

Correlates of never testing for HIV among Men who have sex with men In Nepal

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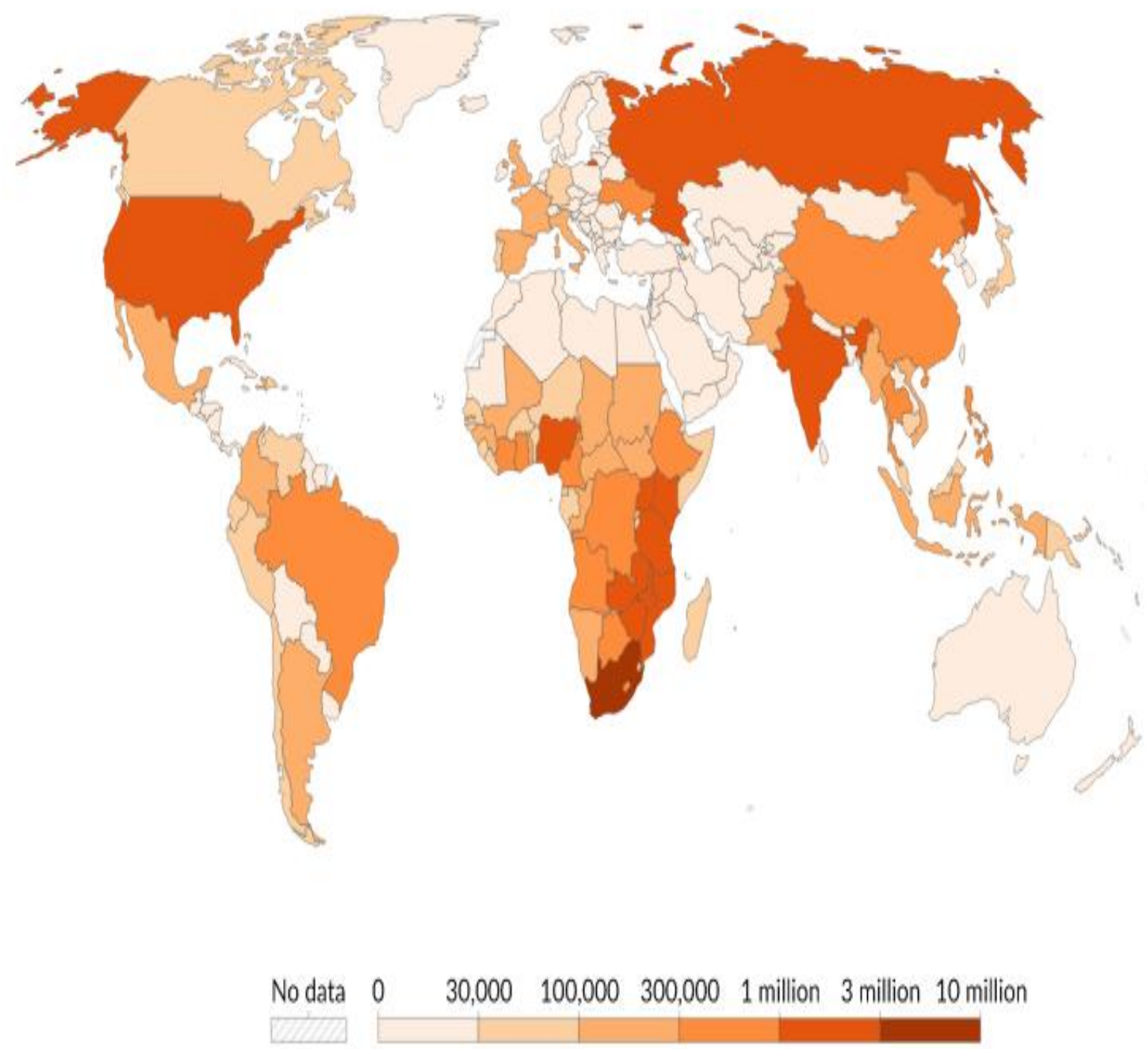
Roman
Shrestha

