



Northern Ontario Dental Professionals' Perceptions of Silver Diamine Fluoride

Fabio Arriola-Pacheco¹, Kamila Sihuay-Torres¹, Emily Pynn², Frank Mauro², Bruce Pynn^{1,2}, Herenia P. Lawrence¹

¹University of Toronto, ²Northern Ontario School of Medicine

Introduction

Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) represents a potentially beneficial caries management strategy in Northern Ontario where geography and accessibility can be barriers to timely dental care.

Objectives

Analyze the awareness, acceptability, general and economic perception, potential patient acceptance of SDF for caries management in pediatric and older adults, and the impact of an educational workshop among Dental Professionals (DPs) in Northern Ontario.

Methodology

Sample

Dental Hygienists (DH) and Dentists (DENT) that attended a Minimally Invasive Dentistry Workshop in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Questionnaire

42 items on demographics, SDF general and economic perceptions, acceptability and use, and the workshop's influence were collected.

Analysis & Ethics

Descriptive and Chi-squared statistics were conducted with significance set at $p=0.05$. Ethics approval was obtained from UofT REB (#45469).

Results

Table 1. Characteristics of Study Participants

Participants		All	DH	DENT	<i>p</i> -value
Age	Mean (SD)	47.8 (2.03)	47.3 (2.48)	48.5 (3.45)	n/a
Sex	Male	26.1%	0%	63.2%	<0.001*
	Female	73.9%	100.0%	36.8%	
Years of practice	1-5	8.7%	7.4%	10.5%	0.257
	6-10	15.2%	7.4%	26.3%	
	11-15	8.7%	11.1%	5.3%	
	16-20	13%	18.5%	5.3%	
	21-30	19.6%	25.9%	10.5%	
	31 or more	34.8%	29.7%	42.1%	

