# Results from the Jains for Justice Community Needs Survey

Survey design and analysis by the Race, Caste, and Religion working group

race.caste.religion@jains4justice.org

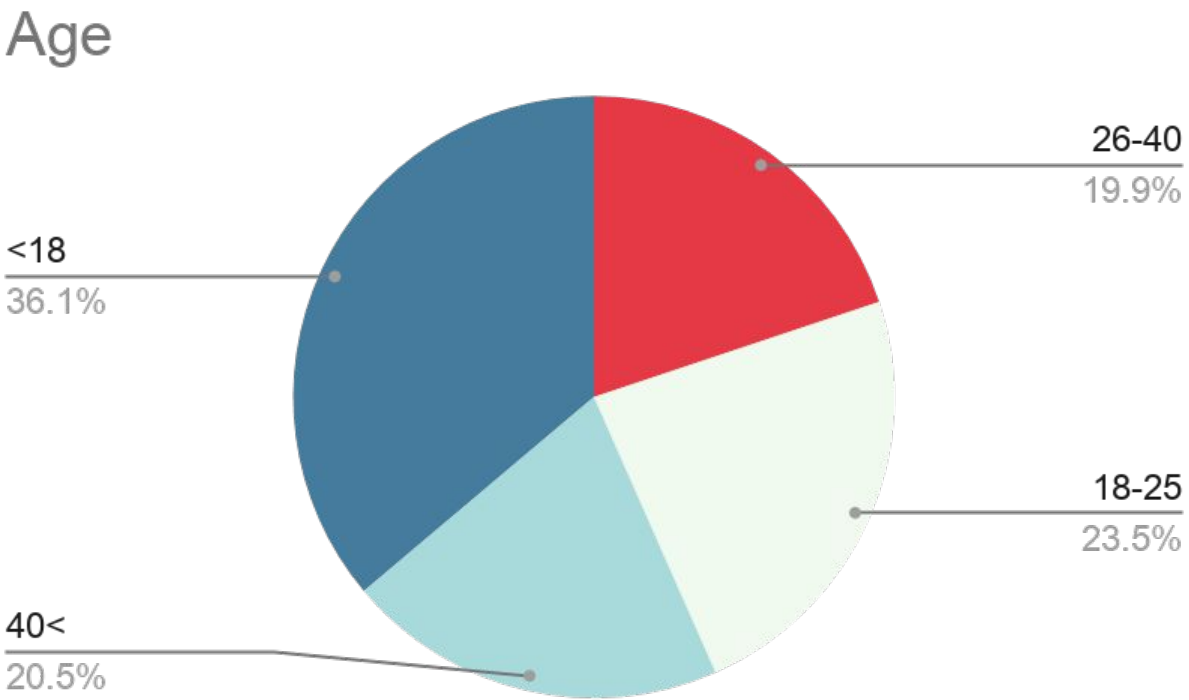
# Overview

- Abbreviations in this presentation
  - J4J: Jains for Justice
  - RCR: Race, Caste, Religion
- Why do we group race, caste, and religion?
  - Racism, caste-based oppression, and religious intolerance are inextricably linked.
- What was the purpose of this community needs survey?
  - To evaluate community knowledge of, and interest in, RCR-related issues
  - To center community needs in advancing J4J's mission
  - To gather information that can support local action
- Participants were recruited from December 2020-February 2021 via email, Whatsapp, Facebook, Instagram, and personal outreach
- 169 unique responses

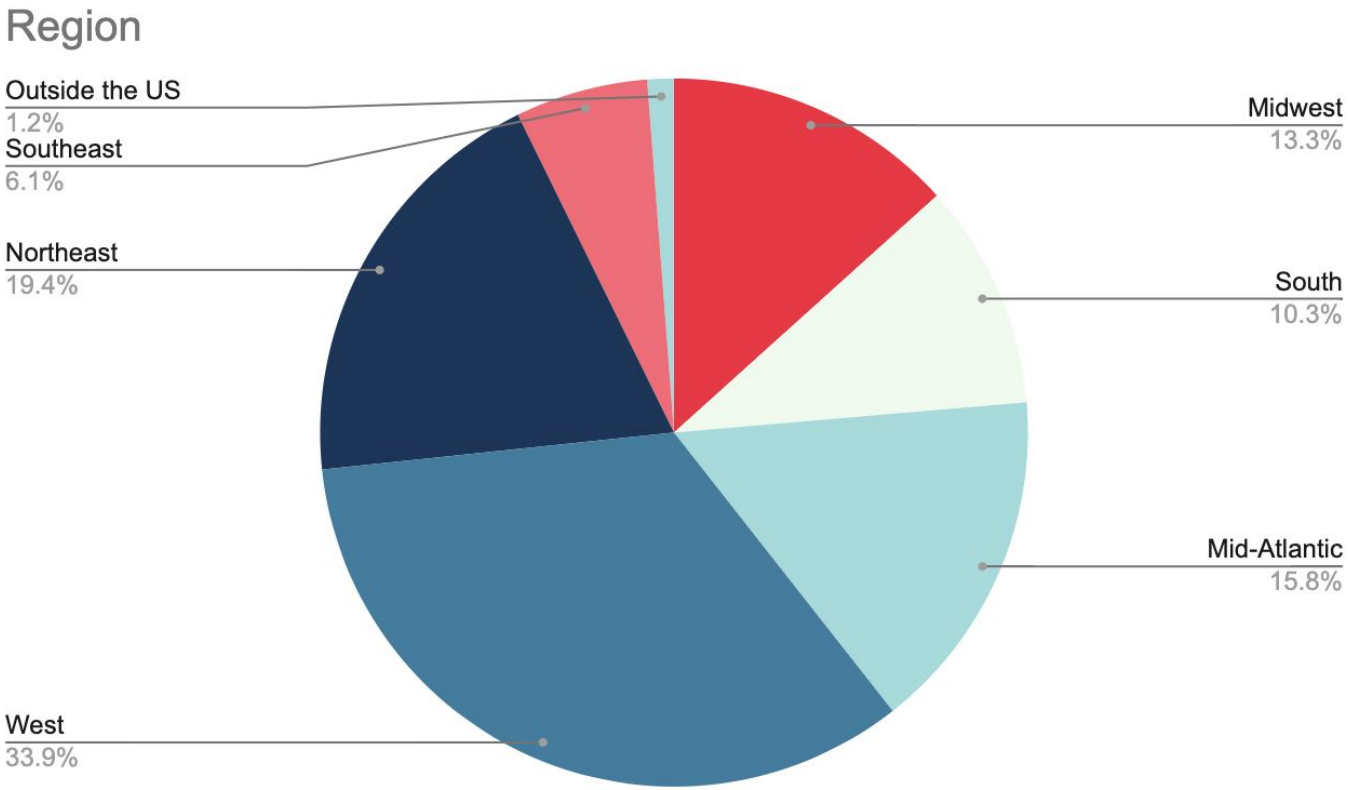
# Limitations

- Distribution of respondents may not fully reflect J4J target population
- Duplicate responses were only identified through matching a time stamp with a free-form response question
- Sequential questions could have been refined for more accurate data analysis
    - Questions were not required to encourage maximal participation, but this resulted in folks skipping questions or answering sequential questions when they were not supposed to.
    - “Do you find it difficult to talk with your loved ones about race, caste, and/or religion?” is followed by “who do you find it difficult to have these conversations with.” *Loved ones* may not apply to the answer choices of friends, co-workers, neighbors/community members.
- Unclear if some people read “caste” as “class” (referring to socioeconomic status)
- “Where you live” is up to interpretation (do people mean state, city, etc.?)

