

– MINUTES –

ST. ANNE'S VESTRY MEETING

SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

Meeting held by Zoom videoconference

Present: Fr. Lonnie Lacy, Mary Alice Applegate, Chris Beckham, Nancy Bryan, Sarah Cook, Brenda Doss, Carl Duncan, Donna Falcone, Brandon Medley, Linda Moore, Kathy Moreno, Jessica Patrick, Shelly Schmeisser (Treasurer) and Pam Leonard (Clerk)

Absent: Allen Lamb

1. OPENING PRAYER – Fr. Lonnie opened the meeting with prayer.
2. FORMATION – Fr. Lonnie led the Vestry in a discussion on *The Venite* (Psalm 95:1-7) emphasizing worship.

*Come let us sing to the Lord; **
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
*Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving **
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
*For the Lord is a great God, **
and a great King above all gods.
*In his hand are the caverns of the earth, **
and the heights of the hills are his also.
*The sea is his, for he made it, **
and his hands have molded the dry land.
*Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, **
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God,
*and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. **
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

3. DISCUSSION

a. Discernment Regarding Worship

i. Survey Feedback

- 106 parishioners from 88 households completed the survey, which actually represents 184 individuals – a good cross section of the parish.

- The majority of responders have attended St. Anne's for more than 10 years and almost half are 65 years or older; 63% are ready to return at the first opportunity with few or no concerns, and 72% plan to attend on a weekly or bi-weekly basis.
 - See attachment for all survey results
- ii. Next Steps – Initial Discussion
- It is helpful to have feedback from other churches in the Diocese that have reopened. The clergy feel safe as long as the Bishop's guidelines are followed.
 - Discussion ensued on the pros/cons of a registration system for services, whether it be reservations, alternating attendance every other Sunday, some other alternative signup; etc. Also, a plan for serving visitors is needed.
 - Some consideration should be given to allowing parishioners to make their own decisions.
 - Fr. Lonnie will share the survey results by email for the Vestry's review. He also asked for a special called meeting to continue this discussion before the next regularly scheduled Vestry meeting. He will poll the group through email regarding a date. *(Note: Scheduled for Tuesday, September 29 at 6 p.m.)*
 - Fr. Lonnie asked for particulars from the survey that should be shared with the parish by the e-newsletter or in a sermon. Thoughts and/or suggestions should be sent to him by email.
- b. Stewardship Plans – The Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program has been successfully implemented the last two years. Stewardship Liaison Kathy Moreno said this approach, with modifications because of our worship guidelines, will be used this fall. A chair is being sought to lead this effort.
- c. Annual Meeting Date – Fr. Lonnie presented two possible dates for the Annual Meeting: November 22 or November 29. A format for the meeting will be decided in coming days.
- d. Diocesan Convention Delegates – The annual Diocesan Convention will be held virtually on November 6-7. Vestry members interested in representing St. Anne's were Linda Moore, Brandon Medley, and Jessica Patrick (alternate). Fr. Lonnie will contact other parishioners who have voiced interest to complete the convention delegate team.
- e. Miqra – Fr. Lonnie has been contacted by several parishioners interested in planning a Miqra, a continuous public reading of the Bible. St. Anne's held a Miqra several years ago, which was very well received. In

considering current circumstances, Fr. Lonnie said that this is doable. As the Vestry is in favor, Fr. Lonnie will proceed with plans.

4. INFORMATION

- a. Rector's Report – no report
- b. Senior Warden's Report – no report
- c. Junior Warden's Report – no report
- d. Liaison Reports
 - i. Adult Formation (*B. Doss & D. Falcone*) – see attachment
 - ii. Communications (*S. Cook*) – no report
 - iii. Mission (*open*) – no report
 - iv. Newcomers (*L. Moore*) – see attachment
 - v. Outreach (*M.A. Applegate*) – see attachment
 - vi. Parish Life (*J. Patrick*) – no report
 - vii. Pastoral Care (*B. Medley*) – see attachment
 - viii. Stewardship (*K. Moreno*) – no report
 - ix. Youth and Children (*N. Bryan*) – see attachment
 - x. Worship (*K. Moreno*) – no report
- e. Upcoming Dates

October 1	Vestry Nominees Published (or 30 days before Annual Meeting)
October 18-21	Lonnie on vacation
November 1	All Saints Day & Consecration Sunday
November 22 or Nov. 29	Annual Meeting
November 29:	First Sunday in Advent

5. FINANCIAL REPORTS – Treasurer Shelly Schmeisser presented financial reports for the month ending August 30, 2020 (see attachment). She also reported:

- a. Payments have resumed on the Ministry Center loan.
- b. The potential buyer for the Moultrie property is still interested and lawyers are working on the deed.
- c. A preliminary 2021 budget will be presented at the next Vestry meeting.

6. DECISION – The Vestry voted to hold the Annual Meeting on November 22.

7. MINUTES – The minutes for the August 25, 2020 Vestry Meeting were approved as circulated by email.

8. CLOSING PRAYER – Brenda Doss closed the meeting with prayer.

— LIAISON REPORTS —

September, 2020

Adult Formation *(Brenda Doss and Donna Falcone)*

Exploration of ideas and options for Adult Formation continue.

Communications *(Sarah Cook)*

No report.

Mission *(no liaison)*

No report.

Newcomers *(Linda Moore)*

A note has been sent to the Holtons welcoming them to the parish. Our group will be ready to help with Usher coordination when we begin our in-person worship.

Outreach *(Mary Alice Applegate)*

- **Angel Tree:** Outreach Support will continue this ministry to provide Christmas gifts to residents of the nearby rehab center, though there will not be an actual tree set up in the parish hall. Linda Moore contacted Tony Sorrells who reported that there will be no party this year, due to Covid 19 protocols. Mr. Sorrells will develop a list of 30 resident names and gift suggestions. Mary Alice Applegate will be the new point of contact.
- **Terracycle:** Linda Moore provided historic information on this program which accepts hard to recycle items such as tooth paste tubes, dental floss packaging and other items. Outreach Support decided to continue this ministry at St. Anne's, and Libby Robertson agreed to take responsibility for this program, once we return to worship. Linda will re-submit information so that St. Anne's is an approved entity to receive proceeds from mailing in items to Terracycle. We currently are due approximately \$100 in revenue from recyclables collected and submitted.
- **South Georgia Immigrant Support Network:** Mary Alice Applegate reported that Naomi found a church that could use the Ministry Center chairs that were to be discarded. Christine Tibbetts and her granddaughter have moved the replacement chairs out of the stair well storage space and prepared the space for storing clothing bins for detainees about to be deported.
- **Masks for school children:** Libby Robertson reported that 1,000 kids and adult-size masks were ordered. She is storing those that have not been delivered to the school. Masks will also be available for church use, once we return to worship in person.
- **Second Harvest:** Libby Robertson and Ann Seward will contact Second Harvest to clarify whether we can start purchasing staples for the Food Box program. Jimmy Felton will also help in initiating purchases.

- **Food Box Ministry** continues its monthly distribution to needy families.
 - **Emergency Food Bags:** Jimmy Felton shared information about how Calvary Episcopal (Americus) provides emergency food with an unlocked receptacle and a “take a can, donate a can” sign, visible to the public. He will discuss this idea with Emily in regards to the newly installed emergency food box.
 - **Knots of Love** completed and delivered five blankets in the past month to families in need of support.
 - **Loaves of Love** continues to provide baked goods to monthly food box recipients, emergency food recipients, Brother Charlie’s Rescue Mission, and Ruth’s Cottage.
 - **Cancer Care:** Clayton Riehle reported that from now through September 24, Relay participants who register or join a team and raise \$30.00 will receive a purple Relay for Life face mask. Online donations, FB fundraising and mobile app donations count. The American Cancer Society is down in revenues, due to the Covid 19 event cancellations, and there have been layoffs.
 - **Adopt a Mile:** Kathy Moreno reports the next pickup will be on October 10th.
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Parish Life *(Jessica Patrick)*

No report.

Pastoral Care *(Brandon Medley)*

Fr. Lonnie and Brandon continue to meet bi-weekly to discuss pastoral care needs. Brandon sends out a weekly report to pastoral care team members with current action items.

Stewardship *(Kathy Moreno)*

No report.

Youth & Children *(Nancy Bryan)*

The Youth Formation Committee met via Zoom on September 15.

A survey to query parents to query about interest and participation of their families in virtual options will be sent October 1, after results of the church-wide survey are reviewed. While this was originally planned to go out sooner, the committee feels that to know in what direction the church is going regarding Eucharist would be a factor in what was needed for the children and youth. The committee is also researching to see what continued level of Diocese of GA virtual offerings for children/youth will be.

The committee would like to determine something to be safely done re: All Hallows’ Eve and for that to be a potential kick off to safe offerings for children and youth over the holiday season.

The committee will meet again on September 29, via Zoom, to make final survey plans.

Worship (Kathy Moreno)

No report.

St. Annes Operating Budget Summary

Aug-20

	Aug-20	Aug-19
Monthly Income All-Sources	\$ 30,249.00	\$ 31,887.50
Expenses	\$ 37,331.91	\$ 38,861.94
Net Operating Income	\$ (7,082.91)	\$ (6,974.44)

YTD August 2020

	Aug-20	Aug-19
Total Income	\$ 288,092.26	\$ 300,602.13
Total Expenses	\$ 277,706.30	\$ 279,798.01
Net Operating Income	\$ 10,385.96	\$ 20,804.12

Note: Pledge Income	August	Year To Date	Budget YTD
Aug-20	\$ 30,146.00	\$ 285,425.86	\$ 317,456.00
Aug-19	\$ 31,179.00	\$ 295,544.34	
Difference	\$ (1,033.00)	\$ (10,118.48)	

Note: Budget	Expense YTD	Budget YTD	Difference
Aug-20	\$ 277,706.30	\$ 317,456.00	\$ 39,749.70
Aug-19	\$ 279,798.01	\$ 295,952.00	\$ 16,153.99

AMERIS BANK-Dedicated Accounts

Current Month	Past Month	Accounts
\$ 4,543.96	\$ 3,289.57	Diocesan Bond Interest
\$ 161,398.46	\$ 165,324.50	Money Market Holding
\$ 1,387.81	\$ 1,662.52	Money Market Checking
\$ 167,330.23	\$ 170,276.59	TOTAL CASH In AMERIS - Dedicated Accounts

OTHER Accounts (SGBC) Cash

Current Month	Past Month	Accounts
\$ 3,703.48	\$ 3,600.48	Bookstore

OTHER Savings/Investments

Current Month	Past Month	Accounts
\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	Diocesan Bonds
\$ 109,332.26	\$ 109,332.26	Episcopal Church Foundation-Endowment
\$ 242,279.69	\$ 242,279.69	Colquitt Property
\$ 11,117.66	\$ 317.66	Edward Jones Money market
\$ 412,729.61	\$ 401,929.61	TOTAL Other Savings/Investments

\$ 583,763.32	\$ 575,806.68	TOTAL Dedicated Cash/Savings/Investments
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SOUTH GEORGIA BANK - Operating Accounts

Account Balances	Current Month	Past Month
Checking: Church Operating	\$ 109,962.22	\$ 116,868.22
Operating Reserve	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
Real Estate Account	\$ 10,721.11	\$ 10,721.11
Total Cash in South Georgia Bank	\$ 220,683.33	\$ 227,589.33

Total Cash in SGBC & Ameris Banks	\$ 804,446.65	\$ 803,396.01
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Ministry Center Financing

