

# HIV-related stigma among women living with HIV

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# Agenda

Stigma and Discrimination

HIV-related stigma and gender

Stigmas harmful effect

Reducing stigma

# Stigma

*“[Stigma is] an attribute that links a person to an undesirable stereotype, leading other people to reduce the bearer from a whole and usual person to a tainted, discounted one”*

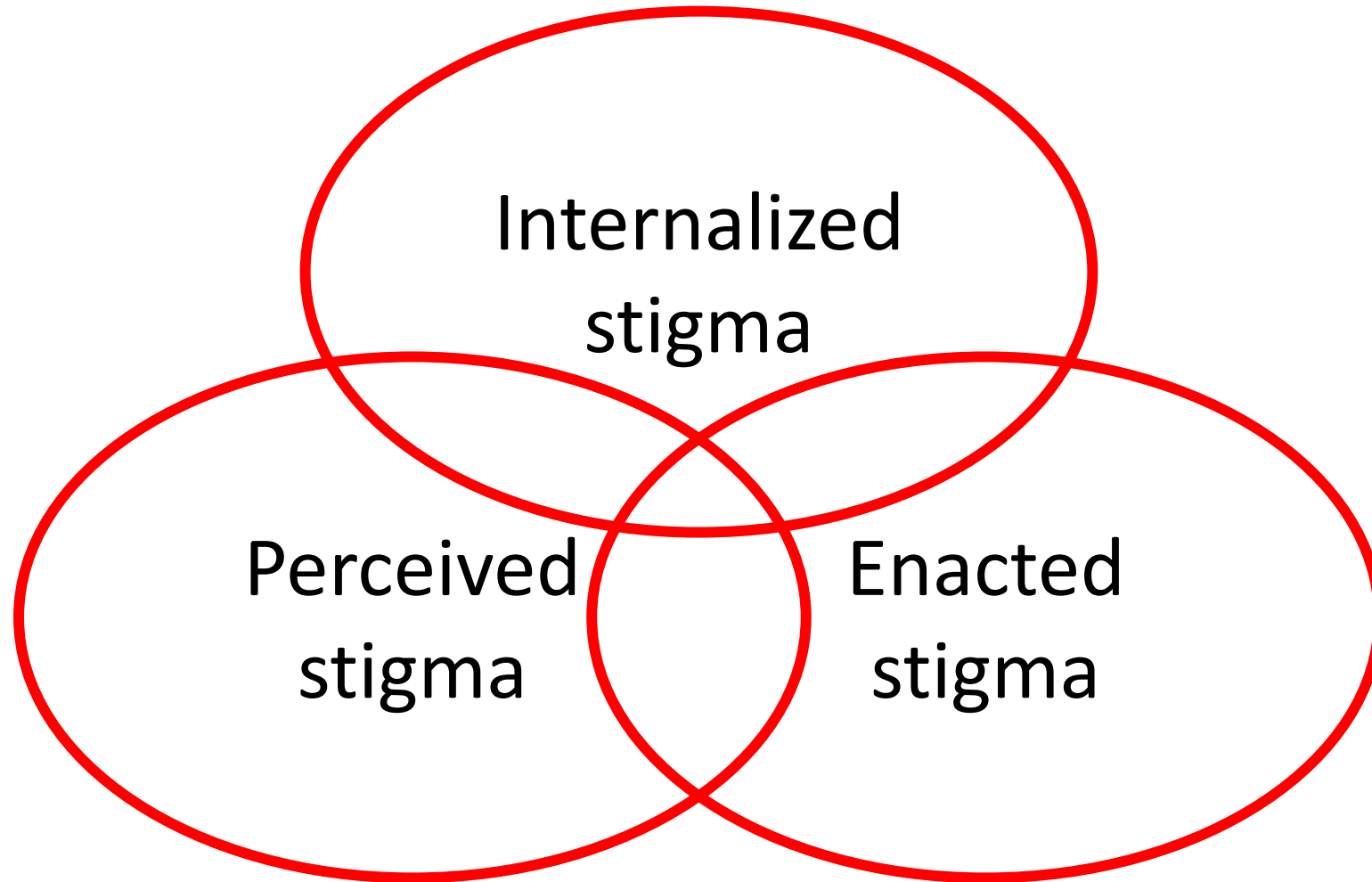


# Descrimination

*“when, in the absence of objective justification, a distinction is made against a person that results in that person being treated unfairly on the basis of belonging or being perceived to belong to a particular group”*



# HIV-related stigma



# HIV-related stigma and gender

Overall, women tend to experience more HIV-related stigma compared to men<sup>1,2,3</sup>

