

# **Community Responses to HIV/AIDS: An Audit of AIDS-Related Activity in Three South African Communities**

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# Background to Research

- Widely agreed that challenges and impacts of HIV/AIDS require active engagement of community-level structures
- Community-level responses to HIV/AIDS under-researched in comparison with national and international-level interventions
- Growing body of evidence that broad-based community mobilisation is taking place in South Africa and elsewhere, but few systematic studies
- Unanswered questions about the scale, scope and development implications of local-level activity



## Objectives/Methods

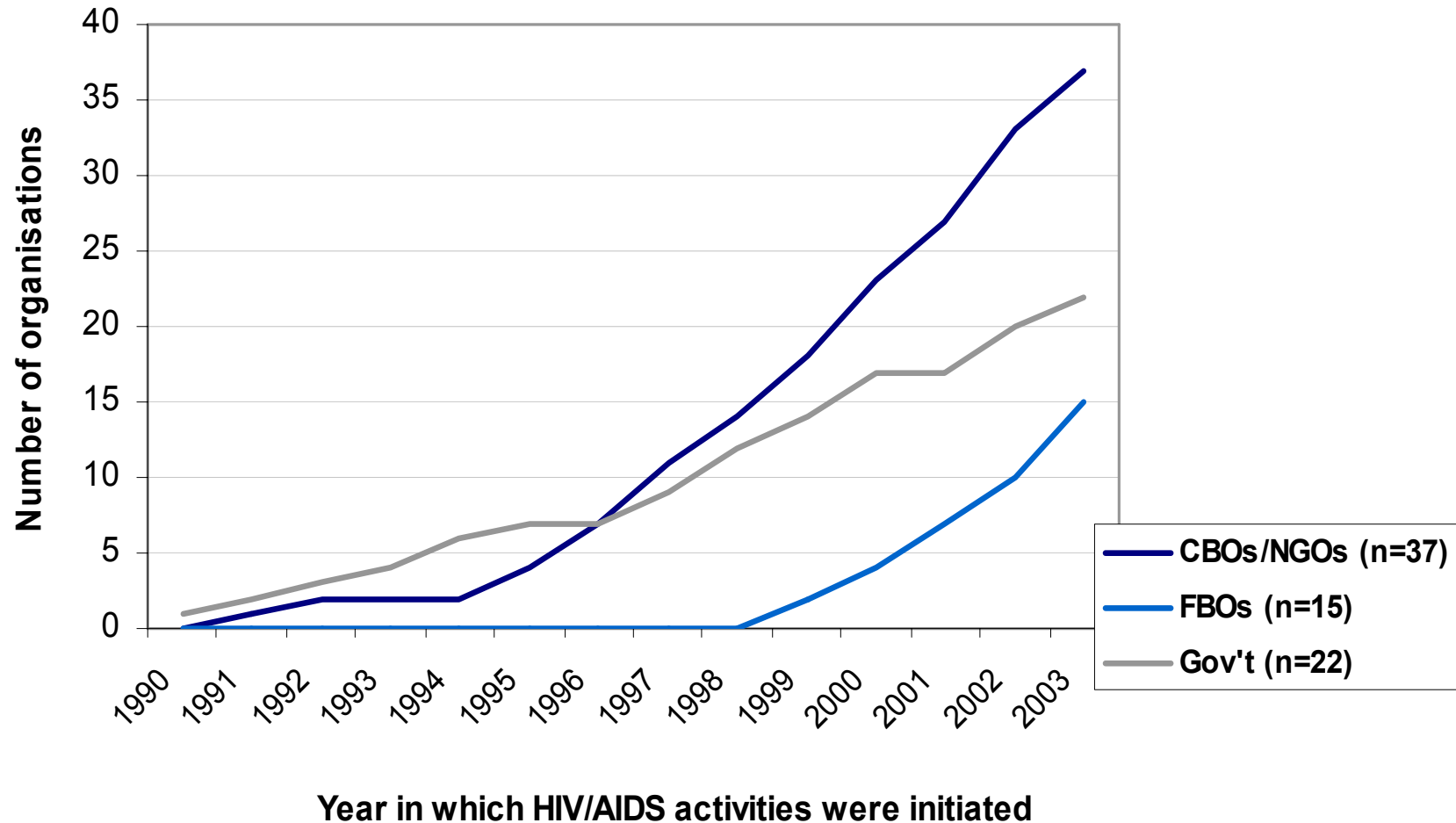
- Investigate the scale and scope of local-level AIDS activity in three communities
- Research sites: Grahamstown (Eastern Cape), Obanjeni (KwaZulu-Natal), Vosloorus (Gauteng)
- 12-part questionnaire administered to organisations and institutions that provide HIV/AIDS-related services
- Located all known organisations using snowballing method
- In-depth interviews with key informants on coordination of HIV/AIDS activities and integration of services

