



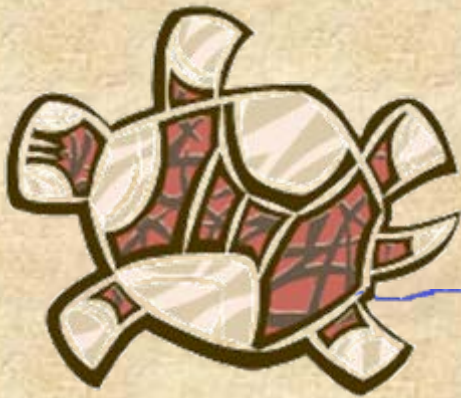
# **Children's and Adolescents' Perceptions of Stigmatization and Treatment for Peers with Depression, ADHD, and Asthma**

**Presented at:**

**The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference:  
A System of Care for Children's Mental  
Health: Expanding the Research Base**

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Tampa, Florida**

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## Under-explored topics...

### **Young people's knowledge and attitudes about emotional and behavioral disorders and treatment**

- **How do knowledge and attitudes change as children move from elementary to middle school to high school years?**
- **Do knowledge and attitudes vary depending on the type of disorder?**
- **Do boys and girls, or children from different backgrounds, have different attitudes or different levels of knowledge?**



## Under-explored topics...

- **What factors might impact young people's attitudes about help-seeking**
  - **Type of disorder**
  - **Perceptions of treatability**
  - **Perceptions about causation**
  - **Familiarity with disorder**
- **What factors might impact young people's stigmatization of peers with disorders?**

# A Collaboration with Harris Interactive

**Nationally representative sample of 1,318 children and adolescents aged 8-18 conducted in the summer of 2006.**



**Survey administered online by the polling firm Harris Interactive**

- **“opt in” panel**
- **Panel members provide demographic info on entry into panel. Using this information, a stratified random sample drawn based on youth age, gender, race, and ethnicity.**
- **Invited by email**
- **Respondents determined eligible continued**



# A Collaboration with Harris Interactive

**Data gathered in this manner is consistently comparable to data that has been obtained from random telephone samples when sampling is applied as described.**



- Barrens, Bohara, et al., 2003
- Bremer, Overmeyer, et al., 2000
- Berrens, Bohara, Jenkins-Smith et al., 2004
- Schonau, Sapert, et al., 2004

- **Research focuses on adults...**



## Respondents by Age and Sex

	Frequency	Percent
Valid		
Male 8-12	274	20.8
Male 13-17	343	26
Male 18-19	57	4.3
Female 8-12	309	23.4
Female 13-17	277	21
Female 18-19	58	4.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1318</b>	<b>100</b>

# Respondents' Racial Background

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	White	779	59.1
	Black	199	15.1
	Asian or Pacific Islander	49	3.7
	Native American or Alaskan native	5	0.4
	Mixed racial background	32	2.4
	Other race	20	1.5
	Hispanic	234	17.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1318</b>	<b>100</b>

# Survey versions



- **Three versions, focusing respectively on**
  - **Depression (433 respondents)**
  - **ADHD (449 respondents)**
  - **Asthma (control, 436 respondents)**

# About Michael...

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**First part of the survey asked about a fictional “Michael,” a school peer and has the condition and**

- **Sees a doctor for the condition**
- **Has been hospitalized several times because of the condition**
- **Spends part of the school day in special classes**

**Peers’ willingness to interact with Michael (social distance)**

**Possible causes of Michael’s condition**

**Likelihood Michael has certain attributes (more creative, gets into trouble more)**

**Treatability of Michael’s condition**

# Other questions

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**Knowledge about condition (checklist of possible symptoms)**

