

Marathon County LIFE Survey 2019

In order to assess important issues regarding the quality of life in Marathon County, the LIFE Steering Committee issued a survey to Marathon County residents in February of 2019. During March and early April 2019, the Survey Research Center (SRC) from University of Wisconsin-River Falls collected data on behalf of the 2019 LIFE Report Survey. The 2019 survey mirrored similar surveys done in previous years.

Data were gathered in three ways:

- A six-page survey was sent to 1,434 households in Marathon County. 75% of the surveys were mailed to a random sample of County residents and 25% to the populations under age 35, households with incomes under \$25,000, and people of color, because we wanted to ensure representation in the sample from three populations that are sometimes challenging to reach with surveys.
- 100 surveys were distributed to selected Marathon County non-profit partners by United Way of Marathon County.
- Emailed an invitation to a panel of approximately 2,000 Marathon County residents.

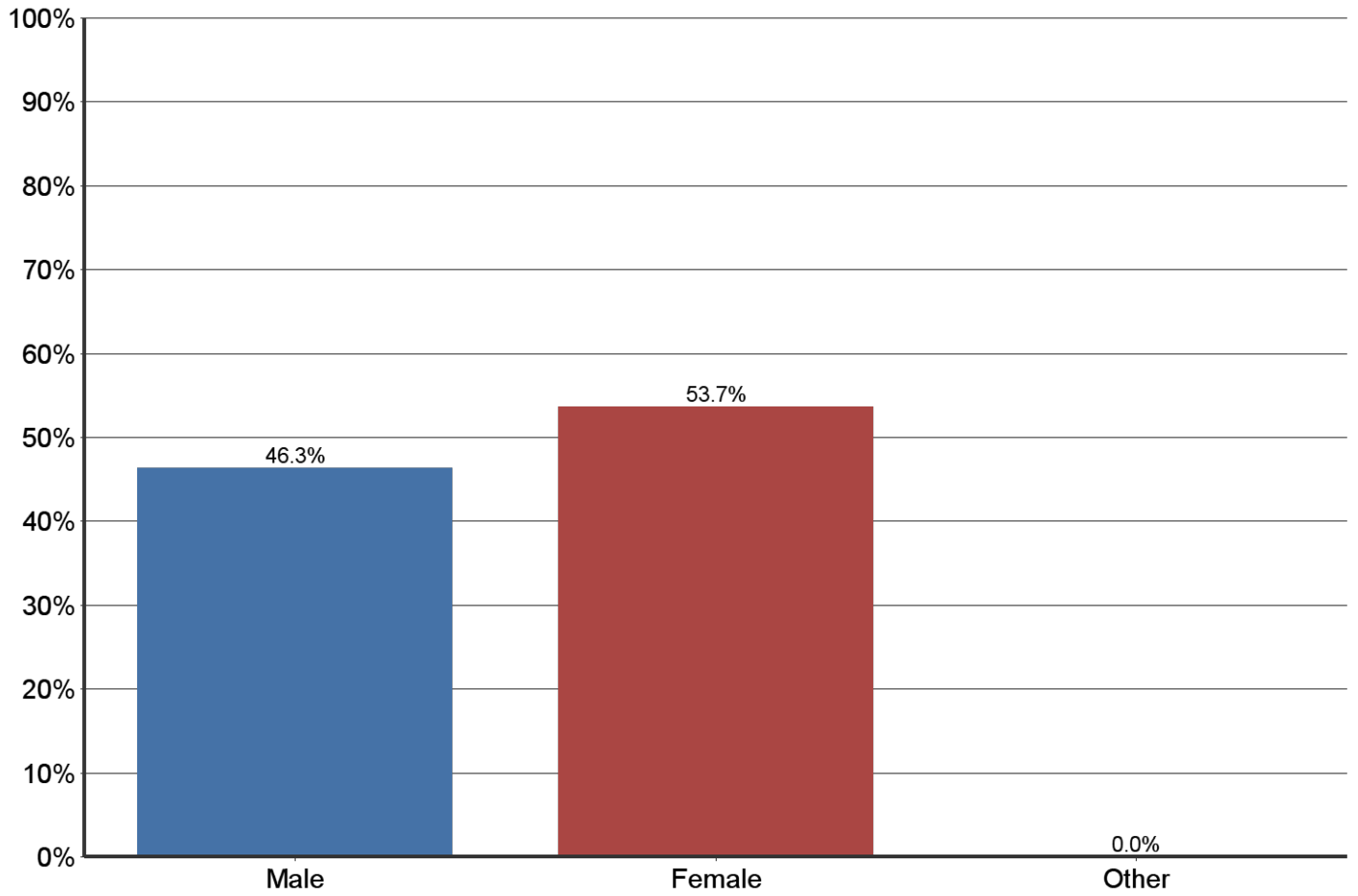
The SRC used the Dillman Method for the 1,434 households in the mail survey. Each person in the sample was sent a survey initially. Those who had not returned their survey within two weeks were sent a postcard reminding them to complete the survey. Two weeks after the postcard, those who had still not responded received a second postcard.

The SRC received the following number of responses from these three sources:

- 388 paper surveys from the mail out
- 37 paper surveys from non-profit partners
- 107 on-line surveys

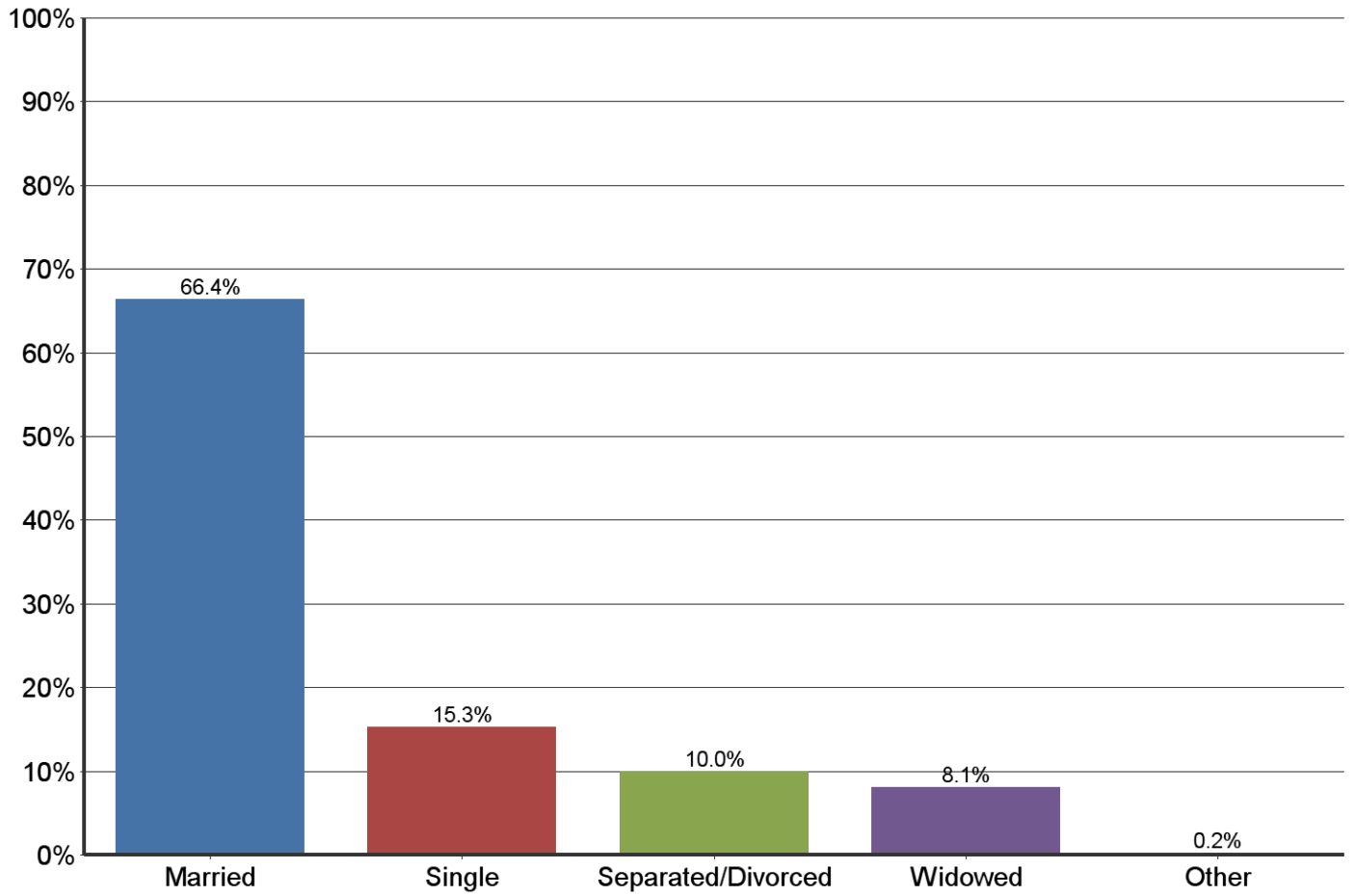
According to the US Census (2011-2015, 5-Year Estimates) there are approximately 53,848 households in Marathon County. Based on that number, SRC did receive an adequate number of completed questionnaires to produce estimates that are expected to be accurate to within plus/minus 5% with 95% confidence.

What is your gender?



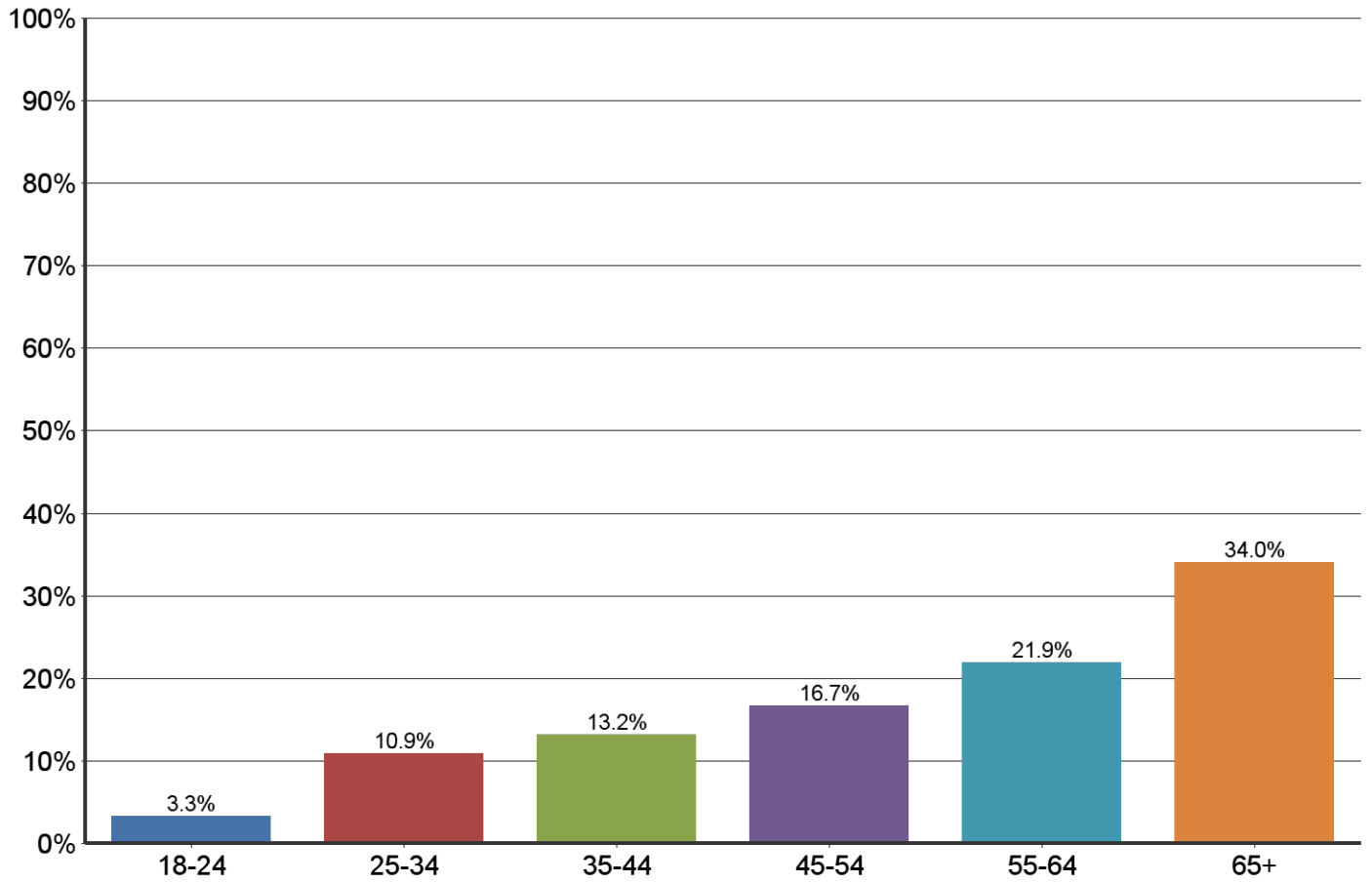
| | Percent | Count | Percent |
|--------|---------|-------|---------|
| Male | | 239 | 46.3% |
| Female | | 277 | 53.7% |
| Other | | 0 | 0.0% |
| Total | | 516 | 100.0% |

What is your marital status?



