

An intergenerational comparison of stigma and discrimination in non-HIV healthcare settings across the UK

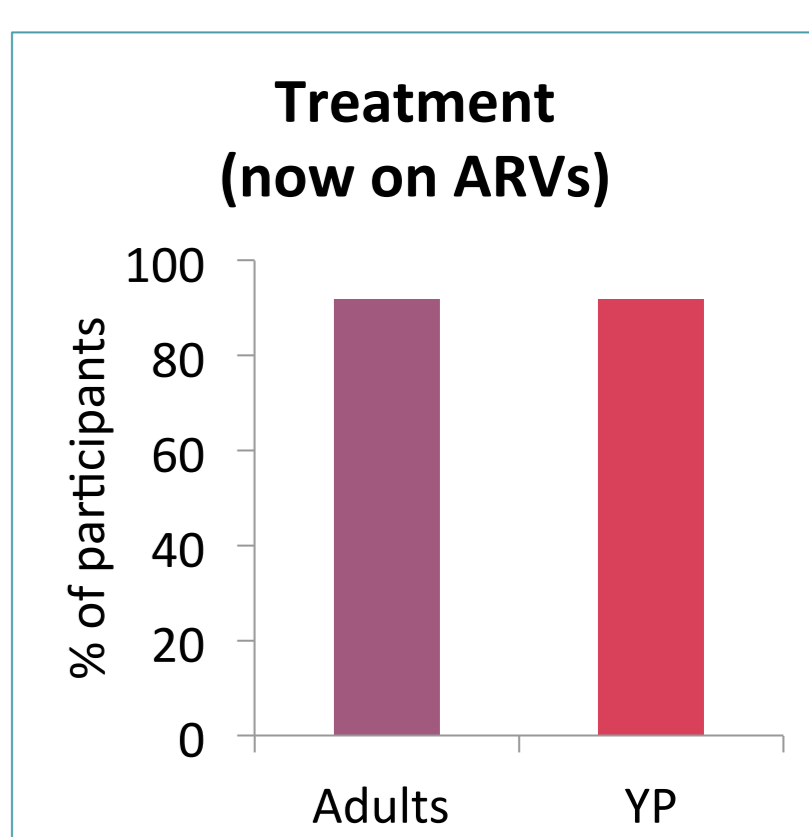
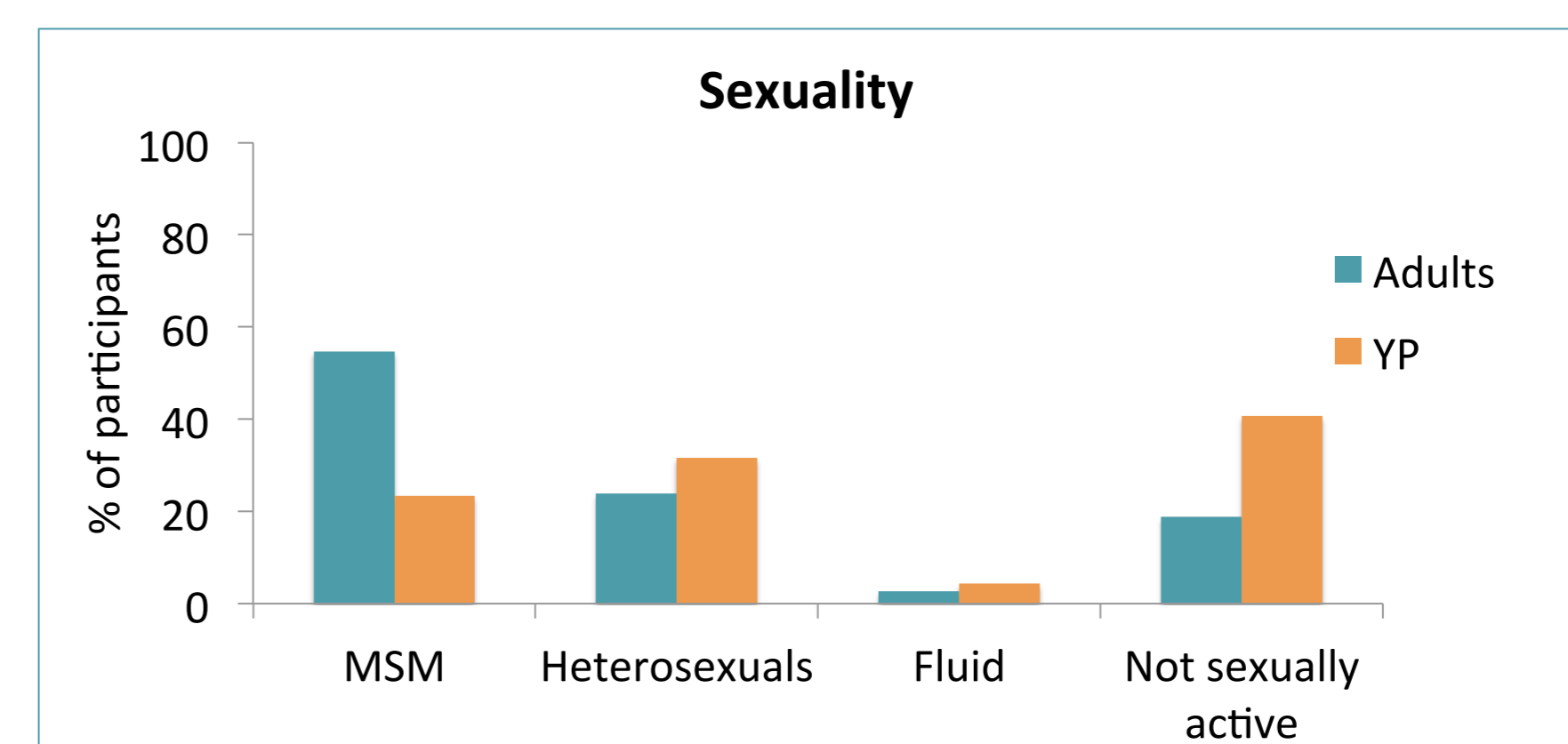
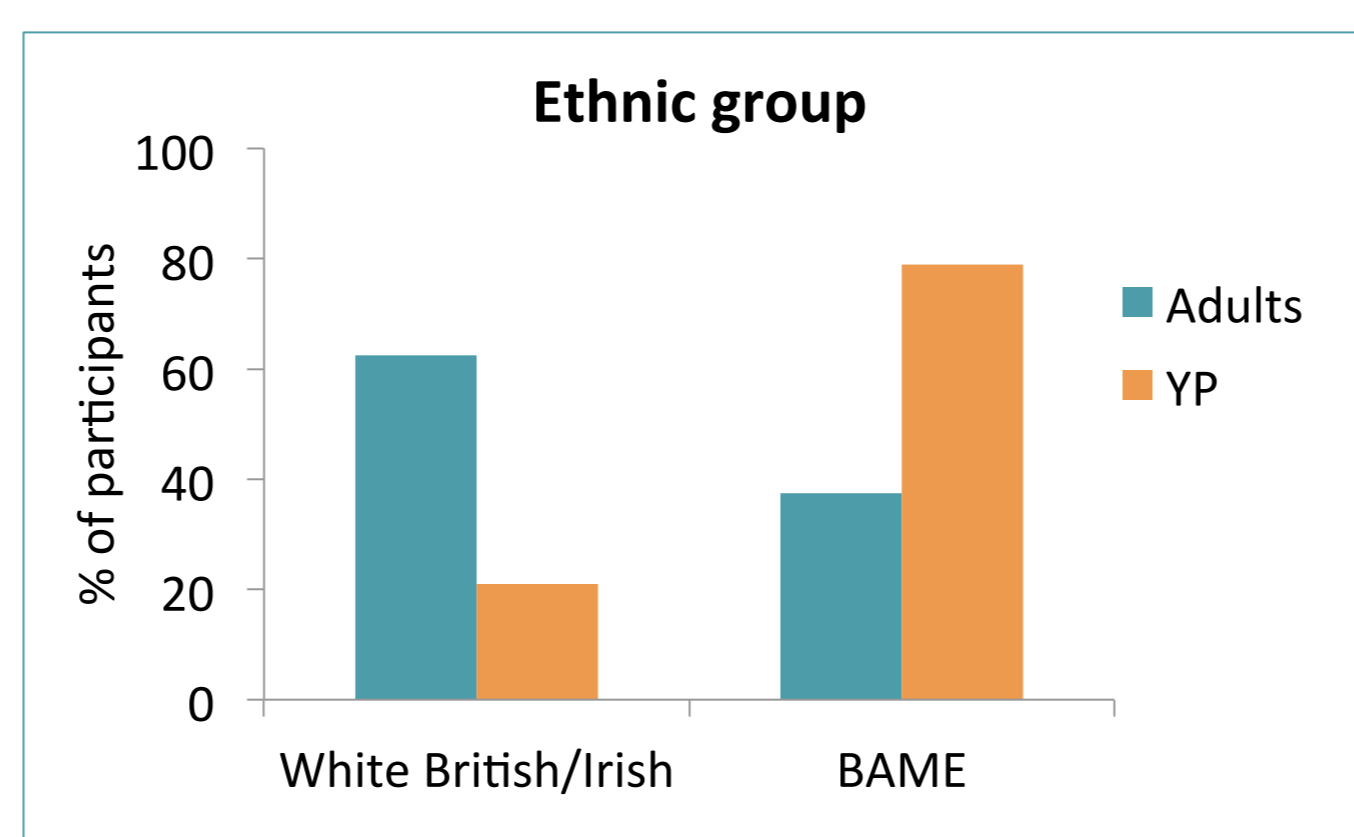