Affiliations



Number of people living with HIV, 2021

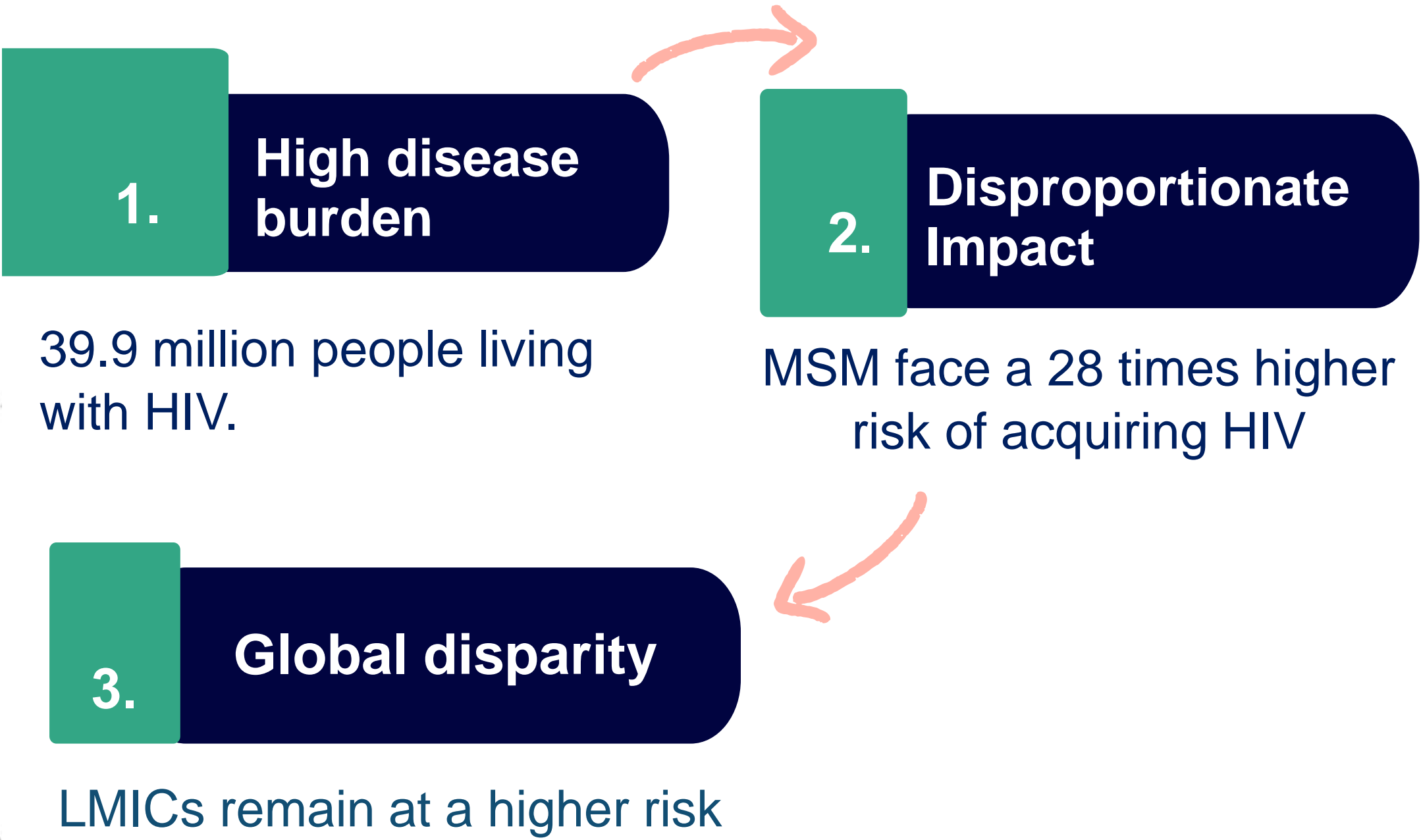
The estimated number of current cases of HIV/AIDS.



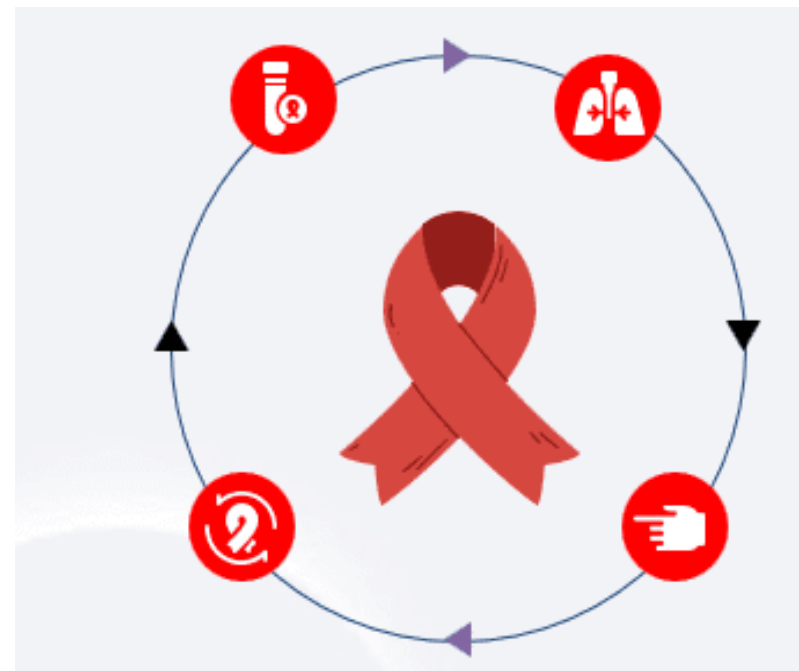
Data source: IHME, Global Burden of Disease (2024)

OurWorldinData.org/hiv-a

Background: *HIV as a Global Health Concern*



Rising incidence among MSM



HIV incidence among MSM increased **32%** (2010–2022)

Globally

HIV prevalence among MSM increased from **3%** (2015) to **9%** (2018)

Nepal

However, only 2.5% of MSM reported their HIV infection

Nepal's Response & Challenges



1

Committed to UNAIDS

95-95-95 target by 2030 (National HIV Strategic Plan 2021–2026)

2

Expanding HIV testing accessibility

263 HIV testing sites & multiple testing options (facility-based, community-based, self-testing).

3

Challenges

HIV testing among MSM remains stagnant.

Research Gap



Limited research on factors linked to never testing among MSM in Nepal, with most studies focusing on infection risk over testing behavior.

Objective

To measure and determine factors associated with never testing for HIV and to suggest tailored public health interventions to improve HIV testing uptake among the MSM community in Nepal.

determine factors associated with never testing

METHODOLOGY

Study design

Cross-sectional bio-behavioral survey

Sampling Method

Population-based respondent-driven sampling (RDS)