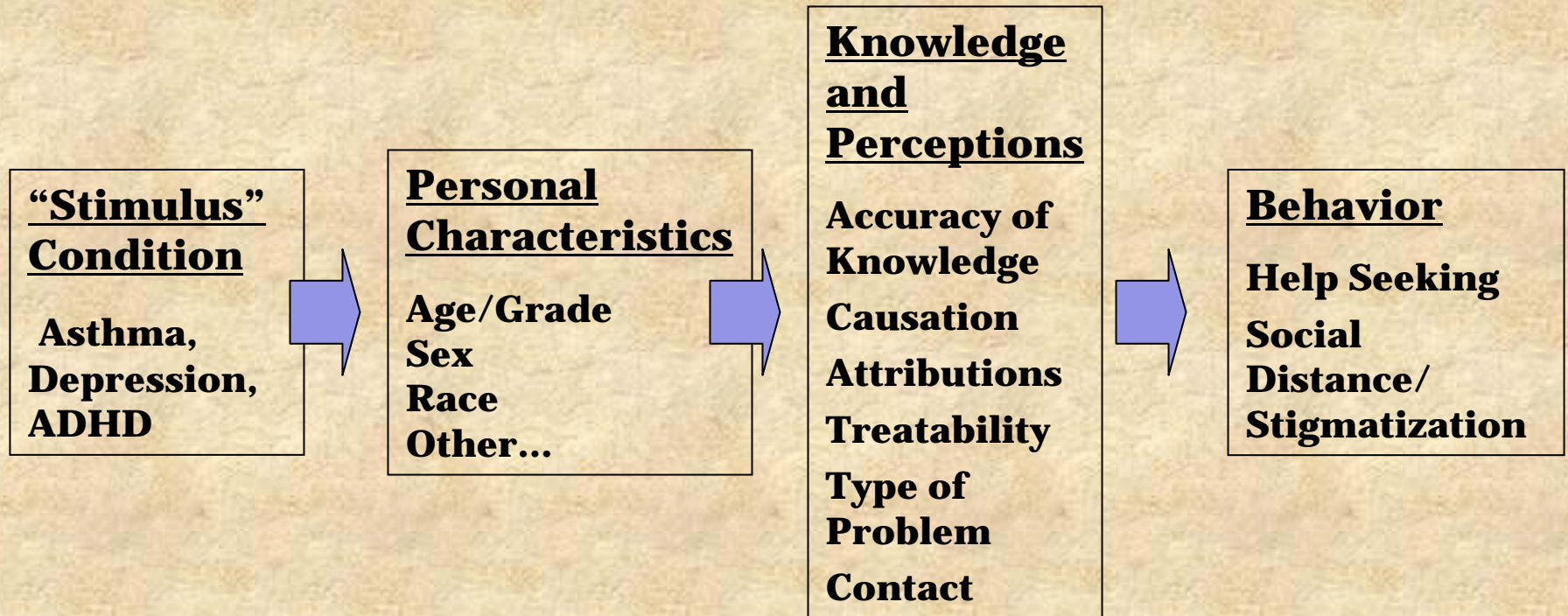
**Familiarity with condition (had they themselves— or family or friends— been diagnosed with condition)**

**Family stigmatization of condition**

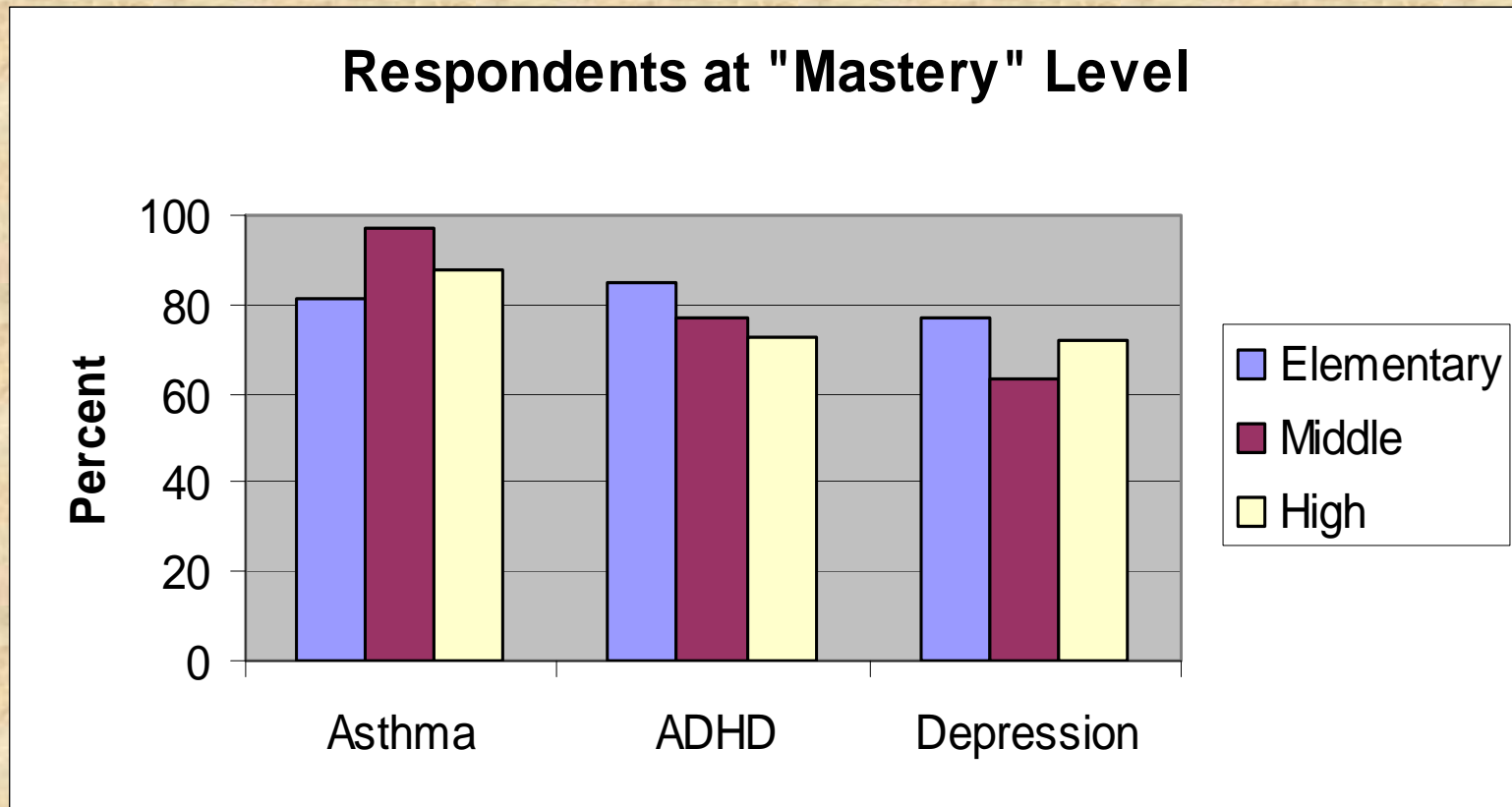
**Possible coping/help-seeking measures**

