



Health Disparities in Gastroenterology Care in LGBTQ+ Individuals: Community PRIDE 2022 Event Survey

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INTRODUCTION

- LGBTQ+ identifying individuals have long faced numerous health disparities
- Potential contributors include discrimination, invalidation of their identities, and high healthcare cost
- This results in missed or delayed care for medical conditions or health screenings
- LGBTQ+ individuals have lower rates of colorectal cancer screening

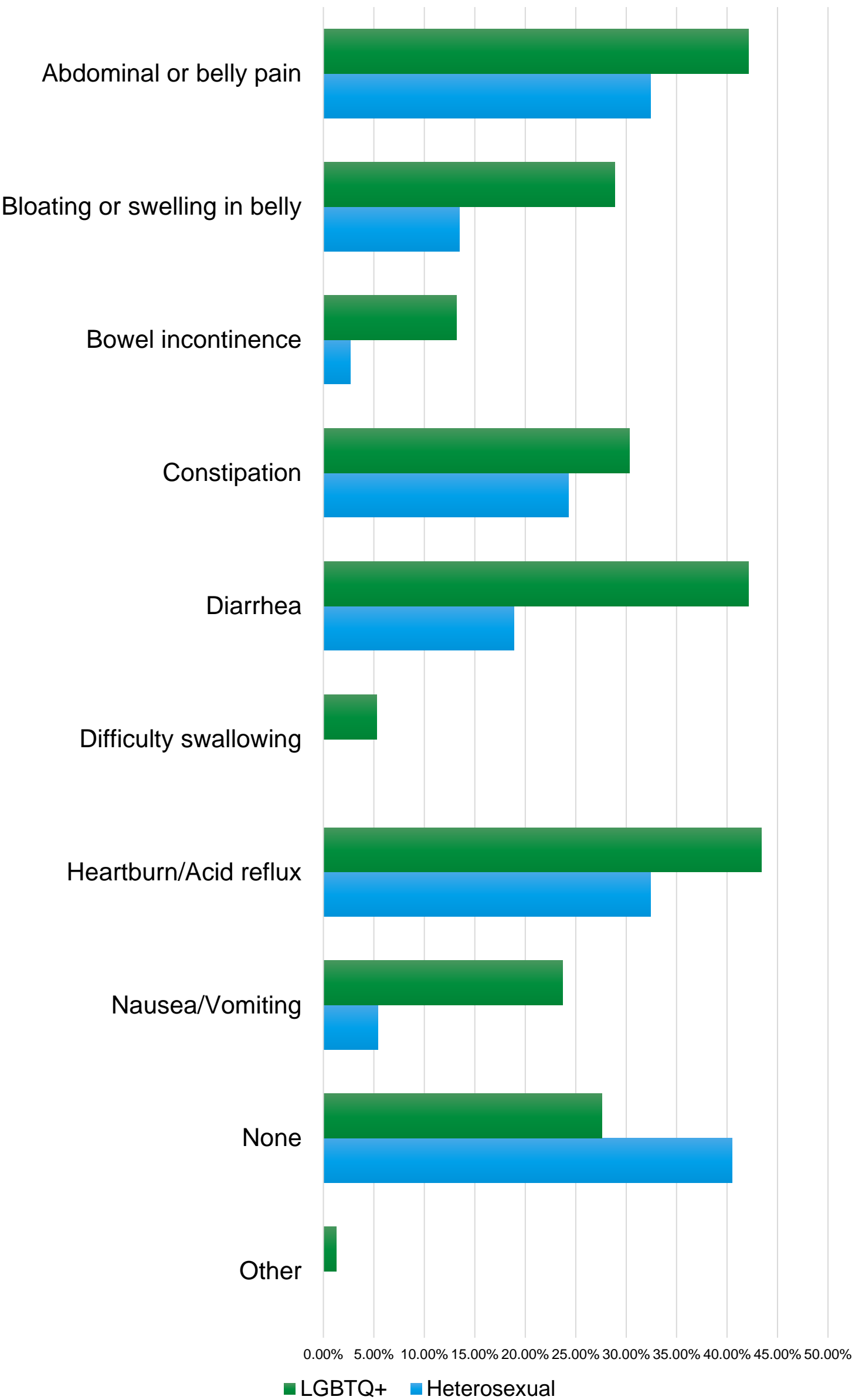
AIMS

- We aimed to survey LGBTQ+ individuals at Rochester (RST) Pride Festival 2022 on their comfort and knowledge of colorectal cancer screening and on frequency of GI symptoms

METHODS

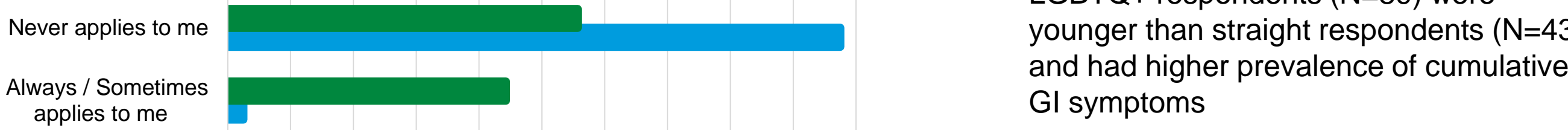