Study Period

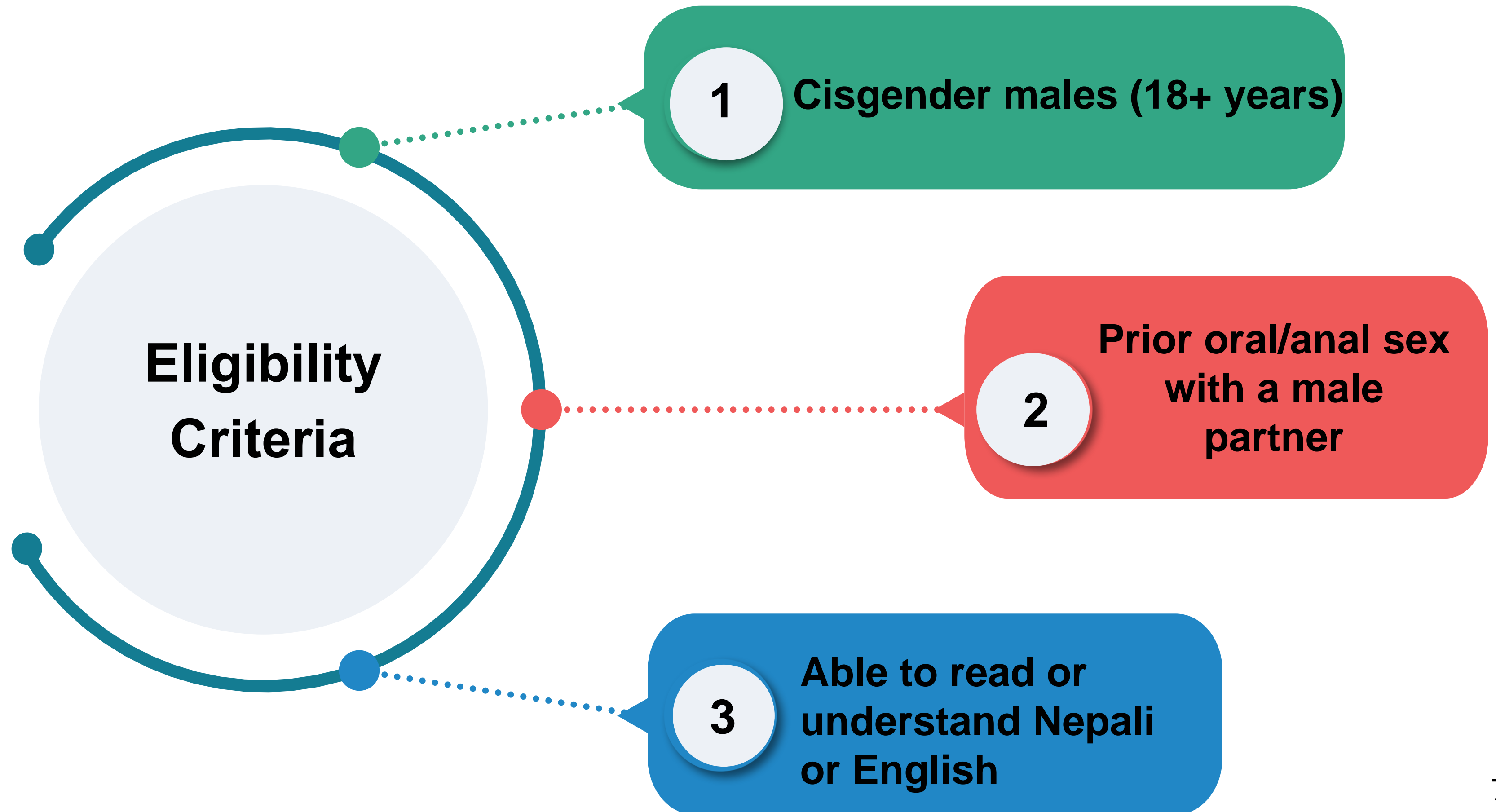
October 1 – December 30, 2022

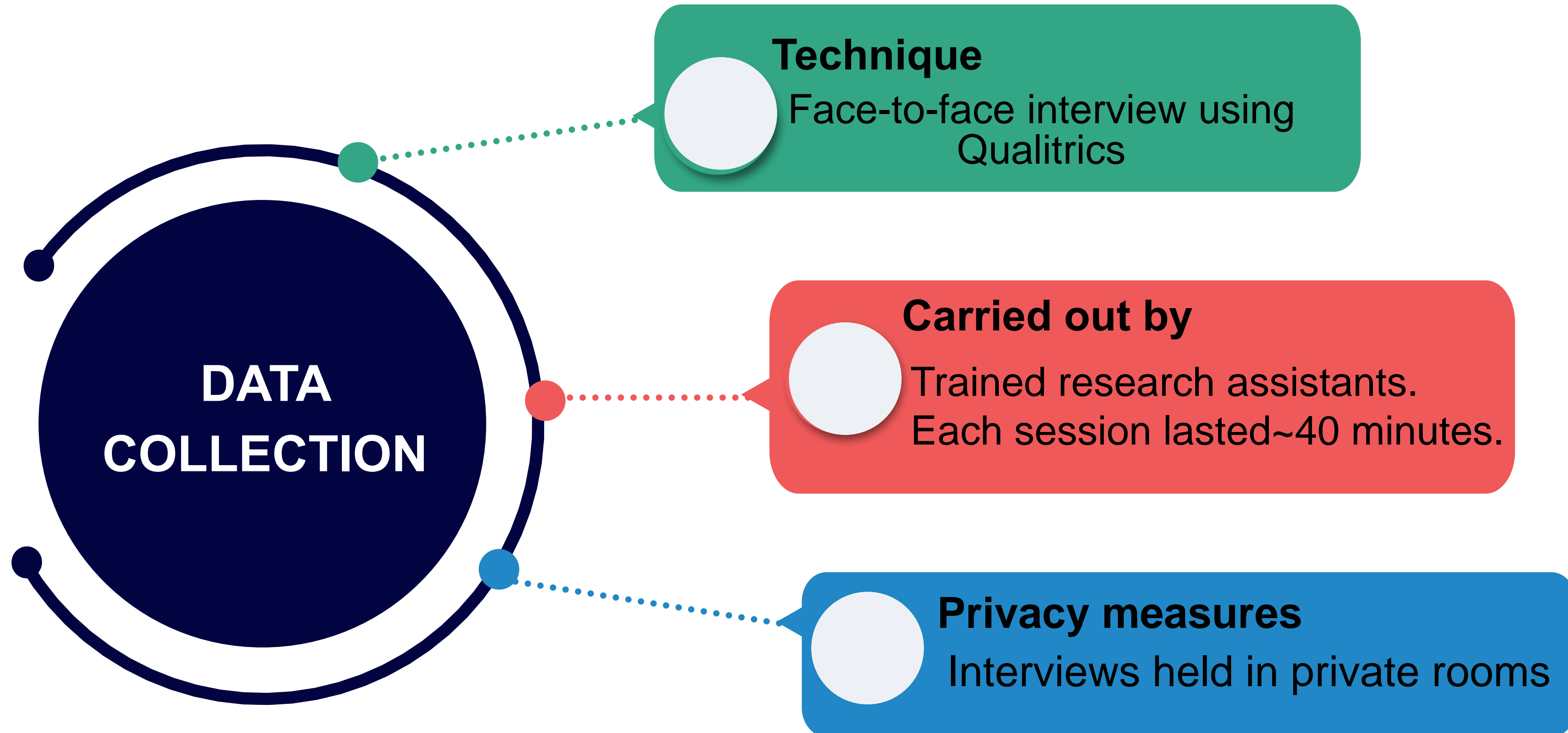
Collaboration

Conducted with Blue Diamond Society (BDS)

Study Location

Kathmandu Valley (Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur)





