



IMMUNISATION
COALITION



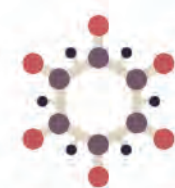
Australians & Vaccination - Children
Immunisation Coalition | June 2022

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1 Background



Questions Asked

1. Has your child/children been vaccinated against influenza in the last 12 months?
2. What is the main reason why your child/children has not been vaccinated against influenza?
3. Has your child/children been vaccinated against COVID-19? (received at least the first two vaccinations)
4. What is the main reason why your child/children has not been vaccination against COVID-19?
5. If your child/children has had COVID-19, would you still consider first or second-dose vaccination?
6. If your child/children was getting an influenza vaccination, would you consider having a COVID-19 vaccination at the same time – or vice versa?
7. If your child/children have been vaccinated against influenza or COVID-19, was it difficult to make an appointment for your child/children for:
 - a. Influenza?
 - b. COVID-19?

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Methodology & Sample



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Details of the Methodology

The methodology utilised a very large nationwide sample size, representative of the Australian adult population, with 3 comprehensive stages of qualitative & quantitative research.

Stage 1: Focus Groups

- 15 focus groups were conducted, each comprising a representative sample of 10-12 Australians, each taking on average 96 minutes to complete.
- Detailed qualitative and specific quantitative information obtained from this stage.
- Groups were held in central locations (online in those under lockdown) in these cities:
 - Sydney (2) - Brisbane (2) - Adelaide - Canberra - Newcastle - Bendigo
 - Melbourne (2) - Hobart - Perth - Darwin - Rockhampton - Bunbury

Stage 2: Telephone Survey

- 1,503 telephone interviews were conducted, predominately amongst:
 - Older Australians
 - Those with limited vision
 - Those who did not have Internet access
- Detailed quantitative information was obtained from this stage.
- Each interview took on average 28 minutes to complete.

Stage 3: Online Survey

- 23,519 interviews were conducted amongst a representative sample of Australians.
- Detailed quantitative information was obtained from this stage.
- The survey utilised the latest online technology, where images, audio and video were included for some questions, making the survey interactive and engaging.
- Smartphones, tablet computers and PC's were used to undertake the survey.
- The survey took on average 26 minutes to complete.



Sample

- Very large nationwide sample size, involving:
 - 171 focus group participants
 - 25,022 telephone and online survey participants
- Representative of the Australian adult population, across all States, Territories, metropolitan, regional & rural areas.



Comprehensive

- 3-stage methodology.
- Qualitative stage:
 - 15 focus groups, conducted across 12 cities
- Quantitative stage:
 - 1,503 telephone surveys
 - 23,519 online surveys



Confidence

- Very high level of statistical confidence across all findings.
- Between 95-97% statistical confidence for almost all questions.

