

# Latin America



- ❖ There are many reasons for high levels of HIV transmission among this group. In 2014, only 51% of men who have sex with men were reported to have access to HIV services.
- ❖ Moreover, access to HIV testing among men who have sex with men varies enormously from country to country, ranging from **5%** to **70%**.



## Caribbean (2017)

**310,000** people living with HIV  
**1.2%** adult HIV prevalence (ages 15-49)  
**15,000** new HIV infections  
**10,000** AIDS-related deaths  
**58%** adults on antiretroviral treatment\*  
**52%** children on antiretroviral treatment\*



## Latin America (2017)

**1.8m** people living with HIV  
**0.5%** adult HIV prevalence (ages 15-49)  
**100,000** new HIV infections  
**37,000** AIDS-related deaths  
**61%** adults on antiretroviral treatment\*  
**55%** children on antiretroviral treatment\*

\*All adults/children living with HIV

Source: UNAIDS Data 2018

# Machismo



- ▶ Homophobia and the 'machismo' (or aggressively masculine) culture are common throughout the region and sex between men is highly stigmatized. Large numbers of men who have sex with men also have sex with women, forming a 'bridge' population.
- ▶ As one civil society worker explains, men who have sex with men are often hesitant to reveal how they became infected with HIV. Many are mistakenly classed as heterosexual.

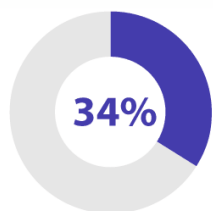


# Being Transgender in Latin America

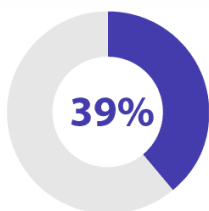
- ▶ Transgender women are highly affected by HIV in Latin America and the Caribbean. HIV prevalence among this group is thought to be 49 times higher than among the general population.
- ▶ Research has shown that between 44% and 70% of transgender women have felt the need to leave, or were thrown out of their homes.<sup>20</sup> One study from Mexico indicated that 11% of transgender women living with HIV were excluded from family activities.



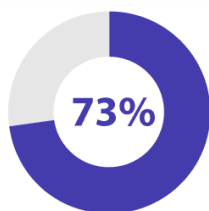
An estimated one in 200 to one in 500 people worldwide have a gender identity that differs from their biological sex at birth. Here are some statistics from recent Canadian polls of those who identify as transgender or gender-nonconforming:



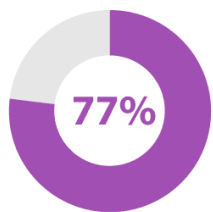
Subjected to verbal threats or harassment



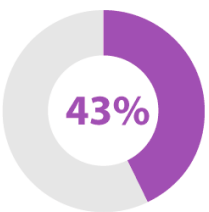
Turned down for a job due to being transgender



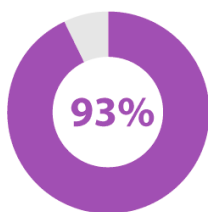
Have been targets of mockery



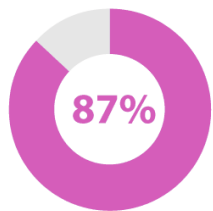
Seriously considered suicide



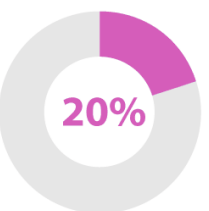
Attempted suicide



Drop in suicide attempts among youth with strongly supportive parents



Trans students who felt unsafe in places at school



Physically or sexually assaulted due to their gender identity/expression



Living on less than \$15,000 per year

# Violence towards Transgender people



- Transgender people in the region have fewer educational and social opportunities, often resorting to sex work for an income. Country-level data collected between 2011 and 2015 also shows much higher HIV prevalence among transgender women sex workers compared to other sex workers. Transgender people also face high rates of violence. According to the Observatory of Murdered Trans People, 2,016 transgender people were reported as murdered between 2008 and 2015 across the world, 1,573 (78%) of them were in Latin America and the Caribbean. The highest number of these murders occurred in Brazil, where 938 were reported.
- Such high levels of stigma and violence remain significant barriers to transgender people accessing HIV services.



# LATINOS POSITIVOS



- ▶ As “Latinos” living with HIV / AIDS, we are faced with discrimination and stigma.
- ▶ Linguistic and cultural barriers make it difficult for us to have an efficient access to the various medical, social and immigration services.
- ▶ For these reasons and observing the need of many Hispanics like us living with HIV, we have come together to address and work on these issues, creating and offering solutions for HIV-positive Latinos to obtain assistance, reinforcement and support from other governmental and non-governmental organizations.



## WHO ARE WE?



# What do we do?



- ▶ Our primary function is to seek union and collaboration, to be identified as an ethnic community with a strengthened and recognized voice among the HIV / AIDS community in Toronto and the rest of the Ontario province.
- ▶ We provide free and confidential services and programs for Spanish-speaking men and women living with HIV / AIDS. We are a community that works together to alleviate the barriers that may arise if you live with HIV or if you have been newly diagnosed with the virus.
- ▶ Latinos Positivos Toronto provides practical services, but we are also committed to your physical and mental health and interaction with the community. Therefore, we continuously organize workshops, activities and social events.



# Our Goals

- ▶ Strengthen and empower Latinos and Latinas living with HIV / AIDS.
- ▶ Develop actions that contribute to reduce the barriers of Latinos and Latinas living with HIV / AIDS.
- ▶ Contribute to the social integration of immigrants. Latinos living with HIV / AIDS.
- ▶ Promote leadership training.
- ▶ Create support groups for the Latino Community in Toronto.
- ▶ Educate the community about HIV / AIDS and how it specifically affects the Latino Community.



# What services can we provide?



- ▶ Peer Counseling
- ▶ Translations
- ▶ Interpretation
- ▶ Settlement Support
- ▶ POSITIVE PREVENTION
- ▶ Office Service
- ▶ The Registration Process (Intake)





# Partner Associations



- ▶ PWA - Toronto People with AIDS foundation
- ▶ Fife House
- ▶ CGHH- Centro para gente de Habla Hispana
- ▶ HALCO- HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario
- ▶ McEwan house
- ▶ Black Cap- Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention (Black, African, Caribbean)
- ▶ ACAS- Asian Community AIDS Services
- ▶ ASAAP- Alliance of South Asian AIDS Prevention
- ▶ ACT- AIDS Committee of Toronto
- ▶ CATIE- Canada's Source for HIV and Hepatitis C information
- ▶ The 519
- ▶ Latino Group Hola

# Sponsors



- ▶ **Battista Smith Migration Law Group**

*160 Bloor Street East.*



- ▶ **Pharmasave**

*Cabbagetown. Pharmacy. 239 Carlton St.*



- ▶ **Saint Mary Magdalene Church**

*477 Manning Ave.*

# ¡THANK YOU!



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