

Background & Significance

- 80% of new HIV infections were transmitted by people who do not know their HIV status or who do not receive HIV treatment
- The CDC recommends routine HIV screening for people aged 13-64, including emergency department (ED) patients
- Routine HIV screening in EDs can reduce forward transmission of HIV and reduce HIV-related mortality and morbidity by
 - Identifying people with undiagnosed HIV
 - Linking people with undiagnosed or untreated HIV to HIV primary care
- ED-based HIV screening programs often have high rates of missed opportunities for testing, diagnosis, and linkage to HIV care
- Little is known about whether and how ED nurses affect implementation of the CDC's HIV screening recommendation.

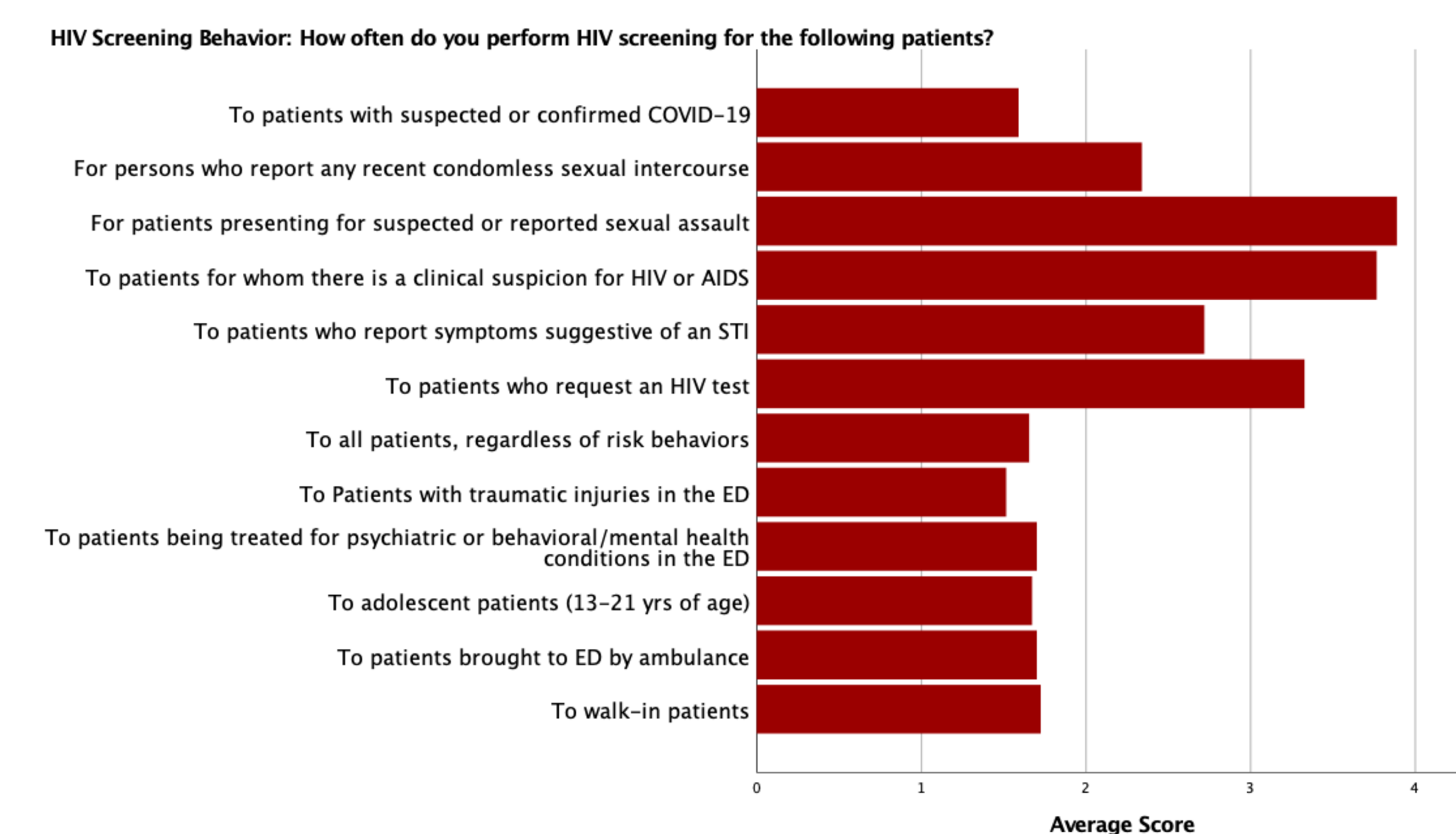
