

# UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

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CLASS OF 2026

BACKGROUND INFO CLASS PROFILE

# 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
- Ekanshh Praveen
- Jonathan Ge

# Contents

[Demographics](#)

[Academics](#)

[Housing](#)

[Lifestyle](#)

[Miscellaneous](#)

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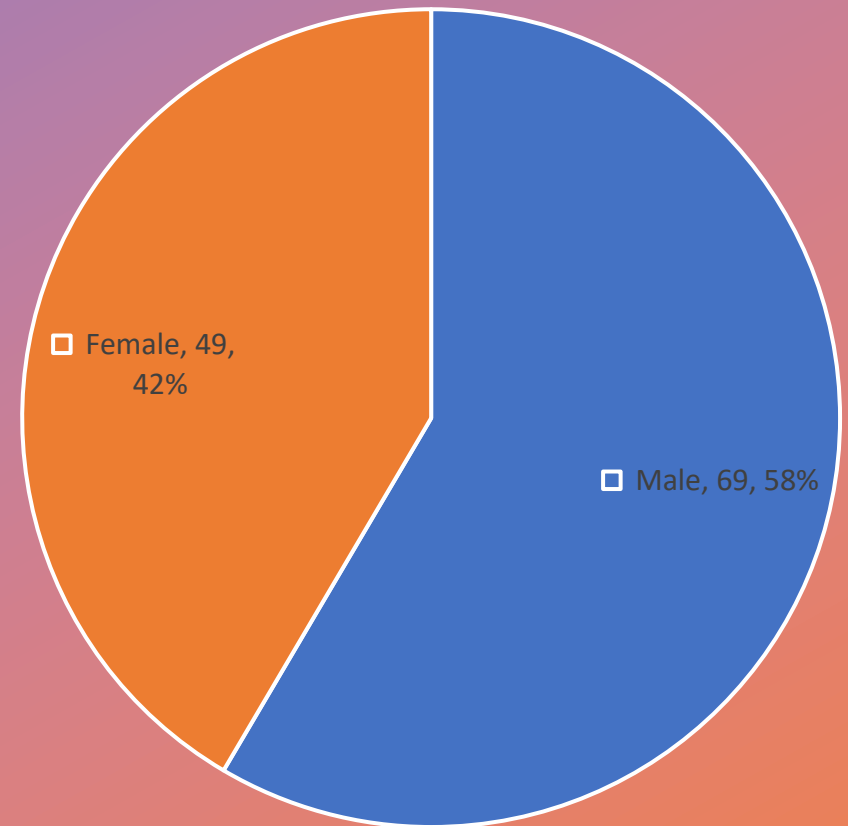


# Demographics

# Gender

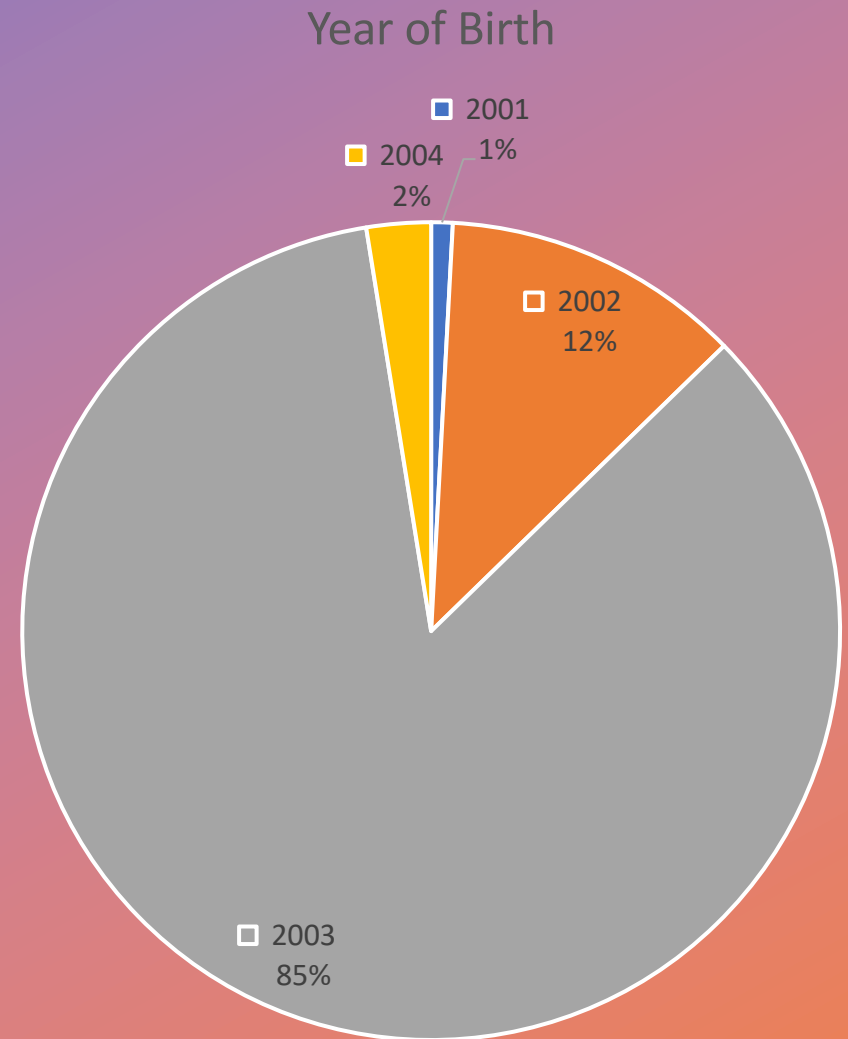
This was the most gender-diverse SE cohort ever!

Gender



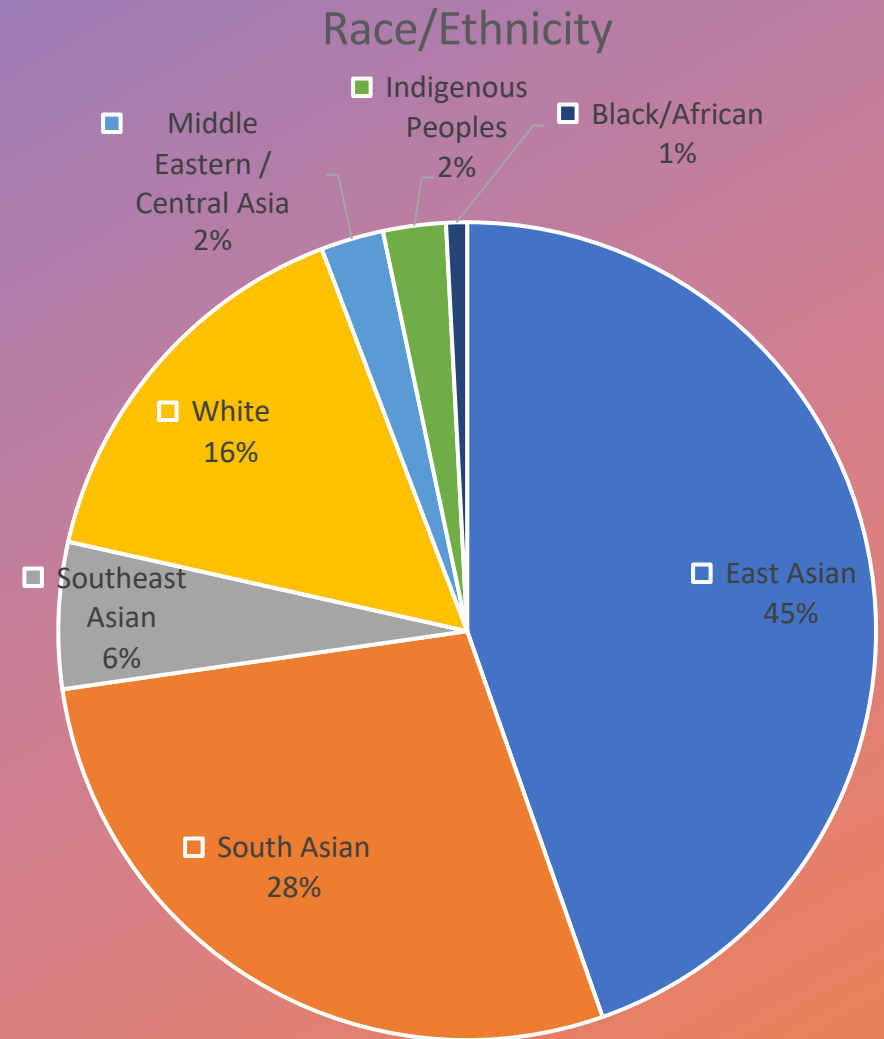
# Year of Birth

85% of respondents were born in 2003.



# Race/Ethnicity

79% of people were Asian.

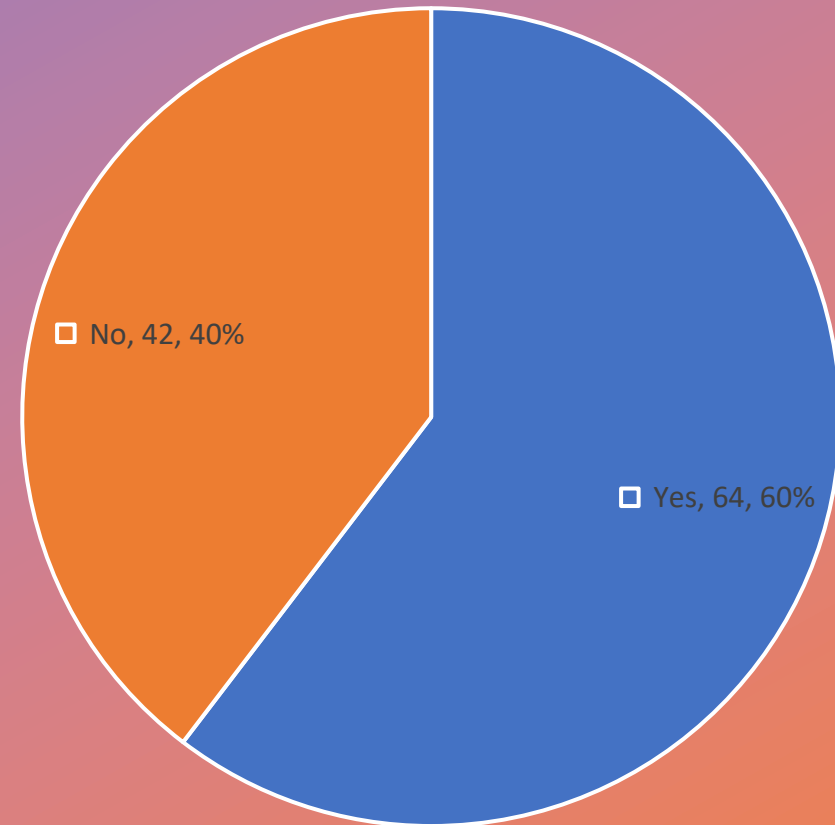




# Visible Minority

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

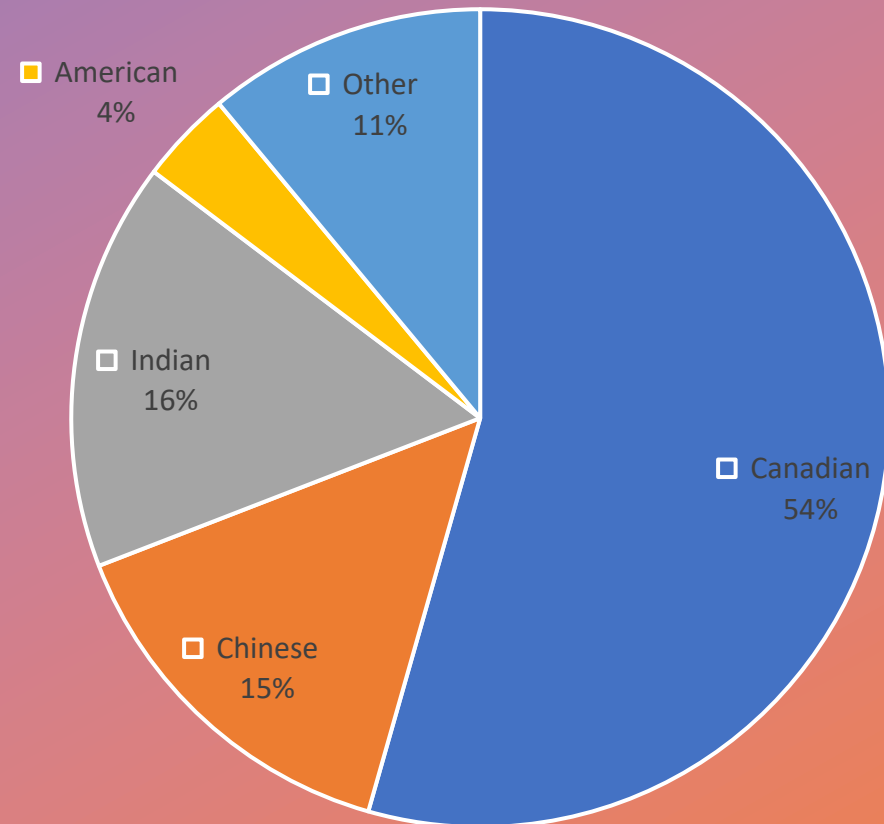
Visible Minority?



# Nationality

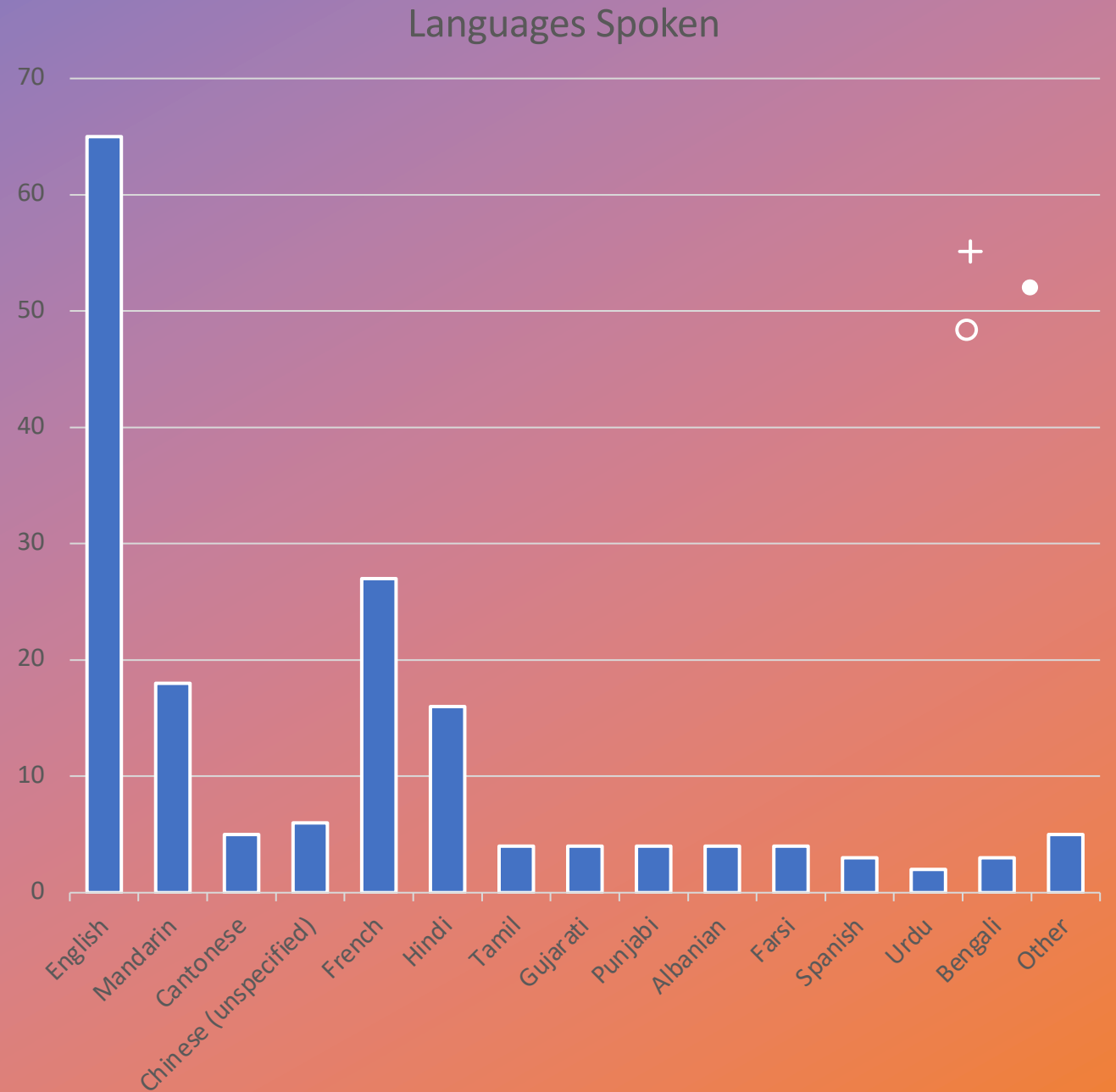
\*Survey respondents were allowed to select multiple options, but dual-responses were rare

Nationality/Citizenship



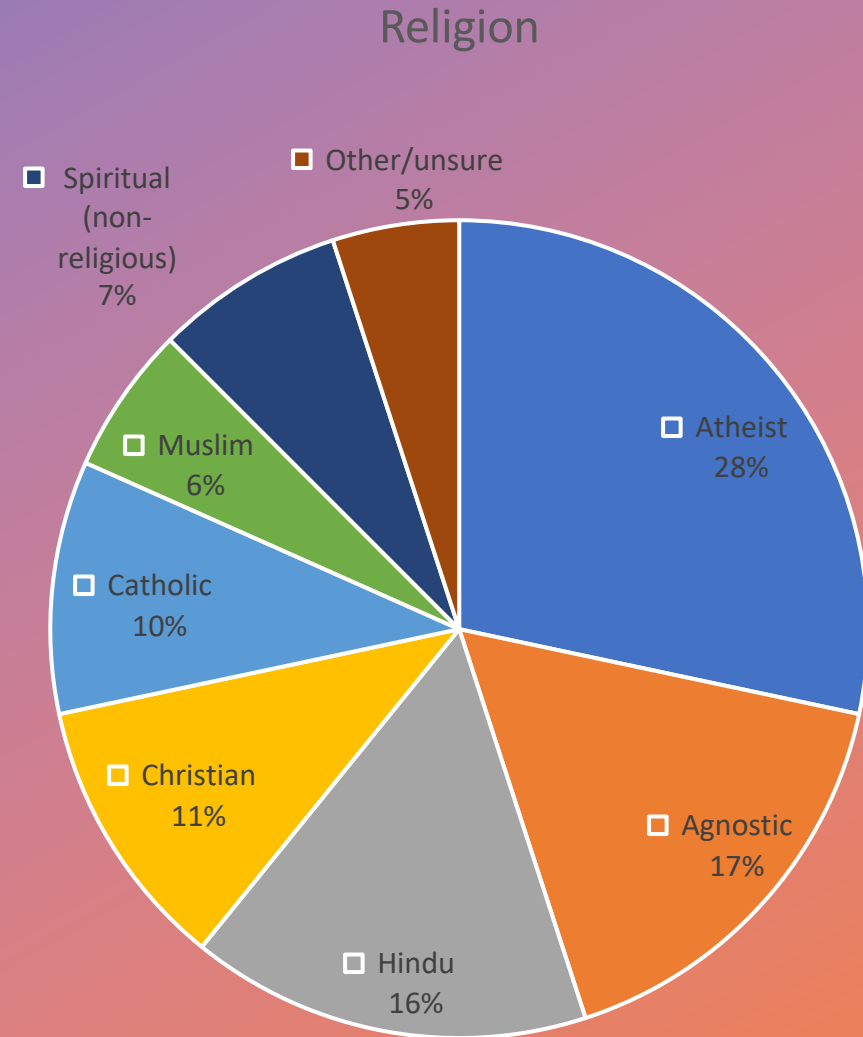
# Languages Spoken

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



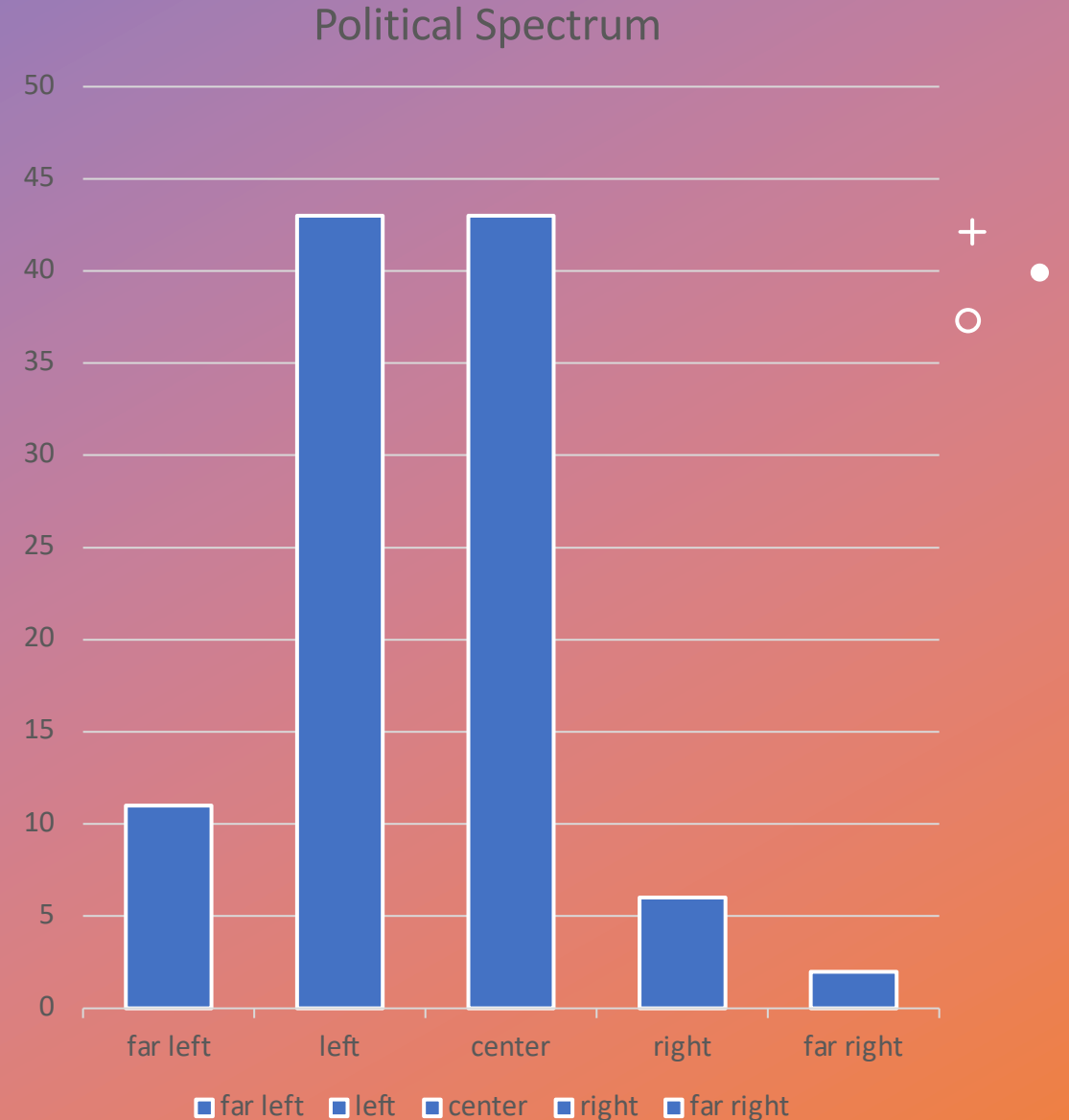
# Religion

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

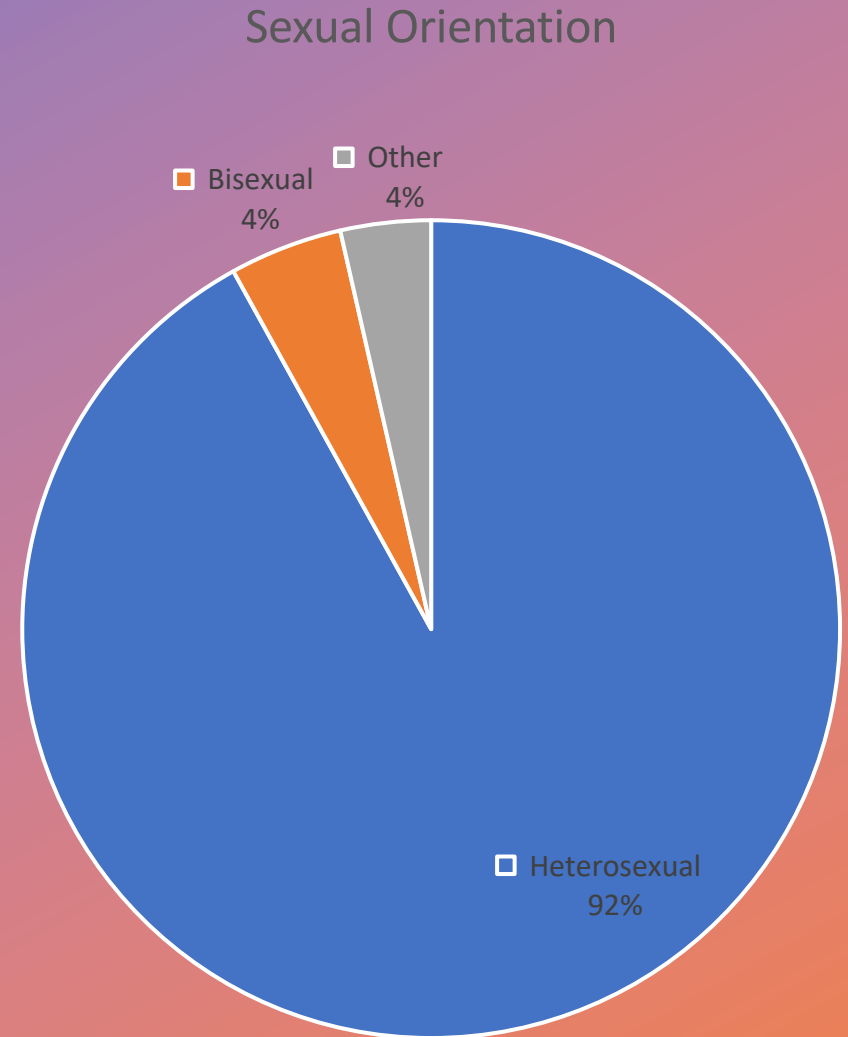


# Political Spectrum

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



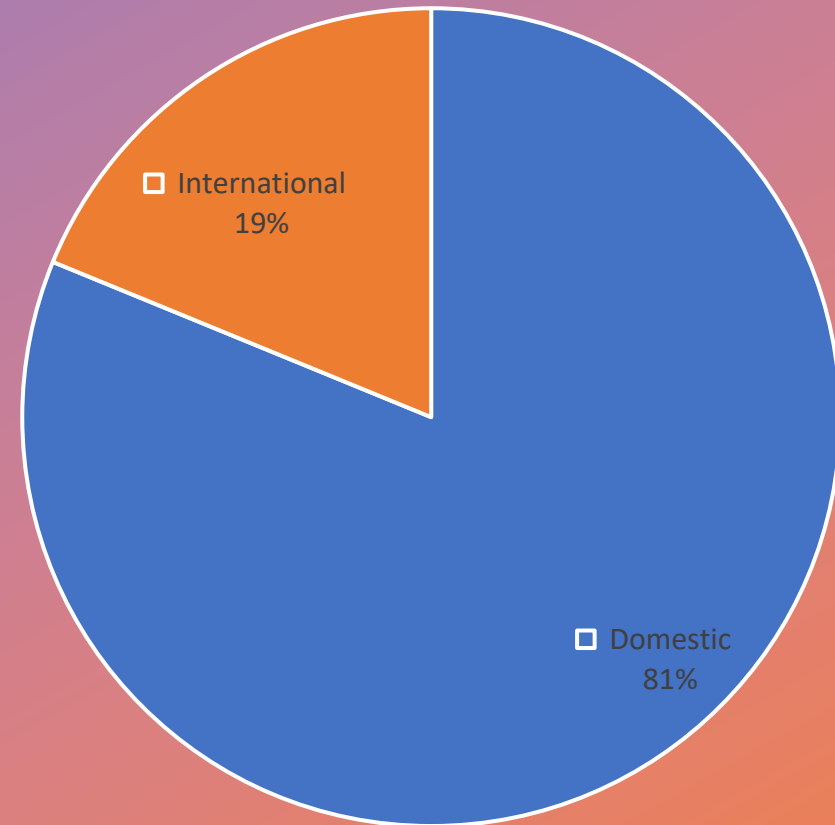
# Sexual Orientation



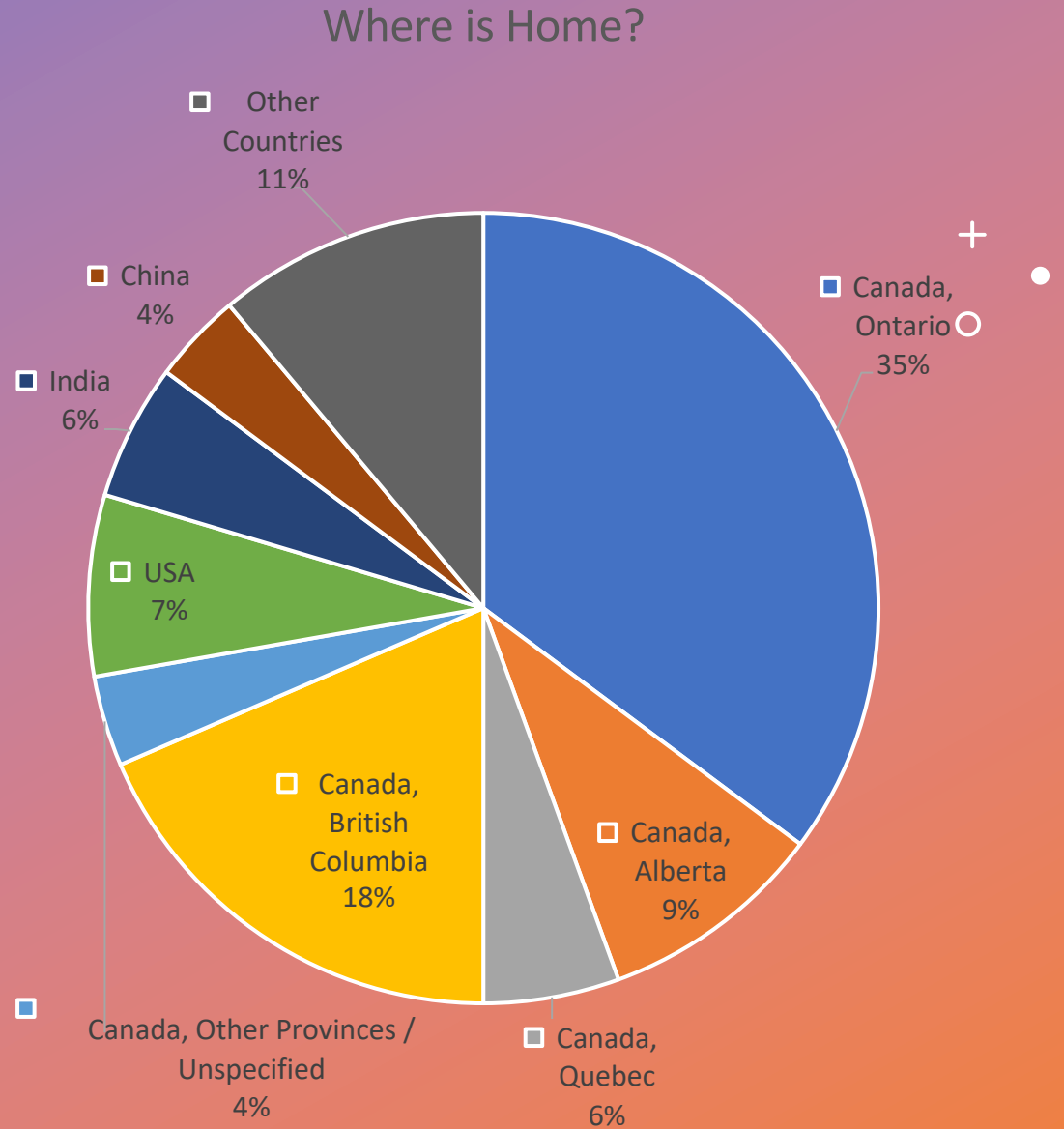
# International or Domestic?

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.

International or Domestic?



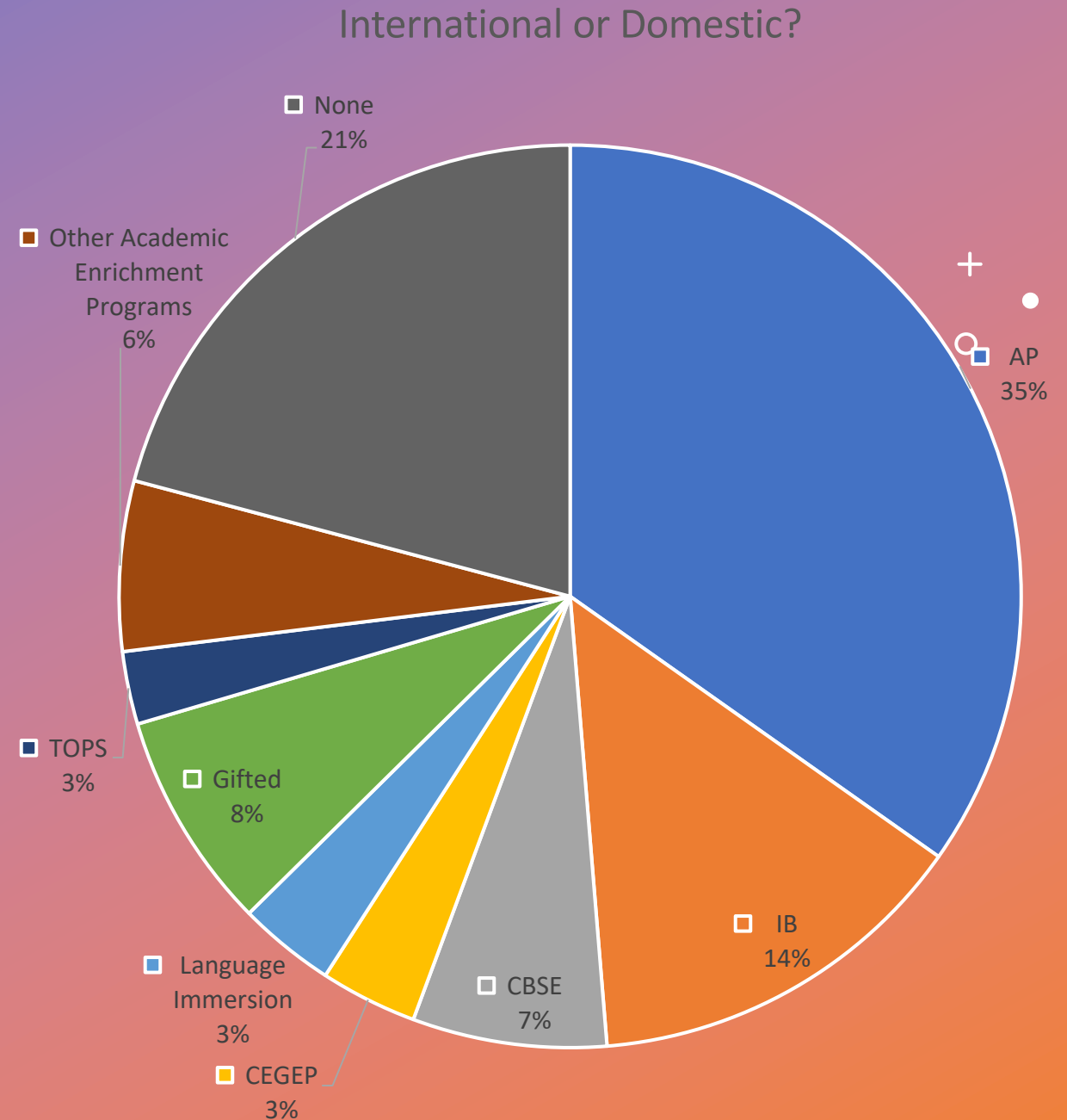
# Where is Home?



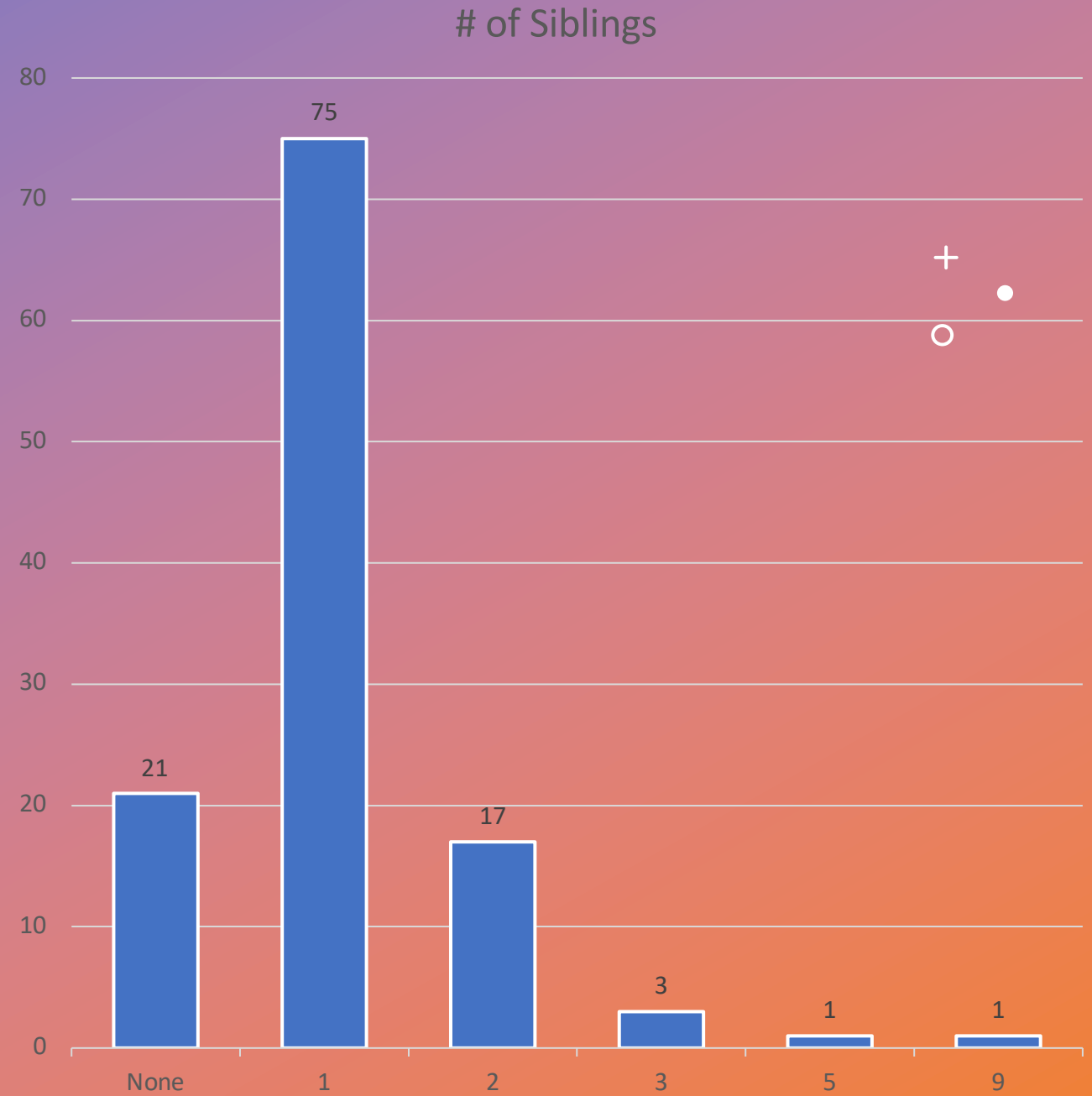


# Academic Enrichment Programs

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



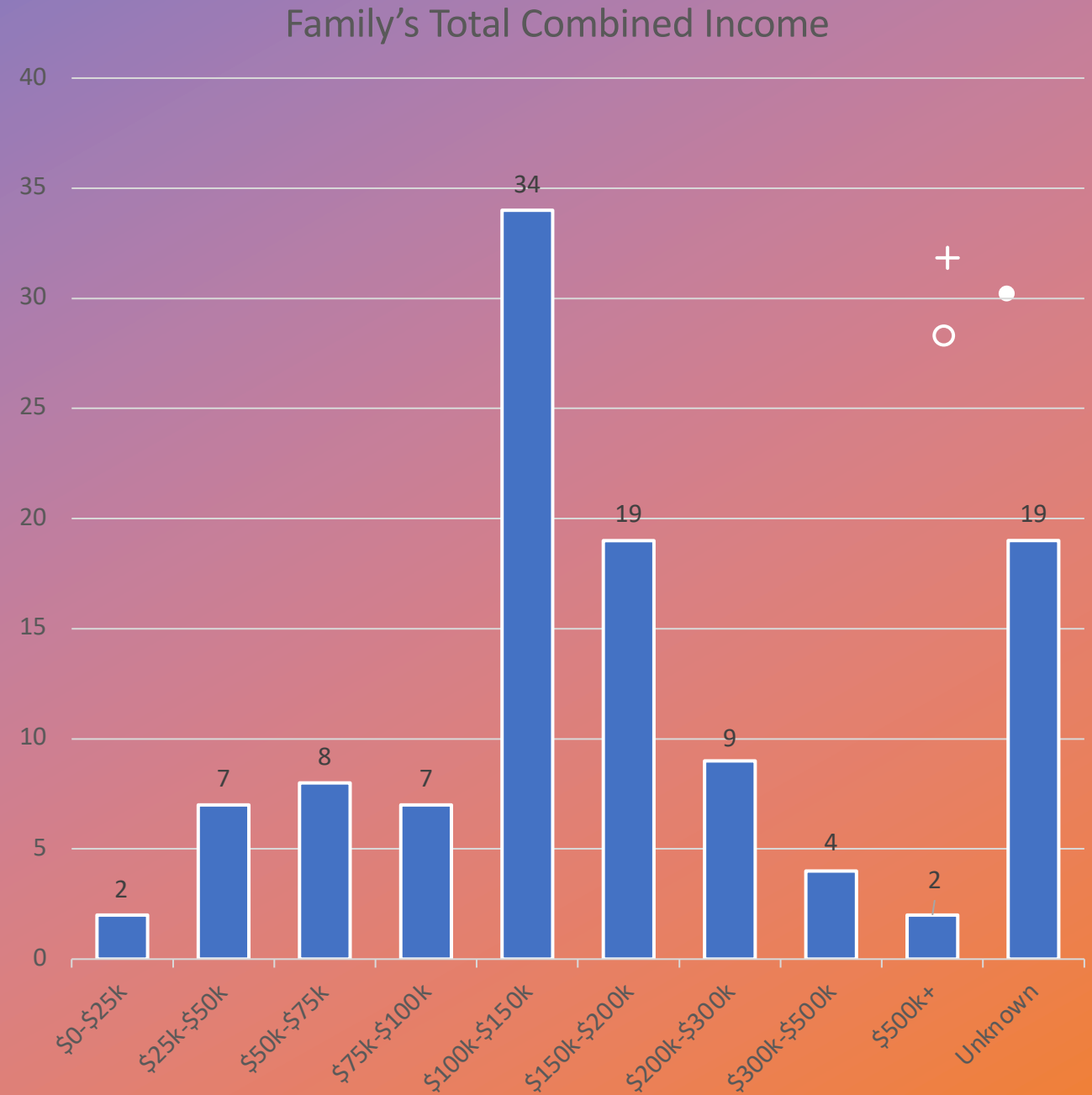
# # of Siblings



# 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.

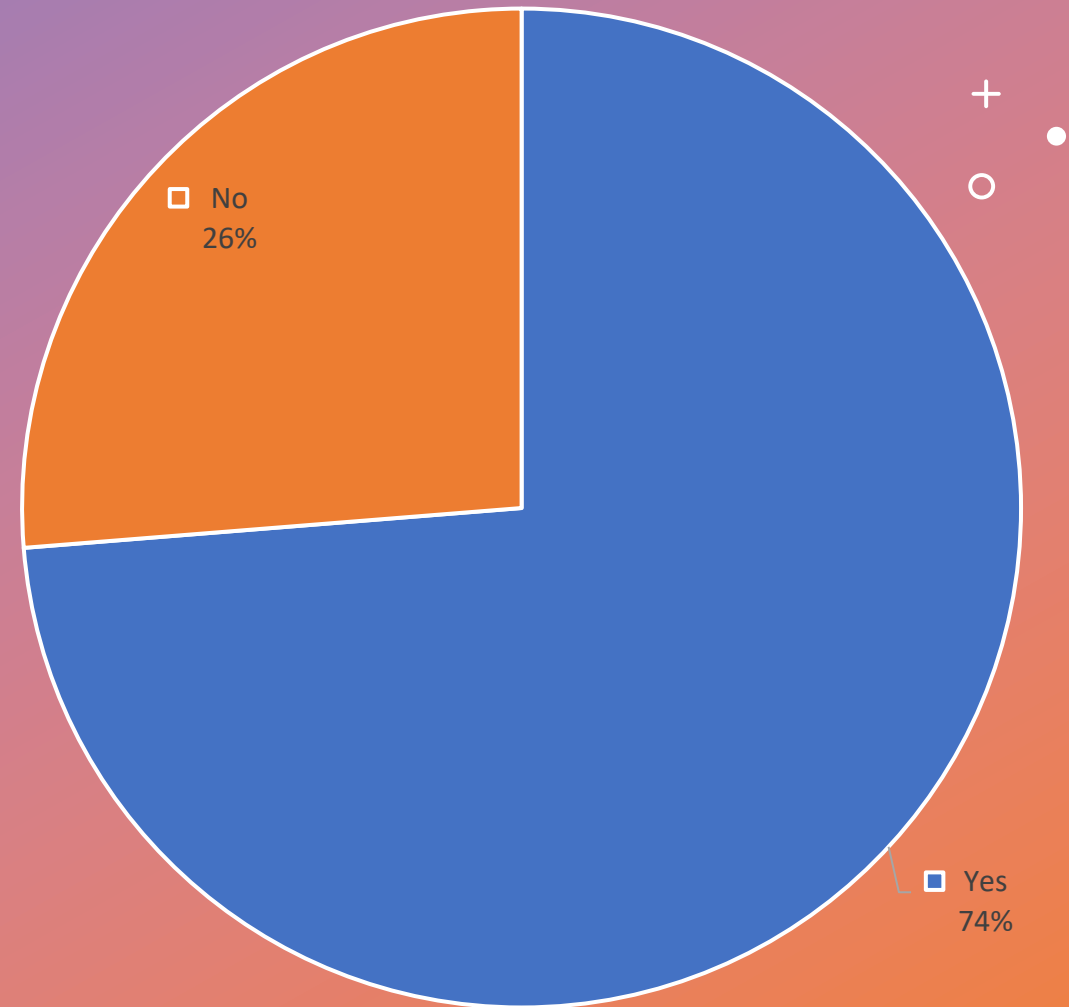
Source: Statistics Canada



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

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

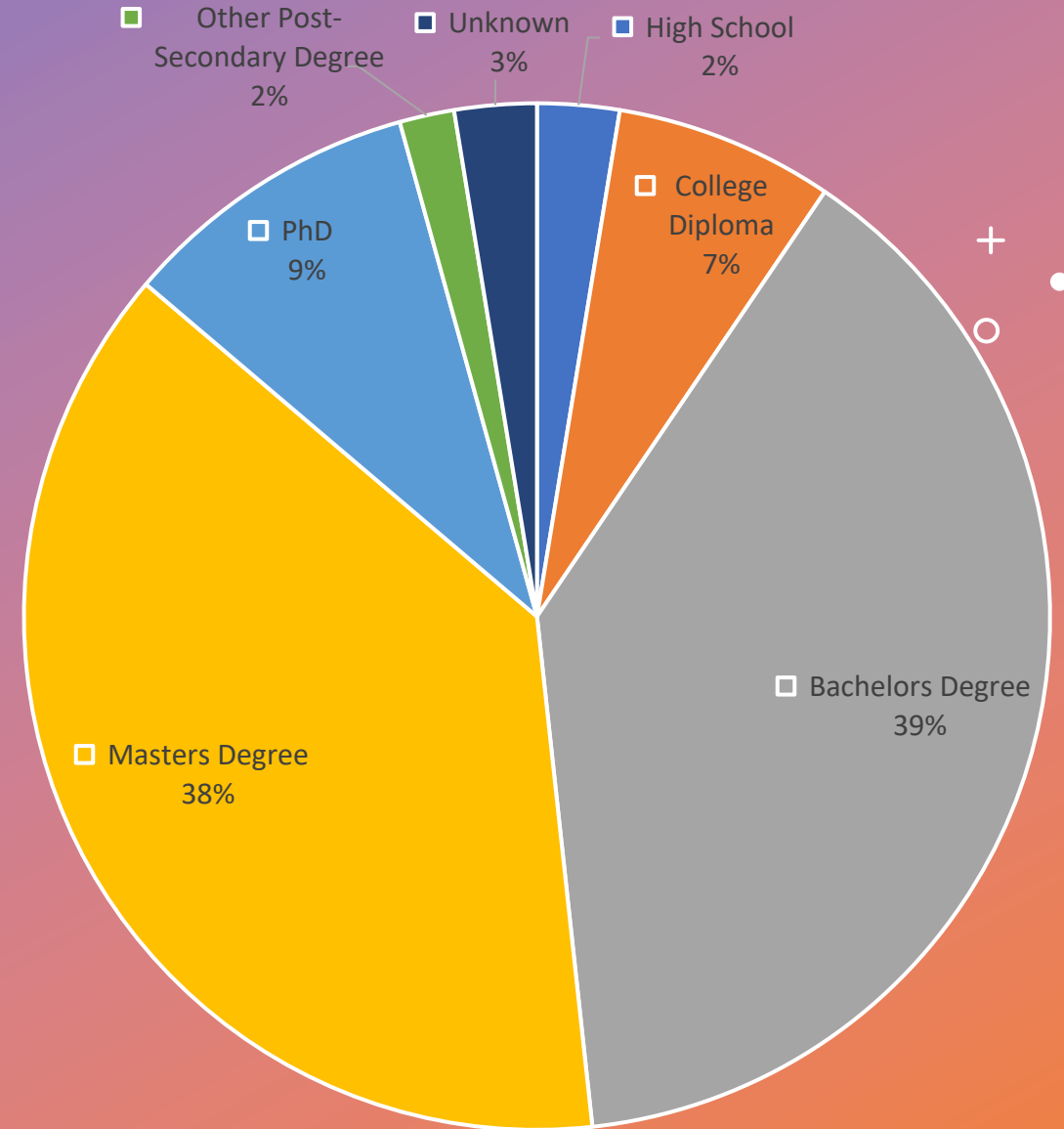
Is at least one of your parents/guardians a Canadian immigrant?



# Parent/Guardian Highest Achieved Education Level

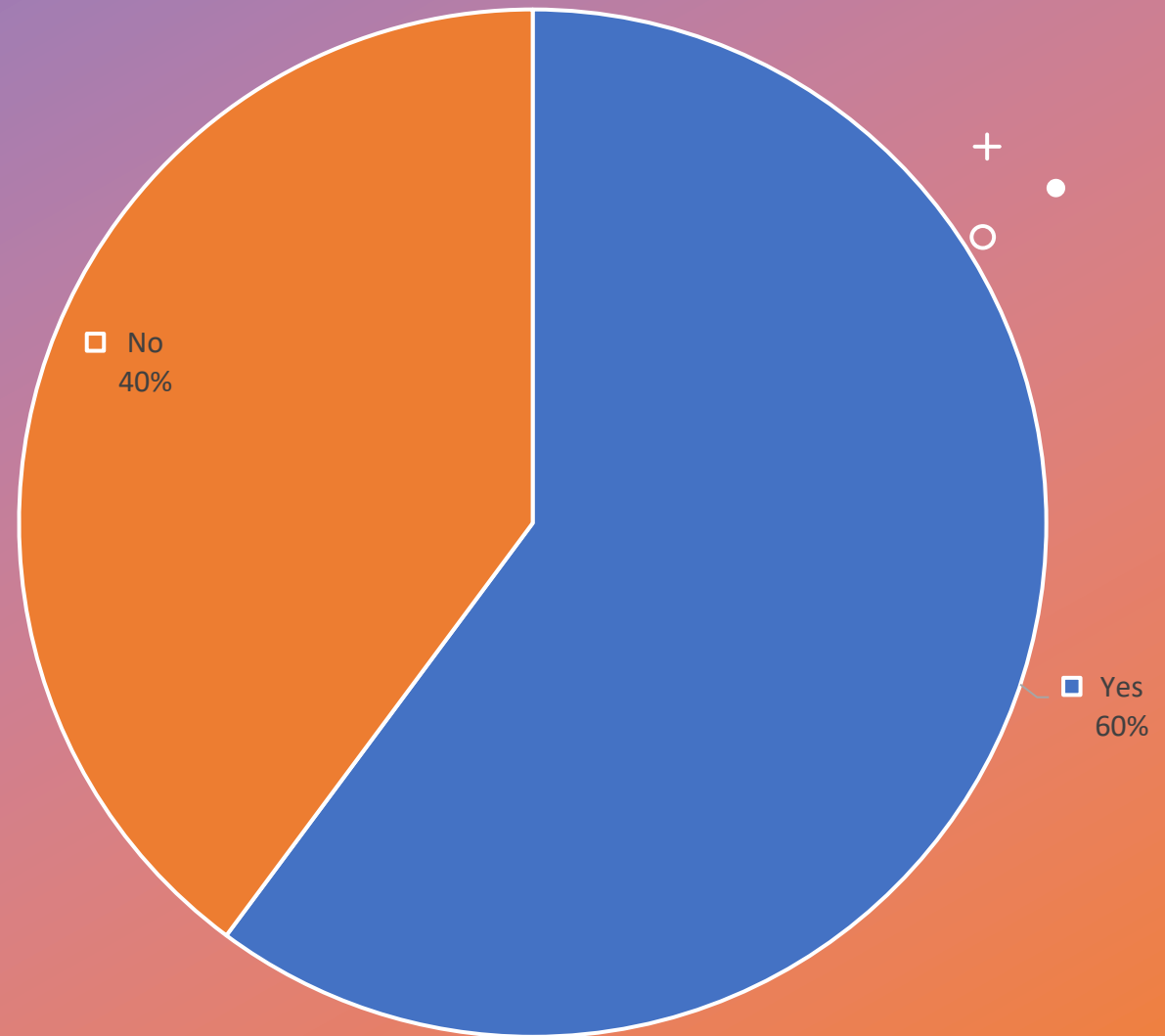
Survey results are fairly consistent with previous SE cohorts.

Parent/Guardian Highest Achieved Education Level



# Parent/Guardian Working in STEM?

Parent/Guardian Working in STEM?



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Academics



# High School Admission Average

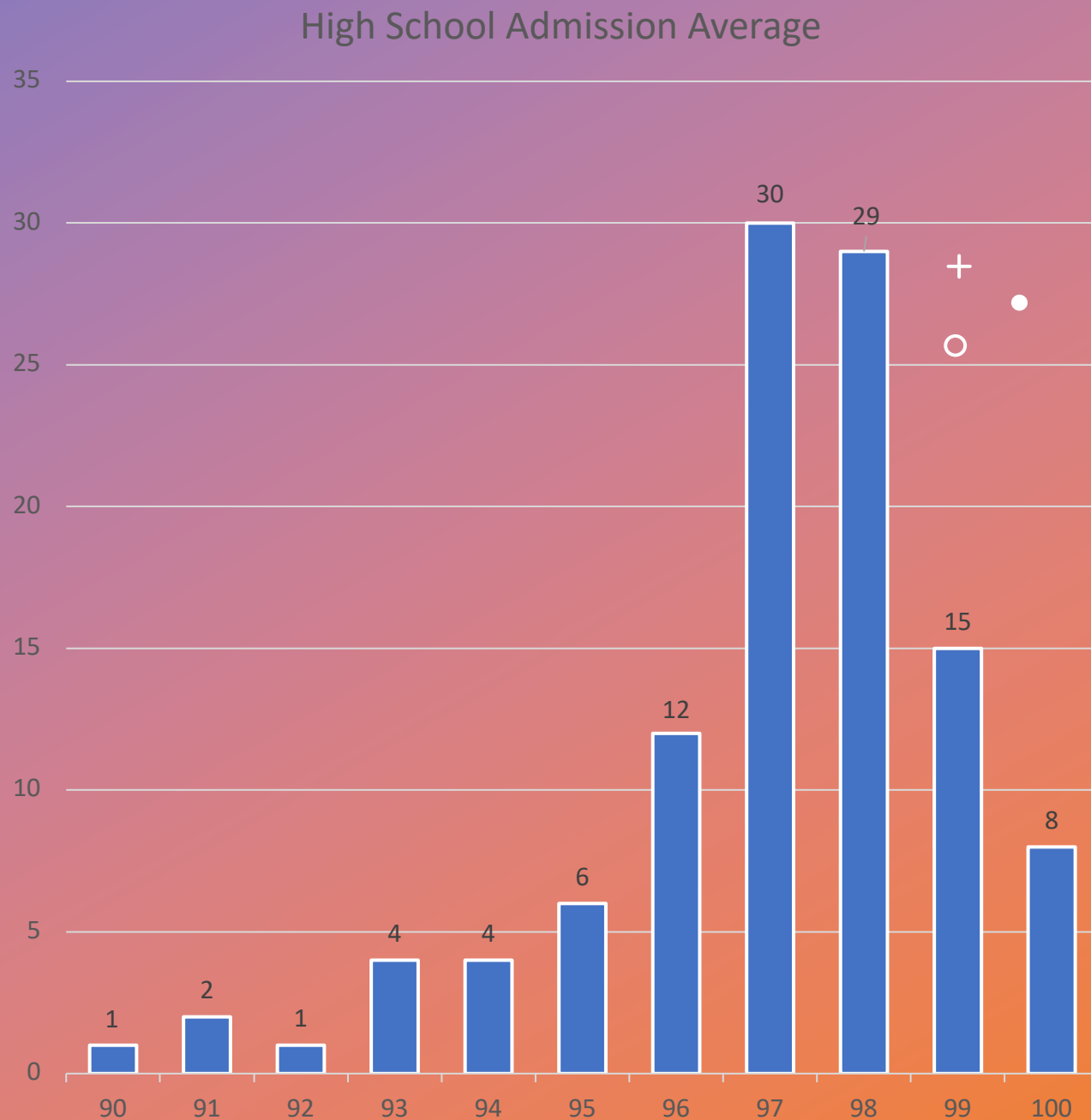
\*Responses were rounded to 1 decimal place

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

Average: 97.4%

Median: 97.8%

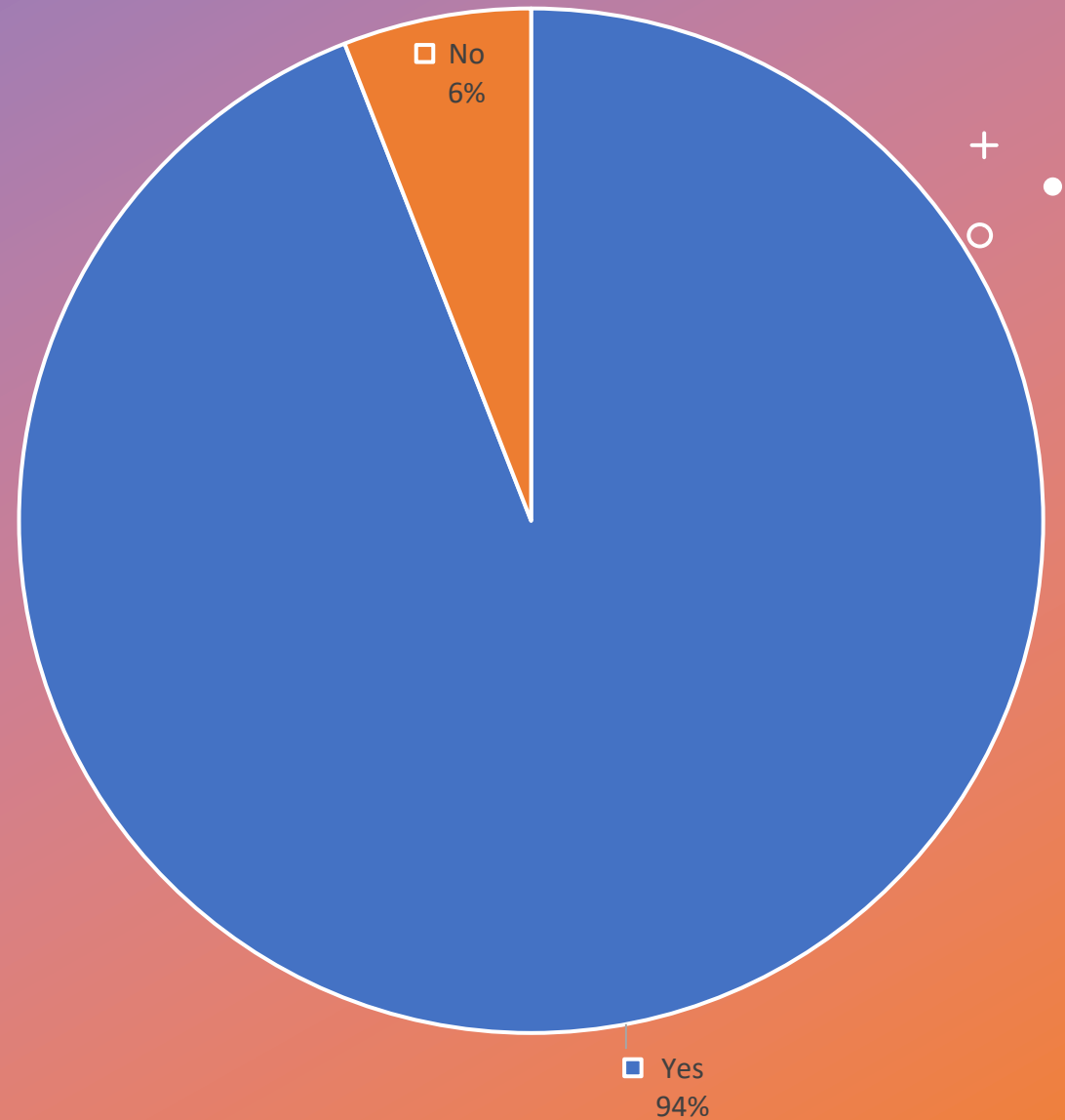
Mode: 98.0%





Did you receive a scholarship/bursary from UW?

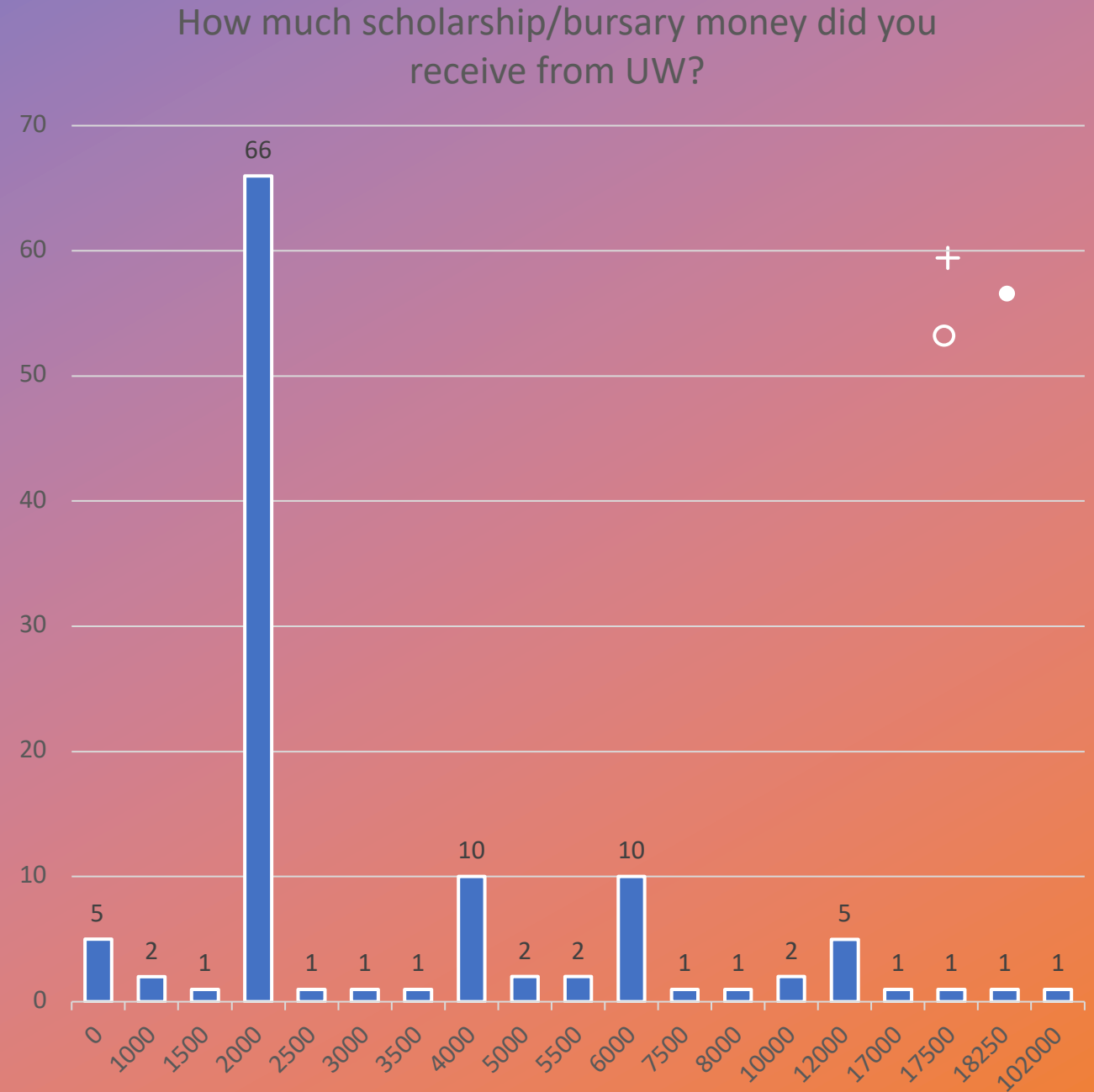
Did you receive a scholarship/bursary from UW?



# 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!

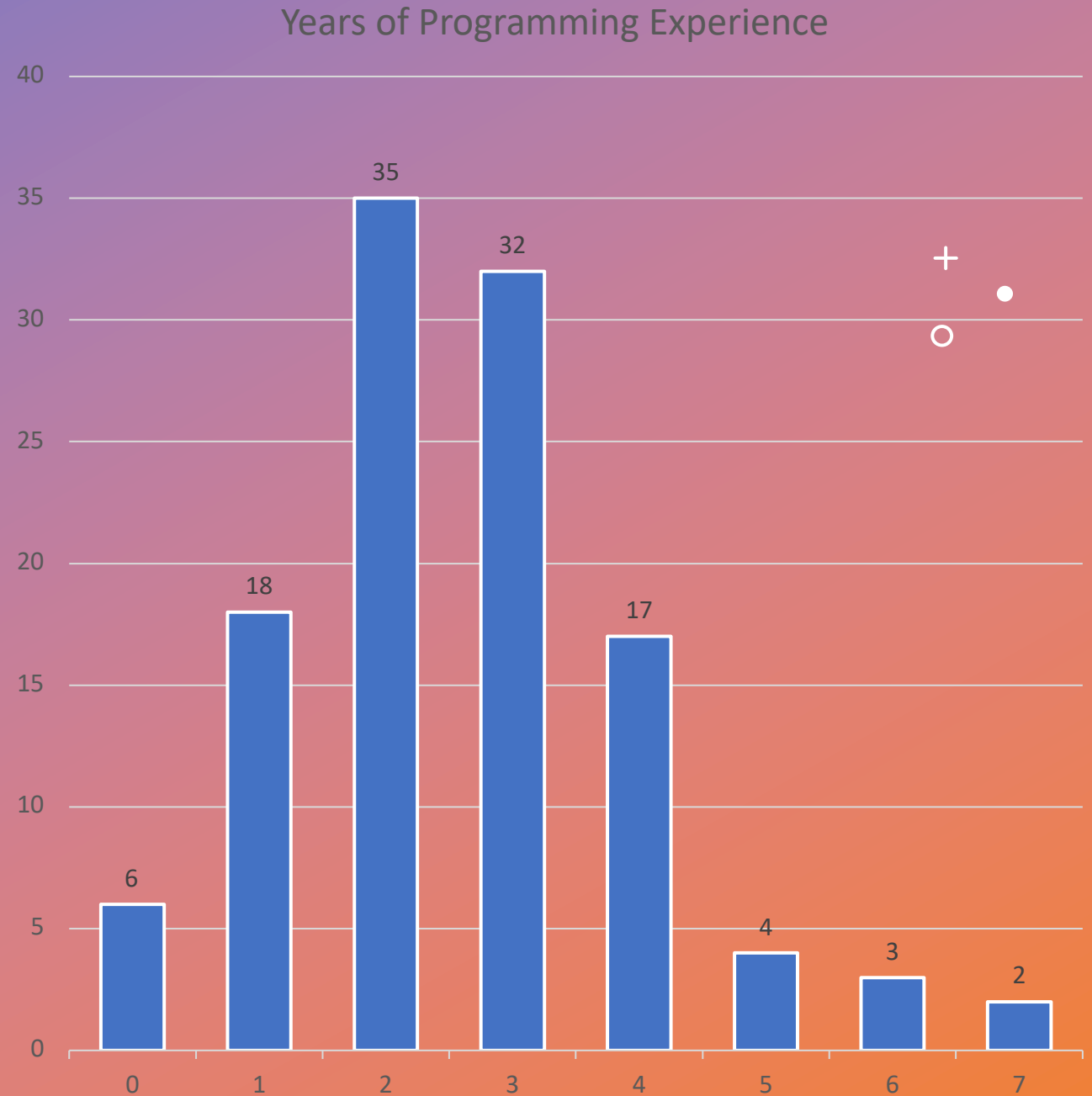


# Years of Programming Experience

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

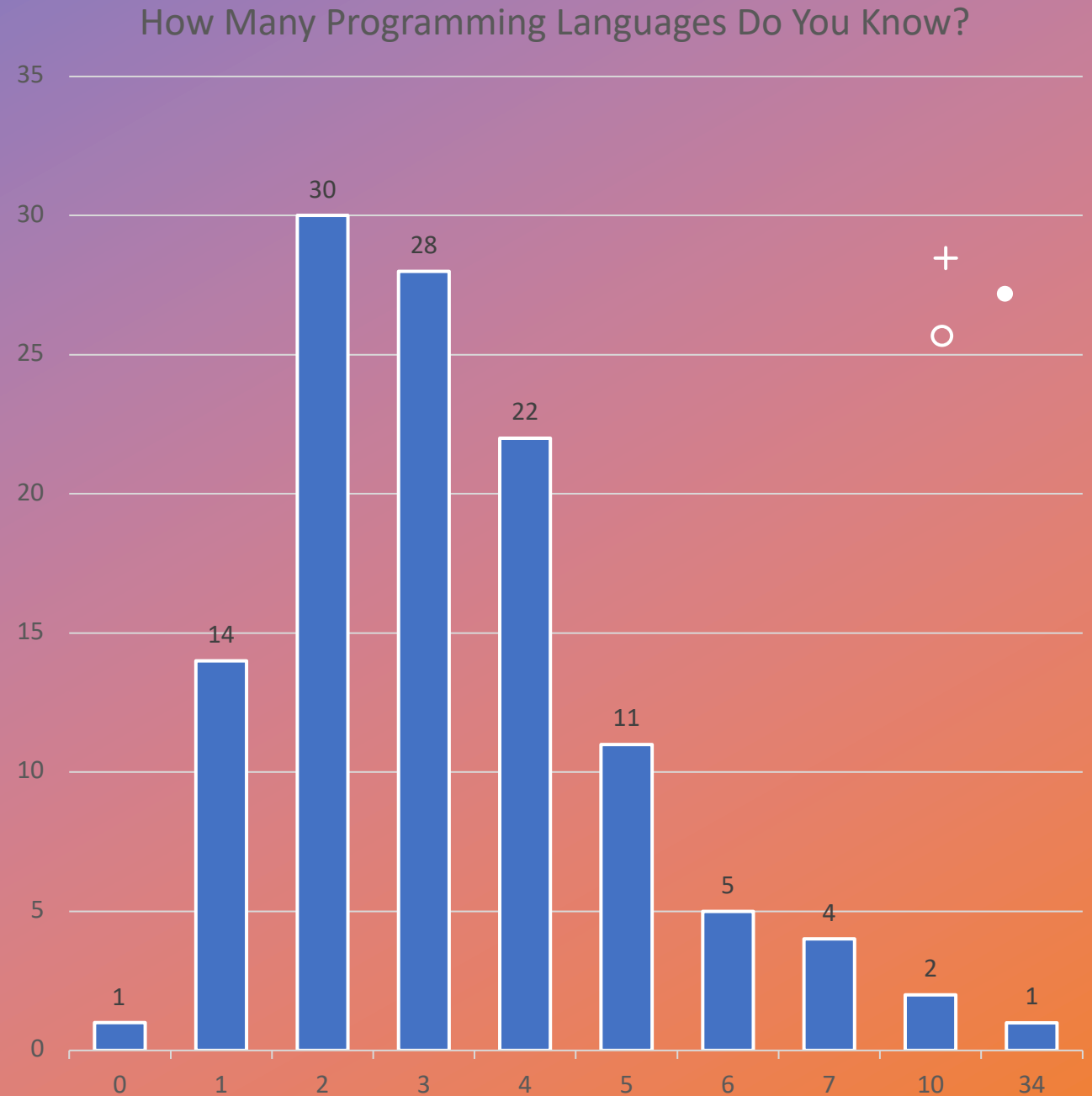
87% of people started in high school (had 1-4 years of experience).

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



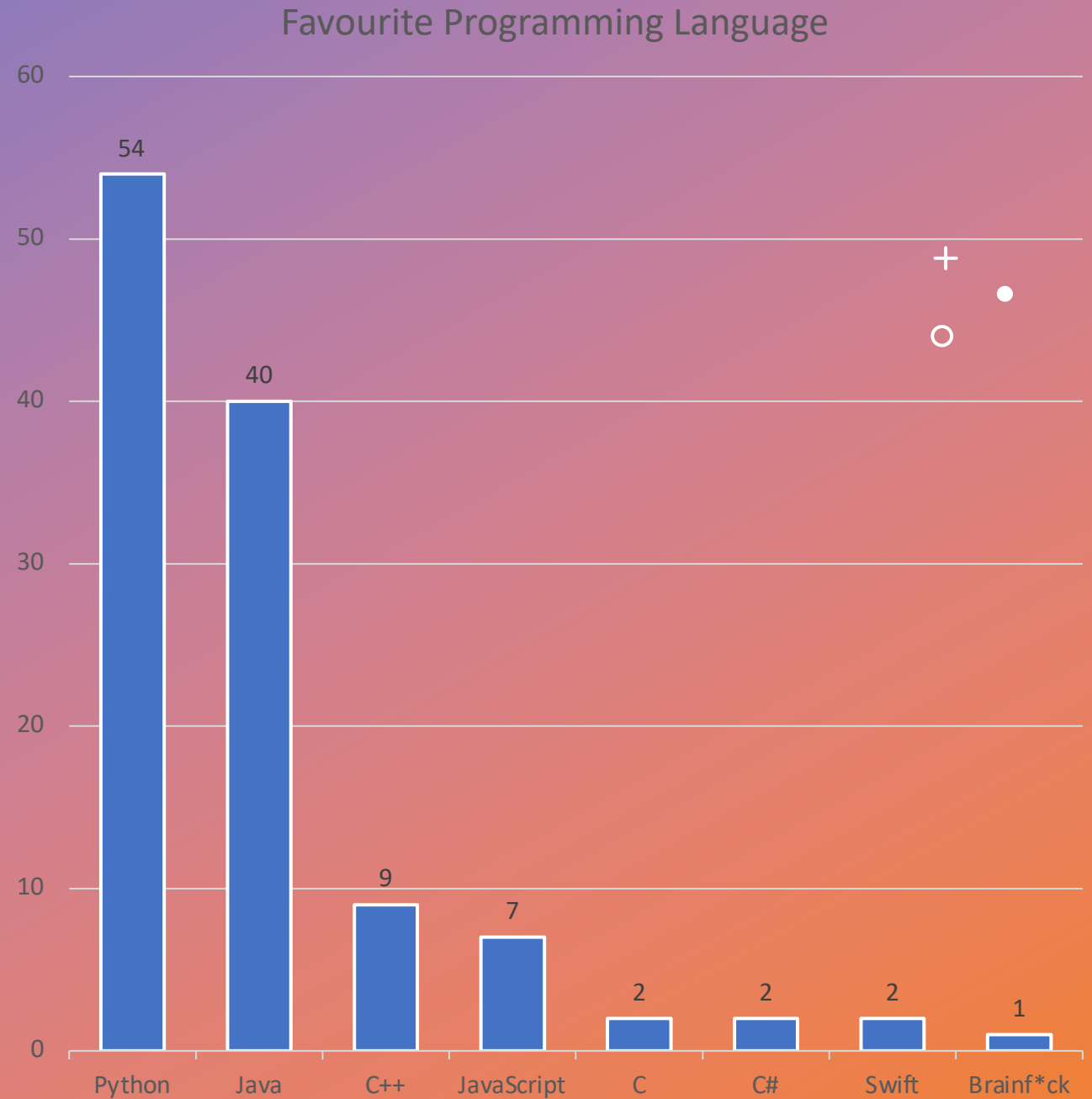
# How Many Programming Languages Do You Know?

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



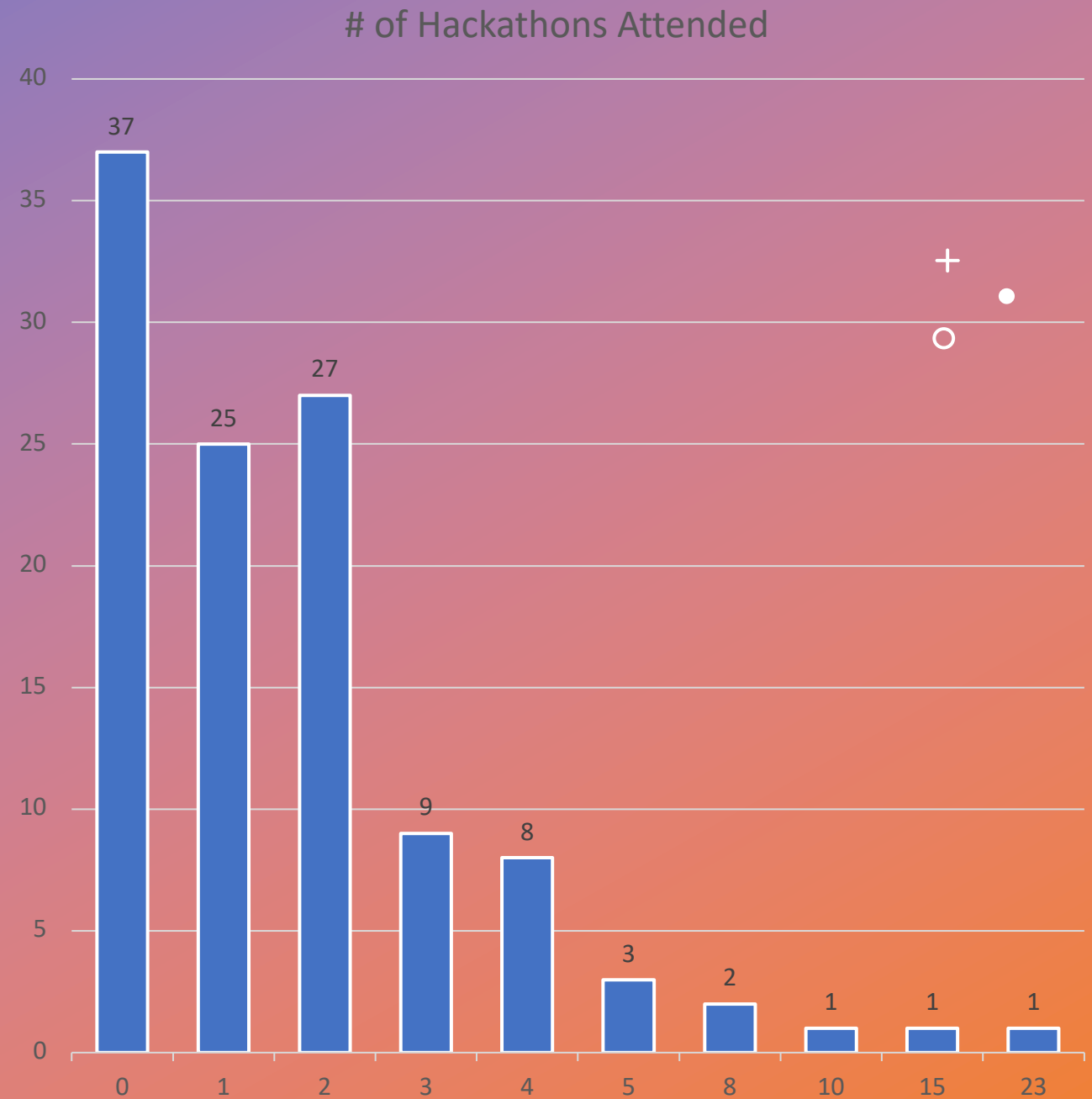
# Favourite Programming Language?

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.



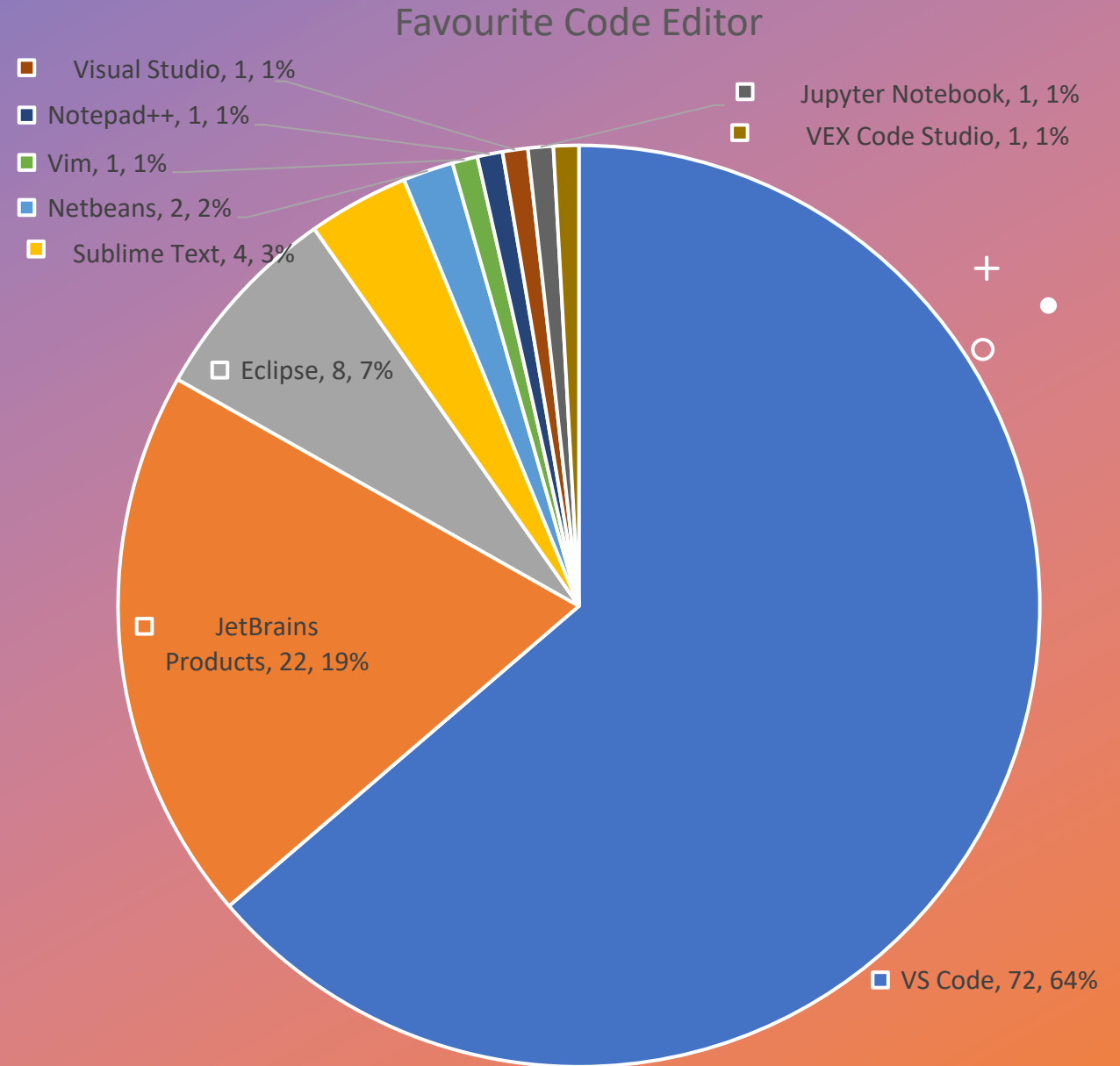
# # of Hackathons Attended

One person attended 23 hackathons!



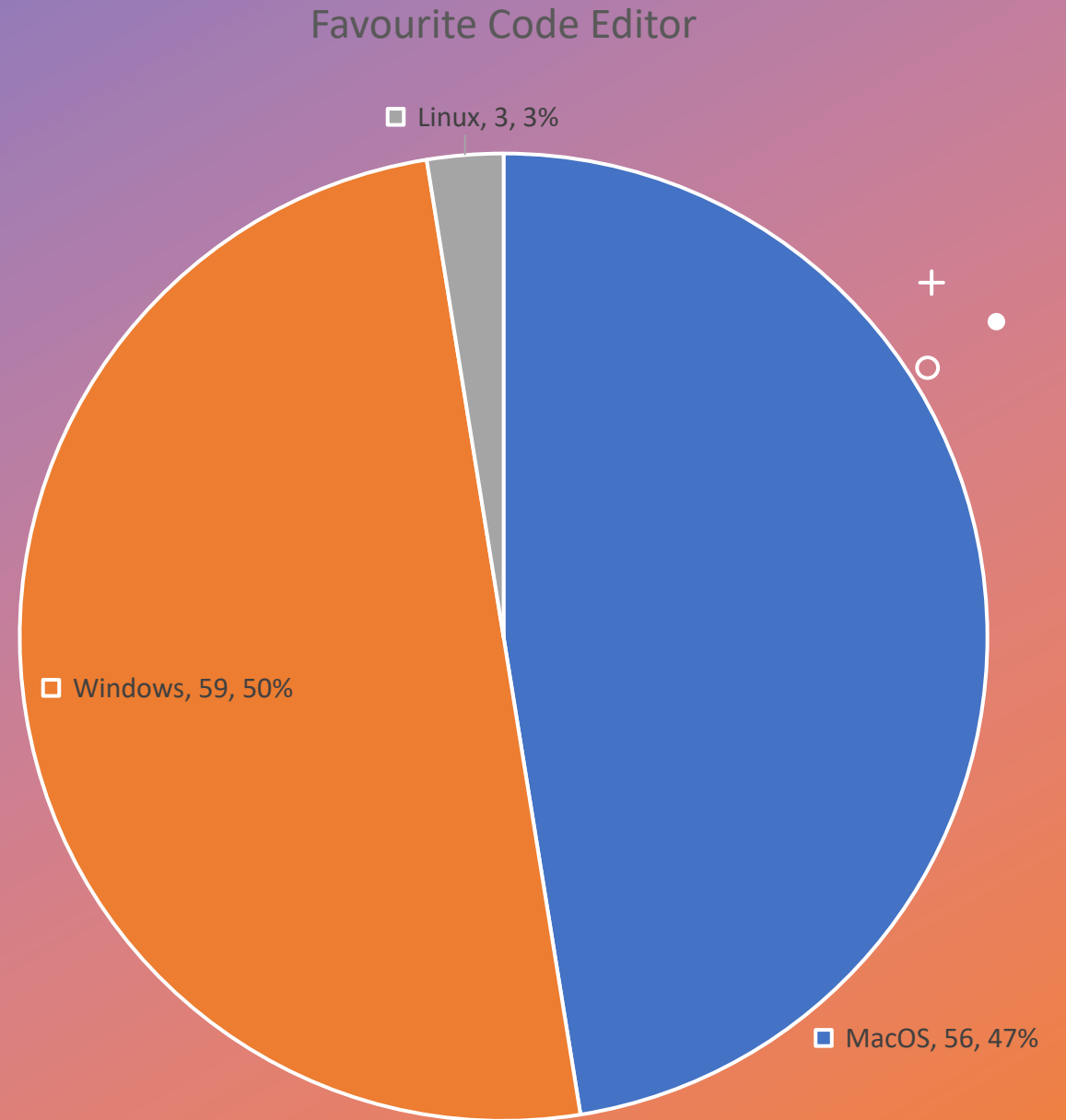
# Favourite Code Editor

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.





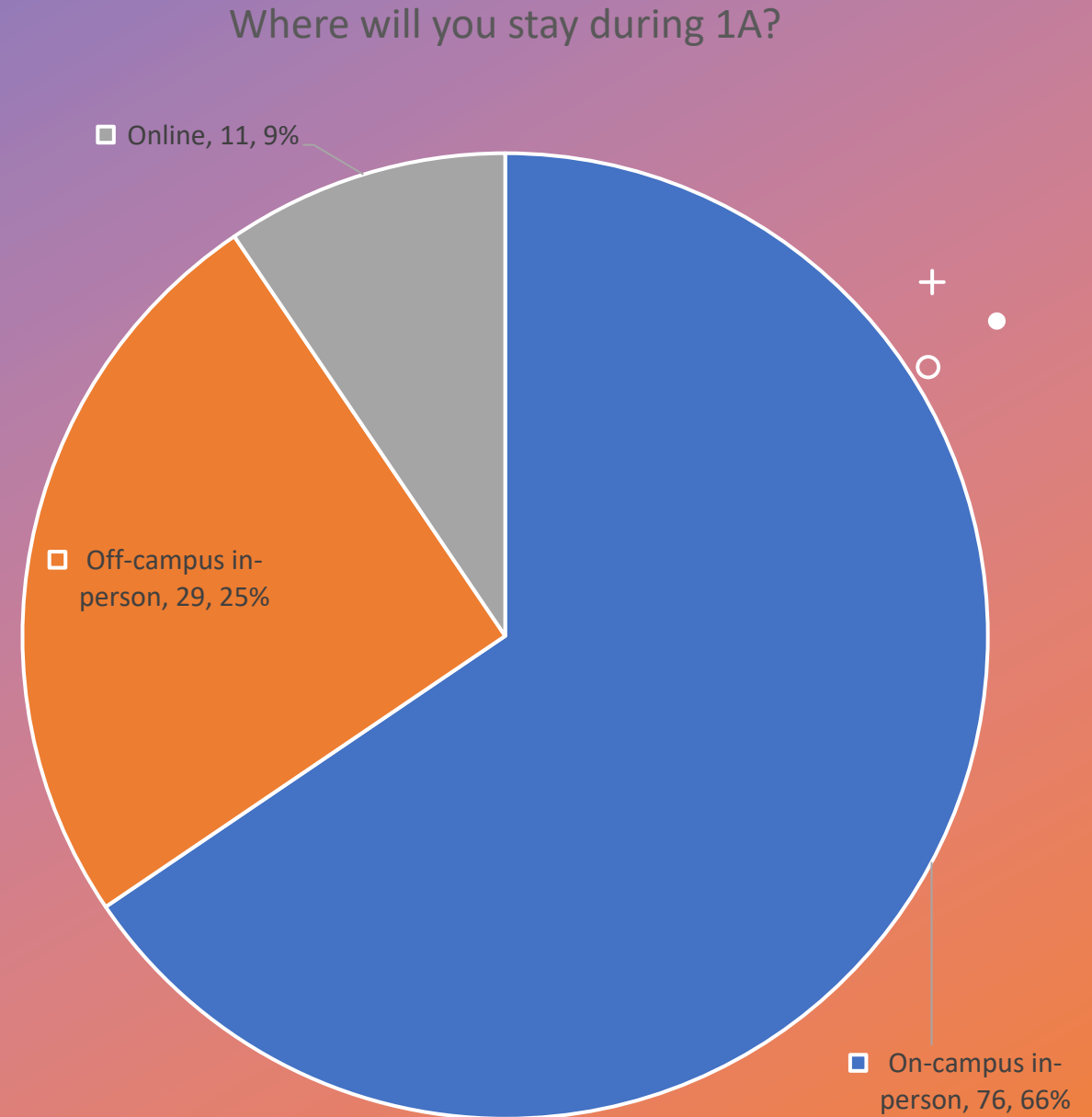
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Housing



# 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.

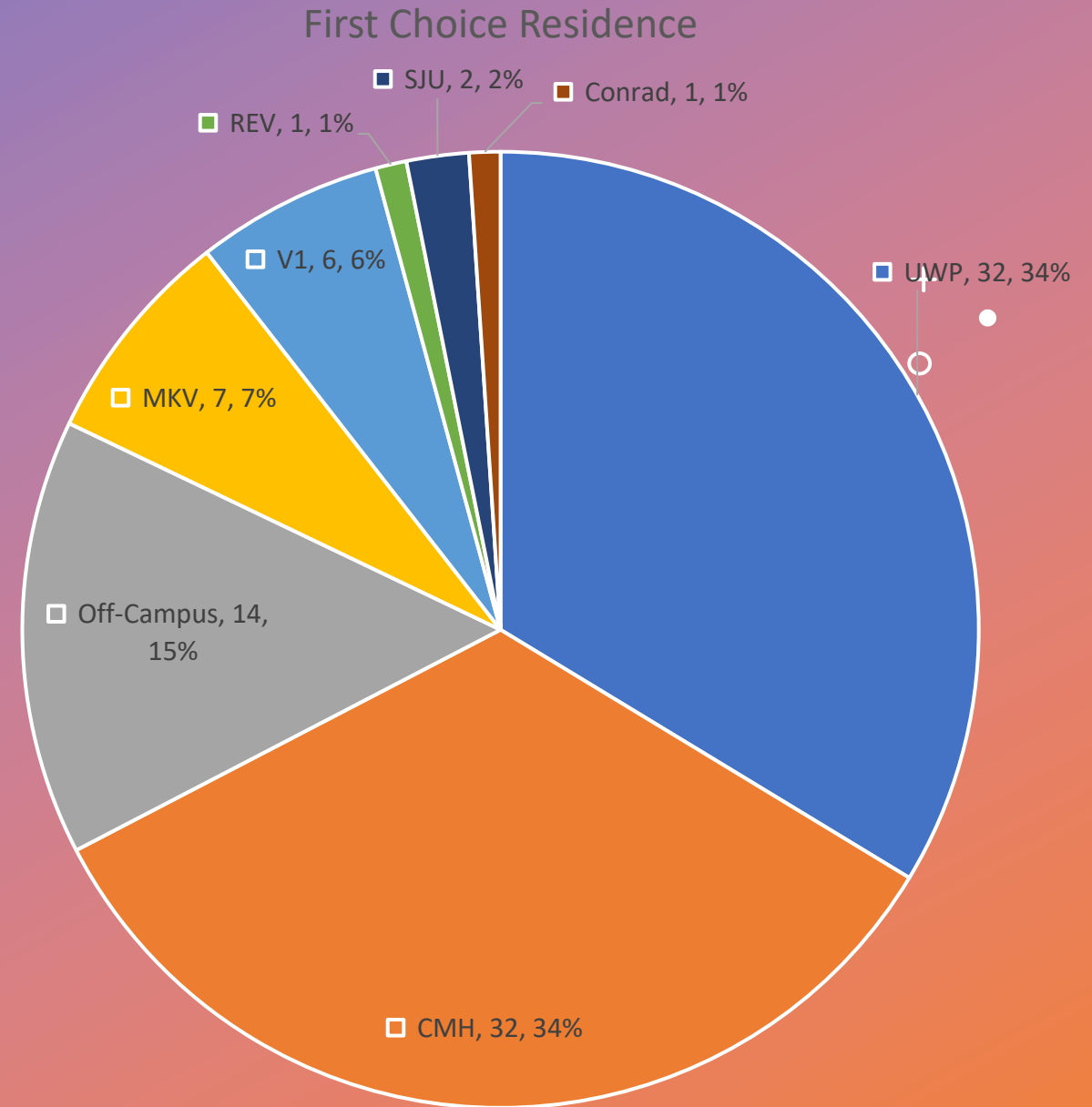


# What was your First Choice Residence?

(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.

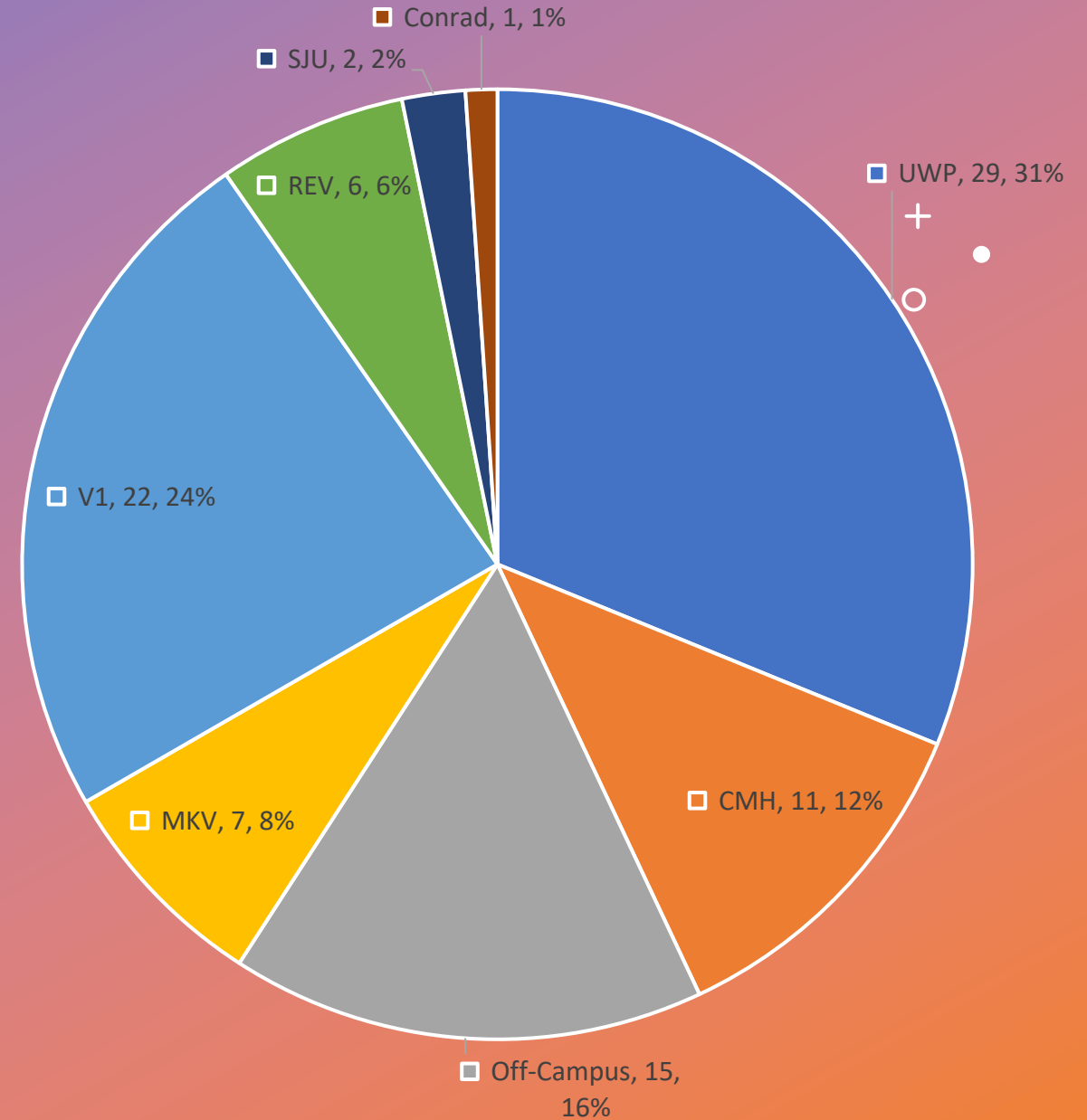


# What residence were you placed into?

(if staying on-campus in-person)

43% of people were placed into UWP/CMH.

## What residence were you placed into?



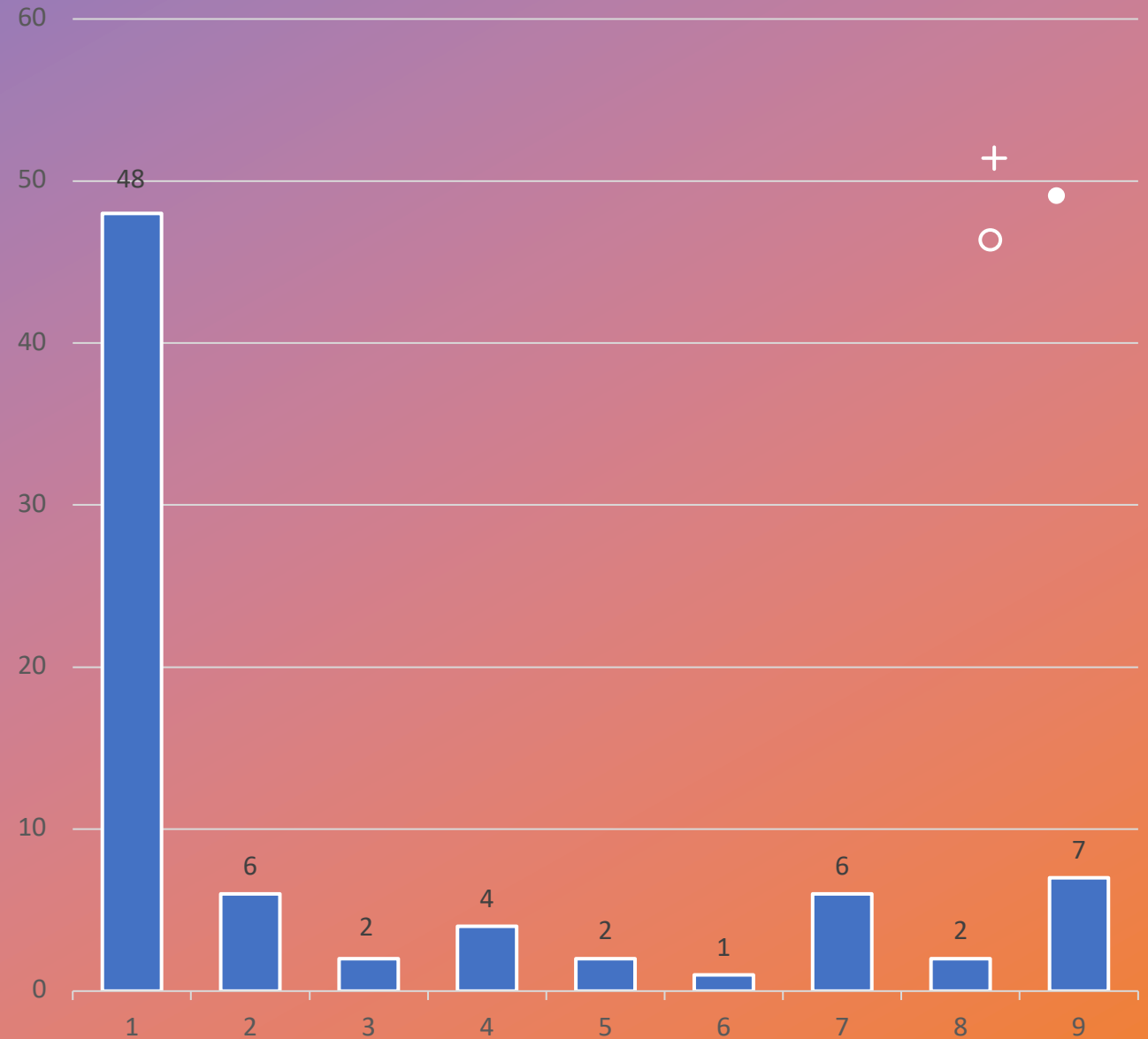
## What did you rank the residence you were placed into?

(if staying on-campus in-person)

62% of people got their first choice residence.

23% of people got one of their 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> choice residences.

## What did you rank the residence you were placed into?



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Lifestyle



# Which of the following have you consumed?

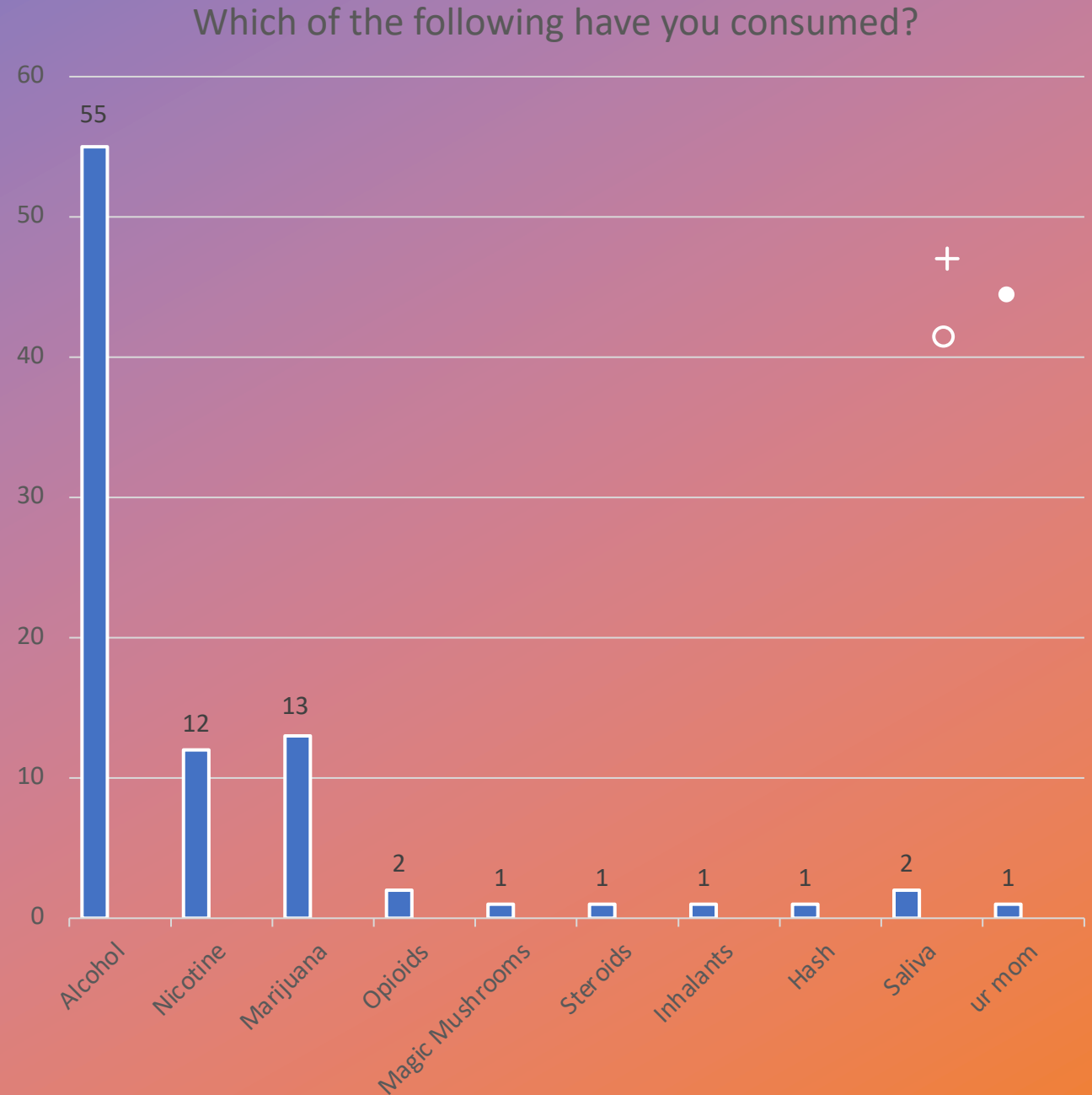
\*This question was not mandatory and there was no “none” option, which should have been included in hindsight.

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.

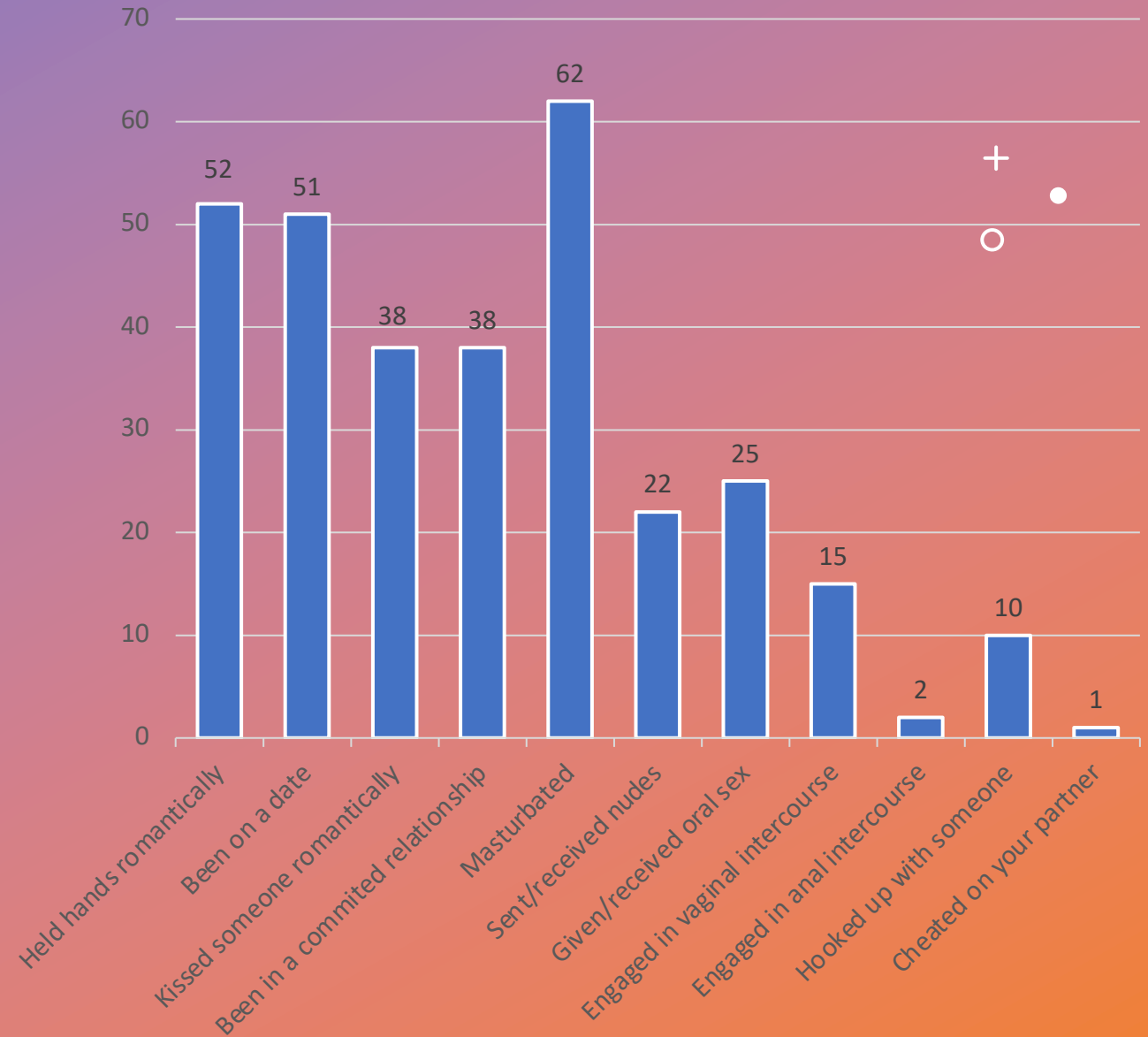
68% of respondents have been on a date.

51% of respondents have been in a committed relationship.

29% of respondents have sent/received nudes.

20% of respondents have engaged in intercourse.

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

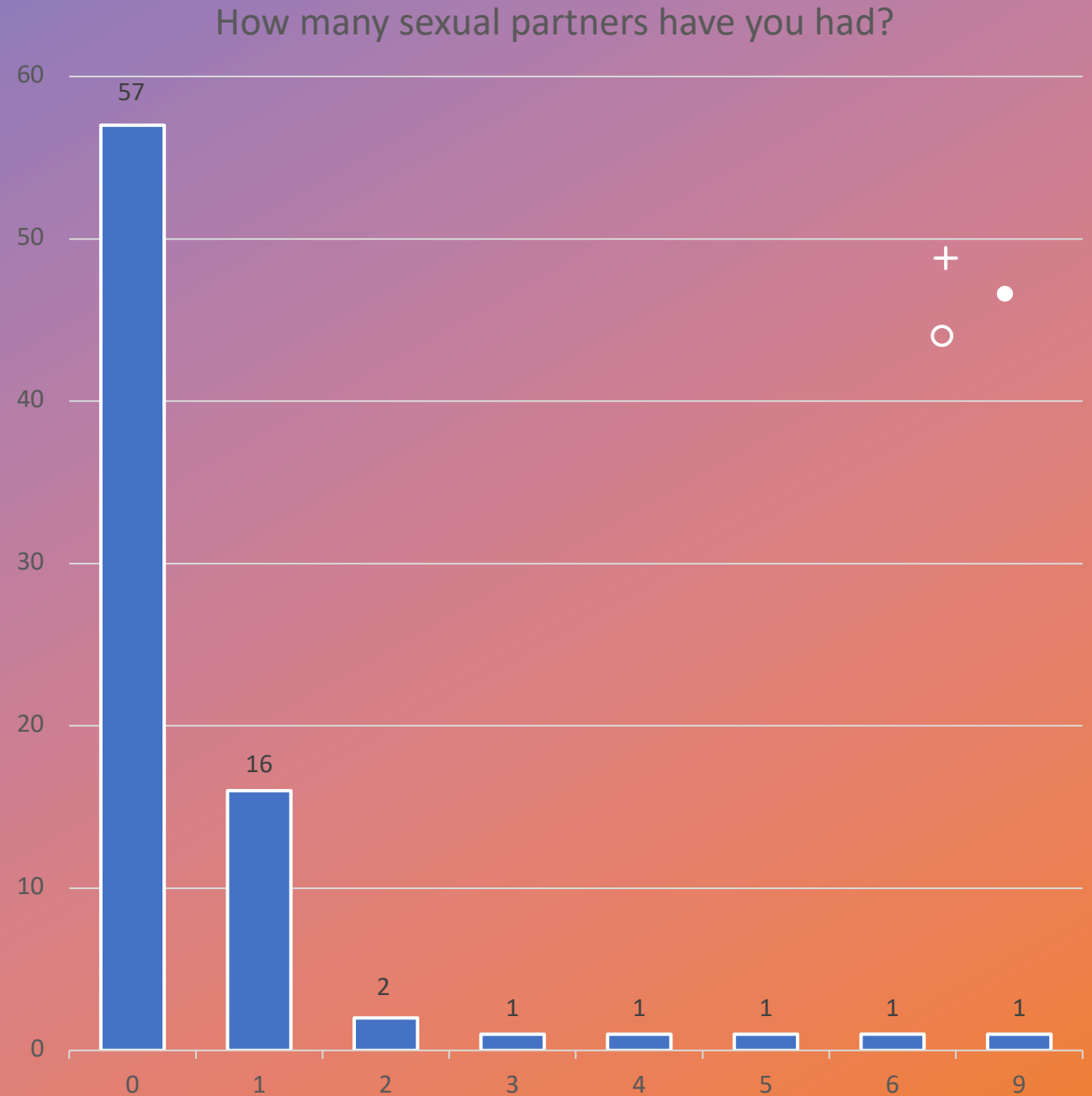




# How many sexual partners have you had?

\*3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



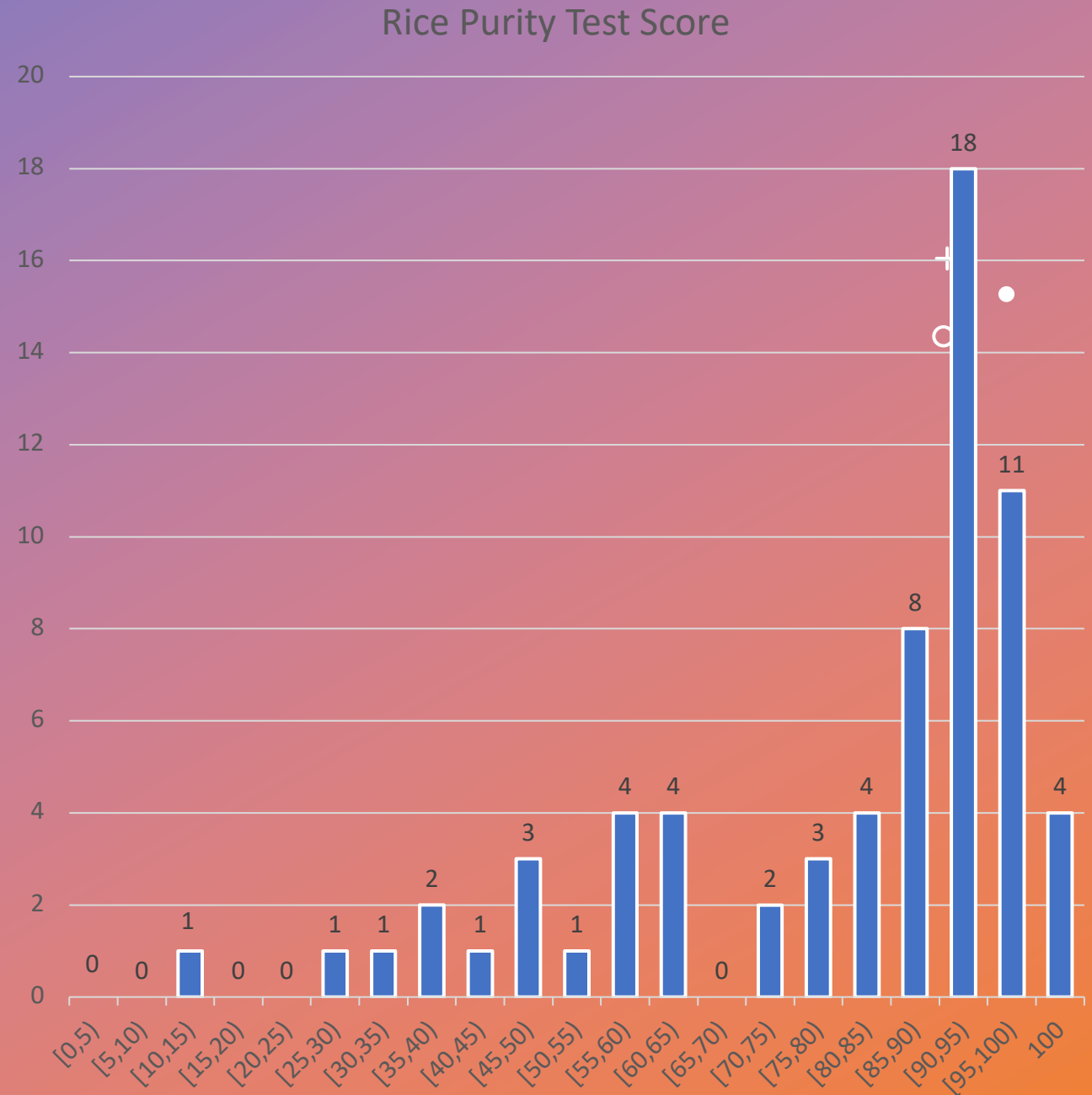
# Rice Purity Test Score

<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.

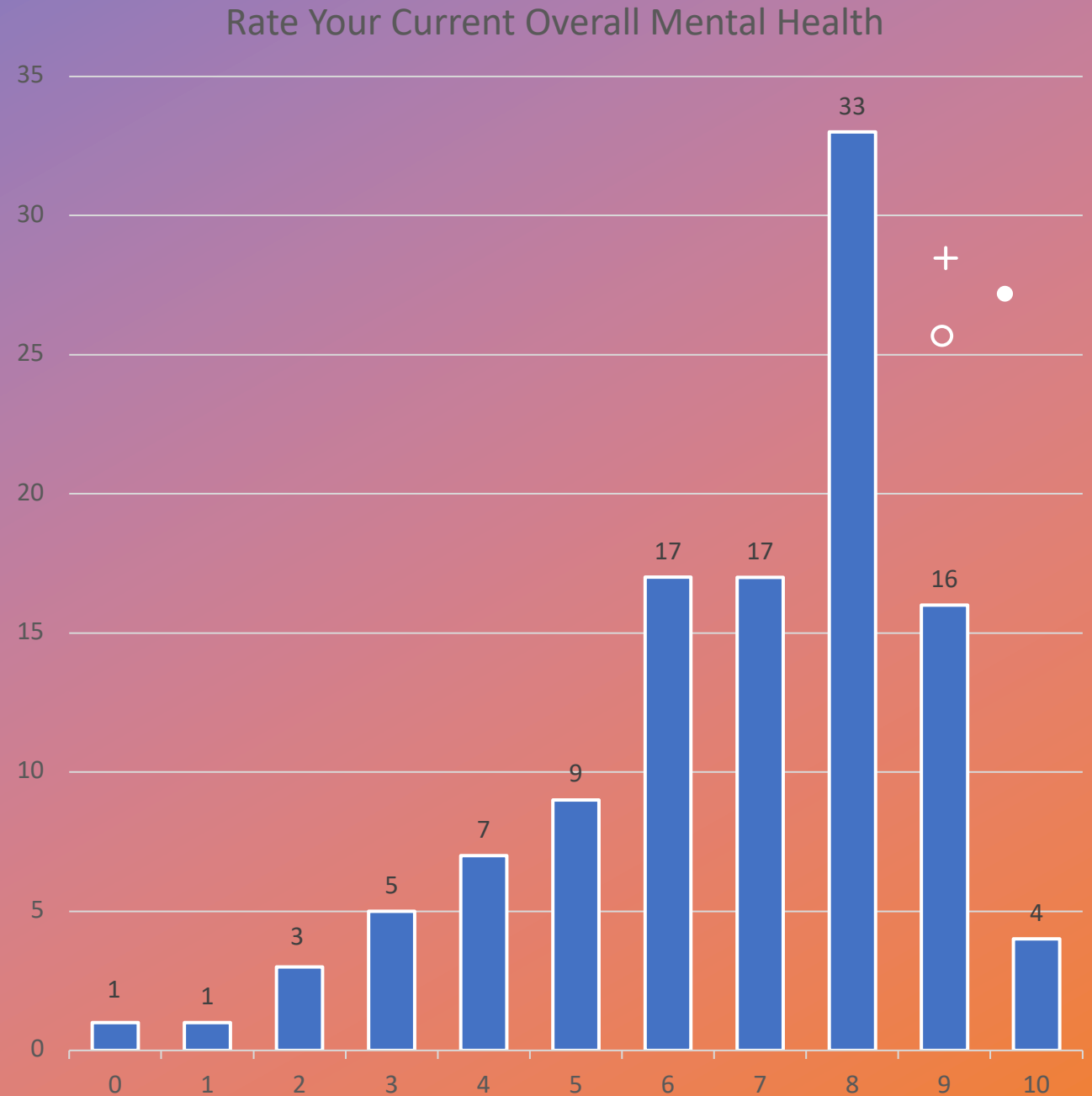
87% of respondents had a rice purity test score of at least 50.



# Rate Your Current Overall Mental Health

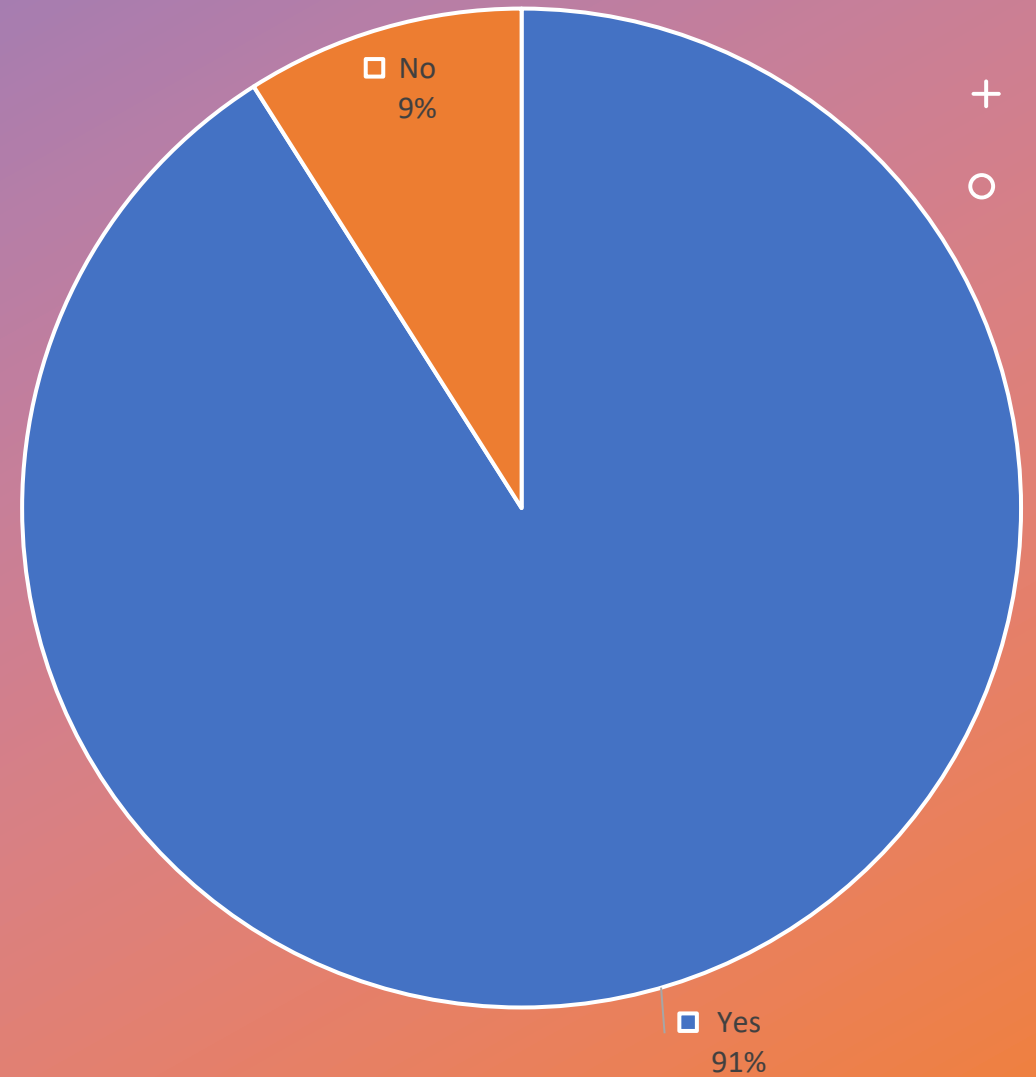
\*10 is "perfect" mental health, 0 is abysmal mental health

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?

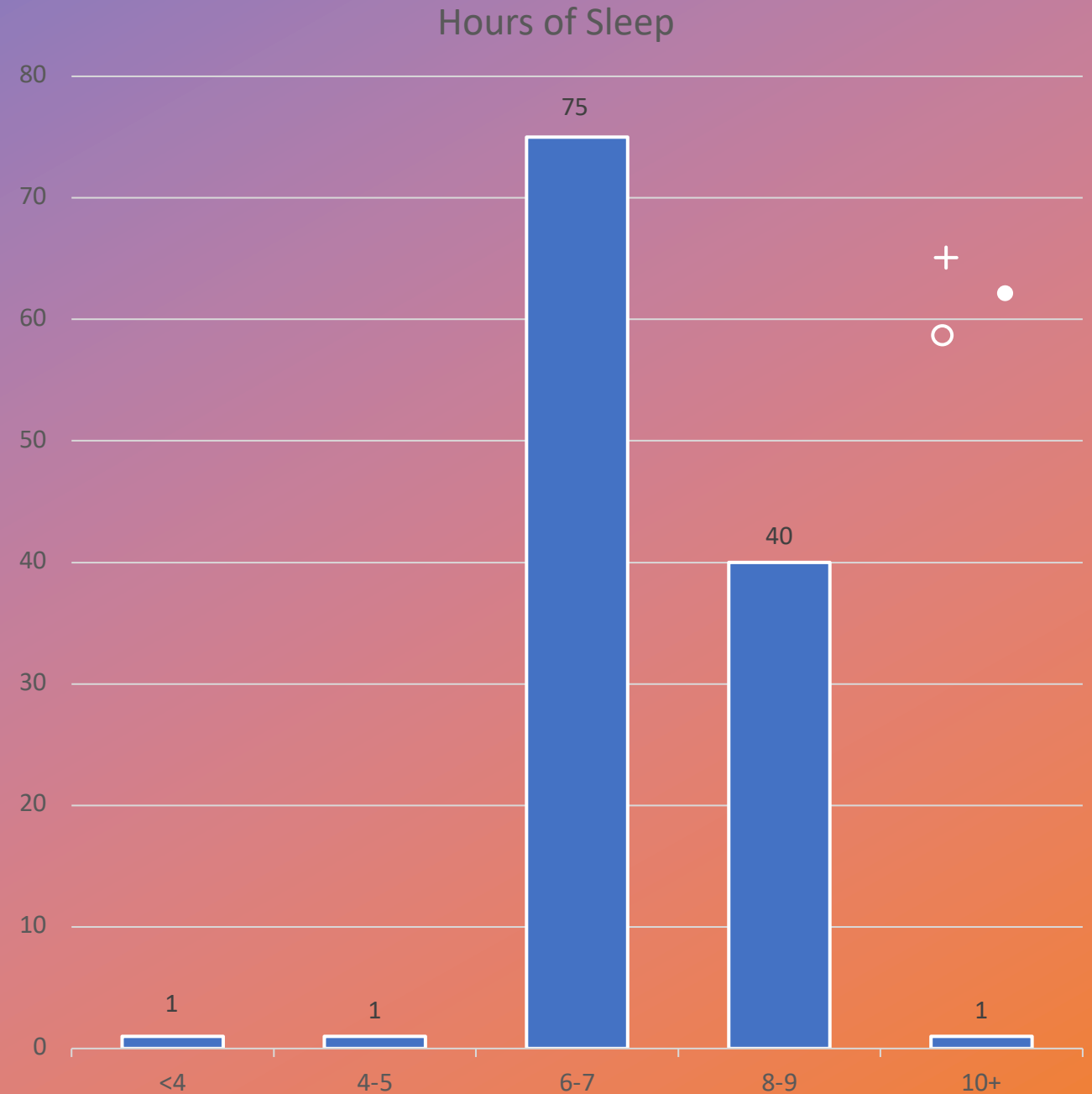
Have you been formally diagnosed with a mental disorder?



# Hours of Sleep

\*per night

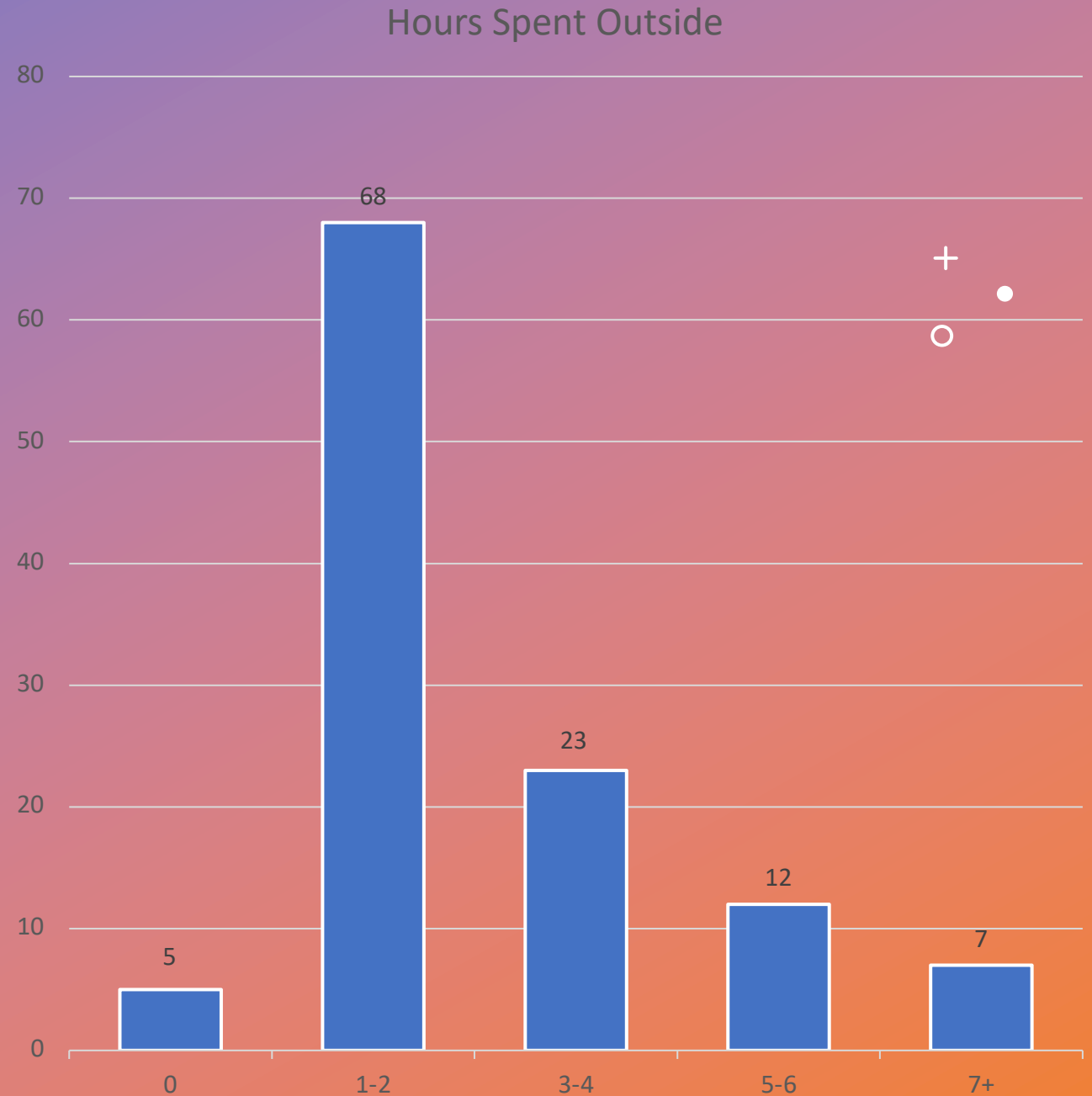
\*\*This survey was taken before the 1A term started so most of us were still getting adequate sleep.



# Hours Spent Outside

\*per day

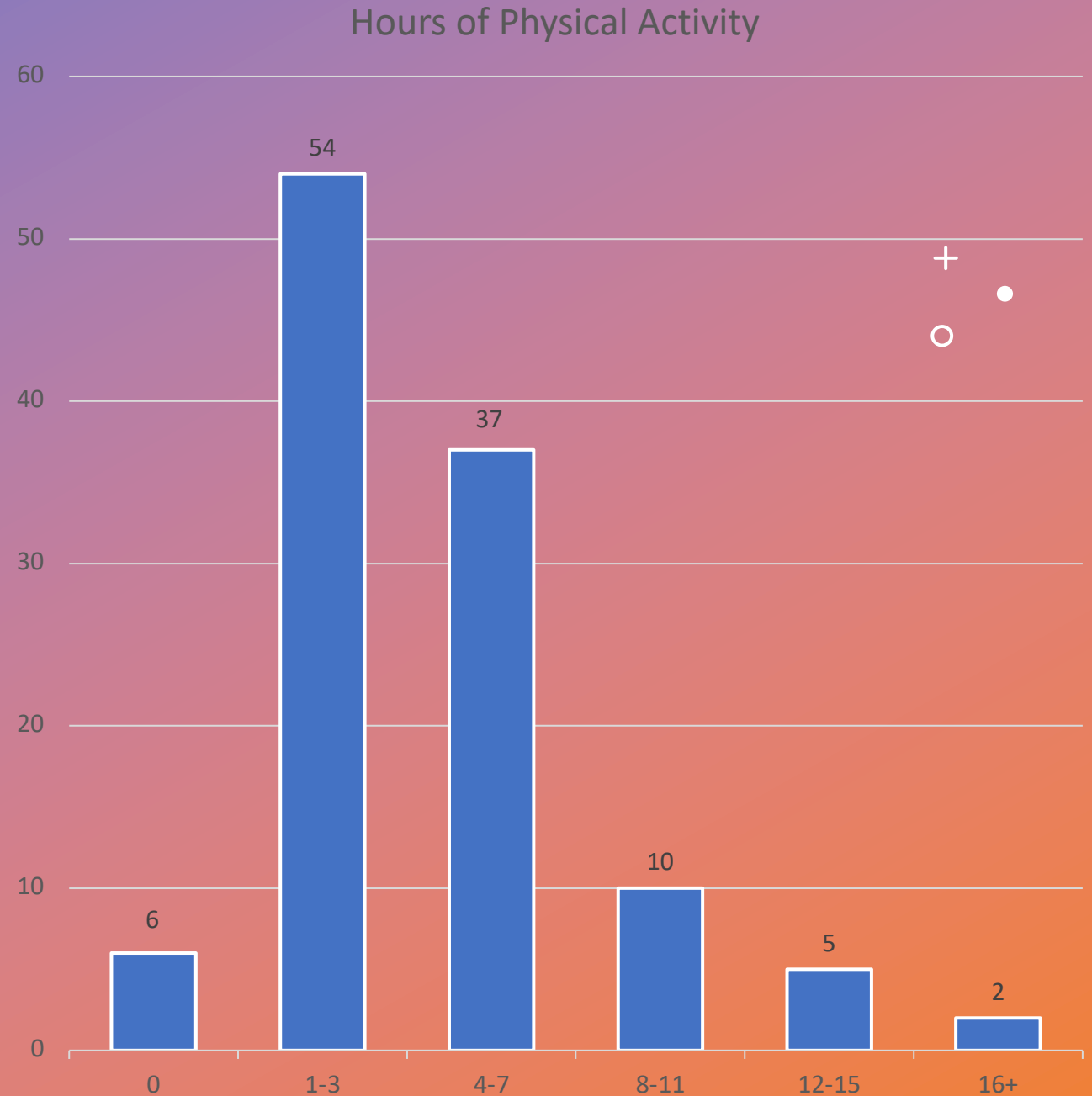
\*\*This survey was taken before the 1A term started so most of us were probably spending more time outside since we didn't need to worry about assignments/tests.



# 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



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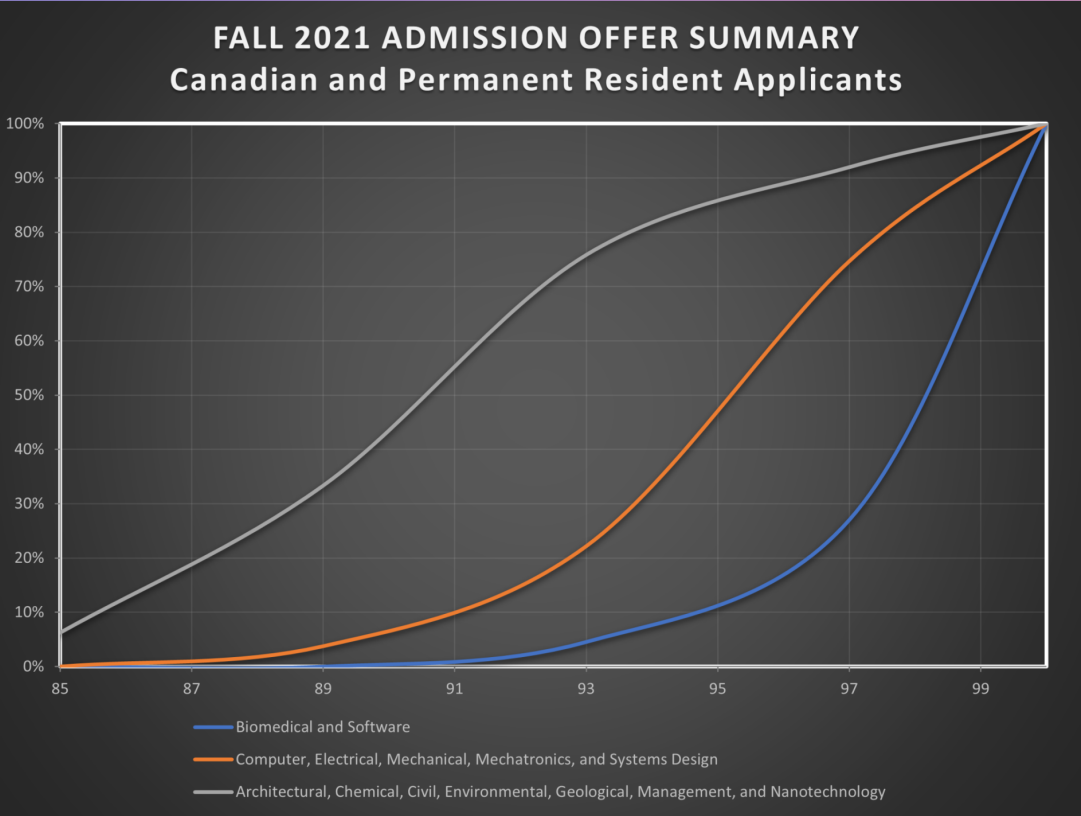
Miscellaneous



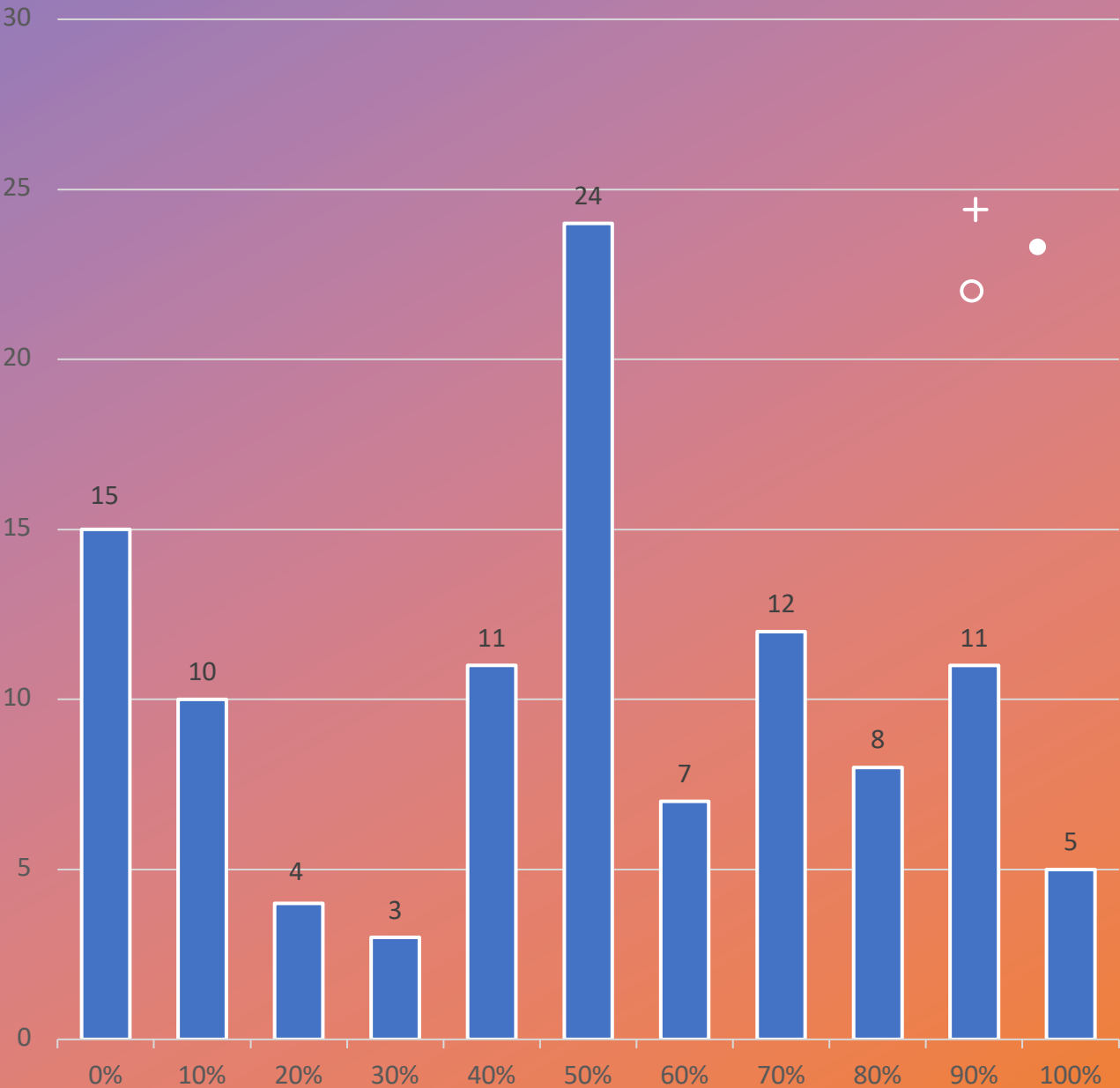
# How Confident Were You About Getting into SE?