Building Fund

	Income	Expenses	Balance
Aug-20	\$ 1,689.00	\$ 4,656.22	\$ 48,558.97

Mortgage Balance	\$ 644,893.91
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NOTABLE Dedicated Accounts

Account	Current Month	Past Month
Maintenance Reserve	\$ 28,394.82	\$ 33,109.74
Unrestricted Memorials	\$ 5,252.09	\$ 5,252.09
Restricted Memorials	\$ 7,100.75	\$ 7,050.75
Adult Formation	\$ 10,030.49	\$ 10,030.49
Mission Fund	\$ -	\$ (3,145.38)
Needlepoint	\$ 9,043.28	\$ 9,043.28
Outreach	\$ 10,248.23	\$ 10,248.23
Parish Life	\$ 8,777.61	\$ 8,777.61
Pastoral Care	\$ 1,000.32	\$ 1,000.32
Worship	\$ 3,791.45	\$ 3,791.45
Youth Formation	\$ 10,051.43	\$ 10,051.43

Rector's Discretionary Fund	\$ 8,950.97	\$ 10,194.90
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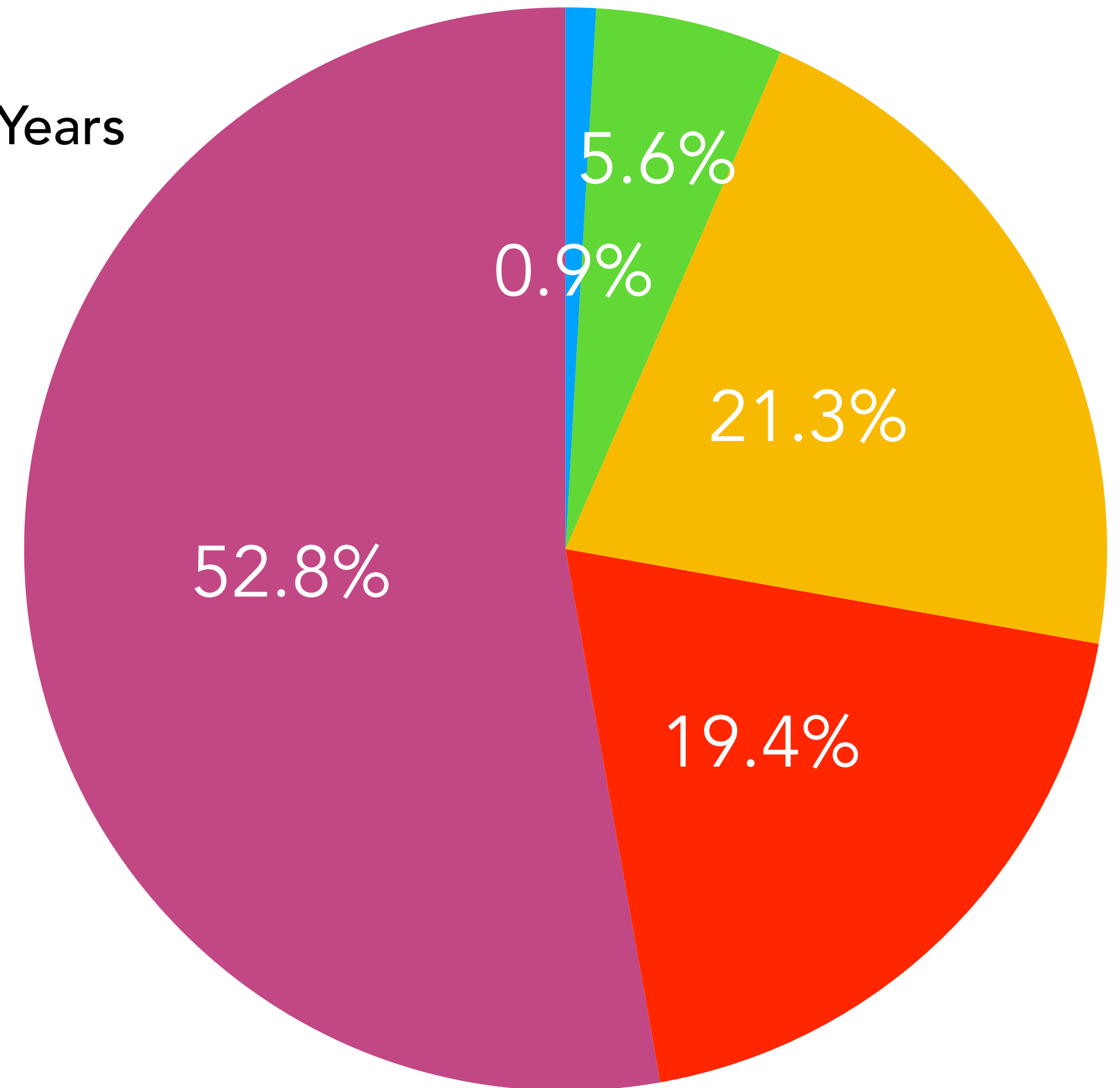
Building Fund

Ministry Center Financing				
Building Fund				
	Income	Expenses	Balance	
Jan-19	\$ 8,419.22	\$ 13,200.00	\$ 56,057.79	
Feb-19	\$ 3,072.00	\$ 4,656.22	\$ 54,473.57	
Mar-19	\$ 5,349.00	\$ 4,656.22	\$ 55,166.35	
Apr-19	\$ 1,047.00	\$ 4,656.22	\$ 51,557.13	
May-19	\$ 2,312.00	\$ 4,656.22	\$ 49,212.91	
Jun-19	\$ 2,321.00	\$ 4,656.22	\$ 46,877.69	
Jul-19	\$ 1,229.00	\$ 4,656.22	\$ 43,450.47	
Aug-19	\$ 376.70	\$ 4,656.22	\$ 39,170.95	
Sep-19	\$ 1,121.00	\$ 4,656.22	\$ 35,635.73	
Oct-19	\$ 1,409.00	\$ 4,656.22	\$ 32,388.51	
Nov-19	\$ 5,389.00	\$ 4,656.22	\$ 33,121.29	
Dec-19	\$ 2,787.00	\$ 4,656.22	\$ 31,252.07	

In-Person Survey Results

What Does the Data Say?

