

Overlap of high risk behaviors in men injecting drugs in Ghana

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**8th International Workshop on HIV Treatment, Pathogenesis and Prevention Research in
Resource-Poor settings - INTEREST
5 – 9 May 2014, Lusaka, Zambia**

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Background

- HIV prevalence in Ghana; 1.31%
 - FSW = 11%; Pop. estimate (52,000)
 - MSM; 17.5% (Pop. estimate (~30,000)
 - PWID?
- Illicit drug trading is on the rise but impact on HIV transmission unknown
- Two studies conducted among 117 drug users in 1996 and 216 drug users in 1997 found that 9% and 15% respectively used heroin (*Affinnih et al*)
- Ghana's KP strategy references the importance of HIV prevention and care among PWID
- No prevention programs targeting PWID

Background

- In 2011, a Behavioural Surveillance Survey (BSS) was conducted among high-risk men to identify and describe key socio-demographic characteristics and HIV-related risk behaviors
- Questions were included on illicit drug use

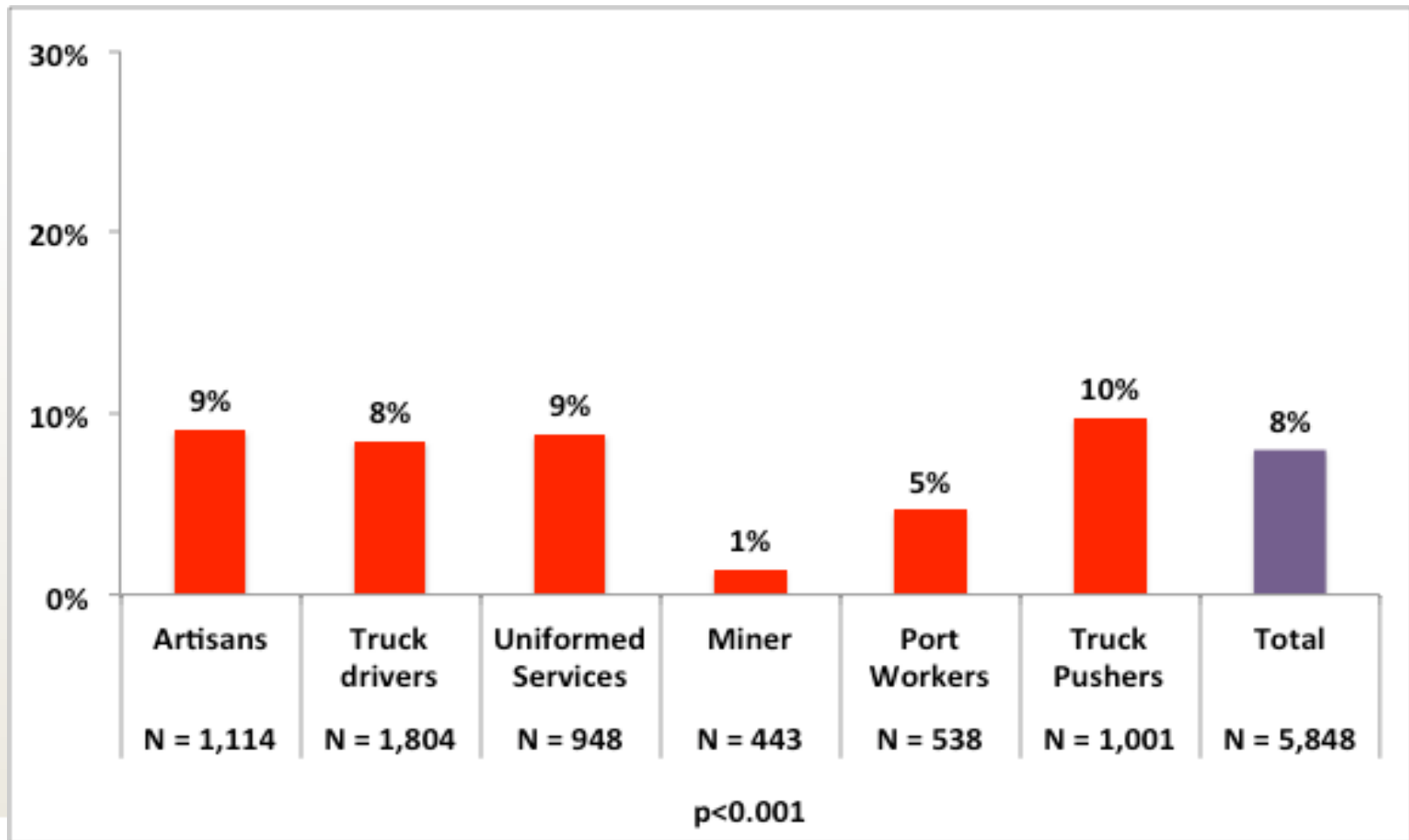
Methodology

- In 2011, FHI 360 with funds from the Ghana Aids Commission carried out a national HIV BSS of high risk men in Ghana
 - Truck drivers, Truck pushers, Miners, Police/military, Artisans and Port workers
- Used 2 stage Probability Proportional to Size sampling (PPS) approach except for men in Uniformed Services which was more purposive
- Secondary analysis (logistic regression) done to identify key characteristics associated with PWID

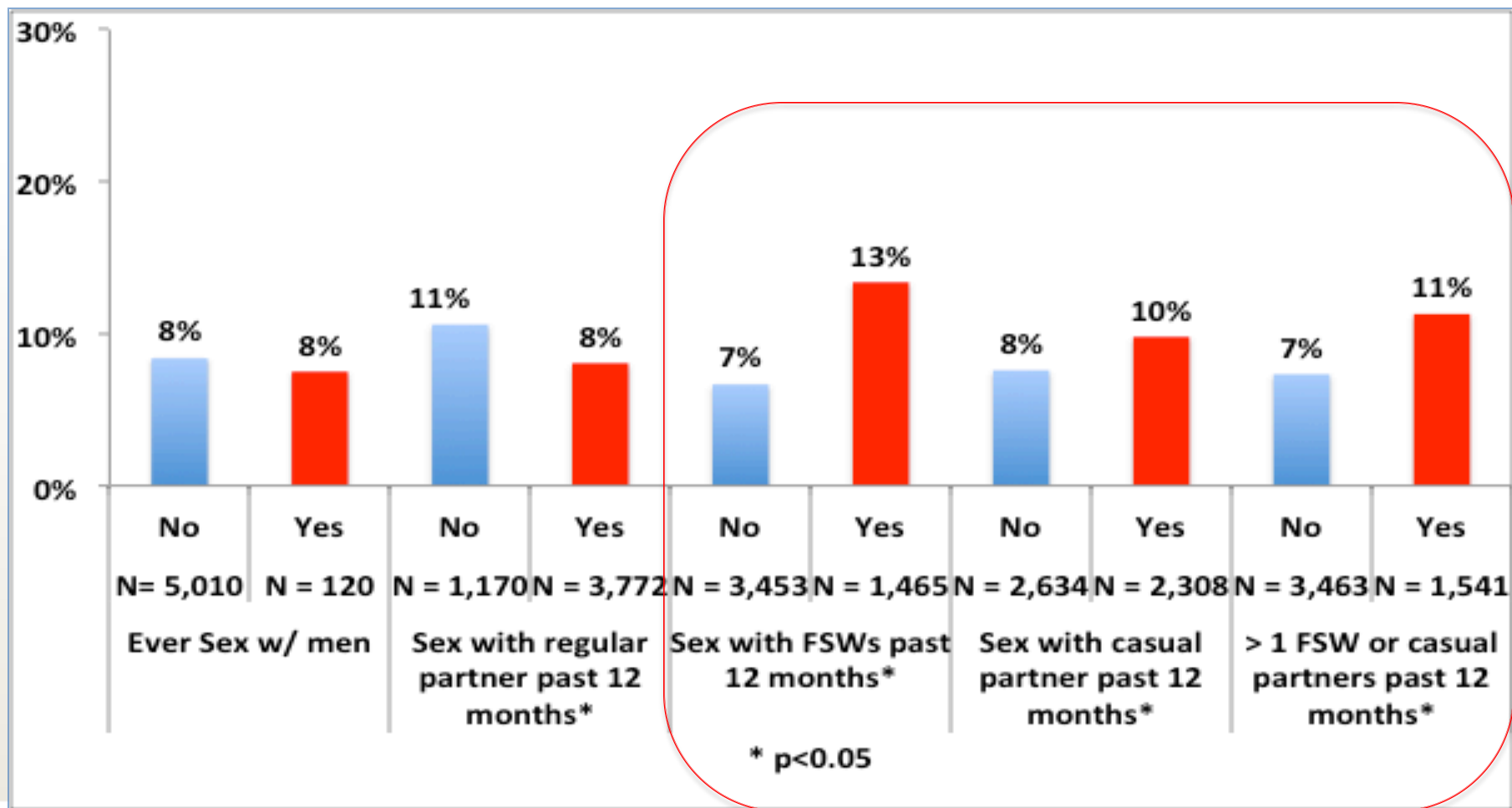
Objective

- Identify and describe key socio-demographic characteristics and behaviors of men who reported injecting recreational drugs in past 12 months (n=467 out of 5,848 (8% of total sample))

