

Who We Were, Who We Are, Where We're Headed

The Yale Class of '69 50th Reunion Survey



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Point the browser on your
smartphone or tablet to:

www.questionpress.com/guterbock

You should see a message saying “No Open Session.”

With thanks to:

Reed Hundt, JP Jordan, Rich Tedlow, Wayne Willis;

The Reunion Triune;

The staff of the UVA Center for Survey Research;

Authors of the Class of '68 survey;

And to all the classmates who responded!



How the survey was done

- Drafted Fall/Winter 2017
- 9 sections plus Moral Foundations questionnaire
 - Some questions chosen for comparison to national polls
- Fully anonymous protocol
- Sent early 2018: emails, letters, then phone reminders
- Closed March 1, 2018
- 924 living class members; 579 responses
 - (63% of the list, about 70% of those with valid contact info)
- Margin of sampling error +/- 2.5 points
 - All residential colleges well represented

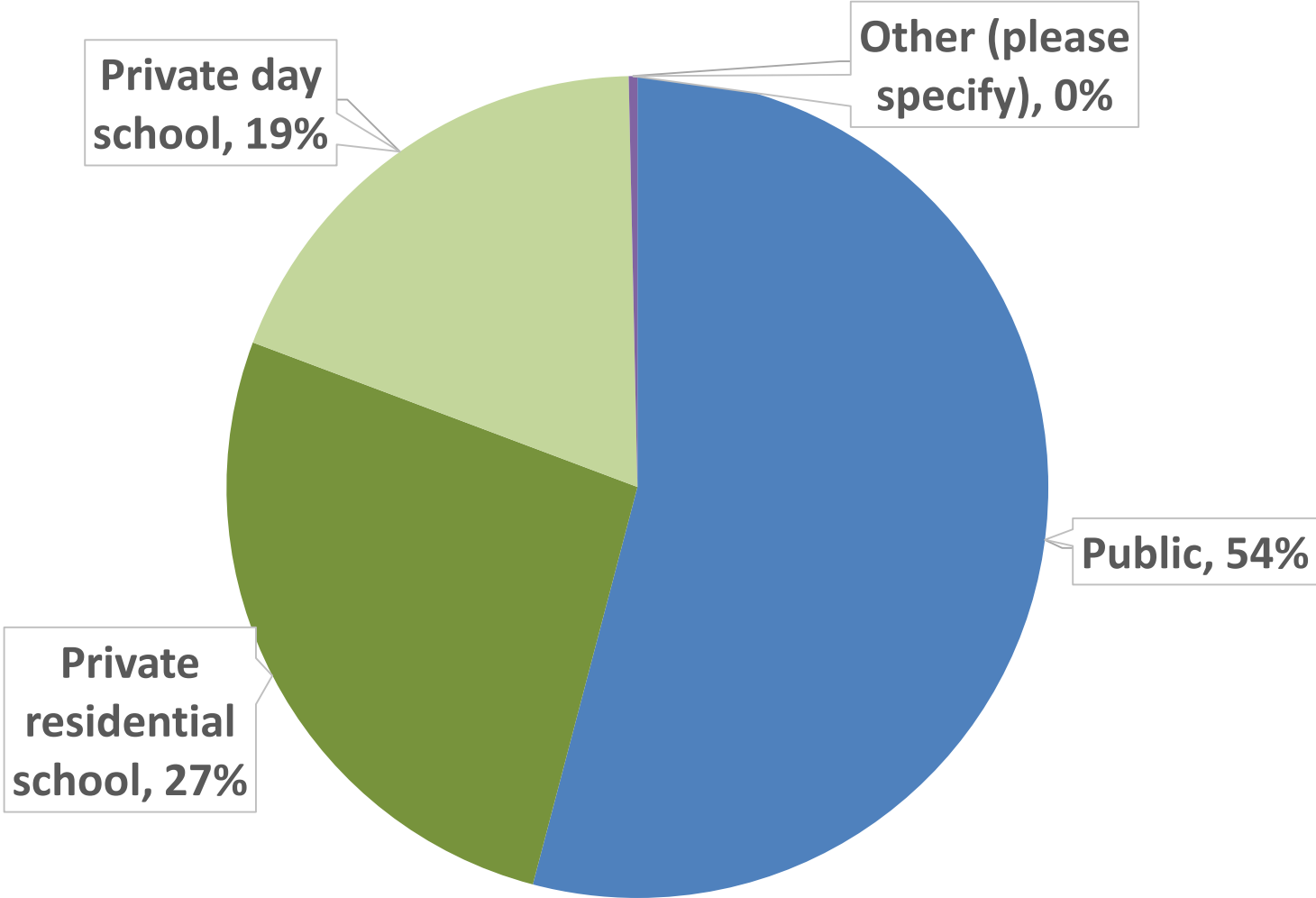
Overview

- Who we were
- Our values then
- What's happened to us
- Our health
- Who we are
- Live political poll results
- Religious views
- Relationship with Yale
- About our underwear
- Where we're headed

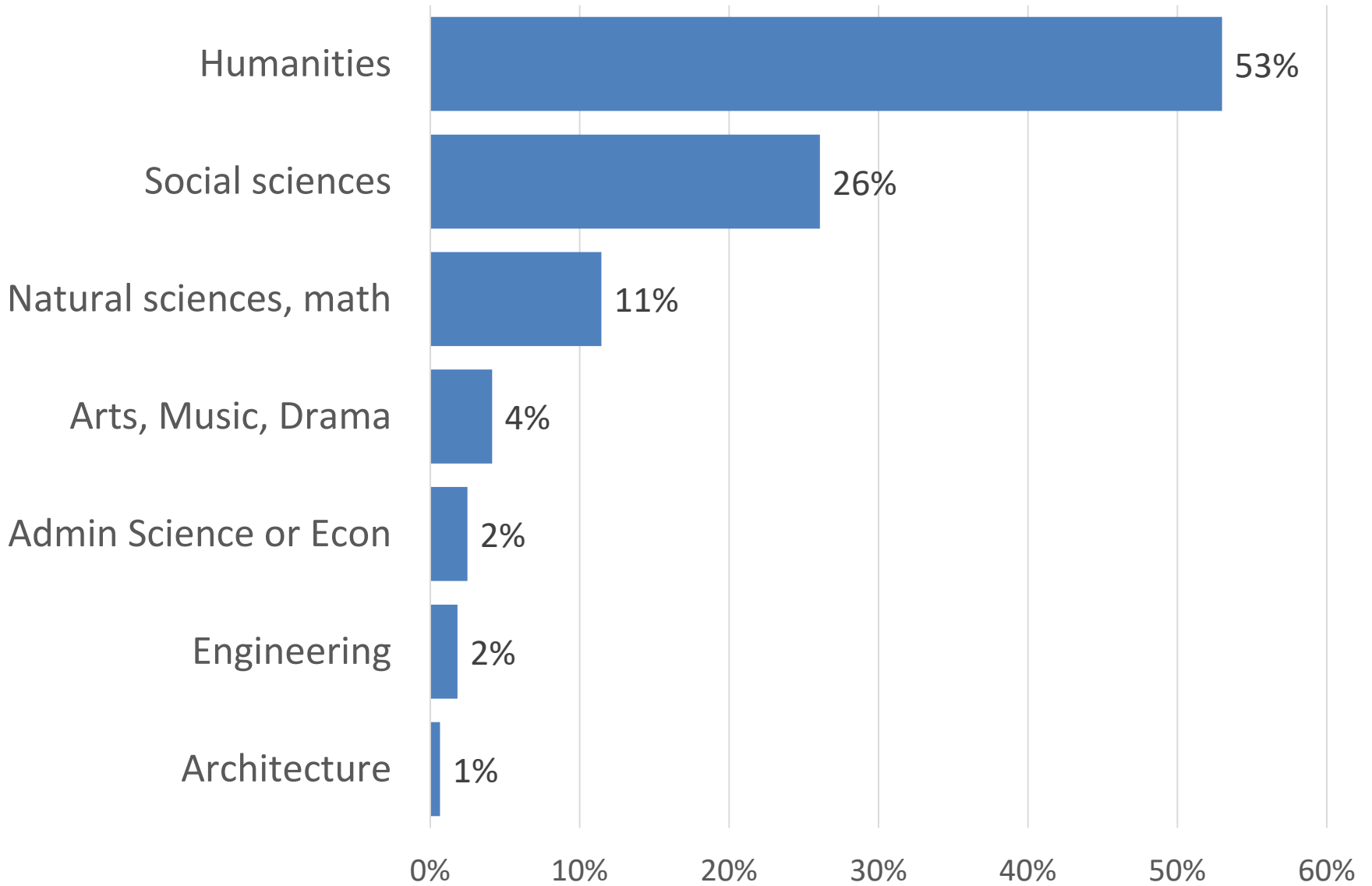
“Who we were”



What kind of high school did you graduate from?



In which area was your major at Yale?



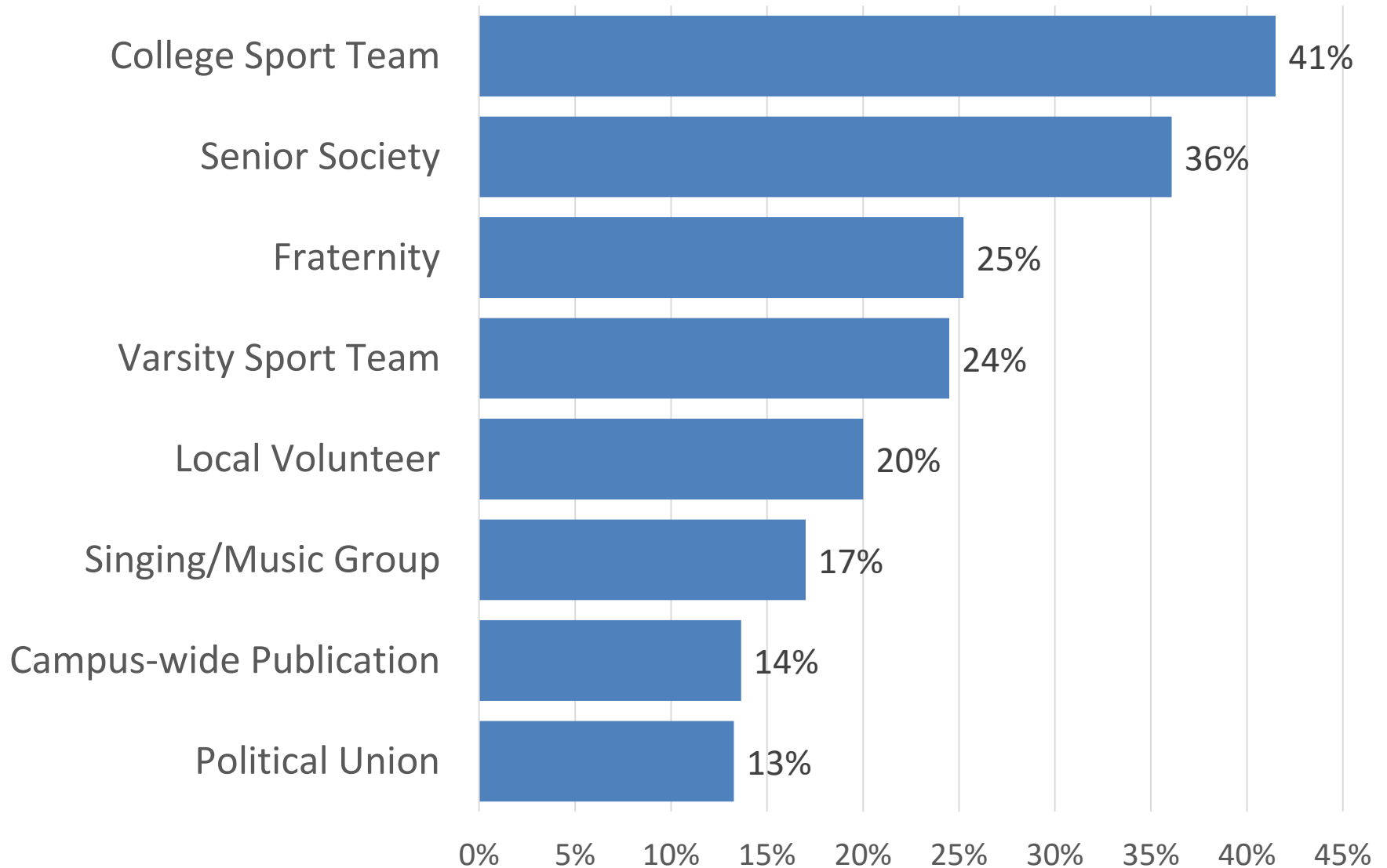
We did not ask . . .

◆ Did you major in beer?

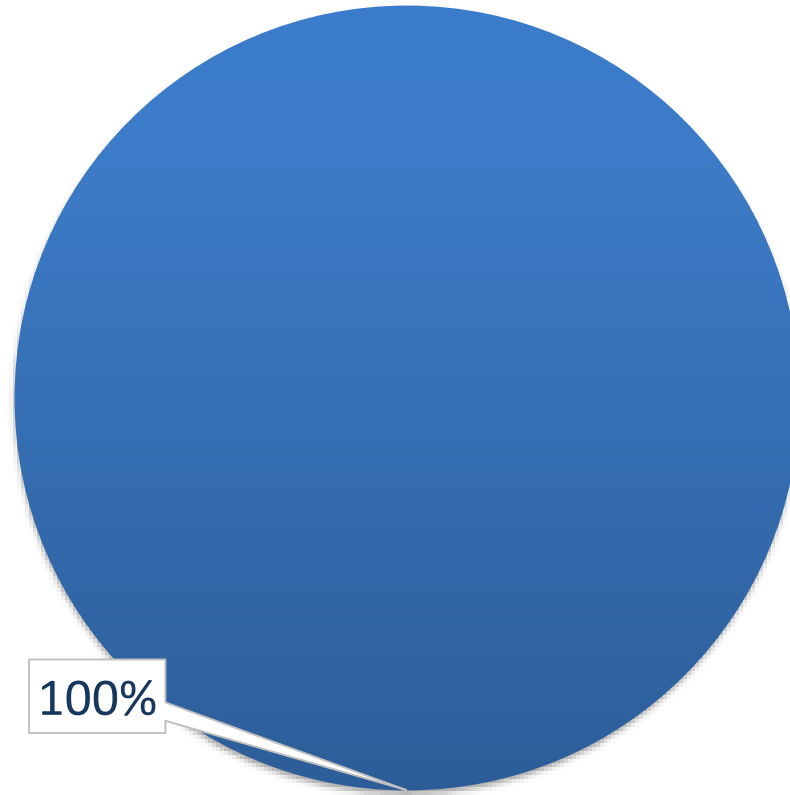


1962 Tang Cup competition

Back in the day, what activities did you participate in?



Gender in 1969

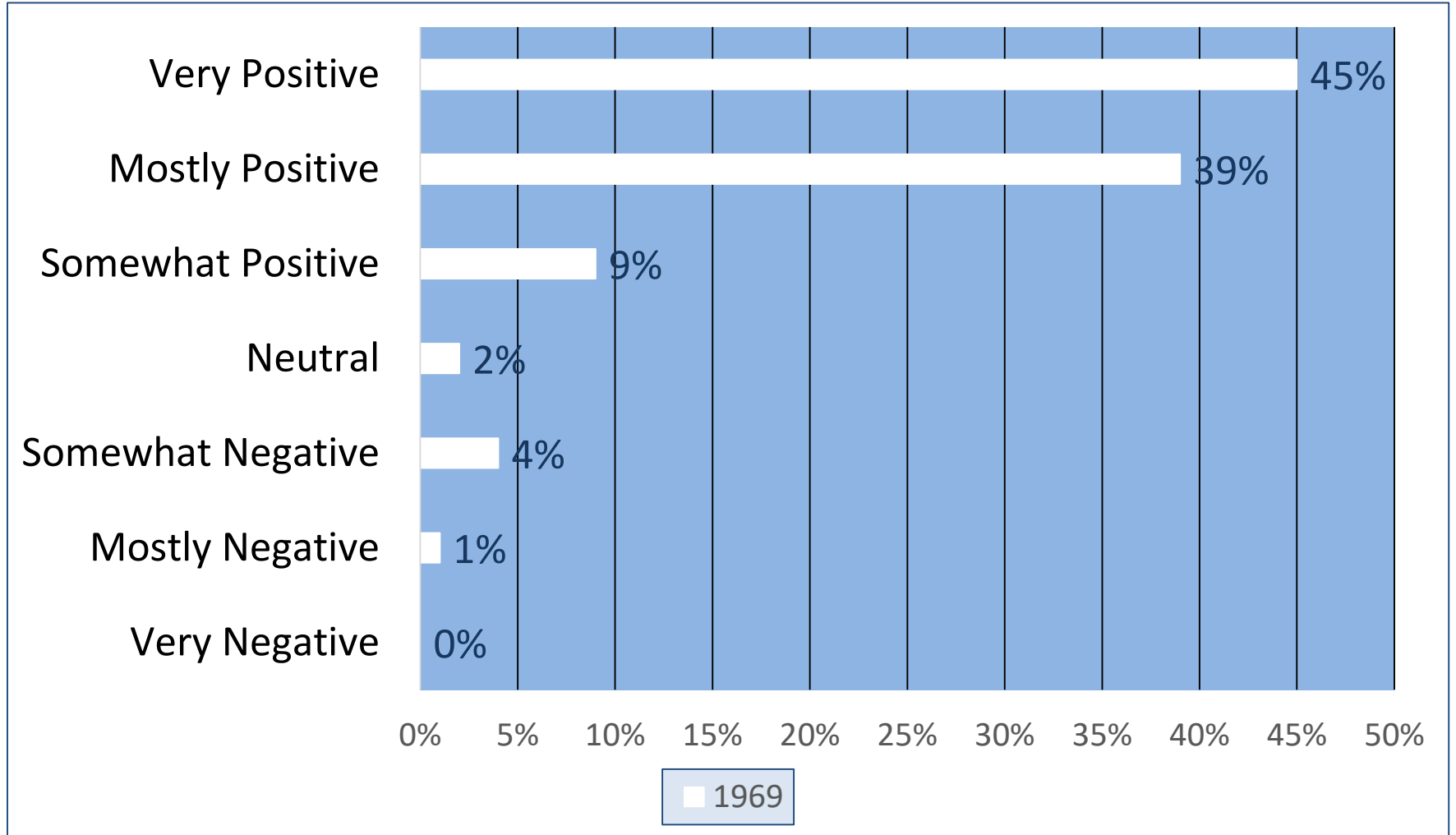


■ Male

Tobacco and marijuana

- Based on our class survey, we can estimate that:
- 45 percent of us smoked tobacco in our college years
- 64 percent of us smoked marijuana in our youth
 - not necessarily in our time at Yale

General opinion about Yale then (1969):



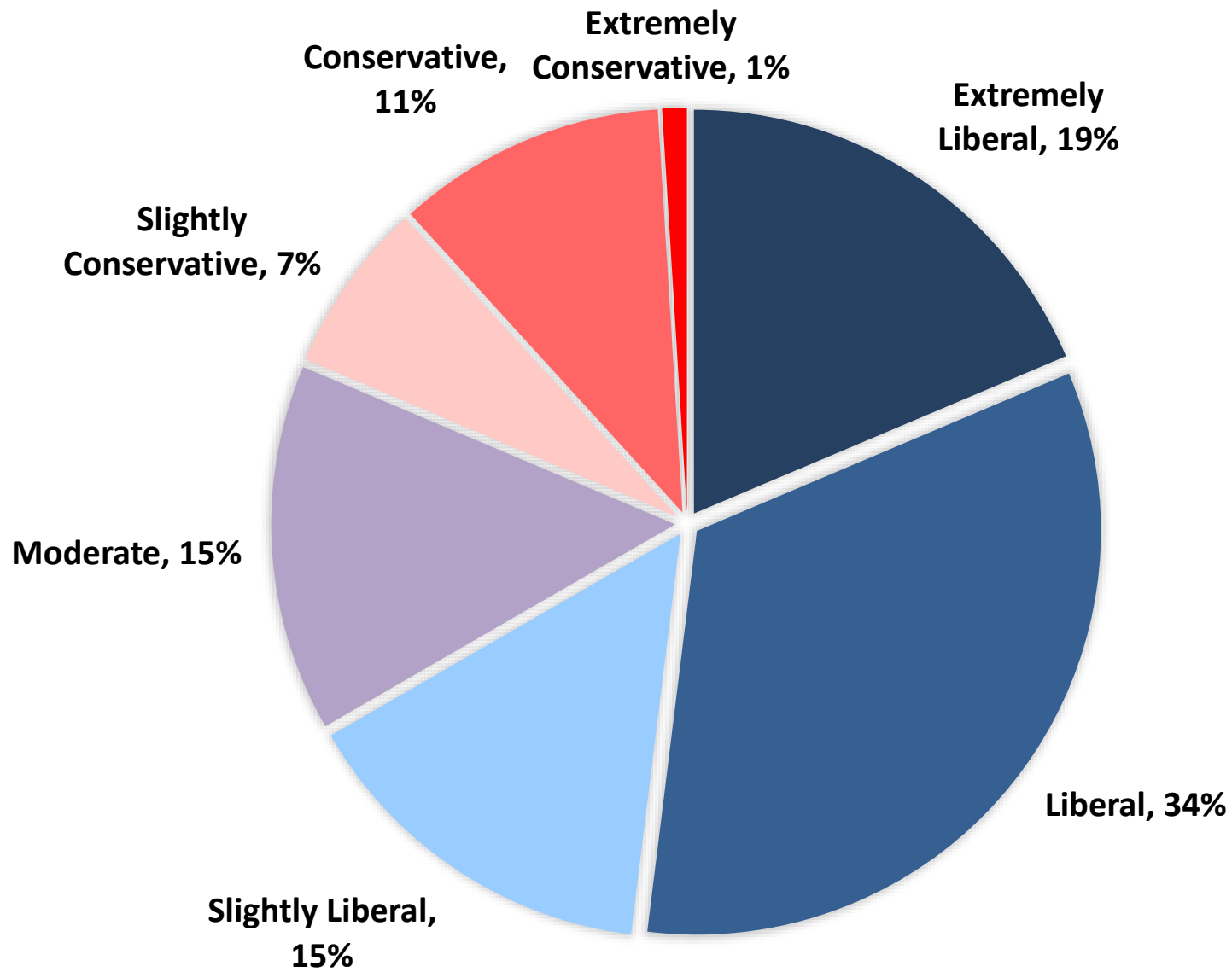
“What finer place, what finer
time, what finer friends could
there ever have been?”