Incentive



Participation Incentive

1000 NPR (~USD 8)

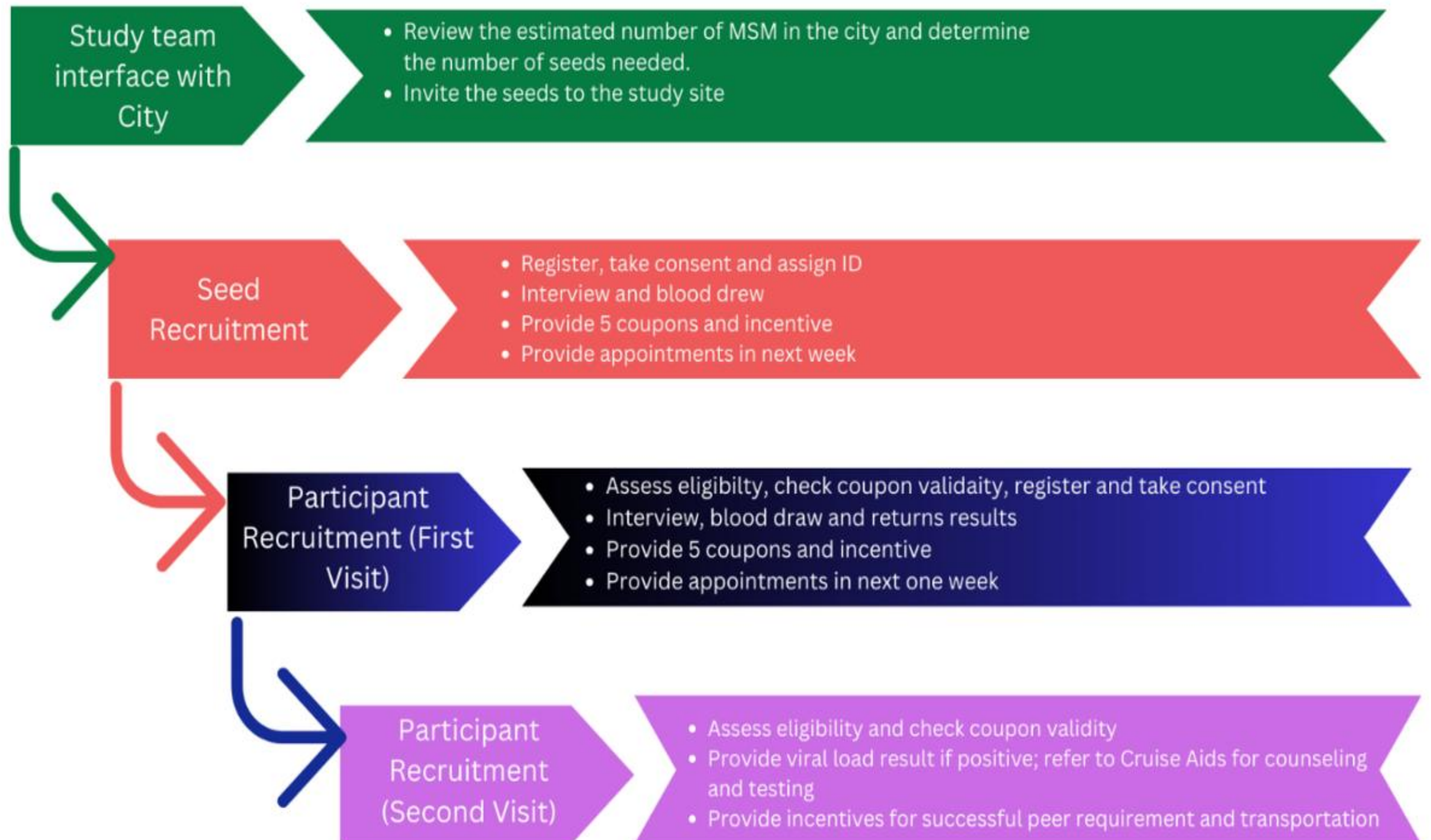
Peer Recruitment Incentive

500 NPR (~USD 4) per successful referral

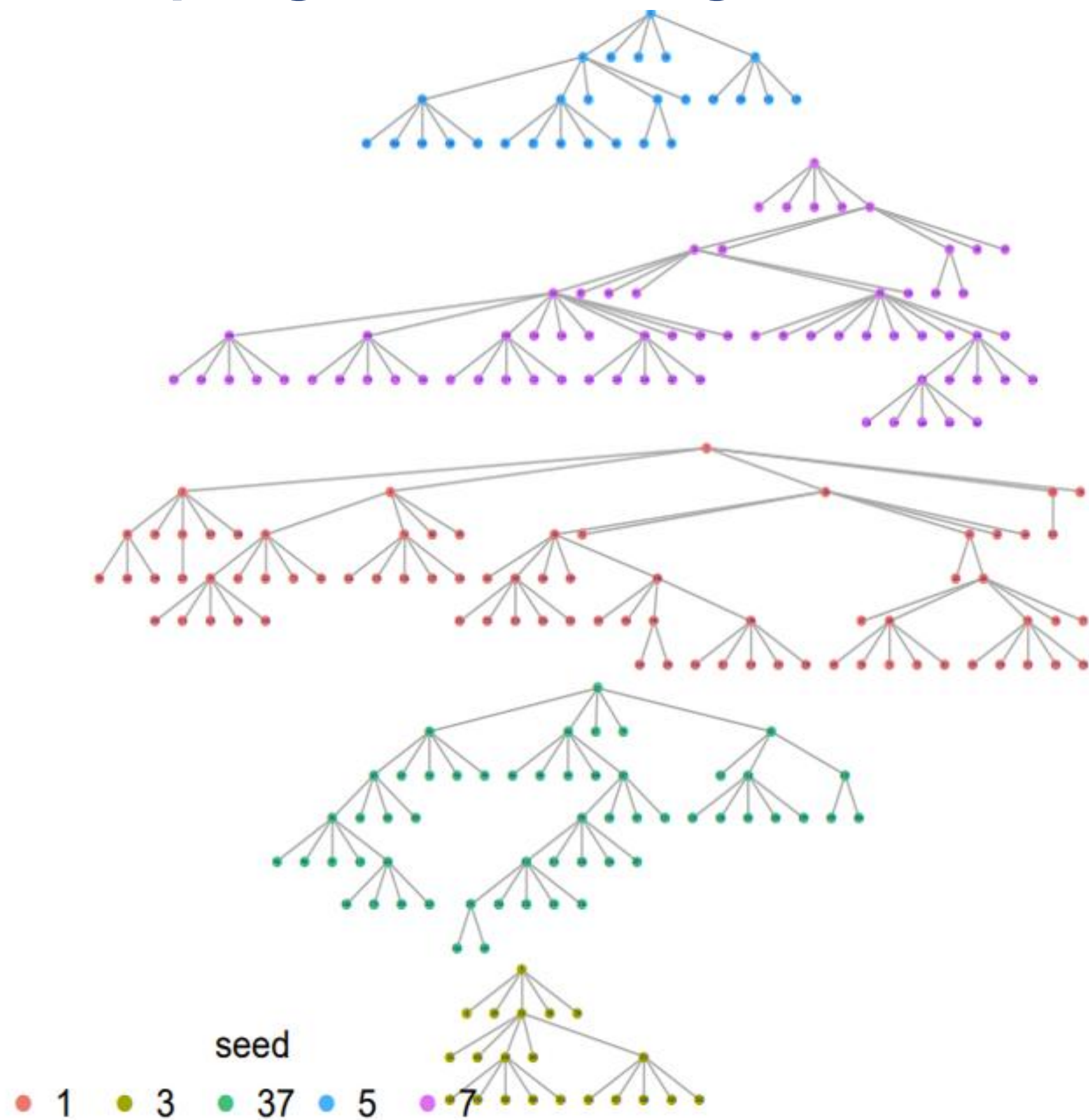
Purpose

Compensation for transportation & potential work loss

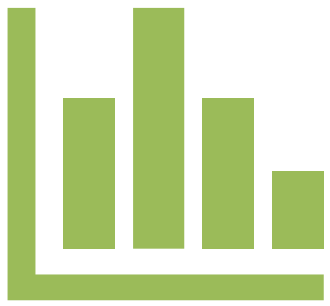
Study procedure to recruit MSM in Kathmandu Valley, Nepal



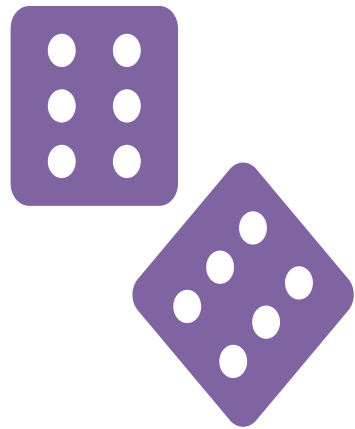
Respondent-driven Sampling Network Diagram of The Seeds & Waves



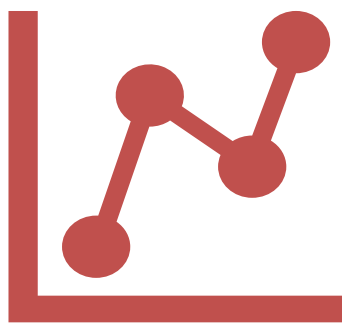
Statistical Analysis




- The statistical software Stata.SE Corp version 17.0 was used for data analysis.
- Descriptive statistics were applied.



- RDS Analysis Tool 7.1 (RDSAT ; Cornell, NY) was used to create weights and account for differences in participants' social network sizes.
- The RDSII estimator was applied to minimize biases in chain referral sampling.
- Weights were based on the transition matrix for the dependent variable (*never tested for HIV*).

