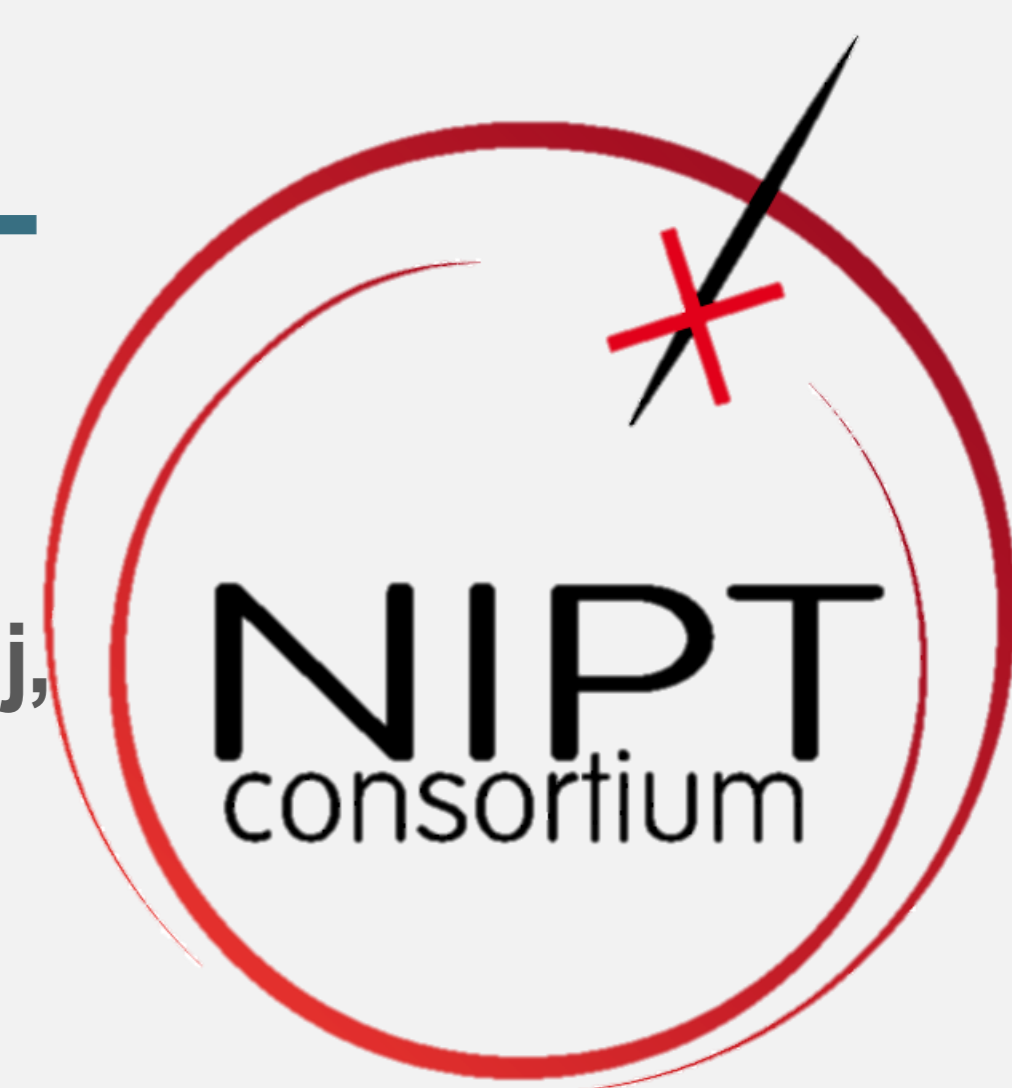


FACTORS INVOLVED IN THE DECISION TO DECLINE PRENATAL SCREENING WITH NON-INVASIVE PRENATAL TESTING (NIPT)