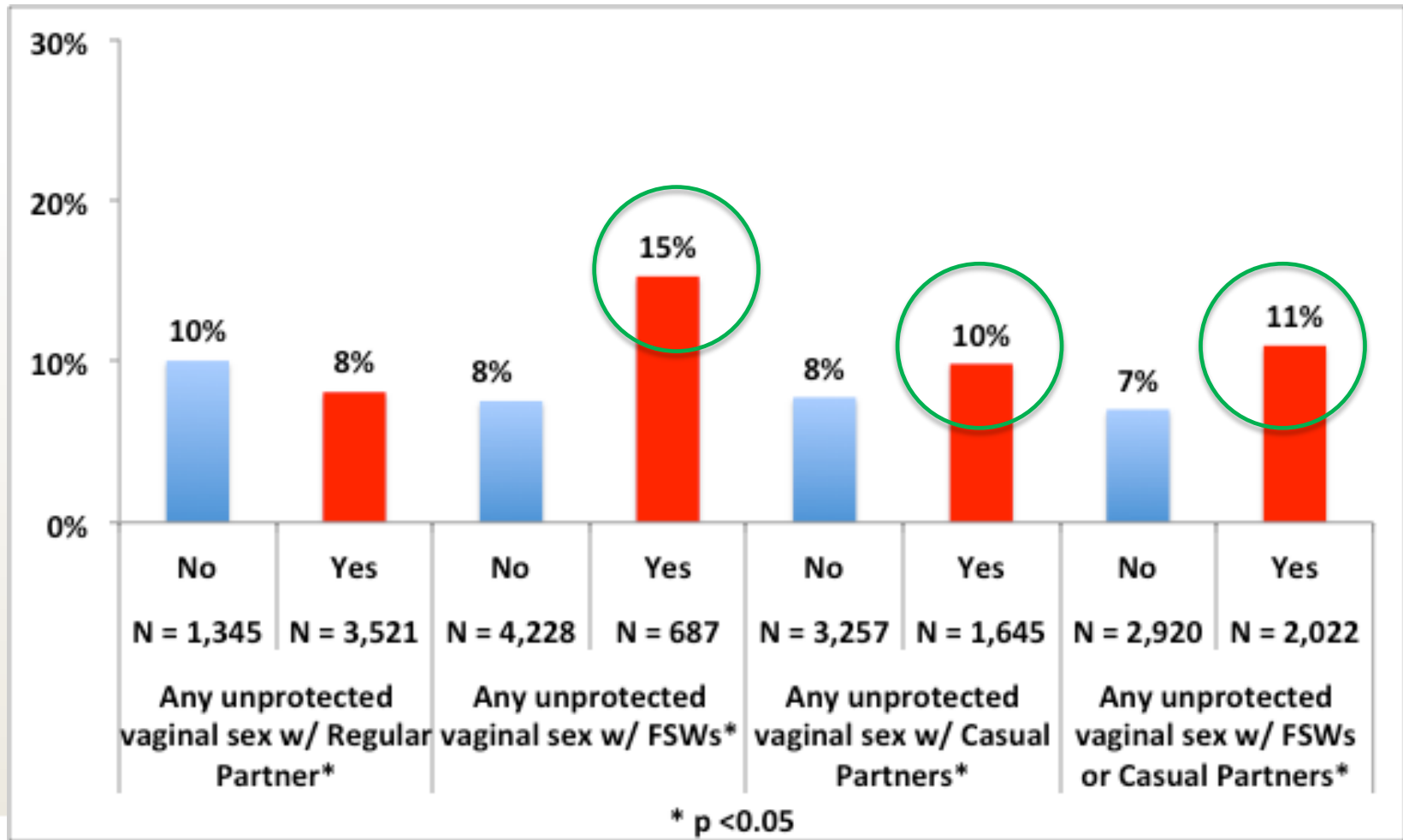
Prevalence PWID by Male Population Surveyed



