

ECHOES: European Community Health Worker Online Survey

Satellite ESTICOM



Amsterdam, 23rd July 2018

ECHOES: pan-European MSM Community Health Worker survey

**Nicolas Lorente (nlorente@igtp.cat),
Cinta Folch, Susanna Aussó**

CEEISCAT, Badalona, Spain

DISCLOSURE

No conflict of interests.



ECHOES: European Community Health Worker Online Survey

**Background and overview
of the ECHOES survey**



ECHOES: Objective

A European online survey of community health workers (CHW) who provide sexual health support in a community setting directly to gay, bisexual and other MSM

Specific objectives:

1. Assess **knowledge, attitudes and practices**
2. Understand **who** CHWs in Europe are, **what** they do, **where** they do it, **how**, and **why** they do it
3. Identify **barriers** and **challenges** to CHWs
4. Identify **skill/knowledge gaps** and **training needs to provide** an insights for **the training program**

'Community health worker' in the ECHOES survey

*“Someone who provides **sexual health support** around HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and other STIs to **gay, bisexual and other MSM**. A CHW delivers health promotion or public health activities **in community settings** (not in a hospital or a clinic).”*

ECHOES questionnaire

Introduction, consent, eligibility	About you	Job, employment status, and organisation	In your role as a CHW, what do you do?	Who you work with (clients)	Barriers to performing CHW activities
	Recruitment as a CHW	Training and skills	Thoughts and feelings about role as a CHW	Knowledge	SOME FINAL QUESTIONS...

175 questions (heavily routed)

~20 mins completion

Online from October 2017 to January 2018, available in 16 languages



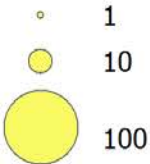
ECHOES: European Community Health Worker Online Survey

**Who took part
in the ECHOES survey?**

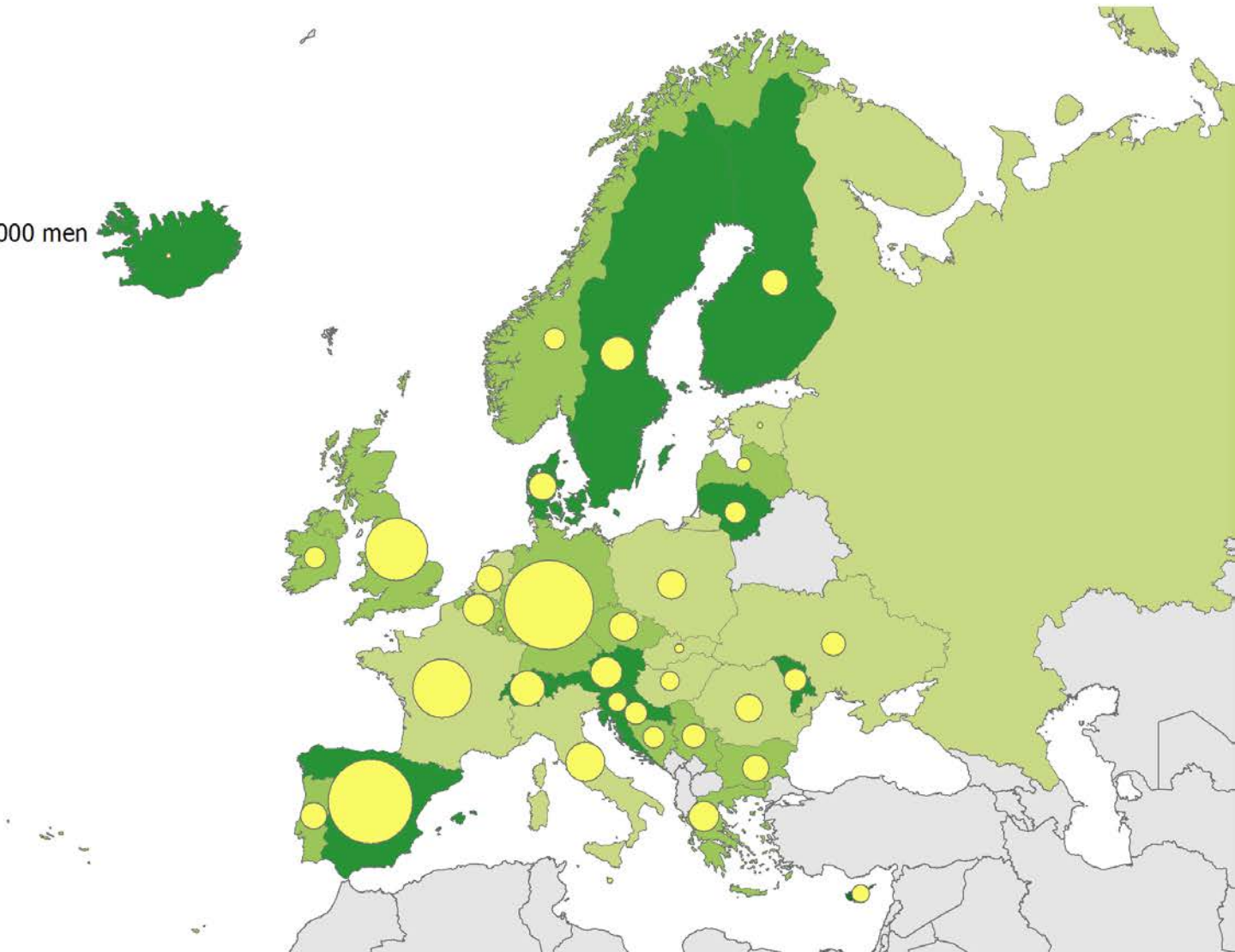
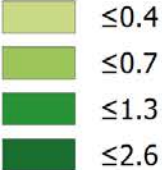
ECHOES participants by the country they work in

