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Summary and Chartpack



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

May 2006

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## **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.

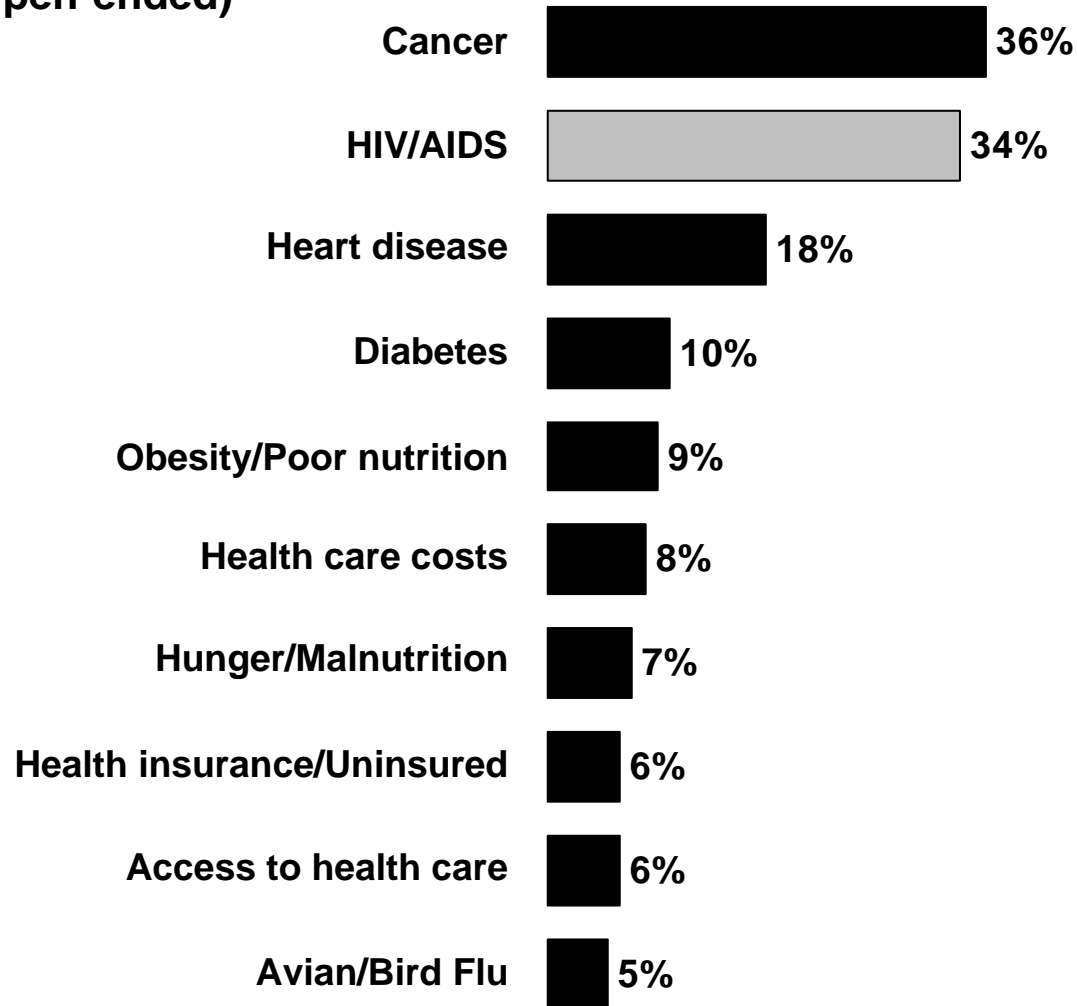
## Section One: Views on the Global HIV Epidemic

- A third of Americans say that HIV is the most urgent health problem facing the world (ranking second behind cancer). Four in ten (40%) think the world is losing ground when it comes to the problem of HIV/AIDS, while a somewhat smaller share (36%) say the world is making progress (16% say the problem is about the same). The vast majority think most people with HIV in developing countries do not get needed medication (92%) and that most people at high risk for HIV in developing countries do not have access to needed prevention services (81%).
- Americans say that more could be done by all sectors to fight the global epidemic; majorities say that international groups, leaders, and governments are not doing enough today. More than half (56%) say the U.S. is spending too little to address HIV/AIDS in developing countries, and very few recognize what the U.S. government has already done in terms of spending to fight global HIV (only 3% know that the Bush administration has more than doubled funding to fight HIV in developing countries).
- A number of data points suggest that Americans are increasingly likely to view the HIV epidemic in the context of globalization. Over the past few years, there appears to be an increased willingness to direct American resources to fighting the global HIV epidemic. For example, compared with 2002, more Americans in 2006 agree that the U.S. is a global leader and has a responsibility to spend more to fight HIV/AIDS in developing countries, while fewer agree that the U.S. should address problems at home first rather than spending more money to deal with HIV/AIDS in developing countries .
- A majority (54%) say that spending for prevention and education should be the top priority for the U.S. government's financial help to fight AIDS in developing countries, and six in ten (60%) believe that spending more money on HIV prevention in developing countries will lead to meaningful progress in slowing the epidemic.

# Most Urgent Health Problem Facing the World

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What do you think is the **MOST** urgent health problem facing **THE WORLD** today?  
(Open-ended)\*

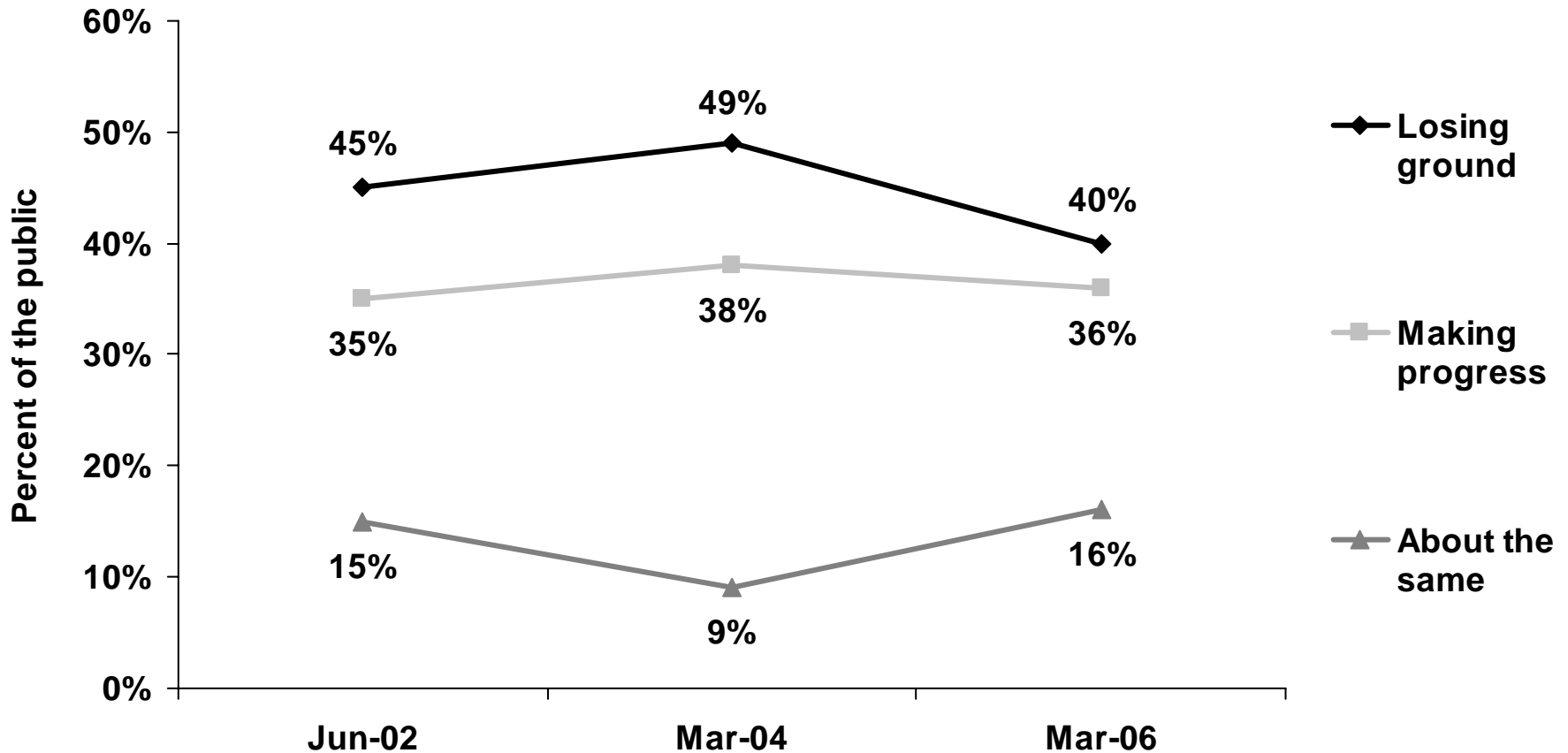


\* Note: Adds up to more than 100% because of multiple responses.

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

# Trend in Perceptions of World's Progress on HIV/AIDS

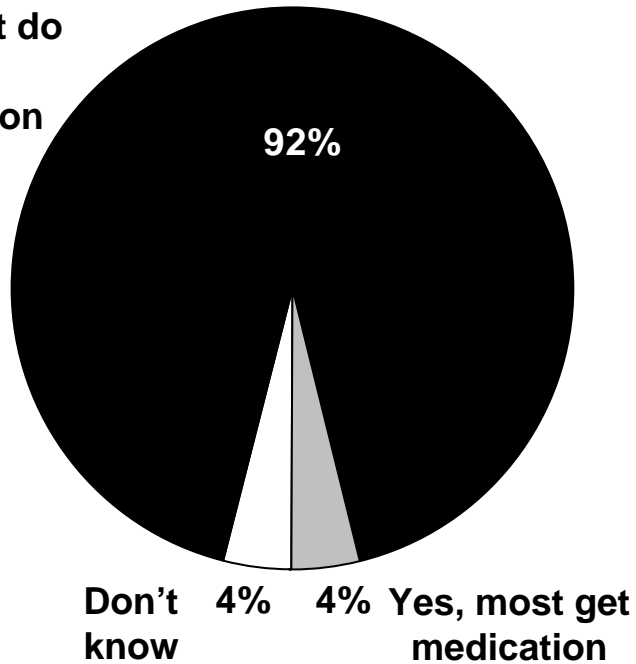
Thinking about the way the problem of HIV/AIDS affects the world today, do you think the problem is about the same as it has been, that the world today is making progress in this area, or that the world today is losing ground?



# Perceptions of Access to HIV Prevention and Treatment in Developing Countries

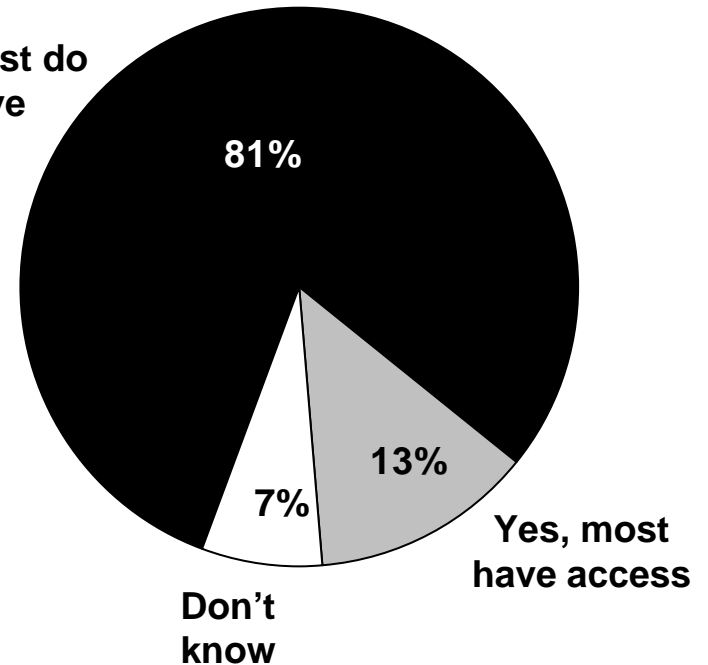
Do you think that most people in developing countries who need medication for HIV actually get that medication, or do you think that most of them do NOT get the medication they need?

No, most do not get medication



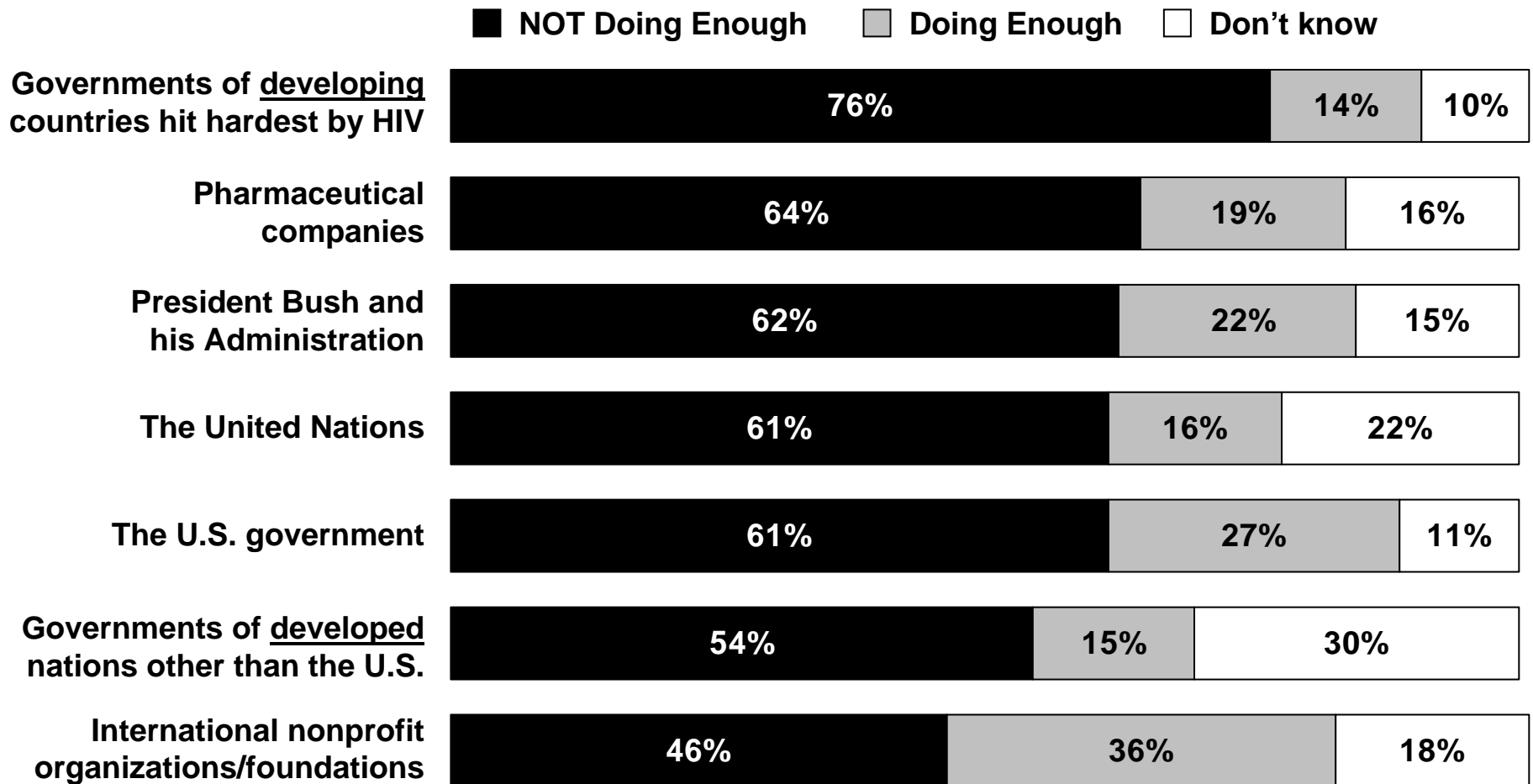
Do you think that most people at high risk for HIV in developing countries have access to needed prevention services, such as HIV education, testing, and counseling, or not?

No, most do not have access



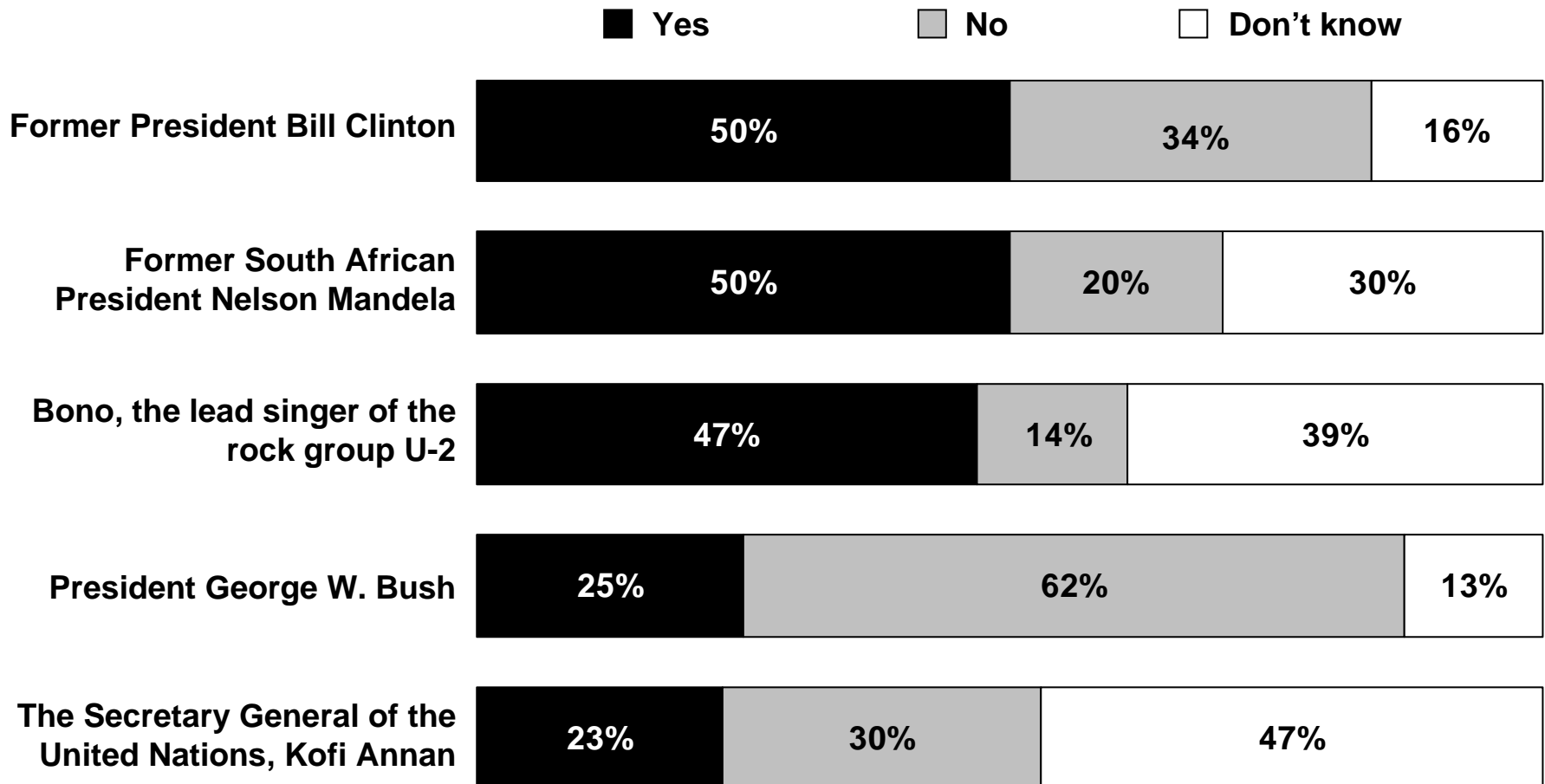
# Who is Doing Enough?

