

Beyond the Basics: A Comprehensive Approach to Advancing Transgender HIV Prevention and Care

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County of Los Angeles

Square Miles: 4,086
Population¹: 10.3 Million

Latino/a 47.0%
White 28.9%
Asian/PI 12.6%
African-American 9.0%
Native American 0.3%

Proportion of California Population²: 29%

Proportion of California AIDS Cases³: 36%

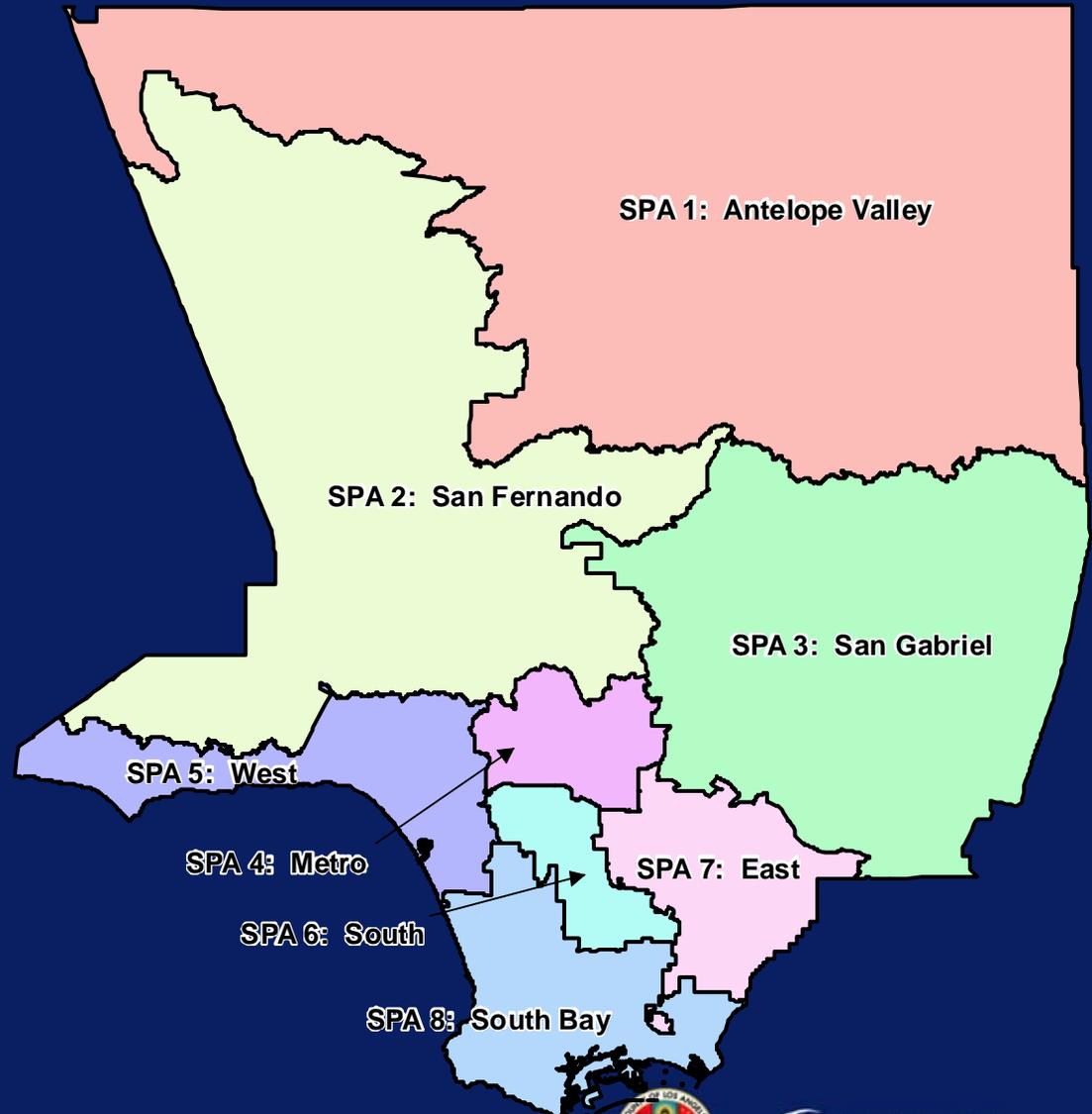
Proportion of U.S. AIDS Cases³: 5%

Living with HIV/AIDS³:
60,000 (Estimated)

¹United Way, Los Angeles (2008)

²U.S. Department of Commerce (2008)

³Los Angeles County HIV Epidemiology Program (2008)

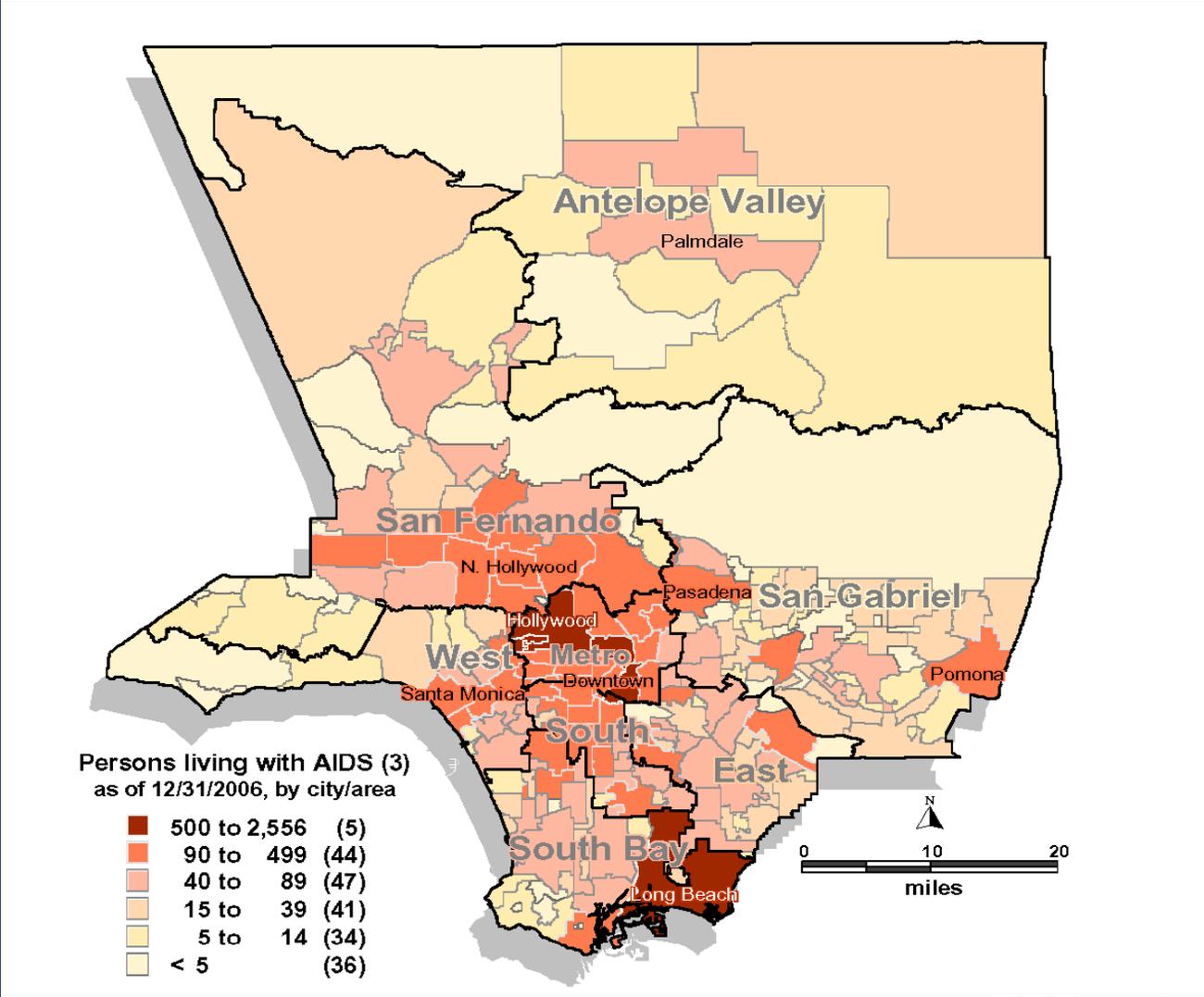


Transgenders in LAC

- 2009-2013 HIV Prevention Plan estimates there are 4,400 Transgender individuals in Los Angeles County (0.43%)
 - 926 estimated living with HIV/AIDS (21%)
 - TGs make up of 1.53% of PLWHA



Number of Persons Living with AIDS by City/Area of LAC



Issues Faced by Transgender Individuals

- Stigma
- Cultural barriers
- High risk for HIV
- Low HIV prevention services utilization
- Sexual trauma
- Threats of violence
- Financial instability



Issues Faced by Transgender Individuals

- Incarceration
- Social and geographical isolation
- Lack of health insurance
- Gender discrimination
- Fear of disclosure/exposure
- History of negative experience with care and service providers



Impediments to Quality HIV Prevention, Care and Treatment Services

- Provider discomfort/prejudice (religious and/or moral concerns)
- Low level of knowledge and familiarity with transgender community
- Lack of evidence-based research



What We Know from Limited Data

- Significant proportions of TGs test HIV positive
- MtF Transgenders have the highest HIV risk of any subgroup
- Drug use and sex with primary partners are among the most vulnerable situations for HIV transmission in TG population
- Many TGs are involved in sex work
 - High HIV prevalence among both sex workers and non sex workers
- MtF transgender women are less likely to receive HAART than non-transgender individuals