- 132 RST Pride 2022 attendees completed an anonymous online or paper survey to assess frequency of GI symptoms, age-appropriate health screening awareness and reasons for not attending healthcare screening tests
- Odds ratios were calculated using logistic regression for dichotomized outcomes and general linearized models for categorical outcomes after adjusting for age
- Outcomes were considered significant when the 95% confidence intervals do not span the null and $p < 0.05$

GI symptoms experienced in the past 6 months

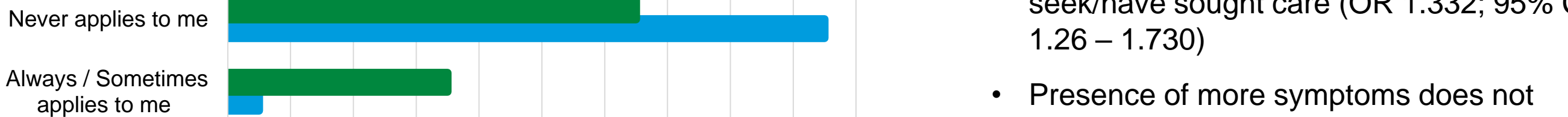


Healthcare Experiences of LGBTQ+ Individuals vs. Heterosexual Individuals

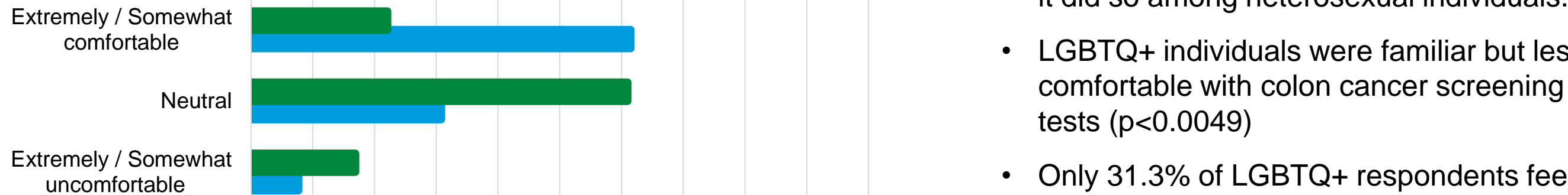
Fear of discrimination at the healthcare setting due to LGBTQ+ status*



