

Improving birth, marriage & death registration in Burkina Faso: The case of the Nouna health & demographic surveillance system (NHDSS)

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Introduction

Why is birth, marriage & death registration important?

For decision-makers to:

- Fulfill their obligation to protect
- Fulfill their administrative obligation to register all vital events and issue certificates
- Produce, compile and use vital statistics for improved development planning and implementation

For individuals to:

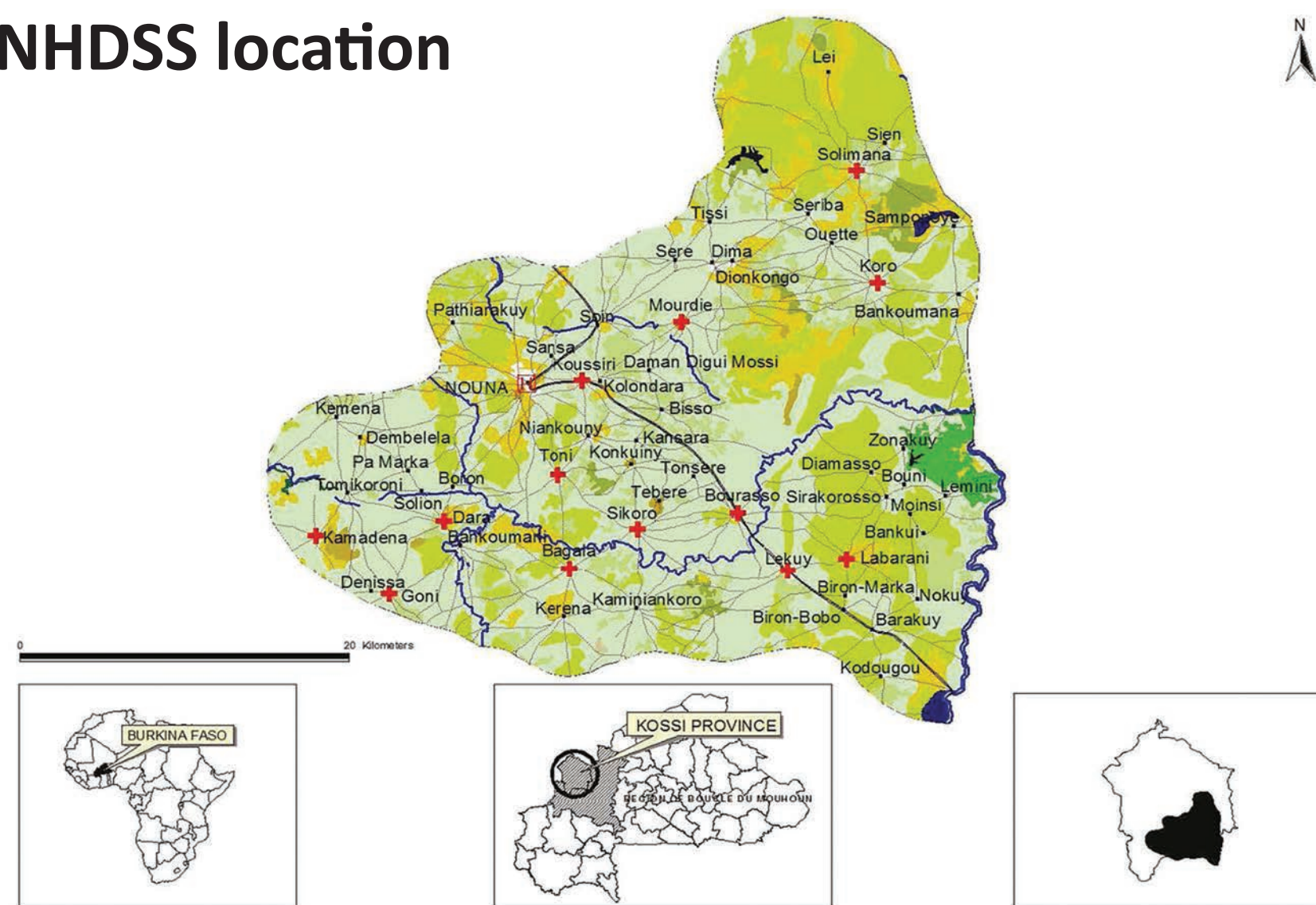
- Have their vital events legally registered and certified
- Facilitate their access to public services
- Be protected

