

# Strengthening AIDS Prevention among Commercial Sex Workers & Military Forces in Port Loko, Sierra Leone

Presented by:

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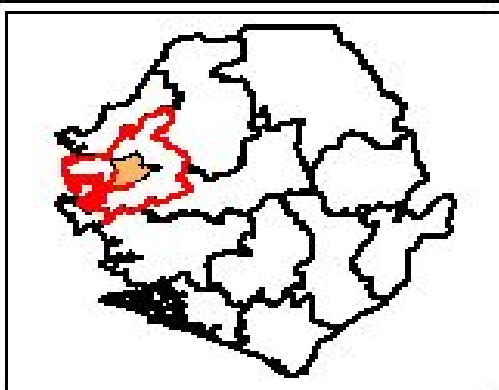




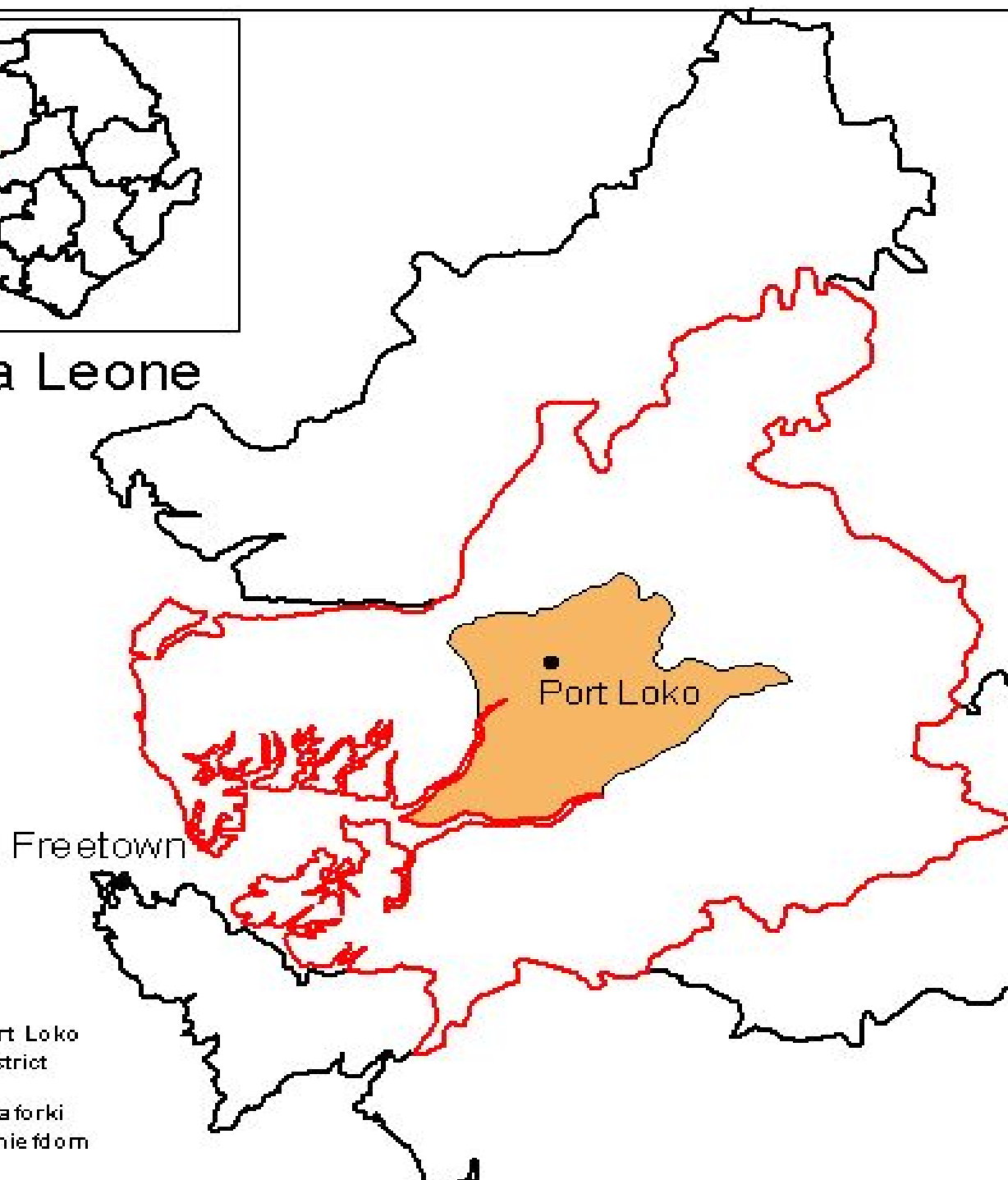
# Strengthening AIDS Prevention Among Commercial Sex Workers & Military Forces in Port Loko, Sierra Leone

## *Authors:*

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# Sierra Leone



-  Port Loko District
-  Maforki Chiefdom



# “Strengthening AIDS Prevention in Port Loko”

- ▶ Target Groups:
  - Commercial Sex Workers
  - Military Forces
  - Youth
  - Ex-combatants

# Causal Hypothesis

Community health promoters



Effective IEC activities



Condoms and STI treatment



Treatment for STIs and safer sex practice



Reduction in HIV/AIDS prevalence



# Measuring Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP)

- ▶ March 2001: Baseline KAP survey
- ▶ June 2003: Post-Intervention KAP survey
- ▶ Assess knowledge, attitudes and practices on HIV/AIDS/STIs

# Baseline and Post-Intervention KAP Survey Methods

- ▶ 30 cluster sites
- ▶ Trained interviewer in the field
- ▶ 21 multi-part questions – Written in English
- ▶ 20 minute interviews

# Baseline KAP Survey Sample

Quota Category	Desired Sample Size		Actual Number Interviewed	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>Total N = 940 respondents</b>				
<b>Military (ages 15-49)</b>				
UNAMSIL	100	0	102	0
RSLAF/CDF	100	0	100	0
<b>Commercial Sex Workers (ages 15-49)</b>	0	200	0	201
<b>Youth (ages 15-24)</b>				
Students	100	100	101	94
Non-students, non-ex-combatants	100	100	92	102
Ex-combatants	100	50	100	48