When it comes to the problem of AIDS in developing countries, would you say the following are doing enough to help solve the problem of AIDS in developing countries, or are they not doing enough?



# Public's Views of Leaders on Global AIDS

I'm going to read you a list of people, and I'd like you to tell me for each one whether you think this person stands out as a leader in the fight against global AIDS.

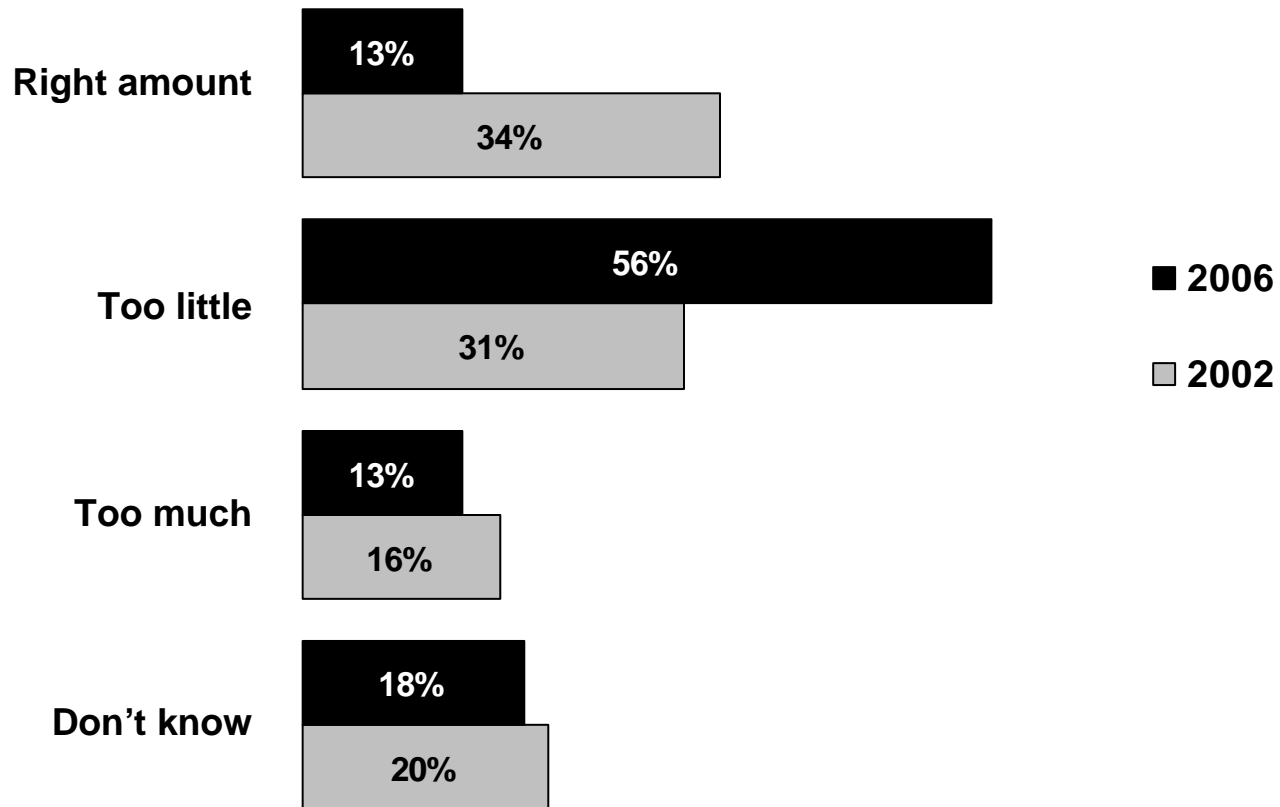




# Trend in Views of U.S. Spending to Fight HIV/AIDS in Developing Countries

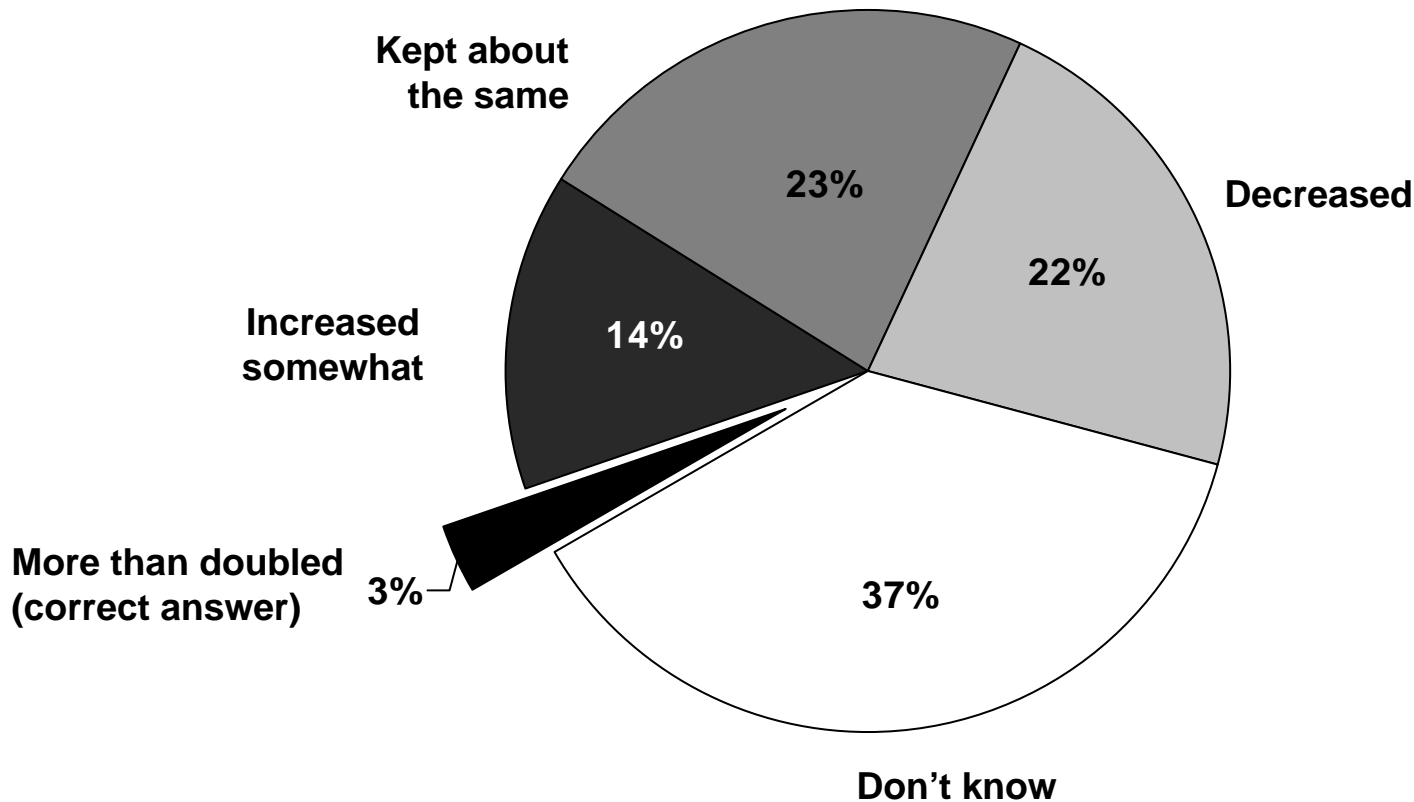
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Do you think the U.S. is now spending too much, too little, or about the right amount to deal with the HIV/AIDS problem in developing countries?



# Knowledge of Bush Administration Funding for HIV/AIDS in Developing Countries

To the best of your knowledge, over the past four years, has the Bush administration decreased the amount of money the U.S. spends to fight HIV/AIDS in developing countries, have they kept it about the same, increased it somewhat, or has the administration more than doubled the amount of money the U.S. spends to fight HIV/AIDS in developing countries?

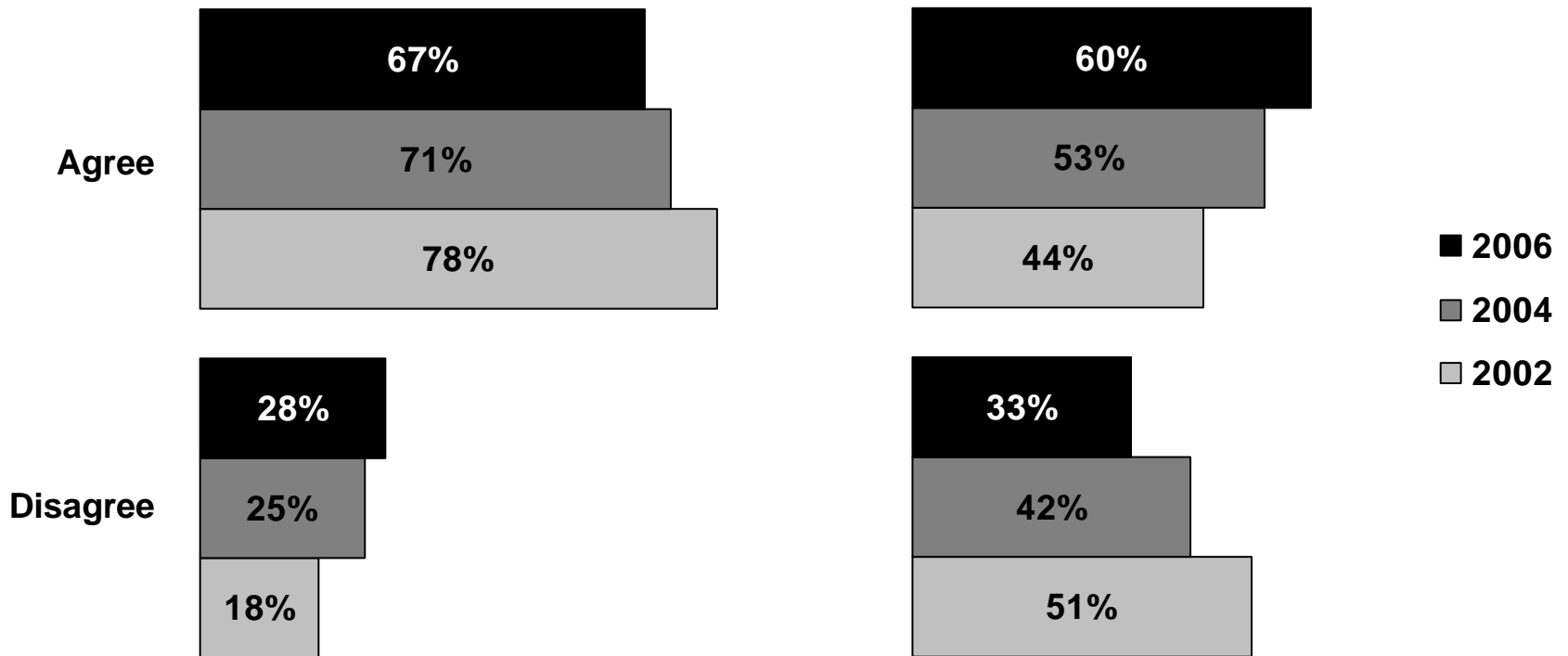


# Trend in Views of U.S. Responsibility on HIV/AIDS

Percent who say they agree/disagree with the following statements...

The U.S. should address problems at home first rather than spending more money to deal with the HIV/AIDS epidemic in developing countries

The U.S. is a global leader and has a responsibility to spend more money to help fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic in developing countries

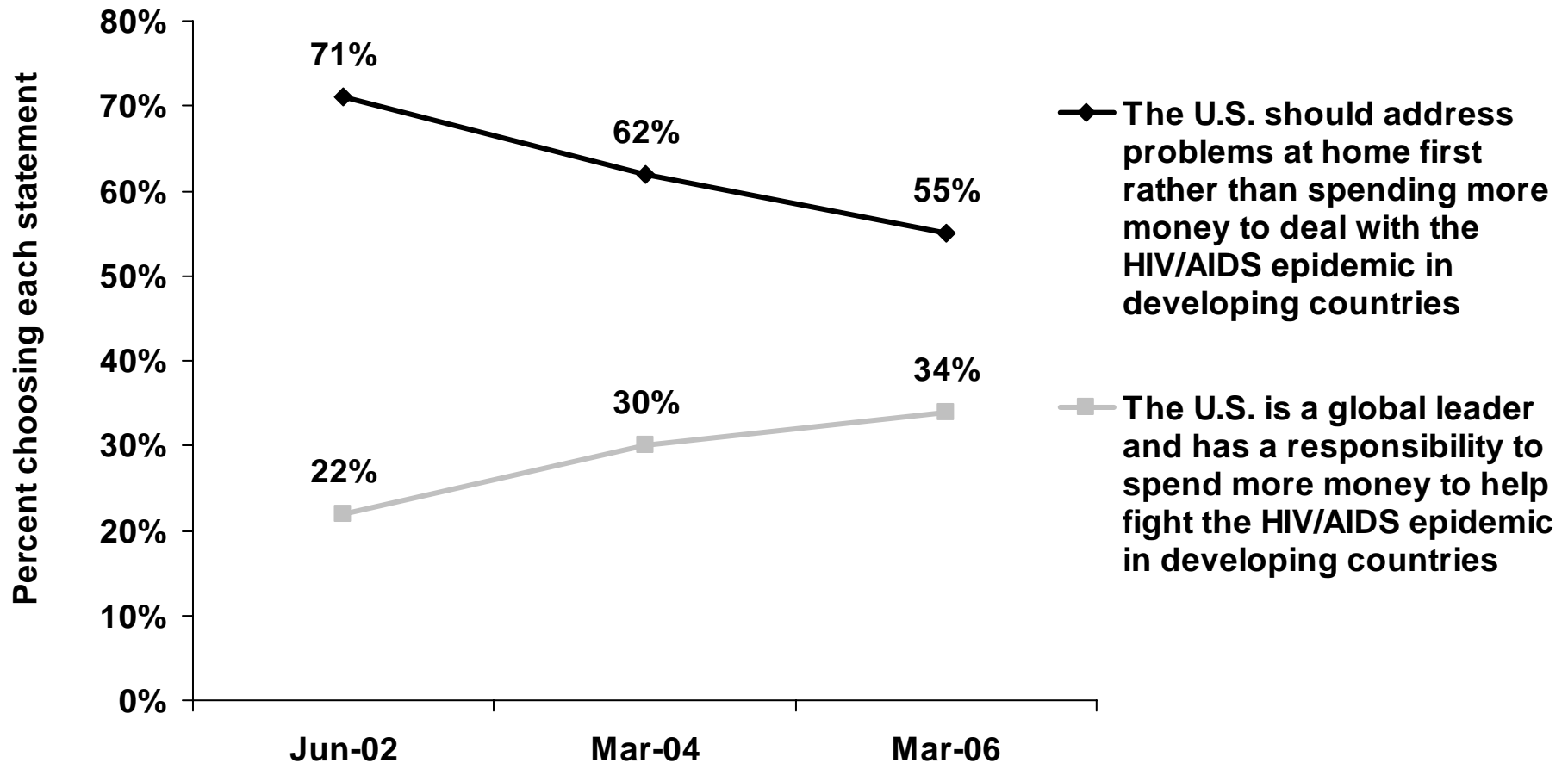


Note: Don't know responses not shown.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation surveys

# Trend in U.S. Responsibility as a Global Leader vs. Addressing Problems at Home First

When forced to choose, percent who choose each statement as the one they agree with MORE STRONGLY...



