



Parents' Experiences During School Closures Due to H1N1 in High Closure Areas

Gillian SteelFisher, PhD, MSc

Robert Blendon, ScD

Mark Bekheit, JD

Harvard Opinion Research Program

Harvard School of Public Health

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Emergency Polling

I. Purpose

- Supporting public health emergency communications and planning
- Technology transfer
 - Knowledge and Concern
 - Response to Public Health Emergencies
 - Information-seeking Behavior

II. Advantages

- Immediacy – reduced recall biases
- Turnaround time – use this year

III. Methodological differences

- Telephone
- Response rates

Purpose

- I. To examine the experiences of parents whose child/ren's schools closed
 - Nature of closures
 - Opinions about closures
 - Problems experienced
 - Behavioral response
 - Use of information resources

- II. To compare to experiences of parents whose child/ren's schools did not close
 - Within same region
 - Nationally

Methods Summary

- Telephone poll (landline and cell phone)
- Conducted November 19-December 9, 2009
- Parents of children <18 years old, enrolled in school or daycare
- Randomized samples
 - High closure regions – across 40 states
 - Experienced school closure (523) ←
 - Did not experience closure (721)
 - National - few experienced school closure (1110)
- Data weighted to match U.S. Census on: gender, age, race, education, region (where relevant), number of children in household, and home ownership
- Data also weighted by metro status according to telephone exchange report

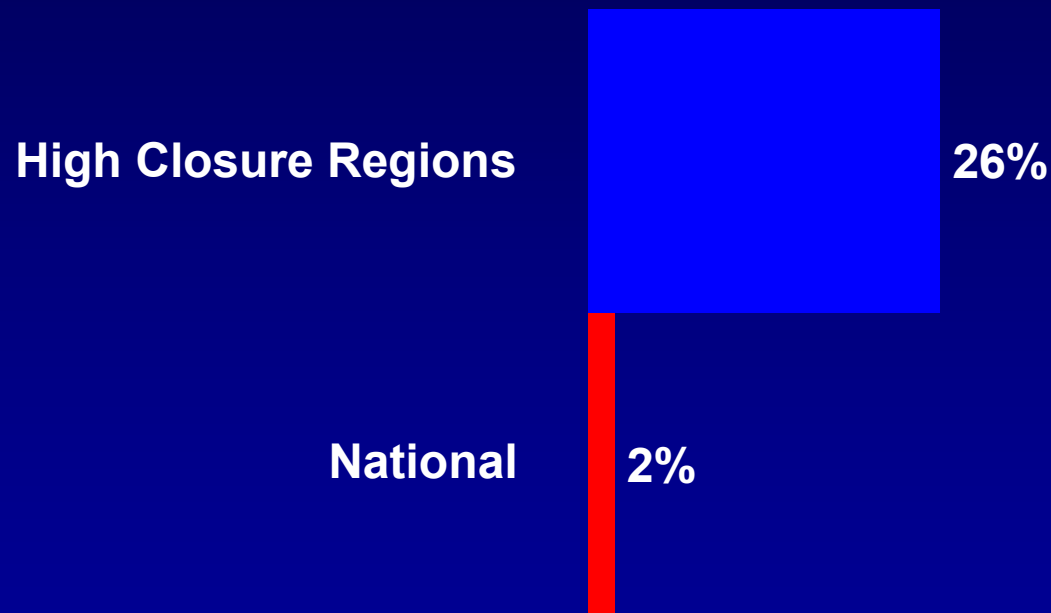
Parents' Experiences During School Closures Due to H1N1 in High Closure Regions

- I. School Closures**
- II. Concern about H1N1**
- III. Views on the School Closure Decision**
- IV. Information about School Closures**
- V. Problems Encountered During School Closures**
- VI. Re-Congregation During School Closures**
- VII. Flu Prevention Behavior in Schools and among Children**
- VIII. Parents' Resources for Information about H1N1 Prevention**
- IX. Caring for a Child Sick with H1N1**

I. School Closures

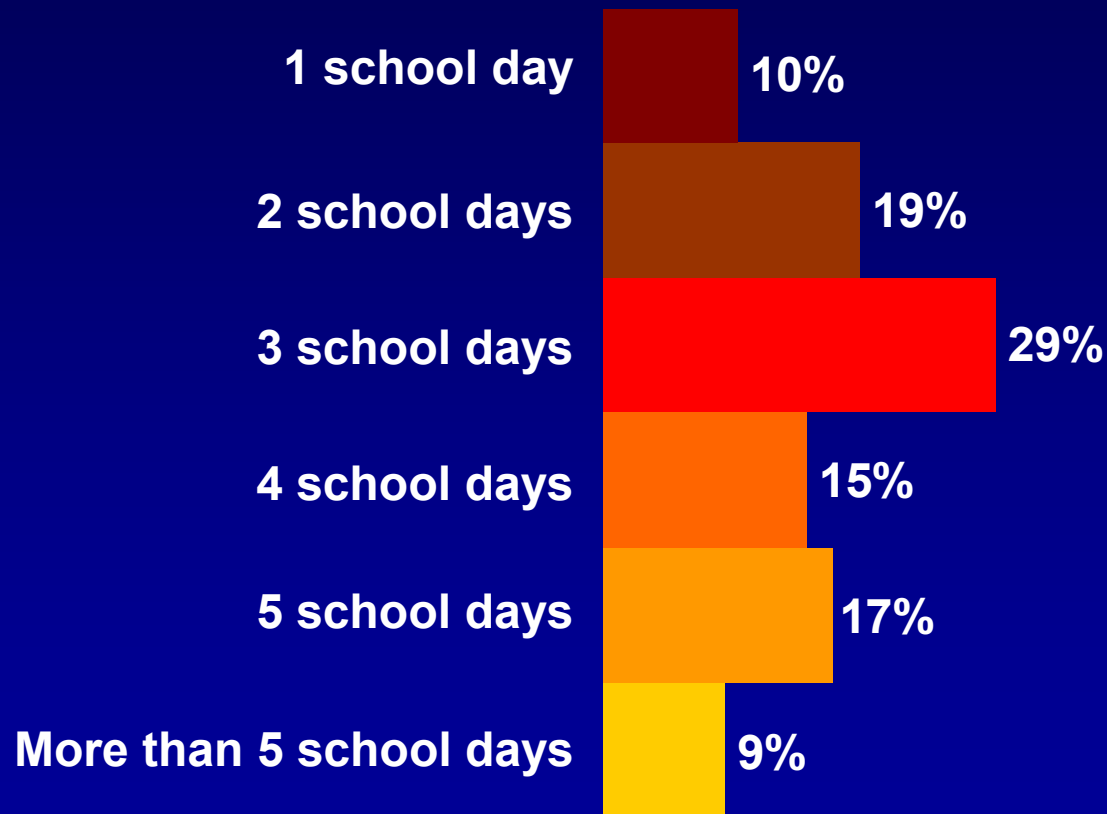
School Closures: National vs. High Closure Regions

% of parents saying their child's school or daycare has closed due to H1N1 since the start of this school year (August/September 2009)



Length of Time Schools were Closed in High Closure Areas

% of parents* saying their child's school or daycare was closed for...



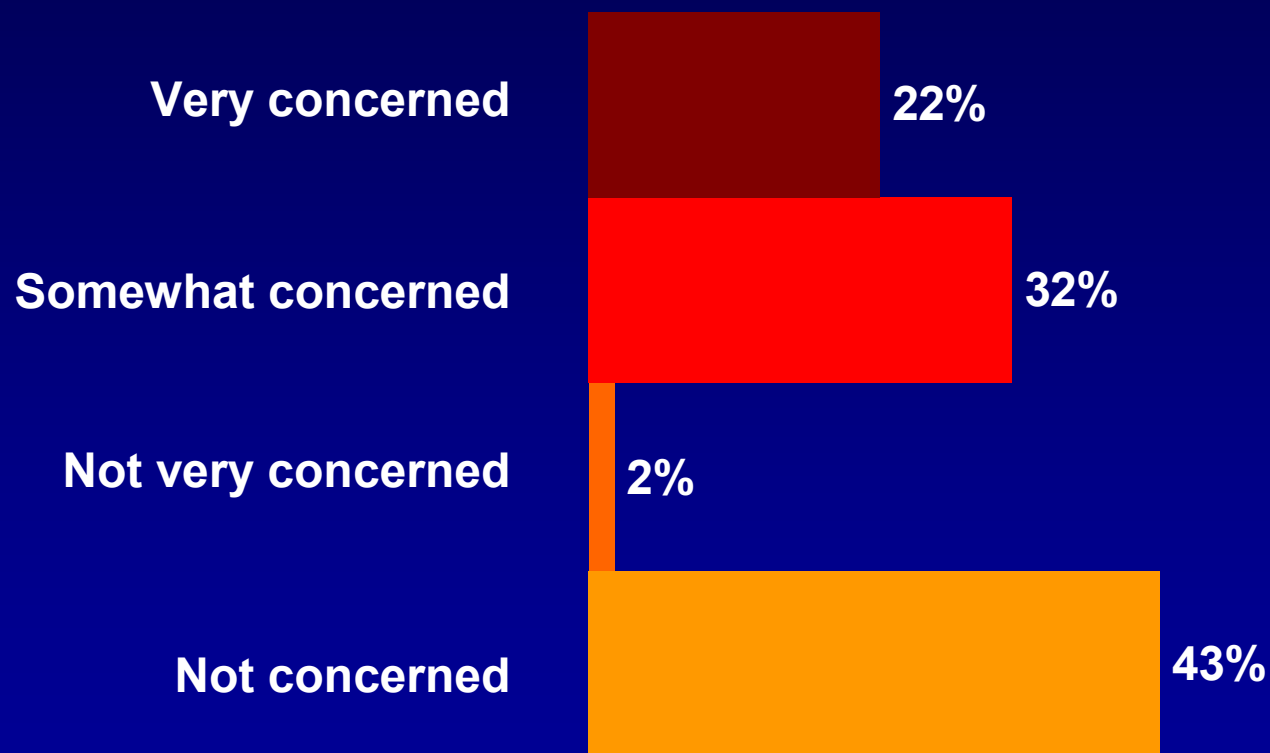
*Among parents in high closure areas who experienced a school closure (n=523)

Harvard Opinion Research Program, Harvard School of Public Health, November 19-December 9, 2009.

