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Poverty, Gender, and Youth

Social and Behavioral Science Research (SBSR)

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## **Nairobi informal settlements: COVID-19 knowledge, attitudes and practices—Preliminary findings**

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH

# **NAIROBI INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS: COVID-19 KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES & PRACTICES**

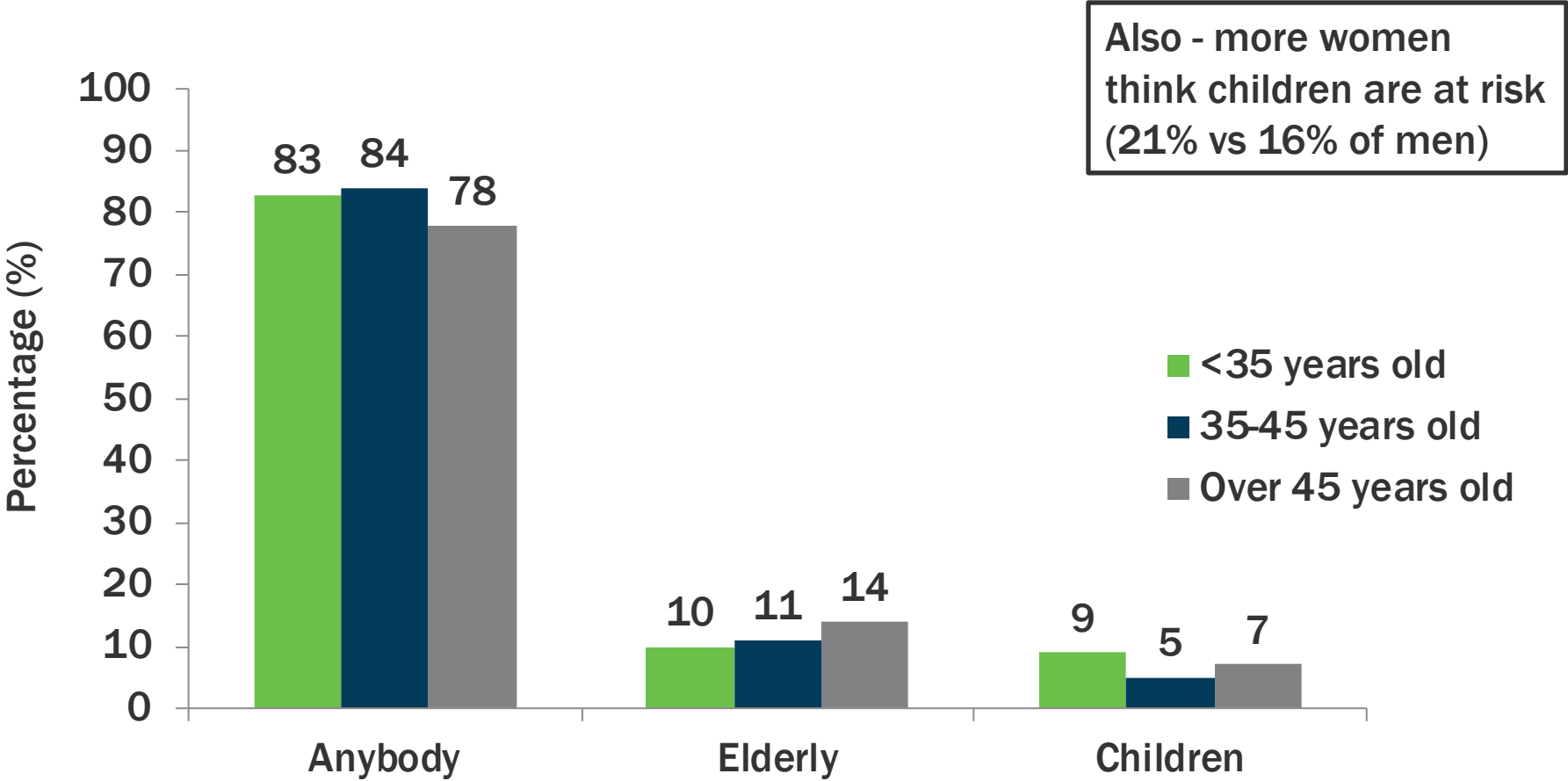