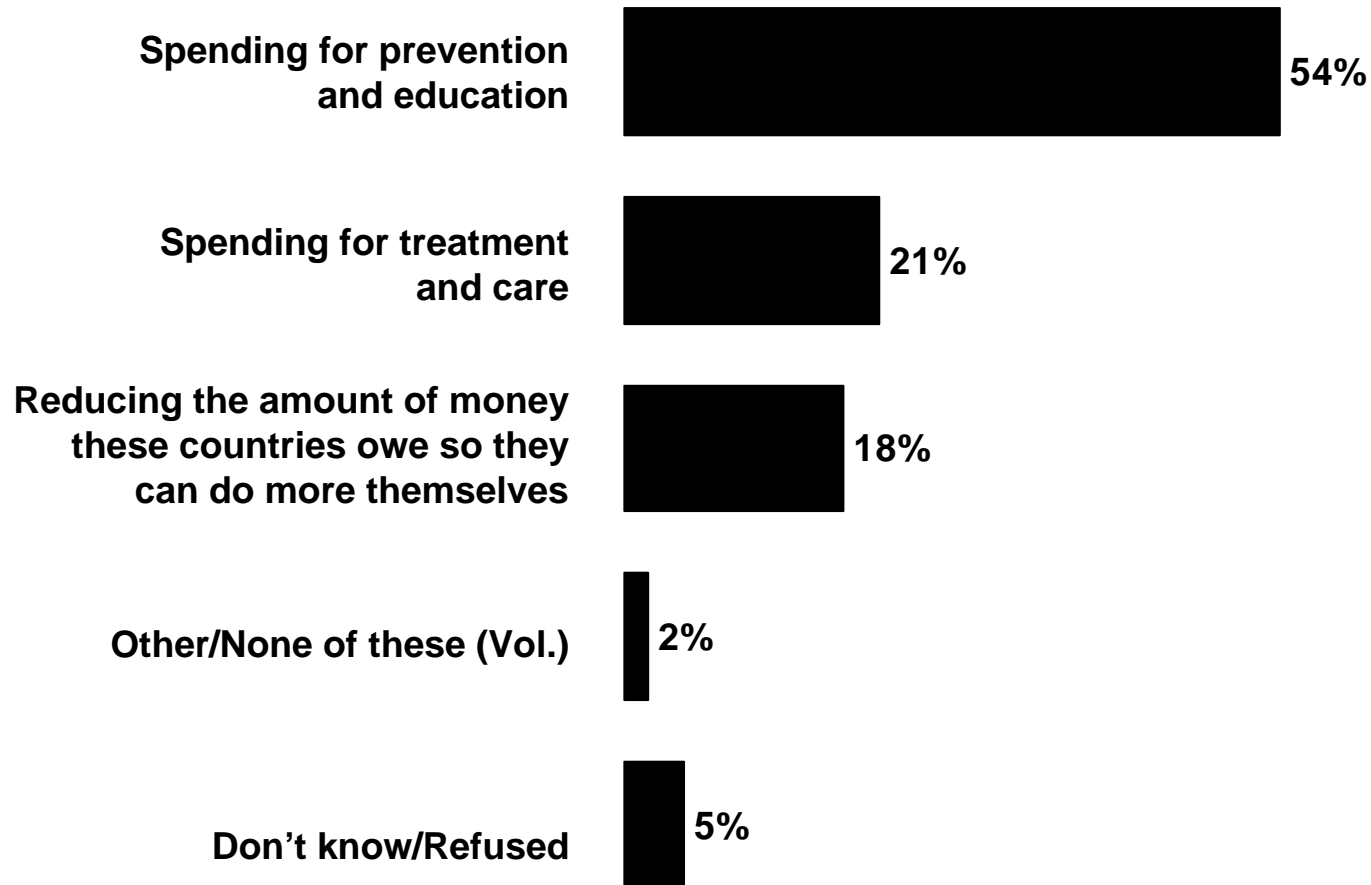
Note: Don't know responses not shown.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation surveys

# Priorities for U.S. Government Financial Help to Fight HIV/AIDS in Developing Countries

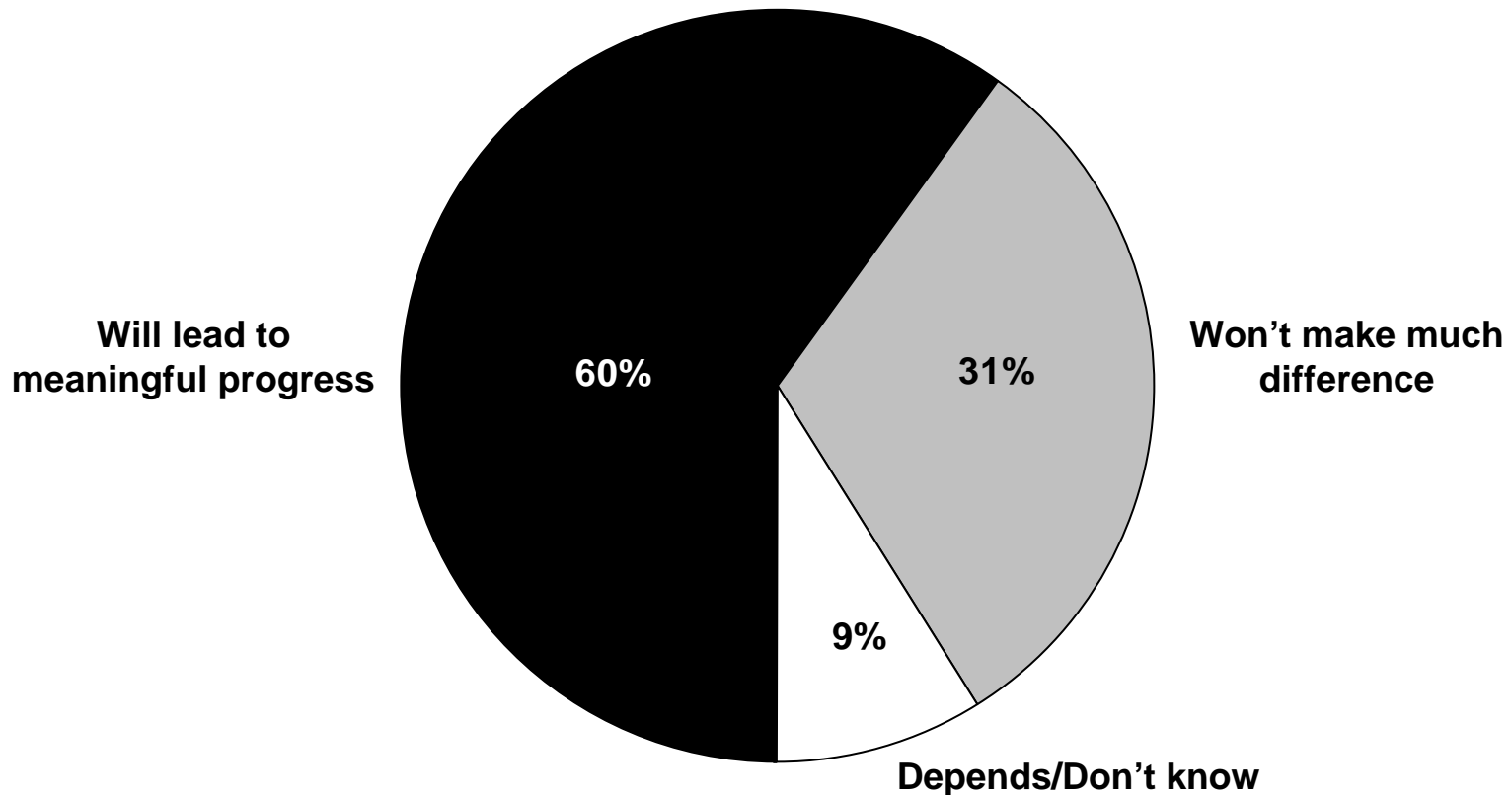
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Which one of the following do you think should be the top priority for the U.S. government's financial help to fight AIDS in developing countries?

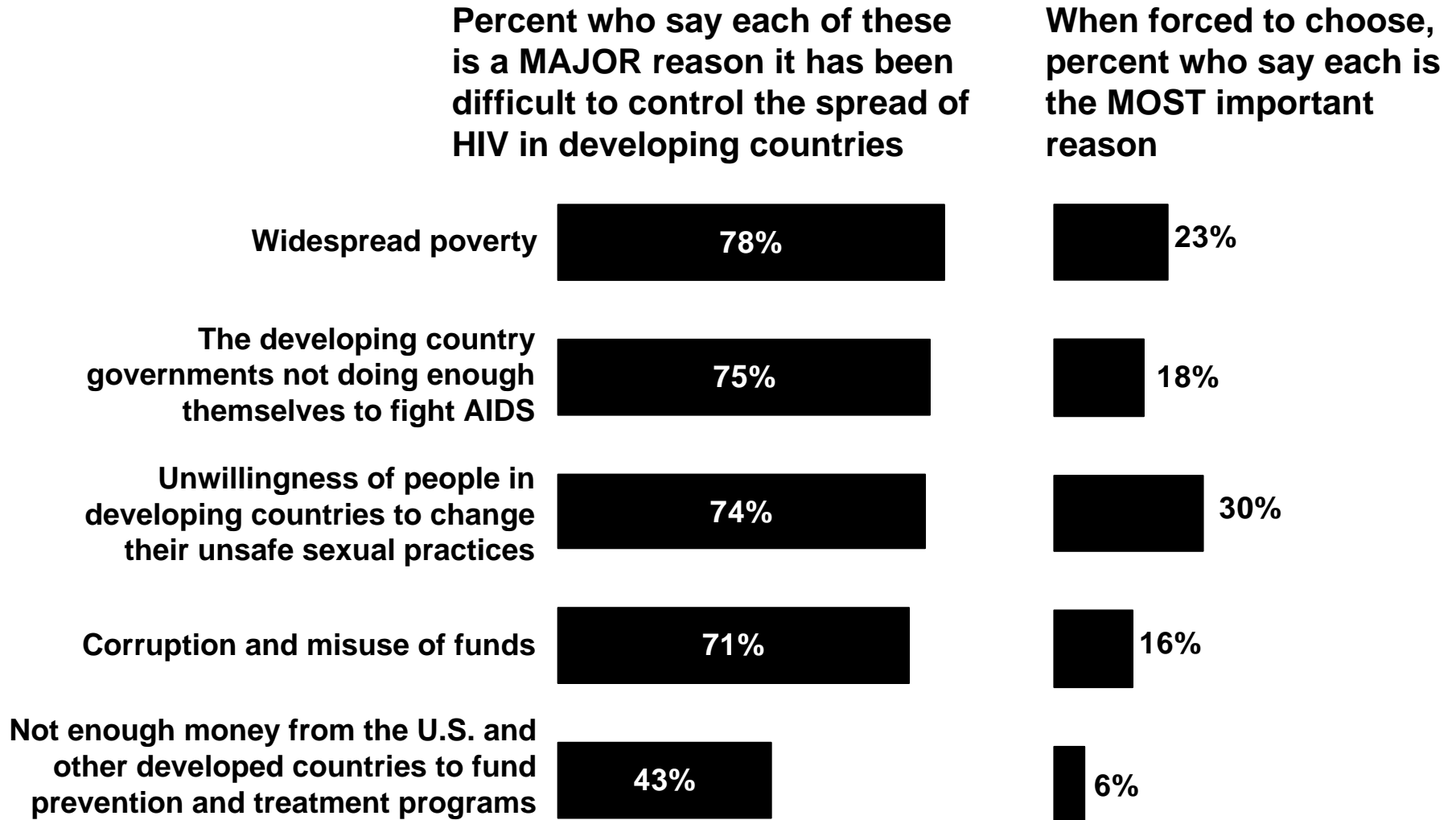


# Will Spending on HIV/AIDS Prevention in Developing Countries Lead to Progress?

In general, do you think that spending more money on HIV/AIDS prevention in **DEVELOPING COUNTRIES** will lead to meaningful progress in slowing the epidemic, or that spending more money won't make much difference?



# Perceived Reasons Why It Has Been Difficult to Control the Spread of HIV/AIDS in Developing Countries



## Section Two: Views on the HIV Epidemic in the U.S.

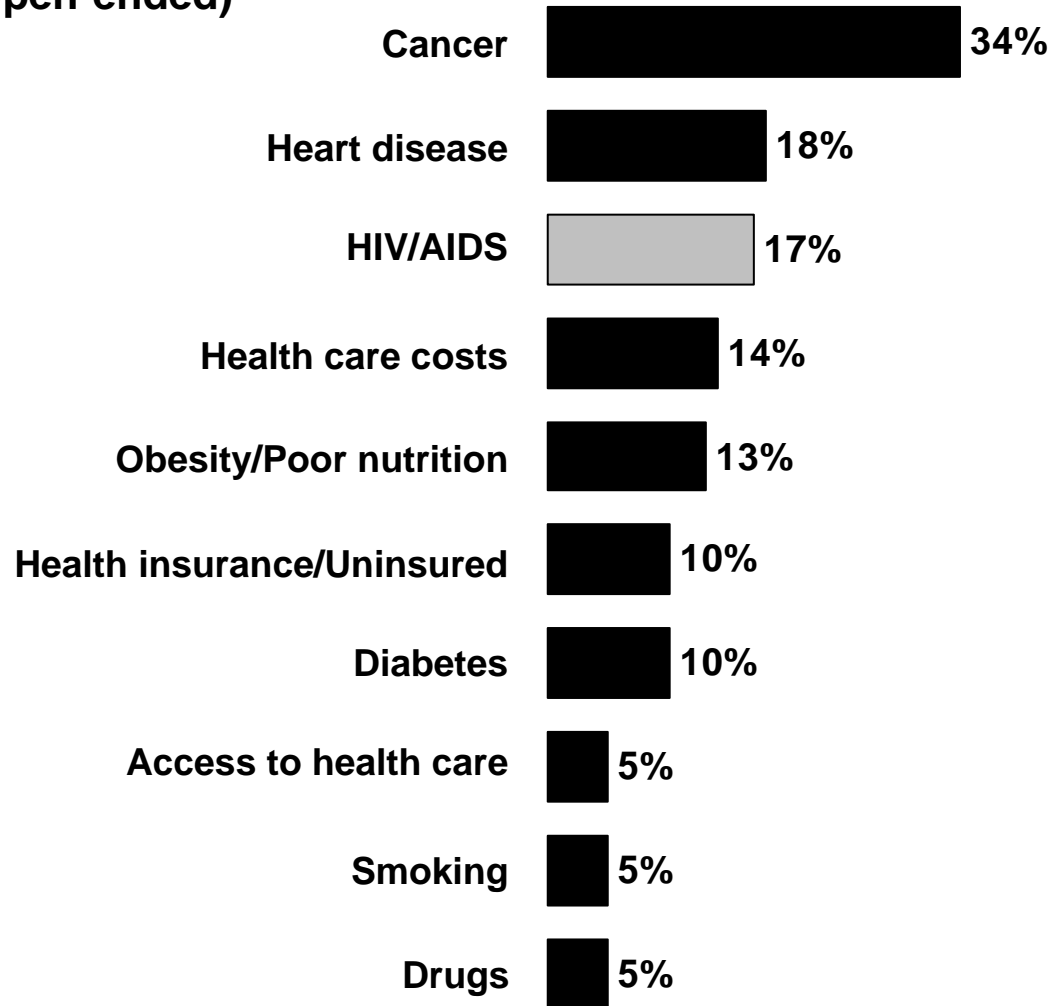
- Seventeen percent of the public name HIV as the most urgent health problem facing the country. After ranking first as the most urgent health problem facing the nation in 1995 and 1997, HIV fell to second (behind cancer) in 2000, and today ranks third behind cancer, and just behind heart disease.
- More Americans say the U.S. is making progress on the HIV/AIDS epidemic (40%) than say the country is losing ground (29%); however, the share saying we are making progress has fallen since 1997.
- Almost two thirds (63%) of Americans think the U.S. government is spending too little at home to fight HIV/AIDS, a share that has increased in recent years.
- About six in ten believe that spending more money on both HIV/AIDS prevention (62%) and testing (59%) in the U.S. will lead to meaningful progress in slowing the epidemic.
- Large majorities say that increasing use of condoms (84%), increasing education about abstinence (82%), and increasing the number of people who get tested for HIV (72%) are “very important” priorities for HIV prevention in the U.S. When forced to choose, half (51%) say increasing education about abstinence for young people should be the most important priority. However, three-quarters (75%) say HIV prevention programs for youth should use a combination of abstinence, being faithful to one partner, and using condoms.



# Most Urgent Health Problem Facing the Nation

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What do you think is the **MOST** urgent health problem facing **THIS NATION** today?  
(Open-ended)\*

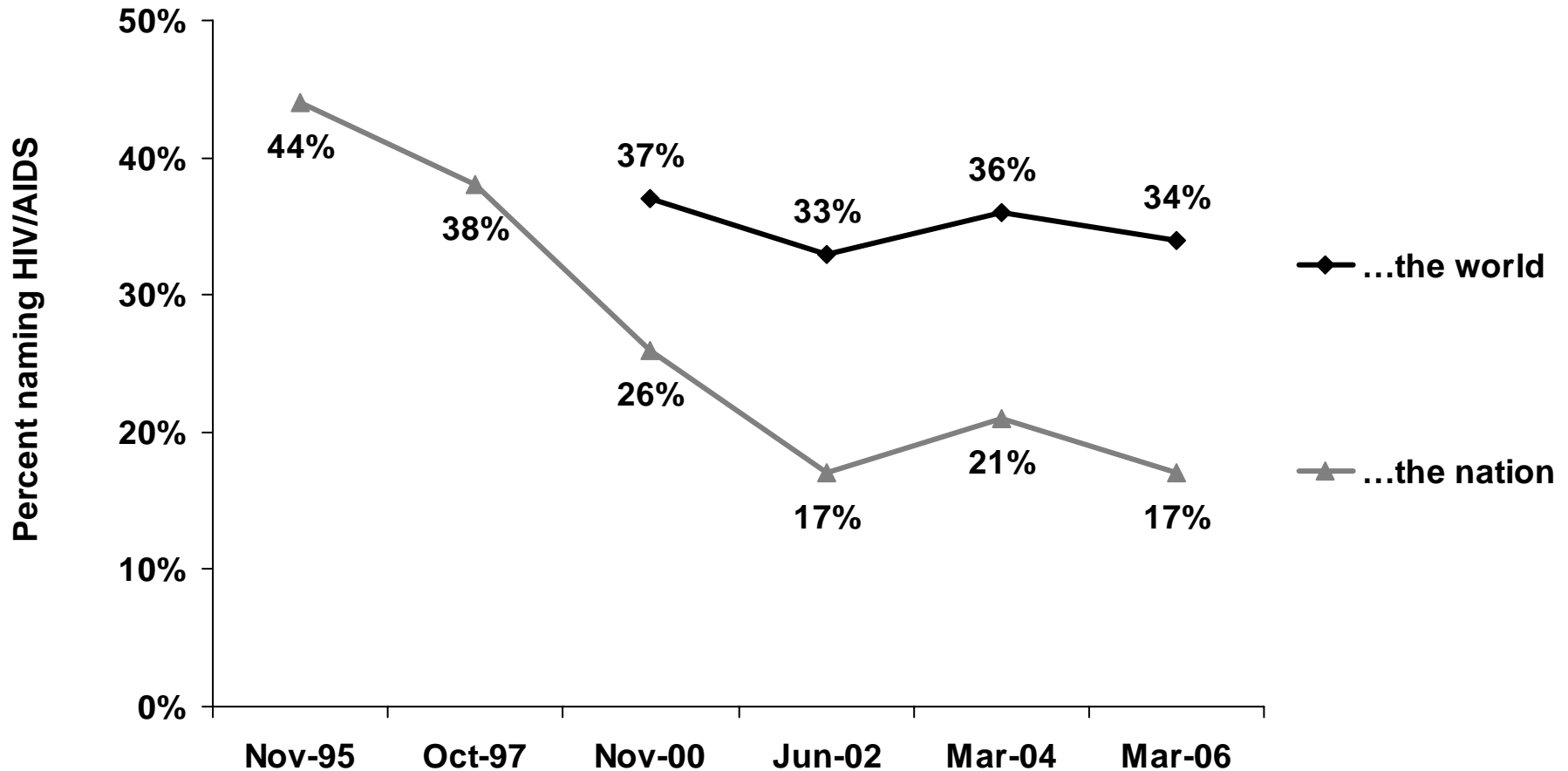


\* Note: Adds up to more than 100% because of multiple responses.

