

## Background

- Expectant and parenting (EP) mothers are more likely to experience financial insecurity and time restraints compared to their non-EP counterparts<sup>1</sup>
- Expenses for childcare, school, and basic needs may limit what EP student mothers can spend on healthcare

## Purpose

- The goal of the assessment was to understand what needs EP community college (CC) students have

## Methods

### Needs Assessment

- An online survey was conducted to assess the needs of EP students at three CCs in a rural Midwestern state
- The survey focused on questions about personal health, child health, academic support, parenting, stress, and time management

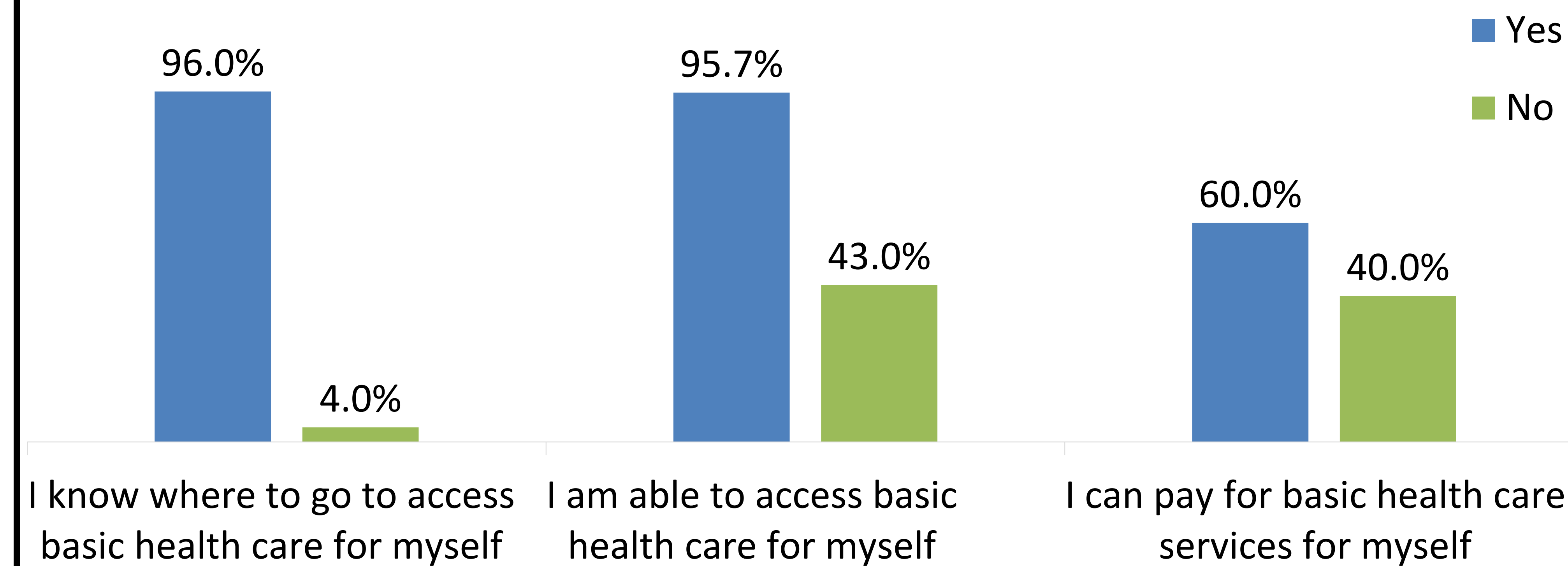
### Data Analysis

- The sample was split by gender and descriptive statistics were generated for female students (n=526)