II. Concern About H1N1

Parents' Concern that their Child/Children May Get Sick from H1N1 During the Next 12 Months

% of parents* saying...

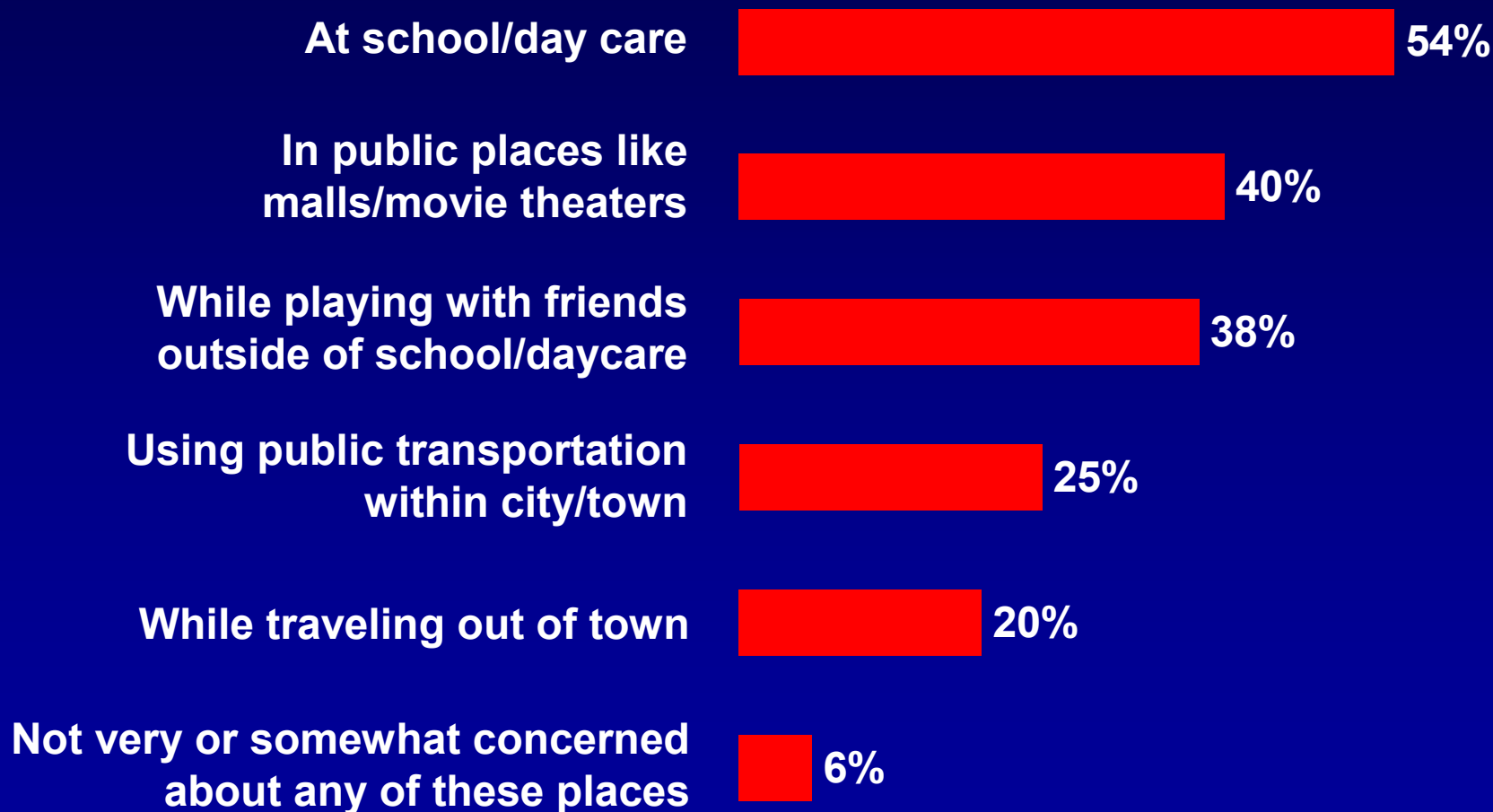


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Parents' Concern that their Child/Children May Get Sick from H1N1 During the Next 12 Months

% of parents* saying they are “very” or “somewhat concerned” their child may get sick from H1N1...

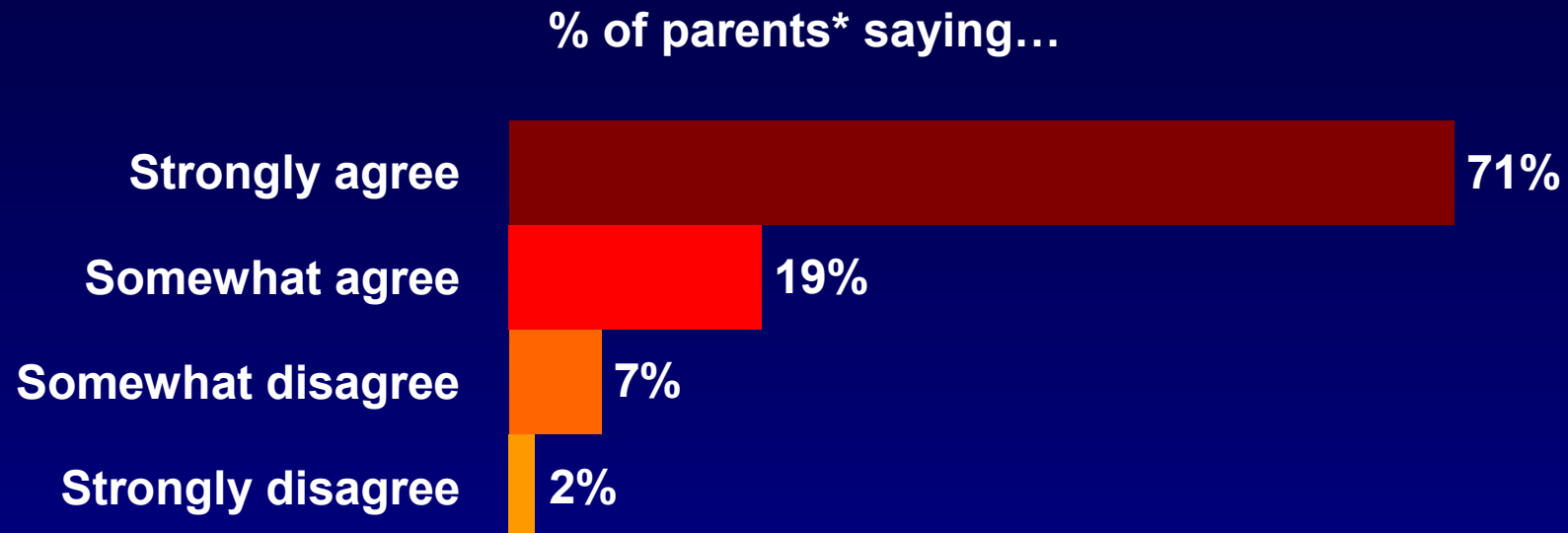


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III. Views on the School Closure Decision

Parents' Agreement with School Closure Decision



% of parents* saying there was a time since the start of the school year that they felt their child's school should have closed due to H1N1 but did not

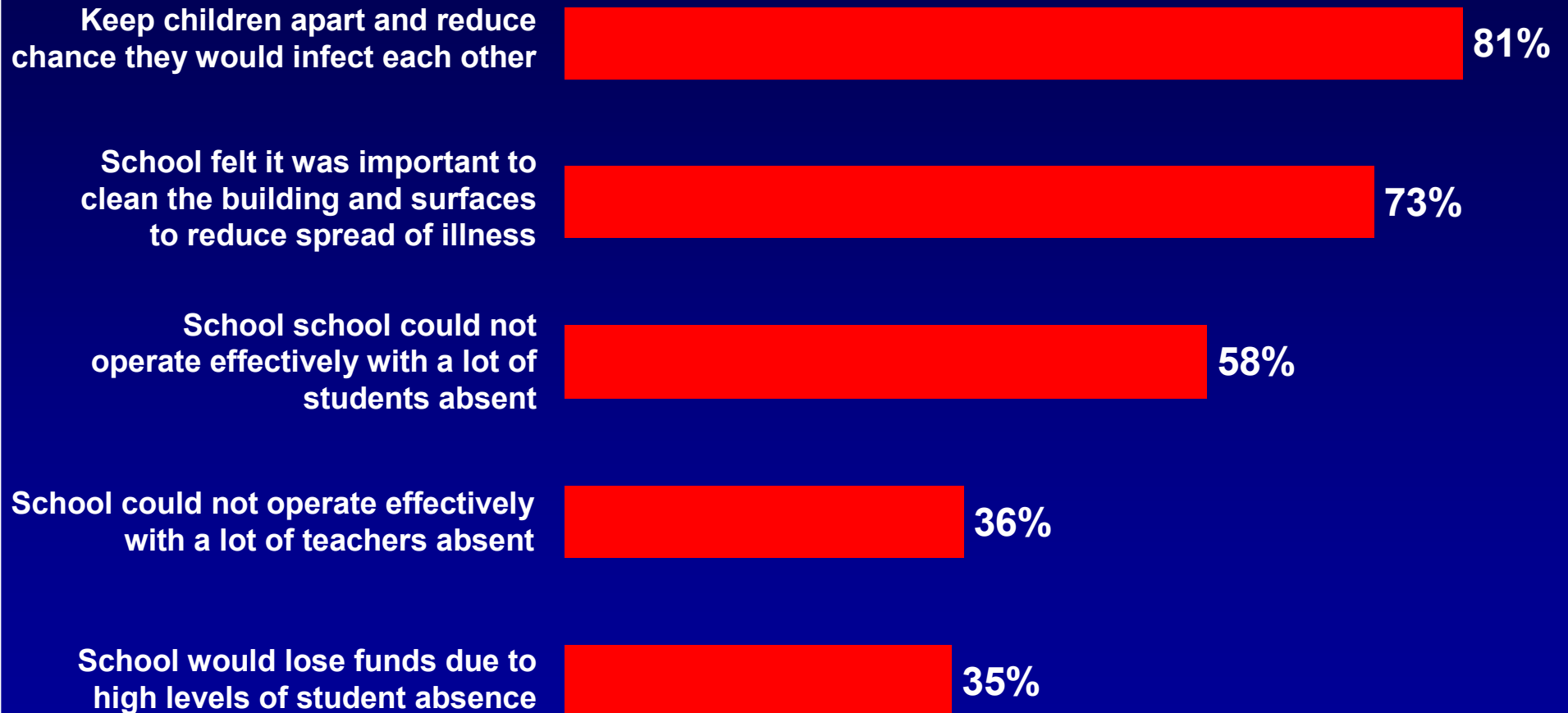


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Parents' Perceptions of Reasons for School Closure

% of parents* saying "major reason"

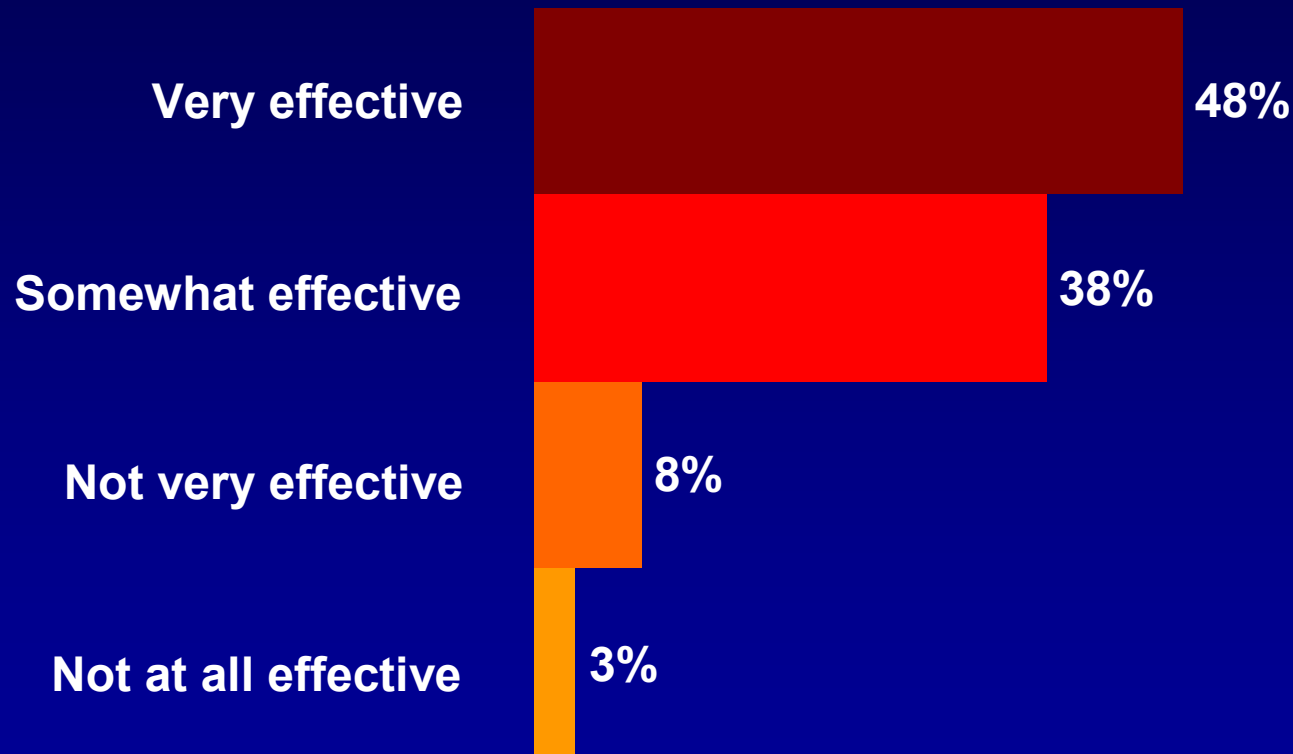


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Parents' Views on Effectiveness of School Closures in Reducing the Number of Cases of H1N1 among Children in School

% of parents* saying...



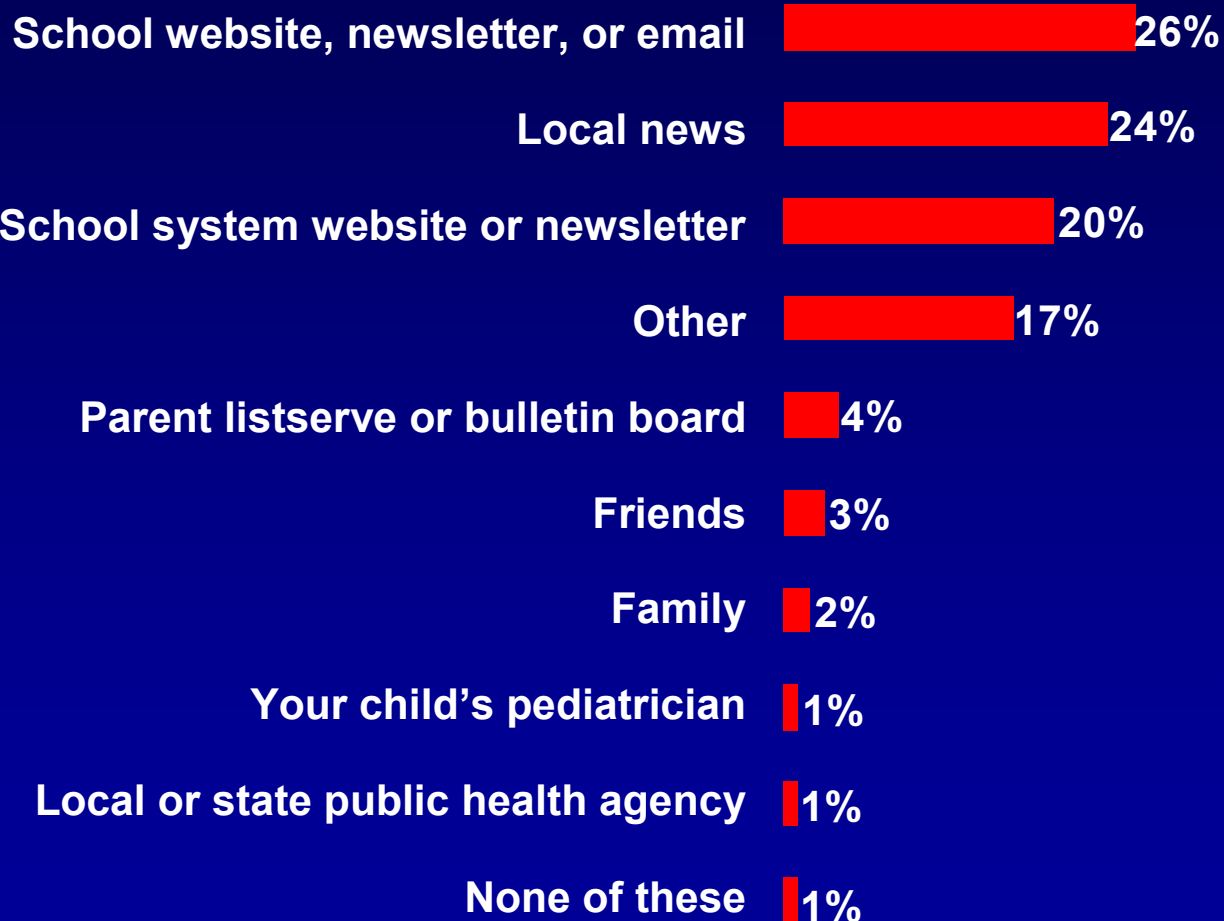
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IV. Information about School Closures

Parents' Sources of Information about School Closures

% of parents* saying they got most of their information about their child's school or daycare closing through...

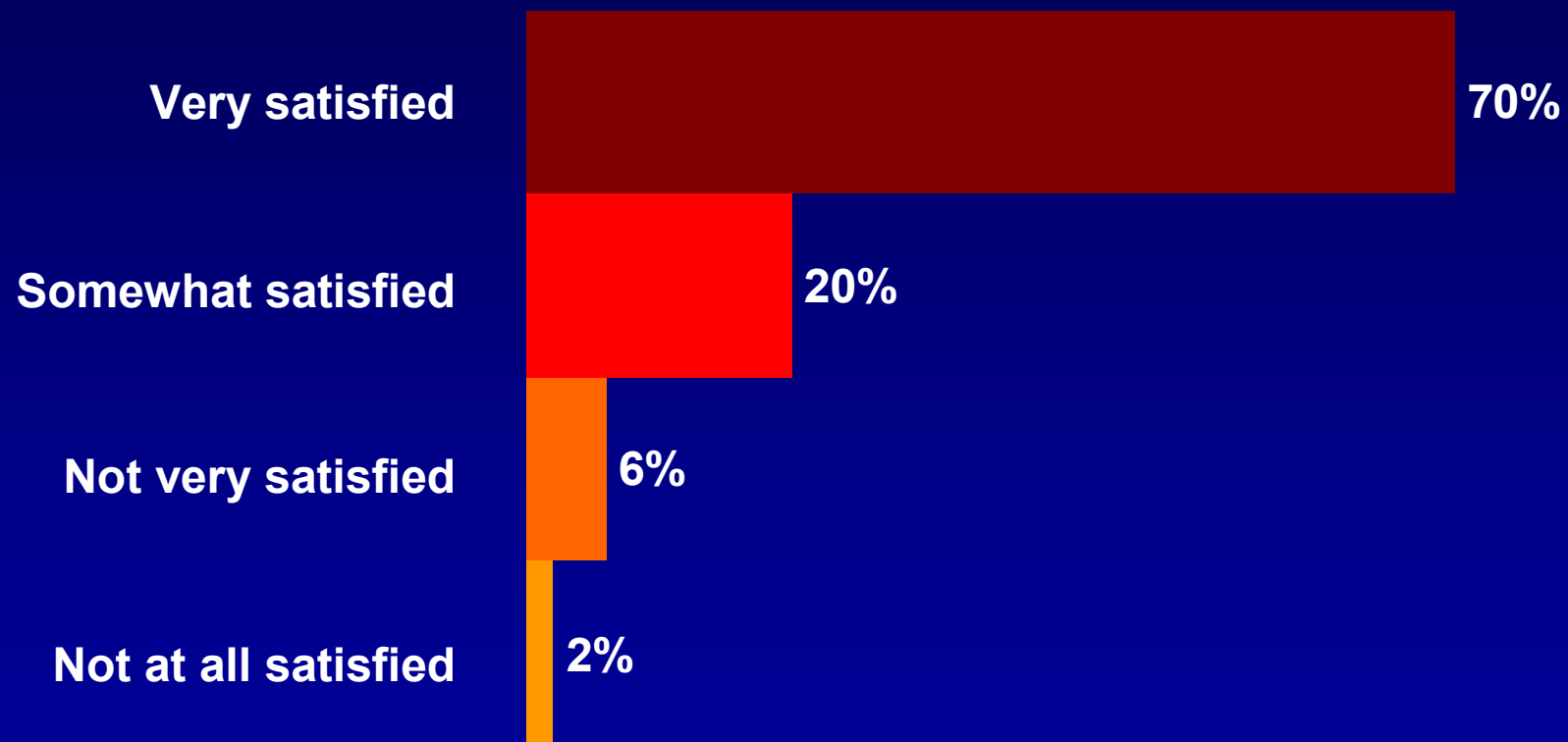


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Parents' Satisfaction with School Closure Information

% of parents* saying...



