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DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH AND GRADUATE TRAINING (DGRT)
SUPPORTING EARLY-CAREER ACADEMICS AT MAKERERE UNIVERSITY (SECA)
WITH SUPPORT FROM THE CARNEGIE CORPORATION OF NEW YORK

***Adolescent Motherhood, Vulnerability Assessment and Newborn care practices,
in Eastern Uganda (AMNEP)***

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

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CO- PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

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School of Public Health
Makerere University



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Presentation Outline

| Background

| Project Implementation

| Methodology

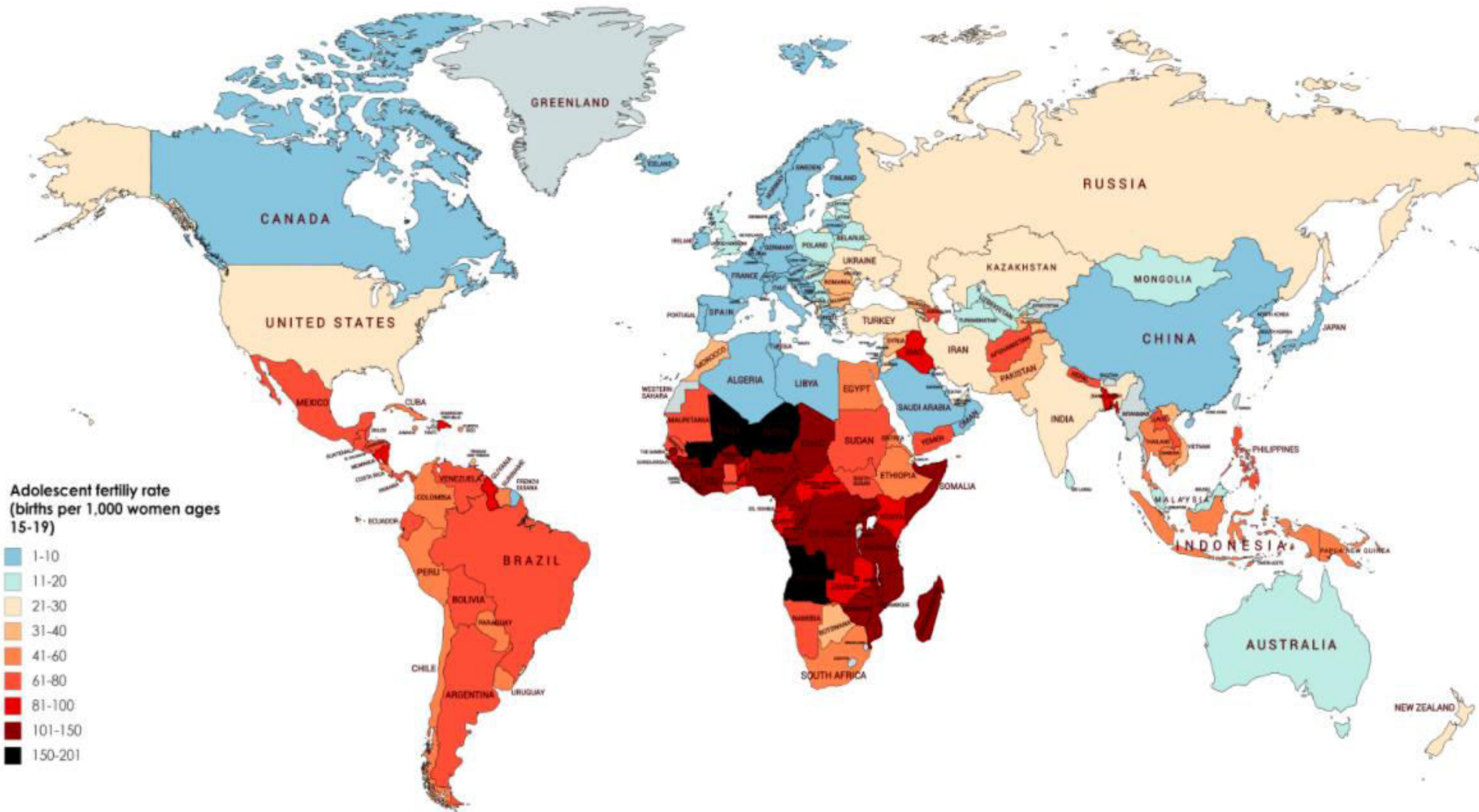
| Findings

| Conclusions

| Recommendations

| References

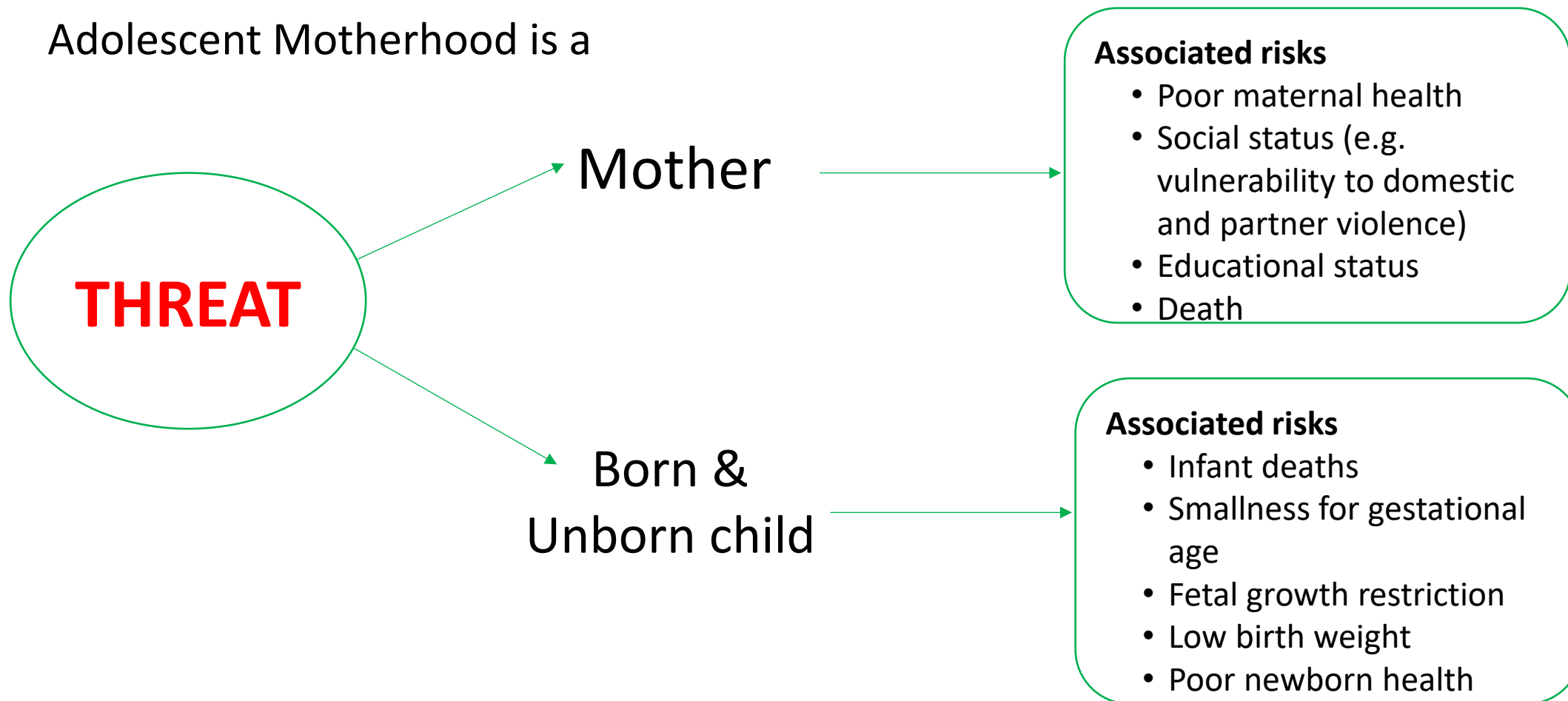
| Acknowledgements





Background

Adolescent Motherhood is a





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Background



Key Statistics on Adolescent Motherhood

48%

of Uganda's population is below 15 years (UBOS, 2016)

20%

of adolescent girls aged 15-19 years in Uganda are reportedly married (UBOS, 2006-2016)

25%

of adolescent girls in Uganda become pregnant before the age of 19 years (UBOS, 2016)

14%

Child marriage rate among girls aged 12-19 years in Luuka district (UBOS, 2017)

18%

Child bearing rate among girls aged 12-19 years in Luuka district (UBOS, 2017)



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Study Objectives

General Objective

To develop and test adolescent motherhood vulnerability assessment tool and to examine the knowledge, behavioral practices and perceptions of maternal and new born care among adolescent mothers in Luuka District

1

To examine the knowledge levels and awareness of maternal and newborn care among adolescent mothers and the community in Luuka District

2

To assess the pre and postnatal maternal and newborn care practices and among adolescent mothers and the community in Luuka District

3

To explore the perceptions, vulnerability risk and barriers to unborn and newborn care management among adolescent mothers and the community in Luuka District

4

To develop and test a community based adolescent mothers Vulnerability Assessment Tool



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PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION



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Project Activities



- **Protocol development**
 - Study tools developed (questionnaire, Key informant and in-depth interview guides)
 - Consent forms developed
- **Ethical approvals obtained**
 - Mildmay Uganda Research Ethics Committee [[REC REF 0811-2020](#)]
 - Uganda National Council of Science and Technology [[HS 1248ES](#)]
 - District clearance obtained from RDC, CAO and DHO



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Project Activities



- **Recruitment of the study team**
 - Research assistants experienced in quantitative and qualitative data collection were recruited
- **Recruitment of Graduate research fellow**
 - Ten applications received
 - Six candidates shortlisted
 - One successful candidate awarded fellowship



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SECA Graduate Fellow

Graduate research Fellow Key outputs



- Wrote a dissertation titled *“Perceptions and Determinants of Antenatal Care Utilization among Adolescent Mothers in Luuka District, Uganda.”* – AWAITING GRADUATION
- Wrote a manuscript titled *“Timing and quality of antenatal care among adolescent mothers in a rural community, Uganda.”* Under review: Adolescent Health, Medicine and Therapeutics journal
- Poster presentation at the Consortium of Universities for Global Health virtual conference (CUGH), 2022



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DATA COLLECTION



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Methodology

Adolescent mothers
Aged 0-19 years
Currently pregnant
Had babies 0-3 months

**Study
population**

**Data
collection**

Quantitative - structured
questionnaire (n=248)
Qualitative - (18 IDIs, 16 KIIs)

Mixed methods
Quantitative and
Qualitative

**Study
design**

**Data
Analysis**

Quantitative – descriptive
statistics, logistic and
complementary log-log
regression
Qualitative – Thematic
framework



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Study team members during data collection





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Findings

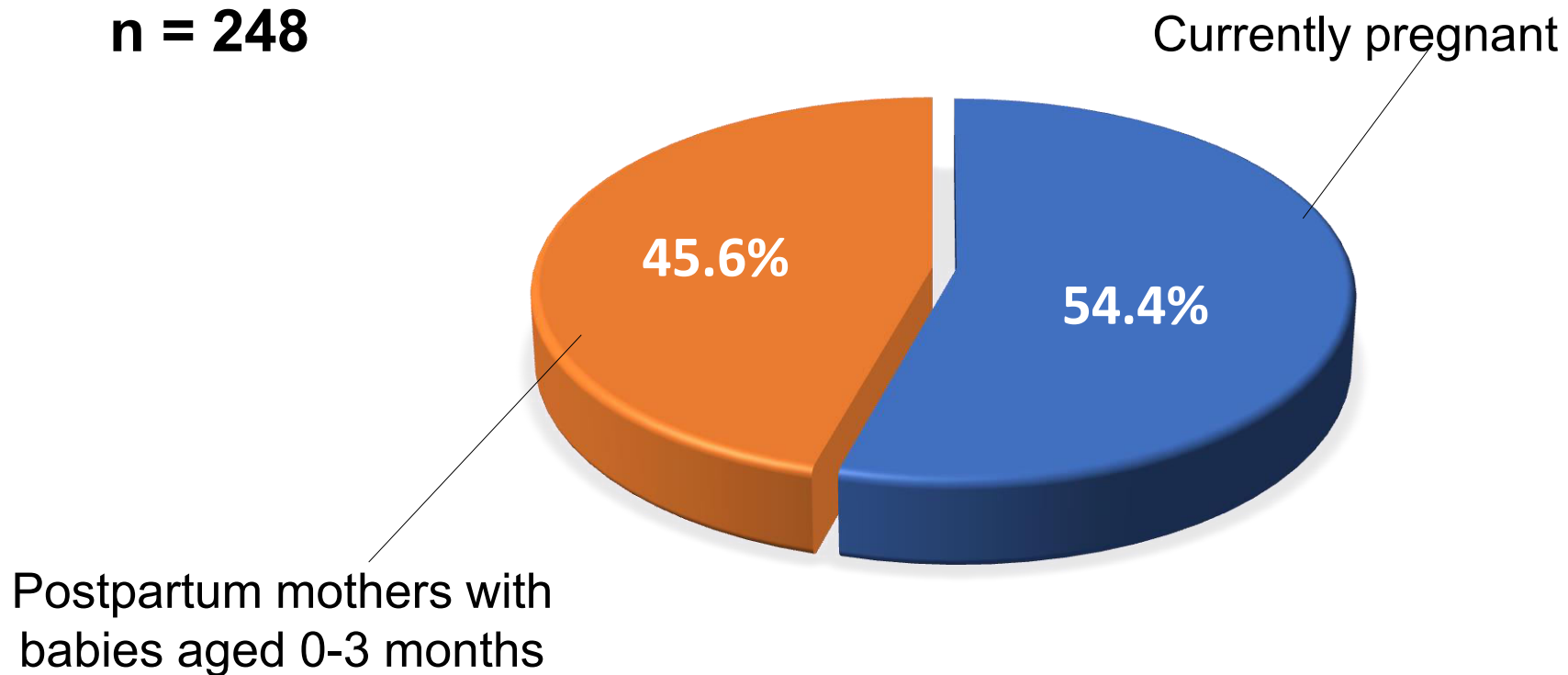


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Respondent category

n = 248



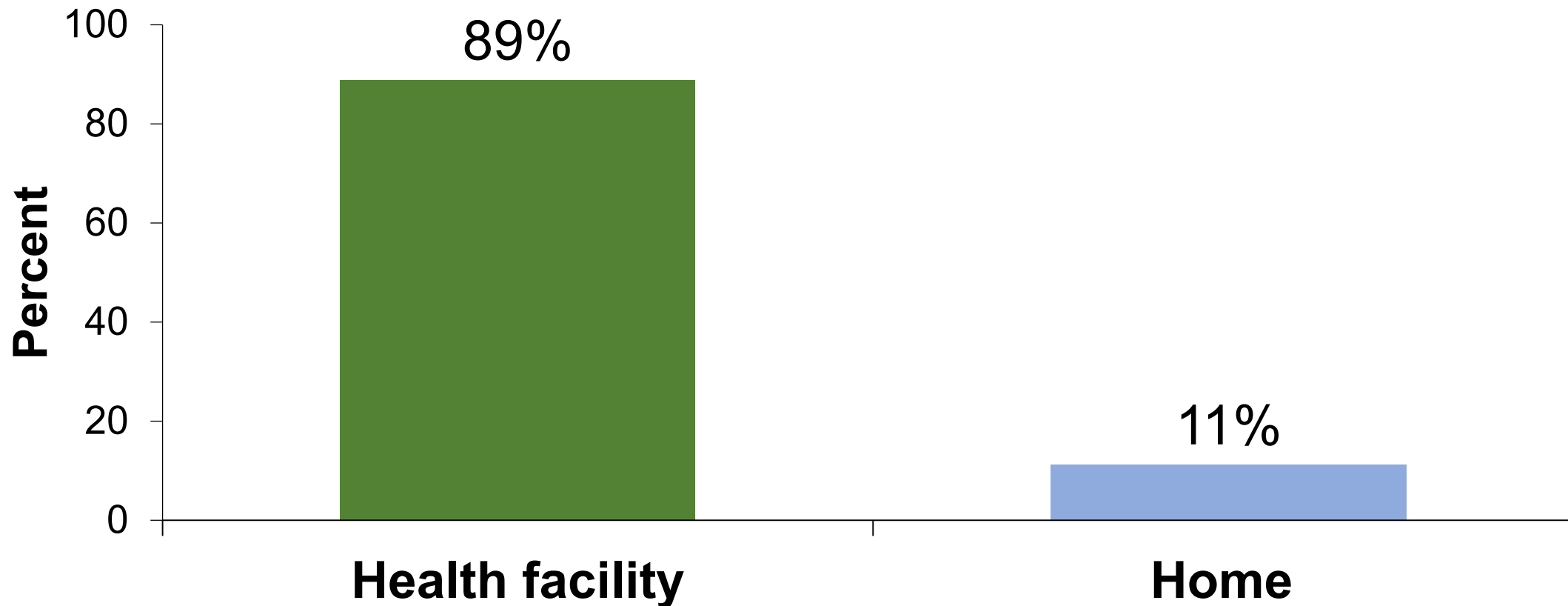


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Findings: Home birth delivery

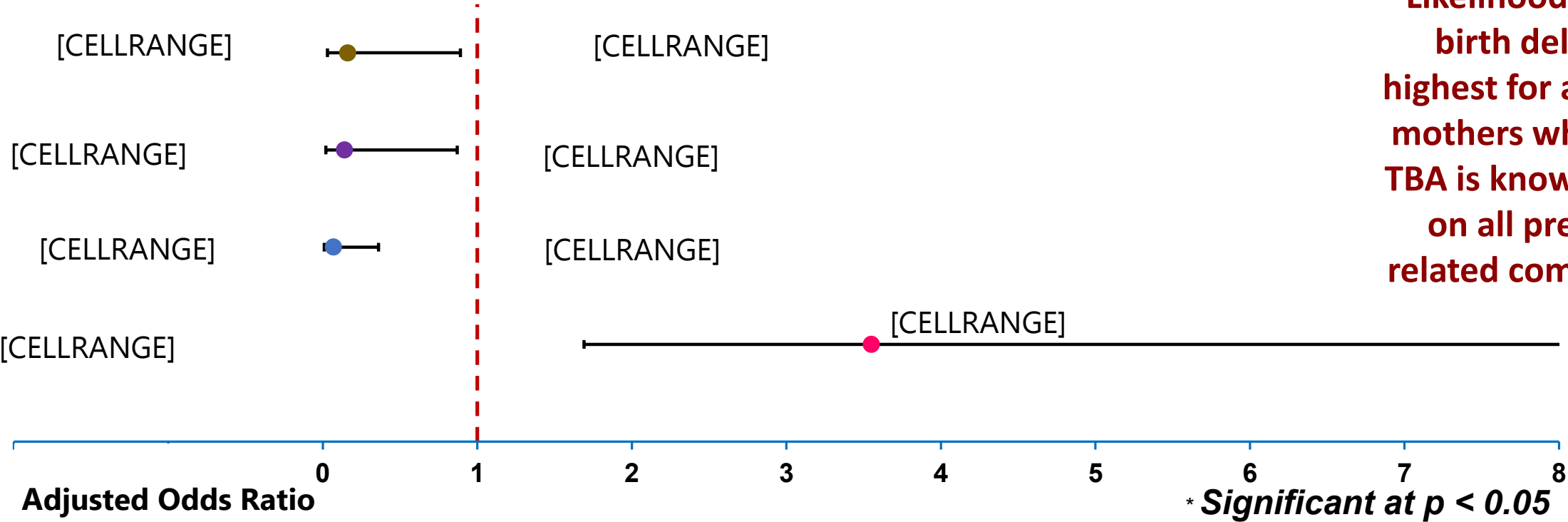
Distribution of Adolescent mothers by place of delivery





Findings: Home birth delivery

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH HOME BIRTH DELIVERY



Likelihood of home birth delivery is highest for adolescent mothers who believe TBA is knowledgeable on all pregnancy related complications

Note: PRC - Pregnancy related complications



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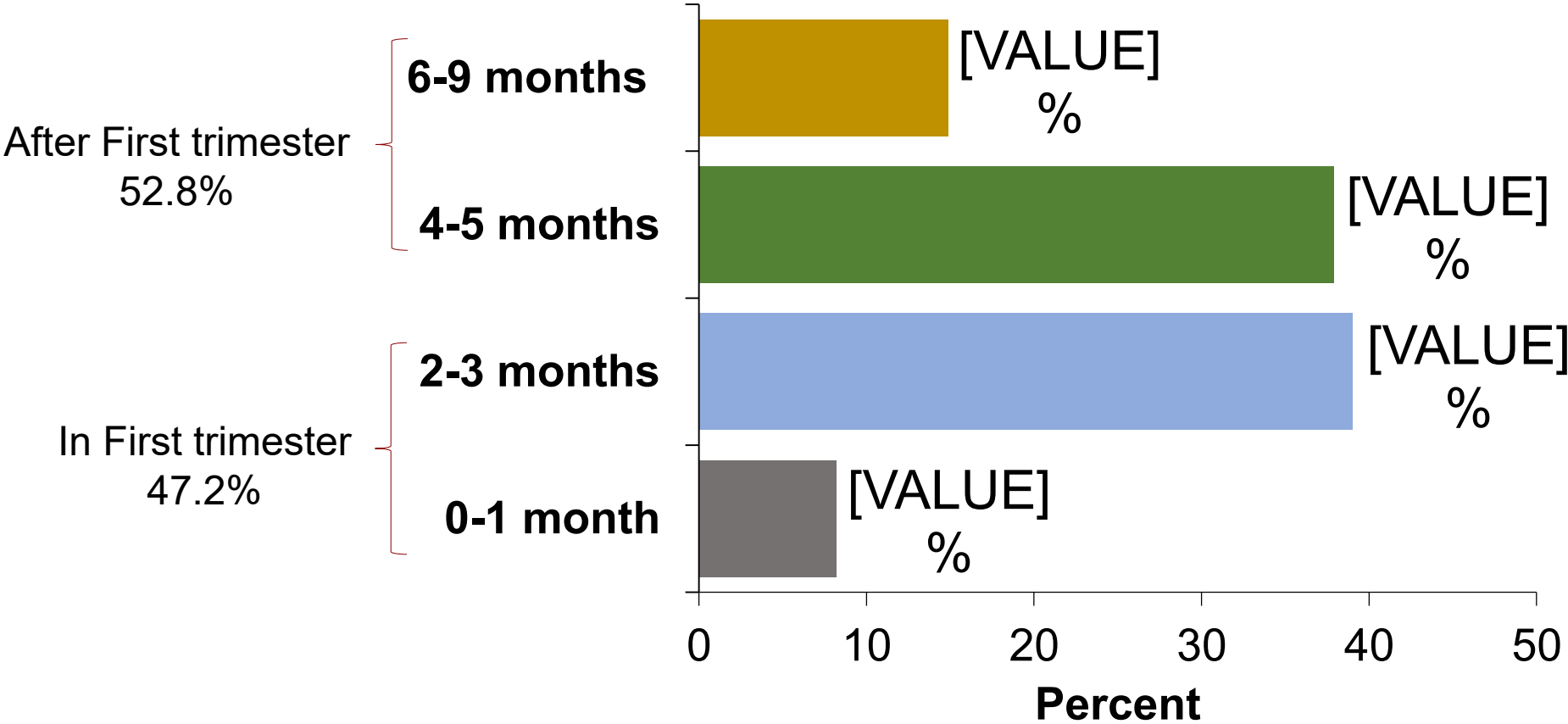


PRENATAL CARE



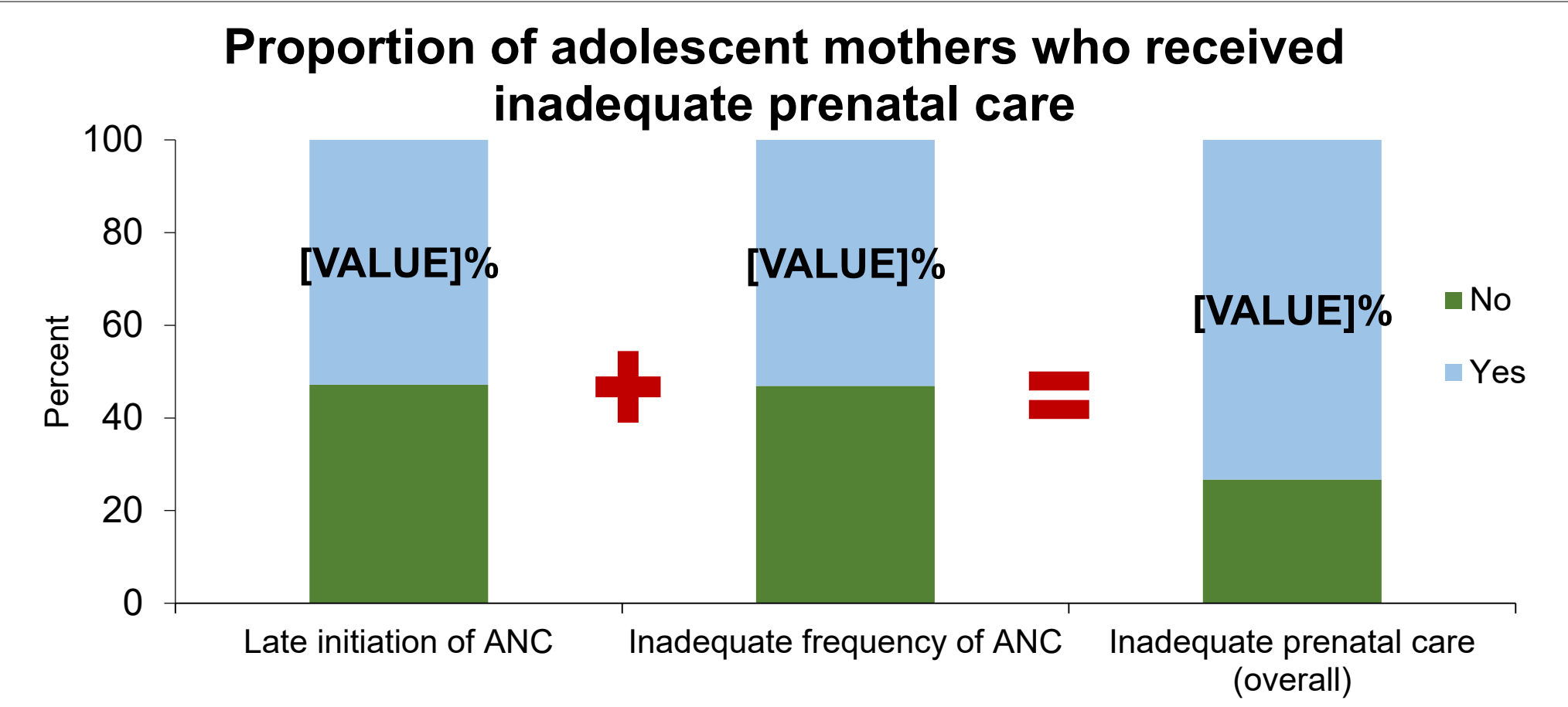
Findings: Prenatal care

Timing of the first antenatal care visit





Findings: Prenatal care

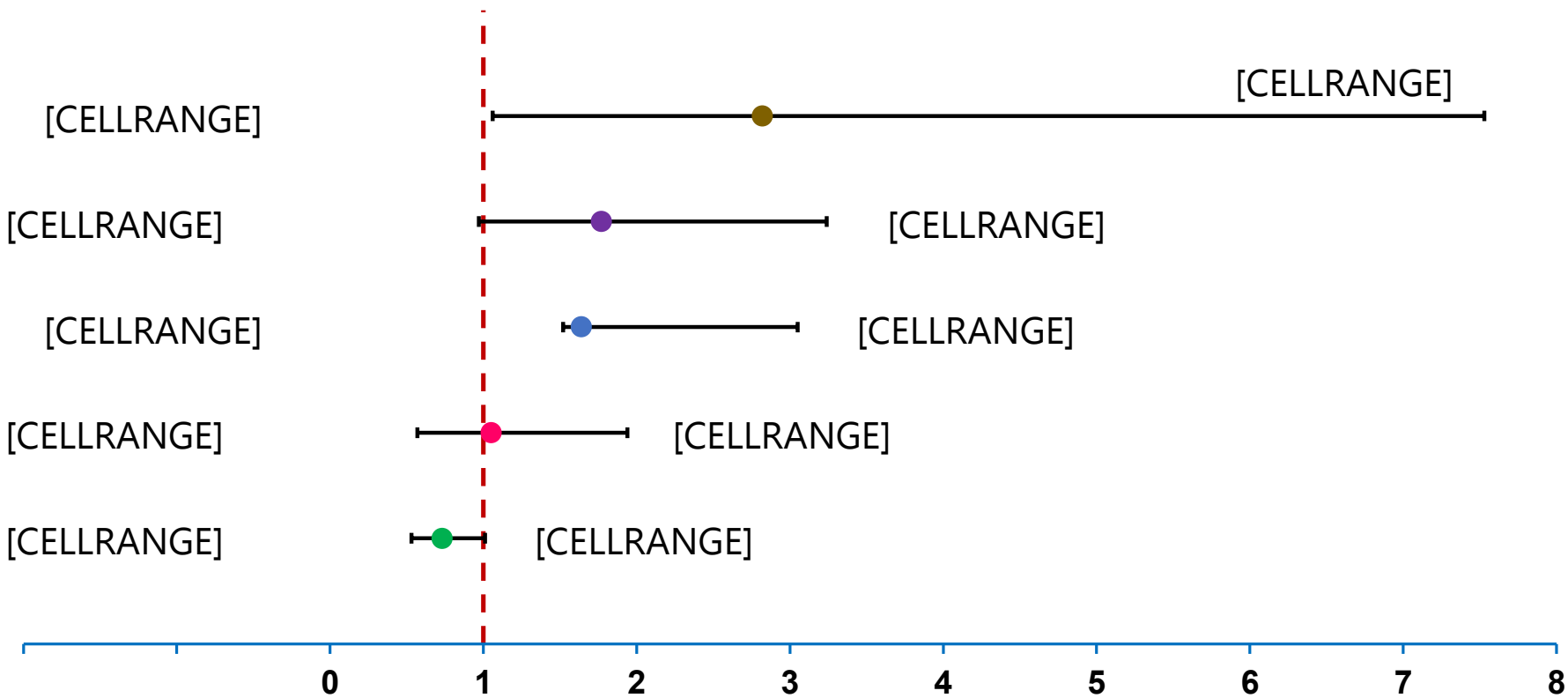


Inadequate frequency of ANC = less than four ANC Visits; late initiation of ANC = first ANC visit first trimester



Findings: Prenatal care

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH INADEQUATE PRENATAL CARE



Adjusted Odds Ratio

* Significant at $p < 0.05$

Note: PDS - Pregnancy danger signs

Likelihood of receiving inadequate prenatal care is highest for **adolescent mothers aged 16** and **those staying at least 1km from the nearest health facility**



Qualitative Findings: Prenatal care

Use of herbs during pregnancy

- adolescent mothers reportedly use traditional medicines since they are believed to give energy and ease delivery as well as facilitate abortions incase of need

“Yes, they eat the traditional medicine in order to terminate the pregnancy but sometimes they end up dying in the process” (KI 12)

“when I check on them I give them some local medicine to help them, some are for bathing so they help them a lot though at times it is some diseases of the blood and that one you cannot help, we cannot do all things” (KI 4).



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Qualitative Findings: Prenatal care

Poverty had an impact on the care of adolescent mothers and the housing conditions they live under

"It is a cycle due to poverty they engage sexual behaviors then end up not going to hospital for antenatal services simply because they do not have the resources needed" (KI 3)

Peer influence and idleness

- Peer influence led most of the adolescents into looking for money and temporary care, in the form of basic needs, from men during the COVID-19 lock down.

*"You will find a home and the father is unable to look after his household. So due to peer groups, these girls find themselves in bad situations. Most of the girls their parents can not afford to give 500= ...(<\$1) pocket money. So this makes them join peer groups or start bad sexual behavior which leads to unplanned pregnancies."
(KI 15)*



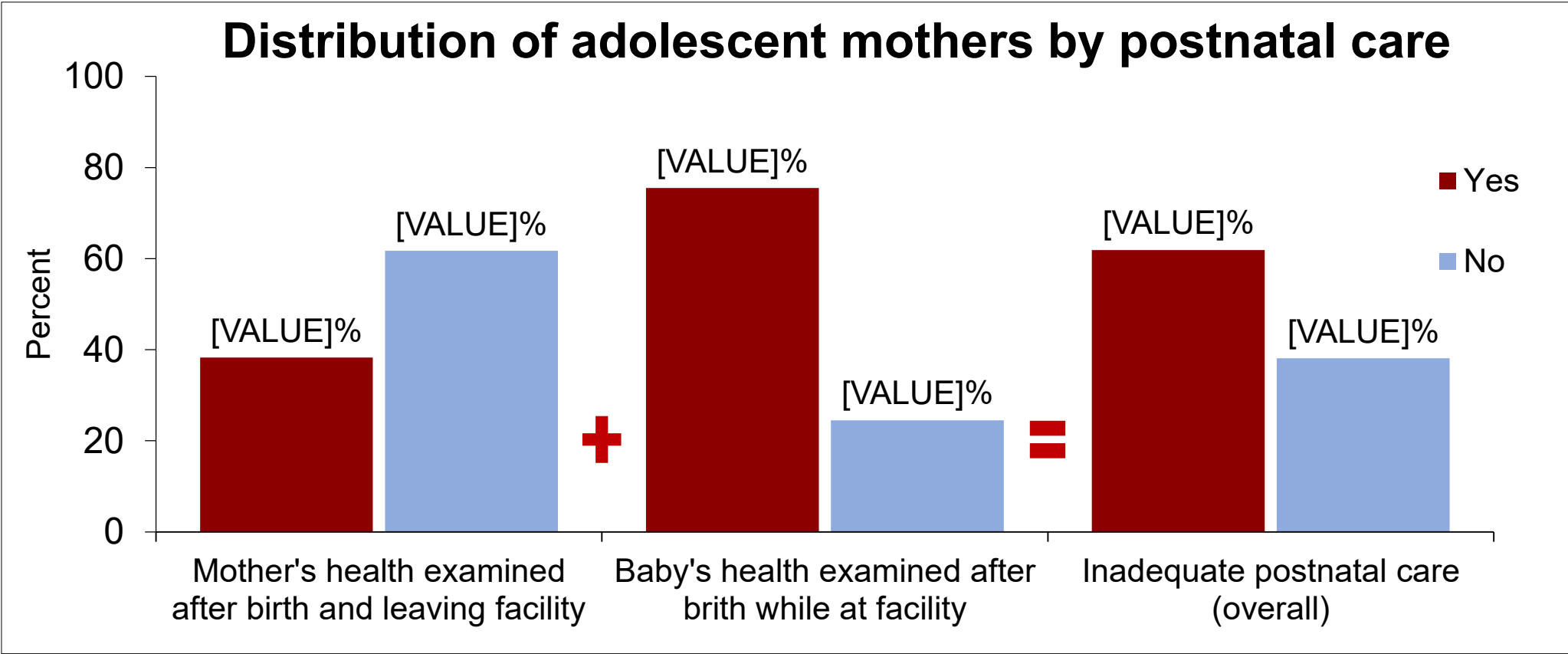
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POSTNATAL CARE



Findings: Postnatal care



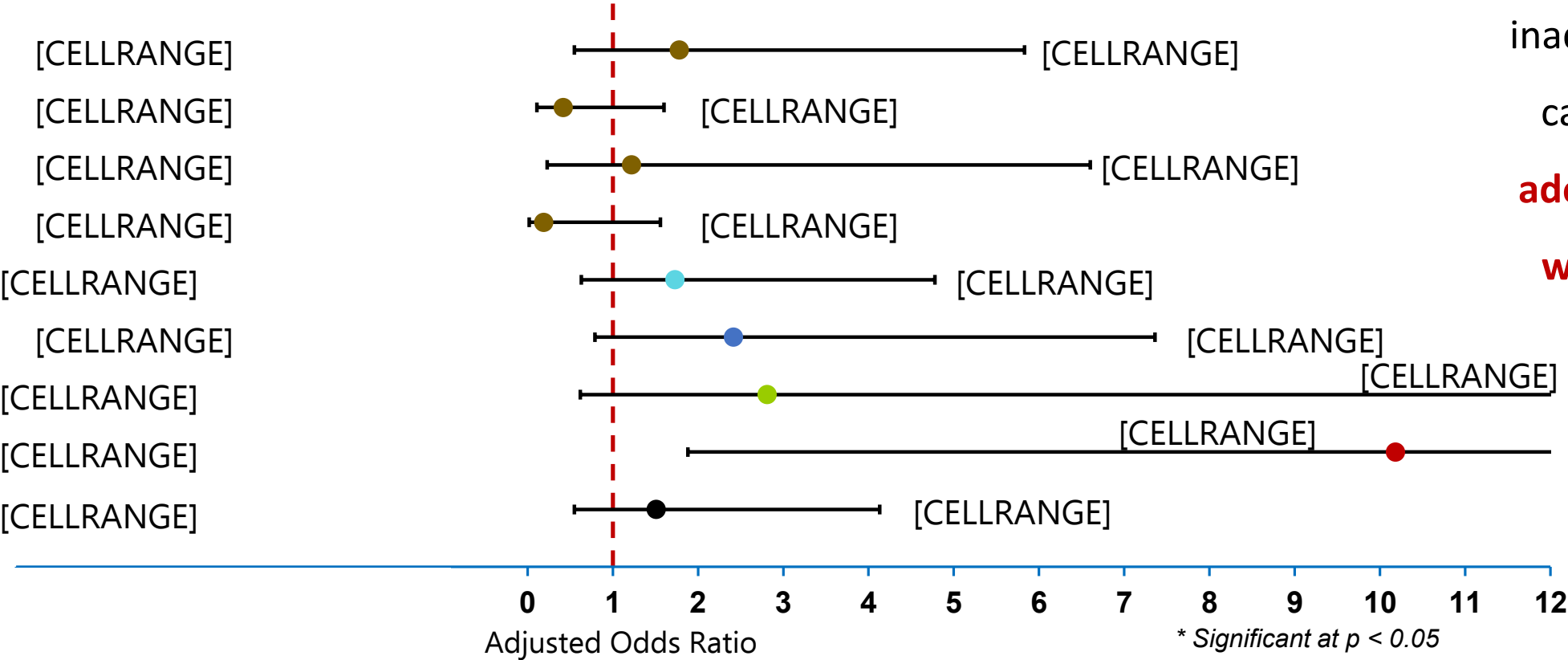
Respondents were asked whether they went back for postnatal review after delivery of themselves or baby



Findings: Postnatal care

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH INADEQUATE POSTNATAL CARE

Likelihood of receiving inadequate postnatal care is highest for **adolescent mothers who deliver from home**





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VULNERABILITIES

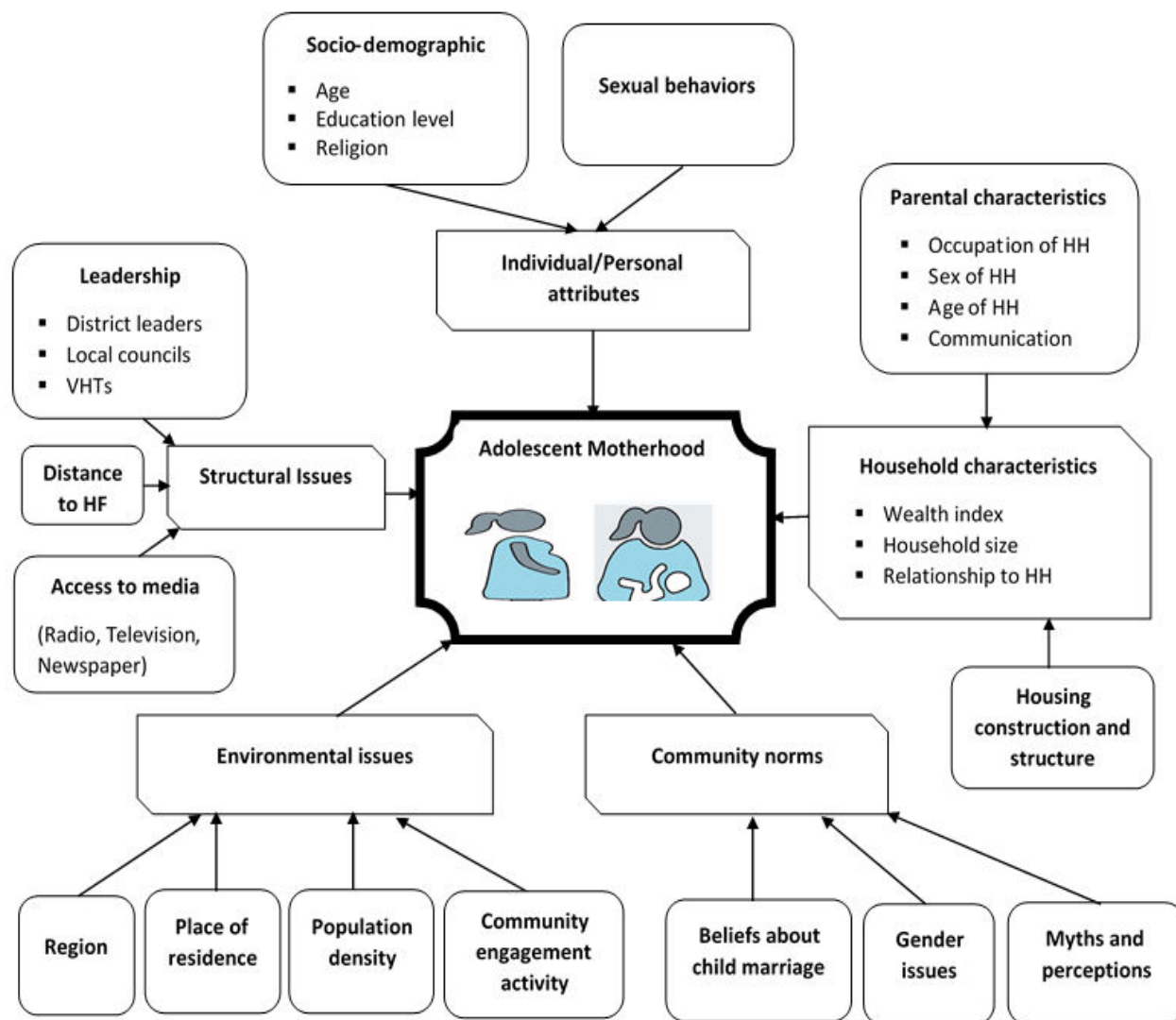


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Development of VATAM TOOL



Development of the Vulnerability Assessment Tool for Adolescent Mothers (**VATAM**)





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VATAM TOOL



Development process of the VATAM

- First version of the tool developed and tested in the community

VATAM; Version 1, 30.03.22

ADOLESCENT MOTHERHOOD, VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT, MATERNAL AND NEWBORN CARE PRACTICES, IN EASTERN UGANDA (AMNEP)



**VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR ADOLESCENT
MOTHERS (VATAM)**



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Vulnerabilities

Vulnerability to pregnancy among adolescent girls in Luuka is driven by multiple factors including

- High levels of poverty
- Peer influence
- Casual laborers and boda-boda riders
- Long distances to school and water points
- COVID19 lockdown
- Parents abandoning their parenting responsibility



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Project Activities: Community Engagement



- Two community engagements conducted in Butimbwa parish and Waibuga sub county



Community engagement in Butimbwa parish, Waibuga sub county



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Dissemination of study findings

- Validation meeting held with district health team & SECA DRGT monitoring team
- Final dissemination done in April 2022



Final dissemination workshop held at Luuka district community hall on 1st April 2022

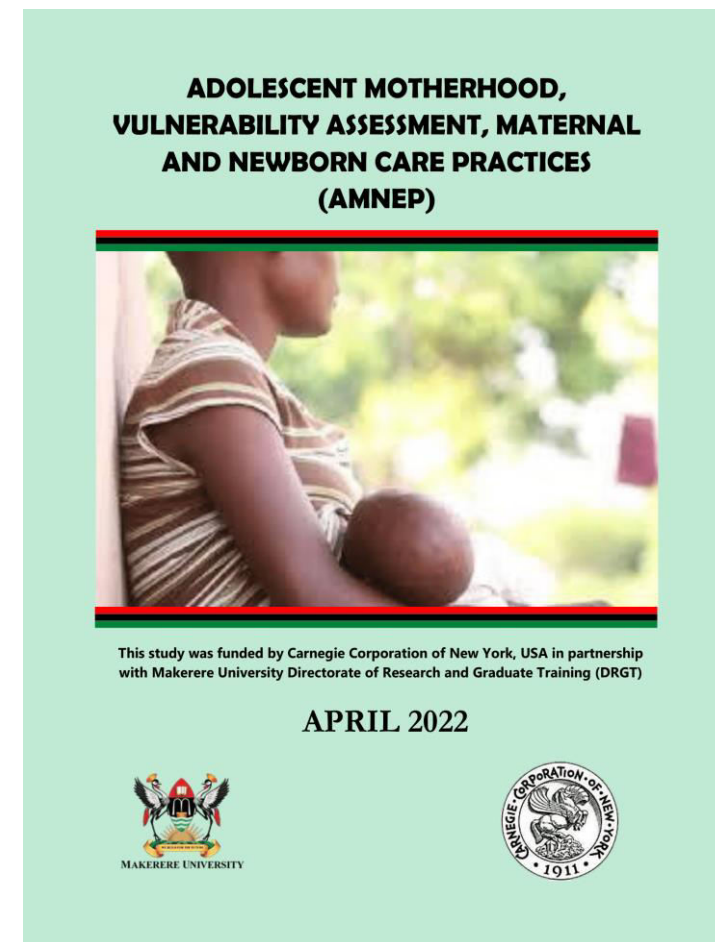
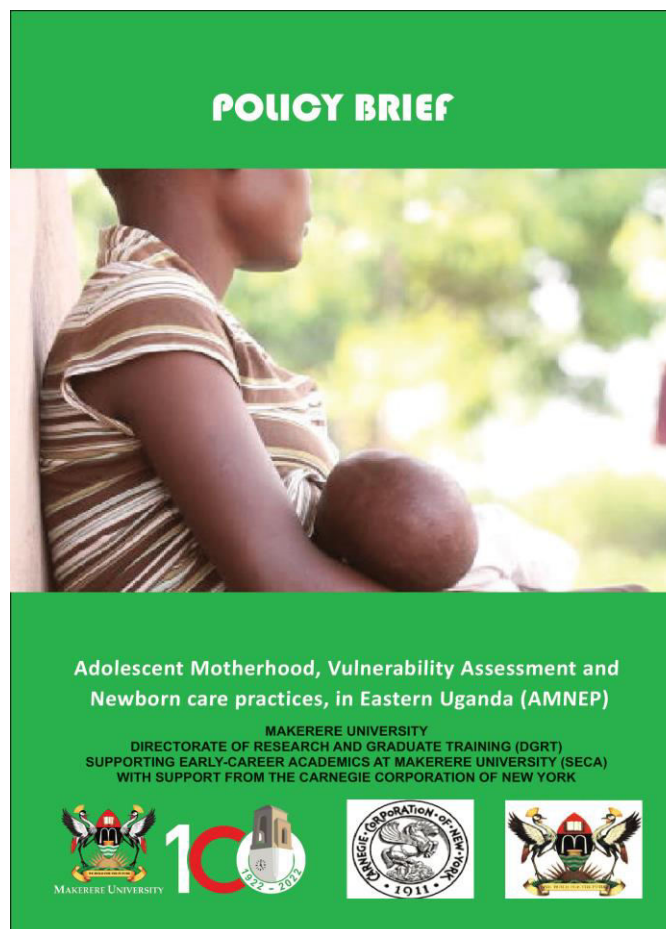


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Dissemination Project Report & Policy Brief



- Policy brief
- Project report
- Two abstracts presented at IUSSP and CUGH conferences
- Two manuscripts submitted for publication





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Home delivery, inadequate Prenatal and Postnatal care practices among adolescent mothers in Luuka district, Uganda in the COVID-19 ERA

IUSSP – International Conference on Population 2021
December 8 / 12:00 - 13:30 UTC

Wednesday,

DR. ALLEN KABAGENYI, FUNAS

Co- Authors

Mr Ronald Wasswa, *Makerere University*

Mr. Vincent Kayemba, *Makerere University*

Ms. Evelyne Nyachwo, *Makerere University*

Prof. Peter Waiswa, *Makerere University School of Public Health*



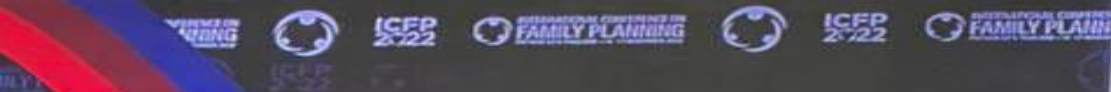
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
FAMILY PLANNING
BANGKOK CITY, THAILAND • 14-17 NOVEMBER 2022



Thank you co-chairs!



ICFP2022 #FPforALL





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Departmental Grant



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SECA-AMNEP Departmental grant



Room 105 post-implementation

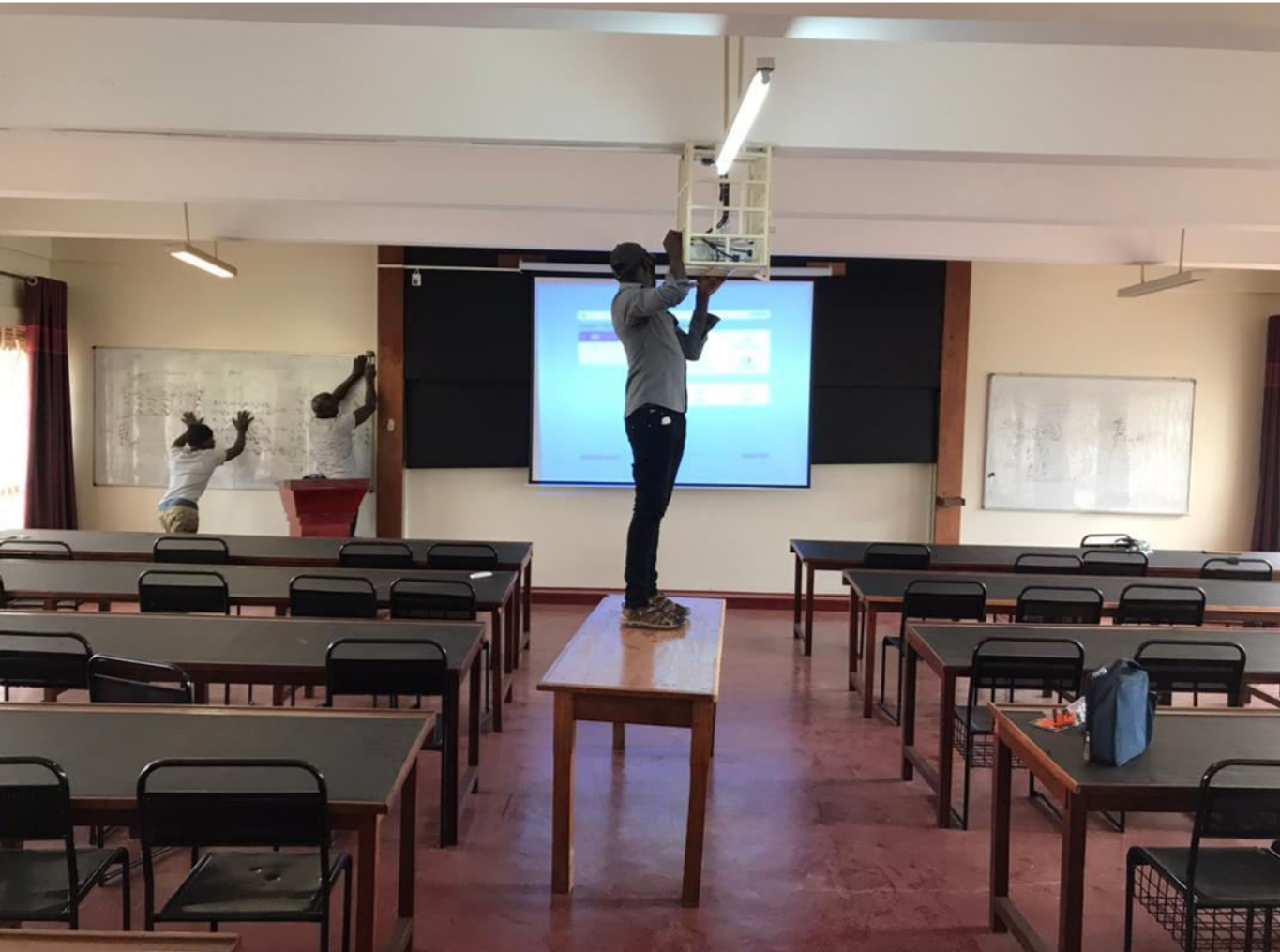
- Re-worked Tables to split them into 2
- Installed Overhead projector
- Painted walls and floor
- Curtains were put in the room
- Chairs were bought for the same room





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SECA-AMNEP Departmental grant



<https://news.mak.ac.ug/2021/11/school-of-statistics-planning-launches-research-seminar-room/>



Conclusion

- Trust in the traditional birth attendants, and long distance to the health facility are key drivers of home birth deliveries and inadequate prenatal care respectively.
- Inadequate postnatal care is facilitated by home birth delivery.
- Inadequate parent child communication and community support for the girl child.
- Inadequate adolescent friendly services within communities.
- Eliminating those and any other hindrances to health facility delivery and adequate prenatal and postnatal care calls for taking a strong stand against TBAs and expansion of the health facilities network.



Recommendations



- Parental communication with adolescents on sexual and reproductive health issues should be encouraged in the community.
- There is need for more adolescent friendly services at the facilities and outreaches in the communities to enable girls get SRH services
- There is need to implement policies of adolescent mothers re entry and continued education after giving birth.
- Incorporate adolescent sexual and reproductive health talks in schools programs to enable girls manage challenging situations.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



- Makerere University, Directorate of Research and Graduate Training (**DGRT**) - **SECA GRANT**
- **SECA Mentor:** Prof. Peter Waiswa ;
- District Administration (DHO, RDC, CAO)
- Village Health Team- community guides
- Study participants- adolescent Mothers
- Key Informants
- **SECA Graduate Fellow:** Vincent Kayemba,
- Research Team
 - Research Assistants
 - Ms. Evelyne Nyachwo, Mr. Julius Sseninde, Mr. Ronald Wasswa, Mr. Vincent Kayemba,



References

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THANK YOU