UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

CLASS OF 2026

CLASS PROFILE [Background Edition]

Preface

Please note that all questions in this survey were optional.

This survey was anonymous.

The Team

This survey and report was made possible by:

- George Shao
- Olivia Honsinger
- Nolan White-Roy
- Viraj Mehta
- Brandon Gartner
- Nicholas Lin
- Will Erf
- Henry Stelle
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- Jonathan Ge

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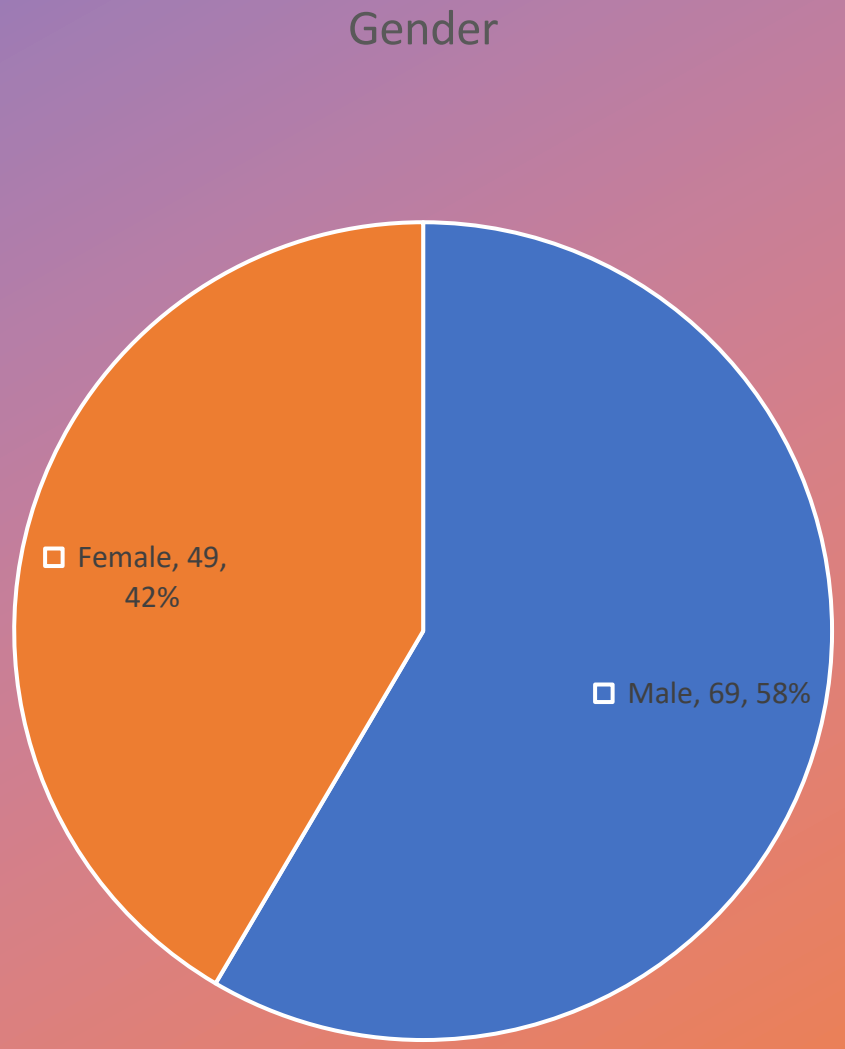
Demographics

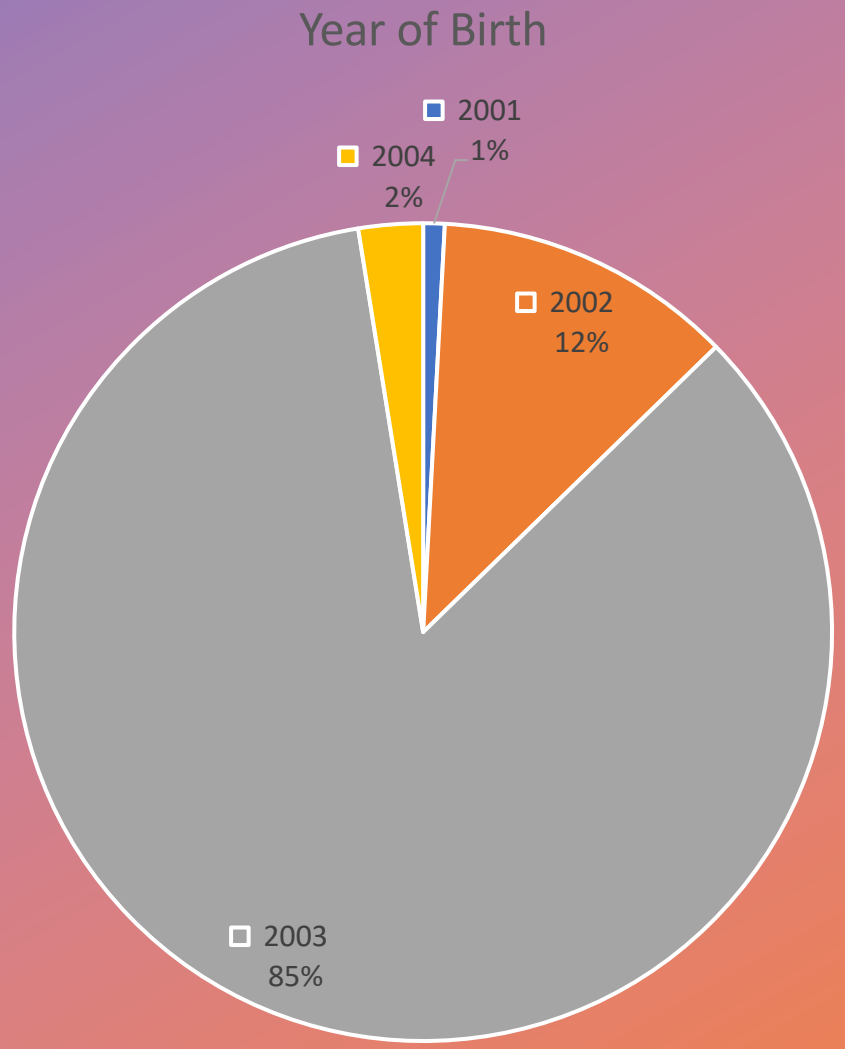
Gender

This was the most gender-diverse SE cohort ever!



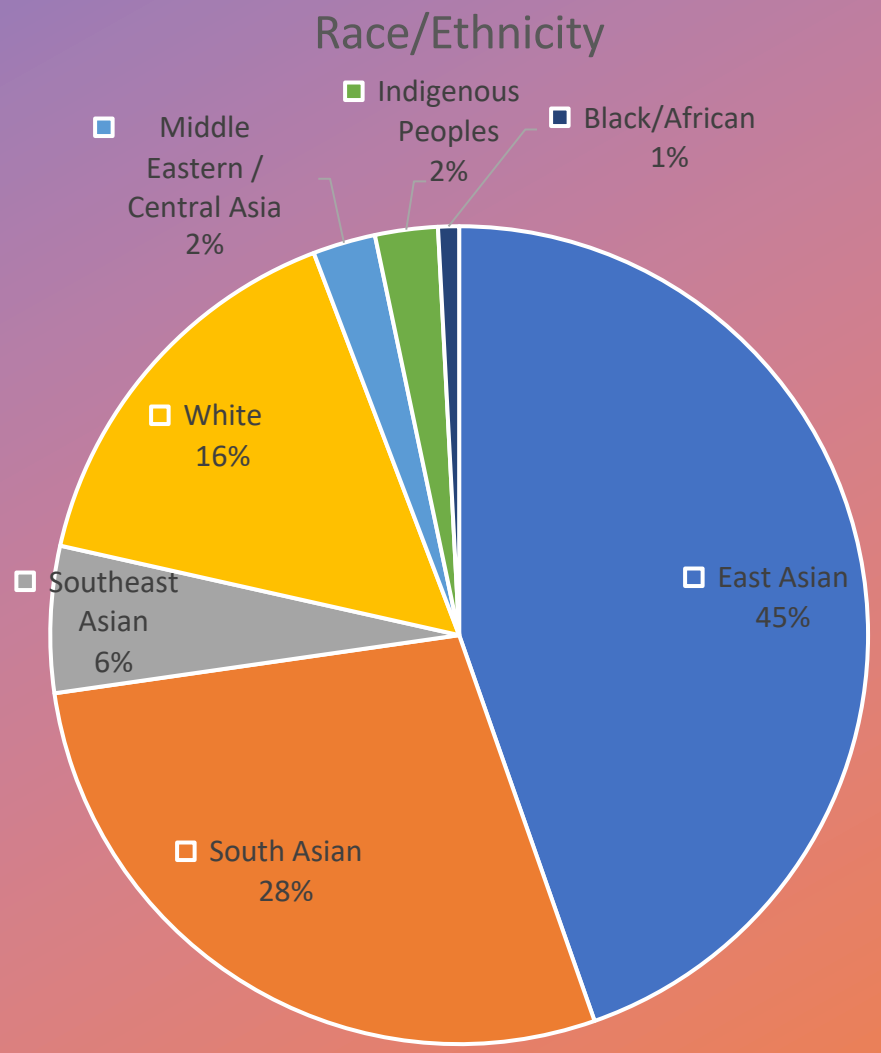
Year of Birth

85% of respondents were born in 2003.



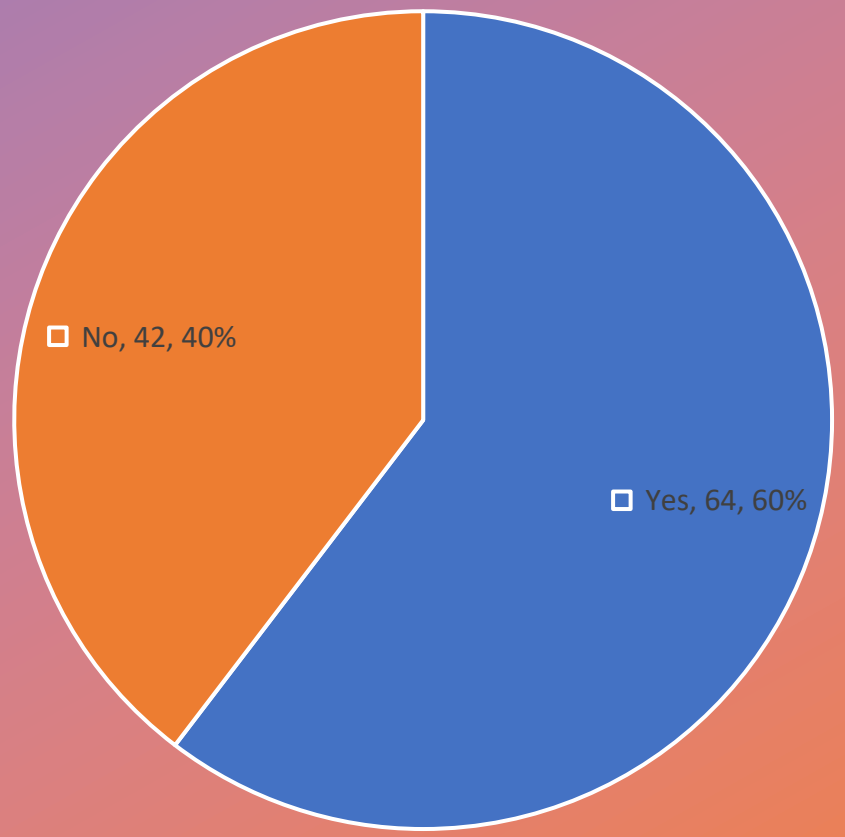
Race/Ethnicity

79% of people were Asian.



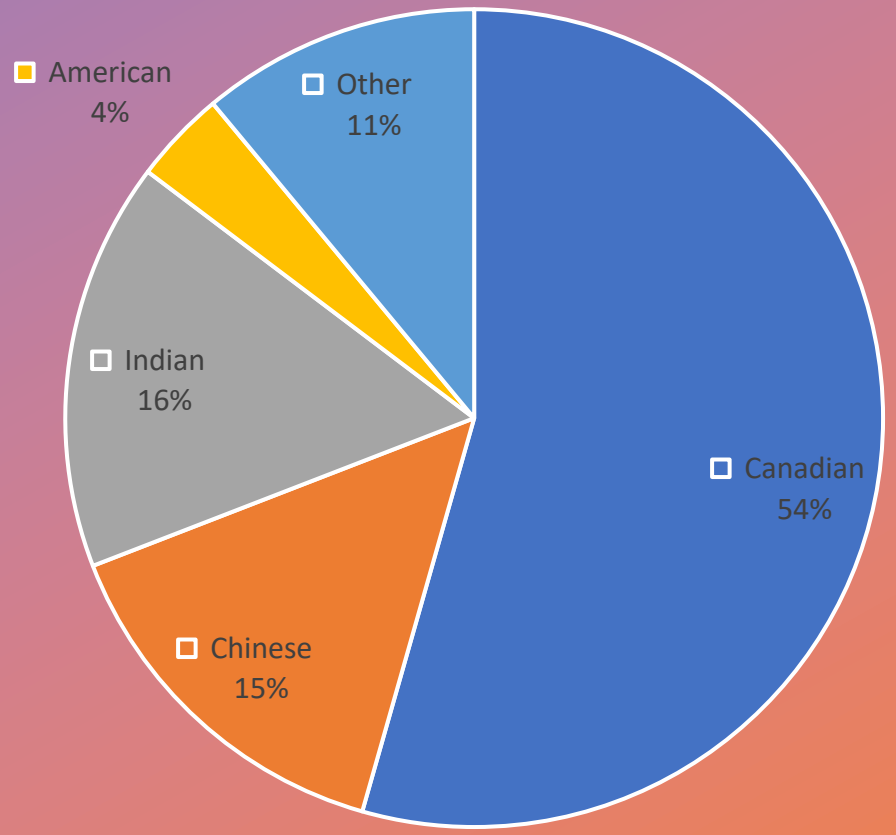
Visible Minority

*We should have specified the official Canadian definition of a visible minority, because it was unclear what exactly a visible minority is.



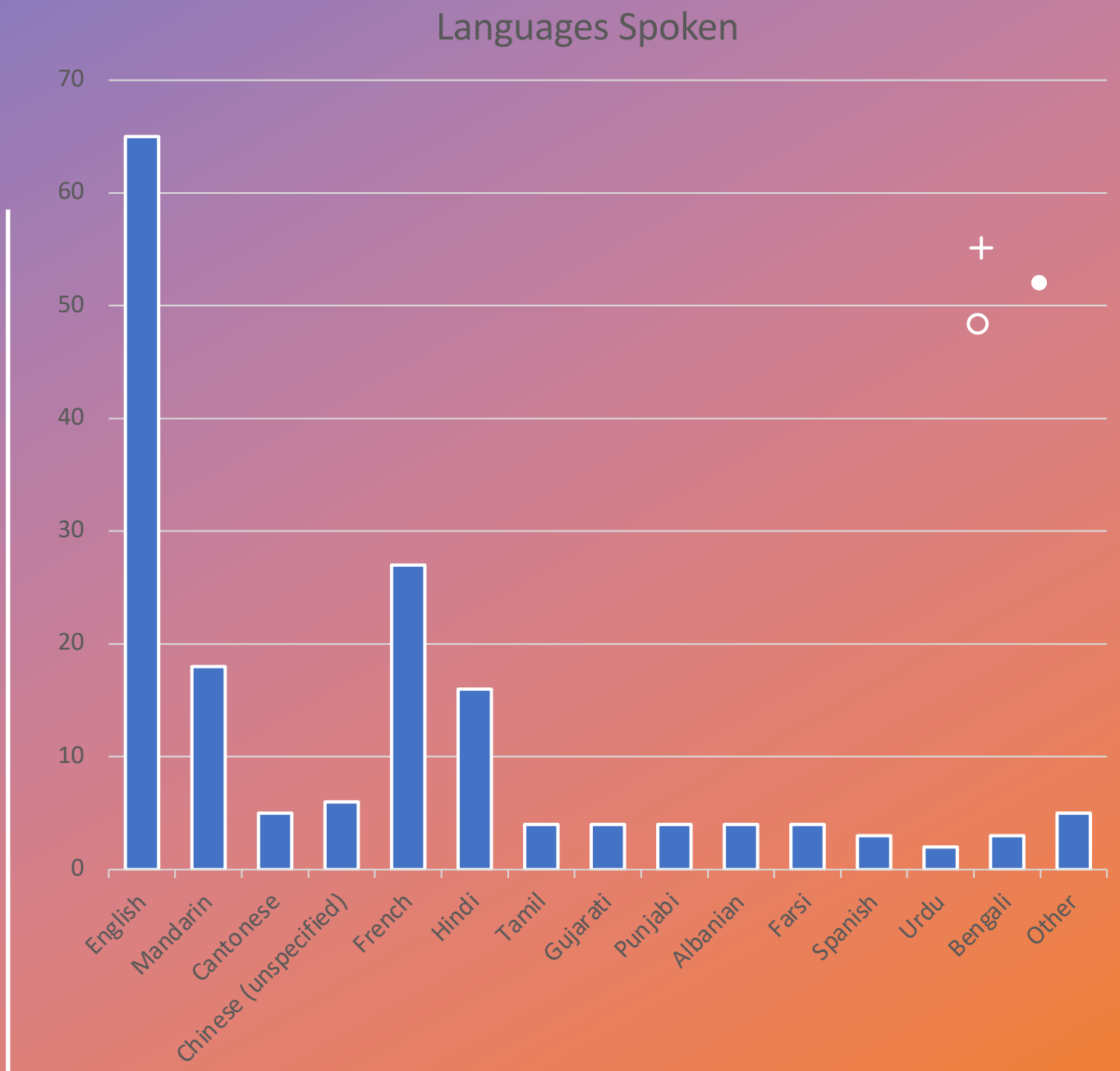
Nationality

*Survey respondents were allowed to select multiple options, but dual-responses were rare



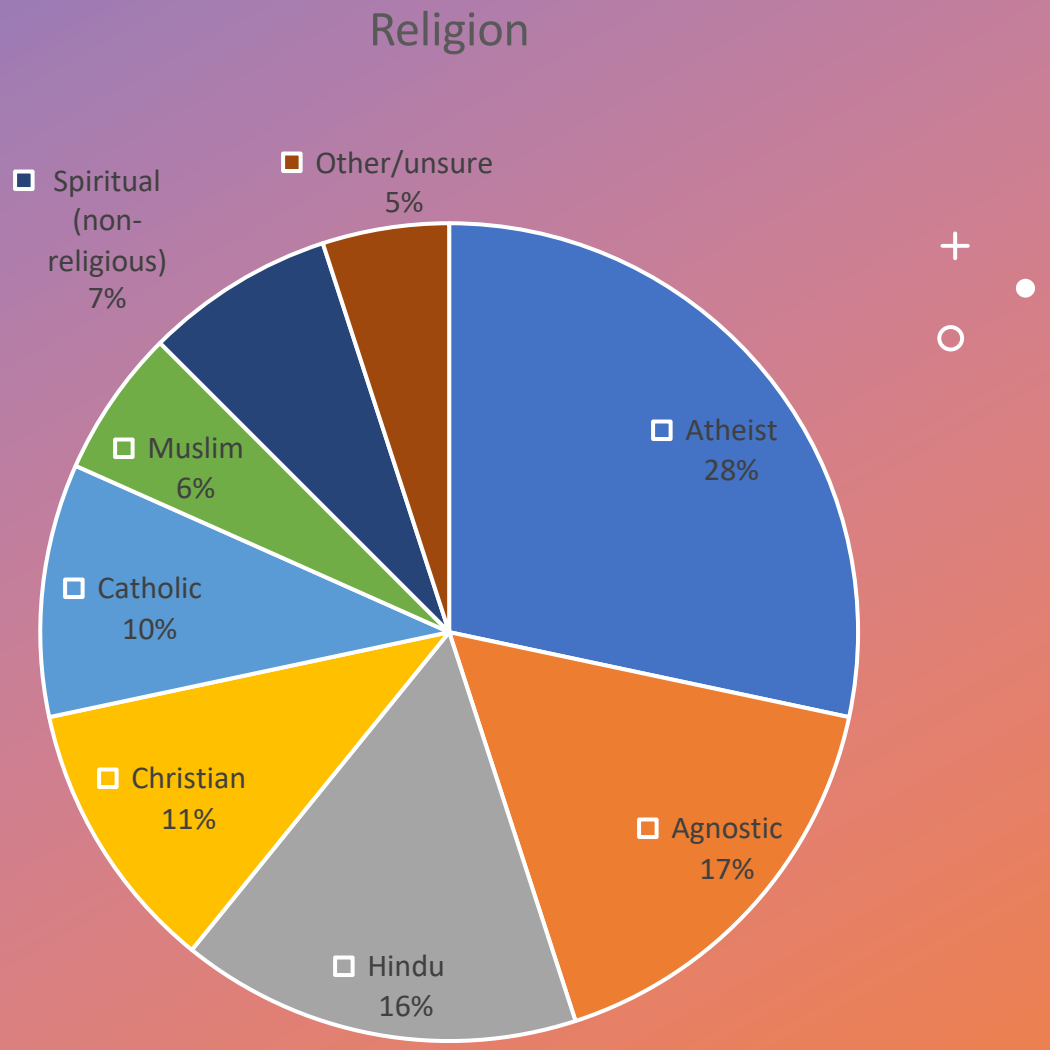
Languages Spoken

Unsurprisingly, as Canadian university students, the most commonly spoken languages were English and French, with Mandarin and Hindi following.



