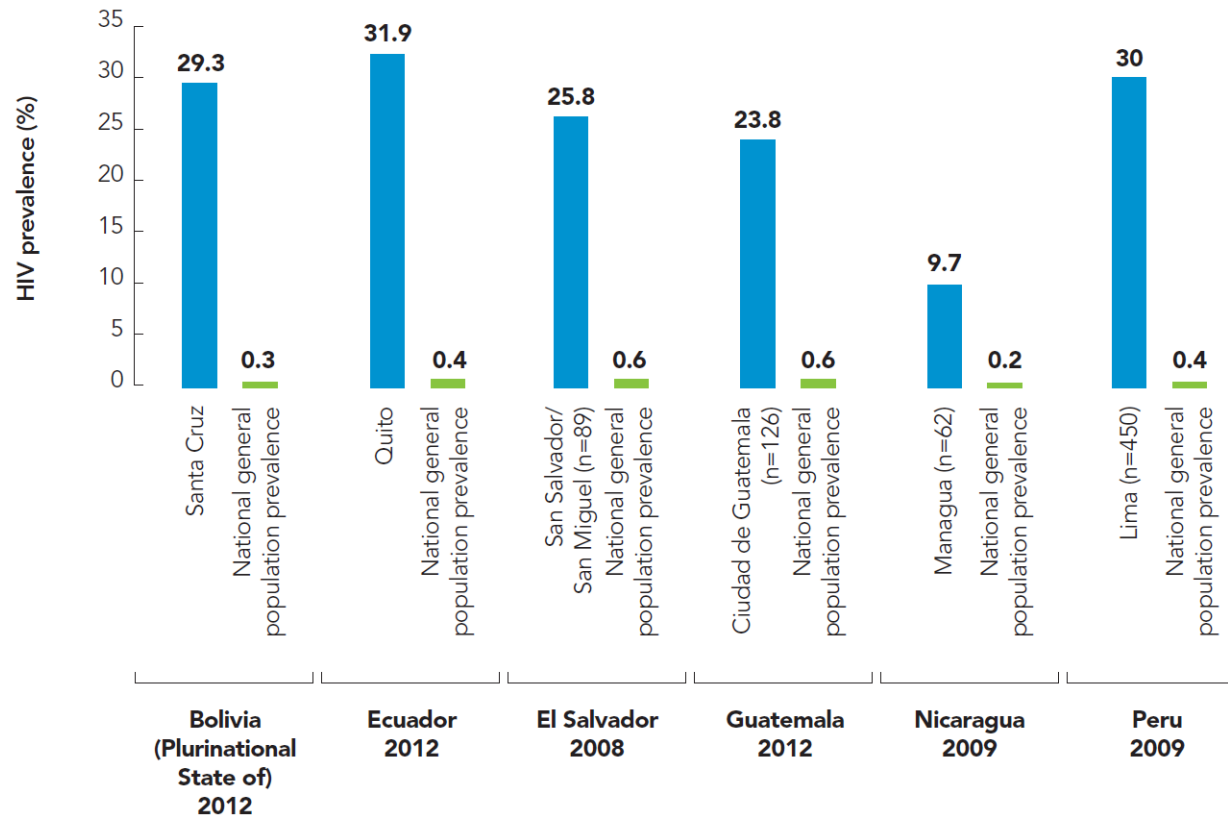
I am a transgender woman.  
I face these issues.




# HIV burden

- Transgender women are among the populations most heavily affected by HIV.
- Globally, an estimated 19% of transgender women are living with HIV.
- Globally, the chance of acquiring HIV is 49 times higher for transgender women than all adults of reproductive age.
- Estimates suggest that the transgender population could be between 0.1% and 1.1% of reproductive age adults.
- Country reports suggest that HIV prevalence for transgender sex workers is on average nine times higher than for female sex workers and three times higher than for male sex workers.

