



Views on Chronic Diseases in Minority Communities

**Findings from a National Survey
of African American and Hispanic Adults
on Alzheimer's Disease**

Objective

- Identify opportunities to address inequities in the health care system through increased education, intervention, and access.



Why Research Views of Alzheimer's in Minority Communities?

- **These communities have higher rates of diabetes, hypertension, high cholesterol, and cardiovascular disease, all of which raise risk for Alzheimer's, and these communities often see later diagnoses***
- **Alzheimer's disease is more prevalent among African Americans than among whites – with estimates ranging from 14% to almost 100% higher***
- **The number of African Americans age 65 and over will more than double by 2030 to 6.9 million, and the number age 85 and over is growing almost as rapidly***

**African Americans and Alzheimer's Disease: The Silent Epidemic, February 24, 2005, The Alzheimer's Association*



Survey Research

- **Survey of 601 African American adults and 602 Hispanic adults**
 - **Conducted nationally**
 - **March 26-April 7, 2009**
 - **Margin of error +/- 4.0% for each group**
- **Respondents reached by telephone**
- **Responses for Caucasian adults taken from June 23-28, 2008 national survey of 800 adults; N=597**
- **Funding provided by Eisai; Survey conducted by**



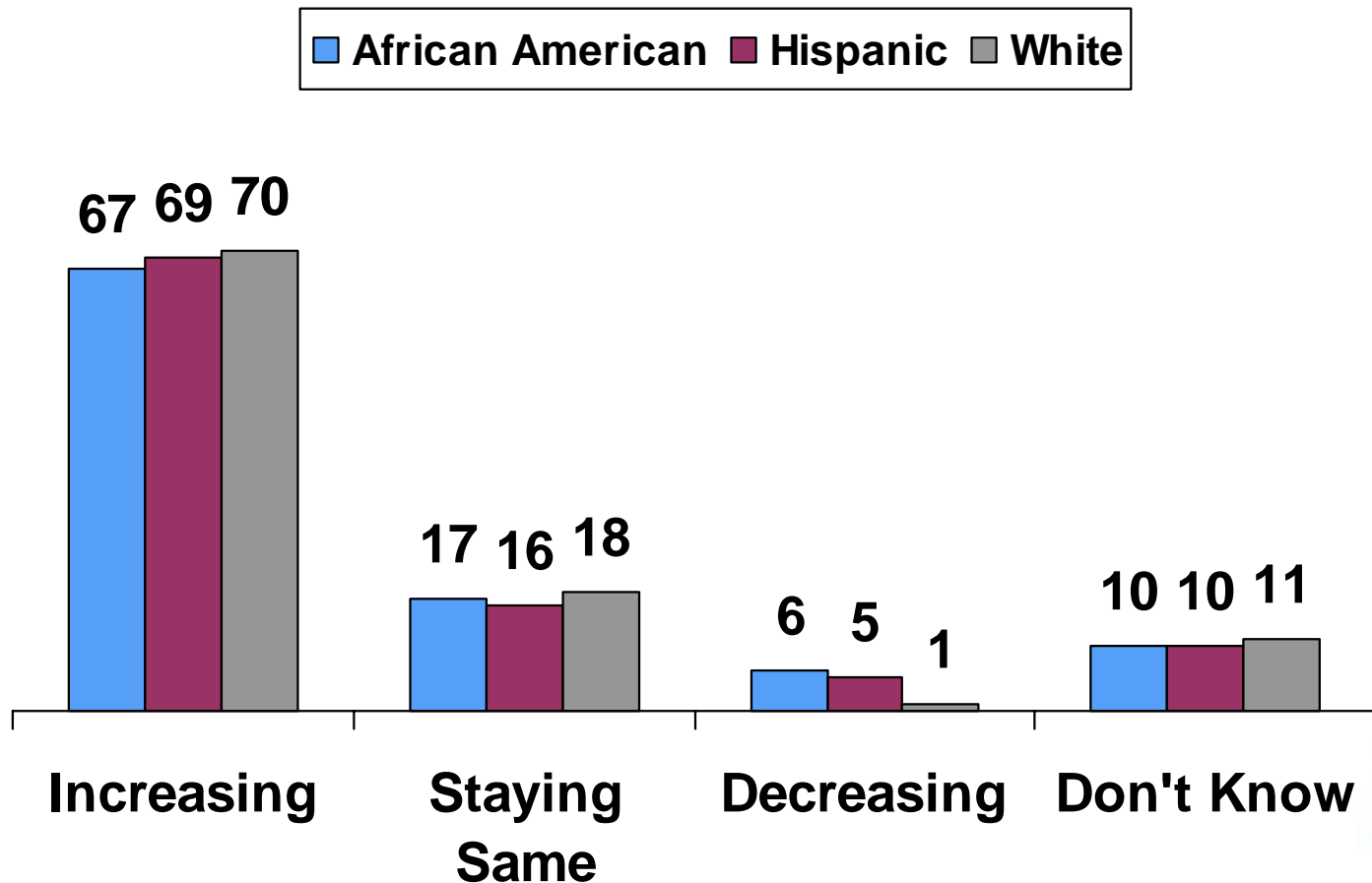
Key Findings

- **Disparity exists in awareness of prevention, risk factors, and lack of cure**
- **Communities trust their doctors and look to them for information. The importance of doctor/patient relationship should not be underestimated.**
- **Communities believe government should be more active in addressing Alzheimer's**
 - **There is strong support for early screening**



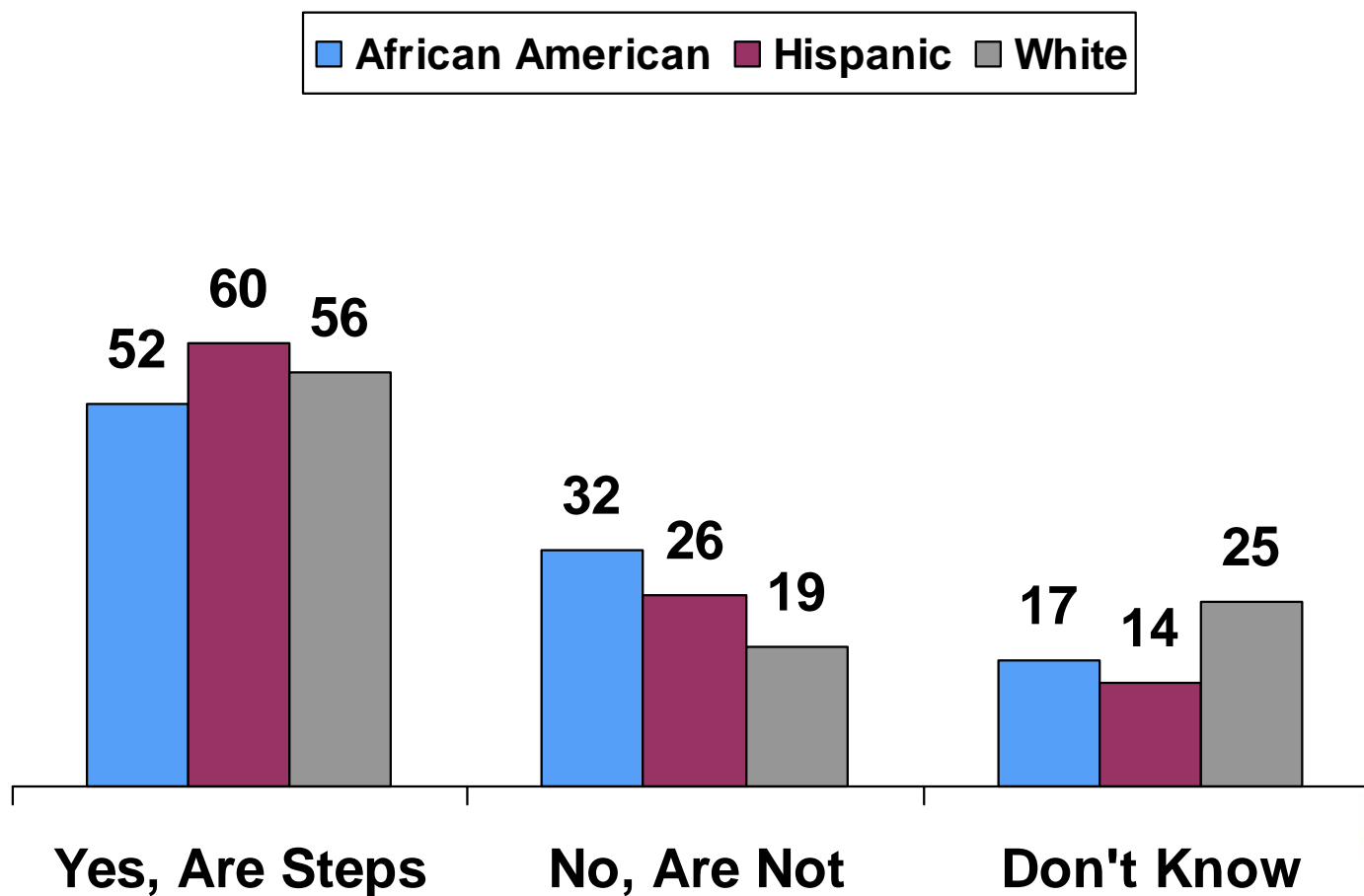
Approximately Seven in 10 Aware that Incidence of Alzheimer's Increasing in U.S.

