



# HIV and COVID-19

What have our issues been ?

# Who is POWA ?

## ► **Our Story**

- In early 2017, members of the W.A. HIV community called for a peer-led HIV representative body to be formed. Peer-led means people living with HIV doing it for themselves.
- POWA was incorporated on 9 May 2017 and is led by openly HIV+ Western Australians to advance the health and quality of life for all people with HIV in WA.
- POWA is recognised by HIV communities in WA as the peak representative body for people with HIV in W.A. POWA is a full member of The National Association of People with HIV Australia (NAPWHA) which is the peak national HIV organisation in Australia.
- POWA's & NAPWHA's vision are united: A world where people with HIV live their lives to their full potential, in good health and free from discrimination.

# POWA's response to COVID-19

- ▶ Join our "Community Check in" What's App chat line
- ▶ Facebook private chat group
- ▶ POWA Connect- Add your name to our connect and alert list. A conversation how can we assist you.
- ▶ A call out for volunteers (peers). Tasks could include collecting medication or grocery shop and drop off.
- ▶ Remote check in via zoom, txt or phone.
- ▶ Promoted TIM Facebook
- ▶ Promoted official advice from WA Health Dept, NAPWHA and ASHM.
- ▶ Extra POWA Board Meetings
- ▶ Promoted Chin Wags- Napwha

