

# A National-Based Analysis of Alcohol Prevention in Swedish Primary Health Care (PHC) and Occupational Health Services (OHS)



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# Background



- Increased alcohol consumption in Sweden
- Need for secondary preventive measures following EU membership
- National alcohol action plan 2001
- The Swedish "risk drinking" project 2004
  - The Swedish National Institute of Public Health
- Government funding

# Methods



- A questionnaire to all Swedish PHC and OHS physicians and nurses between October 2005 and February 2006

1790 PHC physicians

309 OHS physicians

2549 PHC nurses

757 OHS nurses

The response rate ranged from 47% to 69%

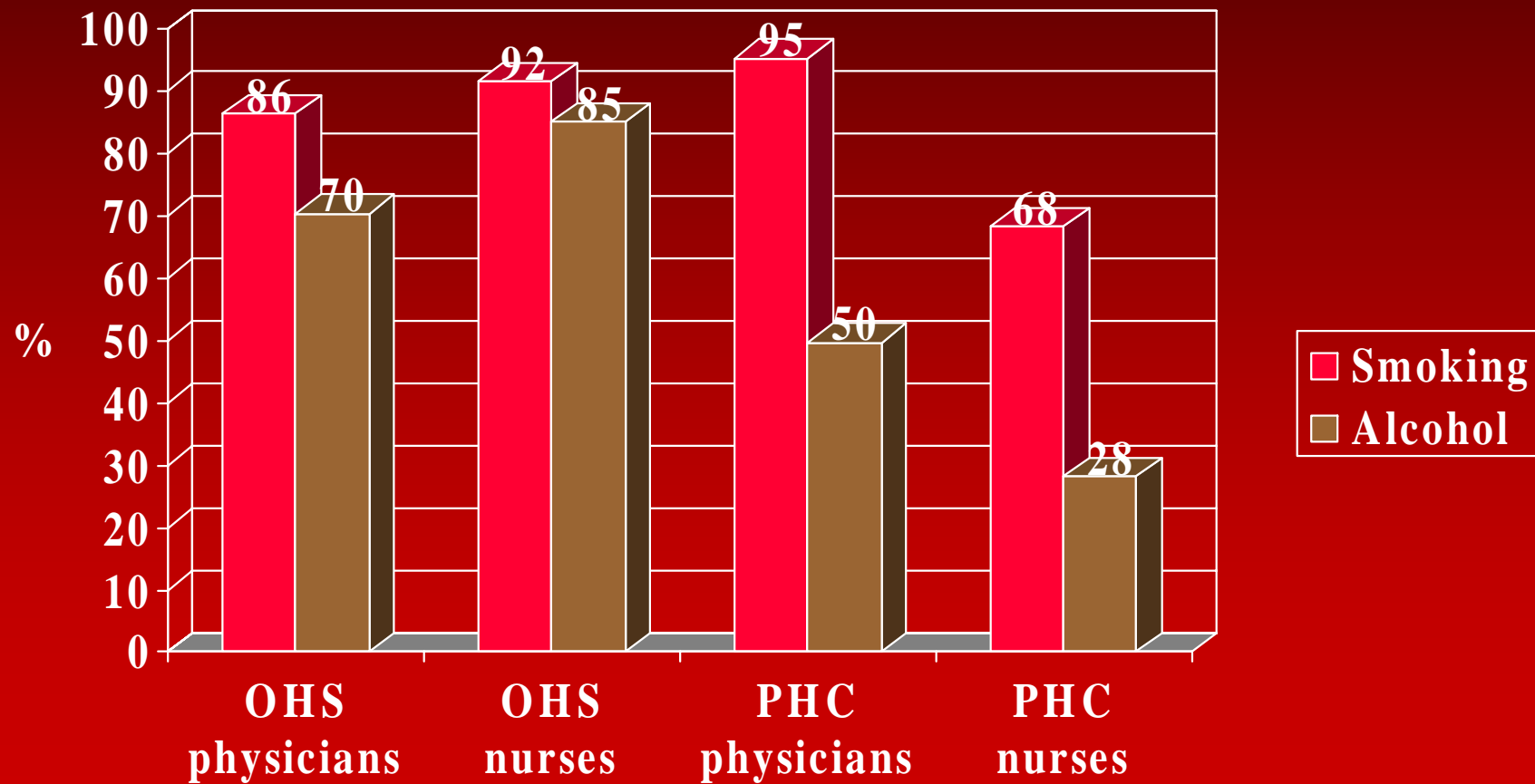
# Aims

- To investigate PHC and OHS physicians and nurses in terms of:
  - Activity in asking patients about their drinking
  - Knowledge, skills and attitudes with regard to identifying and offering advice to patients with risk consumption
  - Amount of education in handling risky drinking
  - Reasons for addressing alcohol issues
  - Factors that could facilitate increased alcohol intervention activity