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

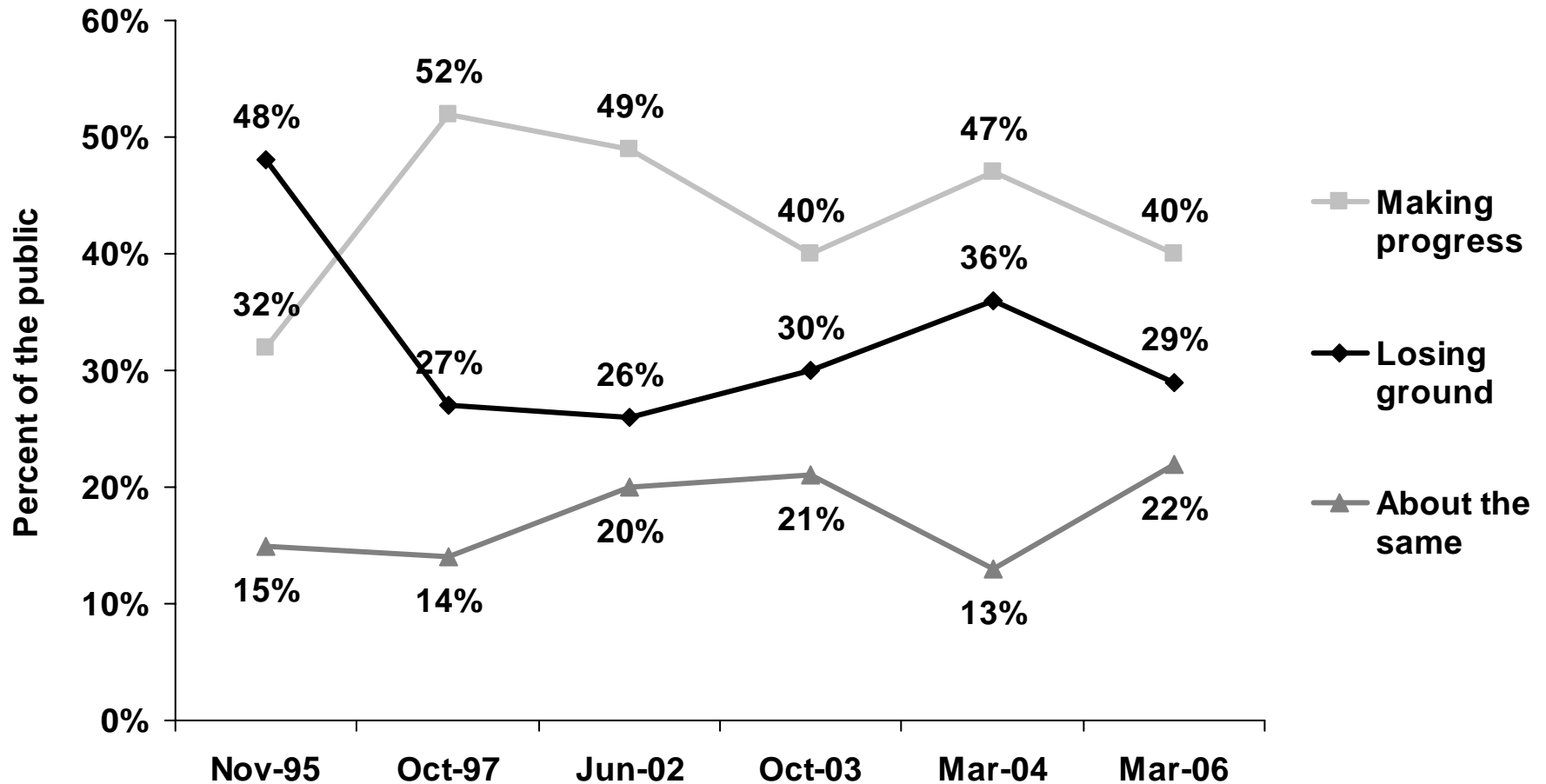
# Trend in Share Naming HIV/AIDS as the Most Urgent Health Problem Facing the Nation/World

Percent naming HIV/AIDS as the most urgent health problem facing...



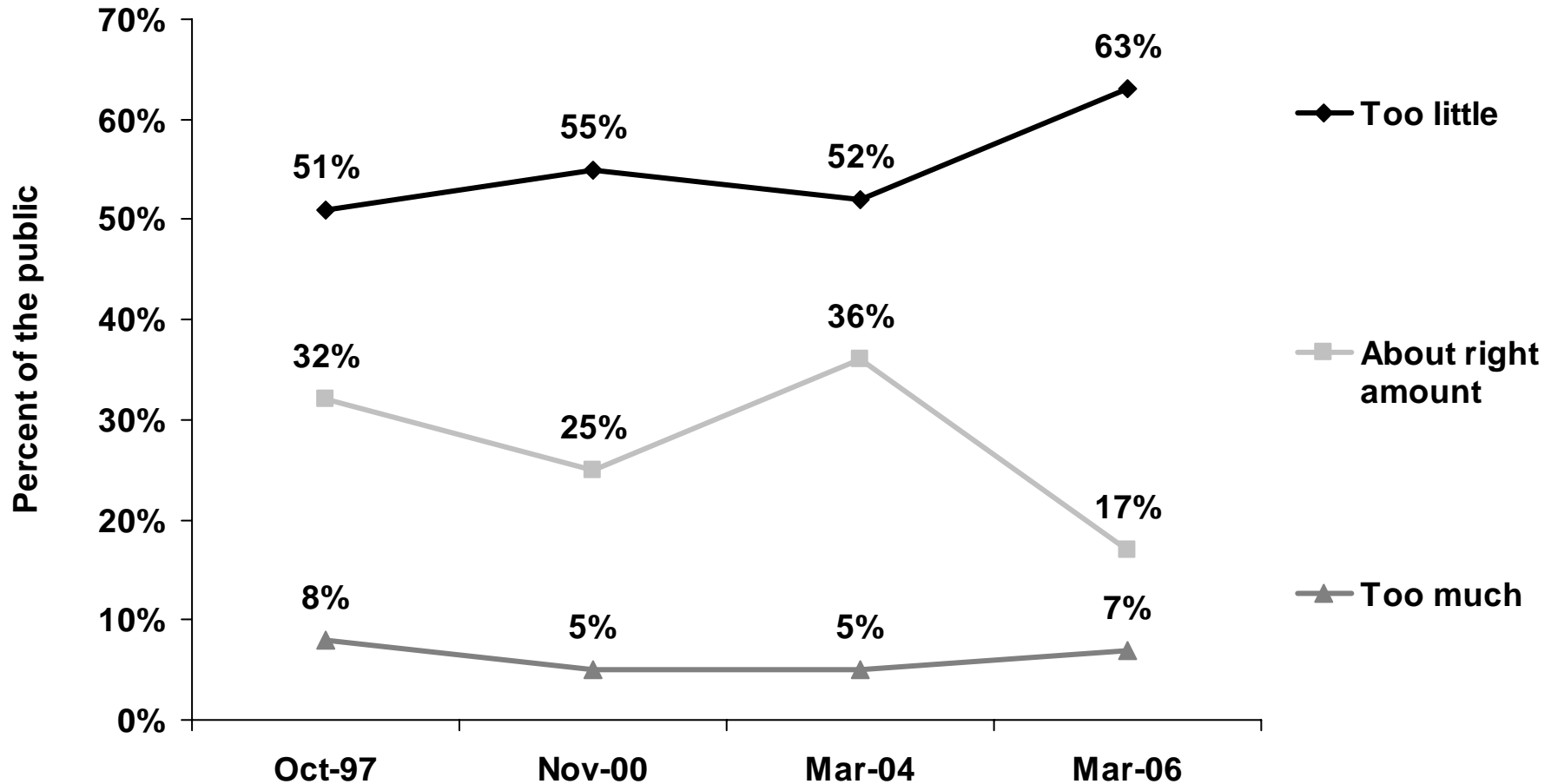
# Trend in Perceptions of U.S. Progress on HIV/AIDS

Thinking about the way the problem of HIV/AIDS affects the United States today, do you think the problem is about the same as it has been, that the U.S. today is making progress in this area, or that the U.S. today is losing ground?



# Trend in Views of U.S. Spending on Domestic HIV/AIDS

Thinking about the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States specifically, in general, do you think the federal government spends too much money on HIV/AIDS, too little money on HIV/AIDS, or about the right amount?

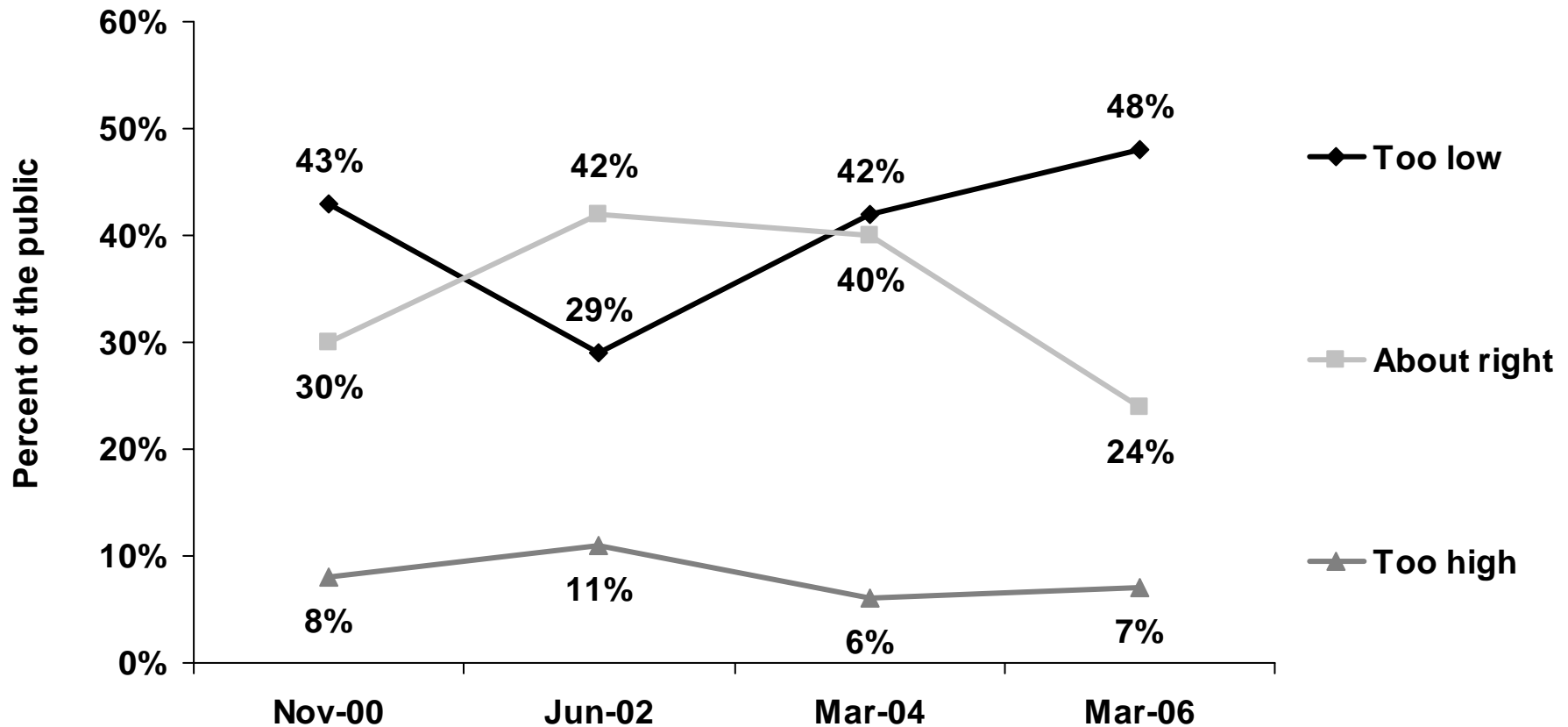


Note: Don't know responses not shown.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation surveys

# Trend in Views of U.S. Spending on Domestic HIV/AIDS Compared with Spending on Other Health Problems

Compared with the amount of money the federal government spends on other health problems, such as heart disease and cancer, do you think federal spending on HIV/AIDS is too high, too low, or about right?



Note: Don't know responses not shown.

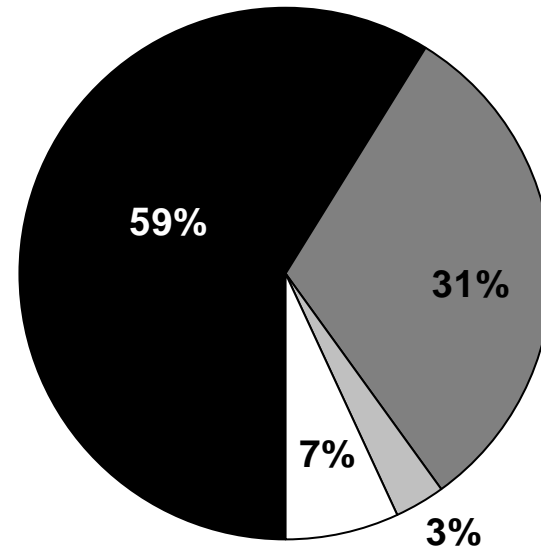
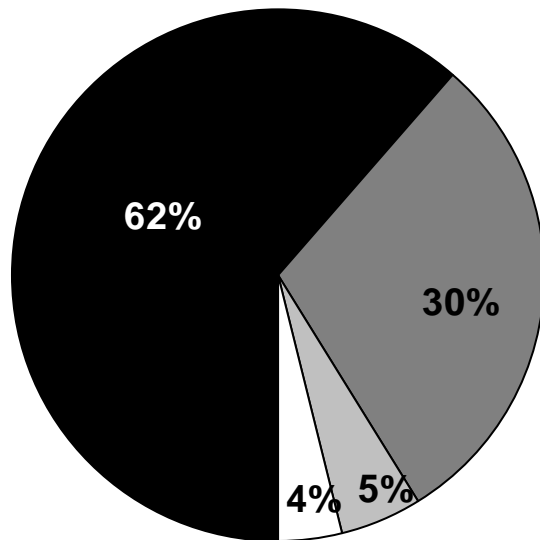
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation surveys

# Will Spending on HIV/AIDS Prevention/Treatment in the U.S. Lead to Progress?

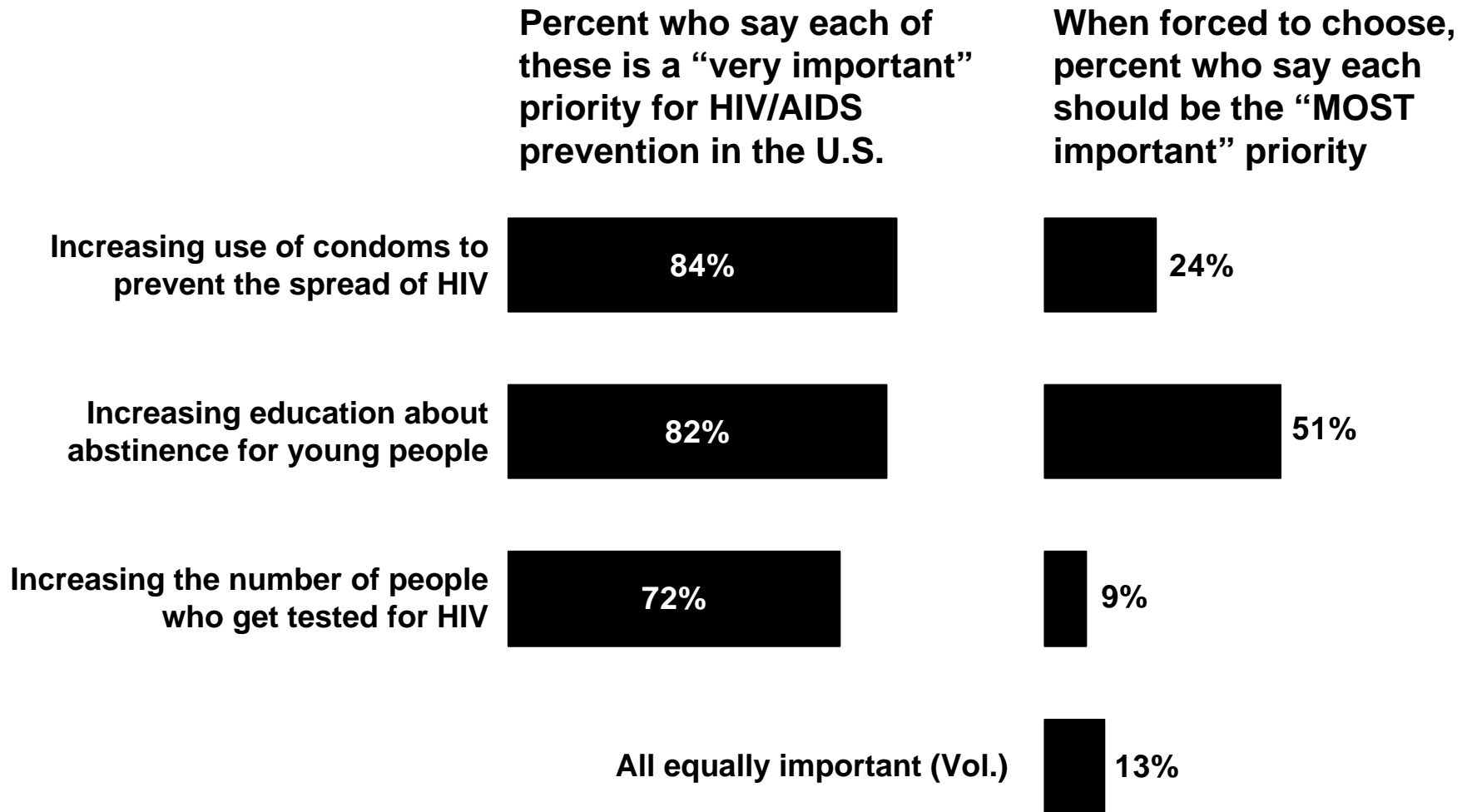
In general, do you think that spending more money on HIV/AIDS PREVENTION in the United States will lead to meaningful progress in slowing the epidemic, or that spending more money won't make much difference?

In general, do you think that spending more money on HIV/AIDS TESTING in the U.S. so that more people would know their HIV status will lead to meaningful progress in slowing the epidemic, or that spending more money won't make much difference?

- Will lead to meaningful progress
- Won't make much difference
- It depends (Vol.)
- Don't know



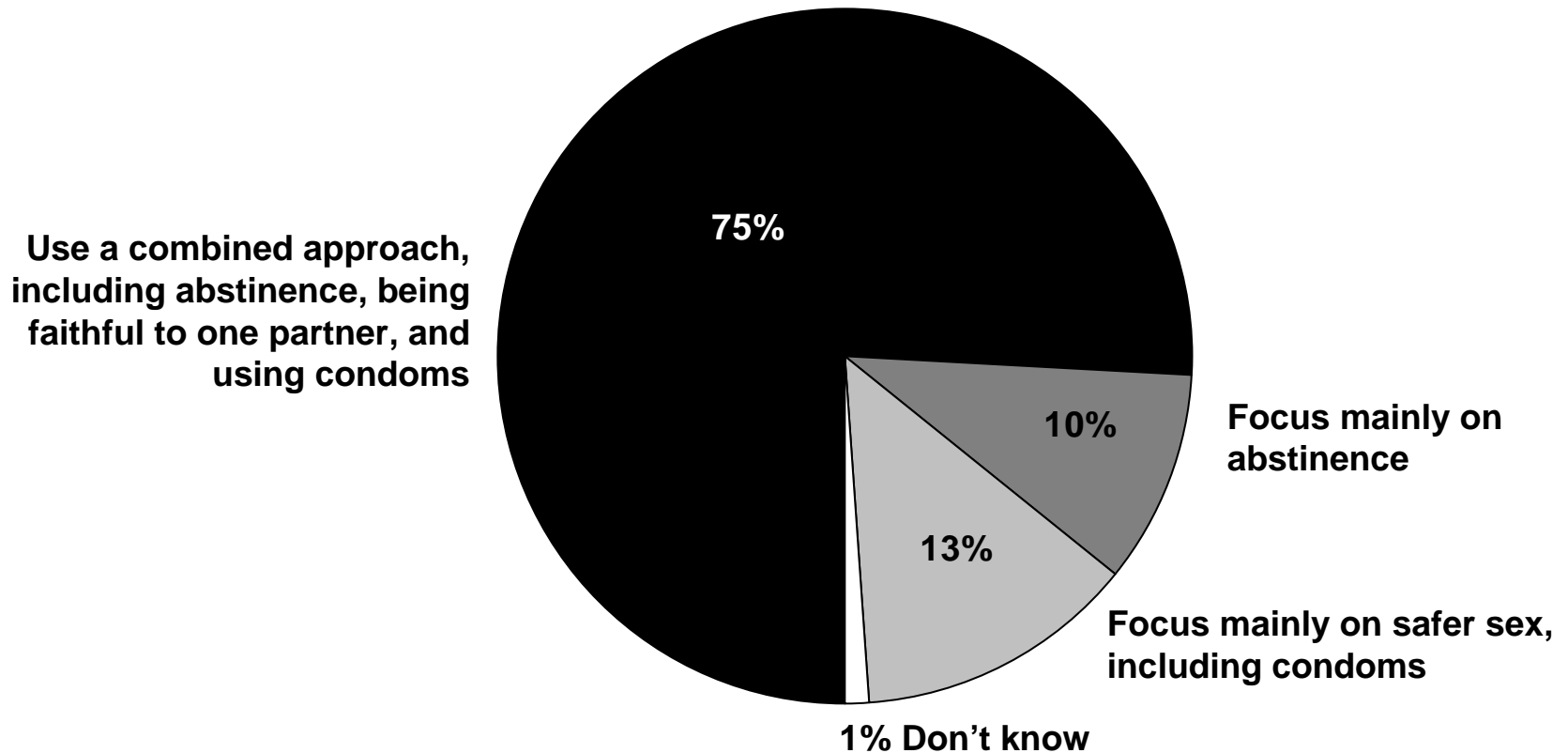
# Priorities for HIV Prevention in the U.S.



# Views on HIV Prevention Programs for Youth

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Thinking about HIV prevention programs for youth, which of the following comes closest to your view of what the focus of these programs should be? Should they...





## Section Three: Knowledge and Perceptions about HIV/AIDS

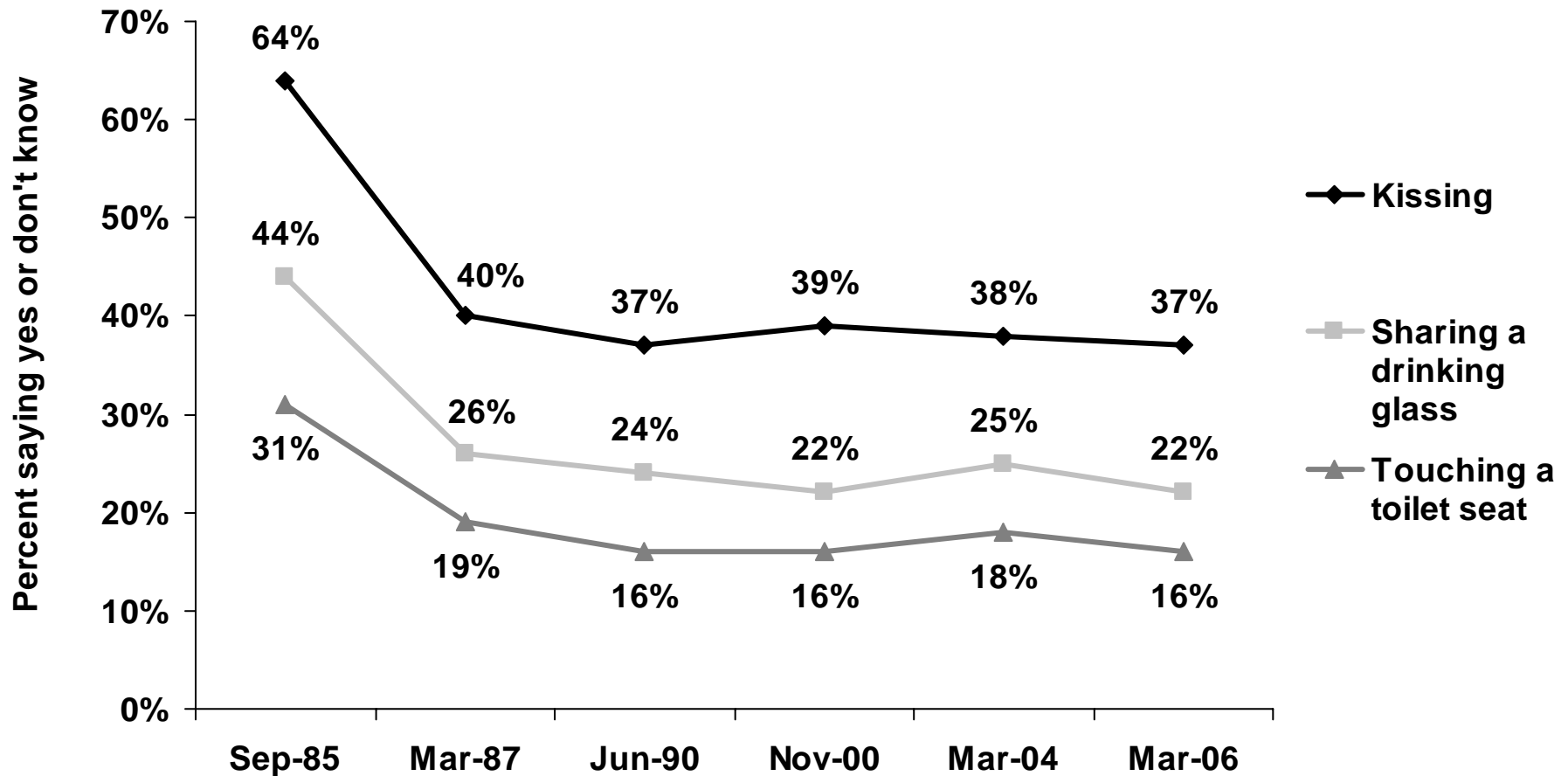
- Many people still harbor misconceptions about the HIV epidemic, and knowledge has not increased over time in some key areas. Since 1990, there has been no change in the share who incorrectly think HIV might be transmitted through kissing, sharing a drinking glass, or touching a toilet seat. Moreover, fewer than half the public knows that a pregnant woman with HIV can take drugs to reduce the risk of her baby being born infected.
- Many adults are unsure about the direction of the U.S. epidemic, with nearly six in ten (57%) incorrectly believing that the number of new infections per year has increased over the last 10 years. In fact, the CDC estimates that new infections have remained about the same since that time. (However, it is important to note that many people may not understand the difference between HIV incidence – the number of new infections – which has remained about the same, and HIV/AIDS prevalence – the number of people living with HIV and AIDS – which has in fact increased during this time period.)
- Treatment access is an issue even in the U.S., with the CDC reporting that about half of those who need antiretrovirals are not getting them. Americans perceive these access challenges, with seven in ten (70%) thinking that most people with HIV in the U.S. do not get access to needed medication. However, a majority (57%) believe that most people at risk in the U.S. *do* have access to needed prevention services.
- Most Americans are not aware of the disproportionate impact of the HIV epidemic on African Americans. Just over a quarter say that African Americans are more likely than whites to be infected with HIV (a slightly higher share of African Americans themselves – 34% – say this is true), and only 12% name African Americans in an open-ended question about which groups are most likely to be infected (7% name minorities in general). Today, approximately half of new AIDS diagnoses in the U.S. are among African Americans, and the AIDS case rate among African Americans is significantly higher than for whites.

## Section Three: Knowledge and Perceptions about HIV/AIDS (continued)

- The share of the public who say they are personally very concerned about becoming infected with HIV has declined over the past few years (currently 15%), as has the share of parents saying they are very concerned about their children becoming infected (currently 32%).
- About four in ten Americans say they know someone with HIV, a finding consistent since 1990.
- Eight in ten adults say there is “a lot” (45%) or some (36%) discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS in this country today.
- About seven in ten say they would be very (41%) or somewhat (30%) comfortable working with someone who has HIV or AIDS, but this comfort level decreases with closer relationships (29% of parents say they would be very comfortable if their child had a teacher who was HIV-positive, and 25% say the same about having and HIV-positive roommate).
- People perceive that the HIV/AIDS epidemic has had a variety of effects on behavior, culture and society in the United States. Almost six in ten say the epidemic has made people more likely to practice safe sex, and nearly half say it has made it easier for people to talk openly about sex. However, half say it has made people more likely to discriminate against gays and lesbians.

# Trend in Misconceptions About HIV Transmission

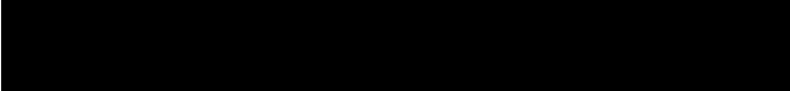
Percent who do not know that HIV can NOT be transmitted in the following ways...  
(Incorrect answers)



# Misconceptions About HIV Prevention and Treatment

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Percent who do not know the following statements about HIV are true...  
(Incorrect answers)

Having another STD may increase a person's risk of getting HIV  56%

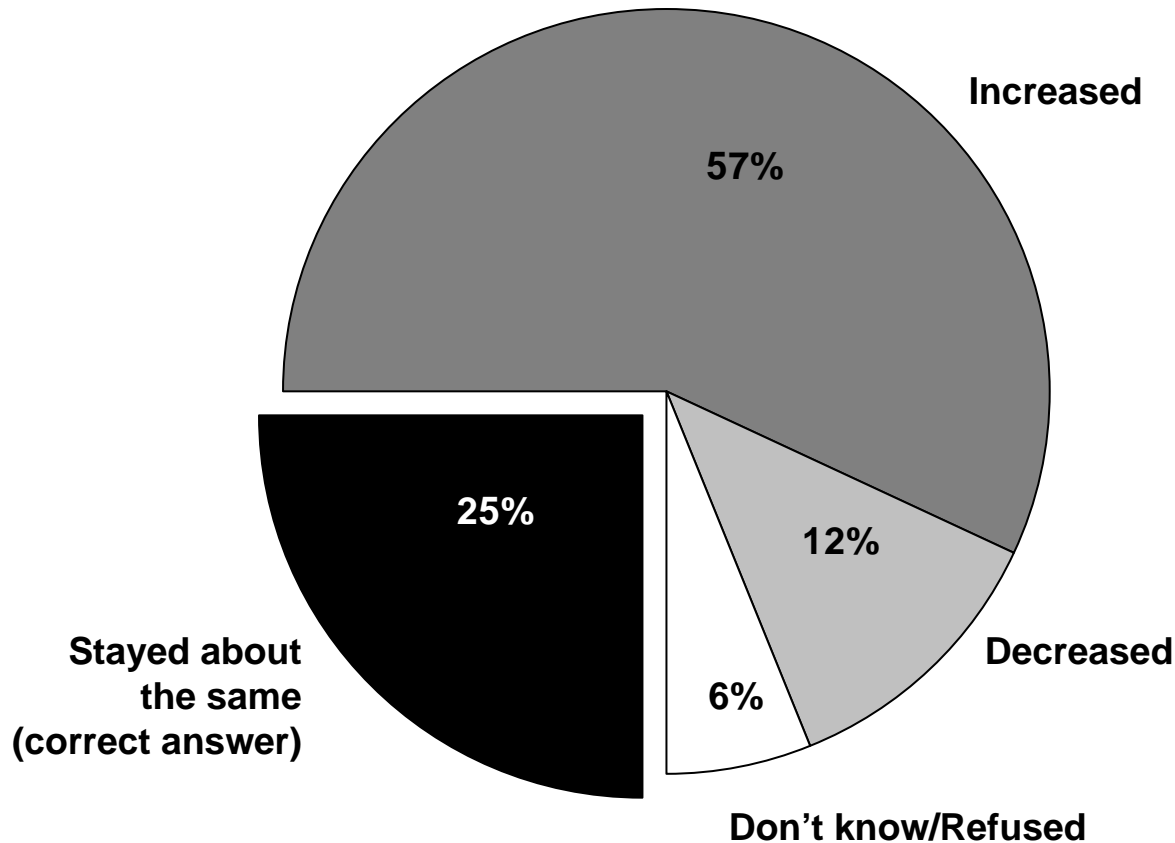
A pregnant woman with HIV can take drugs to reduce the risk of her baby being infected  55%

There is no cure for AIDS at present  14%

There are drugs that can lengthen the lives of people with HIV  13%

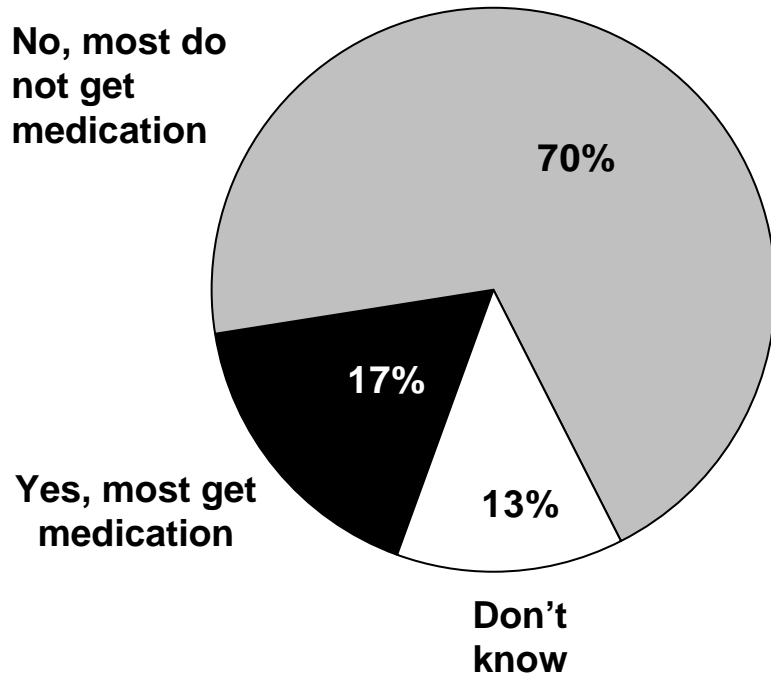
# Perceptions of Change in Number of New HIV Infections Per Year in the U.S.