N = 1035

ECHOES participants



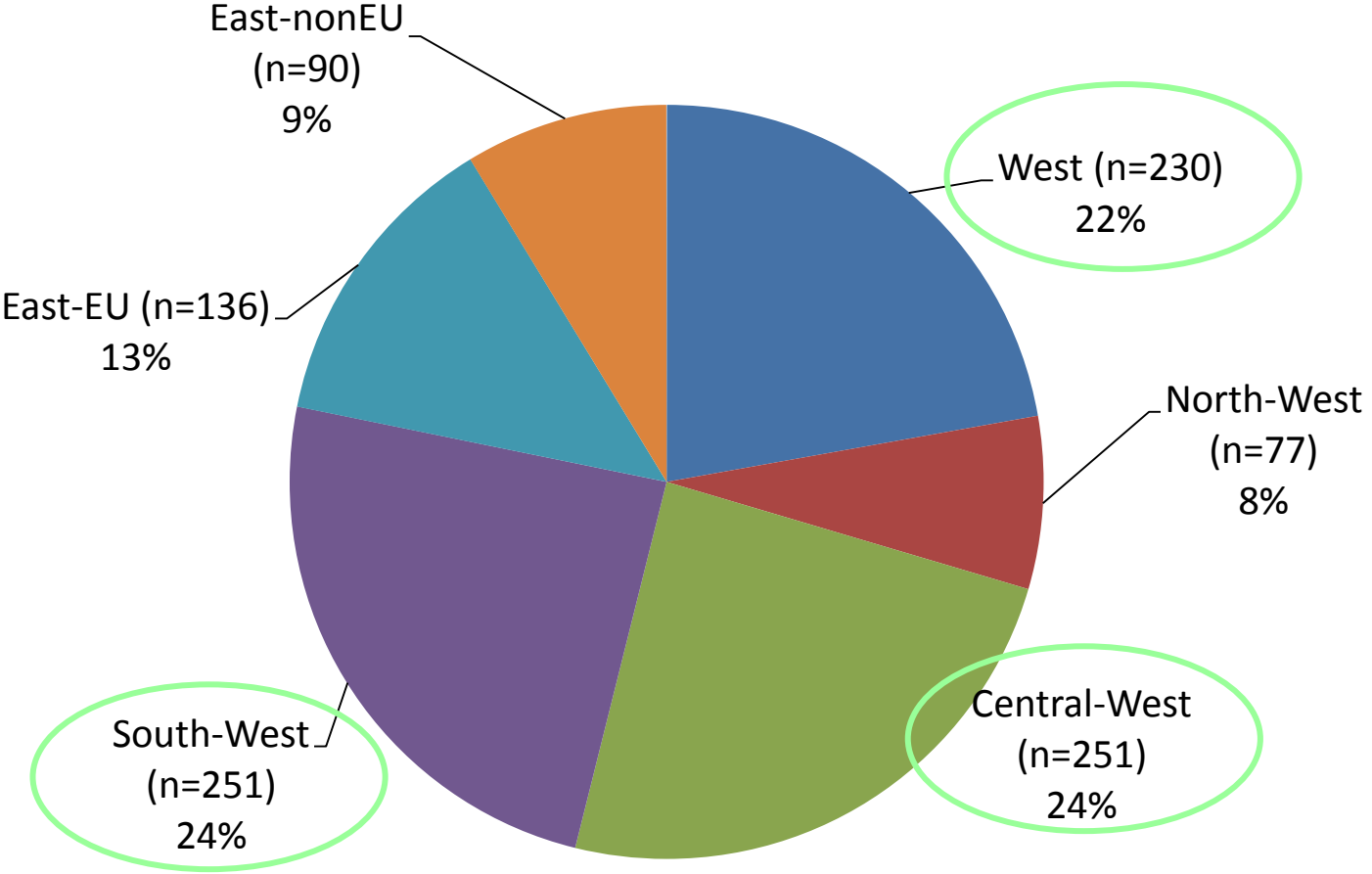
ECHOES participants per 100.000 men



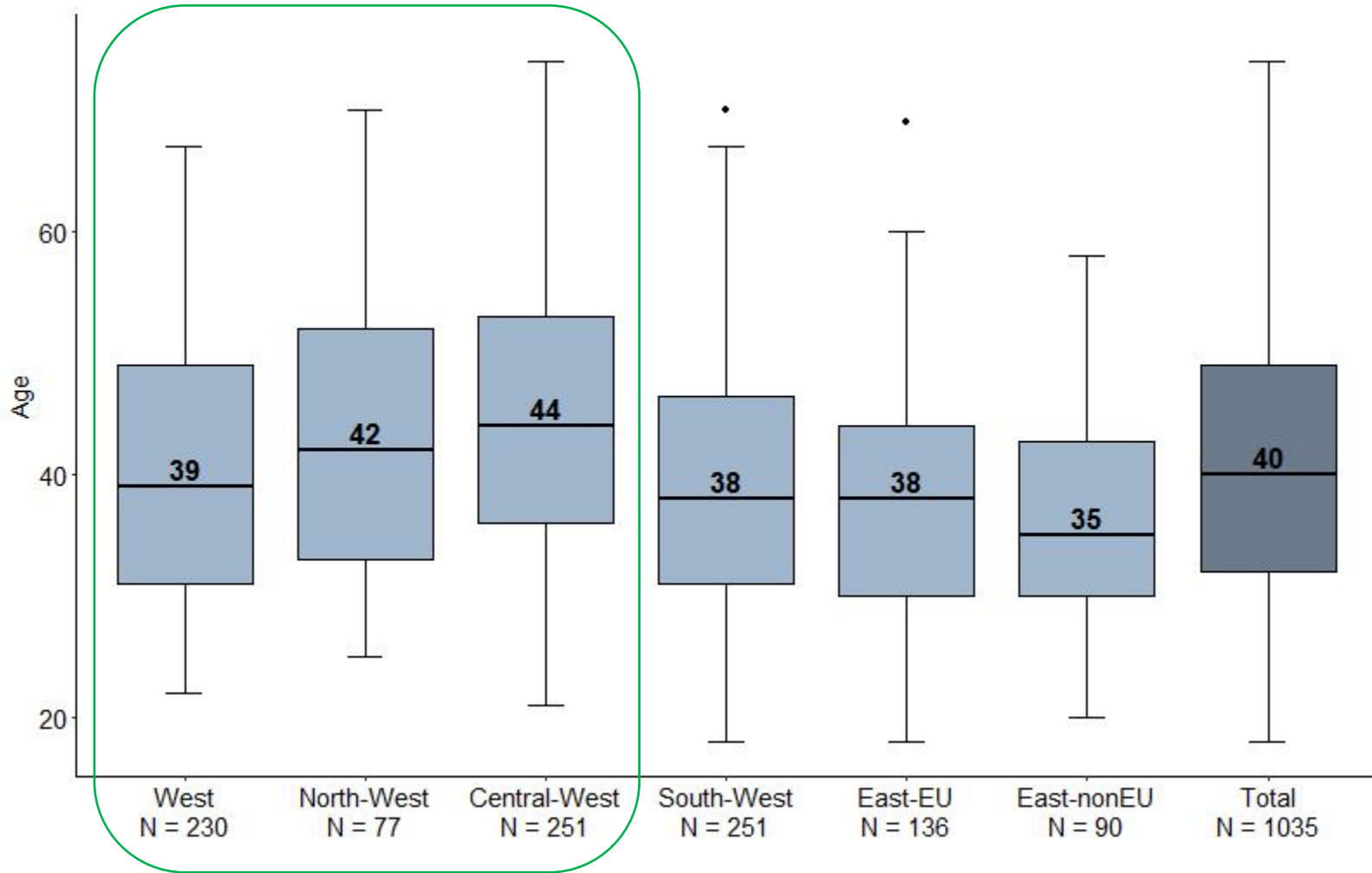


ECHOES participants according to EMIS regional grouping

N = 1035

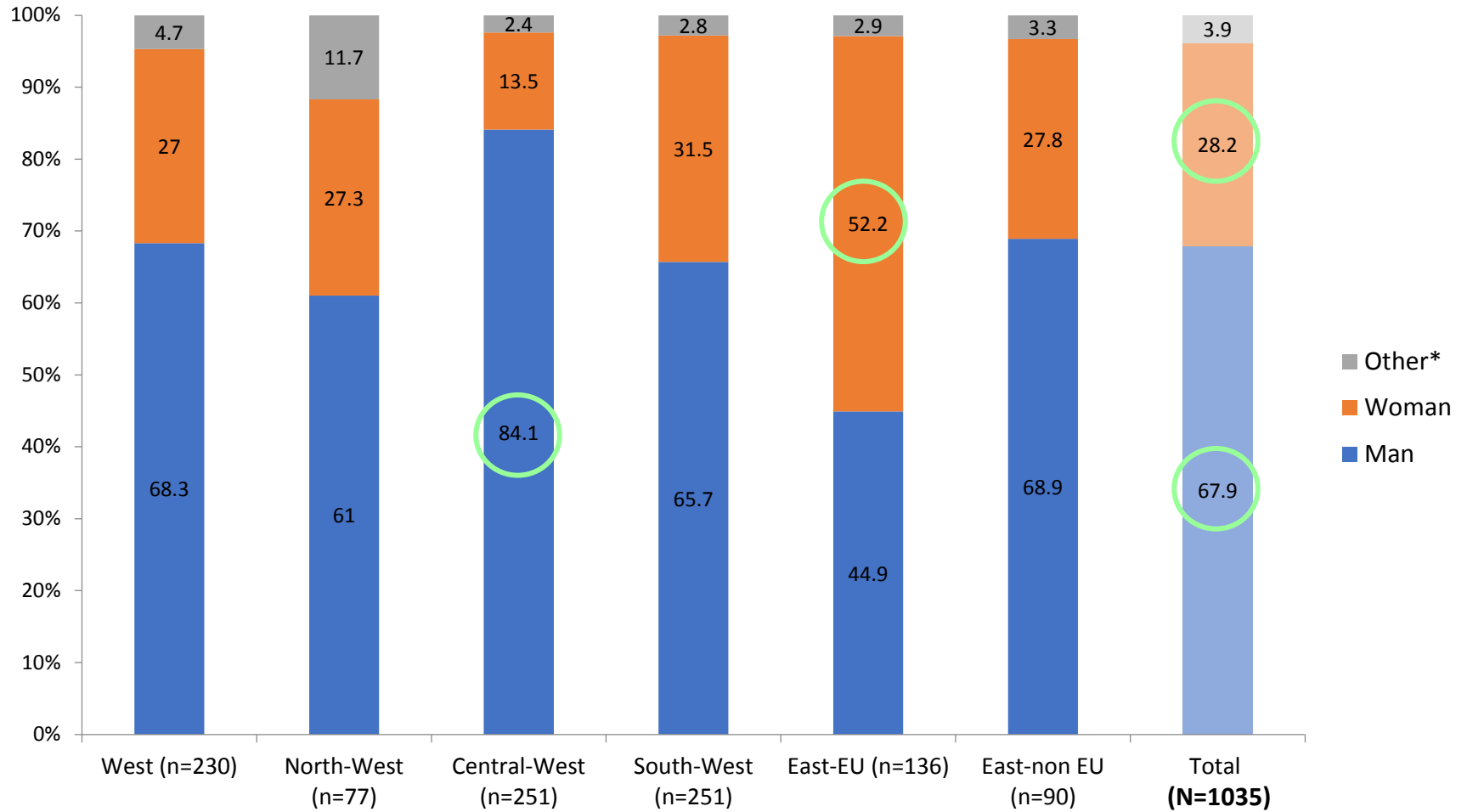


Age by region



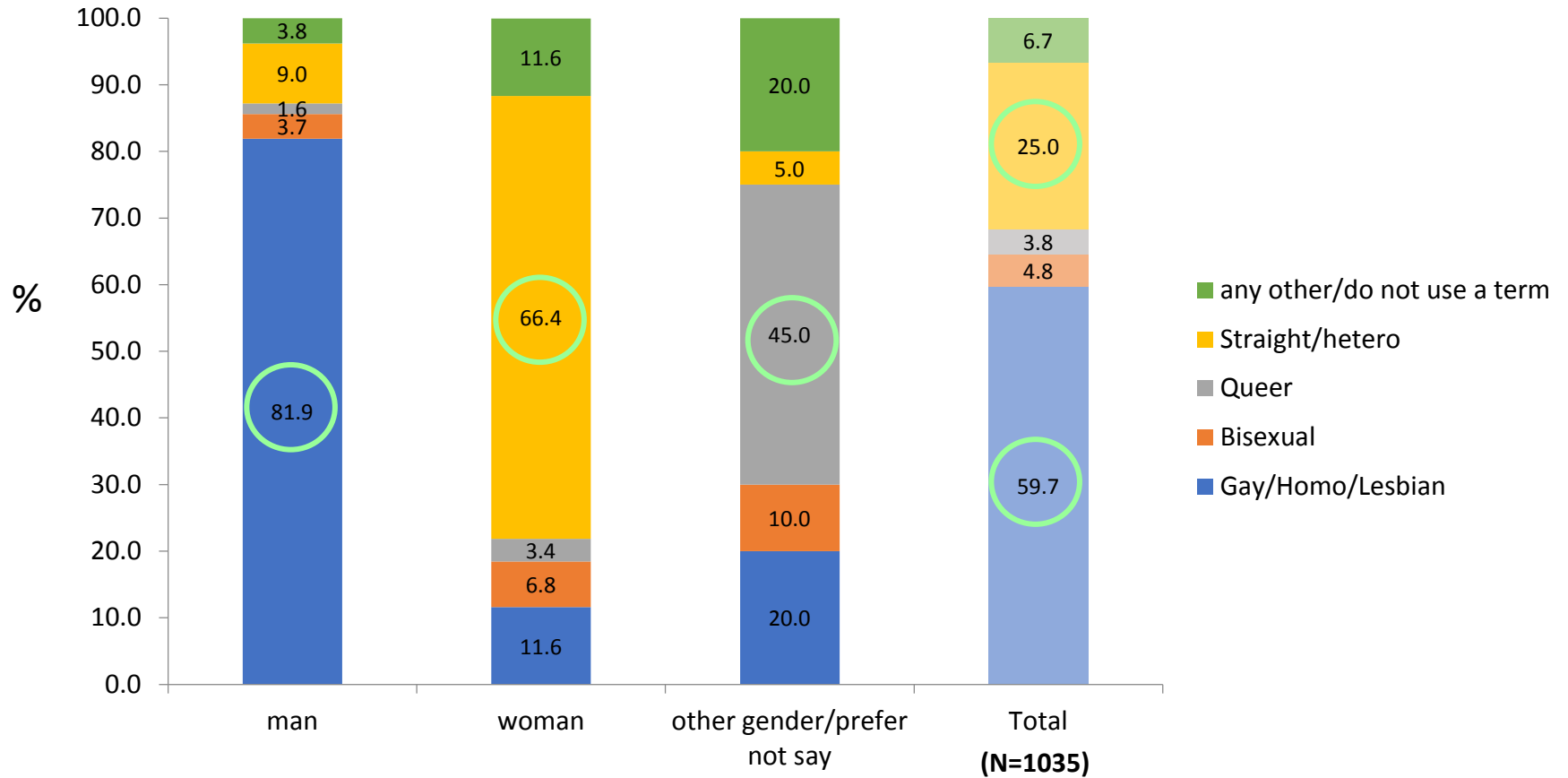
