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*The Effects of Restorative Justice on Offender  
Mortality, Health, and Welfare:  
A Ten Year Follow-up*

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Public Health and Law

# Re-integrative Shaming Experiments (RISE) 1995- 2000

- Four experiments in RISE, two with personal victims
  - Drink driving (over .08 Blood Alcohol Content) offenders any age (“PCA”)
  - Juvenile property offending with personal victims (offenders under 18 years) (“JPP”)
  - Juvenile shoplifting offences detected by shop security staff (offenders under 18 years) (“JPS”)
  - Youth violent offences (offenders under 30 years) (“JVC”)

# Research Questions

- What is the impact of RJ vs. Court on offender mortality?
  - Data Sources:
    - Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Department of Attorney General and Justice)
    - New South Wales & Australian Capital Territories
    - Assumed that all deaths were reported
  - What is the impact on offender health and welfare?
    - Offender Interviews
      - All available in the JPP, JVC, JPS
      - Random sampling in the drink driving (PCA) experiment
    - Physical Health Outcomes
    - Mental Health Outcomes

# Instrument

- Medical Outcomes Study (1989)
  - 2 year RAND
  - Designed to determine variations in patient outcome
  - Patients: 22,000 (Chronic Disease: Hypertension, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease, Depression)
  - Widely used (Short Form-36, Short-Form-12)
- General Health
- Role functioning
- Feelings of Belonging
- Anxiety
- Psychological Distress
- Depression/Behavioral Emotional Control

# Definitions

- ***General Health***: Ratings of current health, future health, and resistance to illness
- ***Role Functions***:
  - ***(In)Ability to work***: Unable to work due to health (dichotomous measure)
  - ***(In)Ability to do housework***: Unable to do housework due to health (dichotomous measure)

## In the past month...

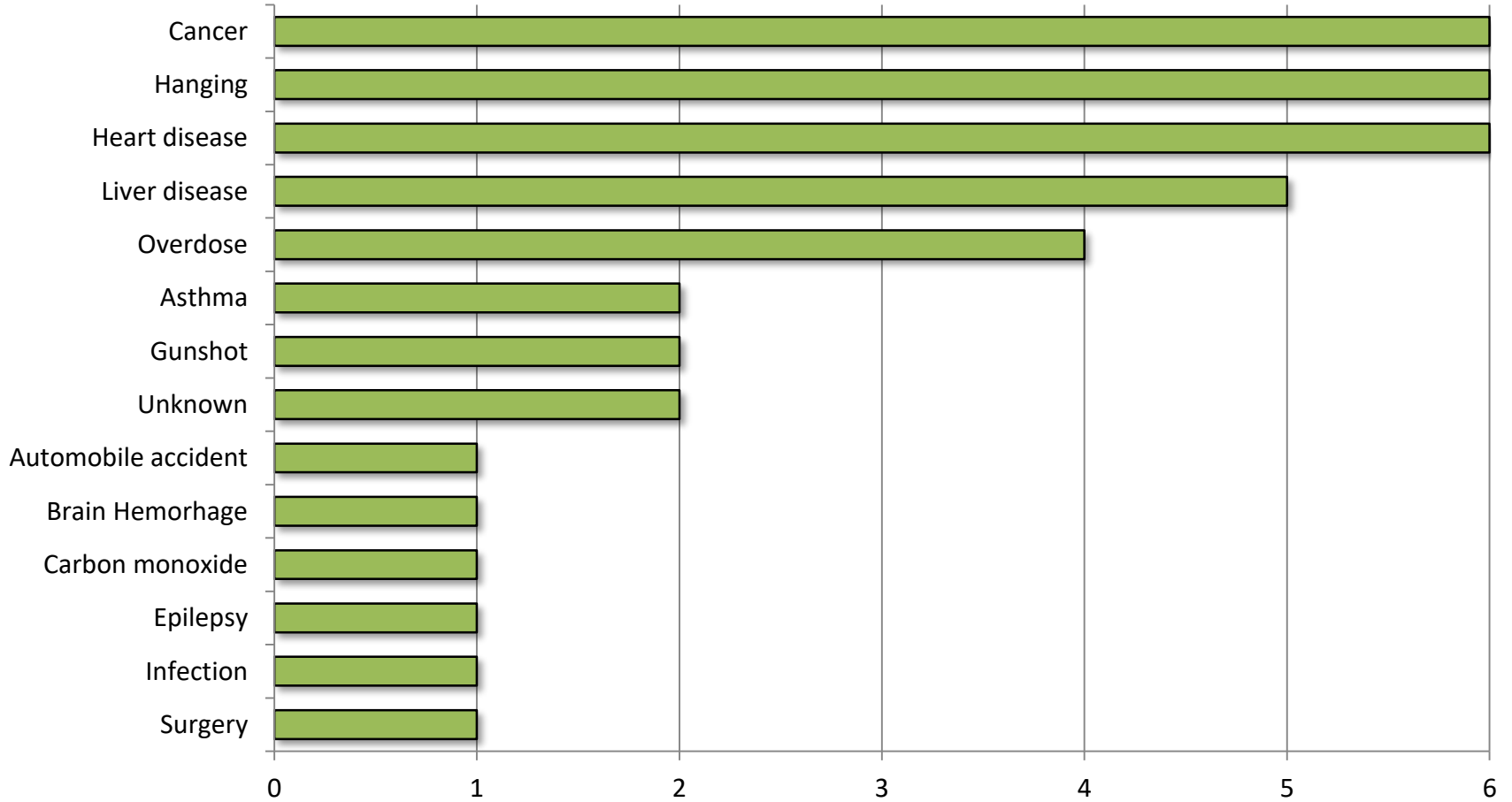
- ***Feelings of belonging***: Love relationships full, felt loved, felt close to people
- ***Anxiety***: Nervous, tense, restless
- ***Psychological Distress***: Very nervous, tense, anxious or worried, restless, fidgety, low spirits, downhearted
- ***Depression/Behavioral Emotional Control***: Low spirits, downhearted, depressed, not in firm control of behavior, not emotionally stable

# Results

All results ‘intention-to-treat’