Population Council Kenya

April 7, 2020

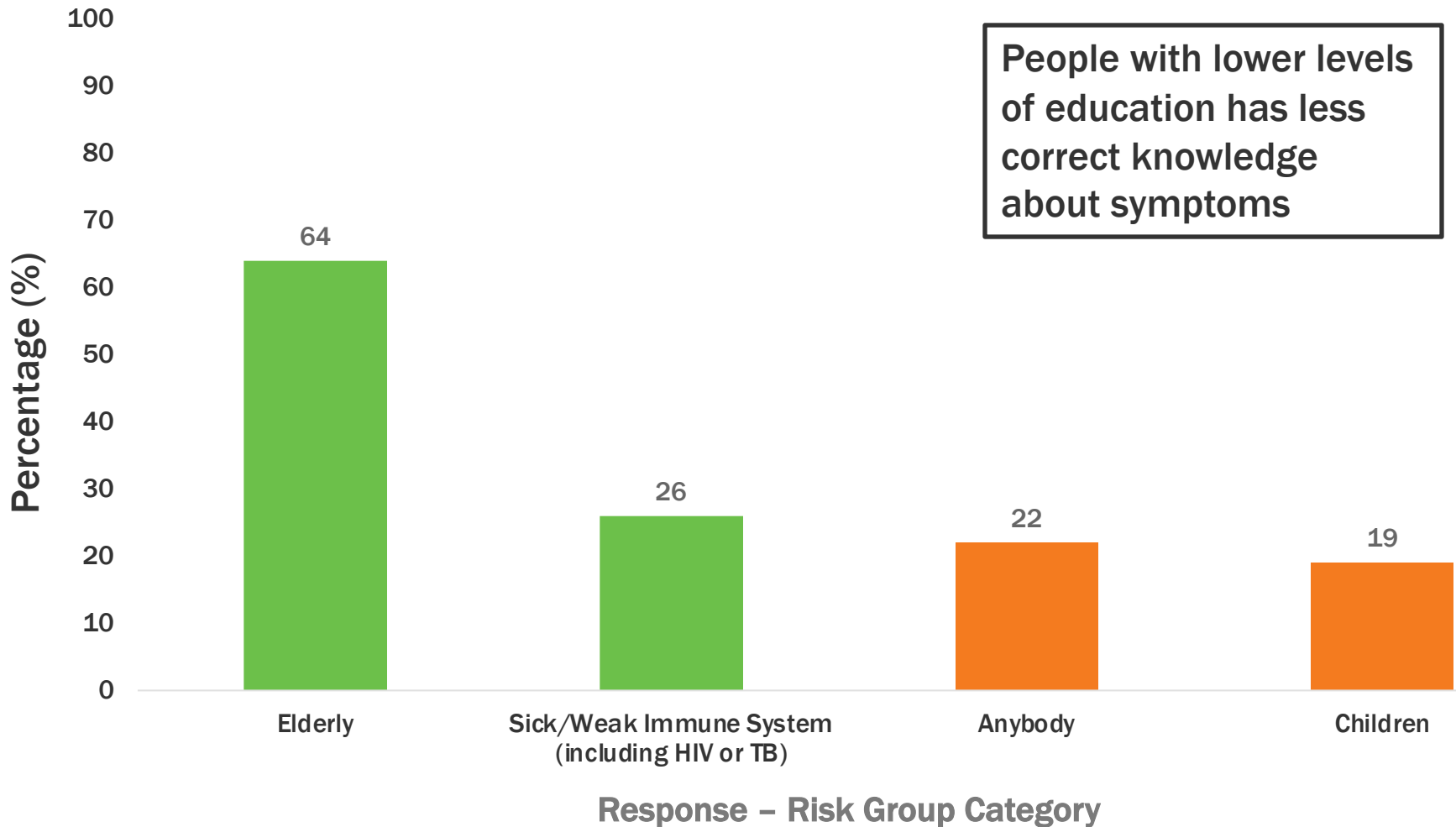
# Overview

- Phone survey conducted on March 30-31
  - Kibera, Huruma, Kariobangi, Dandora, Mathare
  - Household from ongoing Population Council survey cohorts
  - 2010 interviews completed
  - 37% male; 63% female
  - Mean age: 36 years
    - 18-24: 21%
    - 25-34: 20%
    - 35-45: 38%
    - >45: 21%
  - 100% awareness of COVID-19

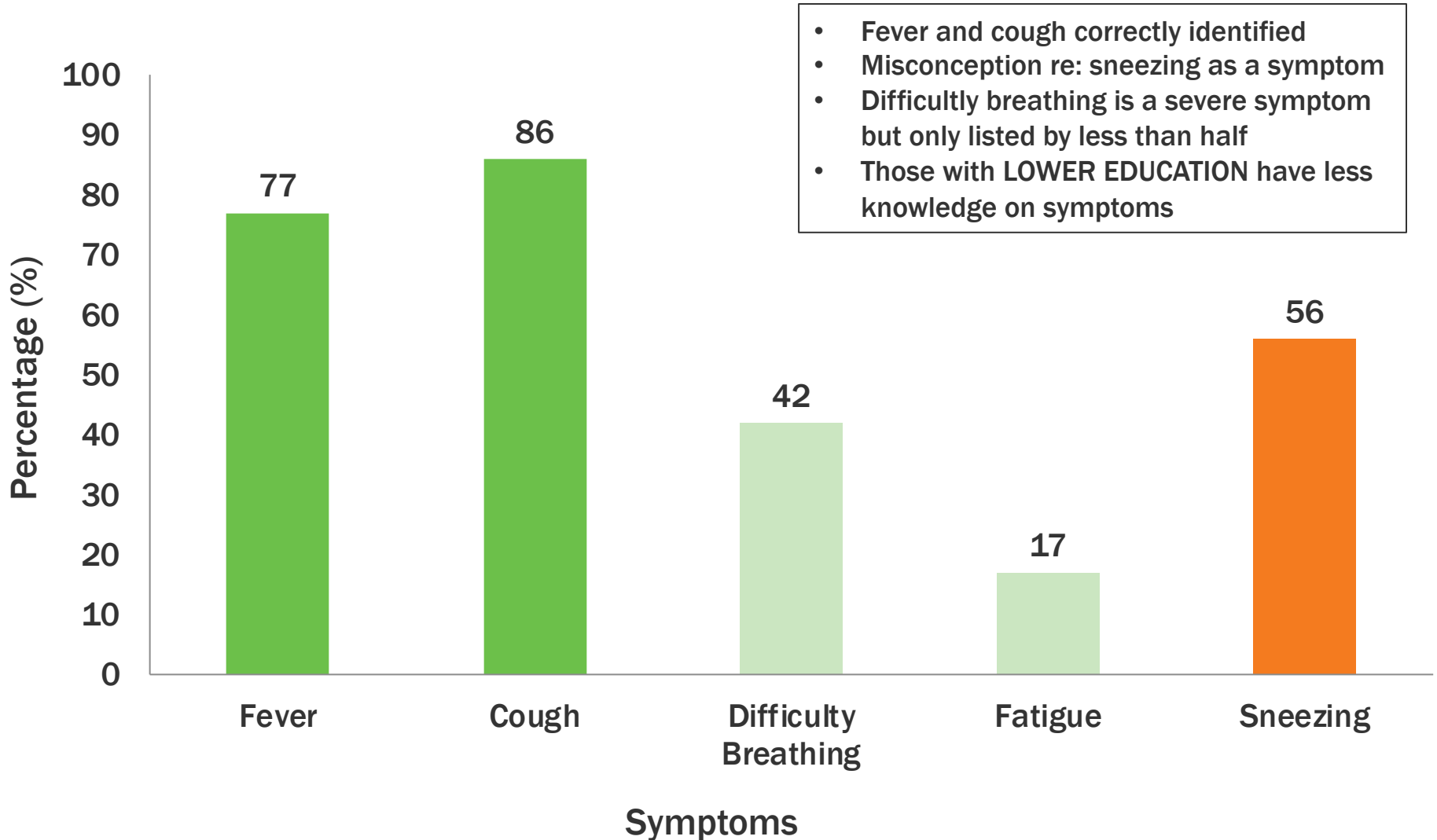
# Who can be infected with Coronavirus?



