



Clinician Perspectives on U=U and Zero HIV Transmission Risk

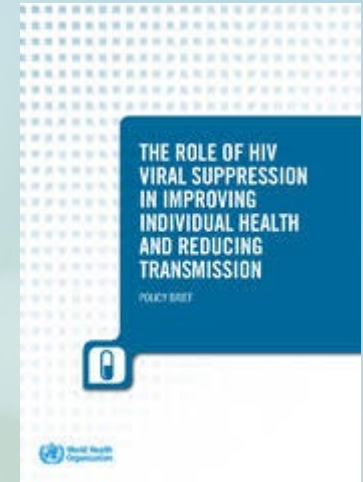
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Continuum 2024 • June 9-11, 2024 • Puerto Rico



Background

- PLHIV who achieve an undetectable VL pose **zero risk** of transmitting HIV to their sexual partners
- WHO July 2023 policy brief asserted zero risk of sexual transmission of HIV among PLHIV with undetectable VL
- Clinician hesitancy to communicate U=U is barrier to:
 - Destigmatizing PLHIV
 - Creating demand for ART
 - Incentivizing ART adherence

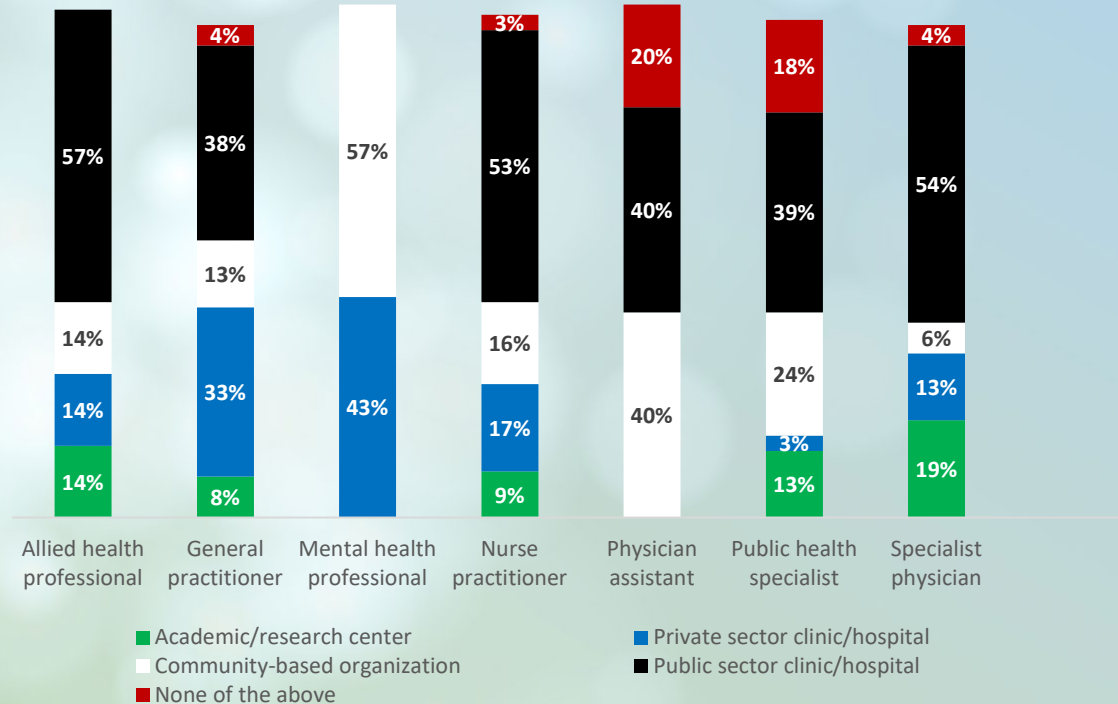




Methods

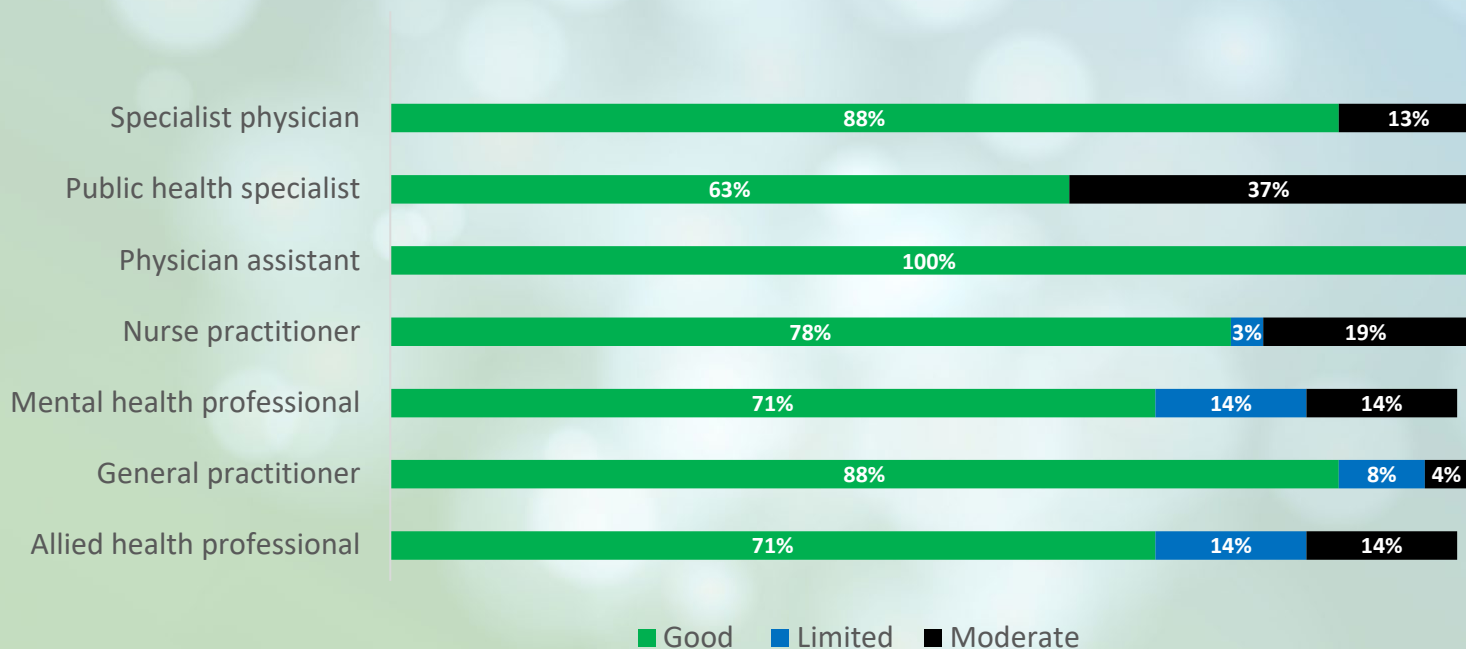
- Cross-sectional online survey of 925 US clinicians (February-April 2024)
- Clinicians queried about:
 - **Communication** of U=U in clinical practice
 - **Confidence** in scientific underpinnings of U=U
 - **Agreement** with WHO U=U 'zero' risk term
 - Reason(s) for clinician concern about use of 'zero risk' term