$p < 0.001$

Gender identity of CHWs

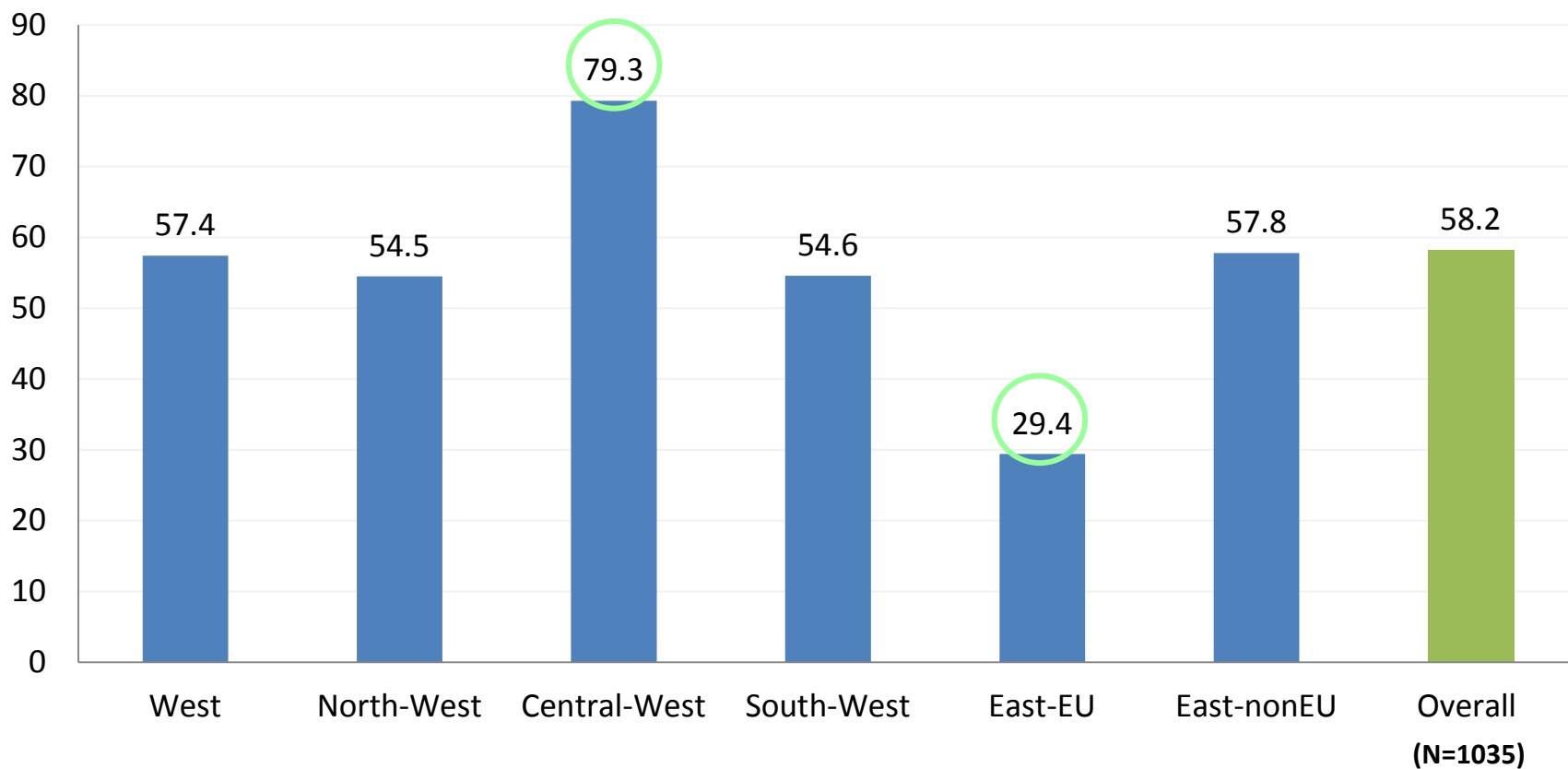


* Other: non-binary, prefer not to say, other.

How you think about yourself?



Peer CHWs



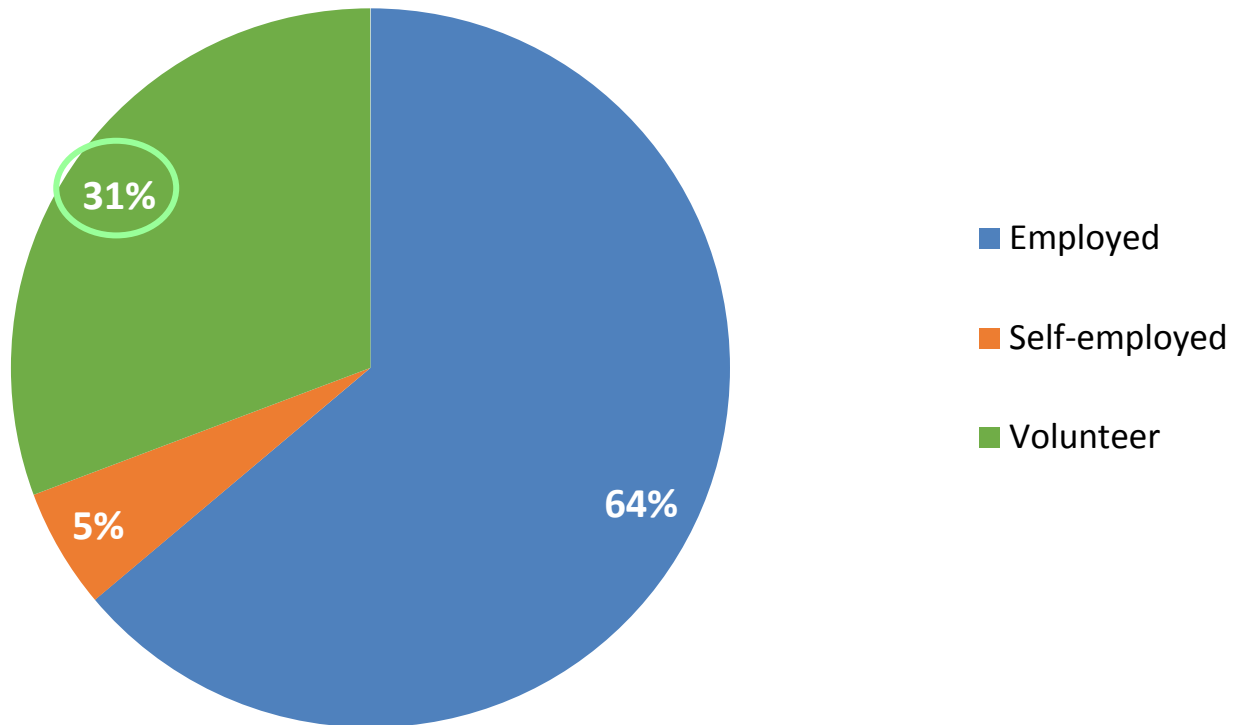
Peer CHWs: men defining themselves as gay, homosexual or bisexual.



