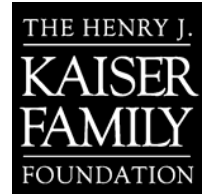


---

Summary and Chartpack



# **2006 Kaiser Family Foundation *Survey of Americans* *on HIV/AIDS***

## **Additional Findings: HIV Testing**

May 2006

---

## **Methodology**

The Kaiser Family Foundation *Survey of Americans on HIV/AIDS* was designed and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation. Interviews were conducted by telephone between March 24 and April 18, 2006, among a nationally representative random sample of 2,517 respondents 18 years of age and older. The survey includes an oversample of African American and Latino respondents (a total of 378 African American and 447 Latino respondents were interviewed). Results for all groups have been weighted to reflect their actual distribution in the nation.

The margin of sampling error for the overall survey is plus or minus 2 percentage points. For White respondents the margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3 percentage points; for African Americans it is plus or minus 7 percentage points; and for Latinos it is plus or minus 6 percentage points. For results based on subsets of respondents the margin of error is higher. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

Note: Percentages may not always add up to 100% due to rounding. “Vol.” indicates that a response was volunteered by the respondent, and not offered as an explicit choice.

Telephone interviews were conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates, International.

This is a supplemental report based on one section of the survey. A full survey report, including full question wording and results for questions presented in this report can be found online at <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/pomr050806pkg.cfm>.

# Summary

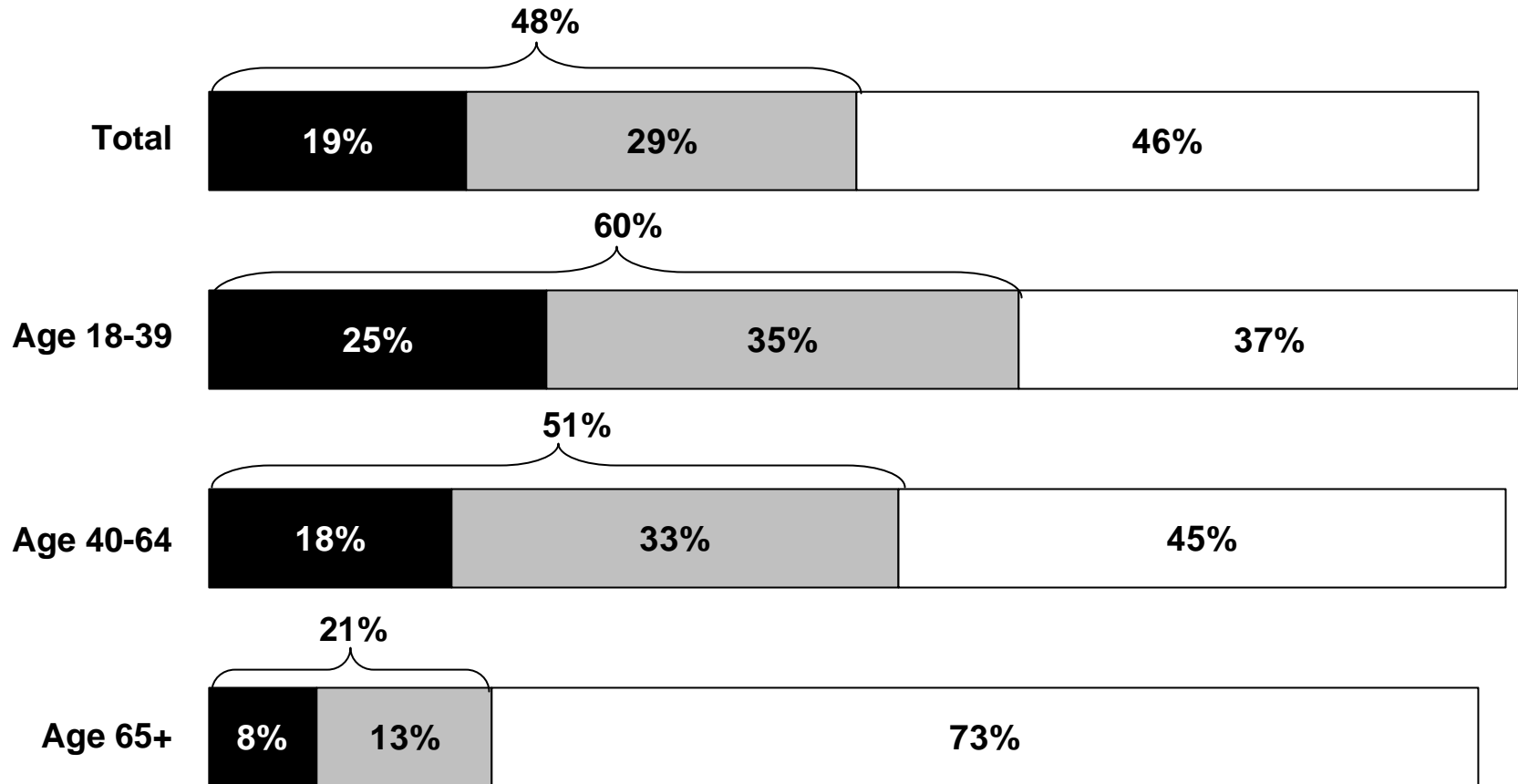
- Nearly half (48%) of Americans say they have been tested for HIV at some point, including 19% who say they've been tested in the past year. People ages 18-39 (60%) and 40-64 (51%) are more likely to say they have ever been tested than those ages 65 and over (21%) (Chart 1).
- The share of non-elderly adults who say they've ever been tested for HIV increased slowly but steadily from 1997 to 2004, and has since leveled off at 55% (Chart 2).
- The biggest reason people report for not being tested is that they don't feel they're at risk (61% of those who have never been tested). Smaller shares of those who haven't been tested say it is because their doctor never recommended it (21%), they worry about confidentiality (13%), they don't know where to get tested (10%), they don't like needles or giving blood (8%), or they're afraid they'll test positive (3%) (Chart 3).
- More than other racial and ethnic groups, African Americans seem to have gotten the message that HIV testing is important. African Americans under the age of 65 (41%) are much more likely than whites (16%) and Latinos (28%) in this age range to say they have been tested for HIV in the last year (Chart 4). African Americans are also more likely than whites to say that increasing the number of people who get tested for HIV should be a very important priority for HIV prevention in the U.S., and that spending more money on HIV testing in the U.S. will lead to meaningful progress in slowing the epidemic (Chart 5).
- Stigma around HIV testing is not a concern for most people (62% say that finding out they had an HIV test would make no difference in how people they know would think of them); still, about one-fifth (21%) say they believe people would think less of them if they found out they had been tested (Chart 6).
- Two-thirds of the public (65%) say HIV testing should be treated just like routine screening for other diseases, while about a quarter (27%) say it should require special procedures, such as written permission from the patient (Chart 7).
- Most people (65%) think rapid home HIV-testing is a good idea (Chart 8), but when asked their personal preference, most (62%) would still prefer to get tested in a doctor's office rather than use a home test (Chart 9).