# Chin Wag -NAPWHA



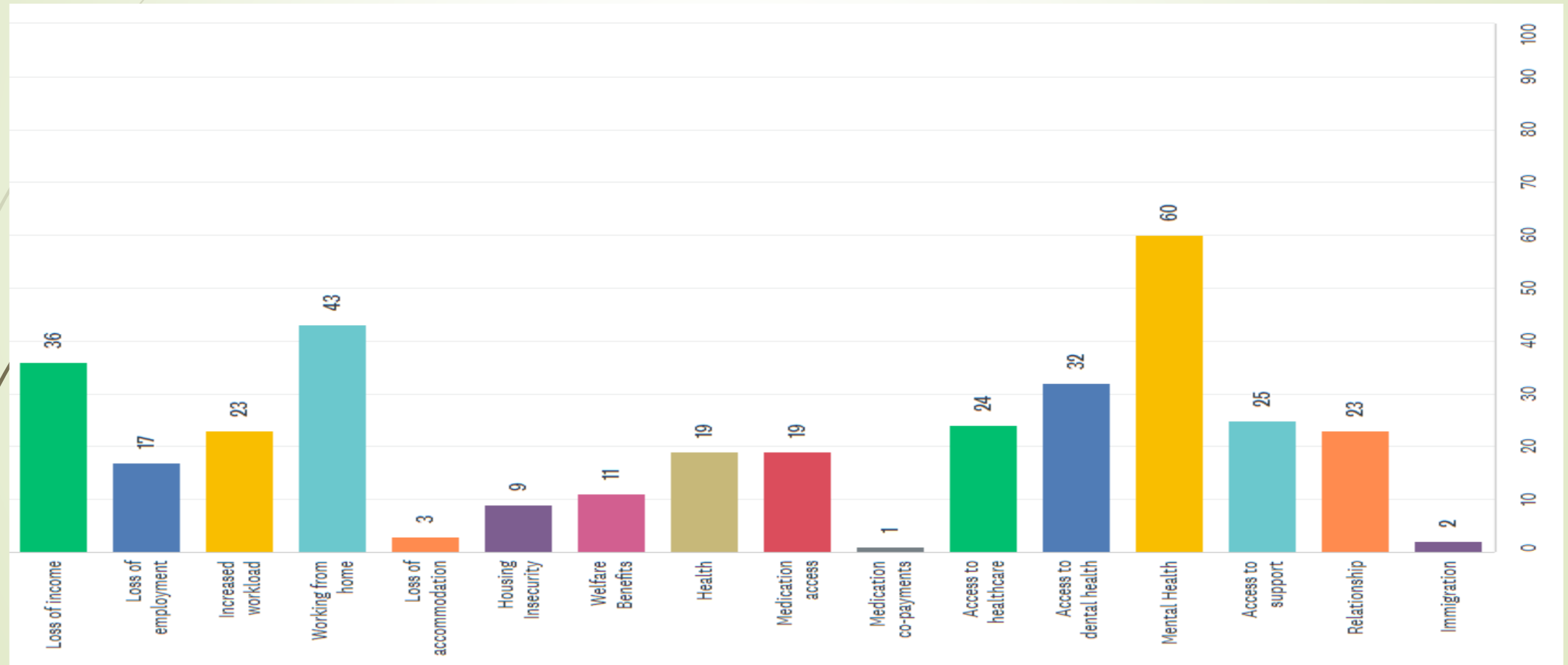


# The impact of COVID-19 on PLHIV Survey

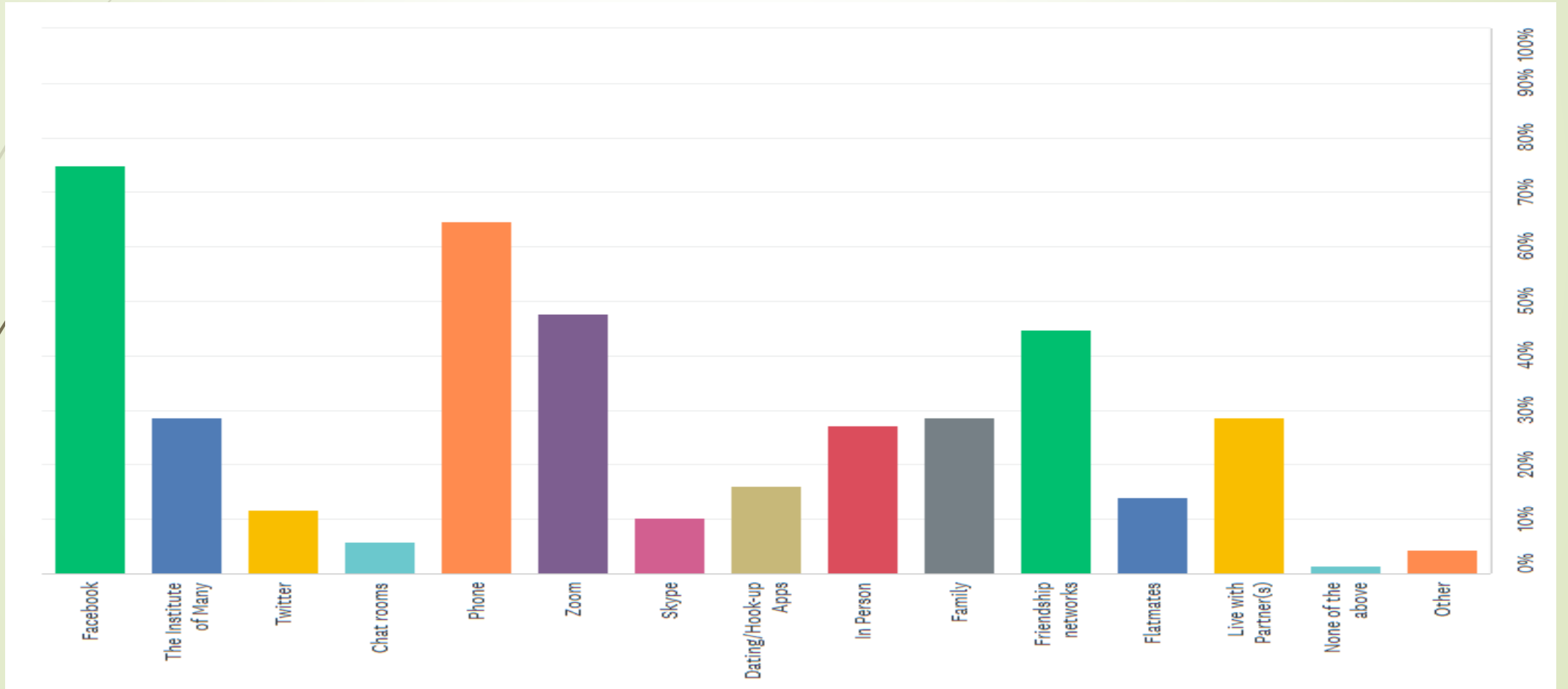
**napwha** national association of  
people with HIV australia