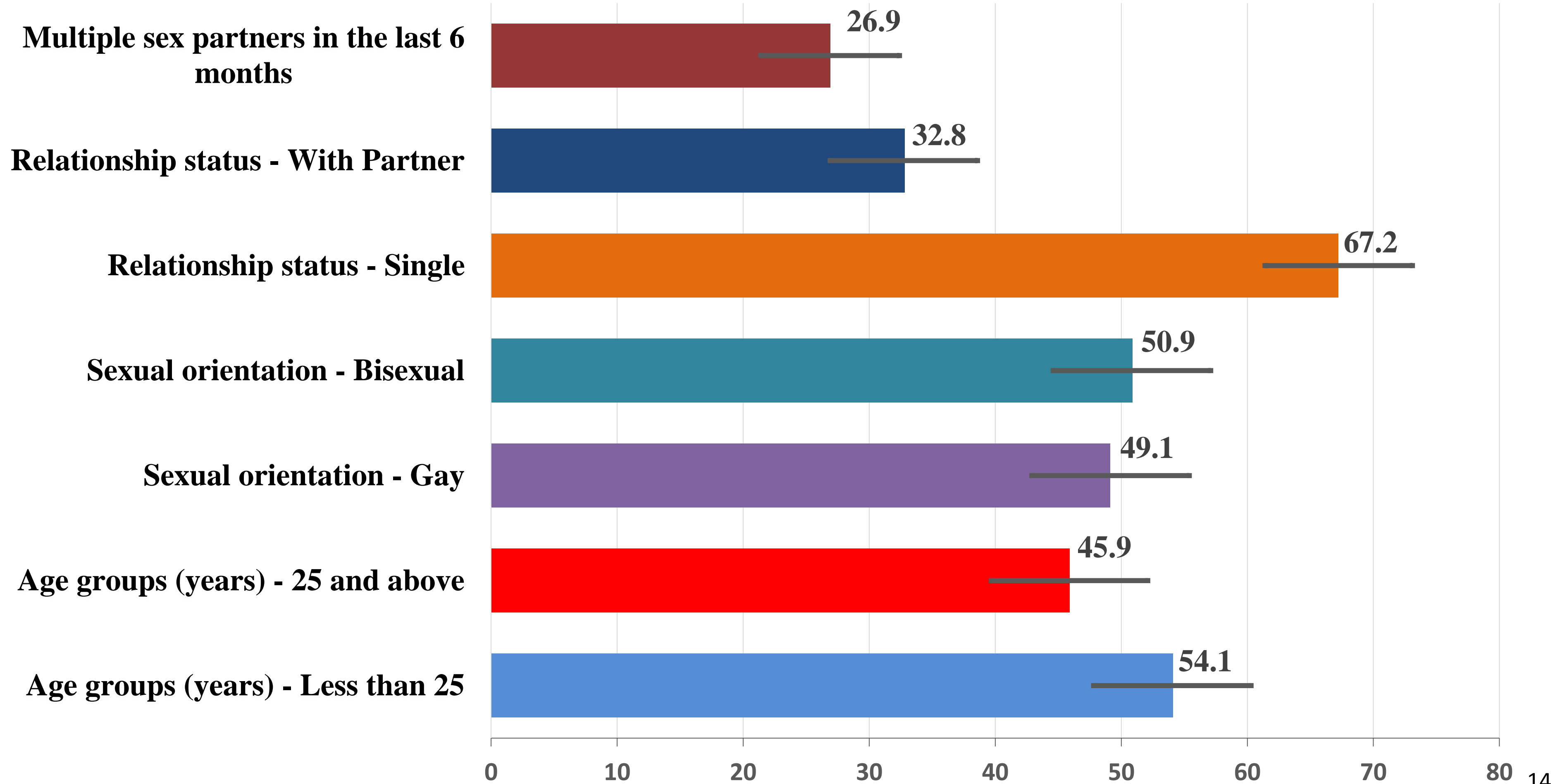


- Used bivariate and multivariate logistic regression to estimate associations.
- Applied RDS weighting in both models.
- Considered $p\text{-value} < 0.05$ as statistically significant.

