

Transgender women and HIV: an Indian perspective

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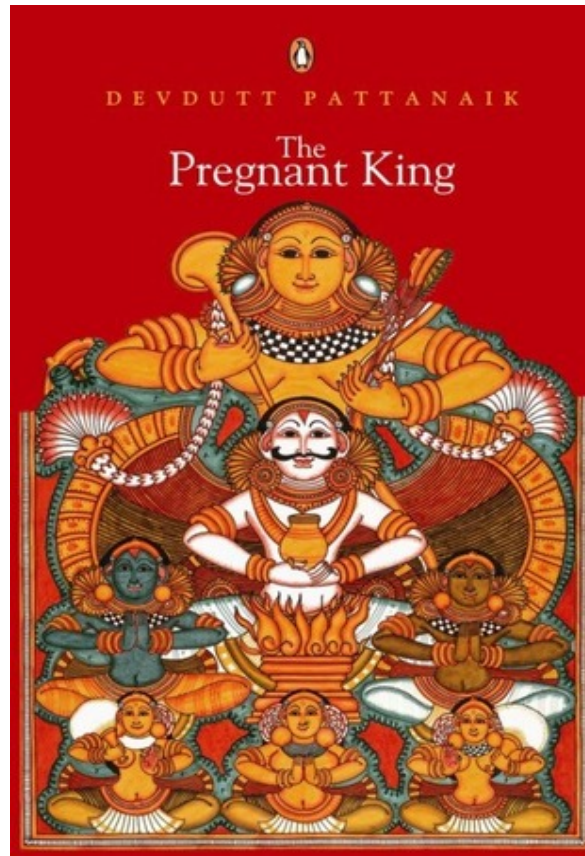
December 6, 2016

Hijra, Kinnar, Jogta, Jogappa, Jogti, Aravani, Thirunangai



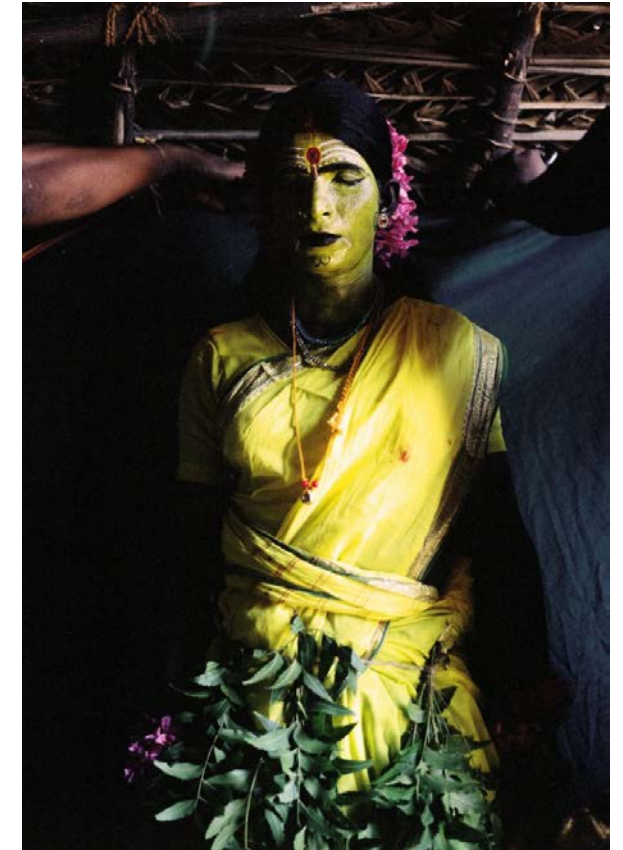
Ardhanarishvara

image from deviantart.com



Yuvanashva

cover art of Devdutt Pattanaik's "The Pregnant King"