# Post-Intervention KAP Survey Sample

Quota Category	Desired Sample Size		Actual Number Interviewed	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
<b>Total N = 956 respondents</b>				
<b>Military (ages 15-49)</b>				
UNAMSIL	100	0	108	0
RSLAF *	100	0	97	0
<b>Commercial Sex Workers (ages 15-49)</b>	0	200	0	202
<b>Youth (ages 15-24)</b>				
Students	100	100	98	100
Non-students, non-ex-combatants	100	100	111	95
Ex-combatants	100	50	90	55

\* Civil Defense Forces (CDF) no longer exist, therefore not included in the Post-Intervention Survey

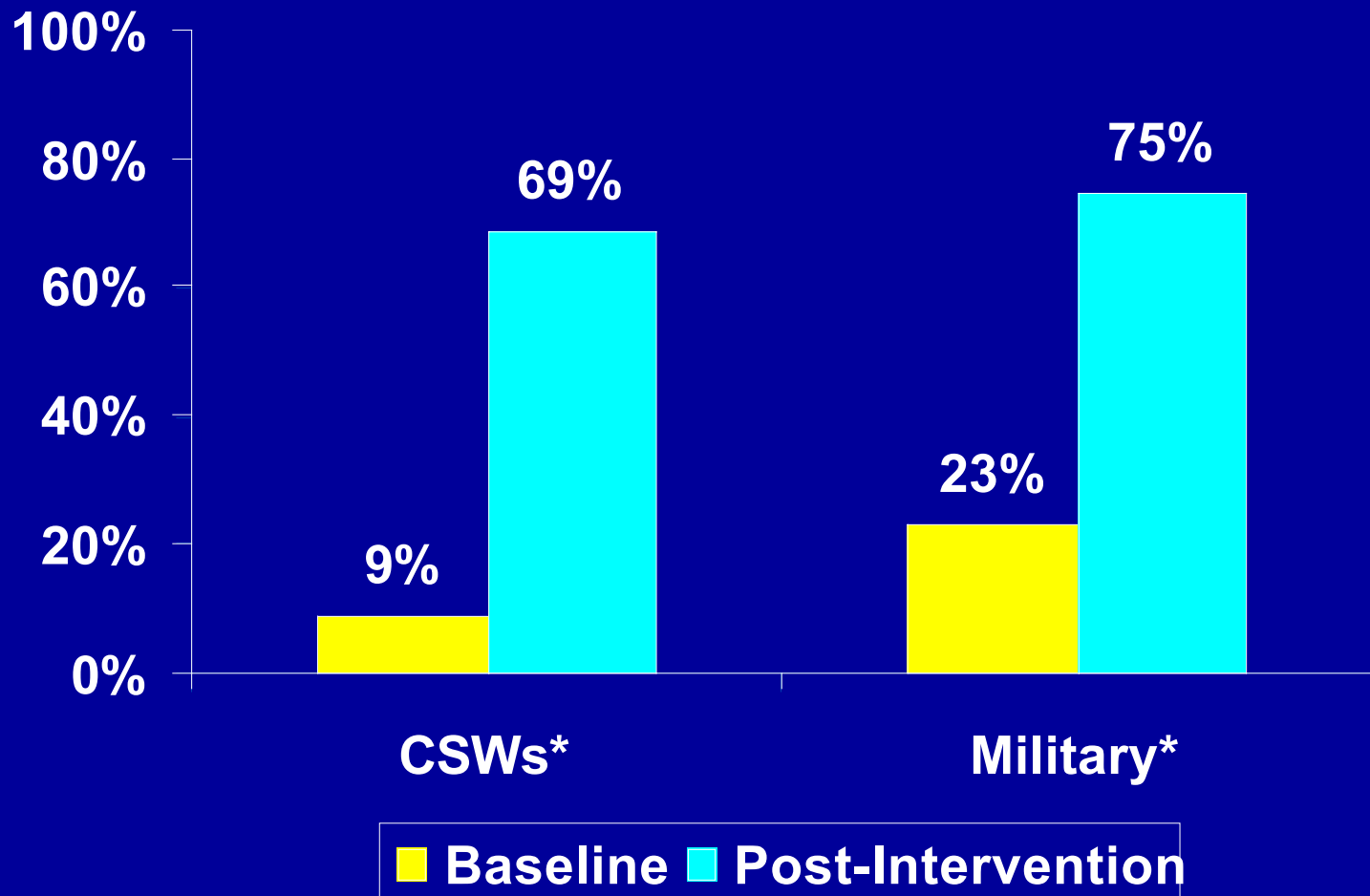
# Data Analysis

- ▶ EpiInfo 2000 used at Baseline for data entry and analysis
- ▶ EpiInfo 2002 used at Post-Intervention for data entry and analysis
- ▶ Tables prepared with frequencies
- ▶ Chi-square analysis used to assess significant changes from baseline to post-intervention results,  $p < 0.05$  (indicated by an \* )