State of civil registration in Burkina Faso in 2017

- National birth registration rate within a two-month statutory deadline estimated at **49.4%**
- **34.3%** of deaths in health facilities were registered within the two month statutory deadline
- No statistics on marriage registration

Research Design

NHDSS location



Data & methods

Demand-side: random and representative sampling among 3523 births, 561 marriages & 832 deaths occurred in Nouna observatory in 2015

Demand-side sample : 495 births, 155 marriages & 332 deaths

Supply-side: 4 interviews in health centres & 10 in civil registration offices. All delay births registered between January-February 2019 (736) & all delay death registered between June 2018-July 2019 (47)

Ethics: approved by IDRC & Nouna ethics committees. Informed consent obtained from all respondents

Quantitative and qualitative data collected

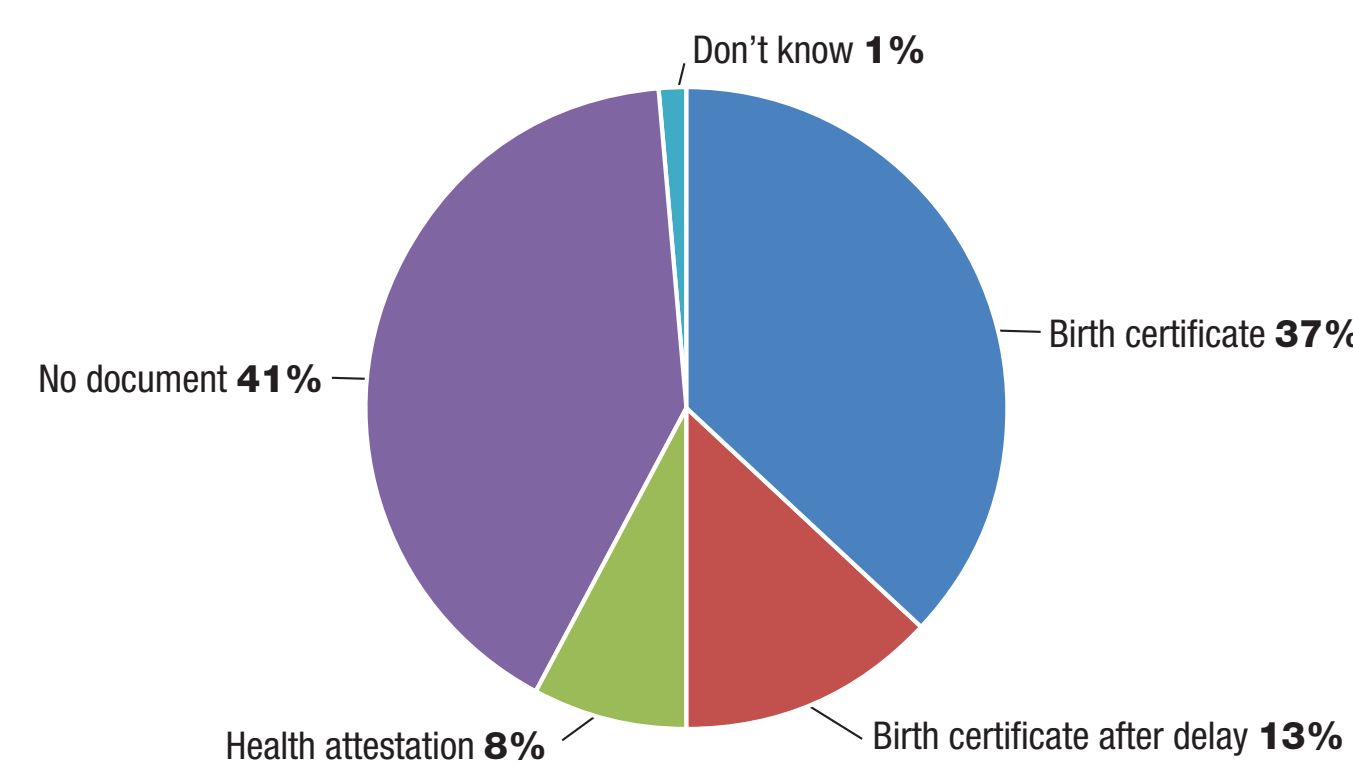
Electronic data collection (19 June - 20 July 2019): 10 fieldworkers & 2 supervisors

