

Knowledge and attitudes of HIV in staff working in aged residential care (ARC) facilities

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ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA

Overview

- Introduction
- Background to the Study
- Preliminary results
- Summary of key findings to date
- Next steps

Introduction – Who am I?

- Based in Dunedin
- Registered Nurse – Otago Polytechnic 2019
- Nursing background – aged residential care, care of the older person, palliative care, nursing leadership and quality improvement / patient safety
- Nursing leadership – work as a clinical nurse manager for a 124 bed care home in Dunedin (largest in Otago and Southland); sit on various steering groups / committees for older persons health & in the aged residential care (ARC) space
- Masters – currently completing a Masters of Health Sciences (endorsed in Nursing) – with this research

Background

- Stigma and discrimination can have significant consequences on people living with HIV.
- Considerable advancements in treatment and management of HIV
- Longer life expectancy
- Current numbers in NZ – 62% were aged 50 years and over (December 2023)
- This number is expected to increase over the coming years, as well the demand on aged care services with our ageing population
- Stigma against people living with HIV – common in healthcare (Mundt & Briggs, 2016)
- Living Positive in Queensland (LPQ) survey - “ARC not ready to respond to the needs of people living with HIV and unlikely to be accepting of same sex couples”

Study Aims

- Important to understand the needs of the ARC community
- To understand HIV-related policies and practises, knowledge and attitudes in the aged care sector to inform the development of future interventions to reduce stigma for people living with HIV.

Methods

- Quantitative, online survey – with paper copy option available
- All ARC facilities in the Dunedin area were eligible for inclusion and all healthcare workers within the facility were eligible
- Recruitment process:
 - Discussion with ARC facility managers at Health NZ Forum
 - In person visits to facilities

Key Questions

- Knowledge scale (13 questions)
- Health Care Provider HIV and AIDS Stigma Scale (30 questions)
- Participant characteristics – age, ethnicity, gender, education, training, length of time in NZ, length of time employed
- Additional questions on level of disclosure and worry

Results – Participants

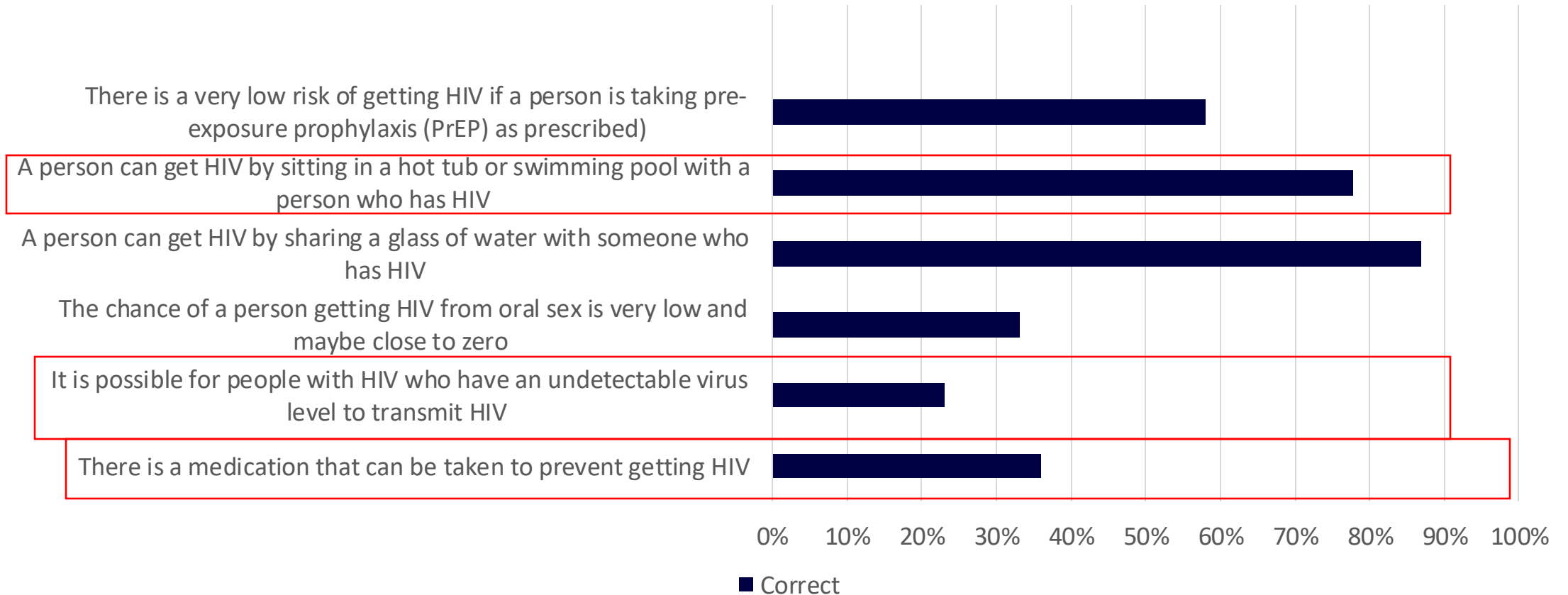
- Number of facilities that signed up to the project: 11
- N= 184 completed surveys