- ▶ In April 2020, at the height of COVID-19 in Australia NAPWHA sought to connect directly with community to gather information on the impact of COVID-19.
- ▶ 147 people living with HIV responded to the survey. This provided valuable information on location, age, gender identity, number of co-morbid conditions, experiences with virtual telehealth, views on COVID-19 and respondents most pressing needs.

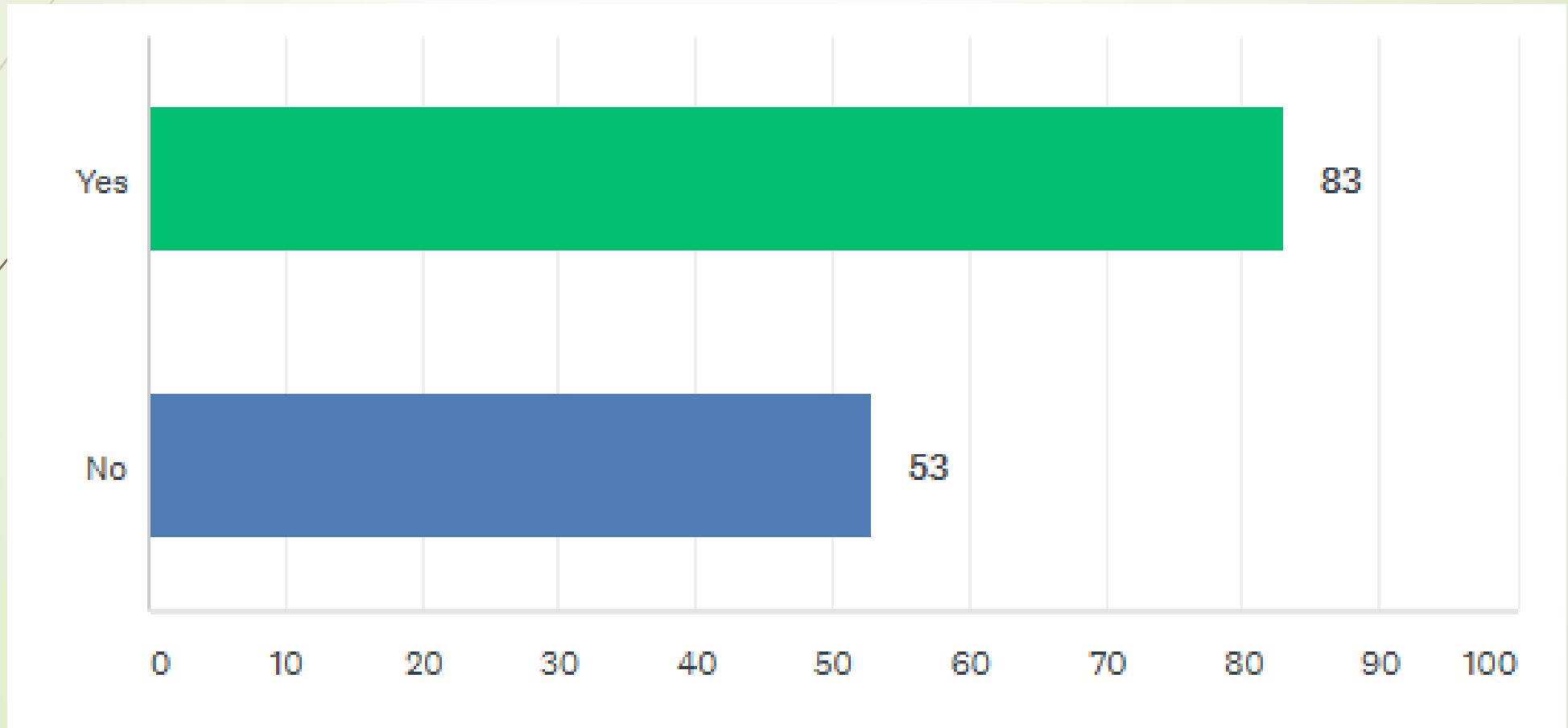
# How has COVID-19 impacted you ?