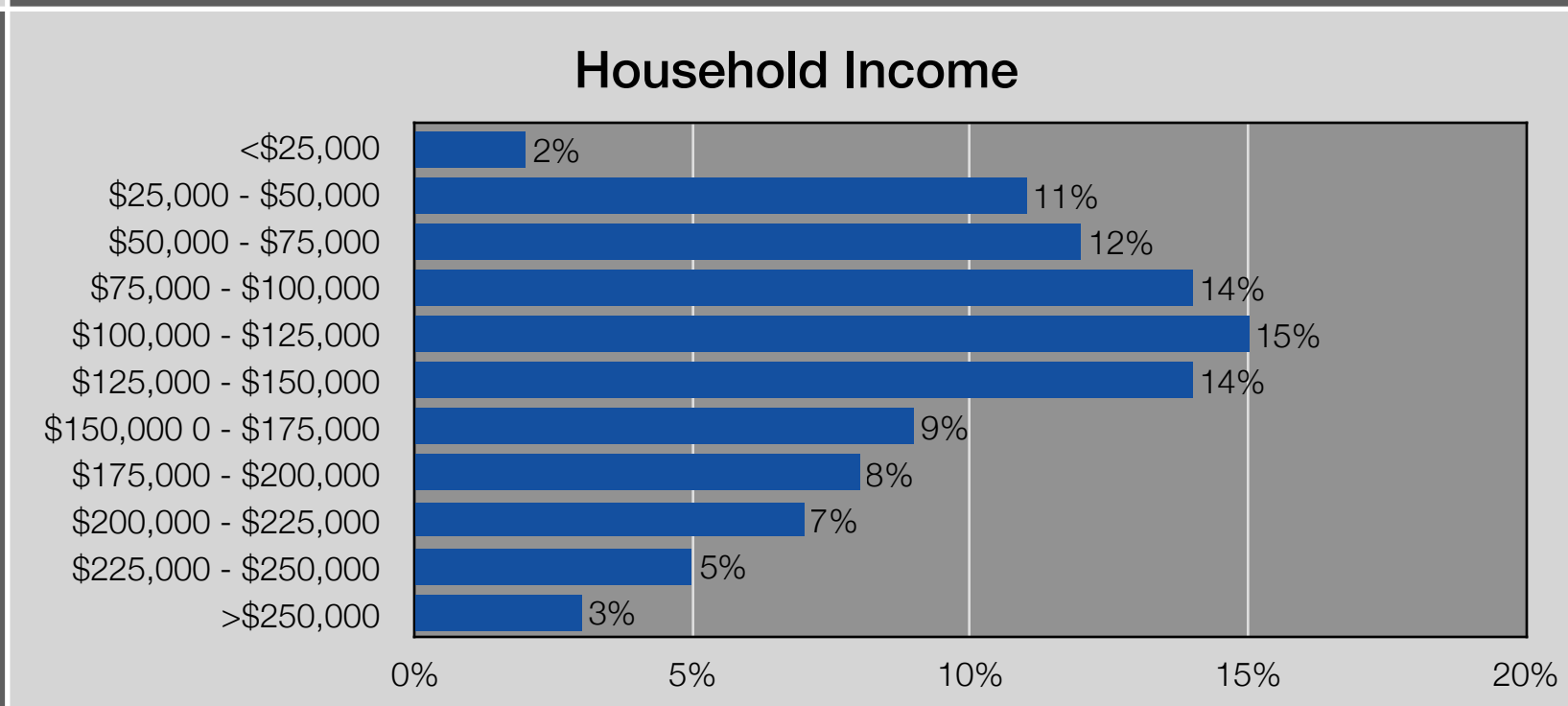
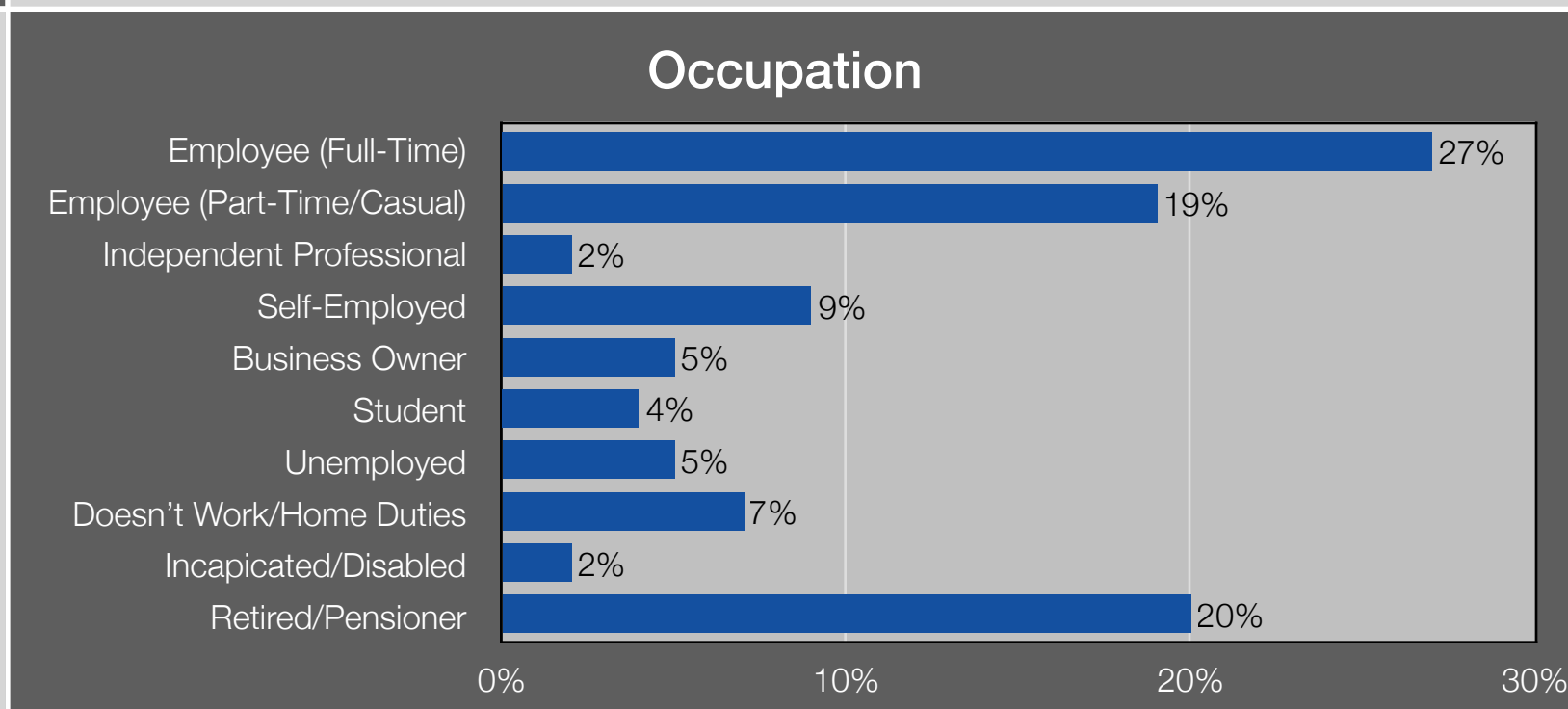
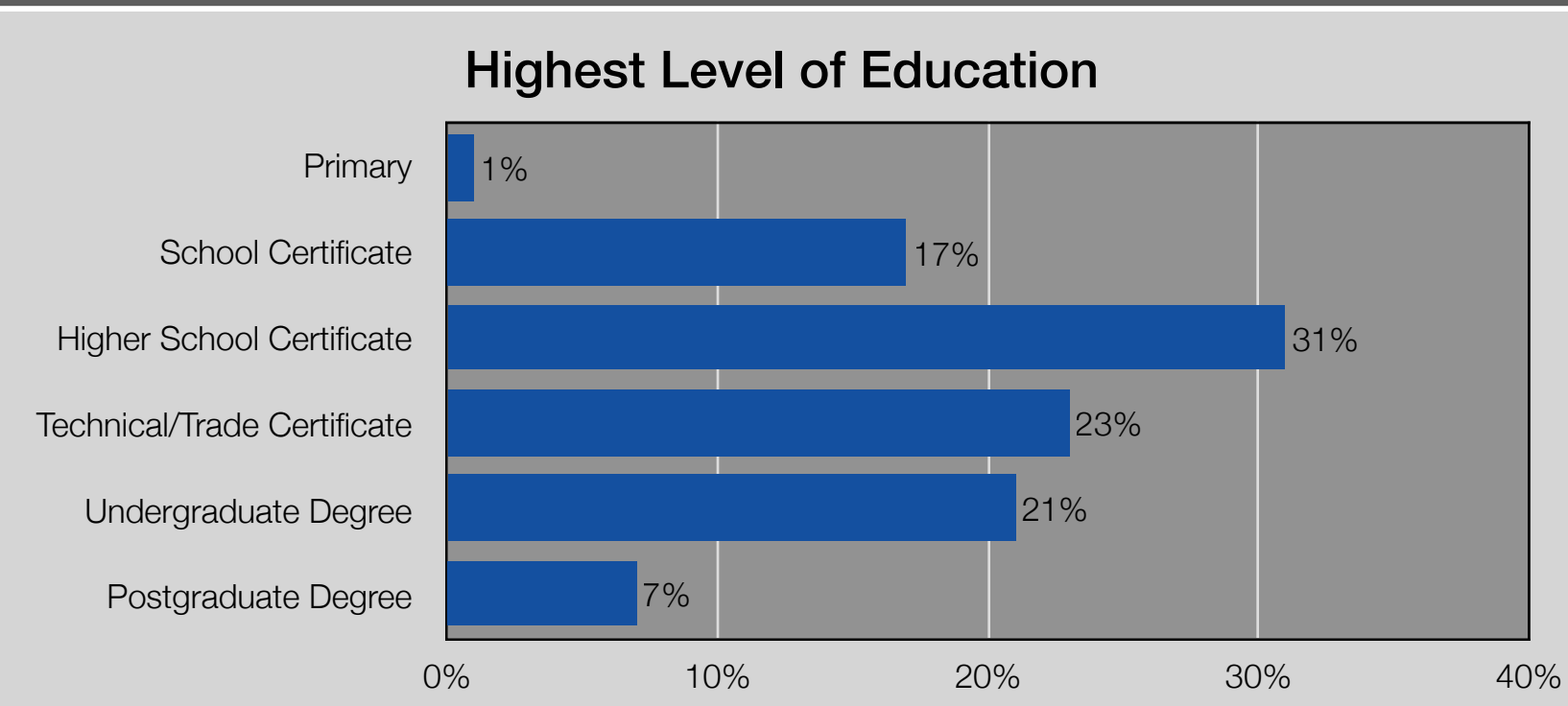
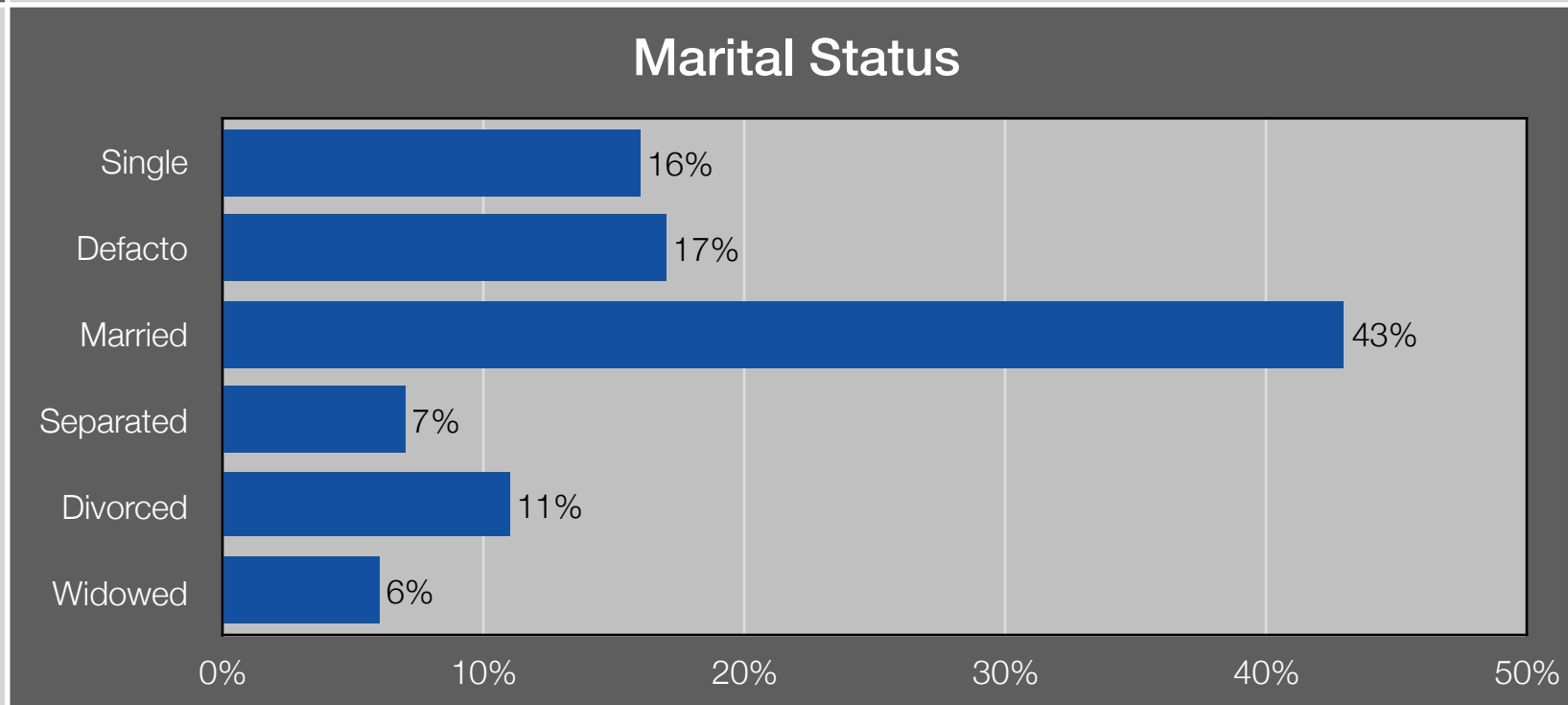
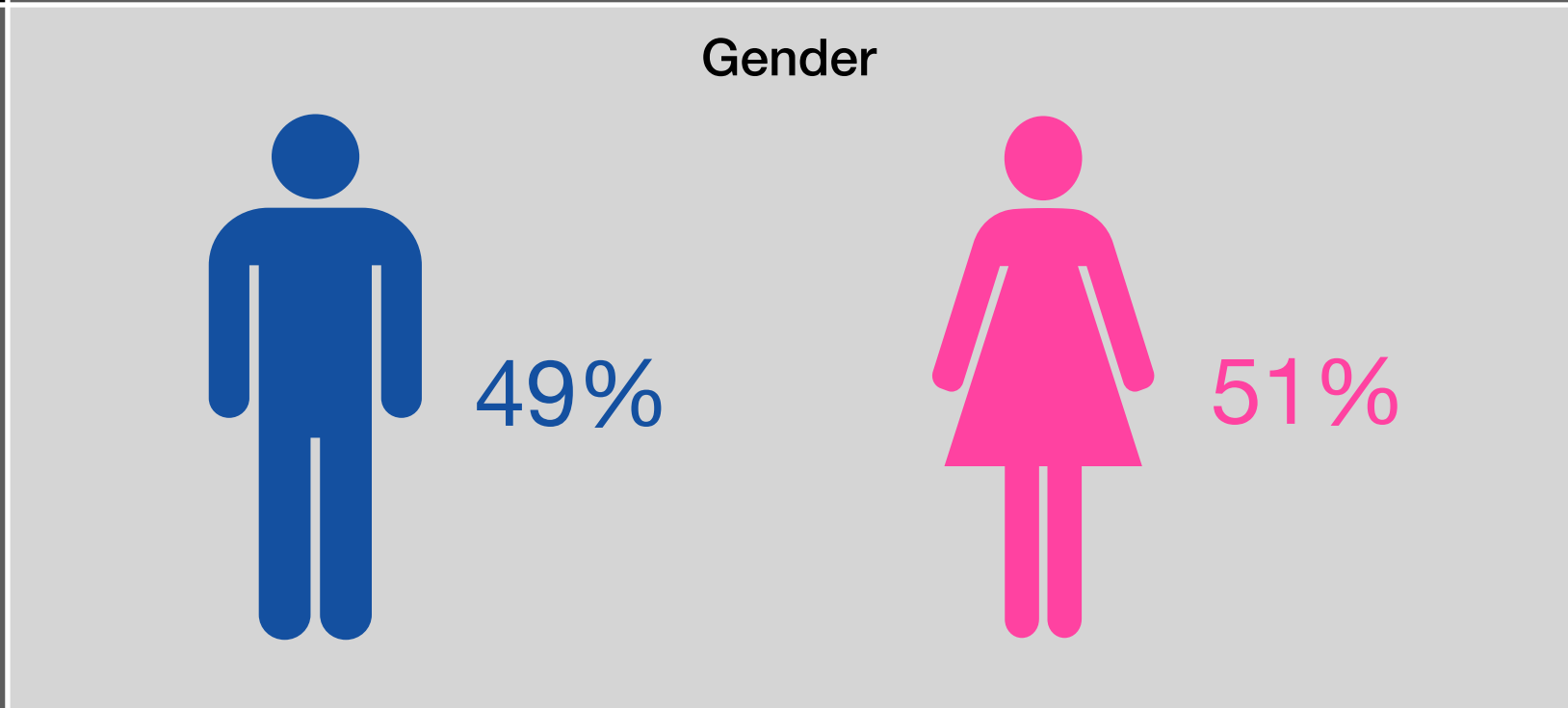
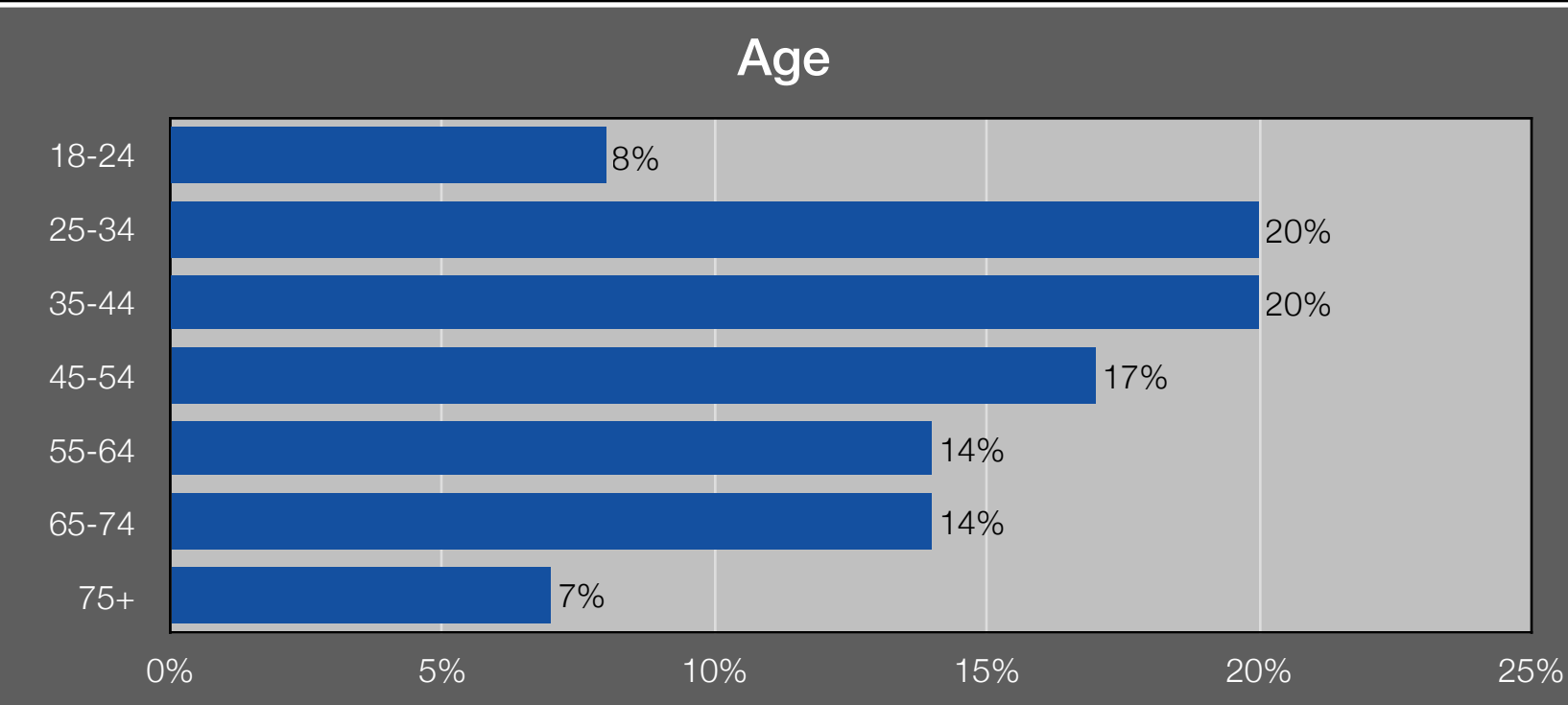
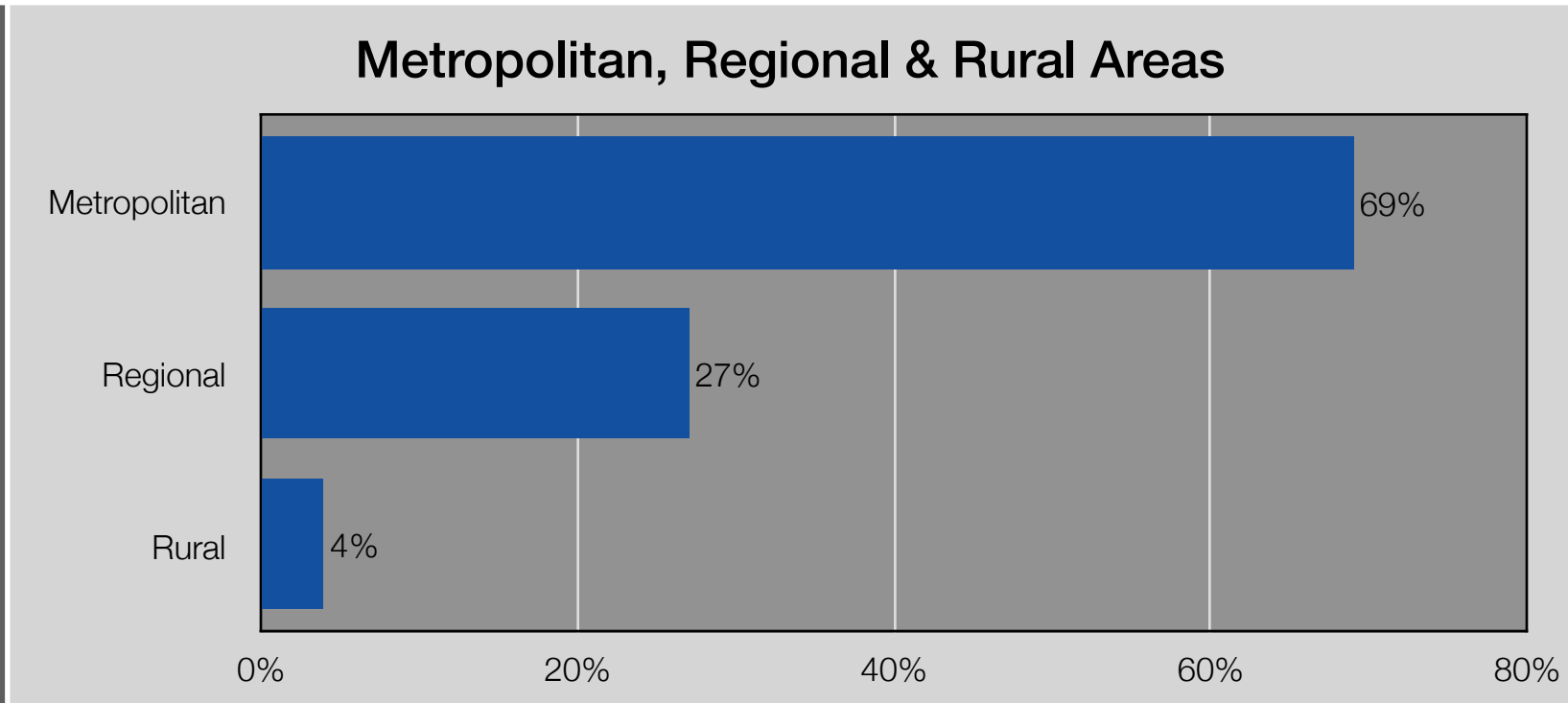
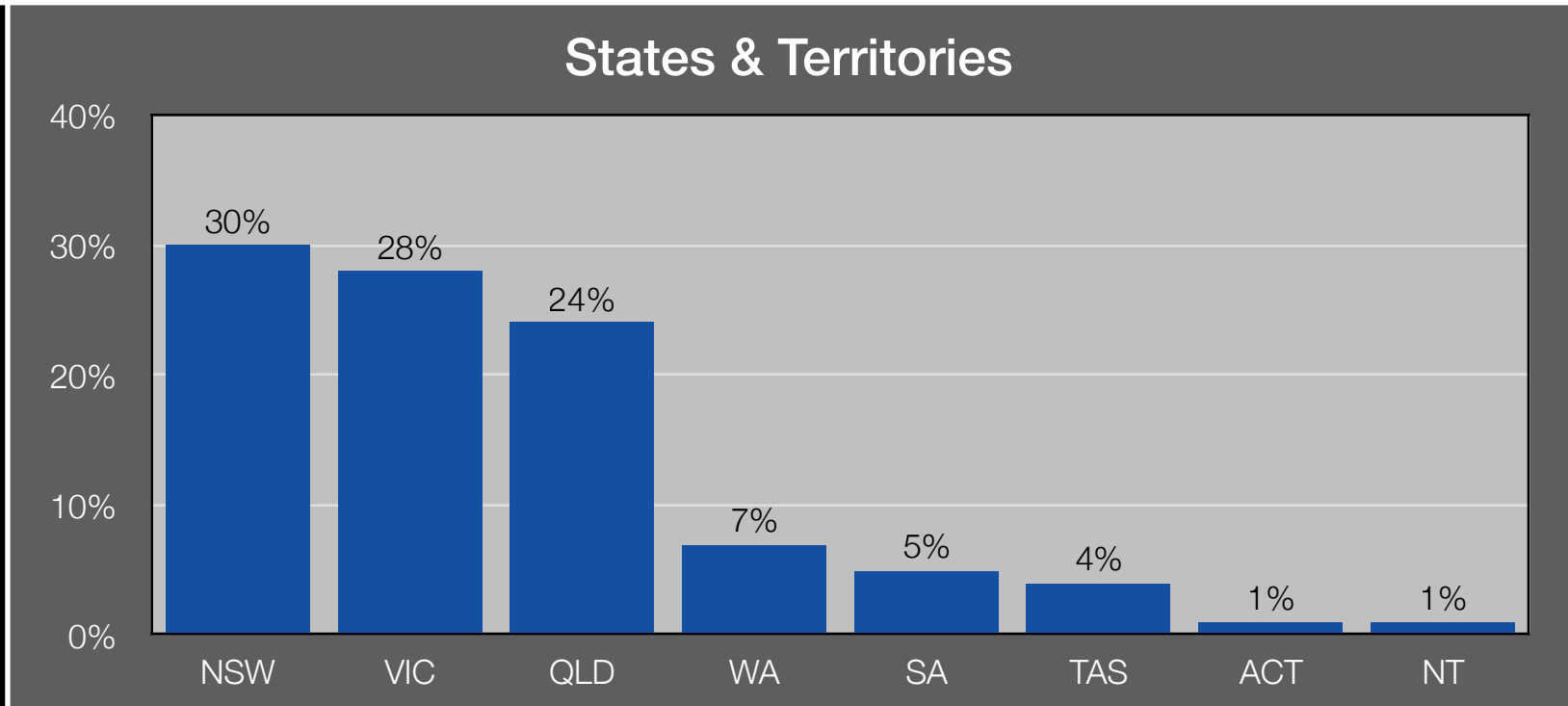


Dates

- Qualitative stage:
 - Focus groups: 23rd May to 2nd June
- Quantitative stage:
 - Telephone survey: 6th June to 18th June
 - Online survey: 3rd June to 22nd June

Details of the Sample

The sample was representative of the Australian adult population, across all major demographic, geographic & socio-economic factors.



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Findings



Questions to the 19% of sample who have a child/children

Do you have a child/children aged <18 years?

19% of sample had a child/children aged <18 years

- For the question, illustrated in the opposite, top chart:
 - 19% answered “Yes”
 - 81% answered “No”

Purpose to ask following questions

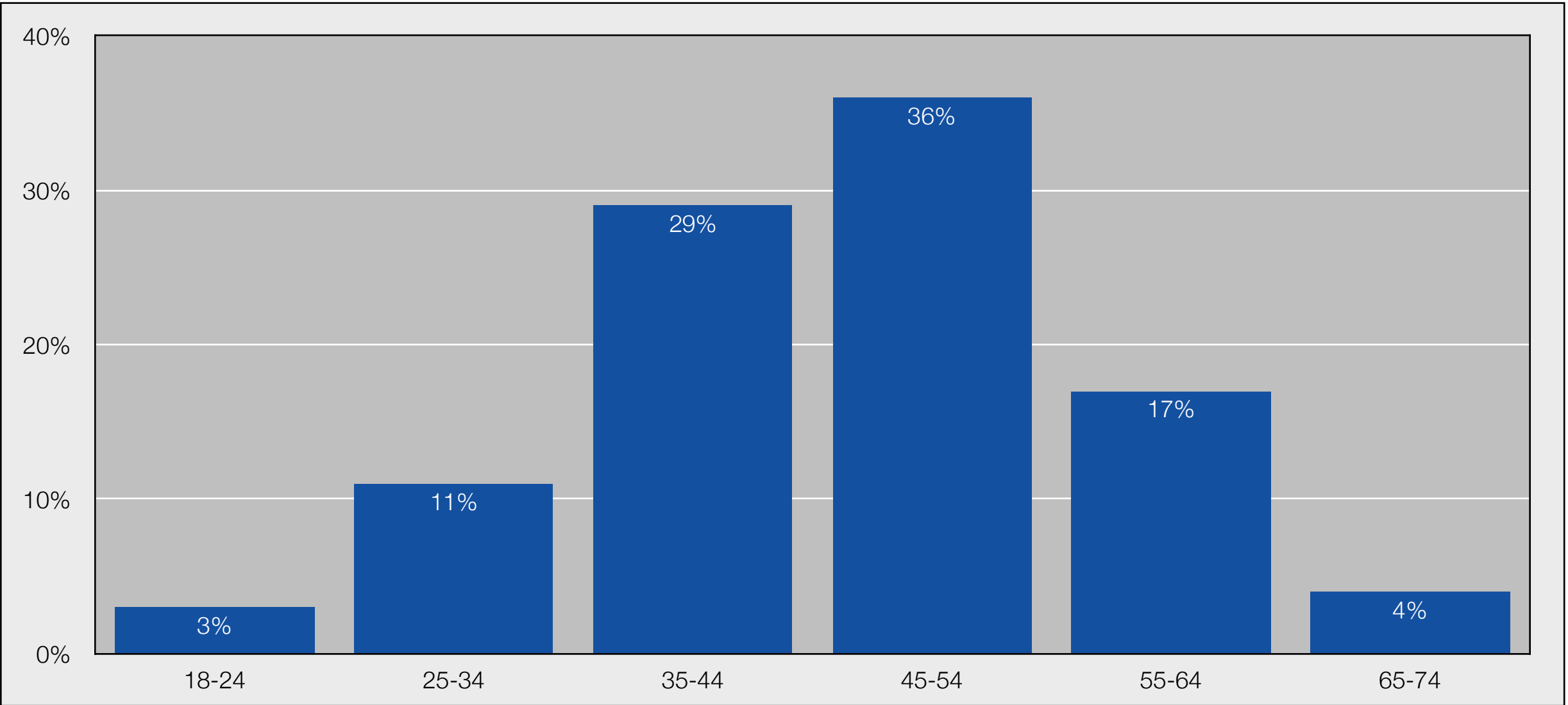
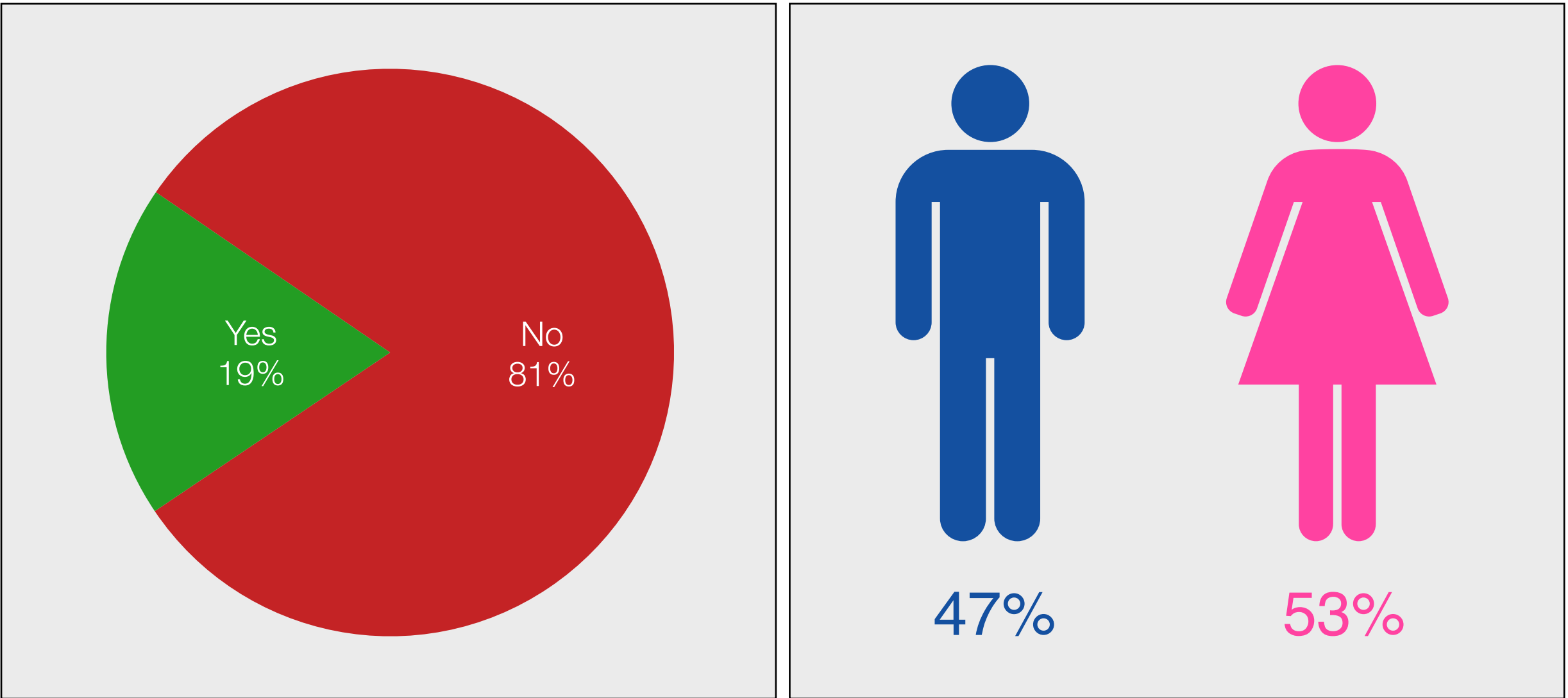
- The purpose of this question was to ask the following questions solely to those who had a child/children aged <18 years.

