

# Improving HIV testing within African Communities in the UK



The African HIV Research Forum

# Why the interest in promoting HIV testing ?

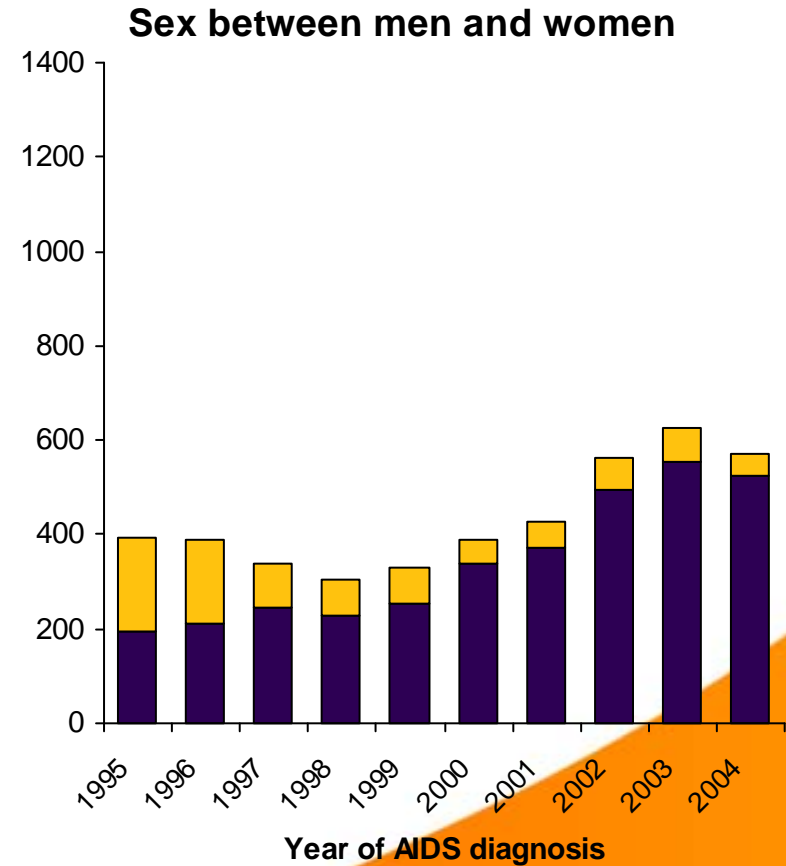
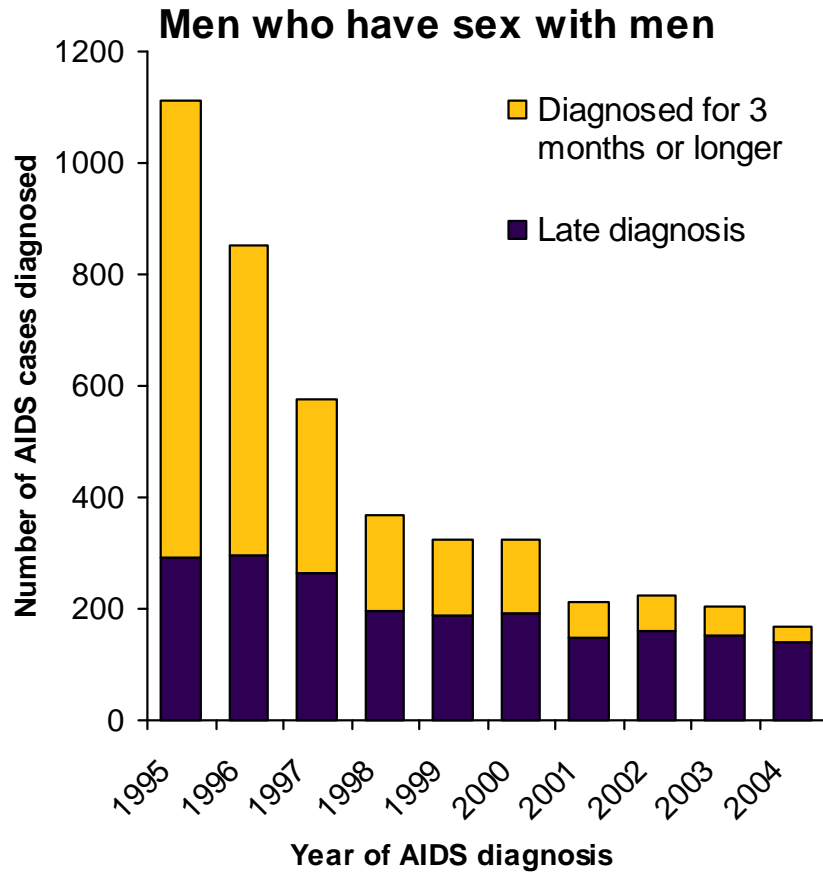
- Late presentation of HIV illnesses
- Missed opportunities for testing in primary care and other settings
- 30- 50 % unaware of their HIV status
- Those aware of status are \*68% less likely to have UPSI
- Rise in positive prevention

