



Caregiver Survey on COVID-19 Vaccine for Children Ages 5-11: Final Results and Analysis

March 16, 2022

Austin Public Health



Summary of Results

An estimated **114,519*** children aged 5-11 in Travis County became eligible to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine on October 29, 2021. Austin Public Health administered its first pediatric dose on November 2.

In response, this survey fielded caregivers' opinions, questions, plans, and concerns regarding pediatric vaccination in support of Austin Public Health's preparation plan for pediatric vaccination. The survey was collected via Microsoft Forms and distributed to caregivers via schools.

In our analysis of **11,479 responses**, we found that:

- Most respondents did plan to vaccinate their 5–11-year-old children
- Most respondents chose doctor's offices as their 1st choice vaccination location
 - Community vaccination clinics like **APH ranked 3rd**
- Regardless of vaccination plan, respondents had concerns about the **vaccine's safety** and efficacy, **adverse reactions** and unknown **long-term side effects**
- Black, Latino, and Spanish speaking populations were all **more likely to be unsure** about vaccination than White, Asian, and English-speaking populations
- Focusing education and outreach efforts on unsure populations may prove effective and efficient in raising pediatric vaccination rates

* Estimates of the Total Population of Counties in Texas by Age, Sex and Race/Ethnicity for July 1, 2019. Texas Demographic Center, University of Texas at San Antonio

Survey Purpose

An estimated **114,519** children aged 5-11 in Travis County became eligible to receive Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine on October 29, 2021.*

This survey was one part of Austin Public Health's ongoing efforts to prepare for pediatric vaccination and information gathered through the survey informed our pediatric distribution strategy and outreach efforts.

Travis County area caregivers were asked about their planned course of action with respect to pediatric COVID-19 vaccinations. The survey gauged sentiments about the vaccine's safety, effectiveness, and allowed respondents to share questions and concerns.

APH is using this survey's results in coordination with targeted efforts in priority zip codes and in person community engagements with caregivers of children in the newly qualified age range.

* Estimates of the Total Population of Counties in Texas by Age, Sex and Race/Ethnicity for July 1, 2019. Texas Demographic Center, University of Texas at San Antonio

Survey Administration and Data Collection

Using APH's Schools and Child Care Taskforce school connections, APH was able to reach the caregivers through e-newsletters schools sent out.

The survey was administered in English and Spanish on October 18 and in French, Korean, simplified and traditional Chinese, Arabic, Hindi, Burmese, and Vietnamese on October 26. It closed on November 7.

Participants were asked to complete it through Microsoft Forms on their own time. Therefore, individuals with limited access to the internet or a personal device may be underrepresented.

Survey data was downloaded from Microsoft Forms and converted into an Excel document for analysis.

Survey Questions

Respondents were asked to

- Share their race, ethnicity, school district, zip code, and the number of children aged 5-11 in their household

- Indicate whether they plan to vaccinate their children aged 5-11 years with the COVID-19 vaccine once it was approved under the Emergency Use Authorization

- Rate their agreement with statements on the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccine for 5-11 age group

- Share what questions and concerns they had about the vaccine

Respondents who answered “yes” or “unsure” to whether they plan to vaccinate their children were asked to

- Rank pediatric vaccination location preferences and submit their own suggestions

Respondents who indicated that “yes”, they plan to vaccinate their children were asked

- How soon they would get the vaccine

- Whether they would consent to in-school vaccination

Survey Results

The survey received **11,754** responses in total, among all languages.

We excluded **135** respondents whose zip codes were either invalid or outside of Travis and its neighboring counties, leaving **11,619** respondents.

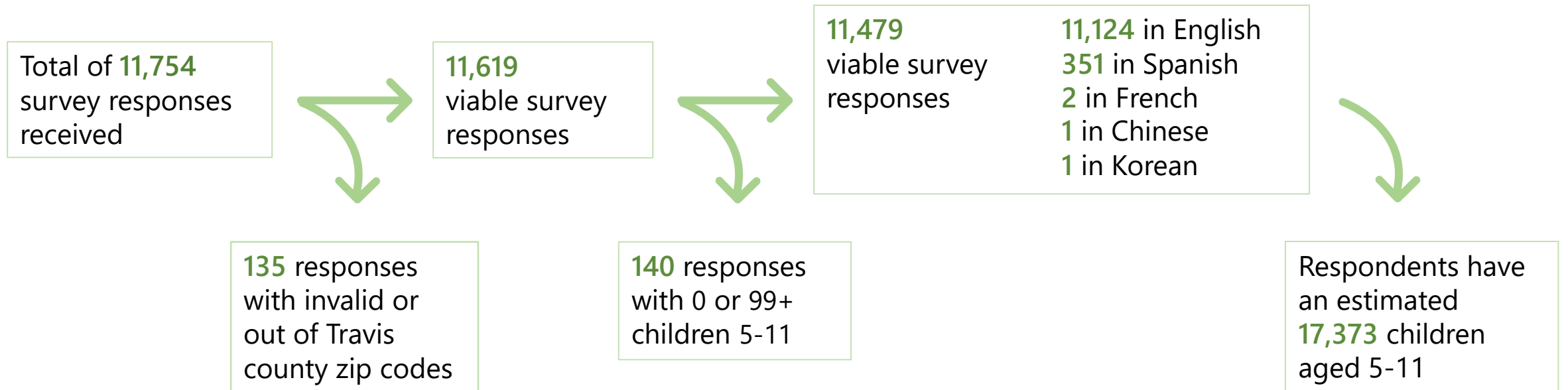
We excluded an additional **140** respondents who entered 0 or values 99 or greater for the number of children aged 5-11 in their household.

No further results were excluded, resulting in **11,479** responses to analyze.

By survey language we received **11,124** English, **351** Spanish, **1** Simplified Chinese, **1** Korean, and **2** French responses.

Based on the question "How many children aged 5-11 years do you have in your household?" we can estimate that these respondents are the caretakers of **17,373 children** that have recently become eligible for the vaccine

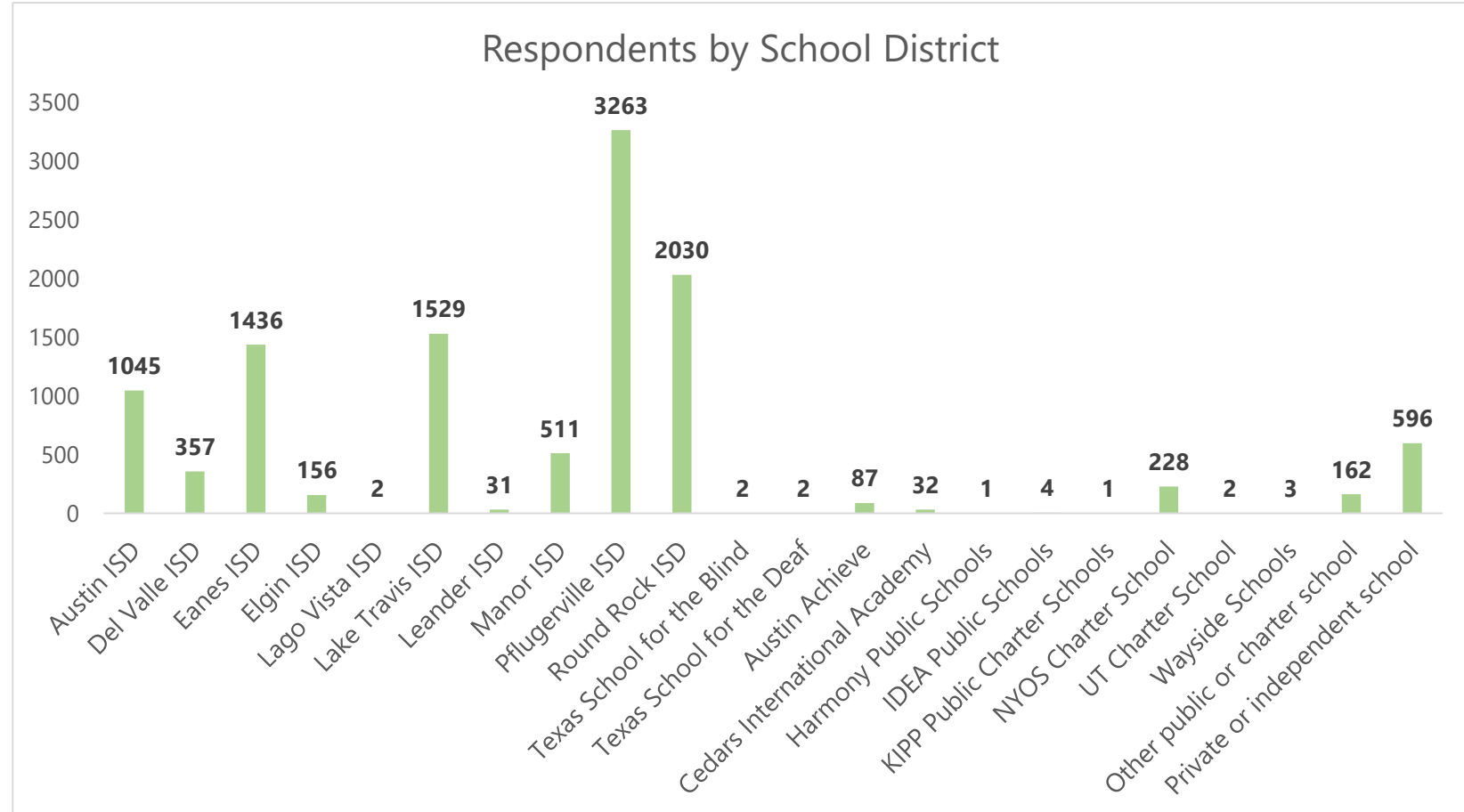
Survey Results



Respondents' School Districts

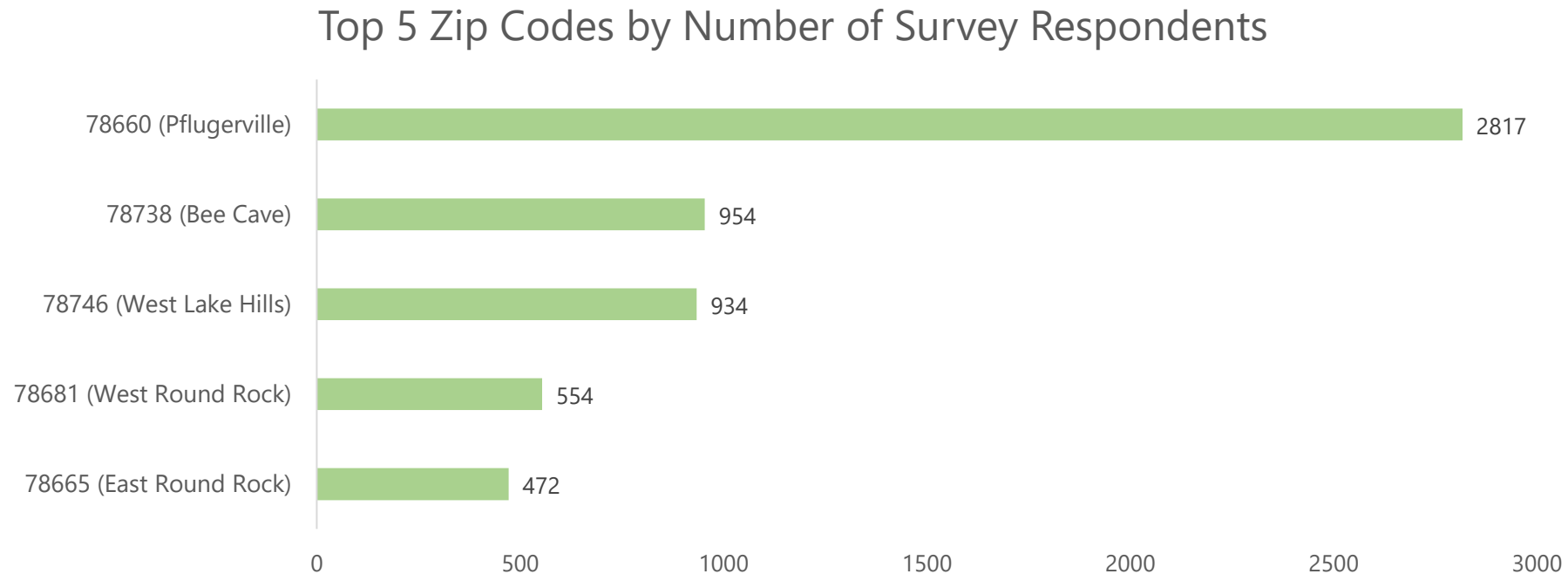
Most respondents came from
Pflugerville ISD (28%)

Followed by
Round Rock ISD (18%)
Eanes ISD (13%)
Lake Travis ISD (13%)
Austin ISD (9%).



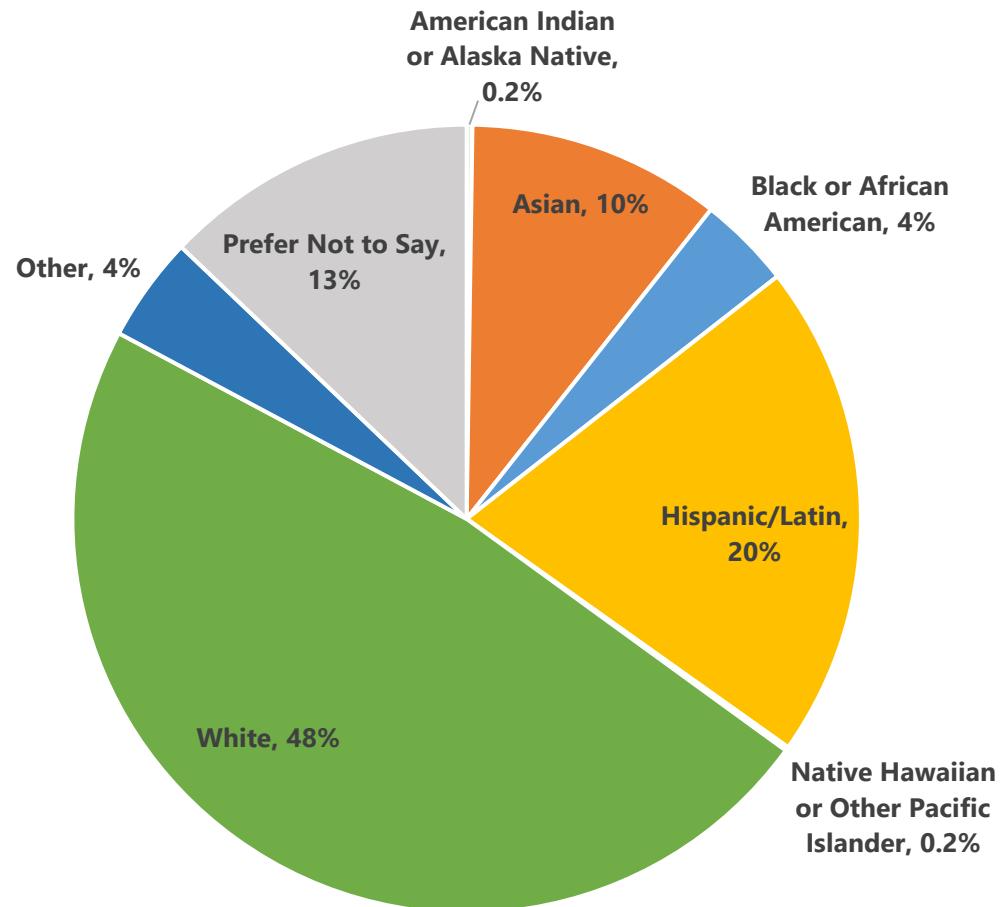
Respondents' Zip Codes

We received responses from **85** separate zip codes. The number of responses ranged from 1 to 2,817 each. The top 5 zip codes comprise **50%** of total responses.

