

Beyond The Screen: Barriers in Cervical Cancer Care



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Introduction

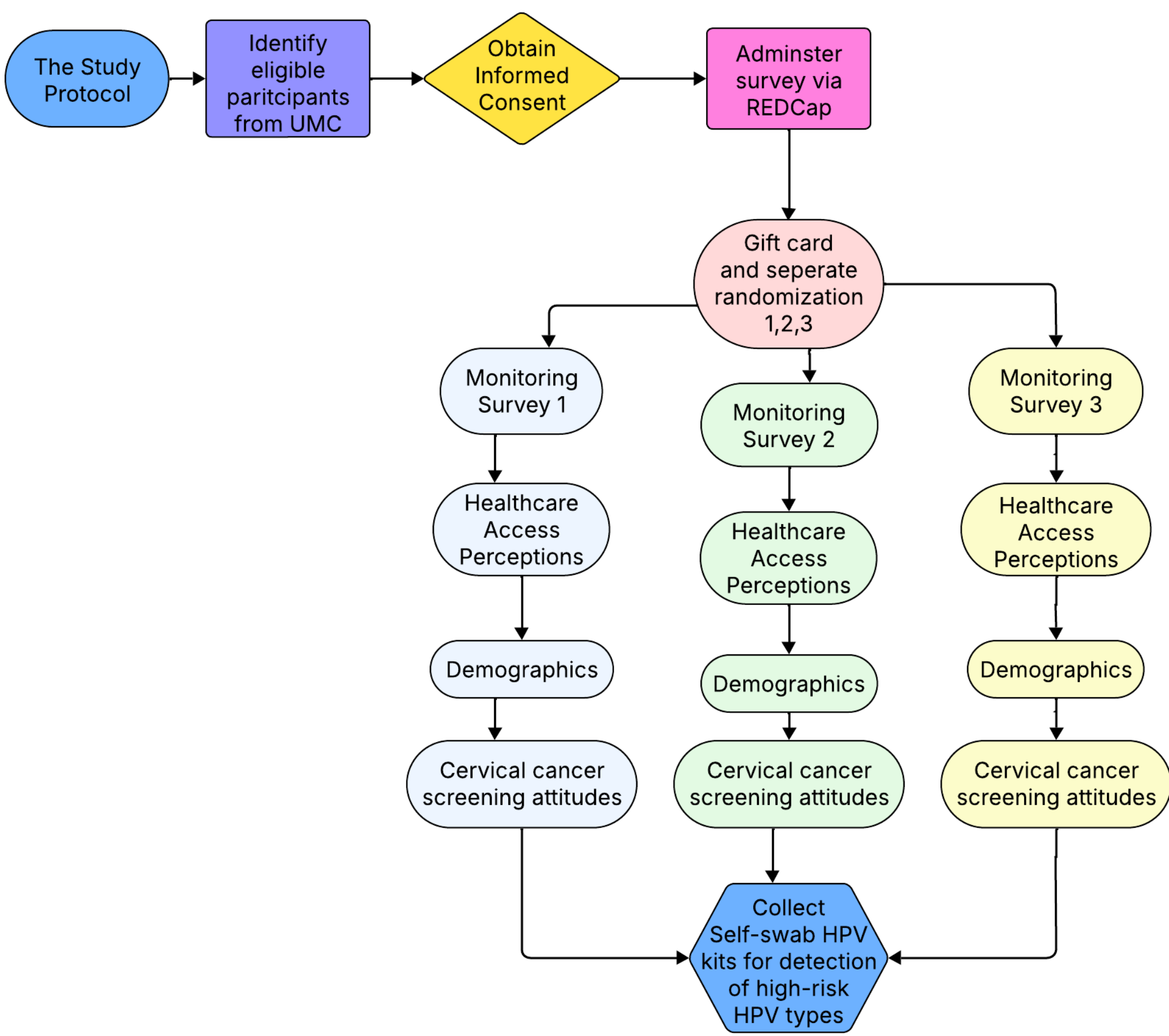
Background: Cervical cancer is highly preventable through routine screening and timely follow-up, yet adherence to care after an abnormal HPV test remains suboptimal, particularly in underserved populations. Louisiana consistently ranks among the states with the highest cervical cancer mortality rates, highlighting the urgent need for state-specific data to better understand these barriers.