# Attitudes

- Estimated importance of identifying and offering advice to patients with risk consumption
  - Very important or important
    - OHS physicians: 98 %
    - OHS nurses: 100 %
    - PHC physicians: 97 %
    - PHC nurses: 97 %


# *Always* or *often* addressed issues of smoking and alcohol with their patients



# Reasons for addressing alcohol issues in PHC

- 
- Part of my routines
    - Physicians 46% (F 70%, I 23%)
    - Nurses 36% (F 74%, I 21%)
  - Patients has alcohol-related symptoms
    - Physicians 35% (F 20%, I 50%)
    - Nurses 41% (F 13%, I 53%)

# Reasons for addressing alcohol issues in OHS



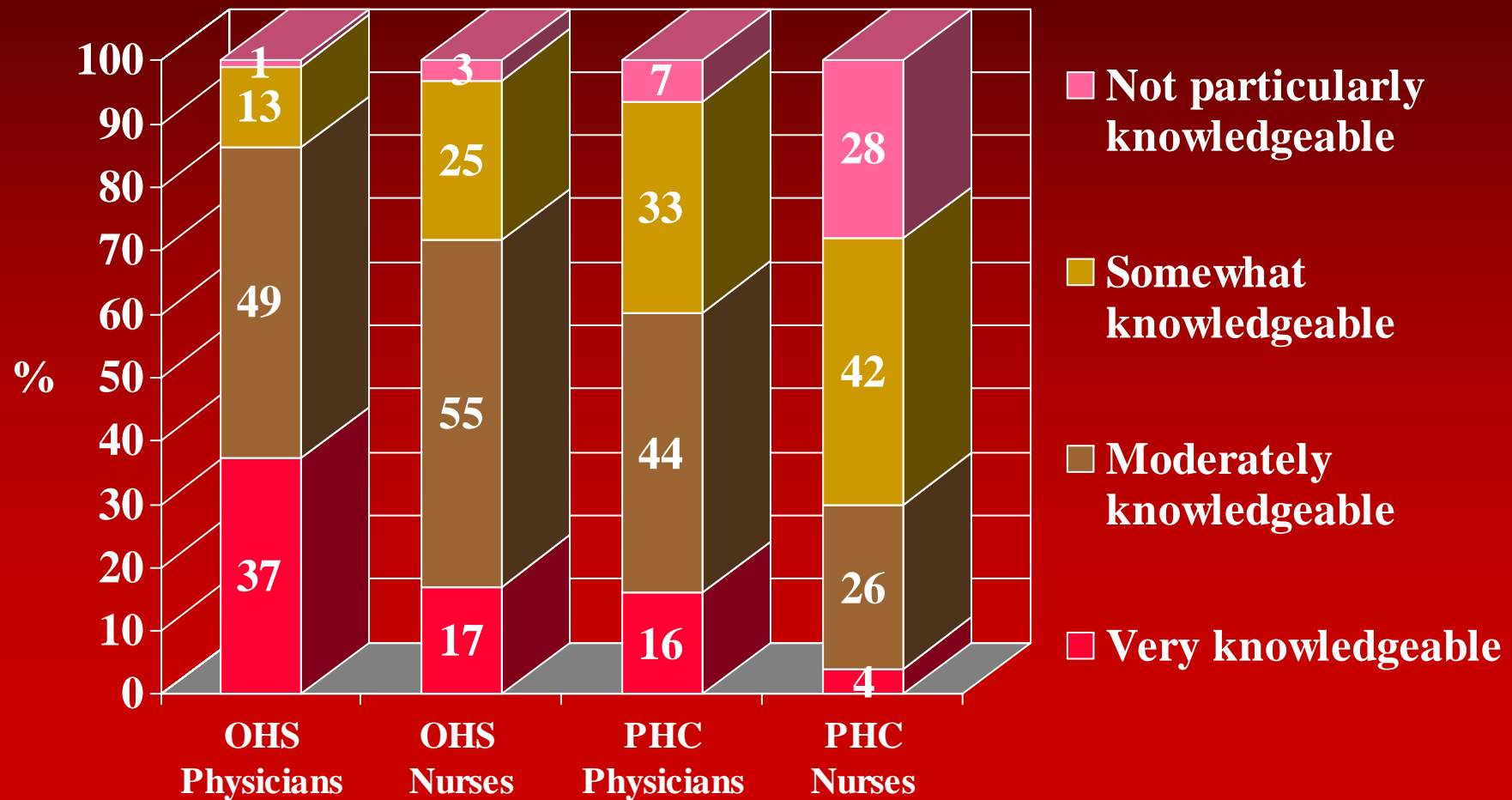
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	Physicians	Nurses
	%	%
Part of the mission	8	18
Client's or employer's suspicion of alcohol problems	22	14
On the basis of laboratory answer report	17	11
On the basis of questionnaire responses	8	73
Patient's own request	4	4
Clinical relevance	57	14