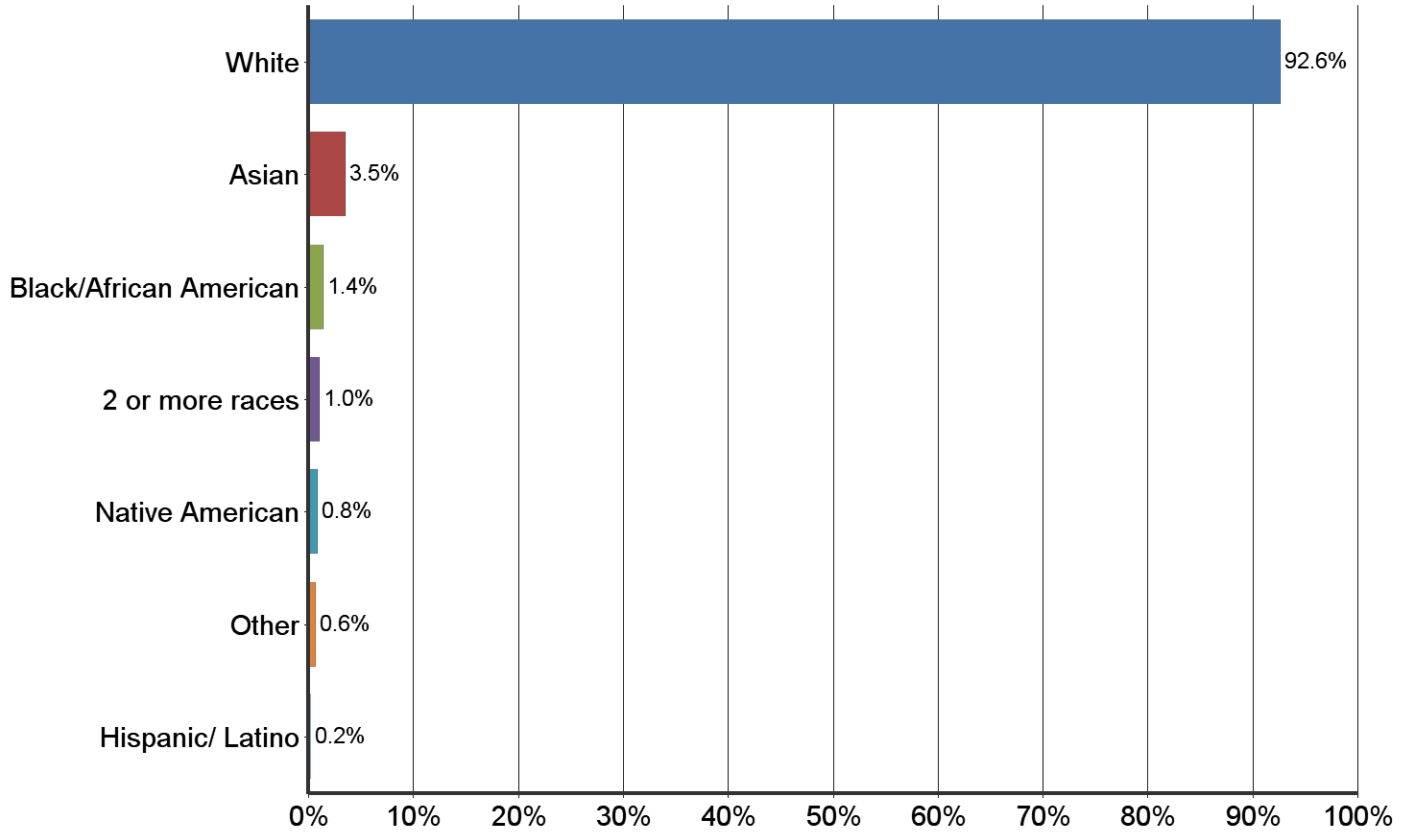
| | Percent | Count | Percent |
|--------------------|---------|-------|---------|
| Married | | 344 | 66.4% |
| Single | | 79 | 15.3% |
| Separated/Divorced | | 52 | 10.0% |
| Widowed | | 42 | 8.1% |
| Other | | 1 | 0.2% |
| Total | | 518 | 100.0% |

What is your age?



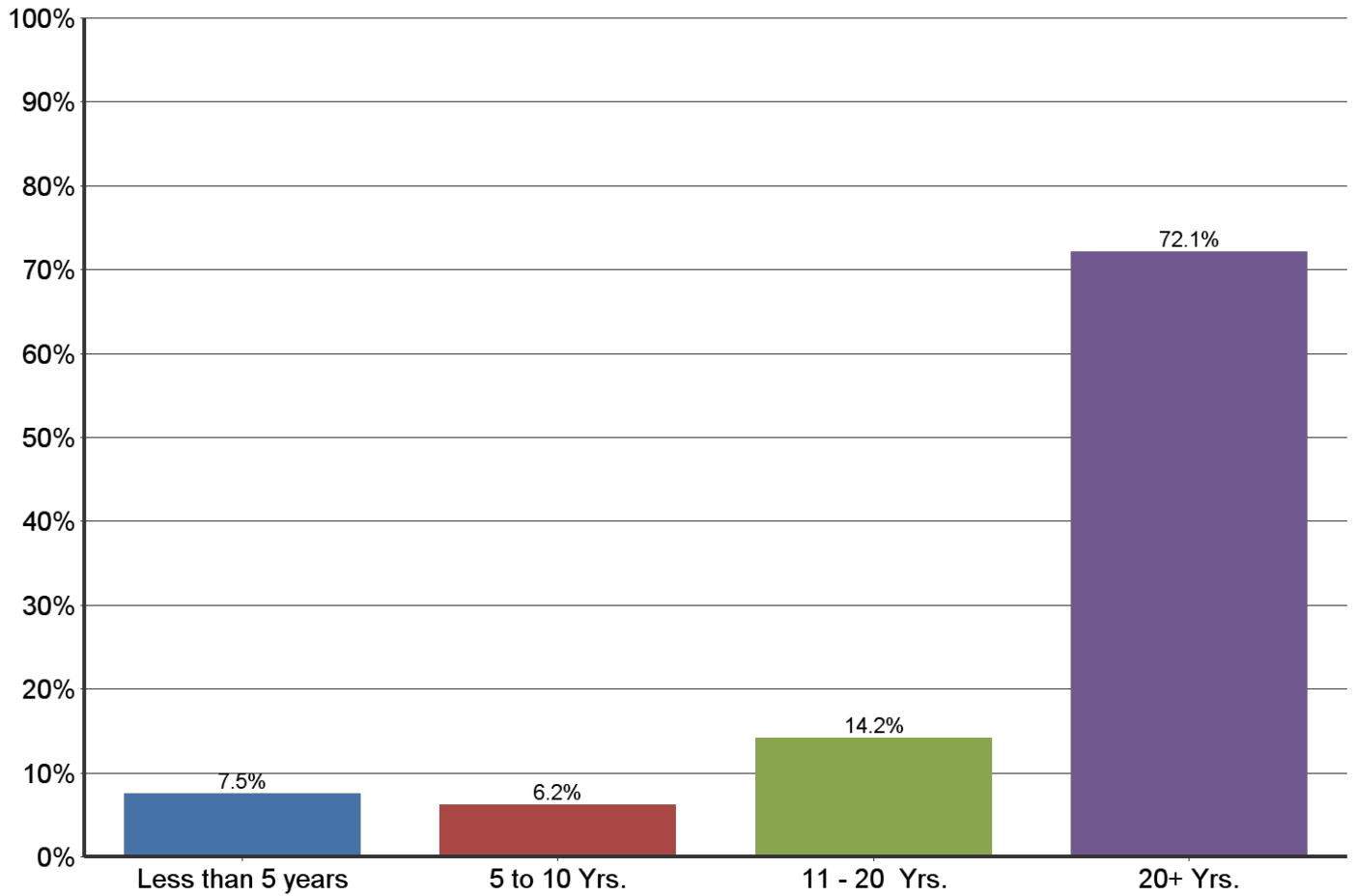
| | Percent | Count | Percent |
|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| 18-24 | | 17 | 3.3% |
| 25-34 | | 57 | 10.9% |
| 35-44 | | 69 | 13.2% |
| 45-54 | | 87 | 16.7% |
| 55-64 | | 114 | 21.9% |
| 65+ | | 177 | 34.0% |
| Total | | 521 | 100.0% |






What racial or ethnic category best describes you?



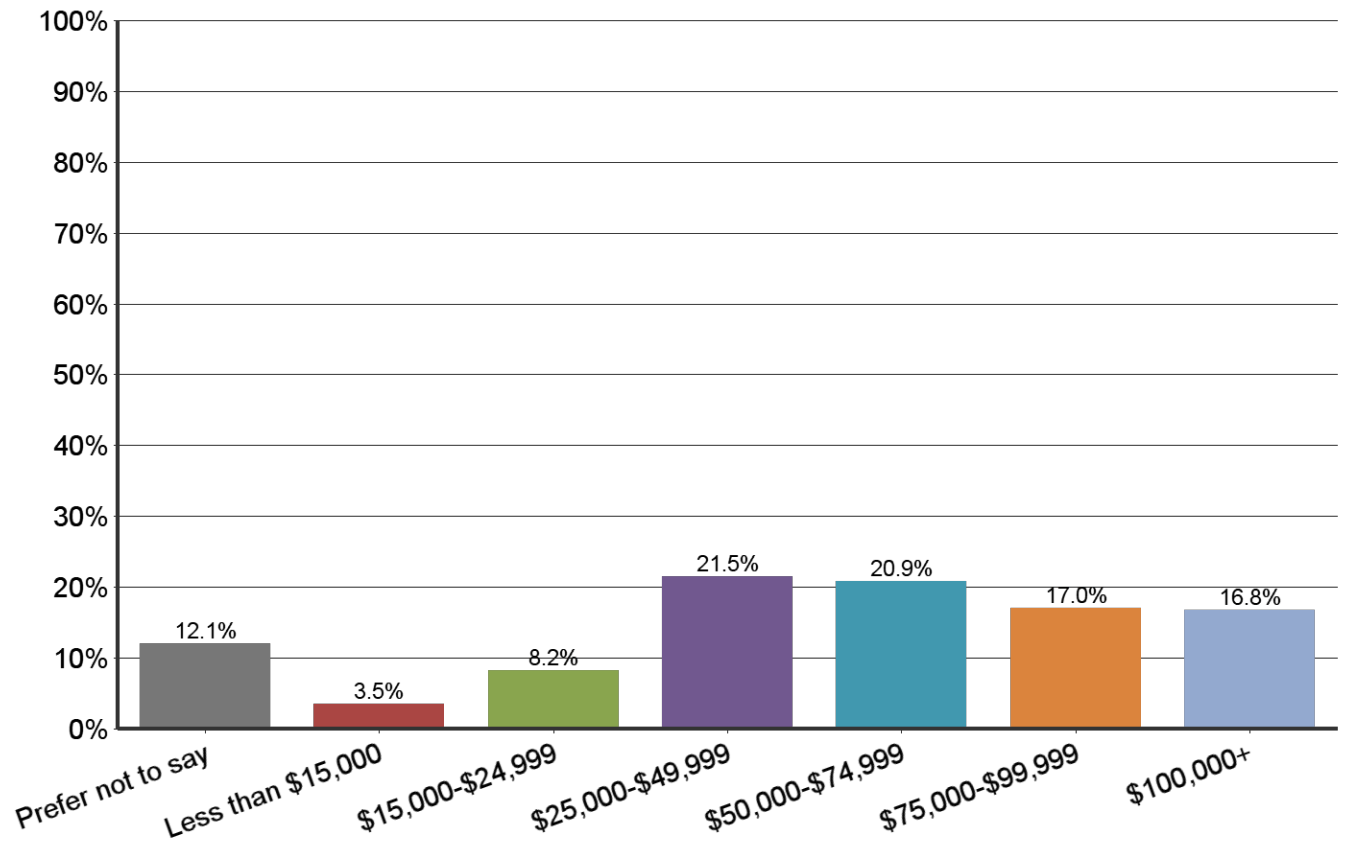
| | Percent | Count | Percent |
|------------------------|---------|-------|---------|
| White | | 478 | 92.6% |
| Asian | | 18 | 3.5% |
| Black/African American | | 7 | 1.4% |
| 2 or more races | | 5 | 1.0% |
| Native American | | 4 | 0.8% |
| Other | | 3 | 0.6% |
| Hispanic/ Latino | | 1 | 0.2% |
| Total | | 516 | 100.0% |









How many years have you lived in Marathon County?



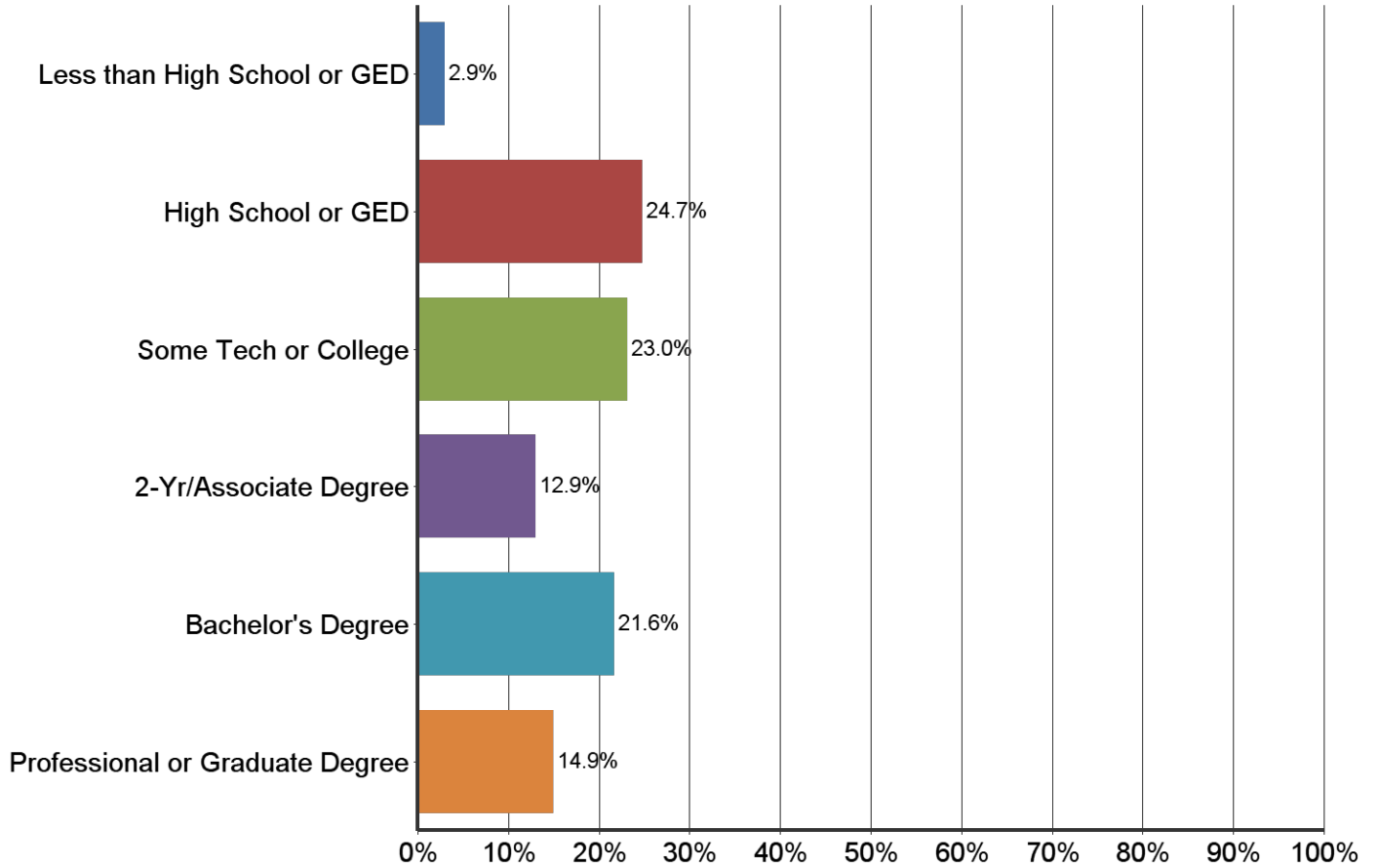
| | Percent | Count | Percent |
|-------------------|--|-------|---------|
| Less than 5 years |  | 39 | 7.5% |
| 5 to 10 Yrs. |  | 32 | 6.2% |
| 11 - 20 Yrs. |  | 74 | 14.2% |
| 20+ Yrs. |  | 375 | 72.1% |
| Total |  | 520 | 100.0% |