“Do you think the number of people with Alzheimer’s disease in the United States is increasing, staying the same, or decreasing?”



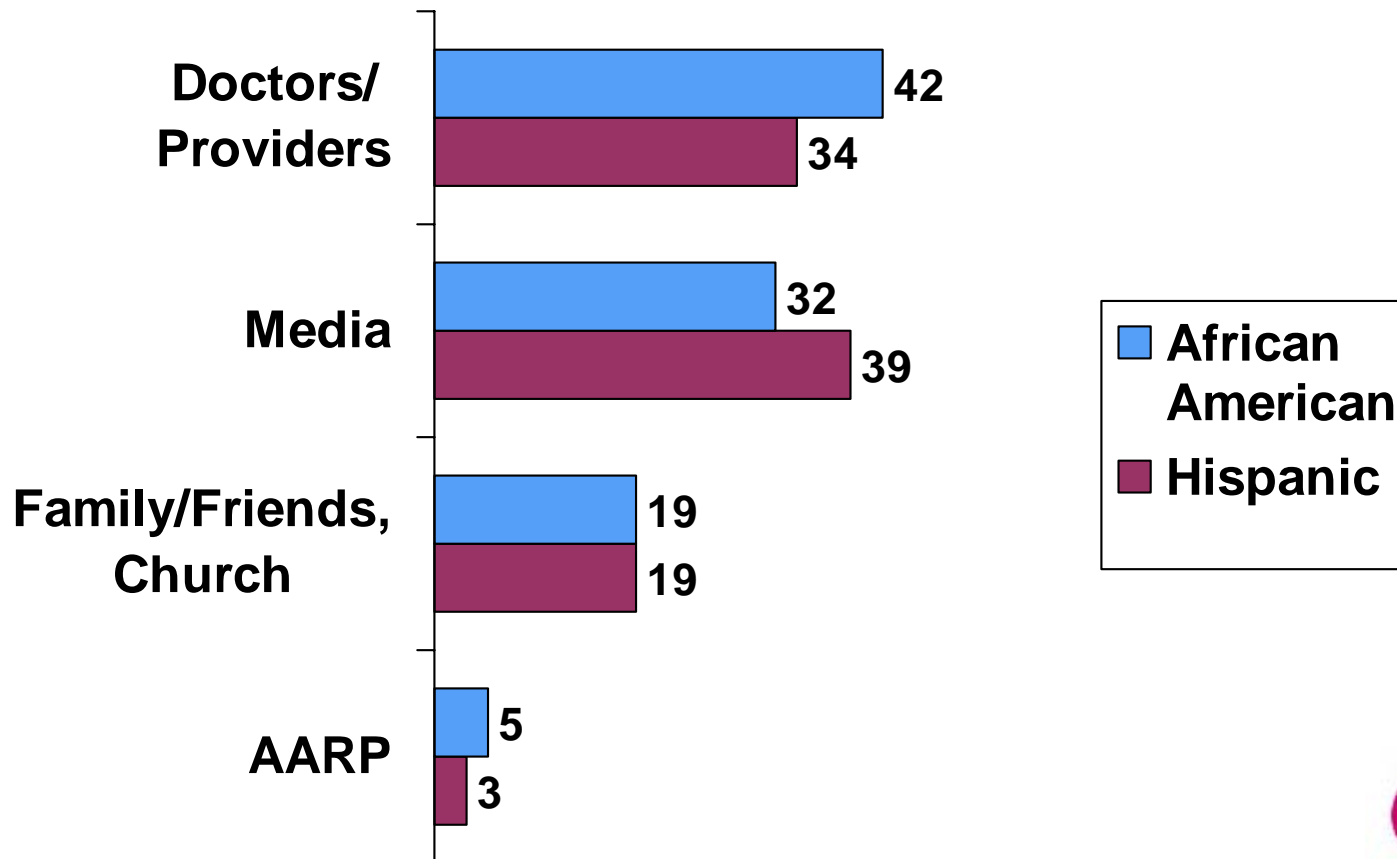
Half of African American Respondents Know There are Steps People Can Take to Delay Onset

