

# Demographic, diagnostic, and health behavior correlates of HCV knowledge regarding viral routes of transmission and disease risk factors

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# **VA Hepatitis C Resource Center**

## **| Four Centers**

- Minneapolis, San Francisco, West Haven,  
Northwest (Seattle and Portland)**

**| Mission is to develop products and services to improve hepatitis C care throughout the VA system**

**| Develop and test innovative systems of patient care, education, prevention**

**| Provide leadership and advice to the national program office**

# Some existing HCRC products

- | Treatment recommendations
- | Patient education materials
- | Support group manual
- | Cirrhosis guidelines
- | Toolkit for the management of substance use and psychiatric illness in HCV
- | Pocket guides and training materials for providers
- | Preceptorships for multidisciplinary team care

*See our exhibit for samples of some products*

# Purpose

- | **To determine gaps in patient knowledge about transmission of HCV**
- | **To describe the patient characteristics associated with knowledge about HCV transmission**

# Background

HCV infected individuals should be aware of risk factors for transmission in order to:

1. prevent spread to others
2. ensure that activities are not unnecessarily limited

# **The HCV Patient Health Survey**

- | Determine level of knowledge about hepatitis C among HCV+ veterans served by VA Puget Sound Health Care System**
- | Determine impact of patient education upon HCV knowledge**
- | Assess quality of life, psychosocial healthcare needs and preferences**

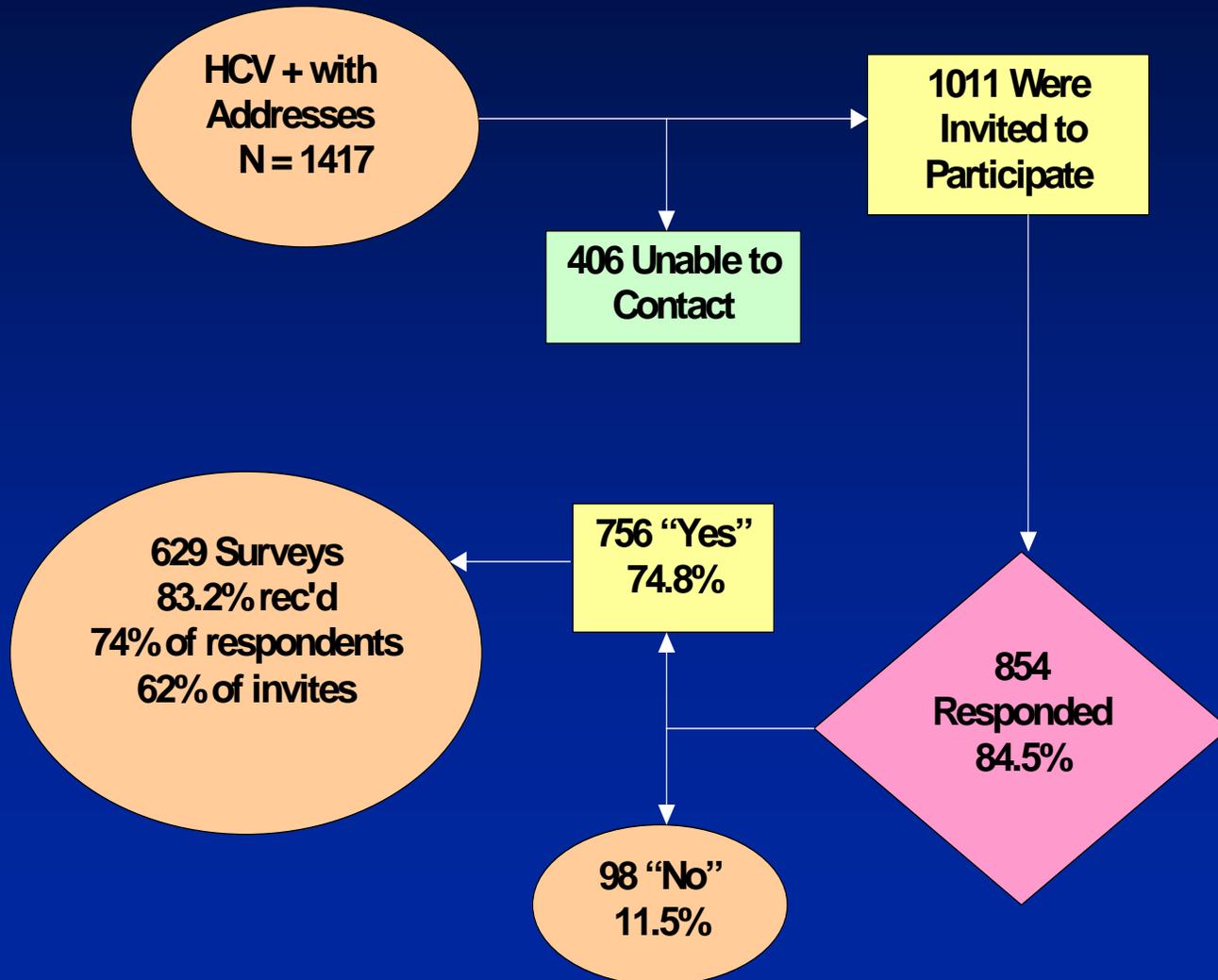
*Supported, in part, by an unrestricted grant from Schering Plough*

# Survey Content

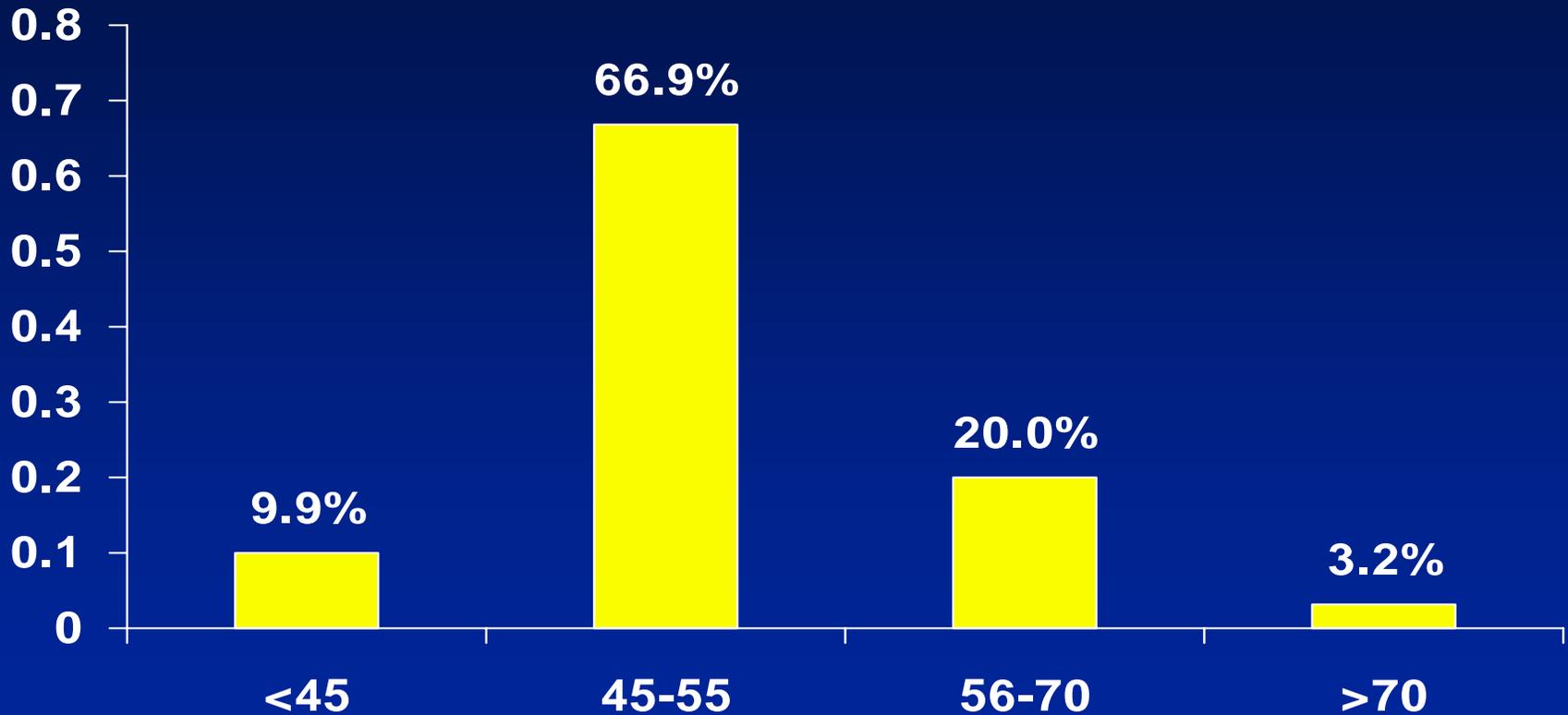
- | HCV Knowledge Questionnaire
- | HCV Needs Assessment
- | HCV Health-Related Quality of Life Inventory (Bayliss et al., 1998)
- | Depression Screen (Whooley et al., 1997)
- | Substance Abuse Screen: Two-Item Conjoint Screen (TICS: Brown et al., 1997)
- | PTSD Screen (Prins et al., 1999)
- | Smoking, Exercise
- | Food Insufficiency
- | The Medical Interview Satisfaction Scale (MISS: Wolf et al., 1978)