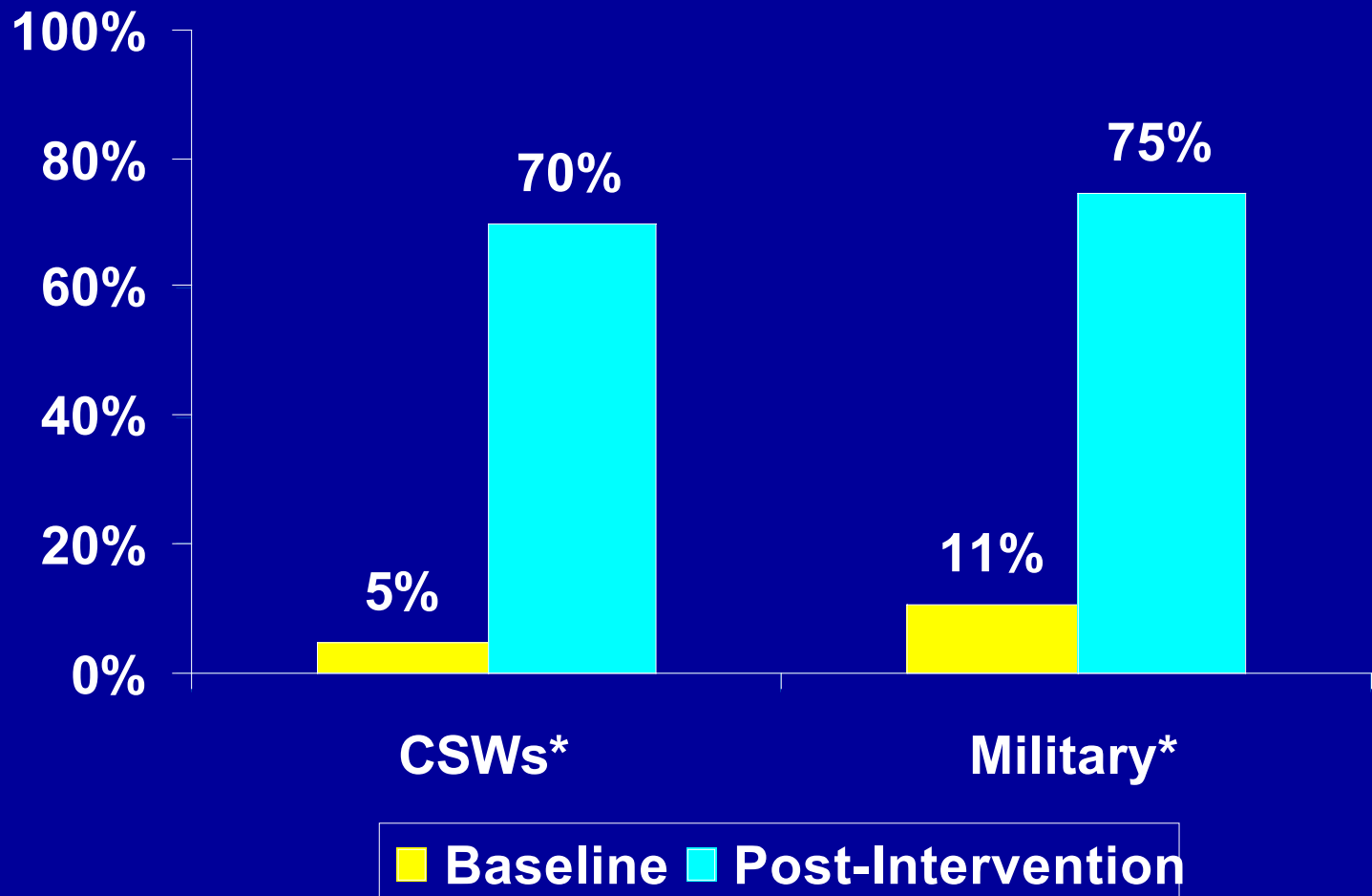
# Study Limitations

- ▶ Not a random sample
- ▶ Possible biased selection of interviewees
- ▶ Results cannot be applied to the general population
- ▶ Respondents may have modified their answers
- ▶ No control group

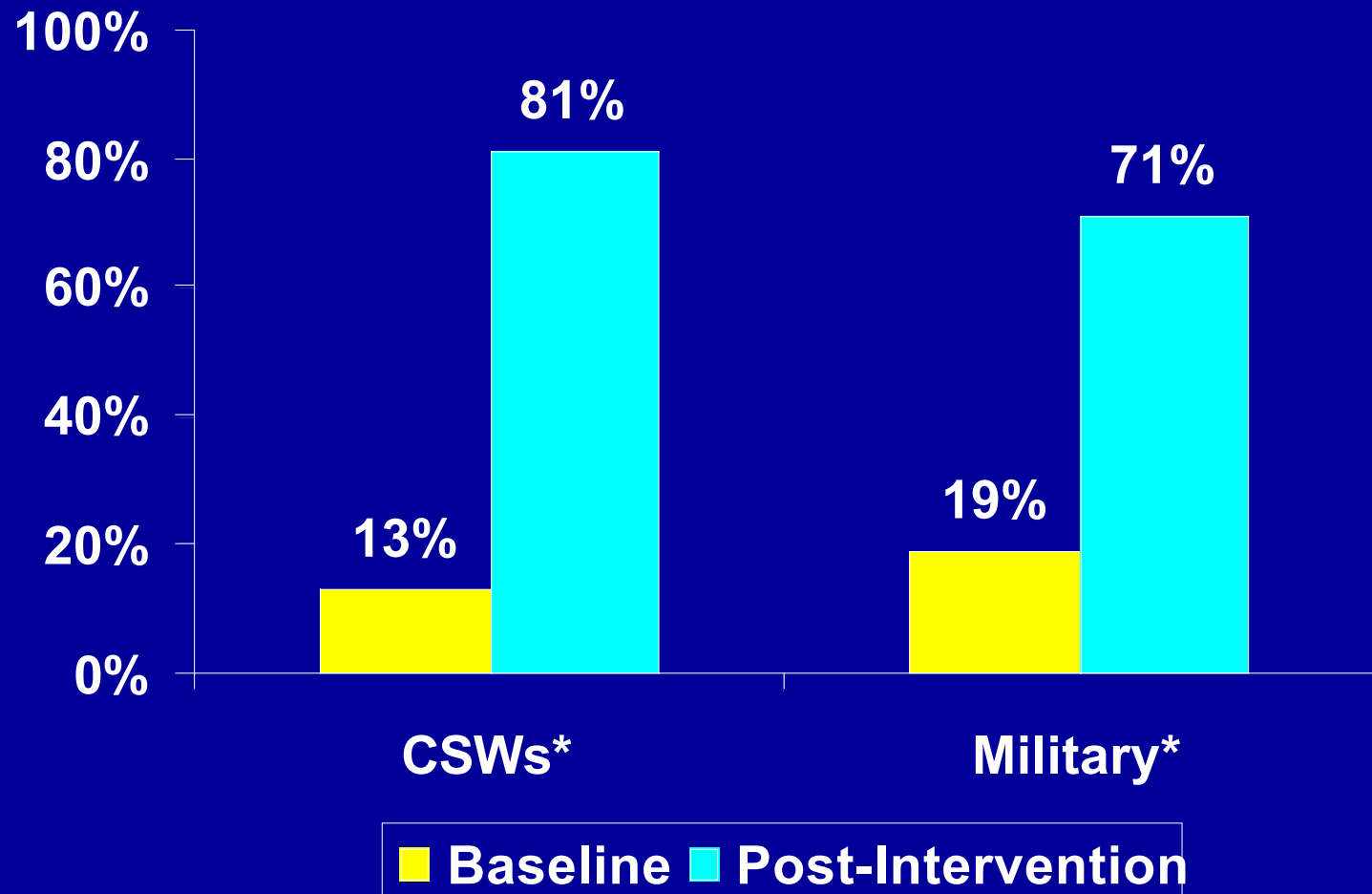
# HIV/AIDS Knowledge: knew 3 or more correct routes of transmission



