



Ethnic/Racial differences in trauma experiences of women who have substance use disorders and are homeless/near homeless and their application to trauma-informed services

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# The Need for Trauma Informed Care

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- Substance Use Disorder (SUD) rates are 1.2x higher in homeless women than the general population (Polcin, 2016)
- 80%-90% of women seeking SUD treatment have experienced victimization and traumatic events
- This trauma is related to increased severe and complex clinical presentations and decreased treatment engagement and retention

# Study Design

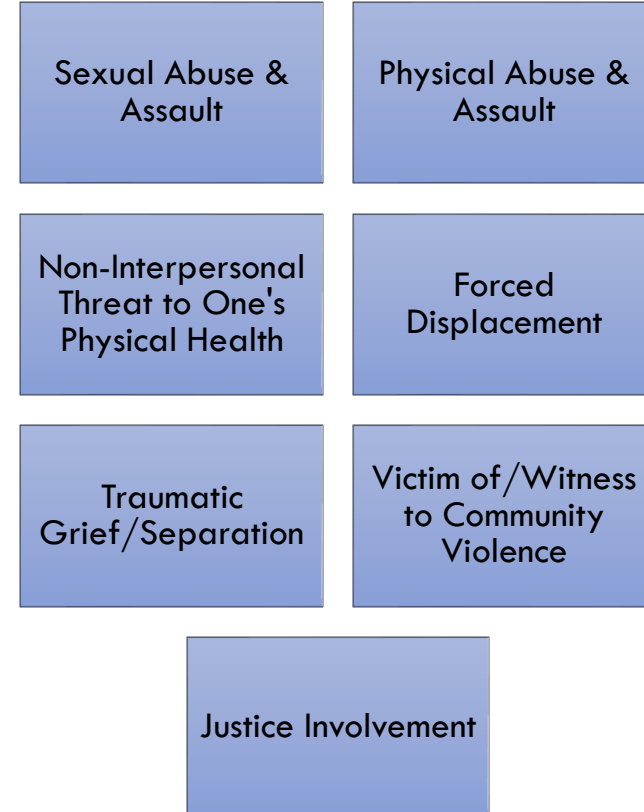
851 participants

- 18 years+
- At or near homelessness
- Receiving SUD treatment or currently misusing substances

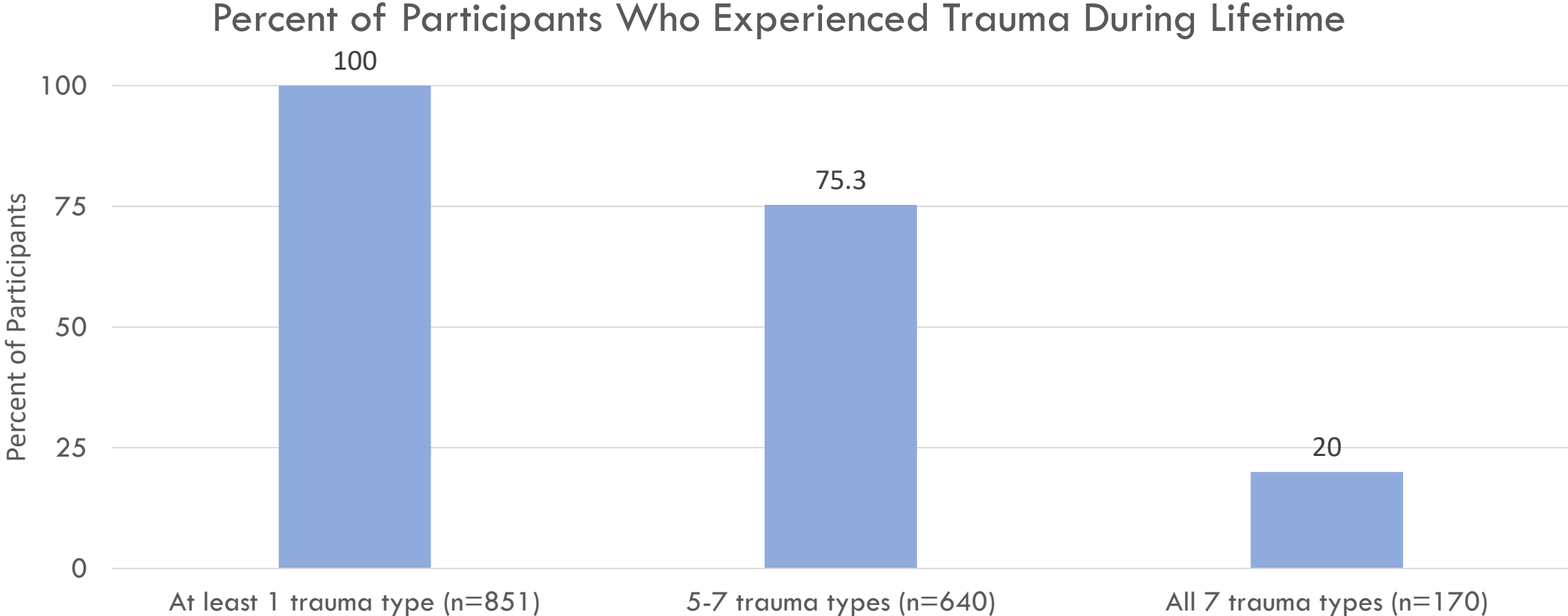
## Subgroups

- White Only (non-Hispanic) (n=445)
- American Indian (n=145)
- Hispanic (n=226)
- African American (n=74)