Chart 1

# Percent Who Report Being Tested for HIV by Age

Percent saying they have ever been tested for HIV...

■ Yes, in last 12 months    ■ Yes, but not in last 12 months    □ No, never tested



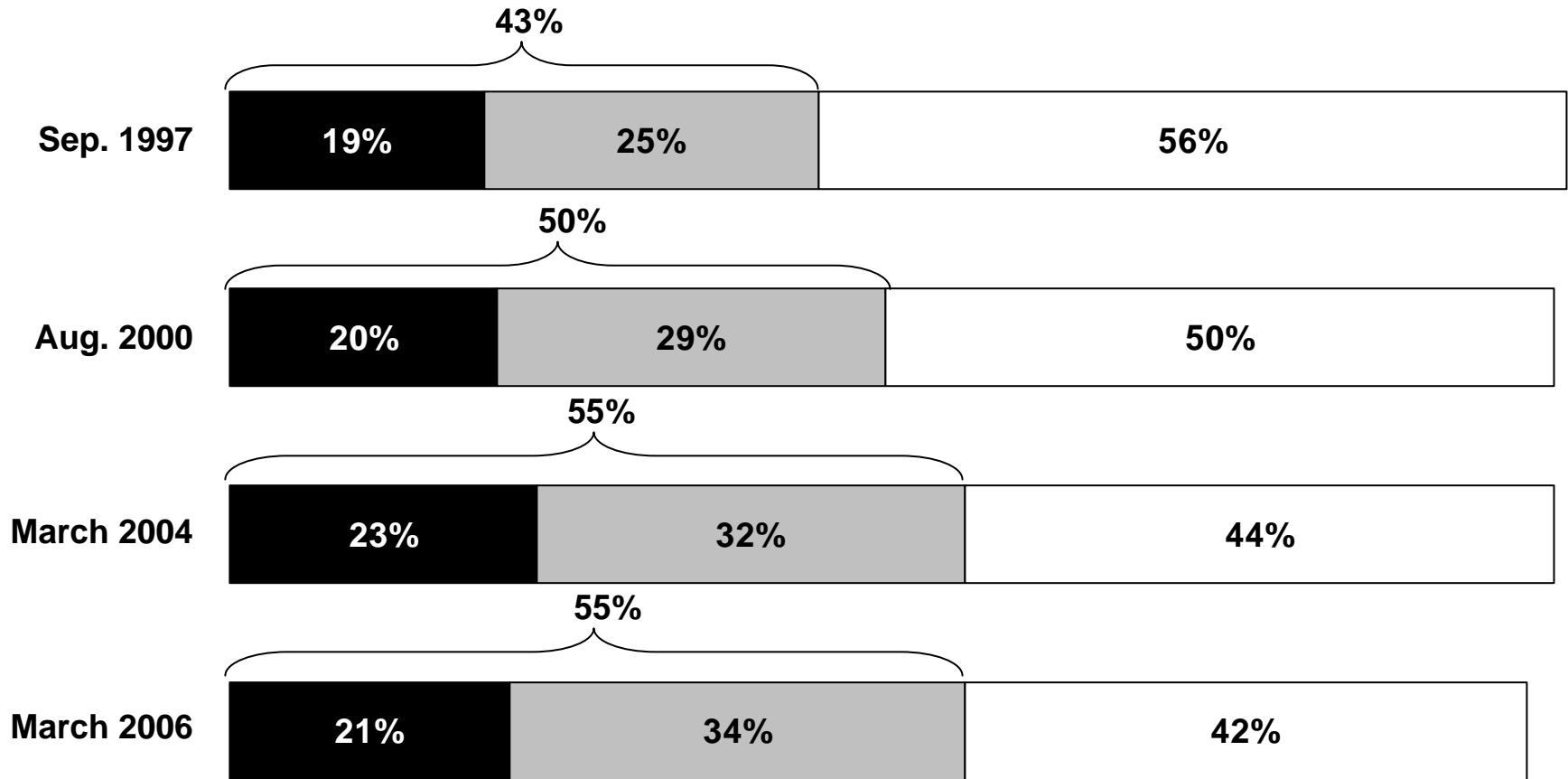
Note: Don't know responses not shown; Numbers may not add up exactly due to rounding.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Survey of Americans on HIV/AIDS* (conducted March 24 – April 18, 2006)

