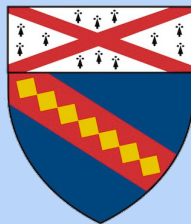


Barriers to Medical Gender Affirmation among Transgender Adults in Massachusetts

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Massachusetts
Transgender
Political
Coalition



Disclosures



**NO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST TO
DISCLOSE.**

Background: Trans* Populations

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- Trans* → gender identity differs from assigned birth sex
- Exact prevalence is unknown – US estimates vary from 0.1 to 0.5%

WHAT DOES THE * STAND FOR?

***TRANSGENDER**

*TRANSSEXUAL *TRANSVESTITE

***GENDERQUEER**

*GENDERFLUID *NON-BINARY *GENDERF*CK

***GENDERLESS**

*AGENDER *NON-GENDERED

***THIRD GENDER**

*TWO-SPIRIT *BIGENDER

***TRANS MAN**

***TRANS WOMAN**

read more at ItsPronouncedMetrosexual.com

Types of Gender Affirmation

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- **Social**
 - Name, pronouns, clothes
- **Legal**
 - Legal name change, gender marker change
- **Medical**
 - Masculinizing and feminizing hormones
 - Surgery



Transgender Barriers to Healthcare in the US



Provider Bias

(Lurie, 2005, Poteat, 2013, Sanchez, 2006, Schilder, 2001)

Limited Access to Trained Providers

(Obedin-Maliver et al., 2011, Solursh et al., 2003)



Mistreatment & Future Avoidance

(Reisner et al, 2015)

Transgender Barriers to Healthcare in the US



Insurance Coverage

- Lack of insurance
- Denial of coverage for services



Cost

- Medical gender affirmation can be cost-prohibitive





Raise your voice for our health

Share your stories with Project VOICE

Voicing Our Individual and Community Experiences

The Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition and Fenway Health seeks transgender adult volunteers in Massachusetts to take part in an online survey on stress and health.

YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IF YOU:

- ◀ Are transgender or gender non-conforming
- ◀ Are age 18 years or older
- ◀ Live or have lived in Massachusetts in the past year

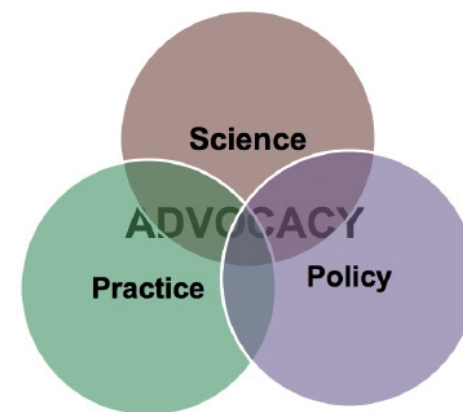
The purpose of this needs assessment is to gain a deeper understanding of the health of transgender adult communities in Massachusetts, and to specifically understand the social stressors that influence health and wellbeing across the life course of transgender people.

Participants have the chance to be entered into a raffle with over \$500 in gift cards and prizes, including an iPad.

Study Purpose

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- Describe the frequency of demographic and access to healthcare experience among transgender individuals in Massachusetts
- Determine factors associated with access to medical gender affirmation among transgender adults in MA
- Use findings to advance policies to support transgender health



Methods: Analytic Sample



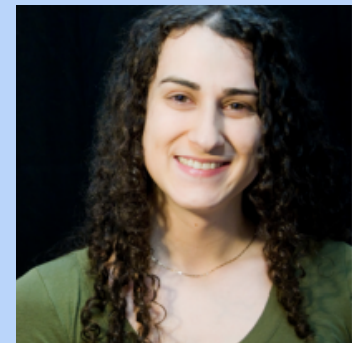
452
Voice sample



88
Excluded who were not seeking medical gender affirmation



364
Transgender individuals seeking medical gender affirmation – 12 mo



Measures: Socio-Demographics



- **Age**
- **Race/ethnicity**
- **Assigned sex at birth**
- **Gender identity**
- **Socially transitioned**
- **Education**
- **Employment**
- **Annual income**
- **Insurance**



Measures: Healthcare Avoidance Past 12 Months

Delayed/avoided preventative care due to discrimination

I have postponed or not tried to get checkups or other preventive medical care because of disrespect or discrimination from doctors or other healthcare providers.

Delayed/avoided emergency care due to discrimination

I have postponed or not tried to get needed medical care when I was sick or injured because of disrespect or discrimination from doctors or other healthcare providers.

Delayed/avoided preventative care due to cost

I have postponed or not tried to get checkups or other preventive medical care because I could not afford it.

Delayed/avoided emergency care due to cost

I have postponed or not tried to get needed medical care when I was sick or injured because I could not afford it.