Distribution of Clinician Classification by Practice Setting





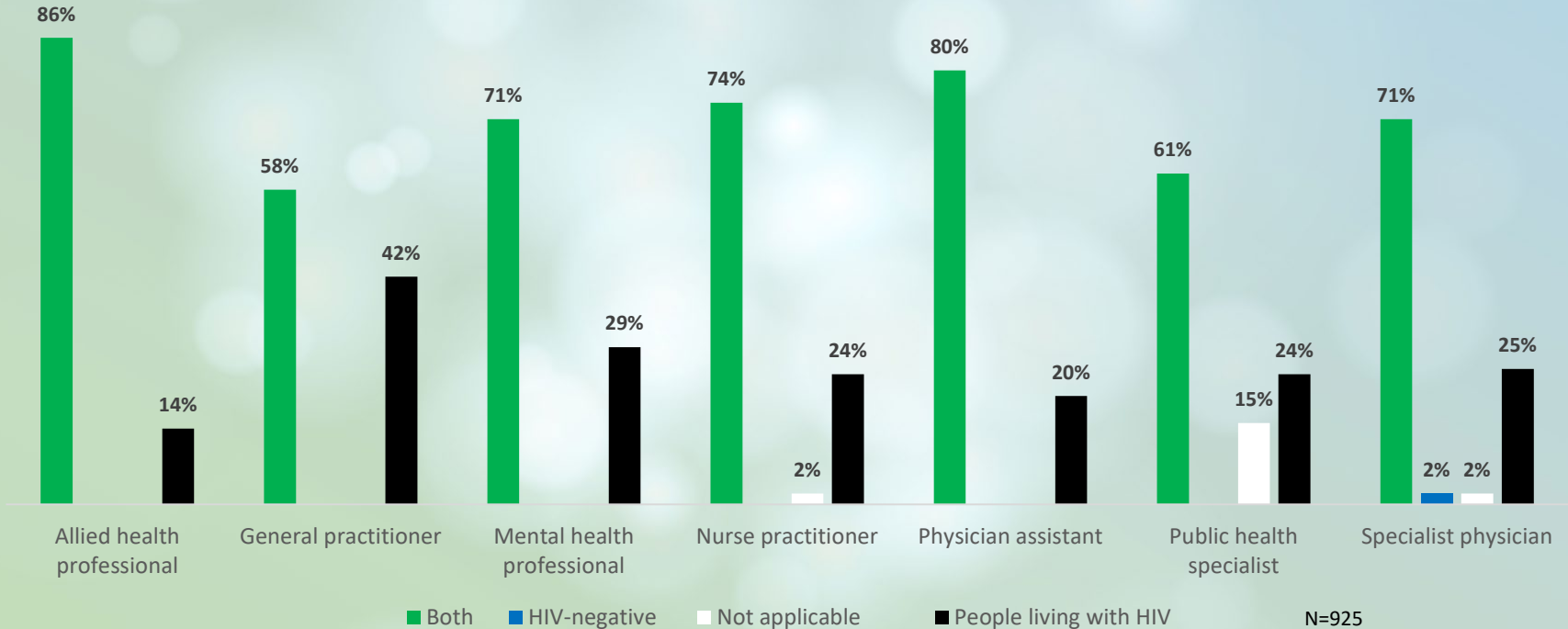
Clinician Knowledge about U=U



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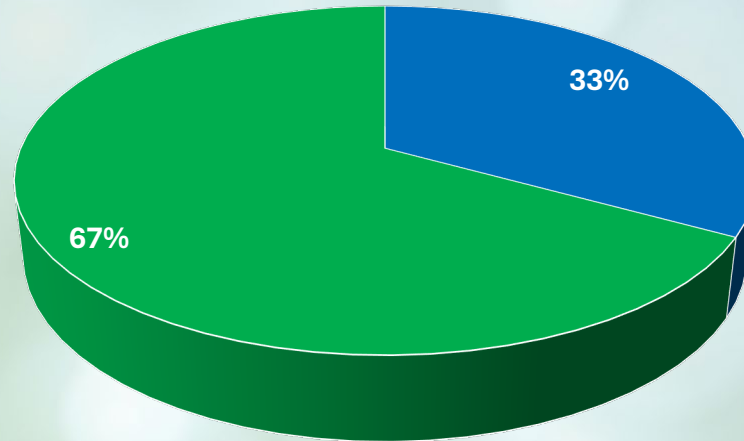


