

Address the Health Care Needs of Ohio's Lesbian Community

American Public Health Association

November 5, 2007

4:30-6:00 p.m.

Session 3420.0

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Acknowledgements

Sharon Denham, RN, DSN

OhioHealth

Stonewall Columbus

Ohio Lesbian Business Association

Julie Waldo

Bill Hiermer

Josh Beaver

Survey Participants



Background

‣ Partners

- Stonewall Columbus
 - Outreach to the Lesbian Community
- OhioHealth
 - Largest healthcare provider in Ohio
 - Faith-based hospital network serving 44 of 88 counties in Ohio
 - Mission: “To improve the health of those we serve”



Literature Review

- ▶ Overweight & Obesity (Solarz, 1999)
- ▶ High Tobacco Use (Tang, et al., 2004; Diamant, Wold, Spritzer, & Gelberg, 2000)
- ▶ Low Tobacco Use (Grindel, McGehee, Patsdaughter, & Roberts, 2007)
- ▶ High Alcohol Use (Diamant, Wold, Spritzer, & Gelberg, 2000)
- ▶ Depression, stress, low self-esteem, and complications from childhood abuse (Hughes & Wilsnack, 1997; Trippett, 1994).
- ▶ Mammography & Pap Smear Screening Compliance (Grindell, McGehee, Patsdaughter & Roberts, 2007; Rankow & Tessaro, 1998).



Design

Initially Designed to measure the health needs of distinct cultural groups in rural Ohio:

- ▶ African-American
- ▶ Amish & Mennonite
- ▶ Appalachian
- ▶ Lesbian

Adapted from other rural health surveys

Health-Seeking Behaviors

Self-Identified Health Issues

Diet & Exercise

Drug, Alcohol & Tobacco Use

Discrimination

Medication Usage

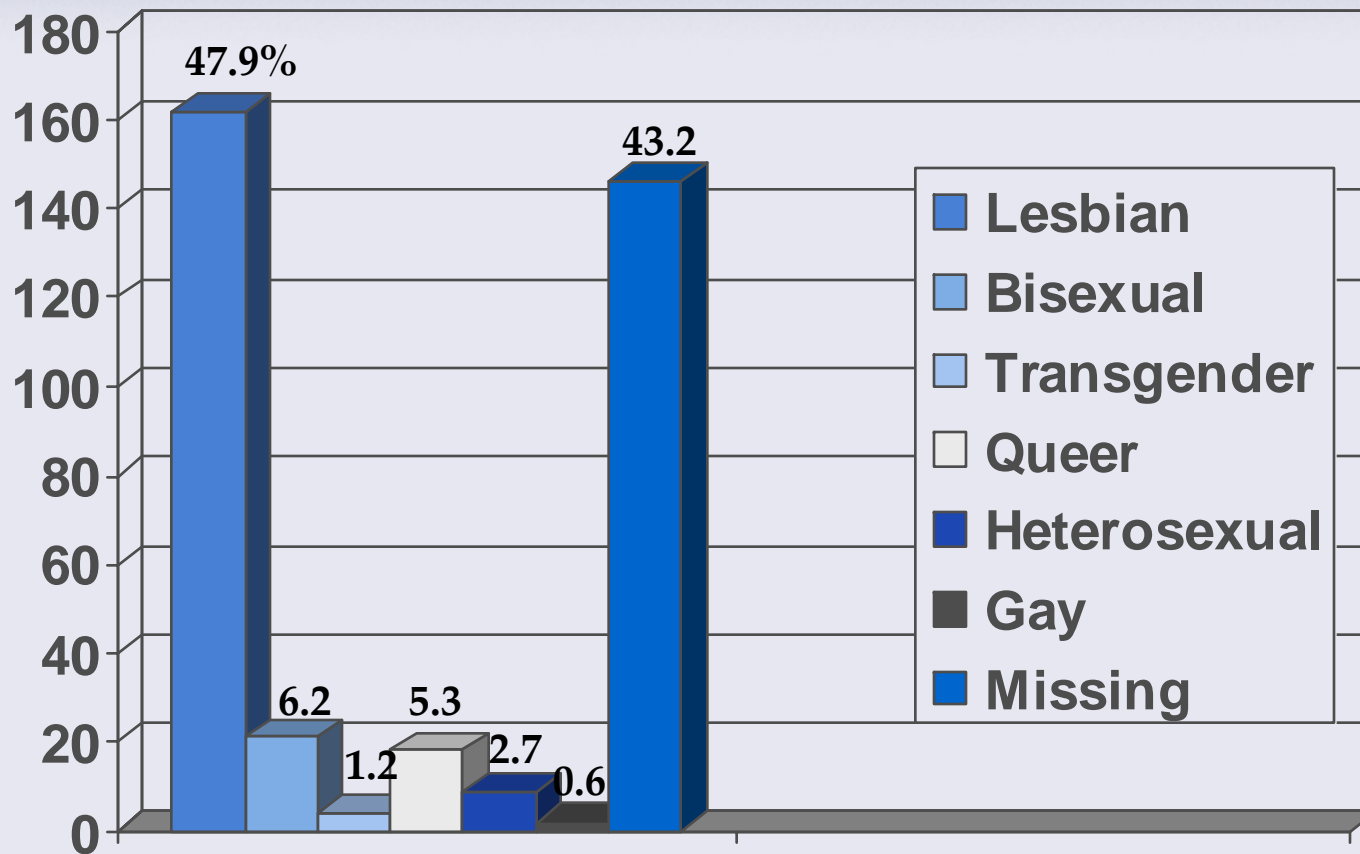
Fatalism & Cancer

