HIV in the Asia Pacific Region: Key Populations and Interventions

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Purpose and Scope

- The Asia Pacific Region is **underrepresented** when discussing solutions for the HIV epidemic
- There is also a lack of **quantitative studie**s on the region
- To combat this, we want to see what **interventions** are effective and who they should be targeted to

Background

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) has no known cure or vaccine

Various key populations are at higher risk for infection [25]

Risk of contact

Lowered immune response

Alternate measures are necessary to combat the disease

Key Terms

Key population: a group at increased risk of HIV exposure due to their identity.

Men who have sex with men (MSM)	People who inject drugs (PWID)	Sex workers (SW)	Incarcerated people or prisoners (PR)	Transgender people (TG)

Interventions: programs or services aiming to prevent the spread of HIV.

UN Goals

- The United Nations (UN) aims to achieve a 95-95-95 model by 2030 **[4]**
  - **95 percent** of HIV positive people aware of their status
  - **95 percent** of HIV positive people receiving treatment
  - **95 percent** of HIV positive people virally suppressed
- SDG 3 (Target 3.3) aims to end the HIV epidemic globally

Why the Asia Pacific?

Globally:

- **44** percent of new cases are among key populations (2017) [3][25]
- **39** percent decrease in new cases since 2010 (2023) [23]
- **38 million** adults living with HIV (2023) [23]
- 86-77-72 (2023) [23]

Asia Pacific:

- **94** percent of new cases are among key populations (2021) [22]
- **13** percent decrease in new cases since 2010 (2023) [3]
- **6.6 million** adults living with HIV (2023) [23]
- 78-67-65 (2023) [23]

Commonly suggested interventions:

- Community based activism and services
- Stigma reduction
- Education: both general and HIV specific
- Condom use policies
- Expanding accessibility to healthcare (testing, treatment, etc.)
- Dismantling discriminatory policies

Data acquisition and analysis:

Data was taken from various UN data bases

UNAIDs Data Report for 2021

SDG Gateway

HIV prevalence's were selected for PWID, SW, TG, PR, and MSM

Percentage of positive tests

Data from testing sites and behavioral surveys

Data related to interventions tended to be those that are a part of the UN's SDGs

SDG 3- Health and Wellbeing

SDG 4- Equality of Education

Variables

Education

- Indicator: Participation of women in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months aged 15-24 (PFNFET)
- SDG 4

Accessibility to healthcare

- Indicator: Universal Health Coverage Service Coverage Index (SCI)
- SDG 3

The strength of the correlations were classified for both positive and negative as:

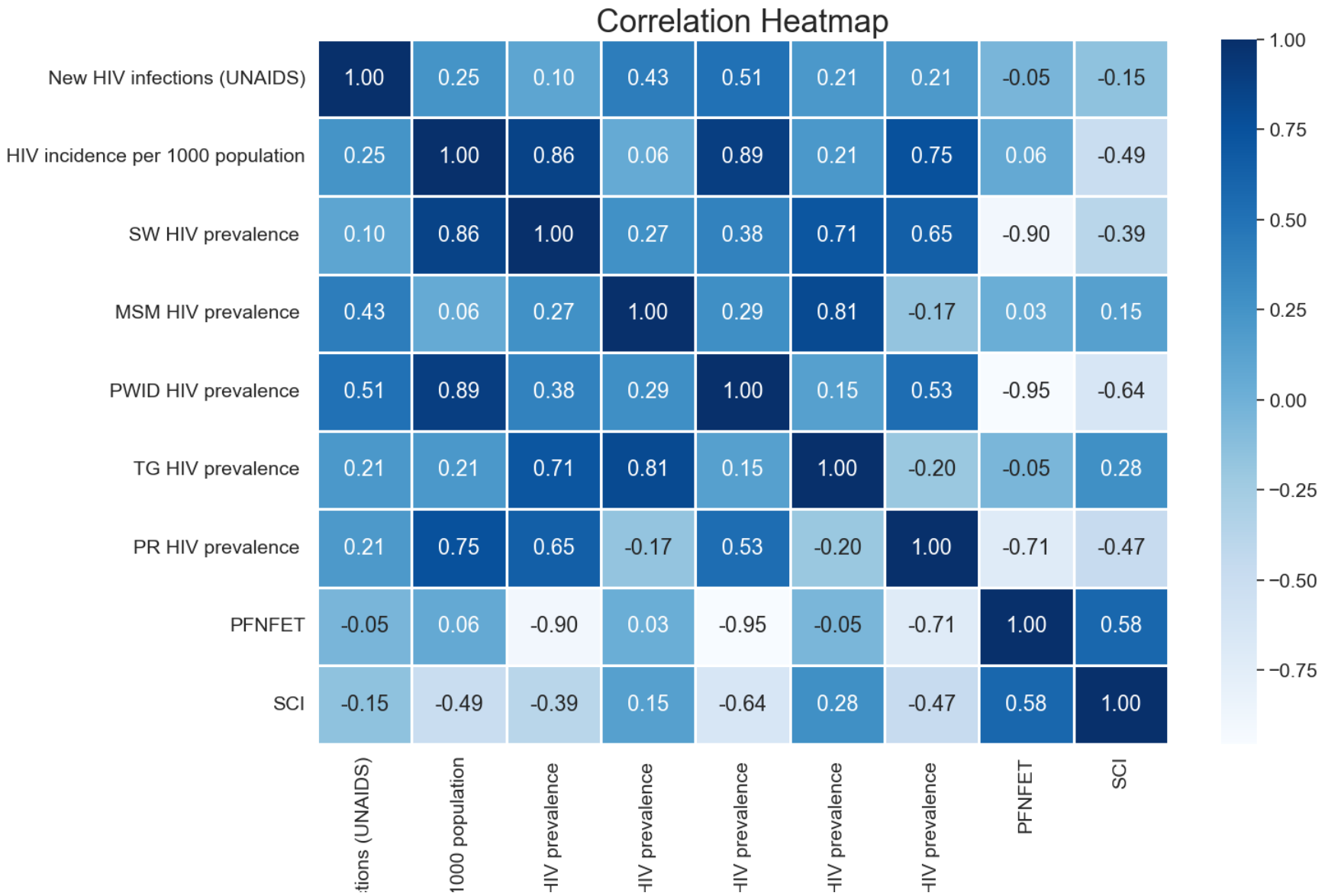
$0 \leq r < 0.2$: very weak

$0.2 \leq r < 0.4$: weak

$0.4 \leq r < 0.6$: moderate

