



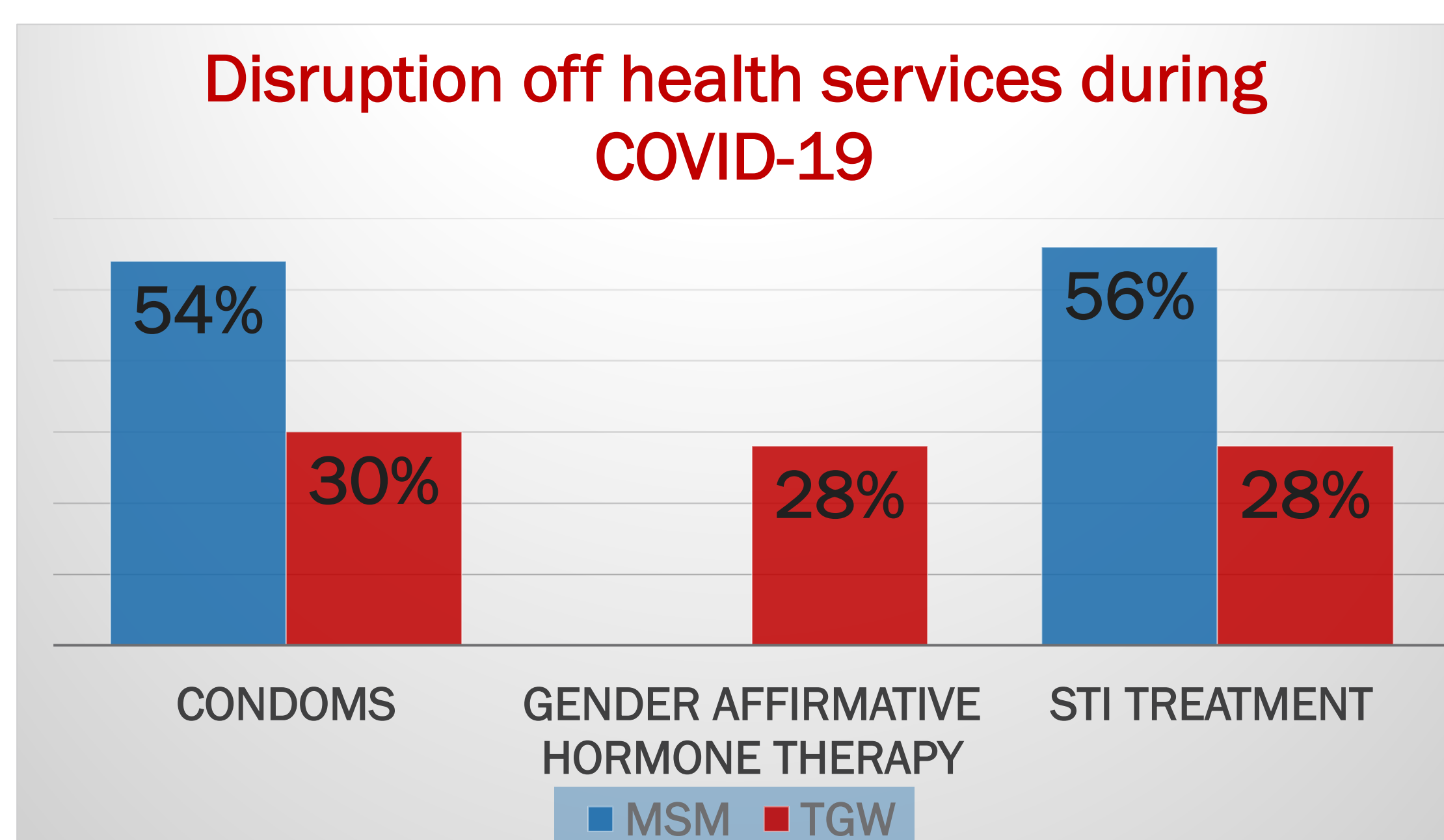
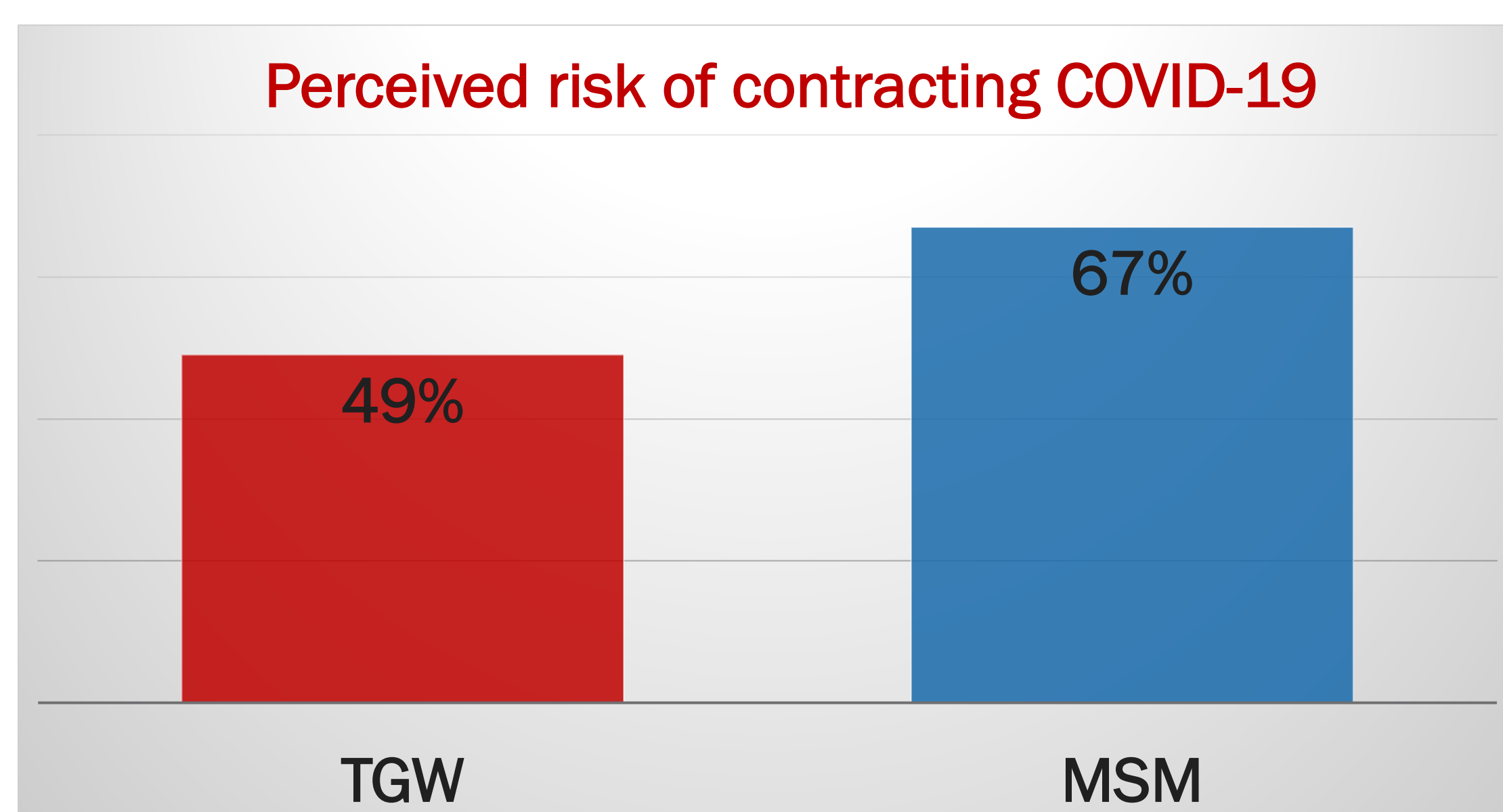
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## Background