“Do you think there are any steps people can take to delay the onset of Alzheimer’s disease?”



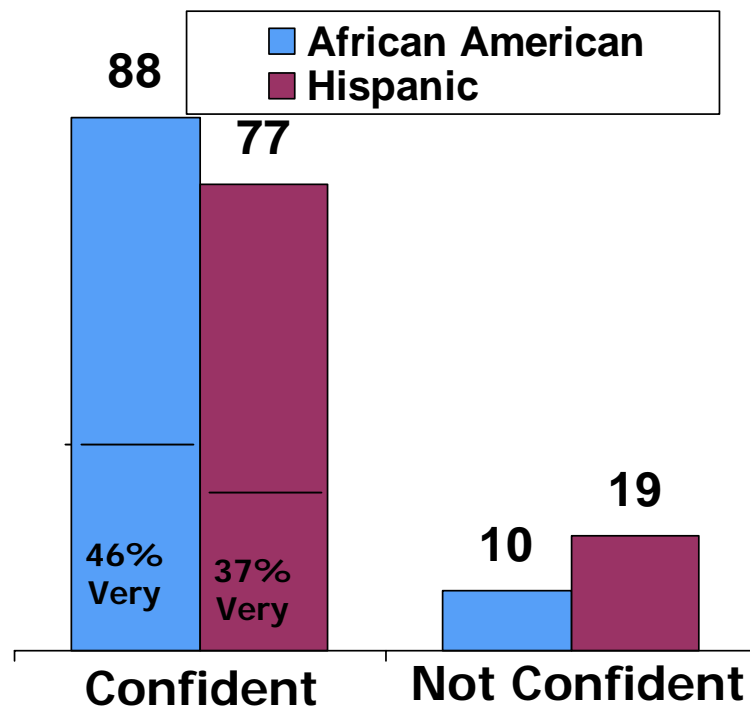
Both Groups Receive Information Primarily from Doctors/Healthcare Providers and Media

“From which one of the following sources do you get most of your information about these diseases we’ve discussed...”



