

Testicular Cancer: Education and Awareness Among the Deaf

Loren D. Sacks, MSII

ASL, Deaf Culture, and Cancer Control Fellow

UCSD School of Medicine

Rebecca and John Moores UCSD Cancer Center

Collaborators at the Moores UCSD Cancer Center

Dr. Georgia Sadler

Melanie Nakaji

Patty Brantz

Shane Marsh

Testicular Cancer Facts:

- Approximately 7400 new cases each year
- Males 15-35 years old are at highest risk
- Easily treatable
- High propensity for metastasis if untreated
- Education of high-risk population is essential

Cancer Education:

- Highest patient benefit is derived from culturally sensitive training
- Efforts have been made to reach minority groups
- No education method designed to target the deaf community currently exists

Hypotheses

- There is a testicular cancer knowledge disparity between the Deaf and the hearing communities
- An educational program designed specifically for deaf subjects effectively removes that disparity

Deaf Education Program:

- Designed for deaf males between the ages of 18 and 40
- Presentation includes:
 - 1) Lecture in ASL (American Sign Language)
 - 2) Portions of “Know Your Options: Prostate and Testicular Cancer,” a video prepared by the Moores UCSD Cancer Center

Evaluation:

- Subjects were evaluated with a written survey both before and after training sessions
- Pre-training evaluation demonstrates initial knowledge/understanding
- Post-training evaluation measures benefit conferred

Research Subject Demographics

Deaf / Hard of Hearing

N = 27

Median Age = 29

Multi-Ethnic (44%)