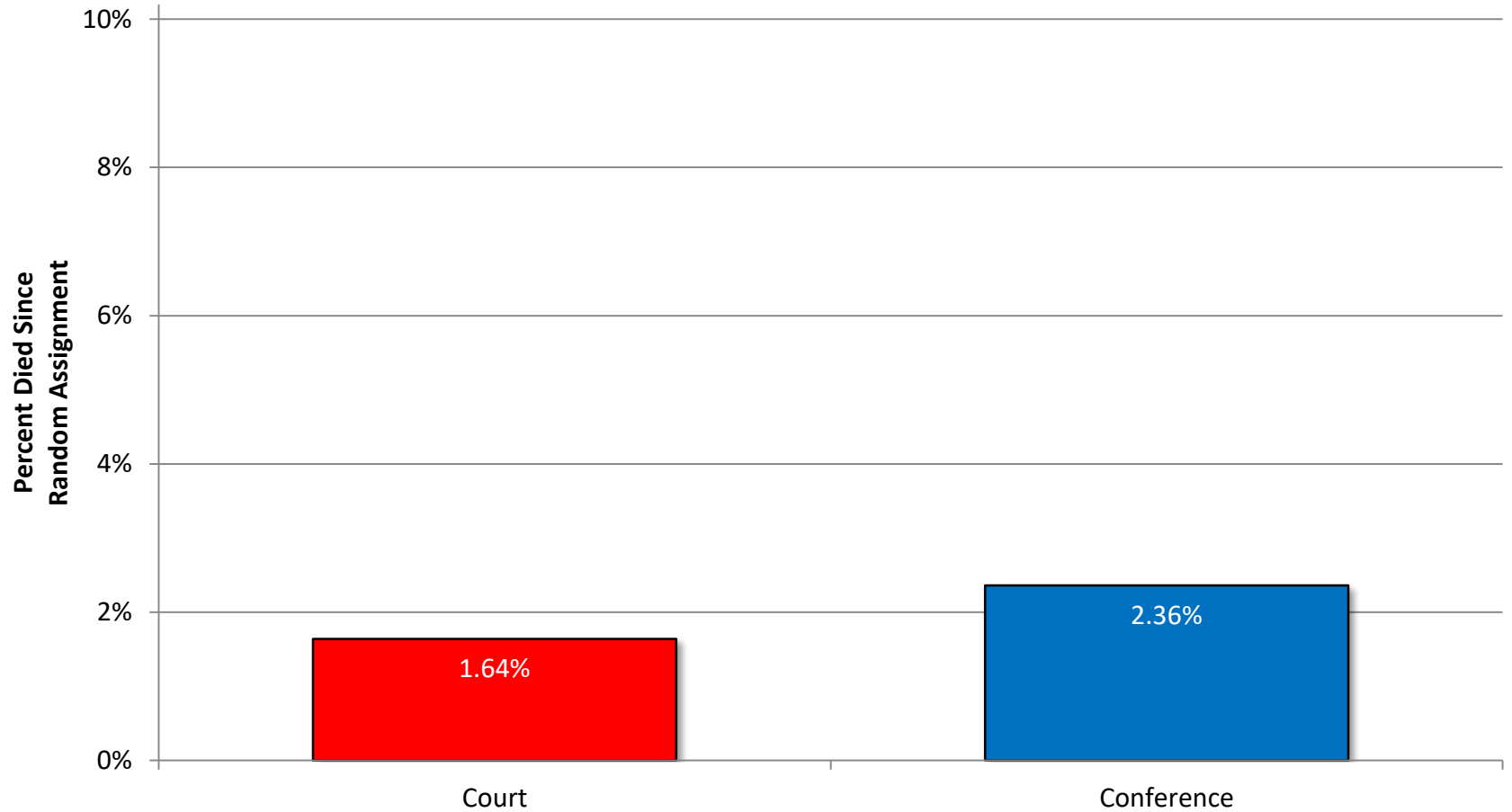
- Analyzed as randomized
  - Respondents are analyzed as part of the treatment arm assigned, regardless of treatment delivery
  - Preserves all the benefits of randomization
- Caveat:
  - When people died in the study, they could not be interviewed, biasing the samples to better health