Statistical methods: Independent sample ratio tests & logistics methods

Results

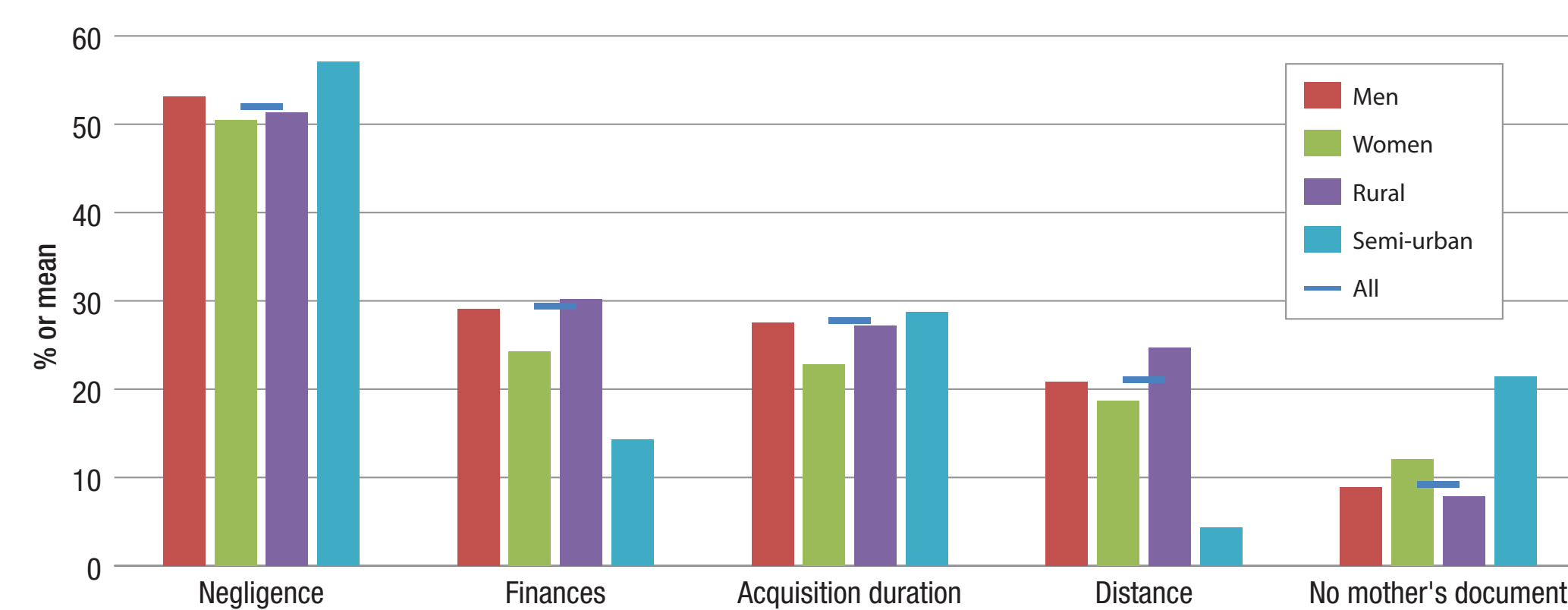
Birth Registration

Possession of birth certificate

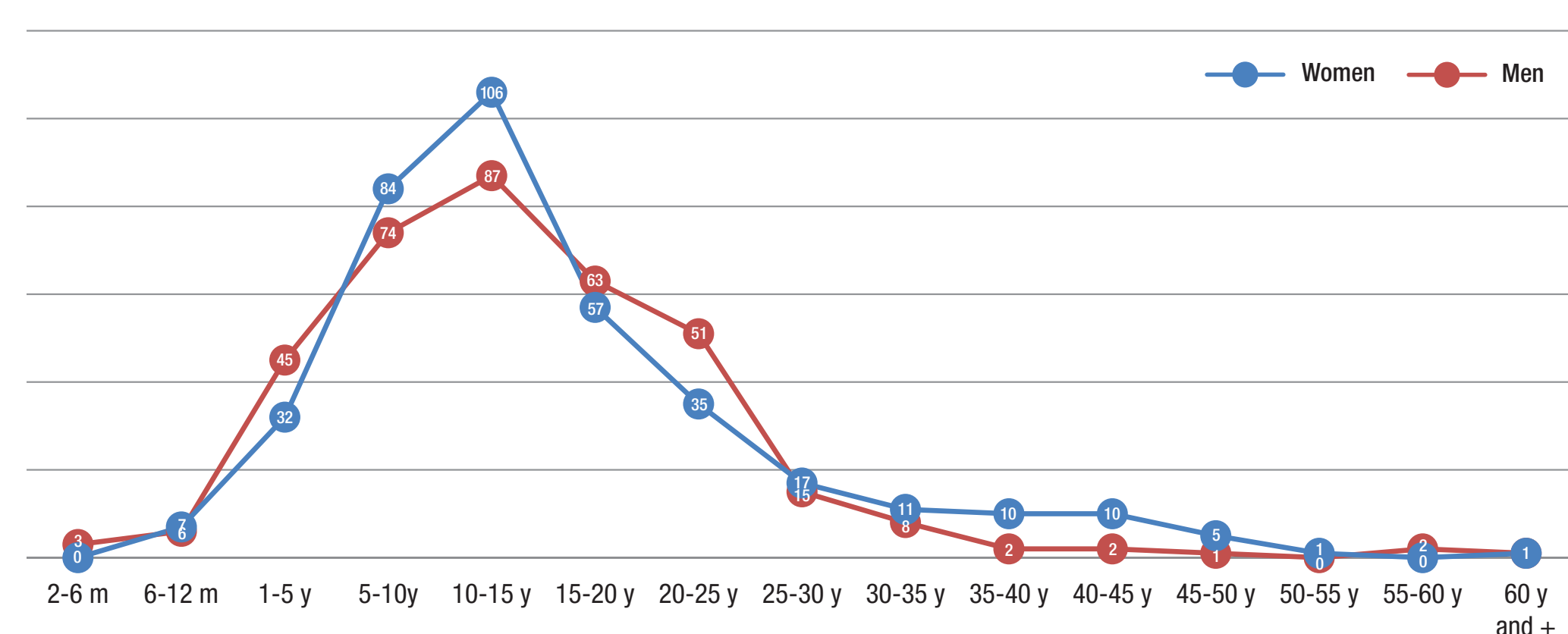


While **95%** of births occurred in health facilities, **only 37%** were registered within the two-month statutory period