# Trends in NON-ELDERLY Who Report Being Tested for HIV

Percent saying they have ever been tested for HIV among those under age 65...

Yes, in last 12 months
  Yes, but not in last 12 months
  No, never tested

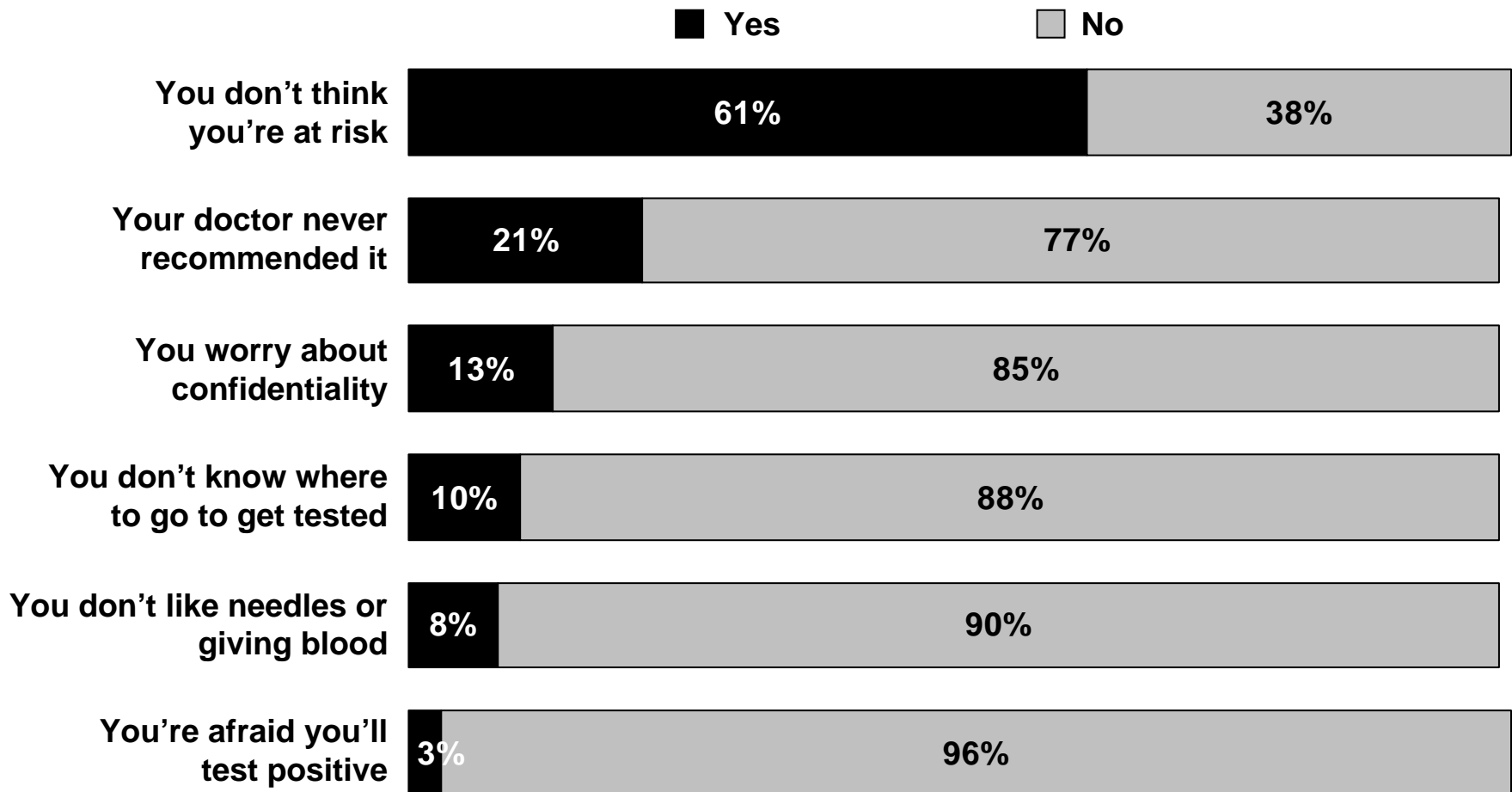


Note: Don't know responses not shown; Numbers may not add up exactly due to rounding.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation surveys

