

BACKGROUND

- Chagas disease is endemic to Central and South America, Trinidad, and the southern United States. (1)
- Caused by protozoan (*Trypanosoma cruzi*); vector is kissing bug (*Triatoma sanguisuga*) found here, moving north. (2)
- ~1/3 of patients with Chagas disease suffer from cardiac disorders and ~ 1/10 suffer from digestive and/or neurological disorders. (3)

FIELD/LAB METHODS

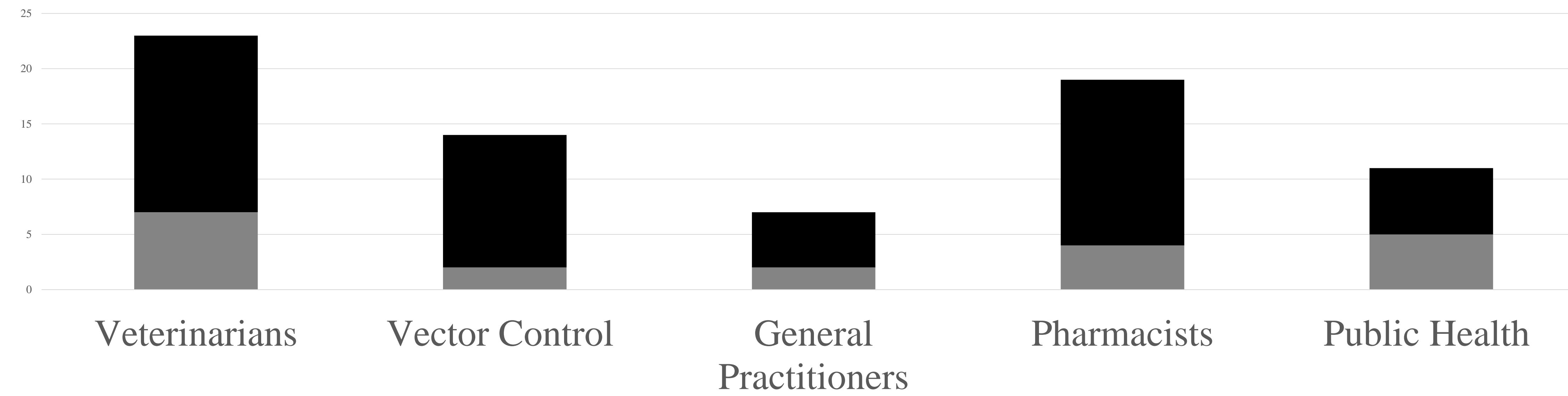
- Trapping done via Styrofoam traps lined with an LDPD5 attractant.
- Protozoan DNA extraction from bug gut.
- PCR to determine presence of pathogen.

PHONE SURVEY METHODS

- Question 1: Are you familiar with Chagas Disease/aka American Trypanosomiasis?
- Question 2: What is the pathogen that causes Chagas disease and how is it transmitted?
- Question 3: Where is Chagas disease endemic?
- Question 4: Tailored based on profession:
- For example: Pharmacists were asked if they knew treatment options for Chagas disease.