Objectives: Previous studies show that while self-swab HPV testing is effective, nearly 30% of women with a positive result do not attend their colposcopy appointment, indicating persistent barriers in the cervical cancer prevention loop. This study aims to identify sociodemographic and structural factors that contribute to non-adherence to follow-up after a positive HPV test.

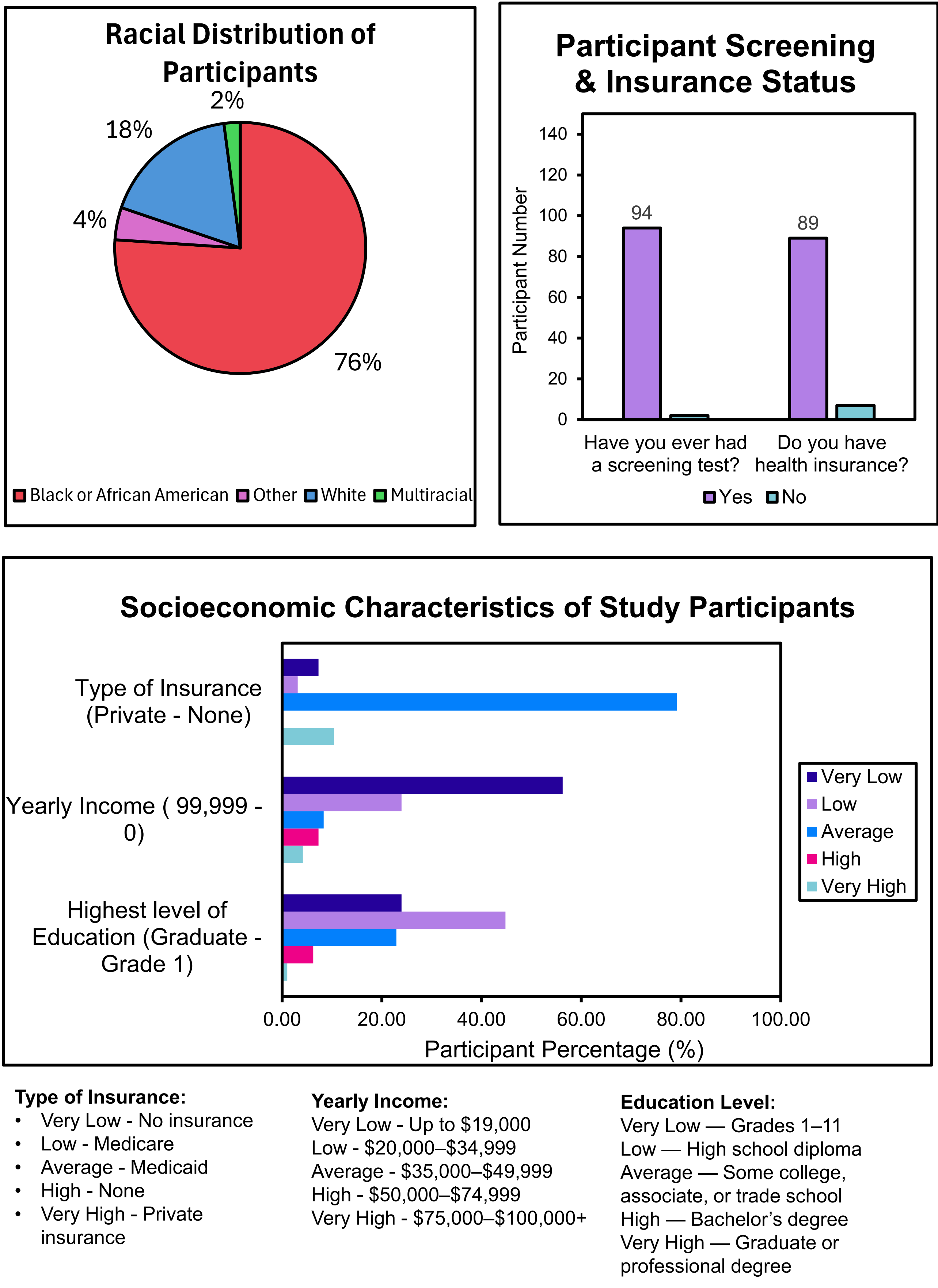
Methods:
The LA Cervix Care survey tool was developed to assess:

- Healthcare access and perceptions
- Demographics
- Barriers to and attitudes toward cervical cancer screening