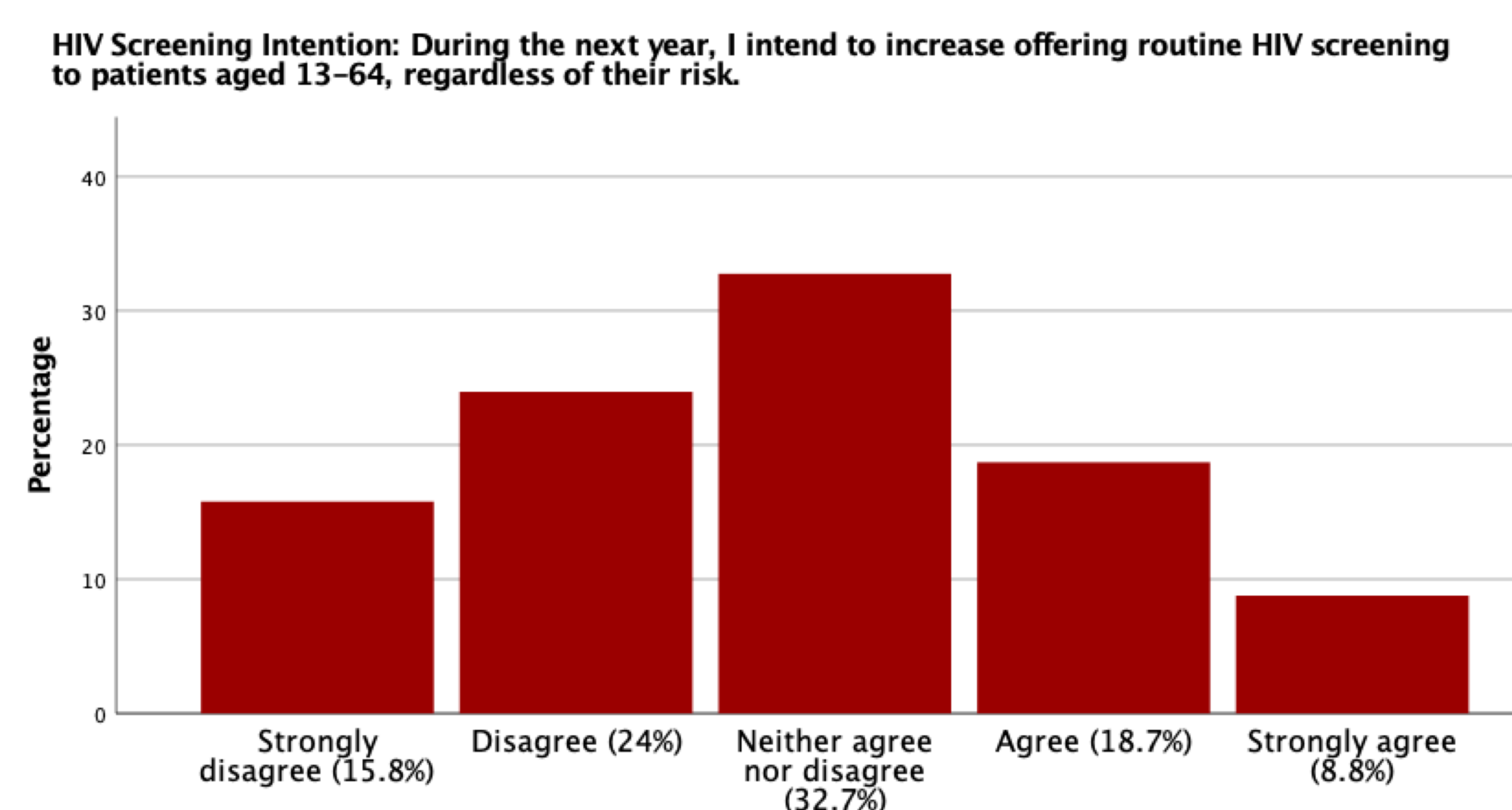
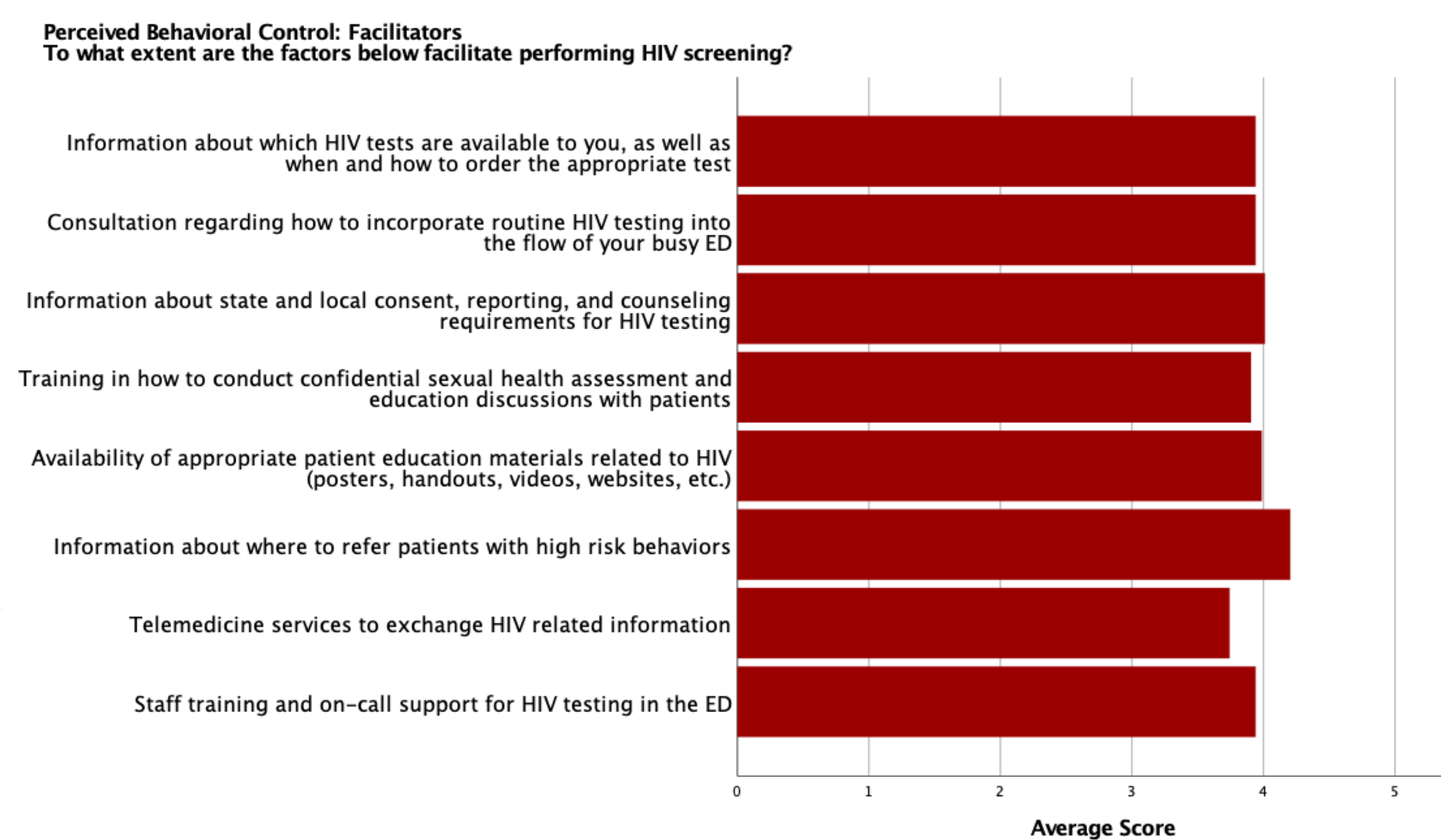
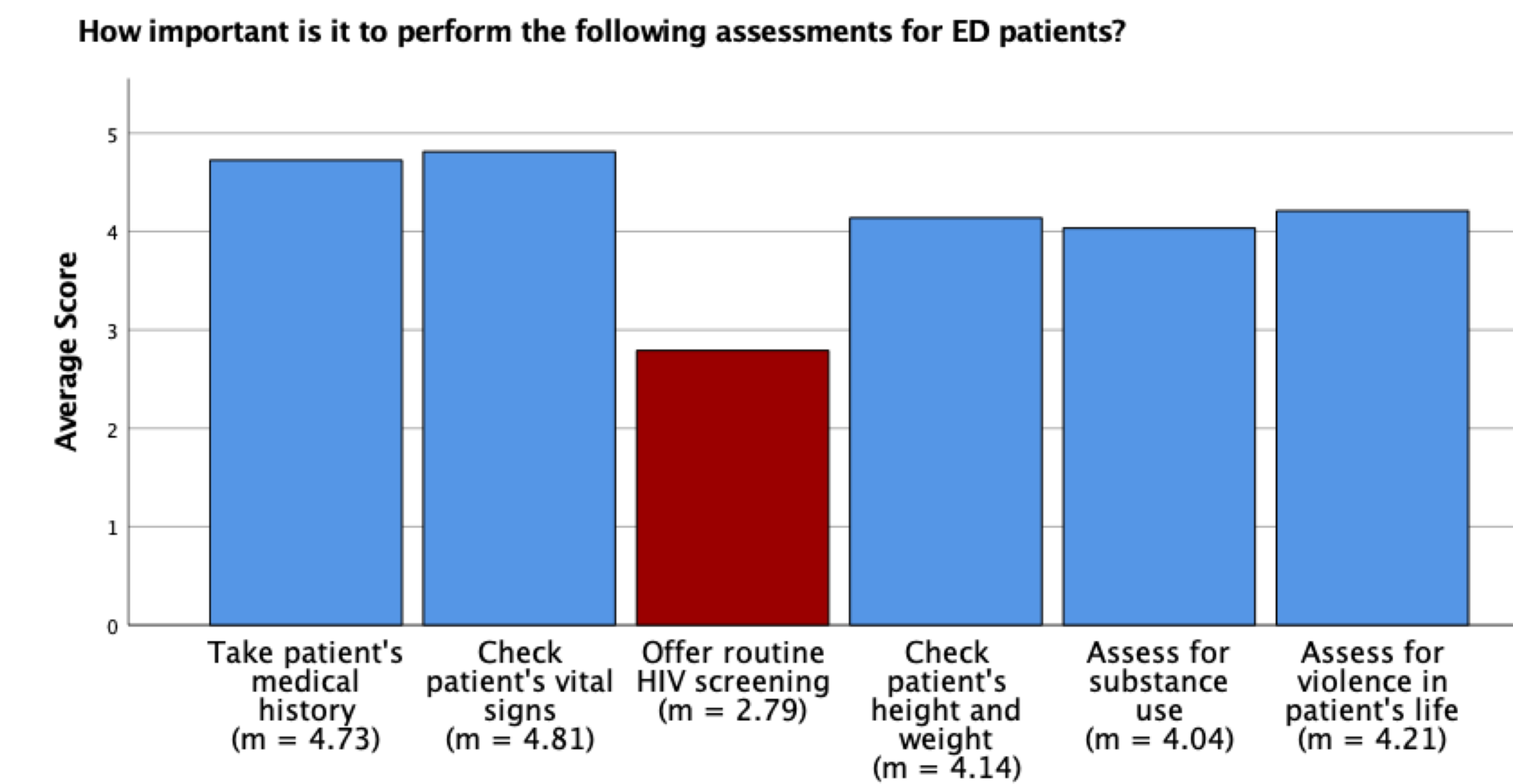
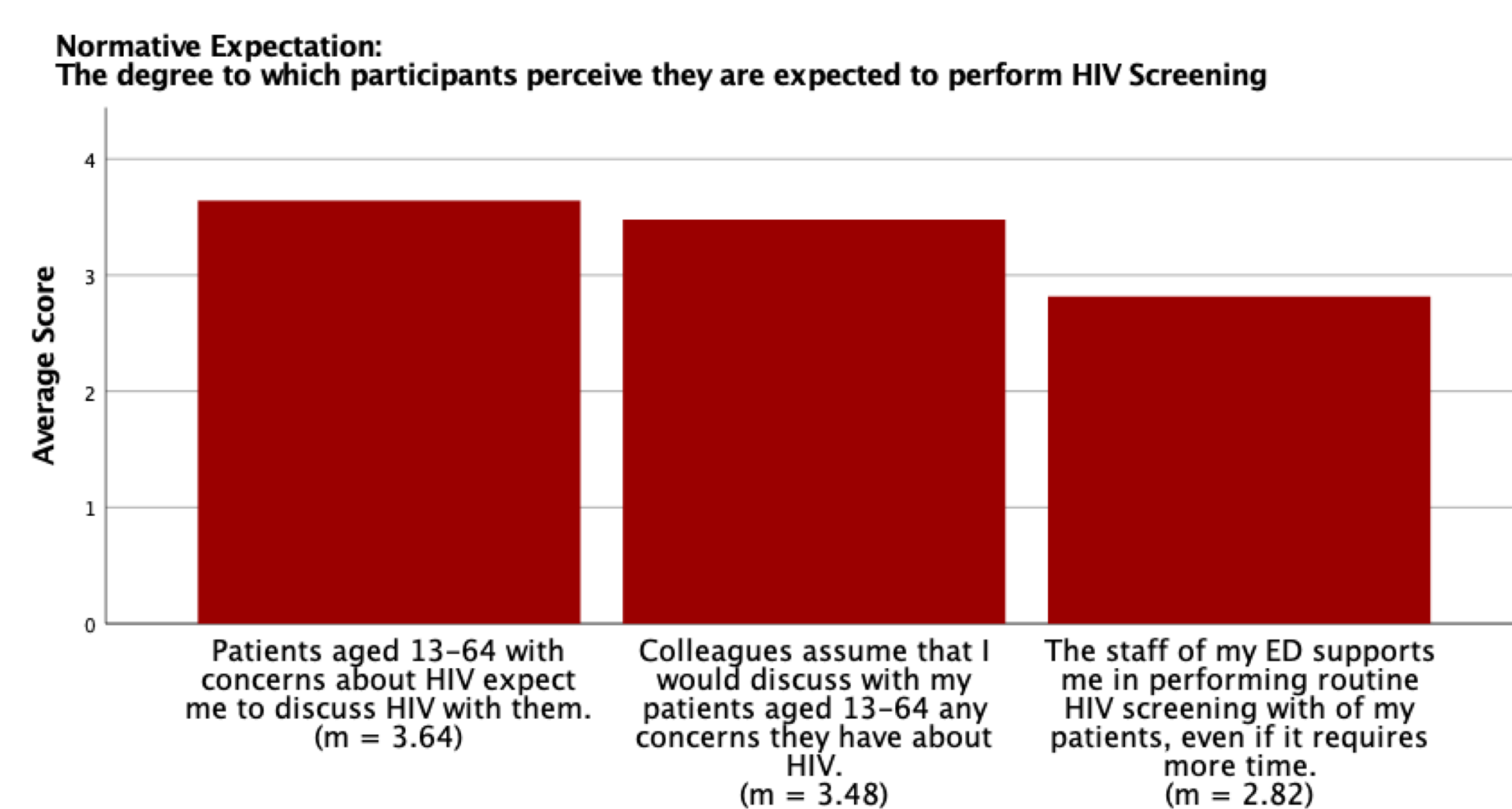