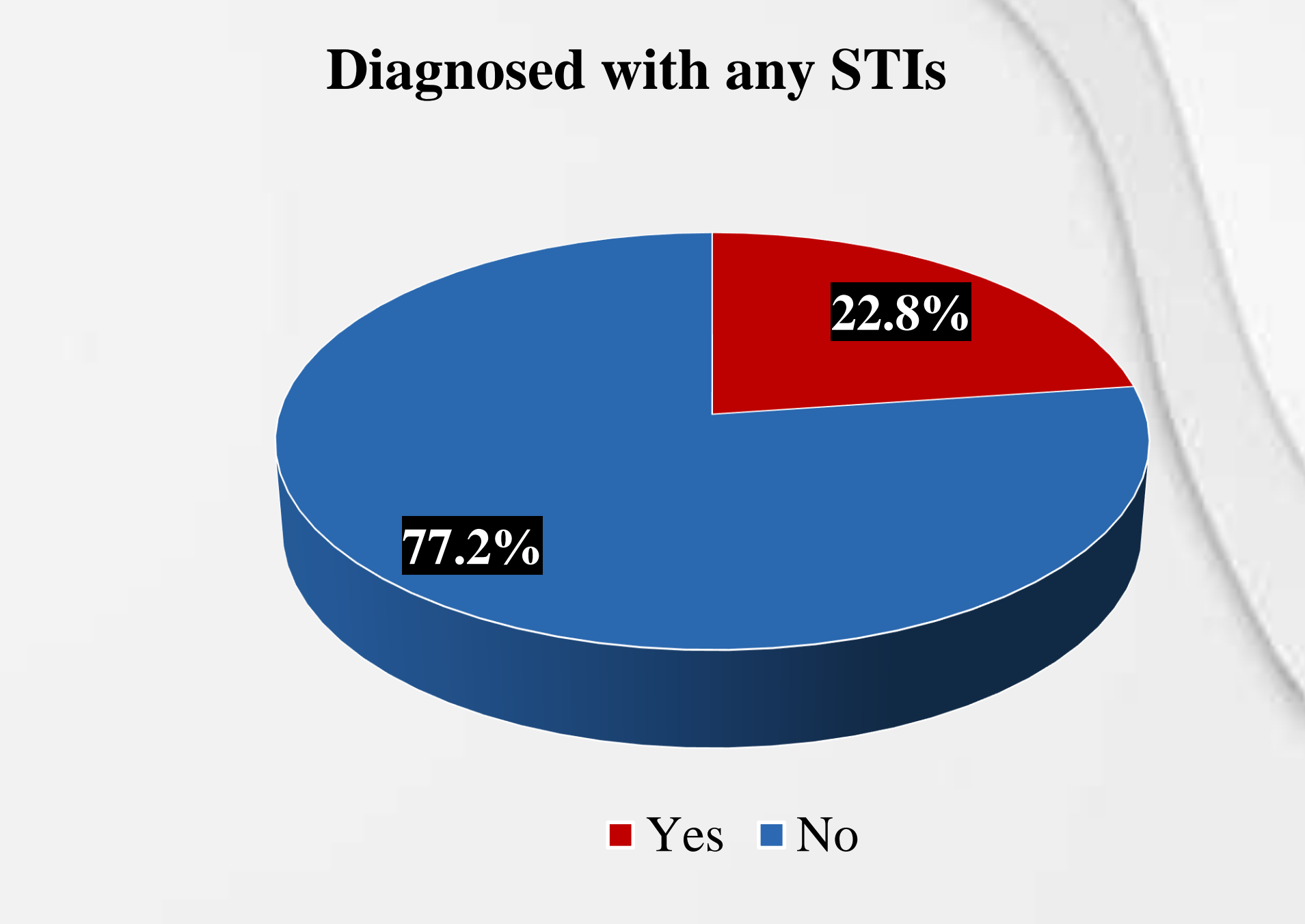
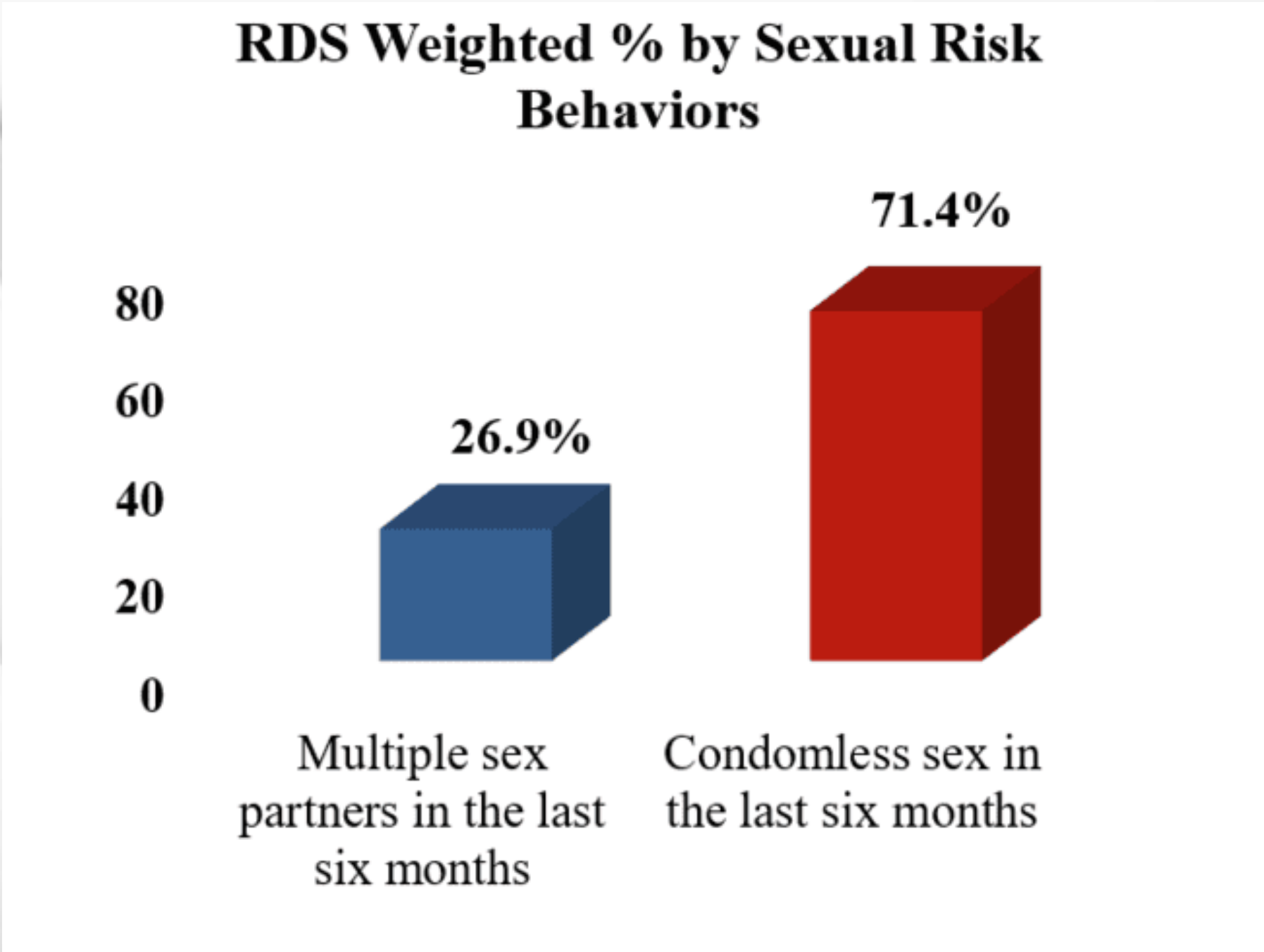


