

Knowledge, Attitudes, Behaviors and Experiences Towards Genetic Research Among Persons of African Descent

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Introduction

With a genomic revolution continuing to advance rapidly, it is important that persons of all ethnic groups, in particular persons of African descent, are involved in genetic research.

The low participation rates of persons of African descent in genetic research hampers the ability to identify the genetic basis of diseases disproportionately affecting this population and restrict the exploration of ethnic and genetic differences in disease distribution (Bowen & Penchaszadeh, 2008, Rotimi, 2012).

Objective

The purpose of this study is to explore knowledge, attitudes, behaviors and experiences (KABEs) related to genetic research among a sample of persons of African descent.

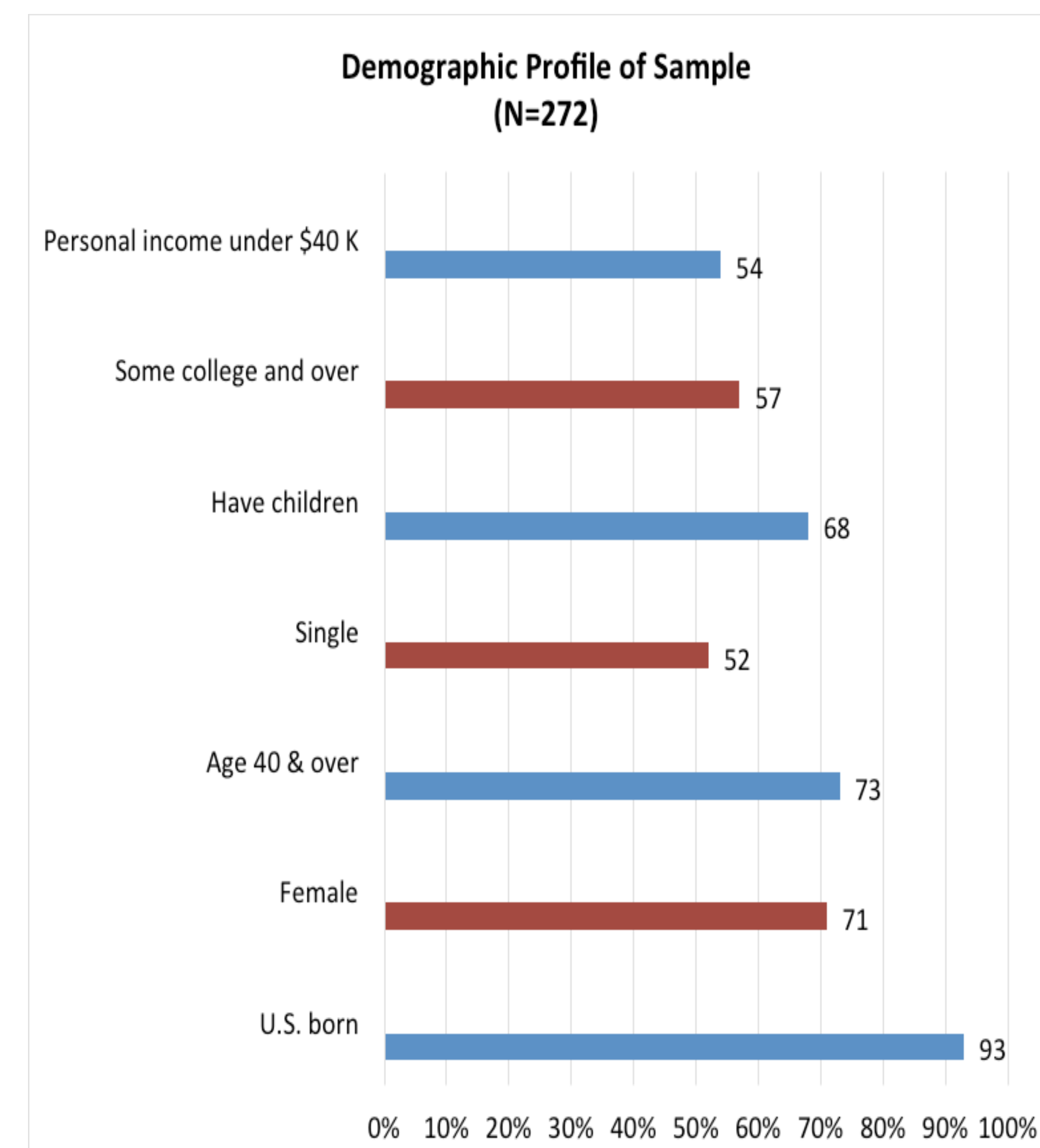
Methods

Instrument: An investigator designed questionnaire was developed to capture the KABEs data of interest and demographic characteristics of study participants.

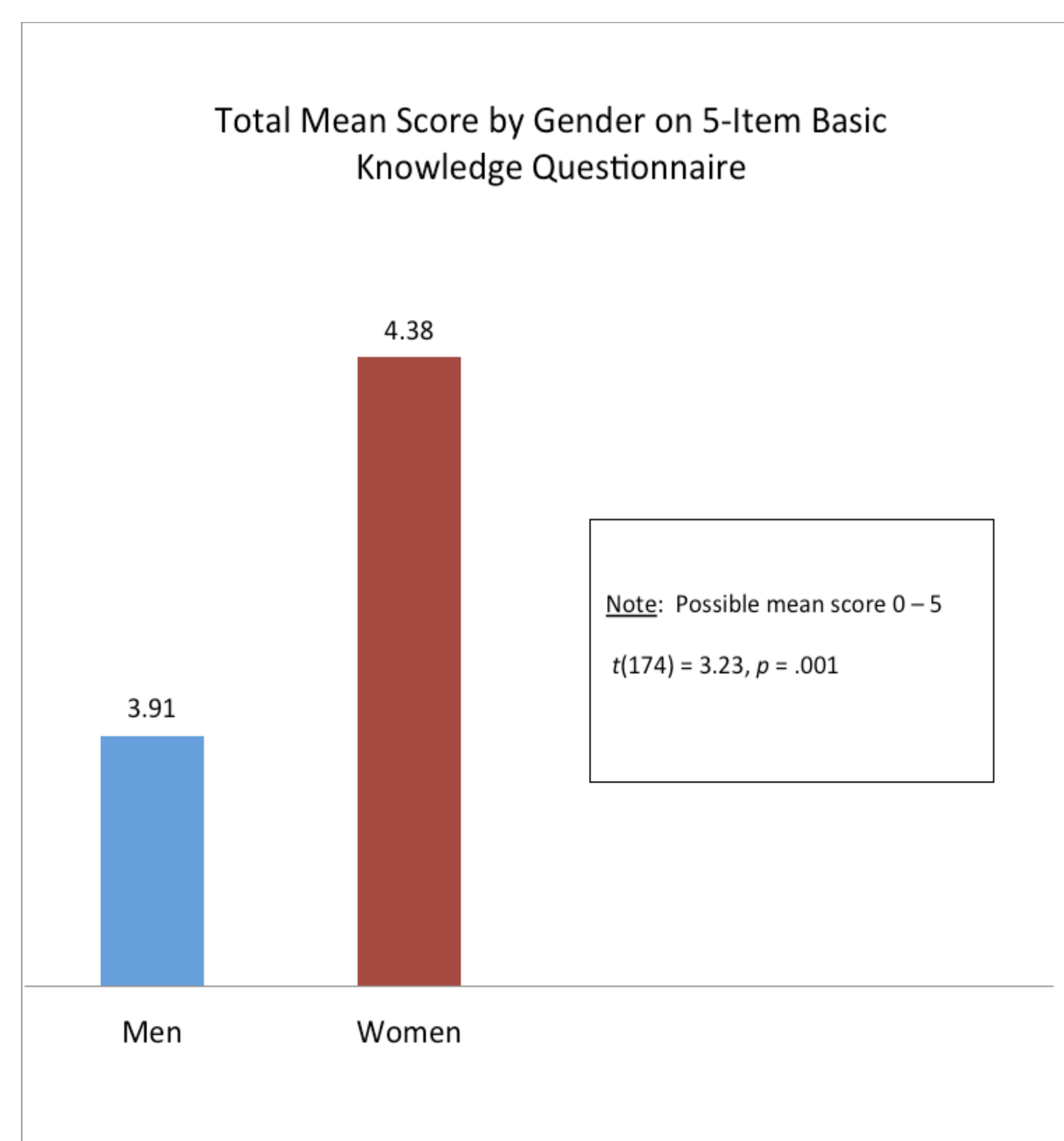
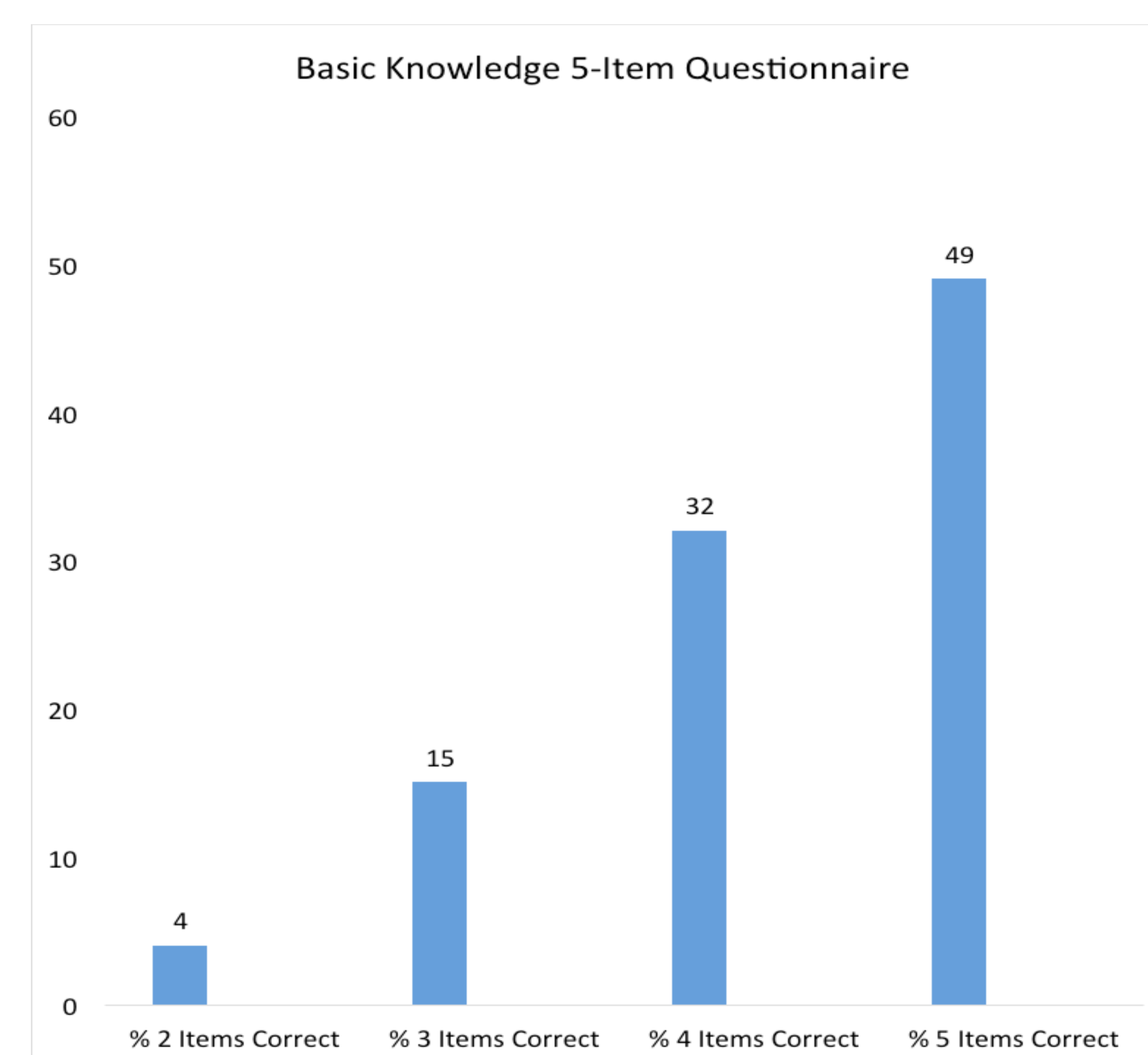
KABE developed items were based upon extensive review of the relevant literature with some adapted from previous studies utilizing populations of African descent