# Causes of Death



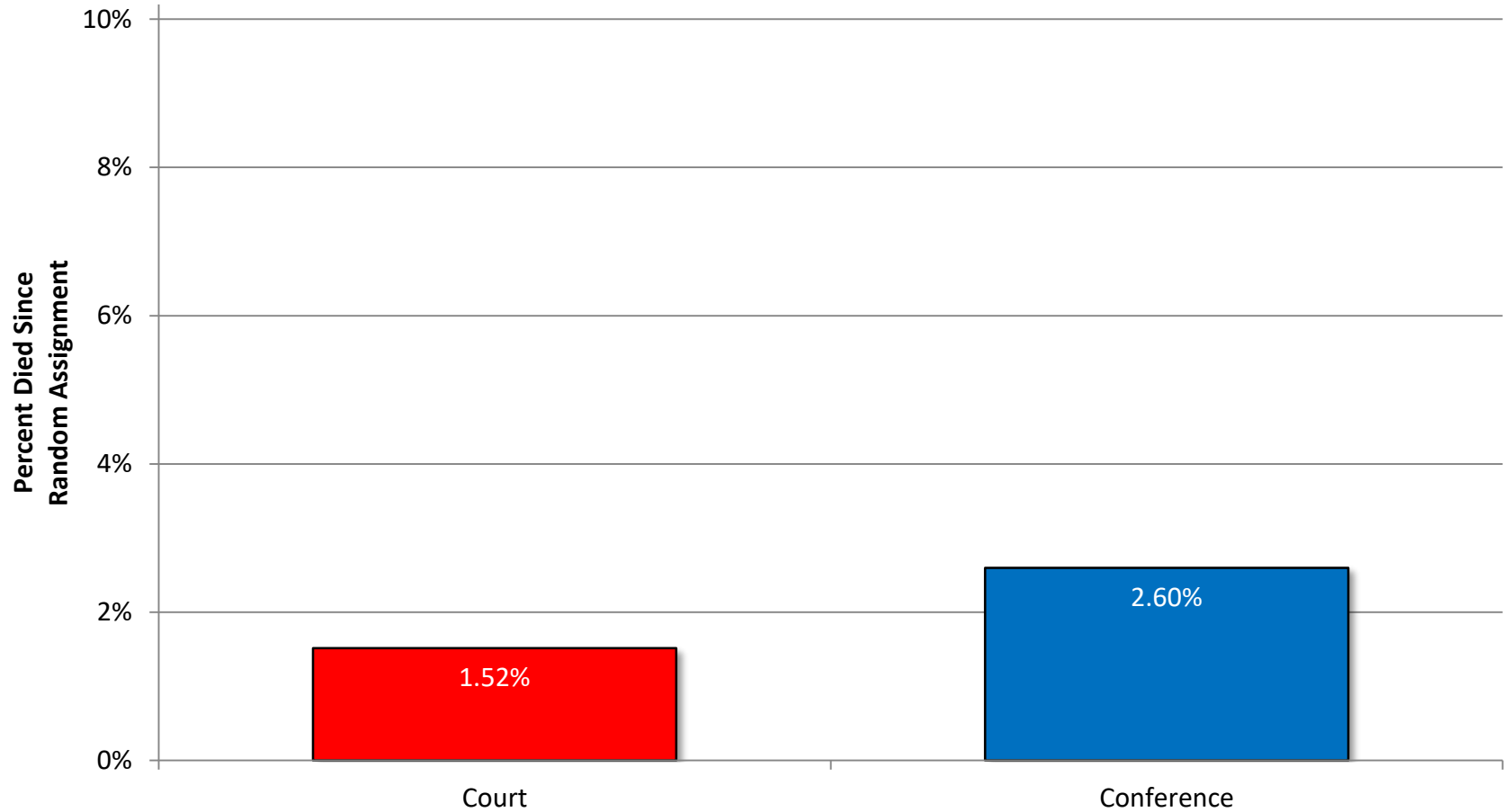


# Mortality: JPP



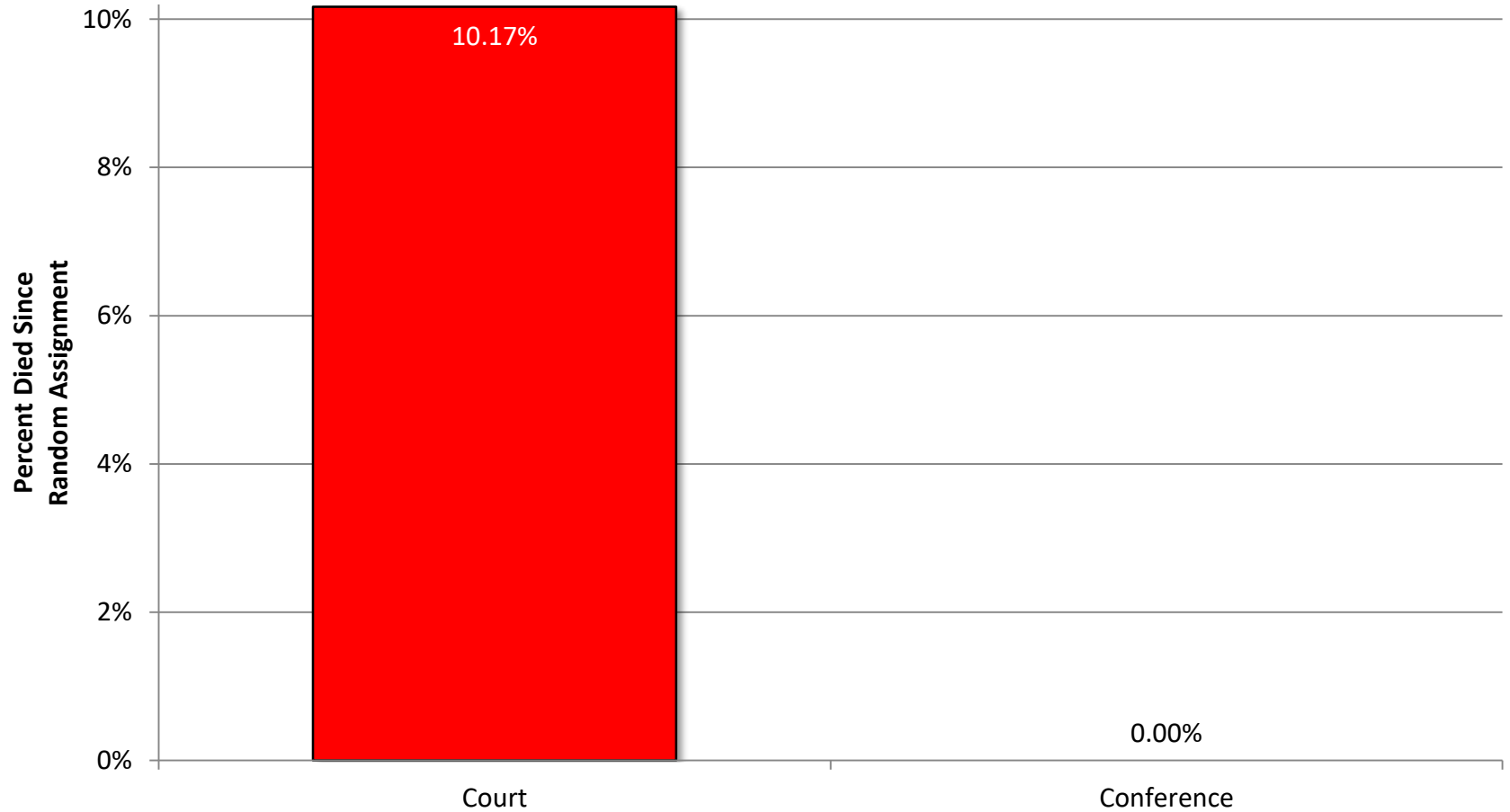
$p = .685$

# Mortality: JPS



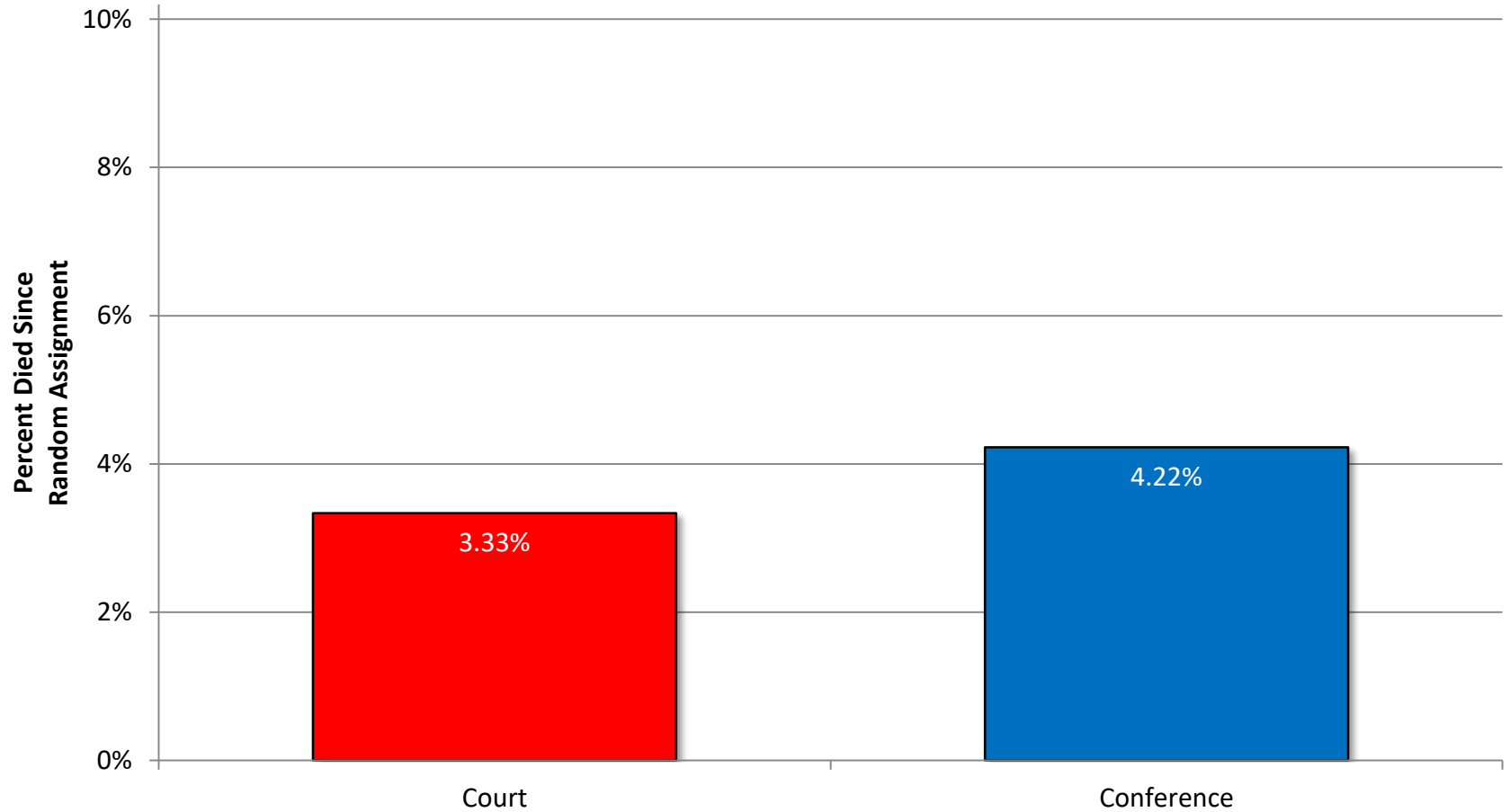
$p = .649$

# Mortality: JVC



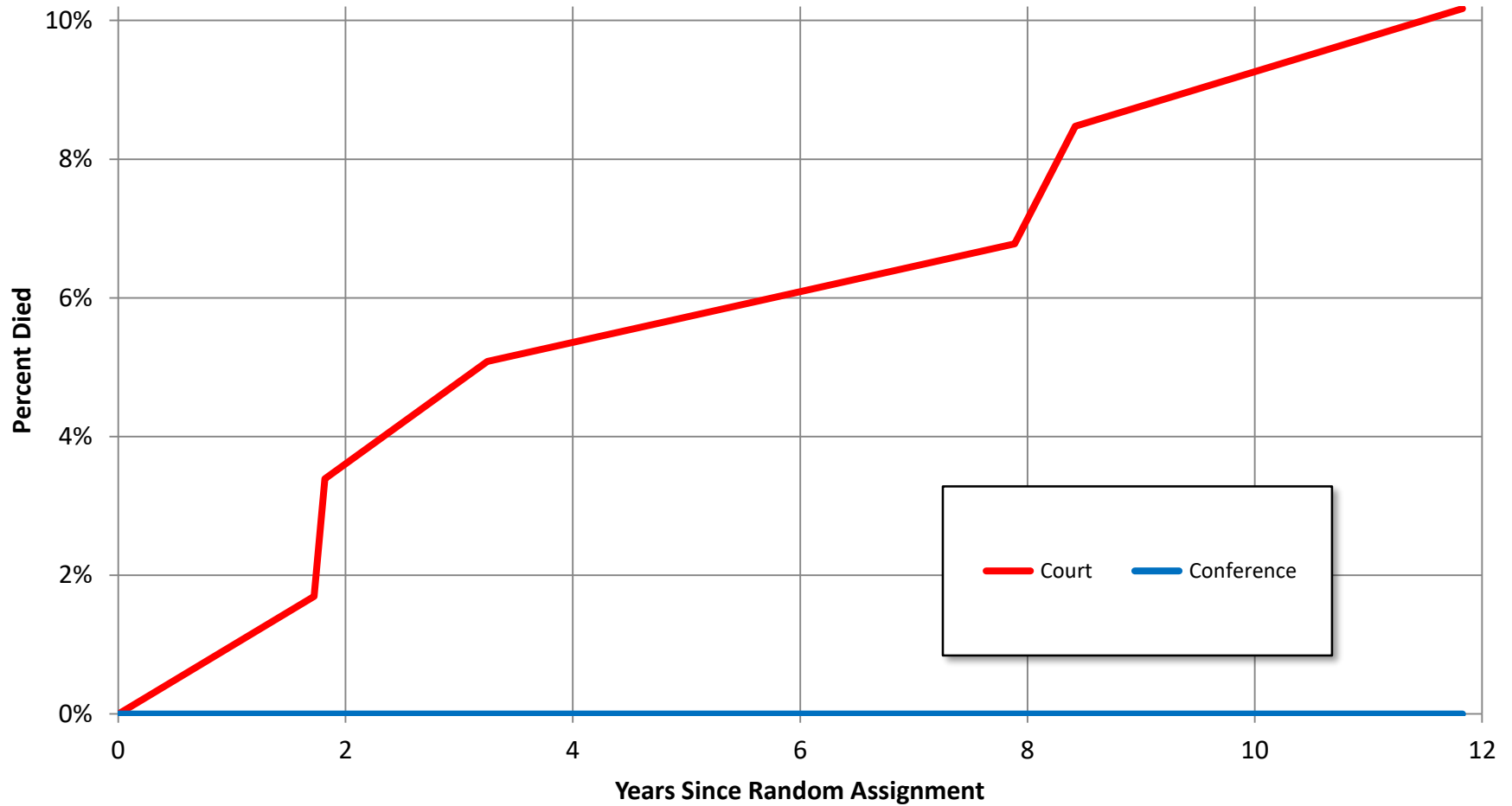
$p = .010$