ECHOES: European Community Health Worker Online Survey

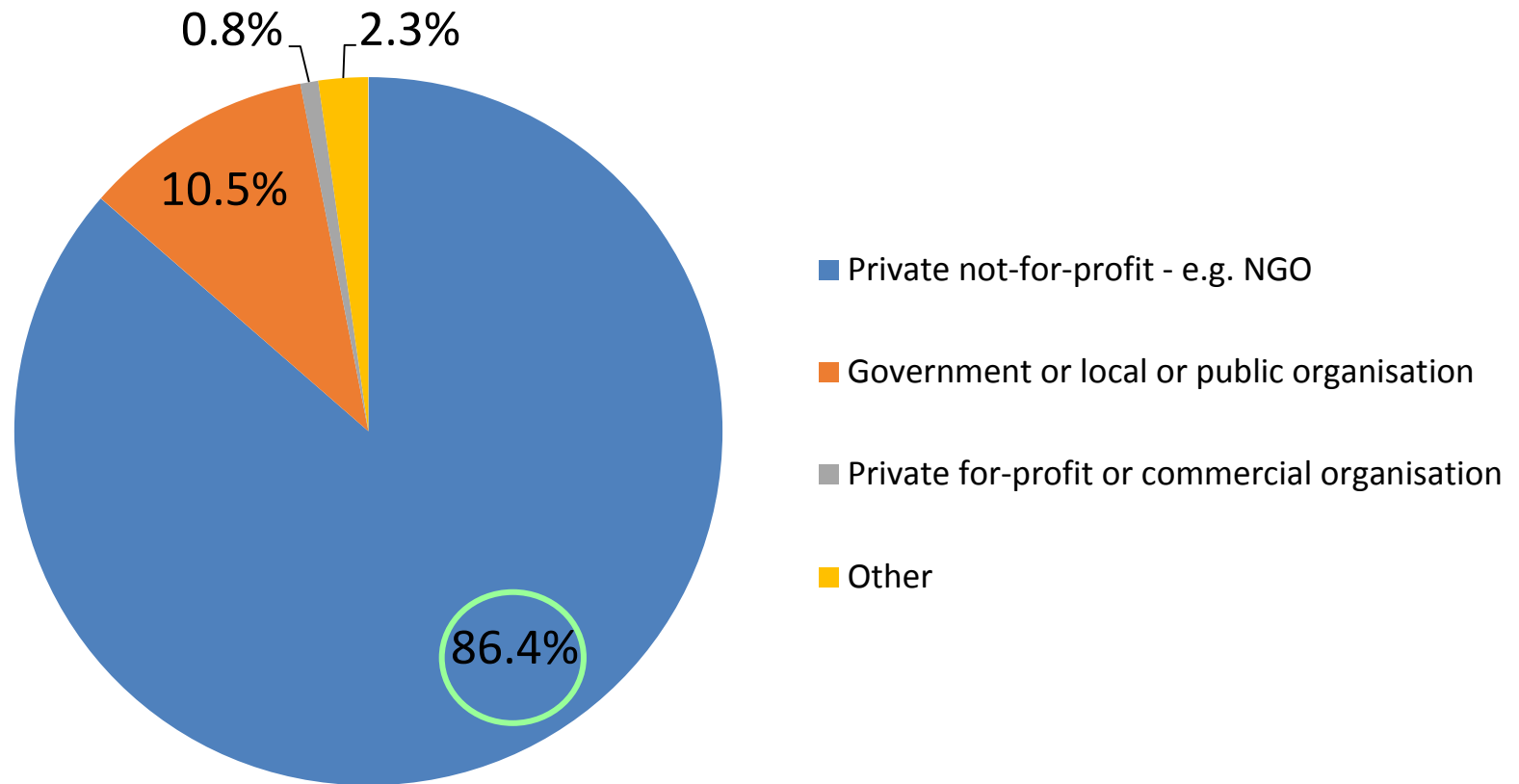
CHW role and employment

Current status as CHW



(N=1031)

Type of organization CHWs work for/with



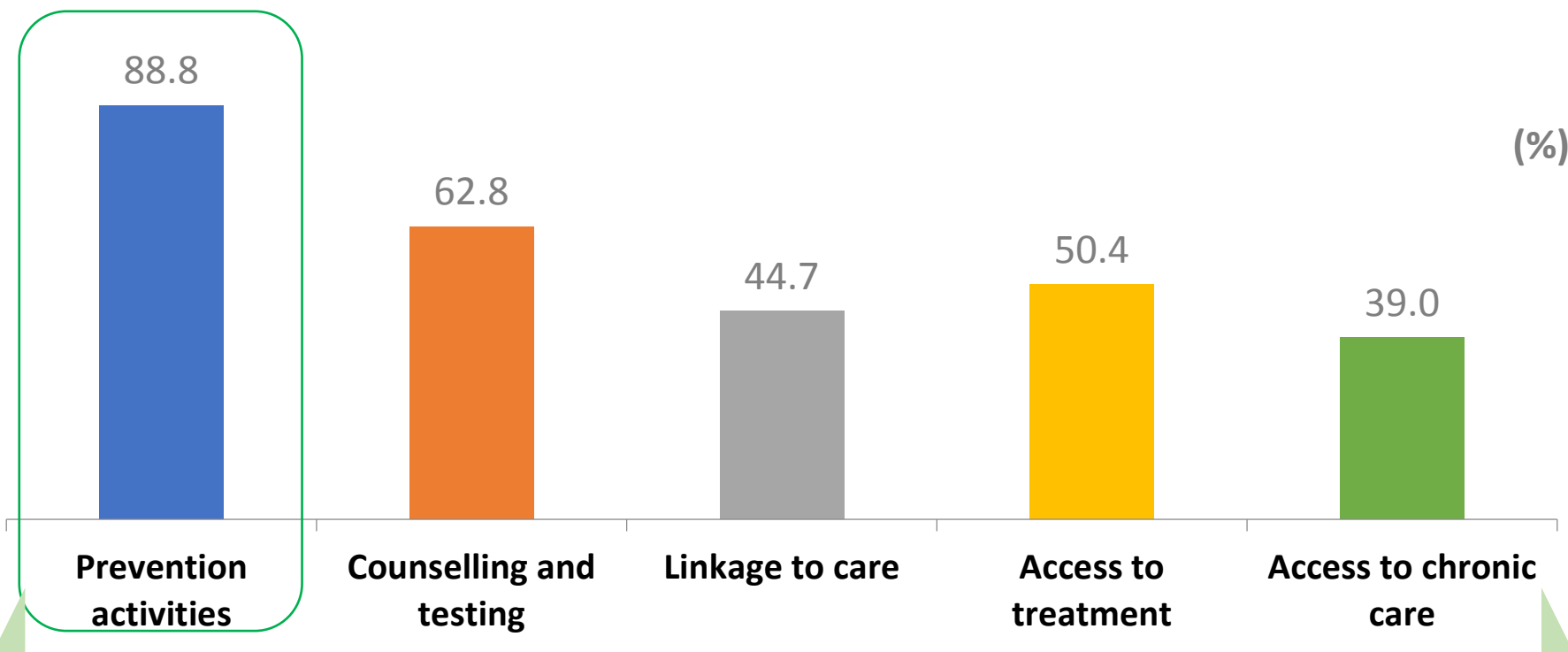
(N=971)



ECHOES: European Community Health Worker Online Survey

What do CHWs do?

CHW work activities according to the continuum of care of HIV/STI services (N=1035)



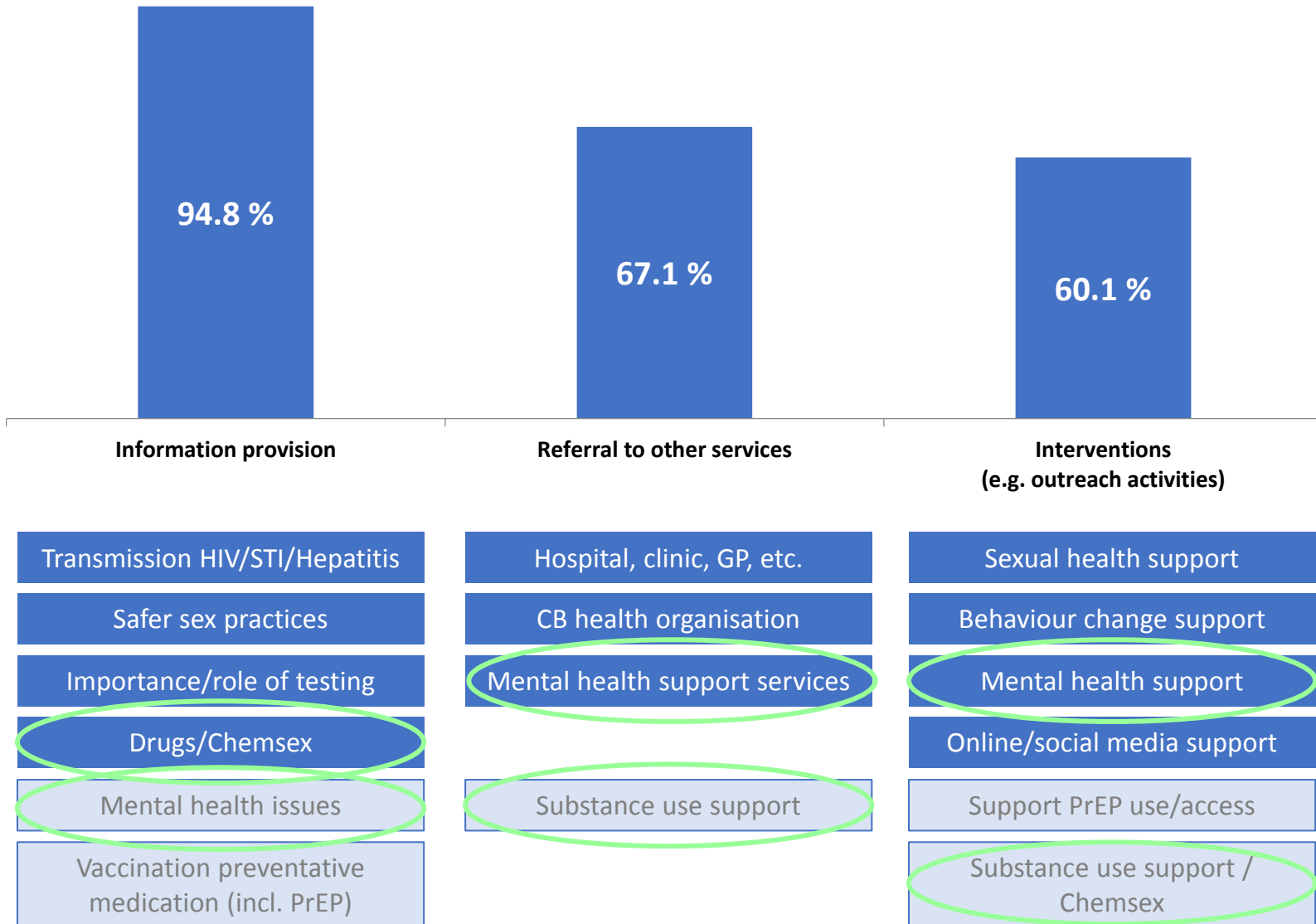
Strategic activities: 45.8%

(advocacy, developing interventions, research, community needs assessments, etc.)