Women tend to experience more negative effects of HIV-related stigma, including

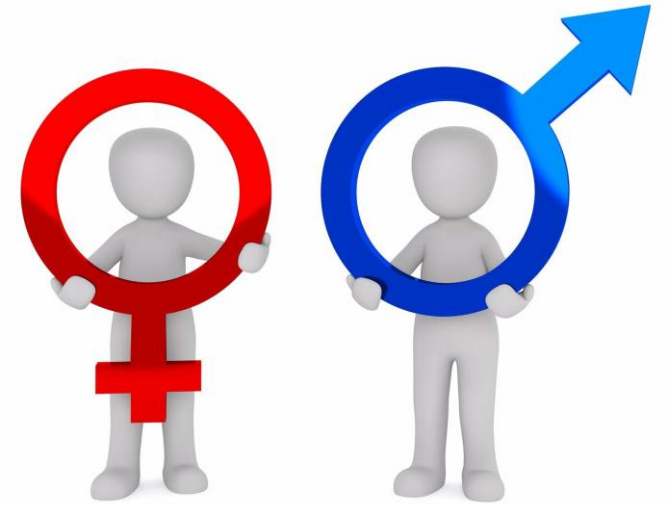
- Symptoms of depression<sup>4</sup>

- Lower levels of perceived social support<sup>5</sup>