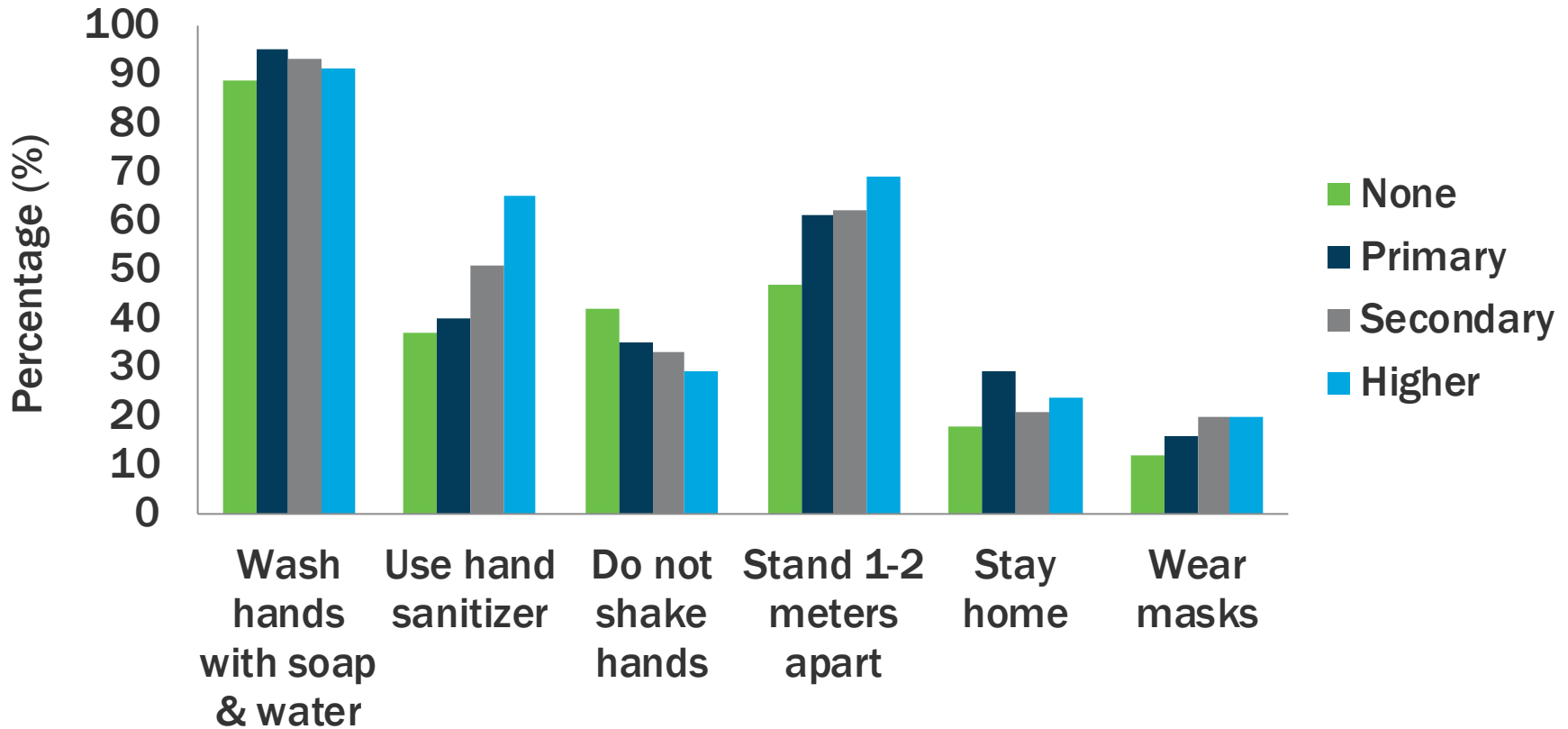
# Who is at high risk of severe illness?



