

# Does Obtaining Consent & Involving the Patient Have a Place in Hospital-Based Fall Prevention?

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## Introduction:

- Recent data suggest nurses are burdened by their roles in fall prevention (1)
- Patients' roles often are overlooked; yet cognitively intact adults can understand their risks and vary their adherence to interventions
- They also often criticize prevention tactics and expect patient-centered care
- Few (if any) studies have explored consenting patients as obligated members of the fall prevention team

## Purpose:

- Ascertain cognitively intact patients' interest and willingness to participate in hospital fall prevention

## Methods:

- Convenience sample of ambulatory, English-speaking, cognitively intact adults with Morse Fall Score >35
- Recruits: 2 medicine units at the Brigham & Women's Faulkner Hospital (Boston MA)
- Tools: safety agreement consenting recruits to adhere/contribute to an individualized prevention plan; 22-item qualitative survey

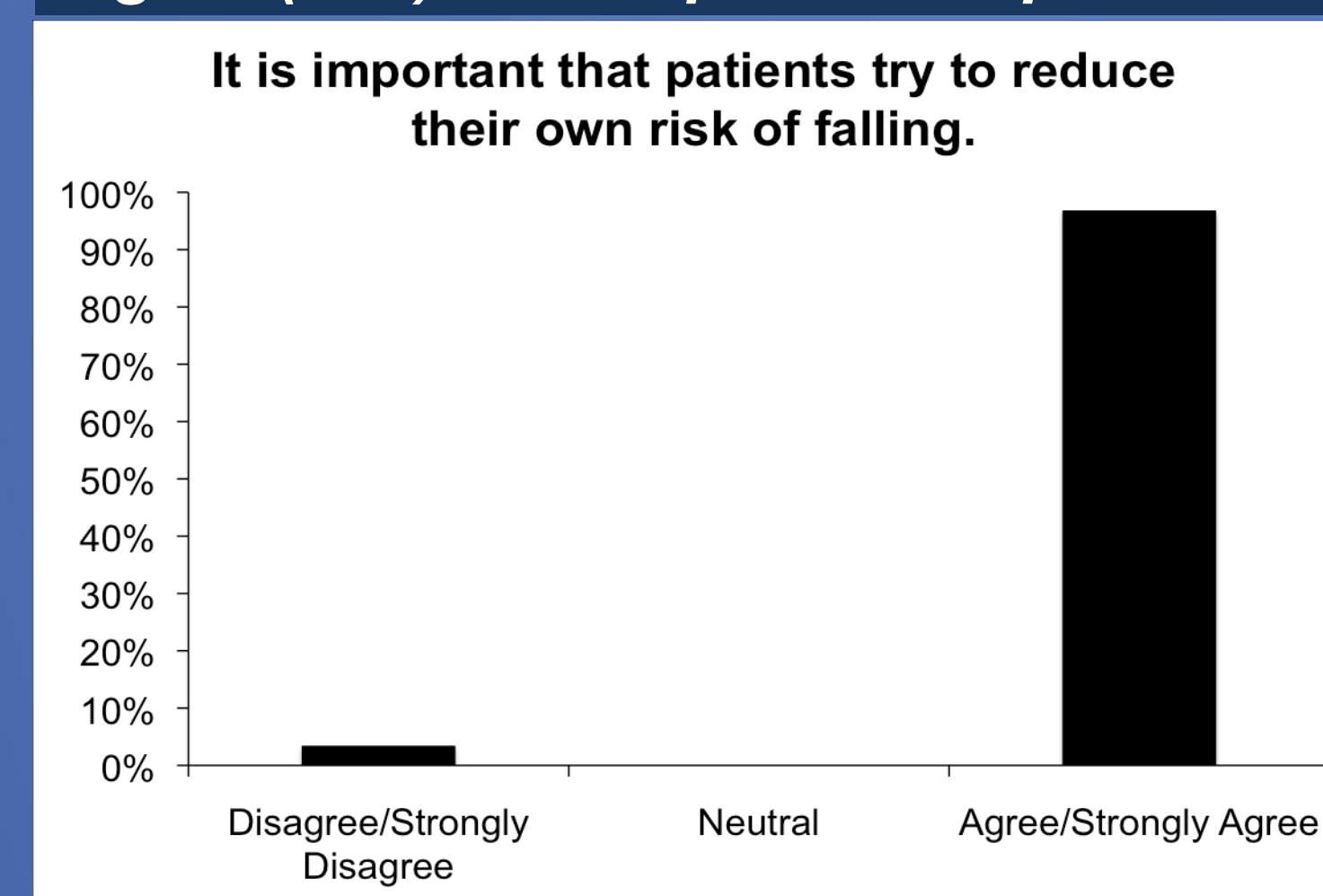
## Results:

- 68/71 (95.8%) signed agreement
- 30/68 (44.1%) completed survey
- Generally participants older, female, white
- 1 participant had an inpatient fall

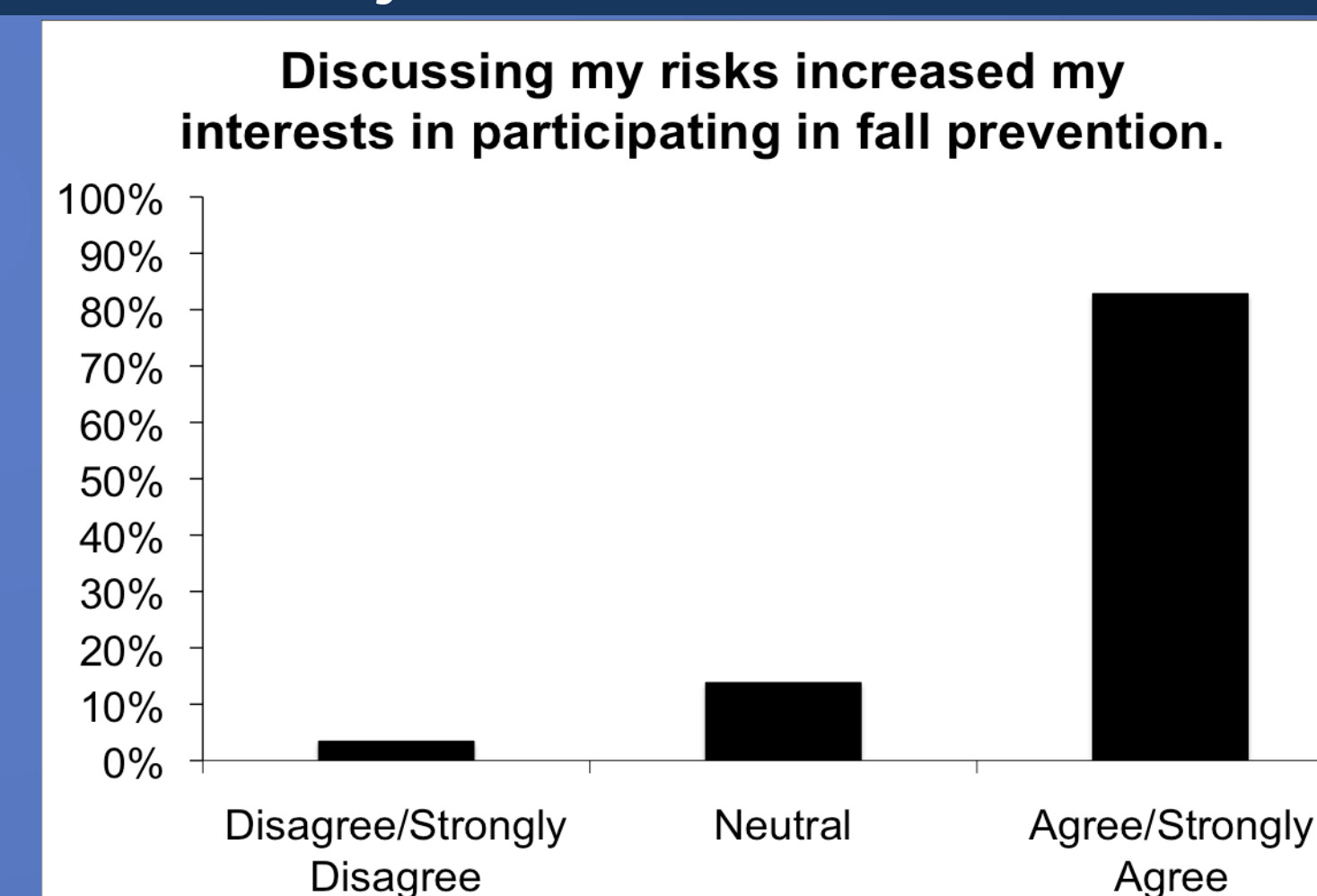
## Results: Table: Participants' Demographics

	Declined Agreement (N=3)	Signed Agreement (N=68)	Returned Survey (N=30)
<b>Gender</b>			
Men	2 (66.7%)	27 (39.7%)	10 (33.3%)
Women	1 (33.3%)	41 (60.3%)	20 (68.7%)
<b>Mean Age</b>	69.3 years	70.1 years	73.6 years
<b>Race</b>			
White	2 (66.7%)	38 (55.9%)	25 (83.3%)
Black	0%	4 (5.9%)	3 (10%)
Other	0%	3 (4.4%)	2 (6.7%)
Unknown	1 (33.3%)	23 (33.8%)	N/A

