



Sexual Violence Research Initiative Forum

VIOLENCE AGAINST ADULT
VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS & REFUGEES:
RESULTS FROM A MULTI-SITE
SURVEY IN COLOMBIA

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VENEZUELAN MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT

- Global increase in migration and displacement
- Economic and health crisis in Venezuela led to second largest external displacement globally until 2022
 - 6.15M Venezuelan migrants and refugees globally
 - Predominantly south-south migration
 - 1.84M estimated to reside in Colombia
- Social and structural vulnerabilities may increase risk for violence victimization, but prevalence generally unknown

5.09M APROX. VENEZOLANOS REFUGIADOS Y MIGRANTES EN AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE

6.15M TOTAL APROX. VENEZOLANOS REFUGIADOS Y MIGRANTES EN EL MUNDO



Plataforma Regional de Coordinación Interagencial para Refugiados y Migrantes de Venezuela, Jul 2022

PROYECTO BIENVENIR:

*BIENESTAR DE LOS VENEZOLANOS
QUIENES SON INMIGRANTES Y
REFUGIADOS
(WELL-BEING OF VENEZUELAN
WHO ARE MIGRANTS AND
REFUGEES)*

-
- *Parent study objective:* Estimate HIV prevalence and other morbidities among recently arrived Venezuelans in Colombia
