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Evaluating Reasons for Moderna Covid-19 Vaccine Hesitancy at a Vaccine Distribution Center in South Jersey

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Evaluating Reasons for Moderna Covid-19 Vaccine Hesitancy at a Vaccine Distribution Center in South Jersey

Arghyadeep Sarkar, BS, Suzanna Hosein, DO, MS, Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine

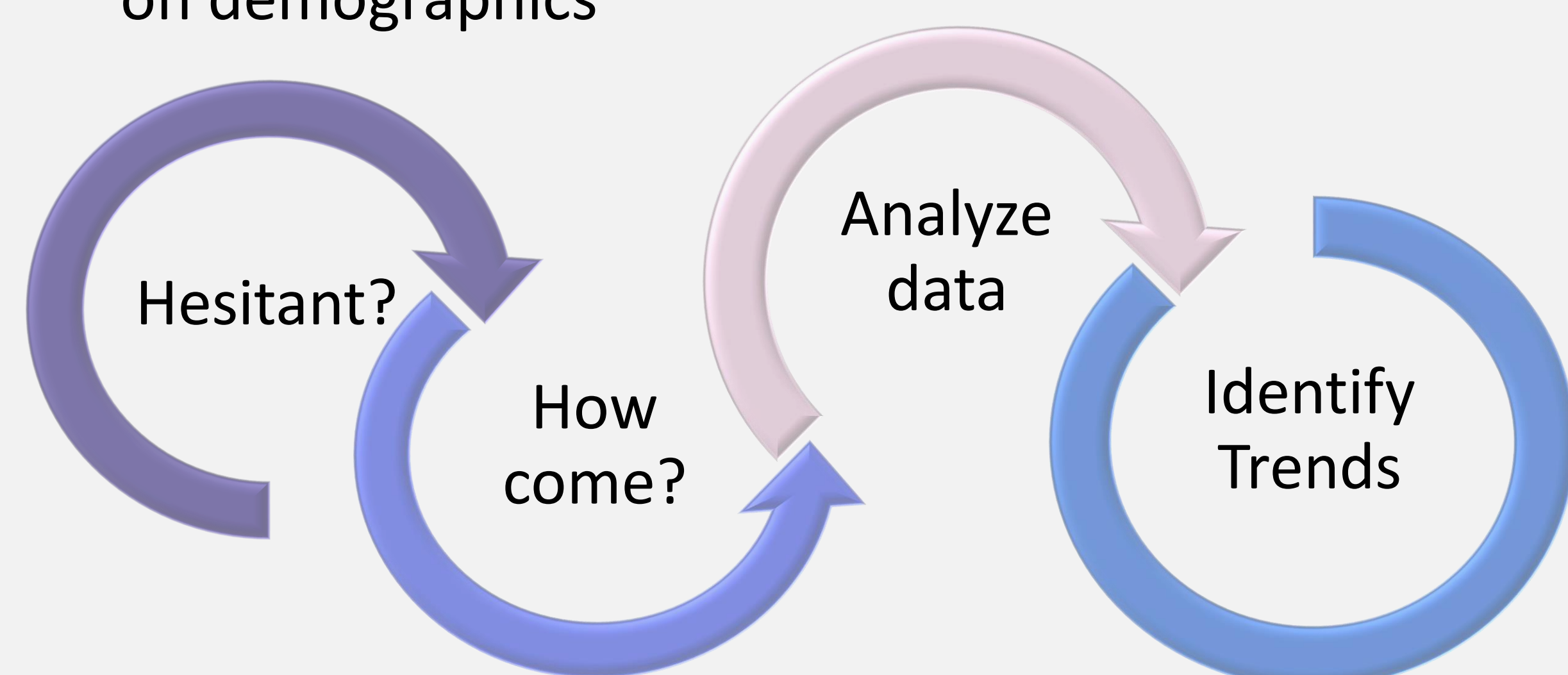
Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine, Stratford, New Jersey 08043