Measures: Access to Care – Past 12 Months



Discrimination in healthcare (*yes/no*)

Teach provider about transgender care (*yes/no*)

Refusal of care (*yes/no*)

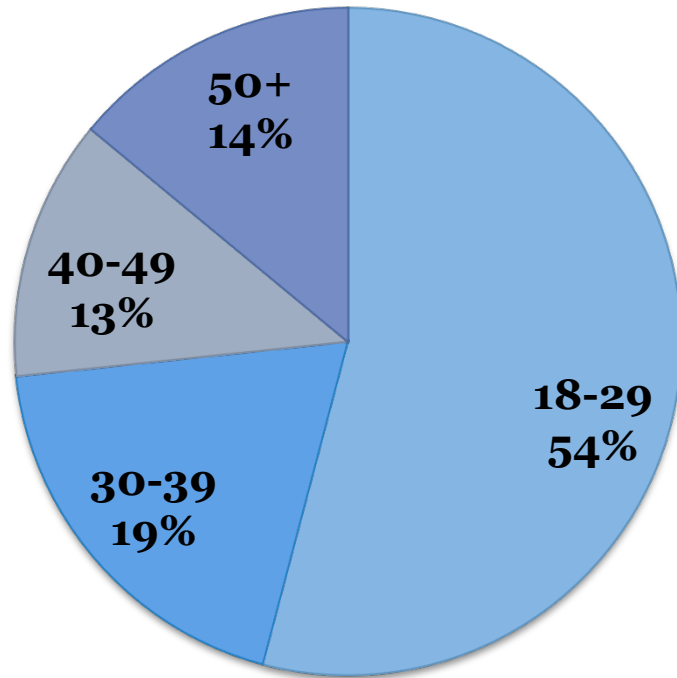
Outcome:

“Unable to access transition-related care” (*yes/no*)



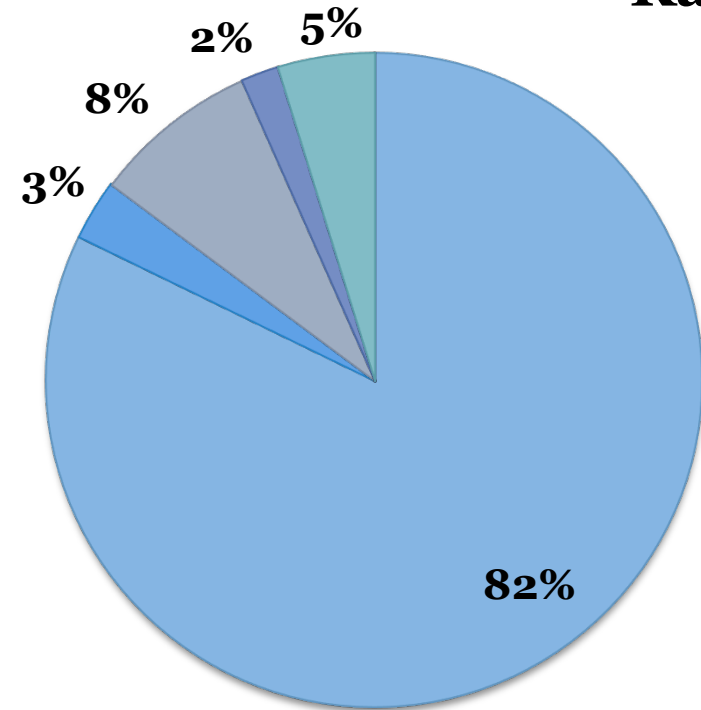
Socio-Demographics: Age & Race

Age



Mean: 33.0
SD: 13.0

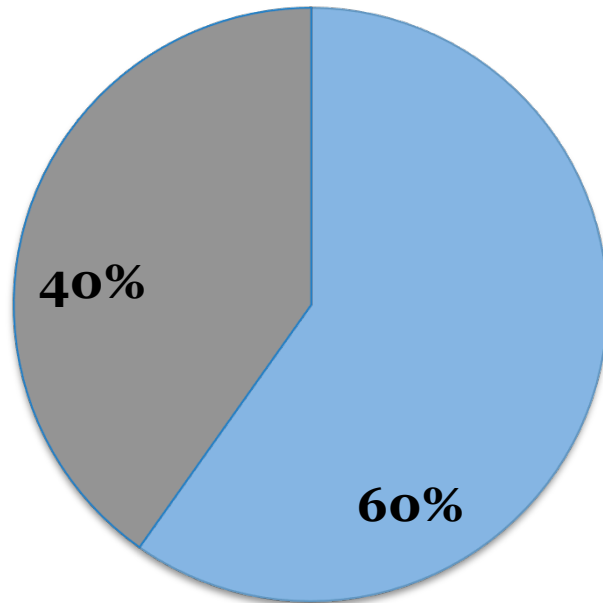
Race



- White, Not Hispanic
- Black, Not Hispanic
- Hispanic
- Multiracial
- Other Race, Not Hispanic

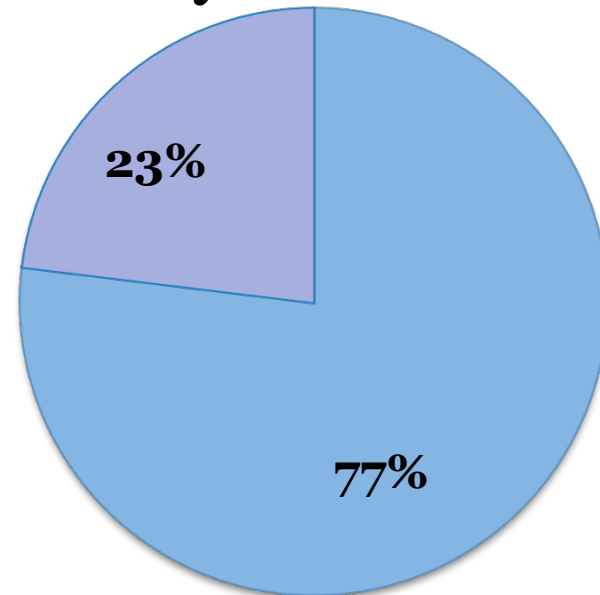
Socio-Demographics: Gender & Social Transition