 - *Objective of this analysis:* Estimate the prevalence of violence victimization experienced by Venezuelans while living in Colombia
 - Inform public health and humanitarian programming and planning
 - Community-Academic-Policy Partnership
 - Community partner: Red Somos,
 - Academic research: Johns Hopkins University
 - Ministry of Health and Social Protection
 - US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

METHODS

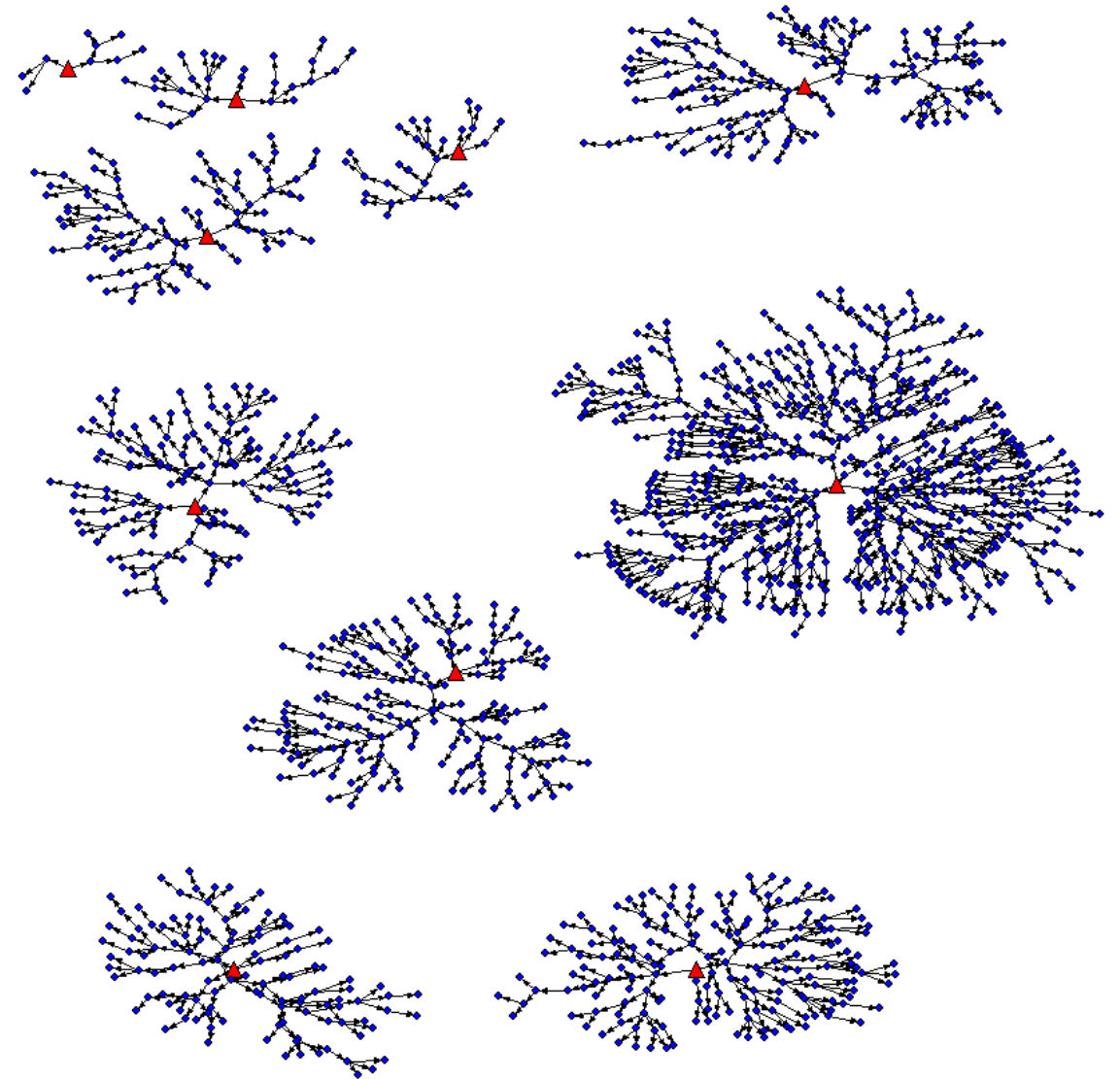
- Qualitative formative research
- Cross-sectional design in two sites
- Study sample: adult Venezuelans who arrived in Colombia since 2015 (limited to one participant per household)
- Respondent Driven Sampling (RDS)
- Socio-behavioral survey questionnaires
 - Demographics and experiences of displacement
 - Housing security, Food security (USDA)
 - Violence (ASIST-GBV) and discrimination (Everyday Discrimination scale)
 - Alcohol use disorder (AUDIT-C) and substance use history
 - Anxiety or depression (PHQ-4)
 - Health history and access to healthcare
 - Use of humanitarian services
- Legal support and referrals provided
- Followed COVID-19 biosecurity protocol