# HCV Survey Methods

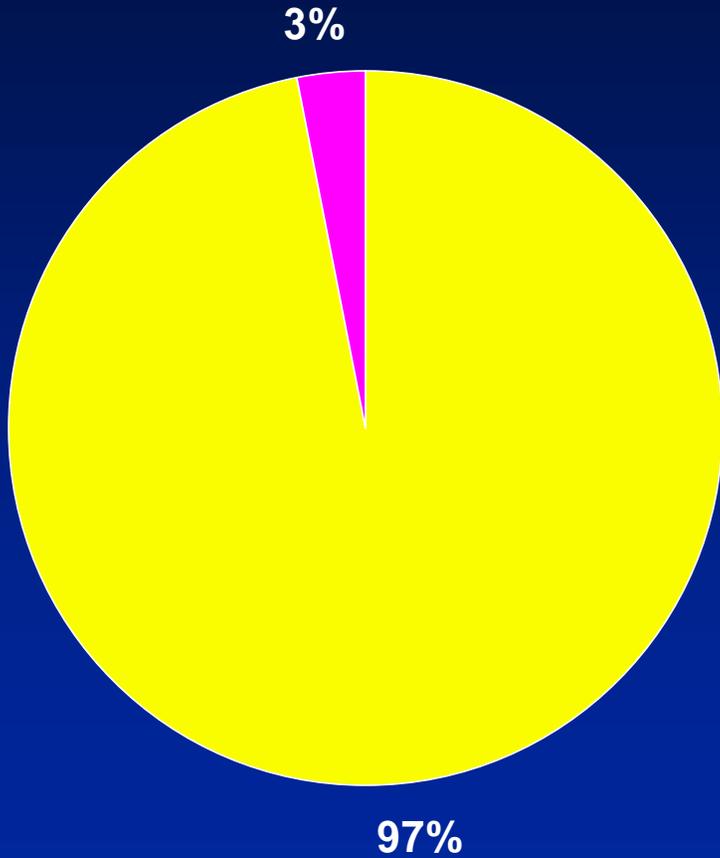
HCV + Veterans seen at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System  
(1994 – January 2002) N= 1745



# Results: Age

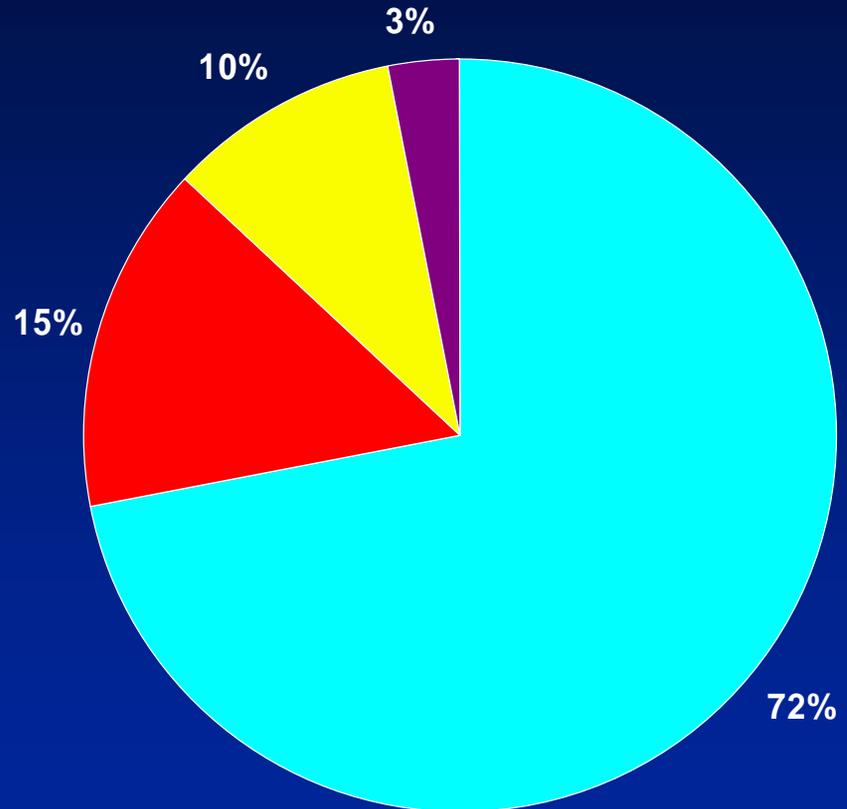


# Gender



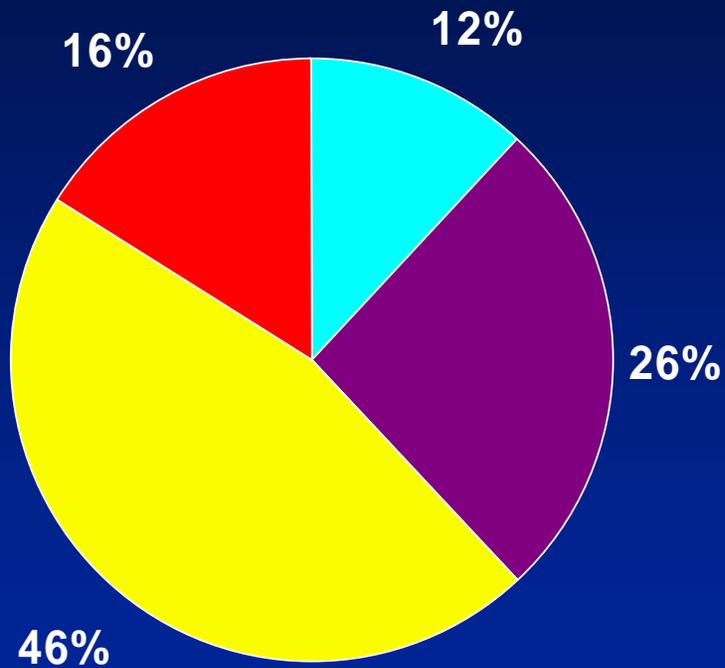
Male Female

# Race



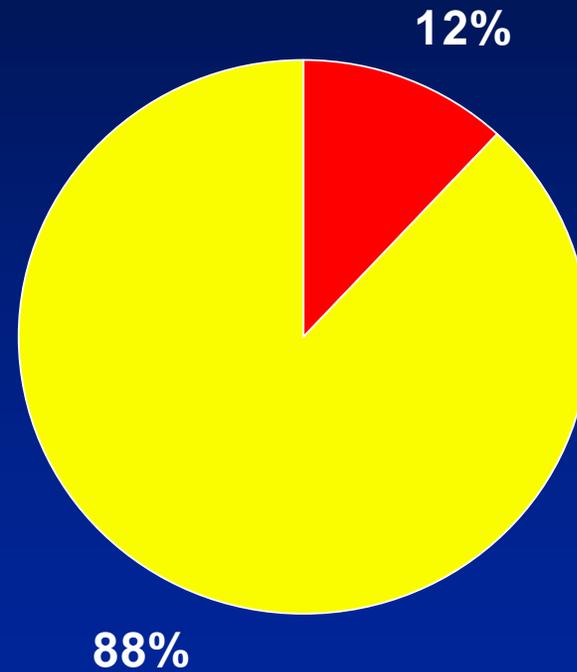
White Black  
Other Unknown

# Education



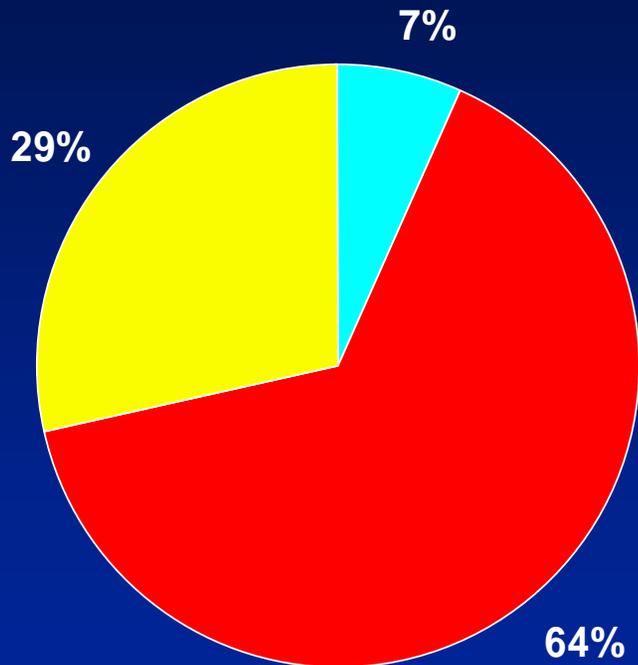
<HS HS Grad Some College College Grad

# Homeless



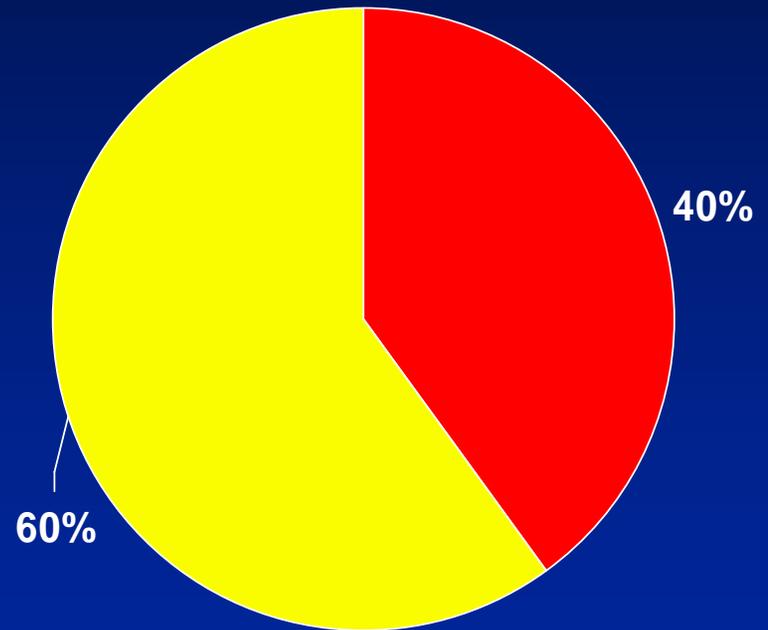
Yes No

# Tobacco



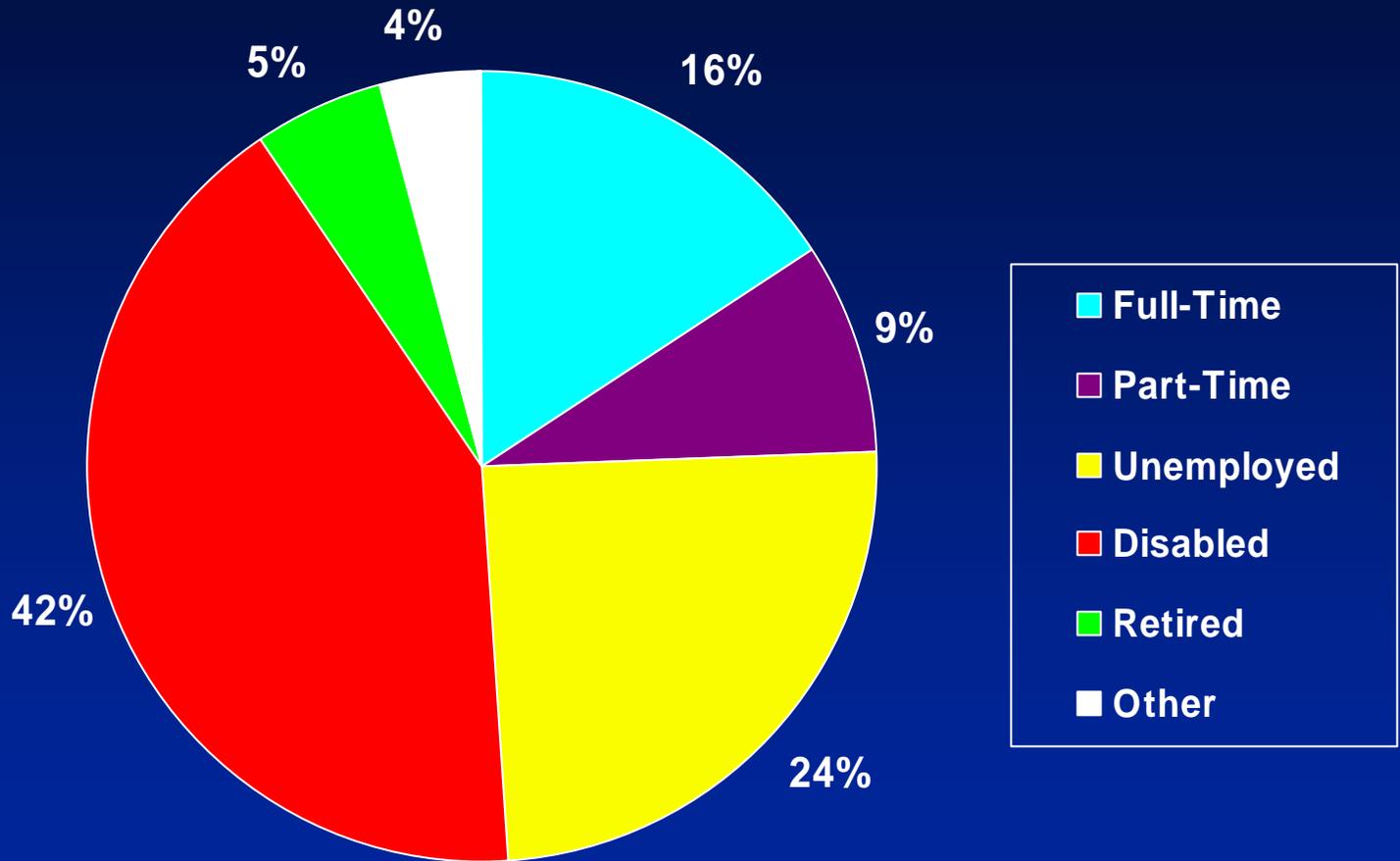
Never Current/Recent Past

# Food Insufficiency

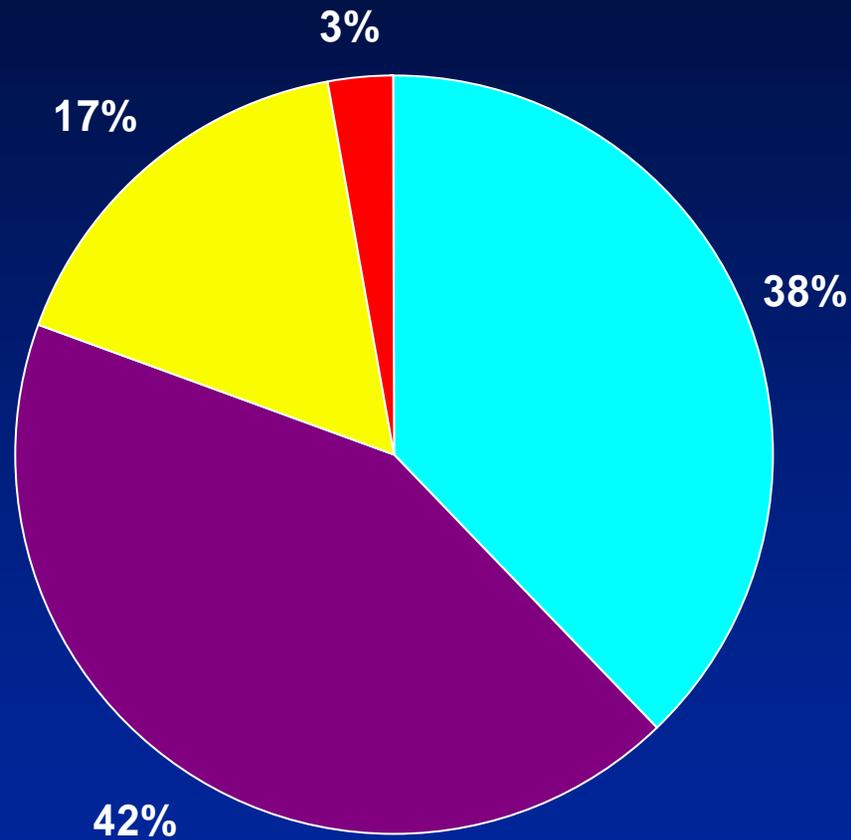


Yes No

# Employment

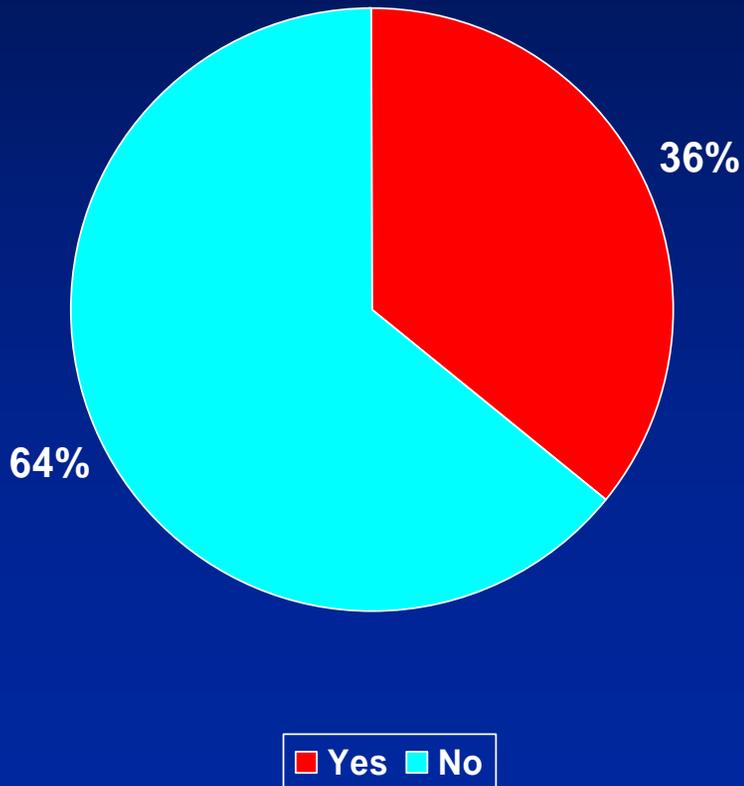


# Marital Status

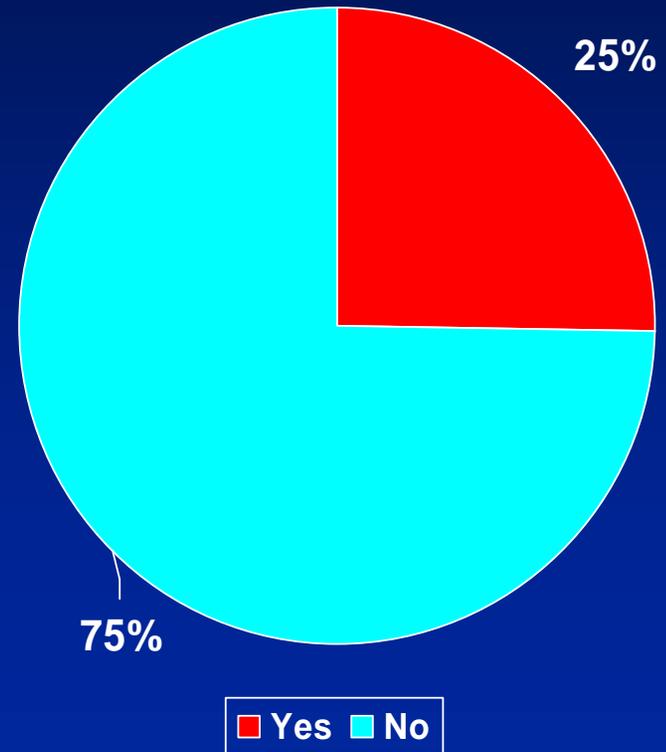


■ Married ■ Divorced/Separated ■ Never Married ■ Widowed

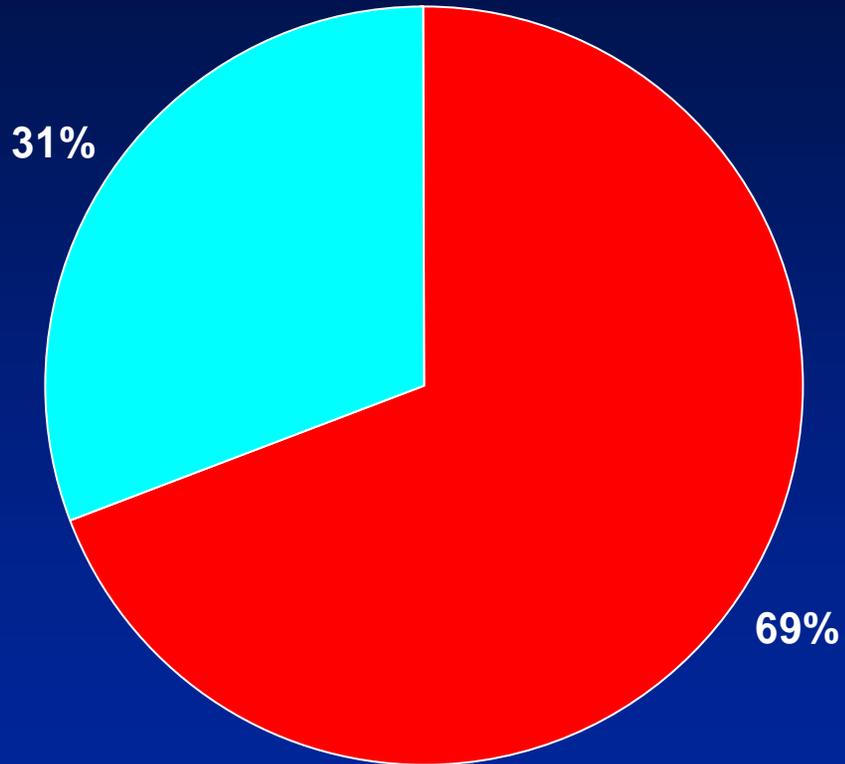
# Recent Substance Abuse



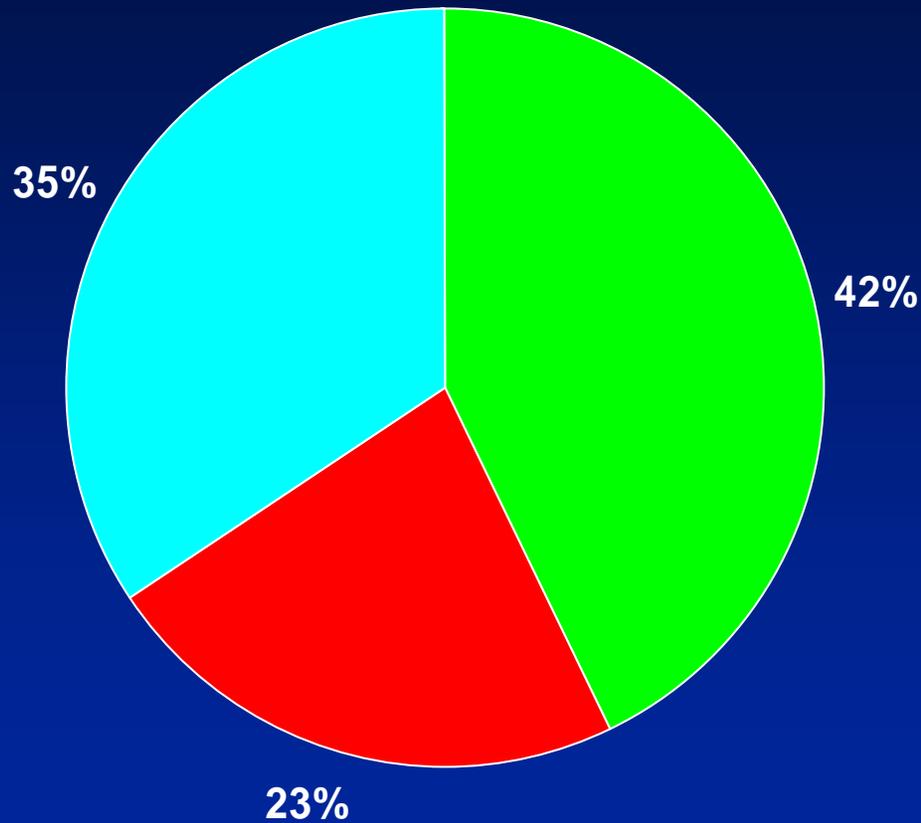
# Depression



# PTSD

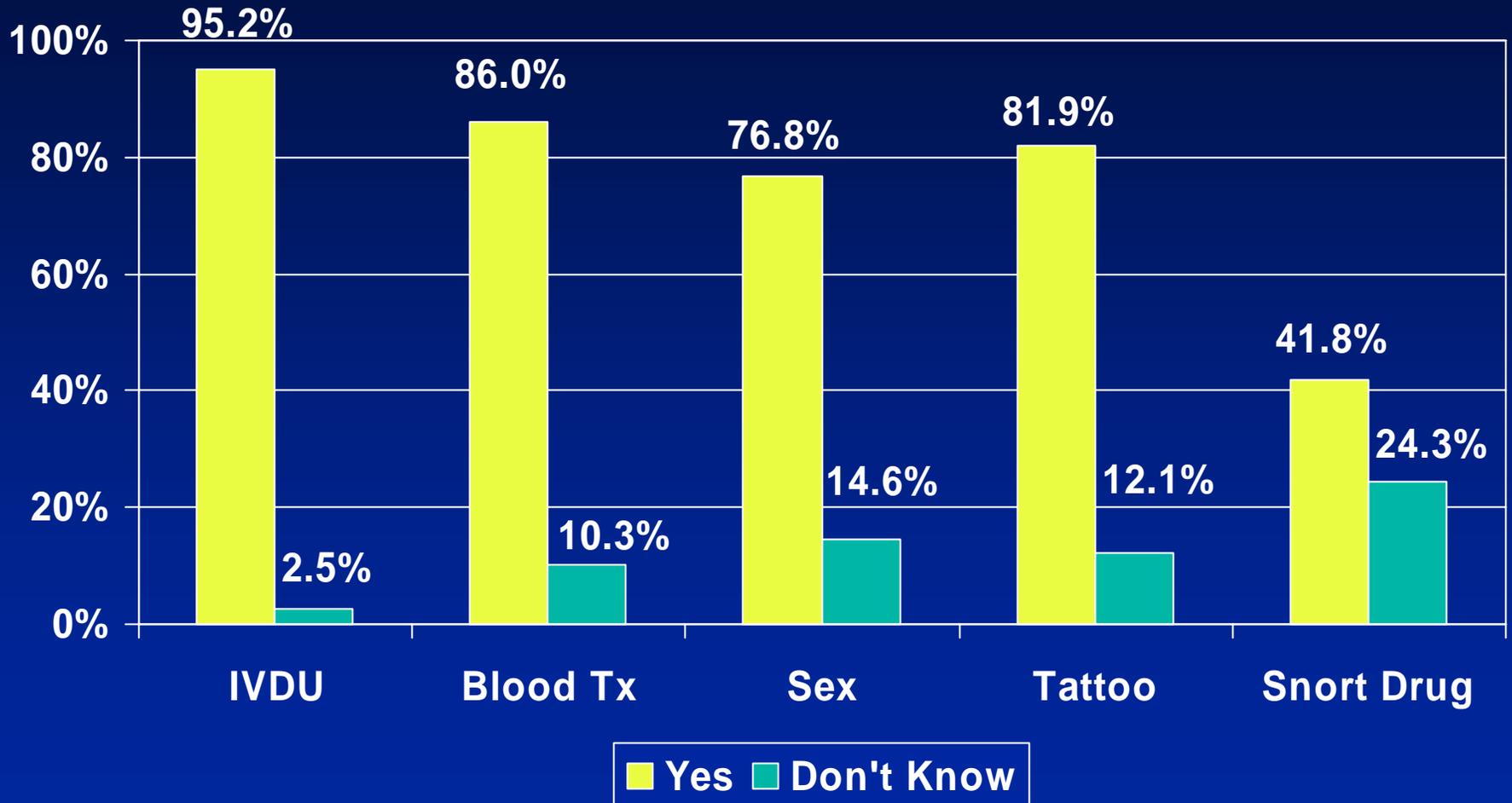


# Hepatitis A Vaccine

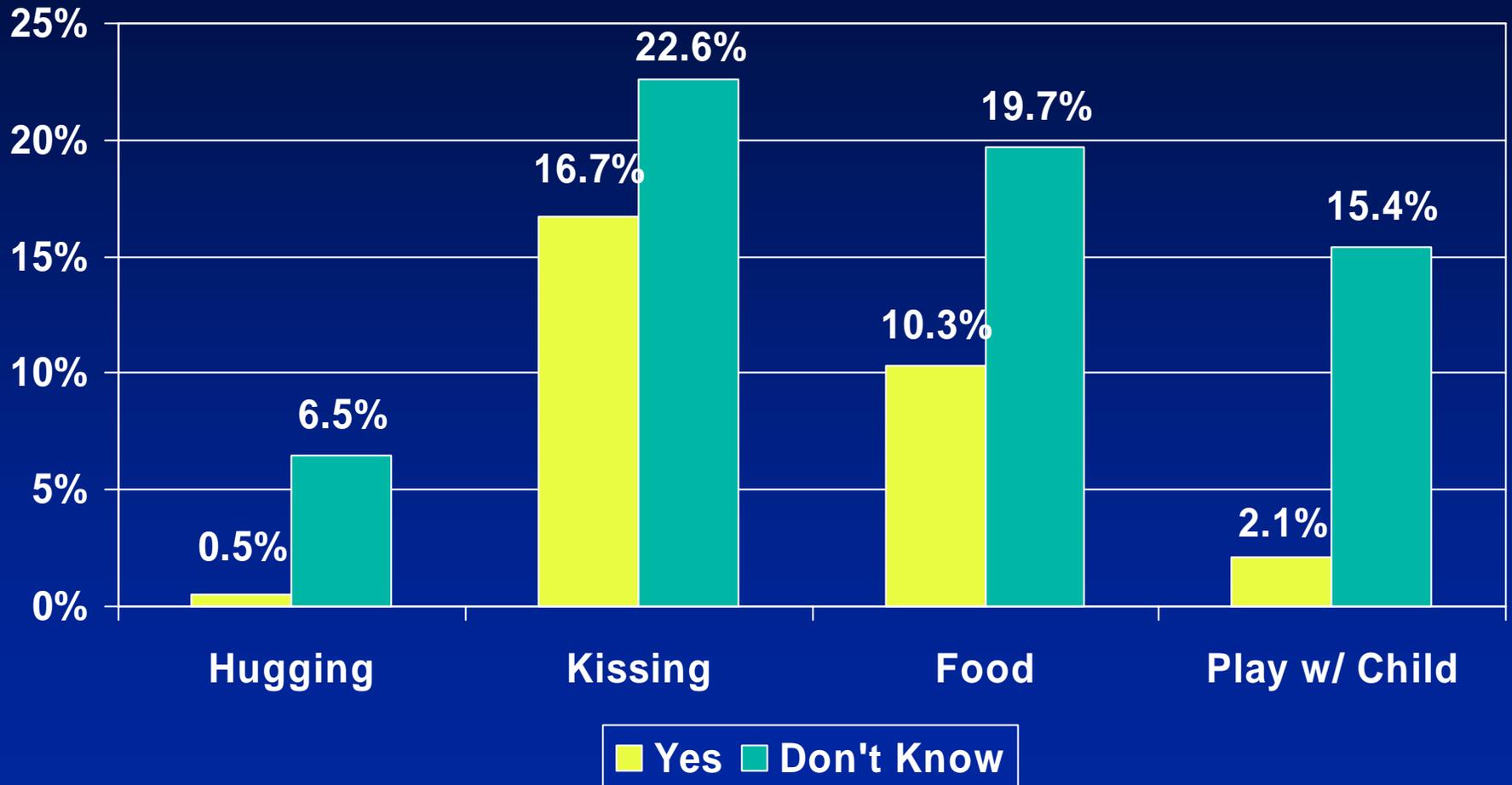


■ Yes ■ No ■ Unsure

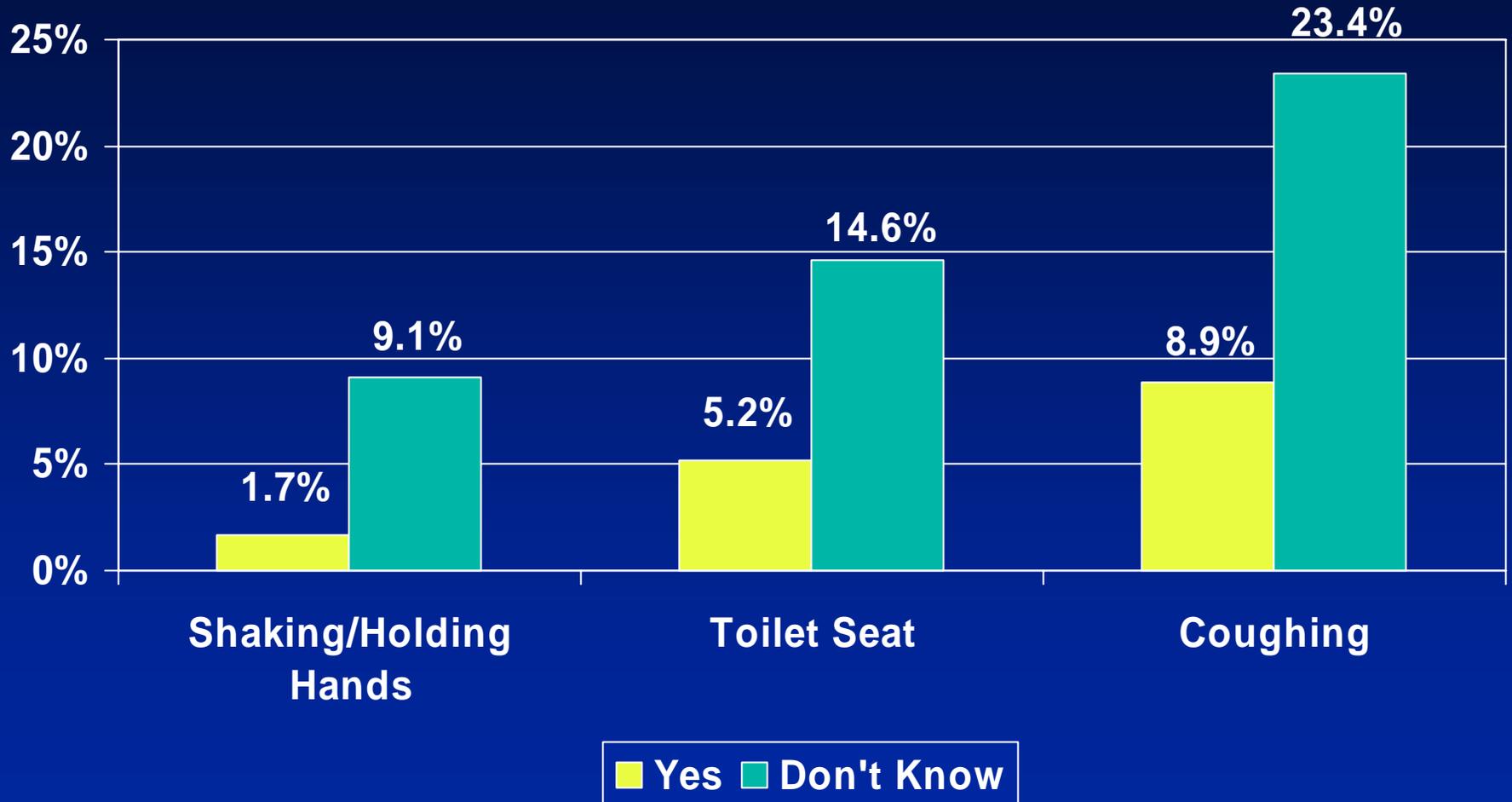
# How one gets or spreads HCV



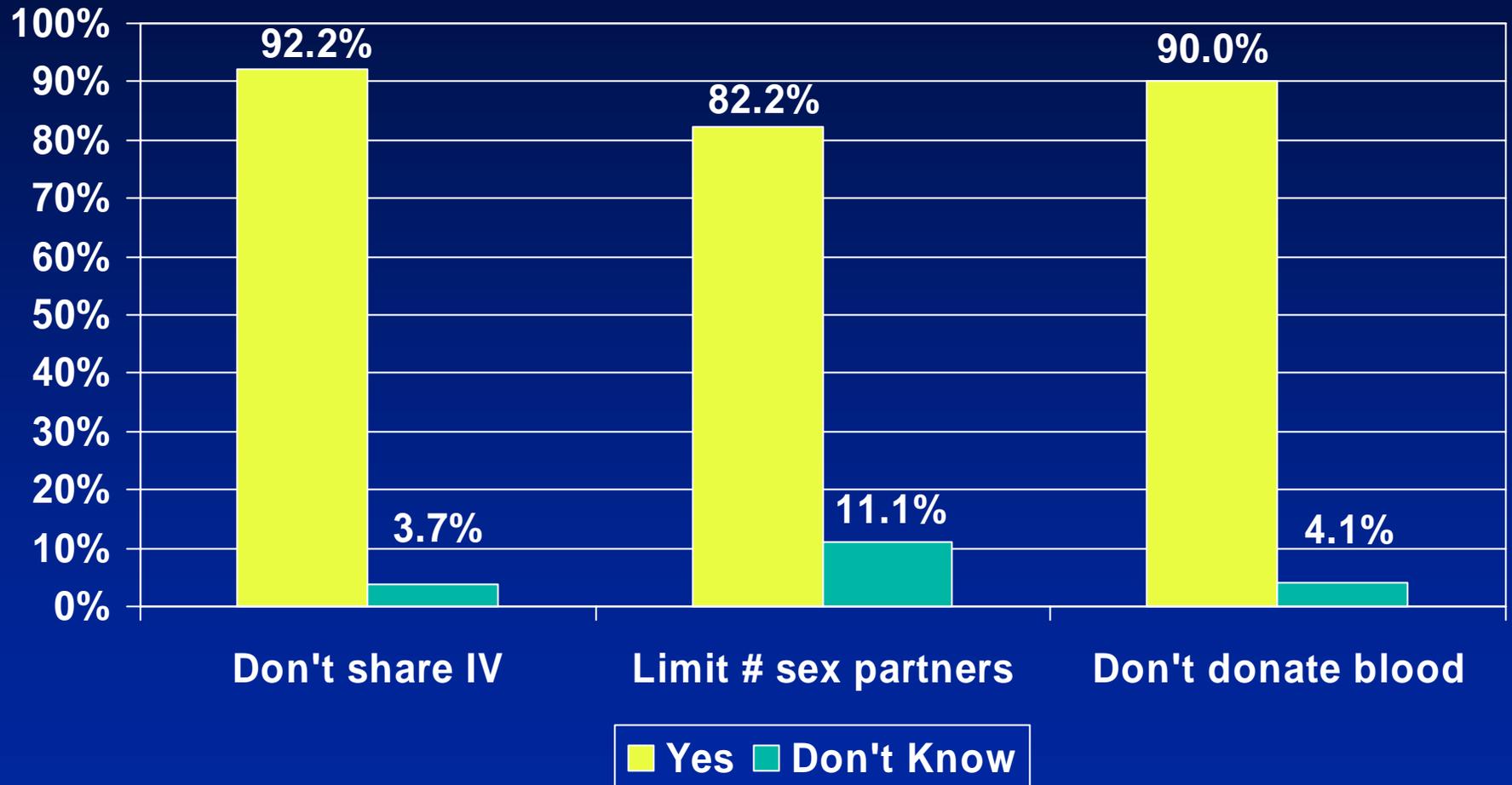
# How one gets or spreads HCV



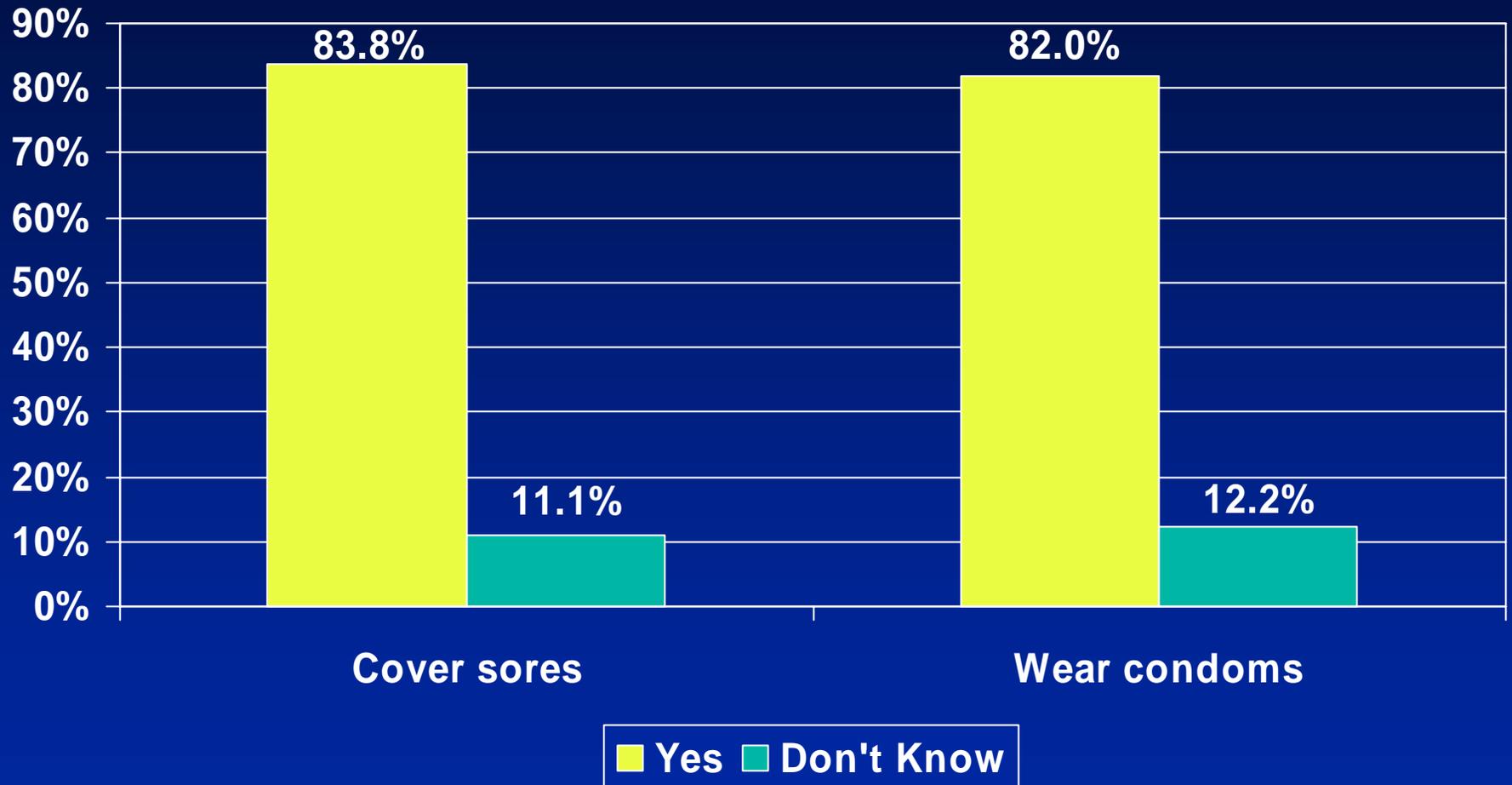