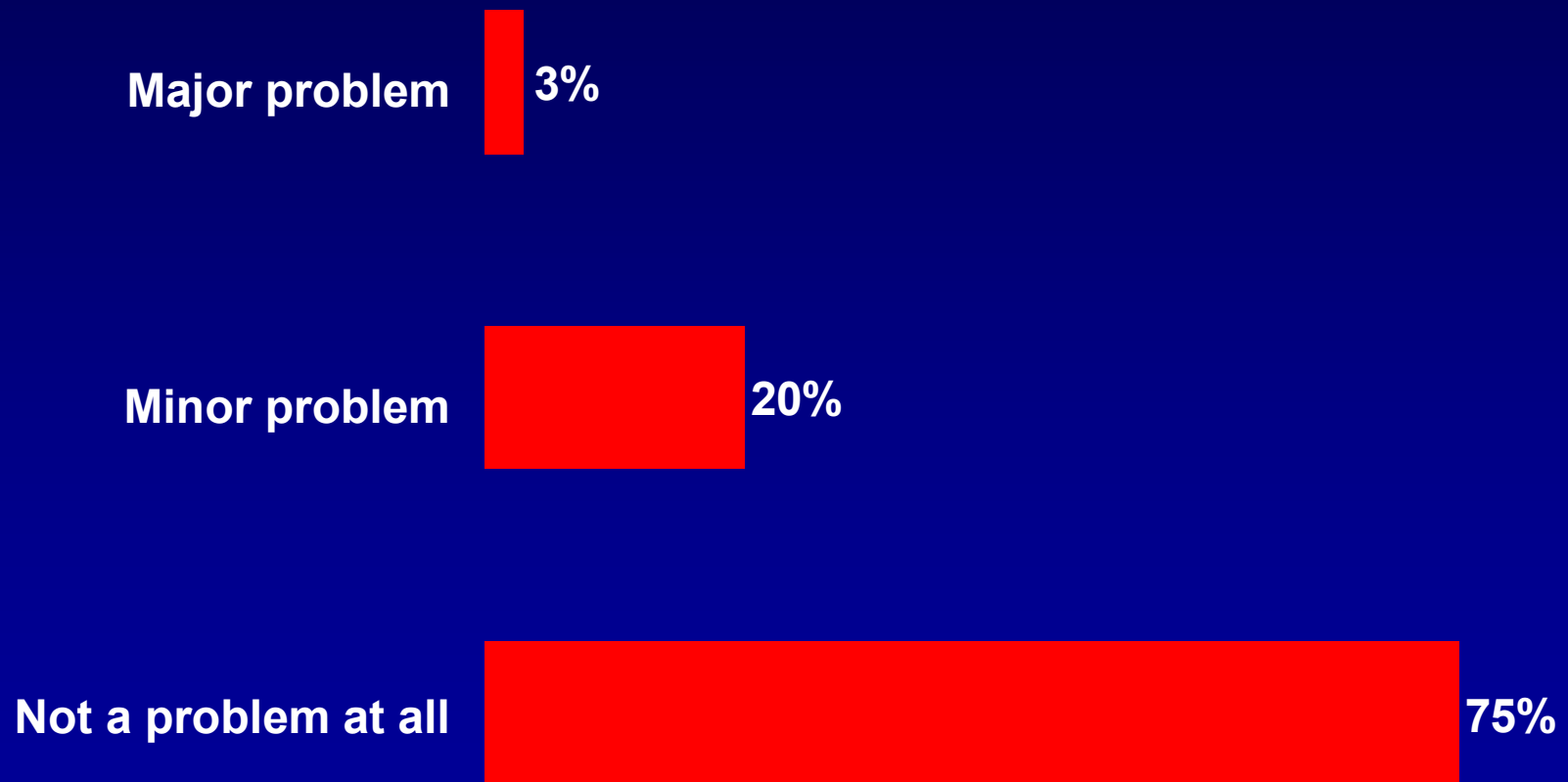
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V. Problems Encountered During School Closures

Parents' Overall Assessment of Impact of Having School Closed

% of parents* saying having child's school or daycare closed was a...

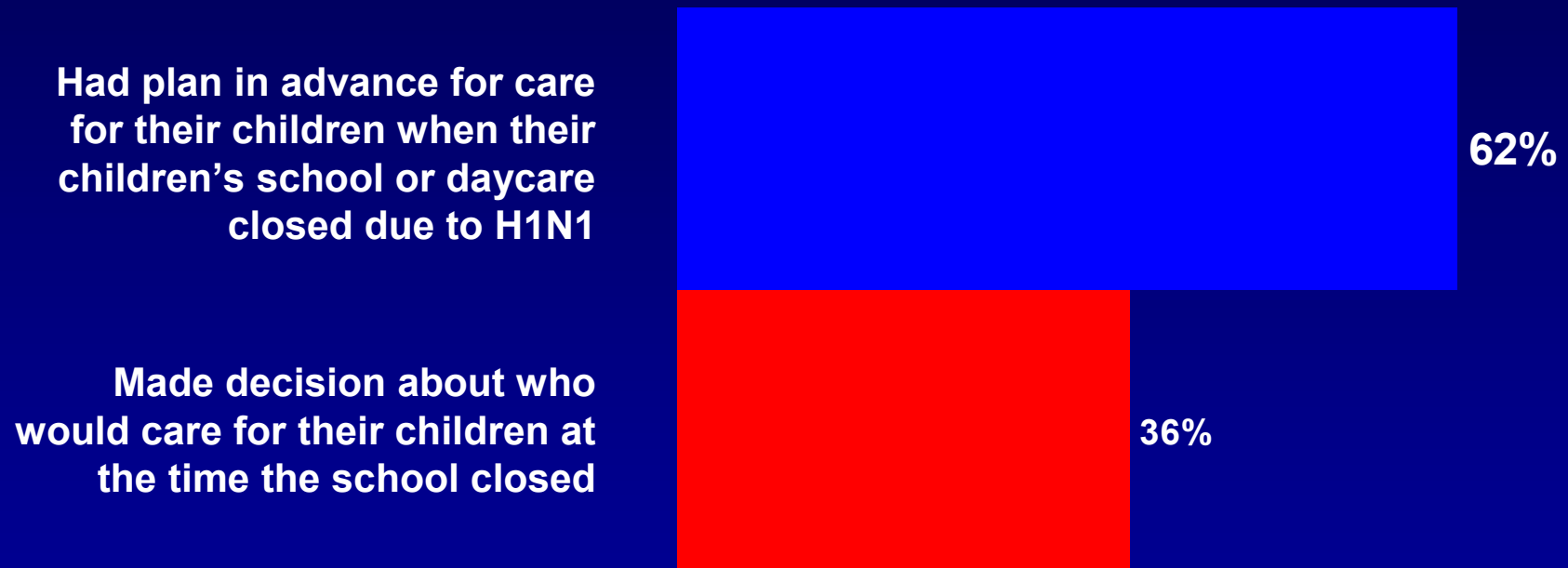


*Among parents in high closure areas who experienced a school closure (n=523)

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Parents' Level of Preparation for School Closures Due to H1N1 in High Closure Areas

% of parents* saying...