# Mortality: PCA

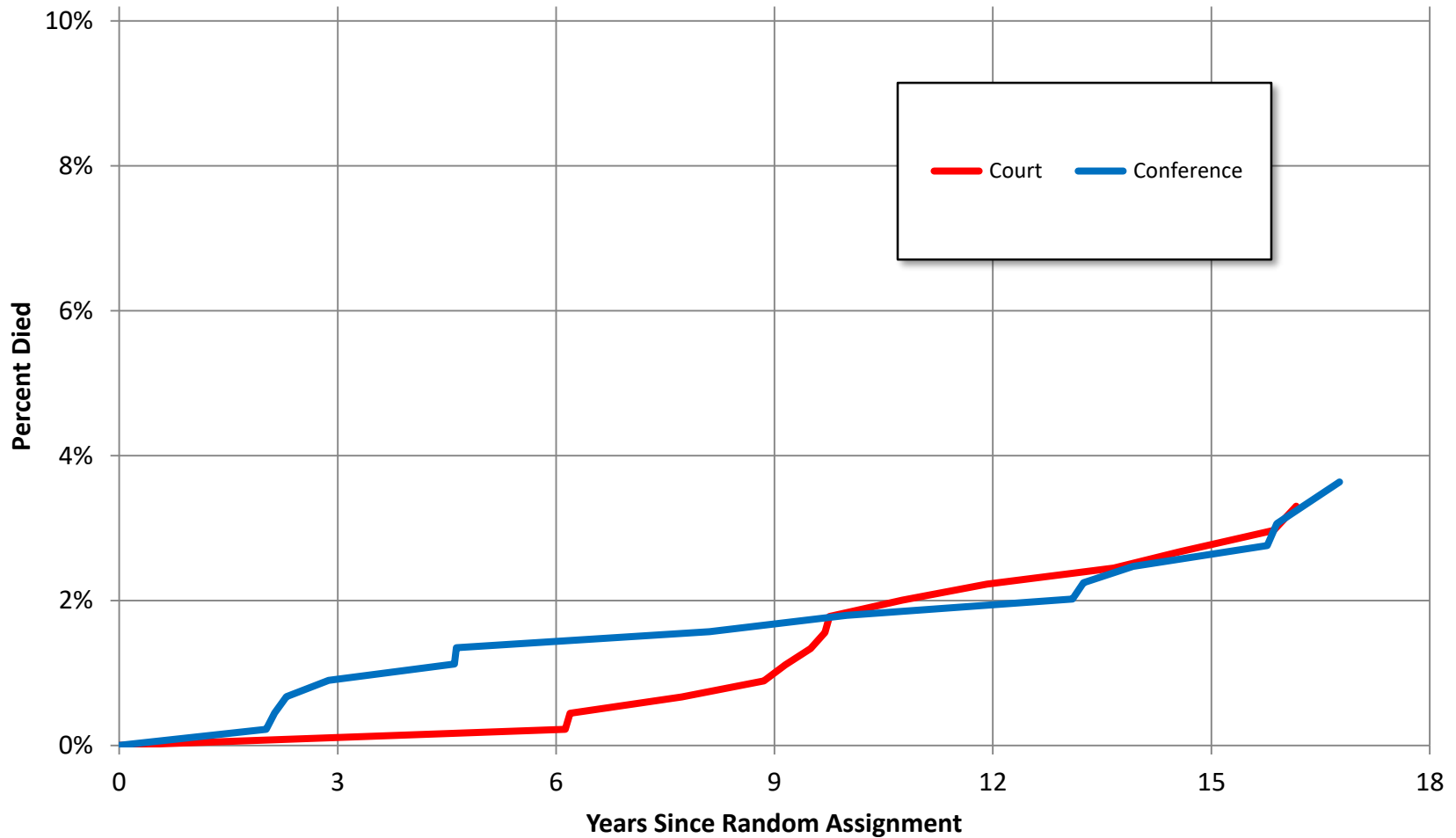


$p = .485$

# Survival Analysis: JVC



# Survival Analysis: PCA



# Interview Response Rates

- Total of 1,413 cases in RISE
- First Interview Response rate (78%)
  - Court: 76%
  - Conference: 88%
- Ten Year Follow-up
  - 580 interviews completed (60%)