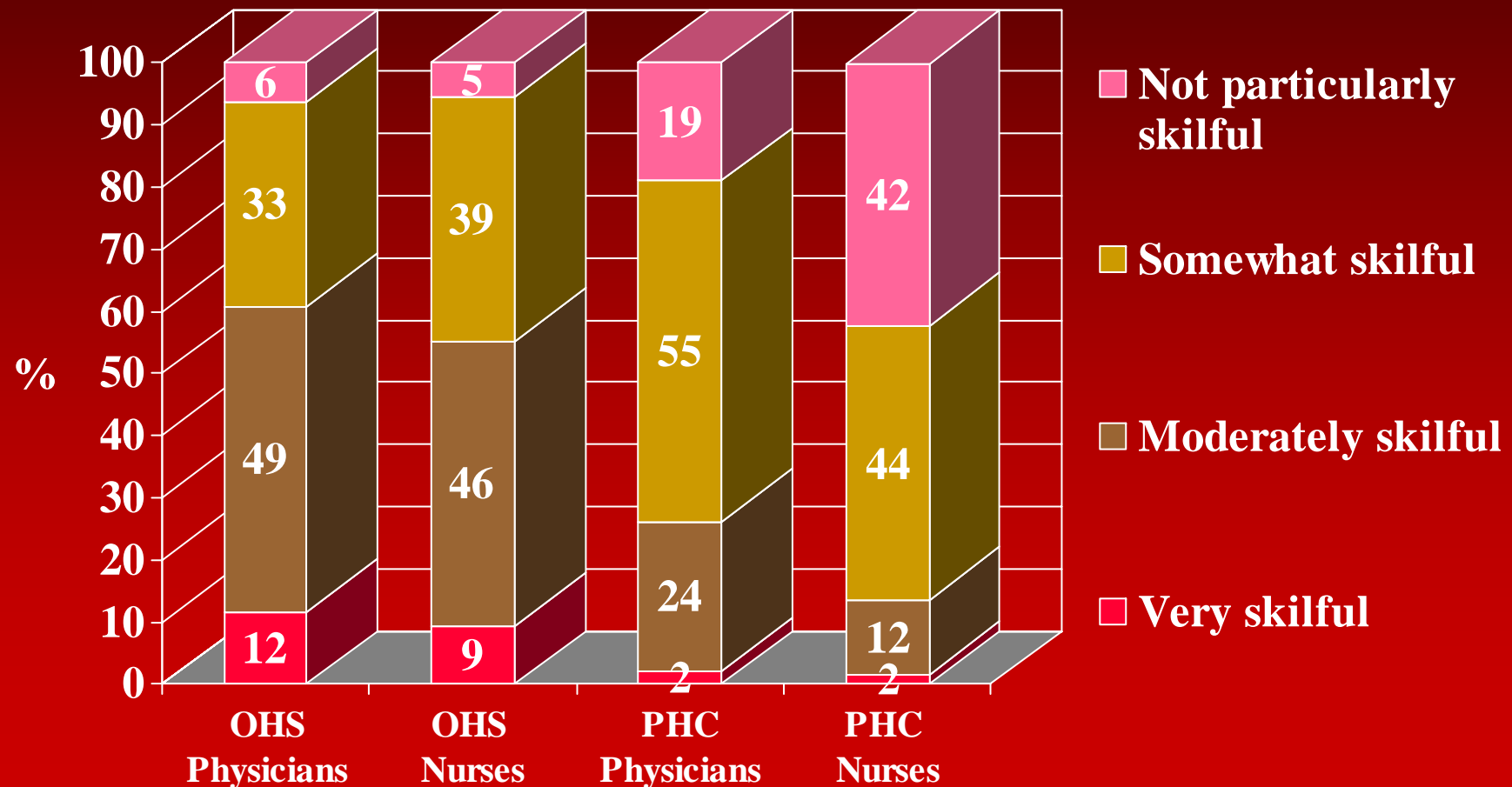
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