The Hidden Impact of Molluscum Contagiosum: Survey of Caregivers' Experiences with Diagnosis and Management

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INTRODUCTION

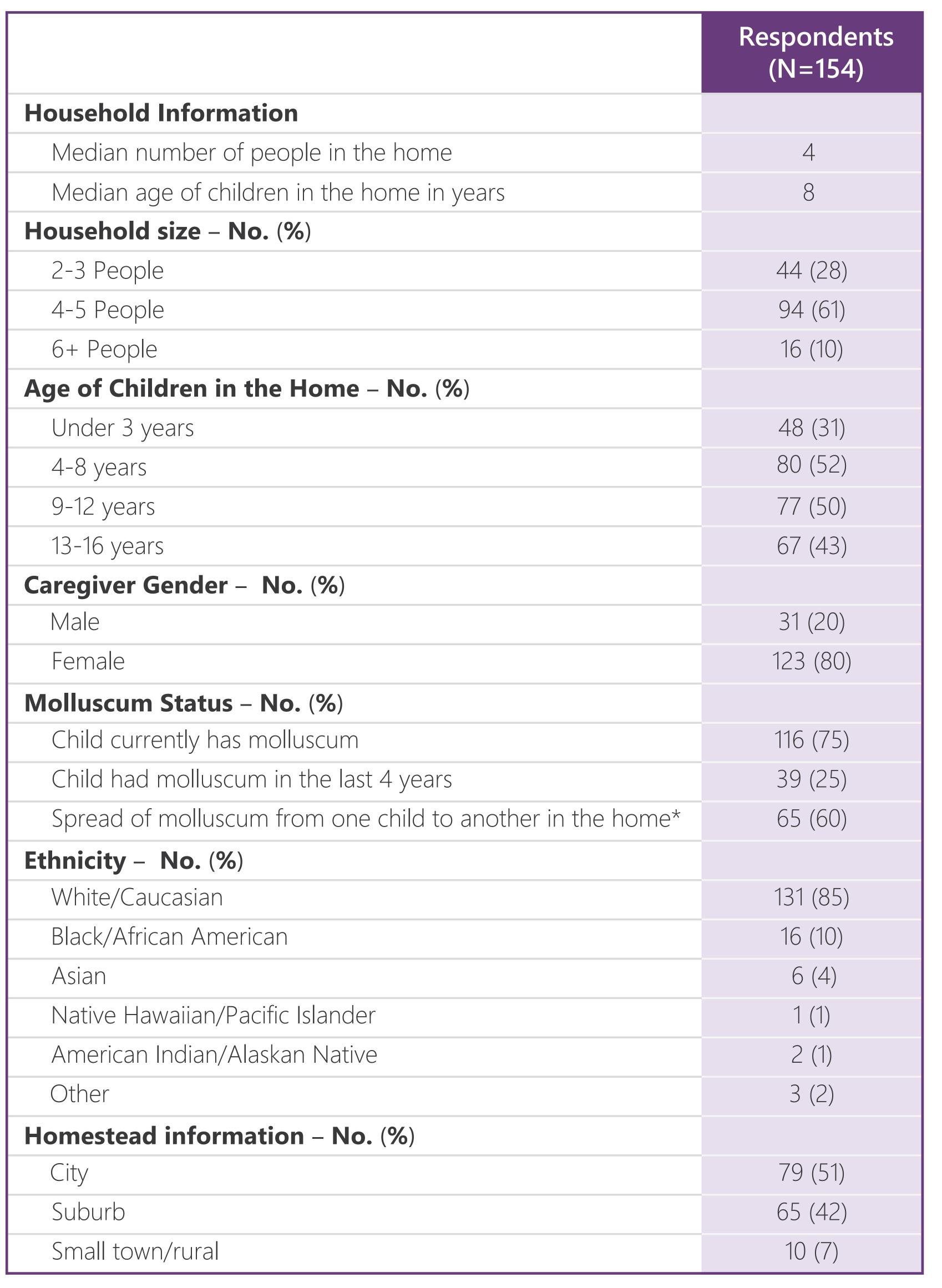
- Molluscum contagiosum
 ("molluscum") is a common pediatric
 viral skin infection that is considered
 benign and self-limiting. However, it
 may affect the quality of life in
 patients and their caregivers dealing
 with the disease.
- The experience of caregiving for a child with molluscum is largely unknown, including the emotional burden, effort for diagnosis, and treatment modalities used for molluscum.

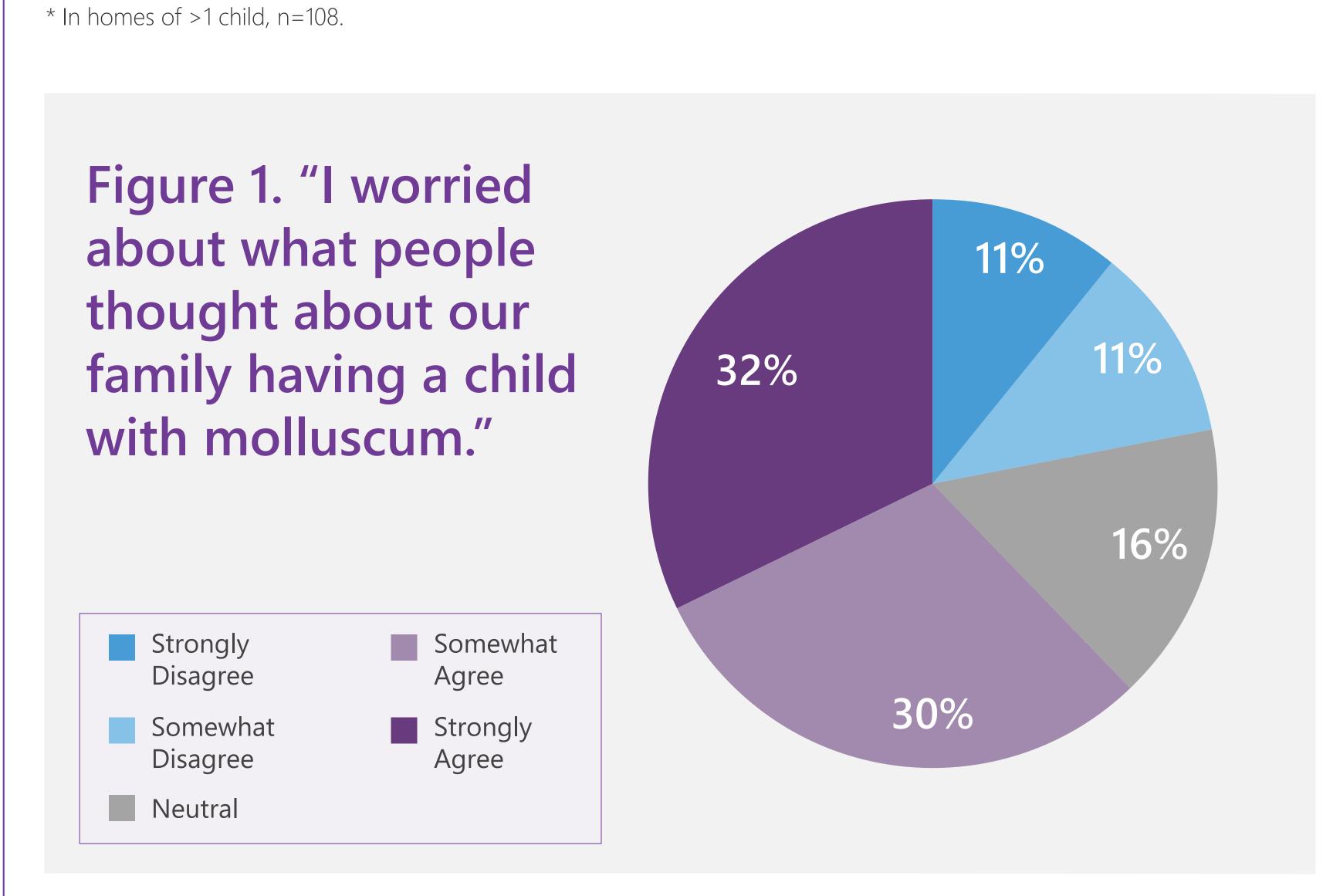
METHODS

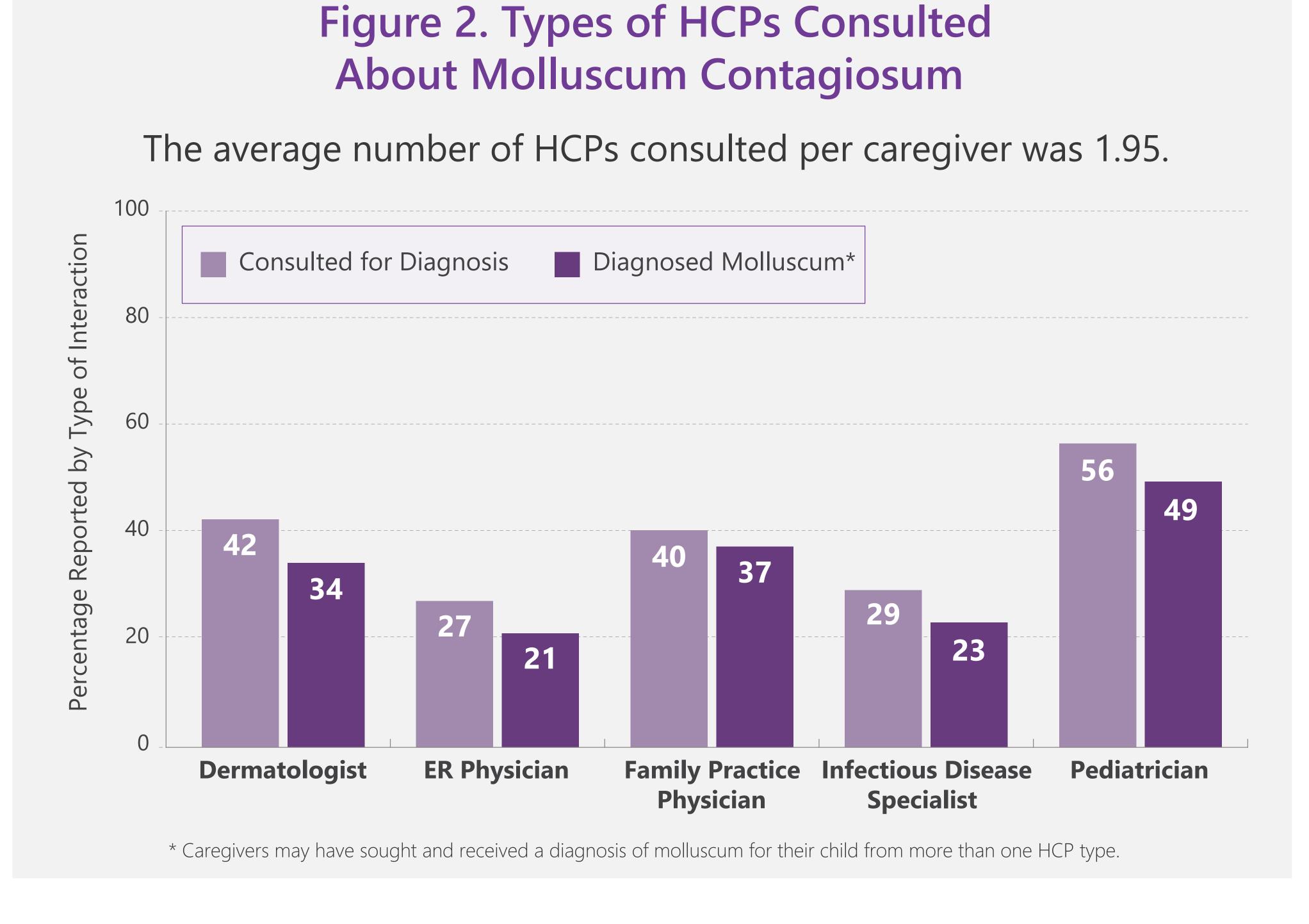
- Parents, caregivers, and legal guardians (ages 18+, 80% female, 20% male) of children diagnosed with molluscum in the past 4 years (ages 3–16 years) were recruited from a panel of previously recruited respondents to answer a 15-minute paid online survey.
- Question topics included the type of health care professionals (HCPs) consulted about diagnosis, treatment (both in the clinic and at home), and the impact of the virus on the caregiver and the child.
- The margin of error at the 95% confidence interval for the total sample was ± 7.7%.