Map of Colombia and study sites reflected against distribution of Venezuelans in Colombia, by department

ENROLLMENT

- Jul 2021 – Feb 2022
- N = 6,221
 - Bogotá & Soacha (n=3,102)
 - Barranquilla & Soledad (n=3,119)
- 21 seeds
- 17 waves



RDS network in Barranquilla & Soledad, as of November 2021

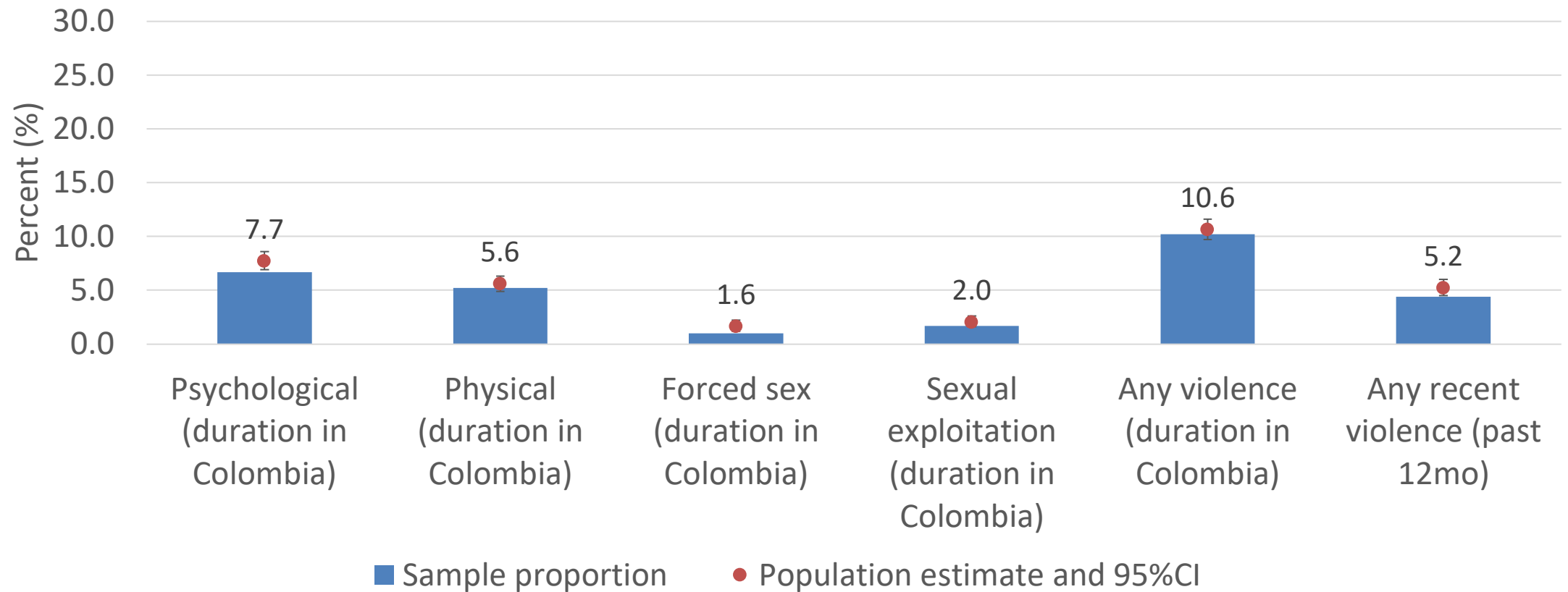
| | Total (N=6,221) | | | |
|--|-------------------|---------|--|--------------|
| | Sample proportion | | Population estimate* | |
| | n | % | % | 95%CI |
| Median age / edad promedio (IQR) | 32 | (26-41) | | |
| Gender / género (n=6217) | | | | |
| Man / hombre | 2124 | 34.2 | 34.3 | (33.1- 35.5) |
| Woman / mujer | 4046 | 65.1 | 65.2 | (64.0-66.3) |
| Transgender/Nonbinary / <i>trans o no binario</i> | 47 | 0.8 | 0.5 | (0.4-0.7) |
| City / ciudad | | | | |
| Bogotá | 1605 | 25.8 | | |
| Soacha | 1501 | 24.1 | | |
| Barranquilla | 1716 | 27.6 | | |
| Soledad | 1398 | 22.5 | | |
| | | | <i>Unweighted due to sampling design</i> | |
| Educational attainment | | | | |
| Nivel de educación (n=6218) | | | | |
| No formal education / <i>ningún educación formal</i> | 127 | 2.0 | 2.2 | (1.8-2.6) |
| Primary / <i>primario</i> | 1256 | 20.2 | 19.7 | (18.8-20.8) |
| Secondary / <i>secundario</i> | 3429 | 55.1 | 54.3 | (43.0-55.5) |
| Higher / <i>más alto</i> | 1352 | 21.7 | 22.4 | (21.3-23.4) |
| Other / <i>otro</i> | 54 | 0.9 | 1.4 | (1.1-1.9) |
| Employment / empleo (n=6219) | | | | |
| Formal full-time / <i>formal de tiempo completo</i> | 465 | 7.5 | 9.0 | (8.3-9.8) |
| Formal part-time / <i>formal de tiempo parcial</i> | 284 | 4.6 | 5.1 | (4.5-5.6) |
| Informal/under the table / <i>informal</i> | 3028 | 48.7 | 40.6 | (39.5-41.8) |
| Full-time student / <i>estudiante</i> | 28 | 0.5 | 0.5 | (0.4-0.7) |
| Retired / <i>retirado</i> | 35 | 0.6 | 0.7 | (0.5-0.9) |
| Unemployed / <i>sin empleo</i> | 2283 | 36.7 | 42.2 | (41.0-43.5) |
| Other / <i>otro</i> | 96 | 1.5 | 2.0 | (1.6-2.4) |

CHARACTERISTICS

- Over half arrived between 2018-19
- 2/3 via informal border crossing
- 71% had irregular migration status at time of study (versus regular status, which confers legal benefits)
- 40% traveled alone to Colombia
- 8% were food secure based on USDA measure

*Weighted for sampling design

PREVALENCE OF VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION AMONG WOMEN (N=4,046)