Gender Spectrum



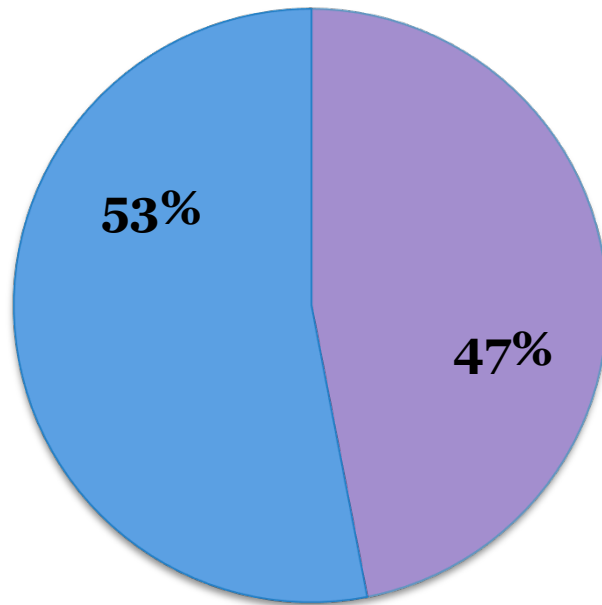
- Trans Masculine / FTM Spectrum
- Trans Feminine / MTF Spectrum

