



COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION SURVEY FINDINGS

SAFE RETURN PROJECT

Richmond, CA

2013

Big Picture

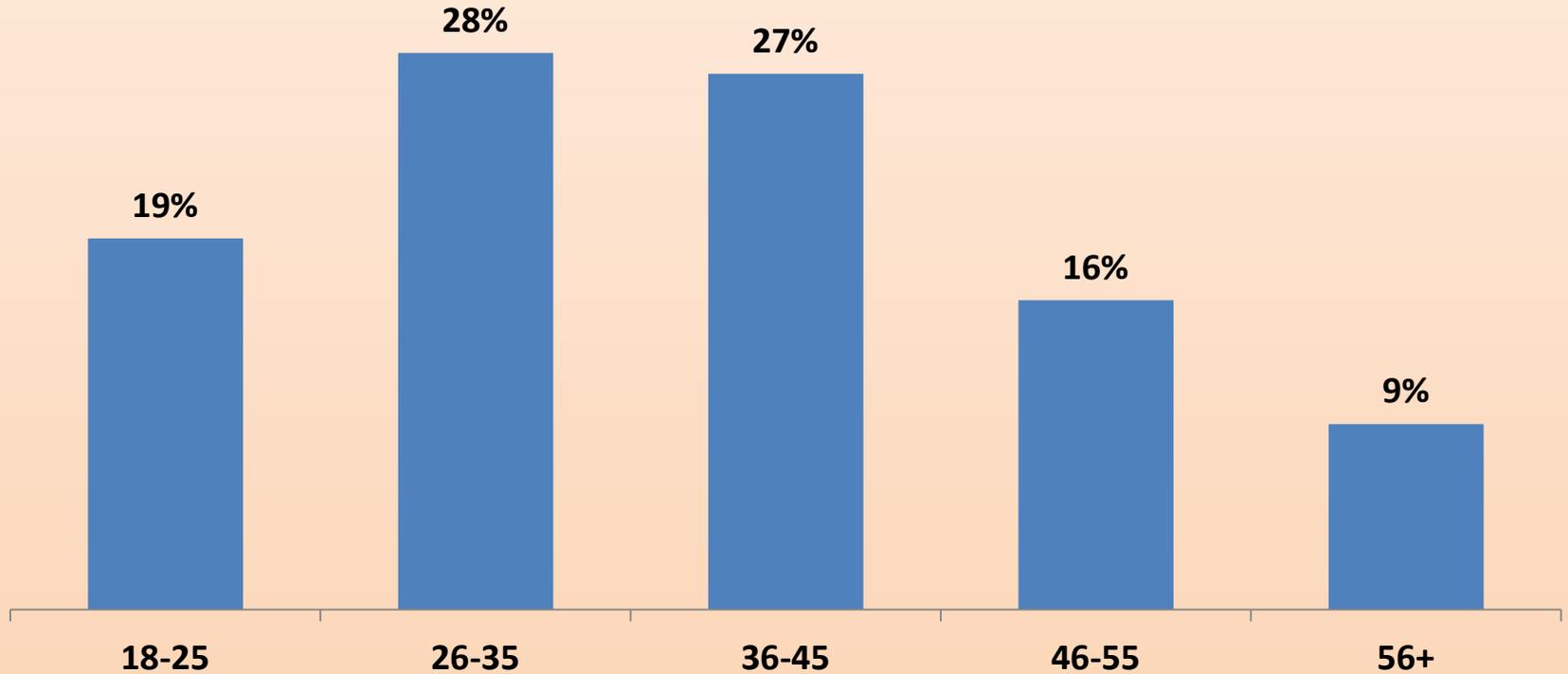
- 25% of people in California have a criminal history
- Prison admissions in Contra Costa County grew 486% between 1970 and 2000.
- African Americans comprise 6% of California's population and 29% of the prisoners and parolees
- Recidivism is approximately 70%

Our Survey Methods

- Focus groups and one to one interviews with formerly incarcerated residents and other community members to identify issues and information needs
- Adapted survey instrument from “*Returning Home*” studies (Urban Institute)
- Surveys conducted at Richmond Parole and Probation offices, and the New Hope transitional housing program.
- Respondents were required to be:
 - Released 3-18 months ago
 - At least 18 years old
 - Is currently on felony probation or parole
- 101 surveys completed during Spring 2011

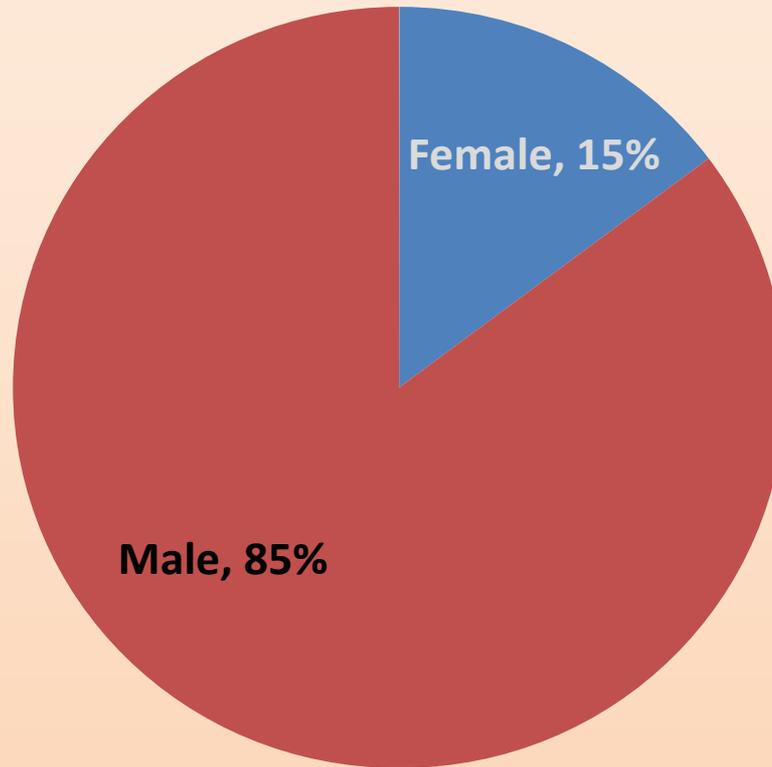
SURVEY RESPONDENTS

19% of respondents were 18-25
9% were 56 and older



How old are you?
(95 Respondents)

85% of respondents were male*



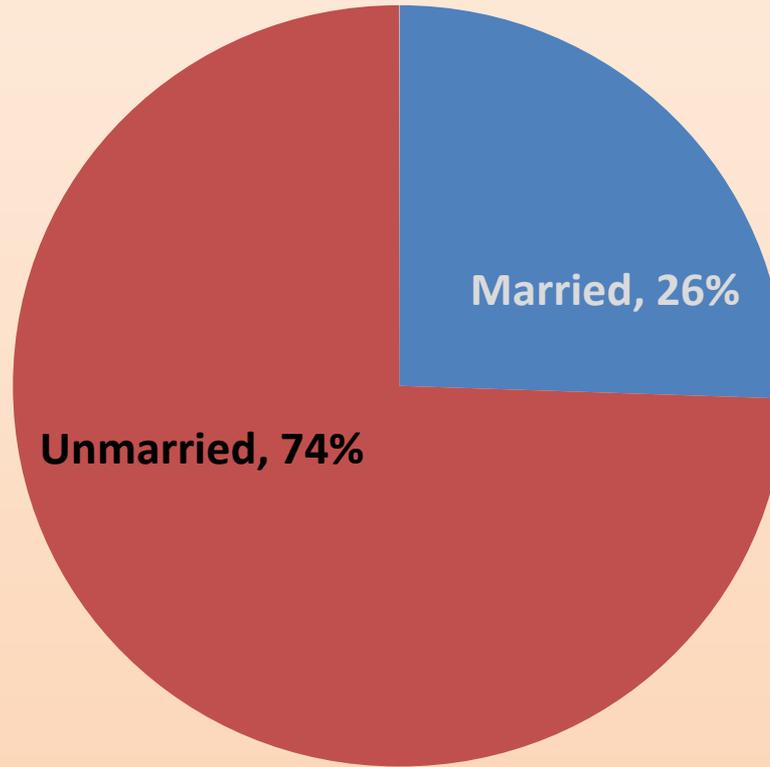
What is your gender?

(95 respondents)

***Statewide, 95% of the prison population is male.**

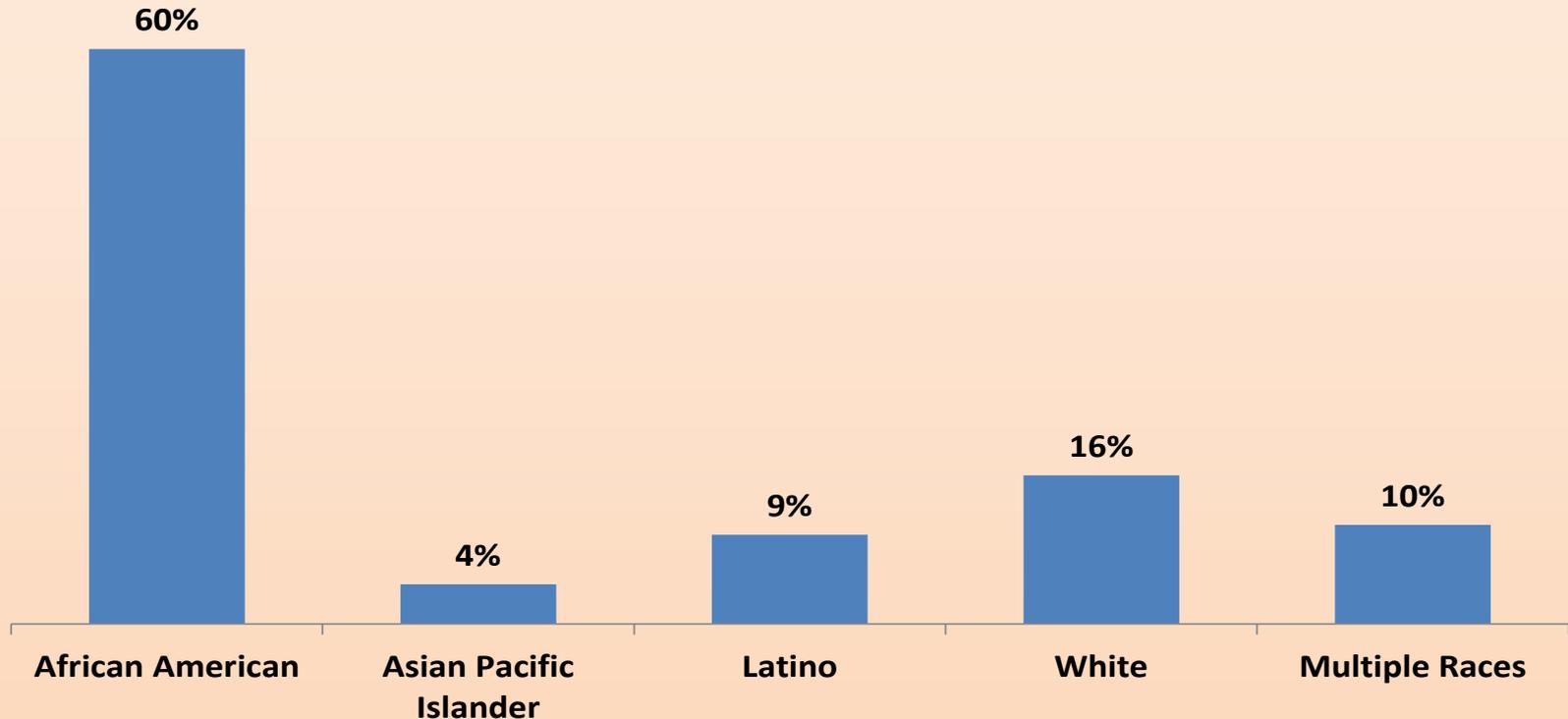
“California’s Changing Prison Population”, Public Policy Institute of California, 2012

74% of respondents were unmarried



Are you married or in a domestic partnership?
(94 respondents)

60% of respondents were African American*



What is your race?

(96 Respondents)

***Statewide, the parolee population is 29% African-American, 36% Hispanic or Latino, and 29% white. The underrepresentation of Latinos and whites may be explained by the absence of any Spanish-speaking surveyors, as well as difference in racial composition and socioeconomic conditions between Contra Costa County and California as a whole.**

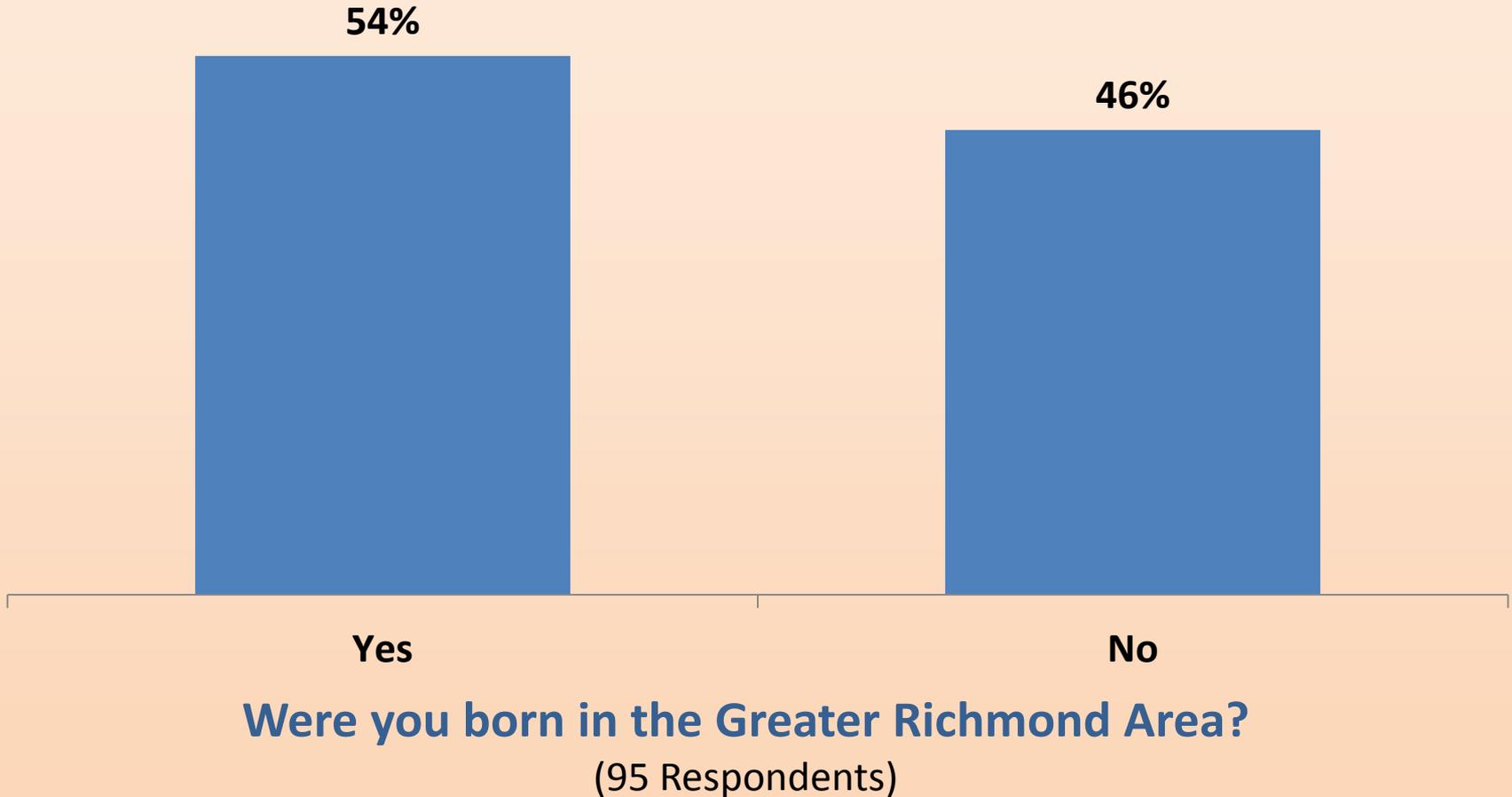
91% of respondents lived in the Greater Richmond Area

Greater Richmond Area	South Richmond	21%
	Central Richmond	19%
	Hilltop / Parchester Village	5%
	North Richmond	15%
	San Pablo	14%
	Greater Richmond (unspecified)	17%
Outside Greater Richmond	Hercules and El Sobrante	5%
	Oakland	4%

Where do you live?

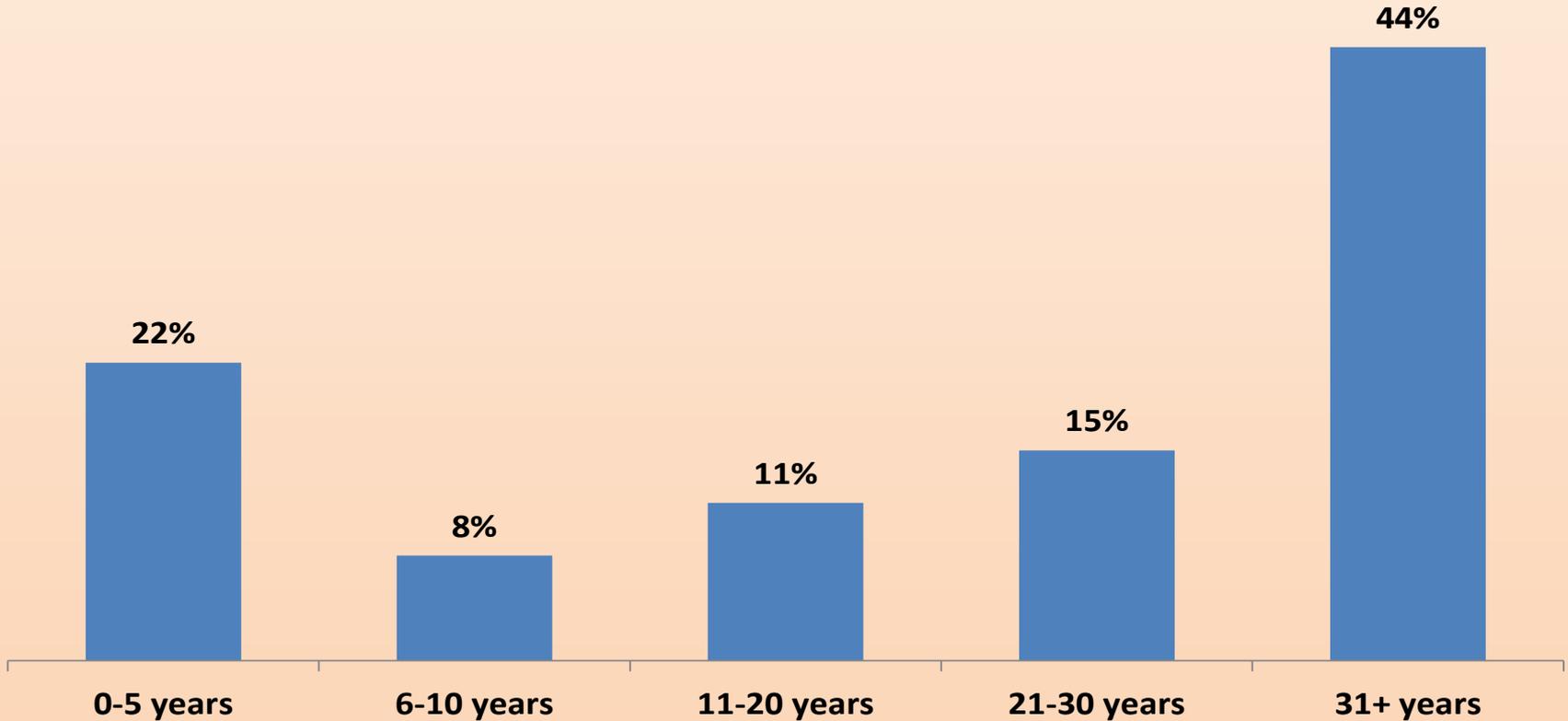
(95 Respondents)

54% of respondents were born in the Greater Richmond Area*



*4% of respondents were born outside of the United States.

44% of respondents have lived in the Greater Richmond Area for more than 30 years

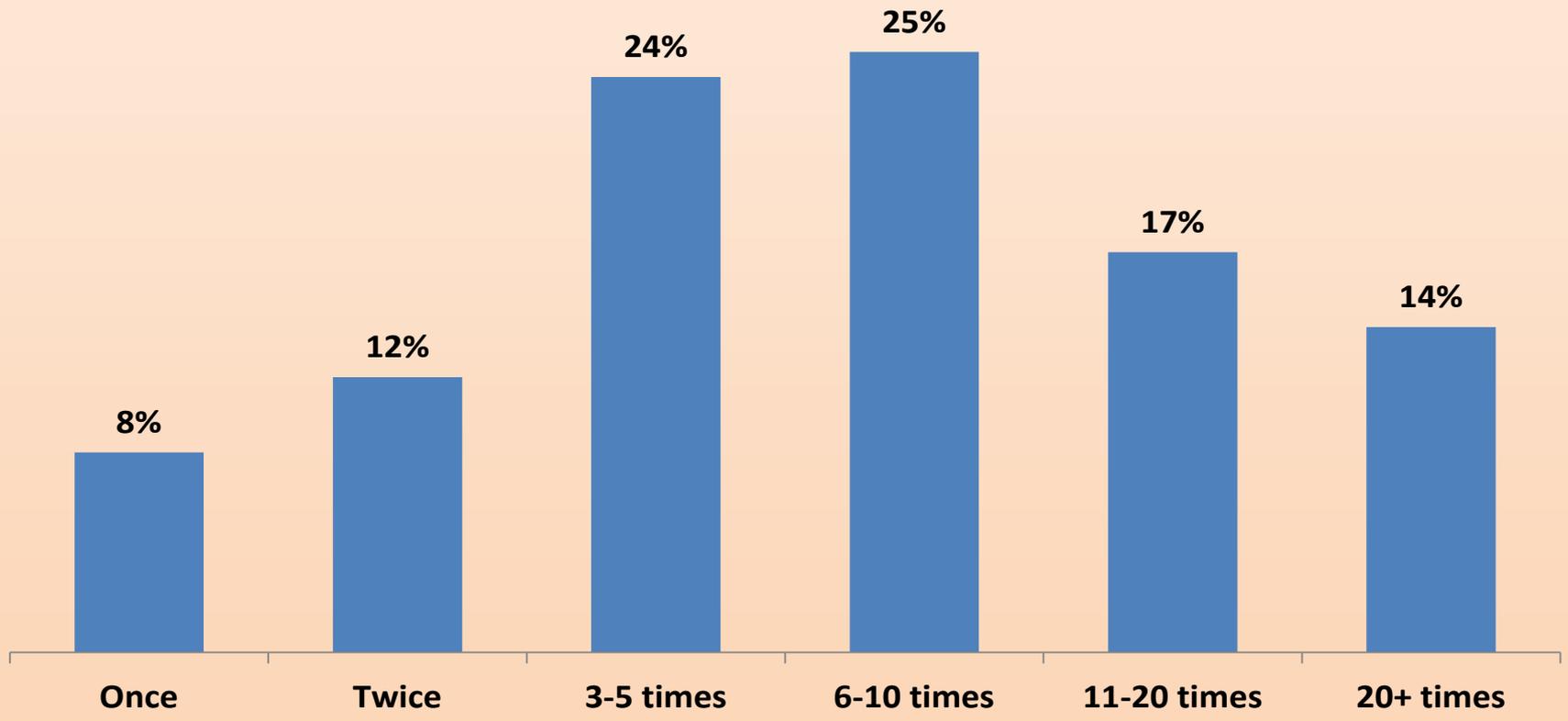


How long have you lived in the Greater Richmond Area?

(79 Respondents)

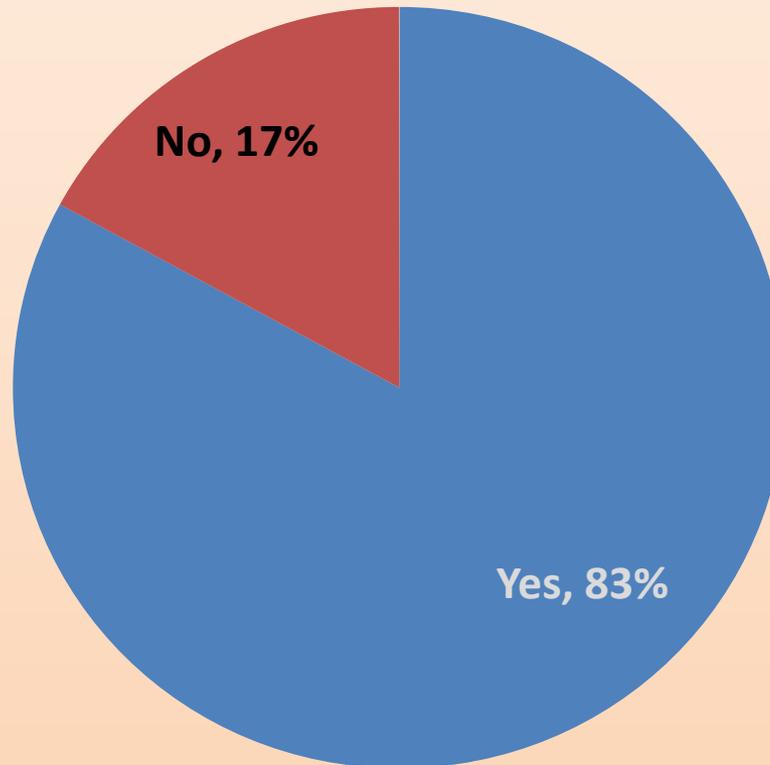
INCARCERATION

81% of respondents have been incarcerated more than once
56% of respondents have been incarcerated more than 5 times



How many times have you been incarcerated?
(95 Respondents)

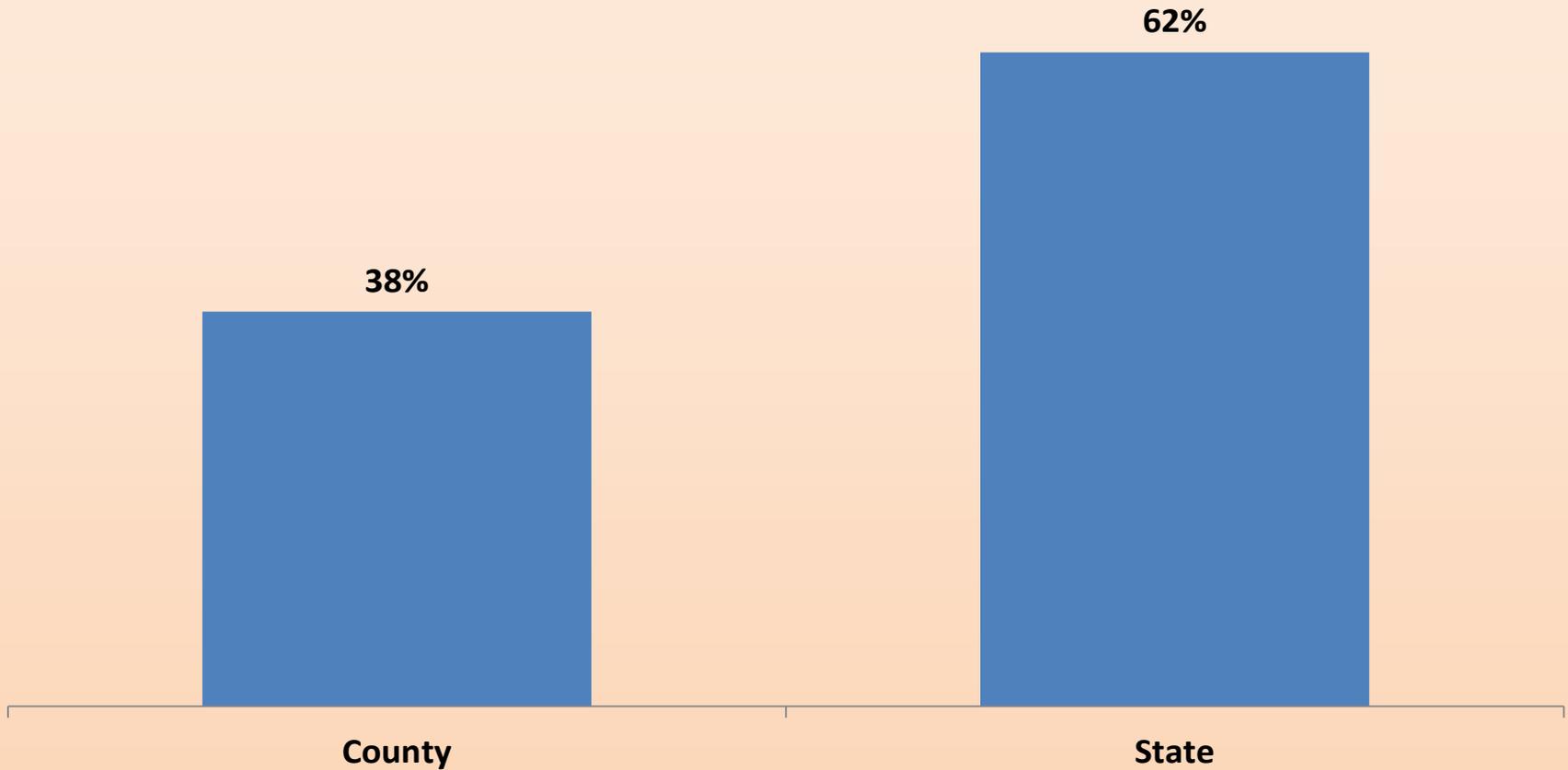
83% of respondents were living in Richmond at the time of their most recent incarceration.



Were you living in Richmond at the time of your last incarceration?

(95 respondents)

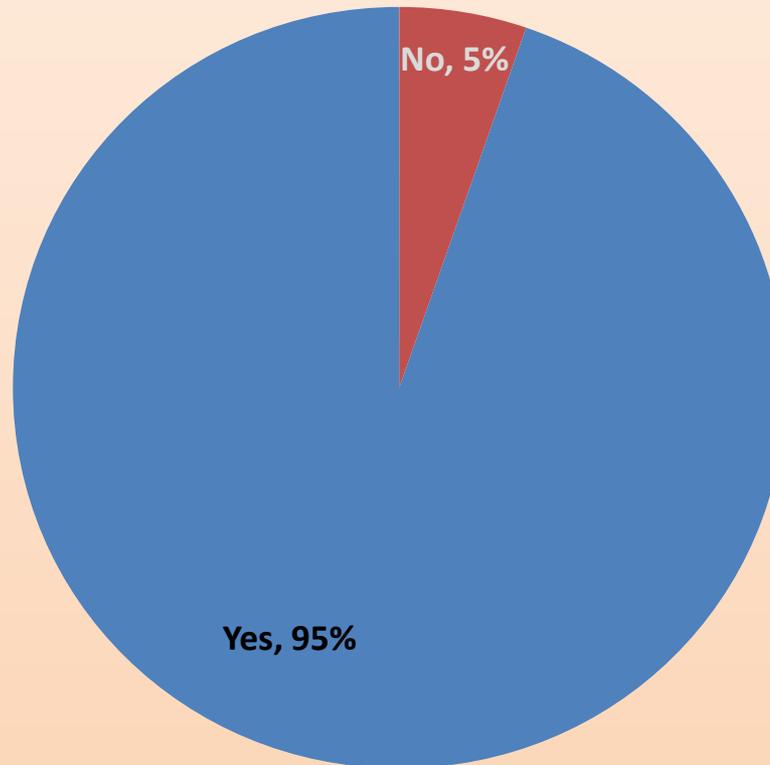
62% of respondents were incarcerated in state prison*.



In what facility were you in during your last incarceration?
(93 Respondents)

***Based on facilities listed for respondents' last year of incarceration.**

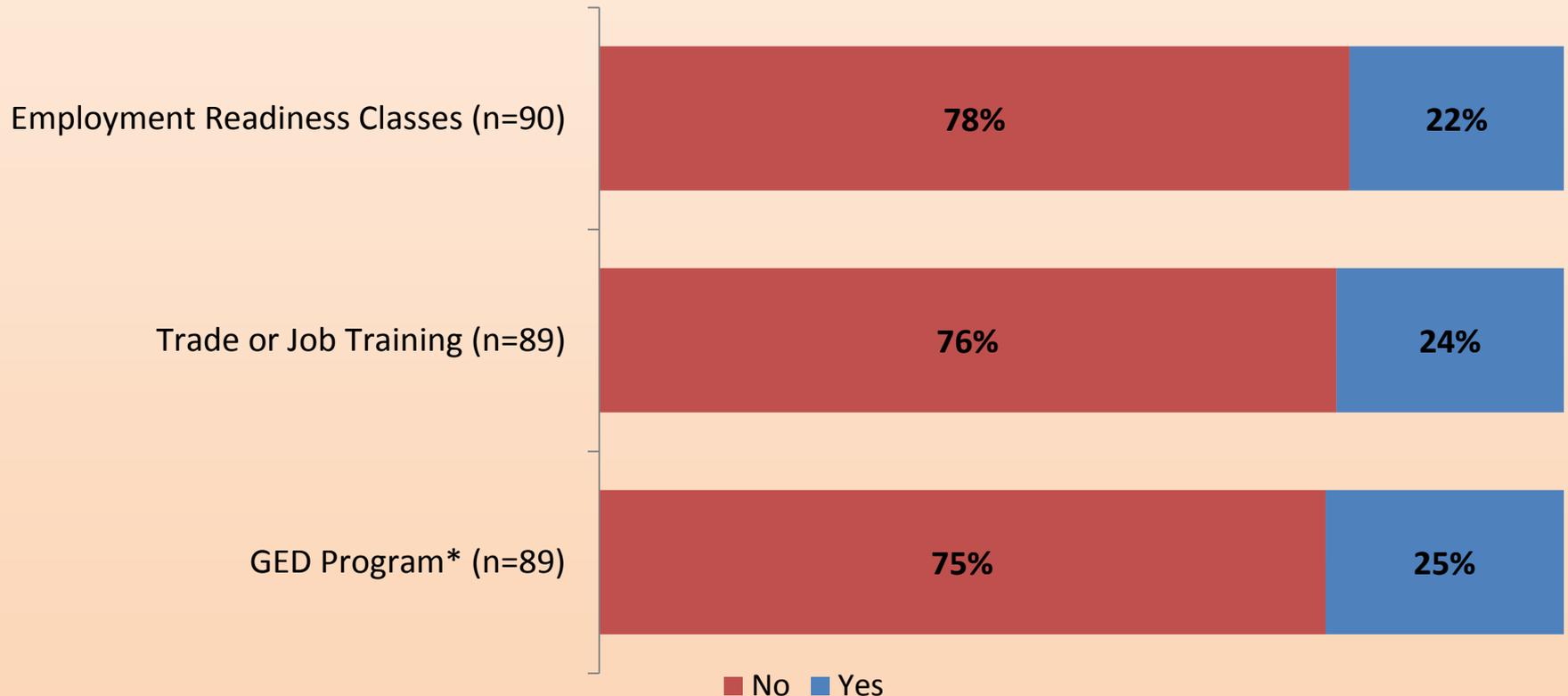
95% of respondents were classified as General Population during their most recent incarceration



Were you in 'General Population' during your last incarceration?
(94 respondents)

Three out of four respondents did not receive any vocational or educational training while incarcerated.

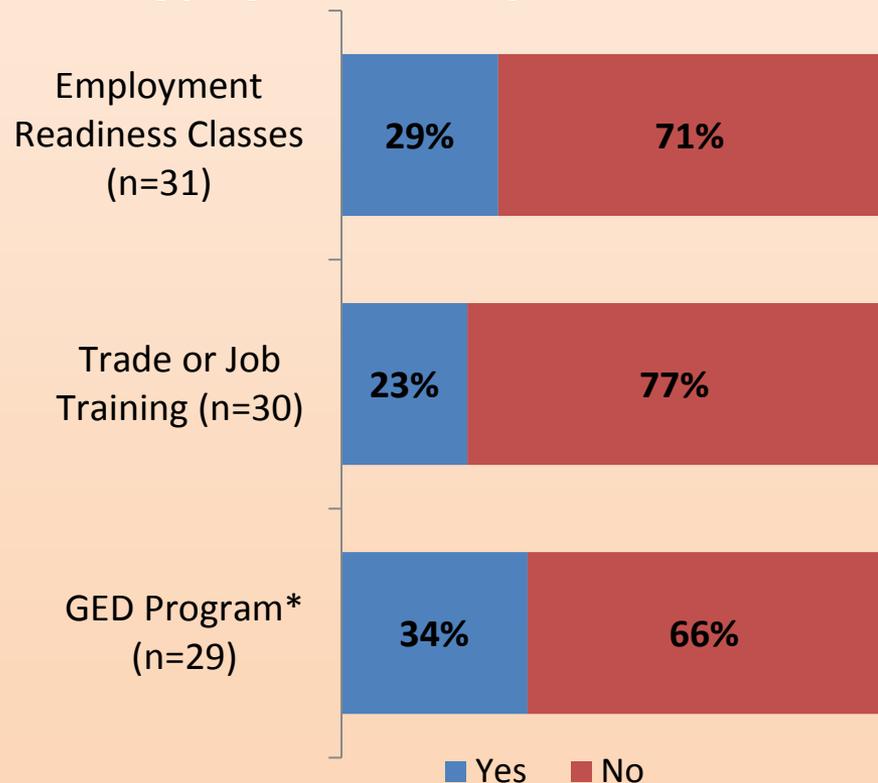
Did you participate in any of the following programs while incarcerated?



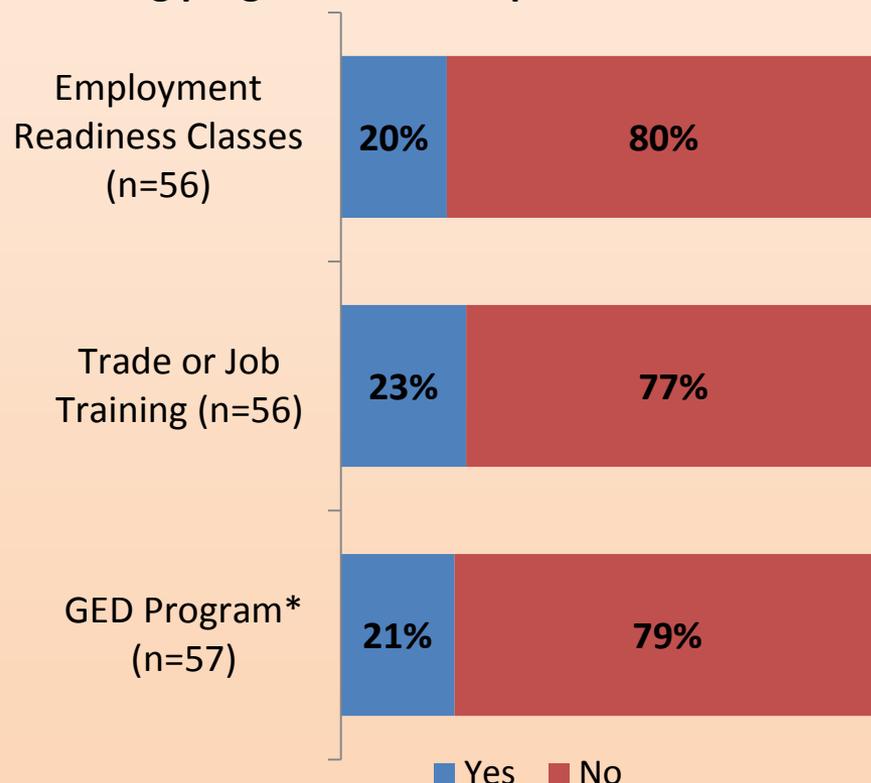
***According to BJS, 68% of prison inmates did not receive a high school diploma. Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2003. "Education and Correctional Populations"**

A greater percentage of jail inmates participated in employment readiness and GED classes while incarcerated.

Did you participate in any of the following programs while in jail?



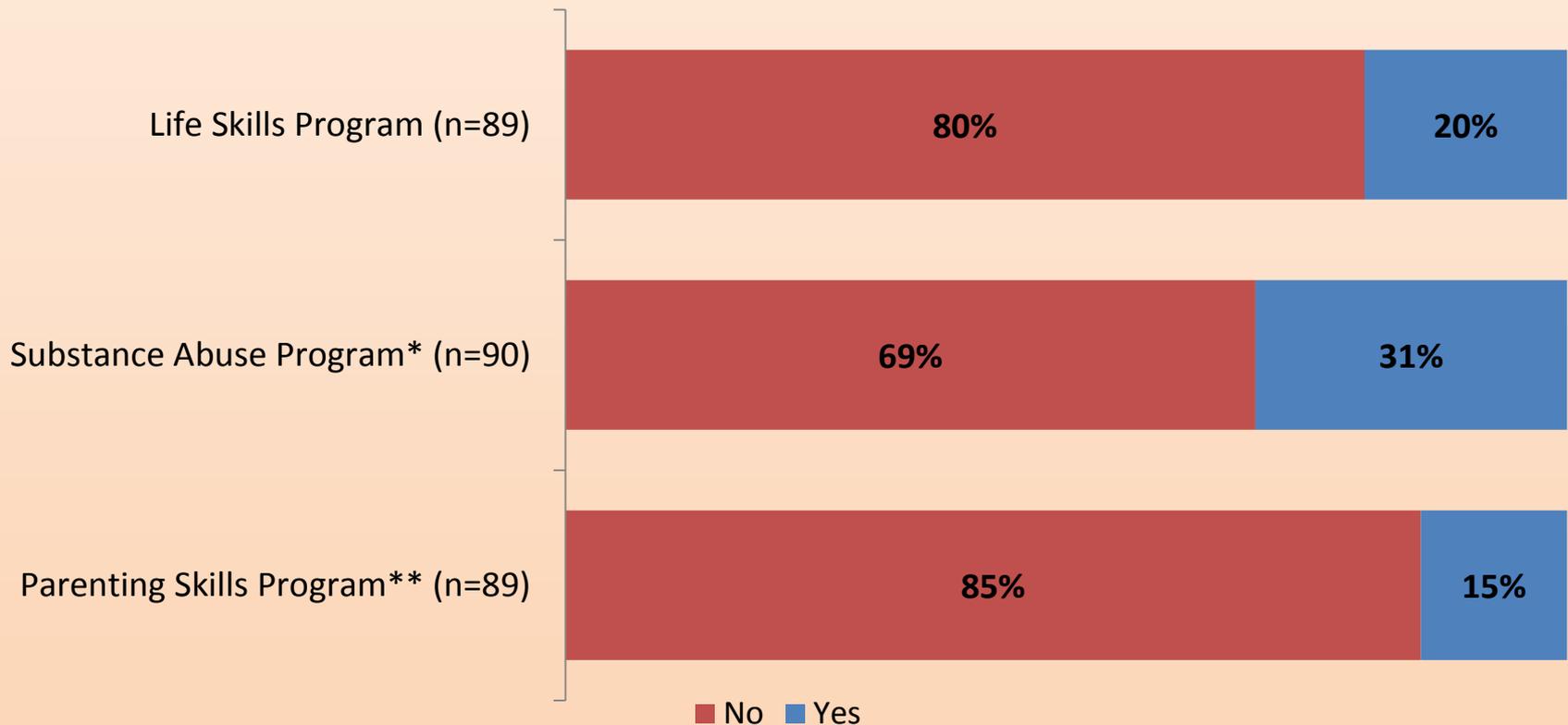
Did you participate in any of the following programs while in prison?



*According to BJS, 68% of prison inmates did not receive a high school diploma. Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2003. "Education and Correctional Populations"

A large majority of respondents did not access life skills, parenting skills, or substance abuse programs while incarcerated.

Did you participate in any of the following programs while incarcerated?

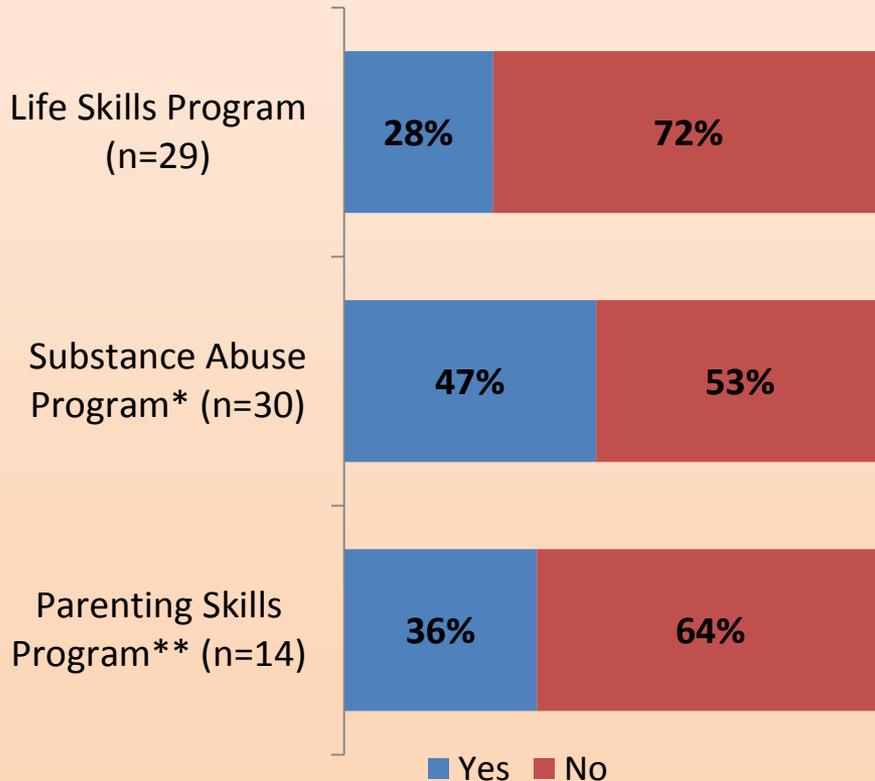


*According to NCASA, 65% of prison inmates meet the medical criteria for alcohol or other drug abuse/addiction. National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, 2010. "Behind Bars II"

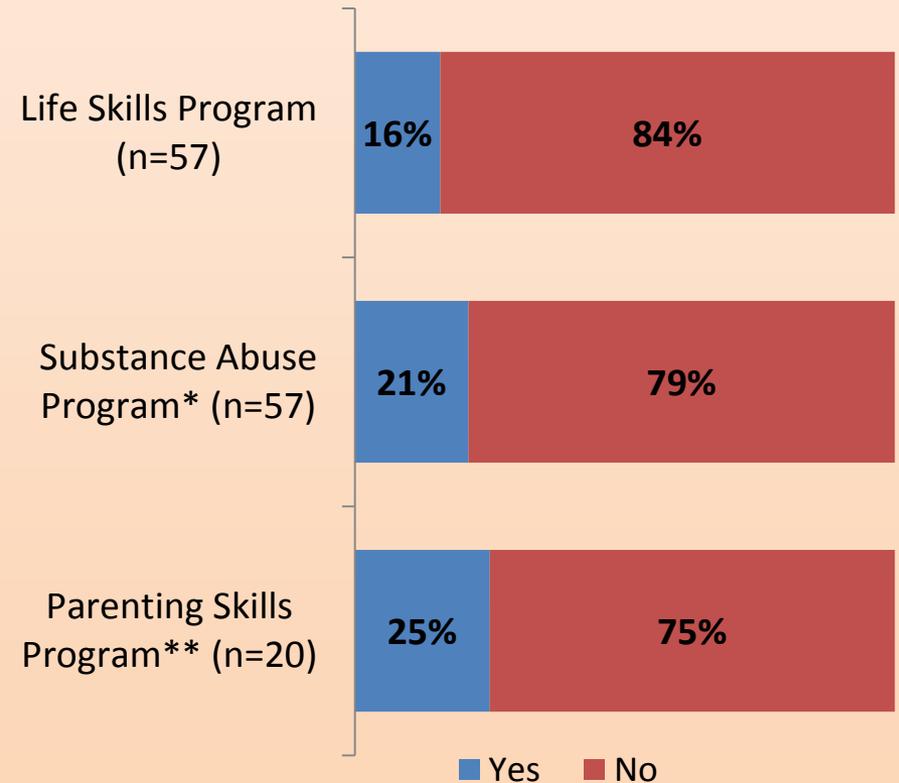
**64% of survey respondents reporting having at least one child.

A greater percentage of jail inmates participated in life skills, substance abuse, and parenting programs while incarcerated.

Did you participate in any of the following programs while in jail?



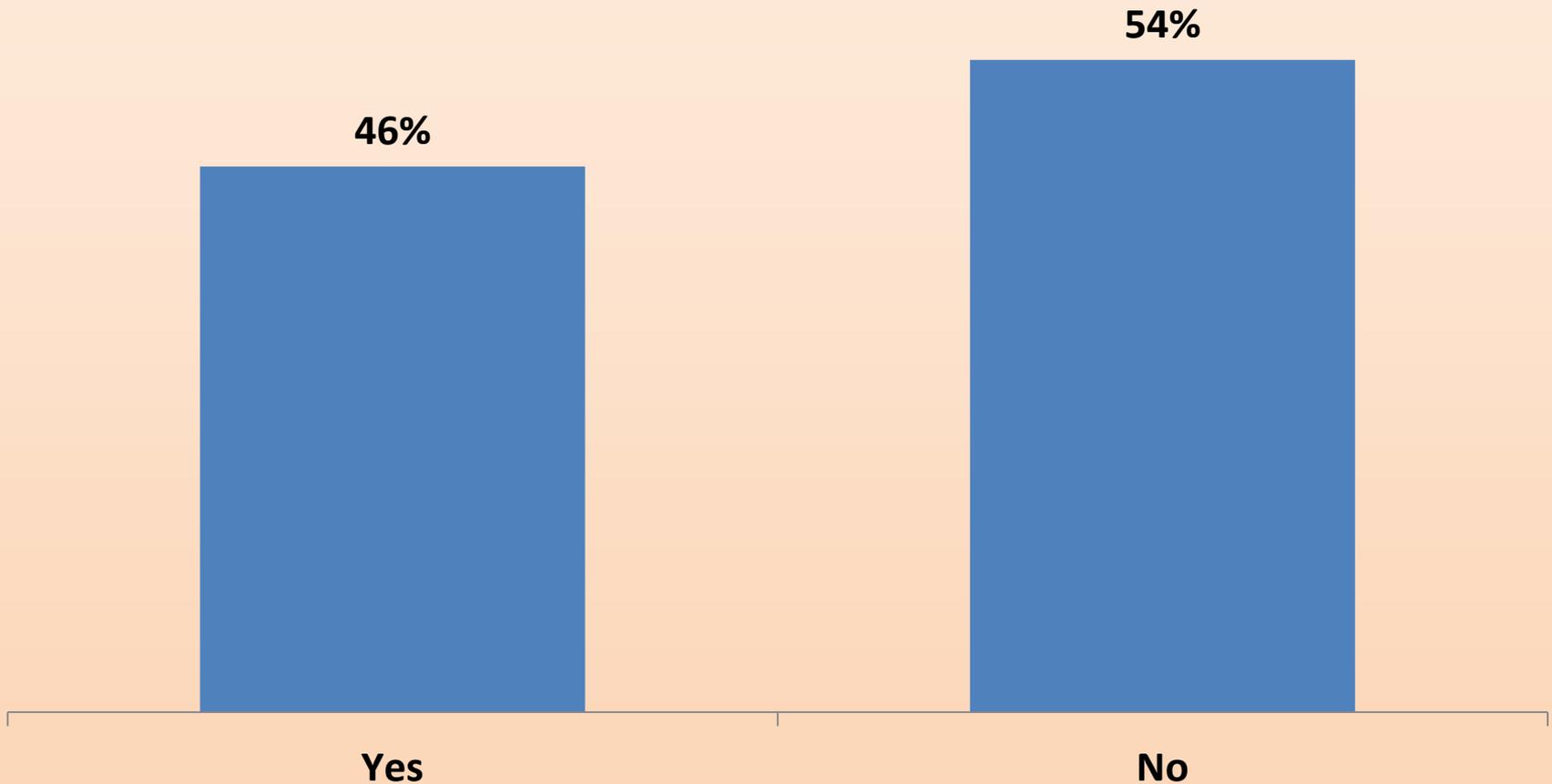
Did you participate in any of the following programs while in prison?



***According to BJS, 68% of prison inmates did not receive a high school diploma. Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2003. "Education and Correctional Populations"**

ESSENTIAL PRE-RELEASE SERVICES

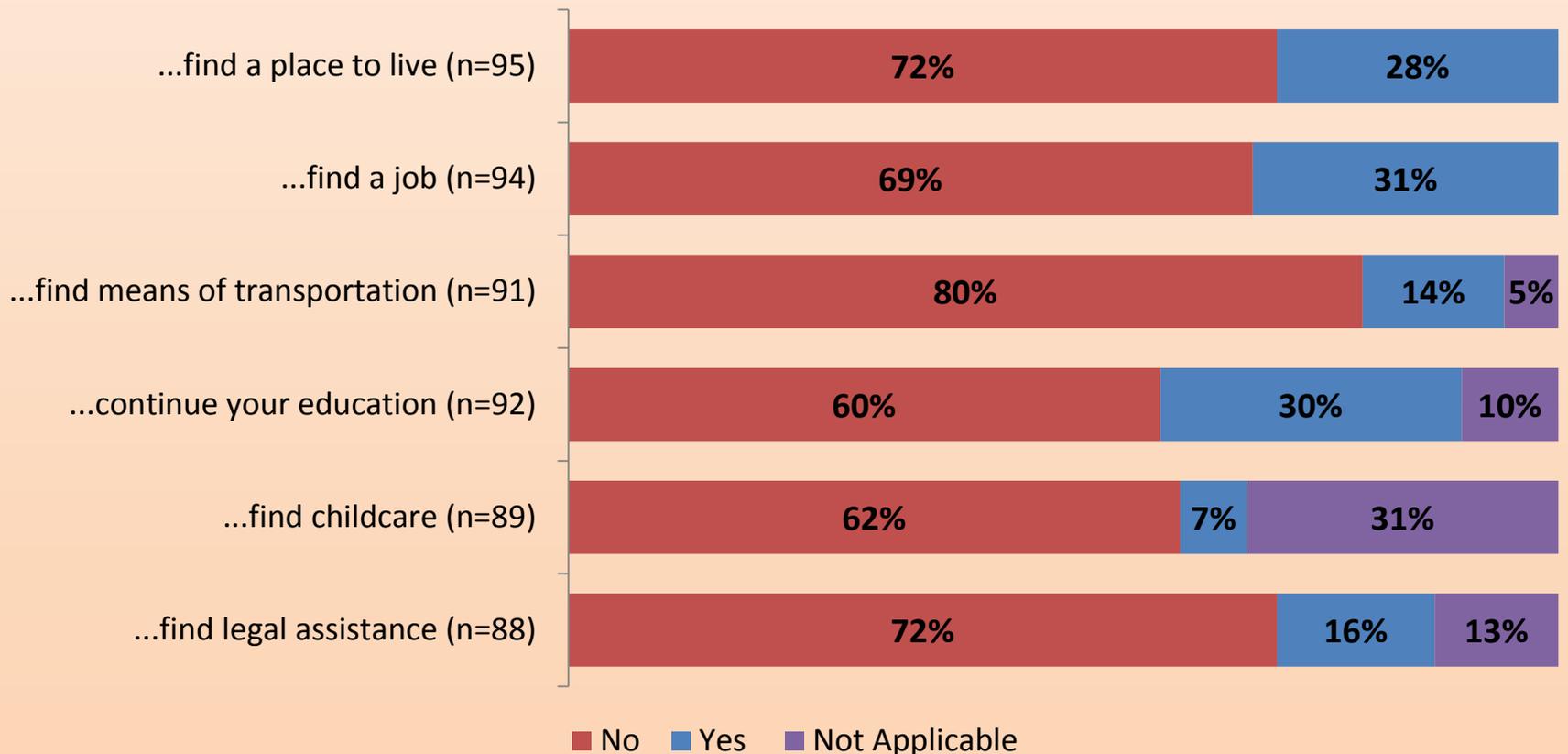
54% of respondents said they did not receive any pre-release services, such as classes, programs, or one-on-one counseling



Did you receive any pre-release services?
(90 Respondents)

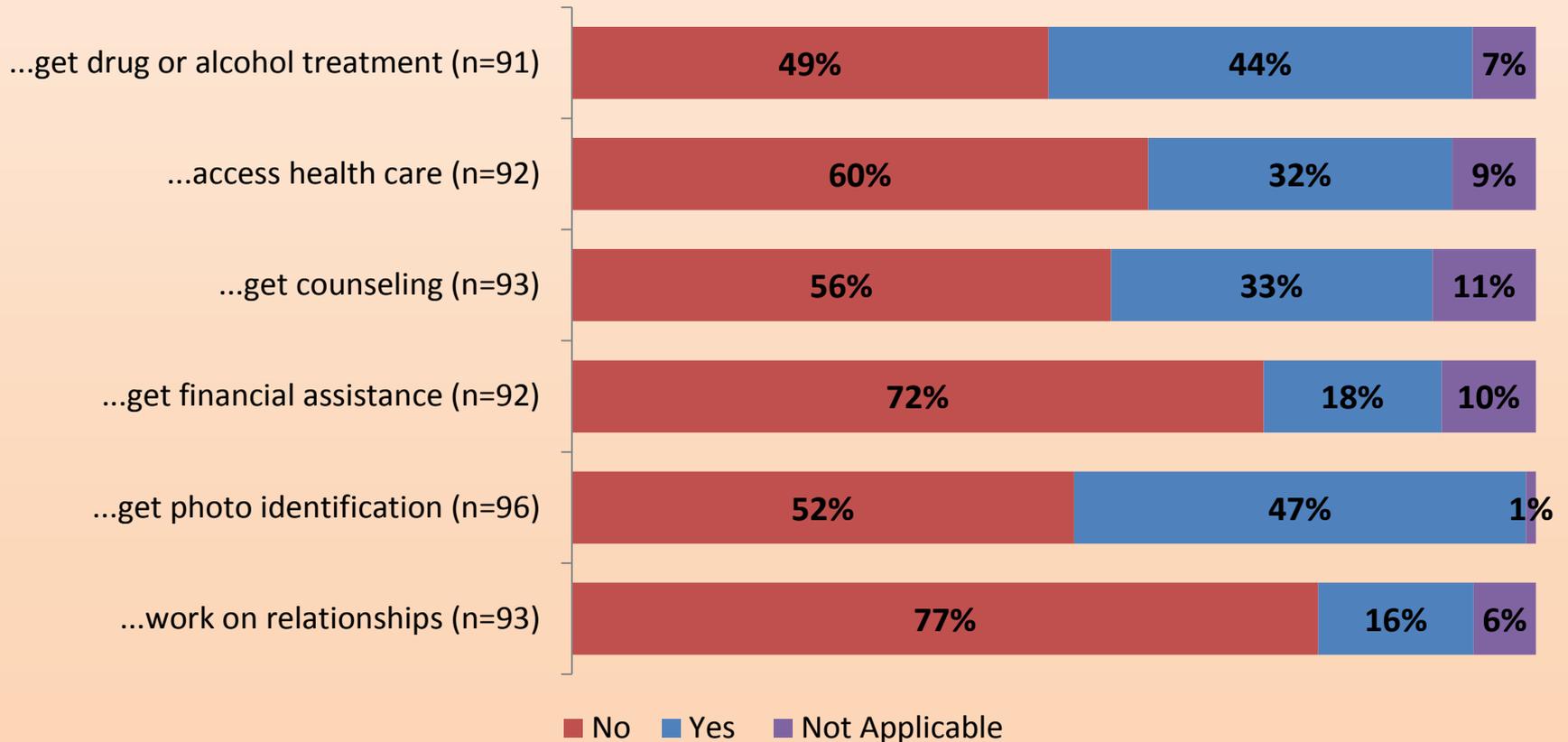
The majority of respondents DID NOT receive any information about how to meet basic needs upon release, such as how to find a place to live, find a job, or continue their education

Prior to release were you provided with any information about how to...

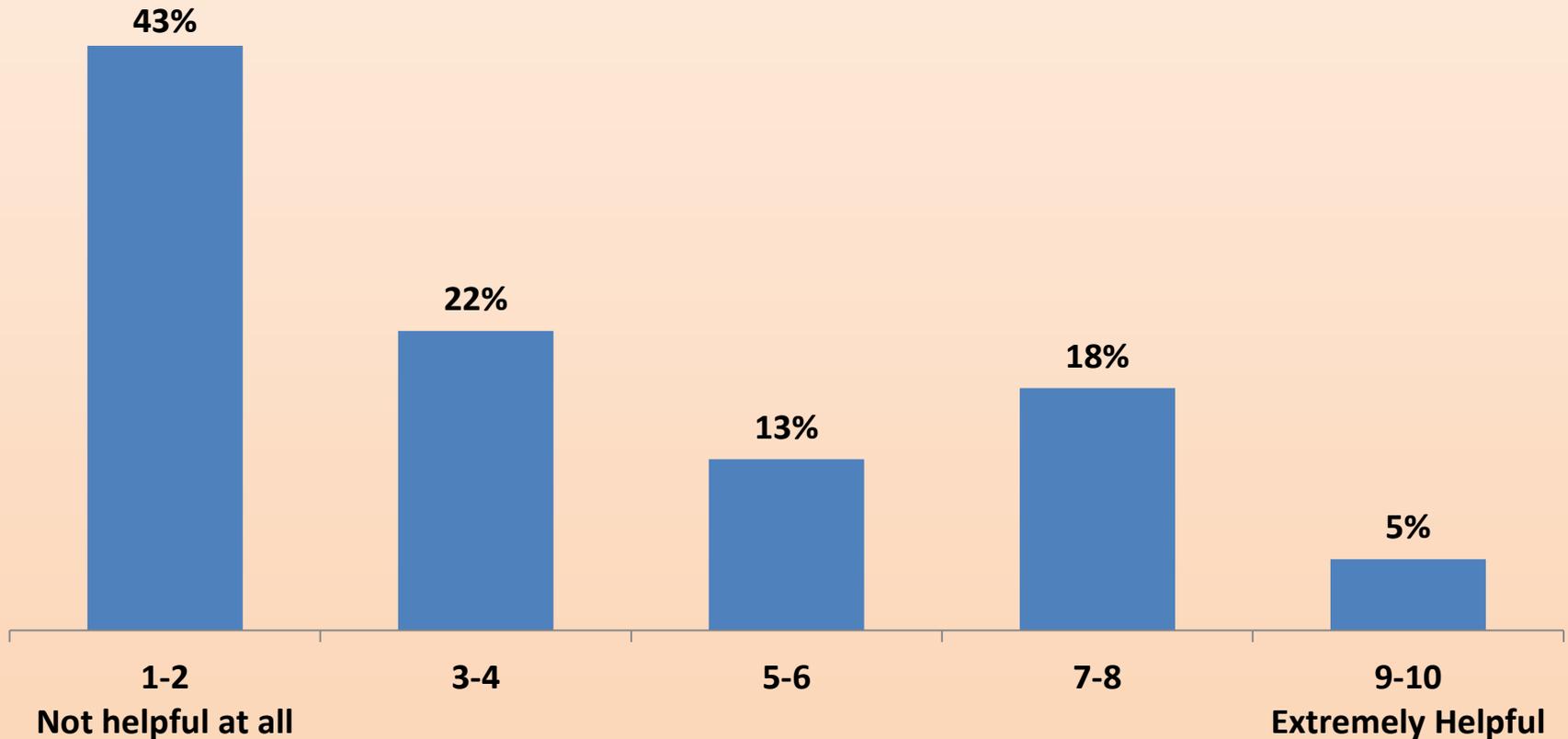


Most respondents had not received information about accessing key services, such as healthcare, counseling, or drug and alcohol treatment

Prior to release were you provided with any information about how to...



When asked to rate the information or services they received prior to release, 43% said they were not helpful at all.

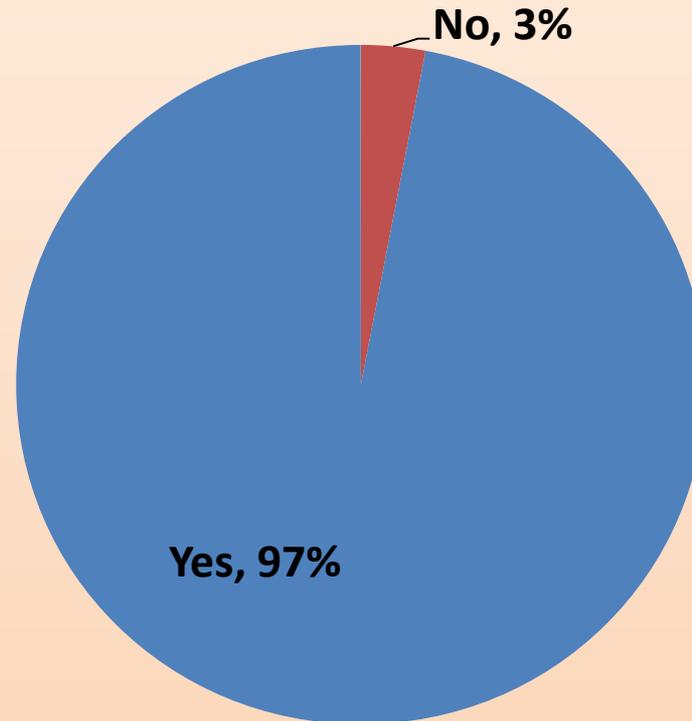


On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate the information or services you received prior to release?

(96 Respondents)

POST-RELEASE

97% were on some form of post-release supervision.



Are you currently on probation, parole, or other post-release supervision?
(96 respondents)

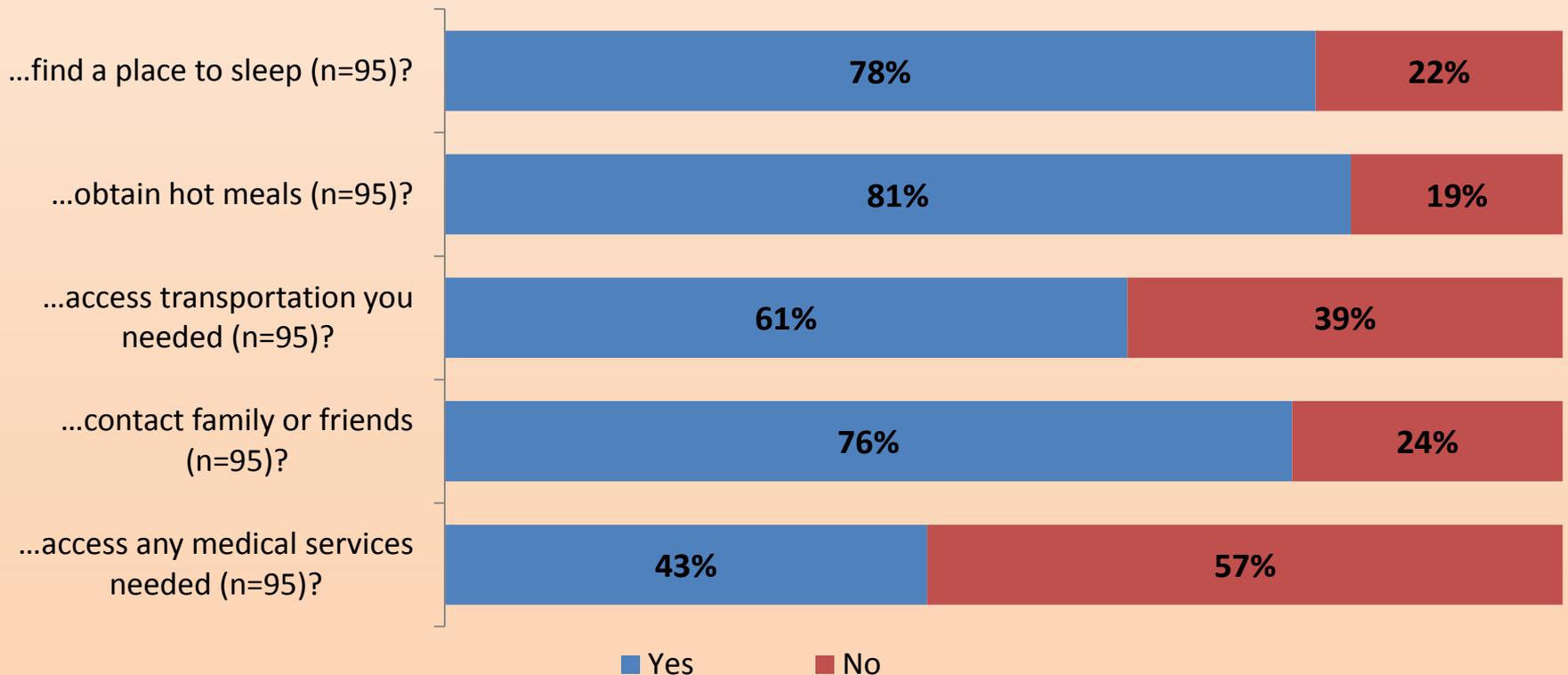
In the first three days

one in five were not able to obtain hot meals or find a place to sleep.

one in four were not able to contact family or friends.

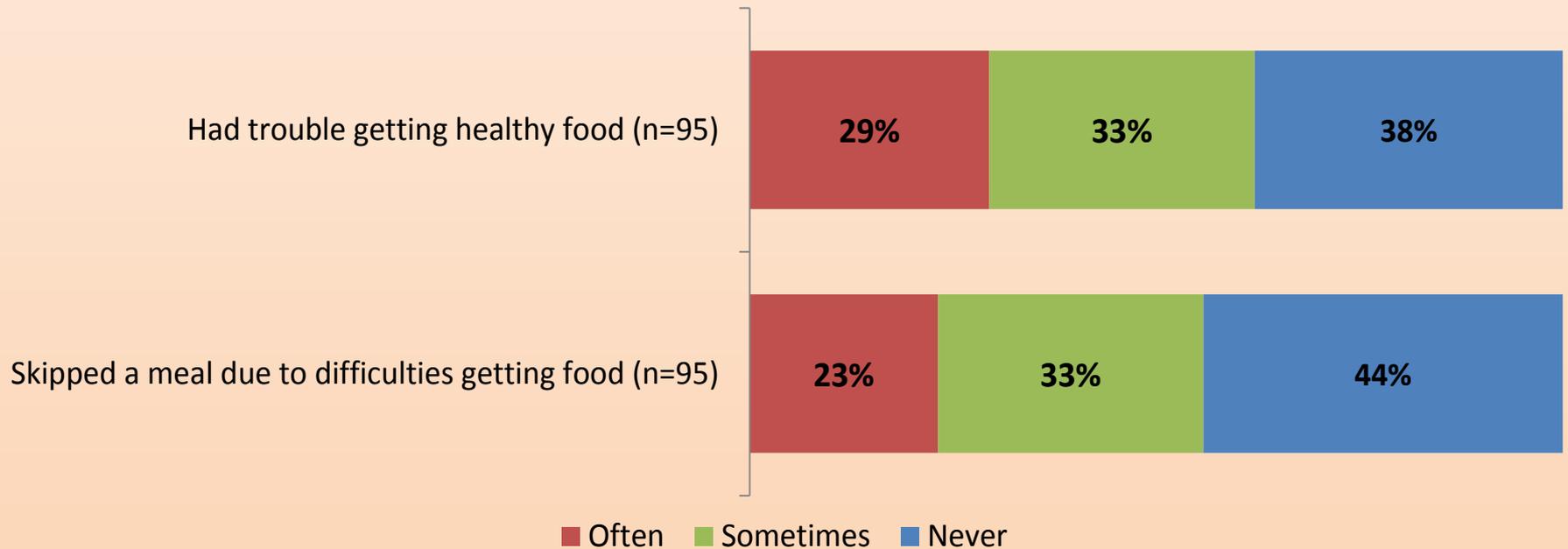
more than half could not access needed medical services.

During your first three days after your release, were you able to...



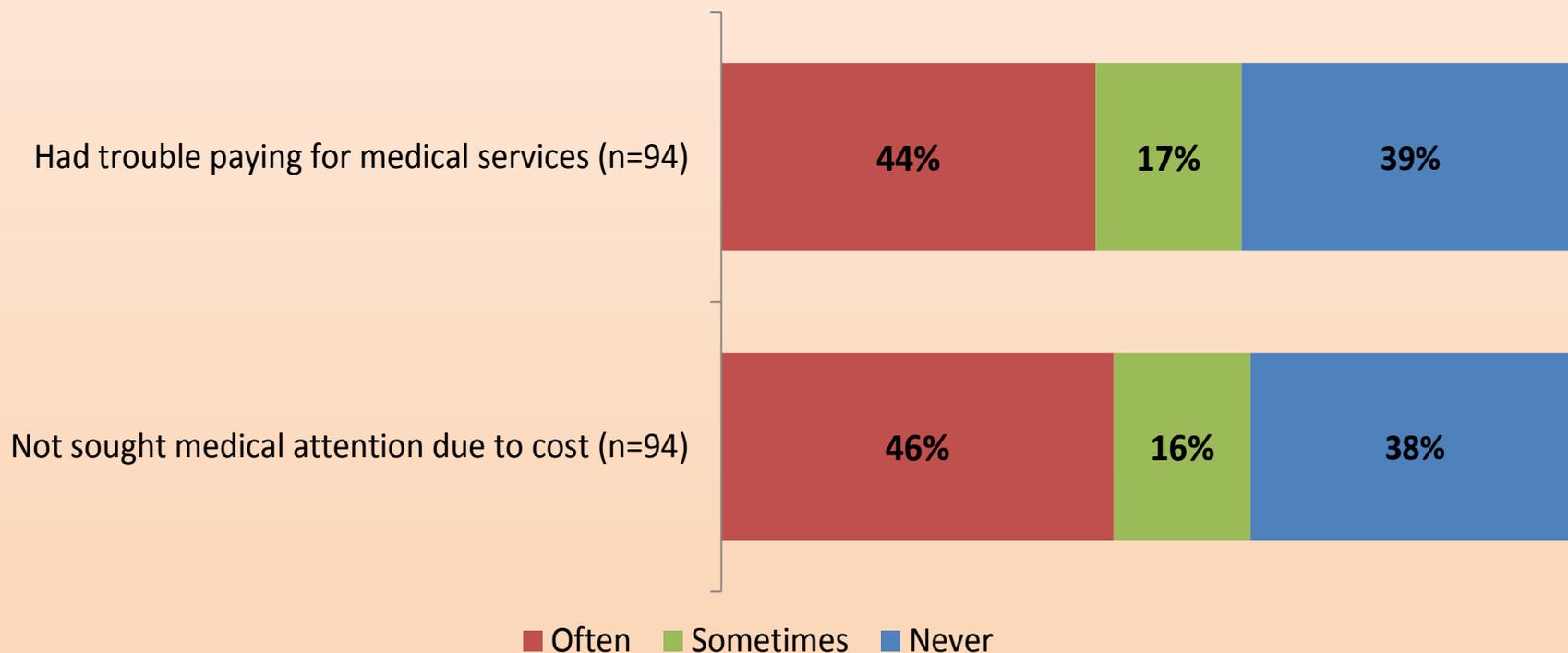
62% reported they've had trouble obtaining healthy food
56% had skipped a meal due to difficulties getting food

Since your release, how often have you...



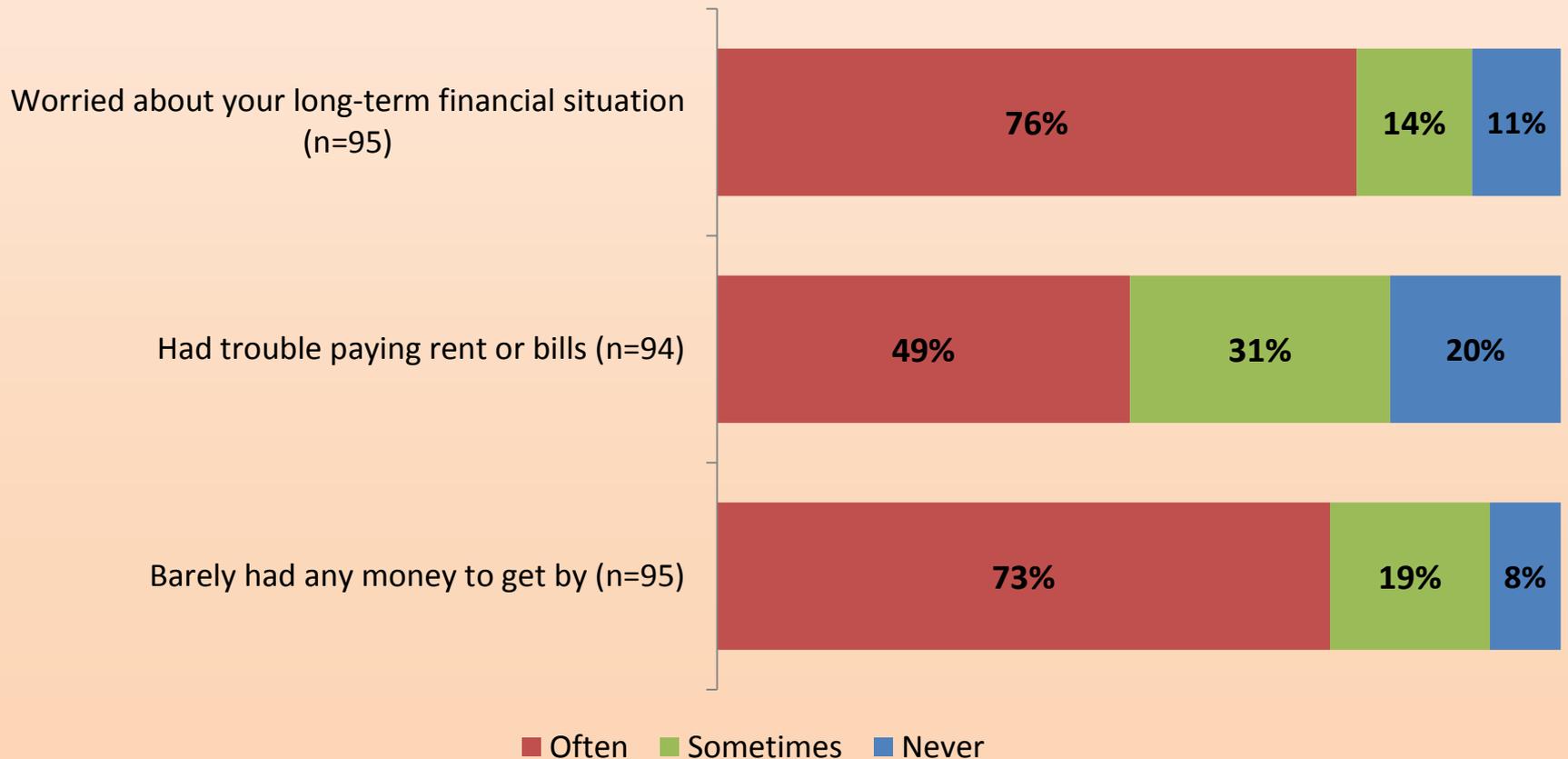
62% of respondents reported they wanted to see a doctor, but didn't because they worried about how much it would cost

Since your release, how often have you...



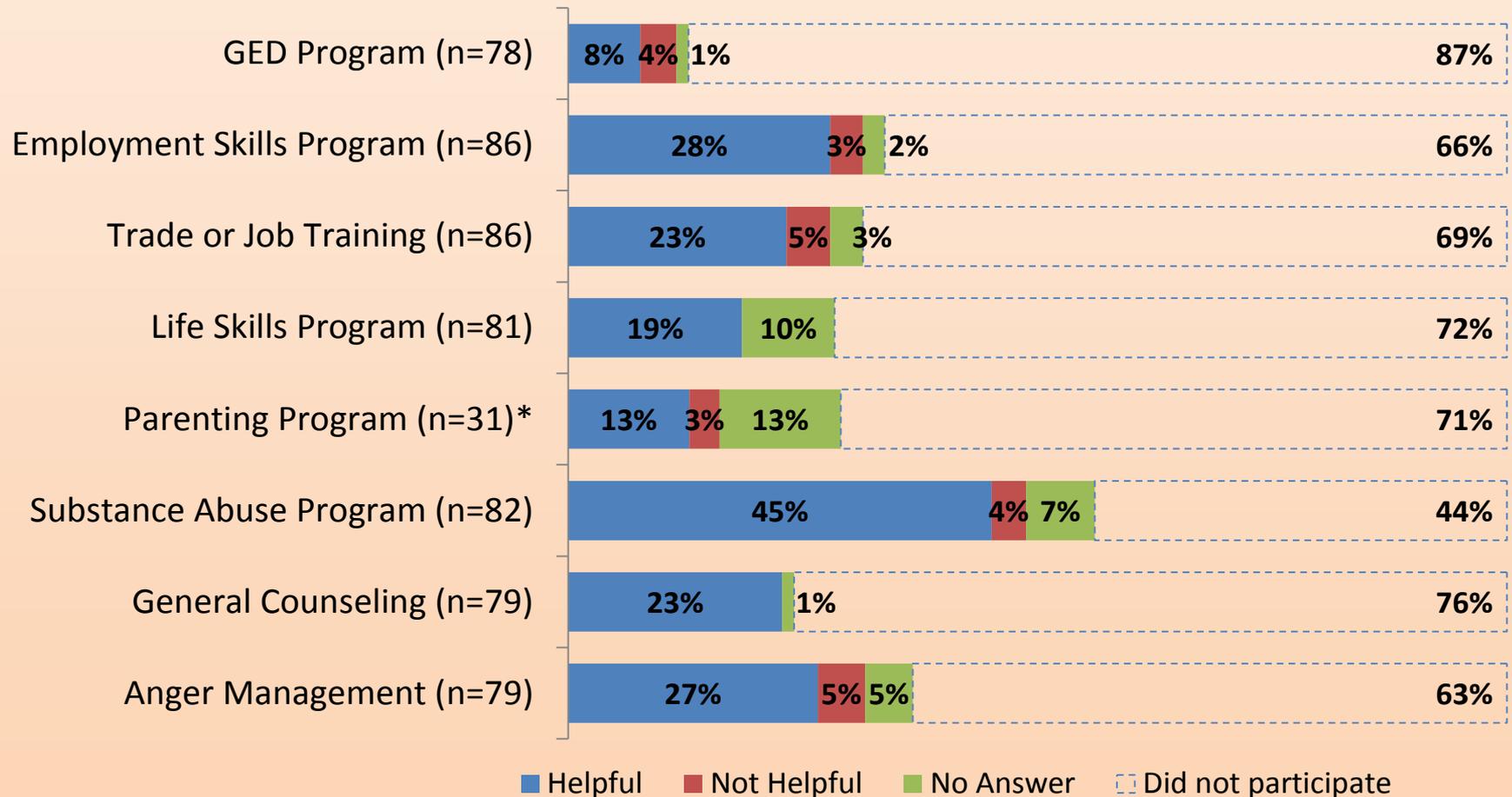
92% reported they barely had any money to get by 89% reported that they worried about their long-term financial situation

Since your release, how often have you...



Of those who participated in programs since their release, the great majority found them helpful.

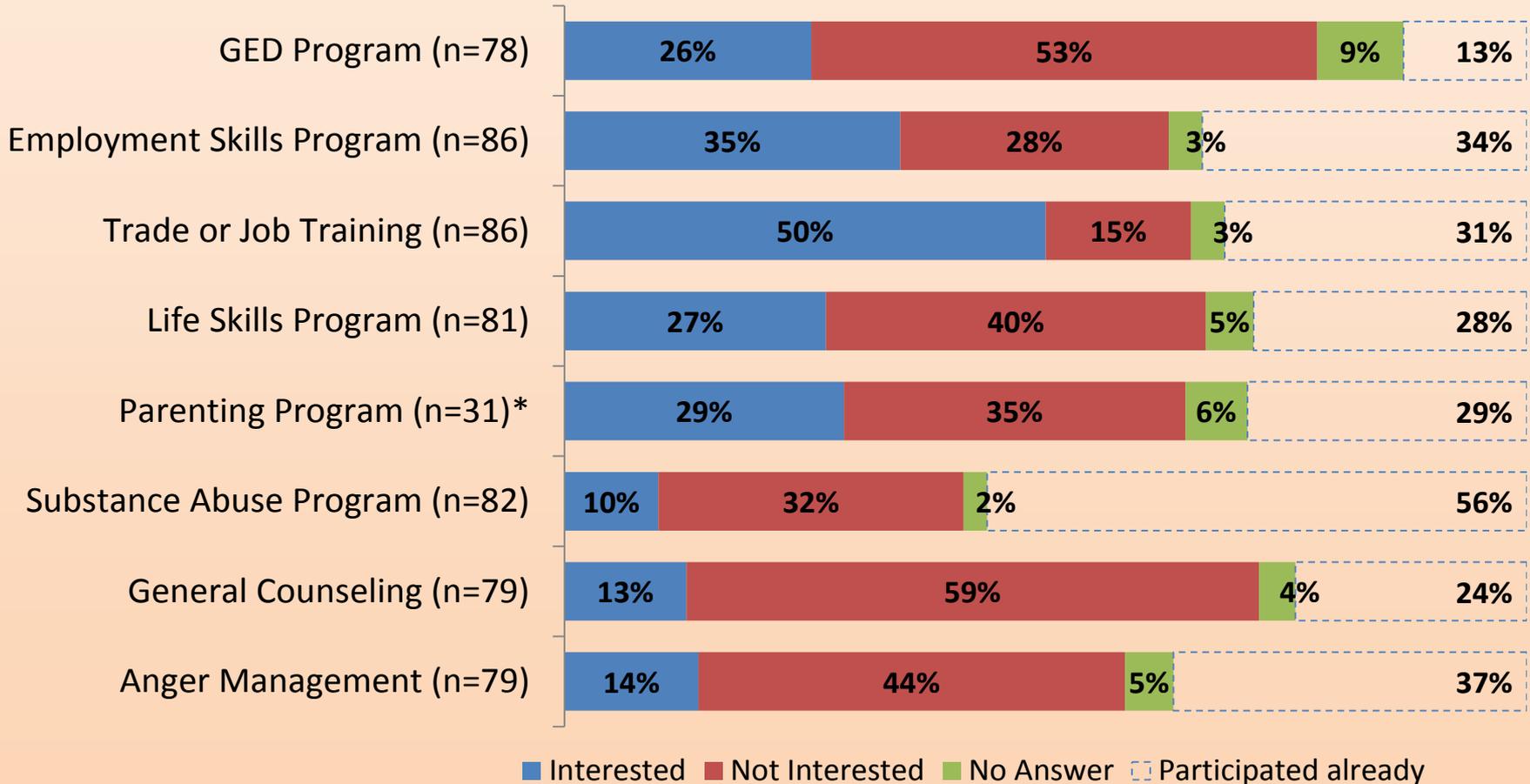
Was the following post-release program helpful?



*Of parents who had children under 18

Many of those who did not participate in post-release programs were interested them.

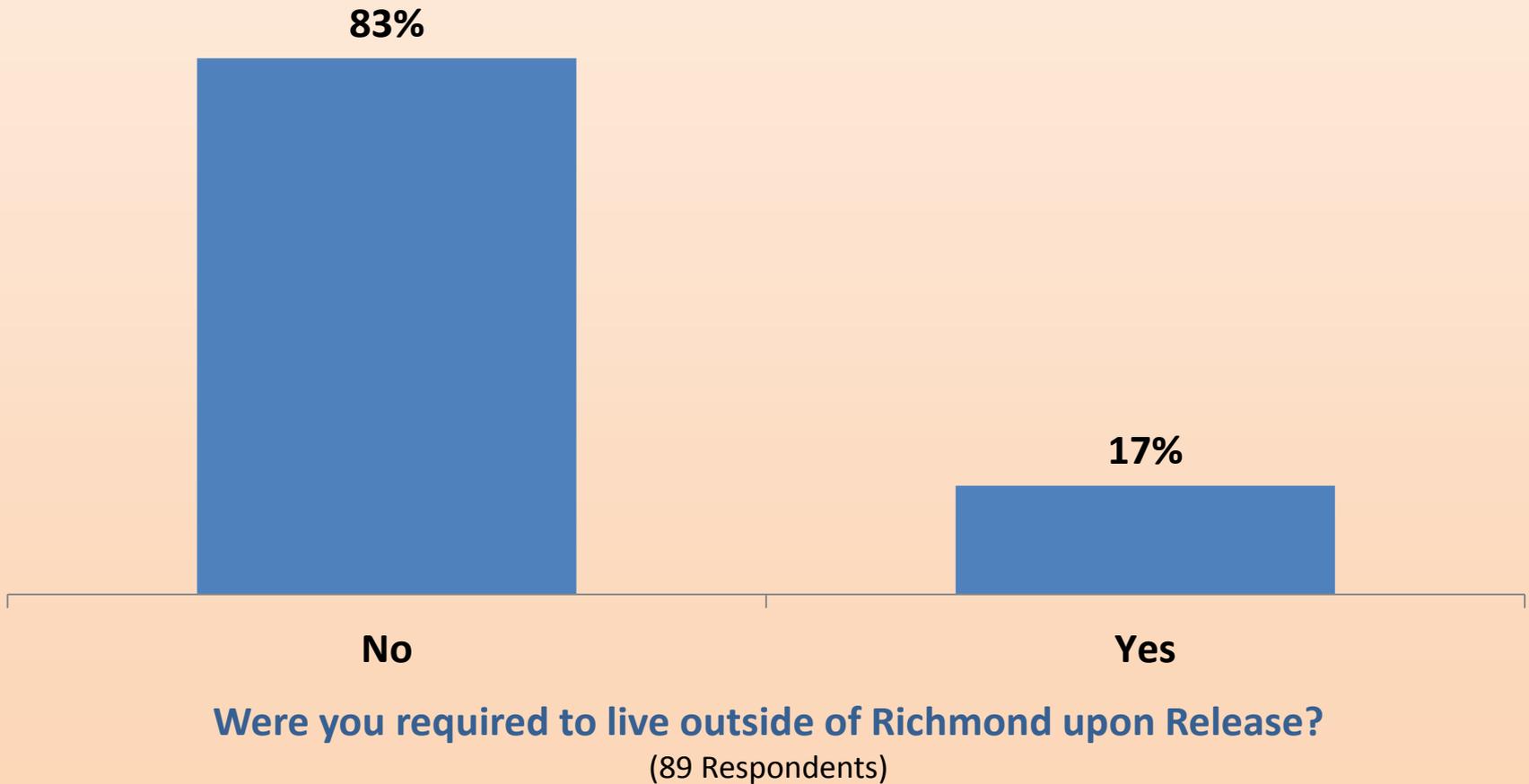
Would you be interested in this type of program?



*Of parents who had children under 18

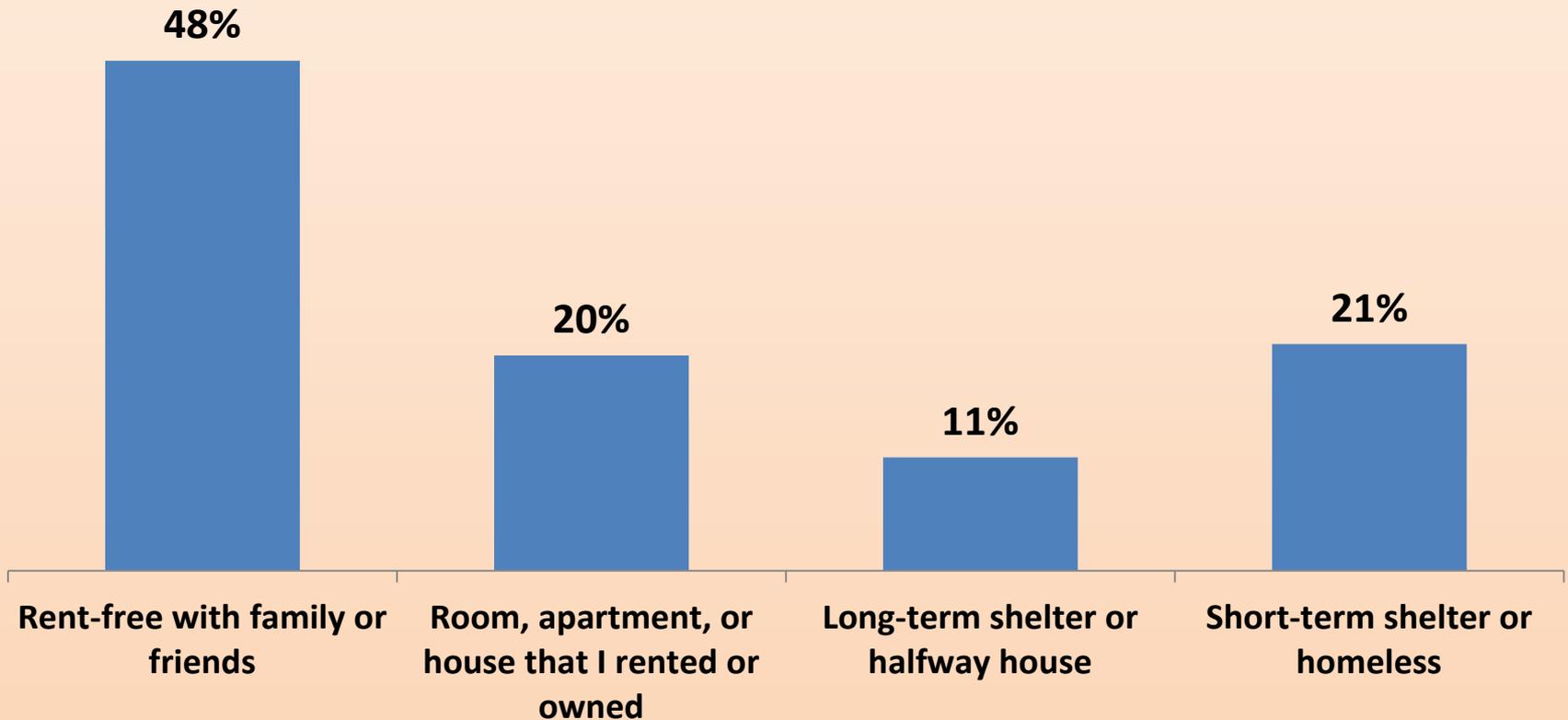
HOUSING

17% of respondents were required to live outside of Richmond upon release*



*Most relocated to Oakland. When asked why they were relocated, most said they did not have housing in Richmond or that their conviction required them to live elsewhere.

69% of respondents did not have stable housing in the first month after release



What describes your living situation in the first month after release?

(94 Respondents)

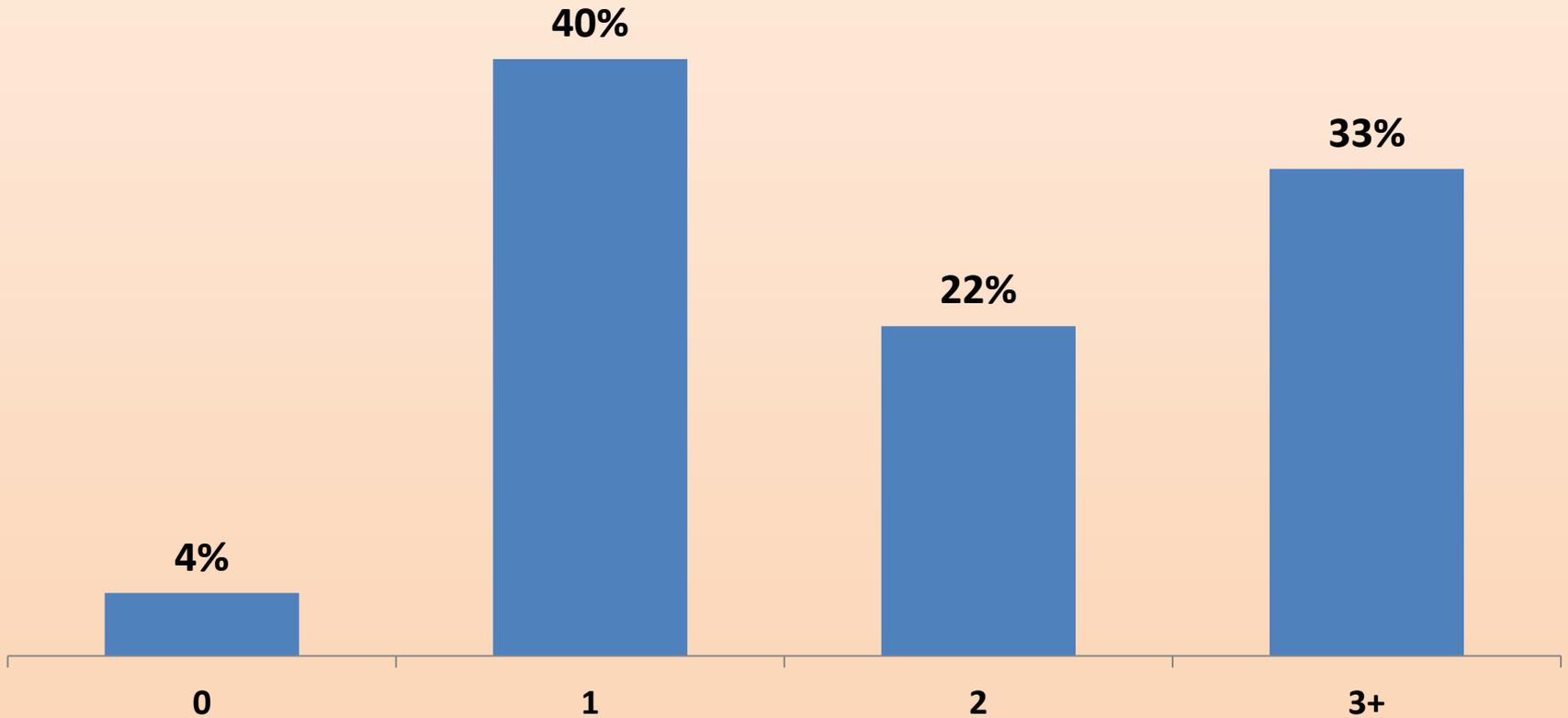
At the time of the survey, 47% did not have stable housing



What describes your current living situation?

(94 Respondents)

One in three respondents had lived in at least three different places since their release

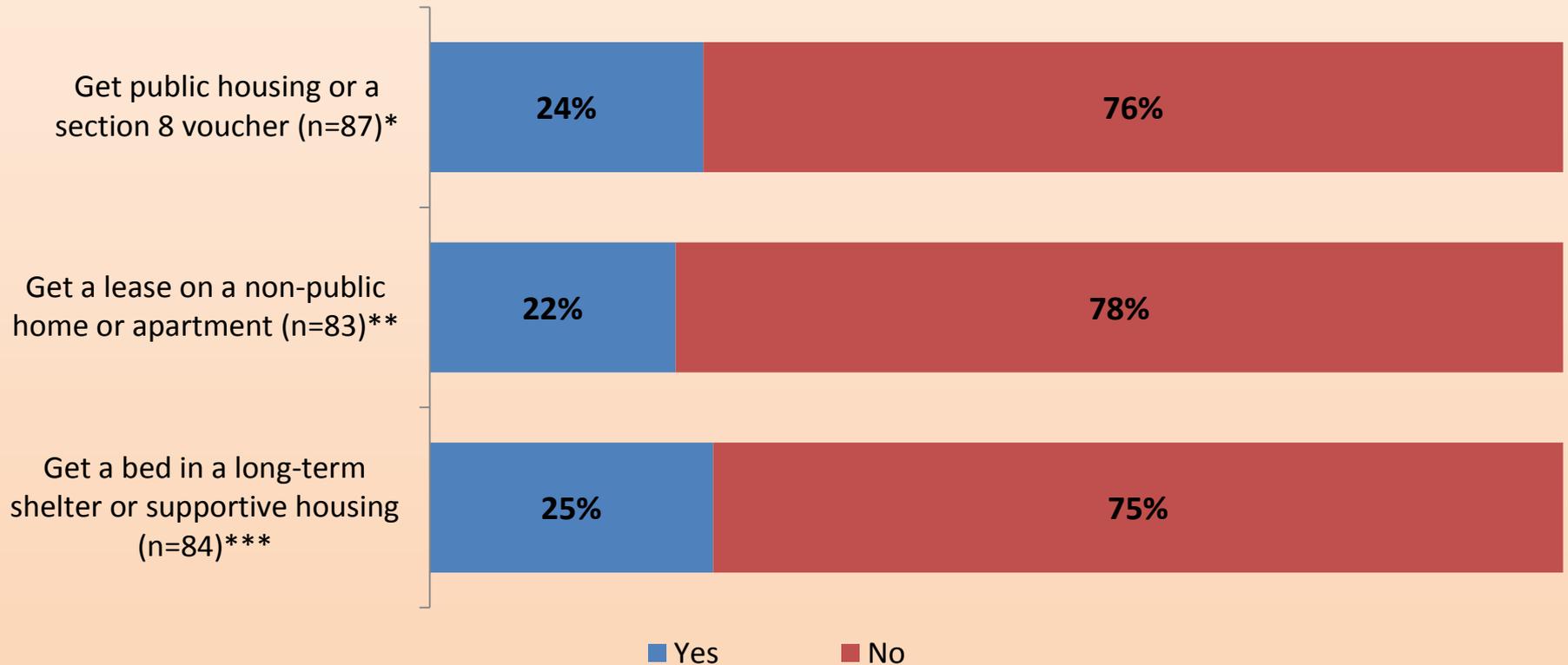


How many places have you lived in since your release?

(94 Respondents)

One in four respondents tried unsuccessfully to obtain public housing or a bed in a long-term shelter.

Have you ever tried to do the following but were unsuccessful?



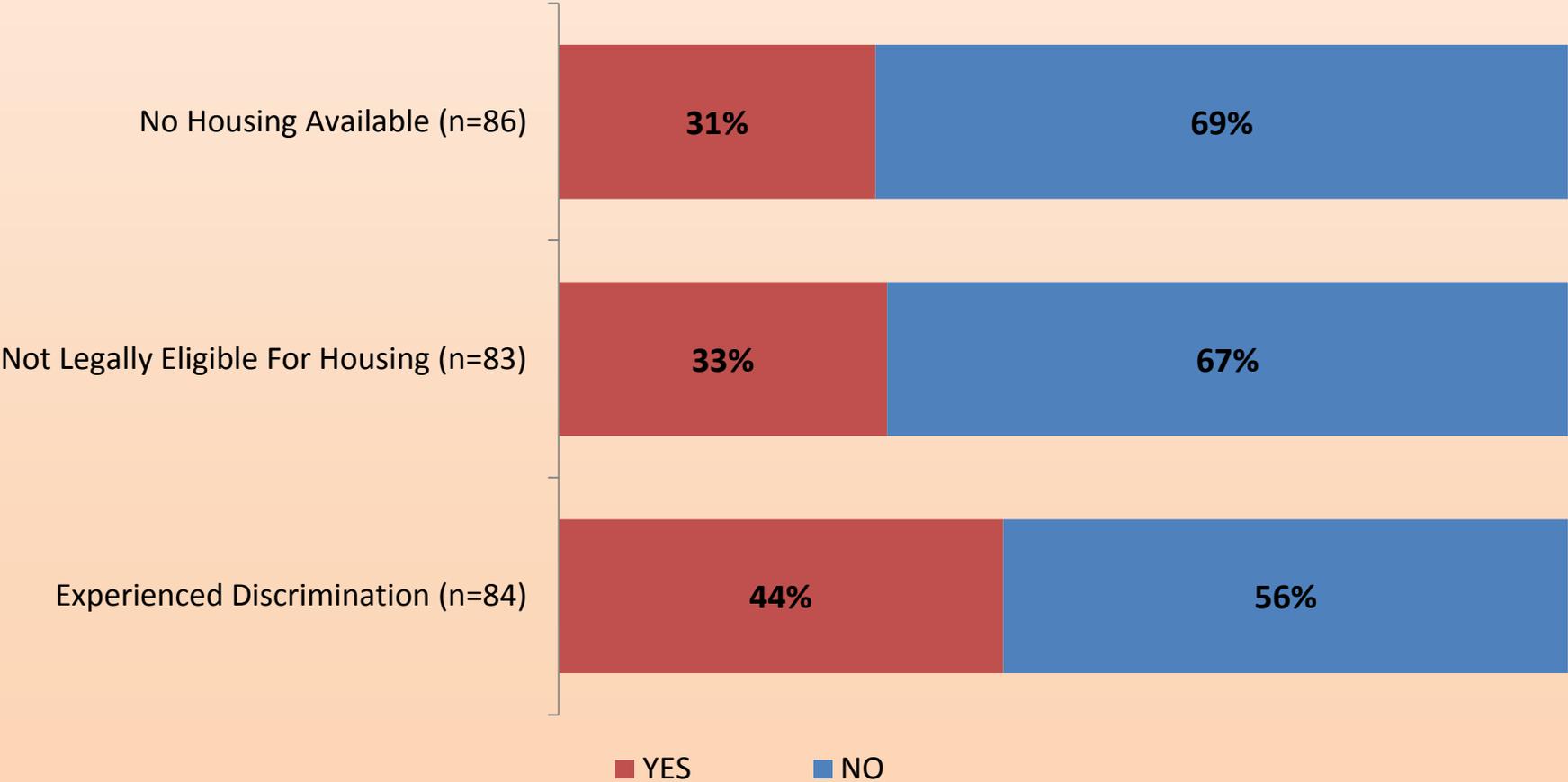
*Those who said 'yes' frequently mentioned long waiting lists and ineligibility due to a criminal conviction.

**Those who said 'yes' frequently mentioned insufficient income for rent and the impact of a criminal conviction.

***Those who said 'yes' frequently mentioned limited capacity and long waiting lists.

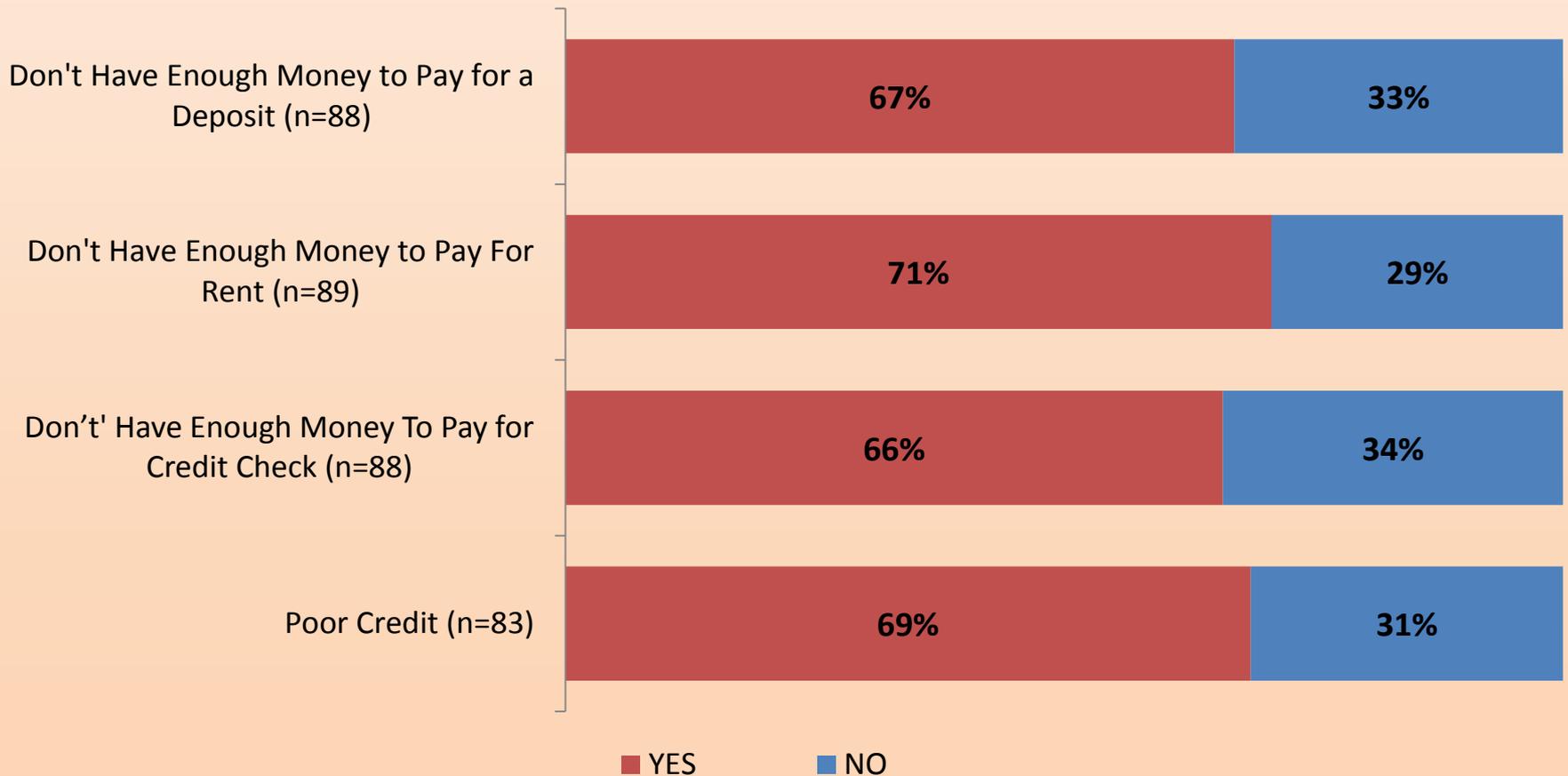
44% reported that they experienced discrimination while trying to obtain housing.
One in three said there was no housing available or that they were not legally eligible.

Which of the following have caused you difficulty getting housing?



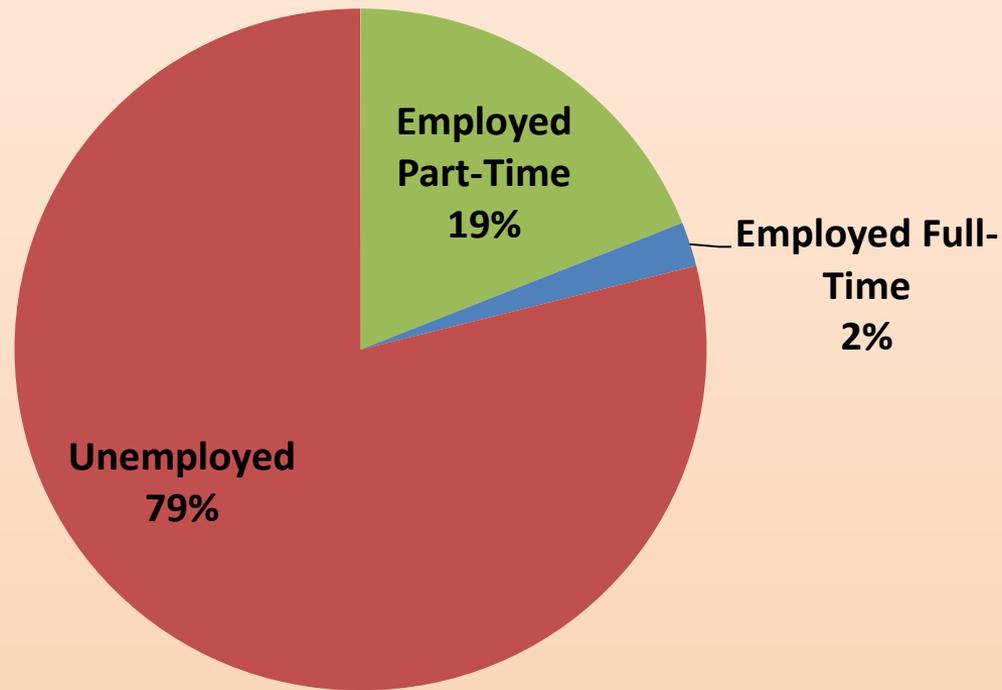
The majority of respondents experienced financial barriers to obtaining housing, such as insufficient money for a deposit or rent and having poor credit.

Which of the following have caused you difficulty getting housing?



EMPLOYMENT

79% of respondents were unemployed at the time of the survey



Are you currently employed?
(95 respondents)

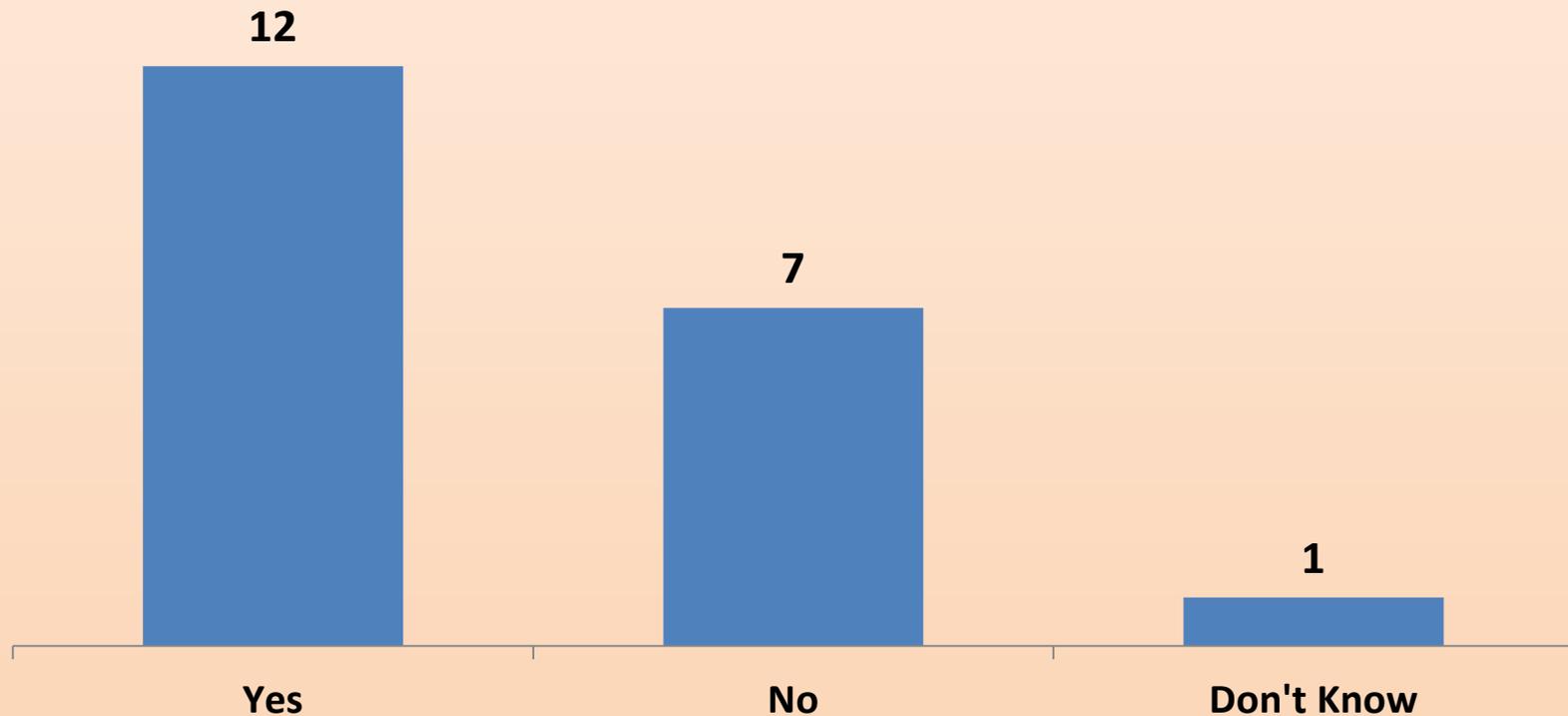
**Of the 20 people who were employed at the time of the survey,
7 were working in construction.**

<u>What kind of work do you do at your job?</u>	<u>#</u>
Construction / General Manual Labor	7
Car Repair	2
Community Outreach	2
Landscaping	2
Transportation	2
Warehouse work / shipping	2
Cook / Food Service	1
Photographer	1
Telemarketing	1

Of the 20 people who were employed at the time of the survey, 11 found their job through word of mouth. Others found their job online, used a temp agency, or walked in and applied.

<u>How did you find this job?</u>	<u>#</u>
Word of mouth	11
Searched online	3
Used a temp agency	3
Walked in and applied	3

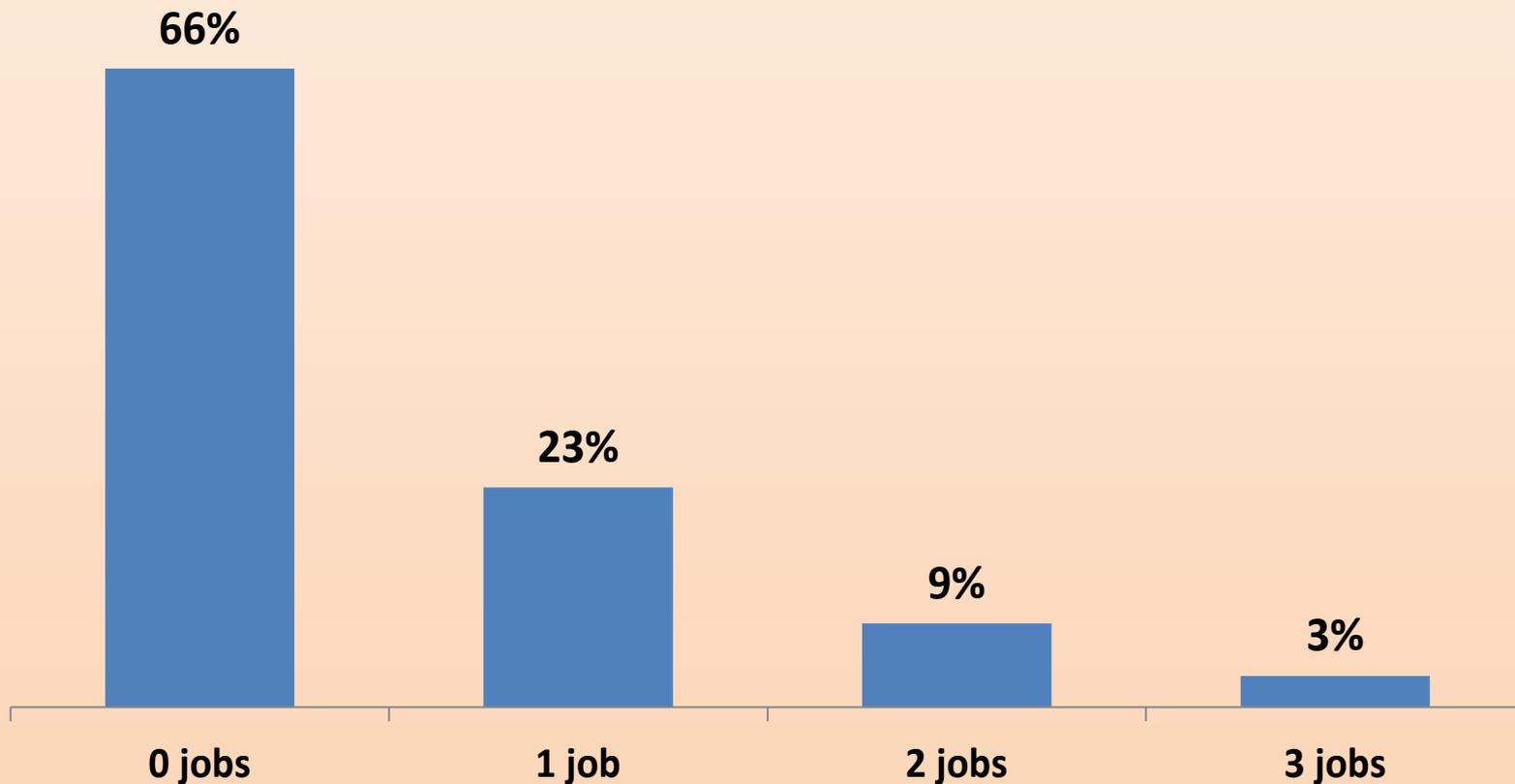
**Of the 20 people who were employed at the time of the survey,
12 said their employer knew about their criminal record at the
time they were hired.**



**Did your employer know about your criminal record at the
time you were hired?**

(93 Respondents)

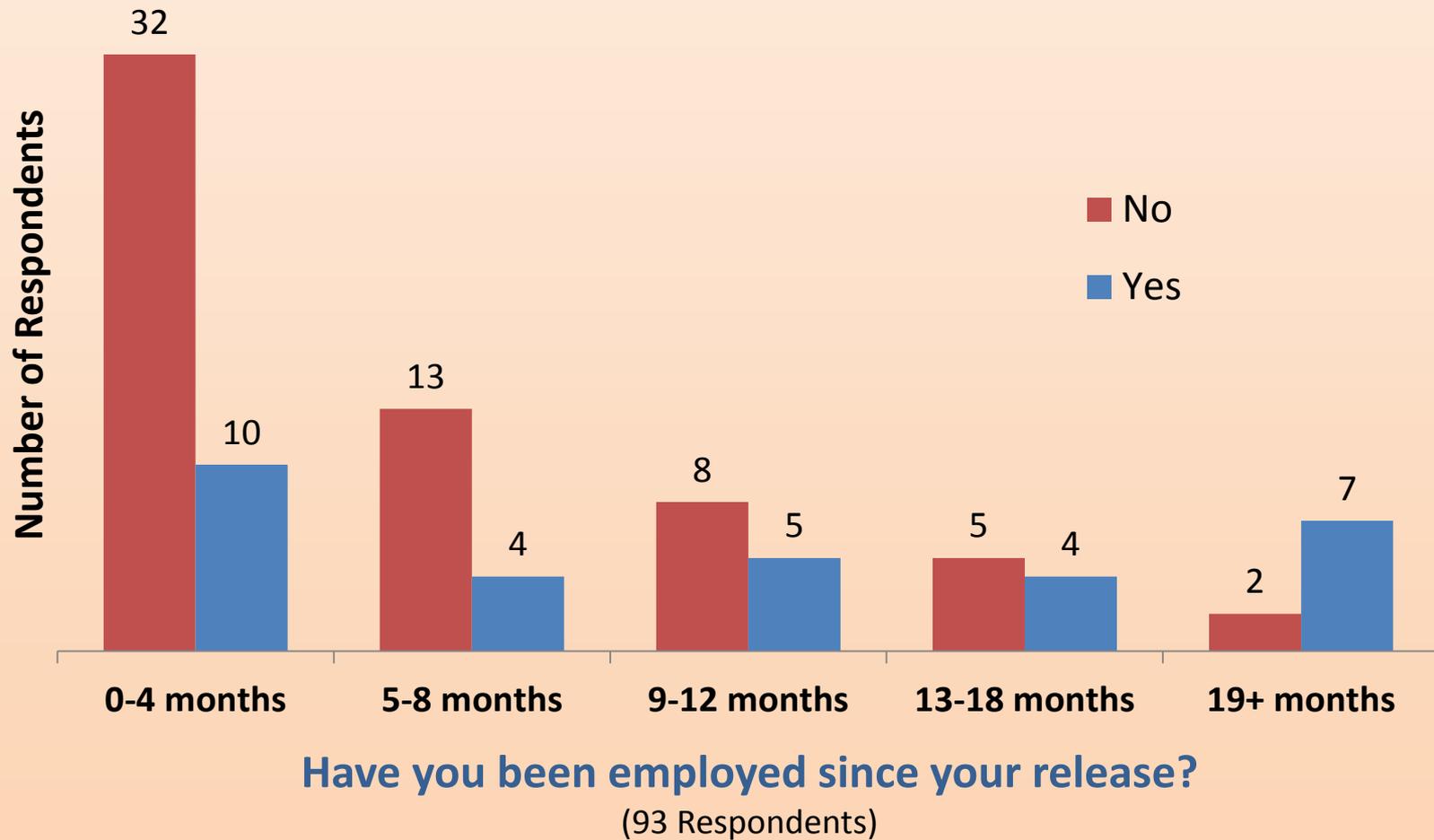
66% of respondents had not held a single job since their release*. 12% had held multiple jobs.



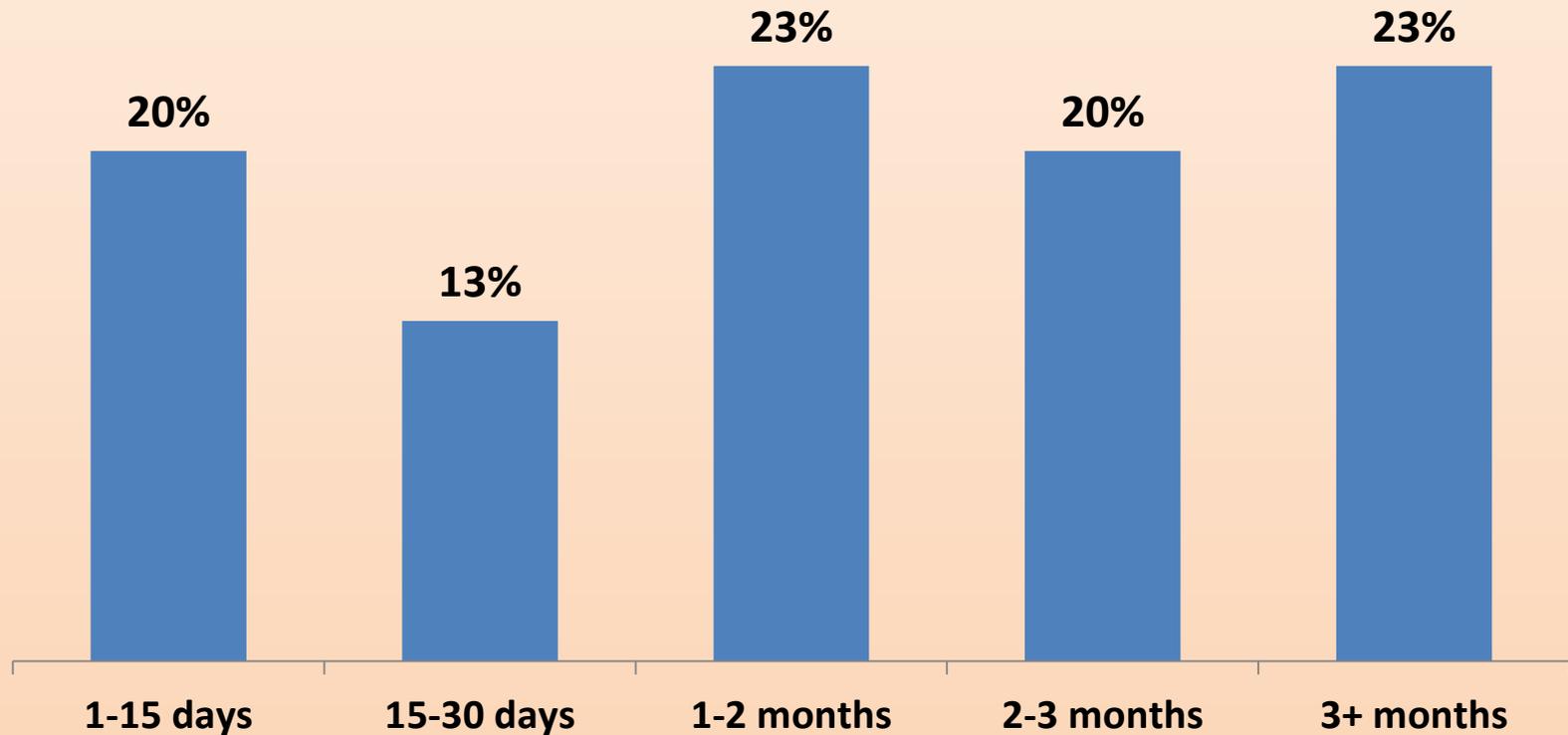
How many jobs have you had since your release?

(93 Respondents)

Of those who had been released more than four months ago, 58% had not been employed since their release.



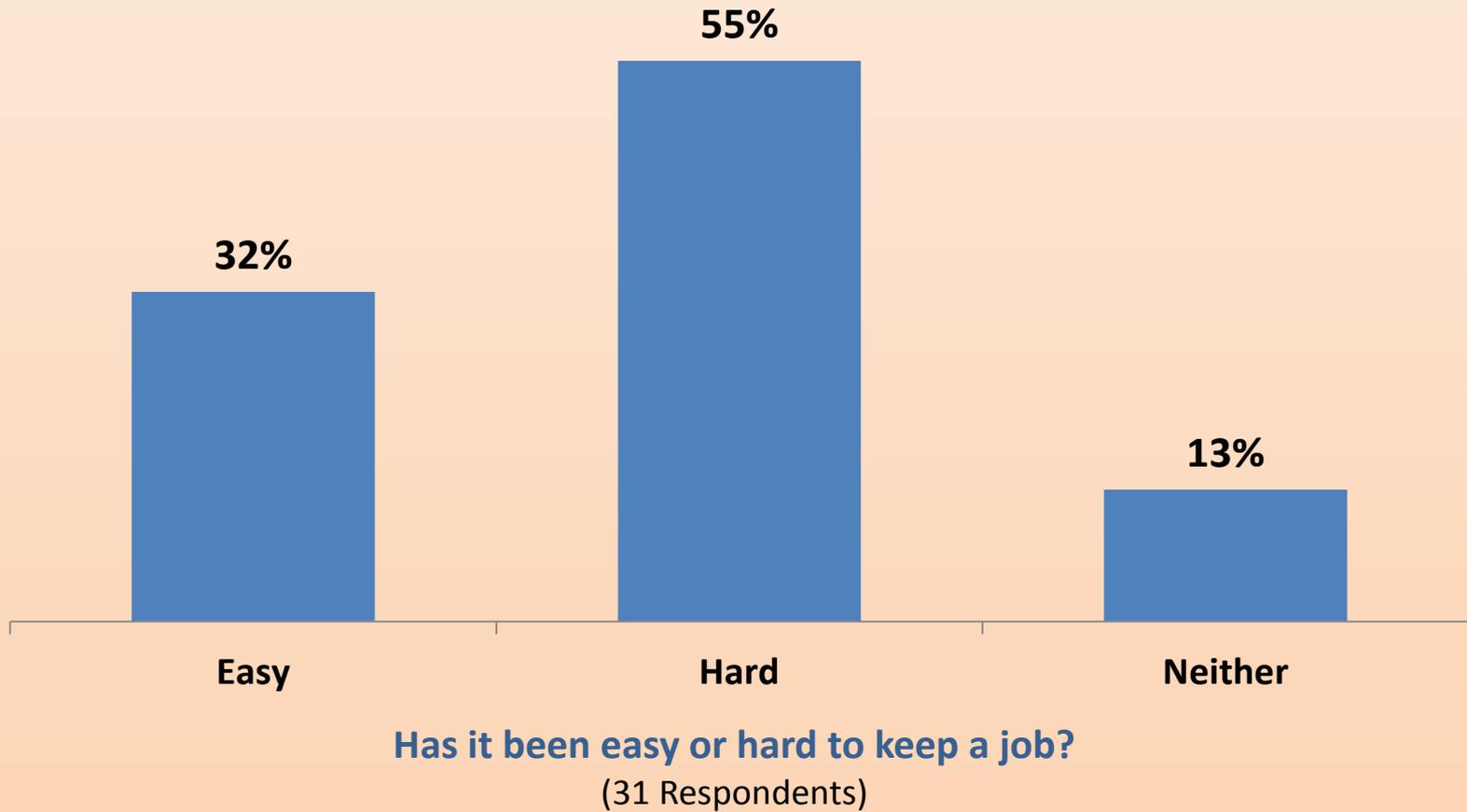
Of respondents who had held at least one job since release, only one in three started employment within a month of their release.



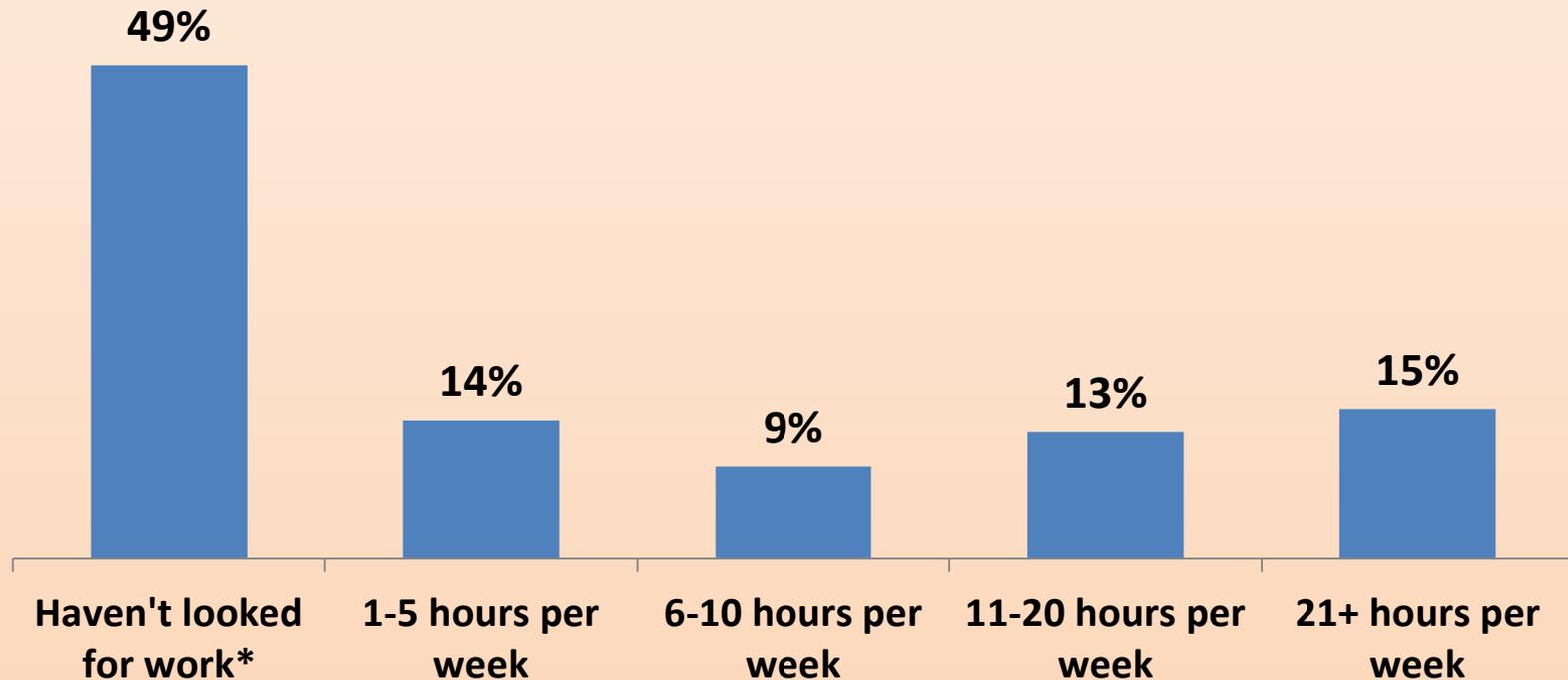
How much time passed between your release and your first day of employment?

(30 Respondents)

Of those who have been employed since their release, 55% said it was hard for them to keep a job.



49% of respondents have not looked for work since their release from incarceration.



How much time have you spent looking for work since release?

(87 Respondents)

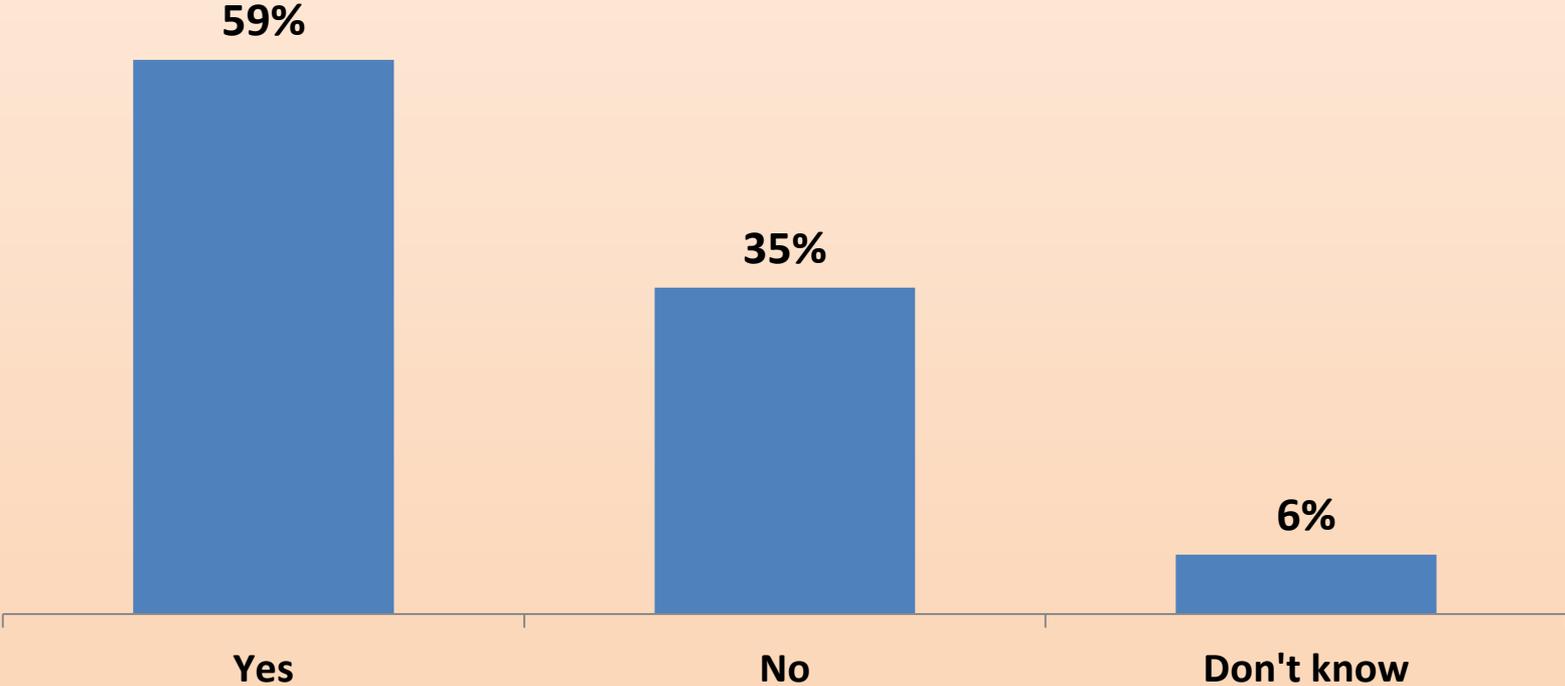
*Of those who have not looked for work since release, 62% had been released more than four months ago.

Of the 43 people who haven't looked for work since their release, 14% had a job lined up when they were released and 19% cited disability, health problems, or old age.

12% said they were in a drug treatment program or home detention and 9% said they did not want to work.

<u>Why haven't you looked for work since release?</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
• Had a job lined up when released	6	14%
• Disability, health problems, or old age	8	19%
• Do not want to work	4	9%
• Have other things to do (e.g. school)	6	14%
• Have to take care of children	2	5%
• In a treatment program or home detention	5	12%
• Other	7	16%

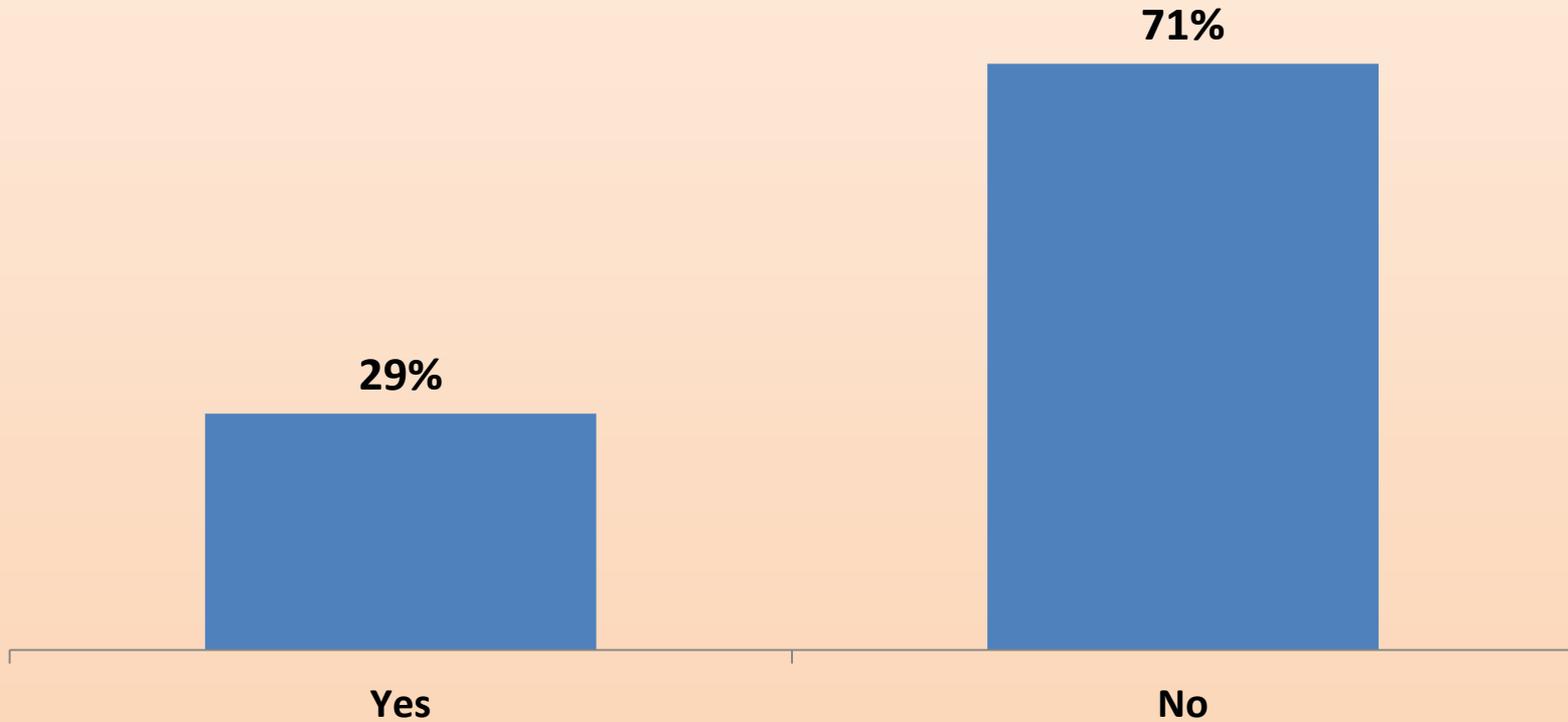
59% of respondents said their criminal record has had an effect on their job search.



Has your criminal record had an effect on your job search?

(95 Respondents)

29% of respondents were told they were not hired because of their criminal record.



Have you ever been told you were not hired because of your record?
(95 Respondents)

Respondents reported that they have the skills to do a variety of different kinds of work.

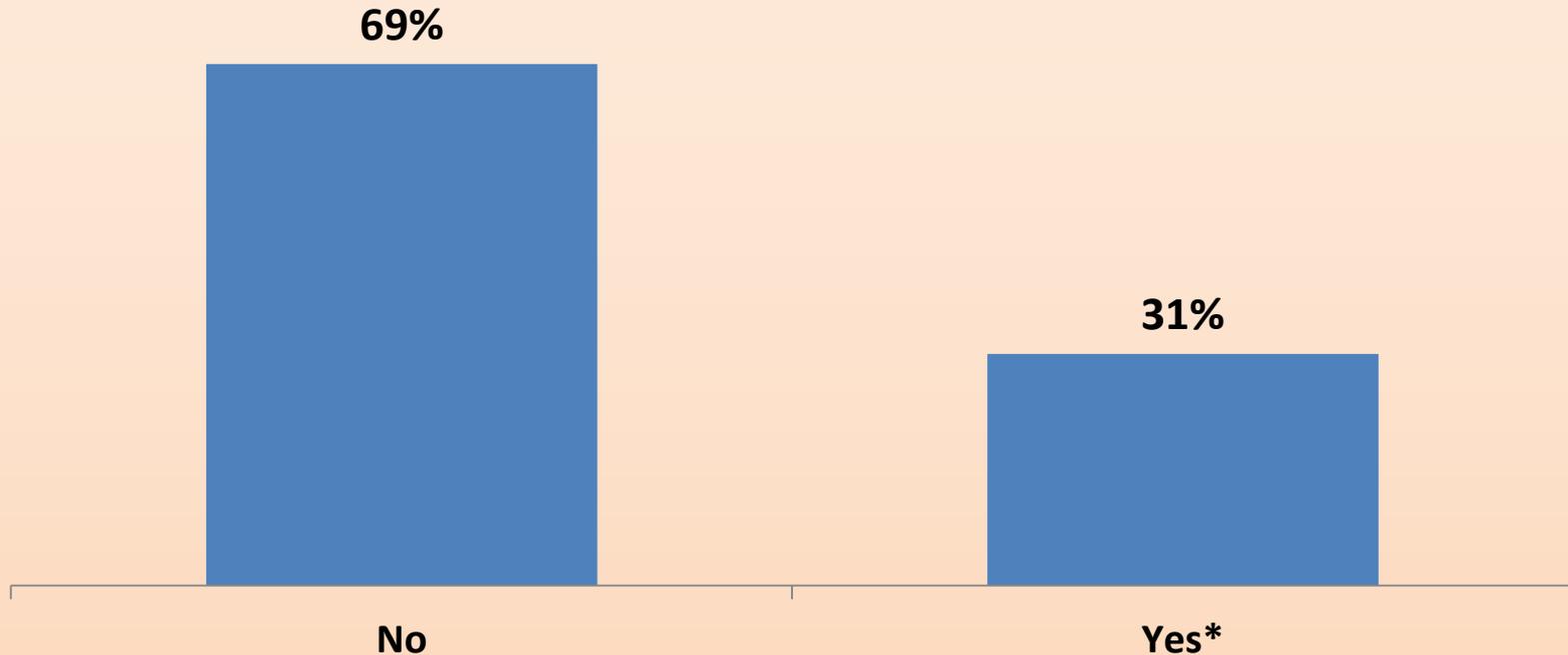
<u>What kind of work do you have the skills for</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
Cook/Food Service	37	41%
Warehouse work/Shipping	44	49%
Sanitation/Trash Removal	22	24%
Maintenance	30	33%
Construction/General Manual Labor	43	48%
Assembly Line/Factory	16	18%
Car Repair	21	23%
Telemarketing	18	20%
Other*		
computer skills, landscaping, upholstery, welding, cosmetology, retail and sales, medical billing, operating heavy equipment, etc.		

Nearly one in five respondents have small business or entrepreneurship skills or experience.

<u>Have you ever done any of the following</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
Run a formal or informal small business?	18	19%
Received training on how to run a small business?	12	13%
Created Business Plan?	15	16%
Applied for a loan?	4	4%

HEALTH SERVICES

31% of respondents were taking prescribed medication while incarcerated



Were you taking prescribed medication while incarcerated?

(91 Respondents)

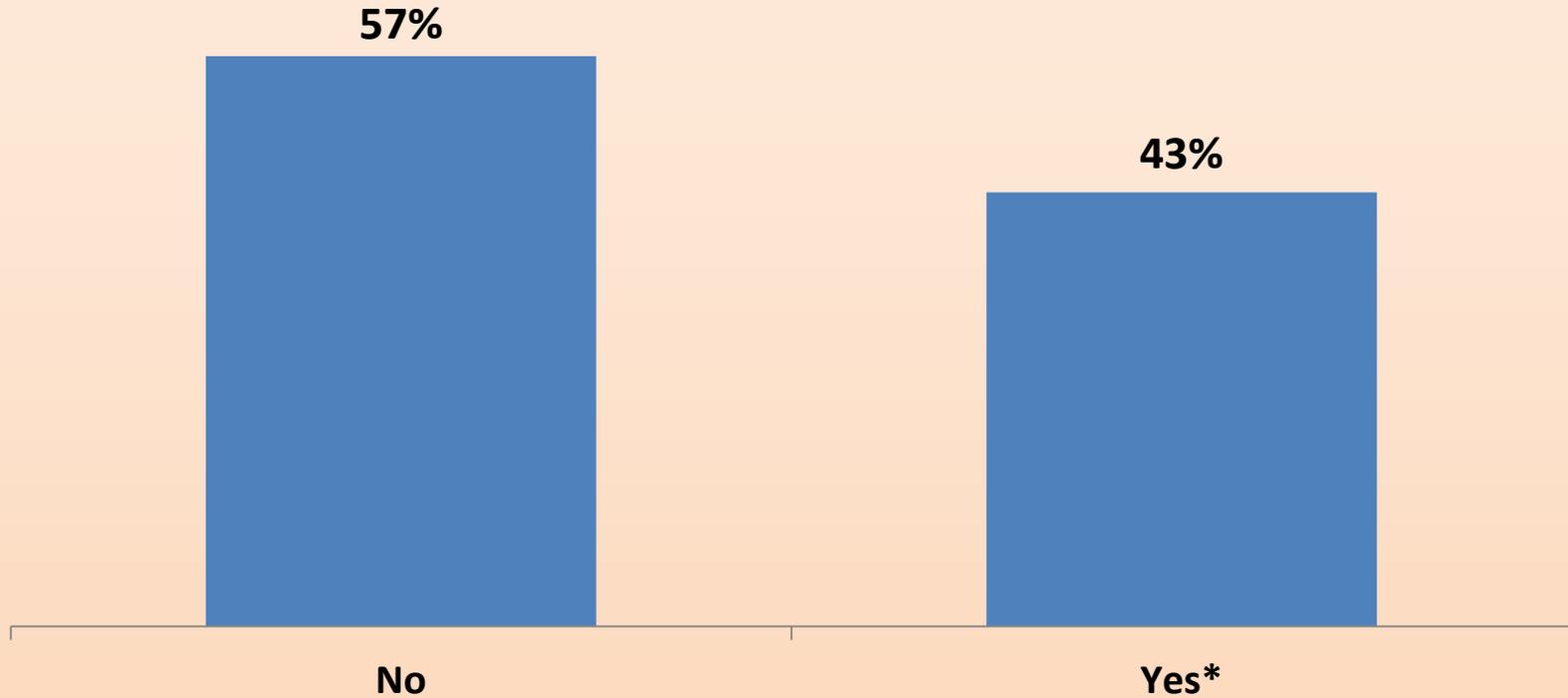
Of the 28 who took medication while incarcerated,

-5 did not receive a supply of medication when released,

-20 are on the same type of medication as they had taken while incarcerated, and

-7 had to take their medication as a condition of their parole or probation.

43% of respondents were diagnosed with a health condition



Has a doctor or other health care provider ever told you you have a health condition or illness?

(81 Respondents)

***Of the 35 respondents who have been diagnosed with a health condition, 42% were diagnosed while incarcerated.**

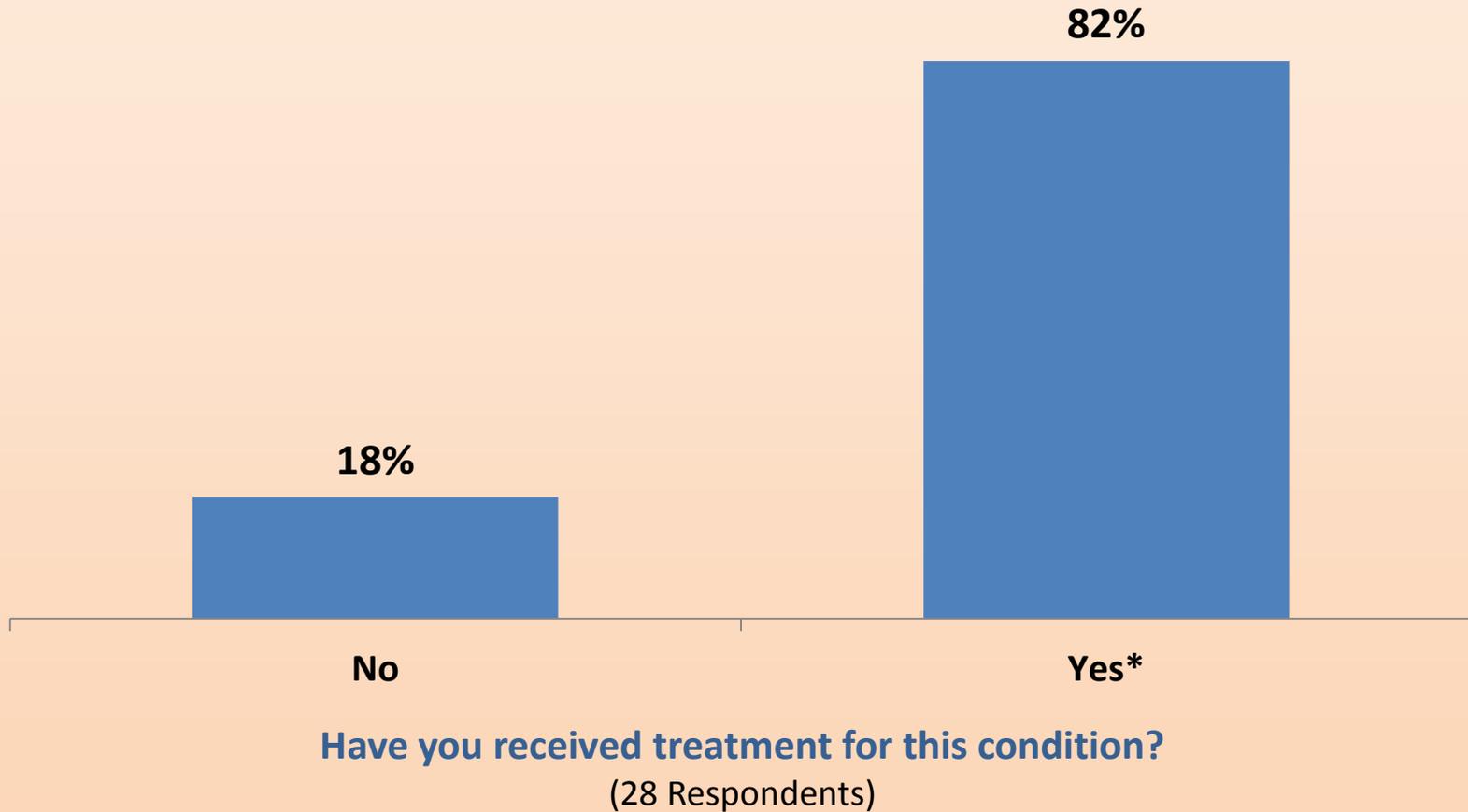
35% of respondents reported having some kind of physical health condition

<u>Physical Health Conditions Reported</u>	<u>#</u>
Arthritis	2
Asthma	4
Cancer	2
Diabetes	1
Liver Problems	1
Heart condition	2
Hepatitis C	2
High Blood Pressure	7
HIV	1
Injury	2
Lupus	1
Sarcoidosis	1
Skin rash	1
Thyroid condition	1
Unspecified	3

10% of respondents reported having some kind of mental health condition

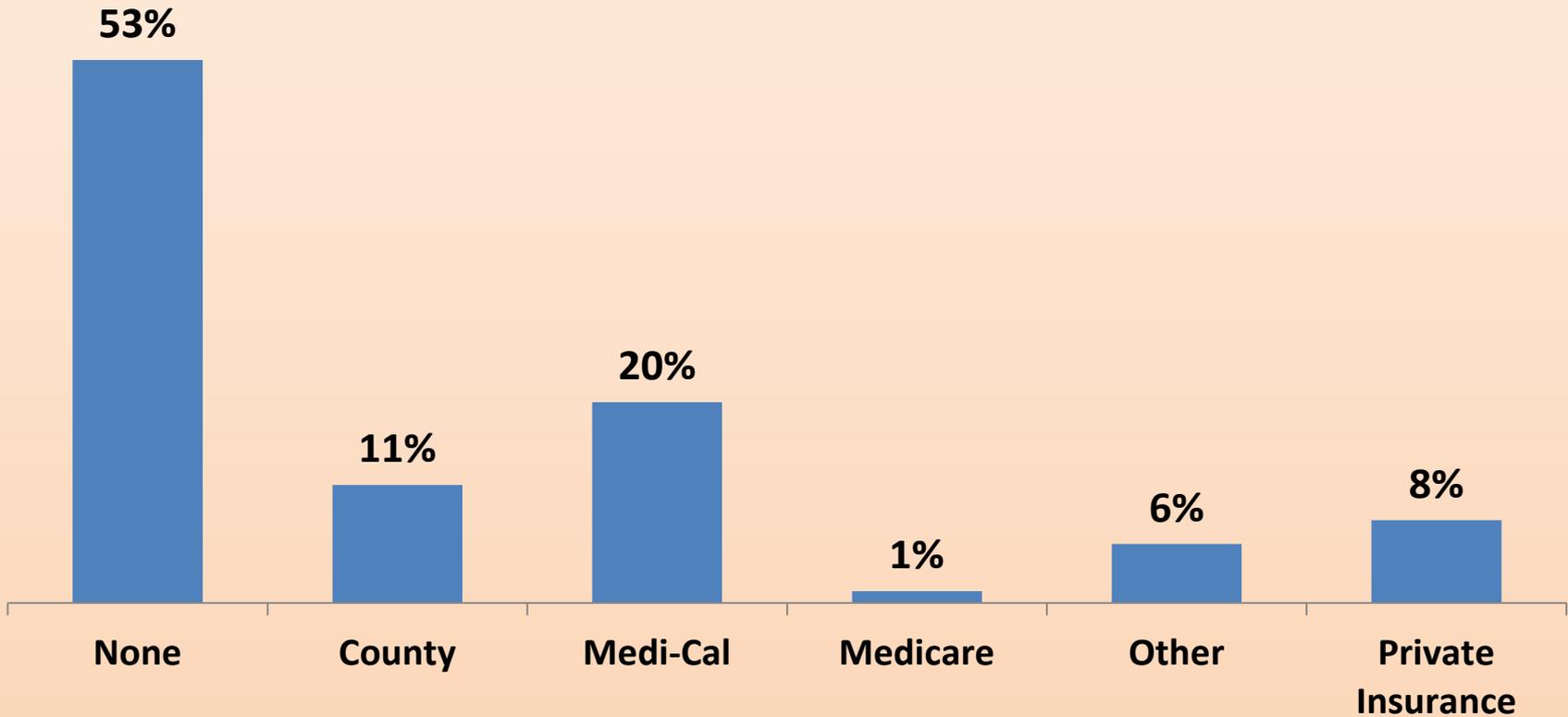
<u>Mental Health Conditions Reported</u>	<u>#</u>
Attention Deficit Disorder	1
Anxiety	1
Bi-Polar Disorder	3
Depression	2
Schizophrenia	1

**Of those who have been diagnosed with a health condition,
82% have received treatment for their condition**



***Of the respondents who have been diagnosed with a health condition, only 6 were taking prescribed medication while incarcerated.**

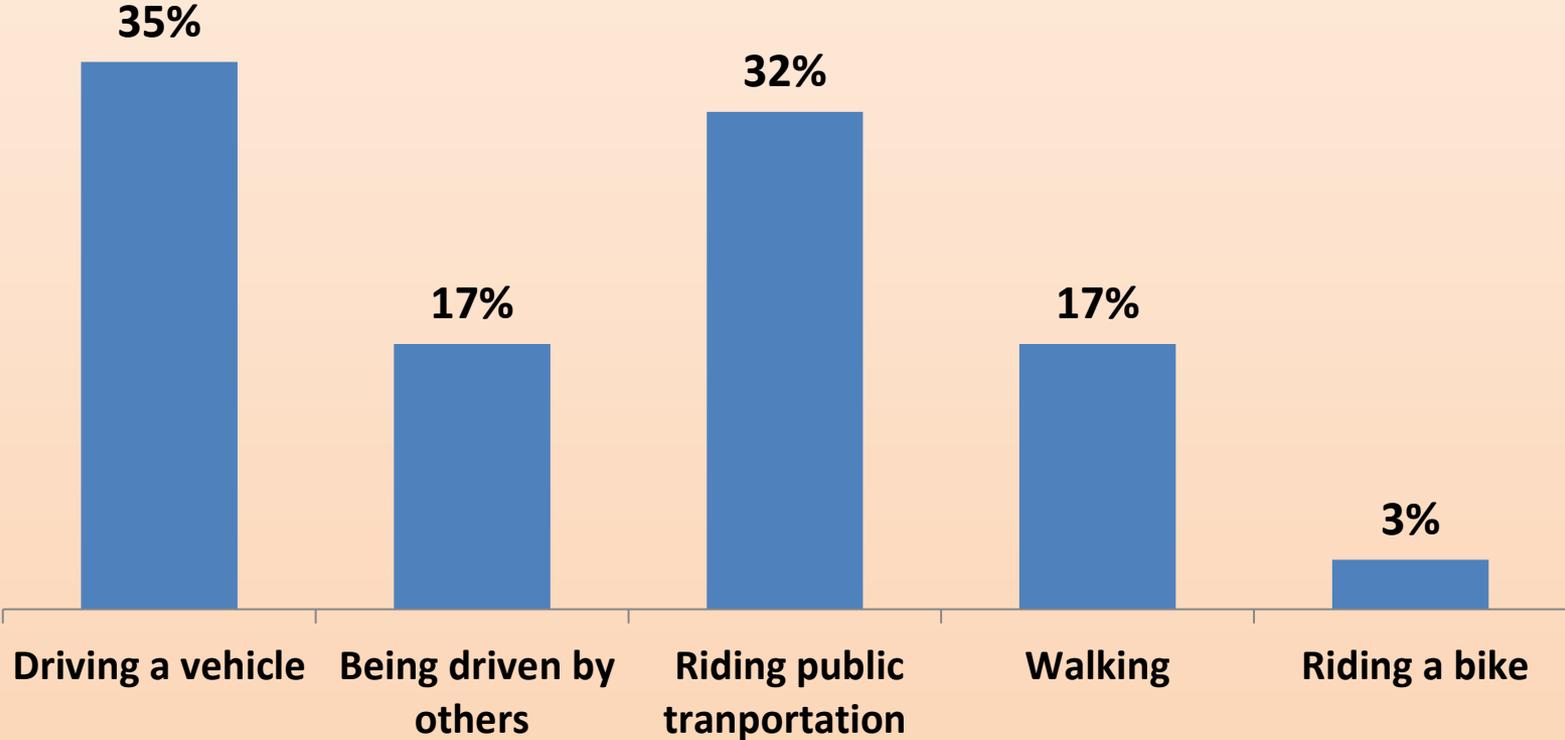
Over half of respondents did not have any health insurance 20% were enrolled in Medi-Cal



What kind of health insurance do you have?
(87 Respondents)

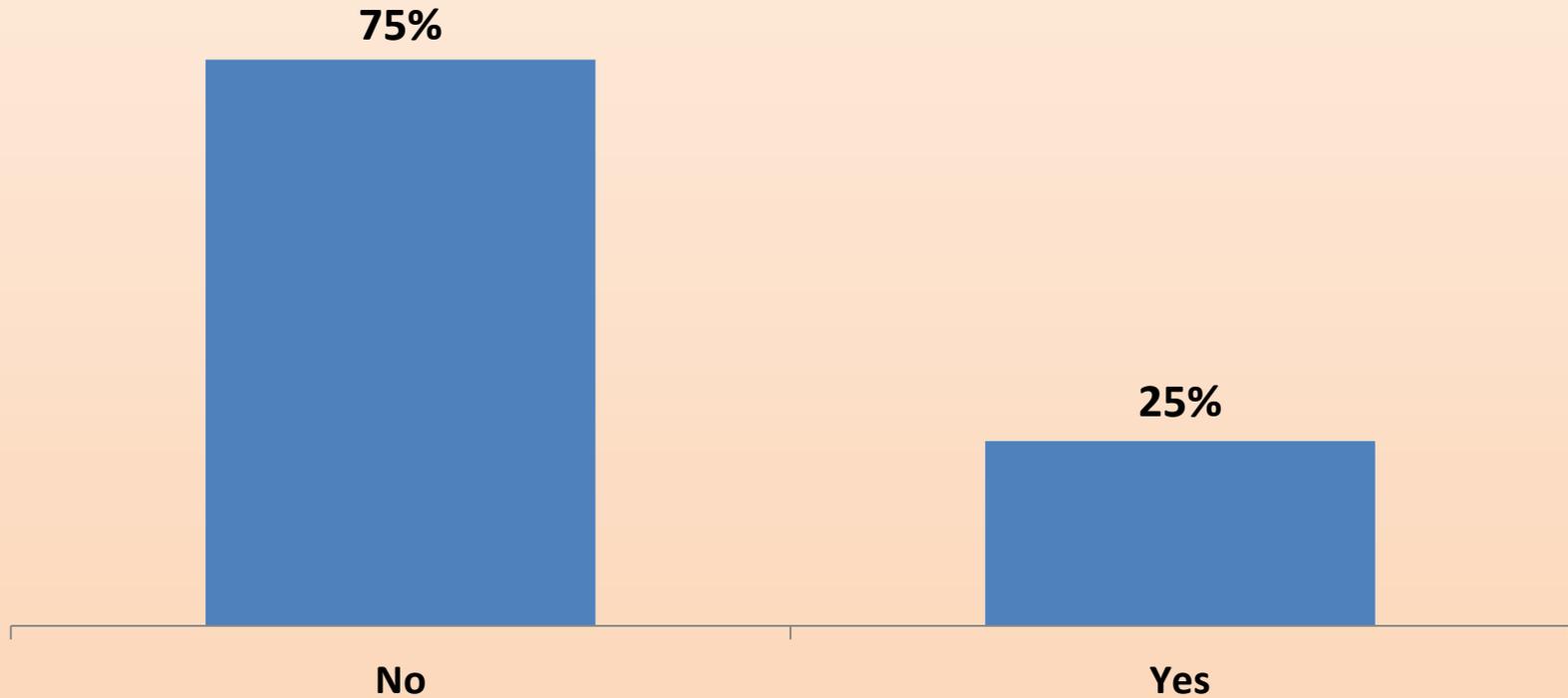
TRANSPORTATION

65% of respondents do not drive a vehicle as their primary means of transportation.



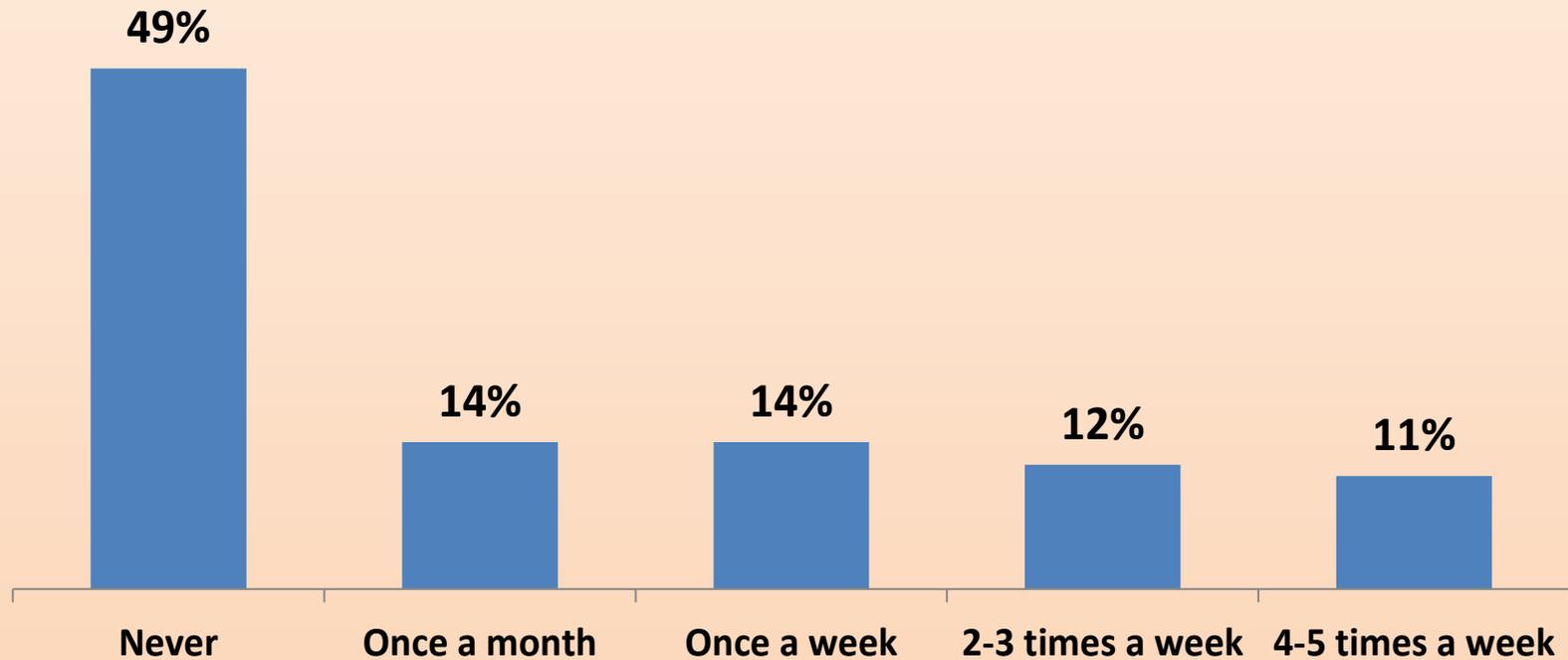
What type of transportation do you use most?
(94 Respondents)

Of those who do not drive a vehicle, 75% do not have a bus pass.



Do you have a bus pass?
(61 Respondents)

More than half of respondents said they've been late or missed a commitment due to a transportation problem.

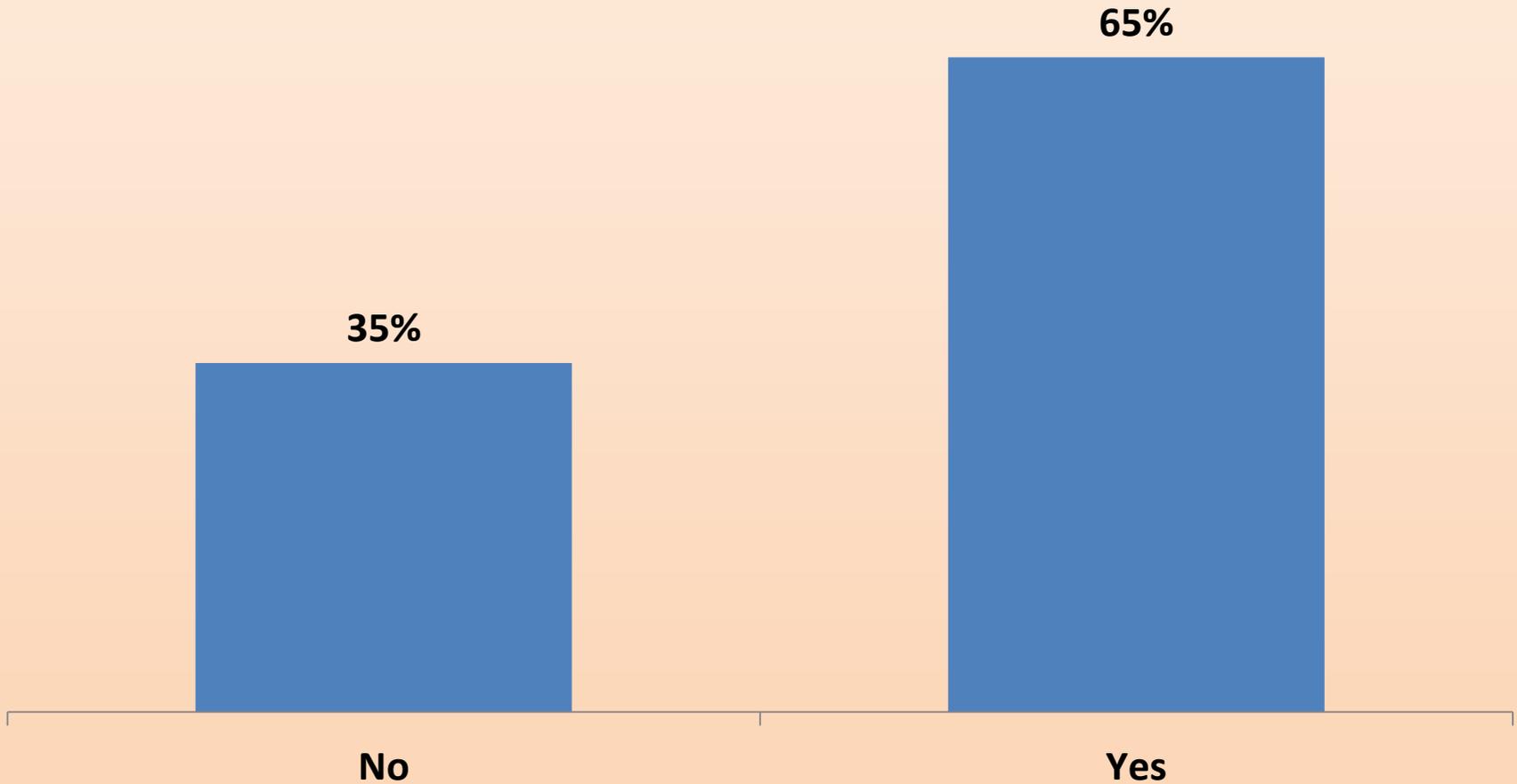


How often are you late or do you miss a commitment due to transportation problems?

(93 Respondents)

IDENTIFICATION AND BENEFITS

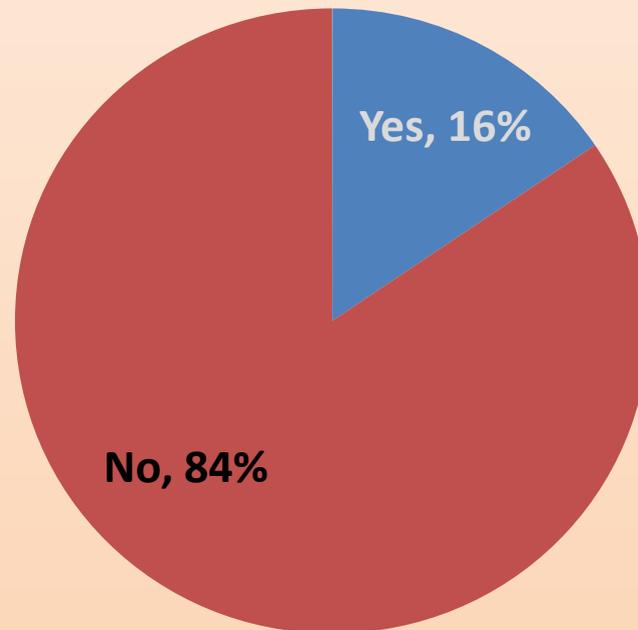
65% of respondents did not have a valid government-issued photo ID upon release



Did you need to obtain a new ID upon release?

(92 Respondents)

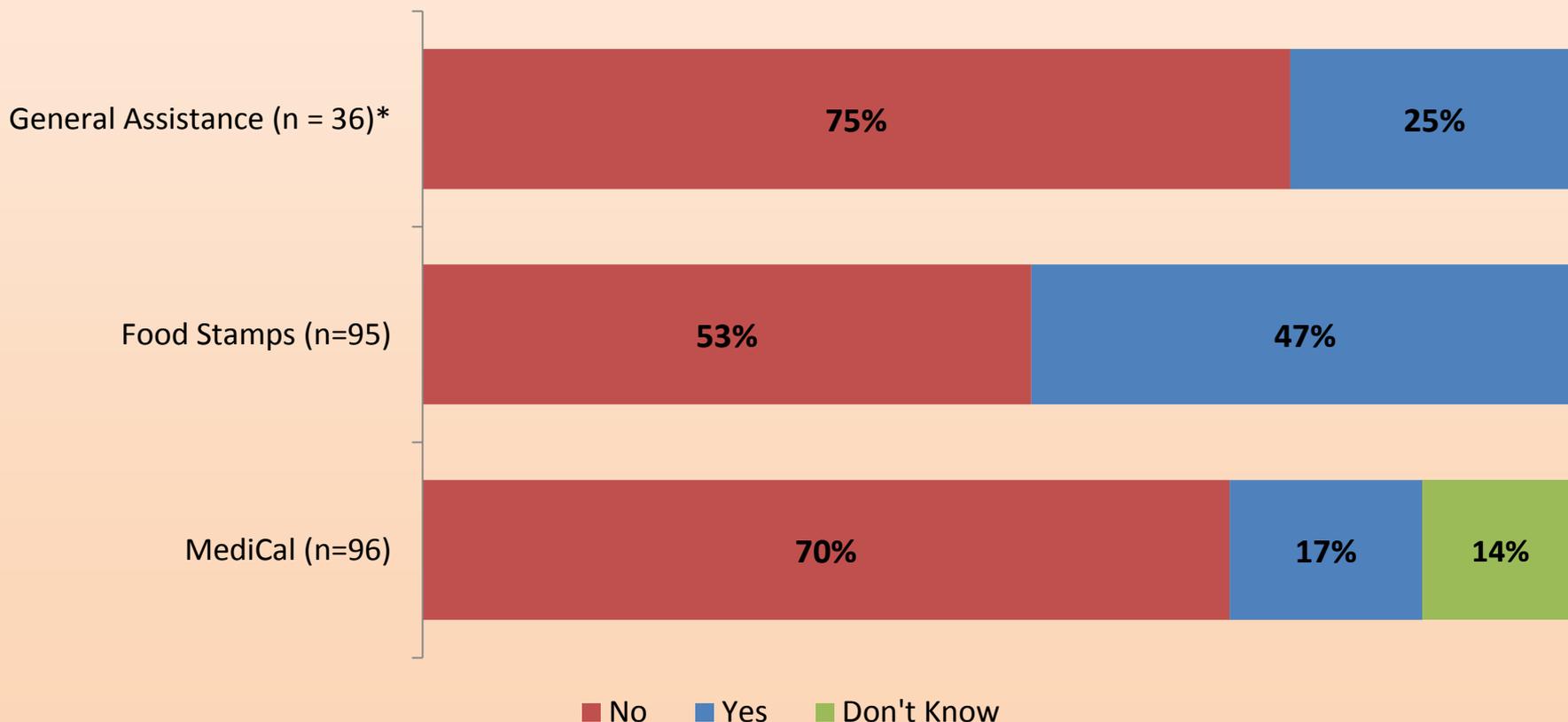
Of those who did not have a valid government-issued photo ID upon release, 84% were not able to obtain one within 2 weeks of their release



Were you able to obtain a new photo ID within 2 weeks of your release?
(58 respondents)

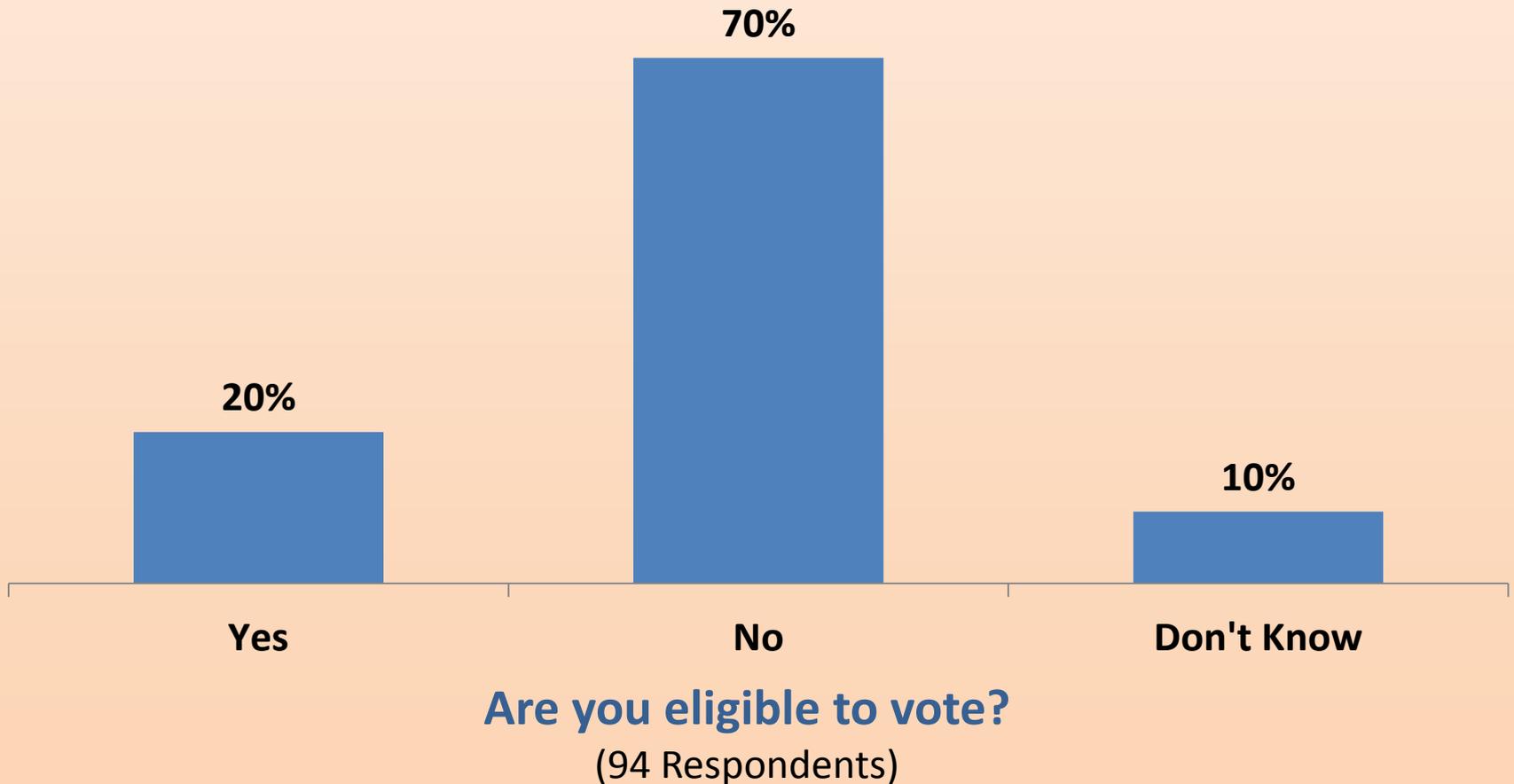
Although 79% of respondents were unemployed, only 28% received any general assistance and only 47% received food stamps

Do you currently receive...

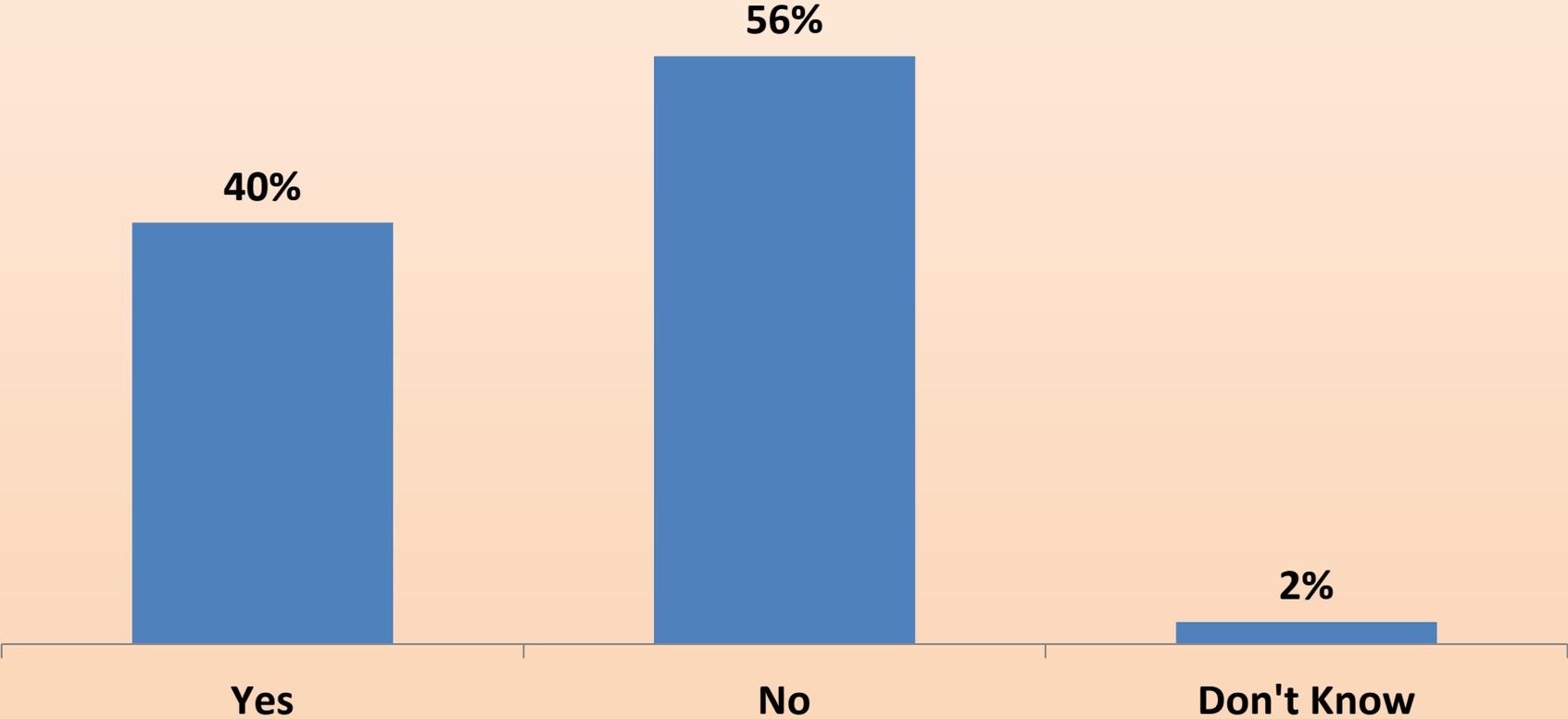


*Of parents with minor children.

80% of respondents believed they were not eligible to vote OR did not know if they were eligible. This includes 61% of respondents who were on probation and were legally eligible.



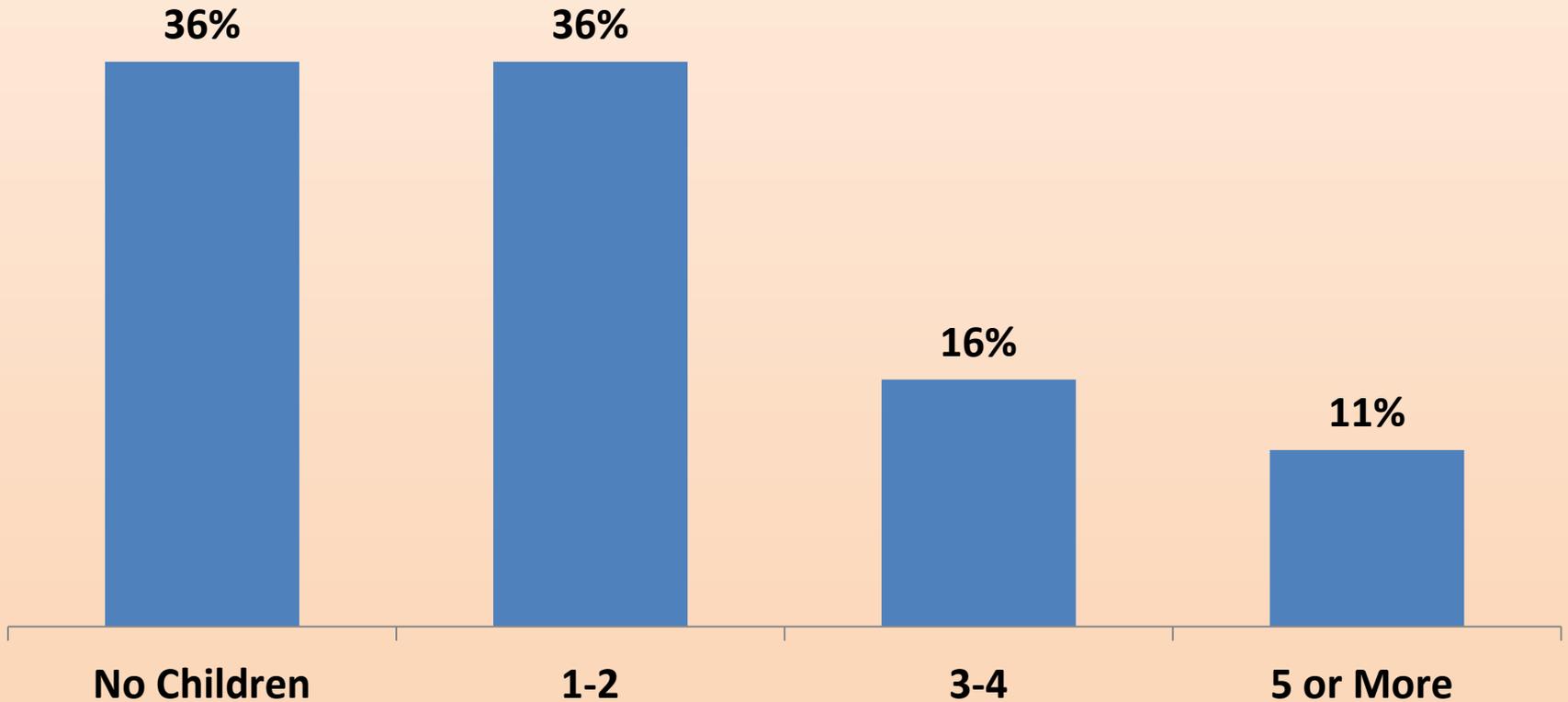
40% of respondents said they plan to vote in the next election they are eligible for.



Do you plan to vote in the next election you are eligible for?
(94 Respondents)

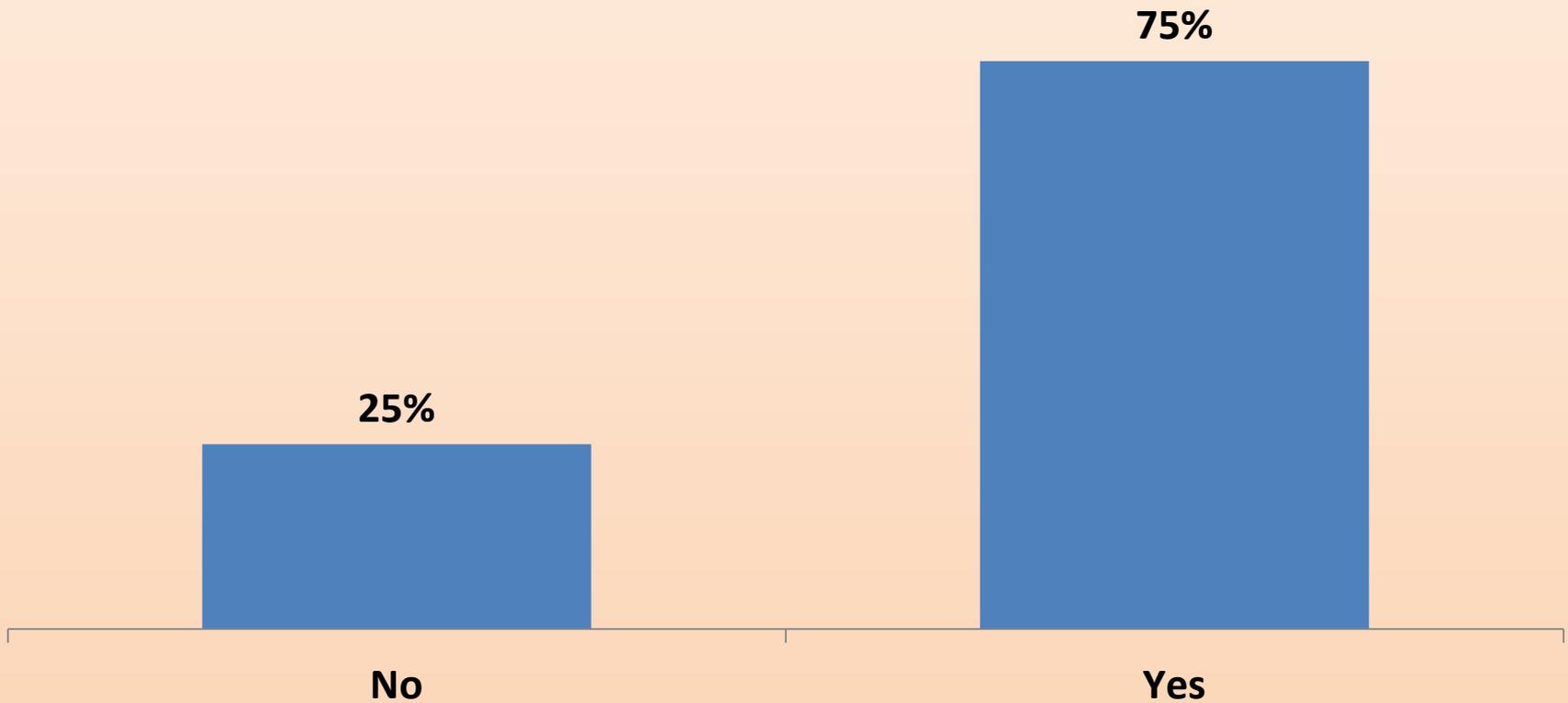
PARENTS AND CHILDREN

64% of respondents are parents
27% have more than two children



How many children do you have?
(88 Respondents)

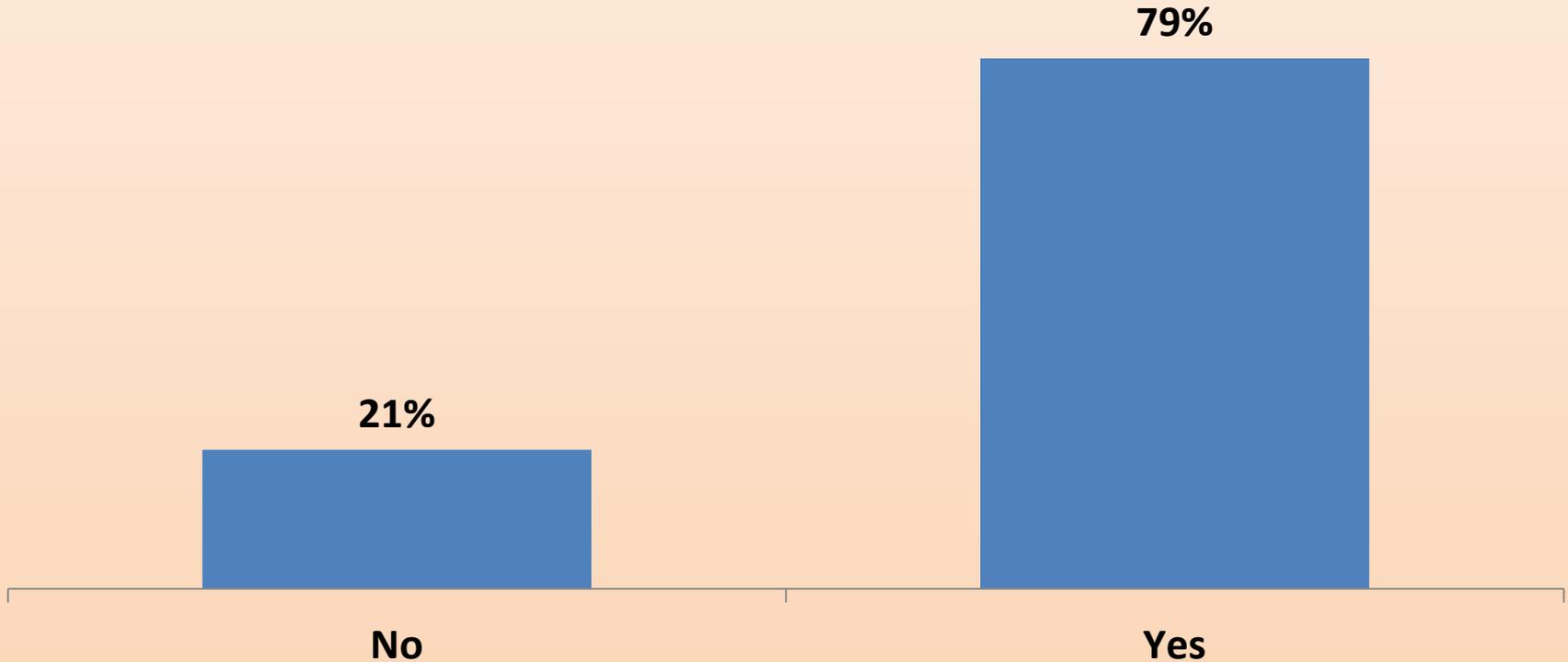
Of incarcerated parents, 25% had children who were not aware of their incarceration.



Were your children aware of your incarceration?

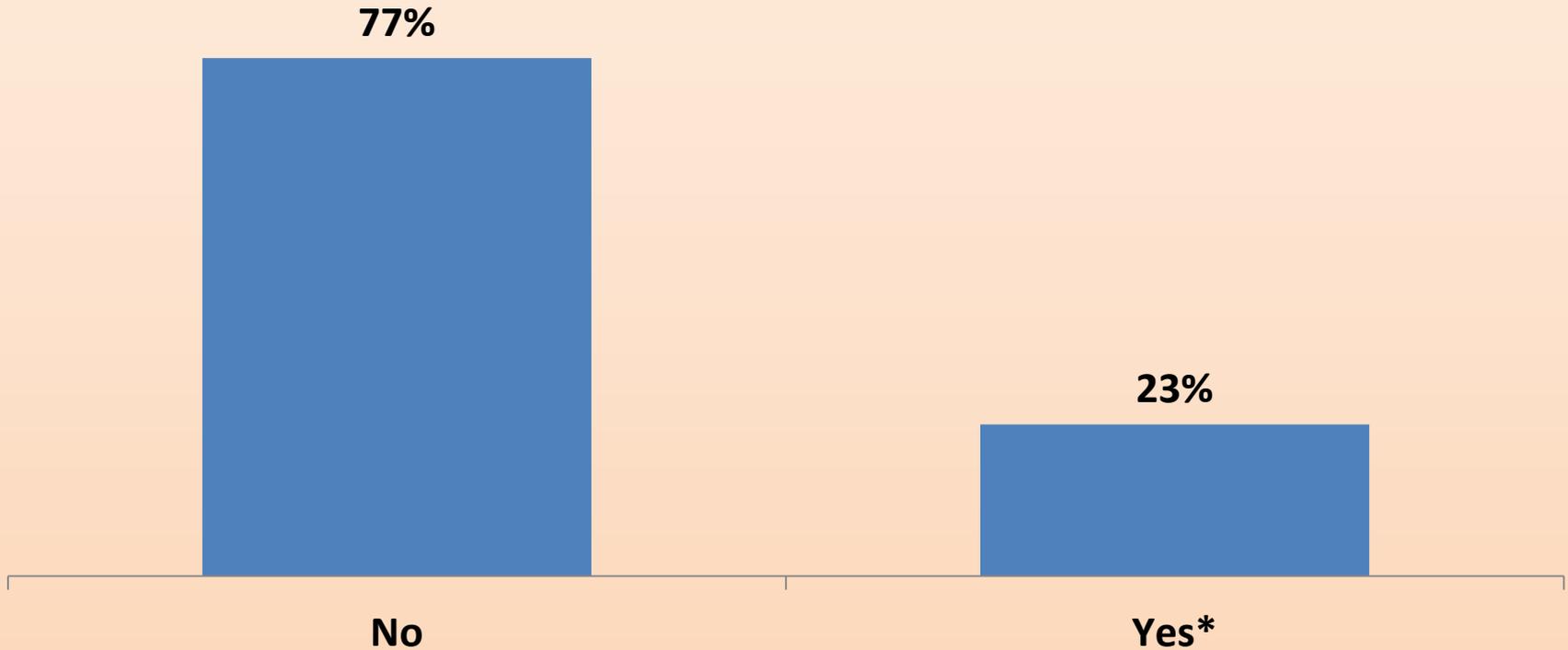
(53 Respondents)

21% of incarcerated parents were not aware of their children's location during incarceration



Were you aware of your children's location during your incarceration?
(53 Respondents)

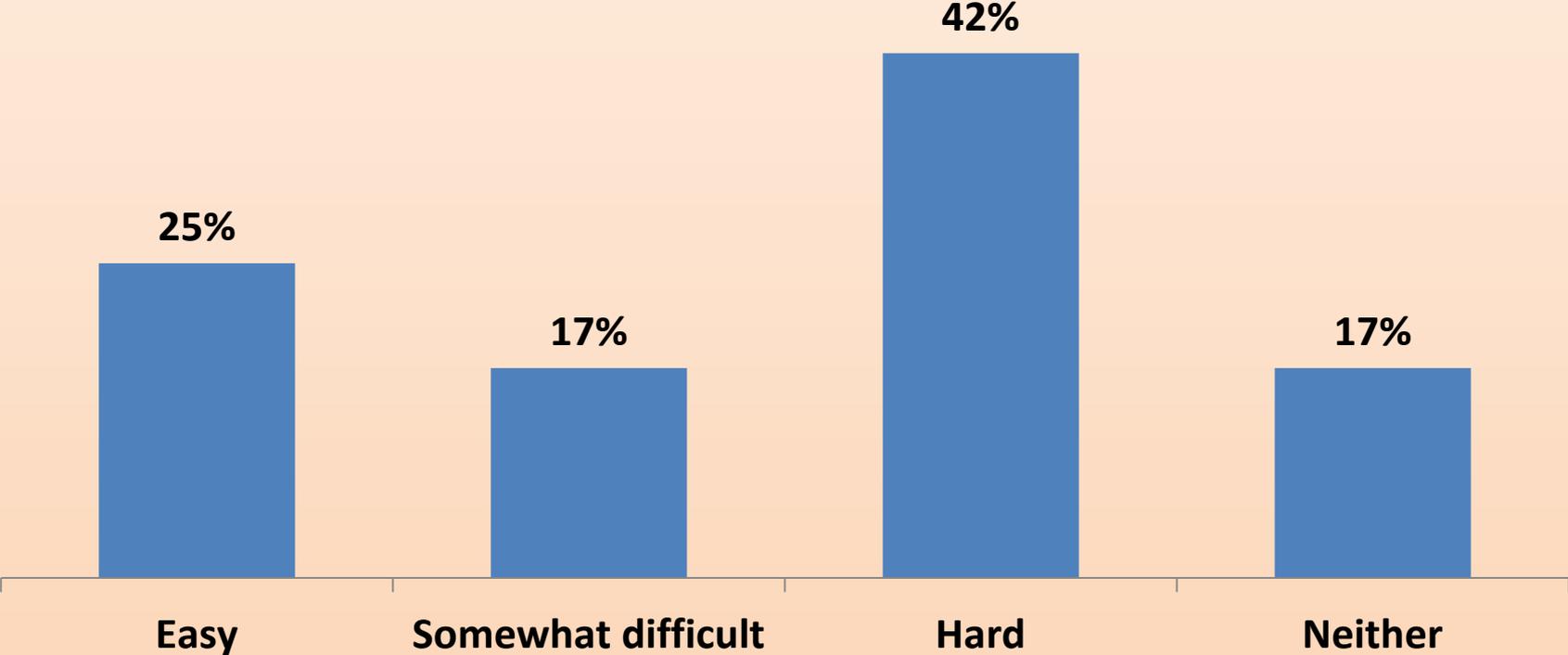
77% of incarcerated parents did not have visits with them during their incarceration



Did you have visits with your children?
(53 Respondents)

***Of the 12 respondents who did visit with their children while incarcerated, 7 reported that these were non-contact visits.**

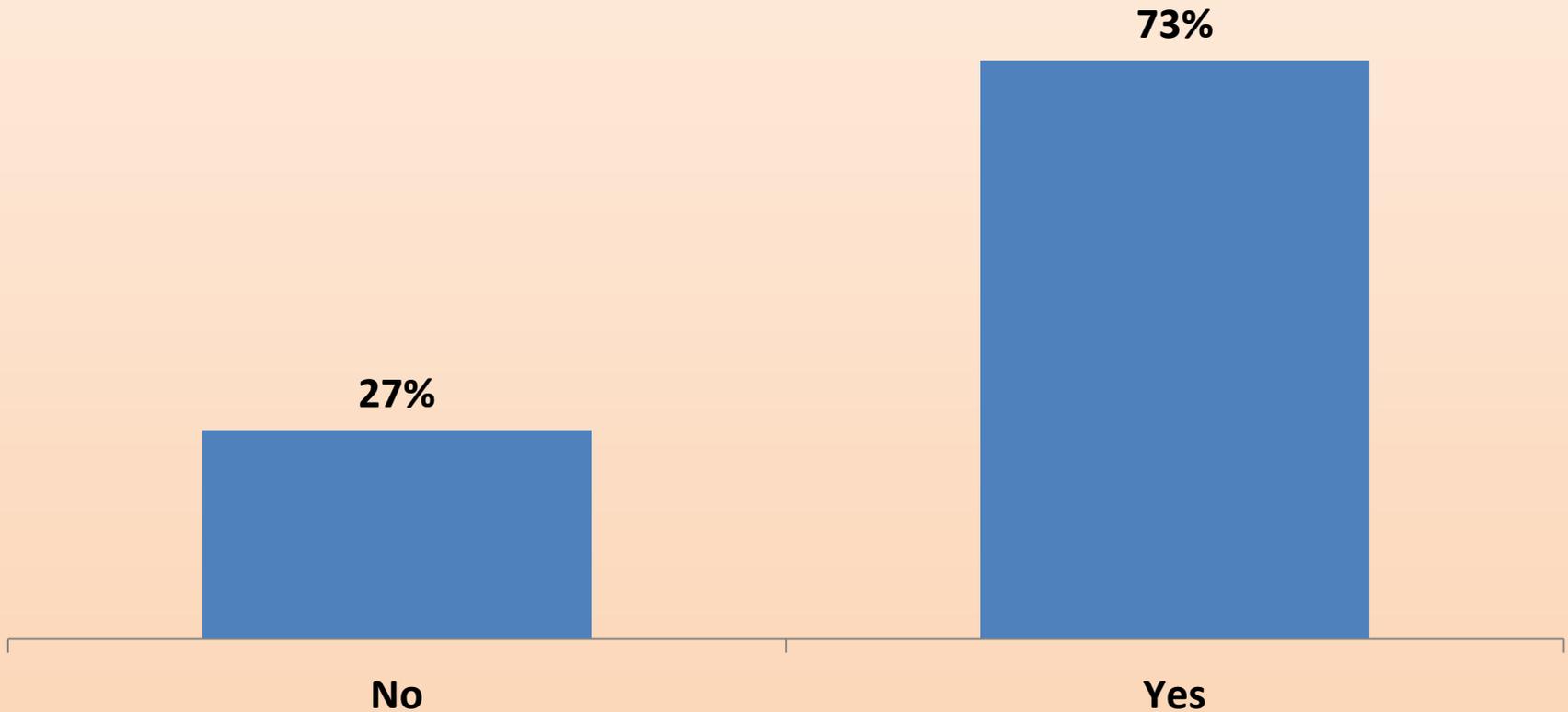
59% of incarcerated parents said it was hard or somewhat difficult to maintain relationships with their children while incarcerated



During your incarceration, how hard or easy was it to maintain relationships with your children?

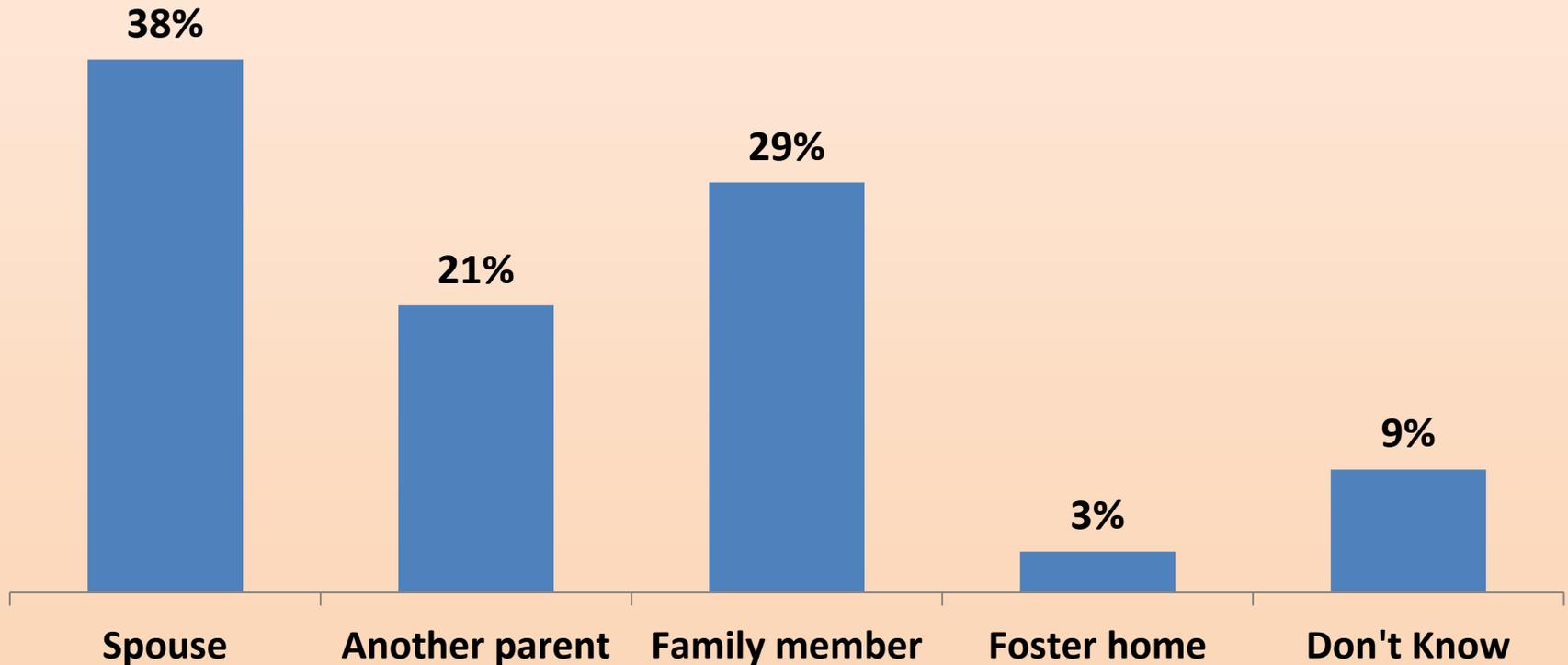
(88 Respondents)

73% of incarcerated parents had children under the age of 18 during their incarceration



Were any of your children under 18 during your incarceration?
(49 Respondents)

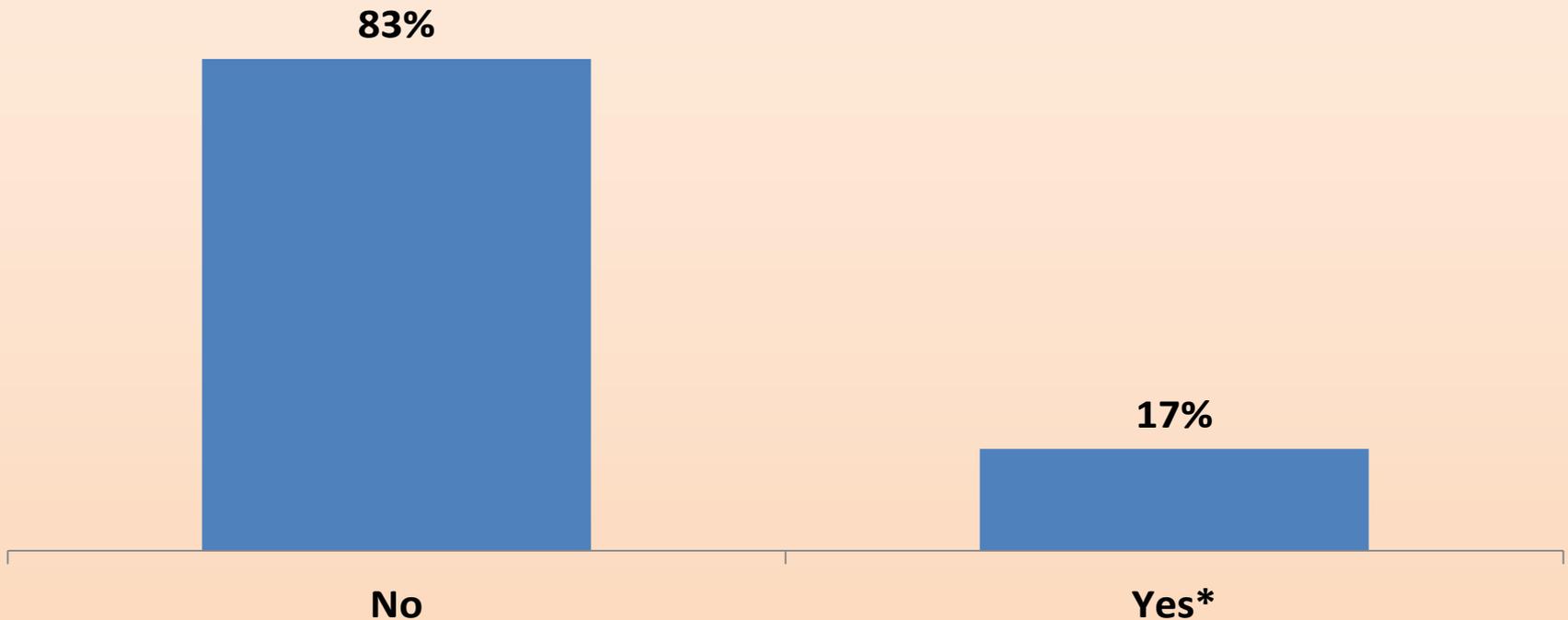
For 88% of incarcerated parents with children under 18, a spouse, another parent, or a family member took care of their children during their incarceration.



During your incarceration, who cared for your children under 18?

(34 Respondents)

17% of incarcerated parents with children under 18 had their children removed from their custody while they were incarcerated.



Were your children under 18 legally removed from your custody when you were incarcerated?

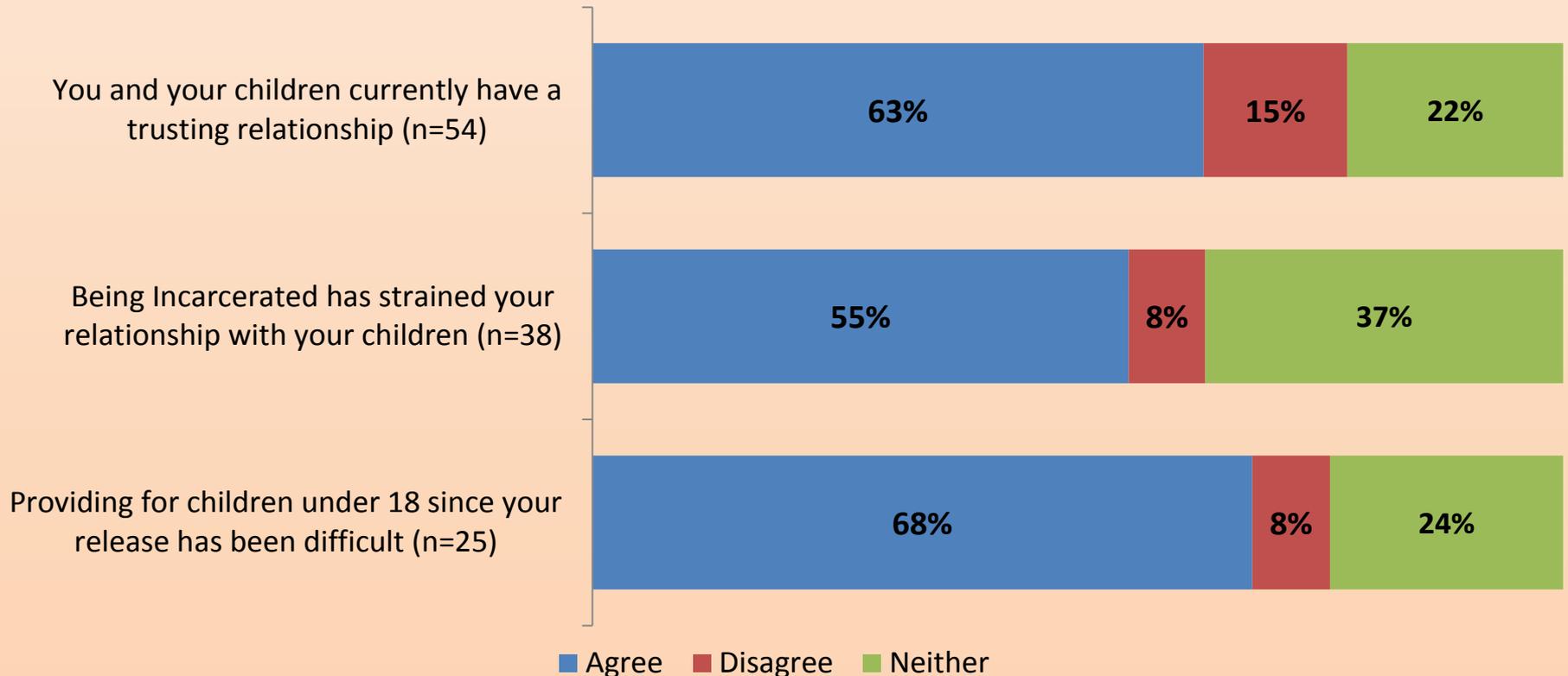
(35 Respondents)

***Of the 6 respondents who had their children legally removed from their custody, 2 received information about how to regain custody prior to release and half were eventually able to regain custody.**

55% of incarcerated parents said their incarceration has strained their relationship with their children.

68% of incarcerated parents with children under 18 said that providing for them has been difficult.

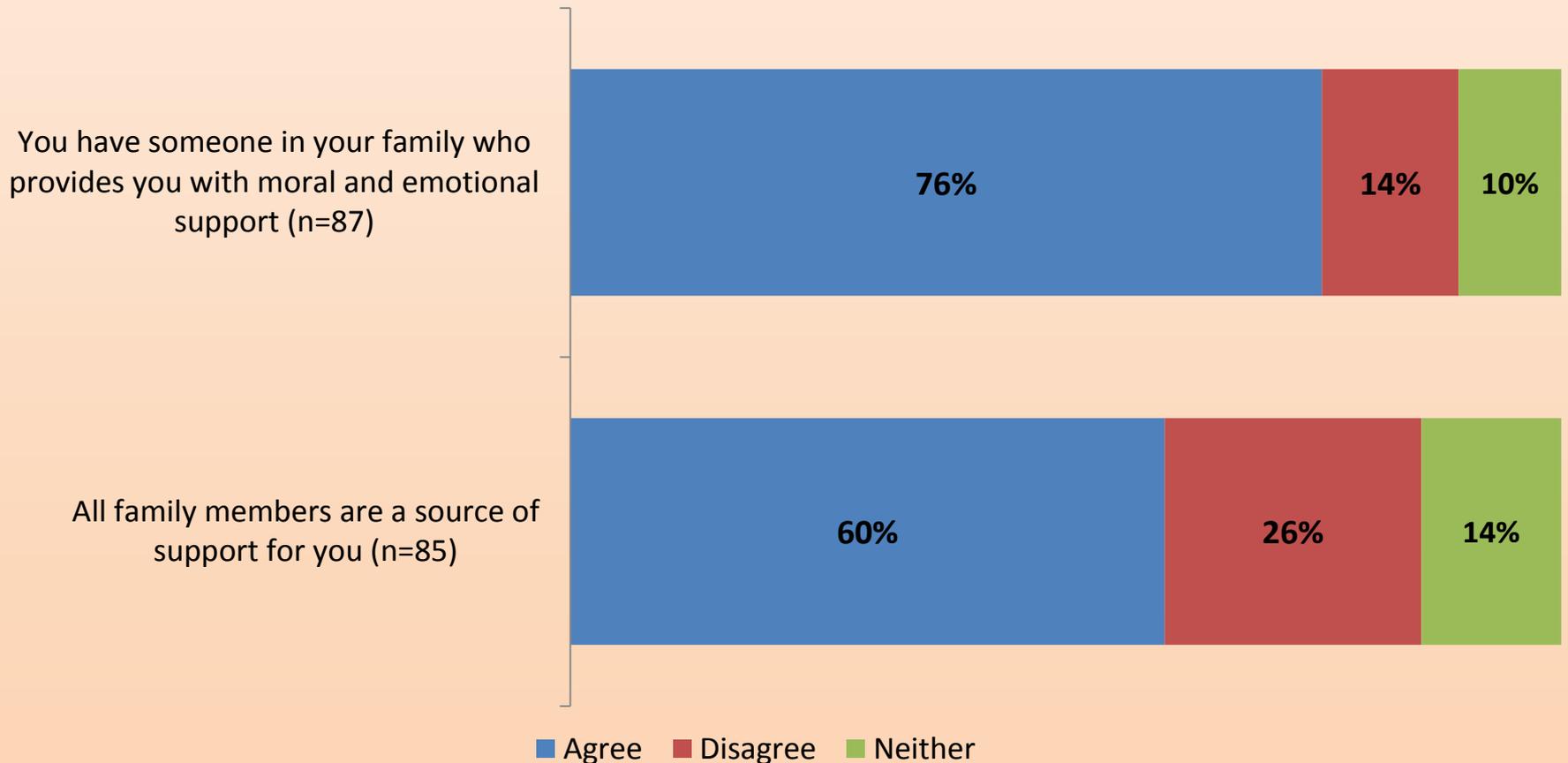
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?



FAMILY TIES

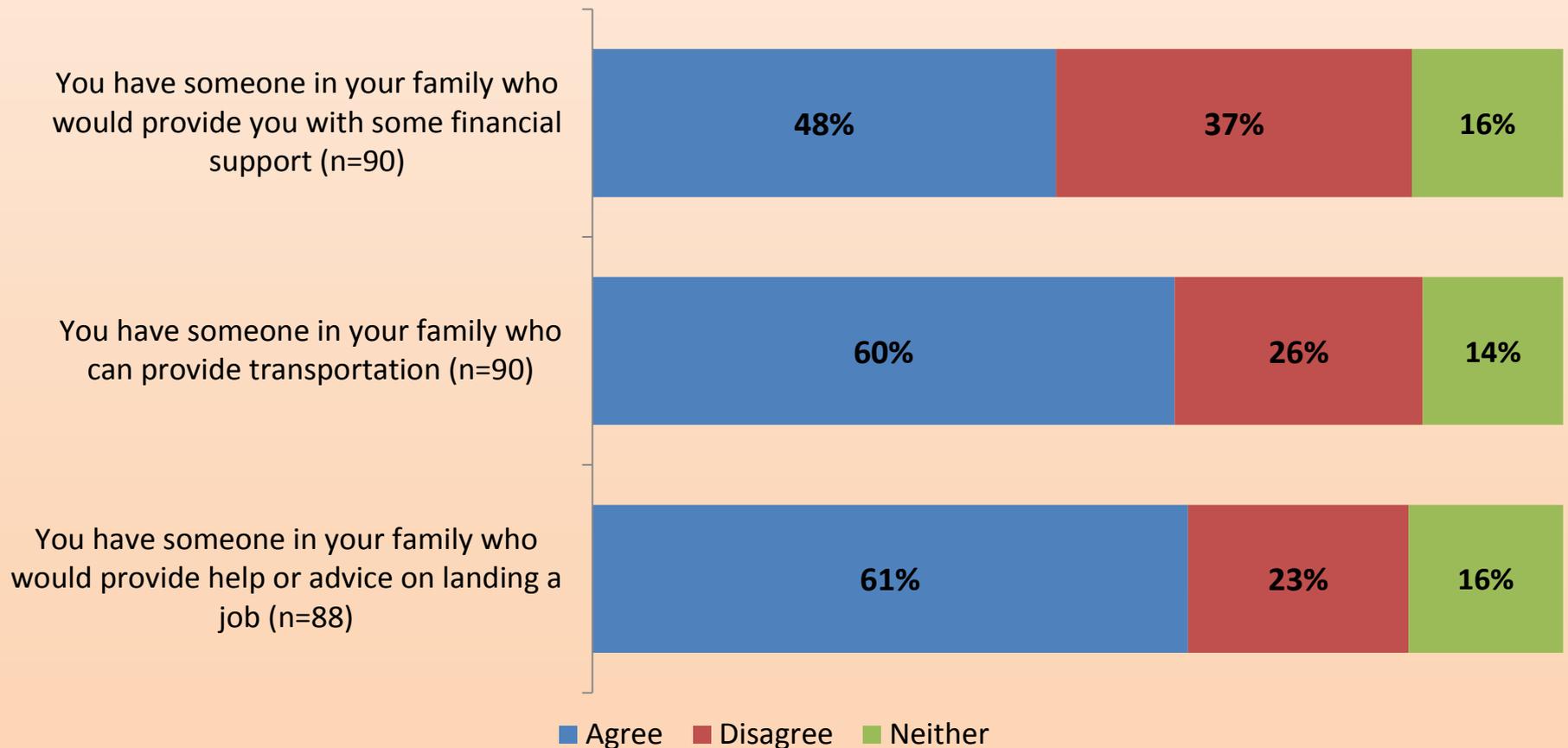
76% of respondents said they have someone in their family who provides them with moral and emotional support

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

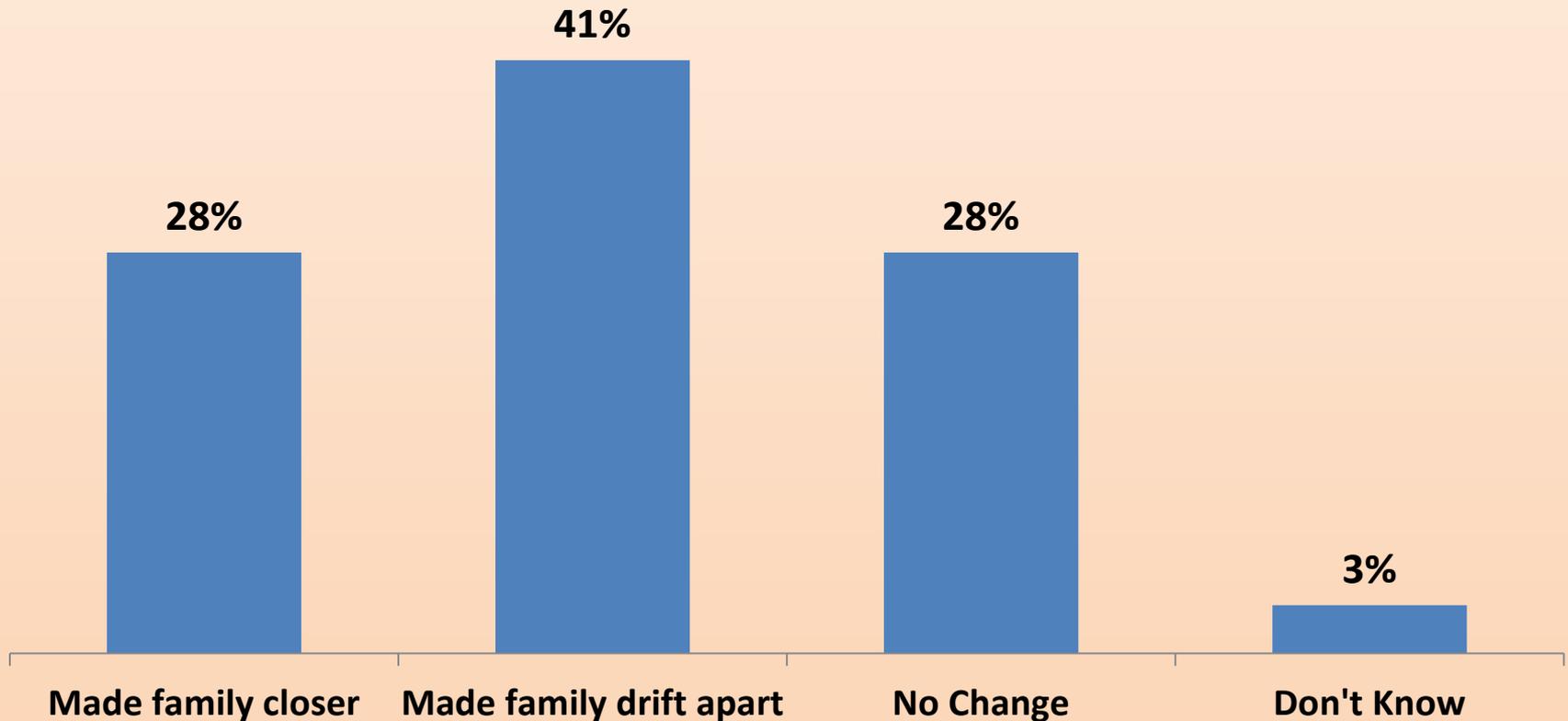


Fewer than half of respondents said they have someone in their family who would provide them with financial support.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

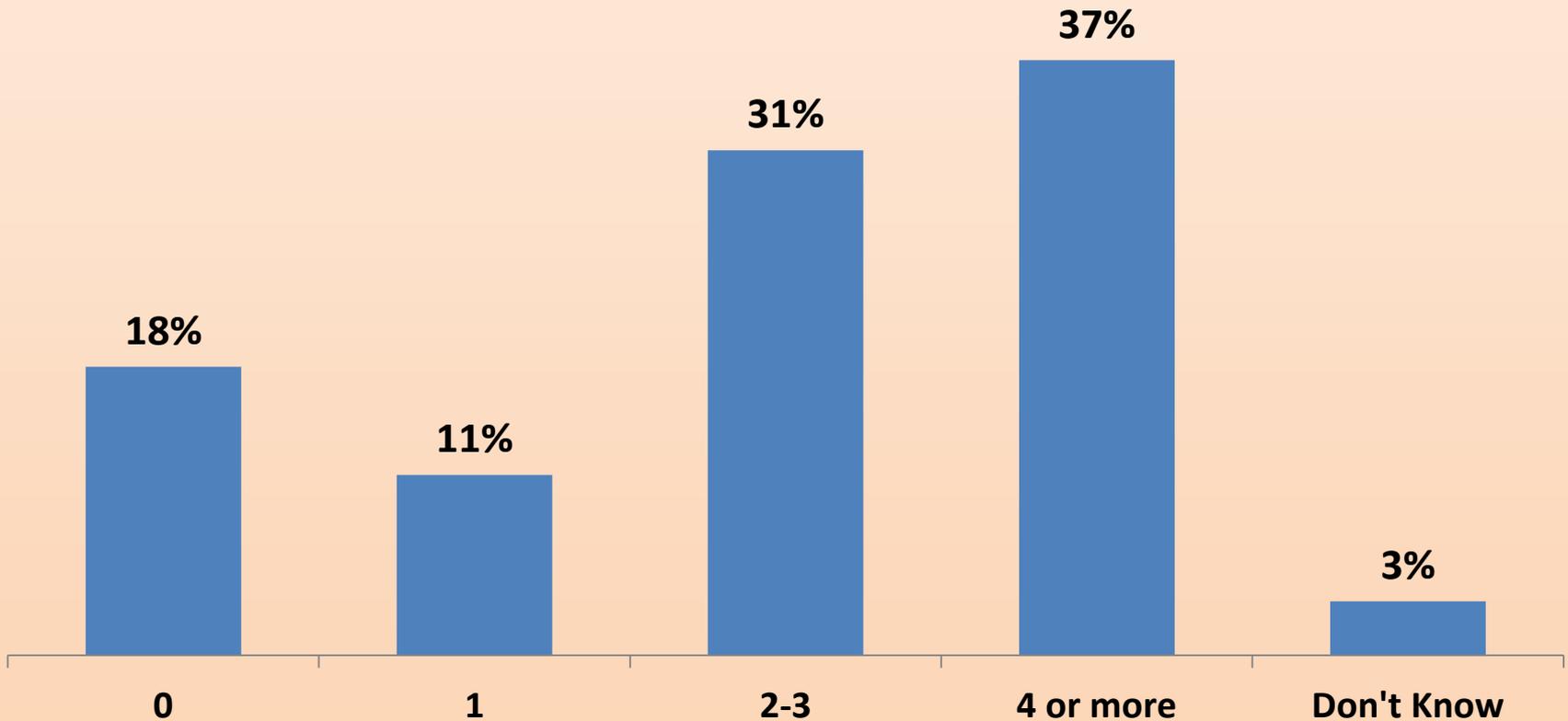


41% of respondents said their incarceration had strained their relationship with their family
28% said it had made their family closer



How has your time in jail/prison changed your relationship with your family?
(90 Respondents)

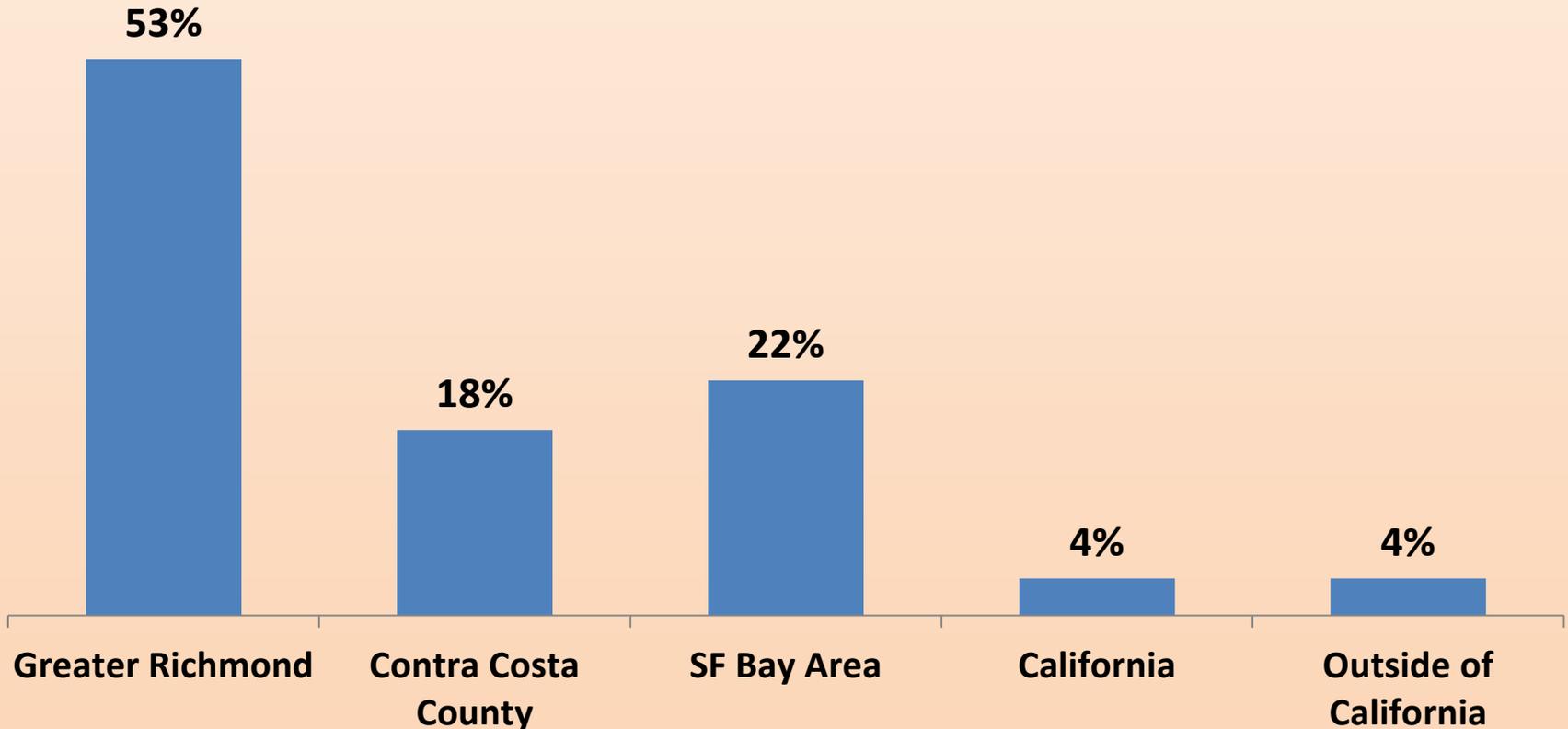
82% of respondents said they have at least one close family relationship (someone who would look out for them, would do them a favor, or would listen and offer advice).



How many close family relationships do you have now?

(90 Respondents)

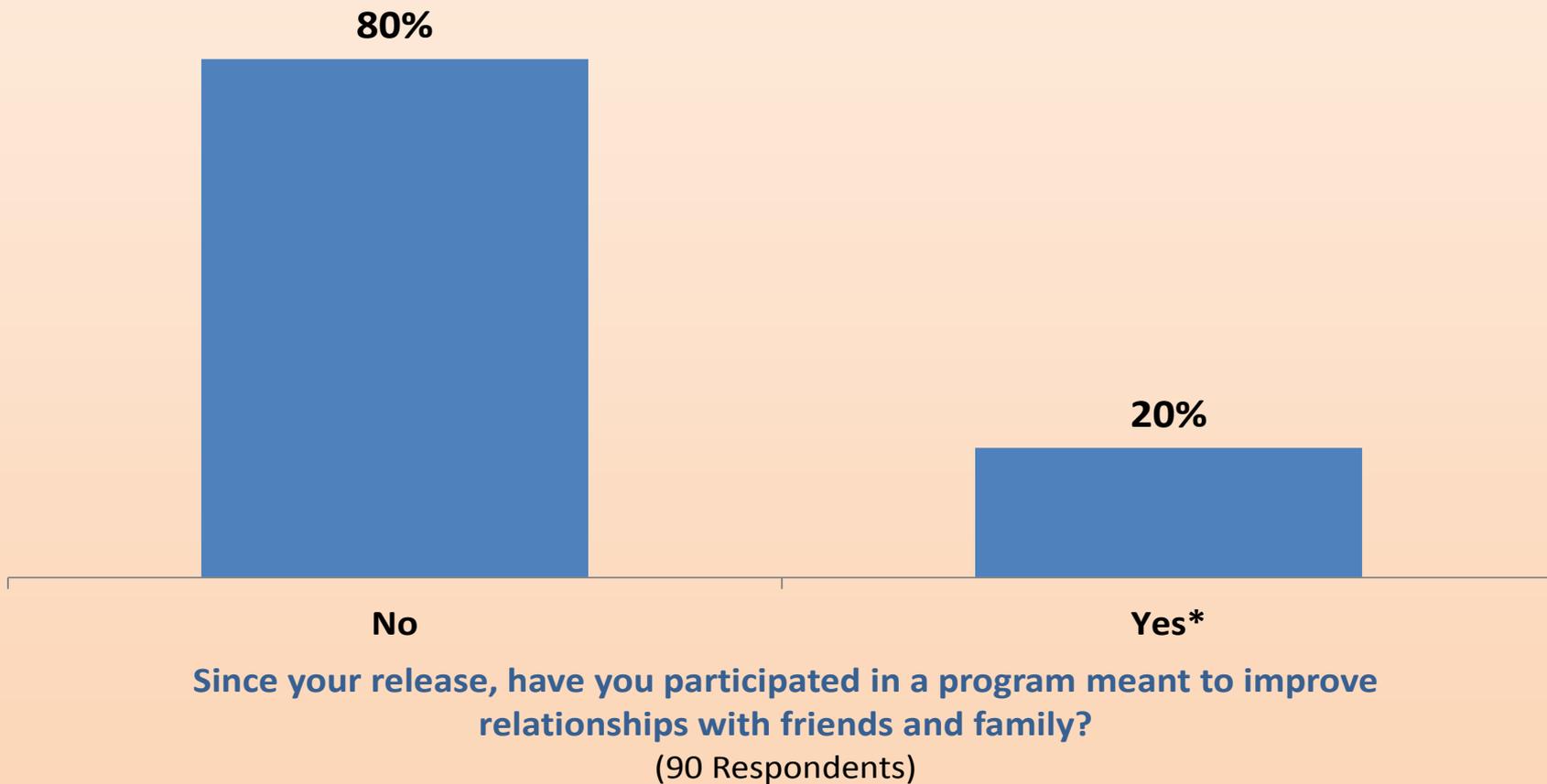
53% of respondents said they have a close family member who lives in the Greater Richmond Area.



Where does the nearest family member you are close with live in?

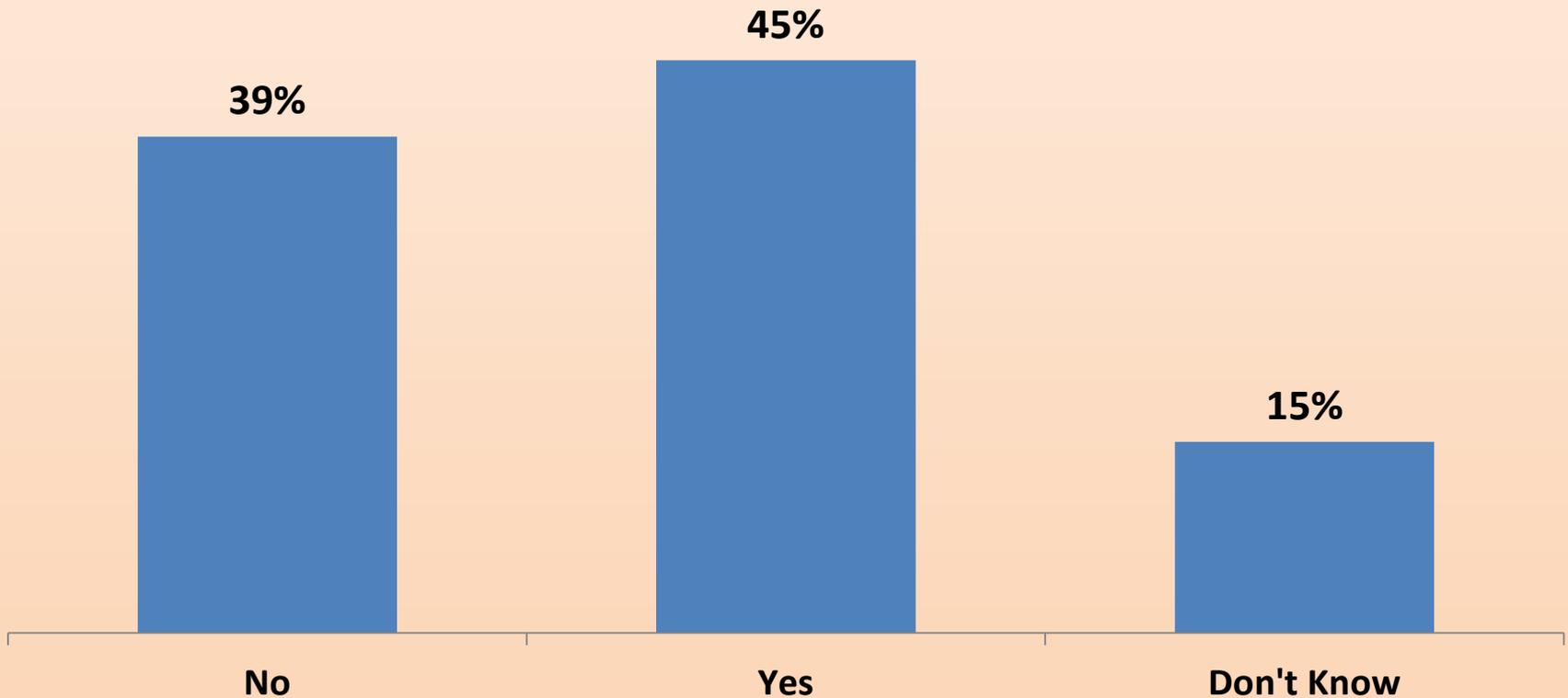
(85 Respondents)

20% of respondents had participated in a program meant to improve relationships with friends and family since release.



***Of those who did, 11 out of 13 said the program was helpful. Of those who said their period of incarceration made their family drift apart, 78% did not participate in any family programs since release.**

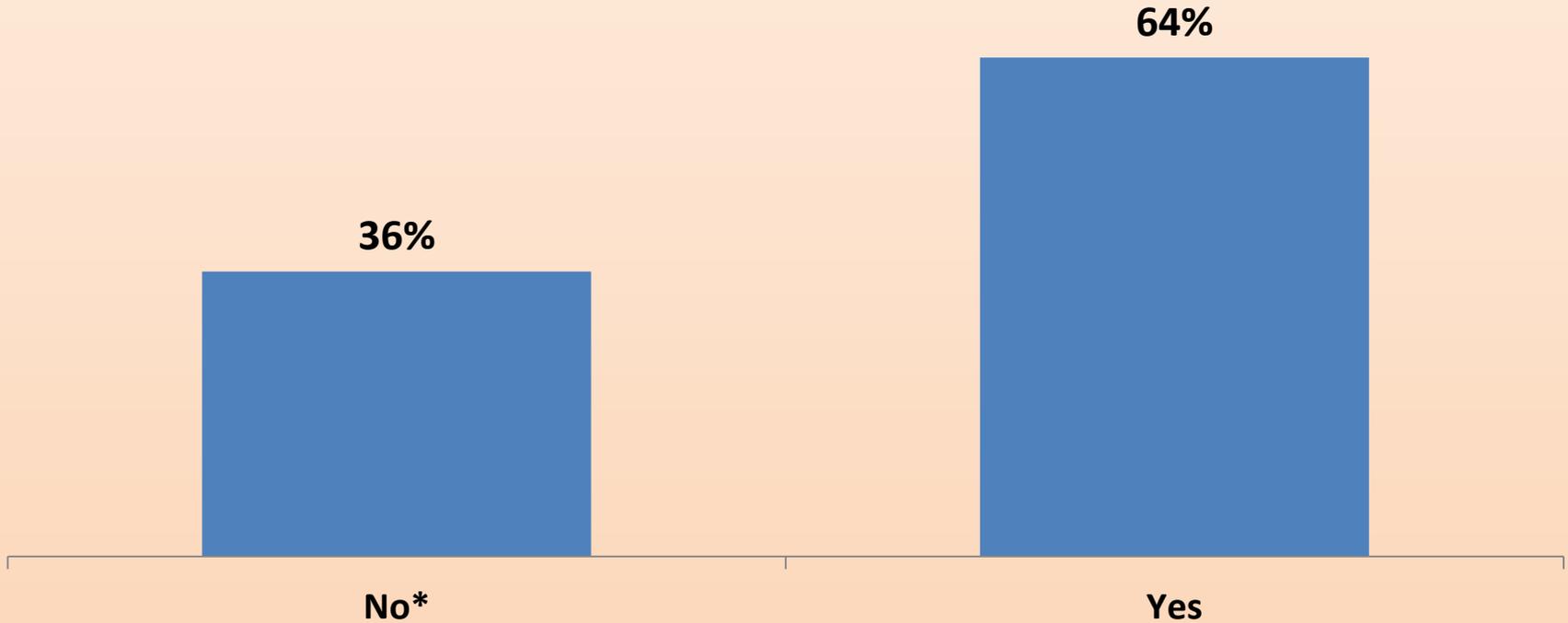
Of those who did not participate in family relationship programs, 45% felt they would benefit from such a program.



Do you think you would benefit from such a program?
(66 Respondents)

COMMUNITY TIES

64% of respondents said they have a positive support group outside of their family



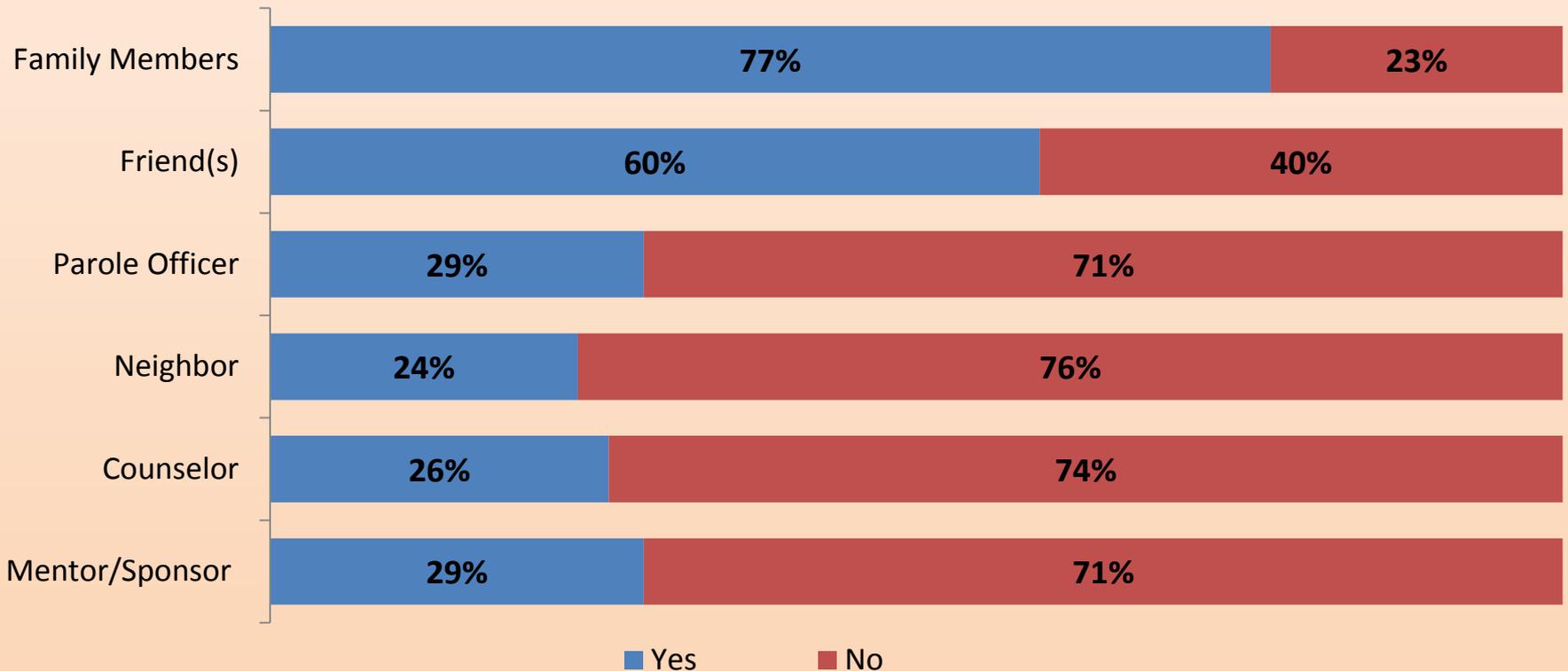
Do you have a positive support group outside of your family?