Domestic Abuse

Demographic Data

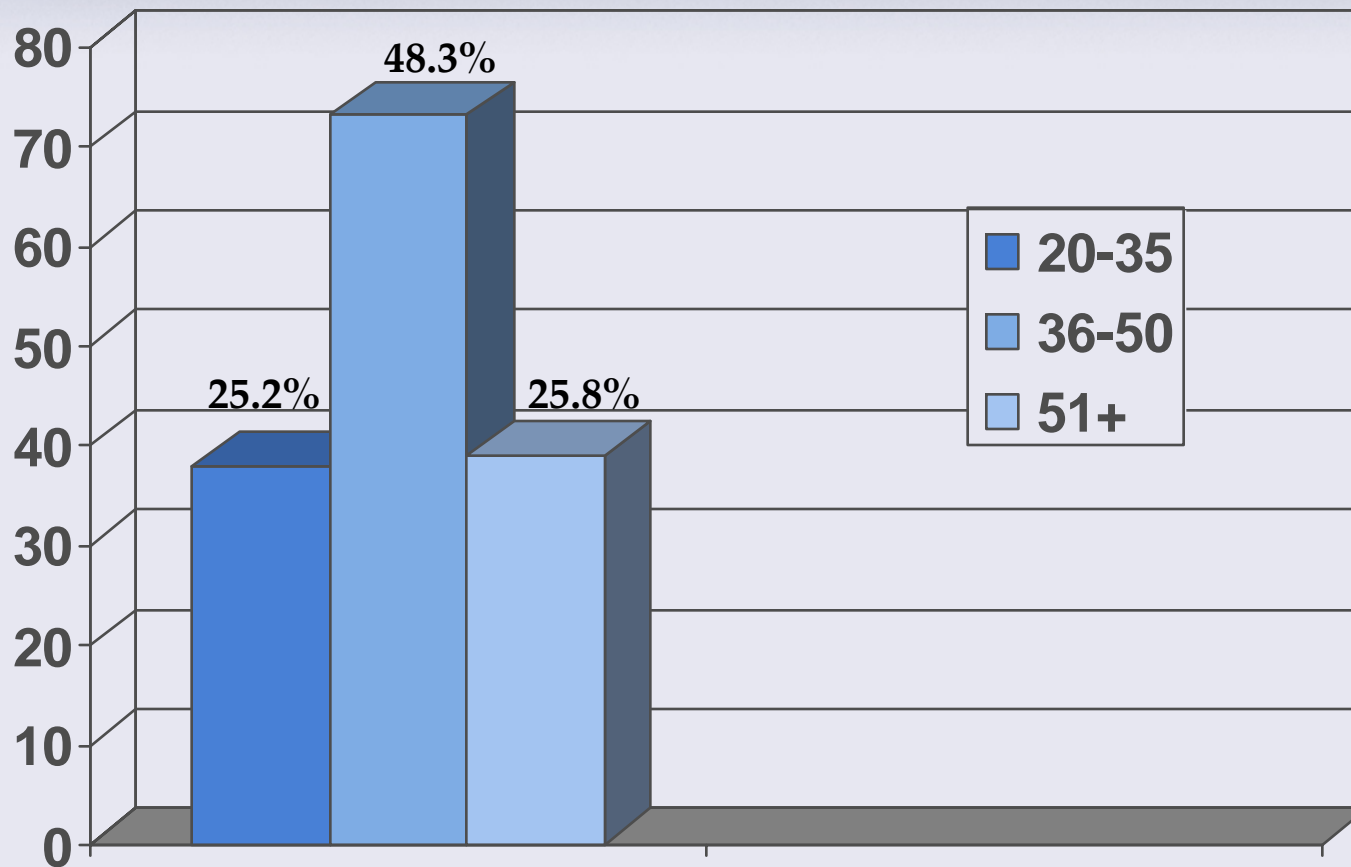
Demographic Data

Sexual Identity



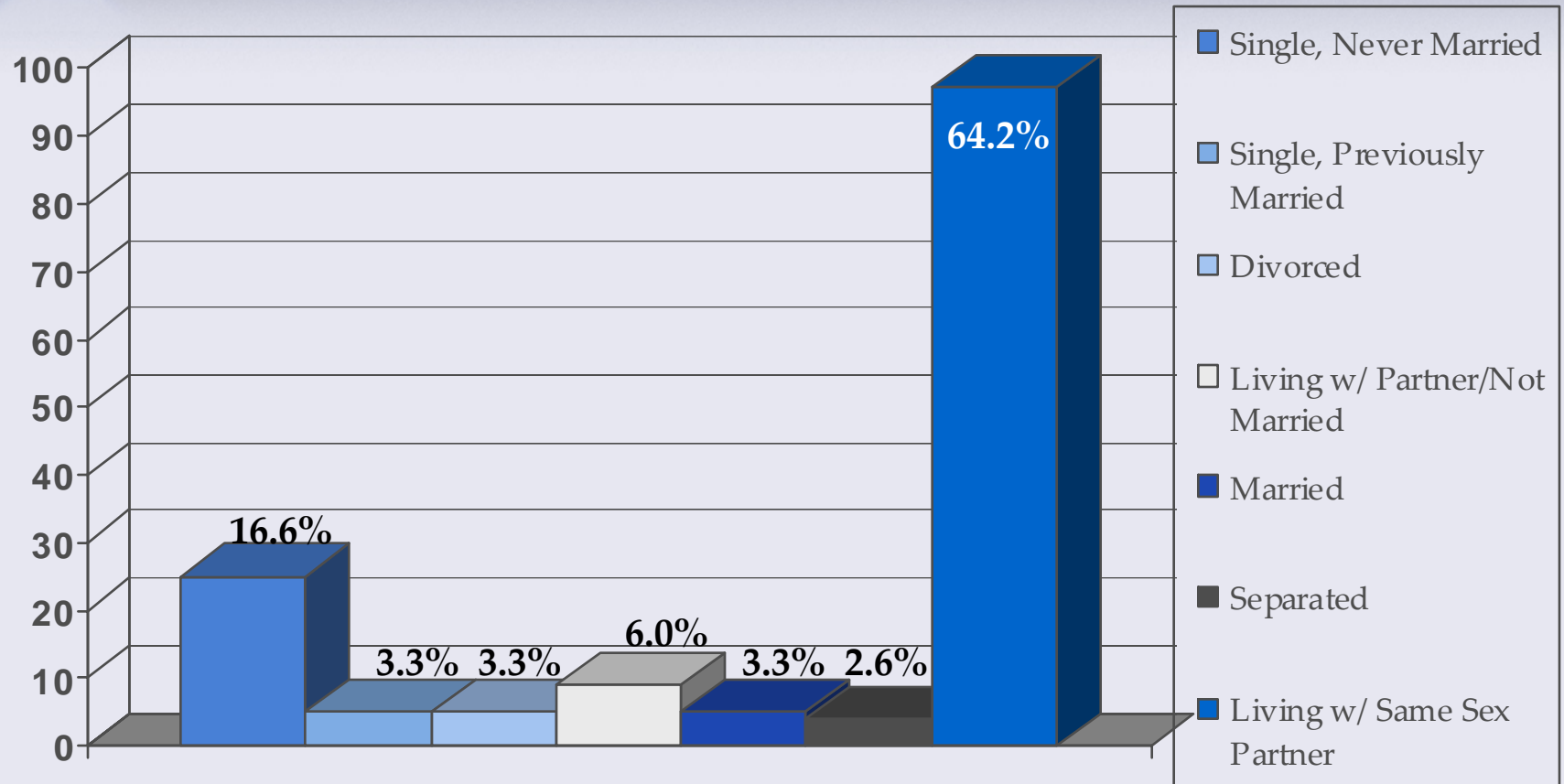
Demographic Data

➤ Age ($M = 42.95$, $SD = 10.93$) $N=151$



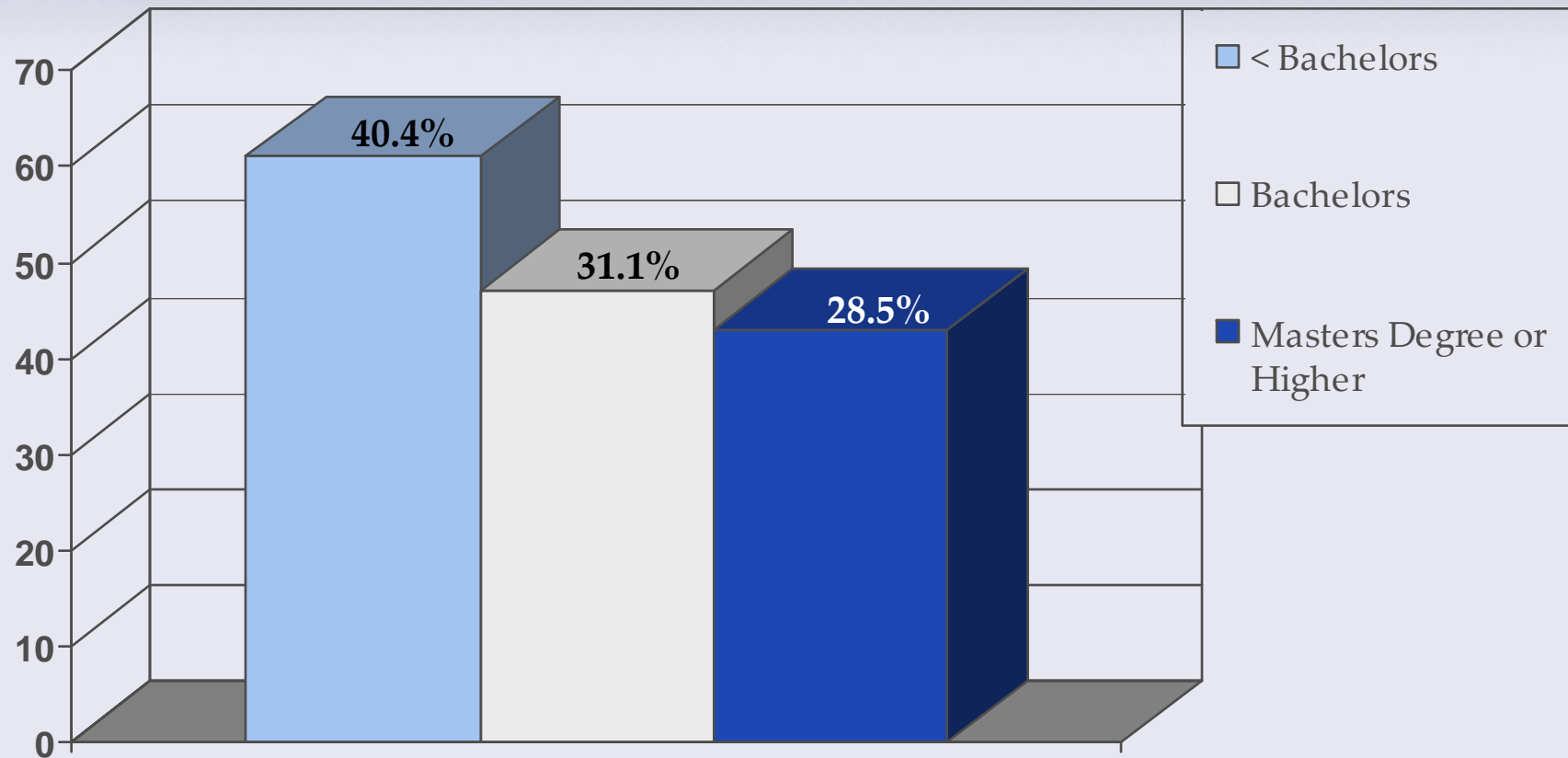
Demographic Data

Personal Status



