

# What [Young] Women Want

## A National Survey of Intrauterine Device Knowledge, Attitudes and Interest

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### Introduction

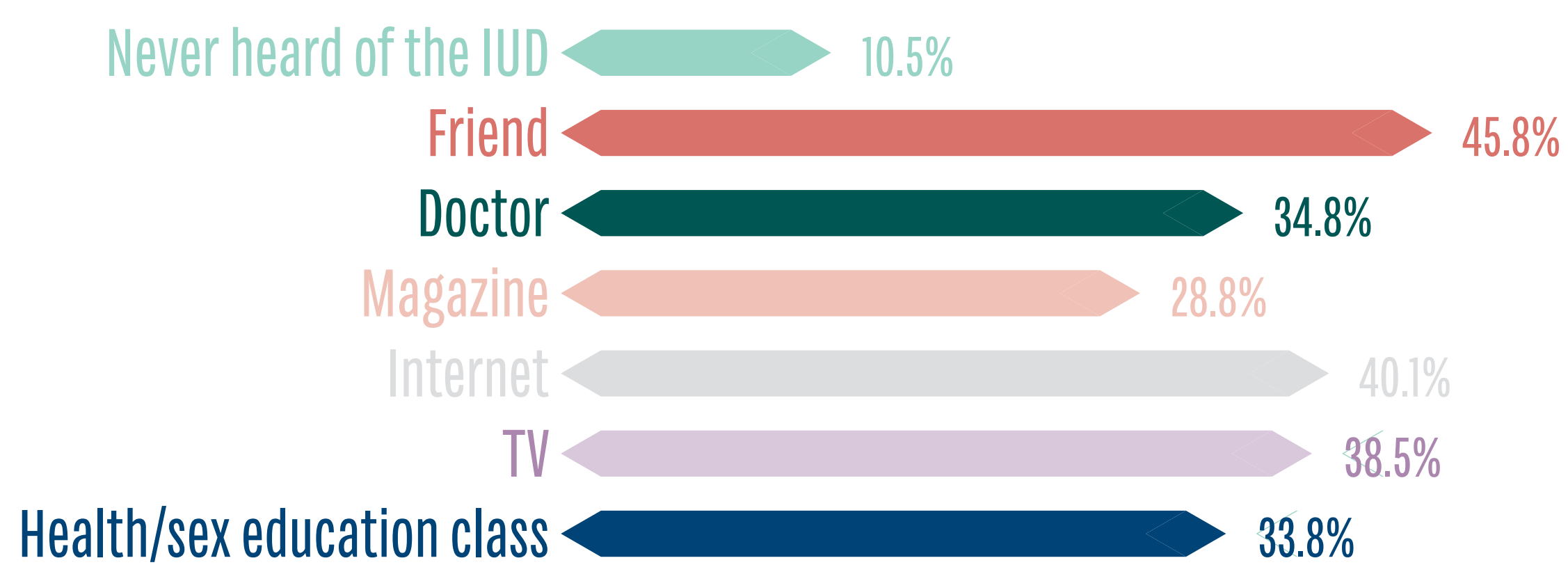
- Intrauterine devices (IUDs) offer much hope for reducing the burden of unintended pregnancy in the United States, especially among young women.
- The Affordable Care Act makes IUDs more accessible to many women, with coverage of contraception without co-pays and extended coverage for young adults.
- IUDs are being heavily promoted to young women, especially "risk" populations.
- Innovative programs have focused on training healthcare providers, but the voices of young women have been absent from discourse about how to increase IUD use.

### Methods

- In 2012 we conducted a Web survey of young women and men (ages 18-29) in the United States to assess their knowledge of, attitudes toward and interest in IUDs.
- This analysis considers a subsample of 382 sexually experienced young women who had never used an IUD before. Young women in the subsample were primarily White (77%), ages 18-24 (65%), and privately insured (75%).
- Chi-squared tests were used to assess differences in IUD interest by demographic characteristics, and IUD attitudes and knowledge.

