



# Obtaining HIV Patient Input: Accessibility and Quality of HIV Care and Treatment in Pennsylvania AIDS Drug Assistance Program



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## Purpose

The Pennsylvania AIDS Drug Assistance Program (SPBP), under Ryan White CARE Act provides a drug “safety net” for the most vulnerable, low income and uninsured HIV infected population. This program is pivotal in reducing the burden of HIV-care delivery and offers opportunity for comprehensive treatment, adherence support and prevention.

The purpose of this study was to examine issues related to access to care, quality of care, adherence to medication, quality of patient provider relationship and access to prevention information.

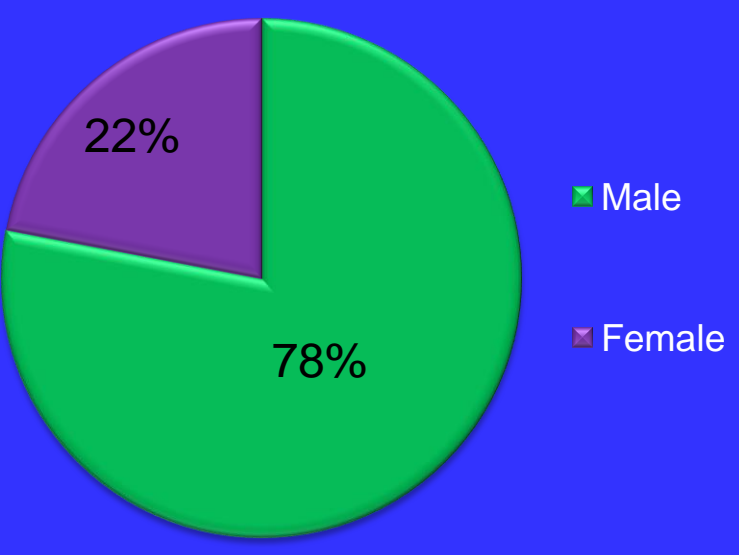
All the patients in study population were diagnosed as HIV positive and had access to antiretroviral treatment in Pennsylvania ADAP.

## Methods

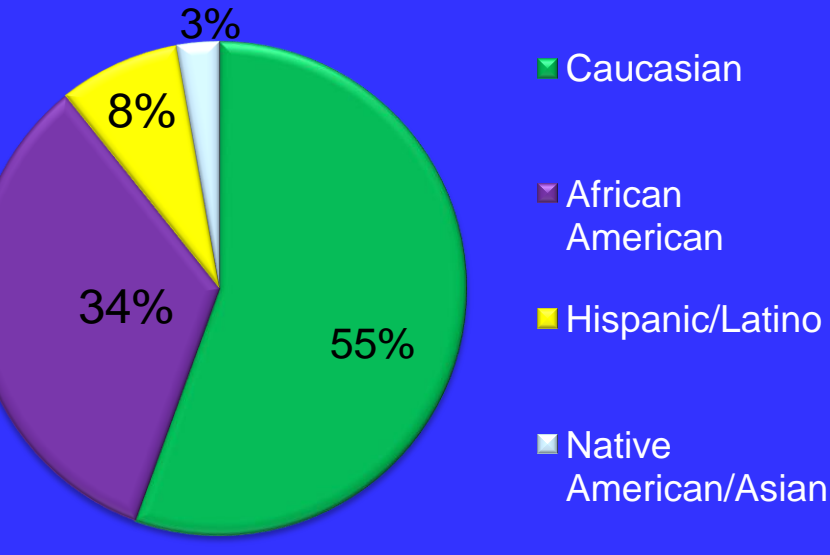
- Statewide convenience sample of 1,103 adults who received HIV-related medications through Pennsylvania ADAP in 2005.
- Respondents received a 103 item survey which included items to assess the following:
  - Patient Characteristics
  - Patient self reported HIV status
  - Satisfaction with HIV Clinicians
  - Access to needed HIV Clinicians and Support Services
  - Quality of Clinical Care
  - Access to information about HIV prevention

