

# III Survey of the impact of COVID-19 among key populations in Latin America and the Caribbean



Migrants



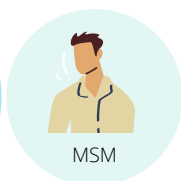
Indigenous P.



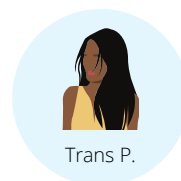
Youth



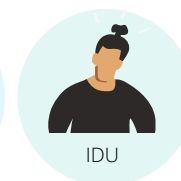
Sex Workers



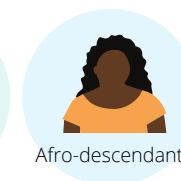
MSM



Trans P.



IDU

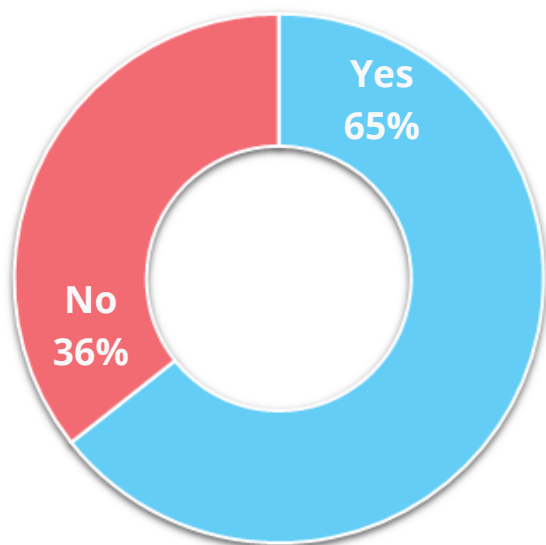


Afro-descendants

## Sex Workers



## PROTECTION AGAINST COVID-19

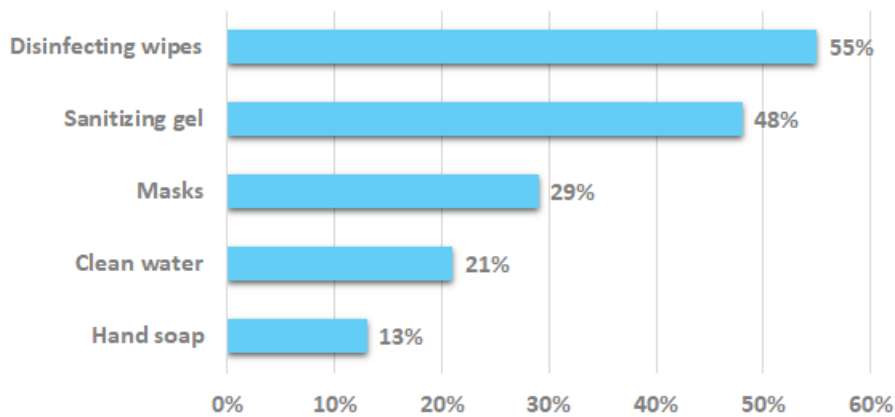


**4 in 10** sex workers did **NOT** have enough **information about COVID-19**.

At the time of responding, **12%** of sex workers had been **tested for COVID-19**, out of which **13%** had been **positive** for the virus.

The **main sources of COVID-19 information** for sex workers were the **Health Ministries' official social media accounts** (70%), followed by **television**.

**7 in 10** sex workers stated they would like to receive **more information** about the **diagnostic tests and treatment** of COVID-19.



**Protection measures** against COVID-19 **sex workers** did **NOT** have access to

**3 in 10** sex workers did **NOT** have access to masks during the COVID-19 pandemic.



## ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES AND TREATMENT

**3 in 10** sex workers stated they had been **denied access to a care service**, including **health services**.

**2 in 10 sex workers** who responded to the survey stated they were a **person living with HIV**.

**39%** stated that their **viral load was suppressed**, **22%** stated that it **wasn't** and **39%** did **not know** the state of their **viral load**.

**17%** of the **sex workers** who responded to the survey declared that they were **NOT** on **antiretroviral treatment**.



