

CT Children's/UCONN HIV Program

Pilot Testing HIV STIGMA Survey

Danielle Warren- Dias, MSc, RSS, LCHW Nilda Fernandez-Betancourt, LMSW

October 20, 2021

UCONN
HEALTH





What is Stigma:

- ▶ HIV stigma is **negative attitudes and beliefs about people with HIV**. It is the prejudice that comes with labeling an individual as part of a group that is believed to be socially unacceptable.
- ▶ Discrimination is **the behaviors that result from those attitudes or beliefs**. It is the act of treating people living with HIV differently than those without HIV.

Pilot Testing HIV Stigma Survey Process

Original survey comprised of 40 questions – Reactions from MCM staff

- Length of survey
- Concerns about trauma triggering
- Refined to 12 questions
- Included a feedback question from respondent on survey
- Compensation for time/effort and valuable input

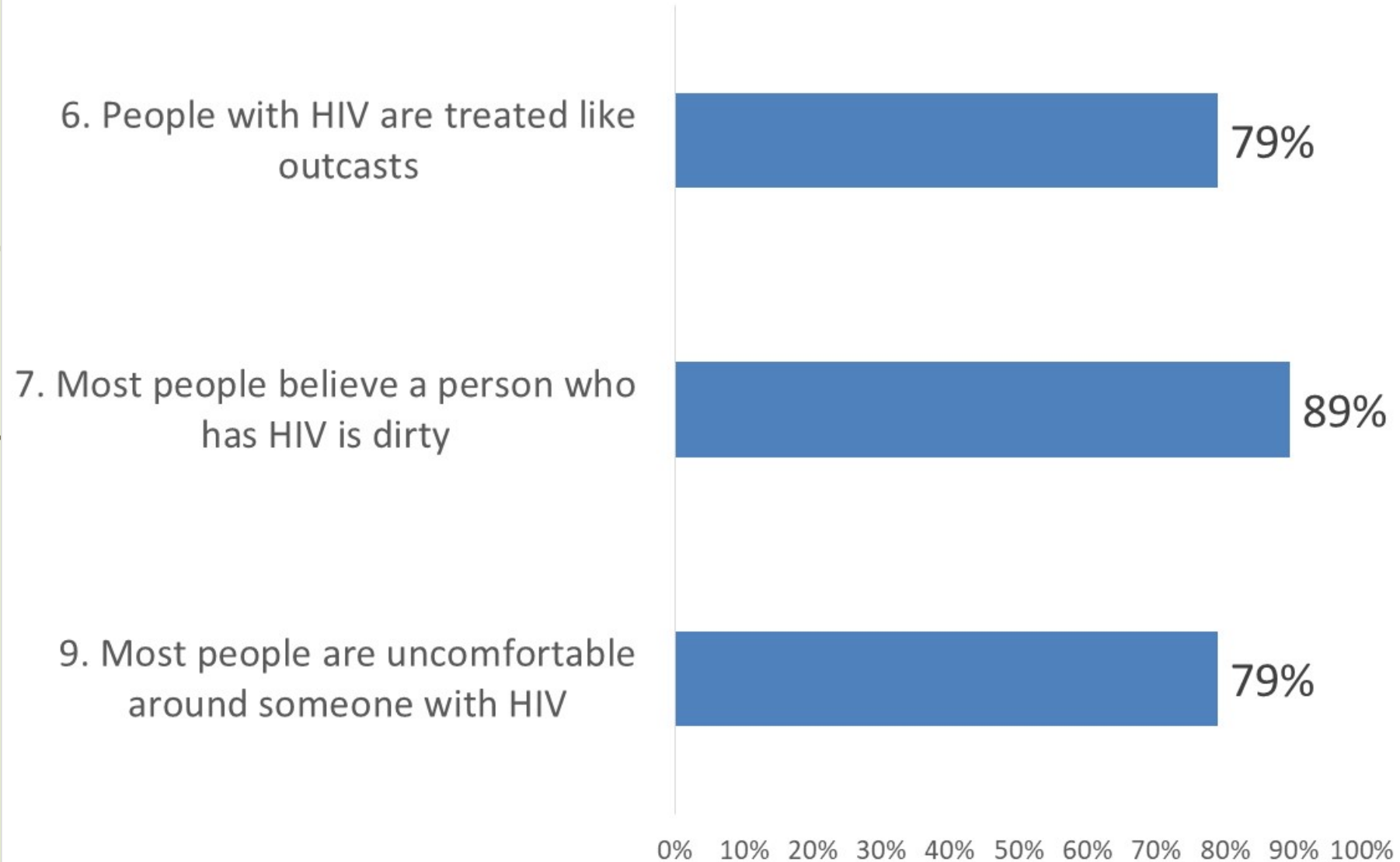
Subgroups to differentiate responses *

- ▶ 8 women in our psychosocial group
- ▶ 8 individuals who were maternally exposed to HIV
- ▶ 2 young men who have sex with men (MSM)
- ▶ 1 youth in our behavioral health program