What is your household's annual income range?



| | Percent | Count | Percent |
|--------------------|--|-------|---------|
| Prefer not to say |  | 62 | 12.1% |
| Less than \$15,000 |  | 18 | 3.5% |
| \$15,000-\$24,999 |  | 42 | 8.2% |
| \$25,000-\$49,999 |  | 110 | 21.5% |
| \$50,000-\$74,999 |  | 107 | 20.9% |
| \$75,000-\$99,999 |  | 87 | 17.0% |
| \$100,000+ |  | 86 | 16.8% |
| Total |  | 512 | 100.0% |

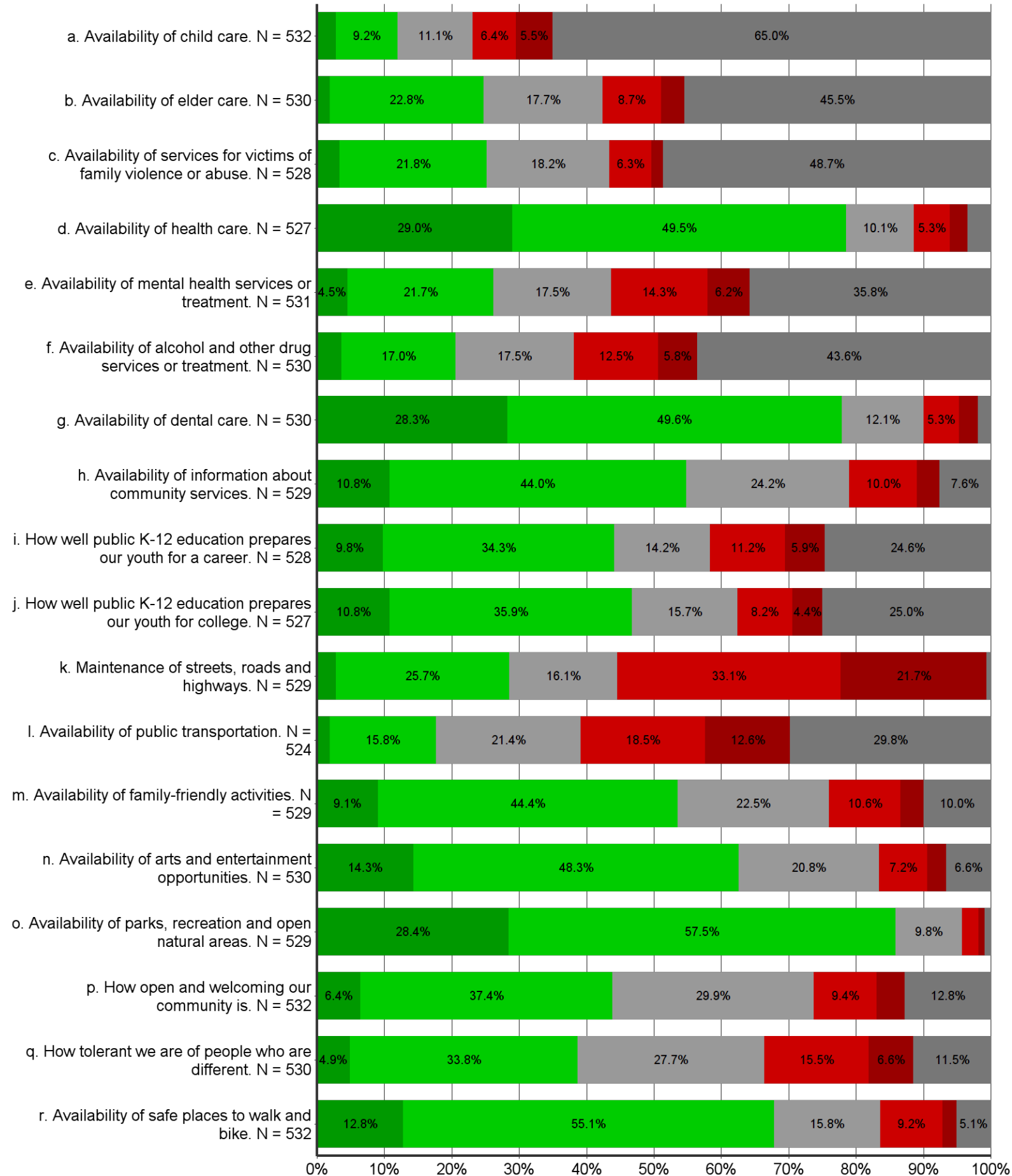
What is the highest level of education that you've completed?



| | Percent | Count | Percent |
|---------------------------------|---------|-------|---------|
| Less than High School or GED | | 15 | 2.9% |
| High School or GED | | 128 | 24.7% |
| Some Tech or College | | 119 | 23.0% |
| 2-Yr/Associate Degree | | 67 | 12.9% |
| Bachelor's Degree | | 112 | 21.6% |
| Professional or Graduate Degree | | 77 | 14.9% |
| Total | | 518 | 100.0% |

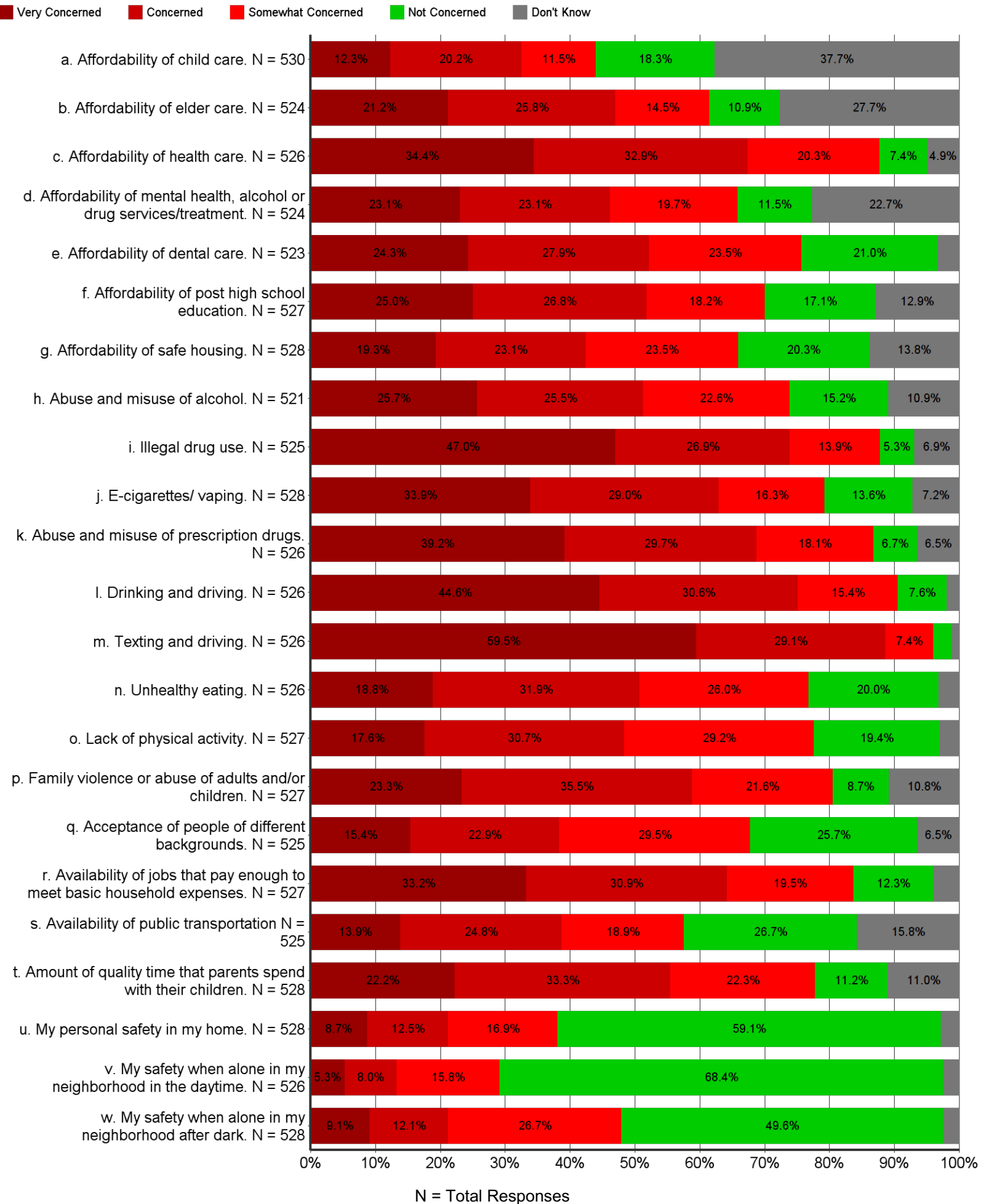
1. How **SATISFIED** are you with the following in your community?

■ Very Satisfied
 ■ Satisfied
 ■ Neither Satisfied nor Dissatisfied
 ■ Dissatisfied
 ■ Very Dissatisfied
 ■ Don't Know/Not Applicable



N = Total Responses

2. How **CONCERNED** are you about the following in your community?



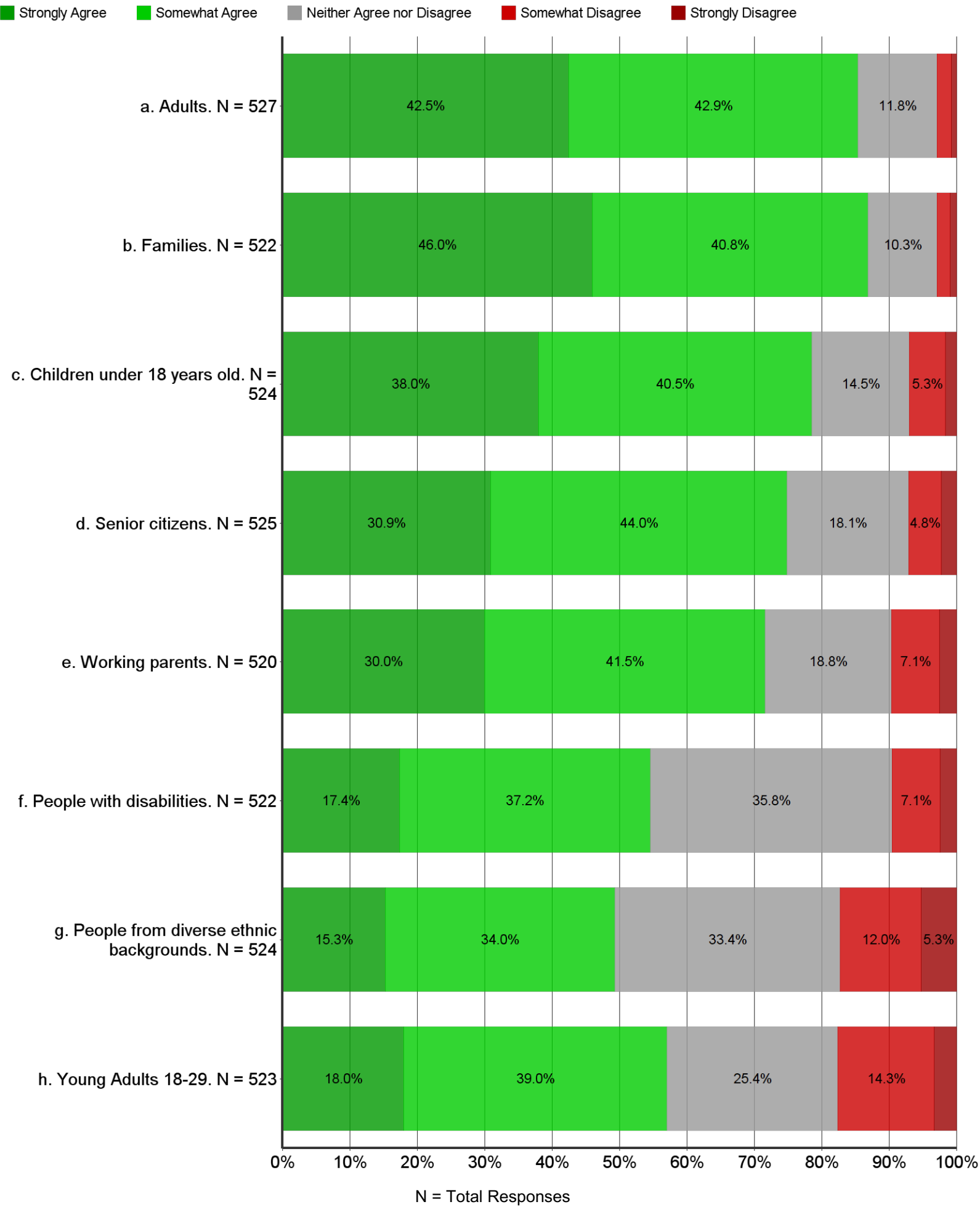
3. From the list in Question 2 above, please type the letter (a-w) of the THREE issues that most concern you.

