

Introduction

- Vaccines have been used as a form of preventative medicine for hundreds of years and have played an integral role in the prevention of life-threatening illnesses (Hussain, 2018).
- Recent trends in the United States (U.S.) have presented an atmosphere in which parents are refusing to vaccinate their children, causing a drastic resurgence in measles cases.
- The MMR vaccine treats 3 different illnesses, which include measles, mumps, and rubella (CDC, 2021).



Objective

- To observe the sentiments regarding the Measles Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccinations among adults in southern California during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021.

Methodology

- Study population.** This cross-sectional study recruited adults in southern California (n=107) who are users of the social media platforms Nextdoor, Reddit, and Facebook to participate in the survey via a web link using a Google Forms questionnaire. The link was posted for one week starting April 26th, 2021 in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.



- Survey Administration.** The survey would included questions based on demographics, location, parental status, education, and sentiments regarding vaccinations.
- Statistical Analysis.** A descriptive statistical analysis of the primary data was conducted. This study was evaluated based on a point scale; those who selected higher on the point scale (4-5) indicate positive sentiment whereas those who selected lower on the point scale (1-2) indicate negative sentiment.



Results

Figure 1: Educational Attainment Among Participants

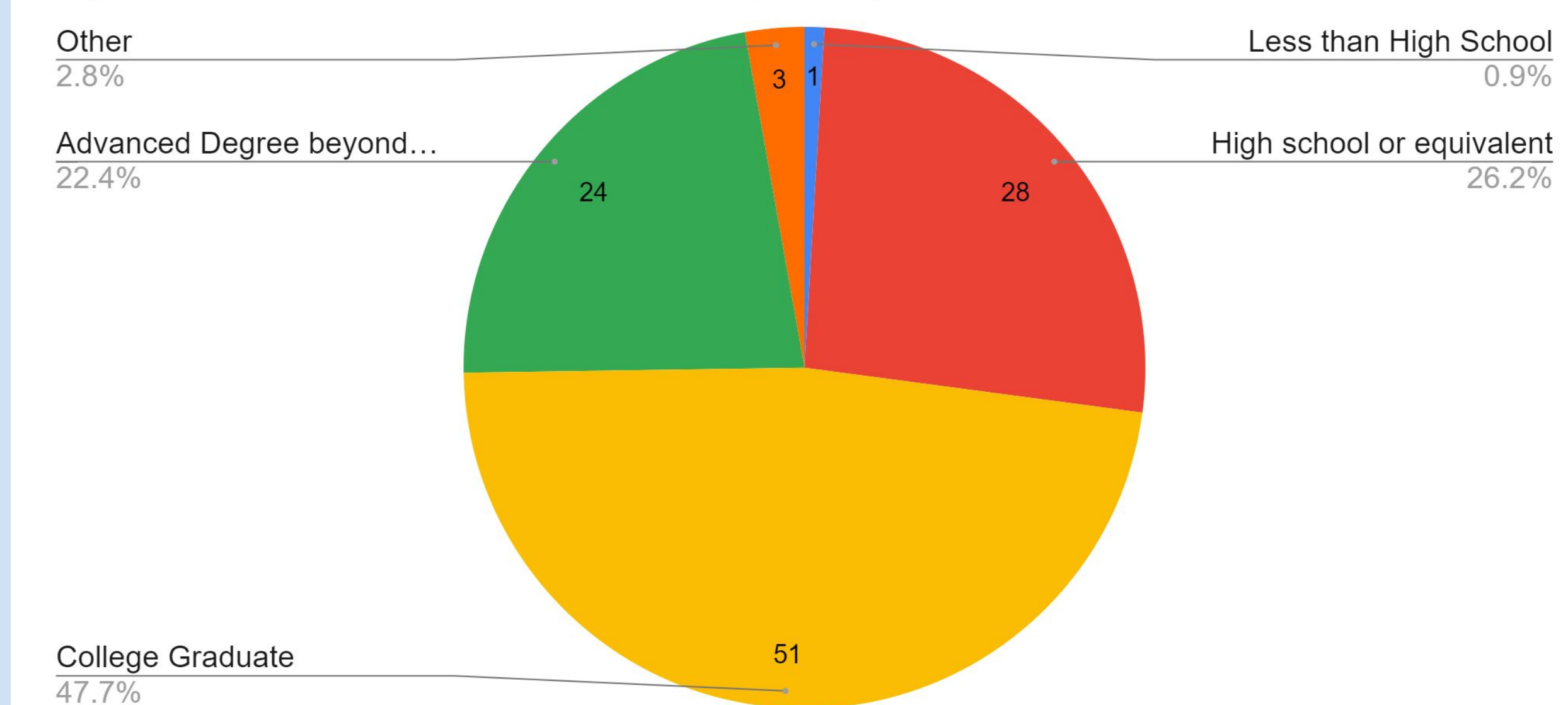


Figure 1: Educational attainment among participants.

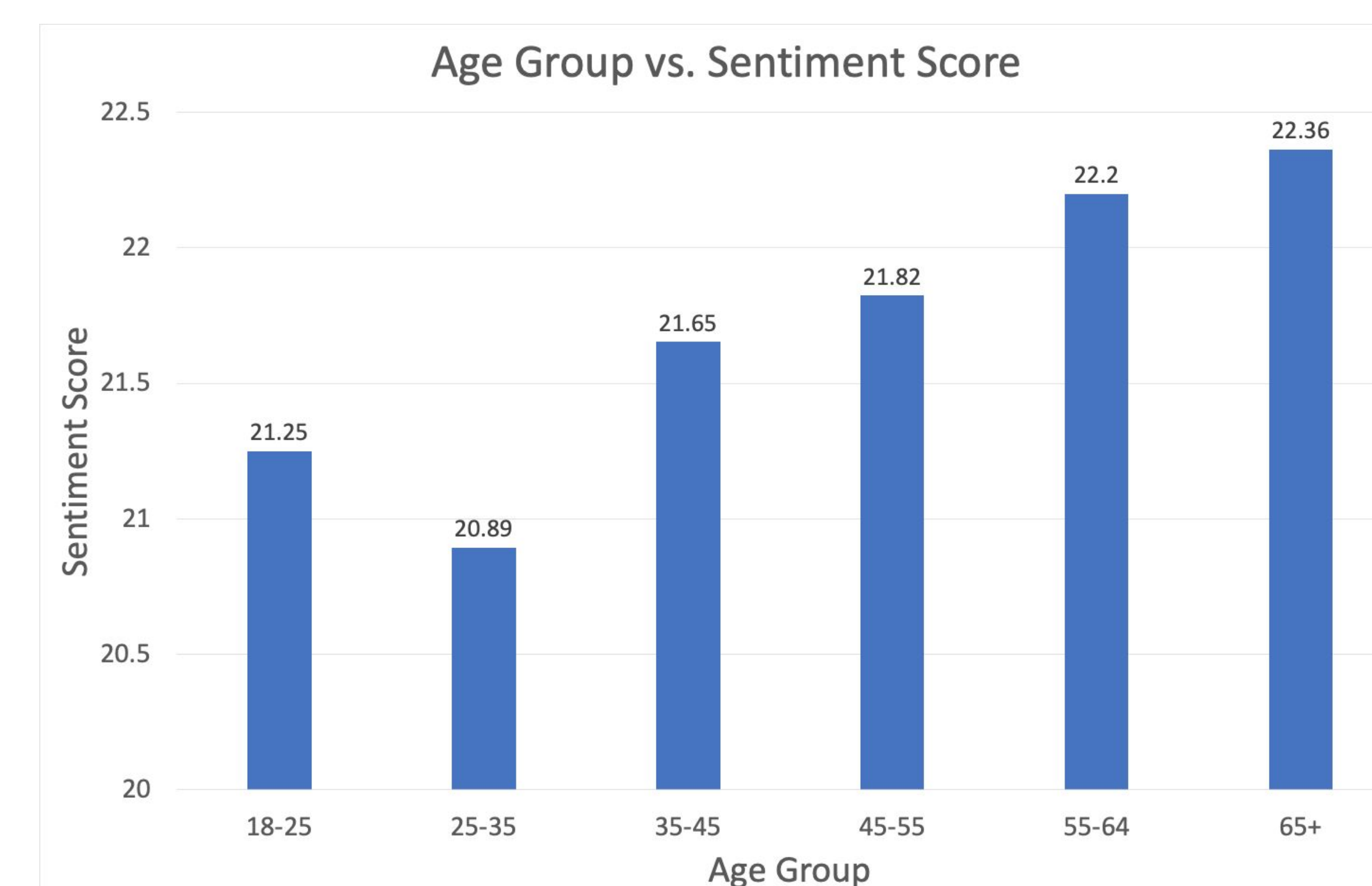


Figure 2: Educational Attainment and beliefs on MMR danger.

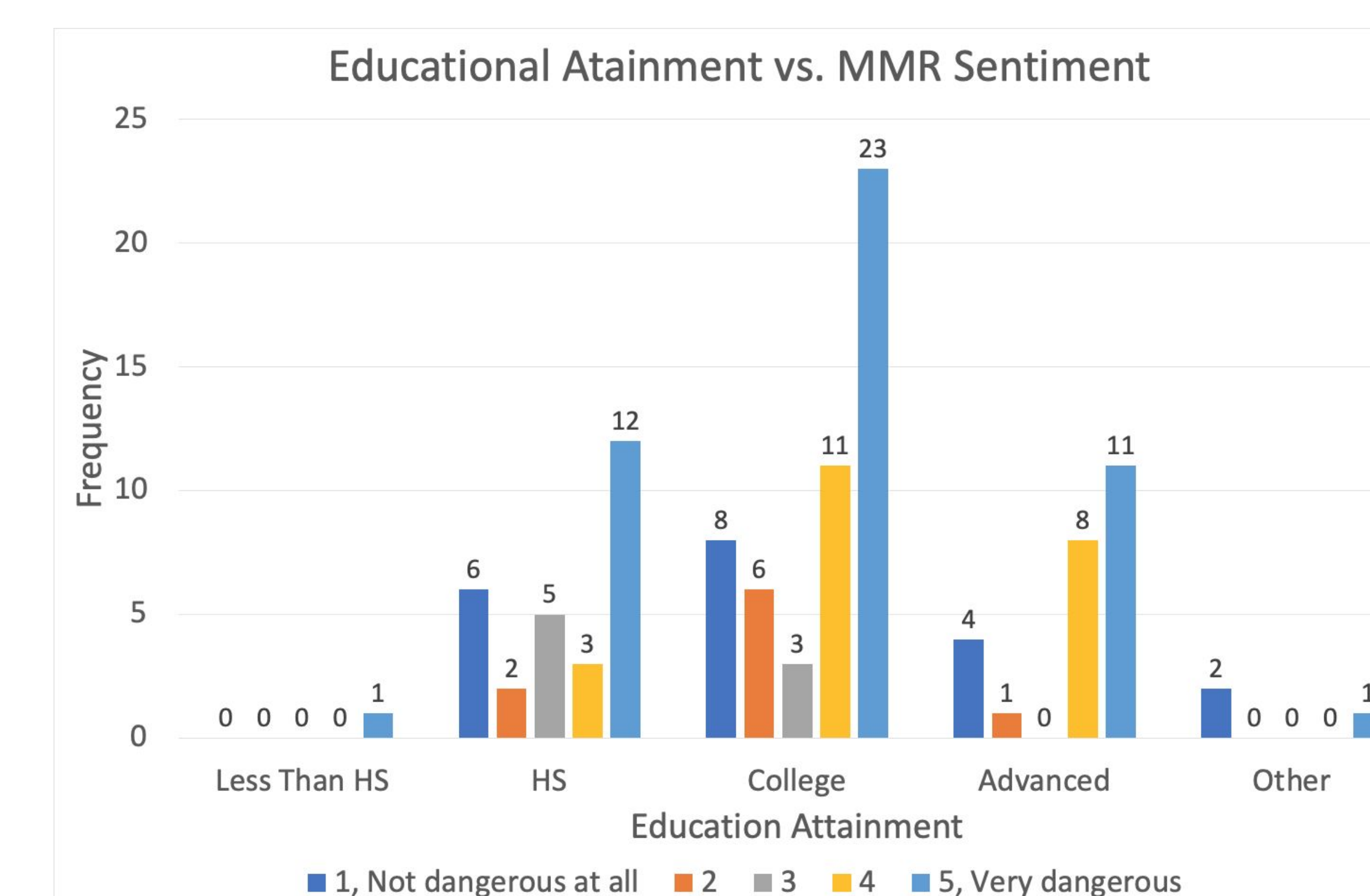


Figure 3: Educational Attainment vs. MMR Sentiment

Conclusion

- Our data suggests that there is a positive correlation between sentiment and increasing age groups (see Figure 2).
- There was an upward trend on the point scale as age group increased.
- The results from this study highlight the polarization of vaccine sentiment as education level increases.

Policy Implications

- Outreach for vaccine education efforts must be implemented in a widely accessible way to reach a more diverse population.
- It is imperative to focus on effective communication among health professionals and patients in regard to vaccination inquires to alleviate any concerns adults may have.

References

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Photo: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jipirov/2020/06/14/could-the-polio-vaccine-curb-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>