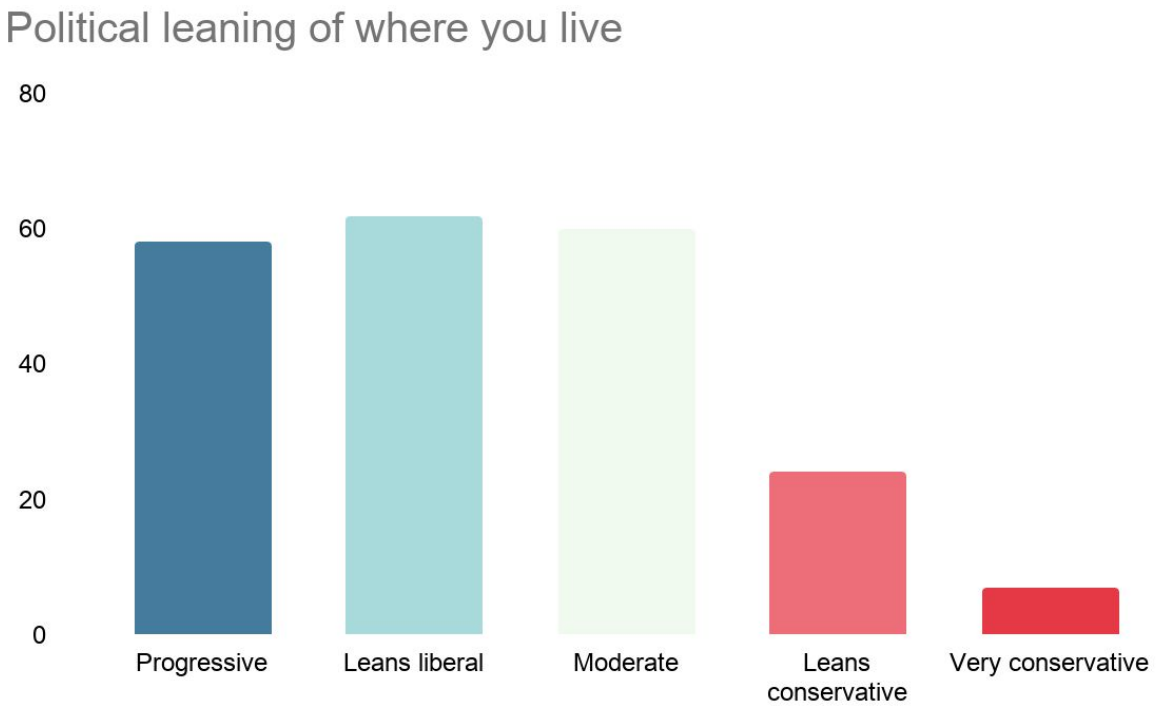
# Age Distribution



# Self-Identified Regional Distribution



# Self-perception of the political leaning of where they live - many chose 2 answers



# Self-Identified Race, Religion, Caste

## Self-Identification of