

# Parental and Faculty Opinions Surrounding Active Shooters in Educational Institutions in Brevard County

## Scope of the Problem:

School shootings remain a significant public safety concern in the United States. While research frequently focuses on perpetrator characteristics, less attention has been given to parental and educator perceptions of school safety protocols.

## Purpose:

This study explores stakeholder opinions regarding:

- Effectiveness of active shooter drills
- Psychological impact on students and staff
- Trust in institutional response
- Sufficiency of current policies
- Communication and collaboration practices

## Methodology:

Mixed Methods Approach

Participants: 10 parents, 11 educators, 1 Both

Scale: 5-point Likert (1 = Strongly Disagree to 5 = Strongly Agree)

## Results:

Participants reported:

- Current protocols reduce potential harm
- Preventative measures are insufficient
- Parents lack adequate information
- Concerns about psychological impact of drills

Overall perception:

Preparedness is adequate but prevention and communication need improvement.

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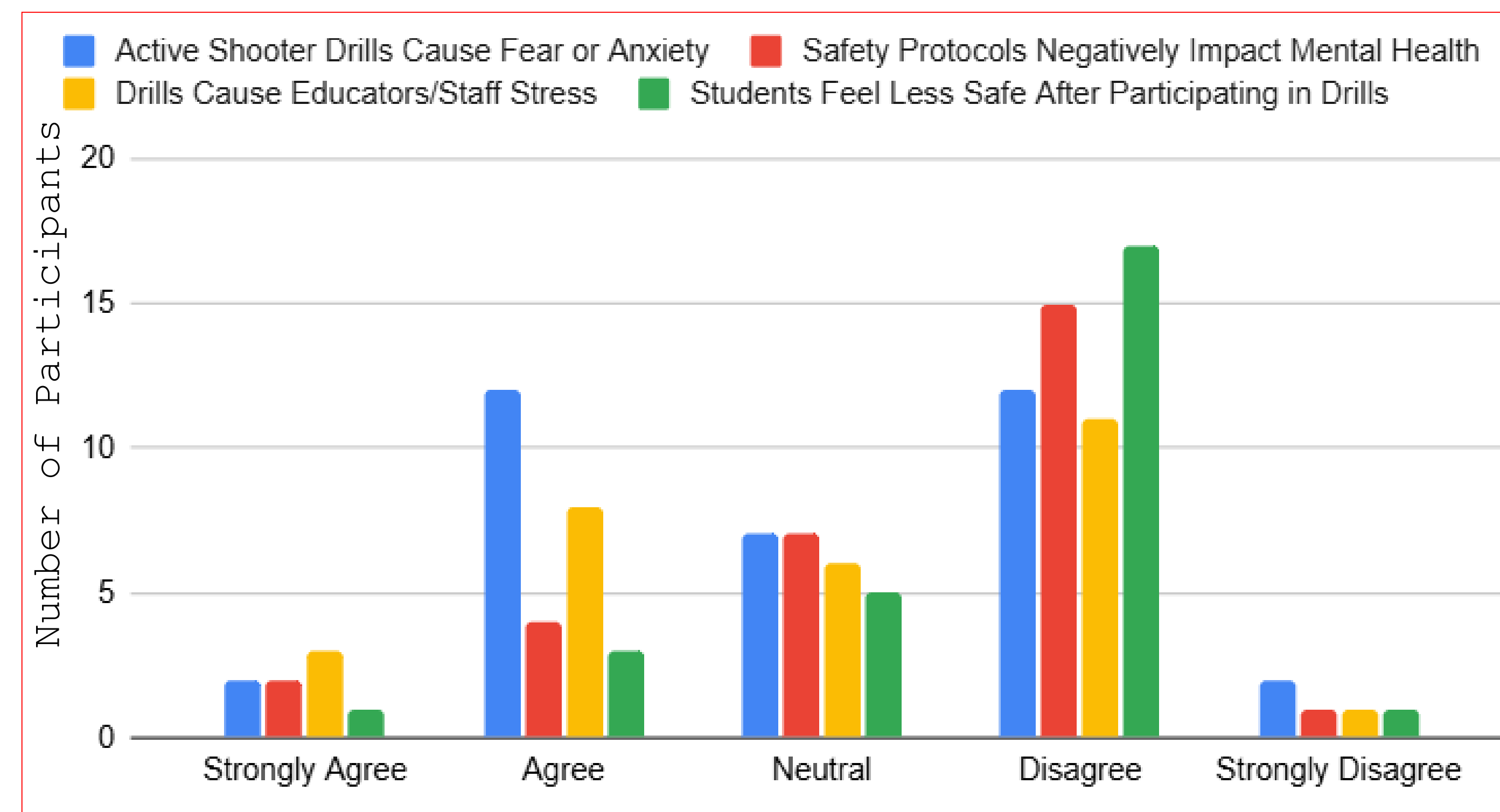
## Risk Perception Theory:

Existing literature demonstrates that school violence emerges from interacting:

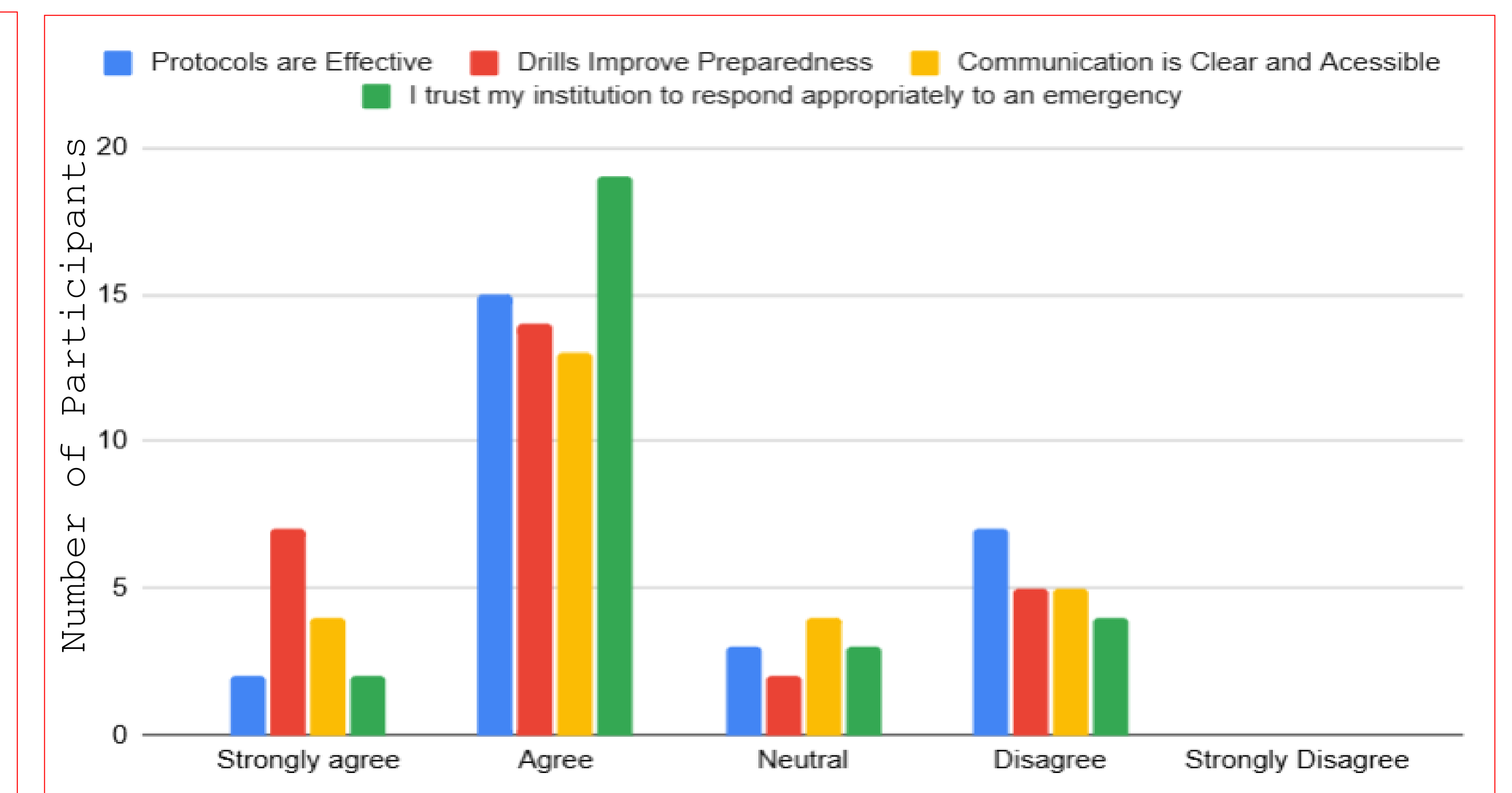
- Biological factors (head trauma, genetic predispositions)
- Psychological factors (trauma, severe mental illness, social strain)
- Sociocultural factors (bullying, media influence, firearm access)

Understanding perceptions of preparedness is critical for developing balanced, evidence-based prevention strategies.

