

# Queering Public Healthcare Spaces for Men who have sex with Men (MSM) in the context of HIV & AIDS:

## A Qualitative Study in Two sub-Saharan Countries

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### Overview

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has identified MSM as a key population to be targeted in HIV prevention and care programming. Although there are pockets of HIV services targeting MSM across Southern Africa, the integration of these services into the public healthcare system has been slow. Within these spaces there is a distinct silence on the healthcare needs of MSM and other gender and sexual minorities.

### Sample

27 Couples:  
South Africa (n=16)  
Namibia (n=11)

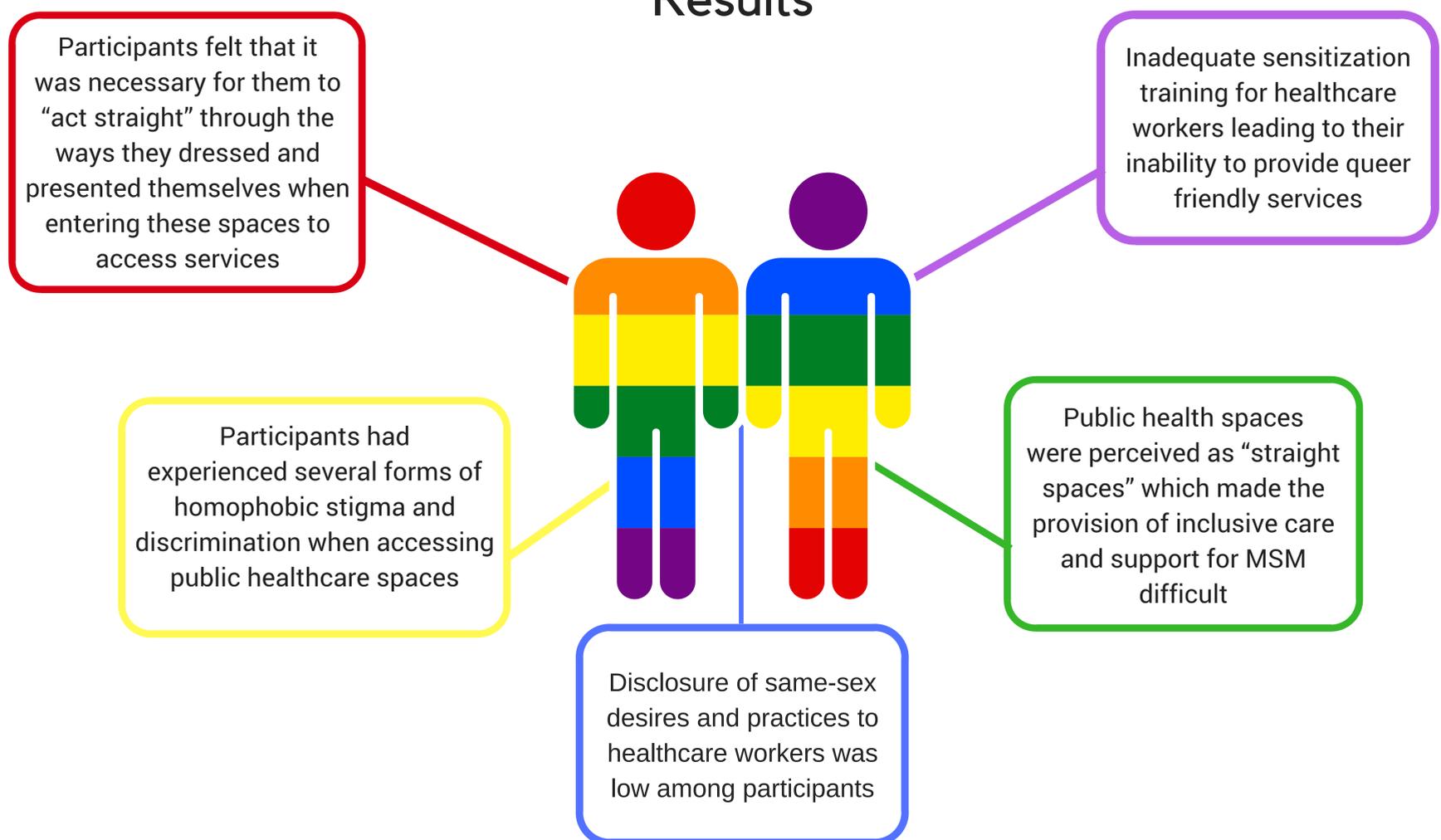
### Data

MSM couples were interviewed separately to identify how healthcare spaces could be improved to attract and engage more MSM patients

### Data Analysis

The data was analysed using a thematic analysis iv

### Results



### Discussion

Reluctance to disclose same-sex desire and practices to healthcare workers limits access to appropriate HIV related prevention options such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and sexually transmitted infections’ screening tests. The presentation of public health spaces as heteronormative as opposed to gender and sexual diverse spaces means that MSM patients are less likely to feel comfortable disclosing same-sex activity. Queering public healthcare spaces to improve MSM access and engagement with the public healthcare systems could improve national efforts to reach this population and reduce the spread of HIV

References: iBraun, V., & Clarke, V. (2006). Using thematic analysis in psychology. *Qualitative research in psychology*, 3(2), 77-101. Funding: The study was supported through funding from DFID and Mott MacDonald Disclaimer: The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect the views of the funder Collaborators: The study was conducted by the HSRC in collaboration with Positive Vibes, Namibia; the Gay and Lesbian Network, Pietermaritzburg; the University of California San Francisco; and the University of Michigan Affiliations: 1School of Agricultural, Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa 2Human and Social Development, Human Sciences Research Council, Sweetwaters, South Africa, 3School of Law, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, 4Wits Centre for Diversity Studies, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. South Africa,