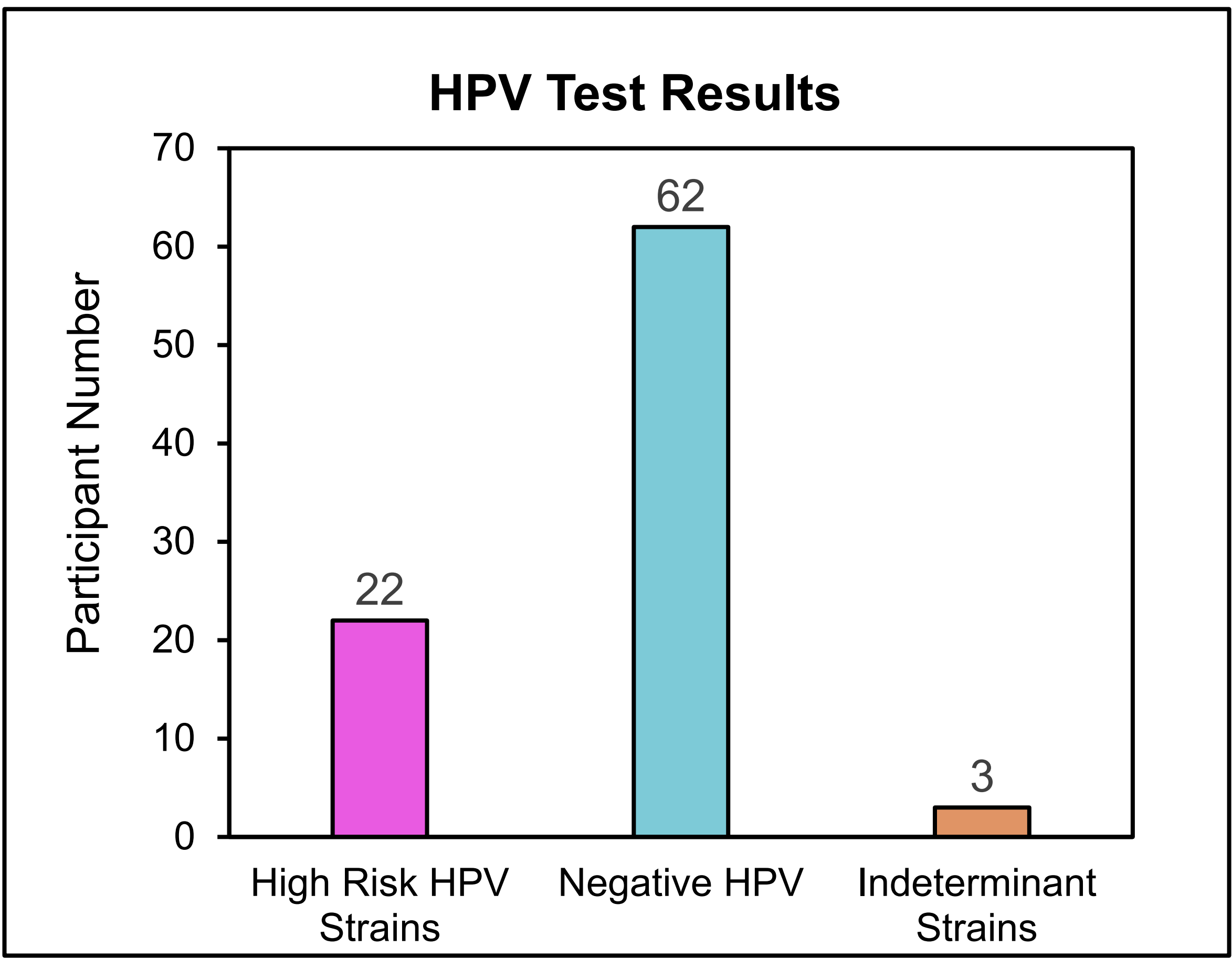
Study Design and Data Collection Process



Participant Statistics



Results



We need to focus on participants with high-risk HPV results, as they are most at risk for cervical cancer progression and require timely follow-up care.