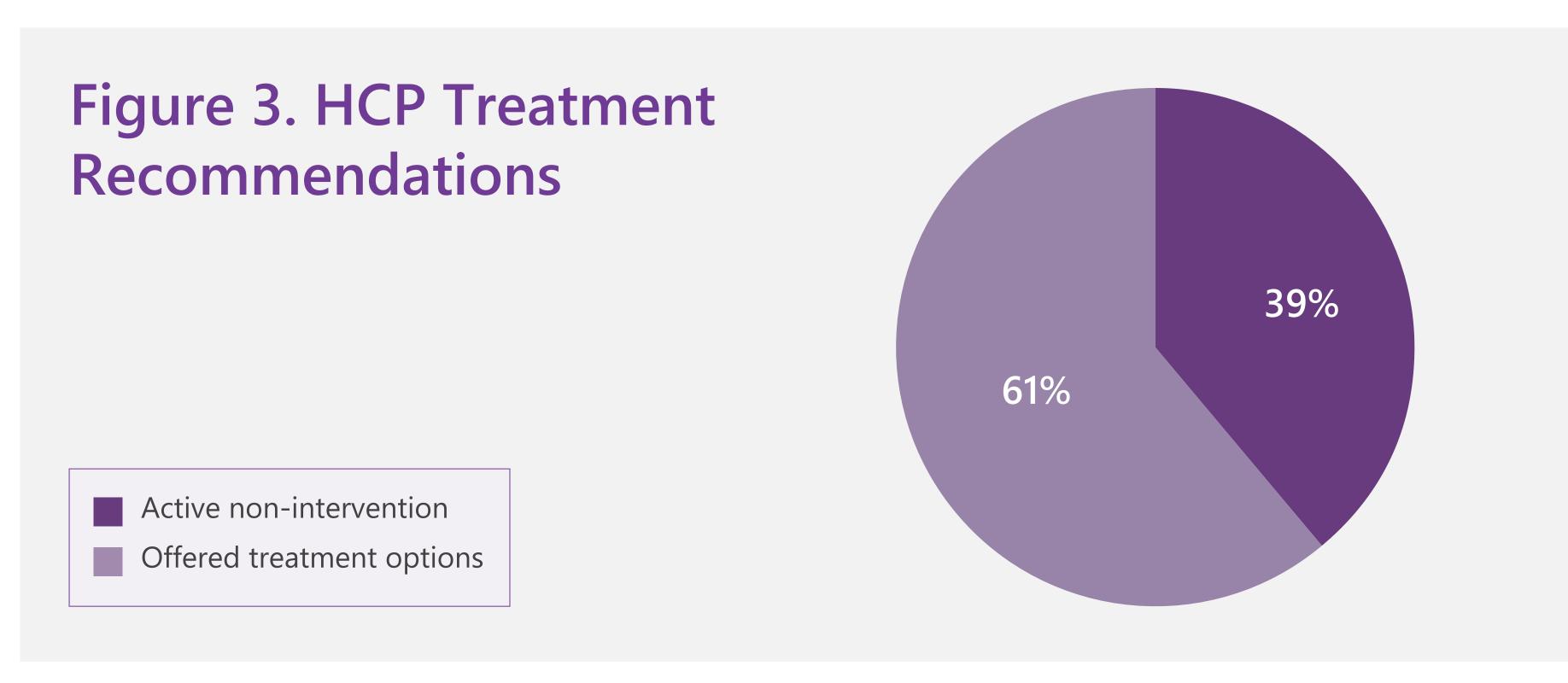
RESULTS

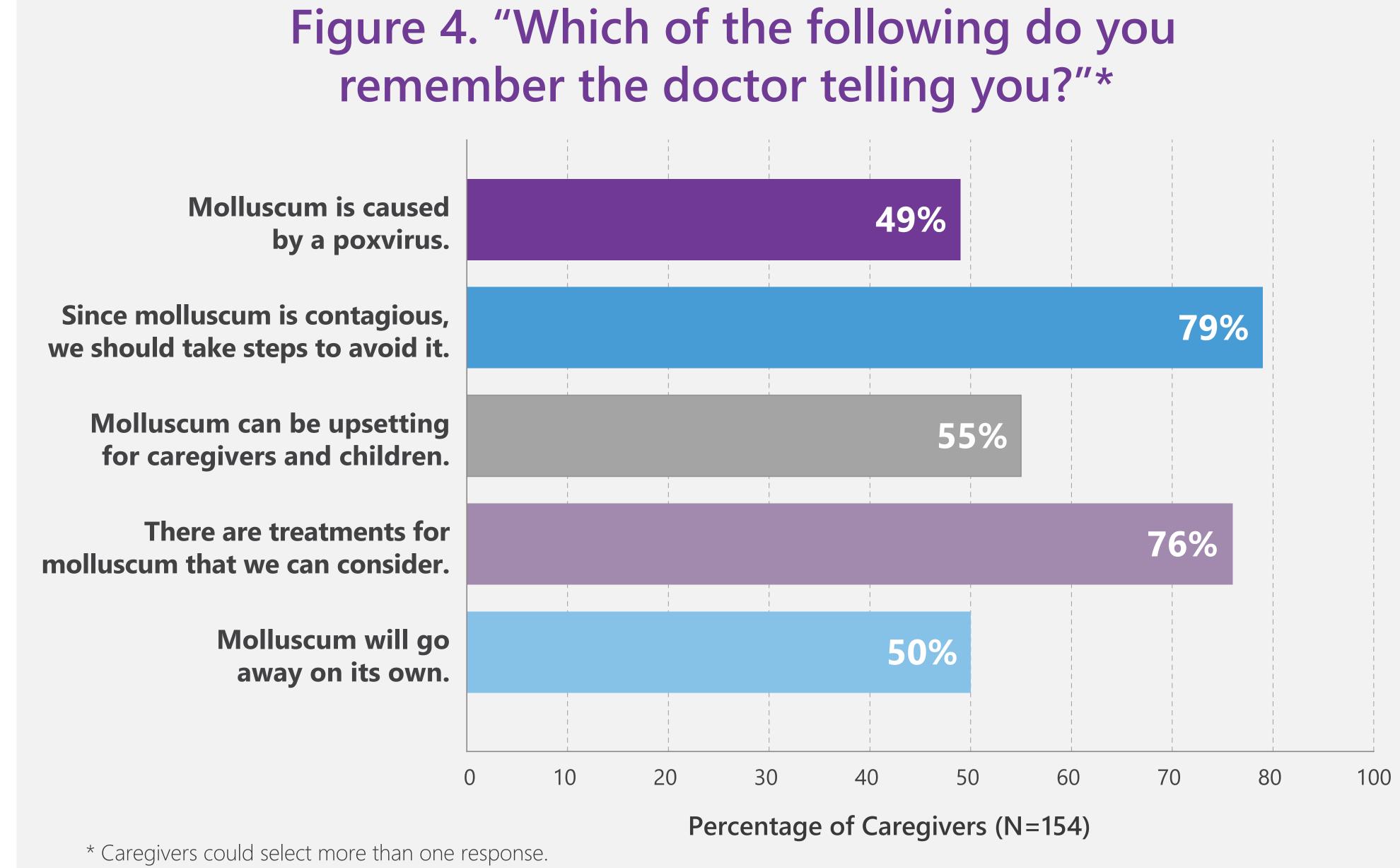
Table 1. Survey Respondent Demographics and Characteristics

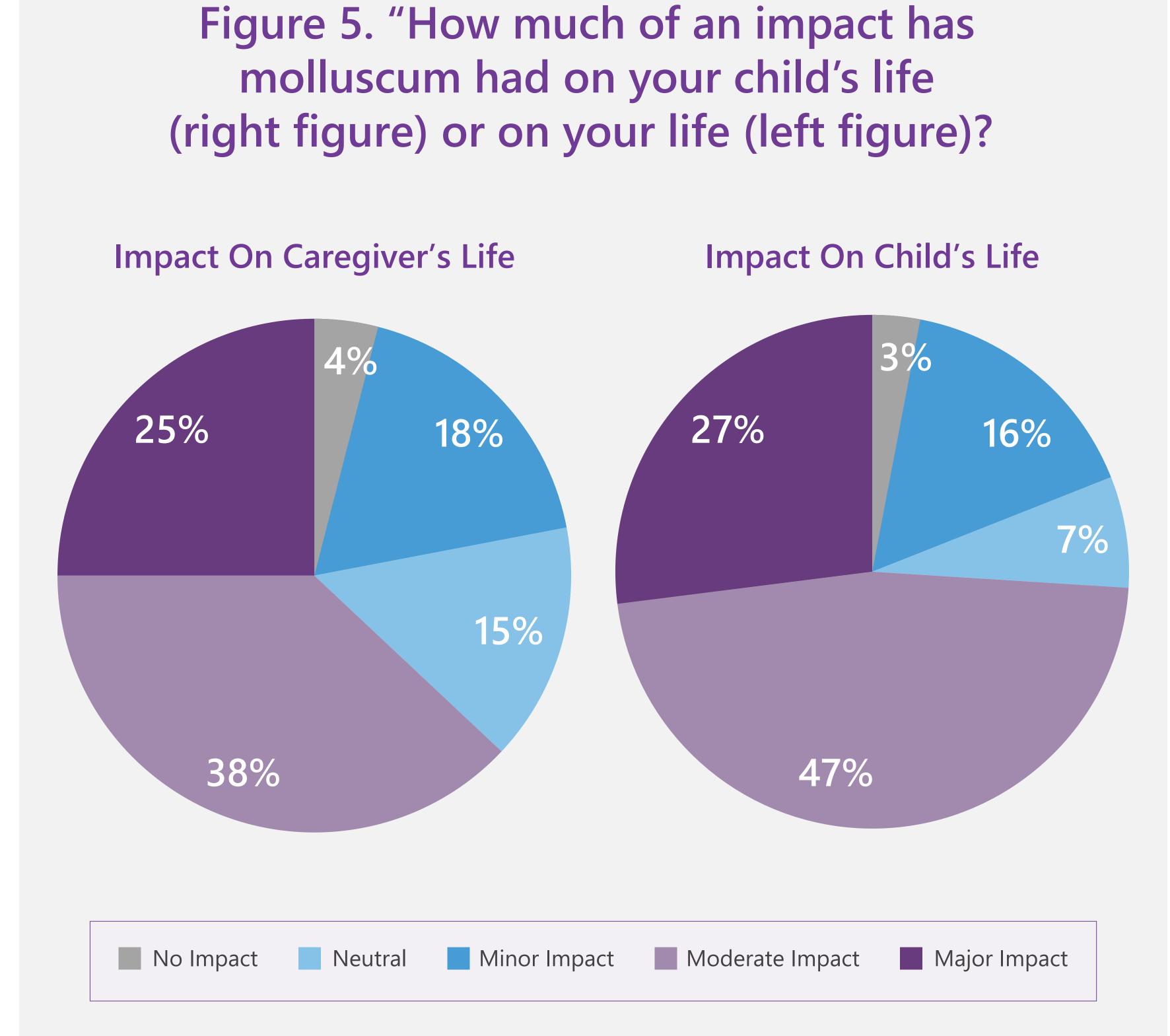






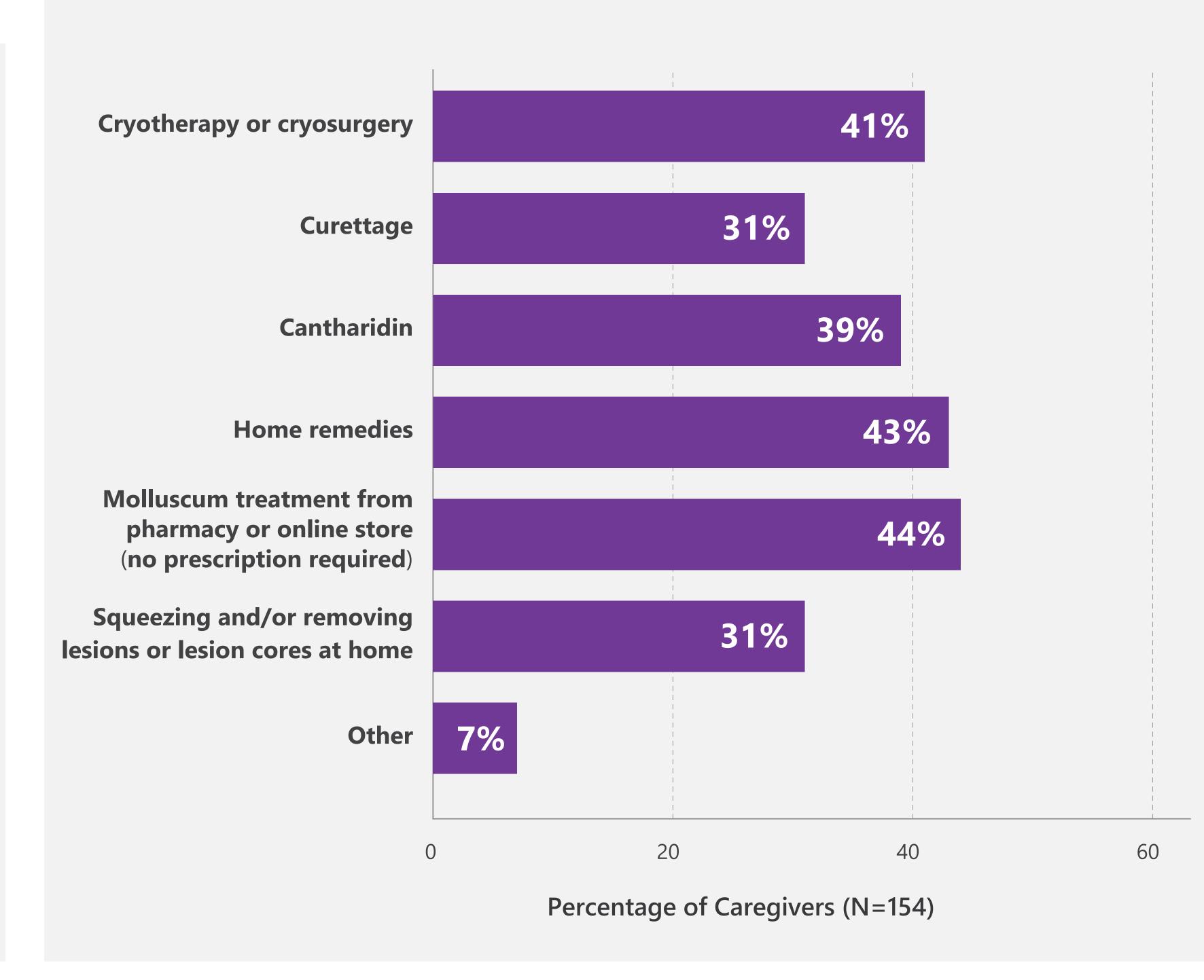








The average number of treatments tried by caregivers was 2.36.



CONCLUSIONS

- These survey results indicate that patients with molluscum receive a clinical diagnosis from numerous sources and that many molluscum patients do not receive treatment.
- Caregivers may use more than one treatment modality to rid their children of the infection and are likely to treat using at-home remedies, including physical removal of lesions.
- Spread to another child in the household was common despite being told about the infectious nature of the virus.
- Caregivers reported a substantial impact on their quality of life and on the activities of their children with molluscum.
- There is an unmet need for education of HCPs regarding the diagnosis and impact of molluscum, in addition to safe and effective treatment options for the infection.

Disclosures

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