

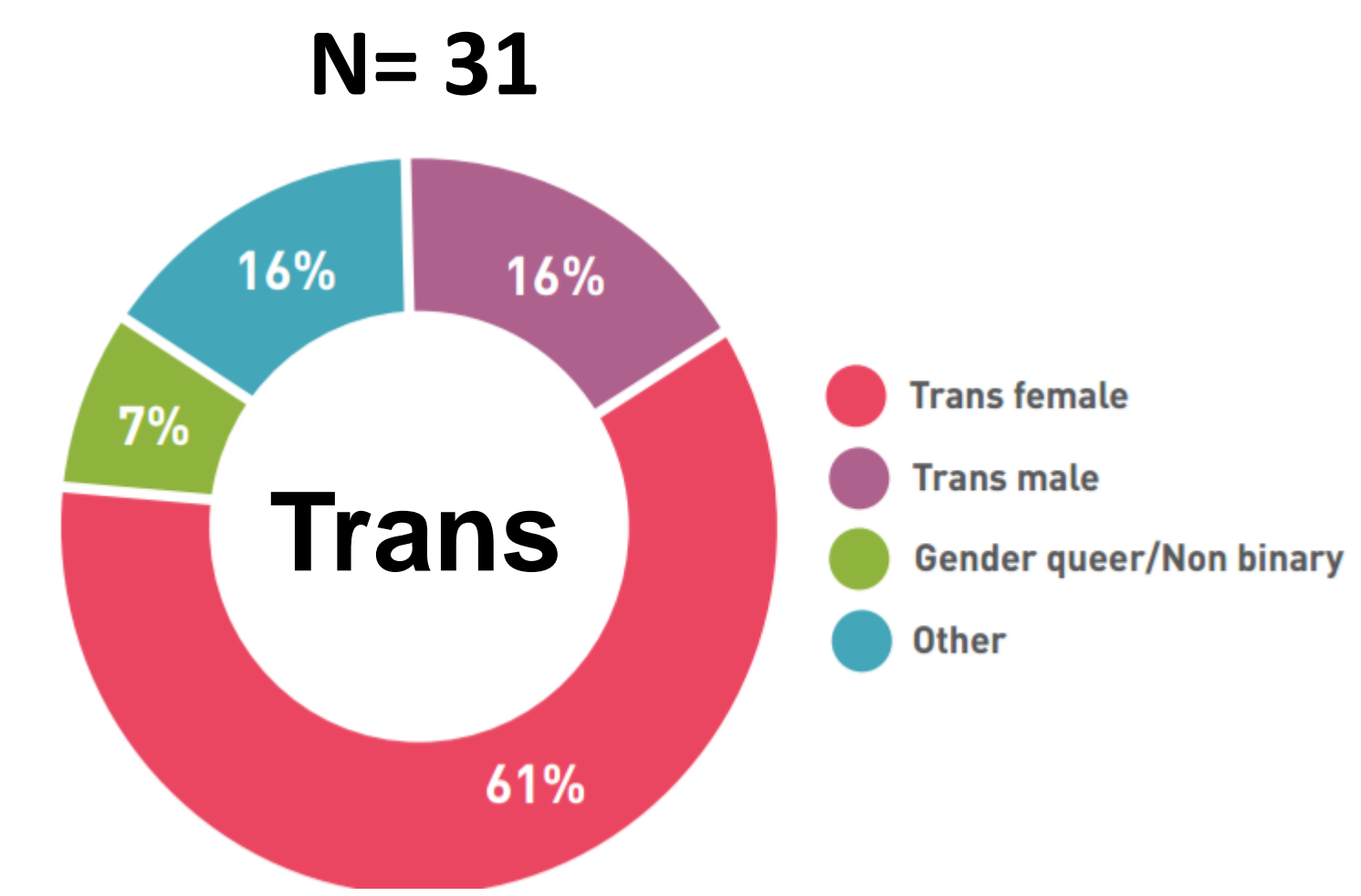
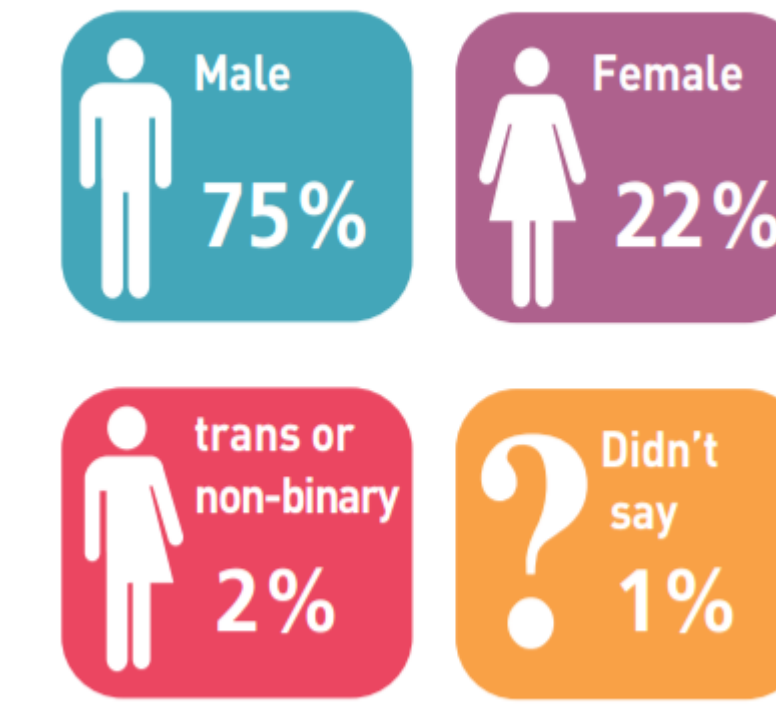
M Hibbert¹, W Crenna-Jennings², L Benton², P Kirwan¹, I Lut², S Okala^{1,2}, A Wolton^{3,4,5}, M Ross^{3,4}, M Furegato¹, K Nambier⁶, N Douglas⁷, J Roche⁴, D Asboe^{3,8}, J Jeffries², I Reeves⁹, M Nelson⁵, C Weerawardhana¹⁰, Z Jamal¹¹, A Hudson^{2,3} & V Delpech¹

