

Survey Findings on the Impact of COVID-19 on Africa's Higher Education System



MAWAZO INSTITUTE
WOMEN LEADING RESEARCH IN AFRICA

Introduction

This document presents the full findings from a survey of 501 individuals on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their learning and ongoing research.

The survey was carried out by the Mawazo Institute, a non-profit research institute based in Nairobi, Kenya whose mission is to support the next generation of female thought leaders and scholars in Africa, and to get policymakers and the public engaged with their research. It was administered on Google forms, and was distributed to students, academics, researchers, and other actors within the higher education and research sector in sub-Saharan Africa and beyond via Mawazo's digital platforms.

As a non-profit research institute working with early career researchers, Mawazo seeks to better understand where disruptions in our field are taking place, and how best to prepare higher education actors to respond to emerging needs.

A report summarizing key insights from the survey is available on the Mawazo website under [Our Publications](#).

Questions

Q1. Are you currently a student (undergraduate and above), researcher, or an individual affiliated with a higher education institution or research organization in Africa?

- Yes
- No

Q2. Where are you based?

- East Africa
- West Africa
- Southern Africa
- Central Africa
- North Africa
- Outside Africa

Q3. If you are a student or a member of the teaching staff at a higher education institution (colleges, universities, vocational training, etc.), have your classes been affected by COVID-19? This includes school closures, smaller classrooms, suspension or cancellation of classroom learning, or a shift to e-learning.

- Yes
- No

Questions

Q4. If you are a student or a member of the teaching staff at a higher education institution (colleges, universities, vocational training, etc.), is your institution offering e-learning options in response to the COVID-19 crisis?

- Yes
- No

Q5. If you are currently in the process of conducting a research project, does your research involve lab work?

- Yes
- No

Q6. If you are currently in the process of conducting a research project, does your research involve field work?

- Yes
- No

Questions

Q7. If you are currently in the process of conducting a research project, have you had to suspend field or lab activities as a result of directives related to COVID-19?

- Yes
- No

Q8. What is your gender?

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say
- Other [short answer]

Questions

Q9. What is your age?

- 19 and Under, 20 – 29 years old
- 30 – 39 years old
- 40 – 49 years old
- 50 – 59 years old
- 60 – 69 years old
- 70 and Over

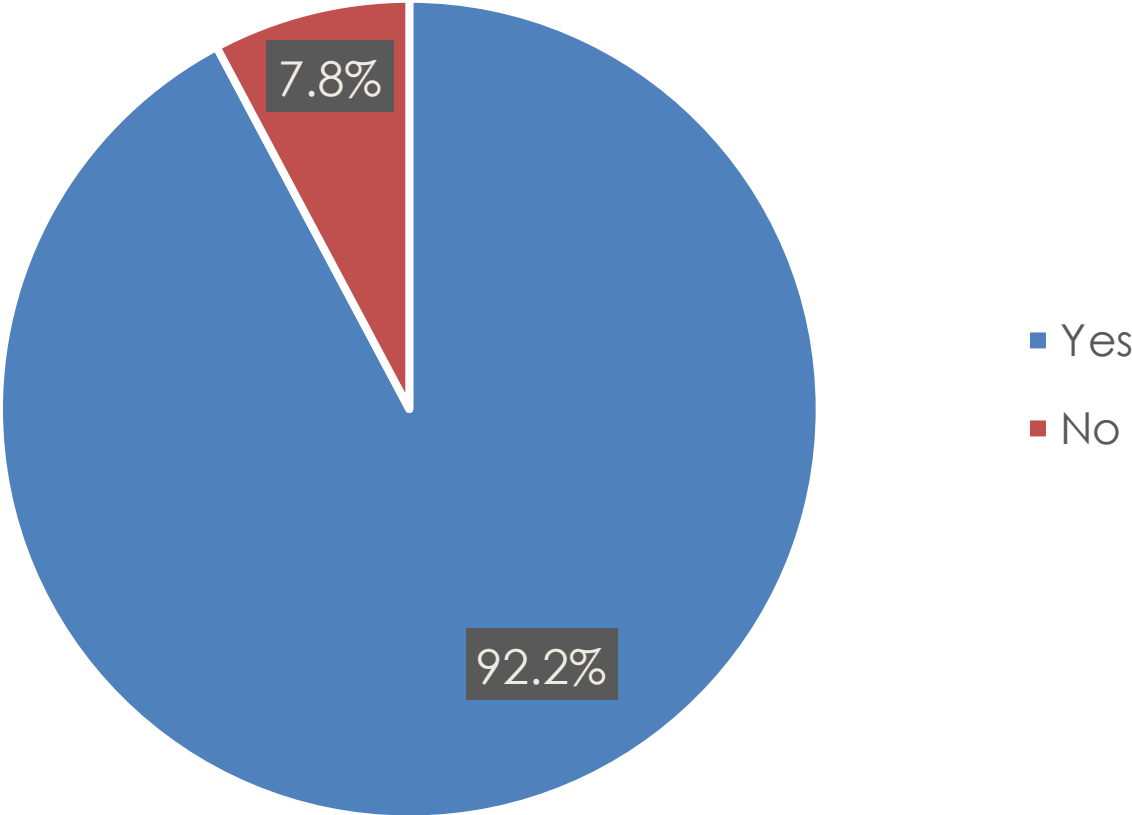
Q10. Anything else you would like to share with us about how the COVID-19 crisis has impacted you?

- [Short Answer]

Data Overview

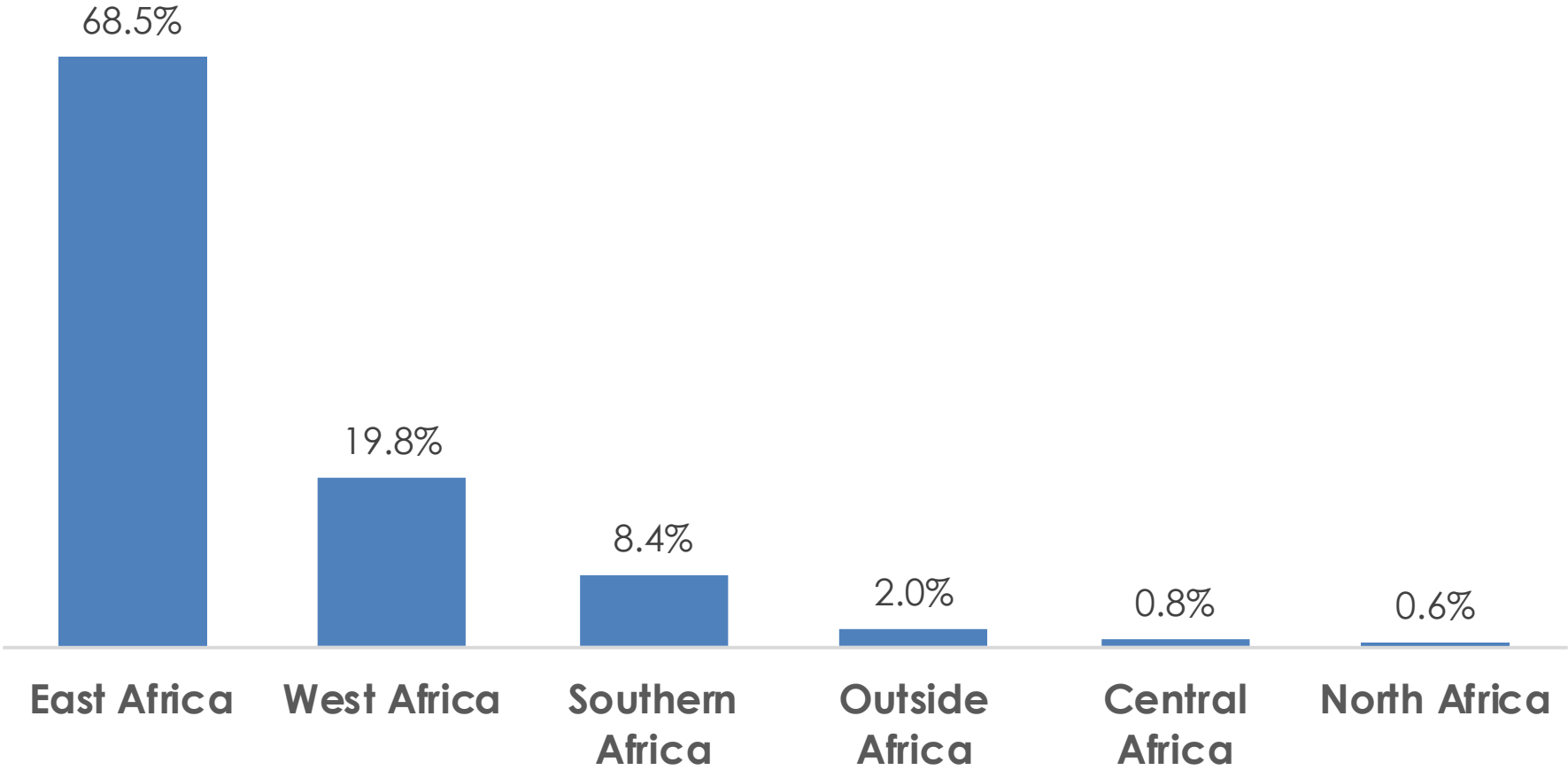
Overview: Affiliation

Students, Researchers, or Individuals Affiliated with Higher-Education and Research Institutions in Africa



