Community-Based Research with a Global Hidden Population

The Global Men’s Health and Rights Survey

Jack Beck
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Working world wide against HIV for the health and human rights of men who have sex with men
Today’s Talk

• Overview: The Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGGF)
• Overview: The Global Men’s Health and Rights Survey (GMHR)
• Survey Design and Translation
• Recruitment
• Results
• Distribution of Findings
About the Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSM GF)

• The MSMGF is an expanding network of advocates and other experts in health, human rights, research, and policy work.

• Advocates for equitable access to HIV prevention and treatment services for MSM, while promoting MSM health and human rights worldwide.

• Projects include advocacy, community systems strengthening, convening stakeholders, knowledge translation, and original research.
The MSMGF Network

- 4,000+ individual members
- 2,000+ organizations
- 160+ countries worldwide
- MSMGF Eblast
- Community Updates and Action Alerts
- Connection to the MSMGF Network
Global Men’s Health and Rights Survey (GMHR)

• **Purpose**: Generate data in response to the needs of community-based advocates and service providers, supporting the development and implementation of effective HIV initiatives for MSM

• **Requires**: A robust and diverse global sample, combined with rigorous and reliable methods to deliver valuable data to advocates and policy makers

• **Constraints**: Extremely limited resources and time
Survey Design and Translation

• Research team developed a 30-minute online survey based on needs and questions generated by community members, community-based service providers, and advocates:
  
  – Levels of access: Condoms, Lubricants, HIV testing, and HIV treatment
  – Barriers: Homophobia, Violence, Stigma
  – Facilitators: Community Engagement, Comfort with HC Providers

• Key informants examined questions for value and sequencing.

• SurveyMonkey; Translated into Chinese, French, Russian, Spanish  (Volunteer: Georgian, Polish)
Recruitment Strategy

- Outreach to local organizations
  - Direct Email

- Outreach through popular social network websites
  - Banners, Direct Messages

- Outreach through the media
  - Articles in Popular MSM/HIV News Sites

- Online Mapping, Meetings with Regional Networks
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Survey Sample

Participant Characteristics
A total of 5779 MSM from 165 countries participated in the global online survey.

Participants by Region
- Asia (28%)
- Latin America (15%)
- Eastern Europe & Central Asia (17%)
- Western Europe & North America (23%)
- Sub-Saharan Africa (7%)
- Oceania (5%)
- Caribbean (2%)
- Middle East & North Africa (2%)

Participants by Country Income Level
- High Income Countries (36%)
- Low Income Countries (4%)
- Lower Middle Income Countries (20%)
- Upper Middle Income Countries (40%)

HIV Status
- HIV Negative (65%)
- HIV Positive (18%)
- Unsure (17%)
Results

Access to Services by Country Income

- Low Income
- Lower Middle Income
- Upper Middle Income
- High Income

Access to Condoms: 31% Low, 32% Lower Middle, 29% Upper Middle, 45% High
Access to Lubricants: 8% Low, 14% Lower Middle, 14% Upper Middle, 34% High
Access to Testing: 32% Low, 25% Lower Middle, 25% Upper Middle, 54% High
Access to Treatment*: 14% Low, 28% Lower Middle, 37% Upper Middle, 51% High

*Note: Accessibility rates may vary by region and may not be directly comparable.

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## Results

### Barriers and Facilitators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Barriers</th>
<th>Facilitators</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access to Condoms</strong></td>
<td>Homophobia 0.69</td>
<td>Community Engagement 1.29</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Provider Stigma 0.65</td>
<td>Comfort with Provider 1.49</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Access to Lubricants</strong></td>
<td>Homophobia 0.58</td>
<td>Community Engagement 1.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Outness 0.77</td>
<td>Comfort with Provider 1.62</td>
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## Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barriers</th>
<th>Facilitators</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to HIV Testing</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homophobia</td>
<td>Negative Consequences for Outness</td>
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<tr>
<td>.67</td>
<td>.81</td>
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<tr>
<td>Access to HIV Treatment</td>
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<td>Homophobia</td>
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<td>.41</td>
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Young MSM

FIGURE 8
Access to Condoms and Lubricants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>YMSM</th>
<th>Older MSM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to Low-Cost Condoms</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Access to Low-Cost Lubricants</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>24%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

FIGURE 9
Access to STI Testing and Treatment

<table>
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<th>YMSM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to Low-Cost STI Testing</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Low-Cost STI Treatment</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>30%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

FIGURE 10
Access to MSM-Focused Education and Programs

<table>
<thead>
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<th>YMSM</th>
<th>Older MSM</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to MSM-Focused Sex Education</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to HIV Education Materials for MSU</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to HIV Risk Reduction Programs for MSU</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>15%</td>
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Distribution of Findings

• Full report released when analysis was complete

• Used the network to send fact sheets and full report to survey partners and broader global network ASAP

• Engaged media through strategic outreach

• Submitted to peer-reviewed journals and conferences
End Results

• Advocates were able to use the information immediately

• Over 50 news articles produced, including major outlets like Reuters, Kaiser, CDC, Towleroad, POZ.com

• Our first peer-reviewed article on the GMHR data coming out in *JAIDS* this month
Coming Up

• Multiple articles currently in review with various journals

• Upcoming white paper on homophobia

• Additional analysis for deeper understanding of survey validity
  – Duplicate entries, selective attrition
Thank You!

• Acknowledgements:
  – George Ayala, PsyD
  – Sonya Arreola, MPH, PhD
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www.msmgf.org