Clinician Communication about U=U





Clinician Knowledge about WHO Zero Risk Policy Brief

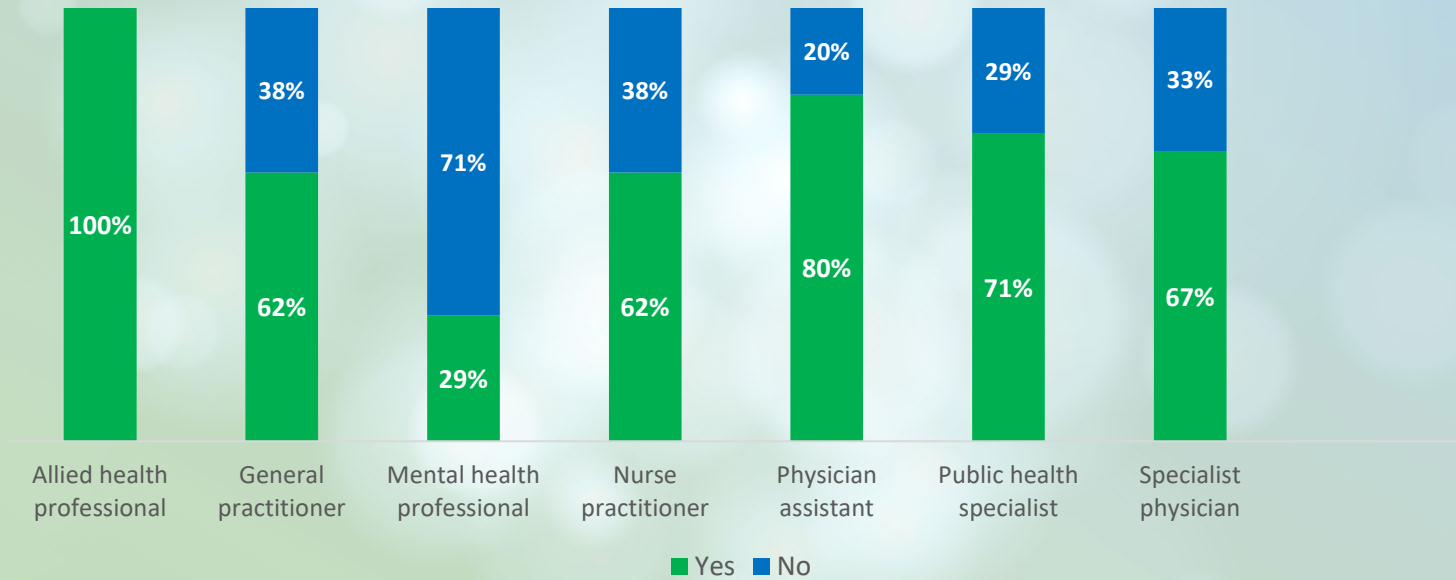


■ Yes ■ No

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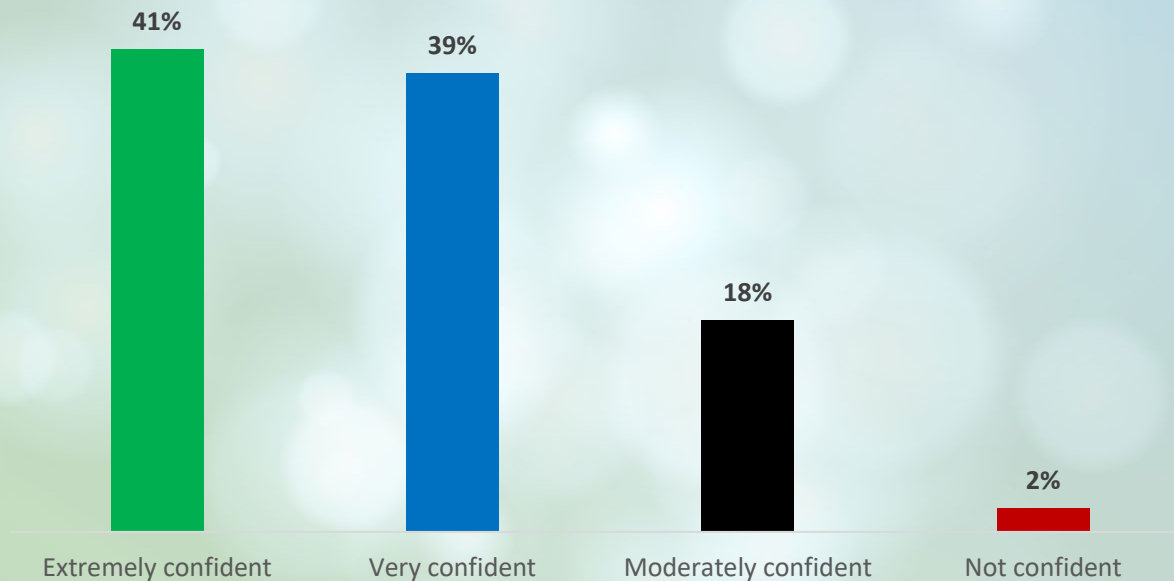
Clinician Knowledge about WHO Zero Risk Policy Brief (continued)