- Lower rates of medical adherence<sup>6</sup>

- HIV disclosure concerns<sup>7</sup>

- Negative influence of HRQoL<sup>8,9</sup>



# THE FOURTH 90

**90%**

diagnosed

**90%**

on treatment

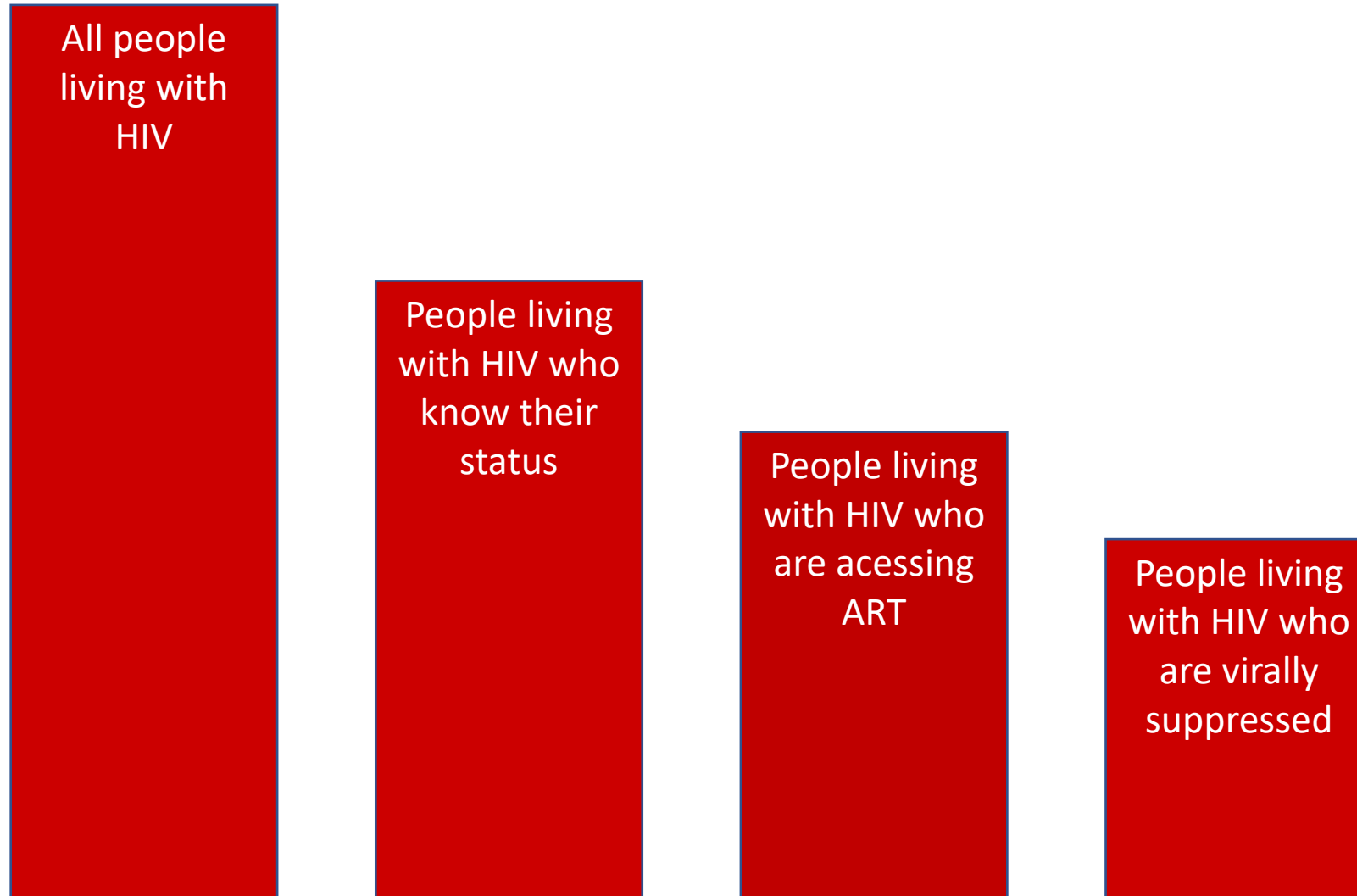
