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2024 Sepsis Awareness Survey

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Methodology

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The survey was conducted online within the United States by YouGov Plc. on behalf of Sepsis Alliance June 6-10th, 2024, among 2402 adults living in the U.S.

The results were weighted to the U.S. census for age, gender, race/ethnicity, region, and income. Surveys were conducted in English.



Sepsis Background

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Sepsis is a common and deadly complication of COVID-19.^{1,2}

What is sepsis?

Sepsis is the body's life-threatening response to an infection that affects 1.7 million people and takes approximately 350,000 adult lives every year in the United States alone.³

- Sepsis is the #1 cause of death in hospitals.⁴
- As many as 87% of all sepsis cases originate in the community.³
- Sepsis is the #1 cost of hospitalization in the U.S. consuming more than \$53 billion in in-hospital costs each year.^{5,6}
- Mortality rates are high. The risk of mortality from sepsis increases by 4-9% for every hour that treatment is delayed.^{7,8,9}
- Sepsis affects over 49 million people worldwide each year and is the largest killer of children – nearly 3.4 million each year.^{10,11}
- Every day, there is an average of 38 amputations in the U.S. as the result of sepsis.¹²
- Black and "other nonwhite" individuals have nearly twice the incidence of sepsis as whites (1.89 times the risk for Black individuals, and 1.9 times the risk for "other nonwhite" individuals).¹³
- Black patients admitted to the emergency room are assigned to significantly lower priority status and experience significantly longer wait times (10.9 minutes longer on average) as compared to case-matched white patients.¹⁴
- In the U.S., Black women are 3.3 times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes, and American Indian and Alaskan Native women 2.5 times more likely, than white women.¹⁵



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Executive Summary

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Executive Summary



The 2024 Sepsis Alliance annual sepsis awareness survey showed awareness of the term “sepsis” increased six percentage points to 69%, with Black and Hispanic adults showing the lowest awareness of the term at 51% and white adults the highest at 77%.

Sepsis is the body’s overwhelming and life-threatening response to infection, which affects an estimated 49 million people worldwide each year.

Key Findings



- Overall awareness of the term sepsis is at 69% of US adults in 2024 which is significantly higher than 2023 at 63%.
- Those who identify as white (77%) are significantly more likely to have heard the term sepsis than those who identify as Black (51%) and Hispanic (51%).
- Sepsis awareness increased significantly from 2023 to 2024 among those who identify as Black (40% - 51%) and Hispanic (41% - 51%)
- Those with lower incomes and less education are less likely to have heard the term sepsis, however those with lower incomes had statistically significant increases in awareness of the term in 2024 compared to 2023.
- Those that have heard the term sepsis are still not able to identify true statements regarding sepsis.
 - A majority (77%) don't believe or don't know that those who survive sepsis have long-term effects.
 - More than 4 in 10 (46%) say they don't know, and 31% say the flu cannot progress to sepsis.
 - There is a large degree of confusion whether vaccinations can prevent someone from getting sepsis with 82% thinking they cannot, or do not know.

Demographics of the Survey*



- **Gender:**

- Male: 48%
- Female: 51%
- Nonbinary: <1%
- Other: <1%

- **Age:**

- 18 – 34 years old: 29%
- 35 – 54 years old: 30%
- 55+ years old: 41%

*All demographic information is self-reported. Due to rounding, numbers presented may not add up precisely to the totals provided.

Demographics of the Survey*



- **Race/Ethnicity:**

- White: 65%
- Black: 12%
- Hispanic: 16%
- Other: 8%

- **Region:**

- Northeast: 18%
- Midwest: 21%
- South: 38%
- West: 24%

*All demographic information is self-reported. Due to rounding, numbers presented may not add up precisely to the totals provided.

Demographics of the Survey*



- **Annual Household Income:**

- Under \$40K: 36%
- \$40 - 79.9K: 26%
- \$80K+: 26%
- Prefer not to say: 12%

- **Education Level:**

- No HS or HS graduate: 40%
- Some college: 31%
- 4-year college graduate: 18%
- Post-graduate: 11%

*All demographic information is self-reported. Due to rounding, numbers presented may not add up precisely to the totals provided.