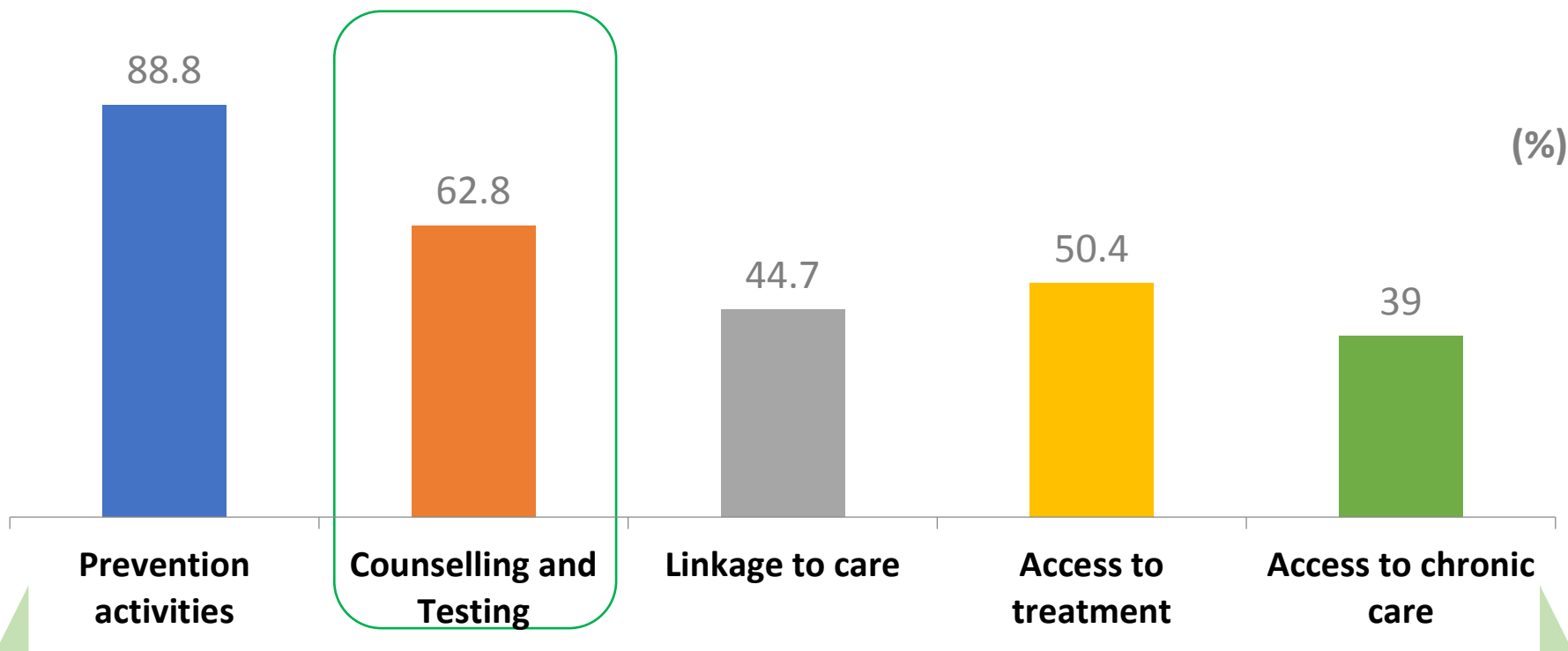
Administrative activities: 45.4%

(marketing, report writing, fundraising, M&E, staff management, etc.)

Prevention-related activities (N=939)



CHW work activities according to the continuum of care of HIV/STI services (N=1035)



Strategic activities: 45.8%

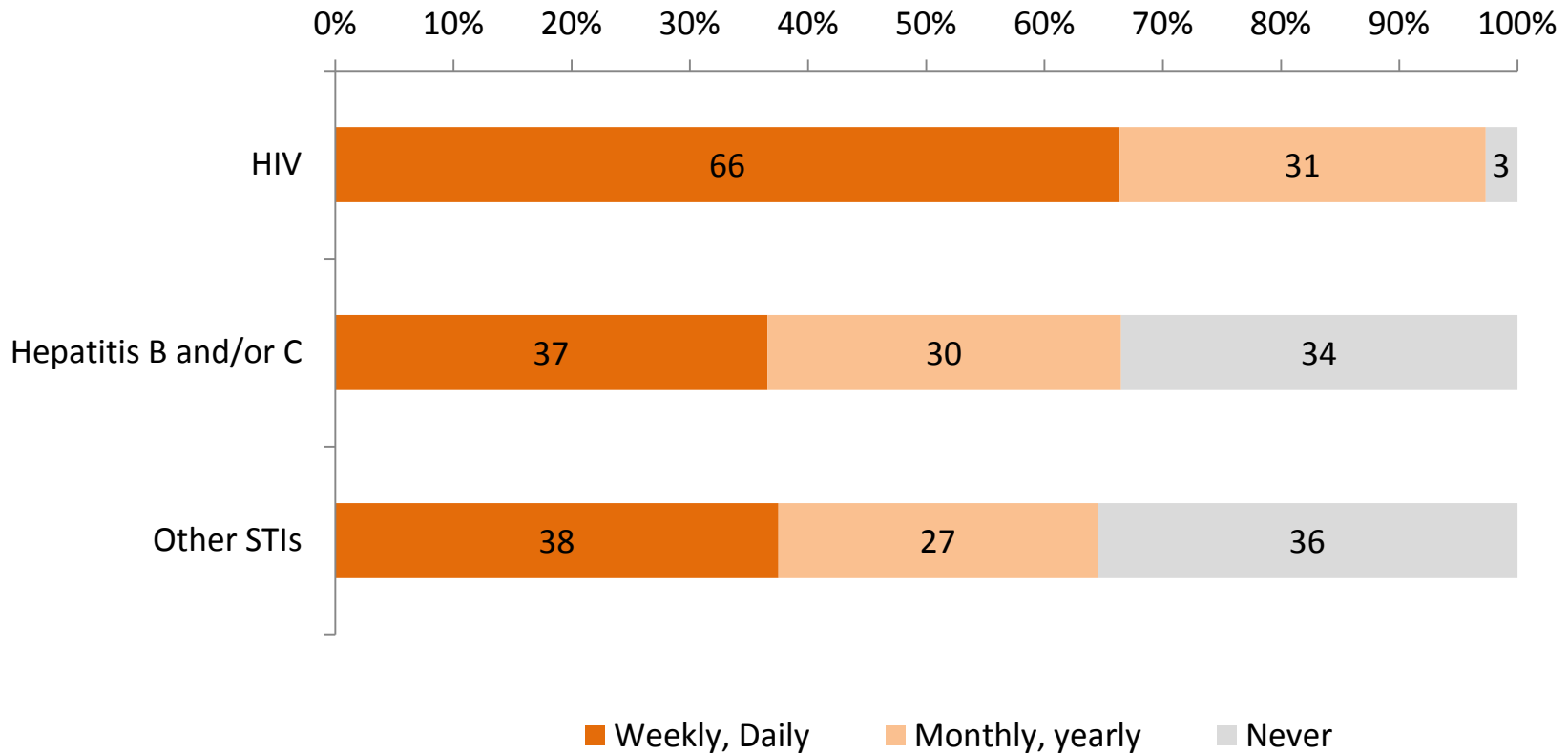
(advocacy, developing interventions, research, community needs assessments, etc.)

Administrative activities: 45.4%

(marketing, report writing, fundraising, M&E, staff management, etc.)

