

# Fathers are highly engaged in decision making with mothers around child vaccination. The vast majority of fathers and mothers agree on child COVID-19 vaccination.

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## Father-Mother Shared Decision Making and Agreement Regarding Child Vaccination: Associations with Child COVID-19 Vaccination Status

### Gaps from literature:

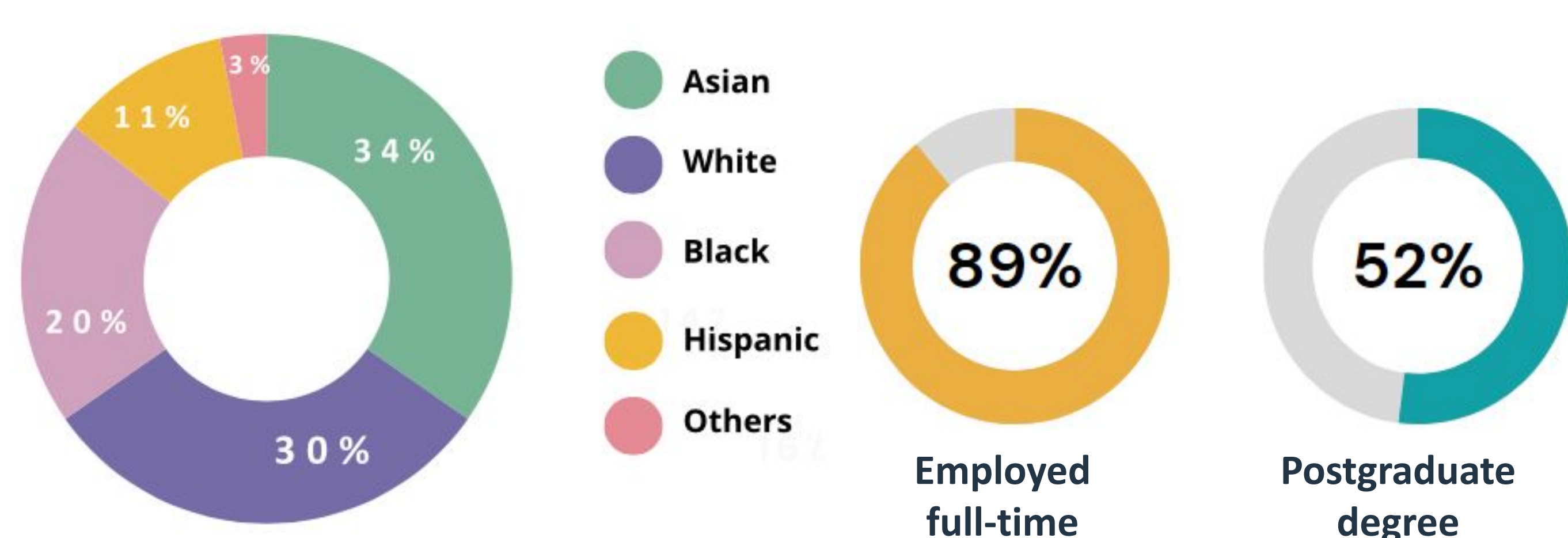
- Mothers have been gatekeepers of child vaccination, as mothers typically take their child to well-child visits where the majority of child vaccines are administered.
- There is a growing evidence that shows fathers are more involved in childrearing and they may also play a critical role in child vaccination.
- However, few studies have examined whether parents in two-parent households collaboratively decide on child vaccination or whether this varies across demographic groups.

### Aims:

1. Examine whether father-mother decision making for child vaccines and agreement on child COVID-19 vaccination differ by parent and child demographic characteristics.
2. Examine whether parent agreement on child COVID-19 vaccination is associated with their child's COVID-19 vaccination status.

### Participants:

- 486 fathers with a child aged 1-6 from a **racially and ethnically diverse cohort**, Michigan *Fathers & Families*.