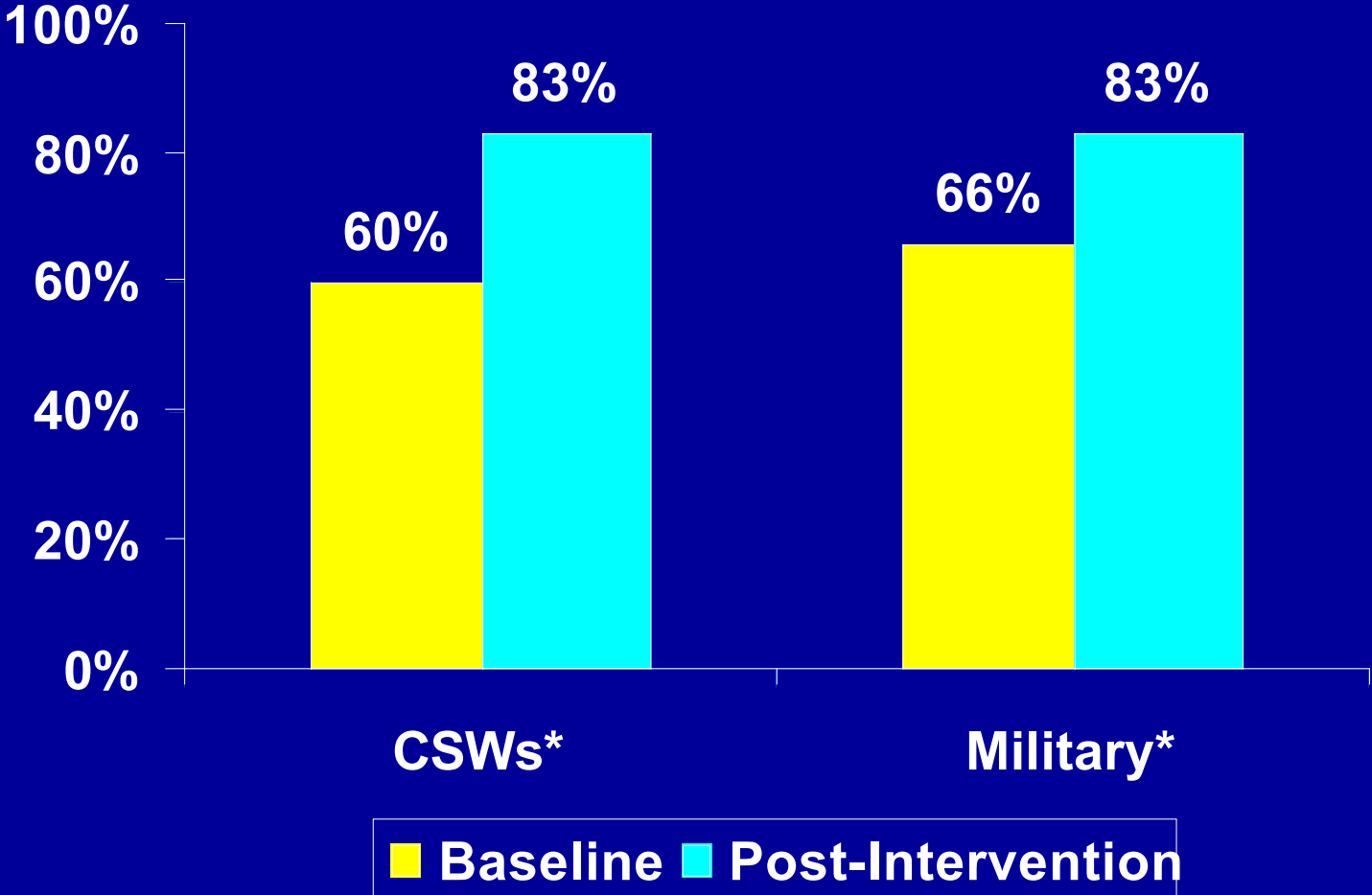
# HIV/AIDS Knowledge: knew 3 or more means of avoiding HIV/AIDS