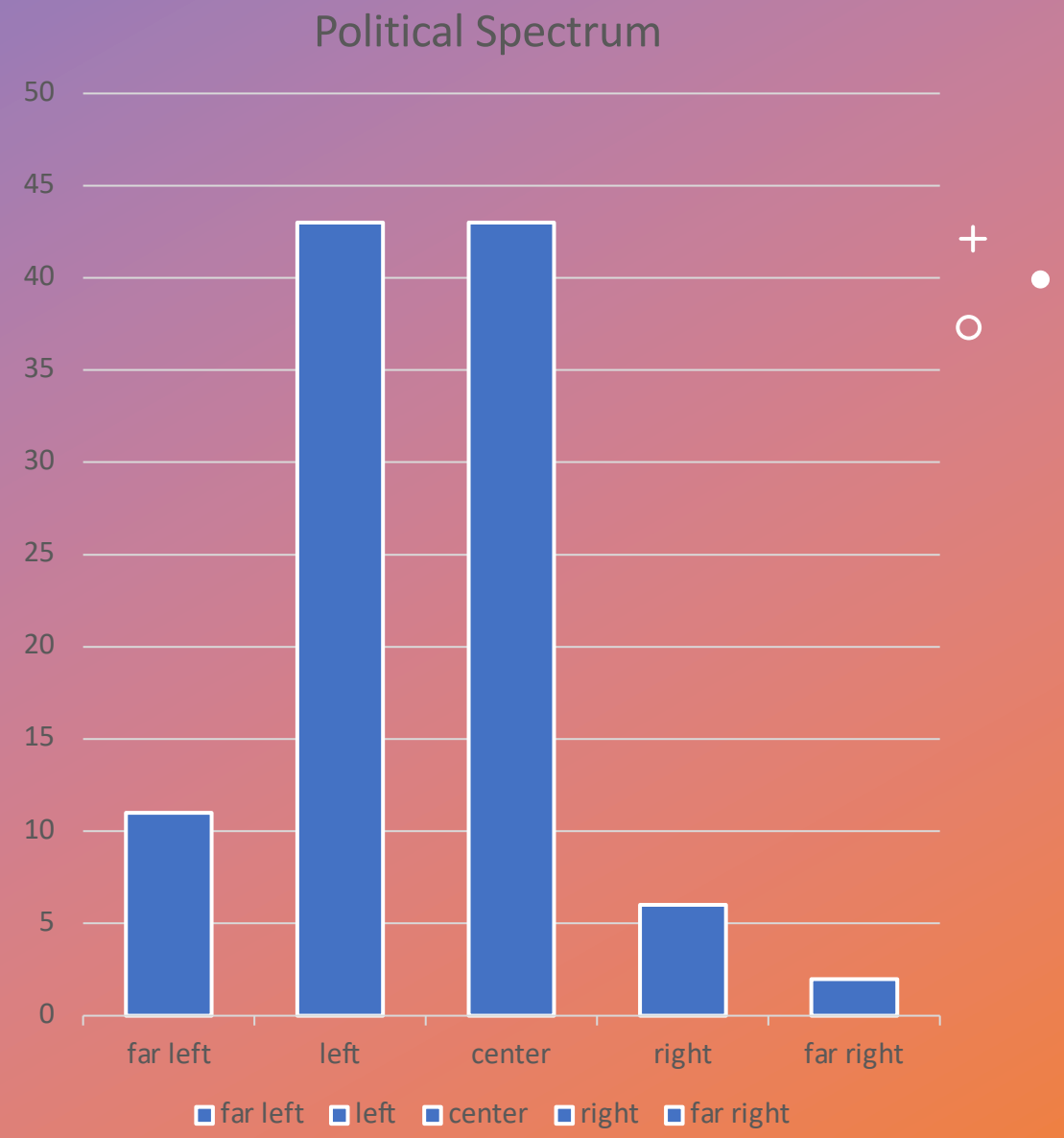
Religion

*Survey respondents were allowed to select multiple options, but dual-responses were rare

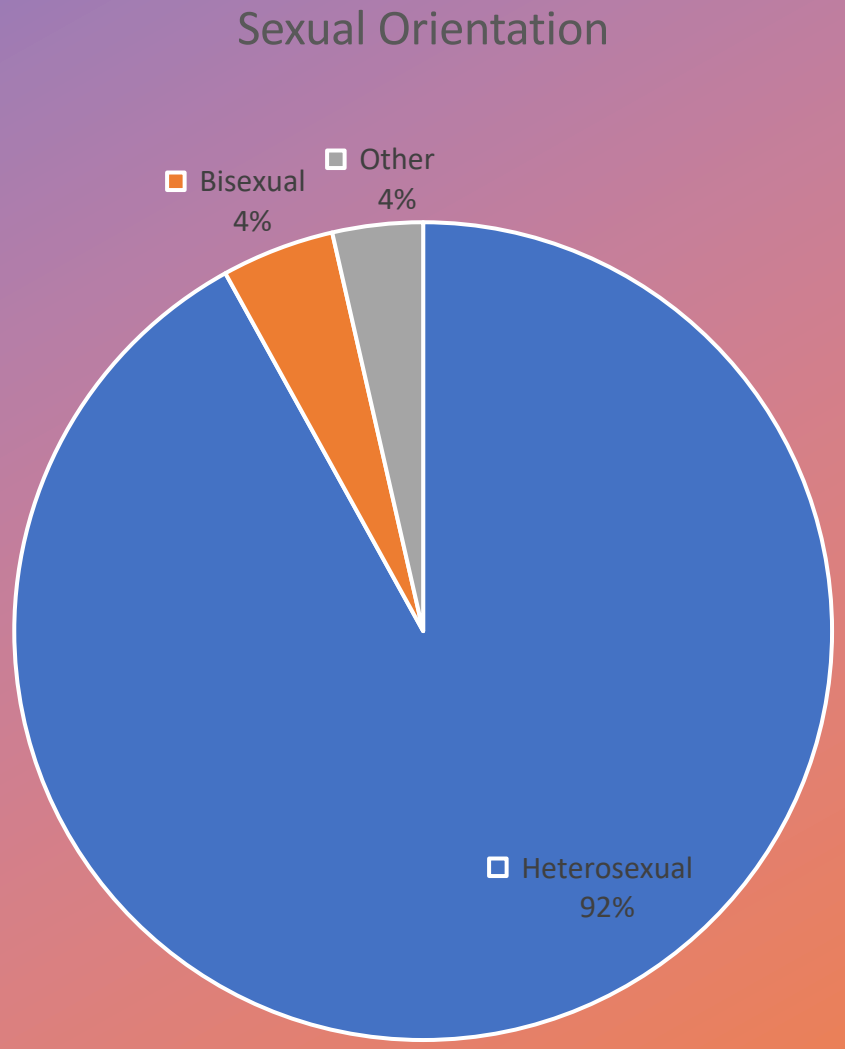


Political Spectrum

This distribution was expected and follows the findings of various studies done on the political beliefs of Canadian university students.

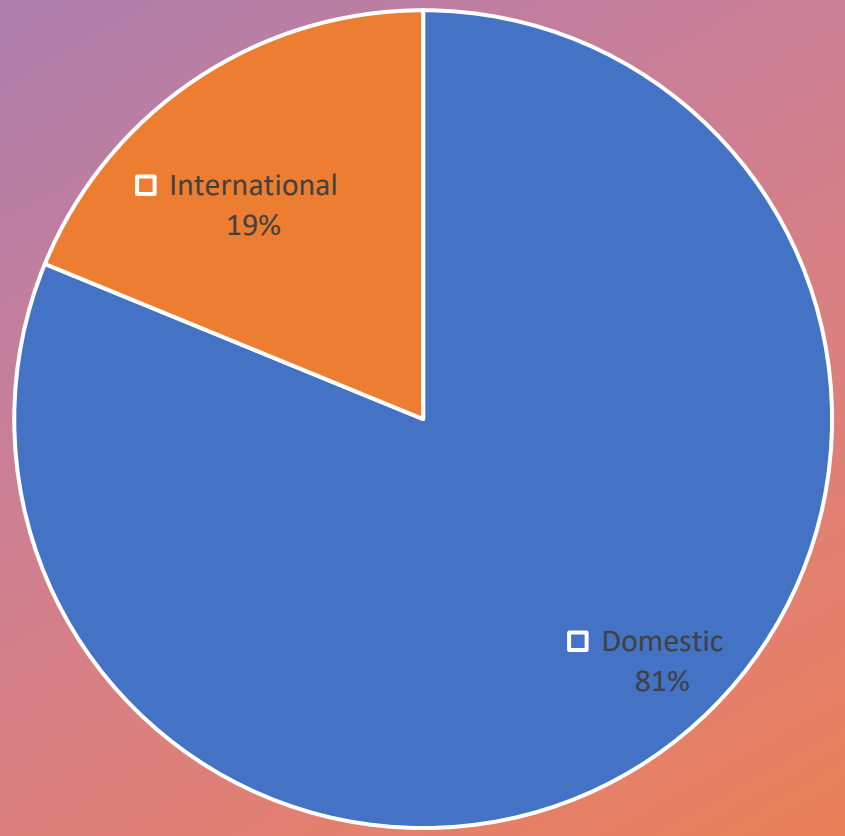


Sexual Orientation

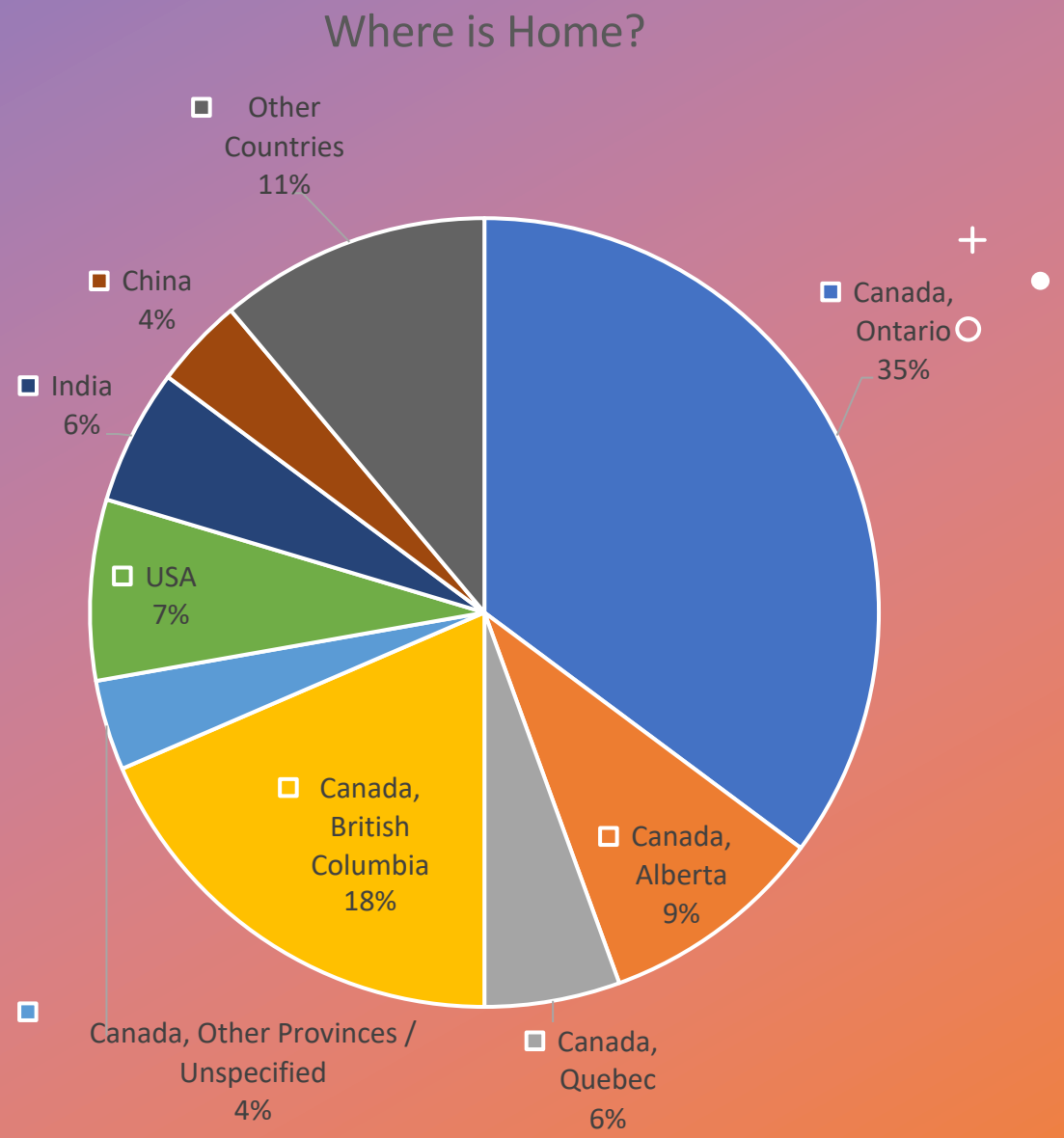


International or Domestic?

This is double the percentage of international students in previous years, which is surprising because one would expect the COVID-19 pandemic to have the opposite effect.

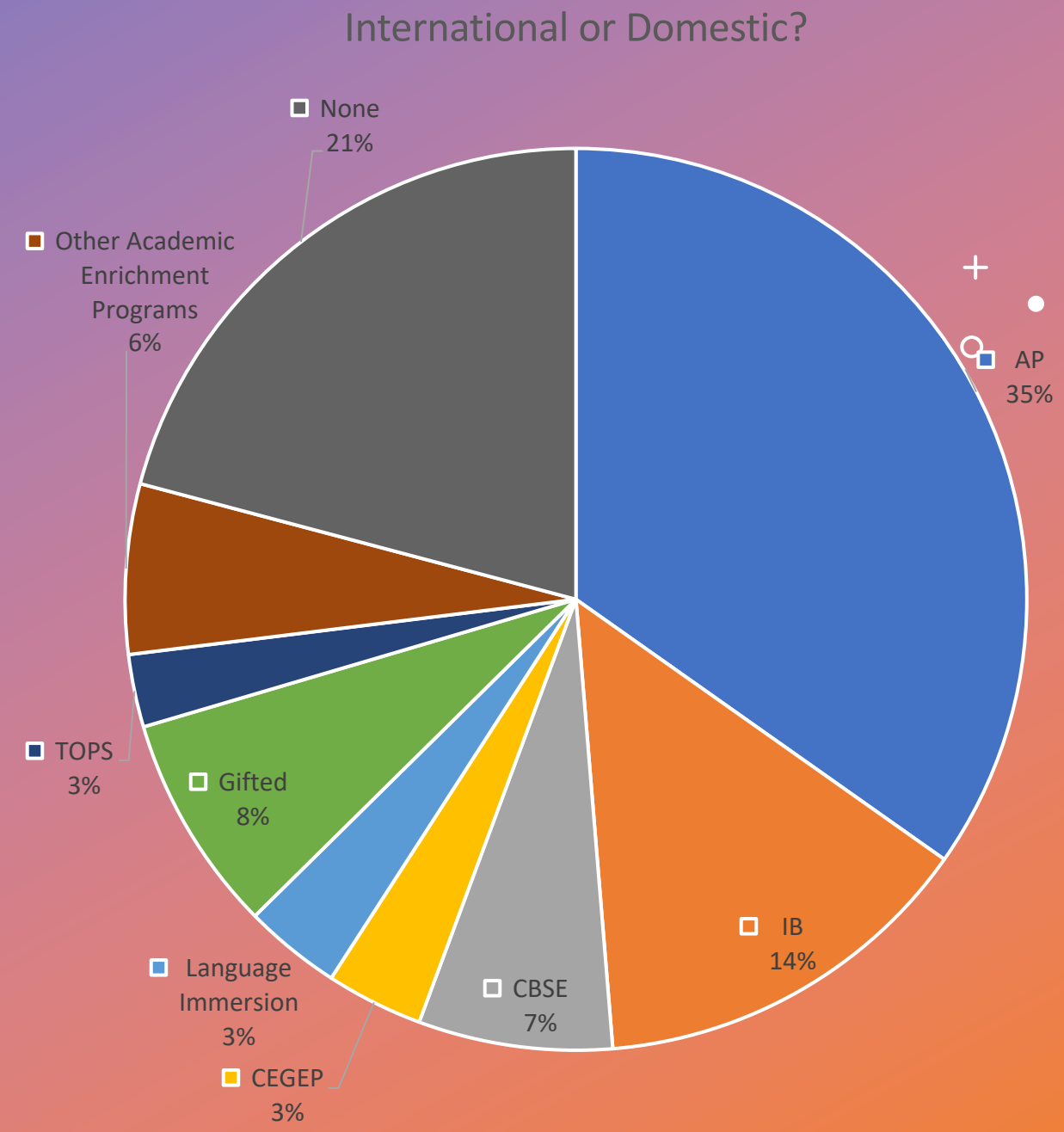


Where is Home?

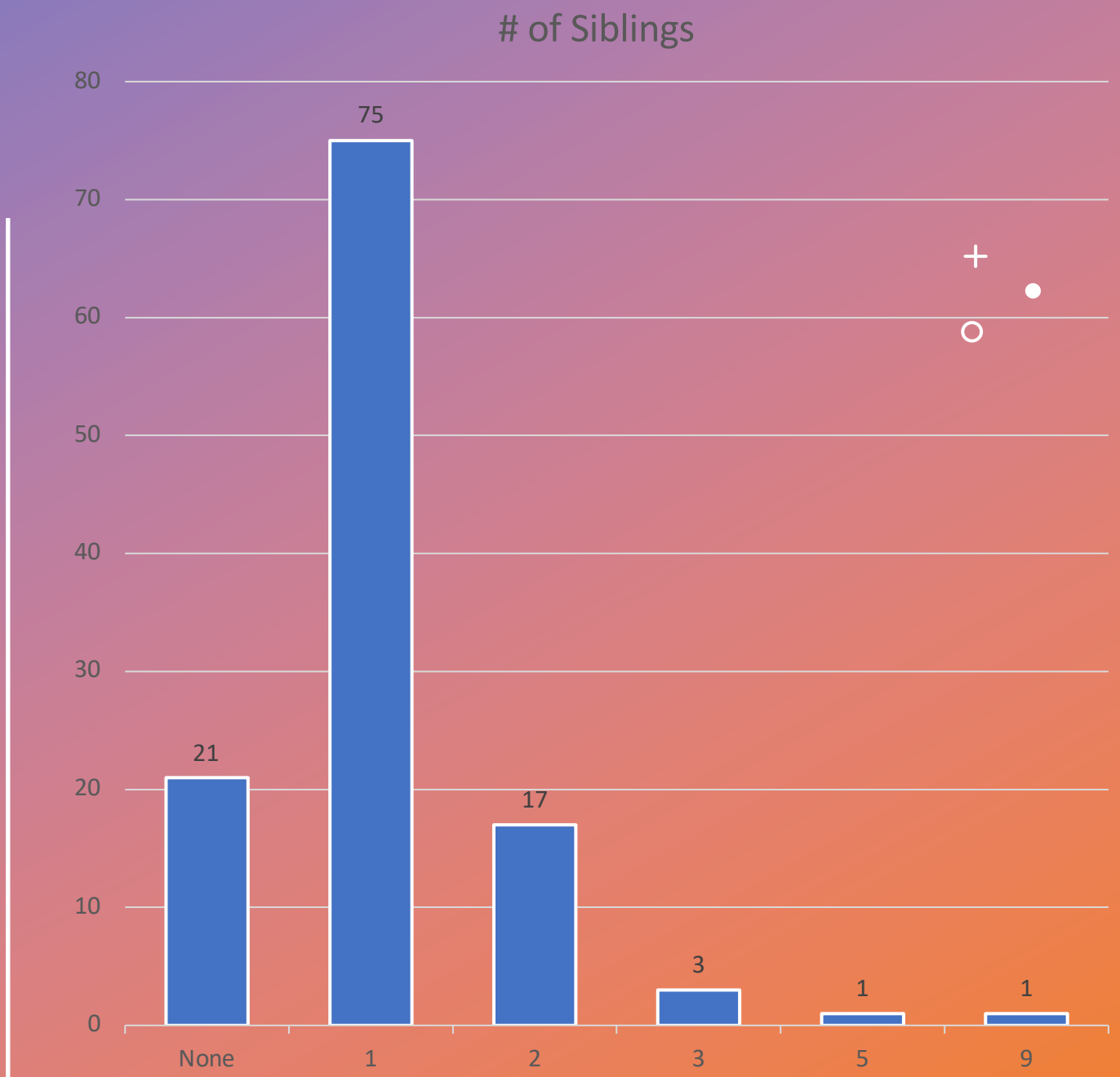


Academic Enrichment Programs

79% of survey respondents participated in an Academic Enrichment Program.