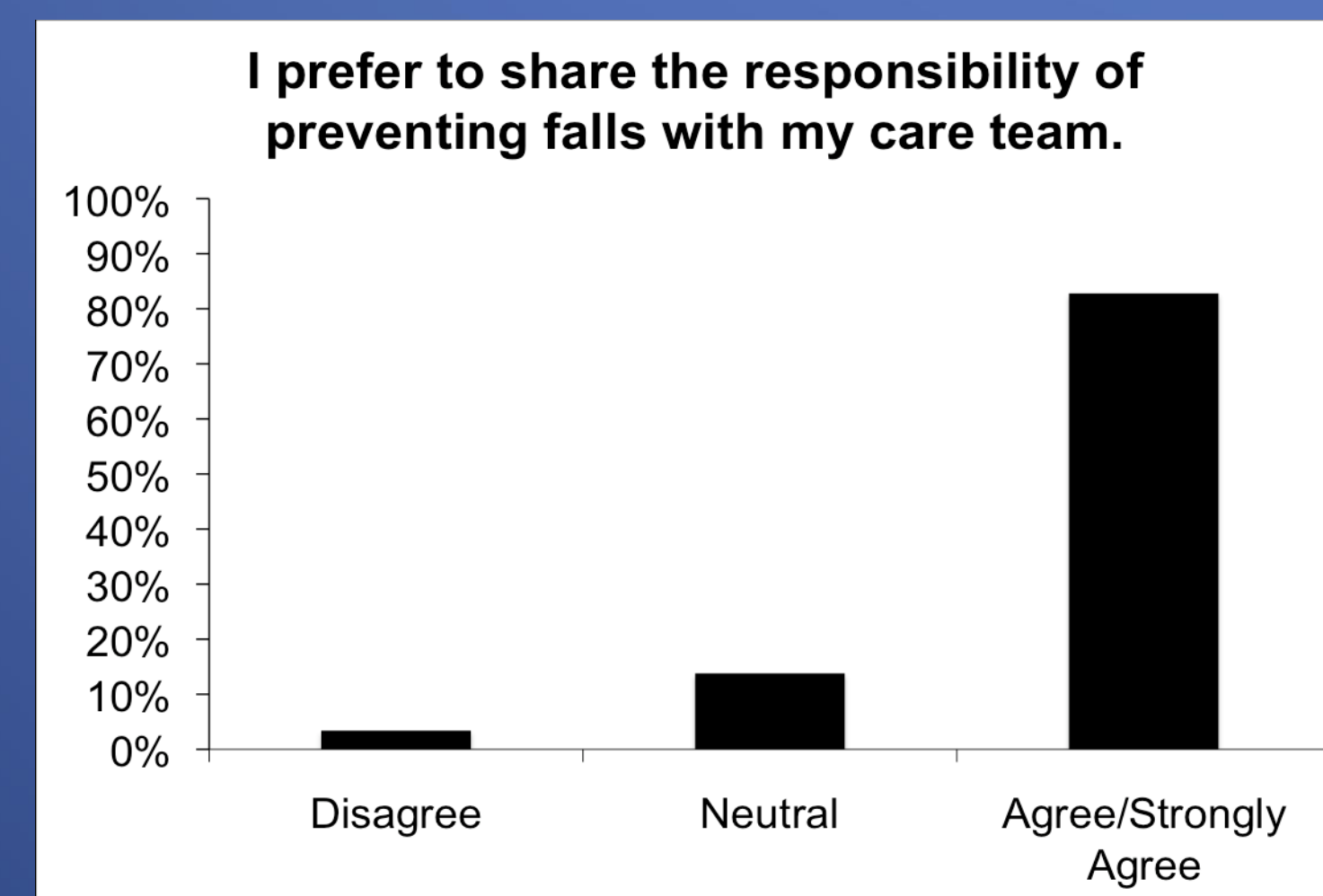
## Figure (A-D): Participants' Responses to Selected Survey Items