How Long at St. Anne's

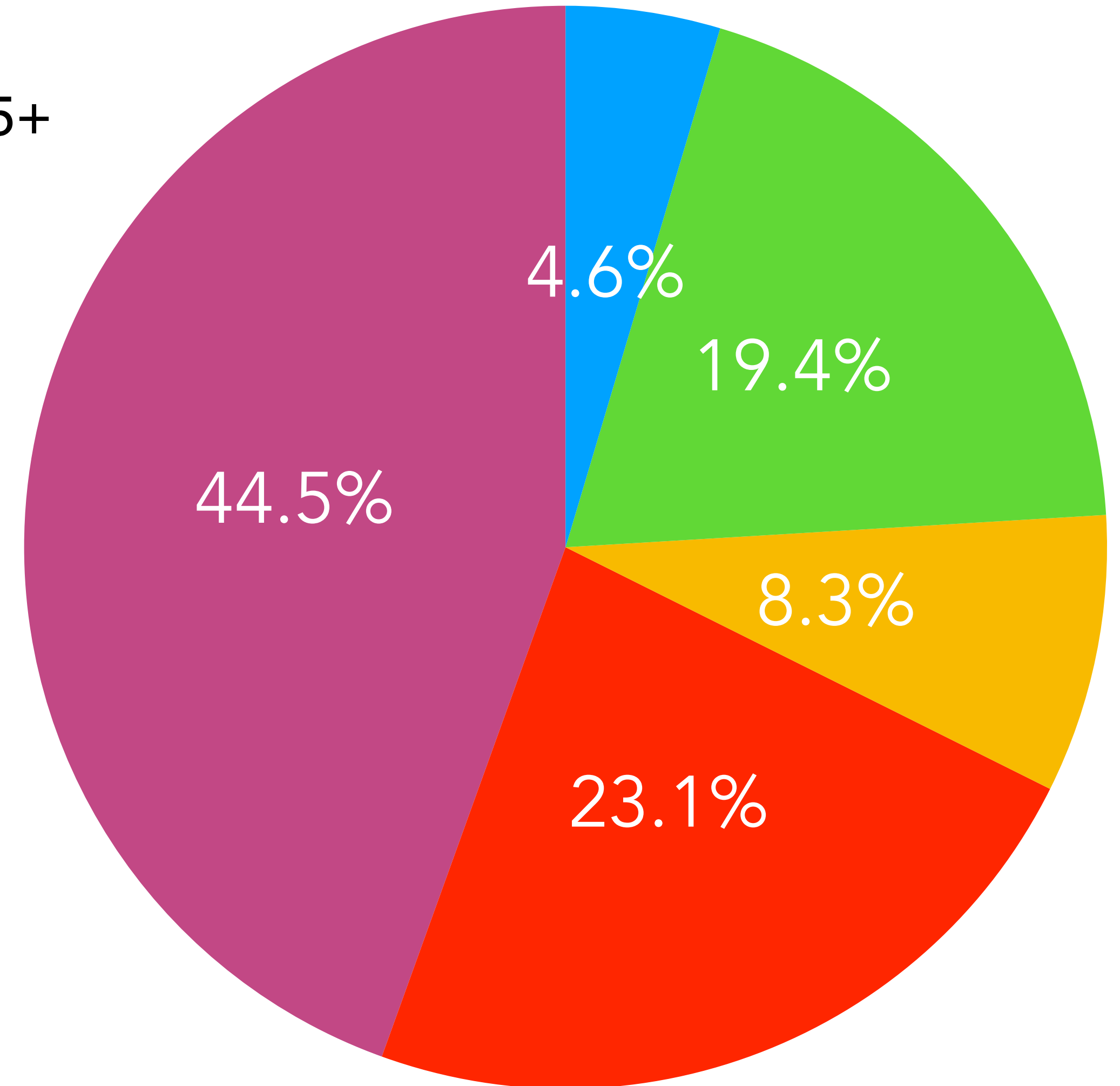


**Fairly representative cross
section of the parish**

Age

● 25-34 ● 35-44 ● 45-54 ● 55-64 ● 65+

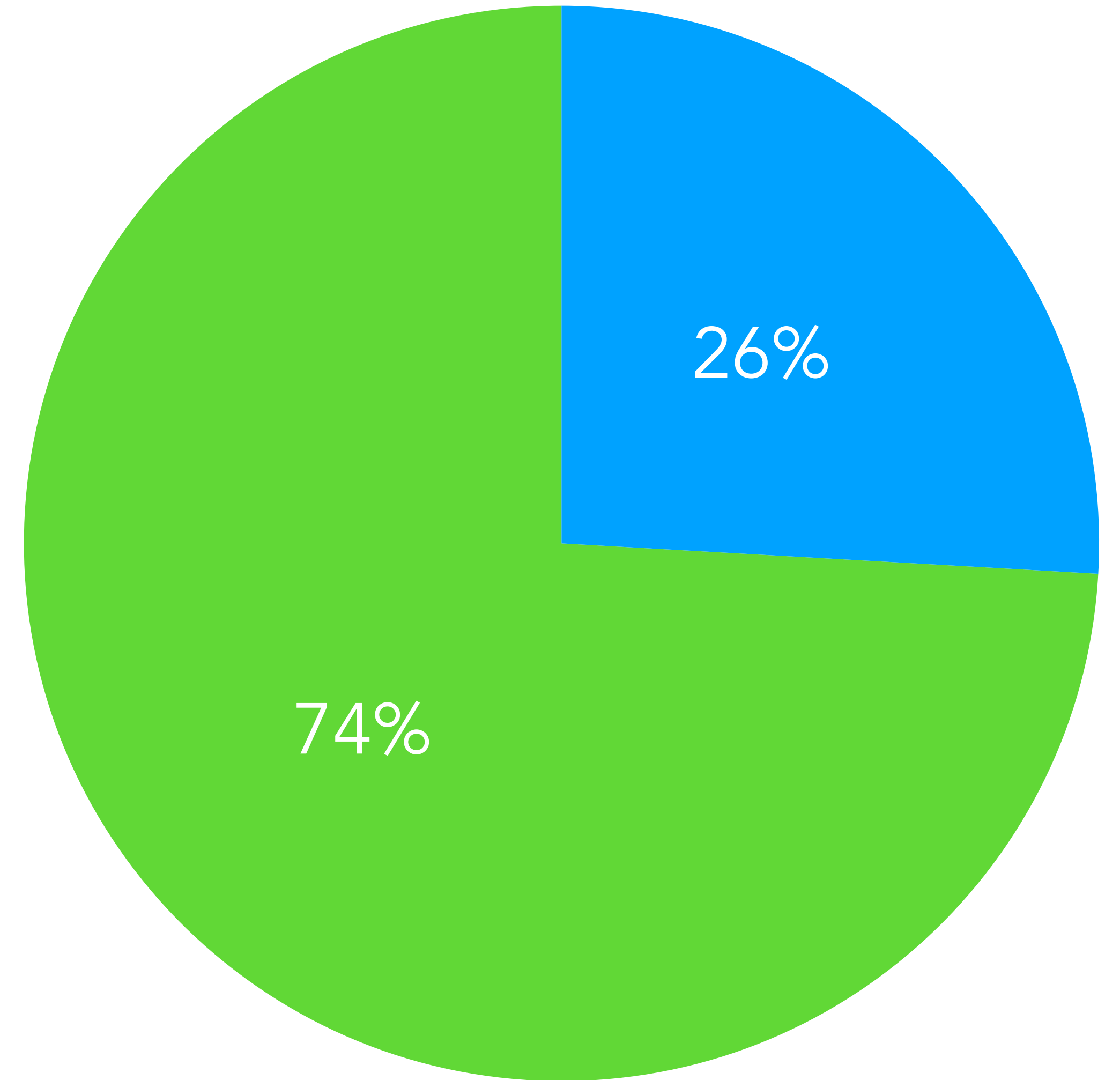
**Nearly half of
respondents are
65 and older**



Have Children?

● Yes

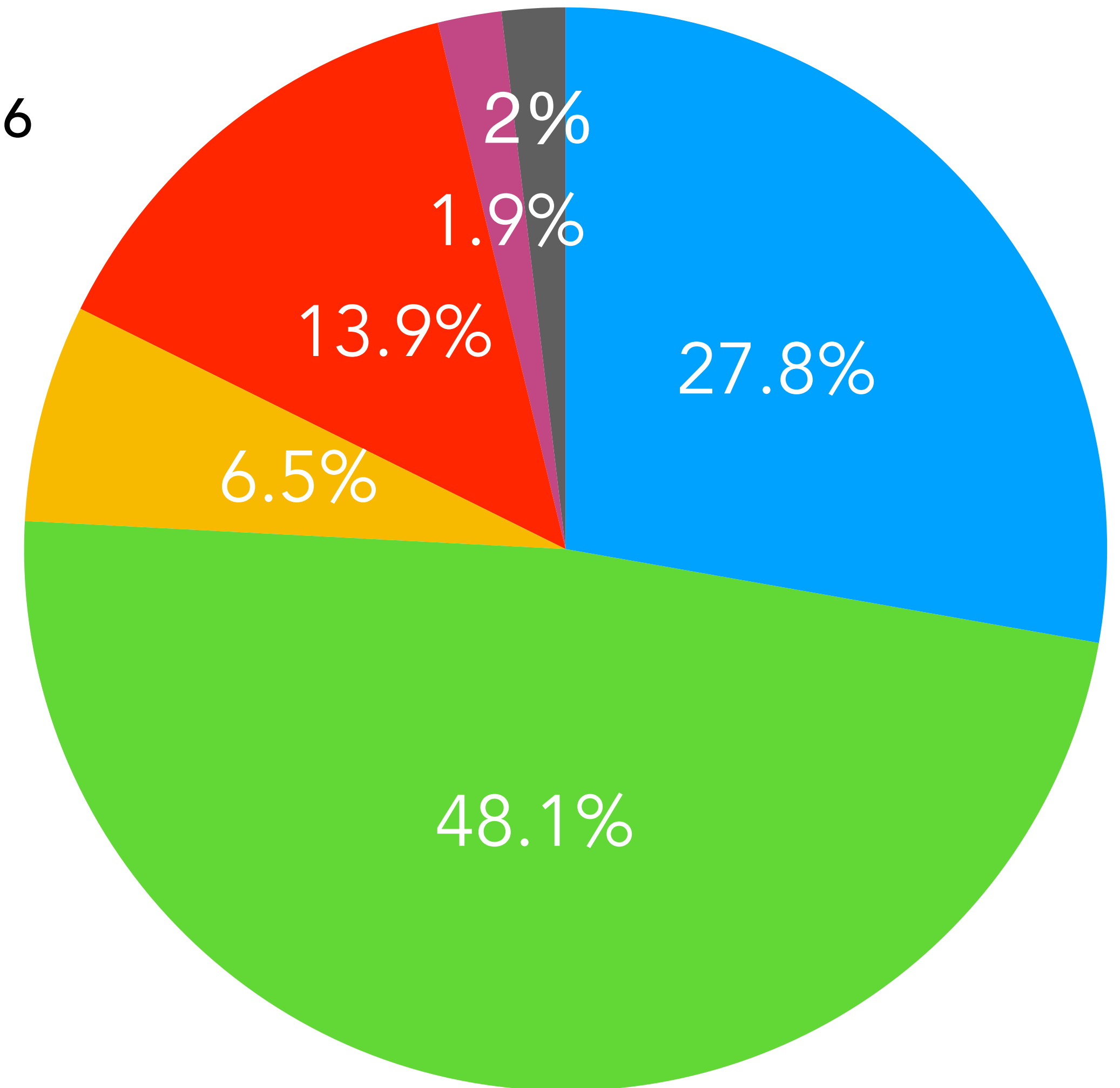
● No



How many would come?

● Just me ● 2 ● 3 ● 4 ● 5 ● 6

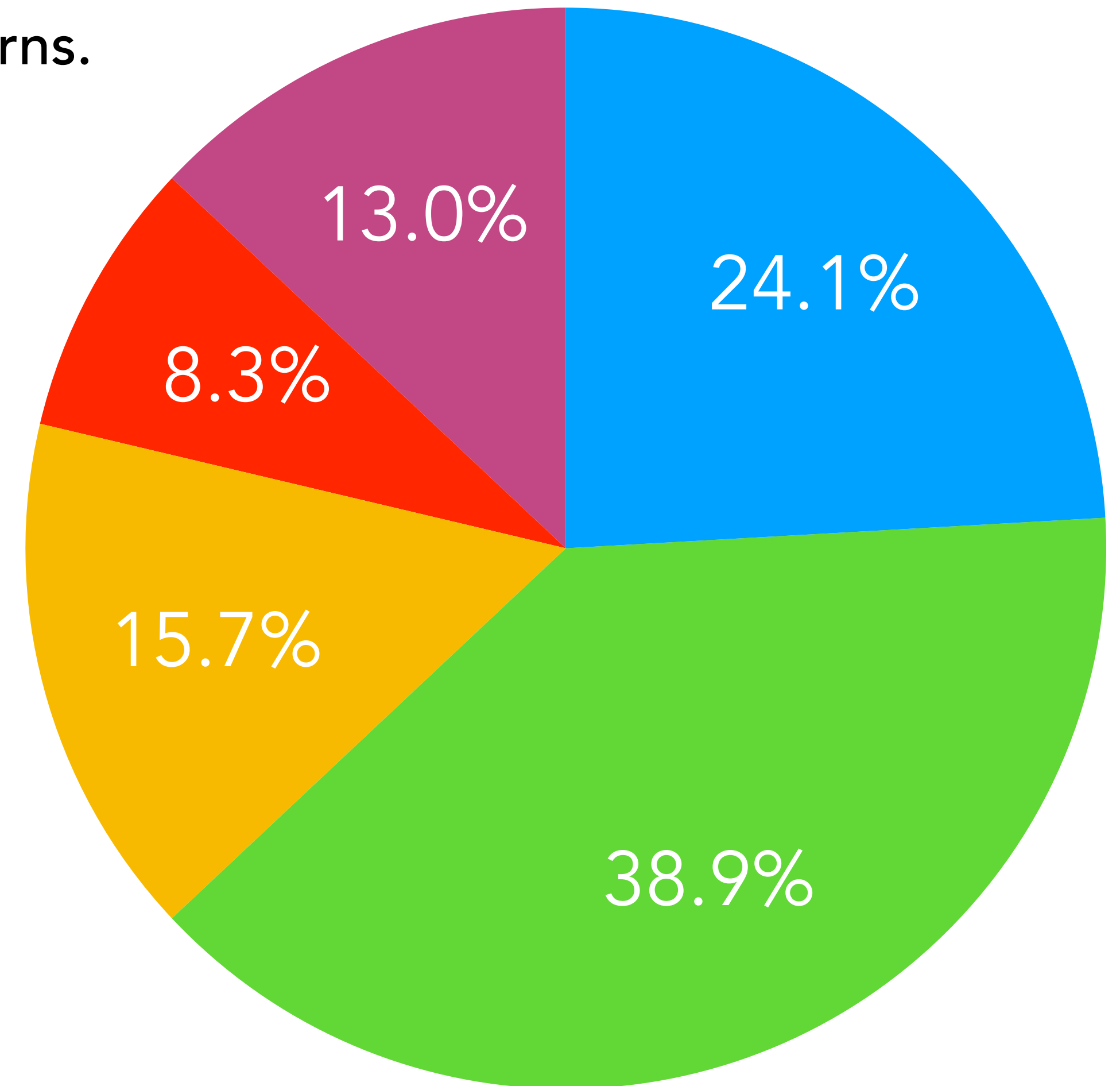
**Two-thirds are single or
two-person households.**



