

HIV/AIDS

AMONG FLORIDA'S DEAF POPULATION

The information included in this presentation was extracted from multiple internet searches; the Florida Vital Statistics Office; and the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of HIV/AIDS, Surveillance Section.





When a phenomenon like AIDS hits the deaf community, an entire new vocabulary is suddenly required; a vocabulary that is uniform across the country and understood by interpreters as well as members of the deaf community. The interpreters need to quickly become familiar with many medical terms.



Terms

- ***Deafness*** is a hearing loss that precludes the learning of language through hearing.
- ***Hard of Hearing*** describes hearing loss that, although serious, is less severe than deafness and usually permits understanding of spoken language through hearing aids.
- ***Hearing Impairment*** refers to all degrees of hearing loss, from slight to profound.

Barriers for Deaf / Hard-of-Hearing Persons

- **Access to information via television or print media**
- **Cultural attitudes towards deaf**
- **Cultural attitudes of deaf towards those that can hear**
- **Communication access - how can they reach you if you don't have a TTY or an interpreter on staff**
- **Lack of familiarity or training in ASL (deaf who use gestures unique to their circumstances)**

AIDS In The Deaf Community

Statistics and Notes

- **Worldwide, about 70 million individuals have a hearing problem.**
- **There are up to 28 million hearing-impaired Americans in the United States.**
- **Between 8,000 to 40,000 deaf persons in the United States are living with HIV.**
- **Deaf high school students have a much lower knowledge level about HIV transmission than do their hearing counterparts.**

AIDS In The Deaf Community

Statistics and Notes

- **Deaf men who have sex with men (MSM) may face discrimination from within the deaf community. For this reason, deaf MSM often conceal their identity and engage in high risk behaviors.**
- **Children with disabilities, including deaf children, have been found to be at higher risk for sexual abuse, both at residential schools and at home.**
- **High rates of substance use exist among the deaf community. (One in seven deaf persons has a history of substance abuse compared to one in ten in the hearing population).**

Quotes from an article in POZ Magazine, April 1998

- **“Deaf people know only a quarter of the HIV prevention information that hearing people know; their knowledge of AIDS treatment is 10 years behind the mainstream, which is of course years behind the AIDS activist population.” Chad Ludwig, supervisor CDC AIDS hotline TTY service.**
- **“There’s a lack of sign language vocabulary for science and medical diseases.”**
- **“Parents of deaf children rarely supply any useful sex education.”**
- **“Schools for the deaf tend to be even more puritanical than those for the hearing.”**

**Stop the Silence
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Survey
Miami, Florida, 2001**

**Miami-Dade County Health Department
Office of HIV/AIDS Services**

Director: Evelyn Ullah

Consultant: Alex Moreno

**Staff: Kira Villamazar, Martina DeVarona,
Frank Ebagua, Wendy Cousino**

Stop the Silence

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Survey, Miami, Florida, 2001

Reached Goals

- **Identify Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) that serve the deaf and hard of hearing.**
- **Form collaborative partnerships between CBO's and AIDS Service Organizations (ASOs).**
- **Train staff as HIV/AIDS peer educators and counselors.**
- **Form Community Advisory Board comprising of leaders from the deaf and hard of hearing community.**
- **Develop needs assessment.**

Stop the Silence

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Survey, Miami, Florida, 2001