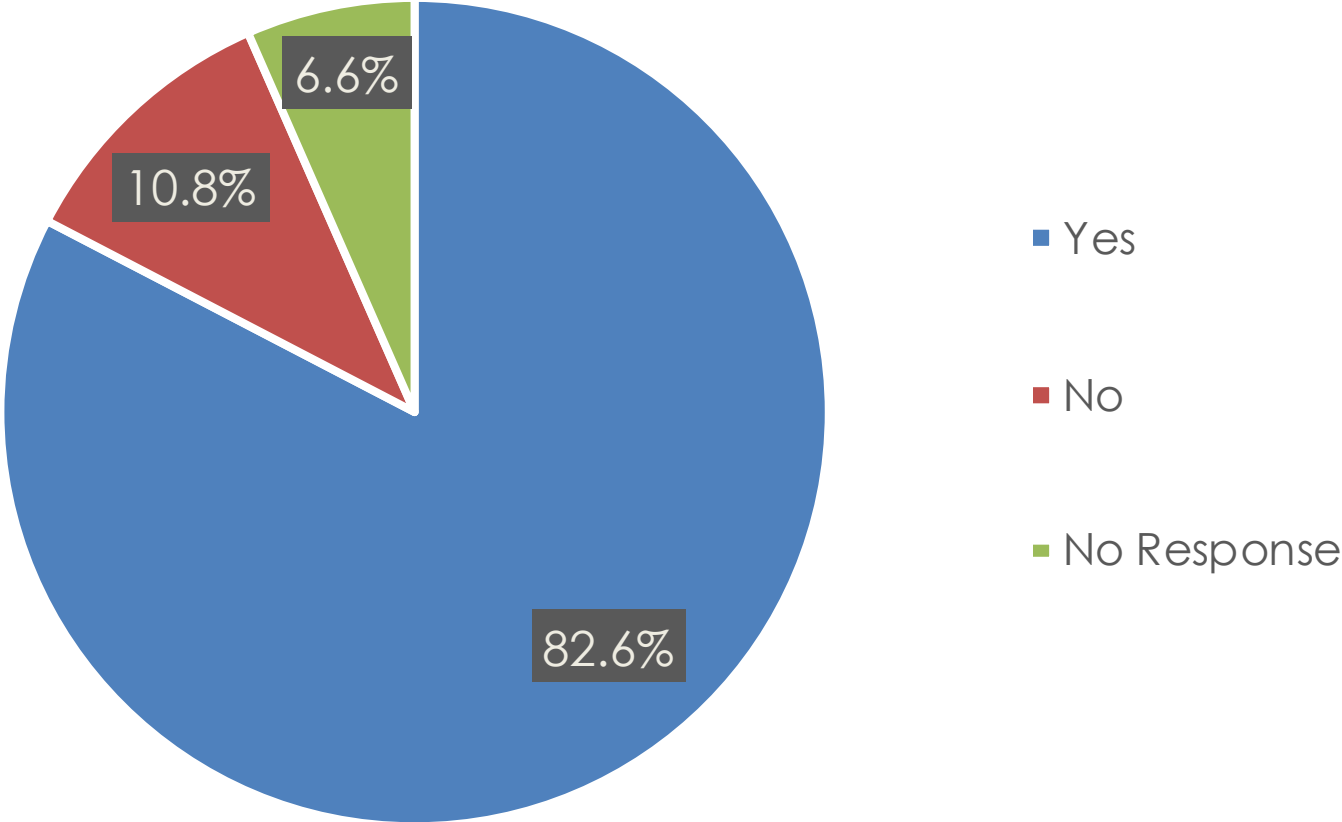
Overview: Region

Region



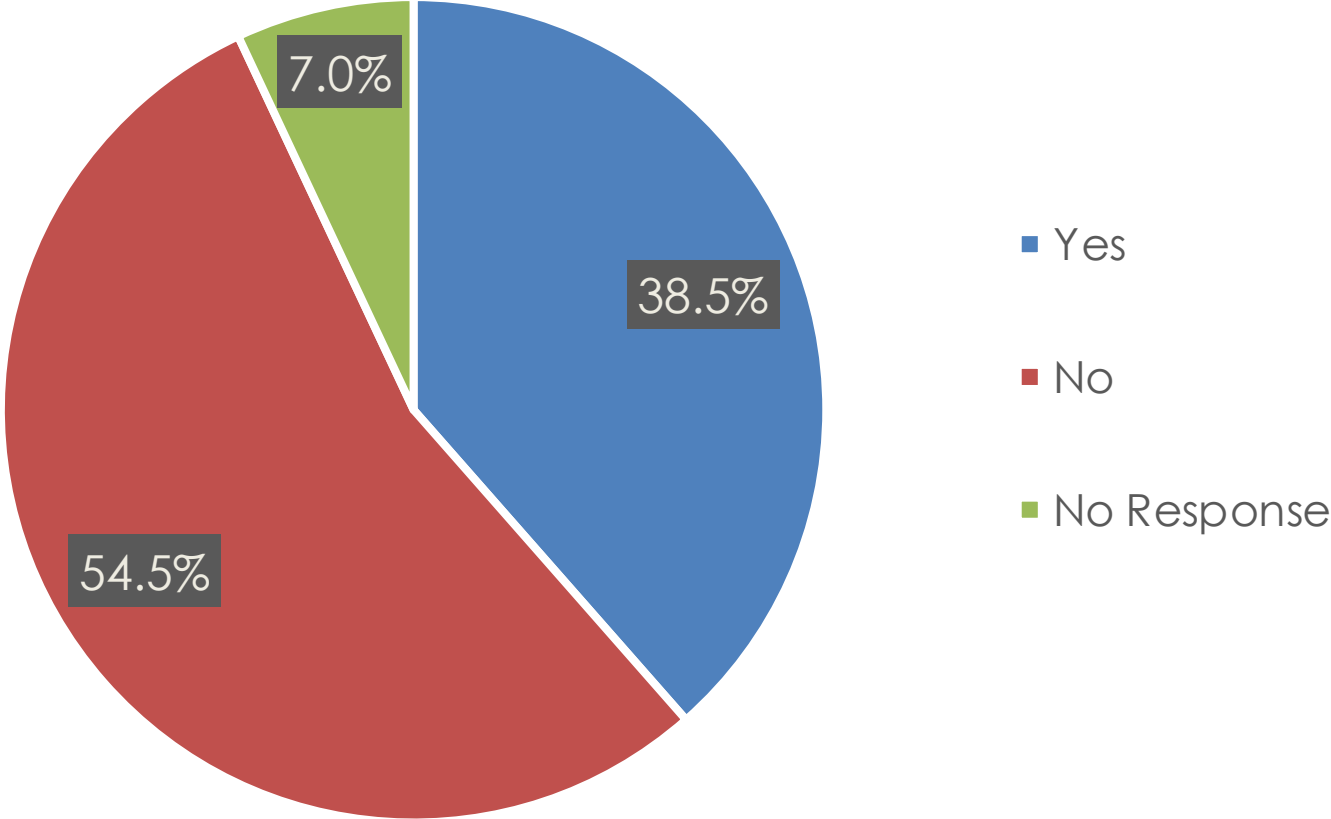
Overview: Academic Interruptions

Experiencing Course or Class Interruptions



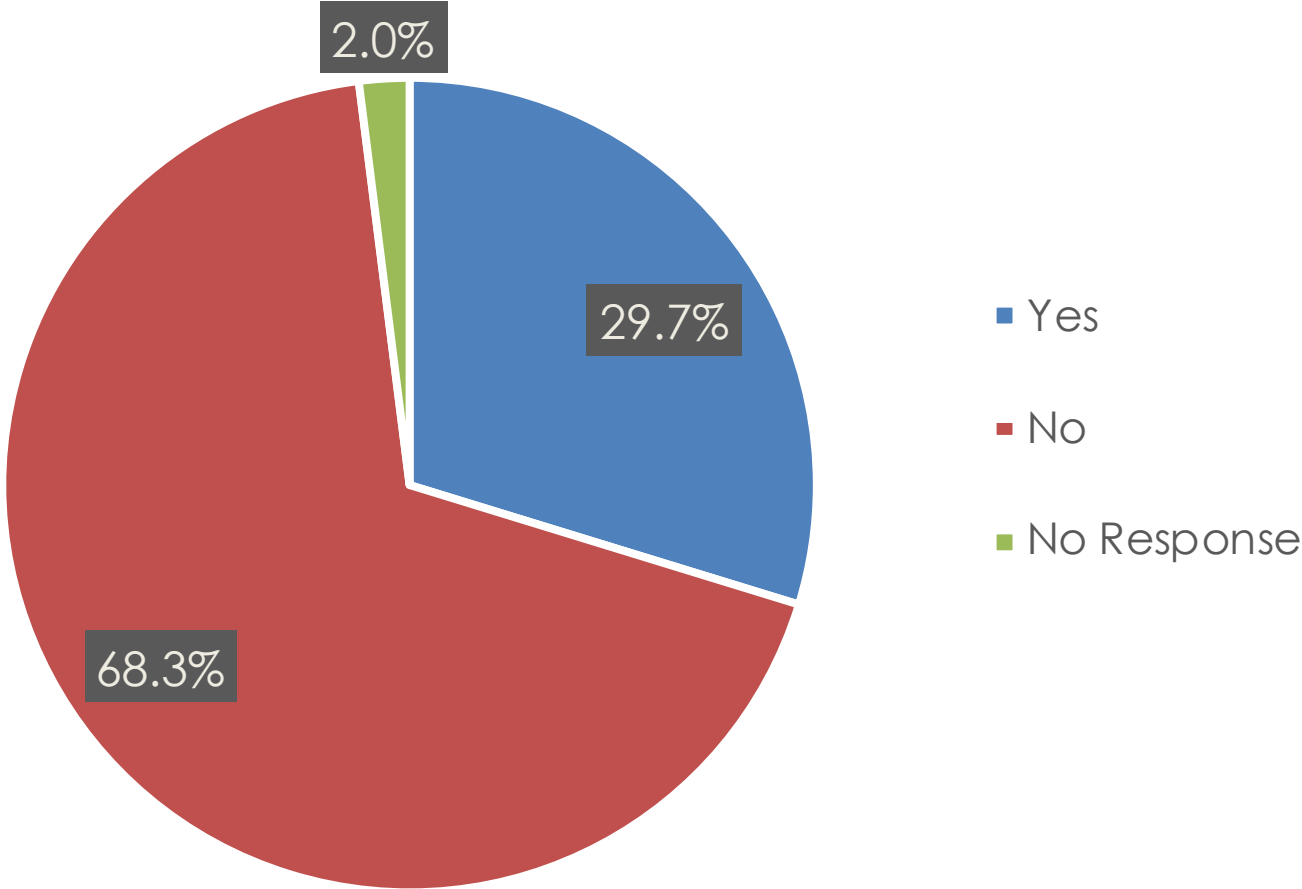
Overview: E-Learning

At Institutions Offering E-learning



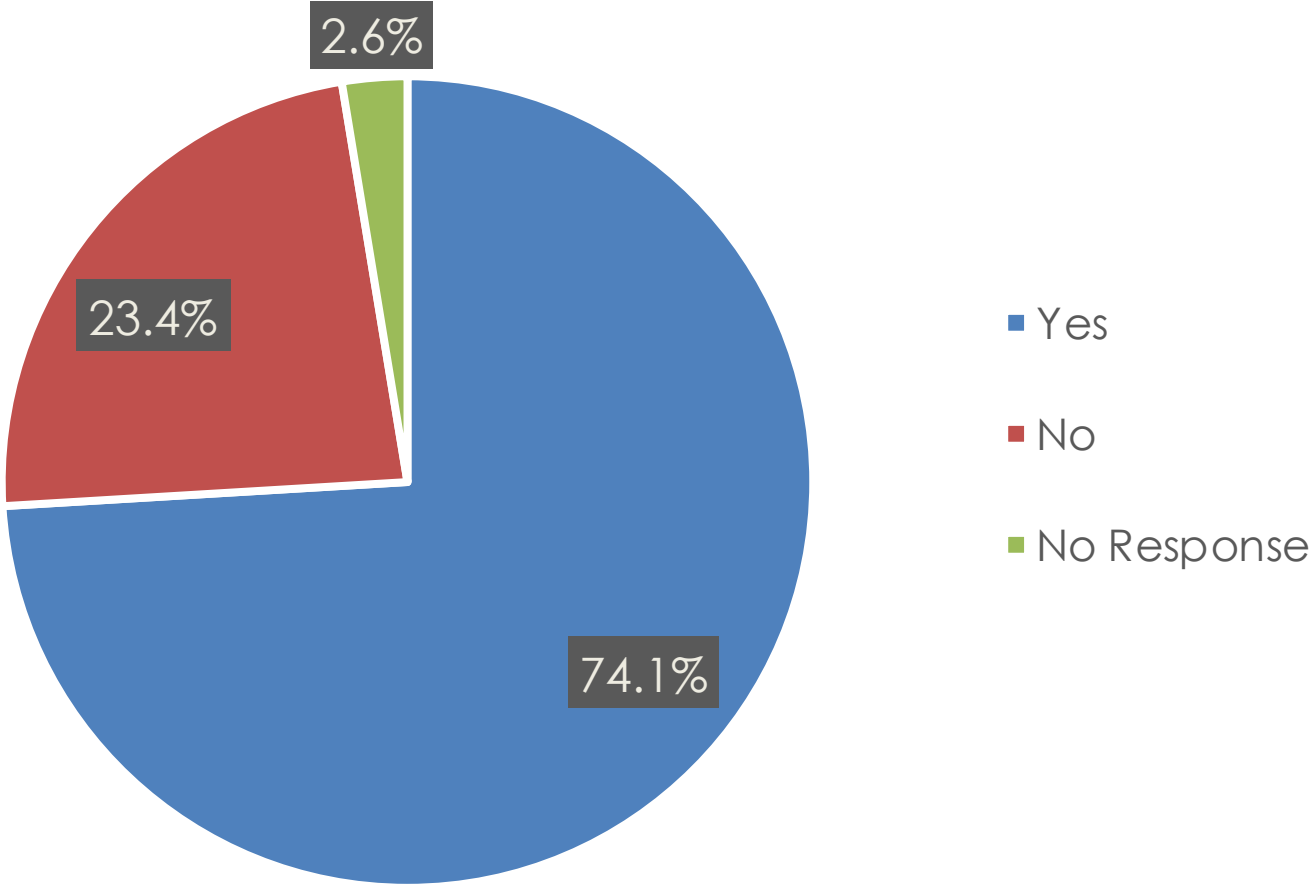
Overview: Lab Research

Involvement in Lab Research



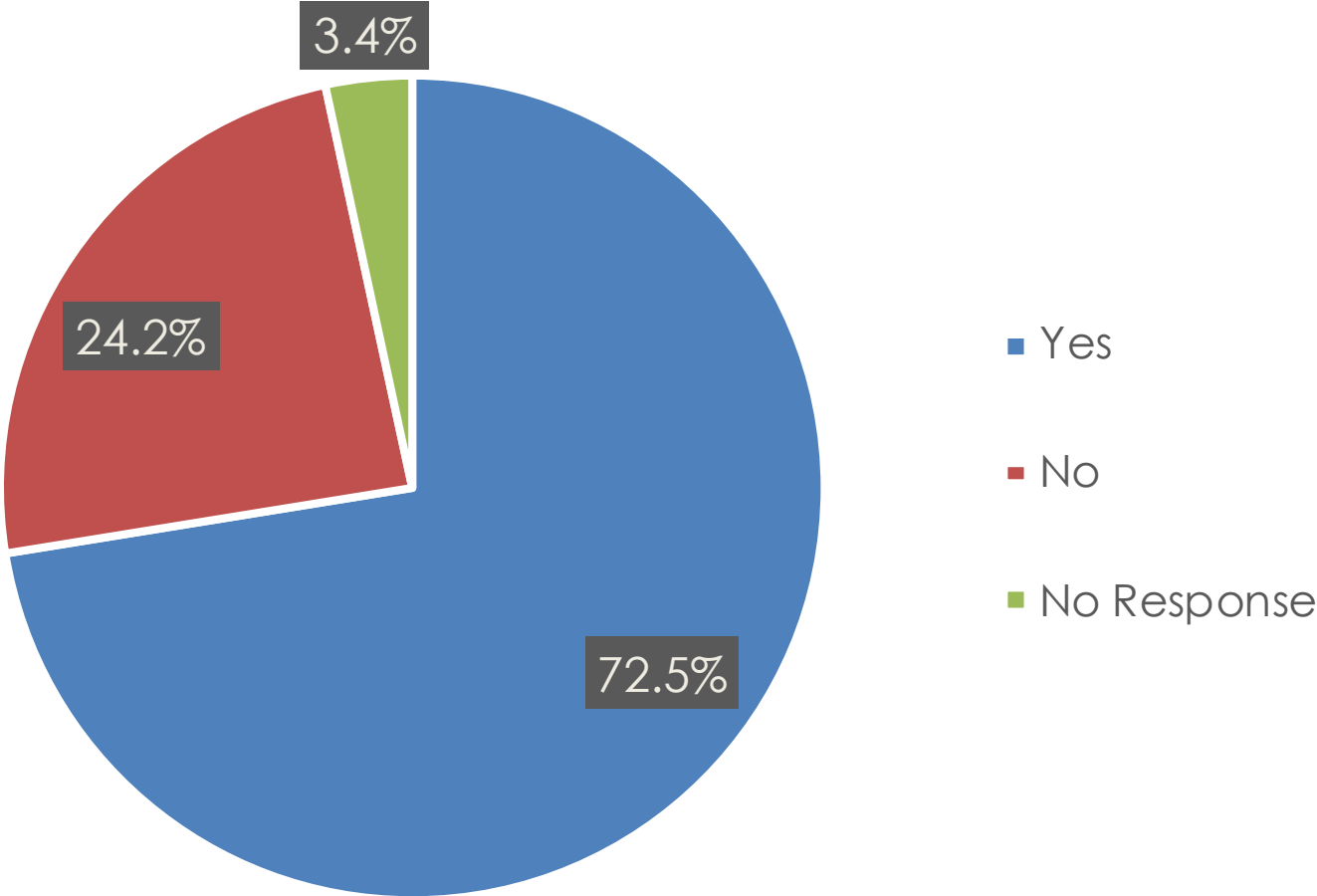
Overview: Field Research

Involvement in Field Research

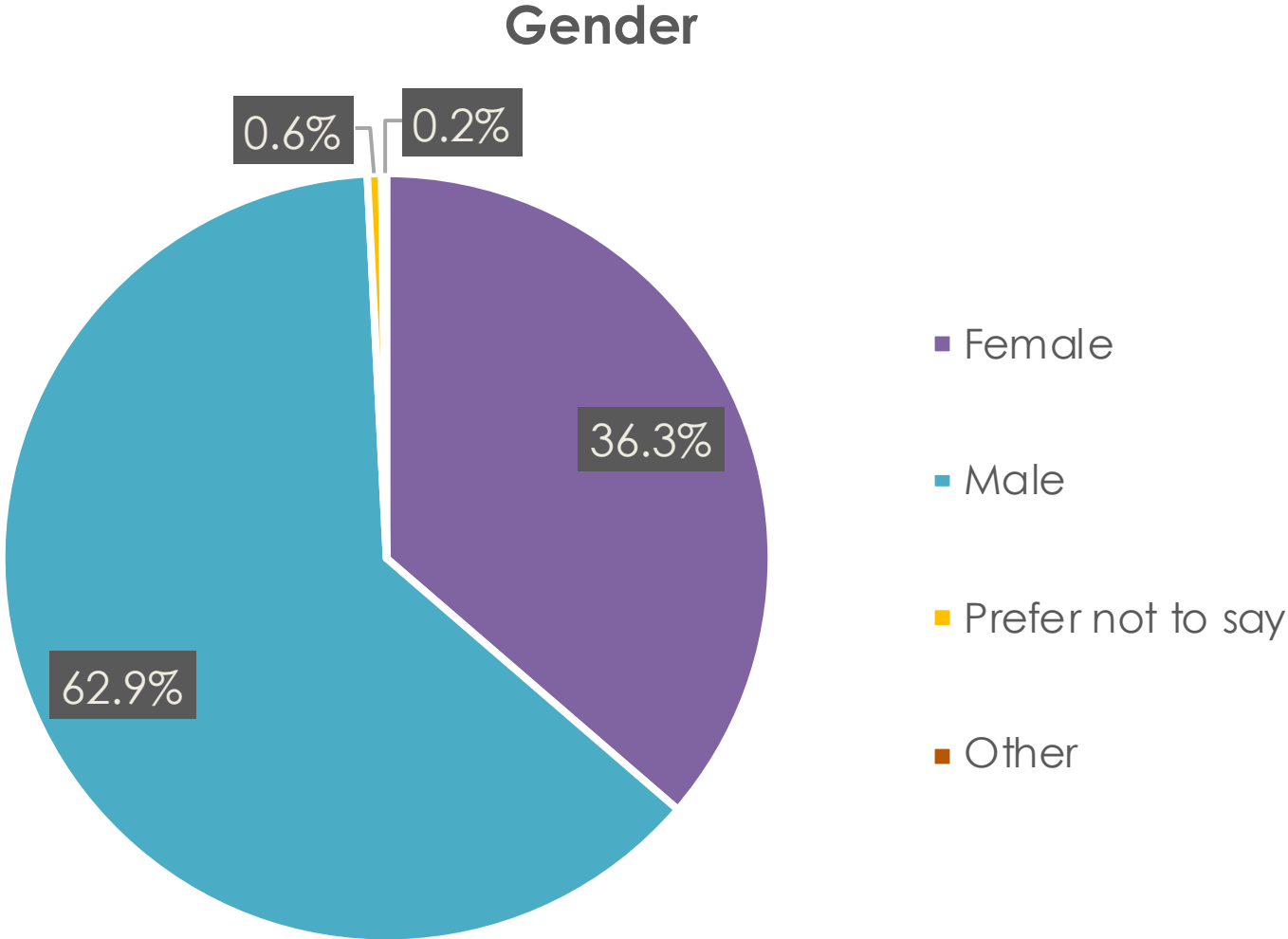


Overview: Research Activities Suspended

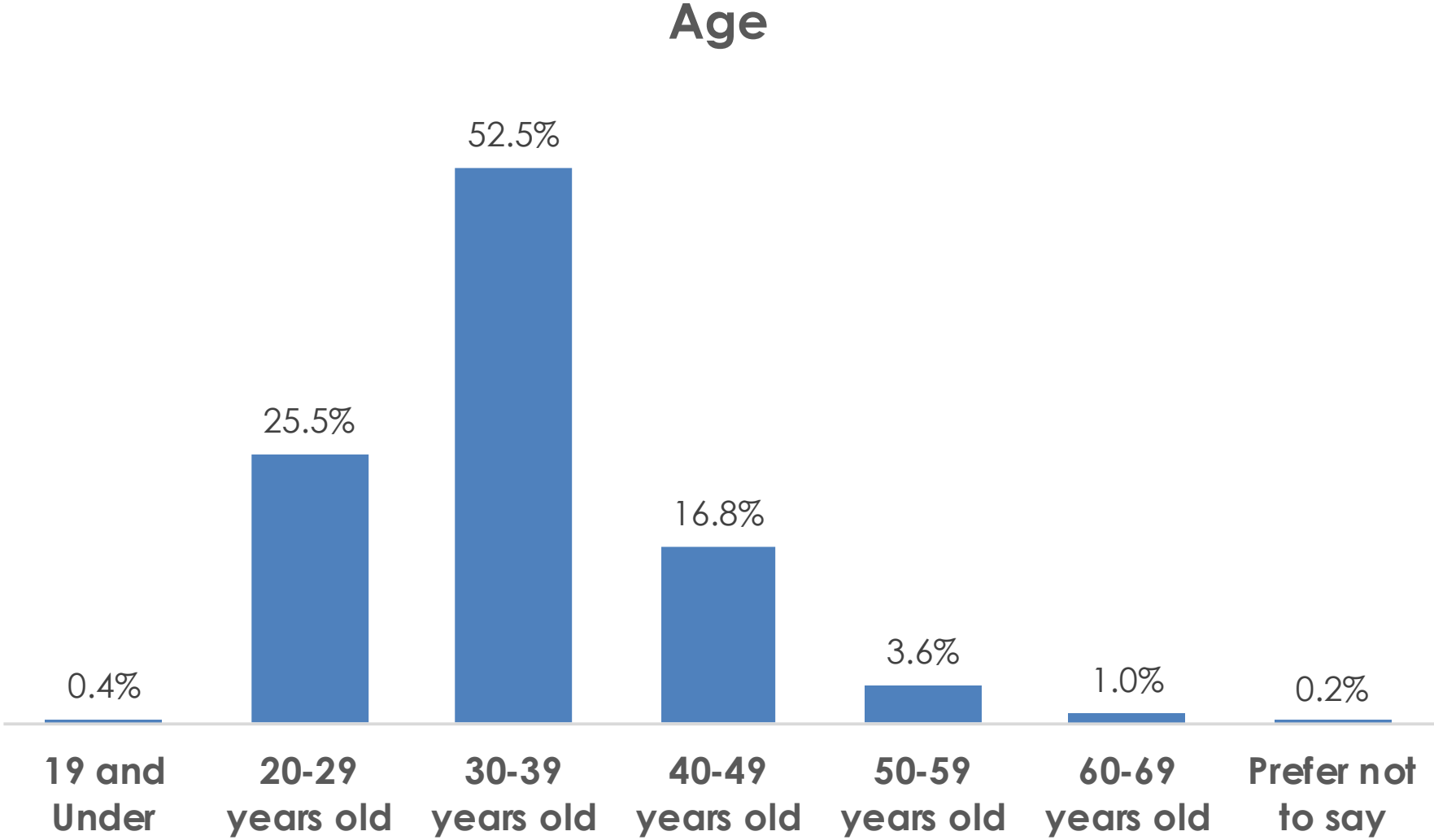
Lab or Field Research Suspended



Overview: Gender