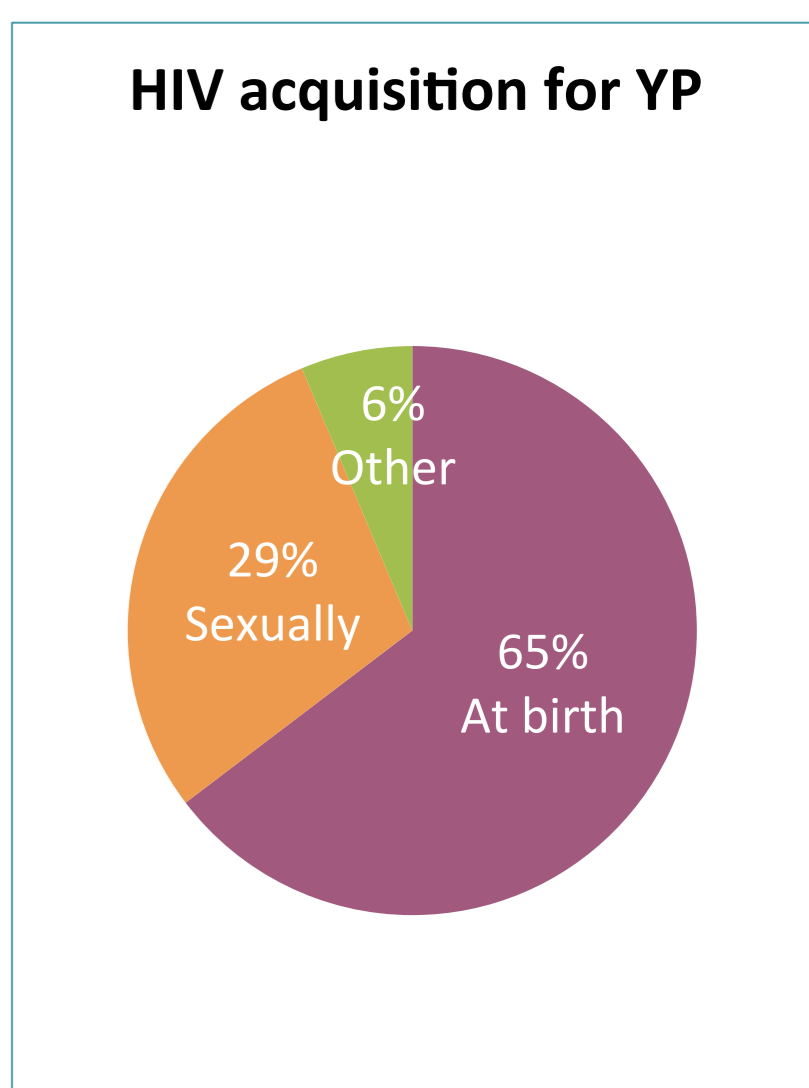
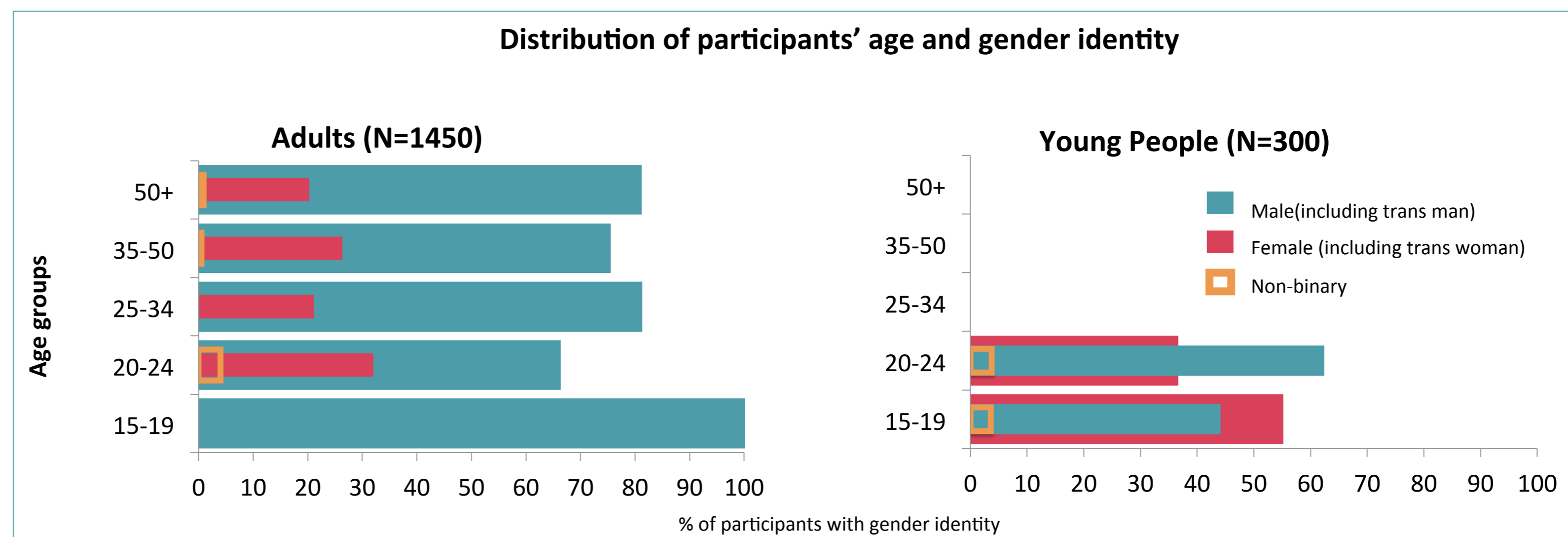
The Young People Living with HIV Stigma Survey UK 2017

