Designing Accessible Slide Decks

For Dyslexic Audiences: High-contrast, sans-serif fonts, minimal text, wide spacing.

The Challenge of Dyslexia

Prevalence

Affects 1 in 5 people (20% globally).

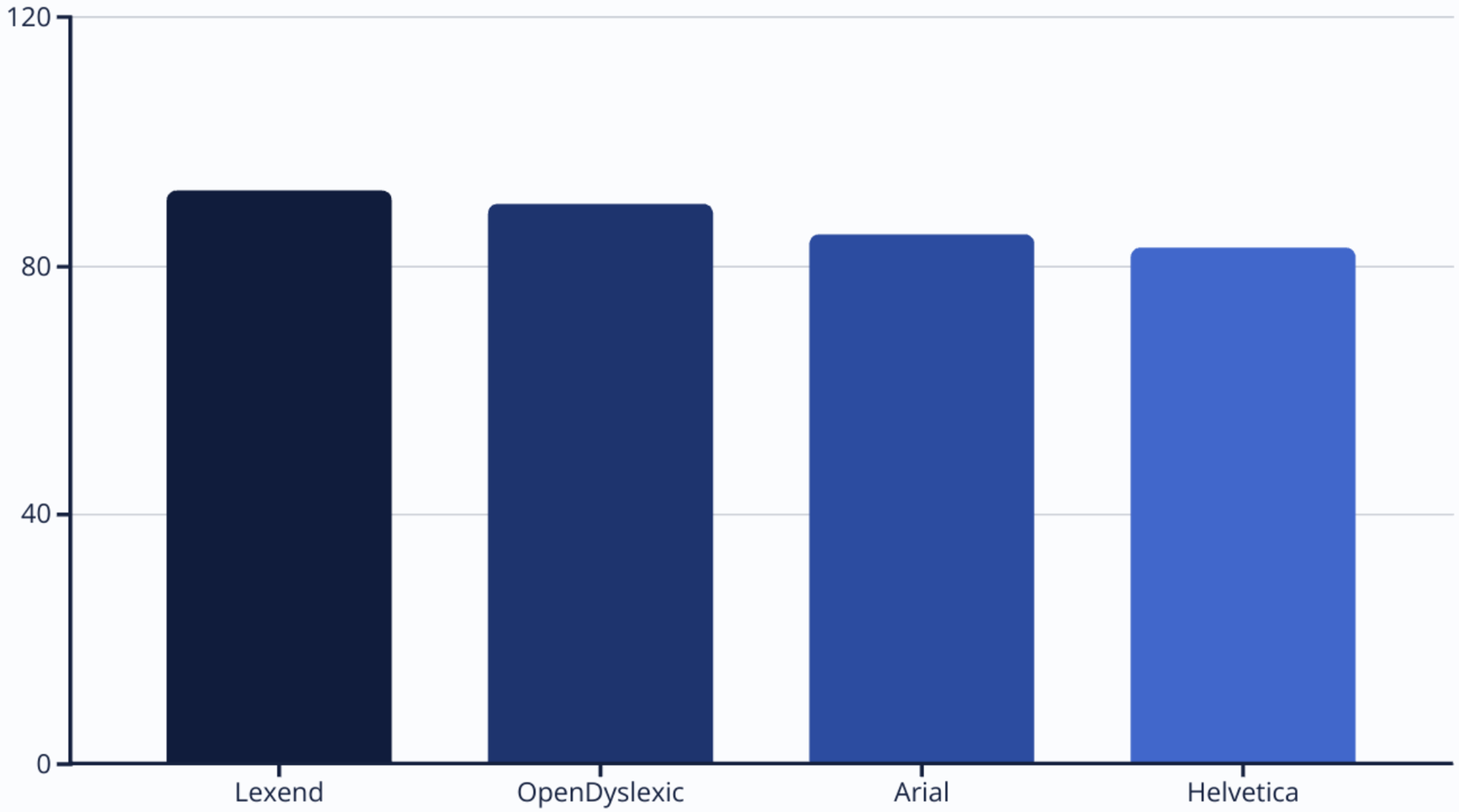
Reading Impact

Reduced fluency and comprehension in reading tasks.

Design Needs

Visual processing differences require careful design choices.