- Talk to parents, friends
- See a doctor, psychologist, take medication
- Look for information, change habits, pray, do nothing

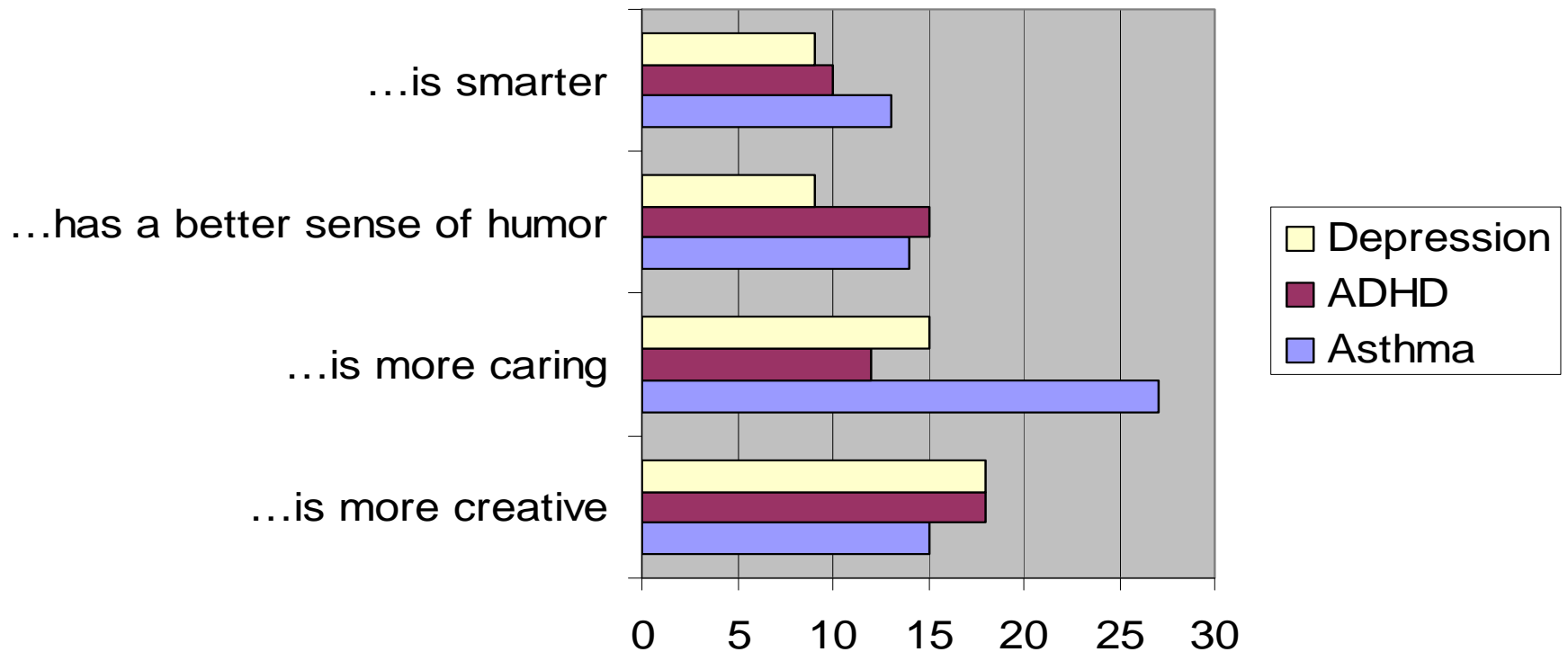
# Big picture...



