



**BRAC** SCHOOL OF  
JAMES P GRANT PUBLIC HEALTH



**BANGLADESH**  
**HEALTH WATCH**

**Re-visiting the Front Line health Workers (FLWs)  
attending suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients in  
Bangladesh: how far the situation improved in a month  
(from April to May) since the last survey?**

**Centre of Excellence for Health Systems and UHC**

20<sup>th</sup> June 2020

# Objective

*[The original quick telephone survey was done to explore the perceptions and opinions of the FLWs regarding personal protection and safety while attending suspected/confirmed COVID-19 patients. ]*

**This Re-interview was done to check whether, and to what extent, any change occurred in the areas of concerns expressed in the earlier study.**

# Methods

- Total 46 respondents (out of 60 surveyed earlier) from 14 districts and 43 health facilities were interviewed over telephone in six days from 6 to 14 May 2020
- Beside PPE and training, we asked them on different aspects of their recommendations made earlier, to check the progress
- Data were collected anonymously, confidentiality of data maintained all through, and data were only used for research purpose.



# Characteristics of the respondents

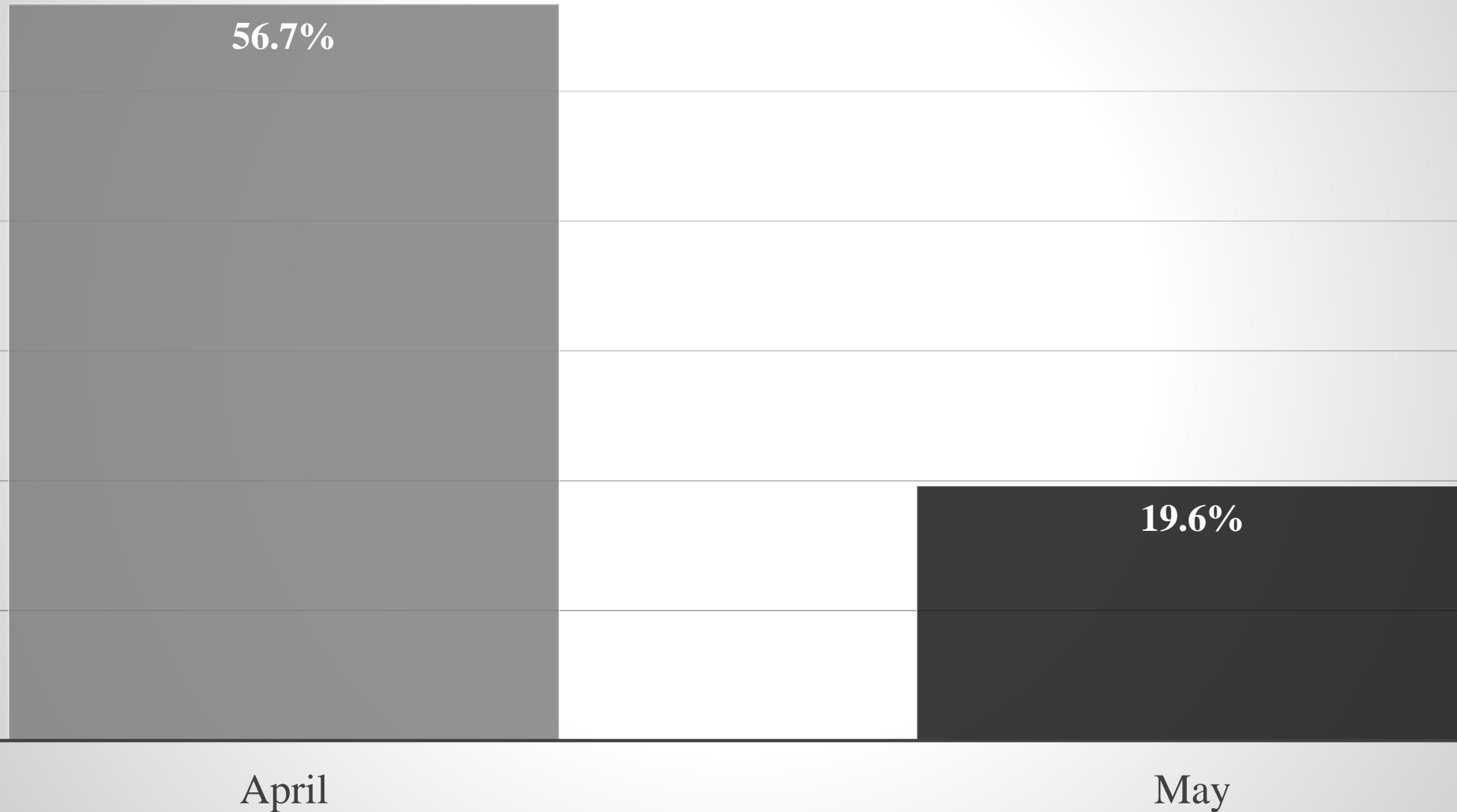
- Peri-urban/rural areas facilities (43%) and urban facilities (33%)
- Majority are Physicians (39%) followed by different categories of paramedics (35%).
- 43% FLWs worked in the OPDs ; 37% worked in both OPD and in-patients

	Characteristics	% (n)
<b>Facility type</b>		
	Public facility in Urban area (Hospital, International airport)	32.6 (15)
	Public facility in Rural area (Upazila health complex, Union sub centre)	43.5 (20)
	For profit Private facility	2.2 (1)
	Not for profit private facility (NGO)	21.7 (10)
<b>Type of respondents</b>		
	Doctors (MBBS)	28.3 (13)
	Doctors (post-graduate)	10.9 (5)
	Nurses (All types)/ Midwives	26.1 (12)
	Para-medics (SACMOs, FWV, Lab technician etc.)	34.8 (16)
<b>Years of service</b>		
	<1 year	4.35 (2)
	1 – 5 year	19.6 (9)
	>5 year	76.1 (35)
<b>Place of duty*</b>		
	Both outpatient and in-door	37 (17)
	In-door	19.6 (9)
	Out-patient department (OPD)	43.5 (20)
	Emergency	8.7 (4)

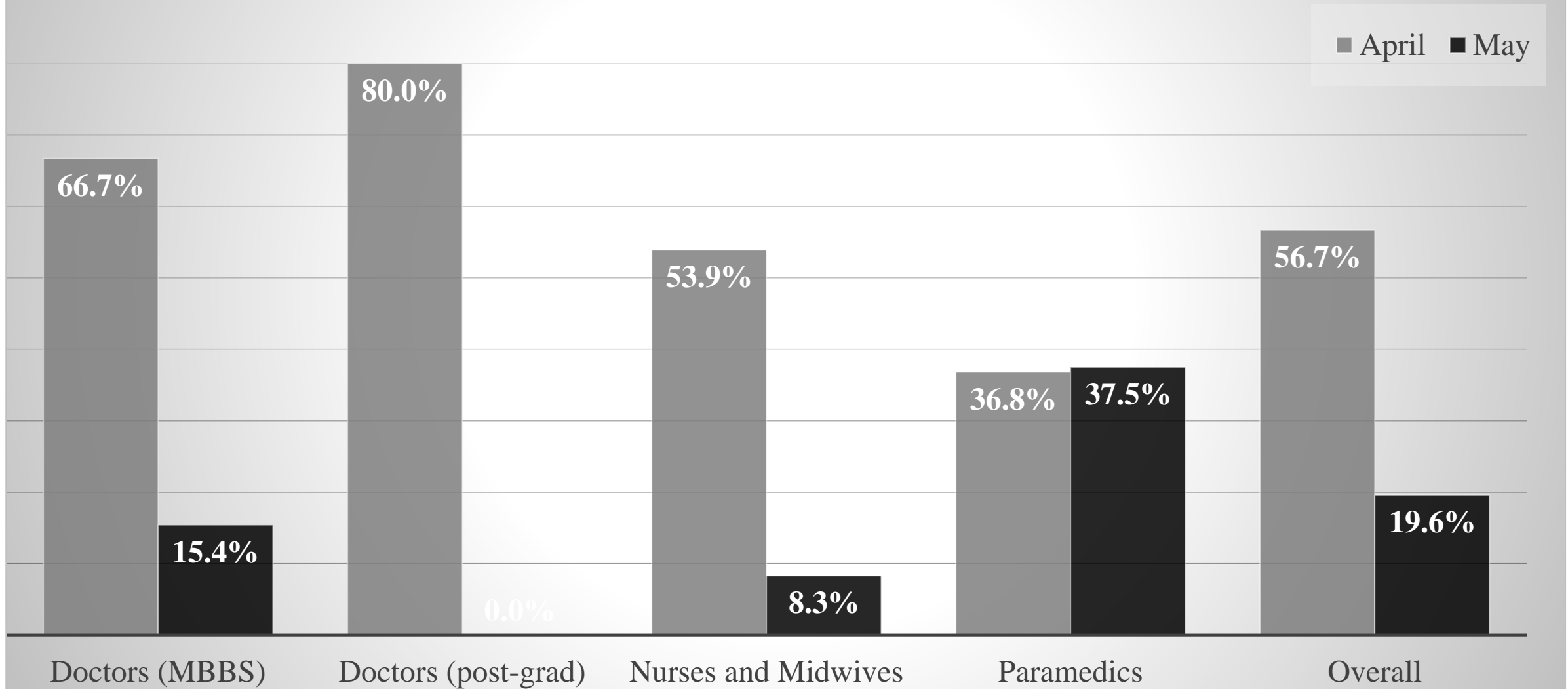
## Received PPE



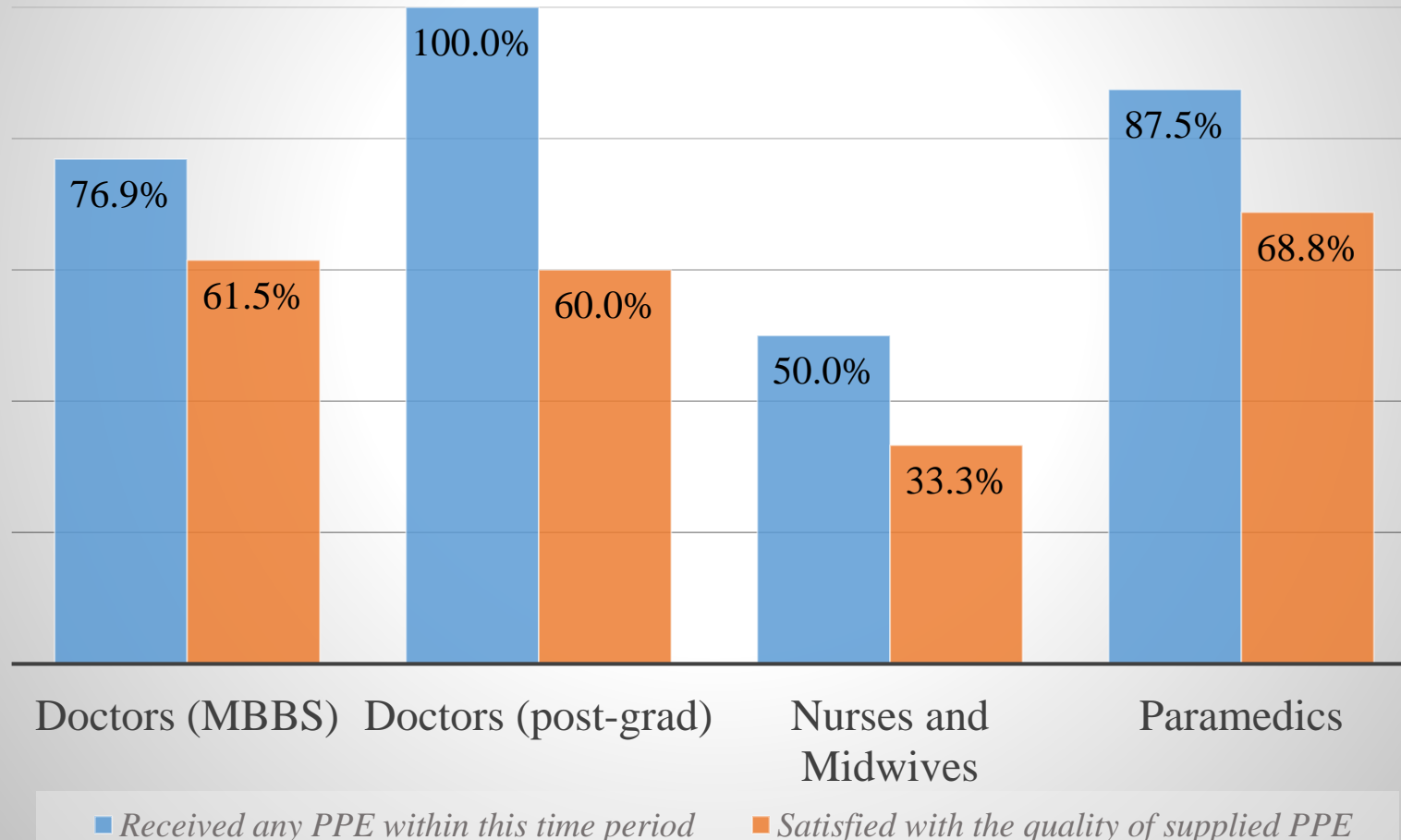