Over the last ten years, do you think the number of new HIV infections per year in the U.S. has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

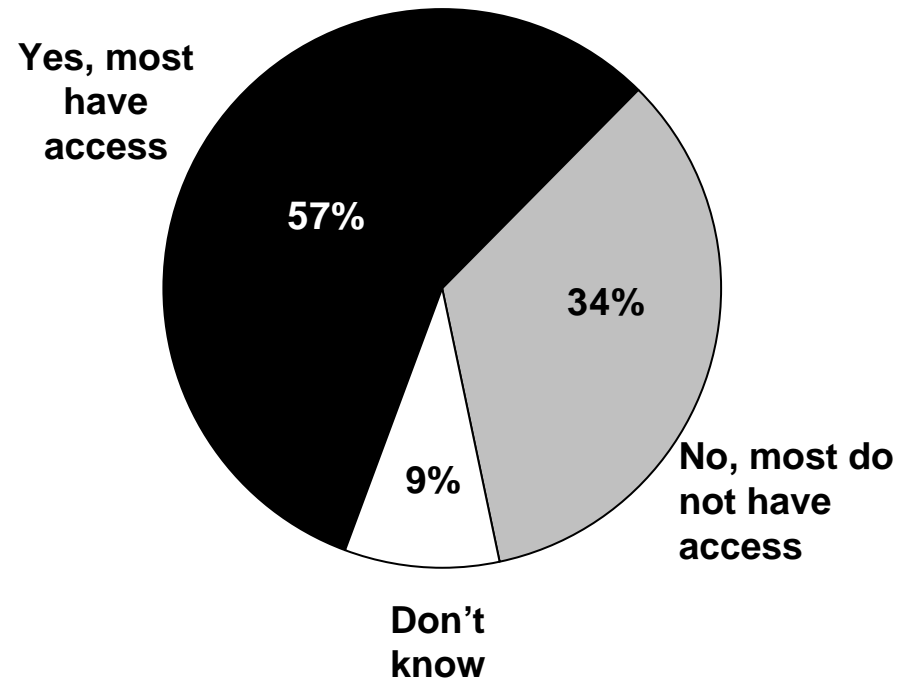


# Perceptions of Access to HIV Prevention and Treatment in the U.S.

**Do you think that most people in the U.S. who need medication for HIV actually get that medication, or do you think that most of them do NOT get the medication they need?**



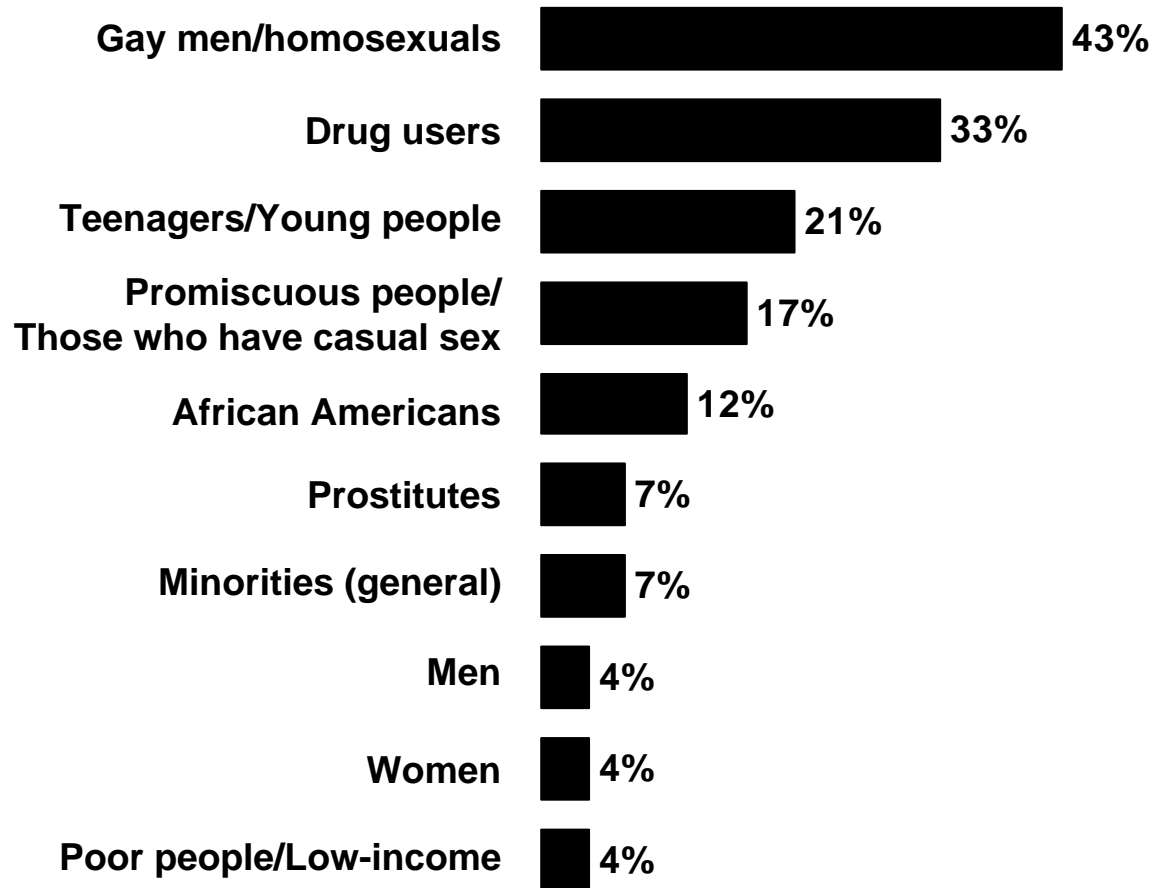
**Do you think that most people at high risk for HIV in the U.S. have access to needed prevention services, such as HIV education, testing, and counseling, or not?**



# Perceptions of Groups Most Likely to Be Infected

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When you think about HIV/AIDS, which group of people do you think of first as those who are most likely to be infected? (Open-ended)\*

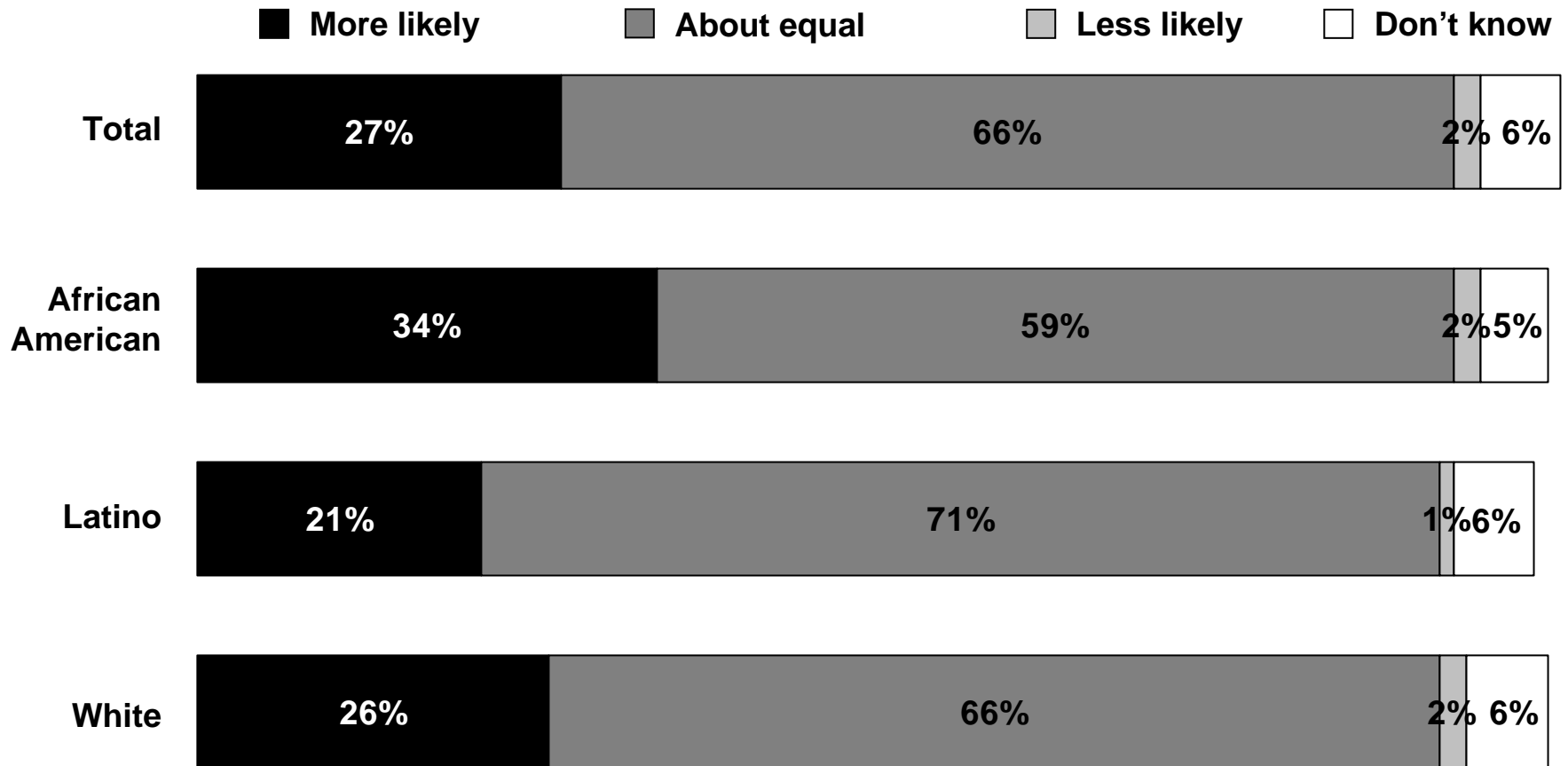


\* Note: Adds up to more than 100% because of multiple responses.

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

# Perceptions of Relative Likelihood of African Americans and Whites to Be Infected With HIV

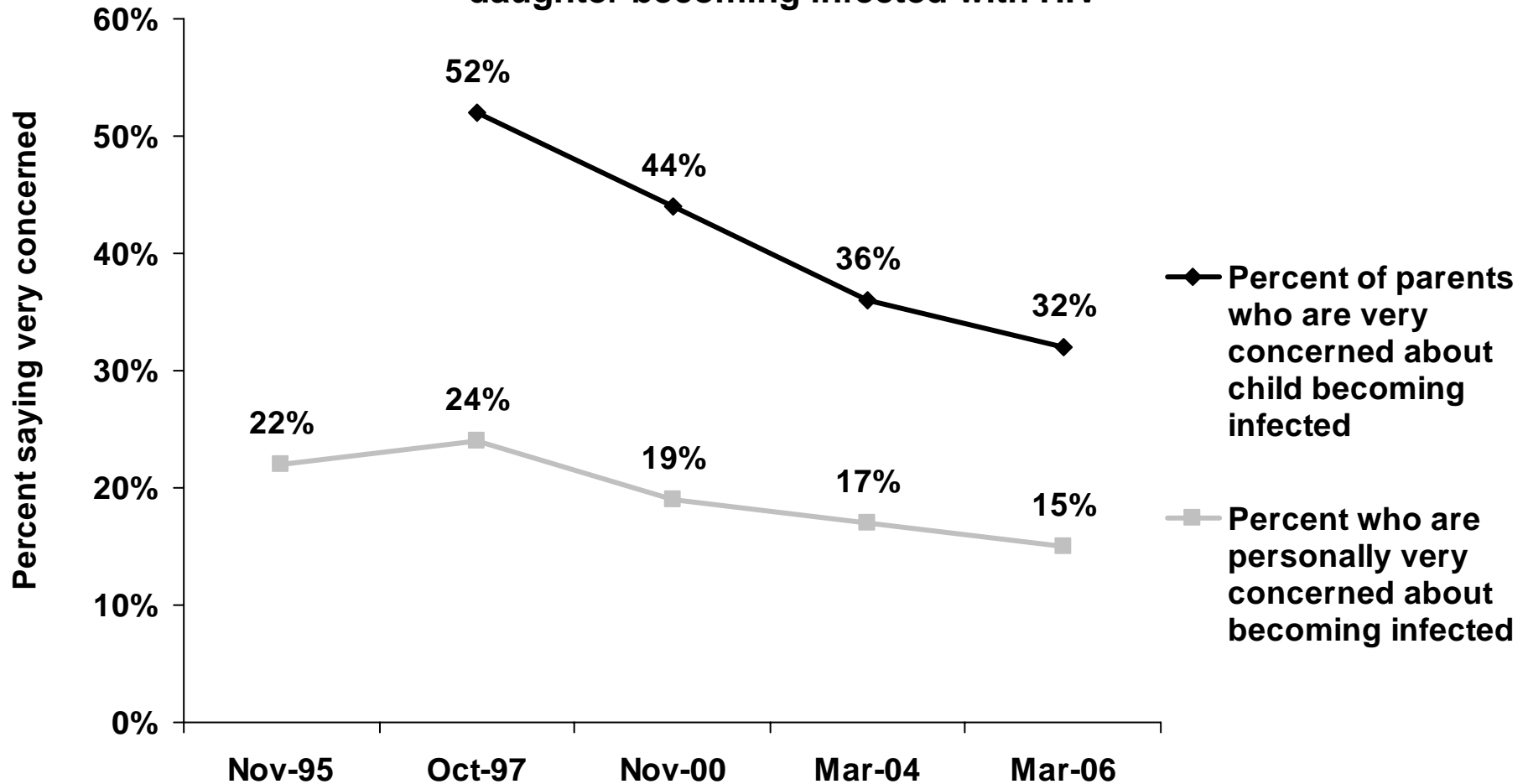
As a group, do you think that African Americans in the U.S. are more likely or less likely than whites to be infected with HIV, or do you think African Americans and whites are about equally likely to be infected with HIV?





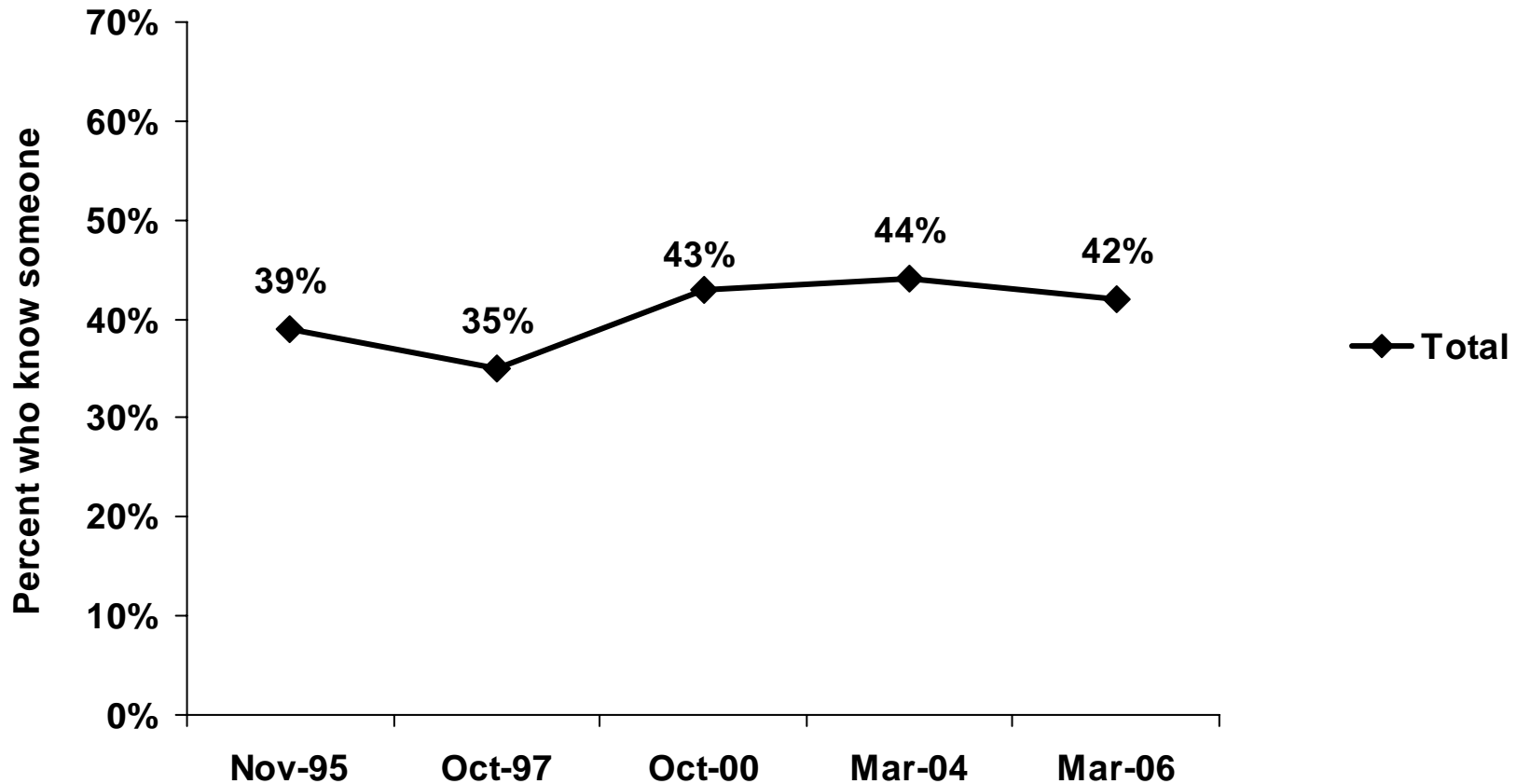
# Trend in Personal and Parental Concern About Becoming Infected With HIV

Percent who say they are personally “very concerned” about becoming infected with HIV, and percent of parents who say they are “very concerned” about a son or daughter becoming infected with HIV



# Trend in Percent Who Know Someone With HIV/AIDS

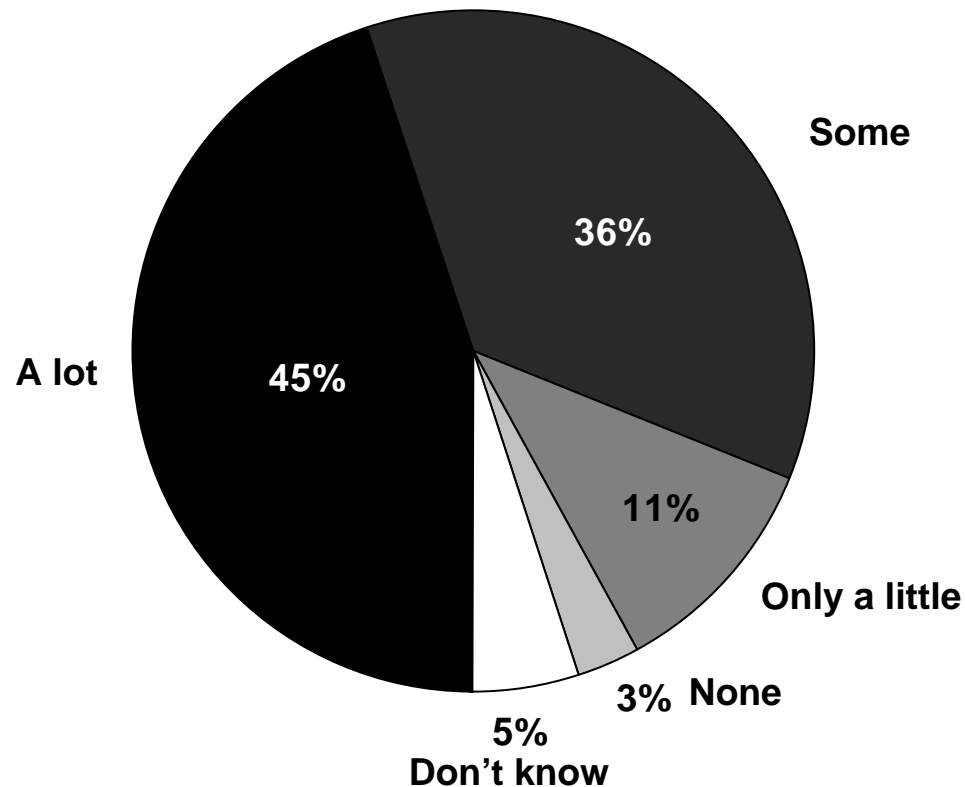
Percent who say they personally know someone who now has AIDS, has died from AIDS, or has tested positive for HIV...



