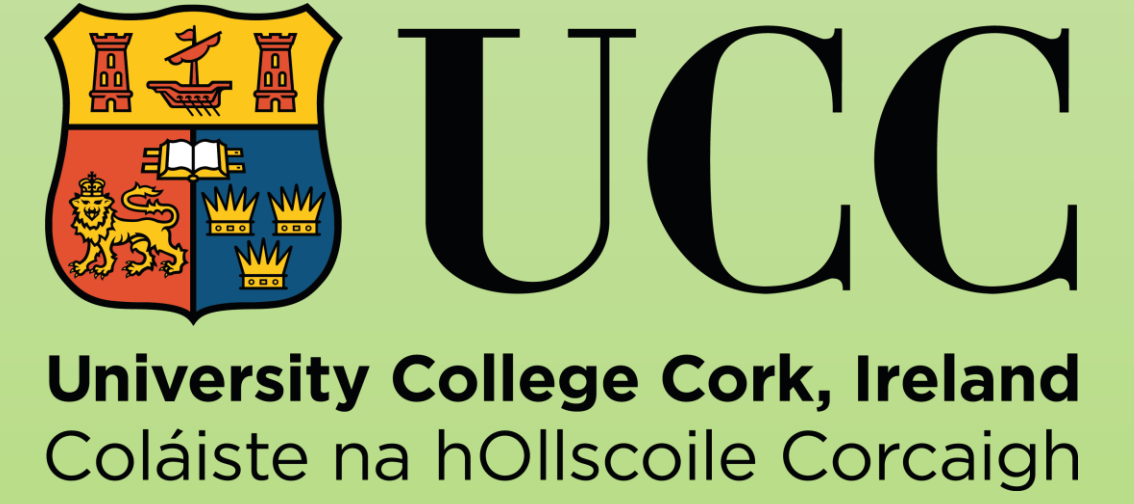


What is the knowledge of Care Staff and the use of hearing aids in Irish Nursing Homes?

A Pilot Study

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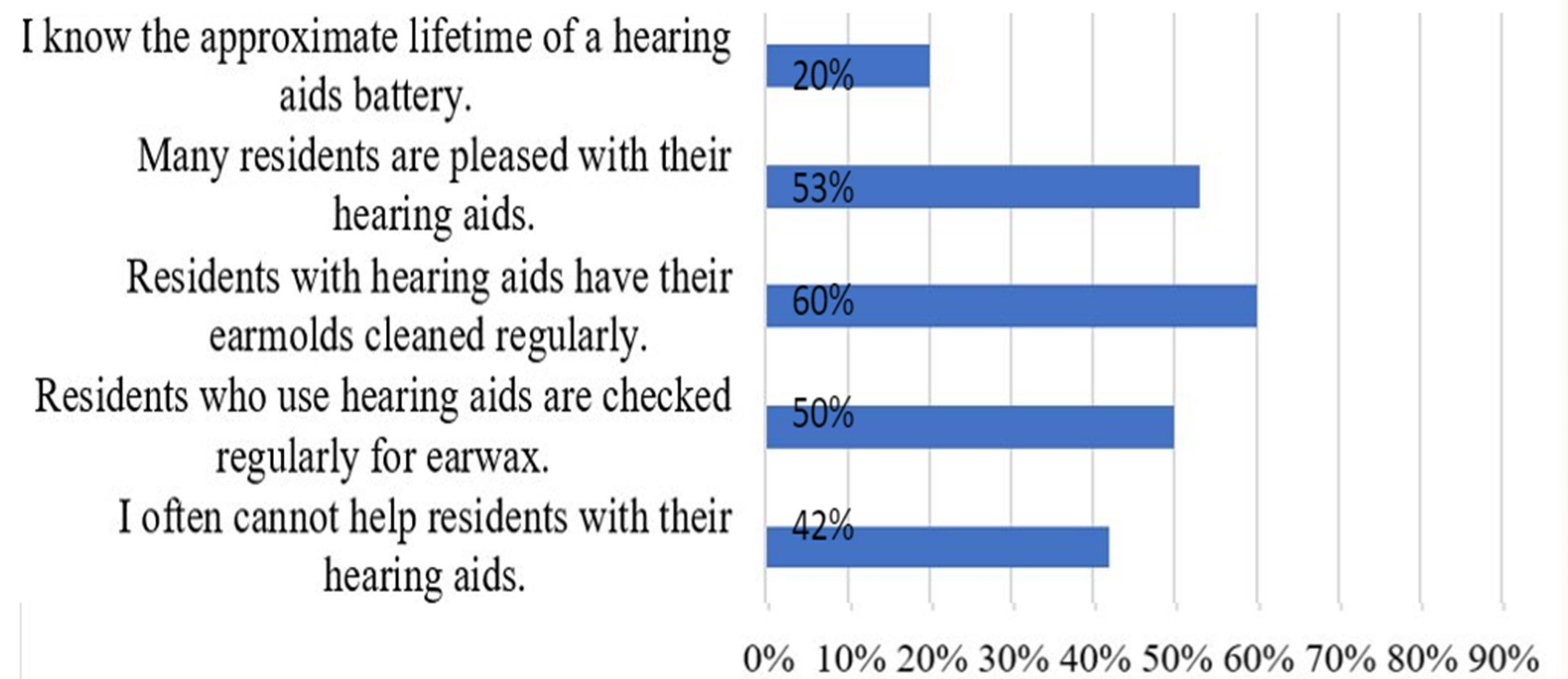


Background

- Residents of Nursing Homes can be dependent on Care Staff for the insertion and maintenance of their hearing aids.
- There is no current research carried out in Irish Nursing Homes on this topic.
- Care Staff are best placed to identify any challenges with hearing and communication and assist residents in using their hearing aid effectively.
- Without this information and insight, problems cannot be identified.
- The Health Service Executive provides no formal hearing health training to Care Staff in any healthcare setting.

Skills and competence of Care Staff

Study participant responses regarding agreement on their skills and competence of Hearing aids . n=56

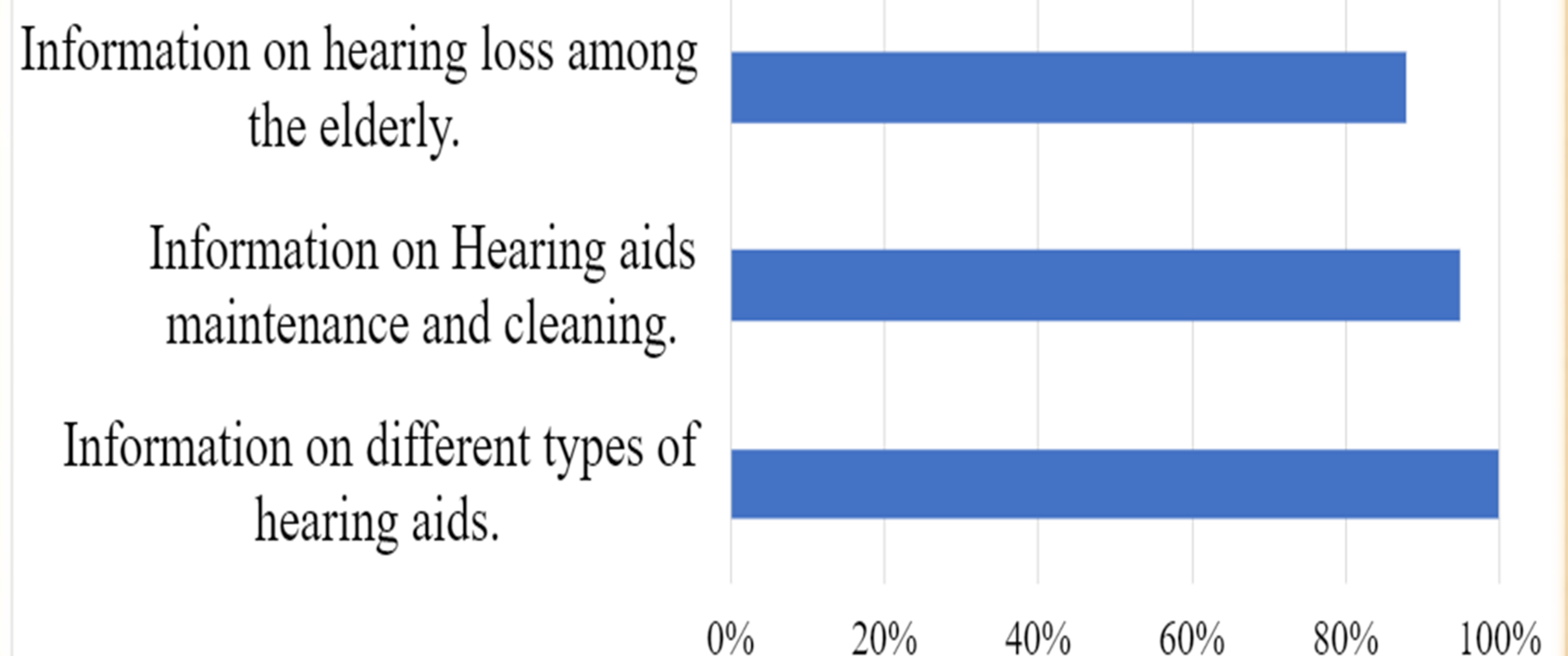


Methods

- Using a quantitative study design, participants were recruited from two Irish publicly-funded Nursing Homes.
- 58 Care Staff participated in this study.
- Care Staff completed a validated paper-based questionnaire ¹.
- Descriptive statistics were applied. Kruskal Wallis H tests were used to examine if there was a statistically significant difference in questionnaire answers between three occupations: Healthcare Assistants, Nurses and Nurse Managers

Information needs of Care Staff

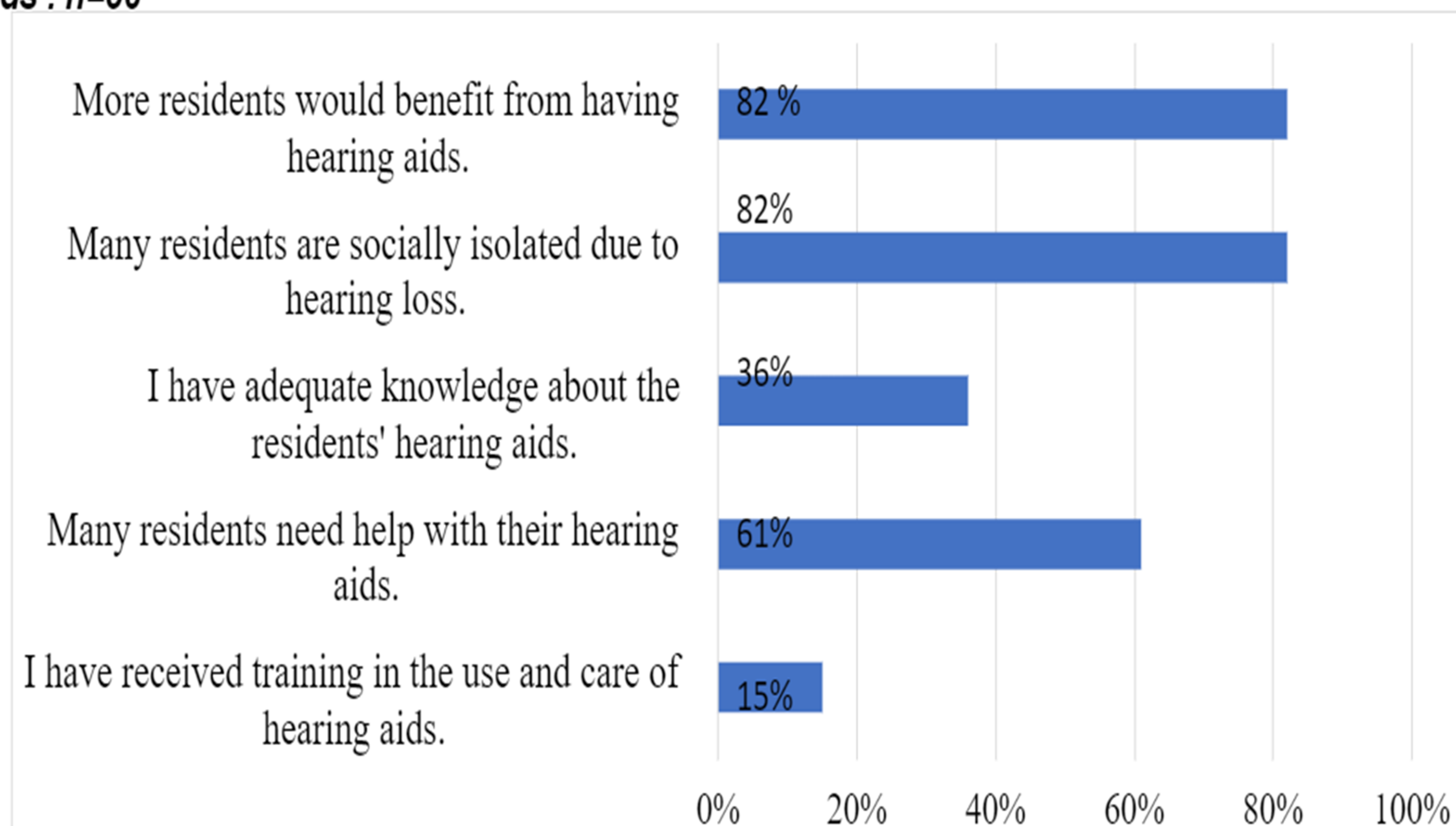
Study participant responses regarding agreement on their information needs of Hearing aids . n=56



Results

Knowledge and experience of Care Staff.

Study participant responses regarding agreement on knowledge and experiences of Hearing aids . n=56



Conclusion

- This extensive data is the first of its kind in Ireland
- This shows us how Care Staff are very candid about the issues they confront and have demonstrated a willingness and openness to learning.
- It confirms the skills and information gap of Care Staff, and there is excellent scope for training, and this will have a very positive impact on residents and Care Staff.

References

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