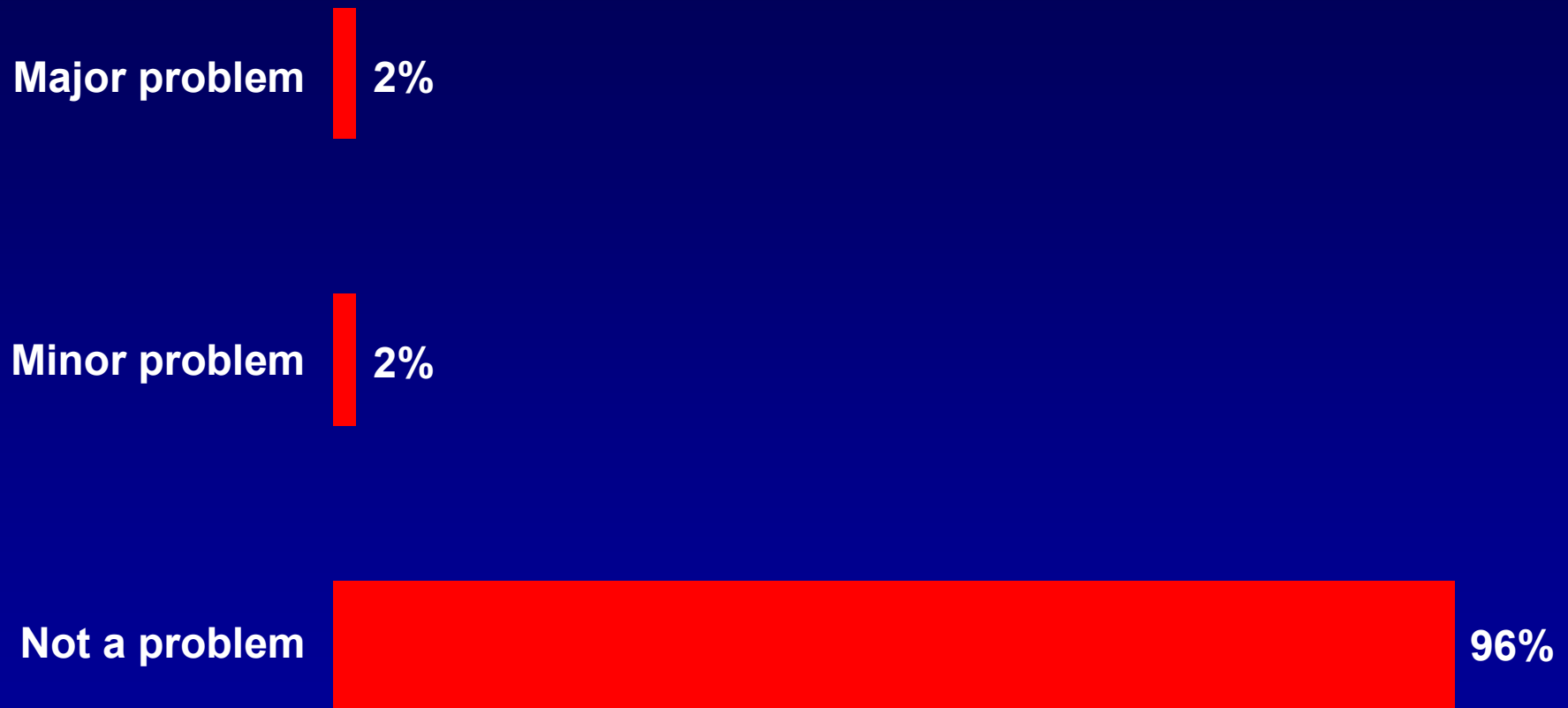


**Among parents in high closure areas who experienced a school closure (n=523)

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Parents' Difficulties Arranging Care for their Children if School Closed

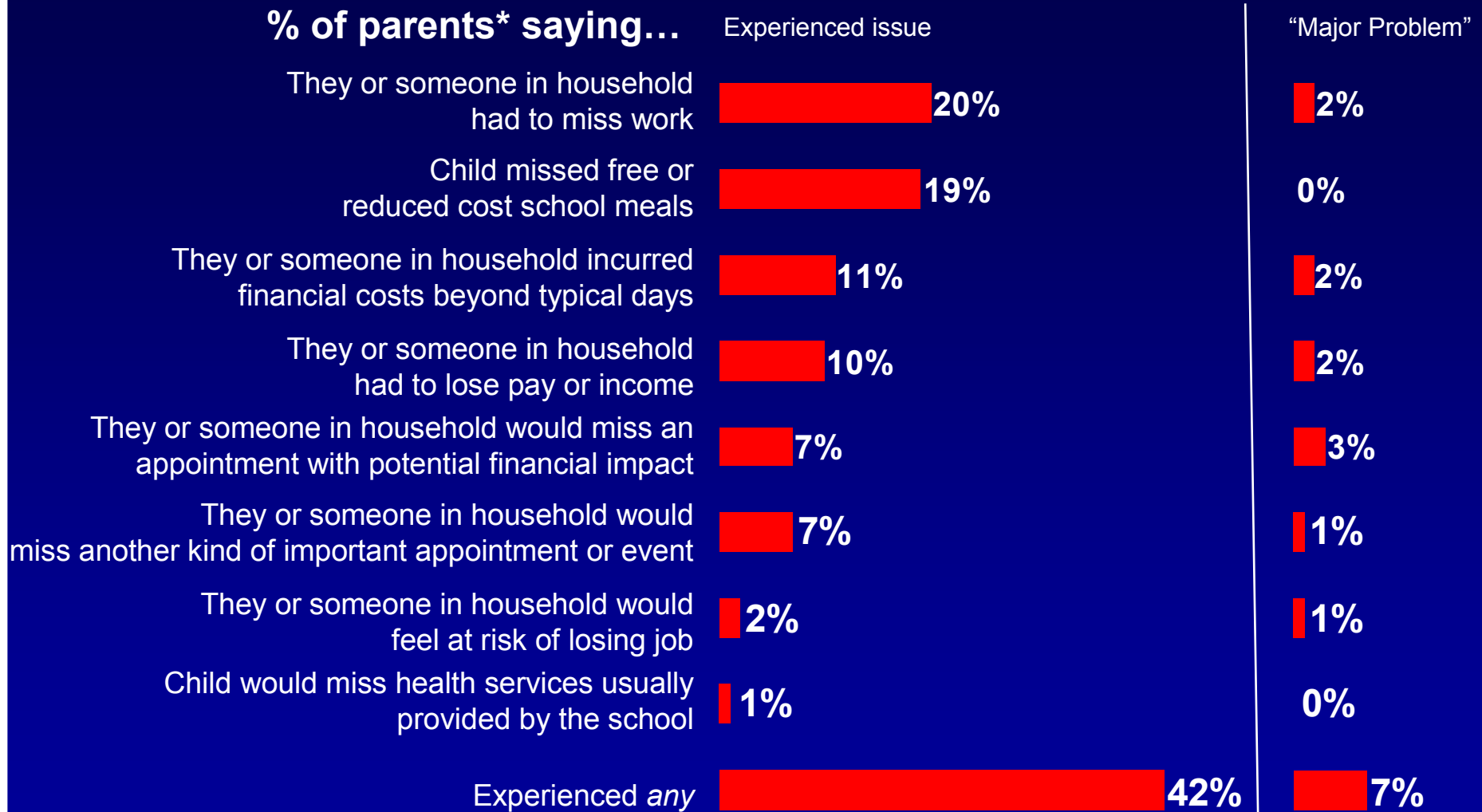
% of parents* saying arranging care during school closure was a...



*Among parents in high closure areas who experienced a school closure (n=523)

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Parents' Experiences with Issues and Problems Due to School Closures

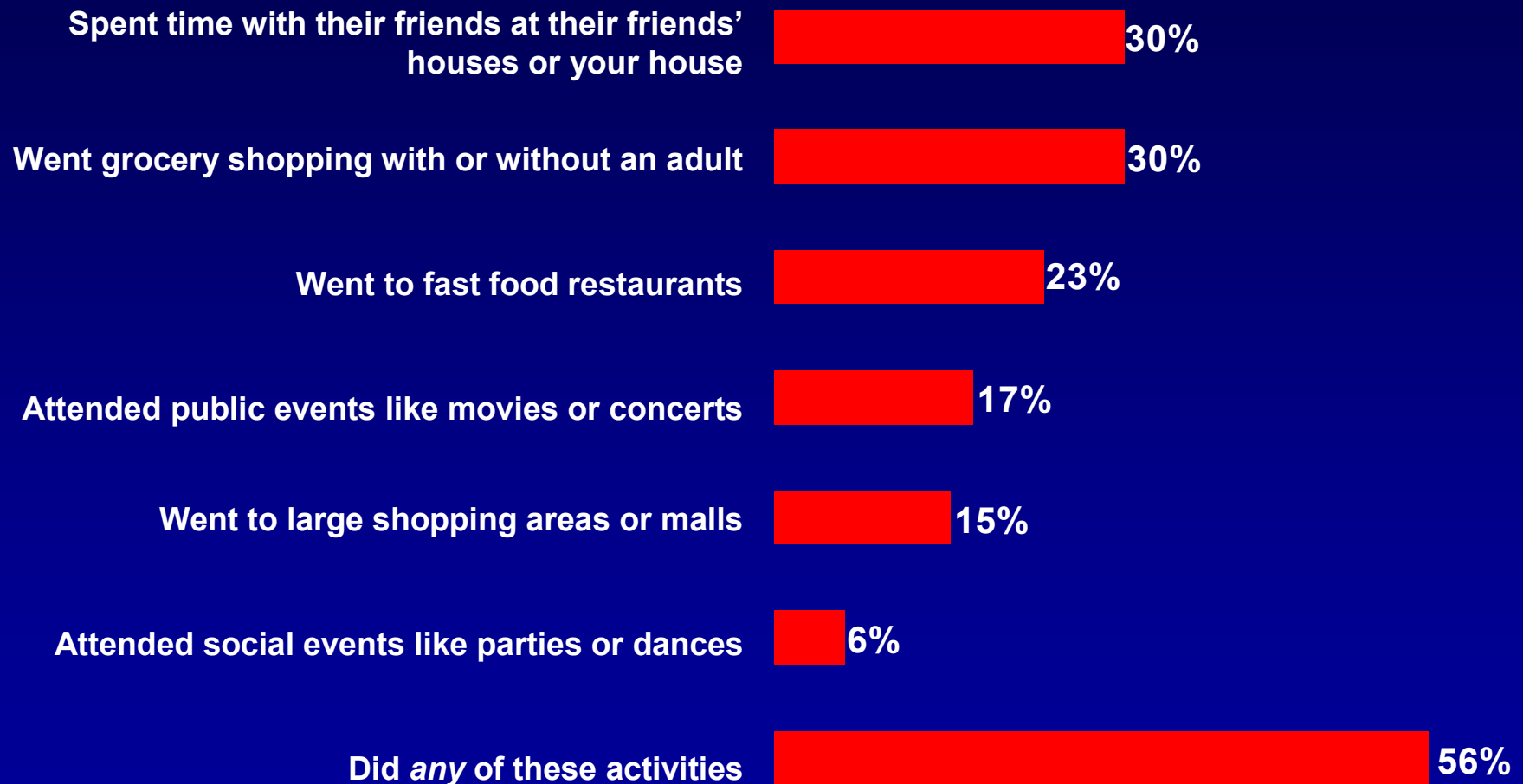


*Among parents in high closure areas who experienced a school closure (n=523)

VI. Re-Congregation During School Closures

Children's Activities Outside the House During School Closures

% of parents* saying their children...