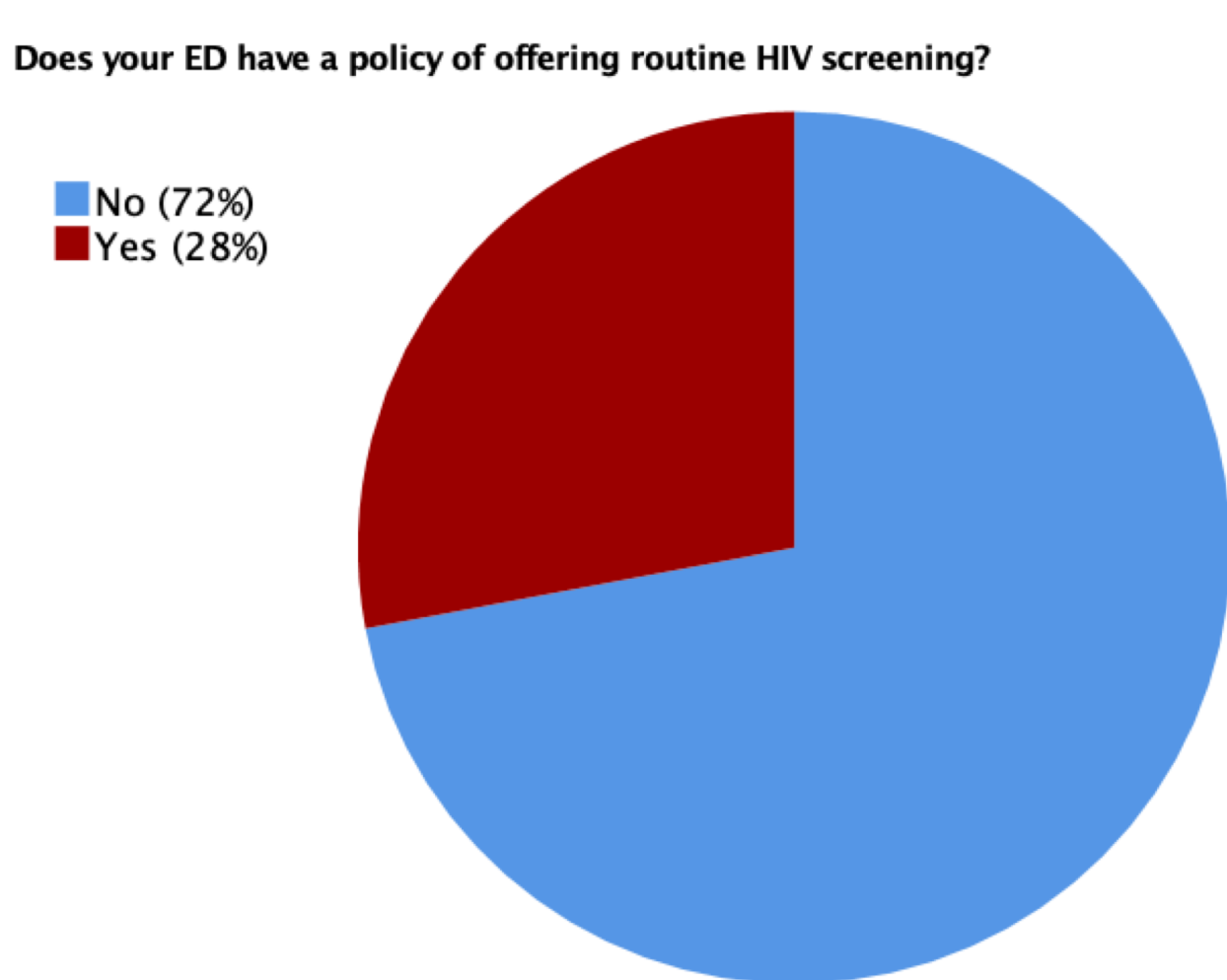
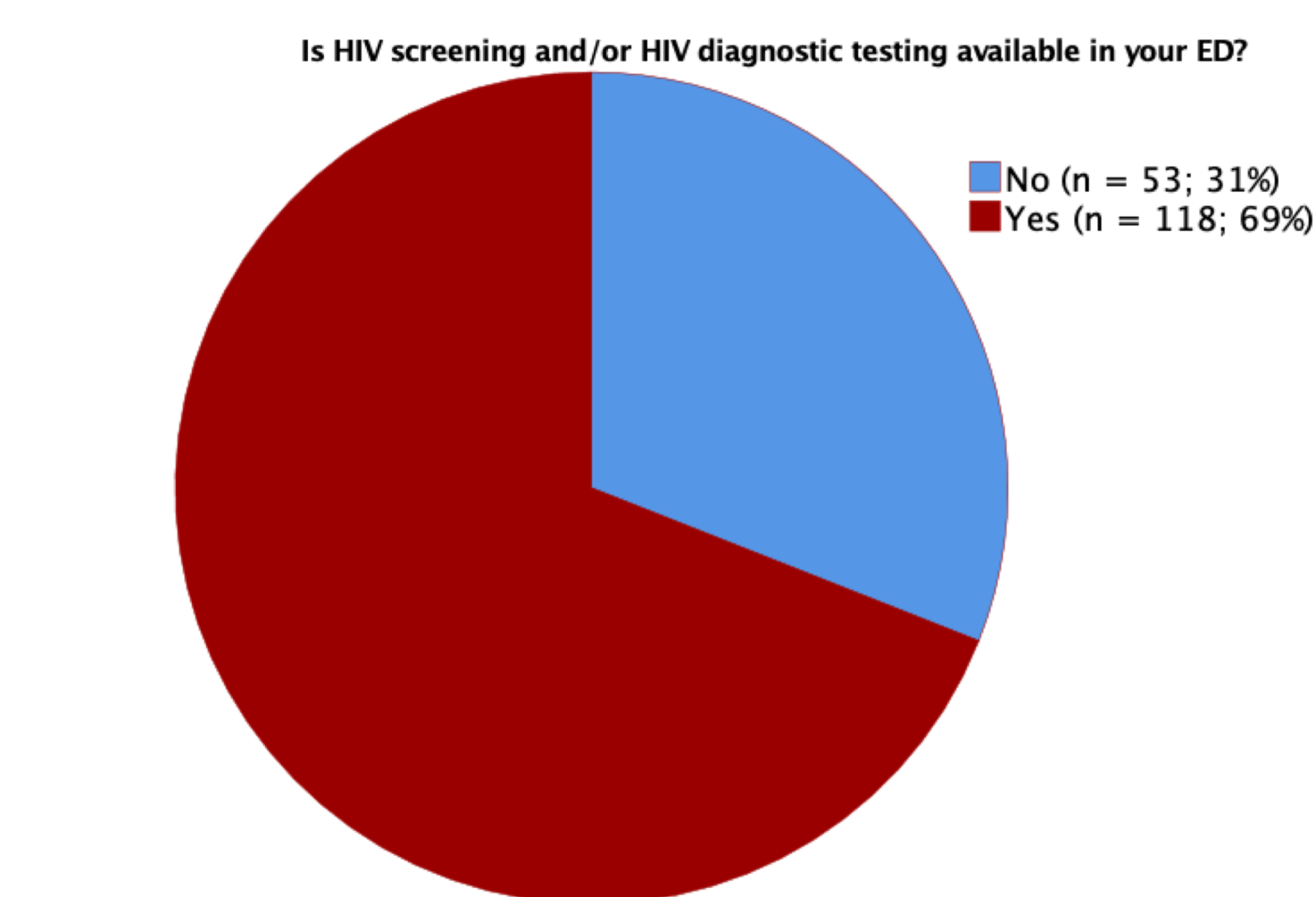
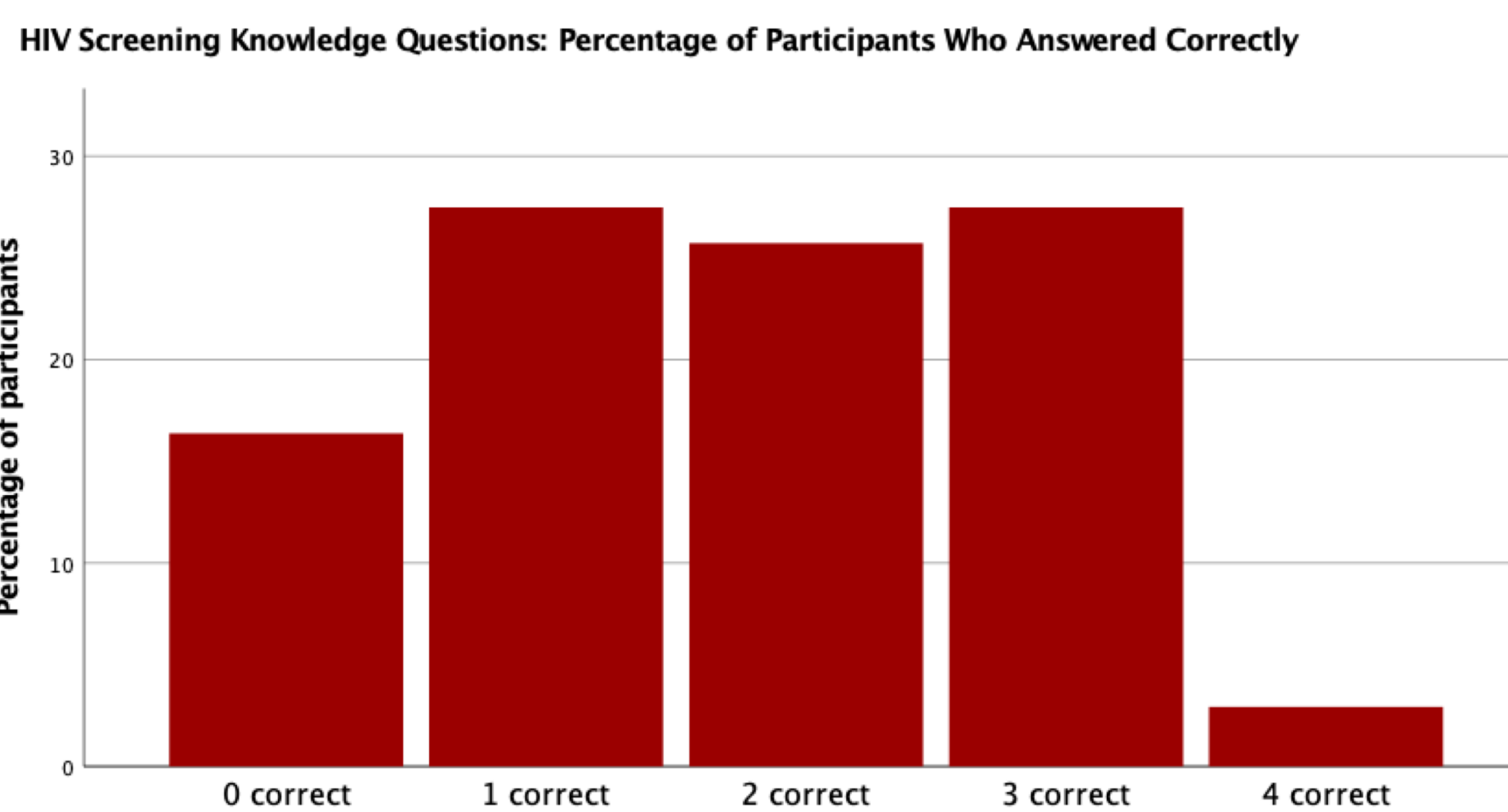
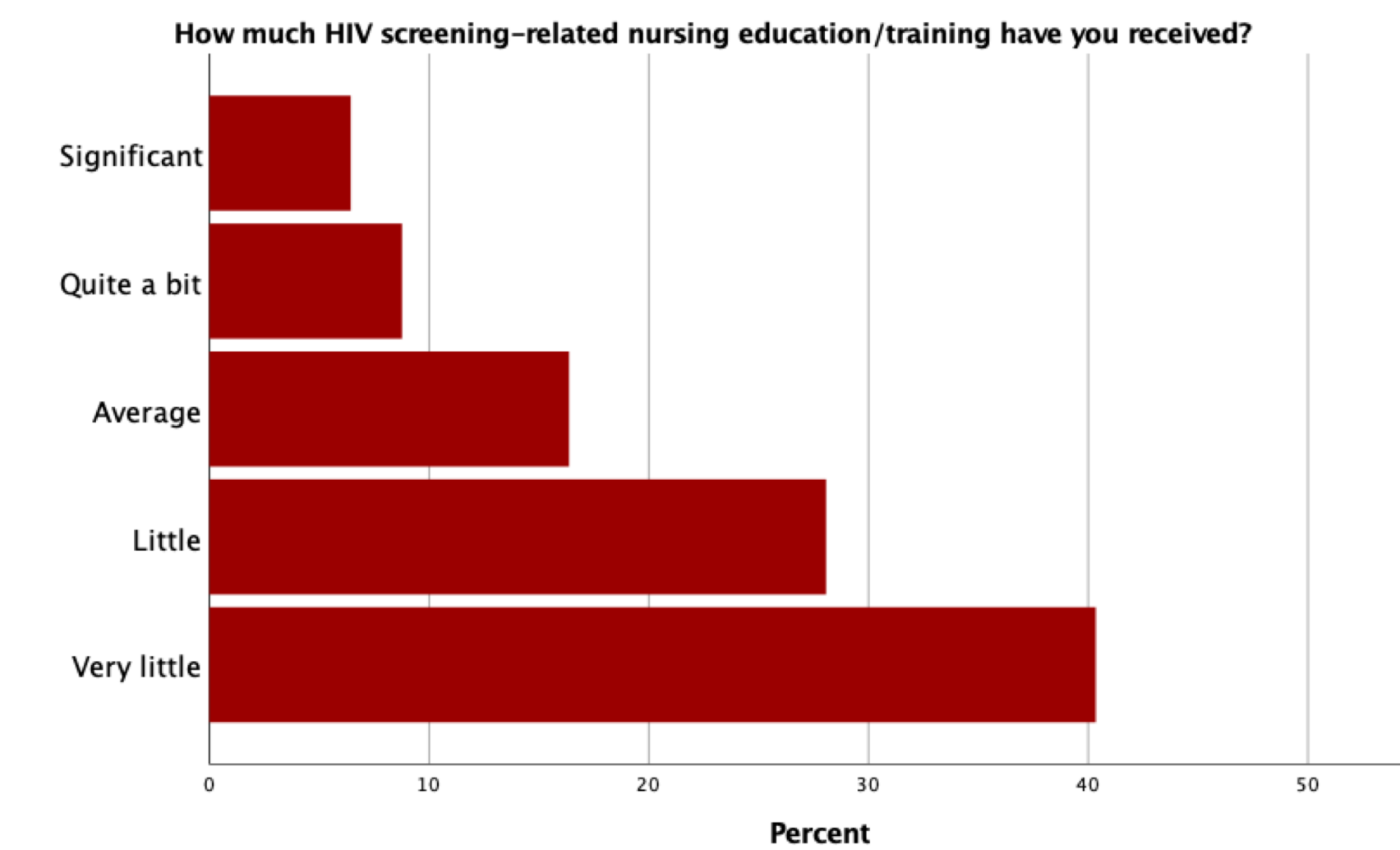
Purpose

