

## Background

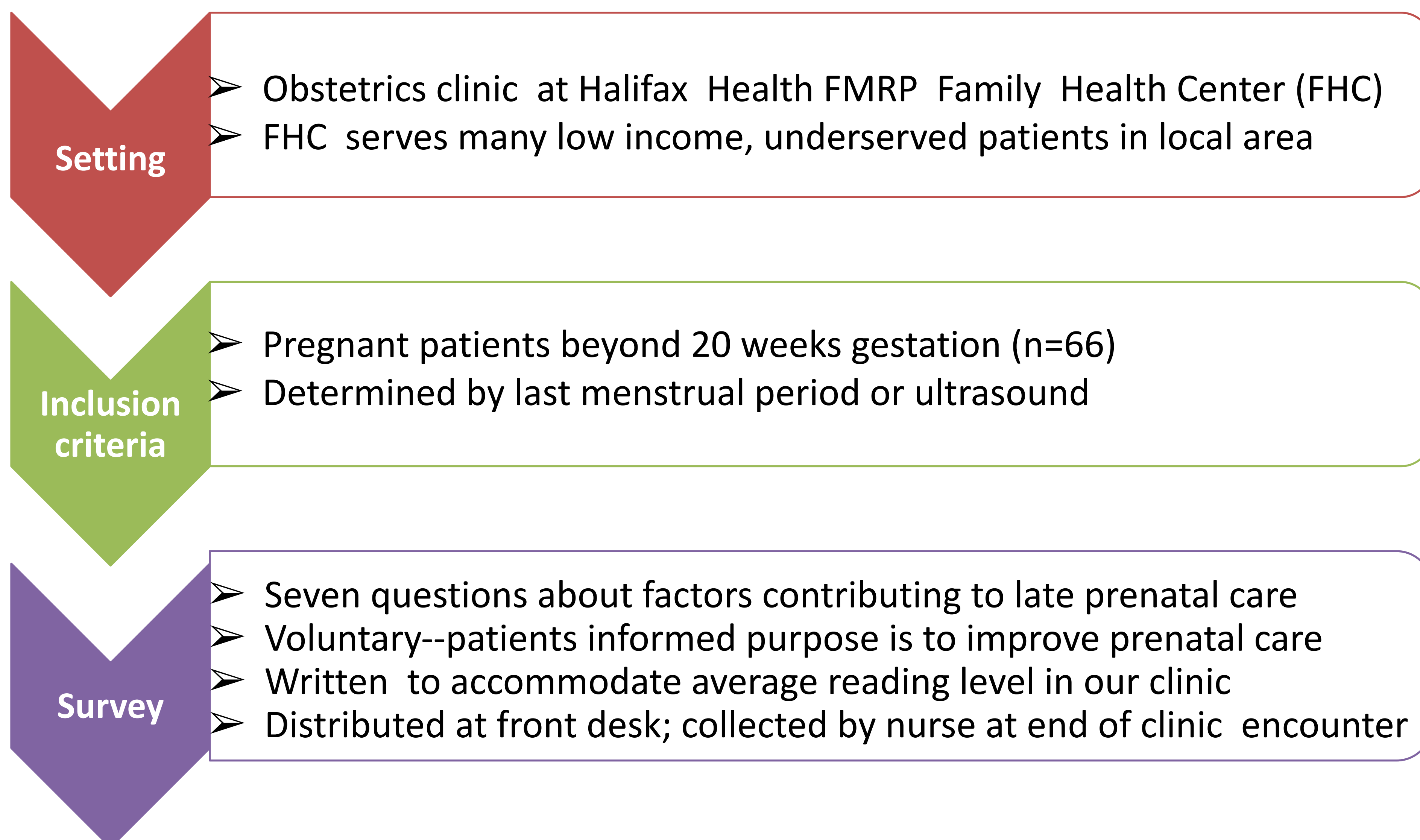
- Pregnancy is a condition that carries significant inherent risks.
- Early presentation to medical care can help mitigate these risks.
- Reasons for presenting late to care are complex and multifactorial.
- Identifying reasons for presenting late to prenatal care can improve outcomes.
- It is important to know the reasons for late presentation in specific groups/communities.
- Identifying specific barriers can help provide targets for intervention in our community.

## Project Aims

**Goal:** To identify the most common reasons for presenting late to prenatal care within our clinic

**Hypothesis:** Identifying specific reasons for late presentation to care will allow for targeted multimodal interventions that will result in more timely presentation to prenatal care.

## Methods



## Results

- In our population, a high percentage are late to prenatal care (44%) (Fig. 1).
- The following proved to be the most prevalent reasons for late to prenatal care (Fig. 2):
  - Financial difficulties
  - Fear of judgment
  - Lack of child care
  - Difficulty with transportation
- We expected the following to be more prevalent than they actually are:
  - Trouble finding insurance
  - Lack of cell phone or internet
  - Lack of social or partner support



Halifax Health Family Medicine Residency  
Obstetrics Training



## Discussion

- Improving timeliness of prenatal care is important for prenatal and maternal care.
- This study was designed to uncover most common reasons for presenting late to prenatal care.
- The study identified factors that can help us plan multimodal interventions to improve timeliness of prenatal care.
- The next phase of this project will implement multimodal interventions targeting the identified factors and test their effectiveness.
- As fear of judgment was prevalent in our population, we would like to uncover more detail about this particular factor with more specific questions.
- We encourage other programs and clinics to survey their patients to identify barriers to care in order to provide specific targets for intervention.

Figure 1

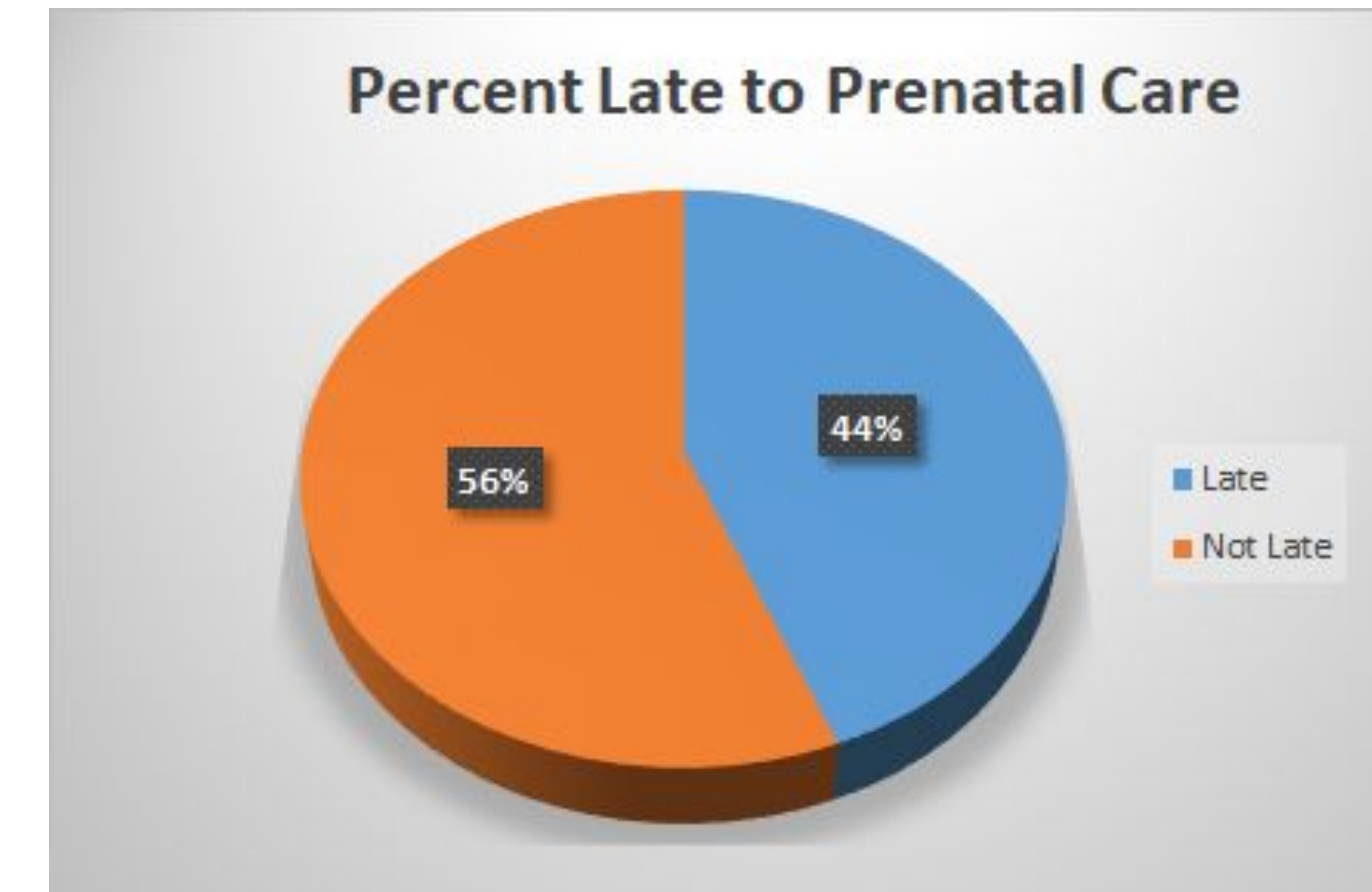
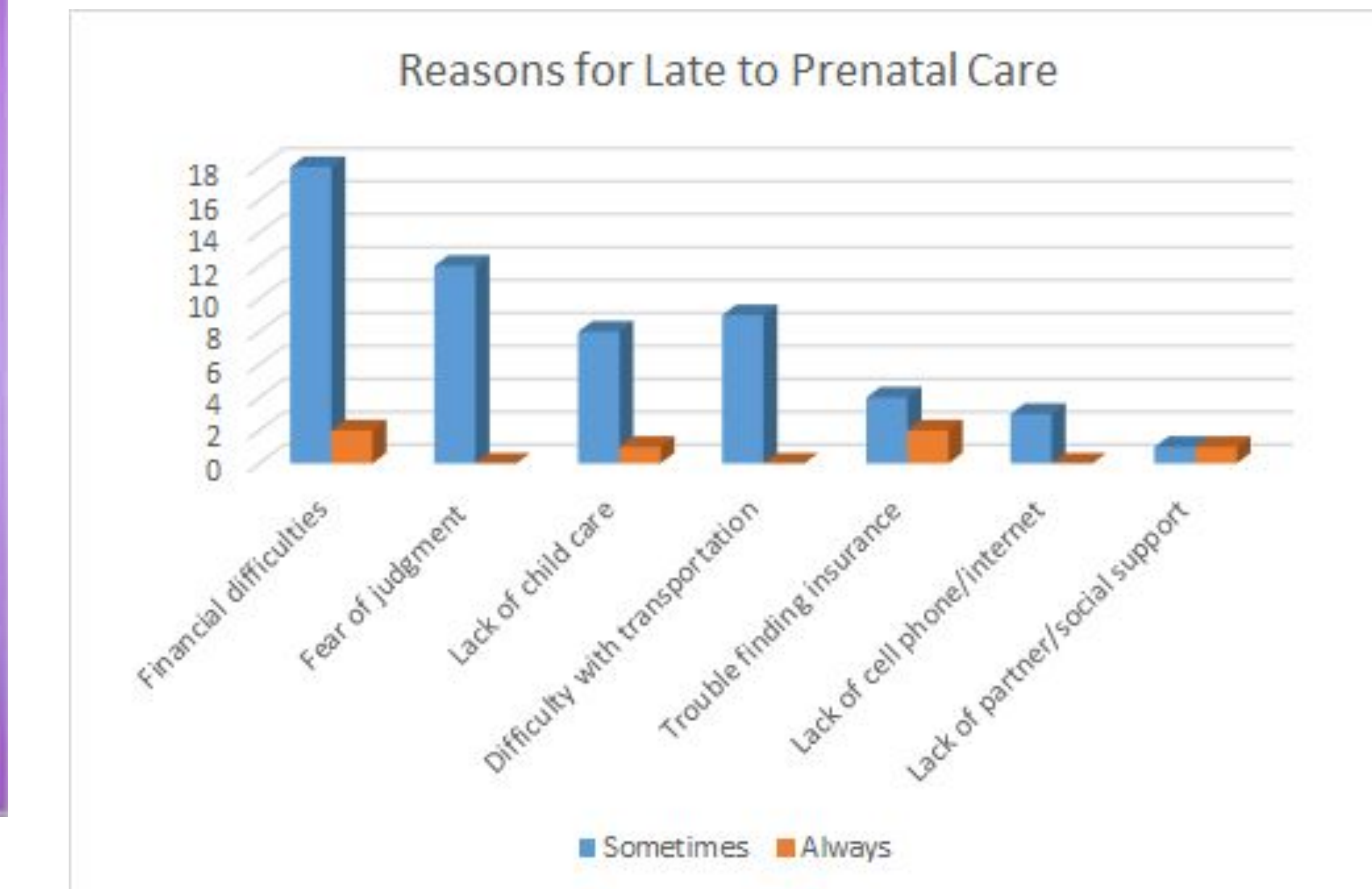


Figure 2



## References:

- Smith, Andrew and Erin Bassett-Novoa. "Late Presentation to Prenatal Care." American Family Physician. 1 Sept. 2015. [www.aafp.org/afp/2015/0901/p391.html](http://www.aafp.org/afp/2015/0901/p391.html).
- Patridge, Sarah, Balyala, Jaques, Holcroft, Christina and Haim Abenham. 2012. Inadequate Prenatal Care Utilization and Risks of Infant Mortality and Poor Birth Outcome: A Retrospective Analysis of 28,729,765 US Deliveries over 8 Years. American Journal Of Perinatology. 29: 787-94. 10.1055/s-0032-1316439.