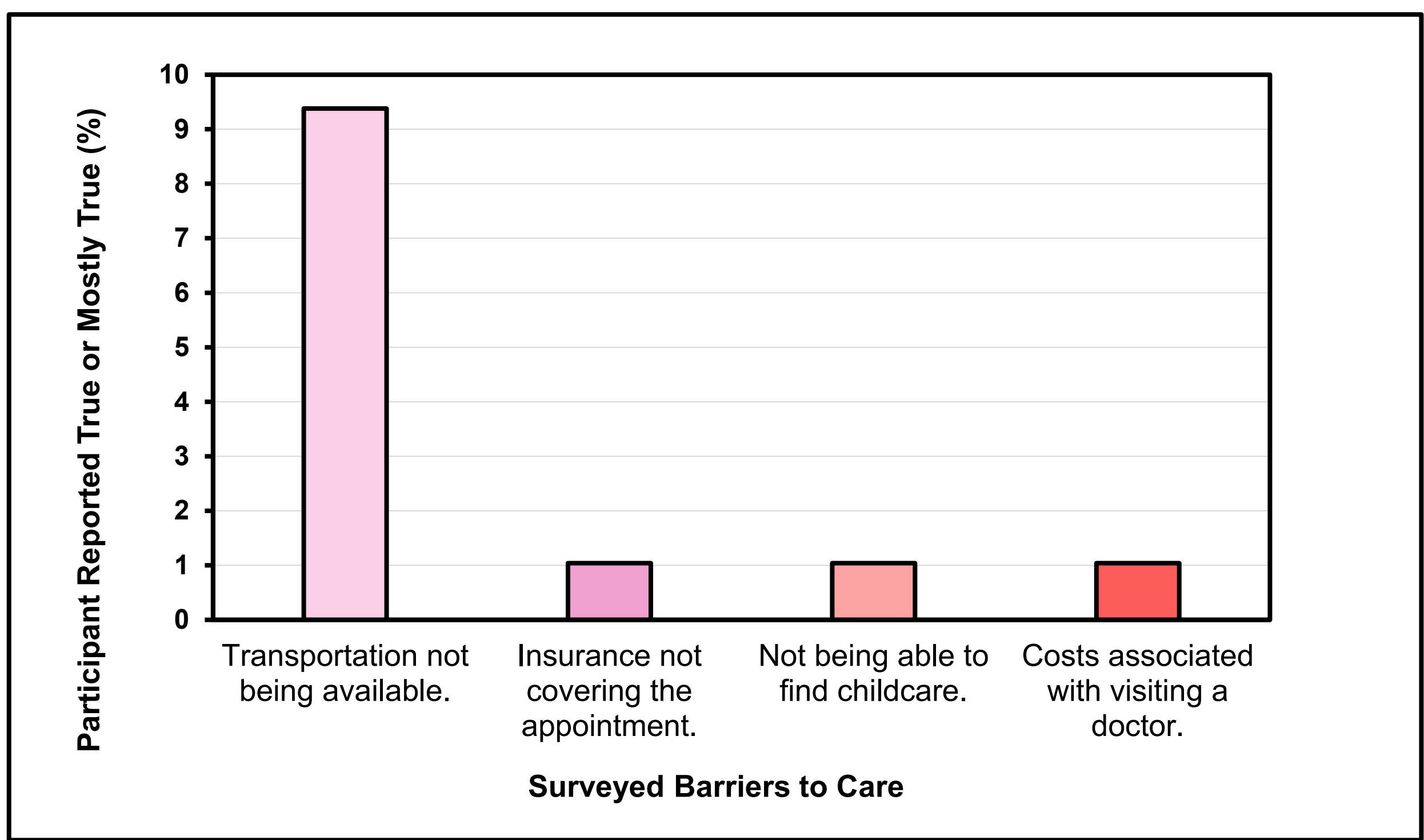
Conclusion

These findings highlight both the structural and socioeconomic barriers impacting cervical cancer care in Louisiana. Despite relatively high screening and insurance coverage, transportation difficulties remain a major obstacle to follow-up care. The predominance of Medicaid coverage reflects the reliance on public insurance among this population, while the link between lower income, education, and insurance access suggests compounded vulnerabilities. Data collection is ongoing and we will use barriers information to design tailored interventions to address barriers to attending colposcopy referrals in phase 2 of the project.

References

<https://www.louisianacancercenter.org/news/eliminating-cervical-cancer-in-louisiana>

Barriers to Care Statistics



After surveying 96 patients recruited from UMC, we have found that the most commonly reported barrier to cervical cancer care is transportation difficulties.