Font Choice Matters



Color Contrast is Key

Effective Palette

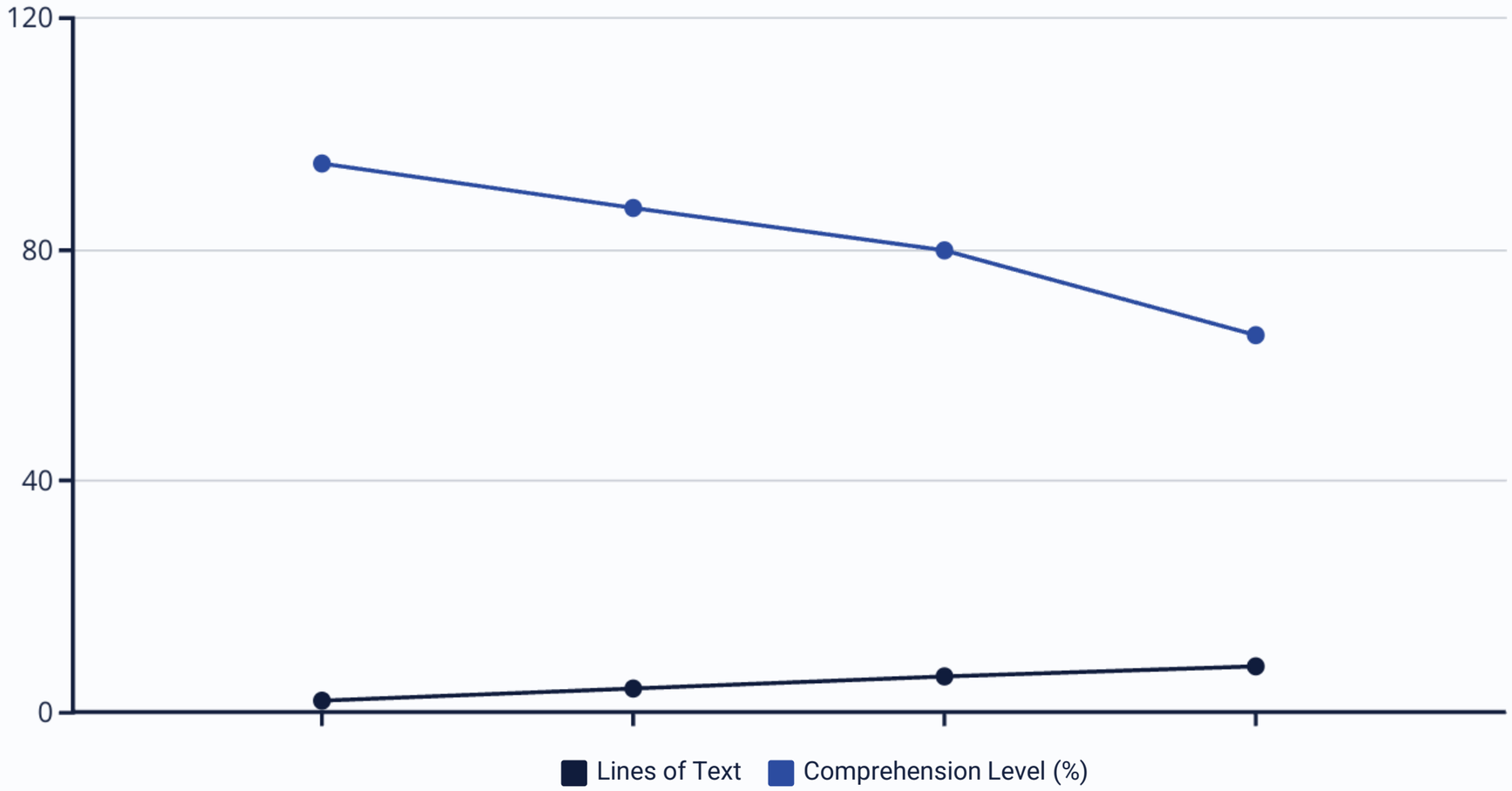
- Navy & Cream: Soft and high contrast
- Avoid bright reds and greens
- Use contrast ratio ≥ 4.5:1

Visual Stress

Bright colors can trigger visual discomfort.

Choose muted, harmonious tones instead.

Minimal Text, Maximum Impact



Spacing for Clarity

Letter Spacing

Increase tracking by 1-2 pixels for readability.

Line Height

Use 1.5x line height or more for clarity.

Margins & Padding

Generous whitespace reduces cognitive load.

