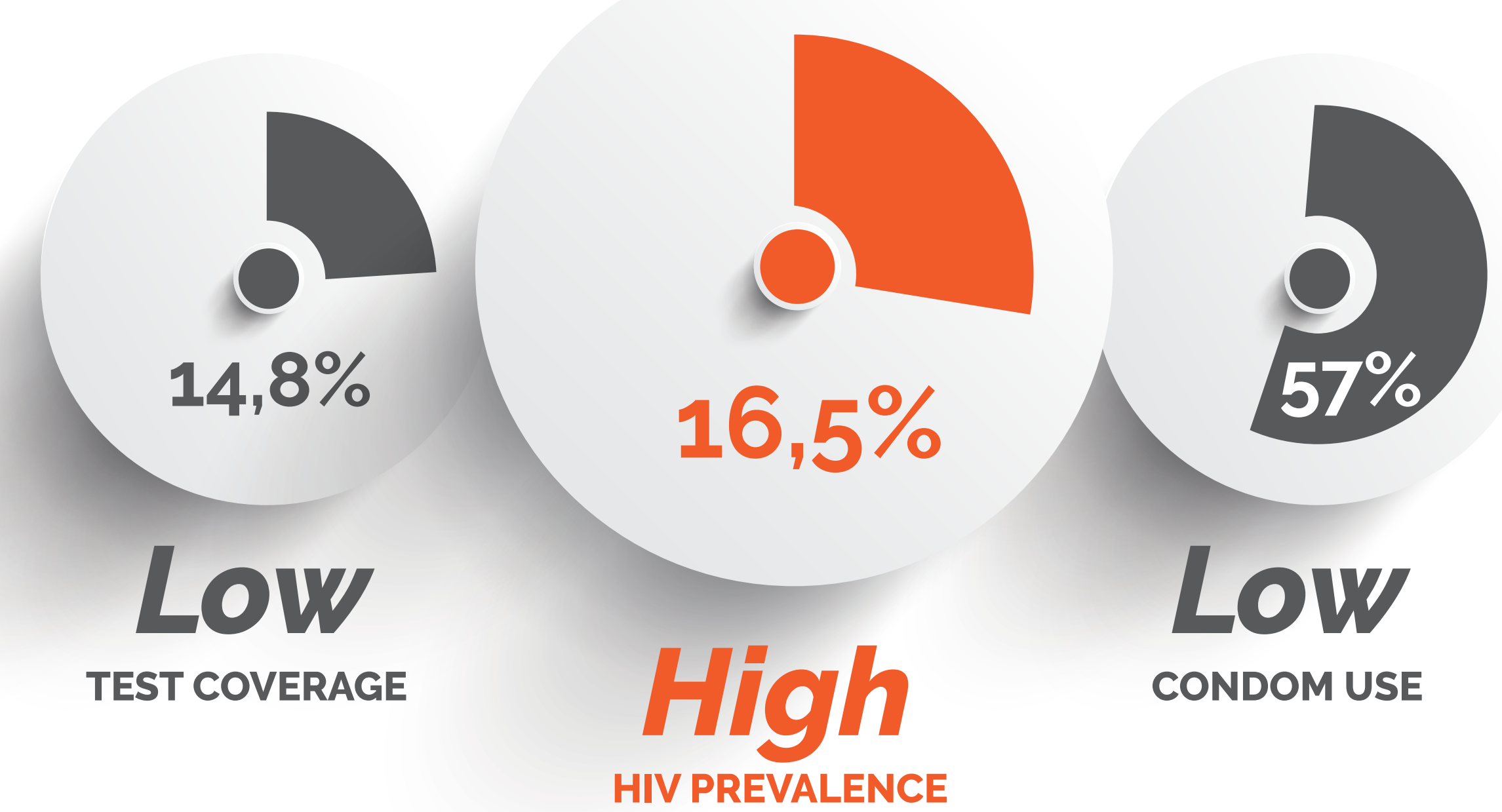




## Background

### ■ MSM are a key population in Madagascar :

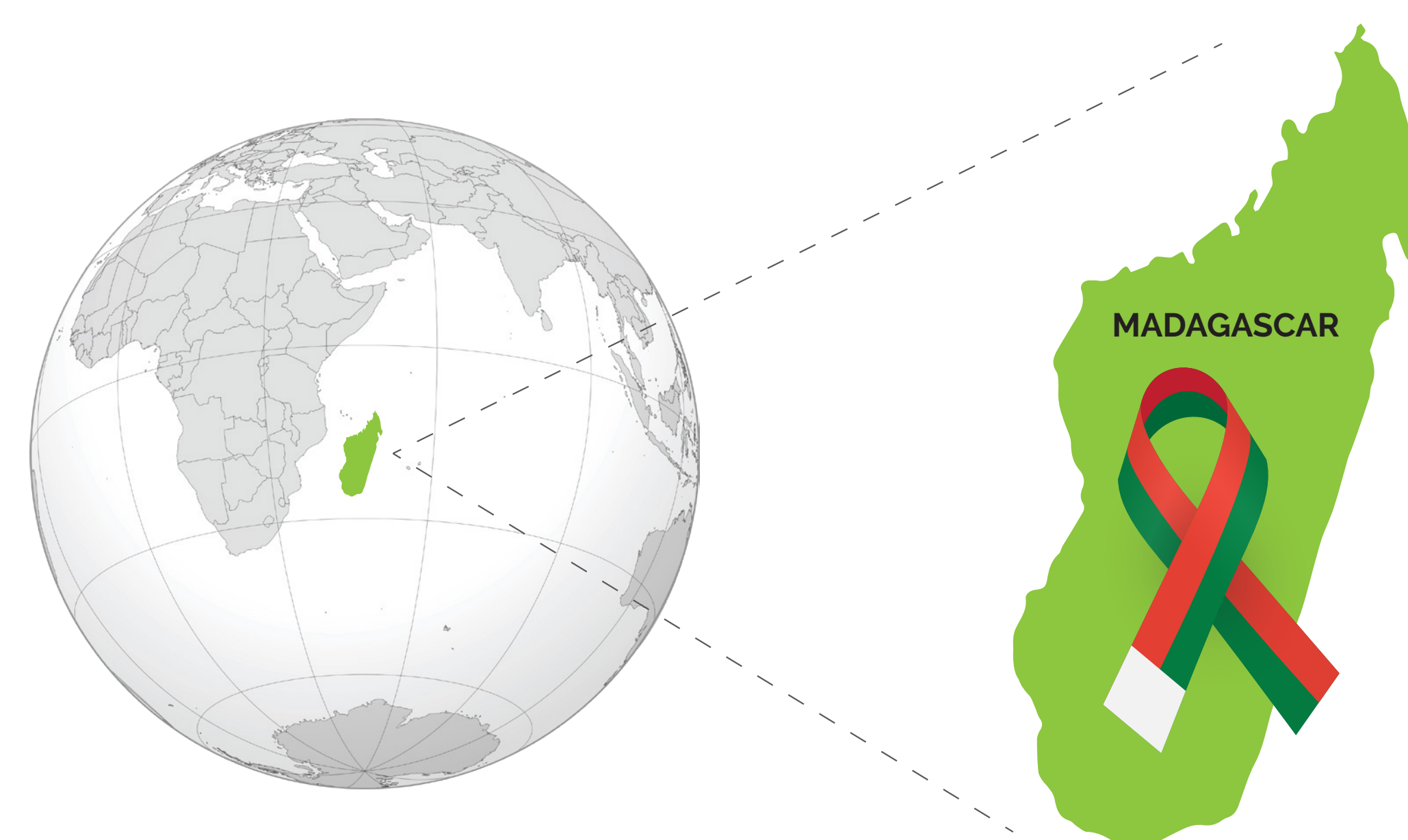


### ■ PSI Madagascar's HIV prevention activities for MSM :

- Sensitization
- HIV testing escorts
- Promotion & distribution of free condoms and lubricants
- Stigma & discrimination reduction
- Training, monitoring, supervision and research

### ■ Study Objective: To examine barriers & motivators to HIV prevention among MSM in Madagascar

- HIV testing
- Condom and lubricant use
- Results to inform behavior change communication and programmatic strategies



Madagascar's location in the world

## Methods

In July, 2017, we conducted semi-structured in-depth interviews in areas with the largest populations of MSM.



