

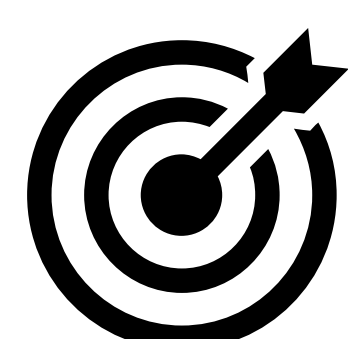
SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND PRACTICE AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN MALI: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY

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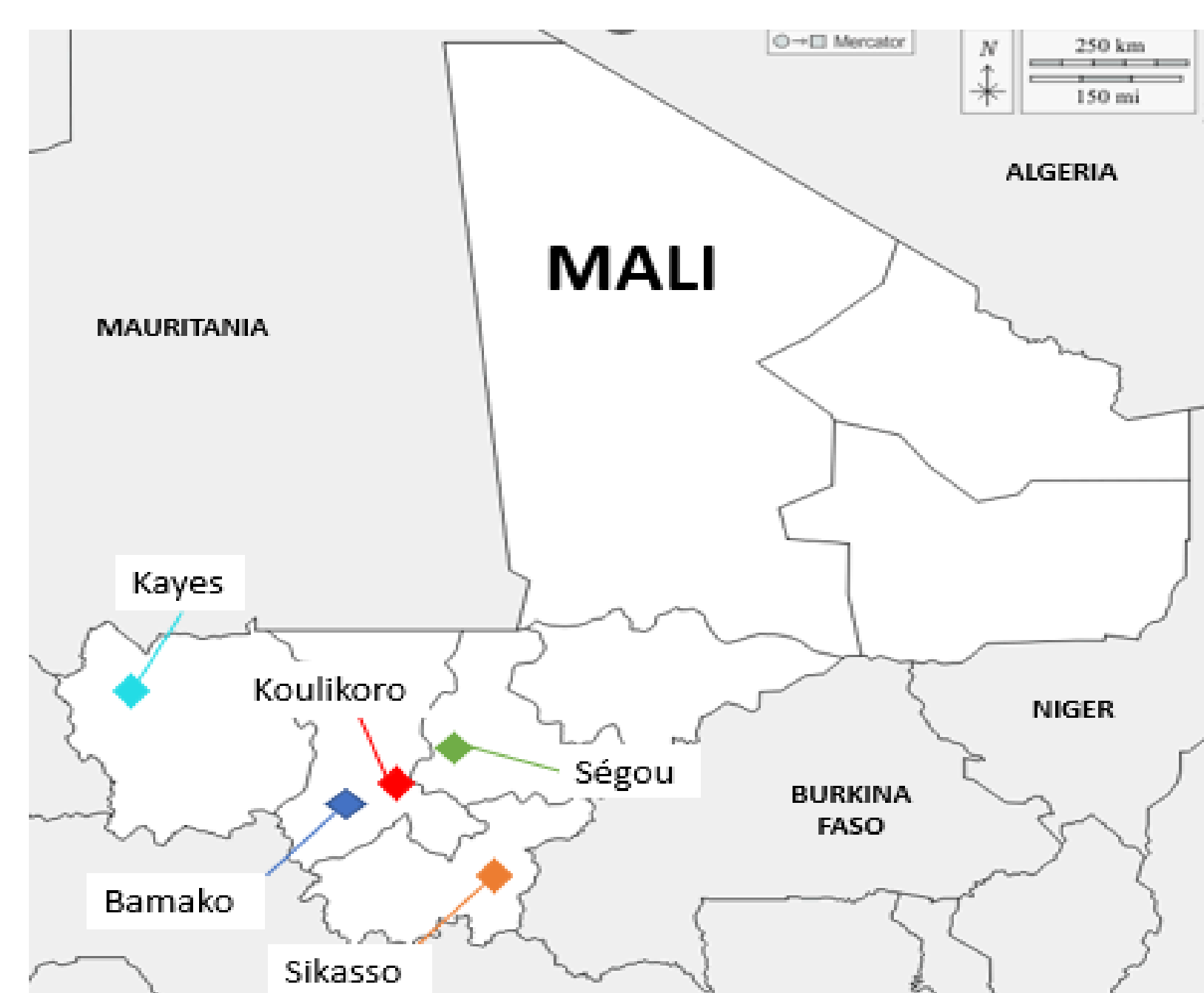
BACKGROUND