Results – Participant characteristics

Characteristic	N (%) n=184
Gender	
Male	26 (14.1)
Female	158 (85.9)
Age (years)	
<30	24 (13.0)
30-39	76 (41.3)
40-49	24 (13.0)
50-59	35 (19.0)
60+	25 (13.6)
Ethnicity	
Māori	10 (5.5)
NZ European	77 (42.3)
Pasifika	4 (2.2)
Indian	28 (15.4)
Filipino	46 (25.3)
Other Asian, African/not defined	19 (10.3)
Occupation group	
Nurse managers	13 (7.1)
Registered/enrolled nurses	43 (23.4)
Caregiver/healthcare assistants	116 (63.0)
Allied health	12 (6.5)

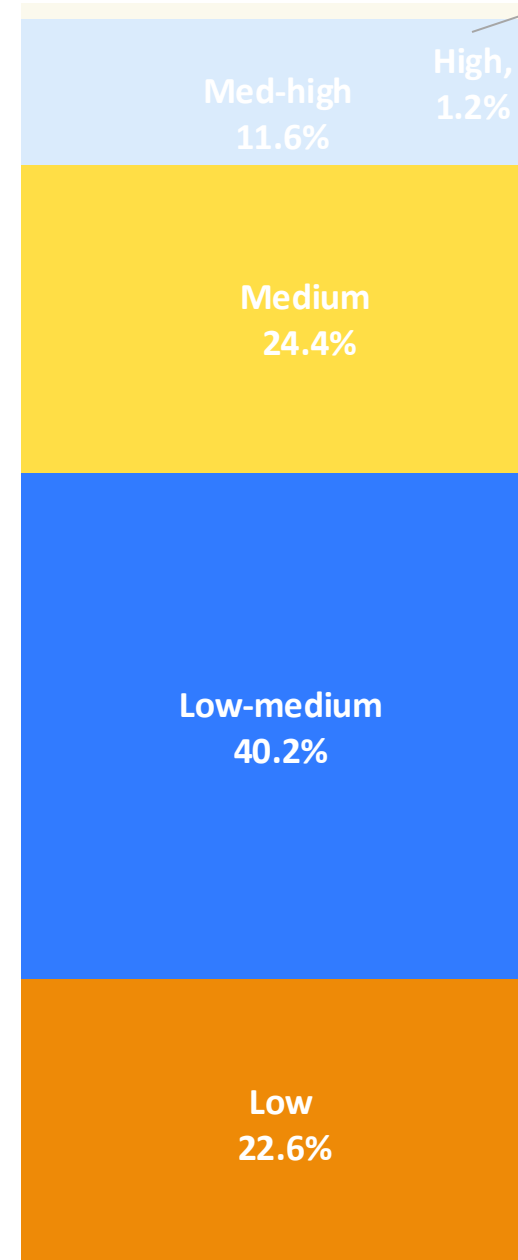
Results – Knowledge

- This section was based on 13 questions that asked about HIV knowledge with respondents answering “True”, “False”, or “Don’t know”