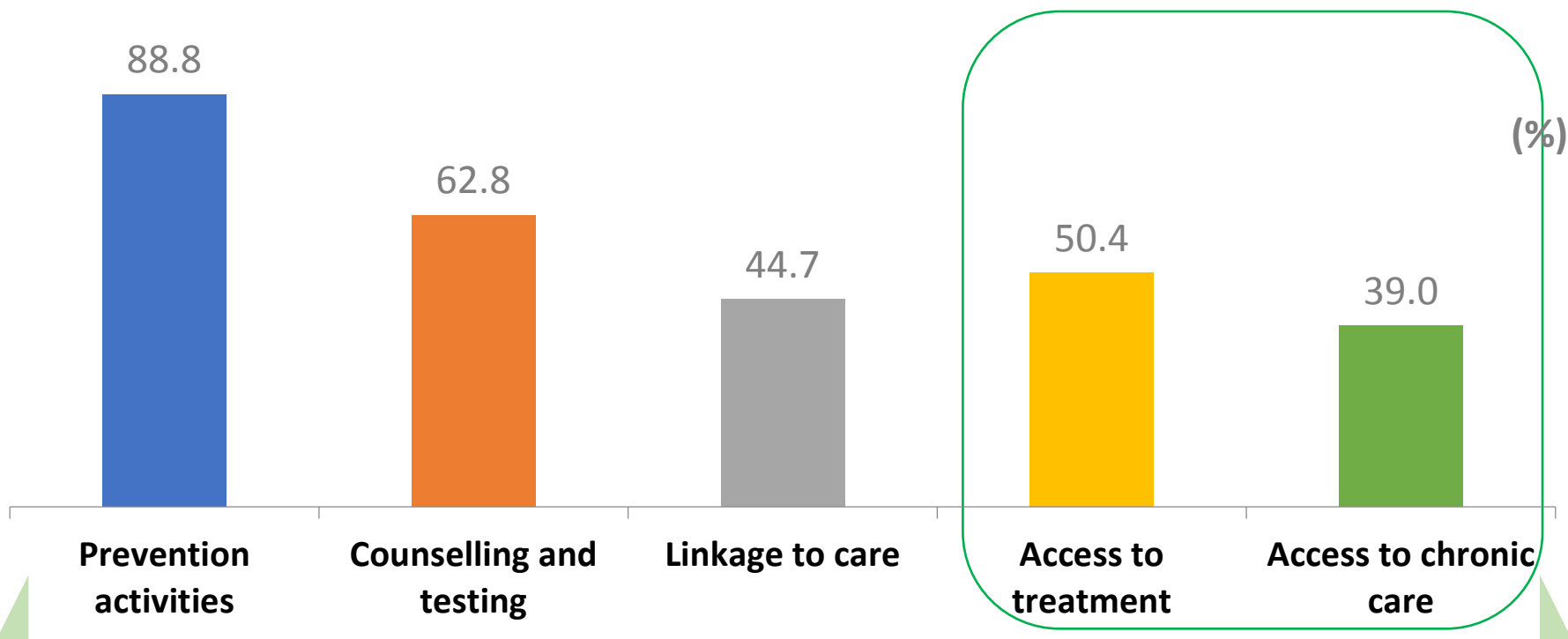
Counselling and testing activities

Screening and/or testing for...*



* Among those who perform the test(s) (N=524)

CHW work activities according to the continuum of care of HIV/STI services (N=1035)



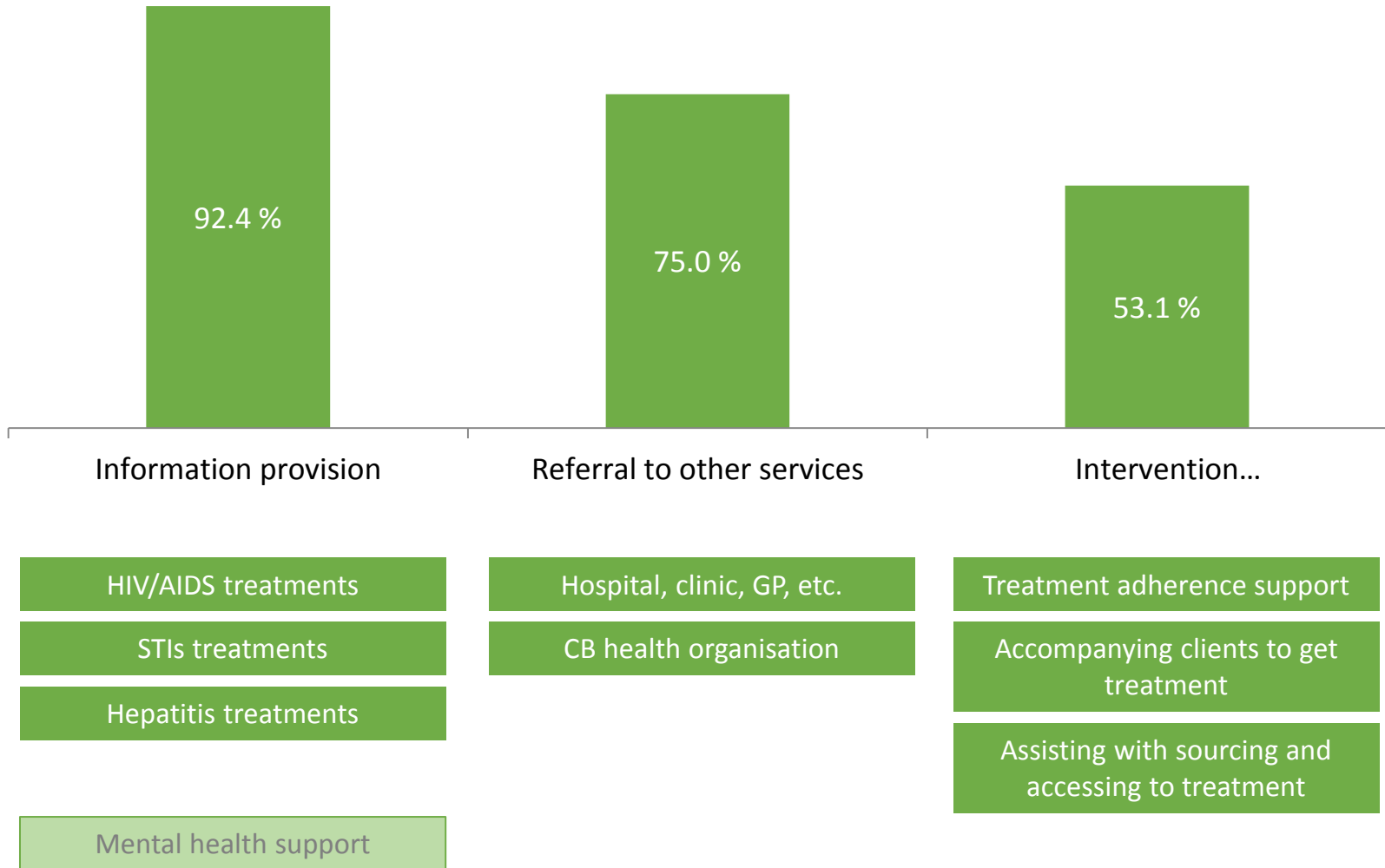
Strategic activities: 45.8%

(advocacy, developing interventions, research, community needs assessments, etc.)

Administrative activities: 45.4%

(marketing, report writing, fundraising, M&E, staff management, etc.)

Access to treatment and chronic care (N=540)