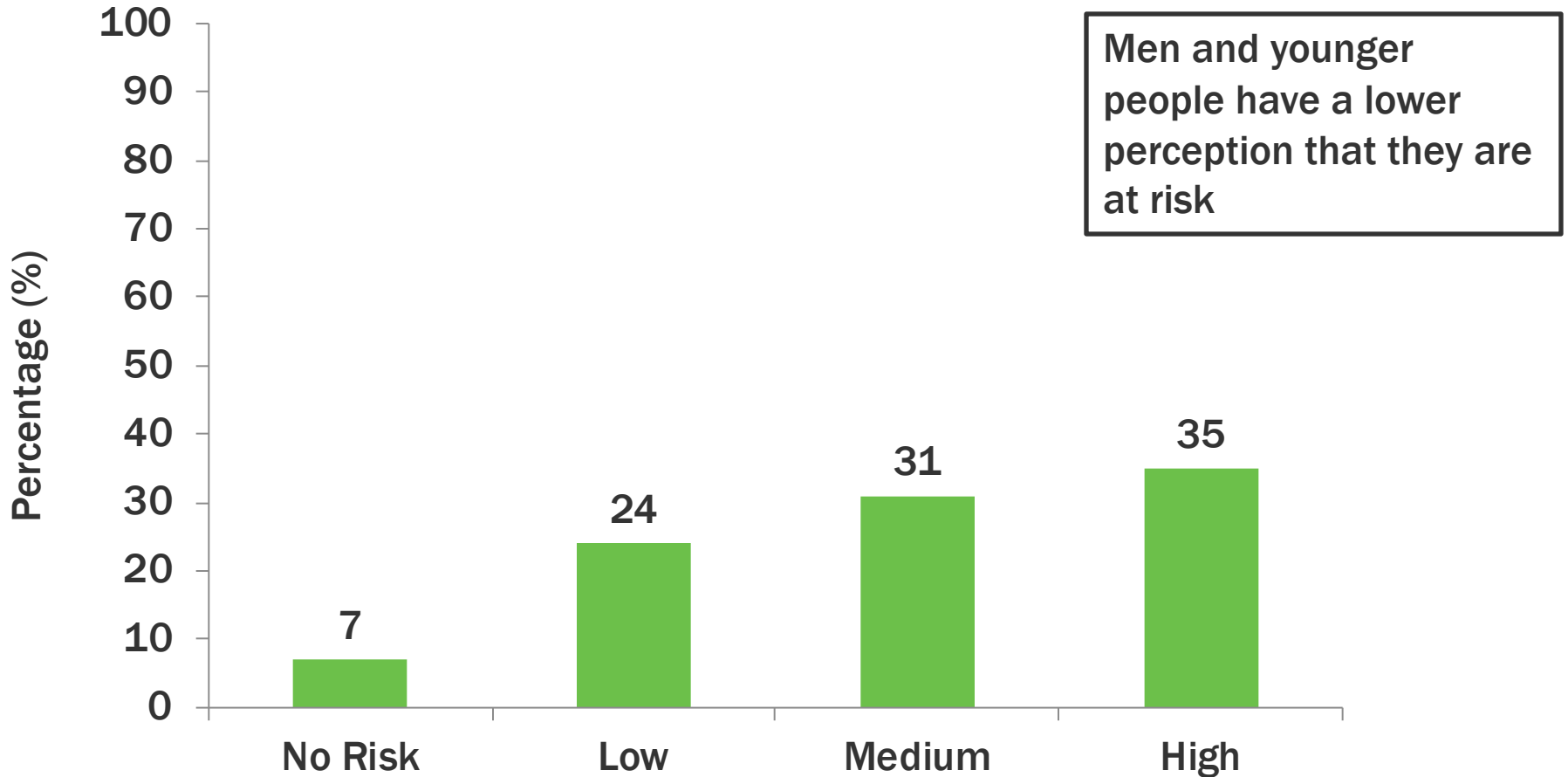
# What are symptoms of Coronavirus?