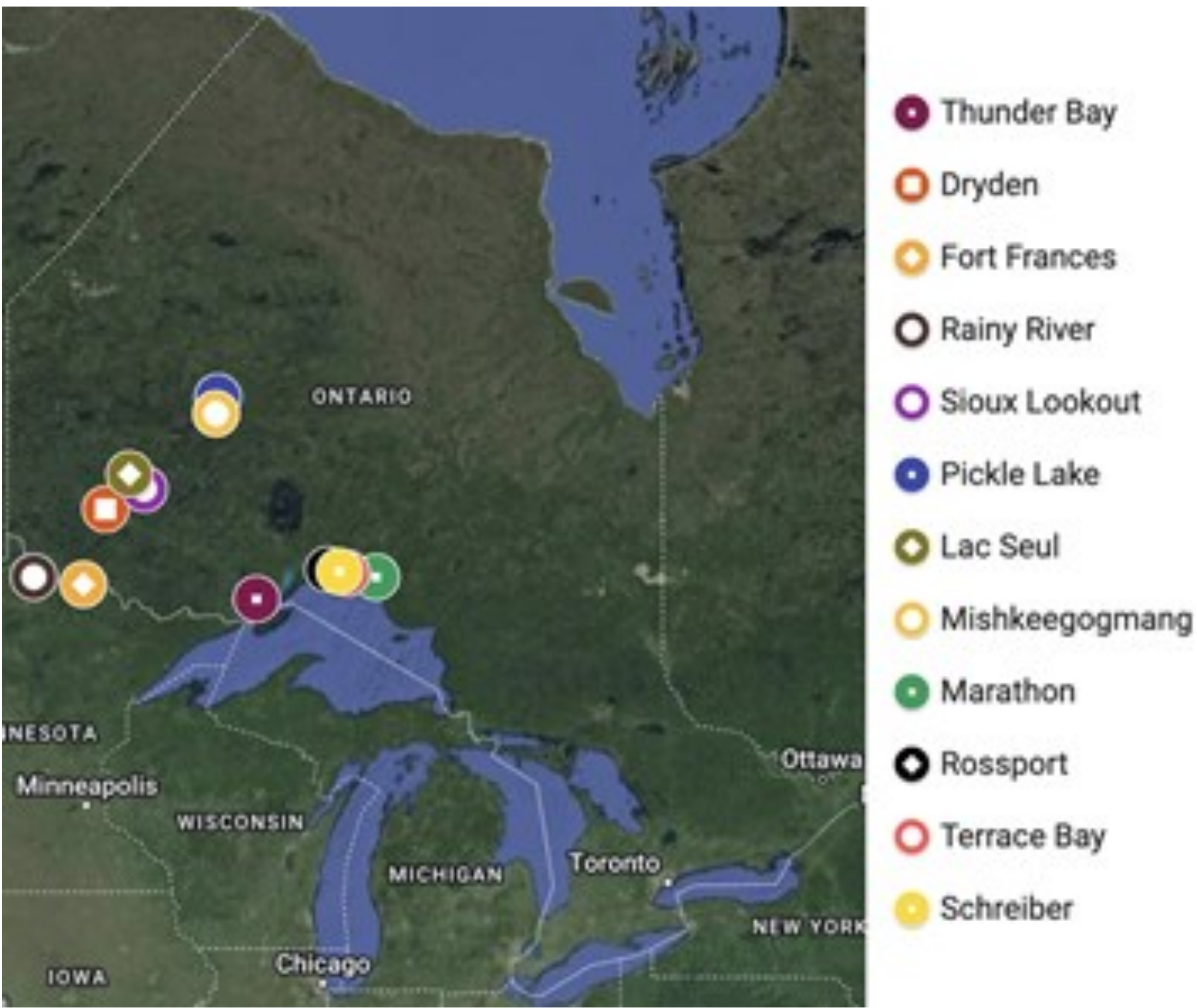
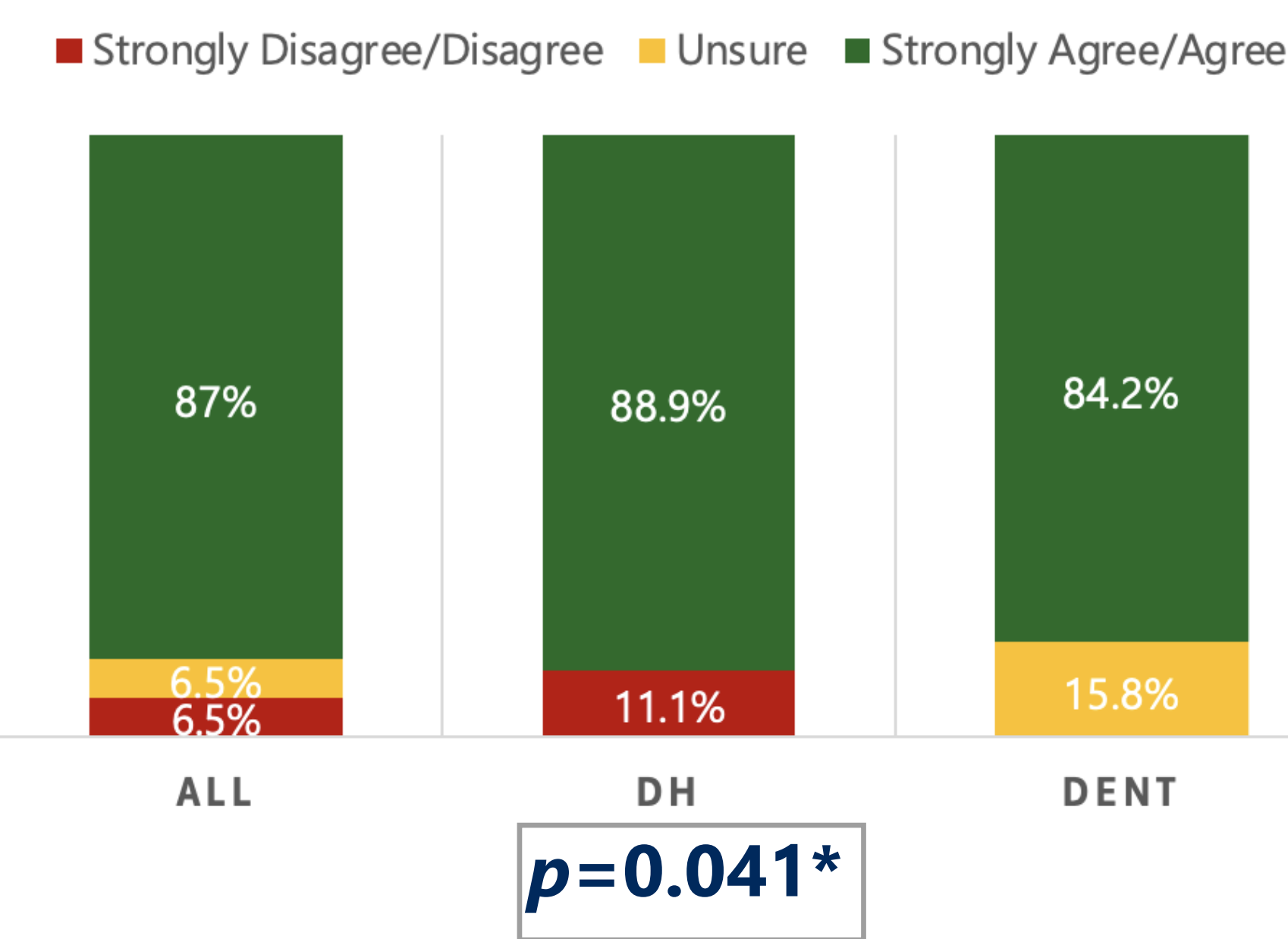