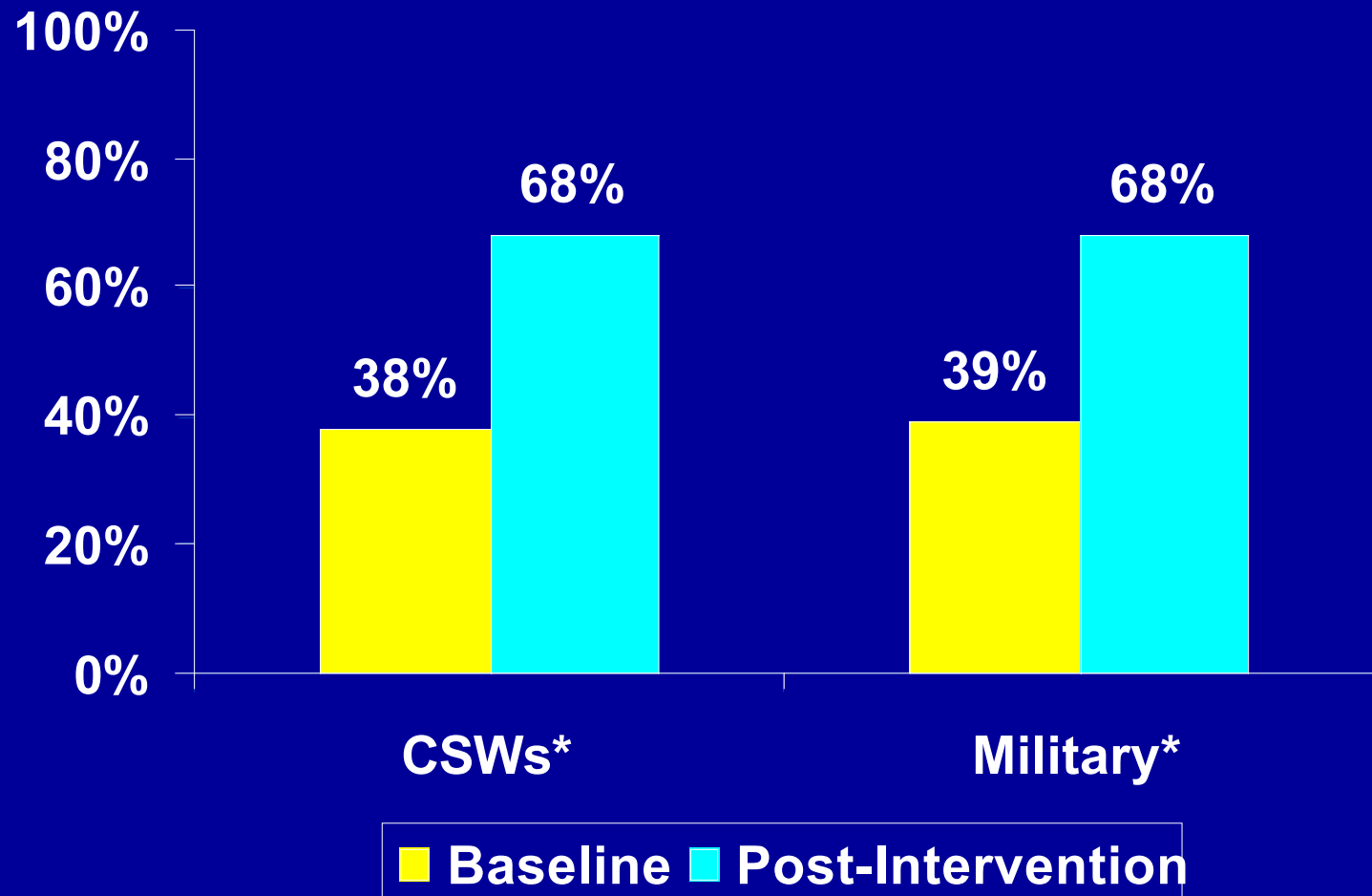
# HIV/AIDS Knowledge: could name 3 or more sources of condoms



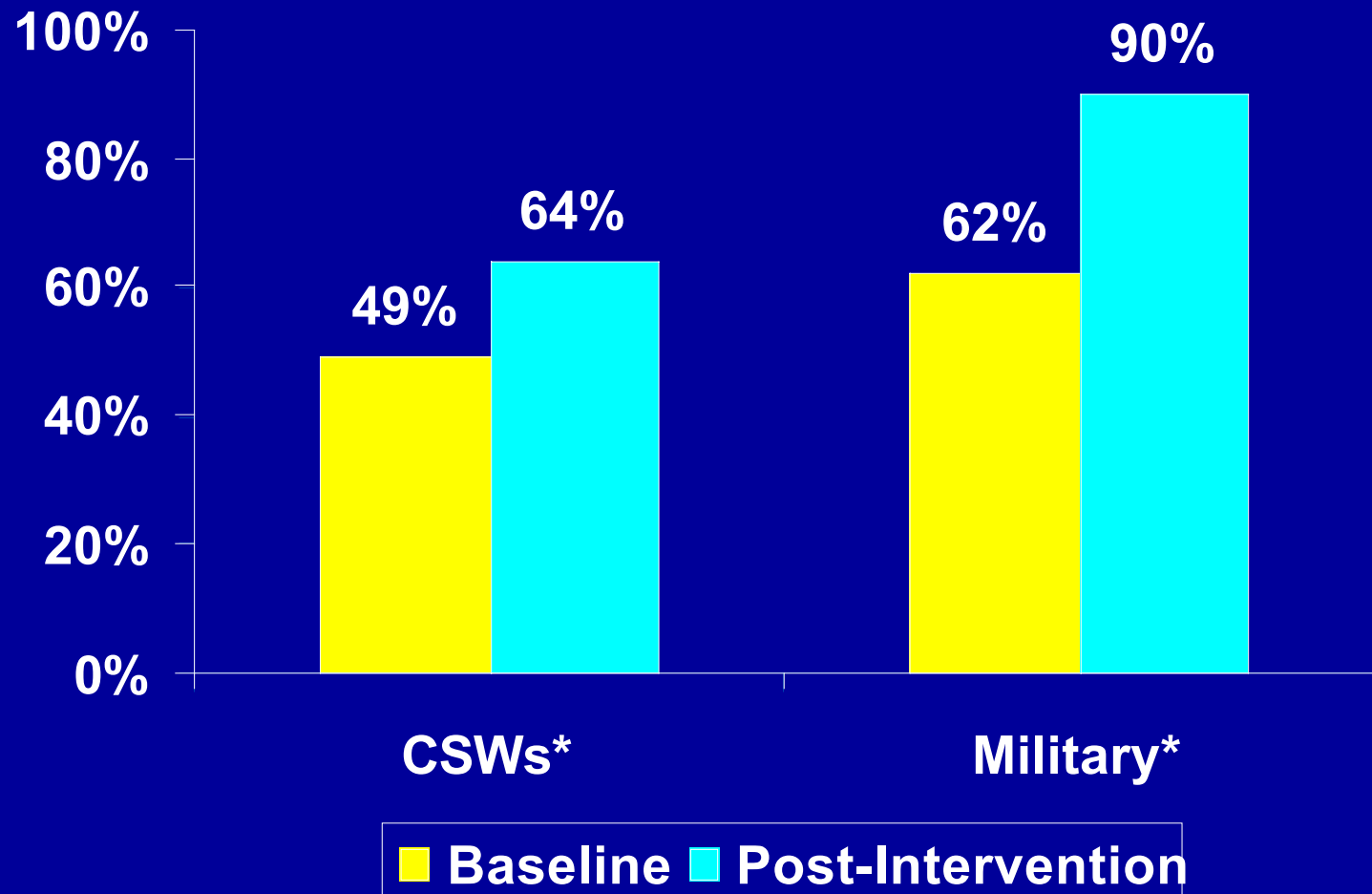
# Condom Use Behavior: ever used a condom