# Knowledge...

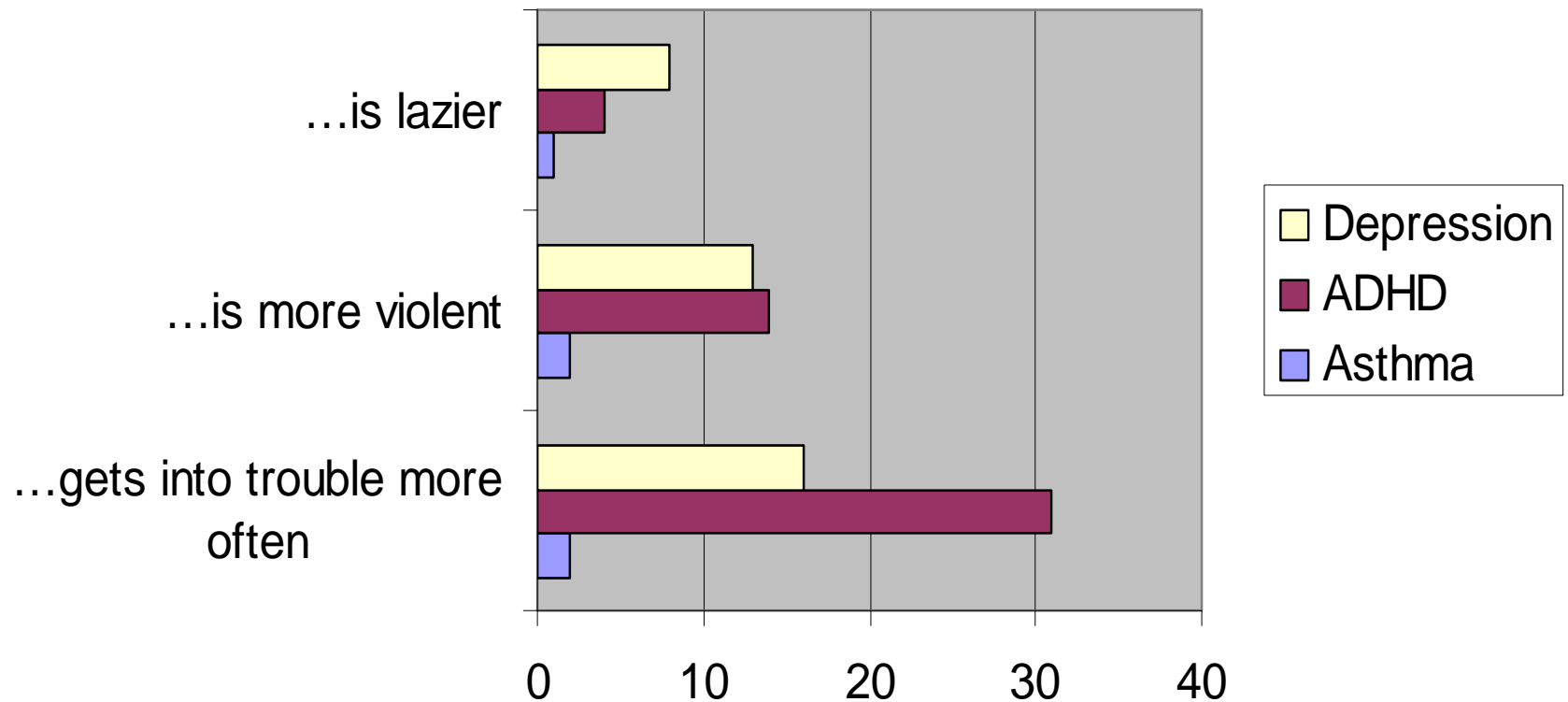


## Percent of respondents who think that, compared to average peer, Michael...



$\alpha = .77$  for 4-item scale of positive attributes

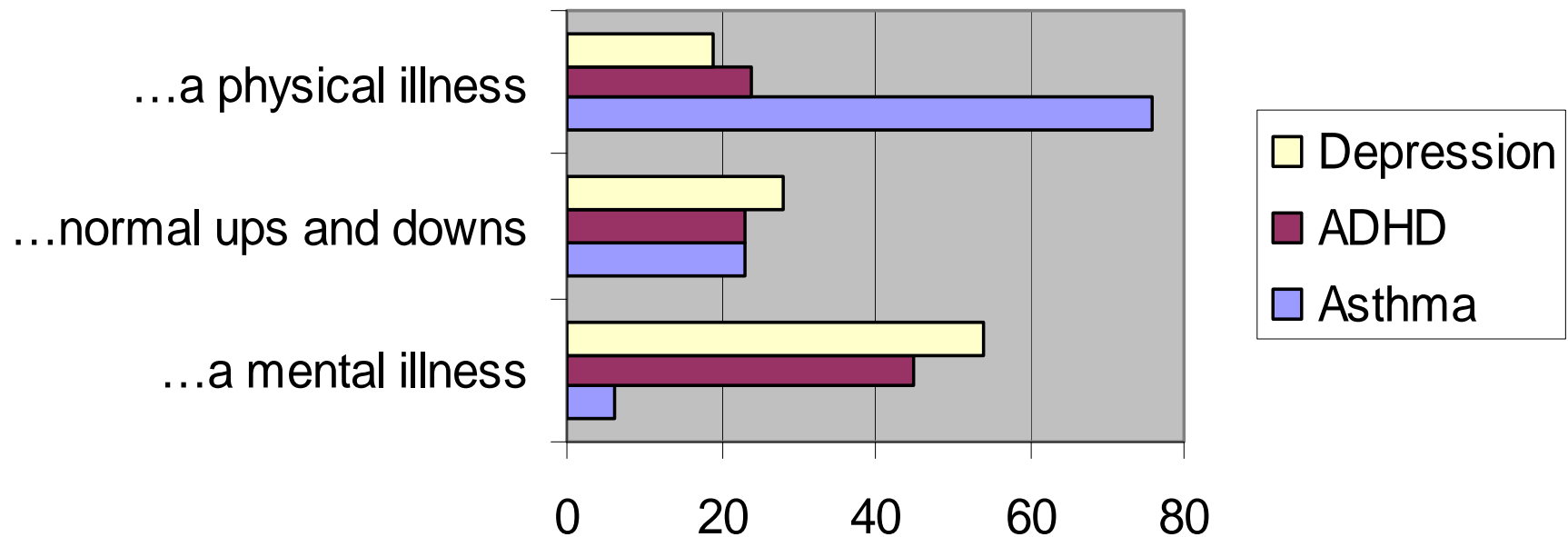
# Percent of respondents who think that, compared to average peer, Michael...