# Community Organisations Involved with HIV/AIDS

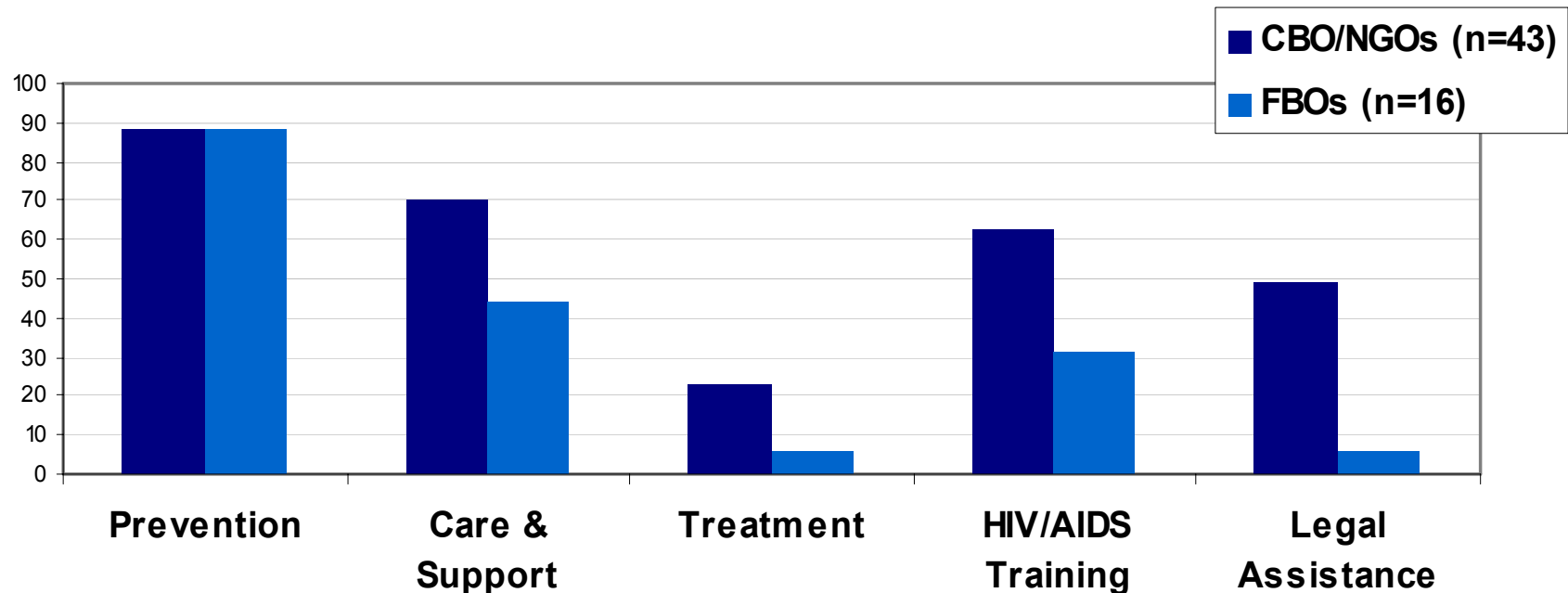
	CBOs/ NGOs	FBOs
Grahamstown	23	7
Obanjeni	4	1
Vosloorus	16	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59</b>	

- Home-based care
- Support groups
- PWA associations
- Hospice
- Women's groups
- Training organisations
- Youth groups
- Community centres
- Churches
- Other community organisations

