

Maternal Morbidities among women during postnatal period in a rural village, Palestine

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BACKGROUND

The postpartum period is a critical time to reduce maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity, especially during the first week after birth.

In Palestine, mothers and newborns are discharged from the hospital before 24 hours after the time of delivery and despite this, only one-third of women receive any postpartum care from the time they have birth up until the 6th week after giving birth and the rate of exclusive breastfeeding is very low.

OBJECTIVE

To determine the incidence, the magnitude and types of postnatal maternal morbidity during the first and seventh week, and at three months after birth in a Palestinian village.

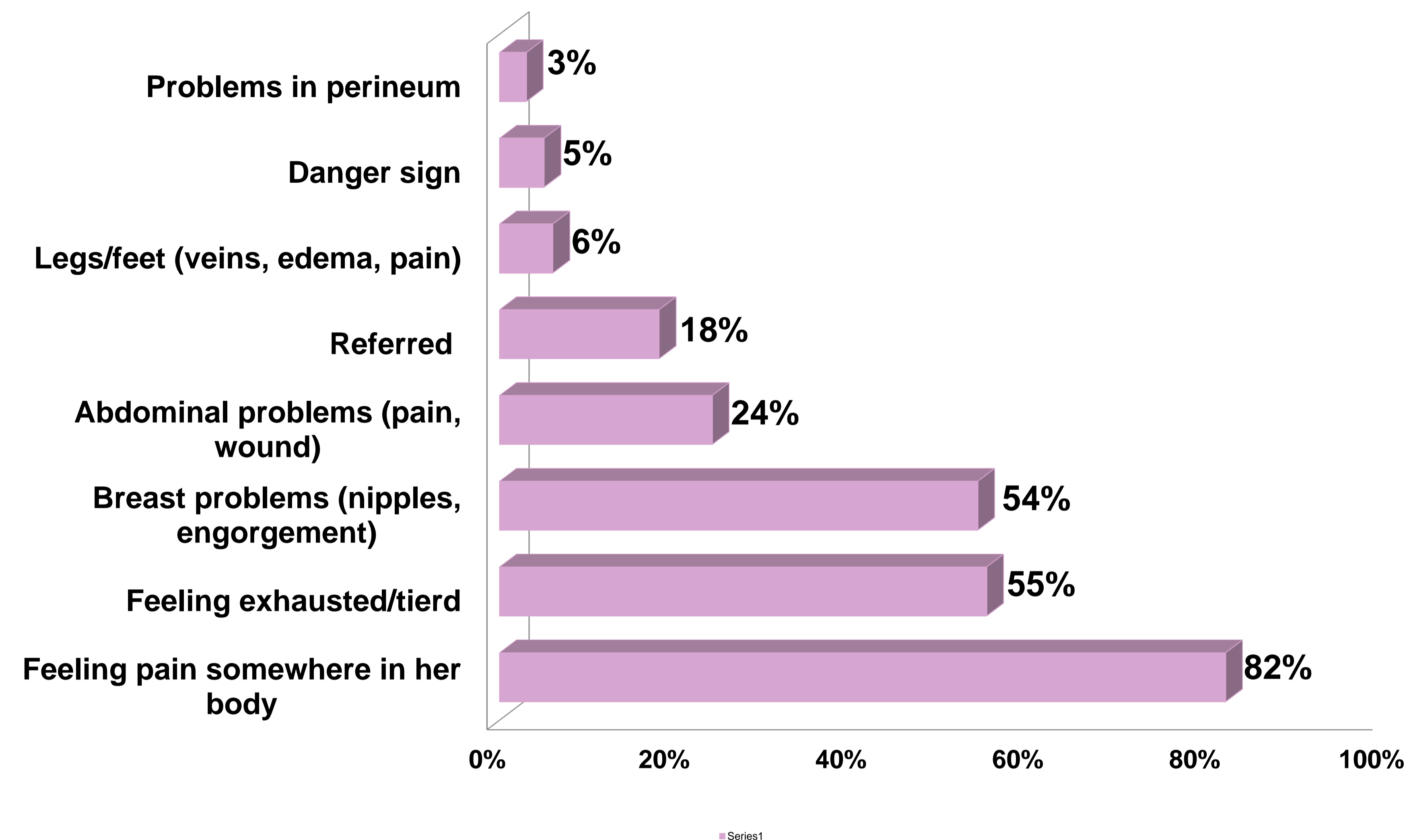
METHODS

A prospective community-based intervention study conducted in 2013.