Overview: Age



COVID-19 Impacts by Region

Regional Distribution

The regional distribution of our respondents was as follows:

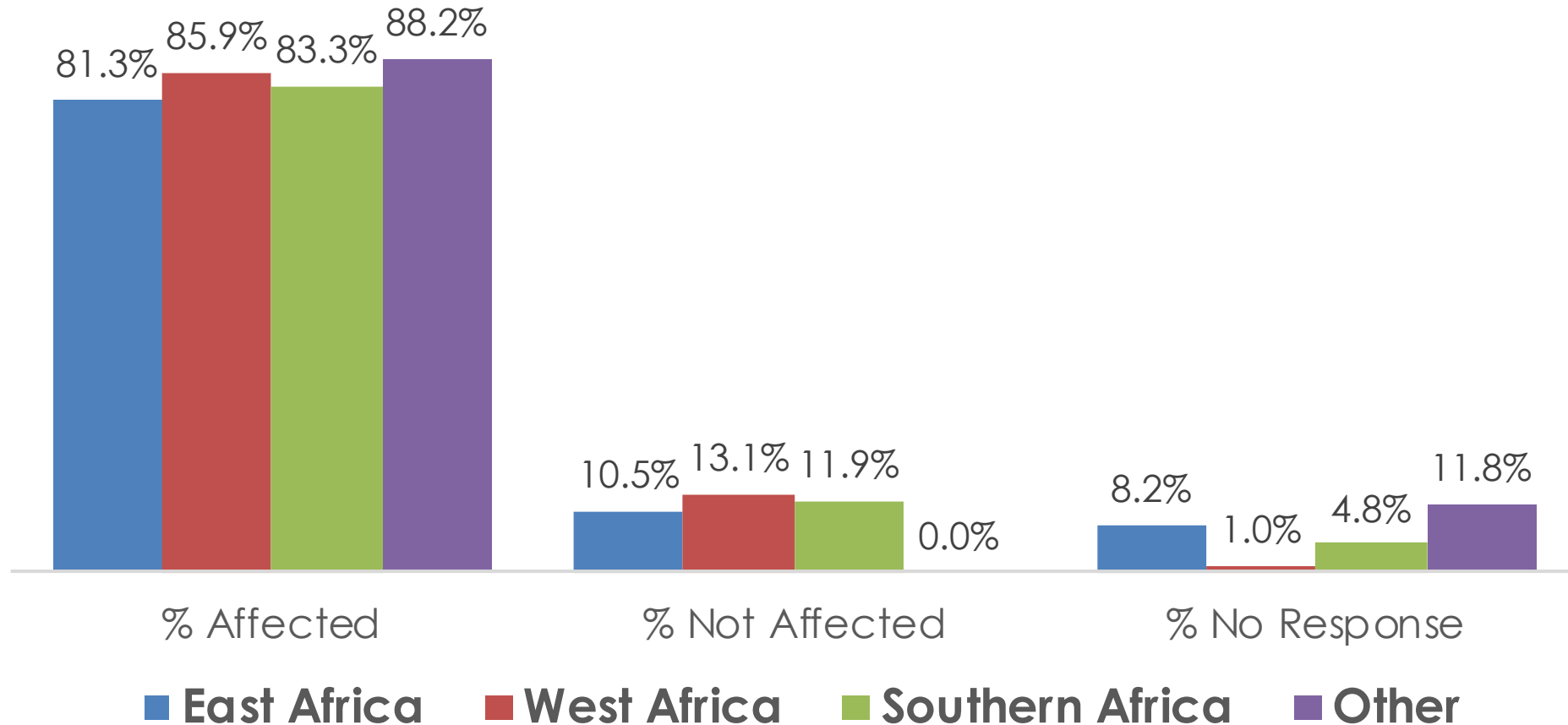
- **East Africa** (343 respondents)
- **West Africa** (99 respondents)
- **Southern Africa** (42 respondents)
- **Other** (17 respondents)*

*In this section of the report the label **Other** includes the following response options, which were grouped together due to insufficient data:

- **Outside Africa** (10 respondents)
- **Central Africa** (4 respondents)
- **North Africa** (4 respondents)

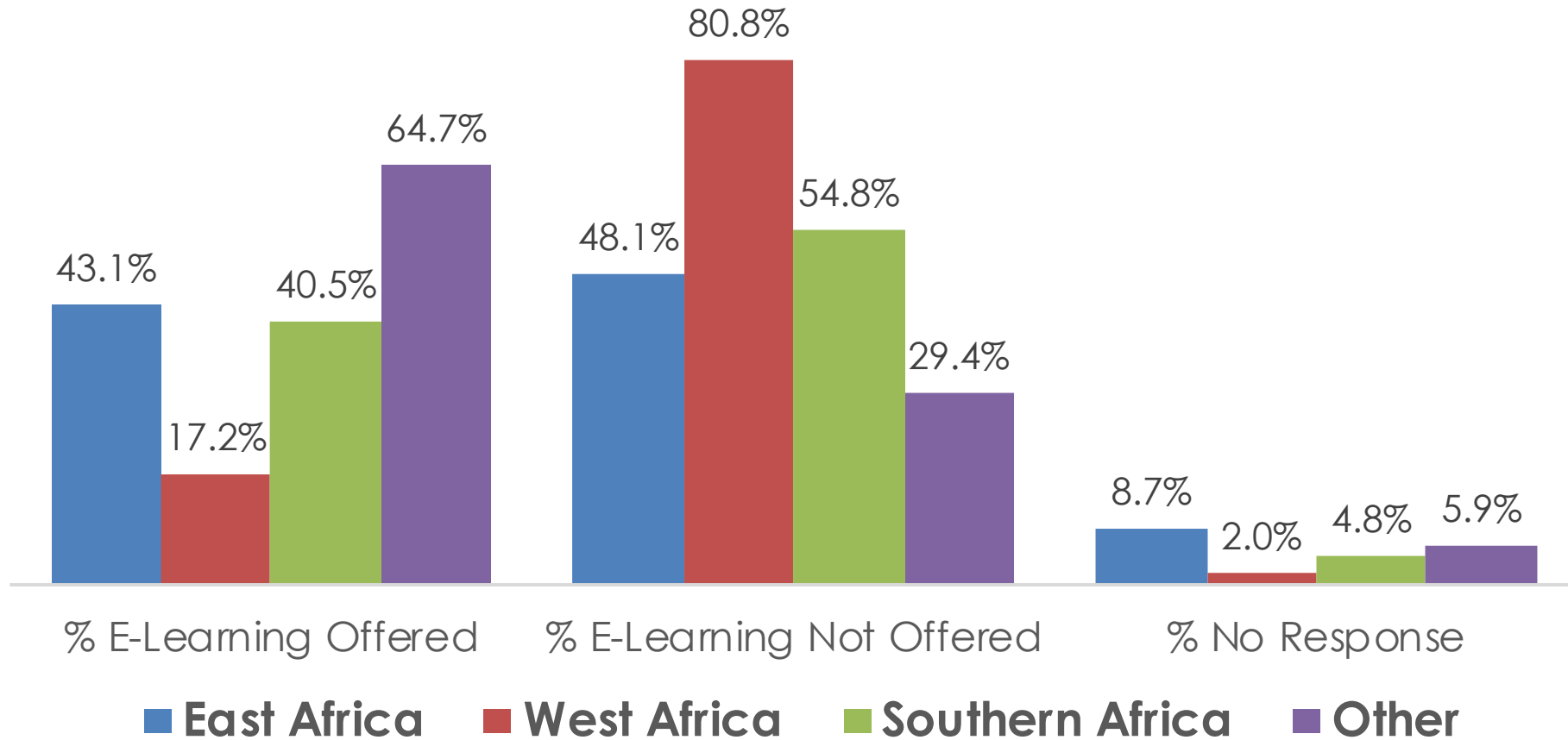
Regional Differences: Academic Interruptions

