

INTERSECTING MIGRATIONS, GENDER AND HEALTH: ACTIVIST RESEARCH ACROSS ECUADOREAN BORDERS

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INTRODUCTION

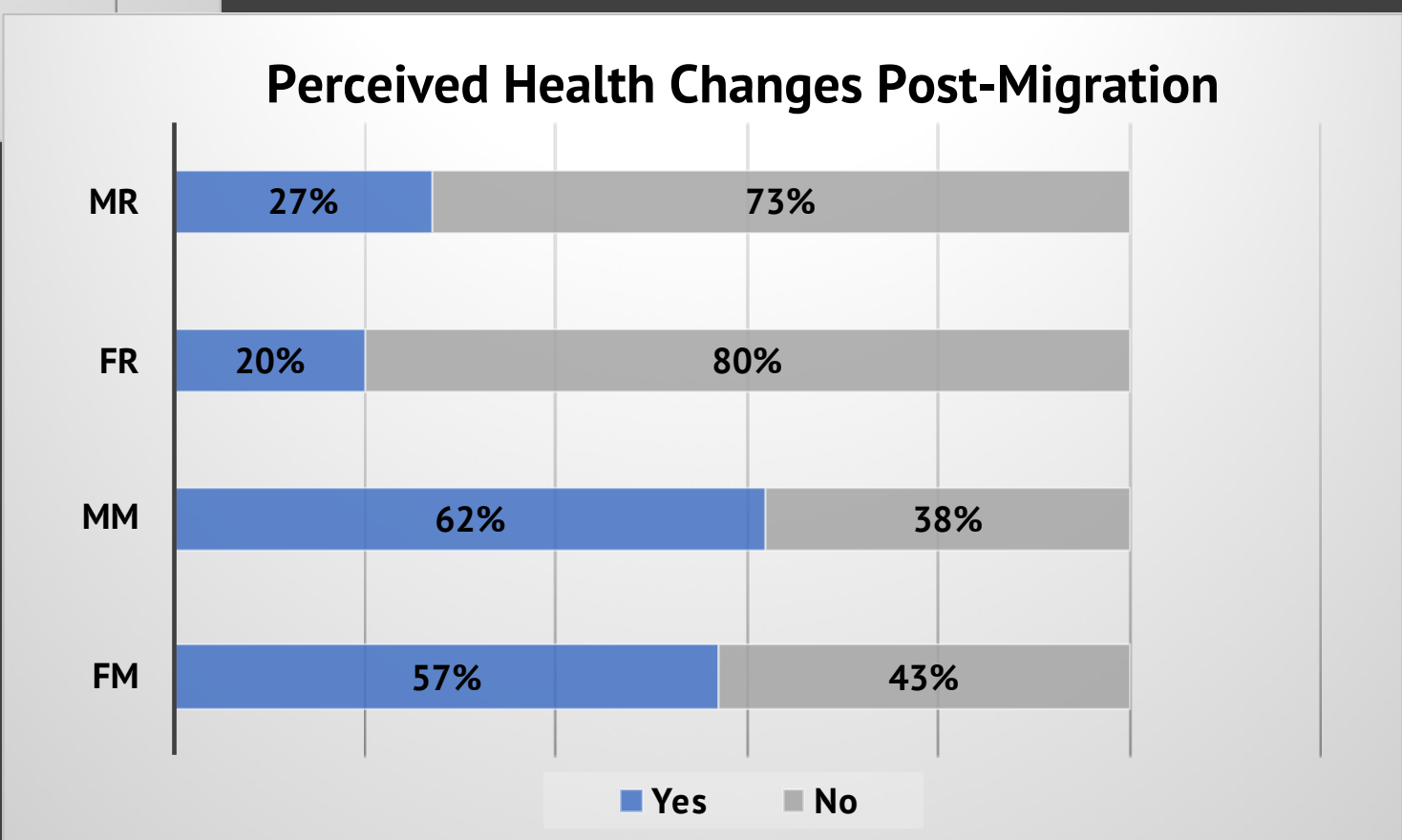
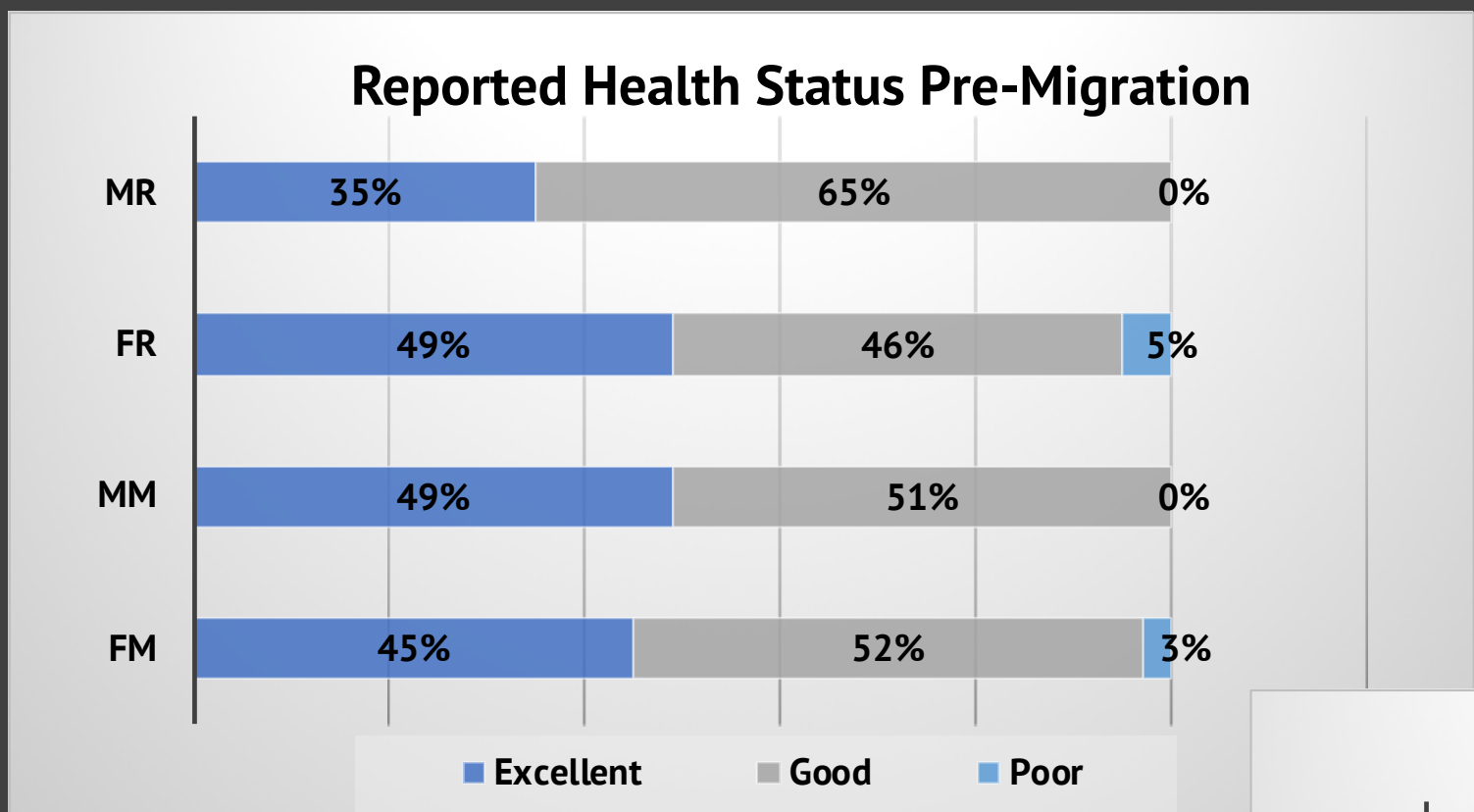
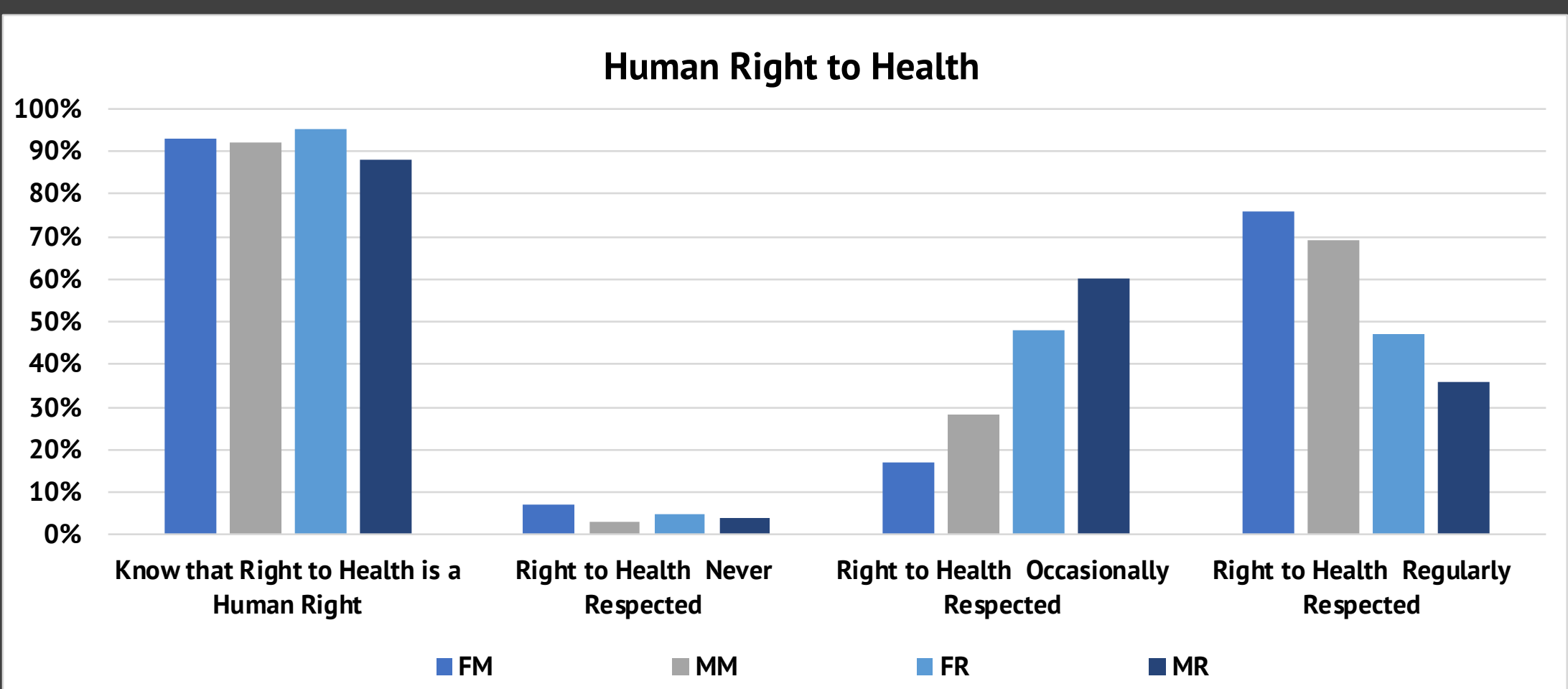
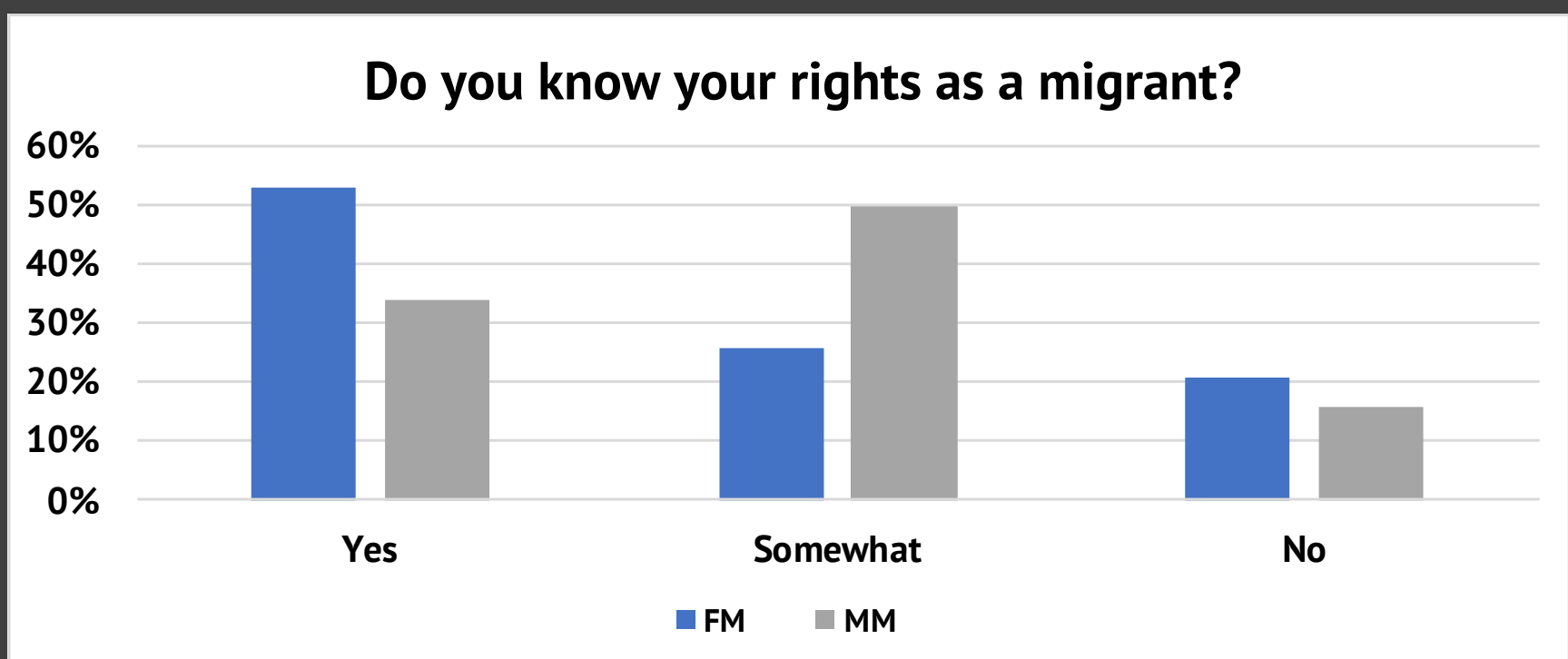
Migration jeopardizes the mental and physical health of both migrants and the relatives who stay behind. By paying attention to health and migration histories, family dynamics, care practices, individual and collective agency, and transnational intersections of gender, racial/ethnic, national, legal and class lines, this interdisciplinary study of Ecuadorean migrations to Spain, the United States and back, identifies health processes and conceptualizes psycho-sociocultural mechanisms that migrants and relatives employ to cope with migration-related health challenges. This poster highlights the gendered dynamics of the health effects of migratory processes. Latin American critical epidemiology, critical medical anthropology, critical sociological, feminist, race and migration theories provide the theoretical framework of this activist research project.

