

Public Opinion on Animal Research in a Time of COVID-19

Authors:

Eva Maciejewski, director of communications | Matthew R. Bailey, president | Foundation for Biomedical Research

The COVID-19 pandemic triggered an unprecedented push for biomedical **research innovation**

3,000+ news articles have been published mentioning animal research in relation to COVID-19 vaccines and treatments

'Fact Check' articles have been published in USA Today, Reuters, Washington Times shedding light on **the role of animals in COVID-19 research**

FBR commissioned three polls in 2020 and one poll in 2021 on COVID-19 and animal research. **Echelon Insights conducted these polls for FBR** between March 20-24, April 18-21, Oct. 16-22 and March 15-21 as part of their monthly Verified Voter Omnibus tracking survey with a sample size of approximately 1,000 national registered voters.

FBR COVID-19 and animal research poll findings

Context Matters

The more information people receive about the role of animal research in COVID-19 vaccine and treatment development, the more supportive they are of animal research.

Addressing Pre-Existing Beliefs & Values

People who are vaccinated or plan to get vaccinated against COVID-19 are more likely to support animal research to develop lifesaving medicines and vaccines for COVID-19.

These findings point to a need to understand pre-existing beliefs and values that may impact people's opinion about animal research, like COVID-19 skepticism, vaccine hesitancy, and other pre-existing beliefs and values.