Total Responses: 1456














Total Respondents: 483

| Percent | Concern |
|---------|---|
| 13.3% | Illegal drug use |
| 13.0% | Texting and driving |
| 10.9% | Affordability of health care |
| 8.3% | Drinking and driving |
| 7.0% | Availability of jobs that pay enough to meet basic household expenses |
| 4.9% | Abuse and misuse of prescription drugs |
| 4.5% | Affordability of elder care |
| 3.7% | Affordability of post high school education |
| 3.4% | Abuse and misuse of alcohol |
| 3.4% | Family violence or abuse of adults and/or children |
| 3.0% | E-cigarettes/ vaping |
| 2.9% | Affordability of dental care |
| 2.8% | Affordability of mental health, alcohol or drug services/treatment |
| 2.4% | Affordability of child care |
| 2.4% | Amount of quality time that parents spend with their children |
| 2.2% | My safety when alone in my neighborhood after dark |
| 2.0% | Affordability of safe housing |
| 2.0% | Lack of physical activity |
| 2.0% | Availability of public transportation |
| 1.9% | Acceptance of people of different backgrounds |
| 1.6% | Unhealthy eating |
| 1.0% | My personal safety in my home |
| 1.0% | My safety when alone in my neighborhood in the daytime |
| 0.7% | Other |

4. Do you agree or disagree that Marathon County is a good place to live for:



5. Of the following, which are the THREE most important reasons you've chosen to live in Marathon County? (Mark up to three reasons only)

| | Percent | Count | Percent |
|---|--|-------|---------|
| Near family/friends |  | 349 | 66.3% |
| Rural life style |  | 172 | 32.7% |
| Size of community |  | 153 | 29.1% |
| Job opportunities |  | 143 | 27.2% |
| Safe community |  | 134 | 25.5% |
| Good place to raise kids |  | 127 | 24.1% |
| Affordable cost of living |  | 124 | 23.6% |
| Good schools |  | 108 | 20.5% |
| Recreation opportunities in parks/natural areas |  | 82 | 15.6% |
| Other |  | 42 | 8.0% |
| Welcoming community |  | 30 | 5.7% |
| Entertainment opportunities |  | 23 | 4.4% |
| Total |  | 1487 | 282.7% |

6. Which three of the following most connects you to your community in Marathon County? (Mark up to three reasons only)

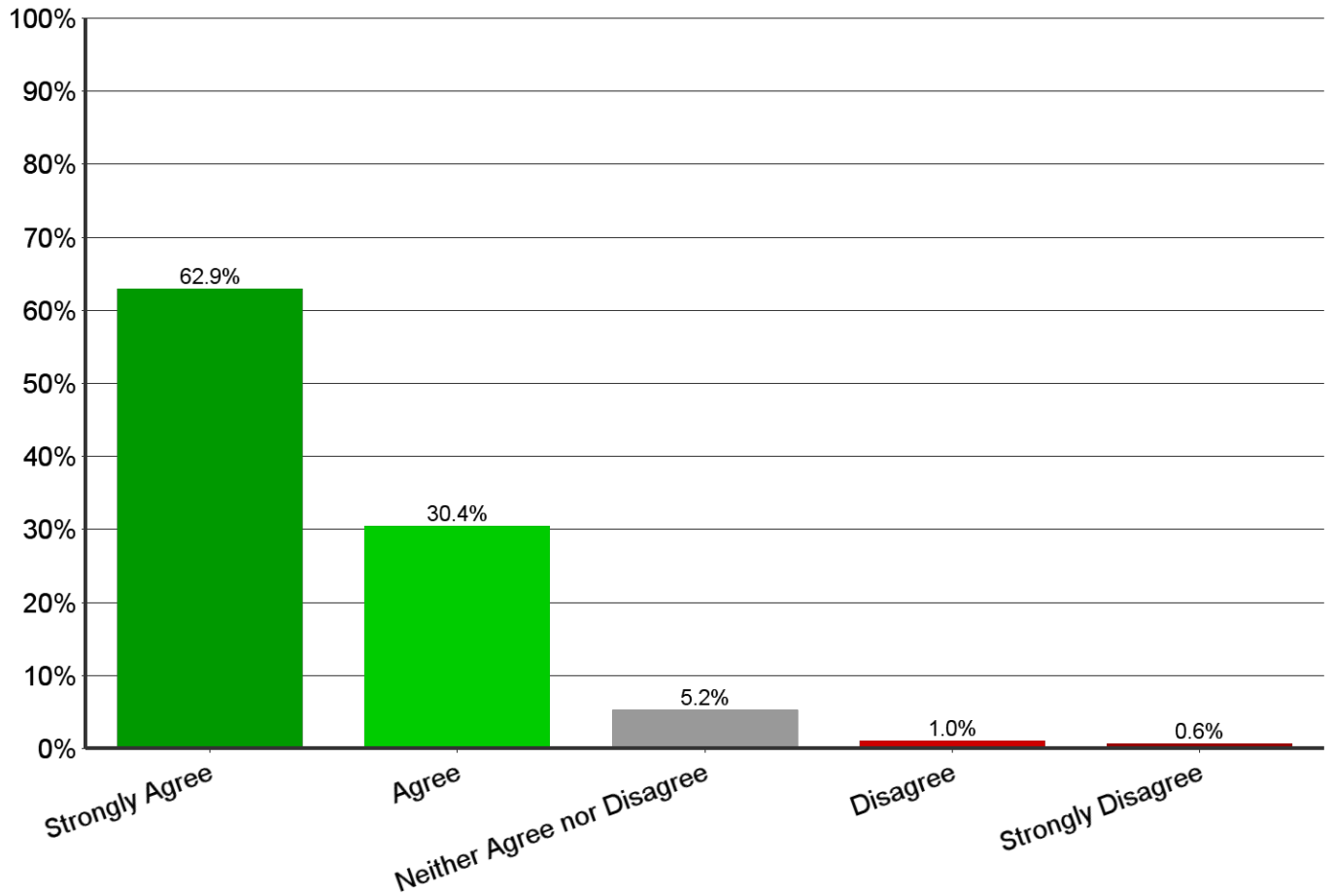
| | Percent | Count | Percent |
|--|---------|-------|---------|
| My family/friends | | 402 | 78.8% |
| Organizations (clubs, churches, etc.) | | 147 | 28.8% |
| Access to needed services | | 103 | 20.2% |
| Respectful treatment by my community | | 79 | 15.5% |
| Volunteering | | 57 | 11.2% |
| Involvement with schools | | 55 | 10.8% |
| Social media/Internet | | 47 | 9.2% |
| Civic engagement (voting, public forums, etc.) | | 40 | 7.8% |
| Other | | 38 | 7.5% |
| Total | | 968 | 189.8% |







7. Discrimination occurs when a person is treated unfairly based upon personal characteristics such as race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, income, religion, disability or handicap, etc.

During the past year, how many times have you/members of your household experienced discrimination in Marathon County?

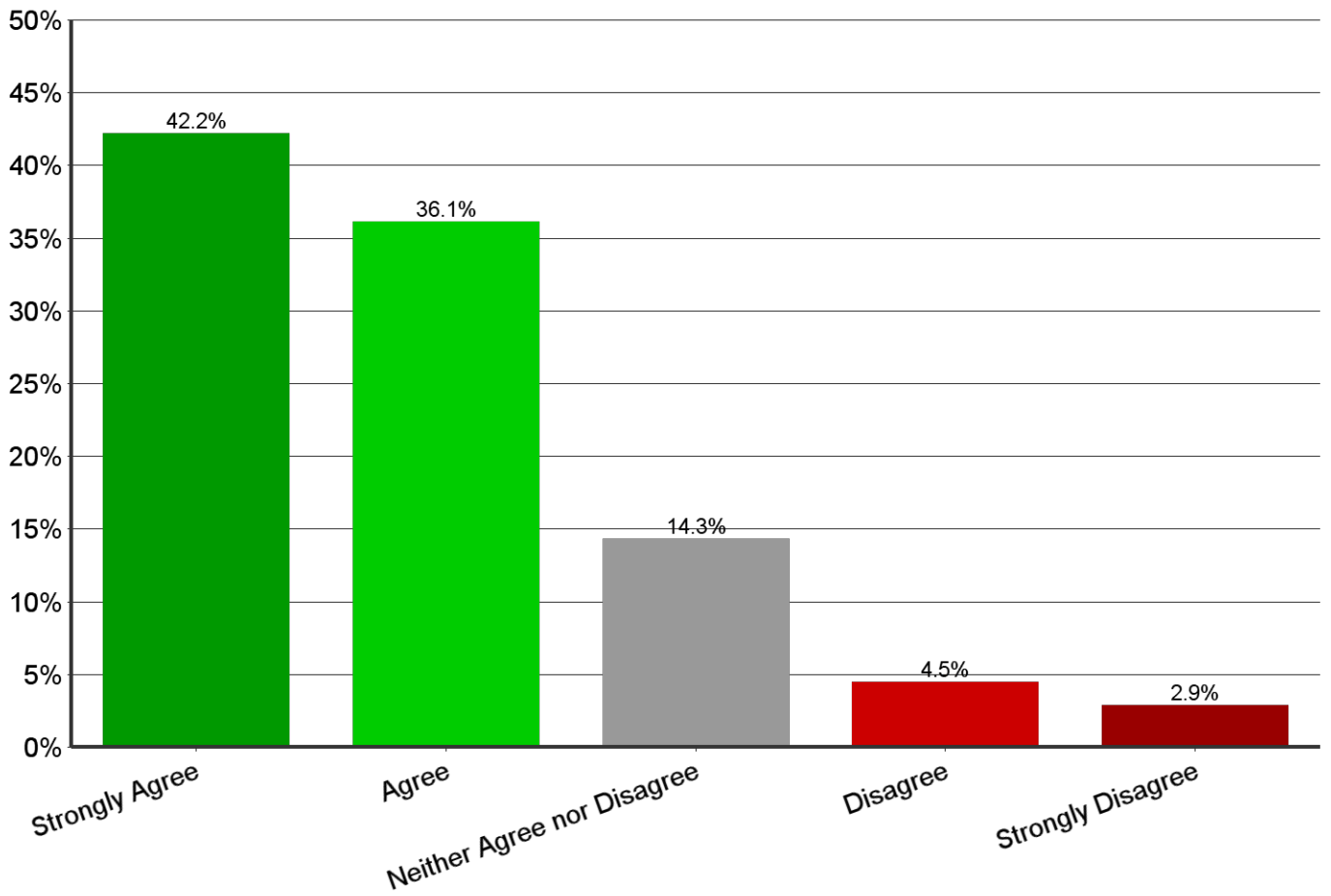
| | Percent | Count | Percent |
|-------------|---------|-------|---------|
| None | | 324 | 63.3% |
| 1 Time | | 27 | 5.3% |
| 2-5 Times | | 77 | 15.0% |
| 6-10 Times | | 18 | 3.5% |
| 11-20 Times | | 6 | 1.2% |
| 21+ Times | | 15 | 2.9% |
| Don't Know | | 45 | 8.8% |
| Total | | 512 | 100.0% |







8. The people with whom I currently work, or with whom I used to work, would say I have a strong work ethic?



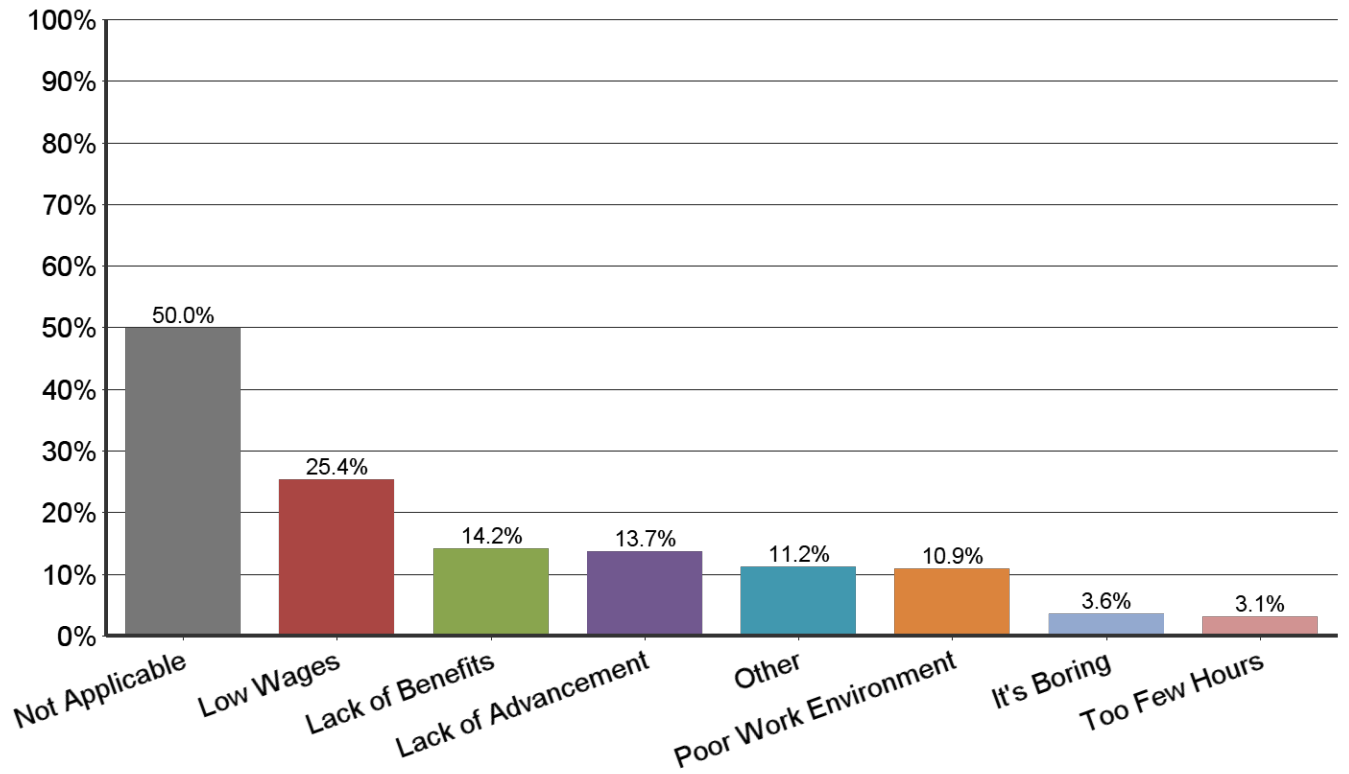
| | Percent | Count | Percent |
|----------------------------|--|-------|---------|
| Strongly Agree |  | 325 | 62.9% |
| Agree |  | 157 | 30.4% |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree |  | 27 | 5.2% |
| Disagree |  | 5 | 1.0% |
| Strongly Disagree |  | 3 | 0.6% |
| Total |  | 517 | 100.0% |