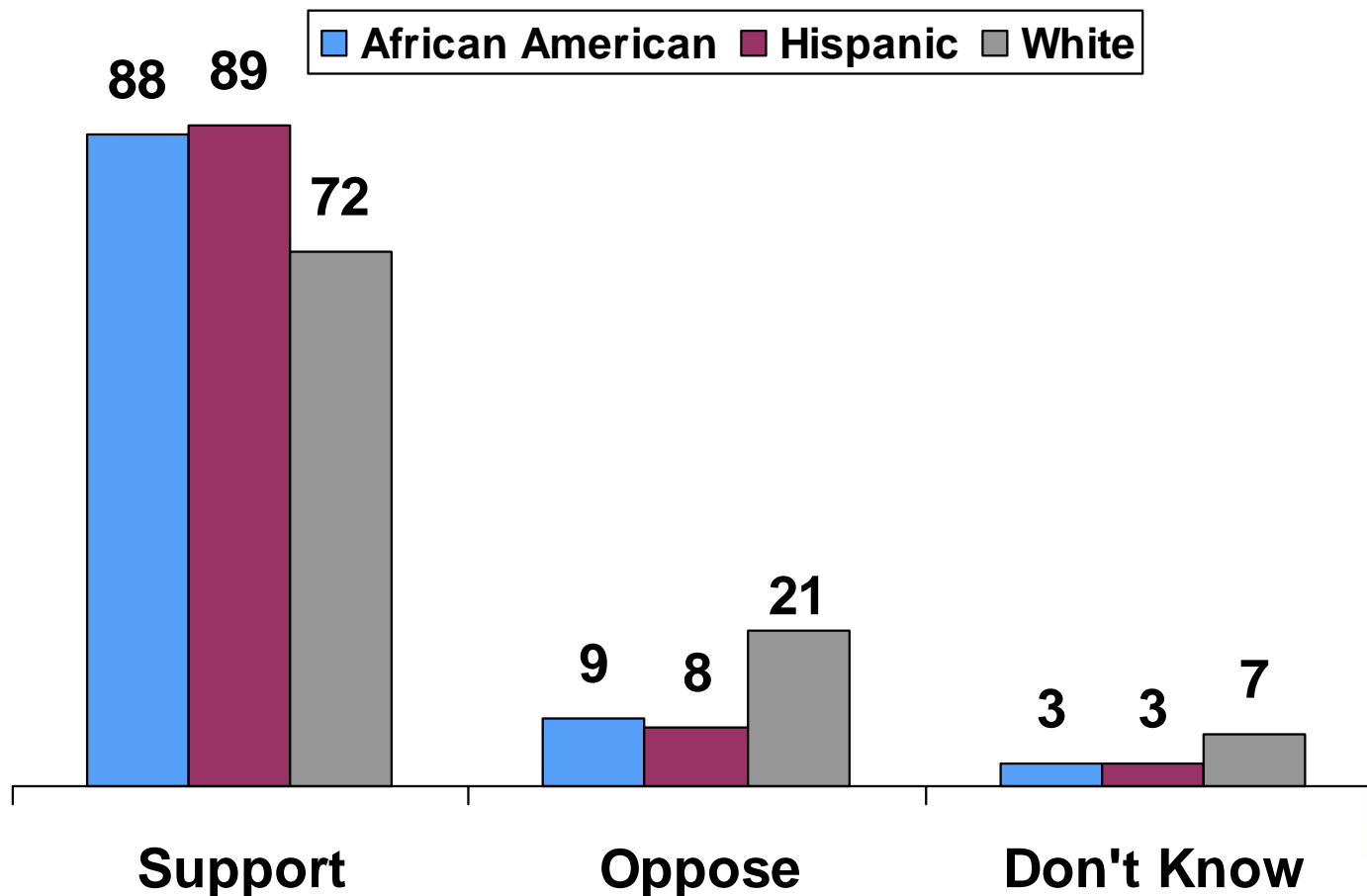
Both Communities Express Strong Confidence in their Physicians

“Thinking about chronic diseases, how confident are you that your own physician can accurately diagnose these diseases...”



