

Pregnant People's Behaviors and Perspectives Surrounding Wildfire Smoke

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BACKGROUND

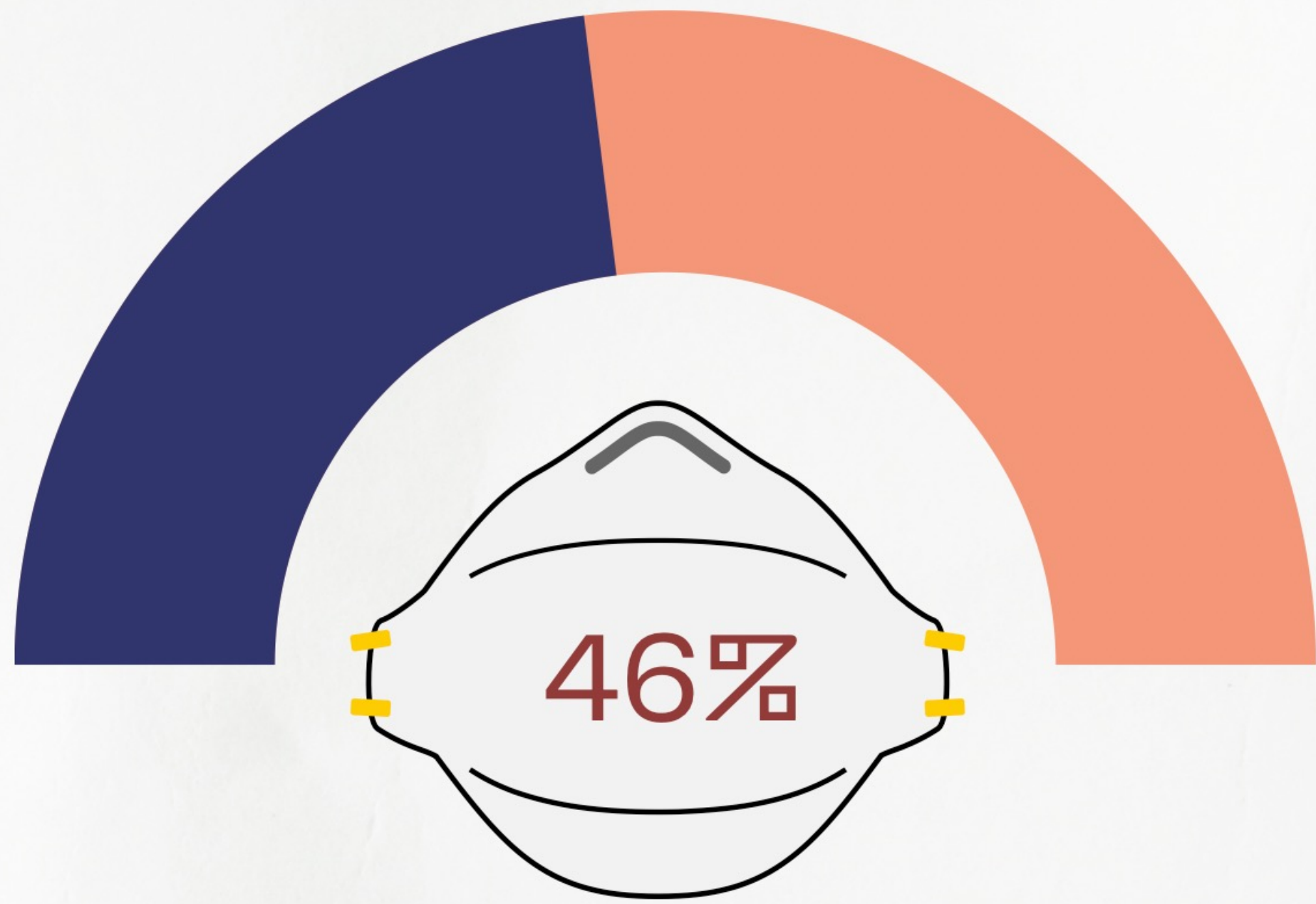
Wildfires have burned millions of acres of land in California alone and are increasing in frequency due to climate change. Wildfires threaten health through fire-related injuries, loss of life and property, and exposure to smoke containing toxic gases, volatile compounds, and particulate matter (PM). However, there is currently scarce literature on the behavioral changes and interventions pregnant people undertake during a wildfire as well as the information they want regarding wildfire smoke protection.

METHODS

- Enrolled 56 eligible pregnant patients who delivered at UCSF and potentially exposed to the Caldor Fire’s smoke based on their self-reported primary area of residence and gestational periods.
- Administered 3-part survey on Redcap.
- Collected data from Redcap and calculated percentages, standard deviations, and other analyses using StataMP (version 16).
- Graphs and visuals were created using Microsoft Excel, Powerpoint, and Canva.

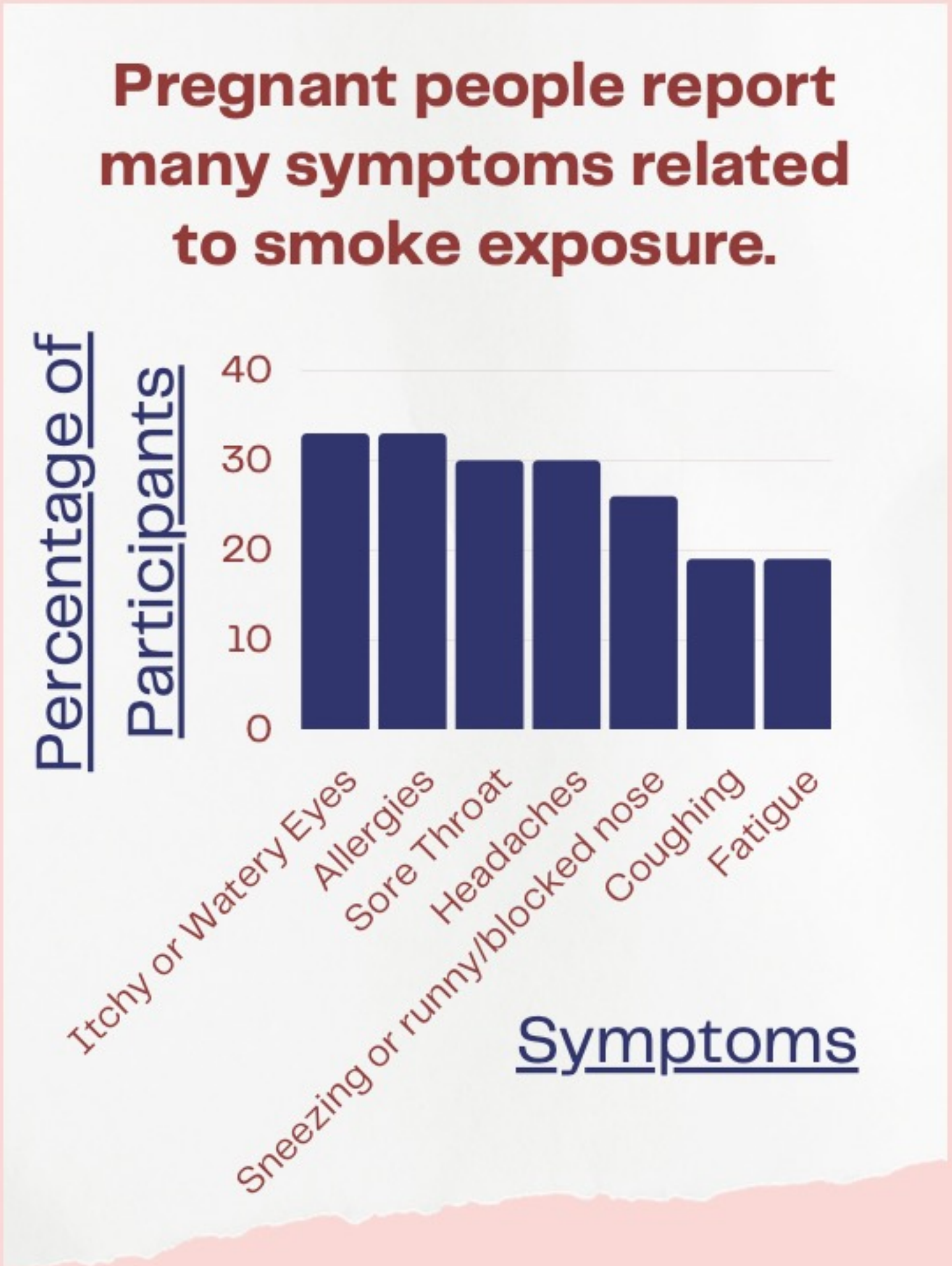
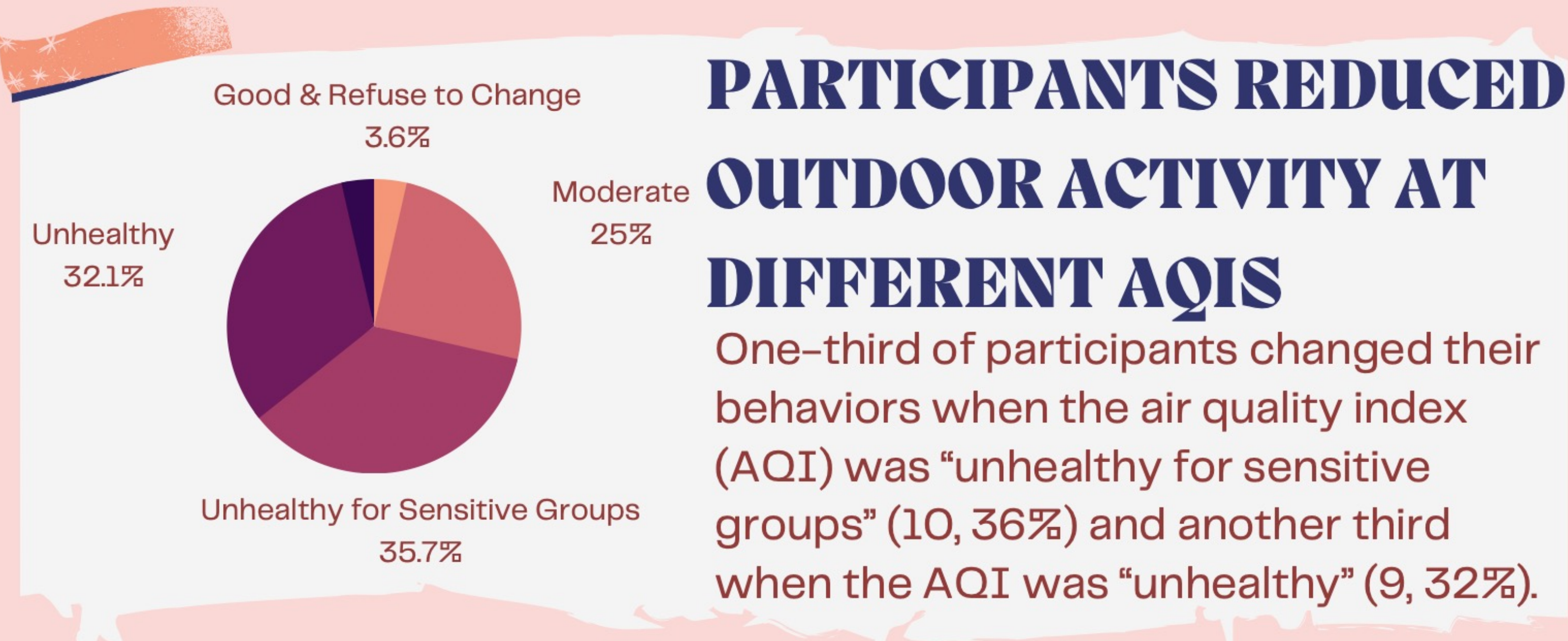
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Nearly **half** of pregnant participants wore an N95 mask while outside during a wildfire event.

Results



Discussion

To our knowledge, our study is the first to document pregnant patients’ behaviors and perceptions surrounding wildfire smoke exposure during pregnancy. These data demonstrate that pregnant people report multiple symptoms related to smoke exposure and change behaviors at varying AQIs. Further research and a larger sample size are needed to inform pregnant people on risk reduction strategies for wildfire events that are increasing in frequency and intensity.



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