# How can infection be prevented?

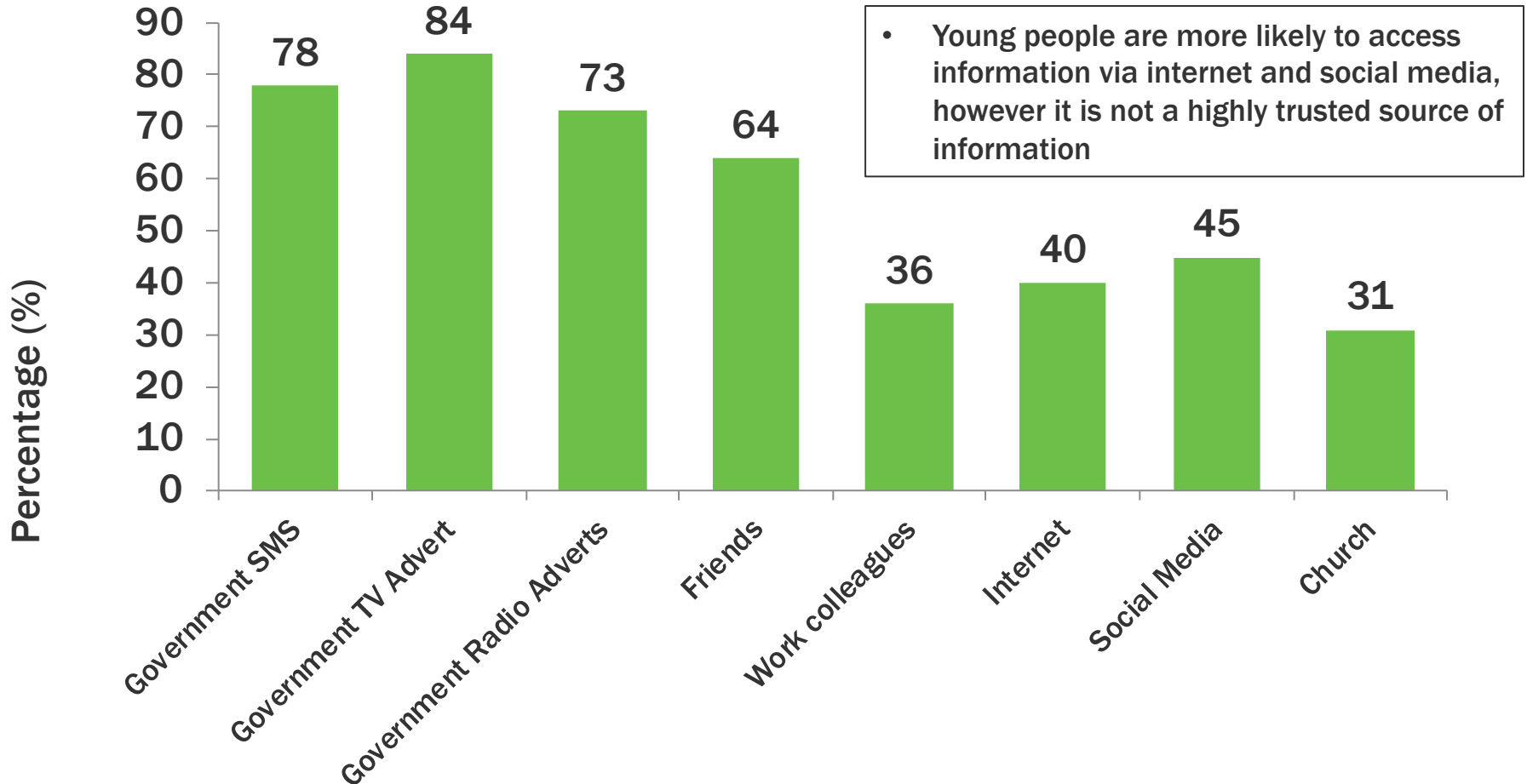


# What is your risk of being infected?





# Sources of Information on Coronavirus

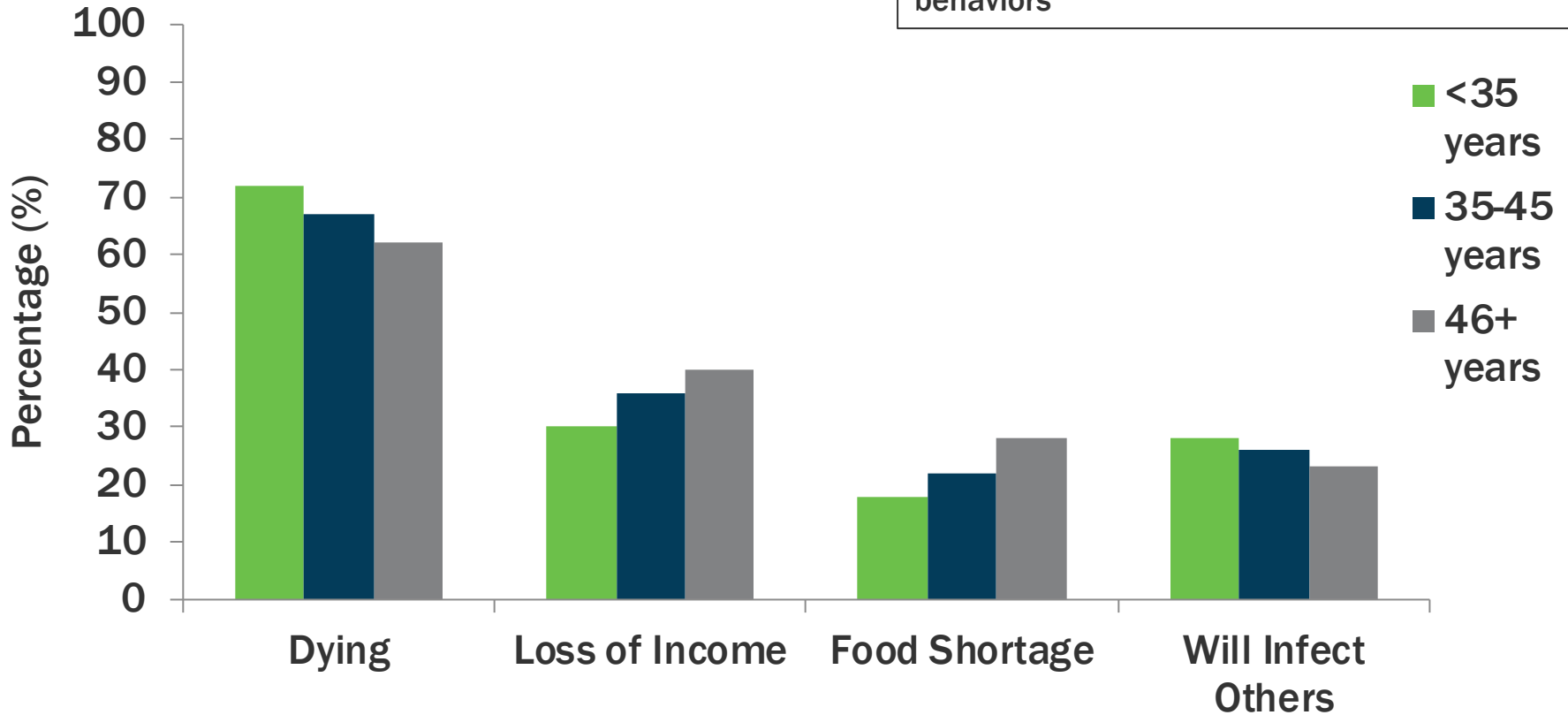


\*Government, NGOs and health facility/worker sources are the most trusted (>90%)

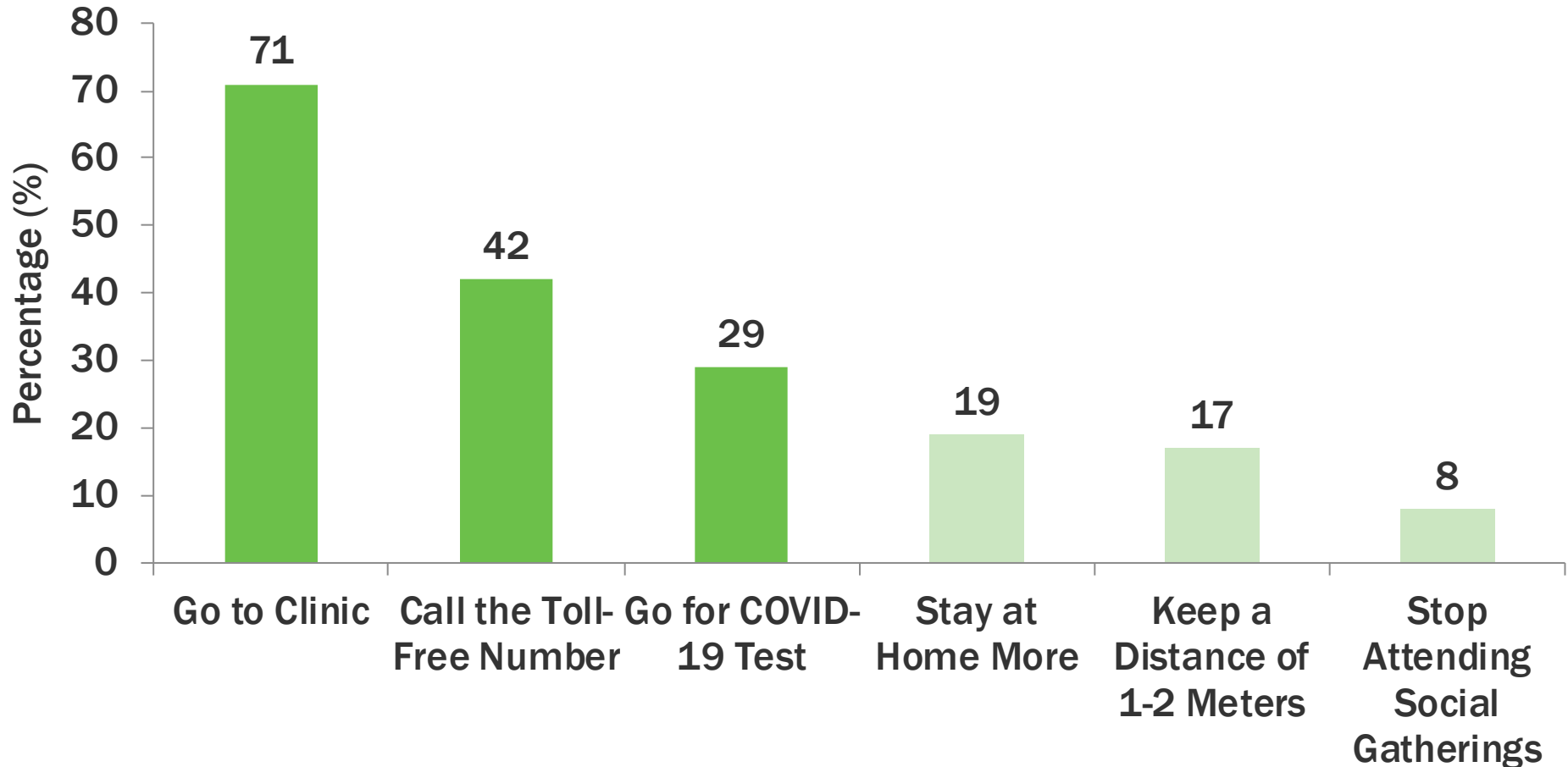
\*\*Those with lower levels of education are less likely to receive information via government channels and more likely to get information from NGOs and public announcements via a megaphone