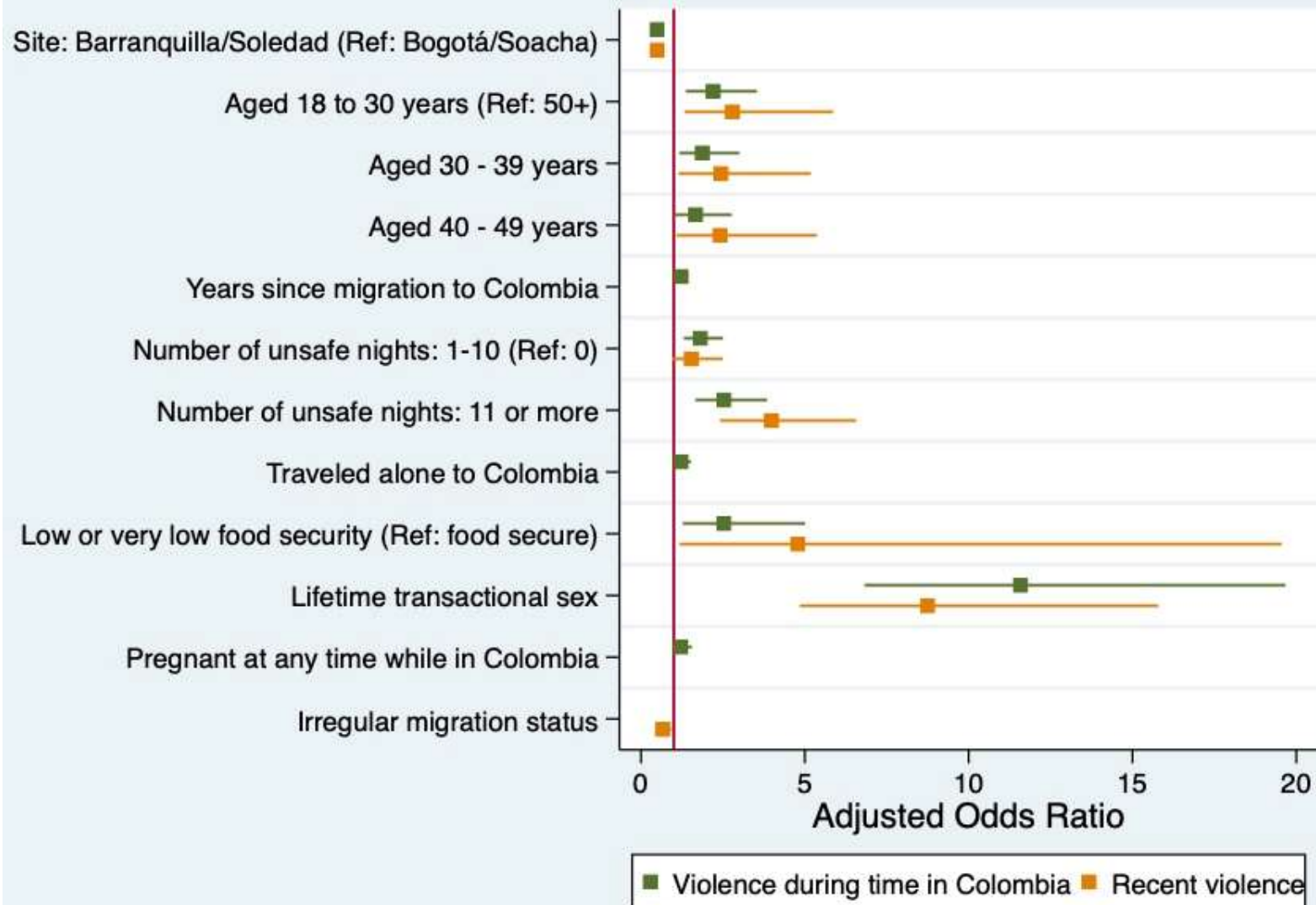


* Participants had lived in Colombia since 2015 or later; population estimates weighted for sampling design