Experiencing Course or Class Interruptions



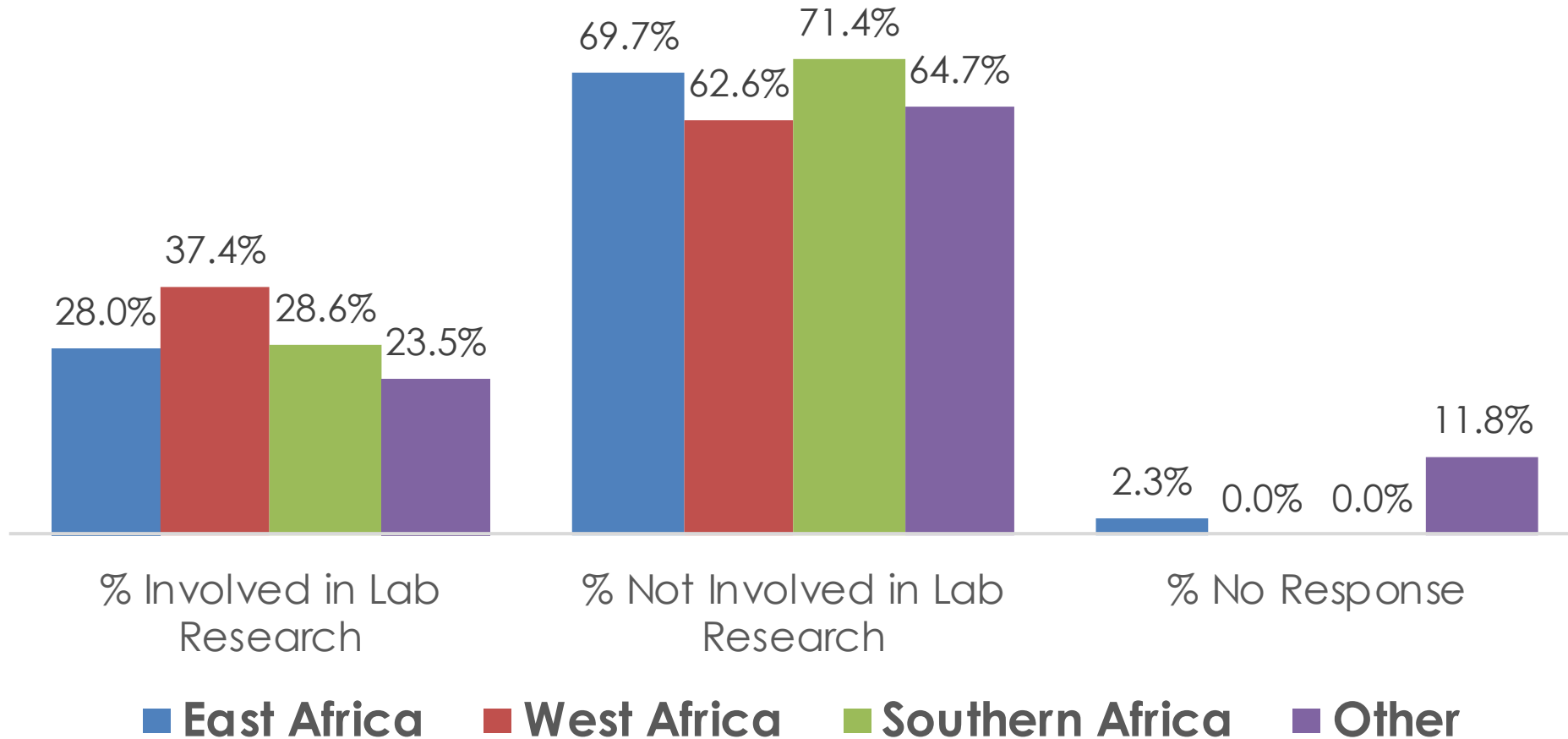
Regional Differences: E-Learning

At Institutions Offering E-Learning



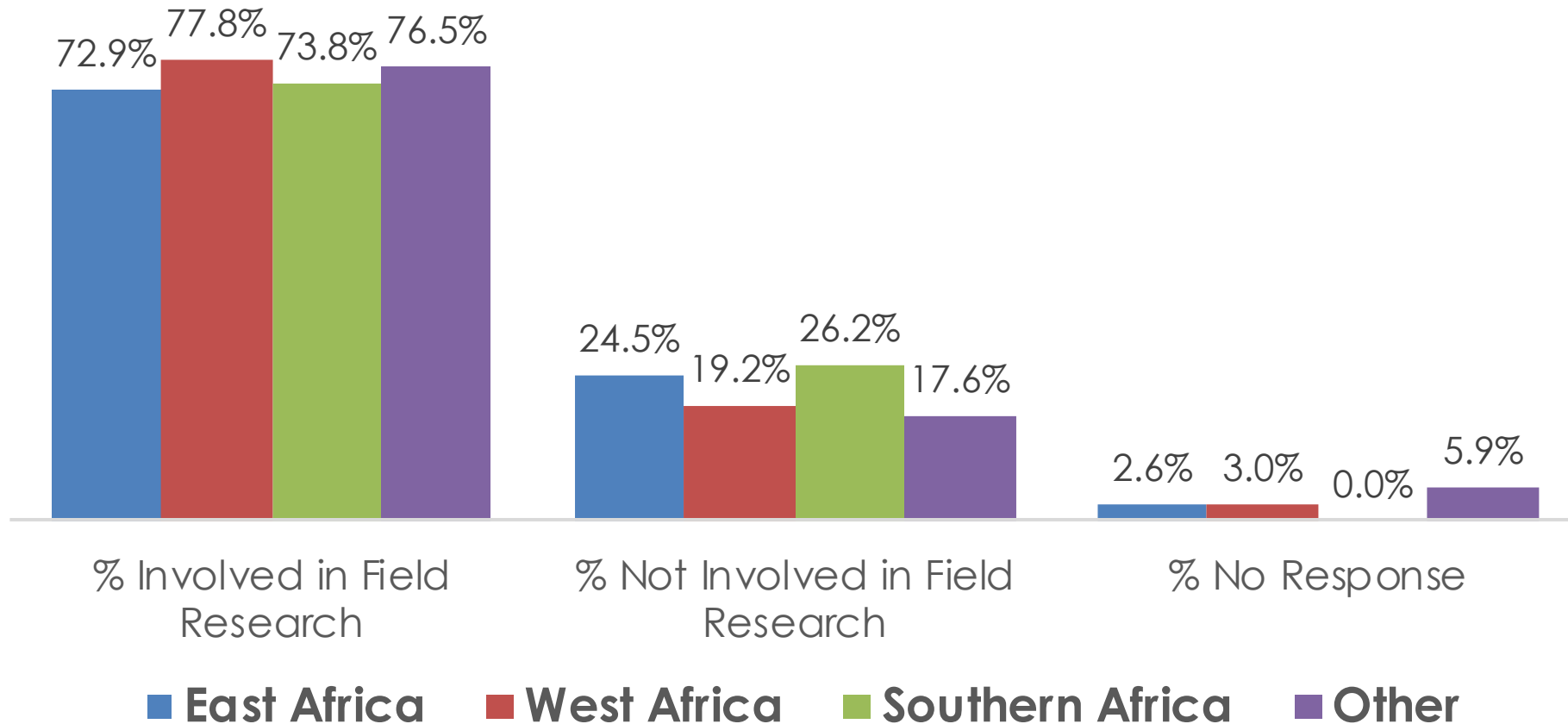
Regional Differences: Lab Research

Involved in Lab Research



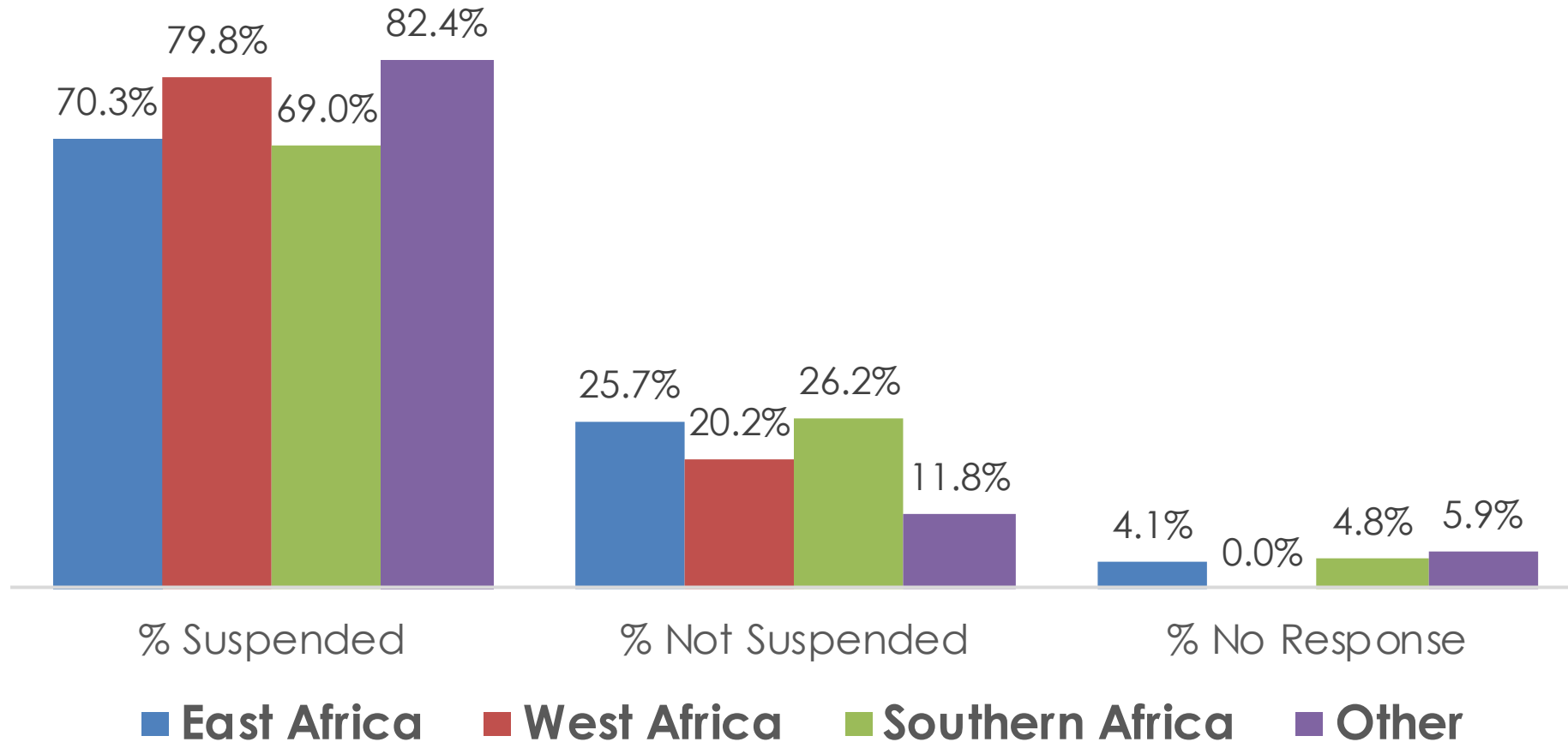
Regional Differences: Field Research

Involved in Field Research



Regional Differences: Research Activities Suspended

Lab or Field Research Suspended



COVID-19 Impacts by Gender

Gender Distribution

The gender distribution of our respondents was as follows:

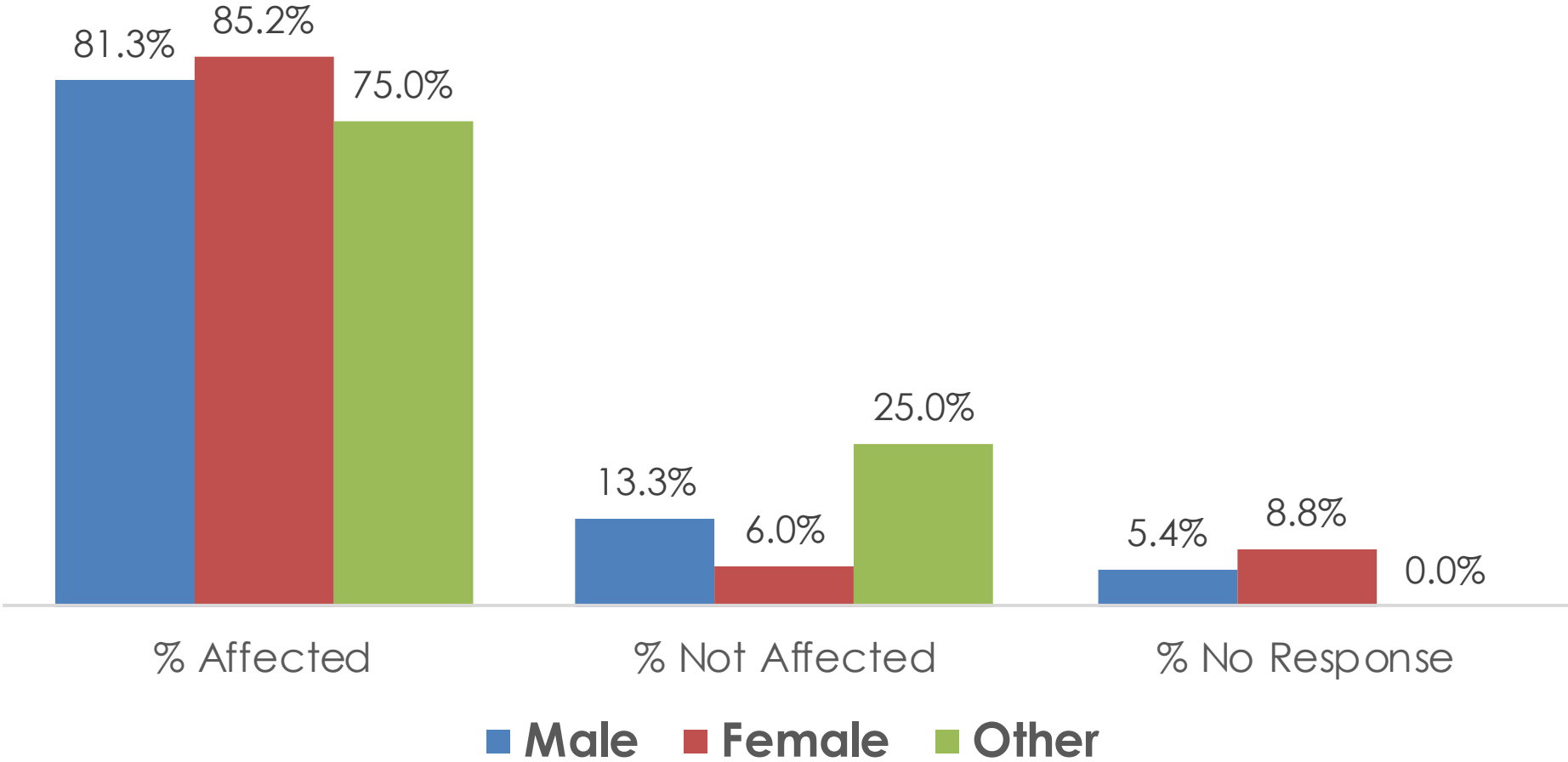
- **Male** (315 respondents)
- **Female** (182 respondents)
- **Other** (4 respondents)*

*In this section of the report the label **Other** includes the following response options, which were grouped together due to insufficient data:

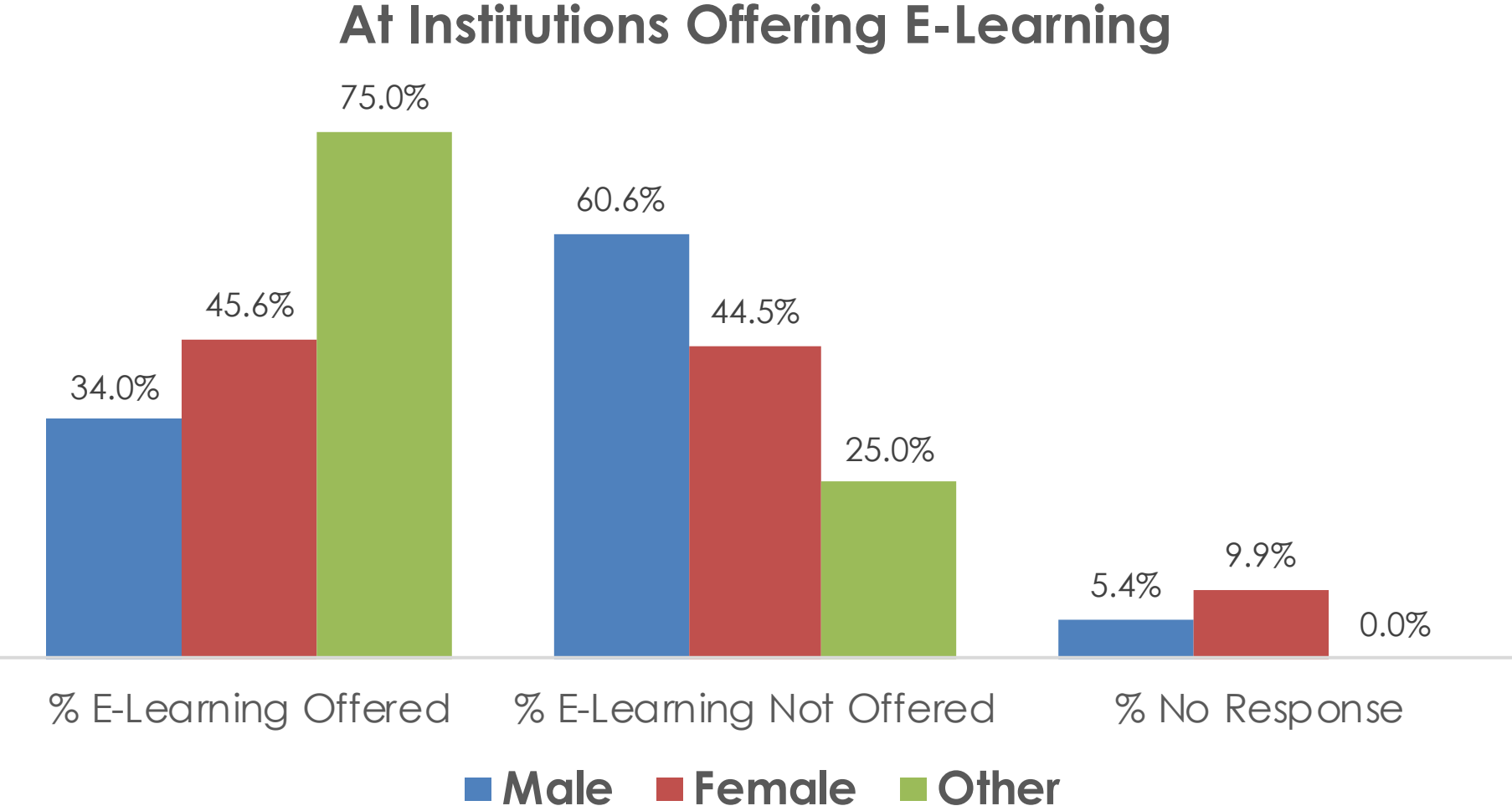
- **Prefer not to say** (2 respondents)
- **Other [short answer]**(1 respondent)