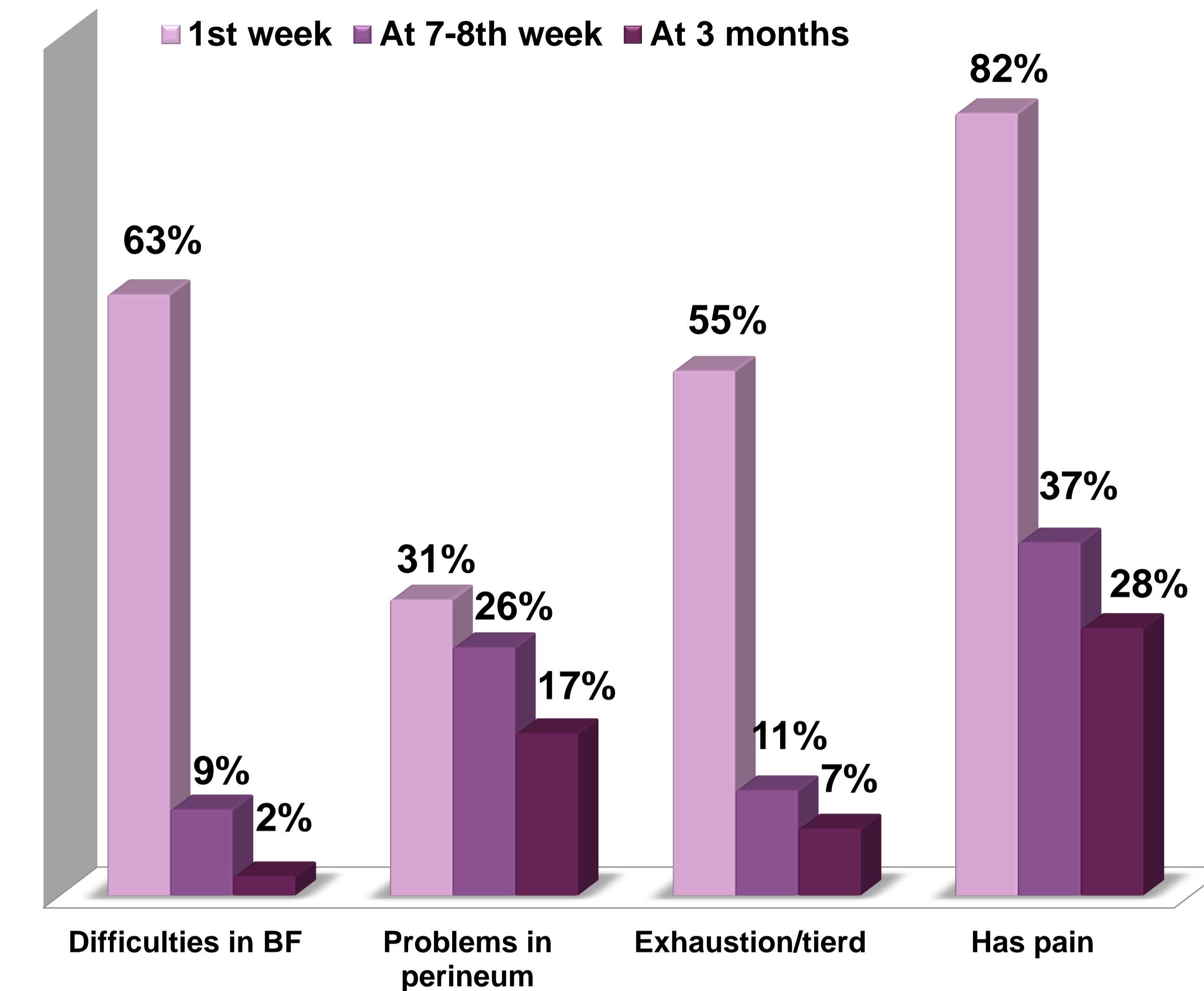
Interviews were conducted with 196 postpartum women during home-visits, three times with each woman.

A physical assessment and health education session were carried out each visit, depending on the needs of each woman.