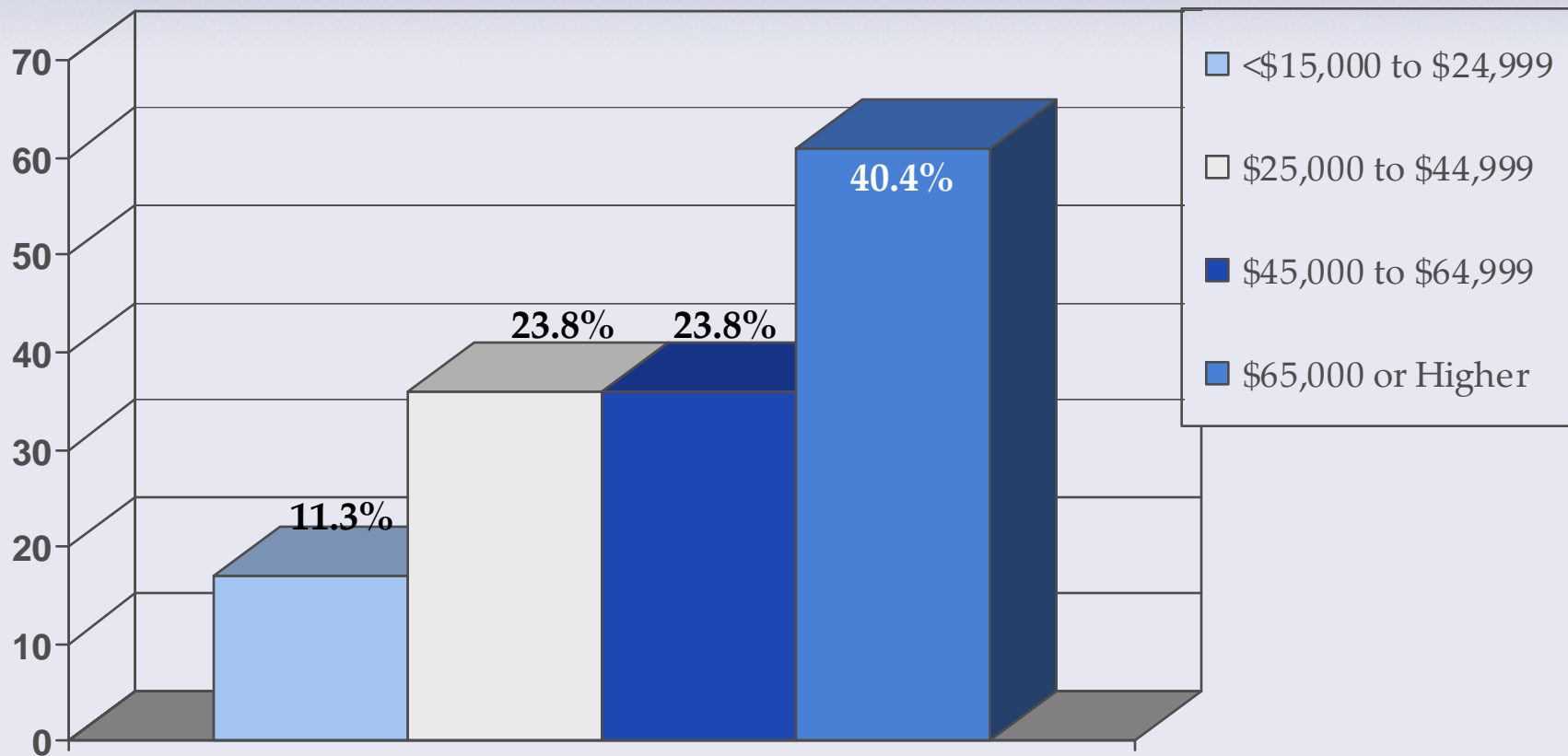
Demographic Data

➤ Educational Level



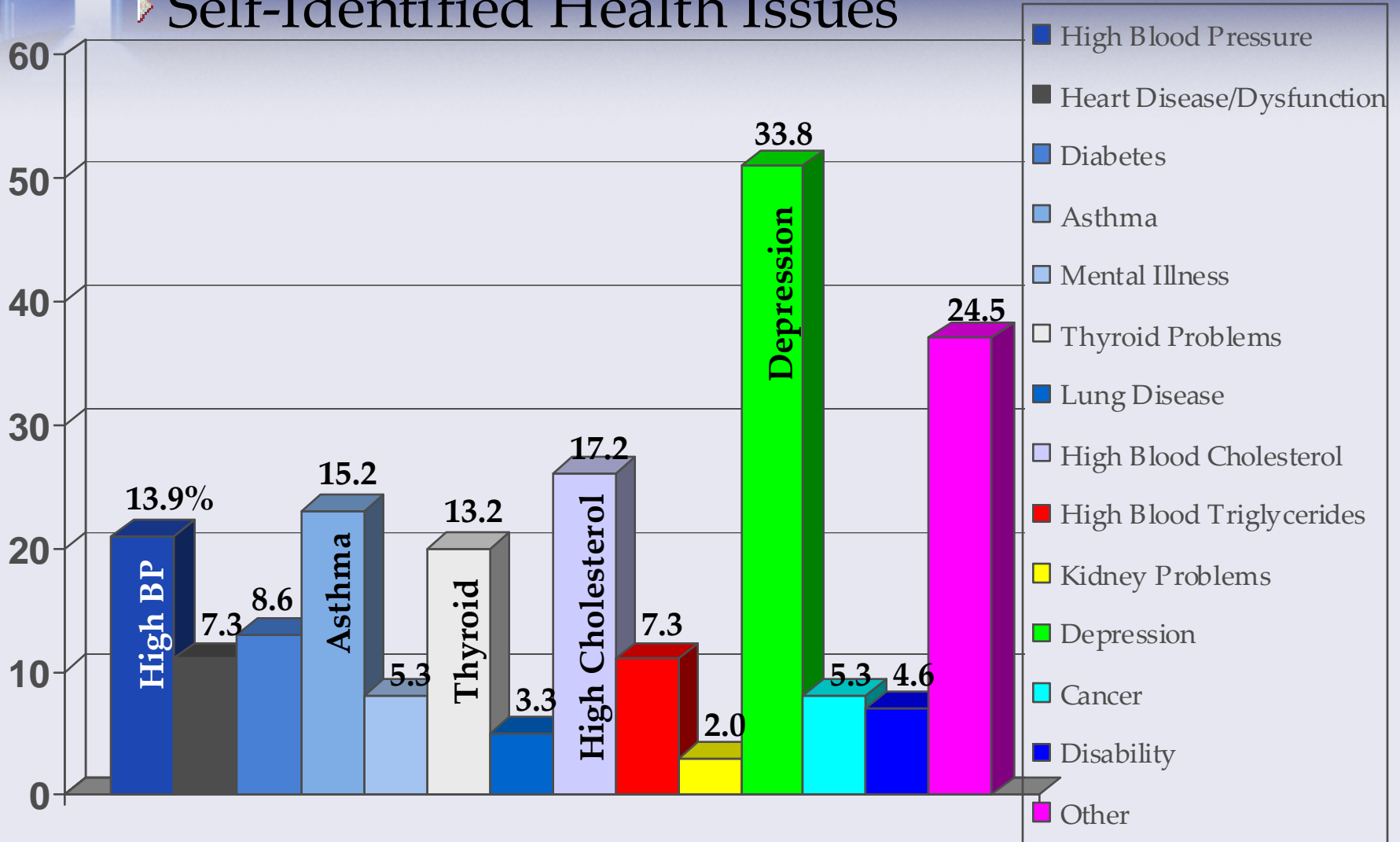
Demographic Data

Income



Results

Self-Identified Health Issues

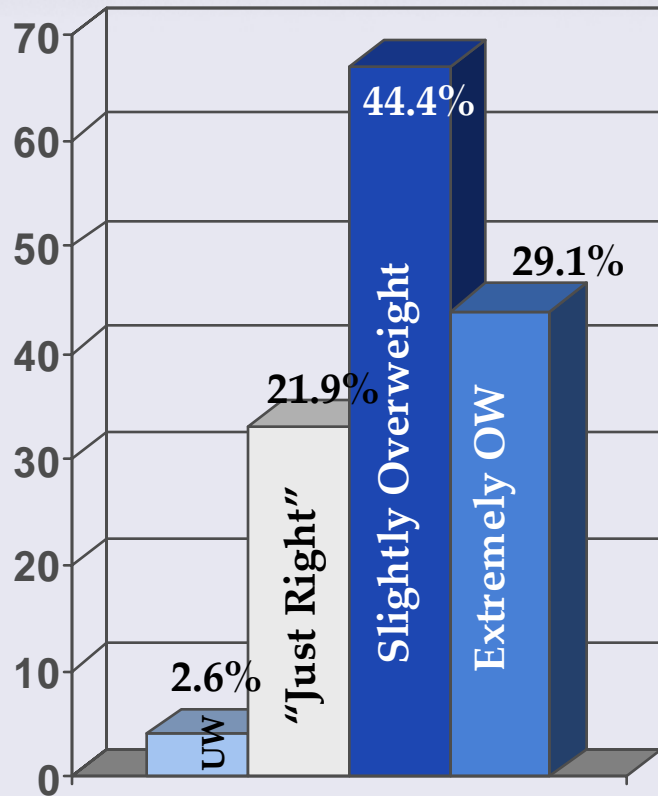


Weight & BMI

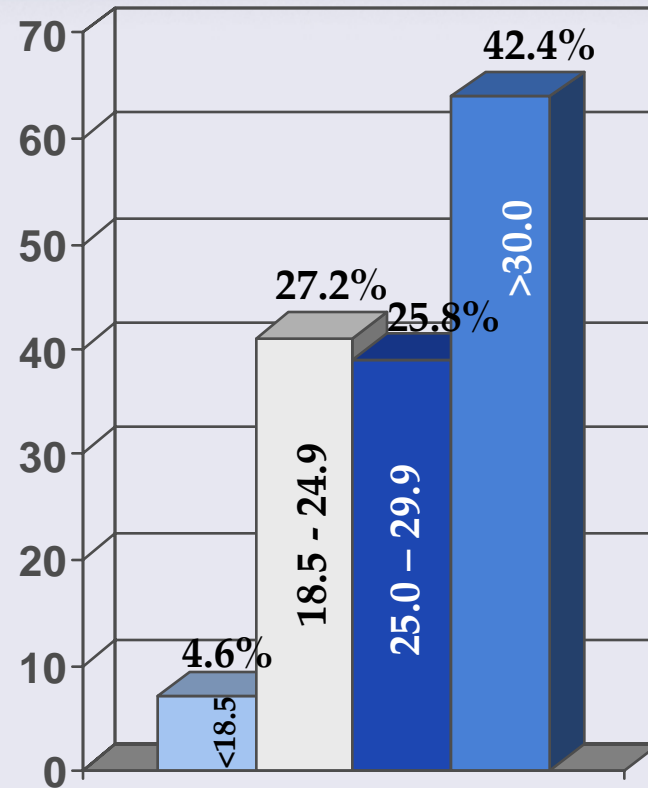
Perception

VS.