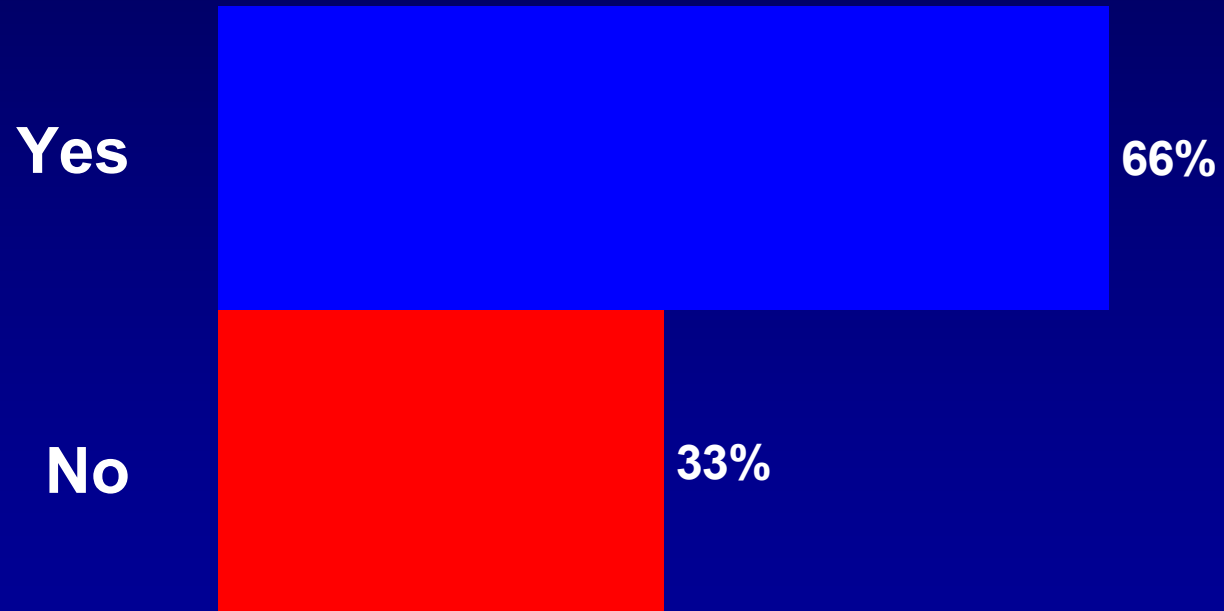
*Among parents in high closure areas who experienced a school closure (n=523)

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VII. Flu Prevention Behaviors in Schools and among Children

Parents' Awareness of Measures Implemented in their Children's Schools to Slow Spread of H1N1

% of parents saying have heard about measures their children's school have taken to slow the spread of H1N1...

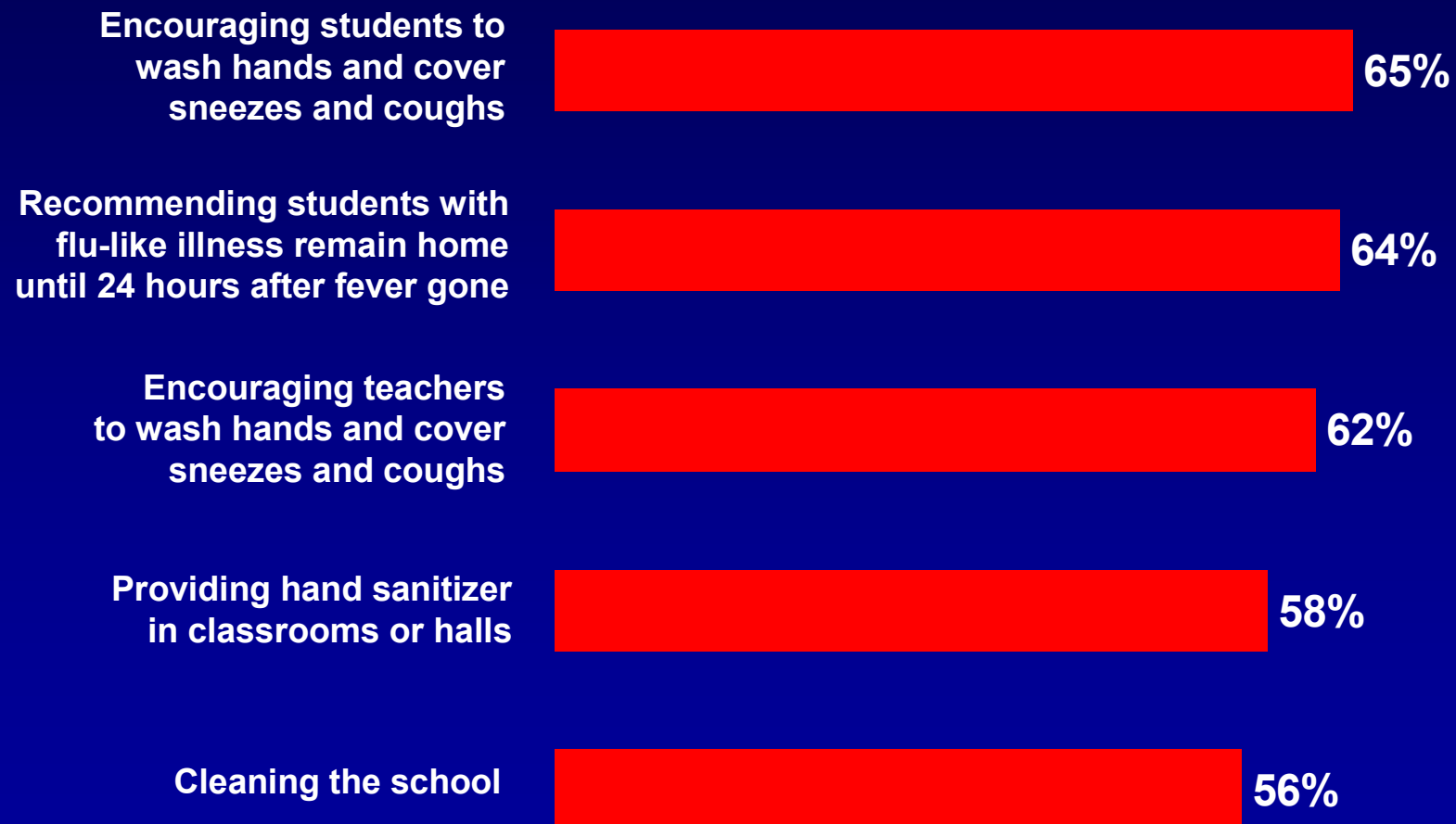


*Among parents in high closure areas who experienced a school closure (n=523)

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Parents' Awareness of Measures Implemented in their Children's Schools to Slow Spread of H1N1 in High Closure Areas

% of parents* saying their child's school is...

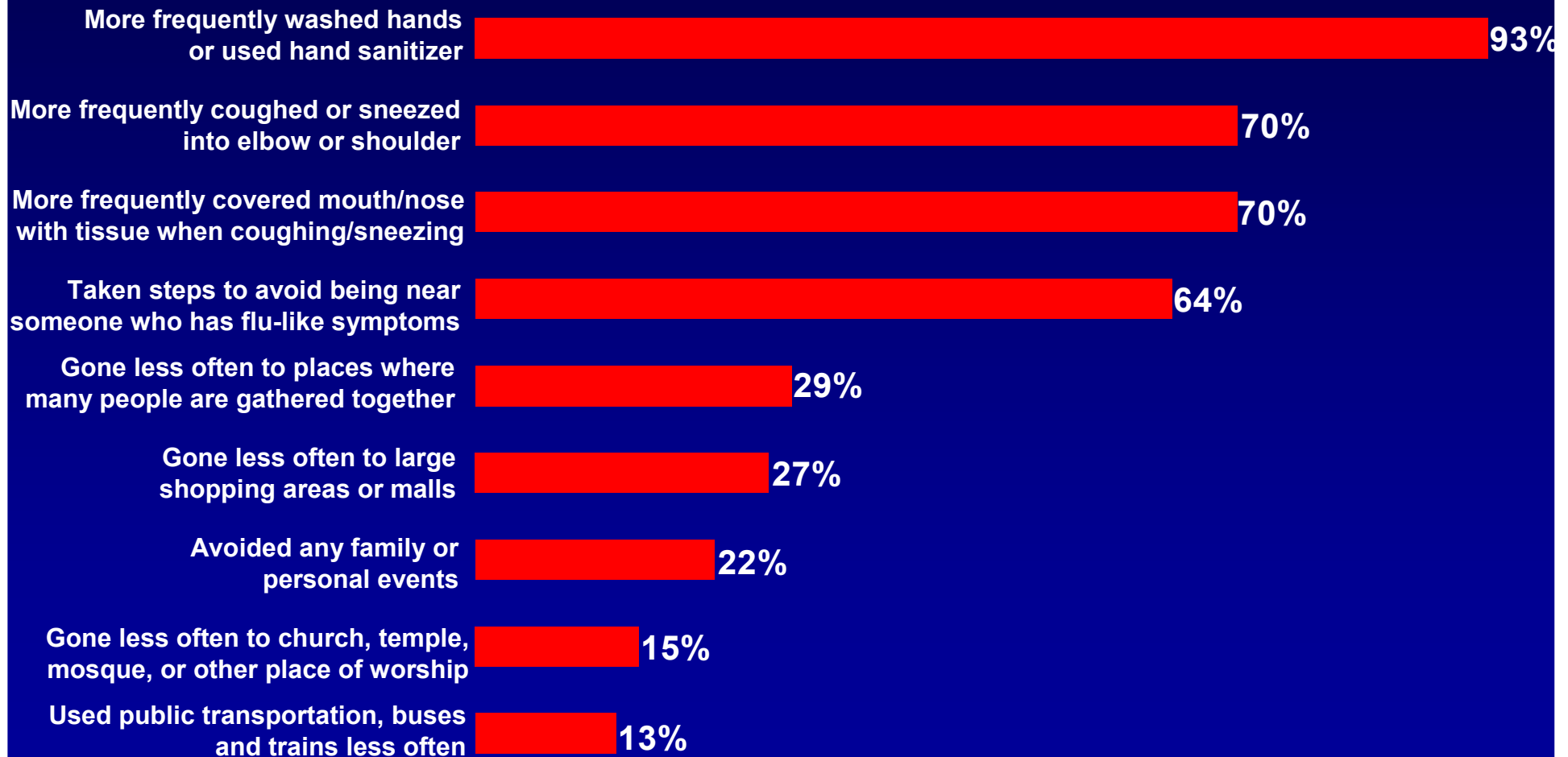


*Among parents in high closure areas who experienced a school closure (n=523)

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Parents' Perceptions of Children's Behaviors in Response to H1N1 in High Closure Areas

% of parents* saying their children have, since the start of the school year (August/September 2009)...