$0.6 \leq r < 0.8$: strong

$0.8 \leq r < 1$: very strong



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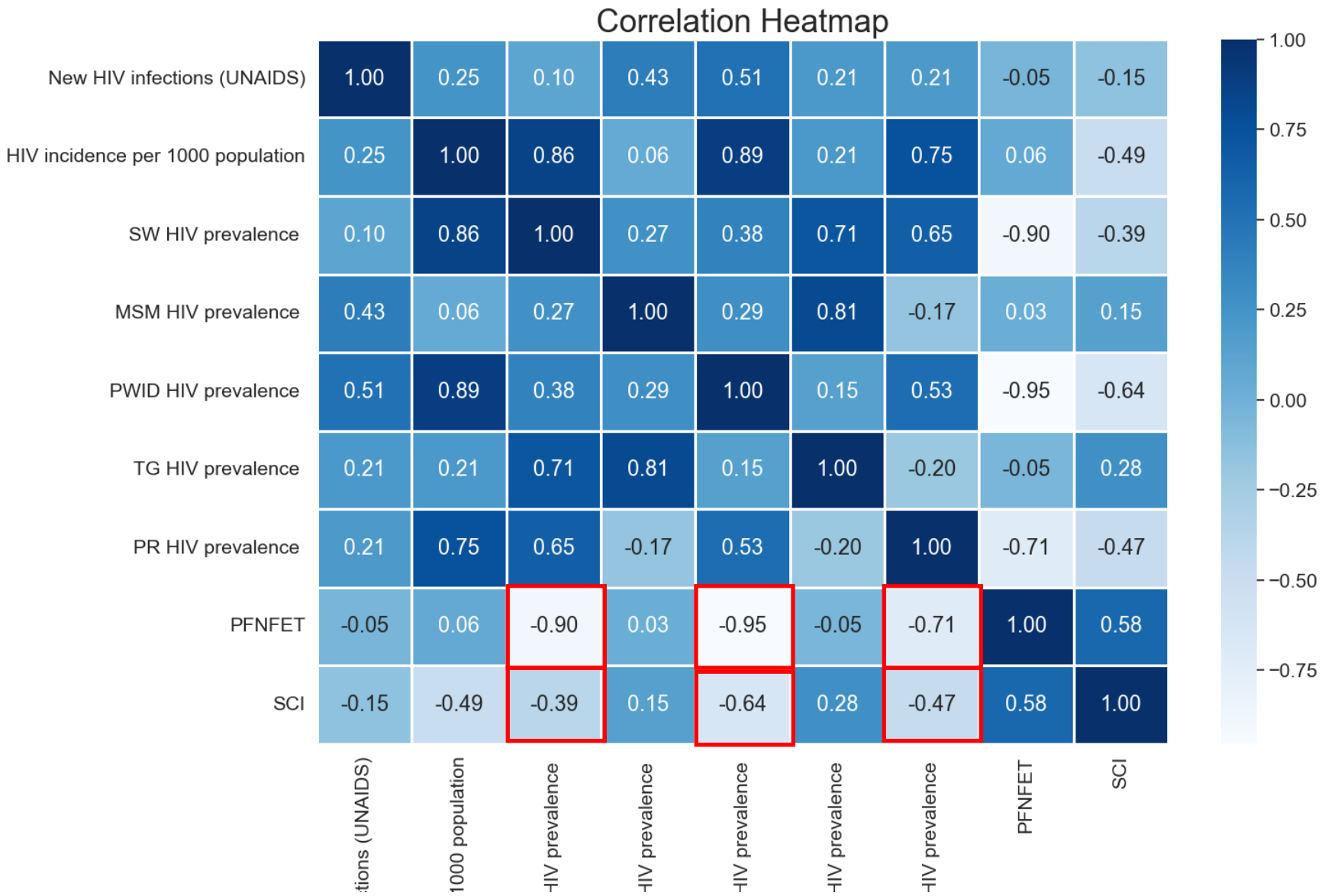
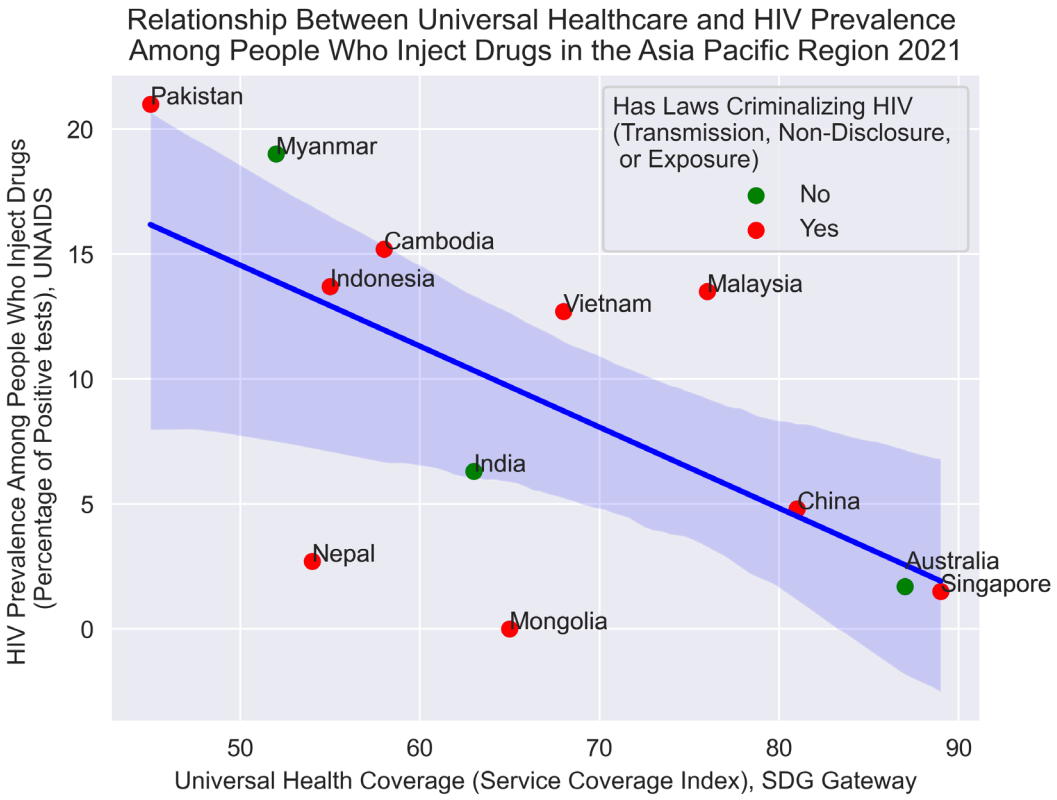
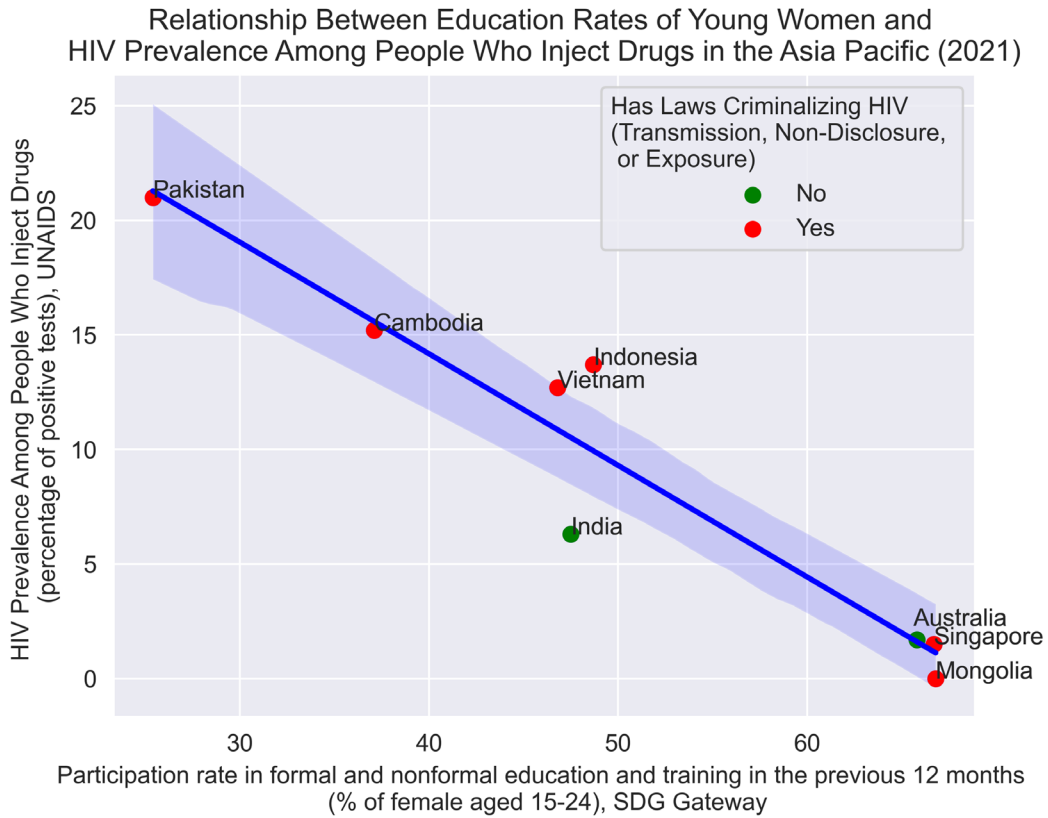


HIV Prevalence Among *PWID*

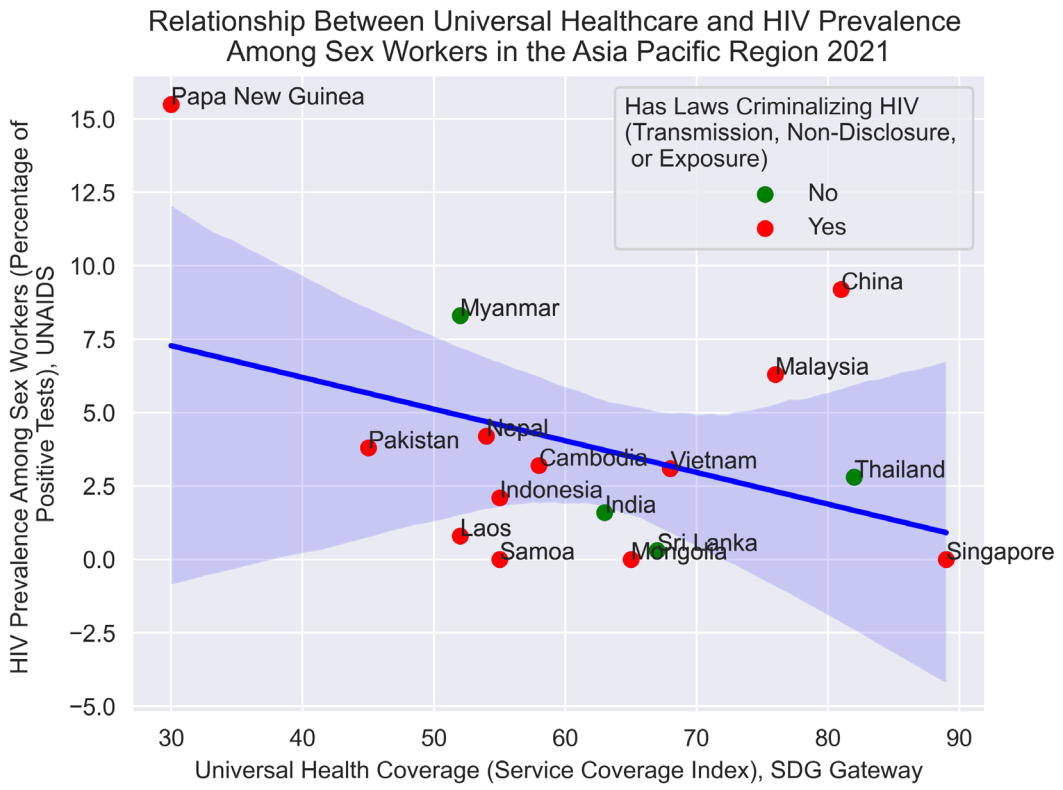


SERVICE COVERAGE



WOMEN'S EDUCATION

HIV Prevalence Among *SW*



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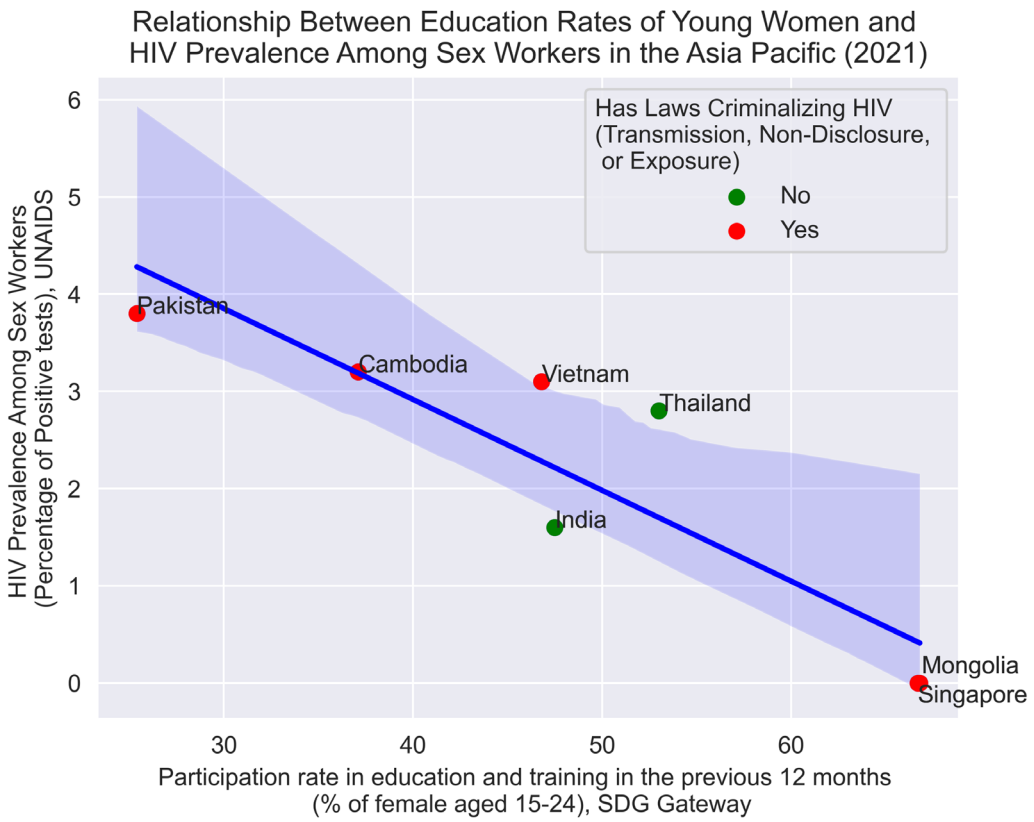
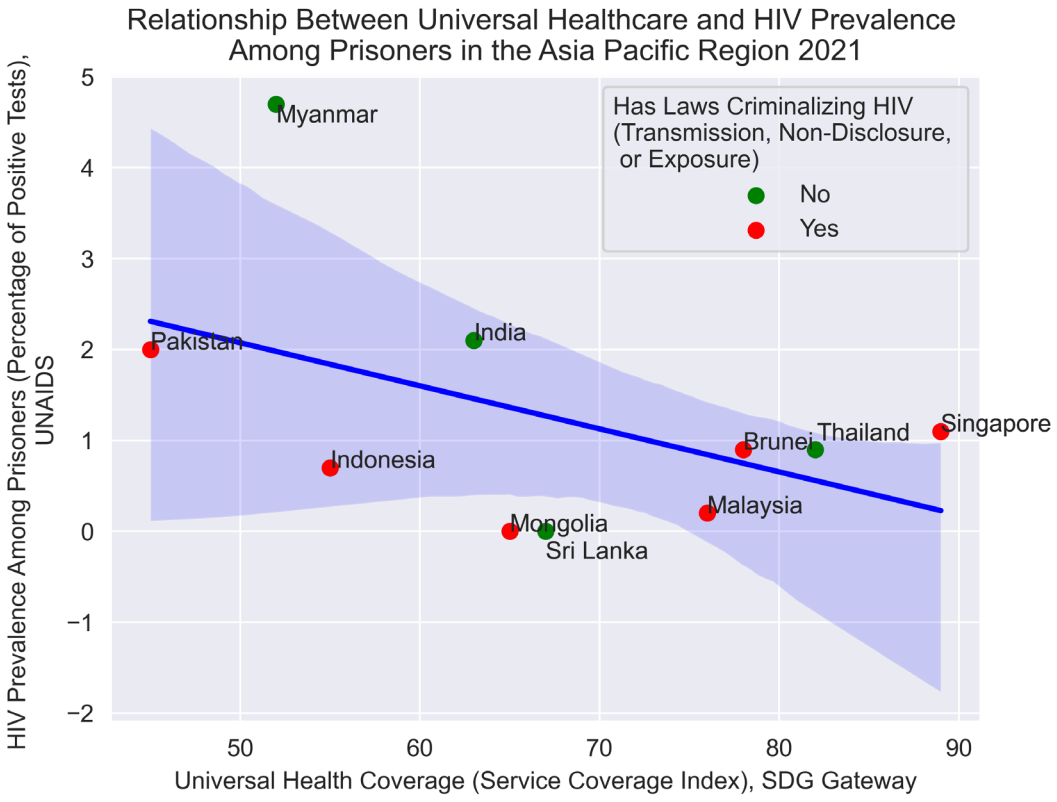


