

26th Annual Conference of the British HIV Association 2020



BHIVA International Exchange Fellowship 2019

Care pathways for HIV prevention and
sexual healthcare for MSM in Georgia

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56 Dean St

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Declaration of Interests relating to this presentation

None

Why Georgia?

- Eastern Europe & Central Asia
 - Fastest growing HIV epidemic of any UNAIDS region
 - Driven by sexual transmission amongst MSM
 - Georgia amongst highest estimated prevalence of HIV in MSM in the region
- June 2019: 2 weeks at the Infectious Diseases, AIDS & Clinical Immunology Research Centre, Tbilisi
 - HIV treatment
 - PrEP programme
 - Community organisations/NGOs
 - Outreach testing
- September 2019: Dr Alexander Goginava spent 2 weeks at 56 Dean Street

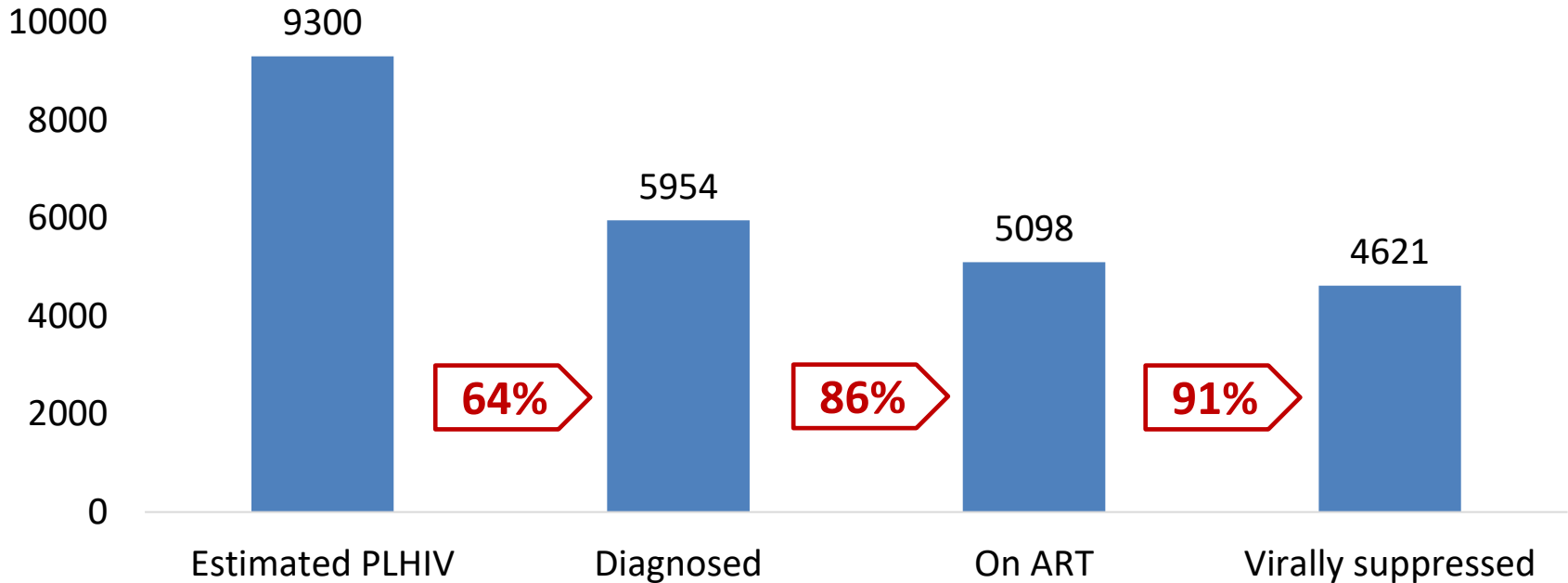




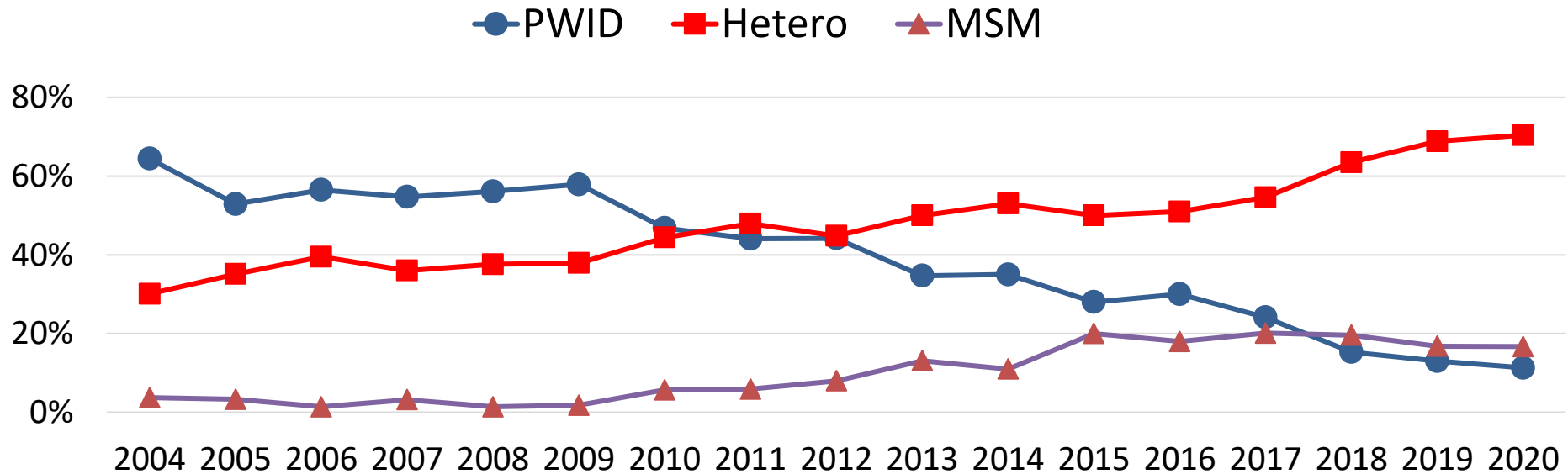
- 3.7 million people
- Independent from Soviet Union since 1991
- Language: Georgian
არაგანსაზღვრადი = არაგადაცემა
- Religion: Georgian Orthodox



HIV cascade of care in Georgia



New HIV diagnoses by transmission group



MSM bio-behavioural survey in Tbilisi (respondent driven sampling)

- Estimated HIV prevalence 19.6% in MSM, incidence 1.6/100 person years
- 78.5% female partner in last 12 months

Access to HIV testing

- Mostly provider initiated testing at medical facilities
- Voluntary organisations: Equality Movement & Tanadgoma
 - Peer led
 - Combined with advice on safer sex, condom/lube provision, PrEP education & referral
 - Outreach testing (HIV & HCV POCT)
- Venereology clinics
 - Free screening for MSM at 7 centres in Tbilisi and 1 in each region
 - Lack of culture of routine STI screening

PrEP

- Programme supported by Global Fund
- Referral from NGO
- Commenced Sept 2017
- Expanded to 3 regional sites Oct 2018
- Initial delivery at ID/AIDS/Immunology centre in Tbilisi, community-based since 2019
- Daily PrEP only
- MSM and trans women
- 456 recipients to date, mean age 24



Challenges and opportunities

- Late diagnosis
- High proportion undiagnosed infection
- Stigma, discrimination, hostility
- Shift from Global Fund to domestic funding of HIV treatment and prevention
- Upscaling HIV testing
- Recruitment to PrEP programme
- Integration with sexual health services

Acknowledgements

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- BHIVA/Gilead