Reasons for Lacking Birth Certificates



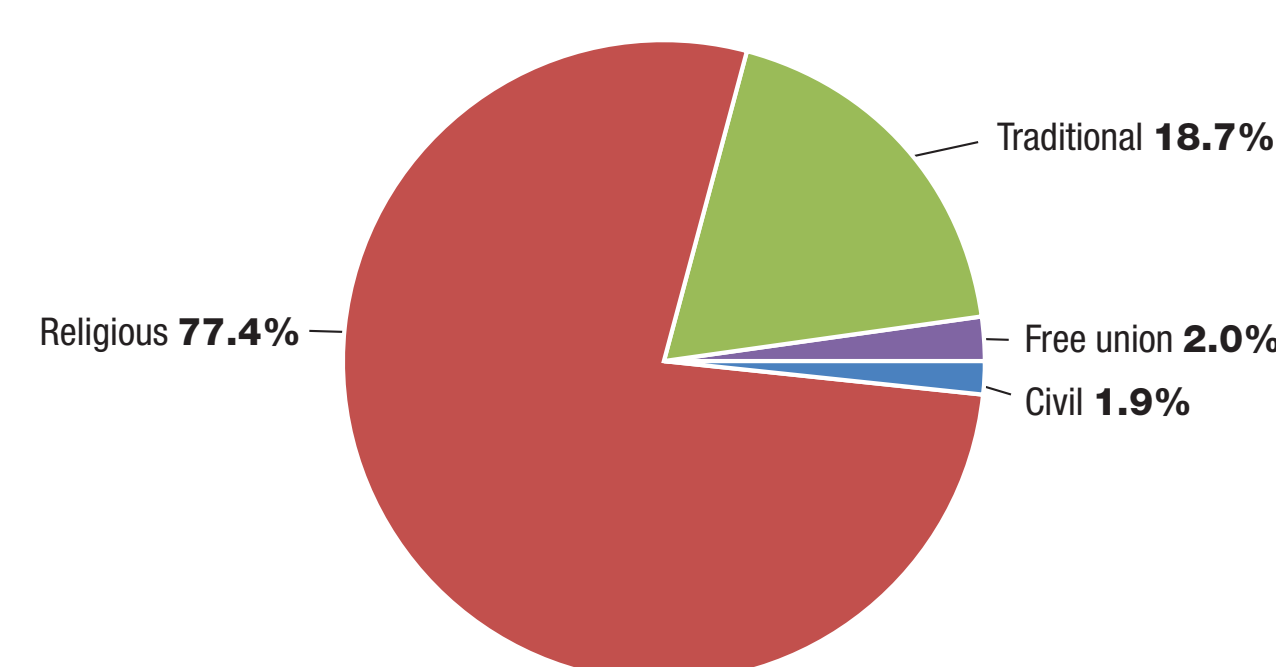
Age at Birth Registration



Most births registrations done between January-February 2019 were for ages 10-15 years. Birth certificates are necessary to register for school exams