~ 60% with some
college education

Hearing control group

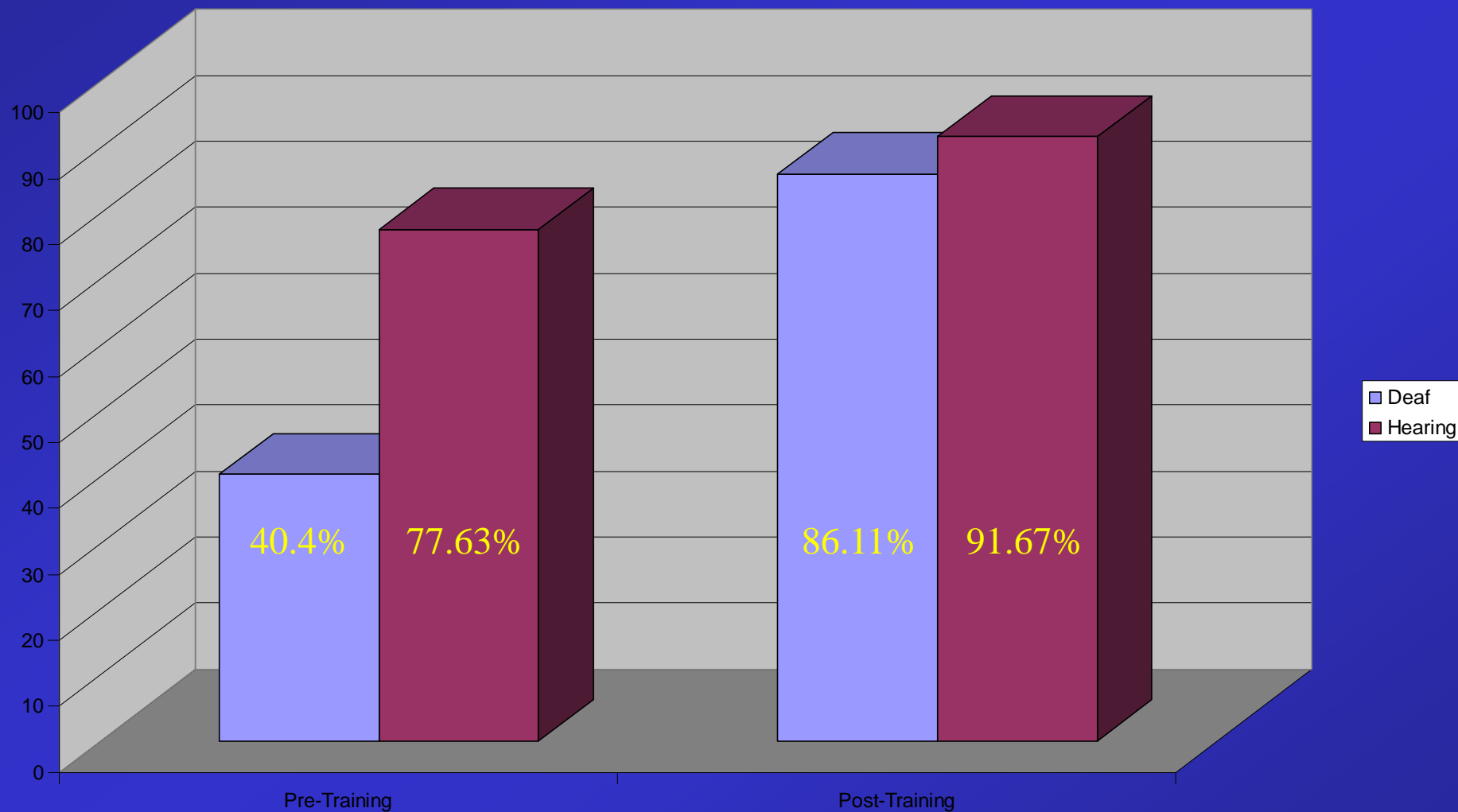
N = 19

Median Age = 26

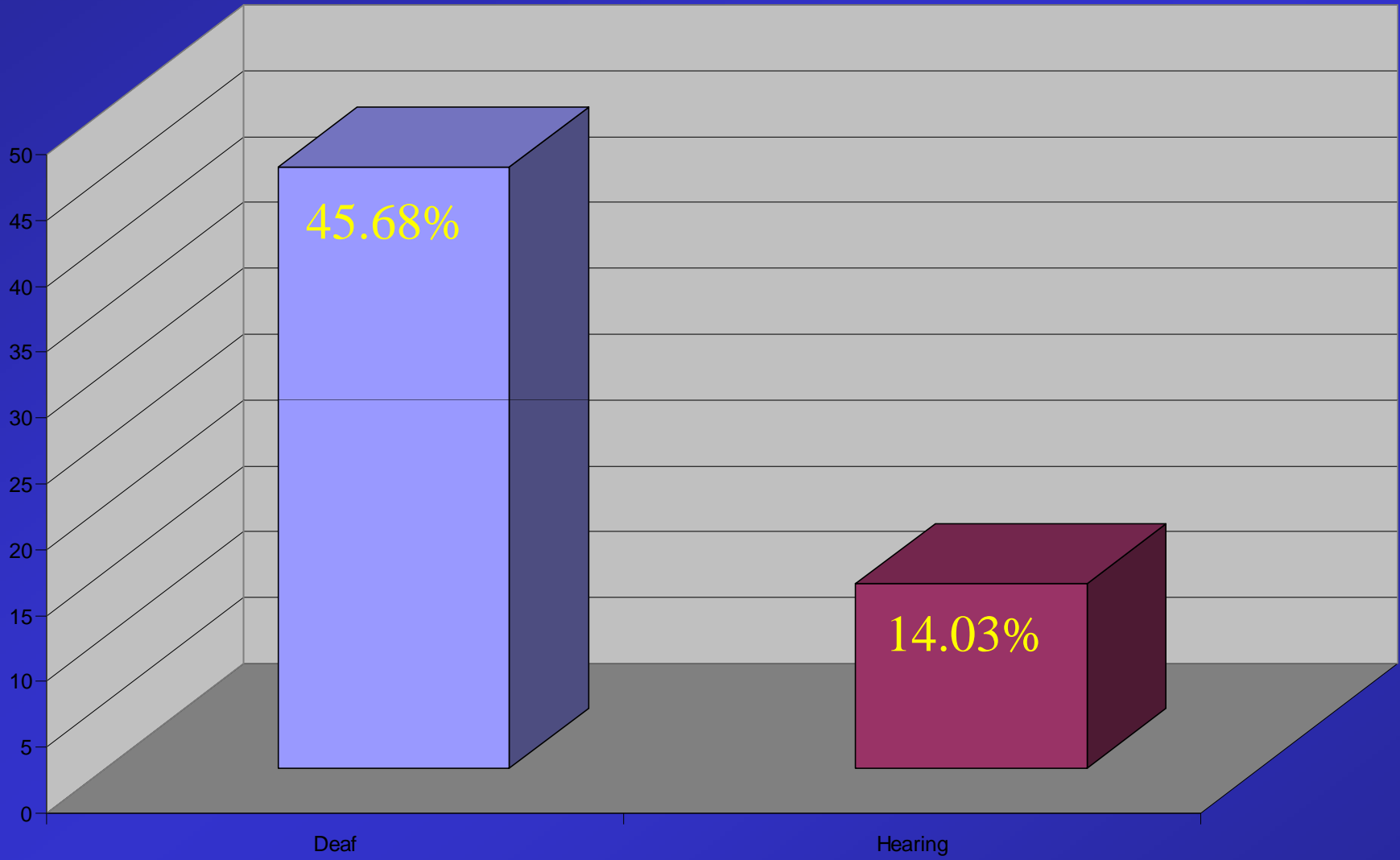
Multi-Ethnic (47%)

> 80% with some
college education

Pre-Training and Post-Training Scores



Average Benefit Conferred



Patient Responses:

- 93% of deaf subjects described a need for increased cancer education programs
- Only 22% have been told about testicular cancer by their physician
- Most popular sources for health information among the deaf =
 - Friends and family
 - Internet
 - Health books/pamphlets

Conclusions

1. Deaf men demonstrate a distinct lack of knowledge of testicular cancer when compared to their hearing peers
2. Educational programs designed specifically for deaf men can correct this deficit
3. Increased education for the deaf is urgently needed

With a great deal of thanks to...

National Cancer Institute

Grant #R25 CA10131

The Moores UCSD Cancer Center

UCSD School of Medicine

Gallaudet University

Mesa Community College

The Deaf communities of San Diego, Los Angeles, and Washington D.C.