Gender apportionment of those with a child/children aged <18 years

- There was a higher apportionment of women to men who had a child/children aged <18 years, where:
 - 53% were women and 47% were men

Age apportionment of those with a child/children aged <18 years

- As illustrated in the chart opposite, the apportionment across those with a child/children aged <18 years was:
 - 18-24 years (3%) & 25-34 years (11%)
 - 35-44 years (29%)
 - 45-54 years (36%)
 - 55-64 years (17%)
 - 65-74 years (4%)



31% of children have been vaccinated against influenza in last 12 months

1. Has your child/children been vaccinated against influenza in the last 12 months? If yes, please provide the current age of your child/children who have been vaccinated.

31% of children have been vaccinated against influenza in last 12 months

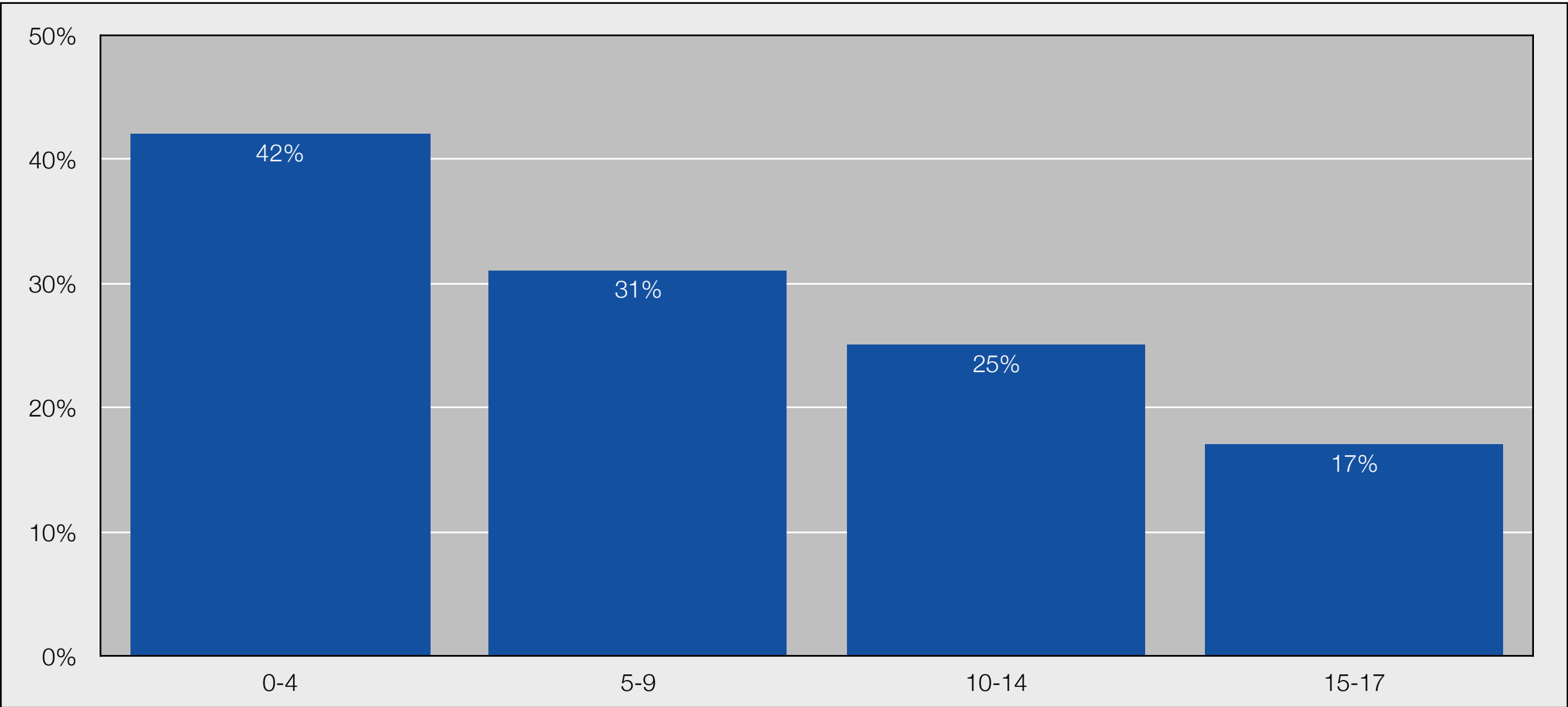
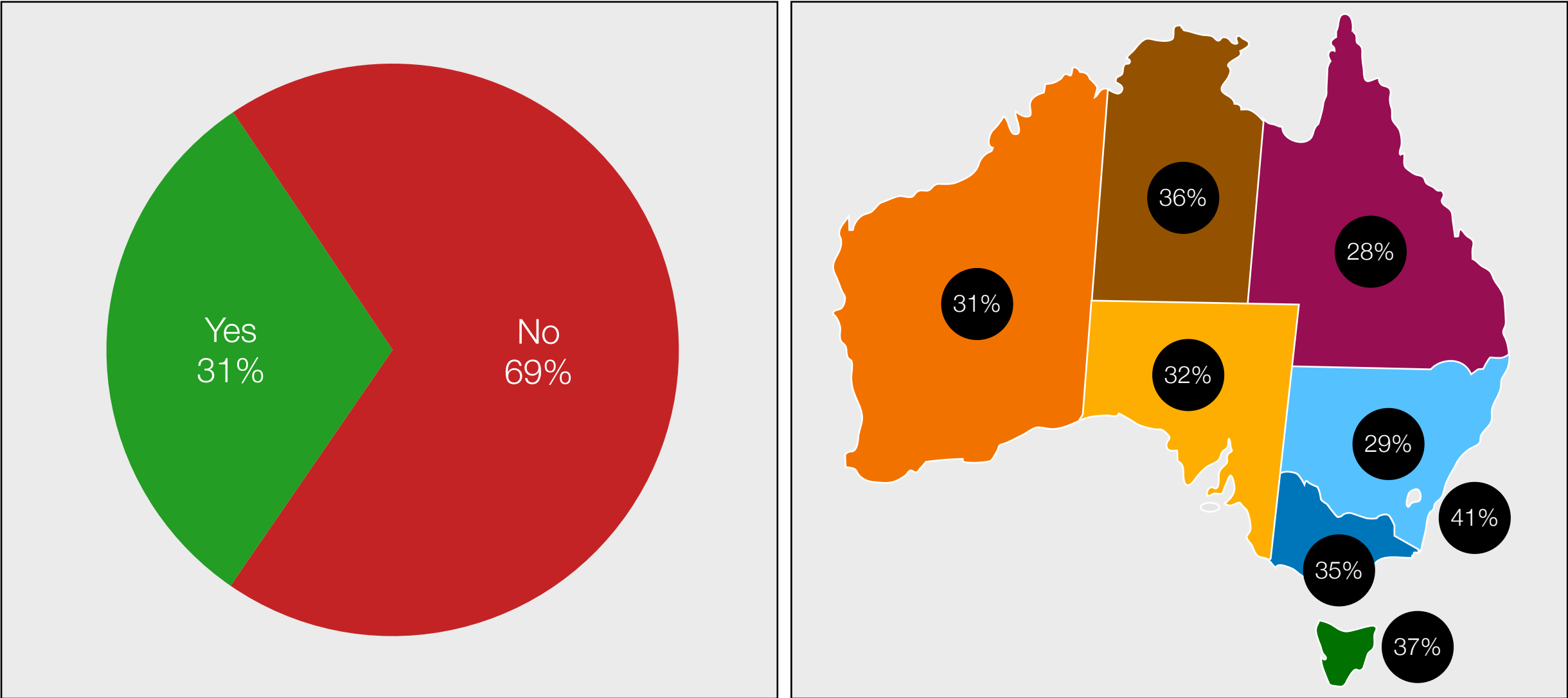
- For the question, illustrated in the opposite, top pie chart:
 - 31% answered “Yes”
 - 69% answered “No”

Variation across geographic areas

- Across the States and Territories there was variation in those who answered “Yes” illustrated in the far opposite graphic:
 - ACT had the highest proportion who answered “Yes” (41%), followed by TAS (37%)
 - NT (36%); VIC (35%); SA (32%); WA (31%); NSW (29%) & QLD (28%)
- Across metropolitan, regional and rural areas there was also some variation:
 - Regional areas had the highest proportion who answered “Yes” (35%)
 - Rural (34%)
 - Metropolitan (30%)

Age of children vaccinated against influenza in the last 12 months

- Those who answered “Yes” were asked to provide the current age of their child/children who have been vaccinated, as illustrated in the chart opposite, where:
 - 42% of children aged 0-4 years; decreasing to:
 - 31% (5-9 years)
 - 25% (10-14 years)
 - 17% (15-17 years)



Don't believe influenza is serious enough for vaccination to be necessary

2. What is the main reason why your child/children has not been vaccinated against influenza?

Asked to the 69% of parents of children unvaccinated against influenza

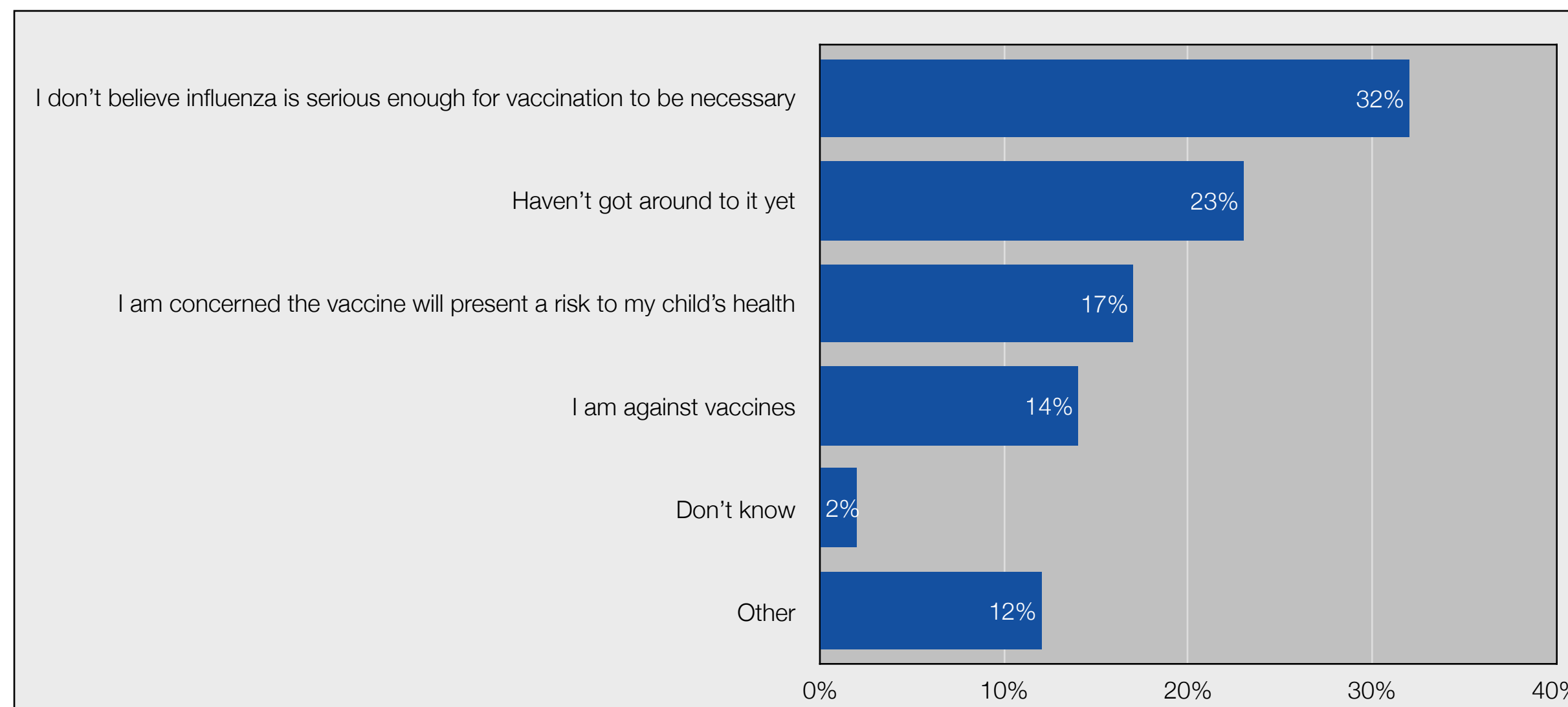
- This question was asked only to the 69% of parents who answered “No” in the previous question, with a child/children who has not been vaccinated against influenza in the last 12 months.