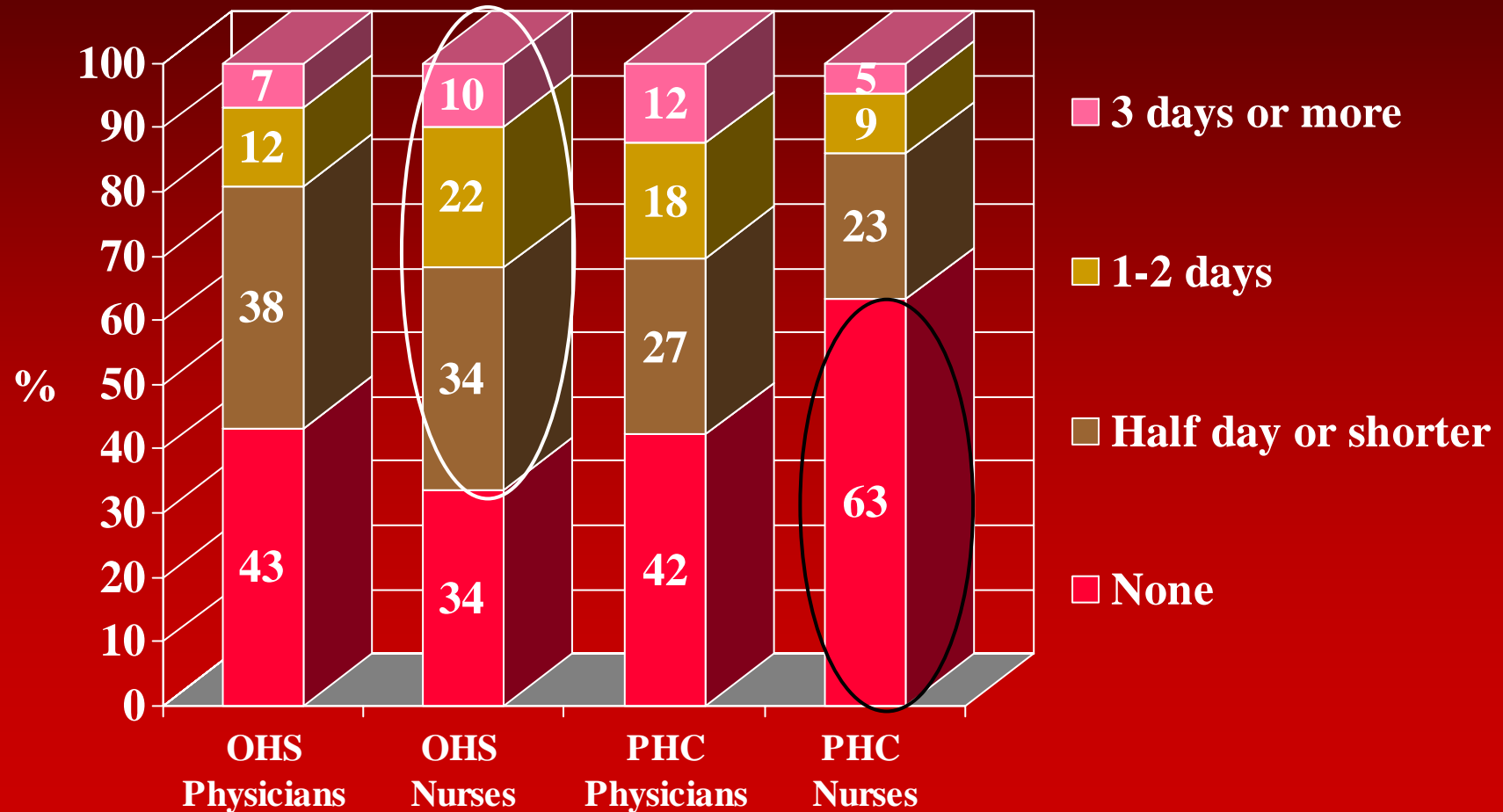
# Knowledge concerning providing advice




