

## Introduction

- Domestic abuse (DA) is defined as behavioural patterns in relationships used to gain/maintain power and control over an intimate partner including physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological (threats of or) actions (1).
- DA is well known to significantly impact morbidity from a physical and psycho-social perspective, and mortality (2).
- The link between DA and PLWH is recognised, but literature is sparse on characteristics linked to management and outcomes of DA.
- We aimed to describe the characteristics of DA and outcomes of DA identified in PLWH at a London HIV Service.

## Methods

- A quality improvement project (QIP) to improve DA screening in PLWH, promote earlier identification and improve management was implemented in March 2020.
- Patients screened for DA from March 2019-2021, and reporting DA were identified using electronic patients records.
- Patient demographics, characteristics and outcomes were collated and analysed.

## Results

### Summary

- 44 PLWH were identified as reporting DA from March 2019 to March 2021.
- Prior to the QIP 11 PLWH disclosed DA (over a 12 month period), and 36 disclosed DA (over a 12 month period) after the QIP was implemented.
- 68% were asked more than once before disclosing, one patient was asked four times before disclosing DA.

### Patient demographics

- The majority reporting DA were homosexual, White British or non-British males, with a median age of 41 years (range 24-65).
- Figure 1 summarises the demographics of PLWH reporting DA.

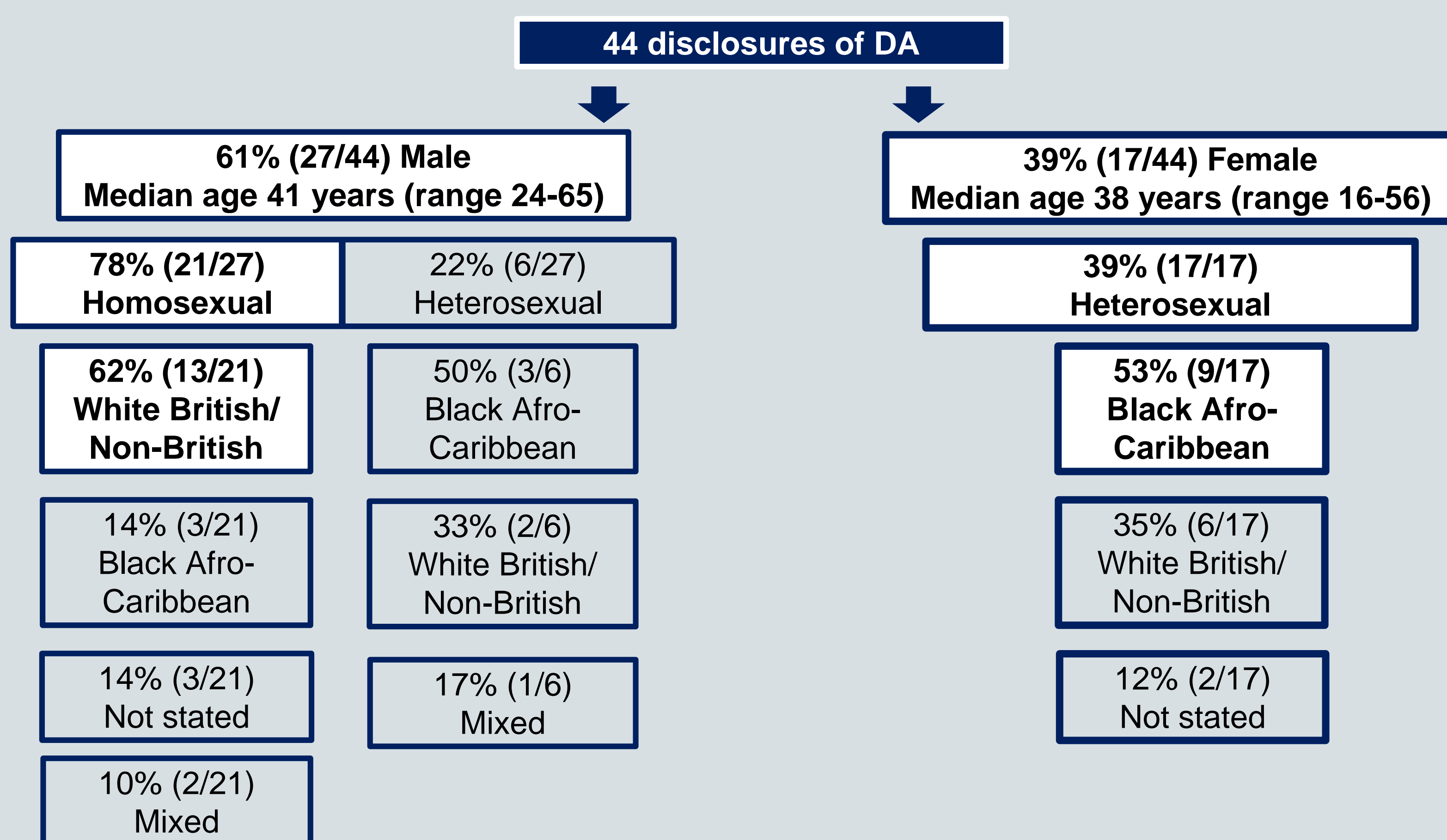
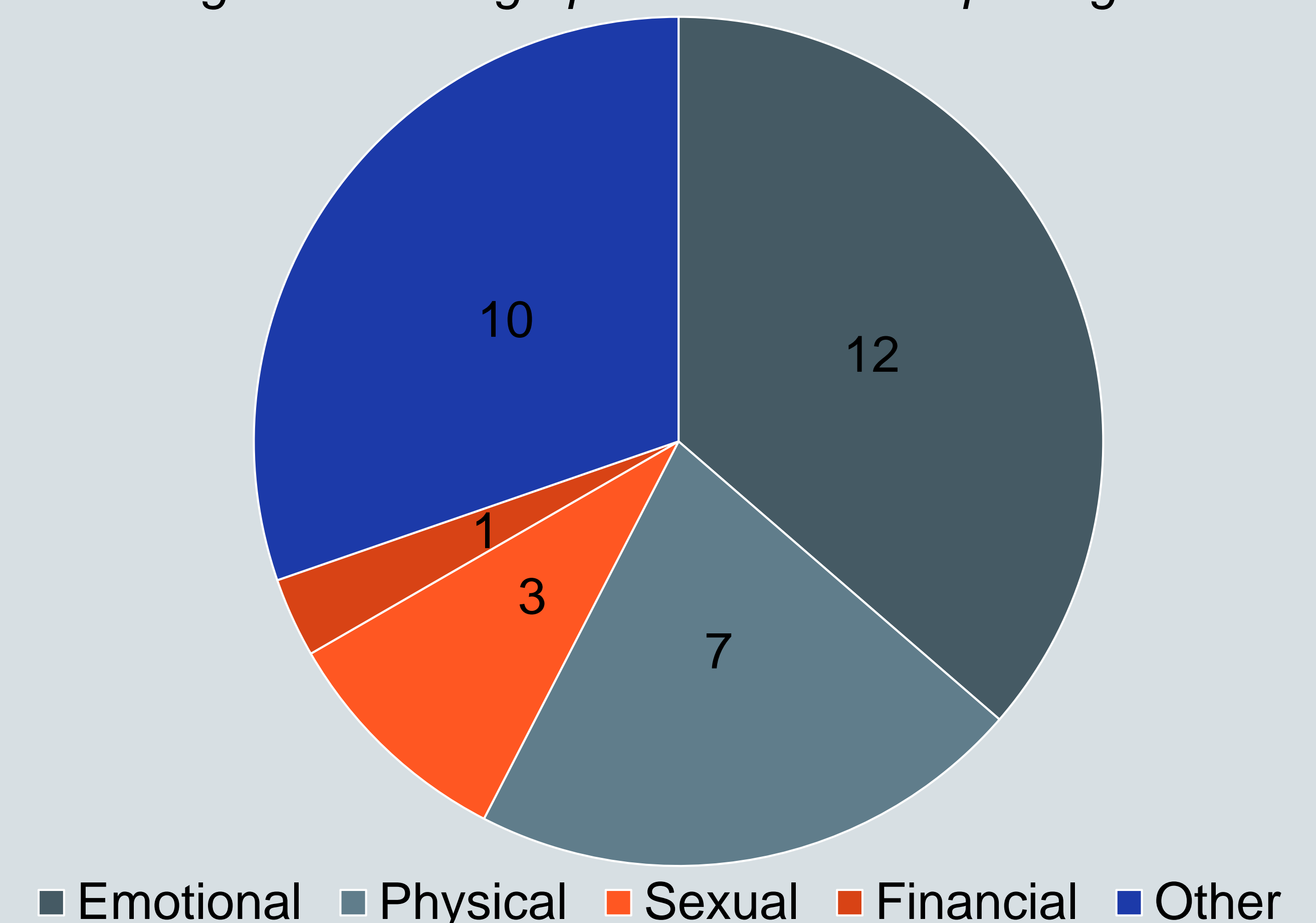