## Characteristics of Survey Participants

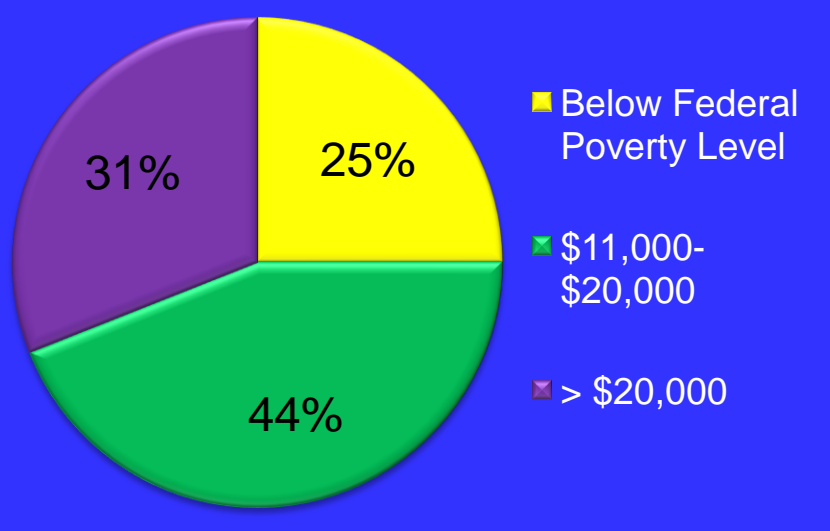
Gender of Responders



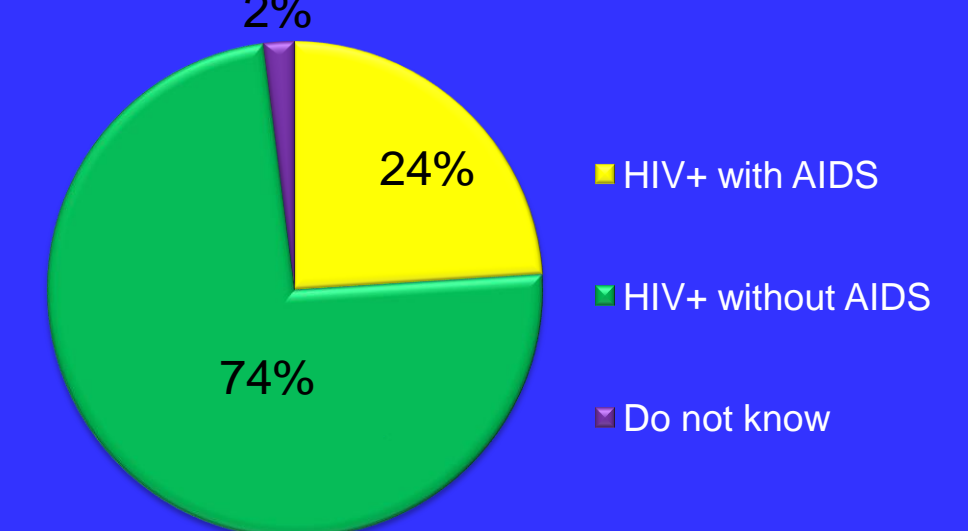
Race of Responders



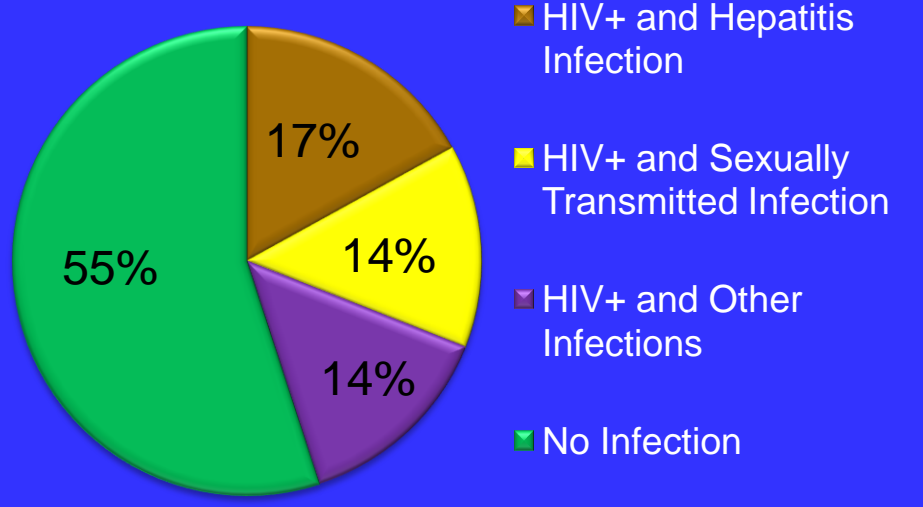
Income of Responders



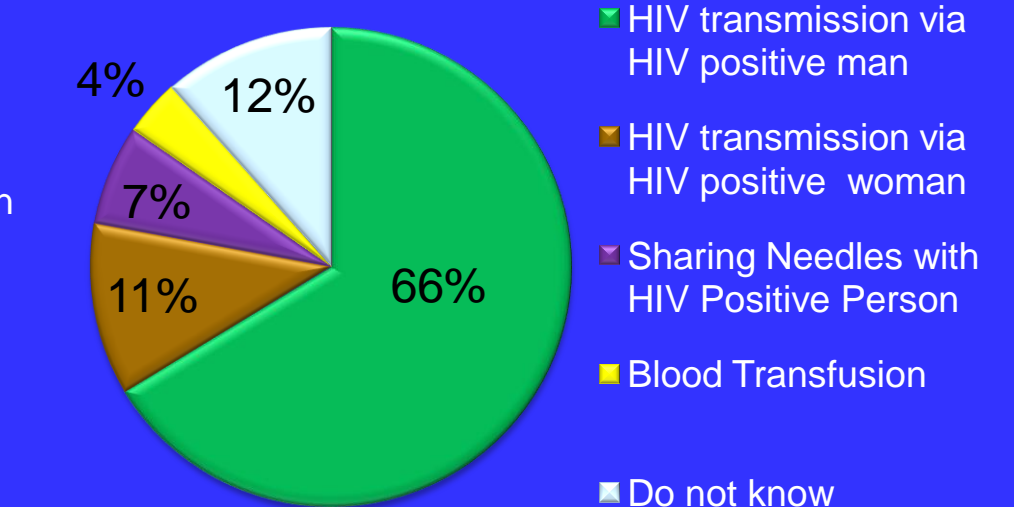
HIV positive with/without AIDS



HIV Co-Infection



Mode of HIV Transmission