(88 Respondents)

***Of those who said they have no close relationships with family, nearly half said they do not have a positive support group outside of their family.**

The majority of respondents would turn to a friend or family member if they needed guidance*

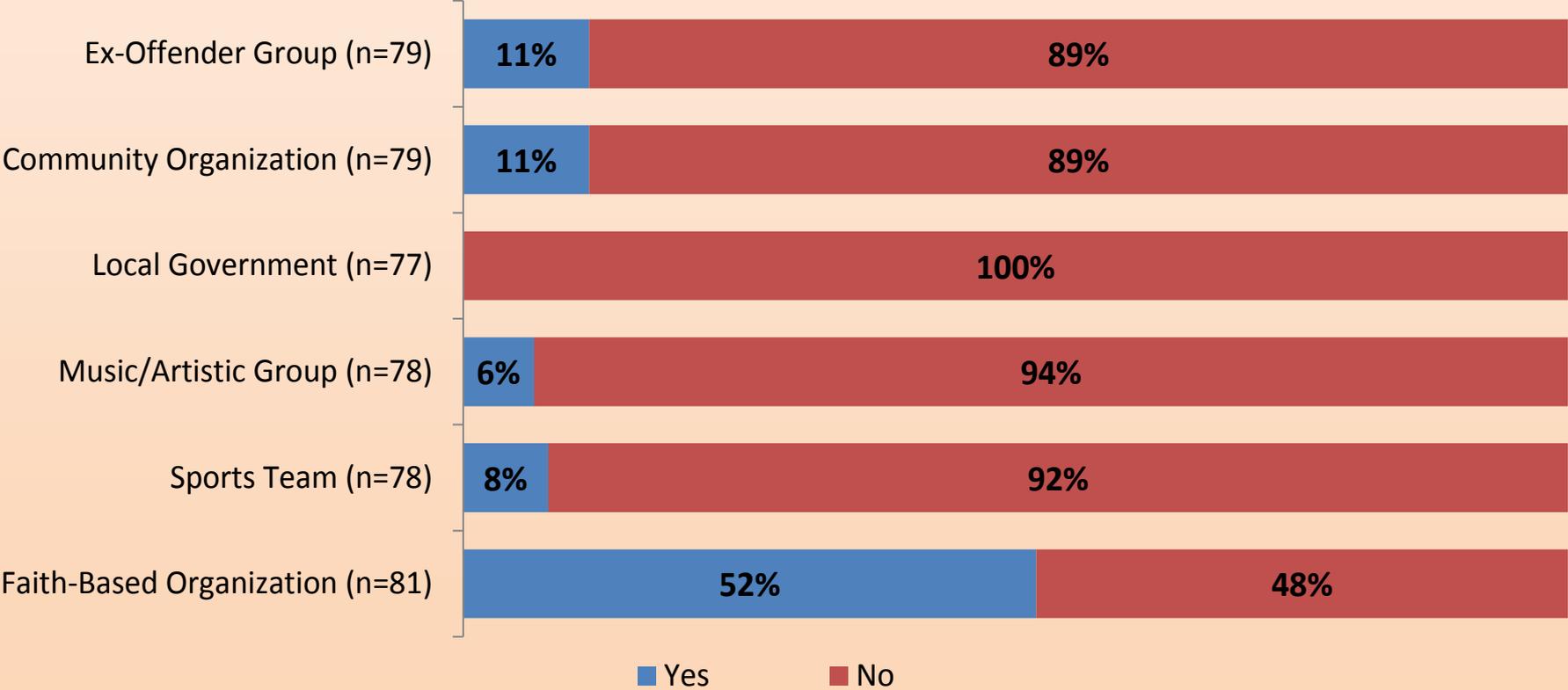
Do you turn to any of the following people when you need guidance?



***71% said they would not turn to their parole / probation officer if they needed guidance.**

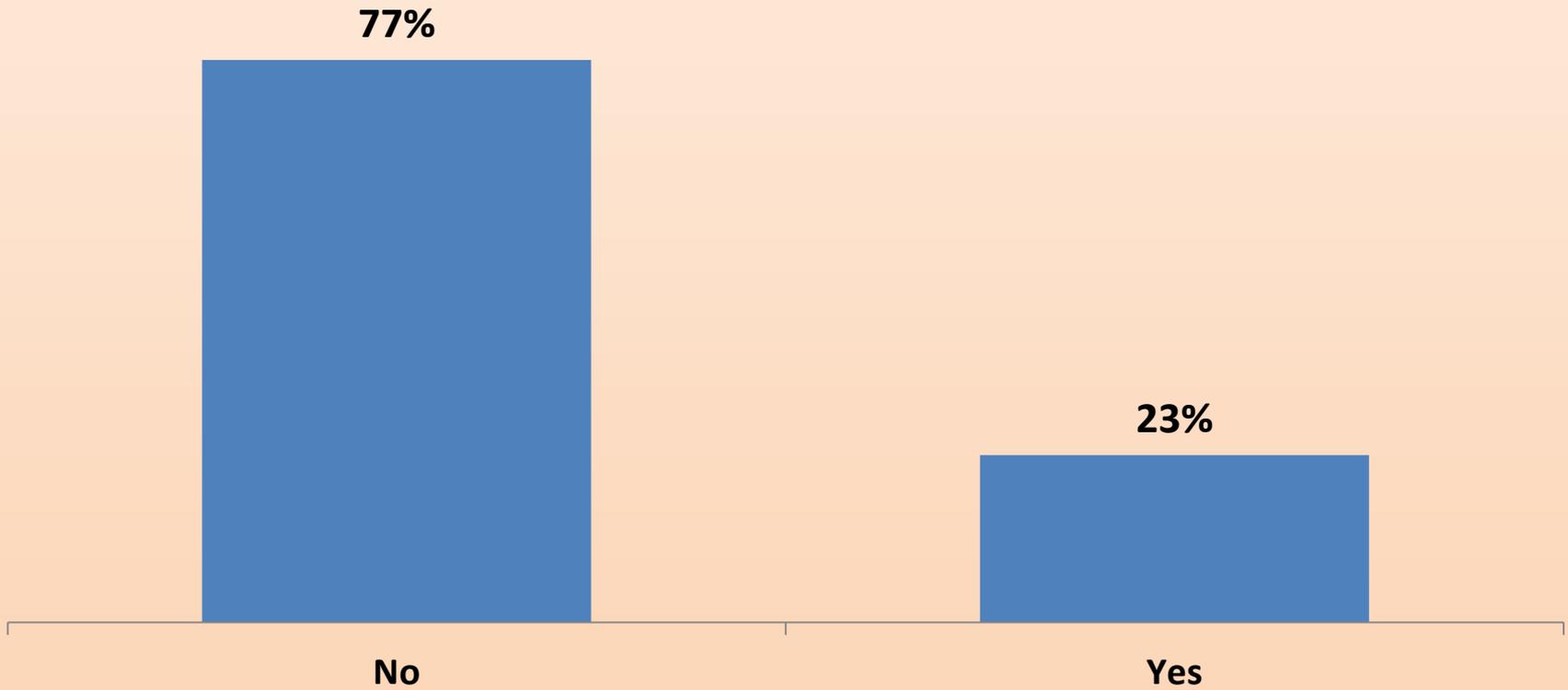
More than half of respondents belonged to a faith-based organization*

What kind of organizations in your community do you belong to?



*Only 11% said they belong to a group for formerly incarcerated people.

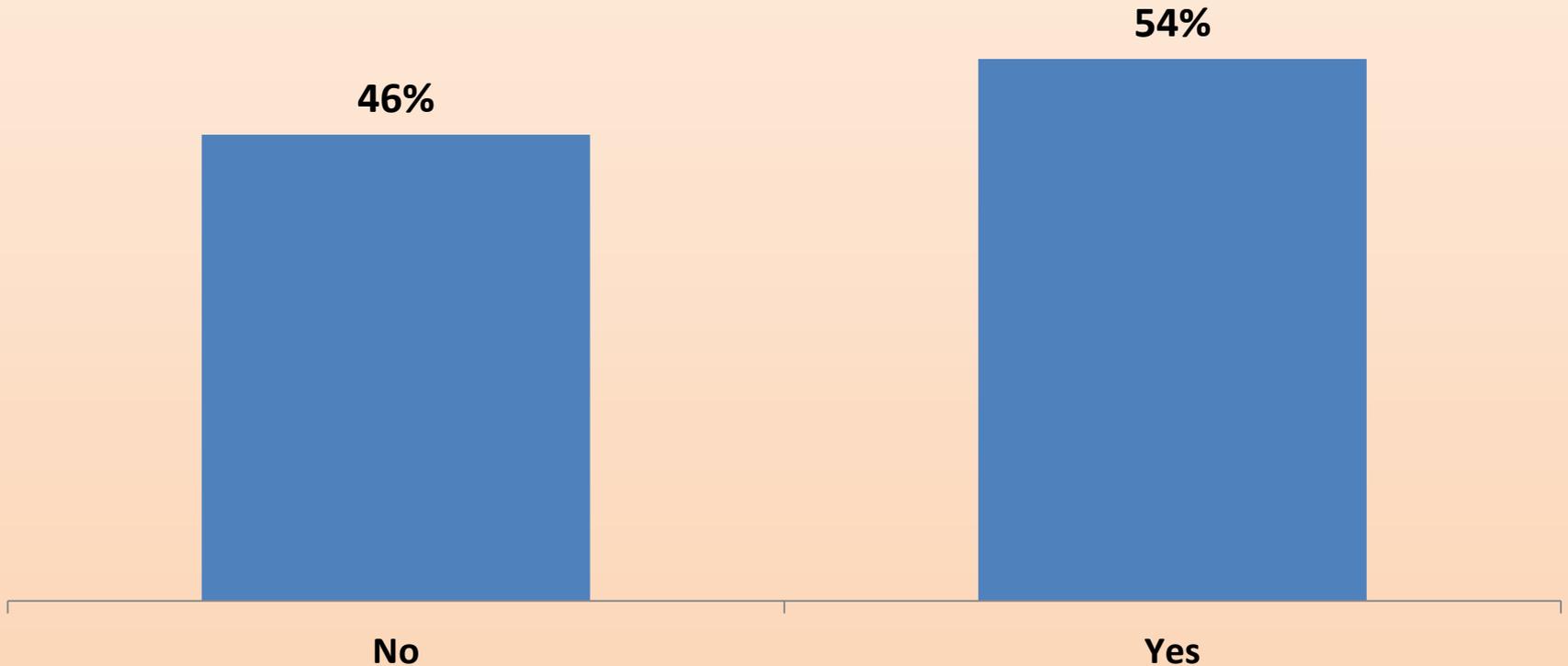
23% of respondents do community service in their neighborhood



Do you do any community service in your neighborhood?

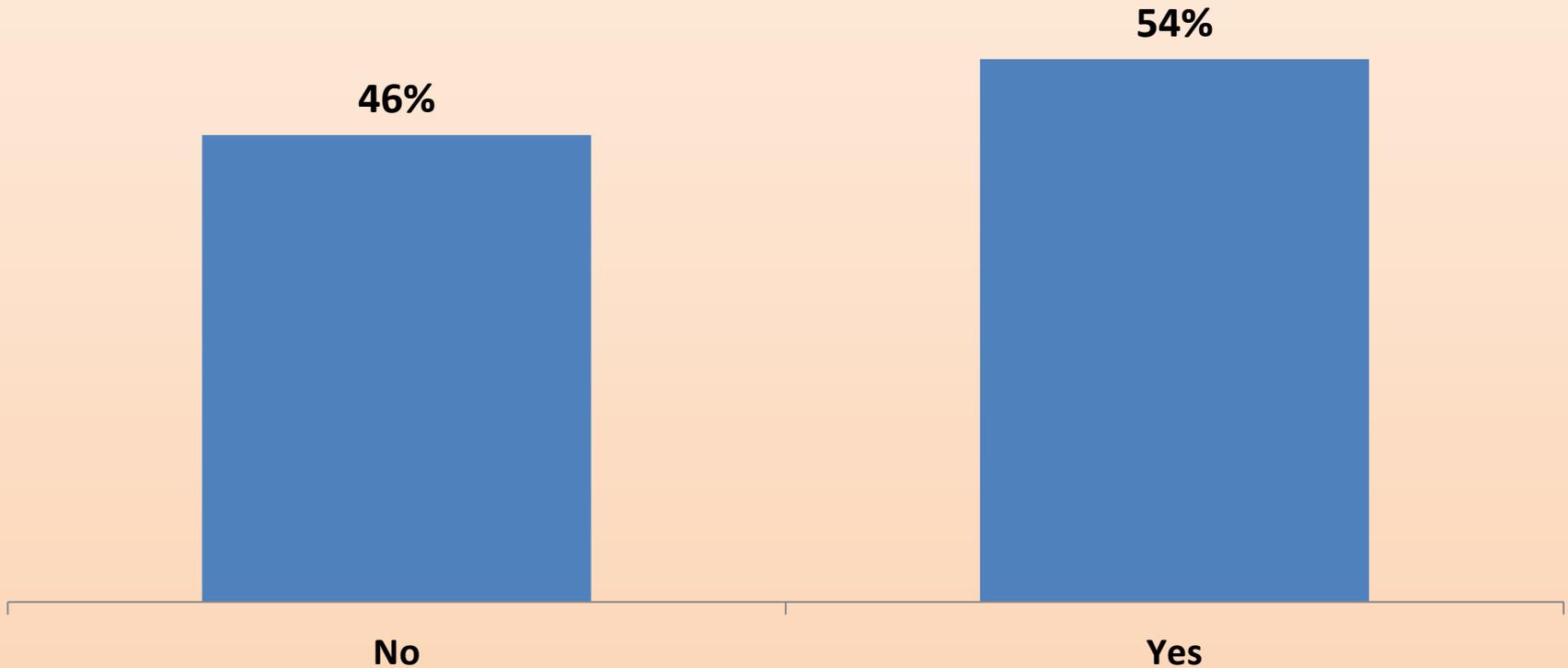
(96 Respondents)

Nearly half of respondents said they did not feel respected as a member of the community



Do you feel respected as a member of the community?
(94 Respondents)

Only half of respondents felt they they've had a chance to make things right to the people affected by past crimes.



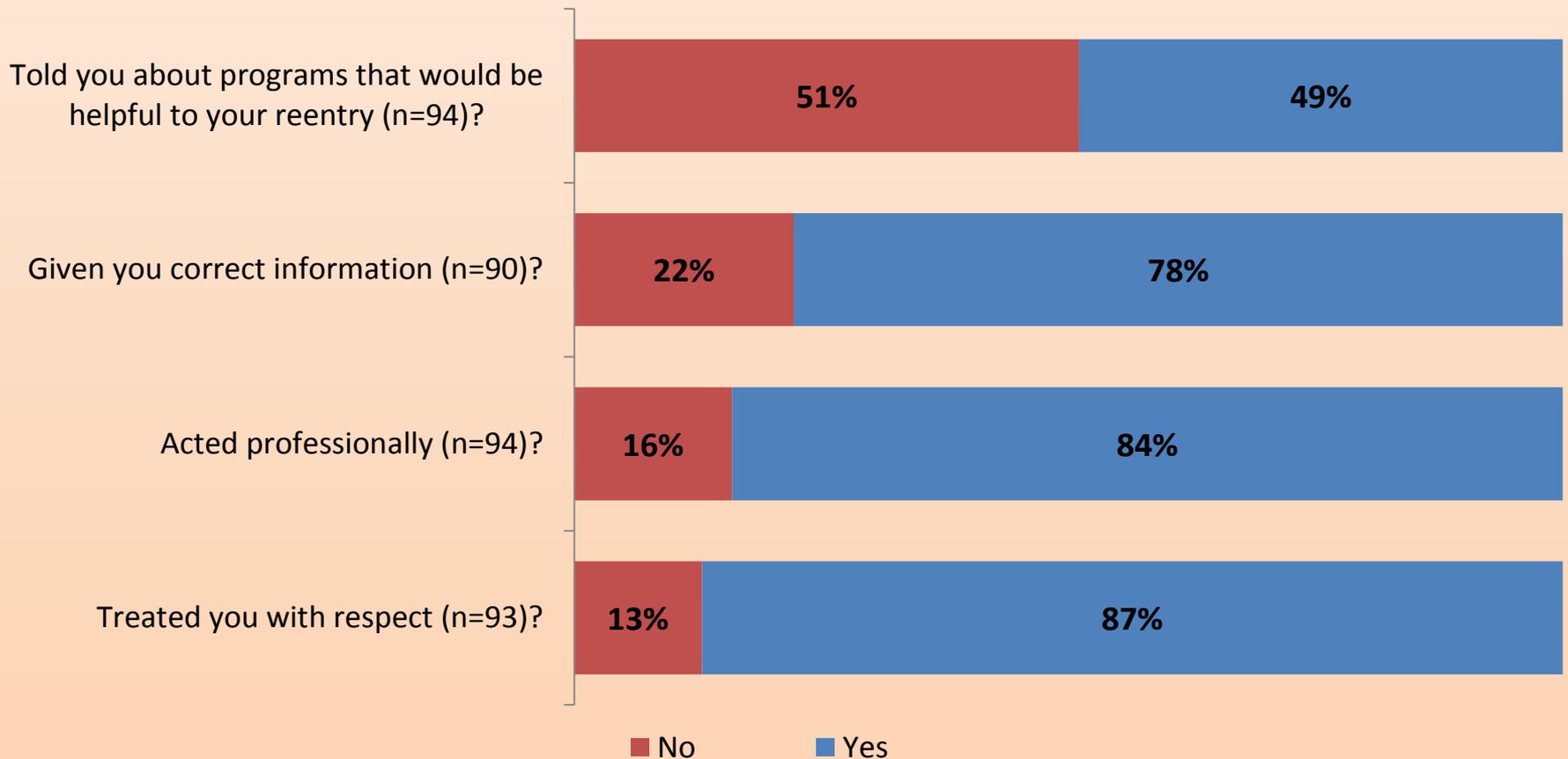
Do you feel like you've had a chance to make things right to the people affected by any past crimes?

(93 Respondents)

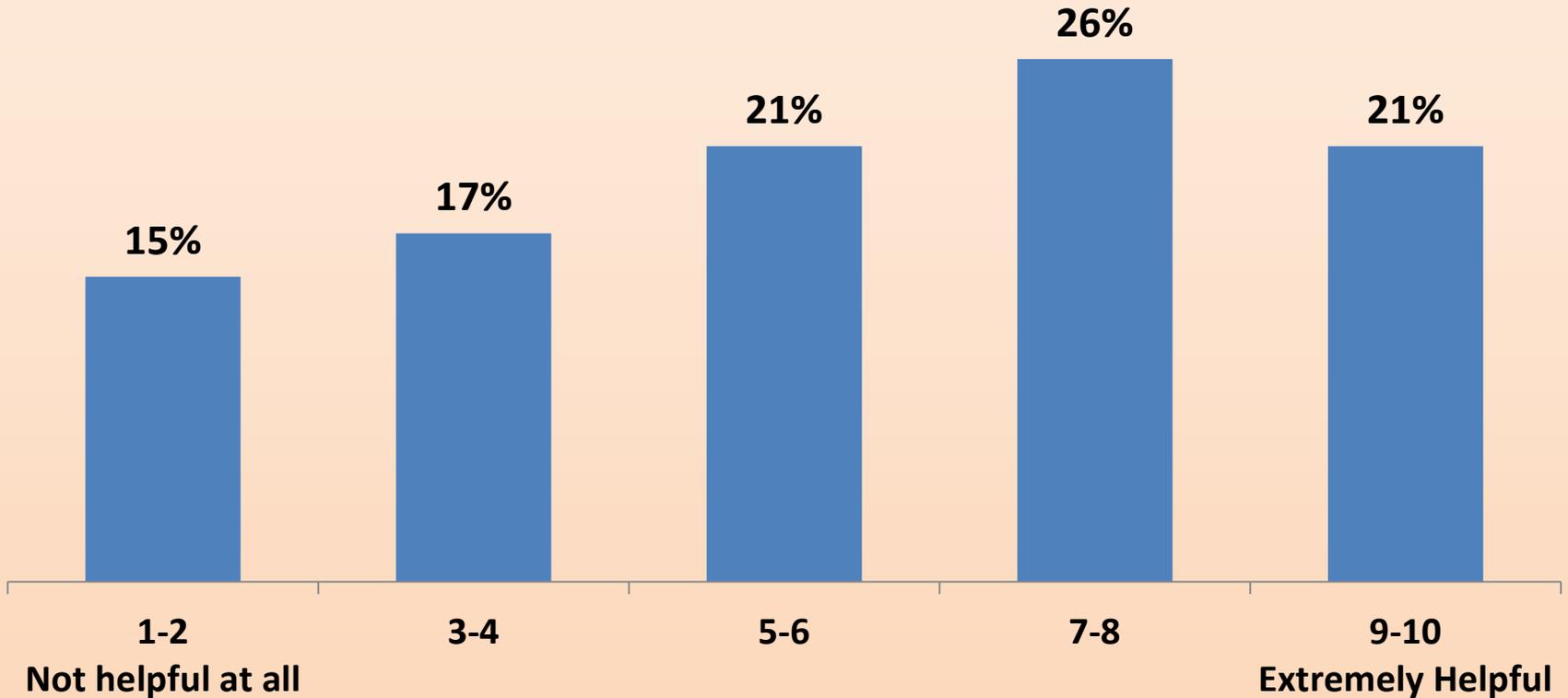
RELATIONSHIP WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

Less than half of respondents said their parole or probation officer has told them about program that would be helpful to their reentry

Has your parole or probation officer...?



One out of seven said their PO was not helpful at all
One out of five said their PO was extremely helpful*



On a scale of 1-10, how helpful has your PO been with your transition?
(94 Respondents)

***Average Ranking = 5.9 (6.2 for parole and 5.7 for probation)**

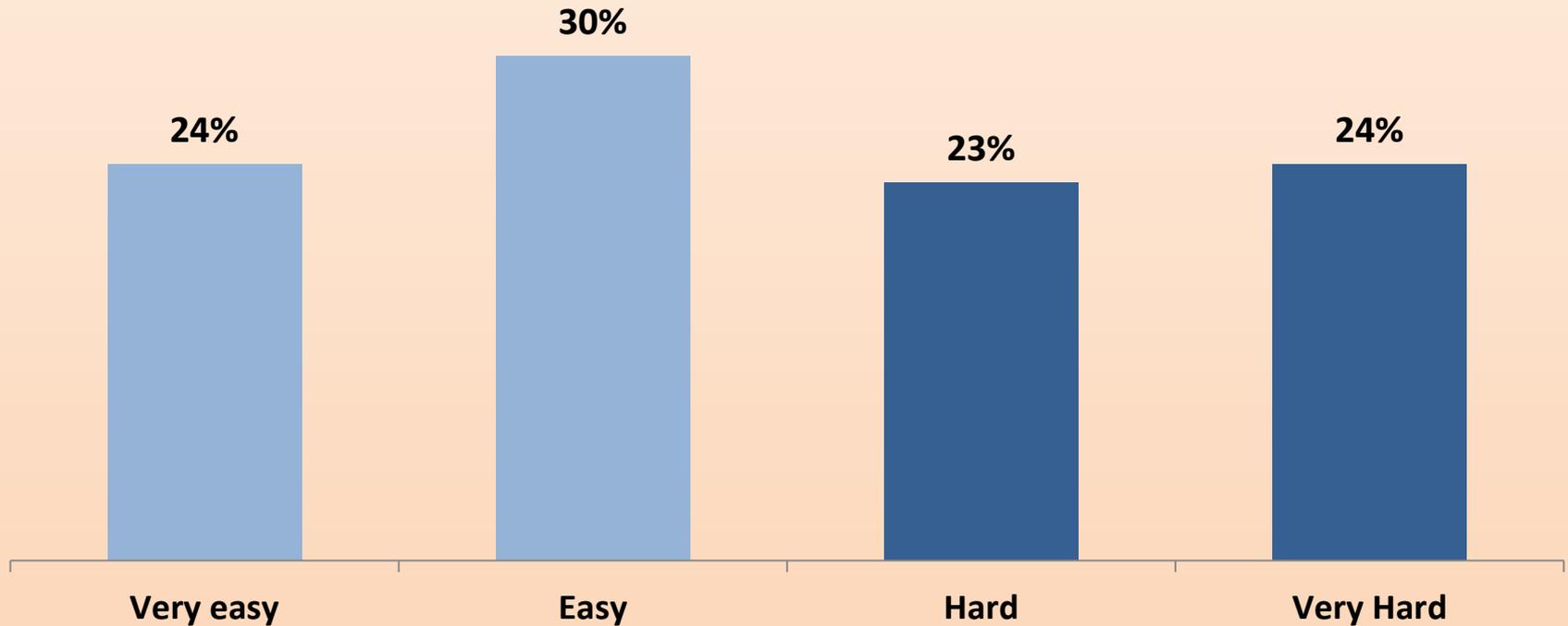
When asked what specific things their probation/parole officer had done that they found helpful, nearly half said their PO communicated and was understanding.

<u>Ways in which PO was helpful</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
Helped with a job search	12	13%
Helped find drug treatment program	24	26%
Helped with living situation	10	11%
Gave encouragement	20	22%
Communicated with me/was understanding	41	44%

The majority of respondents did not mention specific things their probation/parole officer had done that hindered their reentry.

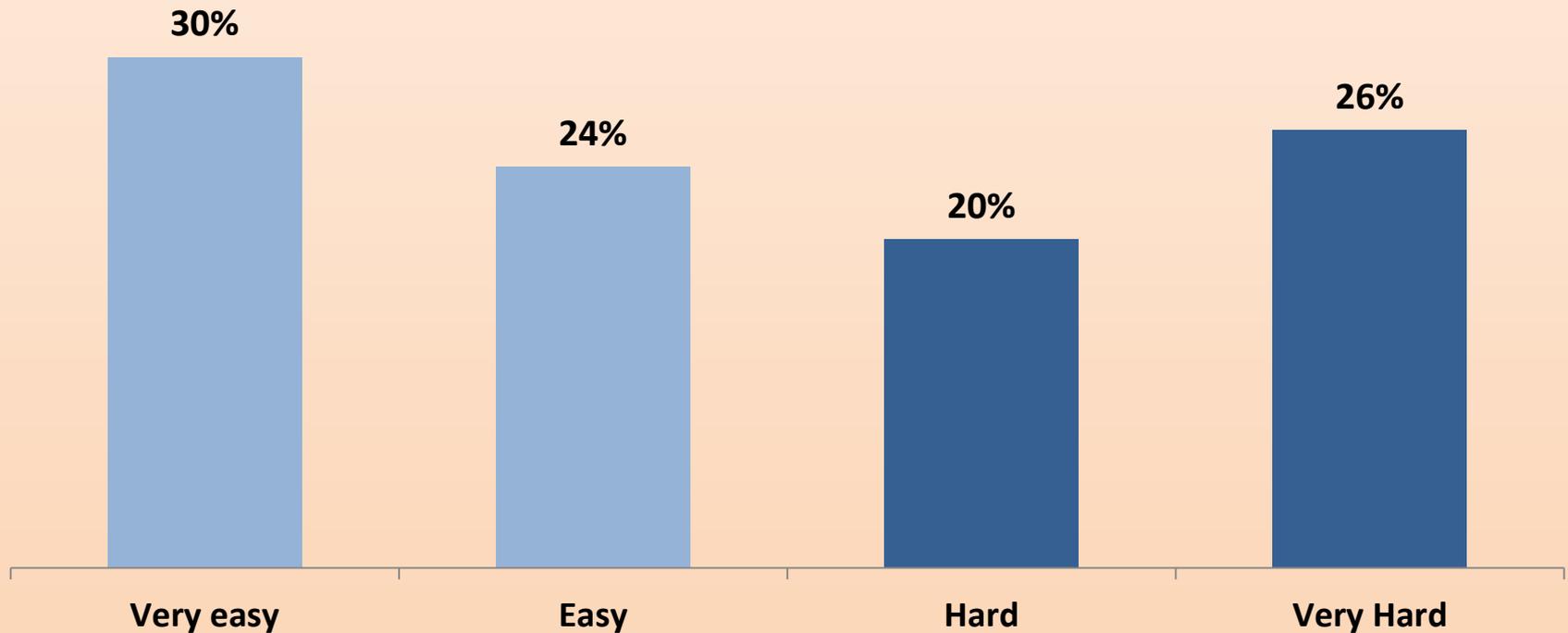
<u>Ways in which PO hindered</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>
Conducted unannounced visits at my job	3	9.4%
Provided negative reviews	7	7.5%
Refused to give me info/contacts for services	5	5.4%
Was discouraging	7	7.5%
Other	6	6.5%

47% of respondents said it has been 'hard' or 'very hard' to avoid a parole or probation violation



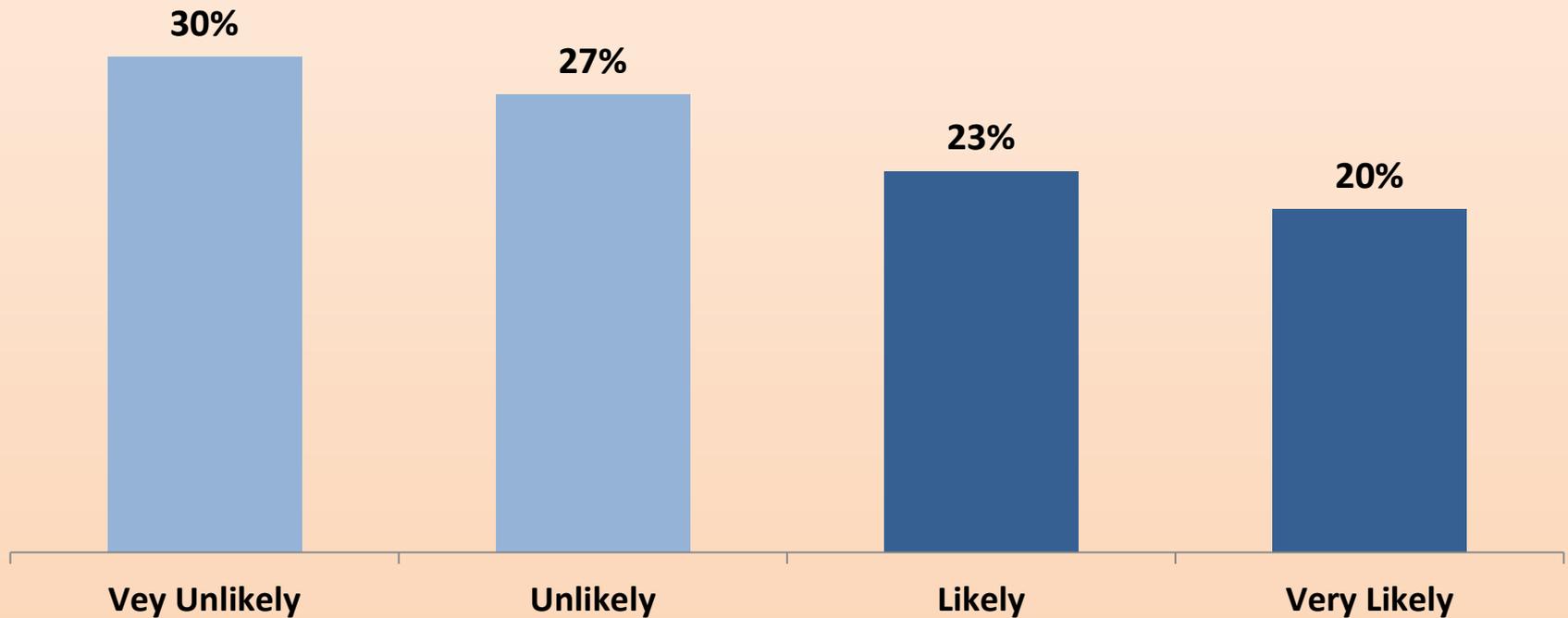
How hard has it been to avoid a parole/probation violation?
(93 people responded)

46% of respondents said it has been 'hard' or 'very hard' not to commit new crimes.



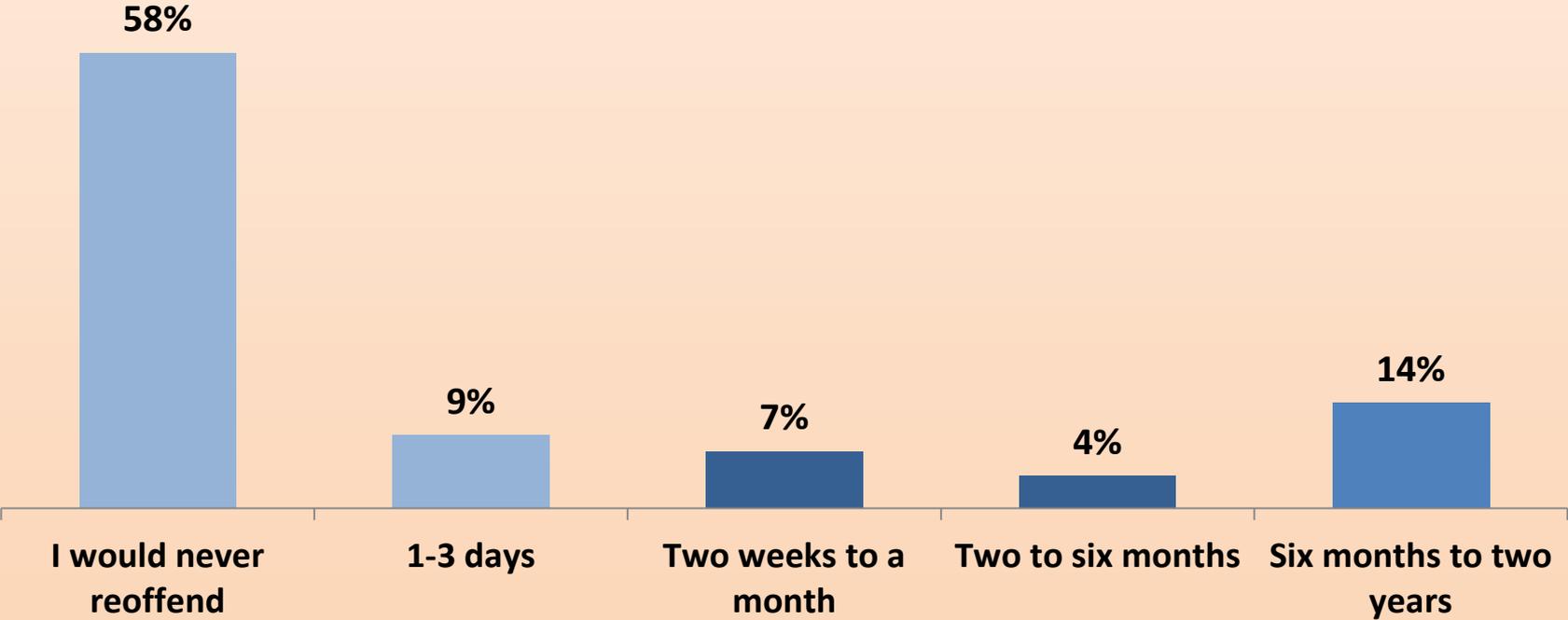
How hard has it been to not commit new crimes?
(92 people responded)

43% said it is 'likely' or 'very likely' they will violate at least one condition of their supervision.



How likely is it that you will violate at least one condition of your supervision? (92 people responded)

58% of respondents said they would never reoffend.



How long would your current situation have to continue for you to reoffend? (93 people responded)