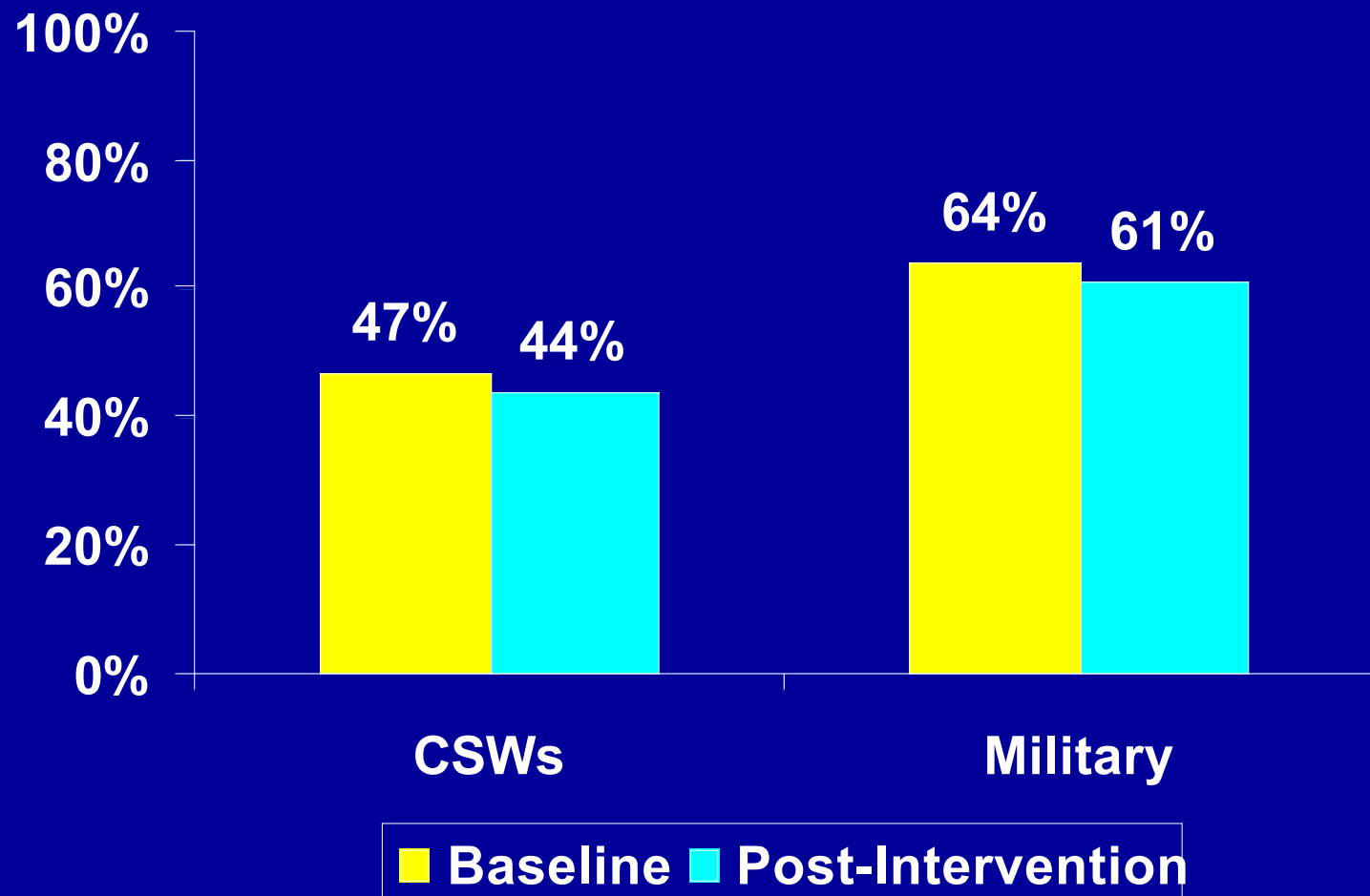
# Condom Use Behavior: used a condom at last sexual intercourse



