

EXPLORING THE INTERSECTION OF SPANISH LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND HEALTH

DENVER, BOULDER, WELD, AND LARIMER COUNTY

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

- This project explores what “effective communication” means when healthcare professionals (human & veterinary) speak Spanish to patients in the U.S.
- The law requires that patients understand their medical care, but it doesn’t define what makes communication effective, including Spanish.



Research question:

How do Spanish speakers define and evaluate effective communication in medical settings?

INTERNSHIP GOALS



To foster cultural and linguistic competence while equipping students with practical research skills that address real-world health disparities.

Objectives:

1. Developing language and cultural competence
2. Stakeholder engagement
3. Data collection and analysis

LITERATURE REVIEW

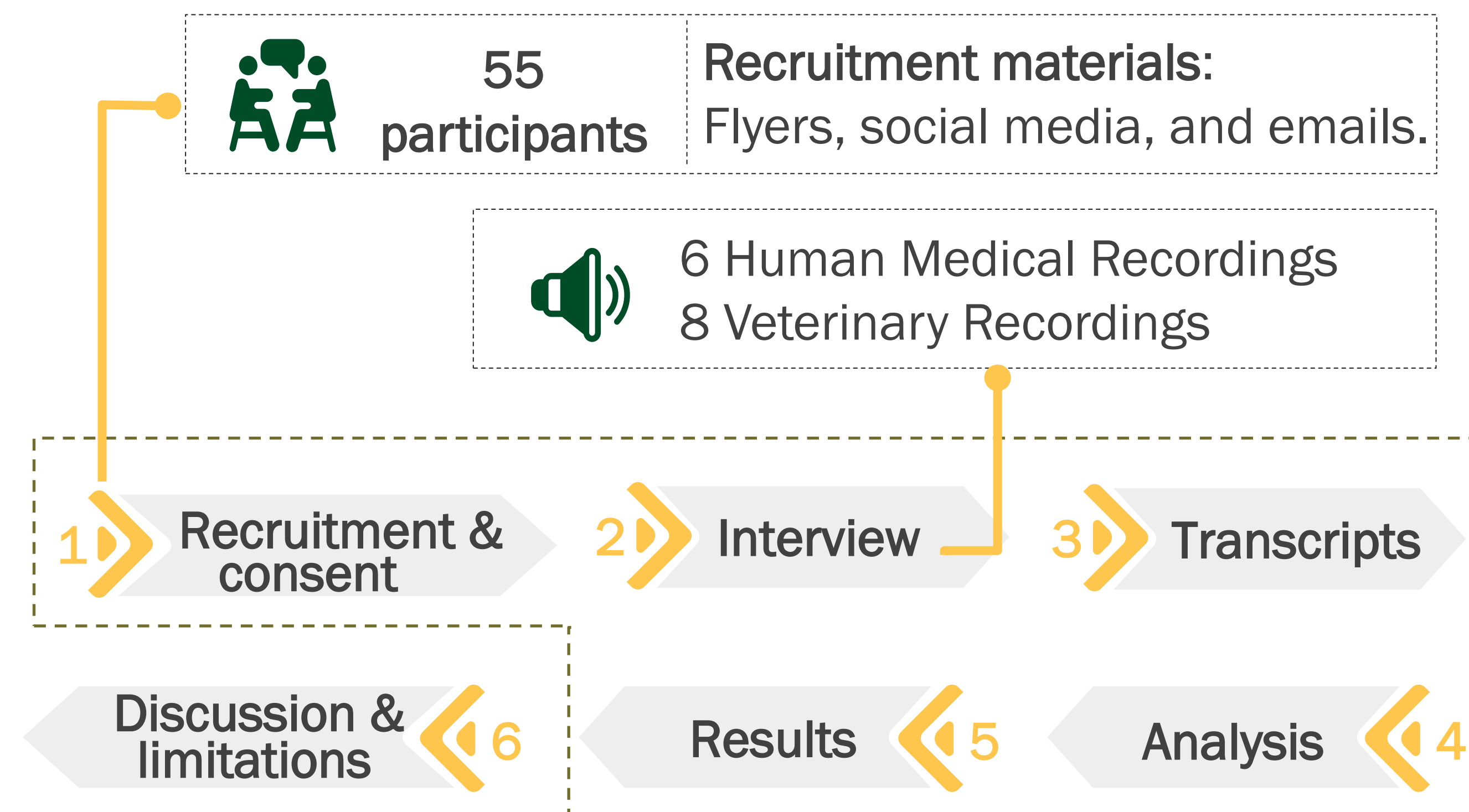


Effective communication with LEP* patients is both a legal and ethical requirement in the U.S., mandated by federal laws such as Title VI.