## Training on use of PPE



## Received any training on PPE



## PPE received and expressed satisfaction with the quality

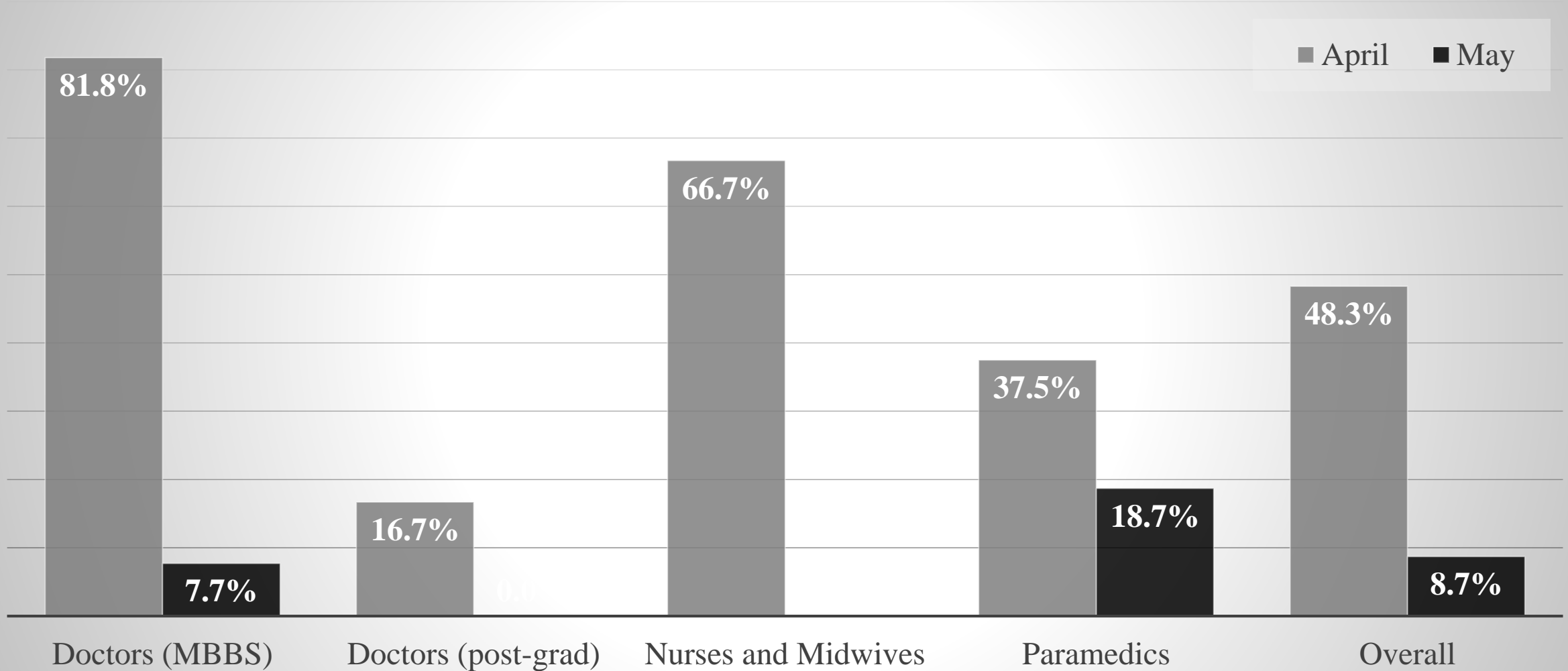


**Overall, 56% of the respondents were found to be satisfied with the quality of the PPE.**

*Data represents status from 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020 to 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020*