- Frontline professionals' training requires strengthening to offer quality sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services and to respond to the populations' needs, particularly those of women and girls.
- Study nested within the CLEFS project 2020-2025 :
 - Large-scale initiative aiming to sustainably strengthen primary health care, including SRHR for women and girls
 - Seven academic-based community health centers (CSCoM-Us) where primary care professionals are trained in close interaction with the communities.



OBJECTIVES

- To assess **SRHR knowledge, attitudes, practices (KAP) and needs** among adolescents served by the academic-based community health centers in Mali.



METHODS

- Cross-sectional survey (March-April 2022) in five regions (Bamako, Kayes, Koulikoro, Sikasso and Ségou)
- N = 1287 adolescents (13-19 years old)
- Data was collected by trained interviewers
- Questionnaire covering socio-demographic and KAP information on SRHR
- Answers collected : tablets using the KoboCollect app
- Descriptive and bivariate analysis were conducted using SPSS.

FINDINGS

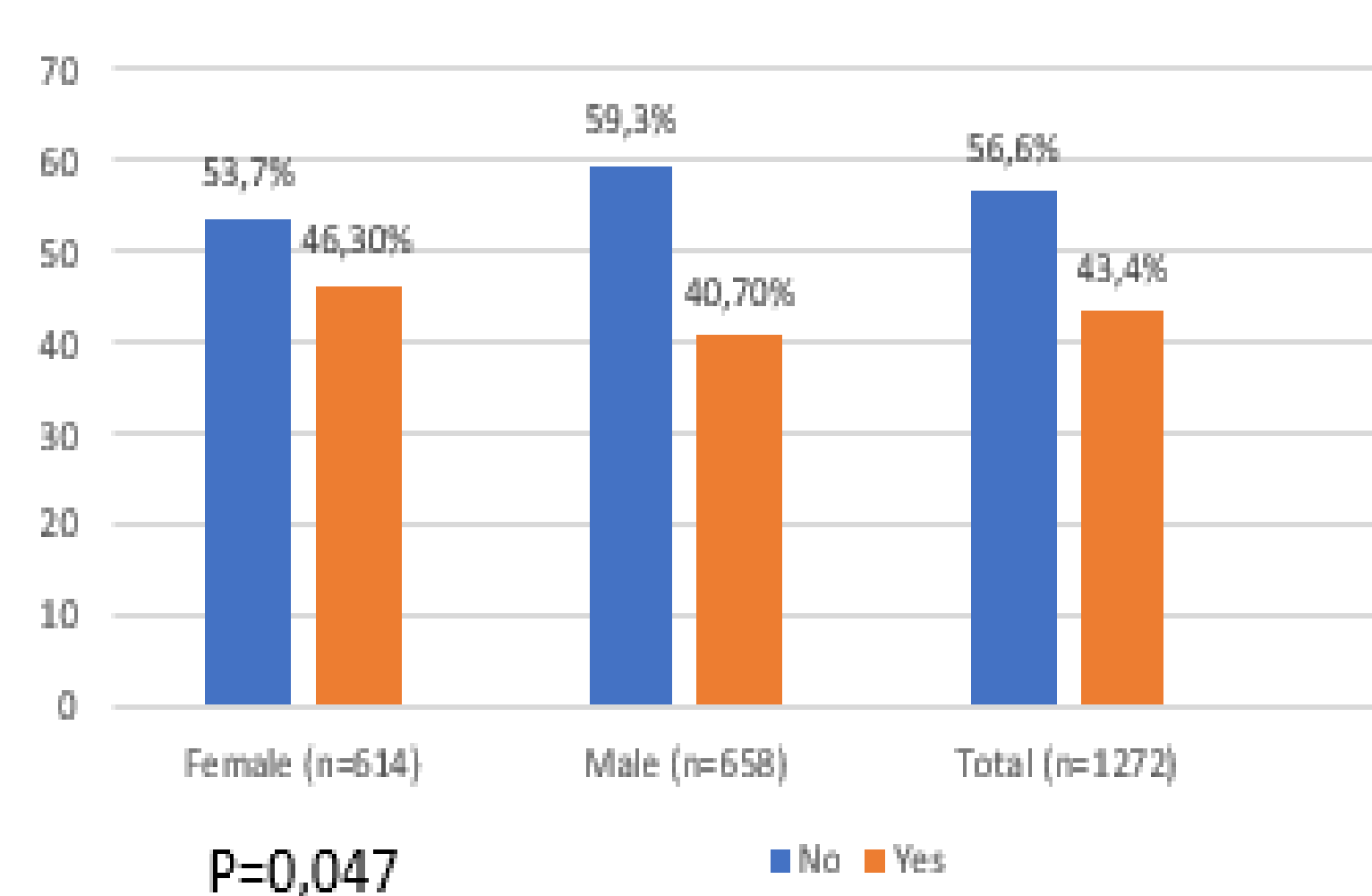
Participants characteristics

	Female(n=616)	Male (n=661)	Total (N=1277)	P- value
Education level (%)				0,304
Undergraduate	14,12	16,19	15,19	
Second level	33,93	27,69	30,70	
Literate	1,30	0,91	1,10	
None	10,88	8,32	9,55	
Quranic	8,77	13,62	11,28	
Secondary (high school)	28,08	30,71	29,44	
Higher	2,92	2,57	2,74	
Marital status (%)				<0,001
Single	68,87	95,01	82,36	
Engaged	28,71	3,63	15,77	
Unmarried cohabitation	2,42	1,36	1,87	
Age	Female (n=618)	Male (n=665)	Total (N=1283)	
Mean (± SD)	16,86 (±1,46)	17,55(±1,41)		0,232
Age group(%)				<0,001
15- 17 years	61,7	38,3		
18 years and over	42,0	58,0		
Having a companion-sexual partner (%)	Female (n=354)	Male (n=548)		0,111
Total (N=902)				
No	62,43	60,04	60,98	
Yes	37,57	39,96	39,02	

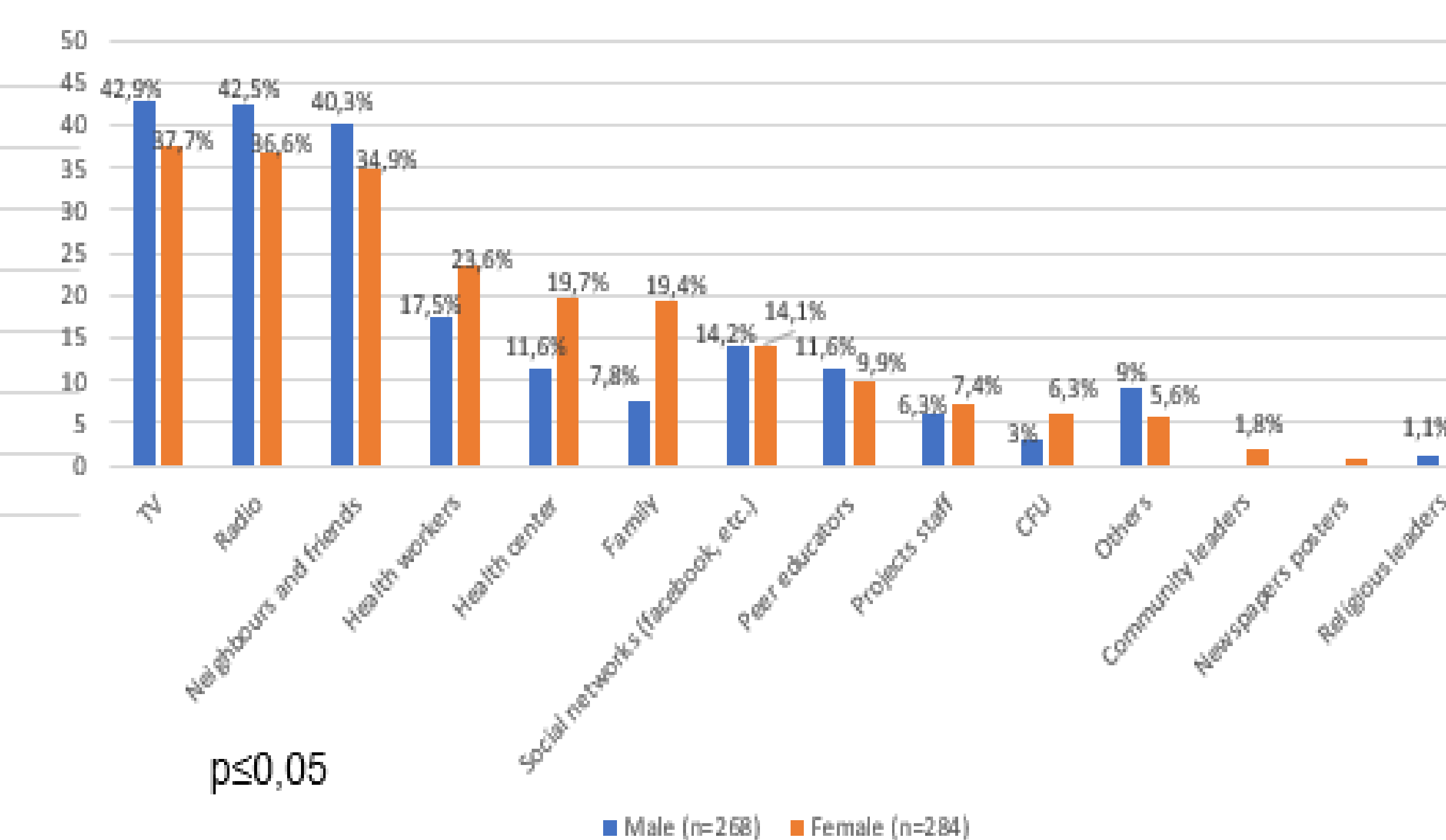
Distribution of participants by sex and health zone

