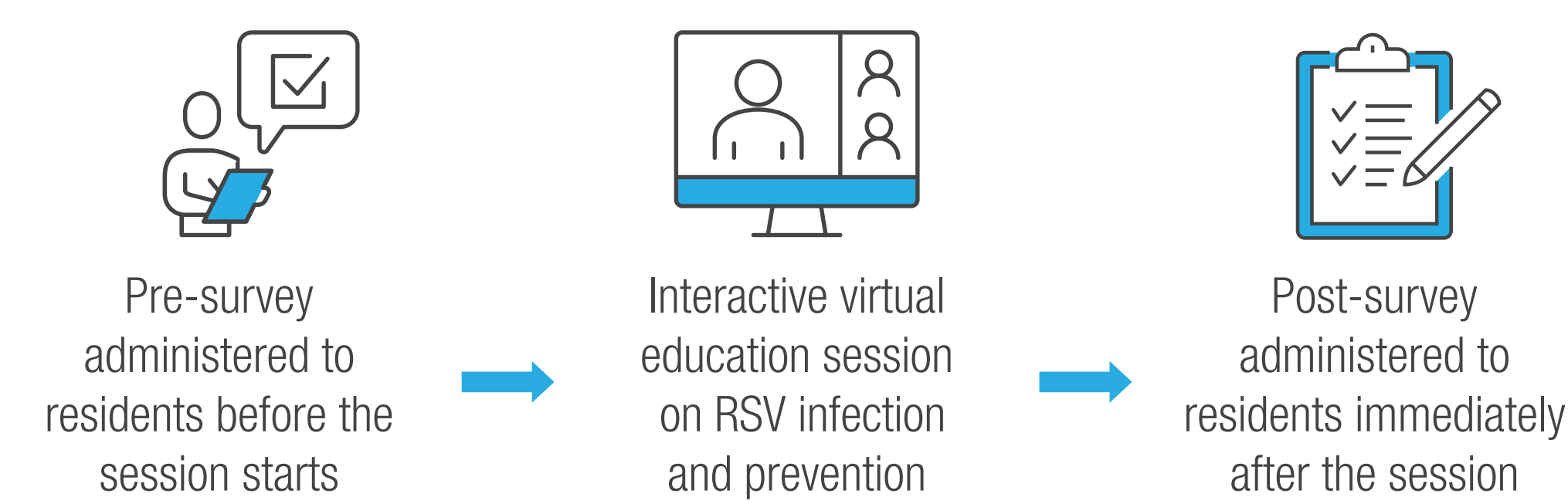


INTRODUCTION

- Older adults are at risk for severe outcomes from respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection.¹
- The living conditions of long-term care facilities (LTCFs) render them high-risk areas for the spread of infectious diseases.²
- It is therefore critical that measures mitigating RSV infection and transmission are effectively implemented at LTCFs.²
- Furthermore, it is important to raise awareness of RSV risk, prevention measures, and emerging vaccines among older adults, including those who reside at LTCFs.
- As part of an educational program, we assessed perceptions and practices regarding RSV infection and prevention among residents of LTCFs.

METHODS

- Between October and December of 2021, surveys were administered to residents of LTCFs before and after 1.25-hour education sessions led by health care professionals (HCPs) at 5 centers.
- During these sessions, residents and HCPs were engaged in discussions about RSV symptoms, risk factors for severe disease, and prevention strategies, including vaccines under development. Residents had opportunities to share their perspectives and ask questions.
- Some of the sessions were conducted in Korean, and the program materials were translated.
- Surveys were administered before and after the education sessions. The data were analyzed and are reported here.
- All *P* values were calculated using Chi-square or Fisher's Exact analysis. *P* values ≤ .05 were considered significant.

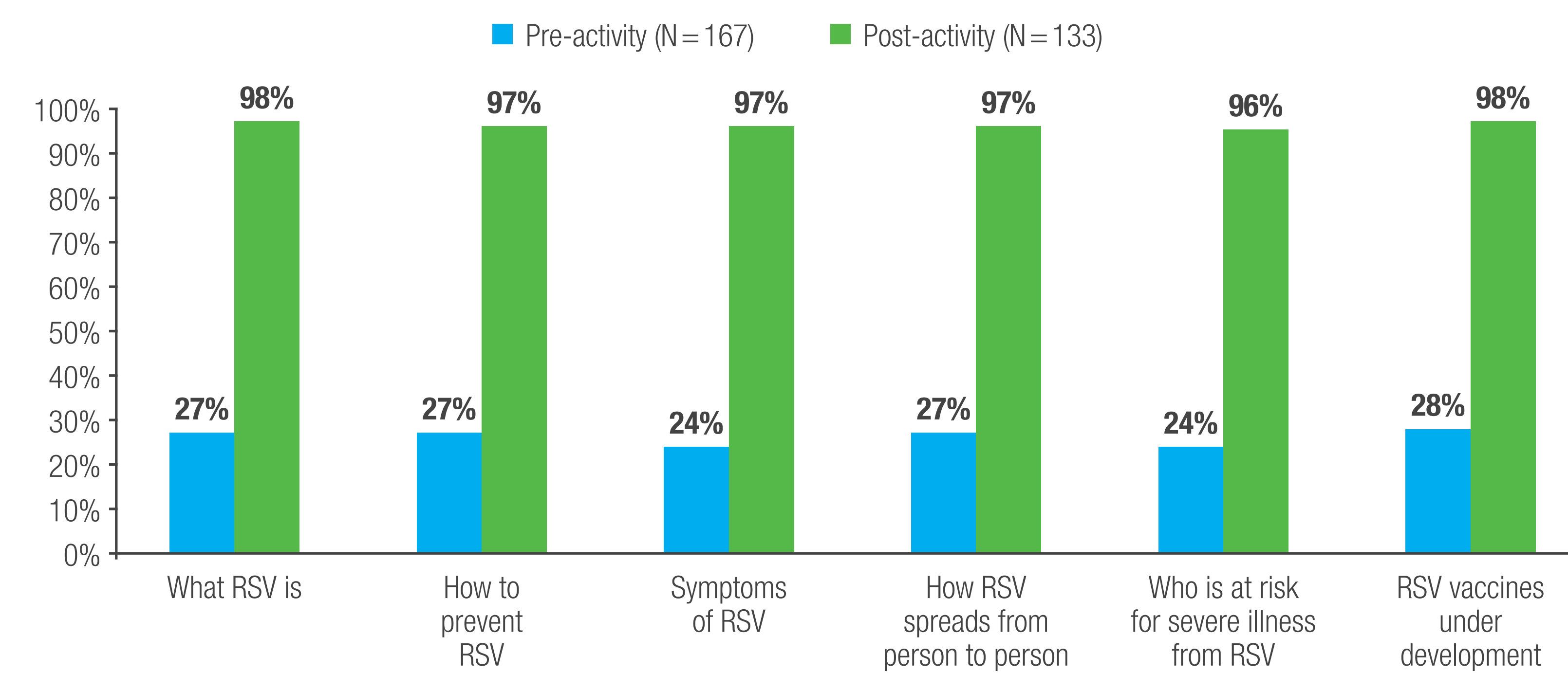


RESULTS

Table 1: Resident Characteristics (N=167)

Female (%)	76
Average age (years)	67
Race/ethnicity (%)	
White	13
African American/Black	3
Asian/Pacific Islander	82
Hispanic/Latinx	2
Education (%)	
High school/GED	44
Associate's degree	10
Bachelor's degree	27
Postgraduate (ie, Master's, PhD)	11
Other	8
Years in residence (%)	
1-5	41
6-10	24
11-15	11
> 15	24
Flu vaccination history (%)	
Receive it every year	80
Receive it, but not every year	11
Do not get it	9
Vaccinated against COVID-19 (%)	97

Figure 1: Residents Reporting a High Level of Knowledge (3/4/5 Likert Scale) on RSV-Related Topics*



**P* < .001 for all pre- and post-activity comparisons

Figure 2: Sources That Residents Use to Learn About RSV and Other Infectious Diseases

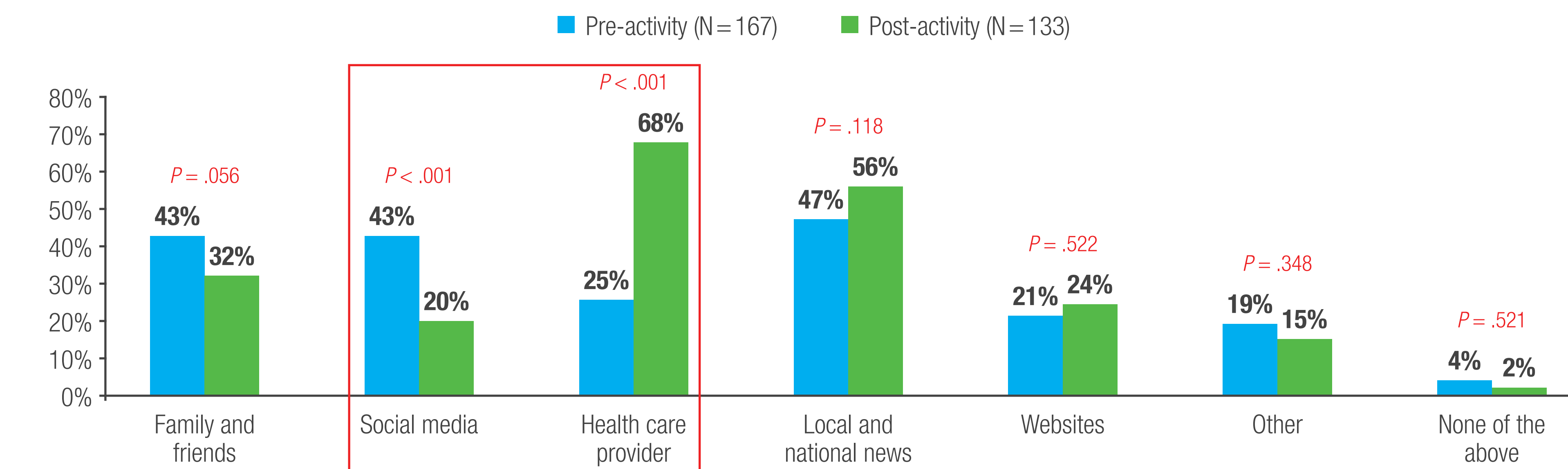


Figure 3: Residents' Perceptions Regarding Vaccinations

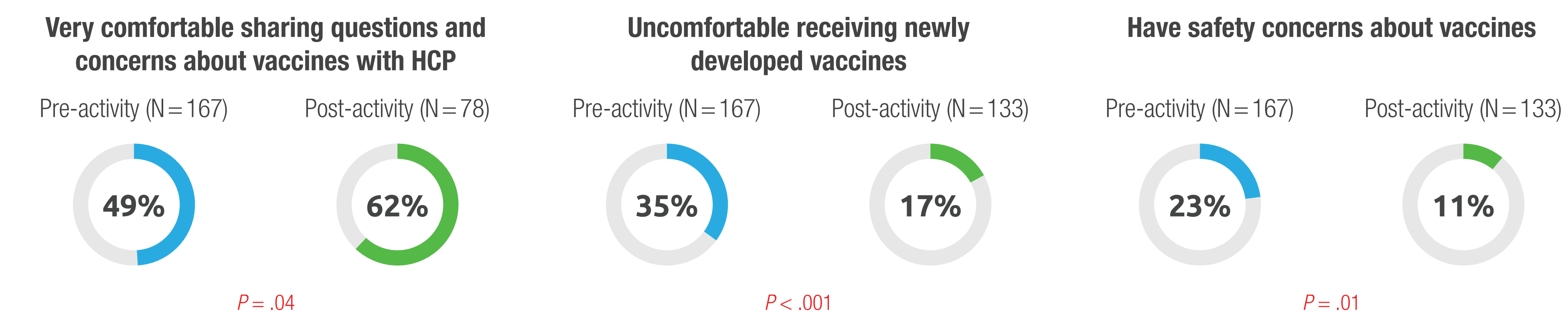


Figure 4: Willingness to Be Immunized Against RSV if a Vaccine Is Approved by the FDA