Procedures: Using a cross sectional survey design, persons, ages 18 and older, were recruited from the Washington, DC metropolitan area through public advertisements and word of mouth. Data were coded and analyzed using SPSS.

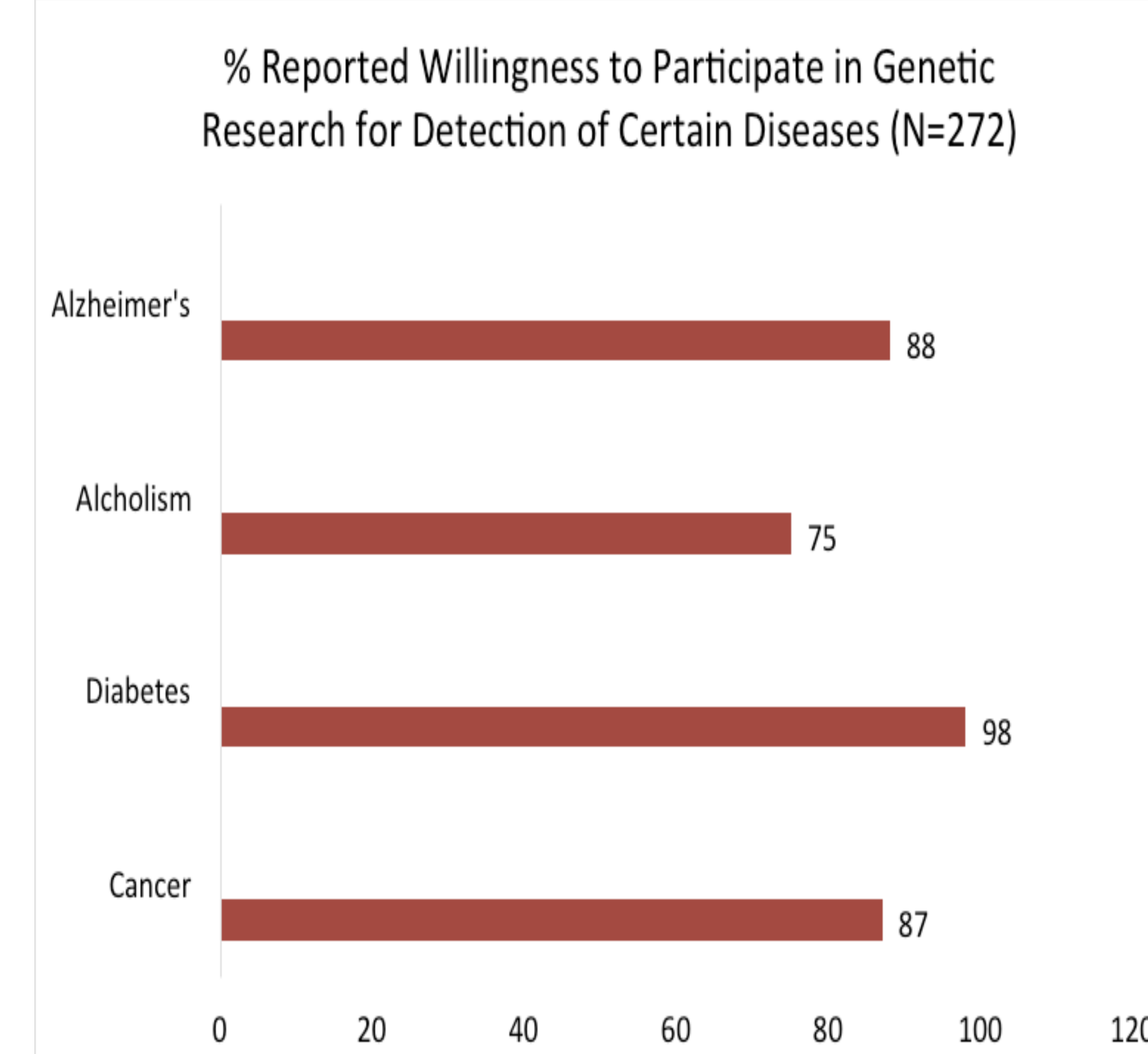
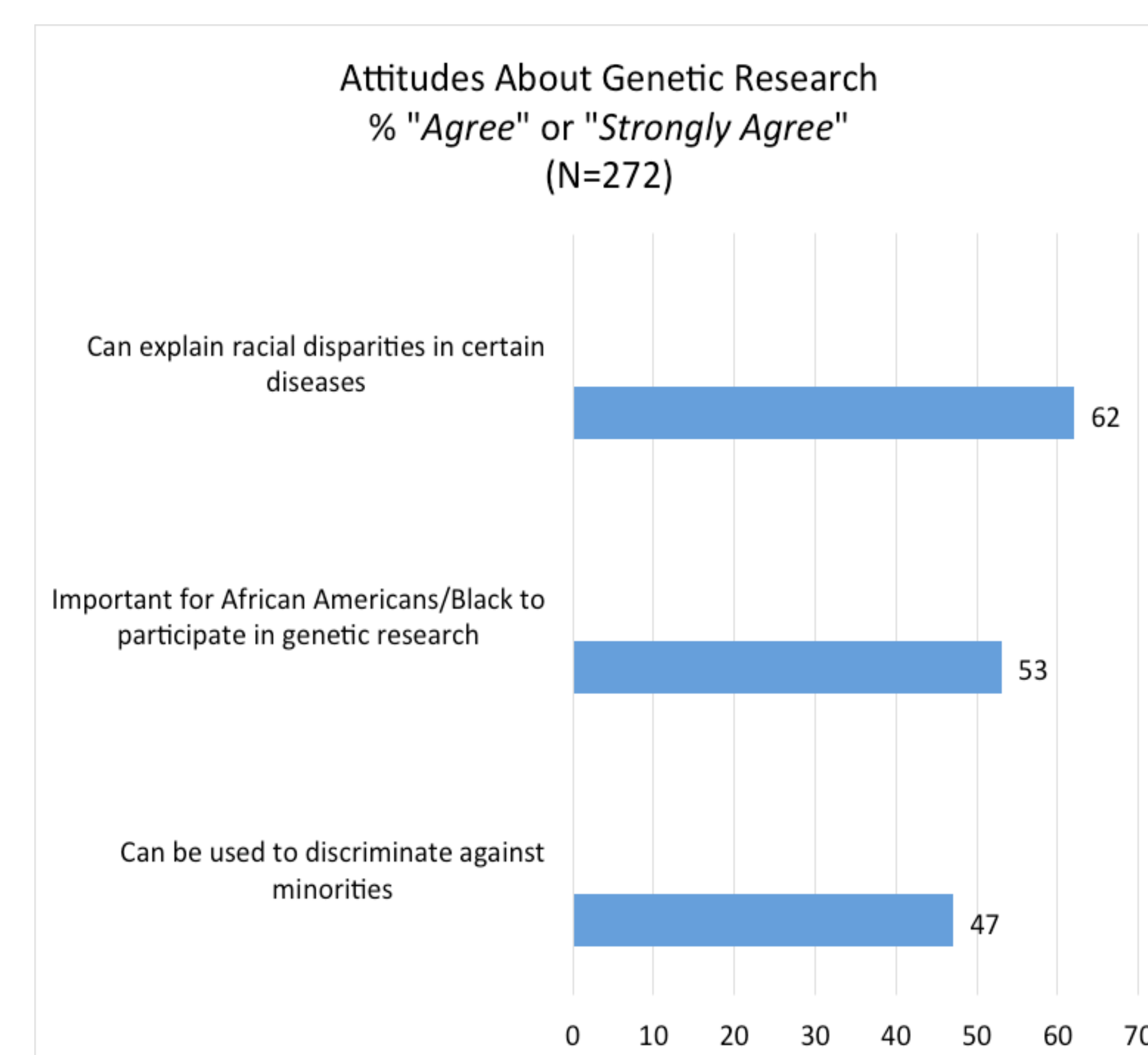
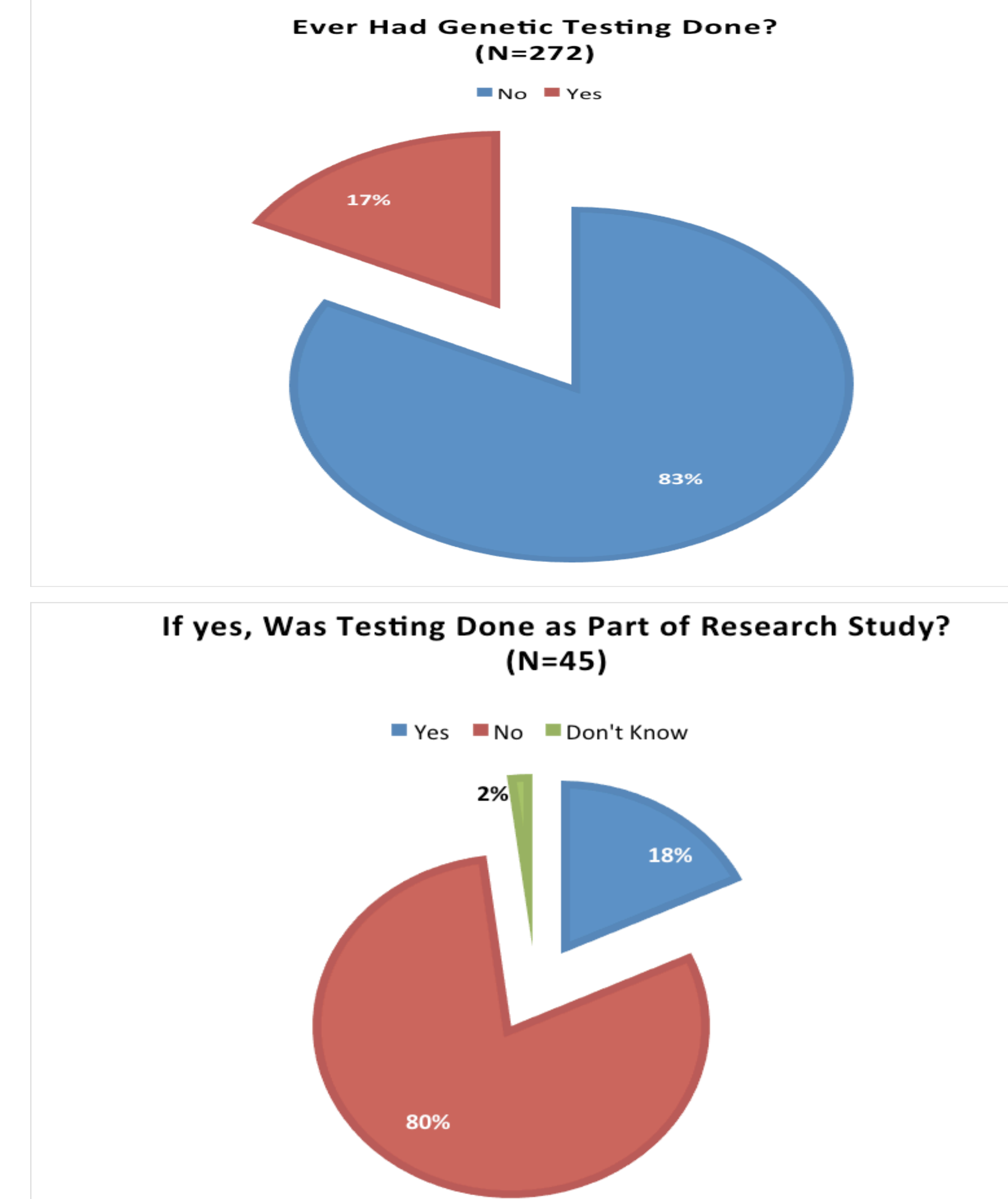
Research Participants



Results



Results (cont'd)



Conclusions

- Persons of African descent have basic knowledge of genetic testing but few experiences
- Persons of African descent view participation in genetic research as important and are willing to have their genetic profile analyzed to detect susceptibility to certain diseases
- Misuse of genetic information is a concern
- Potential limitations center around generalizability, use of quantitative methodology to glean breadth of complex issues, applicability to actual behavior

References

- Bowen, D.J. & Penchaszadeh V.B. (2008). Special issue: enhancing minority recruitment into genetics research. *Community Genet.*, 11, 189–190
- Rotimi, C.N. (2012). Health disparities in the genomic era: The case for diversifying ethnic representation. *Genome Med*, 4(8): 65.

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