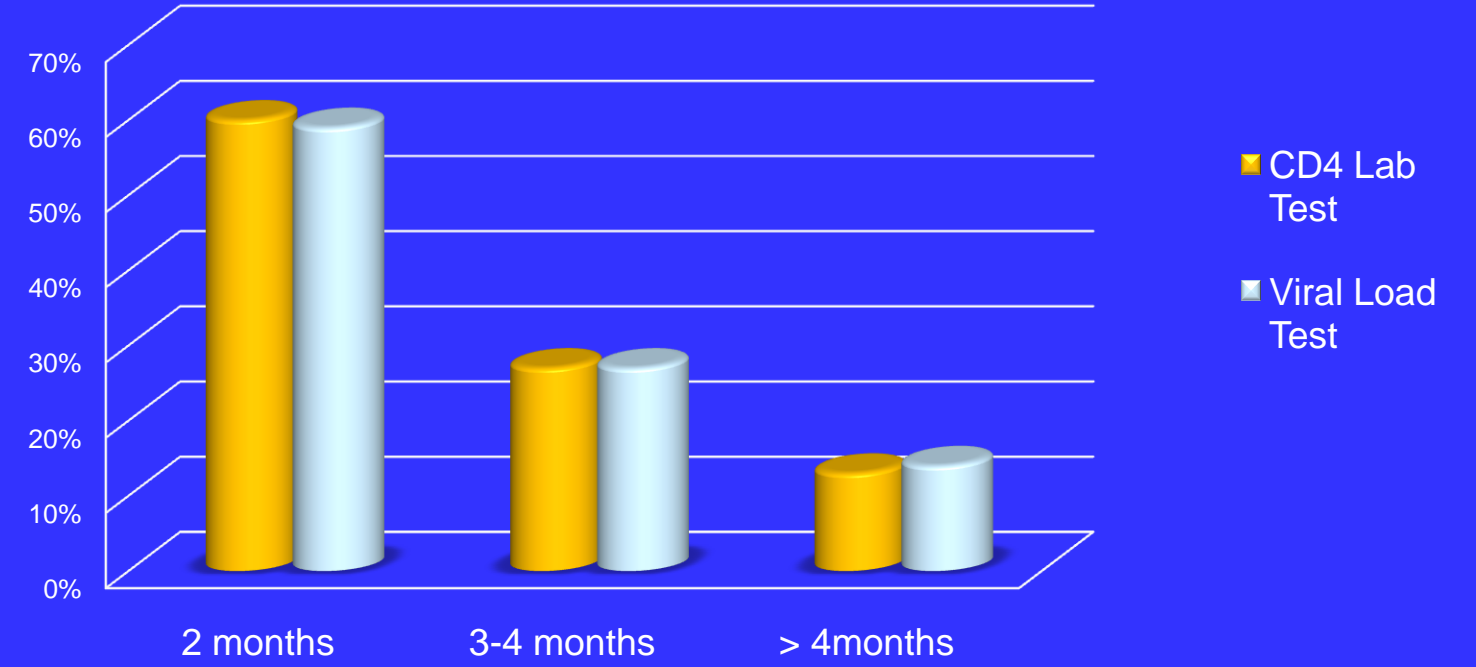


- 78% of respondents were Male.
- 56% of respondents were Caucasians.
- 70% had their income < \$20,000.
- 74% were HIV positive without diagnosis of AIDS.
- 55% reported no Co-morbid Infection
- 69% reported MSM HIV transmission.

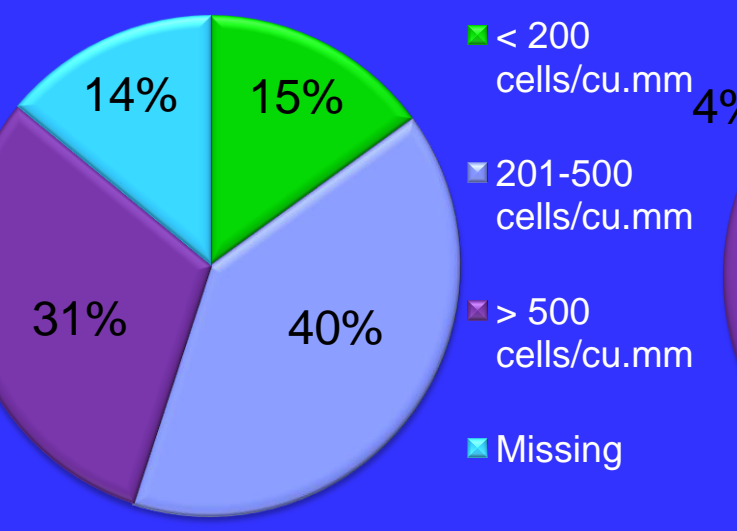
## Perceived Quality of Care & Satisfaction

- 80% reported ease in access to medical care.
- 87% had received CD4 counts and Viral Load Testing in last 4 months prior to the survey.
- 71% of respondents reported CD4 counts greater than 200 cells/cu.mm.
- 59% reported undetectable viral loads and,
- 93% of respondents reported a positive relationship with their HIV clinicians and other providers.

