

# Are we ready?

## HIV knowledge and attitudes among staff in aged care facilities

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Regan Gilchrist, Margaret Pickles, Andrew Gray,  
Helen Harcombe, Lorraine Ritchie, Raewyn Lesa,  
Sue McAllister



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# Background:

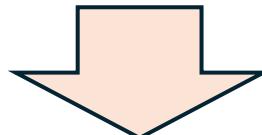
- More people living with HIV and potentially requiring support from the aged care sector
- Stigma against people living with HIV, including within healthcare settings – but little is known specifically about the aged care sector

**How ‘ready’ is the aged care sector?**

# Study aims:

Amongst aged-care staff, to describe:

1. Knowledge about HIV
2. HIV related stigma
3. Key factors associated with knowledge and stigma



To inform policy and the development of future interventions  
in the aged care sector

## Methods:

- Aged residential care (ARC) facilities and their healthcare workers in one region of New Zealand
- In-person visit to ARC facilities for recruitment
- Survey questionnaire following consent (June-August 2024)

## Analysis

- Descriptive (n, %), mean scores
- Multiple imputation and regression models accounting for clustering within facilities

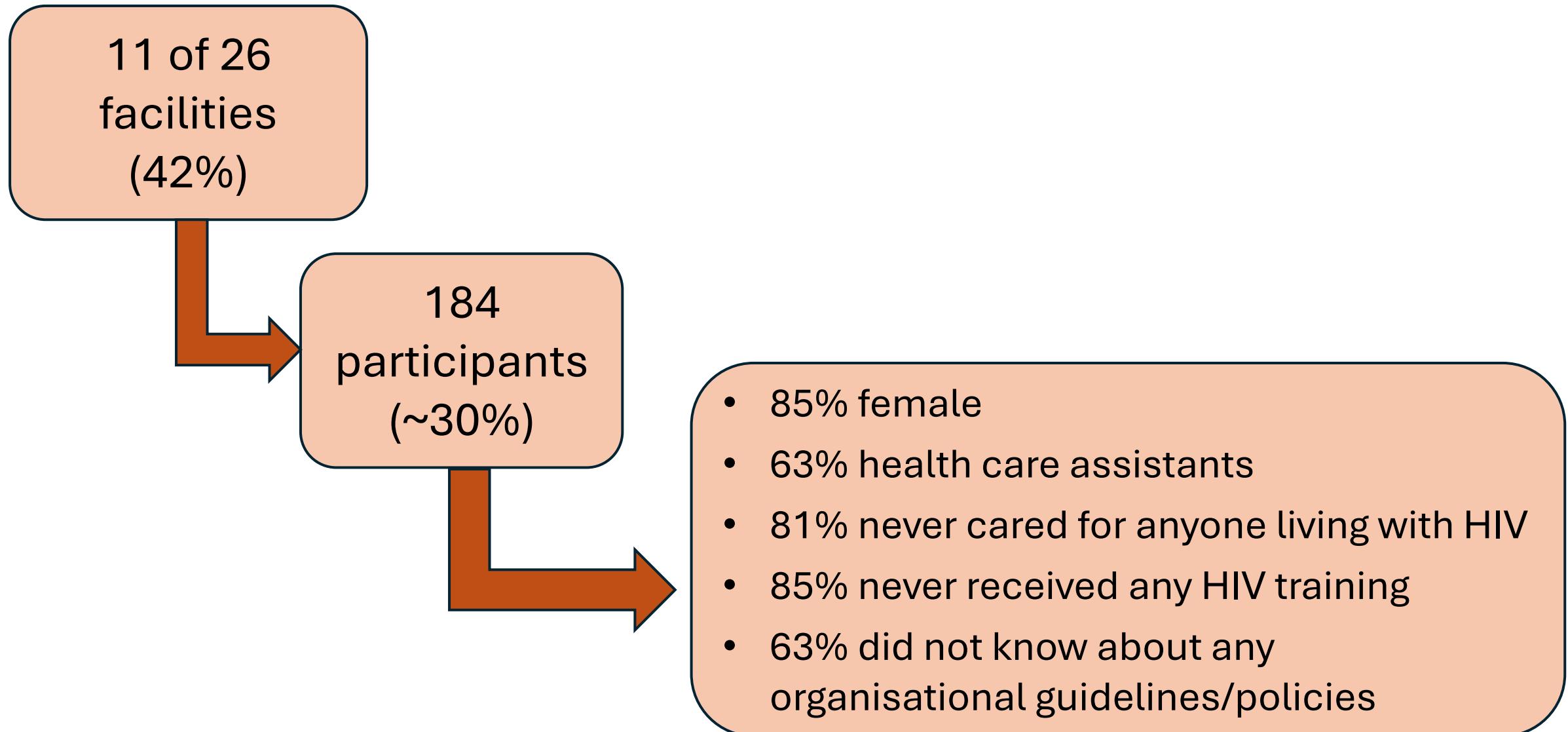
## Survey questionnaire:

- Knowledge scale (13 questions) → Score 1 (low) to 13 (high)<sup>1</sup>
- Health care provider HIV and AIDS Stigma Scale (30 statements) → Stigma score 30 (low) to 180 (high)<sup>2</sup>
- Level of worry (4 questions) → Worry score 4 (low) to 16 (high)
- Demographic characteristics

1. Adapted from Carey et al. AIDS Educ Prev 2002; 14(2): 172-82

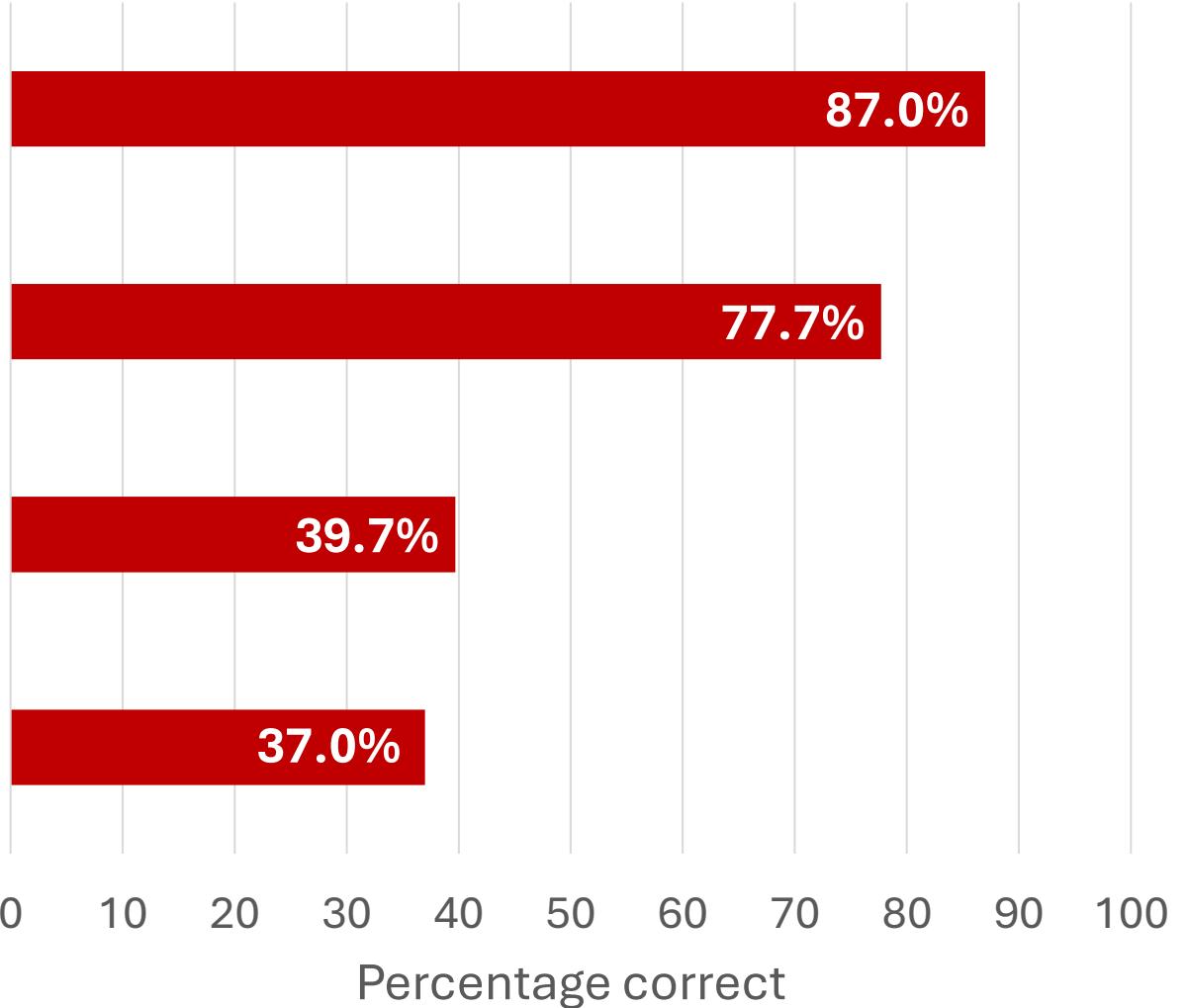
2. Adapted from Wagner et al. AIDS Behav. 2014; 18(12): 2397-2408

# Study participants



# Knowledge

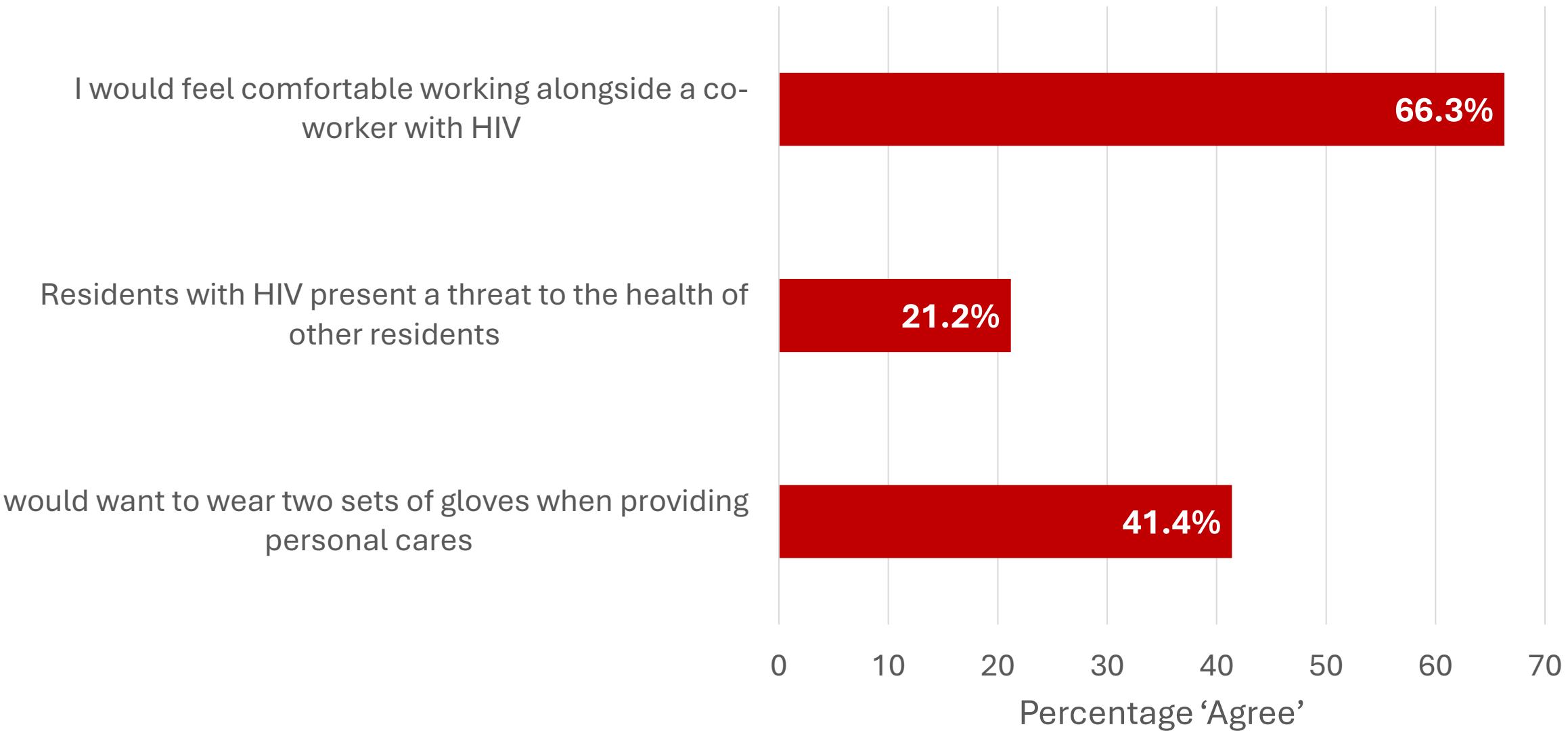
A person cannot get HIV by sharing a glass of water with someone who has HIV