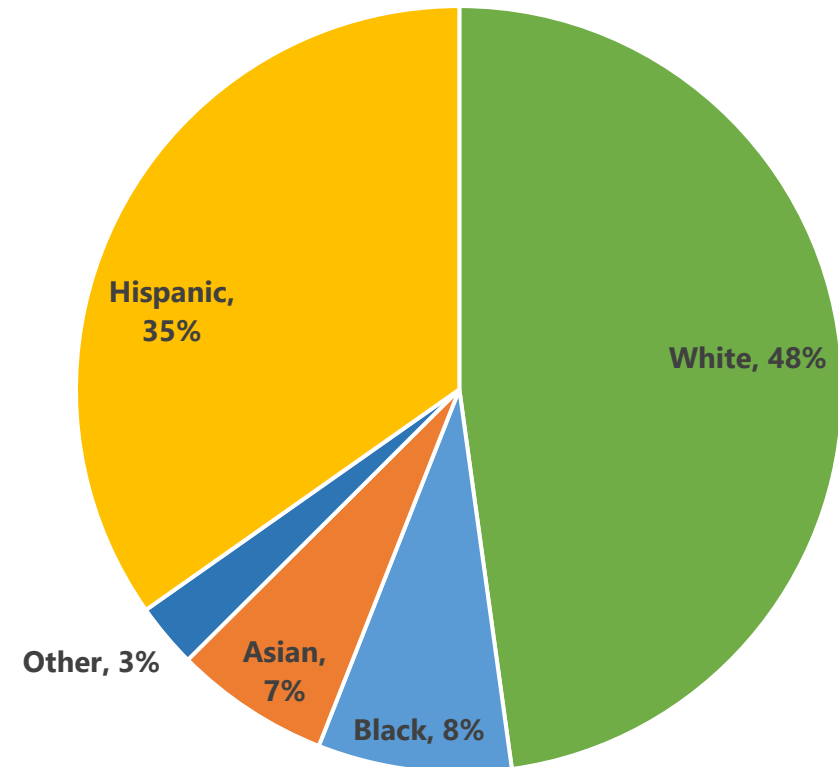


Respondents' Demographics

Survey Respondents by Race and Ethnicity



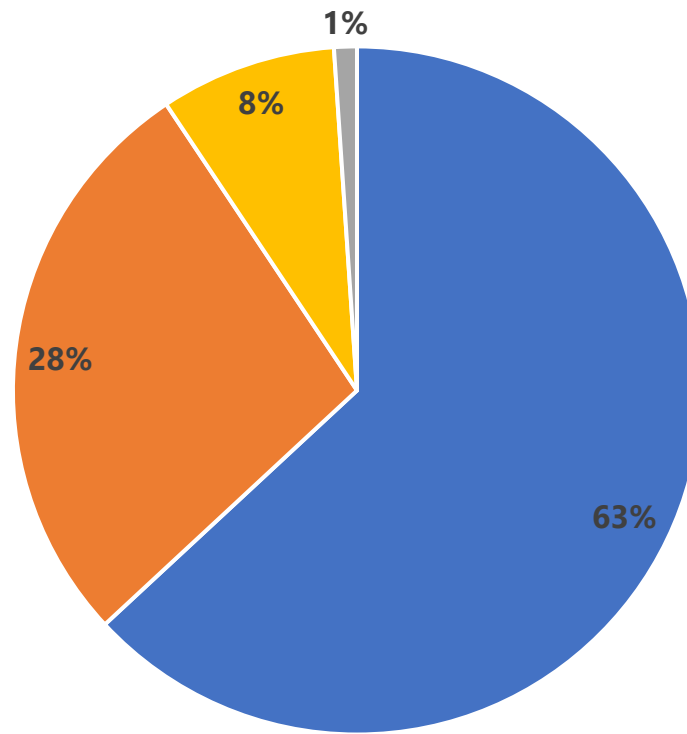
Travis County Residents by Race and Ethnicity



Travis County data comes from Estimates of the Total Population of Counties in Texas by Age, Sex and Race/Ethnicity for July 1, 2019. Texas Demographic Center, University of Texas at San Antonio

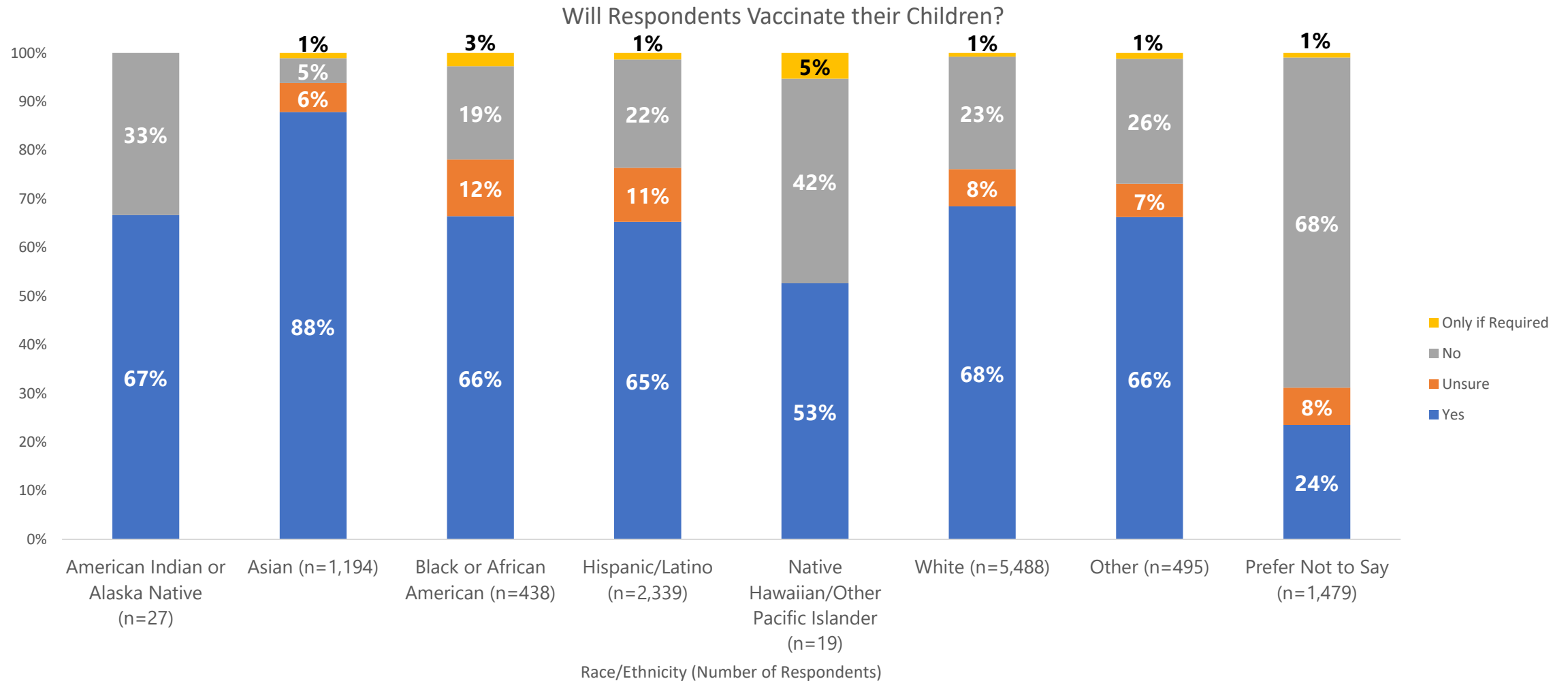
Total Respondents' Vaccination Plan

Do Respondents Plan to Vaccinate their Children?

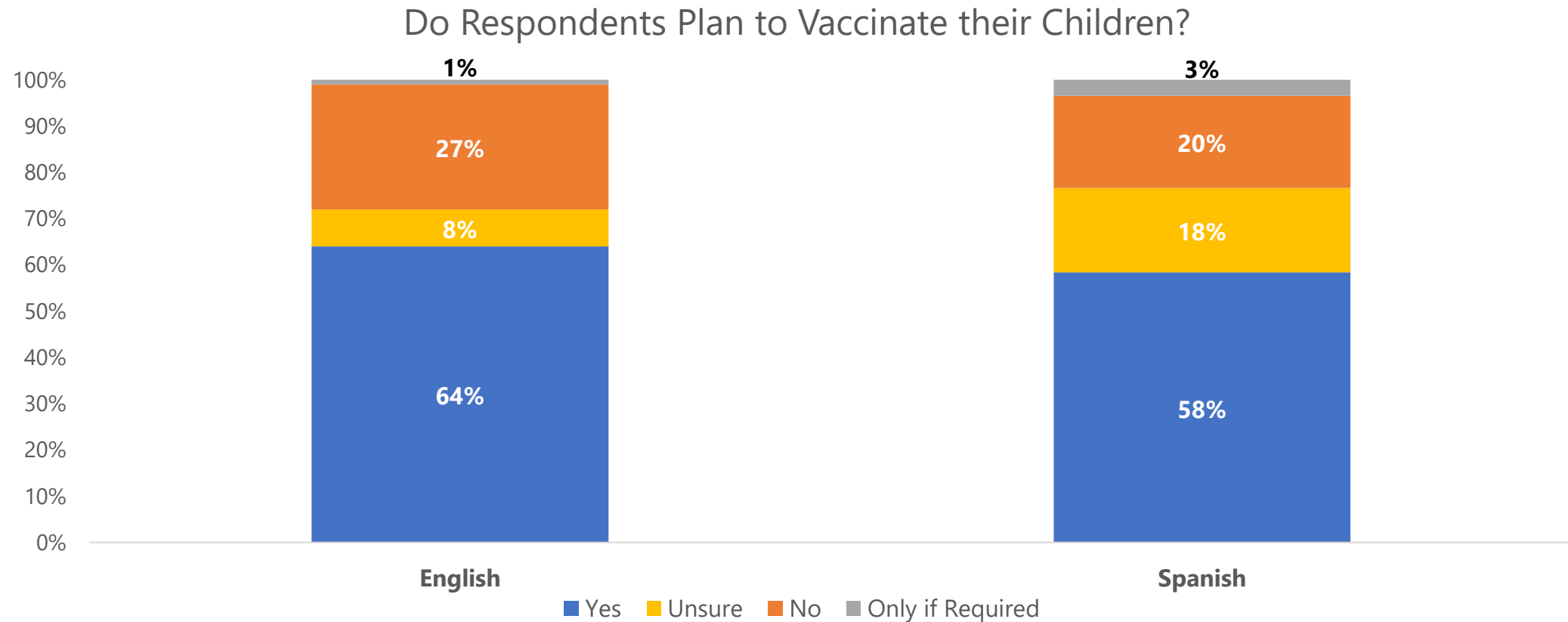


■ Yes ■ No ■ Unsure ■ Only If Required

Respondents' Vaccination Plan by Race

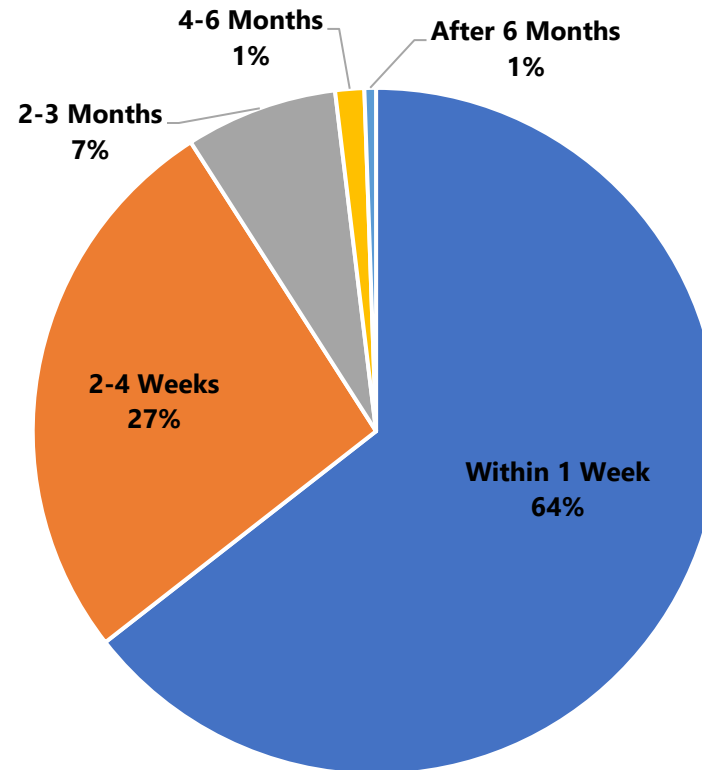


Respondents' Vaccination Plan by Language



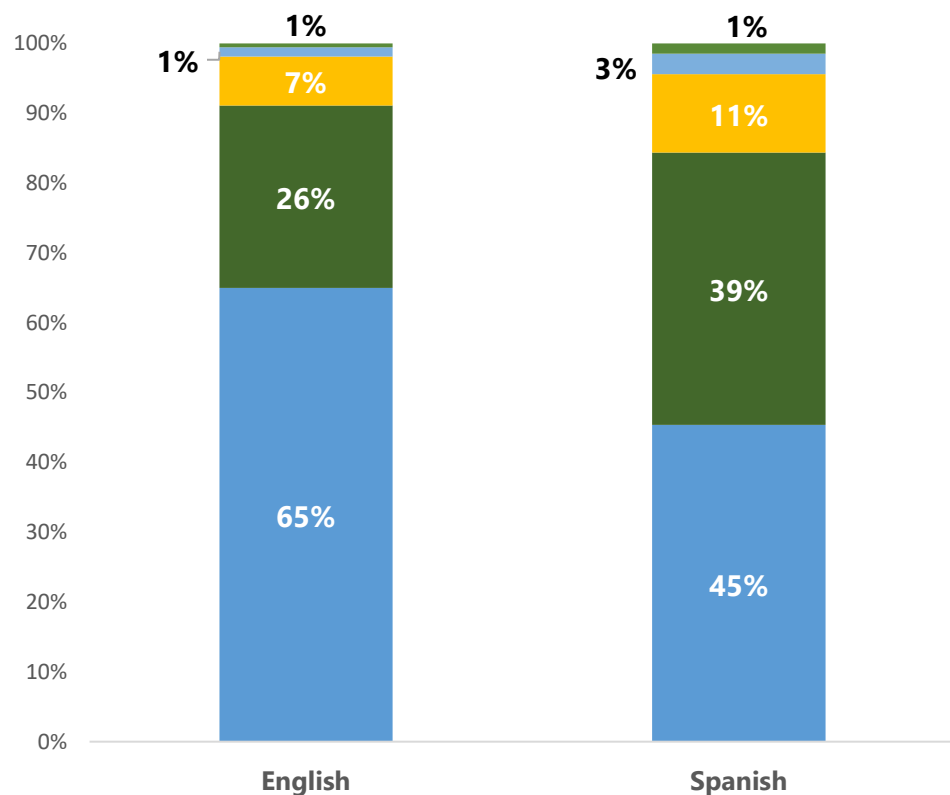
When Will Caretakers Vaccinate?

How Soon After Approval will "Yes" Respondents Vaccinate their Children?

