



# People, Places, and Philanthropy: Responding to HIV in LGBTQ Communities<sup>1</sup>

November 2024

LGBTQ communities are disproportionately affected by HIV globally, especially gay men and other men who have sex with men (MSM) and transgender women.

- **55% of new HIV transmissions in 2022** occurred among key populations and their partners—including gay men and transgender people. Outside of sub-Saharan Africa, this number rose to 80%.<sup>2</sup>
- **The risk of acquiring HIV among MSM is 23 times higher** than the general population.<sup>2</sup>
- **The risk of acquiring HIV among trans women is 20 times higher** than the general population.<sup>2</sup>
- **A rising tide of authoritarianism and anti-rights/anti-gender movements** are also resulting in increasing criminalization of LGBTQ populations, which has a chilling effect on healthcare access.

Distilled from Funders Concerned About AIDS' latest annual resource tracking report, *Philanthropy's Response to HIV and AIDS: 2022 Grantmaking*,<sup>3</sup> these data provide an important advocacy tool to drive awareness and mobilize resources to address funding gaps for LGBTQ communities globally. For more information on data collection and methodology, please see [page 6](#).



Despite being disproportionately affected by HIV globally, **LGBTQ communities received just 14% of all HIV-related funding, or \$91 million, in 2022.**



**264** funders



**1,662** grants



**750** grantees

## WHO RECEIVED FUNDING?

Gay Men and Other Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM) \$26,346,868



Transgender People \$31,930,942



LGBTQ People in General \$41,681,839



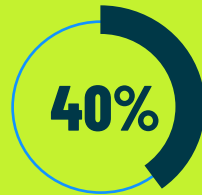
# If you fund LGBTQ communities, you too could fight HIV around the globe.

## The Need

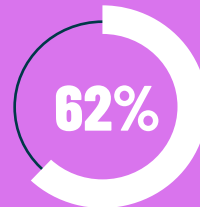
## The Response

### GAY MEN AND OTHER MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN

Only 40% of MSM reported having access to at least 2 prevention options in the past 3 months.<sup>4</sup>



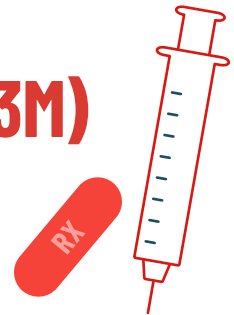
A significant 62% (\$16M) of HIV philanthropy for MSM was focused on prevention, yet many still lack the access they need.



Only 1/2 are aware of PrEP, or pre-exposure prophylaxis, a drug that can reduce HIV transmission by up to 99%.<sup>4</sup>

**Only 12% (\$3M)**

of HIV philanthropy for MSM supported PrEP.



**16% have experienced stigma and discrimination**

in the past six months, and

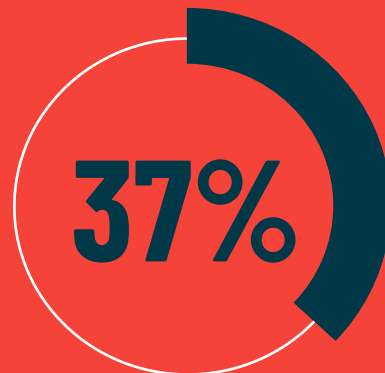
**9.4% have avoided accessing healthcare services due to stigma and discrimination**

in the past 12 months.<sup>4</sup>



**37%**

Only 37% (\$10M) in HIV philanthropy for MSM went toward advocacy efforts.



# TRANSGENDER COMMUNITIES



The risk of acquiring HIV among **trans women** was **20X higher** than the general population in 2022.<sup>5</sup>

**72%** of transgender people say they have experienced stigma and discrimination in the past six months, and

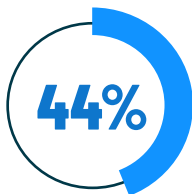


**14% of transgender people report avoiding using healthcare services** due to stigma and discrimination in the past 12 months.<sup>6</sup>

Transgender people face barriers to HIV prevention and care:



A reported median of only **39% of transgender people globally have received at least two HIV prevention services**, including access to PrEP, in the last 3 months.<sup>7</sup>



A global median of only **44% of transgender people living with HIV are receiving antiretroviral therapy.**<sup>5</sup>

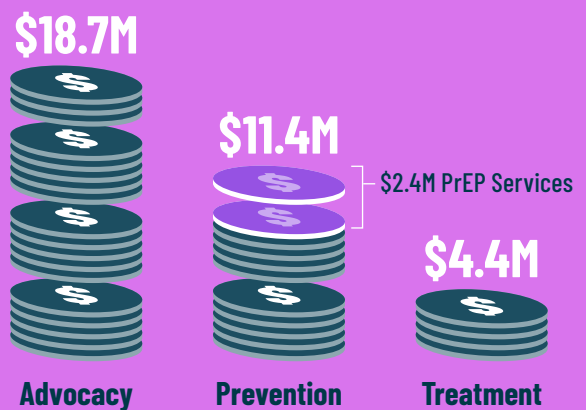


of HIV philanthropy in the same year reached transgender communities.



