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Introduction & Objectives

Innovative registration delays, or the **Drug Approval Lag**, hinder the first step in making treatments available and are often linked to regulatory inefficiencies, constrained healthcare financing, and fragmented decision-making. Since late 2019, **Lebanon's health system has faced overlapping socioeconomic and political crises**, yet their impact on innovative medication registration remains undocumented.

The **objectives of this study** were:

- 1. To measure the drug approval lag in Lebanon before (2014-2019) and after (2020-2024) the crisis.
- 2. To develop an interpretive framework exploring the rationale behind an informal policy to delay innovative drug registration.

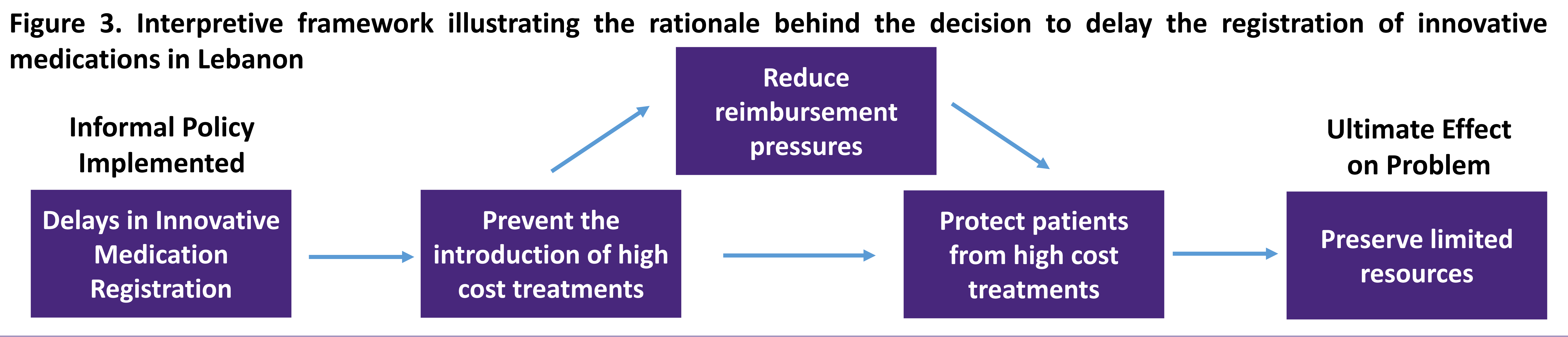
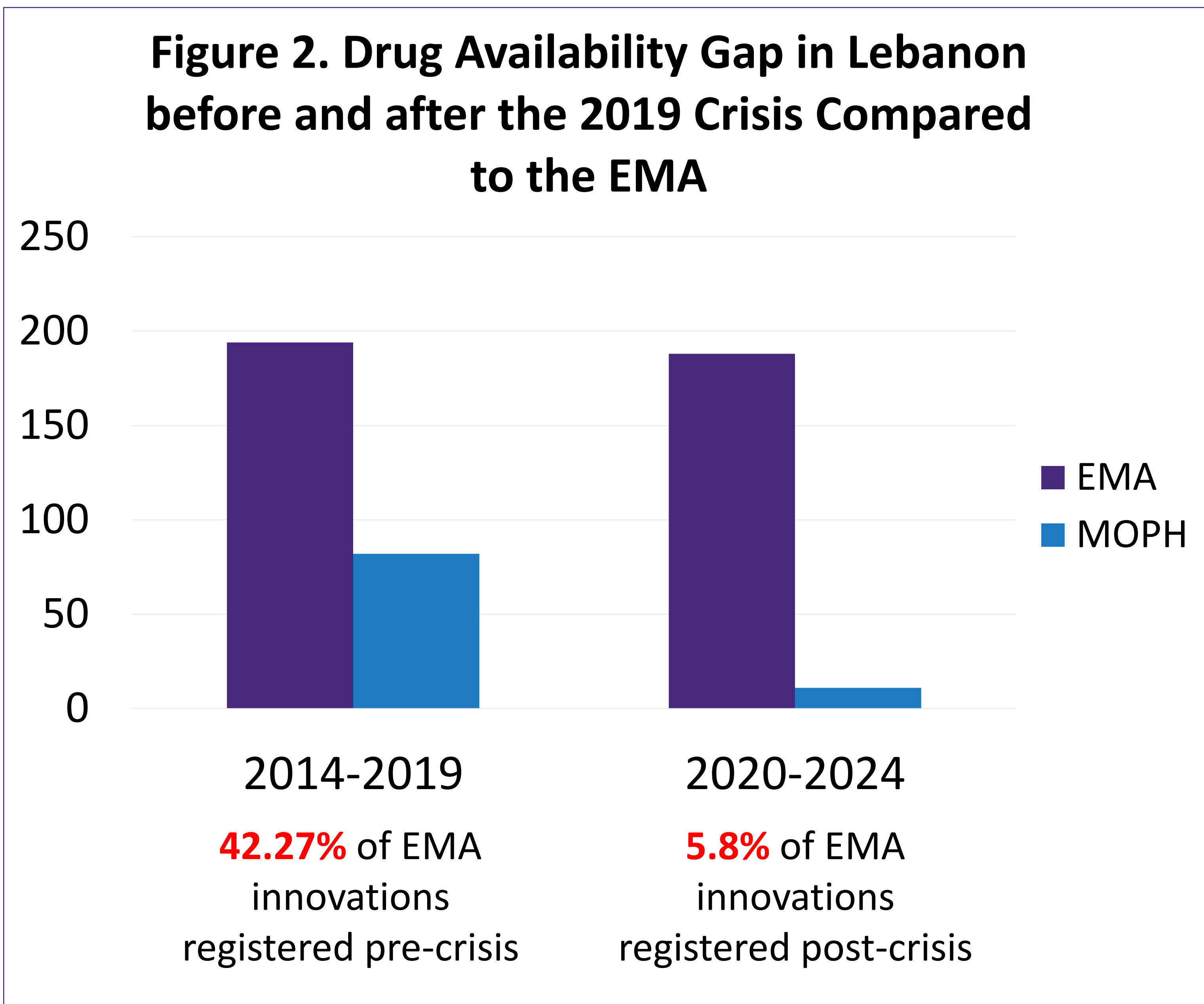
