

Sepsis Knowledge Amongst Black Parents in the United States

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Introduction

Sepsis is a leading cause of death worldwide. It is the body's overwhelming response to an infection, leading to widespread systemic inflammation

Nearly 7,000 children in the United States die from sepsis each year

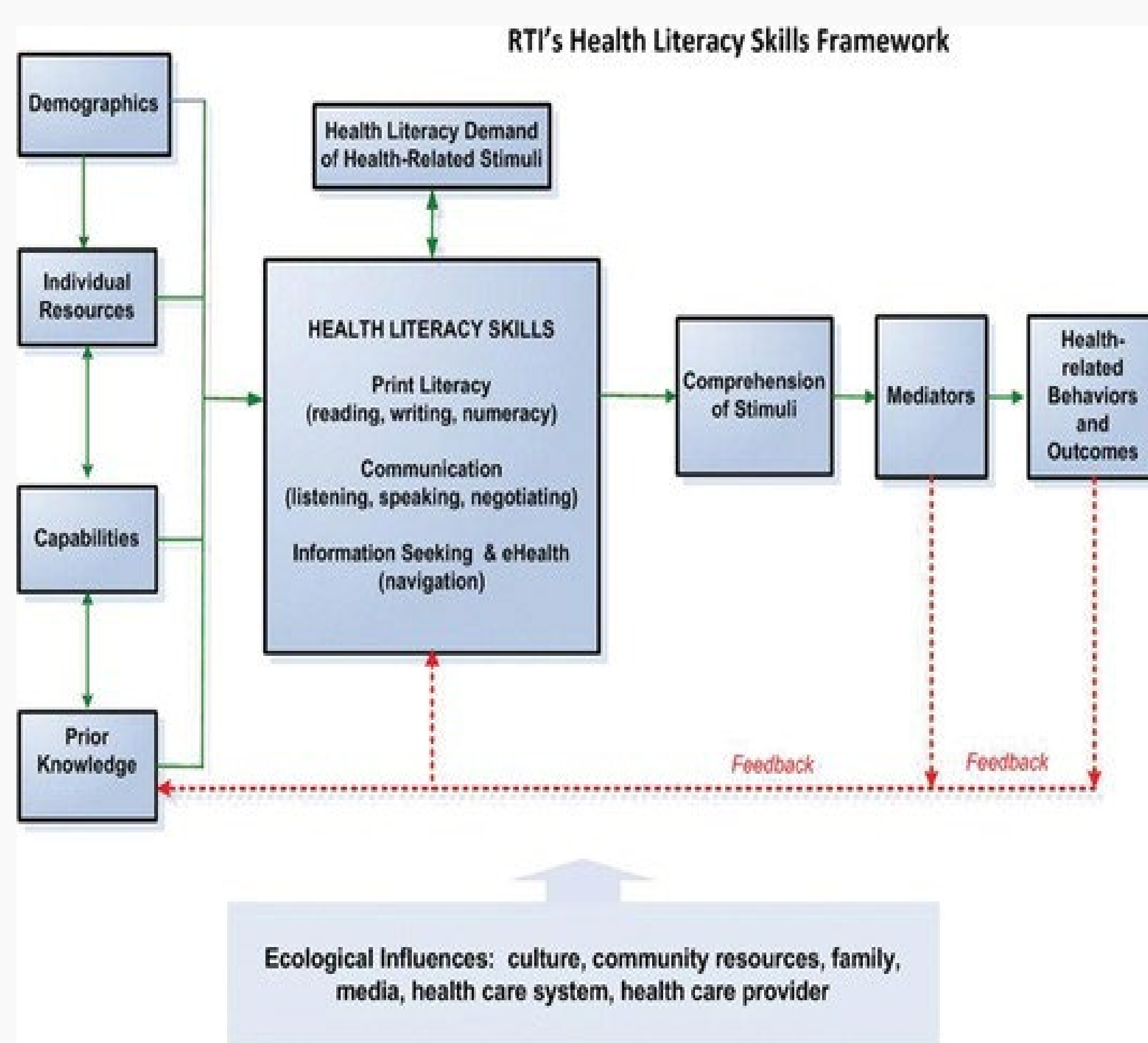
Black children are more than three times more likely to die from the condition than White children. The reason for this disparity is largely unknown

Every hour without treatment significantly impacts the health outcome. Therefore, early identification of sepsis is key

We hypothesize that lower socioeconomic (SES) is associated with lower sepsis knowledge in the Black community.