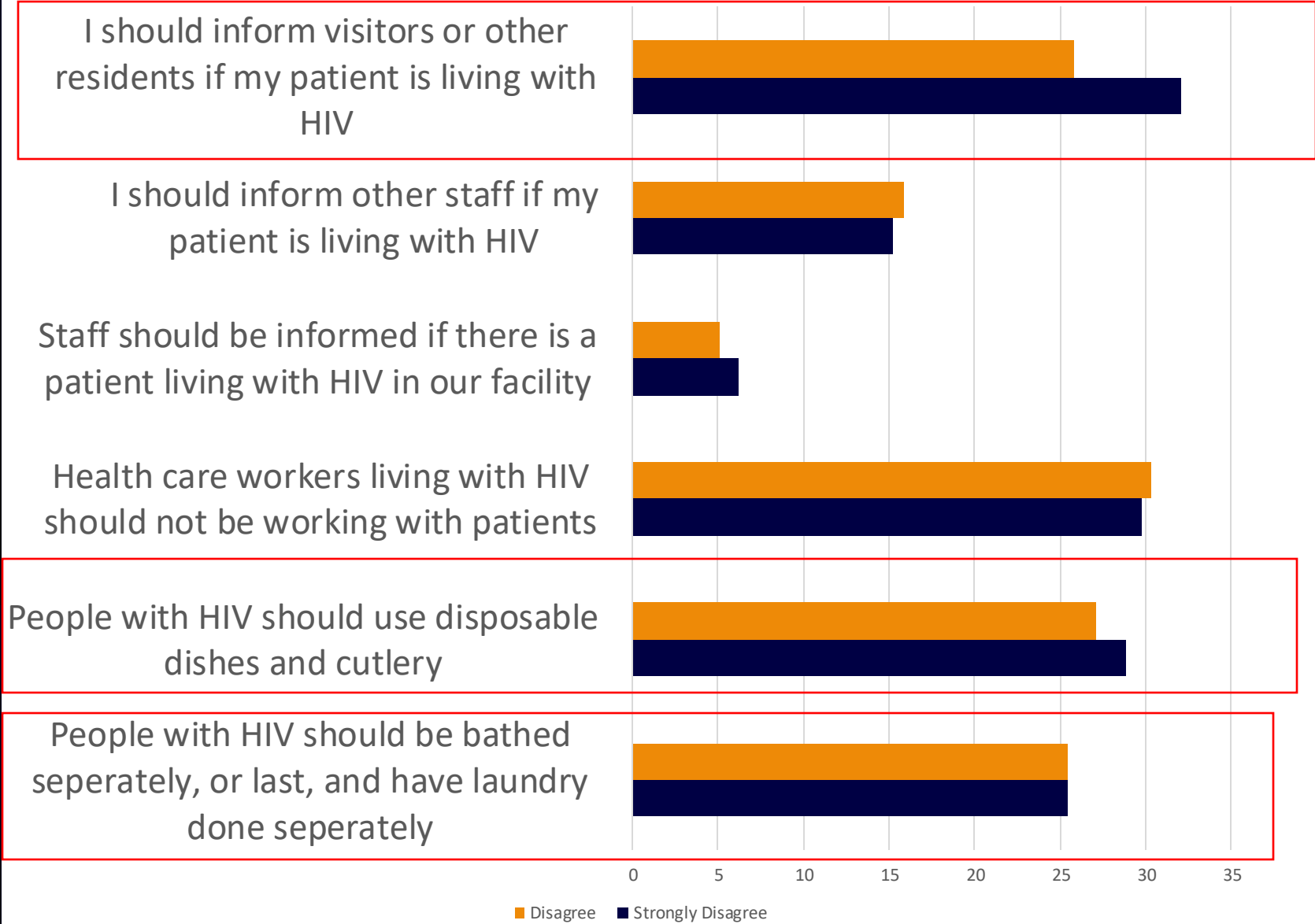
Results – Mean Stigma Score

- N=164 (who answered all 30 stigma questions)
- This section based off on HPASS (additional 4 questions added at feedback from HIV stakeholders, but not included in final summed scales)
- Lowest possible score: 30
- Highest possible: 180
- Lower score indicates a lower level of stigma



