

DYING AT HOME: DISPOSITIONS FOR VETERANS IN THE COACH PROGRAM AT THE END OF LIFE

VA



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Veterans Health Administration
Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers

COACH: Caring for Older Adults and Caregivers at Home

M. Stout², J. Davagnino¹, N. Ramlal², R. Sloane^{1,2}, J. Twersky^{1,2}

1. Durham Veterans Affairs Health Care System; 2. Duke University Medical Center



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WHAT WE LEARNED

Through participation in the COACH program, Veterans with dementia have an increased likelihood of dying at home regardless of age, race, or level of dementia.

INTRODUCTION

- ❖ COACH is a consultative interdisciplinary home-based dementia care program that offers support, education, and assistance with resources to caregivers of Veterans with dementia.
- ❖ Eligibility Criteria for COACH:
 - Age ≥65
 - Veterans with moderate to severe dementia
 - Caregiver in home
 - Durham VA Medical Center, Morehead City Community-Based Outpatient Clinic, and Greenville Health Care Center

AIM

- ❖ To determine the number of Veterans enrolled in the COACH program who die at home

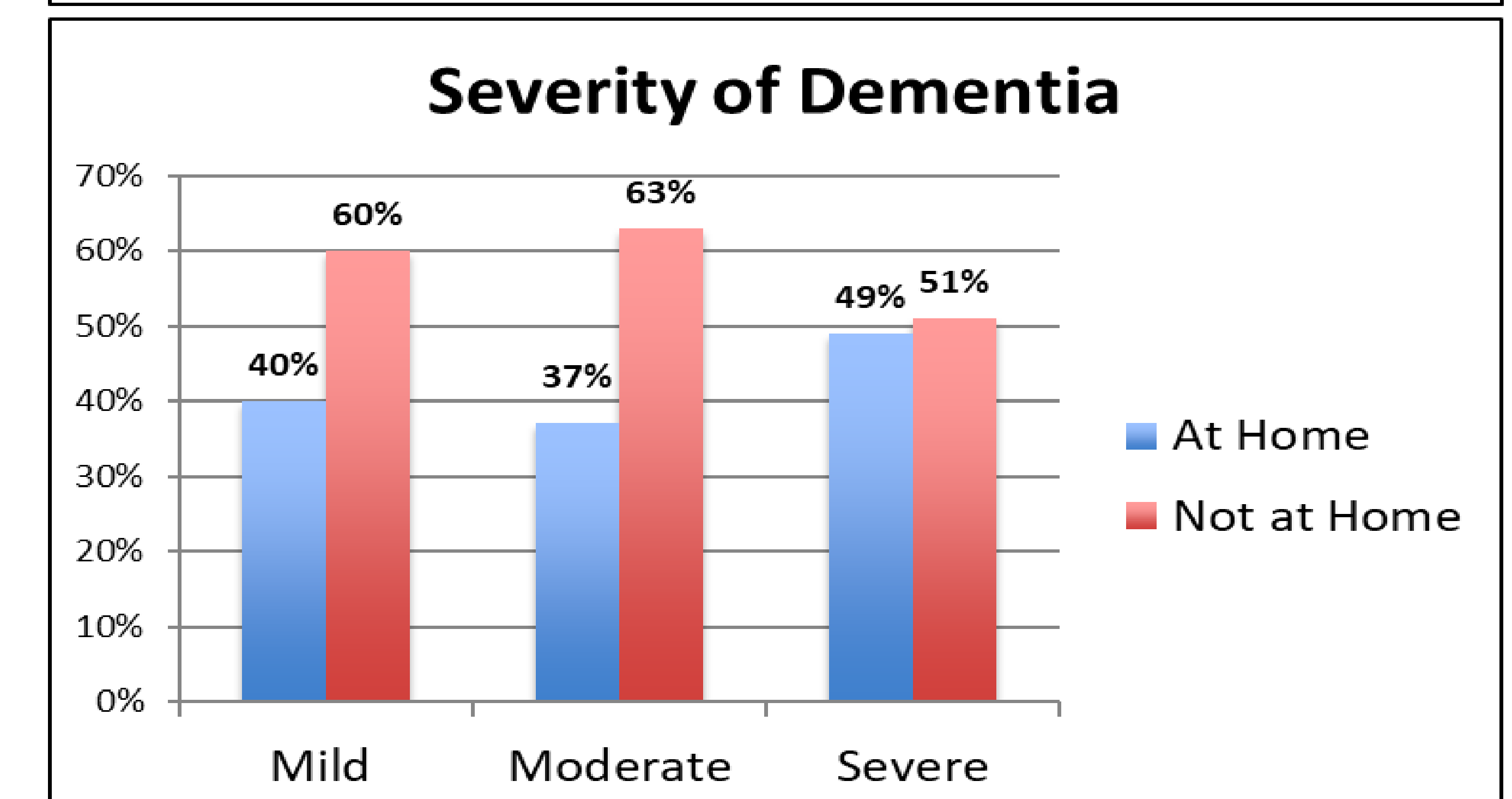
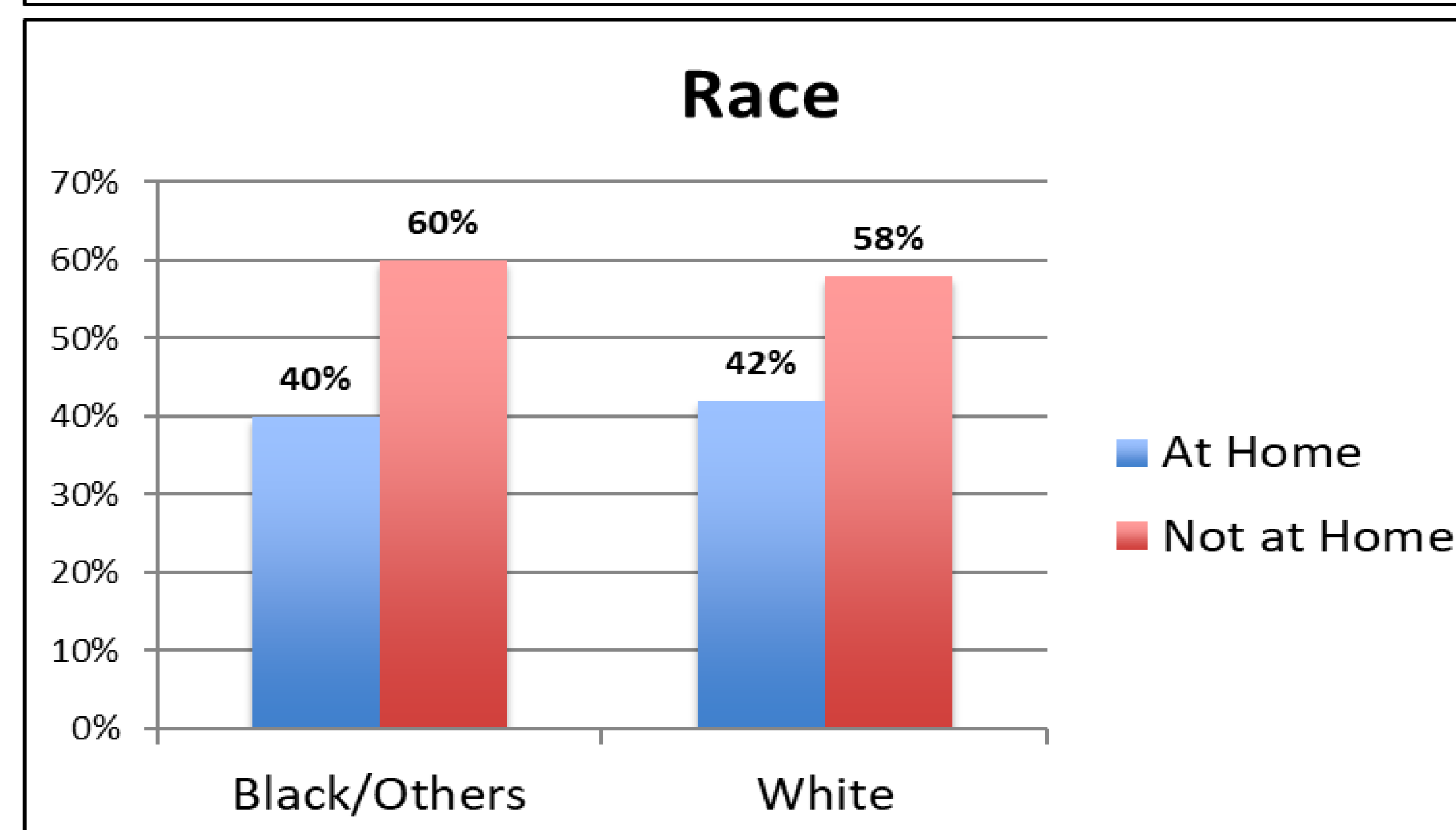
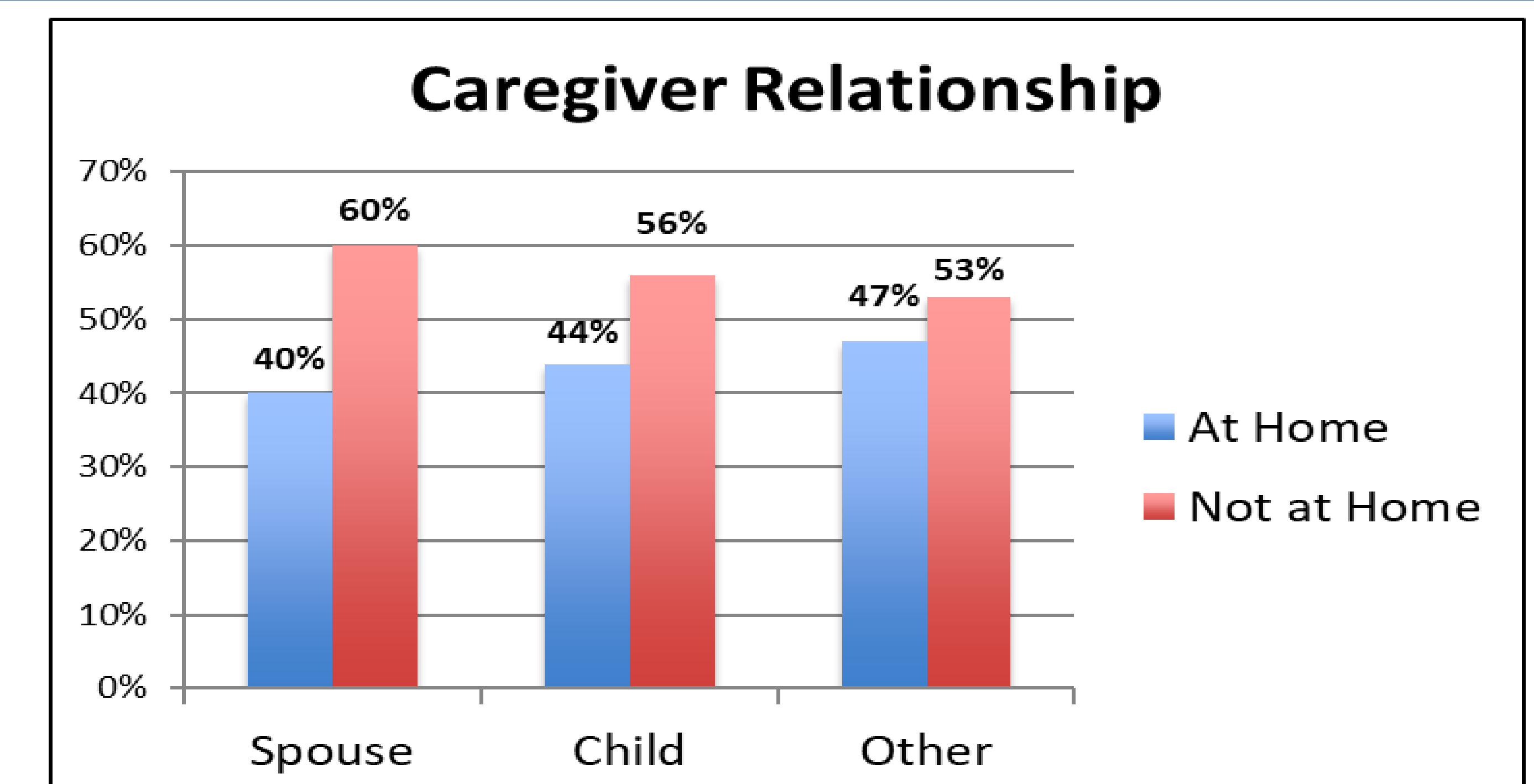
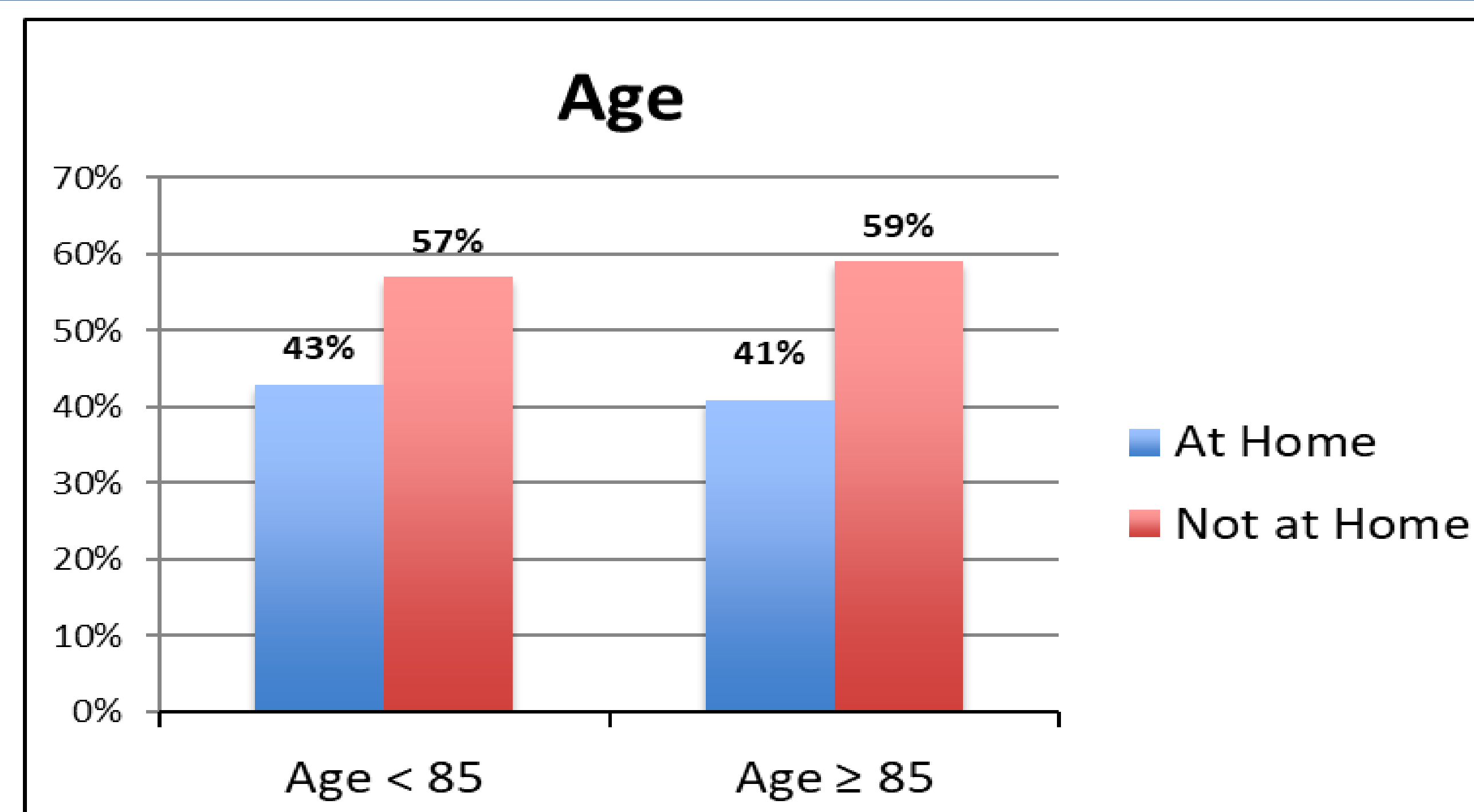
METHODS

- ❖ Record review of all Veterans enrolled at any time into the COACH program including Veterans discharged from the COACH program
- ❖ Determined care setting in which they died – “Home” and “Not at Home”
- ❖ Compared various demographic data among Veterans enrolled in the COACH program

RESULTS

430 Veterans died after enrollment in the COACH program, 41% of whom died at home.

- ❖ Per United States death certificate data, 24% of all deaths occur at home¹
- ❖ Per Medicare data, an estimated 22-30% of deaths occur at home²
- ❖ Of adults with the diagnosis of dementia on their death certificate, only 13% die at home³



Veterans who died “Not at Home” included those who died in the hospital, skilled nursing facility, assisted living facility, or inpatient hospice.