**90%**

virally suppressed

**90%**

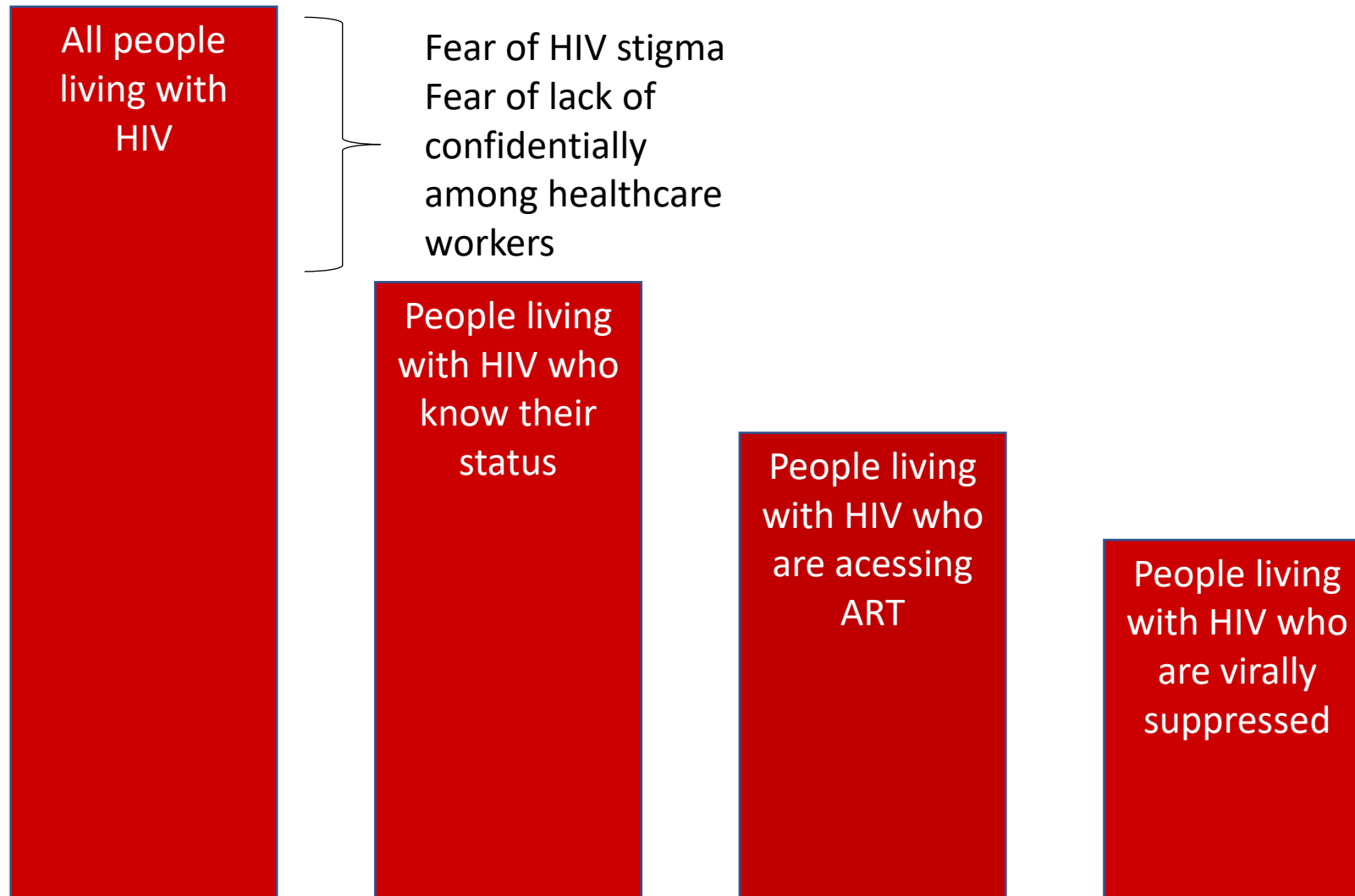
good health-related  
quality-of-life

# Stigma's Harmful Effects

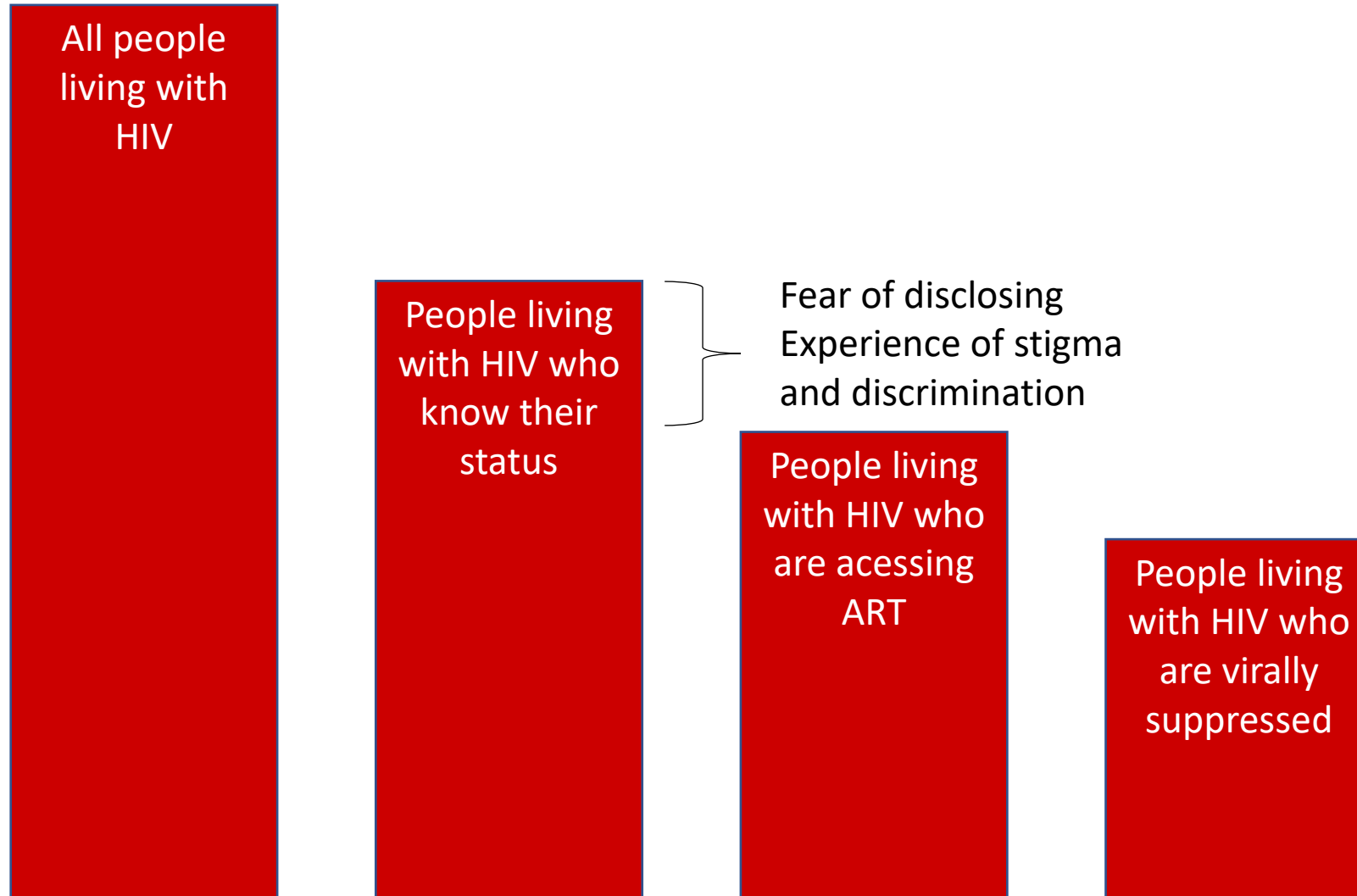




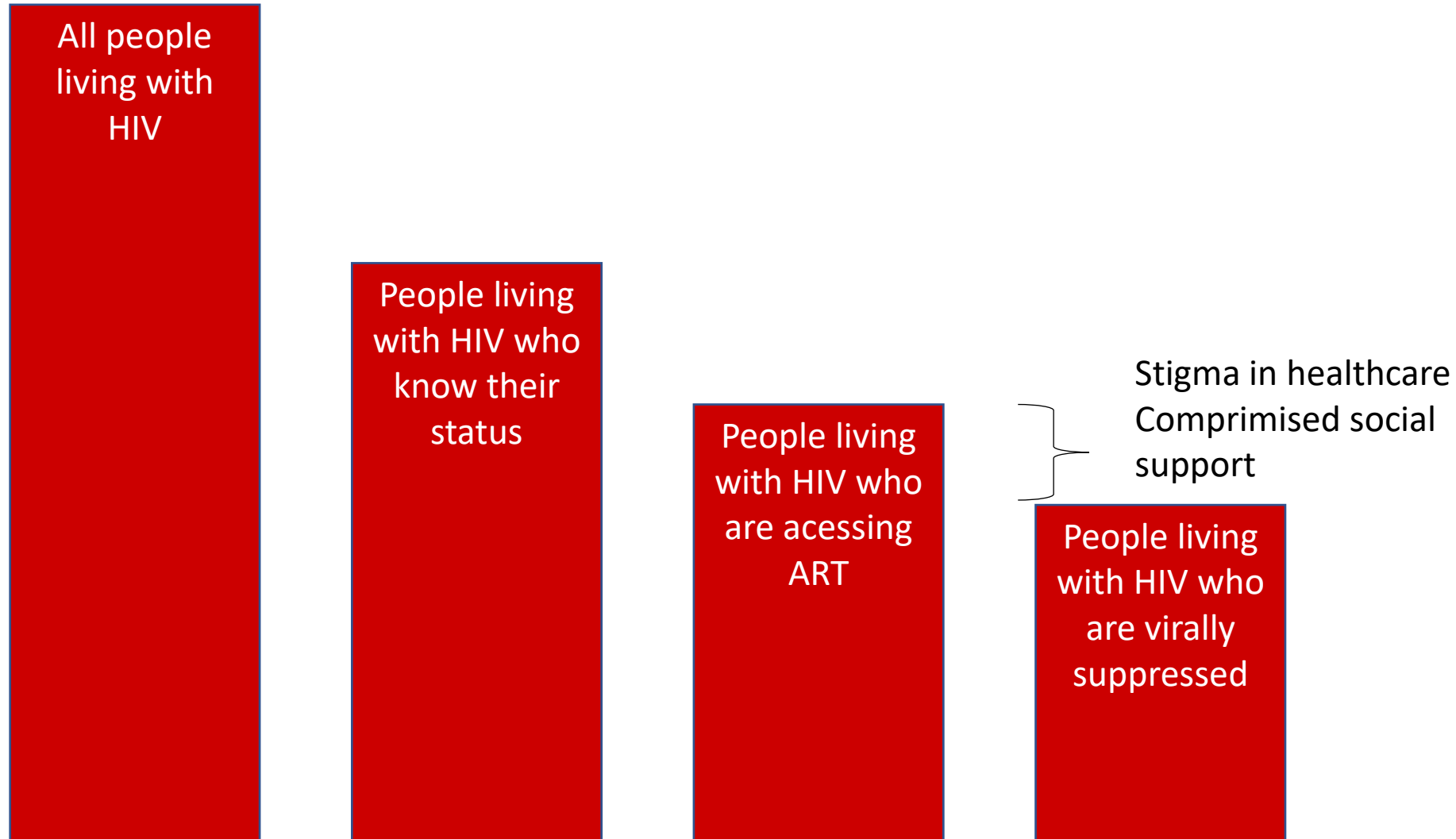