Figure 1: Regional distribution of communities participants reported serving

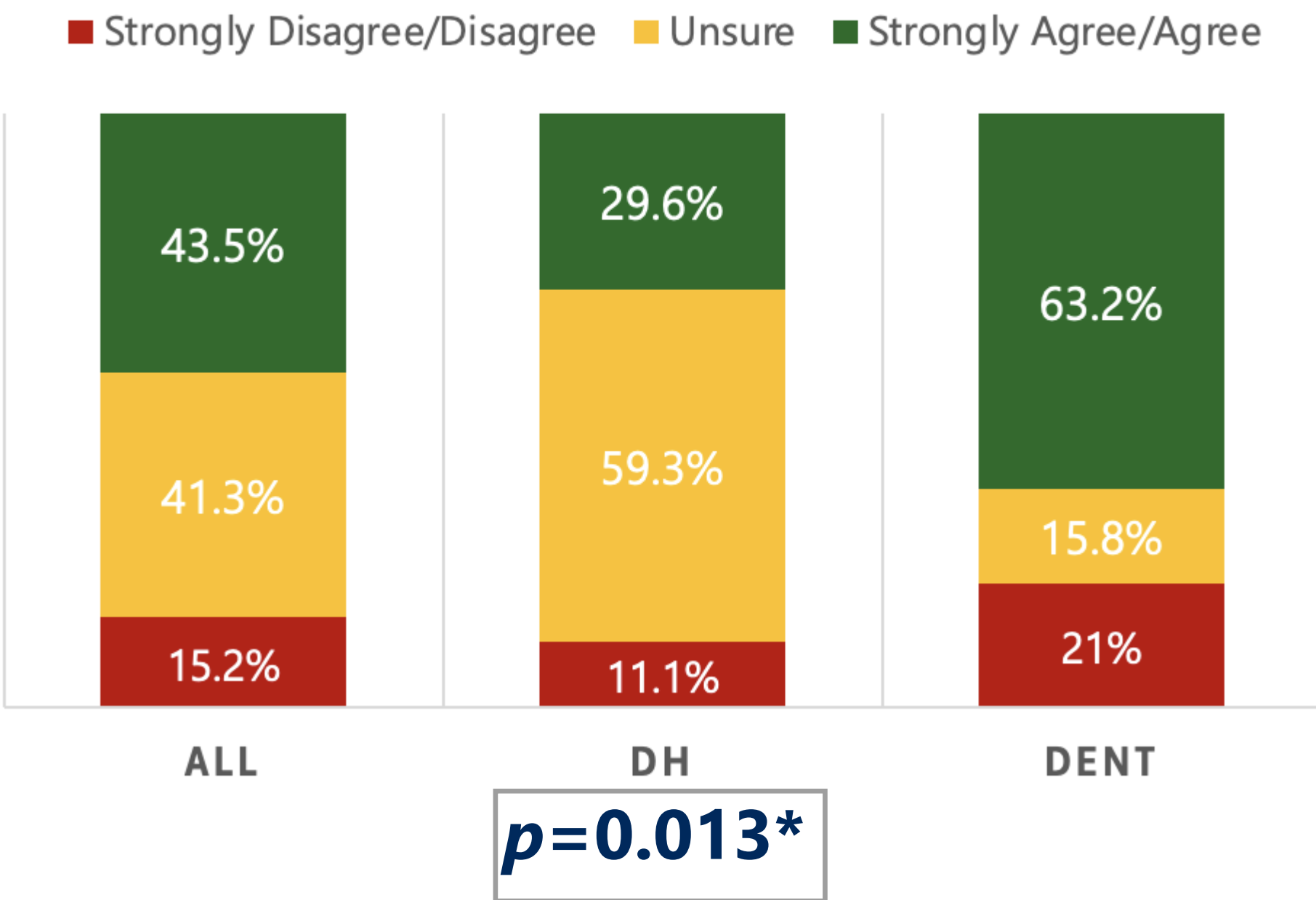
Table 2. Awareness and Use of SDF

		All	DH	DENT	<i>p</i> -value
Awareness of SDF use for pediatric patients before the workshop	Yes	100%	100%	100%	n/a
	No	0%	0%	0%	