--Tom McNamee's ClassBook essay, "Time & Change"

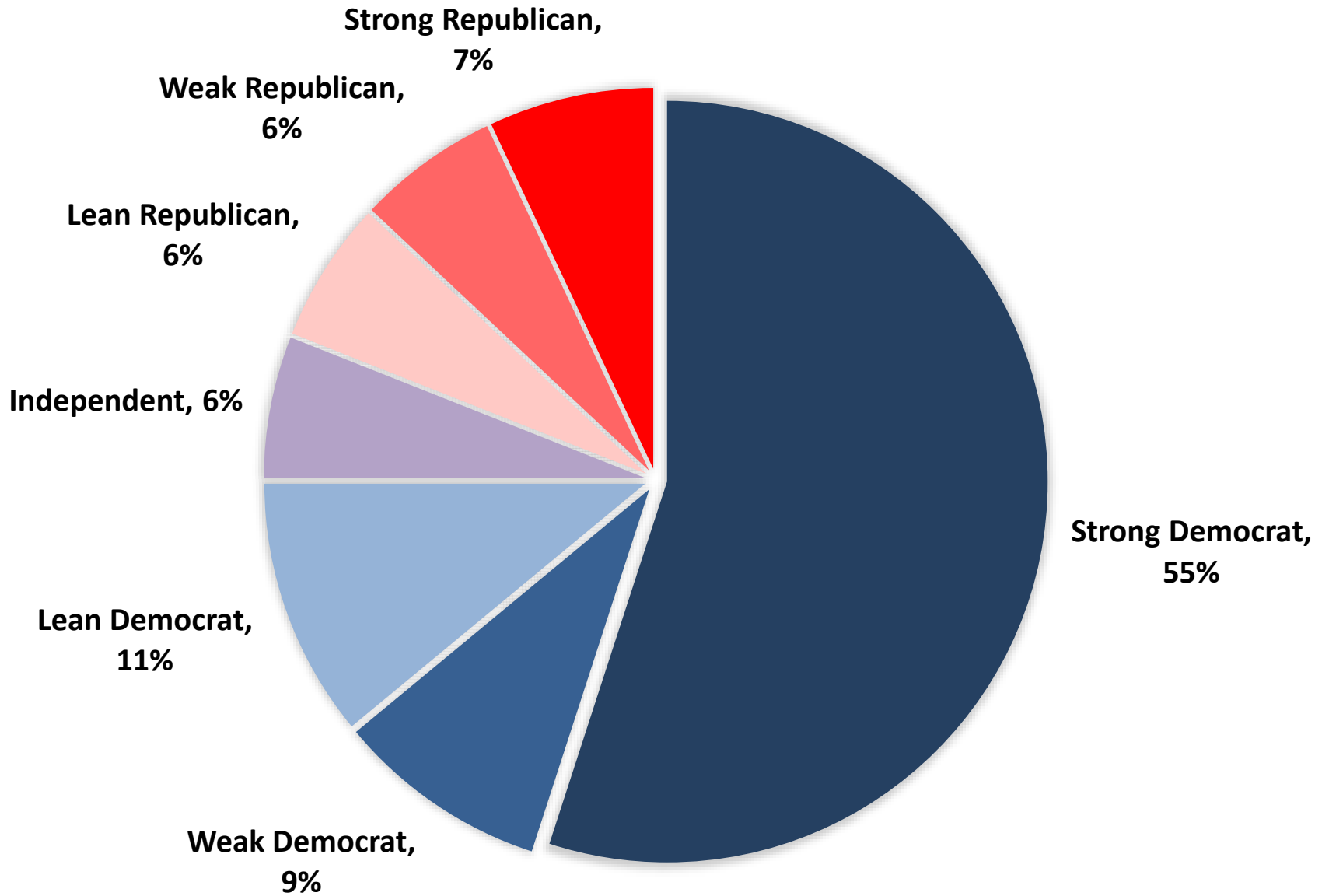
Our values then



LIBERAL VS. CONSERVATIVE IN 1969



PARTY AFFILIATIONS IN 1969

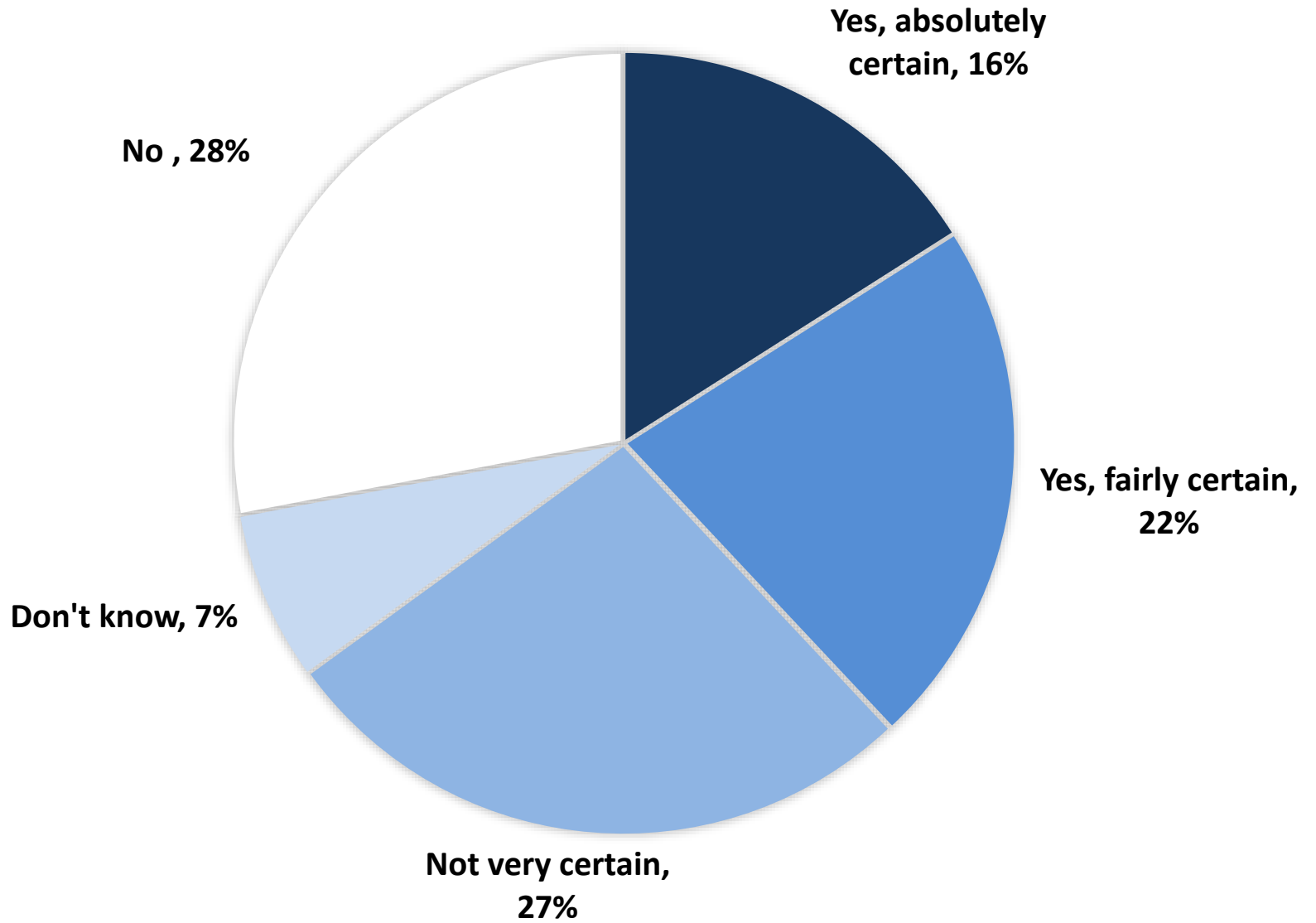


Vietnam.

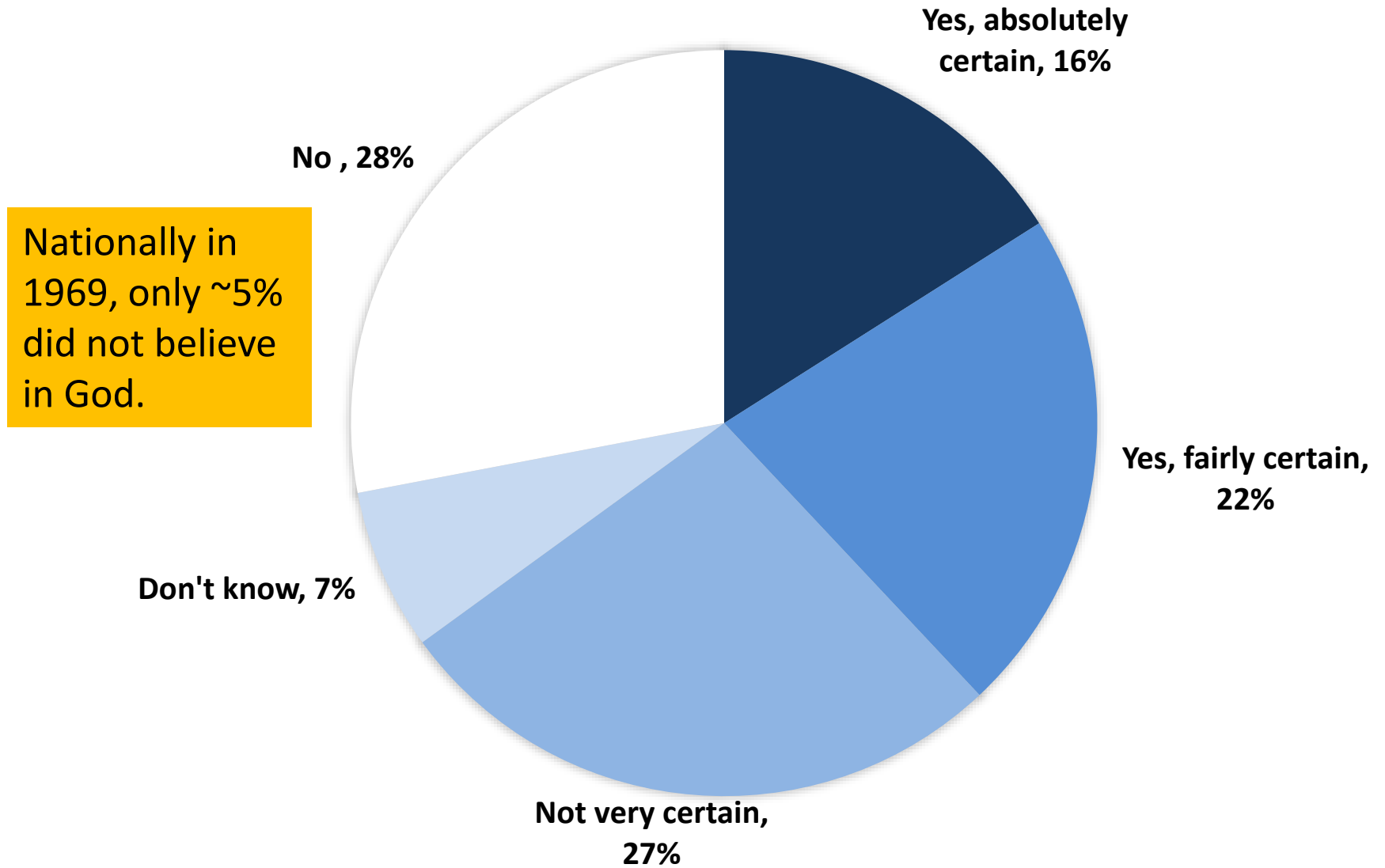
Which statement best sums up your attitude toward the war in 1969?

Answer	%
Immoral	41%
Not immoral but a mistake	46%
Not immoral or a mistake but fought the wrong way	10%
A noble cause	3%

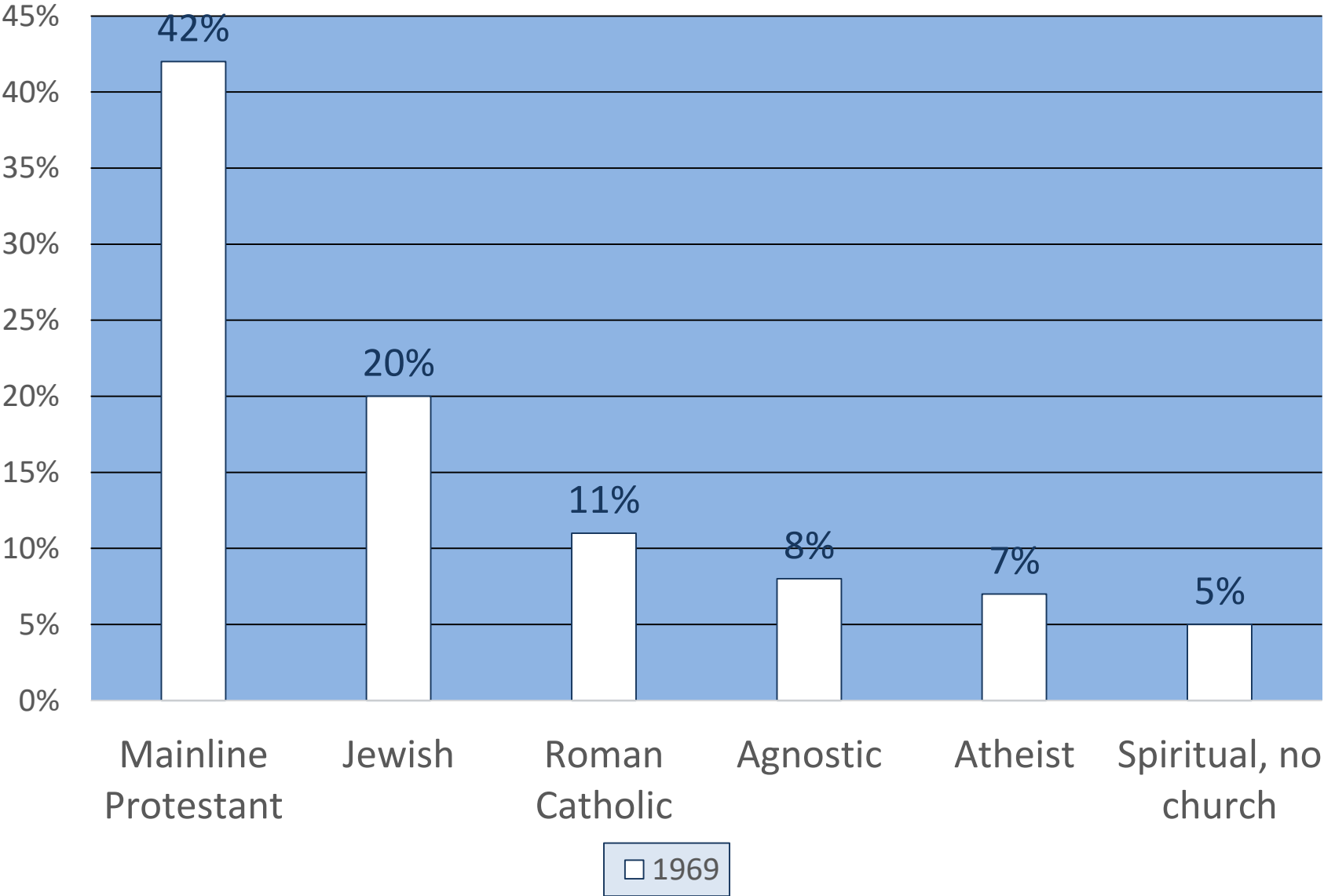
DID WE BELIEVE IN GOD IN 1969?



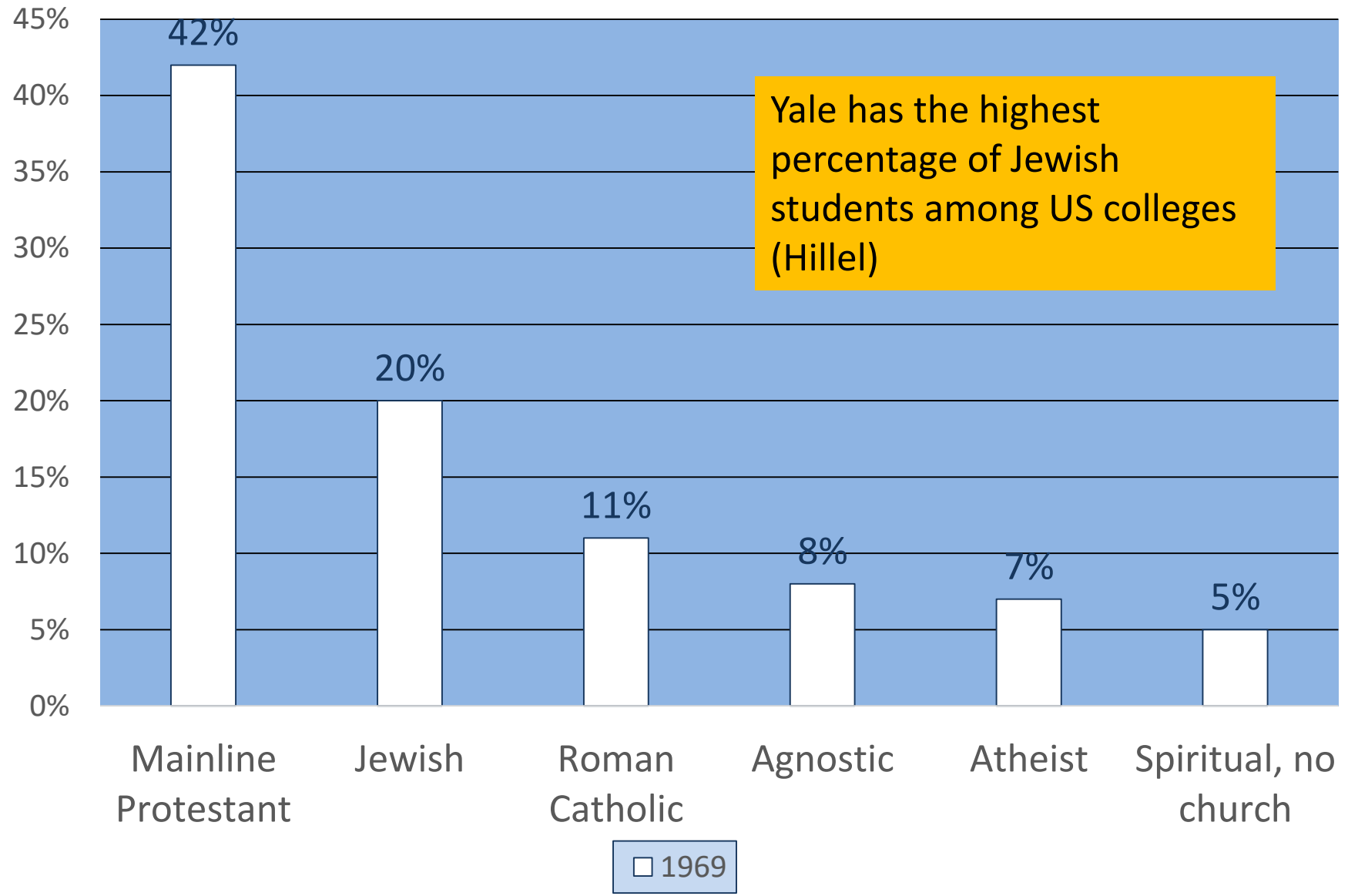
DID WE BELIEVE IN GOD IN 1969?



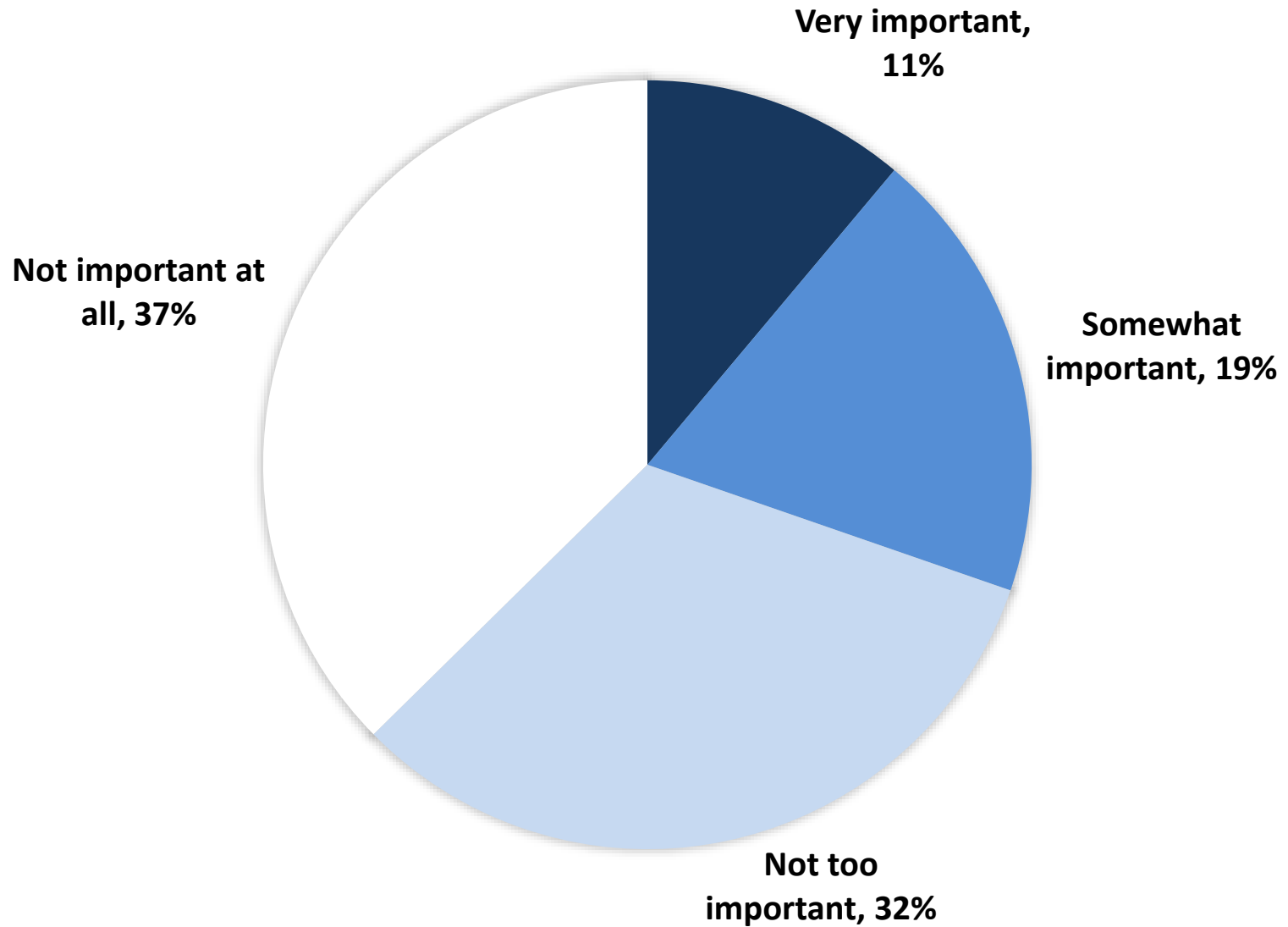
How would you describe your religious affiliation in 1969? (6 most common responses)