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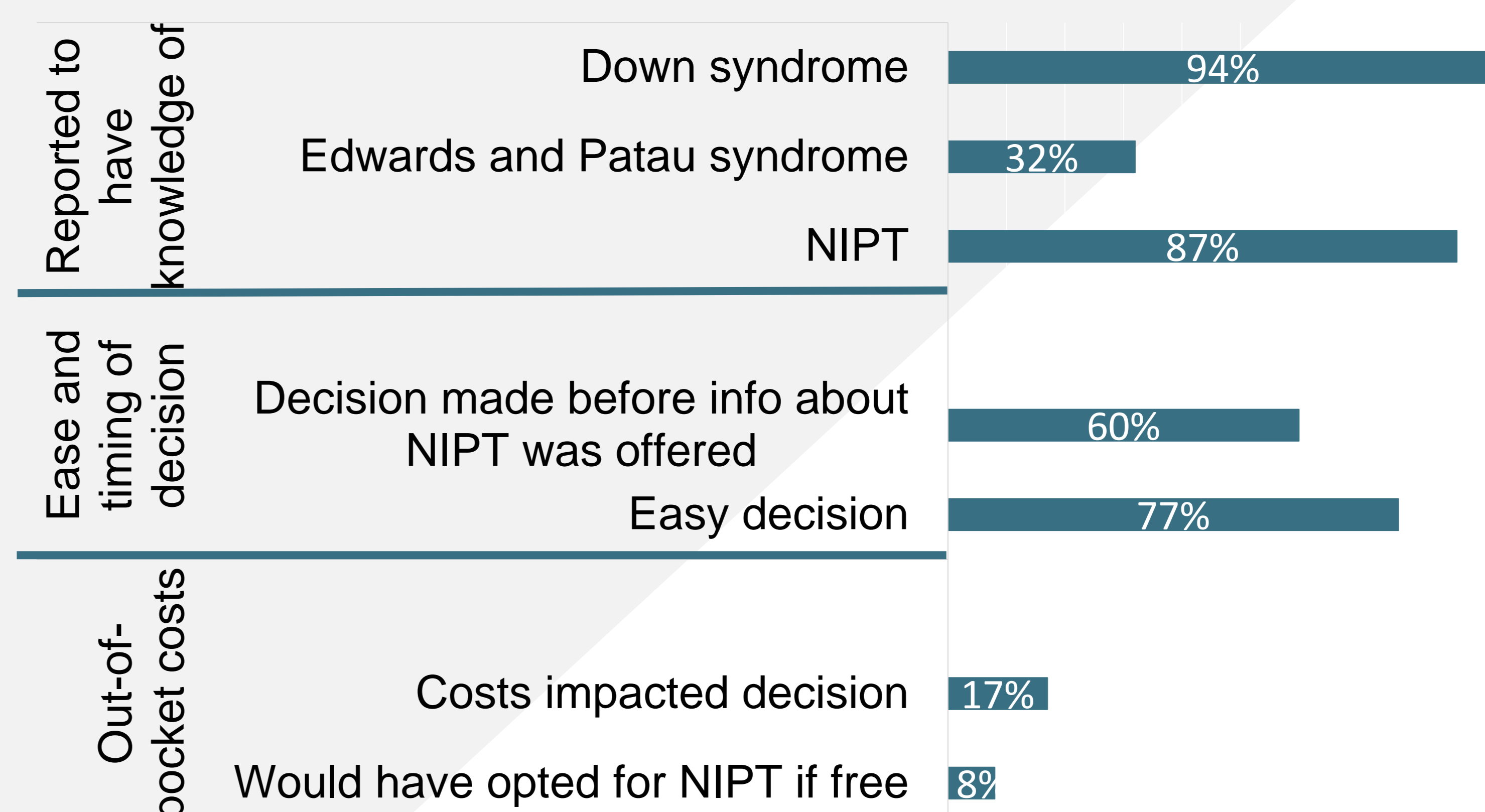
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Background & Aim

The decision whether or not to participate in prenatal screening for fetal aneuploidy is a complex and personal one. Disparities between participants and non-participants suggest that uptake might be explained by differences in individual attitudes. However, these disparities might also indicate issues with equal access and informed decision making. We therefore investigated various factors involved in the decision to decline prenatal screening with NIPT.

Sociodemographic characteristics: compared to the general Dutch (obstetric) population, respondents were less likely to be highly educated, more often from non-Western ethnic origin and were more likely to be religious.



Method

- Study design:** Questionnaire study conducted between December 2020 and May 2021 as part of the TRIDENT-2 study.
- Respondents:** Women (n=219) who declined NIPT, recruited from 19 midwifery practices and three hospitals across the Netherlands.
- Outcomes:** Sociodemographic characteristics, experience with information provision, the timing and ease of decision making, (self-reported) knowledge of Down, Edwards, and Patau syndrome and NIPT, the role of costs in the decision, and reasons to decline screening with NIPT.