**The vast majority of funding went to the US (76%),** and only 24% reached the rest of the world.

## Where Is Funding Going?



# How Has the **Criminalization** of LGBTQ Communities Impacted the Fight Against HIV?

In addition to the stigma, discrimination, and structural barriers to care that many LGBTQ people face, varying forms of criminalization by governments can create insurmountable challenges that impact their health and well-being. Behind many of these laws and discrimination is a well-resourced anti-gender and anti-rights movement.



At least **20 countries** criminalized transgender people as of June 2023.<sup>6</sup>



From 2008 to 2017, at least **\$1 BILLION** of funding was sent from just 11 organizations in the U.S. to anti-gender actors in other countries.<sup>8</sup>



**Countries that fail to protect LGBTQ communities and other key populations face increasing HIV rates and other public health threats.**

**5X** In sub-Saharan Africa, one study found that HIV prevalence among MSM is 5 times higher in countries that **criminalize same-sex relations** than in countries that do not.<sup>4</sup>

**12X** In countries where there have been **recent prosecutions**, HIV prevalence is 12 times higher.<sup>4</sup>

**8% - 11%** In countries where same-sex sexual acts were criminalized, the number of people living with HIV who knew their HIV status was 11% lower and viral suppression levels 8% lower.<sup>9</sup>



In Eastern & Southern Africa, at least 12 countries criminalize LGBTQ people.<sup>10</sup>



Over 650 anti-trans bills were introduced in the U.S. in 2024 alone.<sup>11</sup>

**Laws such as Uganda's 2023 Anti-Homosexuality Act have resulted in violent attacks against people living with HIV, yet just \$1.6 million (2%) of all HIV philanthropy for LGBTQ communities reached Uganda in 2022 and \$9.4 million (10%) went to Eastern and Southern Africa as a whole.**

# Intended Use of Funding

Funders focused on LGBTQ issues are clearly responding to the need to fight stigma, discrimination, and criminalization of these communities.

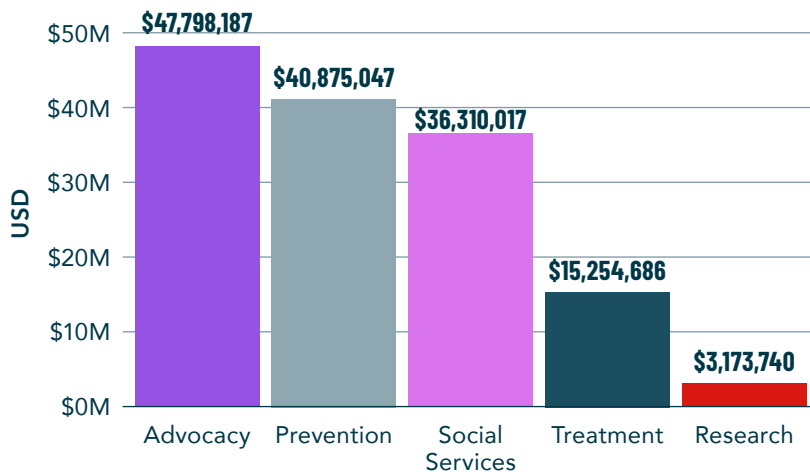


Advocacy represents **53%** of HIV philanthropy intended for LGBTQ communities,

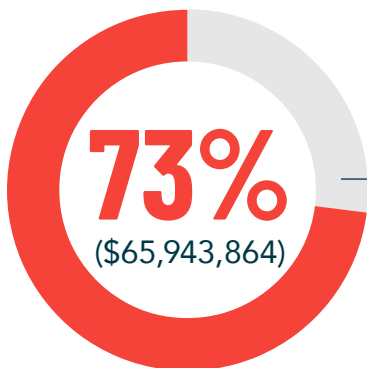


but **less than 25%** of overall HIV philanthropy.