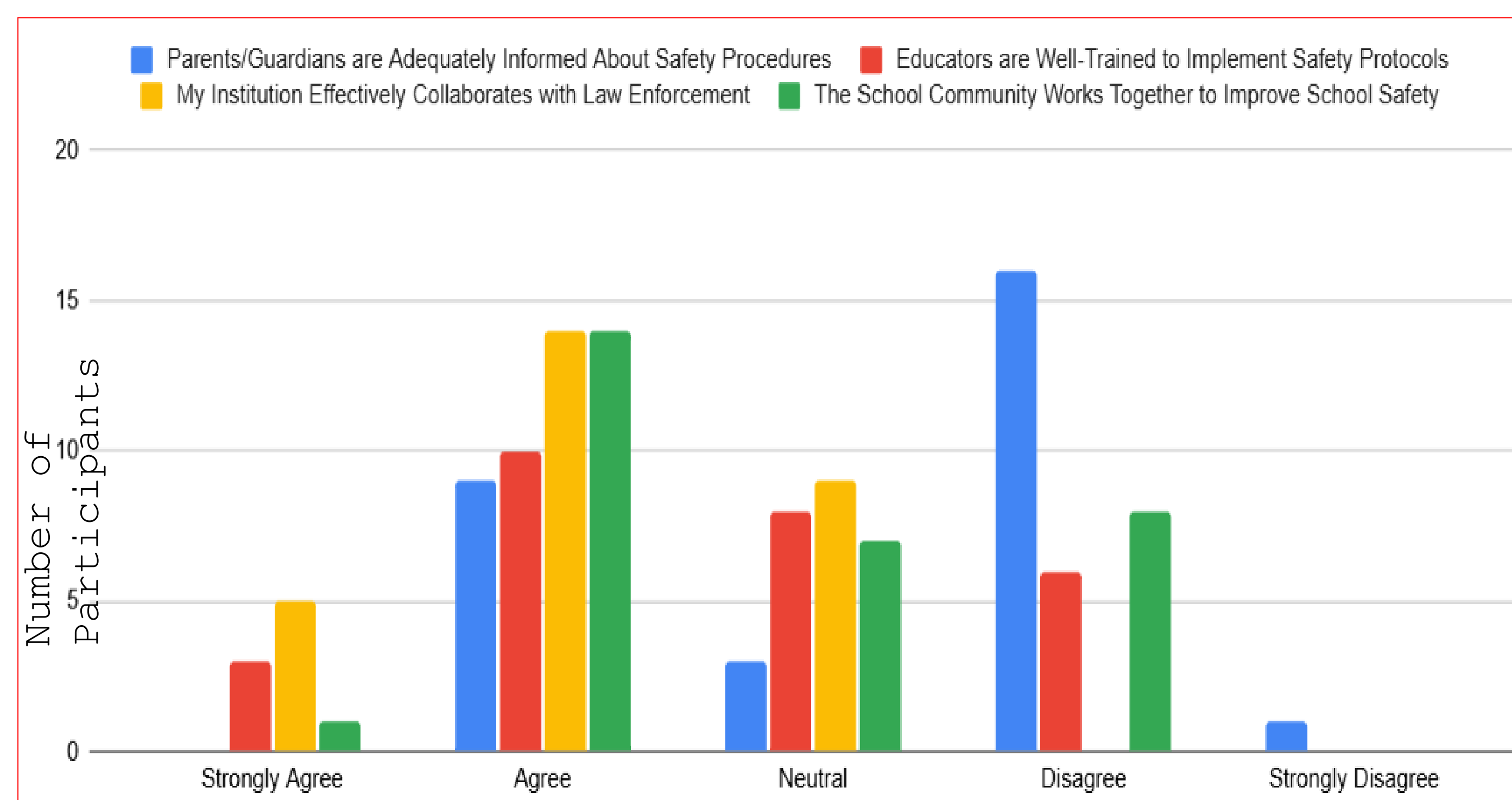
### Perceived Psychological Impact



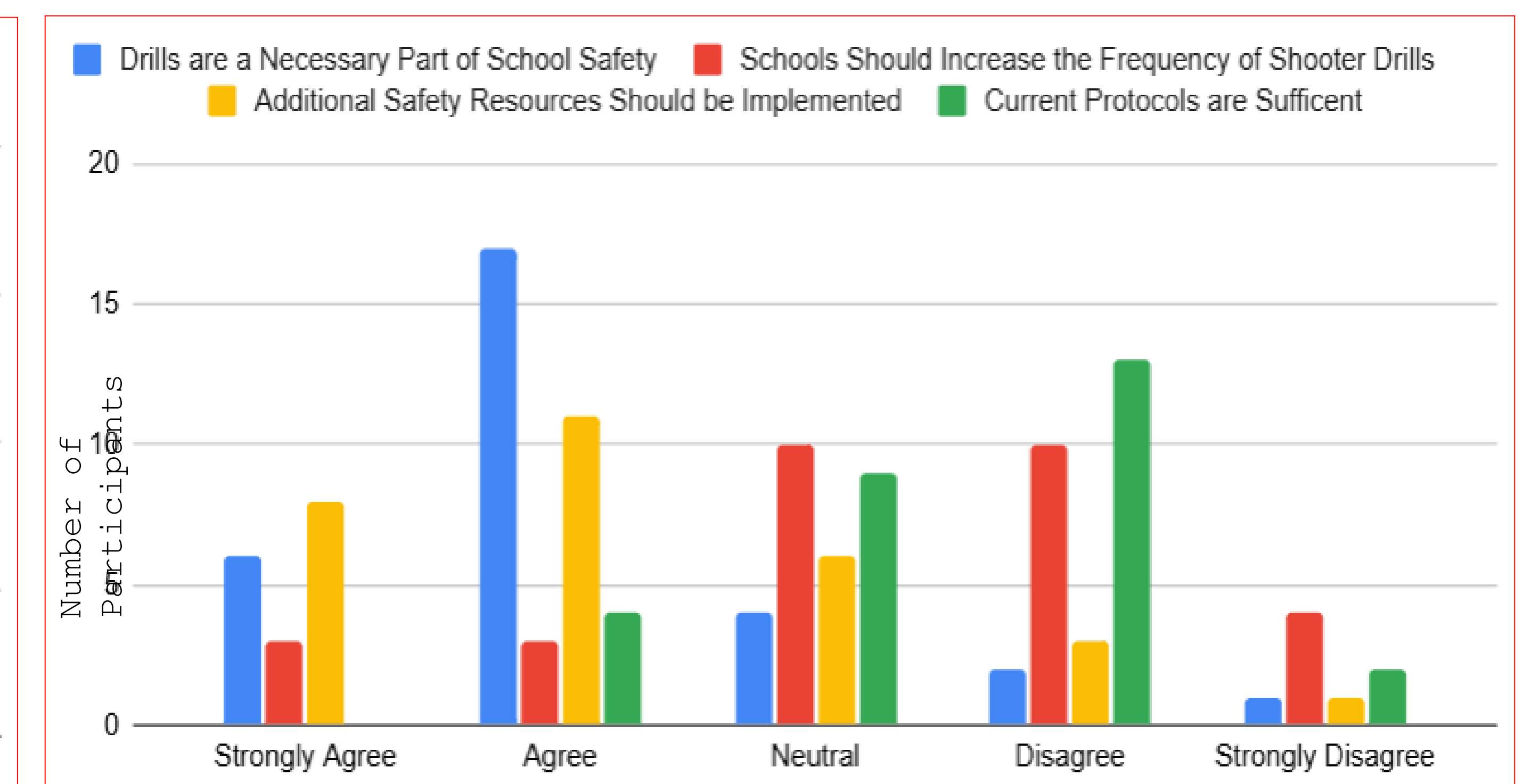
### Perceived Effectiveness



### Trust & Community Collaboration



### Perceived Necessity



## Implications:

- Improve school-parent communication
- Increase prevention strategies
- Improve transparency
- Consider psychological impacts

## Future Research:

- Larger samples
- Student perspectives
- District comparisons