METHODS & SAMPLE

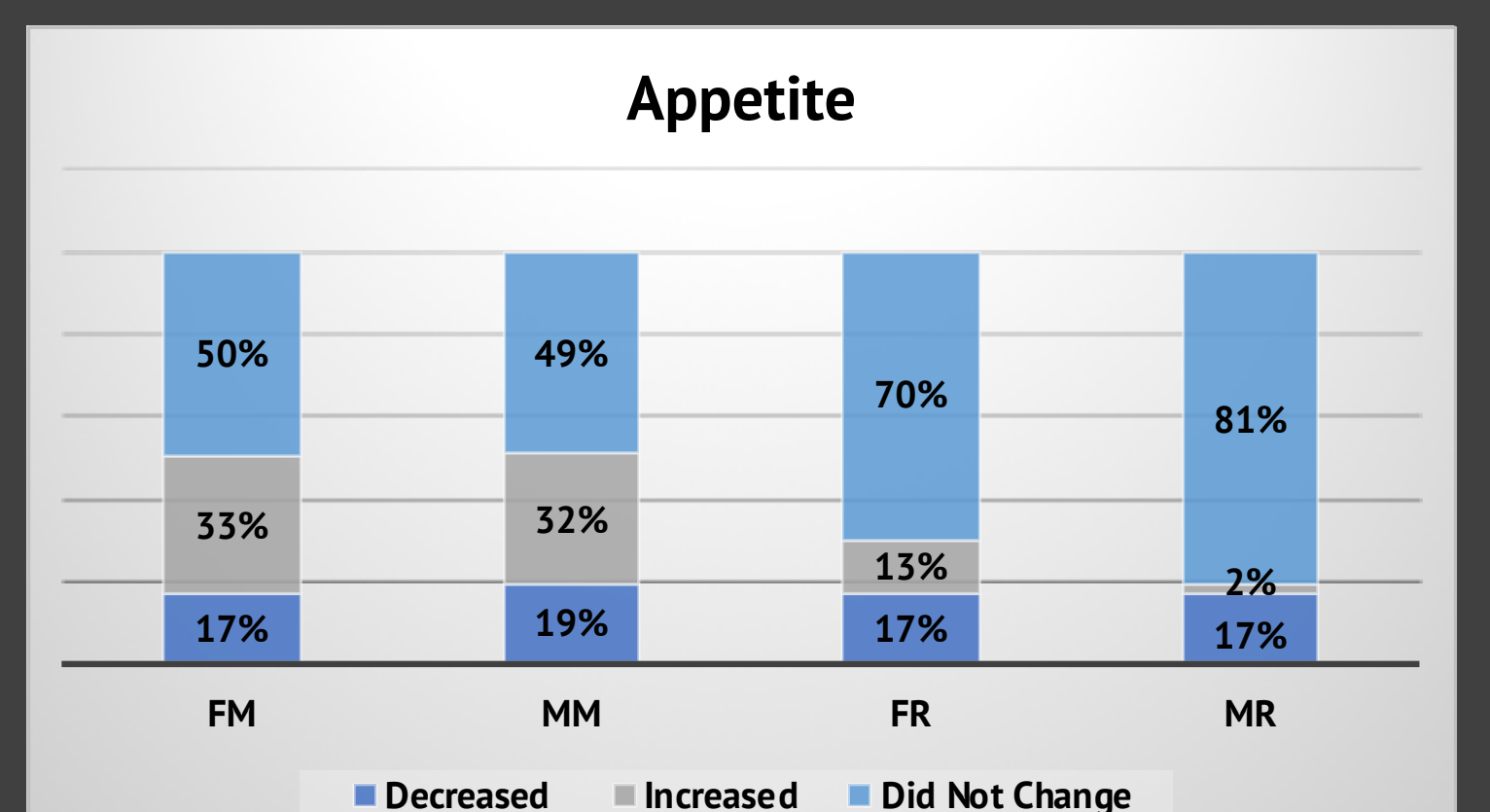
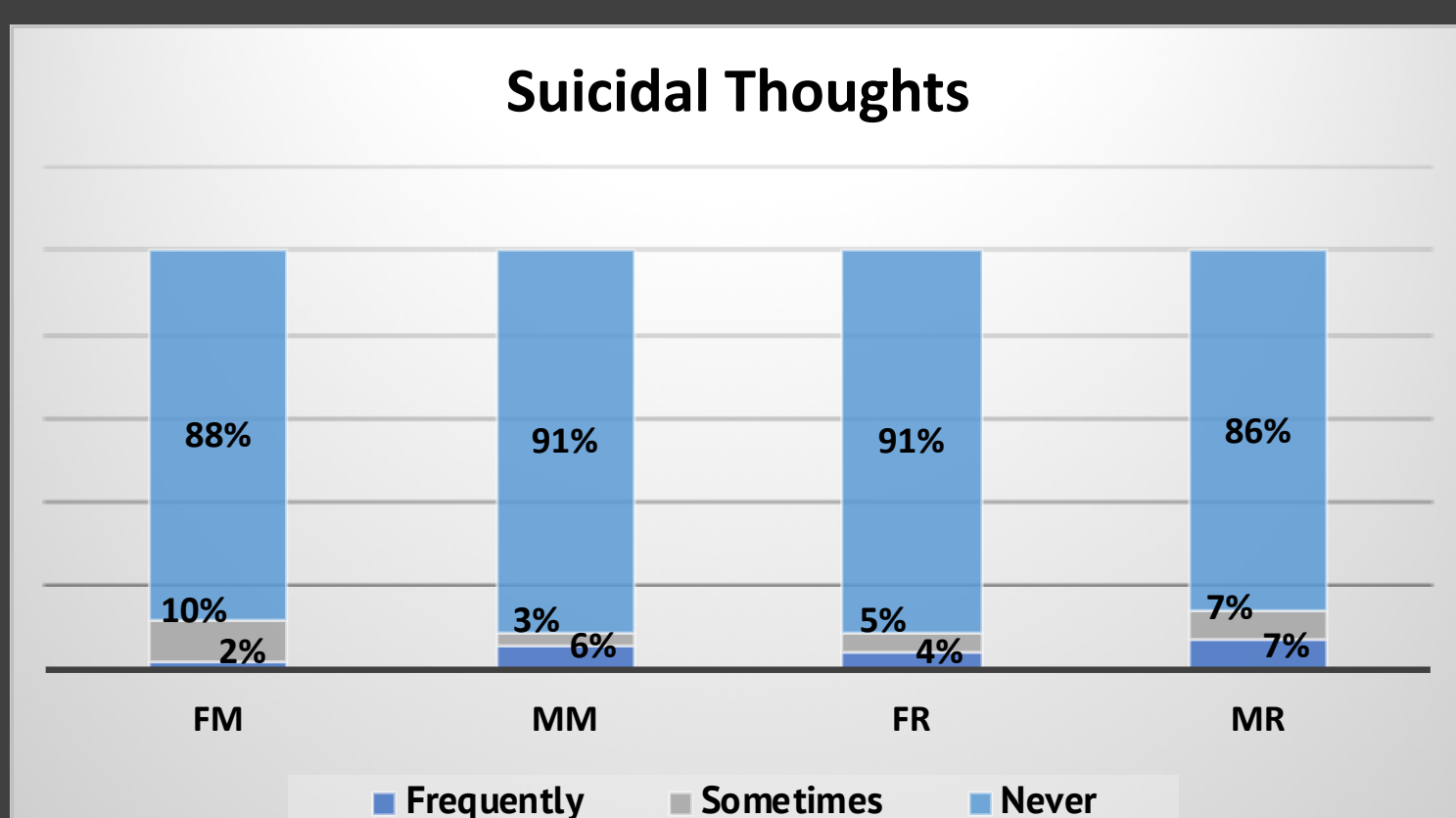
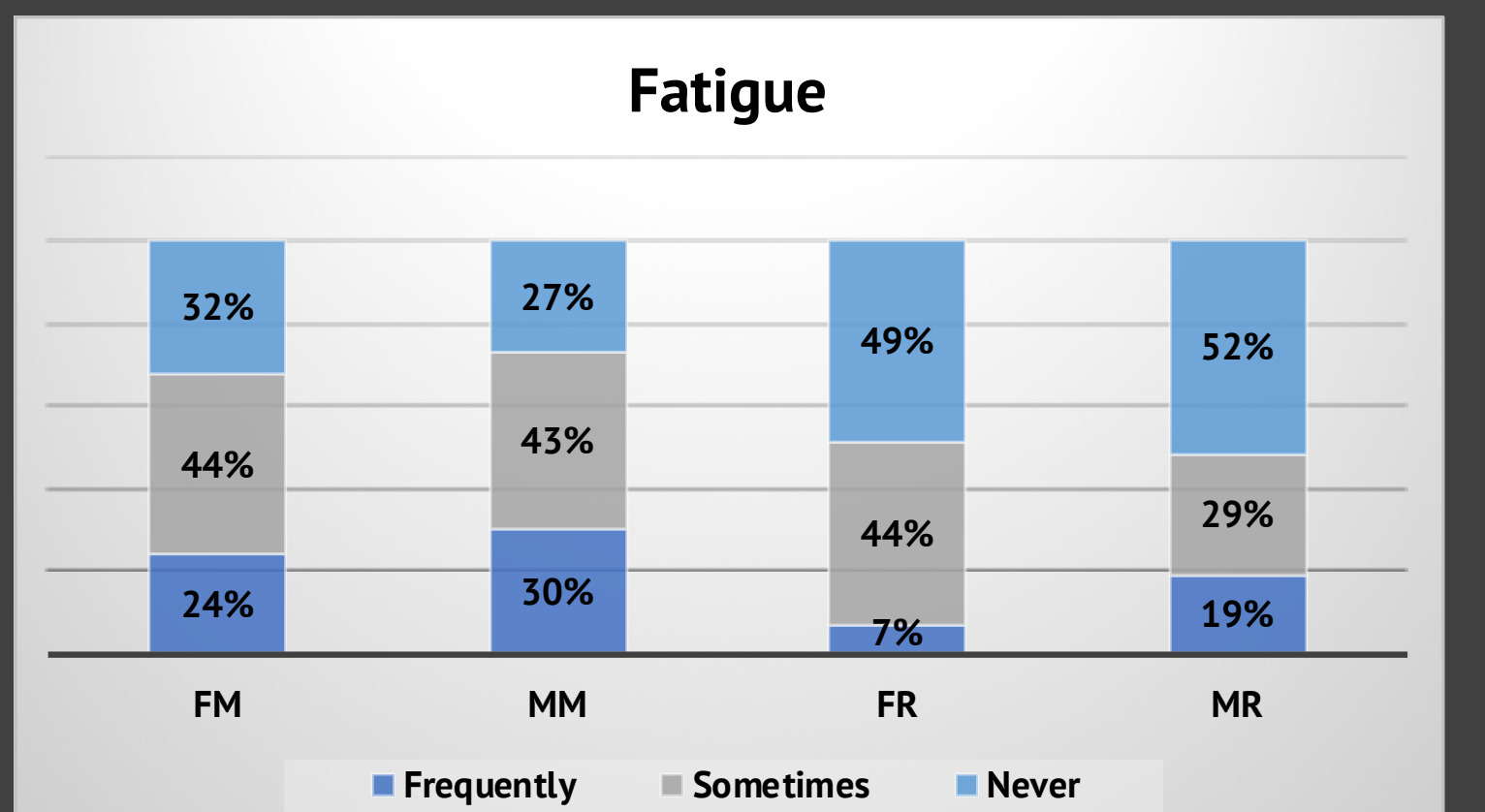
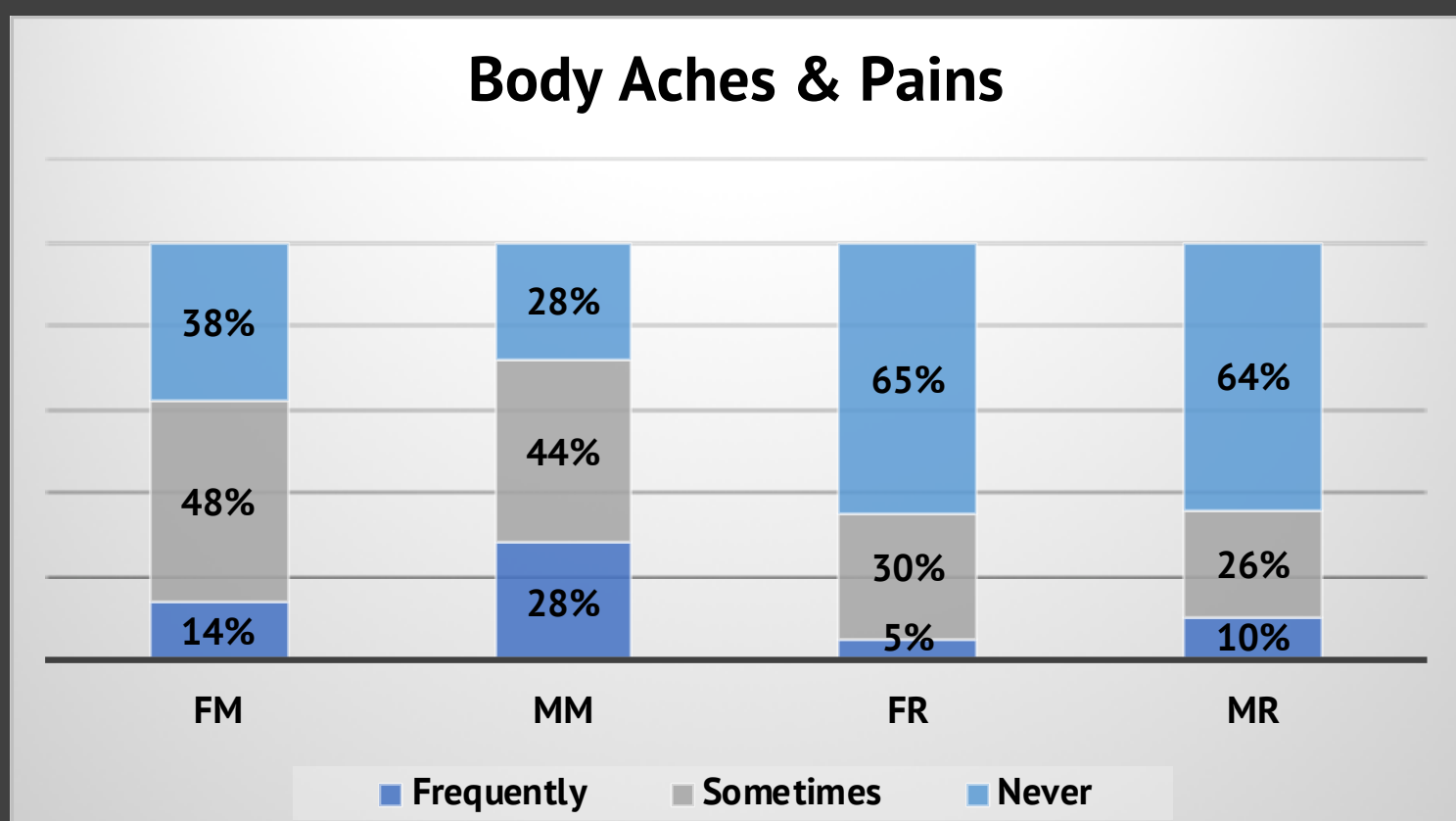
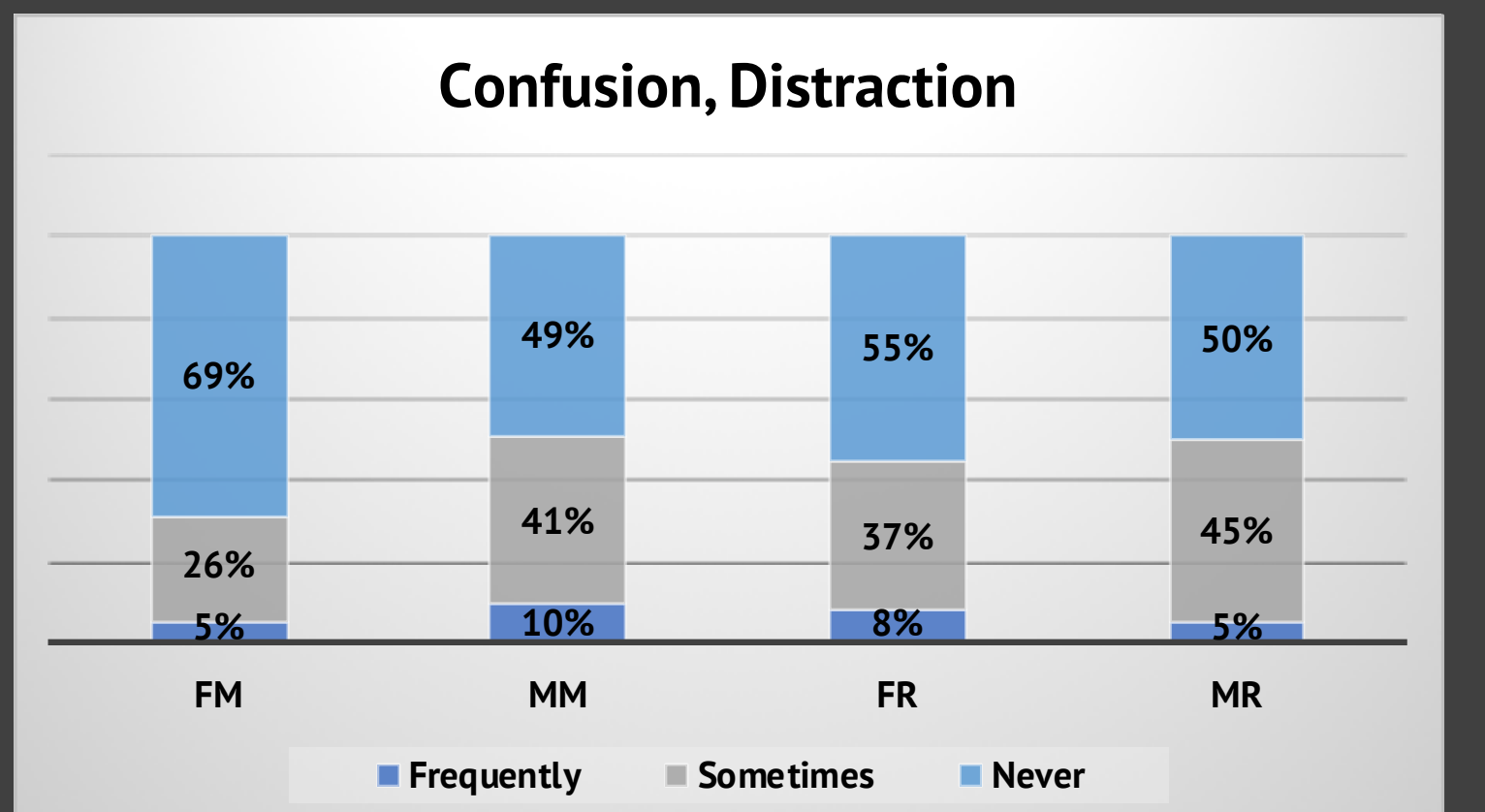
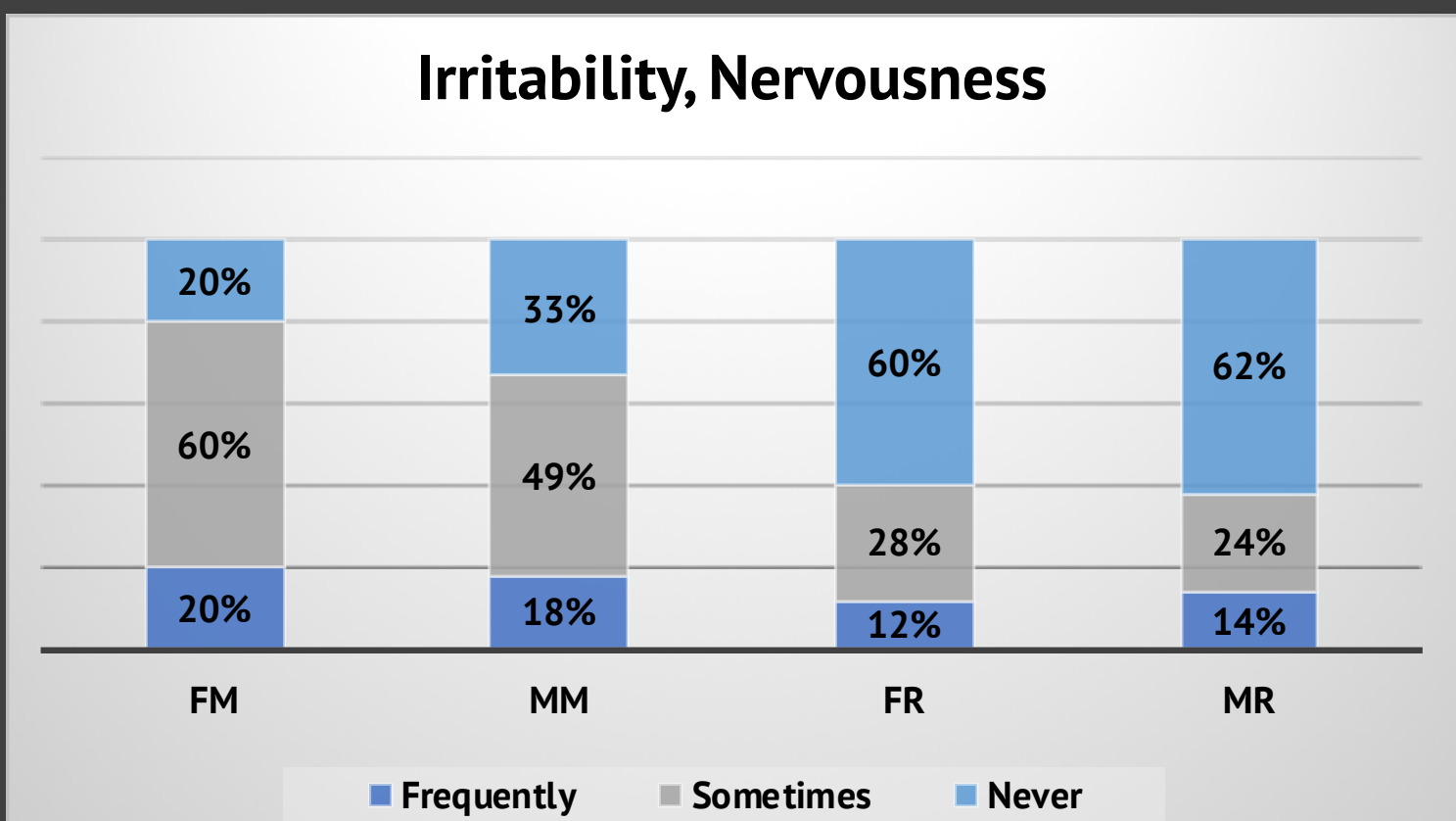
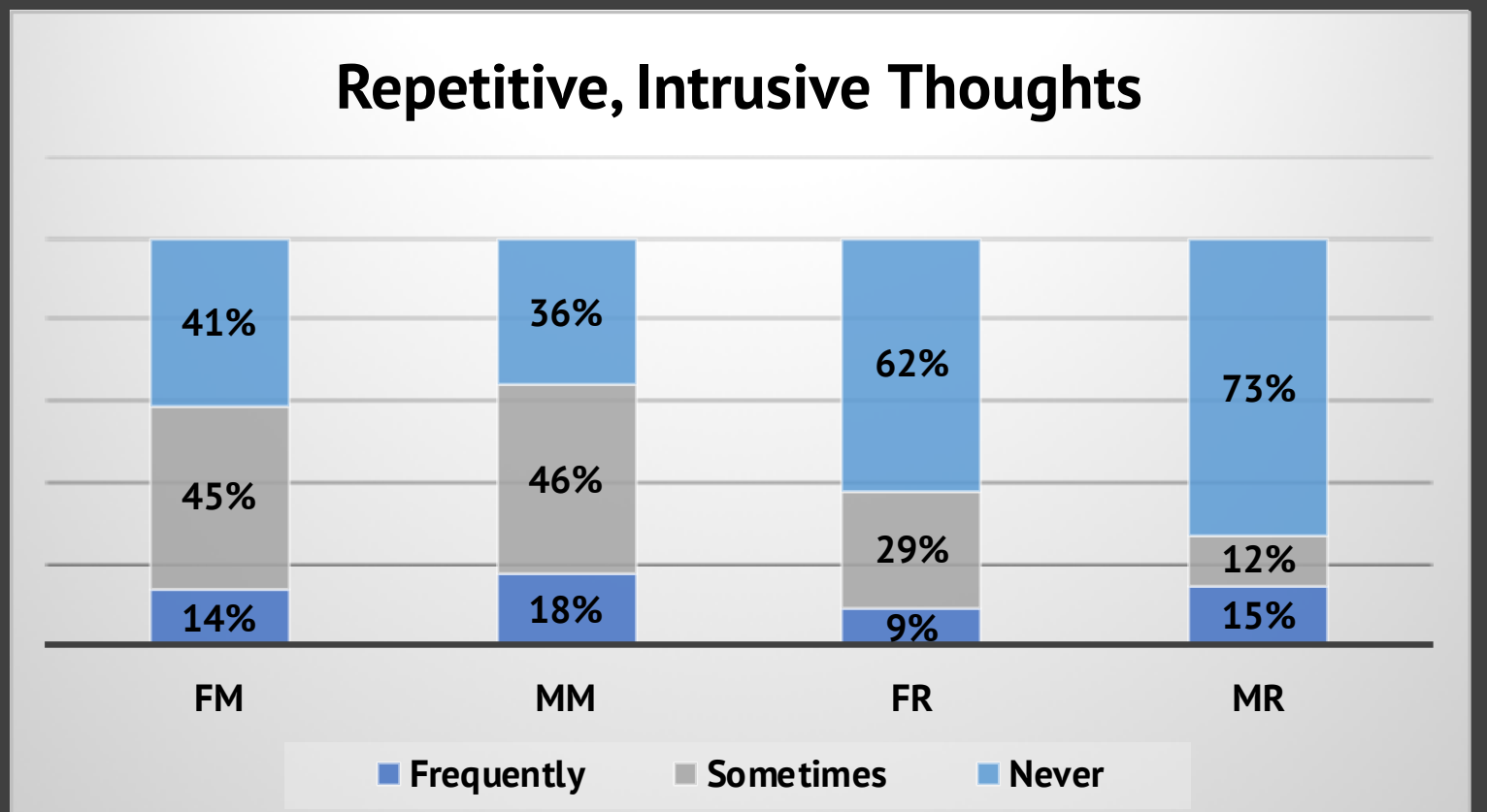
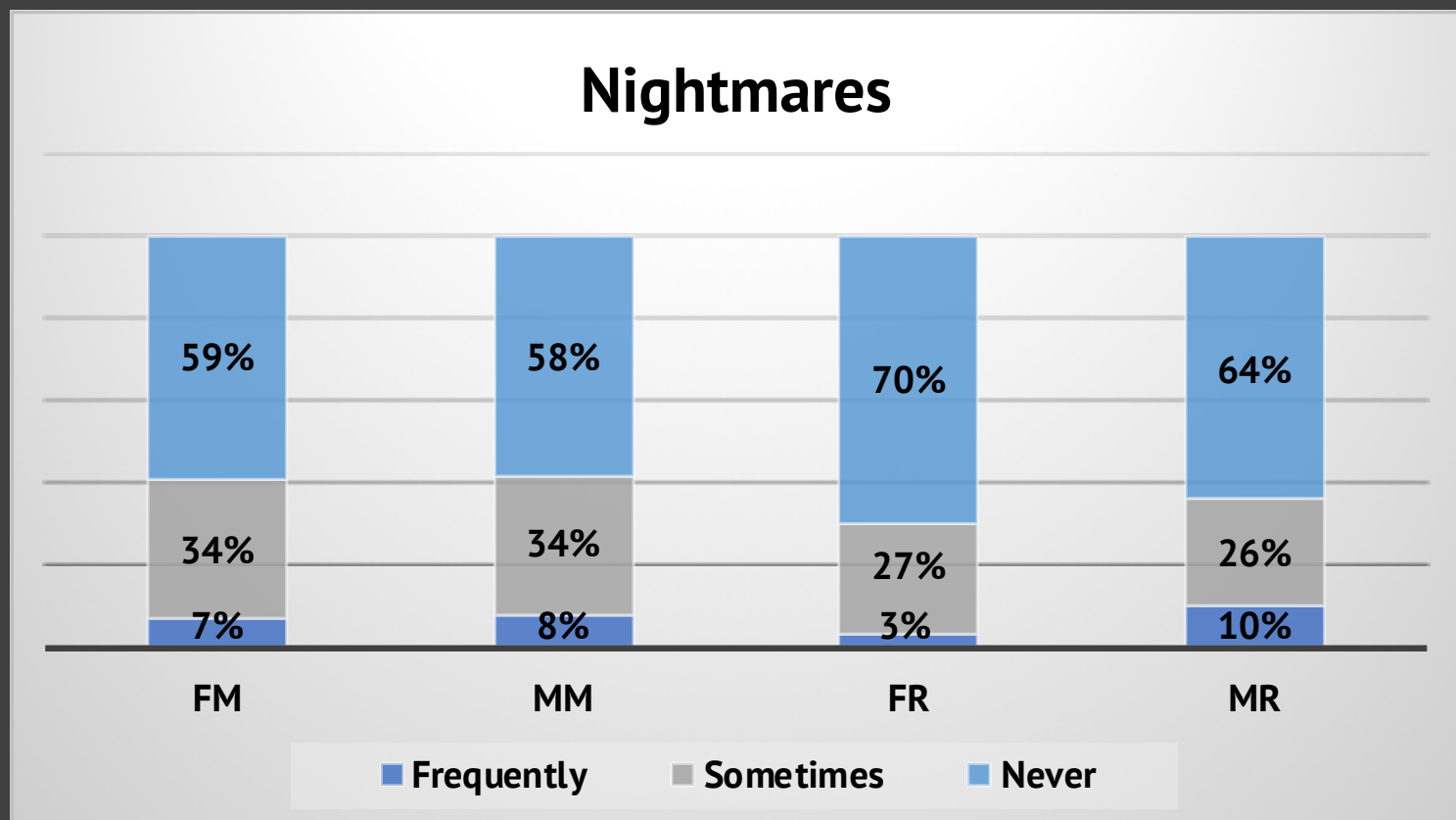
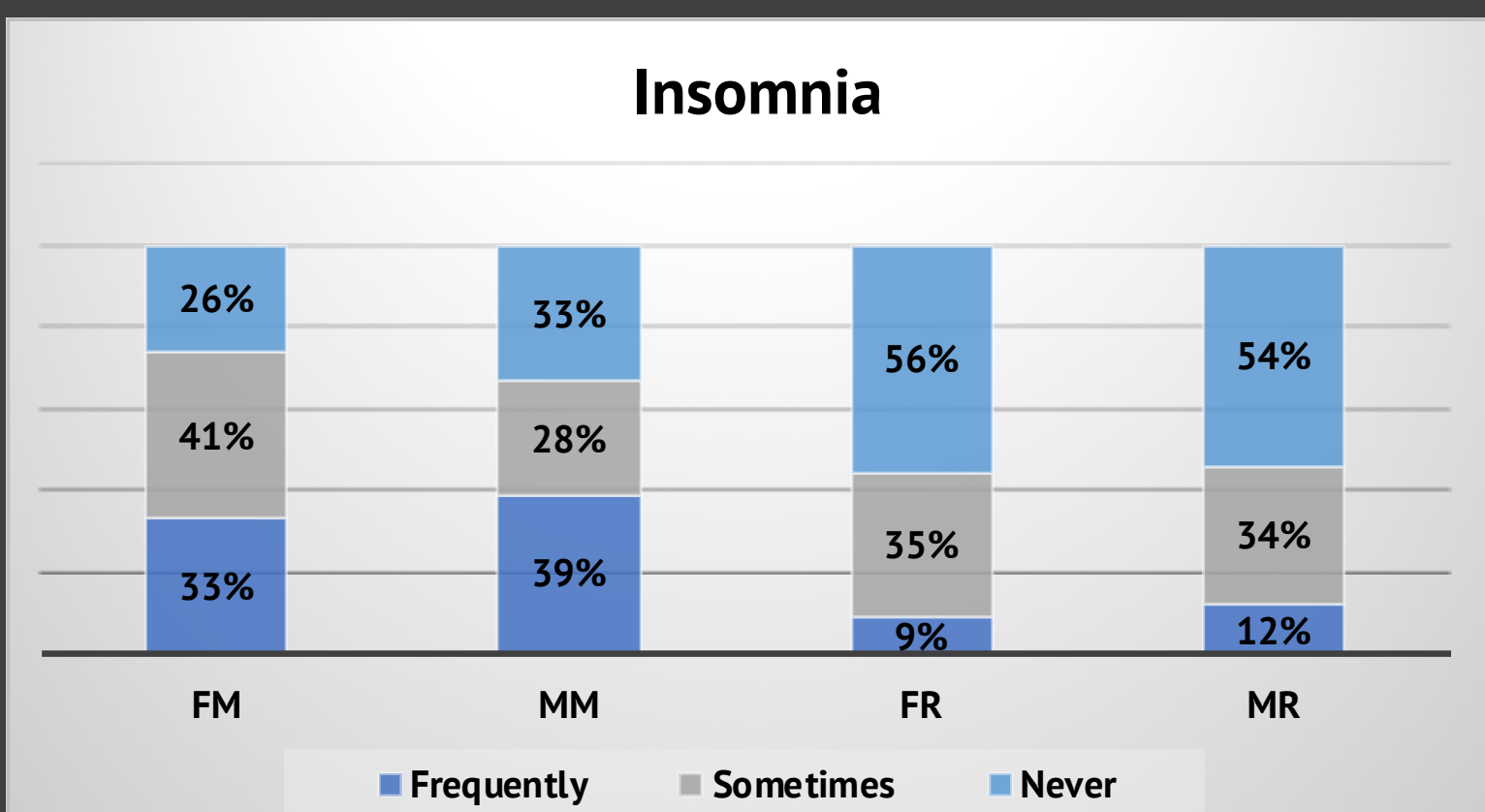
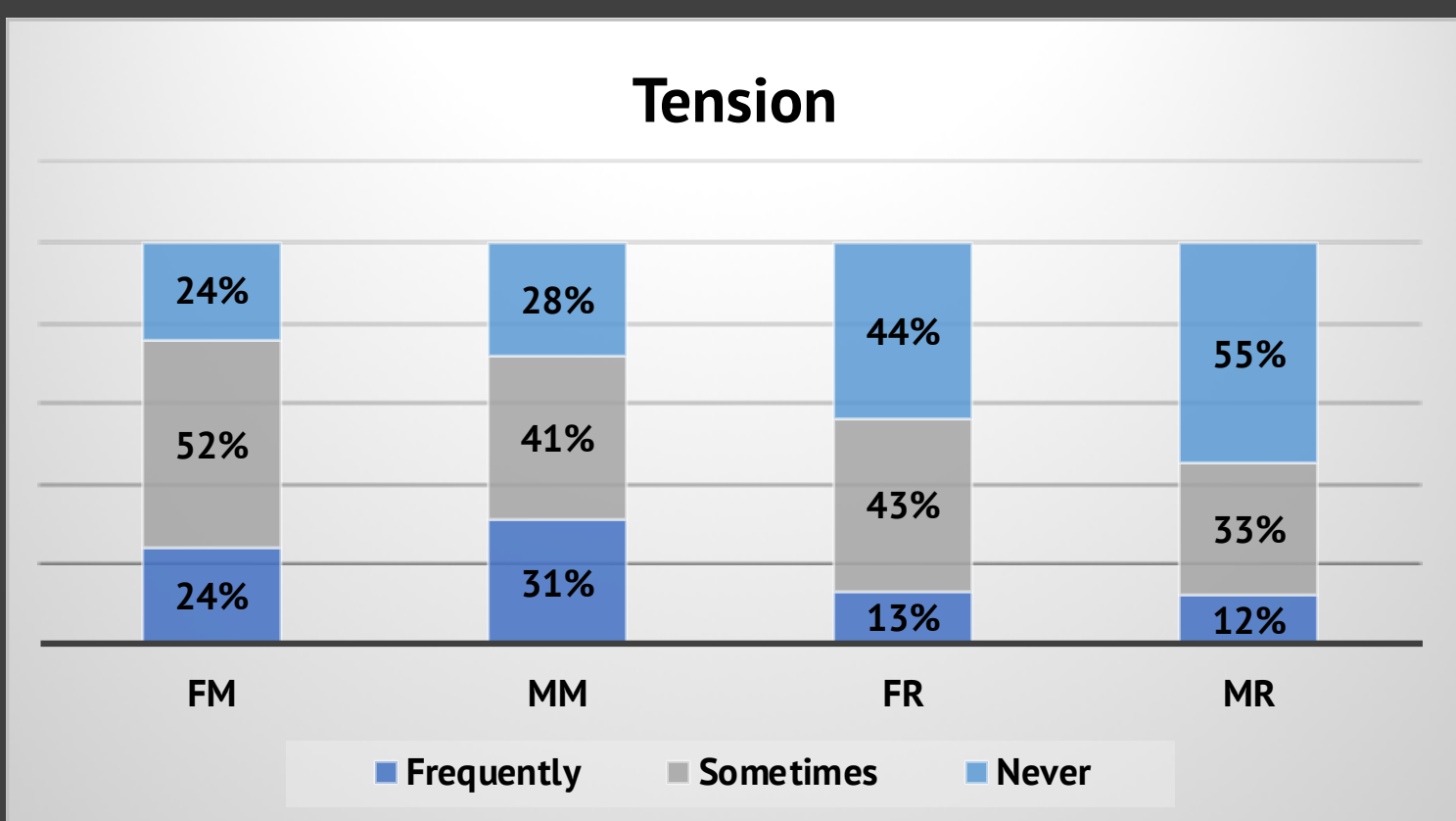
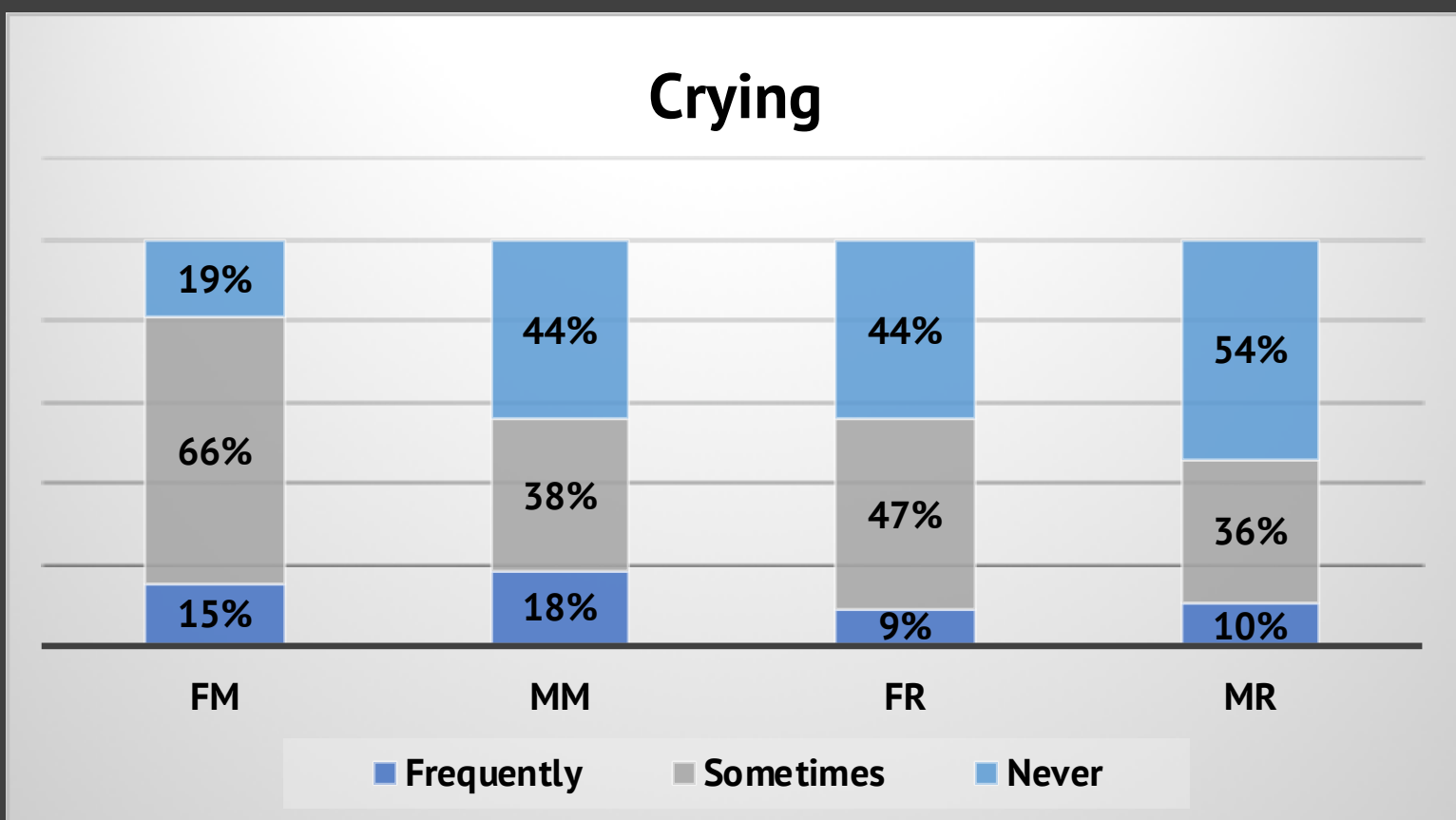
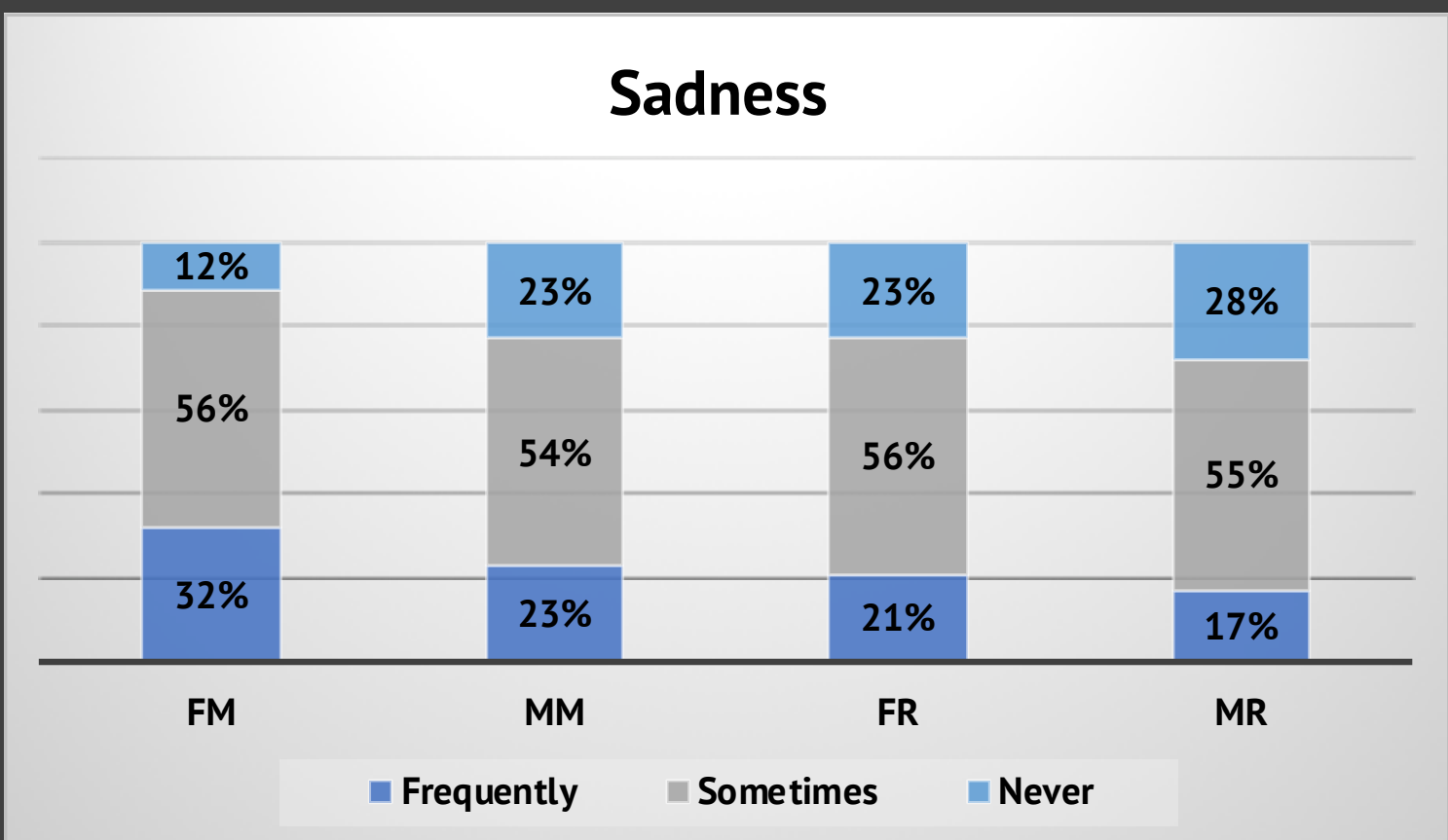
Through nonprobability -convenience-, and purposeful -theoretical and snowball-sampling, quantitative and qualitative data was collected transnationally from 2015 to 2019 via 97 surveys to migrants, 125 surveys to migrants' relatives, 35 individual semi-structured interviews to migrants, relatives and health professionals, 10 focal groups with return migrants and relatives, and participant observation in 15 health and migration workshops for Ecuadorean and other Latin American migrant communities, advocates and health practitioners, and a one-week-long professional training with nurses, doctors and psychologists in Ecuador. 98% of the Ecuadorean participants self-identified as Mestizos.

GENDER DATA ANALYSIS

FM=Female Migrant MM=Male Migrant FR=Females Relative MR=Male Relative



Migratory Stress Symptoms



Migration Related Health Processes & Psycho-sociocultural Coping Mechanisms

	Migrants	Migrant Relatives	Reinforced Dominant Gender Dynamics	Changed Dominant Gender Dynamics	Gender Shaped their Experience Substantially
<i>Health Processes</i>					
Reflexive Mourning	x	x		x	x
Active Migrant Trauma	x		x		x
Passive Migrant Trauma		x	x		x
Migratory Stress	x	x	x		
Migrant Crises Triggers	x	x	x		x
Irresolute Resilience	x	x		x	
<i>Psycho-sociocultural Mechanisms</i>					
Disillusion Adjustment	x		x		x
Denied Migrant Health	x	x	x		x
Normalization of Malaise	x	x	x		x
Pain Encapsulation	x	x	x		
Family De/Re-construction	x	x		x	x
Communication Distortion	x	x	x		
Subordination to Secrets & Lies	x	x	x		x
Tacit Pacts	x	x	x		
Resentment & Detachment		x	x		x
Sensible comprehension	x	x	x		
Well-being Ideal	x	x	x		
Transgenerational Goals	x	x	x		x
Strategic Return	x		x		
Forced Return	x			x	
Failure Shame	x		x		x
Return Shock	x	x		x	x

CONCLUDING HIGHLIGHTS

The quantitative and qualitative data gathered through this activist research project showed how gender was a very influential factor in shaping the health processes and psycho-sociocultural coping mechanisms experienced by migrants and relatives. While in this poster we focused on presenting gender data in particular, it is fundamental to note that our study confirmed the relevance of analyzing gender in combination with other social structures and practices as theorized by intersectional feminism and critical race and migration studies. From this perspective, the study of our sample, composed of Ecuadorean migrants and relatives self-identified as Mestizos, illuminated how their nationality, racial/ethnic identity and migratory experiences intersected with other factors.

On the one hand, our transnational and comparative study indicated that these processes and mechanisms occurred to both migrants and relatives independently from their place of origin and destination. On the other hand, the way and intensity in which they were experienced was diverse depending on gender -as shown here- as well as age, family ties, and educational level. Moreover, their experiences were affected by their pre-migratory personal and social conditions (more or less healthy and stable), their migratory journey (more or less violent), and their post-migratory setting including their migratory status (regular/irregular), the migratory policies and ethno-racial cultures (more or less inclusive), access to health services (public/private, available or not to migrants), working conditions (better or worse remunerated, with or without social protections and benefits, more or less exploitative of the migrant condition), their income and the remittances sent/received (low, medium, high), and their achieved social mobility (personal, familiar, transnational).

FUNDING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Grant (Council for International Exchange of Scholars), Sociologists for Women in Society (Social Action Award), Riello Institute for Integral Development, St. John's University/CRS Global Faculty Grant, and the Health and Migration Institute at Hospital de la Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja, Ecuador.