Gender Differences: Academic Interruptions

Experiencing Course or Class Interruptions

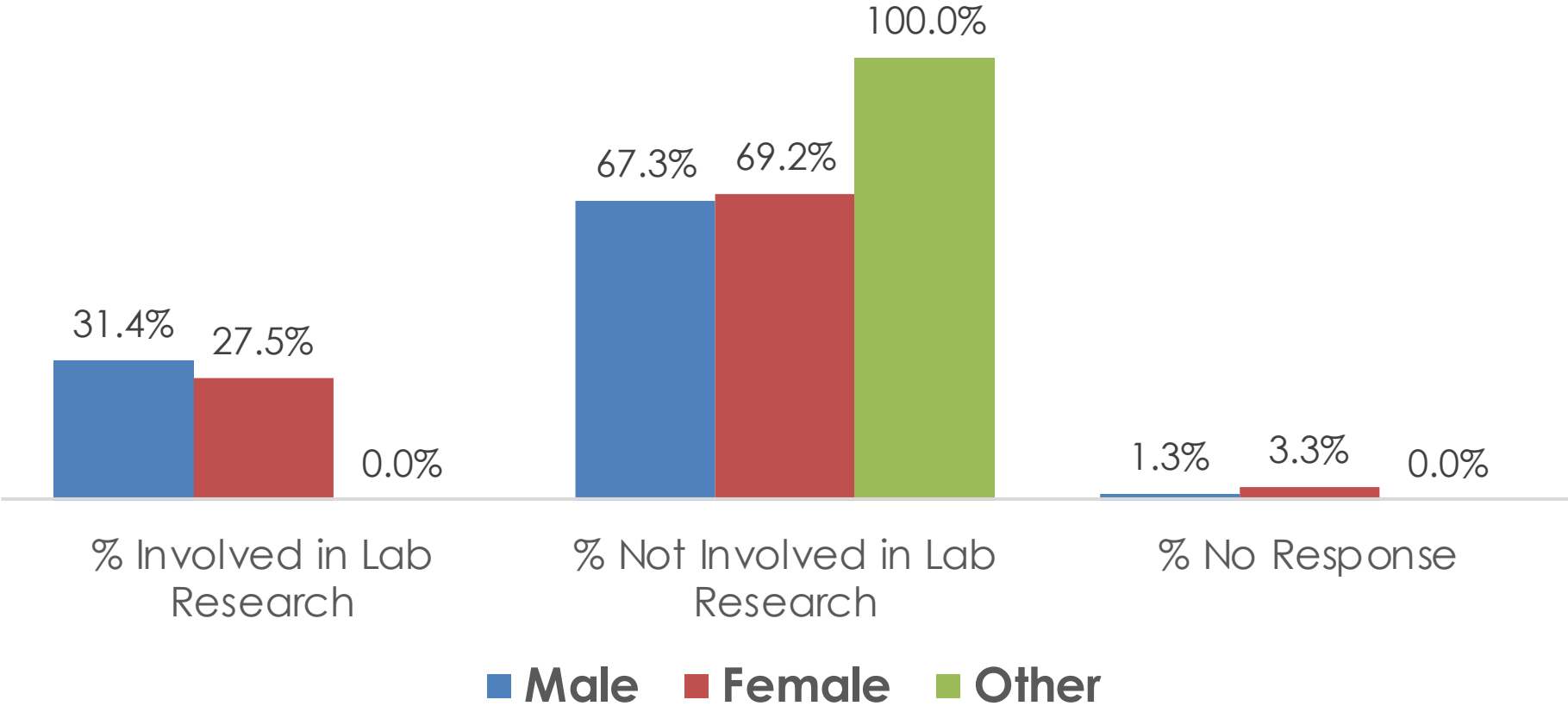


Gender Differences: E-Learning



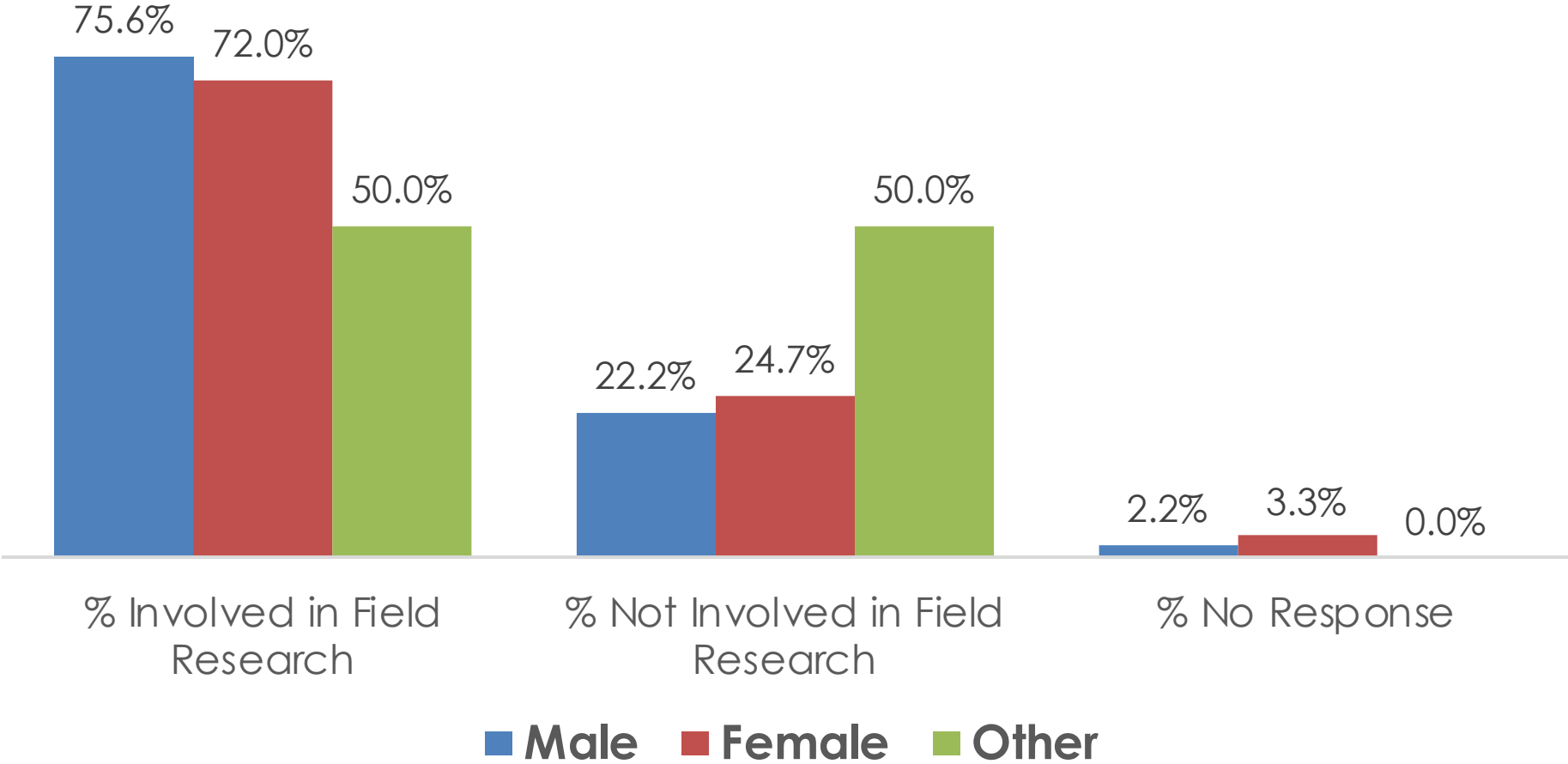
Gender Differences: Lab Research

Involved in Lab Research



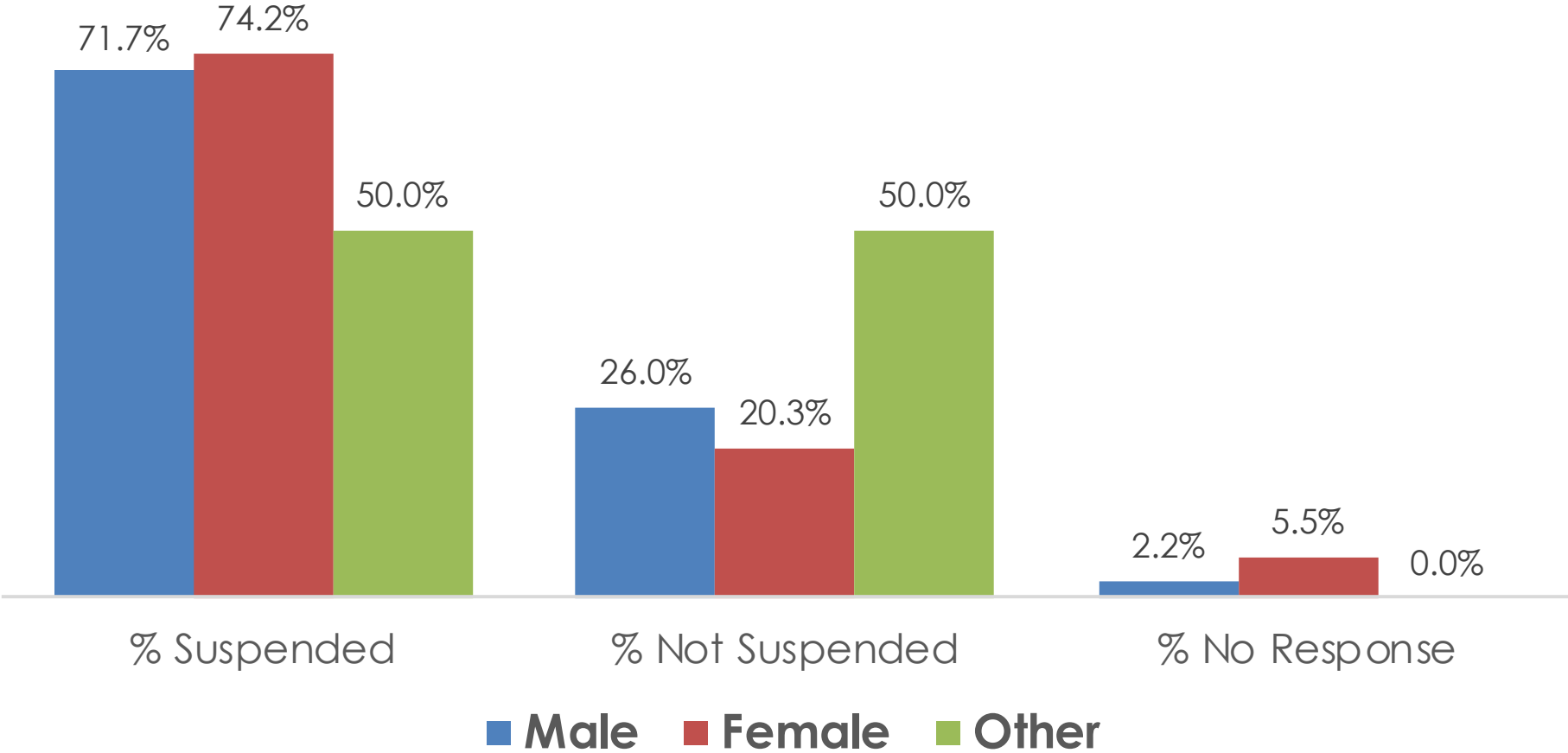
Gender Differences: Field Research

Involved in Field Research



Gender Differences: Research Activities Suspended

Lab or Field Research Suspended



COVID-19 Impacts by Age

Age Distribution

The gender distribution of our respondents was as follows:

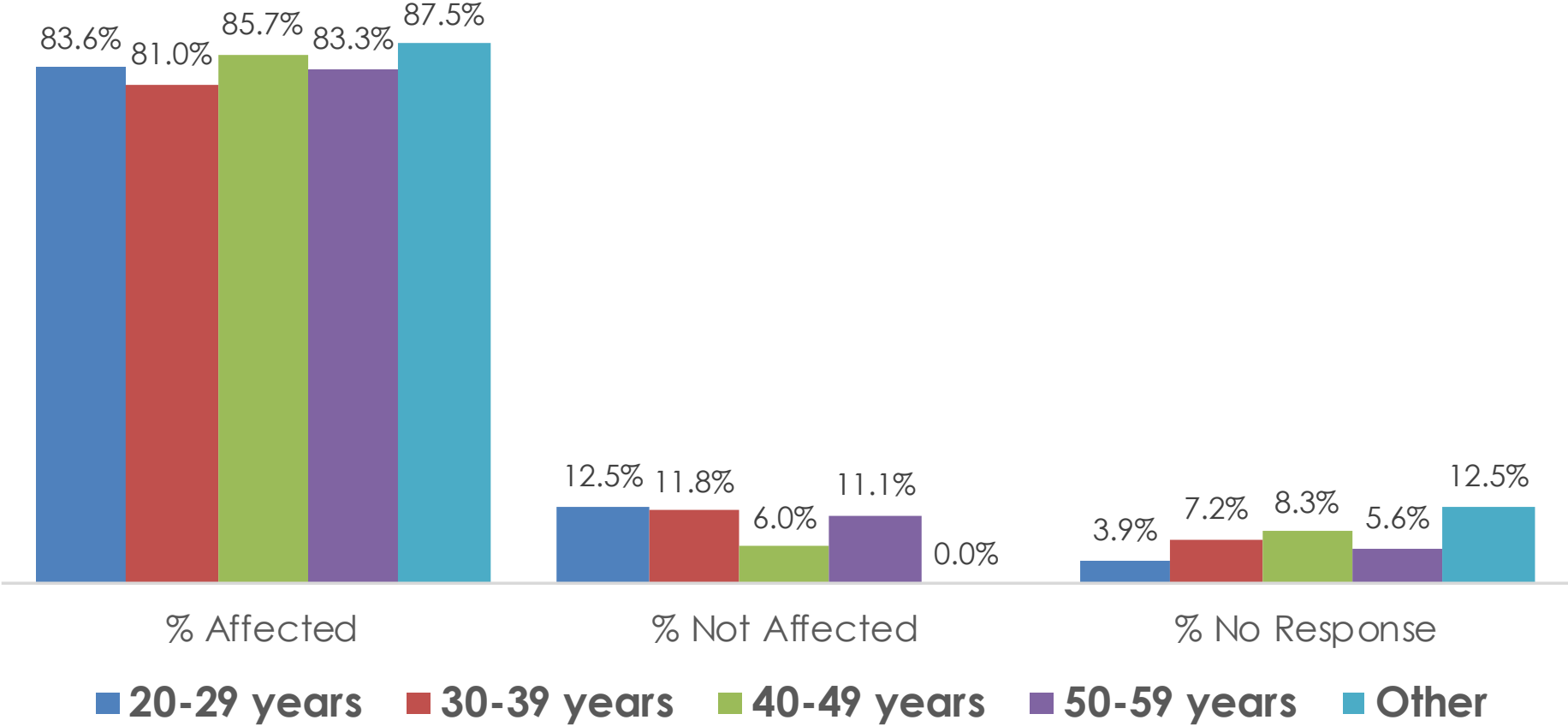
- **20-29 years** (128 respondents)
- **30-39 years** (263 respondents)
- **40-49 years** (84 respondents)
- **50-59 years** (18 respondents)
- **Other** (8 Respondents)*

*In this section of the report the label **Other** includes the following response options, which were grouped together due to insufficient data:

- **19 and Under** (2 respondents)
- **60-69 years old** (5 respondents)
- **Prefer not to say** (1 respondent)