Socially Transitioned



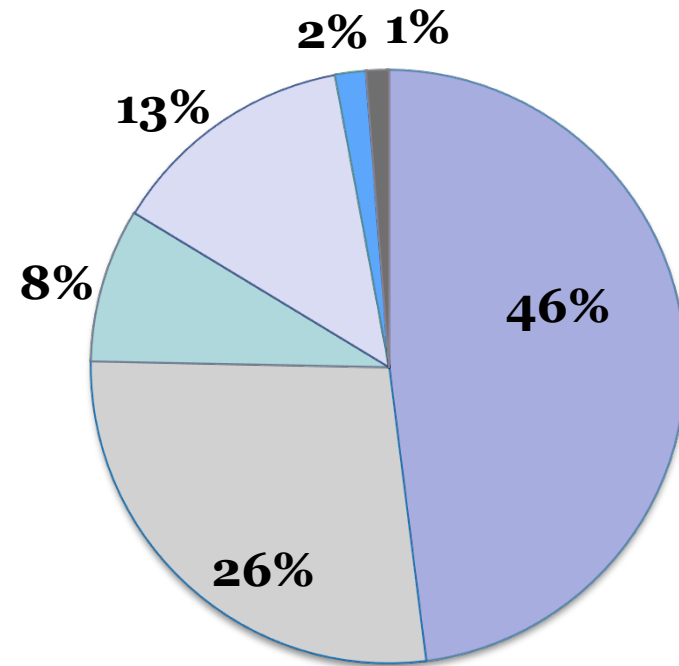
- Yes
- No

Socio-Demographics: Income & Employment



Income

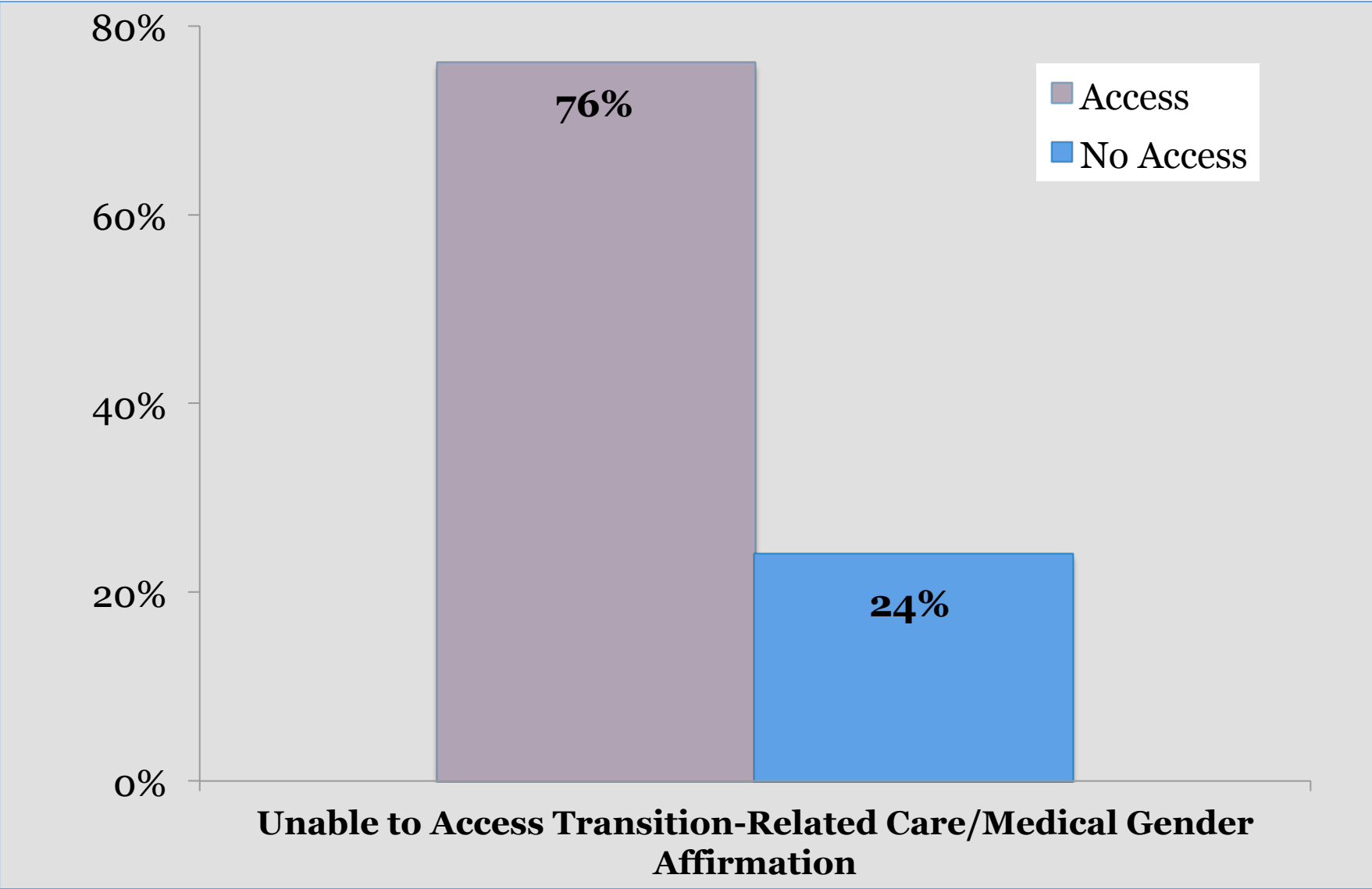
- Under \$35k
- 35K or more



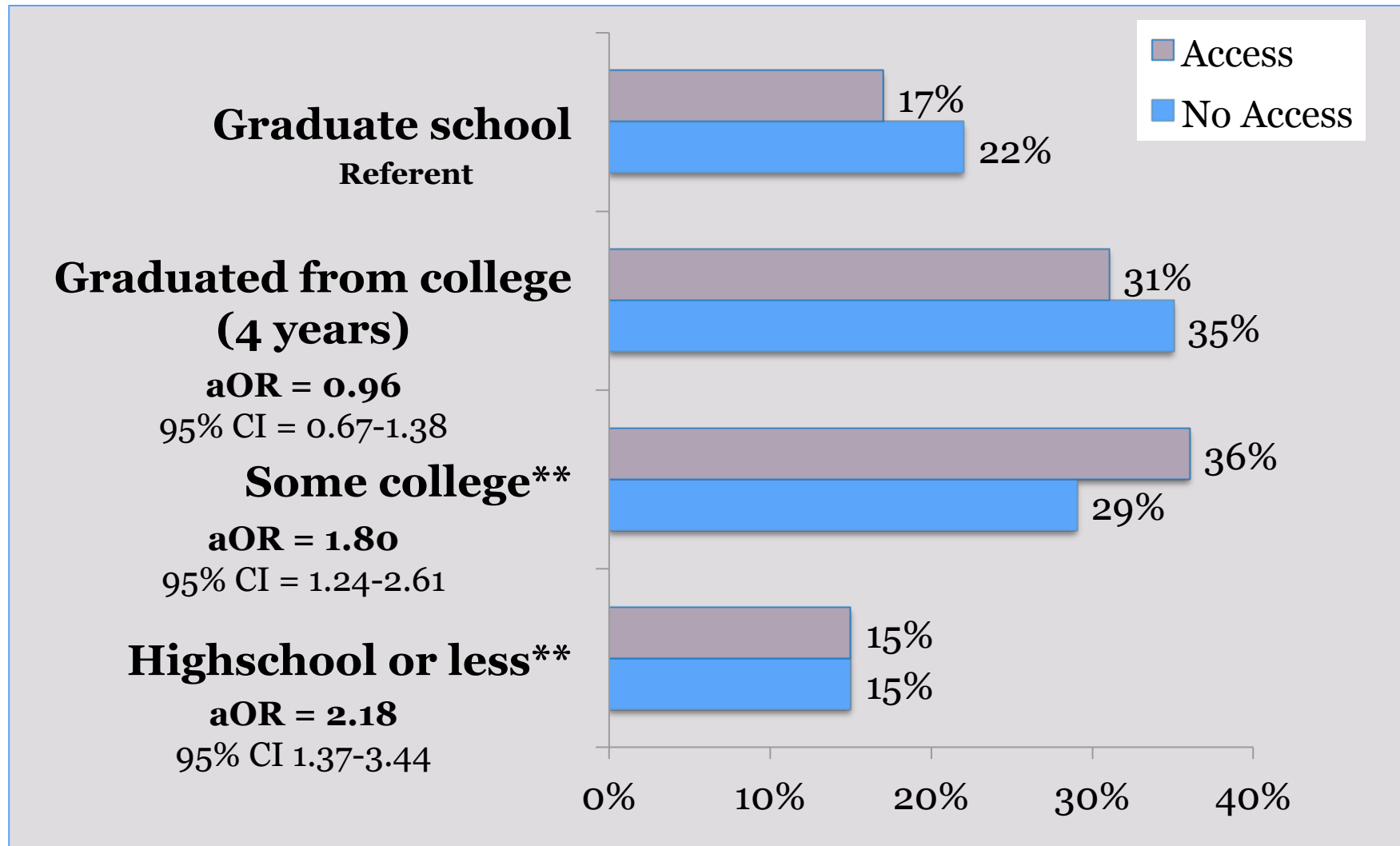
