

Recent Interventions to Reduce Stigma & Discrimination in Nigeria



By ENR





Background

- Nigeria has developed initiatives to reduce stigma and discrimination at national or local settings
 - Community mobilization and IEC;
 - Mass media;
 - Workplace policies; and
 - Development of effective anti-stigma legislation
- In the last National Strategic Plan for HIV and AIDS (2010 – 2015) the development of anti-discrimination laws was considered the major strategy
- Measurement of success and indicator for the thematic area was the passing of appropriate legislation



ENR and the development of anti-discrimination laws

- Enhancing Nigeria's Response to HIV and AIDS (ENR) Considered Stigma as a major barrier to accessing services
- Worked with government and civil society to get anti-stigma laws passed in focal states
- Till date 7 of the 8 ENR focal states have anti-discrimination laws passed in the country (Kaduna, Nasarawa, Benue, Cross River, Enugu, Ogun and Lagos)



Measuring Impact of the Laws

- Need to determine the effect of laws on the level of stigma and discrimination existed
- need to be able to measure stigma credibly
- This led to the two interventions that this presentation describes
 - Process monitoring through the **Stigma Diary**
 - Outcome monitoring through the **Stigma Index Survey**



Measurement of Stigma in Surveys

- Many countries have used composite Indexes from the general population surveys to measure stigma (NARHS, NDHS etc.)
- Other surveys have attempt to measure stigma within sectors (health, education, community etc.)
 - These actually measure perceptions rather than actual acts
 - No clear picture of the actual magnitude of it.
 - Persons with wrong attitudes may not result in actual acts of stigma
 - Persons with “perceived good attitudes may actually stigmatize and discriminate



The PLHIV Stigma Index Survey

- collects and examines HIV-related stigma **experienced** by PLHIV,
 - explore its direct and indirect effects on individuals
 - We measure what percentage of PLHIV actually experienced Stigma
- NOT
- The potential of people to discriminate
 - A smaller survey was carried out in 2010; the 2014 is more robust (sample size increased from about over 700 to 4000)



Goal

- to determine the level of HIV stigma and discrimination directed against PLHIV
- profile human rights violations against PLHIV in Nigeria.
- assist in future decision, planning and advocacy efforts.
- Collect information about:
 - the experiences of PLHIV related to stigma and discrimination
 - steps taken to seek redress in such cases.



Objectives

- To determine the level of stigma and discrimination against the PLHIV in Nigeria
- To document and analyze Human Right violations of PLHIV in Nigeria
- To document efforts made by PLHIV to seek redress where their rights have been violated
- To determine the factors/variables that influence, the experience of HIV-related stigma
- To compare the experience of HIV-related stigma and discrimination across different settings within the country
- To document and broaden understanding of the stigma- and discrimination-related experiences of people living with HIV;



Study

- Type of Study: Descriptive Cross-Sectional Survey
- Study Population: People Living with HIV/AIDS who are living within Nigeria at the time the survey is conducted
- Sample Size: 360 per state
- 12 states (2 per zone except for North East) – security issues
- Sources of respondents
 - PLHIV Support groups:
 - General population support groups
 - Key target population support groups
 - (Interviews to be conducted in the usual support group meeting venue)
 - Health facilities



Selection Criteria: Support groups

- Those sampled from Support groups of People Living with HIV will have the following criteria:
 - be eighteen (18) years of age on their last birthday or older
 - be a member of a support group of persons living with HIV
 - be known by the support group to be HIV positive



Process So far

- Tool was interviewer administered (by a PLHIV)
- 6 interviewers per state were recruited by NEPWHAN
- All questionnaires were retrieved
- Data editing, cleaning and entry has been completed
- Preliminary analysis has occurred
- This will be followed by Report writing