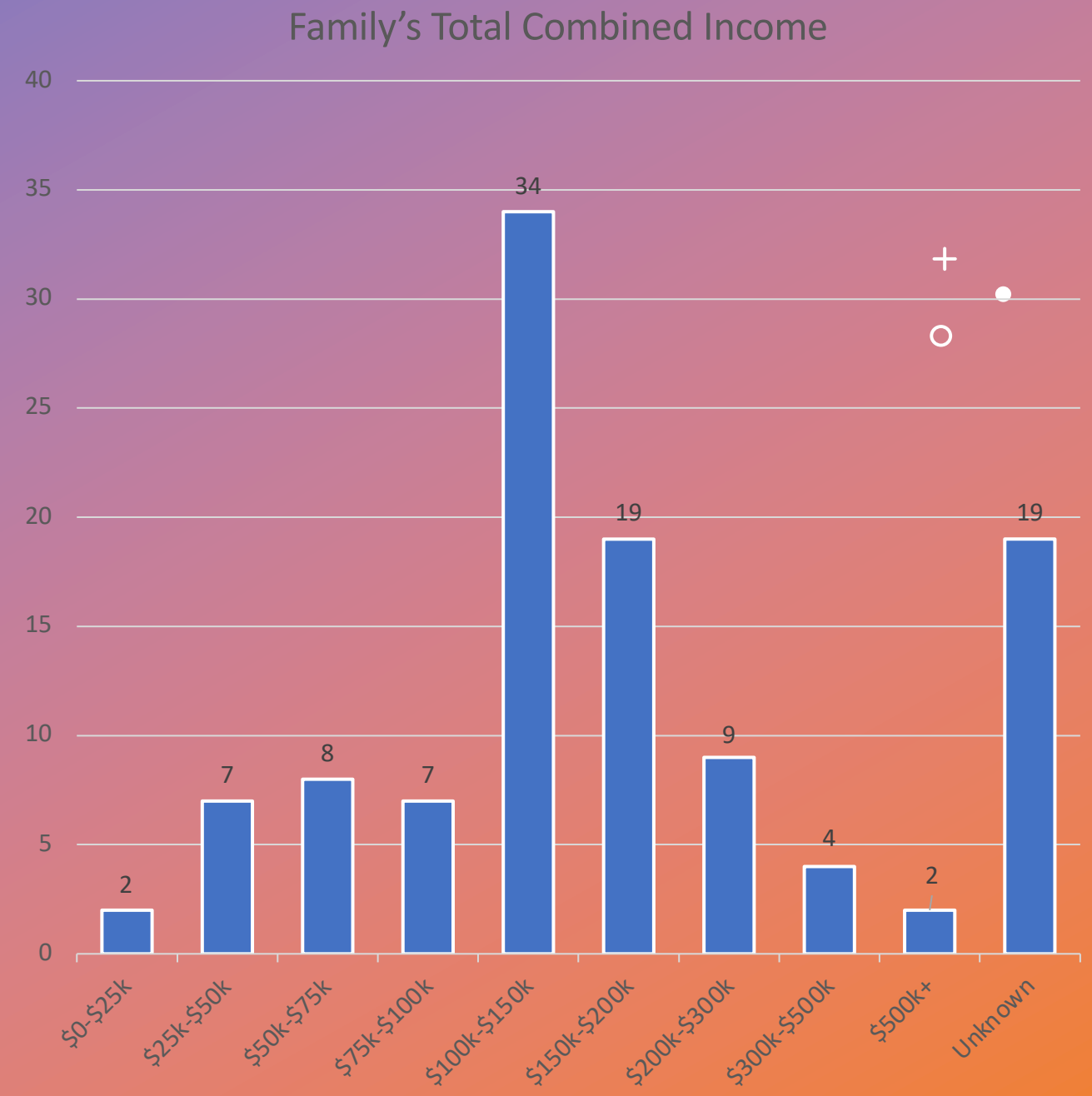
of Siblings



Family's Total Combined Income

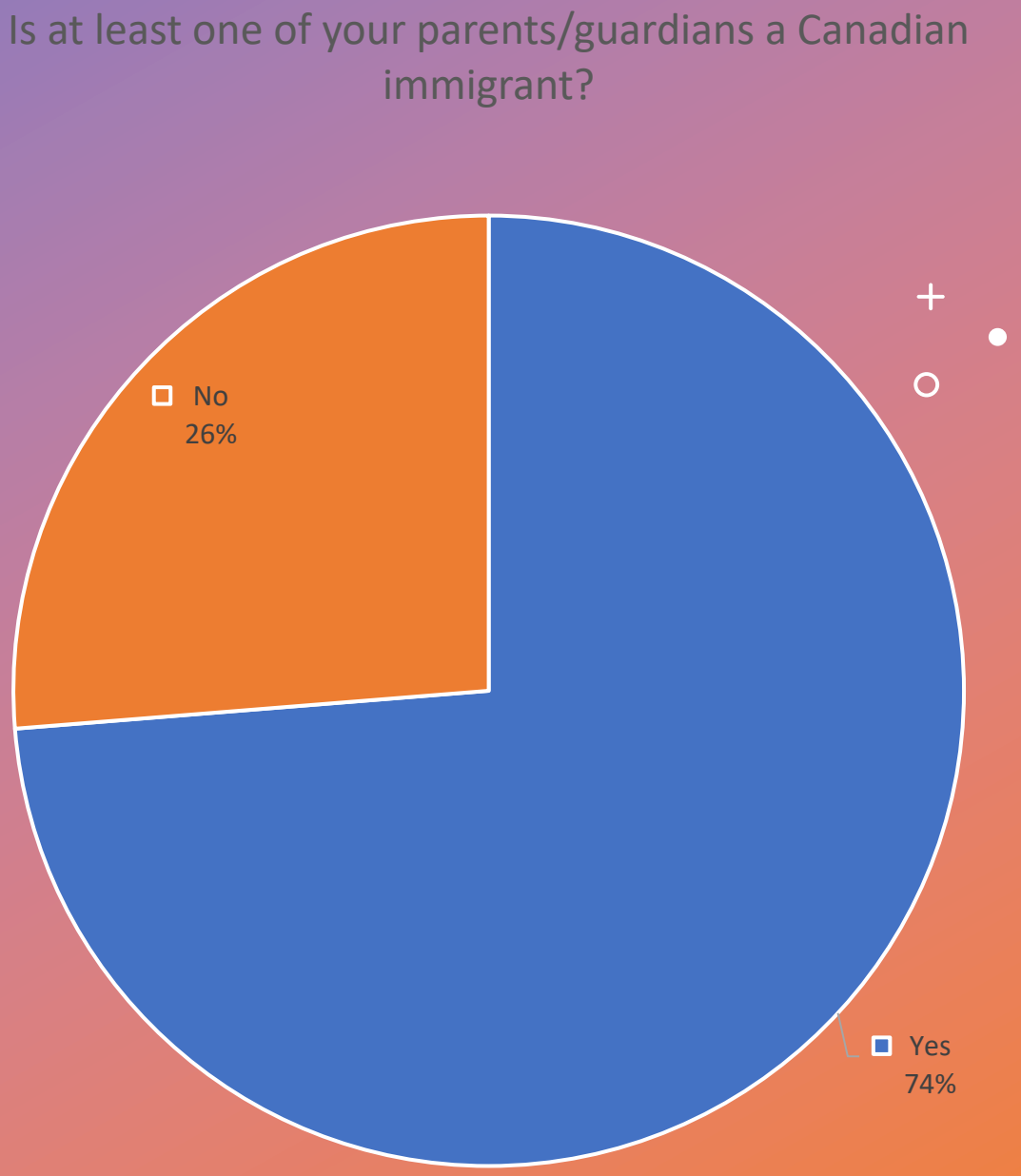
The median total combined income of the families of the survey respondents was considerably higher than the 2019 Canadian median of $99,100 before taxes.

Source: Statistics Canada



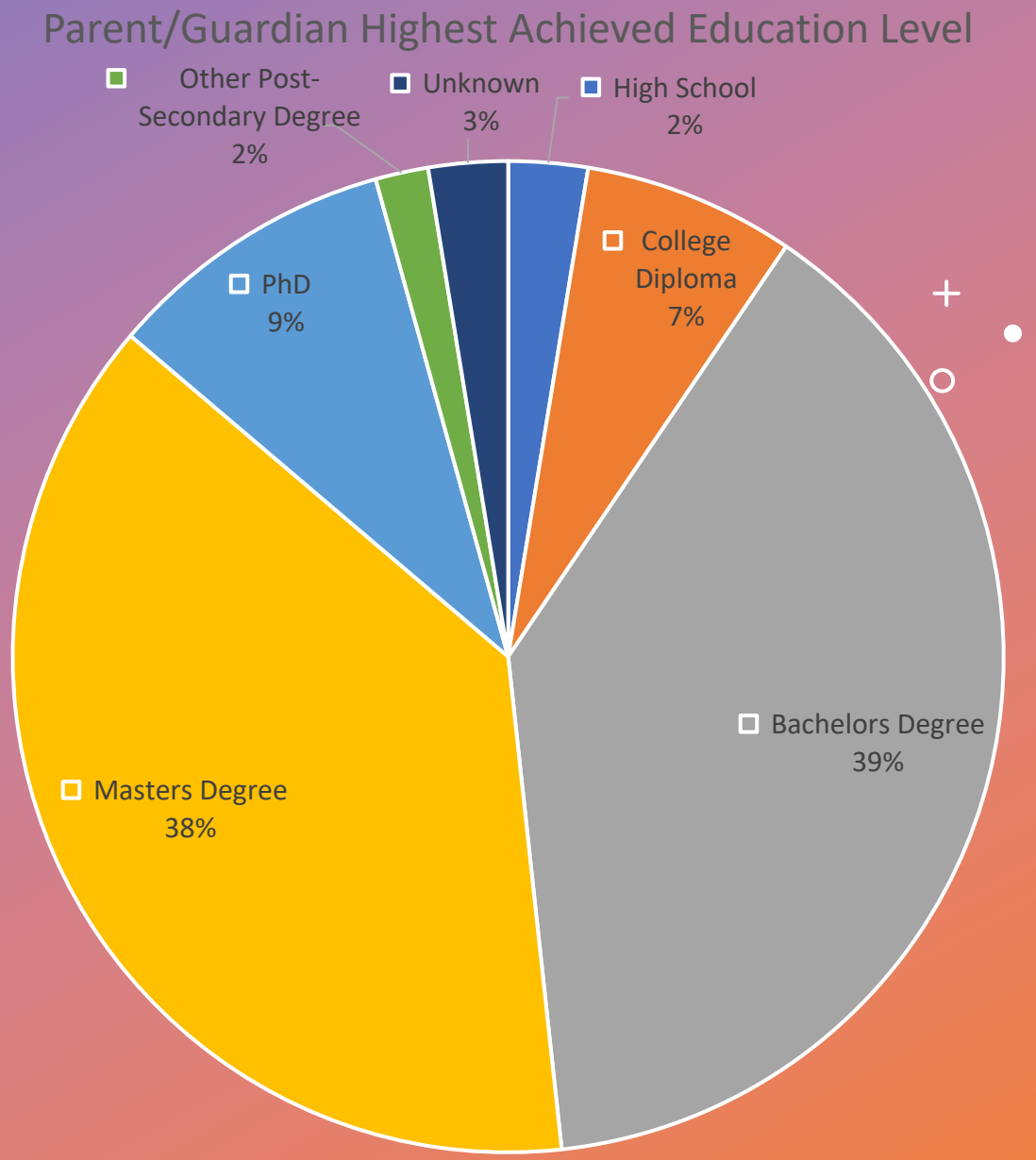
Is at least one of your parents/guardians a Canadian immigrant?

Nearly three quarters of survey respondents had parents who immigrated to Canada.

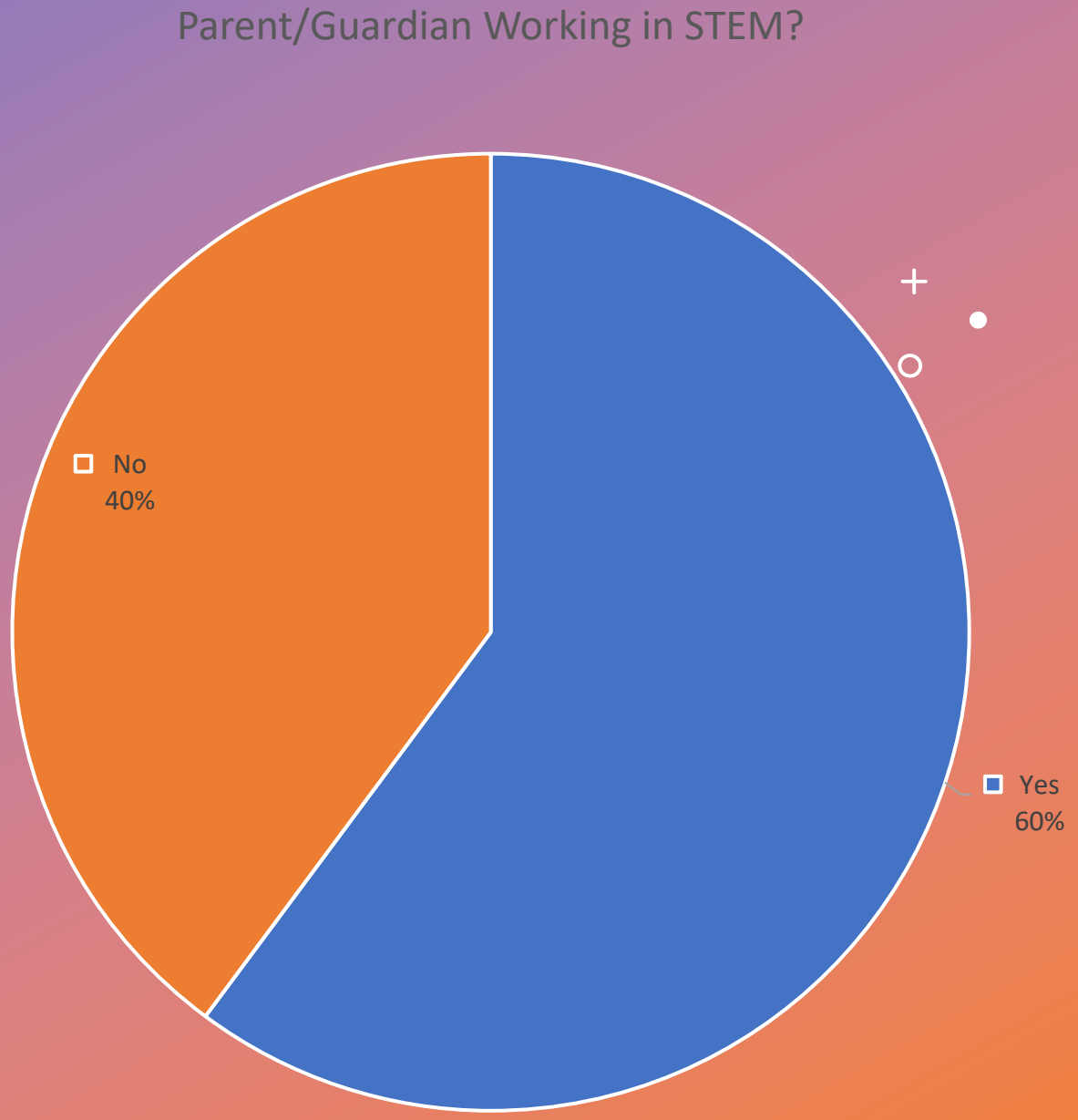


Parent/Guardian Highest Achieved Education Level

Survey results are fairly consistent with previous SE cohorts.



Parent/Guardian Working in STEM?



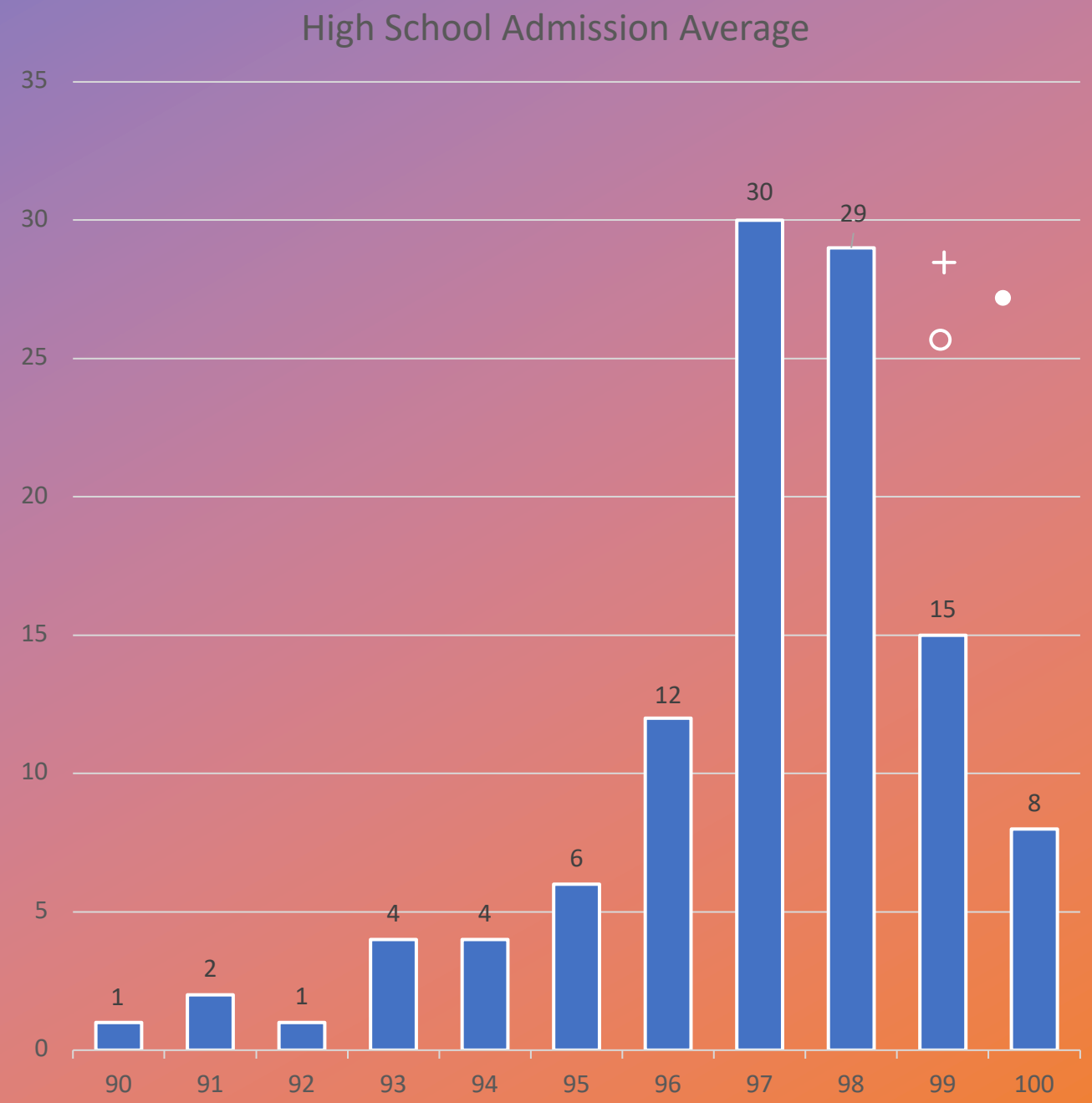
Academics

High School Admission Average

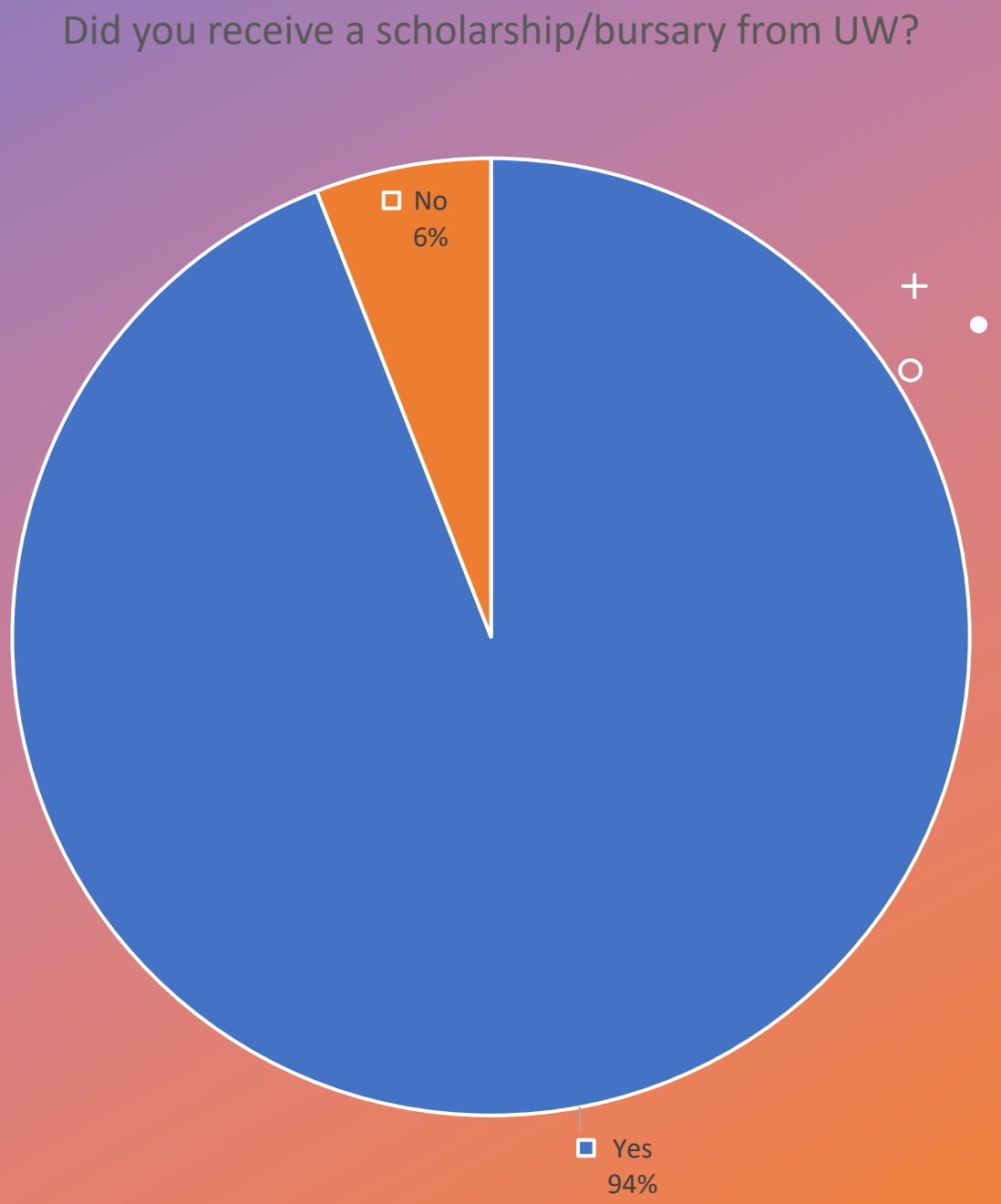
*Responses were rounded to 1 decimal place