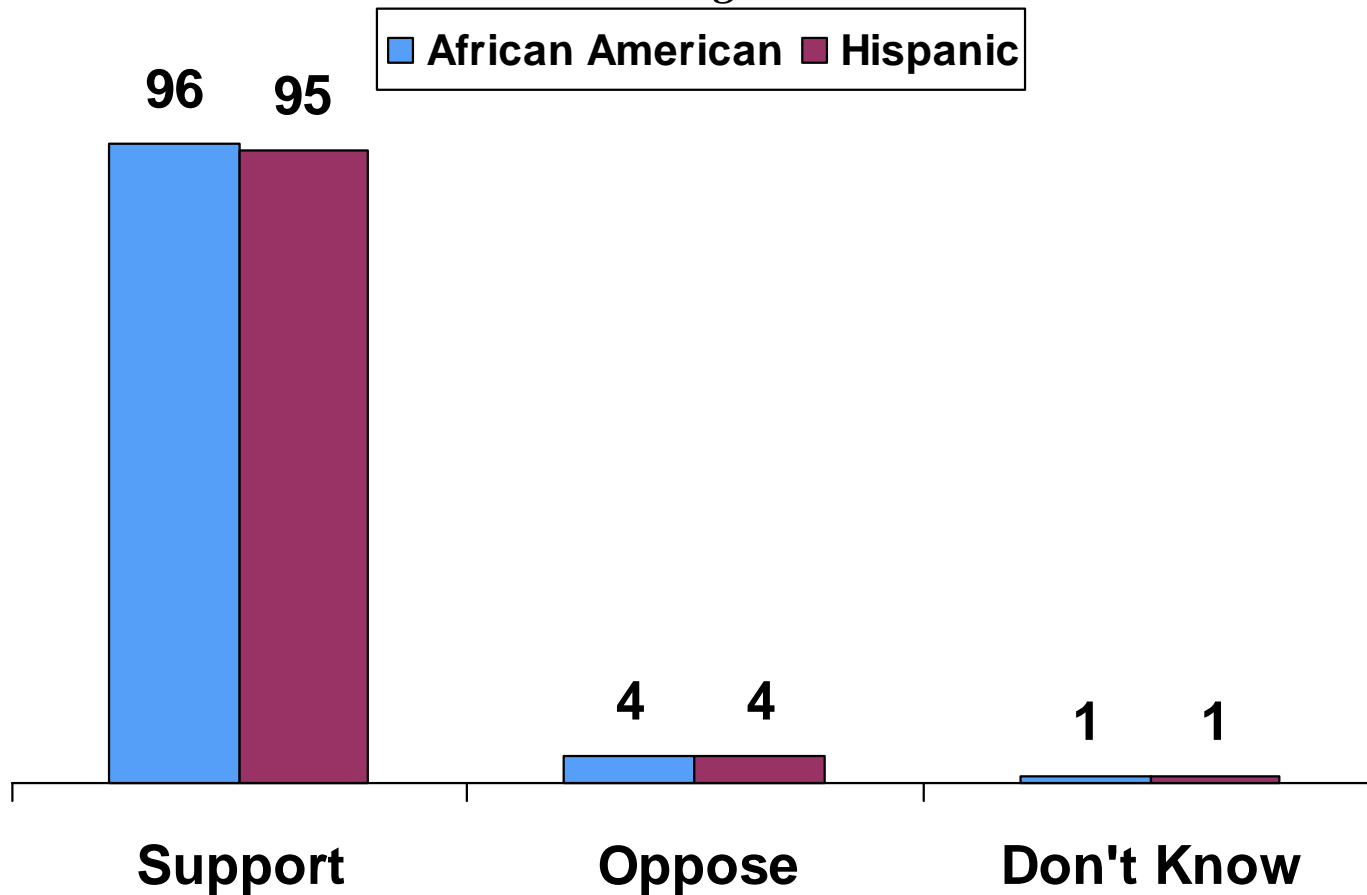
Nearly Nine in 10 Support Alzheimer's Screening Test for Those Turning 65

“Do you support or oppose a screening test for those turning age 65, whether in a private or government-run health insurance plan, to determine if they have early symptoms of Alzheimer's disease or to help establish a baseline from which they could be tested later?”