Theoretical Framework

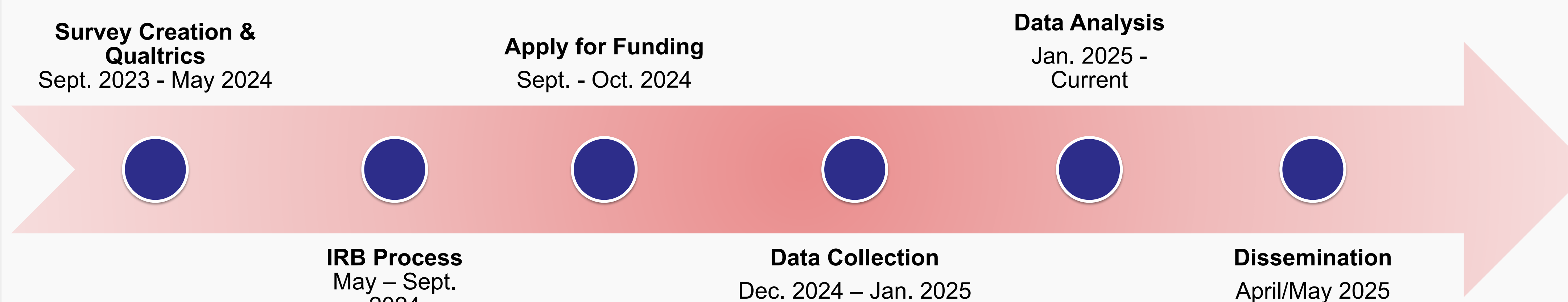
Health Literacy Skills Framework (Squiers et al., 2012)



Methods

A prospective online survey of 500 Black parents in the United States.

We modified the 17-item Australian Royal Children's Hospital Health Poll – Sepsis Questionnaire (Long et al., 2018) and distributed via Qualtrics to assess sepsis knowledge



Results

Table 1. Have you ever heard of sepsis? N(%)			
	Yes	No	p-value*
N=500	305 (61%)	195 (39%)	
Age (y)			0.88
18-24	28 (9.2)	18 (9.2)	
25-34	90 (29.6)	57 (29.1)	
35-44	123 (40.5)	84 (42.9)	
45-54	49 (16.1)	29 (14.8)	
55-64	11 (3.6)	6 (3.1)	
65+	3 (1.0)	2 (1.0)	
Gender			<0.001
Male	120 (39.5)	113 (57.7)	
Hispanic	35 (11.5)	10 (5.1)	0.02
Education level			0.001
Some HS or less	5 (1.6)	4 (2.0)	
HS Diploma/GED	67 (22.0)	84 (42.9)	
Some college	52 (17.1)	38 (19.4)	
Assoc./Tech. degree	51 (16.8)	23 (11.7)	
Bachelor's degree	90 (29.6)	33 (16.8)	
Graduate degree	39 (12.8)	13 (6.6)	
Prefer not to say	-	1 (0.5)	
Employment			0.001
Employed Full-Time	229 (75.3)	116 (59.2)	
Employed Part-Time	24 (7.9)	28 (14.3)	
Unemployed	15 (4.9)	24 (12.2)	
Homemaker	23 (7.6)	16 (8.2)	
Student	5 (1.6)	5 (2.6)	
Retired	7 (2.3)	4 (2.0)	
Other	1 (0.3)	3 (1.5)	
Annual Income			0.001
<\$25k	31 (10.2)	44 (22.4)	
\$25,000-49,000	54 (17.8)	47 (24.0)	
\$50,000-74,999	71 (23.4)	33 (16.8)	
\$75,000-99,999	45 (14.8)	26 (13.3)	
\$100,000-149,999	58 (19.1)	29 (14.8)	
≥\$150k	43 (14.1)	14 (7.1)	
Prefer not to say	2 (0.7)	3 (1.5)	