# Perceptions of Prejudice and Discrimination Against People Living With HIV and AIDS in the U.S.

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How much prejudice and discrimination do you think there is against people living with HIV and AIDS in this country today?



# Reported Comfort Level With People Who Have HIV

In general, how comfortable would you be, personally...

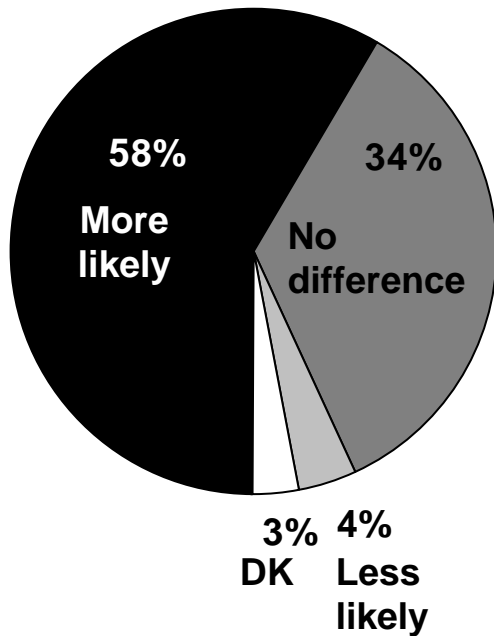
**Very comfortable**
 **Somewhat comfortable**
 **Somewhat uncomfortable**
 **Very uncomfortable**
 **Don't know**



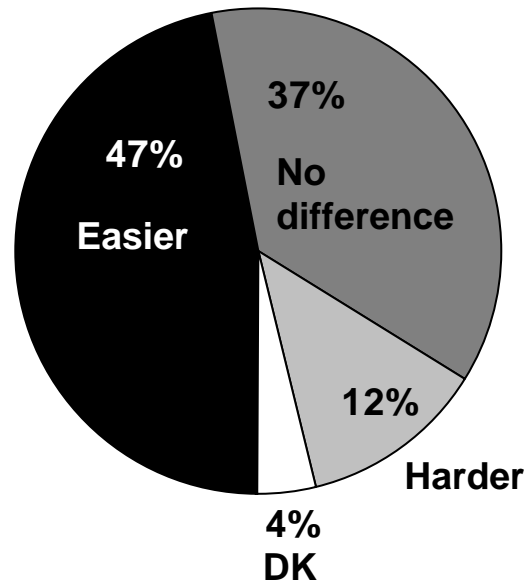
\*Among parents of children ages 21 or younger.

# Perceived Impact of HIV Epidemic on Culture

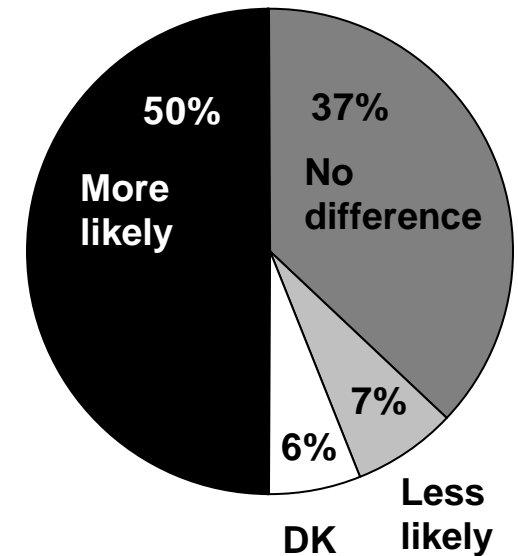
Do you think, in general, the HIV/AIDS epidemic has made people more likely or less likely to practice safe sex, or hasn't it made much difference?



Do you think, in general, the HIV/AIDS epidemic has made it easier or harder for people to talk openly about sex, or hasn't it made much difference?



Do you think, in general, the HIV/AIDS epidemic has made people more likely or less likely to discriminate against gays and lesbians, or hasn't it made much difference?

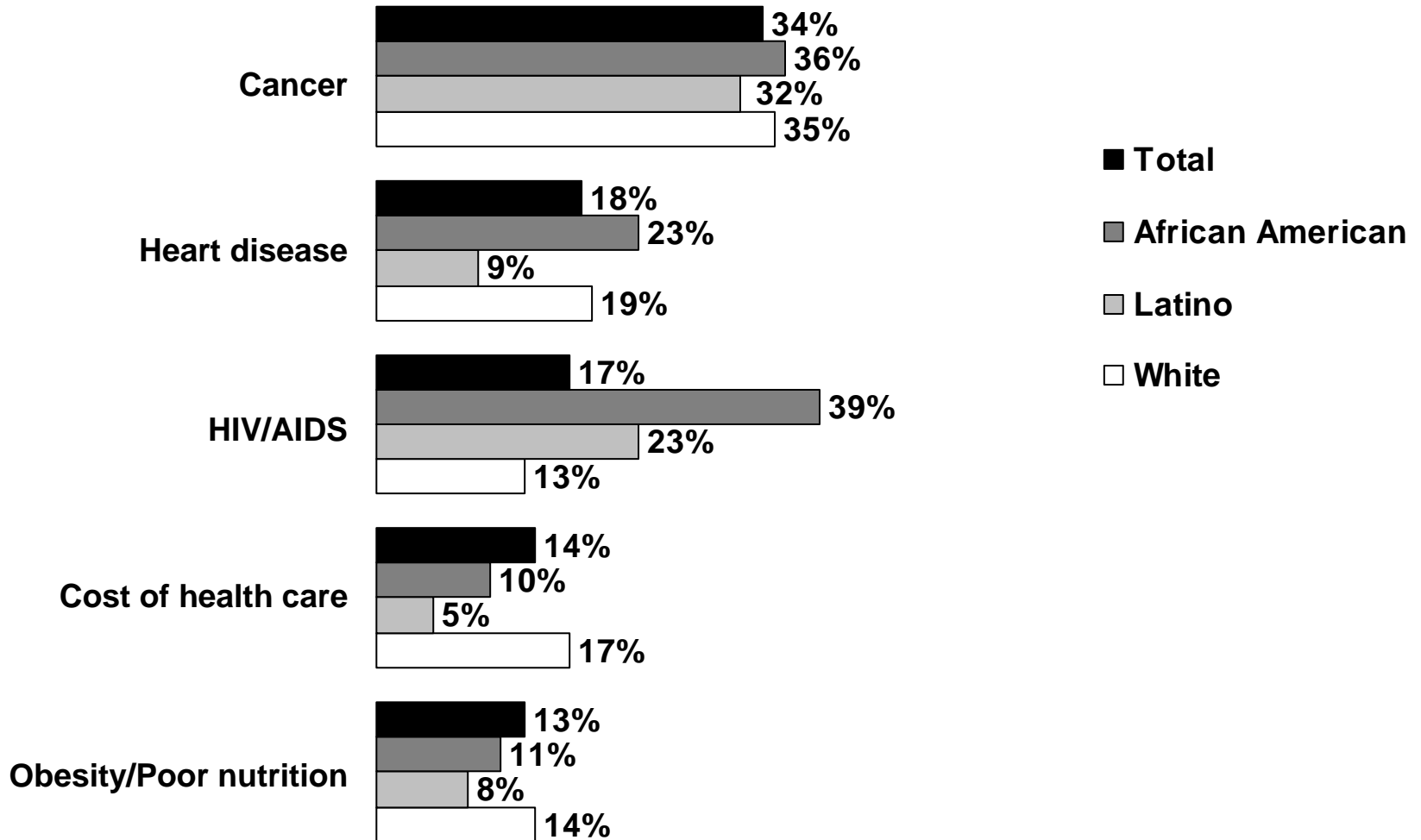


## Section Four: African Americans and HIV

- African Americans have been hardest hit by the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the U.S., and this impact appears to be reflected in their attitudes and perceptions. African Americans are more likely to name HIV as the most urgent health problem facing the nation, more likely to say they are personally concerned about becoming infected, and more likely to know someone with HIV or AIDS.
- However (and importantly given the current face of the epidemic in the U.S.), personal concern about becoming infected with HIV has declined among African Americans in recent years, as has the share who name HIV as the most urgent health problem facing the nation. Even among younger African Americans (ages 18-40), personal concern has fallen since 1997 (40% say they are “very concerned” in 2006, compared with 51% in 1997).
- African Americans are more pessimistic than others about the course of the epidemic in the United States. They are more likely to say the U.S. is losing ground on the epidemic, and they are more likely to say that HIV is a more urgent problem for their local community than it was a few years ago.

# Most Urgent Health Problem Facing the Nation by Race/Ethnicity

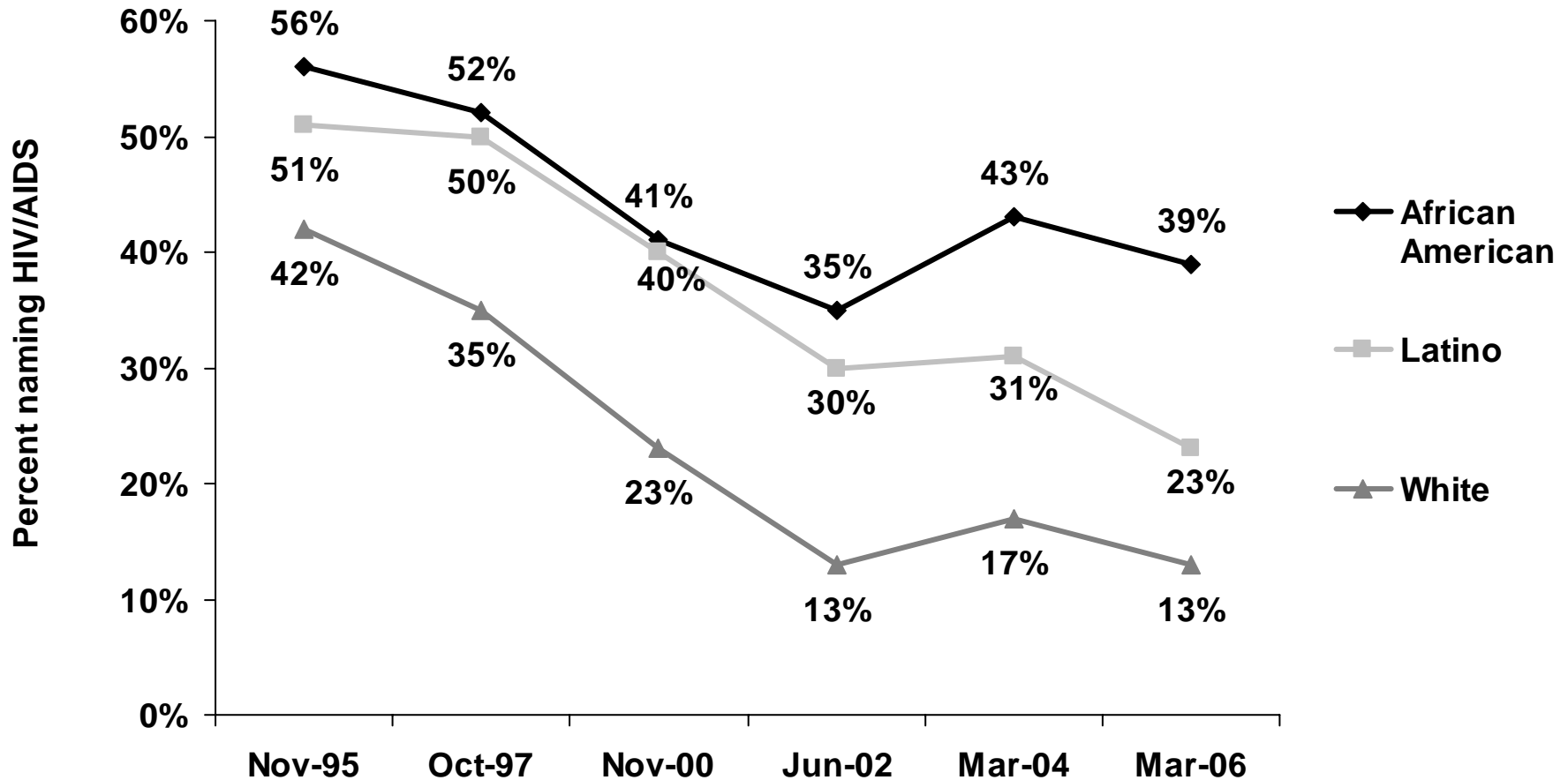
What do you think is the most urgent health problem facing THIS NATION today?  
(Open-ended – top 5 responses shown)\*



\* Note: Adds up to more than 100% because of multiple responses.

# Trend in Share Naming HIV/AIDS as the Most Urgent Health Problem Facing the Nation

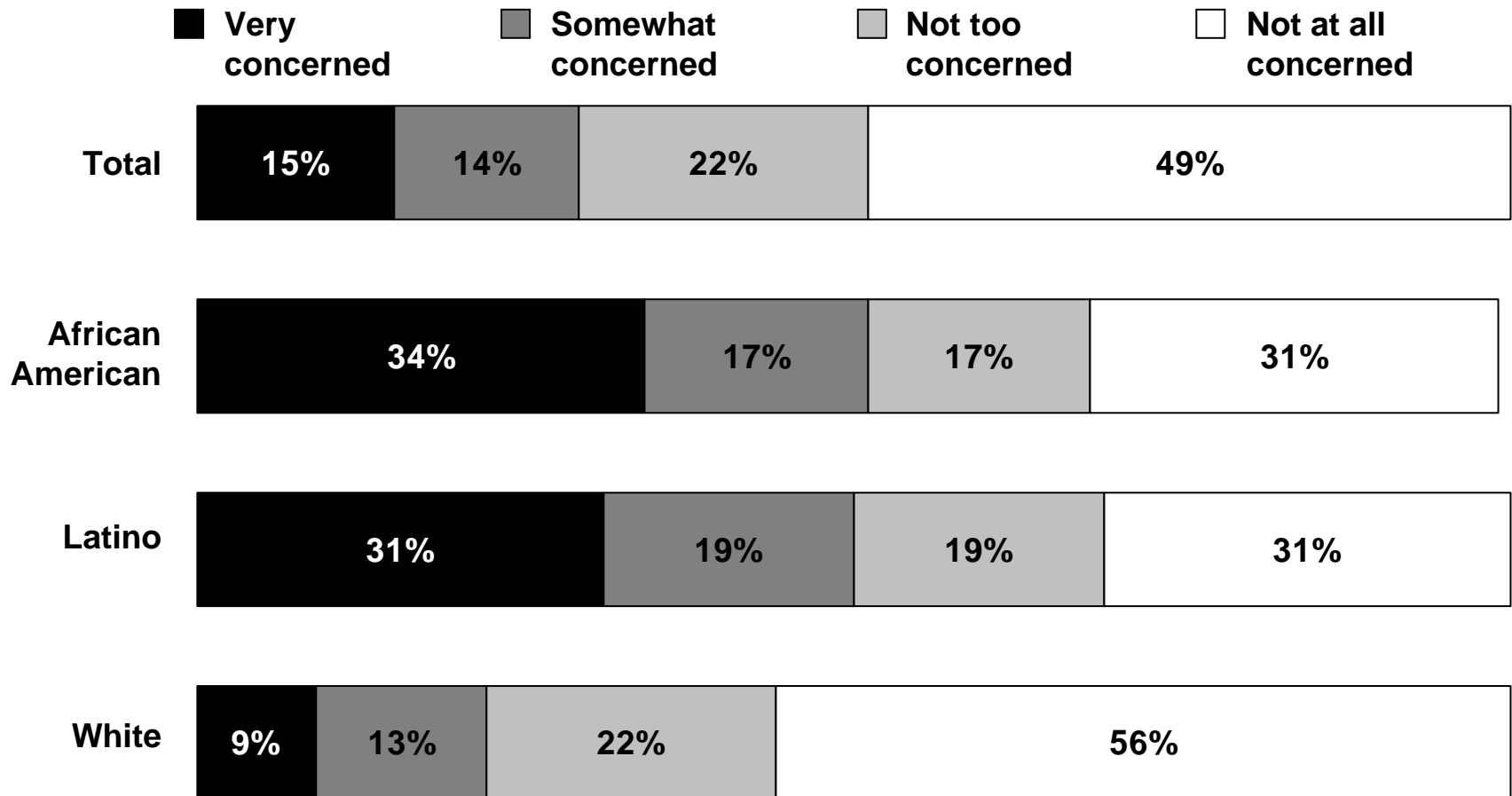
Percent naming HIV/AIDS as the most urgent health problem facing the nation...





# Personal Concern About Becoming Infected

Bearing in mind the different ways people can be infected with HIV, how concerned are you personally about becoming infected with HIV?