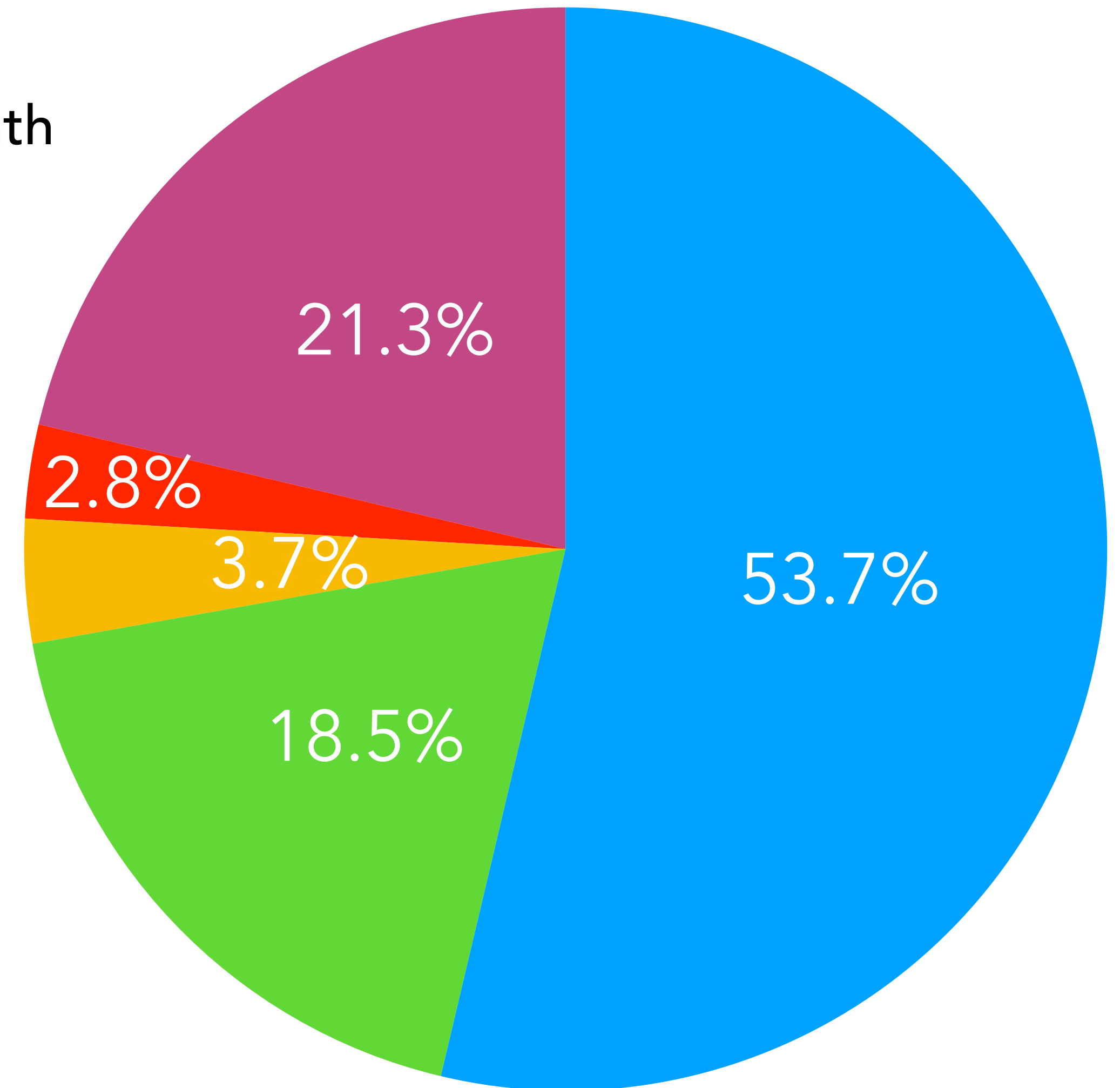
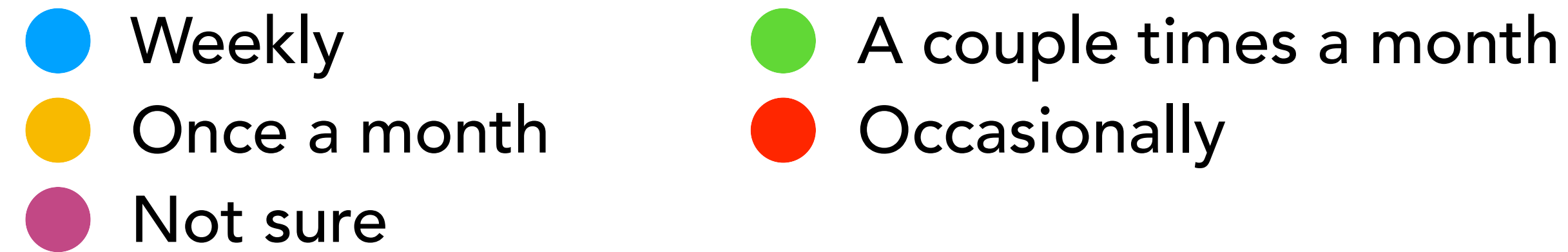
Attitude Toward Regathering

- I will return at the first opportunity with no major concerns.
- I will return at the first opportunity but with some concerns.
- It may be quite a while before I return.
- I am not likely to return until there is a vaccine.
- Not sure.

**63% ready to return
at first opportunity
with no or some concerns**



Committed Frequency of Attendance

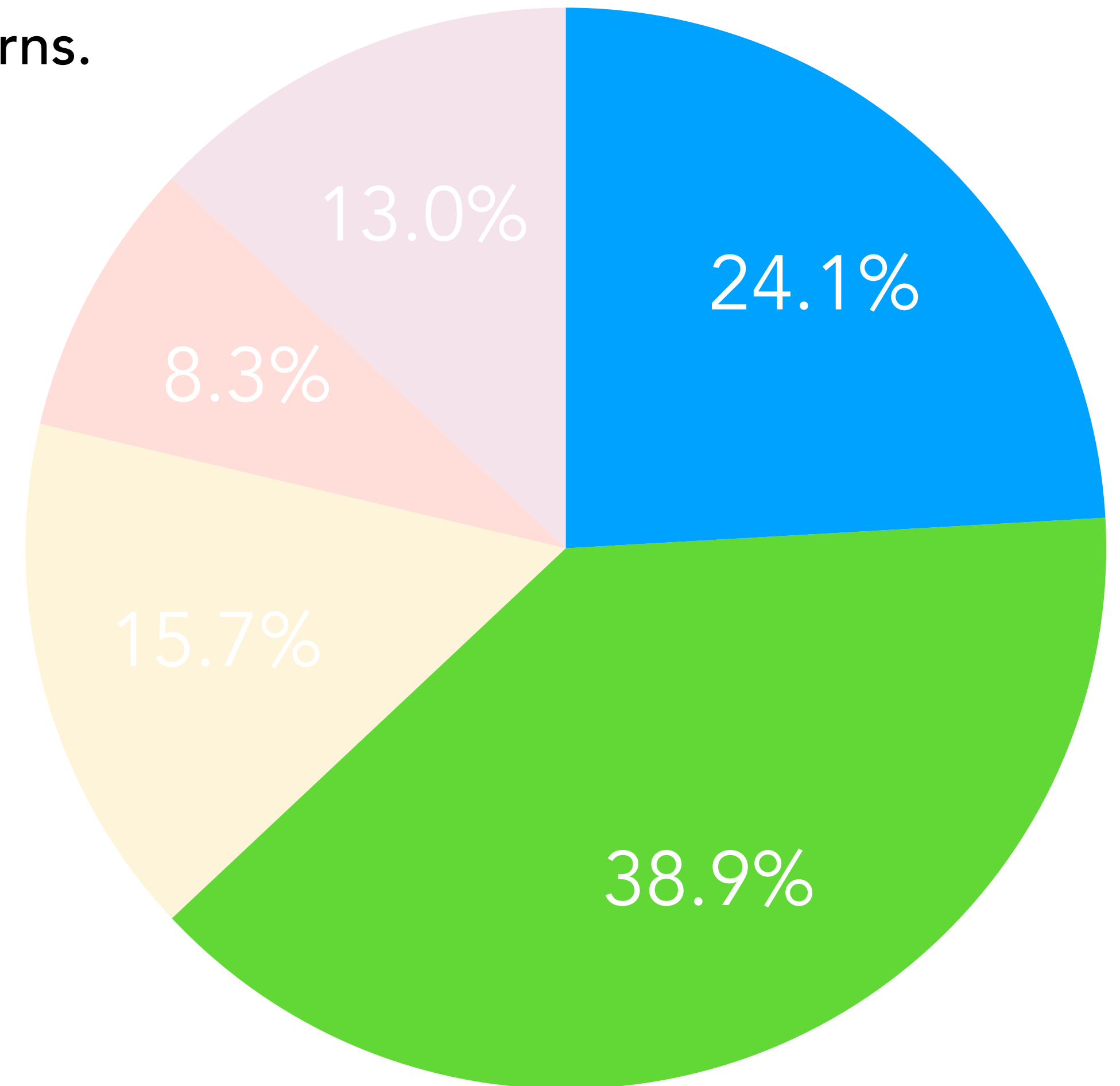


**72% plan to attend
weekly or biweekly**

Attitude x Frequency

- I will return at the first opportunity with no major concerns.
- I will return at the first opportunity but with some concerns.
- It may be quite a while before I return.
- I am not likely to return until there is a vaccine.
- Not sure.

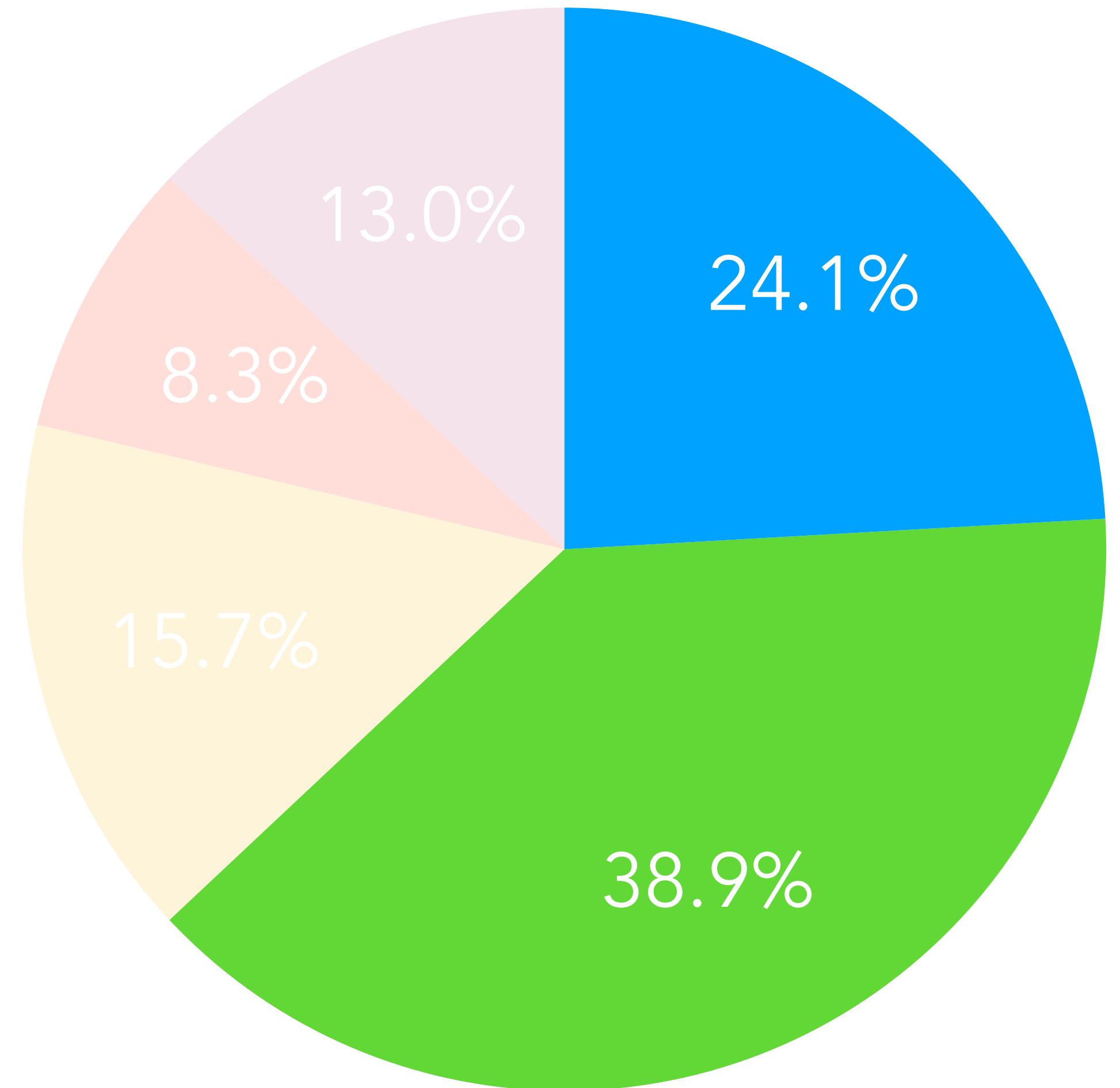
**Of those with
some or no concerns,
47 respondents said "weekly,"
which would be 113 people
counting their families.**