There is a very low risk of getting HIV if a person is taking PrEP as prescribed

There is a medication that can be taken to prevent getting HIV

# Stigma: prejudice statements\*



\* Wagner et al. *AIDS Behav.* 2014; 18(12) 2397-2408

Spence et al. *J Int Assoc Provid. AIDS Care* 2022: 21

# Stigma: stereotype statements\*

People with HIV have caused their own health problems

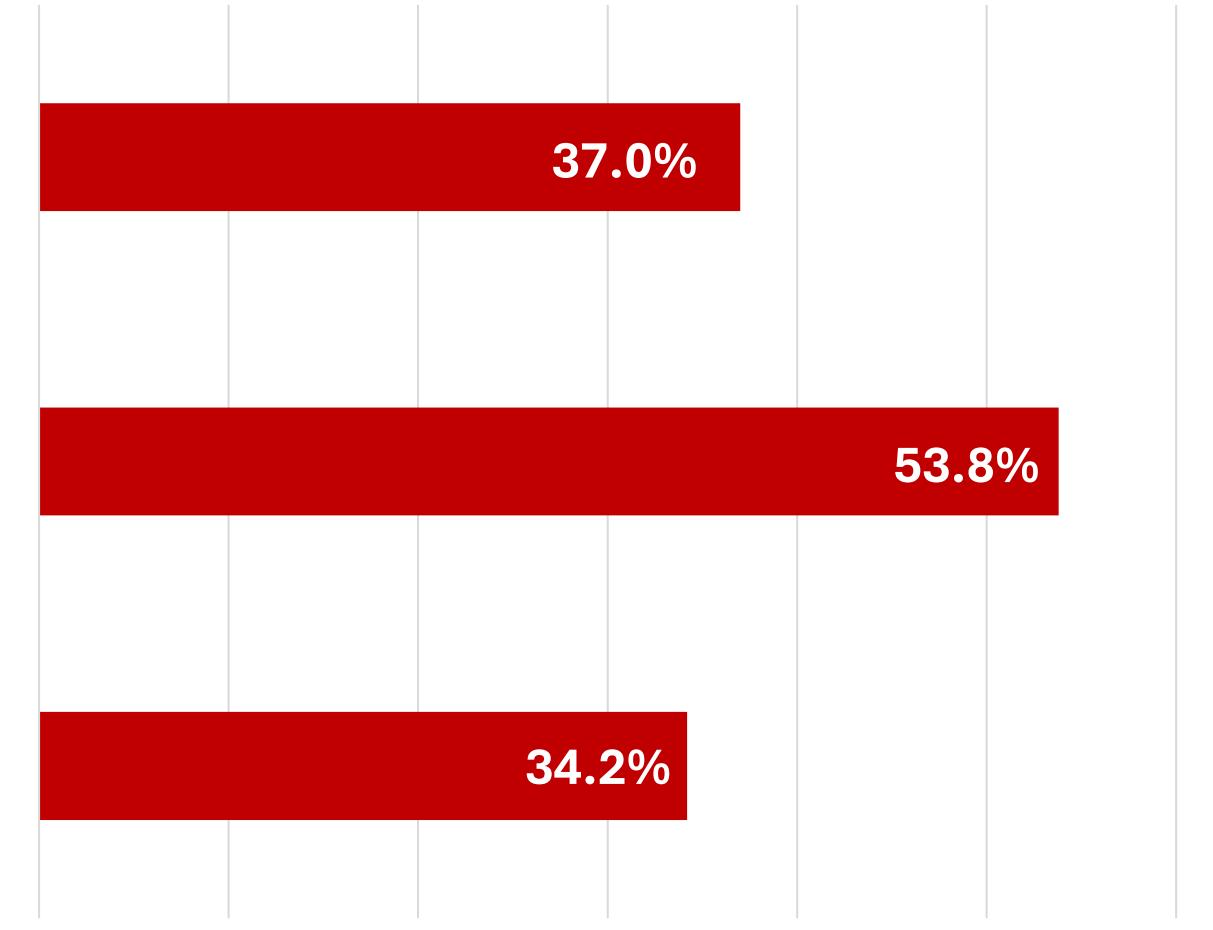
37.0%

If they act responsibly, they will not contract HIV

53.8%

They would not get HIV if they had sex with fewer people

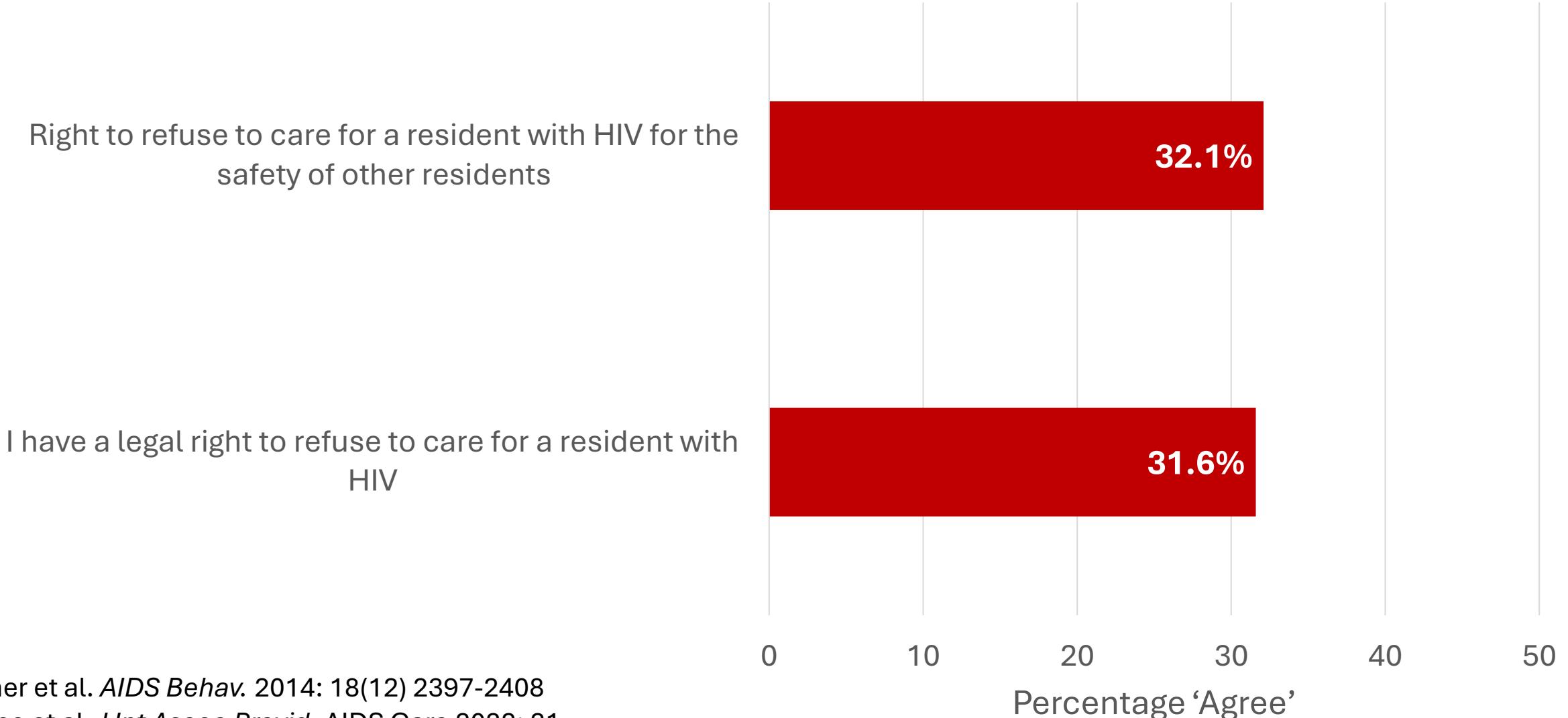
34.2%



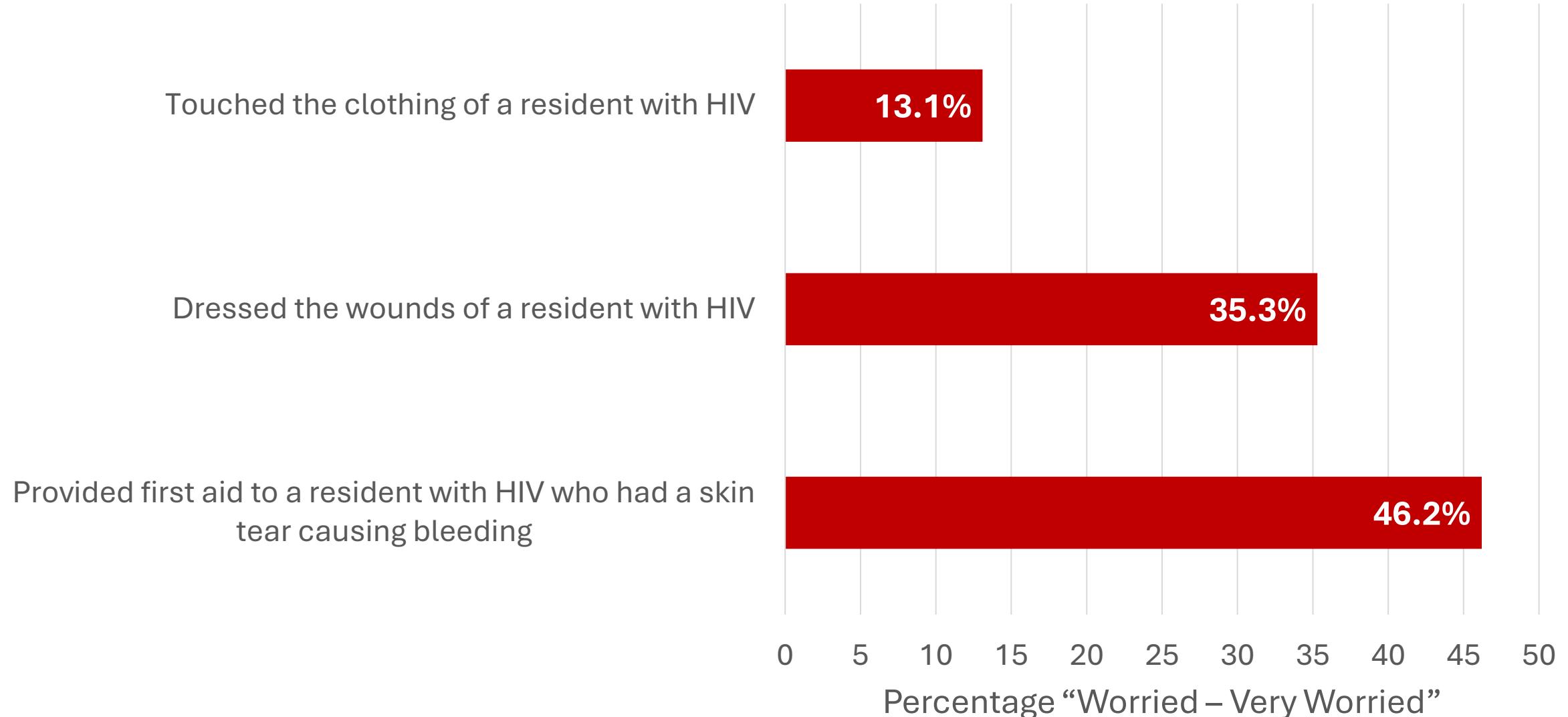
\* Wagner et al. *AIDS Behav.* 2014; 18(12) 2397-2408

Spence et al. *J Int Assoc Provid. AIDS Care* 2022: 21

# Stigma: discrimination statements\*

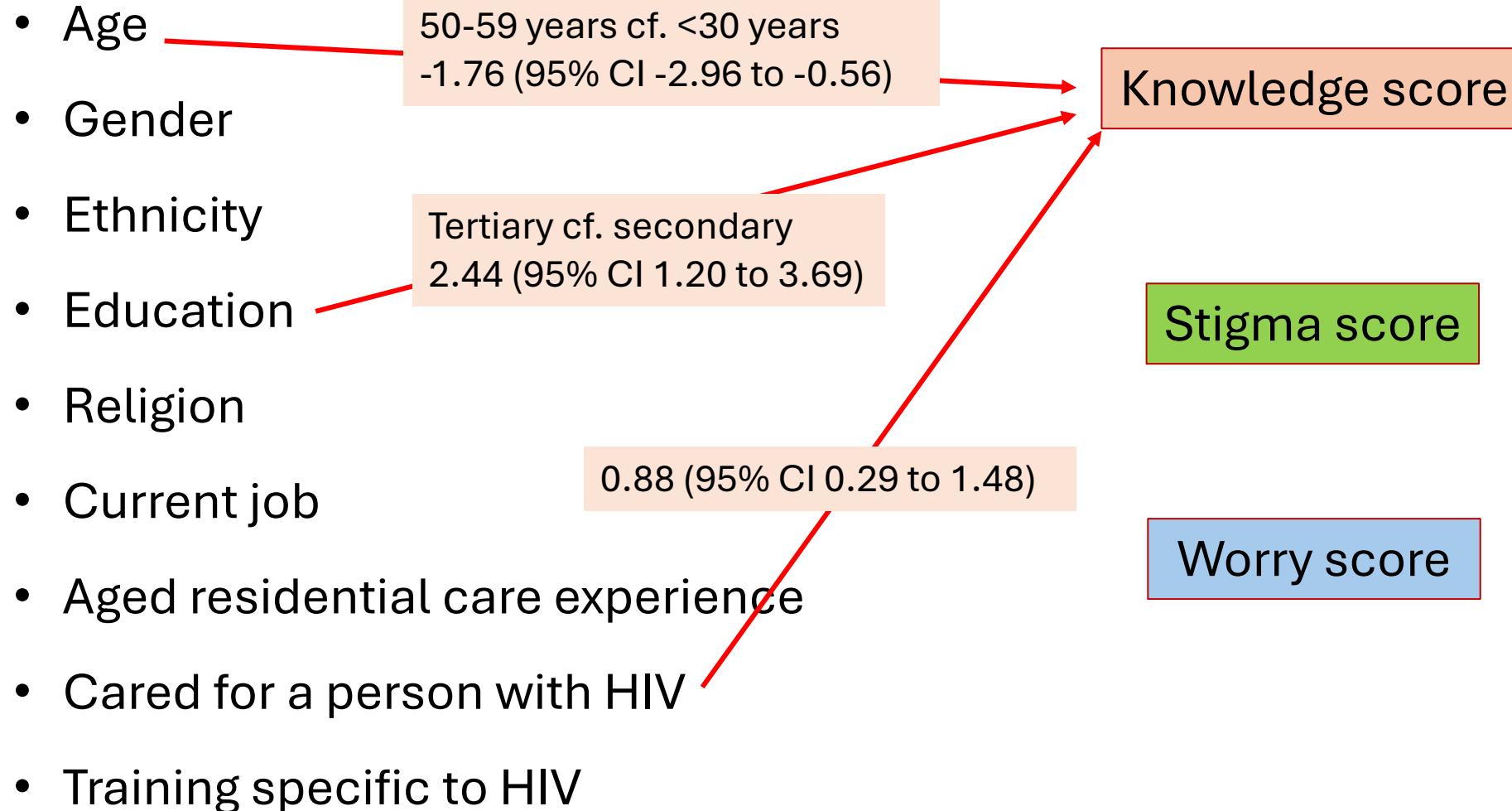


# How worried would you be if you....



# Factors associated with knowledge

Overall mean knowledge score = 7.6 (SD 2.6)



# Factors associated with stigma

Overall mean stigma score (from 30 items) = 82.2 (SD 29.3)

- Age
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Education
- Religion
- Current job
- Aged residential care experience
- Cared for a person with HIV
- Training specific to HIV

Age 40-49 cf. <30 yrs  
16.8 (95% CI 1.3 to 18.4)

5-10 yrs cf. <2 yrs  
16.0 (95% CI 0.7 to 31.2)

Knowledge score

Higher knowledge  
-1.4 (95% CI -2.8 to -0.03)  
Lower stigma

Stigma score

Higher stigma  
5.7 (95% CI 4.7 to 7.0)  
Higher worry

Worry score

# Factors associated with worry

- Age
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Education
- Religion
- Current job
- Aged residential care experience
- Cared for a person with HIV
- Training specific to HIV

Overall mean worry score = 7.6 (SD 3.0)

40-49 cf. <30 yrs  
-1.97 (95%CI -3.53 to -0.40)

Knowledge score

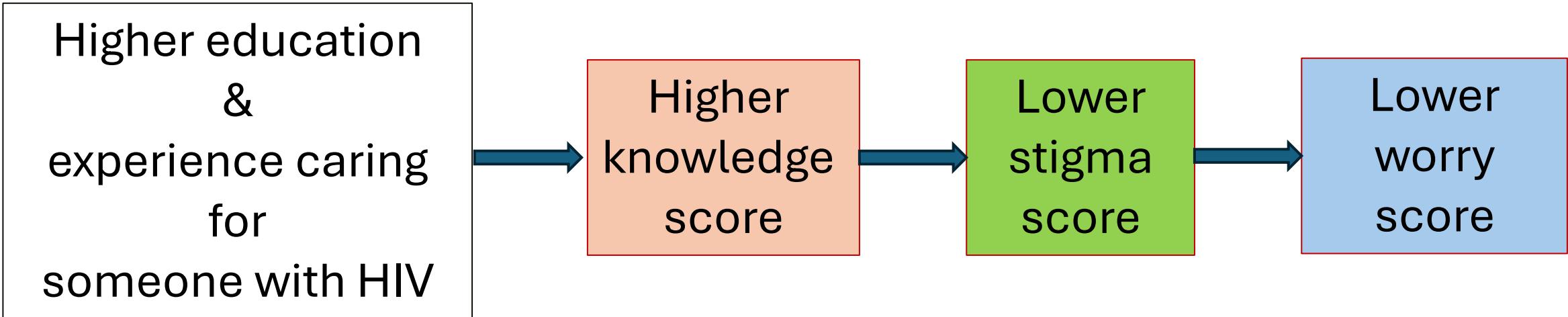
Stigma score

Higher stigma  
0.07 (95%CI 0.05 to 0.08)  
Higher worry

Worry score

# Factors associated with knowledge, stigma and worry

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# Discussion & summary

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- Very small sample size and in only one region of New Zealand
- Limited exposure to caring for people living with HIV
- Limited knowledge – which impacts on stigma and worry
- Knowledge still very much ‘1980’ view of HIV
- Refusal to care for people living with HIV
- Fear of exposure is very common (e.g. double gloving)

**Training/education can have a positive impact on knowledge, stigma and worry of ARC healthcare staff**

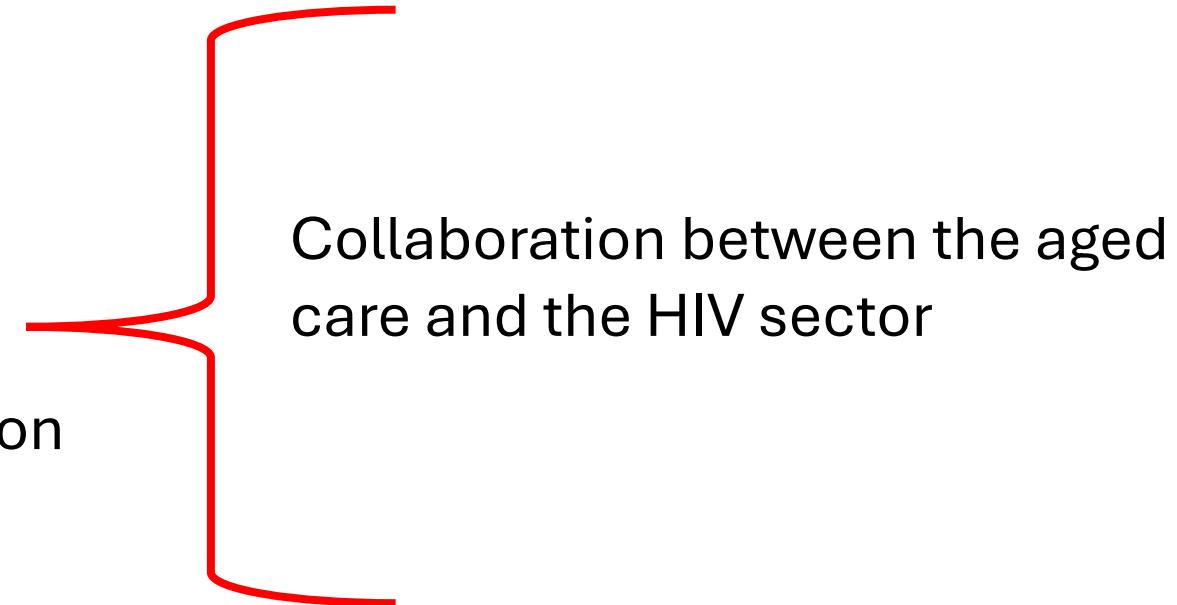
# Intervention framework



# Next steps....

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- Professional development for ARC staff around HIV transmission, and management
- Policy measures to prevent discrimination and protect those living with HIV in the ARC sector



[Ageing Positively - Tū Tangata Rite - a resource on Ageing and HIV in Aotearoa](#)



*'Sometimes it's, you know, when it's something different it's always a bit of a shock. But, you know, once you get past that point, once people become more informed.....the needs may be a little bit different...we just have to adapt'.(P3)*

*'People were still the same in that they need treated, you know, with the same level of care and respect, not be seen as a risk or a problem .... it's just one of those things we live with, like having COPD or Hep B'.(P5)*

# Ngā mihi nui ki a kōutou

## Thank you very much