# How one gets or spreads HCV



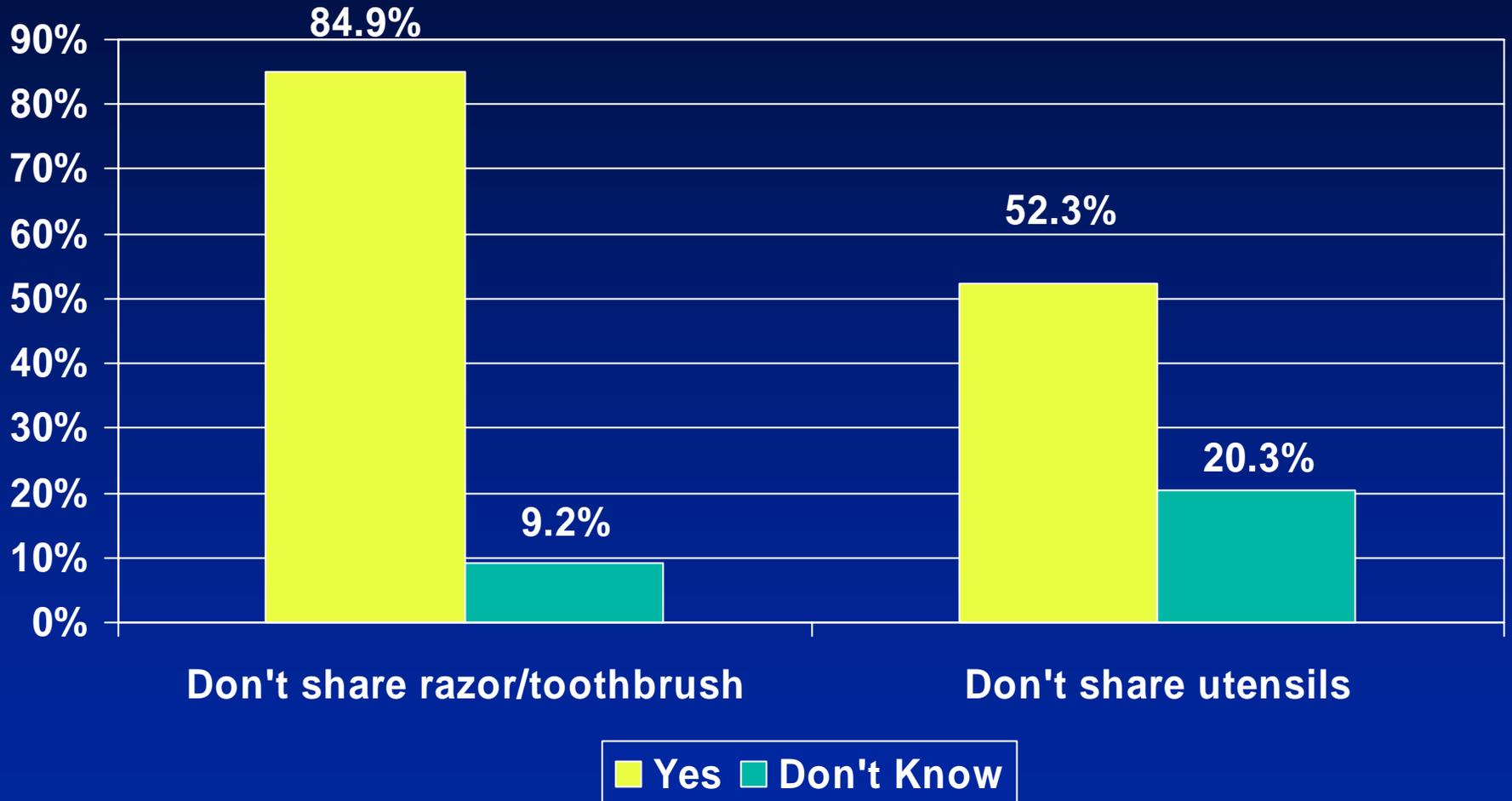
# Ways to prevent spread of HCV



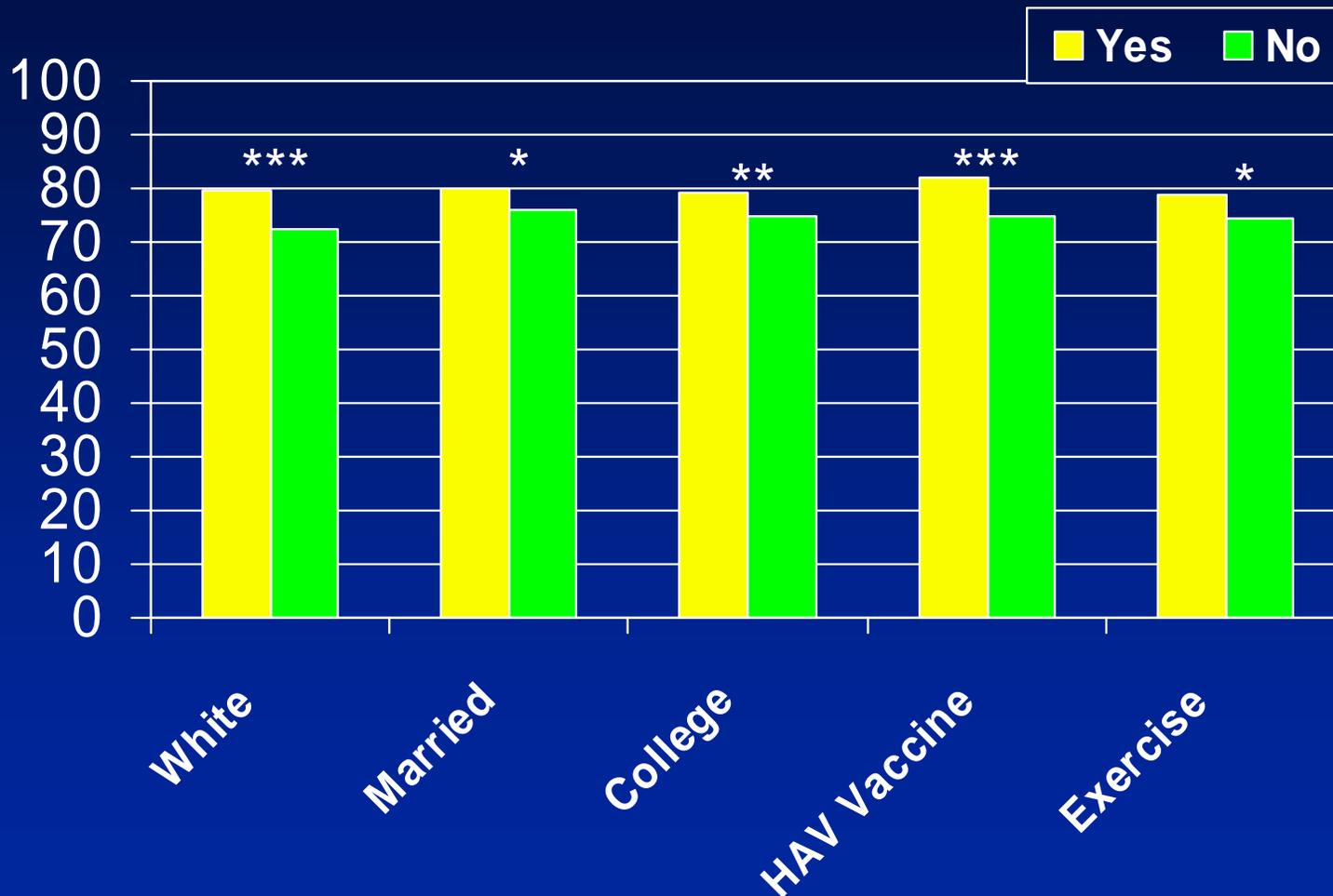
# Ways to prevent spread of HCV



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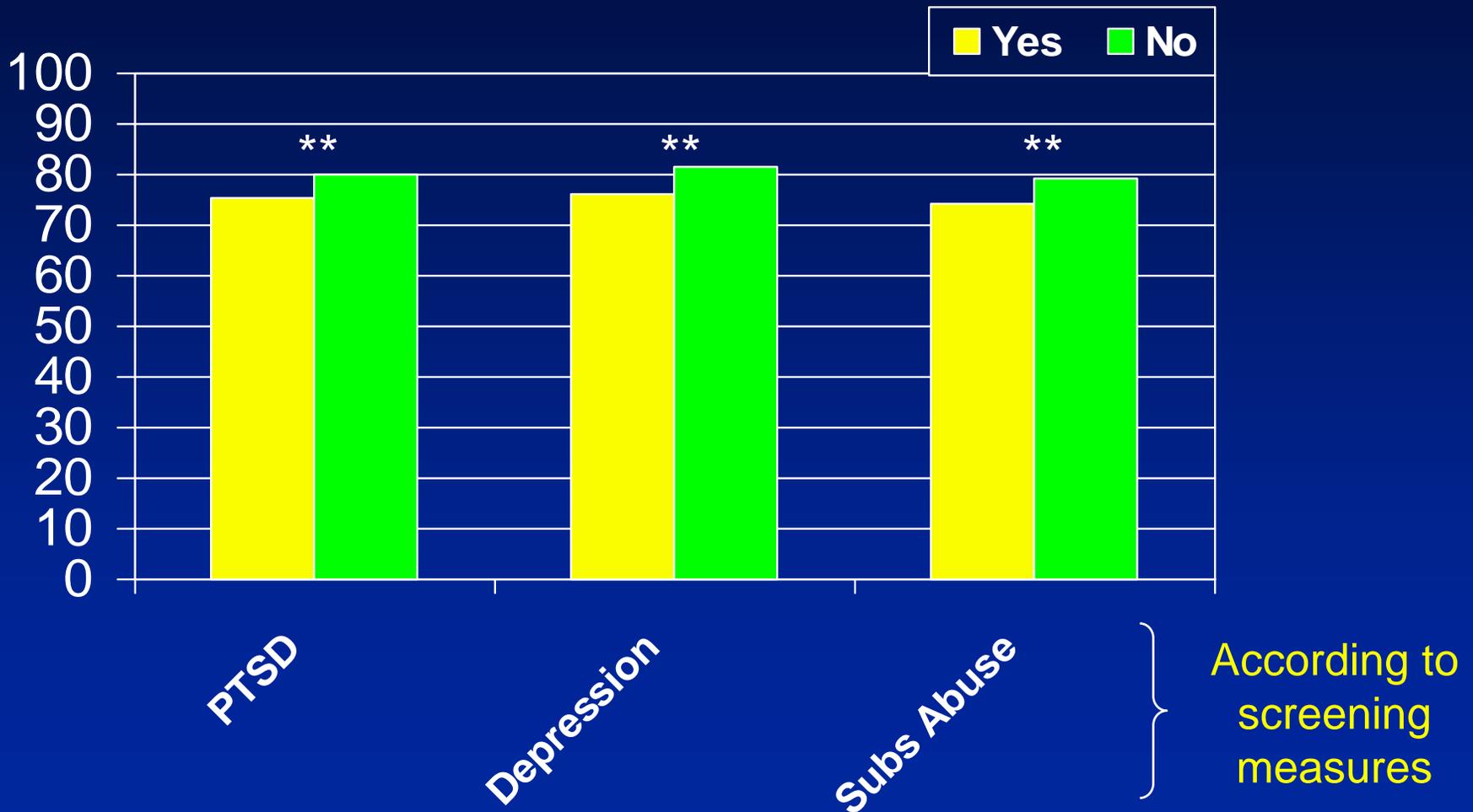


# HCV Transmission Knowledge (Percent Correct)



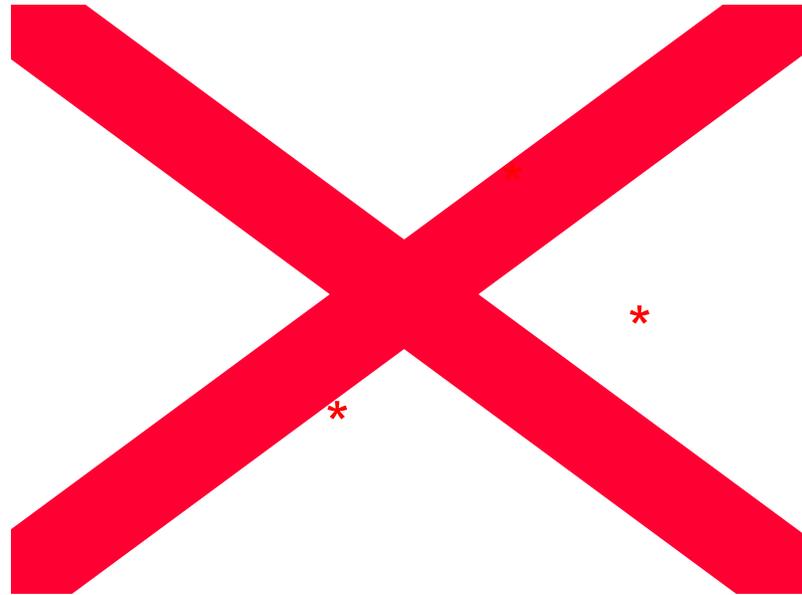
\* $p < .05$ , t-test \*\* $p < .01$ , t-test \*\*\* $p < .001$ , t-test

# HCV Transmission Knowledge (Percent Correct)



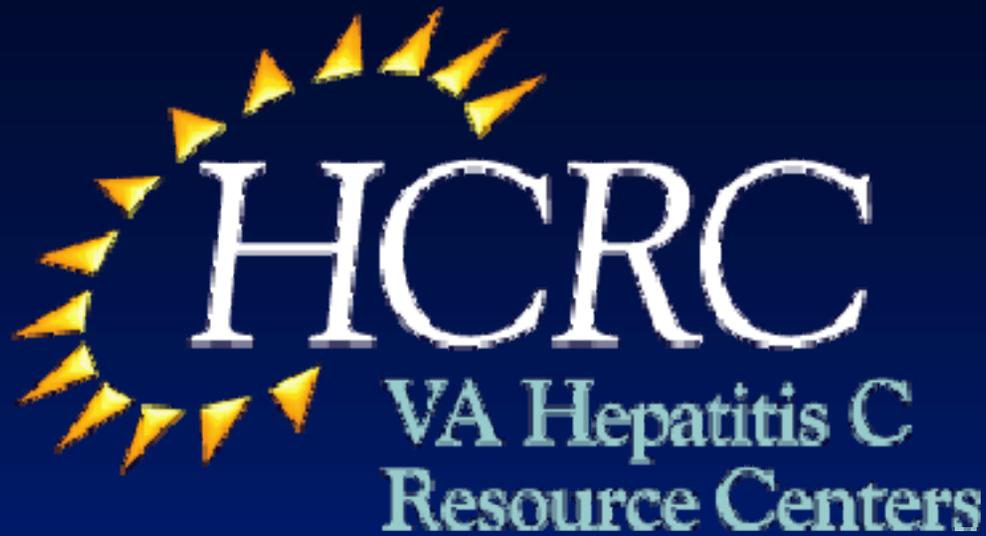
\*\*p < .01, t-test

# QOL for HCV + Patients



# Conclusions

- **Veterans with HCV have high rates of psychiatric and substance use comorbidity**
- **There are significant gaps in patient knowledge about HCV**
- **Knowledge gaps are associated with identifiable patient characteristics and health behaviors**
- **Quality of life is significantly impaired in HCV infected veterans**
- **Efforts to improve patient knowledge may have a substantial impact on prevention and quality of life**



***[www.hepatitis.va.gov](http://www.hepatitis.va.gov)***