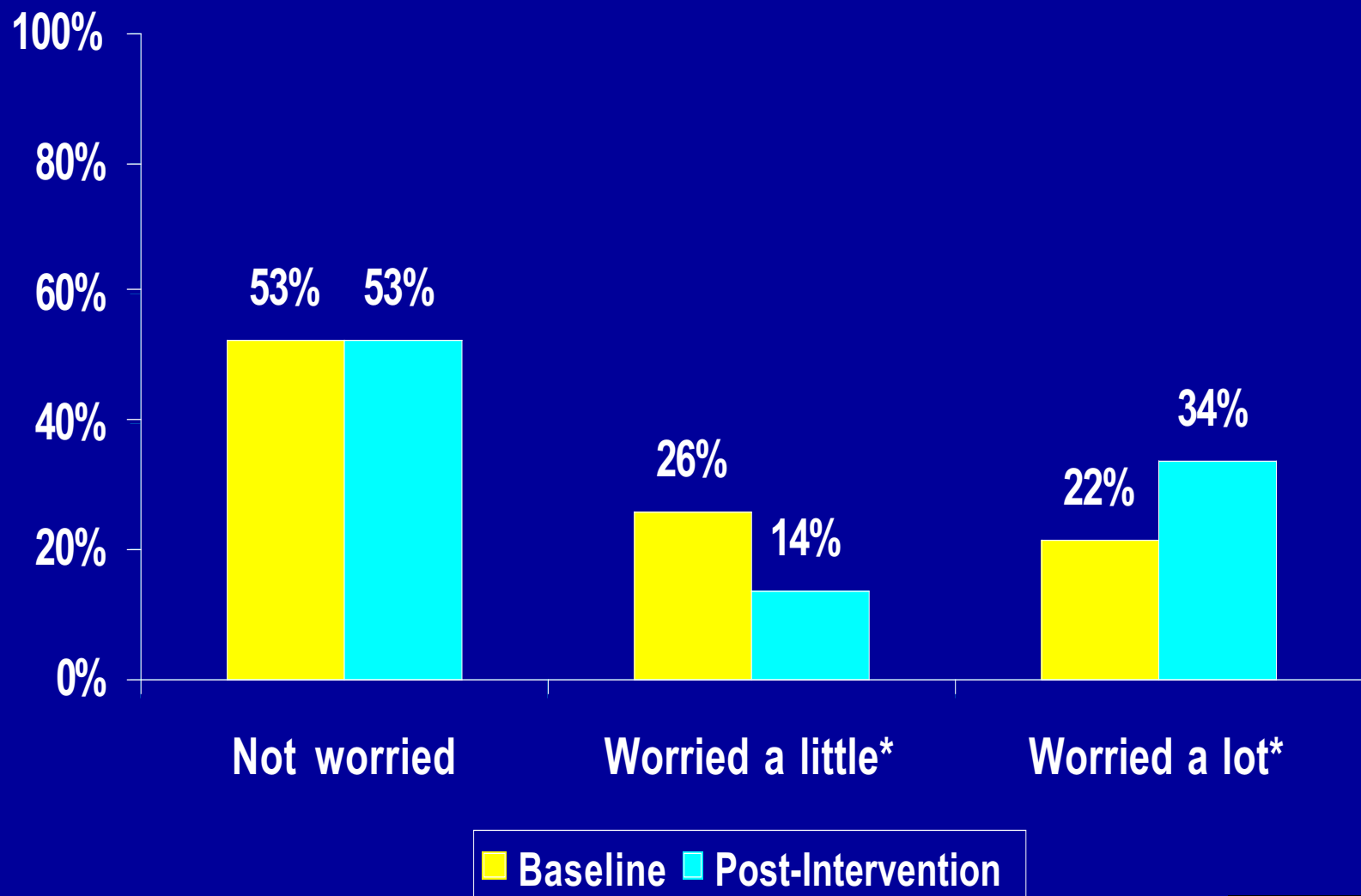
# Attitudes toward PLWHA: should be *treated or counseled*



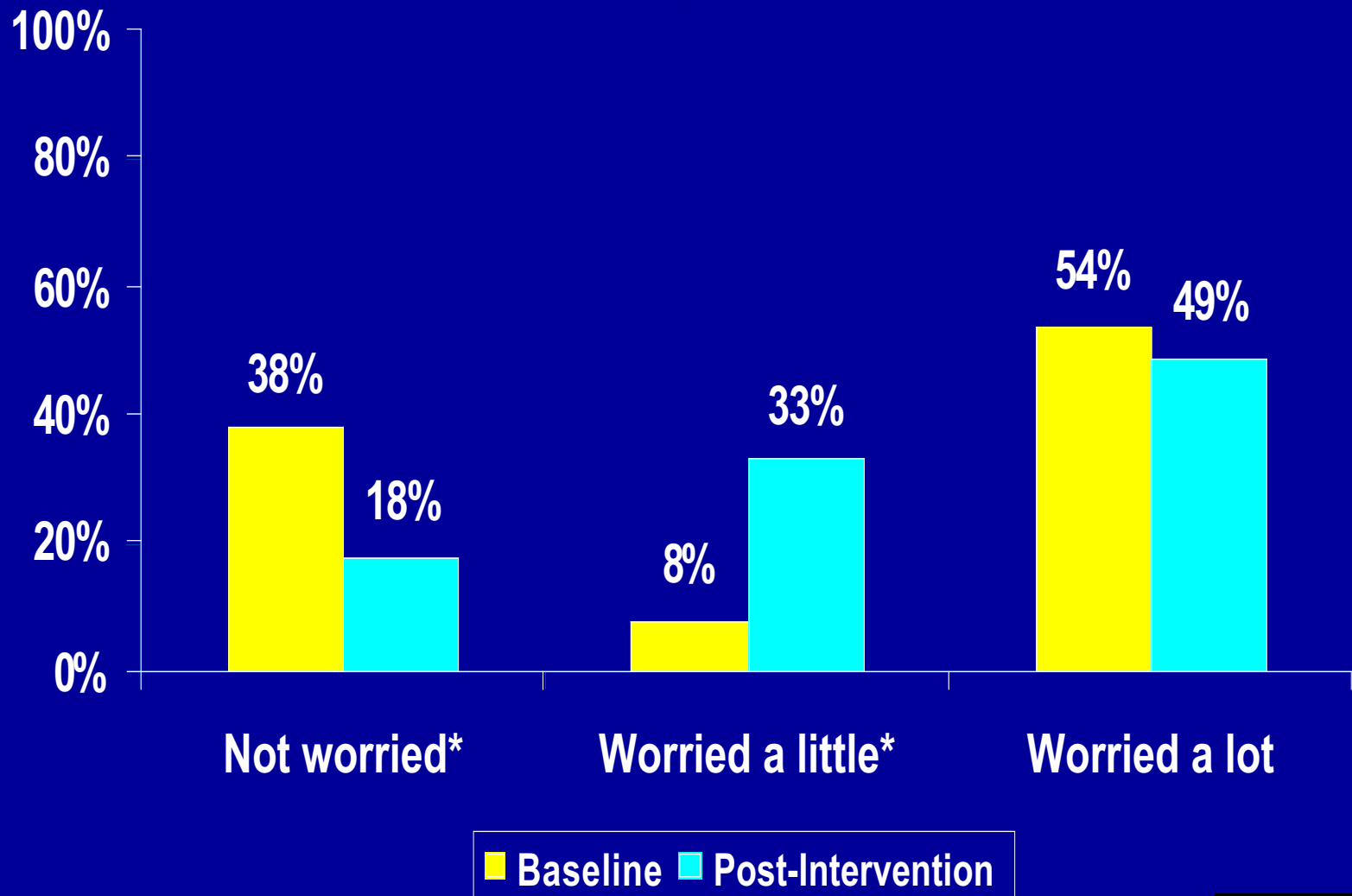
# Attitudes toward PLWHA: should be *reported or isolated*