Figure 1 Demographics of PLWH reporting DA

### Characteristics of DA

- Emotional abuse was the most commonly reported type of abuse (Figure 2).
- Seven patients reported more than two types of abuse, and four reported more than three types of abuse.
- One patient reported past childhood abuse.

Figure 2 Demographics of PLWH reporting DA



### Outcome of DA cases

- 39% (17/44) were currently experiencing DA, of whom 76% (13/17) were linked into DA services
- 70% (19/27) who experienced past DA accepted referral to DA services following screening.

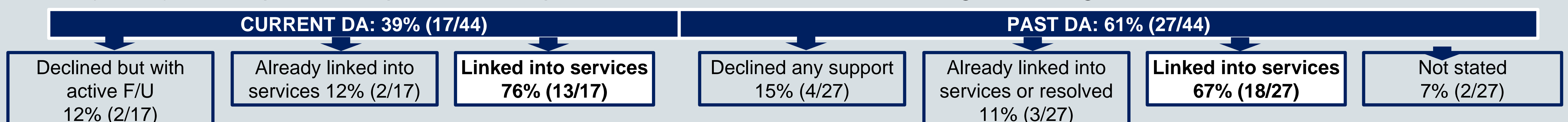


Figure 3 Management outcomes of PLWH reporting DA

## Conclusion

- In our cohort of PLWH who reported DA, emotional abuse was the most common type of abuse with many reporting multiple forms of abuse.
- The majority of DA survivors in PLWH were homosexual White British or non-British males.
- 73% accepted referral to DA services, regardless of whether the abuse was current or past.
- Our data highlights males as DA survivors, a model for pathways for DA management, as well as the importance of screening given the high demand for support even in those disclosing past DA.

## References