9. Do you get satisfaction from your current job, or the one you most recently had?



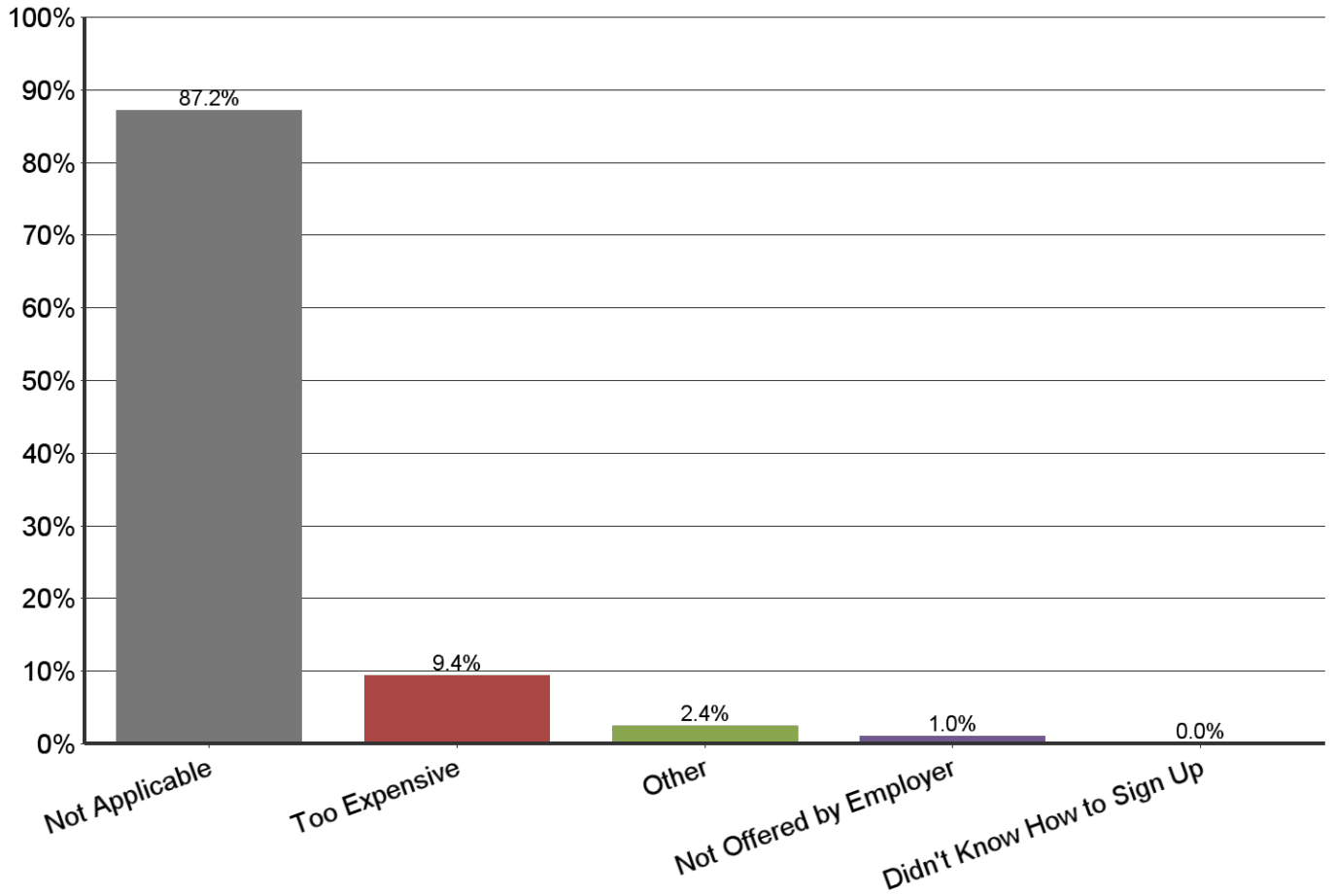
| | Percent | Count | Percent |
|----------------------------|--|-------|---------|
| Strongly Agree |  | 215 | 42.2% |
| Agree |  | 184 | 36.1% |
| Neither Agree nor Disagree |  | 73 | 14.3% |
| Disagree |  | 23 | 4.5% |
| Strongly Disagree |  | 15 | 2.9% |
| Total |  | 510 | 100.0% |






10. If you don't get satisfaction from your current job, or the one you had most recently, which of the following are reasons for your dissatisfaction? (Mark all that apply)



| | Percent | Count | Percent |
|-----------------------|---------|-------|---------|
| Not Applicable | | 179 | 50.0% |
| Low Wages | | 91 | 25.4% |
| Lack of Benefits | | 51 | 14.2% |
| Lack of Advancement | | 49 | 13.7% |
| Other | | 40 | 11.2% |
| Poor Work Environment | | 39 | 10.9% |
| It's Boring | | 13 | 3.6% |
| Too Few Hours | | 11 | 3.1% |
| Total | | 473 | 132.1% |

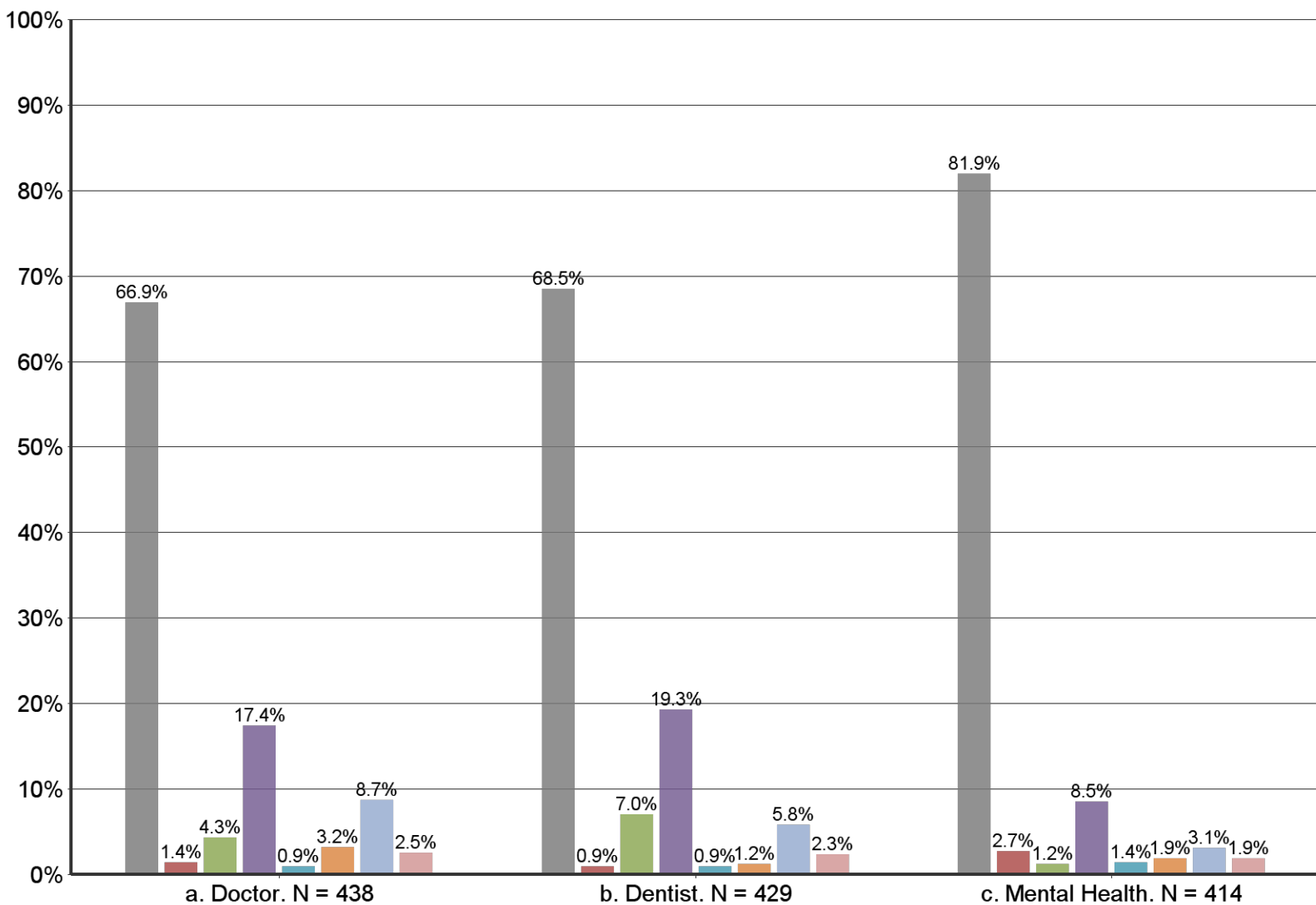
11. If you've not had health insurance (Medicare, Medicaid, Badgercare, Private Insurance) at any time during the past 12 months, which of the following is the most important reason? (Mark one only)



| | Percent | Count | Percent |
|----------------------------|--|-------|---------|
| Not Applicable |  | 360 | 87.2% |
| Too Expensive |  | 39 | 9.4% |
| Other |  | 10 | 2.4% |
| Not Offered by Employer |  | 4 | 1.0% |
| Didn't Know How to Sign Up | | 0 | 0.0% |
| Total |  | 413 | 100.0% |

12. In the last 12 months, has there been a time when you or someone in your family should have seen a doctor, dentist, or mental health provider but didn't? If so, please indicate why. (Mark all that apply)

Not Applicable
 Didn't Know How to Find a Provider
 No Insurance
 Couldn't Afford
 Distance/No Transportation
 No Appointments Available
 Choose Not To
 Other



What is the "other" reason you were unable to see a doctor?

What is the "other" reason you were unable to see a doctor?

Not many to choose from when you're on Medicare.

Stigma around selling counseling time

I choose preventative health care. Chiropractic care massage yoga being in nature eating healthy exercising meditation

I went online to set up an appointment and never heard back from the dental office. I was sent a generic email to call and schedule. What's the point of having online scheduling if you have to call? I'm a busy single mother and have no time to call during my work hours. I need flexibility from dental offices.

What is the "other" reason you were unable to see a dentist?

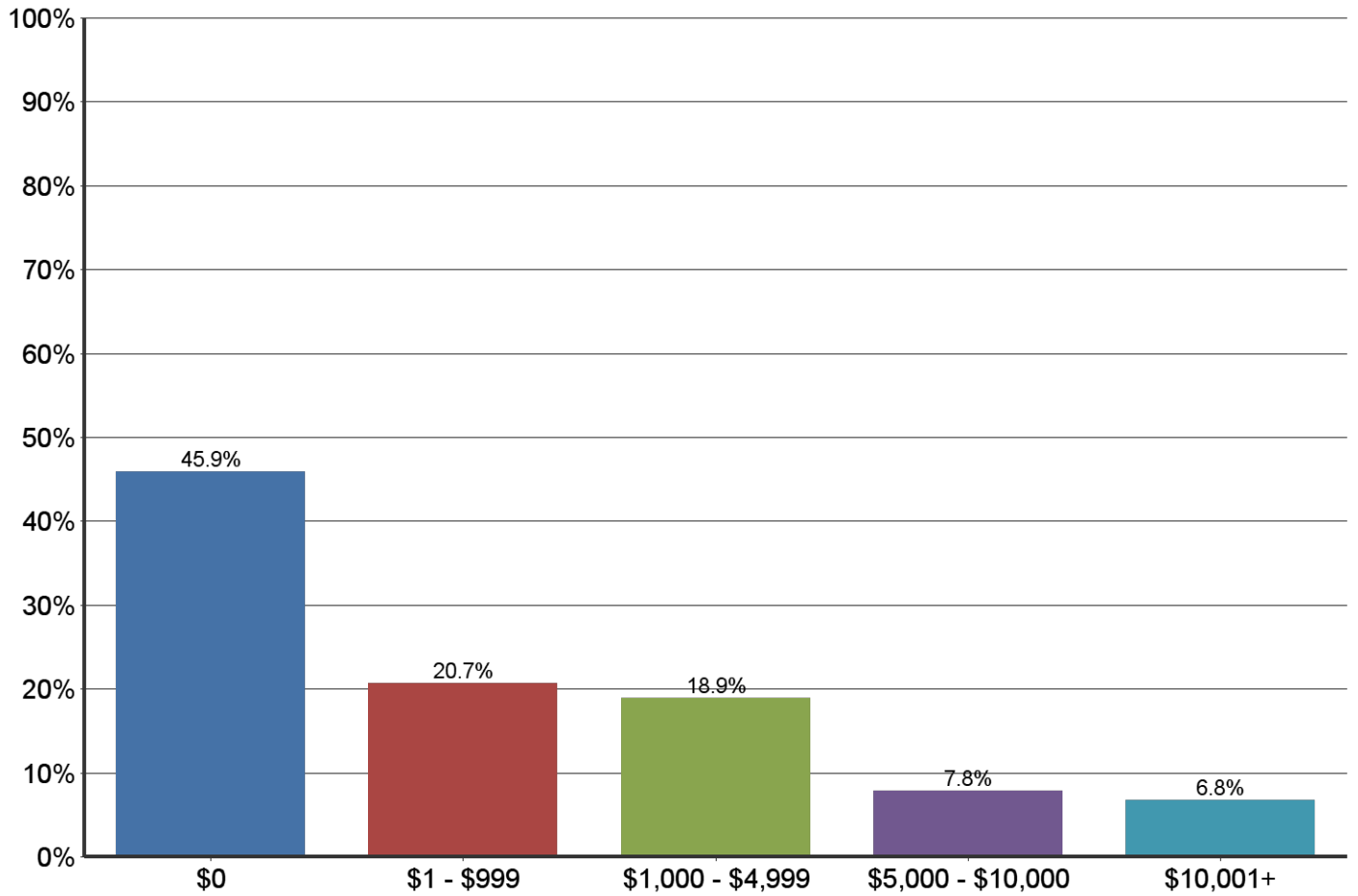
No answers.

What is the "other" reason you were unable to see a mental health care provider?

No answers.

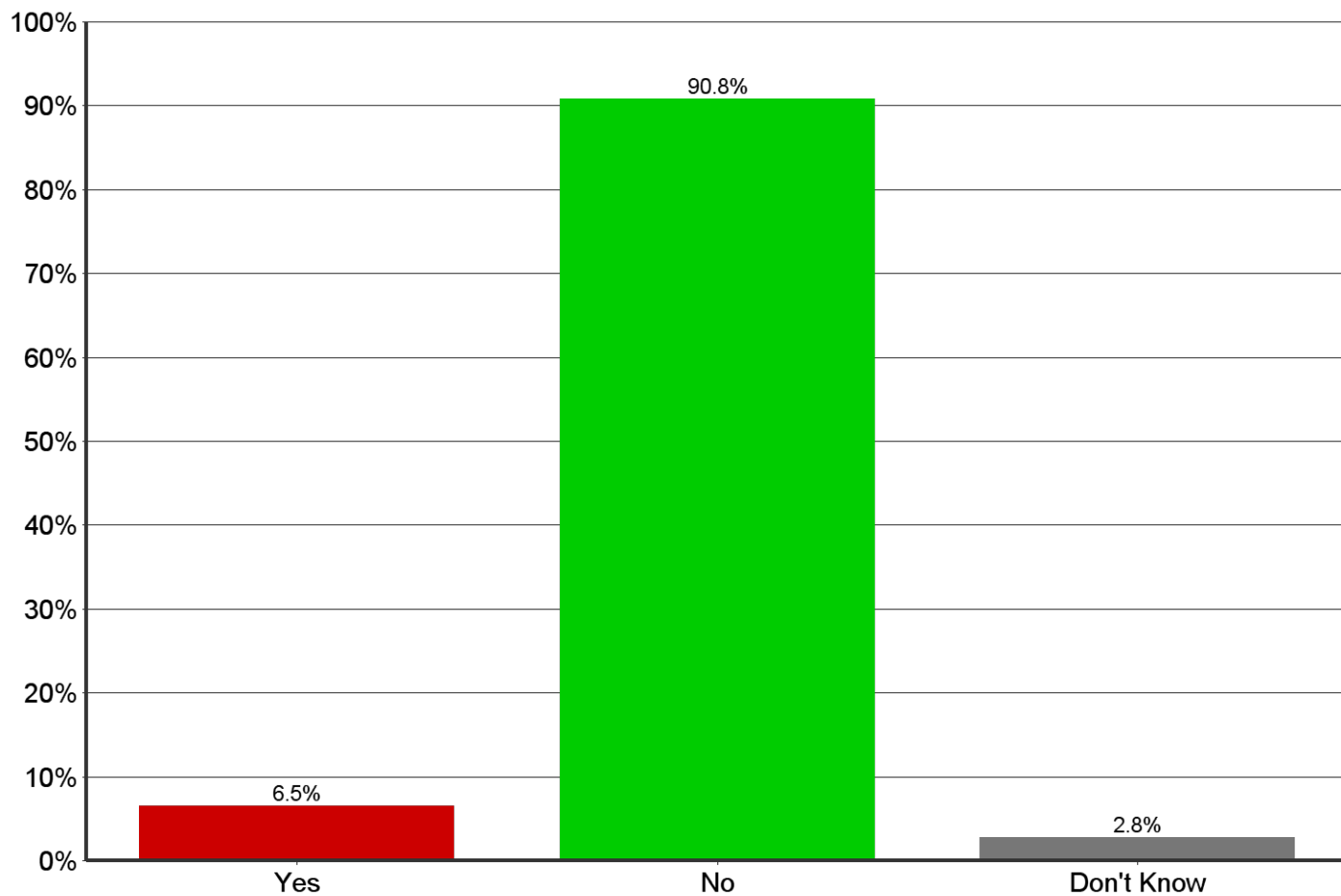
N = Total Responses





13. Which of the following best describes your current family/household medical debt?



| | Percent | Count | Percent |
|--------------------|---------|-------|---------|
| \$0 | | 231 | 45.9% |
| \$1 - \$999 | | 104 | 20.7% |
| \$1,000 - \$4,999 | | 95 | 18.9% |
| \$5,000 - \$10,000 | | 39 | 7.8% |
| \$10,001+ | | 34 | 6.8% |
| Total | | 503 | 100.0% |

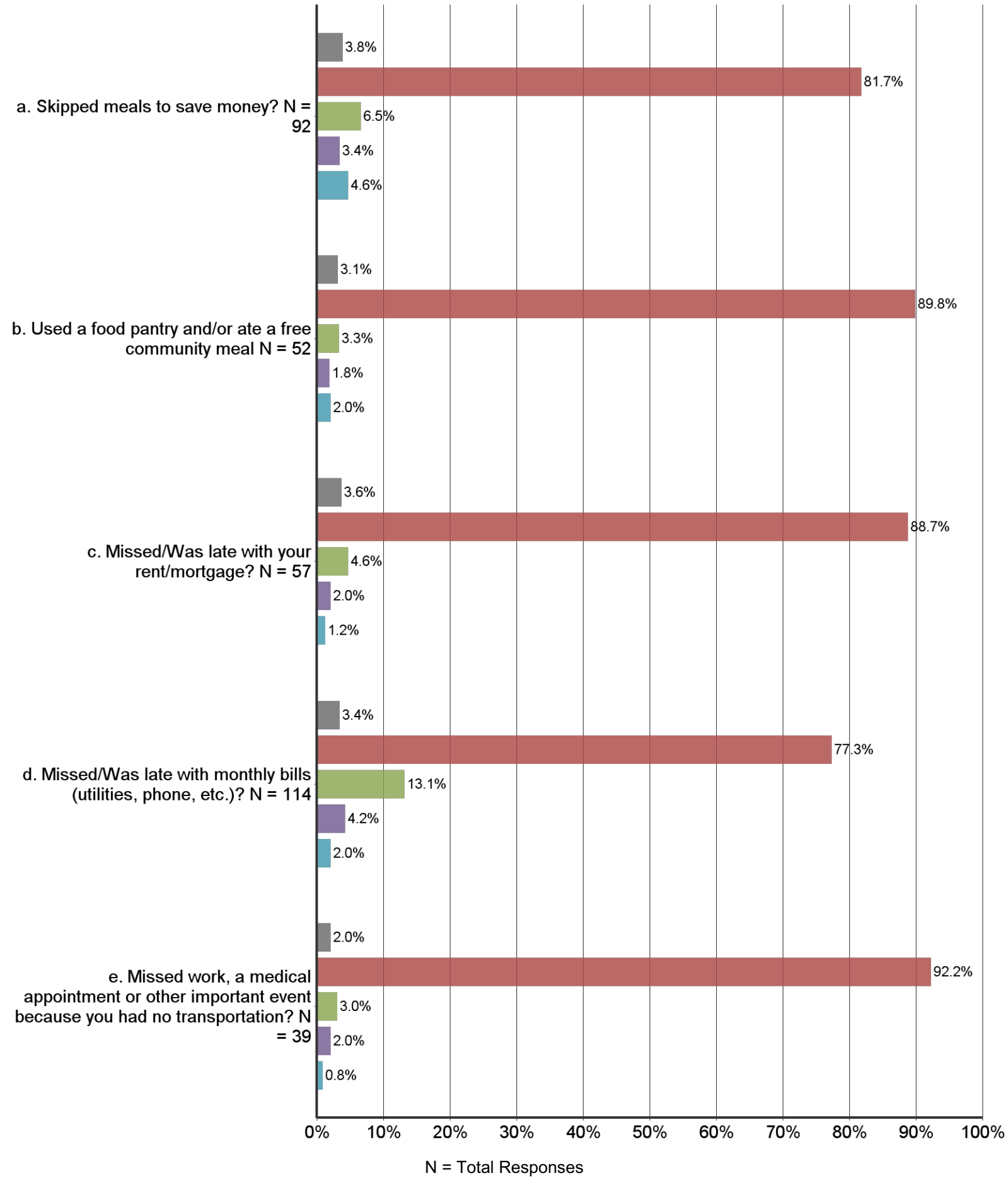
14. In the past year, have you been concerned about someone in your family misusing drugs (prescription or illegal)?



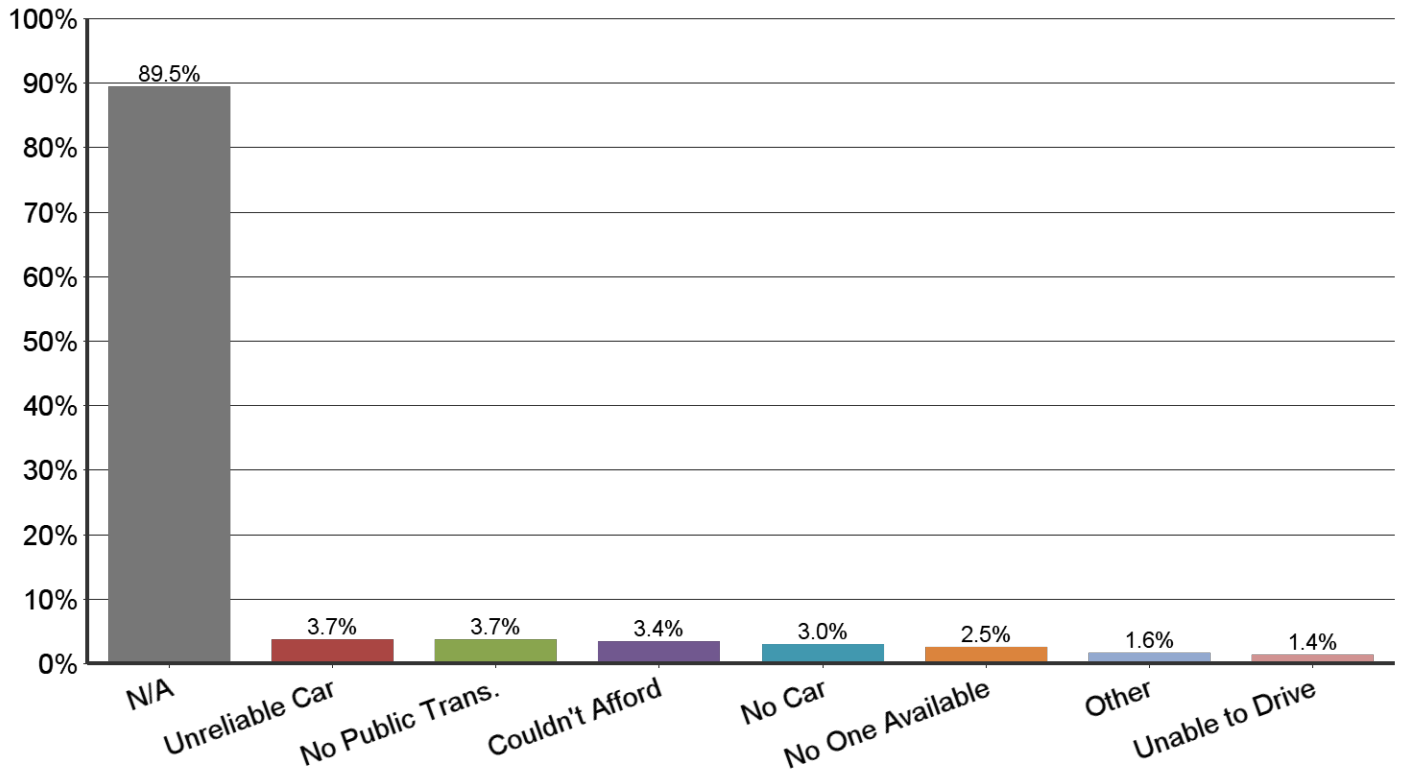
| | Percent | Count | Percent |
|------------|--|-------|---------|
| Yes |  | 33 | 6.5% |
| No |  | 462 | 90.8% |
| Don't Know |  | 14 | 2.8% |
| Total |  | 509 | 100.0% |

15. During the past year, in how many months have you/someone in your household:

■ Don't Know ■ 0 ■ 1-2 ■ 3-6 ■ 7+



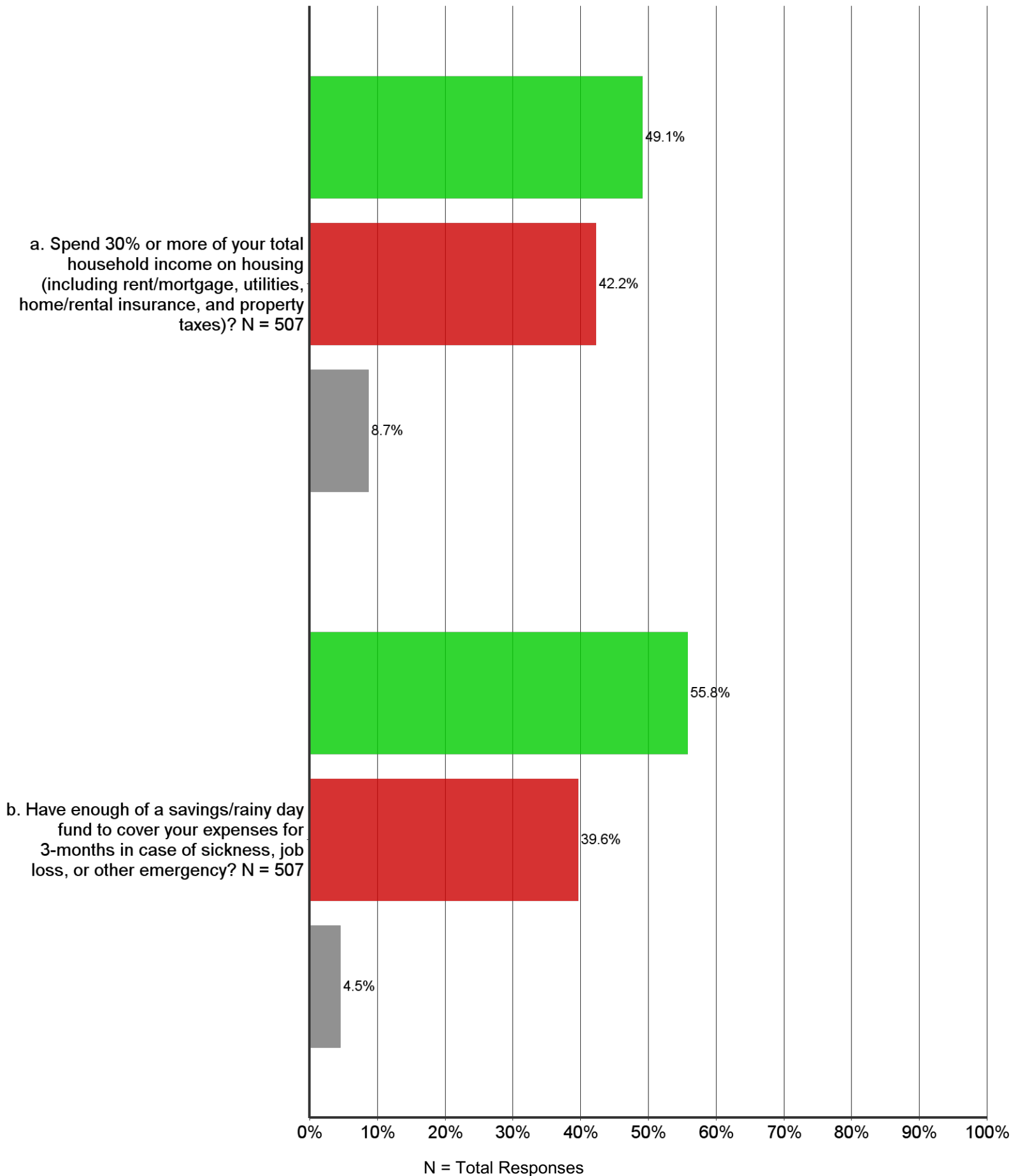
16. If, during the past year, you or someone in your household missed work, a medical appointment or other important event because you had no transportation, which of the following caused this problem? (Mark all that apply)



| | Percent | Count | Percent |
|------------------------------|---------|-------|---------|
| Not Applicable | | 392 | 89.5% |
| Unreliable Car | | 16 | 3.7% |
| No Public Transport (bus) | | 16 | 3.7% |
| Couldn't Afford Gas/Cab Fare | | 15 | 3.4% |
| No Car | | 13 | 3.0% |
| No One Available to Drive Me | | 11 | 2.5% |
| Other | | 7 | 1.6% |
| Unable to Drive | | 6 | 1.4% |
| Total | | 476 | 108.7% |