\*Marks G, et al JAIDS 200539:446



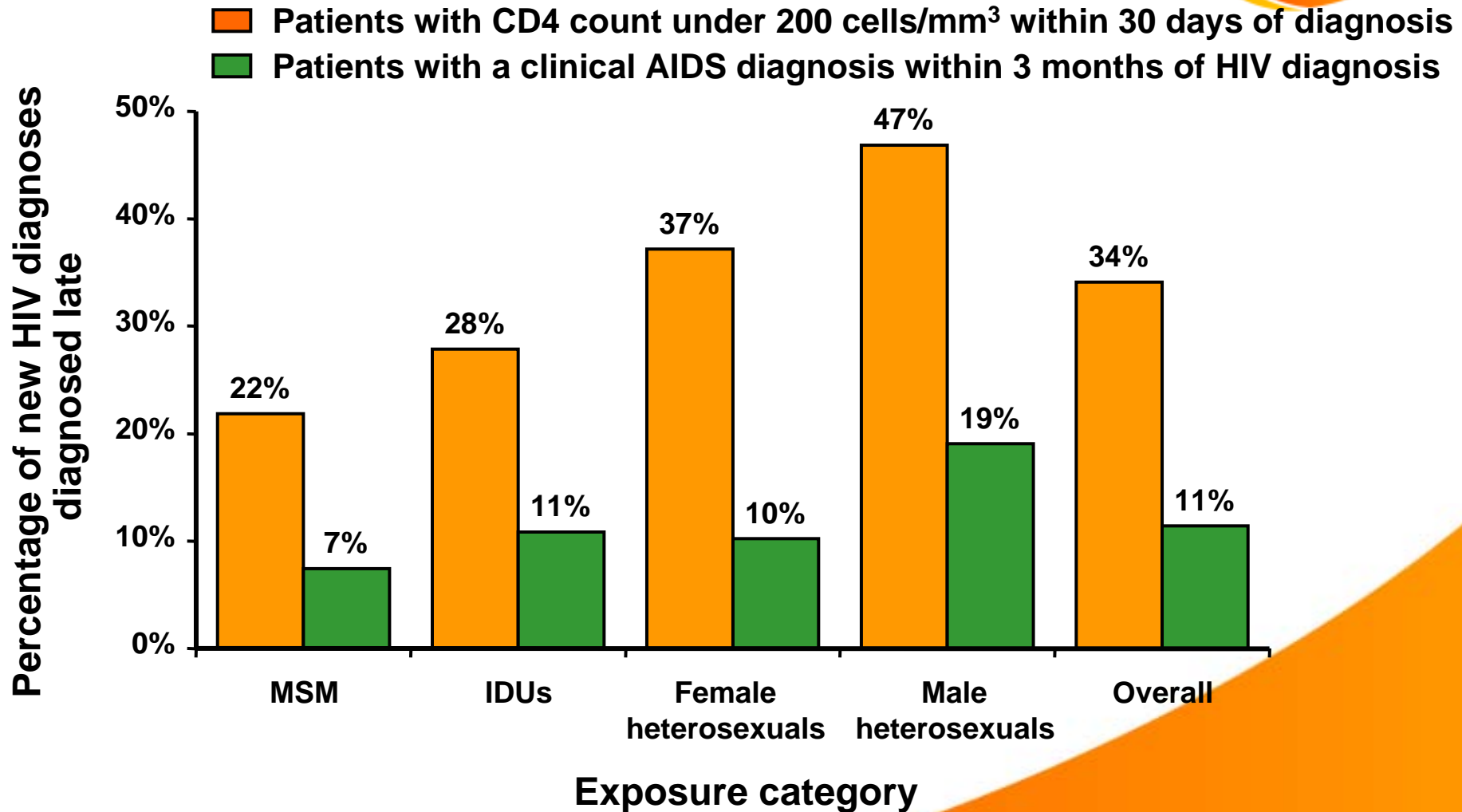
# Evidence for late diagnosis in heterosexual men & women, and MSM – AIDS cases

Late diagnosis is defined here as an interval of less than 3 months between HIV diagnosis and AIDS