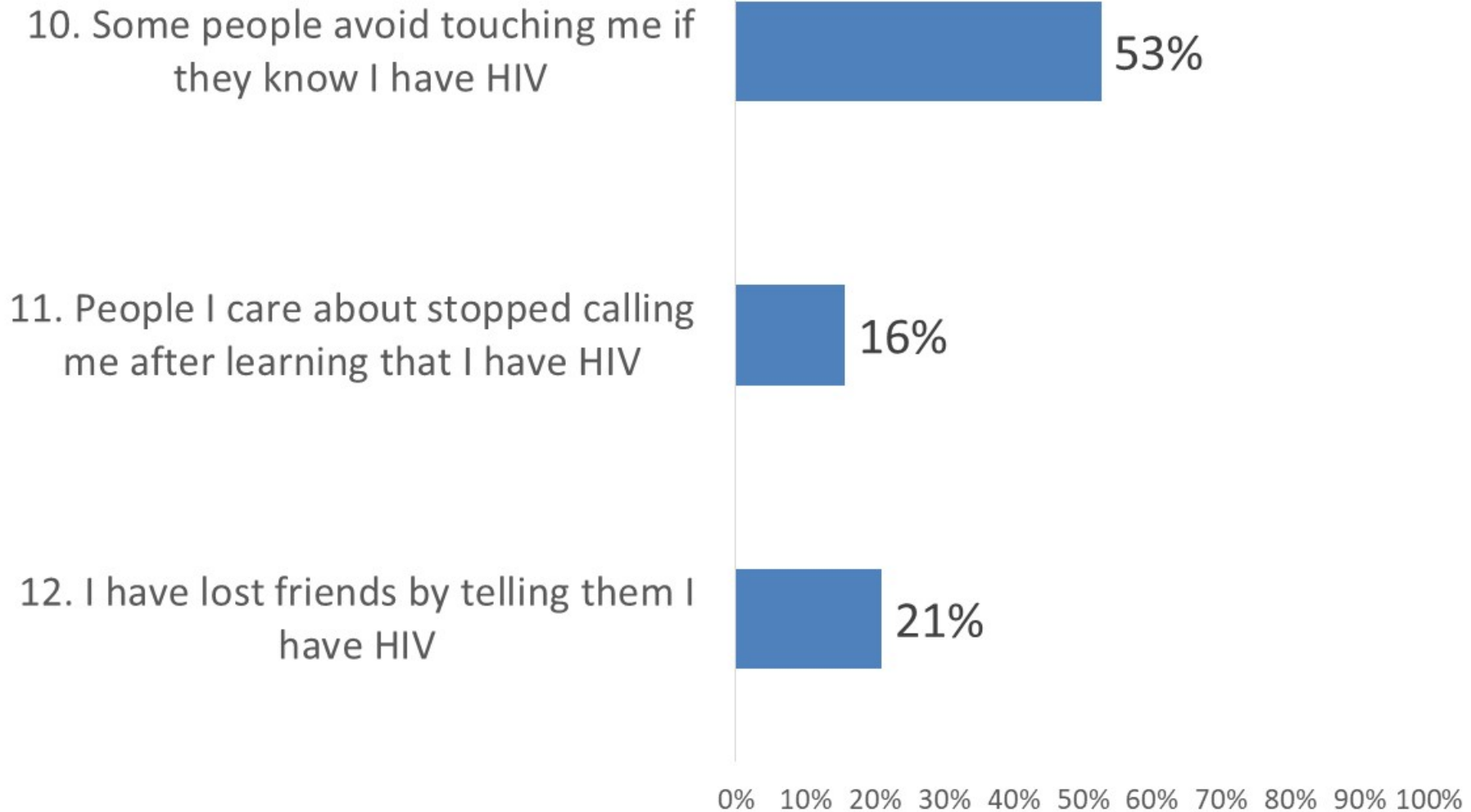


*Nineteen (19) Clients living with HIV and receiving medical case management services at CT Children's/UConn Pediatric, Youth Family HIV Program.