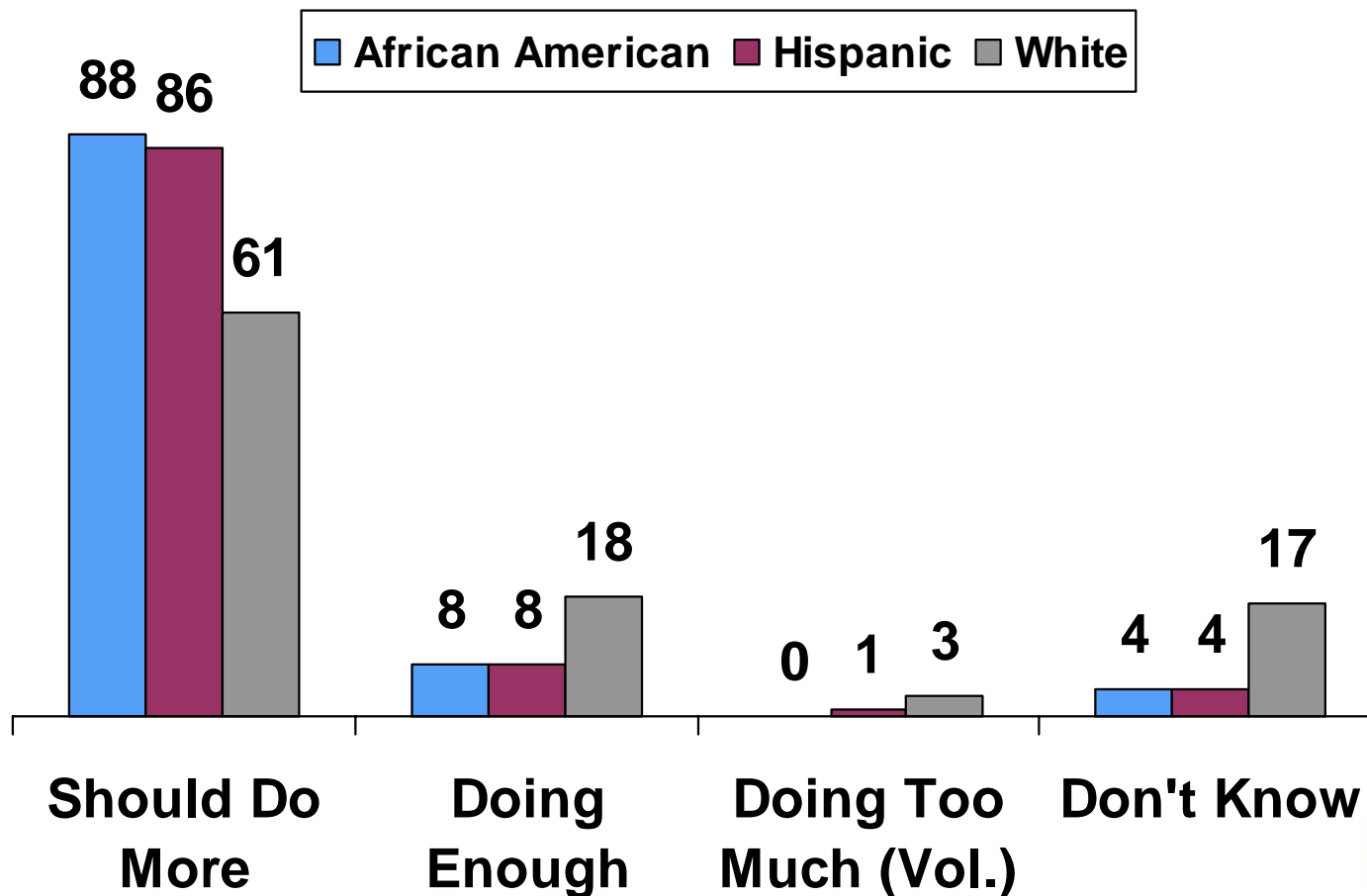
Support Climbs to Approximately 95% When Respondents Hear About Active Follow Up

“What if you knew that studies show active medical management of Alzheimer’s can improve quality of life through all stages of the disease. Then would you support or oppose a screening test...”