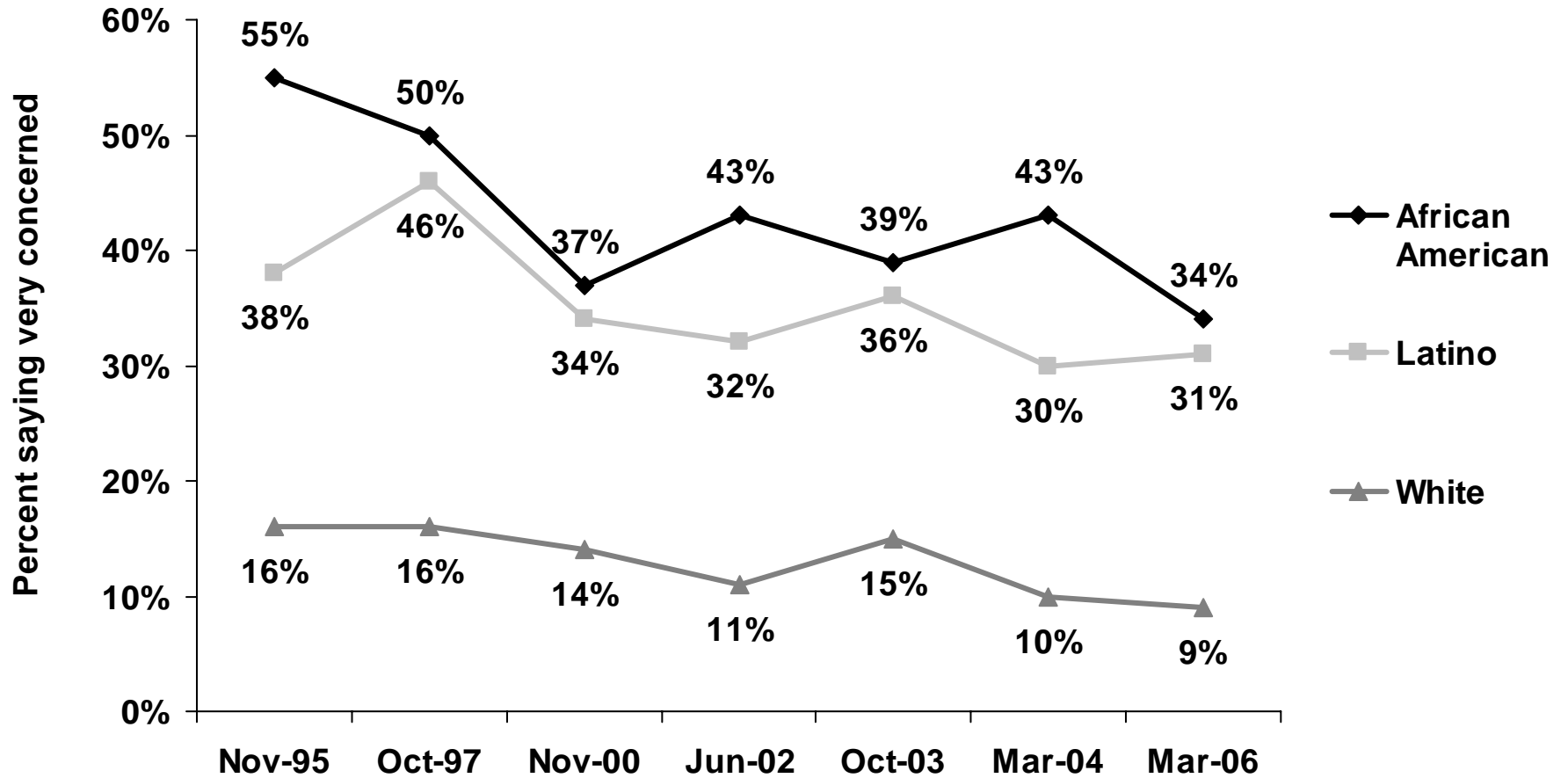


Note: Don't know responses not shown.

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

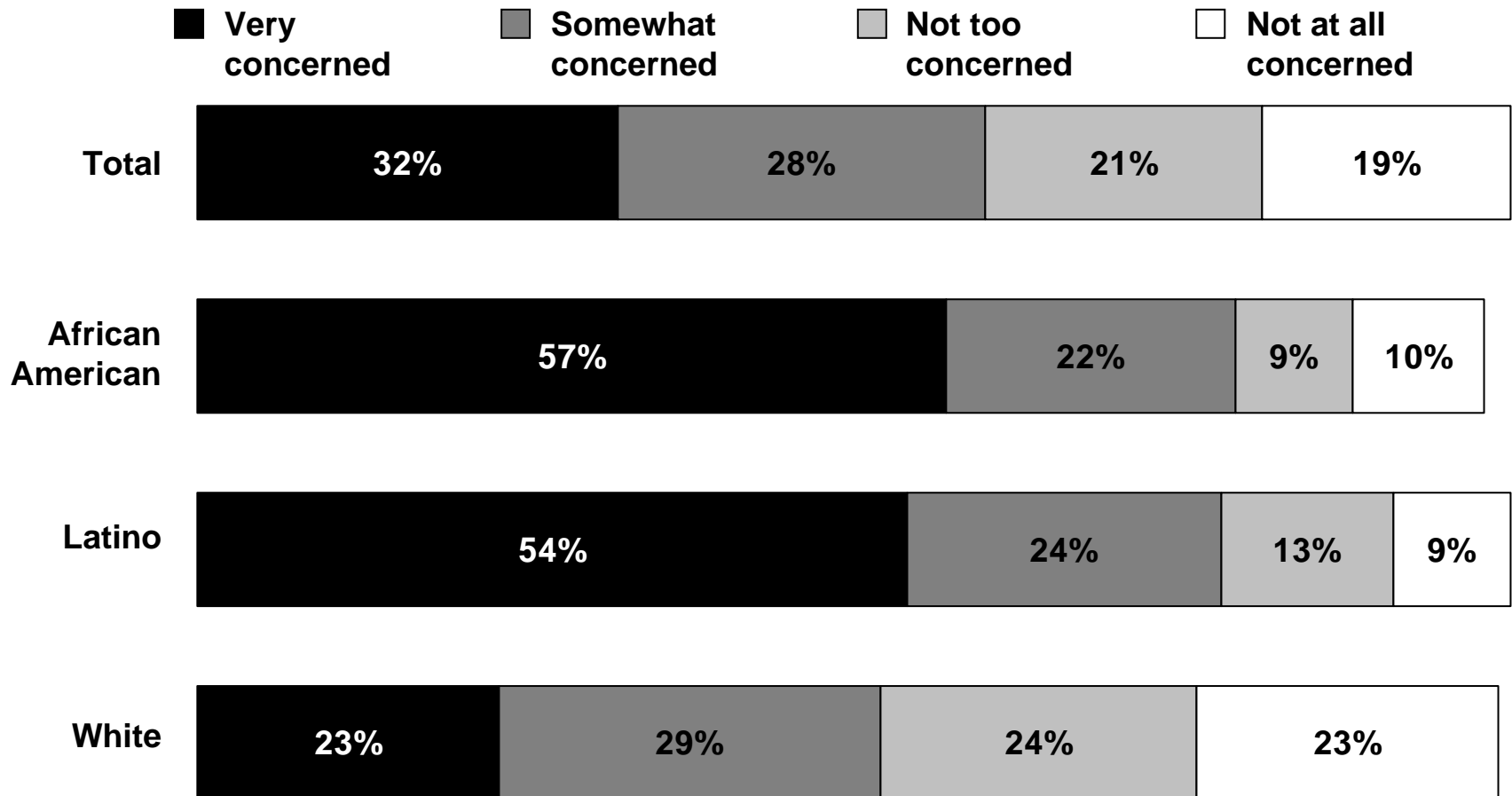
# Trend in Personal Concern About Becoming Infected

Percent who say they are personally “very concerned” about becoming infected with HIV



# Parents' Concern About Children Becoming Infected

How concerned are you about a son or daughter becoming infected with HIV?  
(AMONG PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 21 OR YOUNGER)

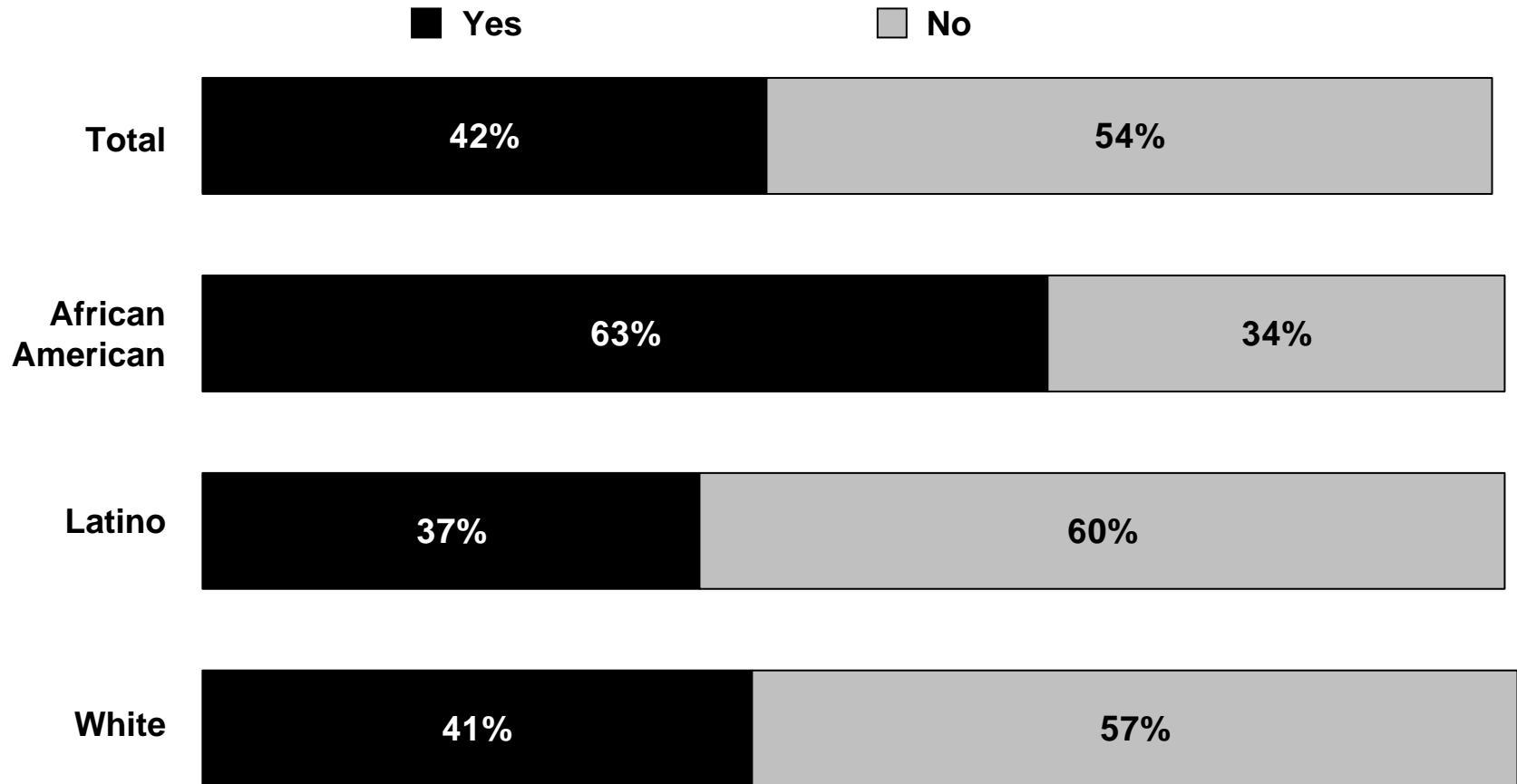


Note: Don't know responses not shown.

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

# Percent Who Know Someone With HIV/AIDS

Do you personally know anyone who now has AIDS, has died from AIDS, or has tested positive for HIV?

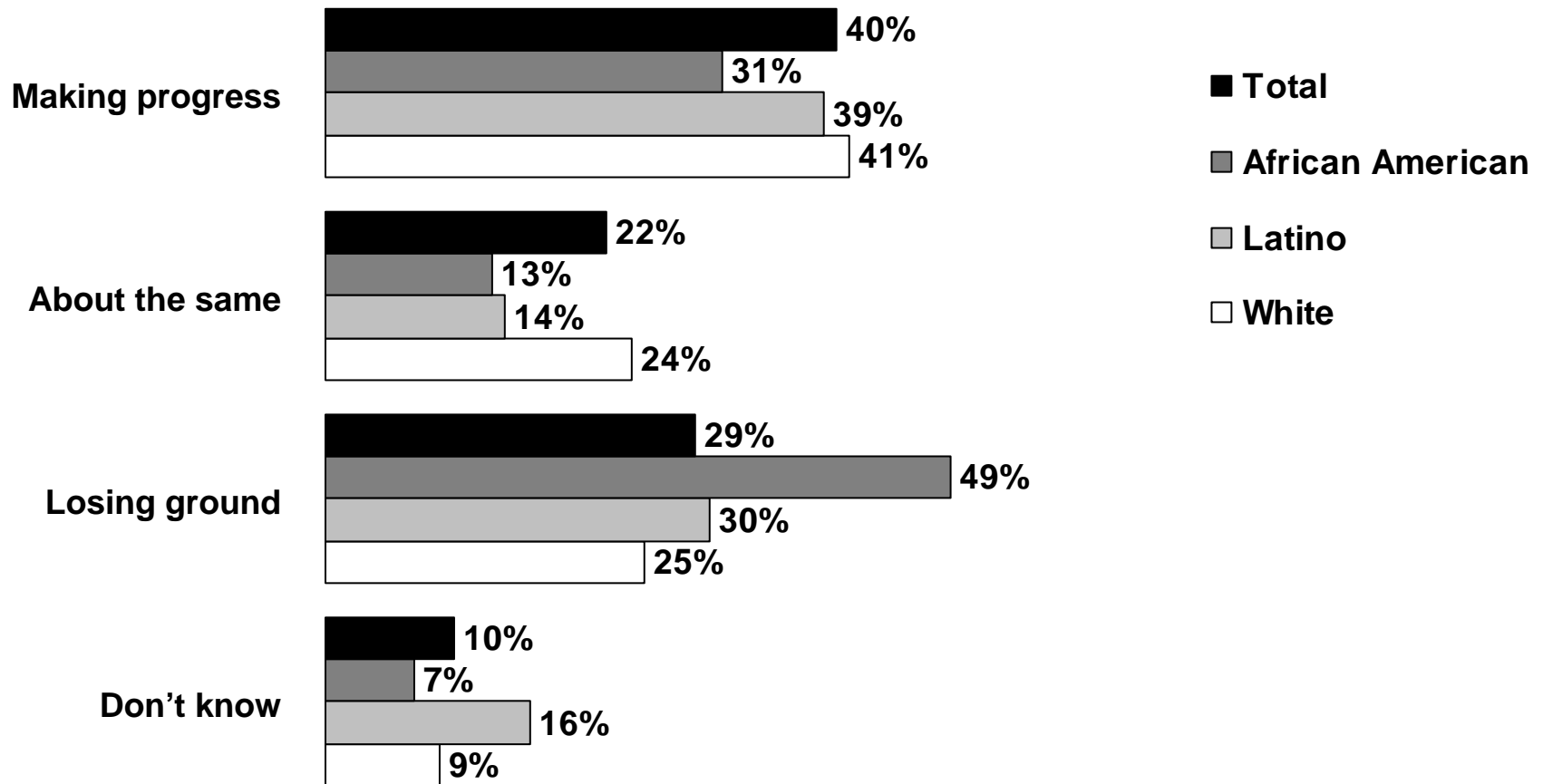


Note: Don't know responses not shown.

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

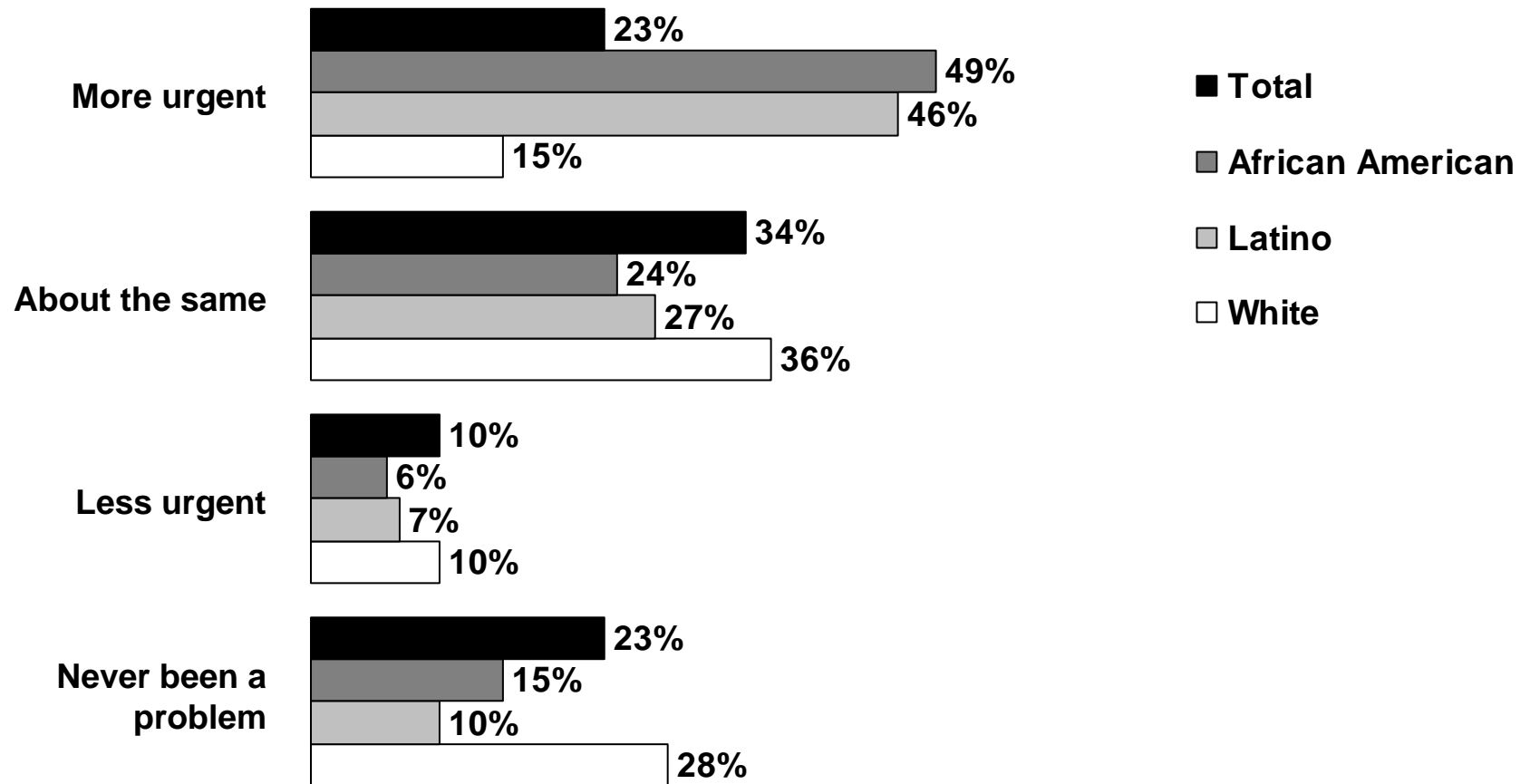
# Perceptions of U.S. Progress on HIV/AIDS

Thinking about the way the problem of HIV/AIDS affects the United States today, do you think the problem is about the same as it has been, that the U.S. today is making progress in this area, or that the U.S. today is losing ground?



# HIV/AIDS and Your Local Community

Thinking about the way the problem of AIDS is affecting YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY today, do you think AIDS is a more urgent problem for your community than it was a few years ago, a less urgent problem, is it about the same, or has AIDS never been a problem in your community?



Note: Don't know responses not shown

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



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