**6 in 10**

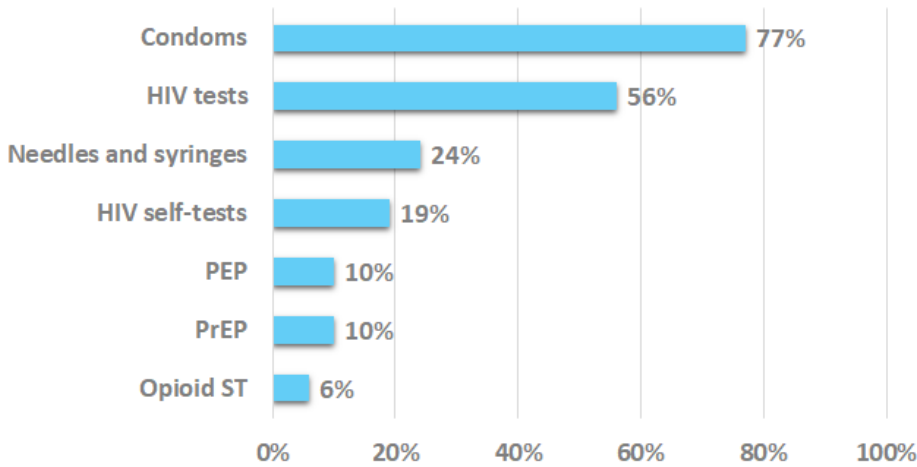
sex workers received enough **antiretroviral treatment (ART)** to last **one month or less**.

**2 in 10**

sex workers received enough **antiretroviral treatment (ART)** to last **two months**.

**2 in 10**

sex workers received enough **antiretroviral treatment (ART)** to last **three months or more**.



Need for **preventive measures against HIV** during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**8 in 10** sex workers needed **condoms as a preventive measure against HIV** during the COVID-19 pandemic.

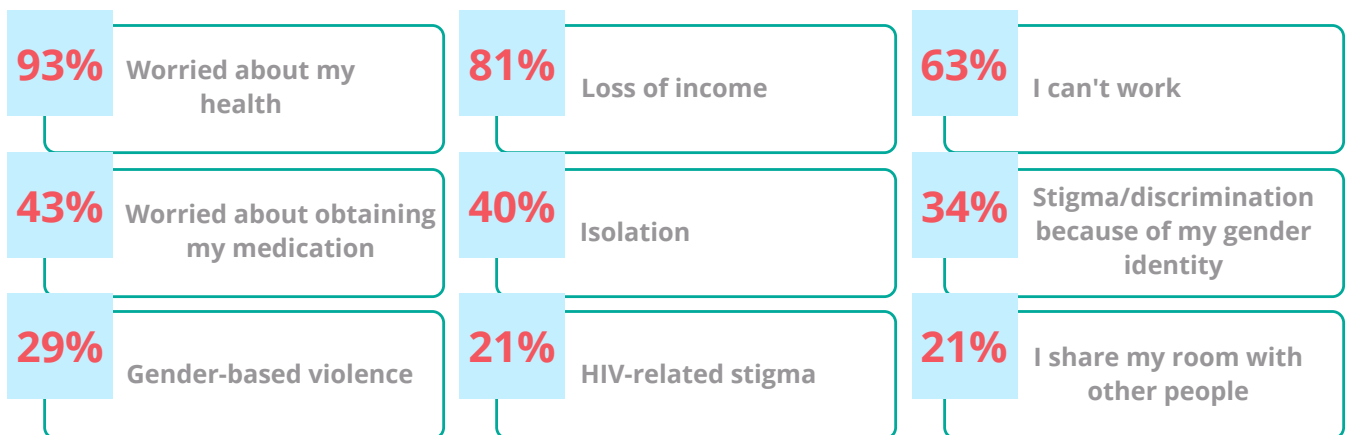
**53%** of sex workers expected to receive **HIV testing and counseling** from **government organizations** during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**52%** of sex workers expected **better ARV delivery mechanisms** from **government organizations** during the COVID-19 pandemic.