# HIV prevalence among transgender women in Latin America

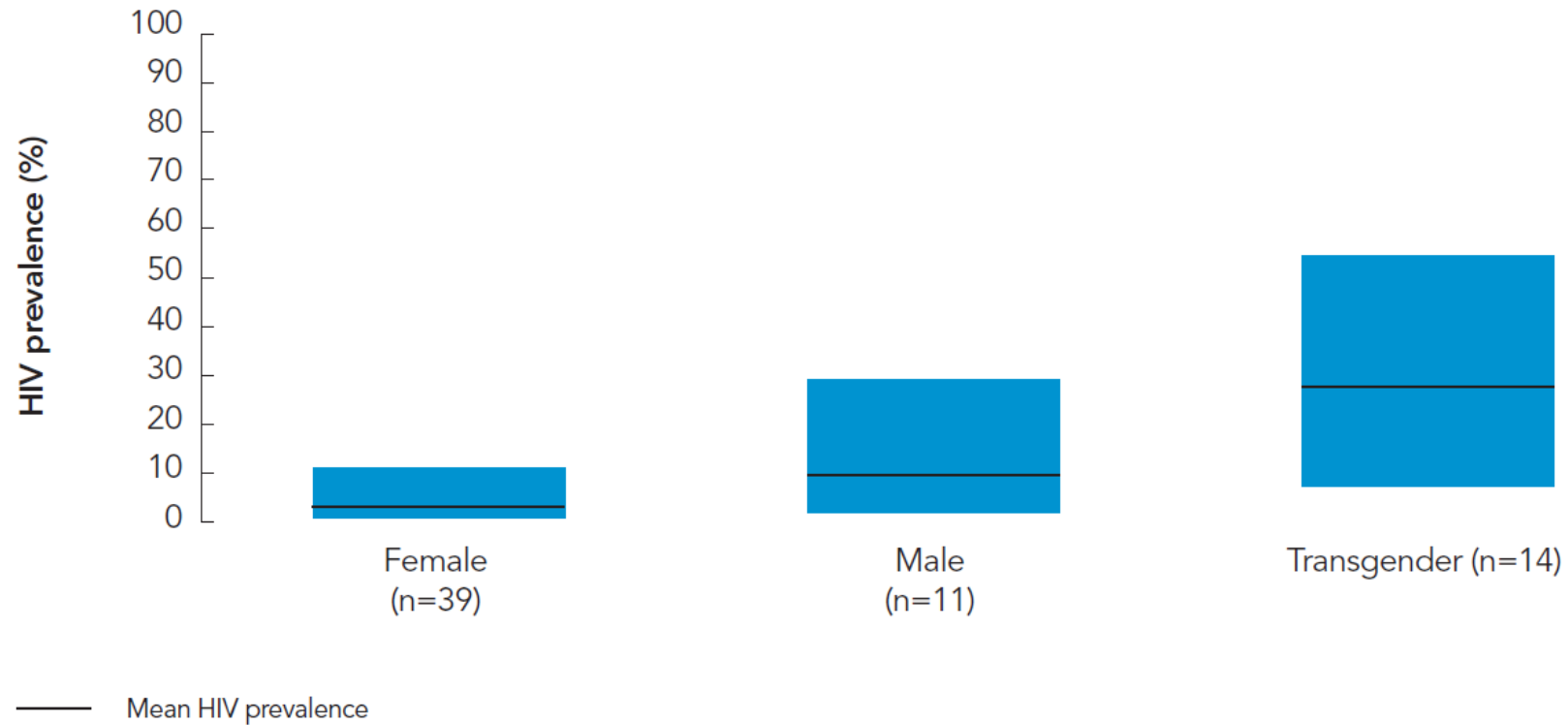


 HIV prevalence among transgender women

 National HIV prevalence in the general population

Sources: Various (please see notes of this slide.)

# Sex workers: HIV prevalence by gender, 2013



Source: Global AIDS Response Progress Reporting 2014.

# Why transgender women and men are being left behind

- Many transgender people experience social exclusion and marginalization because of the way in which they express their gender identity.
- A transgender person does not identify with the gender assigned at birth.
- Estimates from countries indicate that the transgender population could be between 0.1% and 1.1% of reproductive age adults.
- Many transgender people lack legal recognition of their affirmed gender and therefore are without identify papers that reflect who they are.
- Evidence suggests that, in some settings, a significant proportion of young transgender women engage in selling sex. This is often a result of social exclusion, economic vulnerability and difficulty in finding employment.
- Transgender people are vulnerable to arrest in those countries that criminalize cross-dressing.

