

# Perceptions of Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Counseling and Administration During Dental Visits

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## Background

- Children from 6 months to 5 years old are at the highest risk of influenza complications
  - Especially those living in poverty and from racial/ethnic minority groups
- Children don't always see a primary care provider during influenza season, but some Children have routine dental visits during influenza season
- Dentists provide a key opportunity for influenza vaccination
- We have limited information regarding comfort/parental perception on vaccination in the dental home.

## Objective

To understand parent's perceptions of influenza vaccine counseling and administration during routine visits with an oral health provider at a federally qualified health center in Denver, CO.

## Methods

- We conducted a cross sectional survey via convenience sampling of parents with children between 18 months and 5 years old.
- We asked all parents with children within the age pool presenting for a dental visit between July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- Surveys were based on the health belief model, with validated questions regarding influenza vaccines, and novel questions probing perceptions of dental visit counseling.
- Data was analyzed descriptively using a Likert Scale.

Table 1: Demographics							
Survey Question and Response Option	N (%) of eligible participants responding (N=289)	N (%) of eligible participants who did not respond (N=14)	P-Value* (Fischer's Exact)	Survey Question and Response Option	N (%) of eligible participants responding (N=289)	N (%) of eligible participants who did not respond (N=14)	P-Value* (Fischer's Exact)
Age				Race of Child			
18 months old	15 (5.5%)	1 (7.1%)	0.67733	Caucasian	116 (43.3%)	6 (42.9%)	0.8231
2 years old	37 (13.7%)	1 (7.1%)		Black	50 (18.7%)	2 (14.2%)	
3 years old	70 (25.9%)	6 (42.9%)		Asian	14 (5.2%)	0 (0%)	
4 years old	82 (30.4%)	3 (21.45%)		American Indian	6 (2.2%)	0 (0%)	
5 years old	66 (24.4%)	3 (21.45%)		Other	91 (34%)	6 (42.9%)	
Sex of Child				Ethnicity			
Male	129 (47.8%)	8 (57.1%)	0.588	Hispanic	180 (67.2%)	11 (78.6%)	0.5593
Female	141 (52.2%)	6 (42.9%)		Not Hispanic	88 (32.8%)	3 (21.4%)	
Preferred Spoken Language				Medicaid as Payor			
English	166 (61.5%)	5 (35.7%)	0.0894	Medicaid	255 (88%)	13 (93%)	1
Spanish	104 (38.5%)	9 (64.3%)		Non-Medicaid	35 (12%)	1 (7%)	
*P-value < 0.05 considered significant							
Table 1: Self Reported demographics of all eligible parents of patients ages 18 months to 5 years old.							

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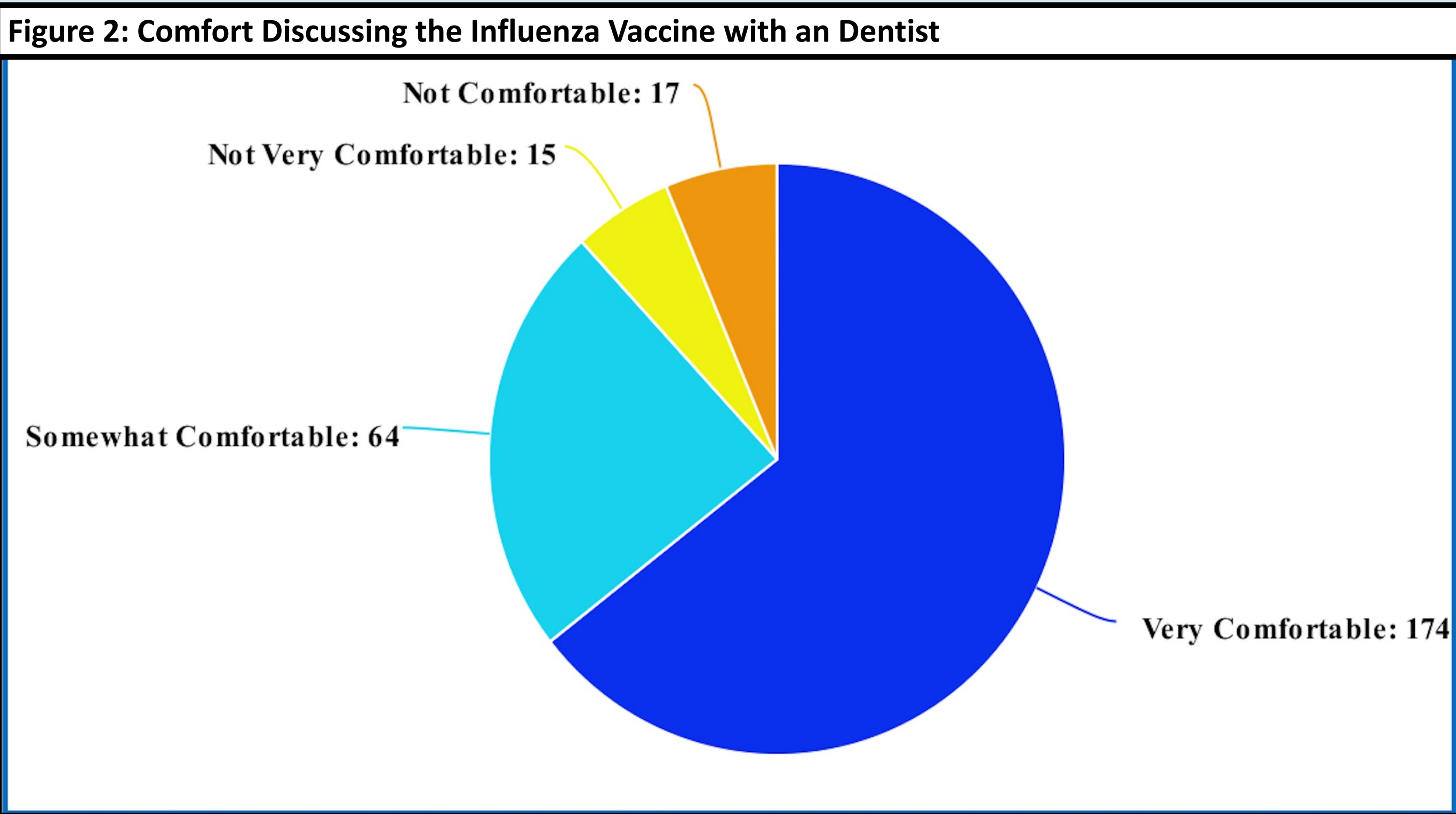