*Limited English proficiency

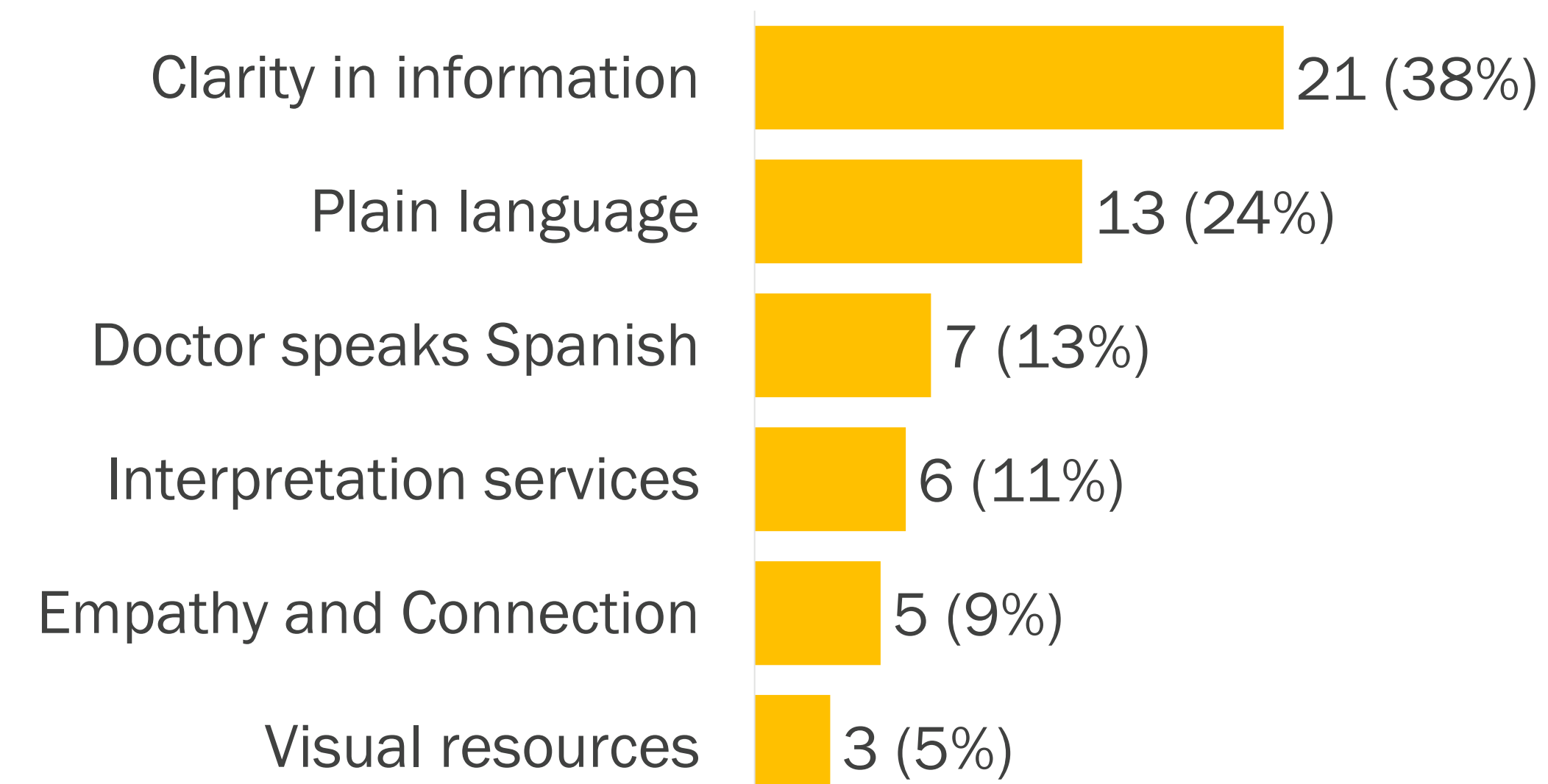
METHODOLOGY



PRELIMINARY RESULTS

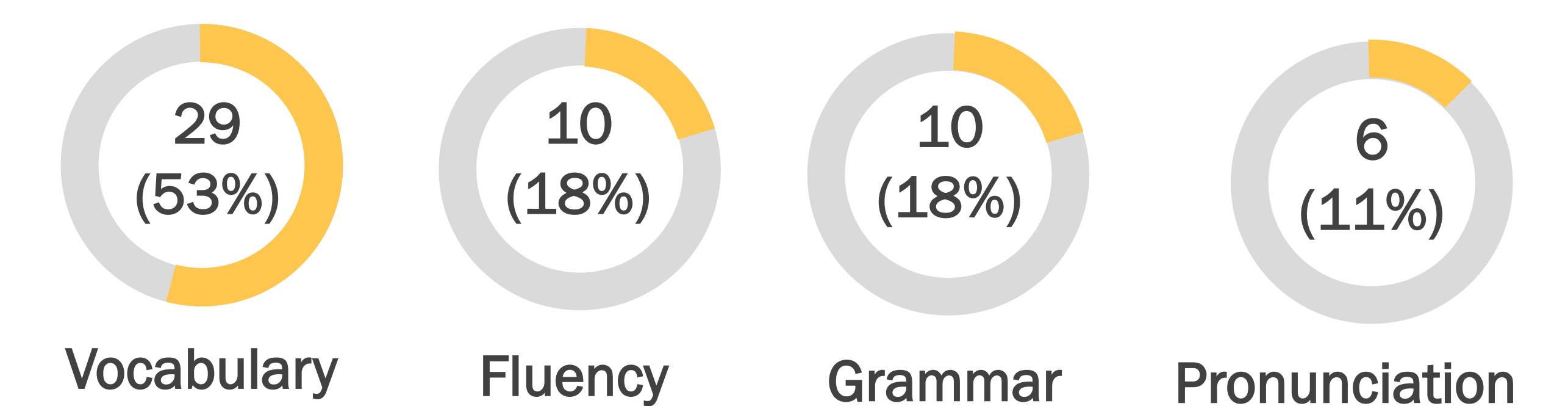
- Gender**
Female 42 (76%)
Male 13 (24%)
- Age**
20-30 24 (44%)
31-40 21 (38%)
41-50 9 (16%)
51-60 1 (2%)
- Preferred Language**
Spanish 55 (100%)
- Ethnicity**
Latino 55 (100%)
- Interviews**
Medical 30 (55%)
Veterinary 25 (45%)