# Reported Reasons for Not Being Tested

Is each of the following a reason you haven't been tested for HIV, or not? *(Asked of the 46% who have never been tested for HIV)*



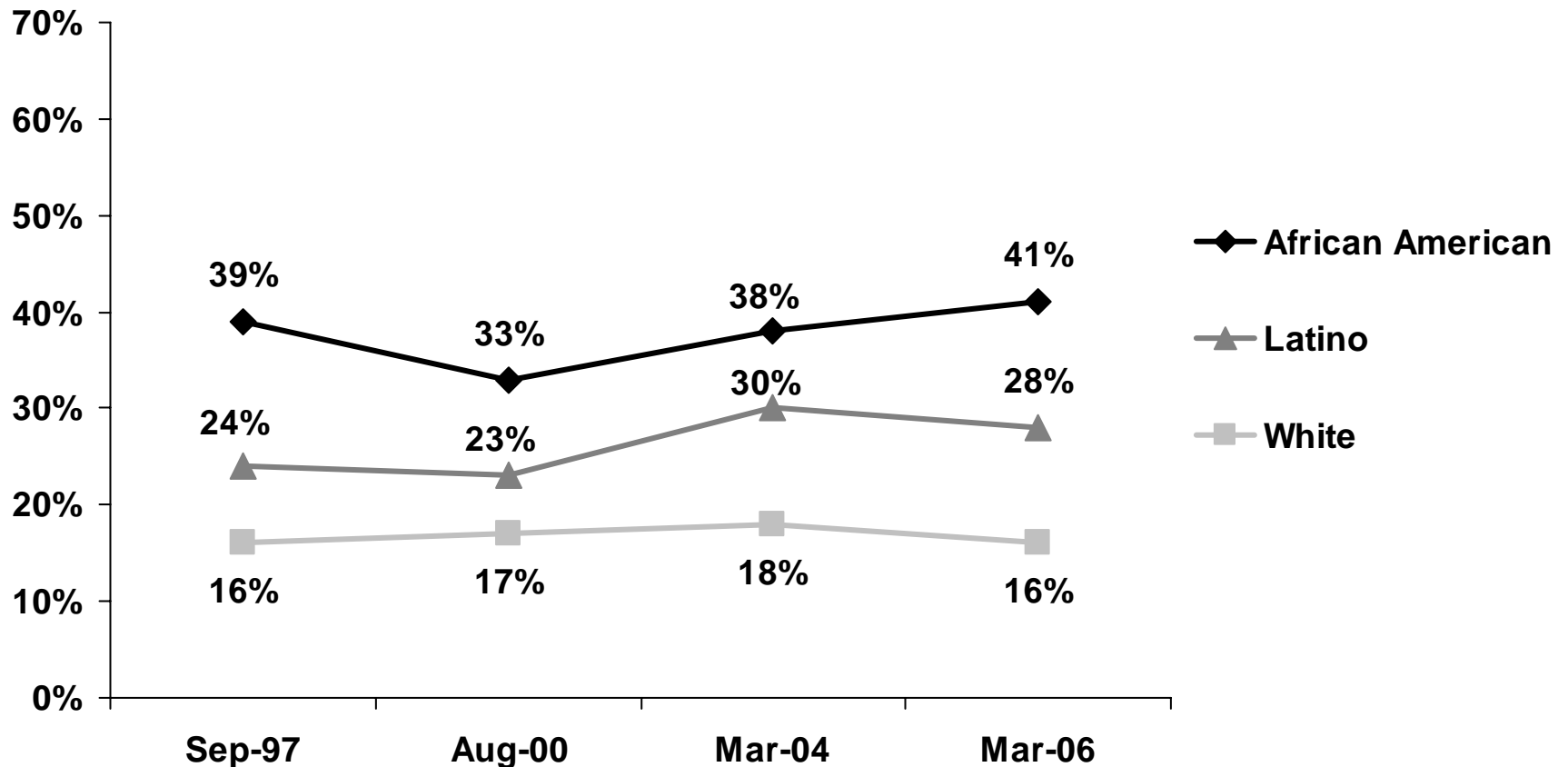
Note: Don't know responses not shown.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Survey of Americans on HIV/AIDS* (conducted March 24 – April 18, 2006)