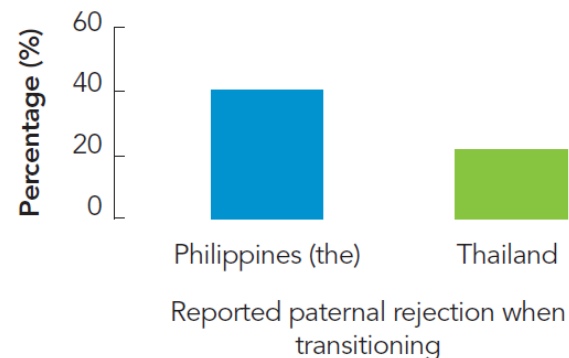
# WHY TRANSGENDER WOMEN AND MEN ARE BEING LEFT BEHIND

## THE TOP 4 REASONS

- 01 Family rejection and violation of the right to education and employment
- 02 Violence, criminalization and transphobia
- 03 Lack of recognition of gender identity
- 04 Discrimination in health systems

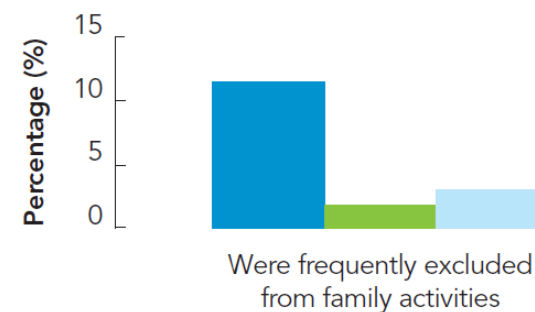
# Family rejection towards transgender people

## Thailand and the Philippines:



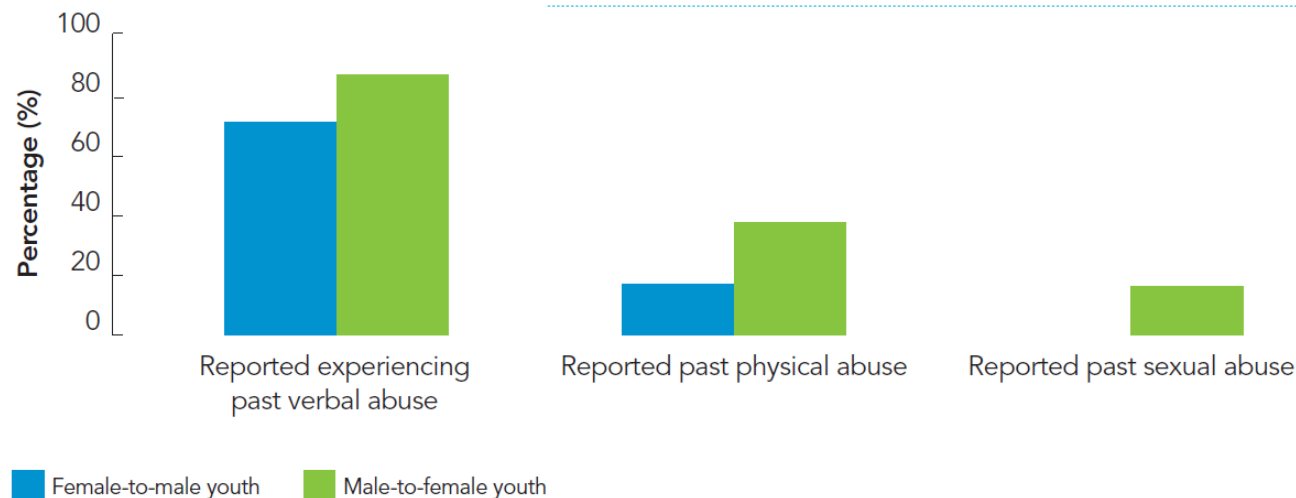
■ Transgender women-Philippines (the)  
■ Transgender women-Thailand

## Mexico:



■ Transgender people living with HIV  
■ Men living with HIV  
■ Women living with HIV