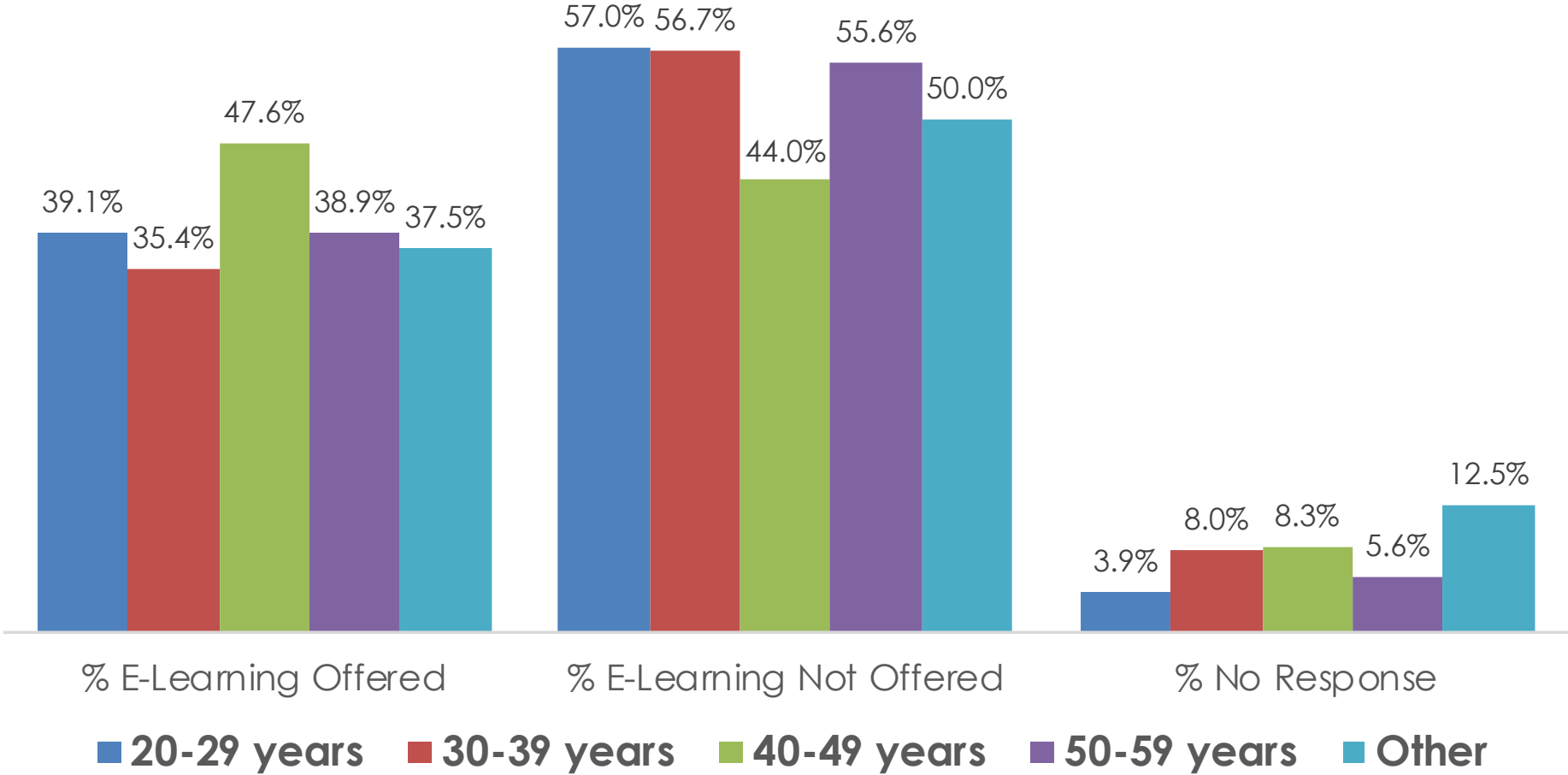
Age Differences: Academic Interruptions

Experiencing Course or Class Interruptions



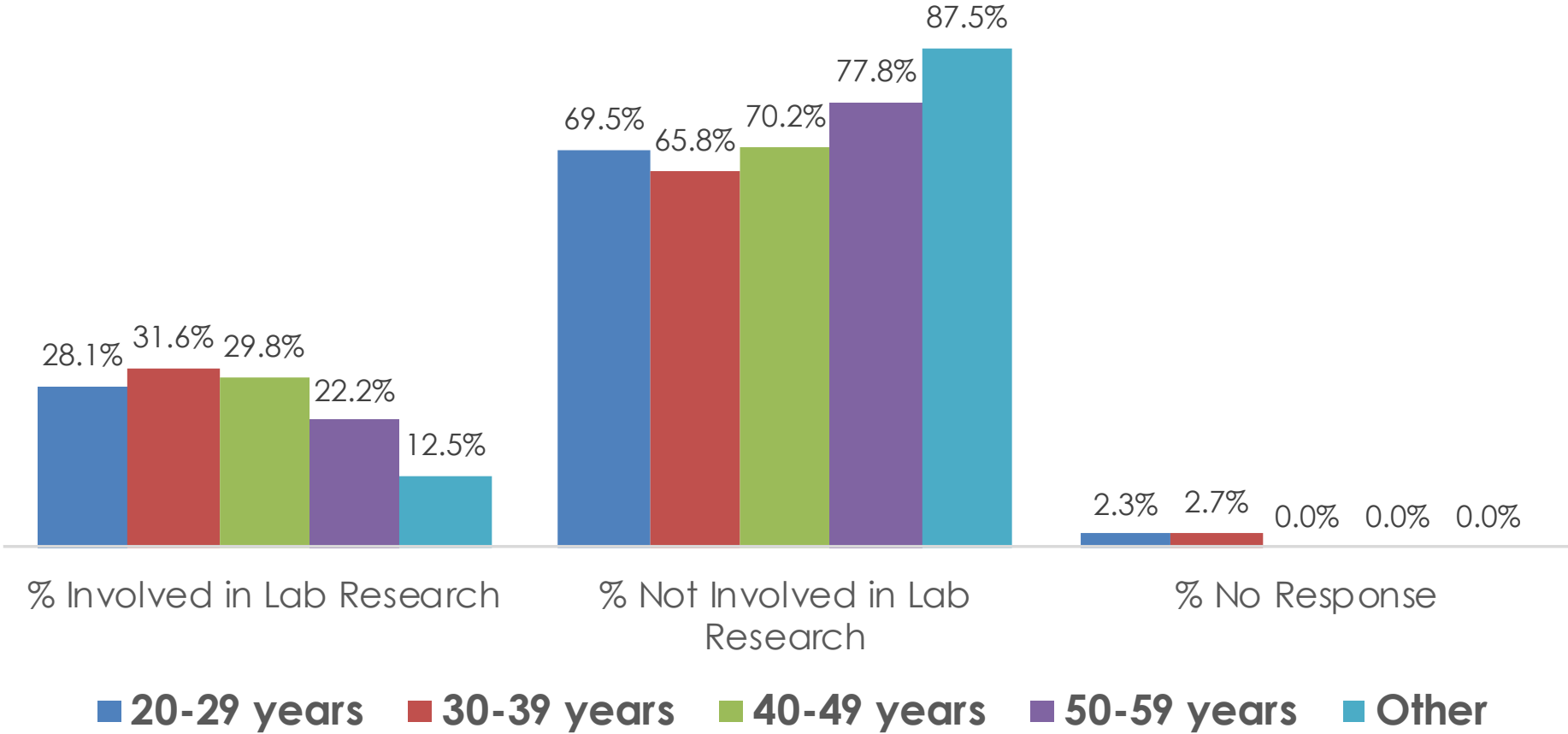
Age Differences: E-Learning

At Institutions Offering E-Learning



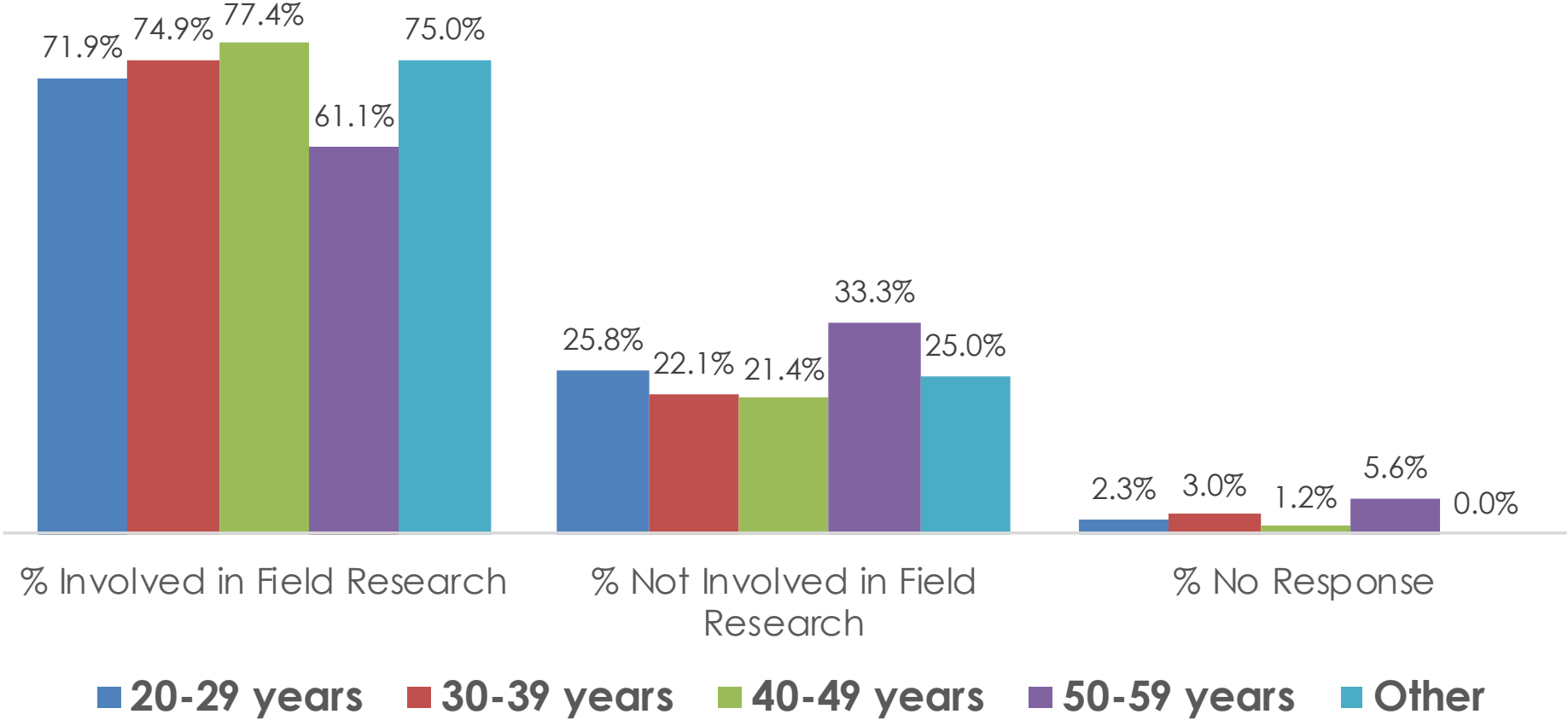
Age Differences: Lab Research

Involved in Lab Research



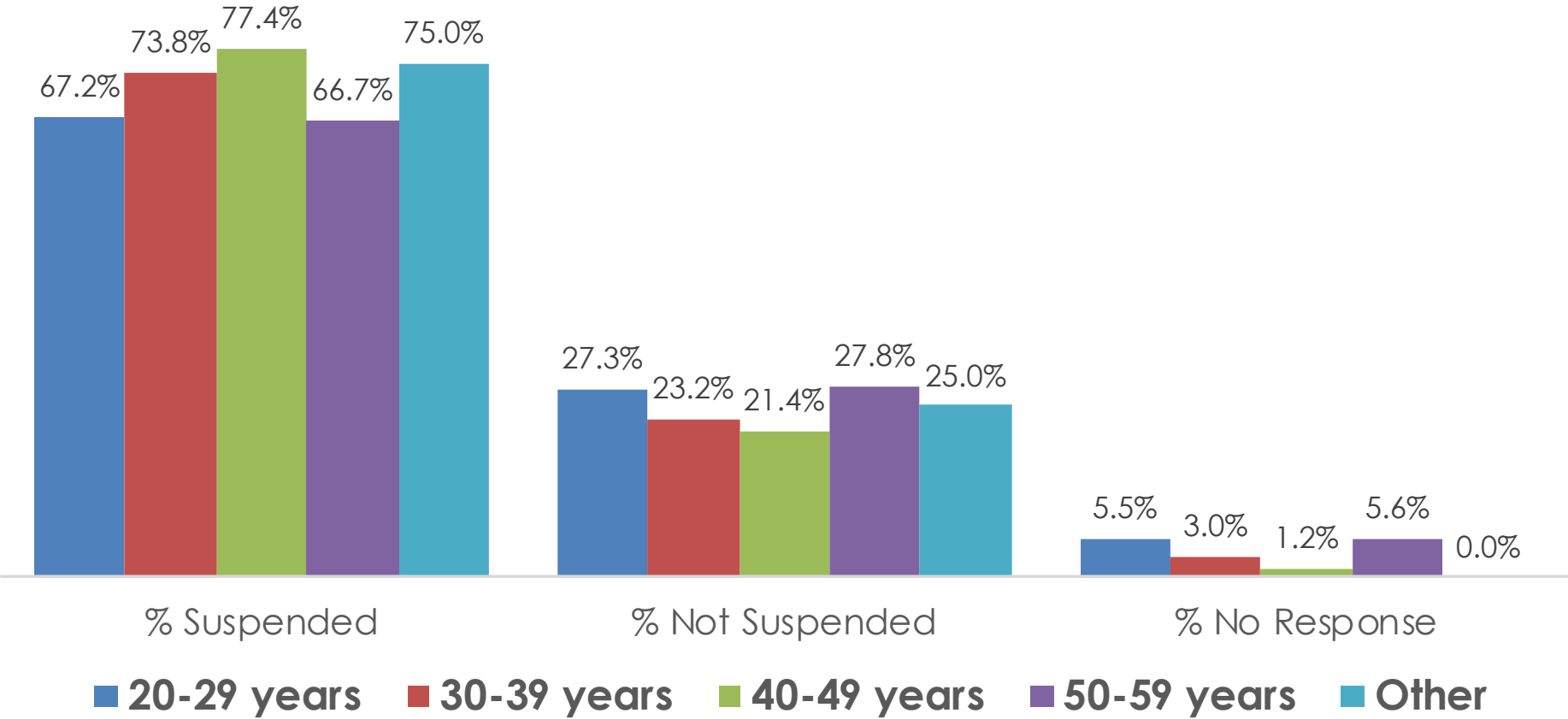
Age Differences: Field Research

Involved in Field Research



Age Differences: Research Activities Suspended

Lab or Field Research Suspended



COVID-19 Impacts by Age and Gender

Age and Gender Distribution

The age distribution of our respondents, further broken down by gender, was as follows:

- **20-29 years** (88 men, 40 women)
- **30-39 years** (156 men, 104 women)
- **40-49 years** (53 men, 31 women)
- **Other** (18 men, 7 women)*

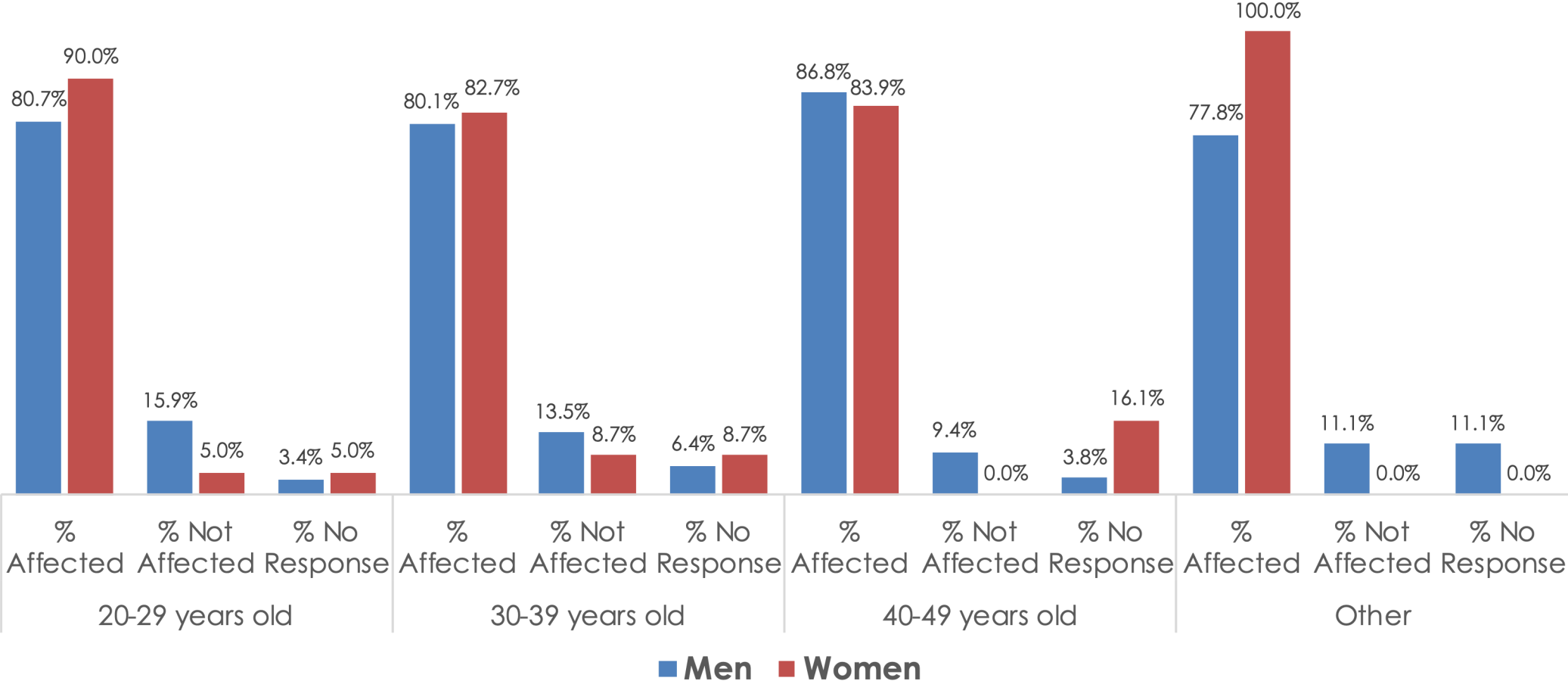
*In this section of the report the label **Other** includes the following age groups, which were grouped together due to insufficient data:

- **19 and Under** (1 woman)
- **50-59 years old** (13 men, 5 women)
- **60-69 years old** (4 men, 1 woman)
- **Prefer not to say** (4 men, 1 woman)

Note: the 4 respondents who did not choose either Male or Female as their gender are not been included in the data visualizations that follow.

