

People left behind: People with disabilities

[Link with the pdf, People with disabilities](#)



I am a person living with disabilities.

I face these issues.

HIV burden

- There are more than one billion people living with a physical, sensory, intellectual or mental health disability in the world—four out of five live in low- and middle-income countries.
- A 2012 survey in South Africa reported an HIV prevalence of 16.7% among people with disabilities.
- Seventy-eight per cent of people with disabilities felt that they were at a low risk of acquiring HIV.
- A study among deaf people in Kenya indicated that nearly 7% were living with HIV.
- Whether or not they are living with HIV, people with disabilities have an unmet need for health and HIV services in order to protect themselves. They represent one of the largest and most underserved populations.

Why people with disabilities are being left behind

- People with disabilities experience negative attitudes that can result in violence, sexual abuse, stigma and discrimination, which can lead to low self-esteem and social isolation.
- Particularly women and girls, are more vulnerable to sexual violence and abuse.
- Vulnerability, combined with a poor understanding and appreciation of their sexual and reproductive health needs, places people with disabilities at higher risk of HIV infection.
- People with disabilities and households that include people with disabilities experience poorer social and economic outcomes compared with individuals and households without disabilities. Often, additional costs are incurred to achieve a standard of living equivalent to that of people without disabilities.

WHY PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ARE BEING LEFT BEHIND

THE TOP 4 REASONS

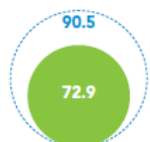
- 01 Lack of awareness by society
- 02 Violence and sexual abuse
- 03 Discrimination in health-care settings
- 04 Low awareness and risk perception about HIV

Lack of awareness by society

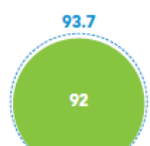
- Often family, caregivers, employers and health-care providers fail to fully understand or appreciate the sexual and reproductive health needs of people with disabilities.
- People with disabilities are often neglected in HIV policy planning as well as wider health-care provisioning.
- Common misperceptions affecting public health planning include the belief that people with disabilities are sexually inactive or unlikely to use drugs or alcohol.
- Often, people with disabilities lack legal protection and are vulnerable to substance abuse and stigma.
- People with disabilities may experience compounded negative consequences, such as low self-esteem and reduced political and civic engagement and participation, and face the double burden of stigma and discrimination if they are also living with HIV.

Services that people with disabilities need versus what they receive

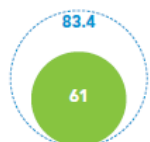
Health services



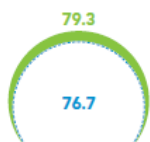
Namibia



Zimbabwe

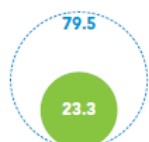


Malawi

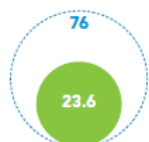


Zambia

Welfare services



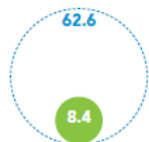
Namibia



Zimbabwe

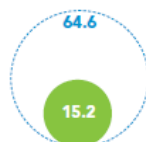


Malawi

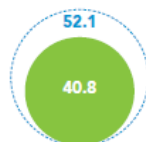


Zambia

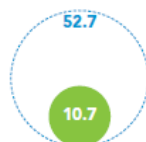
Counselling



Namibia



Zimbabwe

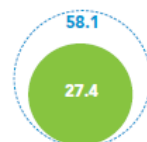


Malawi

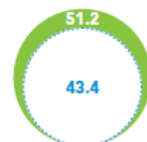


Zambia

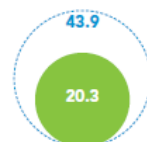
Educational services



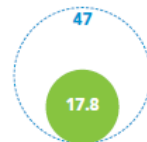
Namibia



Zimbabwe



Malawi

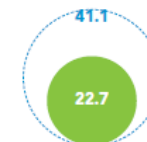


Zambia

Vocational training



Namibia



Zimbabwe



Malawi



Zambia

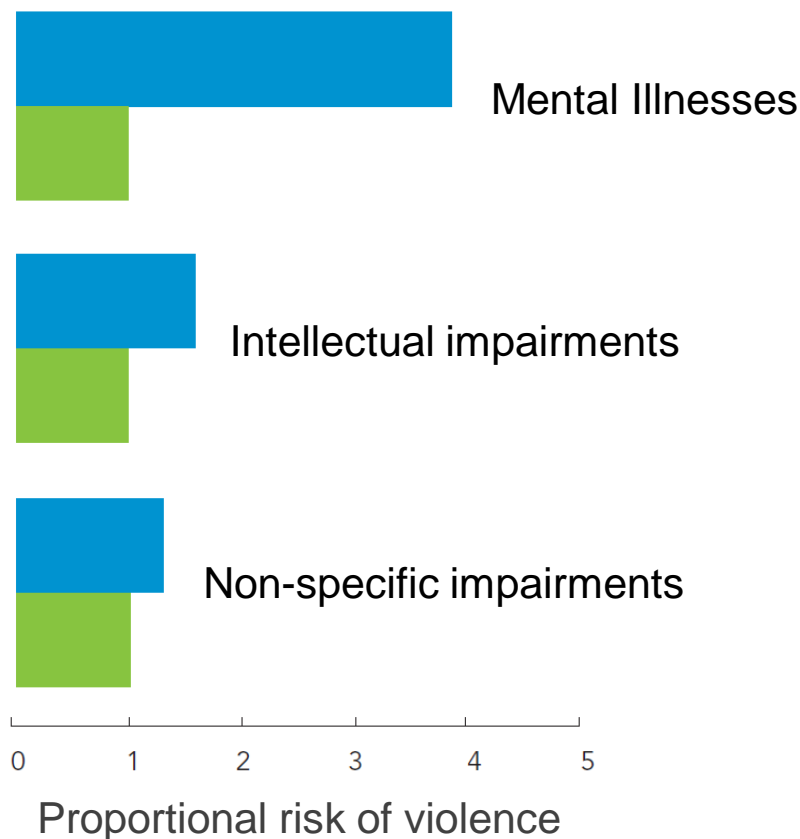


Needed



Received

Proportional risk of violence against people with a disability compared with people without a disability

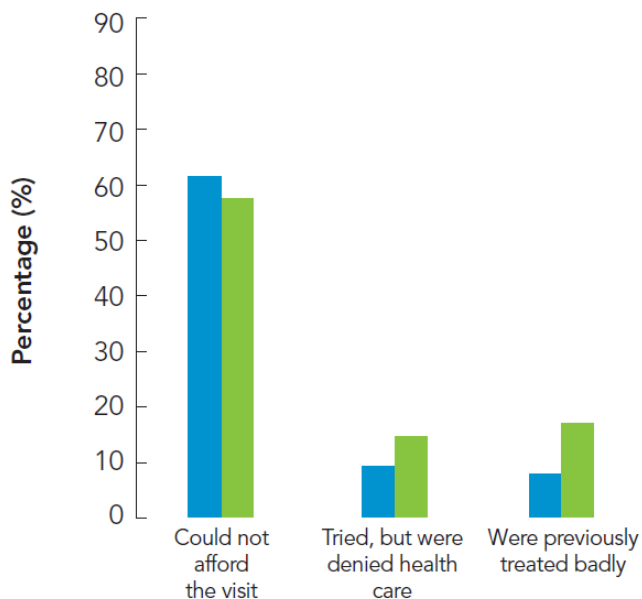


In the United States of America, reports of violence against people with disabilities were 4 to 10 times greater than reports of violence against people without disabilities.

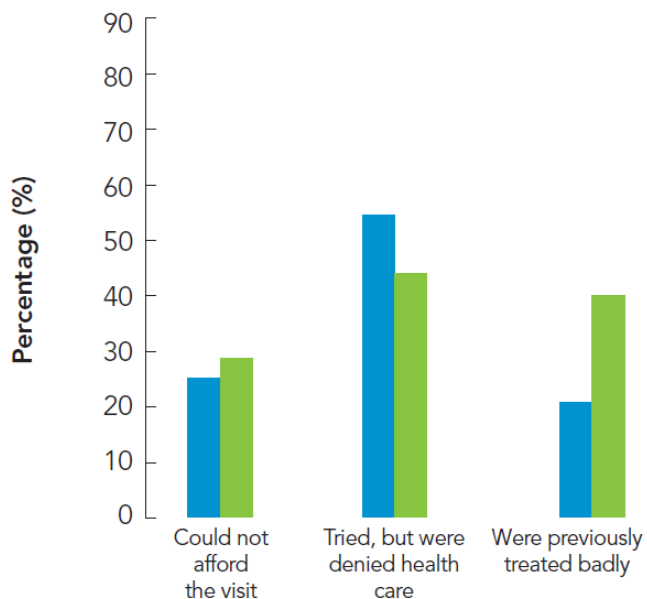
■ Proportional risk of violence in people with a disability
■ Risk of violence in people without a disability

Reasons why people with disabilities cannot access health services

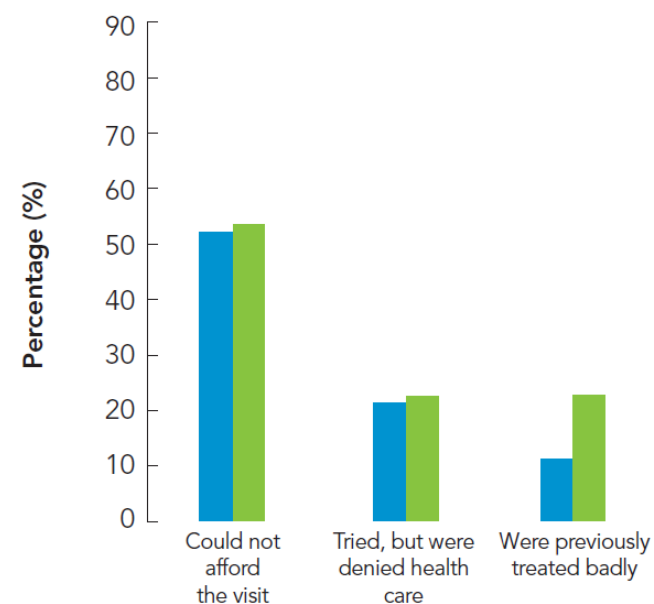
People with a disability in low-income countries



People with a disability in high-income countries



People with a disability globally

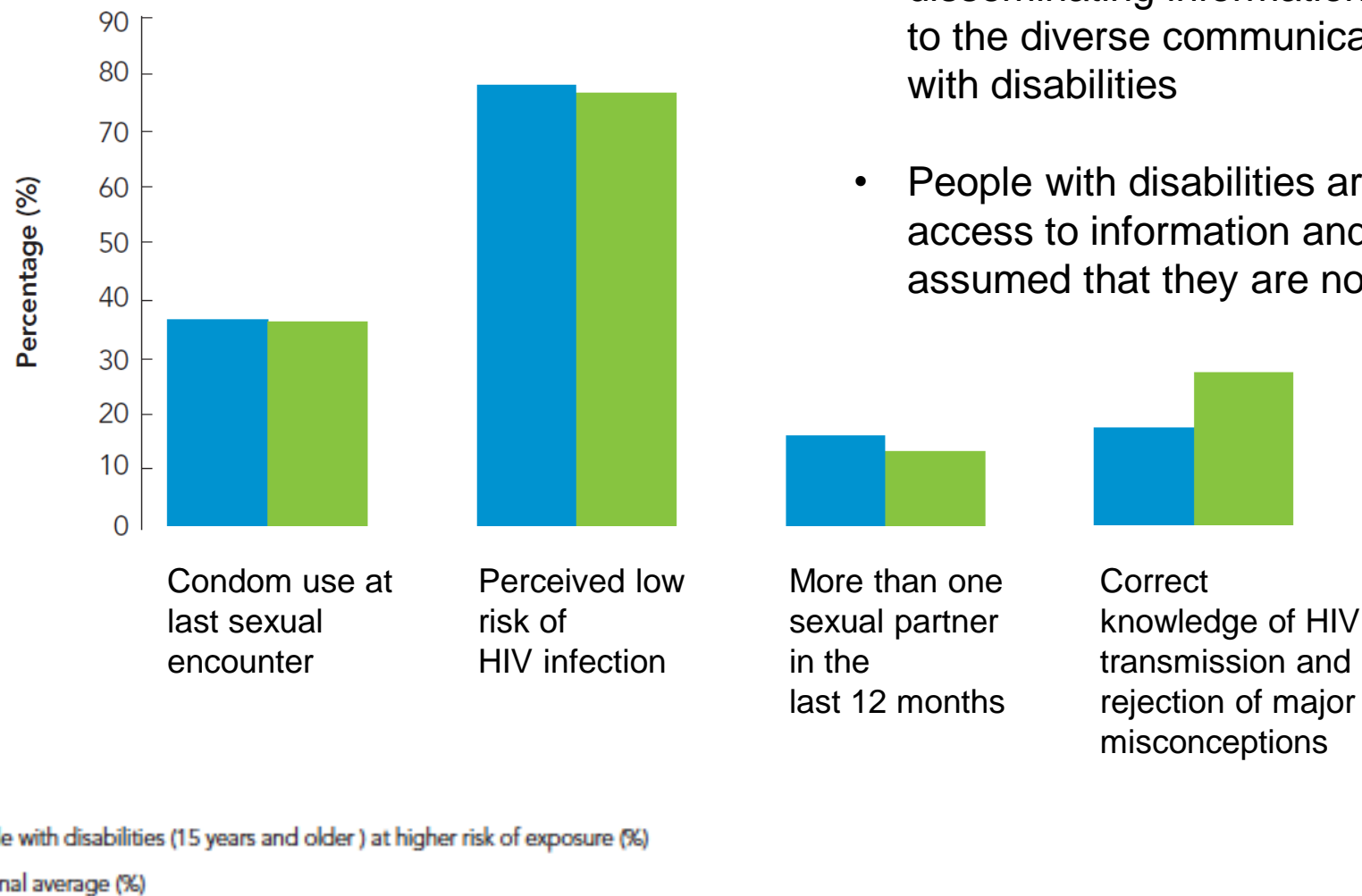


Globally, more than 10% of women and 23% of men living with a disability reported not returning to seek health care because they were treated badly during a previous visit.

Female
Male

Source: World report on disability. Geneva, WHO/The World Bank, 2011.

Low HIV awareness and risk perception among people with disabilities, South Africa



- Information materials and approaches to disseminating information are rarely adapted to the diverse communication needs of people with disabilities
- People with disabilities are less likely to have access to information and services, since it is assumed that they are not sexually active.

CLOSING THE GAP

HOW TO CLOSE THE GAP

- 01 Ending violence and sexual abuse
- 02 Including people with disabilities fully in national HIV responses
- 03 Data collection on disability and HIV
- 04 Access to sexual and reproductive health services and information