**In the chart, the x-axis labels represent the range of values from [x, x+1)

Average: 97.4%
Median: 97.8%
Mode: 98.0%



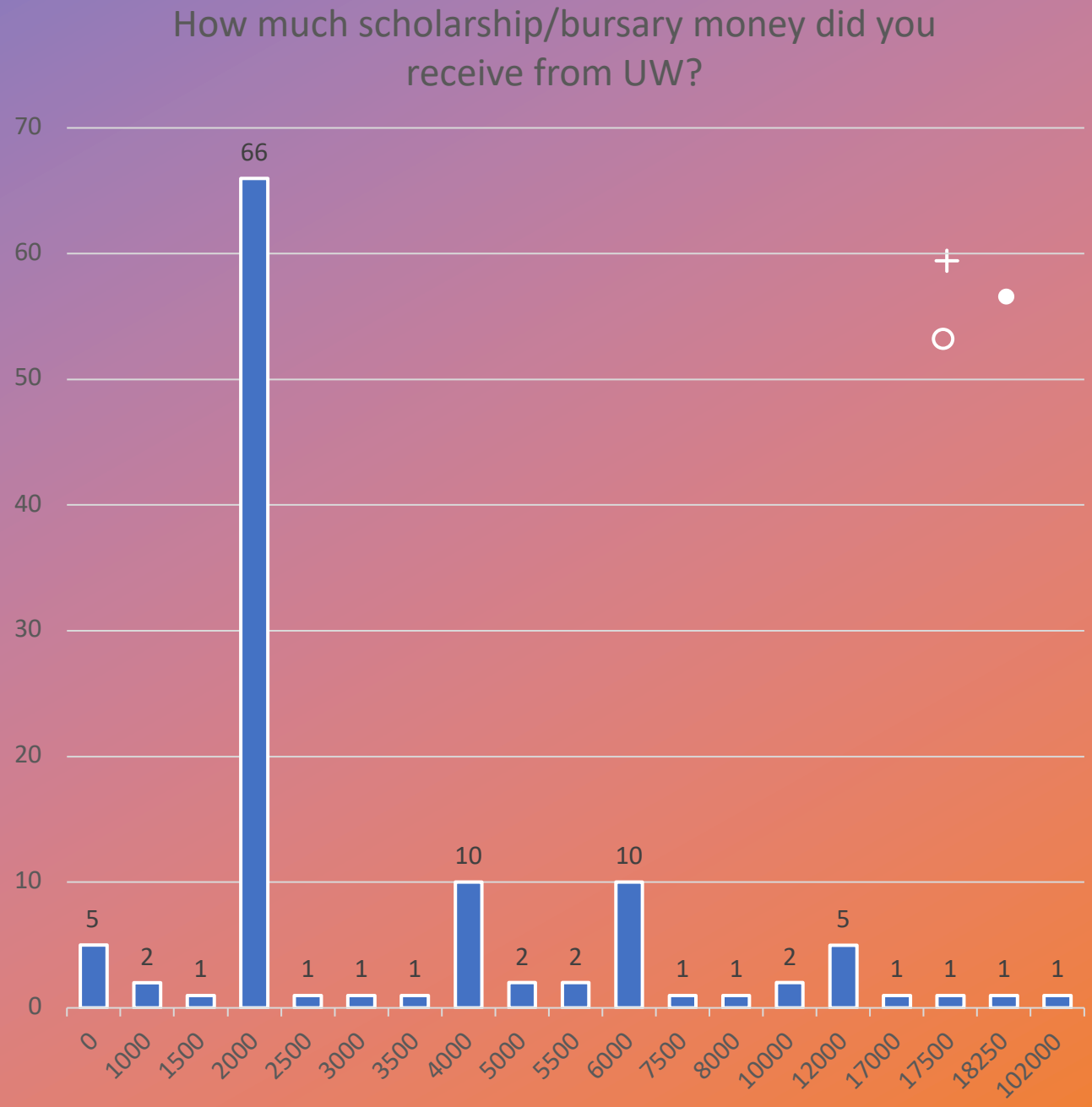
Did you receive a scholarship/bursary from UW?



How much scholarship/bursary money did you receive from UW?

*Since this survey was anonymous, we cannot verify most of the statistics in this graph.

One survey respondent received the Schulich Leader scholarship!

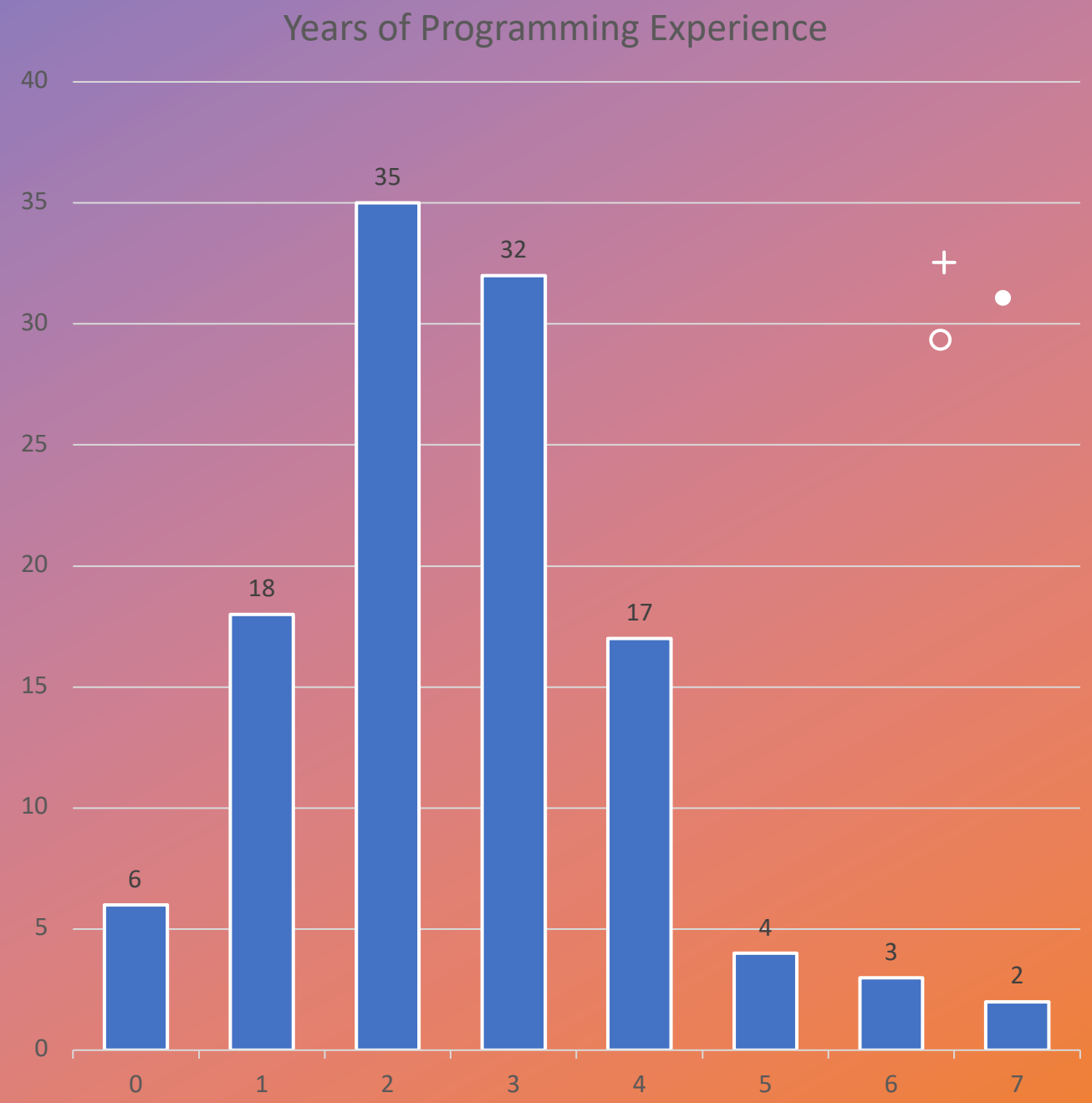


Years of Programming Experience

58% of people had 2-3 years of programming experience.

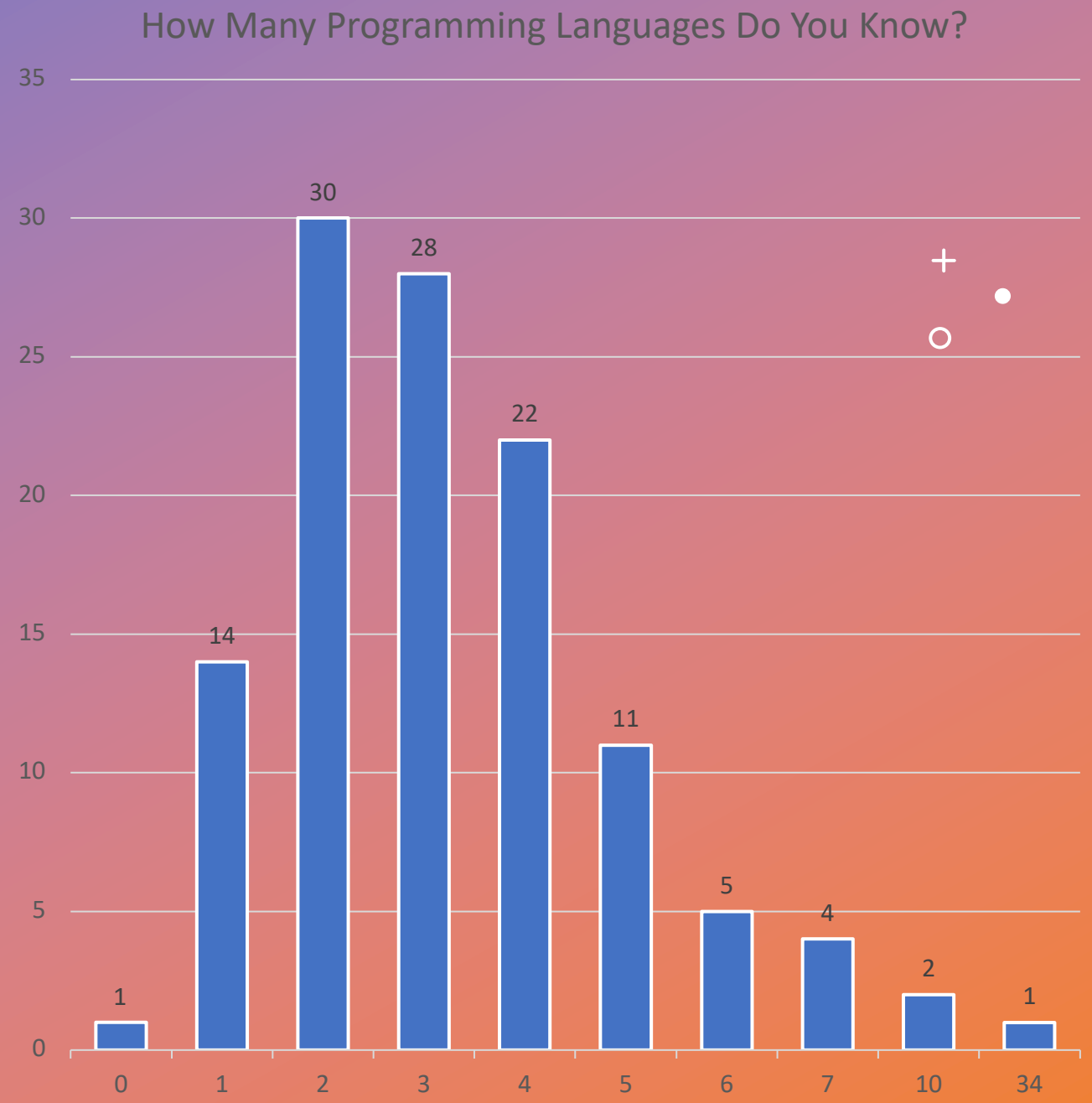
87% of people started in high school (had 1-4 years of experience).

8% of people started prior to high school (5+ years of experience).



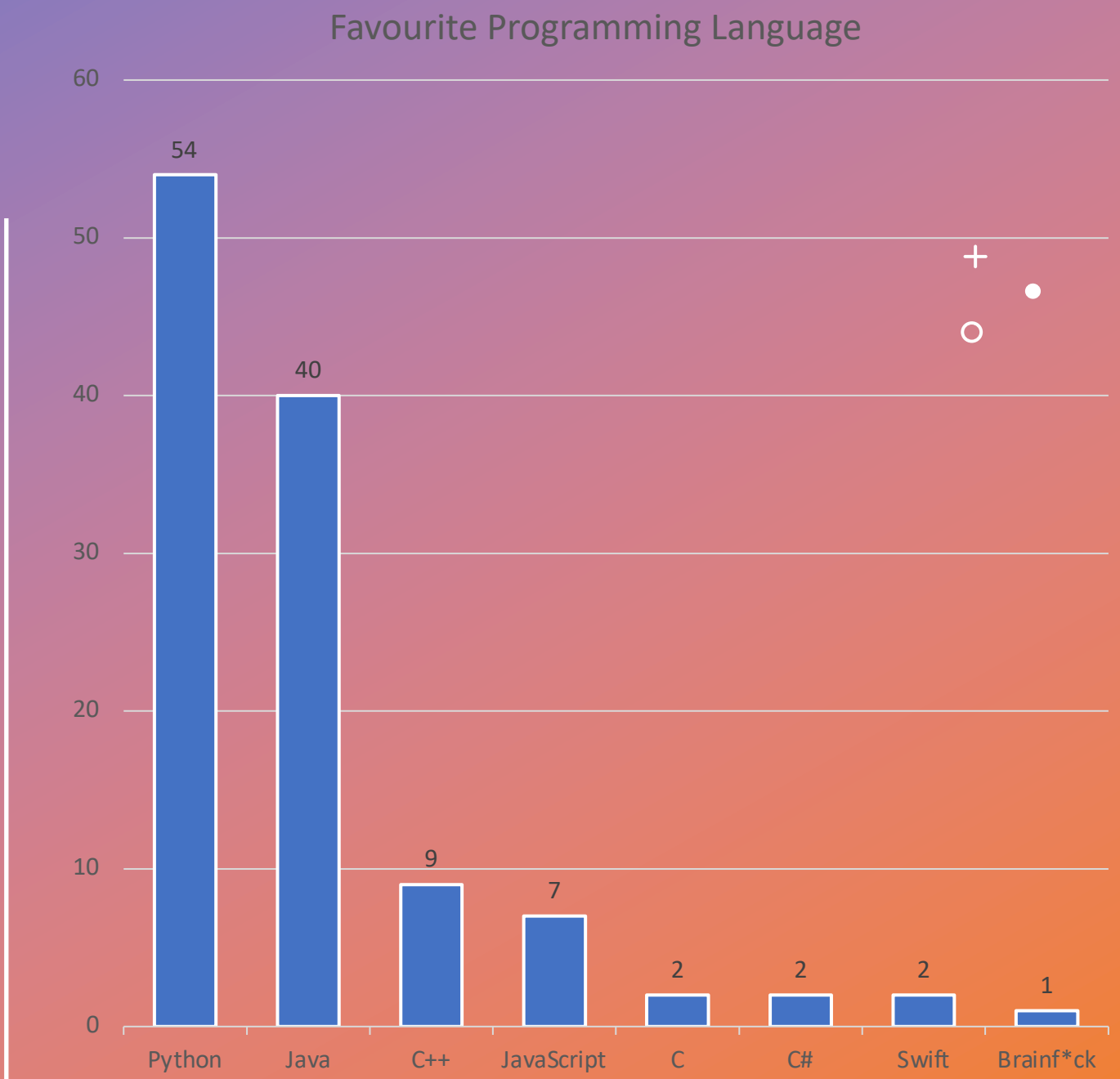
How Many Programming Languages Do You Know?

One person knew 34 languages! That’s either a typo, lie, or an absolutely insane fact.



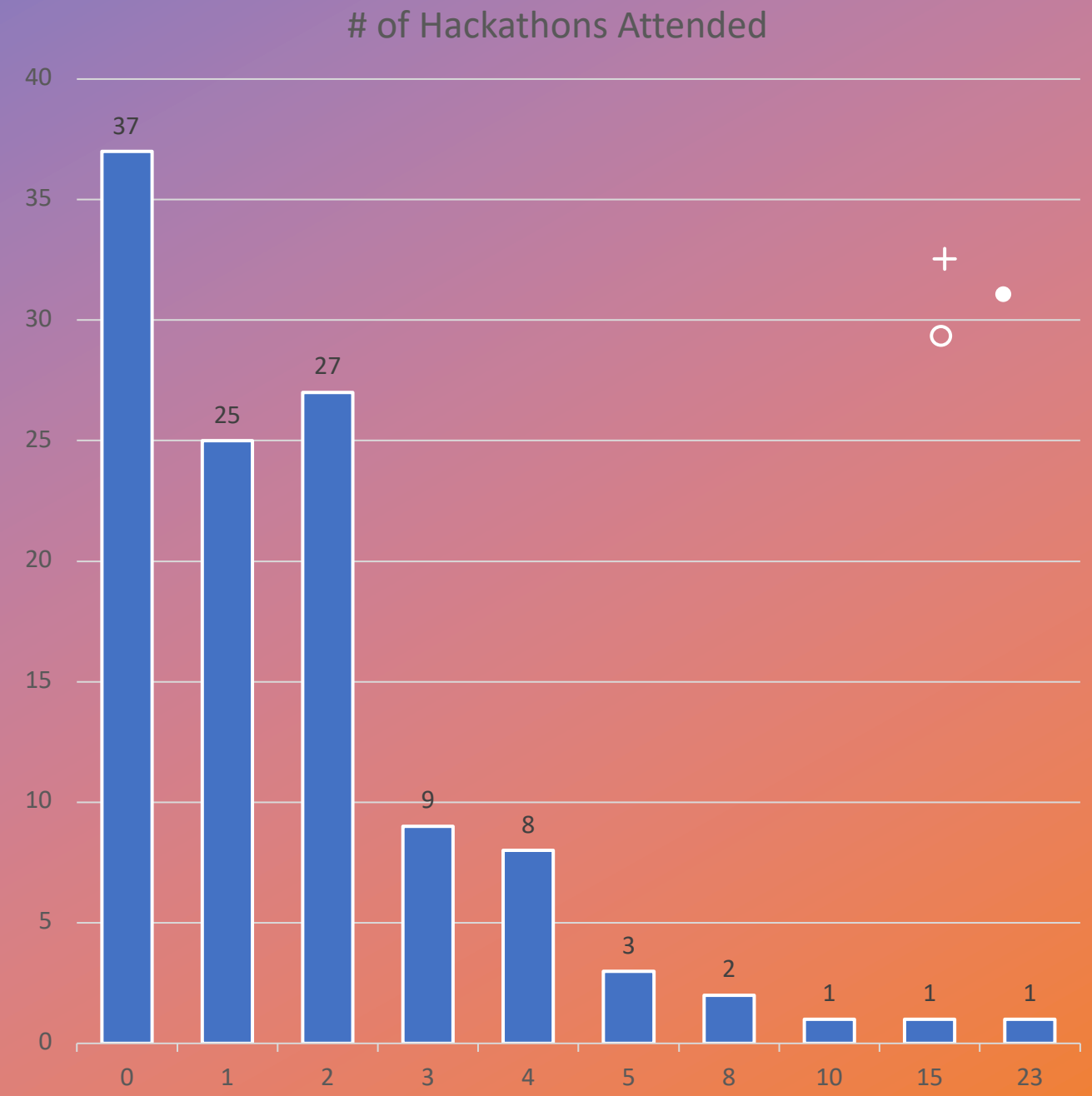
Favourite Programming Language?

Python and Java were by far the most popular programming languages, likely since they were the ones most commonly taught in high school computer science courses.