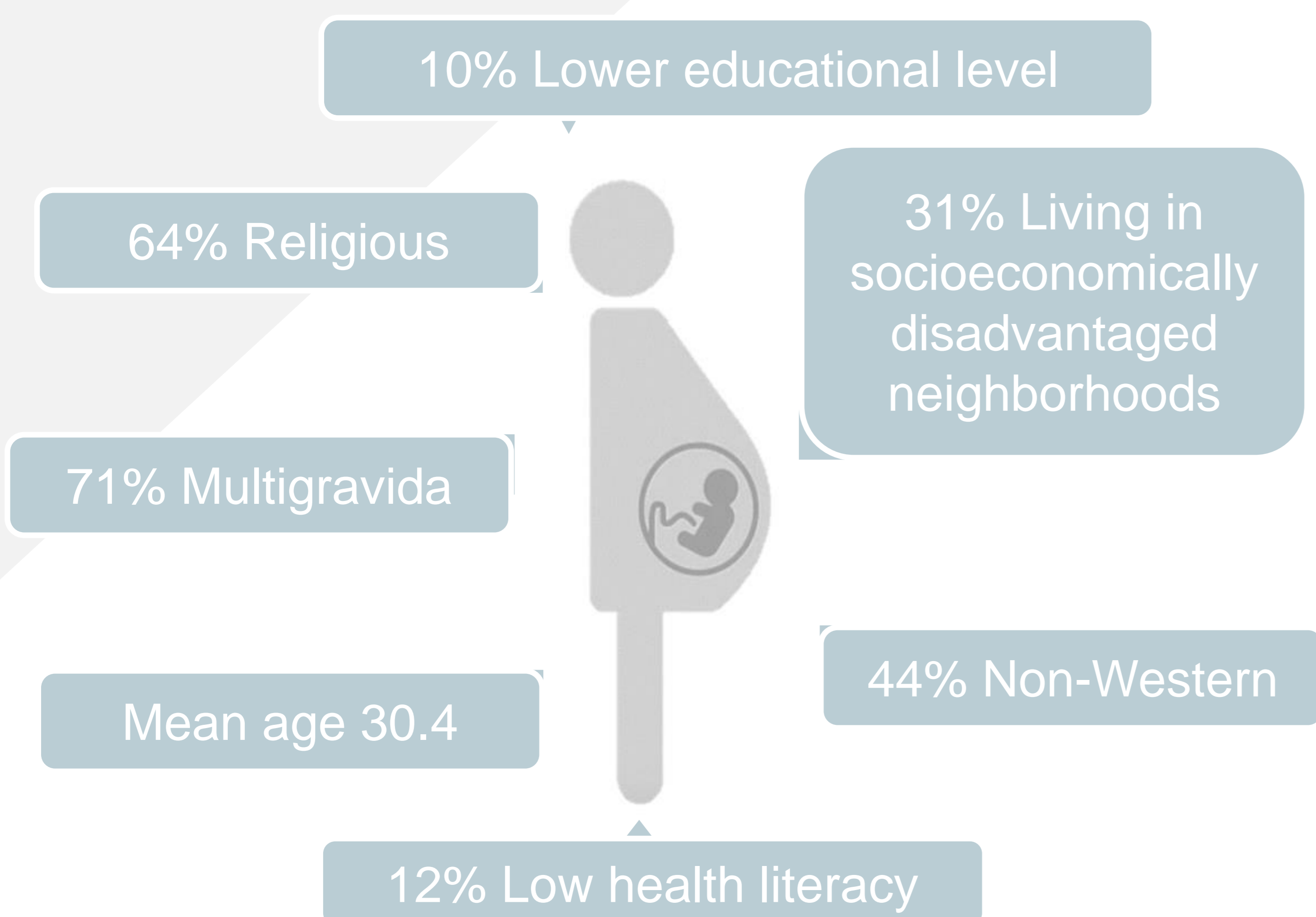
Lower self-reported knowledge about Edwards and Patau syndrome and NIPT for certain groups

- Non-Western
- Low educational level
- Religious
- Low health literacy
- Living in socio disadvantaged neighborhoods

Out-of-pocket costs more often played a role in the decision for certain groups

- Not religious
- Primigravida
- Low health literacy

Results



Main reasons for declining NIPT

- "I would never terminate my pregnancy" (57%)
- "Every child is welcome" (56%)
- "I do not want to worry unnecessarily" (42%)

Conclusion

- The primary factors involved in the decision to decline NIPT were related to personal beliefs and values.
- Out-of-pocket costs of NIPT hinder equal access to prenatal screening.
- Counselors should familiarize themselves with relevant aspects of different cultures and religions as well as differences in knowledge levels and financial status, to be able to tailor counseling regarding these aspects ensuring autonomous informed decisions.

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