Race

**98%** Asian/South Asian

## Self-Identification of Religion

**96%** Jain

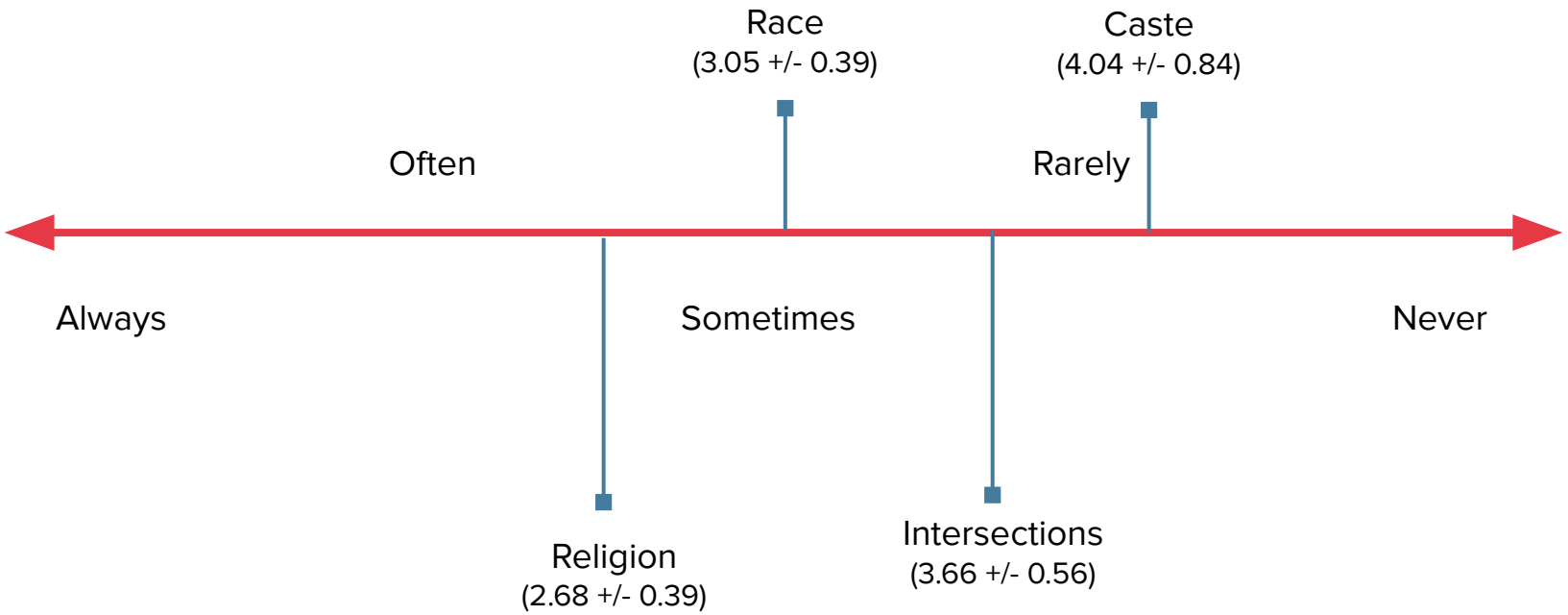
## Self-Identification of Caste

**67%** left this question blank.

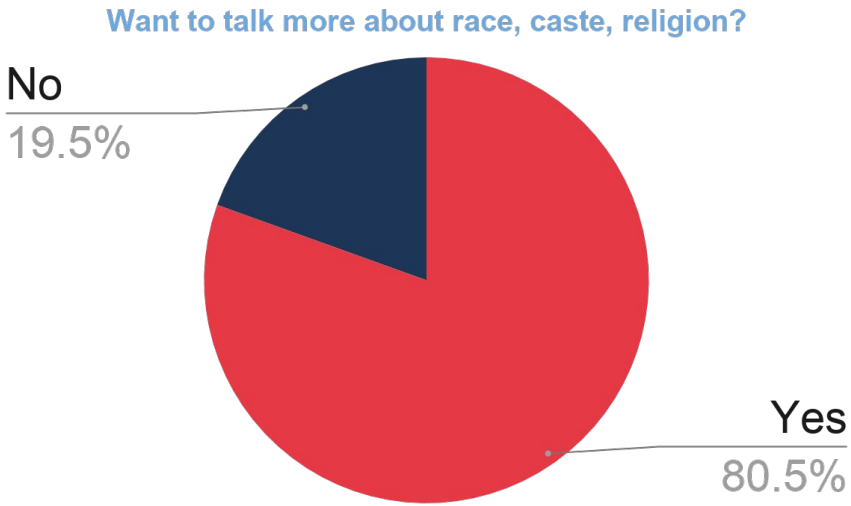
**13%** said “I don’t know”.

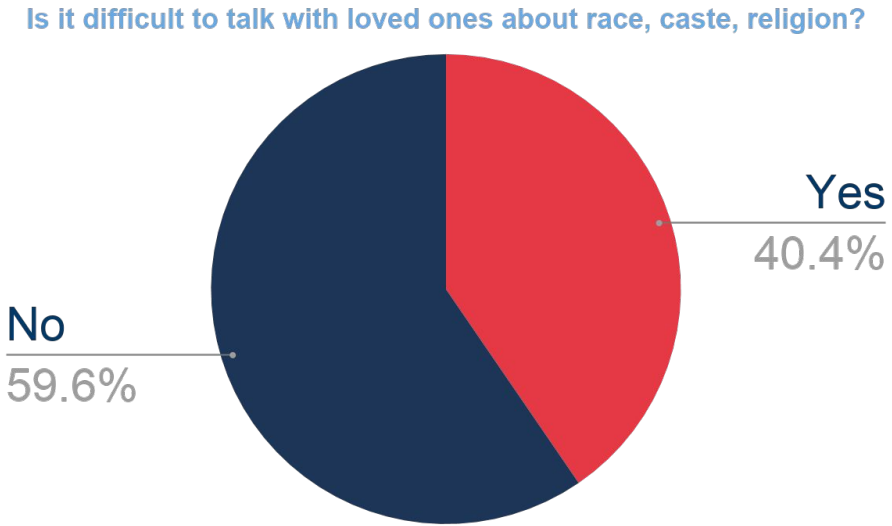
Other answers included “no caste/I do not believe in caste” to “middle class” to “vaniya”.

# How often do you discuss race, caste, religion, or the intersection of any of these areas?

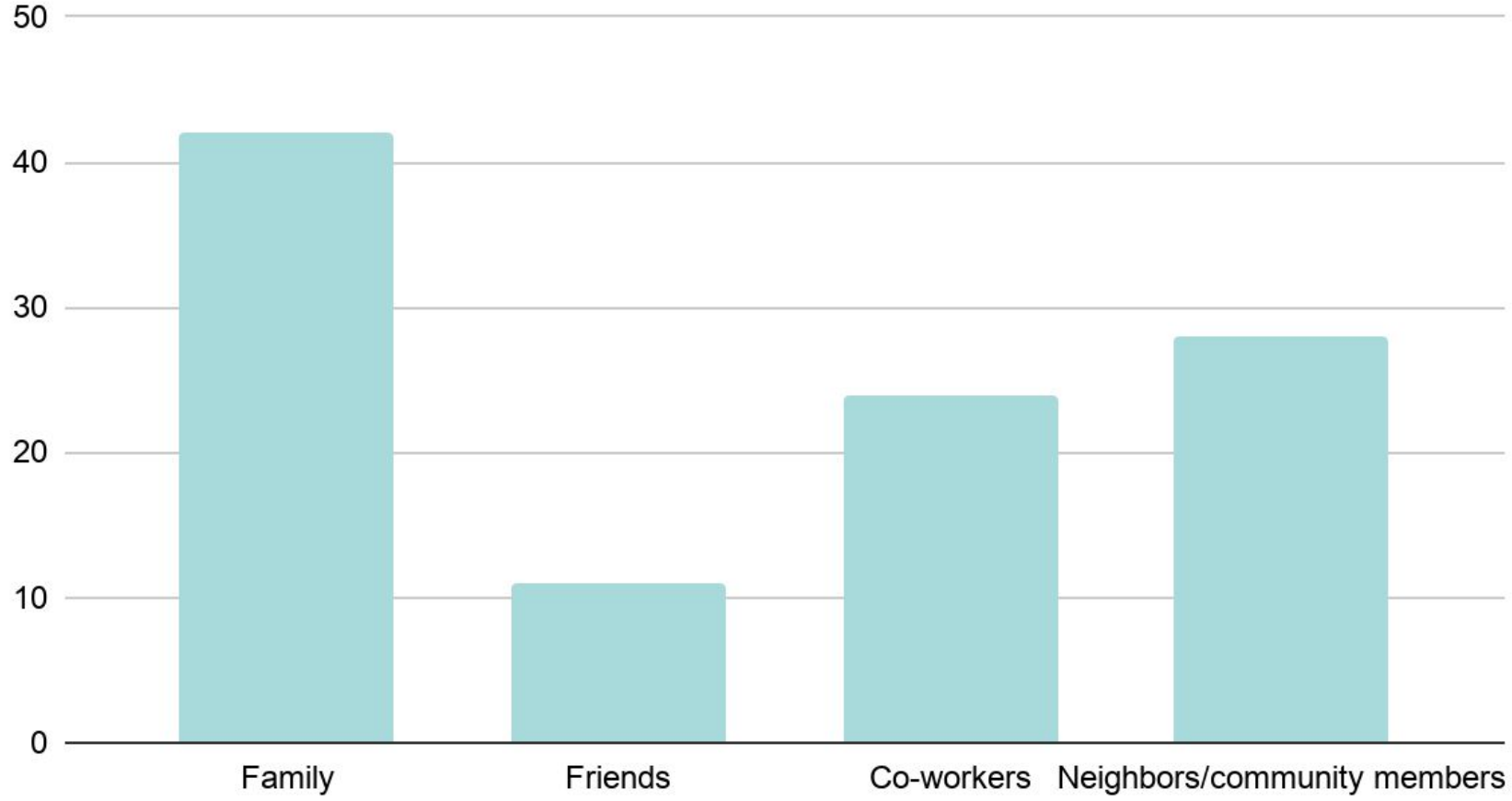


# RCR Conversations: Want versus Difficulty

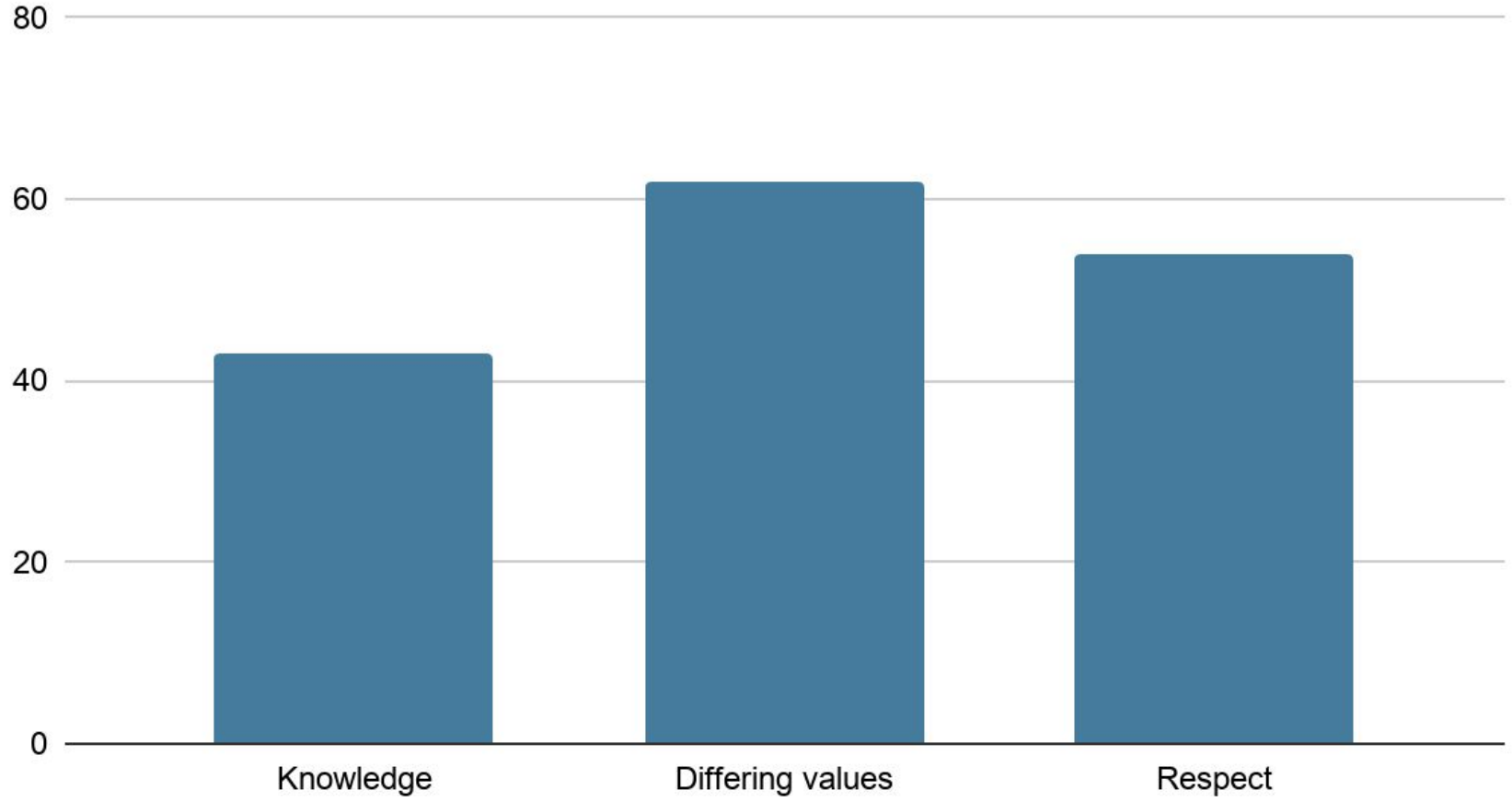


# Who is it difficult to have these conversations with?

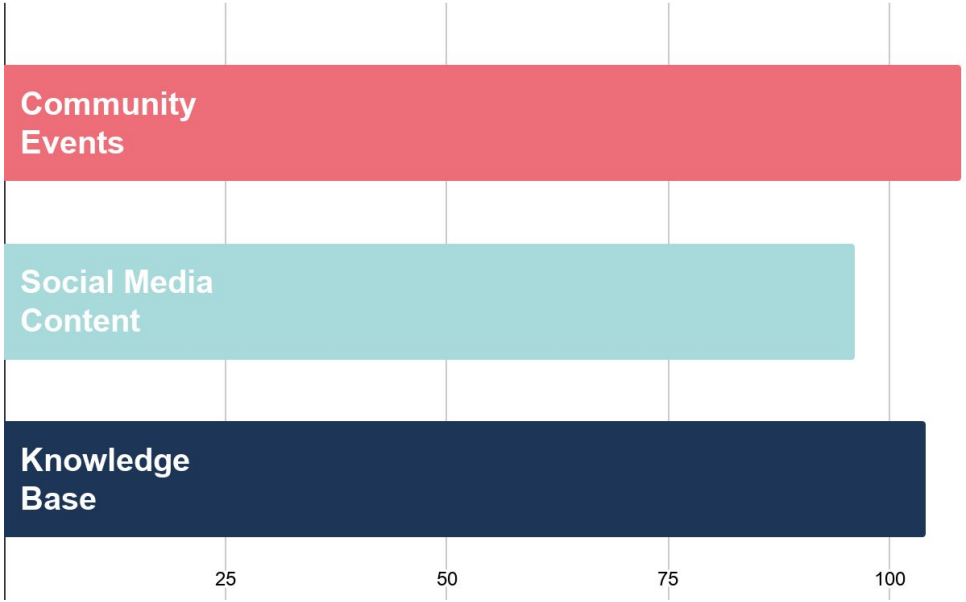


# Why are these conversations difficult?



# Programming Interest

About equal interest in all types of programming that could be offered by J4J

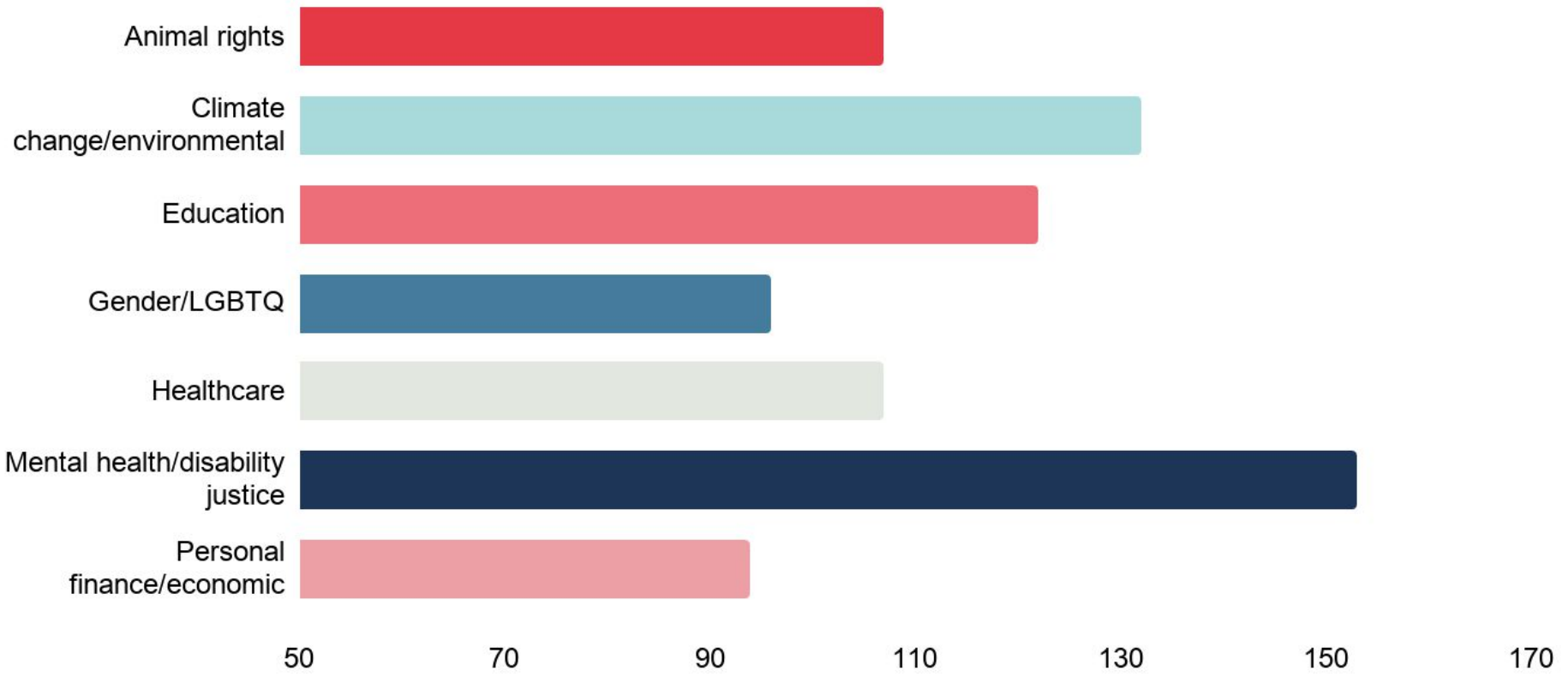



**Community Events**: interactive workshops, discussions, speaker sessions, etc.

**Social Media Content**: social media posts, infographics, videos, etc.

**Knowledge Base**: article, book, podcast recommendations, etc.

# Interest in Issues



# Why Do You Not Want to Talk More About RCR?

"I'd just rather talk about something besides race, religion, or caste in my free time with my friends and family"

"Perhaps it's because my parents prefer their comfort zones, but I find it hard to explain the relevance of certain issues to them when they don't really interact with people of other races and religion outside of a business setting. I'm still trying to explain stereotypes to my dad and pointing them out when he speaks"

"It just creates more division."

"I feel that we already have healthy discussions in our house about these topics."

# Recommendations

- A sizeable portion of respondents **want to talk more about RCR**, but the majority **do not find these conversations difficult.** We should focus our efforts more on the ***why*** **not** ***how*** - provide people the incentive to engage in this conversations with loved ones.
- We should introduce **caste-based topics in conjunction with other issues** that our community is more interested in. When we do introduce caste-based topics, **start with the basics.**
- There is a fairly **even distribution of interest** in J4J providing community events, social media posts, and resources to increase knowledge base.
- Overall, **collaborations between any working groups will be well-suited** to our audience's interests. Almost all respondents particularly listed interest in **mental health and disability rights.**