## 2022 HIV Philanthropy for LGBTQ Communities, by Intended Use



## GLOBAL REGIONS

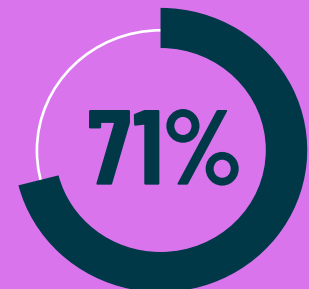


of all HIV philanthropy for LGBTQ communities went to the U.S.

Eastern & Southern Africa	\$9.4M
Western & Central Europe	\$4.1M
Latin America	\$2.9M
Eastern Europe & Central Asia	\$2.9M
Western & Central Africa	\$2.0M
Caribbean	\$1.9M
East Asia and Southeast Asia	\$1.5M
South Asia and the Pacific	\$1.2M
Global	\$1.1M
Middle East and North Africa	\$383k
Canada	\$334k

## TOP 10 HIV FUNDERS OF LGBTQ COMMUNITIES

1. Gilead Sciences, Inc.
2. ViiV Healthcare
3. Elton John AIDS Foundation
4. UHAI-EASHRI
5. Wellspring Philanthropic Fund
6. Arcus Foundation
7. Fred Ebb Foundation
8. American Jewish World Service
9. Sidaction
10. MSD (Merck & Co.)



of HIV philanthropy for LGBTQ communities came from the top 10 donors.

# Outsized Impact, but Incomplete Data

This infographic looks at existing data to illustrate the outsized impact of HIV on LGBTQ communities and current gaps in the philanthropic response, yet these data paint an incomplete picture. Philanthropic grants often seek to reach both transgender people and MSM with a single program. Without disaggregated details about the reach of these programs, the full amount of a grant is counted for both populations. The aggregate total for all LGBTQ people has been de-duplicated to give a more accurate picture of resources reaching this broader community; however, disaggregated totals may exceed the overall total due to this duplication.

**Data collected on transgender people across the globe is scarce, which skews a true understanding of the impact of HIV on this population.** Only 71 countries have ever reported transgender population estimates, and only 12 countries have reported data for HIV prevalence among transgender men.<sup>5</sup> To support transgender people effectively, we need understand the impact of HIV on them and the true funding response. With security concerns in mind, we call on funders to be intentional and transparent when funding transgender communities—so that resources are clearly directed and communities' needs are heard and trusted throughout the process.

1. The Global Philanthropy Project (GPP) also releases a biennial Global Resources Report looking at the state of funding for LGBTQI communities. Their data complements FCAA's, yet differs due to several methodological distinctions between our data collection processes, including, but not limited to, these factors: GPP's report covers two years at a time, includes government funding, excludes funding to the U.S., and, importantly, only includes grants that are explicitly LGBTQ-focused.
2. Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. (2023). [New HIV infections among key populations, proportions in 2010 and 2022.](#)
3. Funders Concerned About AIDS. (2024). [Philanthropy's Response to HIV and AIDS: 2022 Grantmaking.](#)
4. Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. (2024). [HIV and gay men and other men who have sex with men.](#)
5. Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. (2024). [HIV and transgender people.](#)
6. Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. (2023). [HIV and transgender people — 2023 UNAIDS global AIDS factsheet.](#)
7. Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. (2024). [The urgency of now: AIDS at a crossroads.](#)
8. Global Philanthropy Project (GPP). (2020). [Meet the Moment: A Call for Progressive Philanthropic Response to the Anti-Gender Movement.](#)
9. Kavanagh, M. M., Agbla, S. C., Joy, M., Aneja, K., Pillinger, M., Case, A., Erundu, N. A., Erkkola, T., & Graeden, E. (2021). [Law, criminalisation and HIV in the world: have countries that criminalise achieved more or less successful pandemic response?](#) BMJ Global Health, 6(8), e006315.
10. Human Dignity Trust. (no date). [Map of Jurisdictions that Criminalise LGBT People.](#)
11. Trans Legislation Tracker. (no date). [2024 anti-trans bills track.](#) <https://translegislation.com/>

## ABOUT FCAA

Funders Concerned About AIDS (FCAA) unites philanthropic leaders to pursue a shared vision of a world without AIDS. Through research, advocacy, and opportunities for collaboration, we work to help mobilize and grow funding for the ever-changing fight against HIV. Our global network of members and partners represent the majority of HIV-related grantmaking today – providing critical support for the people and places most impacted by the epidemic and more than US\$331 million of funding in 2022. To learn more, please visit [fcaaid.org](https://fcaaid.org).