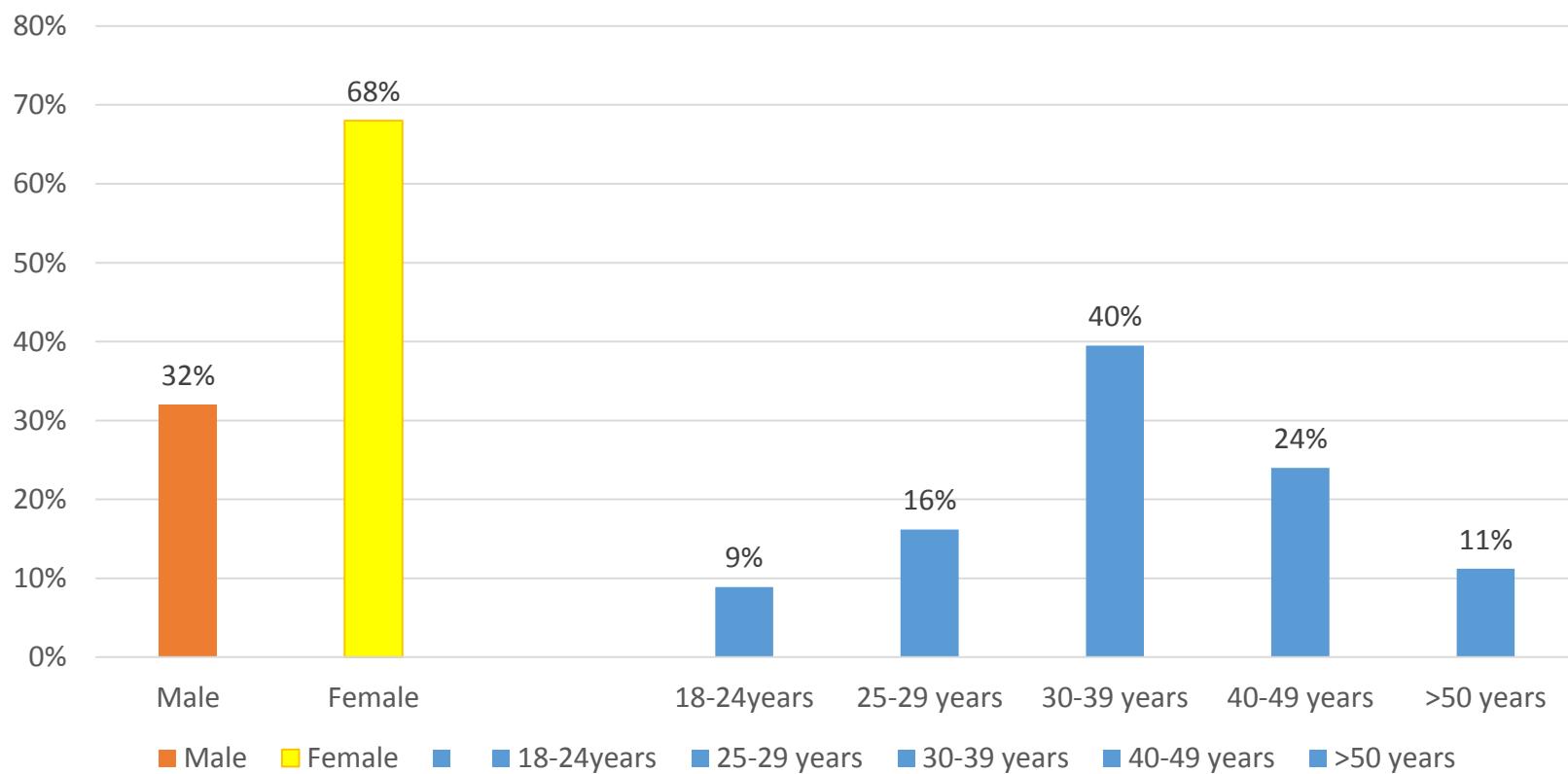
FINDINGS





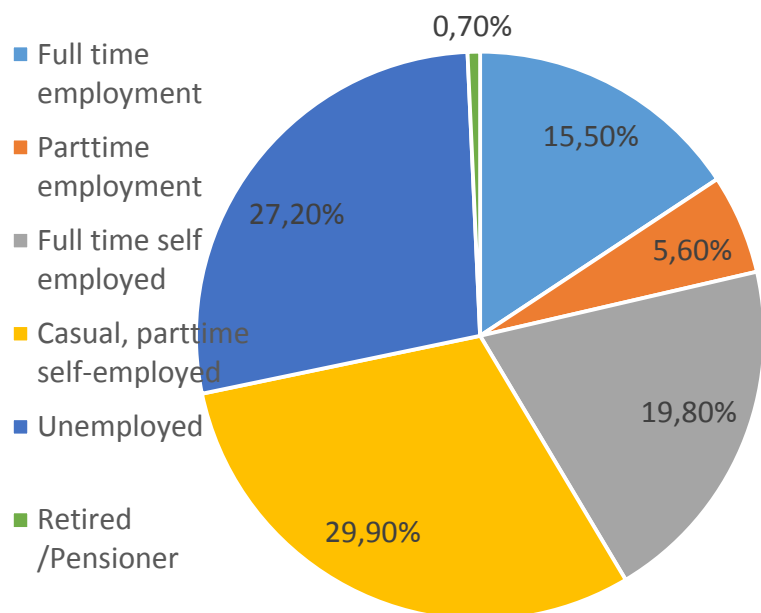
Demographic Characteristics

Background Characteristics 1

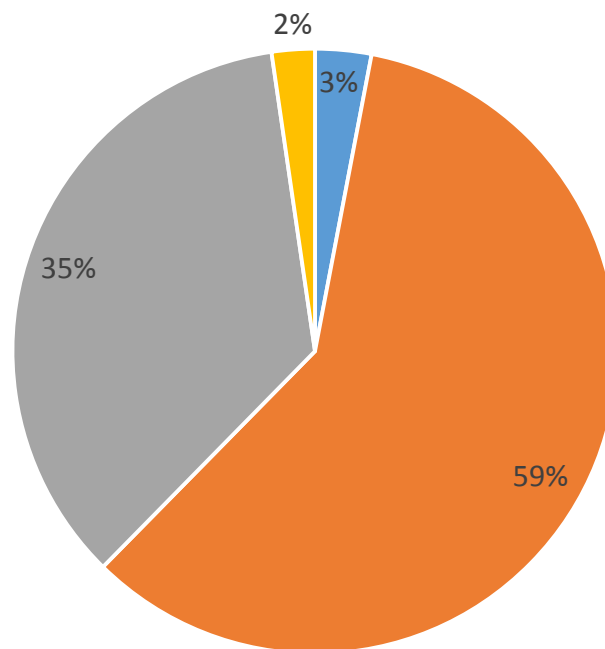


Background Characteristics 2