Figure A

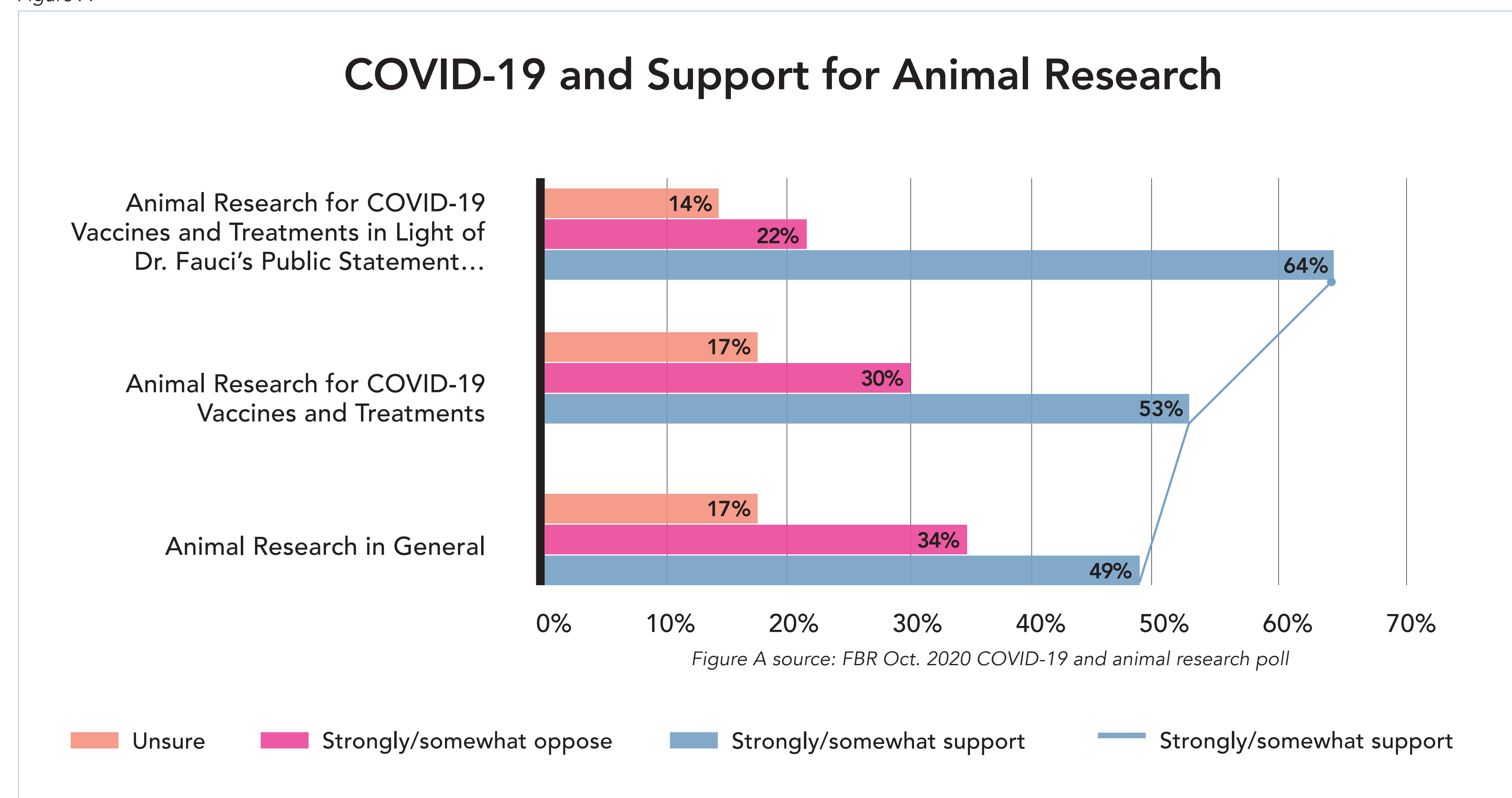


Figure B

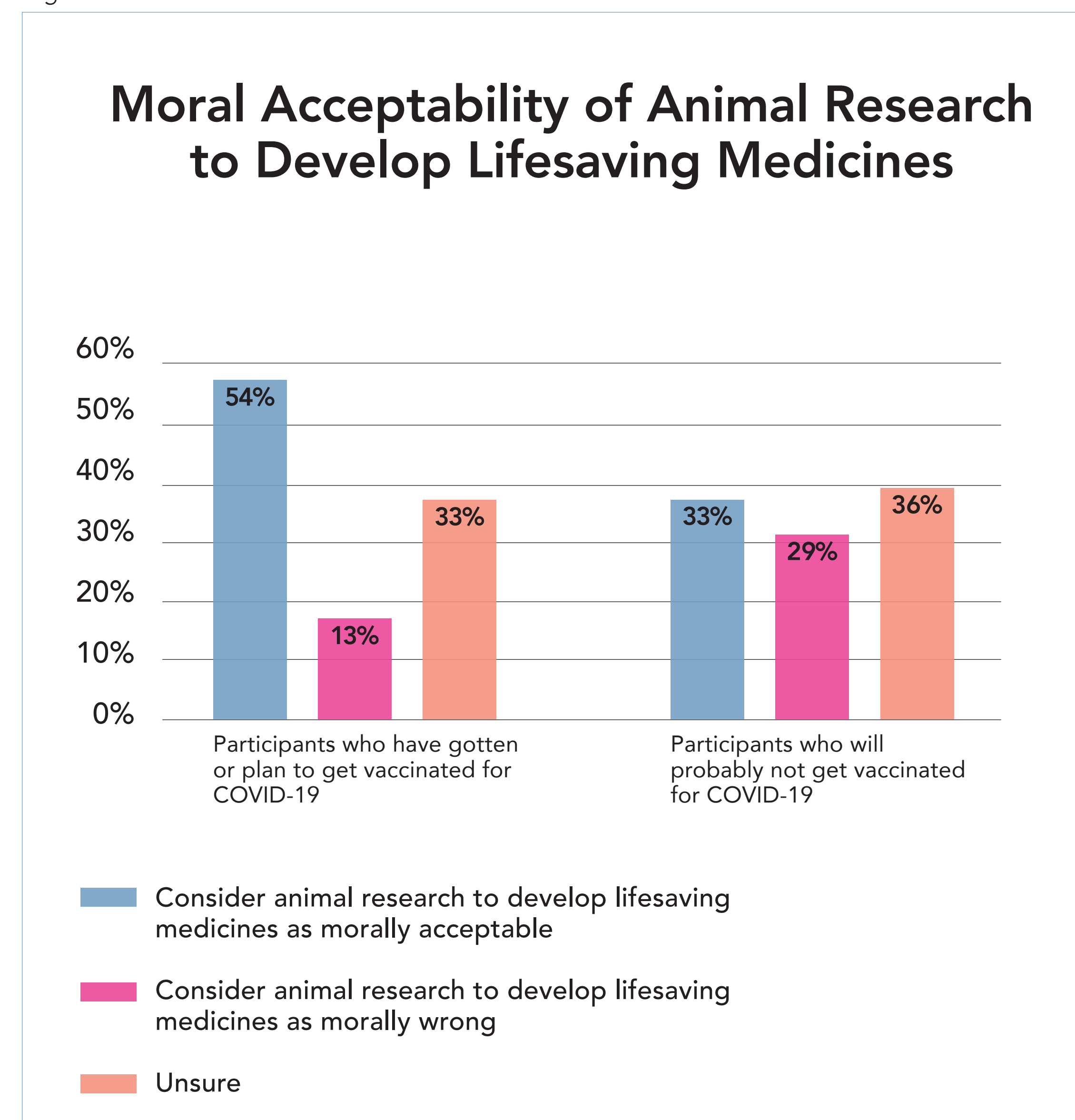
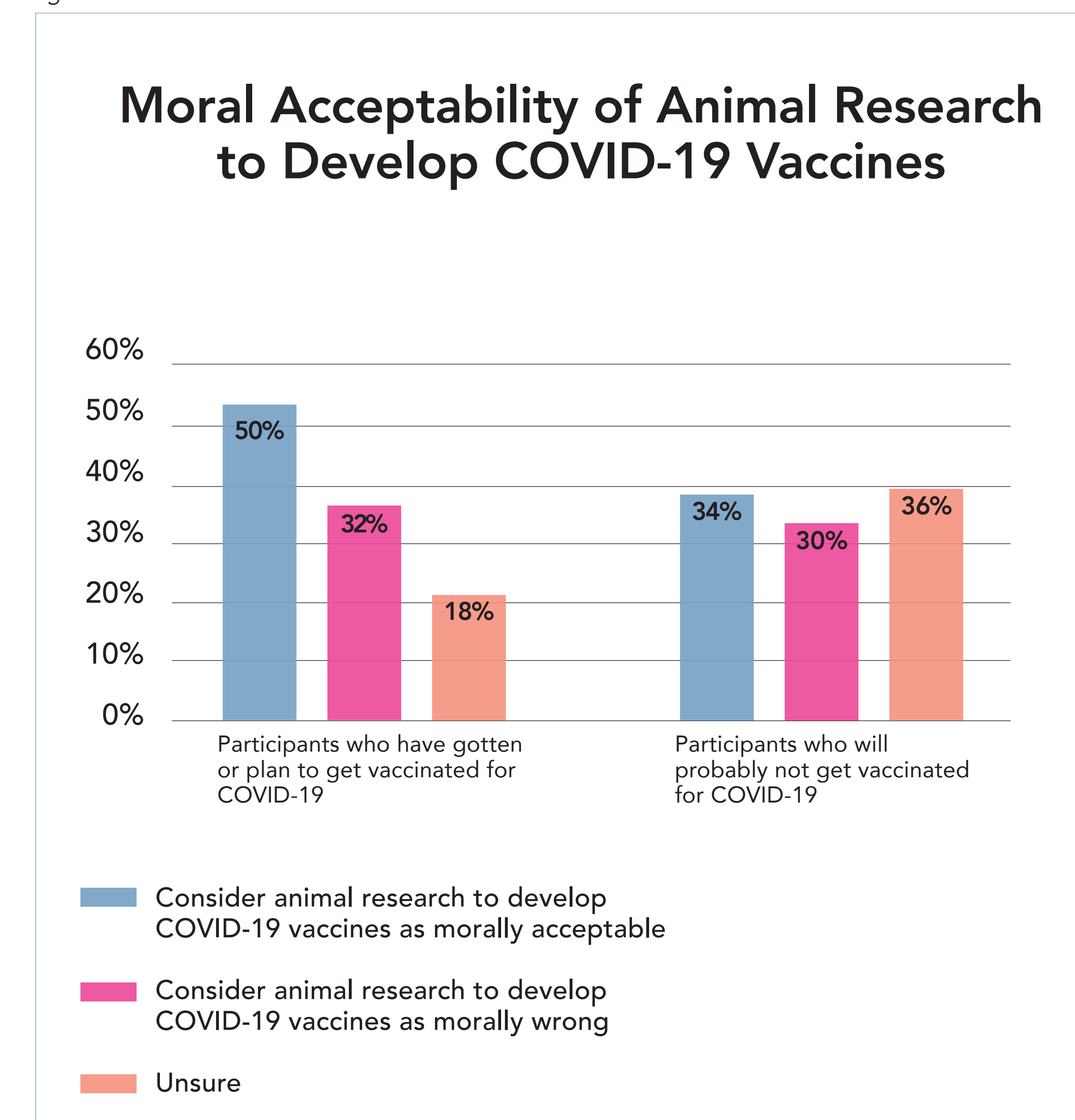


Figure C



Takeaways from these poll findings for public education campaigns moving forward

Importance of **context-setting** to explain the essential role of animal research

Addressing pre-existing beliefs and values, such as vaccine hesitancy, to engage in a more open dialogue about animal research

Conducting **targeted education campaigns** about animal research for specific audiences; Using messaging that is likely to resonate with them.

For more poll findings visit www.fbresearch.org/polls