Education on SDF use for pediatric patients as part of professional training	Yes	42.5%	45.5%	38.9%	0.676
	No	57.5%	54.5%	61.1%	
Have used SDF in clinical practice	Yes	43.5%	37%	52.6%	0.293
	No	56.5%	63%	47.4%	

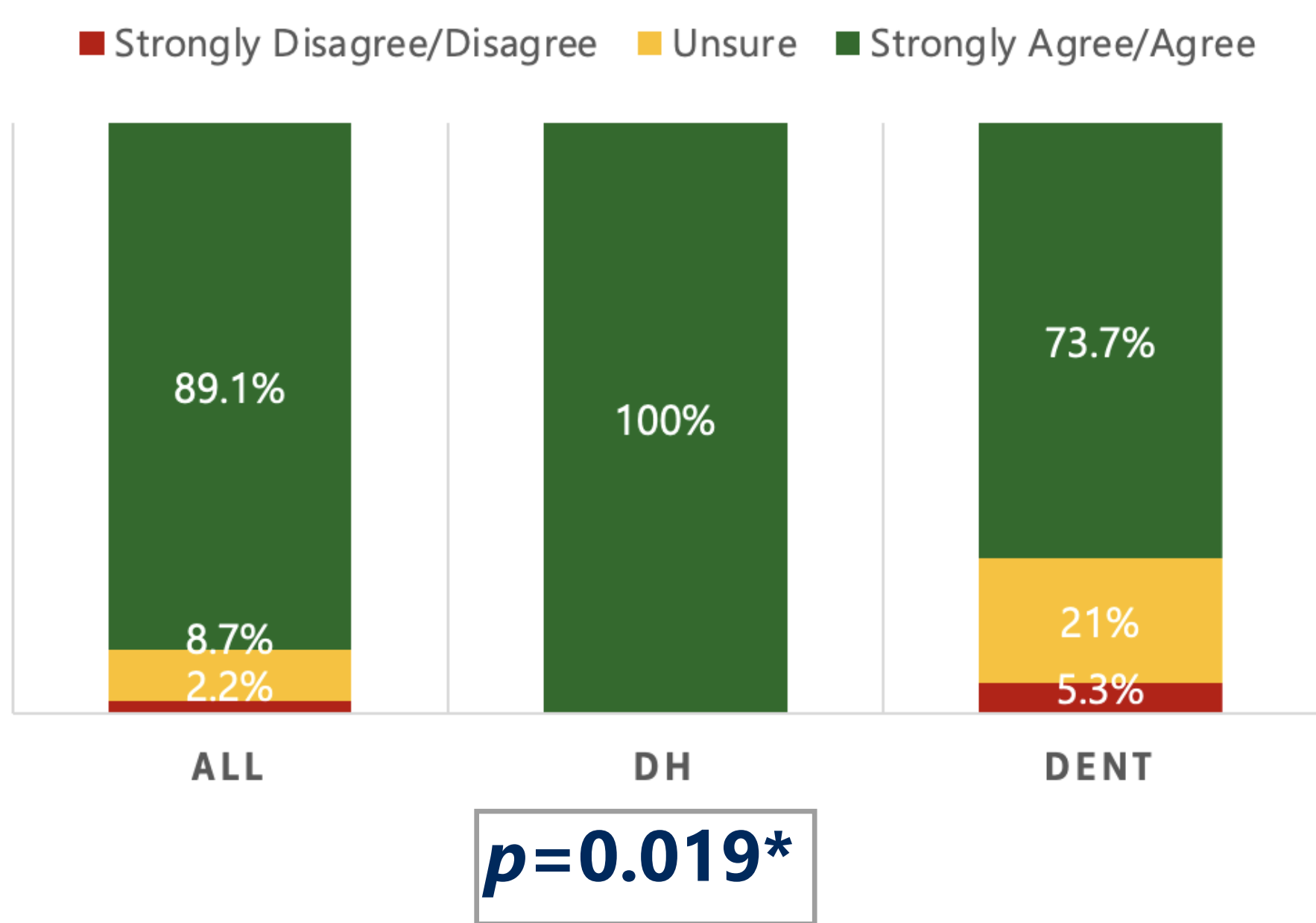
I would use SDF to treat Early Childhood Caries in my community