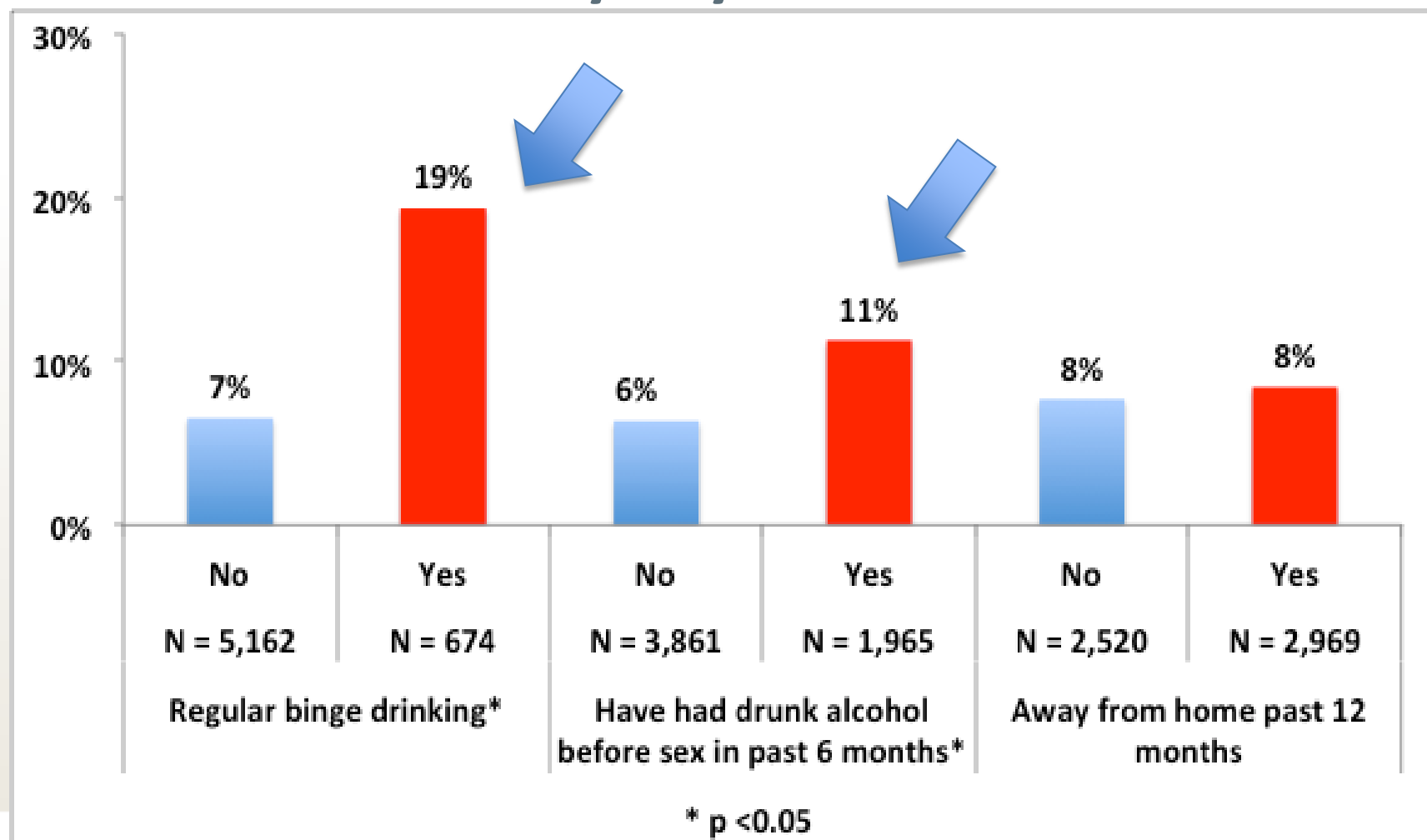
Prevalence PWID by Type of Sex Partners



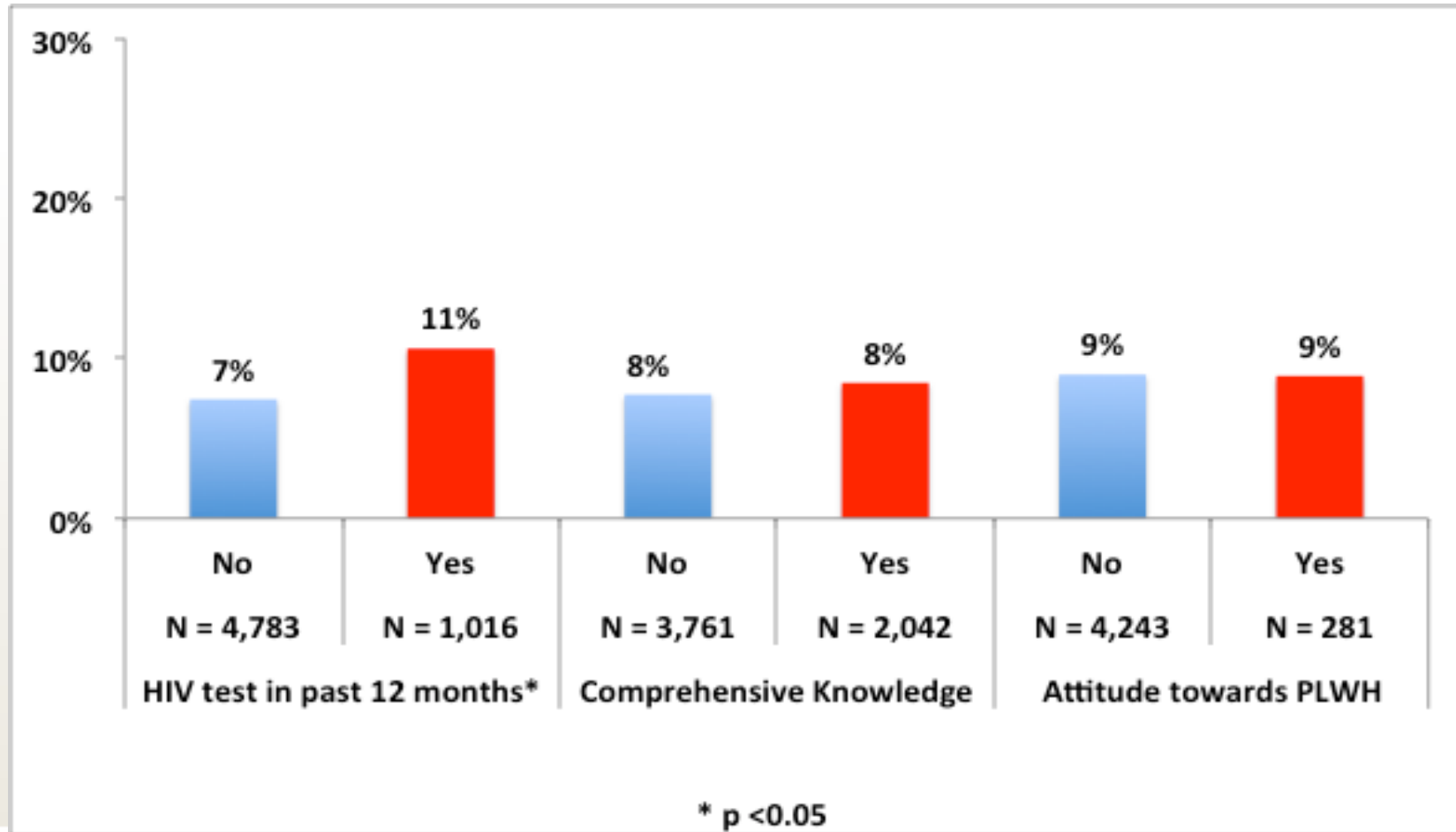
Prevalence PWID by Key Sexual Behavior



Prevalence PWID by Key Behavior



Prevalence PWID by Other Key Indicators



Limitations

- This study was not designed for PWID; findings are not representative of PWID in Ghana
- Only a few questions were included in the questionnaire on injection drug use (e.g., types of drugs used, re-use of needles and syringes)

Conclusion (1)

- Study reveals the existence of PWID across different male populations in Ghana
- PWID were significantly more likely to have unprotected sex with a sex worker or casual partner, drinking alcohol and binge drink than non PWID in the sample

Conclusion (2)

- These preliminary findings indicate the need to further understand injection drug use among these and other populations in Ghana and use findings to design harm reduction and HIV prevention services
- Networks of PWID are also linked with other key populations such as FSWs and to lesser extent with MSM, and general population, and combined with high-risk sexual behaviors

Acknowledgements



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- Ghana Police Service
- Ghana Armed Forces
- Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority