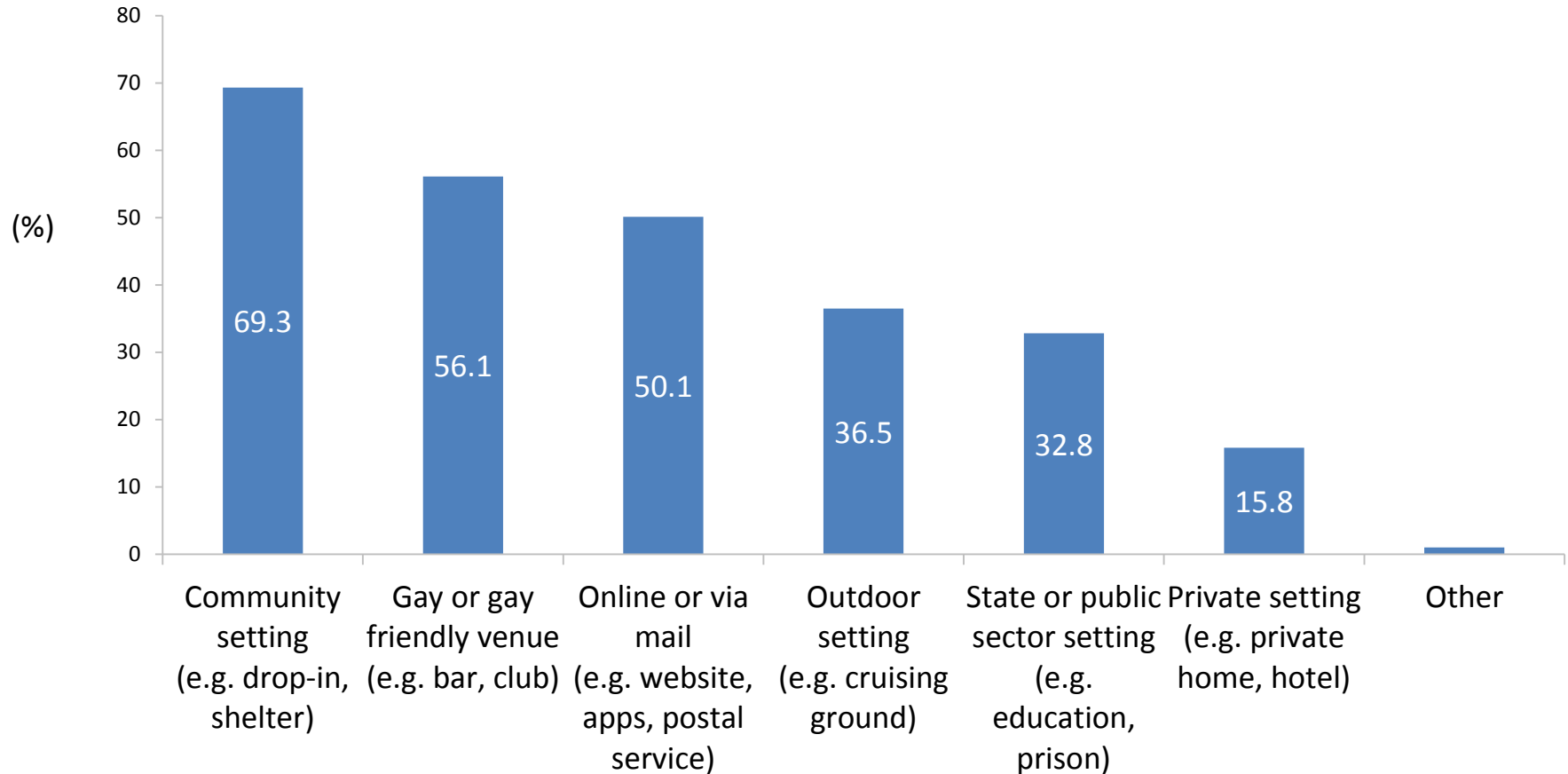




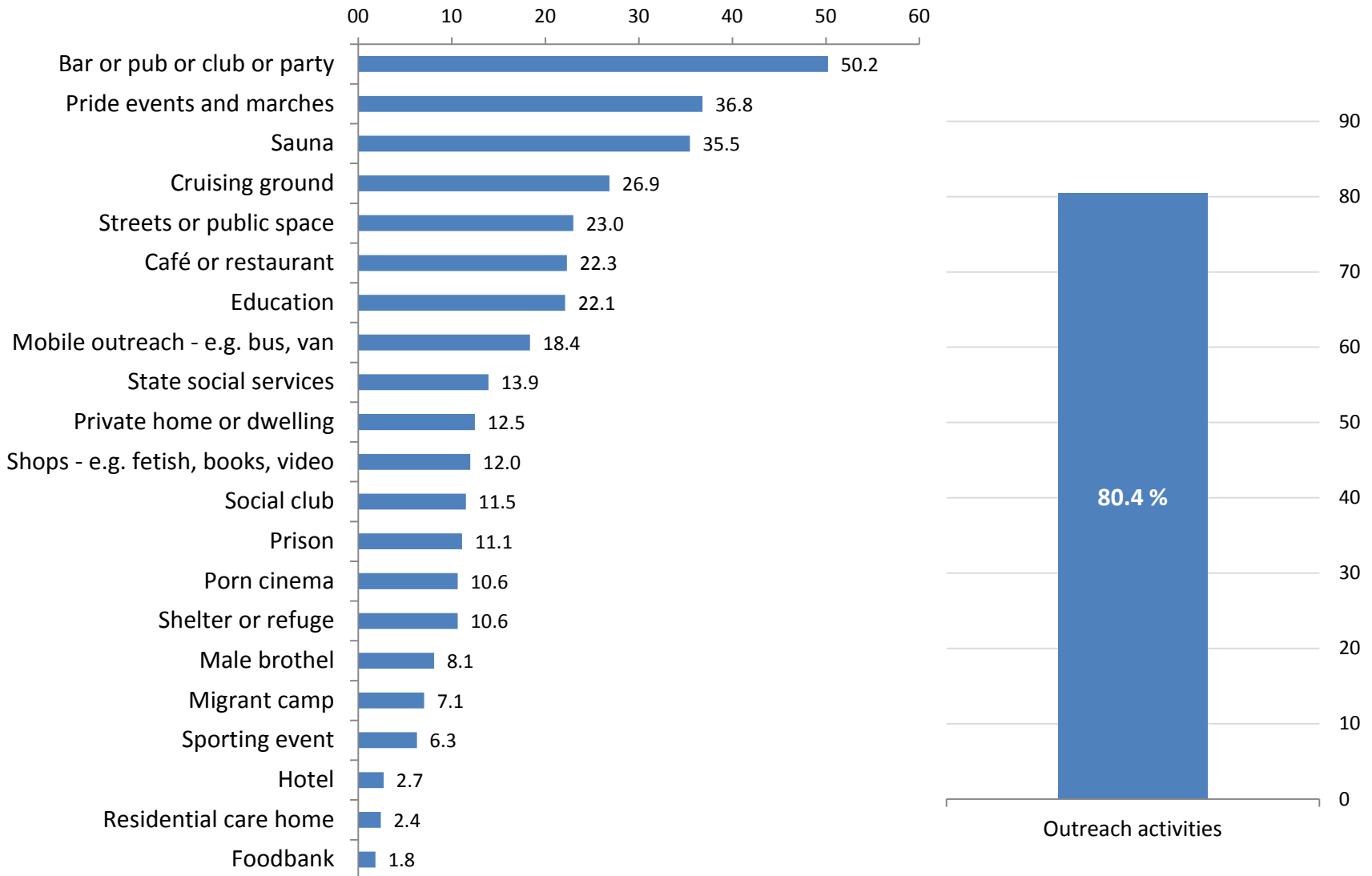
ECHOES: European Community Health Worker Online Survey

Where do CHWs work?

Settings where CHWs work (N=1035)



Activities in outreach (N=1035)

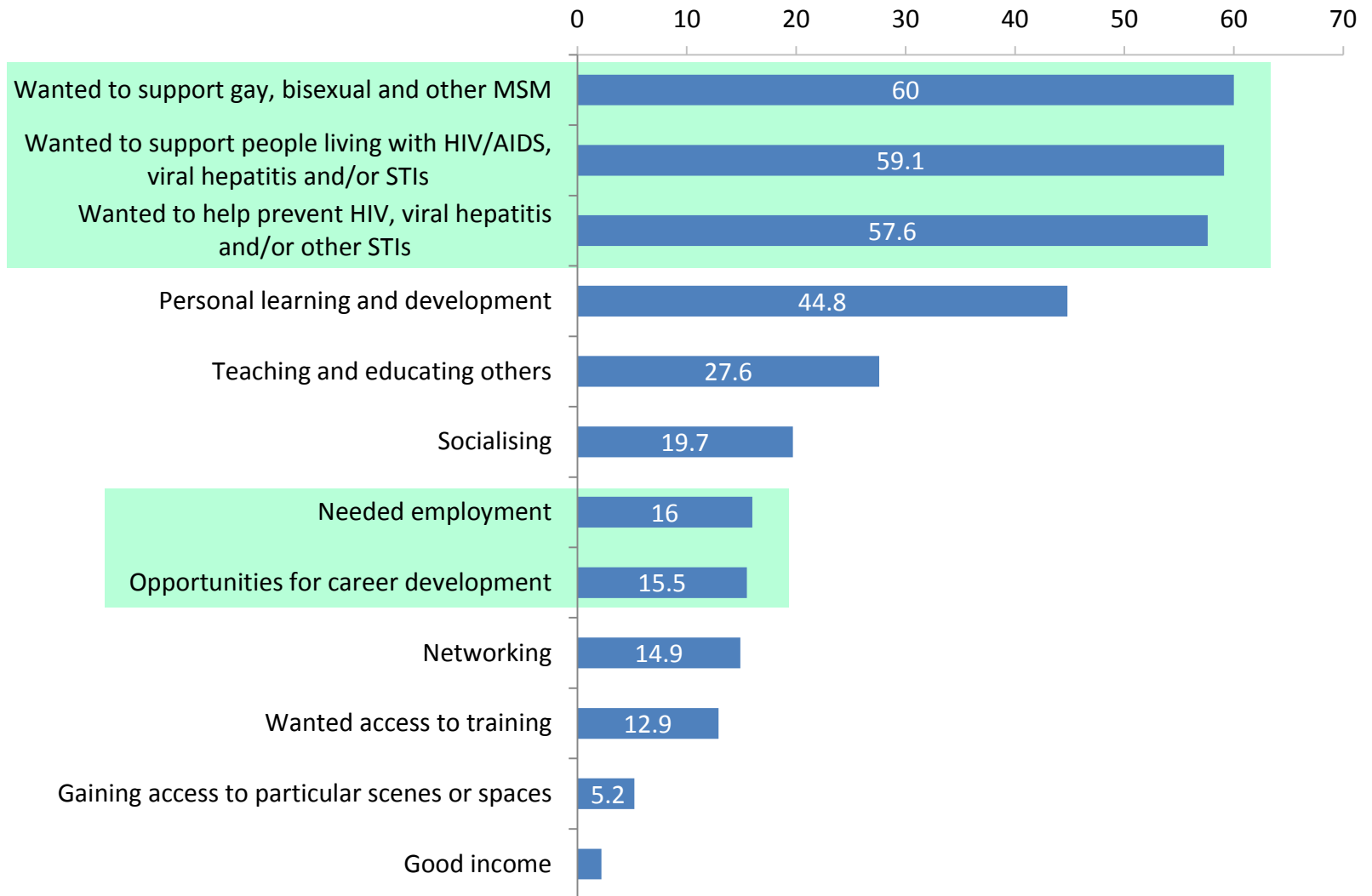




ECHOES: European Community Health Worker Online Survey

**Motivations and satisfaction
about their role as CHW**

Motivations to performing CHW work (N=1018)



Job satisfaction (N=997)