# Fears related to Coronavirus

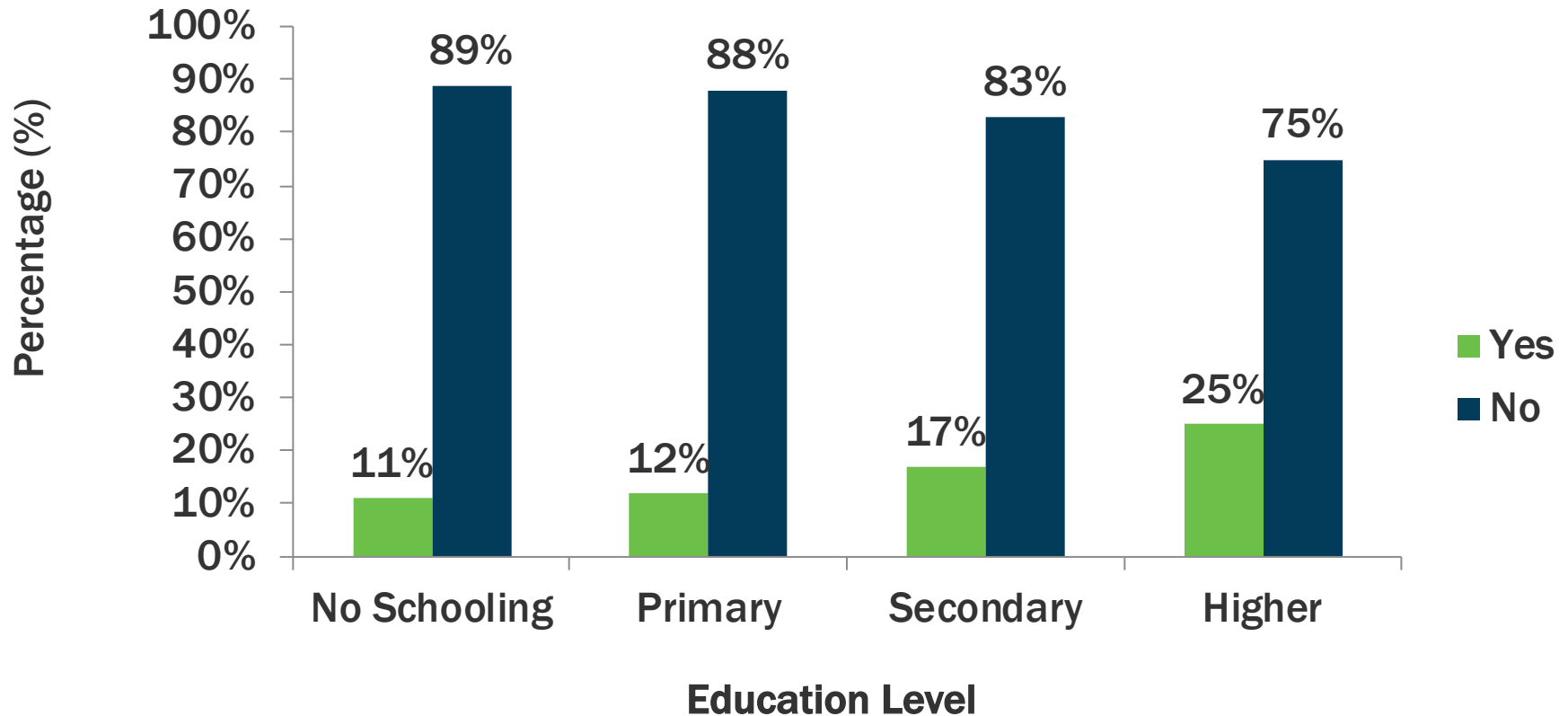
Few report being afraid they will infect others; may relate to low uptake of social distancing behaviors