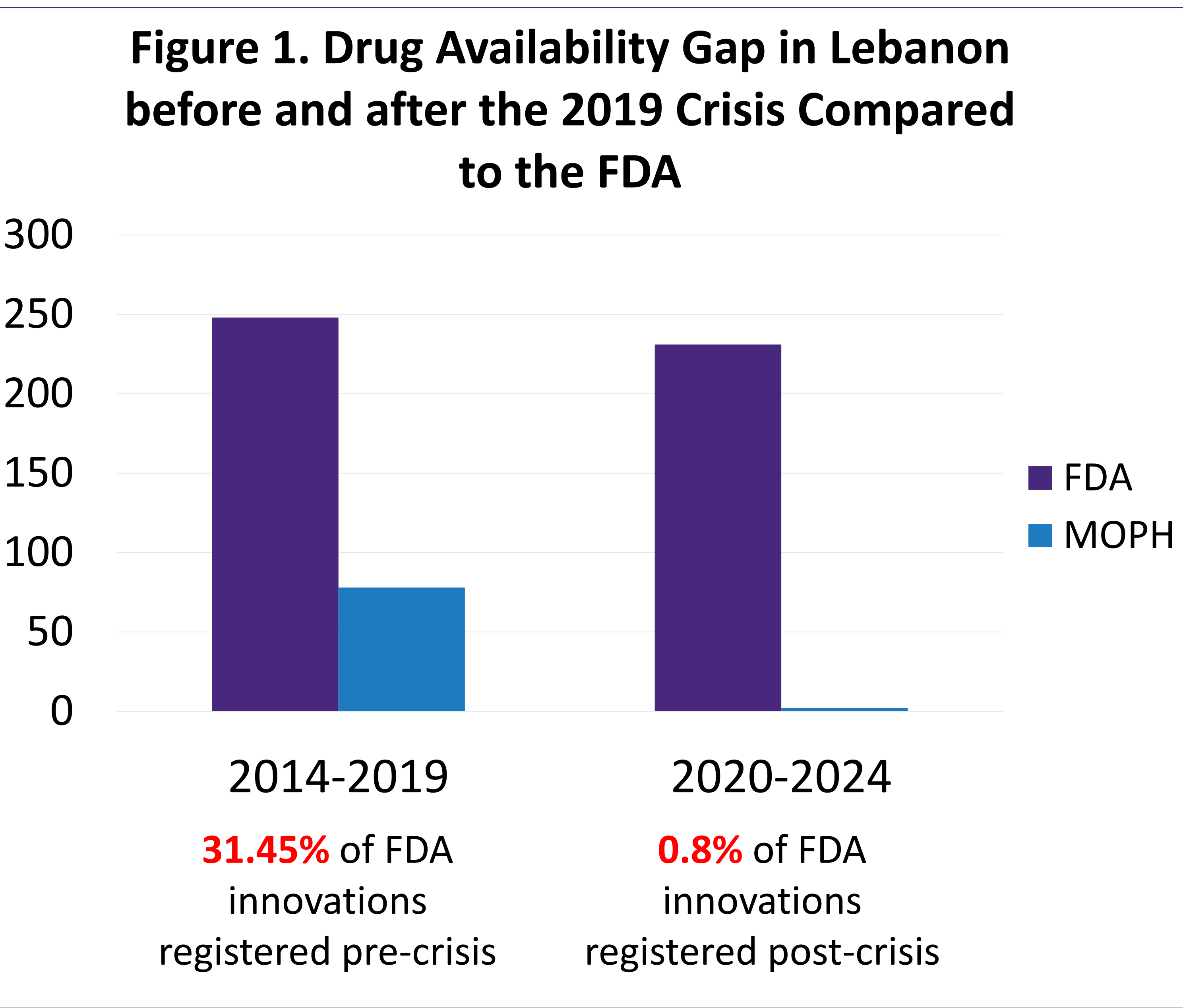
Method

This study followed a **time-series mixed-methods design**.

Innovative medication approval by the FDA & EMA was **quantitatively compared** to innovative registration in Lebanon across two time periods: 2014-2019 and 2020-2024.

Qualitative In-Depth Interviews were subsequently conducted with key stakeholders to develop an interpretive framework.

Results



Conclusion

Health systems are complex adaptive systems and policies affecting the drug approval lag can lead to delays in access to innovative treatments.

As such, **evidence-informed policies**, coupled with **consideration of system interconnections**, are **essential to restore Lebanon's healthcare standing** and guide **health policy design**.

References

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