*Wilcoxon rank-sum test

Results

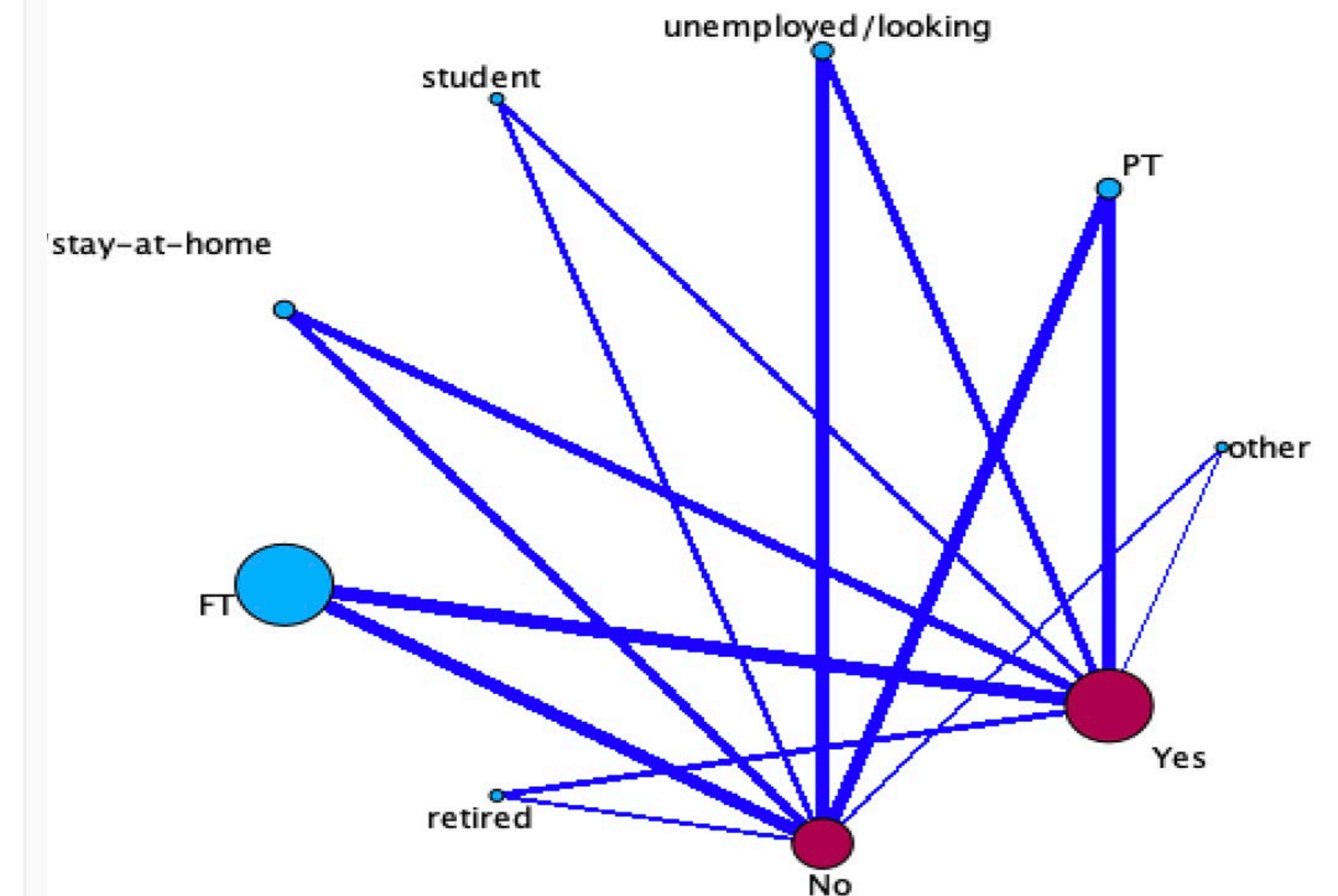


Figure 3. Relationship of Employment and Sepsis Knowledge

Income ($r = 0.18$, $p < 0.001$) and education level ($r = 0.24$, $p < 0.001$) were associated with sepsis knowledge

Employment status and sepsis knowledge were also associated ($X^2 = 20.1$, $df=6$, $p = 0.003$), with Full-time employees being more likely to report sepsis knowledge (ASR = 3.8, $p < 0.01$)