Attitude x Age

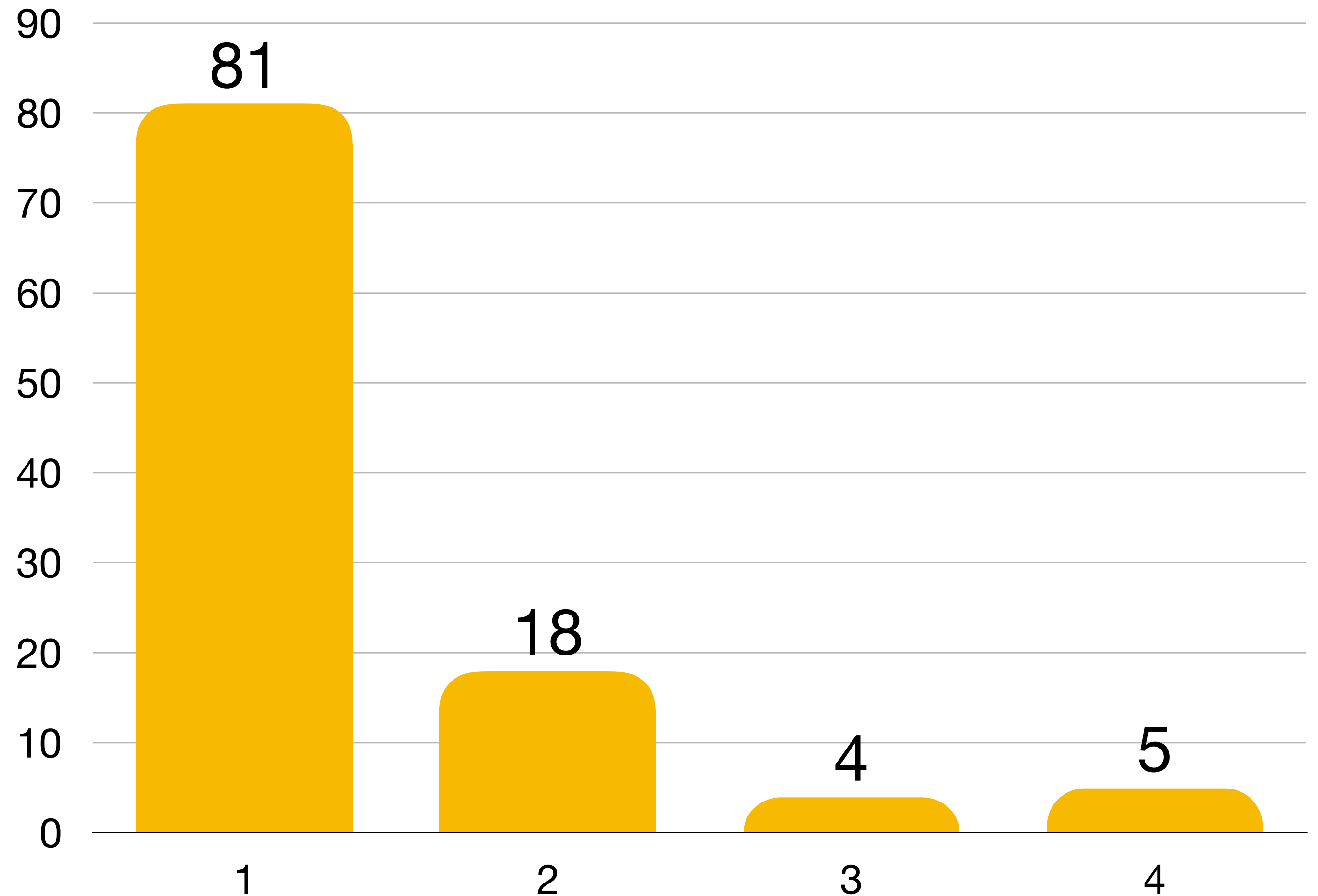
**Of those with
some or no concerns:**

**26 were 65+ years old.
19 were 55-64 years old.
6 were 45-54 years old.
10 were 35-44 years old.
5 were 25-34 years old.**



Accept & Support Guidelines

91.7%
are willing to
accept & support
the Bishop's
guidelines

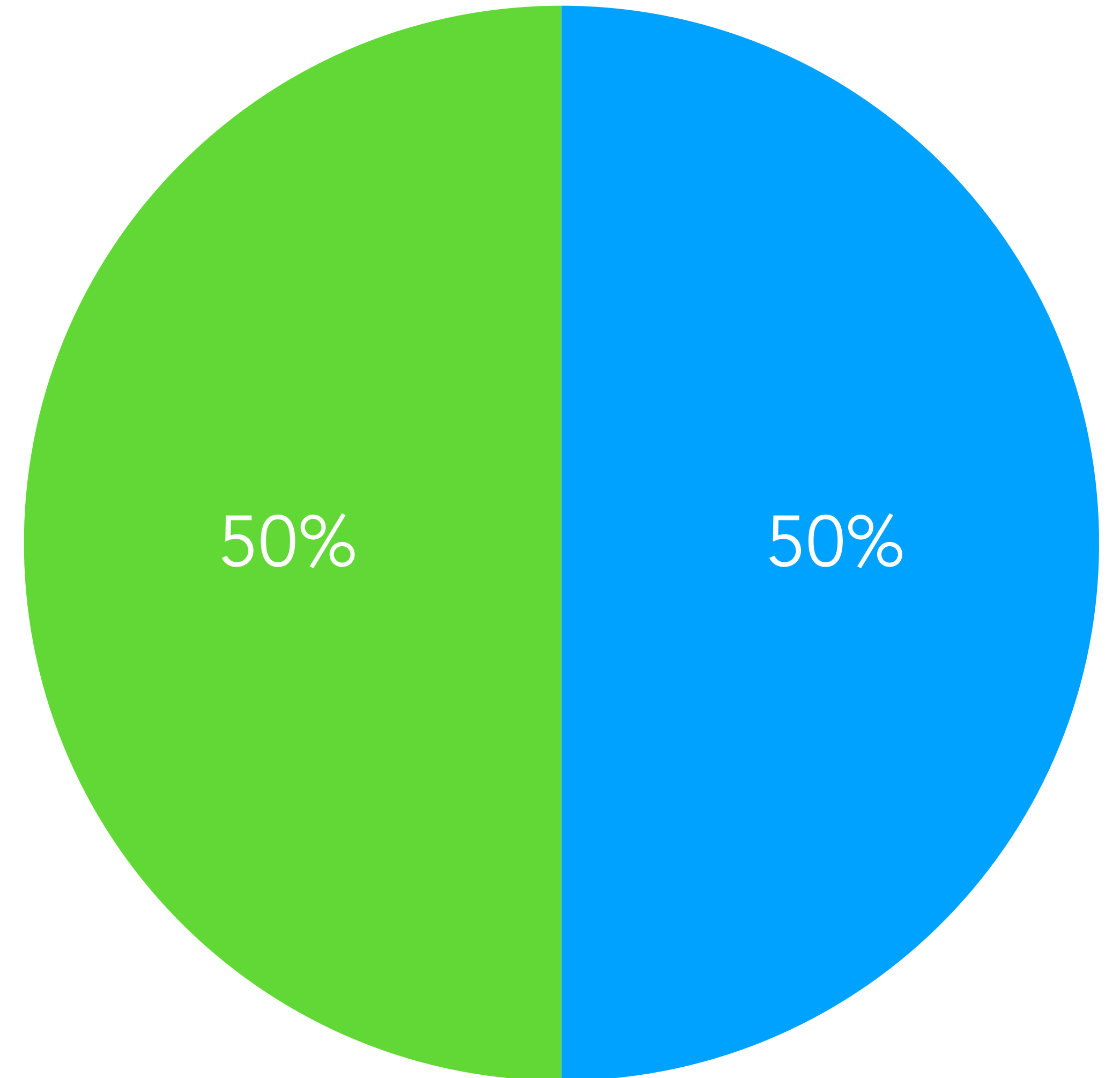


Willing to Help?

● Yes

● No

**Half are willing to serve
on a team to help
implement guidelines**



Willing to Help?

Of those willing to help:

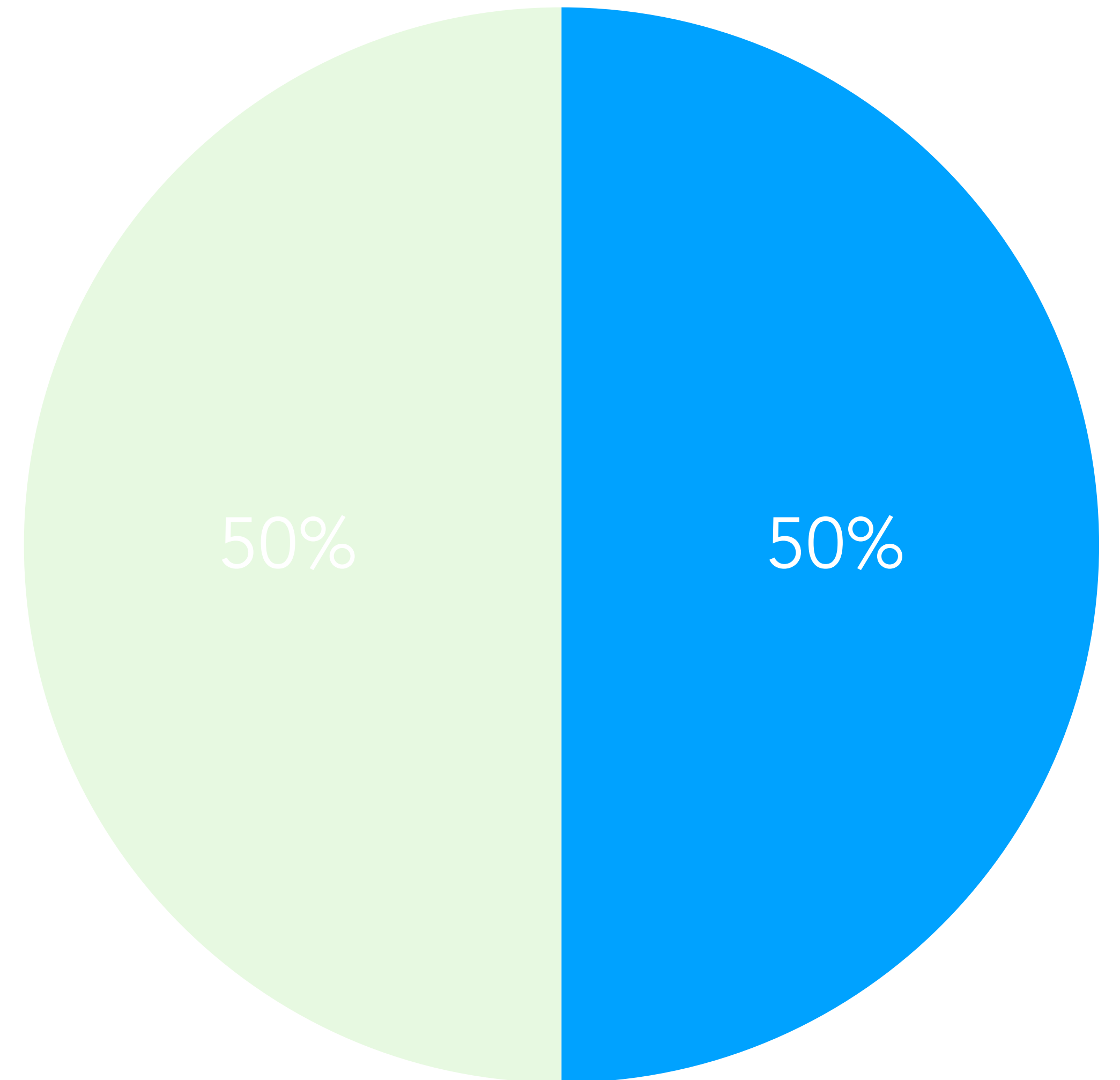
24 were 65+ years old.