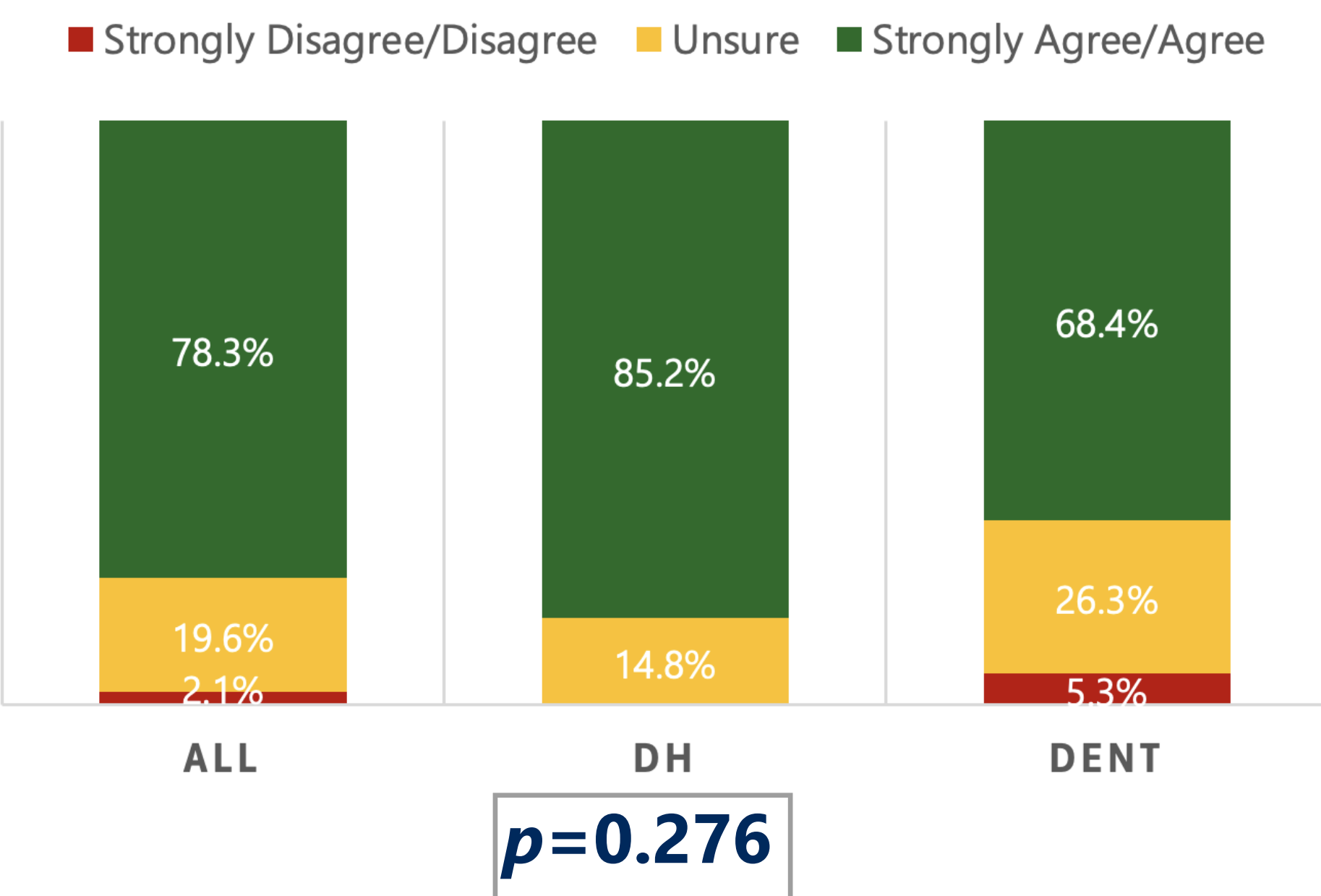
Parents of my patients would not accept SDF staining on anterior temporary teeth