## MENTAL HEALTH AND SUPPORT

### Concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic

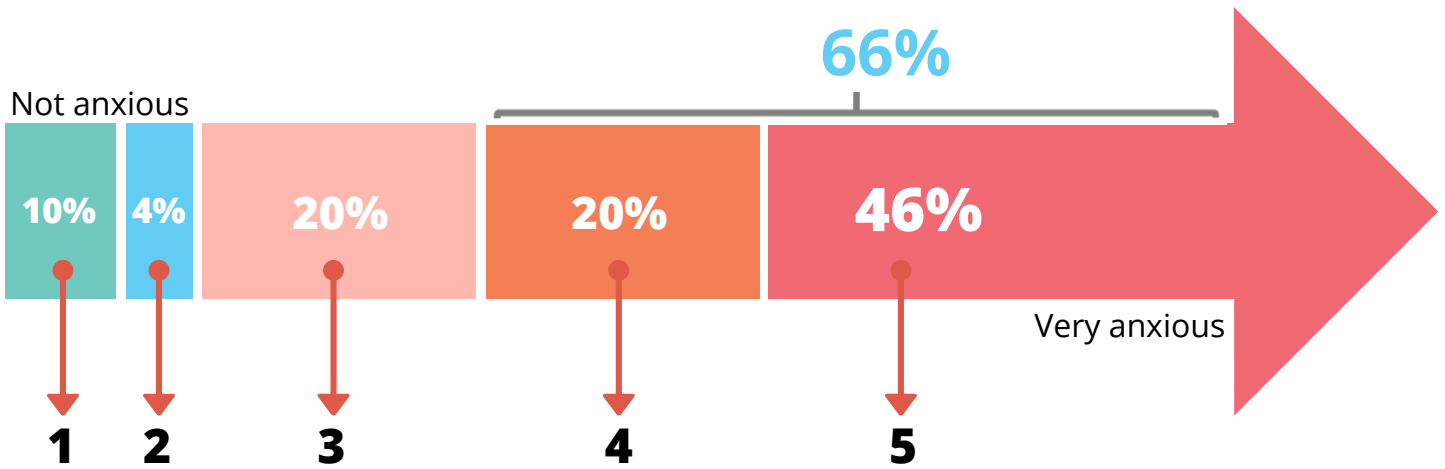


**9 in 10** sex workers were **worried about their health**.

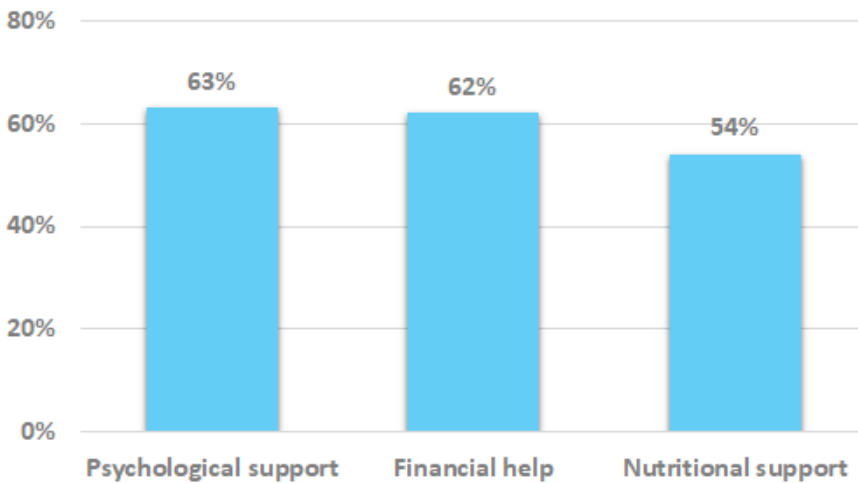
**8 in 10** sex workers were **worried about the loss of their income**.

**6 in 10** sex workers were **worried about not being able to work**.

## How anxious due to the COVID-19 pandemic are you?



66% of the **sex workers** who responded to the survey reported the **two highest levels of anxiety**.



Services that **sex workers** expected to receive from **government organizations** during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**6 in 10**

sex workers expected to receive **psychological support**.

**6 in 10**

sex workers expected to receive **cash aid and transfers**.

**5 in 10**

sex workers expected to receive **nutritional support**.