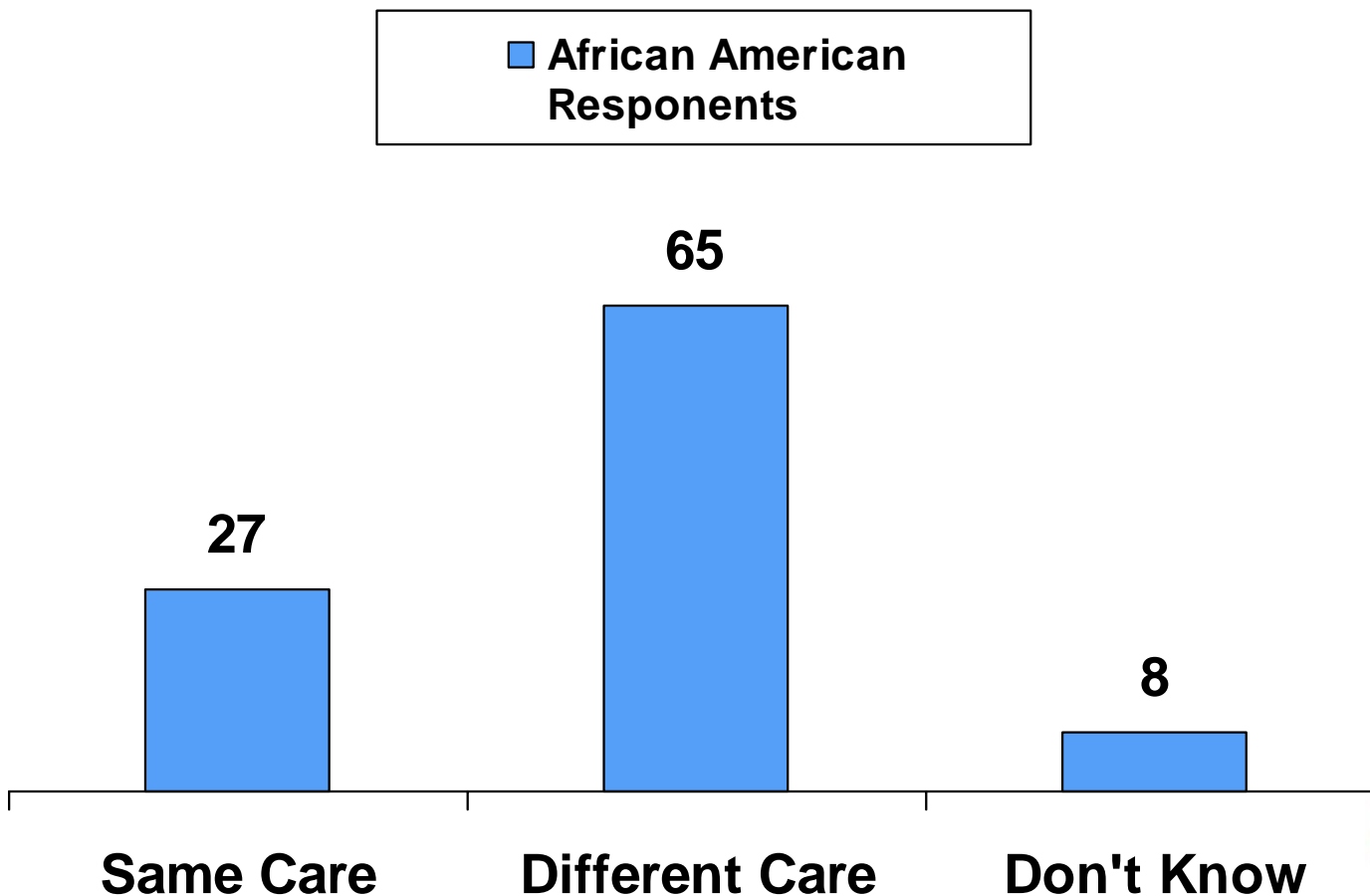
Nearly Nine in 10 Say Elected Officials Should Do More to Address Alzheimer's

“When it comes to Alzheimer’s disease, do you think elected officials should do more or are already doing enough?”



Significant Percentages Believe Race Plays Role in Quality of Care for Alzheimer's

“Do you think African Americans and white Americans receive the same quality of care for Alzheimer's disease, or do you think they receive different care?”



Conclusion

- **Disparities exist in information the minority community receives**
- **Based on the research, the physician/patient relationship is sacred. As Congress considers health reform, we recommend maintaining that relationship.**
- **Government has role to play in ensuring access to quality health care for all**
- **We look forward to being a resource to the CBC and others as the health reform debate advances**





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