Chart 4

# Trends in NON-ELDERLY Who Report Being Tested for HIV in the Last Twelve Months by Race/Ethnicity

Percent saying they have been tested for HIV IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS among those under age 65...

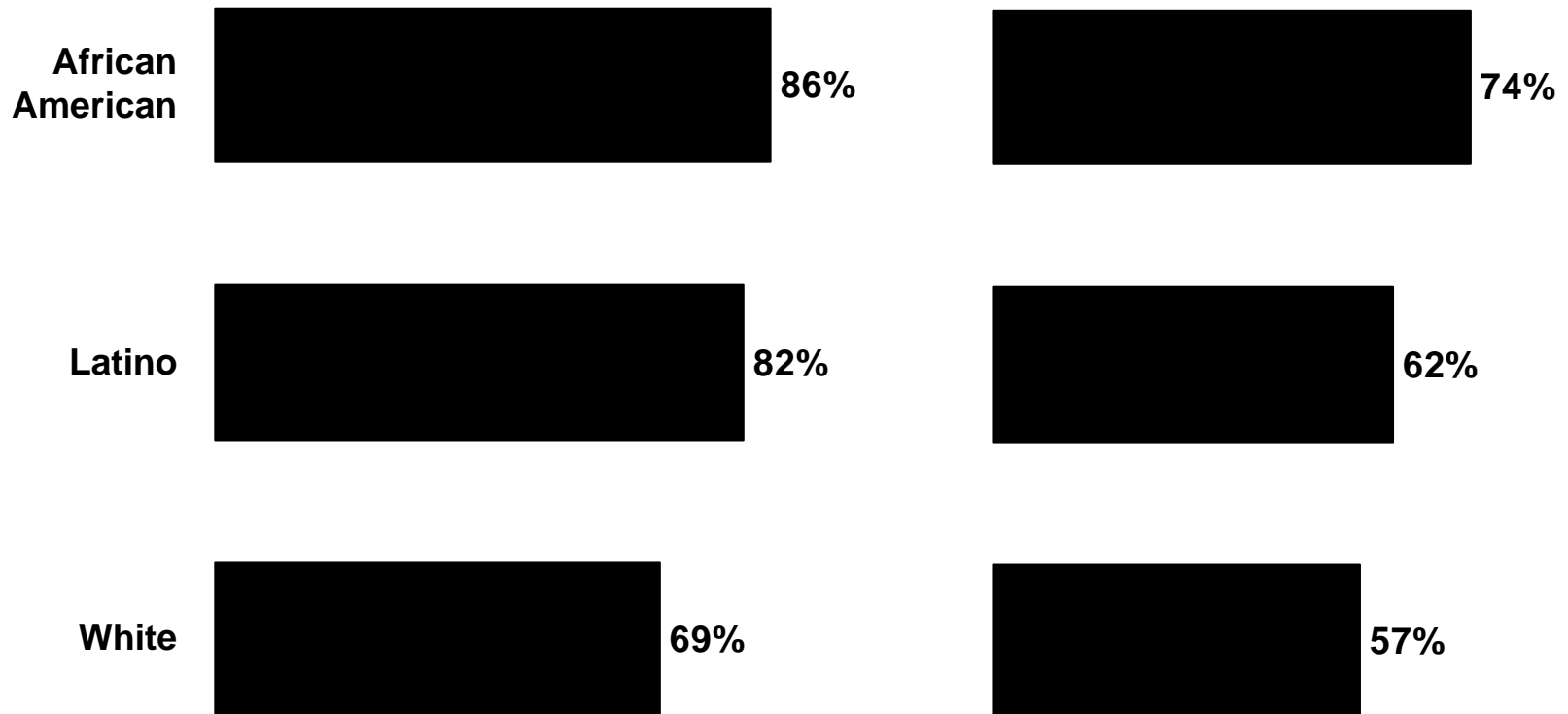


# HIV Testing as a Priority by Race/Ethnicity

---

Percent who say increasing the number of people who get tested for HIV should be a “very important” priority when it comes to HIV/AIDS prevention in the U.S.