¹HIV & STI Department, Public Health England, ²FPA, ³StigmaIndexUK, ⁴CliniQ, ⁵Chelsea & Westminster Hospital, ⁶Brighton and Sussex University NHS Trust, ⁷London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, ⁸British HIV Association, ⁹Homerton University Hospital, ¹⁰Queen's University Belfast, ¹¹NAZ, London

Background

- The **People Living with HIV Stigma Survey UK 2015** is a collaborative, community-led initiative that captures the feelings and experiences of living with HIV within the past 12 months.
- A total of **1,576 people** recruited from 120 community organisations and 47 HIV clinics throughout the United Kingdom (UK) completed an anonymous online survey. Participants broadly represented the demography of people accessing HIV care in the UK. Responses were stored securely and analysed at Public Health England with active community engagement.
- **31 (2%) participants were identified as trans** (19 trans women, 5 trans men, 2 gender queer/ non-binary , and 5 other).
- We describe the experiences of trans people in social and health care setting in the past 12 months and compare these with cisgender people. We also provide personal quotes from trans people who completed the survey.

Gender N= 1,576



"When approached about life insurance, as soon as I [disclosed] that I had [HIV] they put the phone down." Trans woman, 58 years old, West Midlands

"I am a trans woman. People are still afraid of things they do not understand." Trans woman, 50 years old, Scotland

"I think people are surprised, and knowing that someone like me can be HIV positive seems to open up people's thinking." Gender queer / non-binary, 23 years old, Scotland



"[Disclosing] has strengthened some of my most important relationships." Trans woman, 43 years old, East Midlands

"I run groups for newly diagnosed people. Helping others with their diagnosis also helps me." Trans woman, 58 years old, London