Chart Design: Keep it Simple

Bar Charts

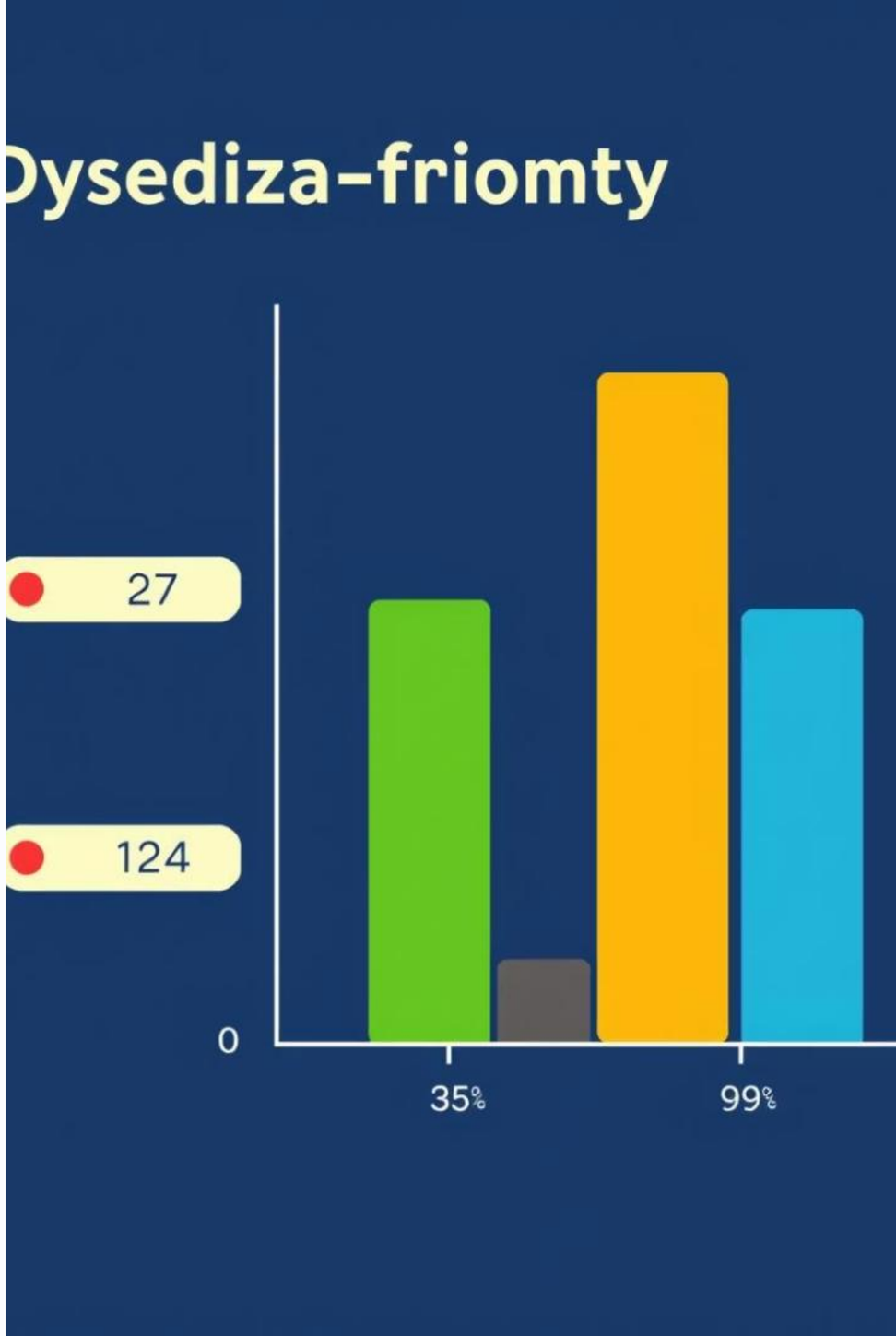
Labels placed outside bars for easy reading.

Line Graphs

Use thick lines and contrasting colors.

Pie Charts

Label slices directly; avoid 3D effects.



Design Tips

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Visual Summaries & Icons

Fonts

Choose dyslexia-friendly sans-serif styles.

Colors

Use soft high-contrast pairs like navy and cream.

Text

Minimal lines with wide spacing for clarity.

Charts

Simple designs with external labels and thick lines.

Consistent Layout

Uniform Templates

Ensure all slides share a consistent look.

Heading Styles

Use consistent font sizes and weights.

Element Placement

Keep logos and page numbers in the same spots.

Recap: Accessible Design Principles

Font & Color

Choose dyslexia-friendly fonts and high contrast colors.

Text & Spacing

Use minimal text and generous spacing.

Charts & Visuals

Simplify data with clean charts and icons.

Layout

Maintain consistency for predictable navigation.

Accessible designs improve understanding and communication for all.