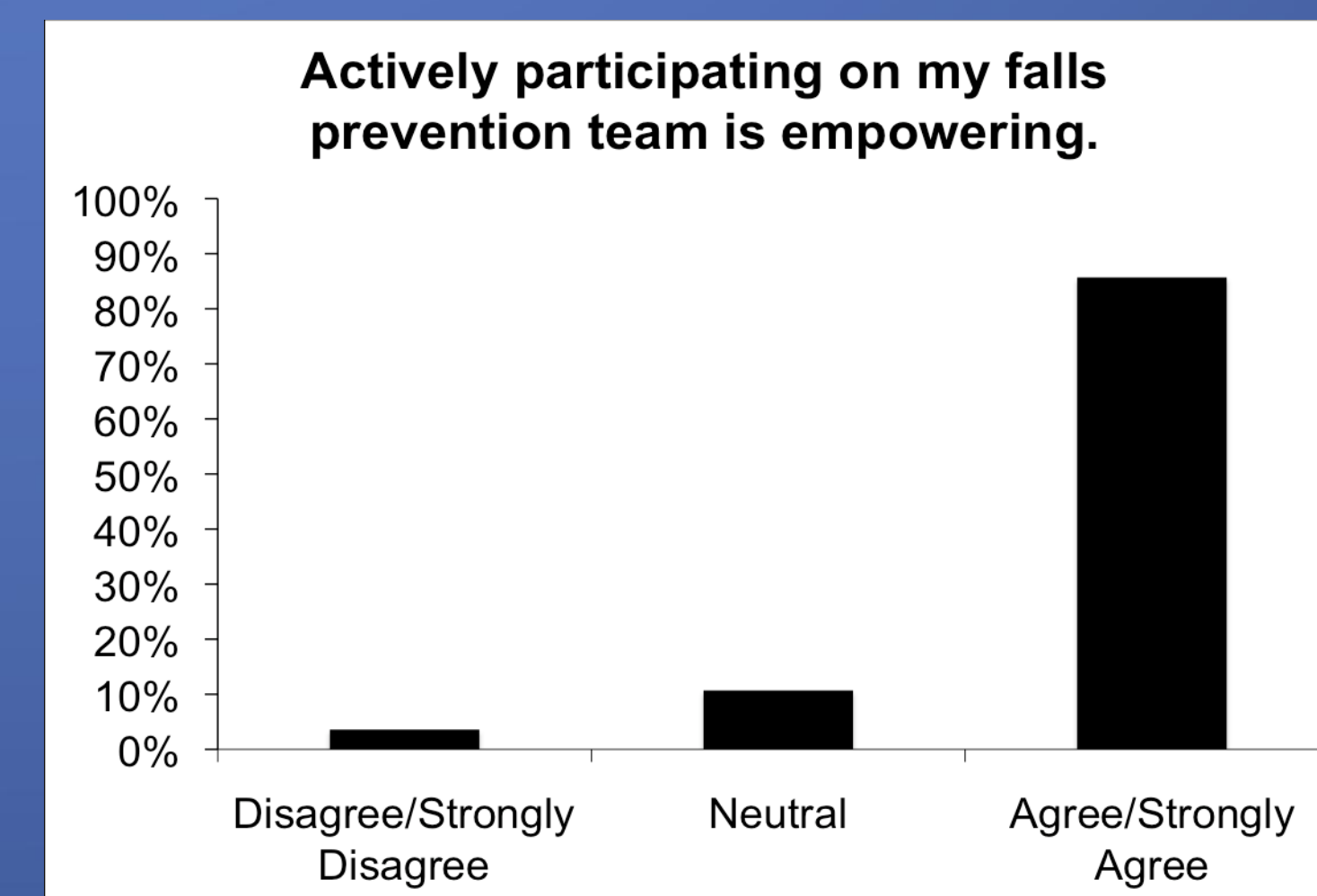
A. Disagree/Strongly Disagree, 3.3%; Neutral, 0%; Agree/Strongly Agree, 96.7%



B. Disagree/Strongly Disagree, 3.4%; Neutral, 13.8%; Agree/Strongly Agree, 82.8%



C. Disagree/Strongly Disagree, 3.4%; Neutral, 13.8%; Agree/Strongly Agree, 82.8%



D. Disagree/Strongly Disagree, 3.6%; Neutral, 10.7%; Agree/Strongly Agree, 85.7%

## Conclusions:

- A written agreement facilitated participants' understanding of personal risks and adherence to suggested interventions
- Cognitively intact patients likely have unique views on hospital fall prevention
- They also may view themselves as partially responsible for their safety and prefer to actively participate in prevention
- Nurse-patient collaboration may help redistribute the burden of safety, and generate new solutions to the longstanding problem of hospital falls
- However, future studies should confirm these findings, provide generalizability, and assess the overall impact of nurse-patient collaboration on fall rates

## References:

- Rush, K., Robey-Williams, C., Patton, L., Chamberlain, D., Bendyk, H., & Sparks, T. (2009). Patient falls: acute care nurses' experiences. *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, 18(3), 357-365

## Acknowledgement:

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