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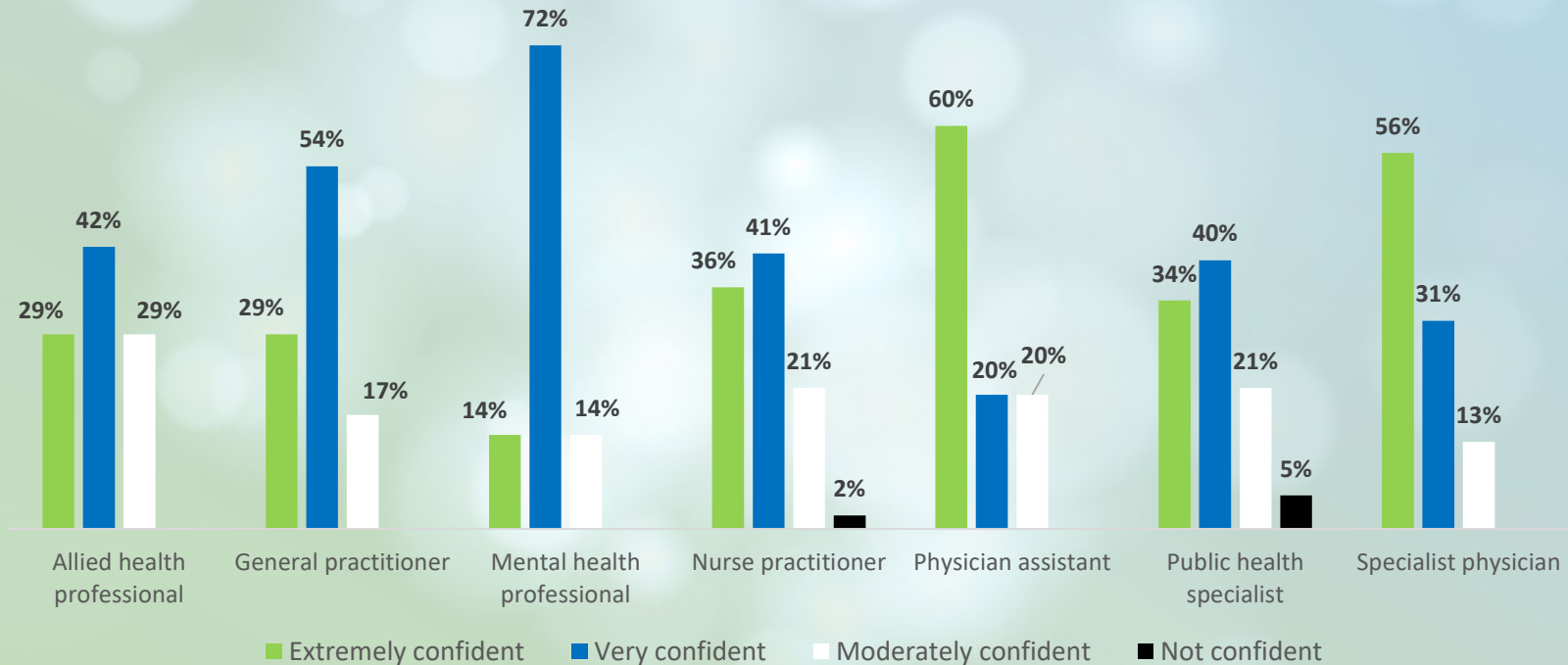
Clinician Confidence in WHO Zero Risk Policy Brief



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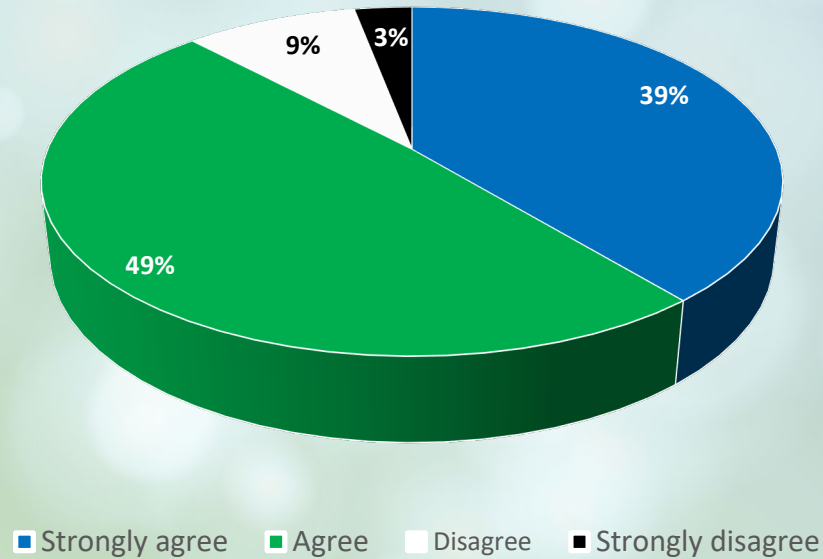
Clinician Confidence in WHO Zero Risk Policy Brief (continued)