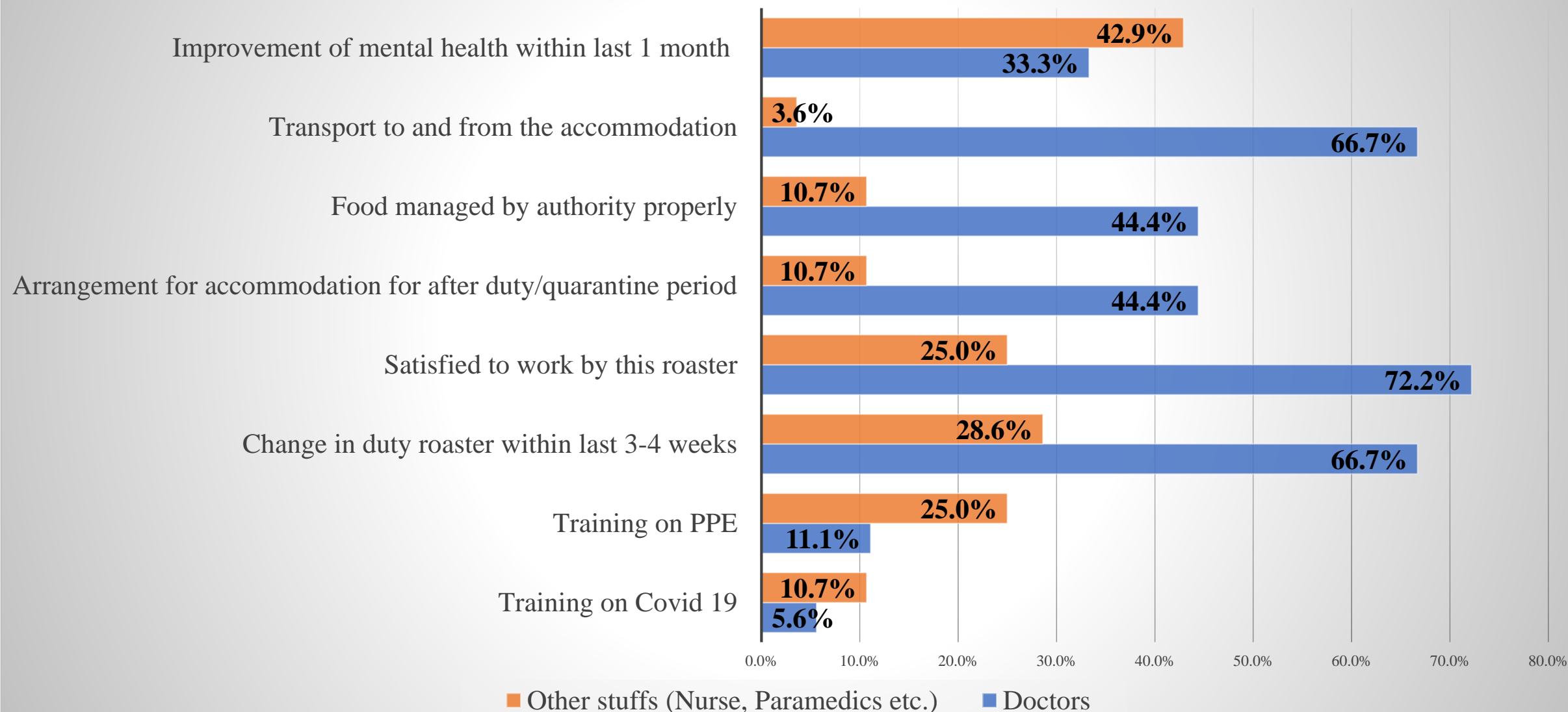
## Received training on management of Covid 19



## Results (cont.)

- Only for 43% respondents, **duty roster was changed, mostly for the doctors** (above 60%); **post-graduate doctors (80%) were more satisfied** with this change but not the other categories.
- Accommodation at or near workplace was **arranged for only around 24% respondents; less than 50% of the doctors** received accommodation in this way.
- **Transport and Food** was managed by the authority for **28% and 24% respondents respectively; mostly for doctors** (67% and 44% respectively).

# Comparison between the doctors and other FLWs



Data represents status from 14<sup>th</sup> April 2020 to 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020

# Implications:

- Compared to the earlier survey in April 2020, **there has been some improvement in the supply of PPEs, especially among paramedics**. However, the situation **didn't improve much regarding the quality of the PPE** supplied and training on its proper use, according to the FLWs.
- There has been **some improvement in arrangement of accommodation, food and transport for the doctors**, but not to the extent necessary and not for the other FLWs
- More than two months into the epidemic (since identification of the first case, at the time of survey), still there **is insufficient training on COVID-19 and PPE use, especially in case of the nurse/midwives and the paramedics**
- These factors combined **did little to alleviate mental health disturbances of all groups of FLWs** which in itself is going to be a **big public health problem**, now and post-COVID-19

- **Limitation:** The survey was conducted on a purposive sample of FLWs but from quite a number of different areas; though not generalizable, we think that it may be helpful for decision making by the policy makers.
- **Conclusion:** The issues raised in the study such as quantity and quality of PPEs supplied, trainings, measures to ease mental health of the FLWs etc. **needs urgent attention from the decision-makers** in order to have a grip on the current situation until it is too late.

# Thank you for your time and patience!