

# Empowering Women's Health in the Dominican Republic: A Peer Educator Pilot Program

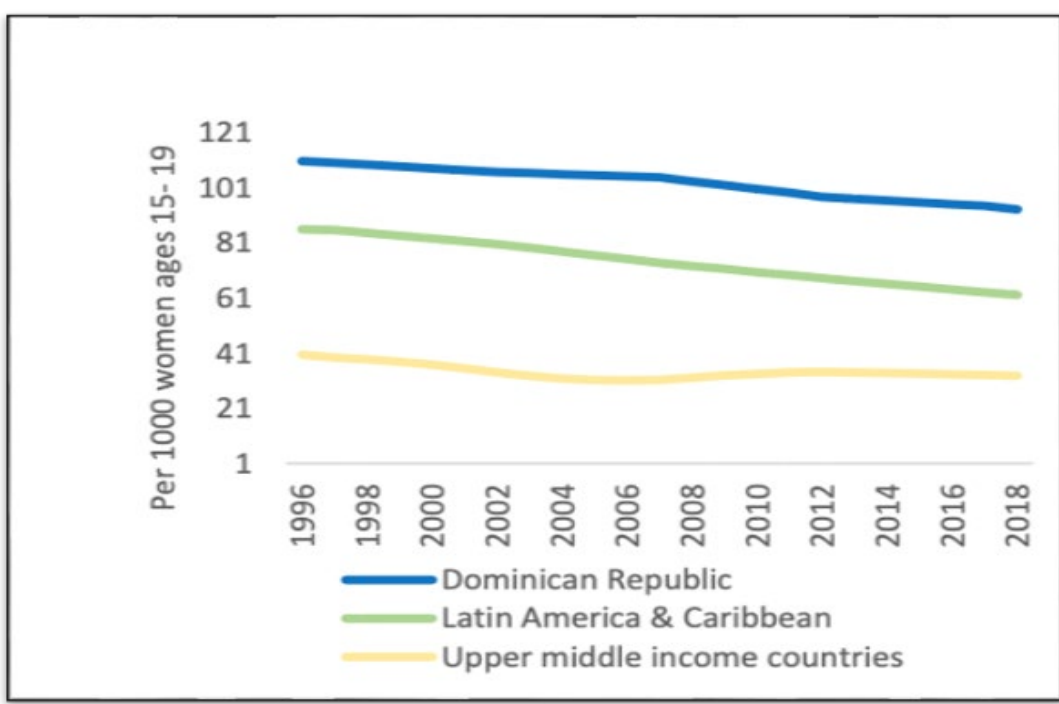


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## Background



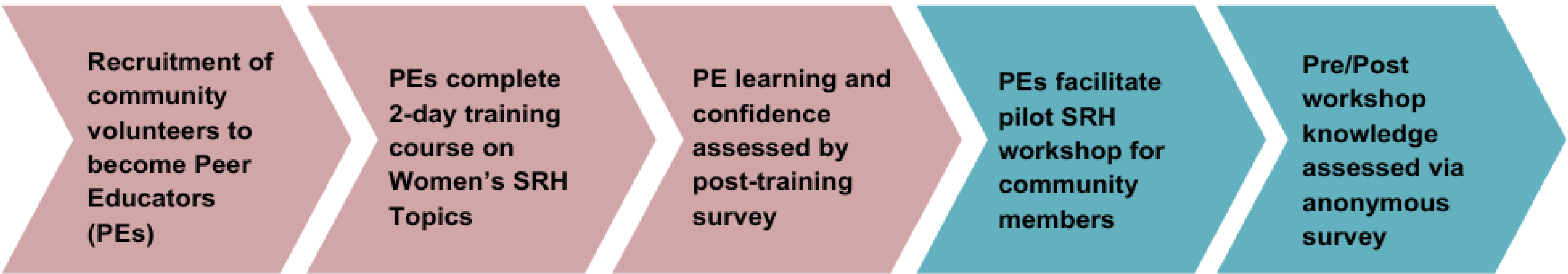
- 1,500 - 3,000 people living on landfill outside of Santo Domingo, D.R.
- Majority of population are immigrants or decedents from immigrants = no rights to formal education, health care services, or employment
- Population assessment revealed
  - High rate of adolescent pregnancies
  - Unmet contraceptive needs
  - Lack of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) literacy
  - Risk of unsafe abortions
- D.R. has high adolescent fertility rate compared to nearby countries (The World Bank, 2023)