# Competence in achieving change in patients' alcohol habits




# Education in handling risky drinking



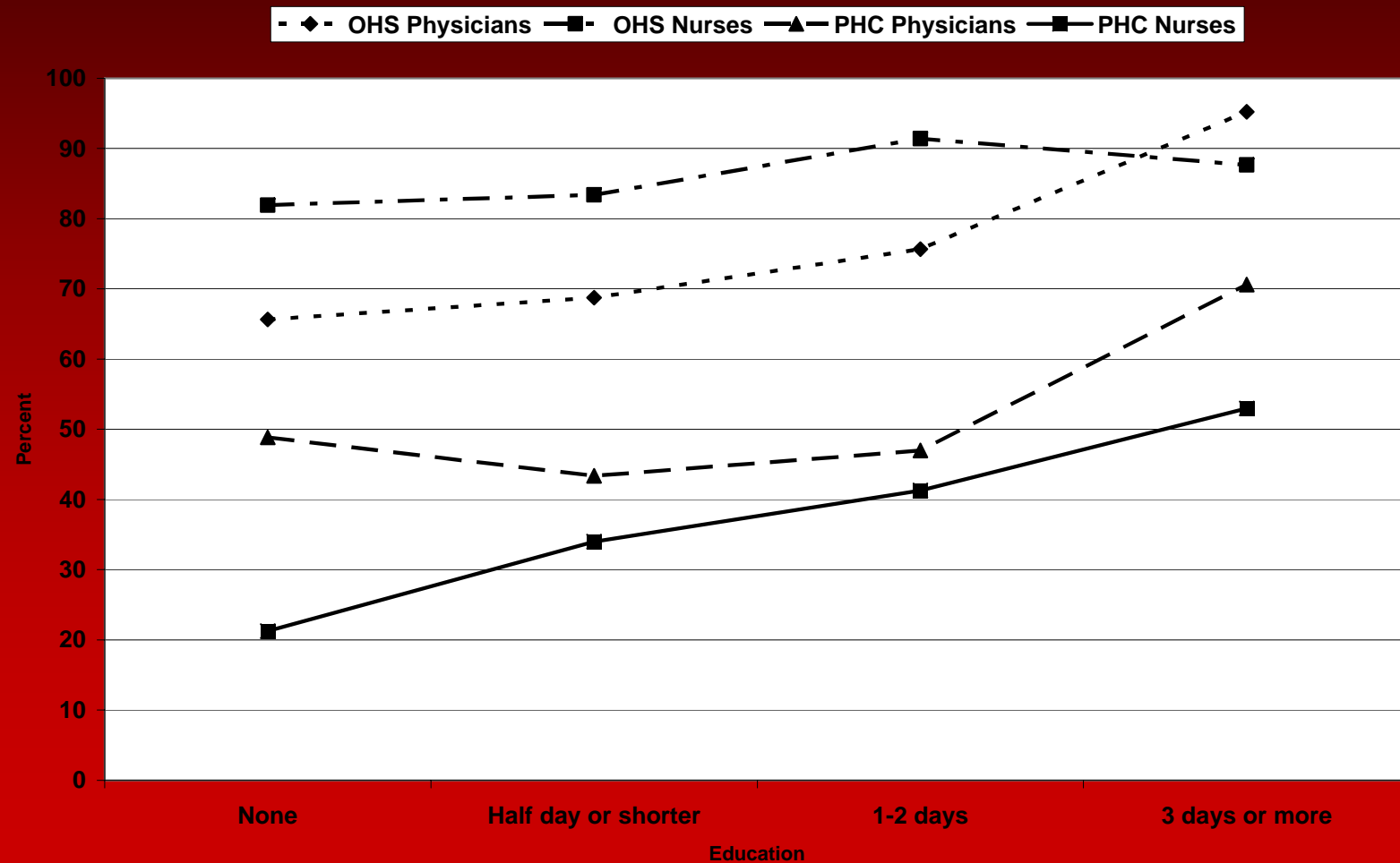
# Factors that could facilitate increased alcohol intervention activity in PHC

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- More knowledge about conversational techniques for use when alcohol-related symptoms are evident
    - Physicians 77%, Nurses 91%
  - Improved opportunities for remittal to specialists
    - Physicians 77%, Nurses 84%
  - Improved professional team work regarding patients with risk consumption
    - Physicians 73%, Nurses 87%