Mayana Kollai

photography by Candace Feit for *The New York Times*

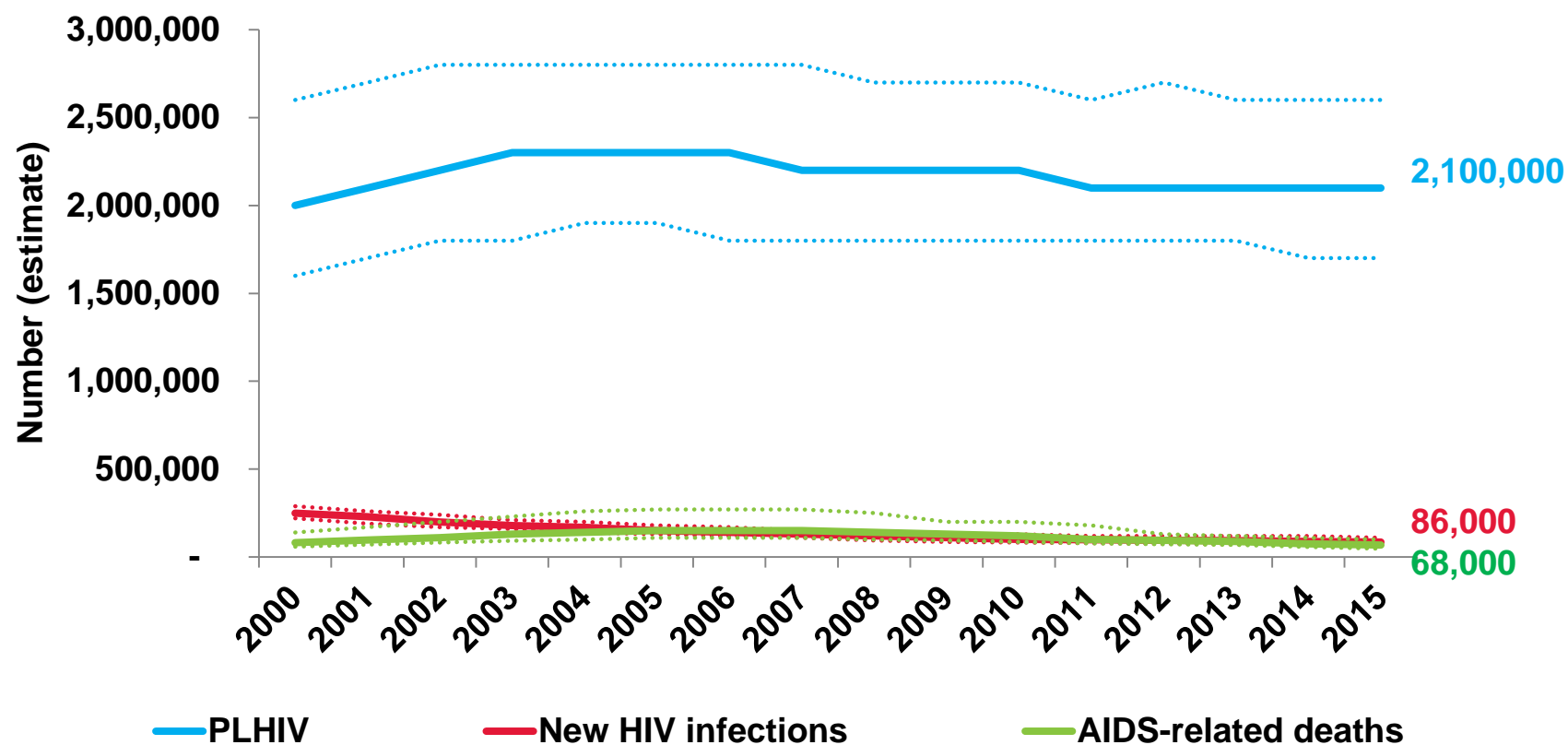
Transgender women in India today

Findings from the 2011 census: total population 1.2 billion

	Transgender women	Men	Women
Number (%)	487,803 (0.04)	62,37,24,248 (51.5)	58,64,69,174 (48.4)
Literacy (%)	56	82	65
Rural distribution (%)	66	52	48
Working (%)	38	48	

