

# Identifying Intersectional Gaps in Secondary Mental Health Service Use in the Ontario HIV Treatment Network Cohort Study (OCS)

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# Project Rationale & Methods

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- People living with HIV in Ontario are **more likely to access mental health & addictions primary and psychiatric care**, particularly in a hospital setting.<sup>1</sup>
- However, previous research shows that **only 18%** of people living with HIV who have been diagnosed with depression access secondary mental health services in Ontario.<sup>2</sup>
- This research seeks to examine the **differences in secondary mental health service use (psychiatrist, psychologist)** across priority populations in order to **identify existing gaps in care**.
  - This research uses the OCS, a community-governed, province-wide longitudinal cohort study aimed at improving the well-being of Ontarians living with HIV.

<sup>1</sup>Durbin A, Brown HK, Antoniou T, Siroitch F, Bansal S, Heifetz M, Roesslein K, Lunskey Y. Mental health disorders and publicly funded service use by HIV positive individuals: A population-based cross-sectional study in Ontario, Canada. *AIDS and Behavior*. 2017 Dec 1;21(12):3457-63.

<sup>2</sup>Choi SK, Boyle E, Cairney J, Gardner S, Collins EJ, Bacon J, Rourke SB, OHTN Cohort Study Group. Adequacy of mental health services for HIV-positive patients with depression: Ontario HIV Treatment Network Cohort Study. *PLoS One*. 2016;11(6).





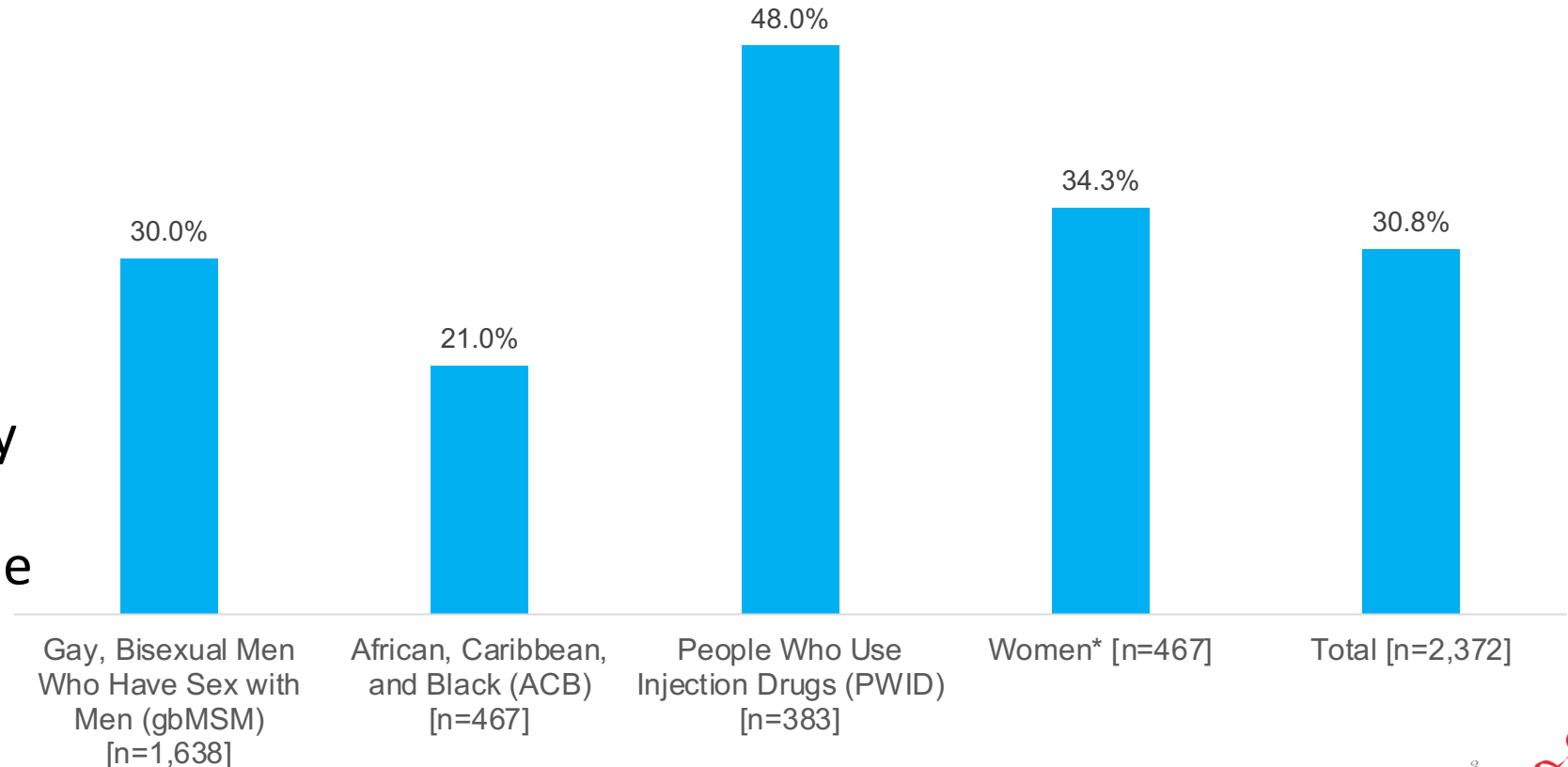
# Depression Frequency Varies by Priority Population

Percent of Depressed Participants Across Priority Populations

## Depressed participants

were identified as those with:

- 1) a current diagnosis of depression, and/or
- 2) currently prescribed antidepressants, and/or
- 3) a greater severity of depression, as measured by a standard depression tool (score of 10 or higher on the PHQ-9).

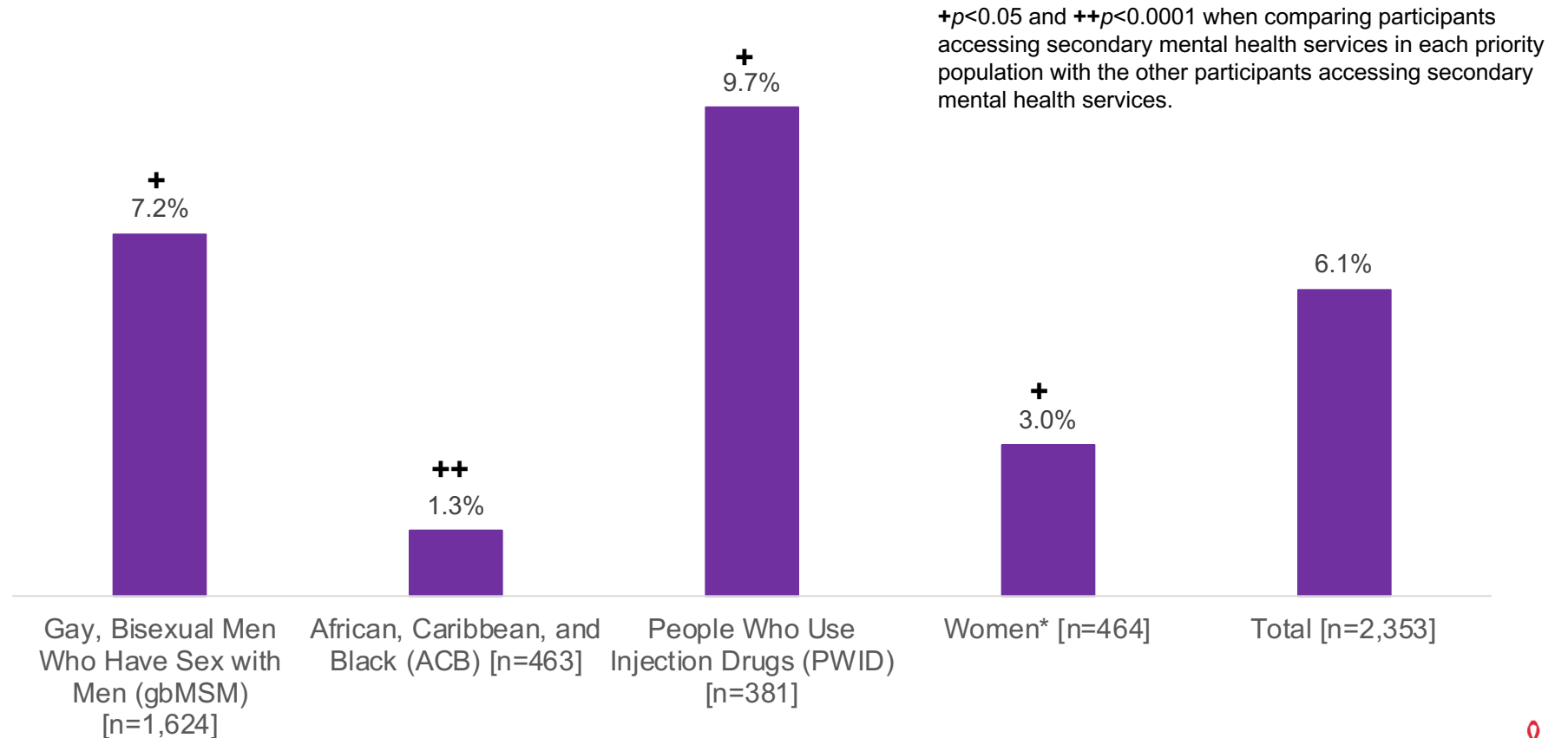




# Access to Secondary Mental Health Services is Suboptimal

Across priority populations, the number of participants accessing secondary mental health services (psychiatrist, psychologist) is **suboptimal compared to the prevalence of depression.**