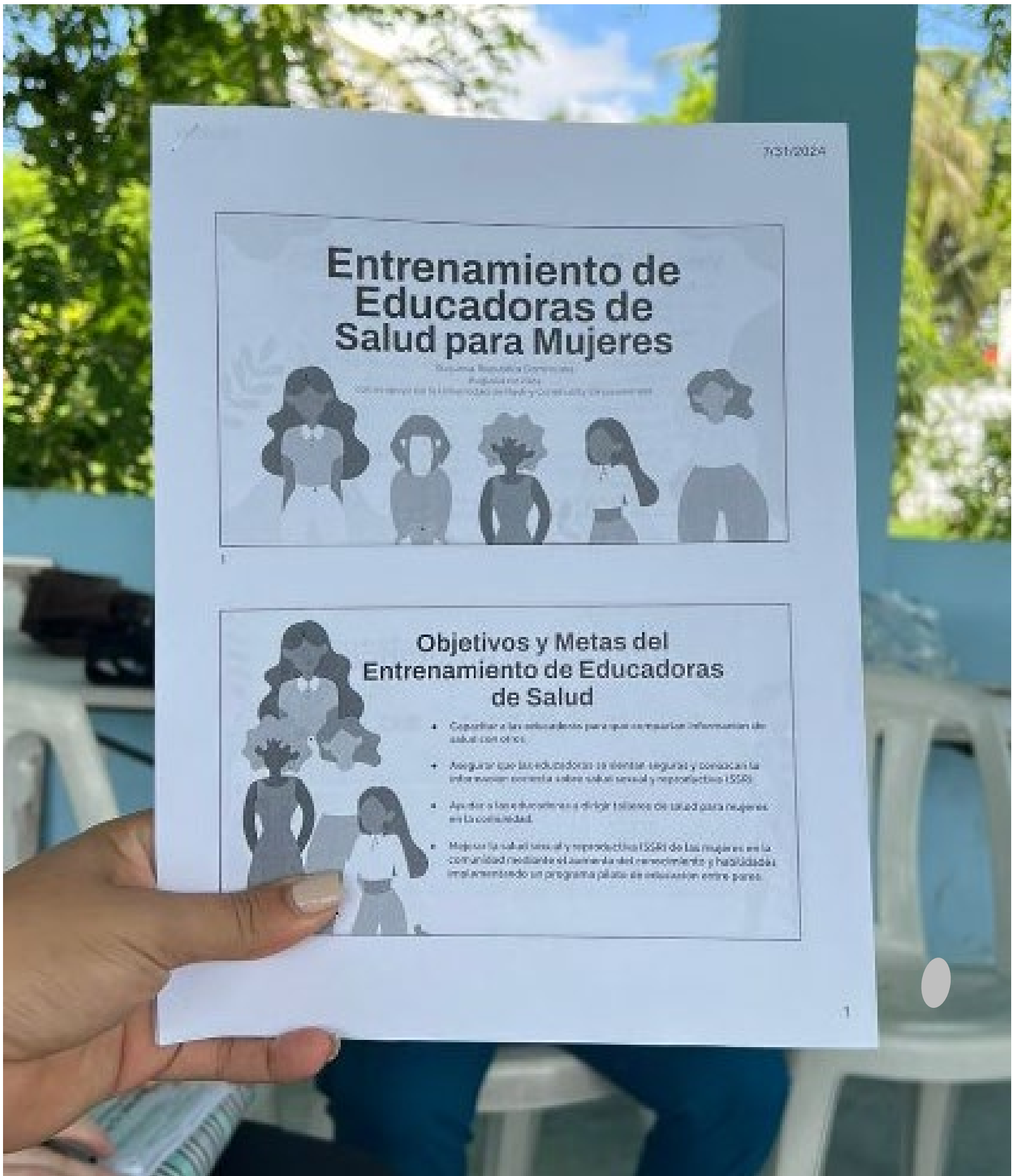
## Purpose

This project sought to improve women's health decision making capacity and empower healthier communities through peer educator led SRH workshops

## Methods



### Part 1: Peer Educator Training



### Part 2: Women's Health Workshops

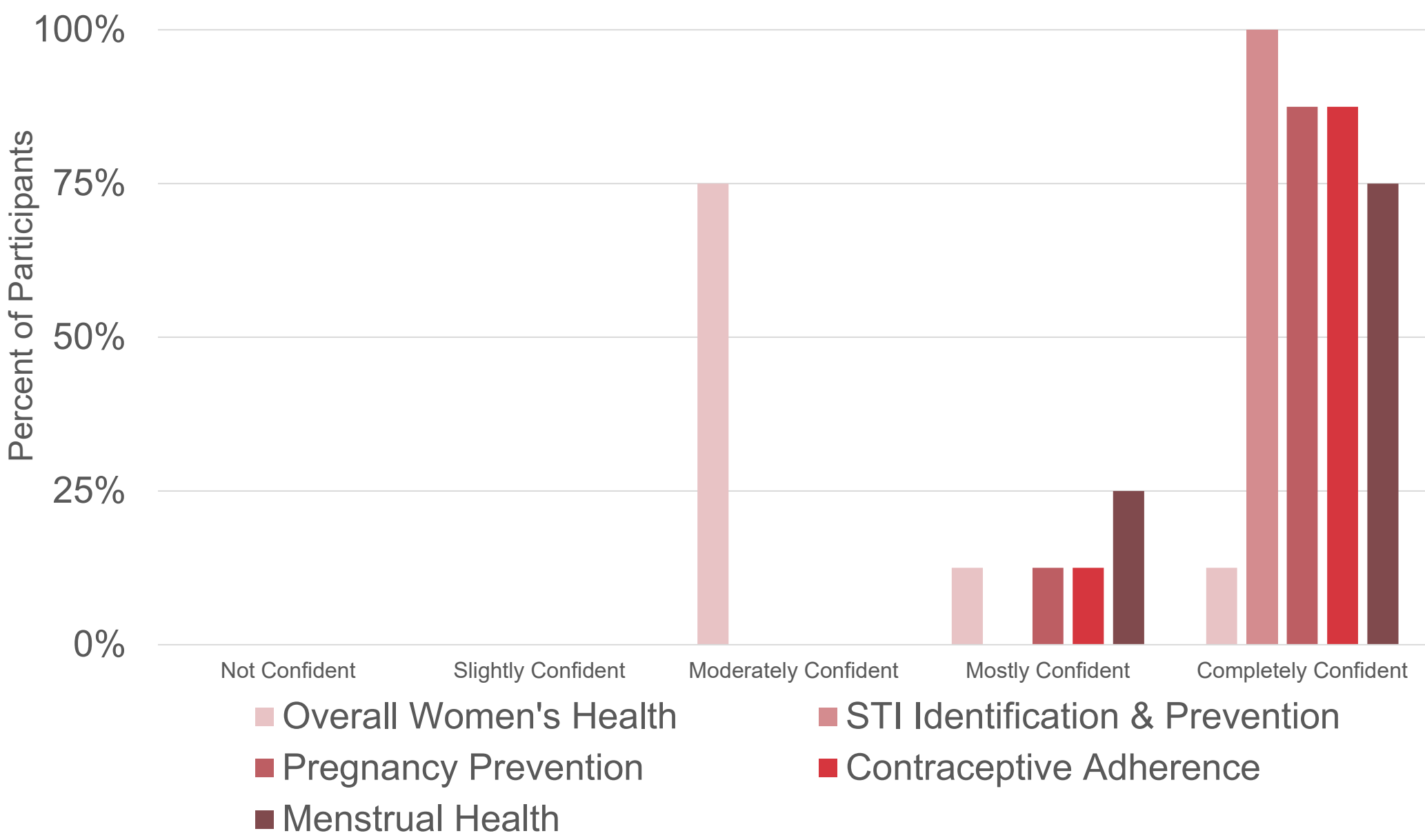


## Results

### Part 1: Peer Educator Training

- 12 volunteers recruited to be PEs
- 8 women completed 2-day training
- Post-training confidence scores demonstrated success ( $\geq 4$ ) in 4 out of 5 content areas

Post-PE Training Confidence in Leading a Workshop on \_\_\_\_\_



## Conclusions

Part 1: PE Training empowered community members to advocate for and promote healthy SRH practices

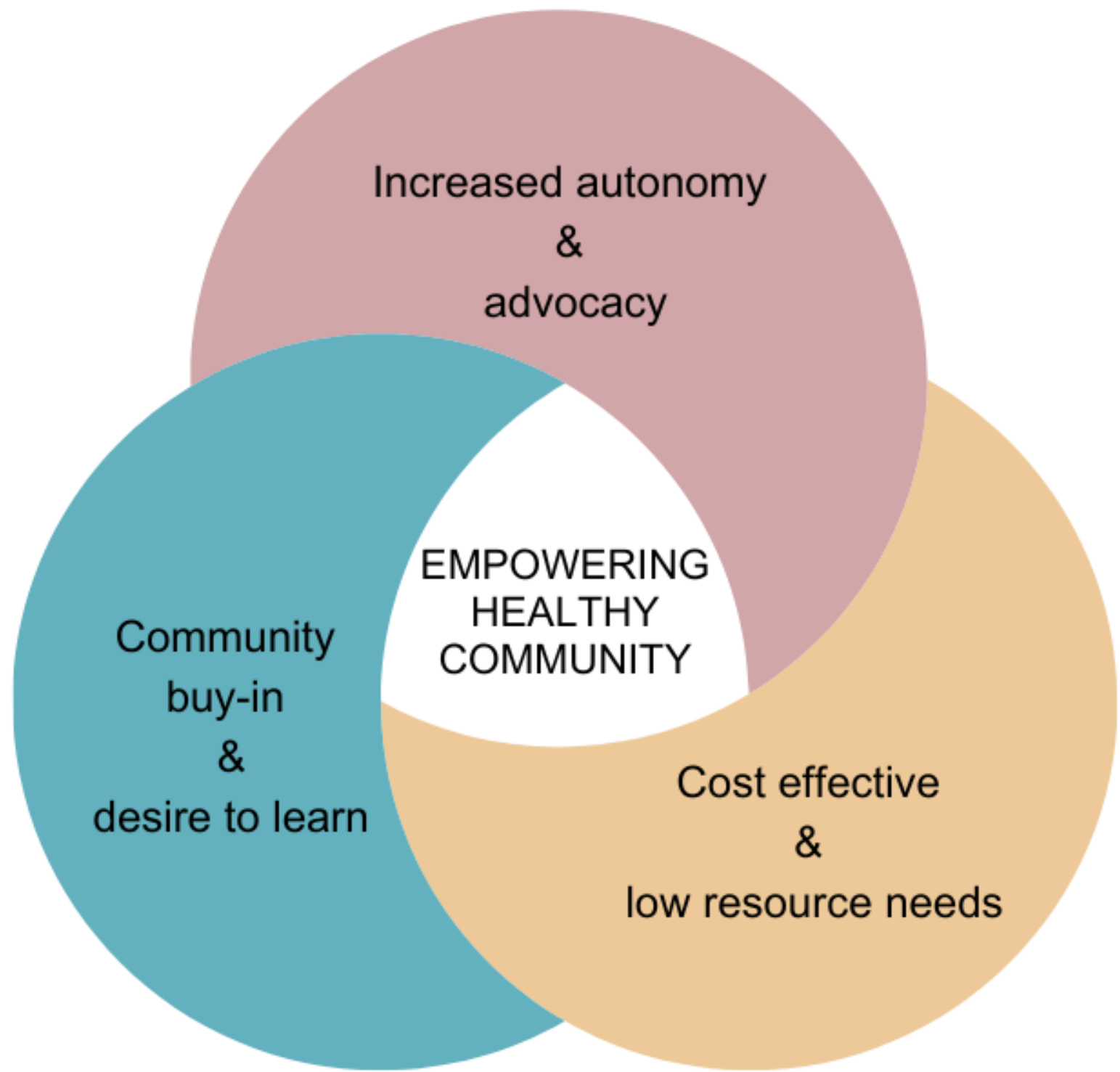
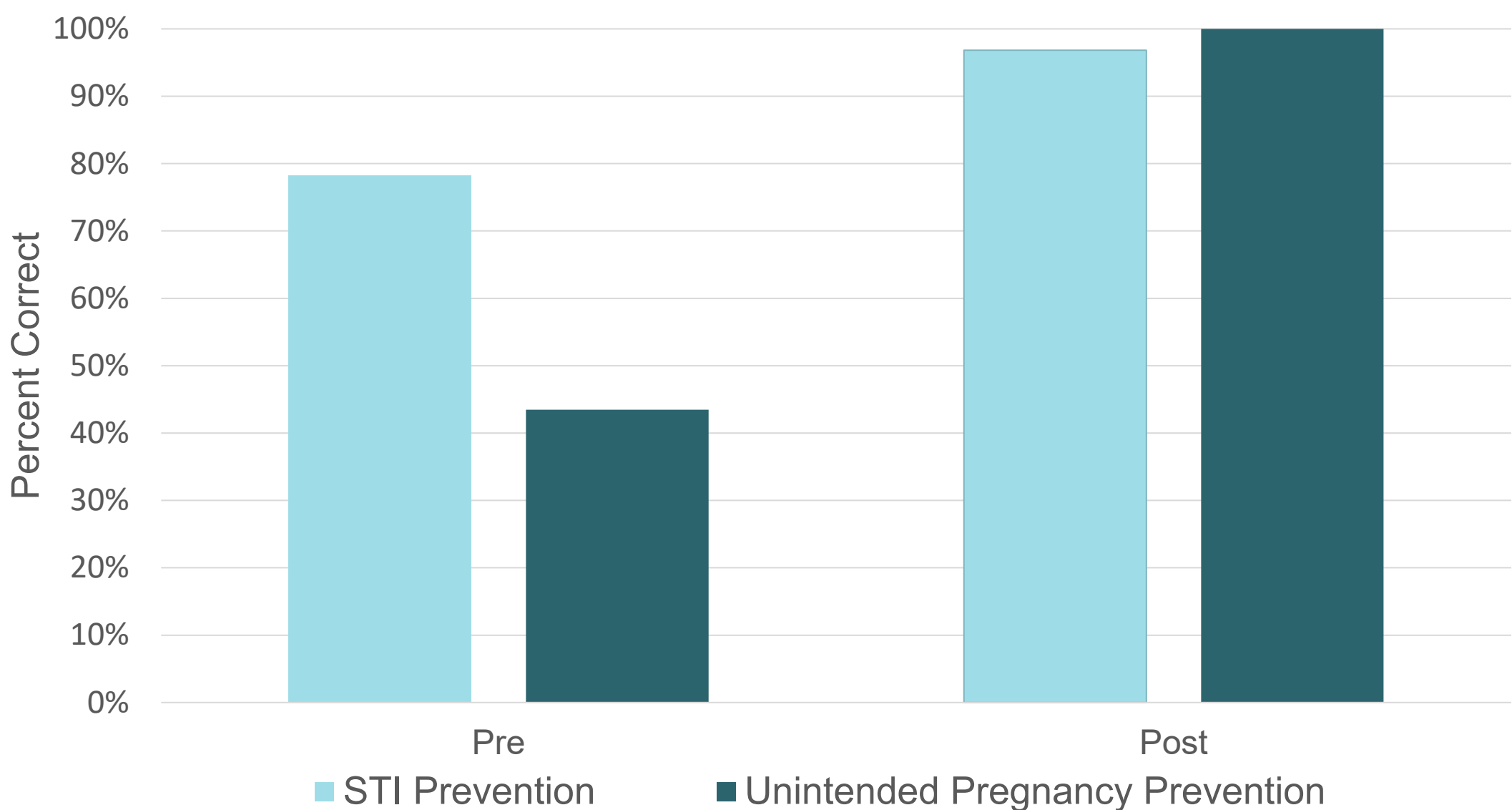
Part 2: SRH Workshops were well-attended and demonstrated successful learning

Overall: Low-cost, resource-effective way to empower community members and build decision-making capacity

### Part 2: Women's SRH Workshops

- 4 PEs led pilot SRH workshop for 46 community members
- Workshop knowledge pre/post test demonstrated learning from workshop
- At least 3 workshops have been completed since pilot

Pre/Post SRH Workshop Education Knowledge Check



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Rush University Office of Global Health, Community Empowerment, Duquesa community leaders and women

**References:**

