

# A survey of the health of GBT2Q Deaf and Hard of Hearing People

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## Background

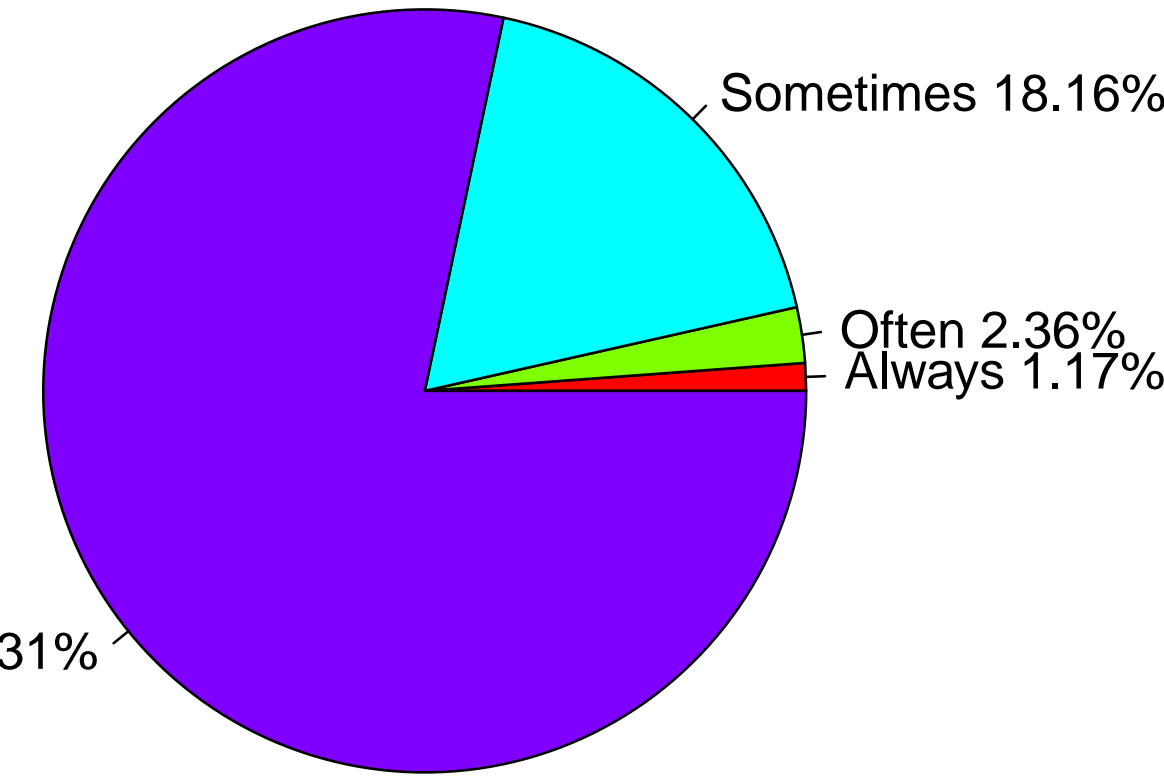
- Few studies have examined the physical, psychological, and social health of GBT2Q+ guys who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Canada
- The purpose of this analysis was to address this knowledge gap and examine the overall health of GBT2Q+ Deaf and Hard of Hearing guys compared to hearing guys

## Methods

- Data for this analysis are from the Sex Now 2019 online survey of GBT2Q+ guys and non-binary people in Canada
- Analyses compared health measures for Deaf and HoH guys ( $n = 2391$ ) and hearing guys ( $n = 8633$ ) using odds ratios in RStudio (version 1.3.959)
- All health indicators were reframe questionnaires and recoded into a binary (*i.e.* "Yes" and "No")