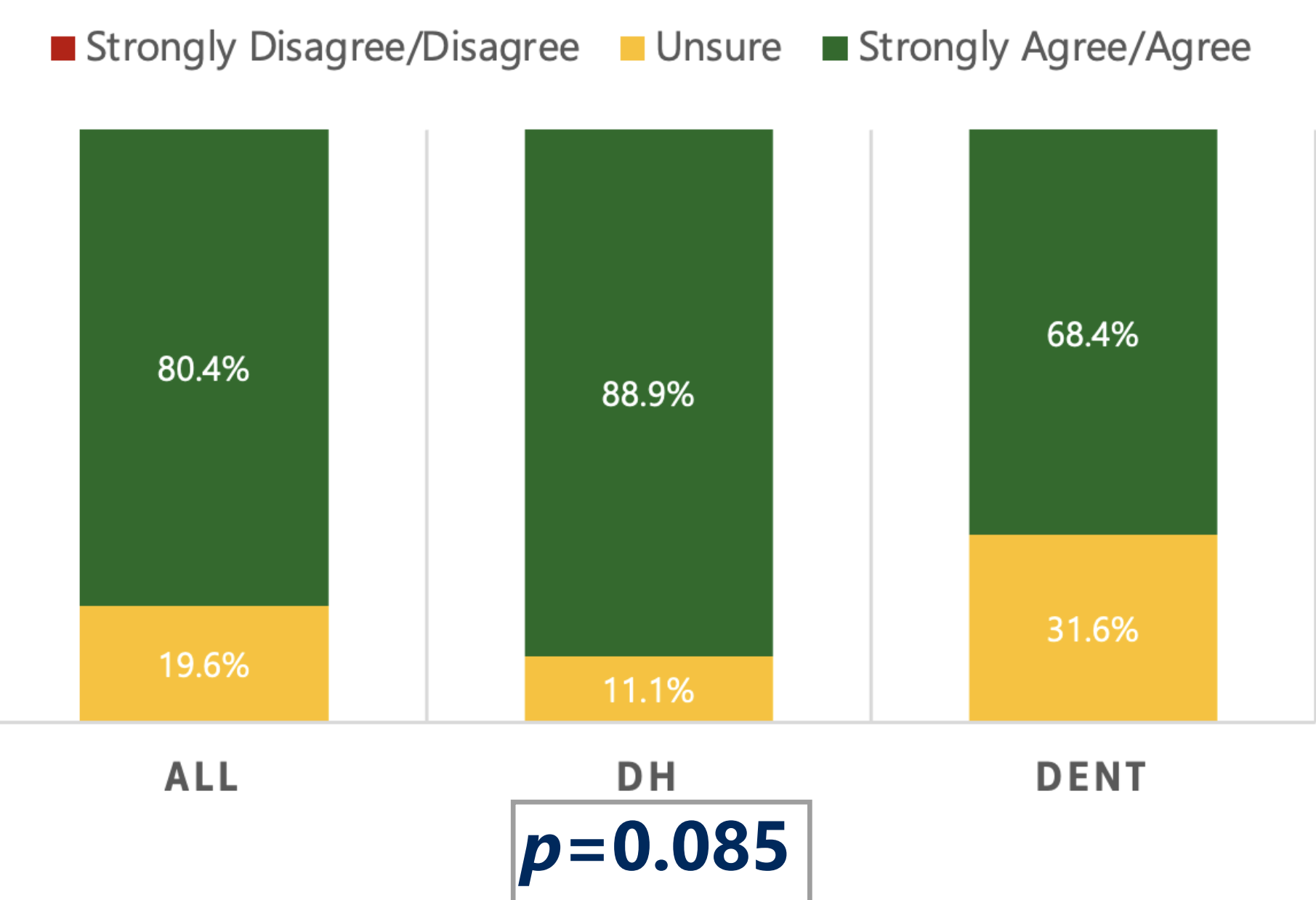
SDF is an ideal non-invasive treatment for coronal caries for older adults in Long Term Care facilities