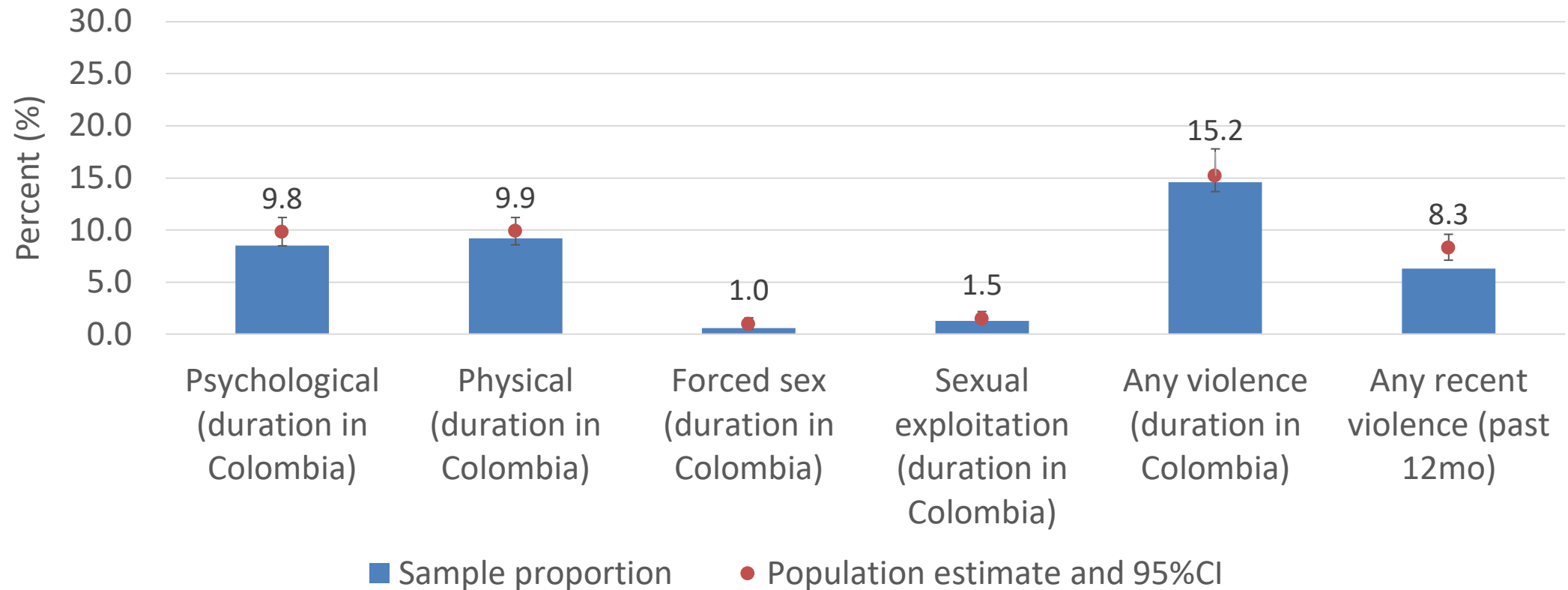
WOMEN

Any violence while living in Colombia or in last 12mo associated with:

- Site - ~50% reduced odds in Barranquilla and Soledad
- Younger age (e.g. 18-30yo: 2x increased odds)
- Increased years since migration*
- No. of unsafe nights: 1.8-2.5x increased odds
- Low or very low food security: 2.5x increased odds
- Transactional sex: 11.6x increased odds
- Pregnancy while in Colombia* 1.2x increased odds



* # of years since migration and pregnancy while in Colombia were not associated with recent violence and excluded from the model; irregular status was associated with reduced odds of recent violence but was not associated with violence over the duration of time in Colombia; relationship status was not associated with recent or any violence while in Colombia