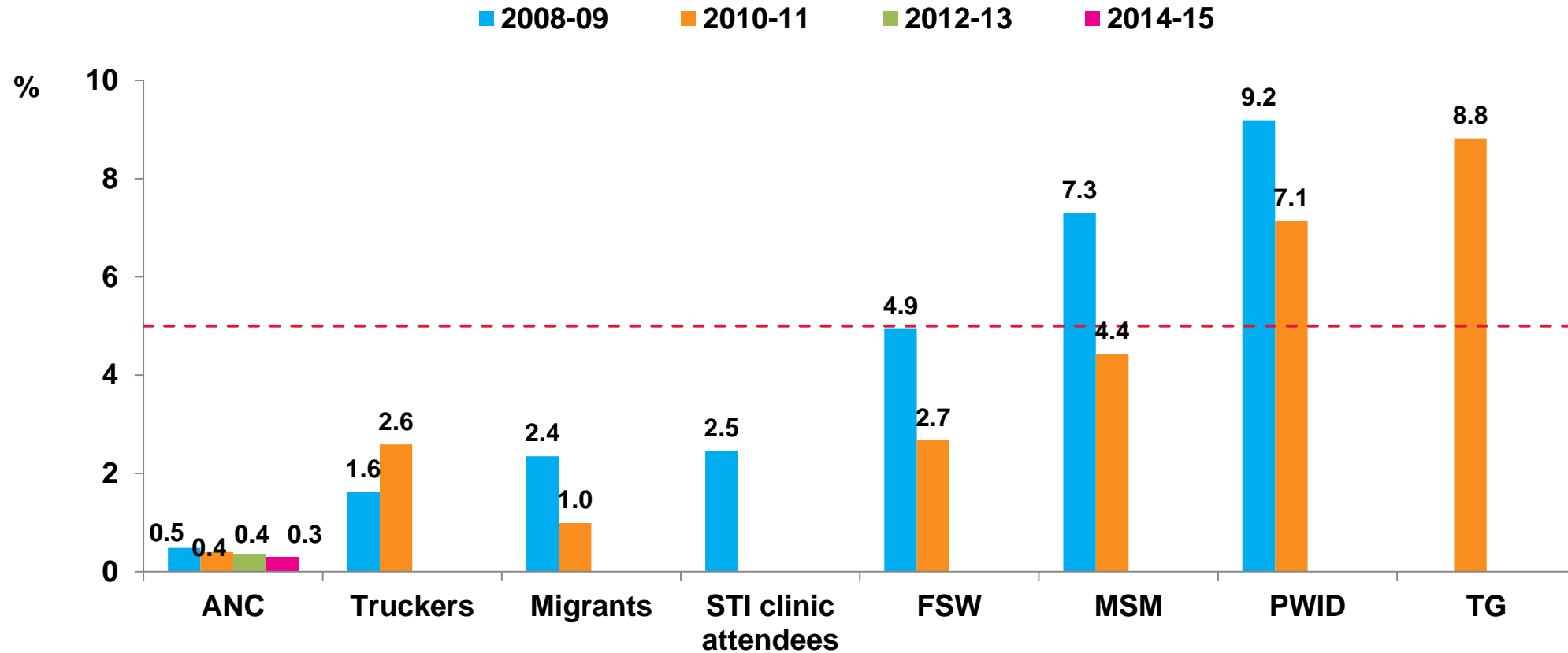
HIV in India

Estimated number of people living with HIV, new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths, 2000-2015