Don't believe influenza is serious enough for vaccination to be necessary

- For the question, illustrated in the opposite, top chart:
 - The most common response, amongst 32% was “I don't believe influenza is serious enough for vaccination to be necessary”
 - The second most common response was “Haven't got around to it yet” (23%)
 - “I am concerned the vaccine will present a risk to my child's health” (17%)
 - “I am against vaccines” (14%)
 - “Don't know” (2%)
 - 12% gave an “Other” response

Minor demographic, geographic & socio-economic differences

- Across the demographic, geographic and socio-economic criteria, there were some minor differences, the main being:
 - Younger parents (18-34) had a higher incidence in responding to “I am concerned the vaccine will present a risk to my child's health” where 22% of this aged group gave this response, compared to 17% overall
 - There was a higher incidence in parents from lower income households in responding “Haven't got around to it yet” where 28% gave this response compared to 23% overall



“Other” responses

- 12% gave an “Other” response, the most common being:
 - Concerned that having the influenza vaccination shortly after the COVID-19 vaccinations may be harmful (19%)
 - Belief that having the influenza vaccination in addition to recent COVID-19 vaccinations and a future COVID-19 booster is excessive and may be harmful (15%)
 - Belief that COVID-19 vaccination (including booster) plus the influenza vaccination is too much in a short period of time, so choose to have the COVID-19 vaccinations only (12%)
 - Belief that it is natural for children to contract the flu and less harmful to the body than the flu shot (8%)
 - Prefer children to have a healthy lifestyle to build natural health immunity (7%)
 - Have not been able to arrange as GP/clinic appointments unavailable or were waiting for an appointment (7%)

66% of children (5-17 years) have been vaccinated against COVID-19

3. Has your child/children been vaccinated against COVID-19? (received at least the first two vaccinations) If yes, please provide the current age of your child/children who have been vaccinated.

66% of children (5-17 years) have been vaccinated against COVID-19

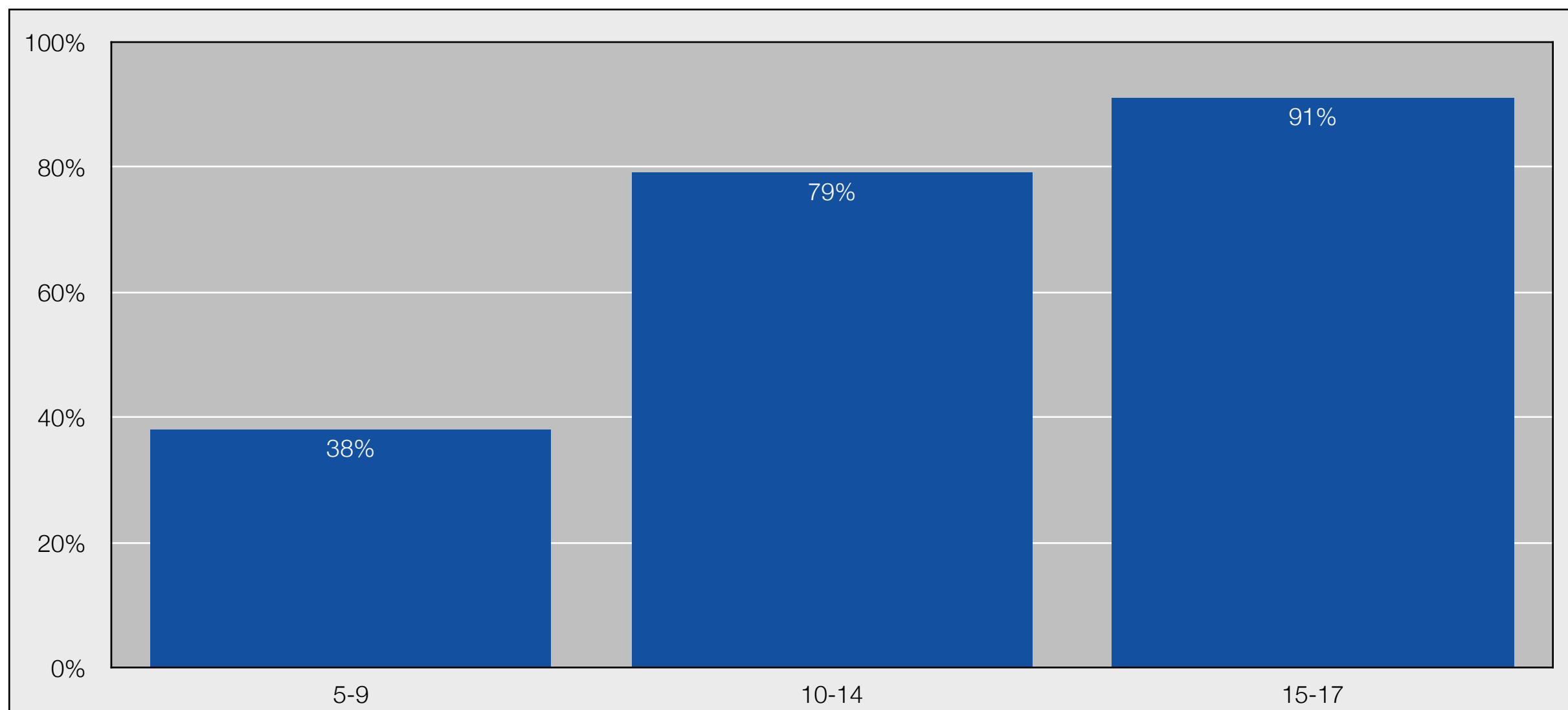
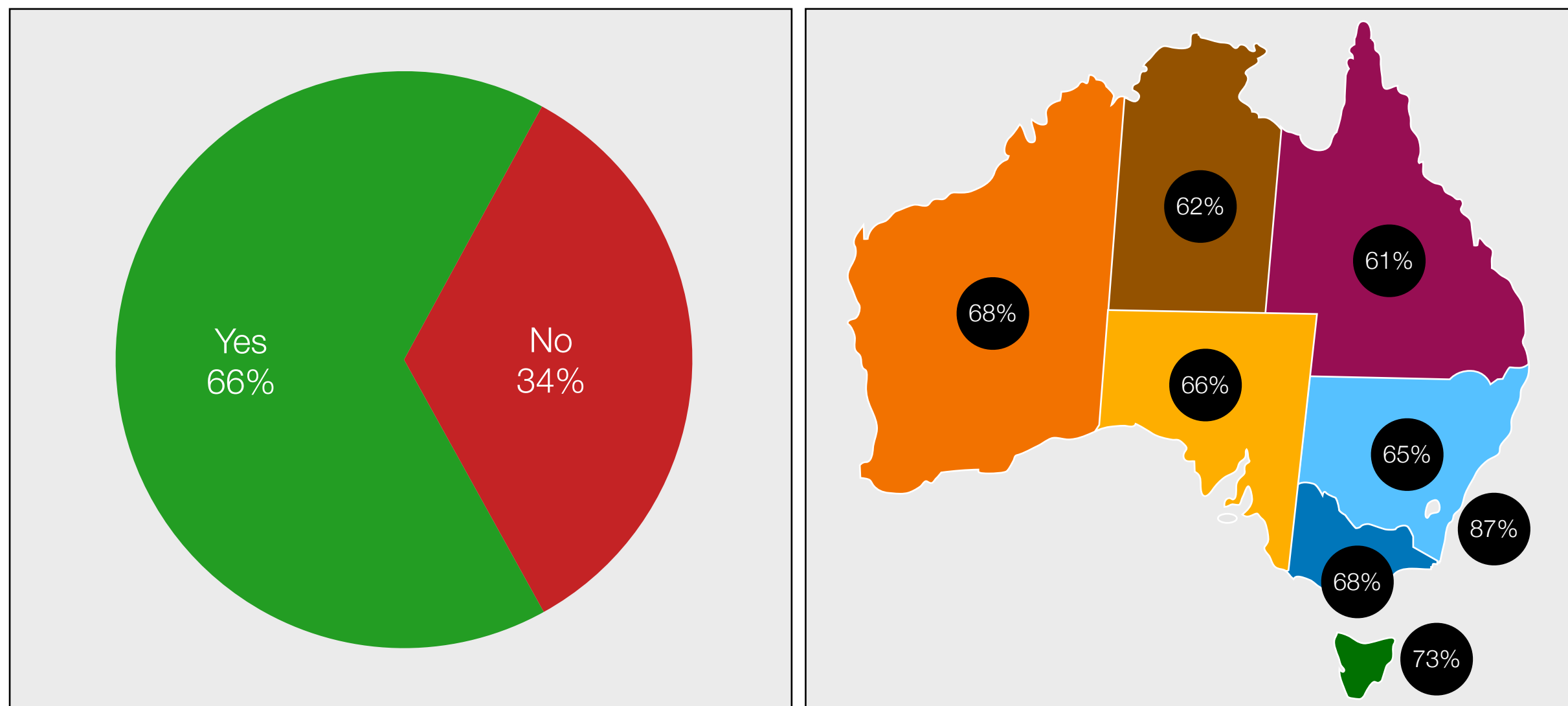
- For the question, illustrated in the opposite, top pie chart:
 - 66% answered “Yes”
 - 34% answered “No”

Variation across geographic areas

- Across the States and Territories there was variation in those who answered “Yes” illustrated in the far opposite graphic:
 - ACT had the highest proportion who answered “Yes” (87%), followed by TAS (73%)
 - VIC (68%); WA (68%); SA (66%); NSW (65%); NT (62%) & QLD (61%)
- Across metropolitan, regional and rural areas there was also some variation:
 - Metropolitan areas had the highest proportion who answered “Yes” (66%)
 - Regional (65%)
 - Rural (63%)

Age of children vaccinated against COVID-19

- Those who answered “Yes” were asked to provide the current age of their child/children who have been vaccinated, where as illustrated in the chart opposite:
 - 38% of children aged 5-9 years; increasing to:
 - 79% (10-14 years)
 - 91% (15-17 years)