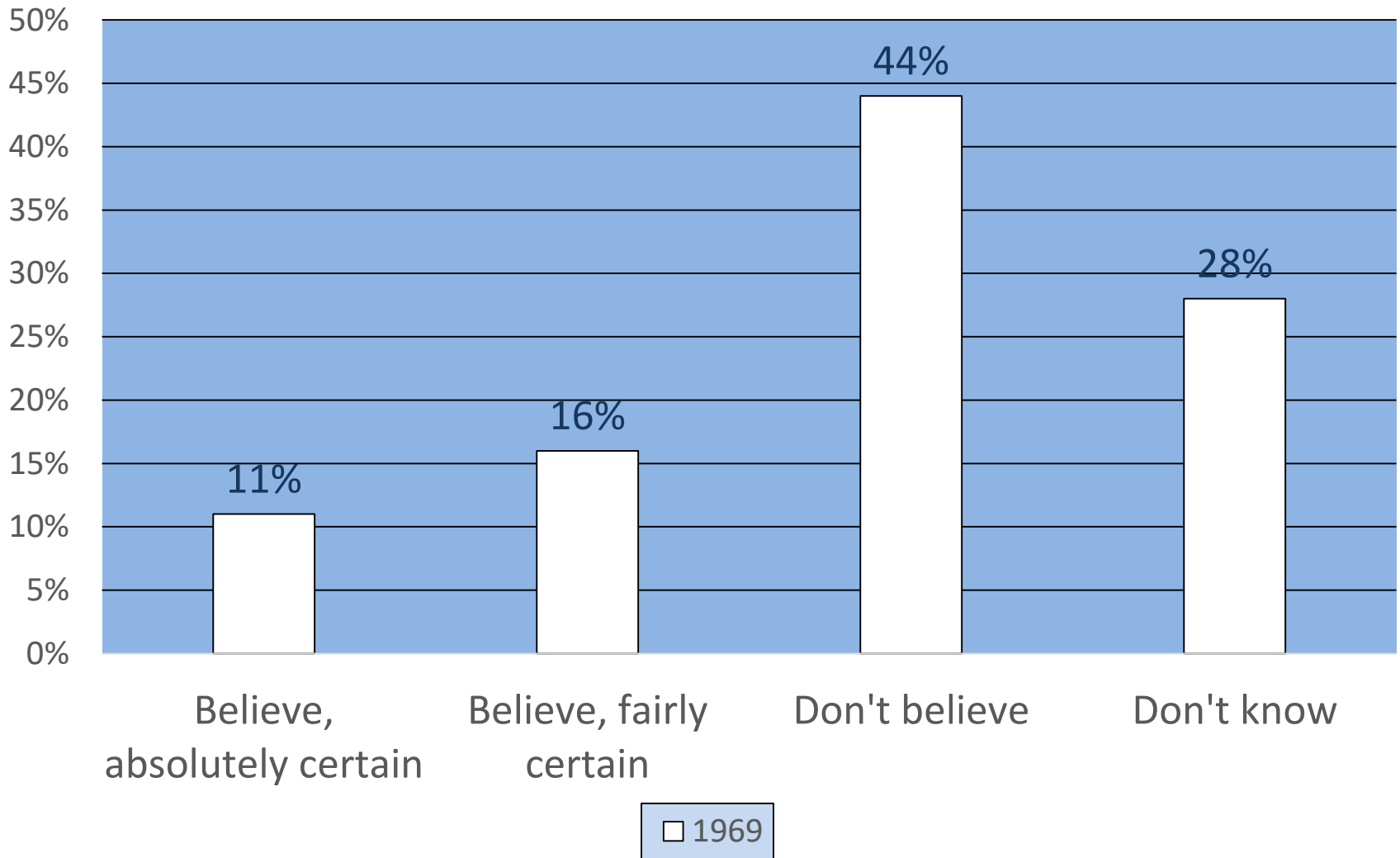
How would you describe your religious affiliation in 1969? (6 most common responses)



HOW IMPORTANT WAS RELIGION IN 1969?



Afterlife belief in 1969

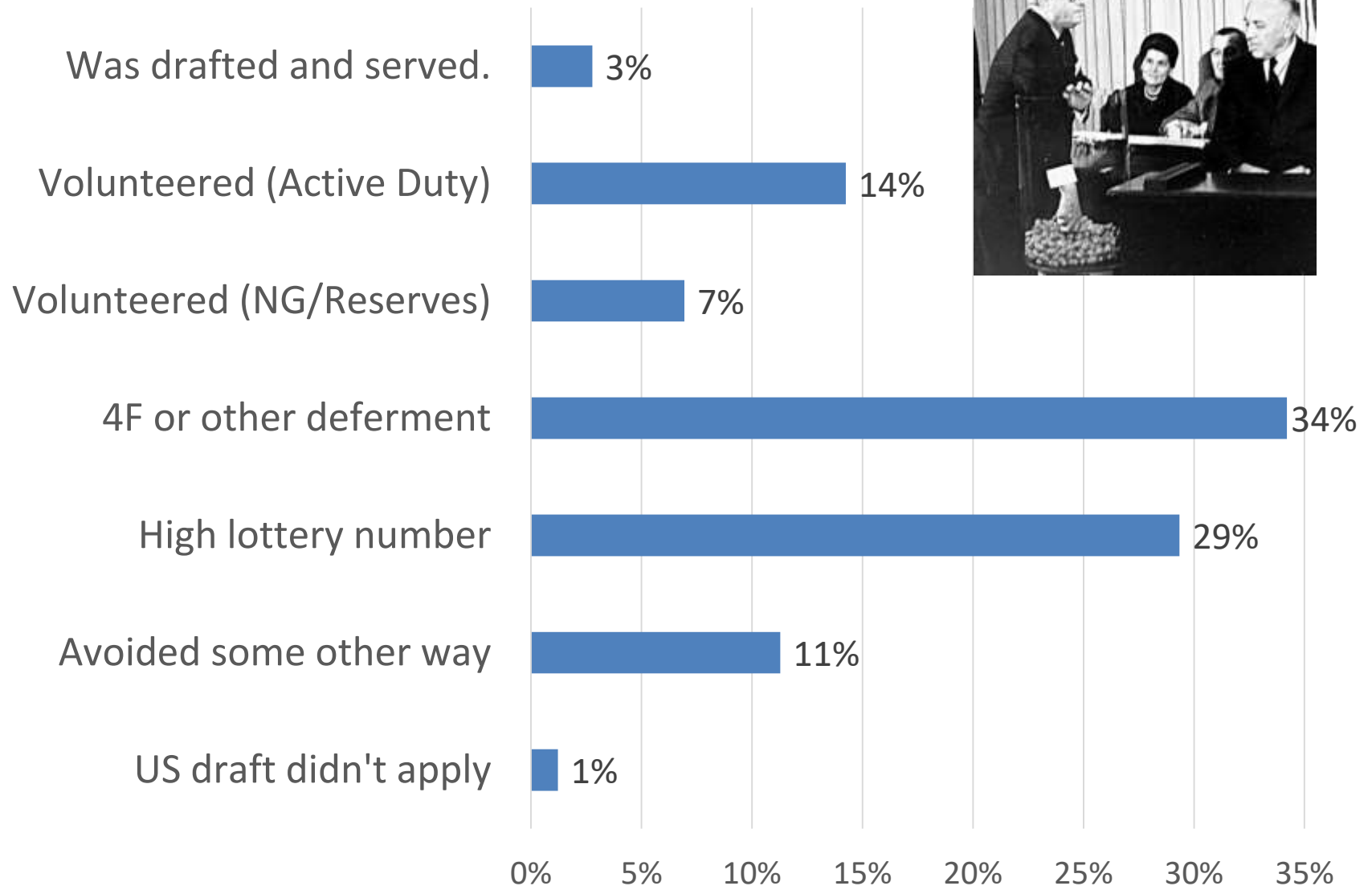


“What’s happened to us?”

Significant life events



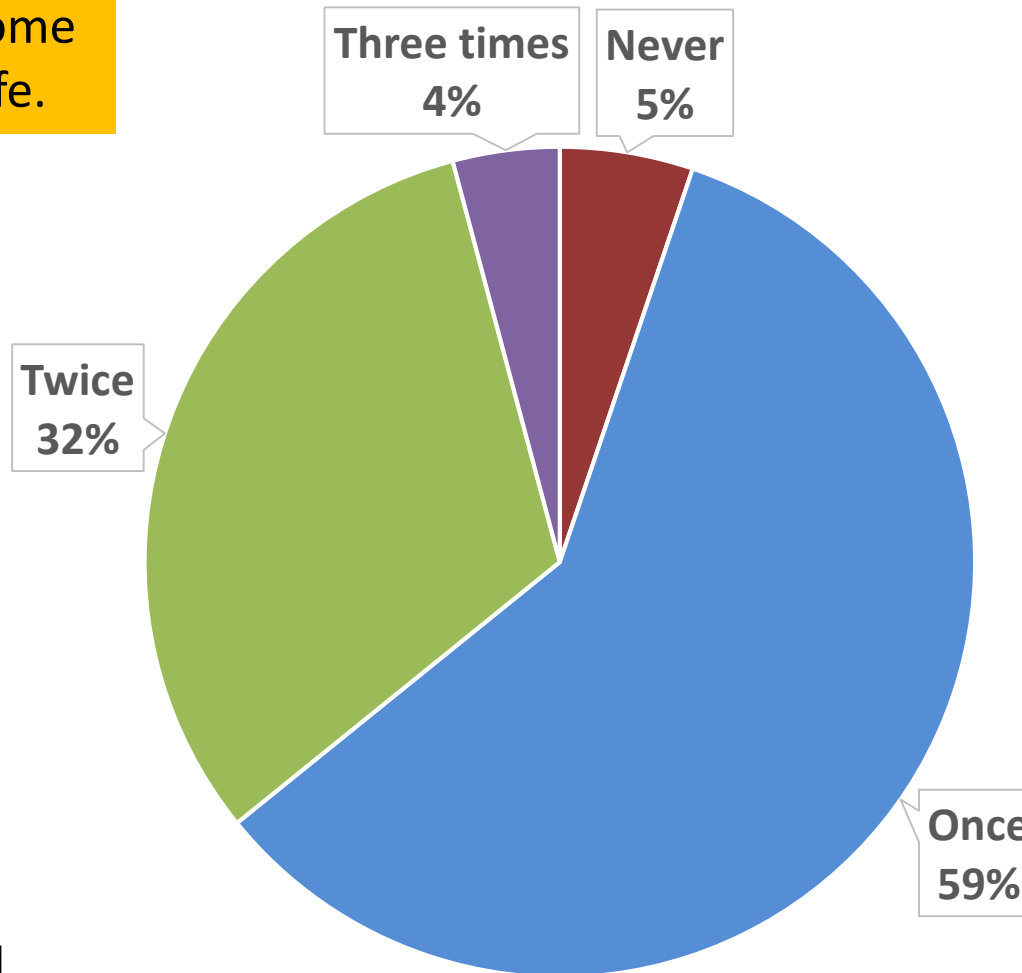
US military service



How many times have you been married?

About 3% of classmates came out as gay at some point in their life.

84% of respondents are currently married.

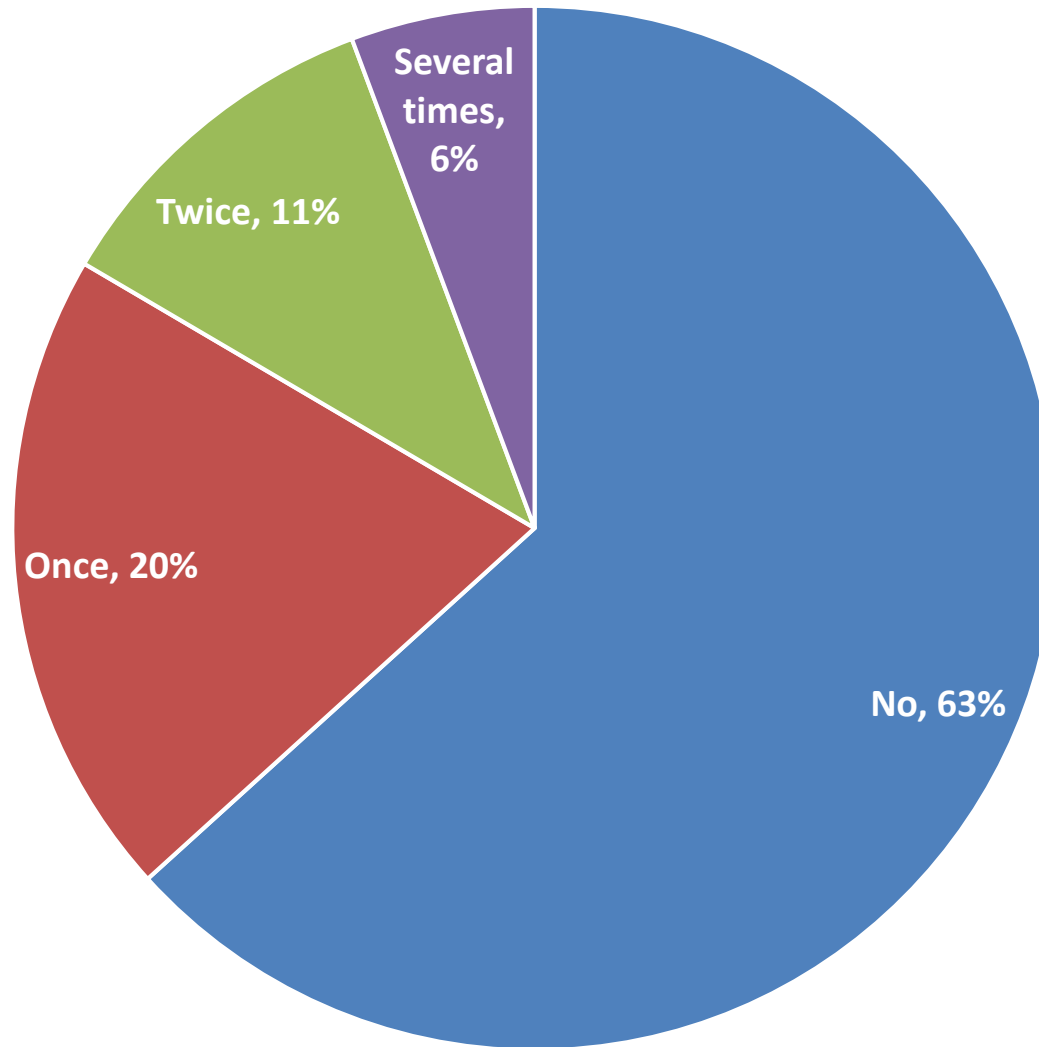


As a class, we've been married to an estimated 1171 people.

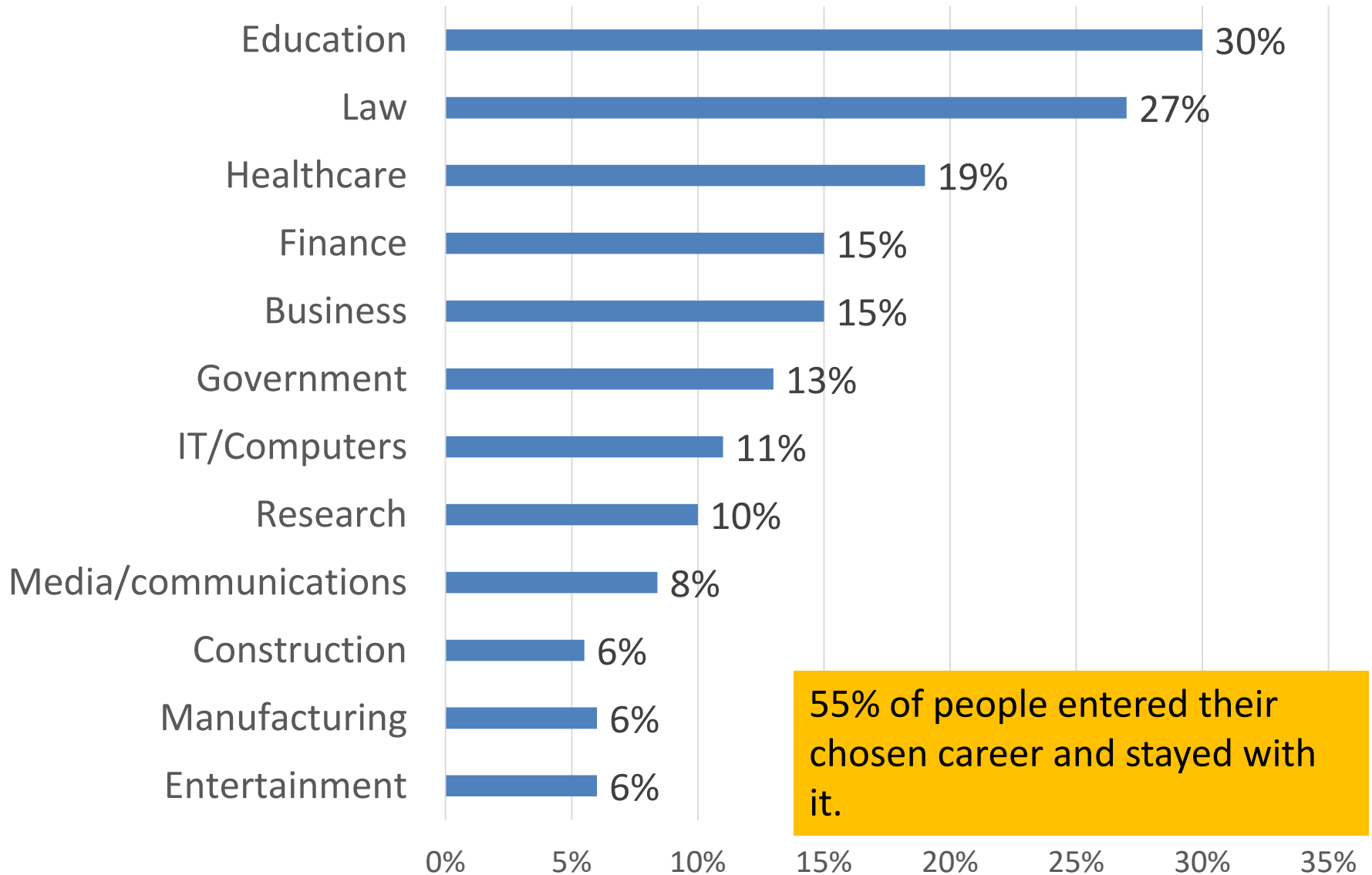
Be Fruitful and Multiply

- As a class, we've had an estimated:
 - 1,749 children
 - 468 stepchildren
 - 1,888 grandchildren
 - 511 step-grandchildren
 - 121 great-grandchildren
 - 95 step-great-grandchildren
- ... Total offspring as of Spring 2018: 4,832

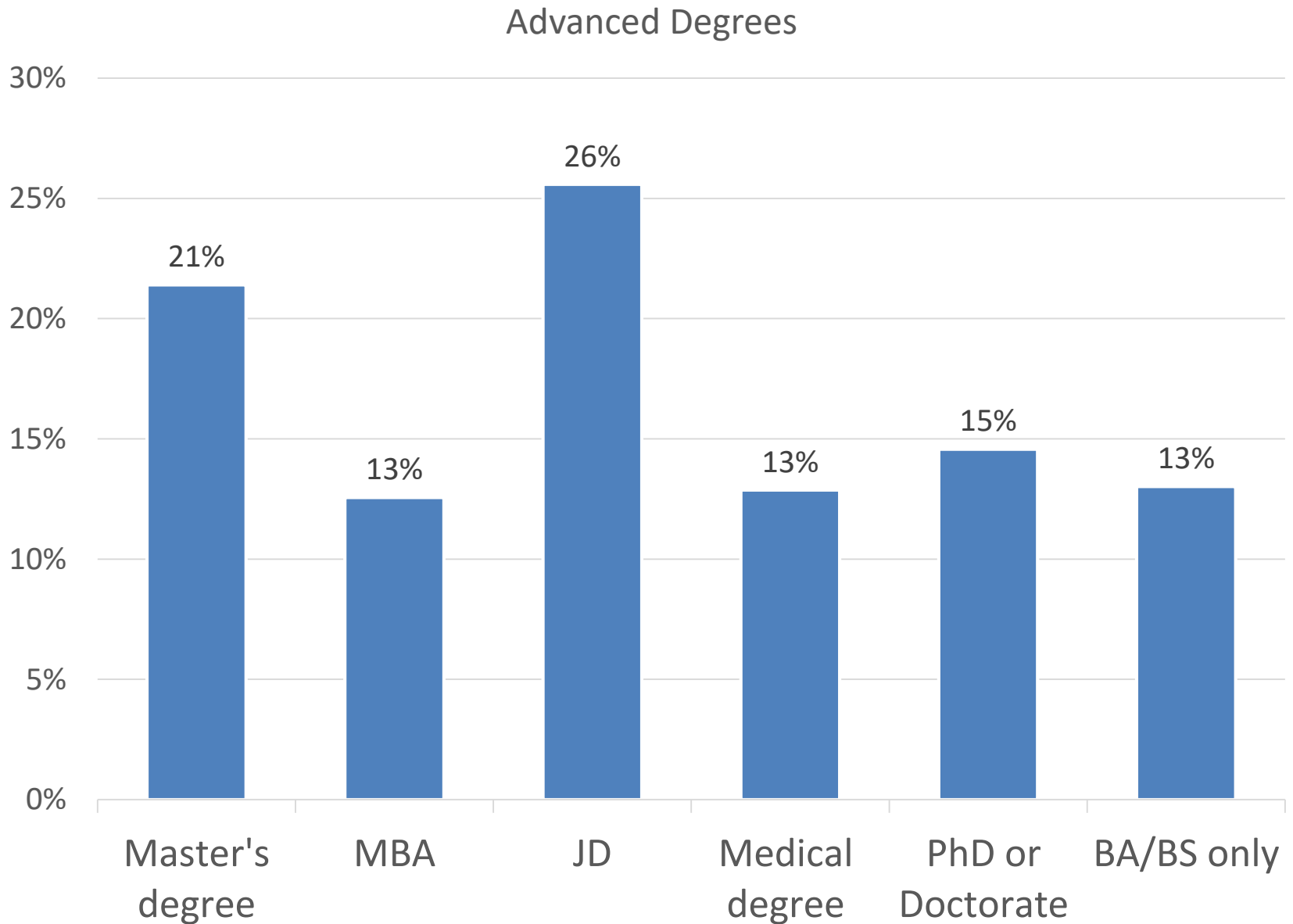
Were you ever fired or laid off?



12 most common fields we've worked in since graduation



What advanced degrees do you have?



Other stuff that happened

Since graduation, have you ever...	Yes
Published a book or article in a scholarly journal?	49%
Published regularly in the media, print or electronic?	19%
Won an election?	8%



Cong. John Yarmouth



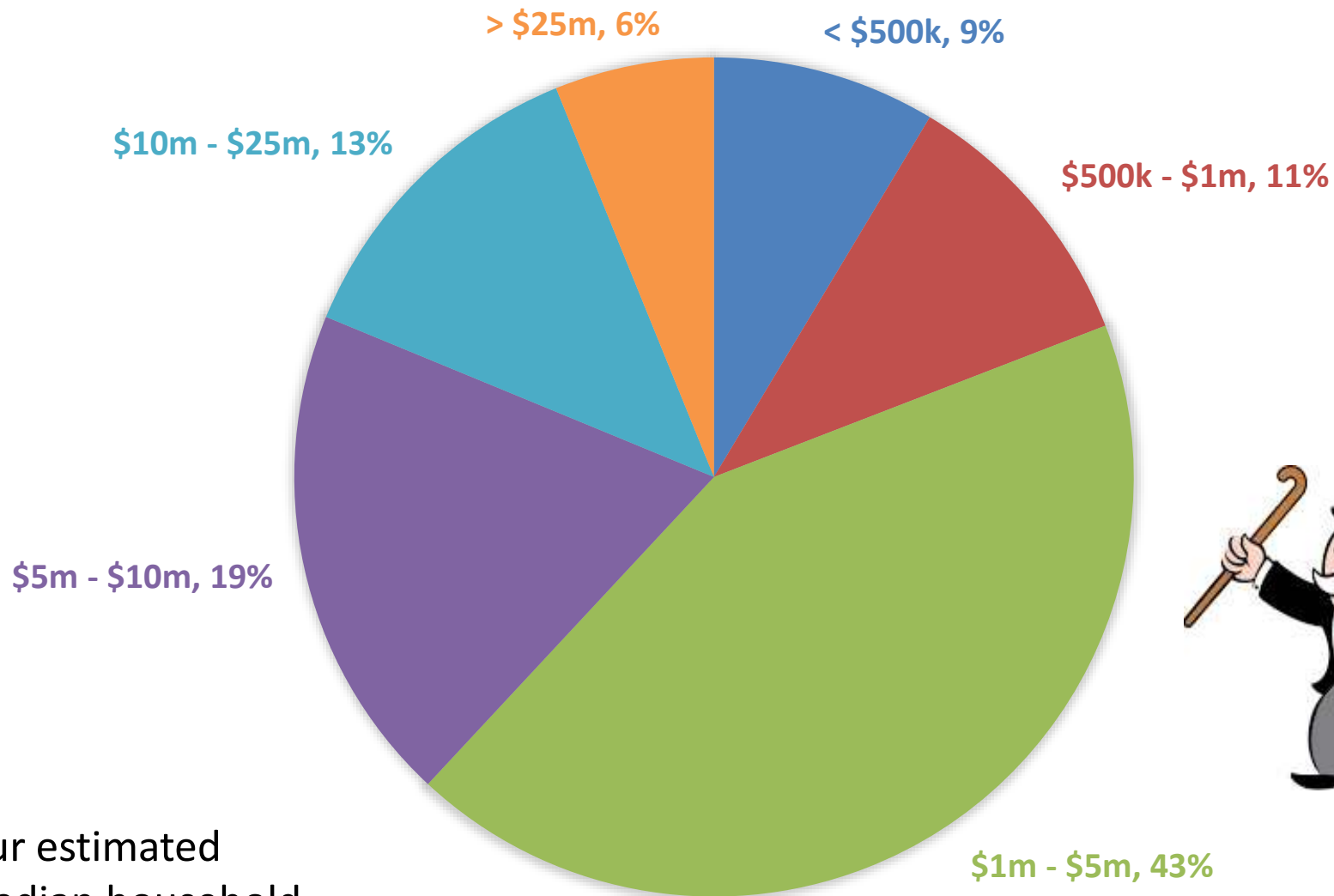
Mayor Kevin McKeown

“How did we do?”

Looking back on our lives and careers

- About 50% of us started a business at some point.
 - About 5% have taken a company public.
- 23% have sat on boards of for-profit companies
- 62% have sat on boards of non-profit organizations
- 5% served with Peace Corps or some other volunteer initiative for 6 months or more at some point.

What's your household net worth today?



Our estimated median household net worth is **\$3.7 million**

Now some questions for you . . .

On your tablet or smartphone, point your browser to

www.questionpress.com/guterbock

The survey is anonymous. Nobody's answers are identifiable.

In a few minutes, we'll look at how the group answered today . . .

“How are we?”

Health and health issues



Body Mass Index: then and now

A standard obesity measure calculated from self-reported height and weight

	Class in 1969	Class in 2018
Underweight Below 18.5	2%	1%
Normal Weight 18.5-24.9	70%	37%
Overweight 25-29.9	27%	48%
Obese 30 and above	2%	14%

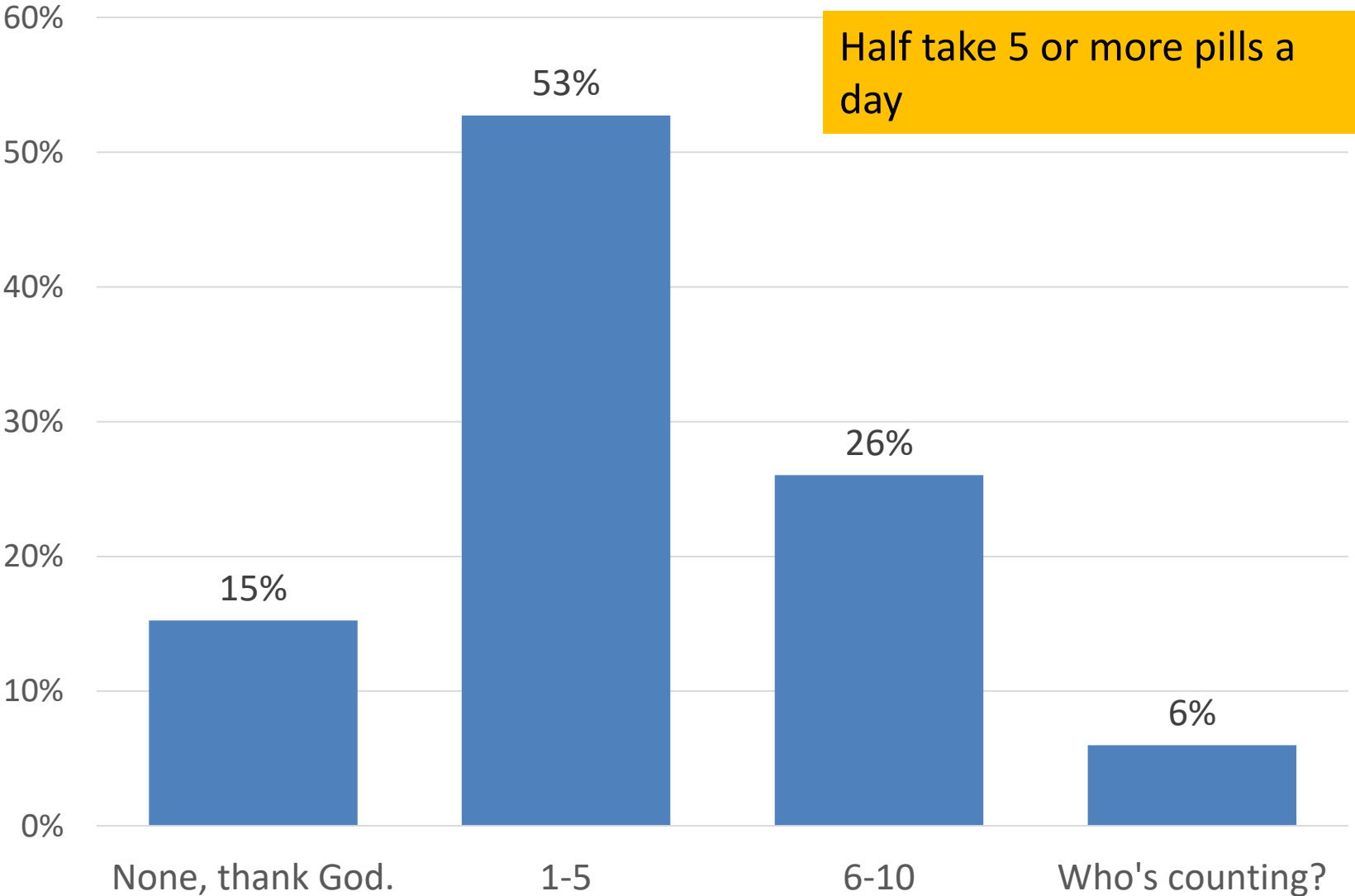


Body Mass Index

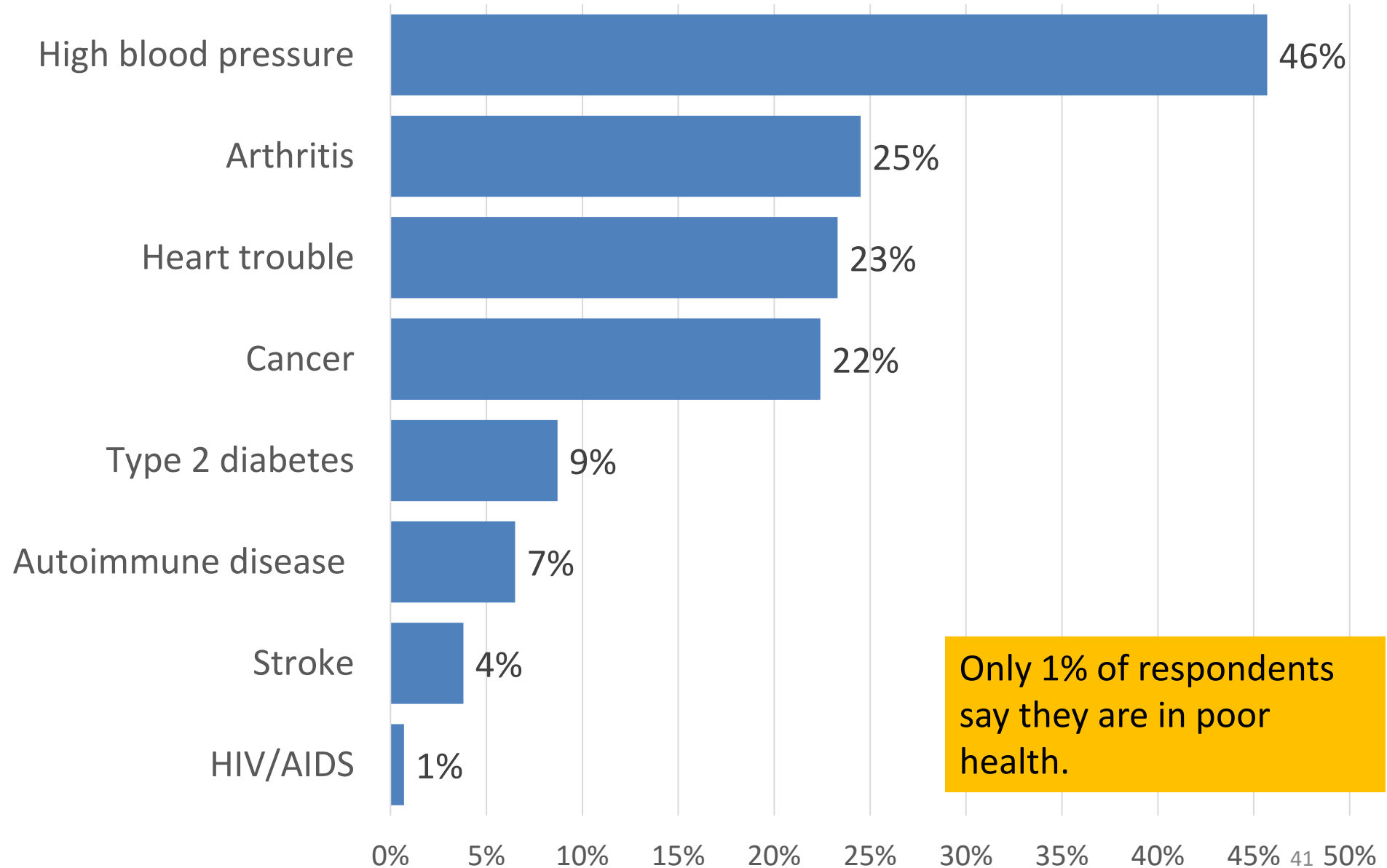
A standard obesity measure calculated from self-reported height and weight

	Class in 1969	Class in 2018	College educated US males aged 65-75
Underweight	2%	1%	0%
Normal Weight	70%	37%	24%
Overweight	27%	48%	48%
Obese	2%	14%	28%

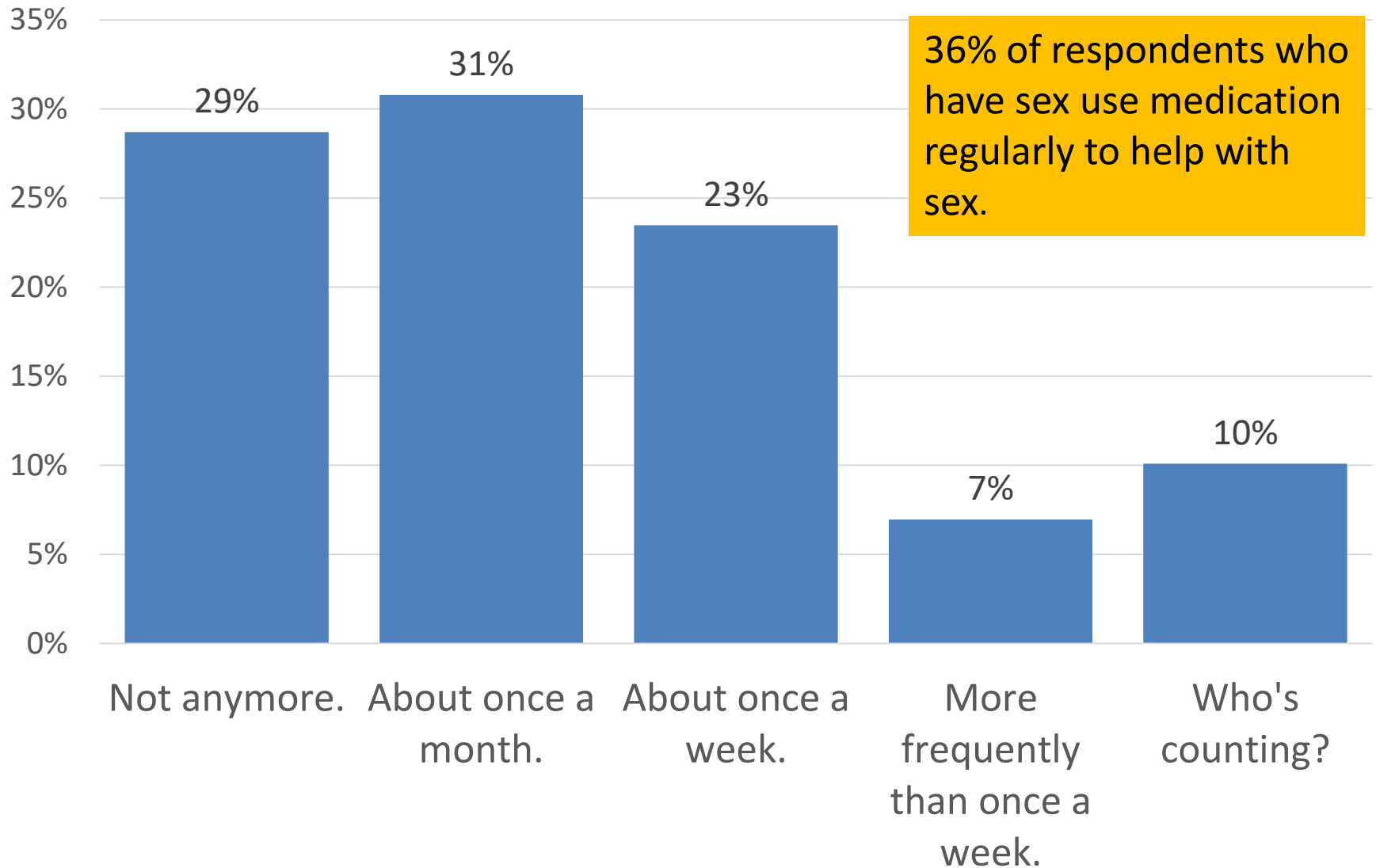
About how many pills do you take every day?



What serious ailments have you had in your life?



Have sex?



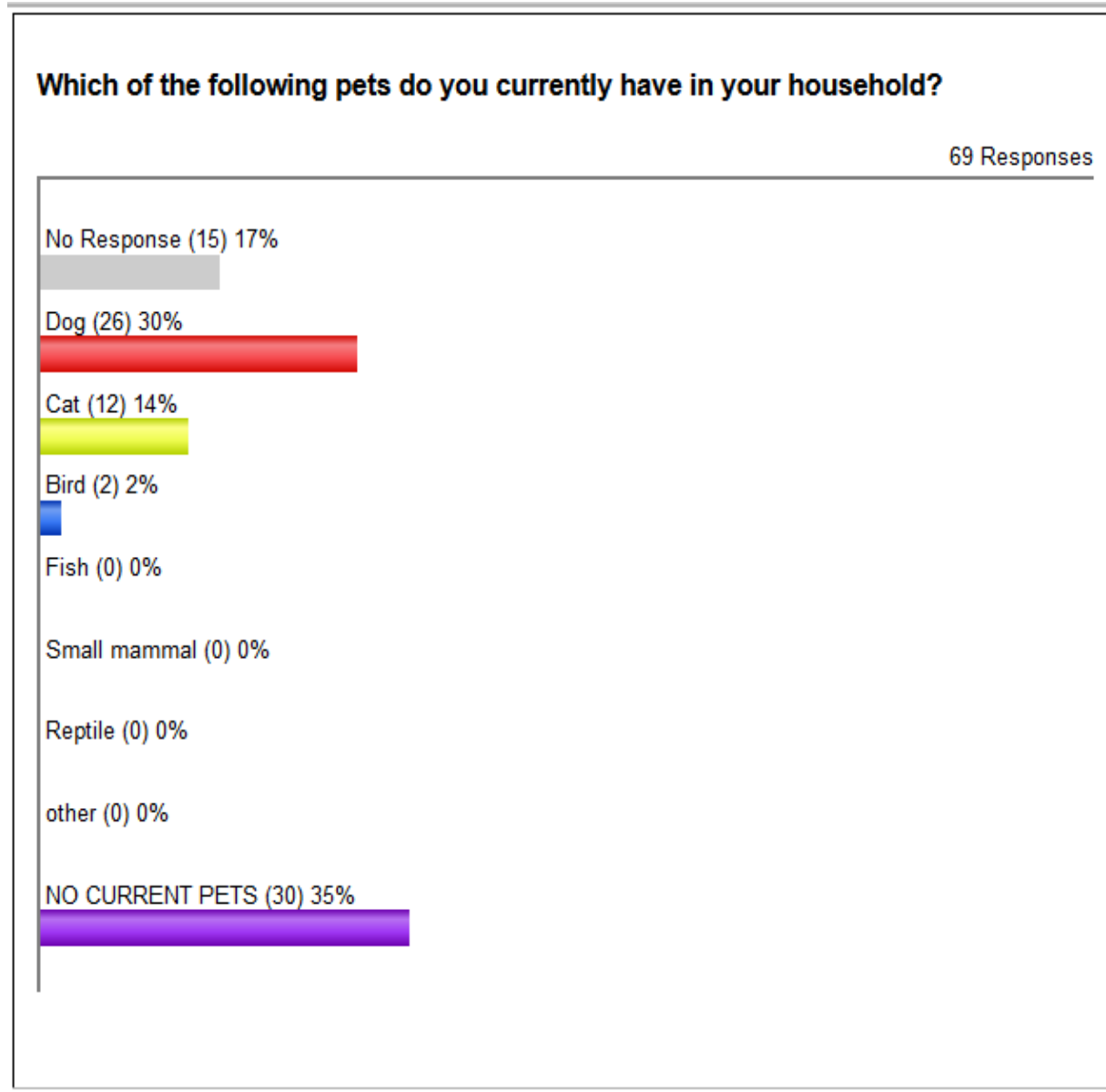
Speaking of health . . .

Owning a pet could be good for your mental health.

So let's look at our pet ownership live results.

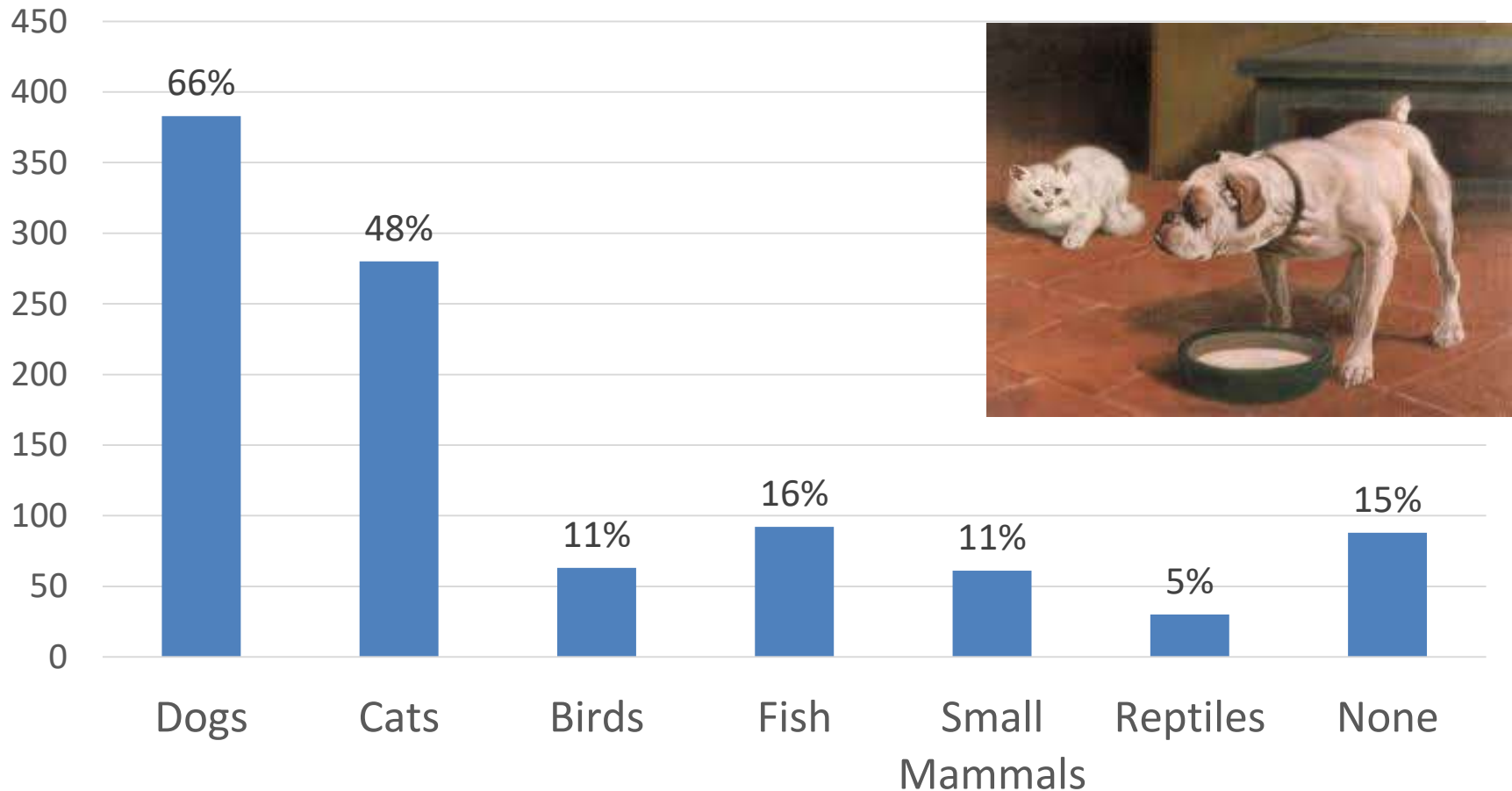


Live polling result (Sprague Hall 5/30/2019)



From the full class survey . . .

Pets we've had since 1969

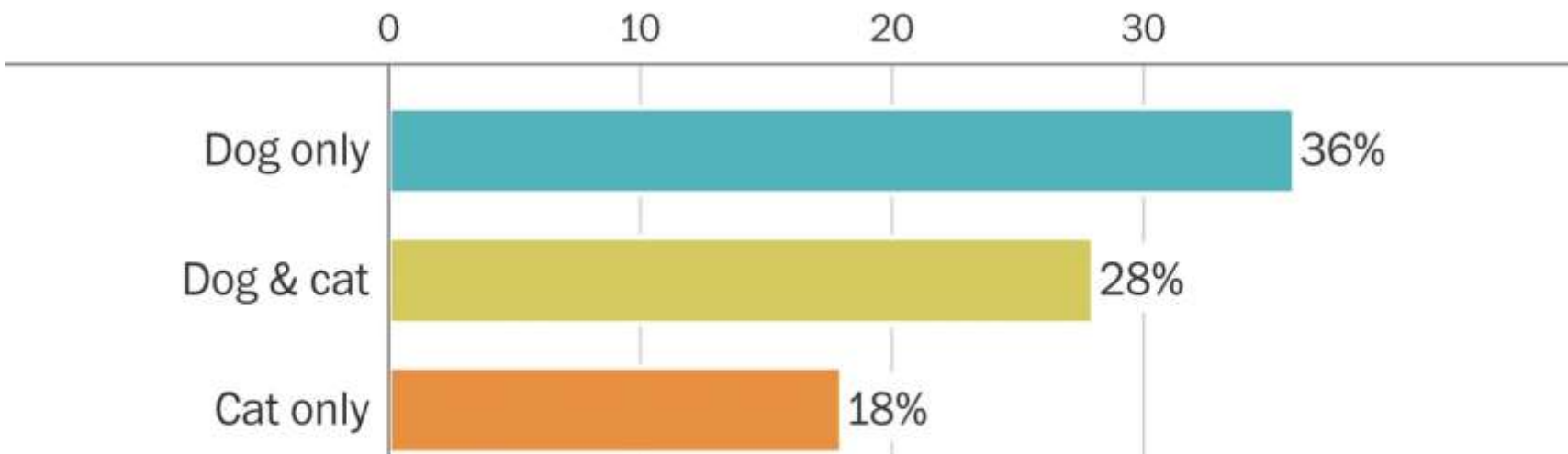


Percent "Very Happy"

(National data)

Happiness is a warm dog

Percent saying they're "very happy," by type of pet owned



Source: General Social Survey, 2018

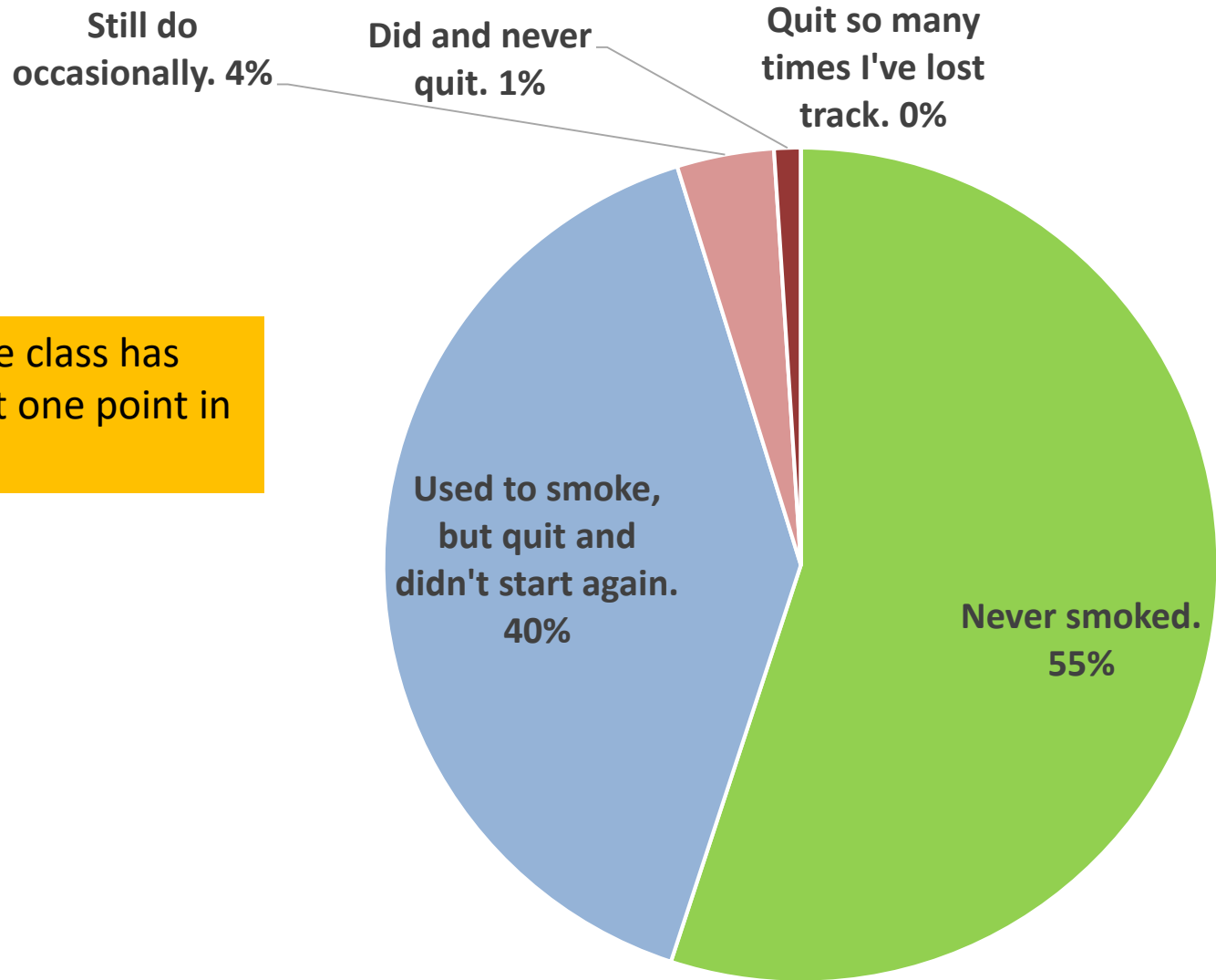
THE WASHINGTON POST

“Who we are”

Personal changes from then to now.

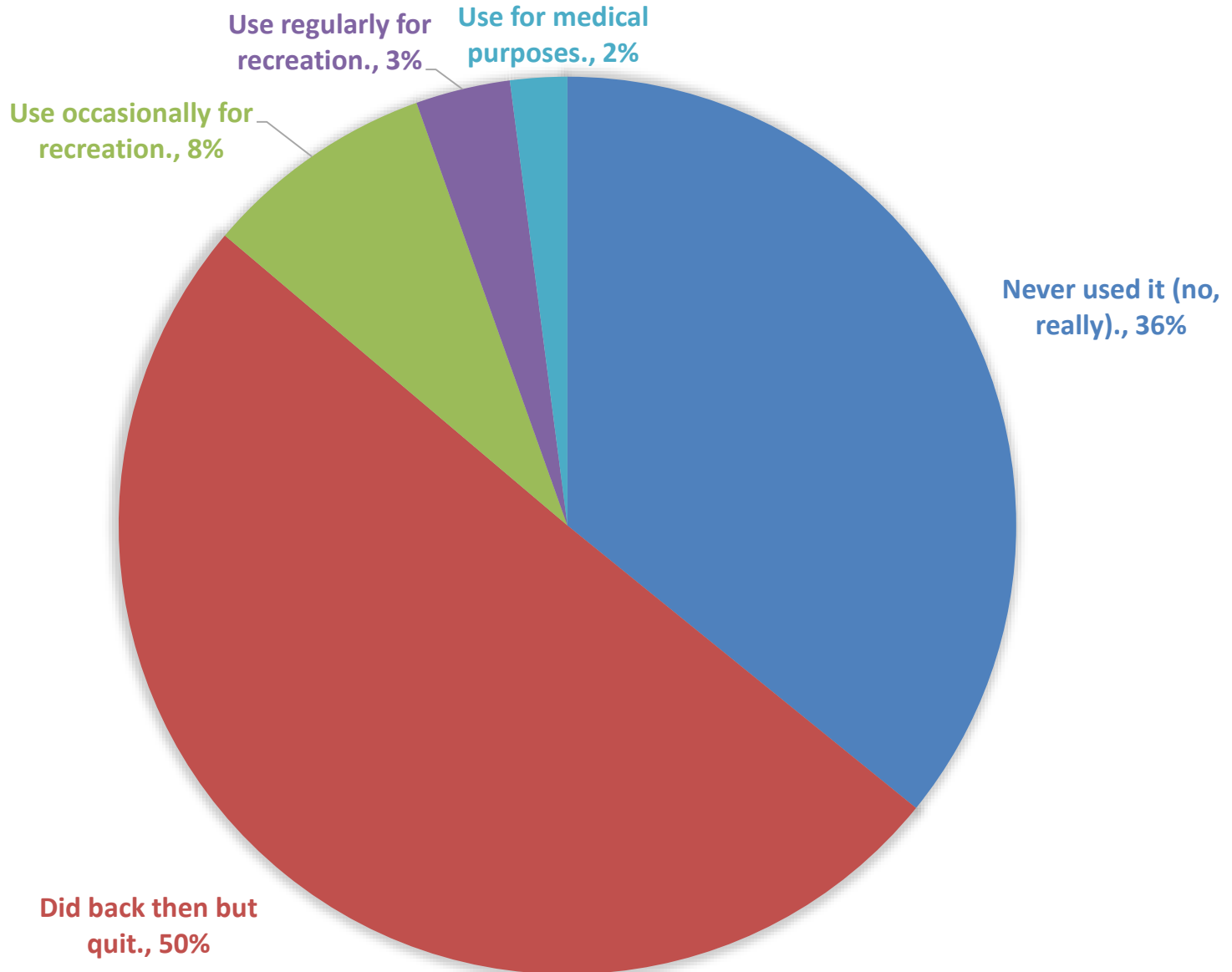


Smoking habits or lack thereof.



45% of the class has smoked at one point in their life

Pot patterns - use of marijuana.

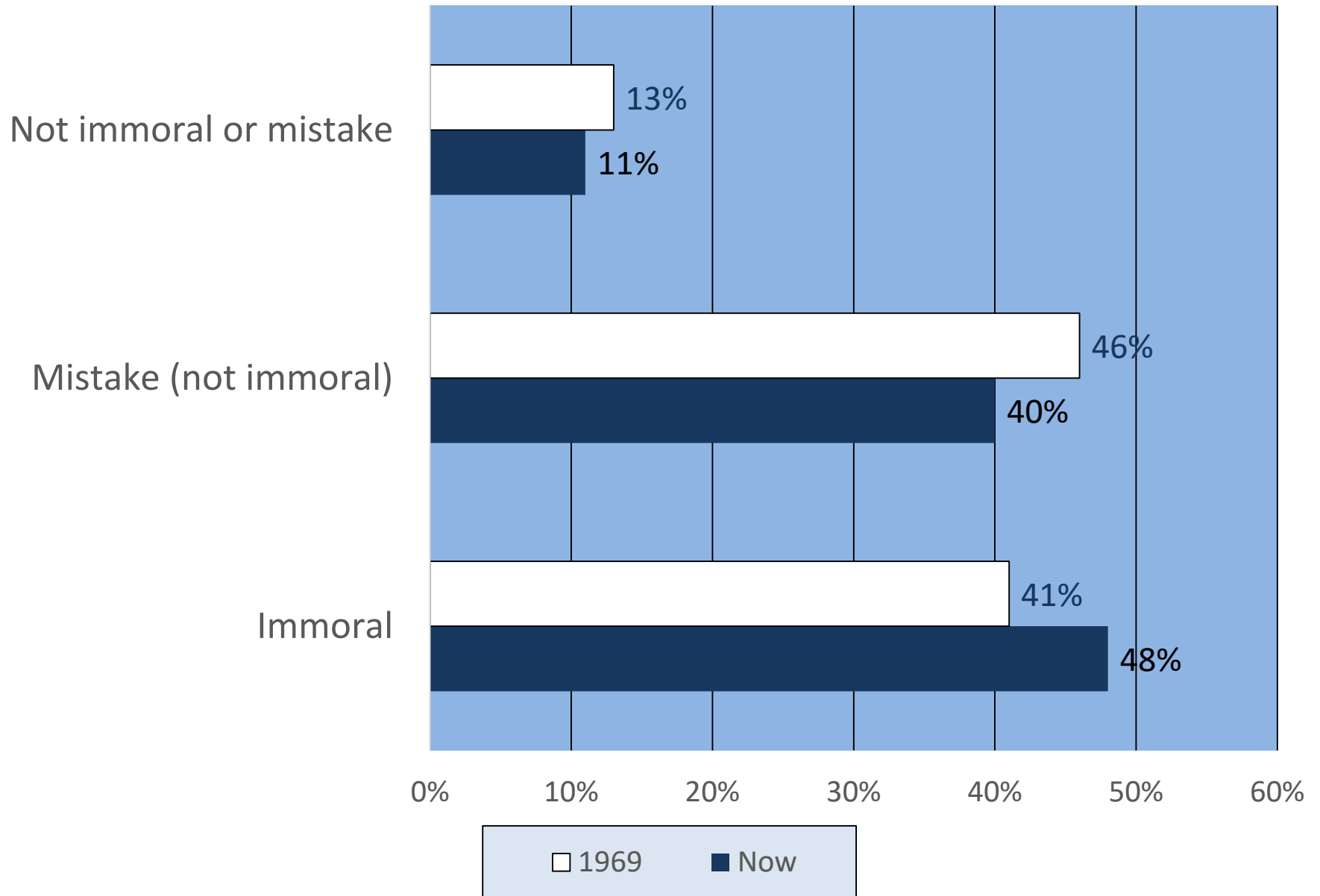


Vietnam.

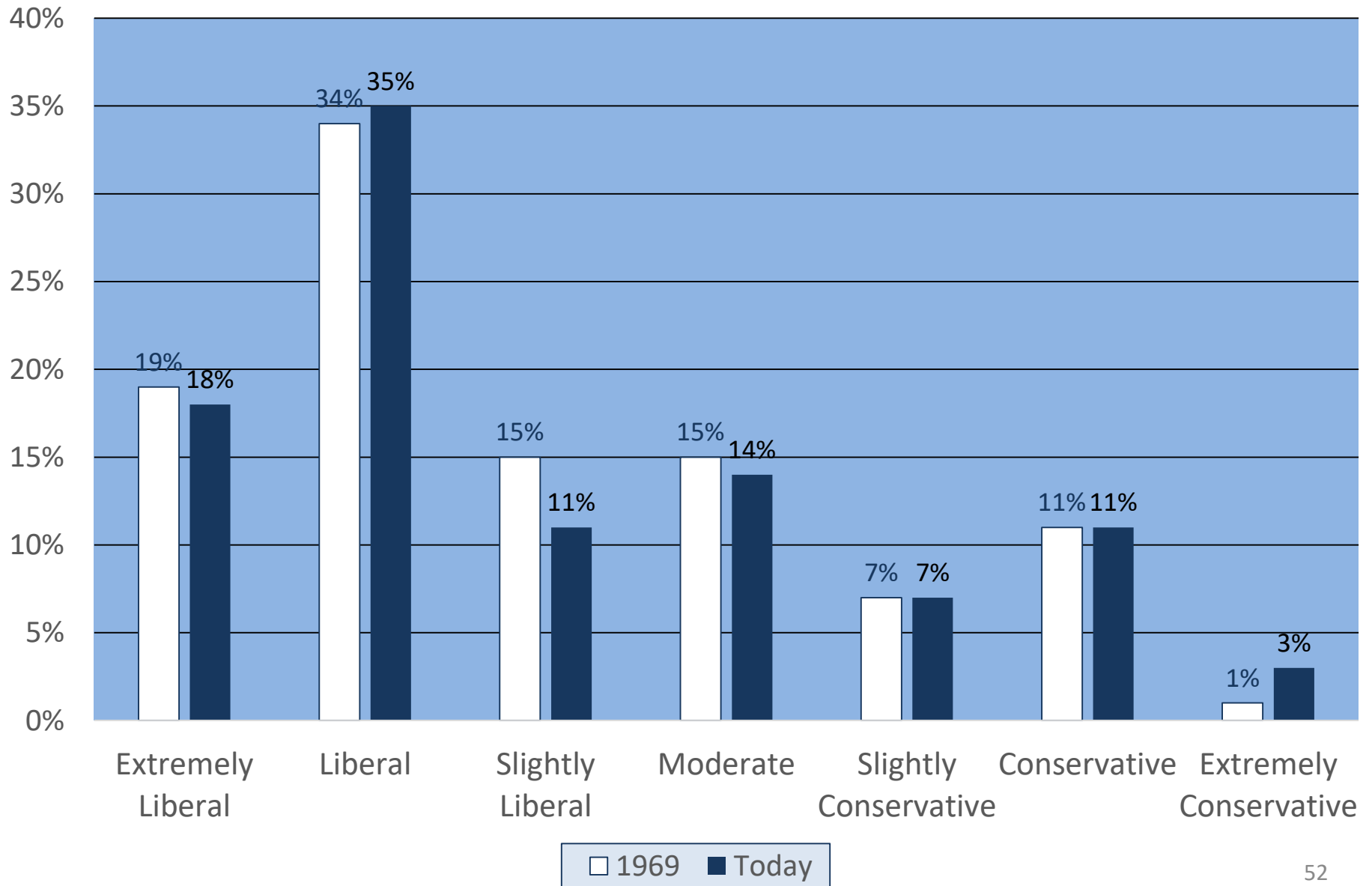
Which statement best sums up your attitude toward the war, looking back?

Answer	%
It was fundamentally wrong and immoral	48%
It was not immoral but a mistake	40%
It could have been won but we lost the political will to win it	6%
It was not immoral but was lost because we fought it in the wrong way	5%

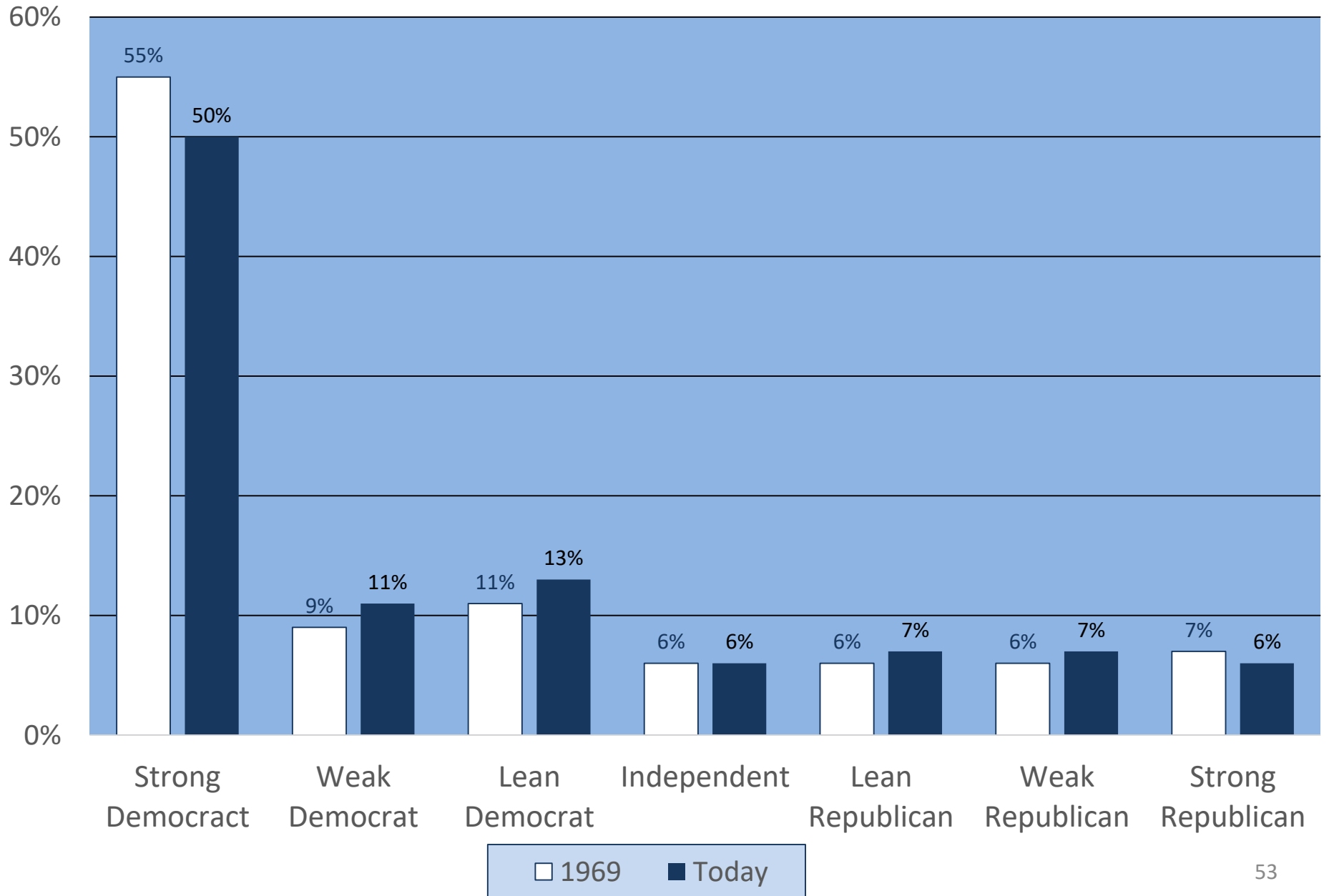
Attitudes towards Vietnam War



Liberal vs conservative—then and now

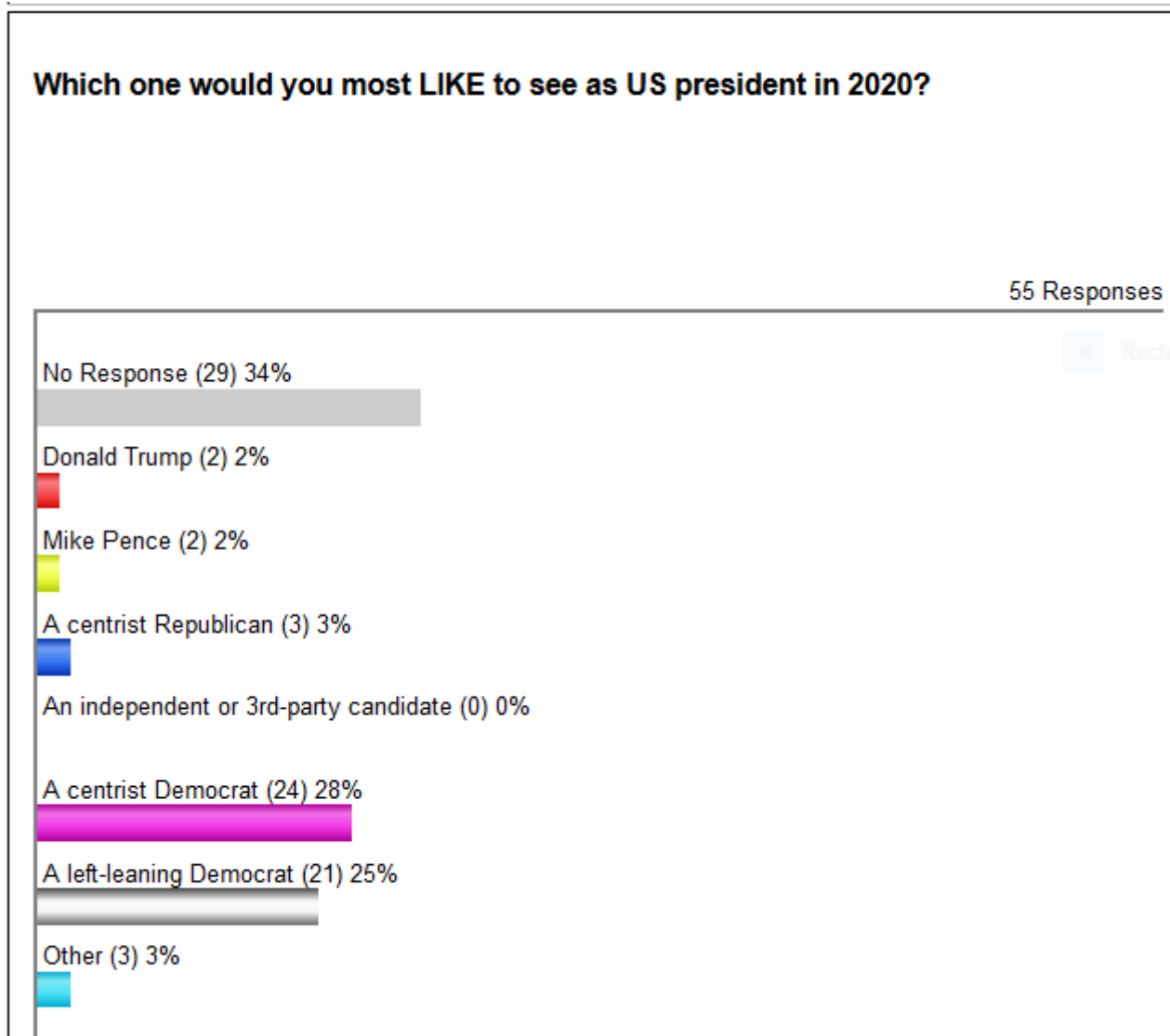


Party Affiliation—then and now



Live polling results: Presidential candidates

Live polling result (Sprague Hall 5/30/2019)



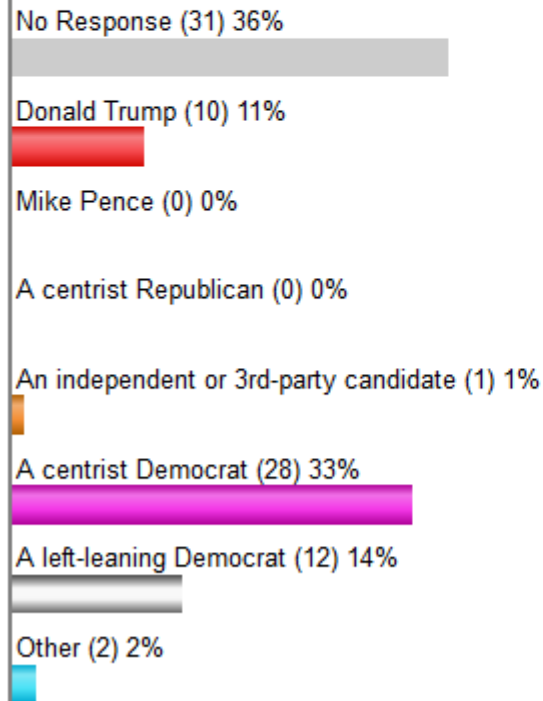
Live polling result (Sprague Hall 5/30/2019)

OK, but here's a different question:

Which one do you think is MOST LIKELY to be elected as US president in 2020?

Regular Snip

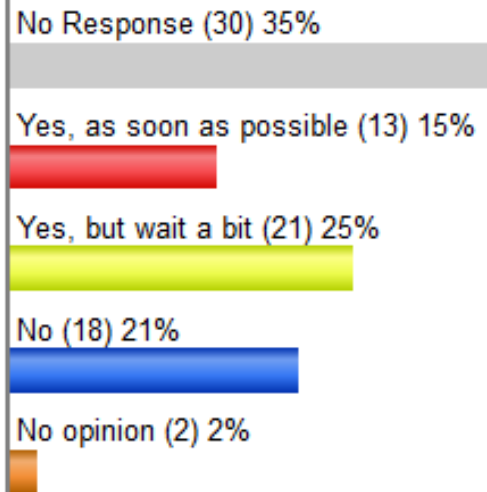
53 Responses



Live polling result (Sprague Hall 5/30/2019)

Do you think the House of Representatives should begin impeachment proceedings against Donald Trump before the 2020 election takes place?

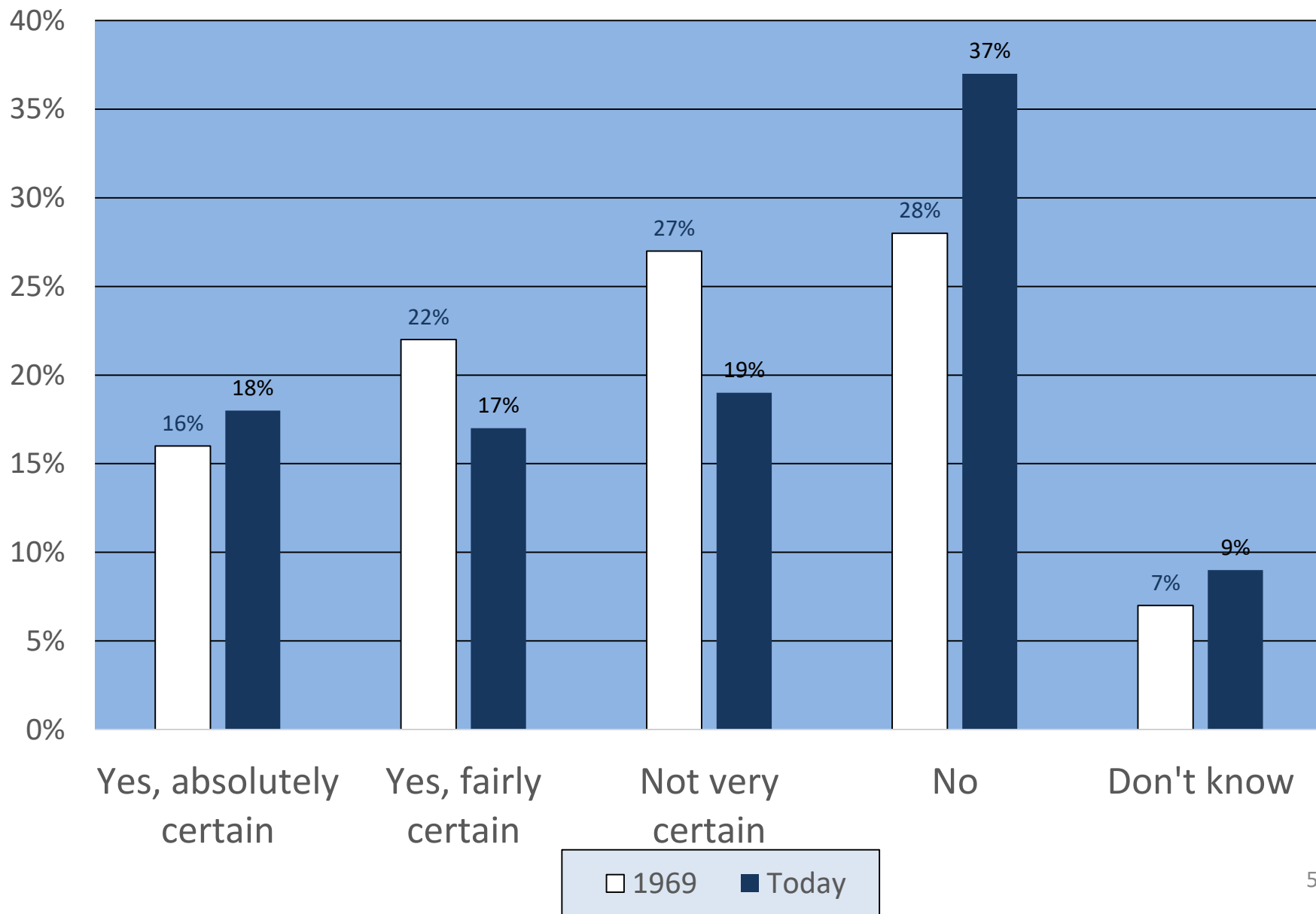
54 Responses



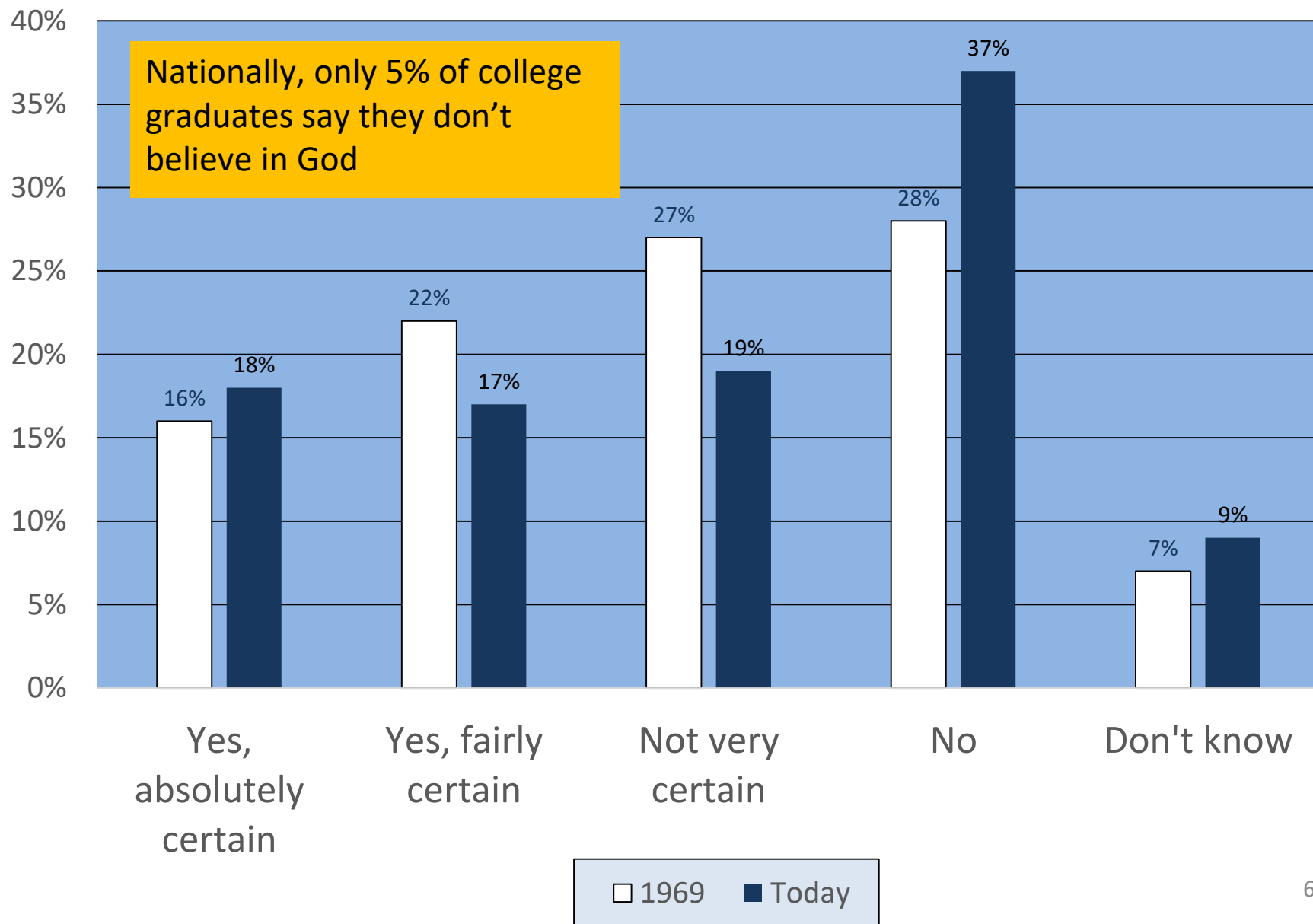
“For Whom, for country, and for
Yale?”



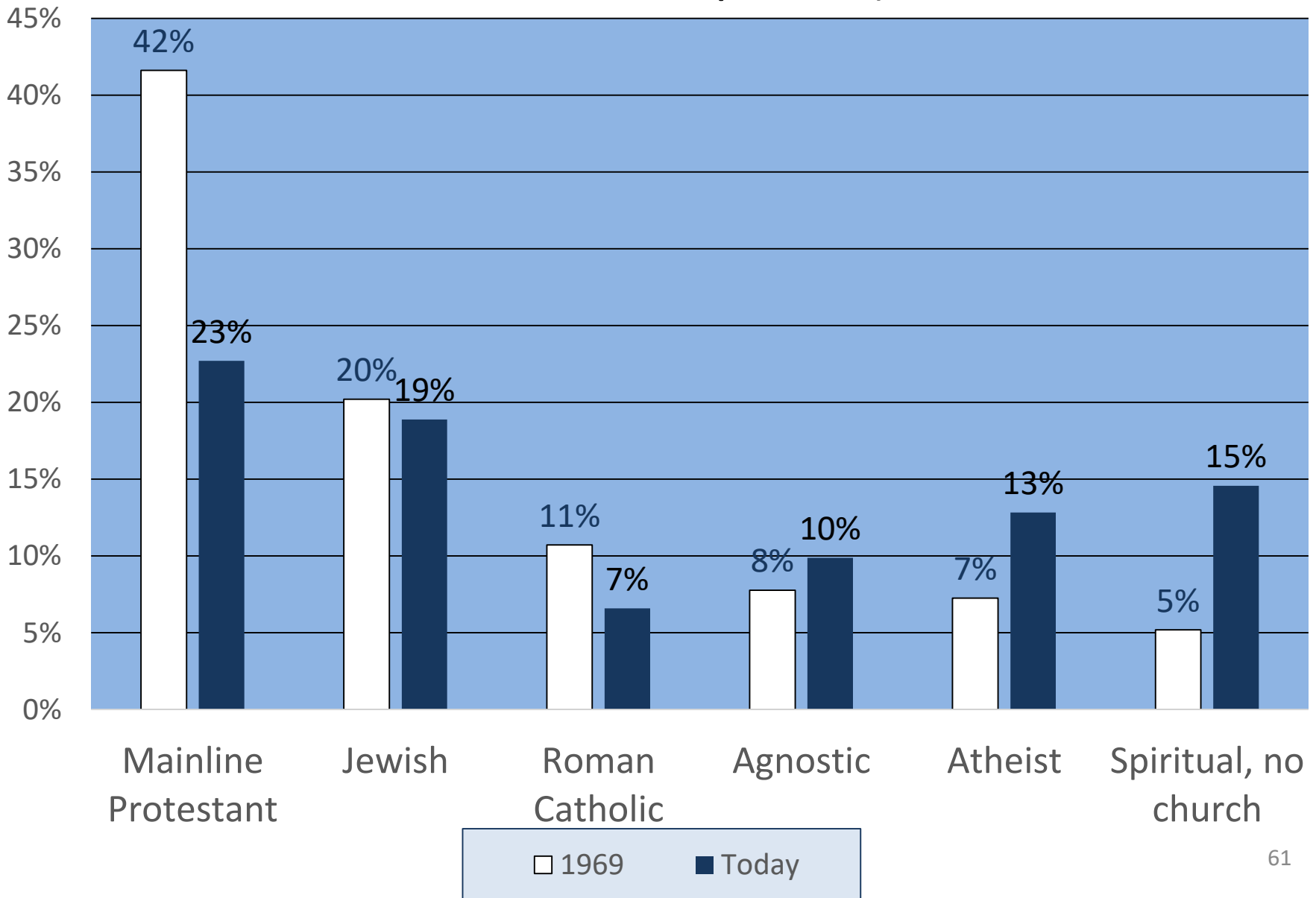
Do you believe in God?



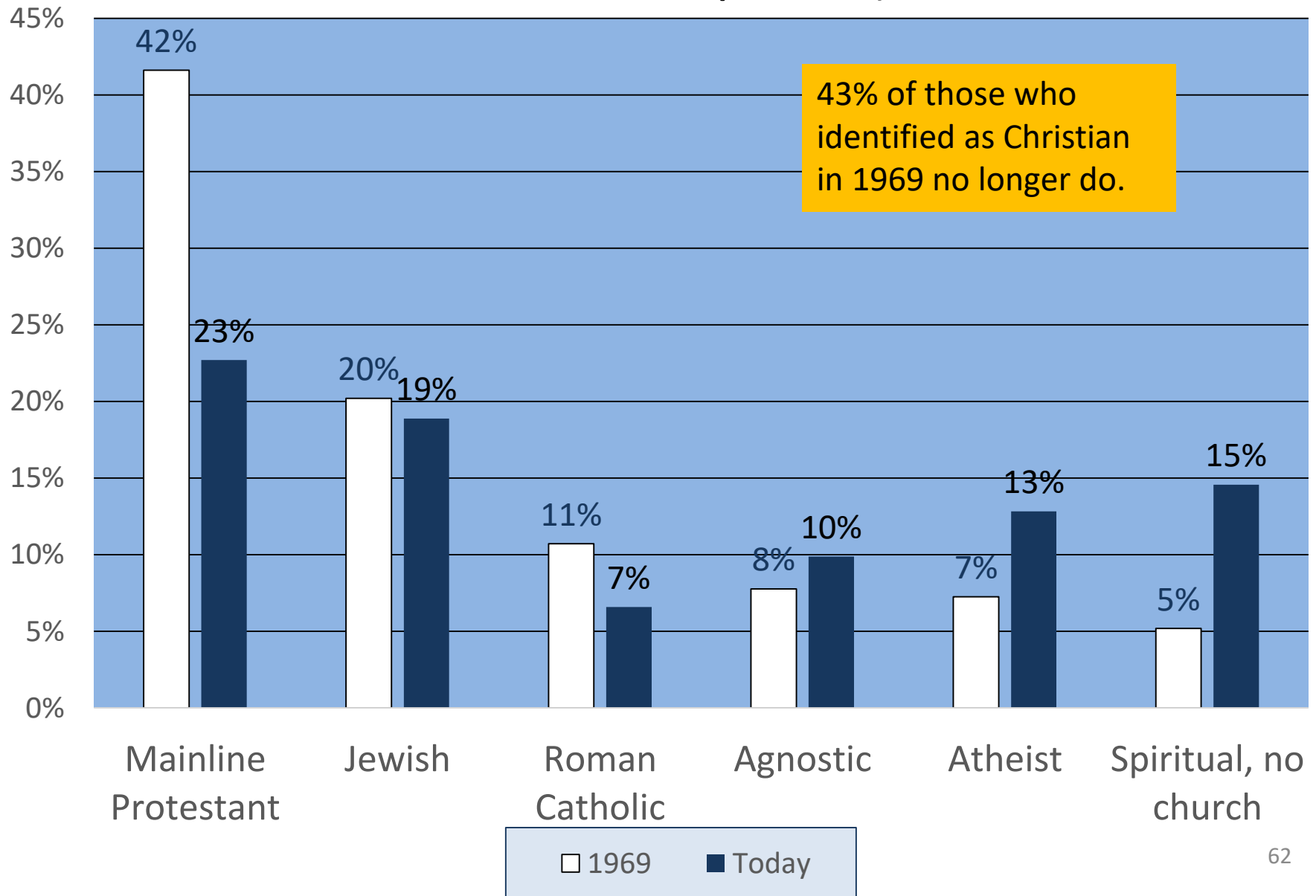
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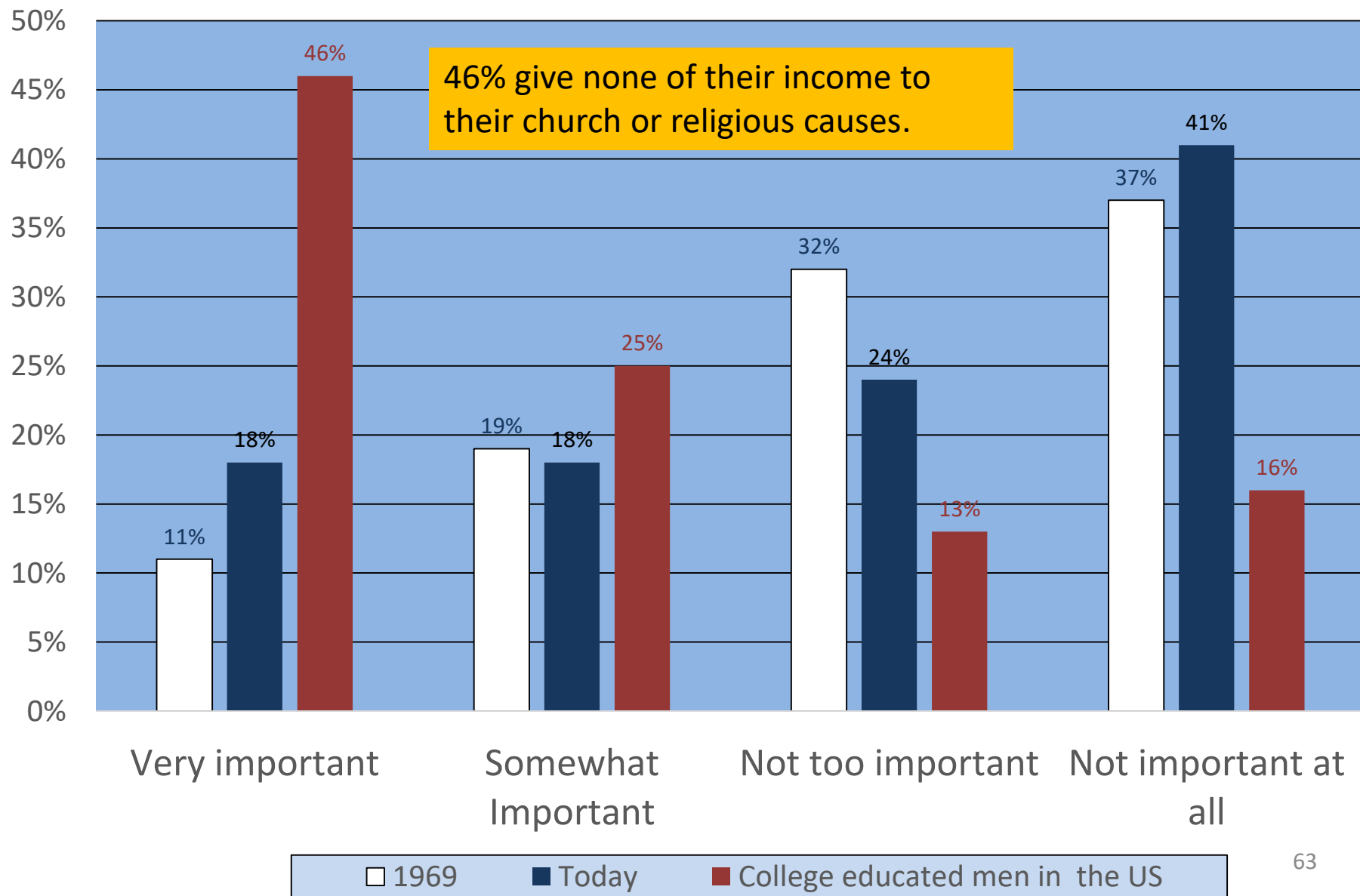
How would you describe your religious affiliation? (6 most common responses)



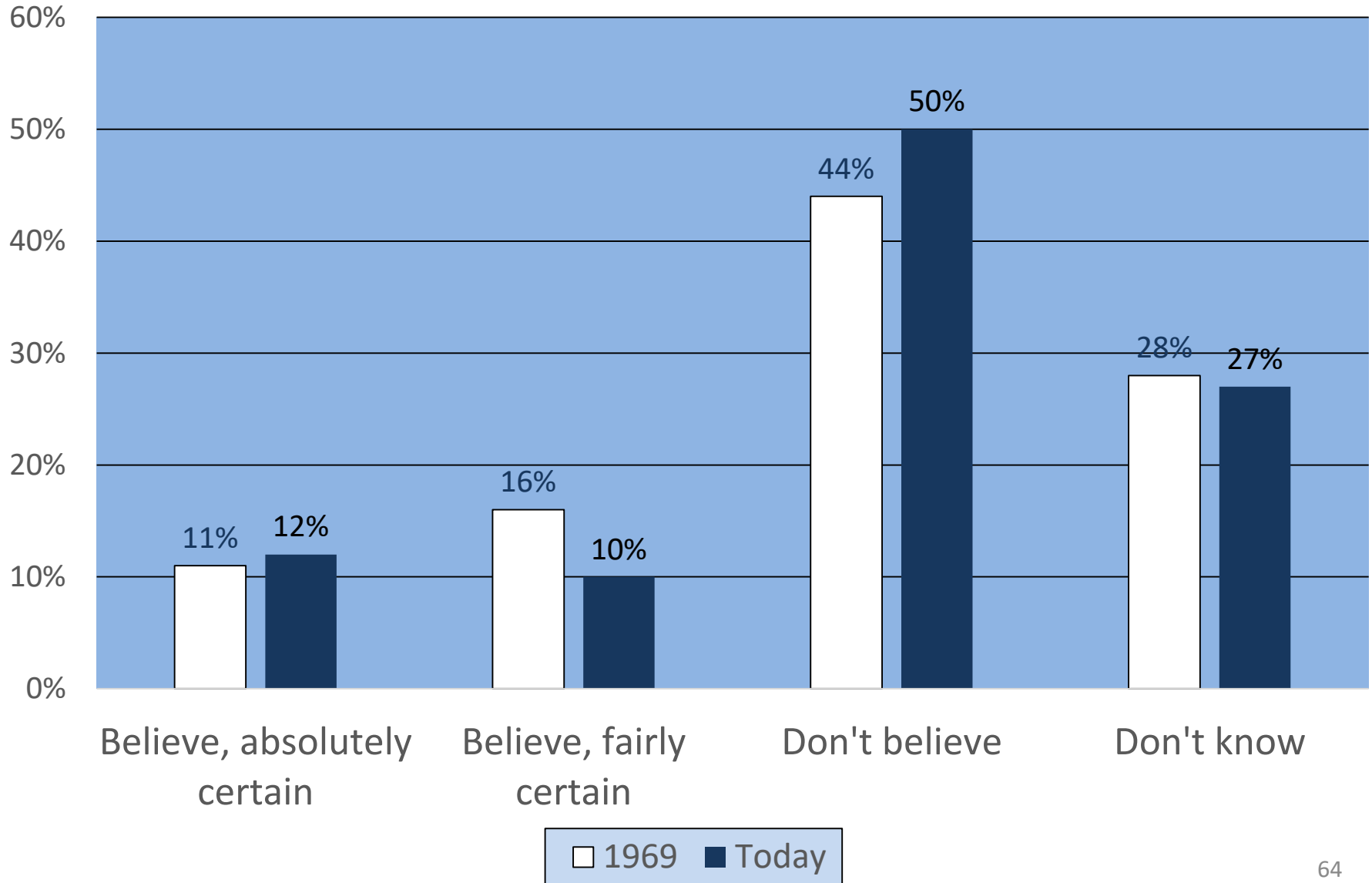
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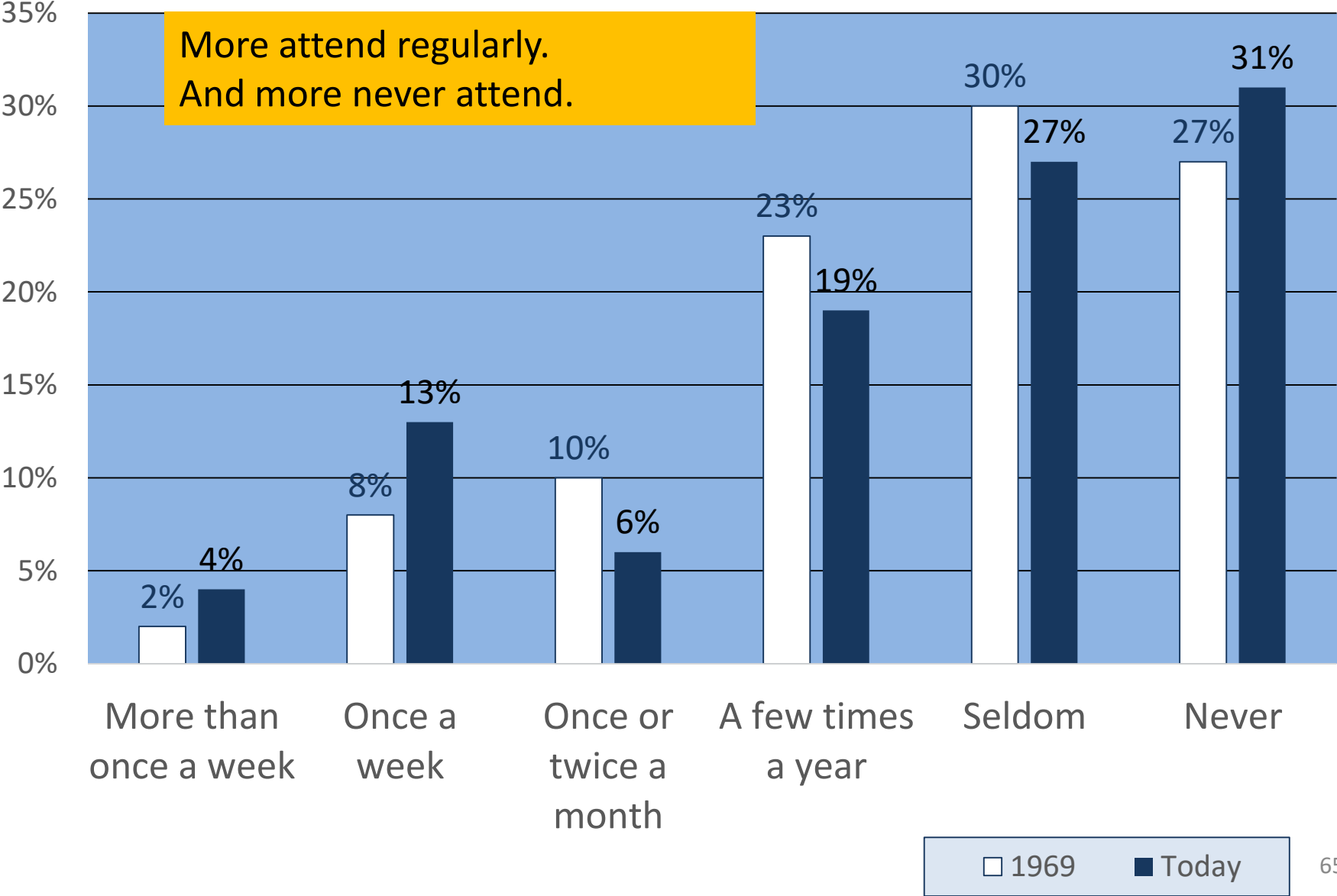
How important is religion in your life?



Do you believe in an afterlife?

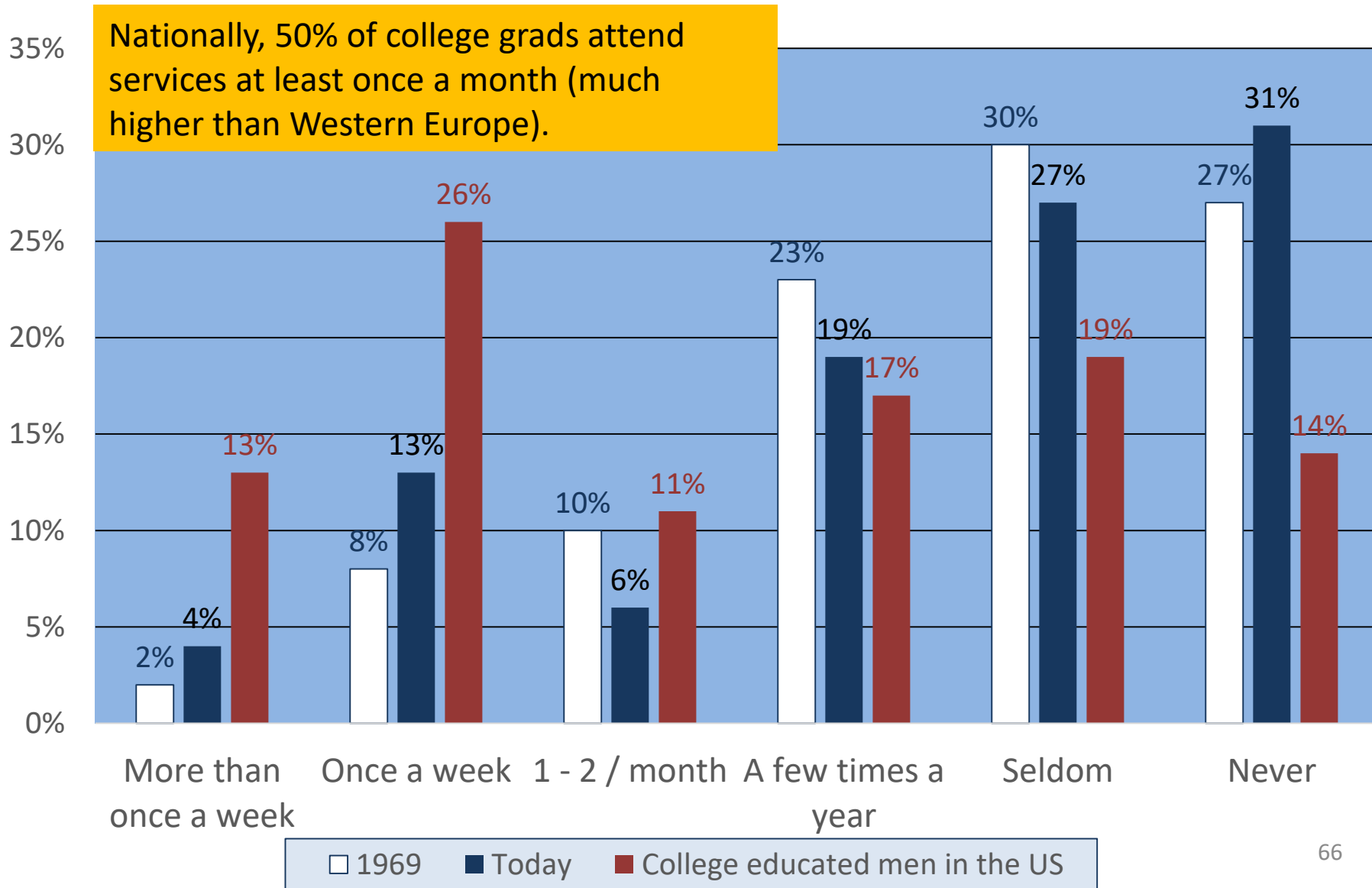


Aside from weddings or funerals, how often do you attend religious services?



Aside from weddings or funerals, how often do you attend religious services?

Compare to U.S. college grads.

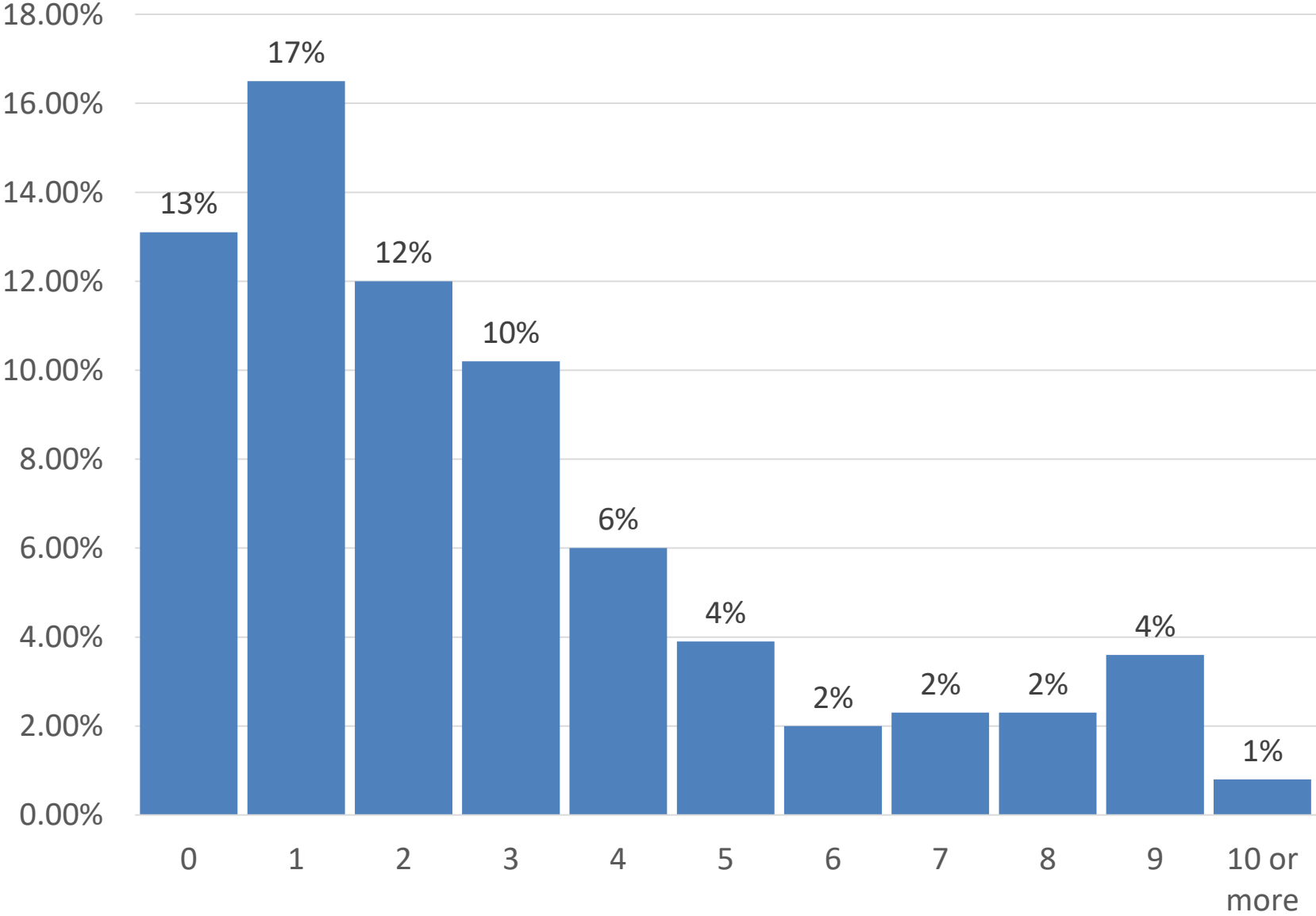


“Boola boola.”

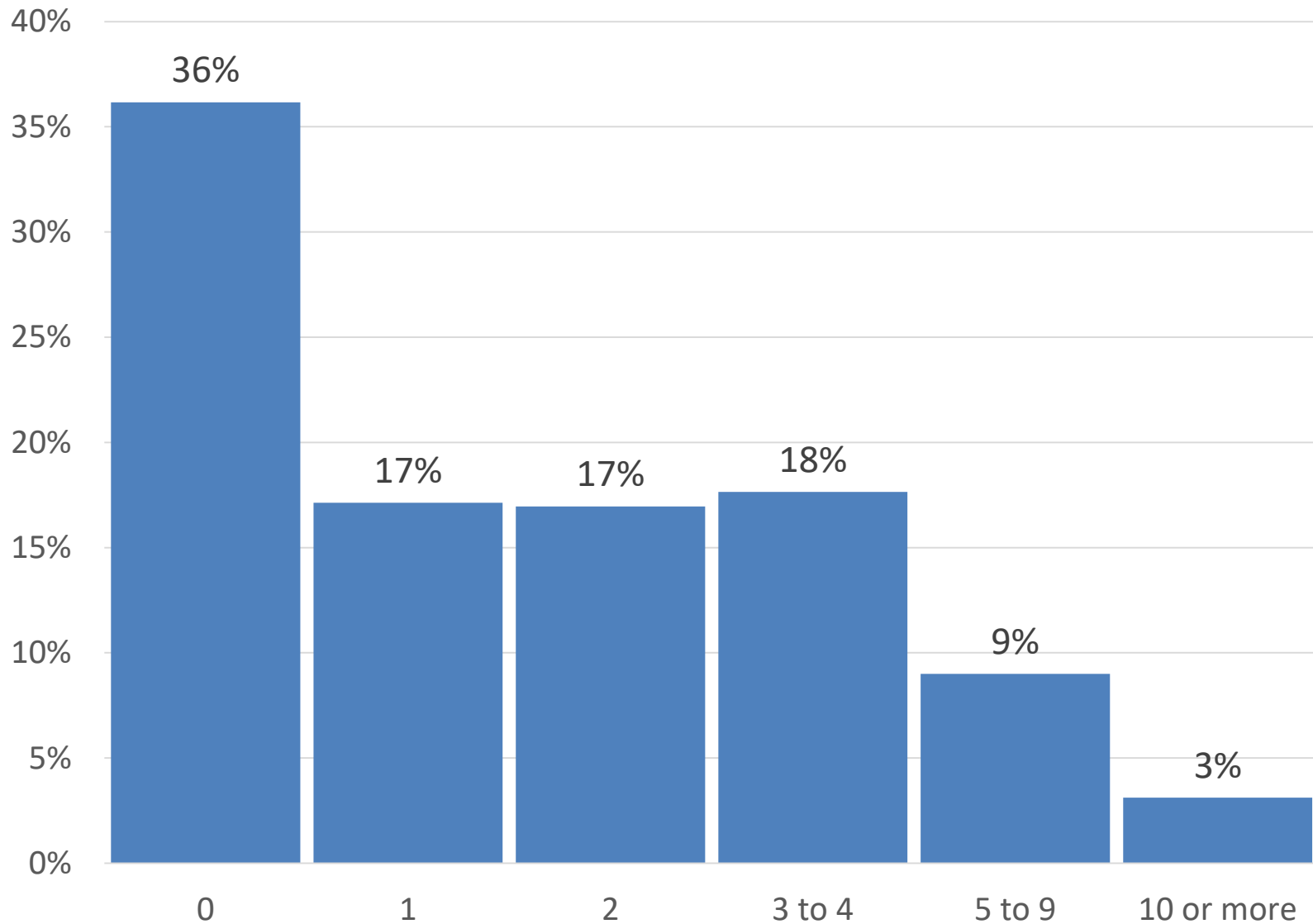
Relationship with Yale



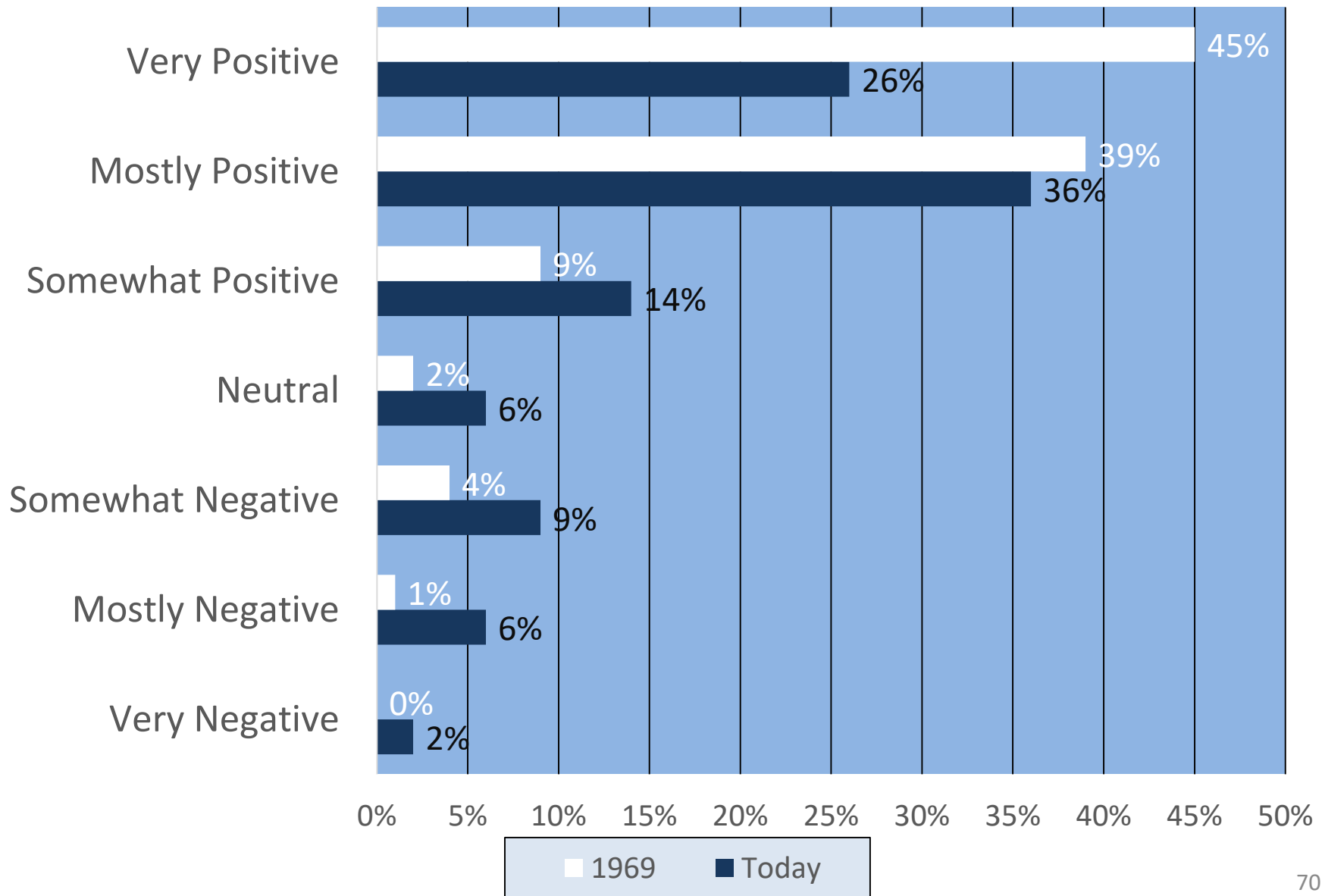
How many previous class reunions have you attended?