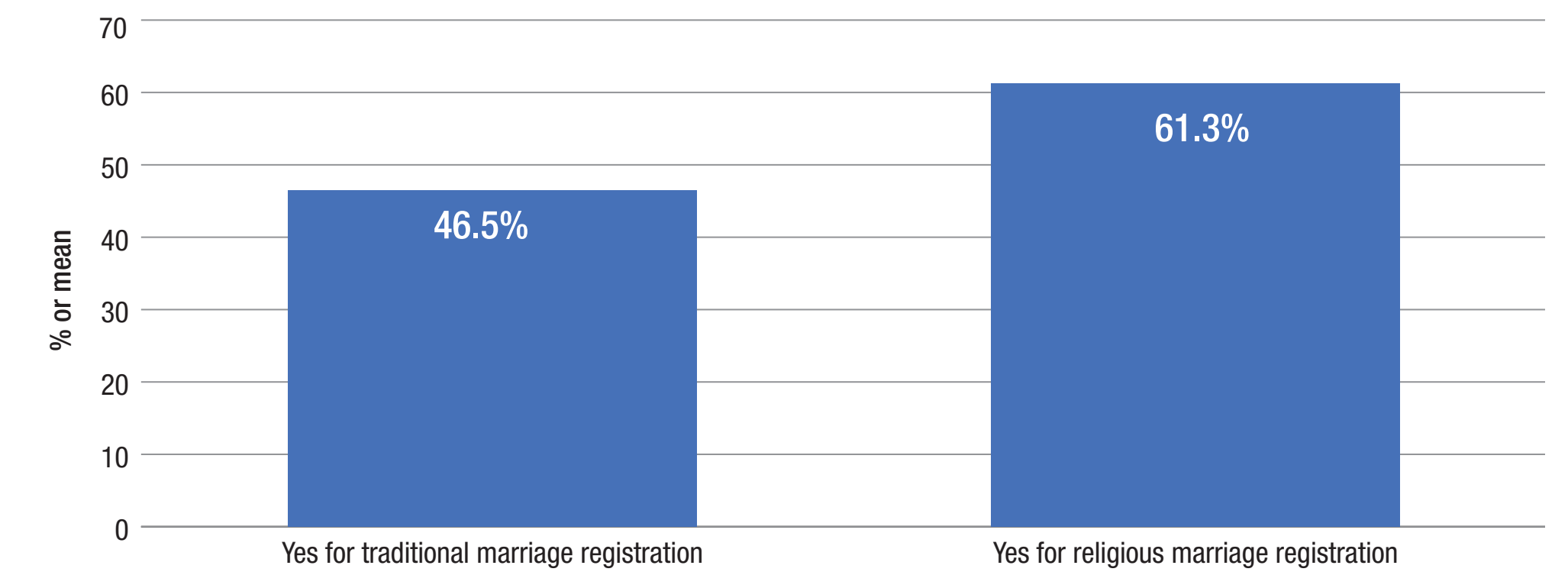
Marriage Registration

Type of union



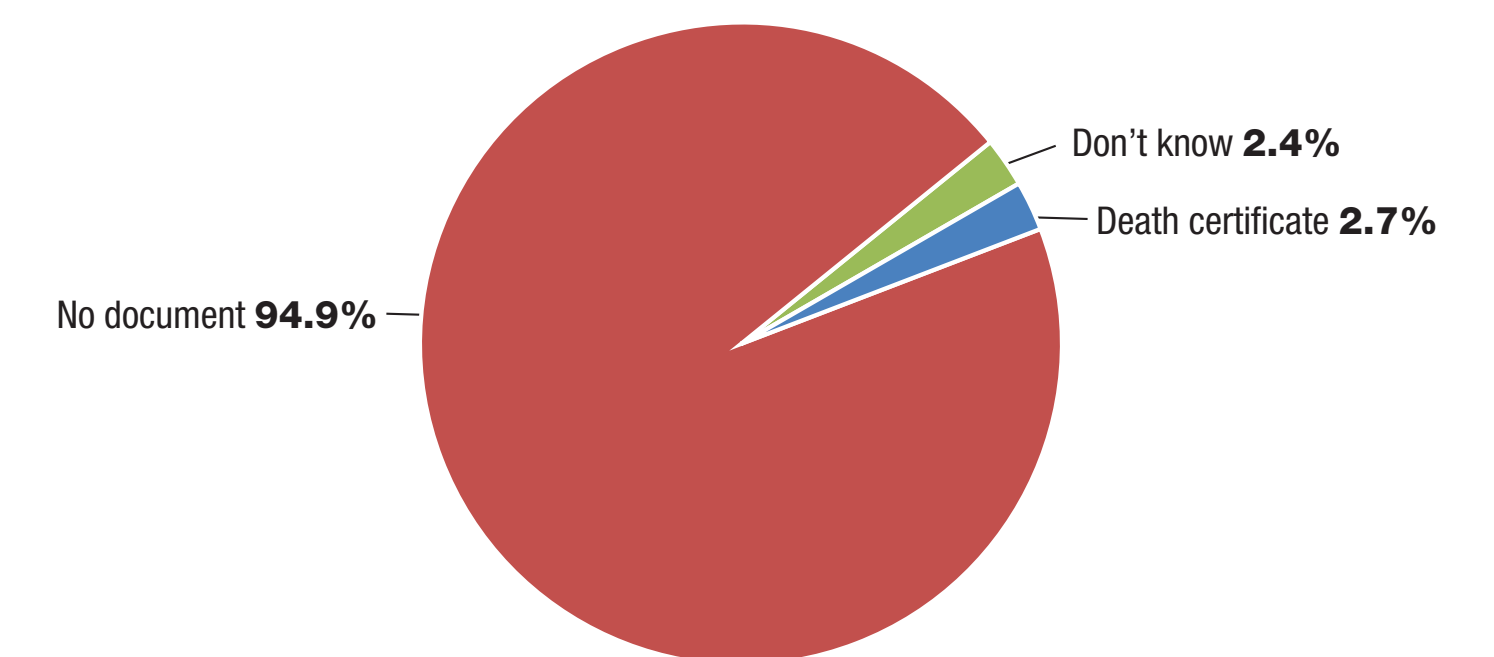
Only 2% of marriages were registered

Marriage registration preferences



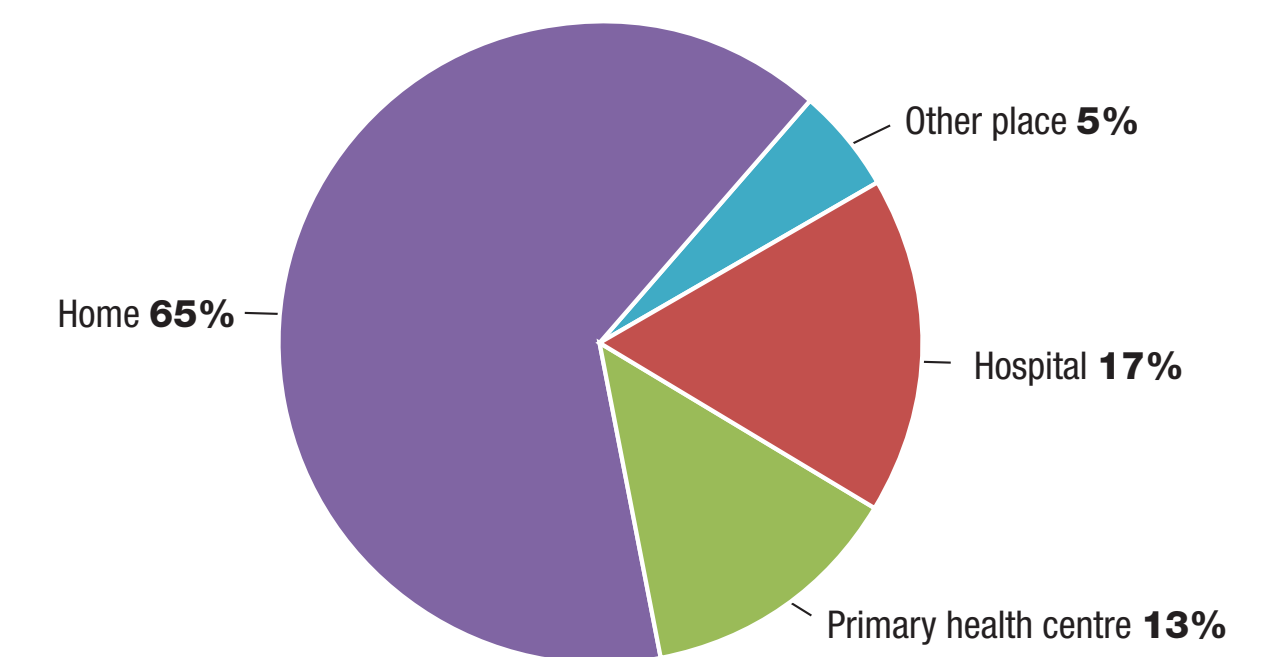
Death registration

Possession of death certificate