Percent of Participants Within Each Priority Population Accessing Secondary Mental Health Services

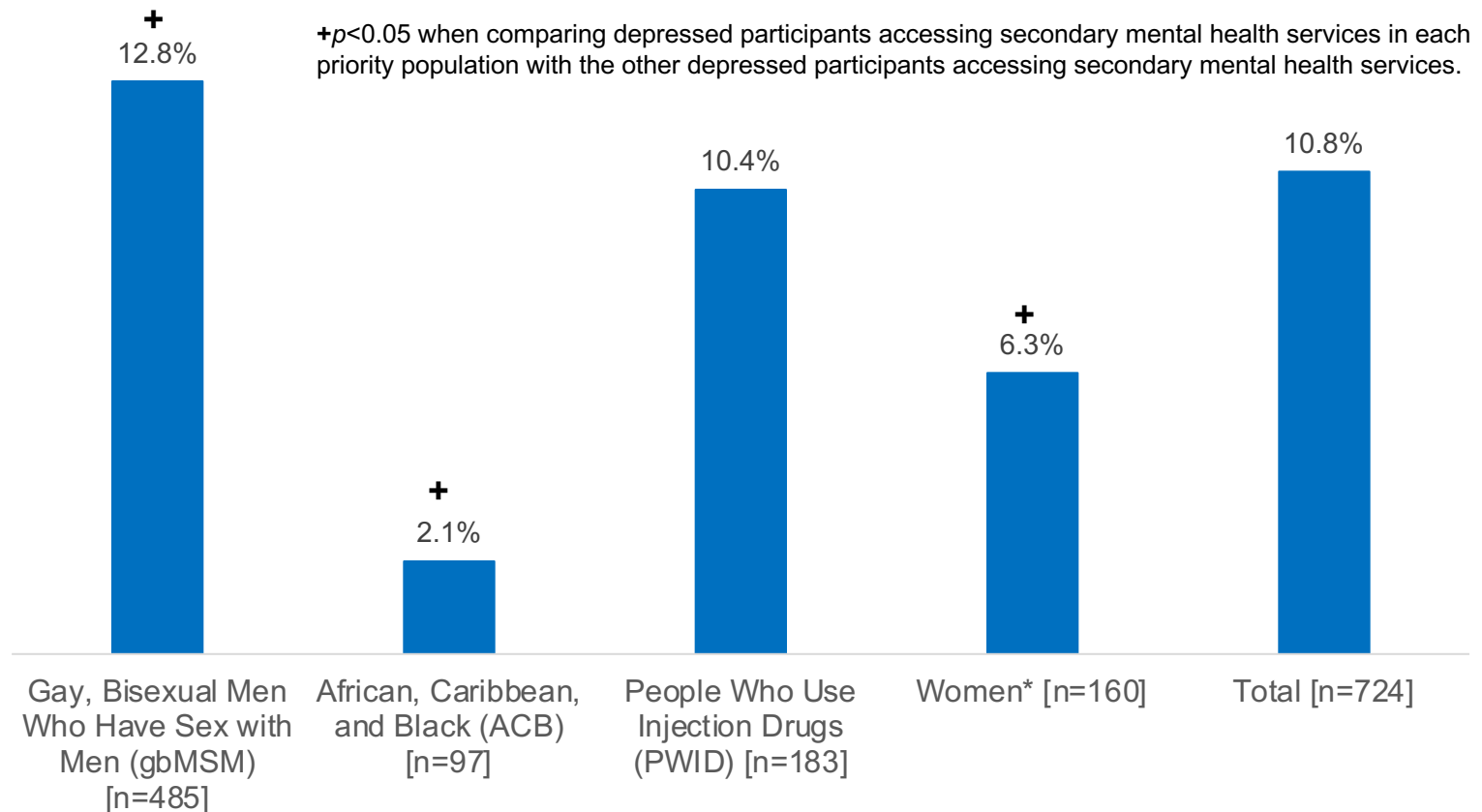




# Service Access is Disproportionate Across Populations

- Generally, depressed participants are accessing services more than their respective priority population(s) in total, though still at **suboptimal rates**.
- ACB participants who are depressed are reporting **less secondary mental health service use**, suggesting existing gaps or barriers when accessing care.

Percent of Depressed Participants Within Each Priority Population Accessing Secondary Mental Health Services



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