- Disparities in healthcare access among key populations, such as men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women (TGW), remain a global health concern.
- The COVID-19 pandemic could potentially exacerbate existing health inequities on mental health, HIV risk and access to services, including COVID-19 vaccination, among at-risk communities in resource-constrained countries.

## Graphs/Figures



## Specific Aims & Objectives

- To assess COVID-19 vaccination status and access to health services among MSM and TGW in India.

## Methods

- Cross-sectional survey (Sept. to December 2022)
- Hybrid mode
  - Offline (in-person, interviewer administered)
  - Online (self-administered)
- N=500 (250 MSM, 250 TGW)

## □ Data collection

- Sociodemographic characteristics
- Perceived risk for contracting COVID-19 ("I think my chances of getting infected or re-infected with COVID are [0-100]%" ; dichotomized as - Low risk:  $\leq 49\%$ , high risk:  $\geq 50\%$ )
- COVID-19 vaccination status (completed 2 doses: yes / no)
- Socio-economic stressors
- Access to various health services during COVID-19

## □ Data analysis

Descriptive statistics

## Results

- Mean age: MSM - 30 (SD 6.8); TGW - 29 (SD 5.7)
- Completed a diploma/college degree: MSM 62%; TGW 47%
- Sex work: MSM 29%; TGW 90%
- ❖ COVID-19 vaccination status: 84% of MSM compared to 65% of TGW had completed at least two doses of COVID-19 vaccine.
- ❖ Pandemic-related socio-economic stressors experienced by participants:
  - Job loss (96%)
  - Salary cut (81%)
  - Failure to repay loans (69%)
  - Procuring new loans (60%)

## Conclusions

- COVID-19 vaccination uptake among key populations such as MSM and TGW needs to be examined against the backdrop of socio-economic stressors and service access-related barriers faced by them.
- By drawing findings from a low-middle-income country like India, this study recommends a contextual and intersectional assessment of factors influencing COVID-19 vaccine uptake, with lessons for future pandemics.

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## References

- Chakrapani, V; Newman, P; Sebastian, A et al. (2021). The impact of COVID-19 on economic well-being and health outcomes among transgender women in India. *Transgender Health*. X(X):1-4 doi: 10.1089/trgh.2020.0131