Employment

- Employed
- Student
- Out of work
- Unable to work
- Retired
- Homemaker

Access to Healthcare

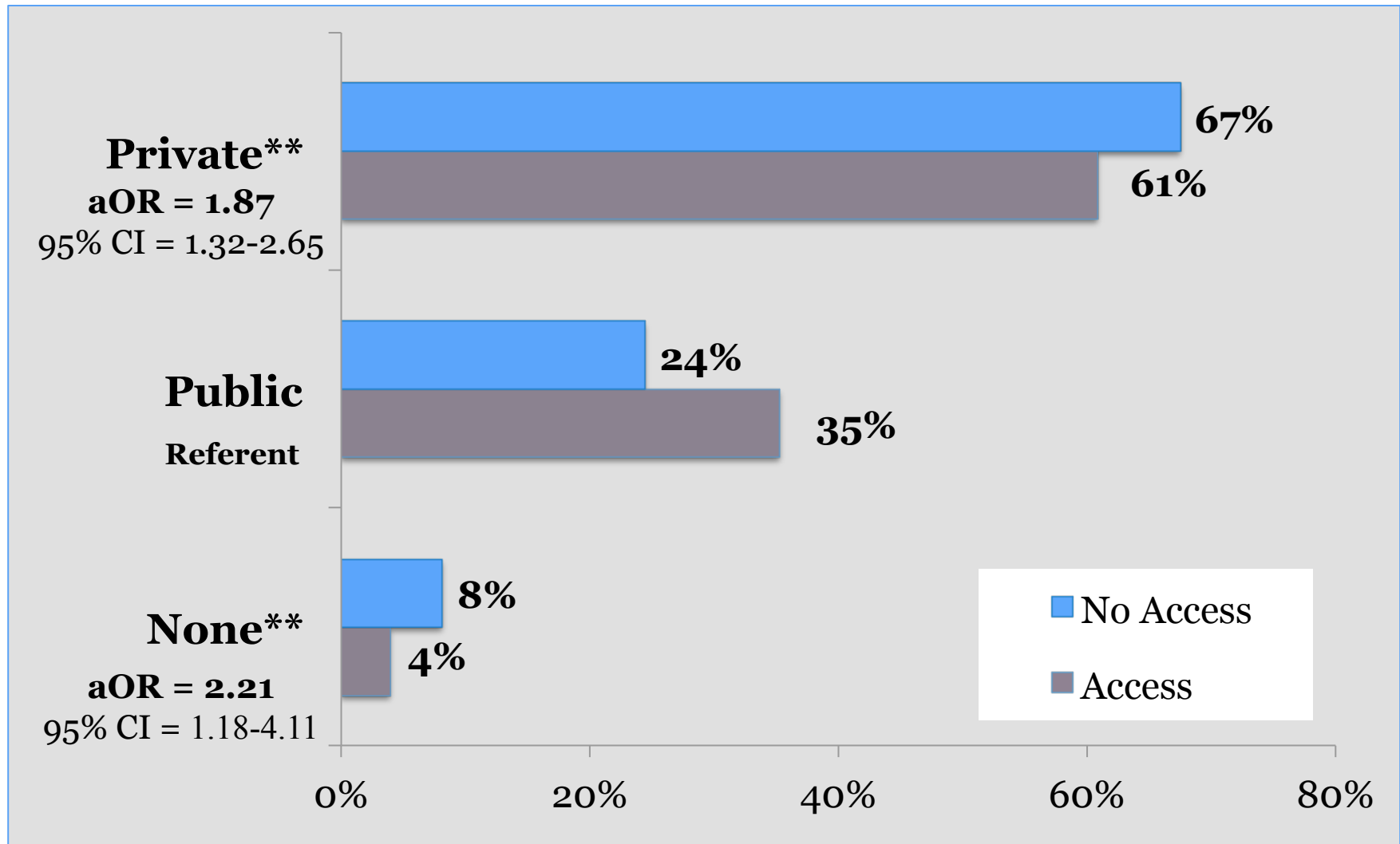


Association of Education to Lack of Access to Medical Gender Affirmation – Past 12 mo