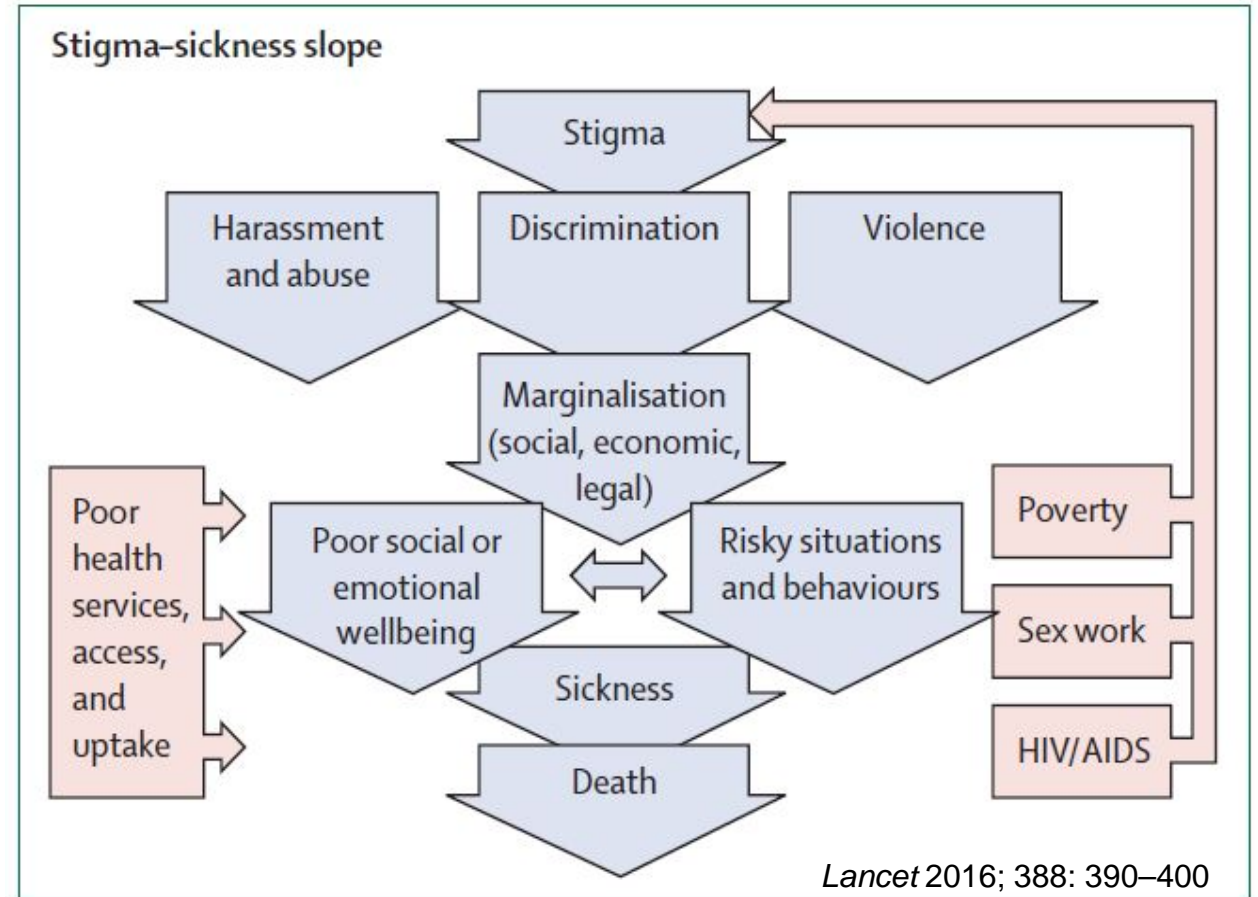
HIV in India

HIV prevalence among sentinel populations, HSS reports 2008 - 2015



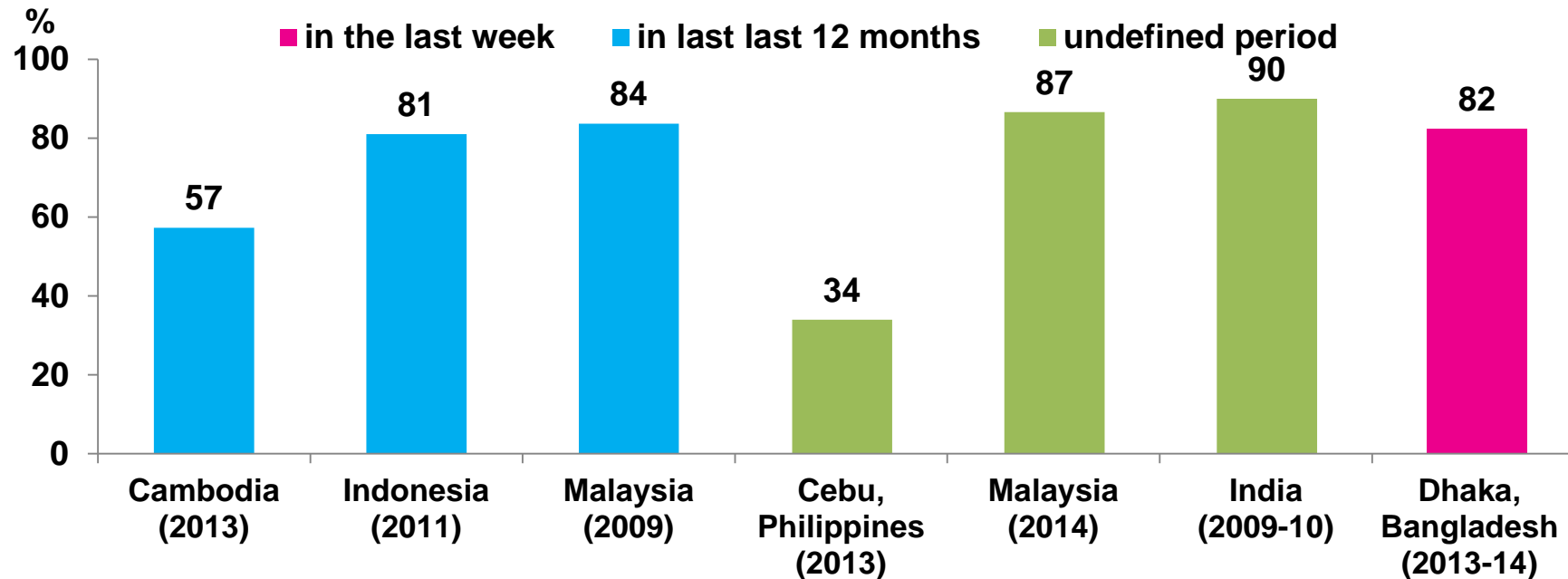
HIV in transgendered women

- 84% experienced sexual or physical violence
- 43% moderate to severe depression
- 37% frequent alcohol use
- 28% mistrust medical establishment
- 15% no access to ARV