Percent who say spending more money on HIV testing in the U.S. so that more people would know their HIV status will lead to meaningful progress in slowing the epidemic

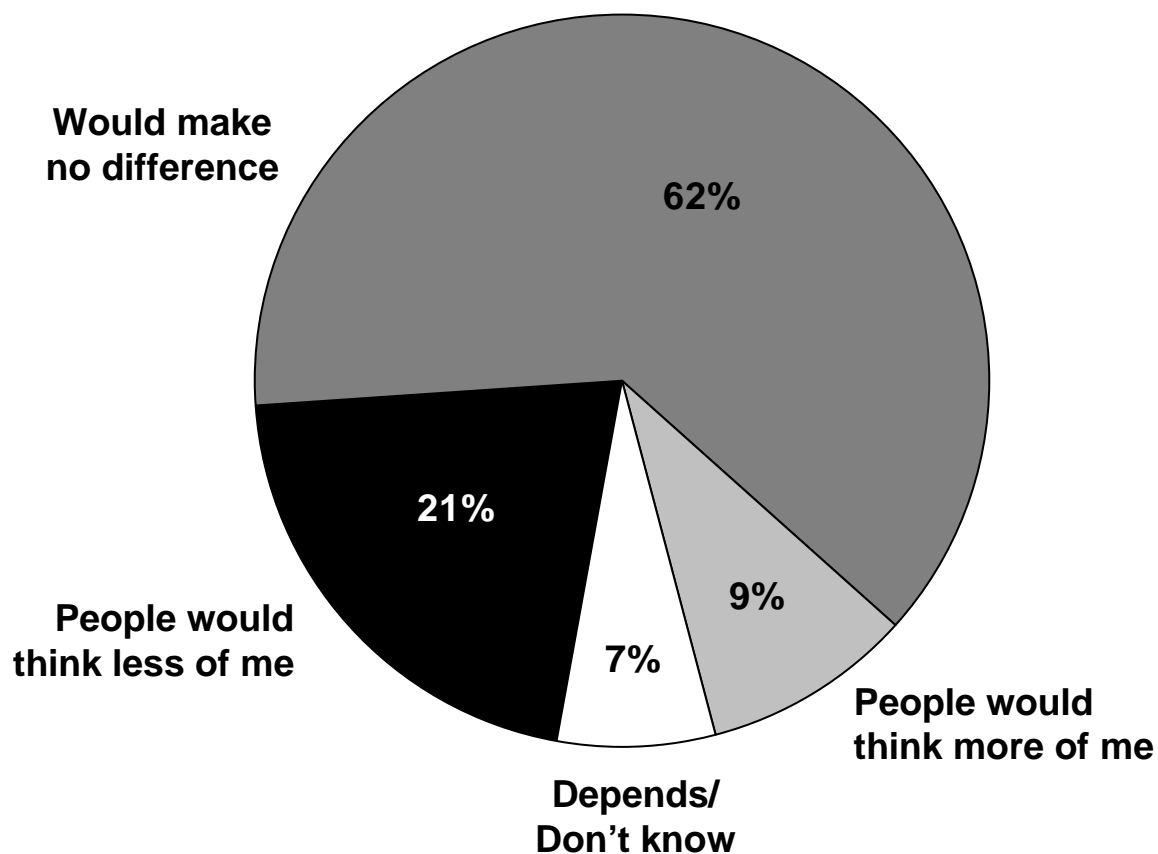




# Perceptions of Whether Stigma Follows Testing

---

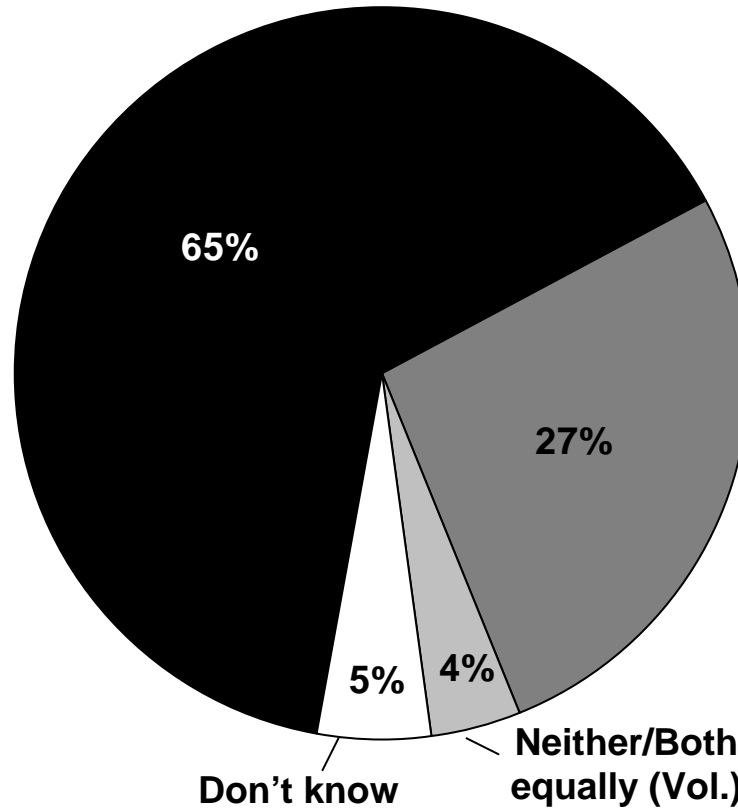
If you were to be tested for HIV, do you think it would make people you know think less of you, think more of you, or would it make no difference in how people you know think of you?