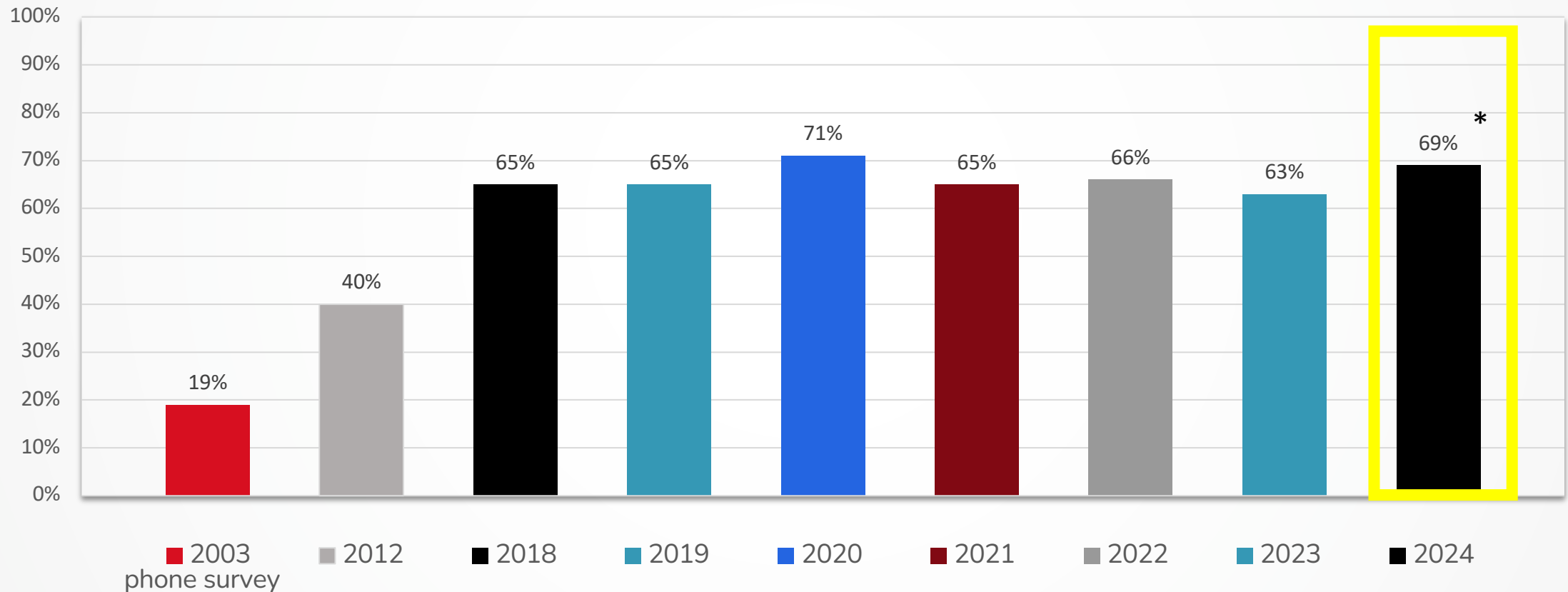
Study Details

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Sepsis Term Awareness Significantly Increased from 2023