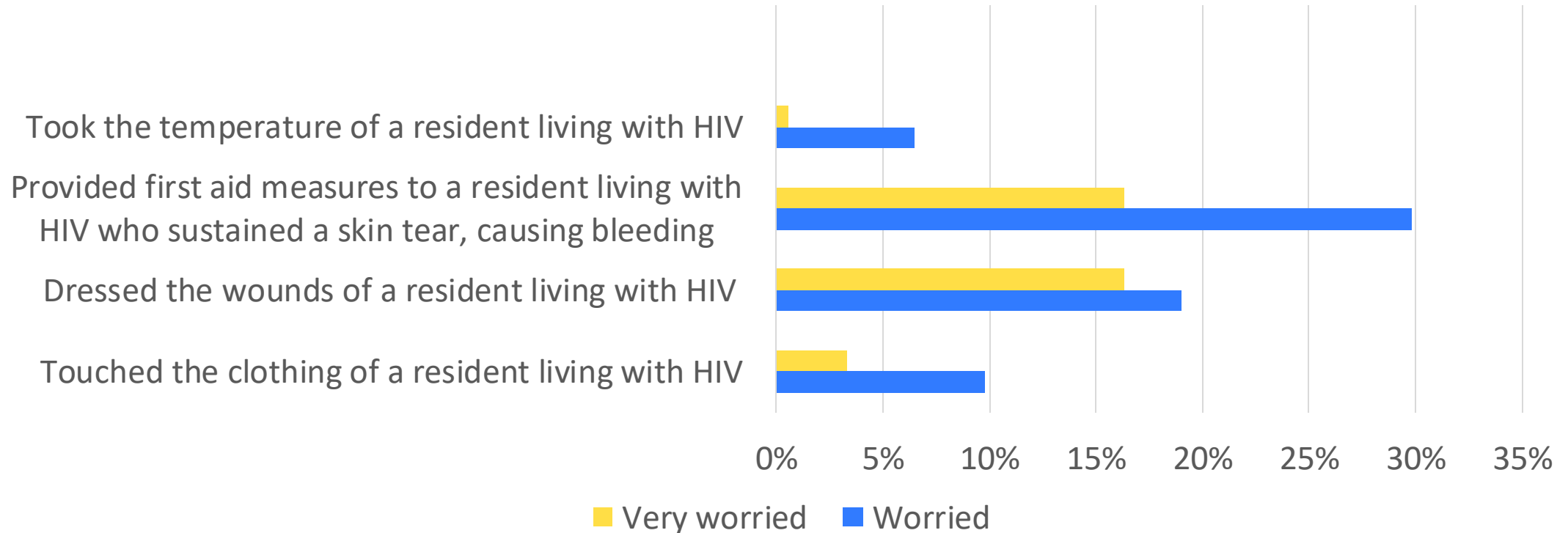
Additional Stigma Questions

Additional Questions - Stigma (as %)



Results – Worry of HIV

How worried would you be of getting HIV if you did the following?



Free Text Quotes from Participants

Theme 1: People living with HIV deserve the right to live in Aged Residential Care

“People who are living with HIV deserves the right to be in Aged Care residential places, given that they are on medications and also that staff are made aware of this and on top of that, proper precautions are in place for the staff and residents altogether. “

“I think it will be good to shine a light on HIV in the ARC sector so people living with HIV don't need to fear to coming into care, and staff don't need to fear the resident”

“People who are living with HIV deserves the right to be in Aged Care residential places, given that they are on medications and also that staff are made aware of this and on top of that, proper precautions are in place for the staff and residents altogether”

Free Text Quotes from Participants

Theme 2: Education and Awareness of HIV for ARC staff

“More education on this subject is definitely required as this has not been seen in ARC before”

“a lot of the stigma exists on this topic and education is needed for aged care. Perhaps a lot of the ignorance is due to not having any training.”

“I definitely need more training and education regarding all aspects of HIV”

Need to have more knowledge and awareness around this. No formal training is offered on this, my own knowledge has been due to having friends with HIV, as part of the LGBT community. A lot of thinking still sits in the 1980s view of HIV

Key Messages (so far)

- Limited exposure to caring for people living with HIV – not seen in ARC sector to date
- Limited training around HIV, therefore limited knowledge – which can impact on beliefs
- While some staff have indicated stigma and poor knowledge, all agree with the fact that the residents need care, and information should not be disclosed to unnecessary parties (questions re disclosure).

Next Steps

- Discussion with ARC sector in Dunedin
- Analysis
- Thesis completion
- Publication
- Wider stakeholder input

Acknowledgements

- Positive Women Inc
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- Health NZ – Southern
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Thanks for listening 😊



Questions?

