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INTRODUCTION

- Medical school curricula for plastic surgery (PS) exposure are highly inconsistent
- We investigated whether there was an association between presence of PS elective rotations and/or home programs in medical schools with the proportion of students matriculating into integrated PS residency

METHODS

- 198 medical schools compiled from AAMC and AACOM
- Identified integrated and independent PS residency programs
- PS elective rotation offerings and most recent matches (2021-2022) were obtained from school websites.
- Non-US schools and schools lacking publicly available relevant information were excluded.
- Welch's ANOVA test compared mean proportions of students matriculating into PS among schools which had both PS elective and home program(s), PS elective only, or neither

RESULTS

- 159 medical schools included
- 88% of medical schools offer plastic surgery rotations
 - 48% (77) had both plastic surgery home programs and elective rotations
 - 40% (63) offered elective rotations only.
- 12% (19) of medical schools had neither home program nor elective rotation.

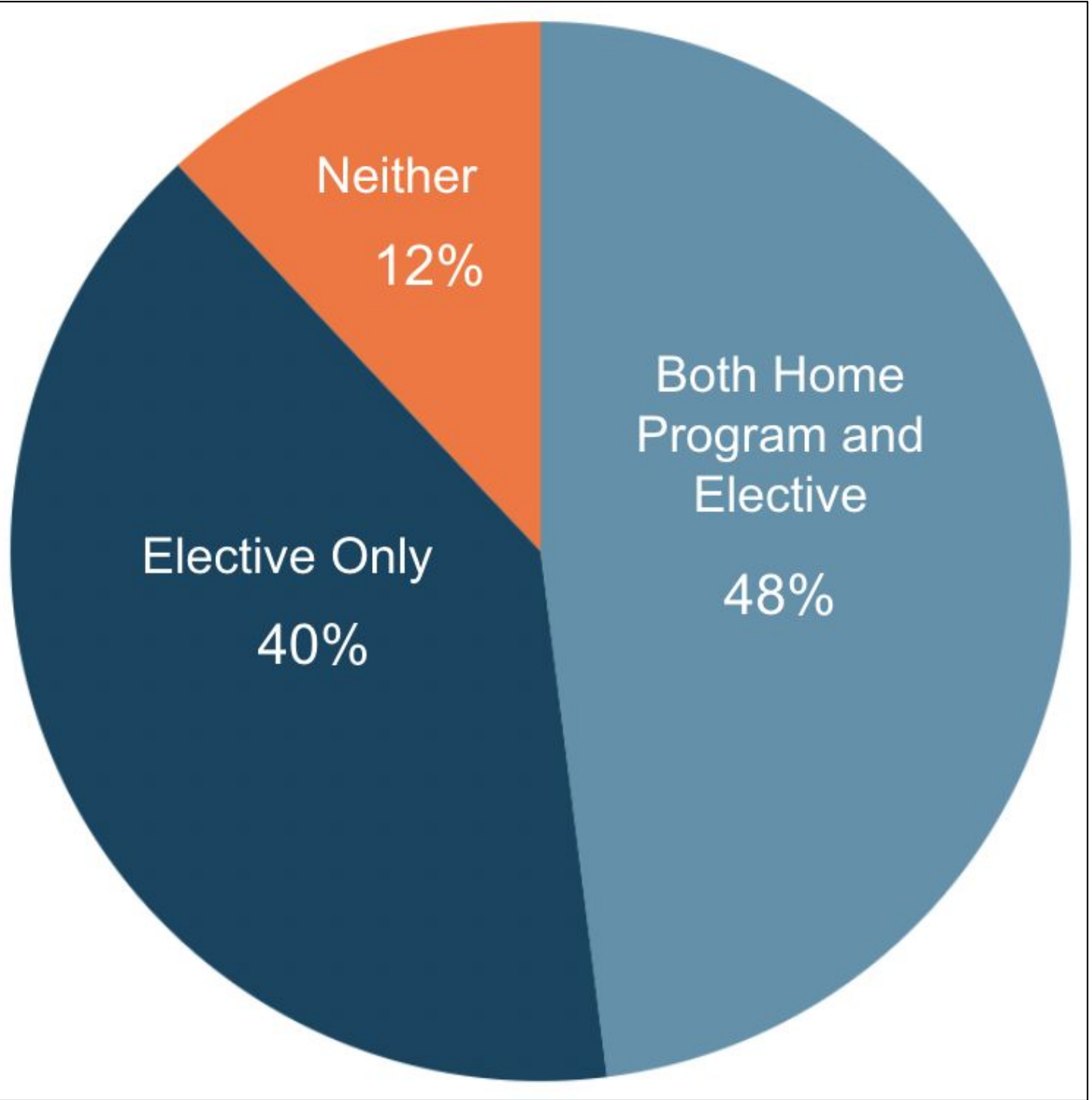


Figure 1. Bar graph depicting medical school groups.

Matriculation into Plastic Surgery by Medical School Group

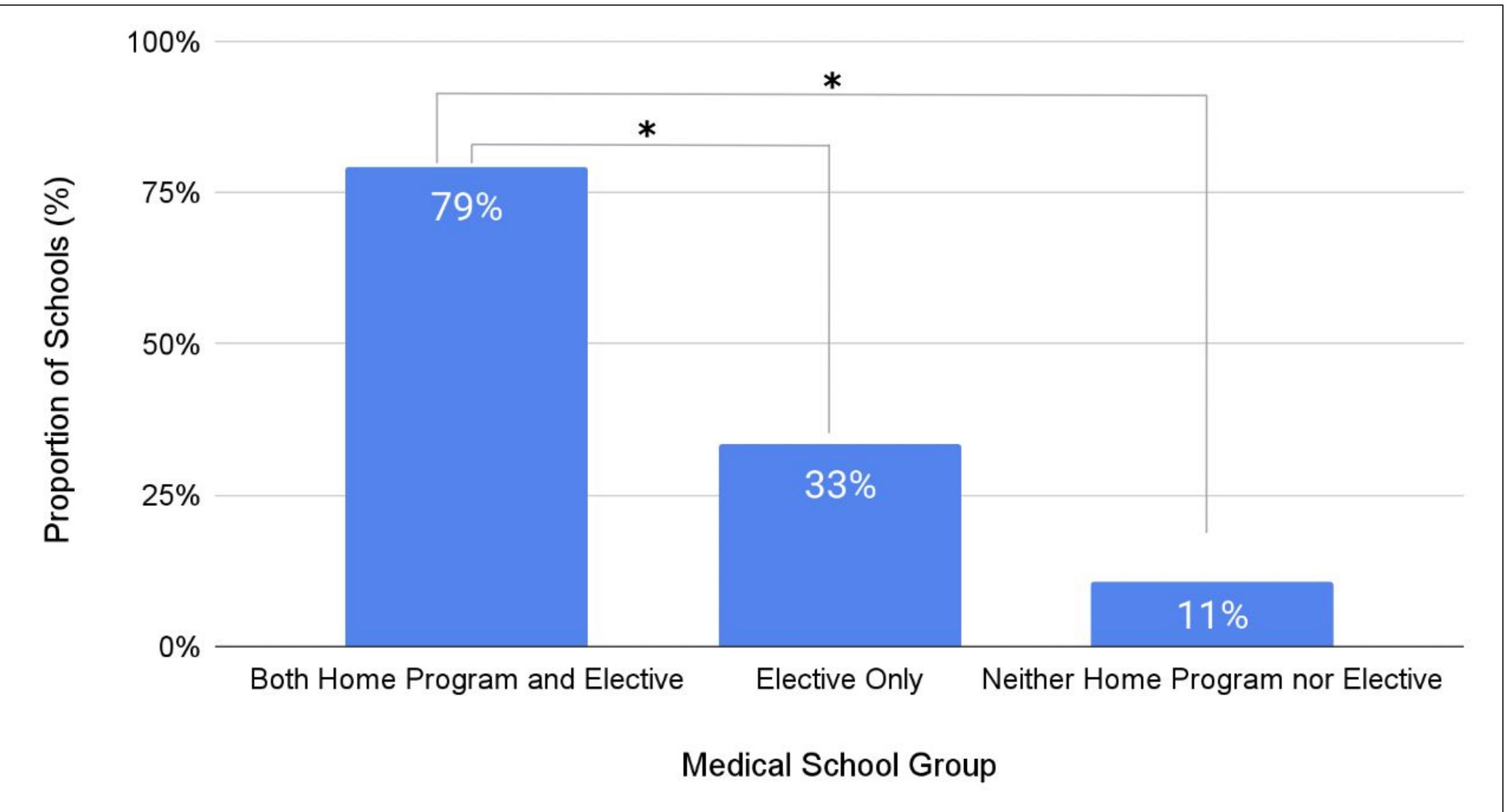


Figure 2. Proportions of medical schools with both home programs and electives had significantly more students matriculating into plastic surgery compared to medical schools with electives only or neither home program nor elective. *=p-value<0.001

Mean Proportions of Students Matriculating by Medical School Group

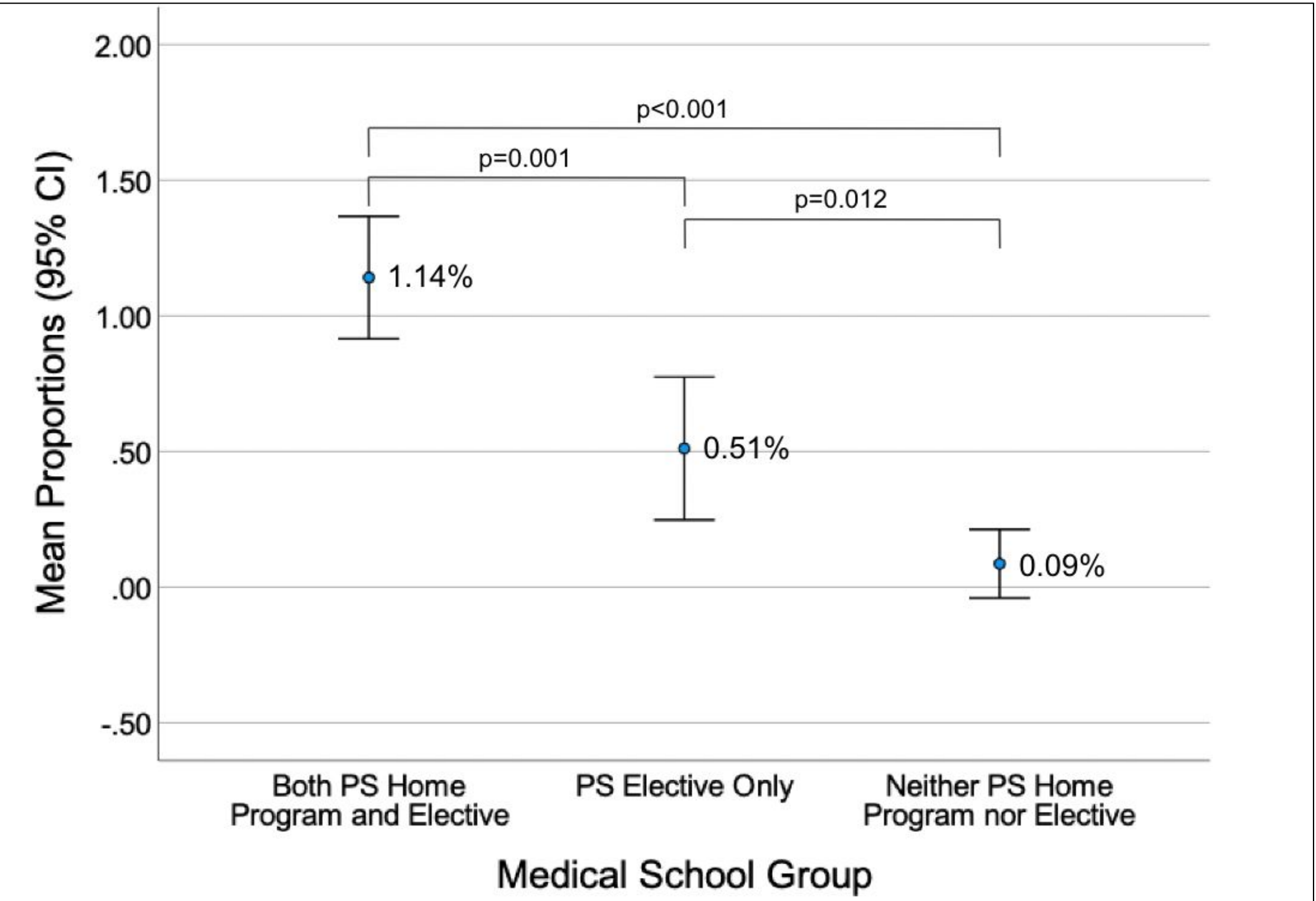


Figure 3. Mean proportions of students matriculating into plastic surgery was significantly greater for medical schools with plastic surgery home programs and/or electives.

CONCLUSIONS

- PS elective rotations and home programs are correlated with greater proportions of students matriculating into PS
- Highlights importance of PS exposure during medical school
- Encourage interest, allow for identification of mentorship, increase participation in relevant research
- These insights will help guide medical students in navigating the PS application process and inform medical schools and residency programs most equitable ways to attract passionate and curious future doctors.