Aware of the term sepsis



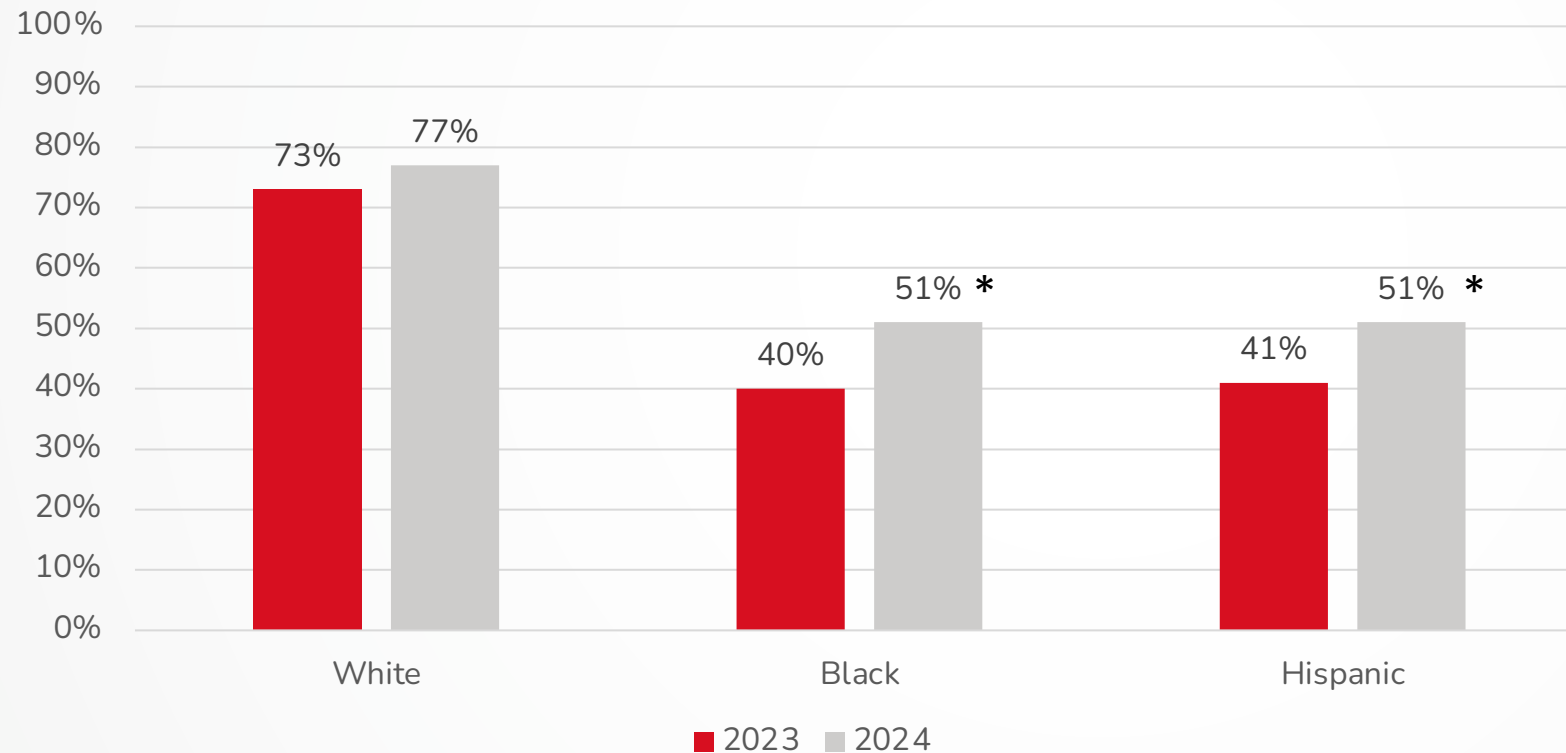
Q. Have you ever heard the term sepsis?

* Statistically significant

Awareness of the Term Sepsis Increased Among White, Black, and Hispanic Adults from 2023 to 2024



Aware of the term sepsis



Those who identify as Black or Hispanic are still significantly less likely to have heard the term sepsis than those who identify as white.

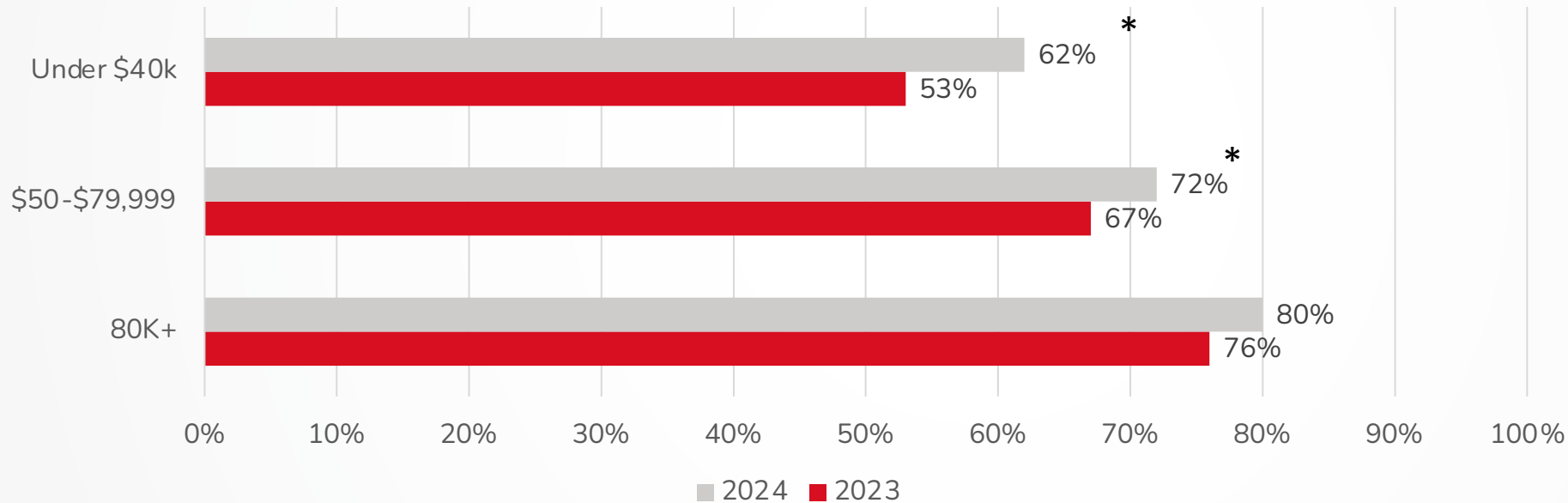
Q. Have you ever heard the term sepsis? N = 2402

