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BACKGROUND

Multiple initiatives and collaborative projects are working towards achieving a cure for HIV with significant progress. However, HIV cure-related research efforts (both biomedical and social) in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) are fragmented, scattered, and poorly integrated into the global agenda.

Thus, a consultation on research and advocacy needs was conducted to delineate actions for an HIV Cure Consortium in the region.

METHODS

An online survey performed between March 25th- June 26th 2024, available in Spanish, Portuguese, English and French, assessing perceptions on HIV cure from LAC healthcare professionals and researchers (HP/R); pharmaceutical industry (PI); civil society - community-based and non-governmental organizations, advocacy groups, and patient associations (CS); and decision-makers - government officials and consultants (DM).

This was distributed via email, social media and instant messaging apps. Answers were collected in RedCap and analyzed.

RESULTS

A total of 661 answers were received from individuals from 20/33 LAC countries (**Figure 1**).

Most individuals were cis men (**Figure 2**) between 35 and 54 years old (50.3%); 55% reported to be part of CS (**Figure 3**). Respondents had long-term experience in the HIV field (>10 years, 50%; **Figure 4**).

HP/R and CS reported discordant levels of knowledge regarding strategies to attempt HIV elimination, new cases of cure, and funding for research.

All groups agreed that there is a low level of priority given to HIV cure in the region; with low financial investment, both national and international, being identified as the main barrier for HIV cure.

Multisectorial dialogue spaces, the inclusion of HIV cure research in health policies and training opportunities were considered critical needs.

Promotion of research and advocacy campaigns and specific funding opportunities were selected as the top priorities of an HIV Cure consortium in LAC.

CS indicated that having to discontinue treatment is the main factor that discourages PLWH from participating in a clinical study.

CONCLUSIONS

The survey results highlight the importance of creating a regional HIV Cure Consortium to enhance collaborations resulting in synergistic research and advocacy agendas, educational programs and financial opportunities to implement local research and position the region at the global movement.

Figure 1:

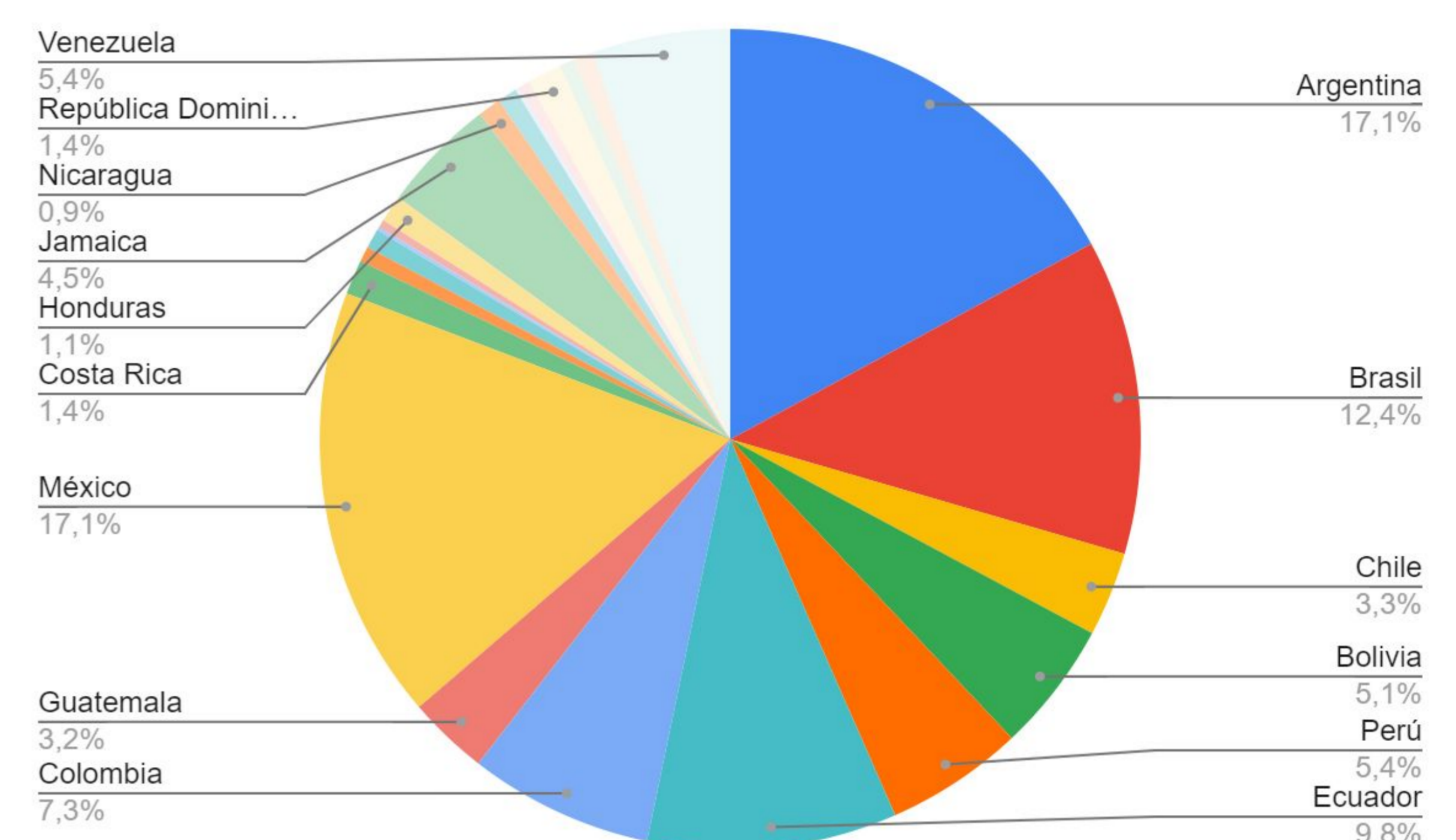


Figure 2:

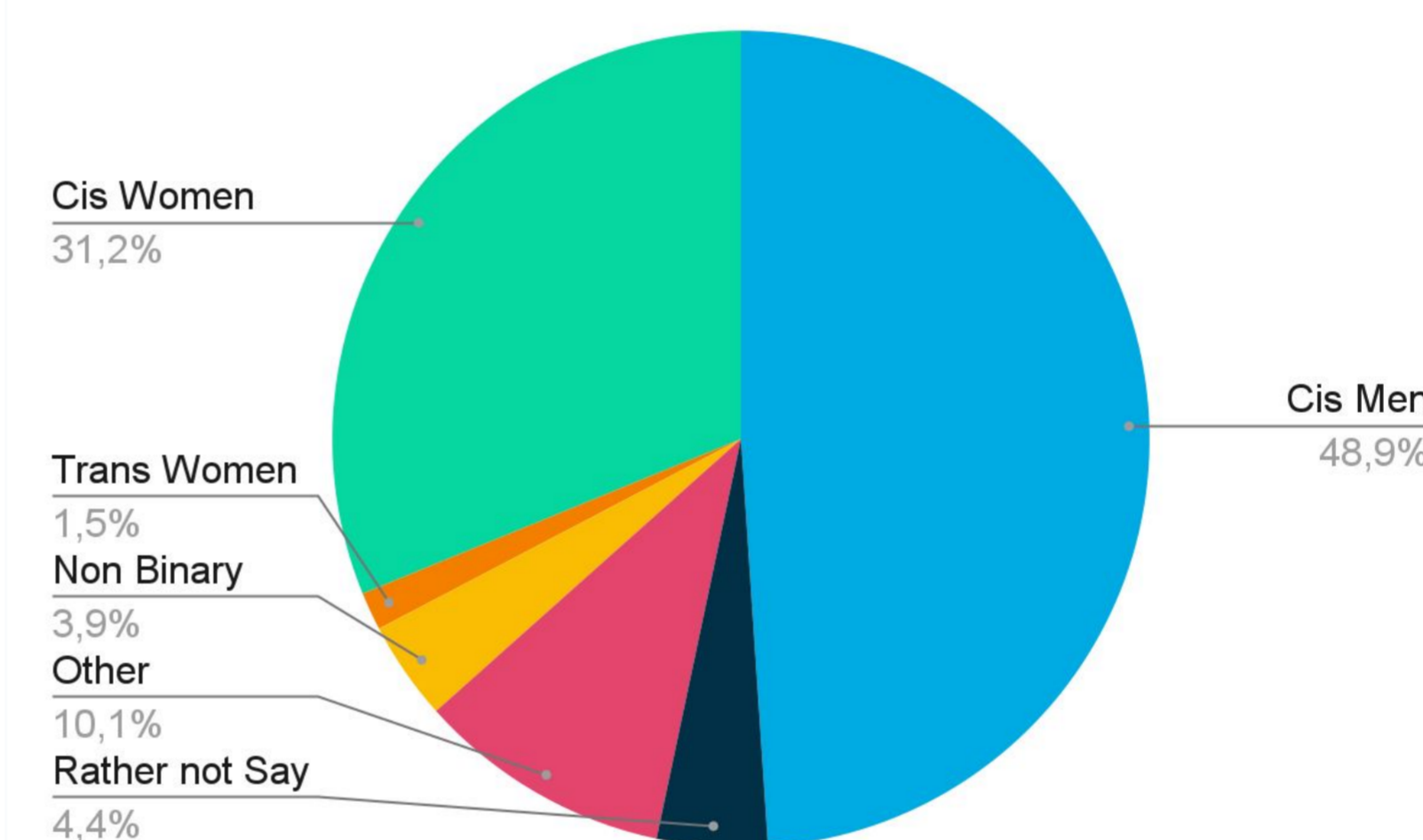


Figure 3:

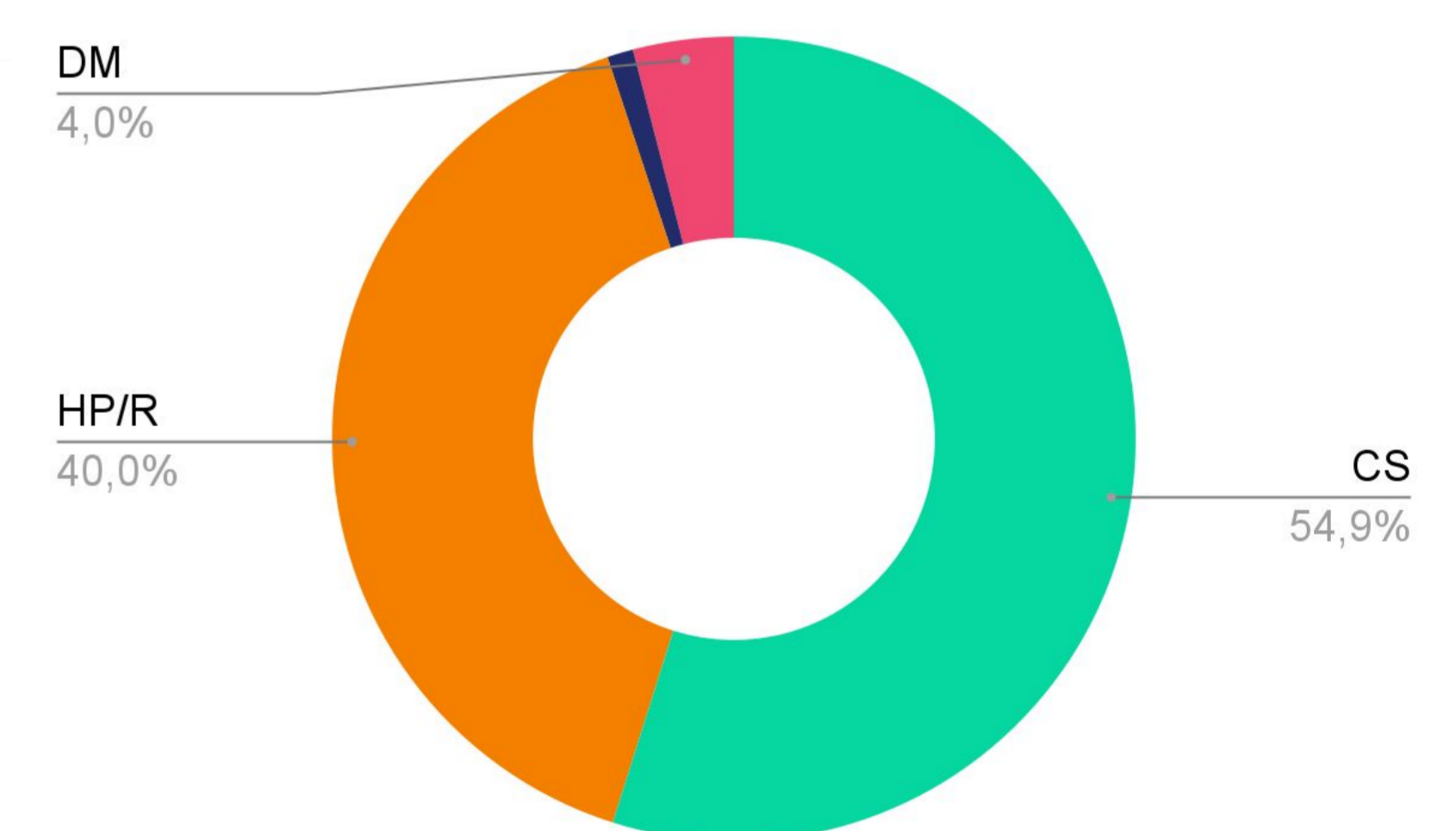


Figure 4:

