

Primary Schoolgirls' Experience of HPV vaccination, and Preferences for the Format, Content, and Delivery of Cervical Cancer Education in Indonesia

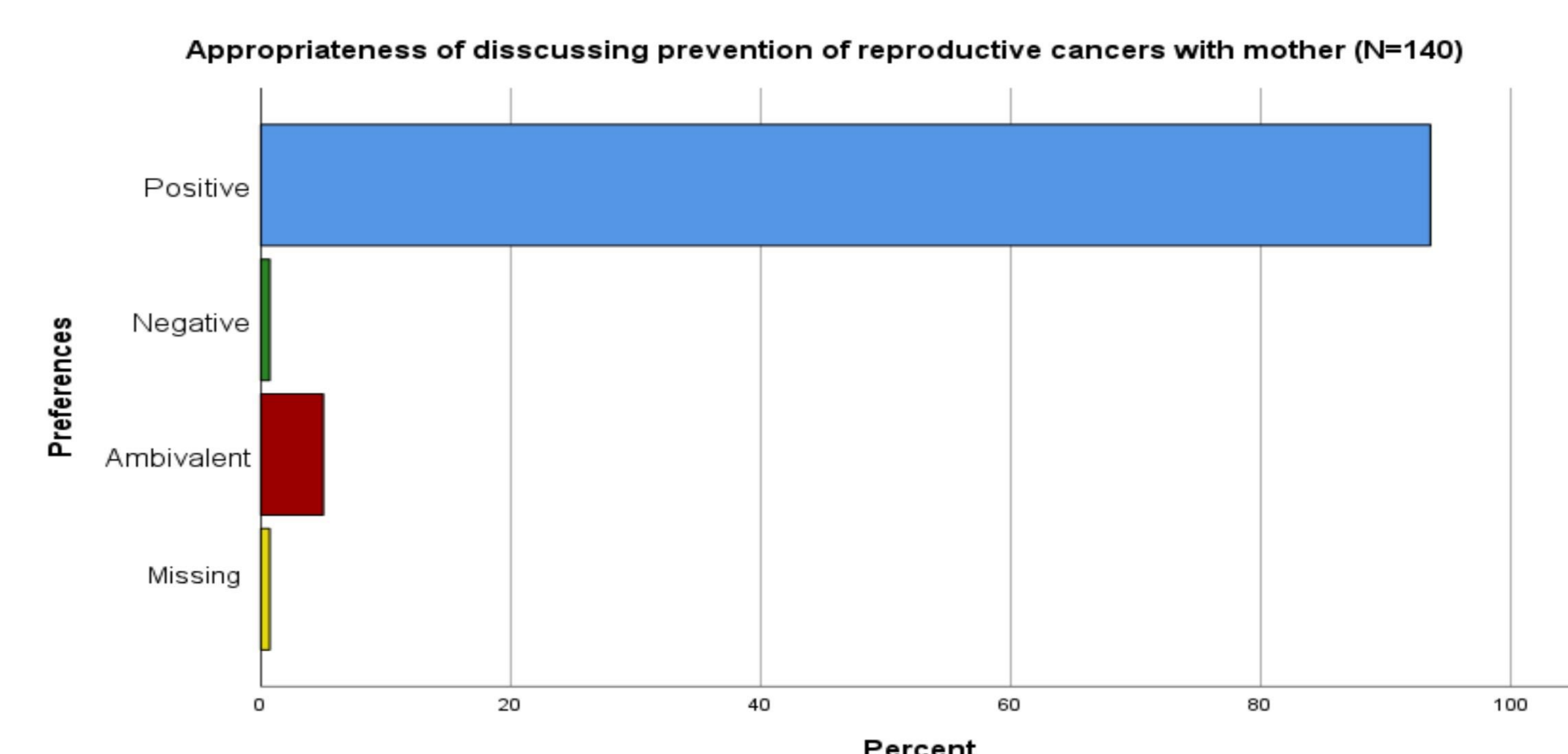
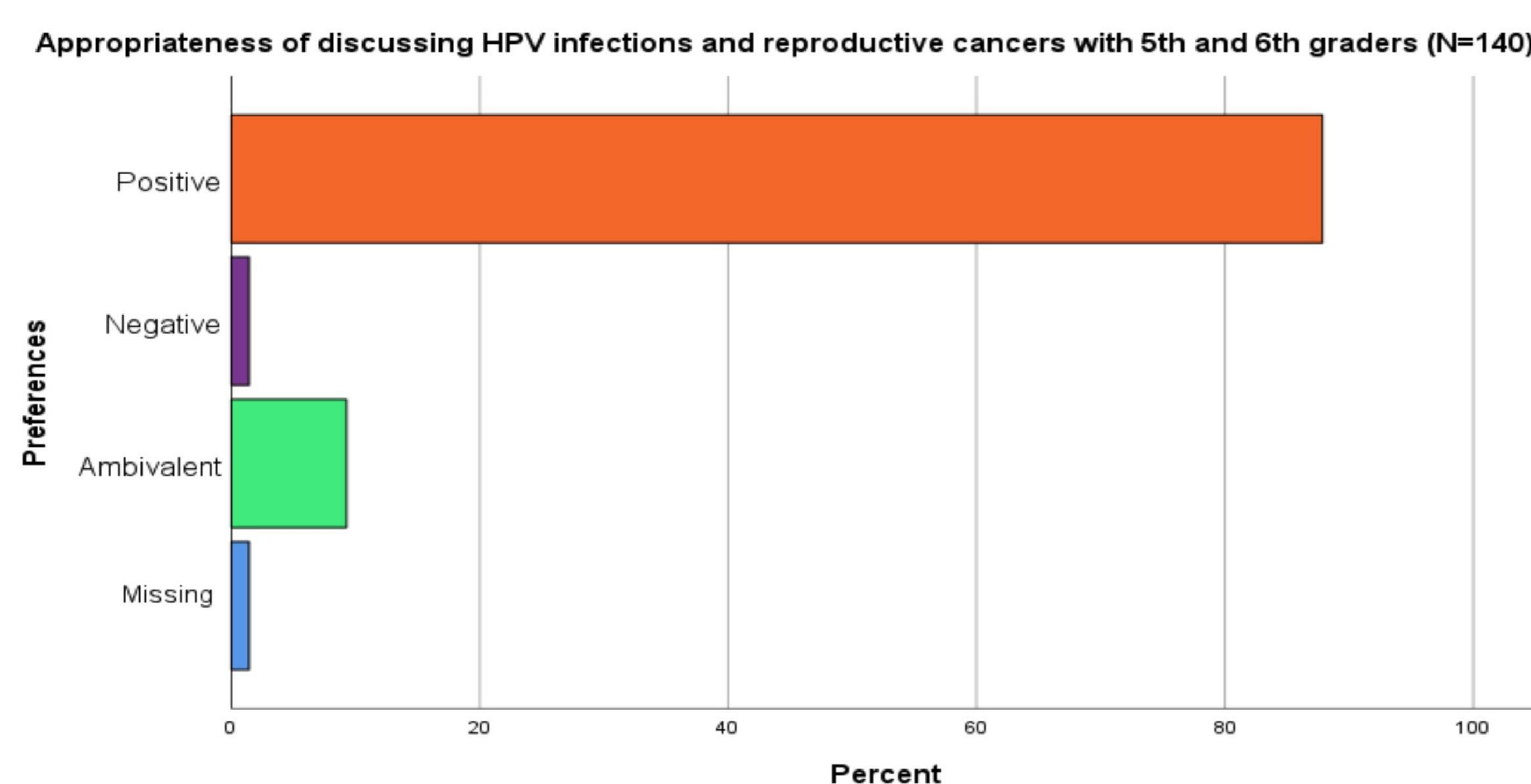
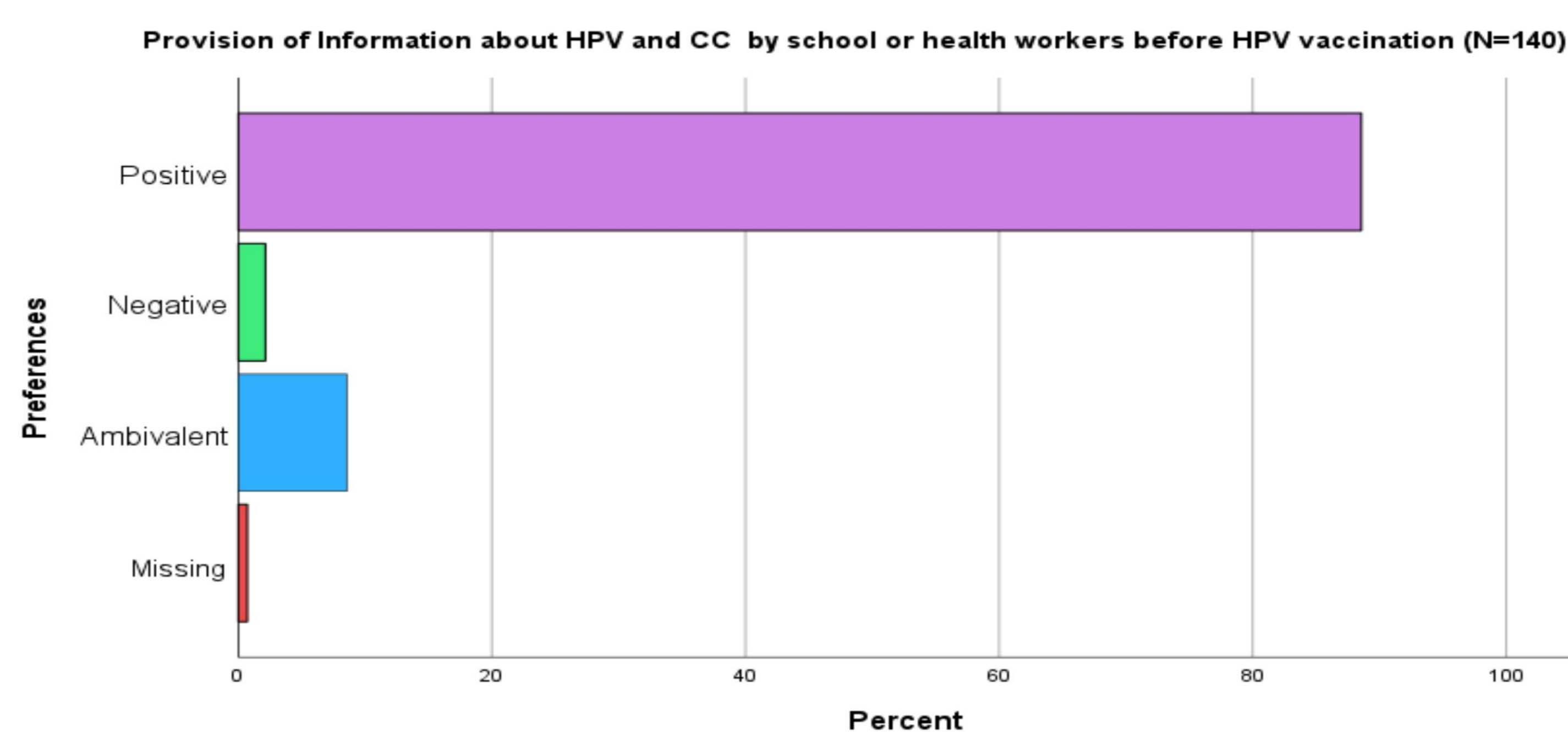
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Background:

- Around 102.5 million Indonesian women and girls aged 15 and older is estimated to be at risk of cervical cancer (CC). Indonesia has piloted a school-based Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination program for primary schoolgirls in 5th and 6th grades in a few provinces since 2016. In 2022, Indonesia announced a national rollout of HPV vaccination for girls 9 – 12 years old.
- Sexual and reproductive health education including content related HPV remain inconsistently provided. Moreover, knowledge of HPV vaccination and CC prevention among women and girls are generally limited.
- To date little is known about schoolgirls' experience of HPV vaccination and aspects of the vaccination process that can be maximised as health assets for promoting a comprehensive CC prevention programs.

Results – Schoolgirls Preferences Regarding CC Education:



Study Aims:

- The study aimed to explore schoolgirls perception of the vaccination processes and their preferences regarding CC education content, format, and delivery.

Methods:

Study design

- This was an exploratory cross-sectional study with primary schoolgirls in Jakarta and Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Participants included

- 5th and 6th graders who participated in the school-based HPV vaccination program between 2019 – 2021.

Data Analysis

- Of 208 expressions of interest, 202 received their mothers' consent to take part in the survey. Subsequently, 180 survey responses were recorded; 140 (77.8%) were mostly or fully complete, and 40 (22.2%) were excluded from analysis due to less than 70% completeness.

Results – Socio-demographics:

- A total of 140 public and private primary schoolgirls completed the survey with a mean age of 12.2 years. Of these, 55% attended schools in Jakarta and 45% in Yogyakarta.
- Of 140 respondents, 38.5% received 1 dose of the quadrivalent HPV vaccine, 47.9% received 2 doses, and 13.6% did not remember.

Result - Schoolgirls Experience of School-based HPV Vaccination:

- Approx. 63% first heard about CC via health education sessions at school, their mothers, and social media.
- Of 140 respondents, around 65% reported receiving key health information from school or health workers regarding HPV vaccination, and 35% did not. More than 80% of those who were not given information would have liked to be informed about HPV vaccination and CC.
- Around 78% out of 140 schoolgirls reported giving assent before receiving HPV vaccination.
- Most respondents who received health information were satisfied with the information provided by school/health workers.
- Girls who lived in Jakarta were more likely to discuss the benefits of HPV vaccination, and their HPV vaccination experience with their mothers than those in Yogyakarta.
- Of 138 respondents, nearly 74% were willing to recommend HPV vaccination to other females, and 26.1% reported unsure or unwilling to do so. The study did not explore reasons for this lack of willingness.

Recommendations:

- HPV vaccination program should consider standardizing the delivery of key health information and its content to ensure girls and parents are well-informed.
- Health promotion program should emphasize comprehensive CC prevention across the life-course which involves HPV vaccination, regular pap test, and treatment of pre-cancerous lesion and CC at any stage.
- Upskilling parents and educators with culturally appropriate strategies and evidence-based information is key to ensure effective communication of CC prevention to young people.

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