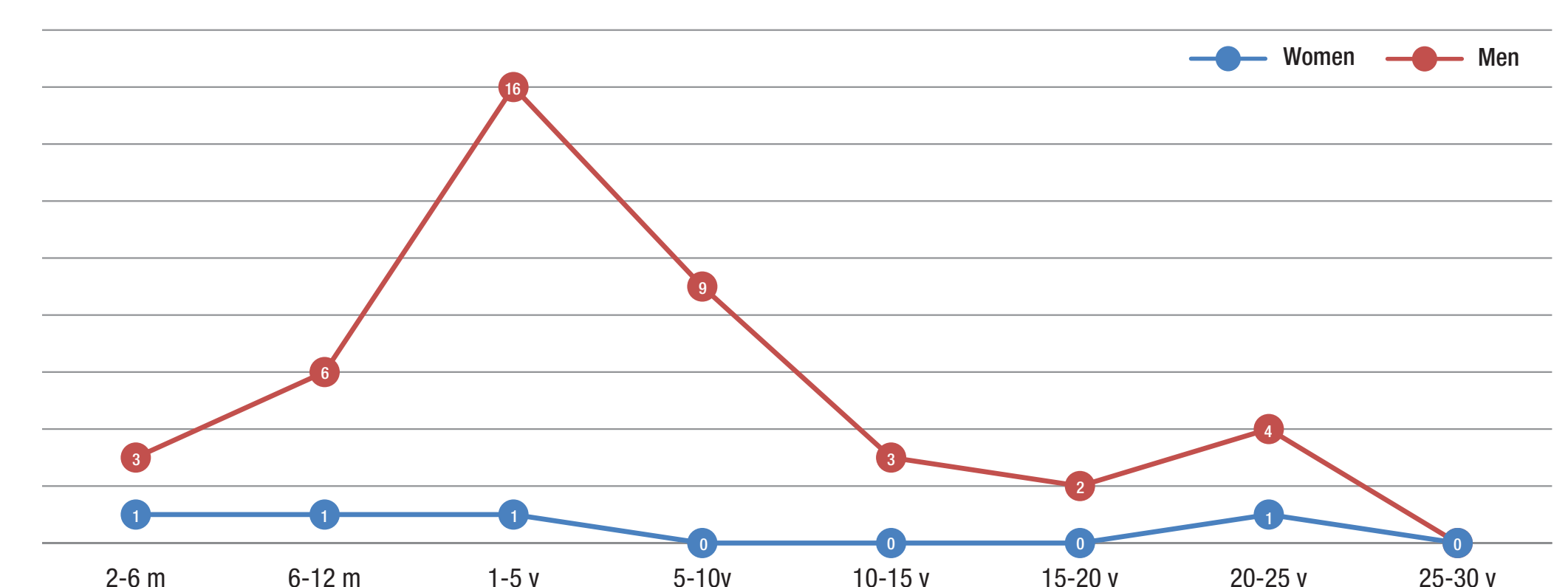
Only 3% of deaths were registered

Place of death



30% of deaths occurred in health facilities

Delayed Death Registration



Most deaths registered between June 2018-July 2019 were male, mainly for reasons of inheritance

Policy Implications

- **Secondary birth and death registration centres need to be embedded in health facilities:**
 - Birth registrations level could improve from **37% to 95%**
 - Death registrations level could improve from **3% to 30%**
 - Child and women death under-registration will be reduced
- **Legally recognized religious marriages** could improve from **2% to 79%**