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BACKGROUND

- Stigma related to identity, behavior, and HIV status can manifest in multiple domains of life
- Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) are disproportionately affected by mpox
- Messaging about the mpox outbreak could increase stigma for GBMSM
- CDC sought to promote non-stigmatizing, sex positive harm reduction messages from the beginning of the outbreak

OBJECTIVES

- Describe prevalence of mpox-related stigma among GBMSM in the United States
- Examine characteristics associated with mpox-related stigma

METHODS

- We conducted a nationwide online mpox survey from August 5-15, 2022, with previous [American Men's Internet Survey \(AMIS\)](#) participants (n=824)
- We administered 10 stigma questions and after exploratory factor analysis retained 9 into a binary variable for "any mpox stigma"
- We estimated the prevalence of mpox-related stigma
- Adjusted logistic regression was used to estimate associations between participant characteristics and mpox-related stigma

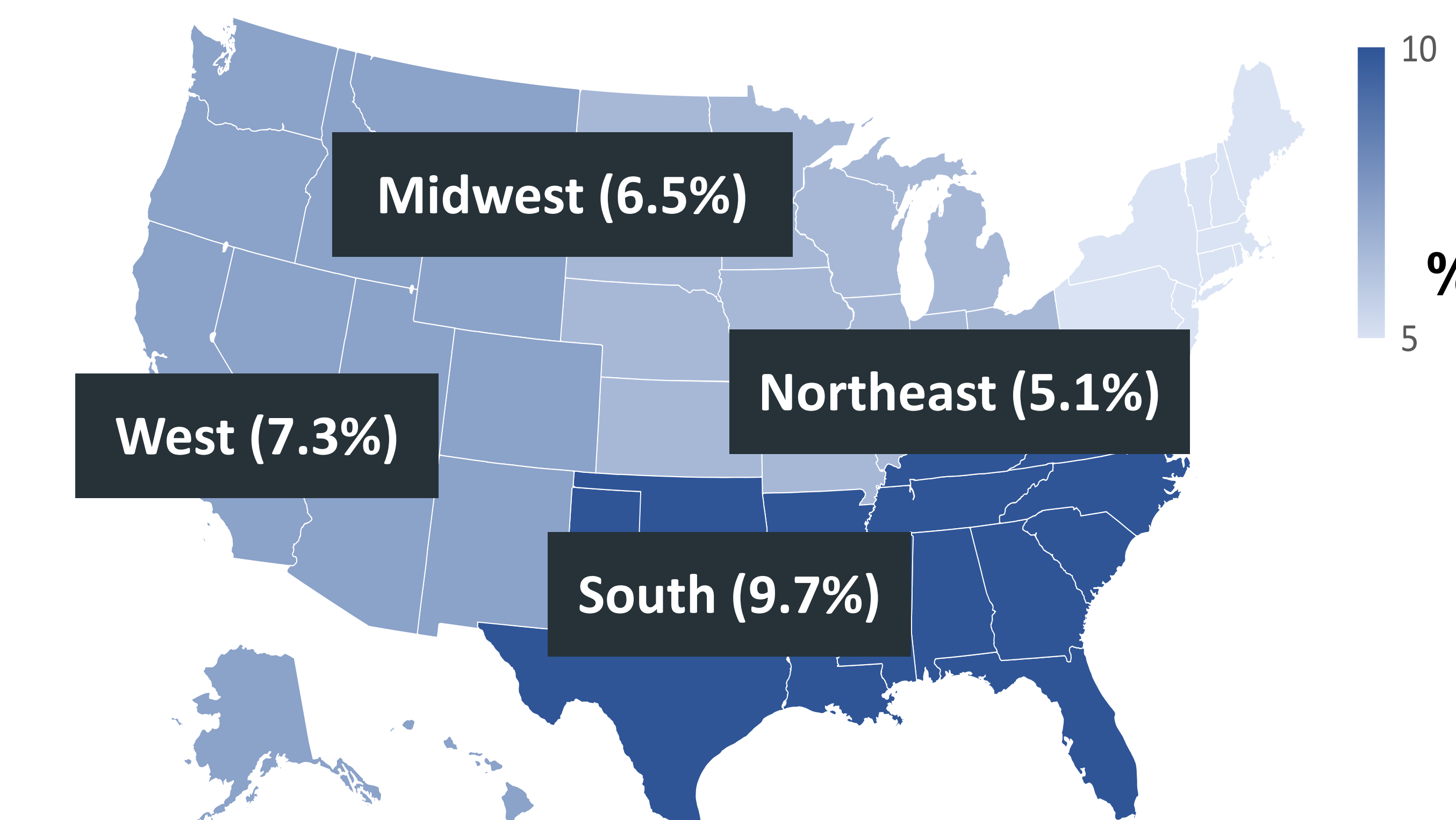


Figure 1. Mpox-related stigma prevalence among GBMSM in the U.S.

Low overall prevalence of mpox-related stigma was observed in the context of widespread CDC messaging.

Disparities in stigma among GBMSM who were potential cases, including NH Black, living in the South, and 25-29 years old.

RESULTS

- 56 GBMSM (7.6%) reported mpox-related stigma, and this ranged from 5.1%-9.7% per region (Figure 1)
- Most common stigma indicators include discriminatory remarks, rejection, or gossip from family or friends (Figure 2)
- Reporting any mpox-related stigma was associated with knowing someone who tested for mpox (OR=4.15; 95% CI=1.99,8.69)
- Mpox-related stigma was significantly associated with having an unexplained rash in the 3 months prior to survey completion (OR=4.01; 95% CI= 2.05, 7.83)
- Adjustment for potential intersecting determinants (i.e., race/ethnicity, age group, and region) did not significantly affect these relationships

Figure 2. Mpox-related stigma in GBMSM in the U.S.