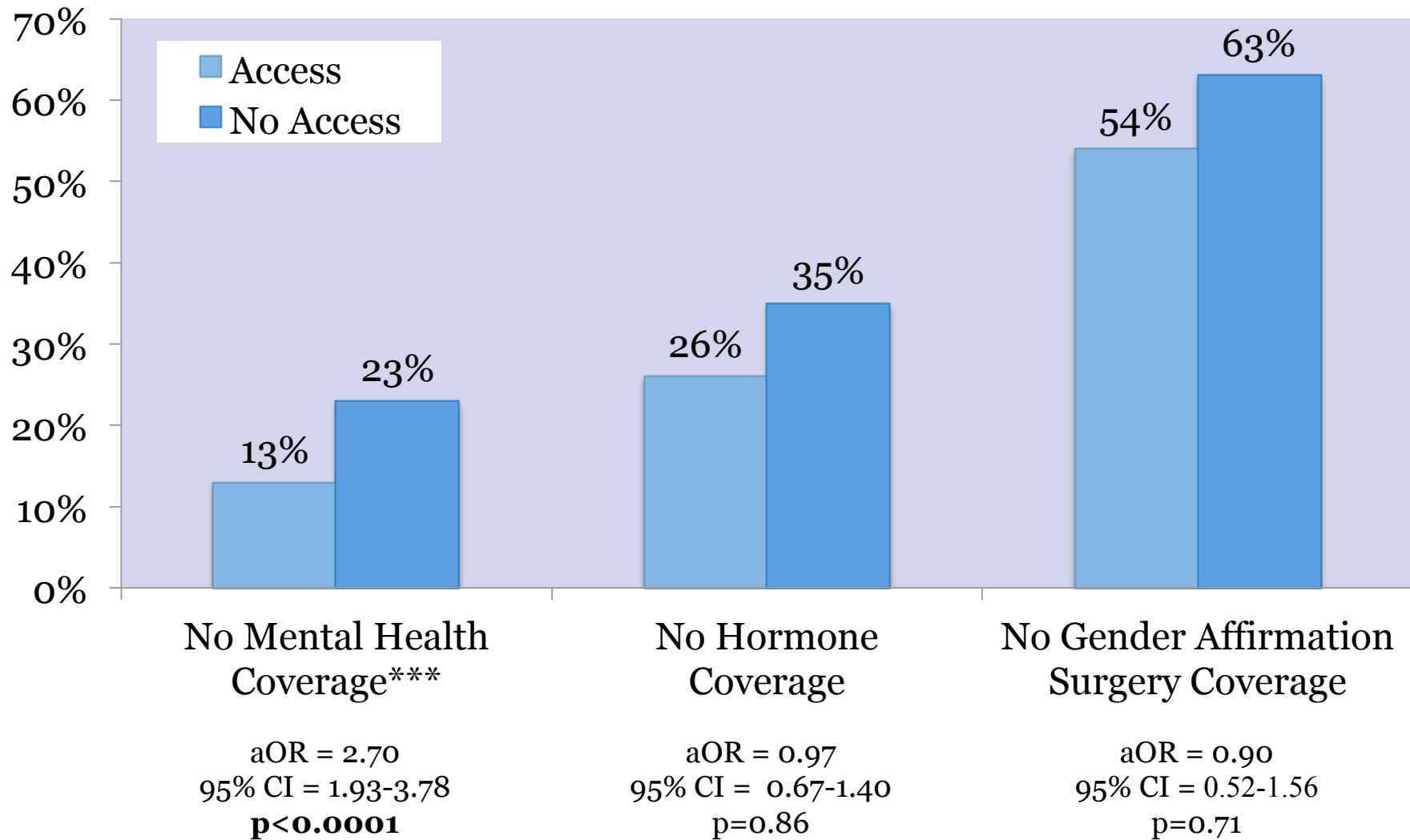
**P<0.01

Association of Insurance Type to Lack of Access to Medical Gender Affirmation – Past 12 mo