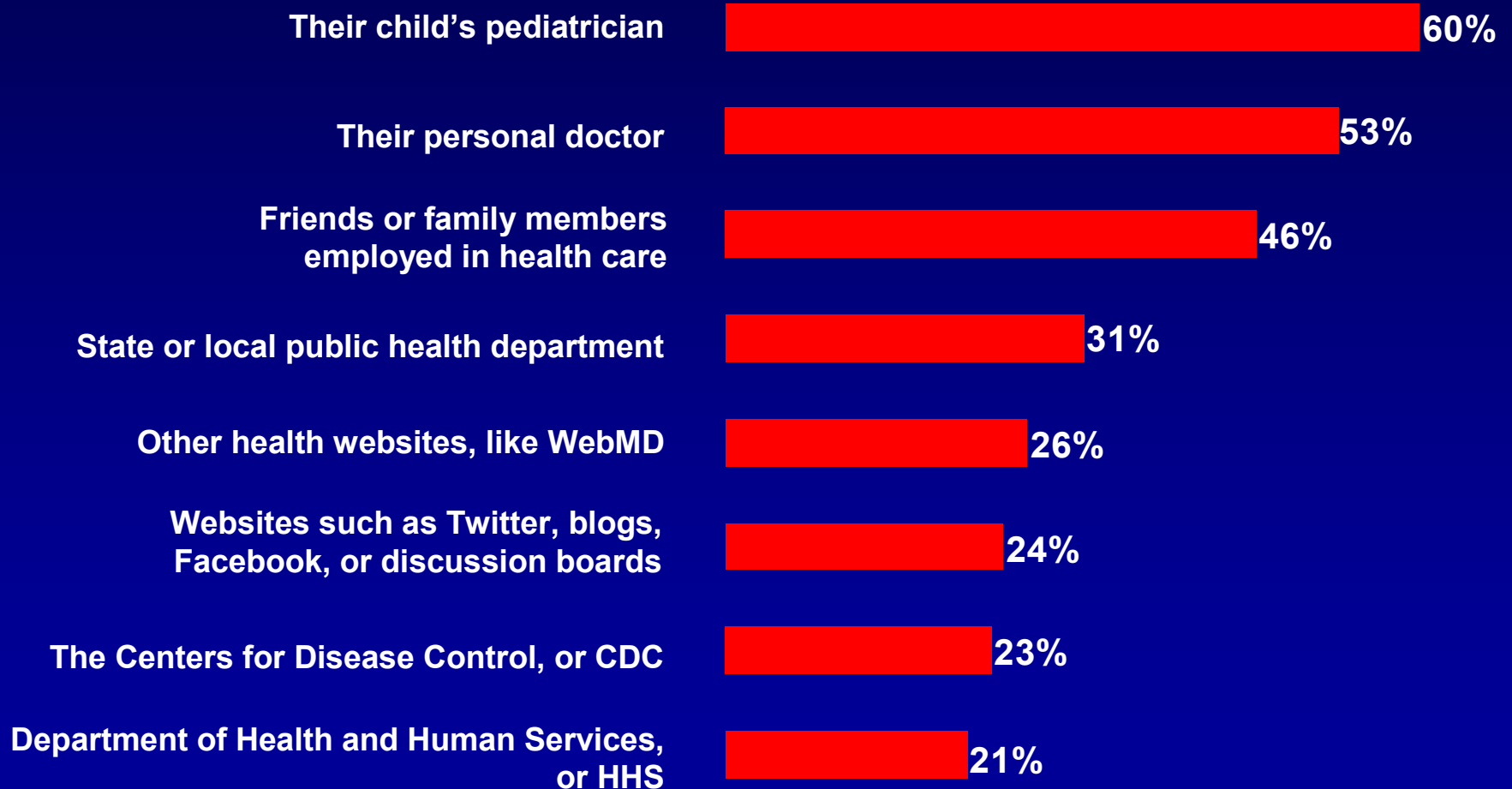
*Among parents in high closure areas who experienced a school closure (n=523)

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VIII. Parents' Resources for Information about H1N1 Prevention

Parents' Sources of Information about Preventing their Children from Getting H1N1 in High Closure Areas

% of parents* saying, since the start of the school year, they have turned to...

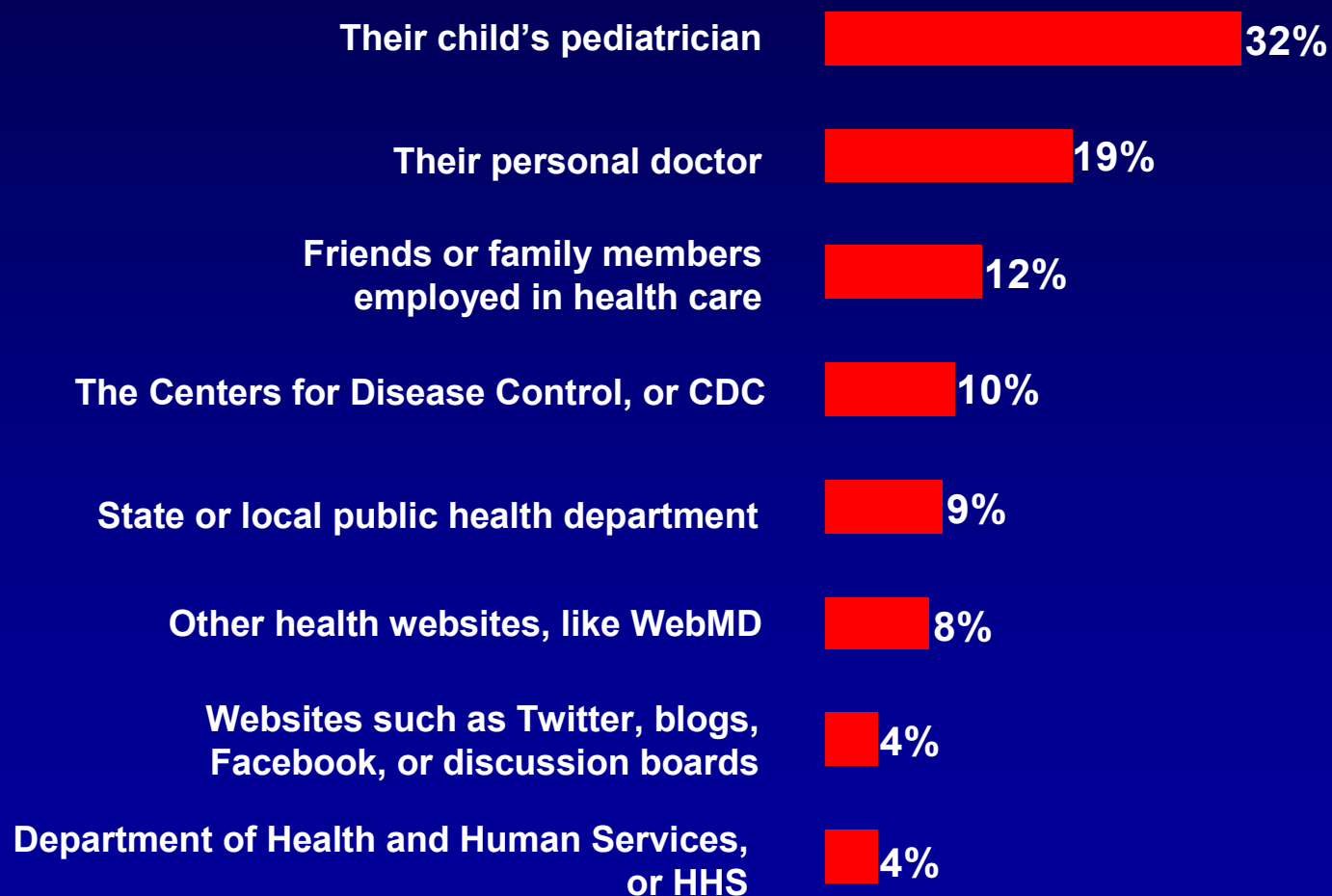


*Among parents in high closure areas who experienced a school closure (n=523)

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Parents' Most Useful Sources of Information about Preventing their Children from Getting H1N1 In High Closure Areas

% of parents* saying...



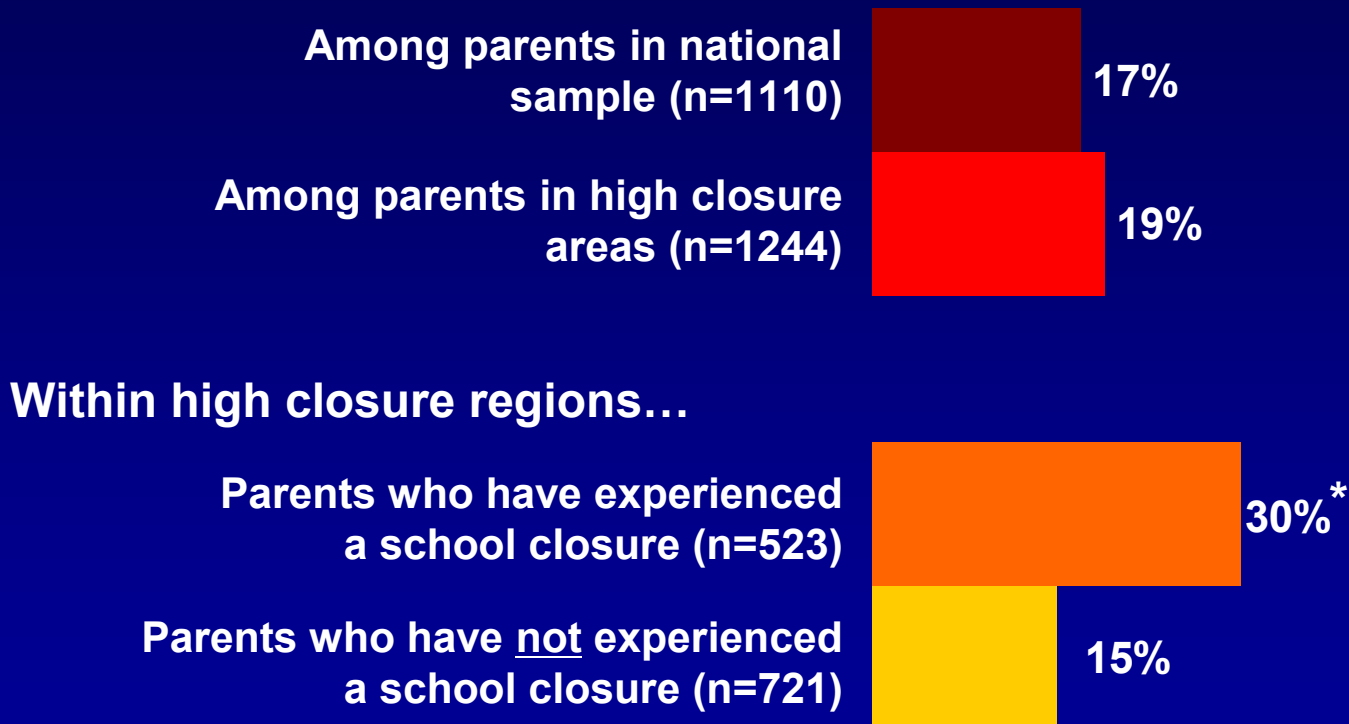
*Among parents in high closure areas who experienced a school closure have turned to specified sources for general information about preventing their child from getting sick with H1N1 (n = 474)

Harvard Opinion Research Program, Harvard School of Public Health, November 19-December 9, 2009.

