

## Impact of GP and employer flexibility on attendance of cervical screening

With ongoing concerns about the downward trend in cervical screening uptake and women stating reasons such as not being able to take time off work for appointments and most GP surgeries not being open at convenient times, Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust commissioned the following YouGov survey in 2011. The survey was set up to explore the influence that flexibility from both employers and GP surgeries has on women attending their cervical screening.

All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 2718 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 7-10 January 2011. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all UK Women (aged 18+).

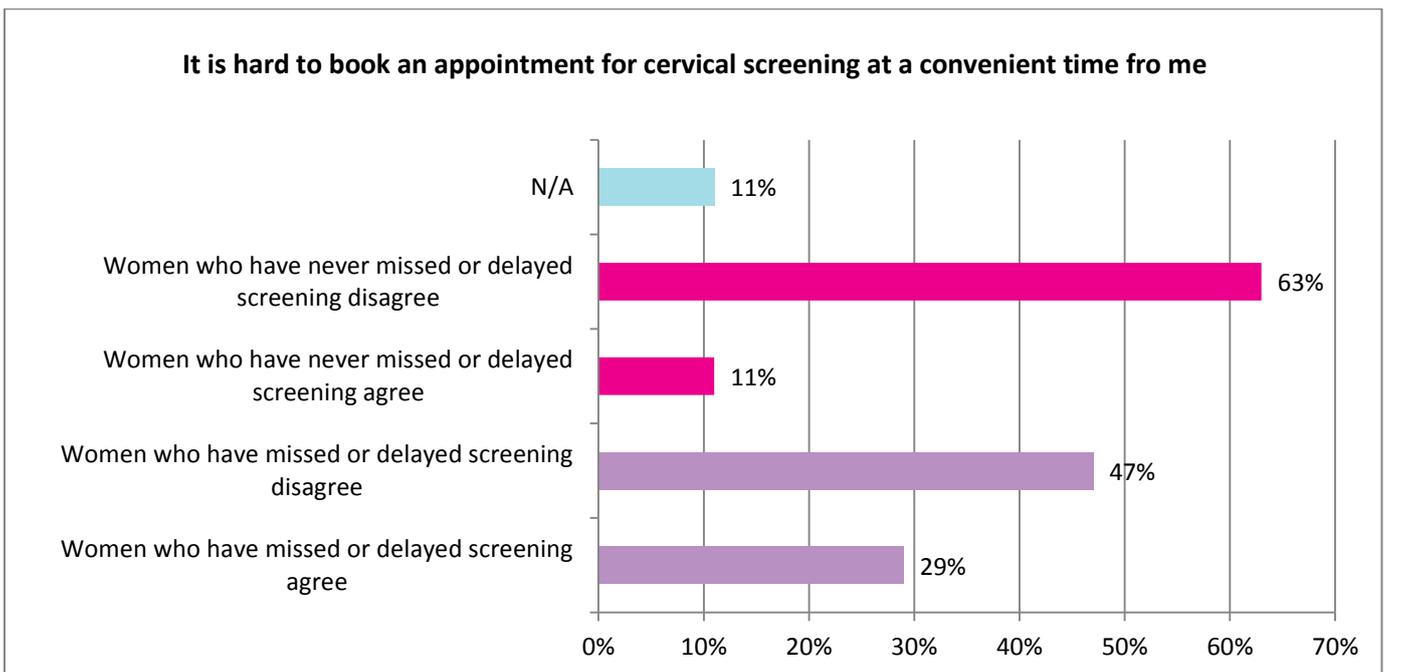
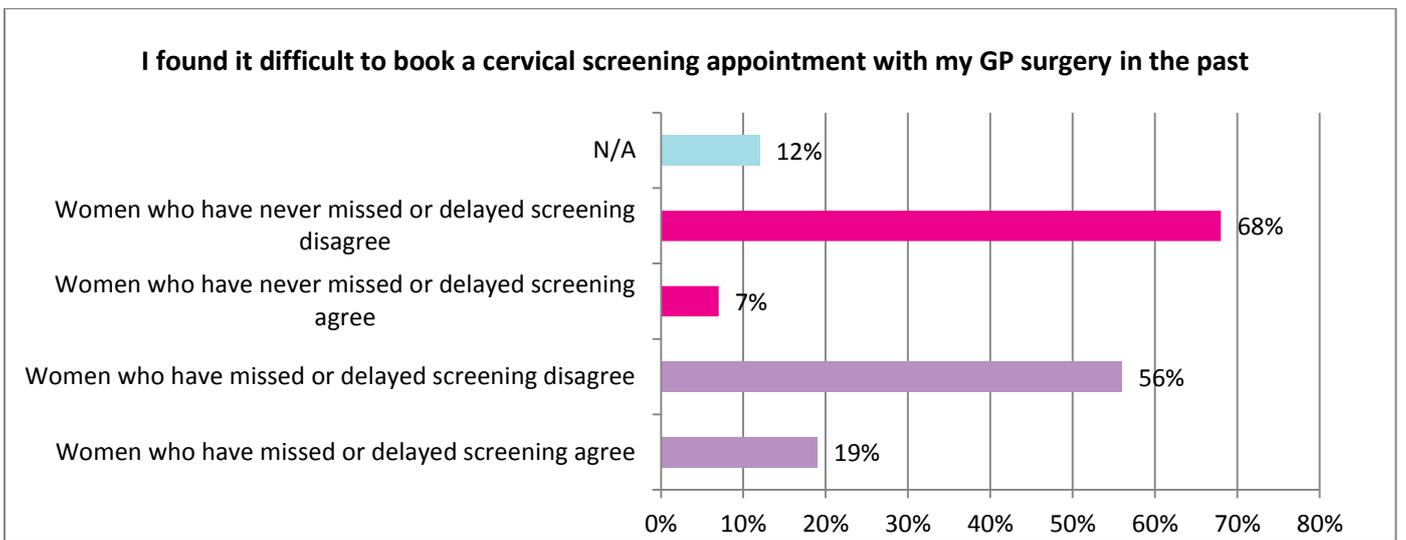
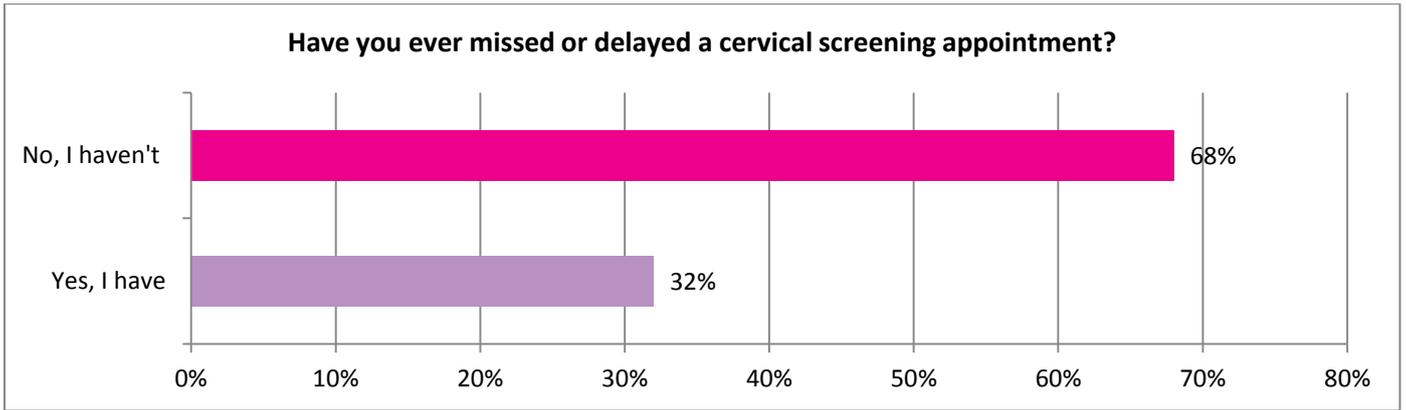
### Key findings:

- Over a third of women of screening age that work (39%) and have missed or delayed appointments said they didn't find it easy to leave work in order to attend cervical screening appointments and more than a quarter (26%) admitted they would be more encouraged to attend if their company was more flexible and they didn't have to take holiday for an appointment
- Only 16% of women of screening age (25-64 year olds) that have missed or delayed appointments agreed that their GP surgery offers screening appointments in the evenings or on weekends which has made it easier to attend a screening
- Almost a third (29%) of women of screening age (25-64 year olds) who missed or delayed a screening appointment said it is hard to book an appointment for cervical screening at a convenient time
- Of women of screening age (25-64 year olds) who had missed or delayed appointments, 35% agreed that if GP surgery opening times had been more flexible it would have encouraged them or even ensured they attended those appointments

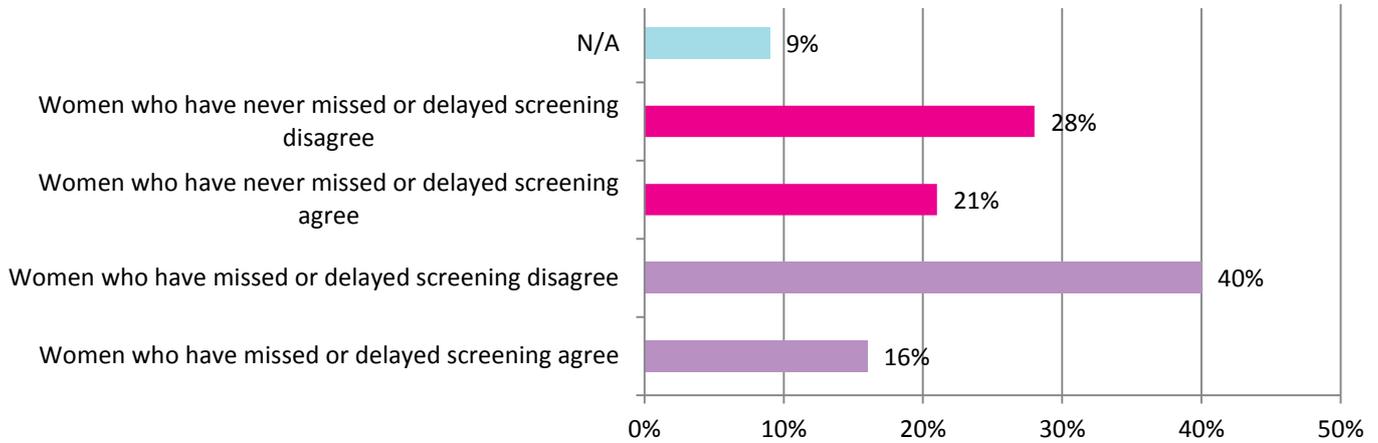
The survey highlights the need for more flexibility both from employers and for appointment times from GP clinics. The charity is now hoping to run campaigns that encourage companies to put cervical screening onto their health agenda. The charity's Cervical Screening Awards also looks for best practice from healthcare professionals as well as organisations which have increased screening uptake in their community.

Below are the most significant results:

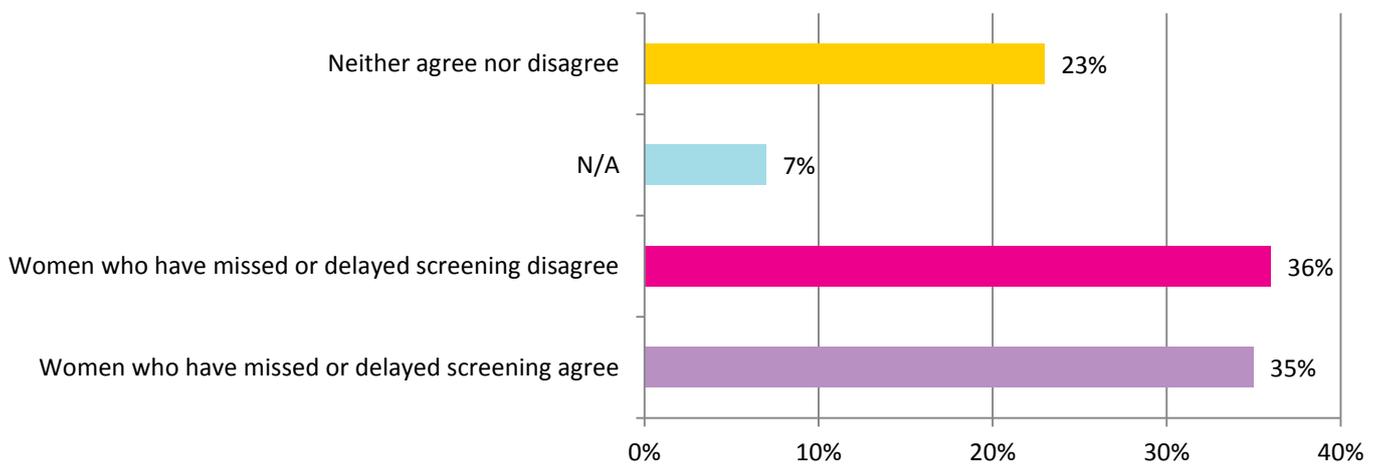
-  = missed or delayed screening
-  = never missed or delayed screening
-  = N/A
-  = neither agree or disagree



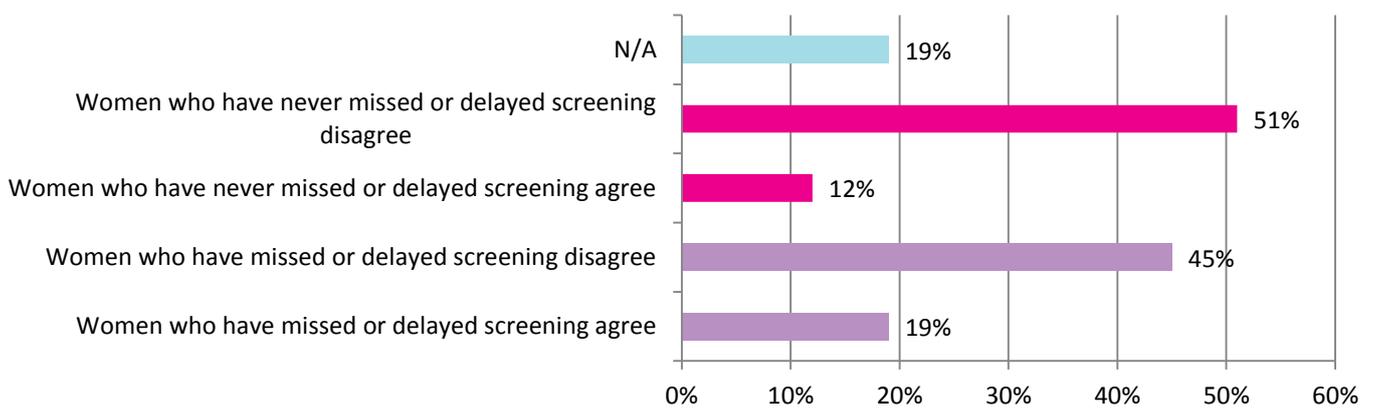
**My GP surgery offers screening appointments in the evening or on weekends which has made it easier to attend a screening**



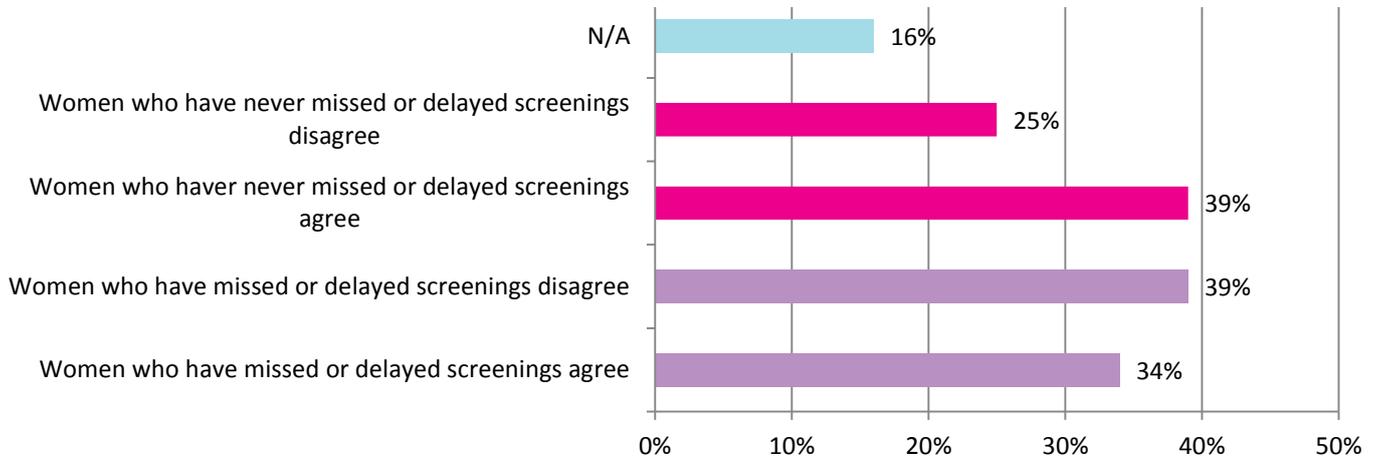
**If my GP surgery opening hours had been more flexible it would have encouraged me/ensured that I attended a missed or delayed cervical screening (only women who have previously delayed or missed screening answered this question)**



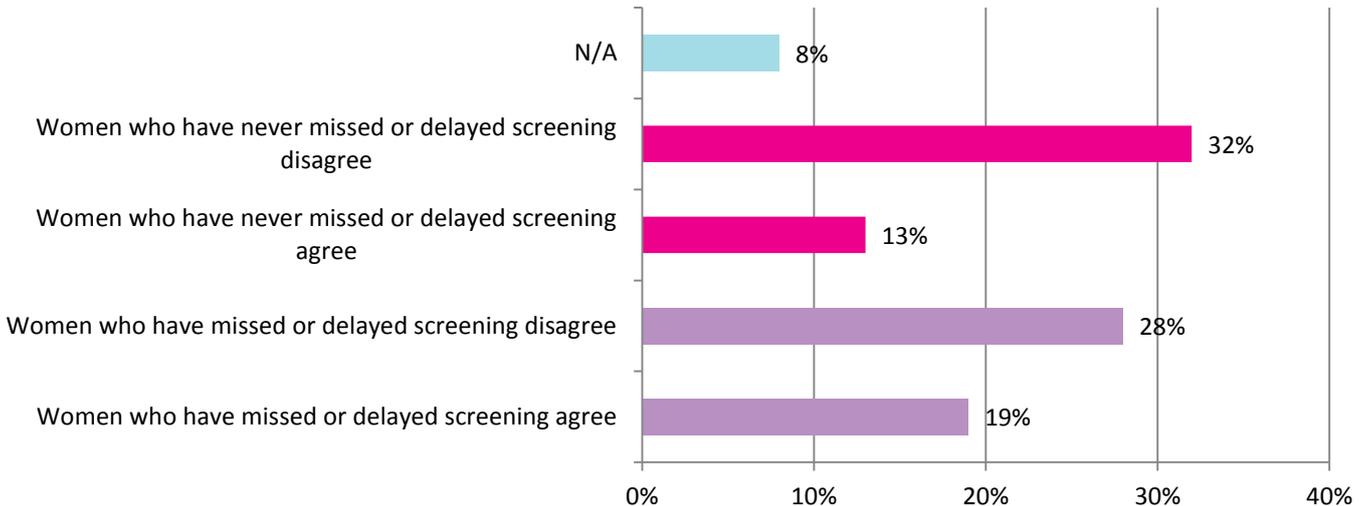
**I can only attend screening during working hours and find it difficult to approach my employer about time off for a cervical screening appointment**



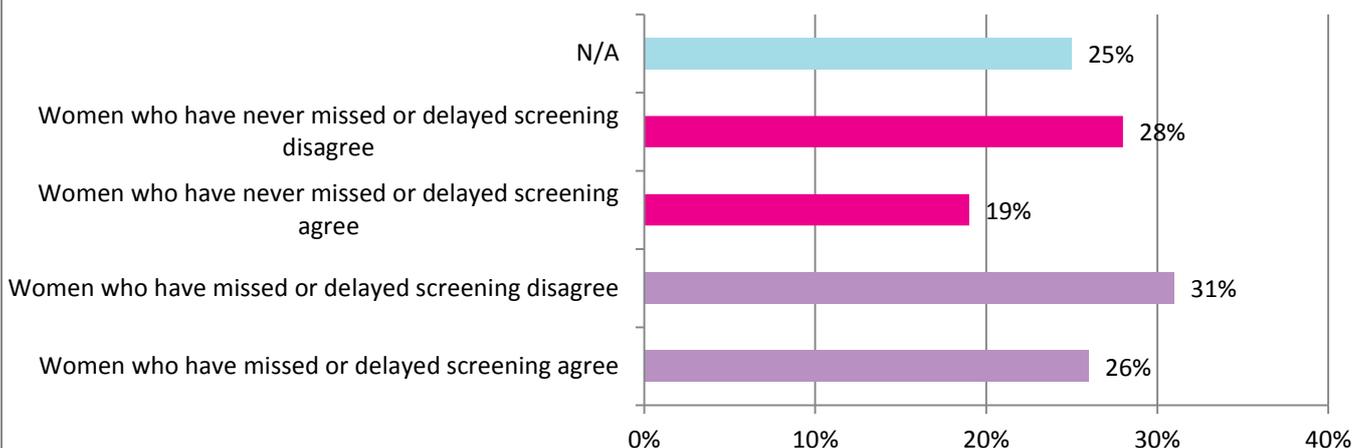
**Generally I find it easy to leave work during working hours in order to attend a cervical screening appointment**



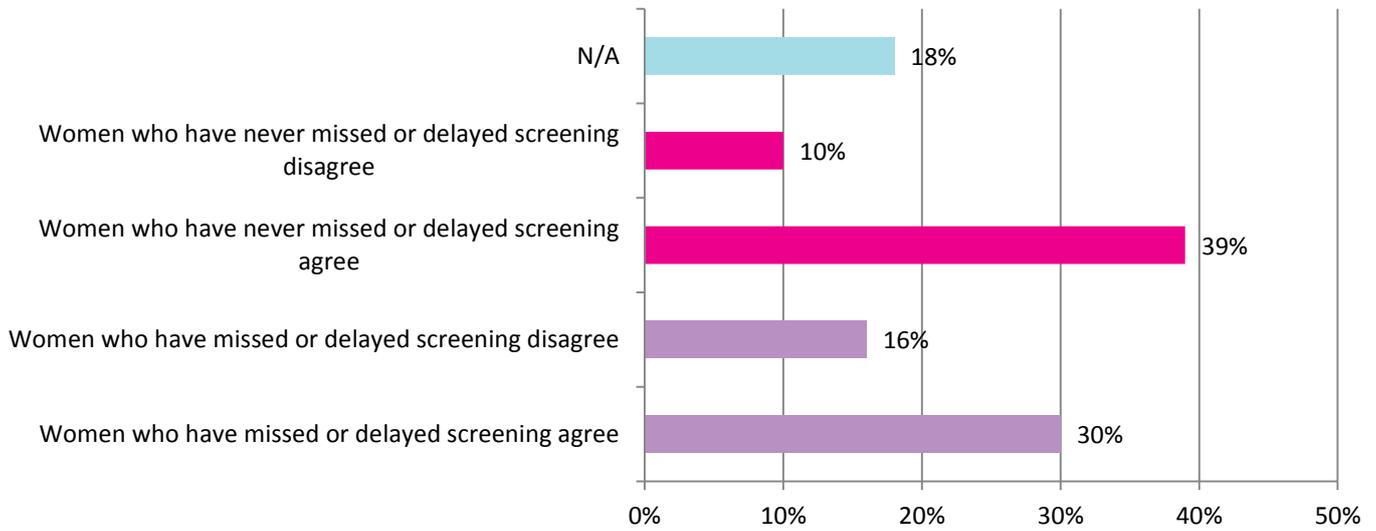
**I have had to take holiday to attend cervical screening appointments in the past**



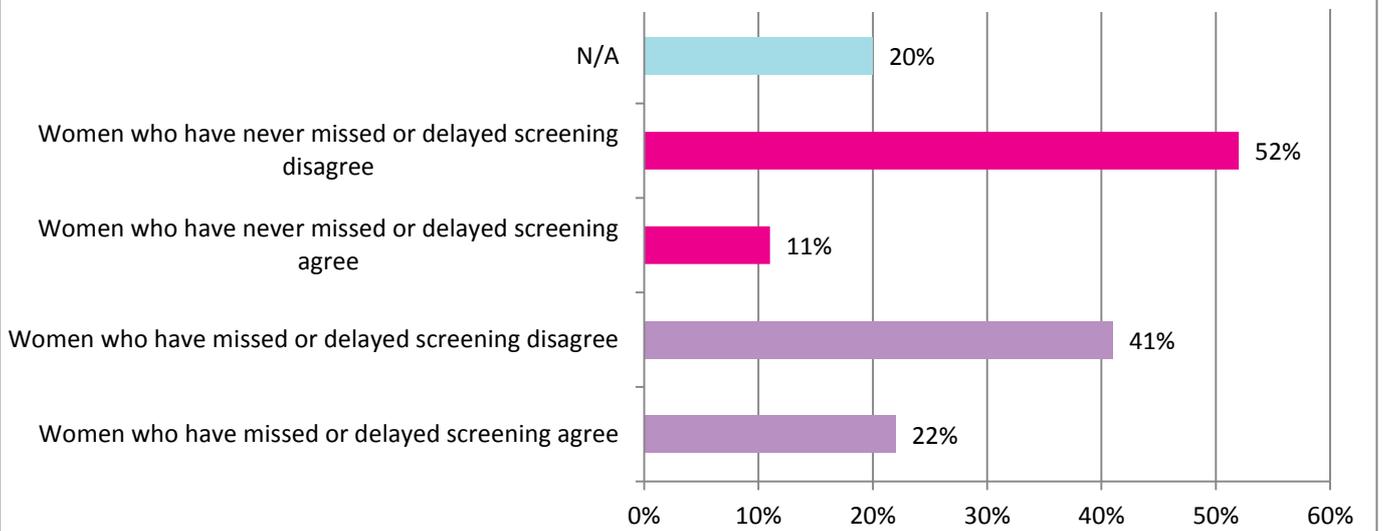
**I would be more encourage to attend my cervical screening appointment if my company offered more flexible hours to attend screening so I didn't have to take holiday**



**I feel that my employer understands the importance of cervical screening**



**I am too embarrassed to talk to my employer about cervical screening so always book holiday to attend appointments**



**Which, if any, of the following are reasons why you have not attended or have delayed cervical screening appointments? (only women who have missed or delayed a screening answered)**