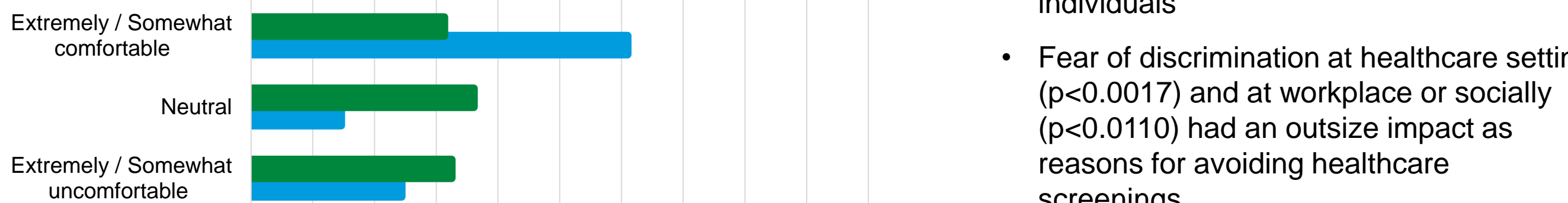
Fear of discrimination at workplace or socially if diagnosed with disease*



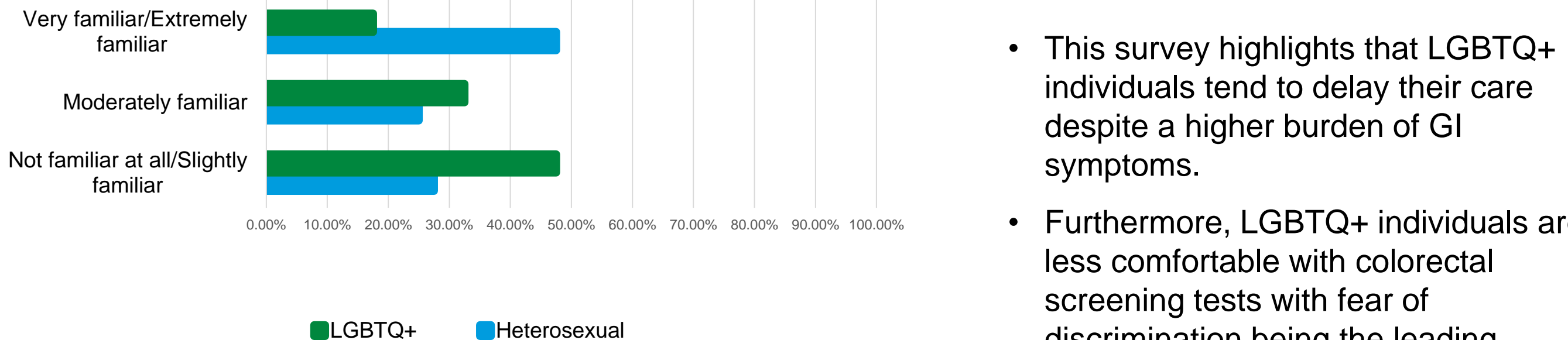
General comfort with different colorectal screening tests*



Comfort with colonoscopy



General familiarity of screening tests



RESULTS

- LGBTQ+ respondents (N=89) were younger than straight respondents (N=43) and had higher prevalence of cumulative GI symptoms
- As number of symptoms increased by one, individual were 33% more likely to seek/have sought care (OR 1.332; 95% CI 1.26 – 1.730)
- Presence of more symptoms does not significantly increase likelihood of seeking medical care in LGBTQ+ individuals, while it did so among heterosexual individuals.
- LGBTQ+ individuals were familiar but less comfortable with colon cancer screening tests ($p < 0.0049$)
- Only 31.3% of LGBTQ+ respondents feel comfortable towards a colonoscopy, compared to 61% of heterosexual individuals
- Fear of discrimination at healthcare setting ($p < 0.0017$) and at workplace or socially ($p < 0.0110$) had an outsize impact as reasons for avoiding healthcare screenings

CONCLUSION

- This survey highlights that LGBTQ+ individuals tend to delay their care despite a higher burden of GI symptoms.
- Furthermore, LGBTQ+ individuals are less comfortable with colorectal screening tests with fear of discrimination being the leading reason