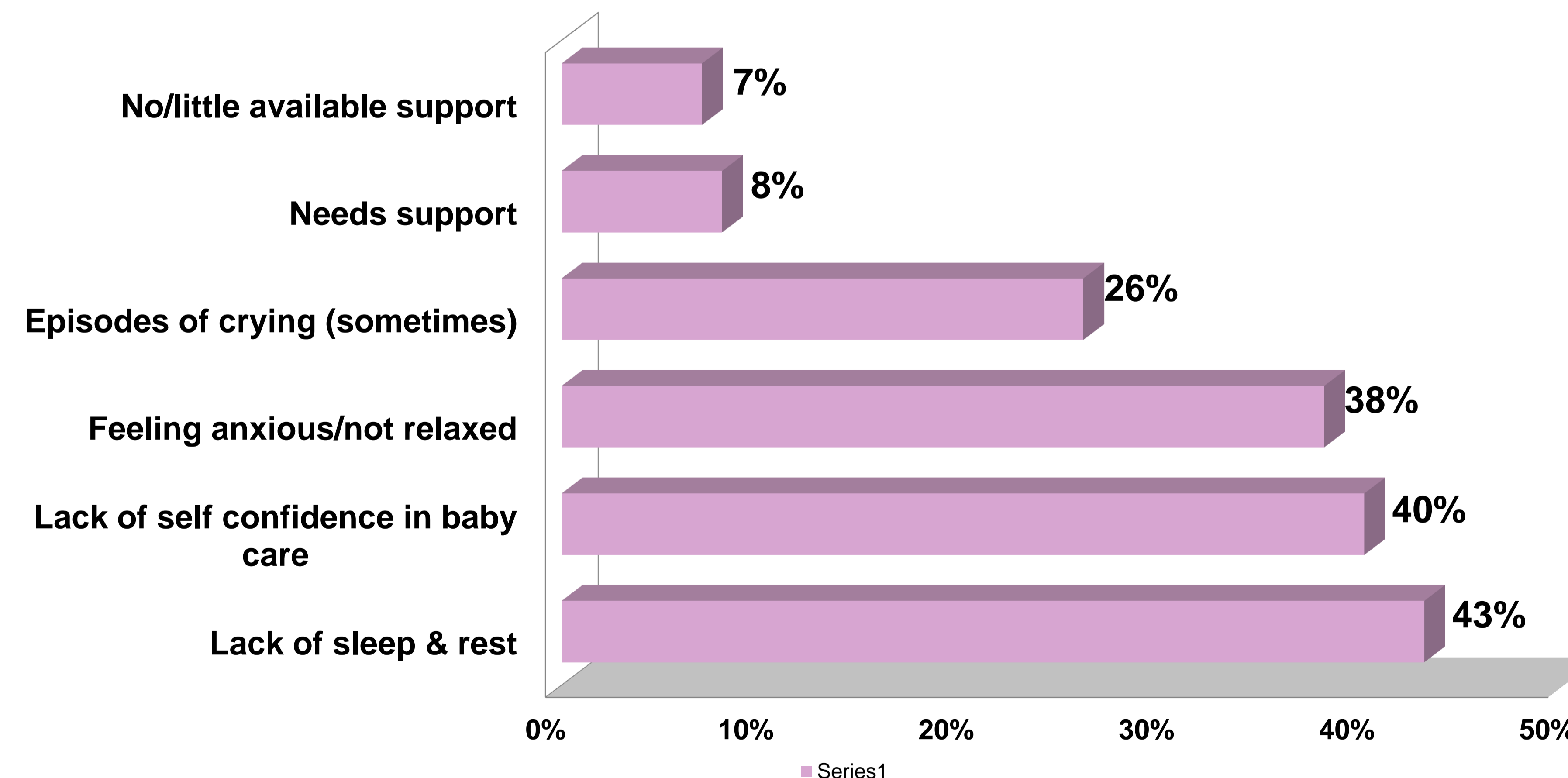
Proportion of women suffered existing / potential morbidities during the first week after birth (detected by *physical exam* at home)



Selected signs / indicators of morbidity after birth as reported by women



Reported psychosocial and educational needs during the first week after birth



CONCLUSIONS

Maternal morbidities were common among Palestinian women during their peripartum period.

This suggests the need to implement postnatal home visiting programs to help the women in need and to reduce maternal and newborn morbidities.

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