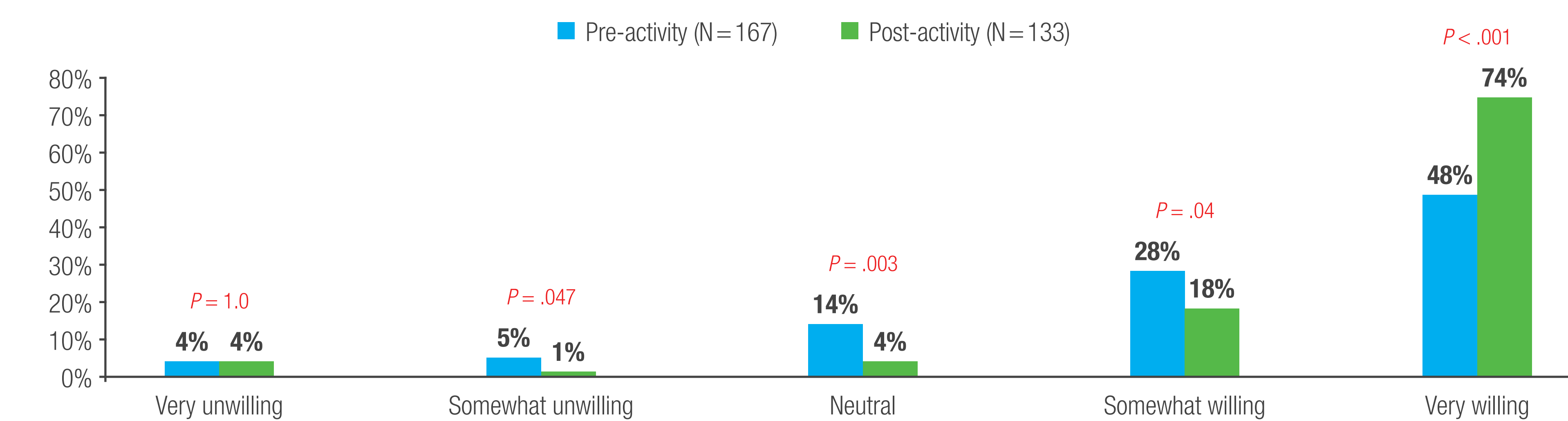
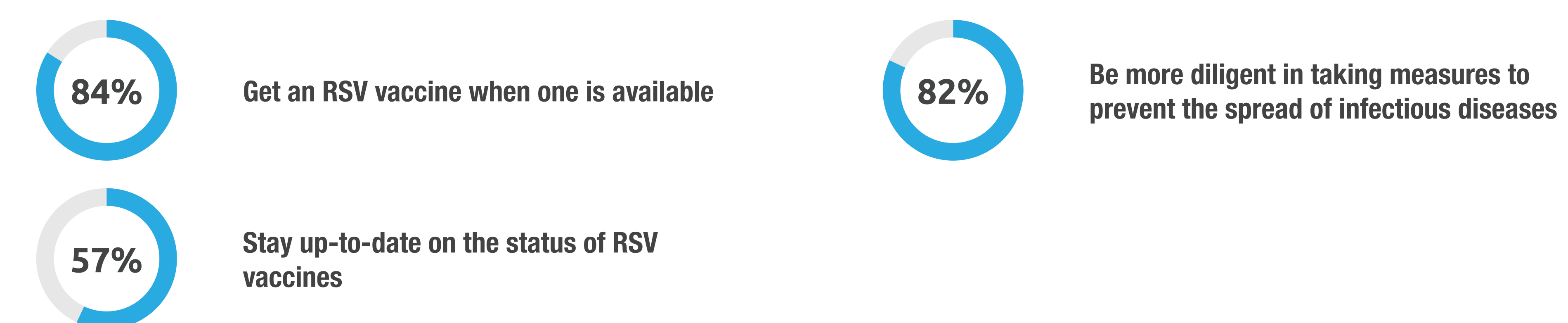


Figure 5: Actions Residents Planned to Take After the Education (N = 133)



CONCLUSIONS

Key findings from the surveys:

- Residents exhibited low levels of knowledge about RSV-related topics, which significantly improved after attending the educational sessions.
- Residents were more likely to confer with their HCP and less likely to utilize unreliable sources after the sessions compared to before.
- The sessions were successful in addressing residents' concerns about vaccines and improving their willingness to be immunized against RSV when a vaccine is available.
- More residents were very comfortable sharing their questions and concerns about vaccines with their HCP as a result of these educational sessions.
- Many residents also committed to being more diligent to prevent the spread of RSV and staying up-to-date on the status of RSV vaccines under development.

REFERENCES

- Htar MTT, et al. *Epidemiol Infect.* 2020;148:e48.
- Lee MH, et al. *PLoS One.* 2020;15(3):e0229911.

DISCLOSURES

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