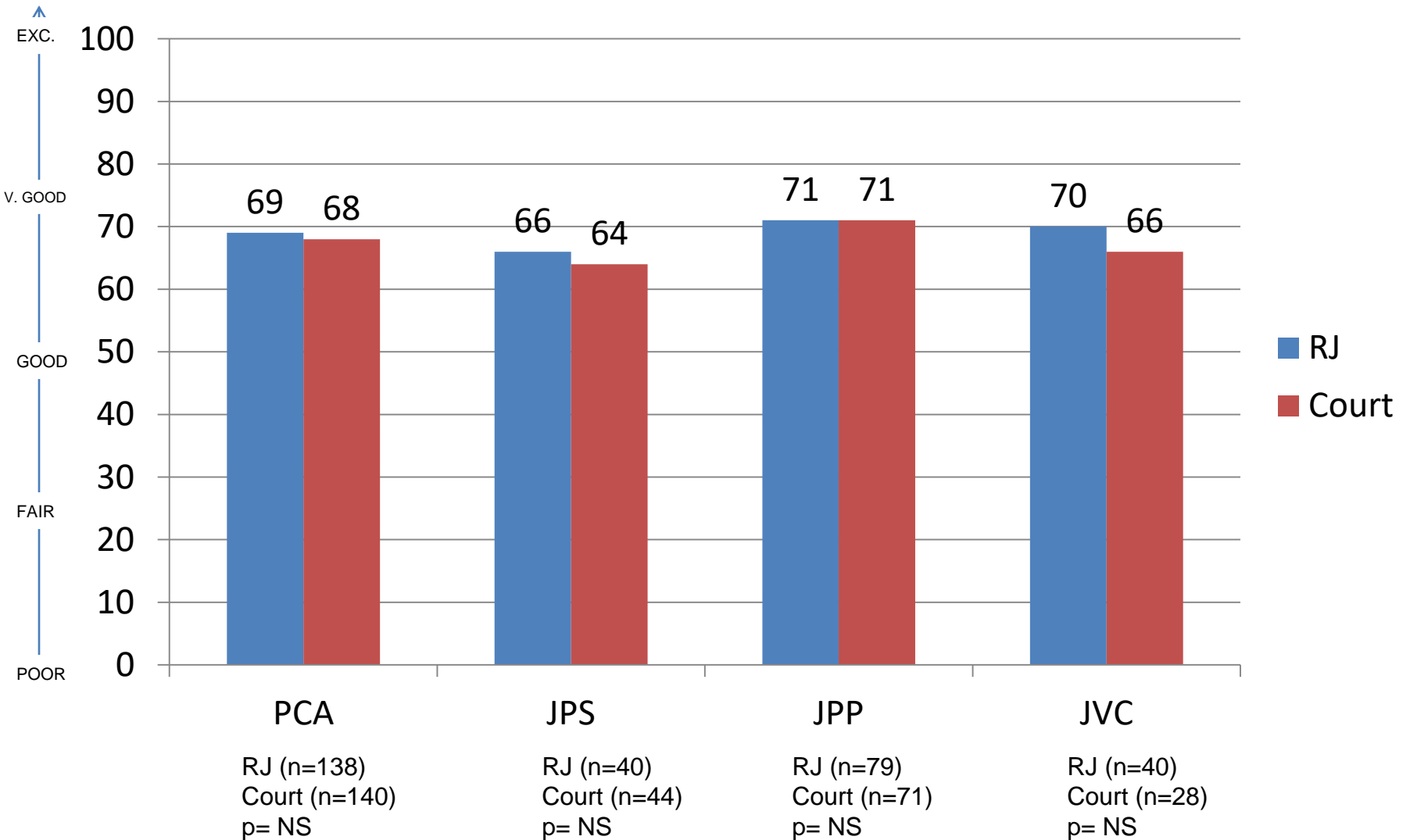
# Response Rate (10 year)

	Total		Conf.	Court
JPP	150/249	(60%)	62%	58%
JPS	84/143	(59%)	52%	67%
JVC	68/121	(56%)	65%	47%
PCA	278/450	(62%)	62%	62%