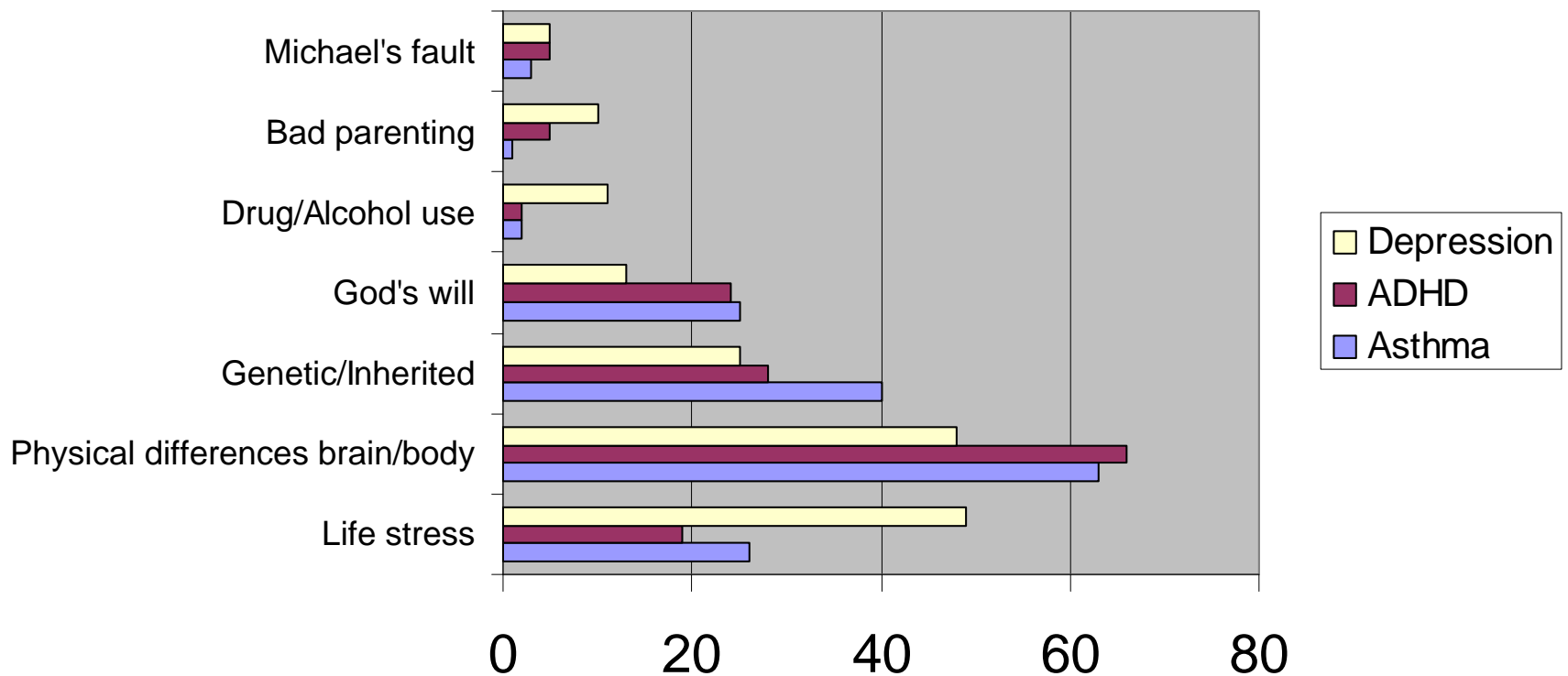
$\alpha = .86$  for 3-item scale of negative attributes

# Type of condition...

## Percent of respondents who think condition is...



## Percent of respondents endorsing possible causes for Michael's condition



One factor within causation: Parent's fault, Michael's fault, abuse drugs;  $\alpha = .75$