Concern COVID-19 vaccines present a risk to child's health

4. What is the main reason why your child/children has not been vaccination against COVID-19?

Concern COVID-19 vaccines present a risk to child's health

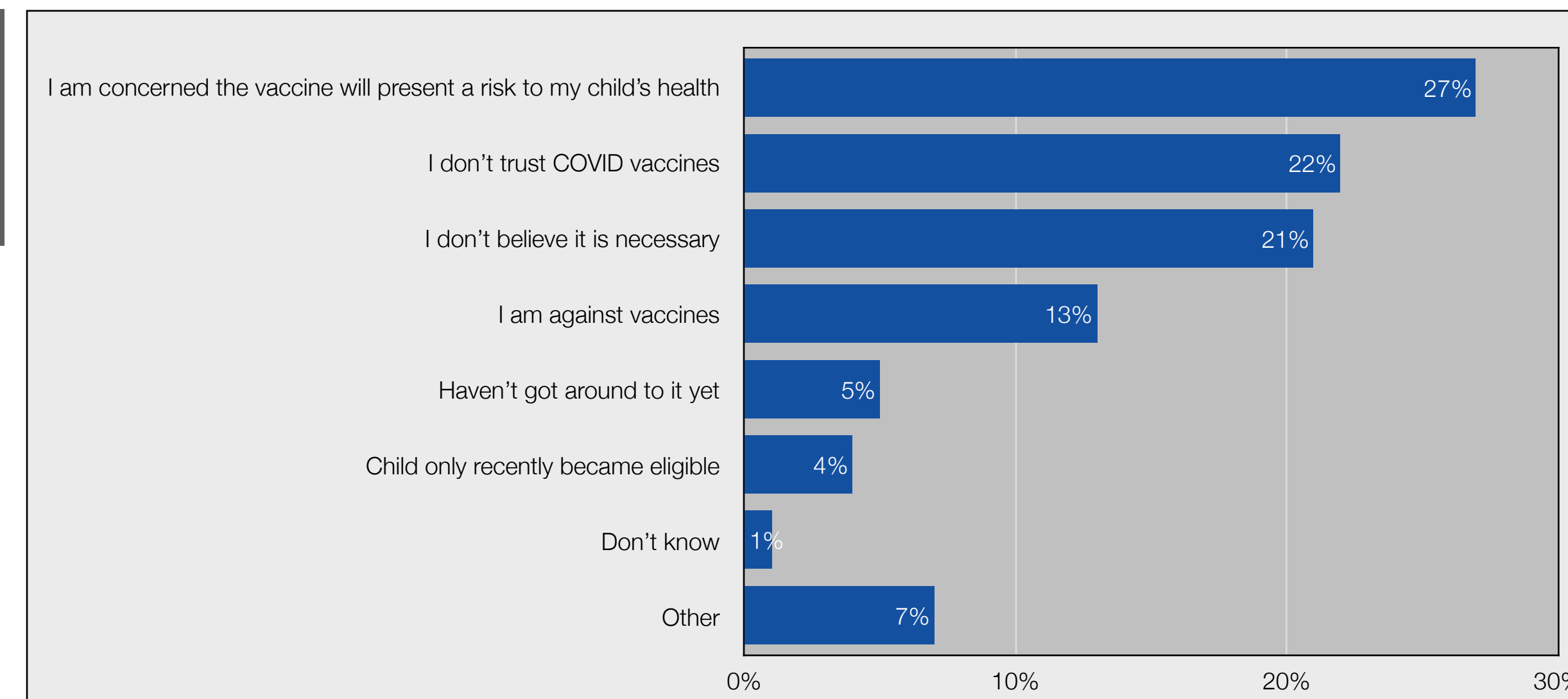
- This question was asked only to the 34% of parents who answered “No” in the previous question, with a child/children who has not been vaccinated against COVID-19.

Concern COVID-19 vaccines present a risk to child's health

- For the question, illustrated in the opposite, top chart:
 - The most common response, amongst 27% was “I am concerned the vaccine will present a risk to my child's health”
 - The second most common response was “I don't trust COVID vaccines” (22%)
 - “I don't believe it is necessary” (21%) & “I am against vaccines” (13%)
 - “Haven't got around to it yet” (5%) & “Child only recently became eligible” (4%)
 - “Don't know” (1%)
 - 7% gave an “Other” response

Minor demographic, geographic & socio-economic differences

- Across the demographic, geographic and socio-economic criteria, there were some minor differences, the main being:
 - Younger parents (18-34) had a higher incidence in responding to “I am concerned the vaccine will present a risk to my child's health” where 33% of this aged group gave this response, compared to 27% overall
 - Younger parents (18-34) also had a higher incidence in responding to “I don't believe it is necessary” where 25% of this aged group gave this response, compared to 21% overall



“Other” responses

- 7% gave an “Other” response, the most common being:
 - Waiting to see what medium-longer term effects the COVID vaccines may have, especially in children (14%)
 - Still deciding themselves or with spouse/partner (13%)
 - Belief that the COVID vaccines were made too quickly and are not sufficiently tested (9%)
 - Belief that mRNA vaccines are dangerous to children, especially in the longer-term (8%)
 - Belief that contracting COVID, in particular a mild strain like Omicron is less harmful for a child than the COVID vaccines (8%)
 - Do not like the vaccine being forced upon children (7%)
 - Prefer to have a healthy lifestyle to build natural immunity (4%)

67% of parents would consider COVID vaccination if child has had COVID

14. If your child/children has had COVID-19, would you still consider first or second-dose vaccination? Please provide the current age of your child/children.

Asked to all parents

- This question was asked to all parents of a child/children aged <18 years.

67% of parents would consider COVID vaccination if child has had COVID

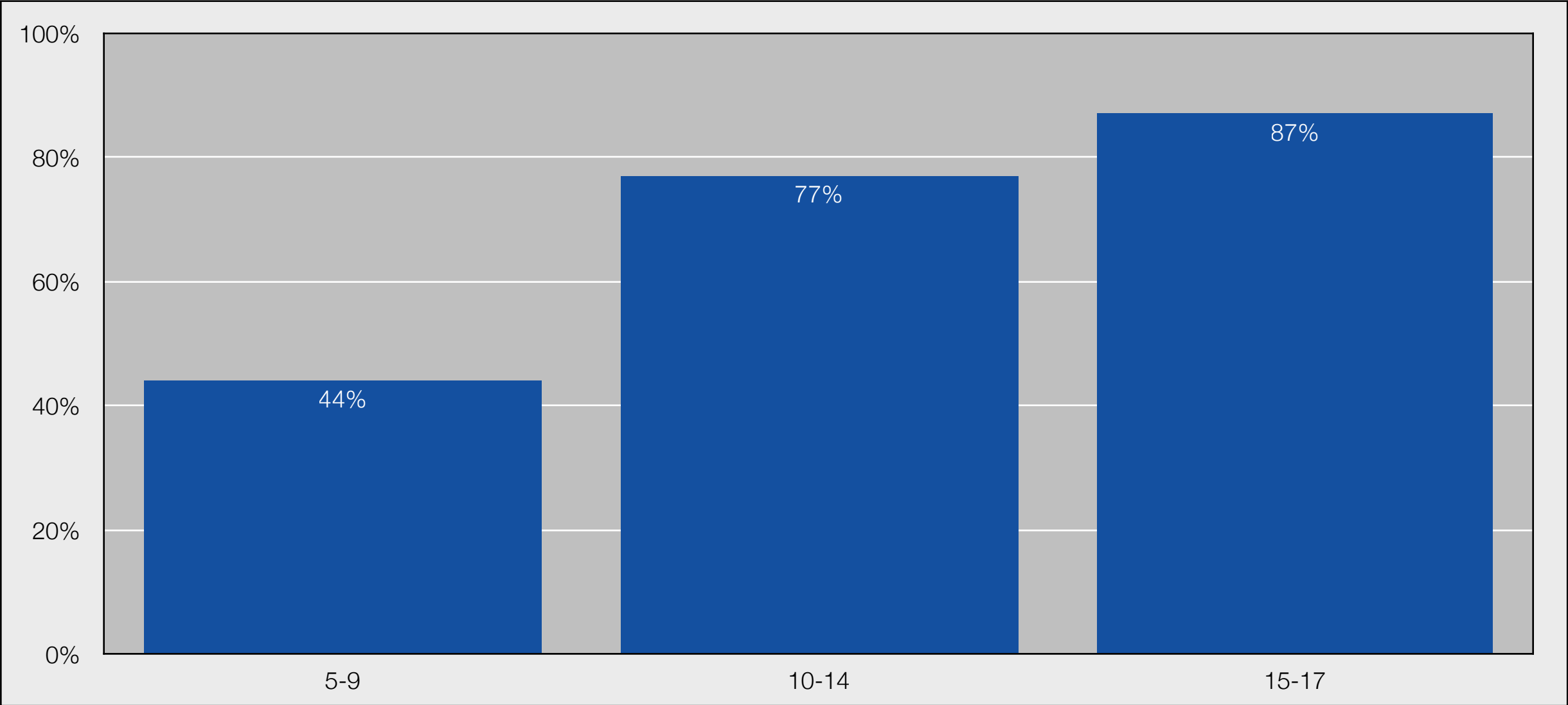
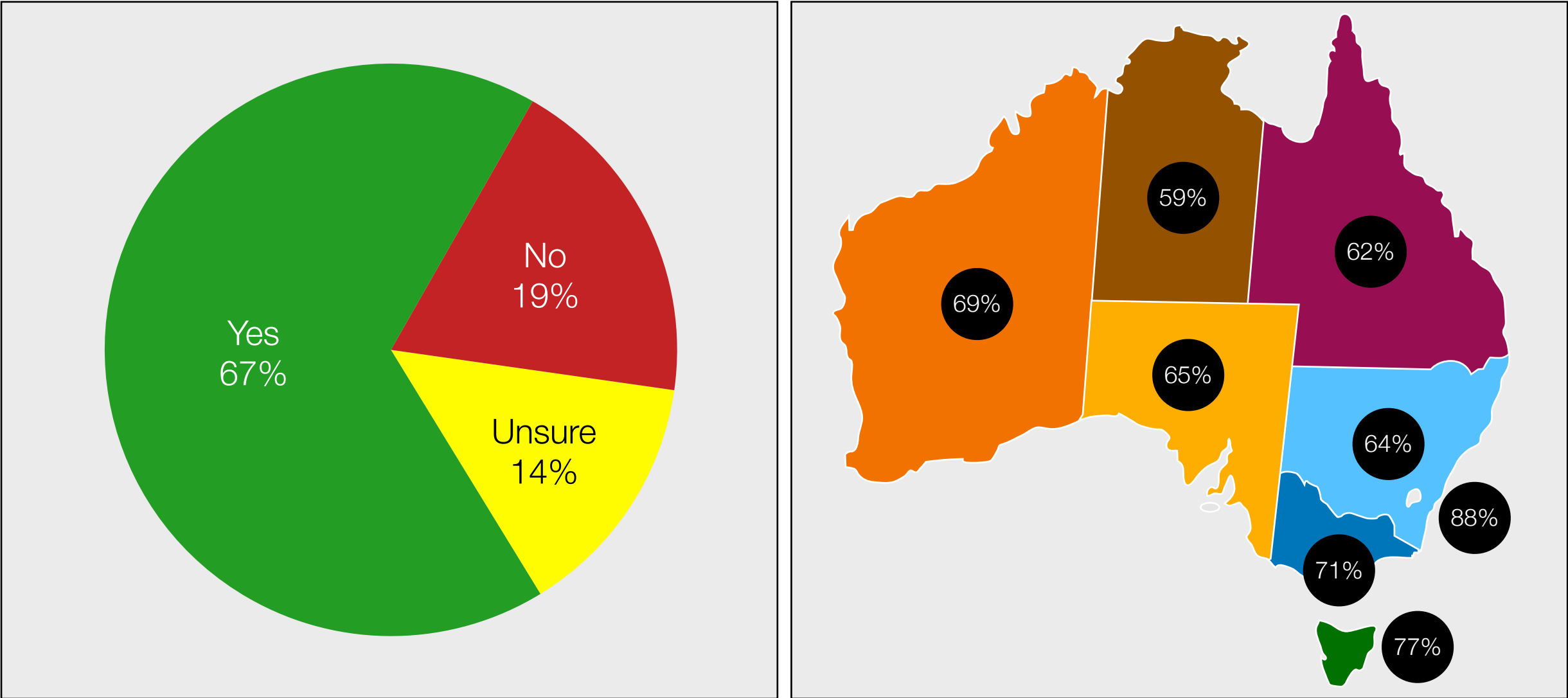
- For the question, illustrated in the opposite, top pie chart:
 - 67% answered “Yes”
 - 19% answered “No” & 14% answered “Unsure”

Variation across geographic areas

- Across the States and Territories there was variation in those who answered “Yes” illustrated in the far opposite graphic:
 - ACT had the highest proportion who answered “Yes” (88%), followed by TAS (77%)
 - VIC (71%); WA (69%); SA (65%); NSW (64%); QLD (62%) & NT (59%)
- Across metropolitan, regional and rural areas there was also some variation:
 - Metropolitan areas had the highest proportion who answered “Yes” (67%)
 - Regional (66%) & Rural (65%)

Age of children

- Those who answered “Yes” provided the current age of their child/children, where as illustrated in the chart opposite:
 - 44% of children aged 5-9 years; increasing to:
 - 77% (10-14 years) & 87% (15-17 years)



61% of parents would consider influenza & COVID vaccination at same time

6. If your child/children was getting an influenza vaccination, would you consider having a COVID-19 vaccination at the same time – or vice versa? Please provide the current age of your child/children.