# Growth of Community AIDS Response

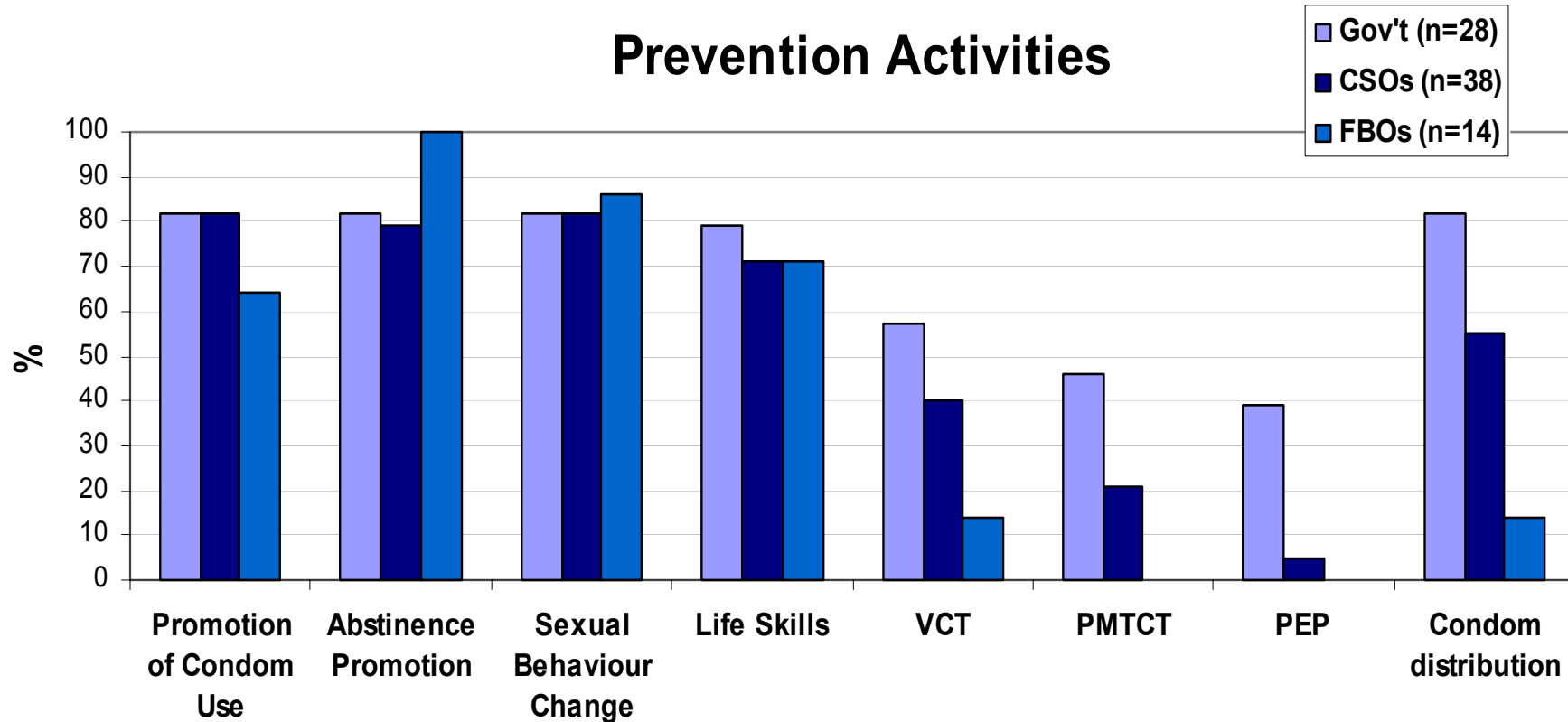


# Profile of AIDS Response Activity



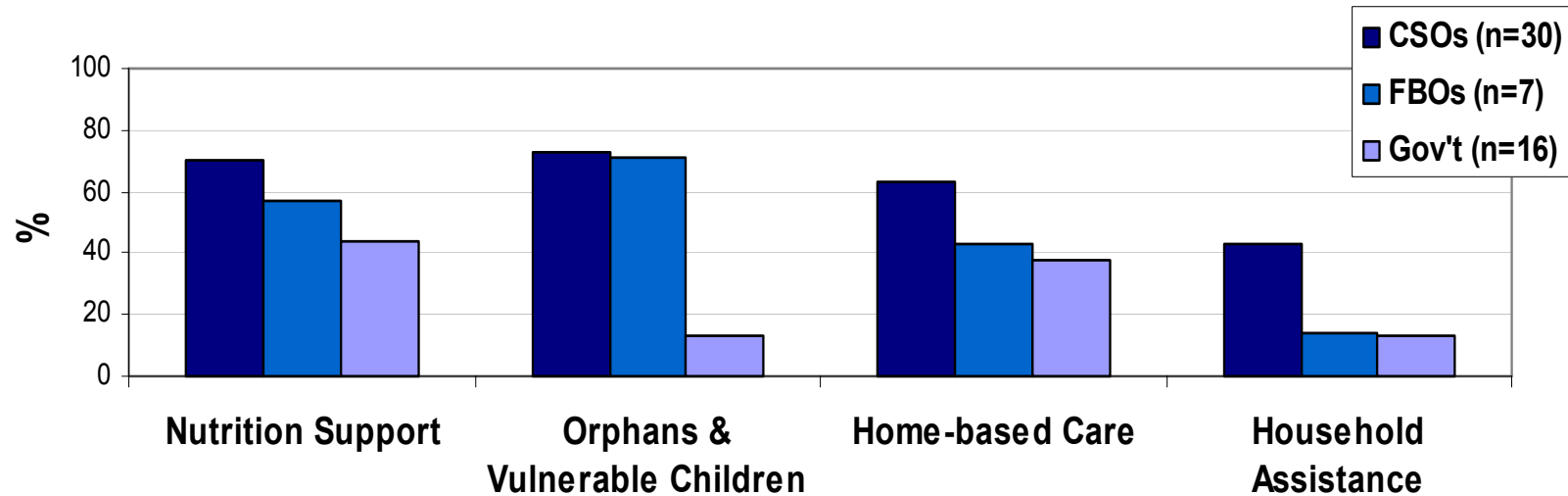
- Almost 90% of community organisations involved with prevention
- 70% of CBOs/NGOs provide care & support services
- Limited involvement with treatment; focus is on treatment literacy
- HIV/AIDS-related training provided internally & in community
- Legal assistance focuses on referrals & support in reporting cases

# Profile of AIDS Response Activity



- Promotion of condom use, abstinence, behaviour change & life skills most common prevention activities
- VCT, PMTCT, PEP more common among government institutions than community organisations

# Profile of AIDS Response Activity



- Community organisations more active than government institutions in providing certain forms of care & support
- More than 70% of CSOs and FBOs work with OVC





# Funding & Resources

- 46% of CSOs and FBOs cite funding as biggest organisational challenge
- Shortages of basic goods
- Lack of transport
- Difficult to cover salaries and stipends for volunteers
  
- 77% of CSOs and 56% of FBOs have bank accounts
- 79% of CSOs are registered NPOs; more than 90% have management committees & constitutions



# Human Resources

- 73% of CSOs and 88% of FBOs use volunteers
- Only 10% of organisations using volunteers pay stipends/cover expenses
- Shortages of staff and volunteers cited as major organisational challenge
- Training for staff and volunteers cited as need
  
- 23% of CSOs and 25% of FBOs have staff that work at least one weekend/month
- 23% of CSOs report that clients visit their staff at home at least once per month



# Monitoring & Evaluation

- 35% of CSOs and 56% of FBOs do not monitor the number of clients using services
- 35% of CSOs and 62% of FBOs do not monitor distribution of materials and supplies
- 42% of CSOs and 75% of FBOs have not had programme activities evaluated
- Monitoring & evaluation is generally associated with donor-driven models of impact evaluation



# Strategic Challenges

- Coordination & integration of activity at community level
  - Project coordination
  - Sectoral coordination
  - Local AIDS Councils
- Training and capacity building for community organisations
  - Human resources management
  - Fundraising
  - Monitoring & evaluation
- Funding models for support to local-level response
  - Umbrella/conduit funding organisations
  - Mentoring arrangements for small organisations
  - Direct support in core functions (e.g. proposal writing and financial systems development)

# Critical Questions

- Moving beyond broad language of ‘partnerships’
- ‘AIDS governance’ for multi-sectoral responses
- Policies and strategies to guide local AIDS response
- Relationship between public and non-public activity





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## Research Team

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