Reached Goals

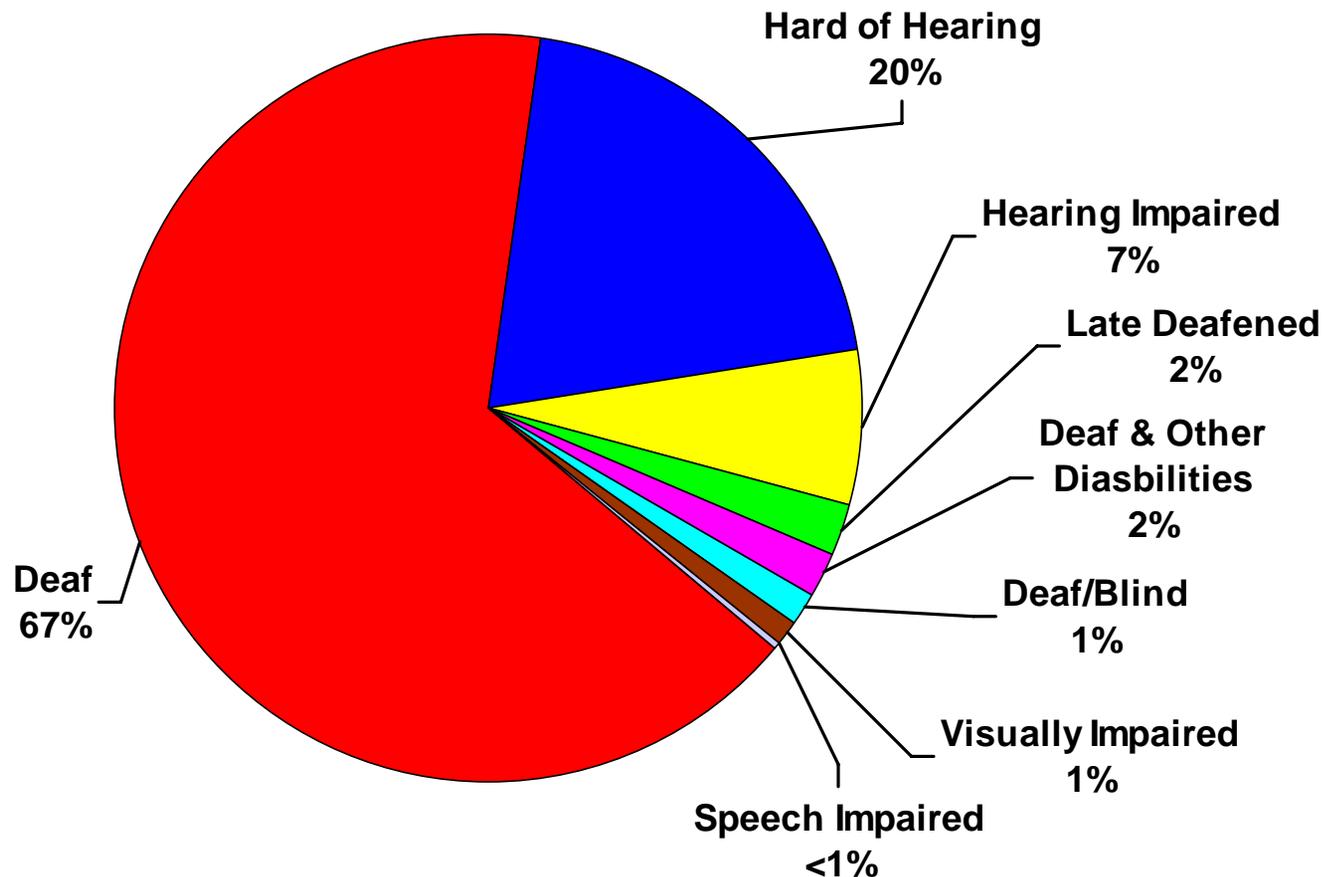
- **Analyze data from needs assessment.**
- **Develop AIDS 104 and 501 specifically for the deaf and hard of hearing to be offered twice a year.**
- **Meet with deaf and hard of hearing community advisory board with results from needs assessment and develop plan of action for prevention efforts in the deaf and hard of hearing population.**
- **Implement plan of action for prevention with the deaf and hard of hearing community.**

Stop the Silence

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Survey, Miami, Florida, 2001