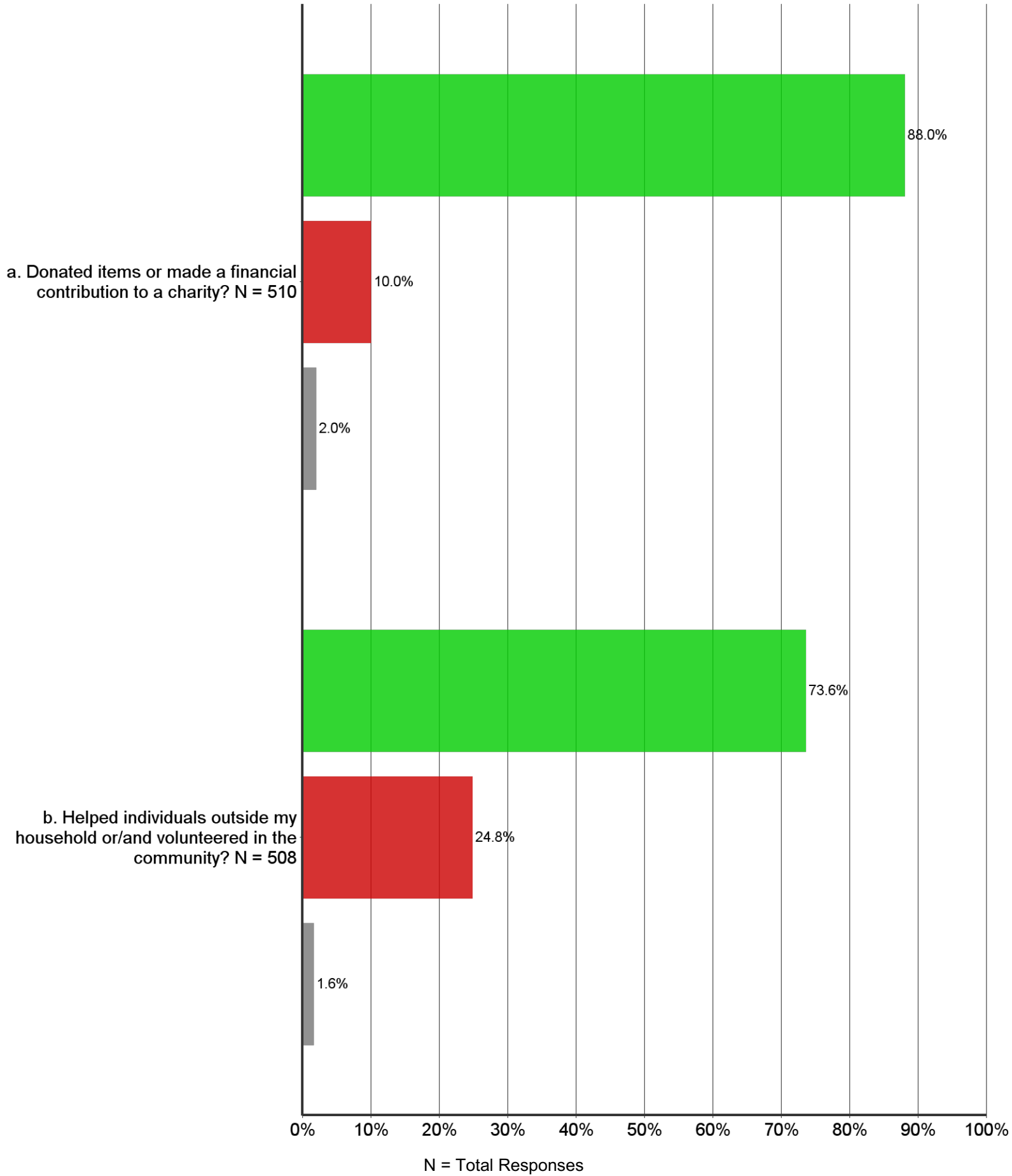
17. Do you/your household:

Yes No Don't Know



18. In the past year, have you:

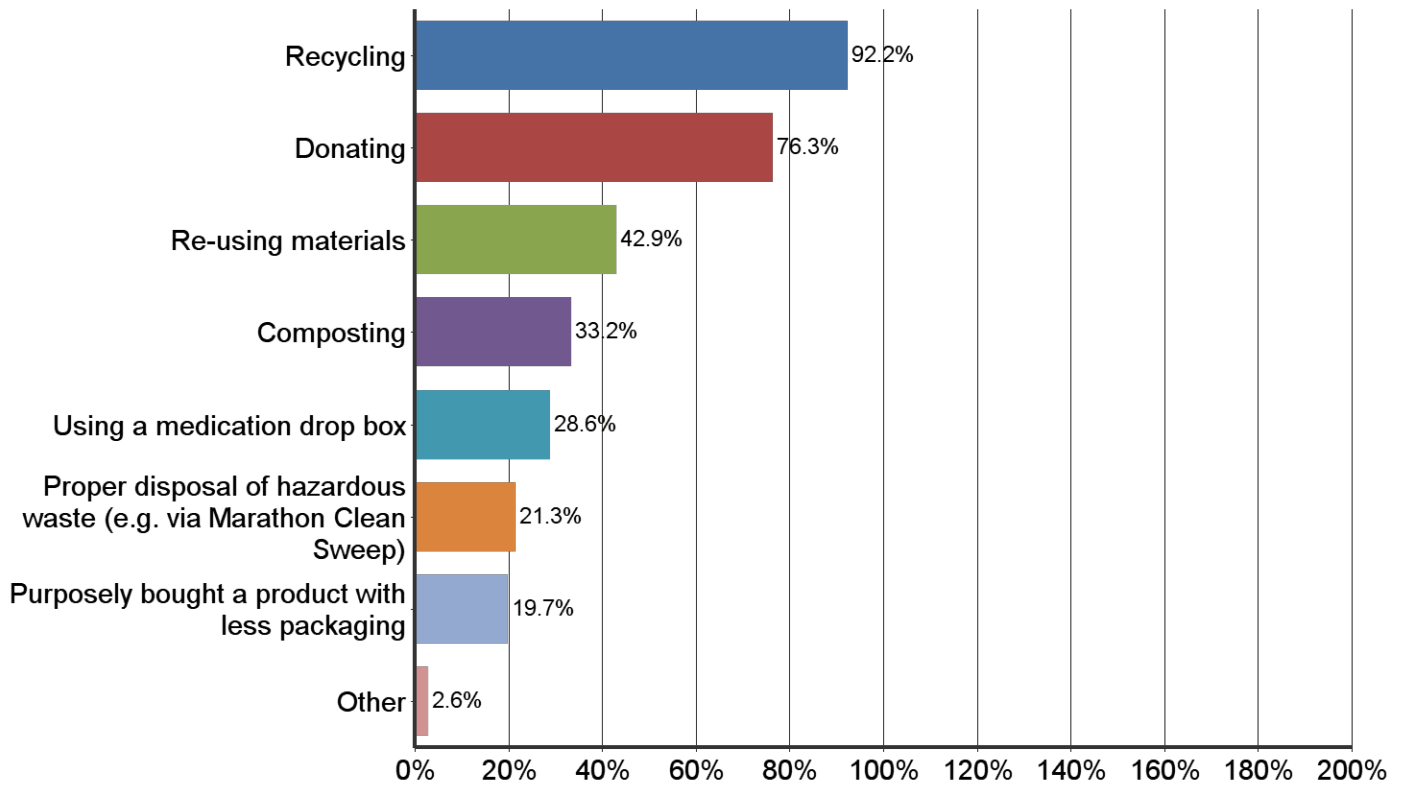
Yes No Don't Know



19. If you have NOT tested your well water in the last year, what are your main reasons? (Mark up to 3 reasons)

| | Percent | Count | Percent |
|--|---------|-------|---------|
| a. Not applicable, my water comes from a municipal water system. | | 299 | 65.0% |
| g. I have been drinking this water for years without any problems. | | 83 | 18.0% |
| l. Other | | 36 | 7.8% |
| j. I didn't know that we should test the water. | | 35 | 7.6% |
| k. I do not own the property where I live. | | 28 | 6.1% |
| c. I don't know how to have my well water tested. | | 23 | 5.0% |
| b. I don't know what to test for. | | 22 | 4.8% |
| d. It costs too much to have my well water tested. | | 20 | 4.3% |
| i. I didn't know well water testing was available. | | 17 | 3.7% |
| h. I will wait to see if others in our area have problems with well water. | | 16 | 3.5% |
| f. Dealing with a problem in well water quality would be too expensive. | | 15 | 3.3% |
| e. I don't want to know if there is a problem with my well water. | | 6 | 1.3% |
| Total | | 600 | 130.4% |

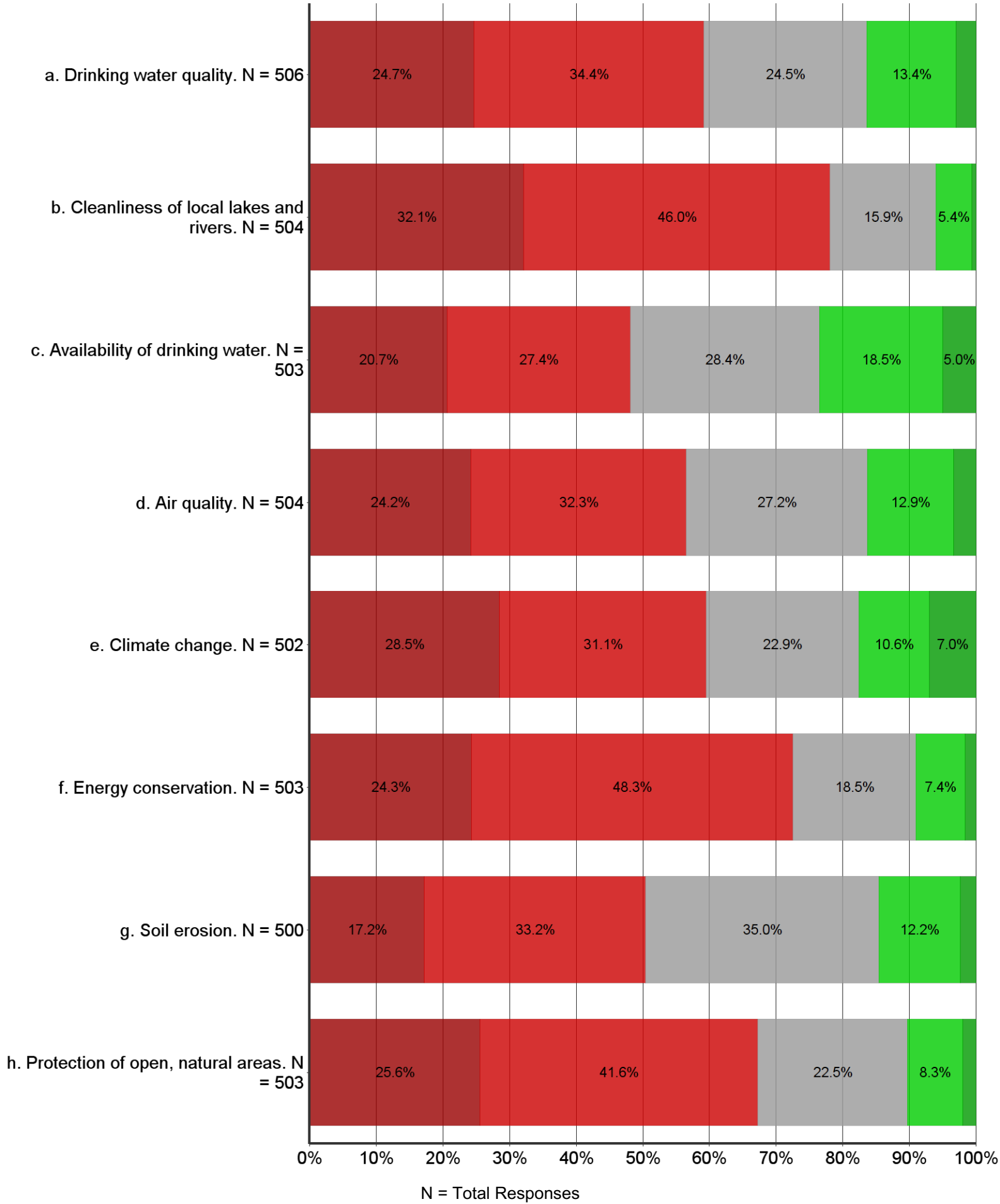
20. In addition to trash hauling, over the last year have you disposed of things by any of the following? (Mark all that apply)



| | Percent | Count | Percent |
|--|---------|-------|---------|
| Recycling | | 464 | 92.2% |
| Donating | | 384 | 76.3% |
| Re-using materials | | 216 | 42.9% |
| Composting | | 167 | 33.2% |
| Using a medication drop box | | 144 | 28.6% |
| Proper disposal of hazardous waste (e.g. via Marathon Clean Sweep) | | 107 | 21.3% |
| Purposely bought a product with less packaging | | 99 | 19.7% |
| Other | | 13 | 2.6% |
| Total | | 1594 | 316.9% |