## New York City:

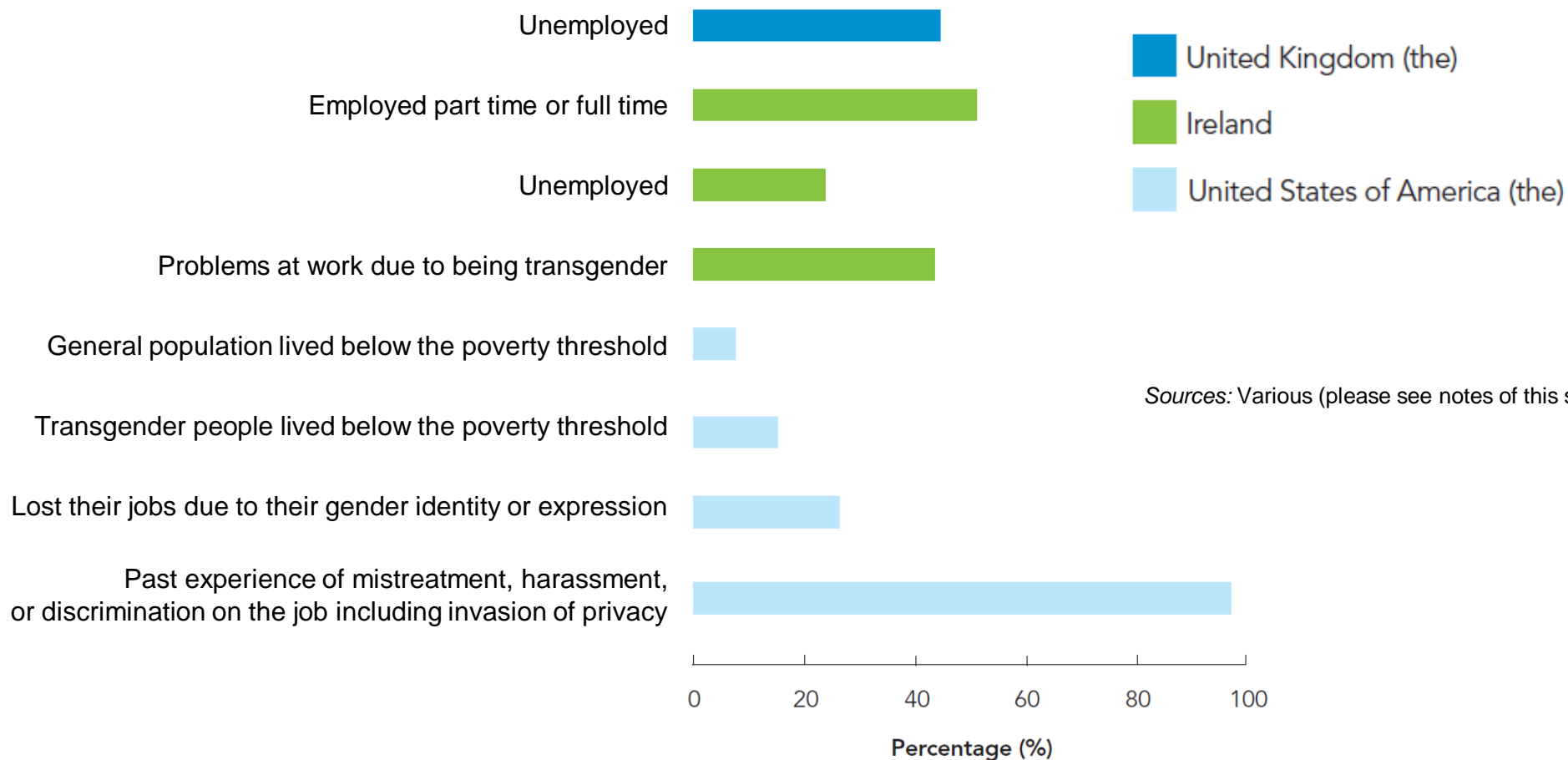


- In Latin America, 44–70% of transgender women and girls have felt the need to leave home or were thrown out of their homes.

Sources: Various (please see notes of this slide.)