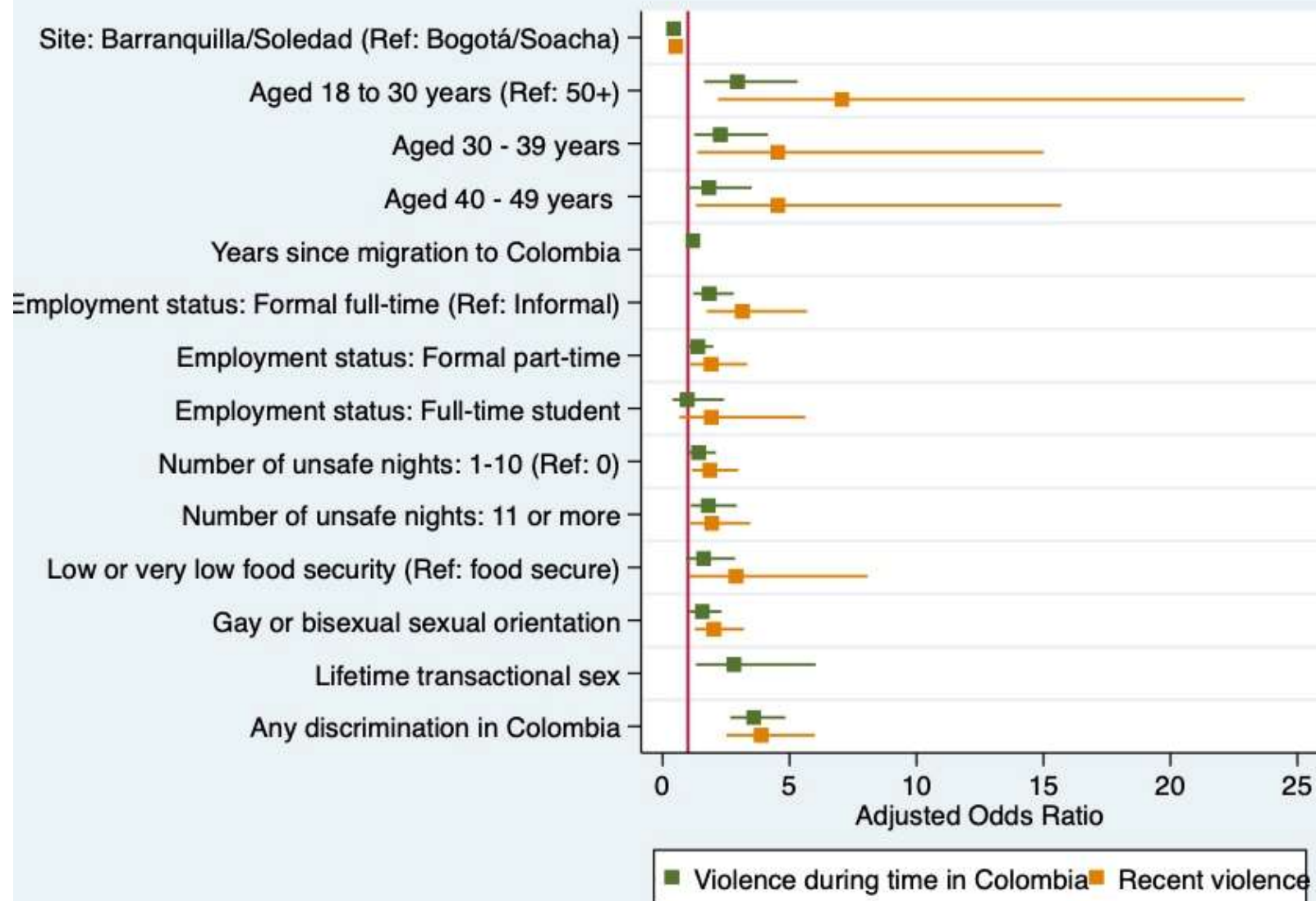
PREVALENCE OF VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION AMONG MEN (N=2,124)

* Participants had lived in Colombia since 2015 or later; population estimates weighted for sampling design