### Results

#### Sources of information about IUDs

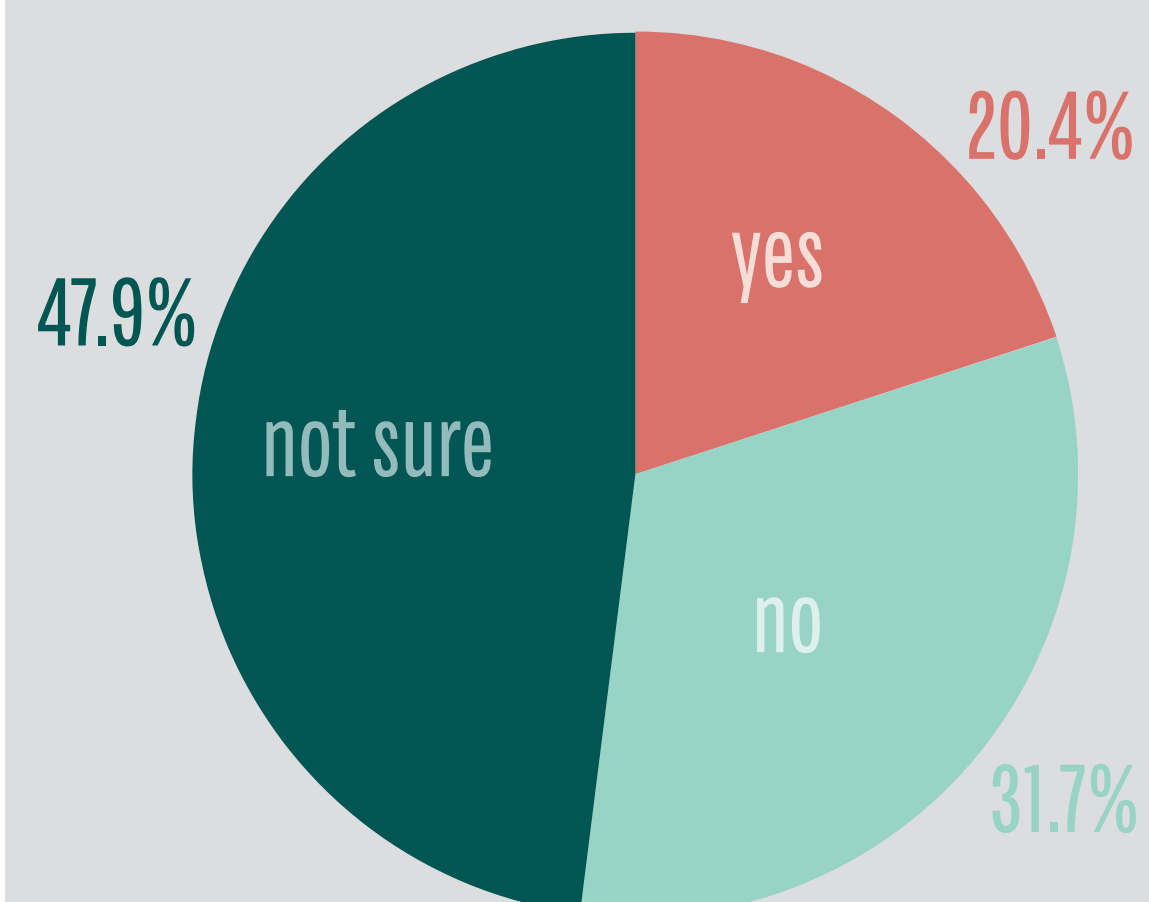


#### IUD Knowledge Grade

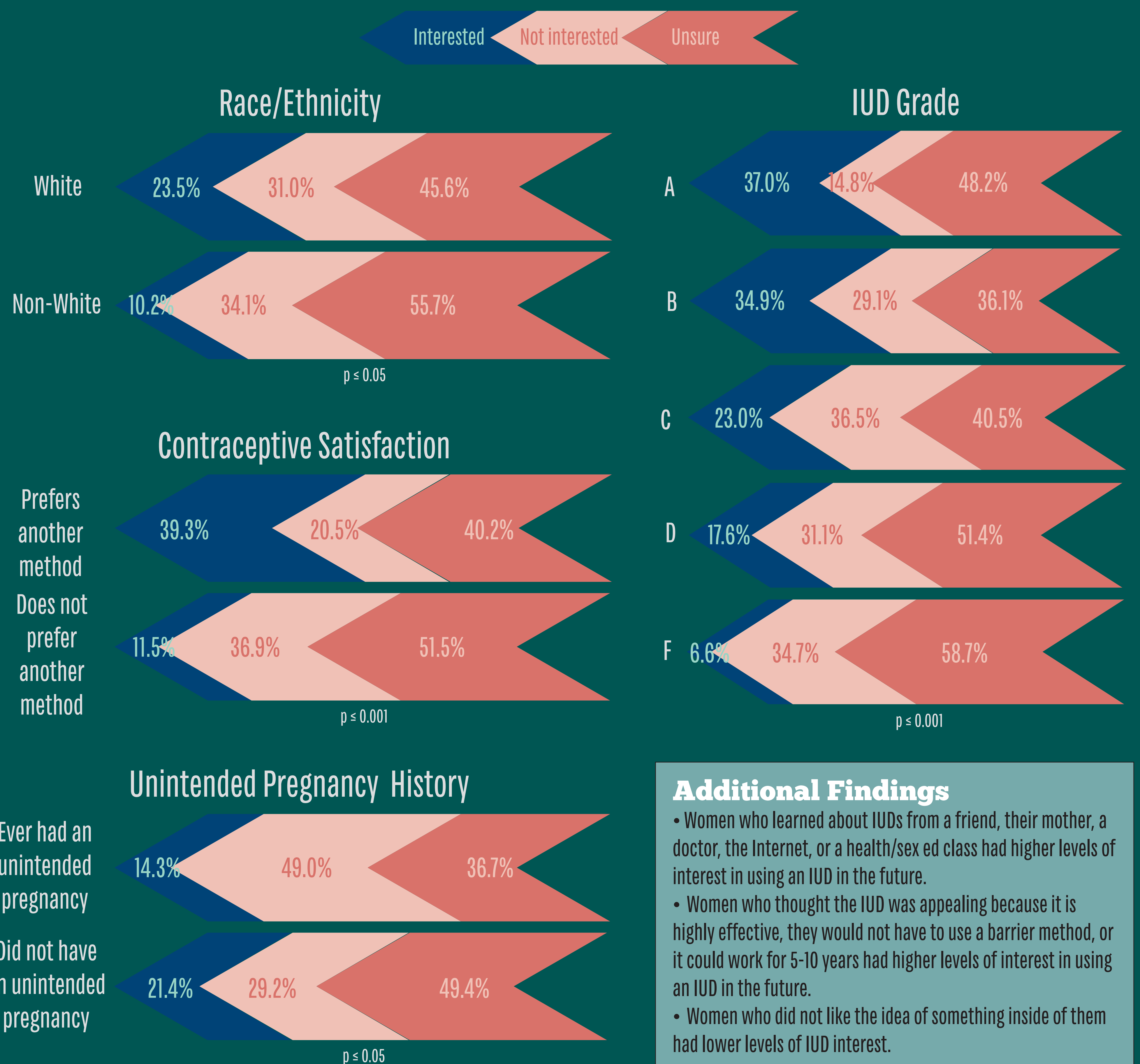
A	7.1%
B	22.5%
C	19.4%
D	19.4%
F	31.7%

Based on number of True-False questions answered correctly (out of 15,  $\alpha=0.89$ )