RESULTS

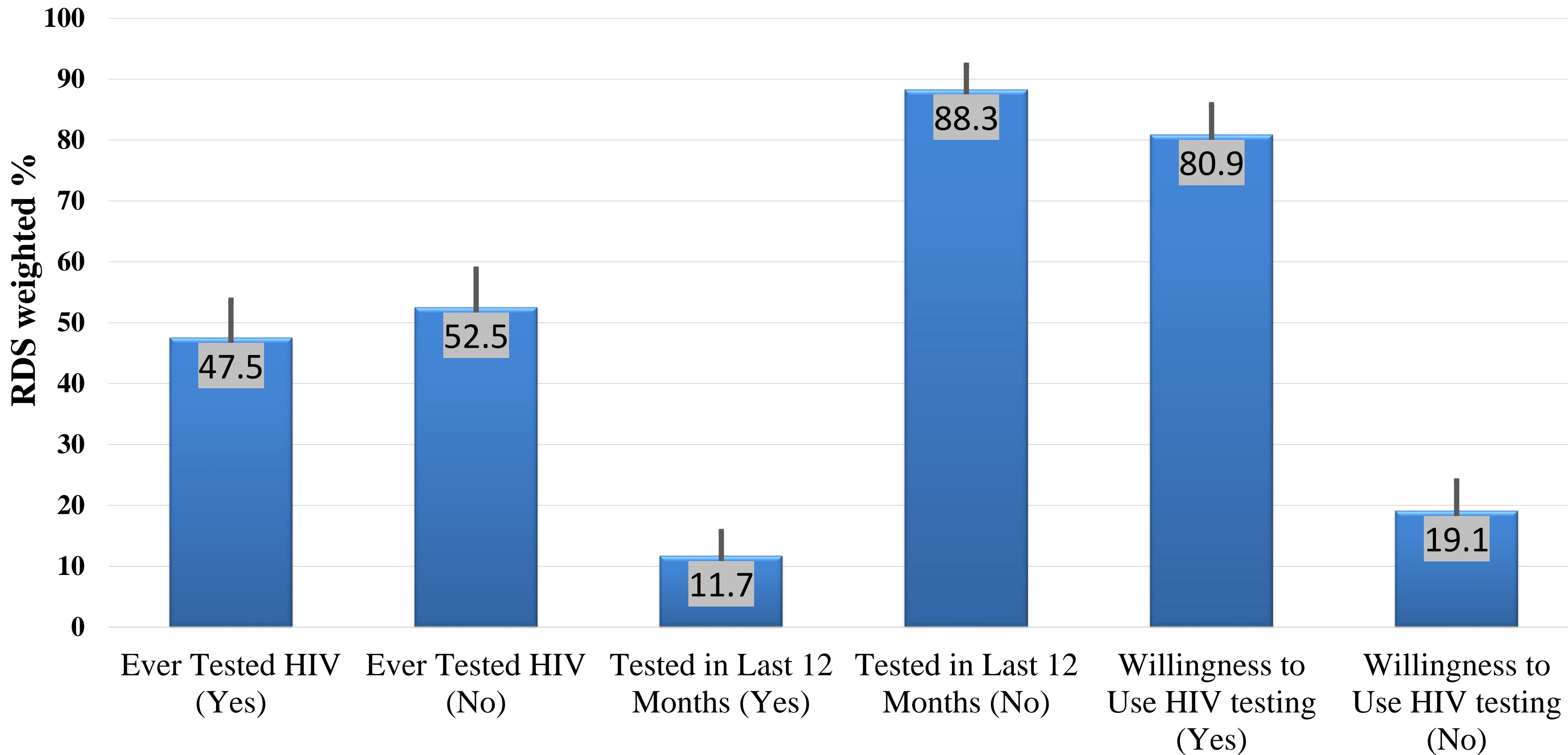
RDS Weighted % by Socio-demographic Characteristics



HIV-related and High-risk sexual behaviors



HIV testing and behavior



Factors associated with never testing HIV among MSM in Nepal

Characteristics	Crude weighted OR (95% CI)	Adjusted weighted OR (95% CI)	
Ever engaged in transactional sex			
Yes	1 [Reference]	1 [Reference]	
No	2.1 (0.9-4.4)	4.5 (1.2-17.3)	
Daily internet access			
Yes	1 [Reference]	1 [Reference]	
No	2.9 (1.3-6.5)	5.4 (1.4-21.3)	
Heard of HIV self-testing			
Yes	1 [Reference]	1 [Reference]	
No	8.2 (4.5-14.8)	6.7 (2.8-16.0)	
Diagnosed with any STIs			
Yes	1 [Reference]	1 [Reference]	
No	5.7 (2.6-12.3)	8.4 (2.8-25.2)	
Know of someone taking PrEP			
Yes	1 [Reference]	1 [Reference]	
No	52.8 (14.4-193.7)	44.9 (10.5-191.6)	17



LIMITATION

01

SELECTION BIAS

Monetary incentives
in RDS

02

LIMITED GENERALIZABILITY

The study was conducted only in
the Kathmandu Valley

03

SMALL SAMPLE SIZE

A modest sample
size

Key Takeaways



HIV Testing Gap

Many MSM remain untested despite free services.



Risky Behaviors

Multiple partners and condomless sex increase HIV risk.



Stigma & Testing Preference

NGO-based testing is preferred over traditional healthcare.



Awareness Challenge

Many MSM are unfamiliar with HIV self-testing.



Opportunity for Accessibility

High willingness to use self-testing.



Expanding Reach

Couples testing, counseling, and online platforms

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Hi!

I am **Sandhya Niroula**, an early-career researcher and undergraduate public health student at the Central Department of Public Health, IOM. My research interests lie at the intersection of **digital health, sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR), and non-communicable diseases**. I'm always open to research collaborations—feel free to connect through:



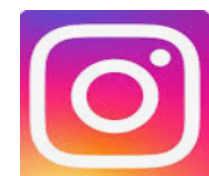
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