Concerns about Public Attitudes Sub-Scale (% who agree or strongly agree)

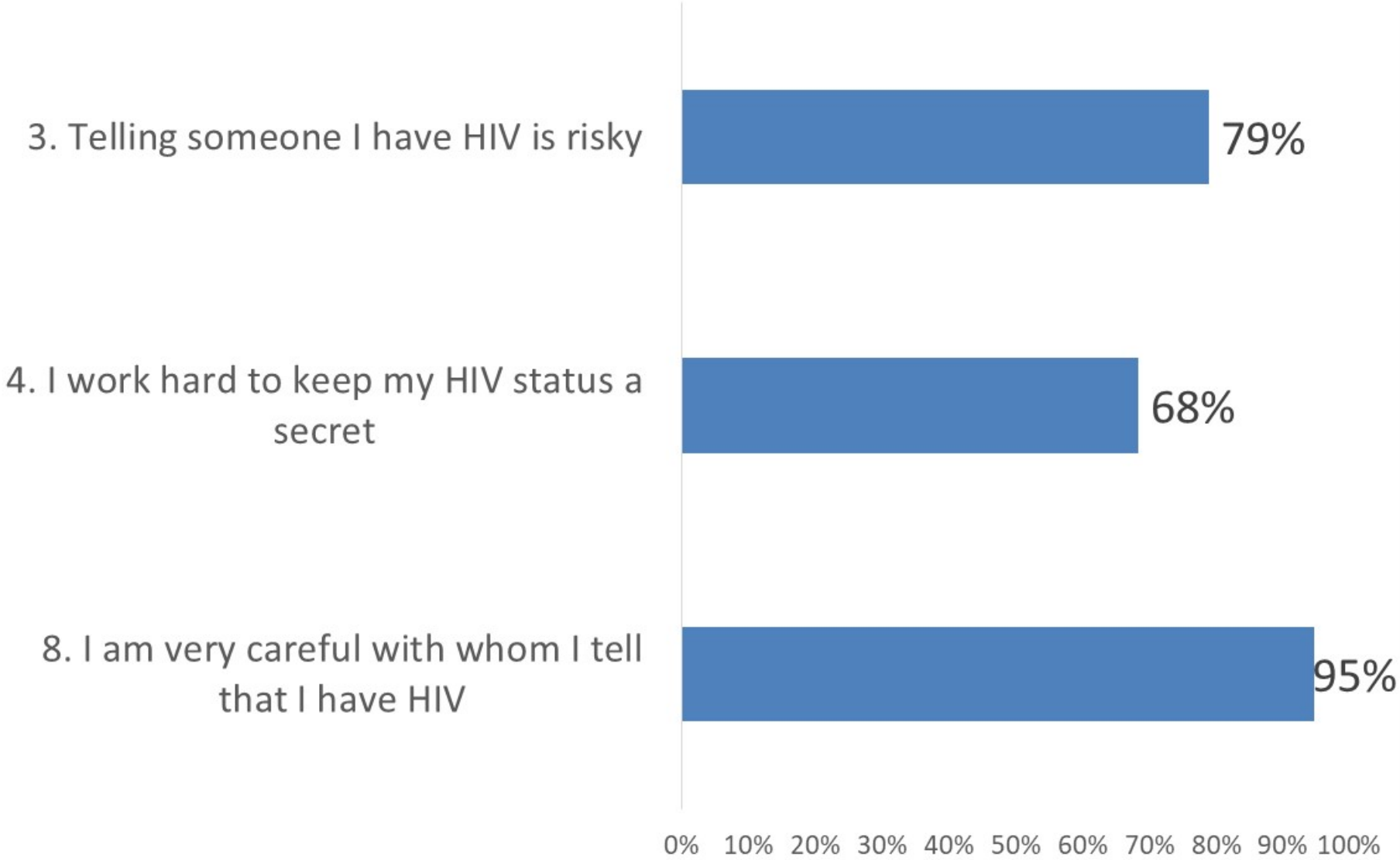


Personalized Stigma Sub-Scale (% who agree or strongly agree)