Asked to all parents

- This question was asked to all parents of a child/children aged <18 years.

61% of parents would consider influenza & COVID vaccination at same time

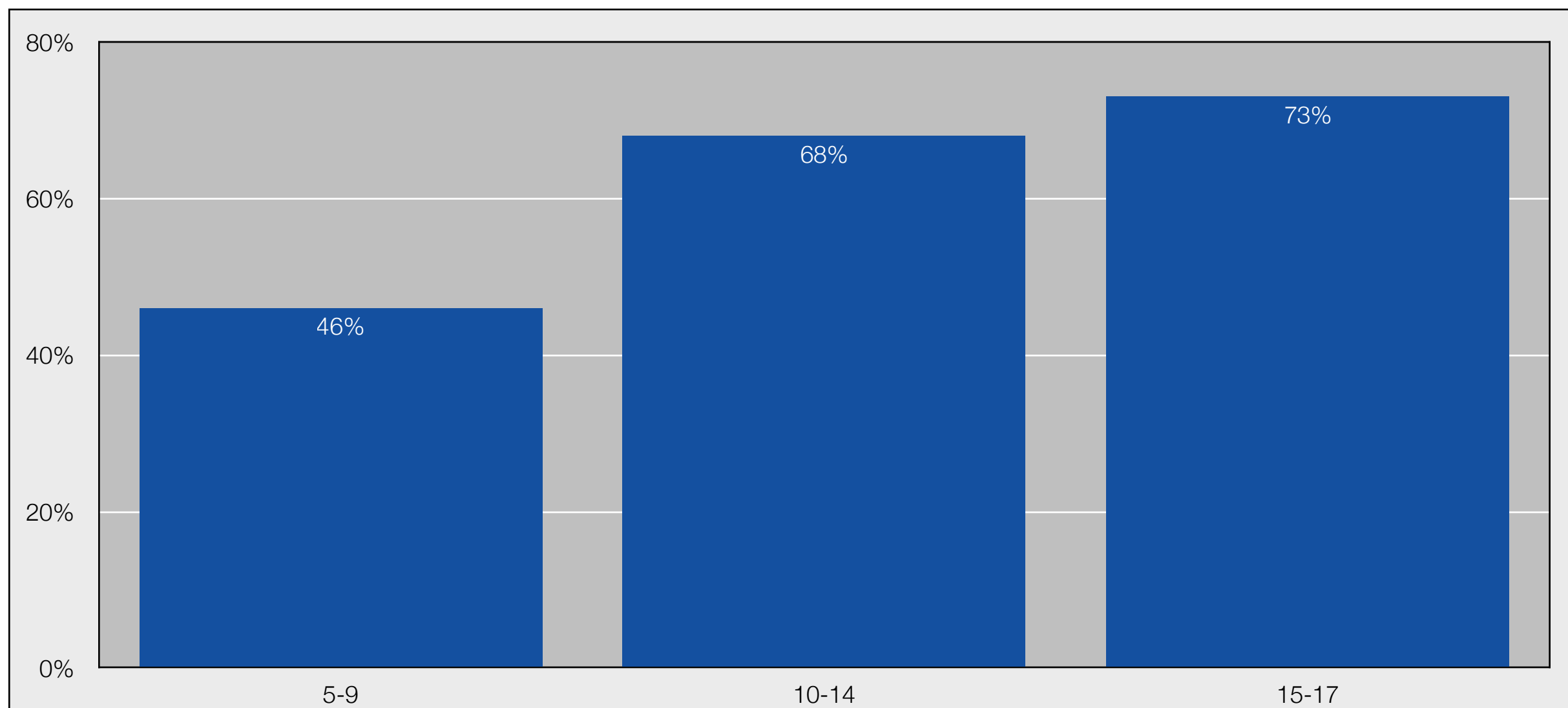
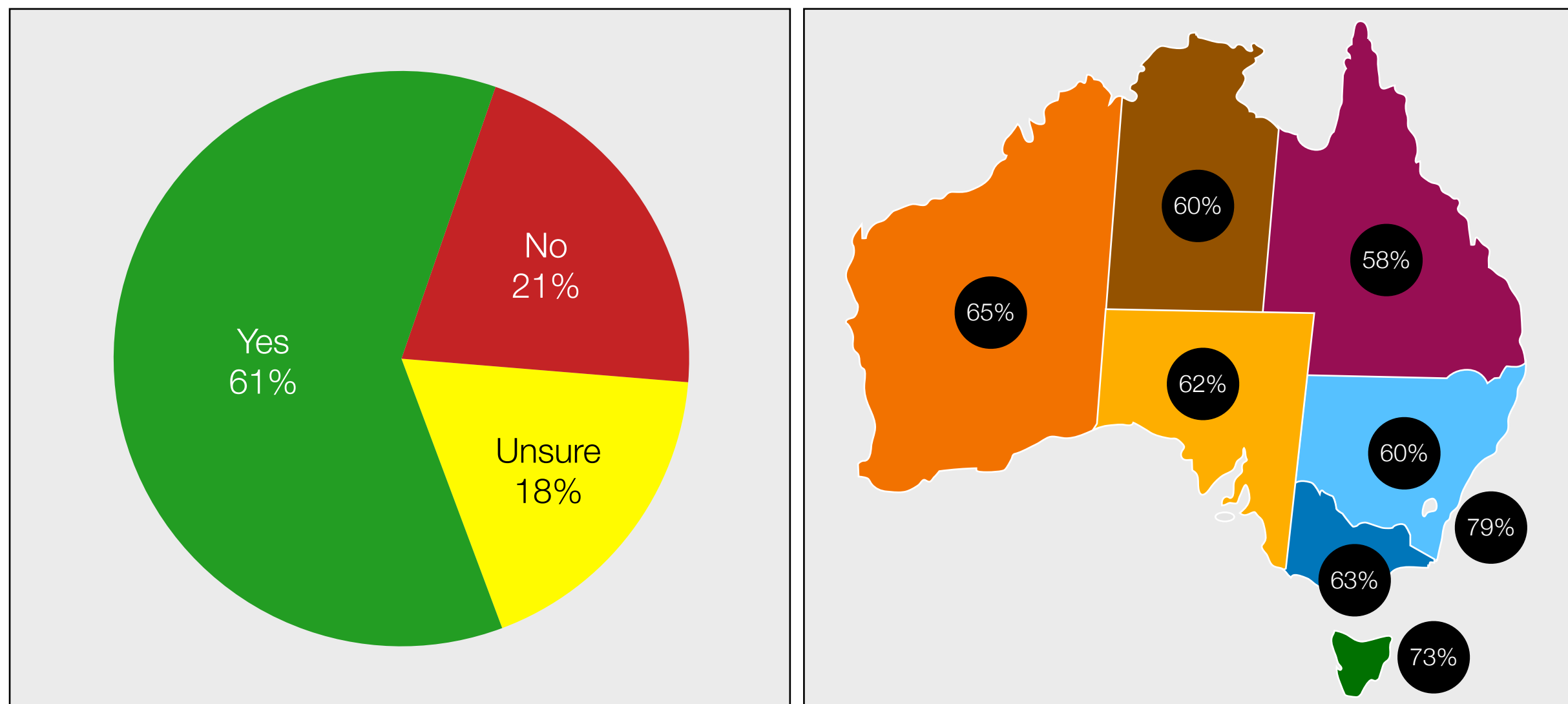
- For the question, illustrated in the opposite, top pie chart:
 - 61% answered “Yes”, 21% answered “No” & 18% answered “Unsure”

Variation across geographic areas

- Across the States and Territories there was variation in those who answered “Yes” illustrated in the far opposite graphic:
 - ACT had the highest proportion who answered “Yes” (79%), followed by TAS (73%)
 - VIC (63%); WA (65%); SA (62%); NSW (60%); QLD (58%) & NT (60%)
- Across metropolitan, regional and rural areas there was minor variation:
 - Metropolitan areas had the highest proportion who answered “Yes” (62%)
 - Regional (59%) & Rural (61%)

Age of children

- Those who answered “Yes” provided the current age of their child/children, where as illustrated in the chart opposite:
 - 46% of children aged 5-9 years; increasing to: 68% (10-14 years) & 73% (15-17 years)



19% of parents said it was difficult to make influenza appointment

7. If your child/children have been vaccinated against influenza or COVID-19, was it difficult to make an appointment for your child/children for:
a. Influenza?

Asked to parents of children vaccinated against influenza

- This question was asked only to the 31% of parents of a child/children aged <18 years who had been vaccinated against influenza in the last 12 months.

19% of parents said it was difficult to make influenza appointment

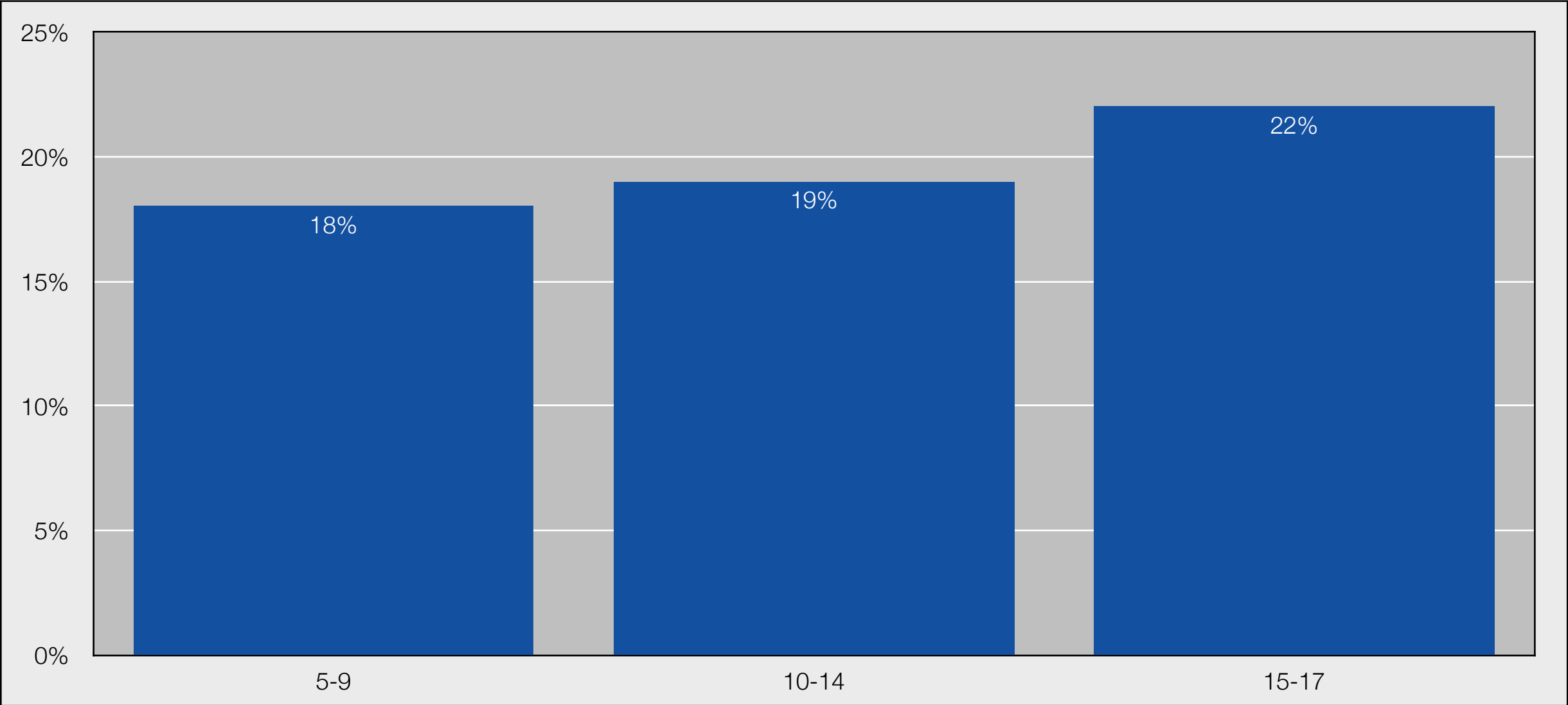
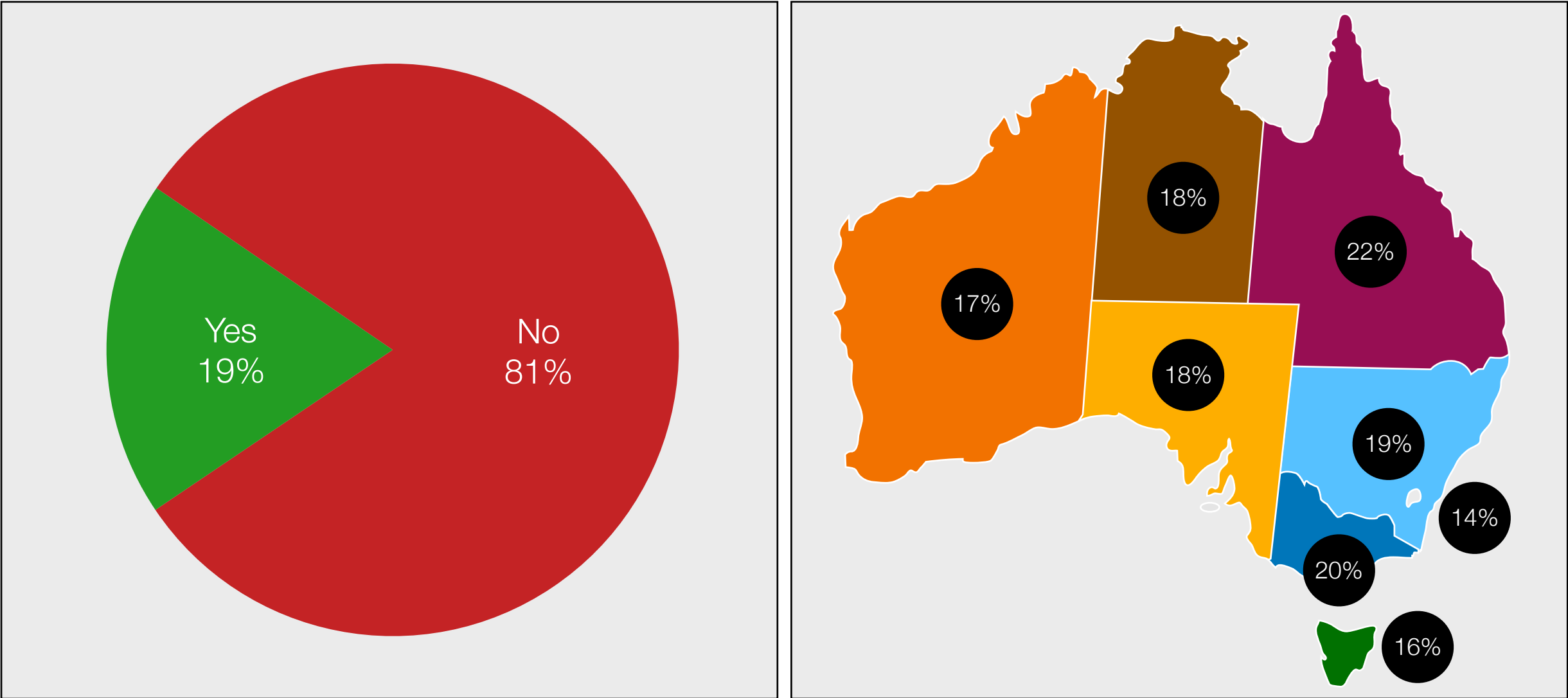
- For the question, illustrated in the opposite, top pie chart:
 - 19% answered “Yes” & 81% answered “No”