Type of Hearing Disability

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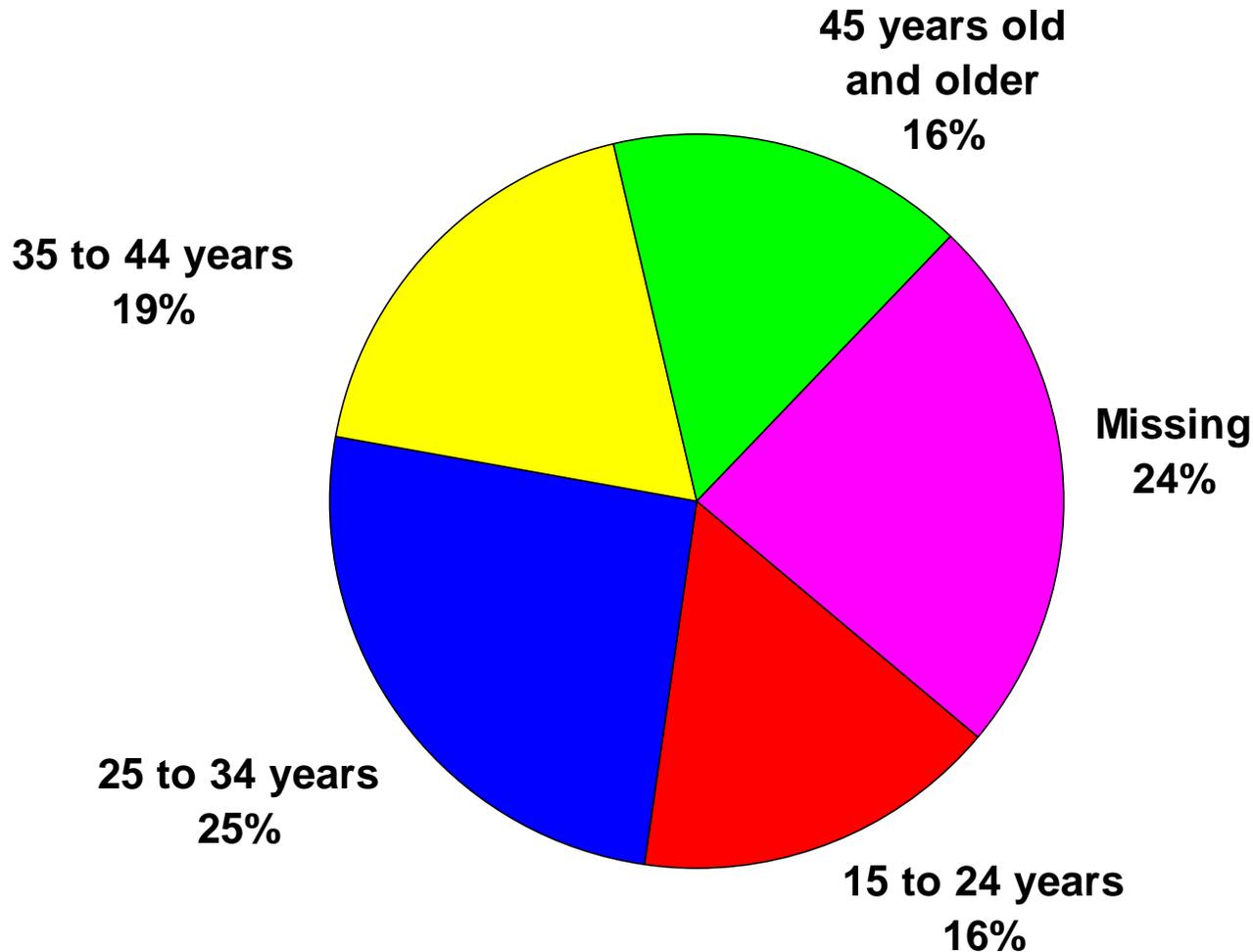


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Deaf and Hard of Hearing Survey, Miami, Florida, 2001