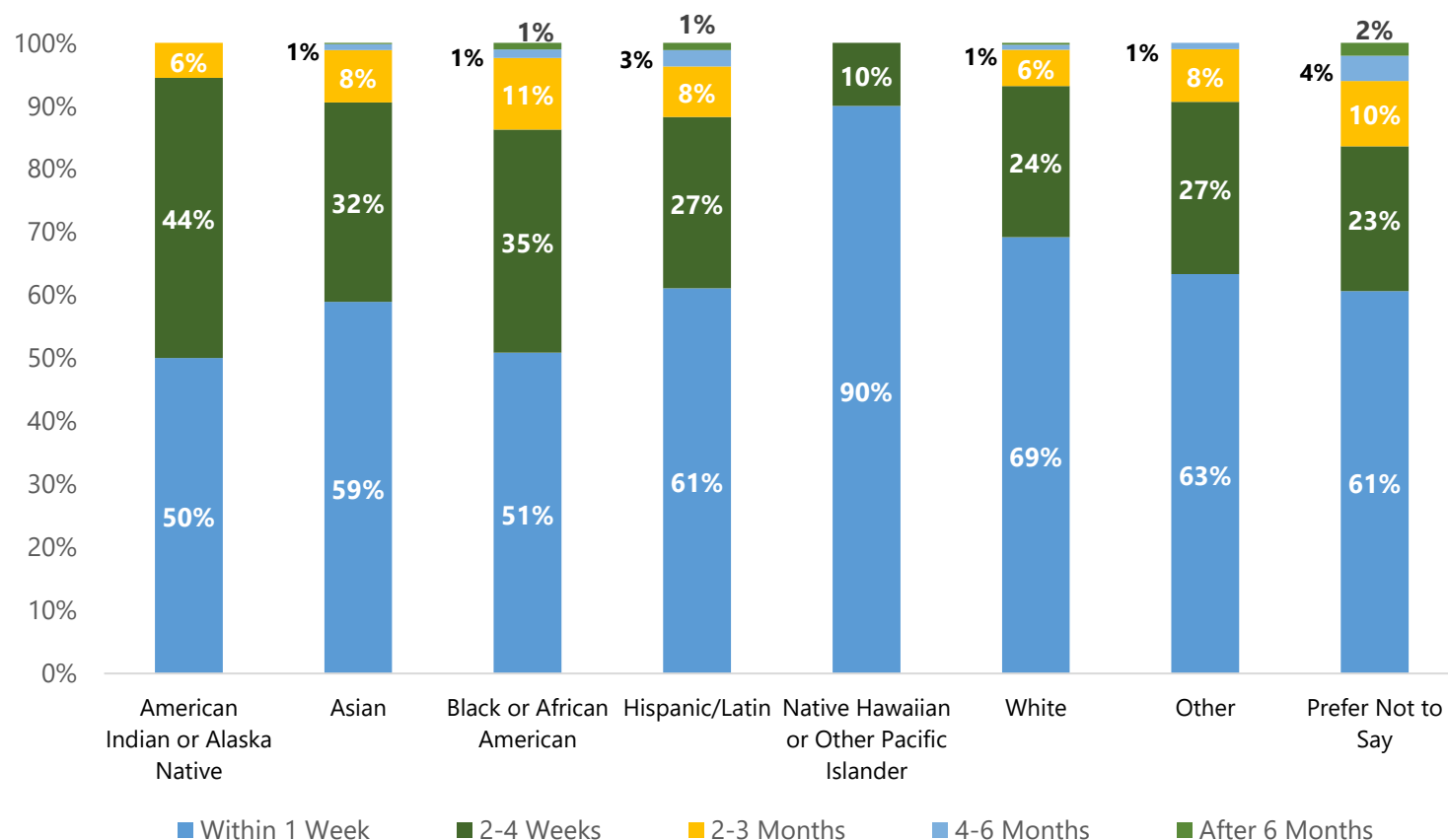


How Soon Until Caretakers Vaccinate

How Soon Caretakers Will Vaccinate by Language

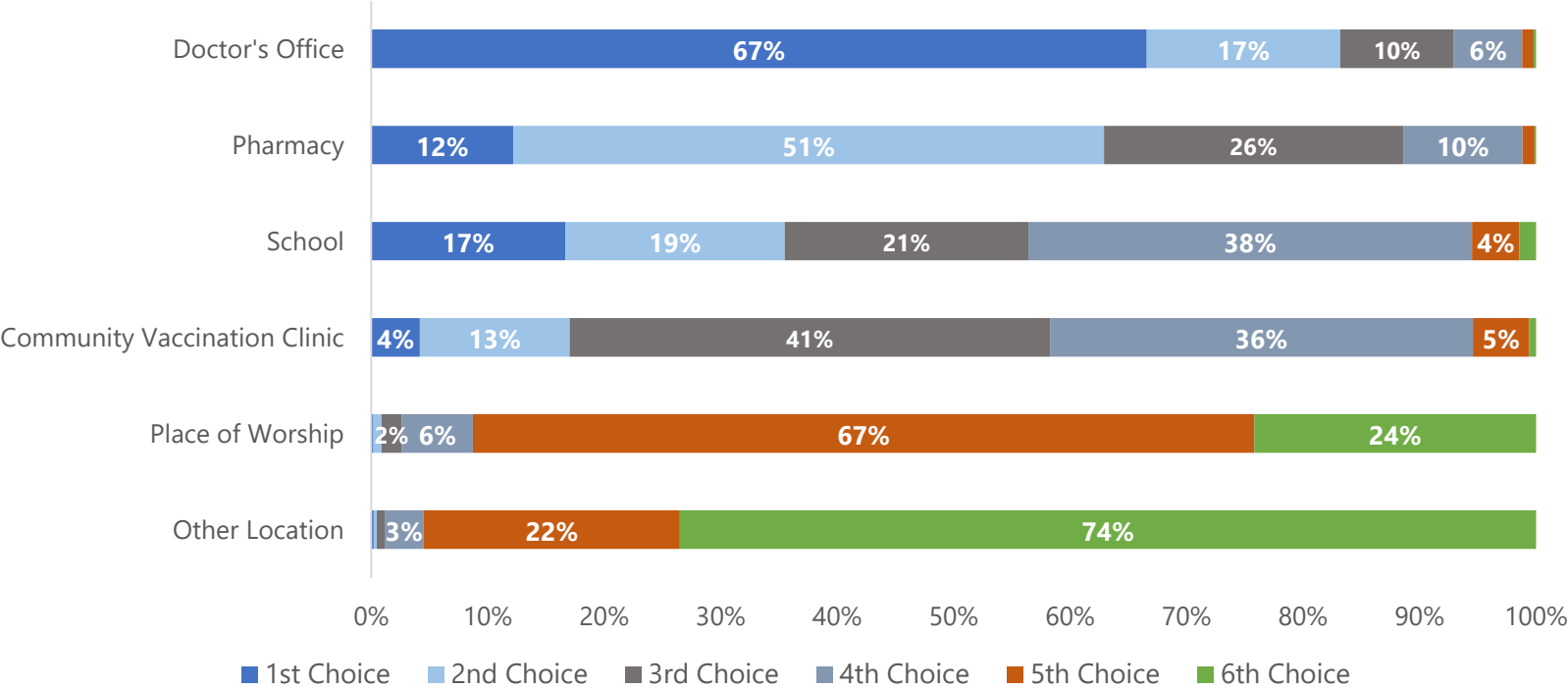


How Soon Caretakers Will Vaccinate By Race



Location Preference

Location Preference Among Unsure and Yes Caregivers



Location	Overall Choice Ranking
Doctor's Office	1st
Pharmacy	2nd
Community Vaccination Clinic	3rd
School	4th
Place of Worship	5th
Other Location	6th

Recommended Alternative Locations

Respondents who indicated that they were unsure or planned to vaccinate their children were asked "If you prefer your child (children) to be vaccinated at a location not listed [in the previous question], please list that location here."

We received 55 total responses from **unsure** and **only if required** caregivers. After excluding 39 responses that either recommended a listed option or no alternative, we had **16** responses.

We received 427 responses from **yes** respondents. After excluding those that did not list an alternate location, there were **83** responses, yielding a combined **99** responses for analysis

Recommended Alternative Locations

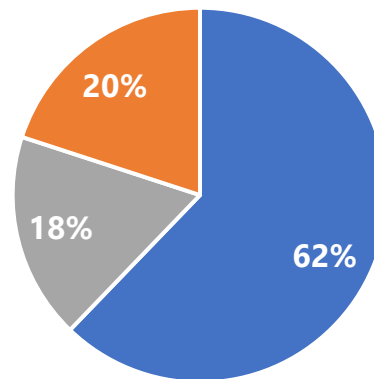
The 99 unsure, only if required, and yes groups all had similar suggestions that are listed below, followed by their frequency:

- Hospitals – **32**
- Drive through locations – **24**
- Home visits – **14**
- Grocery Stores – **9**
- Community spaces such as recreation centers, libraries, parks – **9**
- UT Austin/major universities – **6**
- Dessert shops, amusement parks, other places to entice children – **2**

Consenting to COVID-19 Vaccines in Schools

Respondents who indicated that they planned to vaccinate their children were asked, "If Austin Public Health, or another vaccine provider, were to offer COVID-19 vaccines at your child's (children's) school, would you sign a consent form that allows your child (children) to get vaccinated during the school day without you being there?"

Would Respondents Consent to COVID-19 Vaccination in Schools?



■ Yes ■ Unsure ■ No

Likert Scale Questions

Respondents were asked to read each of the following statements and check the box that best fits how they agree with the statement.

The COVID-19 vaccine is safe for children aged 5-11 years old.

The COVID-19 vaccine is effective for children aged 5-11 years old.

The COVID-19 vaccine can protect children aged 5-11 years old from getting severe illness from COVID-19.

I think children aged 5-11 years old should get the COVID-19 vaccine when it is approved.

Respondents were given the following choices to rate their agreement with each statement:

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

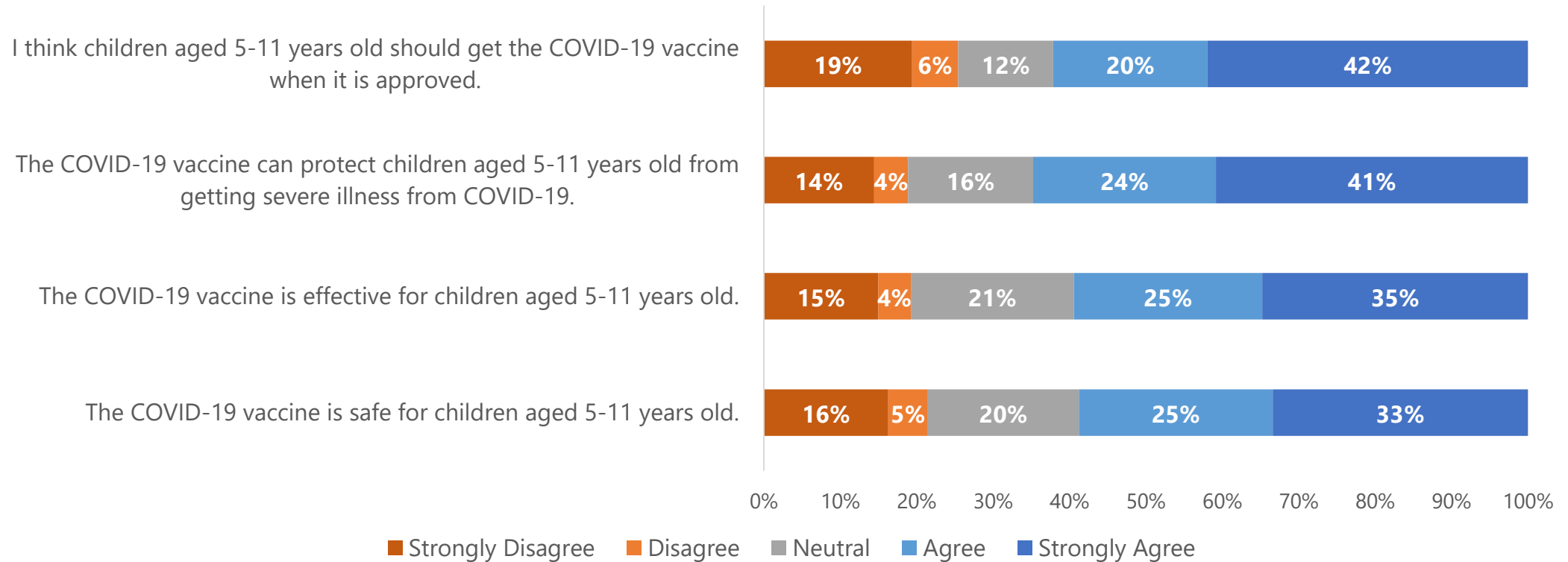
Do not agree or disagree

Agree

Strongly Agree

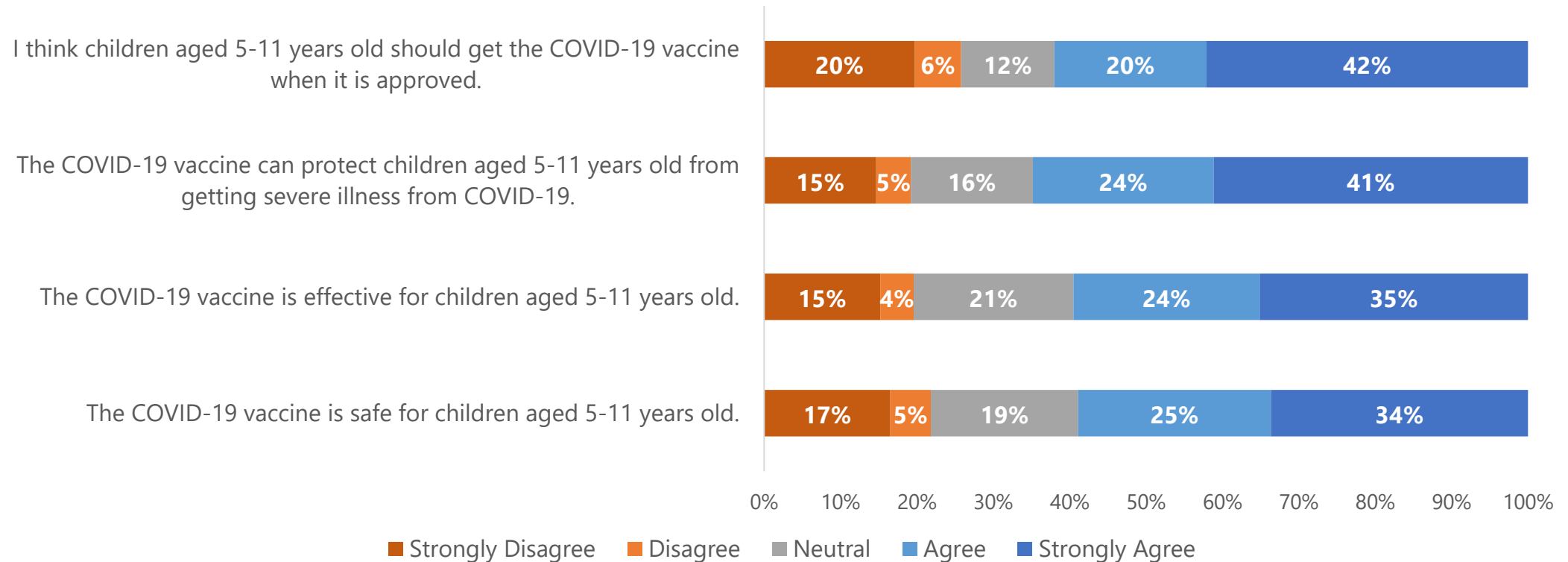
Total Likert Scale Responses

Caregiver Attitudes Toward Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine



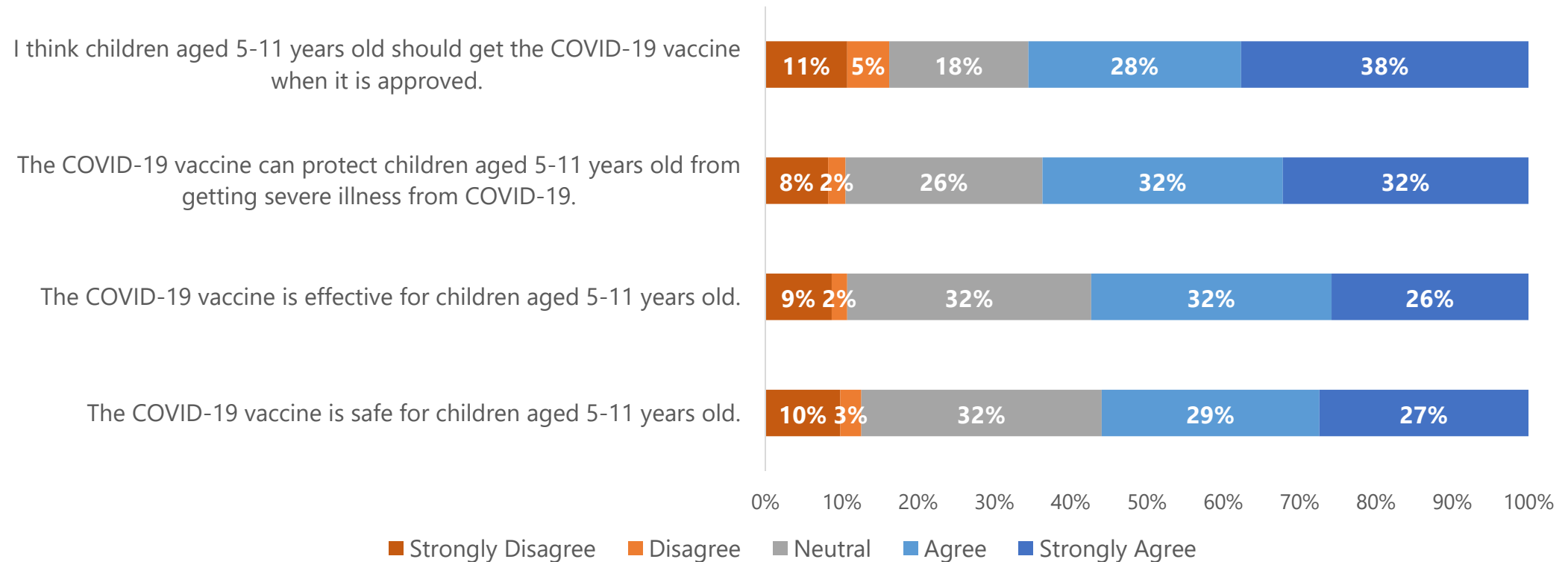
Likert Scale Responses, Omitting NH Blacks

Caregiver Attitudes Toward Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine

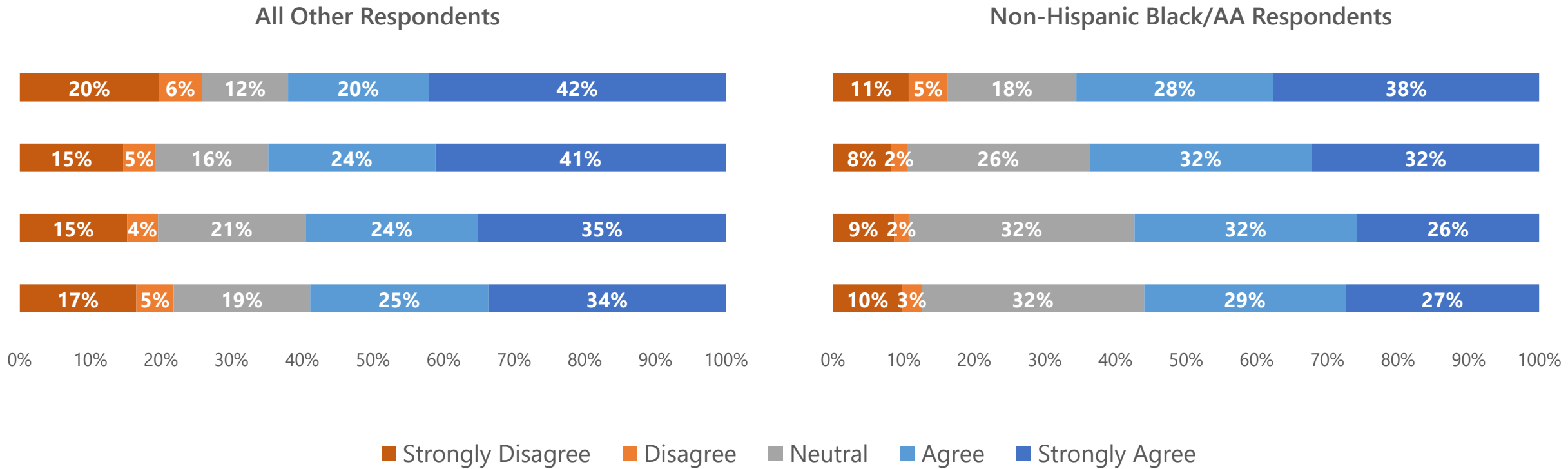


Likert Scale Responses: Black/African American

Caregiver Attitudes Toward Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine

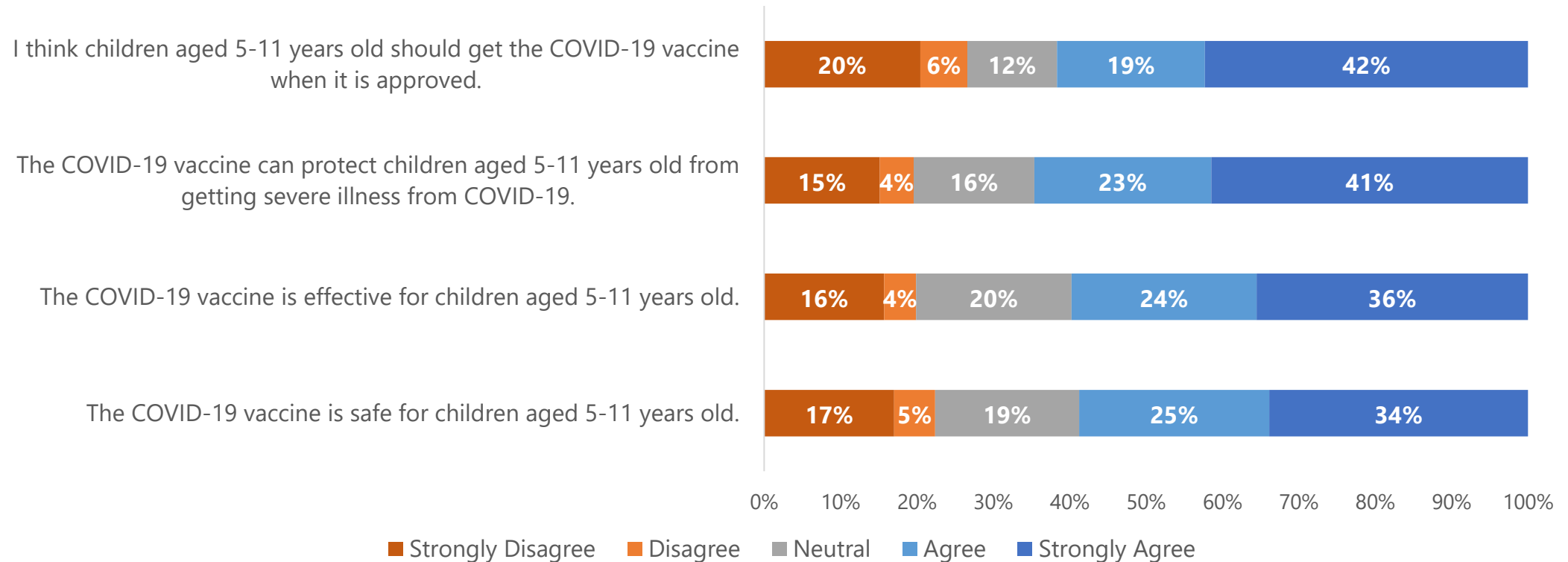


Total Likert Scale Responses Comparison



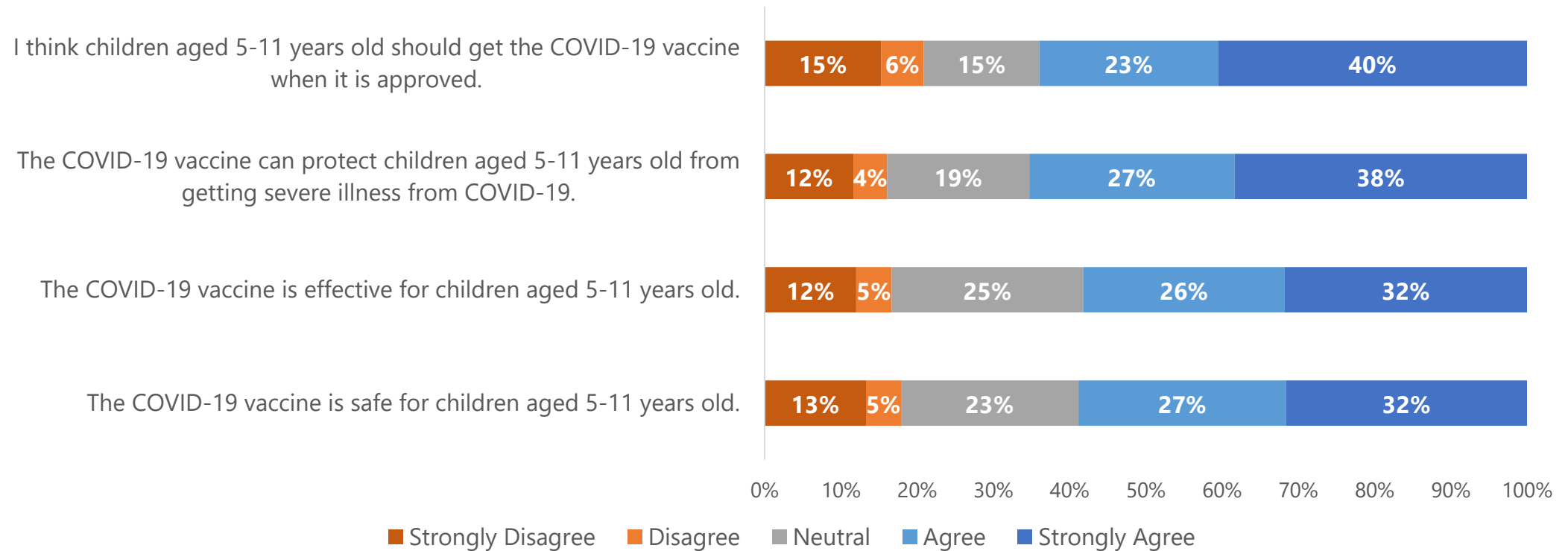
Likert Scale Responses, Omitting Hispanics

Caregiver Attitudes Toward Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine

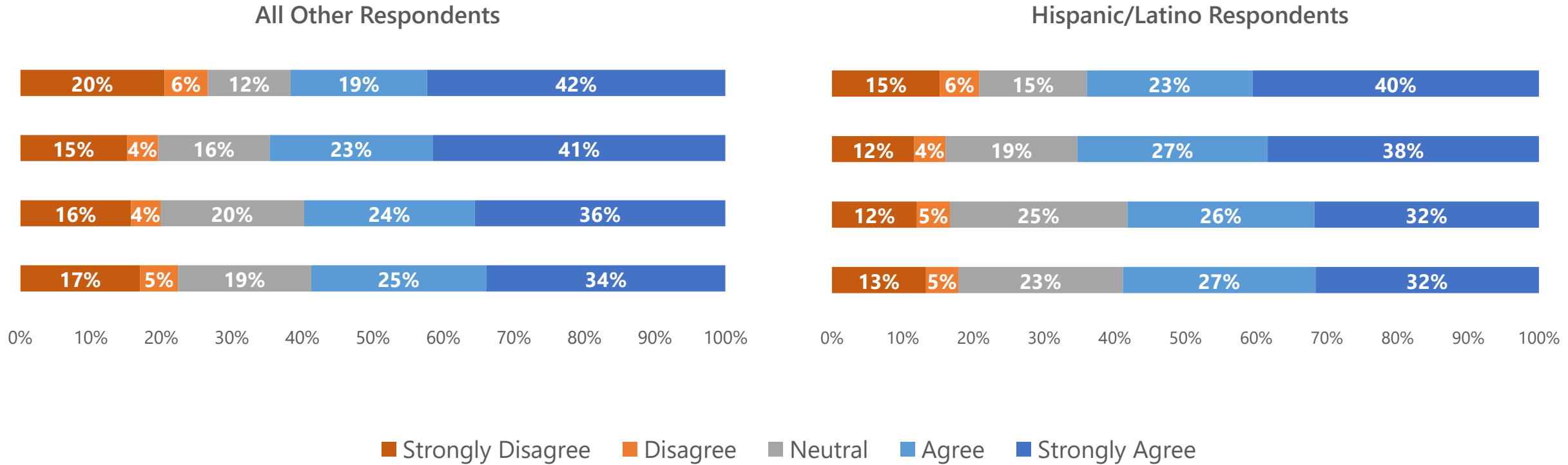


Likert Scale Responses: Hispanic/Latino

Caregiver Attitudes Toward Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine

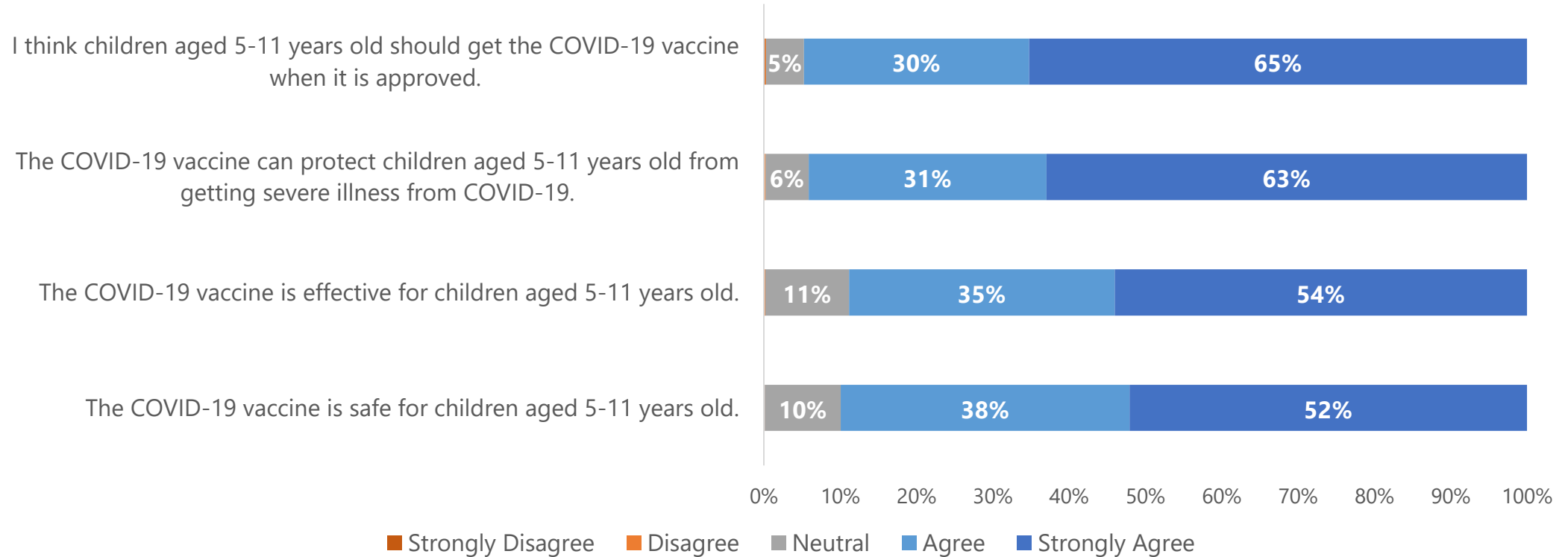


Total Likert Scale Responses Comparison



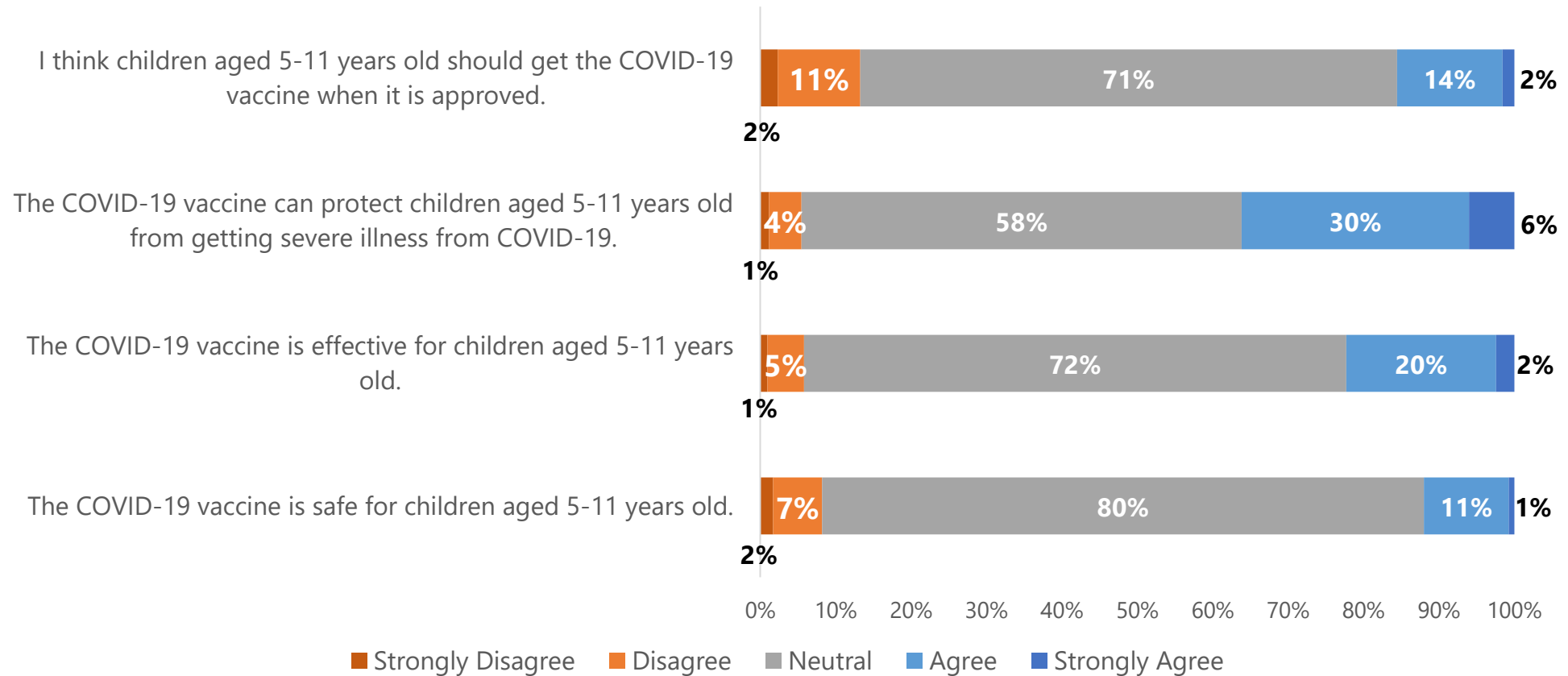
Total Likert Scale Responses: "Yes"

Caregiver Attitudes Toward Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine



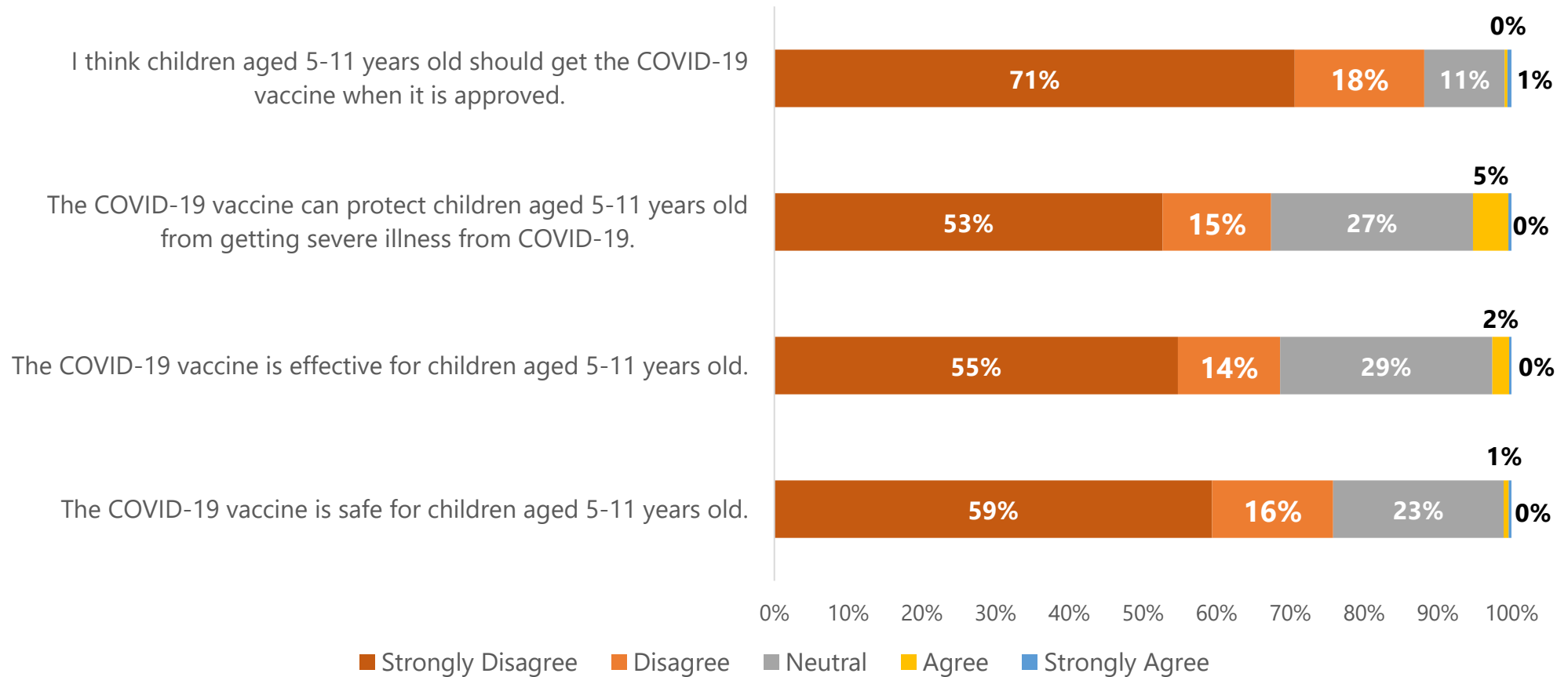
Total Likert Scale Responses: "Unsure"

Caregiver Attitudes Toward Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine



Total Likert Scale Responses: "No"/ "If Required"

Caregiver Attitudes Toward Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine



Questions and Concerns

We asked respondents what questions or concerns, if any, they have about COVID-19 vaccines for children aged 5-11 years and received 4,522 qualitative responses total.

After removing comments that did not express a question or concern, we had 3,467 responses for analysis:

- 1,678 responses (48%) were from those that do not plan to vaccinate
- 1,275 (37%) were from caregivers that do plan to vaccinate
- 465 (13%) were from unsure respondents
- 49 (1%) were from those that will only do so if required

Questions Among All Respondents

Listed below are the most common questions, followed by their frequencies:

What are the short-term side effects/adverse reactions? – **596**

How effective/necessary is it in children who had COVID-19 and now have antibodies? – **162**

How safe is the vaccine? How do we know? – **123**

How effective is it and for how long? – **162**

How many doses are required? How much time between each shot? – **93**

Will children need boosters? When? – **41**

What are the known adverse reactions and how common are they? – **86**

What to do with kids at the age cusps? Kids that are below or above average weight for their age? – **63**

How does the vaccine interact with preexisting conditions or medications? – **27**

Concerns Among All Respondents

Listed below are the most common concerns, followed by their frequencies:

Data concerns (no long-term studies, small sample size) – **662**

Long term side effects – **577**

- Reproductive issues – **52**

Whether vaccine is necessary for children who have a low risk of infection and of presenting severe symptoms if infected – **211**

Adverse reactions and short-term side effects – **191**

- Myocarditis – **104**

- Heart issues – **84**

Concern over EUA rather than standard FDA vaccine approval processes – **73**

Questions/Concerns Among “Yes” Respondents

Questions about being vaccinated at school

- Can I [parent/guardian] be present?

- What is the plan for adverse effects?

- What time of day? How to address immediate side effects?

- When can previously infected children get vaccinated?

- What will happen to mask policy?

How to address children at the cusps?

- Children that are almost 5; children that are underweight for their age

- Children that are almost 12; children that are overweight for their age

The most common concerns were:

- Ability to access vaccine quickly

- Not enough children getting vaccinated to prevent spread

- Requests for a vaccine mandate and concern that vaccines will not be mandated

Questions/Concerns Among “Unsure” Respondents

Questions

What are the ingredients of the vaccine?

What were the results of the Pfizer pediatric studies?

What was the sample size? How common were severe side effects?

Concerns

Schools mandating vaccines

Many respondents are waiting for more data to come out

Others are waiting for standard vaccine approval by the FDA (not EUA), or recommendation from their pediatricians

Questions/Concerns Among "No" & "If Required" Respondents

Questions

What are the ingredients of the vaccine?

Requests for the studies Pfizer presented and for data on infection and mortality rates for this age group

Is the vaccine necessary for children because they are at such a low risk?

Concerns

Opposition to vaccine mandate for children

Belief that the unknown side effects of the vaccine are more dangerous than COVID-19

Belief that the vaccine is ineffective against COVID-19 infection or spread

Belief that the antibodies developed after a COVID infection provide stronger immunity than the vaccine

Belief that the vaccine is illegitimate (allusions to media, medical, or governmental disinformation)

Similarities or Differences in Responses by Demographics

We see that Black, Latino, and Spanish speaking populations are all **more likely to be unsure** about vaccinating their children and to **hold neutral opinions** regarding the vaccine's safety and effectiveness than their counterparts, who are more likely to be firmly decided.

Unsure respondents made up a small portion (8%) of the total survey population, but constituted 11% of Hispanic respondents, 12% of Black respondents, and 18% of Spanish language respondents.

We see **no discernable difference** in the content of questions and concerns between English and Spanish respondents or between different races and ethnicities.

A few responses expressed concerns over safety of the vaccine for specifically **children of color** and over **equitable access** to vaccination.

Conclusions

Most respondents, **63%**, planned to vaccinate their 5–11-year-old children, representing **10,580** children.

Most respondents made doctor's offices their 1st choice, followed by pharmacies.
Community vaccination clinics, including APH, ranked 3rd.

Respondents, regardless of their vaccination plan, had concerns about the vaccine's safety and efficacy, adverse reactions and unknown long-term effects.

Many unsure respondents want to wait for more data to come out.

Focusing education and outreach efforts on populations that are still unsure may prove effective and efficient in raising pediatric vaccination rates.

Priority Zip Codes

APH pediatric vaccine clinics are available most days of the week, providing evening and weekend opportunities. In addition, several zip codes have been identified as areas of priority due to high incidences of COVID-19 transmission and where the population is at disproportionately high risk.

The following priority zip codes were selected for further analysis:

78617 (Del Valle)

78660 (Pflugerville)

78724 (Central East Austin)

78744 (Southeast Austin – McKinney Falls)

78745 (Southwest Austin – Sunset Valley/South Congress)

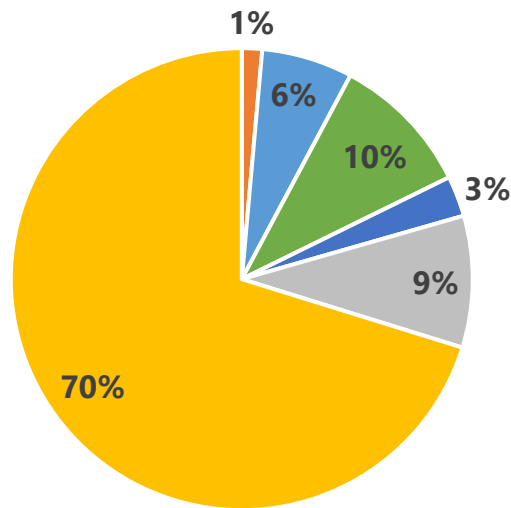
78752 (St. Johns/Coronado Hills)

Our findings include respondents' descriptive information, whether they plan to vaccinate their 5–11-year-old children, how much they agree with statements about the COVID-19 vaccine's safety and effectiveness, and vaccination location preference.

Priority Zip Codes: 78617 (Del Valle)

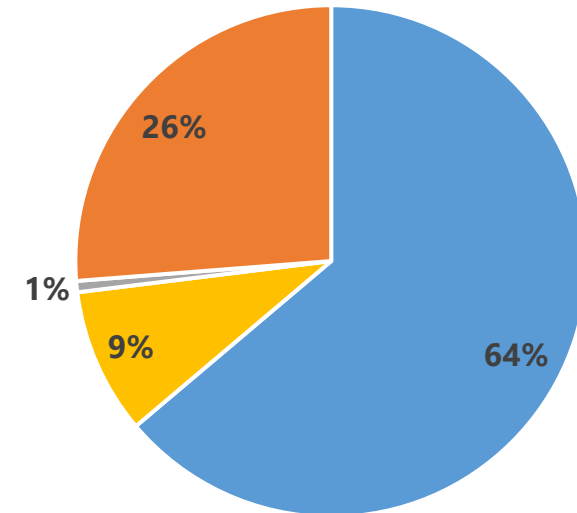
This data represents the **141** responses we received from this zip code, representing the caregivers of **211** kids aged 5-11. Most responses came from Del Valle ISD (92%). **114** of the responses were submitted in English and **27** responses were submitted in Spanish.

Respondents by Race and Ethnicity



■ Asian
■ Black or African American
■ White
■ Other
■ Prefer Not to Say
■ Hispanic/Latino

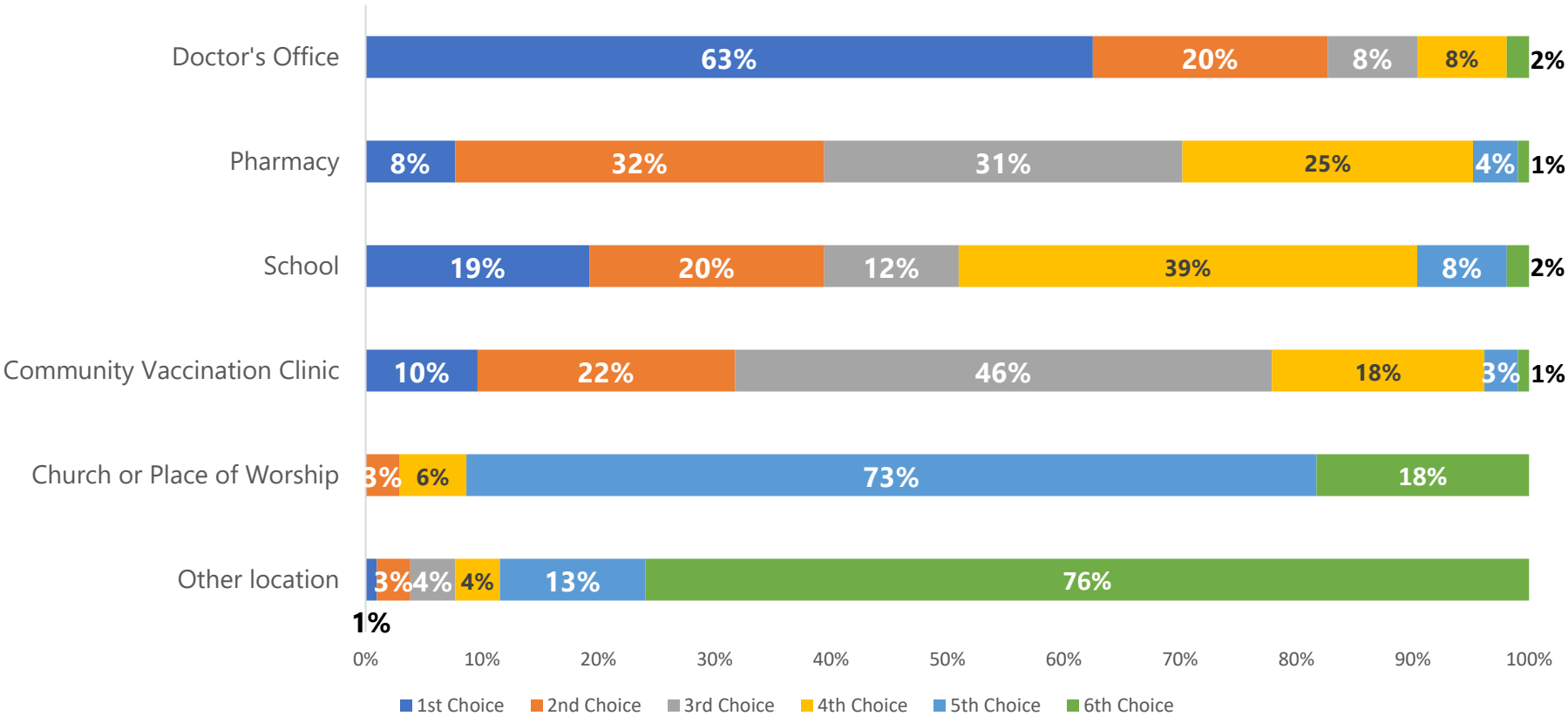
Will Respondents Vaccinate their Children?