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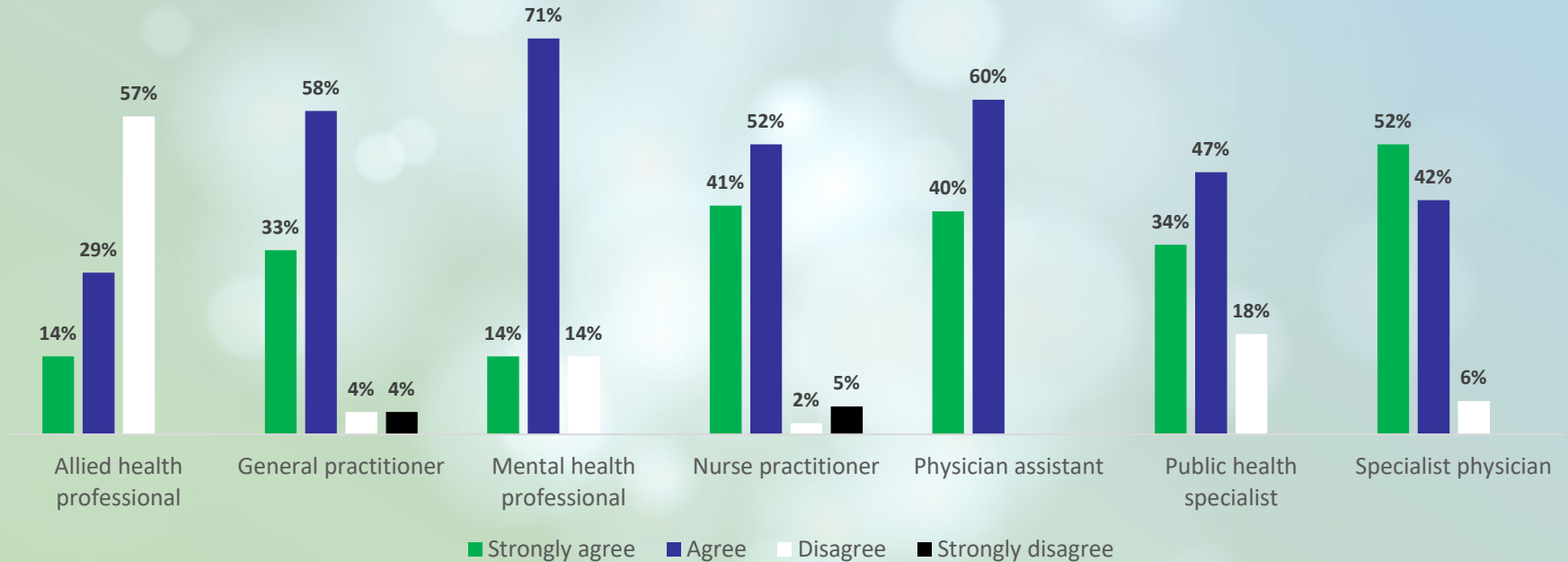
Clinician Agreement with 'Zero Risk' Term