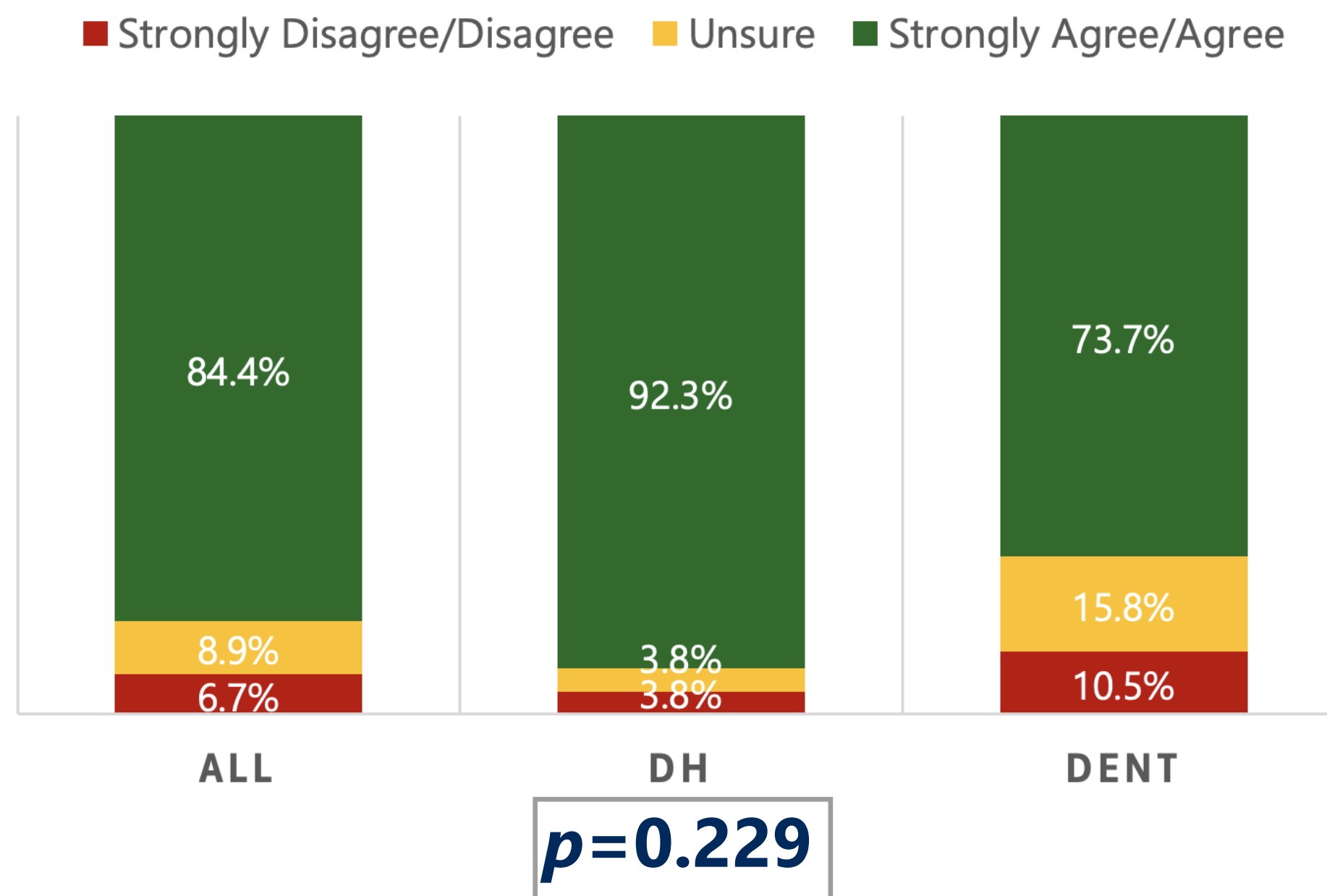
SDF is more "cost-effective" than other Early Childhood Caries treatment options currently available to me.



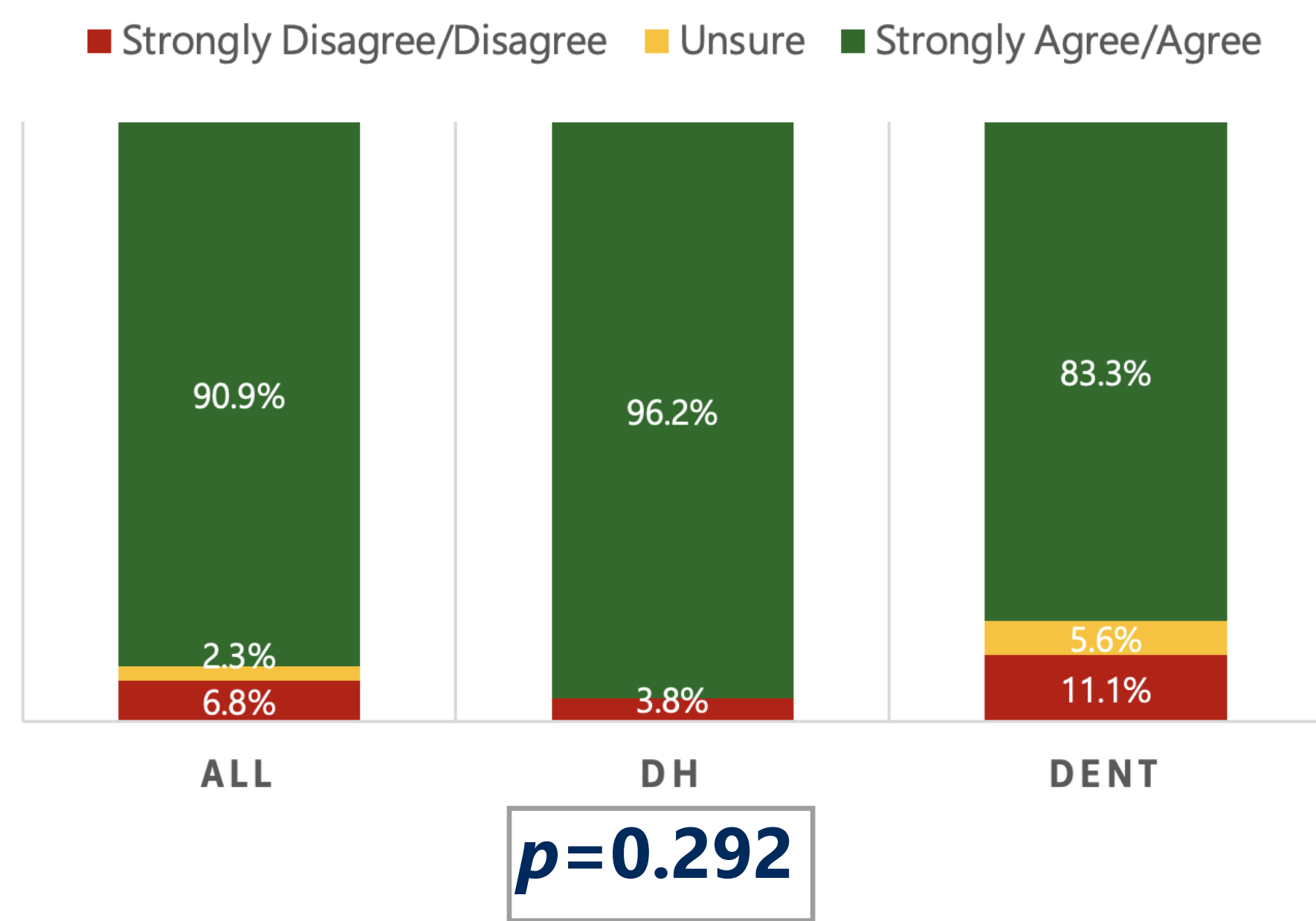
SDF cost is more reasonable when compared to alternative treatment options in my community



The workshop made me more likely to choose SDF treatment for pediatric patients



The workshop made me more likely to choose SDF treatment for older adult patients



Conclusions

The results suggest that even though DPs surveyed hold some different opinions on SDF, there is an avenue for the uptake of the material if access to SDF is facilitated and accompanied by an educative component.

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Key Words: Silver Diamine Fluoride, Public Health Dentistry