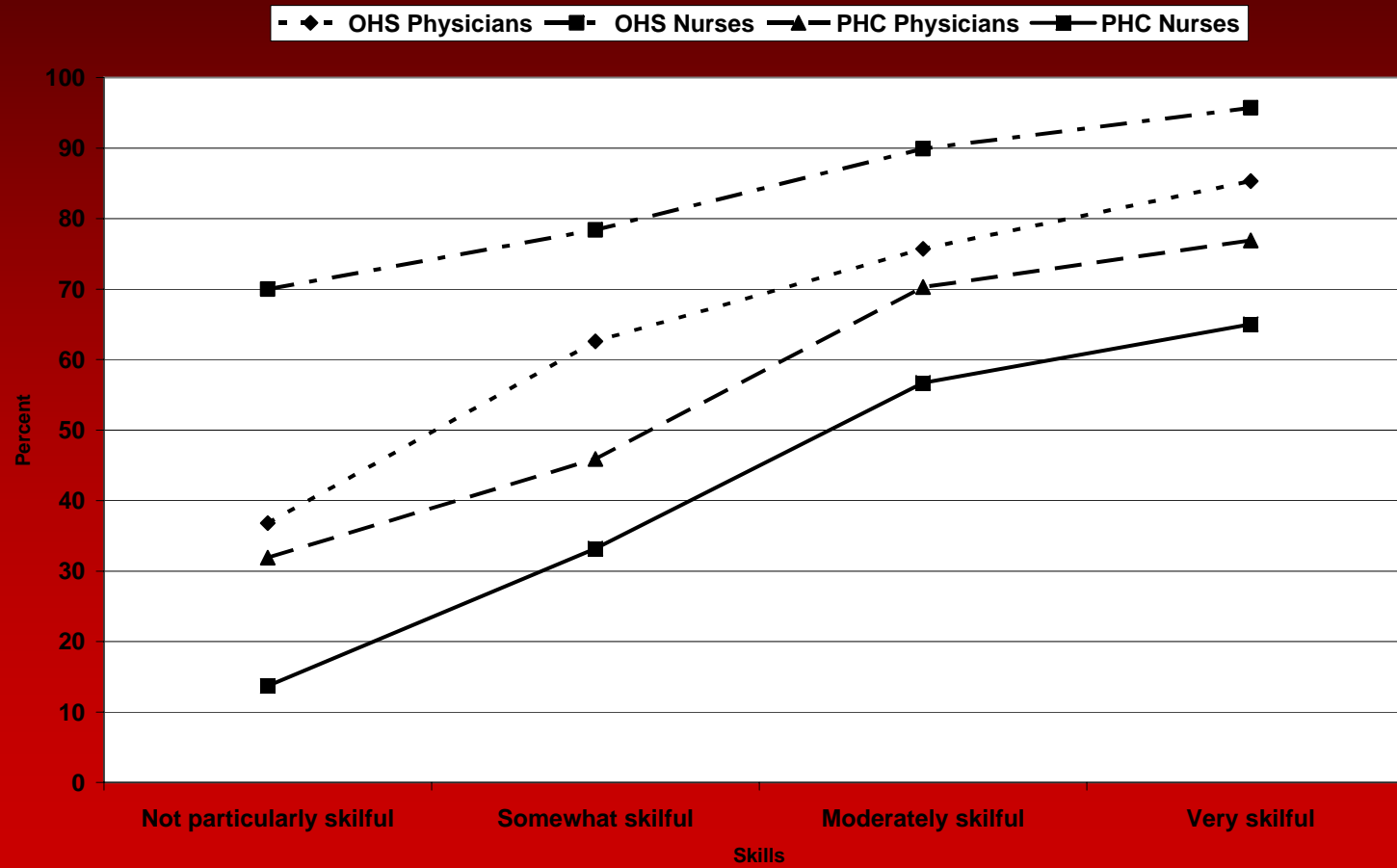
# Factors that could facilitate increased alcohol intervention activity in OHS

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- More knowledge about conversational techniques for use when alcohol-related symptoms are evident
    - Physicians 72%, Nurses 90%
  - Provision of more screening and advice to patients with risk consumption
    - Physicians 71%, Nurses 79%
  - Provision of increased offering of alcohol screening and advice as part of our service
    - Physicians 66%, Nurses 75%