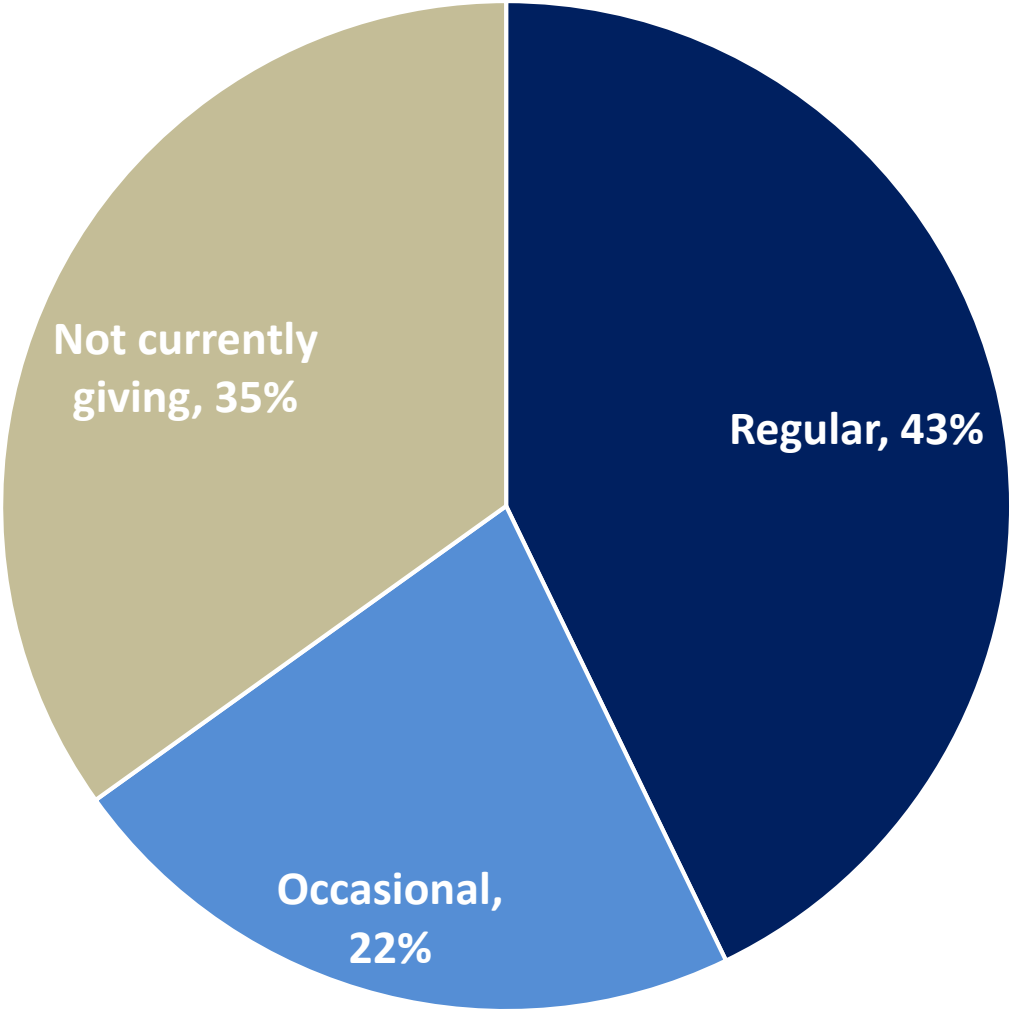
About how many Yale classmates do you currently consider close friends?



General opinion about Yale, then and now:



Current giving to Yale



Other Sentiments about Yale

- 71% of classmates believe their time at Yale played a “pivotal role” or an “important role” in bringing them success.
- 82% said that Yale would still be one of their top choices for a college to attend if they were 18 today

“Boxers or Briefs?”



THE COMMANDER IN BRIEFS

Washington Post, April 20, 1994



Live MTV Forum

April 29, 1994

17-year-old Laetitia Thompson demanded that the president reveal his underwear preference:

“The world is dying to know - is it boxers or briefs?”

"Usually briefs," William Jefferson Clinton IV told his gleeful audience of 200 college and high school students.

Time for you to guess!

◆ What percentage of men in our class wear *boxers*?

Point your browser to:

www.questionpress.com/guterbock

Please *refresh* the screen,

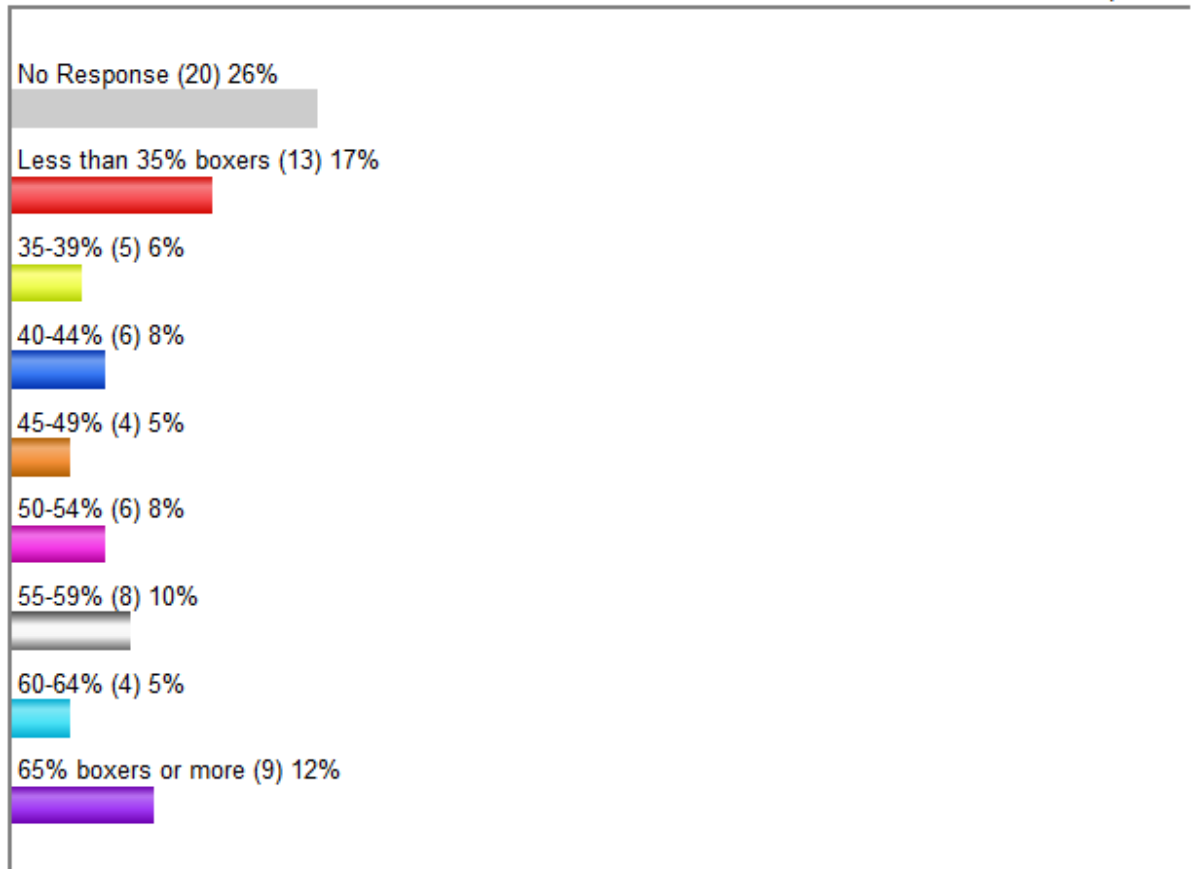
or type the whole URL in again to see the question.

Live polling result (Sprague Hall 5/30/2019)

What's your best guess on the great underwear question?

What percentage of Yale '69 class members do you think currently wear **BOXER SHORTS** as underwear?

55 Responses



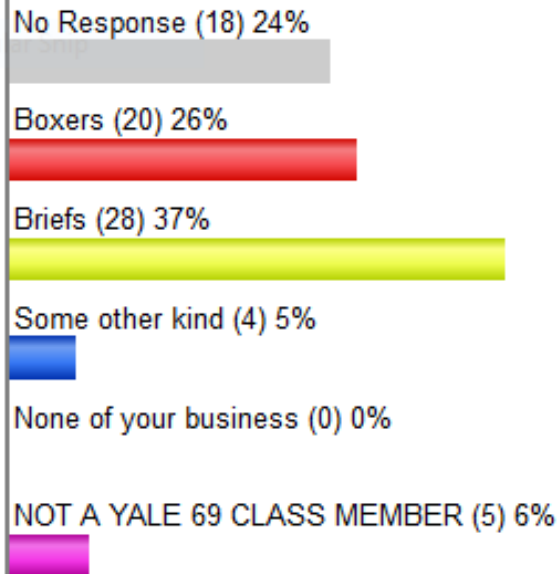
Live polling result (Sprague Hall 5/30/2019)

THIS QUESTION IS ONLY FOR MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF '69:

"The world wants to know: Boxers or briefs?"

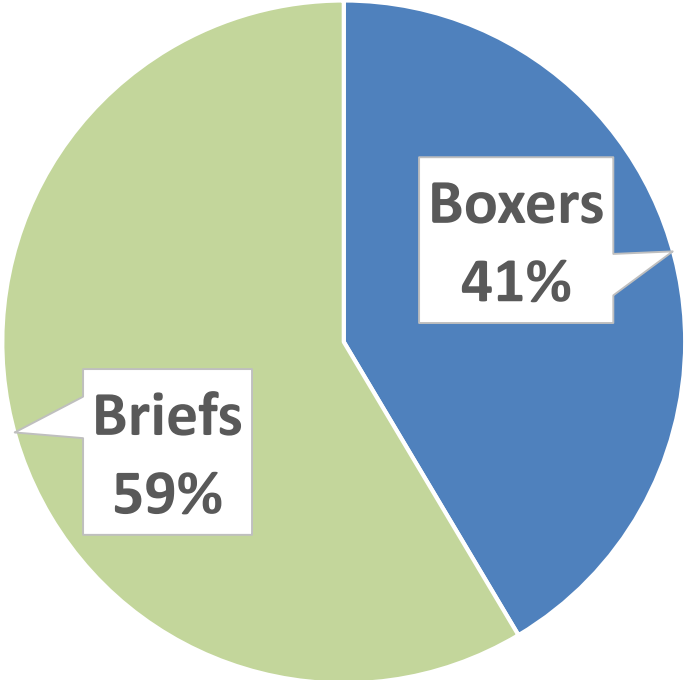
What kind of underwear are you wearing today?

57 Responses



The Yale '69 world has been dying to know . . .

Underwear Preference



Who wears boxers?

- About half of our class . . .
 - Belonged to a fraternity, and/or
 - Played sports on a residential college team
- In this group, about half (49%) wear boxers
- Among all other classmates, only a third (33.9%) wear boxers

Be fruitful? . . .

The average number of biological children reported in the class survey:

- For classmates who wear boxers: 2.14
- For classmates who wear briefs: 1.88
 - Difference is statistically significant! ($p = .000$)
 - But correlation is not causation
 - Experts disagree on actual effect of underwear

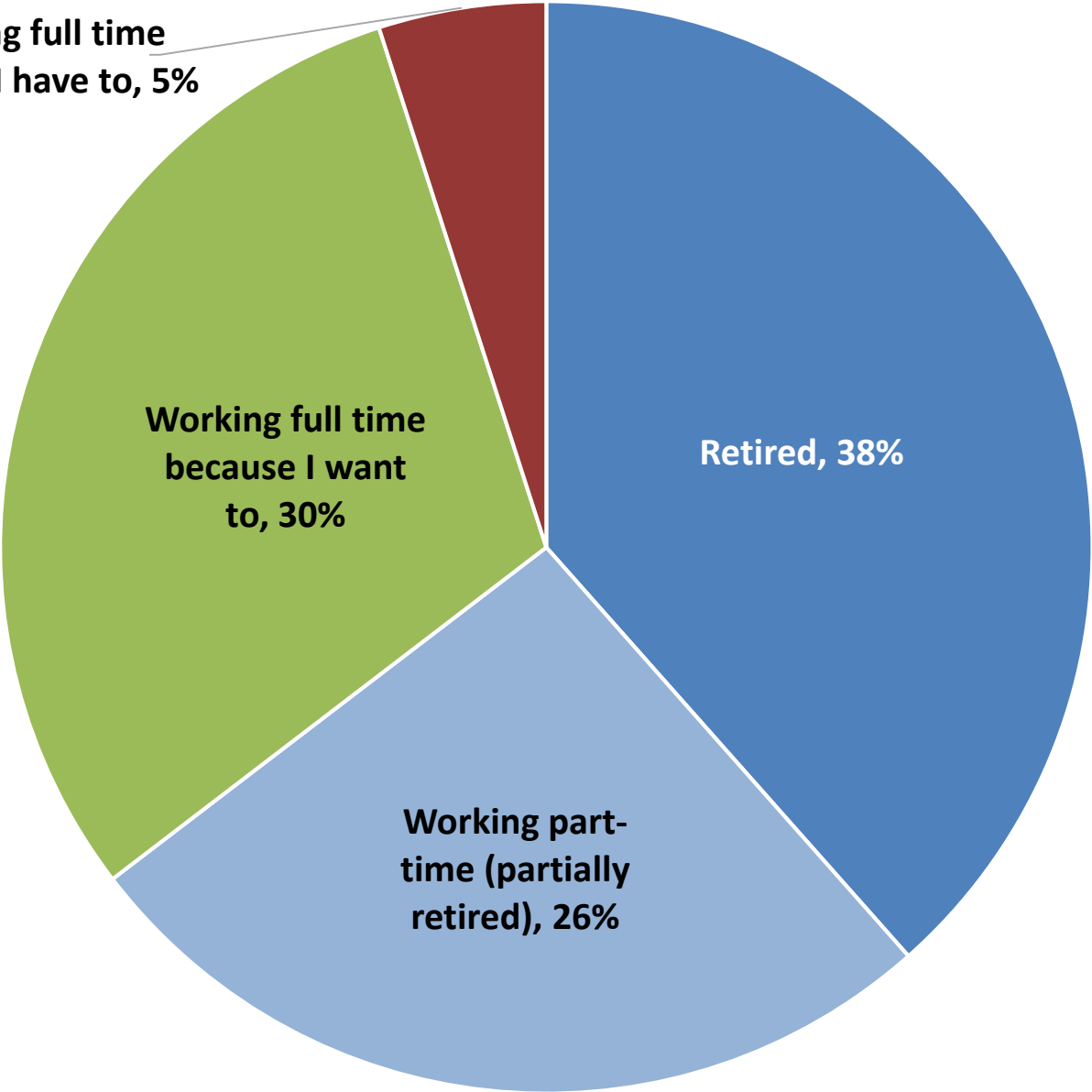
Your presenters are impartial!

“Where we’re headed”



Are you retired or still employed?

**Working full time
because I have to, 5%**

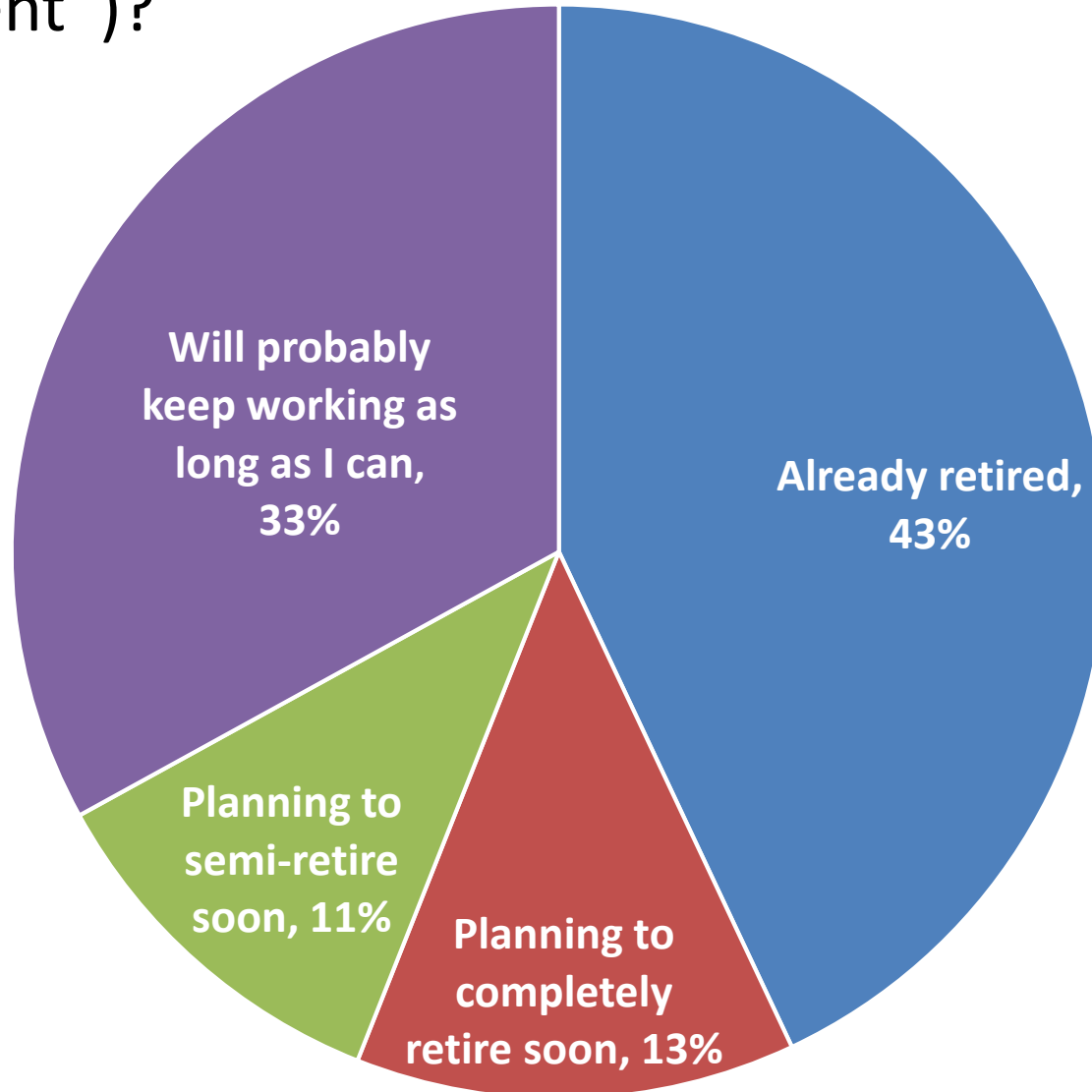


**Working full time
because I want
to, 30%**

Retired, 38%

**Working part-
time (partially
retired), 26%**

What are your plans for retirement (from “gainful employment”)?



In retirement or semi-retirement, how do you use or plan to use your spare time?

Answer	%
Travel	70%
Volunteer or pro-bono work	56%
Outdoor sports and activities (hunting, hiking, etc.)	38%
Writing	34%
Pursuing a hobby other than art	26%
Making art (including fine crafts like furniture)	14%
Athletic events (marathons, cycling events, etc.)	12%

Life, the Universe, and Everything

- 81% plan to stay where they enter(ed) retirement
- 96% plan to live in an ordinary community
- 69% say “there are still some things to do and accomplish”
- 8% feel their kids are doing significantly worse than they were at the same age
- Only 2% of respondents feel they’re struggling financially
- Only 1% believe they “messed up”

At this point in your life, how important are these things to you?

Question	Very important
Well-being of my family	88%
My personal happiness	45%
Staying in close touch with family and friends	37%
Well-being of friends and community	36%
Physical activity	36%
Helping others, giving back	27%
Personal creativity	26%
Personal reflection/contemplation	20%
Personal achievement	14%
Getting my ideas out to the world	11%
Monetary success	7%

“Don’t forget to build relationships.
The people in your life will turn out
to be way more important than
your solo achievements.”

- from “Notes to Self” responses



Who We Were, Who We Are, Where We're Headed

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