HIV risk behavior

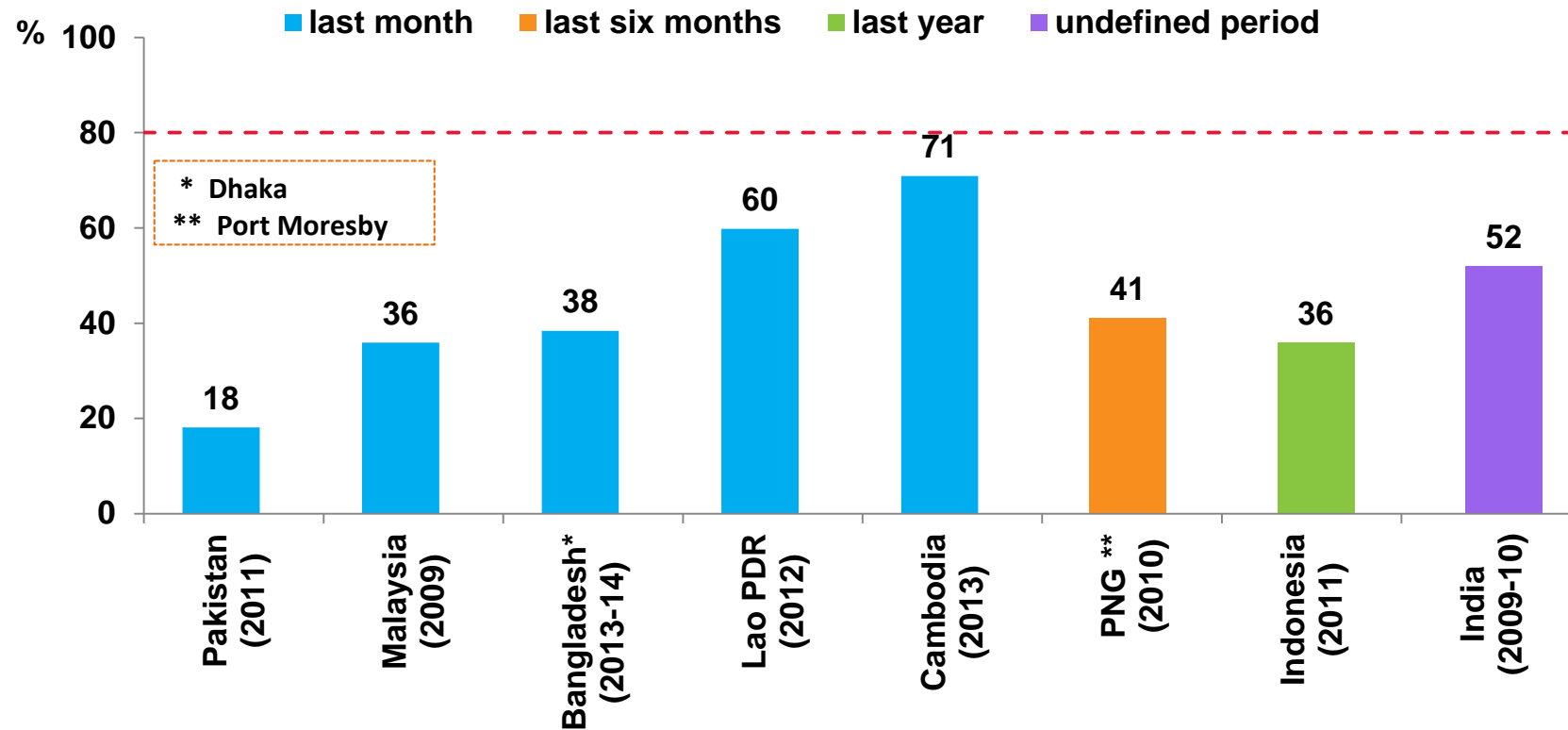
Proportion of transgender people who sold sex or had sex with clients, countries where data is available, 2009- 2014



Source: Prepared by www.aidsdatahub.org based on 1) Ministry of Health Republic of Indonesia. (2011). IBBS 2011 - Integrated Biological and Behavioral Survey; 2) Malaysia AIDS Council and Ministry of Health. (2010). Integrated Biological and Behavioral Survey 2009; 3) National Center for HIV/AIDS Dermatology and STD Cambodia. (2013). Behavioral Sentinel Surveillance (BSS 2013); Presented by Mun Phalkun on 16 December 2013; 4) Indian Council of Medical Research, & FHI. (2011). National Summary Report - Integrated Behavioural and Biological Assessment. Round 2 (2009-2010); 5) Presentation by Tac-an I.A (2014). HIV and Syphilis Prevalence among Transgender People in the Philippines. Cebu City Health Department Philippines; 6) icddr,b. (2015). A Survey of HIV, syphilis and risk behaviors among males having sex with males, male sex workers and hijra. Global Fund Rolling Continuation Channel Project of icddr,b; and 7) Malaysia Global AIDS Response Progress Reporting 2015. (Country narrative report)

HIV risk behavior

Proportion of transgender people who reported consistent condom use with casual partners, 2009-2014