Background

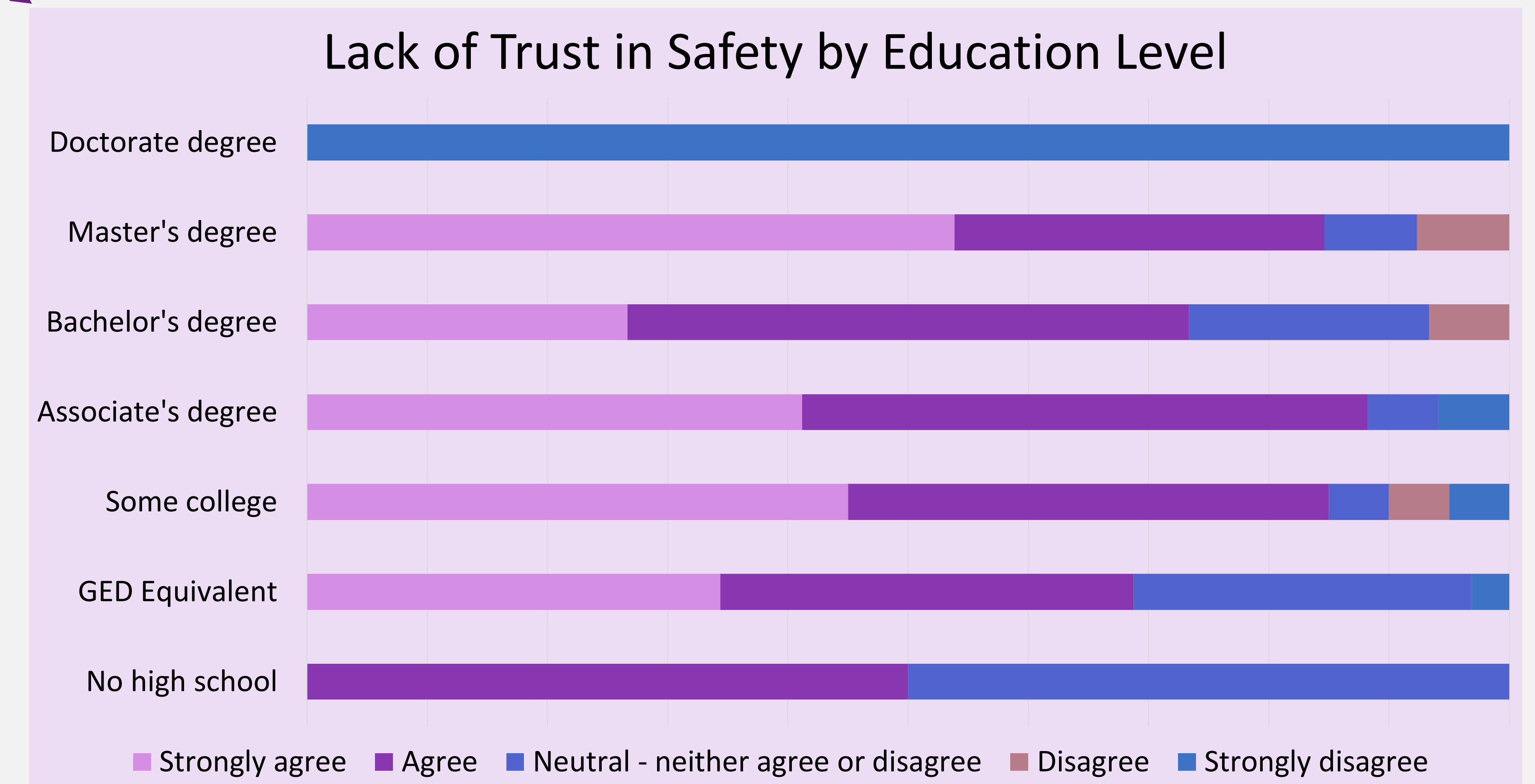
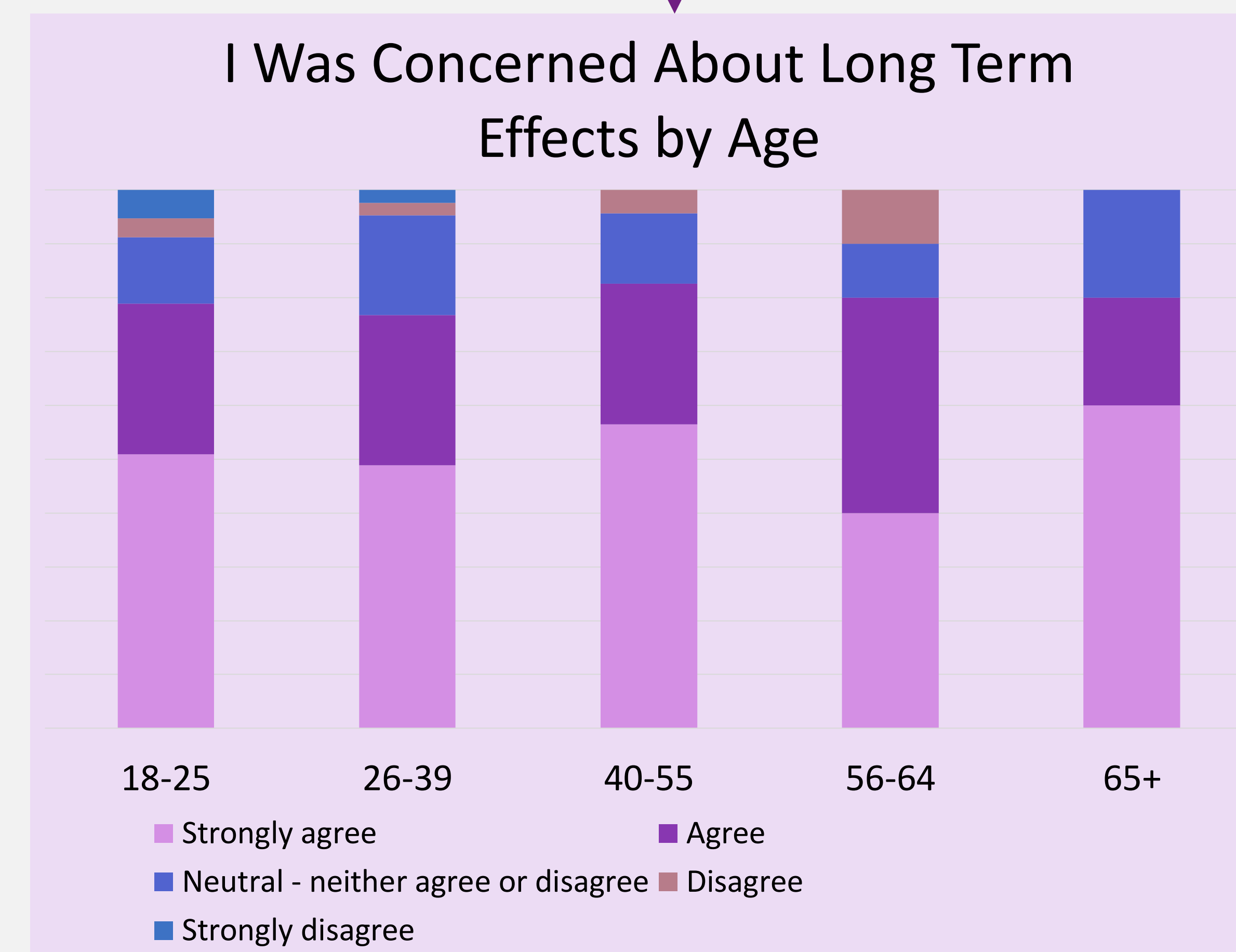
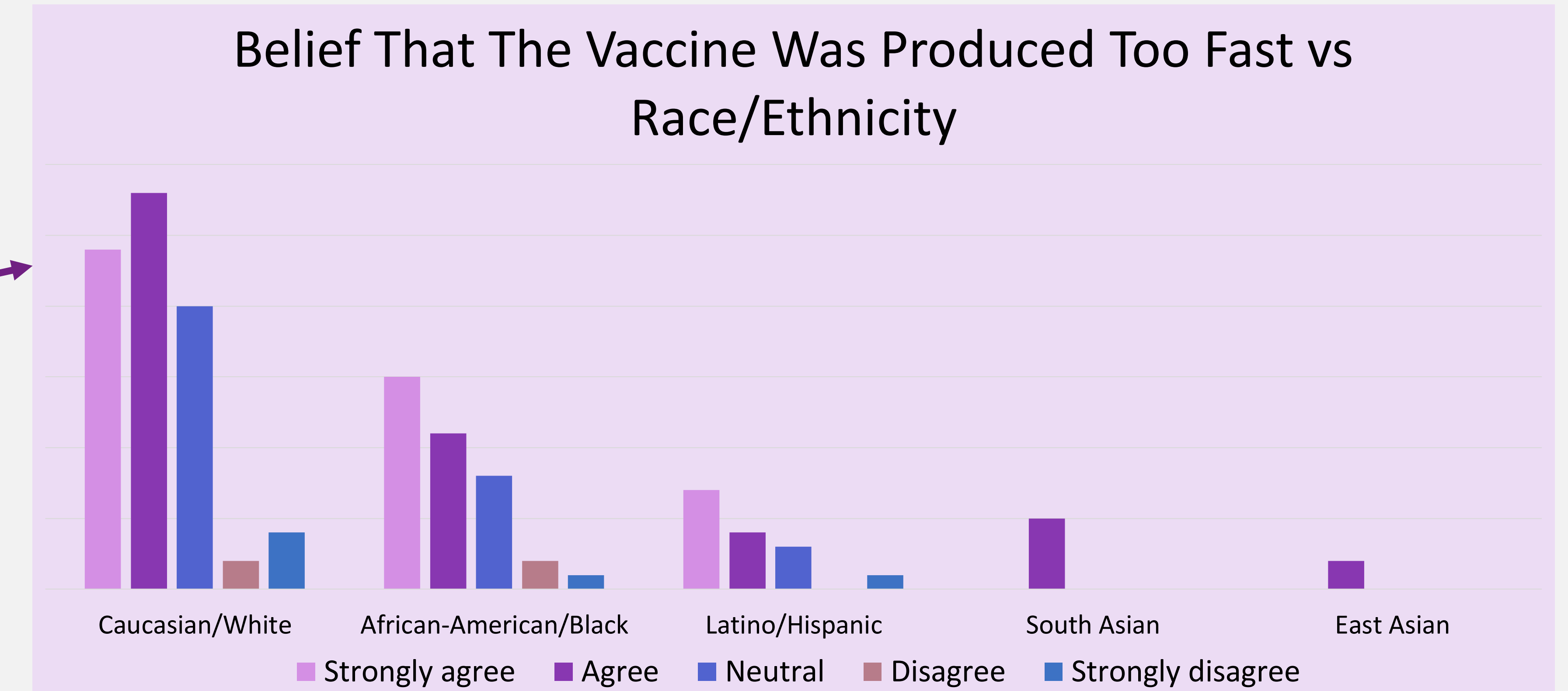
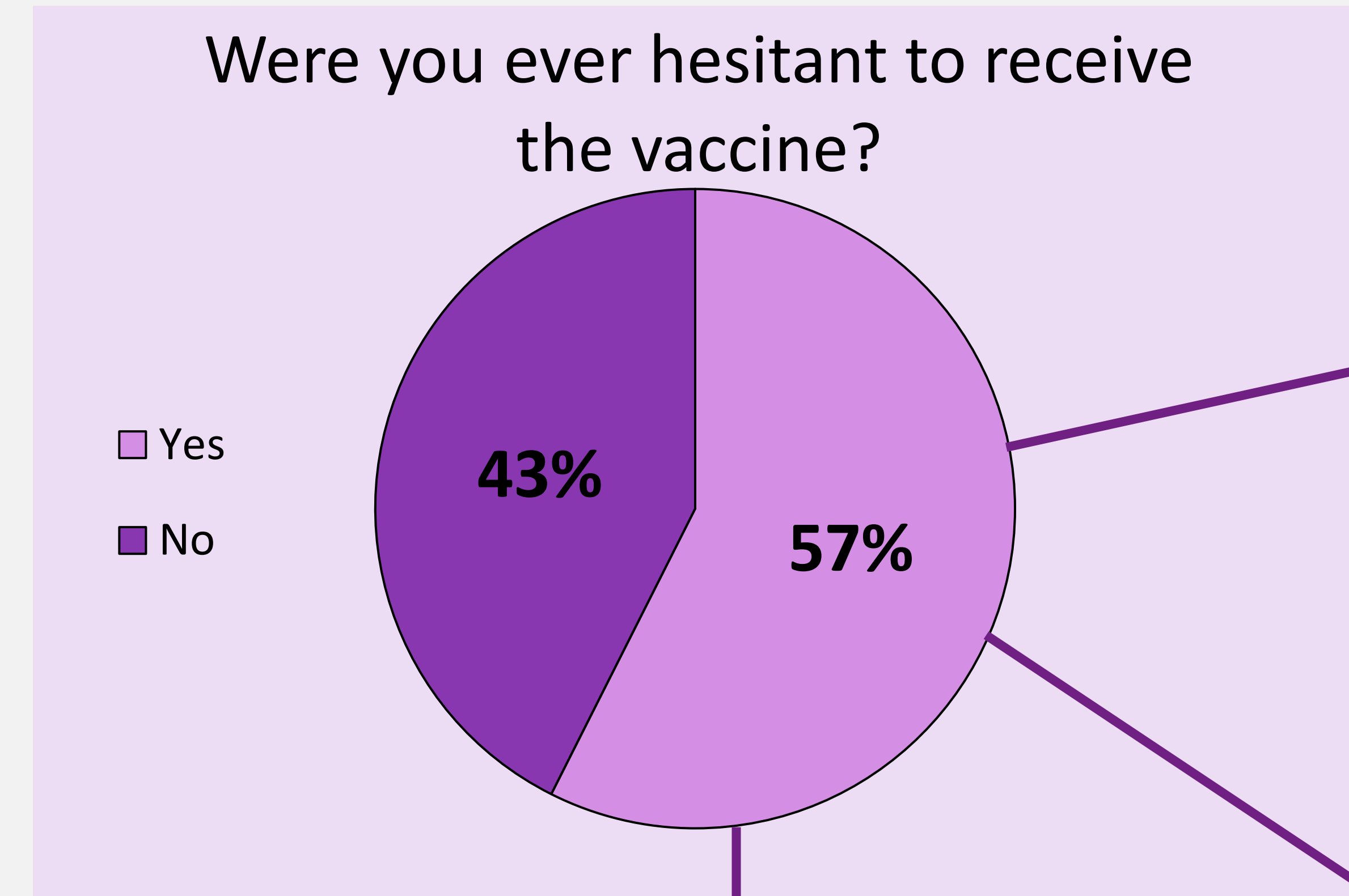
- RowanSOM held a student run vaccine clinic in 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Despite published research stating the safety and efficacy of the vaccine¹, there were still vaccine-hesitant individuals.
- While the CDC reported that hesitancy to receive vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 had decreased, 32.1% of American adults did not intend to get vaccinated as of December 2020².
- Understanding reasons for this hesitancy could help create informational ads directed towards peoples' concerns.

