

Cervical cancer knowledge and screening attendance among black women

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Background

- Around 20% of women not adequately screened
- Moser et al. 2009: Ethnicity most important predictor of never attending screening; Non-white women more than twice as likely to have never attended
- 7.7 million people who consider themselves to be from an ethnic group other than “*White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British*”

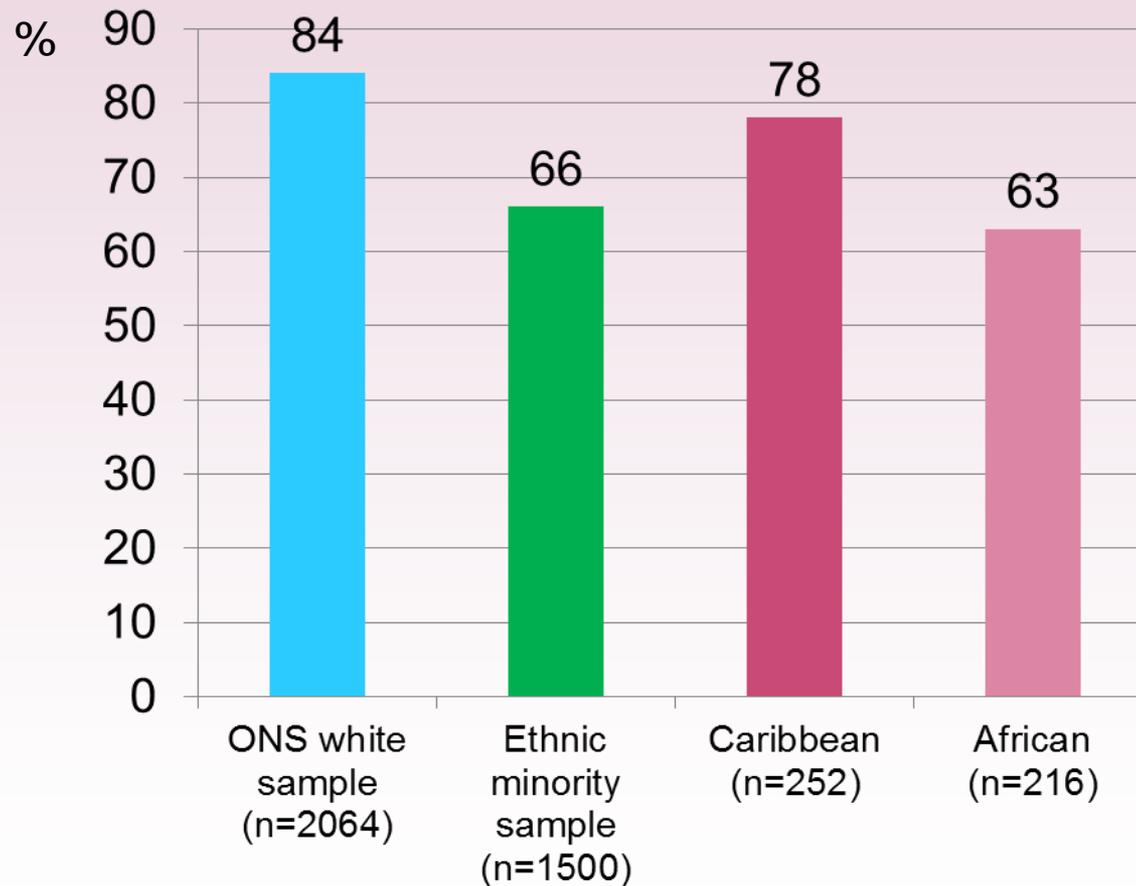
Background

- Unclear if inequalities relate to all or just some ethnic minority groups
- Confounding factors (e.g. migration history and religion)
- Qualitative studies suggest lower knowledge of cervical cancer could explain low engagement with services

Black population in England

- 1.8 million people consider themselves to be from:
“Black/African/Caribbean/Black British”
- 0.6 million people consider themselves to be from:
“Mixed/multiple ethnic group: White and Black Caribbean OR White and Black African”
- Evidence of variation between ethnic subgroups in:
 - Smoking status
 - Sexual behaviour
 - Knowledge of cancer screening

Awareness of cervical screening



Aims

- i) To explore socio-demographic and ethnicity-related factors associated with cervical cancer knowledge and non-attendance at cervical screening
- ii) To consider self-reported reasons for non-attendance at screening

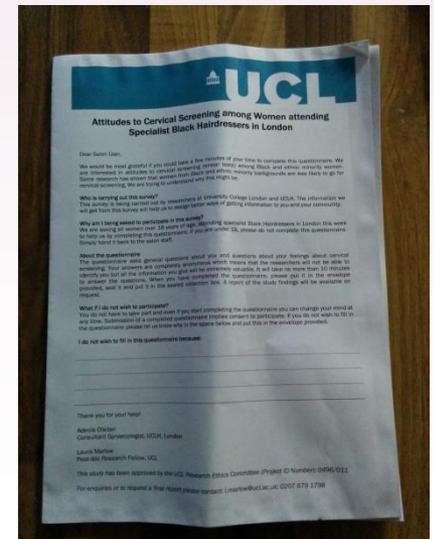
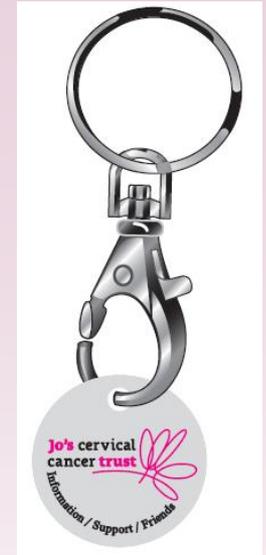
Methods – Study Design

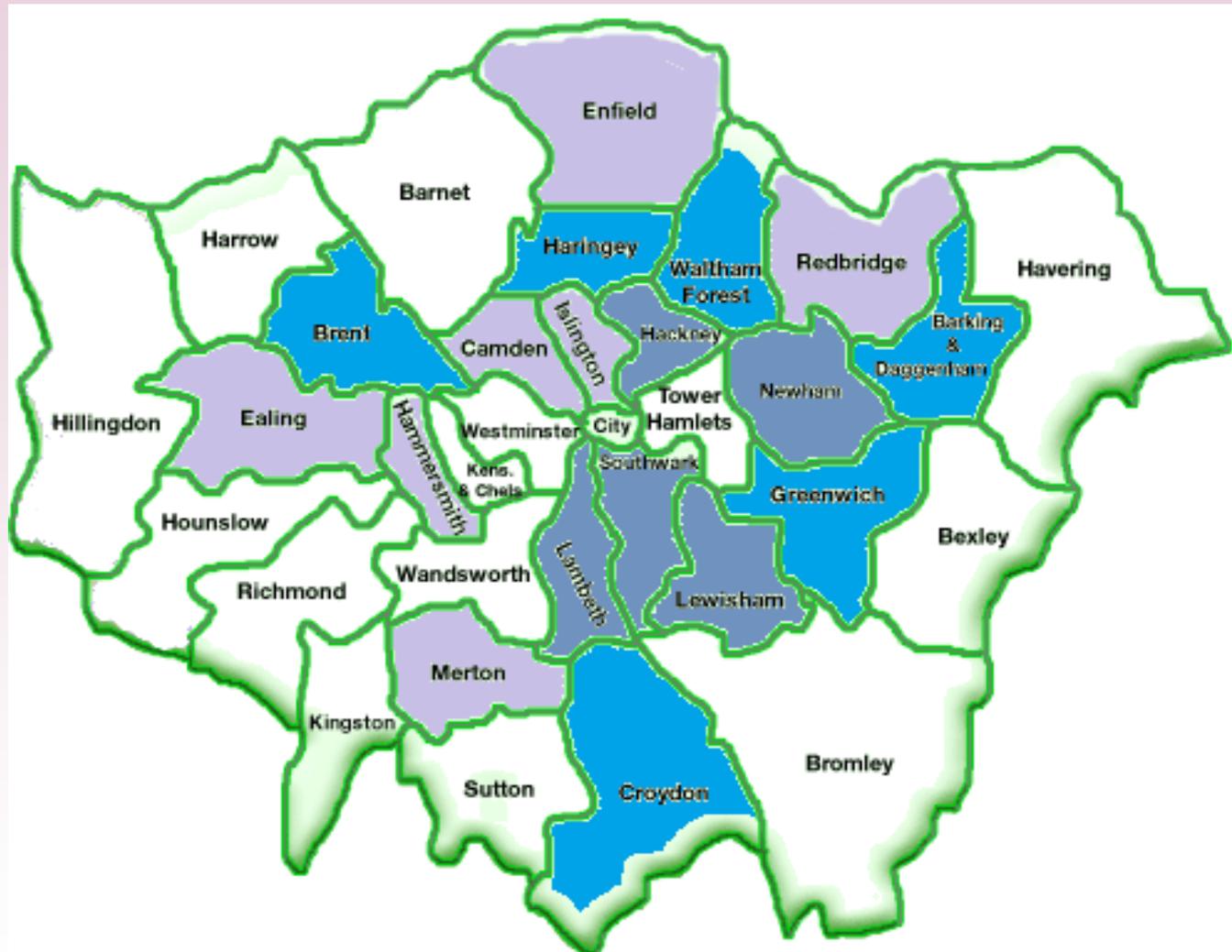


- Recruited through specialist hair and beauty salons
- Stratified sampling frame (100 Salons across 18 boroughs)
- Secondary recruitment method: identifying local high streets and visiting these to look for salons.
- Recruitment ceased after the 12 weeks, despite not reaching our original target of 100 salons.

Methods – Study Design

- Each salon was left with 60 questionnaires to distribute over a week
- Salons were given key rings to offer their clients as a thank you for participating
- Questionnaires were completed anonymously, sealed in an envelope provided and deposited in a box.





3540 questionnaires; 59 salons; 17 boroughs

Sample characteristics

- Questionnaires returned by 937 women (26%)
- Age: 38 years (18-76 years)
- Marital Status: 48% single, 35% married or cohabiting
- Education:
 - No qualifications/GCSEs only: 15%
 - A-levels or vocational: 27%
 - Degree or higher: 50%

Sample characteristics

Ethnic background

Caribbean 56%

African 25%

Mixed white & black African 3%

Mixed white & black Caribbean 5%

Any other black mixed 4%

Other 4%

Language

96% English first language

Religion

Christian 77%

No religion 12%

Muslim 3%

Other 3%

Religiosity

Rarely or never 27%

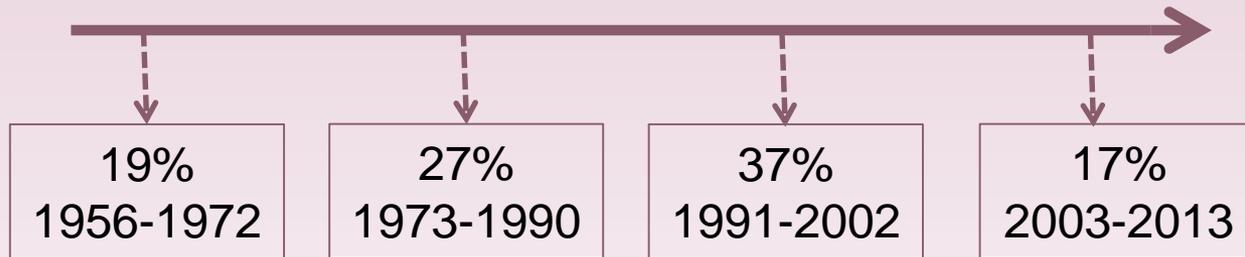
Few times a year 27%

1-3 times a month 12%

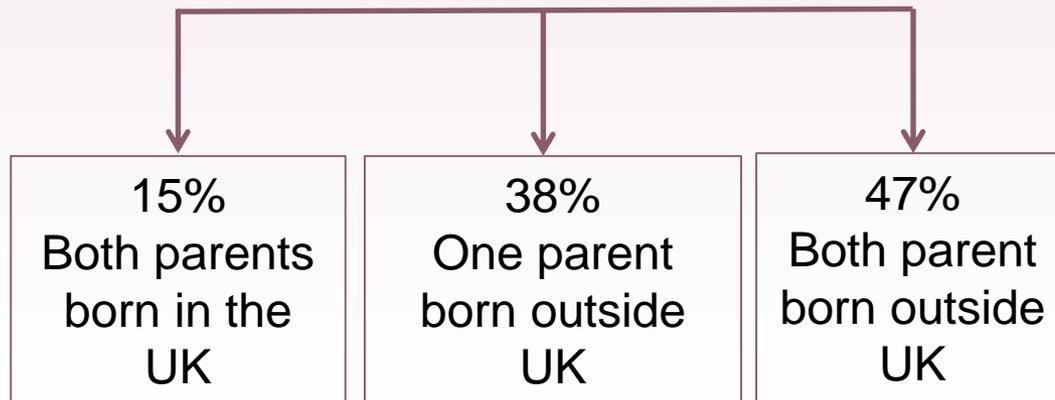
At least once a week 29%

Sample characteristics

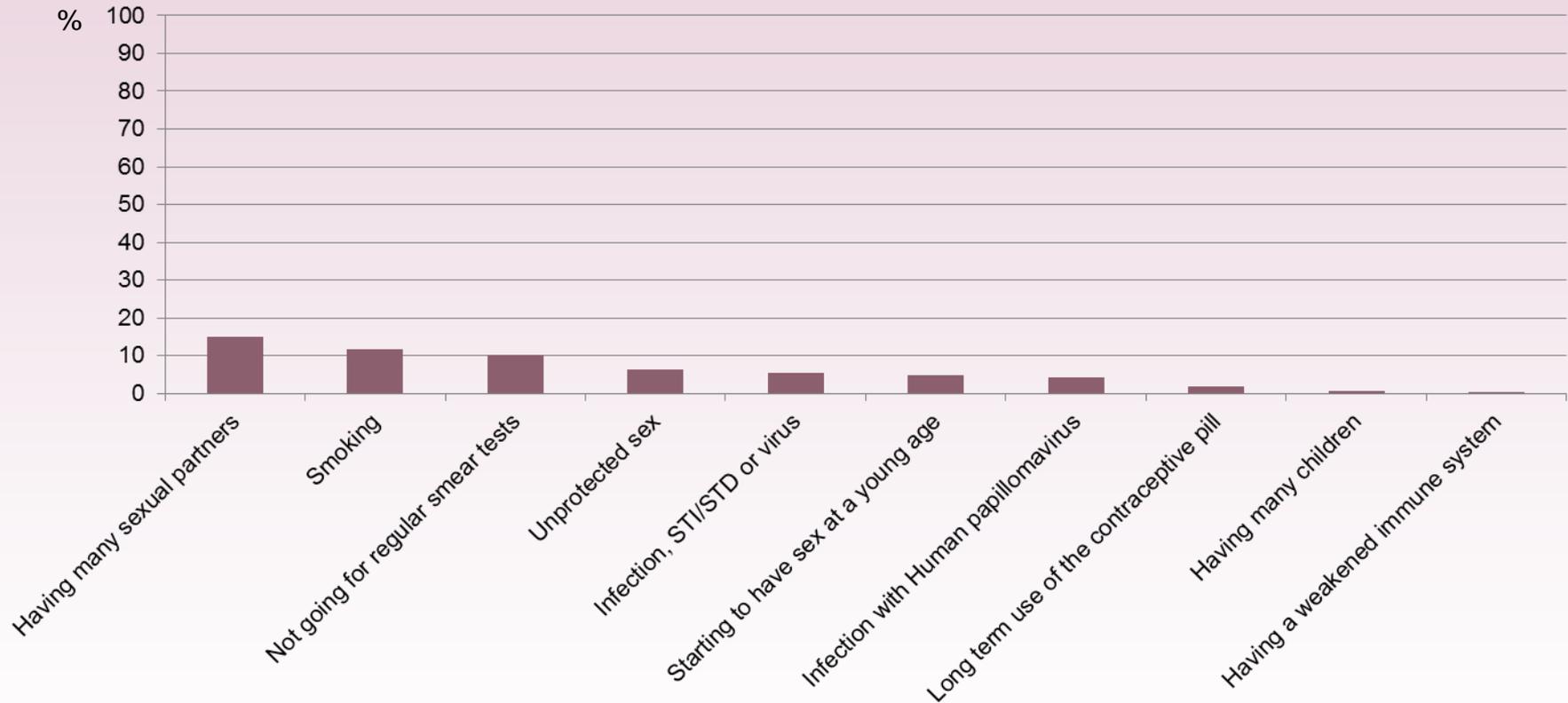
- 31% born outside the UK (n=275)



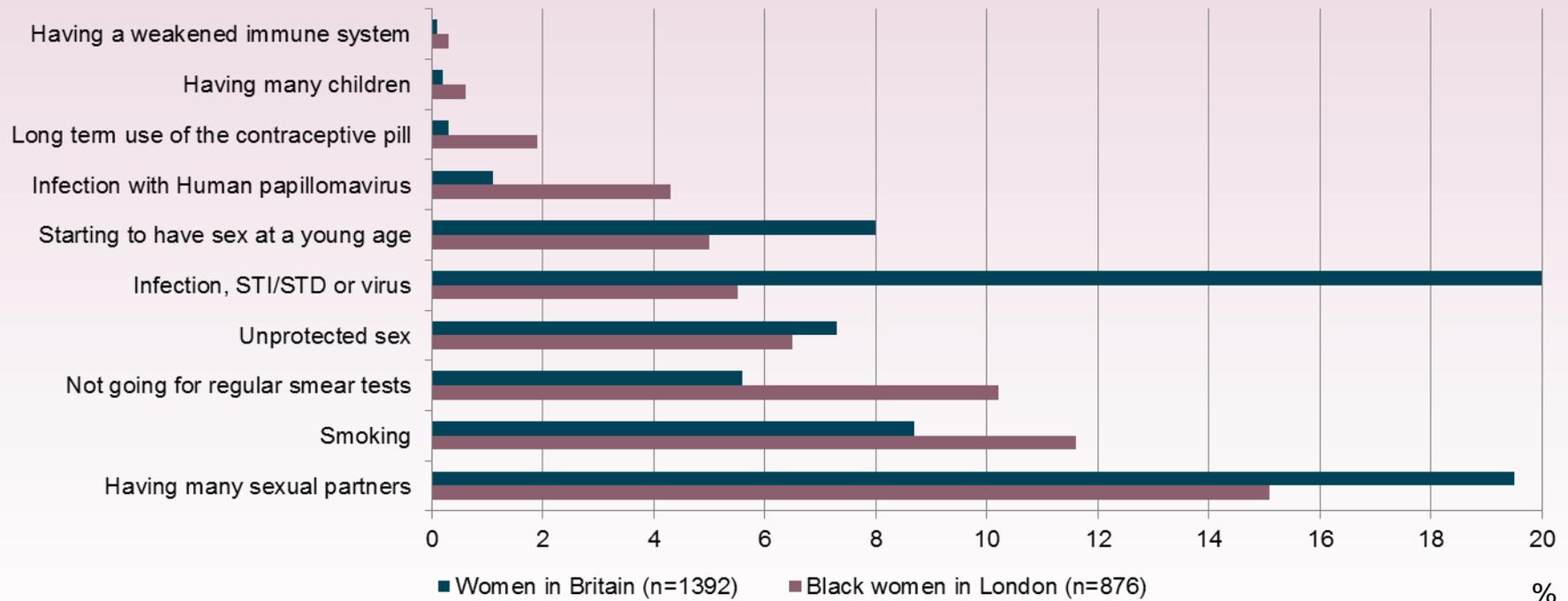
- 69% born in the UK



Knowledge of cervical cancer risk factors



Knowledge of cervical cancer risk factors





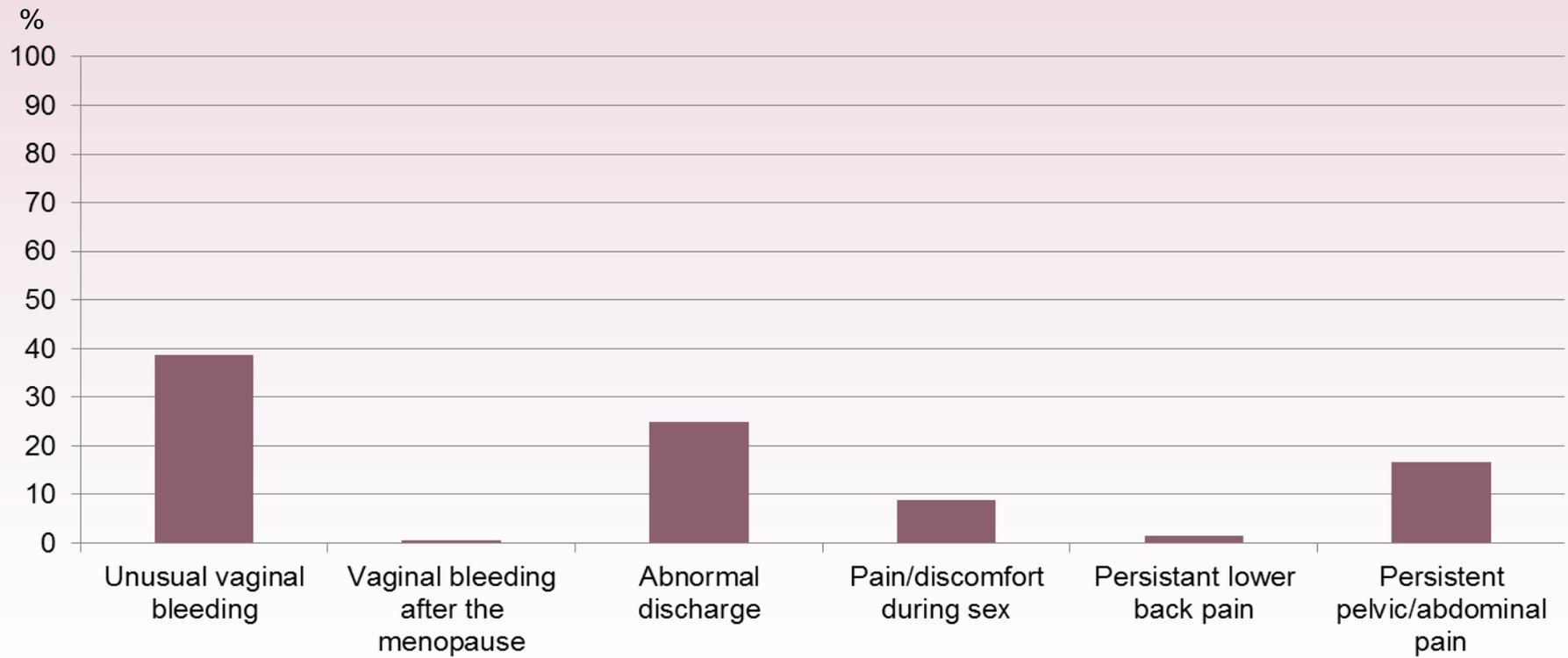
Spread the word...

Knowing the symptoms of cervical cancer could save your life

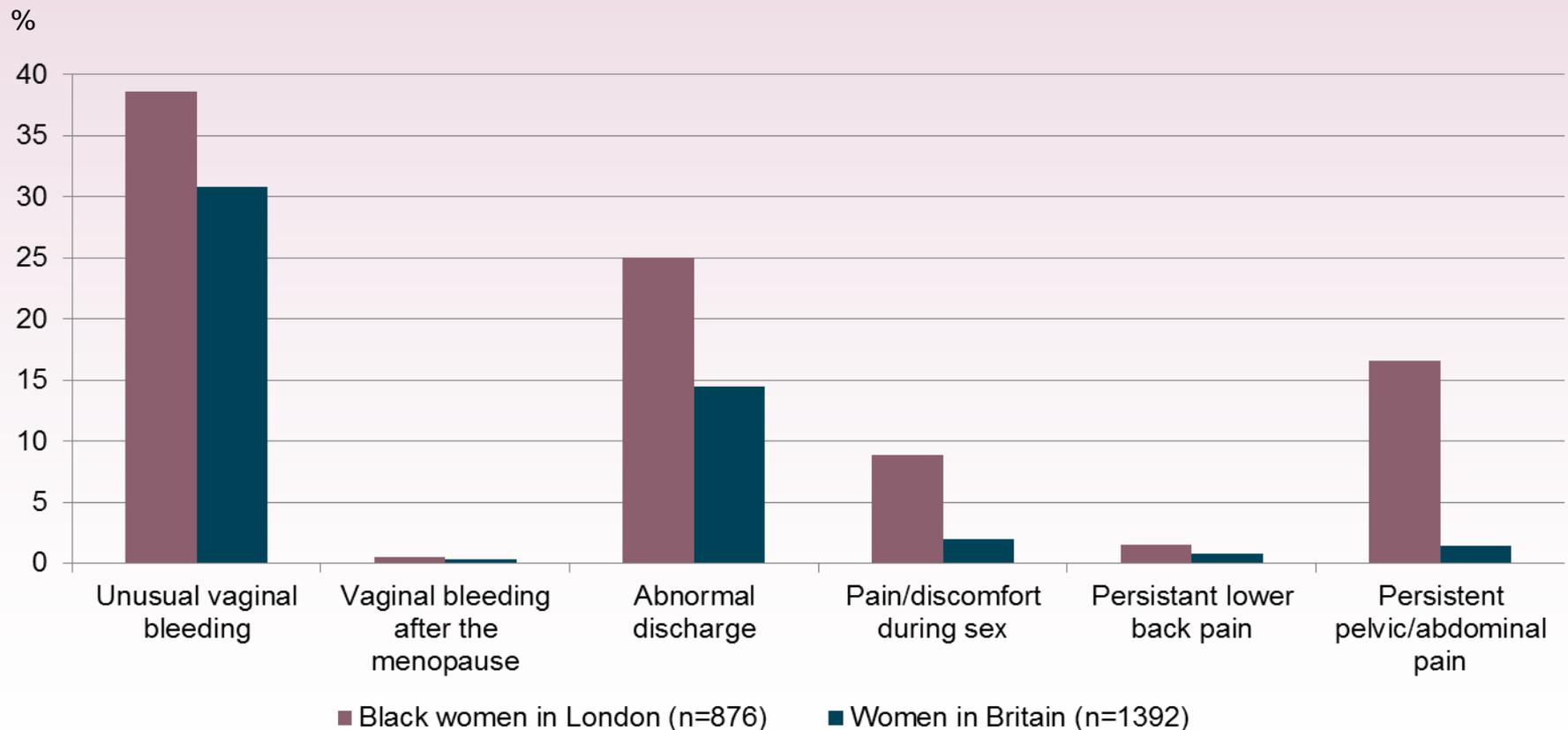
Do you have?

- Abnormal bleeding: during or after sexual intercourse, or between periods
- Post menopausal bleeding
- Unusual and/or unpleasant vaginal discharge
- Discomfort or pain during sex
- Lower back pain.

Knowledge of cervical cancer symptoms



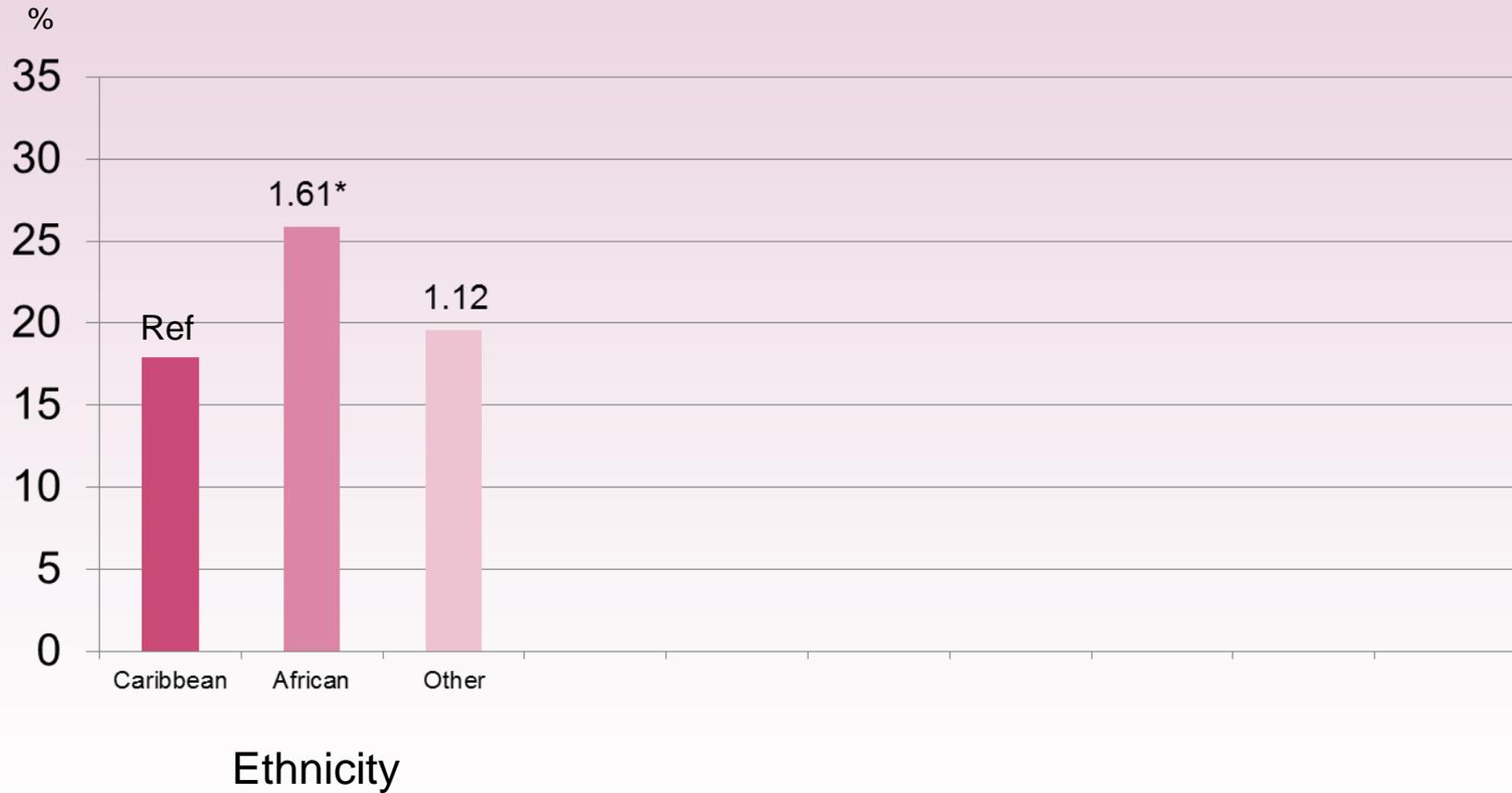
Knowledge of cervical cancer symptoms



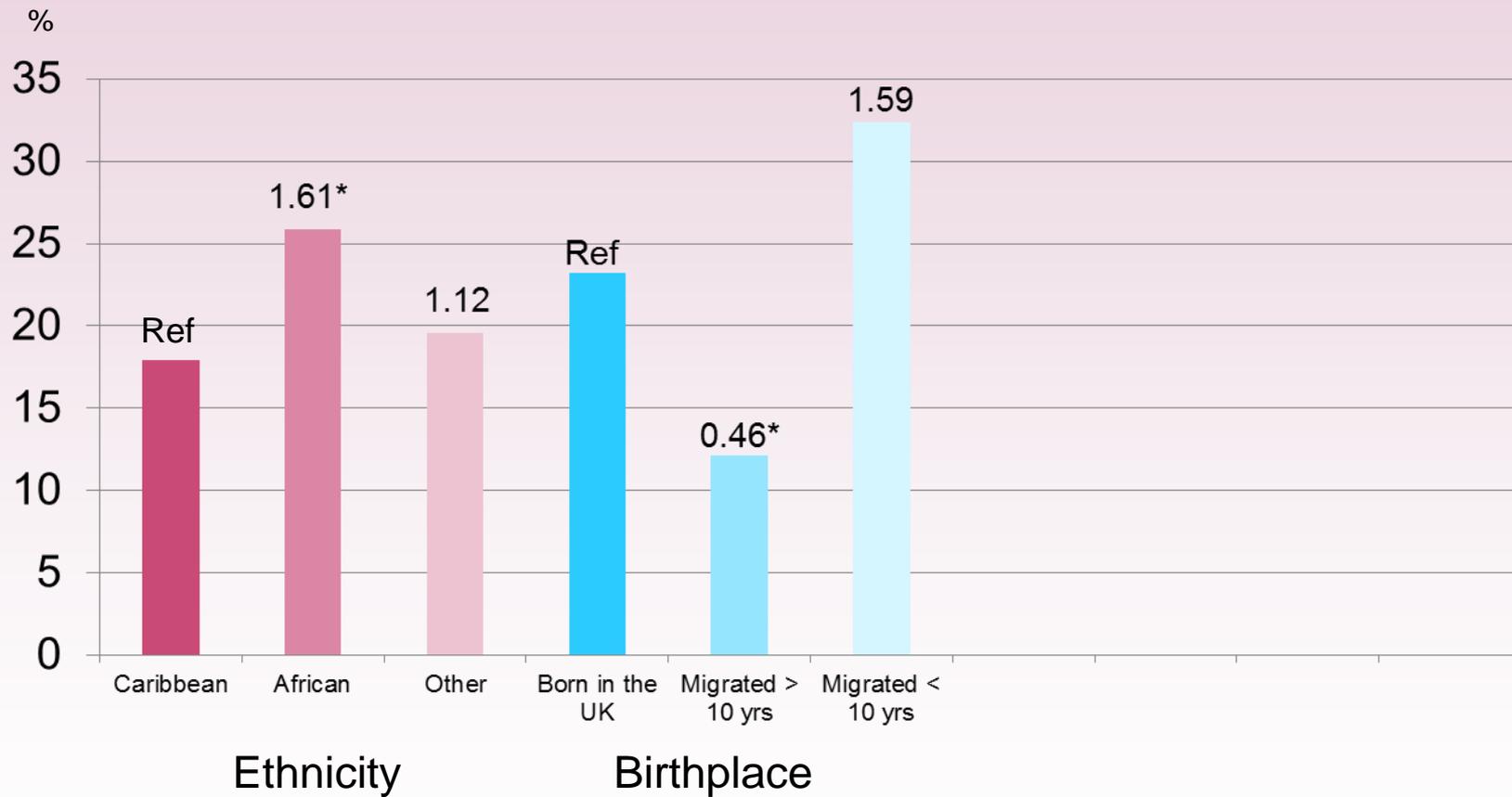
Being overdue for screening

- Eligible population (n=652)
- 20% overdue for screening (n=133)
- In a population representative sample using ONS omnibus (considered the 'gold standard') 15% were overdue for screening
- Age and marital status were associated with being overdue