# Stigma's Harmful Effects



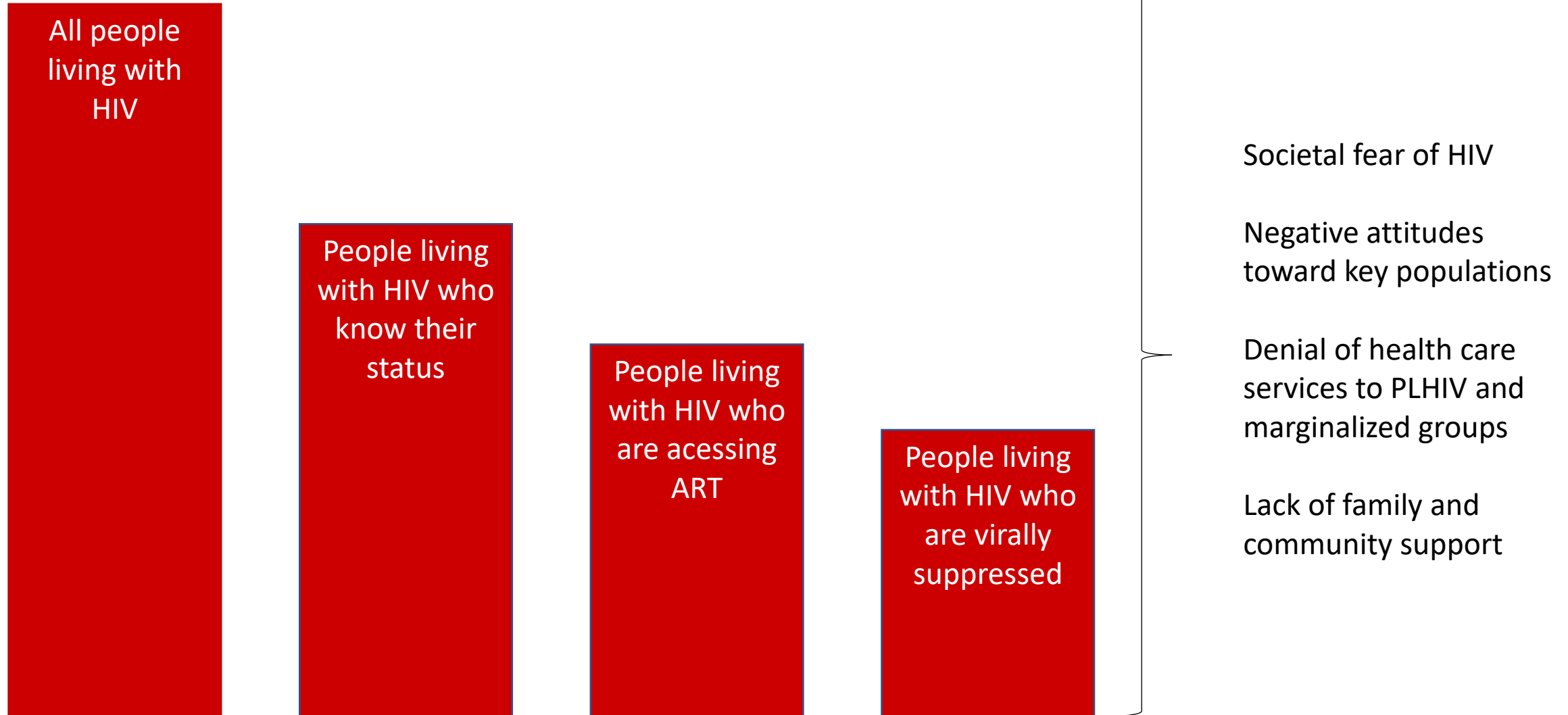
# Stigma's Harmful Effects



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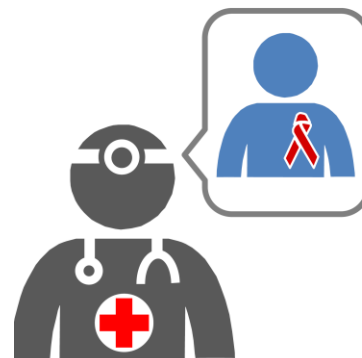
# Stigma's Harmful Effects



# Disclosure in Health Care

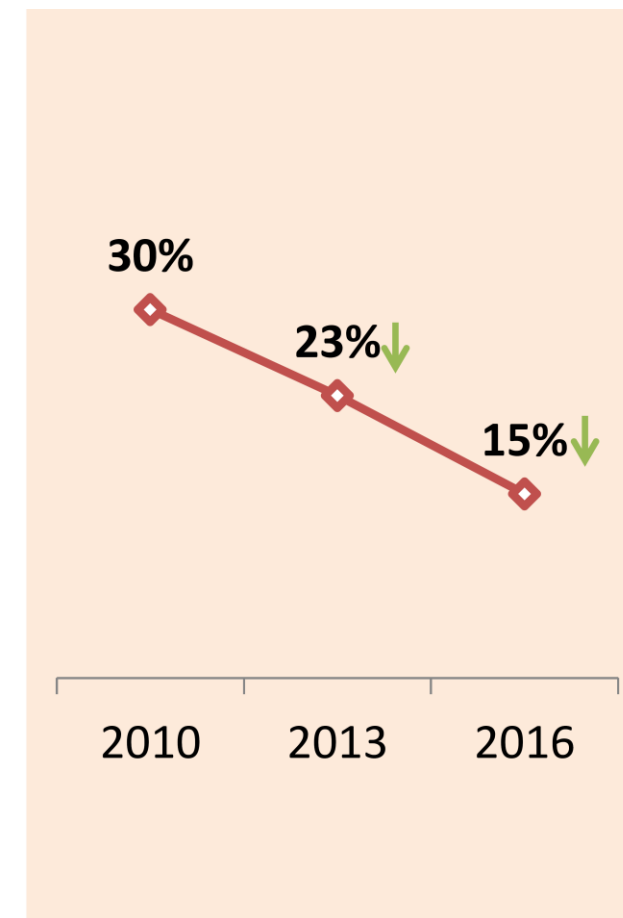
In a 2016 study among 1000 WLWH in Ukraine:

- Almost half of WLWH (49%) “do not know” or “do not believe” that health care providers do not disclose their HIV status or any other details without their consent
- 32% do not know their rights and do not know where to complain in case of rights violations
- 19% believe that as a WLWH they will not receive legal protection

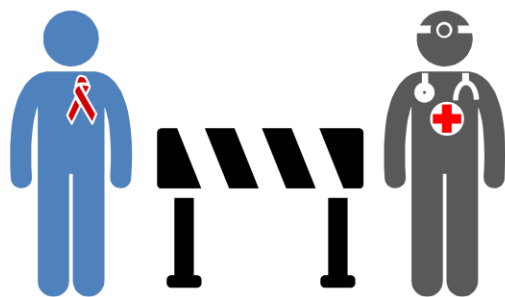


Percent of the respondents who reported that healthcare workers disclosed their HIV-status without their consent.

Sampling  
2010: 1500, 2013: 1500, 2016: 1500

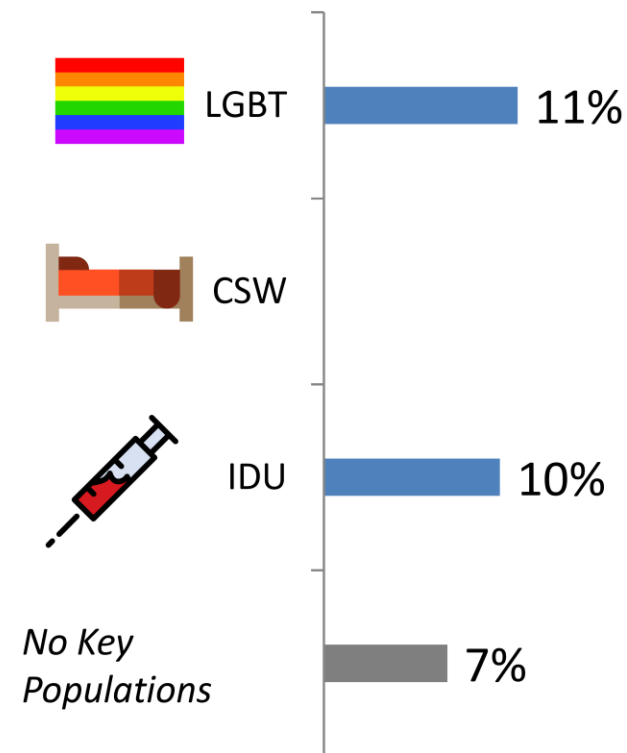
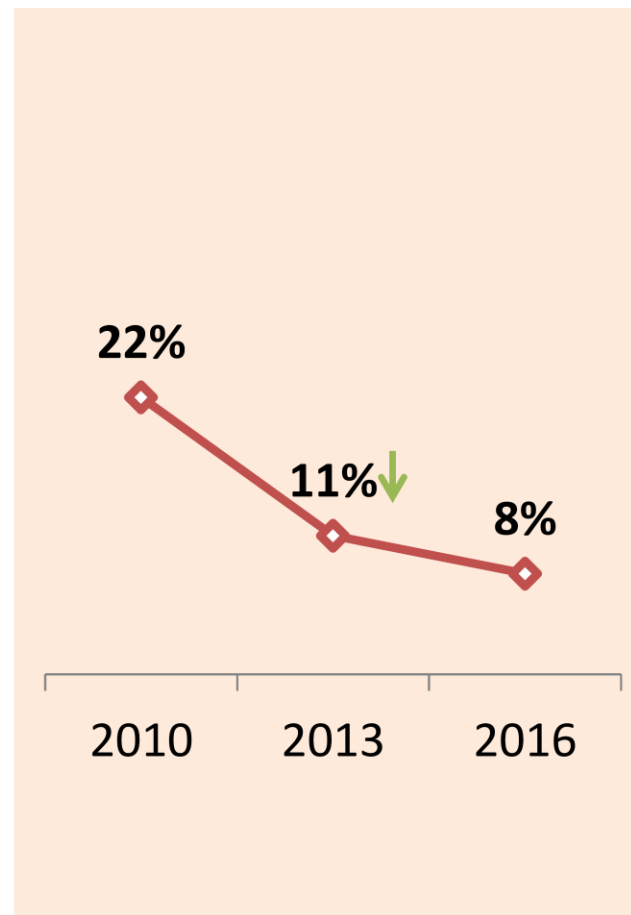


# Discrimination in healthcare settings



Percent of the HIV-positive people, who were refused in providing medical services because of their HIV-positive status within the last 12 months.

Sampling  
2010: 1500. 2013: 1500. 2016: 1500



Sampling: Key Populations (2016):  
LGBT: 55. CSW: 14. IDU: 714. No KPs: 696

# Violence against women

More one in three (35%) WLWH in Ukraine have experienced violence from their partner or spouse

More than half (51%) had no support whatsoever after the experience



PHYSICAL  
VIOLENCE



SEXUAL  
VIOLENCE

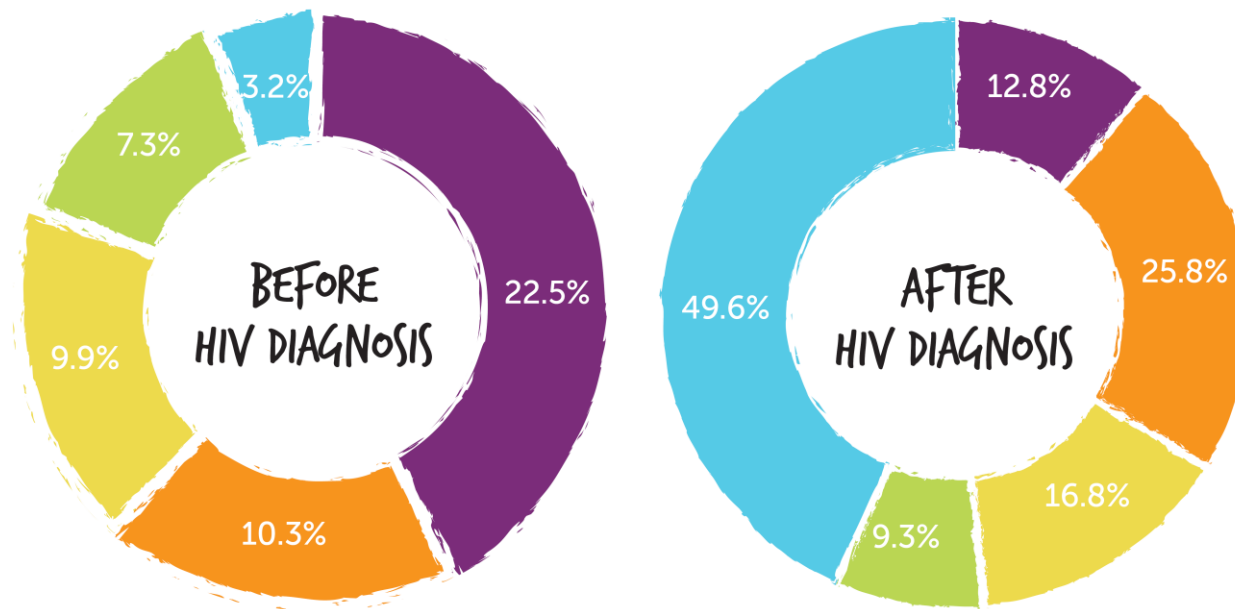


EMOTIONAL &  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
VIOLENCE

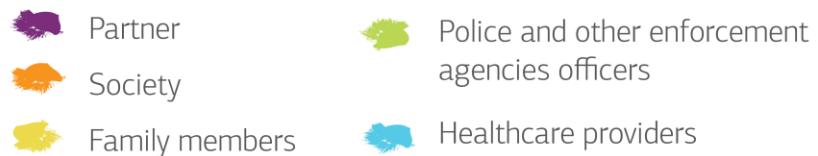


SOCIOECONOMIC  
VIOLENCE

# Violence in healthcare



## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN





# Reduction of HIV-related stigma

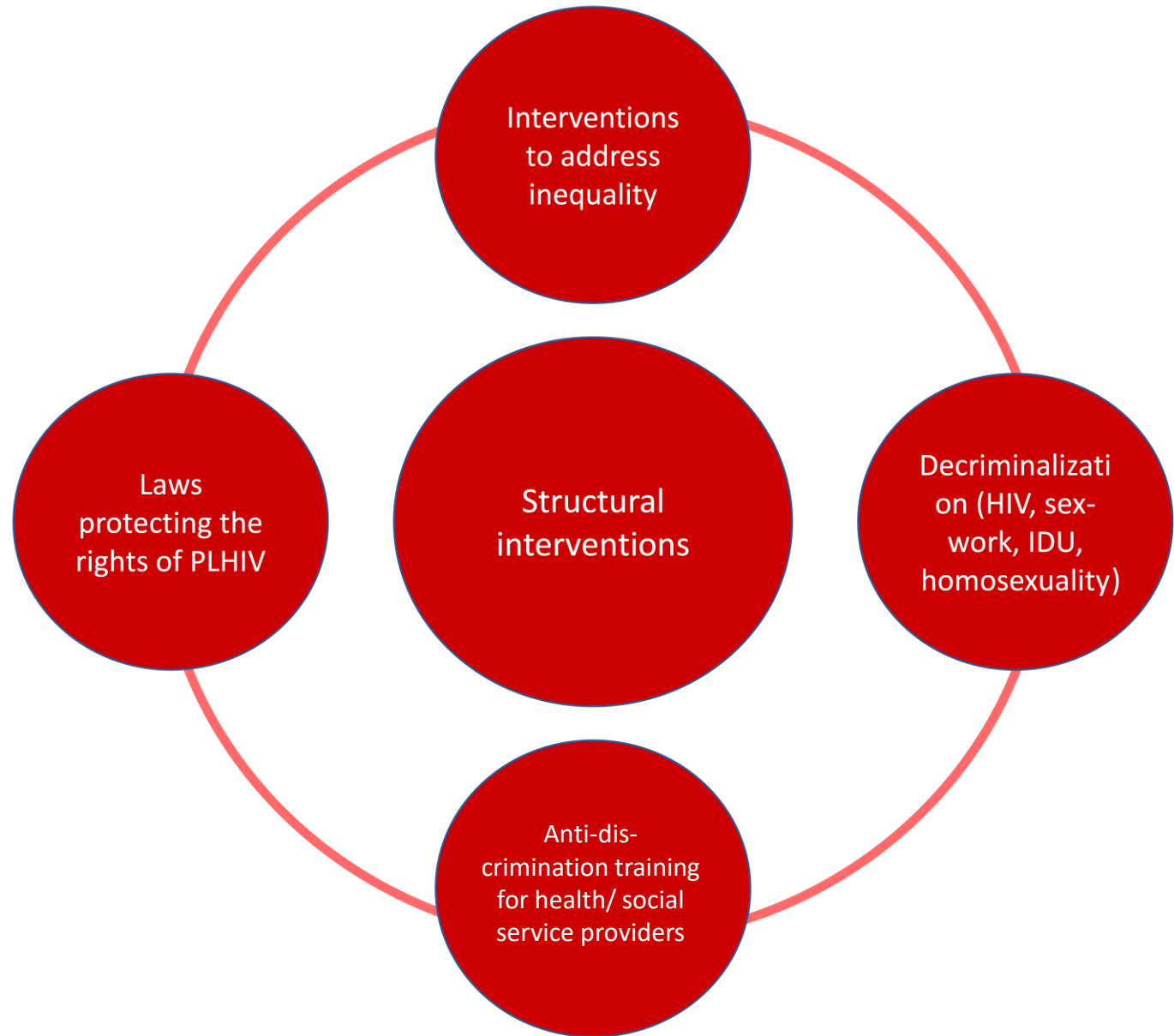
Multi-level interventions are needed.

HIV-stigma should be addressed at all levels i.e. legal and policy, institutional, community and at the individual level

UNAIDS 2014 | GUIDANCE NOTE

**Reduction of  
HIV-related  
stigma and  
discrimination**

# Structural level interventions



# Individual and community interventions

Counseling

Support groups for PLHIV

Information and education for non-PLHIV

Mass media campaigns

Skill building for family and friends to improve care for PLHIV





Posted on March 2, 2020

# Zero Discrimination: Three stories of women living with HIV in Ukraine



## Women's Stories

### Living with HIV and Violence: Women of Ukraine Speak Out and Build Solidarity



In Ukraine, 35 per cent of women living with HIV have experienced violence since the age of 15. Many women cannot definitively say that they have experienced violence, because they have suffered and witnessed gender-based violence through generations and it has been normalized. For women living with HIV, lack of awareness, shelters and support services pose additional challenges. Peer-support groups and the National Women's Forum on HIV, supported by UN Women is bringing awareness, action and new beginnings for women survivors of violence living with HIV.