Reality



Weight

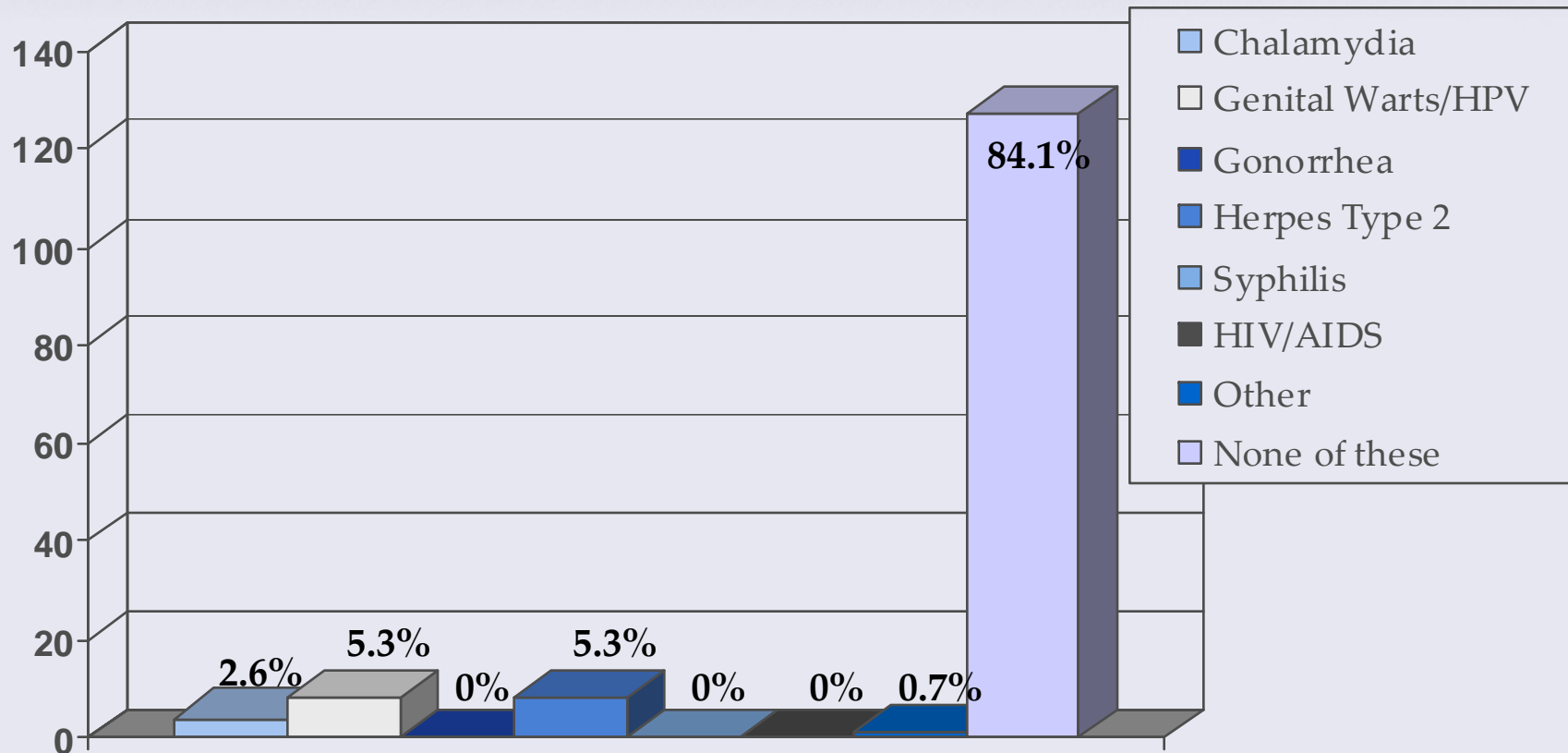


BMI

Results

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

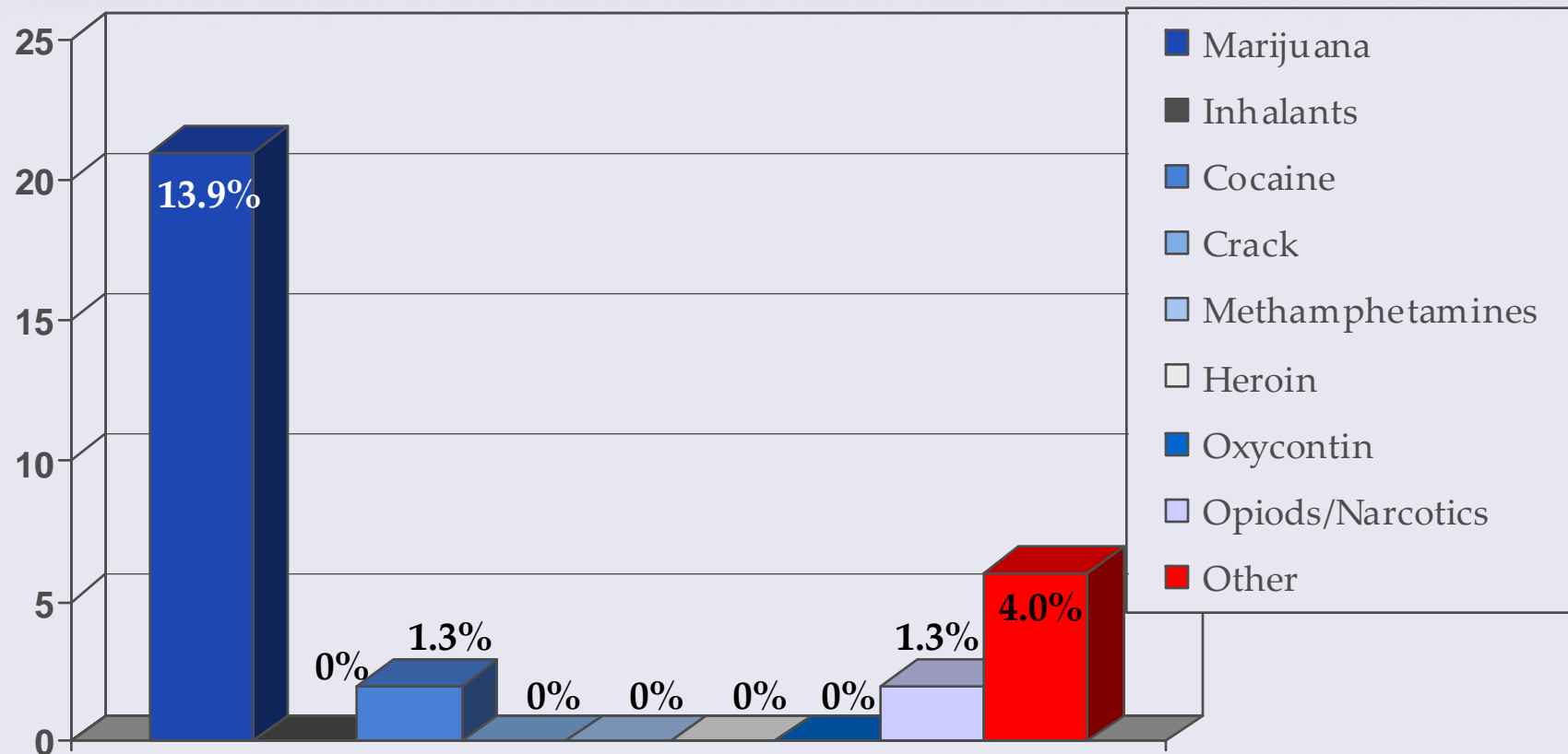
Have you ever been told that you had any of the following diseases:



Results

▶ Drug Usage

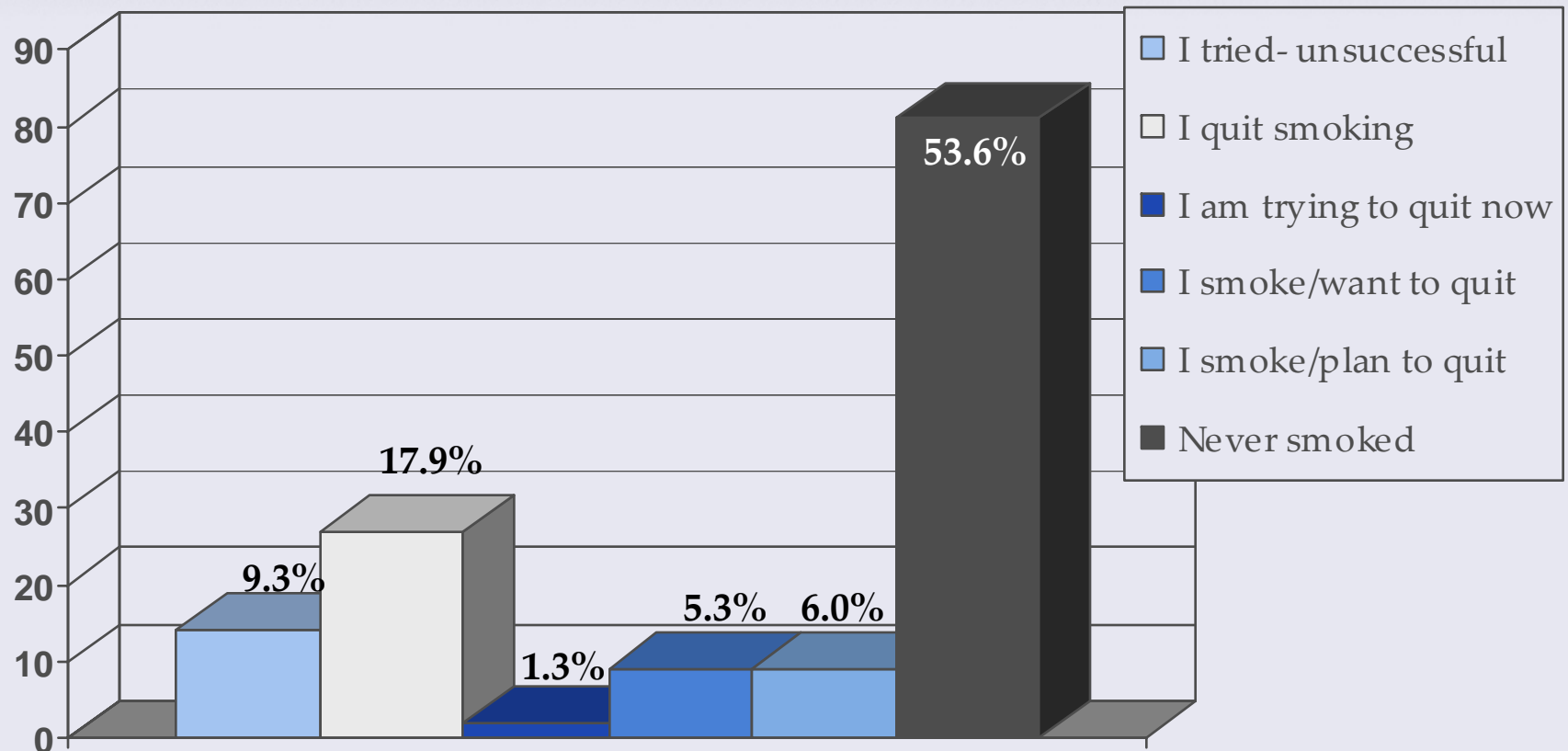
▶ In the last year, which if any of the following drugs have you used:



Results

Tobacco Usage

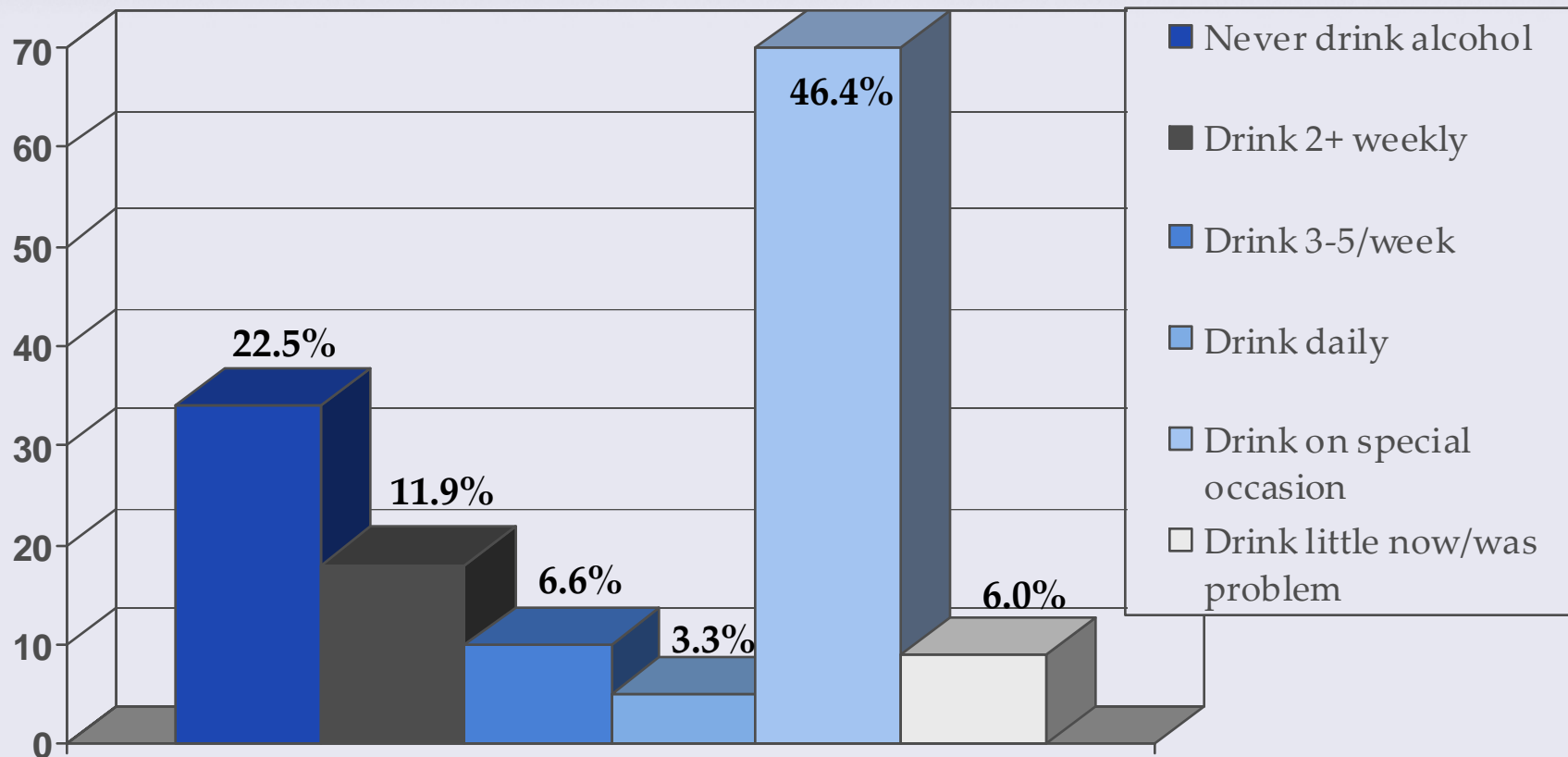
➤ Please check what is most true currently:



Results

Alcohol Usage

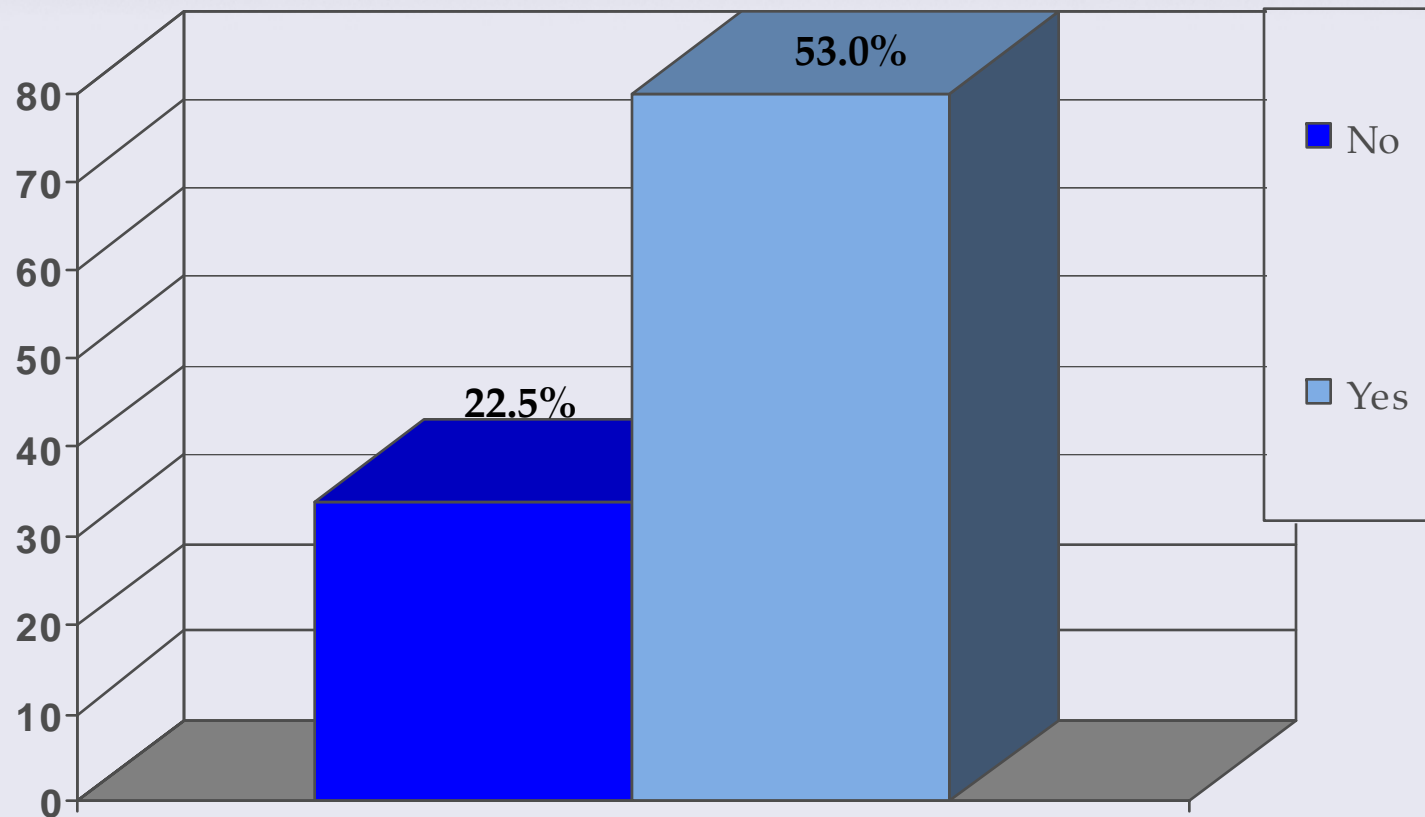
➤ Please check what is most true currently for you:



Results

▶ Rural Living

▶ Have you ever lived in a rural area?