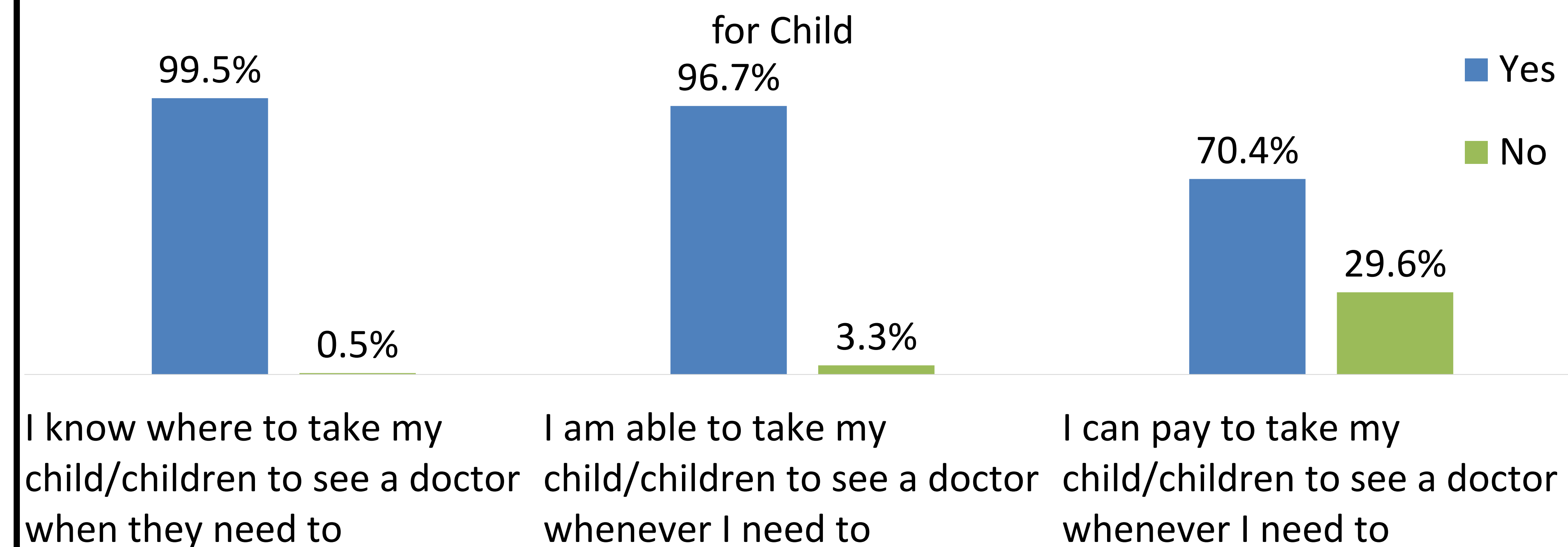
## Results

- Respondents had higher reports of knowing where and how to access services compared to their ability to pay for services for both themselves and their children. This trend applied to:
  - Basic health and dental care
  - Pregnancy care and contraception
  - STI screening and treatment
  - Cancer screening
- Respondents had higher reports of being able to pay for basic and dental care for their children than for themselves

Ability to Access Basic Health Care vs Pay for Basic Health Care



Ability to Access Basic Health Care for Child vs Pay for Basic Health Care for Child



## Conclusions

- Results suggest that EP student mothers may have difficulty paying for healthcare
- CCs' efforts to support EP mothers should focus on removing financial barriers over increasing knowledge and availability of services
- Programs that alleviate financial constraints can help EP student mothers access these services and work towards eliminating the disparity between EP and non-EP student mothers

## Limitations

- This study was done with EP students at three CCs and is not representative of all EP CC students
- There was no group of non-EP students used for comparison

## HEAL Principles

### Social Justice Foundation

- This project focused on a population that experiences a lack of financial access to health care
- EP CC student mothers are understudied and may need financial resources to be able to access health care and achieve similar outcomes to their non-EP counterparts

### References

1. Noll, E., Reichlin, L., & Gault, B. (2017). *College students with children: National and regional profiles*. Institute for Women's Policy Research. Retrieved from <https://iwpr.org/wpcontent/uploads/2017/02/C451-5.pdf>