* Statistically significant

Awareness of the Term Sepsis Increased Compared to 2023 Across All Income Levels



Awareness by Income



There has been significant increase in awareness among those with incomes under \$80,000.

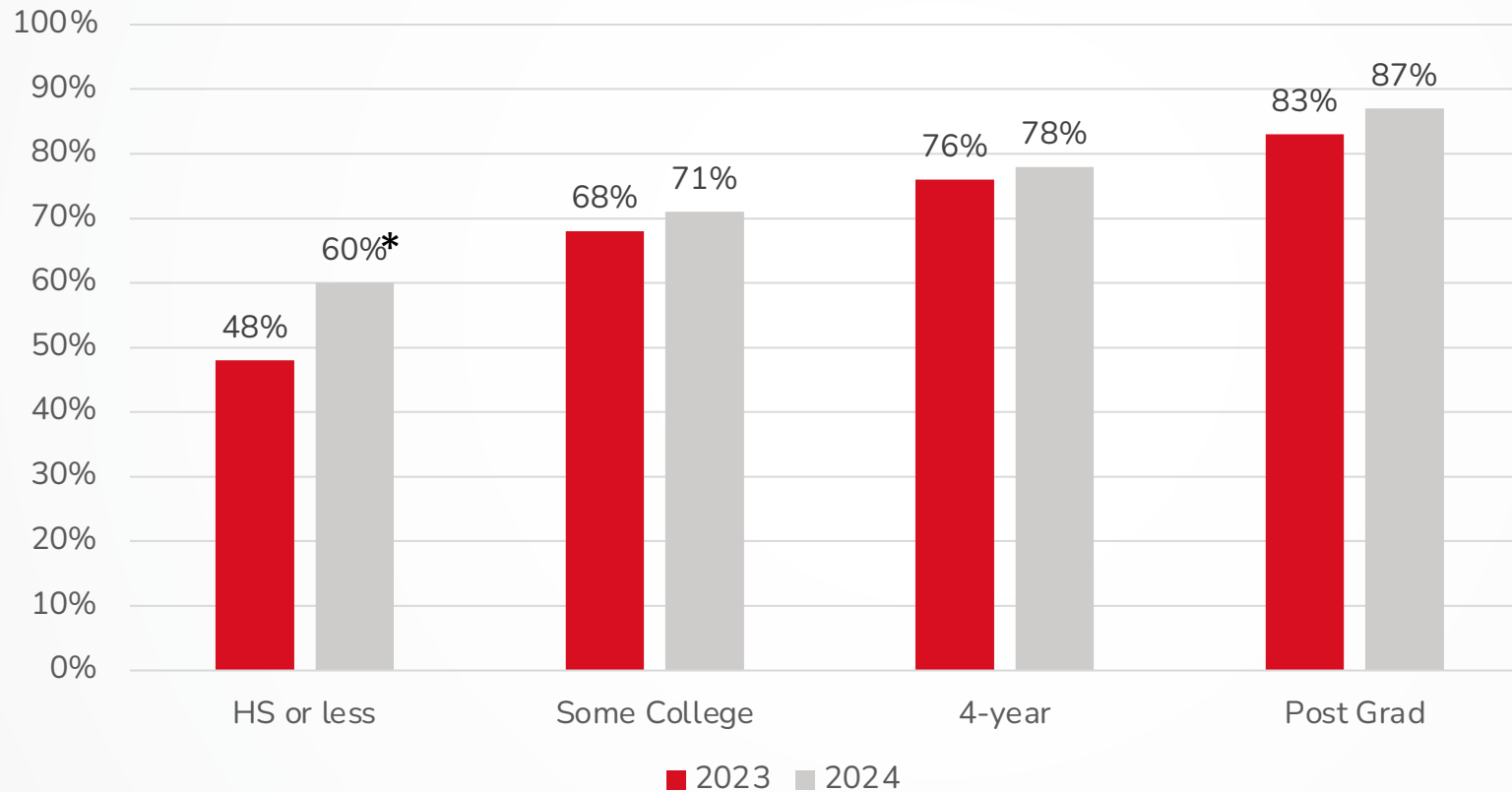
Q. Have you ever heard the term sepsis? N = 2402

* Statistically significant

Those with Less Education Are Less Likely to Have Heard the Term Sepsis



Awareness by Education



However, those whose education was High School (HS) or less had a significant increase in awareness of the term sepsis in 2024 compared to 2023.

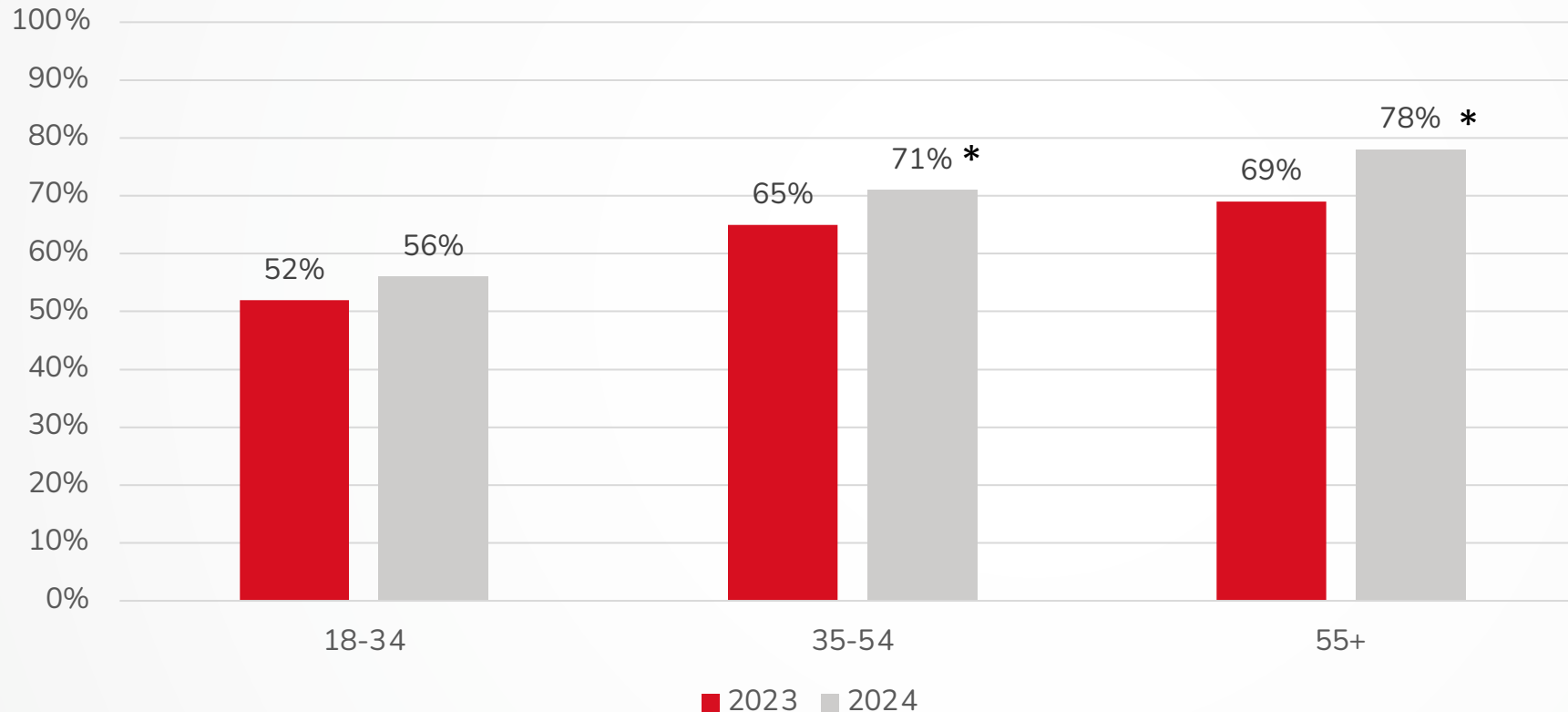
Q. Have you ever heard the term sepsis? N= 2402

* Statistically significant

Awareness Increased in all Age Groups from 2023 to 2024



Awareness by Age



Those 35 and older are significantly more likely to have heard the term sepsis compared to those younger than 35.

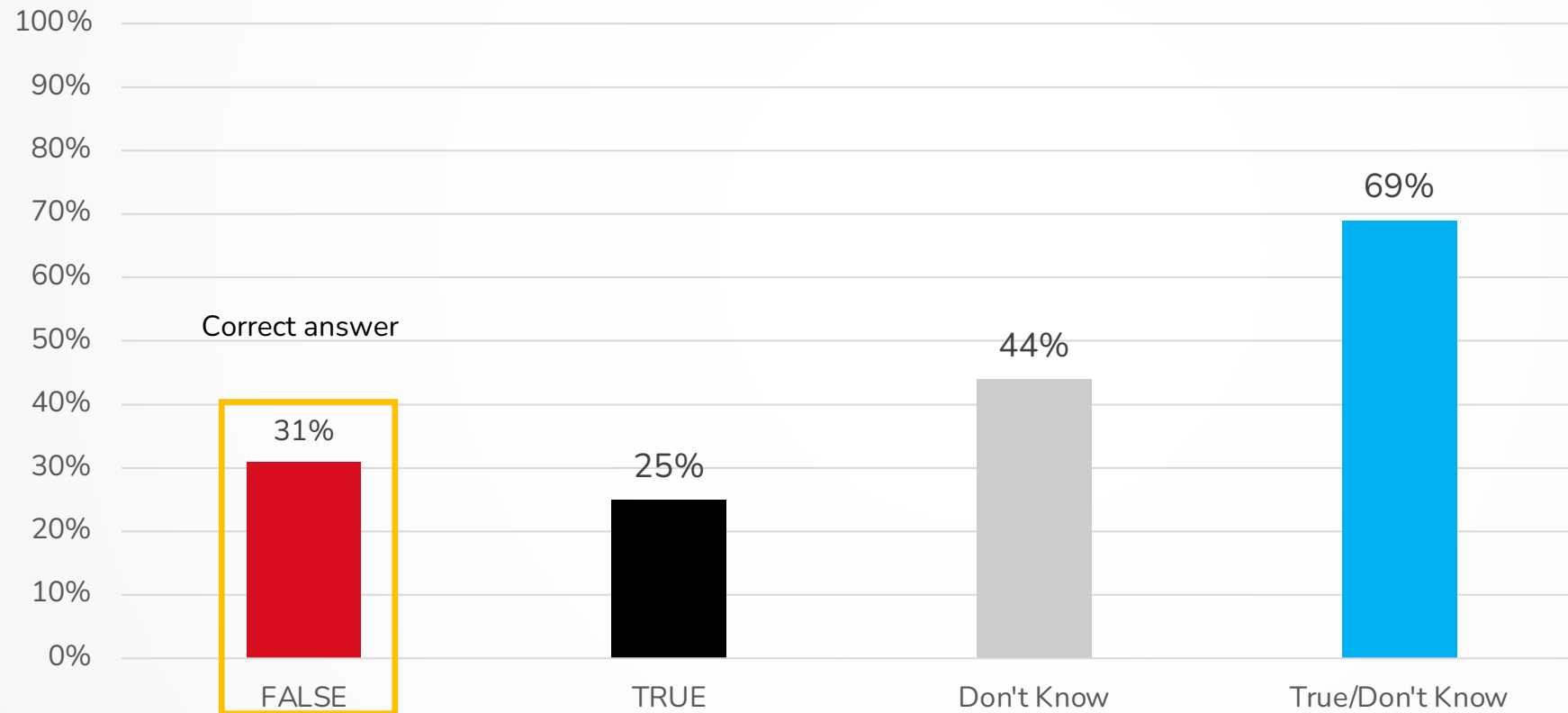
Q. Have you ever heard the term sepsis? N = 2402