# How are you maintaining Social Connection during COVID-19 ?

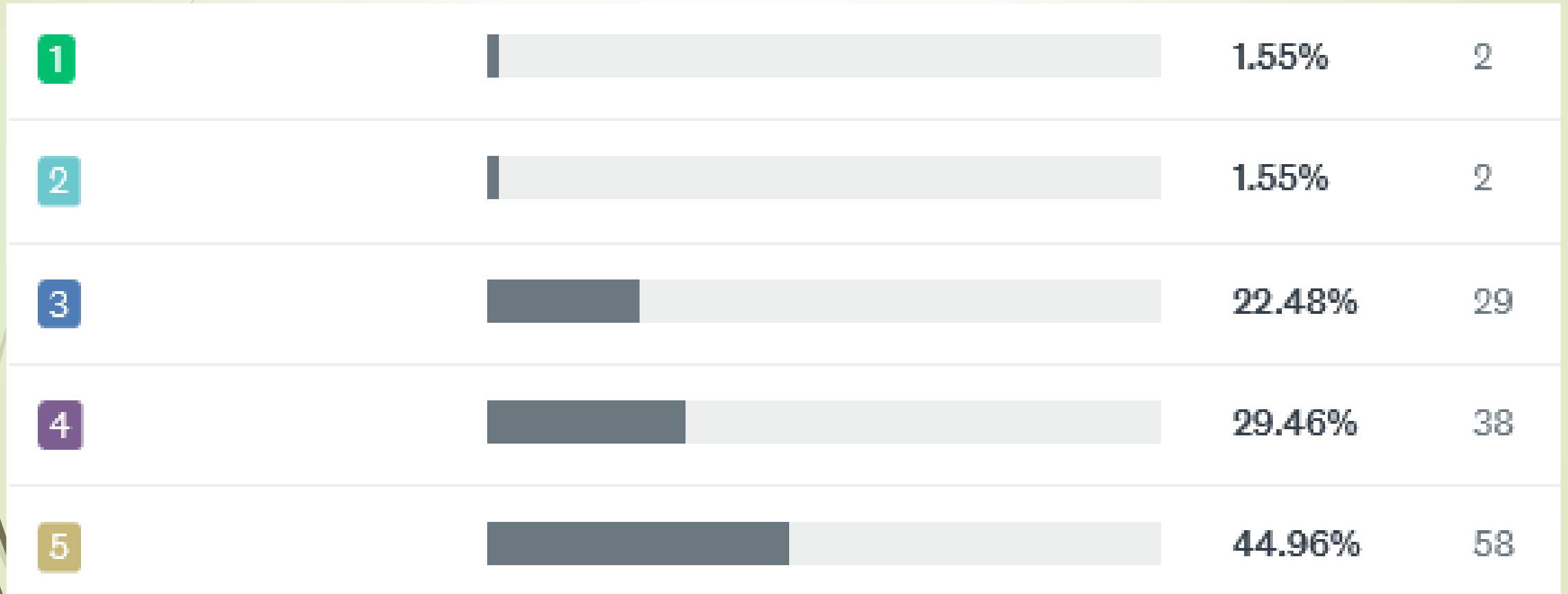


Have some or all of your Medical appointments been moved to telehealth?