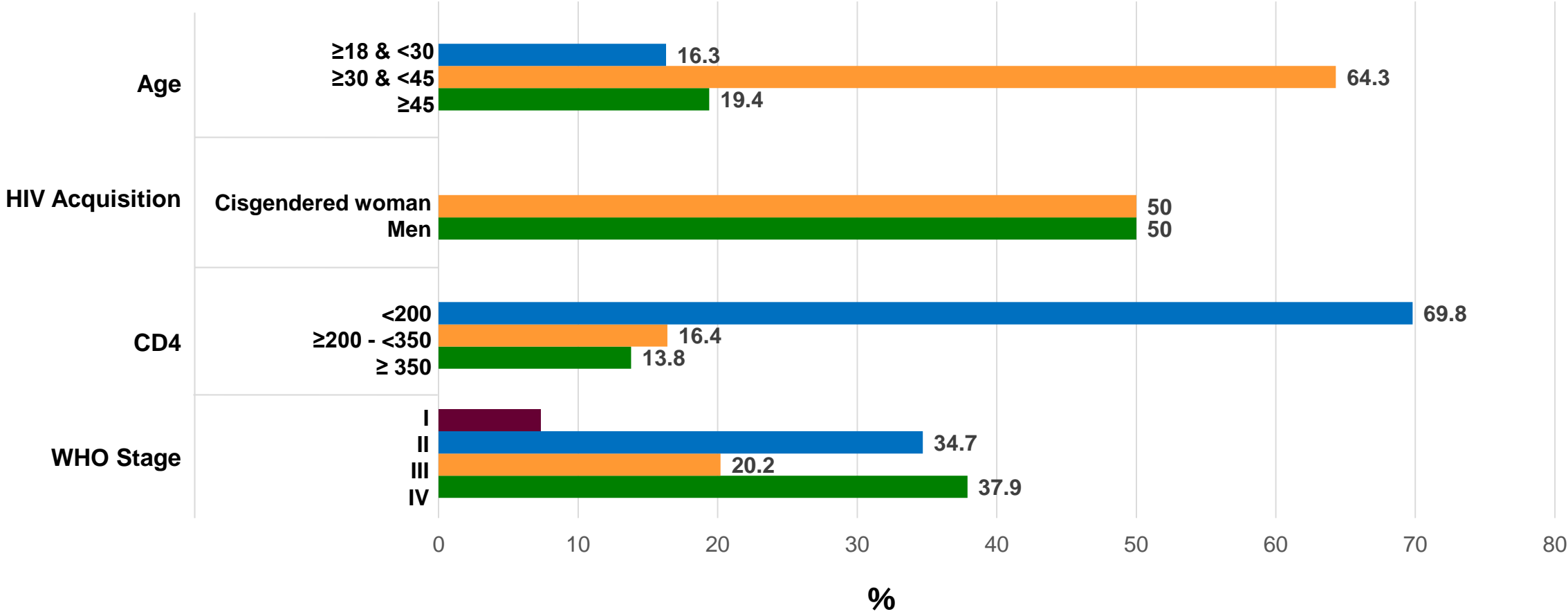
Characteristics of HIV-infected transgendered women in Pune

- Large public sector teaching hospital
- 90 miles southeast from Mumbai
- National AIDS Control Organization of India site
- ART center has about 60,000 HIV-infected registered individuals

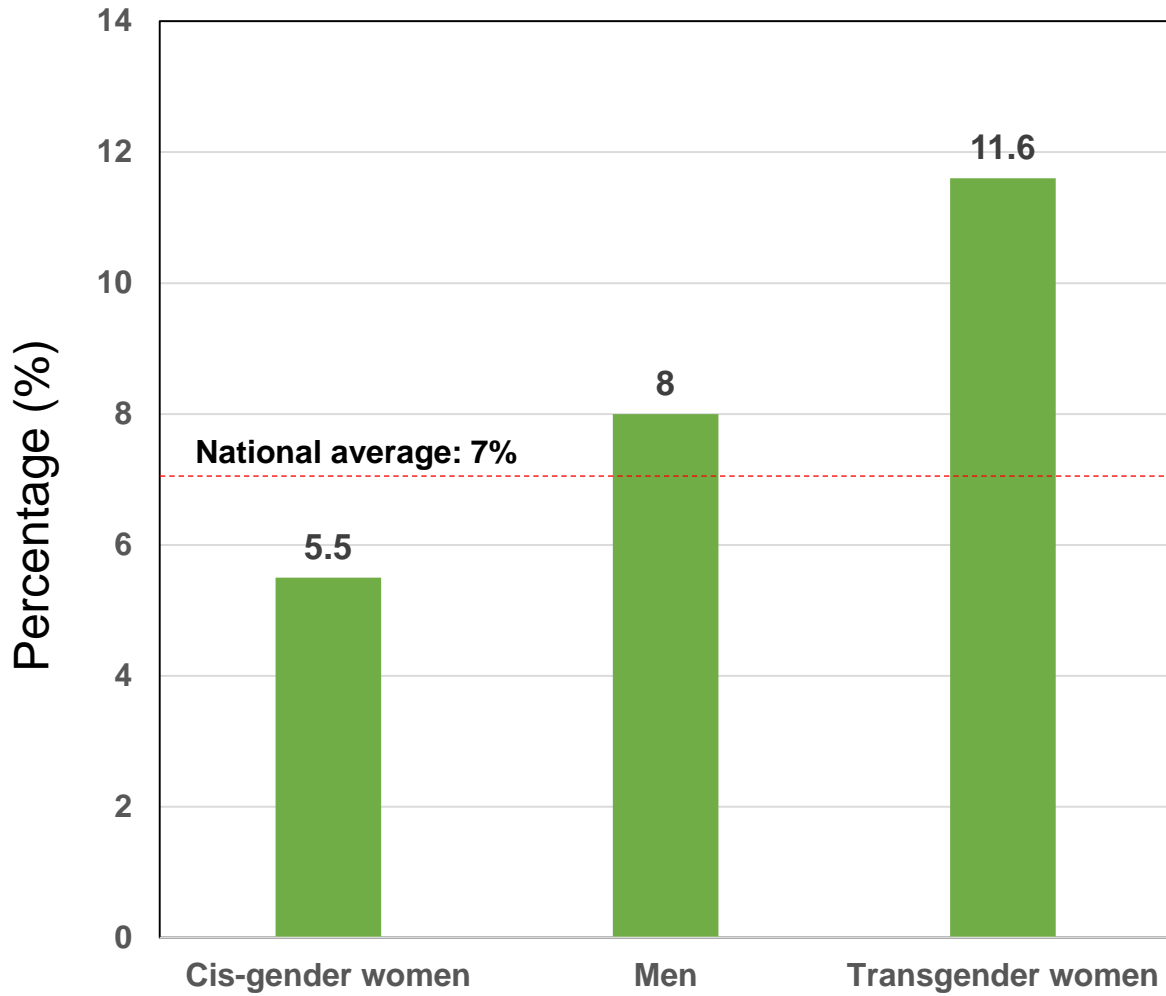


- **Database used:** Observational programmatic database, collected under provisions of the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) of India
- **Period:** January 2006— December 2014
- **Inclusion criteria:** Self-identified HIV–infected transgendered women ≥ 18 years of age, registered at the ART center
- **Analytical techniques:** Descriptive analysis using medians, proportions
- **Characteristics assessed:** Demographic (Age, Mode of HIV acquisition, marital status, ART status at registration); Clinical (CD4 counts, WHO disease stage); Treatment outcomes (Initiation of TB treatment, Loss to follow up, death)

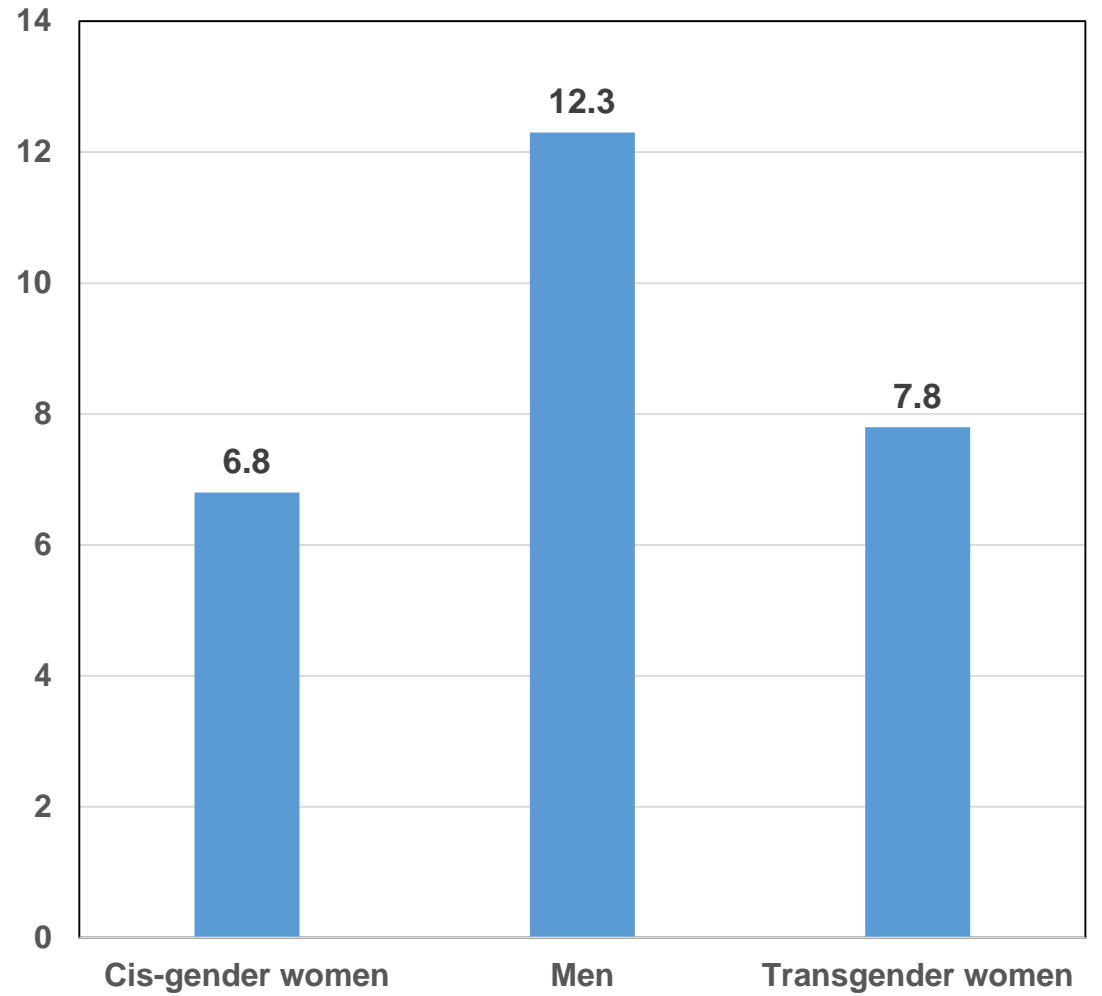
129 transgendered women were registered from 2006-2014 out of a total 55,561 HIV-infected individuals