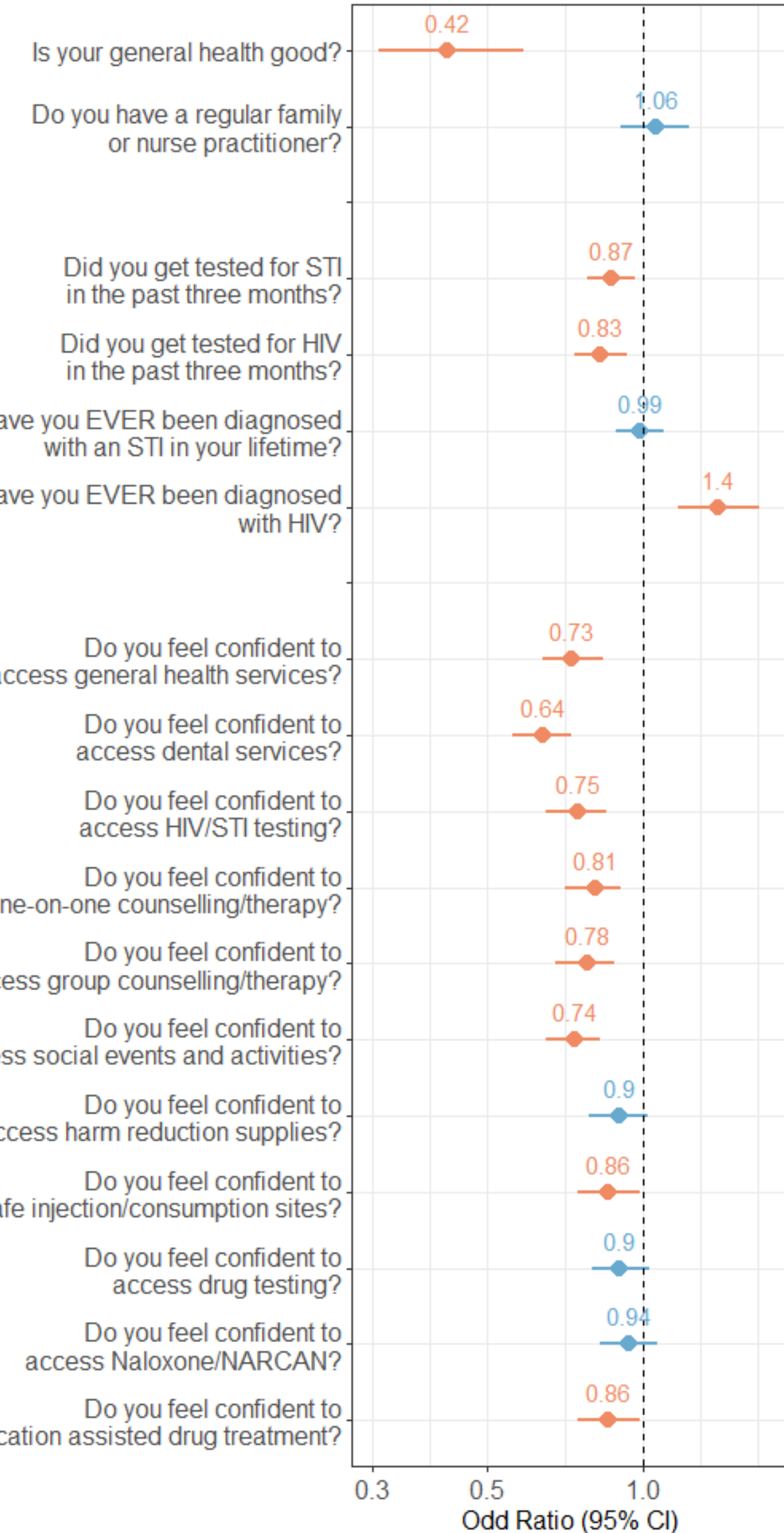
## Results

Do you have a hearing disability?