10 were 55-64 years old.

5 were 45-54 years old.

8 were 35-44 years old.

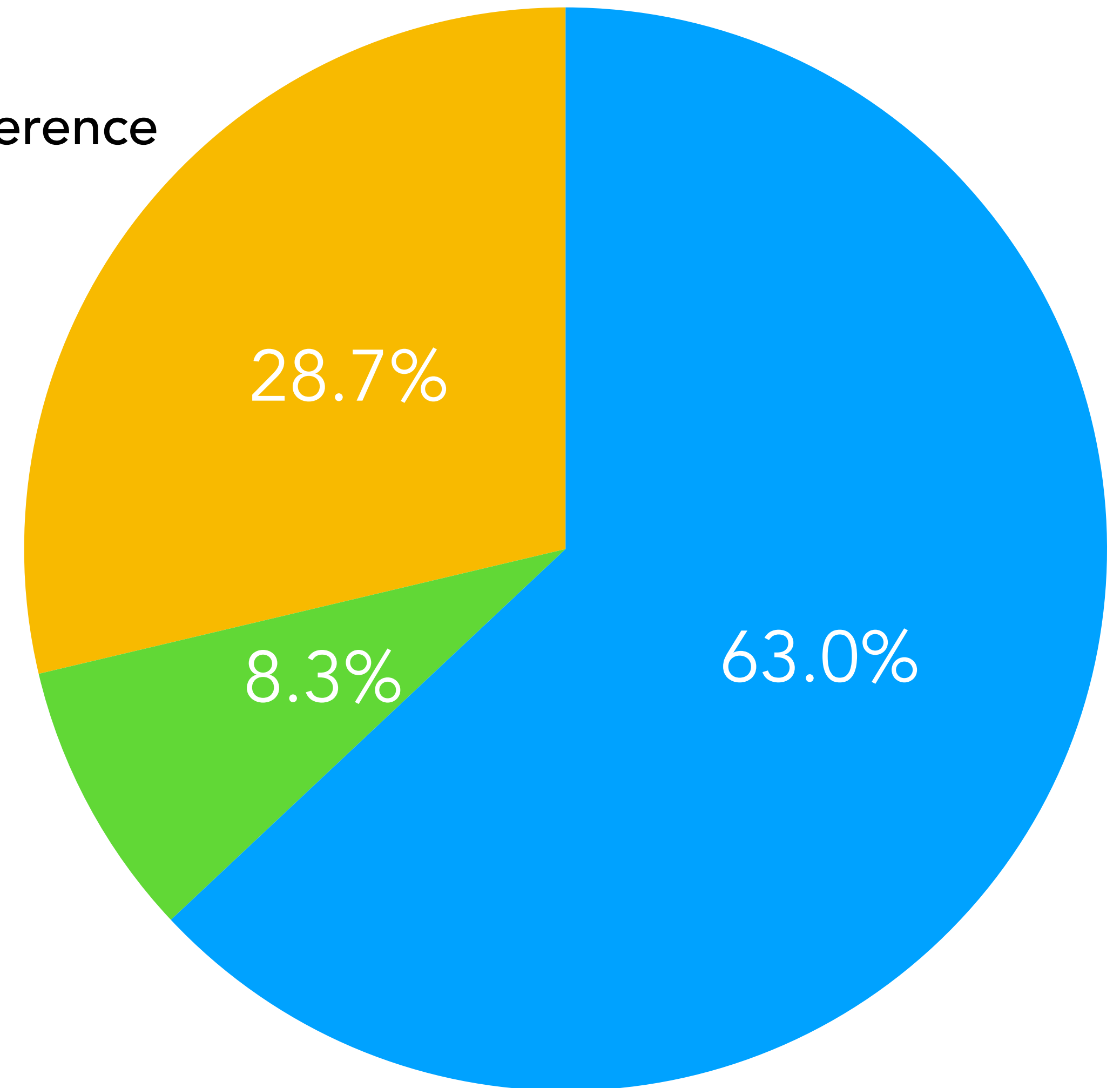
5 were 25-34 years old.