\*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.



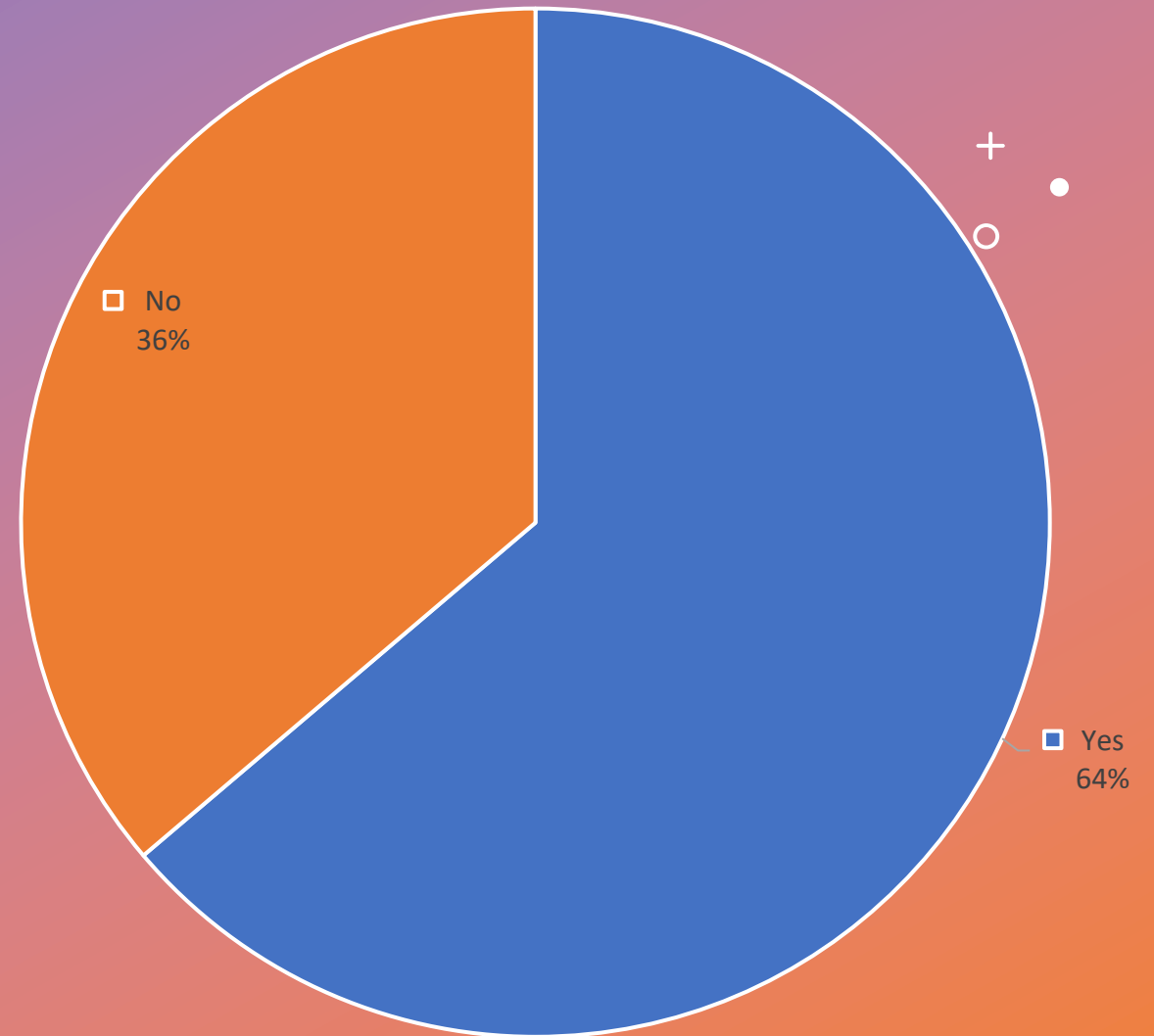
## How Confident Were You About Getting into SE?



# 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.

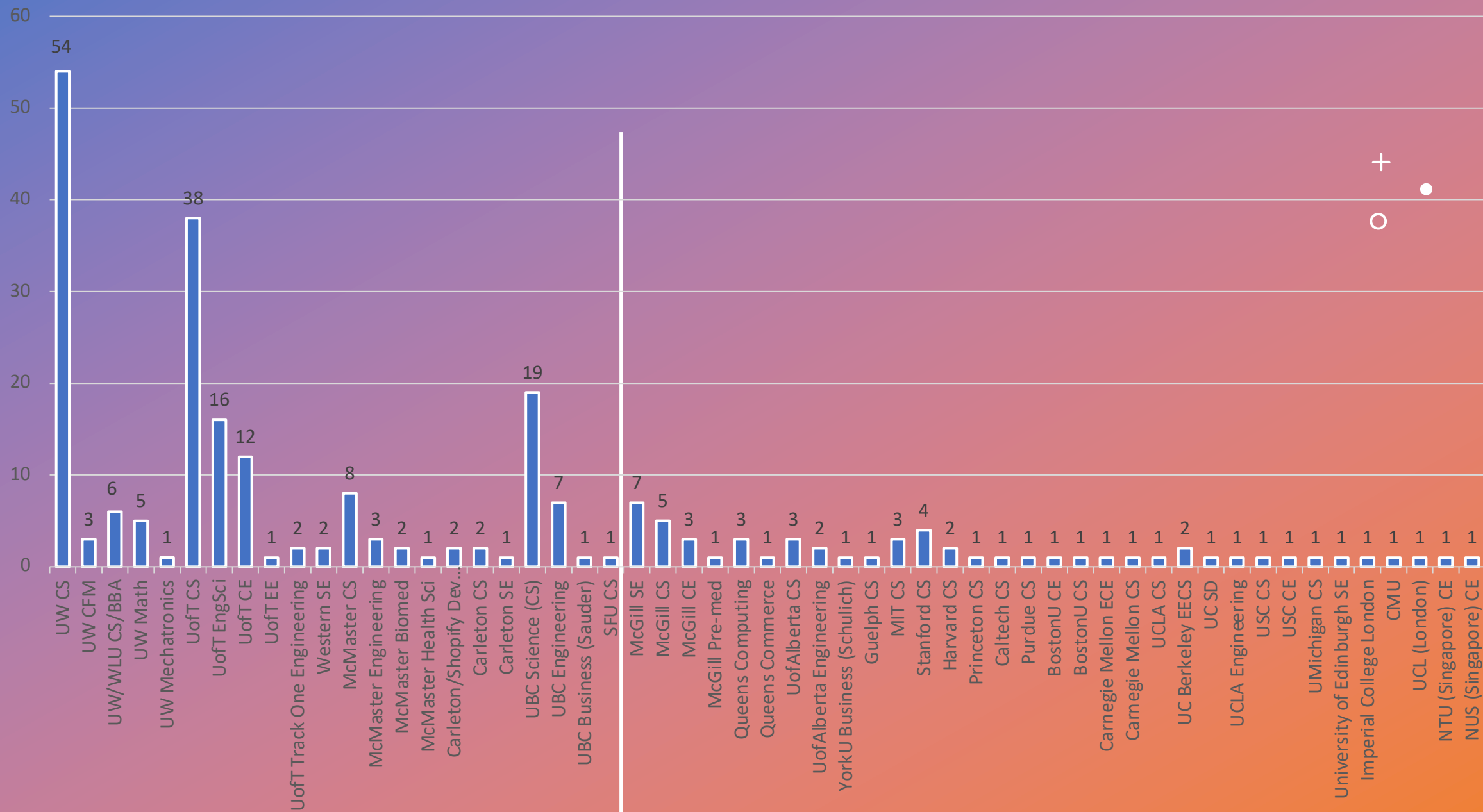
Was UW SE your first choice?



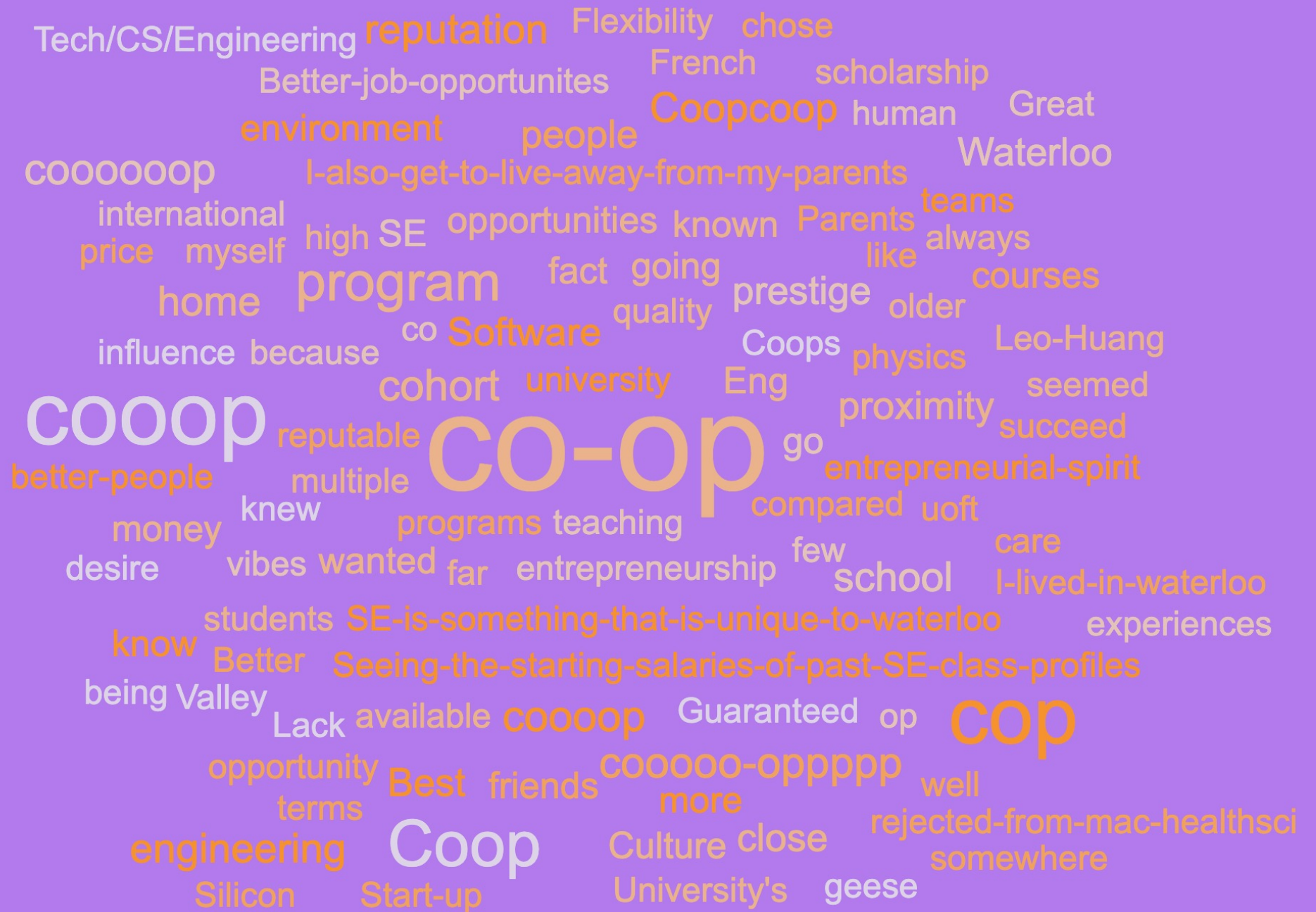
# What other university programs were you considering?

\*All UofT campuses were treated as one.

## What other university programs were you considering?



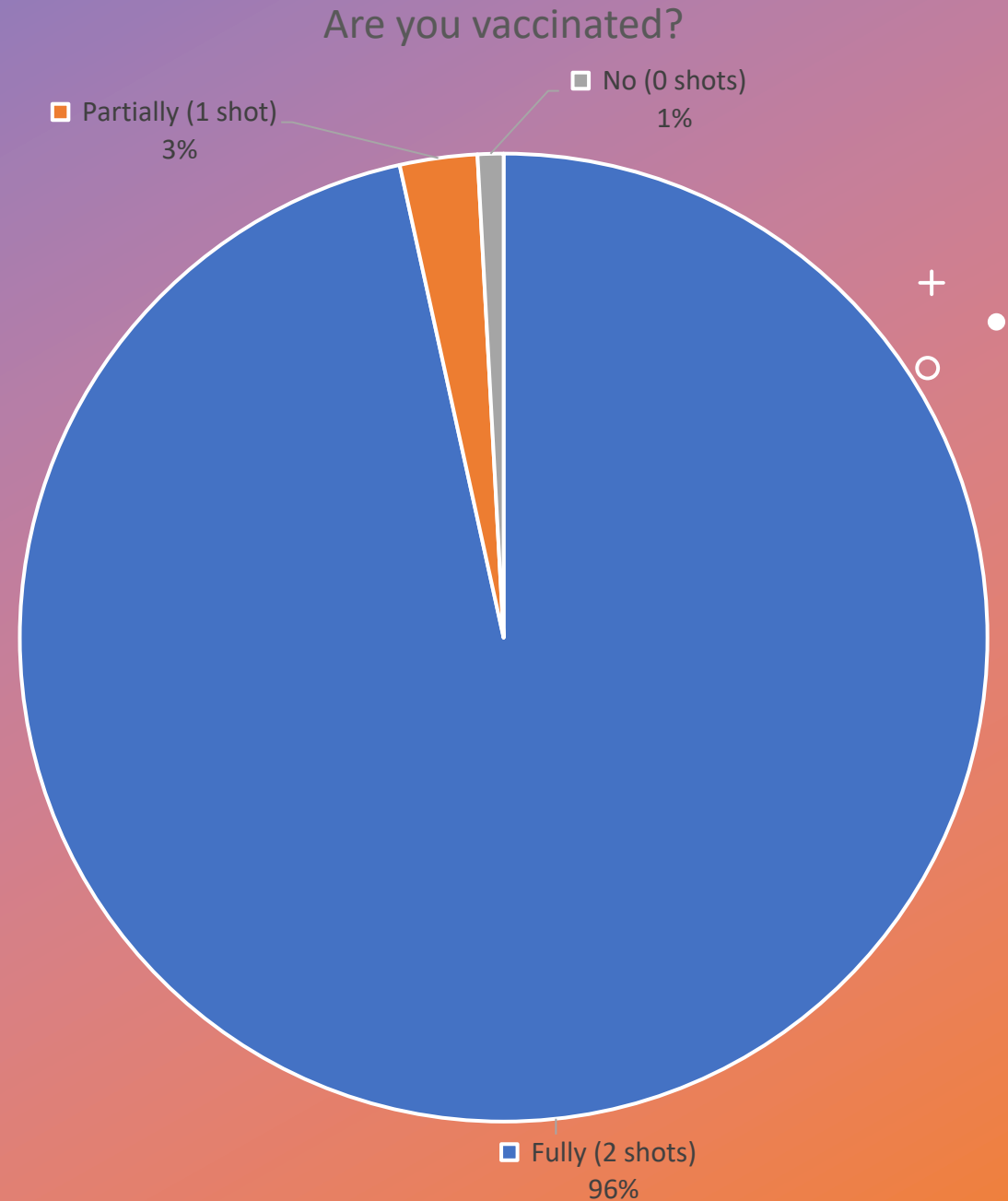
# What made you choose Waterloo SE? Co-op!





# Are you vaccinated?

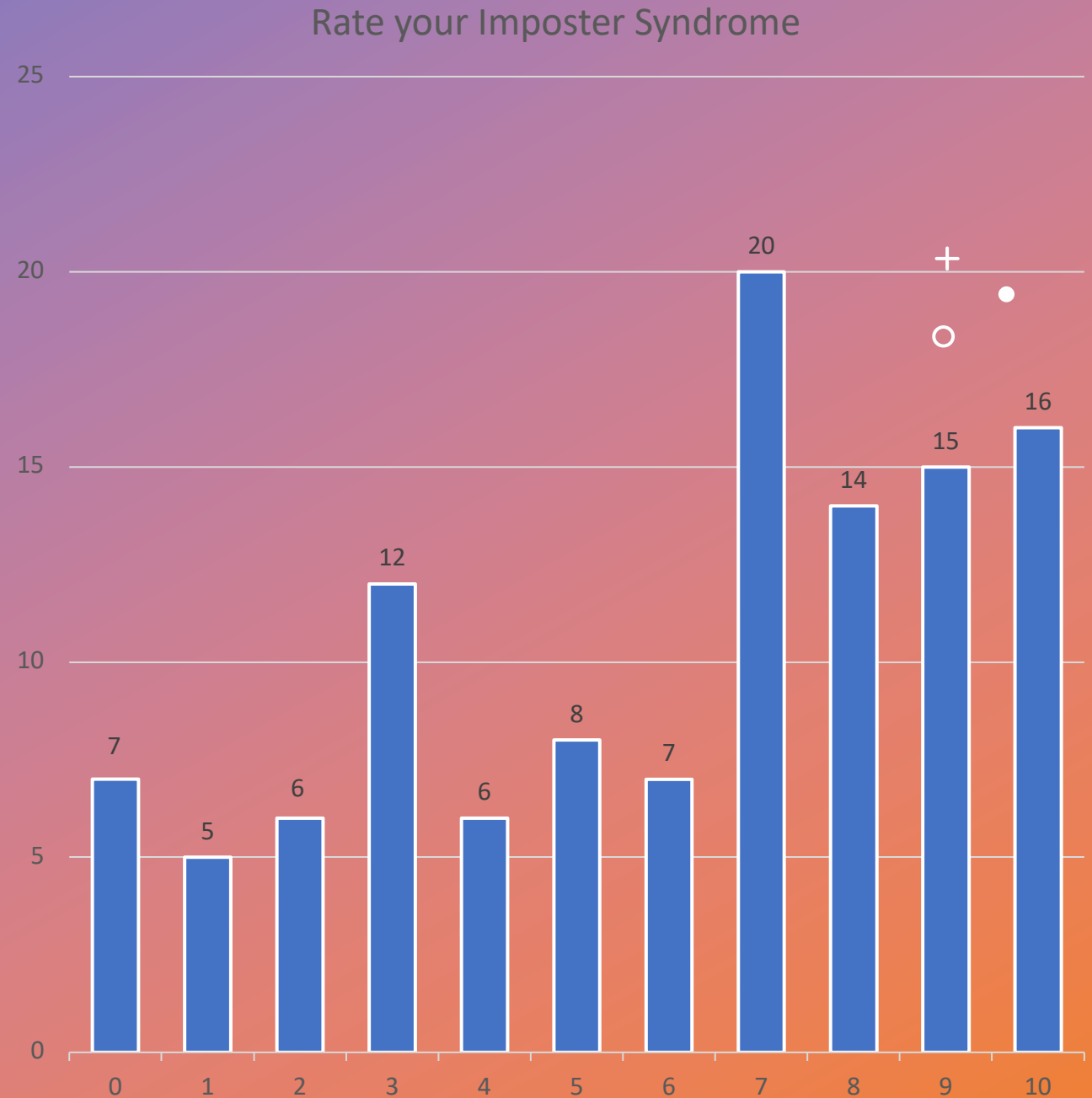
It was good to see that nearly our entire class was fully vaccinated against COVID-19.



# 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 Background Info Class Profile.

We plan to release one of these for each term.

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# Contact Us

Have questions? Send us a message.

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Olivia Honsinger - <https://www.linkedin.com/in/olivia-honsinger/>

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