# Employment discrimination



## Discrimination at school

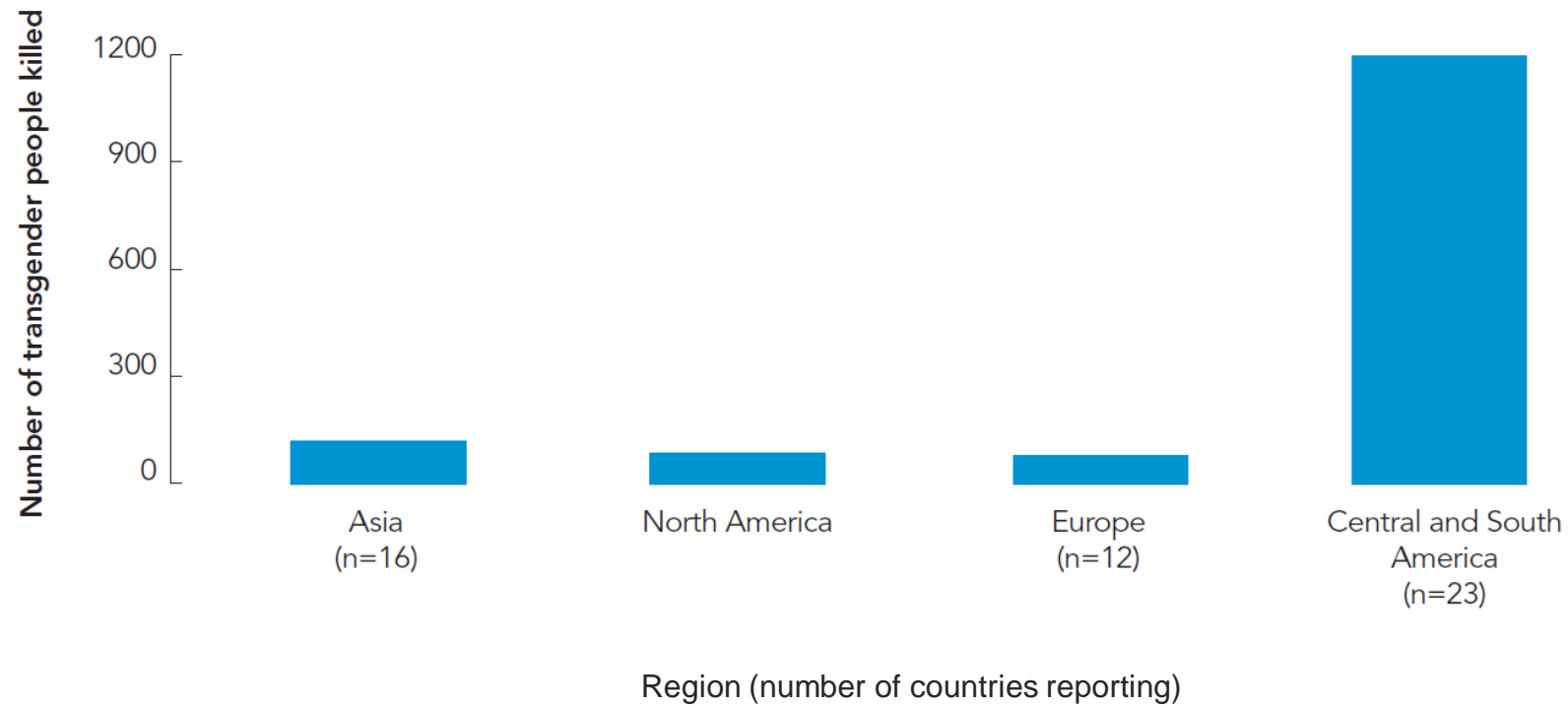
Transgender people also experience bullying and harassment at school, which, apart from the physical and psychological effects, can undermine learning opportunities and educational achievement, thus affecting their future employment prospects.



# Violence, criminalization and transphobia

- Around the world, transgender people experience physical and sexual violence and hate crimes.
- The full extent of the violence and hate crimes faced by transgender people is difficult to gauge because it is thought to be underreported.
- An international community-based project to monitor killings of transgender and gender variant people collected 1509 cases of reported killings in 61 countries from 1 January 2008 to 31 March 2014.
- Exposure to transphobia is a mental health risk for transgender people and can result in increased levels of depression and suicidal thoughts.
- In the United States, 46% of transgender men and 41% of transgender women have attempted suicide. Prevalence of suicide attempts was highest among those who are younger.
- Among transgender women living with HIV in Mexico, 25.7% experienced suicidal thoughts, compared to 16.1% of men living with HIV and 16.7% of women living with HIV.