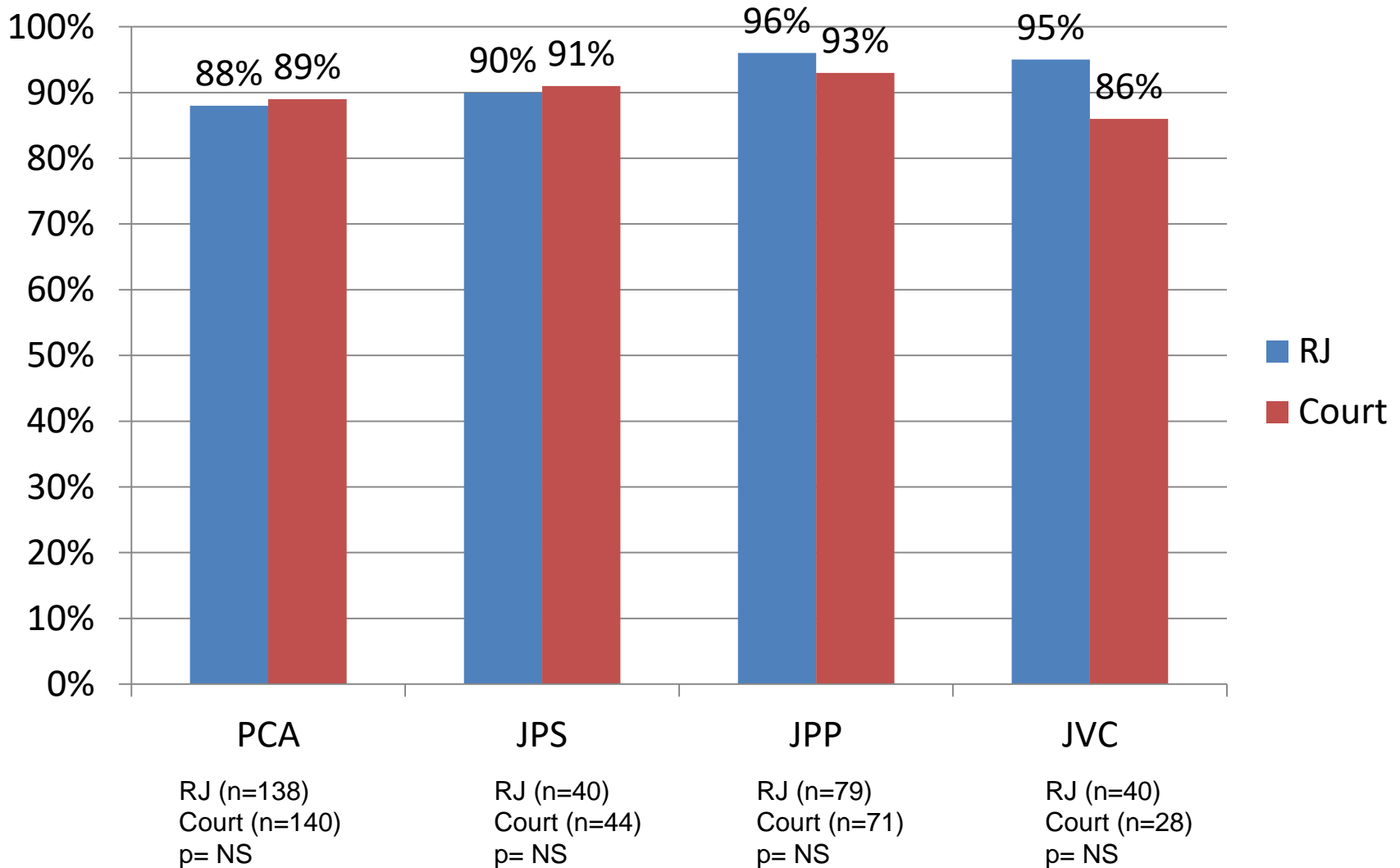
# General Health

(Higher scores indicate Better Outcomes)



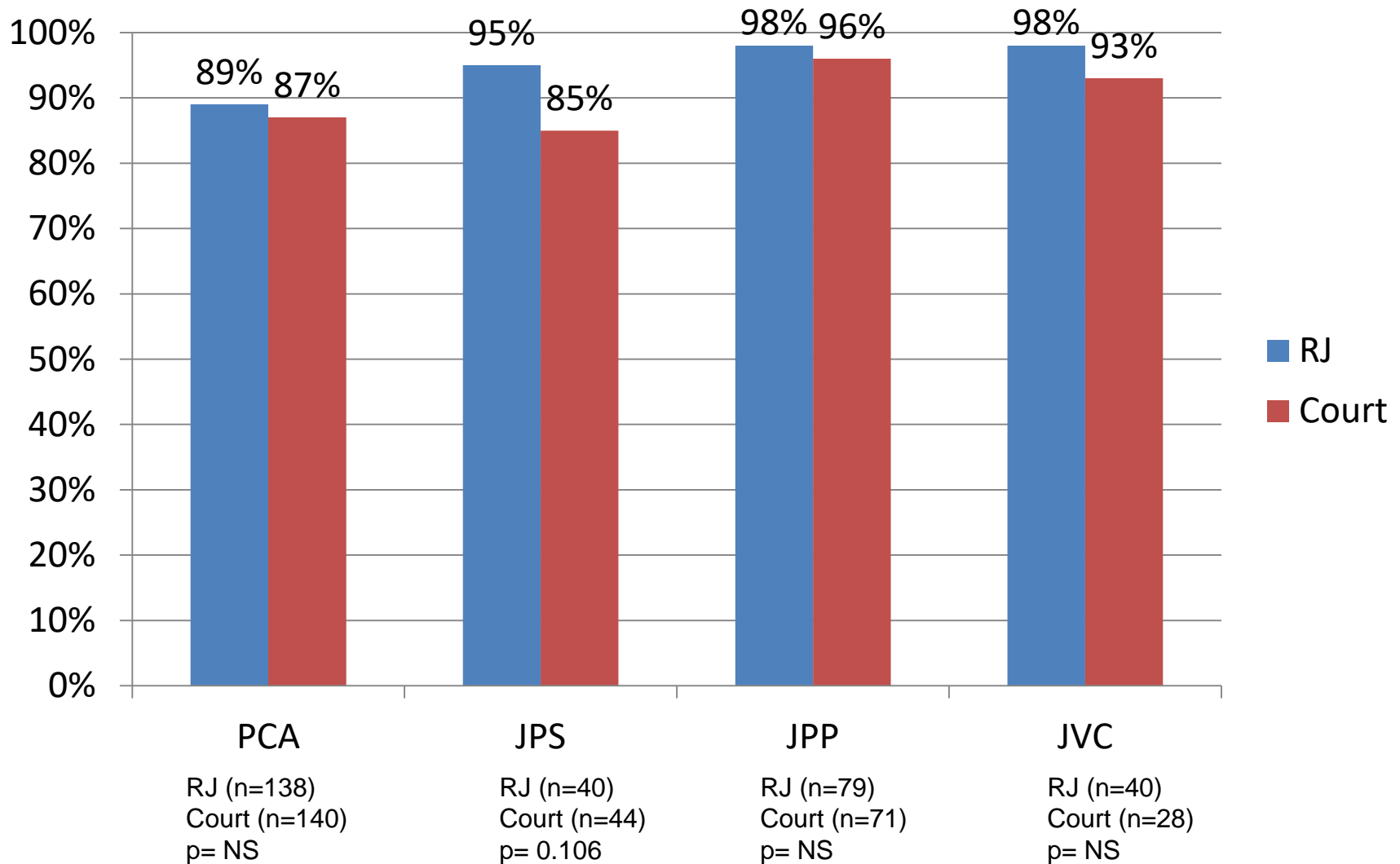
# Ability to Work

percentage of participants who ***disagree*** with the statement:  
“Does your health prevent you from working at a paying job?”