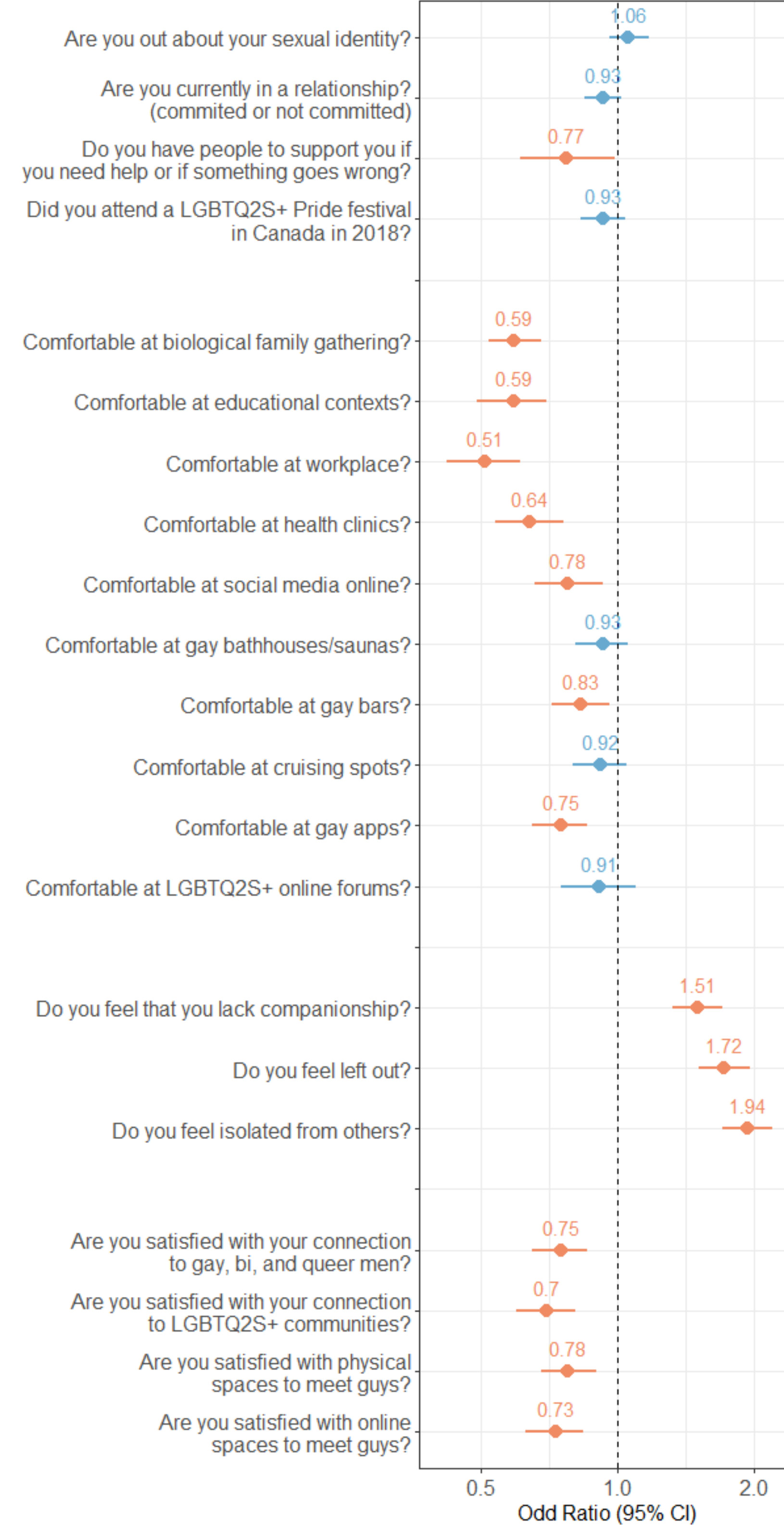
21.69% of the overall sample reported experiencing a hearing disability to some extent.