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Background

- The People Living with HIV Stigma Surveys UK were co-produced by people living with HIV (PLWH), clinicians and researchers. They are collaborative, community-led initiatives that capture the feelings and experiences of living with HIV within the last 12 months.
- Two cross-sectional studies [2015: adults aged 18+] [2017: young people (YP) aged 15-24] were conducted in the United Kingdom.
- Participants recruited through HIV clinics and community organisations completed an anonymous online survey.
- We report intergenerational differences of experiences in healthcare settings outside HIV clinics among adults and young people (YP) living with HIV in the UK. Descriptive and multivariate analyses are presented.
- Quotes presented below are by participants from both studies, identified by year.



"I had a smooth transition to the adult clinic and everyone at the new clinic is lovely and understanding." - YP 2017

"It is an extra anxiety when it comes to medical care: I am often anxious about medical professionals not being 100% sure about what being HIV+ means (especially in situations like the dentist, for instance) and having to endure potentially offensive comments." - YP 2017

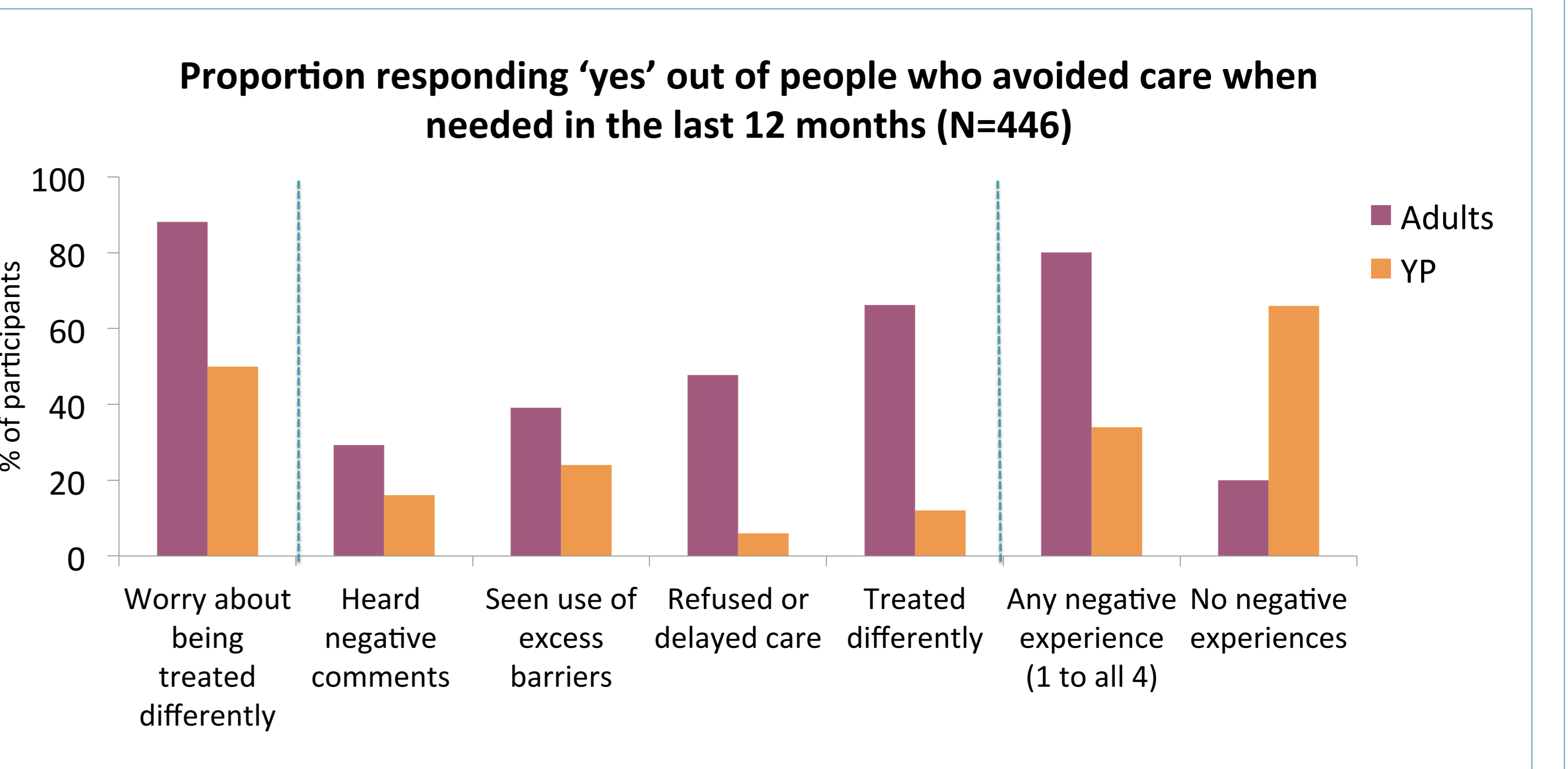
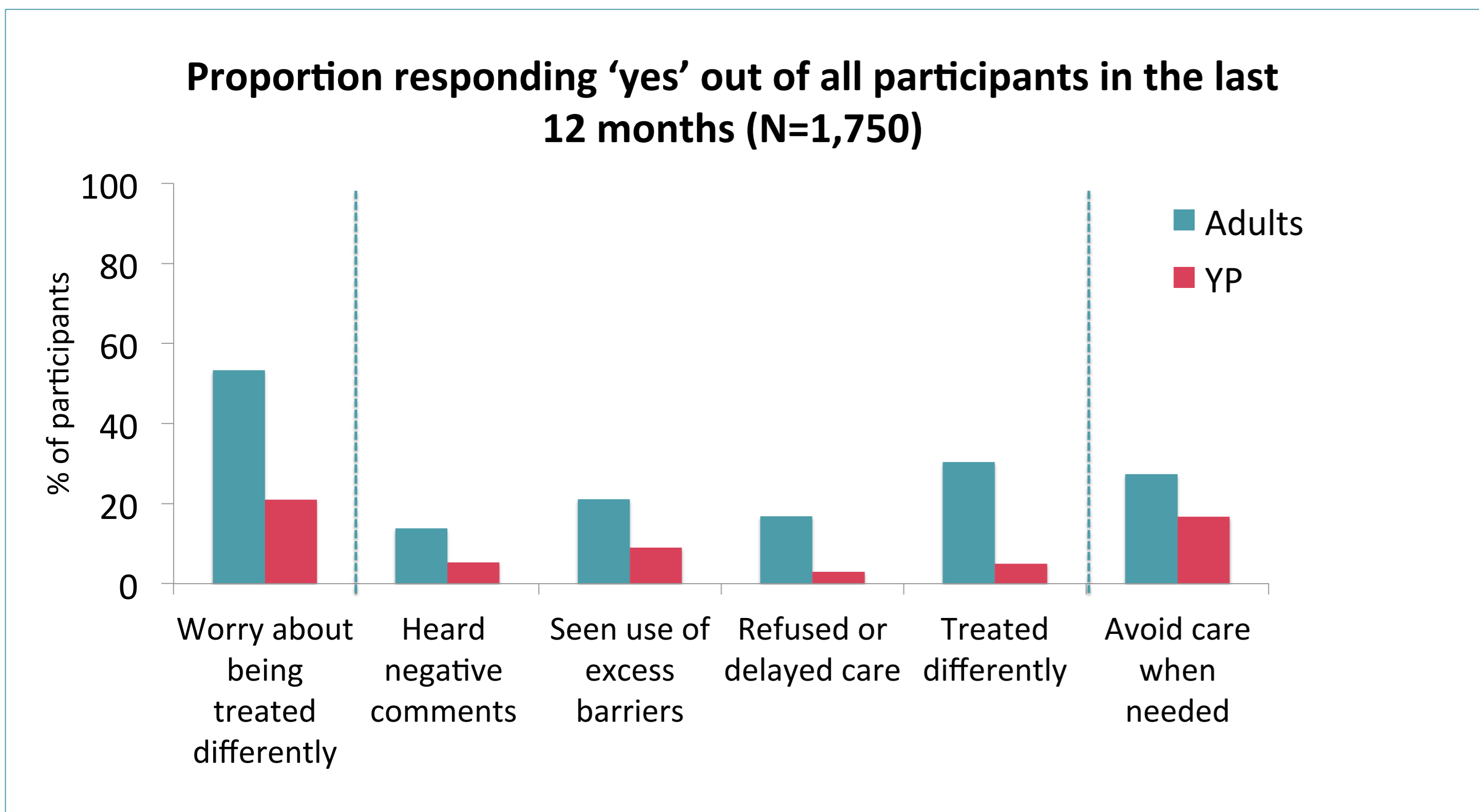