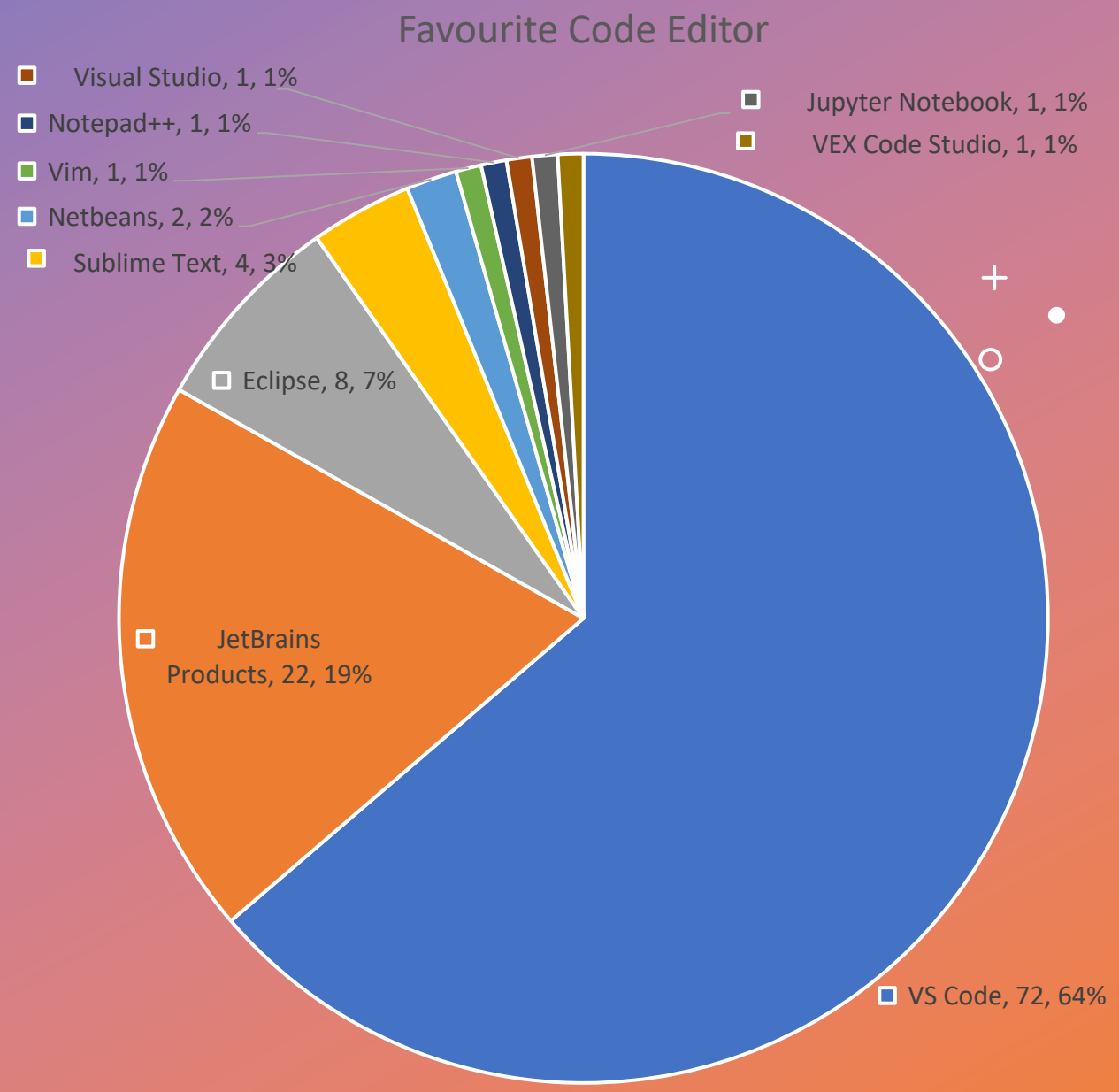
of Hackathons Attended

One person attended 23 hackathons!



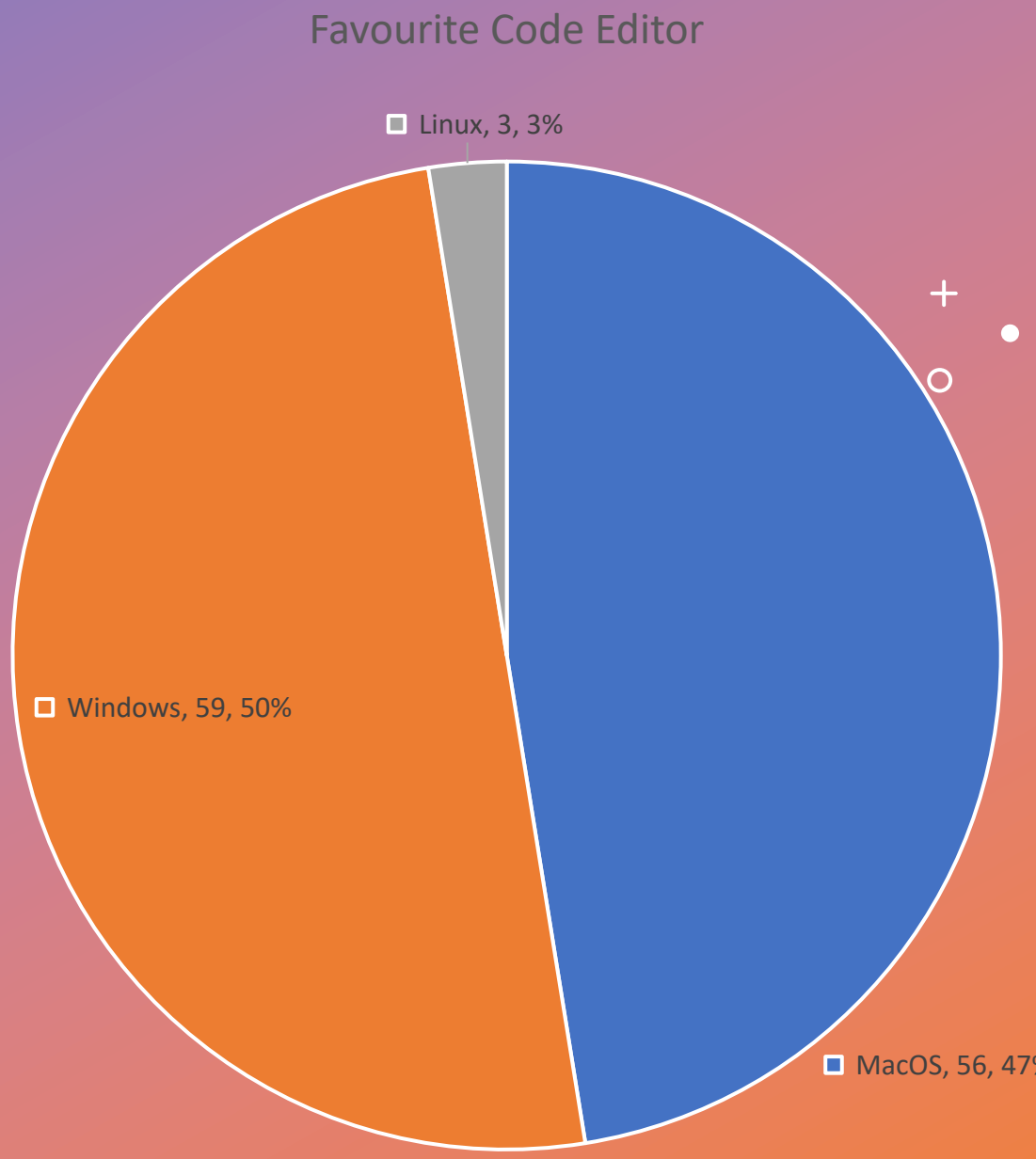
Favourite Code Editor

64% of people most frequently use VS Code, with JetBrains IDEs and Eclipse falling far behind.



Primary Operating System

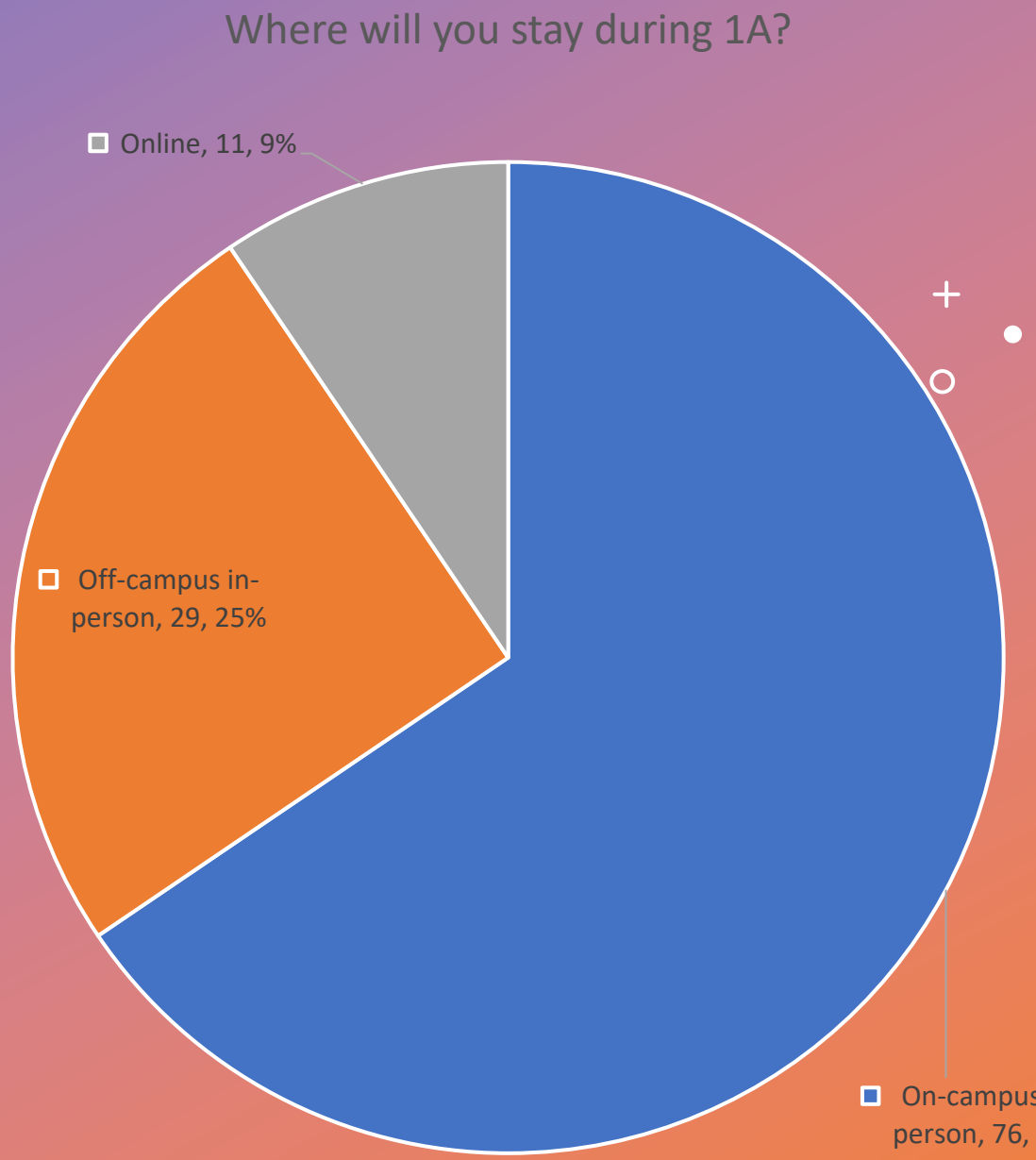
These statistics are fairly consistent with previous SE cohorts.



Housing

Where will you stay during 1A?

91% of students chose to come in-person and stay either on-campus or off-campus despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

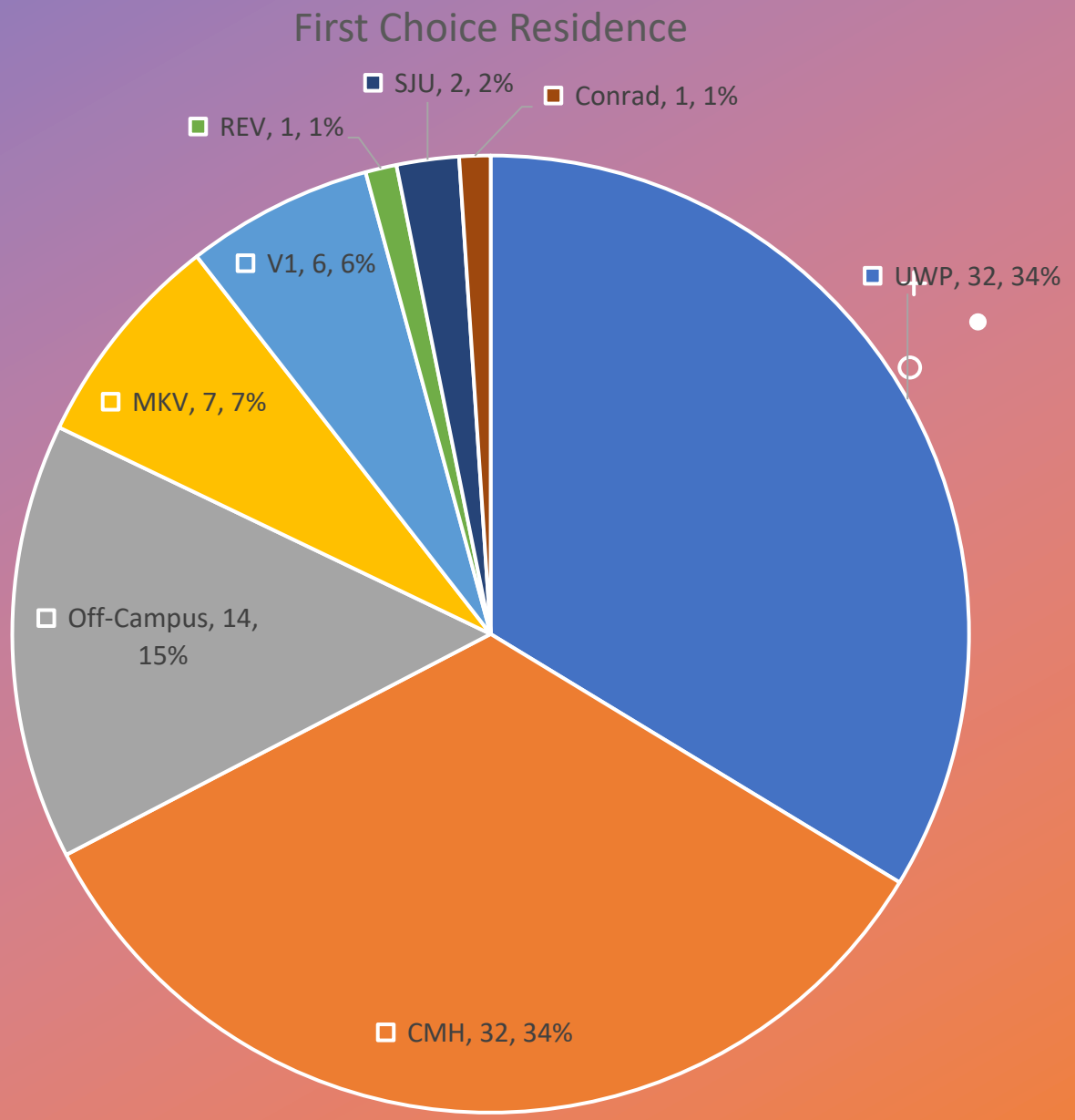


What was your First Choice Residence?

(if staying on-campus in-person)

68% of people wanted UWP/CMH as their first choice residence.

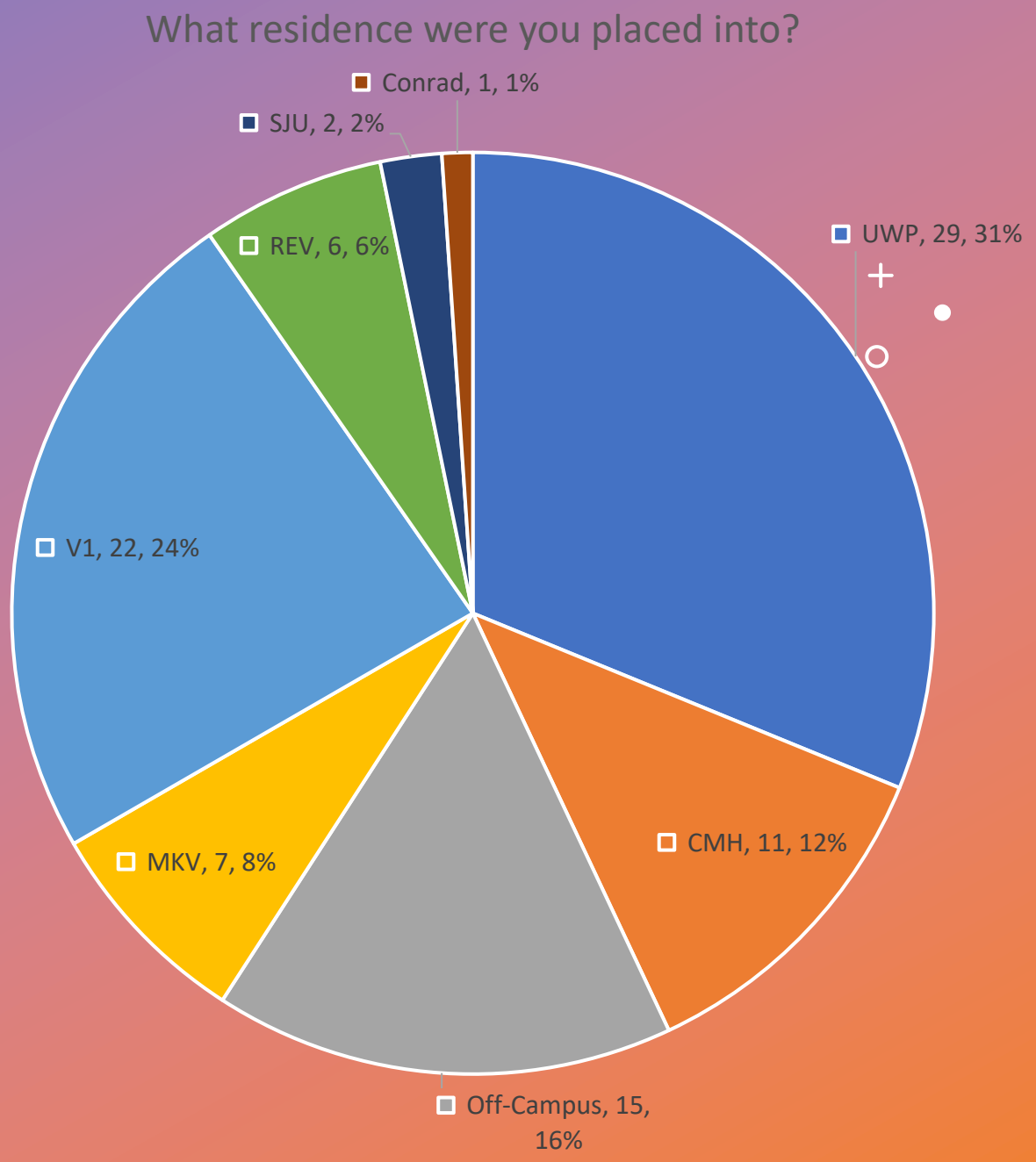
83% of people wanted UWP/CMH/off-campus as their first choice residence.



What residence were you placed into?

(if staying on-campus in-person)

43% of people were placed into UWP/CMH.

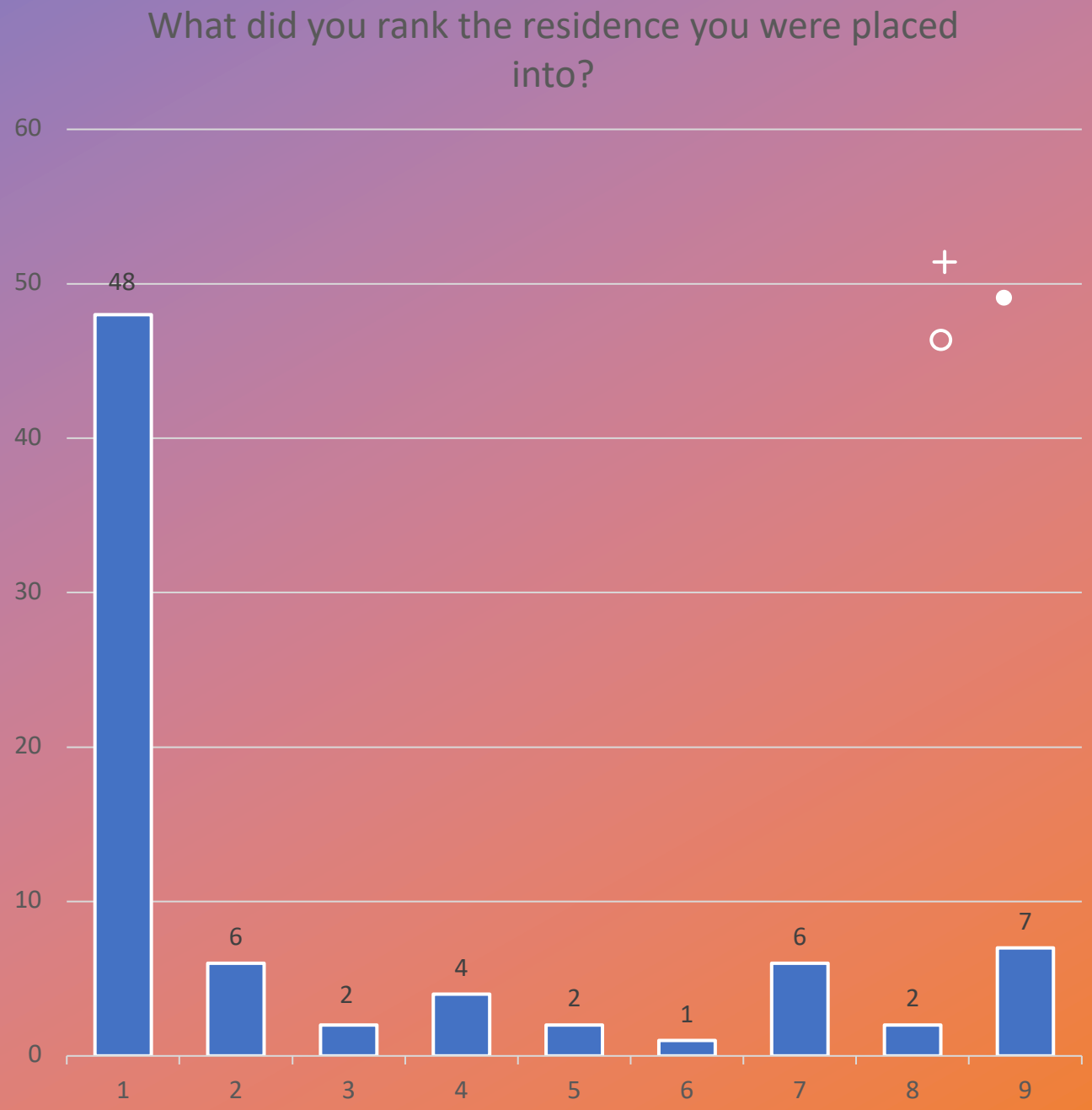


What did you rank the residence you were placed into?