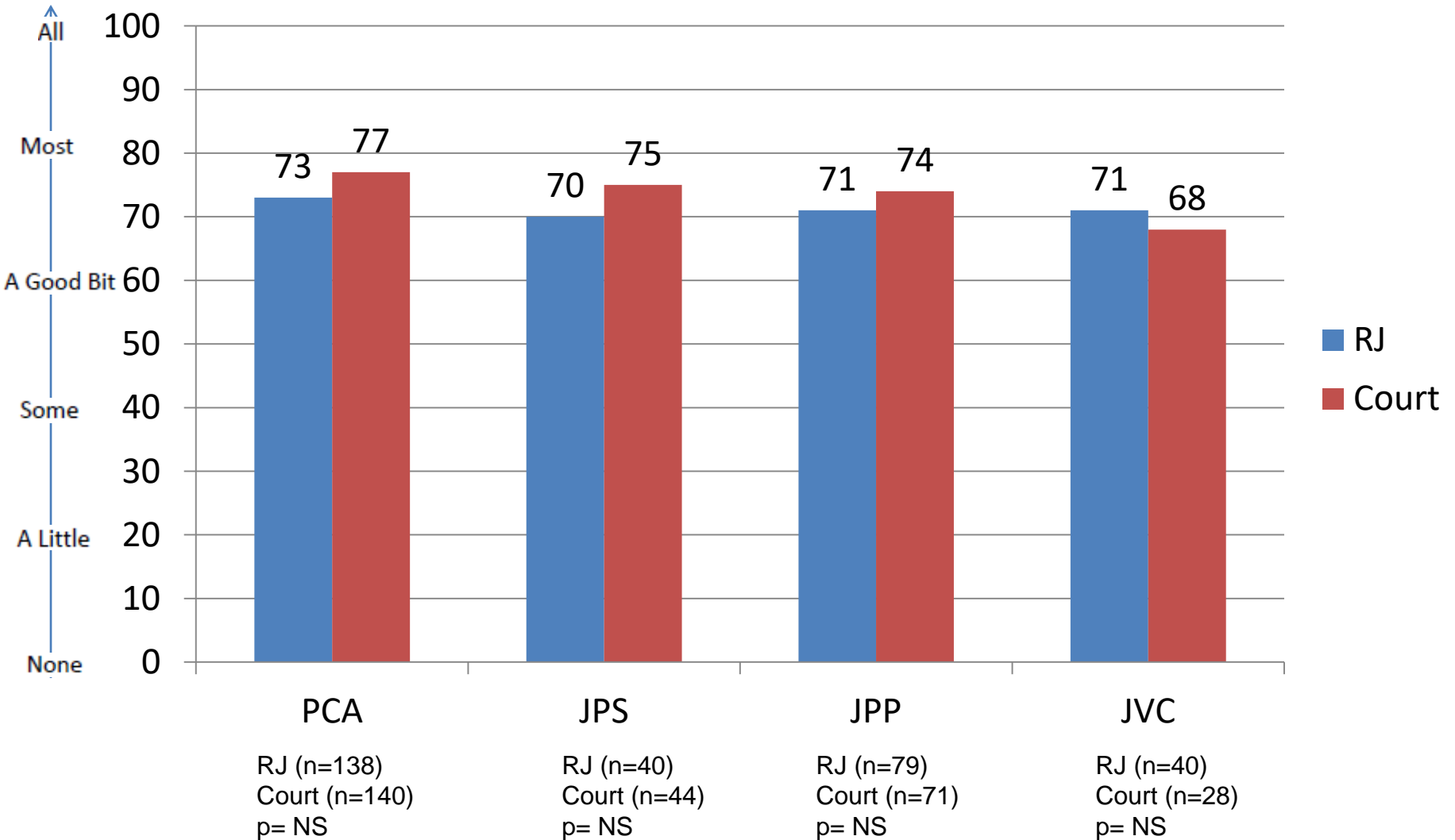


# Ability to do Housework

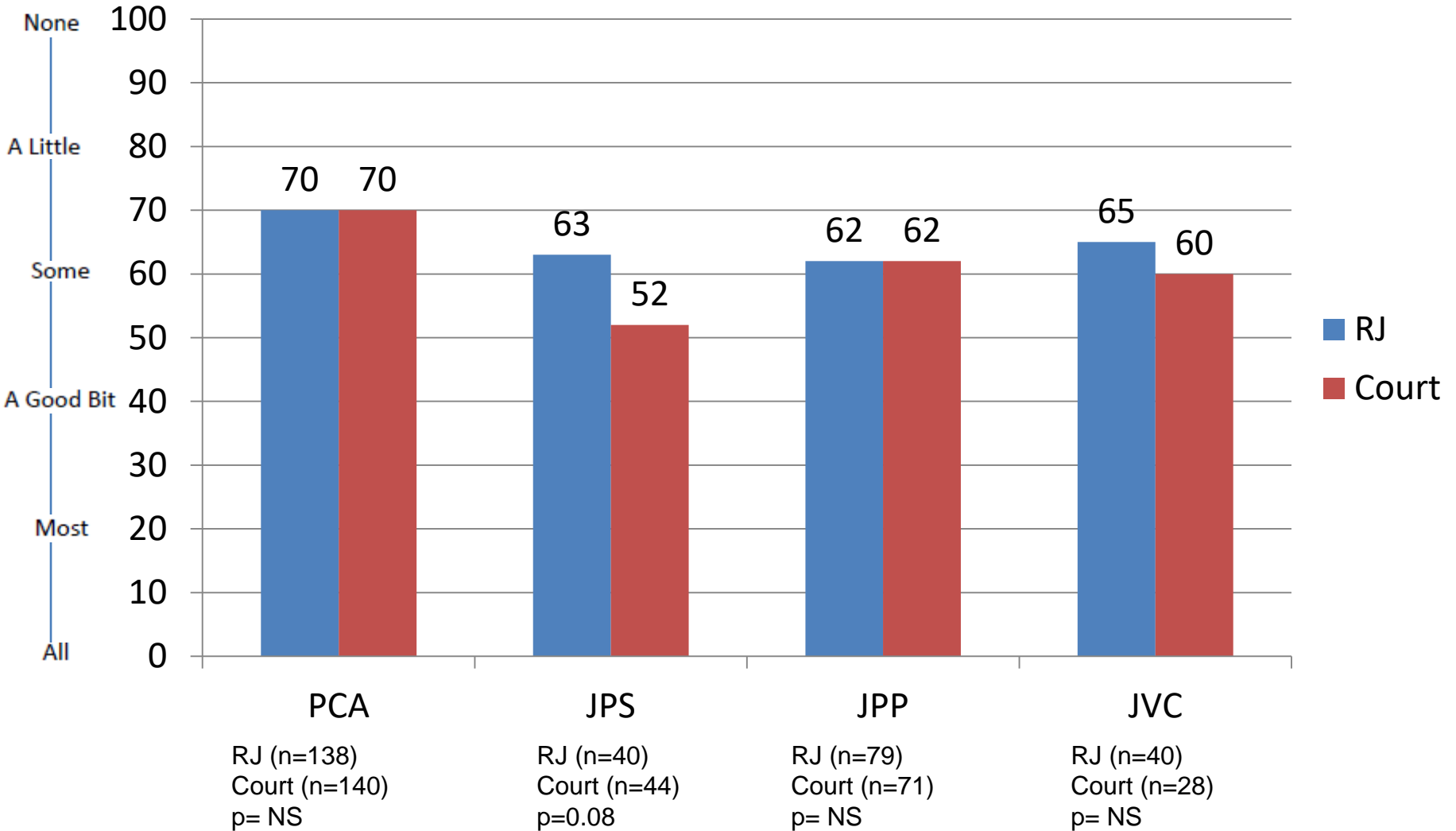
percentage of participants who ***disagree*** with the statement:  
“Does your health keep you from working around the house?”