■ Yes
■ Unsure
■ Only If Required
■ No

Priority Zip Codes: 78617 (Del Valle)

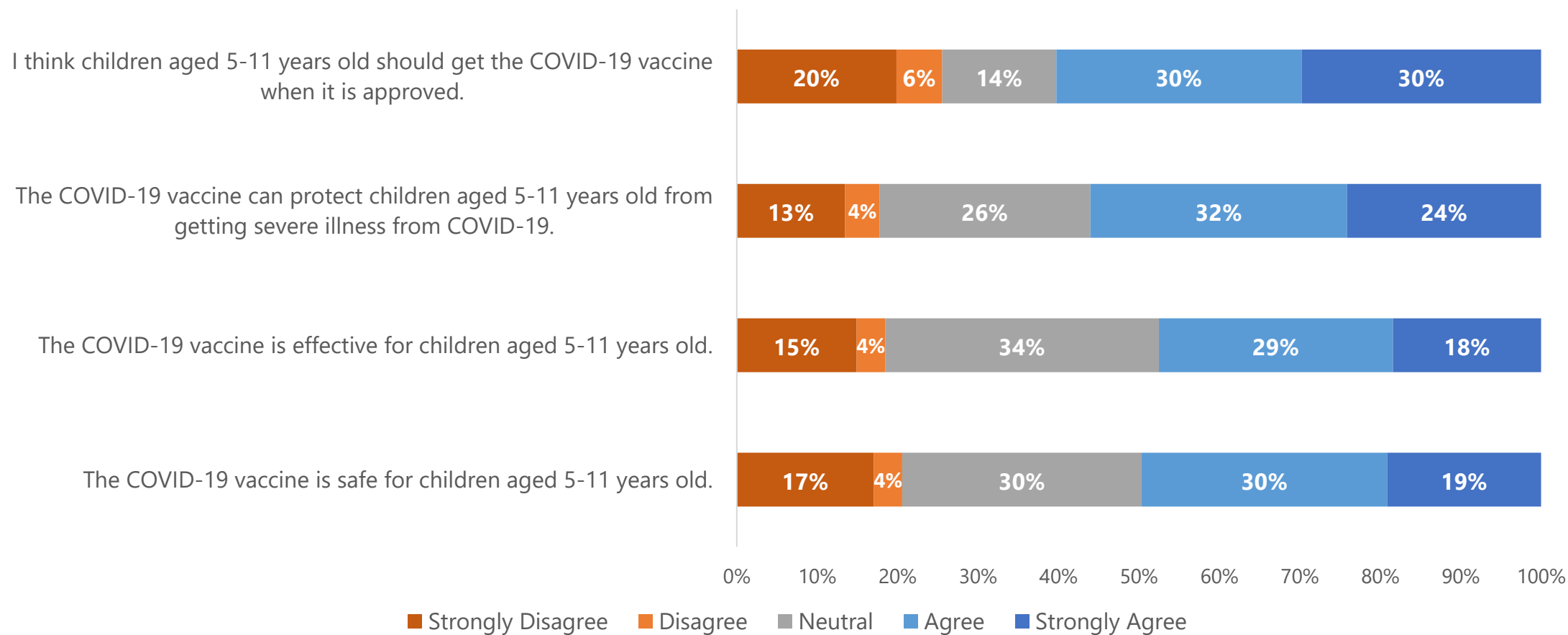
Location Preference Among "Yes" and "Unsure" Caregivers



Location	Overall Rank Preference
Doctor's Office	1st
Pharmacy	2nd
Community Vaccination Clinic	3rd
School	4th
Church or Place of Worship	5th
Other Location	6th

Priority Zip Codes: 78617 (Del Valle)

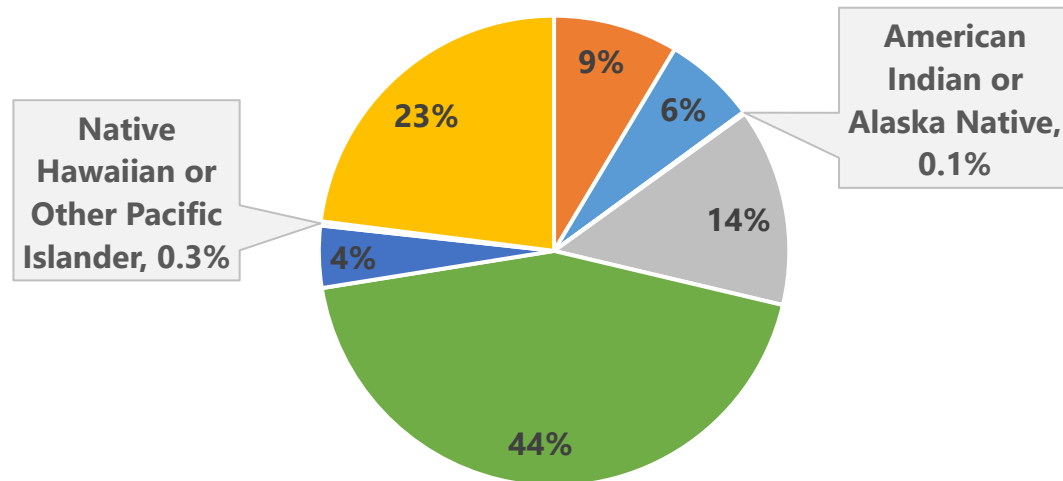
Caregiver Attitudes Toward Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine



Priority Zip Codes: 78660 (Pflugerville)

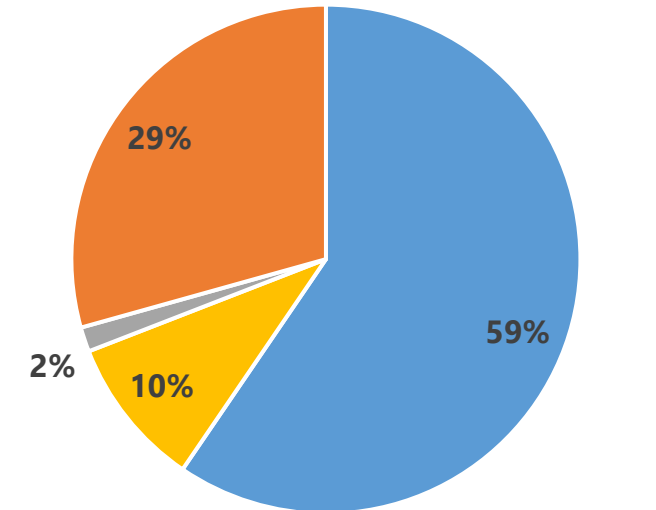
- This data represents the 2,819 English responses we received from this zip code, representing the caregivers of 4,240 kids aged 5-11. 2,741 of the responses were submitted in English and 78 responses were submitted in Spanish. Most responses came from Pflugerville ISD (96%).

Respondents by Race/Ethnicity



■ Asian
■ American Indian or Alaska Native
■ White
■ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
■ Black or African American
■ Prefer Not to Say
■ Other
■ Hispanic/Latino

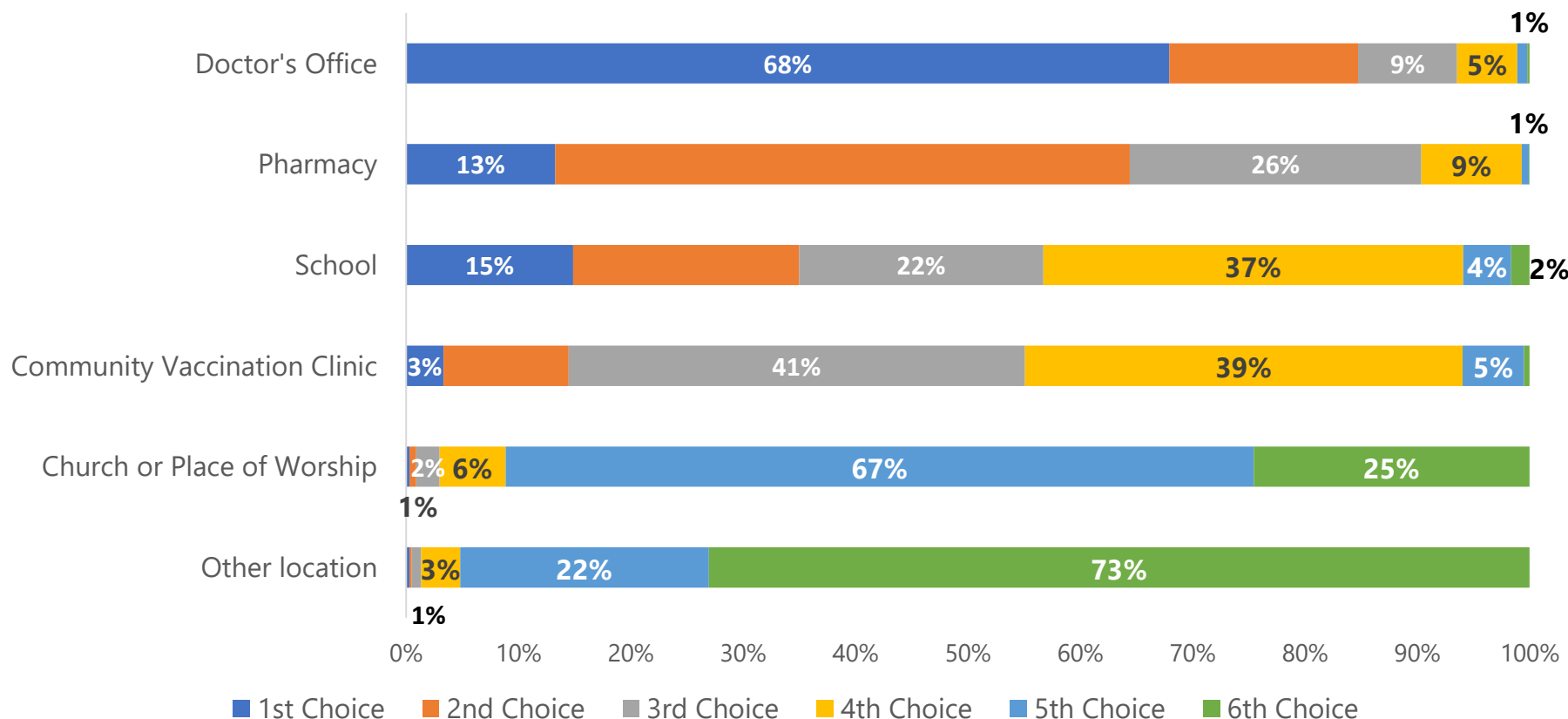
Will Respondents Vaccinate their Children?



■ Yes ■ Unsure ■ Only If Required ■ No

Priority Zip Codes: 78660 (Pflugerville)

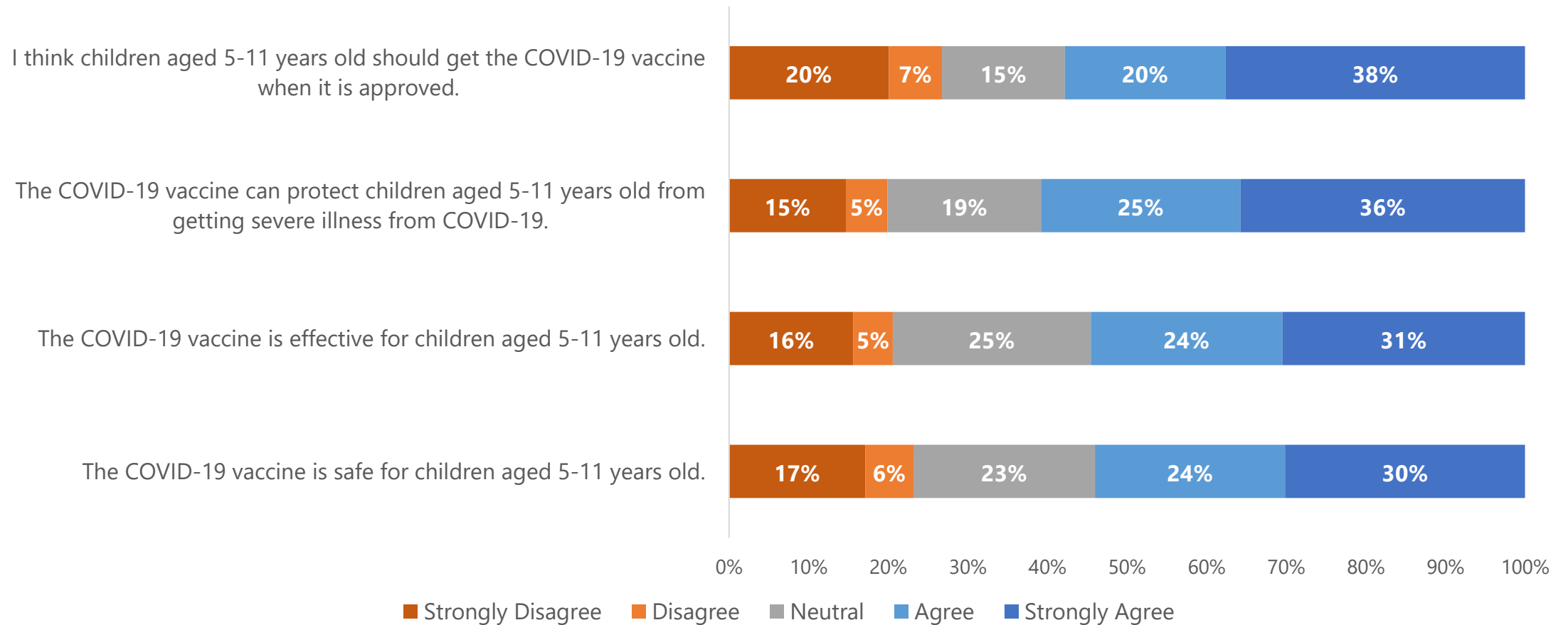
Location Preference Among "Yes" and "Unsure" Caregivers



Location	Overall Rank Preference
Doctor's Office	1st
Pharmacy	2nd
Community Vaccination Clinic	3rd
School	4th
Church or Place of Worship	5th
Other Location	6th

Priority Zip Codes: 78660 (Pflugerville)

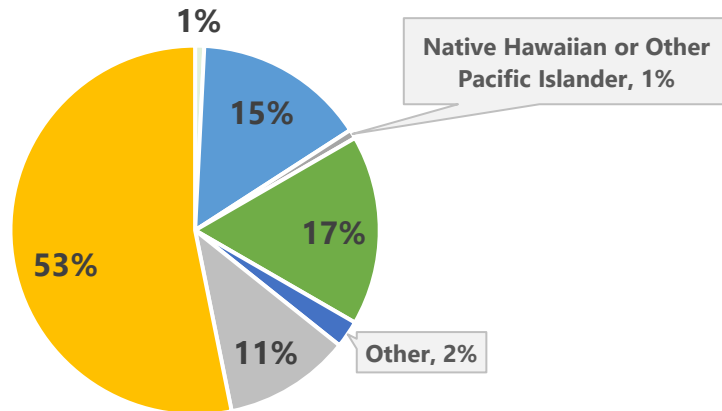
Caregiver Attitudes Toward Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine



Priority Zip Codes: 78724 (Northeast Austin)

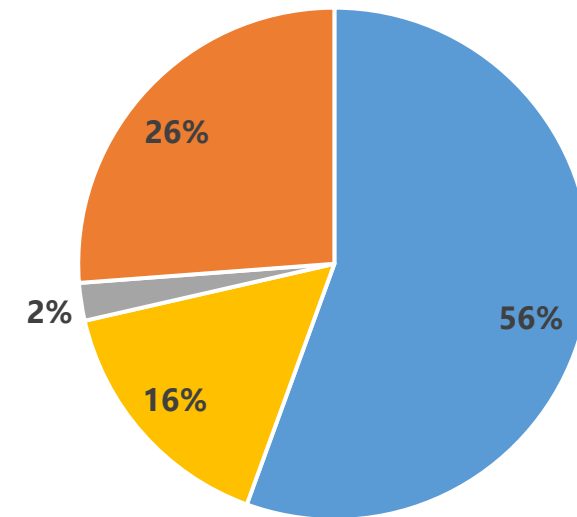
- This data represents the 126 responses we received from this zip code, representing the caregivers of 182 kids aged 5-11. Most responses came from Manor ISD (32%) and Del Valle ISD (31%). 97 of the responses were submitted in English and 29 responses were submitted in Spanish.

Respondents by Race/Ethnicity



American Indian or Alaska Native
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
Other
Hispanic/Latino
Black or African American
White
Prefer Not to Say

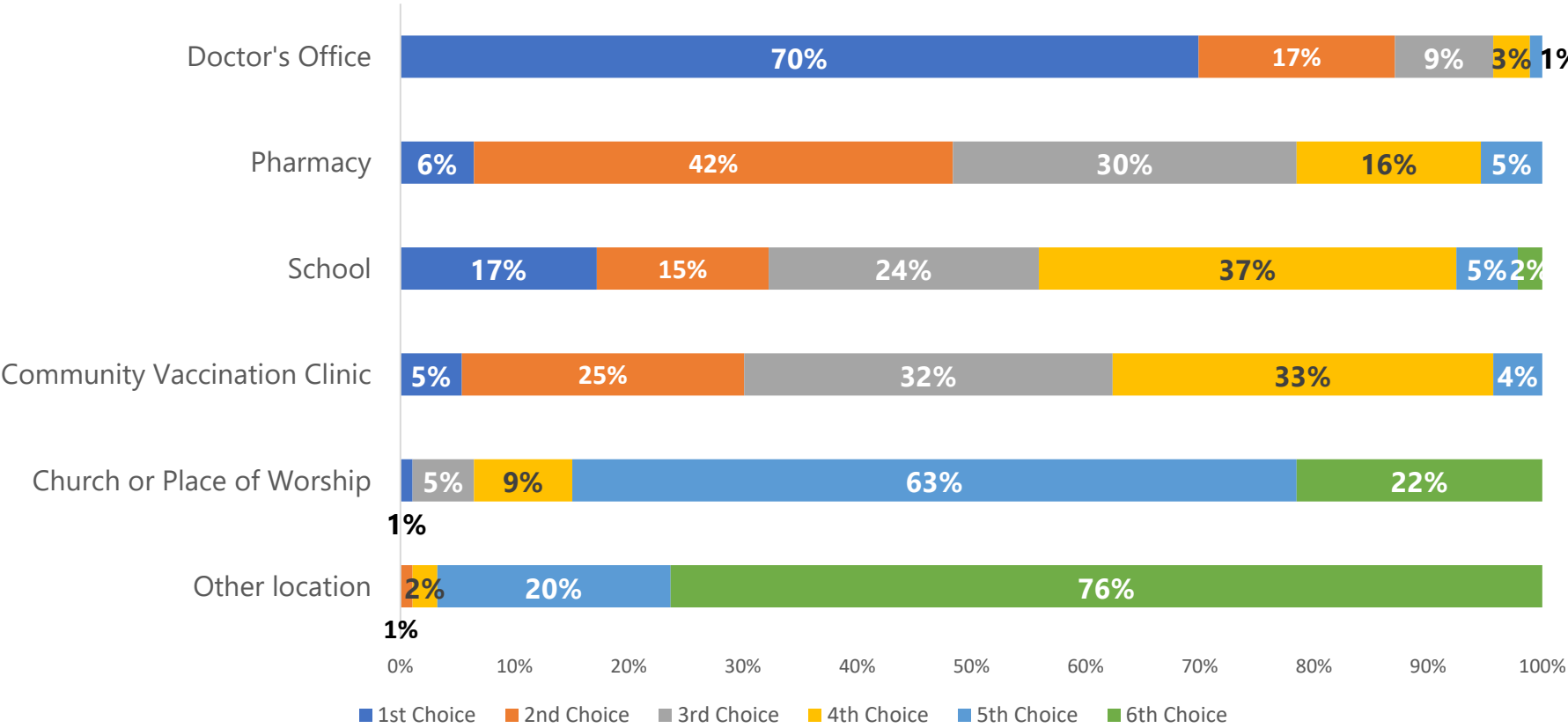
Will Respondents Vaccinate their Children?