(if staying on-campus in-person)

62% of people got their first choice residence.

23% of people got one of their 5th-8th choice residences.



Lifestyle

Which of the following have you consumed?

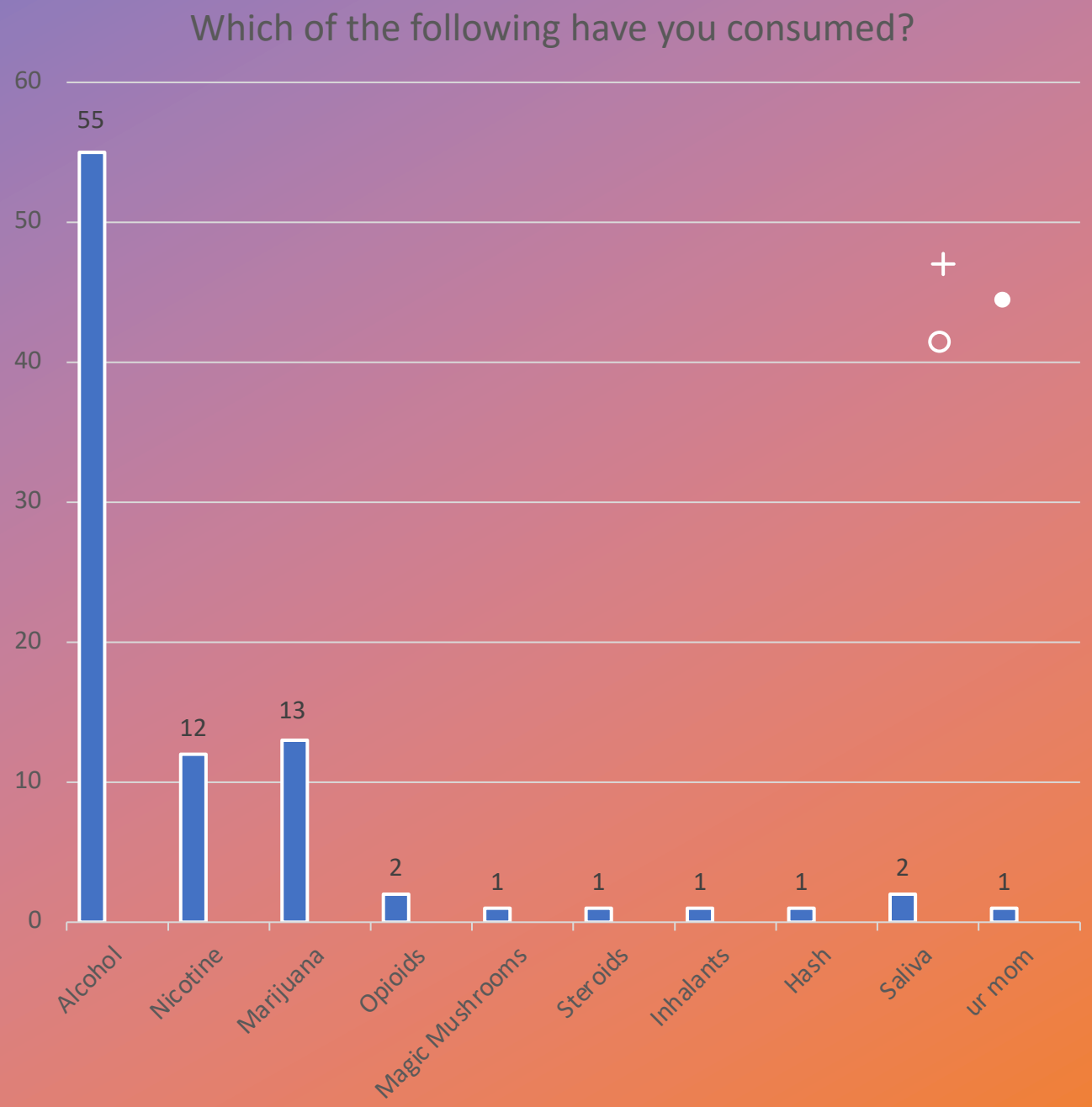
*This question was not mandatory and there was no “none” option, which should have been included in hindsight.

90% of respondents who have consumed substances have consumed alcohol.

Approximately 20% of respondents who have consumed substances have consumed nicotine.

Approximately 20% of respondents who have consumed substances have consumed marijuana.

2 people consumed saliva and one person even consumed ”ur mom” which we have included for completeness since it cannot be determined whether these are drugs or jokes.



Which of the following romantic/sexual acts have you done?

82% of respondents have masturbated.

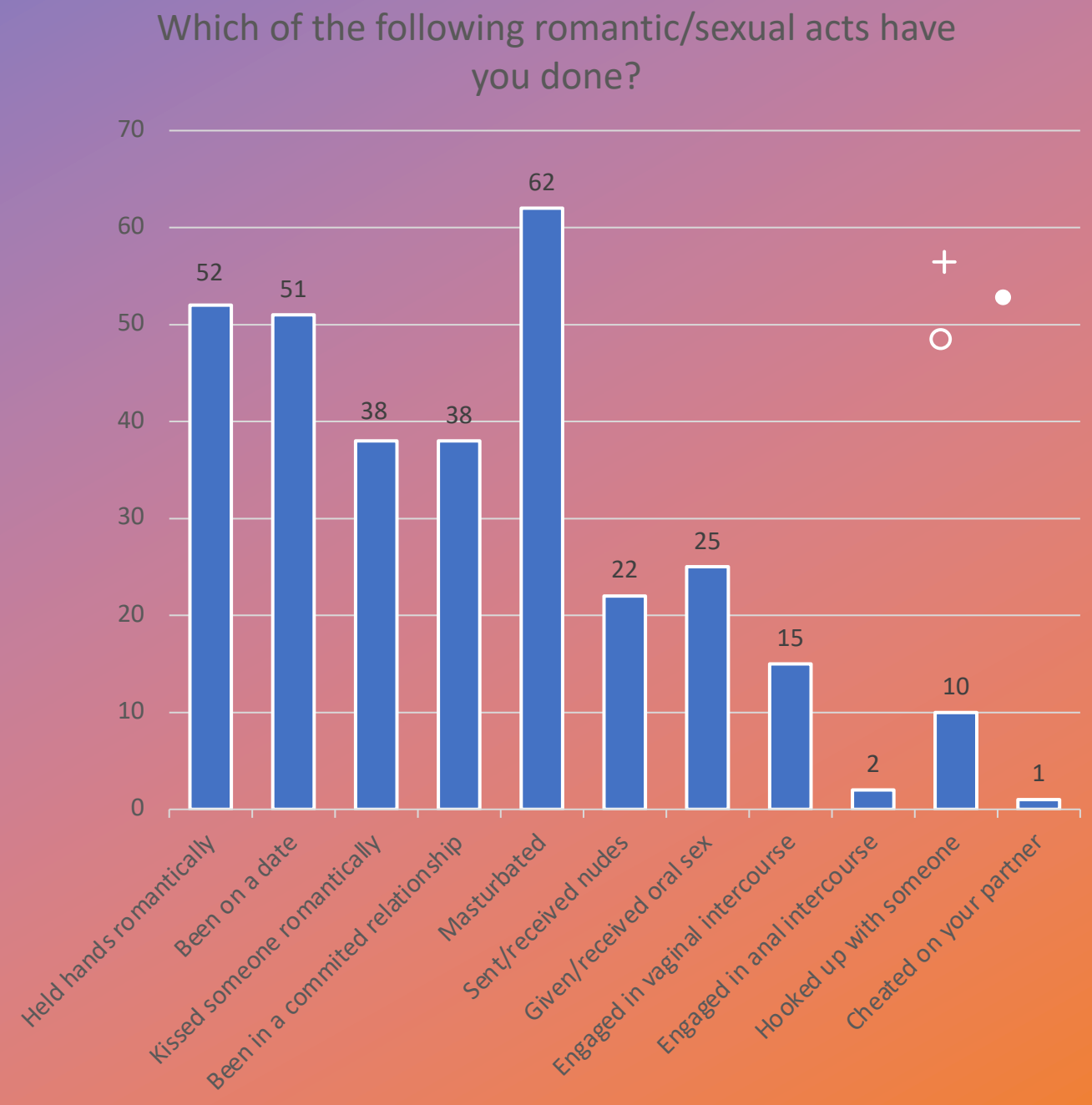
69% of respondents have held hands romantically.

68% of respondents have been on a date.

51% of respondents have been in a committed relationship.

29% of respondents have sent/received nudes.

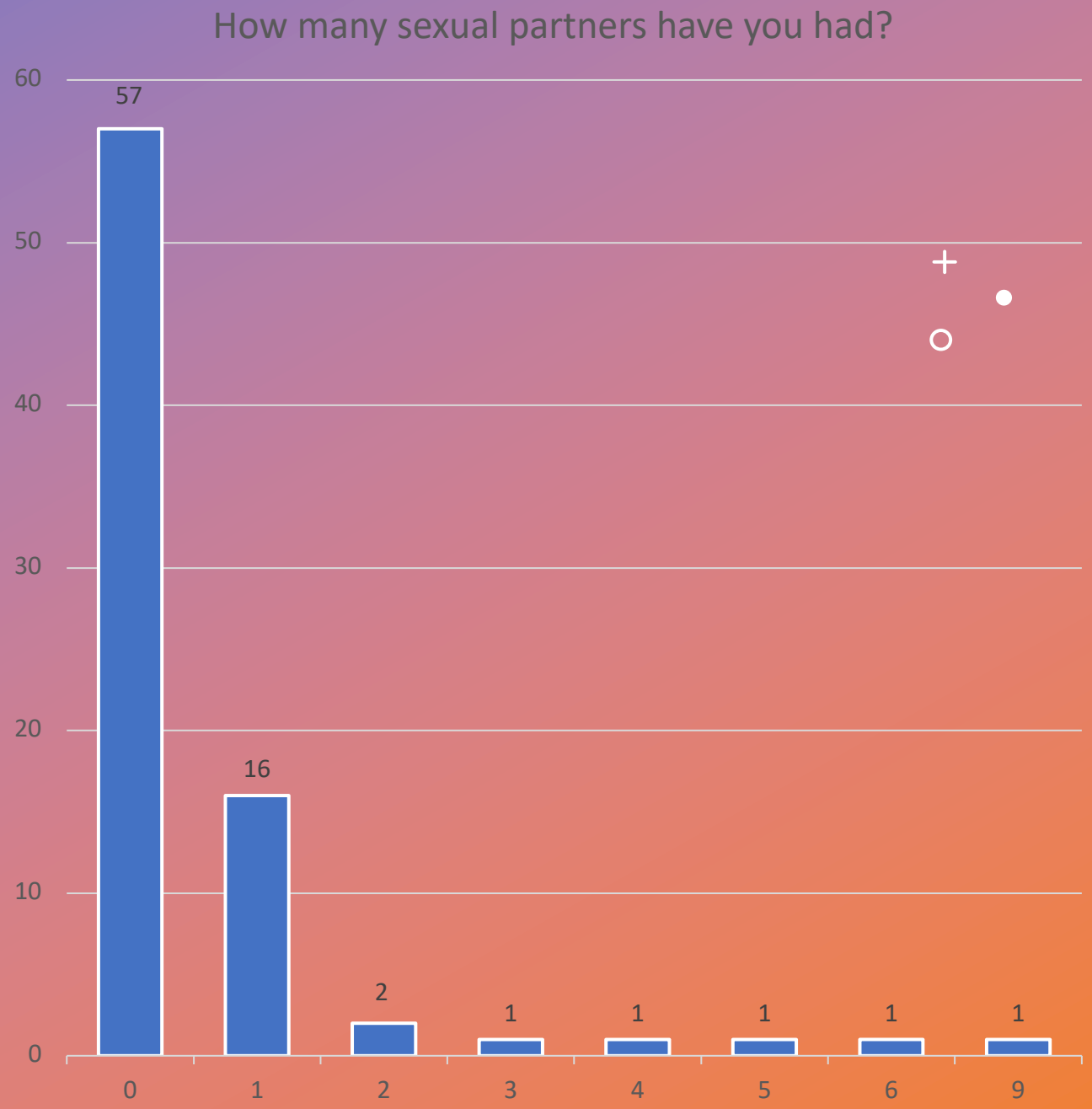
20% of respondents have engaged in intercourse.



How many sexual partners have you had?

*3rd base and beyond was specified as criteria for a sexual partner. Definitions vary, so ultimate judgement was left to the respondent.

71% of respondents have never had a sexual partner.



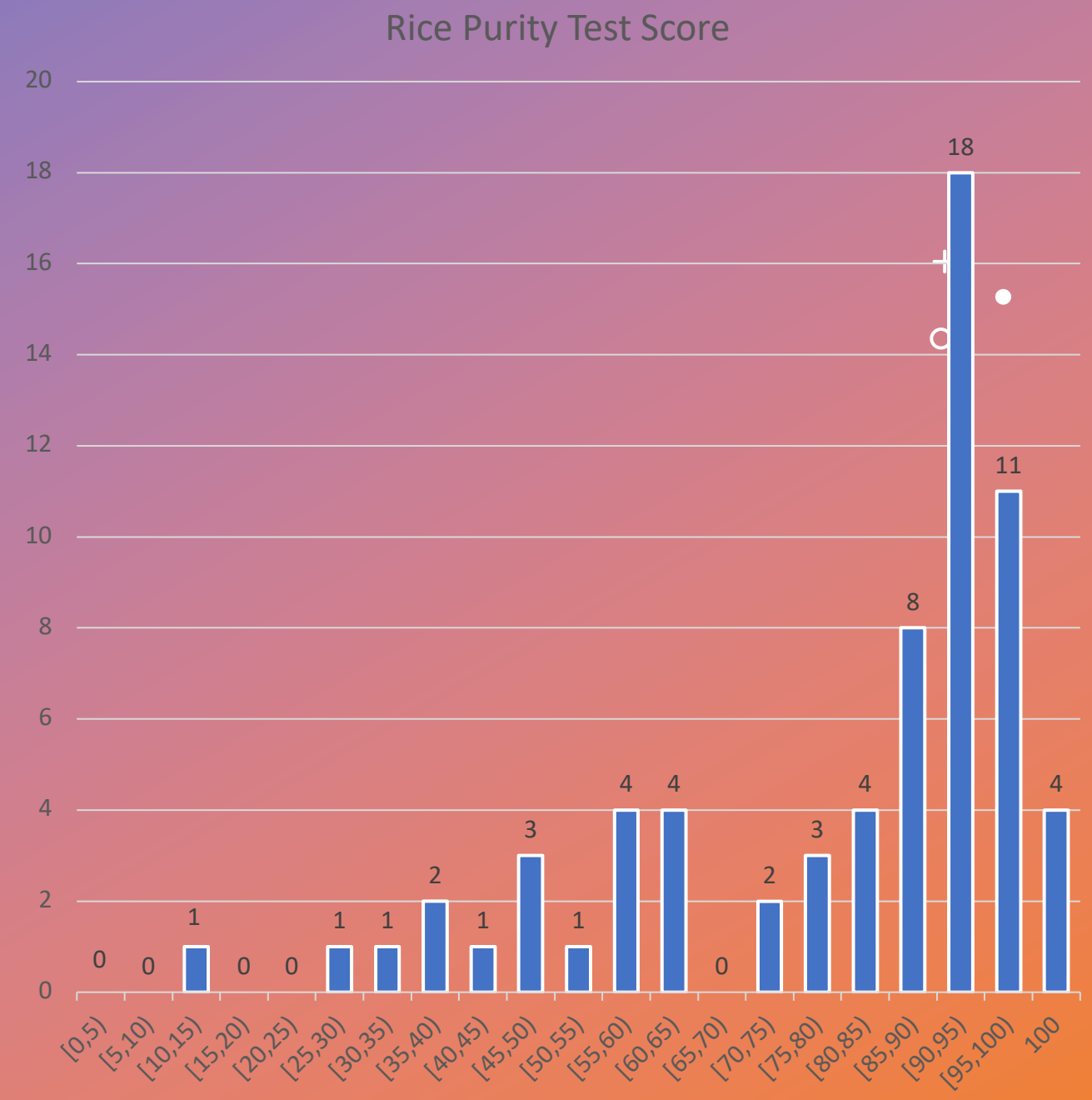
Rice Purity Test Score

http://ricepuritytest.com/

66% of respondents had a rice purity test score of at least 85.

74% of respondents had a rice purity test score of at least 70.

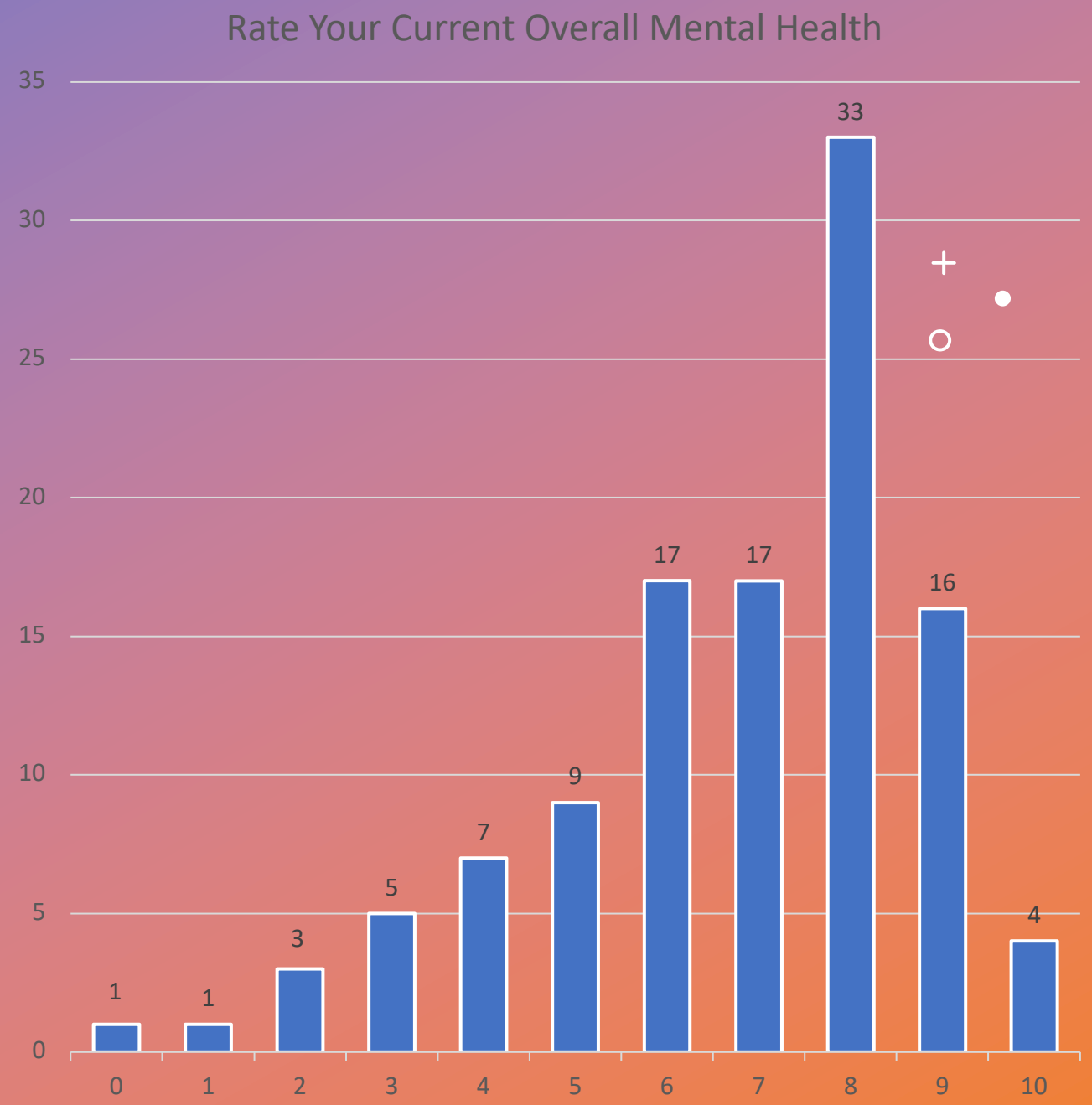
87% of respondents had a rice purity test score of at least 50.