### ■ Participants purposively sampled with assistance of MSM association leaders

### ■ Eligibility Criteria

- MSM (self-identified or hidden)
- Age 15-23 or 24-57 years
- Lived in one of the study areas

### ■ Participants provided written consent

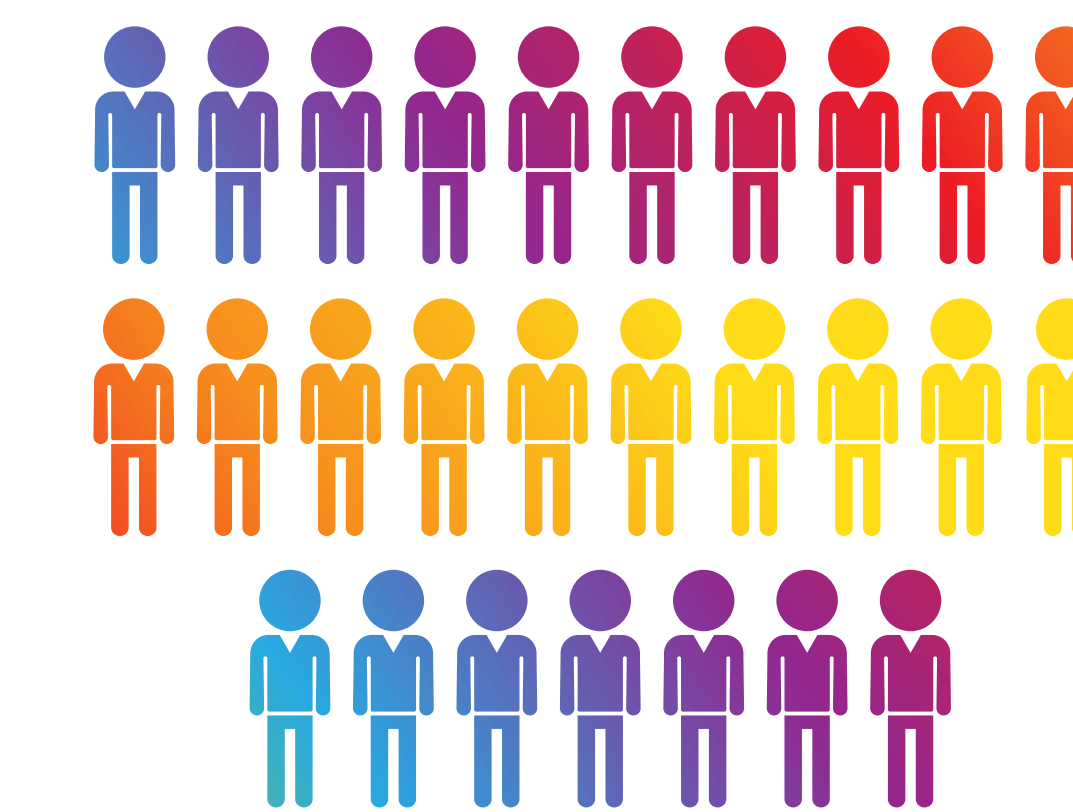
### ■ Data Collection:

- Written consent
- Audio-recorded
- Transcribed in Malagasy
- Thematic content analysis



## Results

### 27 self-identifying MSM



Some MSM frequently used condom with their clients or partners due to fear of HIV and STI.

*"I love my man and totally trust him on health issue. Thus, I do not need to use condom."*  
(35 years old MSM in Morondava)

Their partners refused using condom, typically due to lack of pleasure.

*"We need lubricant rather than condom. That makes penetration easier and it is more comfortable."*  
(20 years old MSM in Morondava)

*"I have heard of that product [lubricant], but I personally don't know how to use it, and how I can get it."*  
(18 years old MSM in Antananarivo)

Some did not use lubricants because some condoms were already lubricated, or saliva was used as an alternative.

*"I do not want anyone to know that I am a MSM. People will know if I go there [health clinic]."*  
(18 years old MSM in Antananarivo)

*"The doctor doesn't tell the truth."*  
(25 years old MSM in Nosy-Be)

### 54 men who do not openly disclose their sexual identity



*"To be sure that my partner didn't get something from me, we use condom every time I have sex with him."*  
(34 years old MSM in Mangily)

Some participants did not use condoms because they had confidence in their partners' health.

*"The friction is painful when you use condom. That is what my partner said."*  
(20 years old MSM in Nosy-Be)

Others did not use condoms because they used a lubricant as a condom substitute. Although some participants indicated using condoms with lubricants for protection and easy penetration.

*"When we are in a hurry, we immediately use saliva."*  
(22 years old MSM in Tamatave)

Although the majority of participants were tested for HIV previously (mainly in public health facilities alone), many dealt with a variety of barriers to HIV testing including fear and distrust of doctors, injections, positive results, or stigmatization, and lack of time.

## Conclusion

There were no notable differences in barriers and motivation to HIV prevention between hidden and self-identified MSM.