Hanna Liliina found out about her HIV status during a pre-natal checkup. The 30-year-old was pregnant again, and had just left her abusive partner and fled the conflict in eastern Ukraine, with her one-year-old daughter.

In Ukraine, 35 per cent of women living with HIV have experienced violence since the age of 15 (compared to 19 per cent of women who are not living with HIV), according to a 2016 study conducted by a local organization named "Positive Women", with the support of UN Women. Like Liliina, almost a quarter of the 1,000 women surveyed could not definitively say whether they have experienced violence in their lives, although the experiences they shared were decidedly

violent.

"I did not know how to identify violence. Having experienced it since childhood, I didn't even think to fight it."

HOME » NEWS AND INFORMATION » SUCCESS STORIES » UKRAINIAN WOMEN LEARN TO COPE WITH HIV STATUS

## UKRAINIAN WOMEN LEARN TO COPE WITH HIV STATUS

### Support groups help to counter stigma

"Self-support and empowerment groups are the most effective contributors to psychological acceptance of one's status and help people living with HIV to feel better about themselves."

August 2016—Vira Varyga, an HIV activist in Ukraine, is also a trainer and facilitator at Kyianka+, a self-support and empowerment group for HIV-positive women. She is also HIV-positive, and the associated feelings of stigma and discrimination are familiar to her.

Once secretive about her health issues, she now she uses her experience to empower others. Few things are more rewarding to Varyga than her clients sharing news about positive changes in their lives.



Vira Varyga, a trainer and facilitator at Kyianka+, counsels HIV-positive women. Courtesy of USAID RESPECT project

***“Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced”***

James Baldwin

**THANK YOU FOR THE ATTENTION**