Figure 2: Surveyed parents self reported level of comfort discussing the influenza vaccine with a dentist.

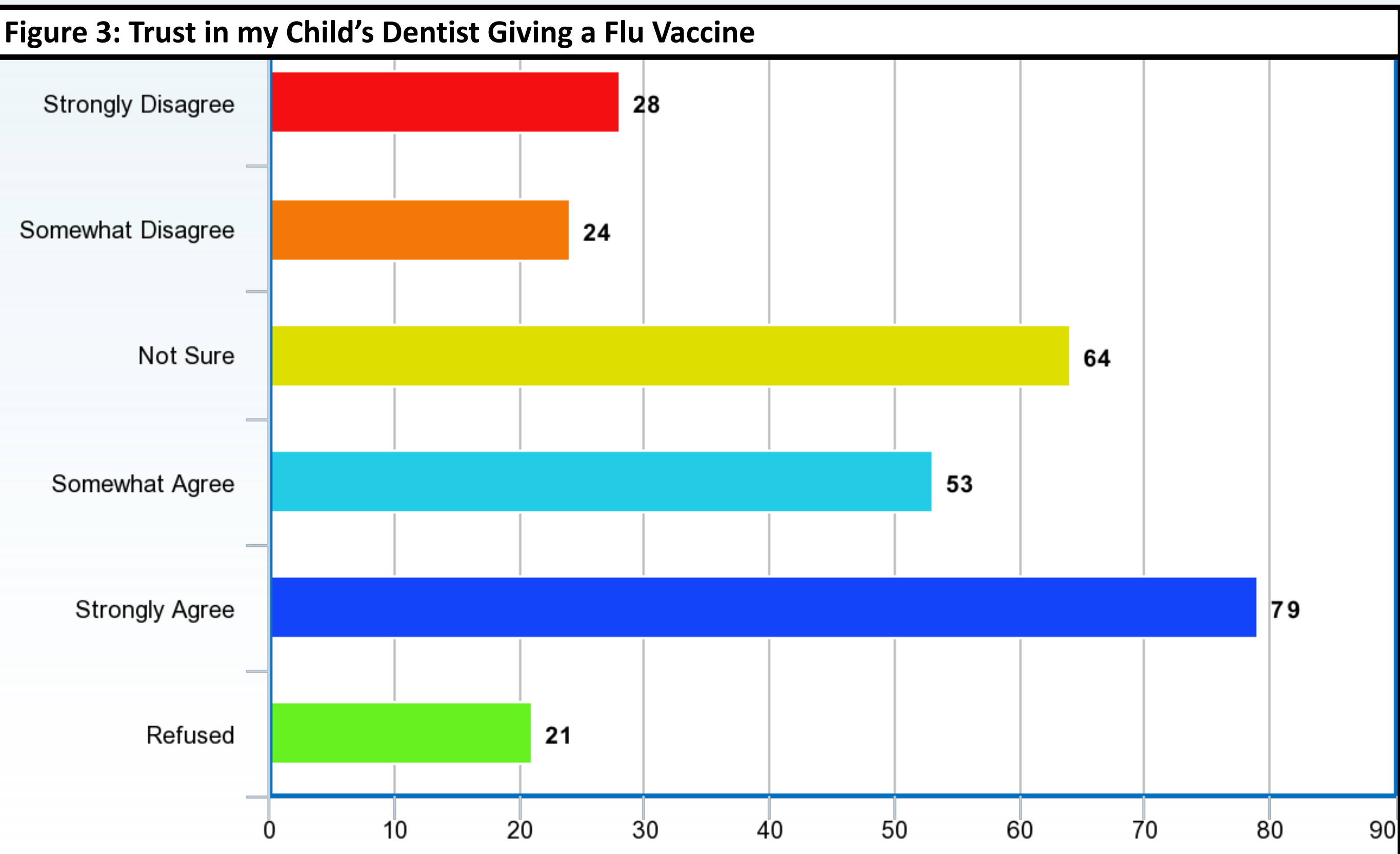


Figure 3: Surveyed parents self reported level of trust getting the influenza vaccine from the dentist.

## Results

- The Response Rate was 95% (N= 289/303) and demographics are noted in Table 1.
- Overall, 91.1% of Parents reported feeling “very comfortable” or “somewhat comfortable” discussing influenza infection with their oral health provider.
- 88.1% of Parents reported feeling “very comfortable” or “somewhat comfortable” discussing the influenza vaccine with the dentist (Figure 2)
- Half (49.1%) of Parents reported they “strongly agree” or “somewhat agree” that they would trust their child’s dentist to give them an influenza vaccine (Figure 3)

## Conclusion

- Most parents are amenable to influenza vaccine and infection counseling during dental visits.
- Half of parents surveyed strongly or somewhat agreed with vaccine delivery during dental visits.
- Future studies should evaluate the impact and feasibility of influenza vaccination during dental visits
- This should be particularly studied in underserved settings to increase access to the influenza vaccine.