Discussion

Over a third of Black parents never heard of sepsis (39%)

Income, education level, and employment status were associated with sepsis knowledge

Tailored health literacy programs targeting Black parents with lower income, educational attainment, and less than full-time employment may aid in early recognition and improve sepsis outcomes

Acknowledgments

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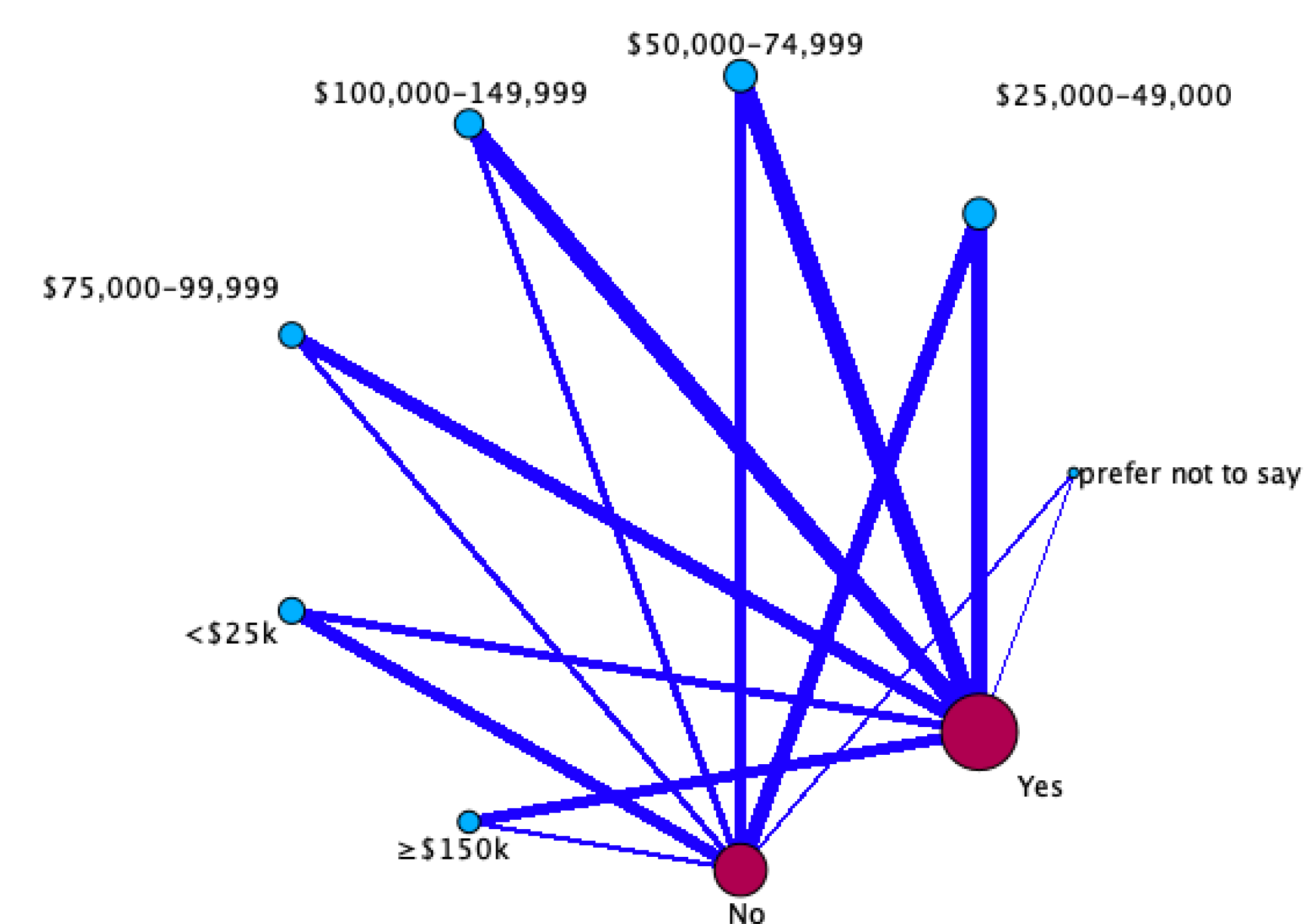