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Age Breakdown

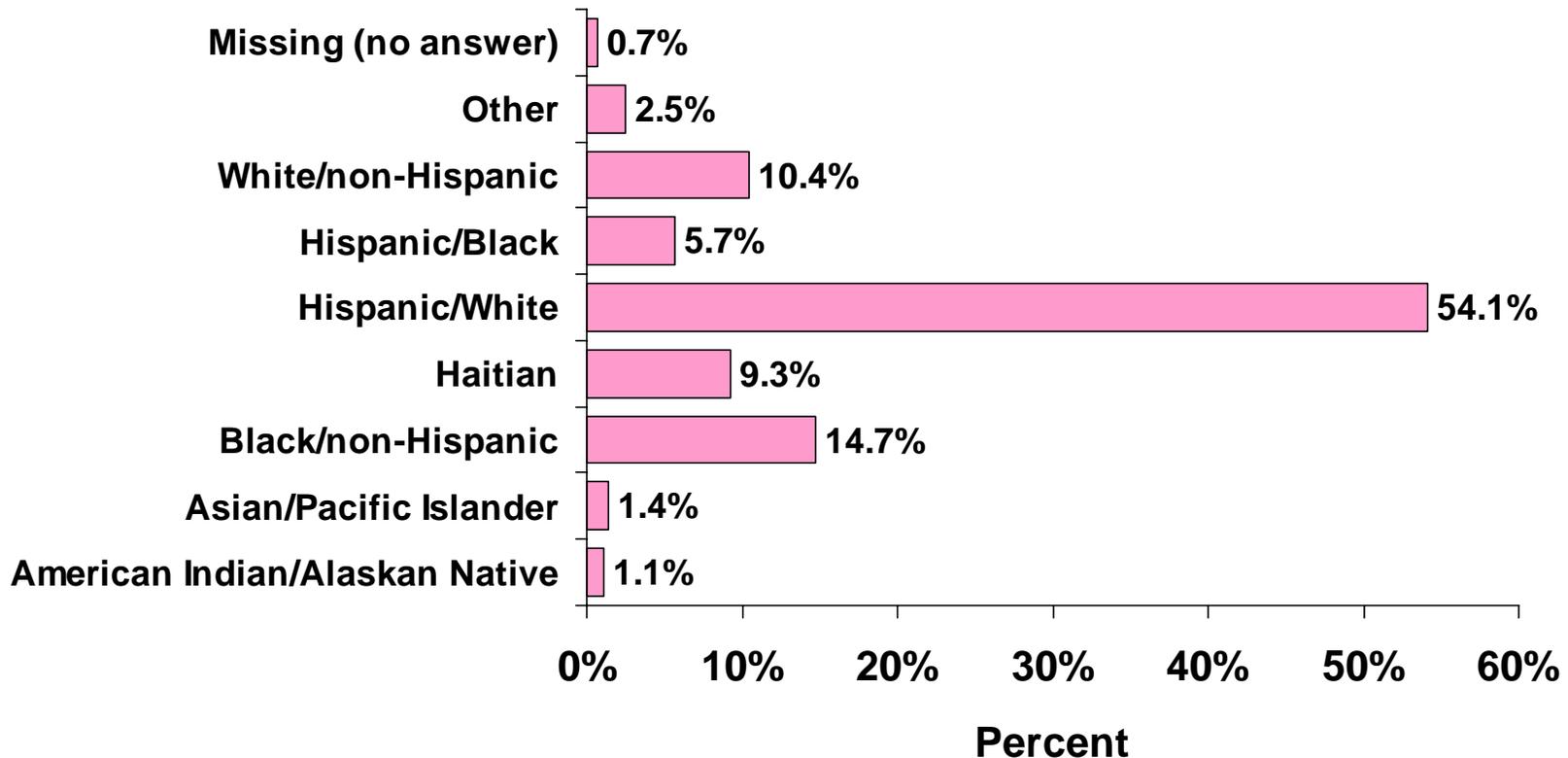


Stop the Silence

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Survey, Miami, Florida, 2001