Variation across geographic areas

- Across the States and Territories there was variation in those who answered “Yes” illustrated in the far opposite graphic:
 - QLD (22%) had the highest proportion who answered “Yes” (79%), followed by VIC (20%)
 - NSW (19%); NT (18%); SA (18%); WA (17%); TAS (16%) & ACT (14%)
- Across metropolitan, regional and rural areas there was variation:
 - Regional areas had the highest proportion who answered “Yes” (23%)
 - Rural (22%) & Metropolitan (18%)

Age of children

- Those who answered “Yes” provided the current age of their child/children, where as illustrated in the chart opposite:
 - 18% of children aged 5-9 years; increasing to: 19% (10-14 years) & 22% (15-17 years)



17% of parents said it was difficult to make COVID vaccination appointment

7. If your child/children have been vaccinated against influenza or COVID-19, was it difficult to make an appointment for your child/children for:
b. COVID-19?

Asked to parents of children vaccinated against COVID-19

- This question was asked only to the 66% of parents of a child/children aged 5-17 years who had been vaccinated against COVID-19.

17% of parents said it was difficult to make COVID vaccination appointment

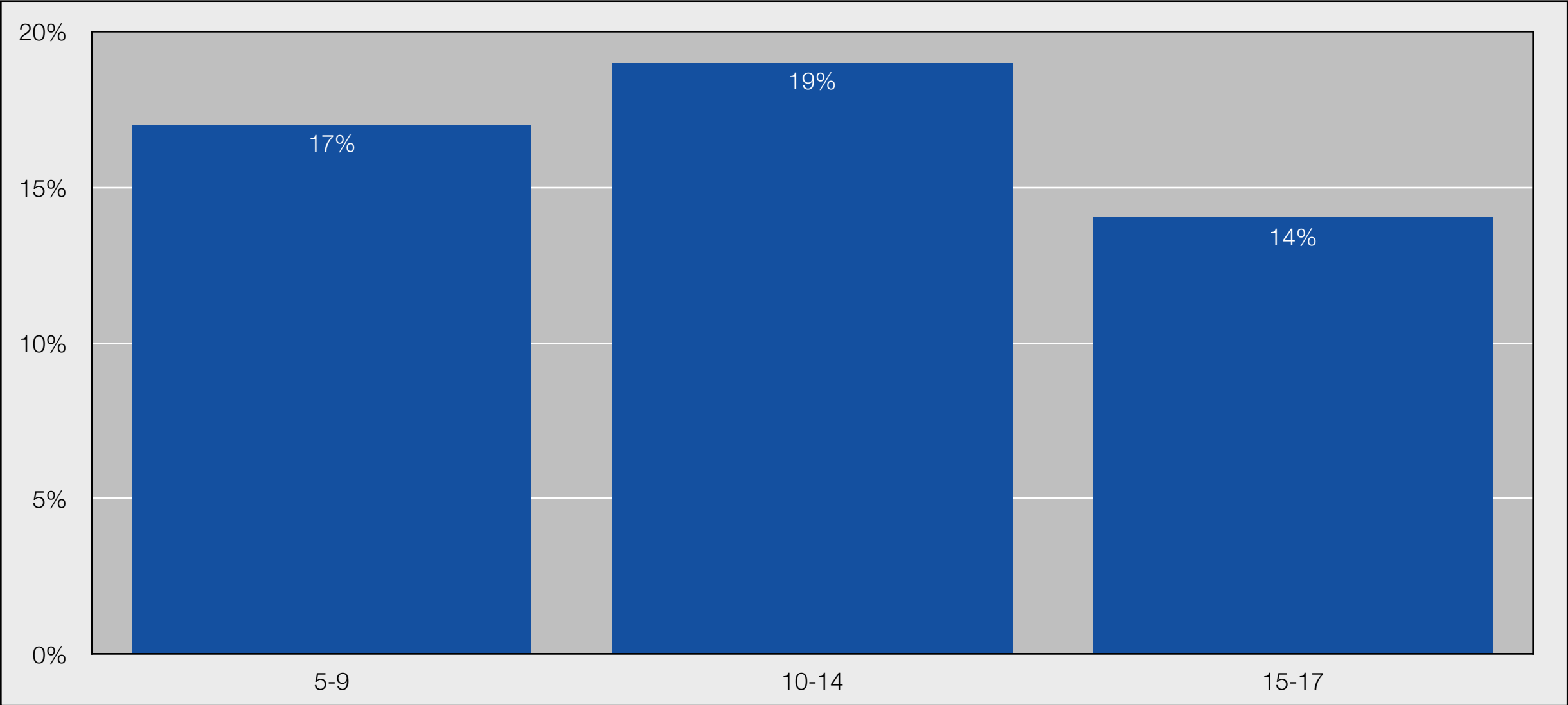
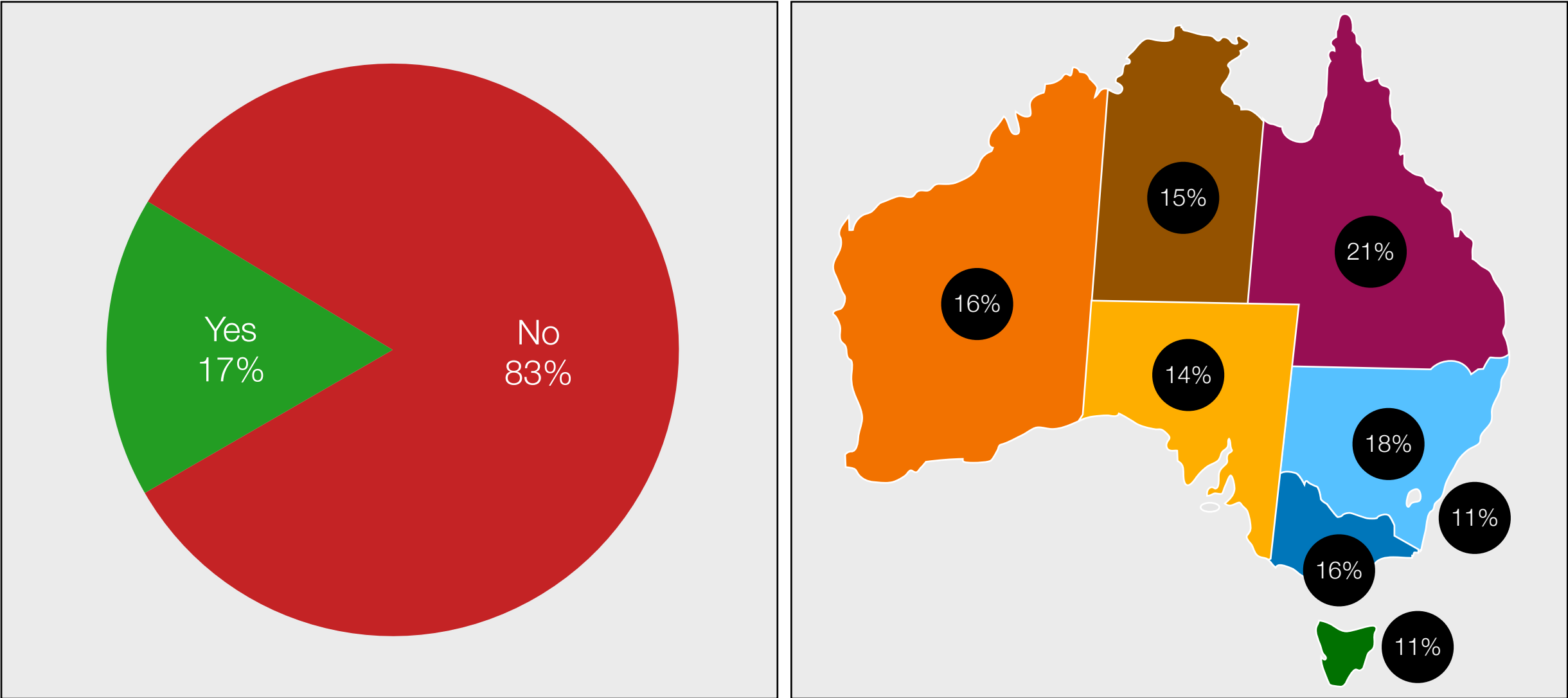
- For the question, illustrated in the opposite, top pie chart:
 - 17% answered “Yes” & 83% answered “No”

Variation across geographic areas

- Across the States and Territories there was variation in those who answered “Yes” illustrated in the far opposite graphic:
 - QLD (22%) had the highest proportion who answered “Yes” (21%), followed by NSW (18%)
 - VIC (16%); WA (16%); NT (15%); SA (14%); TAS (11%) & ACT (11%)
- Across metropolitan, regional and rural areas there was minor variation:
 - Rural areas had the highest proportion who answered “Yes” (20%)
 - Regional (18%) & Metropolitan (17%)

Age of children

- Those who answered “Yes” provided the current age of their child/children, where as illustrated in the chart opposite:
 - 17% of children aged 5-9 years; 19% (10-14 years) & 14% (15-17 years)



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Further Information

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For media enquiries, please use the above telephone number.

For any other enquiries and further information, please visit our website and fill the contact form on:
www.immunisationcoalition.org.au/about-us/contact-us/



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The Immunisation Coalition wishes to thank APMI Partners (Australia) for producing this survey.

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