Figure 1. Relationship of Income and Sepsis Knowledge

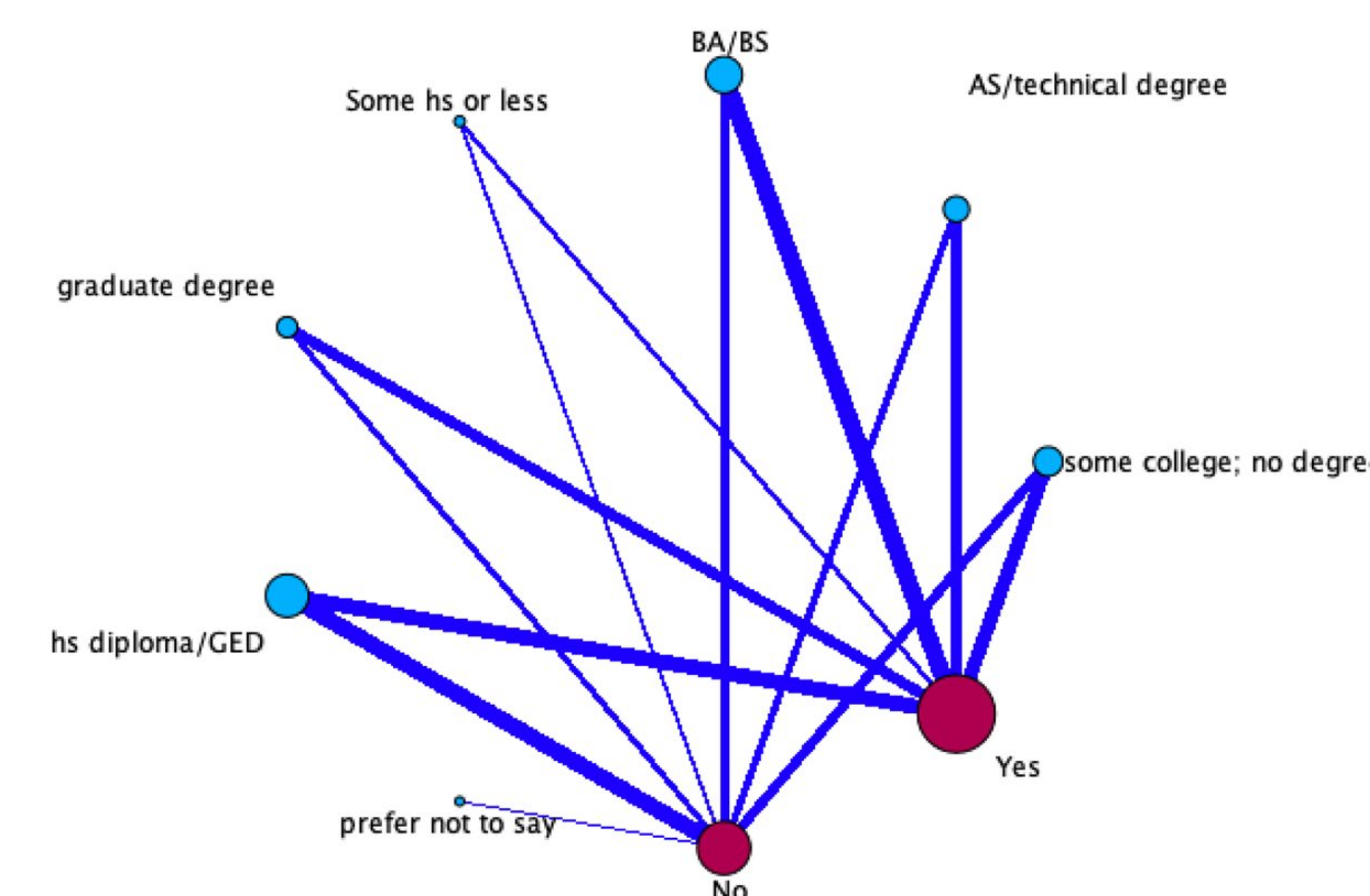


Figure 2. Relationship of Education Level and Sepsis Knowledge