21. Please indicate how concerned you are about the following in Marathon County.

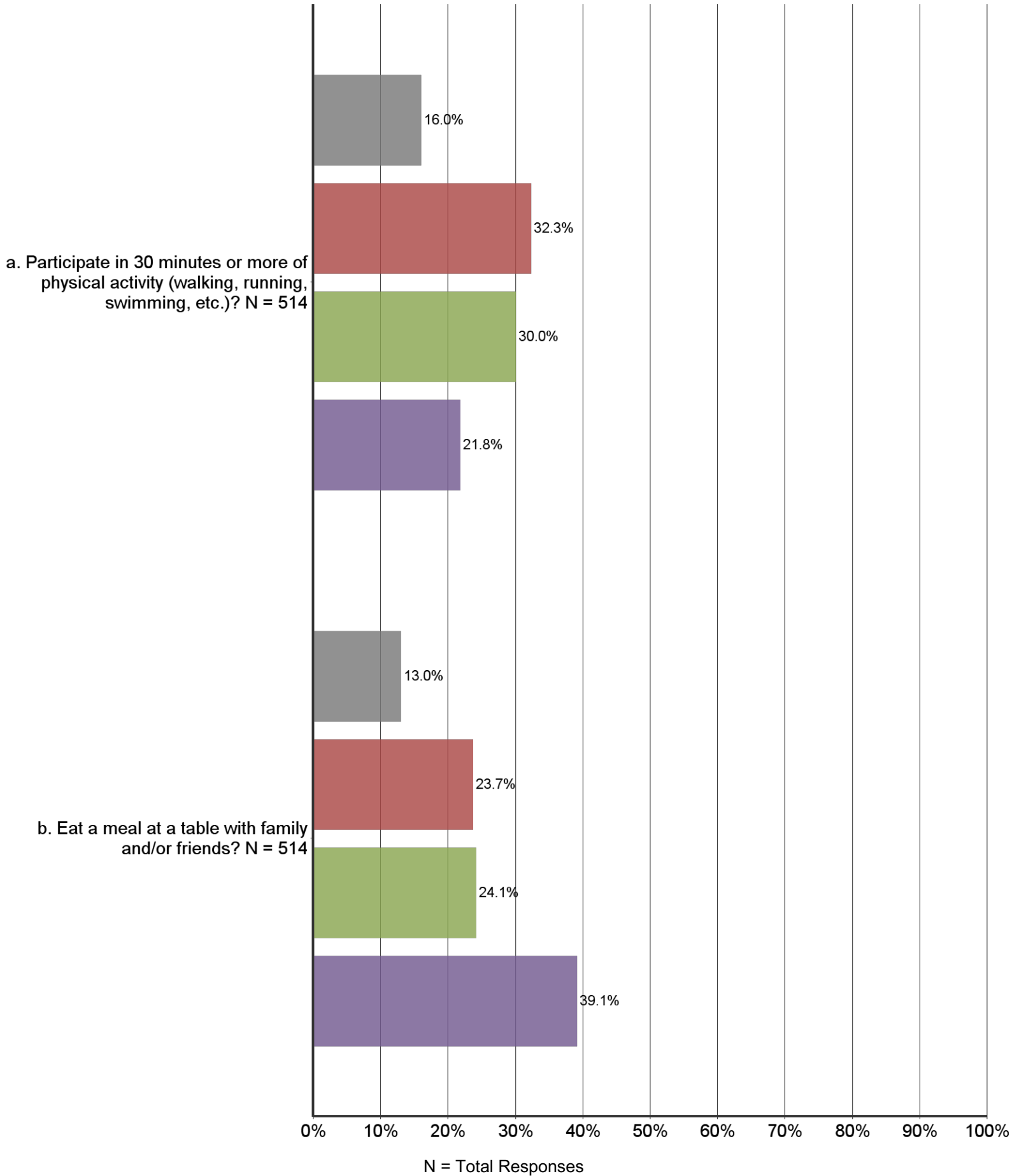
Very Concerned Concerned Neither Concerned nor Unconcerned Unconcerned Very Unconcerned



| Choice | Count | Percent |
|-------------------------------|-------|---------|
| Underweight (<18.5) | 4 | 0.8% |
| Normal (18.5-24.9) | 136 | 27.6% |
| Overweight (25.0-29.9) | 179 | 36.4% |
| Obese (30+) | 173 | 35.2% |

24. In a typical week, how many times do you:

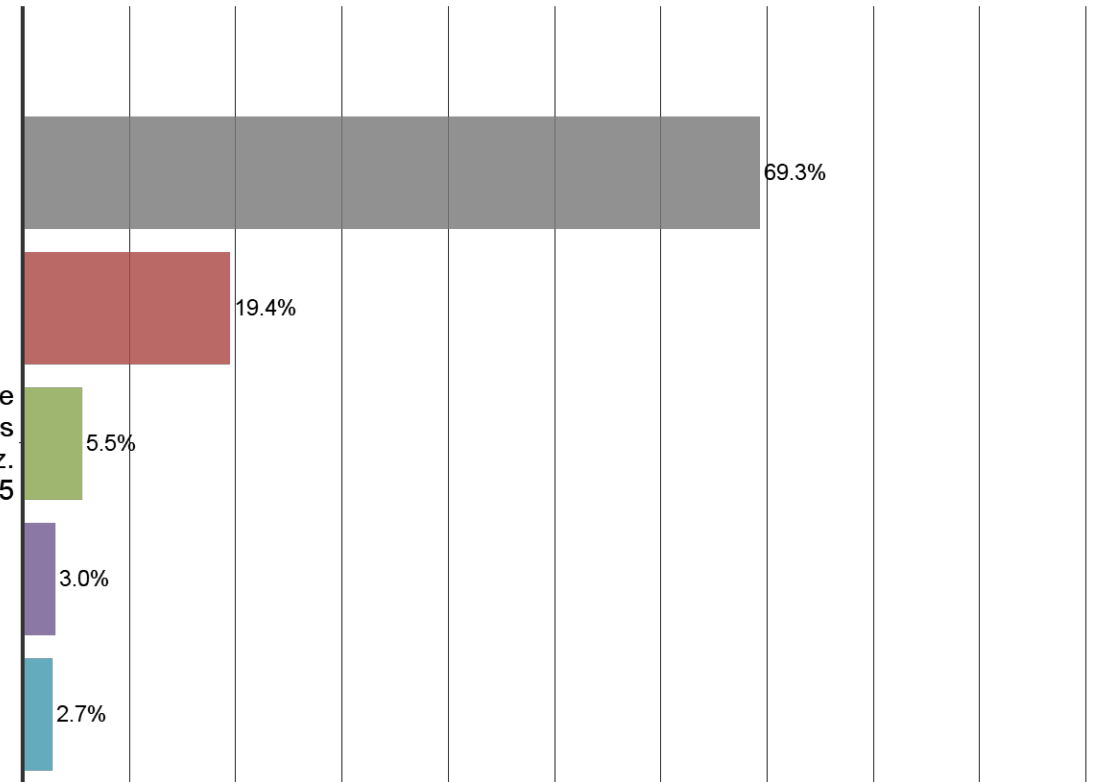
None 1-2 days 3-4 days 5-7 days



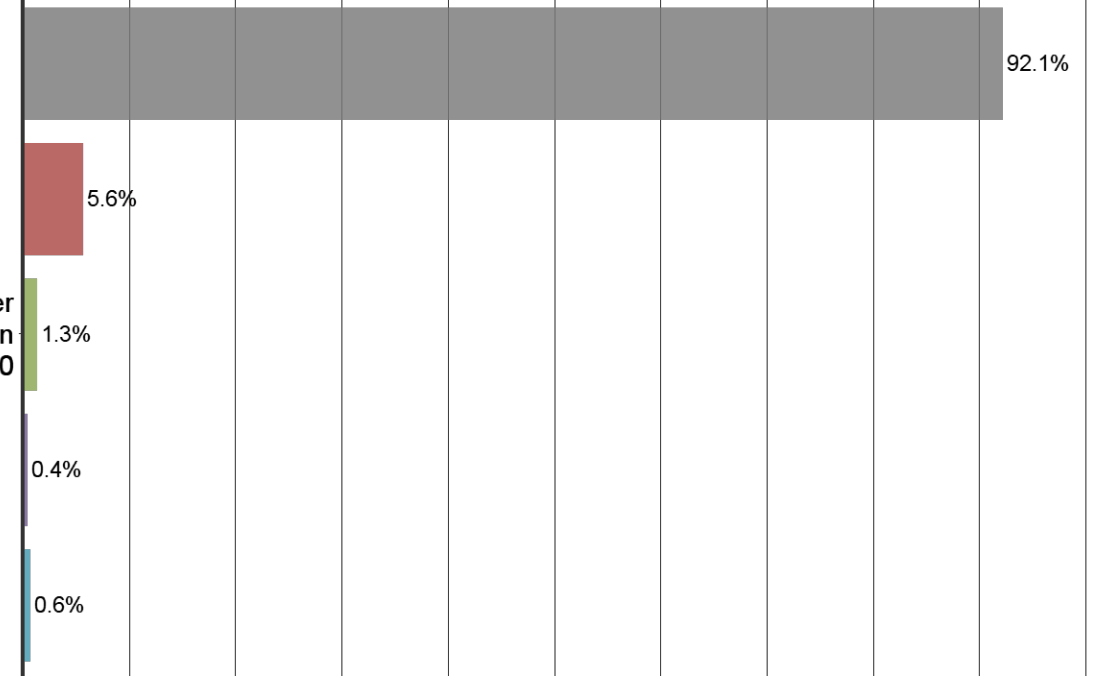
25. In the past 30 days, how many times have you:

None 1-2 times 3-5 times 6-9 times 10+ times

a. Consumed 5 or more drinks on one occasion, where a drink is defined as a 12 oz. beer, 5 oz. wine, or 1½ oz. liquor? N = 525



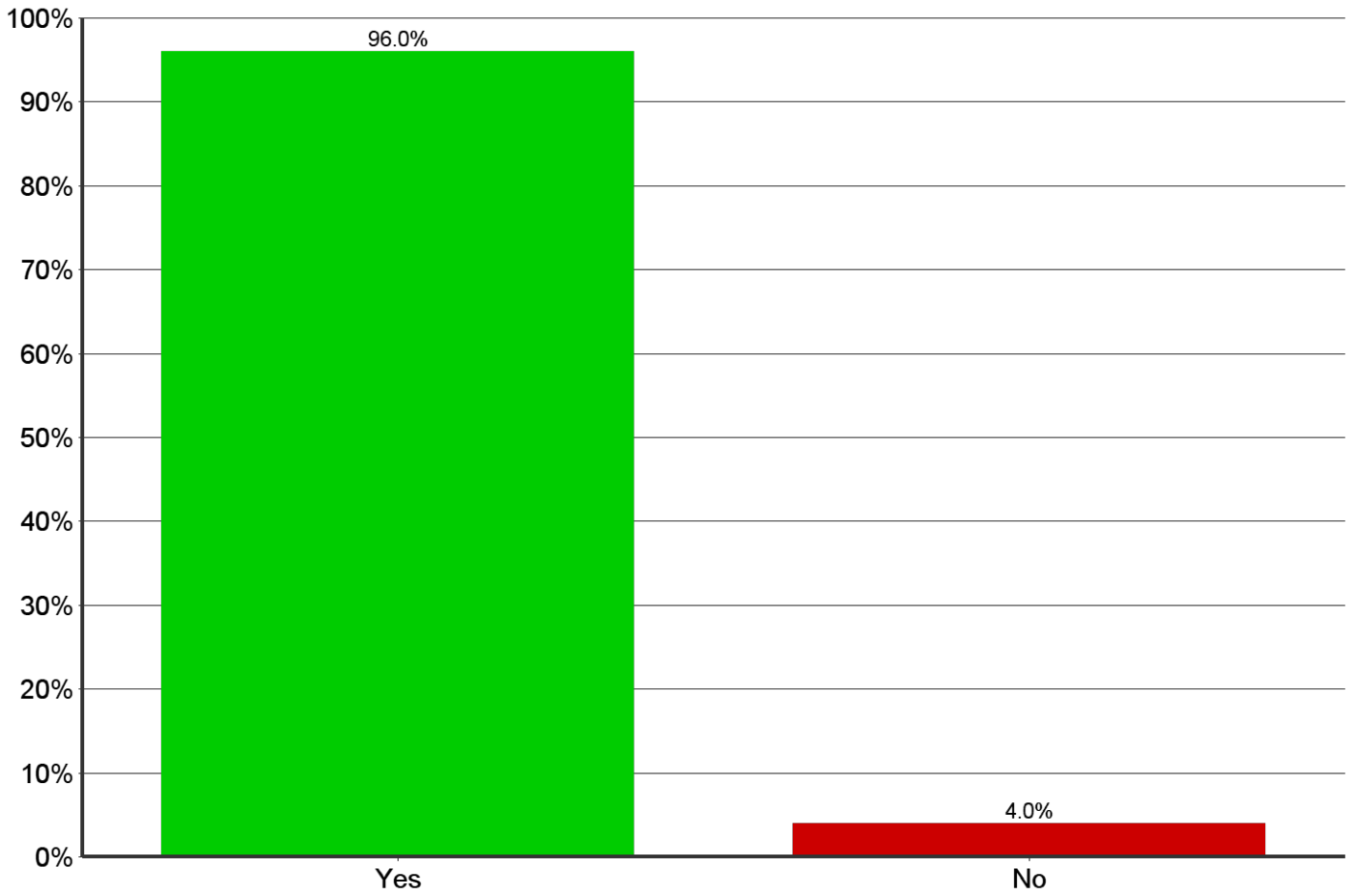
b. Operated a motor vehicle after consuming 2 or more drinks in an hour? N = 520






0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

N = Total Responses

26. Do you have at least one person you can talk to if you have a personal problem?



| | Percent | Count | Percent |
|-------|--|-------|---------|
| Yes |  | 478 | 96.0% |
| No |  | 20 | 4.0% |
| Total |  | 498 | 100.0% |