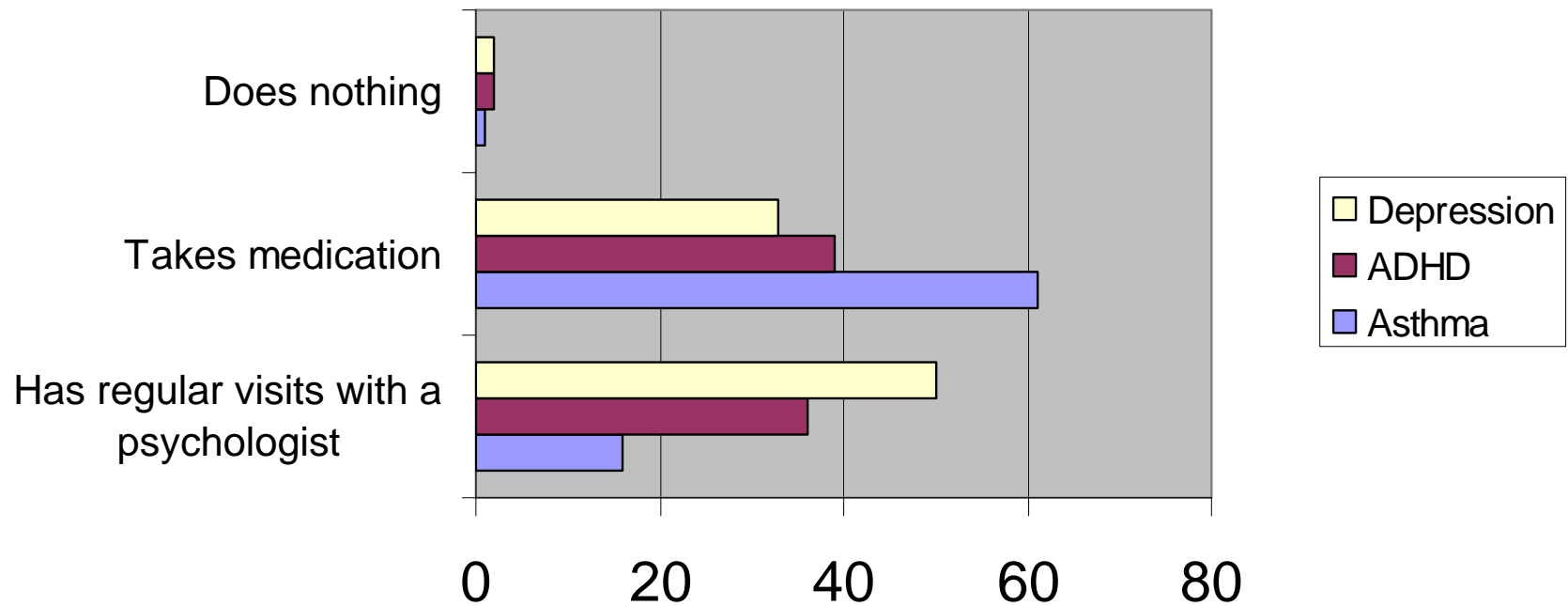
Logistic regression: Odds of endorsing various possible causes...

	Depression*	ADHD*	African Amer.**	Hispanic**	Grade	Female***	Interaction(s)
Parents' fault	10	3		1.4			Dep. x Hisp 2.8
Physical (brain/body)							
Genetic/Inherited	.4	.4			.95/year		
Use Drugs, Alcohol	7				1.2/year		Dep x Fem x Grade .5
Not trying to get better	4.7	2.4					Dep. x Hisp 2.6 ADHDxHisp 2.3
Life Stress	2.6			1.5	.94		Dep x grade 1.1
God's Will	.3	.9	2	1.4			