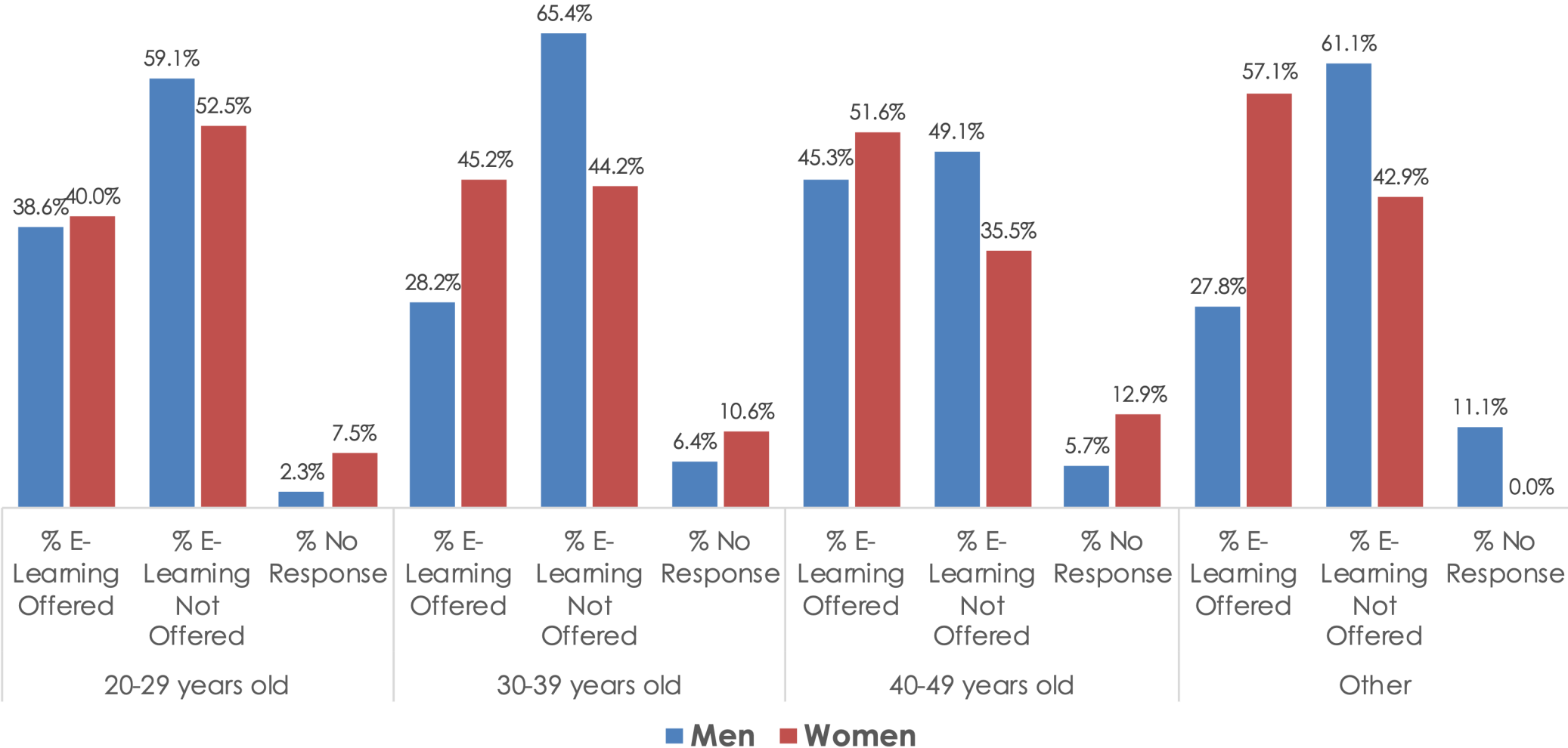
Age and Gender Differences: Academic Interruptions

Experiencing Course or Class Interruptions



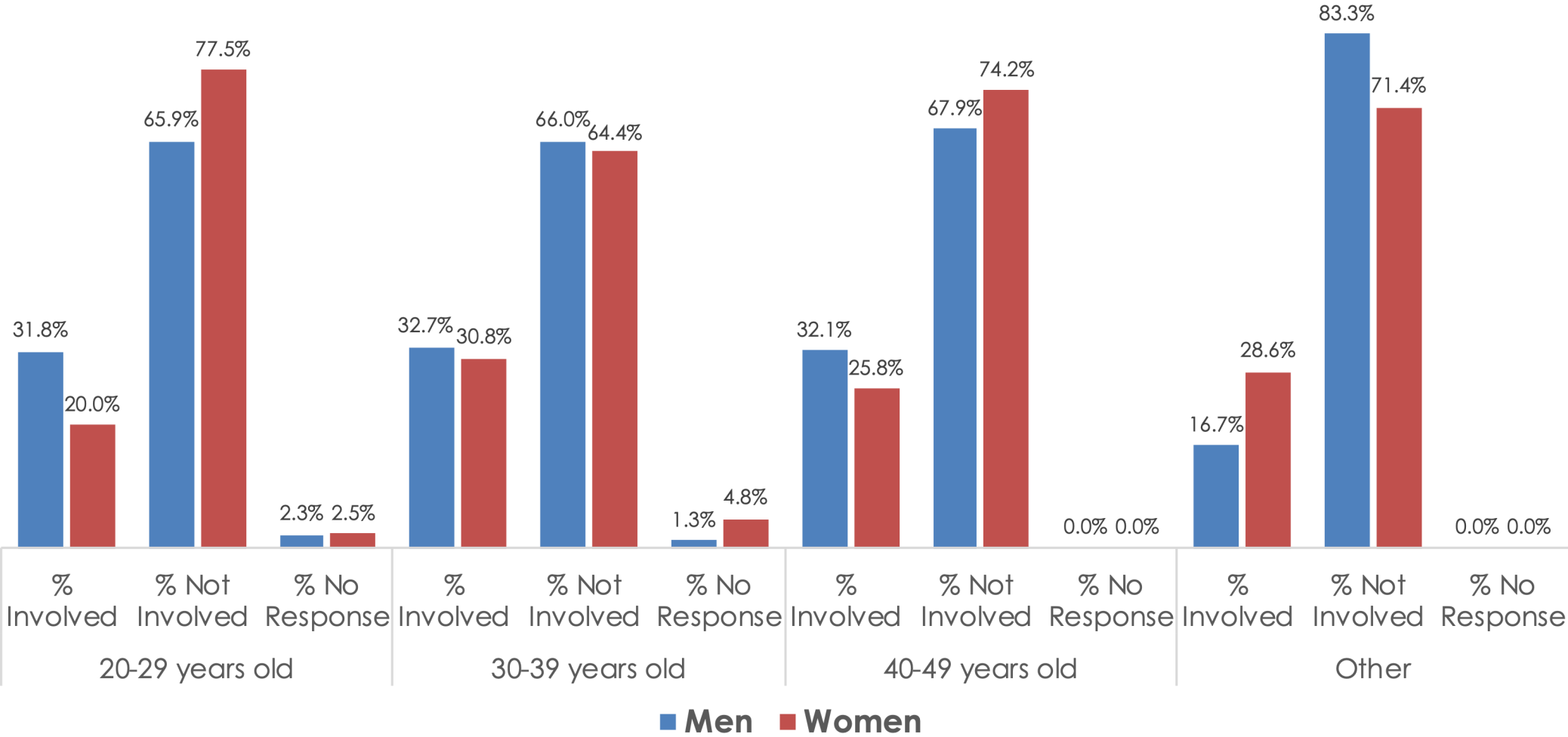
Age and Gender Differences: E-Learning

At Institutions Offering E-Learning



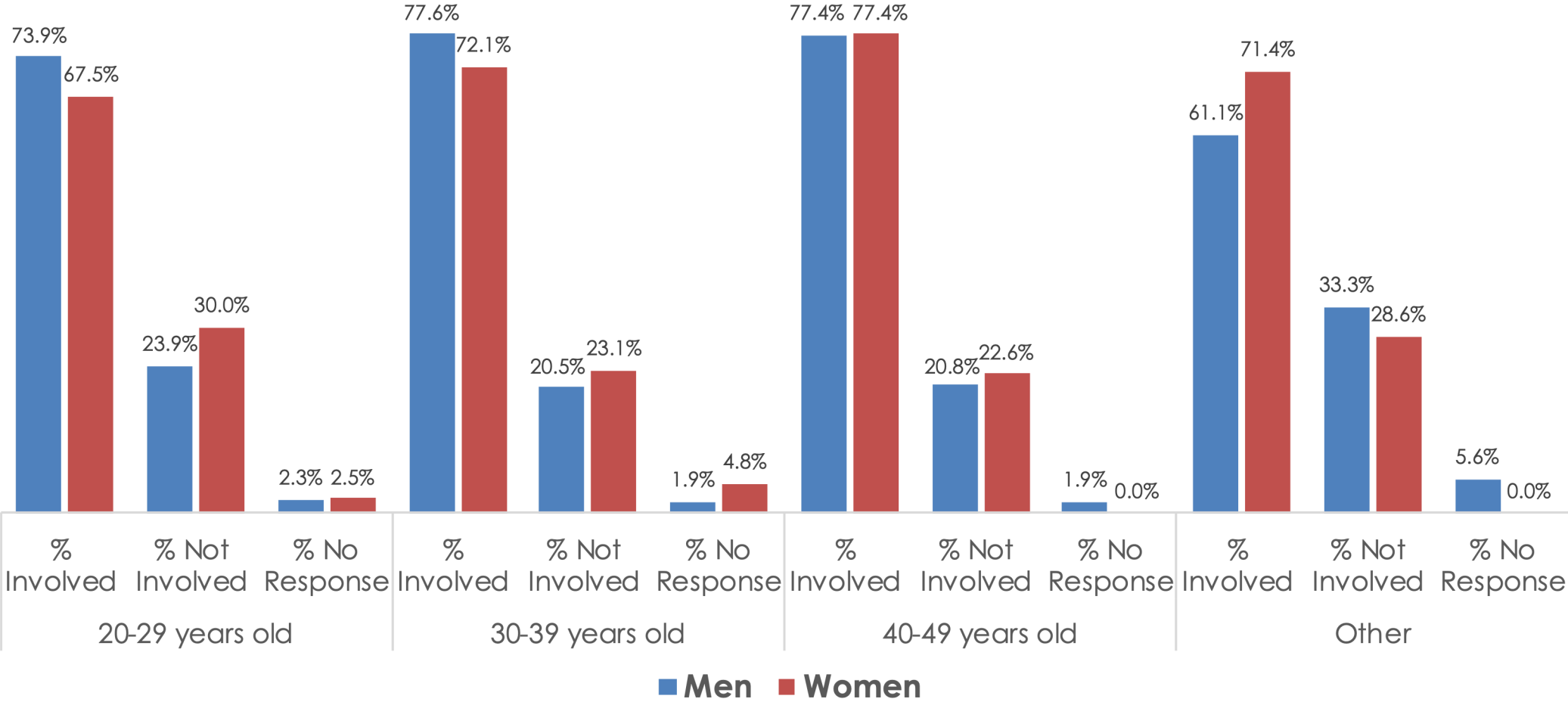
Age and Gender Differences: Lab Research

Involved in Lab Research



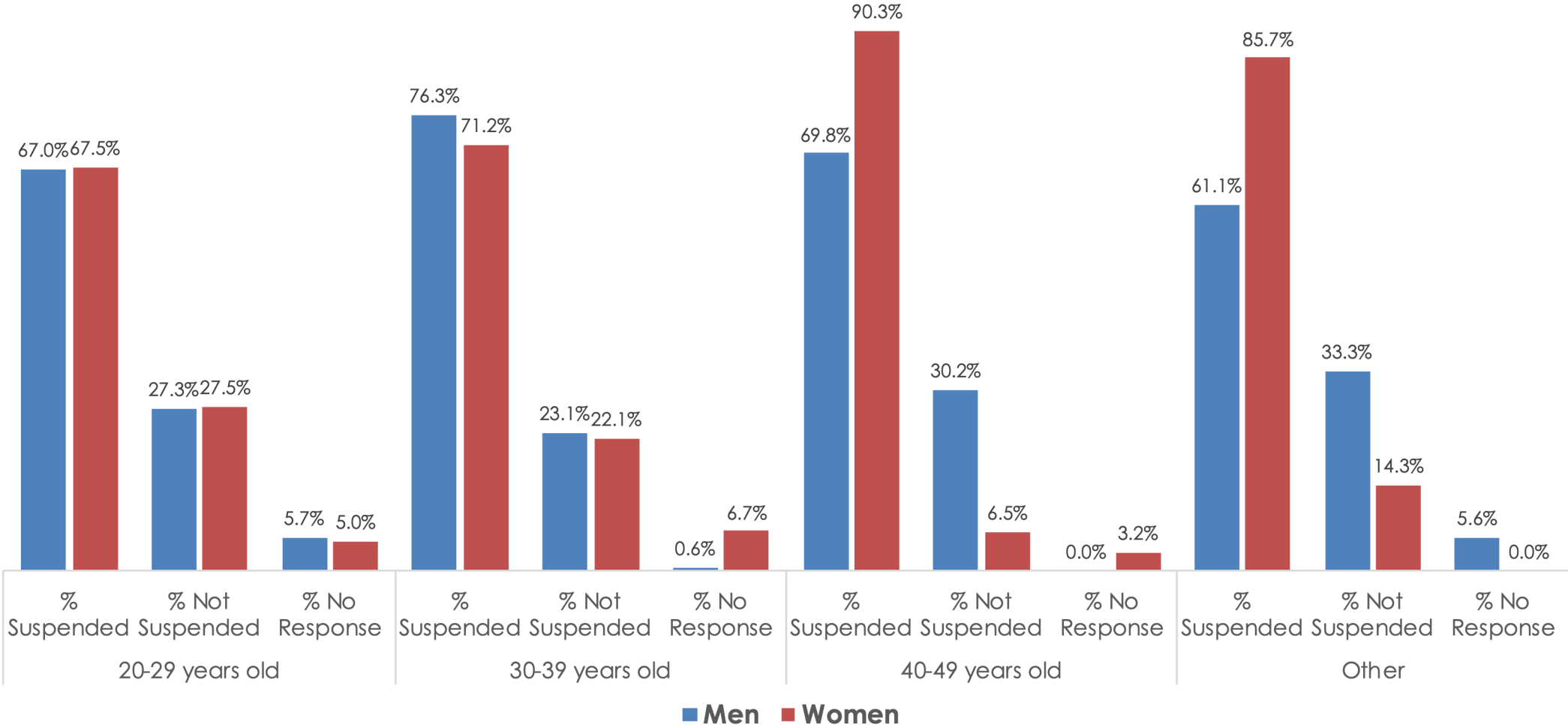
Age and Gender Differences: Field Research