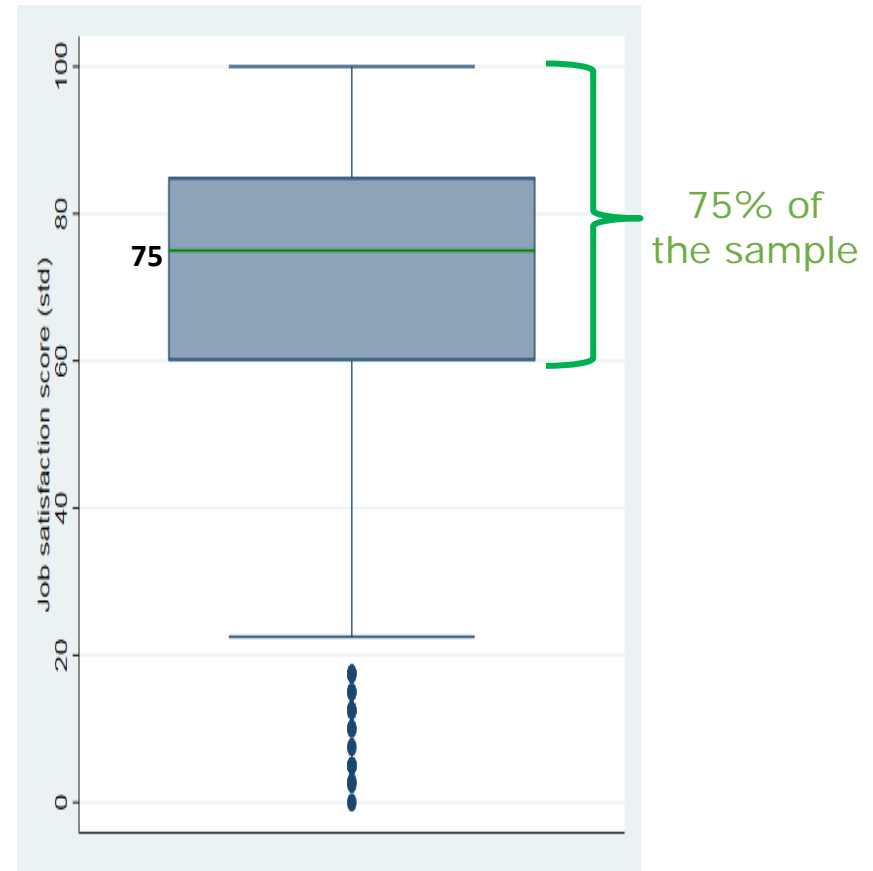
Please think about your role as a CHW.

How satisfied are you with the following?

- Amount of variety in job
- Opportunity to use abilities
- Freedom of working method
- Amount of responsibility
- Physical working conditions
- Hours of work
- Recognition for work
- Colleagues and fellow workers
- Your rate of pay
- Your opportunity to acquire new skills

Five-points scale:

(1) Very dissatisfied, ..., (5) Very satisfied



Median [IQR]: 75 [60-85]



ECHOES: European Community Health Worker Online Survey

Barriers to perform CHW work

Barriers to performing CHW work (N=1020)

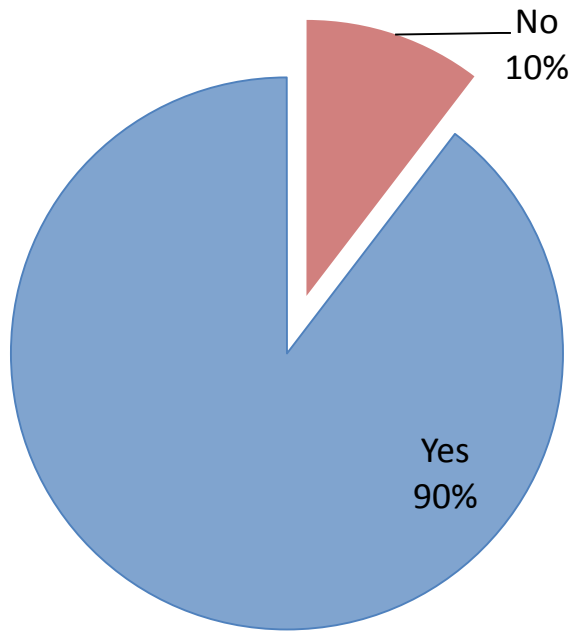


ECHOES: European Community Health Worker Online Survey

CHWs' training experiences

Experience of training (N=1018)

Training received previously



Significantly more likely to:

- Be CHW for < 1 year
- Work for an organisation addressing LGBT needs

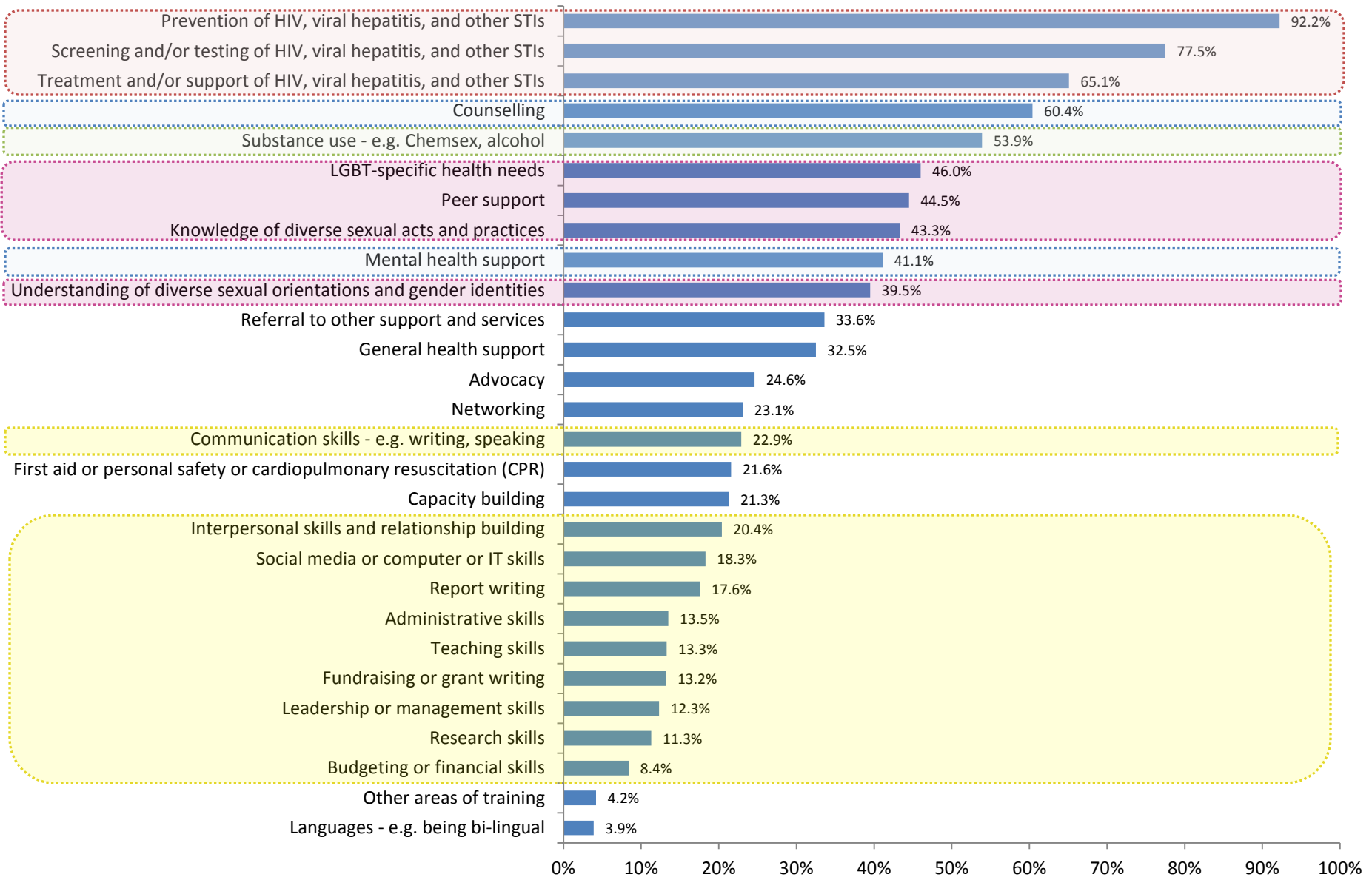


Significantly more likely to:

- Be peer CHW
- Report outreach activities

92,1% training in the last 12 months

Covered areas in training (N=908)



Conclusion

LIMITATIONS

Moderate response rate

- Participants fatigue (after EMIS, length of the questionnaire)
- Promotion was challenging (CHW definition, how to reach them)

ECHOES is not representative of all CHWs in Europe, but gives a first insight of a “community” that does not exist as such

WHO

Key data about CHW profile: 31% volunteers, 58% peers, 28% women, 86% work for a not-for-profit organisation, high diversity in CHW job definition

WHAT

CHWs involved in each step of the continuum of the STI services

- Information provision
- Referral to care or to other services
- Interventions, e.g. to provide support regarding: mental health, Chemsex, access to PrEP and treatment adherence

WHERE

Mostly in outreach

Conclusion

MOTIVATIONS

Mostly social/community responsibility and altruism

SATISFACTION

High level of satisfaction regarding their work as CHW

BARRIERS

- Resources +++
- Structural barriers, especially stigma (HIV, STI, homosexuality...)

TRAINING

- 10% had no previous training (recent CHWs, non-peers)
- Apart from the main training topics – prevention, screening/testing, treatment – CHWs mostly trained for:
 - Counselling/peer support, LGBT-specific (sexual) health needs
 - Drug-related issues
 - Mental health support
- Non-peer CHWs less trained for these topics
- Soft and administrative skills underrepresented in previous trainings



Acknowledgements

- All ECHOES participants
- All ESTICOM project and advisory board partners
- ECHOES translators
- CHAFEA / DG Santé
- All the experts who participated in the EMIS/ECHOES workshop in Berlin

ECHOES: European Community Health Worker Online Survey

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

Nicolas Lorente (nlorente@igtp.cat),
Cinta Folch, Susanna Aussó