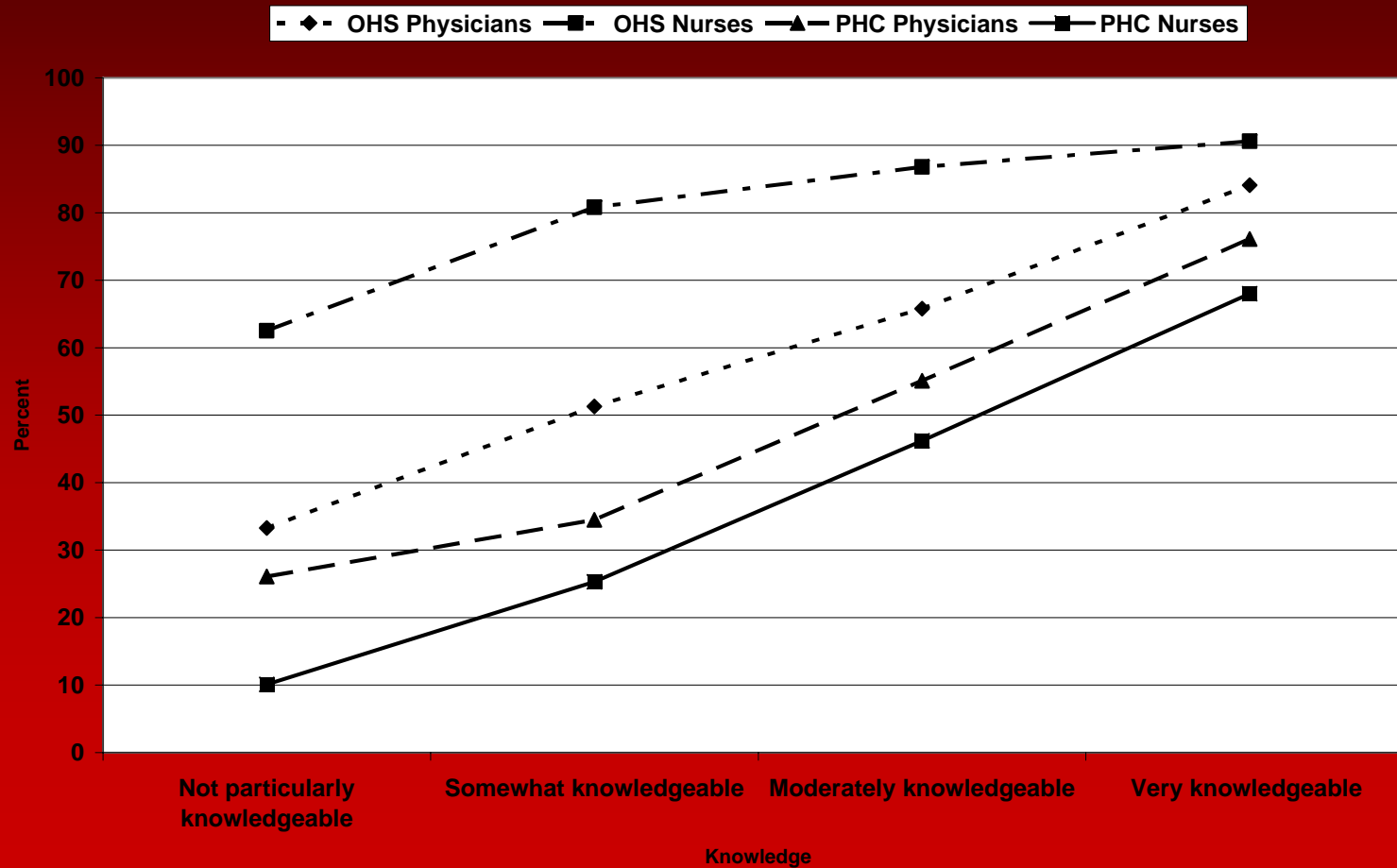
# Activity and education



# Activity and skills



# Activity and knowledge





# PHC vs. OHS - some reflections

- PHC

- + Many visits (1.3 per head)
- + High availability (in the community)
- + High credibility
- Aging population
- Increasing focus on chronic health conditions

- OHS

- + Reaches the population which consumes most alcohol
- + 72% has access: 33% visited during the last year
- + Economic incentives for detection of alcohol problems
- Restricted availability

# End of presentation

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