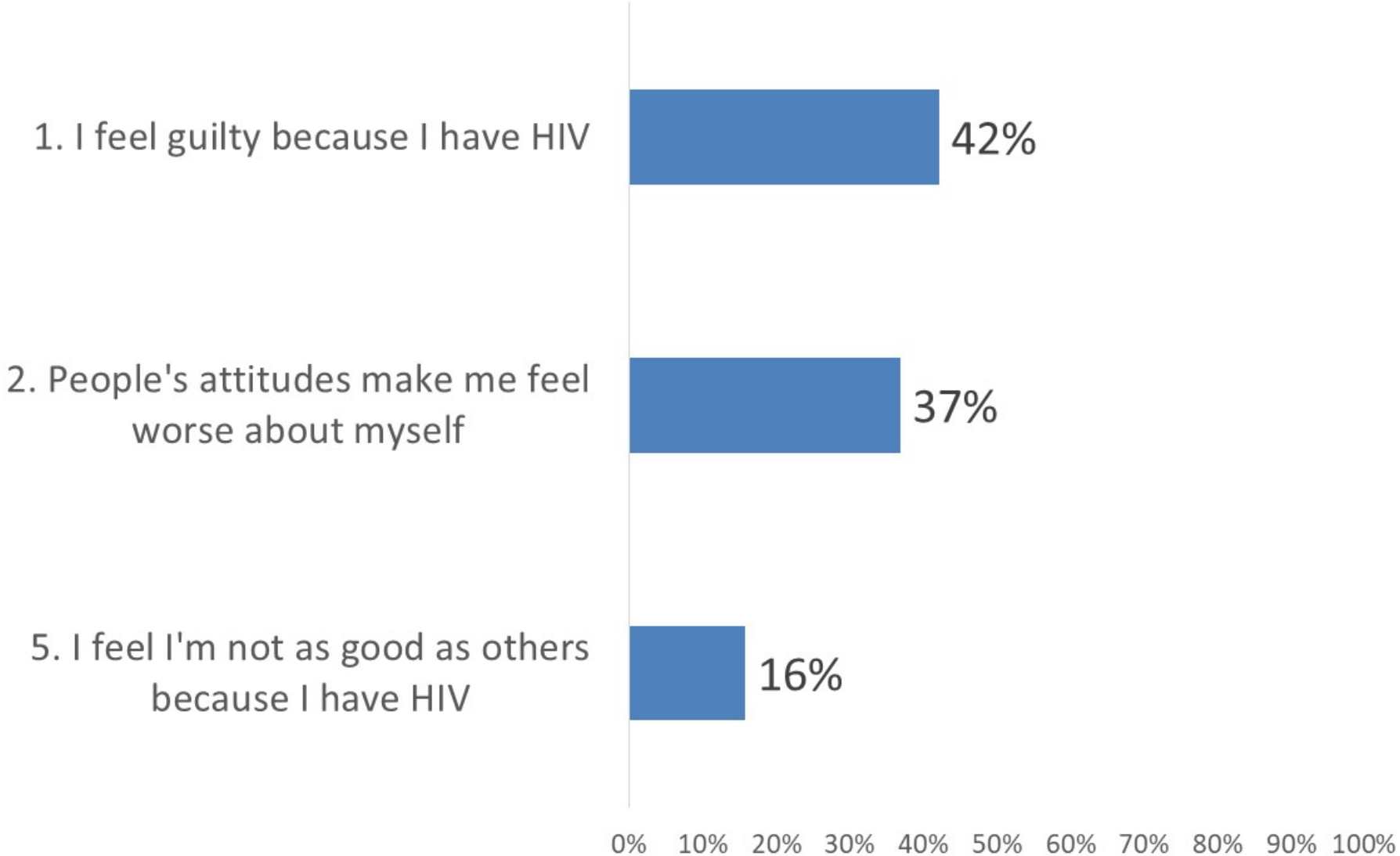


Disclosure Concerns Sub-Scale

(% who agree or strongly agree)



Negative Self-Image Sub-Scale (% who agree or strongly agree)





Feedback on Taking the Survey

- ▶ Short and easy (2)
- ▶ OK / pretty good (2)
- ▶ Kinda personal (2)
- ▶ I think that these questions reflect the backlash that people in the HIV community are facing.
- ▶ Not enough questions for those who feel comfortable with their HIV status. Survey seemed to presume everyone is not comfortable with their status or that stigma, while it is pervasive has prevailed. This mindset may tend to discourage anyone not hardened against the winds of negativity.
- ▶ I feel like the questions were too generalized. Maybe pinpointing a specific scenario will give you a more accurate response.
- ▶ Great Survey