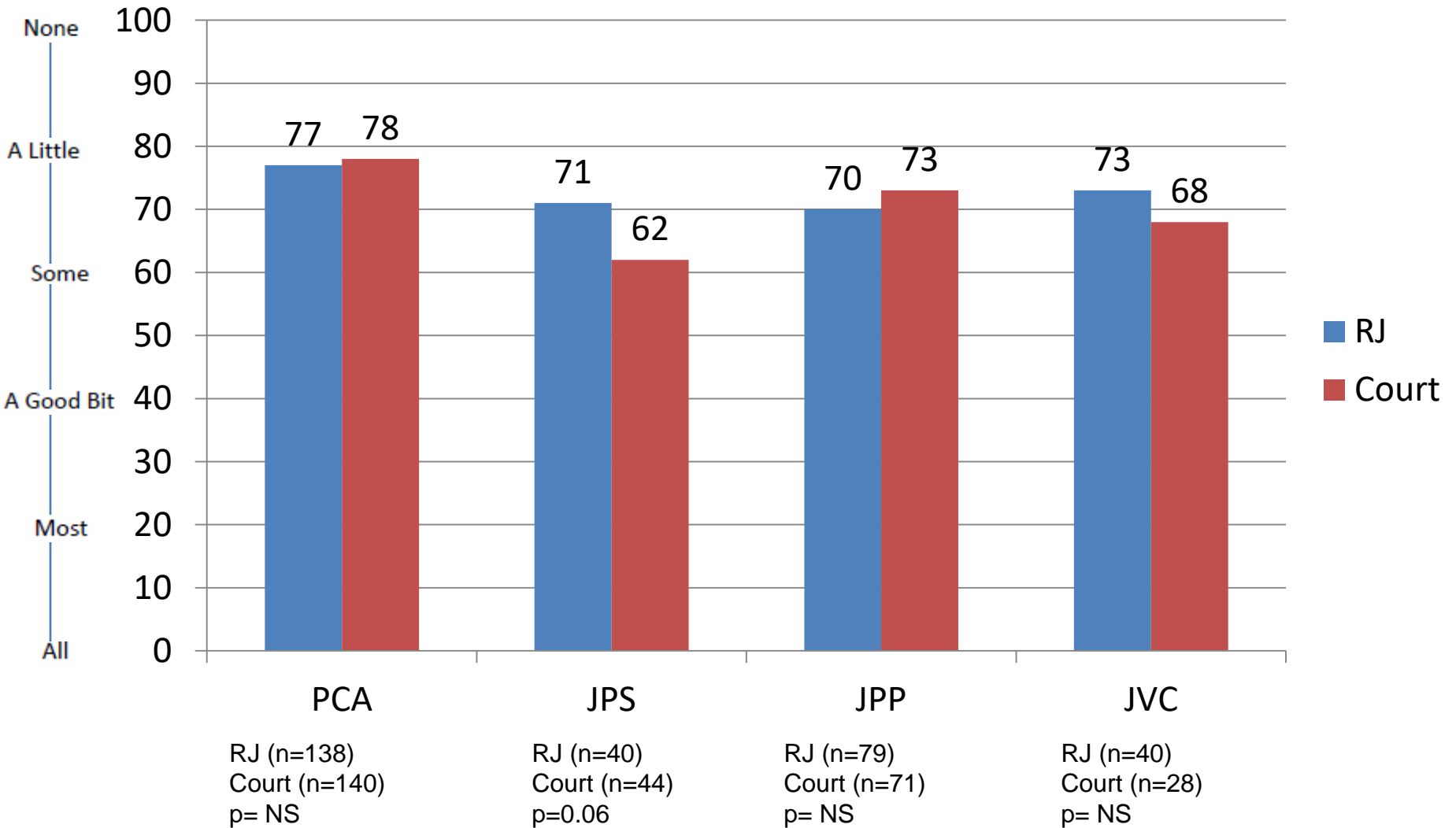
# Feelings of Belonging



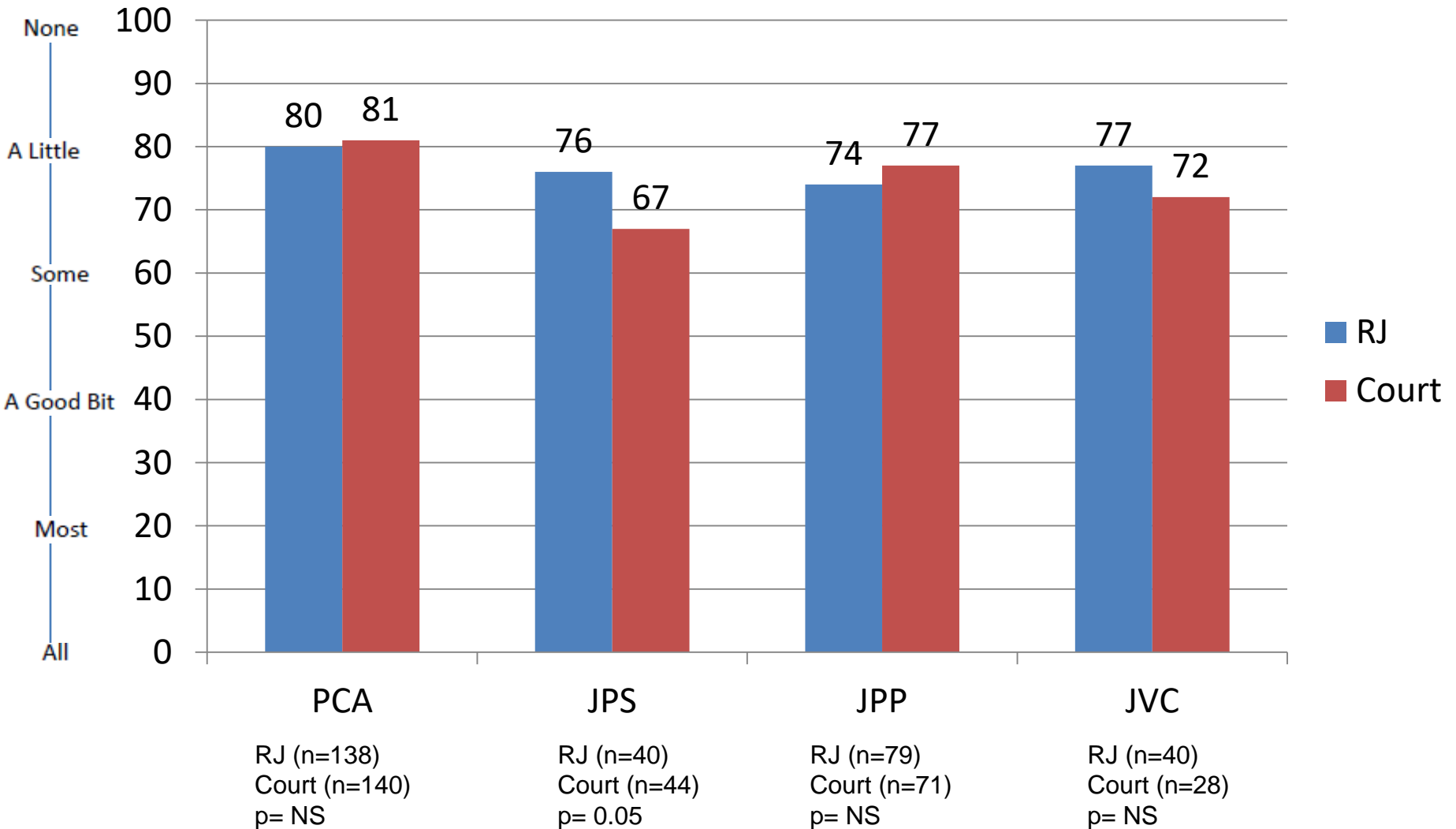
# Anxiety



# Psychological Distress



# Depression/Behavioral Emotional Control



# Summary

- All participants, comparing RJ vs. Court across the four trials, conference and court participants did not differ on the following health outcomes:
  - General Health
  - (In)Ability to work at a paying job
  - (In)Ability to work around the house
  - Feelings of Belonging
- Trend continued in JPP, JVC, PCA on measures of
  - Anxiety
  - Psychological Distress
  - Depression/Behavioral Emotional Control



# JPS Trial

- Court participants
  - *Greater levels of anxiety* (“some” to “a good bit” ) than RJ participants (“a little bit” to “some”) (p=0.08).
  - *Greater levels of psychological distress* (“a little bit” to “some”) than RJ participants (p=0.06).
  - *Great levels of depression/behavioral emotional control* than RJ participants (p=0.05)

# Preliminary Conclusions

- JVC experiment, court participants had *higher rates of mortality* than RJ offenders
- Not clear why differences on the psychological measures were found in the JPS trial (no personal victims)
- Overall, participants reported “good” to “very good” general health
  - Compare to other populations with data available
- No clear explanations yet to why these findings
- Examine attrition rates