



Do school children remember BLS one year after 1-hour course?



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Purpose

It has already been demonstrated that school children are able to learn and perform CPR, but their retention of BLS knowledge after 1 year is not known. We want to assess children's knowledge of the BLS sequence one year after the BLS course and compare it to that of an adult group.

Methods

We gave an anonymous questionnaire to a group of Italian school children a year after completing a 1-hour BLS course. The questionnaire consisted of three multiple-choice questions on the first two rings of the Chain of Survival. The first question was about recognizing a person in cardiac arrest, the second was about the importance of the early activation of the emergency system and the third was about the correct compression:ventilation ratio. We gave the same questionnaire to a group of Italian lay adults a year after completing a 5-hour BLS-D course.

Population characteristic

Characteristic	Children	Adult
Number	84	49
Males (%)	47.6	57.1
Age	13 ± 0.5	38.8 ± 12.3

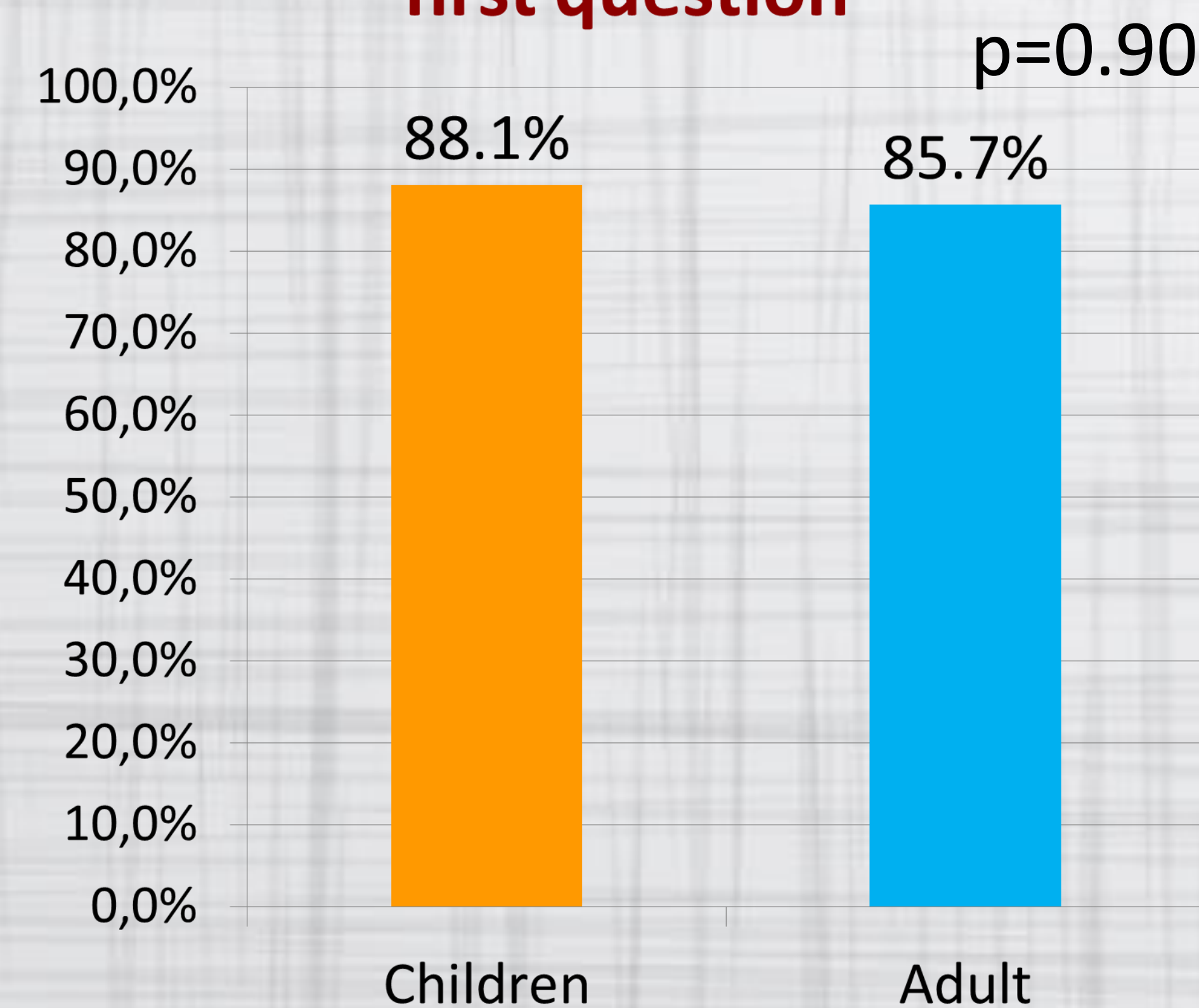
Results

The school children group consisted of 84 subjects (52.4% females), mean age 13 ± 0.5 years. The adult group consisted of 49 subjects (57.1% males), mean age 38.8 ± 12.3 years. In the school children group, the first question was answered correctly by 88.1%, the second by 44% and the third by 95.2%. Comparing these results to those of the adults, there was no significant difference (calculated with chi-square test) in the first question (88.1% vs 85.7%, p=0.90) or the second (44% vs 59.2%, p=0.13), but there was a statistically significant difference in the third question answers (95.2% vs 67.3%, p<0.0001).

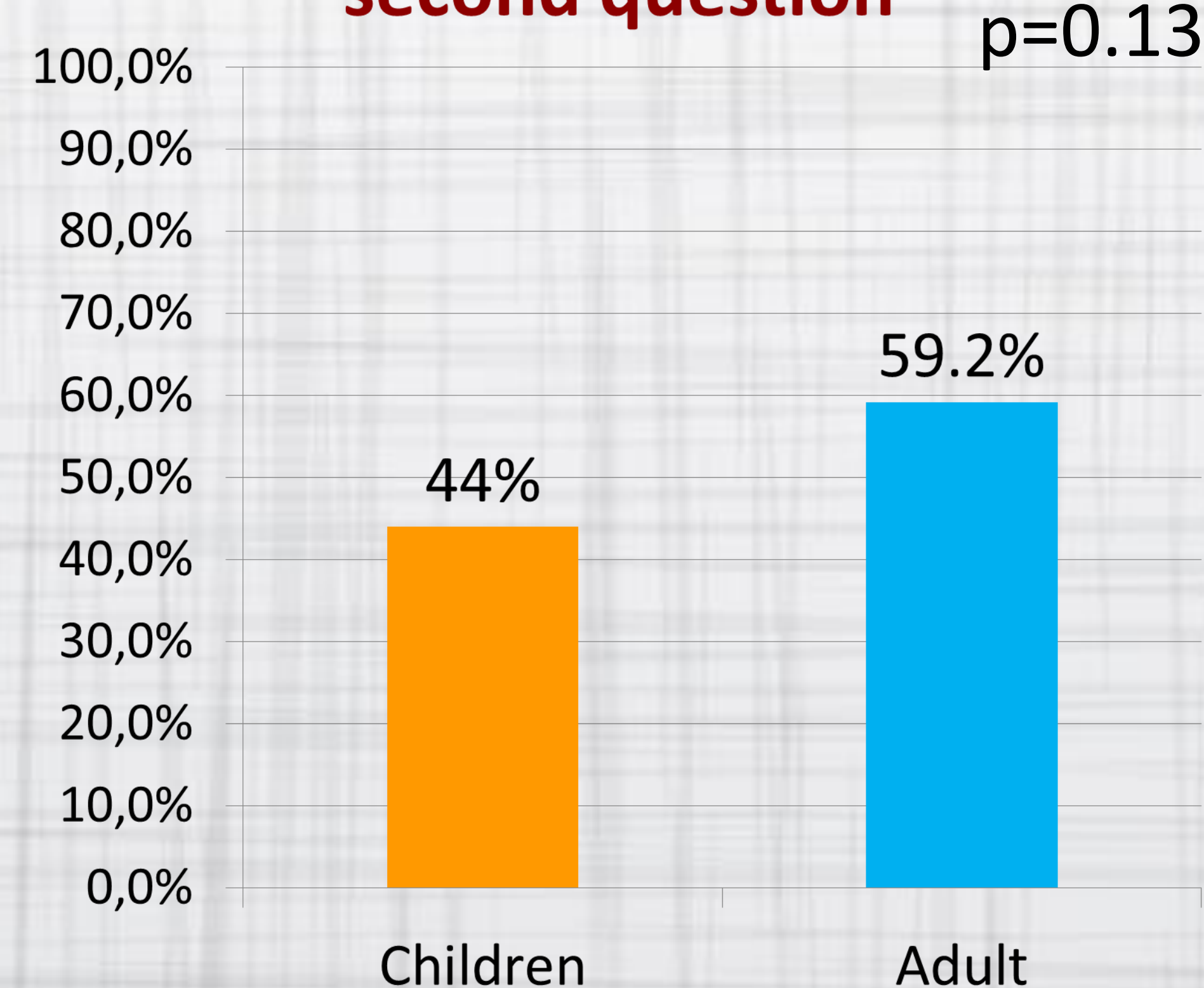
Conclusions

Children's retention of BLS knowledge after one year is good, but it is necessary to stress more the importance of the early activation of the emergency system. Moreover, the children remember better the correct compression:ventilation ratio than adults, despite the shorter duration of the course.