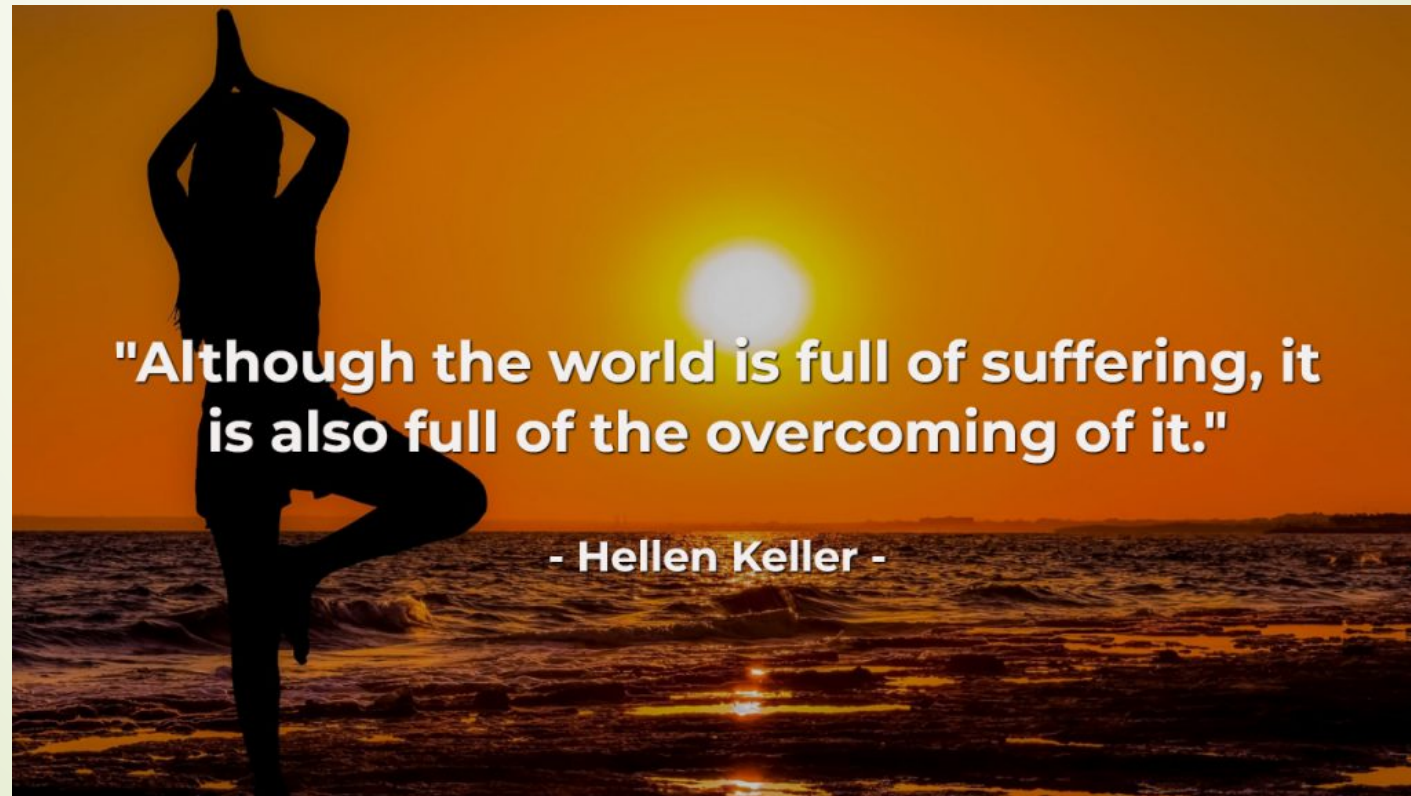


Implications for Assessing HIV Stigma in CT

- ▶ Think about how y/our clients experience stigma – individual level
 - ▶ Who is affected,
 - ▶ How are they affected.
 - ▶ What are the outcomes of HIV Stigma.
- ▶ Multi-layered Stigma
 - ▶ Internalized Stigma – may impact health outcomes for PLWHA.
 - ▶ Anticipated Stigma – future experiences – barriers to HIV testing/Uptake of PrEP.
 - ▶ Enacted Stigma – Community level prejudices/discrimination.
- ▶ Stigma Survey/s –tailor to population being served.

Thank you

Questions



"Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it."

- Hellen Keller -