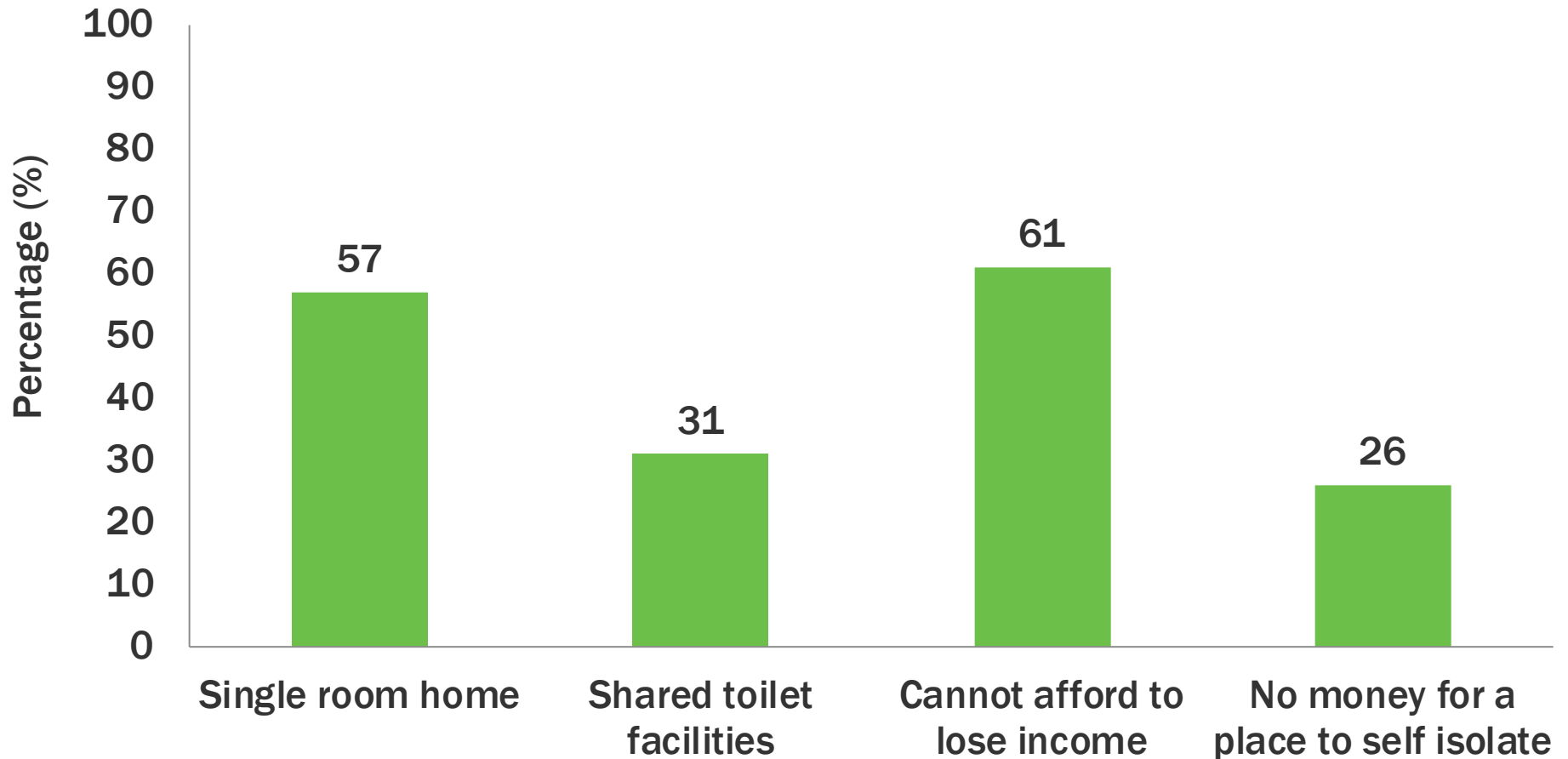
# If you had symptoms of COVID-19, what would you do?



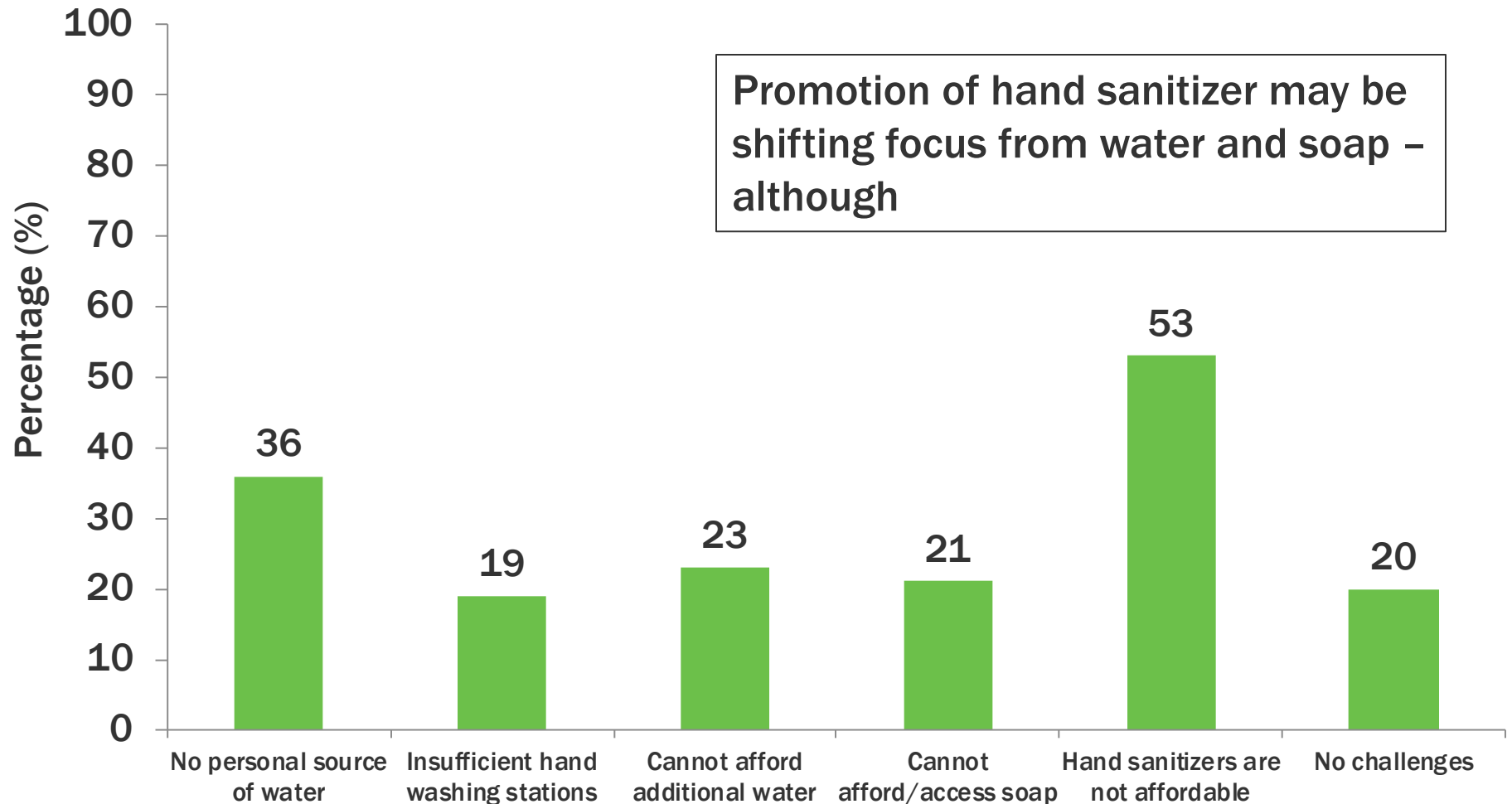
# If you were told someone in your household might have coronavirus, do you have a separate room or space for them to stay in?