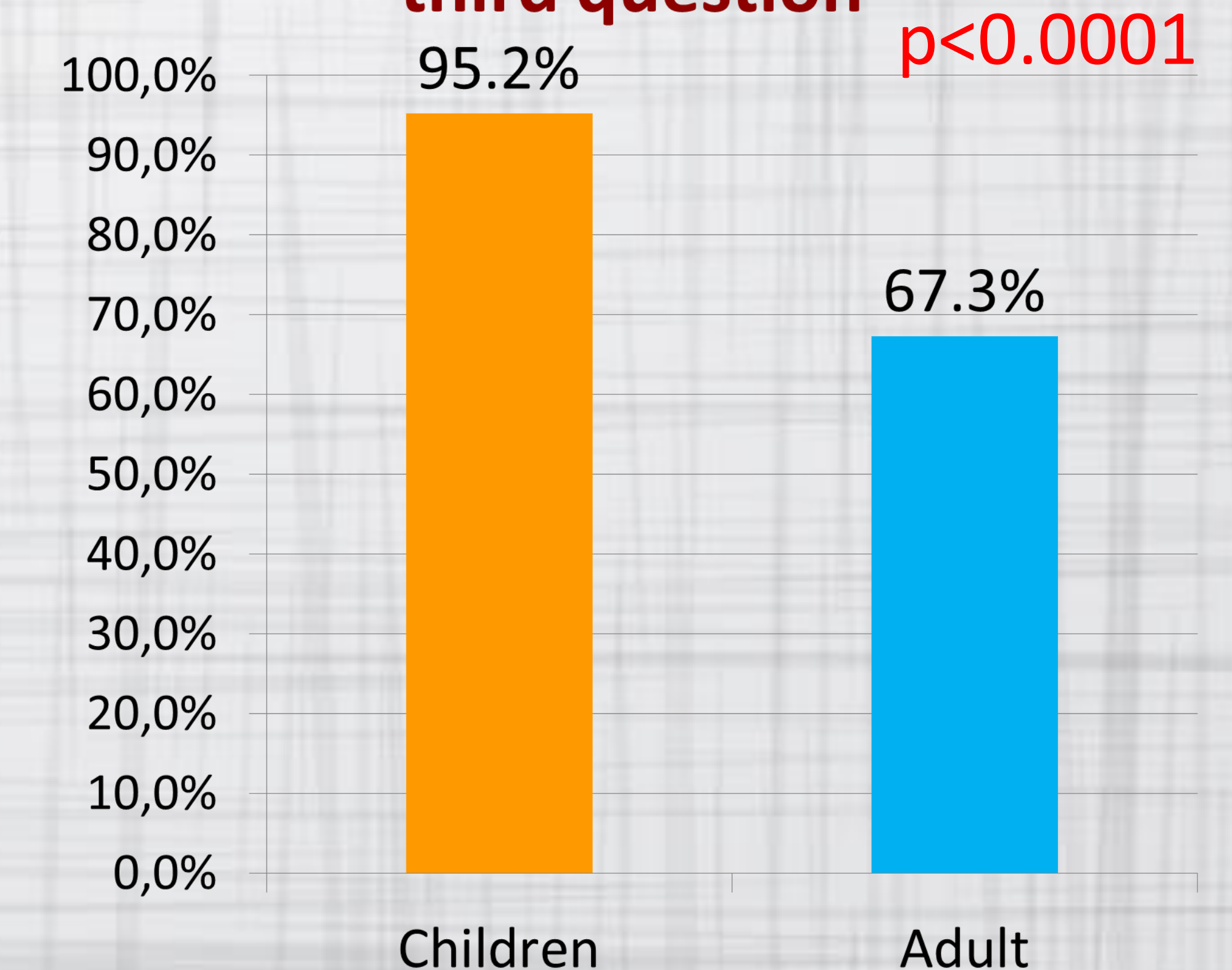
Correct answer to the first question



Correct answer to the second question



Correct answer to the third question



All Authors report no disclosure