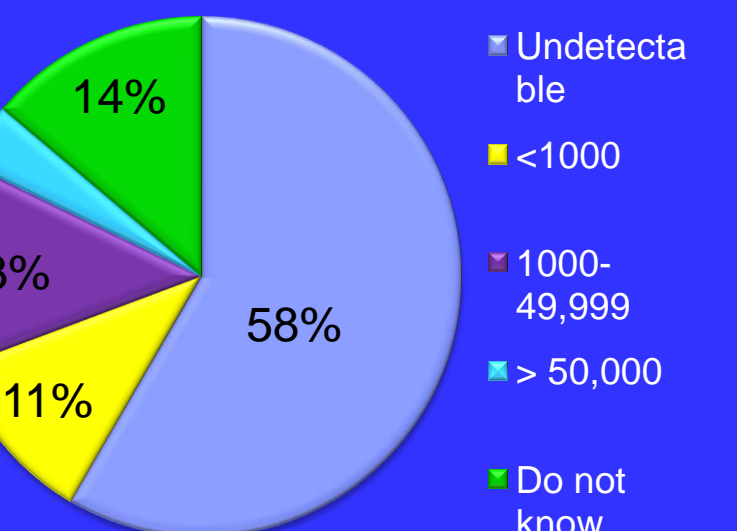
CD4 and Viral Load Testing



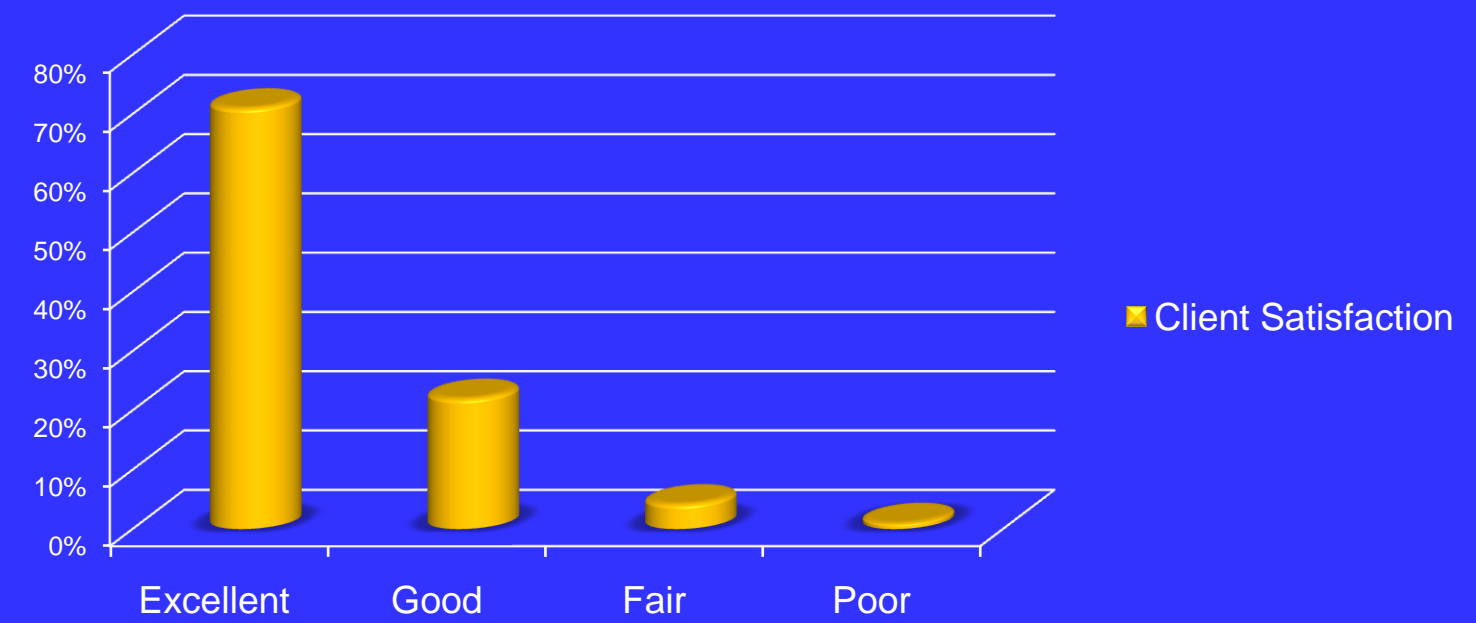
Reported CD4 Cell Count



Reported Viral Load Results



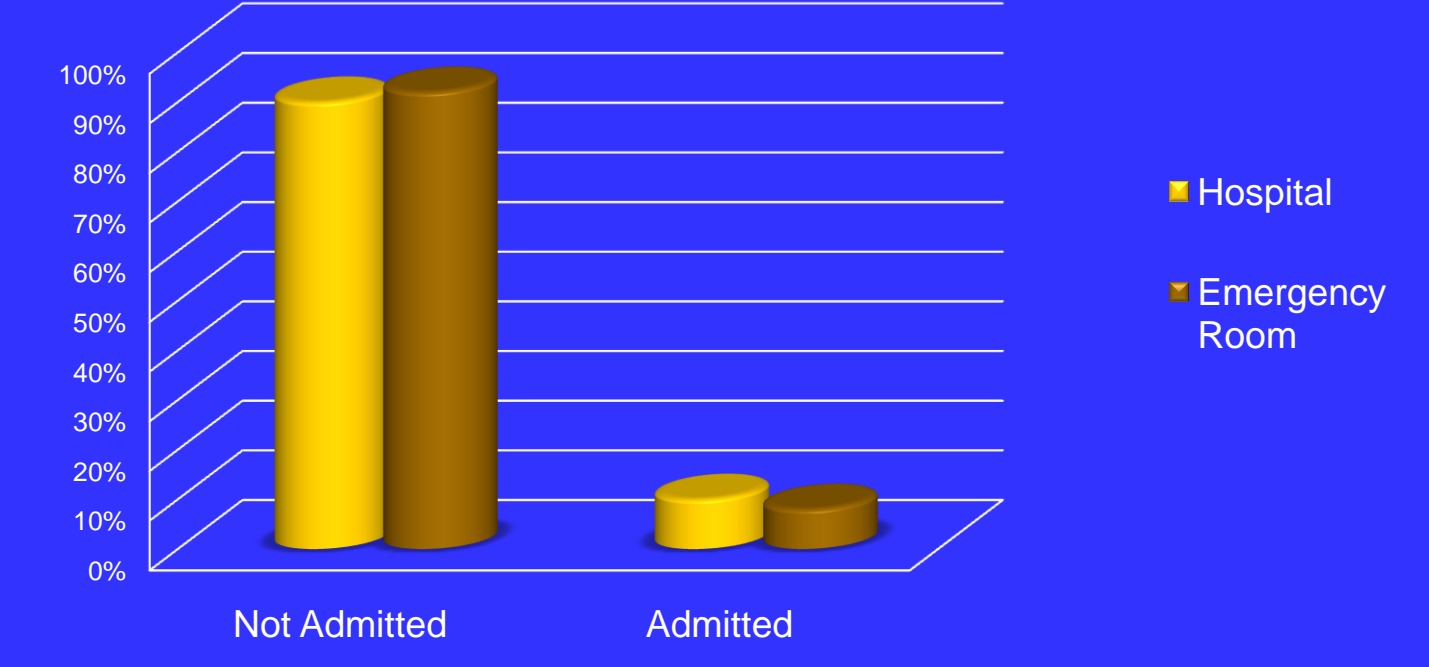
Client Satisfaction With Their Health Care Provider



## Self Reported HIV Adherence & Improved Health

- 77% of respondents reported being adherent with medication and treatment plan.
- 87% of respondents reported clinical monitoring in a timely manner that met current standards of care.
- Respondents reported lower rates of hospital admissions and emergency room visits.