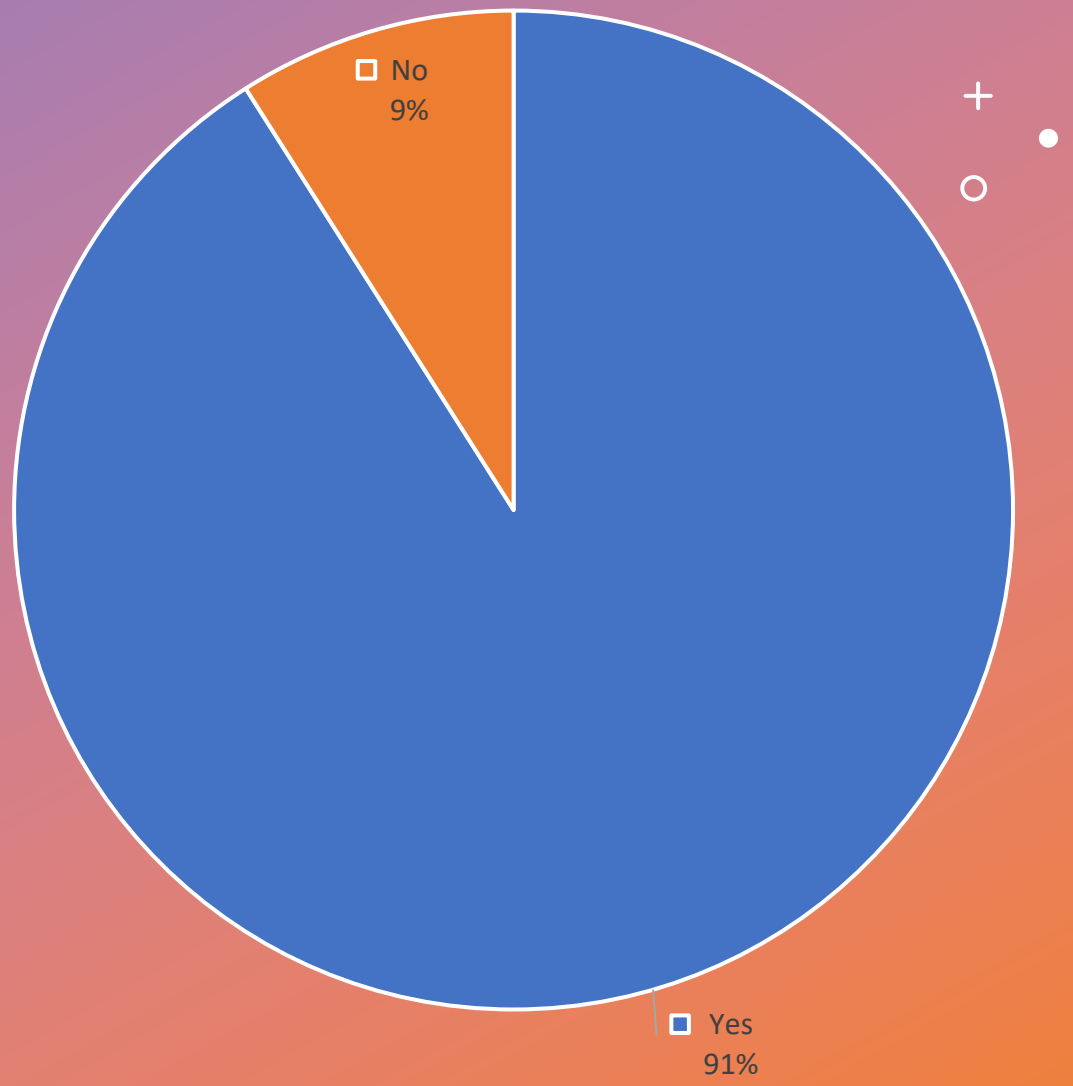
Rate Your Current Overall Mental Health

*10 is ”perfect” mental health, 0 is abysmal mental health

This survey was taken before the term had started, so most of us had probably not experienced much stress so far.



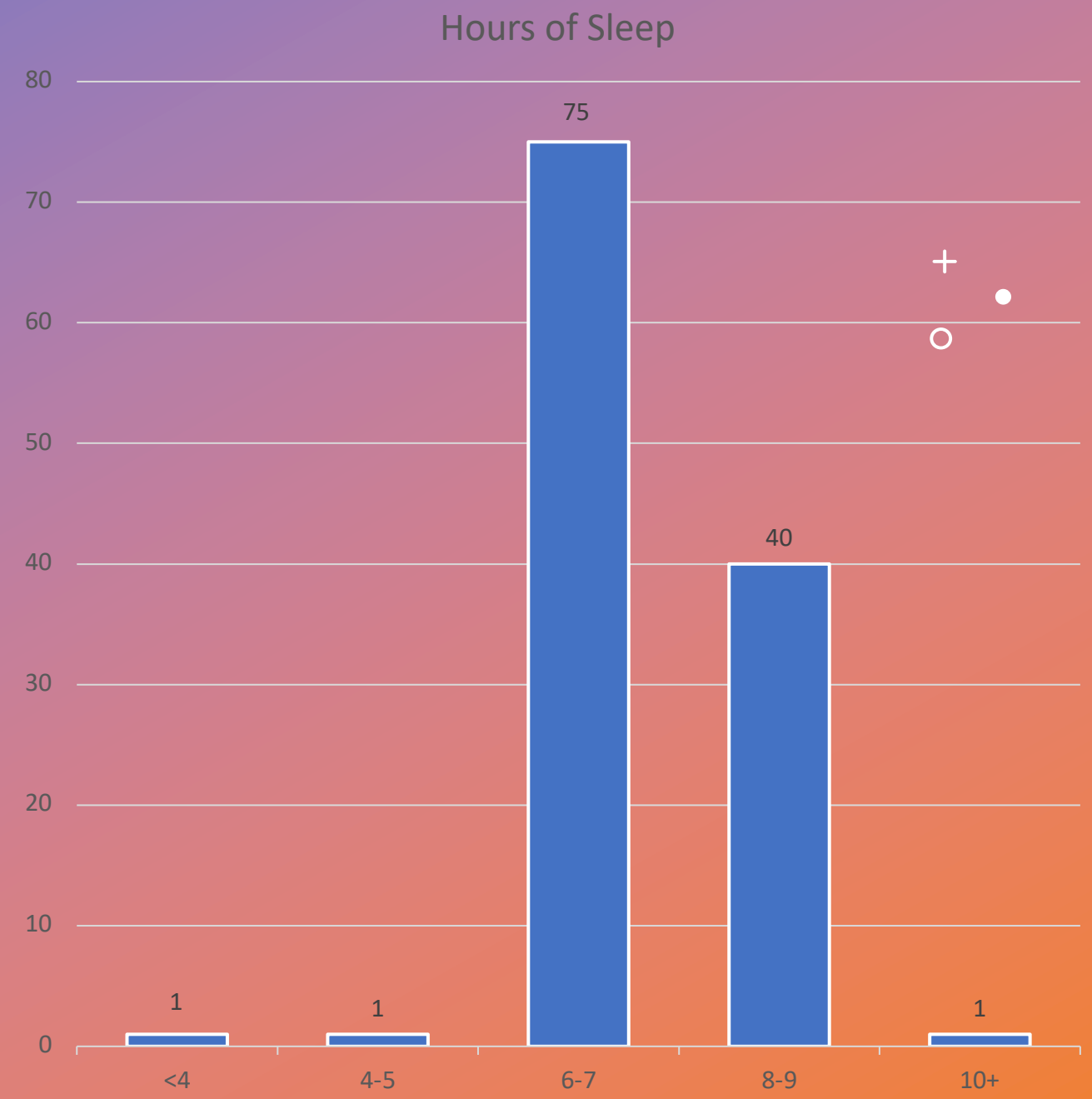
Have you been formally diagnosed with a mental disorder?



Hours of Sleep

*per night

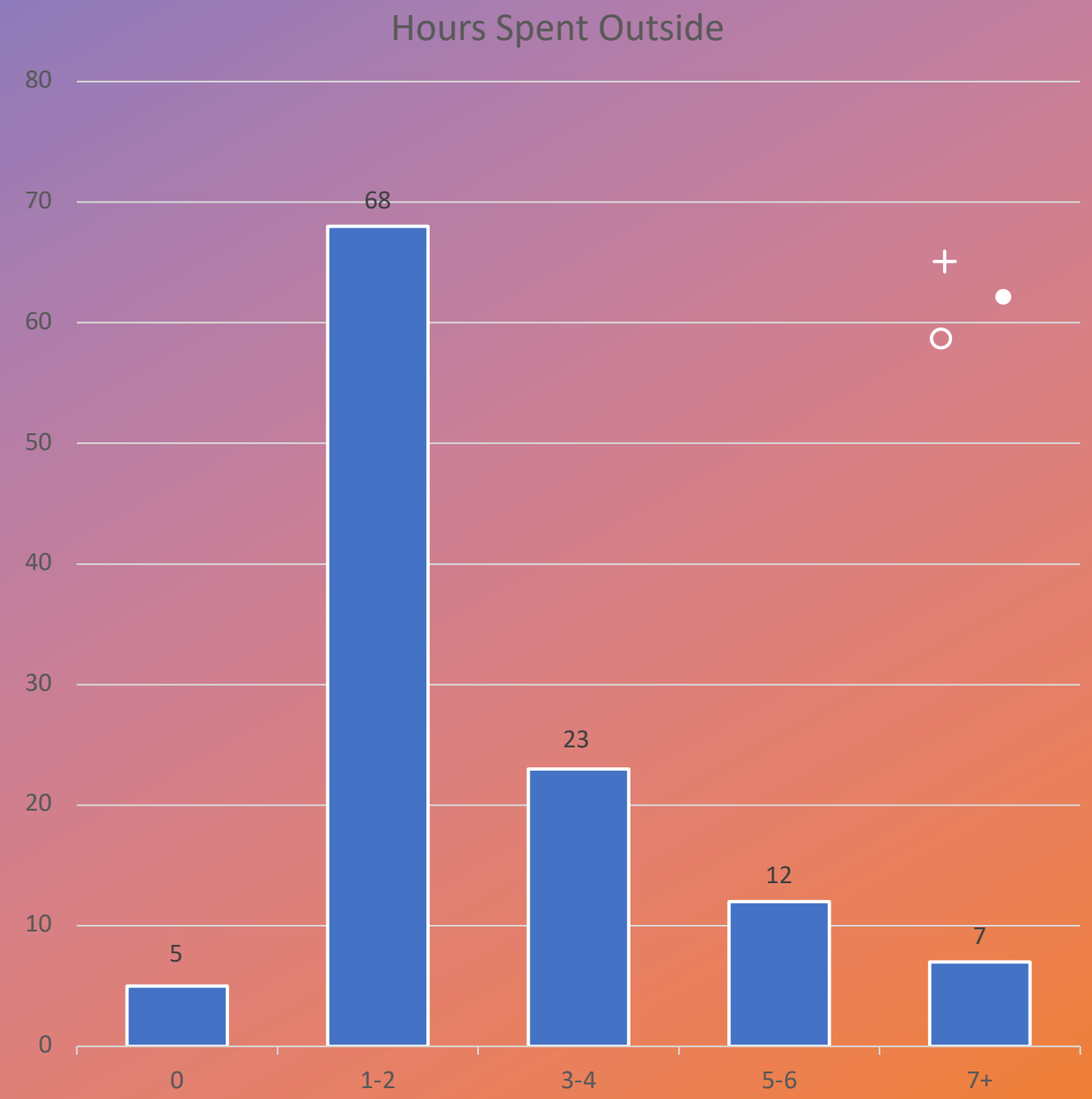
**This survey was taken before the 1A term started so most of us were still getting adequate sleep.



Hours Spent Outside

*per day

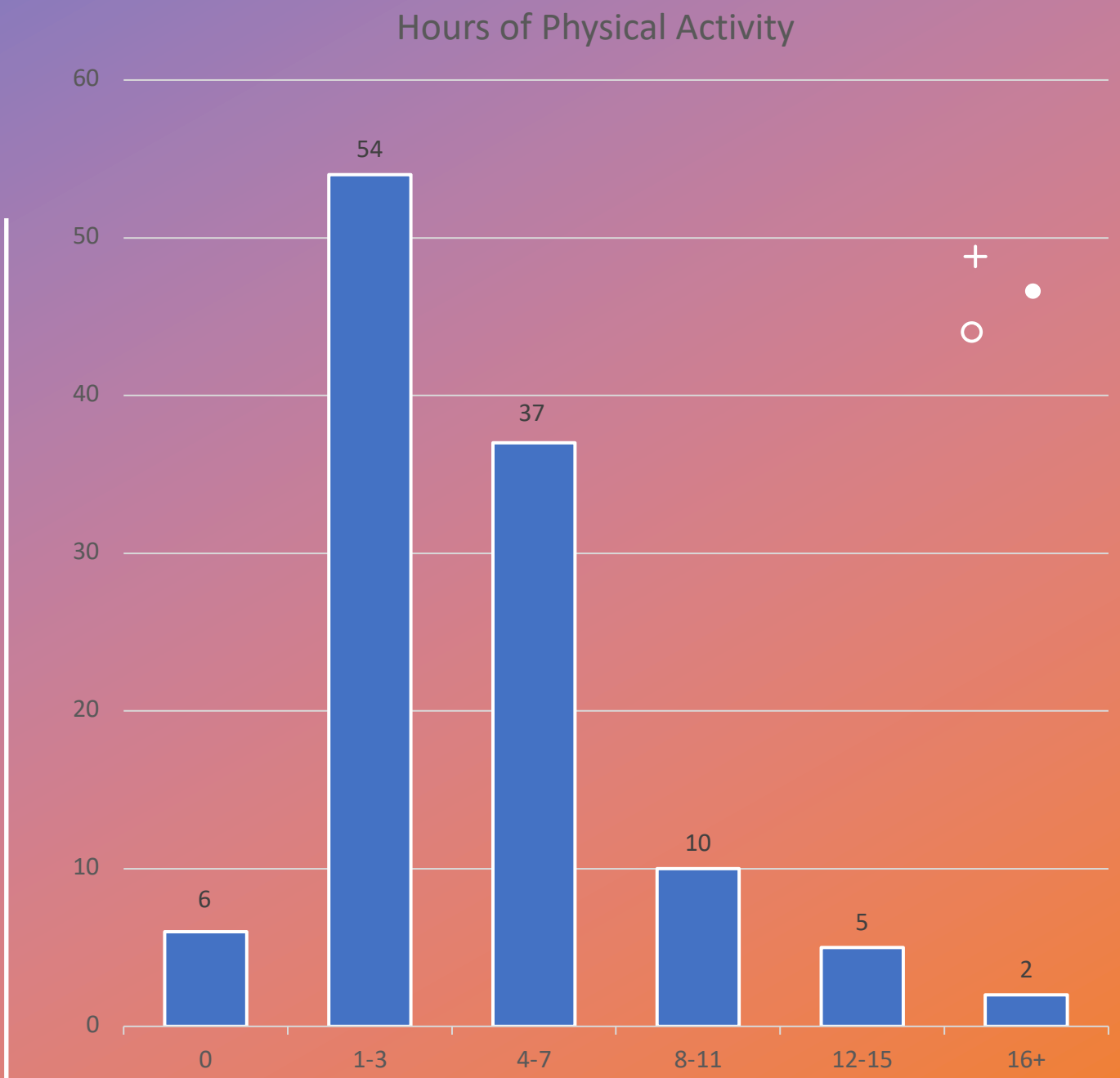
**This survey was taken before the 1A term started so most of us were probably spending more time outside since we didn't need to worry about assignments/tests.



Hours of Physical Activity

*per week

**This survey was taken before the 1A term started so most of us were probably spending more time doing physical activities.



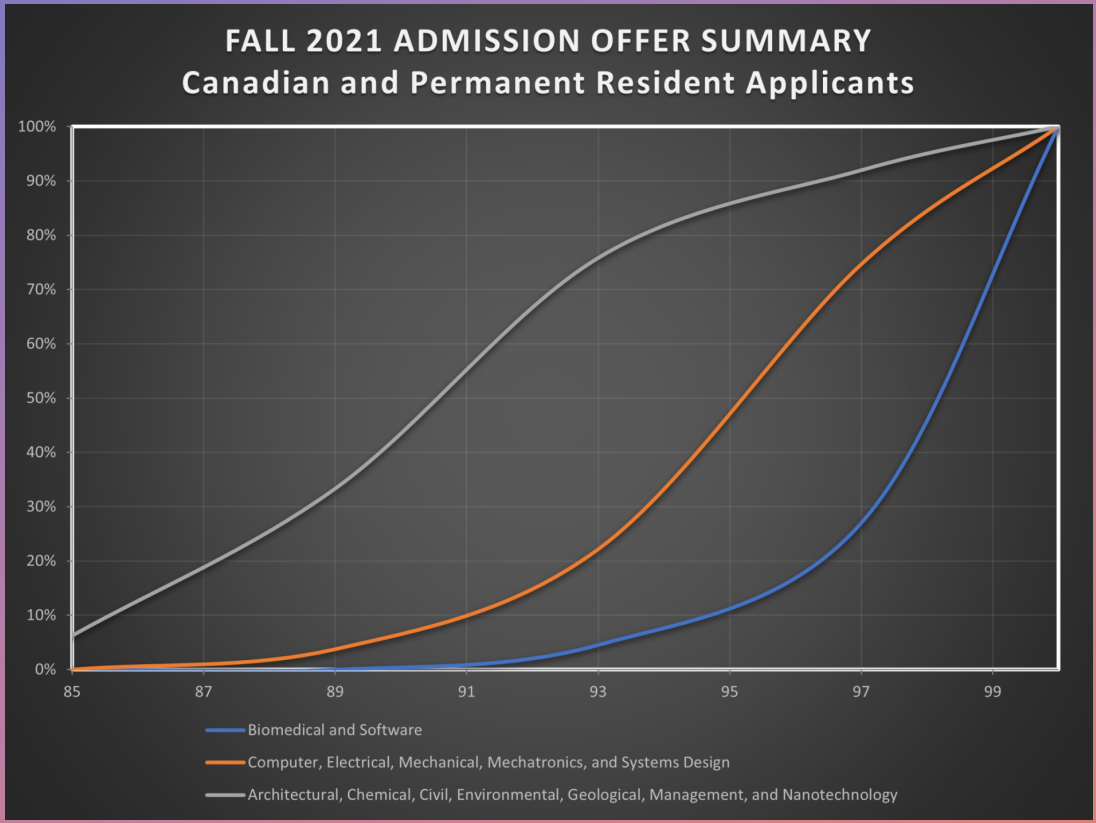
Favourite Hobbies / Ways to Relax

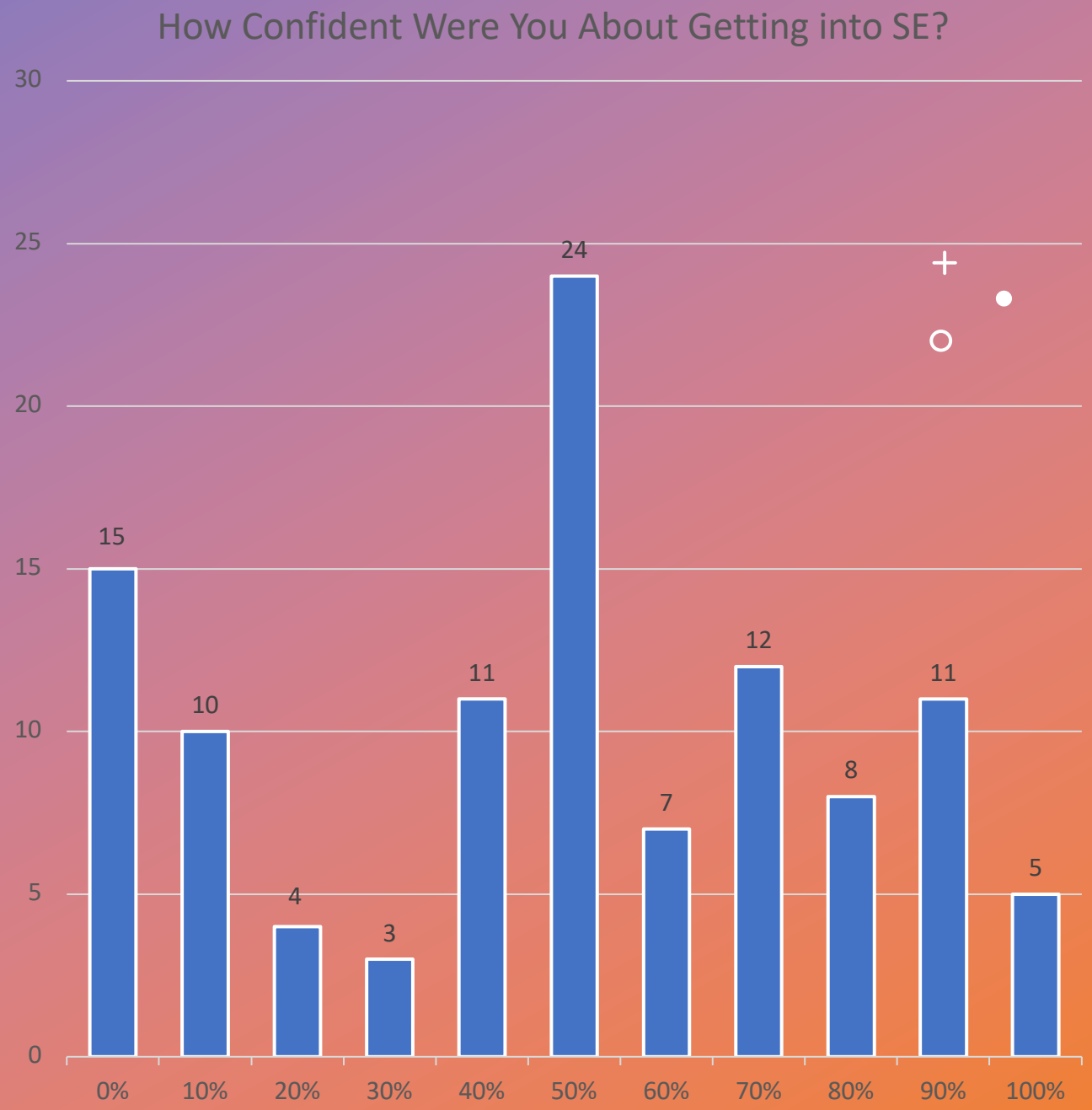
Miscellaneous

How Confident Were You About Getting into SE?