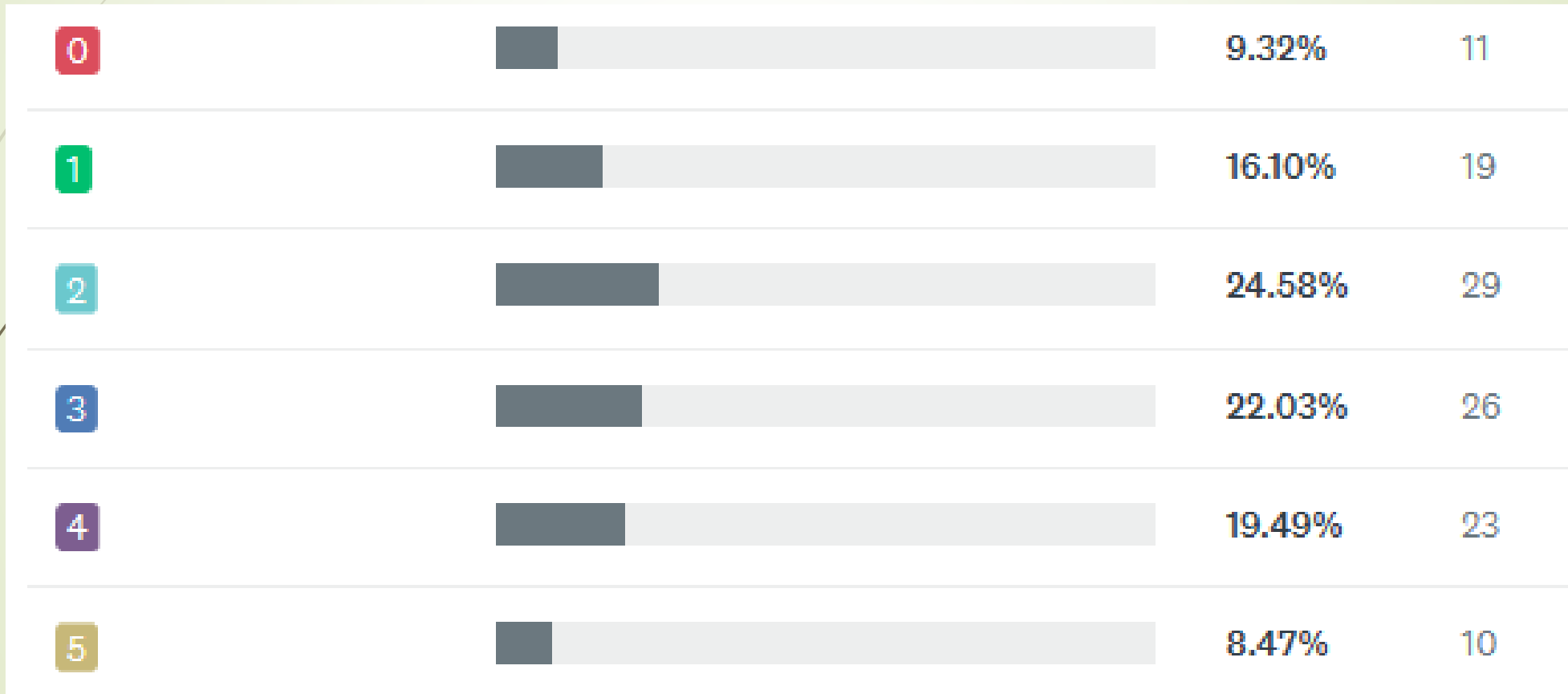




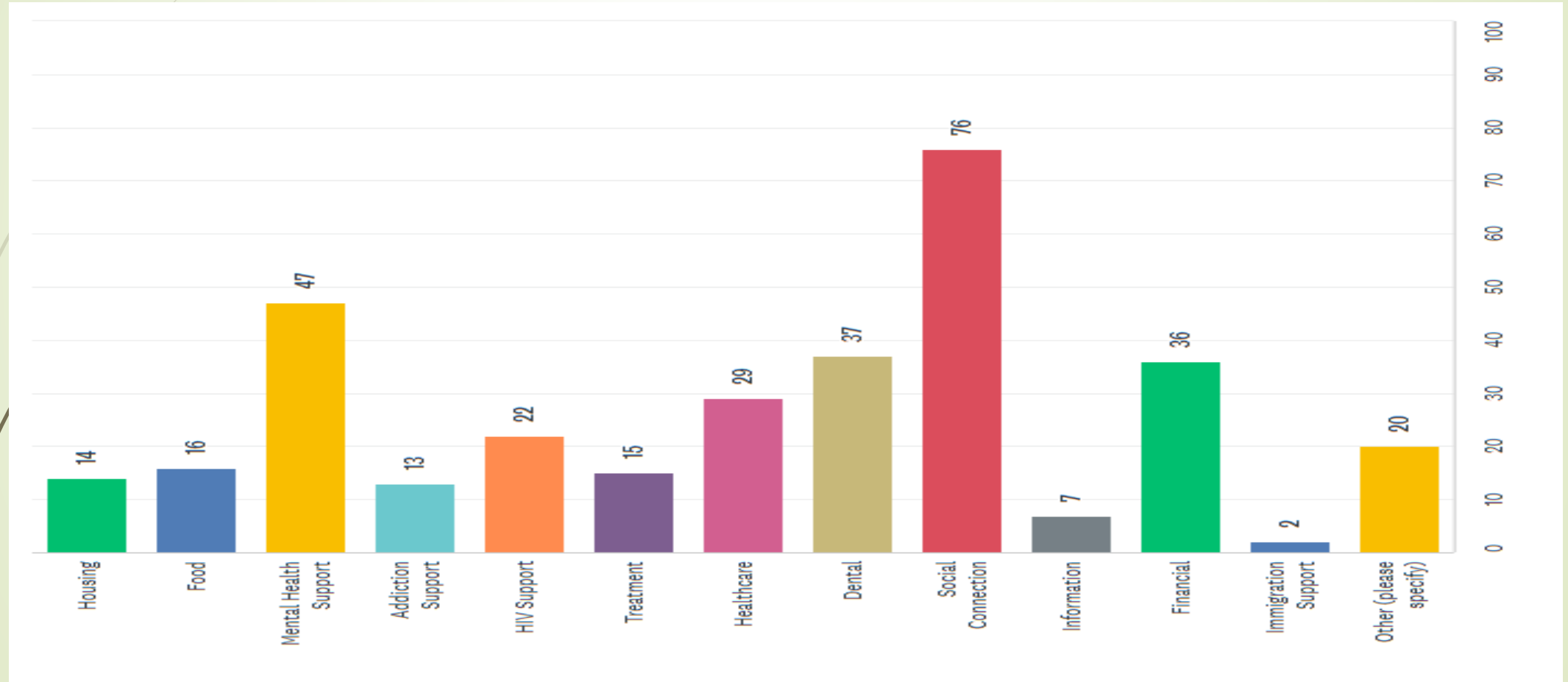
# How informed do you feel about COVID-19



# How are you feeling about your future?



# What are your most pressing needs?





# Access to HIV treatment during COVID-19

The pharmaceutical companies who provide antiretroviral medications in Australia would like to reassure people living with HIV (PLHIV) that there are still healthy supplies of HIV treatments in the country. What's more, they do not anticipate any disruption to supply in the near future.

PLHIV are encouraged to keep ordering their medications as usual and to keep taking them as prescribed. People with HIV should not skip doses or share medication with friends who are worried about their own supply.

In order to avoid going out, PLHIV can now have their HIV treatments posted to them at home by asking their doctor to forward scripts directly to the pharmacy (by email or fax).

Most pharmacies are dispensing the full script (4 or 6 months worth) but only providing 2 months supply at first, and then posting the next lot out at the appropriate time. A few pharmacies are only dispensing one month's supply at first, but also providing the rest by post.

PLHIV are encouraged to request this postal service if it isn't offered.

Any pharmacist can access free prepaid post bags by contacting Gilead Sciences in their Melbourne offices on (03) 9272 4400.



What has the HIV Community been saying in response to COVID-19 in our daily lives.







Thanks to



**napwha** national association of  
people with HIV australia



**POWA**  
POSITIVE ORGANISATION  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA