

THE EFFECT OF LGBTQ+ CRIMINALIZATION AND STRUCTURAL STIGMA ON PUBLIC HEALTH OUTCOMES IN AFRICA



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Introduction

- The LGBTQ+ community globally faces challenges including criminalization and structural stigma
- In over 30 out of 55 African countries, homosexuality is a crime punishable by imprisonment
- Laws that criminalize homosexuality contribute to adverse health outcomes, as they dissuade key populations from seeking treatment and health care providers from offering treatments and services

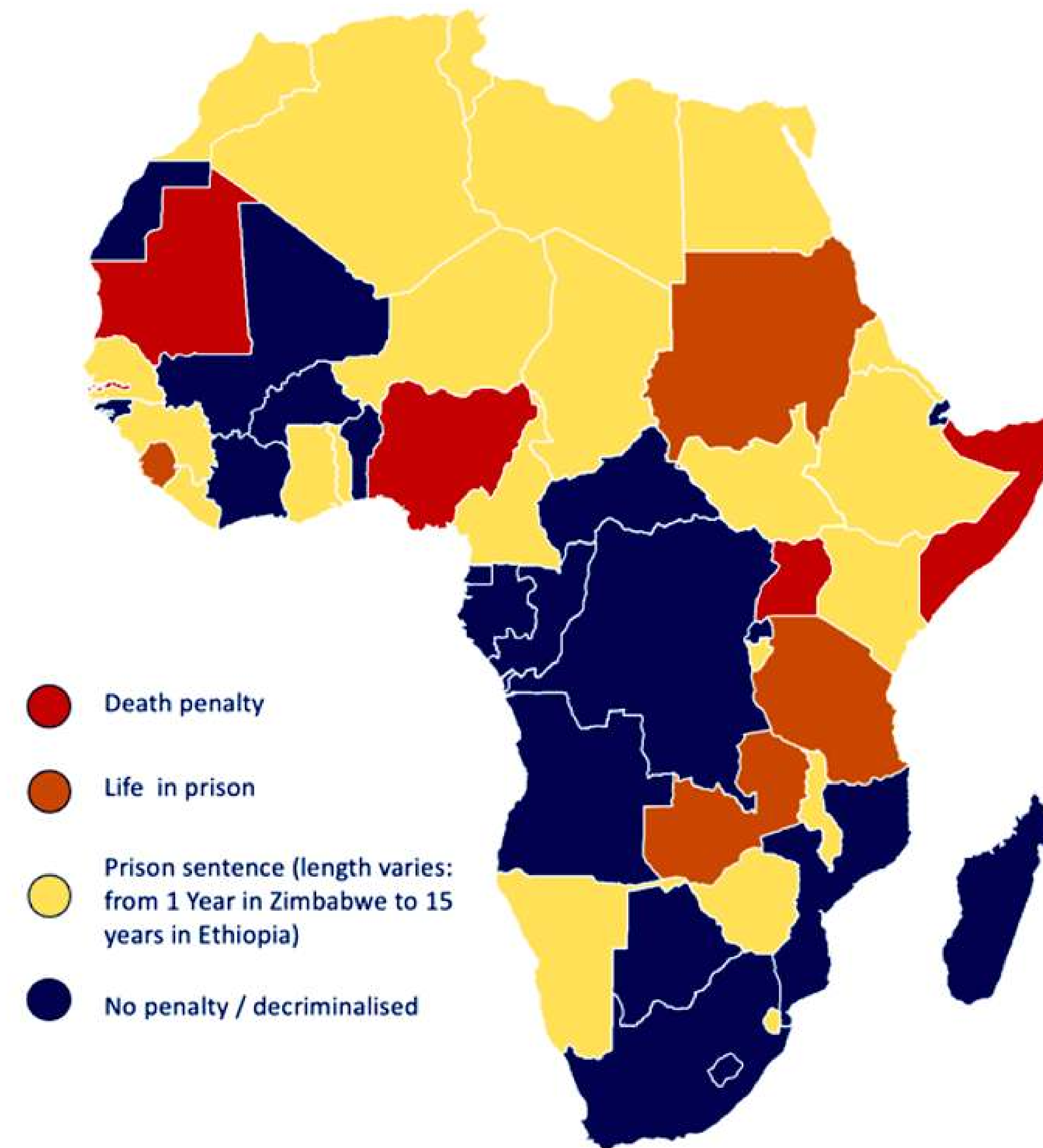
Methods

- Utilized a combination of quantitative and qualitative data sources including reports from human rights organizations, academic studies, and governmental publications
- Employed thematic analysis to identify common themes and patterns related to the impact of criminalization and stigma on public health outcomes

References



Criminalisation of consensual same-sex sexual acts in Africa



Findings

- In countries where homosexuality is criminalized, men who have sex with men have a five-time greater risk of HIV contraction compared to their counterparts in countries without such laws.
- Significant correlation between LGBTQ+ criminalization and increased rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide attempts.
- There is a perception that Western countries are trying to impose their practices on other people.

Conclusion

- Addressing LGBTQ+ criminalization and structural stigma is crucial for improving public health outcomes
- Comprehensive policy reforms are needed, including repealing discriminatory laws, and implementing inclusive healthcare practices.
- Failure to address these issues perpetuates human rights violations and hinders efforts to achieve optimal health outcomes for all individuals

Timeline of Criminalization and Decriminalization