* Statistically significant

Among Those Aware of Sepsis, a Majority (70%) Don't Believe or Don't Know That Those Who Survive Sepsis Can Have Long-Term Effects



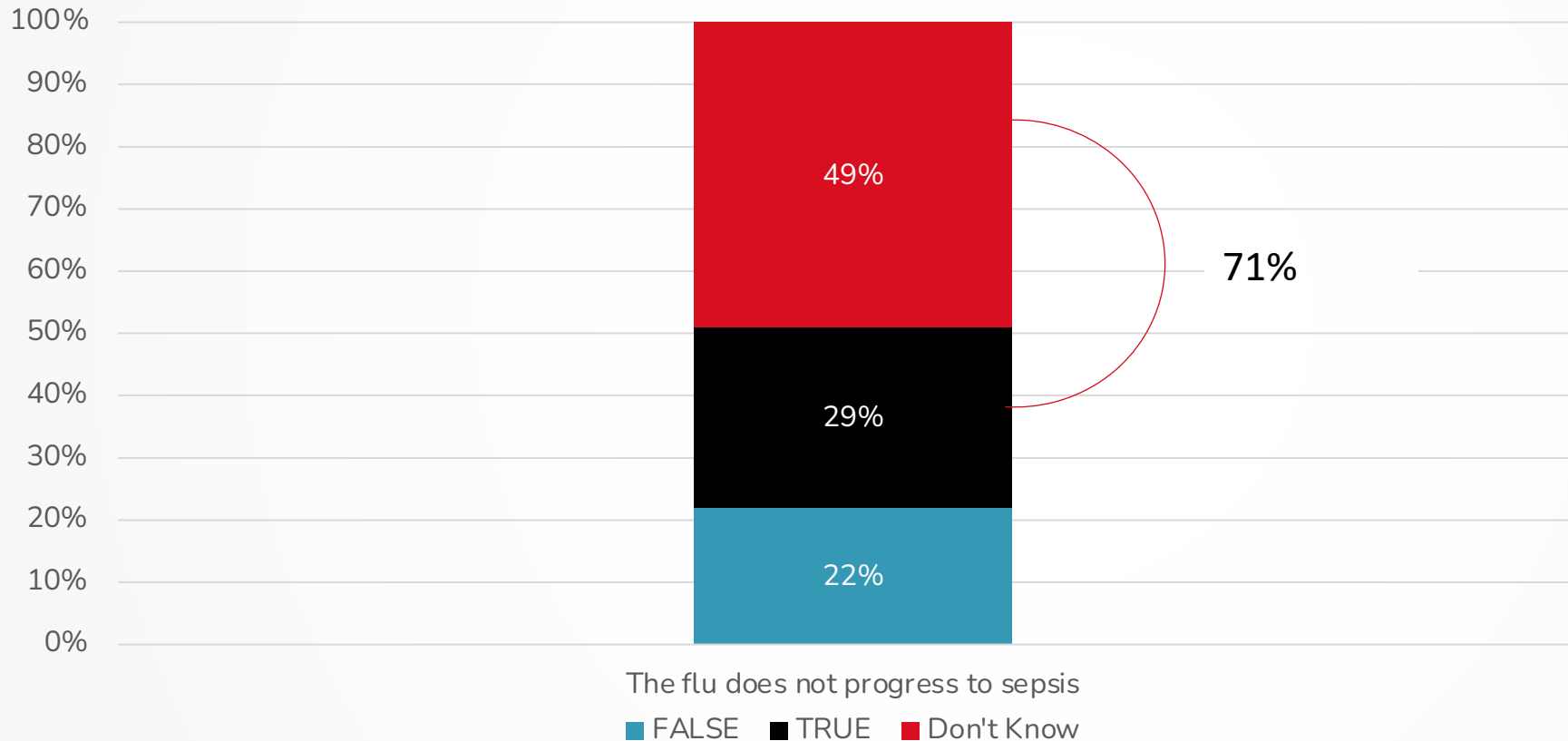
Most people who survive sepsis live with no long-term effects