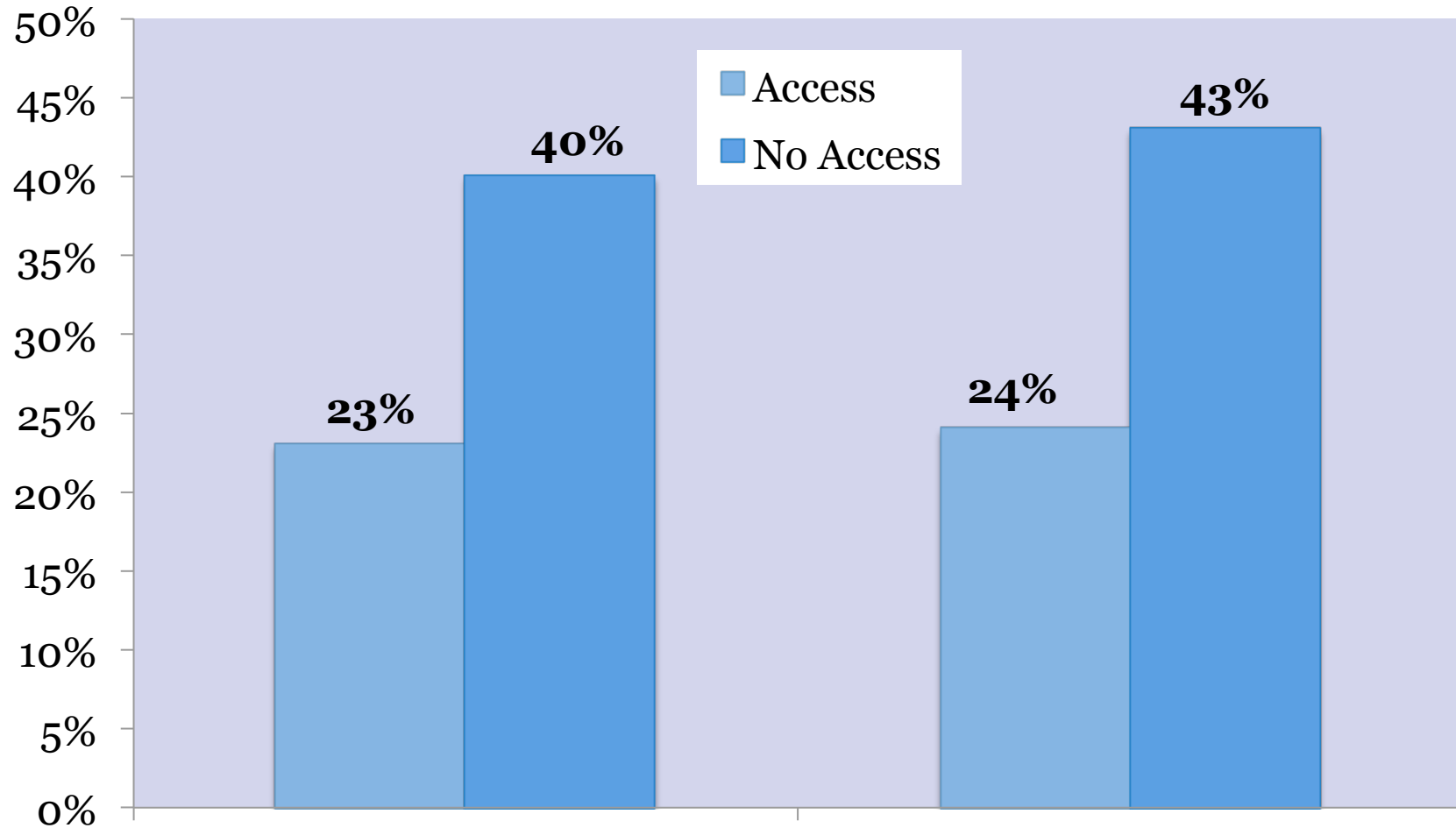


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Association of Insurance Coverage to Lack of Access to Medical Gender Affirmation – Past 12 mo



Association of Delayed Care due to Cost to Lack of Access to Medical Gender Affirmation – Past 12 mo