WOMEN'S EDUCATION

HIV Prevalence Among *PR*



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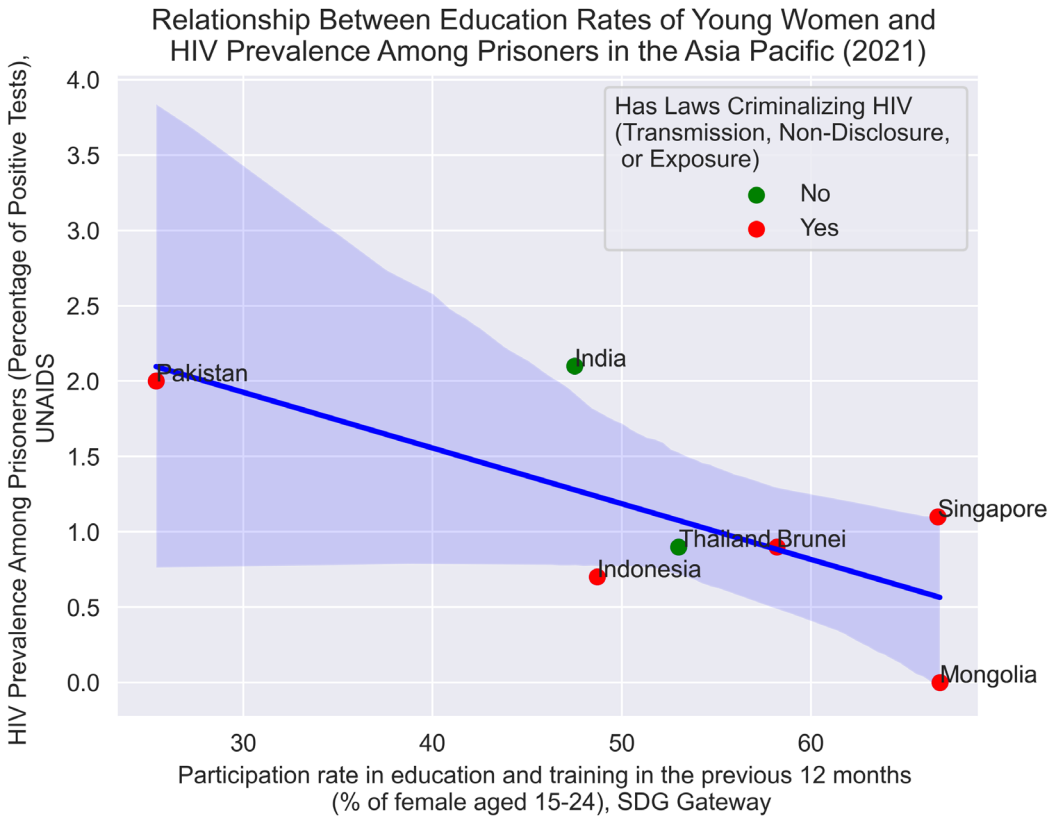

WOMEN'S EDUCATION

Key Takeaways

- Multiple countries reported a **zero percent prevalence rate** for certain populations (Unlikely)
    - Most of these countries had criminalizing policies relating to the transmission of HIV
- **Data is limited** (especially in the Asia Pacific Region)
- **Women's education** seemed to be the most effective, especially with populations that are heavily female (ie: SW, PWID)
- There is a lack of nuance surrounding **gender identity** (no specifications are given)
    - Especially important for key populations

Future work

1. Compare with other years
2. Add more interventions to compare
3. See if this is consistent with other regions
4. Analyze on a global scale

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Thank You

Questions?