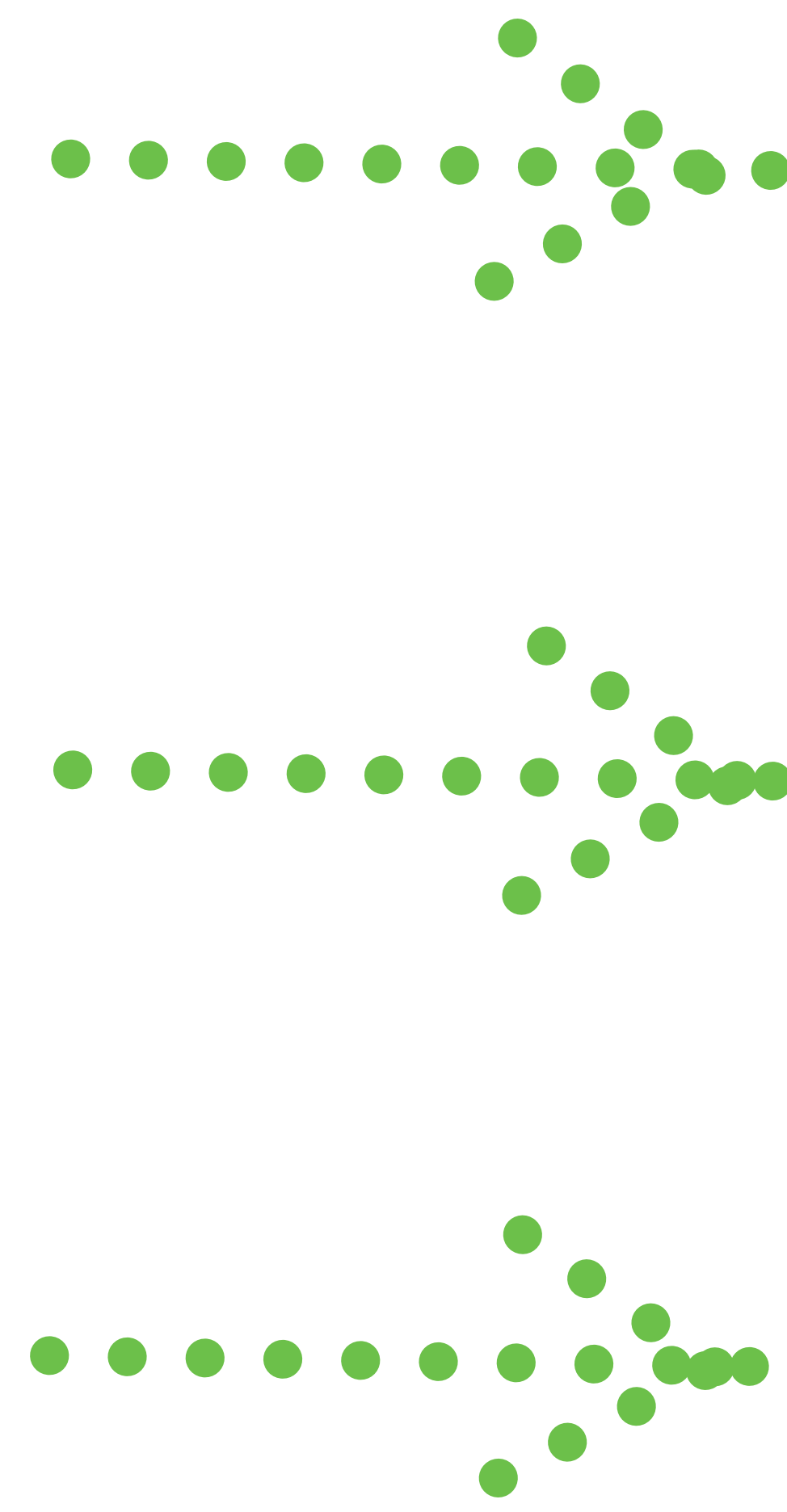


DEMAND FOR AND ACCESS TO FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES AMONG YOUNG MARRIED WOMEN DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Current use of modern contraceptive methods was limited among young married women (13.5%); it was even lower in neighborhoods perceived to be at risk of COVID-19.

Among those who were not using any method, 16% expressed the need for modern methods, and an additional 17% reported their inability to access FP services from health facilities due to lockdown.

Access to family planning services was limited among low income households.

BACKGROUND

- With men returning home in large numbers and less economic activity for men and women during lockdown, the need for contraceptive services to young married couples could be higher.
- This study's key objectives are to understand the demand for and access to family planning services, by selected socio-demographic characteristics.

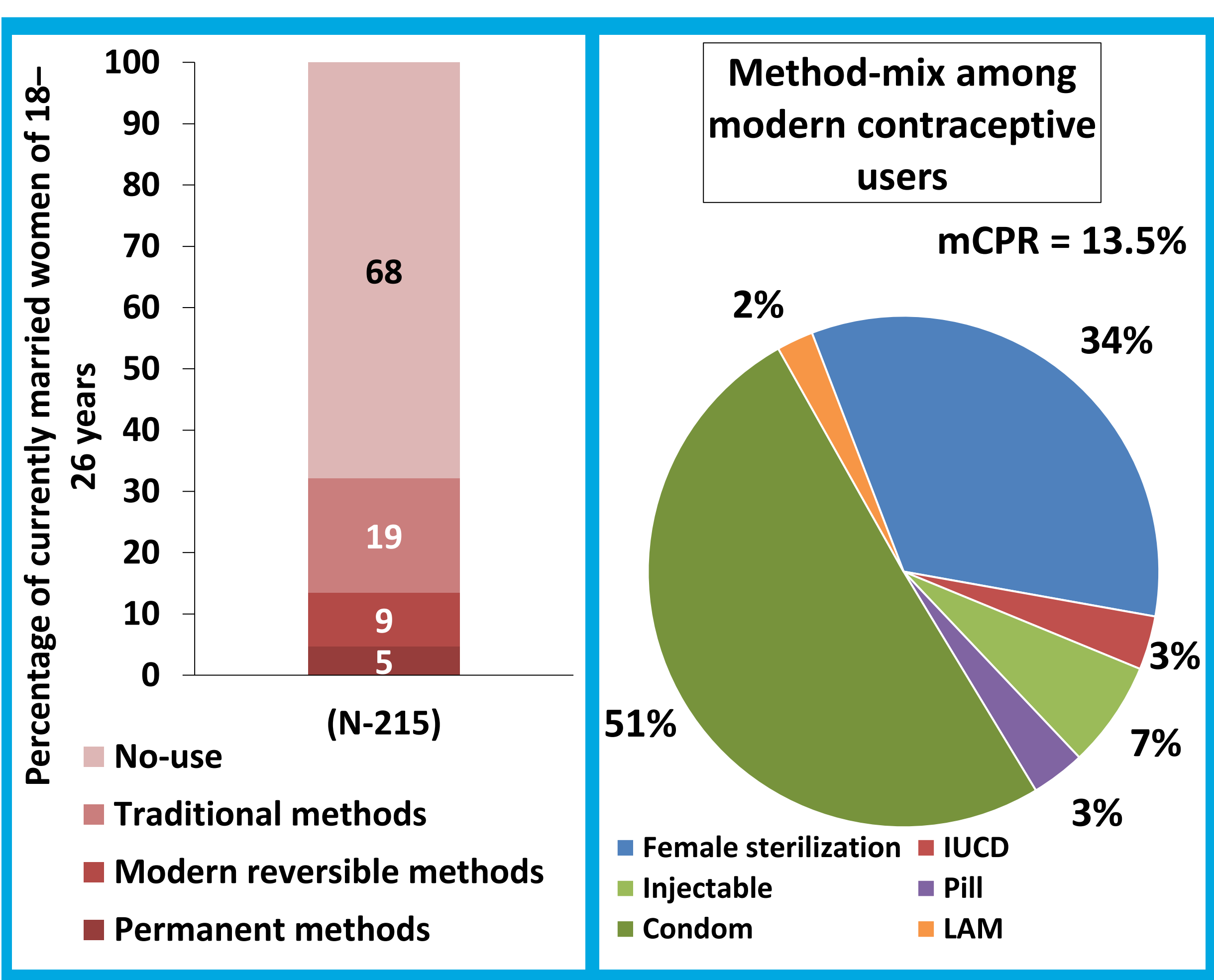
METHODS

- Data was gathered between May 25–June 1, 2020 from the existing study cohort of households under project UDAYA (www.projectudaya.in).
- Consented telephone interviews were conducted with 215 currently married women.

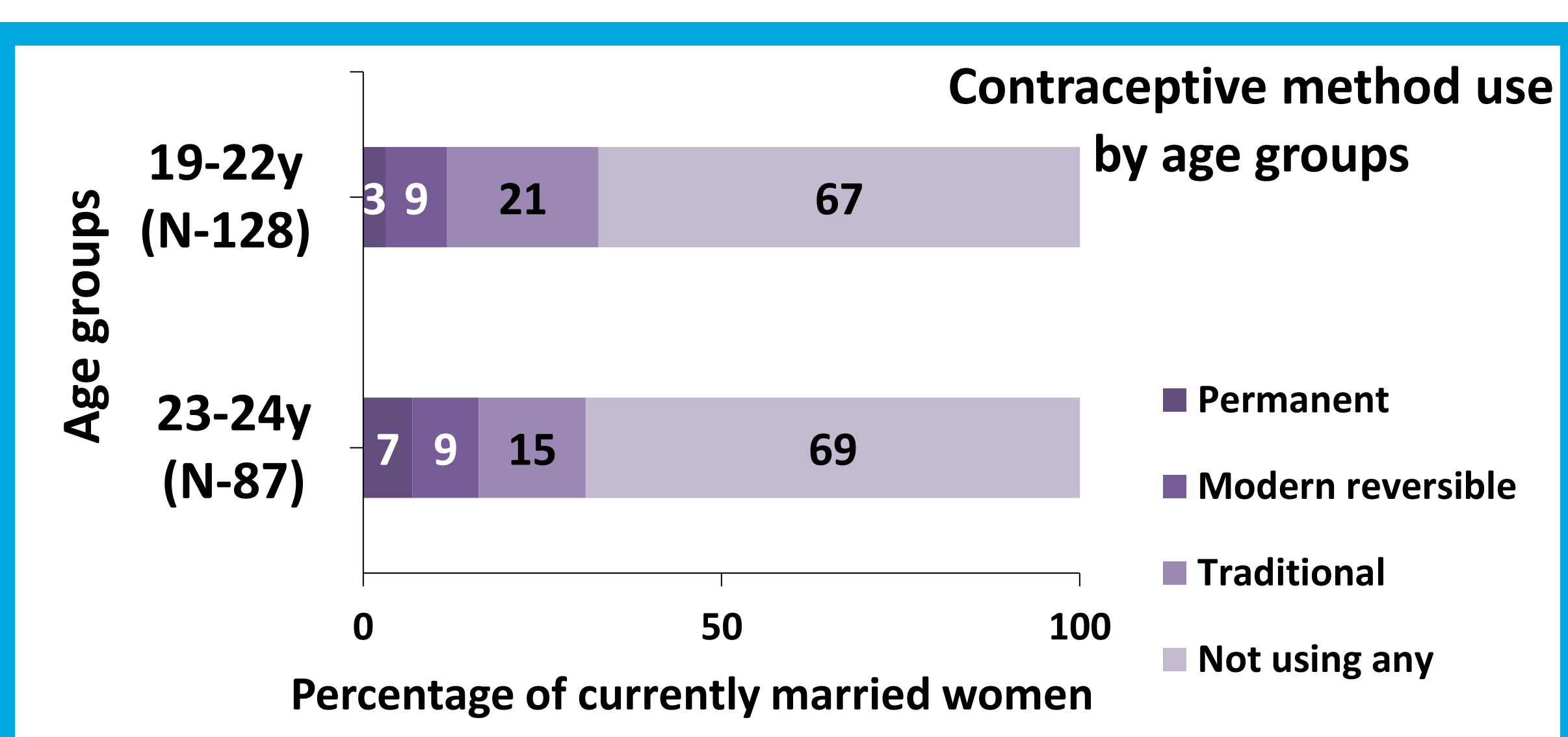
STUDY PARTICIPANTS PROFILE

- Participants were between 19–24 years of age.
- On an average, participants had 2 children in their household.
- About 29% belonged to Scheduled caste/tribe communities.

MODERN CONTRACEPTIVE METHOD USE

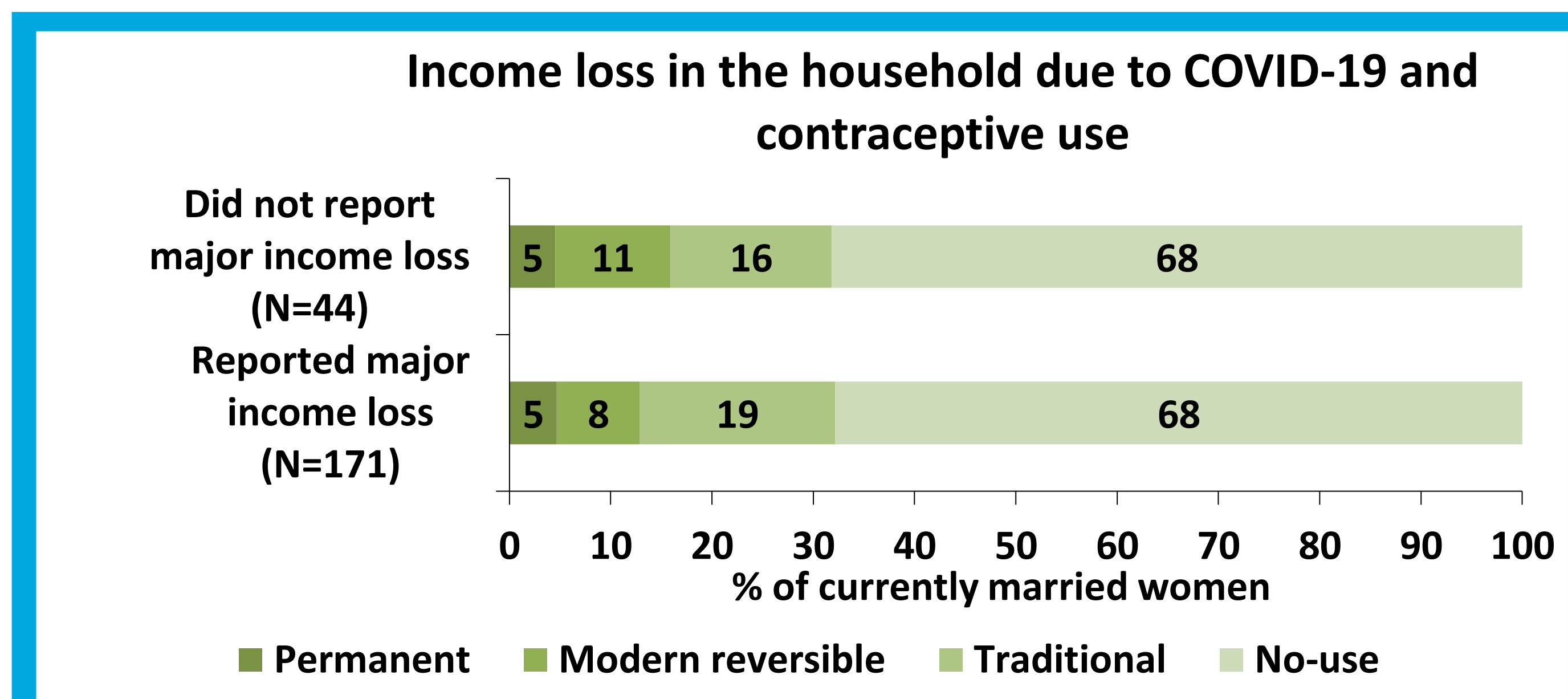
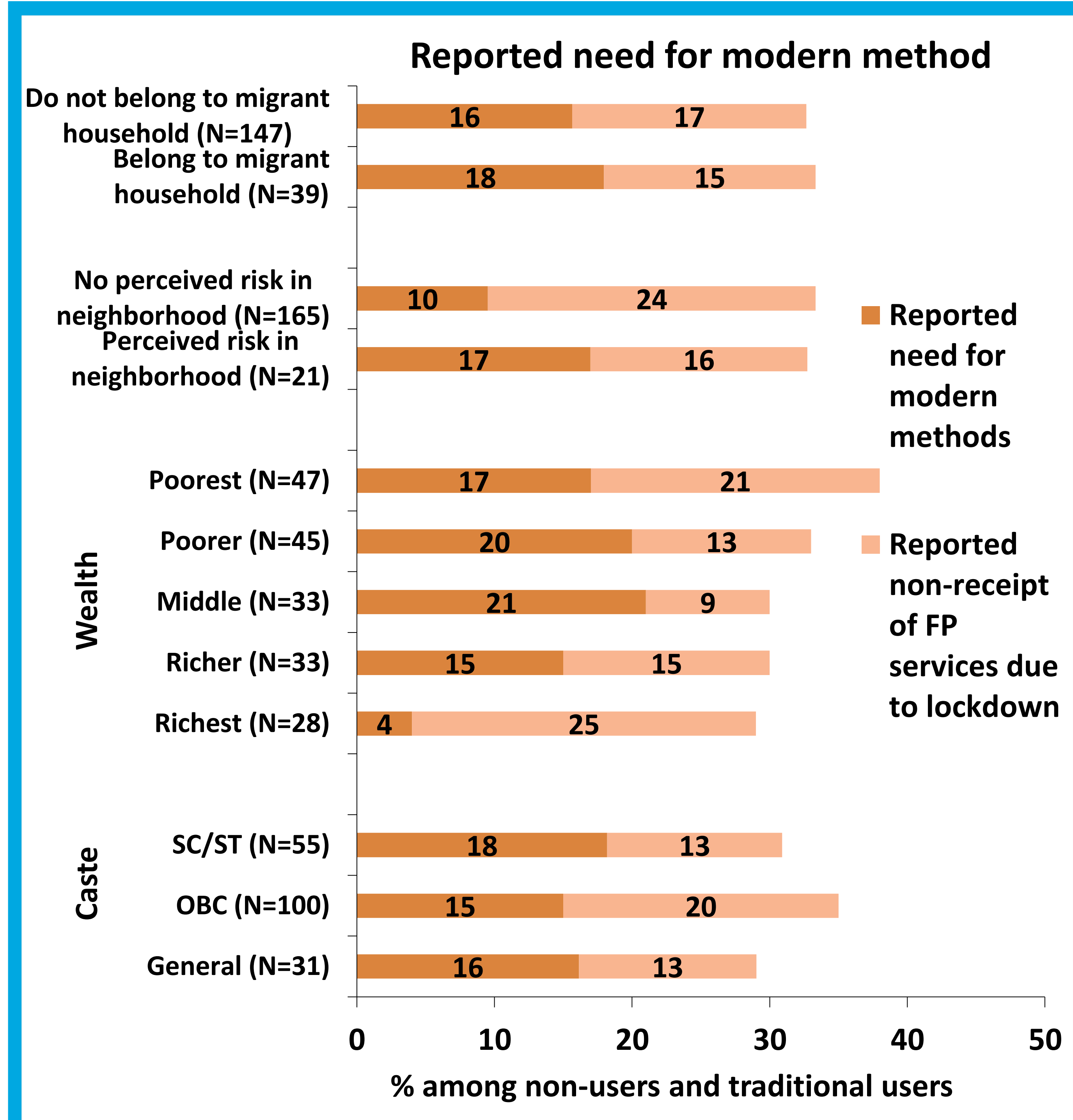
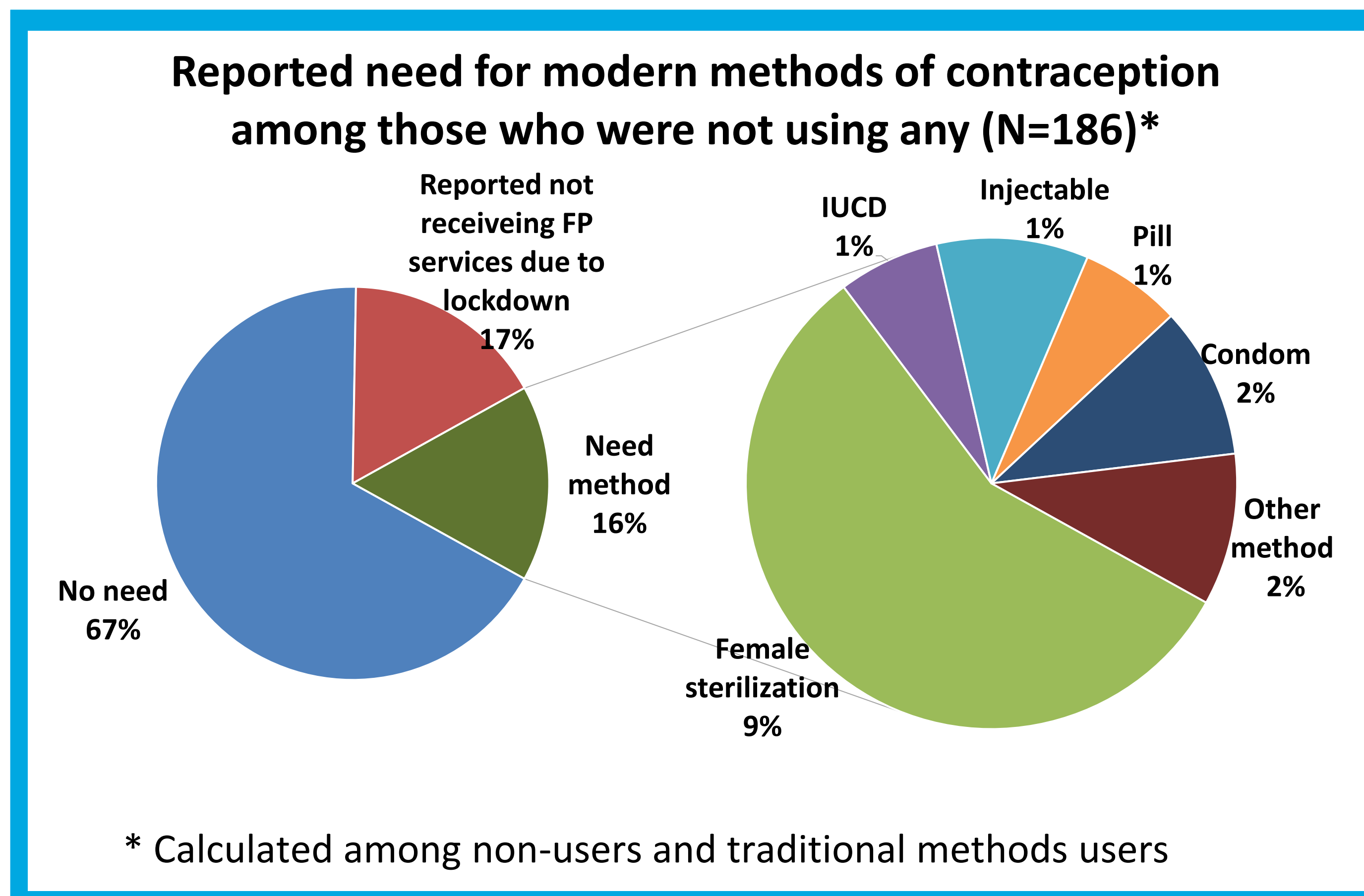


- 32% of currently married women aged 19–24 years were using contraception during COVID pandemic.
- The modern contraceptive method use was only 13.5%.



EFFECT OF COVID-19 ON CONTRACEPTIVE DEMAND AND ACCESS

- Overall, 16% non-users and those using traditional methods reported the need for modern contraceptives during lockdown. An additional 17% of the respondents tried to access family planning services from nearby facilities but were unable to do so due to lockdown.
- Demand for family planning services was higher among women who belonged to other backward classes than other social groups.
- Although not statistically significant, families with 'poor' economic condition have reported higher need as well as limited access to family planning methods to health facilities due to lockdown.
- The reported need was higher among women living in areas where respondents perceived risk to COVID-19 in the neighborhood.
- The use of modern reversible methods was lower by 3 percentage points in the families that experienced major income loss. Whereas, the use of traditional methods was 3% higher in these families than their counterparts, indicative of higher unmet demand for modern methods among these families.



LIMITATIONS

- The contraceptive need assessed by the survey referred to a single question on whether or not the woman wanted a method to avoid pregnancy (among those not using any method currently). Additionally, due to the lockdown and limited mobility, many women who were not using any method currently but not explicitly stated as needing contraceptives, reported that they could not get access to contraceptive methods. While the reasons for not stating the need is unknown, the in-depth analyses suggest that majority were using traditional methods at the time of survey.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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