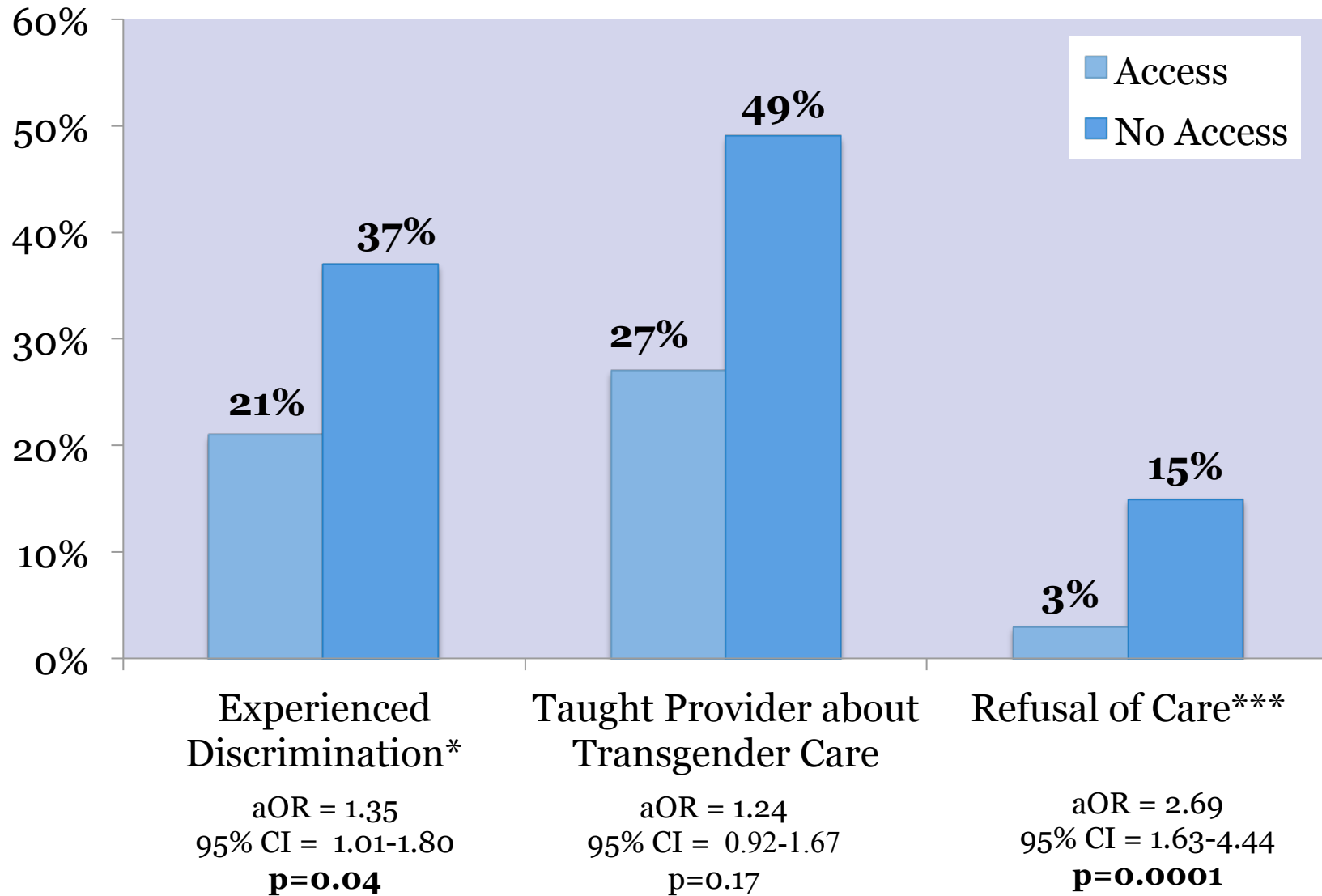
Delayed Preventative Care*

aOR = 1.48 95% CI = 1.04-2.10
p=0.03

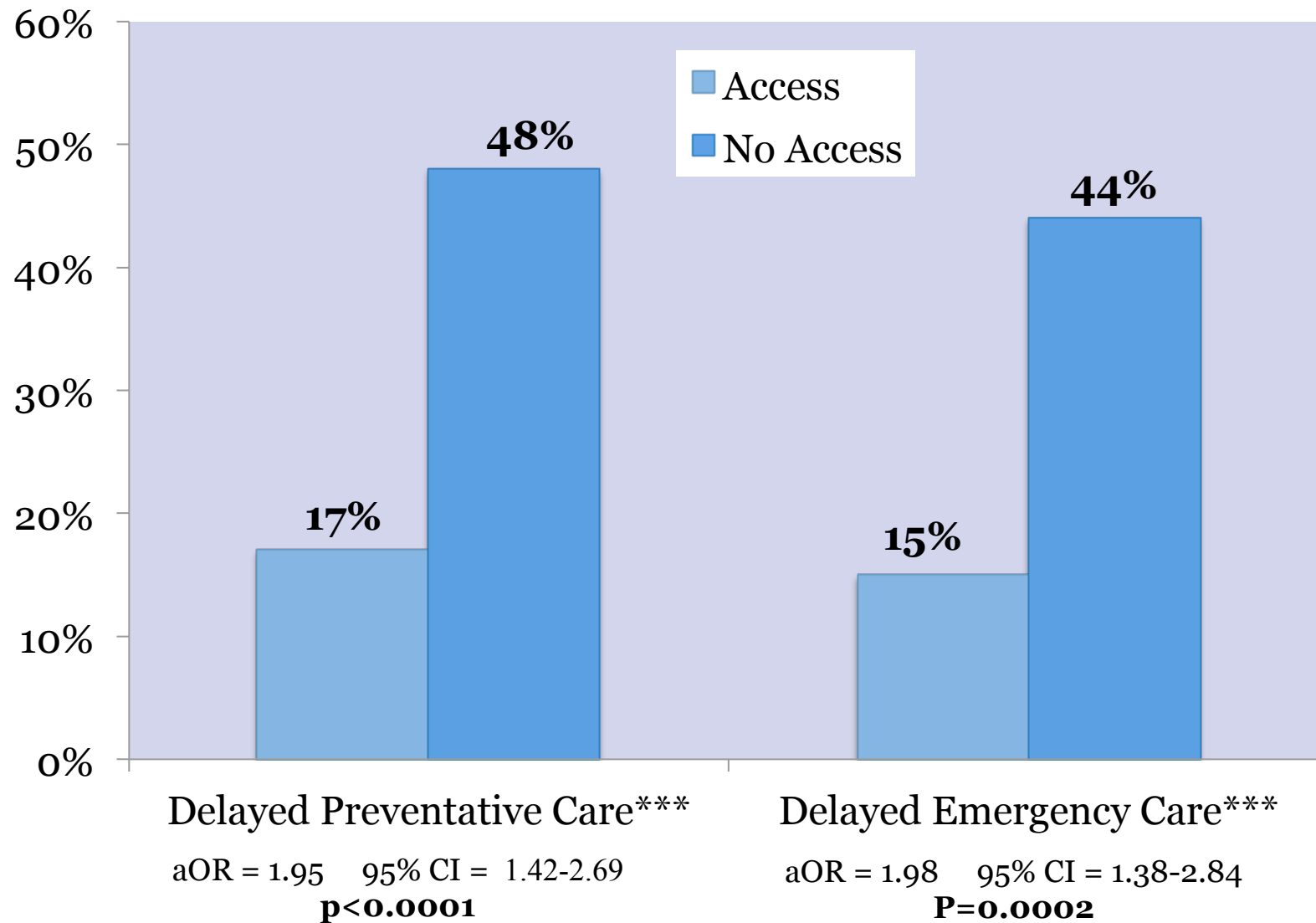
Delayed Emergency Care

aOR = 1.21 95% CI = 0.85-1.70
p=0.29

Association of Discrimination in Healthcare to Lack of Access to Gender Affirmation Care – Past 12 mo



Association of Delayed Care due to Discrimination to Lack of Access to Medical Gender Affirmation – Past 12 mo



Summary



- Transgender people in Massachusetts experience:
 - Discrimination in healthcare
 - Avoidance of healthcare
 - Inadequate insurance coverage
- Lack of access to medical gender affirmation associated with:
 - Lower education
 - Private insurance or no insurance
 - Lack of mental health coverage
 - Discrimination in healthcare
 - Refusal of care
 - Healthcare avoidance due to discrimination (preventative & emergency)
 - Healthcare avoidance due to cost (preventative only)



Limitations and Strengths

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Limitations

- Cross-sectional data
- Non-probability sample

Strengths

- Multi-sector, multi-disciplinary community engagement and partnerships
- State-wide data on hidden population

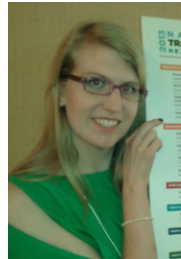


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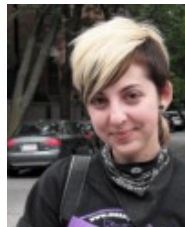


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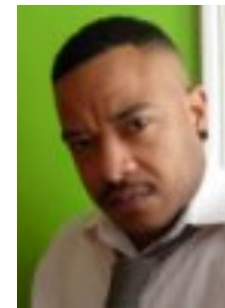
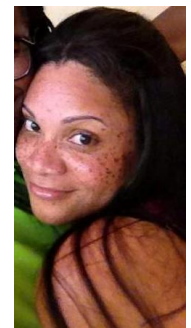
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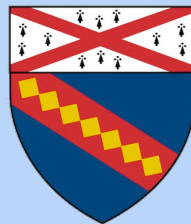
Photo Credit: MTPC



Thank You!
Questions?

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