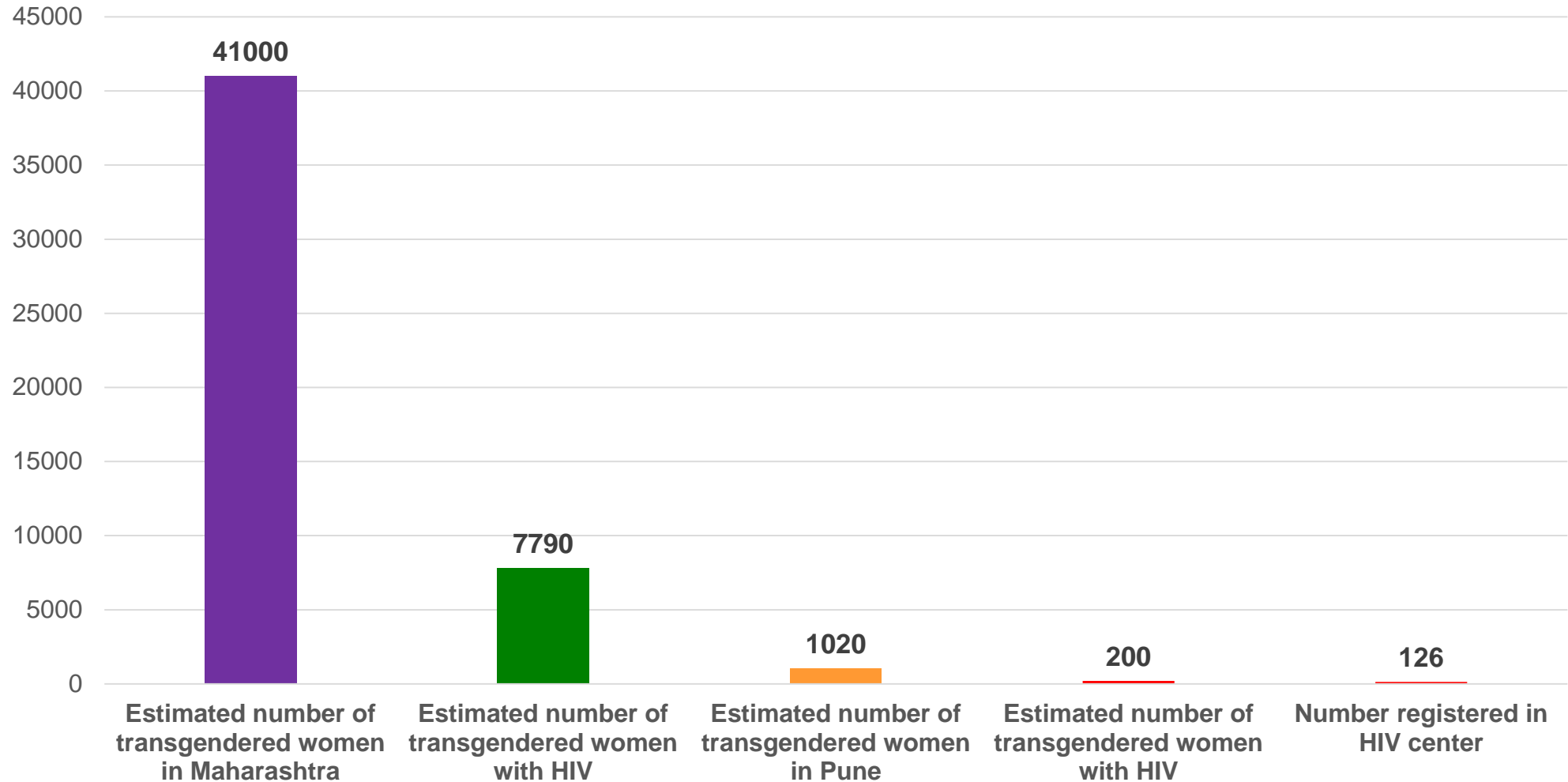
Loss to Follow Up



Deaths



Where are the HIV-infected transgendered women?



Initiatives for TG women in India

- National AIDS Control Program Phase IV – targeted interventions
- Pehchan funded by the Global Fund – rights based collectivization, community involvement, self efficacy
- Recognition as the third gender by the Indian Supreme Court in 2014

Conclusion

- Much needs to be done in improving linkage to and retention in care among transgendered women in India
- Legal recognition needs to go hand in hand with social recognition, economic empowerment and integration into “mainstream” society

Acknowledgements

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