IX. Caring for a Child Sick with H1N1

Parents' Experiences with Children Sick with H1N1

% of parents saying their children were sick with an illness they believe was H1N1



*Statistically significantly different from the national sample and those in the high closure sample who have not experienced a school closure at the 95% confidence level

Harvard Opinion Research Program, Harvard School of Public Health, November 19-December 9, 2009.

Parents' Perceptions of Childrens' Activities while Sick with H1N1

% of sick children* who...

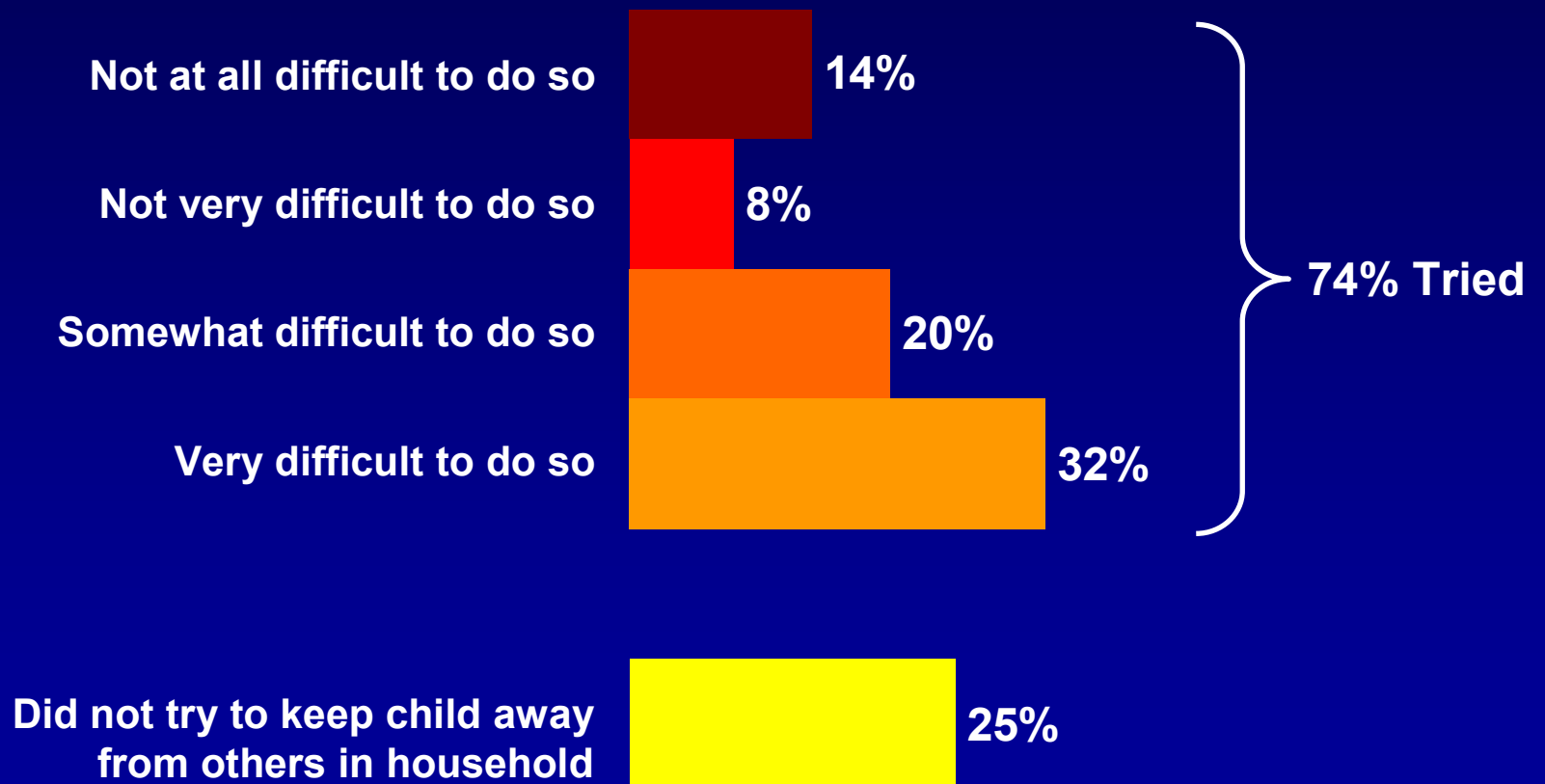


*According to parents in high closure areas who experienced a school closure and have had a child that they believe was sick with H1N1, Total responses (n = 253)

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Parents' Experiences in High Closure Areas Trying to Keep Sick Children Away from Other People in Household

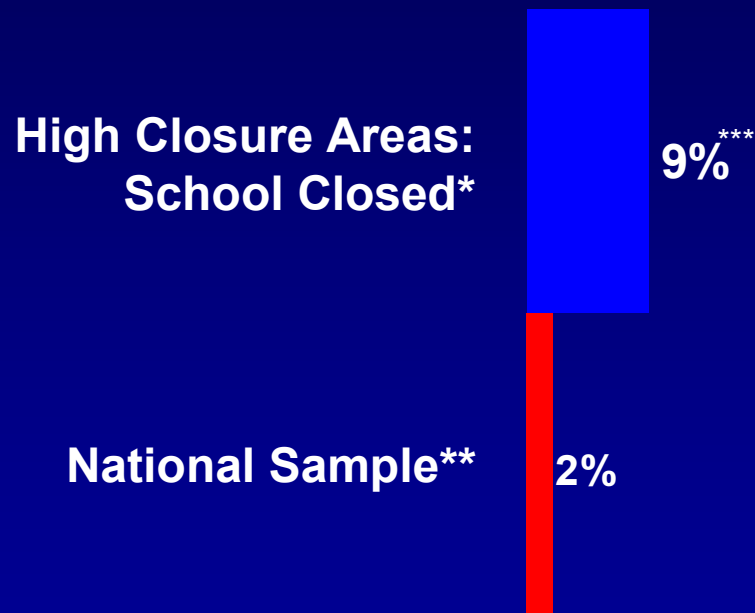
% of parents of child who was sick with H1N1* saying...



*Among parents in high closure areas who experienced a school closure and have had a child that they believe was sick with H1N1 (n = 159)
Harvard Opinion Research Program, Harvard School of Public Health, November 19-December 9, 2009.

Parents' Efforts to Get Medical Care for Children Sick with H1N1

% of parents saying needed medical care for a child sick with H1N1 and could NOT get it



*Among parents in high closure areas who experienced a school closure and have had a child that they believe was sick with H1N1 (n = 159)

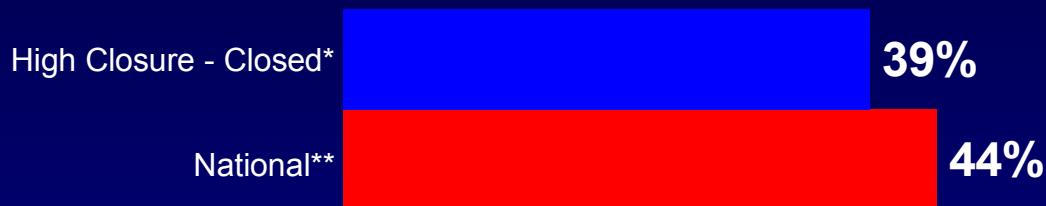
**Among parents in national sample who have had a child that they believe was sick with H1N1 (n=217)

***Statistically significantly different from the national sample at the 95% confidence level

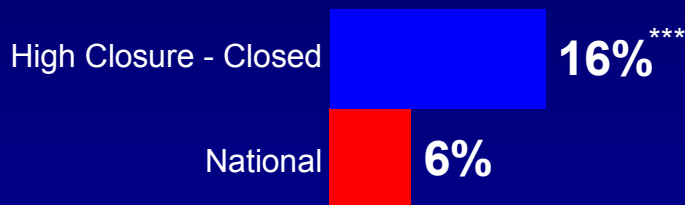
Parents' Efforts to Get Antiviral Medication for Children Sick with H1N1

% of parents saying...

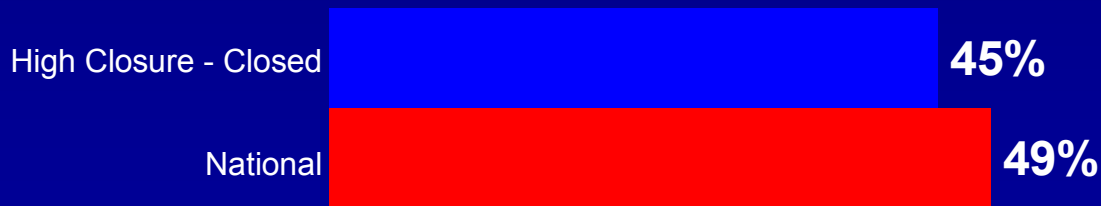
Got antiviral medication for their children



Tried to get antiviral medication for their children but could NOT get it



Did not try to get antiviral medication for their children



*Among parents in high closure areas who experienced a school closure and have had a child that they believe was sick with H1N1 (n = 159)

**Among parents in national sample who have had a child that they believe was sick with H1N1 (n=217)

***Statistically significantly different from the national sample at the 95% confidence level