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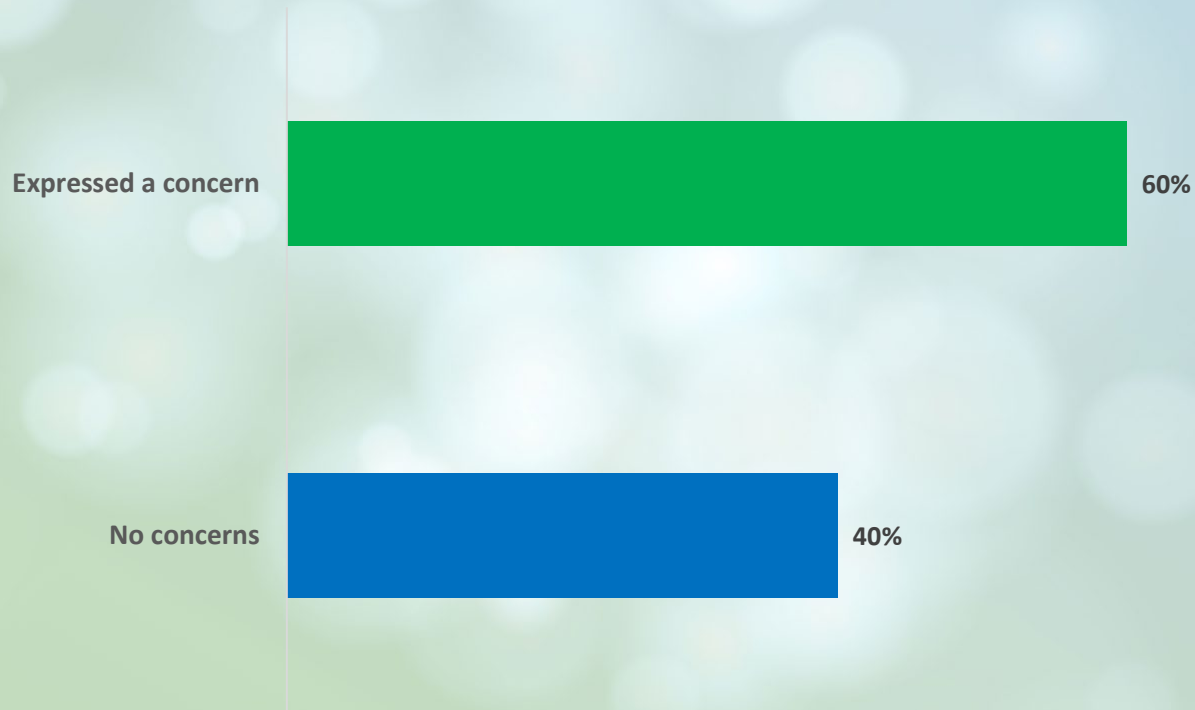
Clinician Agreement with 'Zero Risk' Term (continued)



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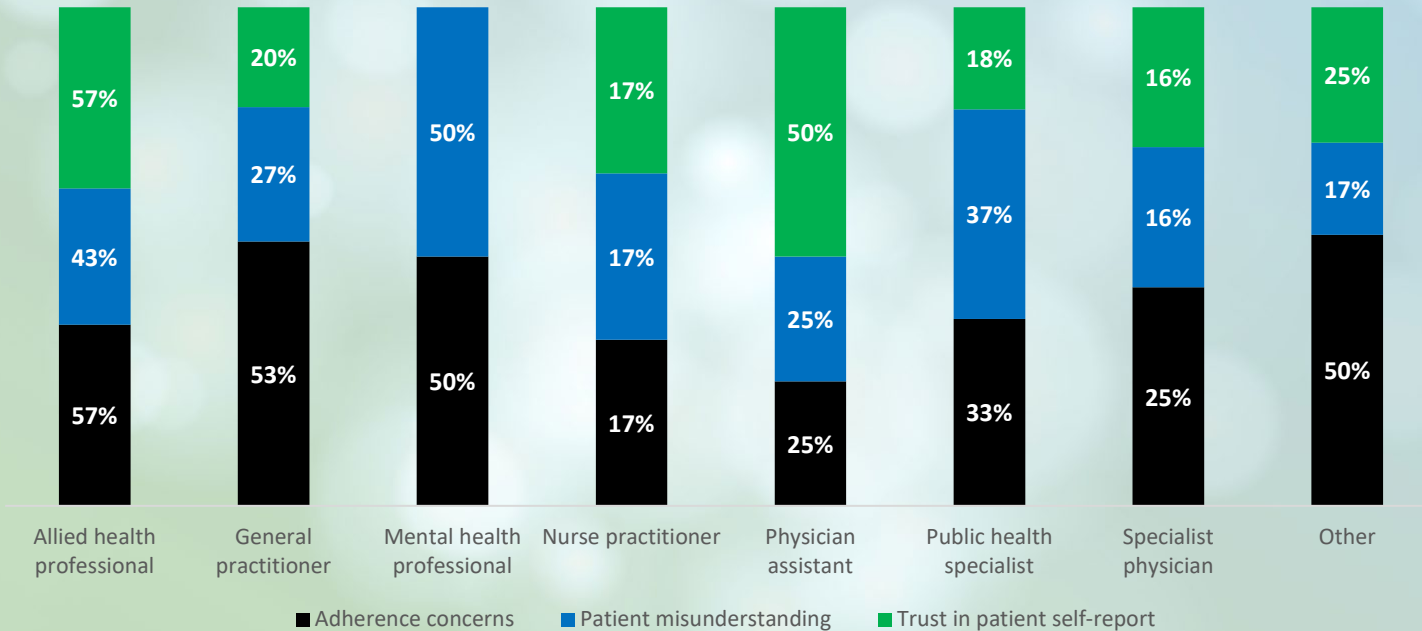
Clinician Concern with 'Zero Risk' Term Use