Involved in Field Research



Age and Gender Differences : Research Activities Suspended

Lab or Field Research Suspended



COVID-19 Impacts by Region and Gender

Region and Gender Distribution

The age distribution of our respondents, further broken down by gender, was as follows:

- **East Africa** (210 men, 130 women)
- **West Africa** (76 men, 23 women)
- **Southern Africa** (19 men, 23 women)
- **Other** (10 men, 6 women)*

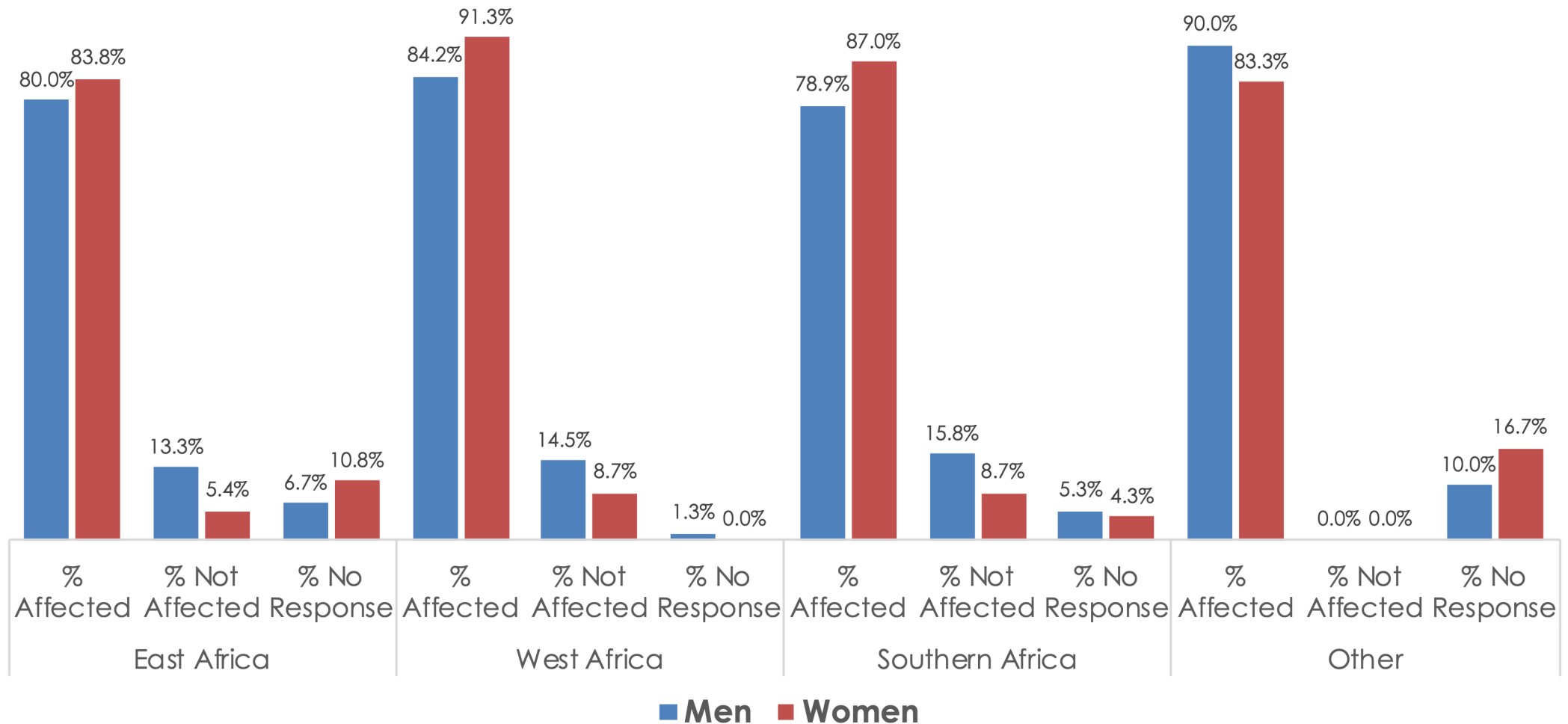
*In this section of the report the label **Other** includes the following regions, which were grouped together due to insufficient data:

- **Outside Africa** (5 men, 4 women)
- **Central Africa** (2 men, 2 women)
- **North Africa** (3 men)

Note: the greater representation of women among respondents from East and Southern Africa, combined with regional differences in the impact of COVID-19, may explain some of the gender differences outlined earlier in this report.

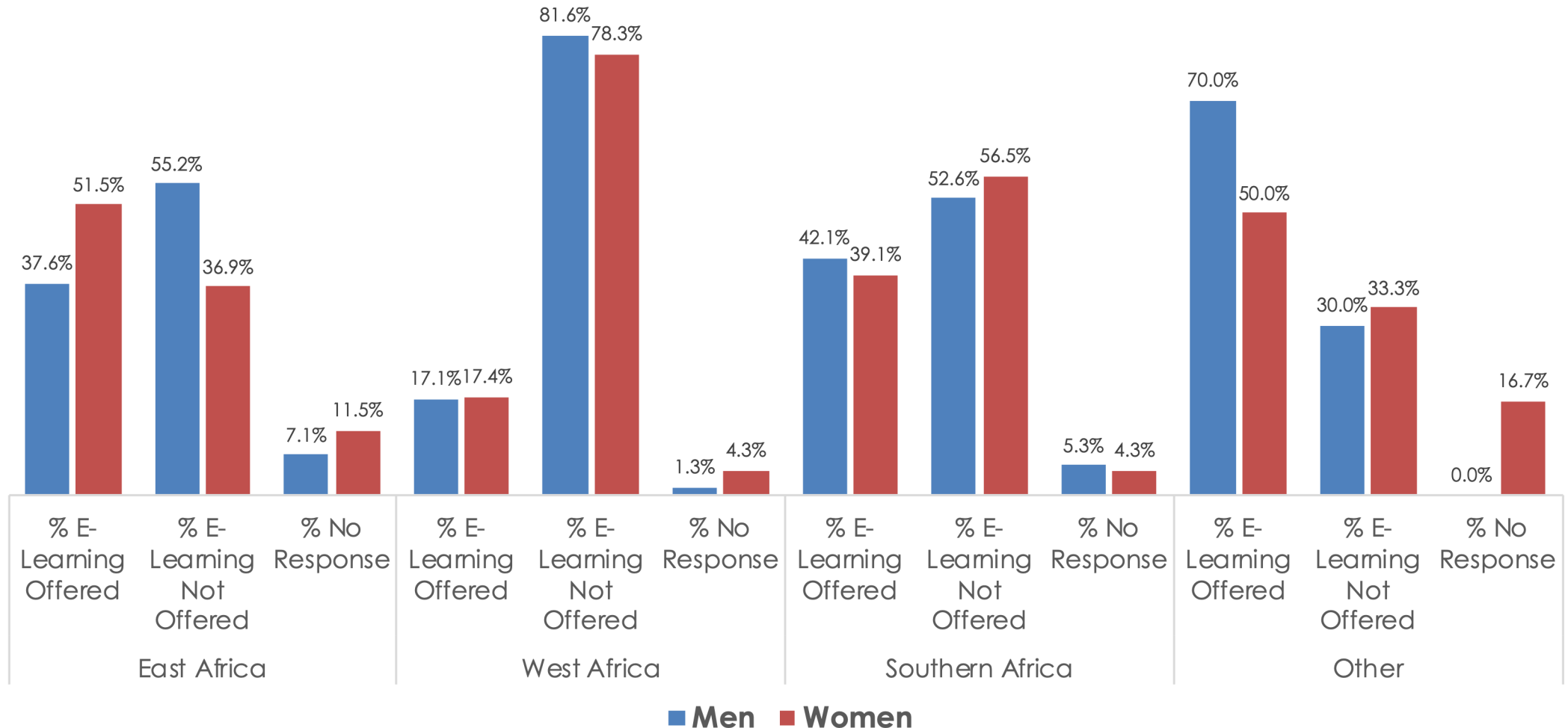
Region and Gender Differences: Academic Interruptions

Experiencing Course or Class Interruptions



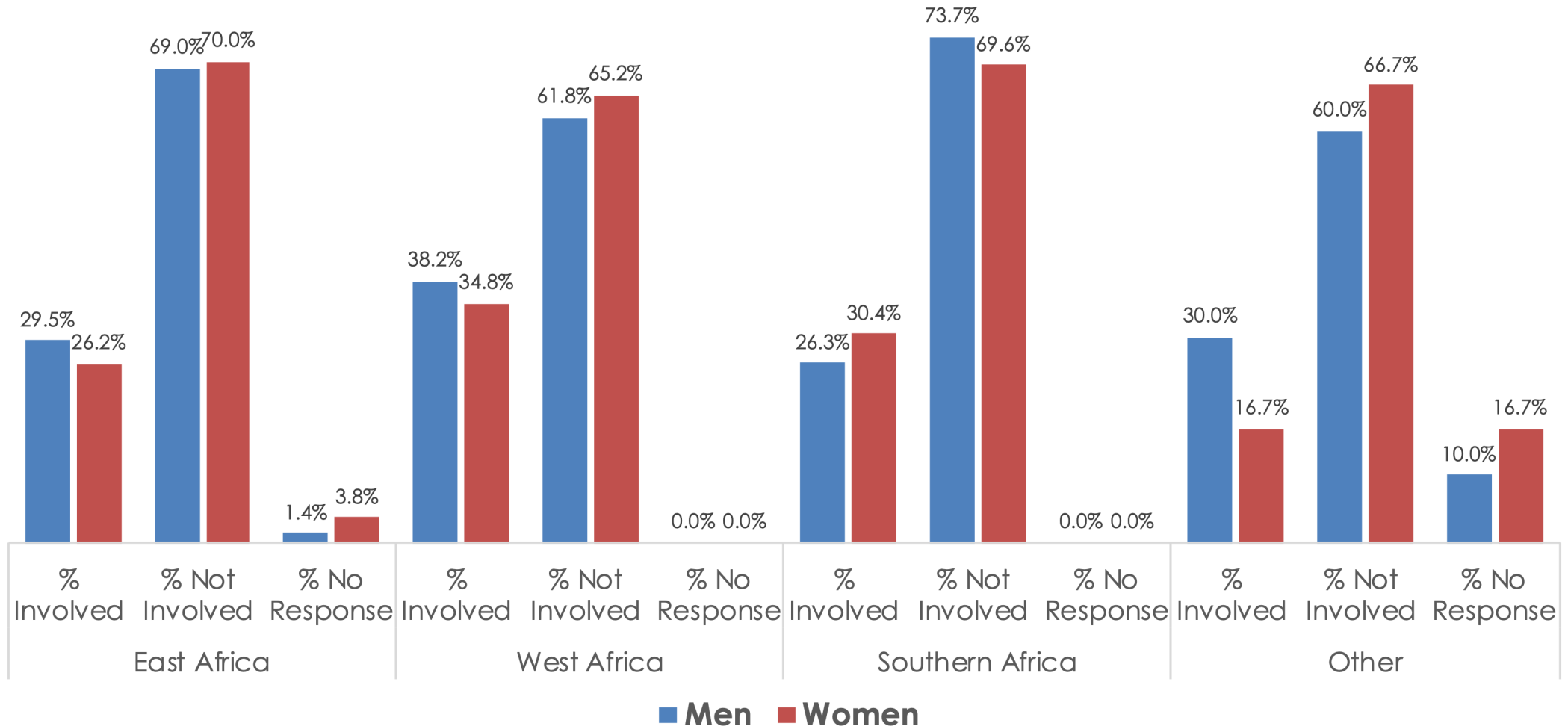
Region and Gender Differences: E-Learning

At Institutions Offering E-Learning



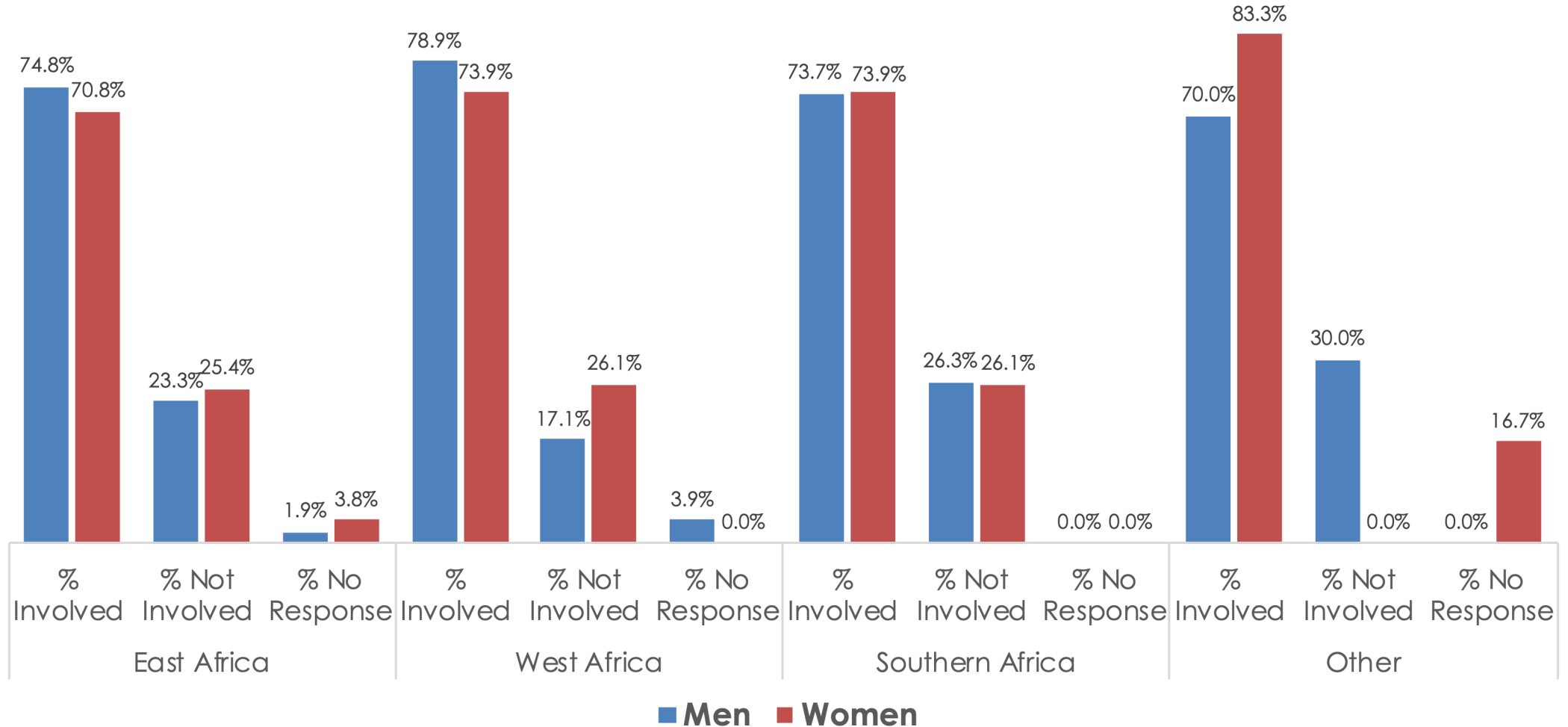
Region and Gender Differences: Lab Research

Involved in Lab Research



Region and Gender Differences: Field Research

Involved in Field Research



Region and Gender Differences : Research Activities Suspended

Lab or Field Research Suspended