Work Status



Years Living with HIV

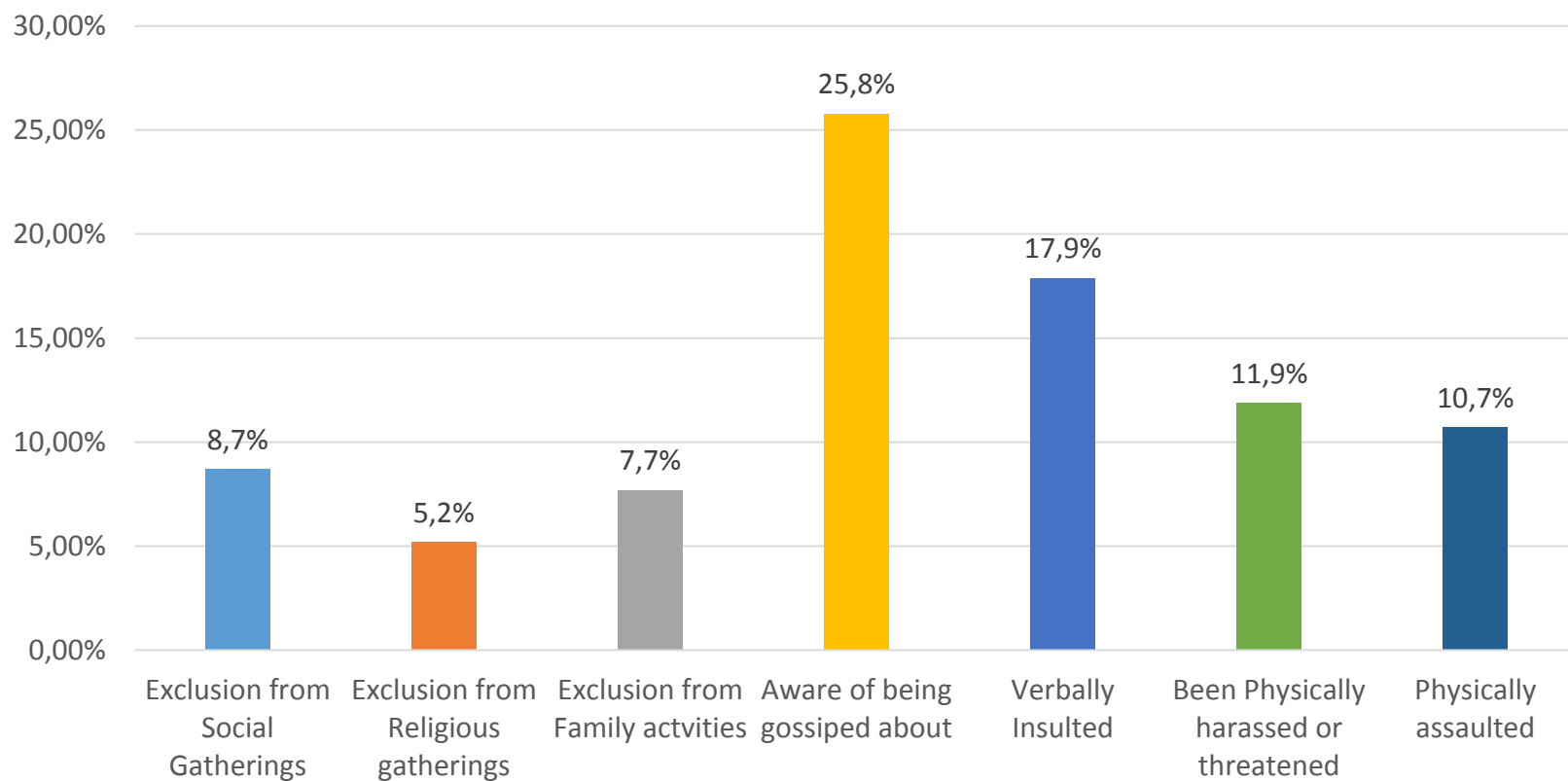


■ <1 year ■ 1-5 years ■ 6 years+ ■ No Response

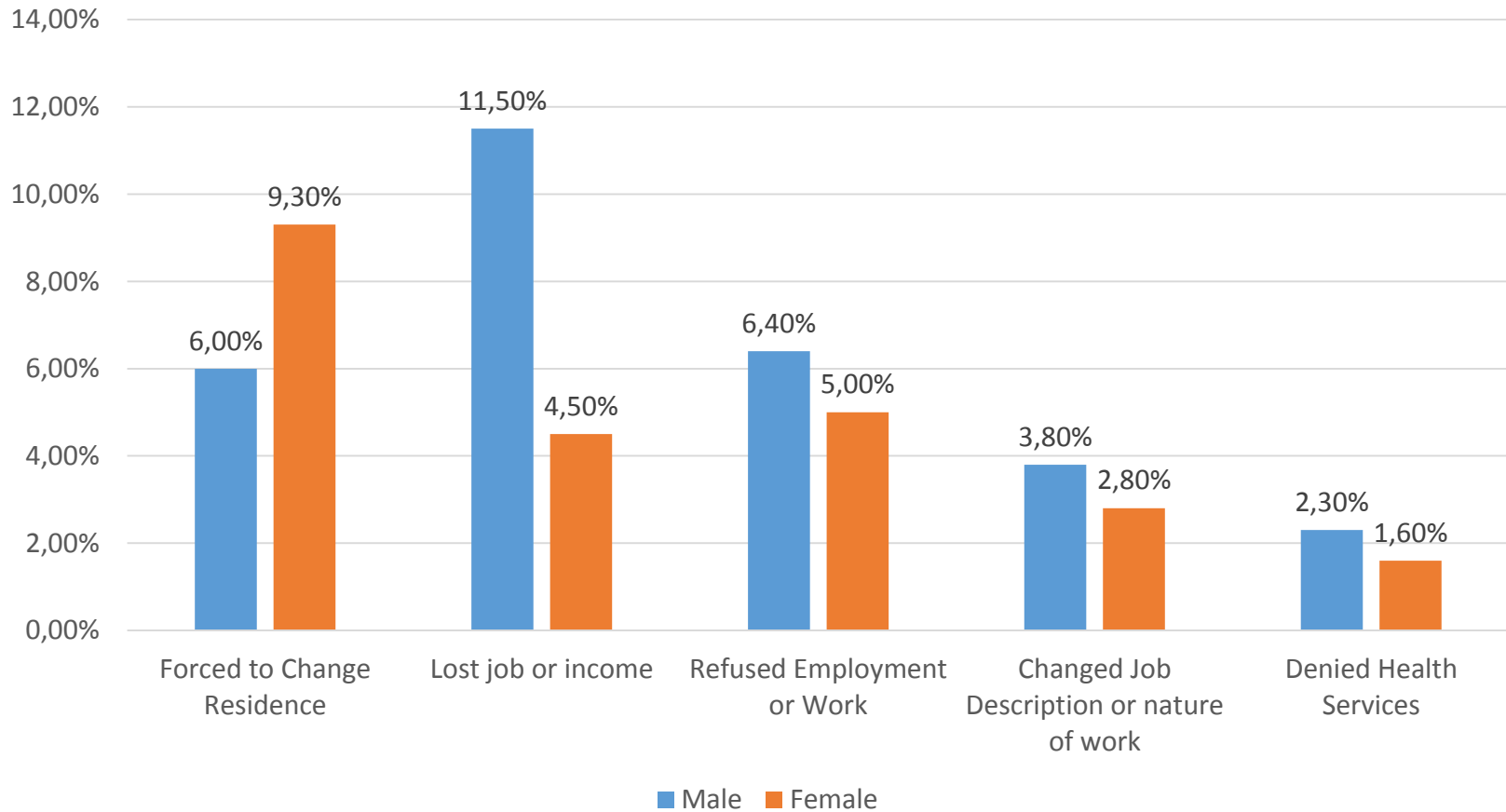


Types of Discrimination by Setting