Almost 60% of sepsis survivors over the age of 50 experience worsened cognitive (mental) and/or physical function.¹⁶

Q. Please state whether you believe the following statement to be true, or false. N = 1,896

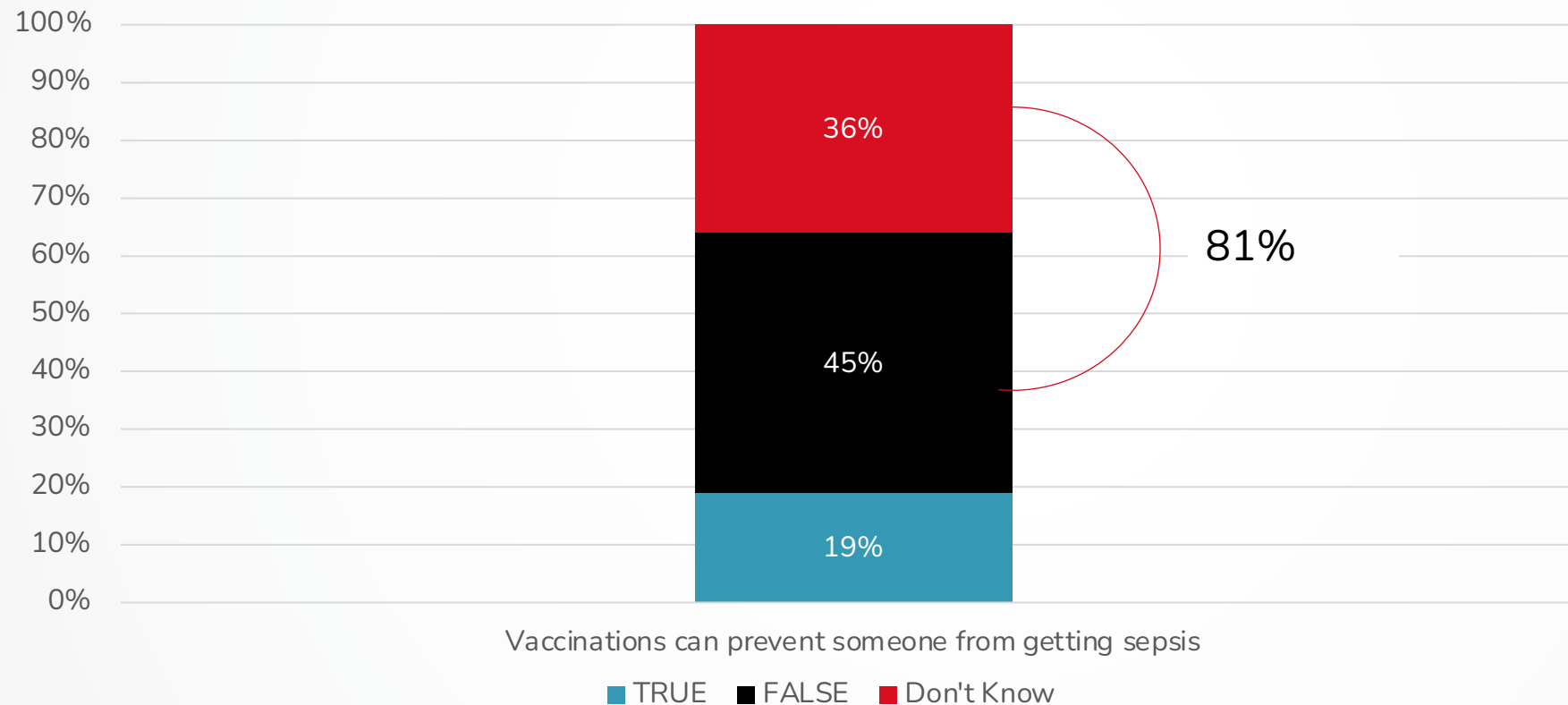
Most of Those Aware of Sepsis (71%) Don't Believe or Don't Know the Flu can Progress to Sepsis



Any infection, including influenza, can lead to sepsis.

Q. Please state whether you believe the following statement to be true, or false. N=1,896

A Majority (81%) of Those Aware of Sepsis Don't Believe or Don't Know that Vaccines can Prevent Someone from Getting Sepsis



Infection prevention is sepsis prevention™

Q. Please state whether you believe the following statement to be true, or false. N=1,896

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