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Race/Ethnicity Distribution

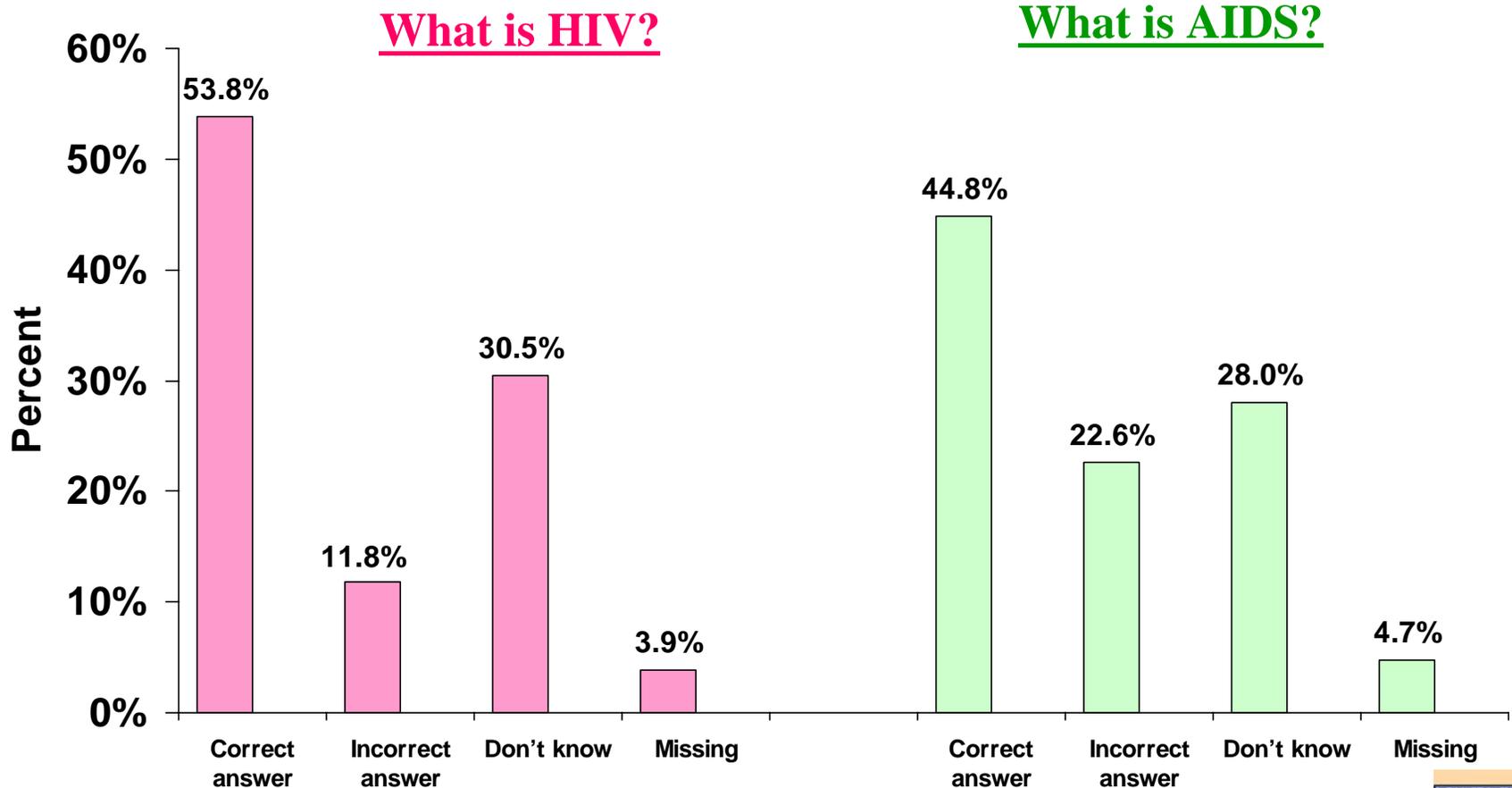


Stop the Silence

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Survey, Miami, Florida, 2001

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Knowledge: Definition of HIV and AIDS



Stop the Silence

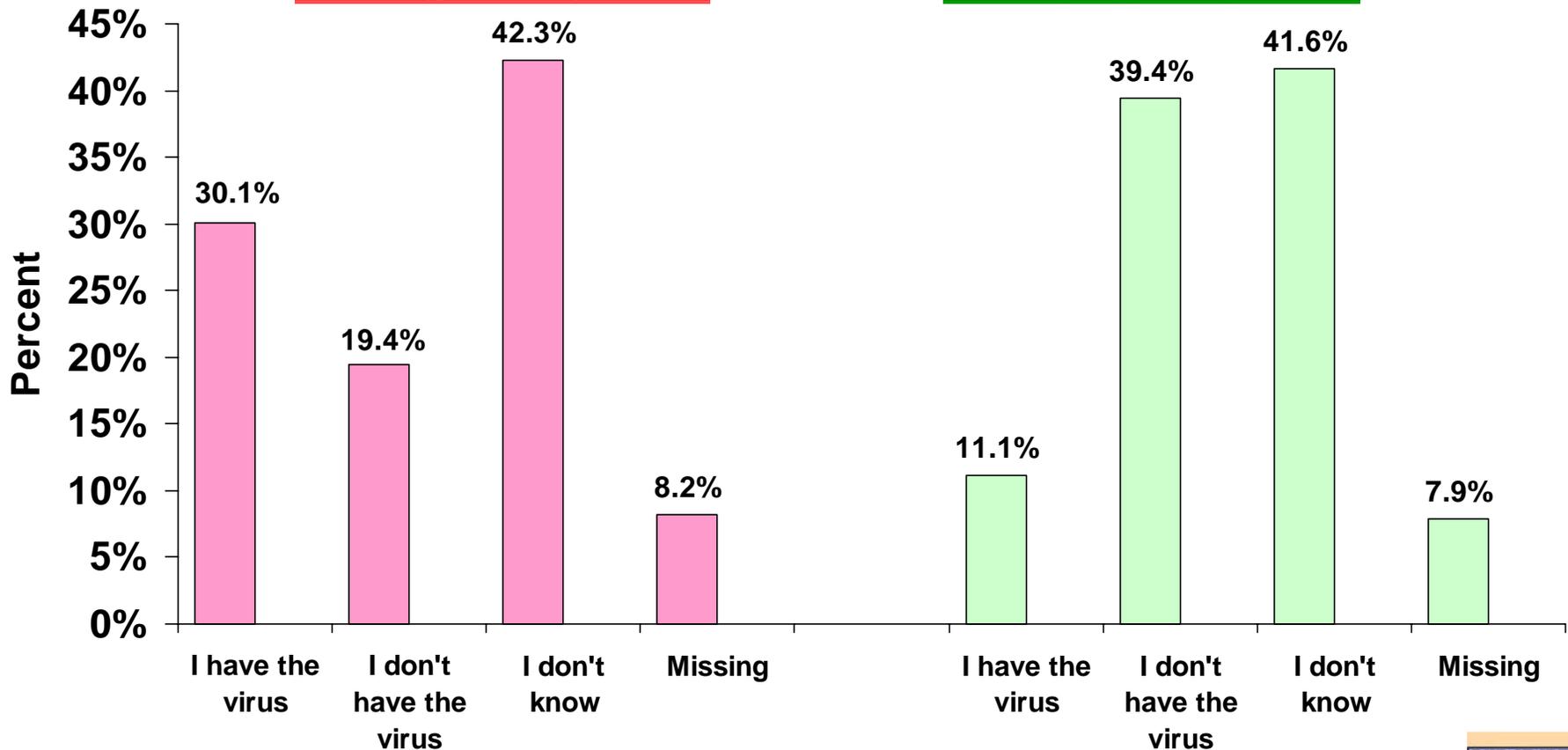
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Survey, Miami, Florida, 2001

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Knowledge of text in lab results

HIV + (positive) means

HIV - (negative) means

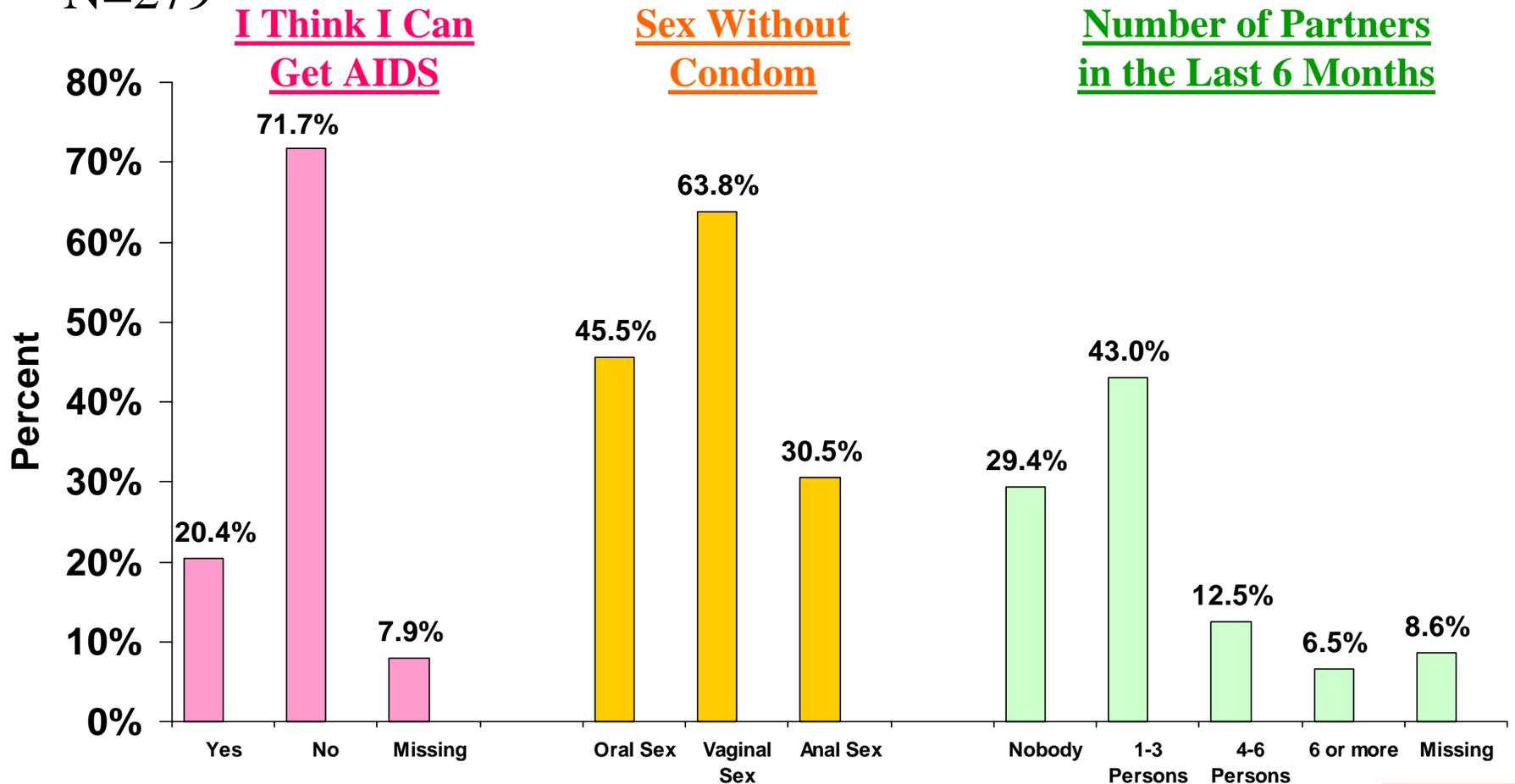


Stop the Silence

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Survey, Miami, Florida, 2001

Perceived Risk for HIV and Sex Behaviors

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Stop the Silence

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Survey, Miami, Florida, 2001

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*Want to Learn By.....**

Classroom	47.3%
Workshops by Peers	43.0%
Signed/Caption Videos	39.1%
Workshops	34.4%
TV Ads	34.1%
Library	29.0%
Bookstore	22.6%
Posters	16.8%
Other	3.9%

*Multiple choice question, more than one answer could have been selected.

Deaf persons are at high risk for HIV infection...

- NOT because of their culture
- NOT because of their ethnicity
- NOT because of their disability...

But BECAUSE of risk behaviors they may engage in.

**IT'S NOT WHAT YOUR DISABILITIES ARE,
BUT WHAT YOU DO.**

Selected Internet Links

**HIV/AIDS education efforts
have missed deaf community**

<http://www.apa.org/monitor/oct98/hiv.html>

**What Are Deaf Persons' HIV
Prevention Needs?**

<http://www.caps.ucsf.edu/deaf.html>

HIV/AIDS Resources

<http://home.earthlink.net/~drblood/hiv aids.htm>

AIDS Articles

<http://deafness.miningco.com/cs/aidshivarticles/>

**"AIDS Initiative for Deaf
Services Task Force
Information"**

<http://www.aidsprojecthartford.org/deaf aids ct.html>

The image features a decorative border with green and blue floral patterns. The central text is set against a white background. The text is as follows:

**National AIDS Hotline
for the deaf and hearing impaired:**

1-800-AIDS-TTY (243-7889)

**Call 10 AM to 10 PM
(Eastern Standard Time)**

For Florida HIV/AIDS Surveillance Data

Contact: (850) 245-4444

Lorene Maddox, MPH

Ext. 2613

Tracina Bush, BSW

Ext. 2612

Julia Fitz, MPH

Ext. 2373

Visit Florida's internet site for:

- Monthly Surveillance Reports**
- Slide Sets and Fact Sheets**
- Annual Reports and Epi Profiles**

http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/aids/trends/trends.html

Visit CDC's HIV/AIDS Internet site for:

Surveillance Reports, fact sheets and slide sets

<http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/resources/reports/index.htm>