*In the chart, the x-axis labels represent the range of values from [x, x+10)

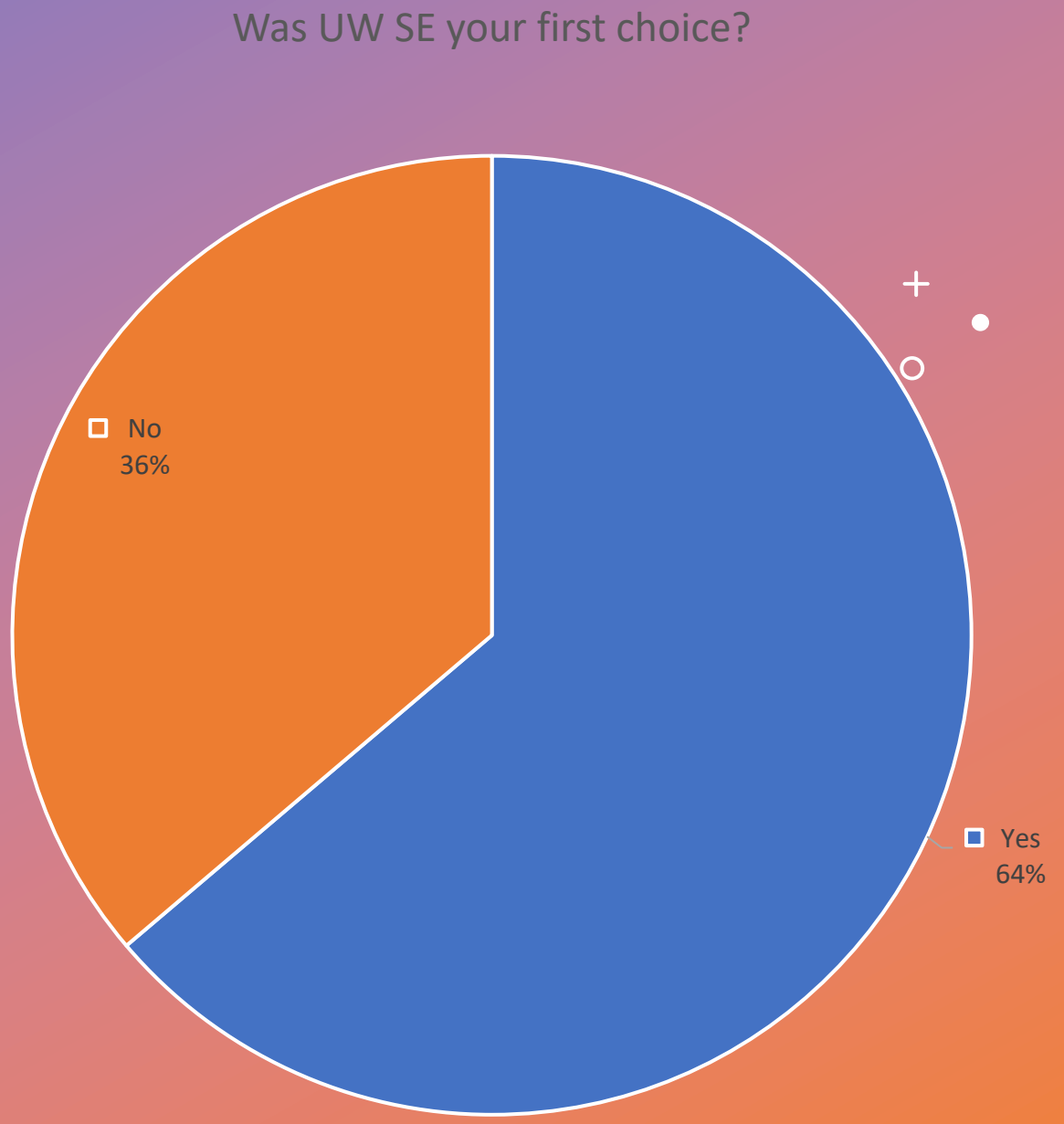
According to the chart below, either many of us were overconfident or we had amazing AIF.





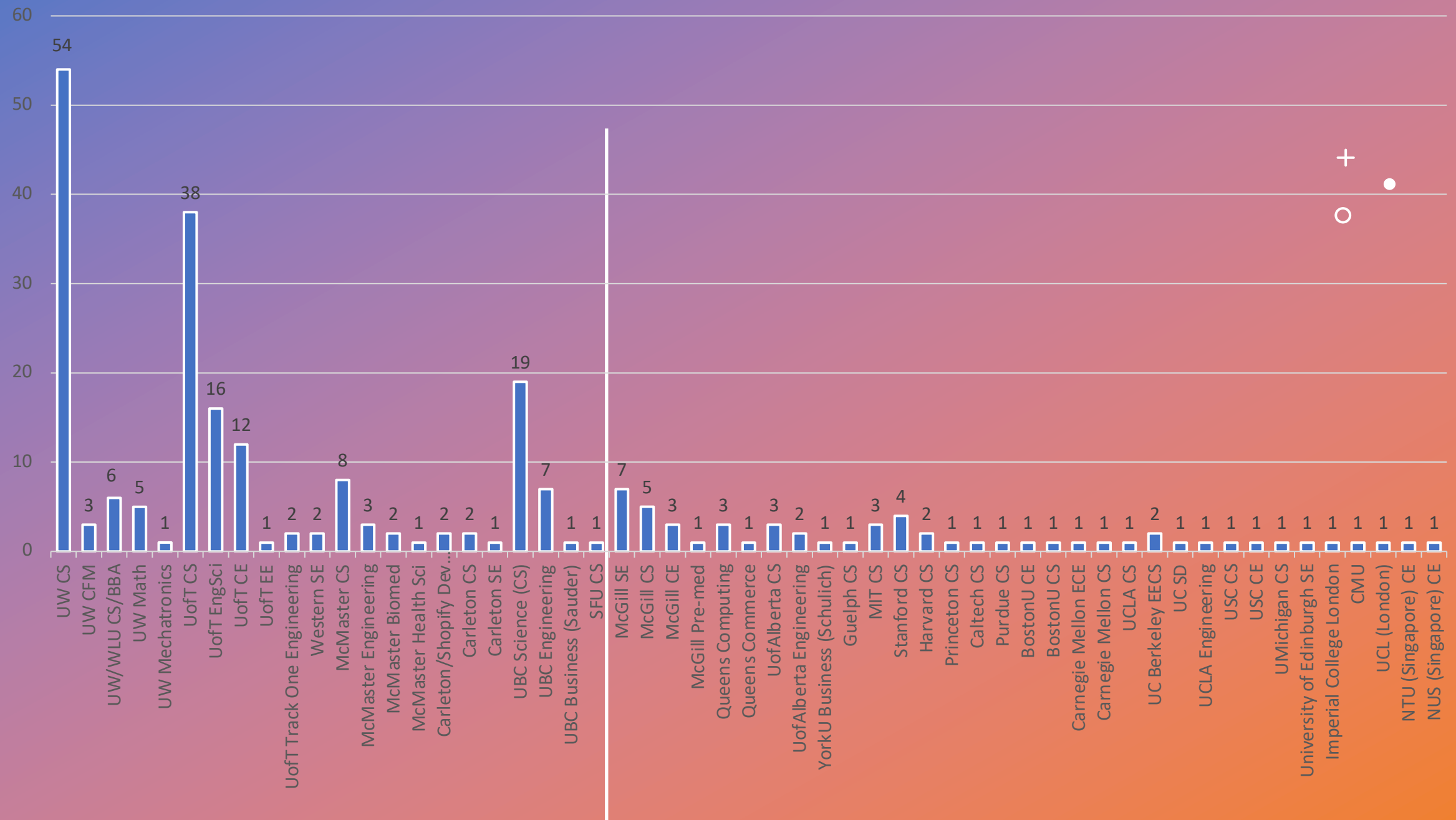
Was UW SE your first choice?

On the next slide, you'll see that most people were also considering UW CS, UofT CS/Engineering, UBC CS/Engineering and many universities in the USA.

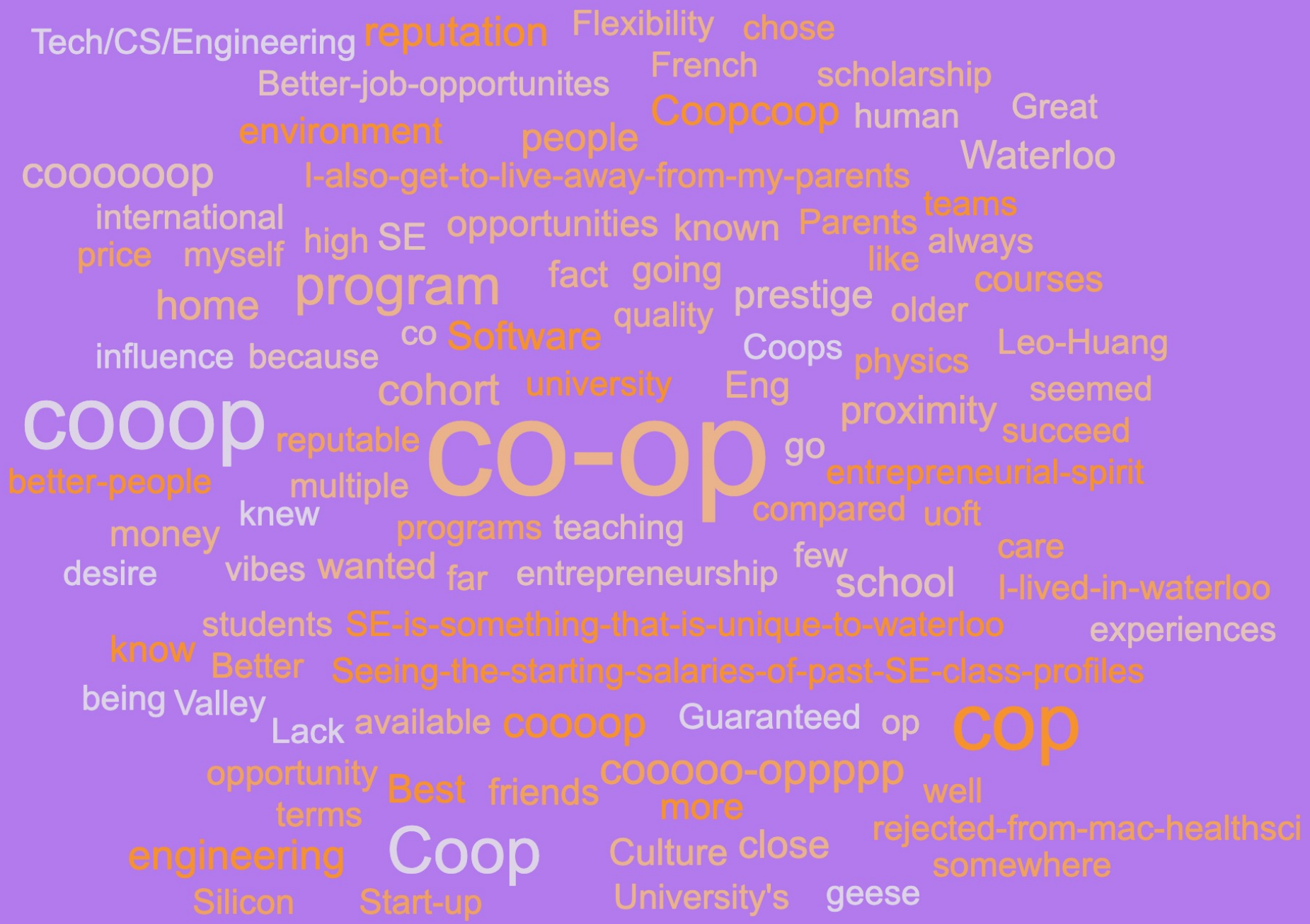


What other university programs were you considering?

*All UofT campuses were treated as one.

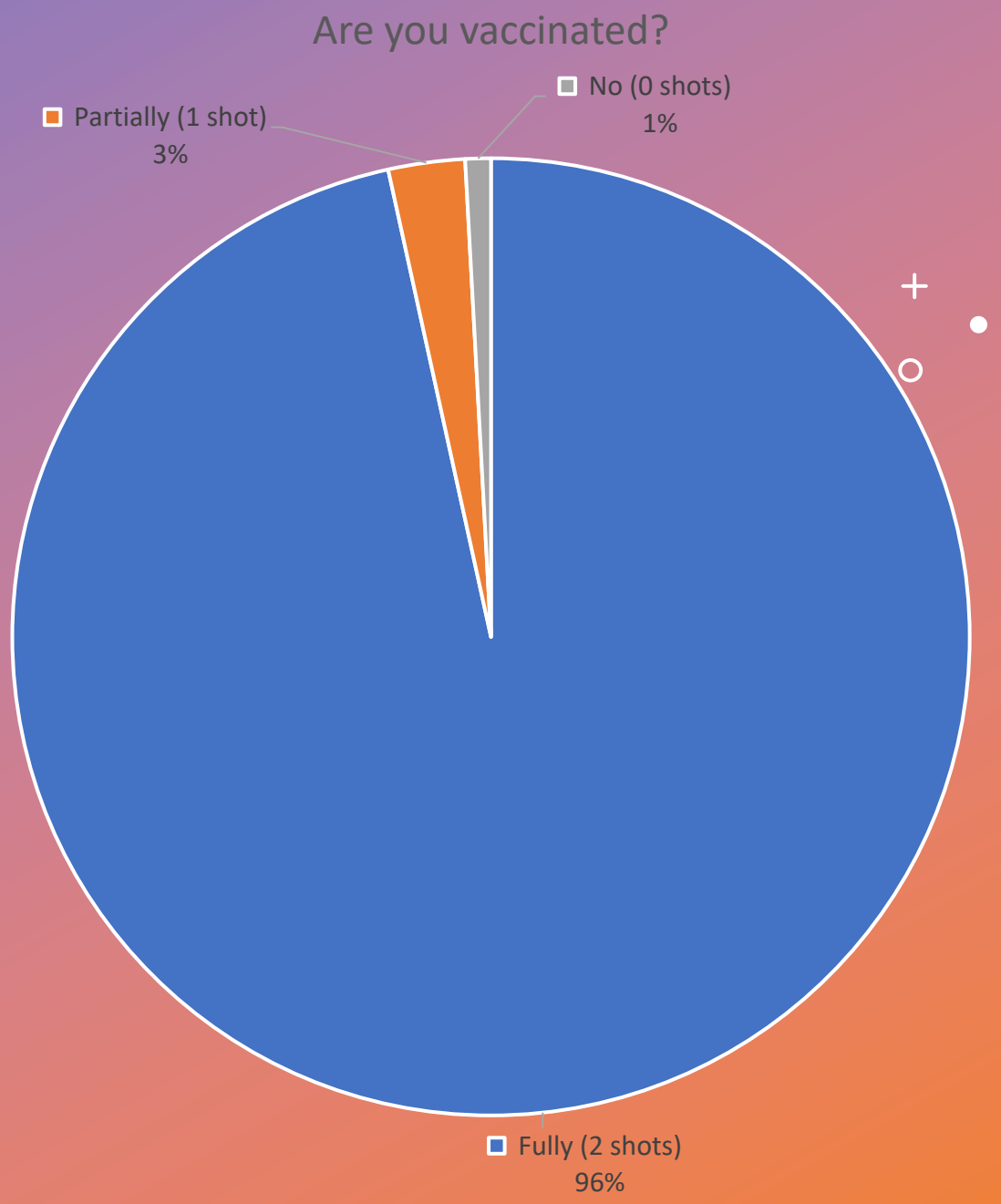


What made you choose Waterloo SE? Co-op!



Are you vaccinated?

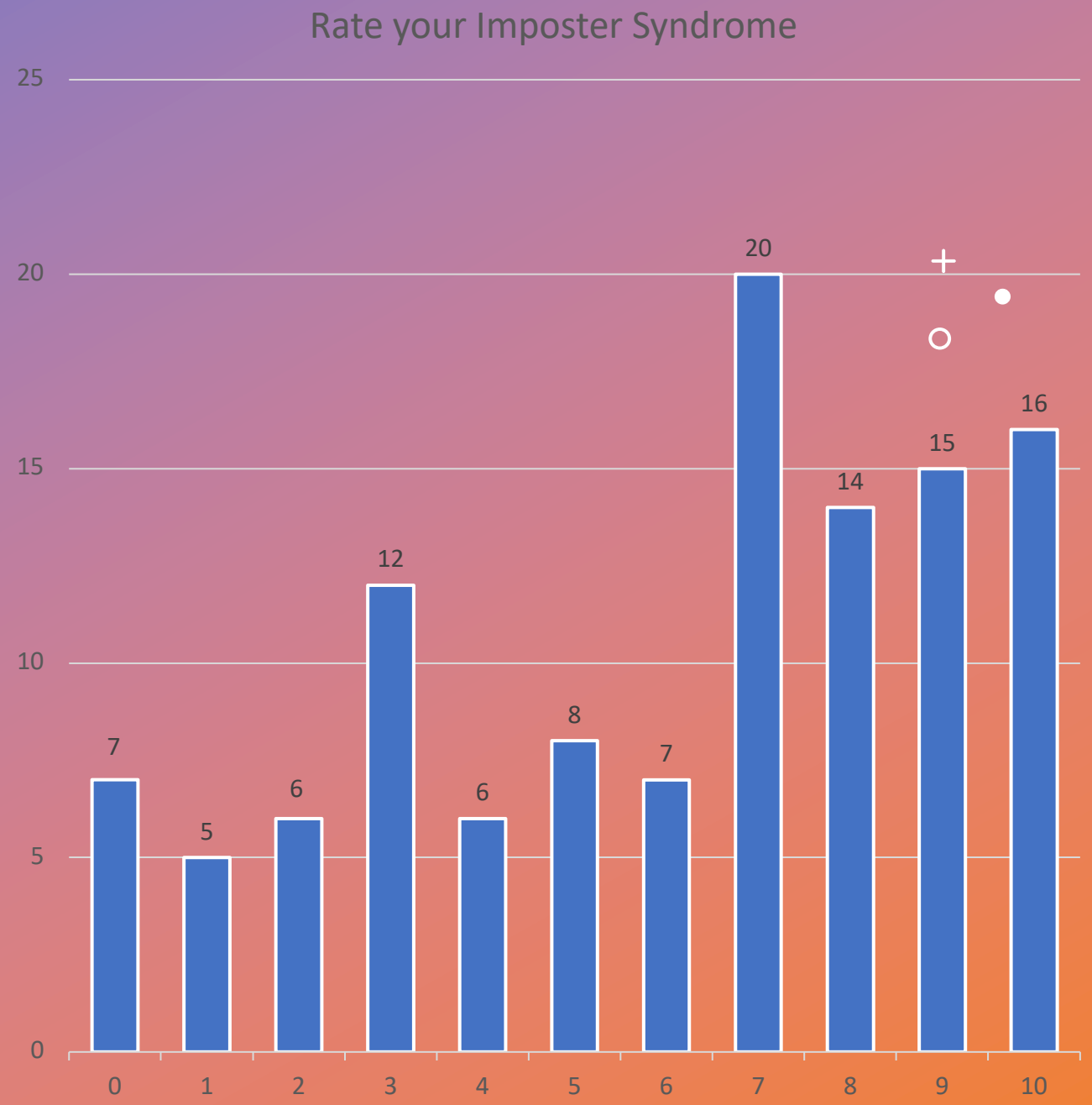
It was good to see that nearly our entire class was fully vaccinated against COVID-19.



Rate your Imposter Syndrome

*10 is extremely high imposter syndrome, 0 is non-existent imposter syndrome

Although our high school admission averages were almost all in the high 90s, imposter syndrome prevailed.



Thanks!

Thank you for reading the UW SE 26 Class Profile [Background Edition].

We plan to release one of these for each term.

Contact Us

Have questions? Send us a message.

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