# Views on Routine HIV Testing

Which comes closer to your opinion...

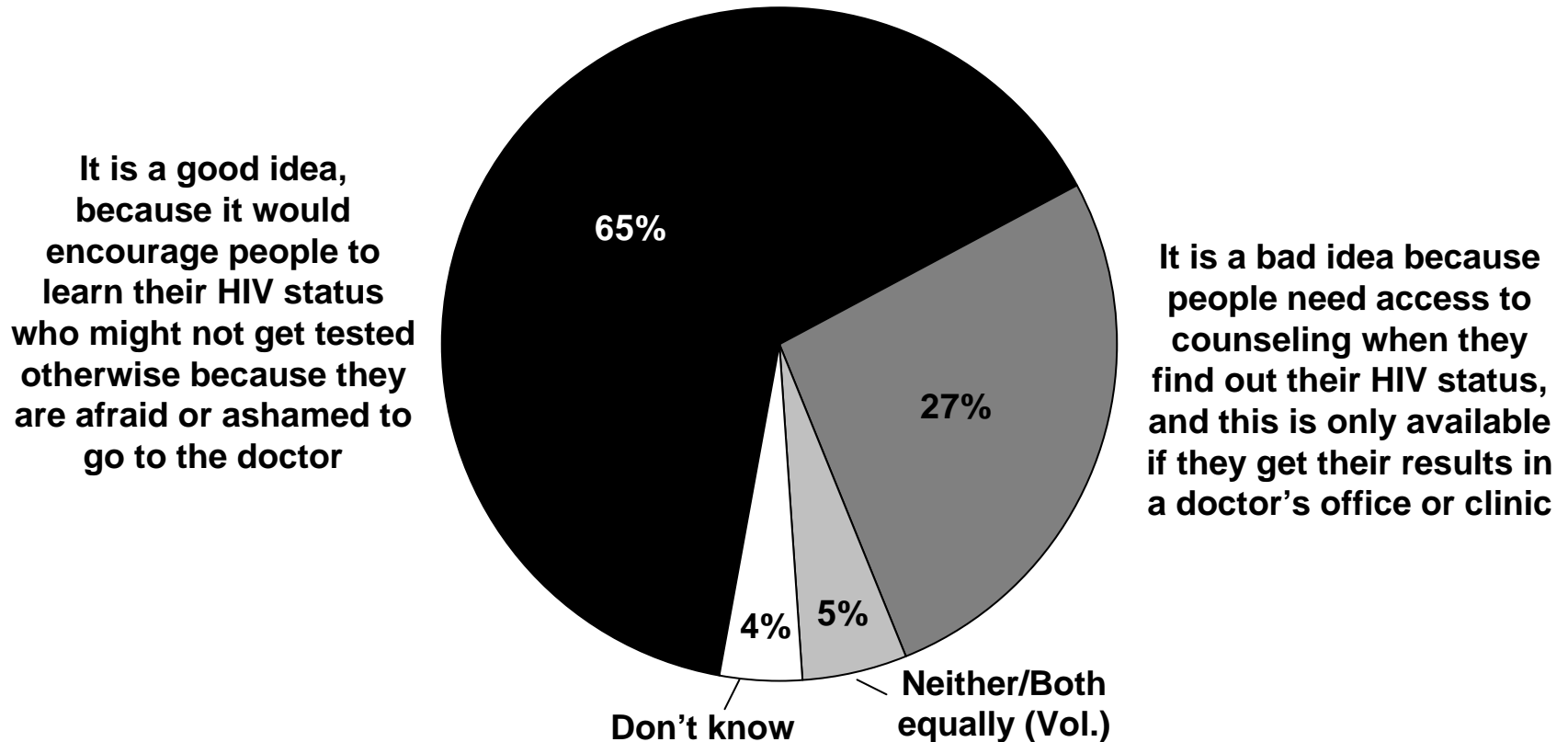
HIV testing should be treated just like routine screening for any other disease, and should be included as part of regular check-ups and exams



HIV testing is different from screening for other diseases, and should require special procedures, such as written permission from the patient in order to perform the test