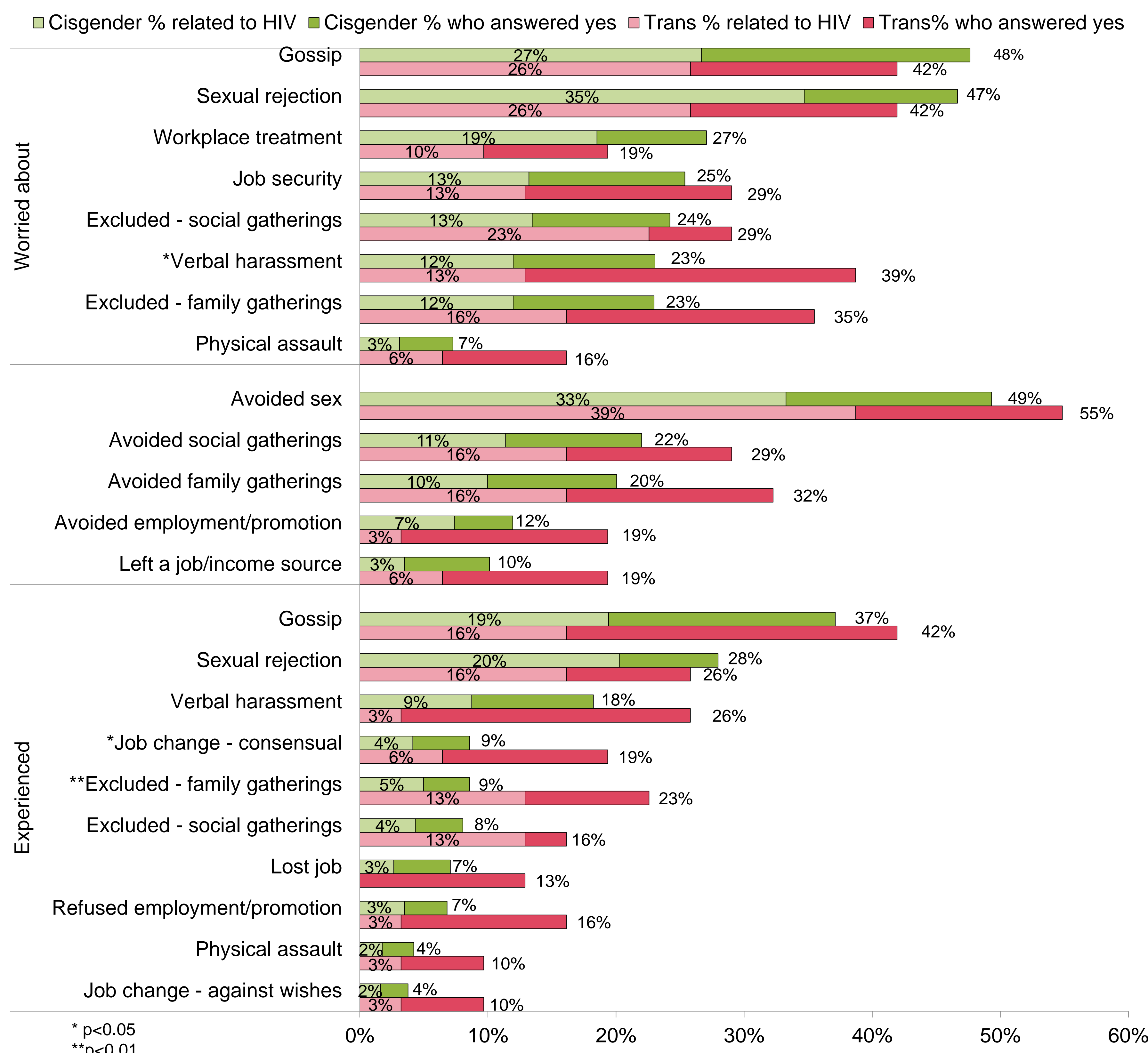
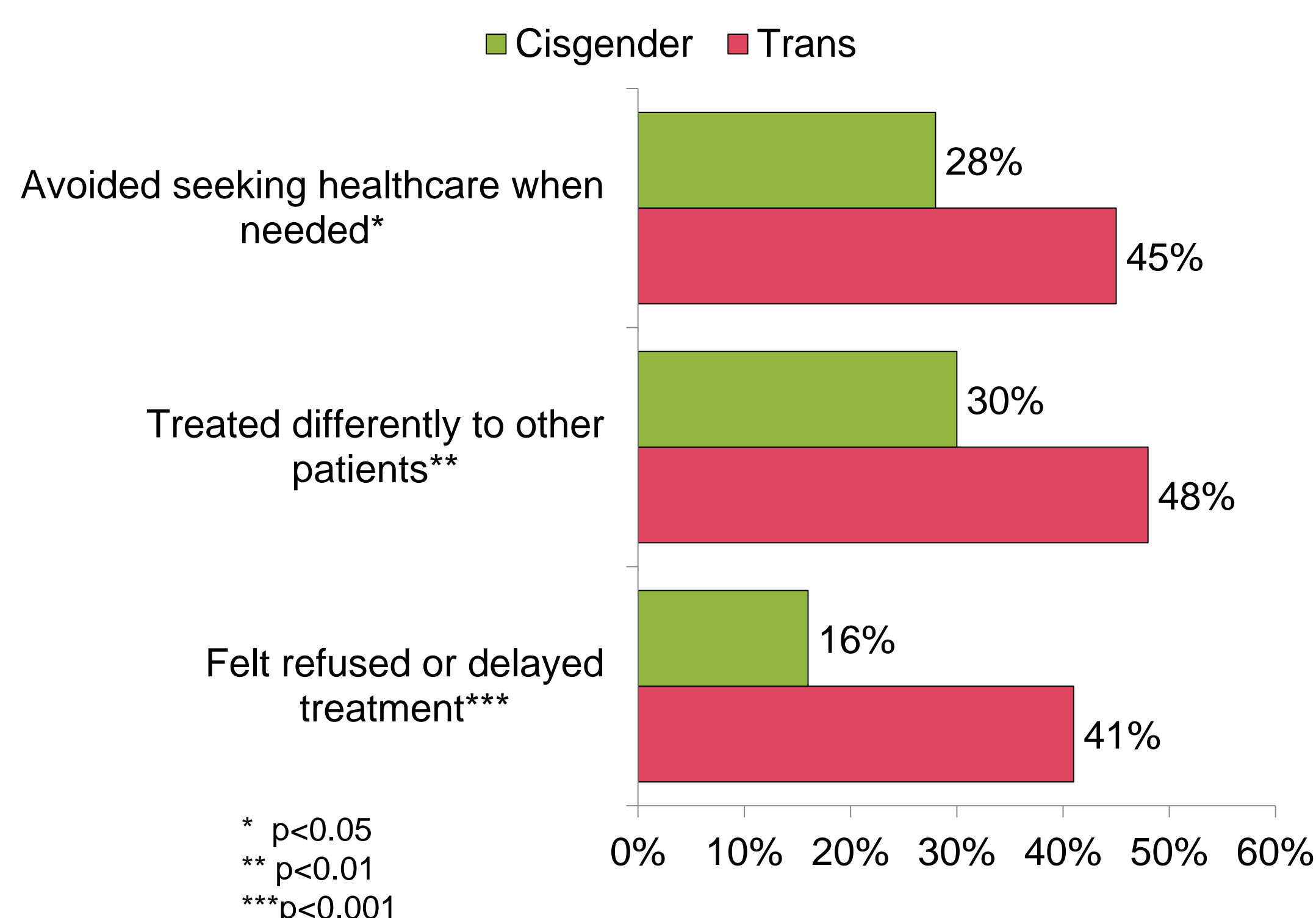
"[Whenever] under pressure to disclose to a new GP, I often feel judged and ashamed." Woman (trans history) 37 years old, North West

Figure 1: Trans and Cisgender participants' experiences of stigma and discrimination in the past 12 months in social settings

Results

- Compared to cisgender people, trans participants were significantly more likely to report **worrying about verbal harassment** (p<0.05), **having agreed a job change** with their employer (p<0.05), and being **excluded from family gatherings** (p<0.01) in the last 12 months (Figure 1).
- In healthcare, **trans participants** were significantly more likely to report a **healthcare worker disclosing their HIV status** without their consent to another **healthcare colleague** (38% vs. 16%, p<0.01), or to a **member of the public** (21% vs. 7%, p<0.01).
- **Trans participants** were more likely to **avoid seeking healthcare when needed** (45% vs. 28%, p<0.05), report being **treated differently in healthcare settings** (48% vs. 30%, p<0.01), and **felt delayed or refused treatment** (41% vs 16%, p<0.001), in the past 12 months (Figure 2).
- Multivariate logistic regression analyses controlling for other predictors found that trans participants were **more likely** to report being **treated differently** in healthcare settings (aOR 2.61, CI 1.06, 6.42), and **more likely** to report feeling **refused treatment** (aOR 4.58, CI 1.83, 11.44) compared to cisgender people.

Figure 2: Trans and Cisgender participants' experiences of healthcare in the past 12 months



Conclusions & Recommendations

- Despite excellent health outcomes, people living with HIV in the UK and especially trans people continue to report high levels of stigma and discrimination in the social and health care setting.
- Avoidance of health care among people living with HIV has potential negative consequences on health and wellbeing.
- Trans people and the medical community would benefit from UK-specific Standards of Care for trans people living with HIV and greater levels of community engagement.
- Trans-specific education within healthcare settings could improve standard of care to this demographic.

Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge all respondents who took part in the *People Living with HIV StigmaSurvey UK 2015*. Thank you to the members of the StigmaSurvey advisory group, and the engagement and support from colleagues at CliniQ.