Methods

- Created survey for patients at RowanSOM vaccine clinic
- After they received their vaccination, they were instructed to be seated for 15 minutes in case of adverse effects
- While they waited, they participated in my survey
- If they indicated that they had been hesitant at one point, then they would be taken through extra questions
 - “What were your reasons for feeling hesitant about receiving the vaccine?” followed by various options they could agree or disagree with
- Data was collected and analyzed for any trends based on demographics



Results



Discussion

- Out of 249 total responses, 143 responded that they had indeed been hesitant at a certain point to receive the vaccine.
- When compared by race, there was a trend in the belief that the vaccine had been produced too fast
 - However, more data needs to be gathered from the Latino/Hispanic, East Asian, and South Asian community
- The concern over long term effects resulting from the vaccine was a consistently held belief regardless of age group
- The lack of trust in the safety of the vaccine did not have variance from high school graduates to holders of master's degrees.
 - However, those with doctorate degrees did not take issue with safety, reflective of their advanced medical education

Discussion (cont.)

- A repeat of this study can be conducted to see how beliefs have changed after one year living with this pandemic

Acknowledgements

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- Nguyen KH, Srivastav A, Razzaghi H, et al. COVID-19 Vaccination Intent, Perceptions, and Reasons for Not Vaccinating Among Groups Prioritized for Early Vaccination — United States, September and December 2020. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2021;70:217–222. DOI: <<http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7006e3>>