"Chiropractor wore two pairs of rubber gloves for protection." - Adult 2015

"Fertility treatment. the consultant shouted at me for being selfish and stupid for wanting a child." - Adult 2015

"Put last on the surgical list for carpal tunnel surgery due to being HIV." - Adult 2015

Results



Experiences in non-HIV healthcare settings : Uni and multivariable analyses				
	Adults (N=1,450)	Young People (N=300)	Unadjusted OR (95% CI) YP vs adults	Adjusted OR (95% CI) * YP vs adults
Worried about being treated differently	773 (53.3%)	63 (21%)	0.2 (0.15-0.27)	0.21 (0.15-.28)
Heard negative comments	200 (13.8%)	16 (5.3%)	0.33 (0.19-0.55)	0.37 (0.22-0.65)
Use of excess barrier protection	306 (21.1%)	27 (9.0%)	0.34 (0.23-0.52)	0.36 (0.24-0.57)
Refused or delayed care	243 (16.8%)	9 (3.0%)	0.14 (0.07-0.27)	0.14 (0.06-0.27)
Treated differently	441 (30.4%)	15 (5.0%)	0.11 (0.06-0.18)	0.11 (0.06-0.18)
Avoid seeking care	396 (27.3%)	50 (16.7%)	0.48 (0.35-0.66)	0.51 (0.35-0.71)

*A distinct multivariate model was used for each outcome (row); adjusted for demographic characteristics, whether participants were currently on ART, a high PHQ2 score, a high positive self-image score

- 1,450 adults and 300 YP took part in the study with median (IQR) ages 45 years (37,52) and 20 years (17,22) respectively.
- In the last 12 months, young people were less likely than adults to worry about being treated differently; report negative experiences in non-HIV healthcare settings; or avoid seeking care when needed (Figure and Table: unadjusted OR column).
- These associations remained after accounting for any differences between groups in demographics, ART use, depressive symptoms and self-image score (Table, Adjusted OR column).
- Young people were less likely to report any negative experiences in non-HIV care compared to adults (OR=0.16, 95%CI 0.11-0.23) and this may explain differences in avoiding care between the two groups (after additional adjustment aOR=1, 95% CI 0.68-1.47)
- A high positive self-image score is associated with avoiding care but does not explain young people's lower avoidance compared to adults in the last 12 months.

Conclusions & Recommendations

- Young people report experiencing significantly less worry and negative experiences within non-HIV healthcare settings compared to adults living with HIV in the UK.
- Young people were less likely to avoid seeking care compared to adults living with HIV in the UK.
- Further exploration is required into how non-HIV healthcare settings can provide more stigma-free care to all people living with HIV to ensure continued engagement with services

Acknowledgements

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