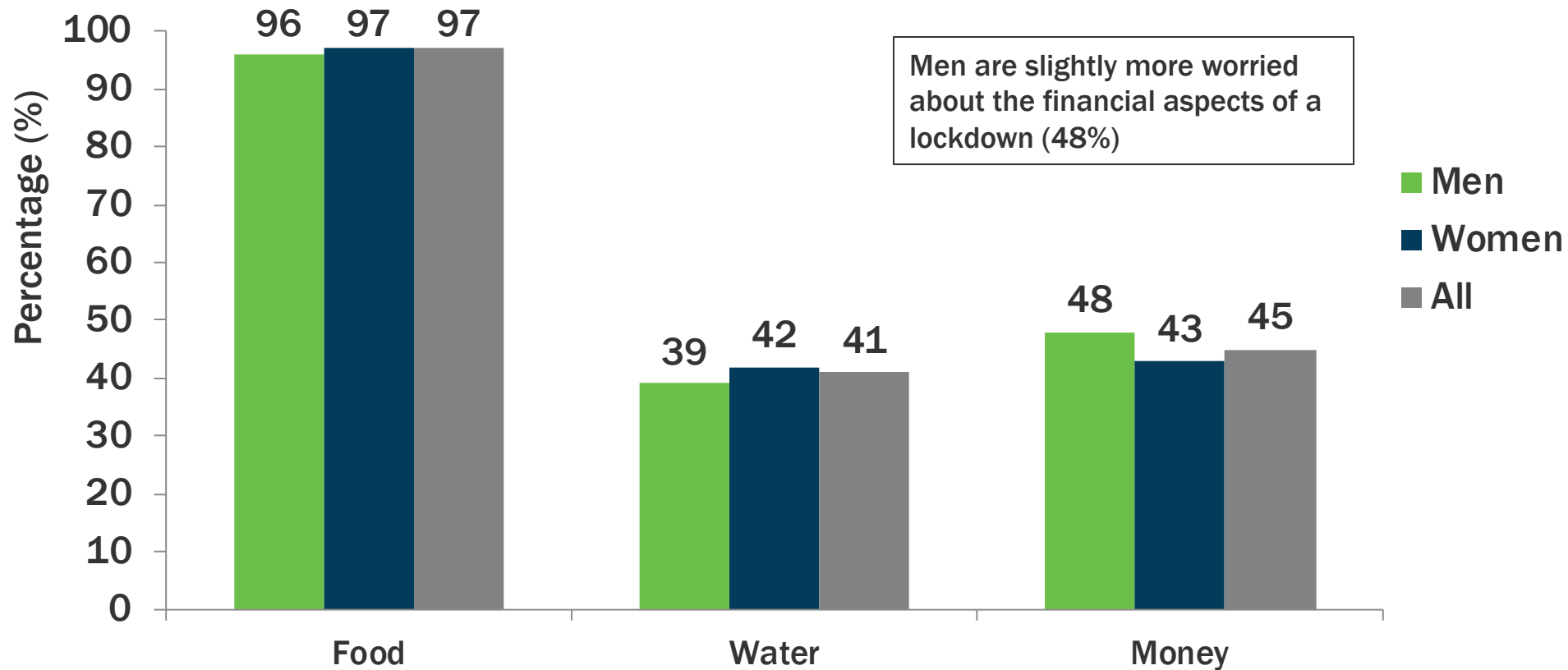
# What are the challenges to self-quarantine/social distancing?



# What are the challenges to adoption of hand-washing behaviors?



# What would be your critical needs if a lockdown occurred?



# Recommendations:

## Public Education Campaigns

- 1) Clarify COVID-19 symptoms and what to do if experiencing symptoms
- 2) Highlight idea that even those at low risk of severe illness can pass on virus
- 3) Reach less educated segments of the population
- 4) Engage more NGO partners and health facilities/workers as they are highly trusted but currently underutilized sources of information



# Recommendations – Behavior Change

1. Address inability to forgo income/social distance:
  - Consider social protection strategy to address the inability to self-isolate or practice social distancing
  - What are contextually relevant risk mitigation strategies (i.e. masks, stop social gatherings, etc.)
  
2. Invest in hand-washing facilities in informal settlements
  - Personal water sources are scarce and the cost of hand sanitizers is prohibitive

# Team Members

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**Population Council COVID-19 Research & Evaluations**

Partnering with national health ministries and other government agencies in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America, Population Council global and in-country scientists are conducting COVID-19 public health and social science research to produce relevant and timely evidence to support policymakers in controlling the spread of coronavirus, evaluating the effectiveness of prevention and mitigation measures, and assessing longer-term health, social and economic effects of the pandemic.