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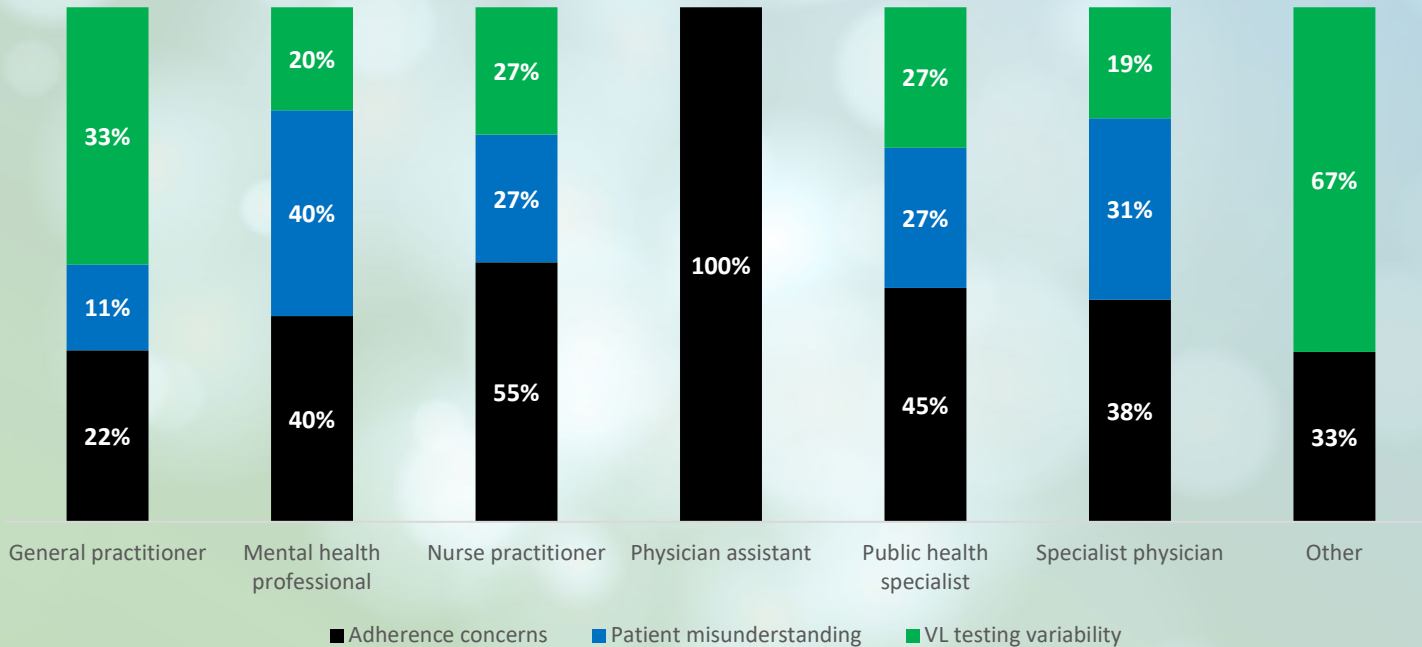
Top 3 Concerns with 'Zero Risk' Term Use by Clinicians without Knowledge of WHO Zero Risk Policy Brief



N=366



Top 3 Concerns with 'Zero Risk' Term Use by Clinicians with Knowledge of WHO Zero Risk Policy Brief



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Conclusions

- U=U and zero risk are scientifically sound messages to convey to PLHIV
- Clinicians have diverse perspectives on U=U and zero risk term
- Targeted education and support needed to scale-up U=U and uptake of WHO Zero Risk Policy Brief
 - Non-HIV specialists
 - Multiple health cadres
 - PLHIV as educators
- Allaying concerns about zero risk is critical to better integrate U=U message into clinical practice





Acknowledgements

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