#### Interest in using an IUD in the future



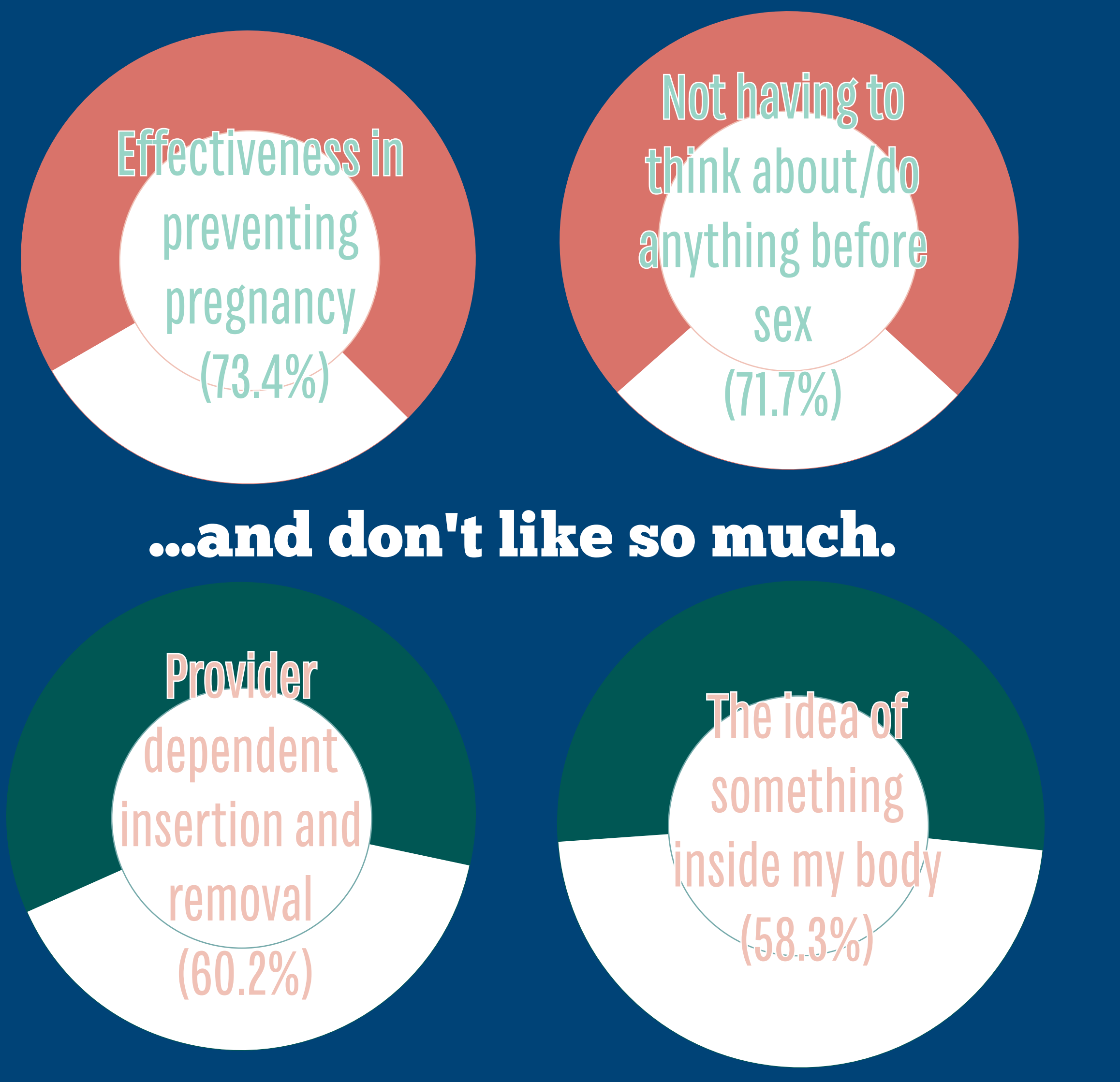
#### Who's interested in using an IUD in the future? Who's not?



#### Additional Findings

- Women who learned about IUDs from a friend, their mother, a doctor, the Internet, or a health/sex ed class had higher levels of interest in using an IUD in the future.
- Women who thought the IUD was appealing because it is highly effective, they would not have to use a barrier method, or it could work for 5-10 years had higher levels of interest in using an IUD in the future.
- Women who did not like the idea of something inside of them had lower levels of IUD interest.

#### What women like about IUDs...



### Conclusion

- Women who had more knowledge of IUDs had higher levels of interest. However, even among those with high knowledge, the majority was unsure or not interested in using an IUD in the future.
- Women who were members of "risk" populations, particularly non-White women and those who had ever had an unintended pregnancy, had lower levels of IUD interest than their less "risky" counterparts. Using a reproductive justice lens to understand the reasons why women ARE and ARE NOT interested in IUDs is critical to ensure that promotion efforts do not put undue pressure on vulnerable populations.
- Women who were not happy with their current contraceptive method had higher levels of interest in using an IUD. Future programmatic efforts should focus on helping providers develop efficient ways to assess their patients' contraceptive satisfaction and to recommend new methods accordingly.



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