Results

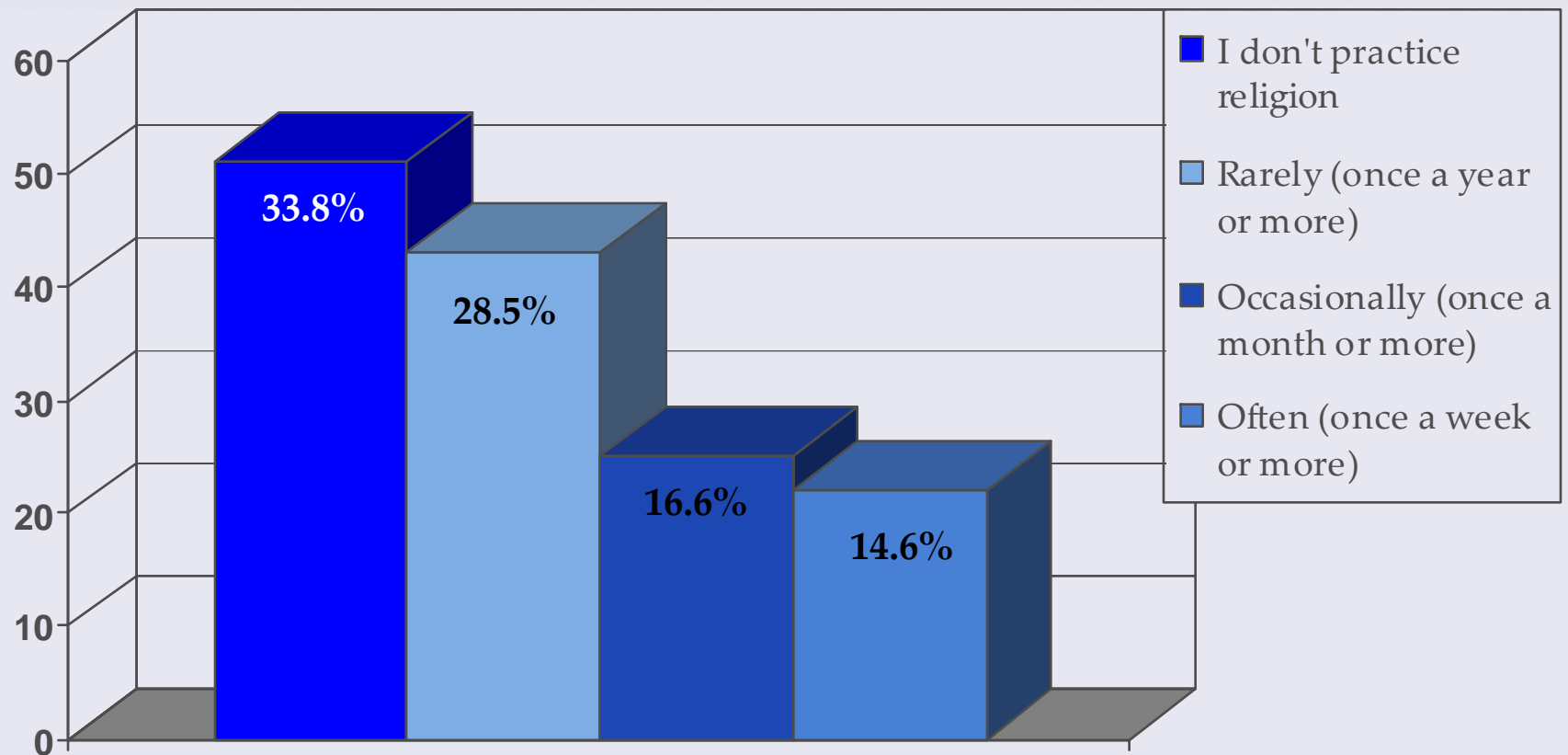
▶ Rural Living

Independent Variable	Dependent Variable	τ	<i>p</i> Value	<i>N</i>
Rural Area (Q71)	Advice1 (Q1a): Family doctor	-.282	.000	114
	2 reasons to seek health advice: (treatment for illness concerns not feeling well - ill) (Q4b)	-.202	.031	109
	Who impacts your decisions about health care issues? (Q14c): family/parents/kids	-.245	.025	101
	Fatalism SUM	-.234	.029	86
	Fatalism: I believe if someone is meant to have cancer, it doesn't matter what she eats; she will get cancer anyway (Q53a)	-.212	.034	108
	Fatalism: I believe someone can smoke all her life, and if she is not meant to get cancer, she won't get it (Q53c)	-.209	.037	107
	Fatalism: I believe if someone is meant to get cancer, she will get it no matter what she does. (Q53d)	-.240	.022	107
	Fatalism: I believe if someone is meant to get cancer, it doesn't matter what the doctor tells her to do, she will still get cancer anyway. (Q53m)	-.237	.028	106

Results

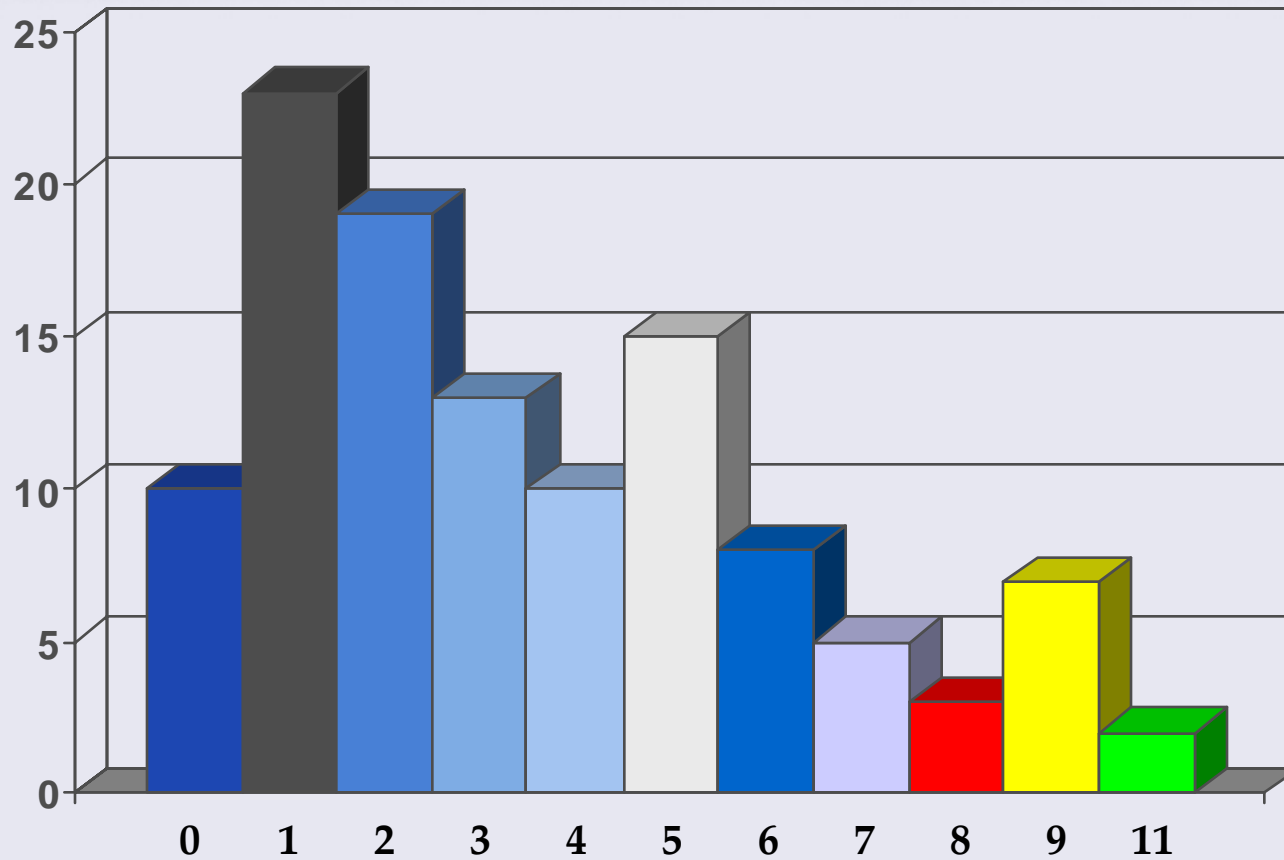
Worship

How often do you attend your place of worship?



Results

▶ Cancer Fatalism





Lessons Learned

▶ The dangers of being “all-inclusive”

How do you classify yourself? (Check all that apply.)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian or White | <input type="checkbox"/> Lesbian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American | <input type="checkbox"/> Bisexual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino | <input type="checkbox"/> Transgender |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> Queer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native American/American Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Heterosexual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multiracial | <input type="checkbox"/> Middle Eastern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amish | <input type="checkbox"/> Bi/Multi-raced |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mennonite | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please list) _____ | |



Lessons Learned

- ▶ The importance of other cultural/social factors in determining health needs for the lesbian community
- ▶ Results and next steps should always begin with the community

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