# Killings of transgender and gender-variant people, 2008–2014



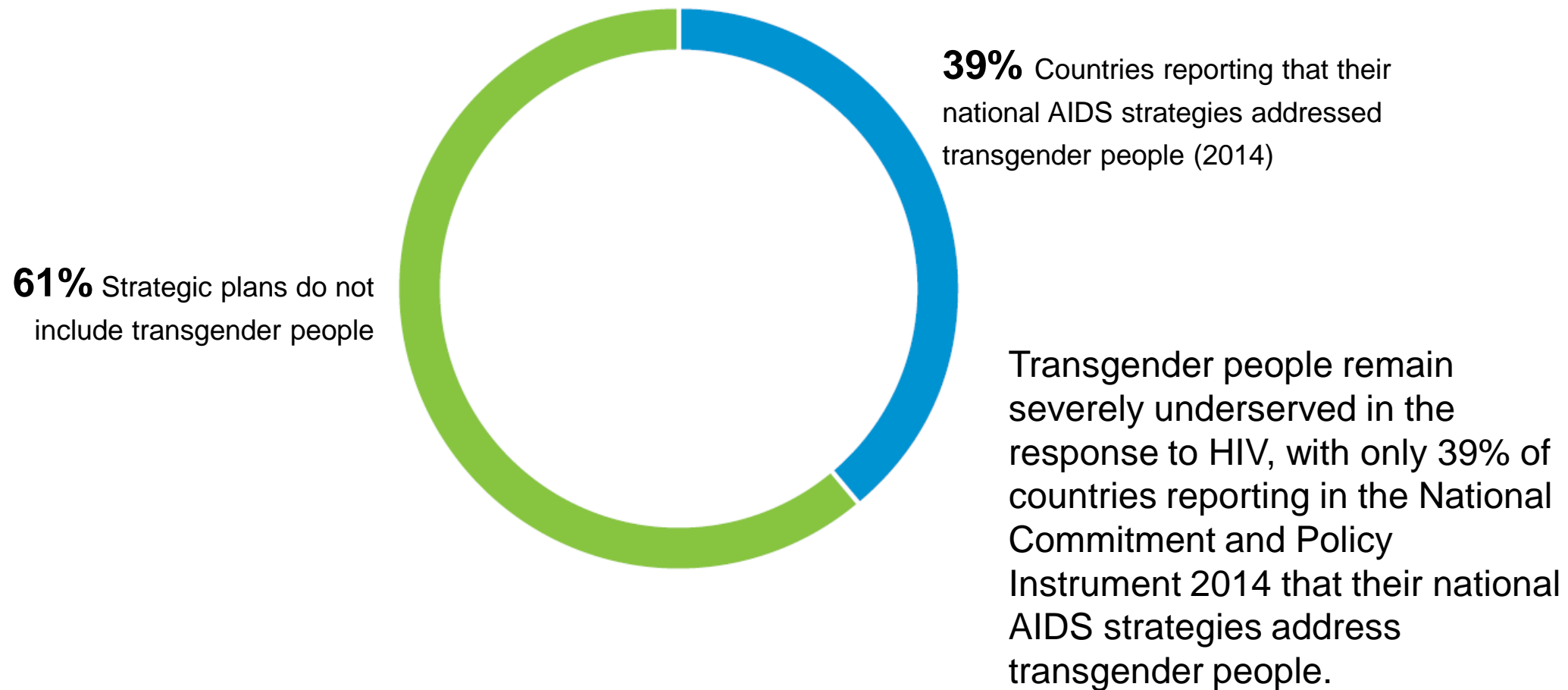
Adapted from: Transgender Europe. IDAHOT Press Release, May 1, 2014.

<http://www.transrespect-transphobia.org/uploads/downloads/2014/TvT-PRIDAHOT2014-en.pdf>

# Lack of recognition of gender identity

- Many transgender people lack legal recognition of their affirmed gender and therefore are without identify papers that reflect who they are.
- Without official documents that recognize their gender identity, transgender people can be denied access to basic rights, including the right to health, education and social welfare, resulting in a detrimental effect on their health and well-being.
- Gender identity is not a protected status in binding international human rights instruments, so transgender people struggle to find a recognized platform upon which to base their advocacy efforts.
- Several countries have a precondition for transgender people to be sterilized before undergoing sex reassignment surgery and/or the legal recognition of their gender identity. Sterilization has a profound impact on bodily autonomy. Any form of coercion is a violation of basic rights.

# Countries reporting that their national AIDS strategies addressed transgender people (2014)

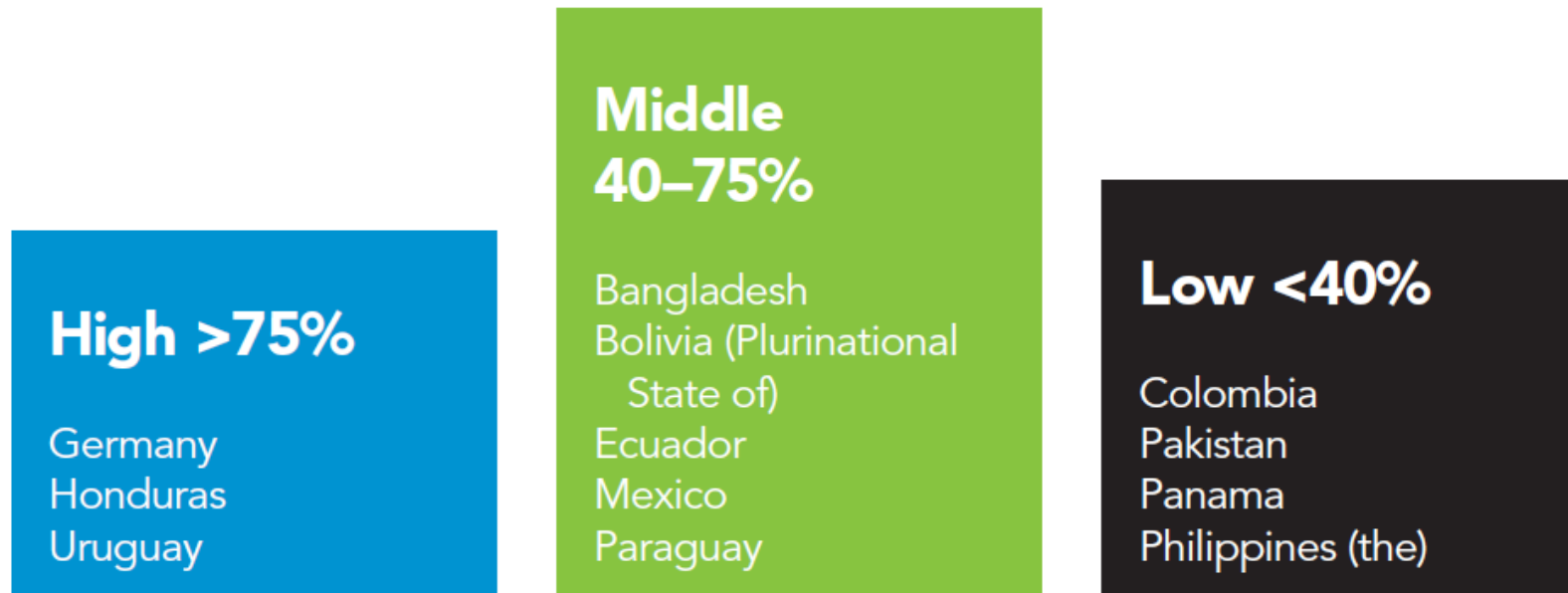


Source: National Commitments and Policy Instrument (NCPI), global AIDS response and progress reporting, preliminary data as of 14 May 2014. Geneva: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, 2014.

# Discrimination in health systems

- In health-care settings, transgender people often face stigma and ill treatment, including refusal of care, harassment, verbal abuse and violence.
- Despite evidence of heightened HIV vulnerabilities and risks, resulting in high HIV prevalence among transgender people, the coverage of HIV prevention programmes among transgender people remains poor across all regions.
- Stigma and discrimination in the health system alongside lack of knowledge of transgender people's health-related needs by health personnel deter transgender people from using services.
- Transgender women and men are drastically underserved by current treatment efforts and report lower rates of treatment adherence than other groups.

# HIV testing among transgender sex workers



Denominators ranges from n=70 in Honduras to n=3813 in Pakistan.

# CLOSING THE GAP

## HOW TO CLOSE THE GAP

- 01 Community leadership
- 02 Recognition of rights and freedom from violence
- 03 Quality health services and access to work
- 04 Better research