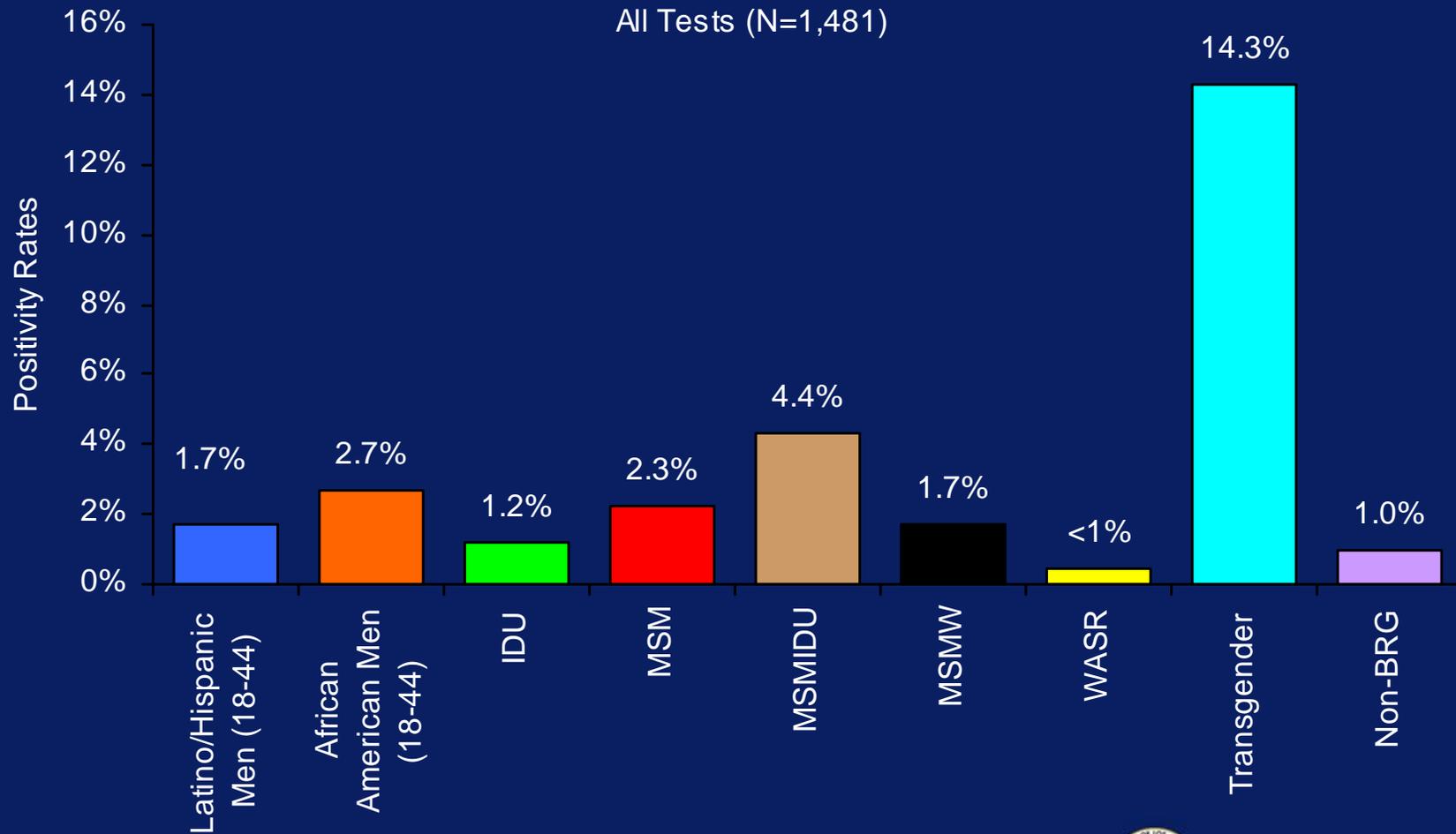


Target Population HCT Data from OAPP-funded Sites, 2007

Characteristic	N	New Positives ² (n)	New Positivity Rate (%)
Number of HIV Tests	33,367	451	1.35%
Homeless	1,959	38	1.94%
Target Populations ³			
HIV Positive Individuals ⁴	561	451	
Youth (12-24 years)	8,592	76	0.88%
Males	22,086	381	1.73%
<i>Gay men</i>	8,289	246	2.97%
<i>Non- gay identified men who have sex with men⁵</i>	3,639	72	1.98%
Females	11,054	59	0.53%
Transgender Individuals	223 (.67%)	11 (2.44%)	4.93%
People who Share Needles/Works	4,379	48	1.10%



Positivity Rates among 2007 HCTW Target Populations*



Prioritizing Transgender Population for HIV/AIDS Prevention Services

- 2002: State & County forms included 4 gender options (M, F, MTF, FTM)
- 2004: Prevention Plan prioritizes TGs as a BRG
- 2004: PPC recommends funding increase from 2% to 8%
- 2008: In the 2009-2013 Prevention Plan, the PPC further increased the recommended allocation to 9.9%
- 2008: October, the PPC established the TG Task Force



OAPP HIV Prevention Services

- 6 agencies have an HE/RR project targeted solely to Transgender individuals
 - Programs include adaptation of Popular Opinion Leader, SISTA, and MPowerment (DEBI)
 - Intervention types include Individual and Group level risk reduction counseling and CRCS
 - Program Partners: Bienestar, CHLA, LAGLC, FRI, MAP, and SSG
- 2008 HIV Testing Week initiative supported a Transgender testing event



HIV/AIDS Care and Treatment Utilization

- Currently, there are 313 Transgenders in LAC care and treatment services (~2% of all clients)*



Lessons Learned

- Targeted HIV testing essential
- Improvement in surveillance activities needed, including behavioral surveillance
- Improved trust between population and service providers is critical
- Capacity of service providers must be increased
- Necessary to develop and maintain relationships with law enforcement agencies



Next Steps

- Incorporate lessons learned into planning and programming
- Improve HCT return rates
- Evaluate impact of HE/RR interventions
- Assess and address gaps in services
- Develop programs that address basic needs and co-factors
- Improve access to medical care services (e.g., decrease incentive to become HIV positive)
- Address cultural barriers



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This presentation is available at
www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/aids