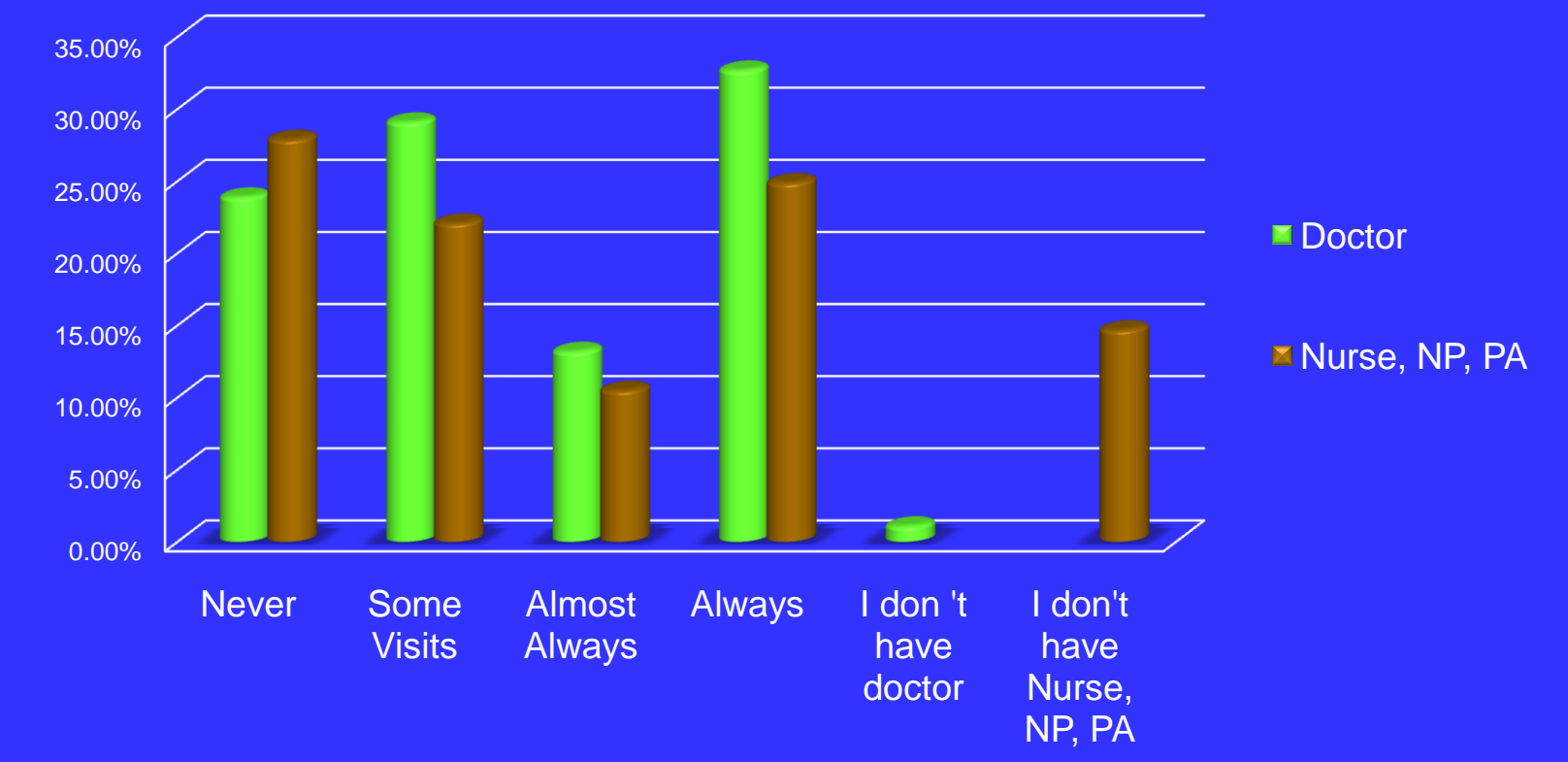
Emergency Room and Hospital Admissions in Last 6 Months



## Self Reported Access to Prevention Information

- 46% of Doctors and 36% of Nurses/ Nurse Practitioners/Physician Assistants “always” talked about practicing safer sex.

Frequency of Provider Talking About Practicing Safer Sex



## Conclusion

- Persons living with HIV/AIDS in Pennsylvania served by AIDS Drug Assistance Program have consistent access to HIV medications
- Patient receive high quality of medical treatment with timely clinical monitoring
- Pennsylvania ADAP has resulted in improved health status and lower rates of emergency room visits and hospital admissions by HIV patients
- The study also shows that more emphasis should be placed on prevention messages in the context of primary care
- More education is needed for clinicians and other health professionals to increase prevention education

- The study shows Pennsylvania ADAP and other Ryan White funded programs have resulted in accessibility to comprehensive HIV care including:
  - Antiretroviral Treatment
  - Support Services
  - Clinical Monitoring

## Acknowledgement

- Persons living with HIV in Pennsylvania who completed the survey questionnaire for the study.
- Pennsylvania HIV Integrated Planning Council (Ryan White SCSN) who requested that we conduct this study.