Types of Discrimination experienced



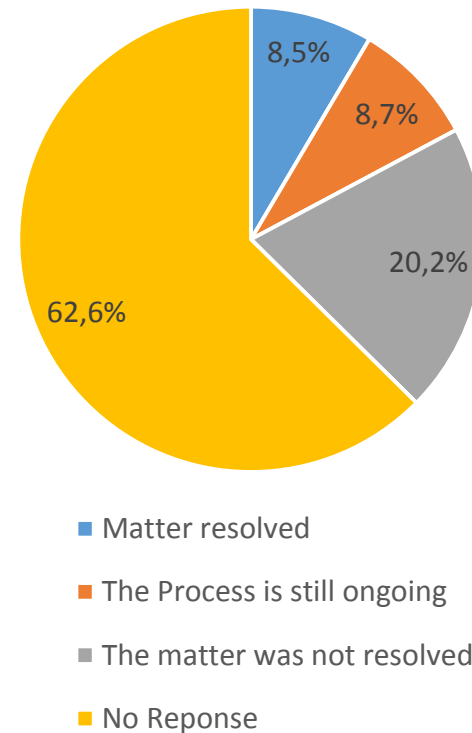
Other Settings where Discrimination is expressed



Seeking Redress

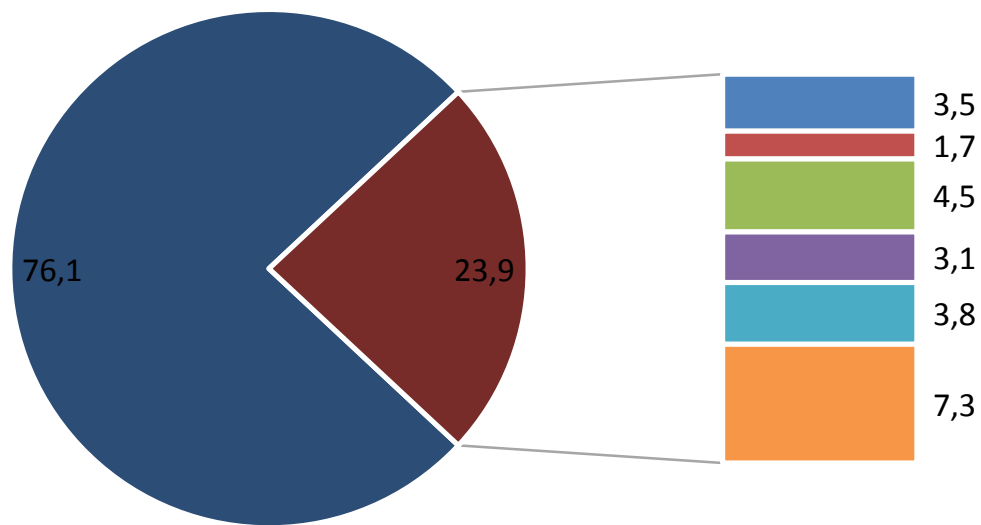
- 52.1% of persons aware of existing anti-discrimination legislation
- 8.6% of persons believe that their rights had been infringed upon in the last 12 months
- Only a quarter (25%) tried to seek redress
- Most of these had commenced

Result of Seeking Redress



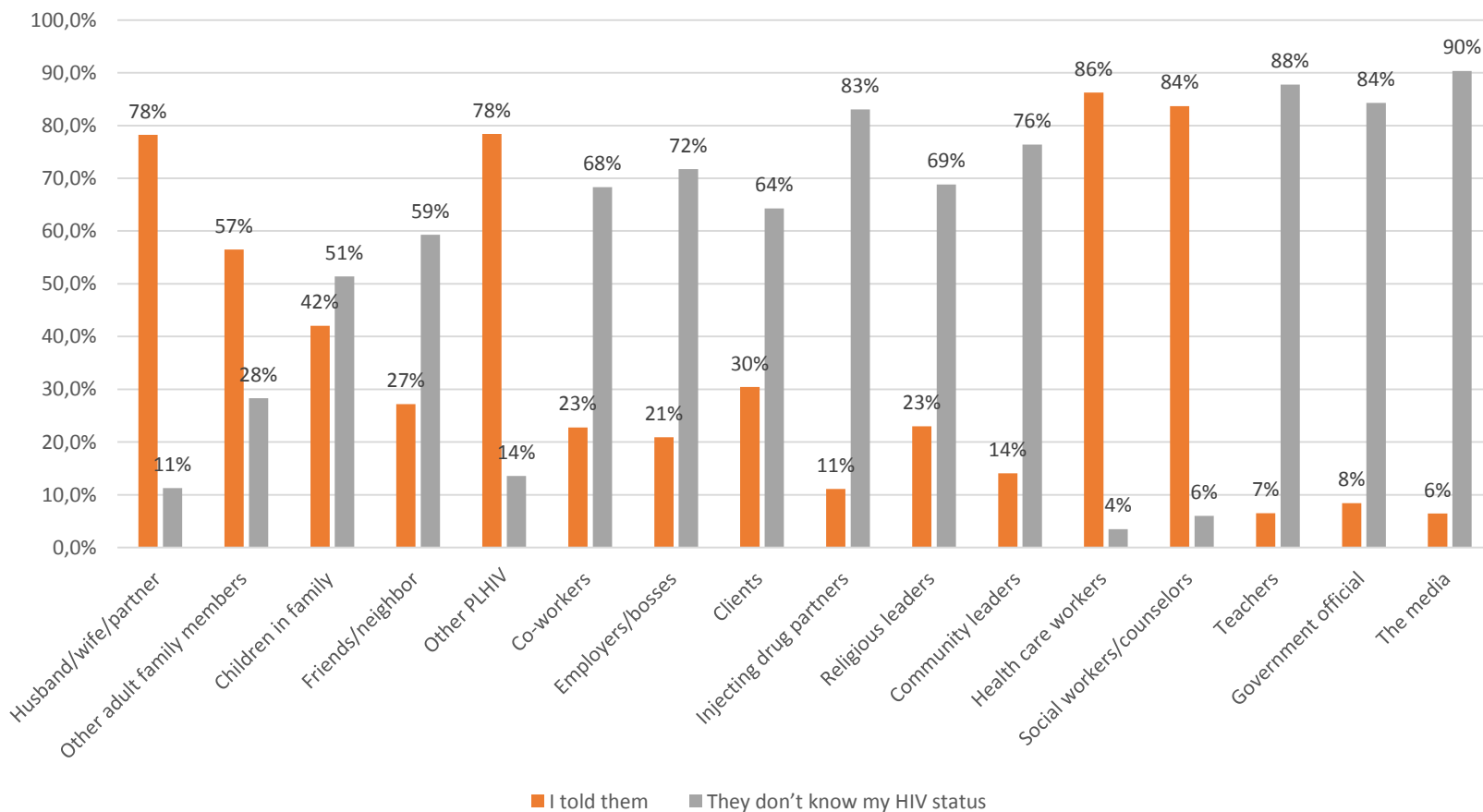
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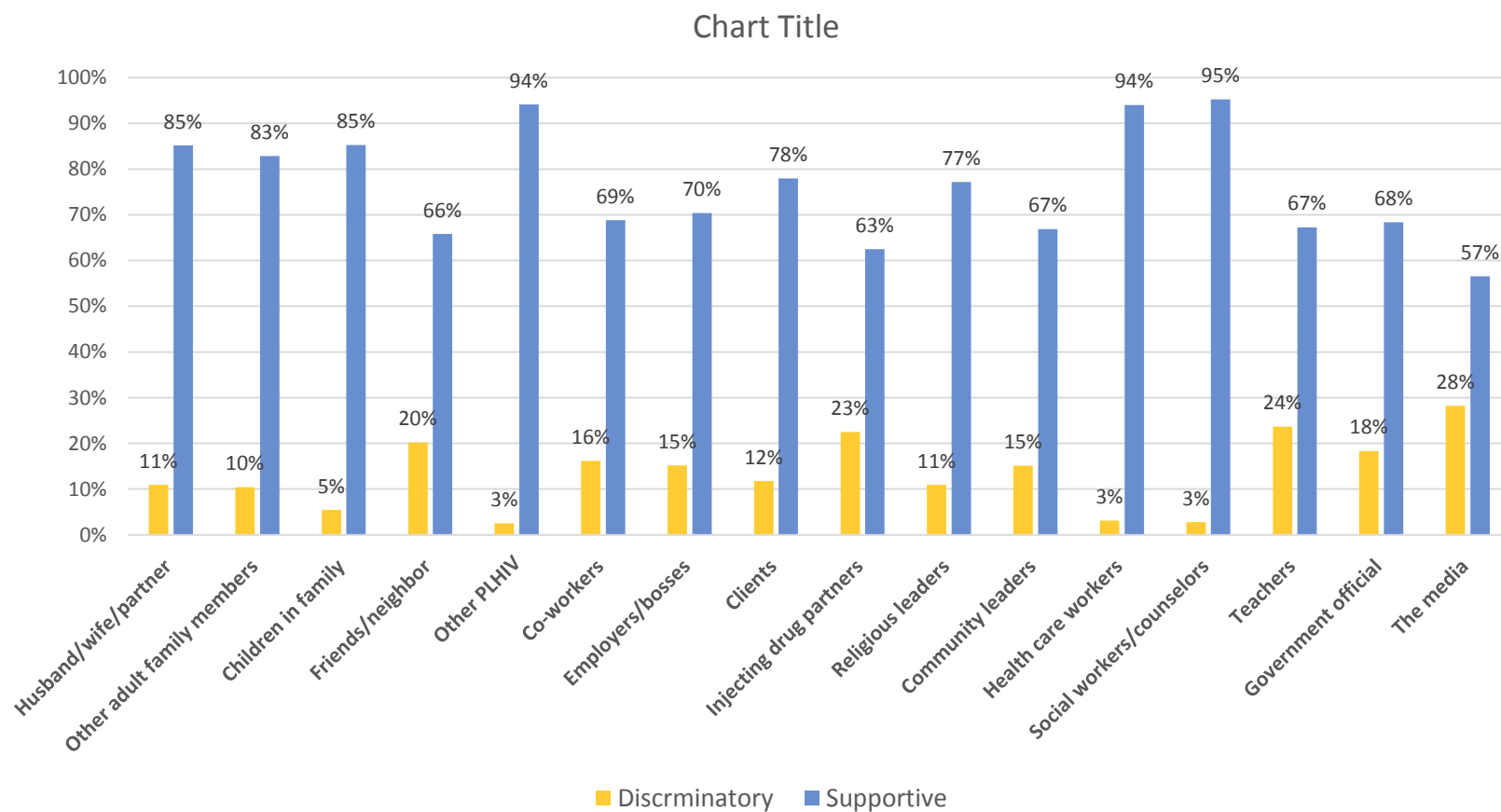


- Insufficient financial resources
- Felt intimidated or scared to take action
- No/little confidence that the outcome will be favourable
- No response/ I don't Know
- Process of addressing the problem
- Advised against taking action by confidants
- None of the above

Disclosure of Status to Associates



Attitude of Associates to Known status





Challenges

- Would have liked to include more states however funding was limited
- Insecurity in the North East led to only One state being sampled



Summary of Findings

- Stigma still exists (5.2% – 25.8%)
- Most stigmatizing attitudes experienced in the home for females and at work for males
- PLHIV not really seeking redress
- Still no confidence in the legal system and most do not want further exposure
- Disclosure of status is done to mainly health workers and spouses
- Persons who know HIV status are mainly supportive but stigma still displayed by some (spouse 11%; employers 15%)



Conclusion

- Getting to zero stigma is achievable
 - Not there yet
- The work continues



THANK YOU!!