Yes Unsure Only If Required No

Priority Zip Codes: 78724 (Northeast Austin)

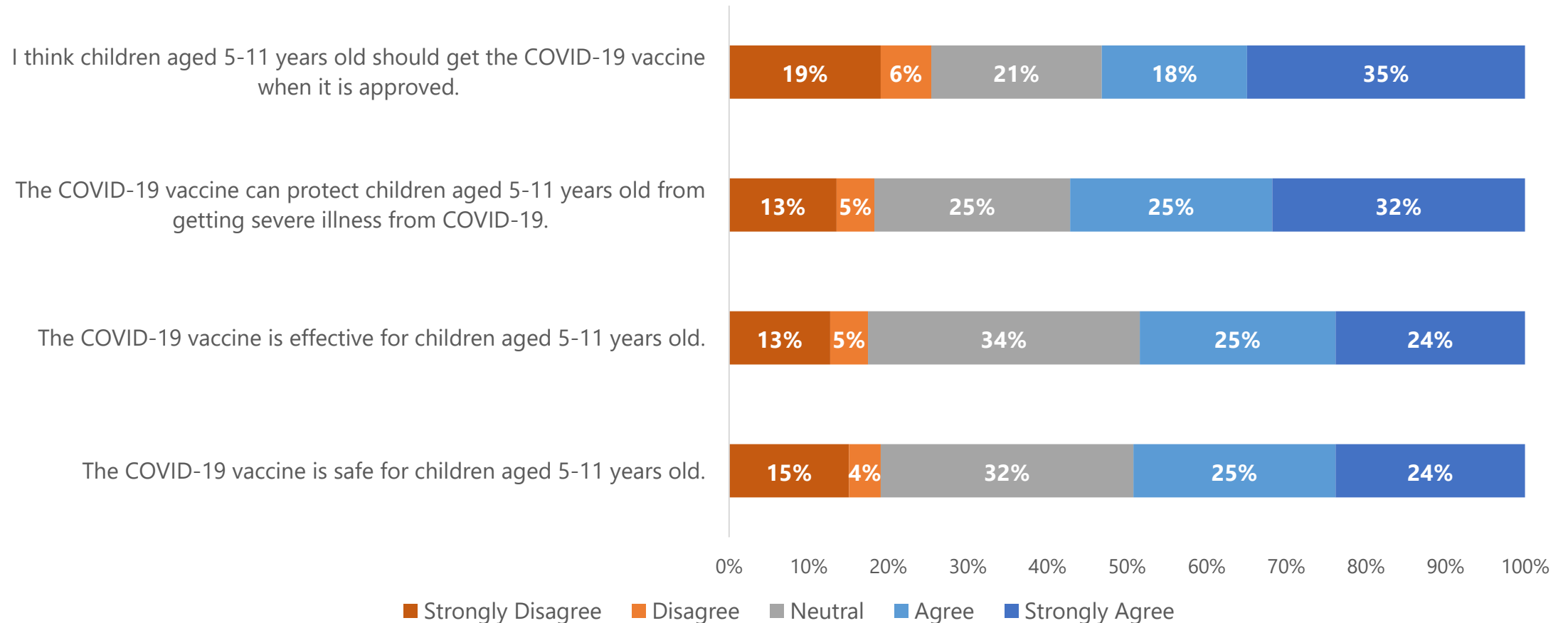
Location Preference Among "Yes" and "Unsure" Caregivers



Location	Overall Rank Preference
Doctor's Office	1st
Pharmacy	2nd
Community Vaccination Clinic	3rd
School	4th
Church or Place of Worship	5th
Other Location	6th

Priority Zip Codes: 78724 (Northeast Austin)

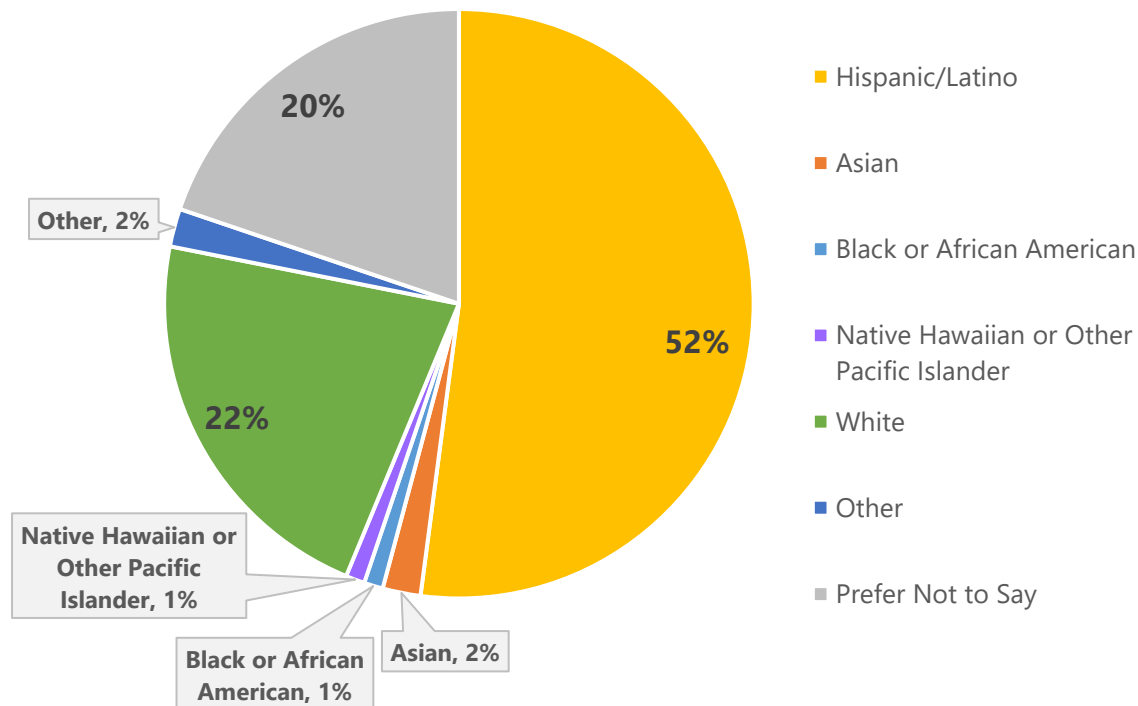
Caregiver Attitudes Toward Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine



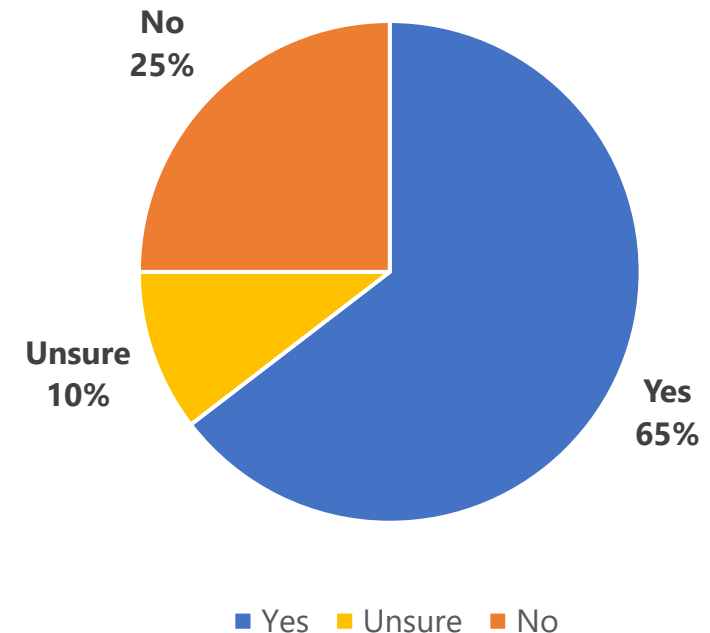
Priority Zip Codes: 78744 (S. Austin – McKinney Falls)

- This data summarizes the 96 responses received during the survey period from residents of 78744, representing the caregivers of 143 kids aged 5-11. 84 of the responses were submitted in English and 12 responses were submitted in Spanish. Most responses came from Del Valle ISD (67%) and Austin ISD (18%).

Respondents by Race and Ethnicity

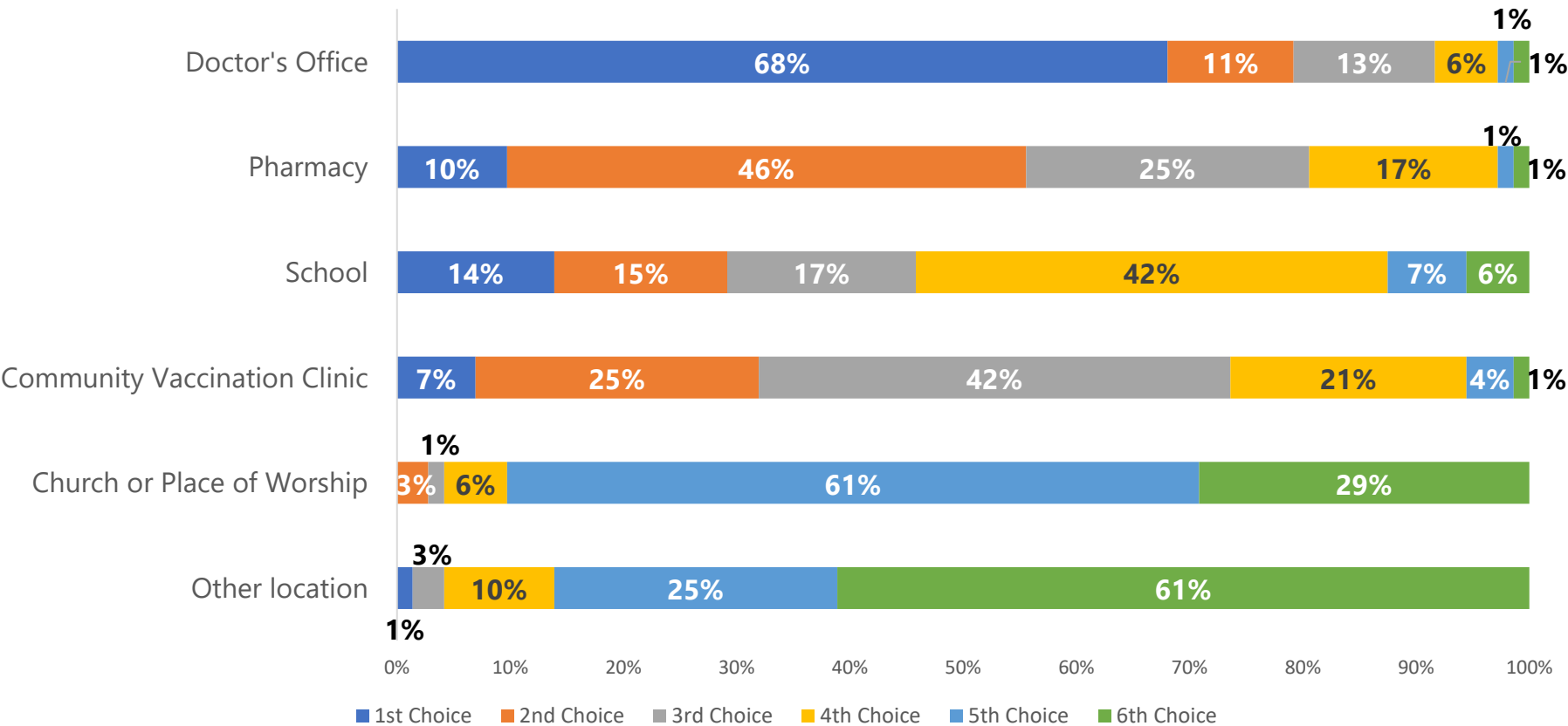


Do Respondents Plan to Vaccinate Their Children?



Priority Zip Codes: 78744 (S. Austin – McKinney Falls)

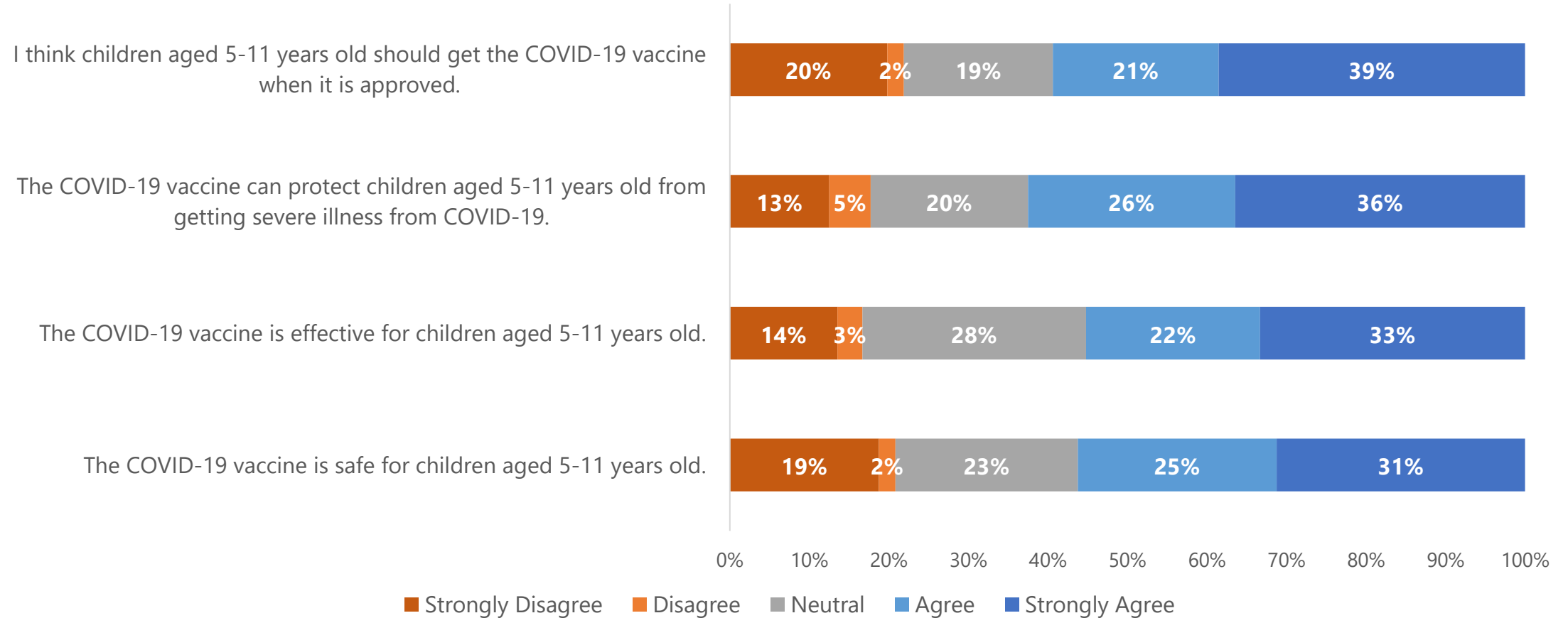
Location Preference Among "Yes" and "Unsure" Caregivers



Location	Overall Rank Preference
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Pharmacy	2nd
Community Vaccination Clinic	3rd
School	4th
Church or Place of Worship	5th
Other Location	6th

Priority Zip Codes: 78744 (S. Austin – McKinney Falls)

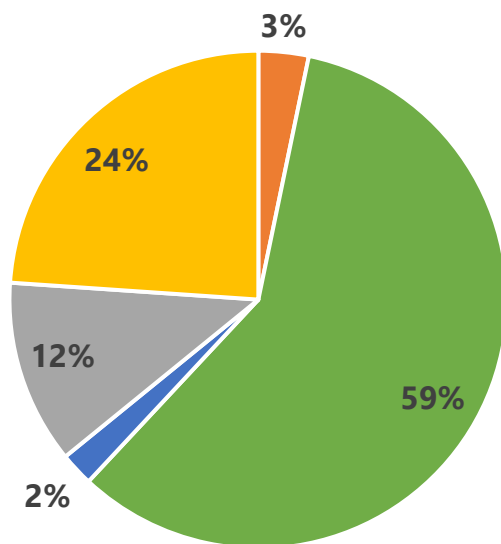
Caregiver Attitudes Toward Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine



Priority Zip Codes: 78745 (SW Austin)

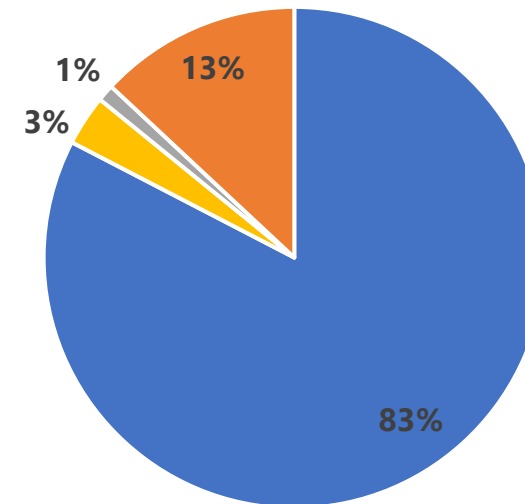
- This data represents the 92 responses we received from 78745, representing the caregivers of 128 kids aged 5-11. 89 of the responses were submitted in English and 3 responses were submitted in Spanish. Most responses came from Austin ISD (49%).