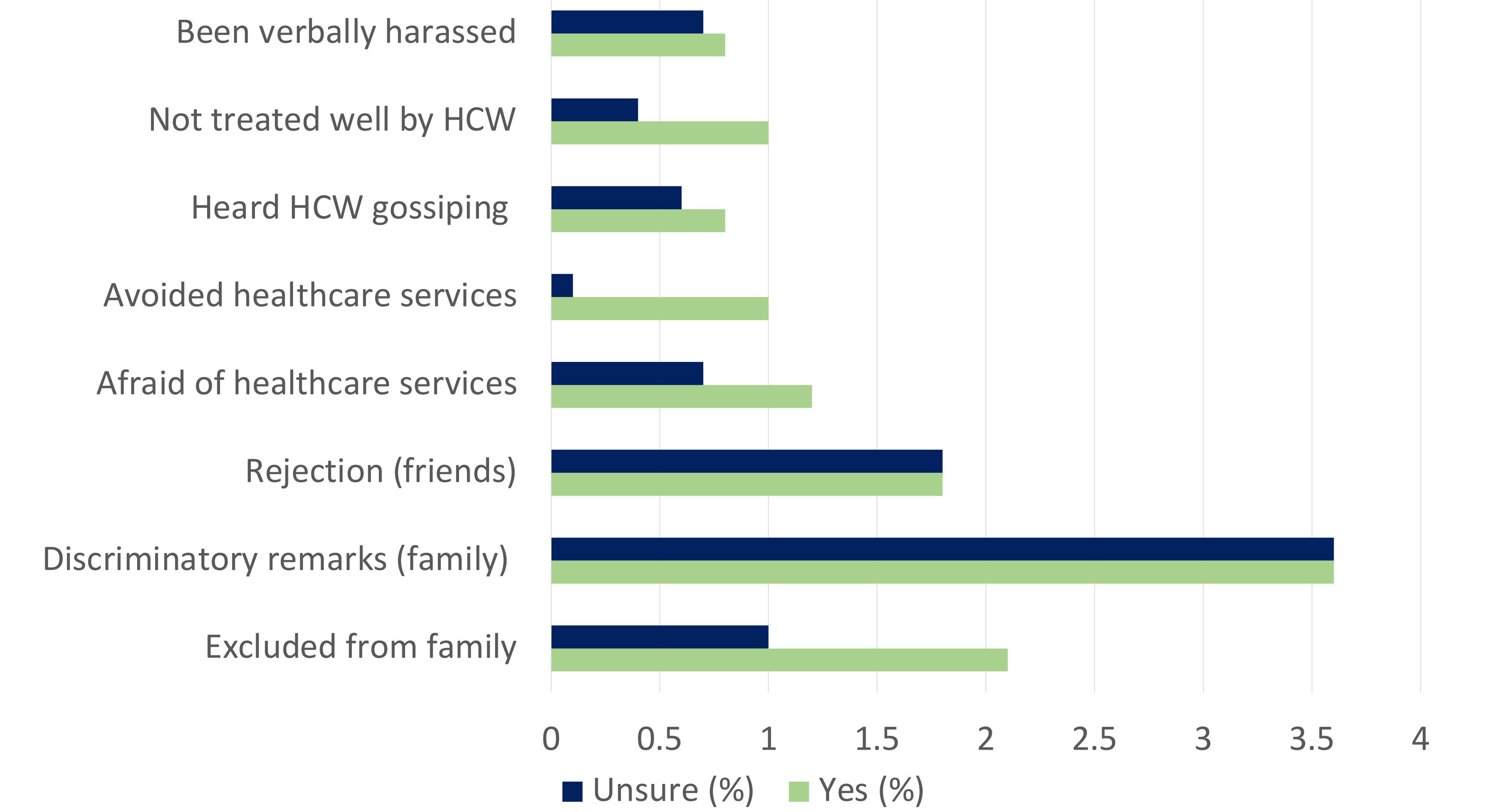


Figure 3. Associations with mpox-related stigma in GBMSM in the U.S.

Characteristic	No (#, row %)	Yes (#, row %)	X ²
Race/Ethnicity			0.02
NH* Black	63 (85.1)	11 (14.9)	
NH* White	73 (94.8)	4 (5.2)	
Hispanic	481 (93.8)	32 (6.2)	
Other	55 (87.3)	8 (12.7)	
Region			0.34
Northeast	149 (94.9)	8 (5.1)	
West	165 (92.7)	13 (7.3)	
Midwest	116 (93.5)	8 (6.5)	
South	242 (90.3)	26 (9.7)	
Age Group			0.04
15-24	37 (90.2)	4 (9.8)	
25-29	67 (84.8)	12 (15.2)	
30-39	172 (92.4)	14 (7.5)	
40+	672 (92.4)	25 (5.9)	

*NH = Non-Hispanic

CONCLUSIONS

- Low overall prevalence of mpox-related stigma among GBMSM in the context of widespread CDC messaging
- Need to balance sensitive and sustained messaging about mpox to limit stigma while prioritizing awareness and access to mpox services
- Stigma can result in under-testing and under-reporting thus must be considered in future mpox response

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank the AMIS study participants, the Center for Public Health and Human Rights Key Populations Program, and the NIAID T32AI102623 for funding.



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