# Personal Concern about HIV/AIDS: Commercial Sex Workers

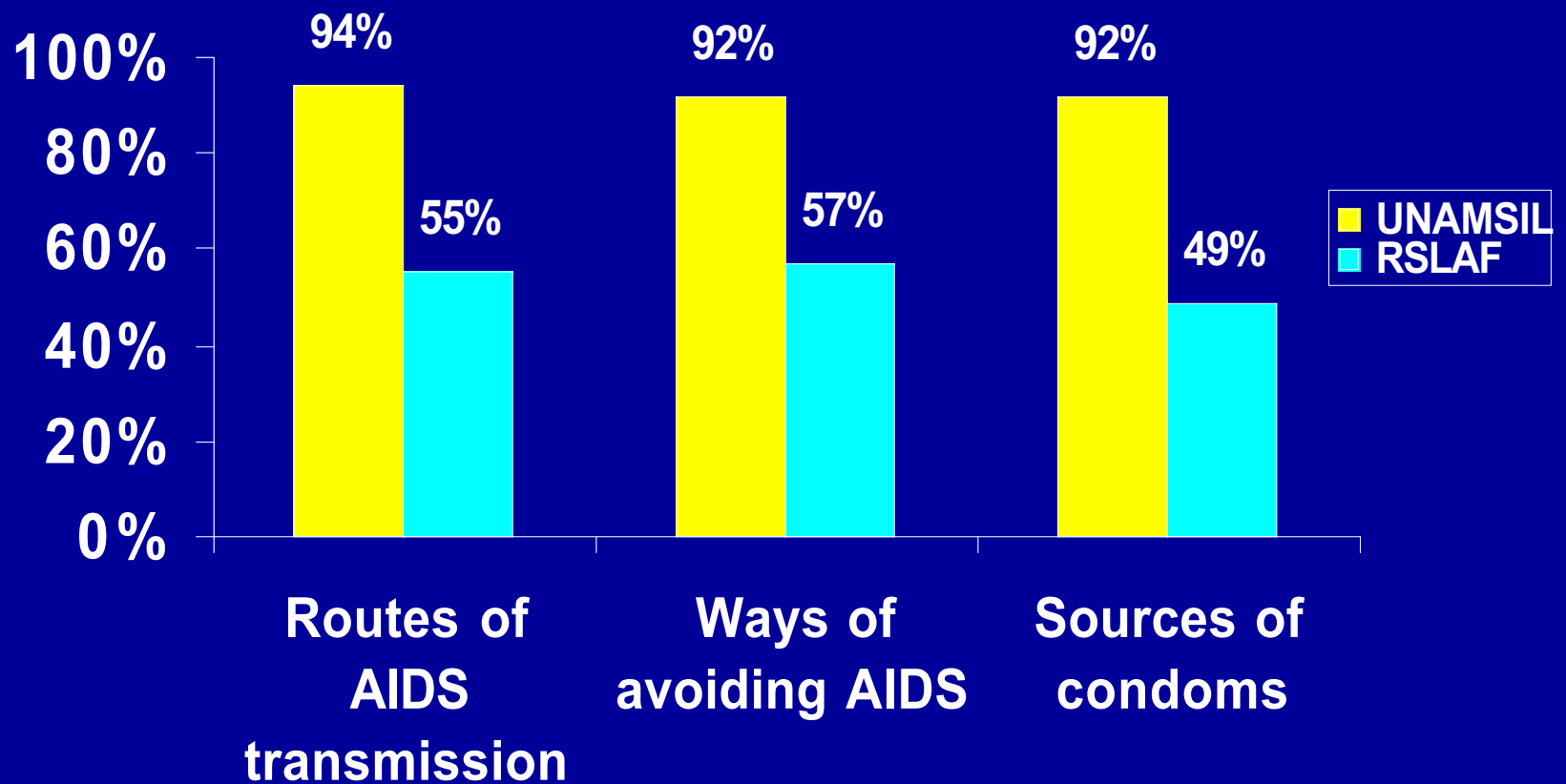


# Personal Concern about HIV/AIDS: Military Forces



# Survey Results: Military Forces UNAMSIL vs. RSLAF

# Knowledge at Post-Intervention: UNAMSIL vs RSLAF % who know at least 3



# Conclusions

- ▶ IEC activities effective
- ▶ Condom promotion effective
- ▶ Levels of personal concern low
- ▶ Positive attitudes towards people living with HIV/AIDS increased, while negative attitudes remains relatively high
- ▶ Significant gaps in knowledge and condom use behavior

# Program Implications

- ▶ IEC and condom promotion activities should be continued for CSWs and Military Forces.
- ▶ Additional efforts should attempt to increase personal concern about HIV-infection, and decrease negative attitudes towards PLWHA.

## Program Implications (cont'd)

- ▶ Additional intervention efforts with military forces should work to improve knowledge and condom use behavior among RSLAF, as these forces will remain in Sierra Leone after UNAMSIL withdraws.



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**Thank you!**