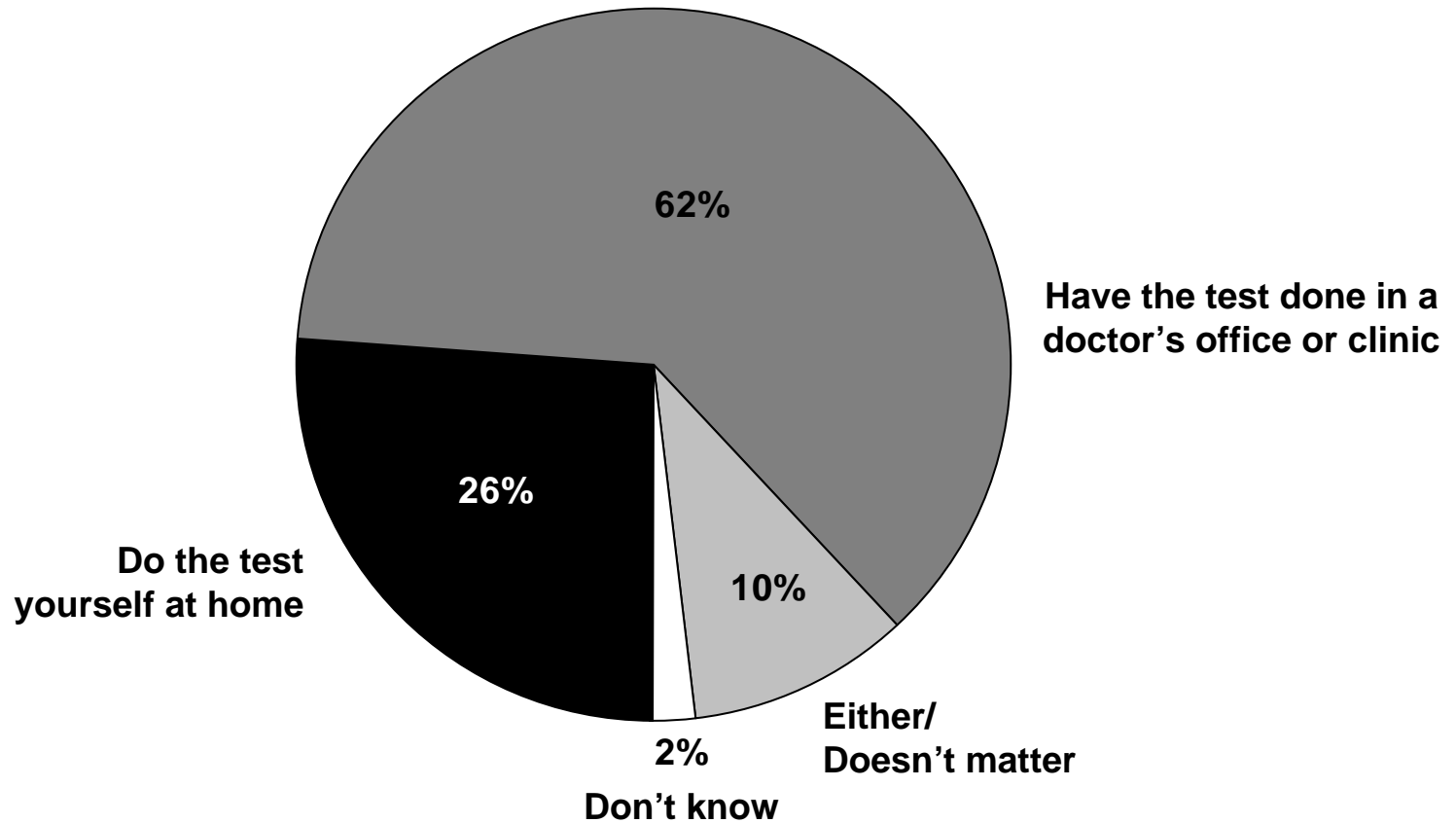
# Views on Home HIV Test

As you may know, the FDA has recently been discussing a new type of oral HIV test that people could buy over-the-counter and use at home to learn their HIV status within 20 minutes. Which of the following comes closest to your view about this type of test...



# Personal Preference for Home Testing vs. Doctor's Office

If you were to be tested for HIV, would you prefer to...





**The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation**  
2400 Sand Hill Road  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
Phone: (650) 854-9400 Fax: (650) 854-4800

Washington Office:  
1330 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
Phone: (202) 347-5270 Fax: (202) 347-5274

**[www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org)**

Additional copies of this publication (#7521) are available on  
the Kaiser Family Foundation's website at [www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org).

*The Kaiser Family Foundation is a non-profit, private operating foundation dedicated to providing information and analysis on health care issues to policymakers, the media, the health care community, and the general public. The Foundation is not associated with Kaiser Permanente or Kaiser Industries.*