



'If God Wills It': Routine Screening for Pregnancy Intention among Immigrants and Refugees in Two Federally-Qualified Health Centers

Elizabeth Kvach MD, MA

Jane Lose CNM FNP, Hayley Marcus MD,
Lucy Loomis MD MSPH

Do you want to become pregnant in the next 12 months?

Yes

No

Unsure

Preconception counseling

Preconception and contraception counseling

Contraception counseling

Quality Improvement Project Methods

- Objective: Implement/improve rates of routine pregnancy screening among women age 12-45 who have not undergone sterilization through utilization of the electronic medical record.
- Project Period: April – July 2015

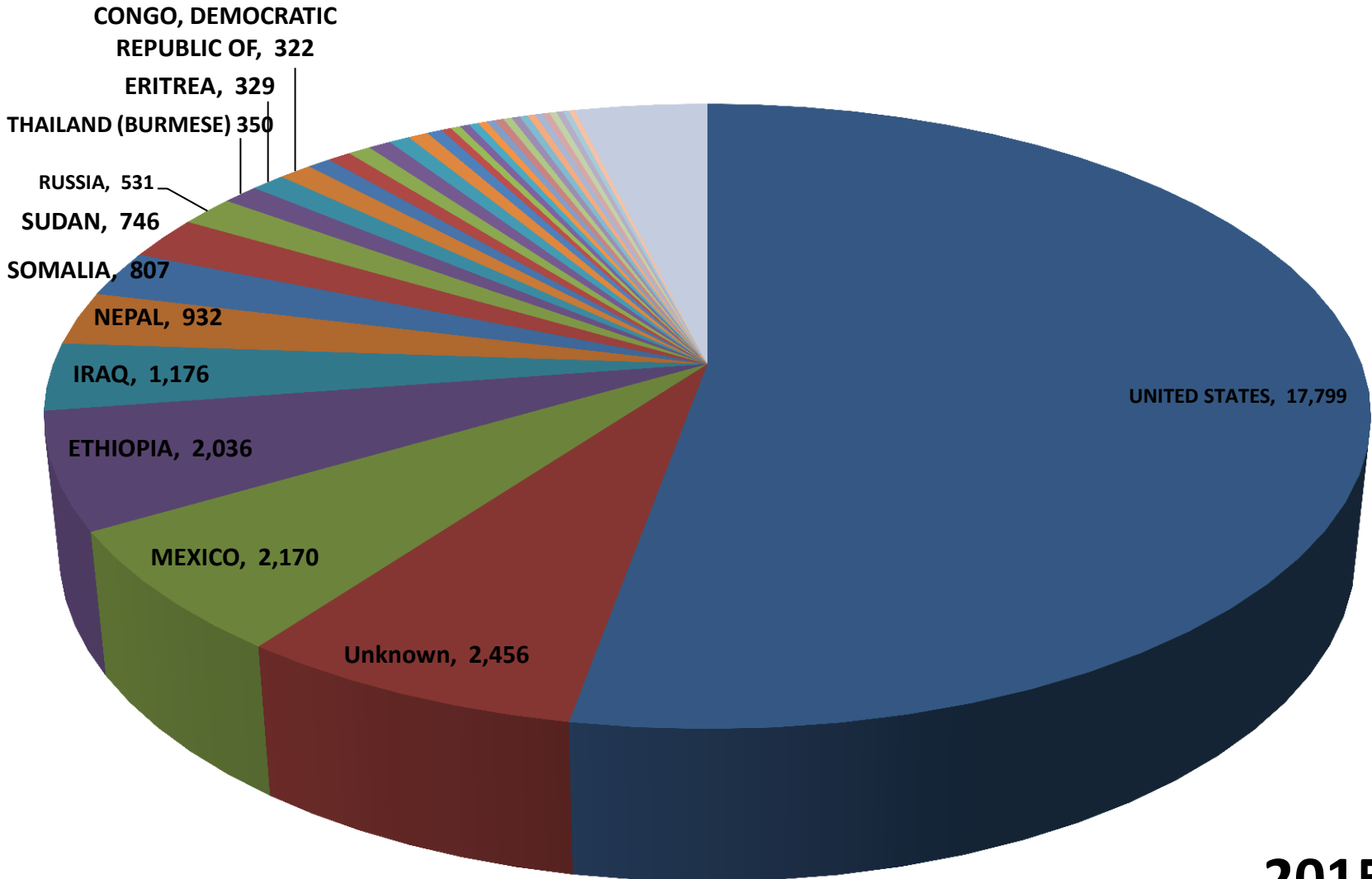


Project Sites



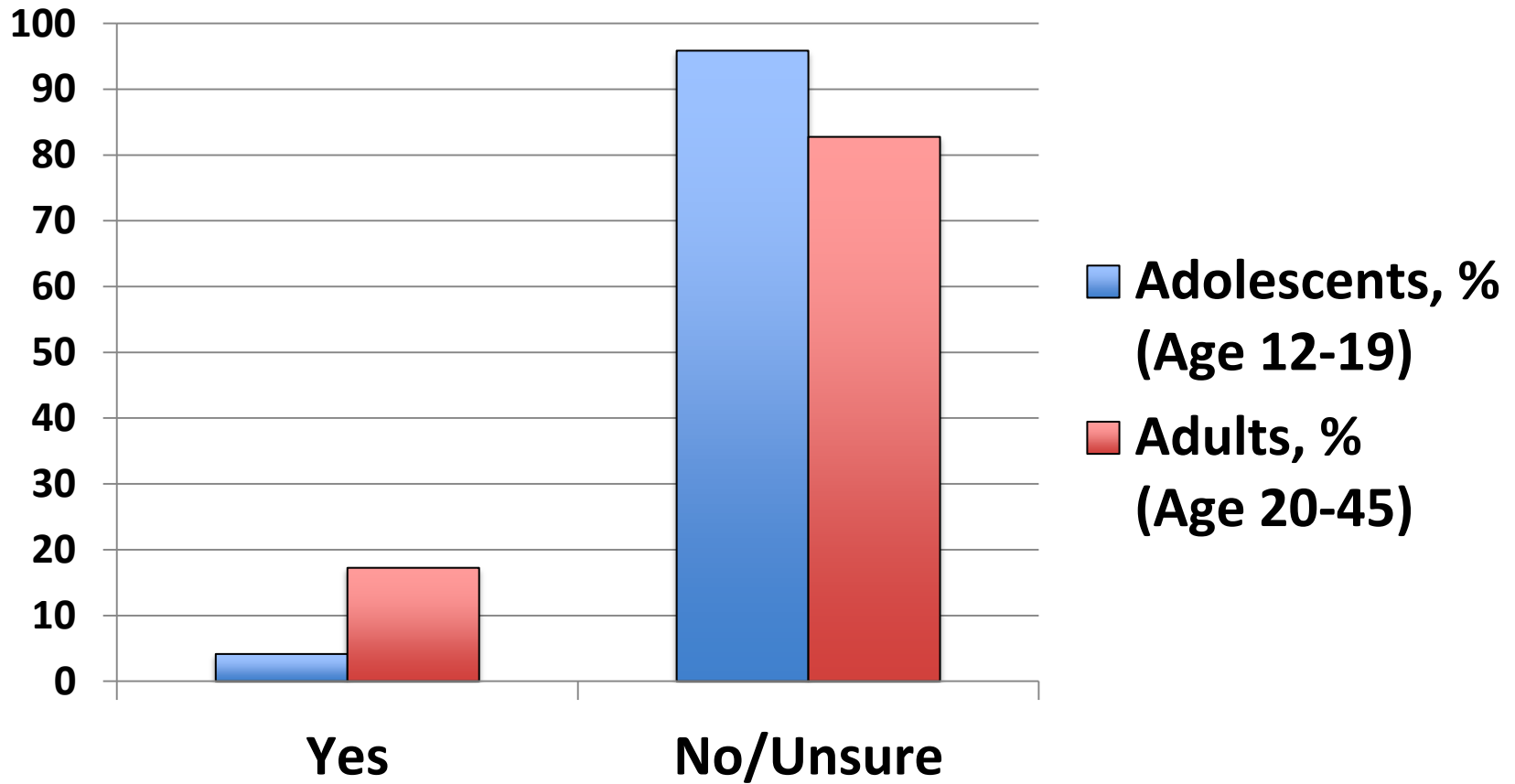
- **Site 1:** FQHC, 27% non-English speaking, mostly Latino. No title X services. Telephone interpretation.
- **Site 2:** Large teaching FQHC, in county safety net system. Diverse patient population. Houses refugee screening clinic. Title X recipient. Telephone and in-person interpretation.

Site 2: 128 Countries, 50 languages

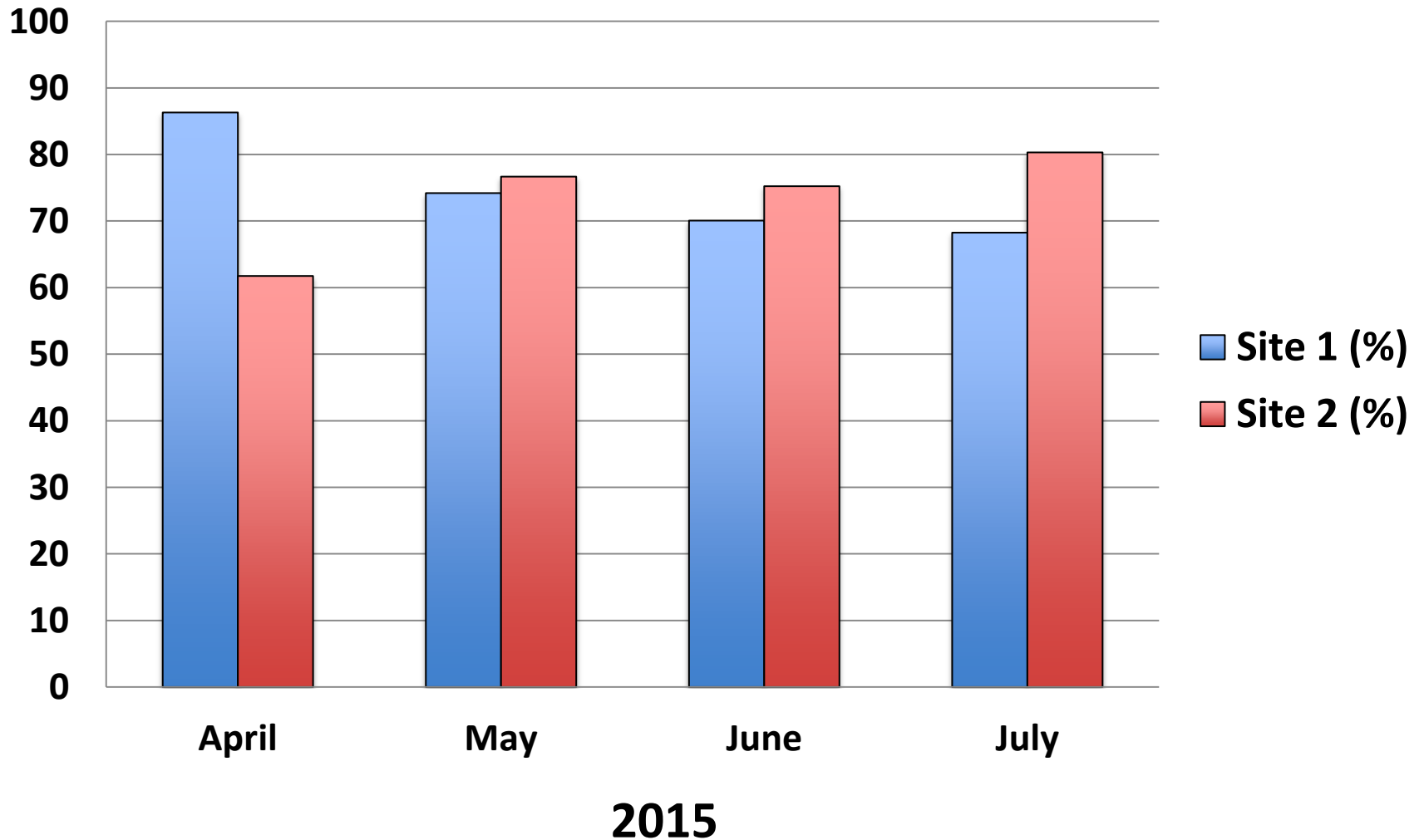


2015

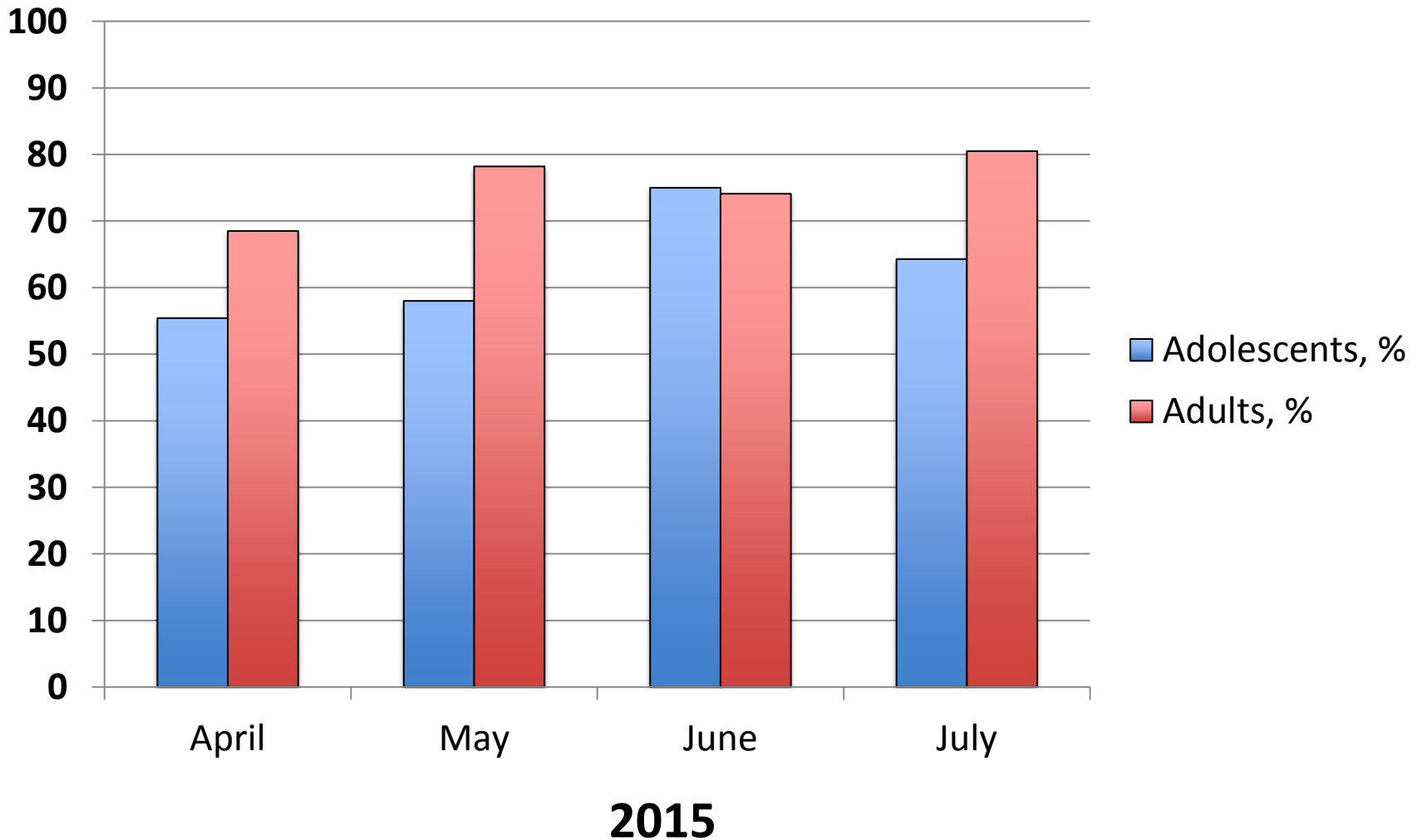
Aggregate responses to 'Do you want to become pregnant in the next year?'



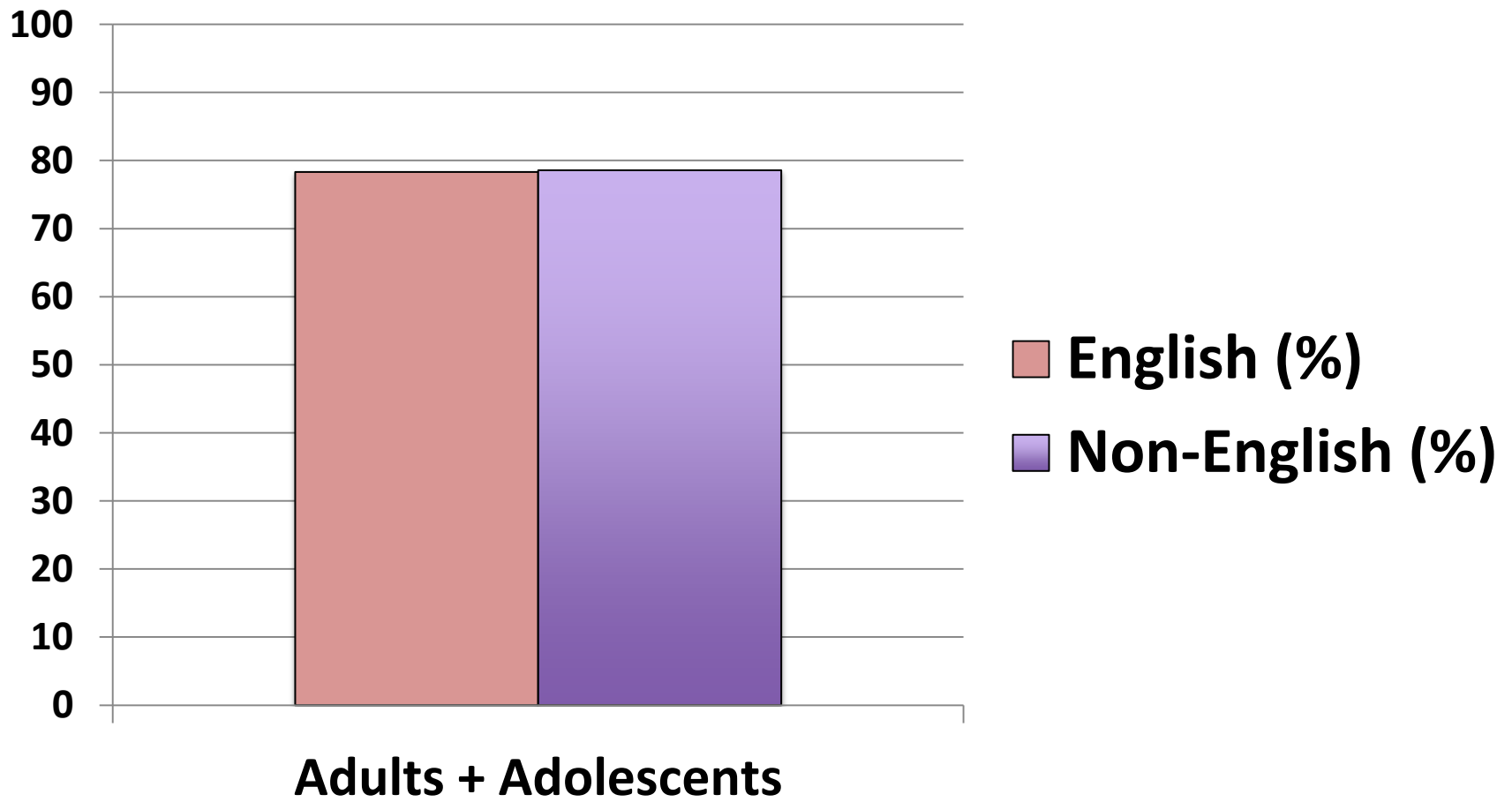
Rates of screening for pregnancy intention



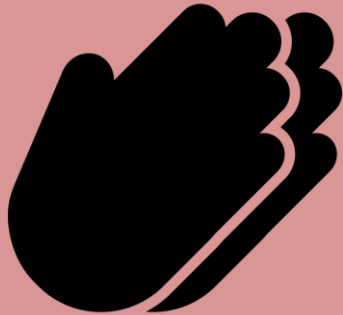
Screening rates significantly lower for adolescents than adults ($p < .0001$)



No difference in screening rates by language groups (p=0.8871)



Immigrants and Refugees: Challenges



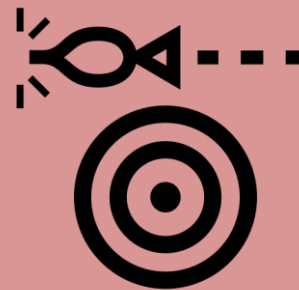
Religious
(e.g., “In-shallah”)



Cultural
(e.g., husband’s
permission)



Low health literacy



**Myths and
misperceptions**
(e.g., risk of infertility)

Immigrants and Refugees: Strategies



Rephrase the question:

Emphasis on birth spacing



Train staff:

Sensitivity training led by cultural brokers



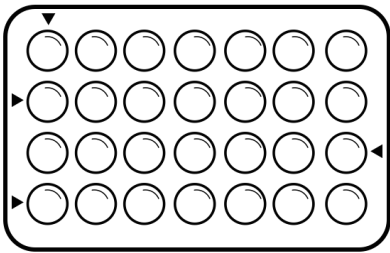
Accommodate:

Provide female staff when requested

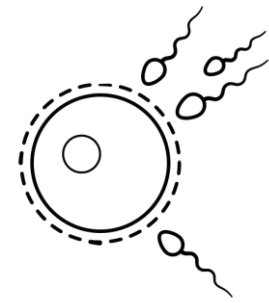


Educate:

Use Title X health educator



Conclusions



- Routine pregnancy intention screening of eligible women can be successfully implemented in clinics with immigrants and refugees, regardless of primary language, in order to reduce unmet reproductive health needs.
- Family planning counseling should be culturally adapted
- More research needs to be done on how best to meet the needs of adolescent patients.

Acknowledgments

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- elizabeth.kvach@dhha.org