

Misconceptions and knowledge gaps regarding female genital schistosomiasis among community women and healthcare professionals in Kimpese, Democratic Republic of Congo

Cecilia Wangari Wambui¹, Joule Madinga², Mercy Gloria Ashepet¹, Maxson Kenneth Anyolitho³, Patrick Mitashi⁴, Tine Huyse¹

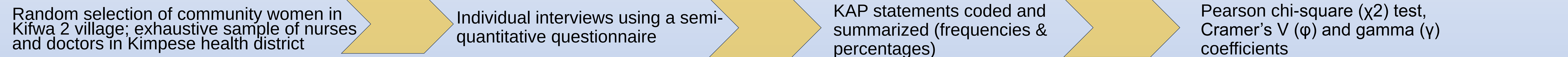


¹Royal Museum for Central Africa, Belgium; ²Institut National de recherche Biomédicale, DRC; ³Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Mbarara, Uganda; ⁴University of Kinshasa , DRC

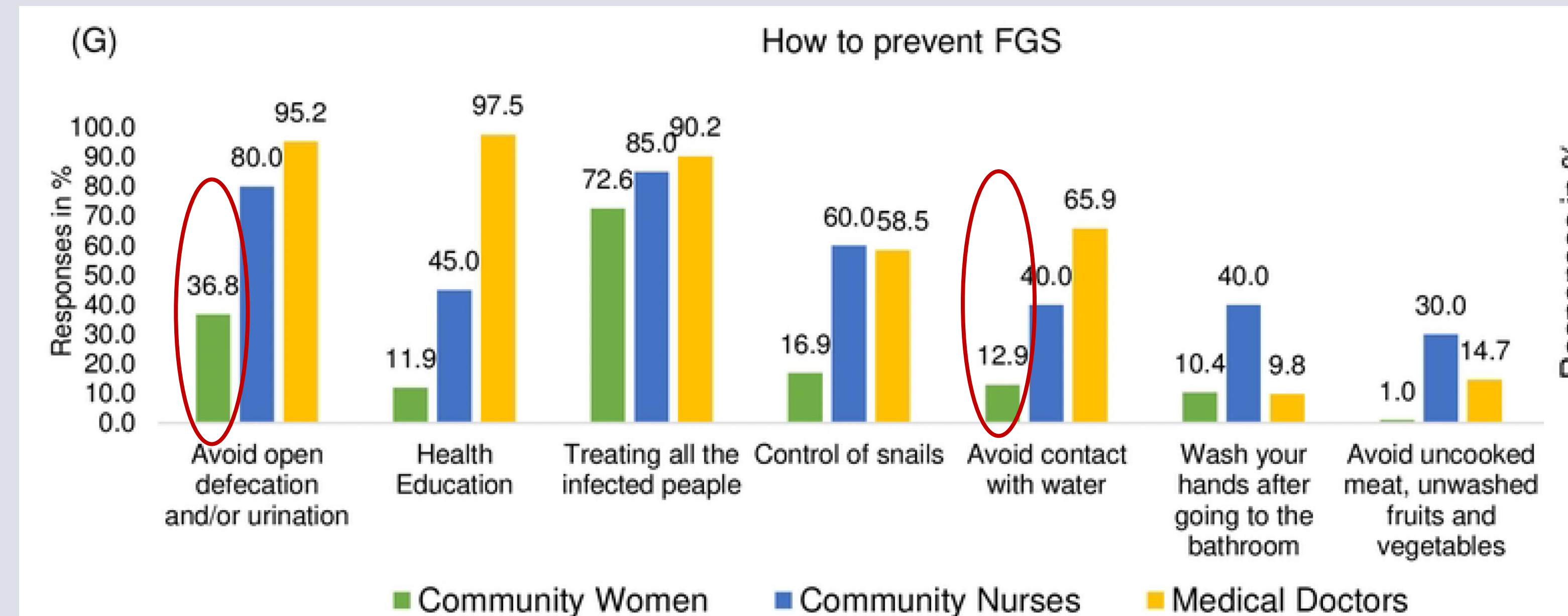
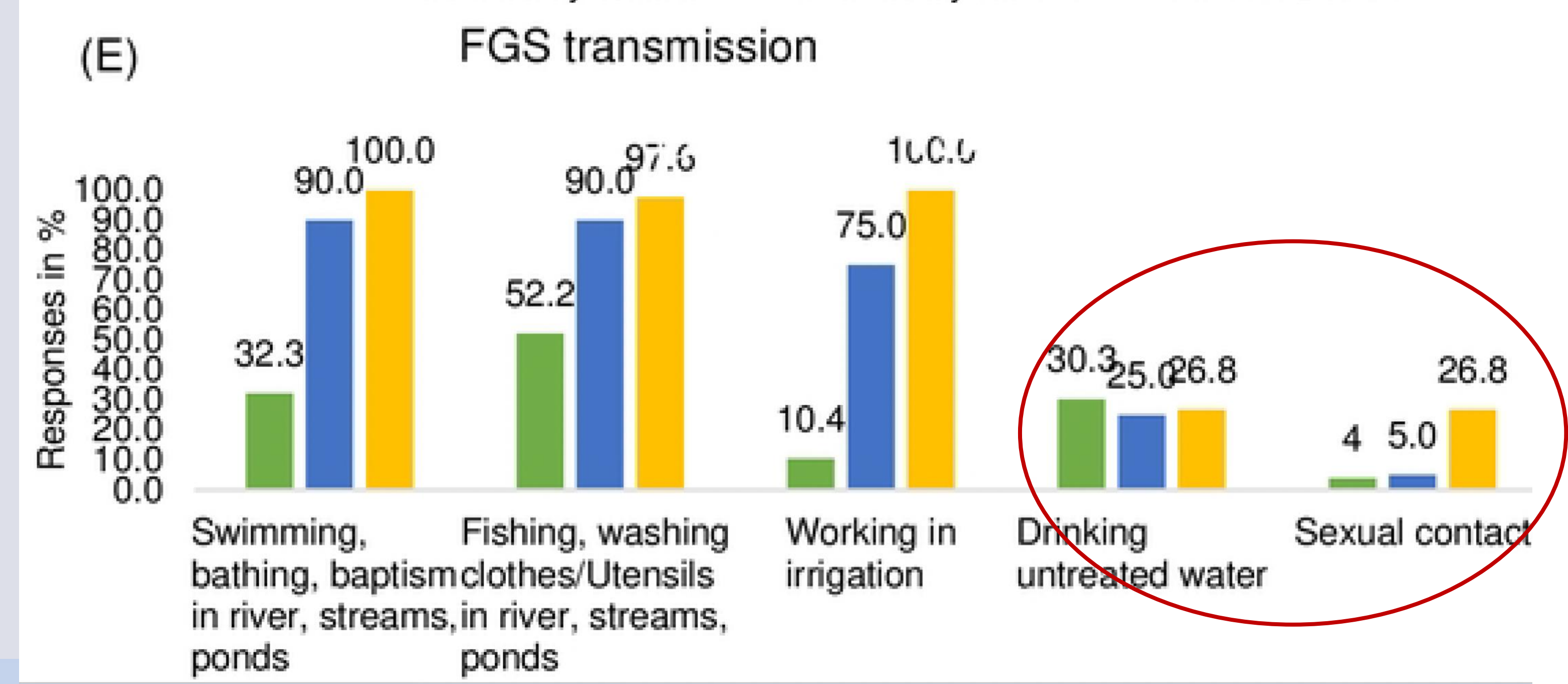
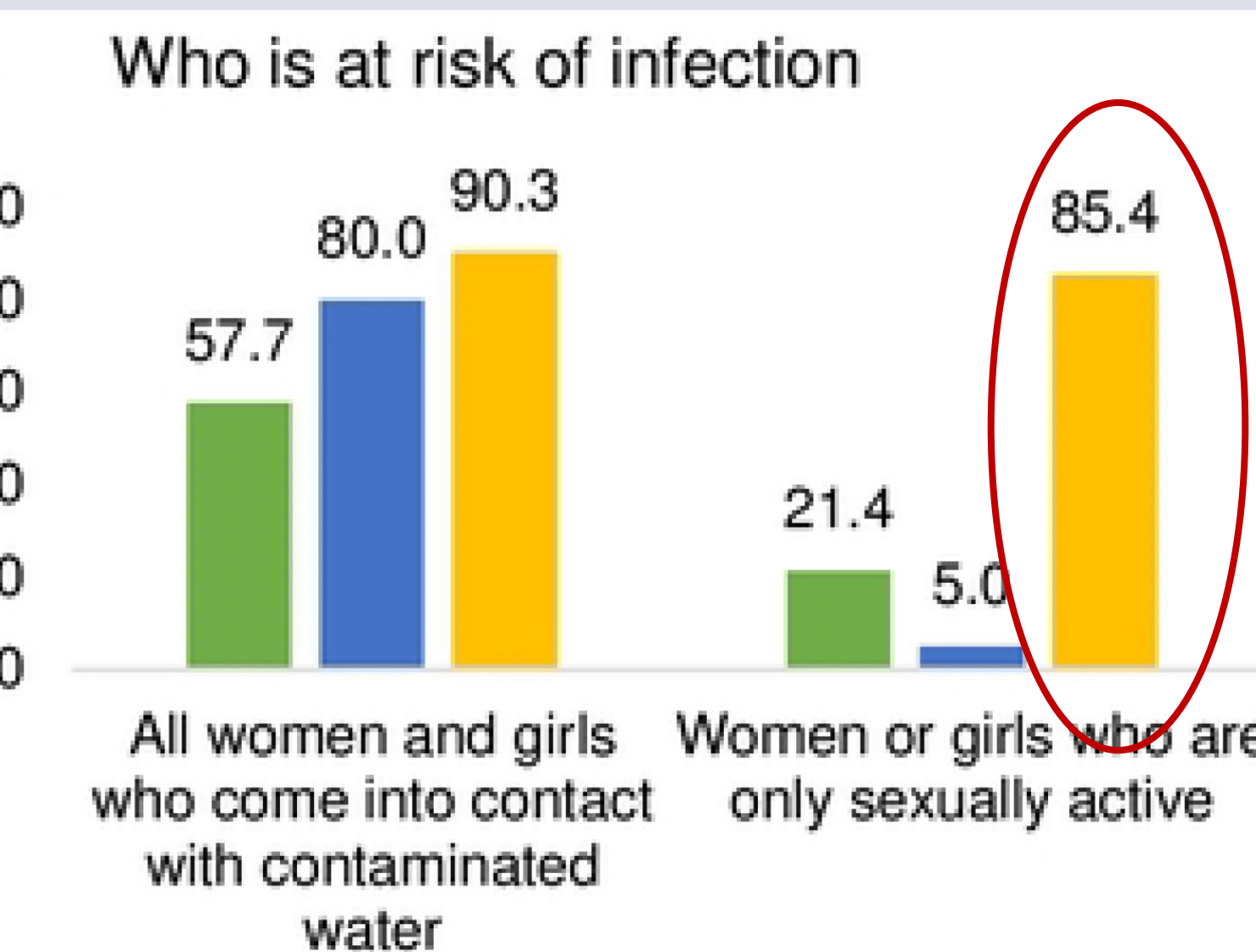
Aim of the study

To understand the knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) toward FGS and associated factors among women and health professionals in the schistosomiasis endemic focus of Kimpese, western Democratic Republic of Congo

Methods

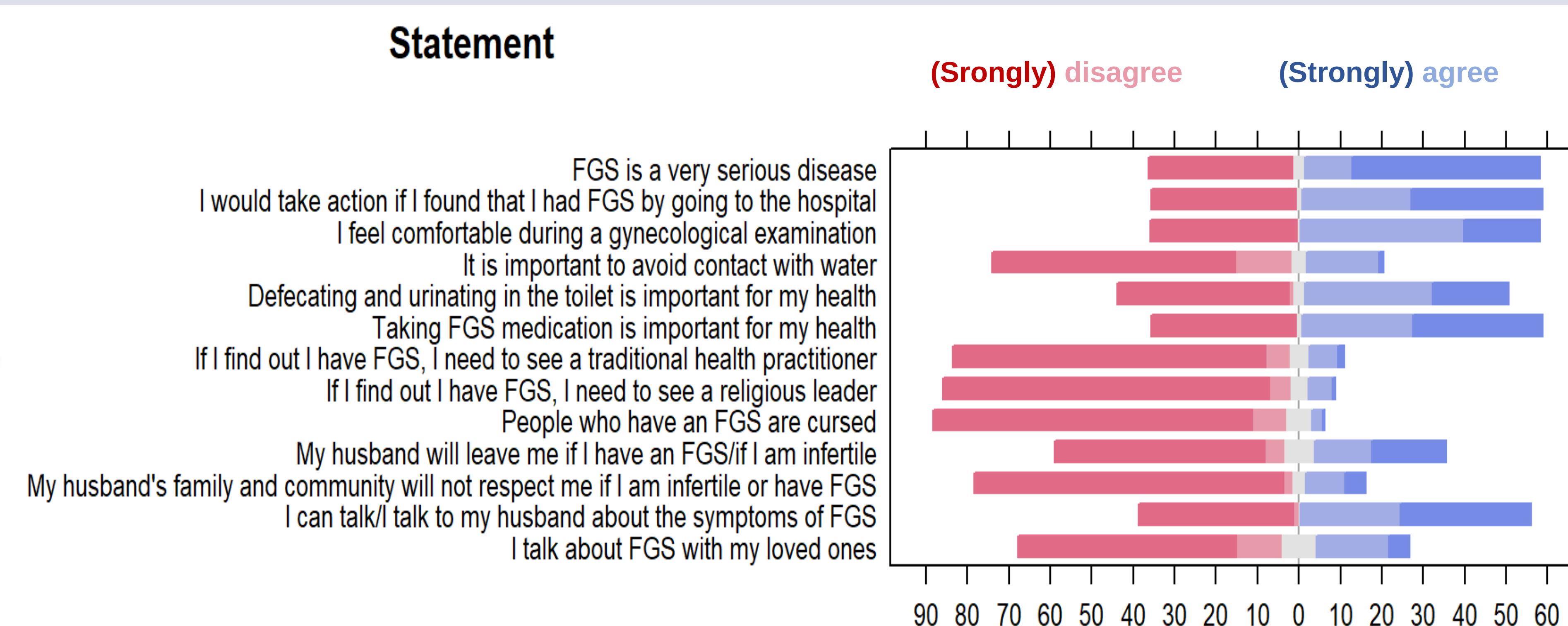


Knowledge

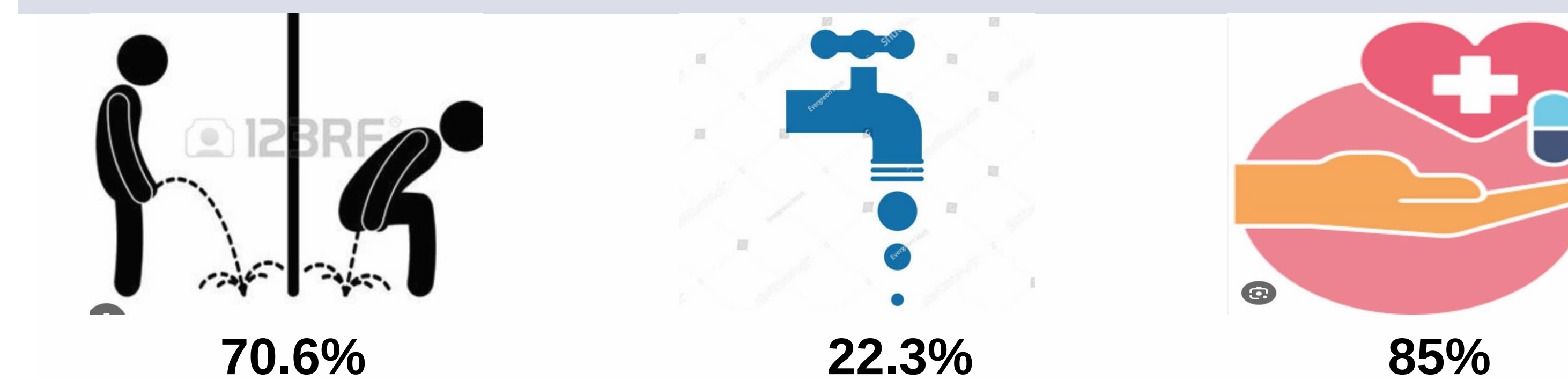


201 community women
20 nurses
41 doctors

Attitudes



Practices



Conclusion

- insufficient knowledge about FGS and existing negative attitudes toward FGS among community women
- Some misconceptions about FGS transmission higher among healthcare professionals compared to community women
- FGS diagnosis by health professionals is challenging due to lack of equipment and specialized knowledge, leading to underreporting of the disease.