•Asthma as reference; \*\*White as reference; \*\*\*Male as reference



## Percentage of respondents who think it's very or extremely likely Michael will improve if he...



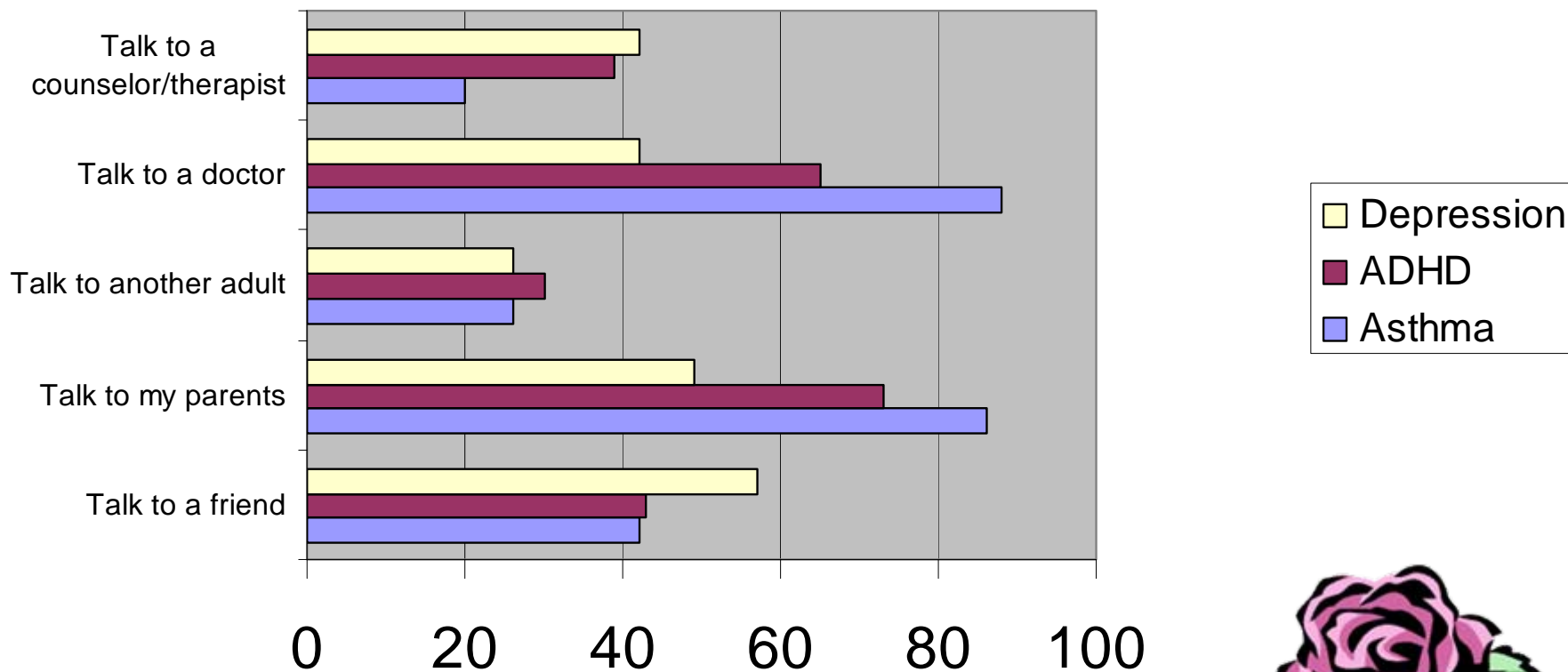
# Logistic regression: Michael is likely to improve if he...

	Depression*	ADHD*	African Amer.**	Hispanic**	Grade	Female** *	Interaction(s)
Does Nothing		1.8					
Sees a psychologist	11.2	4.5	1.5				
Takes Medication	.27	.13	.23		.82		Dep x AfAm 2.8 ADHDx AfAm 31.5 ADHD x Grade 1.1 AfAm x Grade 1.2 ADHD x AfAm x Grade .7

•Asthma as reference; \*\*White as reference; \*\*\*Male as reference

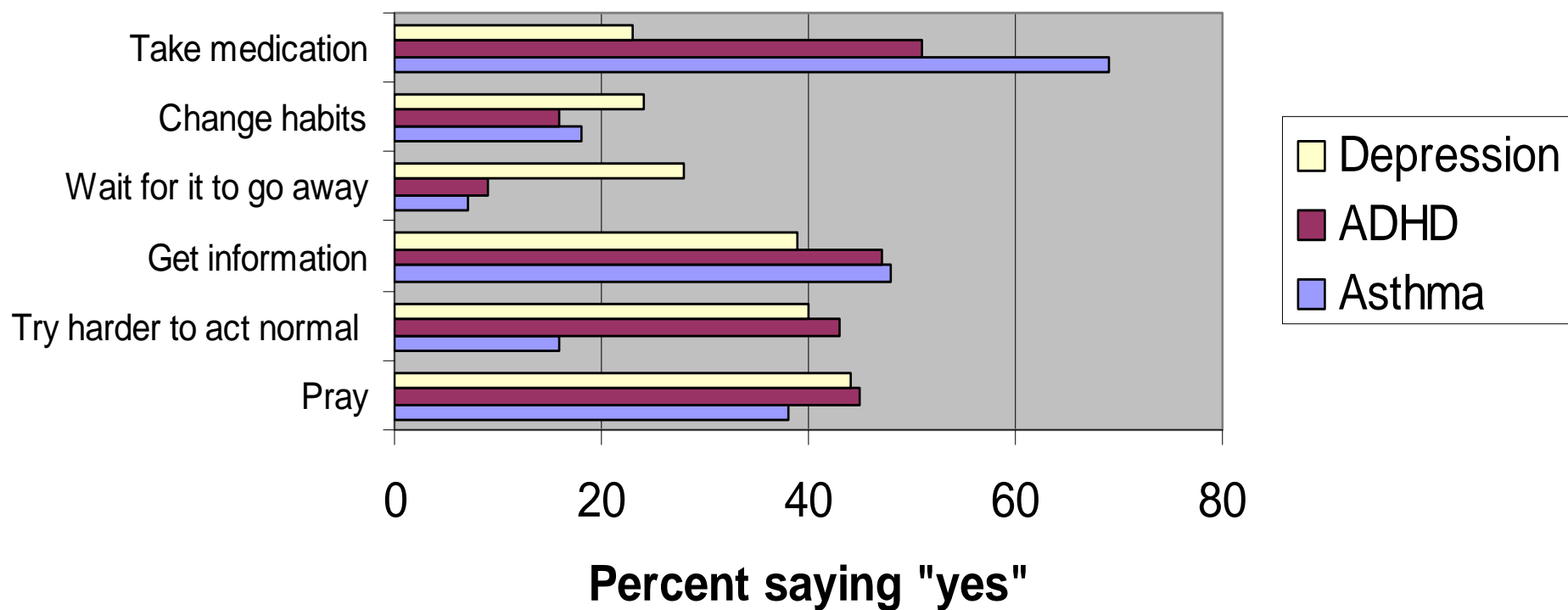
# Help seeking ...