Respondents by Race/Ethnicity



Asian White Other Prefer Not to Say Hispanic/Latino

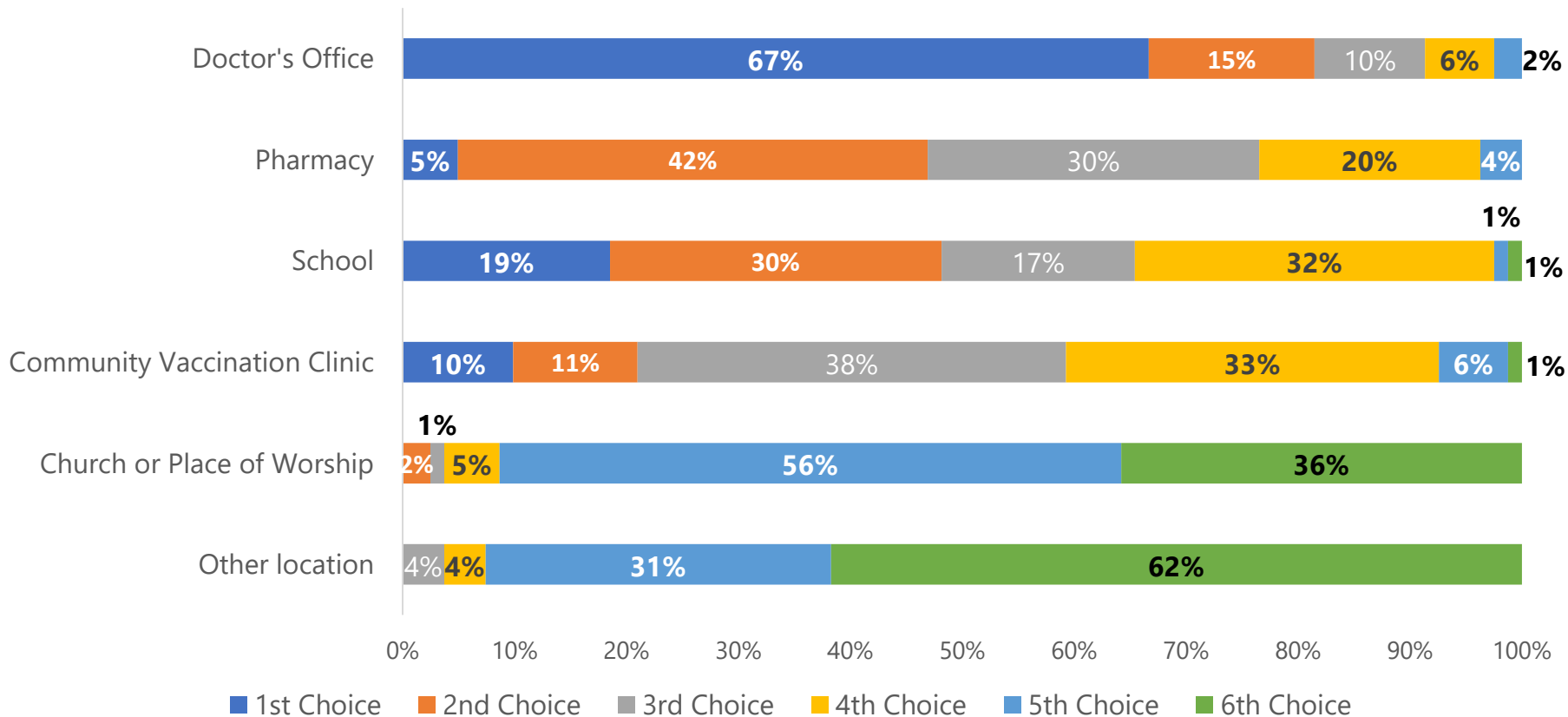
Will Respondents Vaccinate their Children?



Yes Unsure Only If Required No

Priority Zip Codes: 78745 (SW Austin)

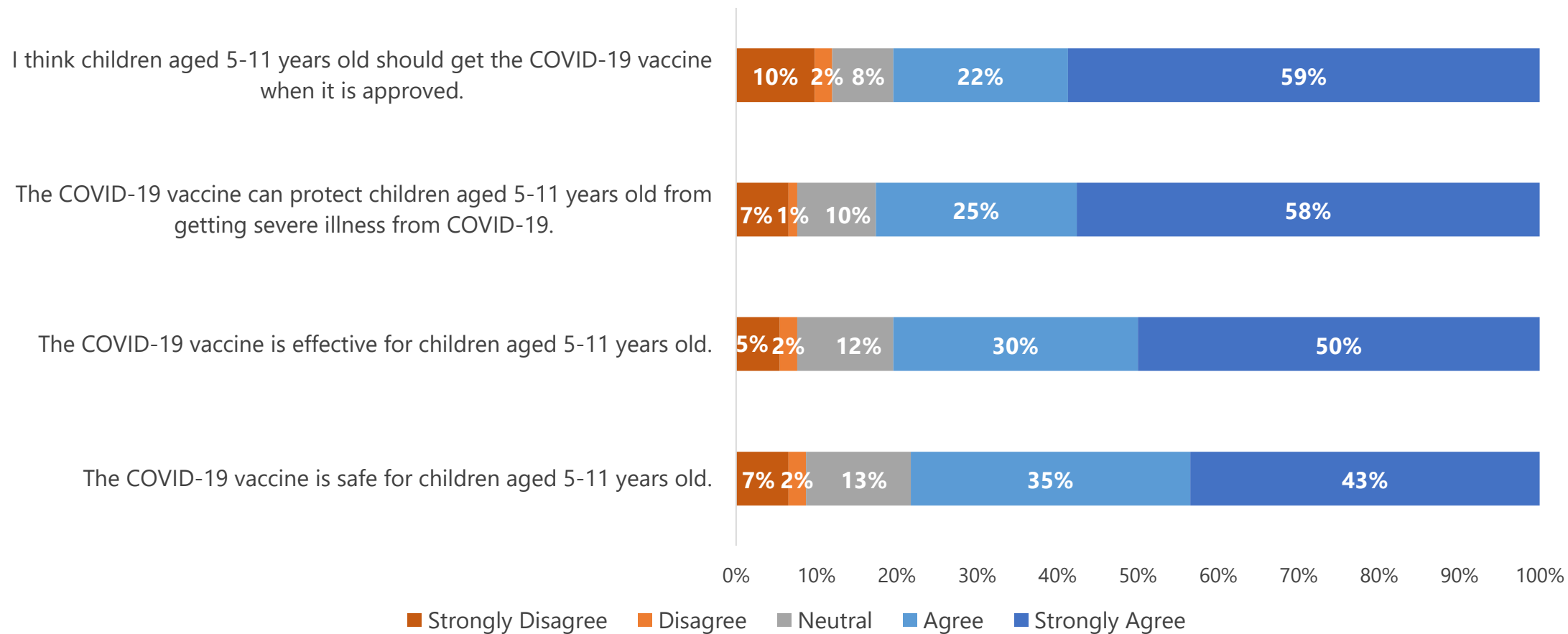
Location Preference Among "Yes" and "Unsure" Caregivers



Location	Overall Rank Preference
Doctor's Office	1st
Pharmacy	2nd
Community Vaccination Clinic	3rd
School	4th
Church or Place of Worship	5th
Other Location	6th

Priority Zip Codes: 78745 (SW Austin)

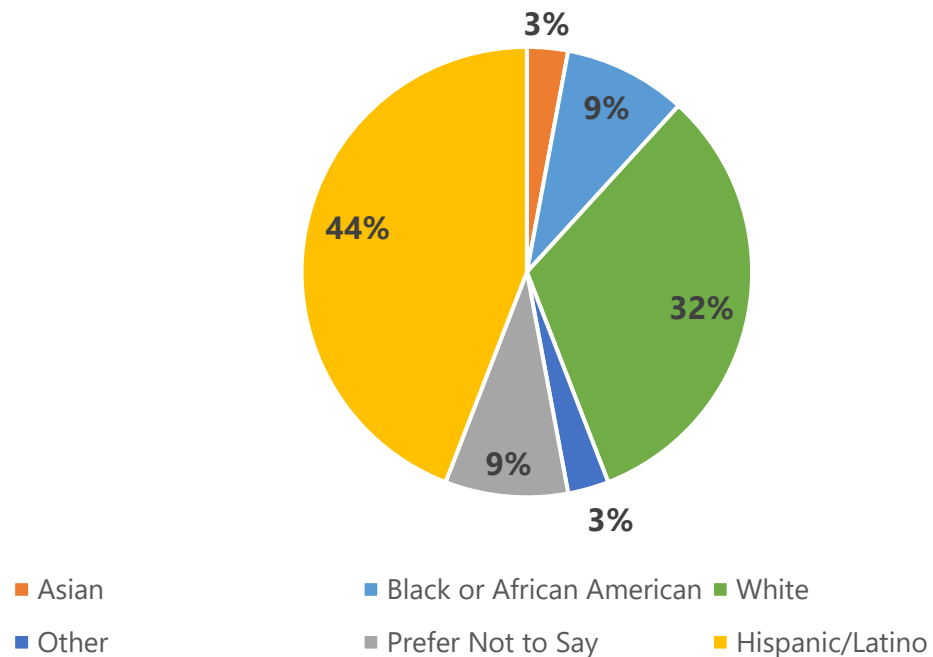
Caregiver Attitudes Toward Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine



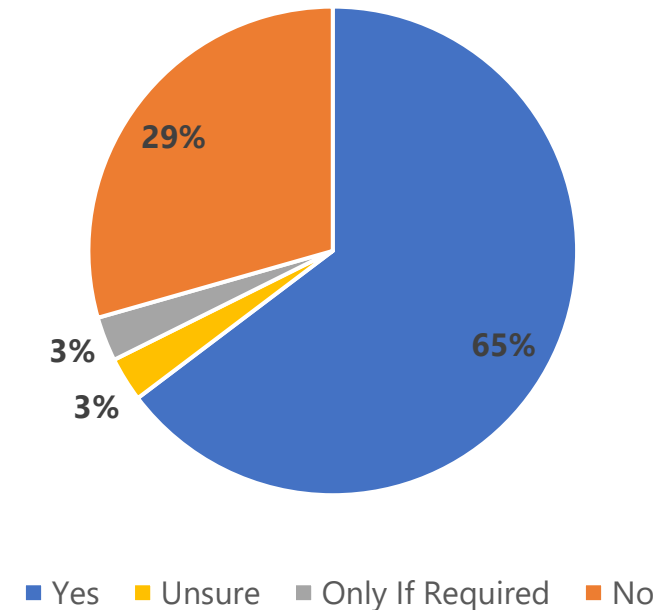
Priority Zip Codes: 78752 (St. Johns/Coronado Hills)

- This data summarizes the 34 responses we received during the survey period from residents of 78752, representing the caregivers of 50 kids aged 5-11. 29 of the responses were submitted in English and 5 responses were submitted in Spanish. Most responses came from Austin ISD (32%).

Respondents by Race/Ethnicity

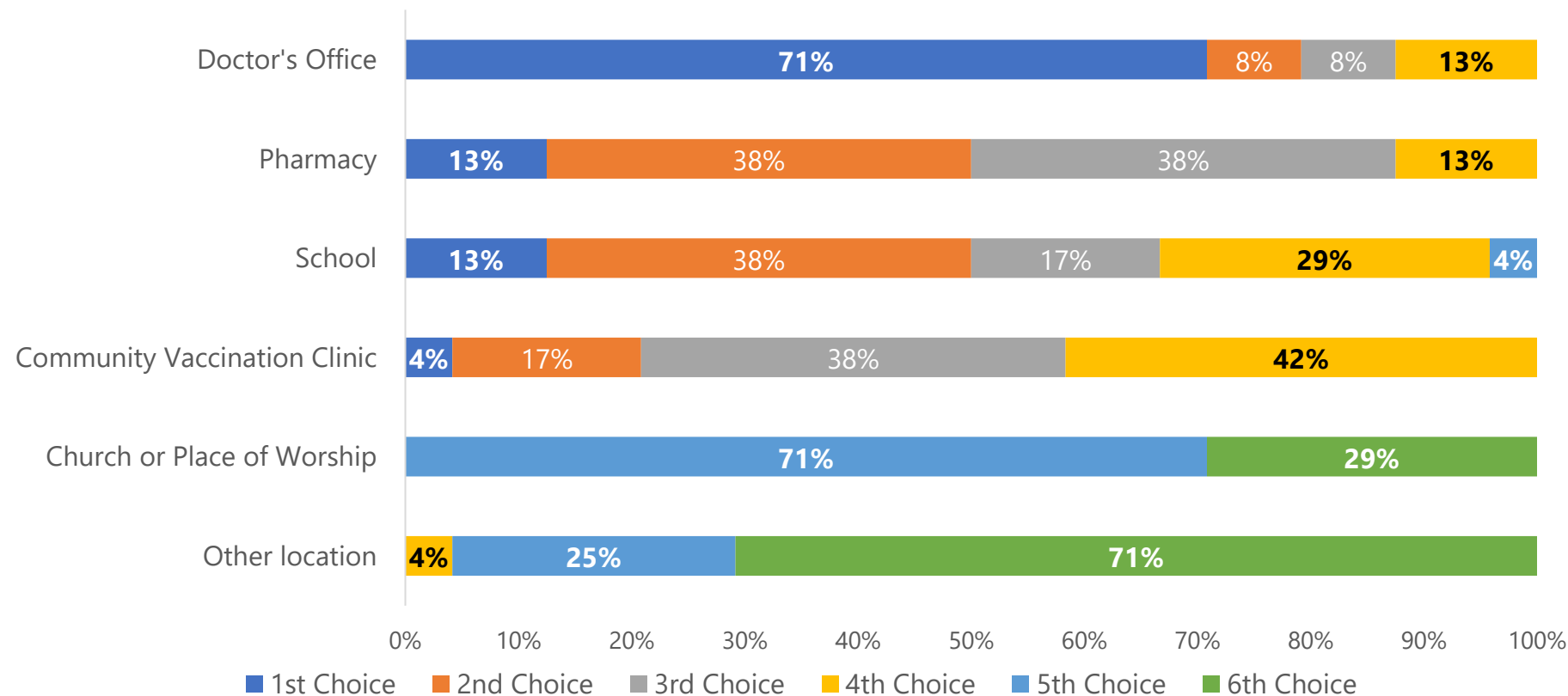


Will Respondents Vaccinate their Children?



Priority Zip Codes: 78752 (St. Johns/Coronado Hills)

Location Preference Among "Yes" and "Unsure" Caregivers



Location	Overall Rank Preference
Doctor's Office	1st
School	2nd
Pharmacy	3rd
Community Vaccination Clinic	4th
Church or Place of Worship	5th
Other Location	6th

Priority Zip Codes: 78752 (St. Johns/Coronado Hills)

Caregiver Attitudes Toward Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccine