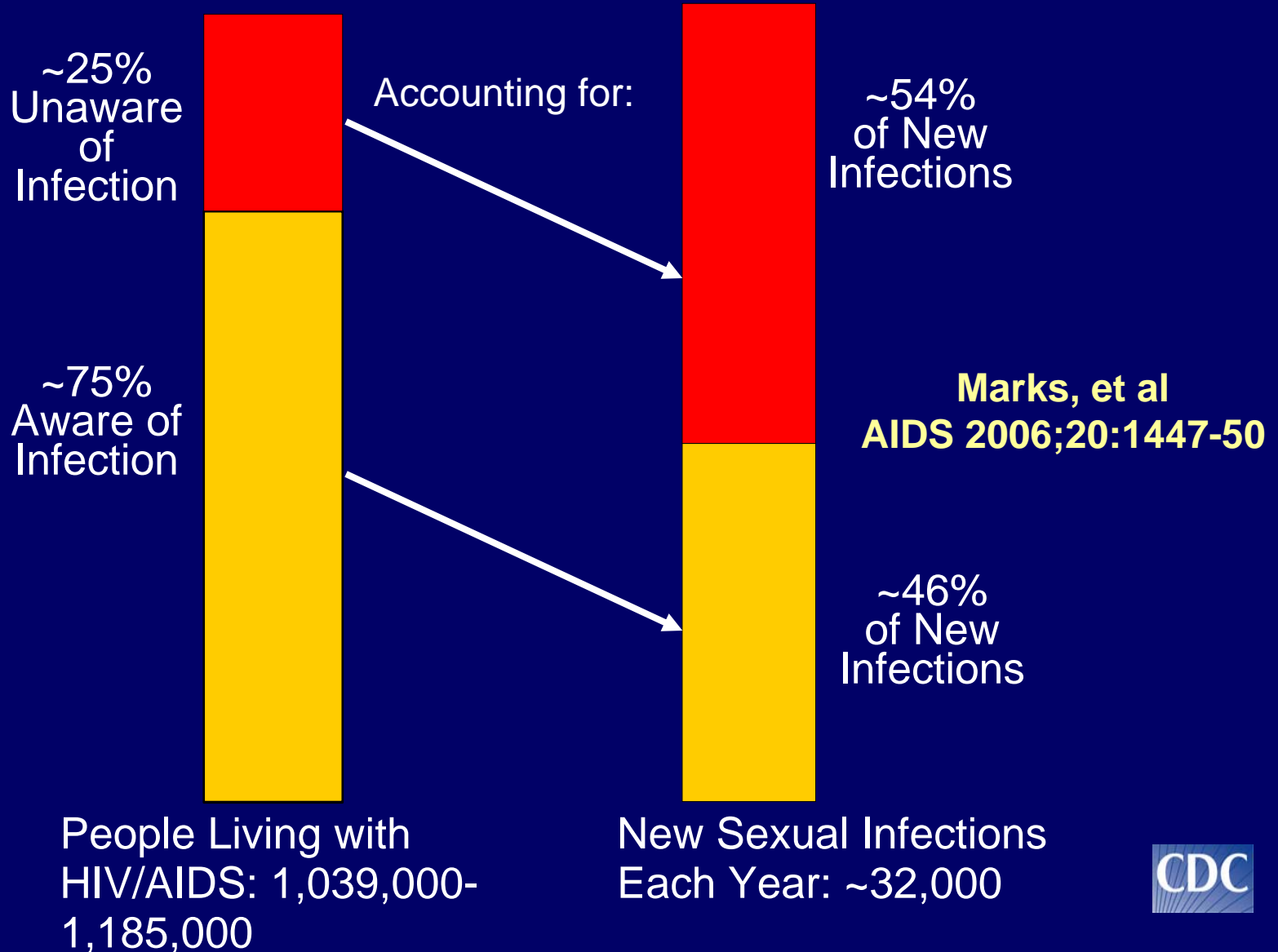


Data source: HIV/AIDS reports. Reports received by the end of September 2005.

# Late diagnoses by exposure category



# Awareness of Serostatus Among People with HIV and Estimates of Transmission



# Key new HIV testing initiatives

- CDC – HIV testing in healthcare settings-2006

- WHO in 2007

([http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2007/9789241595568\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2007/9789241595568_eng.pdf) )

- European Union

- Department of Health – Chief Medical Officer

(<http://www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/embroadcast.nsf/vwDiscussionAll/EE0FA479BAA64A1B80257355003DFB47> )



# Terminology - I

- *Diagnostic testing*: performing an HIV test based on clinical signs or symptoms
- *Screening*: performing an HIV test for all persons in a defined population
- *Targeted testing*: performing an HIV test on subpopulations of persons at higher risk based on behavioral, clinical or demographic characteristics
- *Opt-out screening*: performing an HIV test after notifying the patient that the test will be done; **consent is inferred** unless the patient declines
- *Opt in testing*: performing an HIV test only after explicit consent is given ( written or verbal)



# Terminology - II

- ***Informed consent:*** process of communication between patient and provider through which the patient can participate in choosing whether or not to undergo HIV testing
- ***HIV prevention counseling:*** interactive process to assess risk, recognize risky behaviors, and develop a plan to take steps that will reduce risks



# CMO letter

- In order to convince Primary Care Trusts and commissioners to invest in alternative, community-based HIV/STI testing services (to complement general practice and GUM), evidence was needed of what worked in the UK setting.
- ***Further pilot initiatives should be funded and evaluated to determine whether new testing venues serve an unmet need/under-served population.***
- EAGA would encourage the MRC (and other funders) to prioritise research along these lines.