MEN

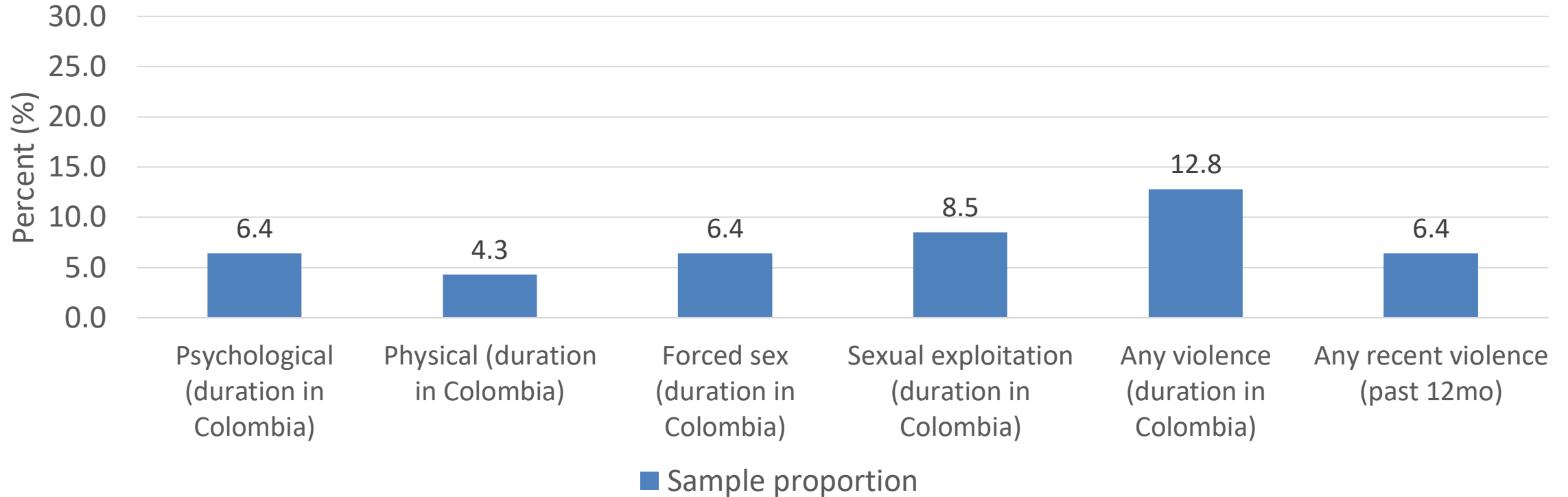
Any violence while living in Colombia or in last 12mo associated with:

- Site - ~56% reduced odds in Barranquilla and Soledad
- Younger age (e.g. 18-30yo: 3x increased odds)
- Increased years since migration*
- Formal employment: 1.3-1.8x increased odds
- No. of unsafe nights: 1.4-1.8x increased odds
- Low or very low food security: 1.6x increased odds
- Gay or bisexual orientation: 1.6x
- Transactional sex:* 2.8x increased odds
- Any discrimination: 3.6x increased odds



* # of years since migration and transactional sex were not associated with recent violence and excluded from the model; migration status was not associated with recent or any violence while in Colombia

VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATION EXPERIENCED BY TRANSGENDER AND NON-BINARY IDENTIFIED VENEZUELANAS (N=47)



* Participants had lived in Colombia since 2015 or later; population estimates and regression models not run due to small number of transgender and non-binary identified participants

SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

- Overall, ~12% of migrants and refugees reported experiencing violence while living in Colombia (since 2015 or later)
 - Psychological abuse (8.4%), physical violence (7.0%), sexual exploitation (1.9%) and sexual violence (1.4%)
- **Strangers were the most identified individual to use violence**, but some differences across genders for other perpetrators
- **Young age, unsafe housing, food insecurity, and transactional sex** associated with increased odds of violence victimization among men and women
- **Women:** other perpetrators included partners, family, employers,
 - Pregnant women experienced increased odds of violence
 - Violence may be reduced among women due to separation of family during migration, but expose them to other violence perpetrated by strangers and employers
 - IPV and less severe forms of violence may be under-reported
- **Men:** other perpetrators included armed groups, police, employers
 - Gay and bisexual men had almost 4-fold increased odds of violence
 - Violence victimization also associated with experienced discrimination in Colombia
 - Regular migration status (more common among those who arrived earlier) confers access to formal employment and other benefits, which may expose migrants and refugees to violence by other employees and employers in the formal sector
- **Transgender and non-binary people** reported high levels of violence; other perpetrators included partners, armed groups
- Support to address **structural vulnerabilities** (e.g. safe housing) may reduce vulnerability to violence victimization
 - Services for Colombians experiencing similar vulnerabilities could be expanded to be inclusive of Venezuelans, regardless of migration status, to mitigate anti-migrant stigma

Thank you / Gracias

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