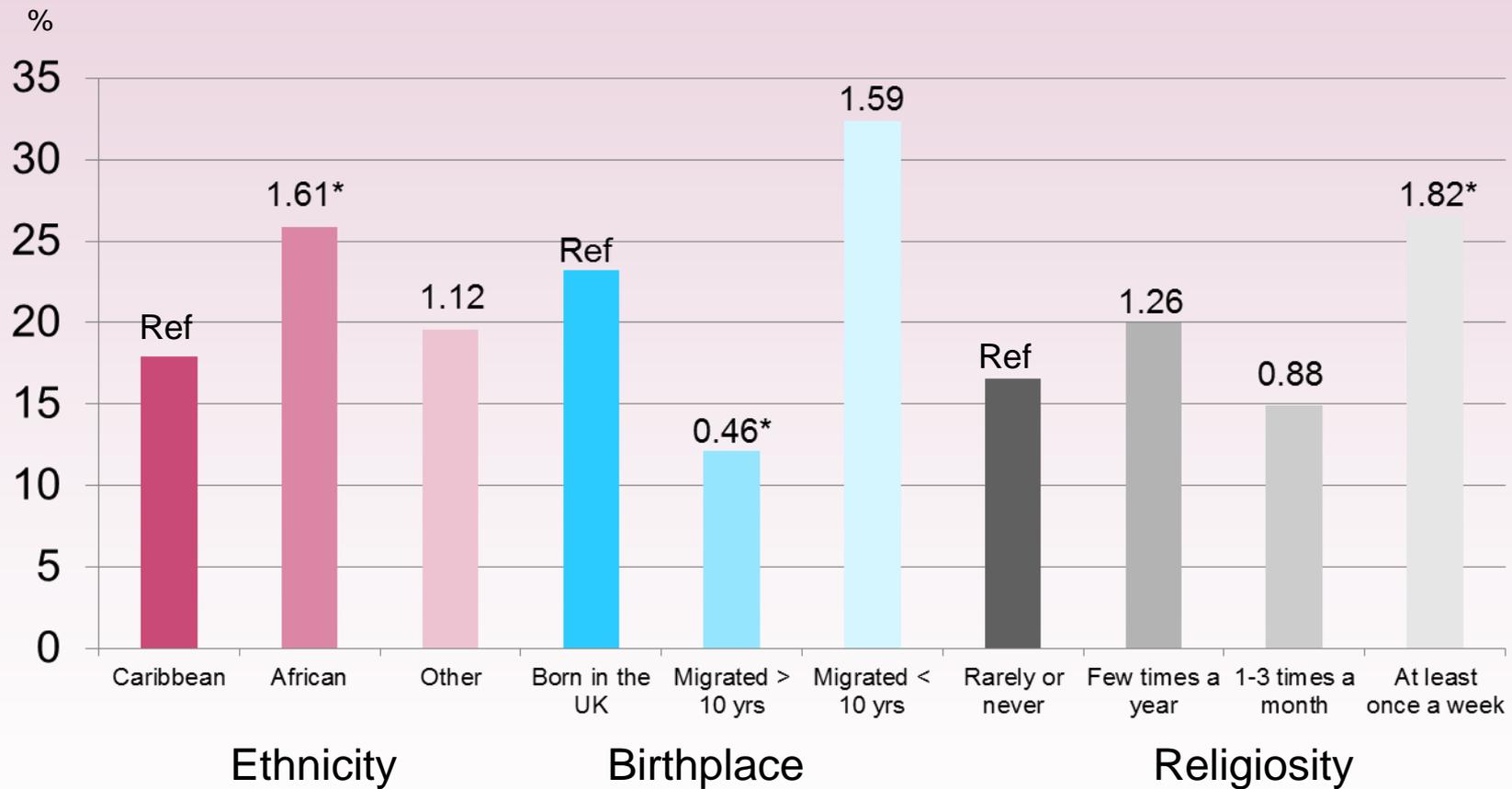
Being overdue for screening



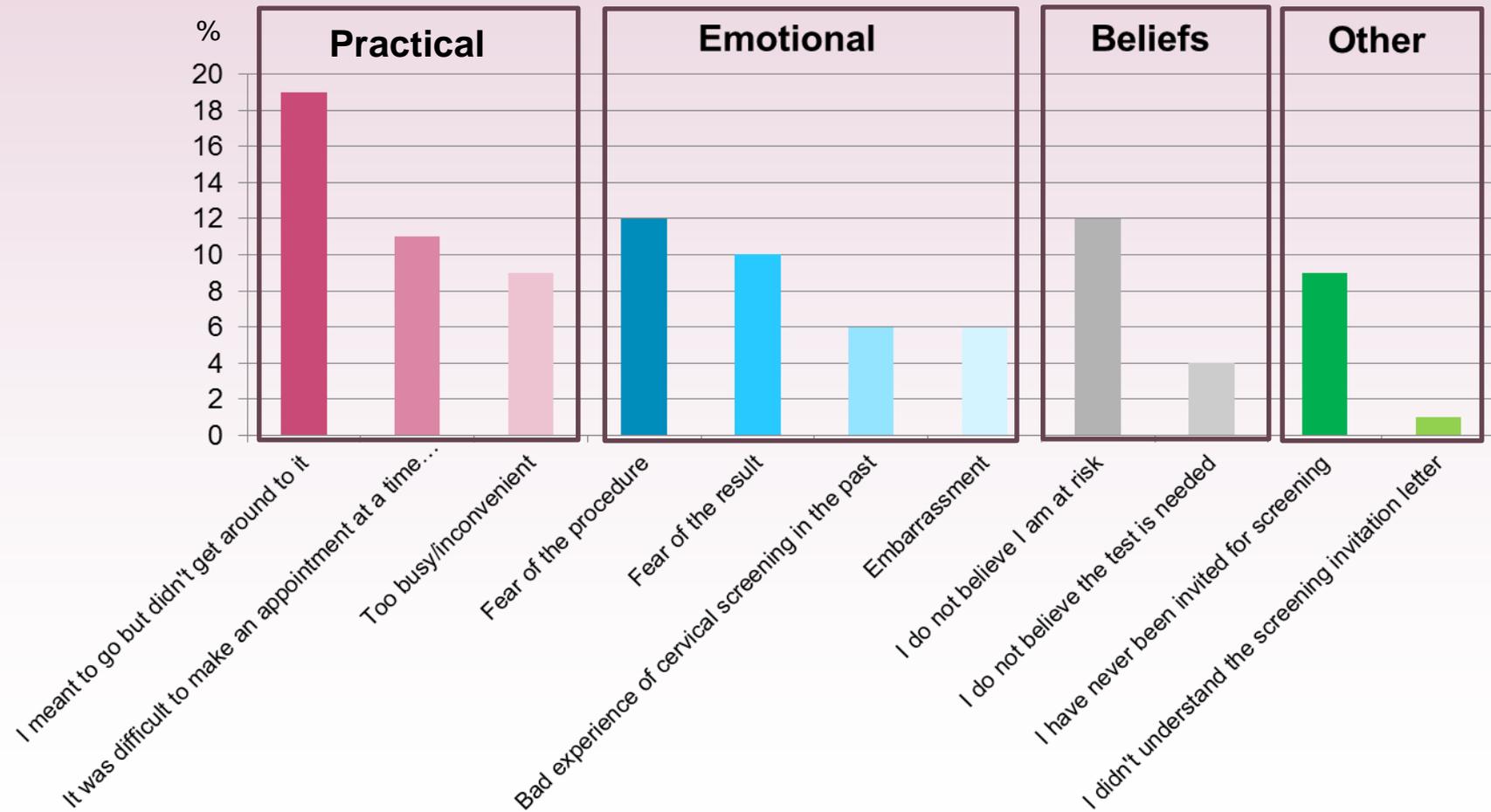
Being overdue for screening



Being overdue for screening



Barriers to cervical screening (n=67)



	Caribbean (n=35)	African (n=29)
<u>Practical barriers</u>		
I meant to go but didn't get around to it	11 (31.4)	8 (27.6)
It was difficult to make an appointment...*	9 (25.7)	1 (3.4)
Too busy/inconvenient	5 (14.3)	4 (13.8)
<u>Emotional Barriers</u>		
Fear of the test procedure	3 (8.6)	9 (31.0)
Fear of a 'bad' result	5 (14.3)	5 (17.2)
Bad experience of cervical screening in the past	3 (8.6)	3 (10.3)
Embarrassment	2 (5.7)	4 (13.8)
<u>Beliefs about screening</u>		
I do not believe I am at risk	4 (11.4)	7 (24.1)
I do not believe the test is needed	0 (0)	3 (10.3)

Conclusions

- Ethnic sub-groups vary in uptake
- African women more likely to endorse emotional barriers relating to the test procedure
- Migration and religiosity play a role in predicting cervical screening attendance
- Self-selection bias - tip of the iceberg

Acknowledgements

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