## Seven Trauma Types

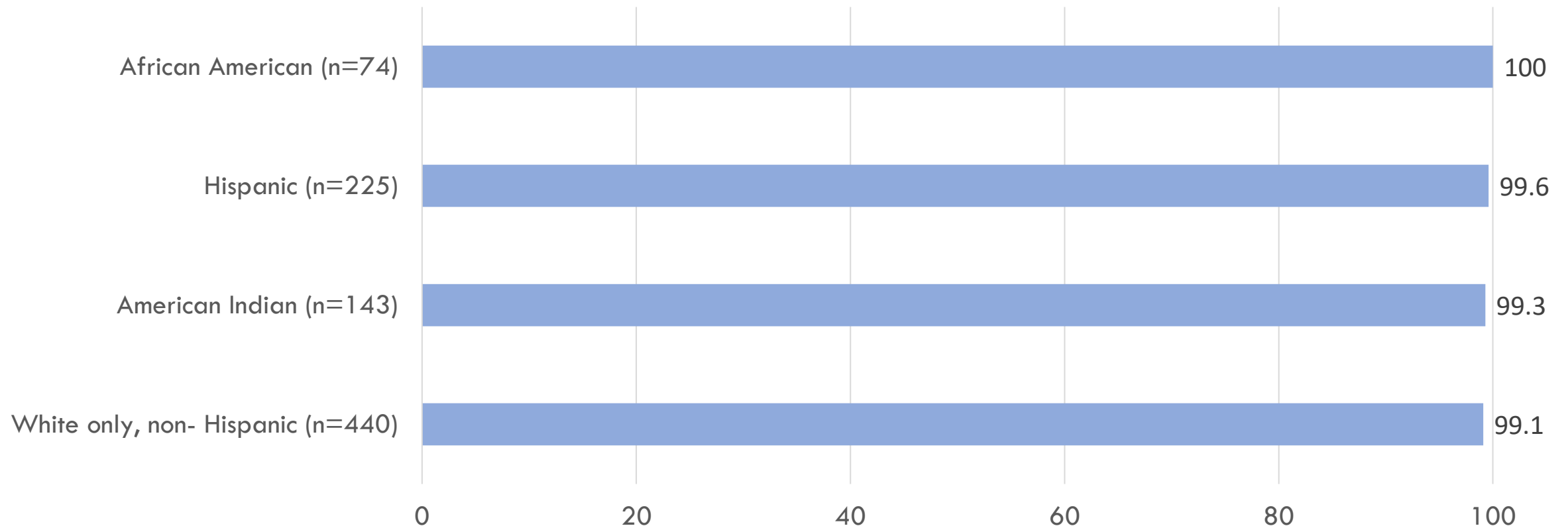


# Results Overall



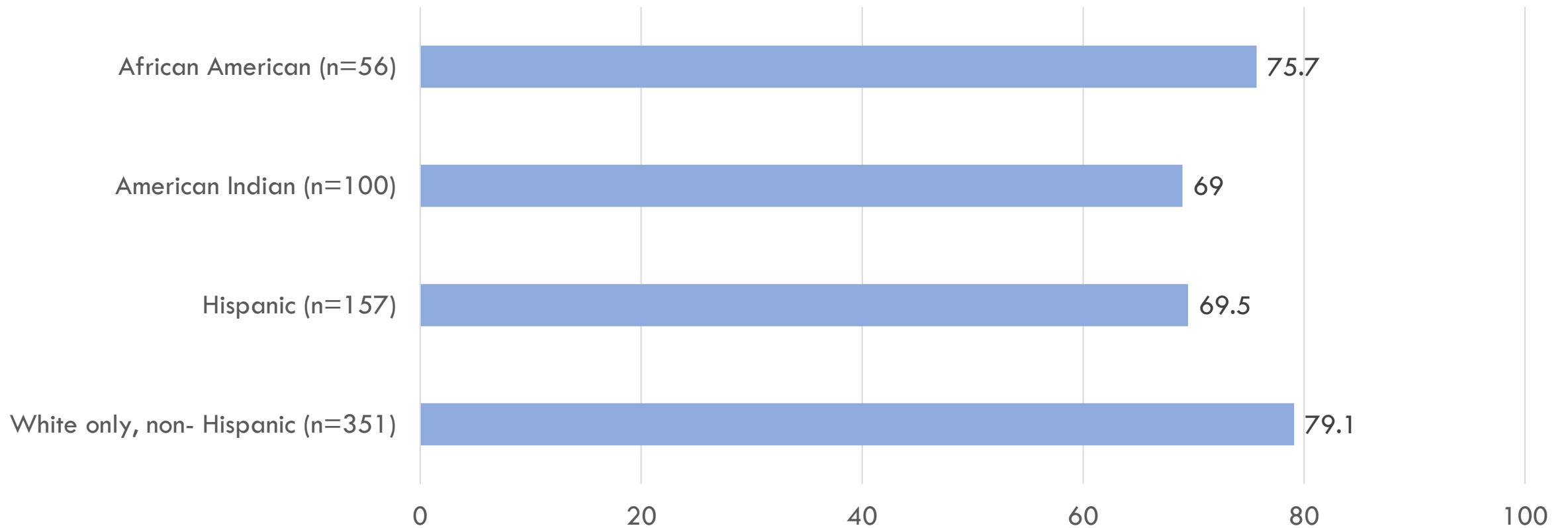
# Traumatic Grief/Separation

Percent of Participants Who Experienced Trauma During Lifetime



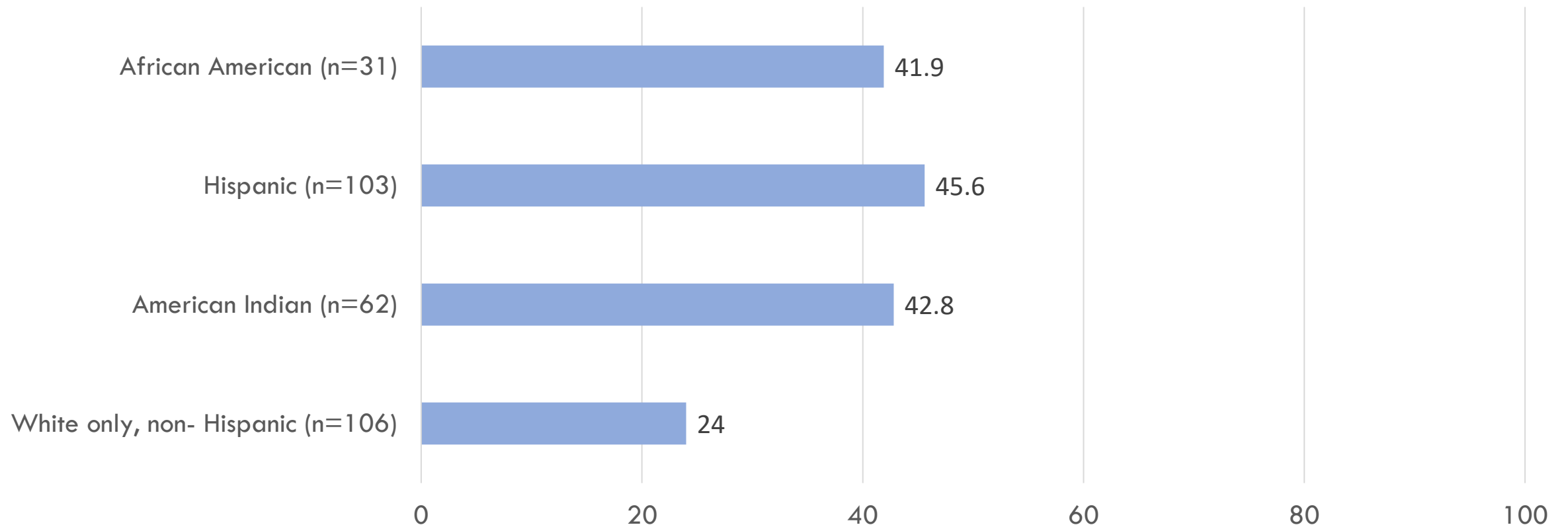
# Sexual Abuse & Assault

Percent of Participants Who Experienced Trauma During Lifetime



# Victim of/Witness to Community Violence

Percent of Participants Who Experienced Trauma During Lifetime



# Applied Trauma-Informed Service

## New Dawn-Warrior Women

Indigenous/American Indian culturally-tailored sexual health curriculum

- Response to American Indian experience and health related needs
- Eligibility requirements the same as this study

Acknowledge each participant's experiences/recognize your role in their lived experiences

- Land acknowledgment

Affirming trauma-informed care

- Anonymous questions
- Vulnerability activity practice



# Conclusion

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- Women with SUD of any ethnic background face a variety of traumatic events throughout their lifetime
- Provide affirming care by recognizing population trauma regardless of the individual experience
- Trauma-informed care can prevent further trauma by reducing revictimization while leading to improved healthcare outcomes

# Questions?



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**Questions:** For questions about this presentation contact Josephine Korchmaros, PhD, [jkorch@arizona.edu](mailto:jkorch@arizona.edu).

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