## If you thought you had... would you...



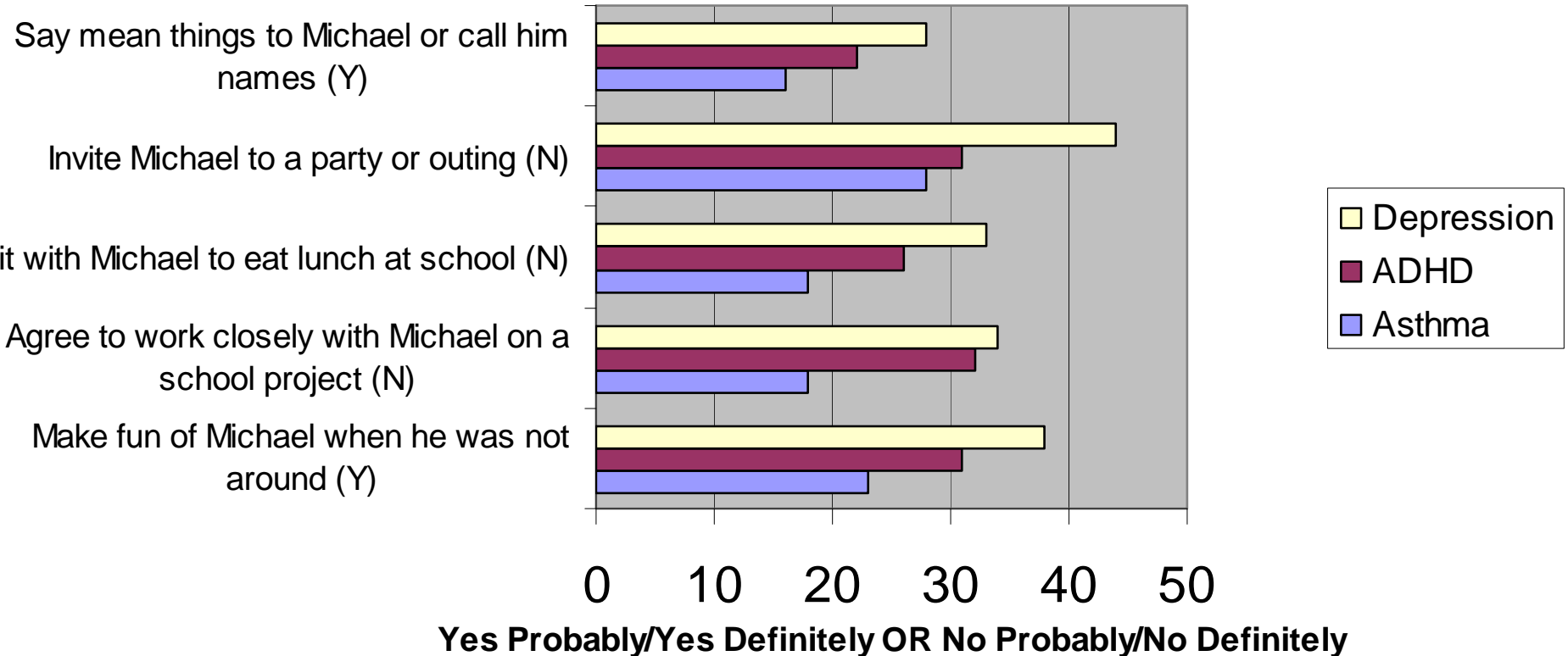
# Help seeking (continued) ...

## If you thought you had... would you...



# Social Distance...

## Percentage of respondents who think peers would...



$\alpha = .74$  for sum of social distance items

Means for ADHD and Depression > Asthma



# Next steps...

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- Select some harder knowledge questions and look at those developmentally; look at knowledge by sex and race/ethnicity
- Look at questions on perceptions of family stigmatization; contact with people who have conditions
- Examine models for stigmatization/social distance and help-seeking
- Examine differences between respondents who are diagnosed with a condition/think they have a condition and those who do not
- Adult data– do some parallel analyses and compare with child/adolescent findings



Portland, Oregon

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Center for Mental Health Services,  
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National Institute on Disability  
and Rehabilitation Research,  
U.S. Department of Education