## SOCIAL PROTECTION



**9 in 10** people reported their **income has decreased** due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

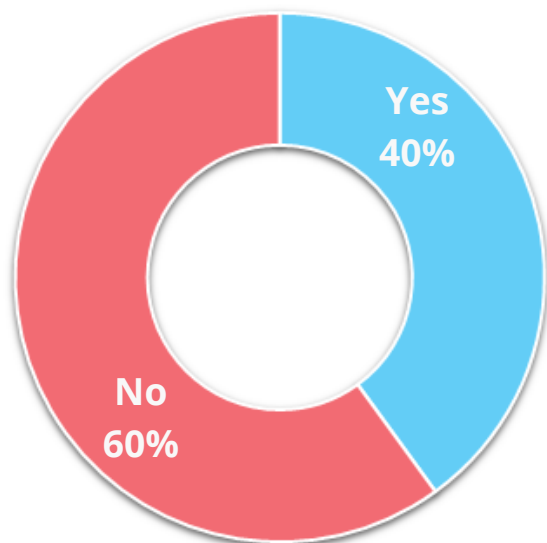


**7 in 10** people reported losing **75% or more of their income**.



**4 in 10** people reported losing **100% of their income**.

Sex workers who reported they had **NOT** benefited from any **social protection or support measures** offered by their government.



**6 in 10** sex workers reported they did **NOT** benefit from any **social protection or support measure** offered by their government.

Of the **sex workers** who did benefit from some kind of **support offered by their government**, **67%** reported the **financial aid** was **less than 100 USD**.



# HUMAN RIGHTS, STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION

**7 in 10** sex workers who responded to the survey stated they had experienced **stigma and discrimination** during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Causes of stigma and discrimination

**14%**

Because I am  
homosexual

**13%**

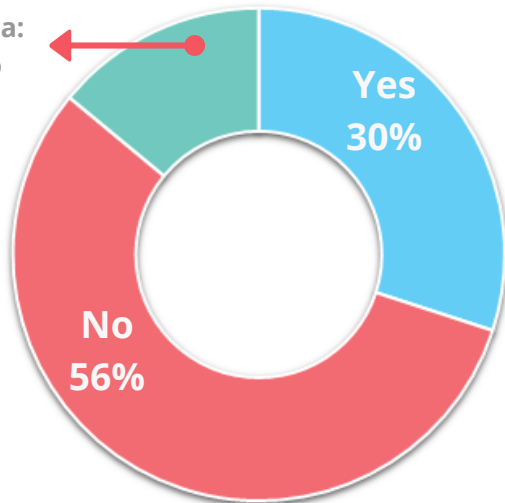
Because I am  
transgender

**9%**

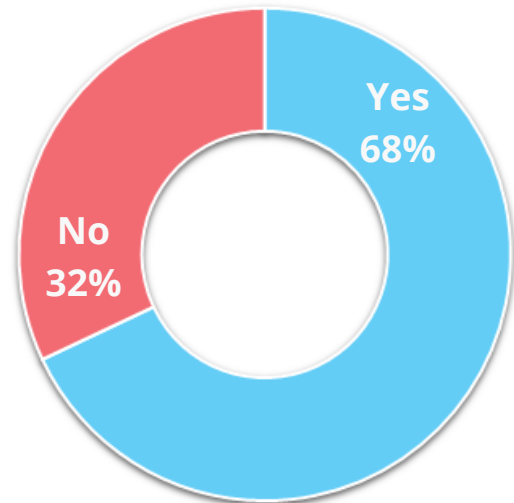
Because I am a  
person living with HIV

**3 in 10** sex workers have **suffered discrimination** because their **gender identity and expression** do **NOT** match their **official country IDs**.

No data:  
14%



**6 in 10** sex workers do **NOT** know of any **reliable mechanisms to report situations of stigma and discrimination**.



**3 in 10** sex workers do **NOT** know of any **support or peer network** where they can get **help or information** during the COVID-19 pandemic.

\***METHODOLOGY:** Information based on 126 surveys of people who identified as sex workers and who were residents of 19 of the 29 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean in which the survey was available. The survey was conducted between July 14th and August 26th, 2020. Some of the responses analysed are not representative of the overall population. Limitations: The survey was conducted online, limiting the participation of people with low connectivity, or those who don't know how to use electronic equipment. This work was carried out thanks to the support of Red Somos.