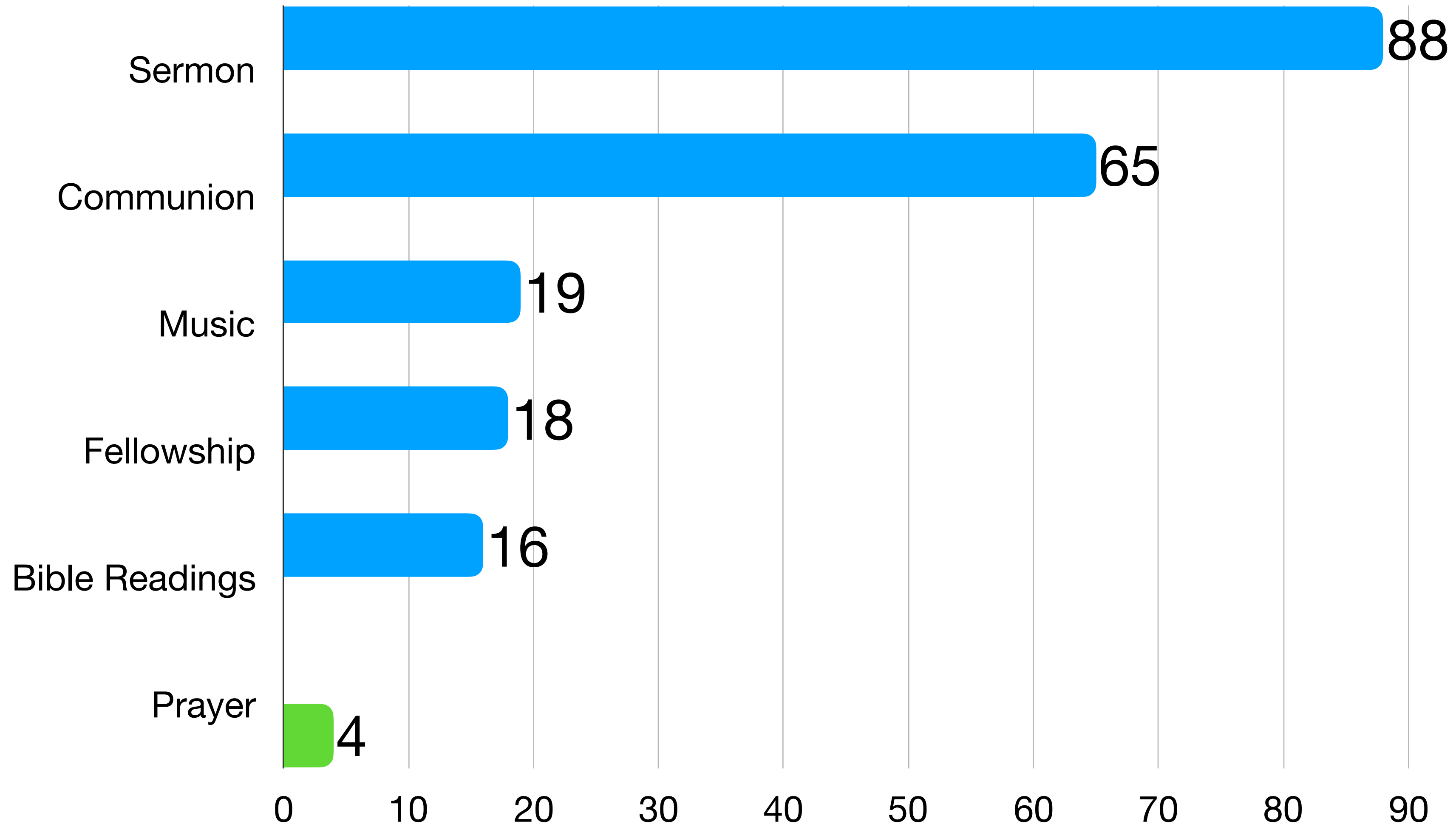
Service Type Preference

● Holy Eucharist ● Morning Prayer ● No Preference

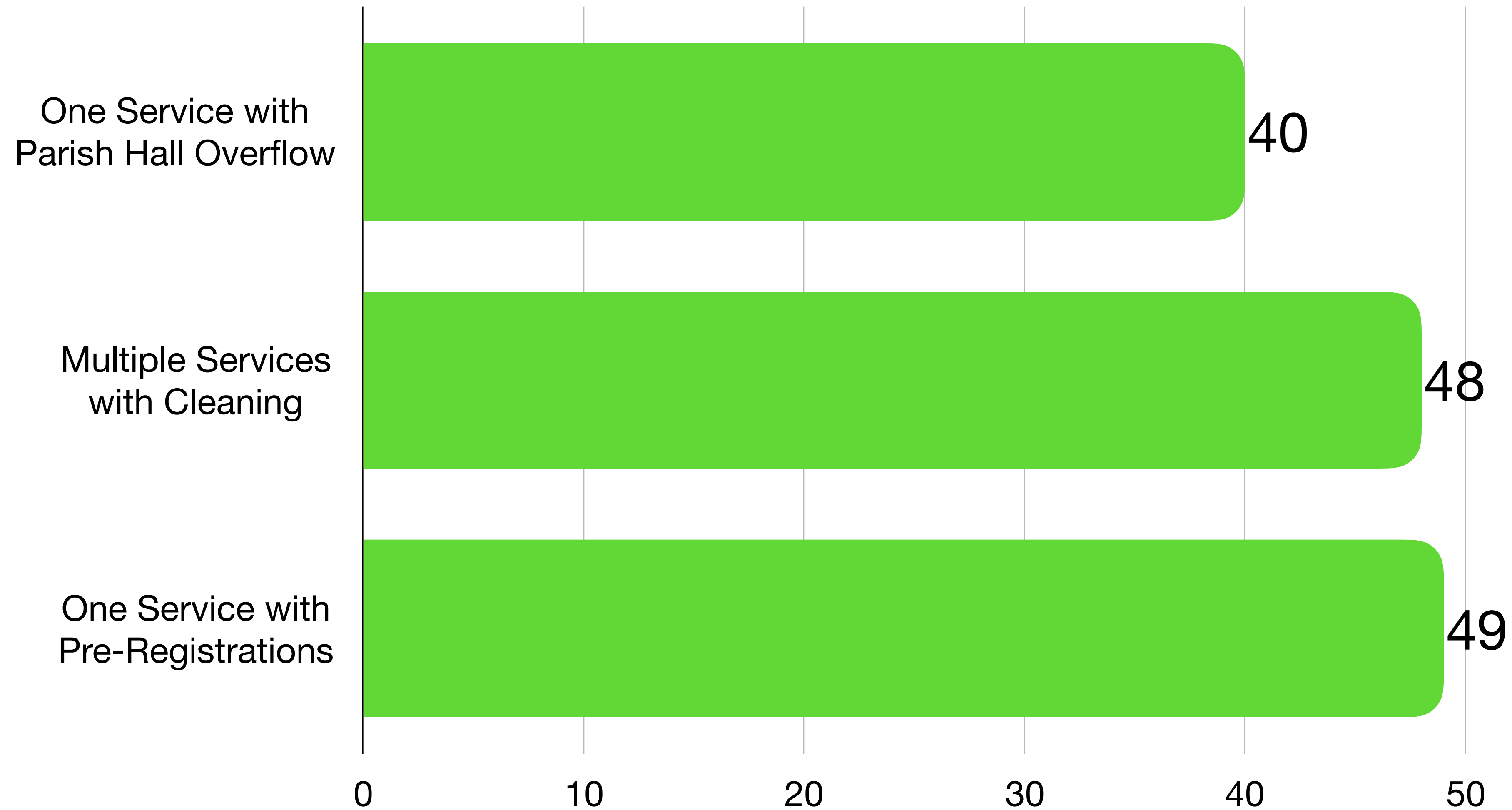
**Two-thirds prefer
Holy Eucharist**



Elements of Worship



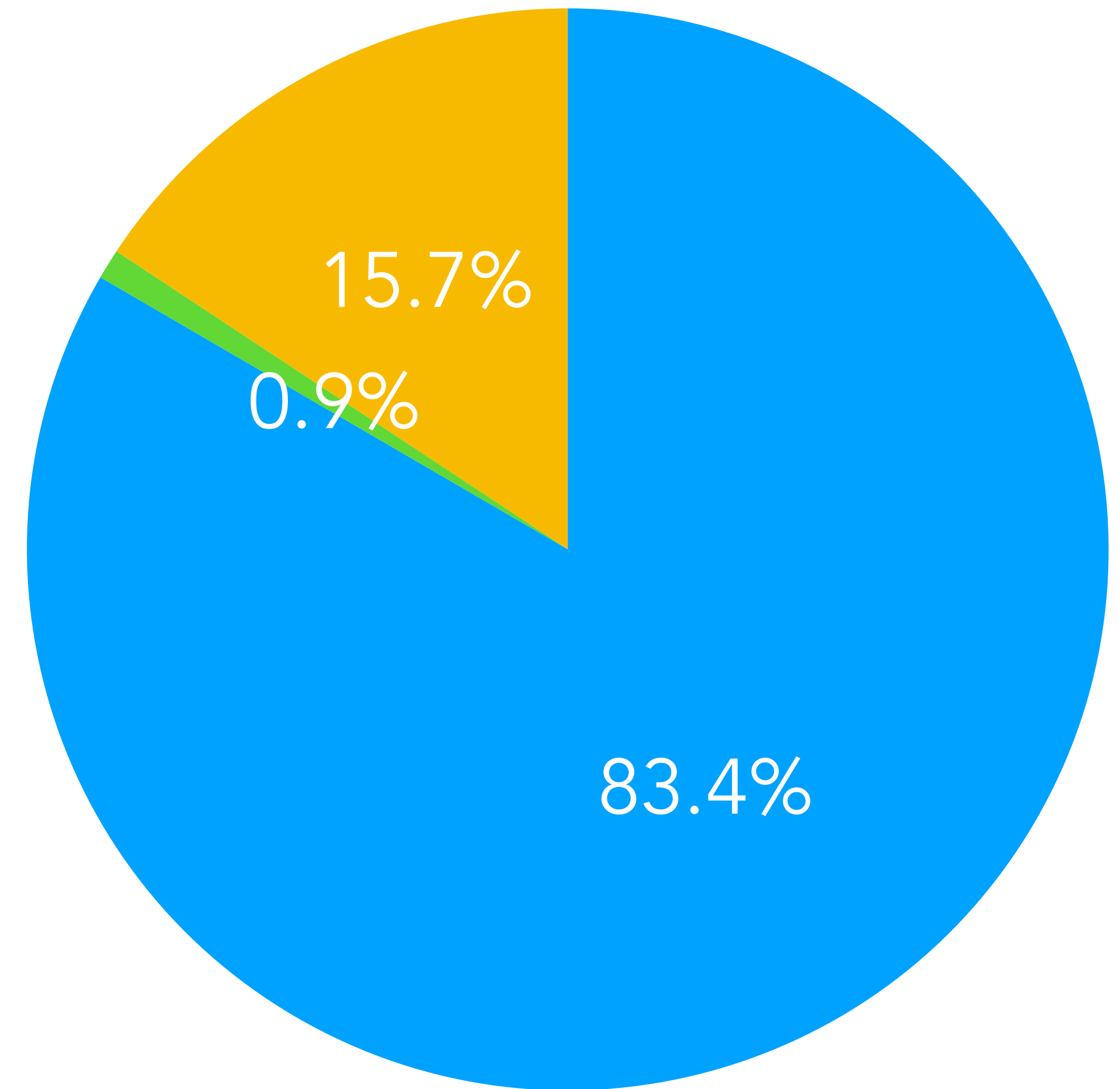
Worship Setting(s)



Willing to Attend Different Time

● Yes ● No ● Maybe

**Large majority flexible
regarding service times**

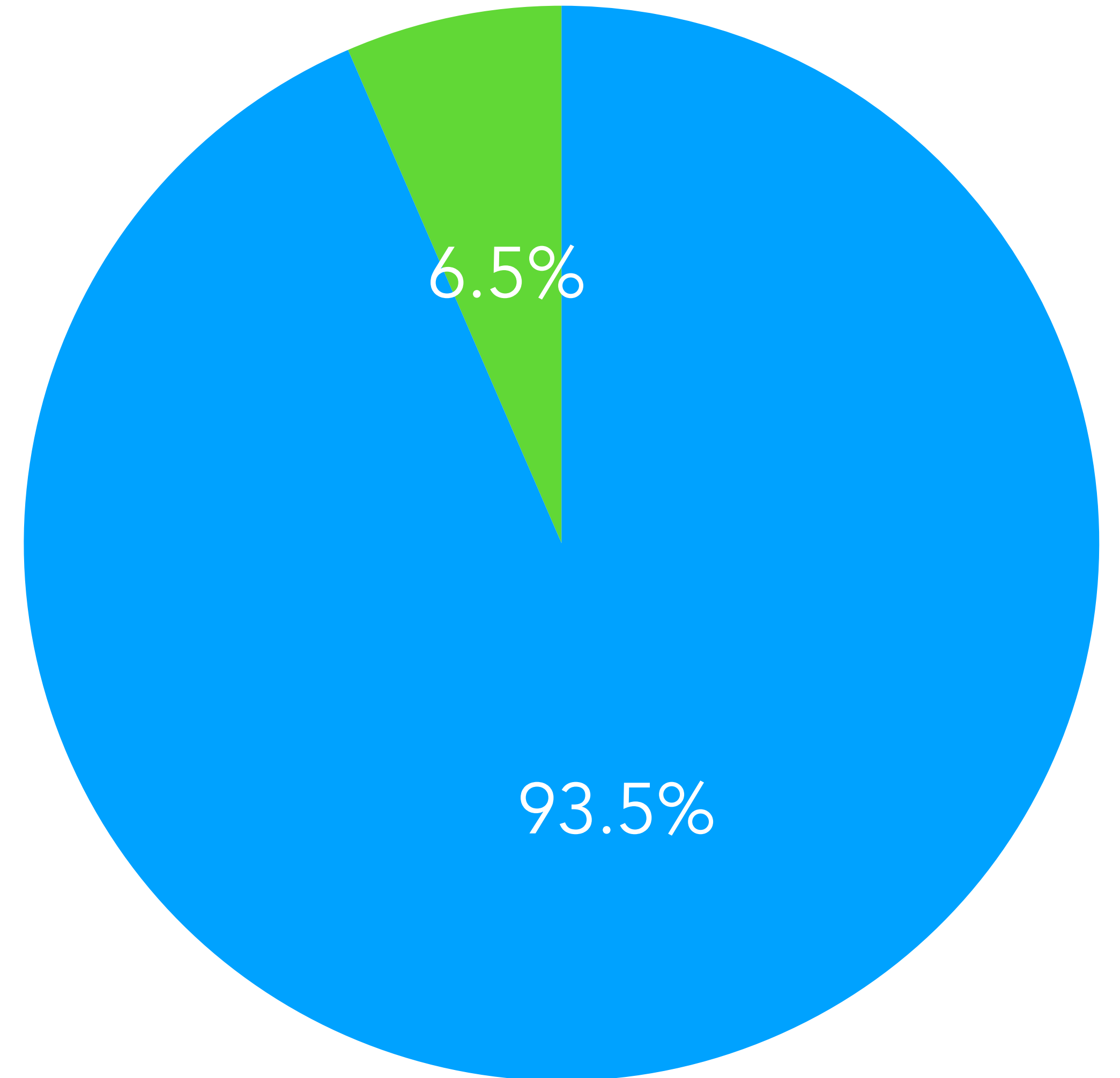


Outdoor Service

● Yes

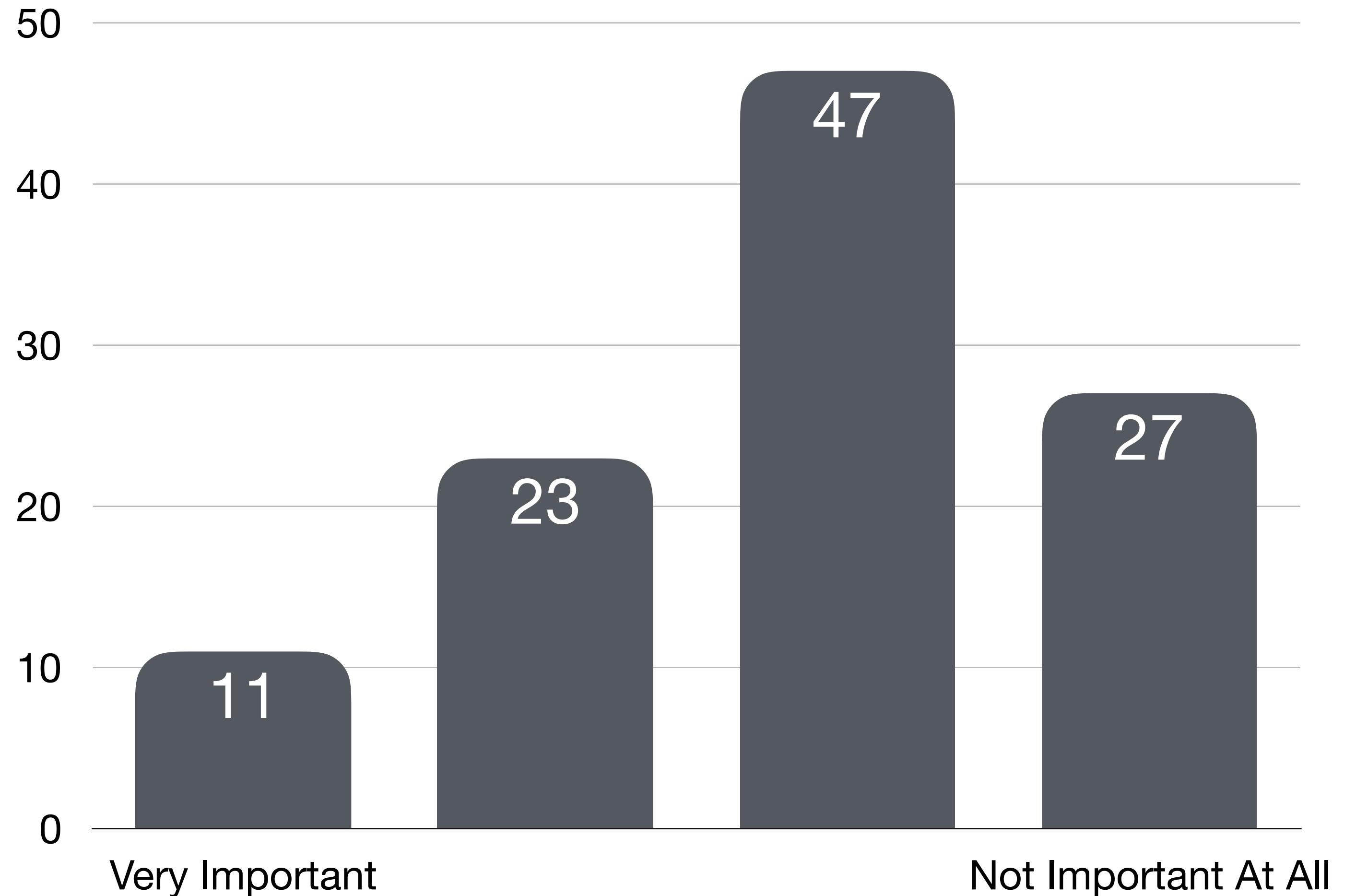
● No

**Majority interested
in outdoor services**

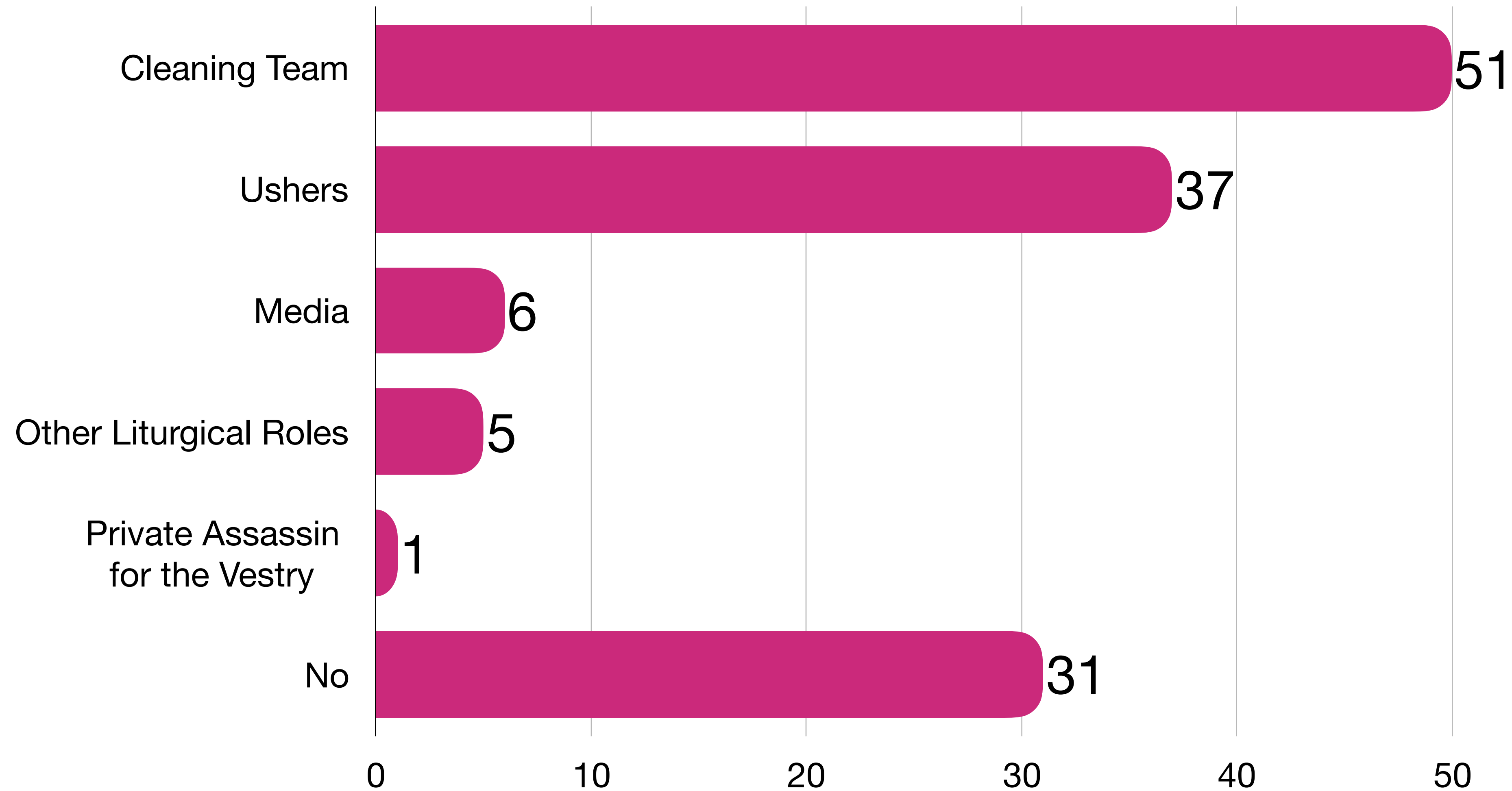


Importance of Other Groups

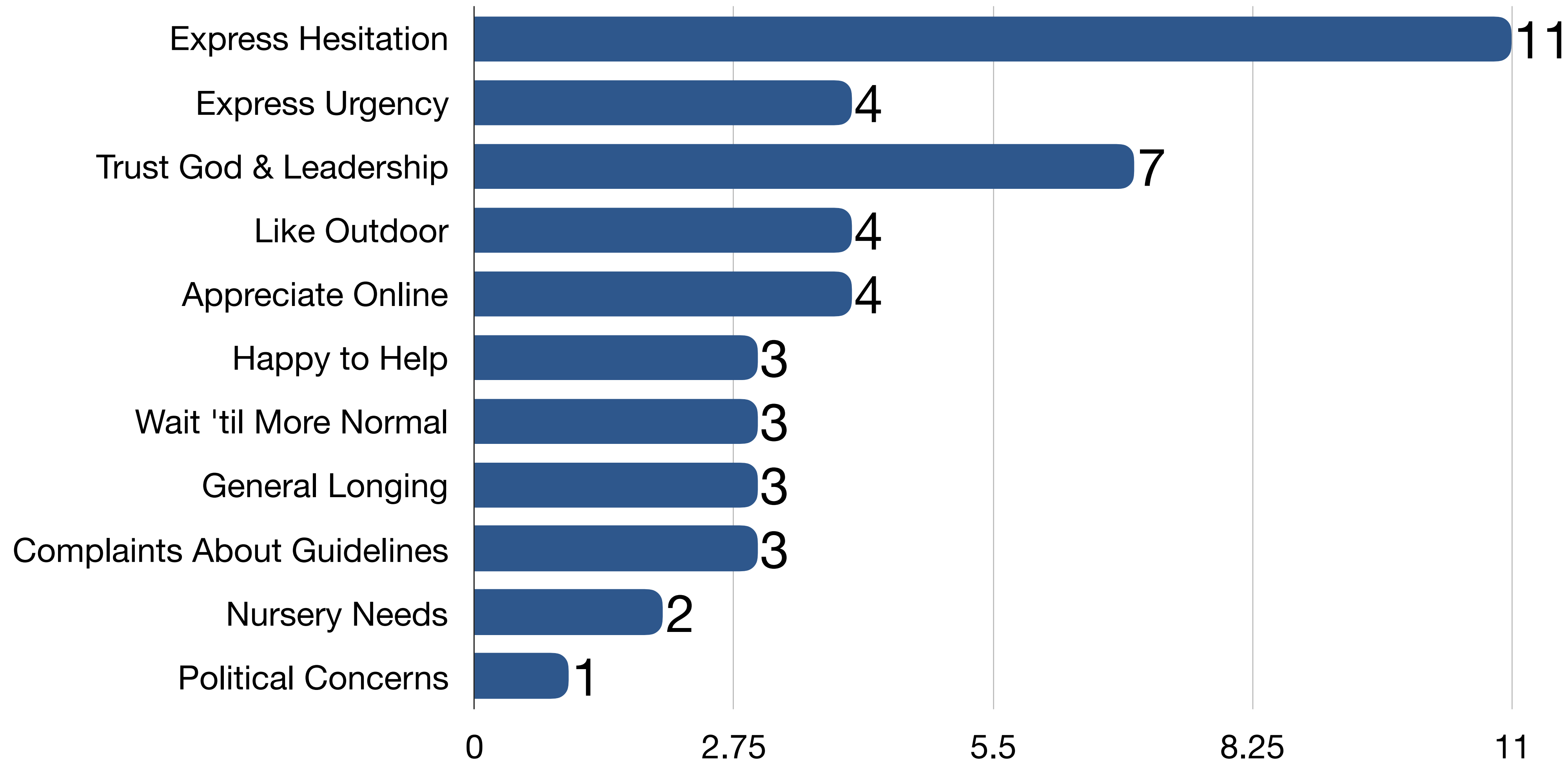
**74% express
that starting other
groups at the
same time is not
important to them**



Can you help?



Comments



Sample Comments

- Such thoughtful planning you are all doing. Thank you!
- I'm thankful you all are taking a slow careful approach.
- I can only attend if the nursery is open.
- I know it feels hard to meet remotely, but given the degree of uncertainty about the spread of coronavirus in our community, I'm completely happy to continue to do so. When we do go back, I would prefer outdoor services conducted according to a sign-up schedule.

Sample Comments

- I would prefer to wait until the service could feel more normal, but am willing to support the decision made in this matter. We have had so much in our lives turned upside down, I am quite comfortable with online morning prayer until we can worship together as we always have. I pray that it will happen soon. Until then I will support my church and vestry.
- I'm not really sure if I see a point in getting together if we can't do full communion and sing as those seem integral to in person service. Shouldn't it be better just to wait until we can do a full service?
- I would love for some area of my life to return to normal or as close to normal as possible. I miss St. Anne's!

Sample Comments

- We cannot stay shut down forever. Most of us that would come go to Walmart and the grocery store or wherever we want.
- It is way past time! Other churches, even Episcopal churches, have already been holding in-person services.
- I am a Healthcare worker at Tift Regional, and honestly I feel it's too soon. I would be very concerned that I could possibly carry this virus, unknown, to someone in our congregation, and that would be devastating. That being said, I love this church and am delighted to have found my home here. I've been so proud of our leaders for making strong and informed decisions throughout this pandemic.