What is effective communication in Medical and Veterinary scenarios?

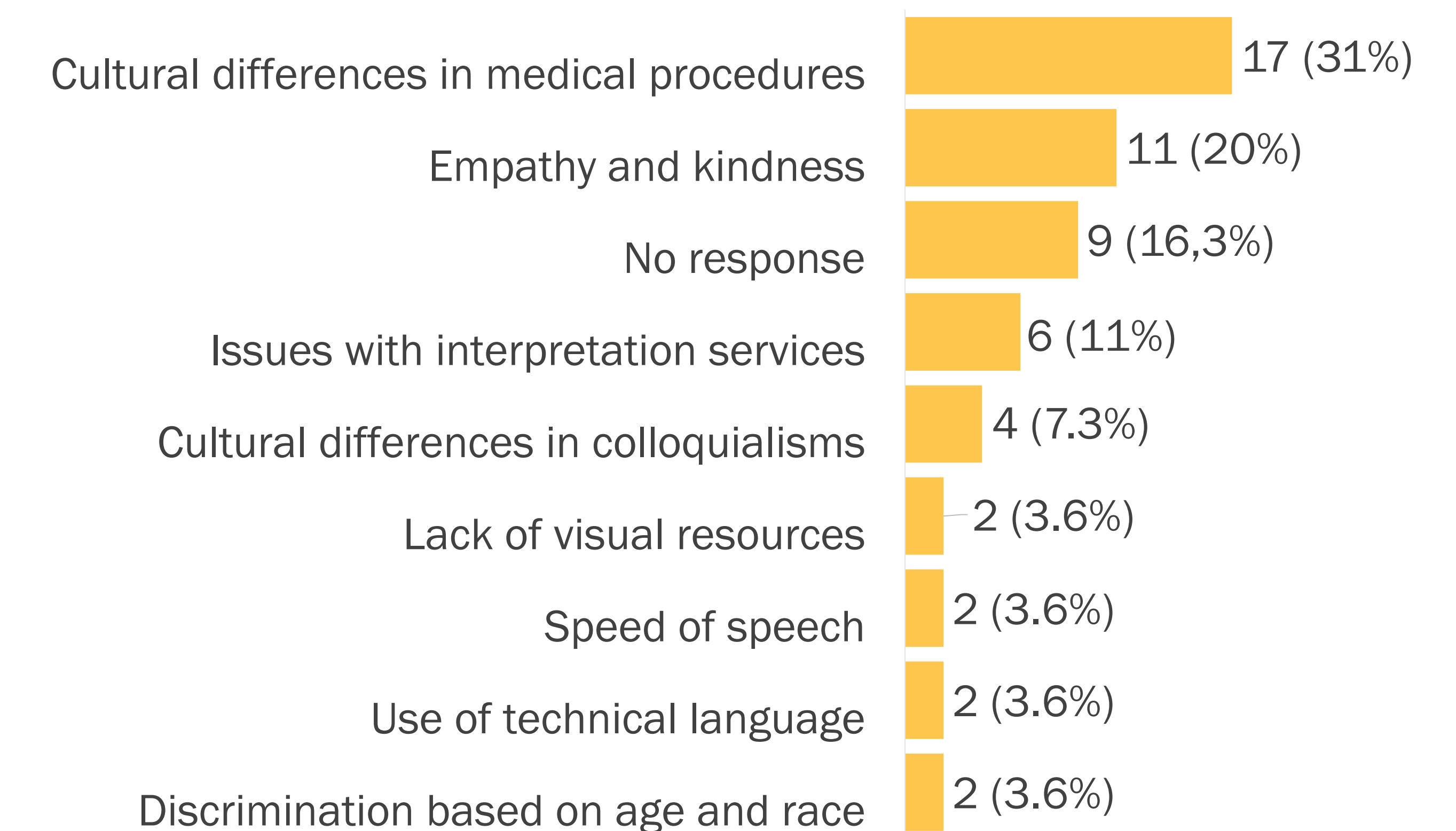


PRELIMINARY RESULTS

How did participants arrange the main barriers to effective communication?



What additional communication issues did participants identify?



WHAT DID WE LEARN?