## General Health and Accessibility



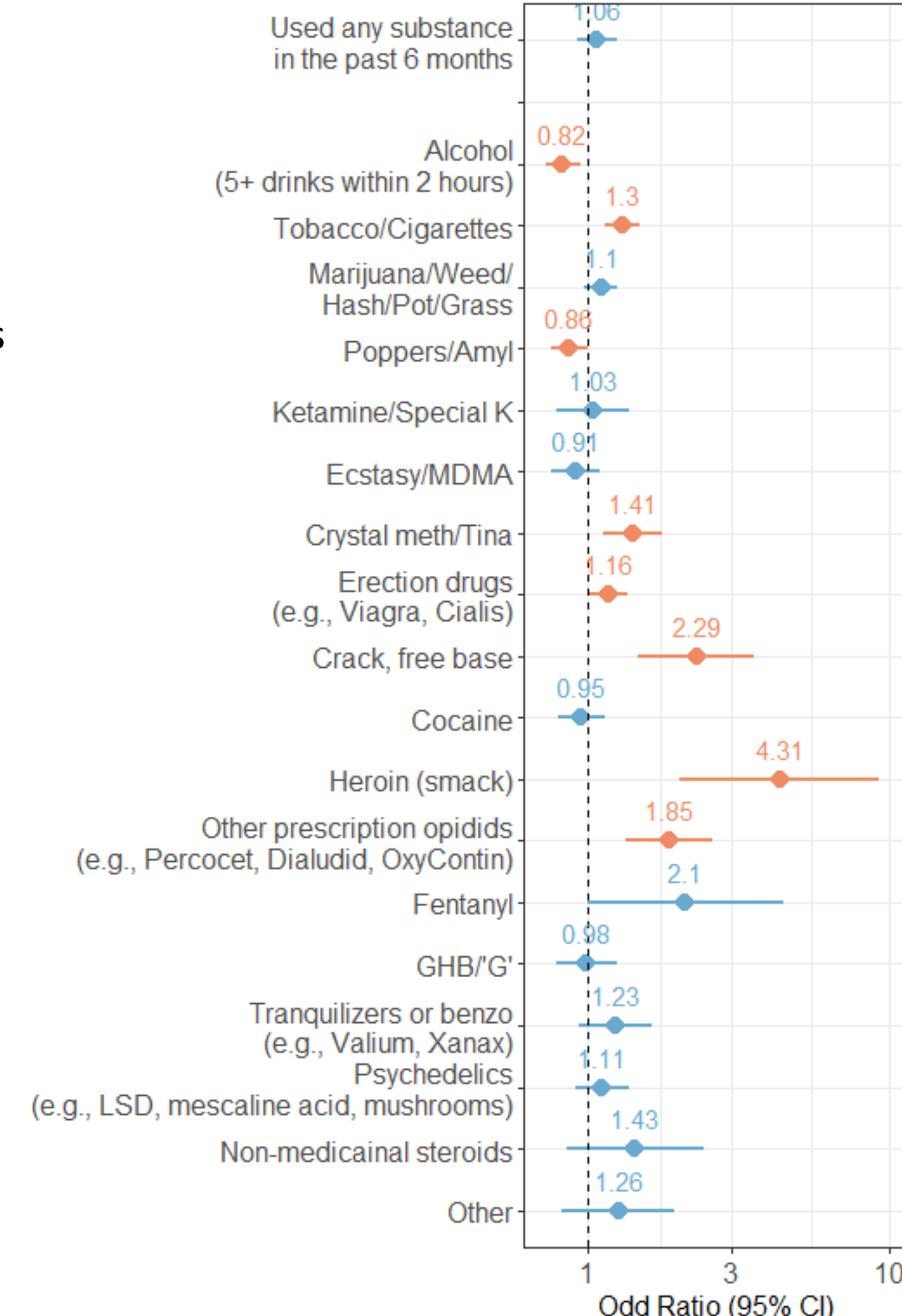
- Deaf and HoH guys were less likely to report their general health as good
- Deaf and HoH were less likely to have been tested for STIs or HIV in the past 3 months
- Deaf and HoH guys were significantly more likely to be living with HIV, compared to hearing guys
- Deaf and HoH guys were less likely than hearing guys to feel confident accessing many health services