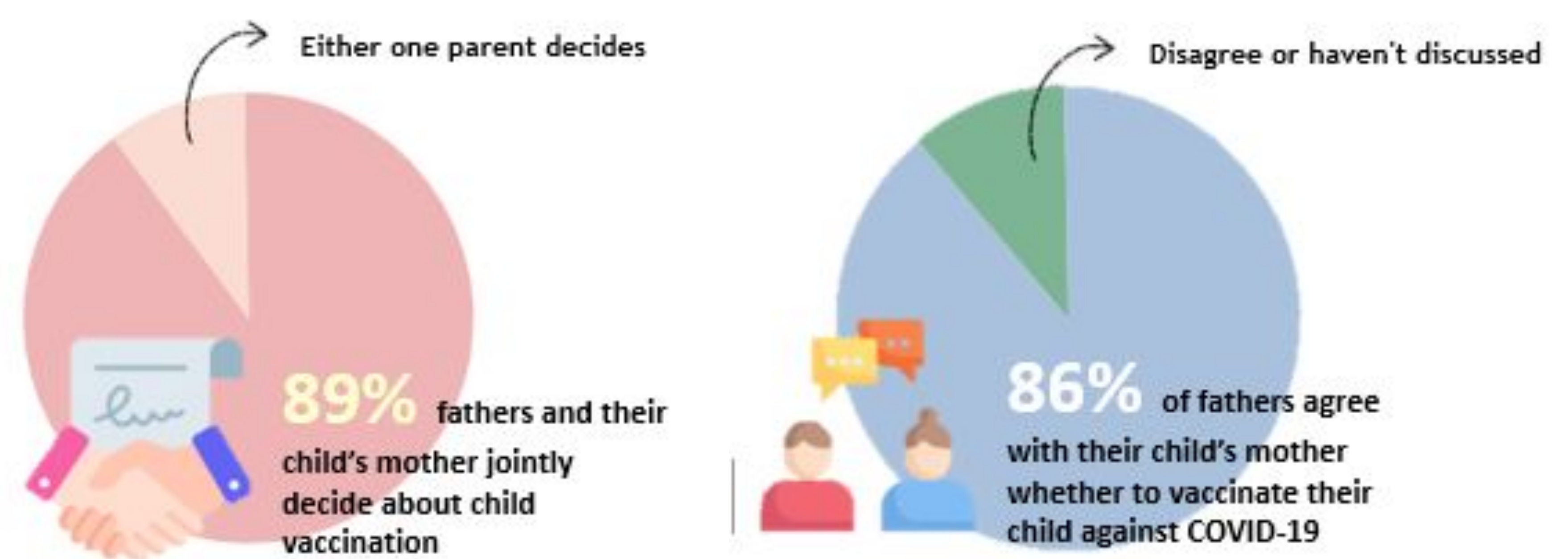


**48%** Target children had received a COVID-19 vaccine.

### Analytic strategy:

- Chi-square test analysis for **Aim 1** and;
- Multivariable logistic regression analysis for **Aim 2**

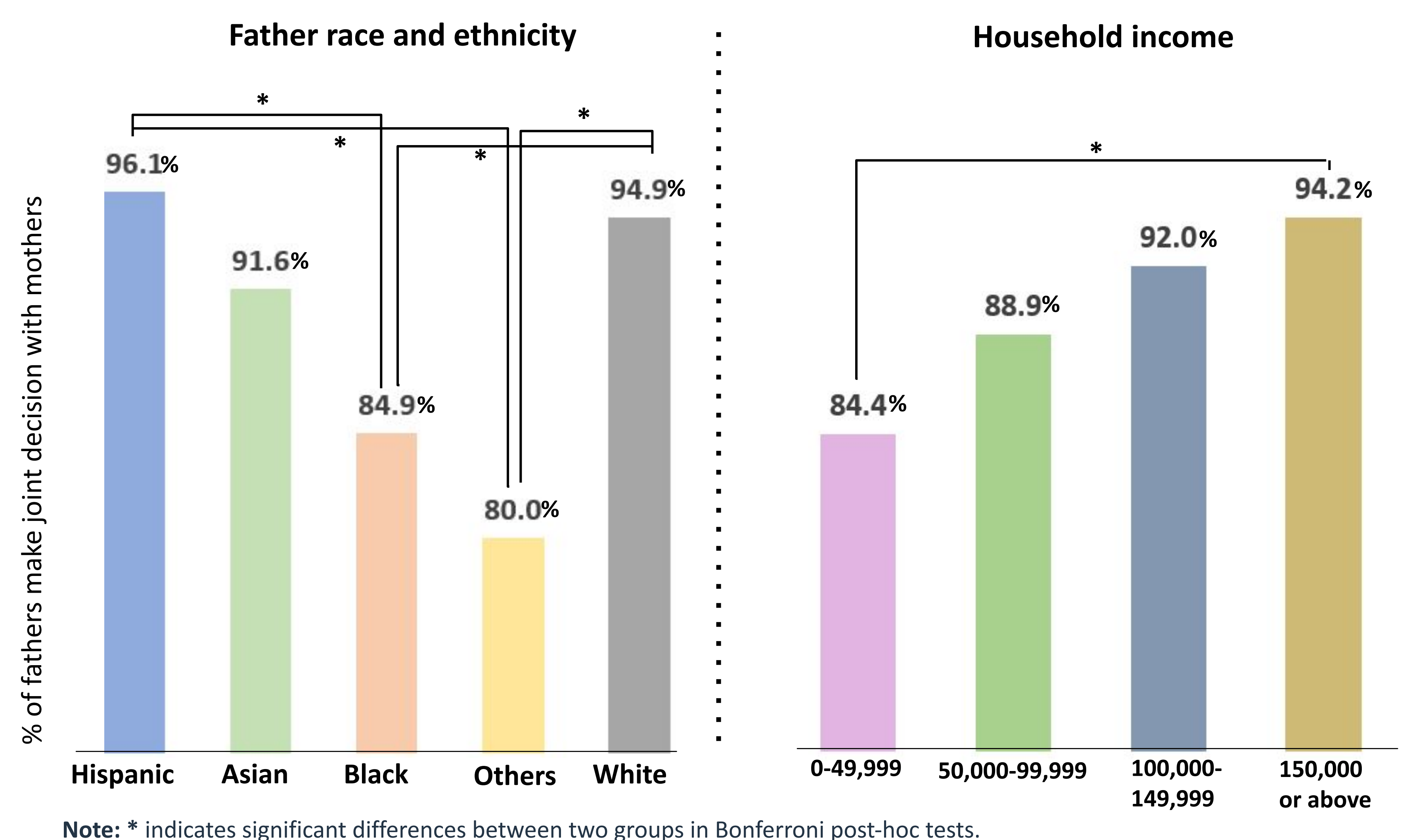
### Results:



**Table 1.** Cross-tab of parents' vaccine decision making and agreement on child COVID-19 vaccination

		Parental agreement (n)	
		Agree	Do not agree or have not discussed
Parental decision making (n)	Only father decides	6	2
	Only mother decides	18	12
	Parents both decide together	360	45

### Fathers' demographic differences in decision making

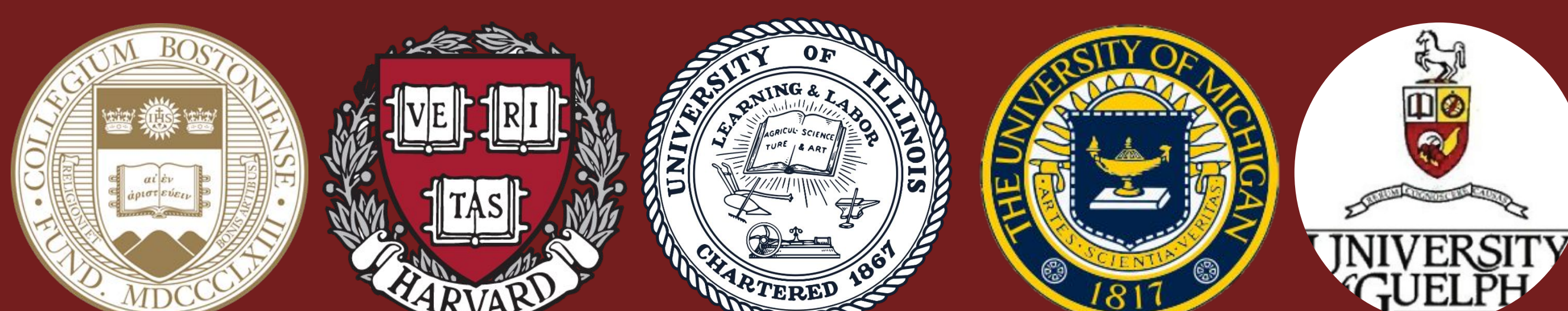


### Result Summary

- **Aim 1:** Joint decision making and agreement on child vaccine were more common among White or Hispanic fathers and those from high socioeconomic backgrounds.
- **Aim 2:** Children's odds of receiving the COVID-19 vaccine were 15 times higher when their parents agreed on child COVID-19 vaccination.

### Implications:

Public health interventions to facilitate effective communication between fathers and mothers, particularly among lower-income communities and communities of color may reduce disparities in child vaccination rates.



### Acknowledgements:

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