To understand the factors that influence whether ED nurses perform HIV screening

Methods

- Participant-administered web-based cross-sectional survey using the Theory of Planned Behavior to understand the factors that influence ED nurses' HIV screening intentions and behavior
- Study population: 171 ED staff nurses from 42 states
- Recruitment via email and Facebook posts
- Measures:
 - Background Factors
 - Participant demographics
 - Participant knowledge of CDC recommendation
 - Workplace-specific HIV screening workflow and practices
 - HIV screening-related behavioral, normative, and control beliefs beliefs and attitudes toward HIV screening
 - HIV screening intention
 - HIV screening behavior
- Data Analysis
 - Descriptive statistics for demographic data
 - Multiple linear regression for relationships between independent and dependent variables
- Process evaluation
 - Participant feedback about the survey questions
 - Degree to which participants are interested in learning more about HIV care in the ED

Results



The following factors predicted ED nurses' HIV screening intention and behavior:

- Amount of HIV screening-related nursing education and/or training
- Availability of HIV screening and/or diagnostic testing
- Policies that support offering routine HIV screening

The following factors predicted ED nurses' HIV screening intention:

- The level of importance ED nurses gave to performing HIV screening
- The degree to which ED nurses perceived they were expected to perform HIV screening
- The degree to which ED nurses perceived facilitators to performing HIV screening

The following factors predicted ED nurses' HIV screening behavior:

- Knowledge of the CDC's HIV screening recommendation
- The degree to which ED nurses perceived facilitators to performing HIV screening
- The degree to which ED nurses intended to perform HIV screening

Discussion & Conclusion

- As the who, where, and how of HIV transmission evolves in the US, EDs are uniquely poised—both in patient population and clinical infrastructure— to play a significant role in reducing forward transmission of HIV.
- Limitations:
 - Use of social media and email constrained efforts to recruit participants
 - Length of survey hindered participant retention
- The results of this study demonstrate emergency nurses' knowledge about HIV screening and organizational support for HIV screening are key factors in the development of HIV screening intention and behavior. Addressing the factors that influence whether nurses perform HIV screening are necessary when creating and sustaining ED-based HIV screening programs.

To contact the author of this study and to view the reference list, visit <https://sites.rutgers.edu/njms-hiv-screening-ed/>