## Social Life and Community



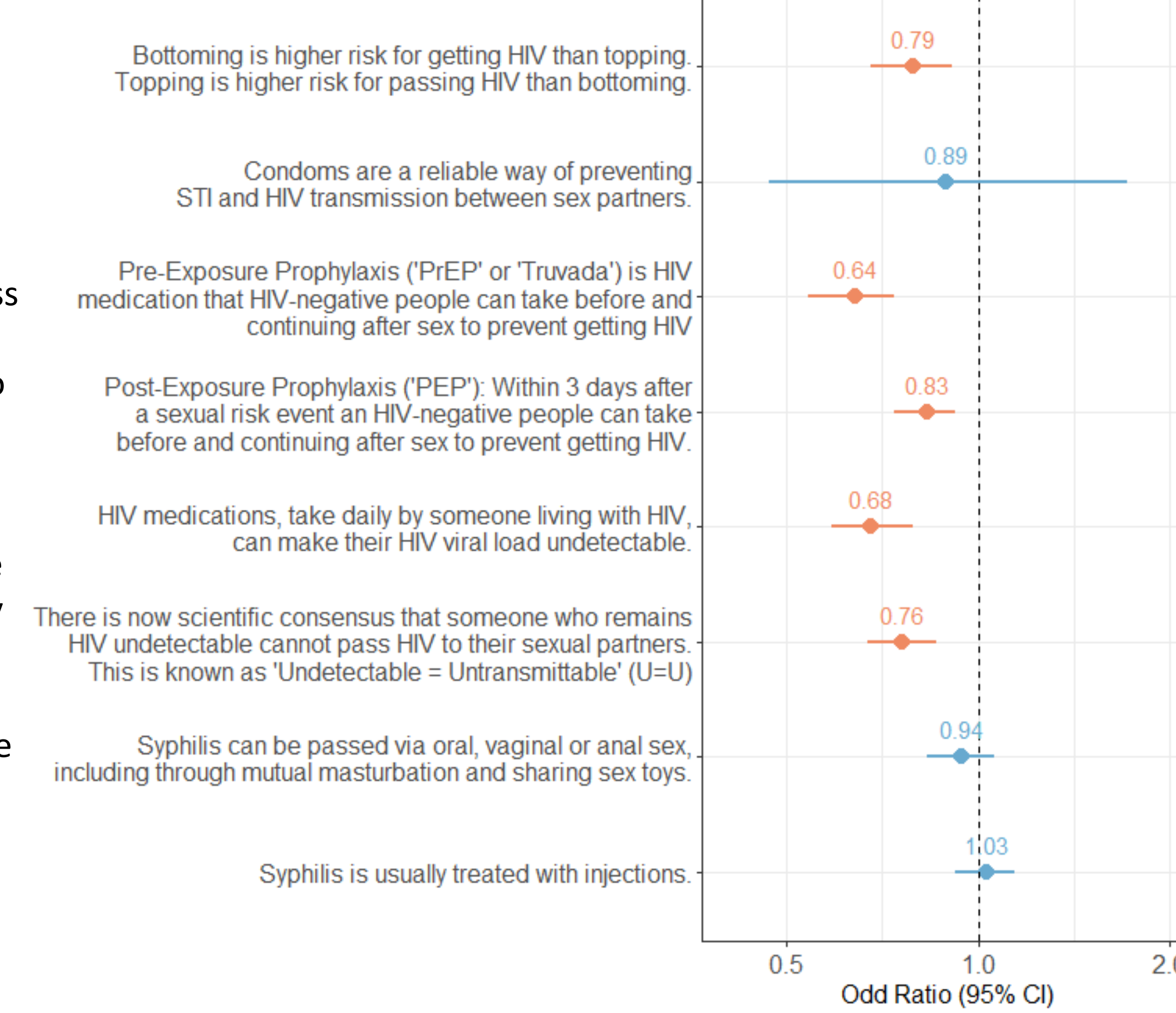
- Deaf and HoH guys were significantly less likely to have supportive people to reach out to when things go wrong
- Deaf and HoH guys were less likely to be comfortable in many social contexts, including health clinics and workplace
- Deaf and HoH guys were significantly more likely to feel lack of companionship, left out, and socially isolated from others
- Deaf and HoH guys were less likely to be satisfied with their connection to other GBT2Q guys, LGBTQ2S+ communities, and physical and online spaces to meet guys

## Substance Use



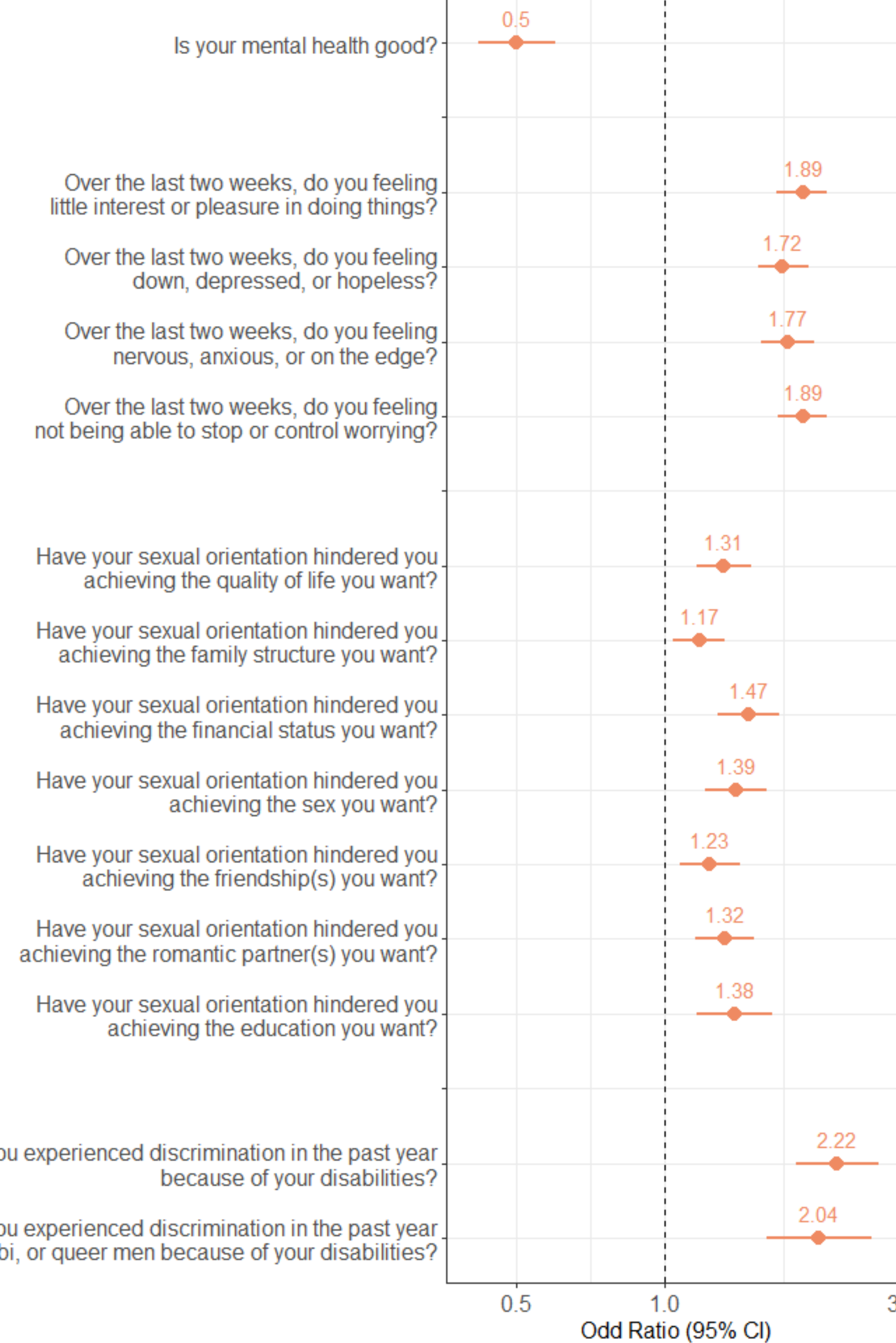
- Deaf and HoH guys were less likely than hearing guys to have used alcohol or poppers
- Deaf and HoH guys were more likely to have used tobacco, crystal meth, erection drugs, crack, heroin, or prescription opioids in the past six months

## Sexual Health Knowledge



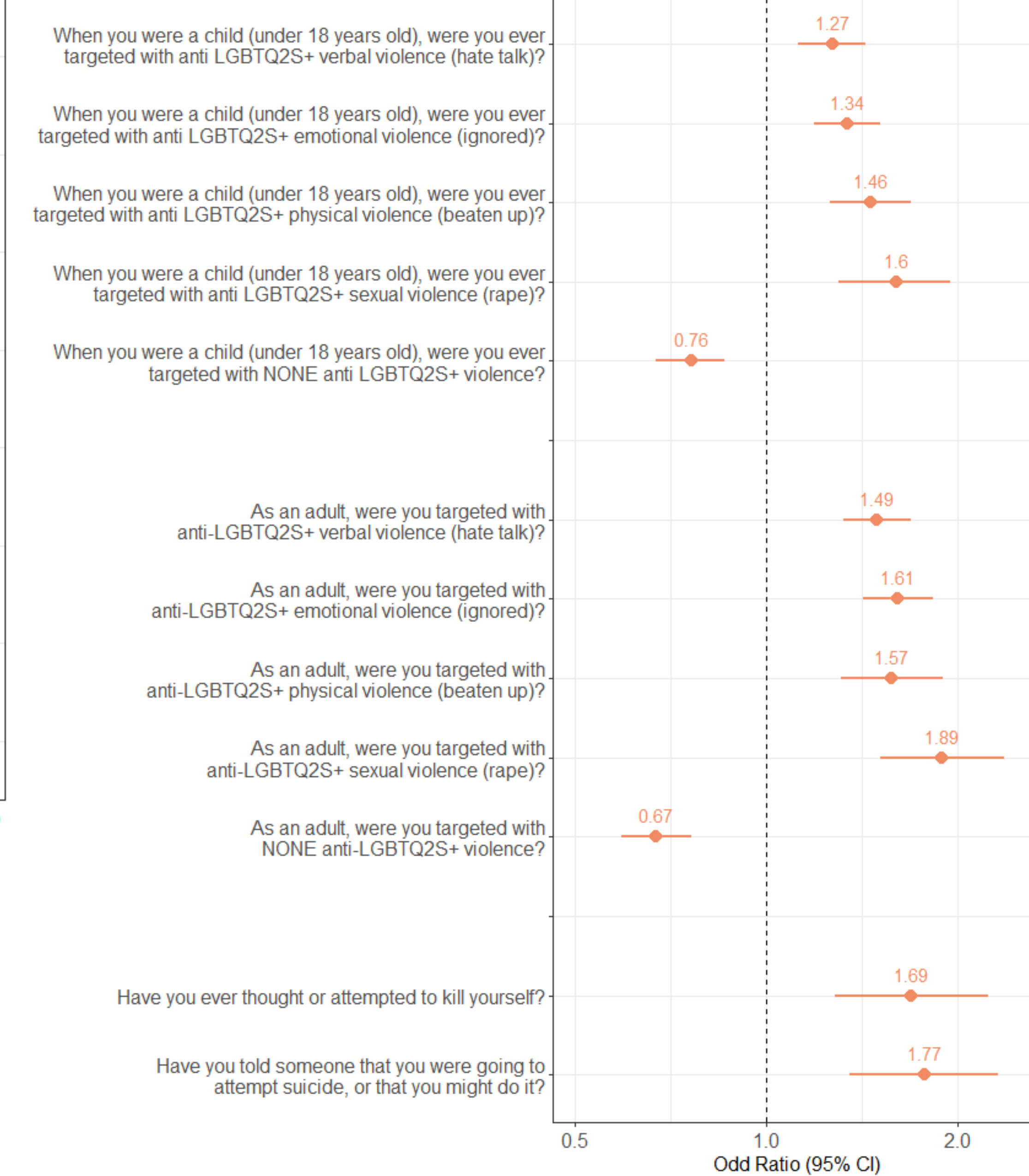
- Deaf and HoH guys were significantly less likely than hearing guys to be aware of several points of sexual-health knowledge

## Mental Health and Discrimination



- Deaf and HoH guys were less likely to report good mental health
- Deaf and HoH guys were more likely to report symptoms of anxiety or depression, compared to hearing guys
- Deaf and HoH guys were also more likely to report that their sexual orientation hindered many different parts of their lives
- Deaf and HoH guys were also more likely to experienced more discrimination due to their disabilities, generally and with GBT2Q guys

## Violence and Suicidality



- Deaf and HoH guys were significantly less likely have experienced no anti-LGBTQ2S+ violence
- Deaf and HoH guys were significantly more likely to have experienced verbal, emotional, physical violence, and sexual violence, during both childhood and adulthood
- Deaf and HoH guys were also more likely to struggle with suicidal thoughts, compared to hearing guys

## Conclusions

### SOCIAL LIFE & COMMUNITY

Most Deaf and HoH guys were just as satisfied with their sexual identity, relationships, and participation in pride festivals as hearing guys, but were more likely to lack people for support. There were more likely to be uncomfortable in outside environments, especially at workplace, because of double minority.

### SEXUAL HEALTH KNOWLEDGE

Deaf and HoH guys demonstrate good knowledge on condoms and STIs, but not on HIV and medication terminology such as PrEP and PEP.

### GENERAL HEALTH & ACCESSIBILITY

The general health of Deaf and HoH guys is worse than hearing peers. For example, there are 1.4 more likely to live with HIV compare to hearing guys. They are more likely to feel not confident accessing many medical services and social events except for drug-related service.

### SUBSTANCE USE

There is no significance difference between Deaf and HoH and hearing guys for substance use in the past 6 months. But there are certain substances more common for Deaf and HoH guys, especially crack and heroin.

### MENTAL HEALTH AND DISCRIMINATION

Deaf and HoH guys are in risk for all mental health and discrimination. There are more likely to experience poor mental health and discrimination due to hearing disability, which prevent them from having a fulfilling and meaningful life.

### VIOLENCE AND SUICIDALITY

There are high level of violence and high risk for suicidality among Deaf and HoH guys. The risk level increases from childhood to adulthood. Deaf and HoH guys are 1.7 more likely to have suicide ideation/attempt than hearing guys.

### OVERALL

Generally, Deaf and HoH guys experienced high risk compare to hearing guys. Need to improve accessibility both medical services and social community for Deaf and HoH guys. More future research is needed for Deaf and HoH GBT2Q+ guys.