Health zone	Sex (n, %)		Total
	Female	Male	
Banconi	181 (50,1%)	180 (49,9%)	361
Koniakary	114 (46,9%)	129 (53,1%)	243
Konobougou	137 (48,9%)	143 (51,1%)	280
Sanoubougou2	155 (49,5%)	158 (50,5%)	313
Segue	34 (37,8%)	56 (62,2%)	90
Total	621 (48,3%)	666 (51,7%)	1287

Participants who received information on SRHR based on sex (n=1272)



Main sources of information by sex (%) (n=552)



Knowledge, attitudes on SRHR

FP methods

Highest level of knowledge was :
 - contraceptive implants : **girls** mostly (**59.6%**) vs boys (37.2%) (p<0.001)
 - Exception: condom better known among **boys (44,7%)** vs girls (19,3%) (p<0.001)
 - More than **77%** of adolescents do not use any FP method despite being sexually active (40%).

STIs

- HIV syndrome is the most known among **boys (66.4%)** vs girls (56.7%) (p<0.001)
 - **23,2%** of **girls** didn't know any method to prevent STIs compared to 14,3% of boys (p<0.001).

GBV

- **32%** of adolescents lack knowledge about any type of GBV
 - Among those knowledgeable: **12%** of **girls** and **7%** of **boys** were victims of one type of GBV (p=0,012)

FP: Family Planning; STI: sexually transmitted infection; GBV: Gender-based Violence

Adolescents' perceptions of GBV by sex

86,5% of girls and 81,7 boys do not agree about beating wives as a form of punishment (p=0,036)

- **88,3% of girls and 83,6 % of boys** condemn forced marriage (p=0,009)
 - **65,7% (boys and girls)** condemn forced sexual intercourse (p=0,068)

59,5 % of adolescents (boys and girls) agree that girls should undergo female genital mutilation (p=0,638)

LIMITATIONS

- Difficulty to reach adolescent targets (few met the inclusion criteria (15-19 years old; unmarried)
- Complaints about the survey lengths by some respondents
- Some technical difficulties when using the new digital data collection tools.

IMPLICATIONS

Our findings are useful to promote gender equality and ensure better synergy between training curriculum and SRHR healthcare services tailored to women's and girls' specific needs.