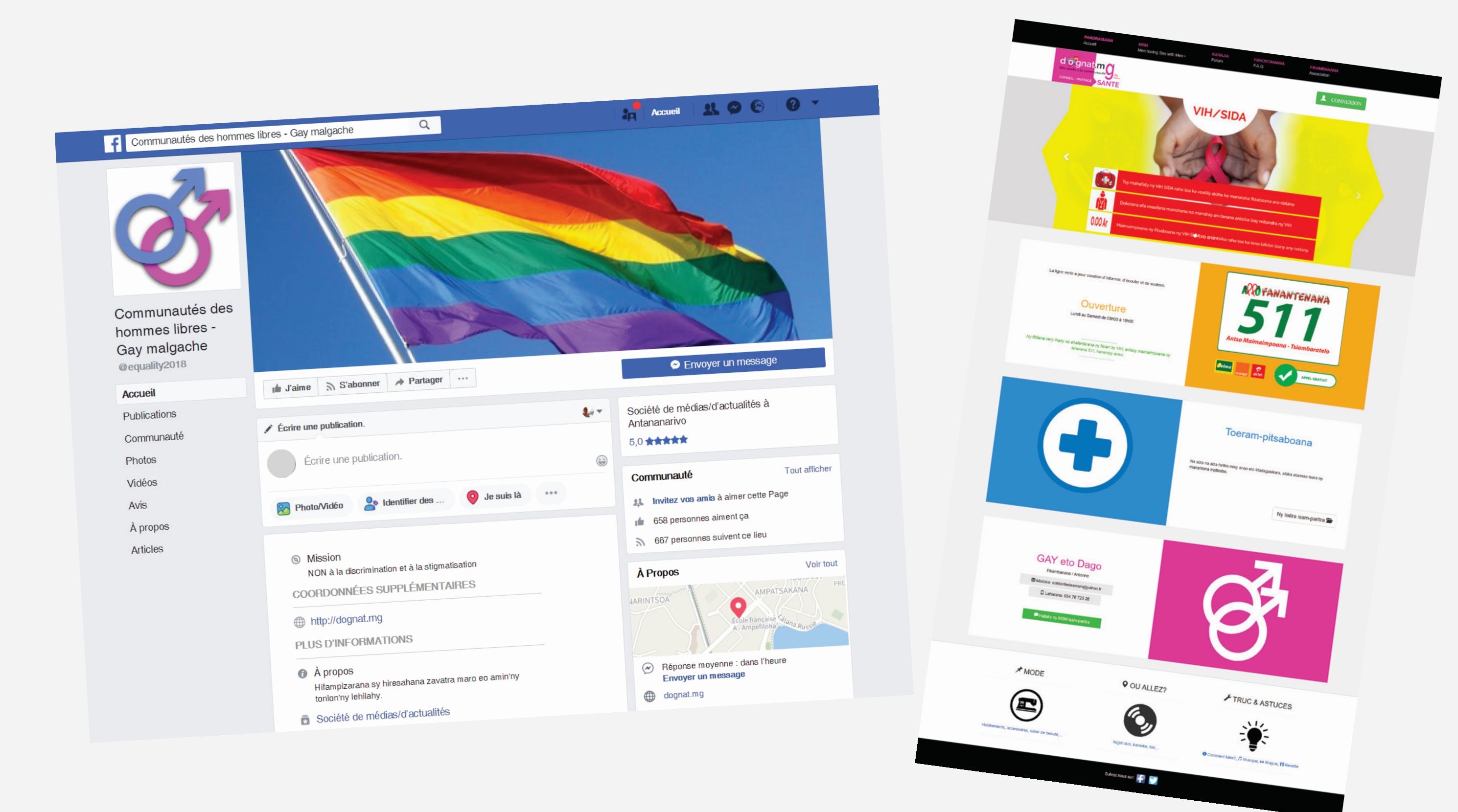
Our findings reveal that adopting healthy behaviors for HIV prevention still presents challenges.

HIV prevention efforts for MSM should focus on providing **MSM friendly services** that provide privacy for MSM such as home and mobile testing and testing during MSM events as well as incorporating use of **websites** and **social media** (Facebook and Twitter).

These activities can promote increased perception of risk, regular testing, and safer sex practices of condom and lubricant use.

In addition, these priorities should go hand in hand with fighting against stigma for MSM through IPC activities, MSM events and provider services.

Through this study, PSI can explore new categories of hidden MSM and reach them by promoting appropriate health interventions.



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