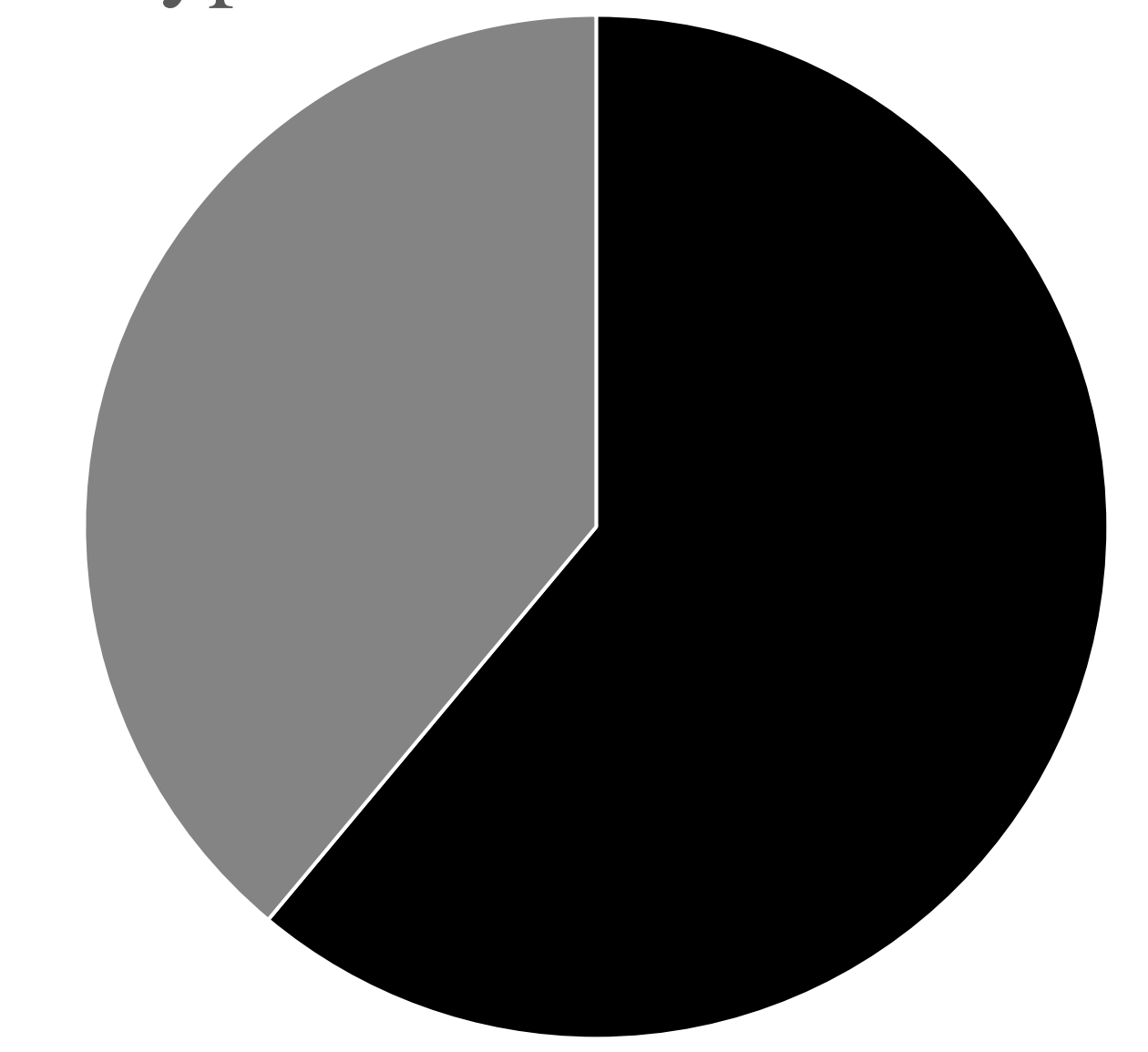
RESULTS

Are you familiar with Chagas Disease/aka American Trypanosomiasis?



Are you familiar with Chagas Disease/aka American Trypanosomiasis?

■ No
■ Yes



CONCLUSION

- ~50% of kissing bugs were positive for *T. cruzi*.
- Prevention of this disease is currently limited to general education, vector control such as bed netting, and screening of any donated blood.
- As many individuals said they were aware of Chagas disease they were unable to give further details.
- Note that at the end of each survey, all participants listened to a short educational talk to spread awareness. There is an increased need for further education as the disease continues to spread throughout the United States.

REFERENCES

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022, April 11). CDC - Chagas Disease - detailed faqs. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/chagas/gen_info/detailed.html
2. Nguyen T, Waseem M. Chagas Disease (American Trypanosomiasis). PubMed. Published 2020. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK459272/>
3. World Health Organization. Chagas disease (American trypanosomiasis). Who.int. Published April 17, 2019. [https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/chagas-disease-\(american-trypanosomiasis\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/chagas-disease-(american-trypanosomiasis))

	n = sample size	Question 1: % answered no	Question 2: % who answered not sure	Question 3: % who answered not sure	Question 4: % who answered not sure
Veterinarians	n = 23	69.5	86.9	95.6	100
Vector Control	n = 14	64.3	78.6	71.4	85.7
General Practitioners	n = 7	71.4	100	71.4	100
Pharmacists	n = 19	78.9	94.7	84.2	100
Public Health	n = 11	54.5	72.7	81.8	90.0