

# D&D Practitioners Survey: What is the State of the Field?

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<http://sites.lafayette.edu/ddps/>

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# About the researchers

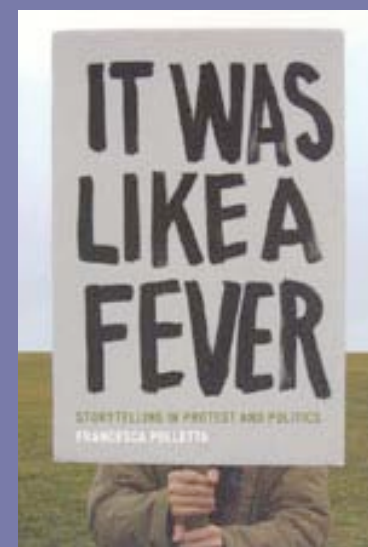
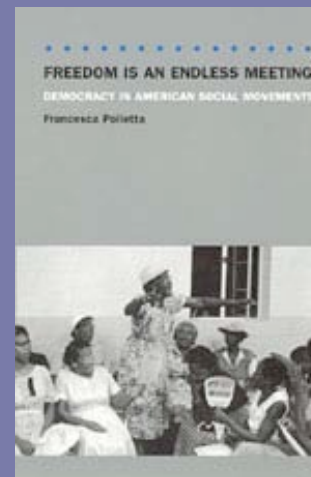


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Sociologist, Lafayette College



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Research interests:  
deliberative democracy  
collaborative governance  
social movements



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# Why a survey?

- Survey questions grew out of qualitative field work on D&D professionals by Caroline Lee and qualitative content analysis of the role of gender in deliberative forums by Francesca Polletta
- Other surveys have not sampled across D&D organizations and methods
- Are there larger trends not visible from ground-level?
- For more information on survey rationale and limitations, please visit: <http://sites.lafayette.edu/ddps/>

# What are we looking for?

## Growing field

- Where did it come from?
- What does it look like now?
- Where is it going?

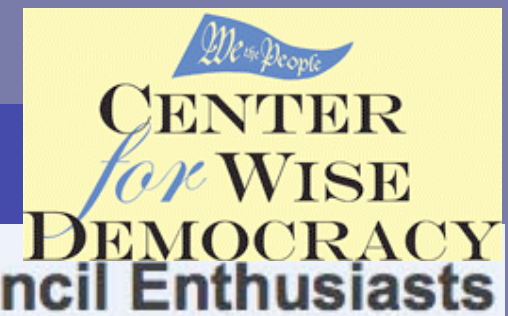
Non-random, self-selected sample using over 20 online communities and listservs as sampling frames, including:



North American Chapters

OPEN SPACE WORLD

OSLIST Email Community



# General survey information

- 45 questions
- Launched 9/23/09, closed 10/31/09
- 434 respondents completed the survey

## Survey of Public Dialogue and Deliberation Practitioners

The field of public dialogue and deliberation is growing dramatically— so dramatically, in fact, that no one fully knows what the field looks like: who is doing public dialogue and deliberation work, what forms their work is taking, what common challenges they face. The purpose of this survey is to find out more about dialogue and deliberation's practitioners and how they are shaping the field's development. We understand dialogue and deliberation broadly, to mean organized discussions in which ordinary people talk about problems facing their group or community and possible solutions to those problems.

Professors Francesca Polletta of the University of California, Irvine and Caroline Lee of Lafayette College developed this survey with help from Sandy Heierbacher from the National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation, Joe Goldman from AmericaSpeaks, Matt Leighninger from the Deliberative Democracy Consortium, and Carolyne Abdullah from Everyday Democracy. We plan to share the results of the survey with the memberships of these and other organizations.

Knowing more about what the contemporary field of dialogue and deliberation looks like will help to make it even stronger. We hope that you will join in this effort by completing the survey.

The survey should take approximately 15-30 minutes to complete. We know your time is precious, so as an incentive for taking the survey, we would like to offer you the chance to help a cause you care about. On the final page of the survey, you may enter a charitable organization of your choice in a raffle for a donation of \$200. The researchers will draw 3 winners from all of the organizations submitted by October 30th. We hope that this token of our appreciation entices you to take the survey. Details of the raffle are on the last page of the survey.

If you do not have time to complete the survey in one sitting, you may save your responses and return to the survey at your convenience. Your responses will remain anonymous. You can skip any question and discontinue taking the survey at any time. If you would like any additional information, or if you have any questions concerning your participation, please contact Caroline Lee at 610-330-5913 or through her email address at [leecw@lafayette.edu](mailto:leecw@lafayette.edu). By clicking start, you indicate your consent to take the survey.

Start

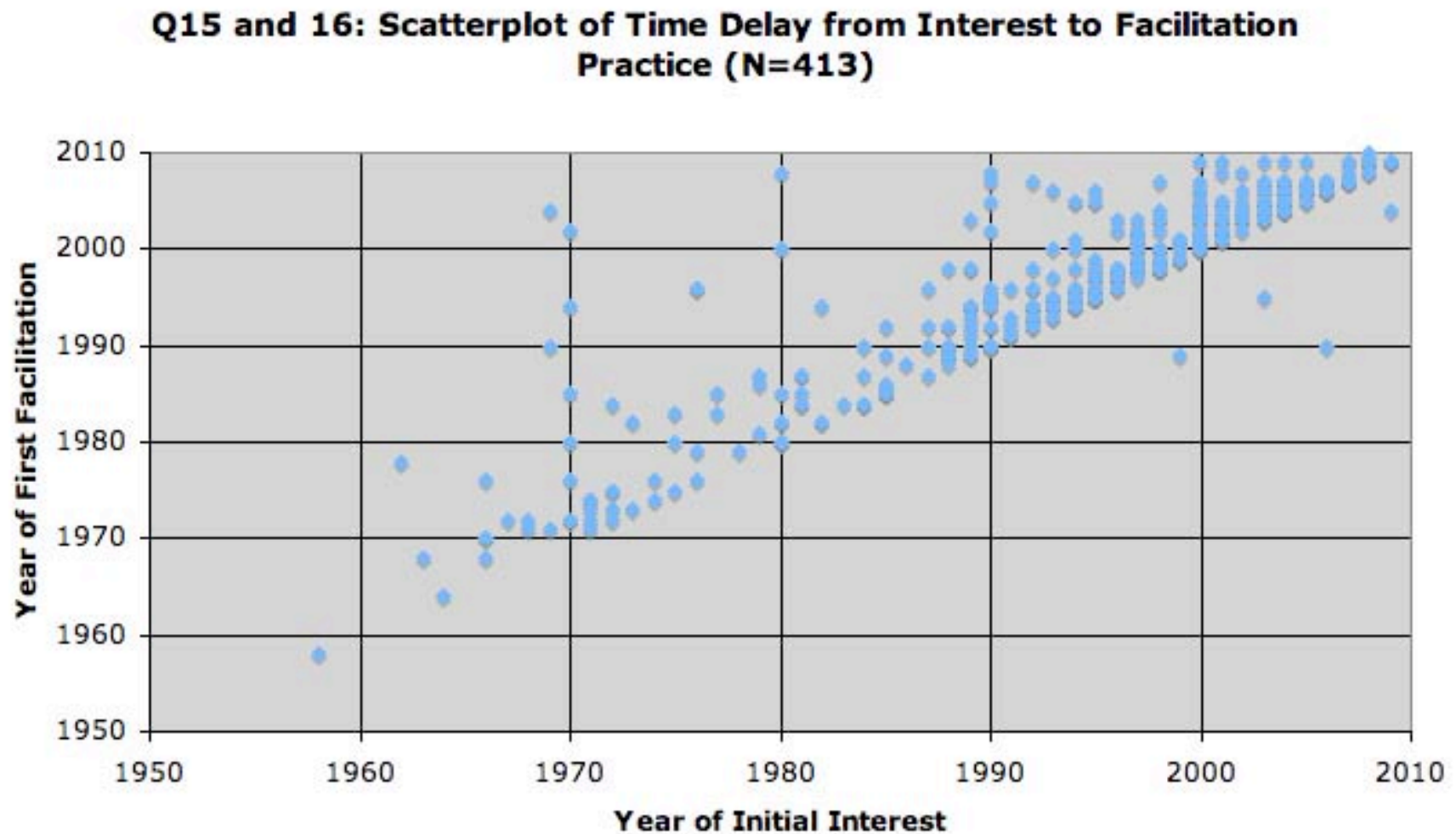


# Entering the Field

These slides provide information about the timing of respondents' entrance into the field, their background and preparation, and their training experience.

Median year of initial interest: 1996

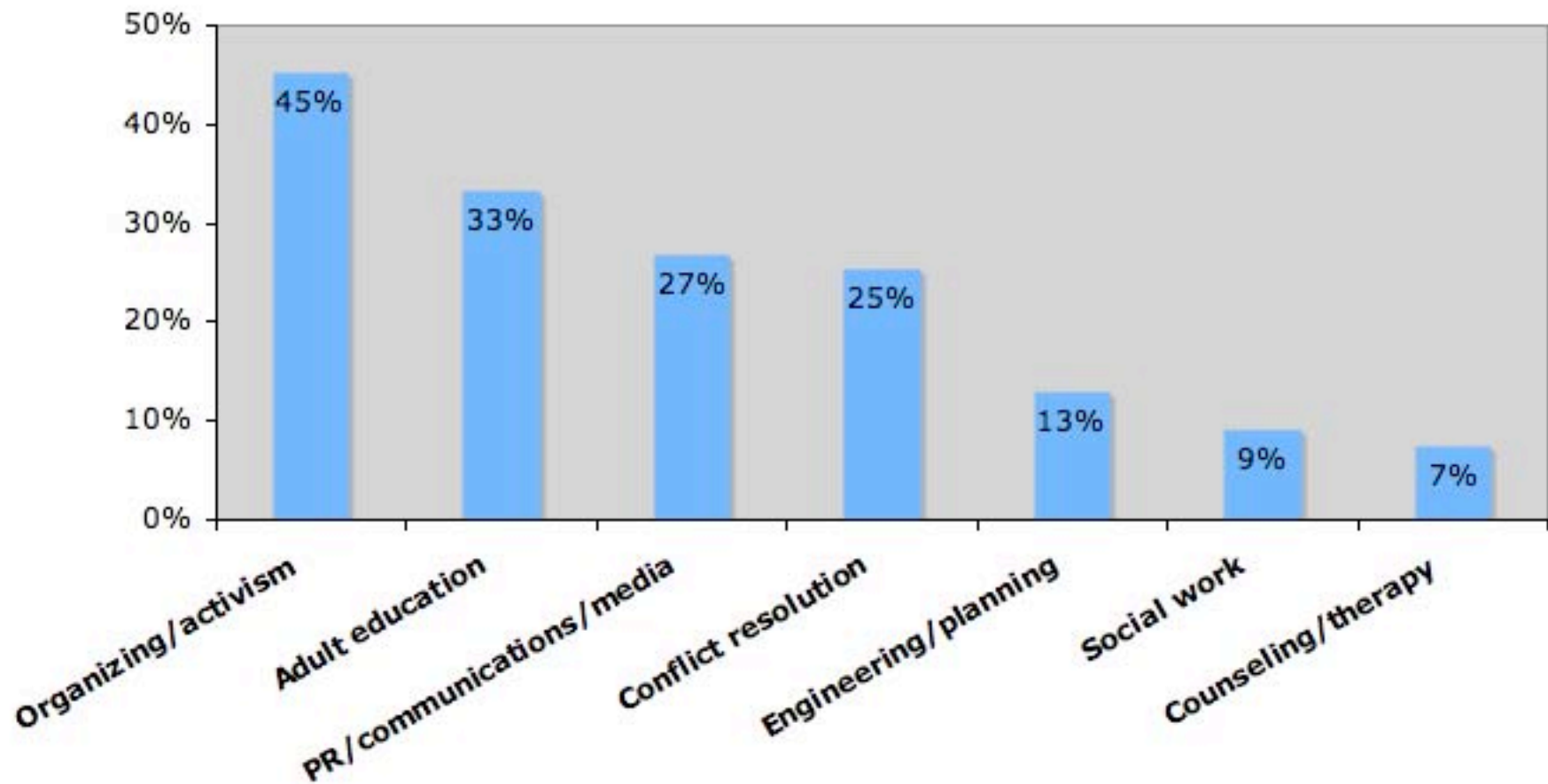
Median year of first facilitation: 1998



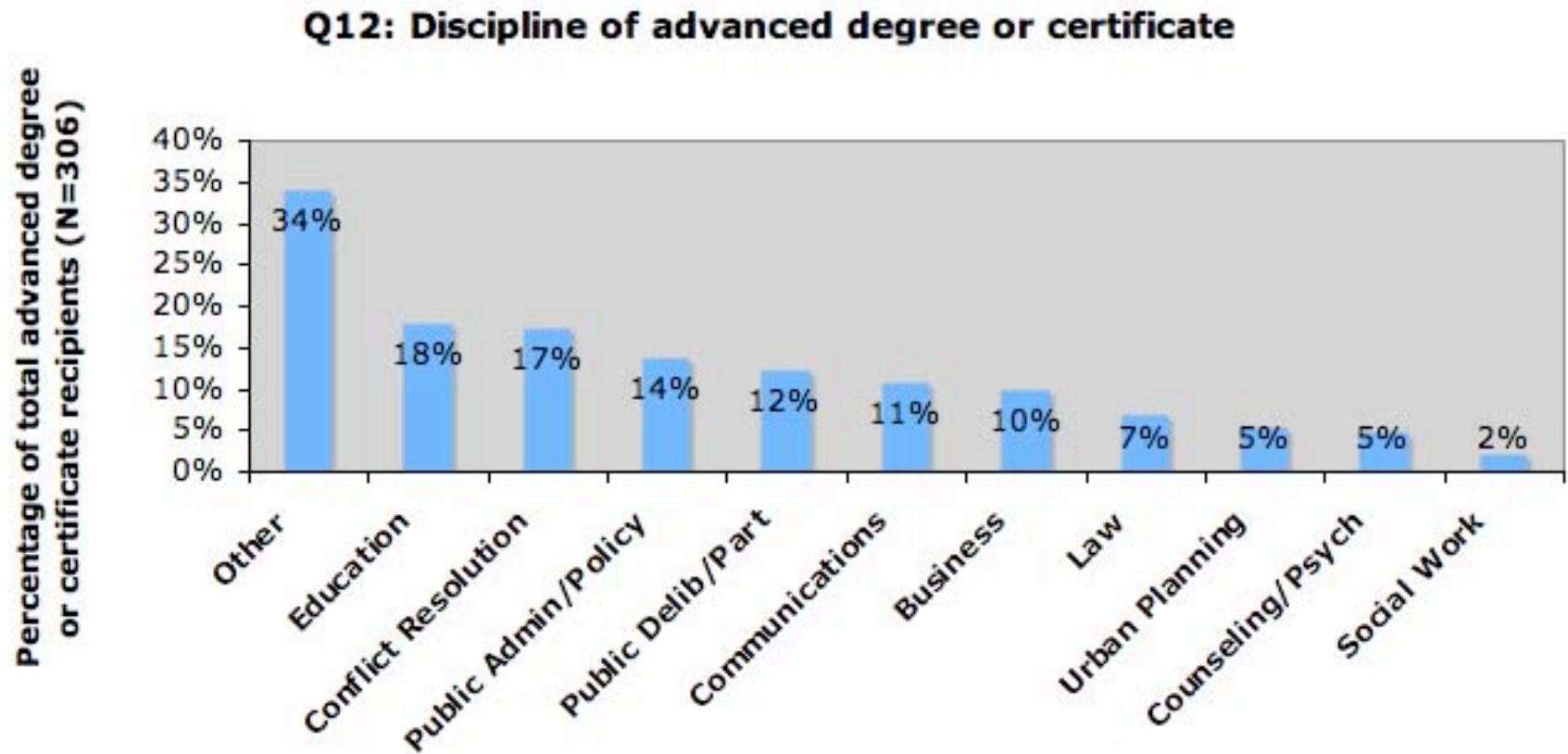
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**Q17: Percentage of respondents (N=427) reporting prior practice in related fields**



Seventy-one percent of respondents have an advanced degree or certificate. Those advanced degrees are in a wide variety of specialties:

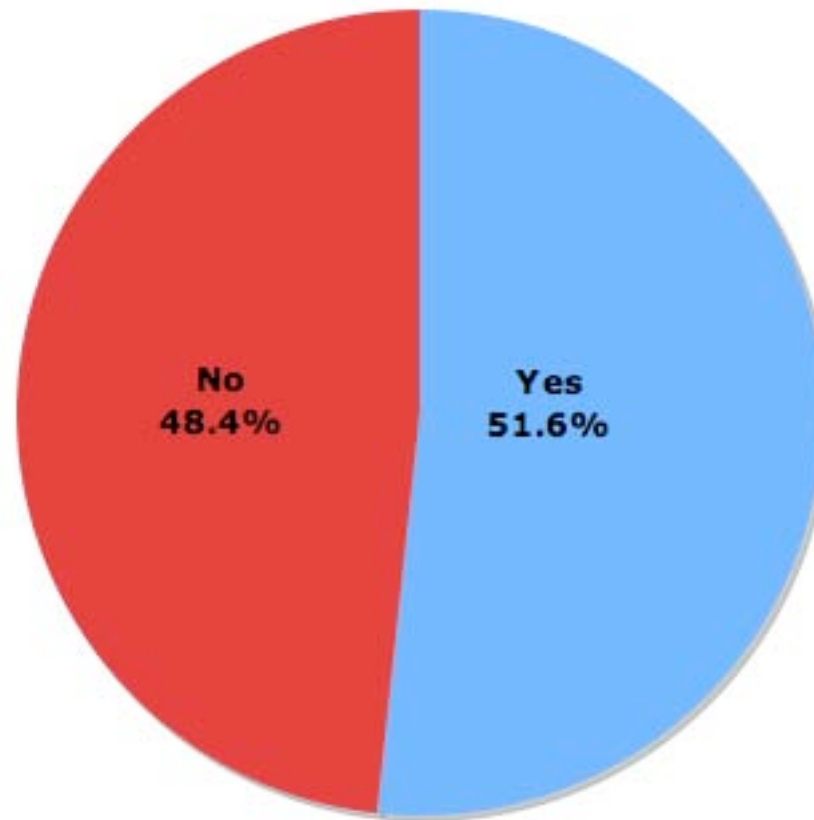


Seventy-two percent of respondents have participated in at least one training program. Those with training experience had participated in 2.4 training programs on average.



The most common trainings in the "Other" category were National Issues Forums trainings, alternative dispute resolution and conflict resolution trainings, group process trainings, Future Search trainings, and Appreciative Inquiry trainings.

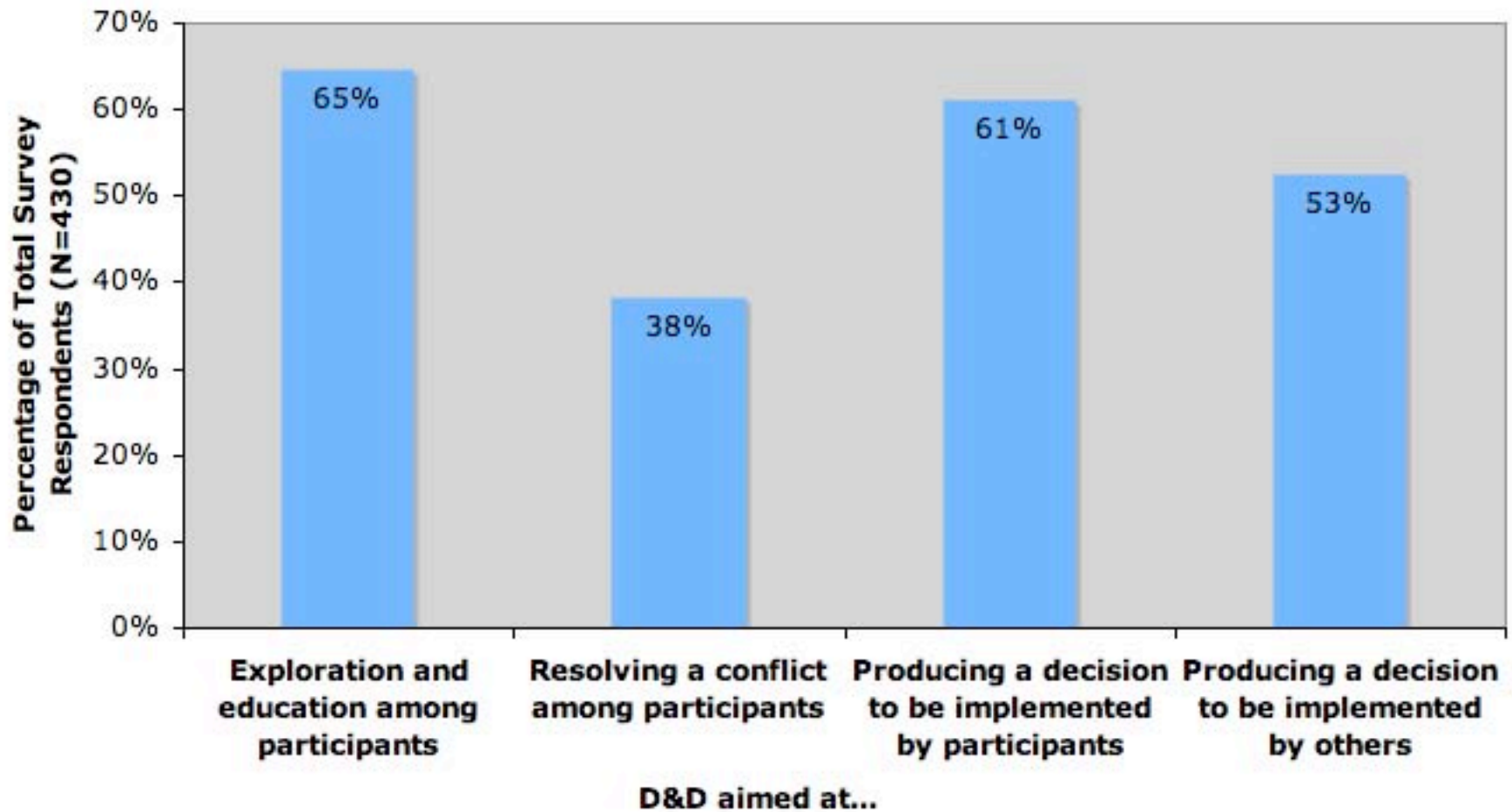
**Q14: Percentage of respondents (N=413) reporting experience as an instructor in a facilitation training program or D&D methods course**



# Current Practice

These slides provide information about respondents' current practice, including number and type of projects, common sponsors, methods used, and topics covered.

### Q1: Type of D&D Practiced by Survey Respondents

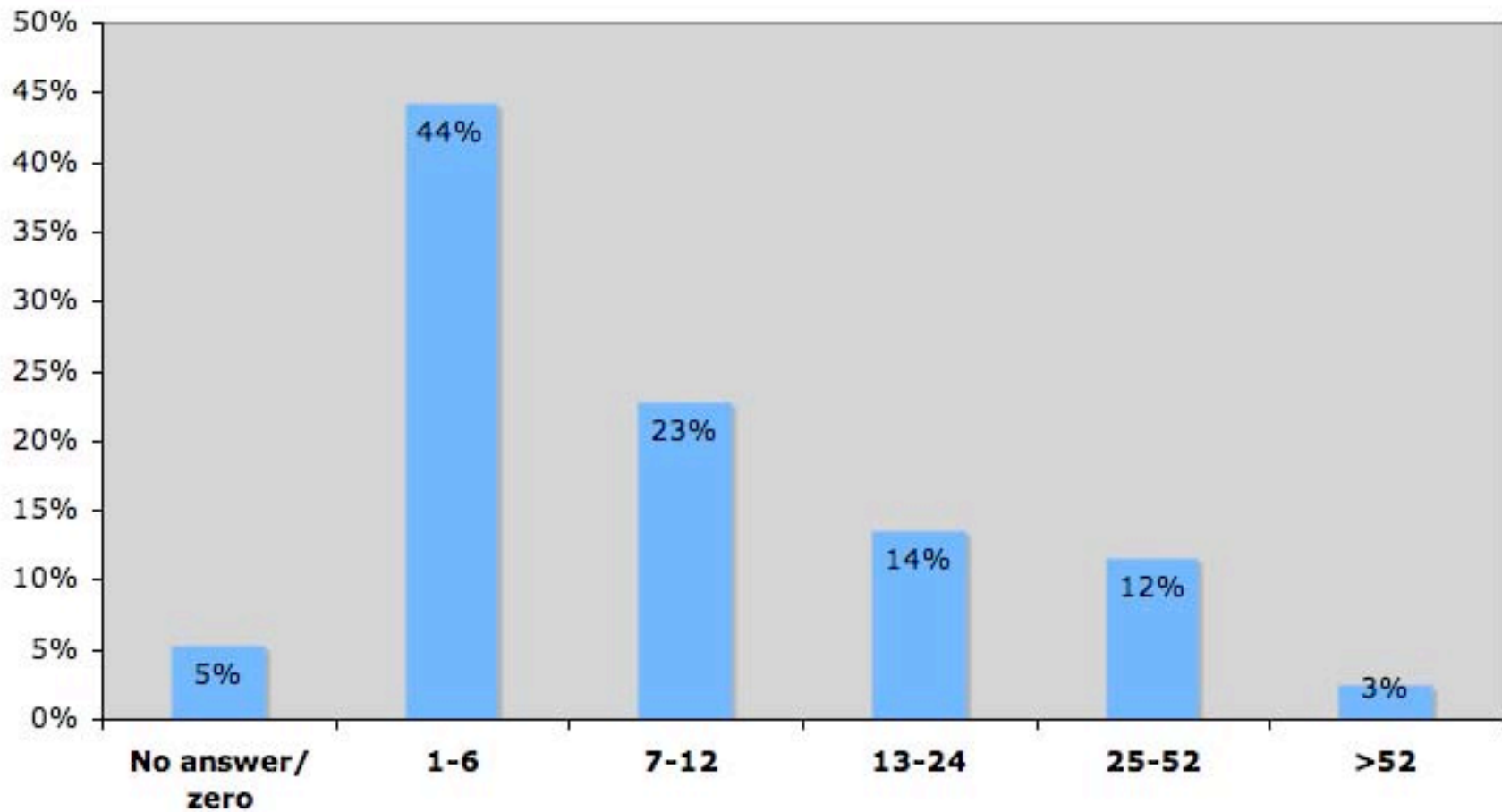




Median number of events facilitated per year: 7

Mode (most common answer): 3

**Q2: Frequency of D&D Events Facilitated Per Year (N=434)**

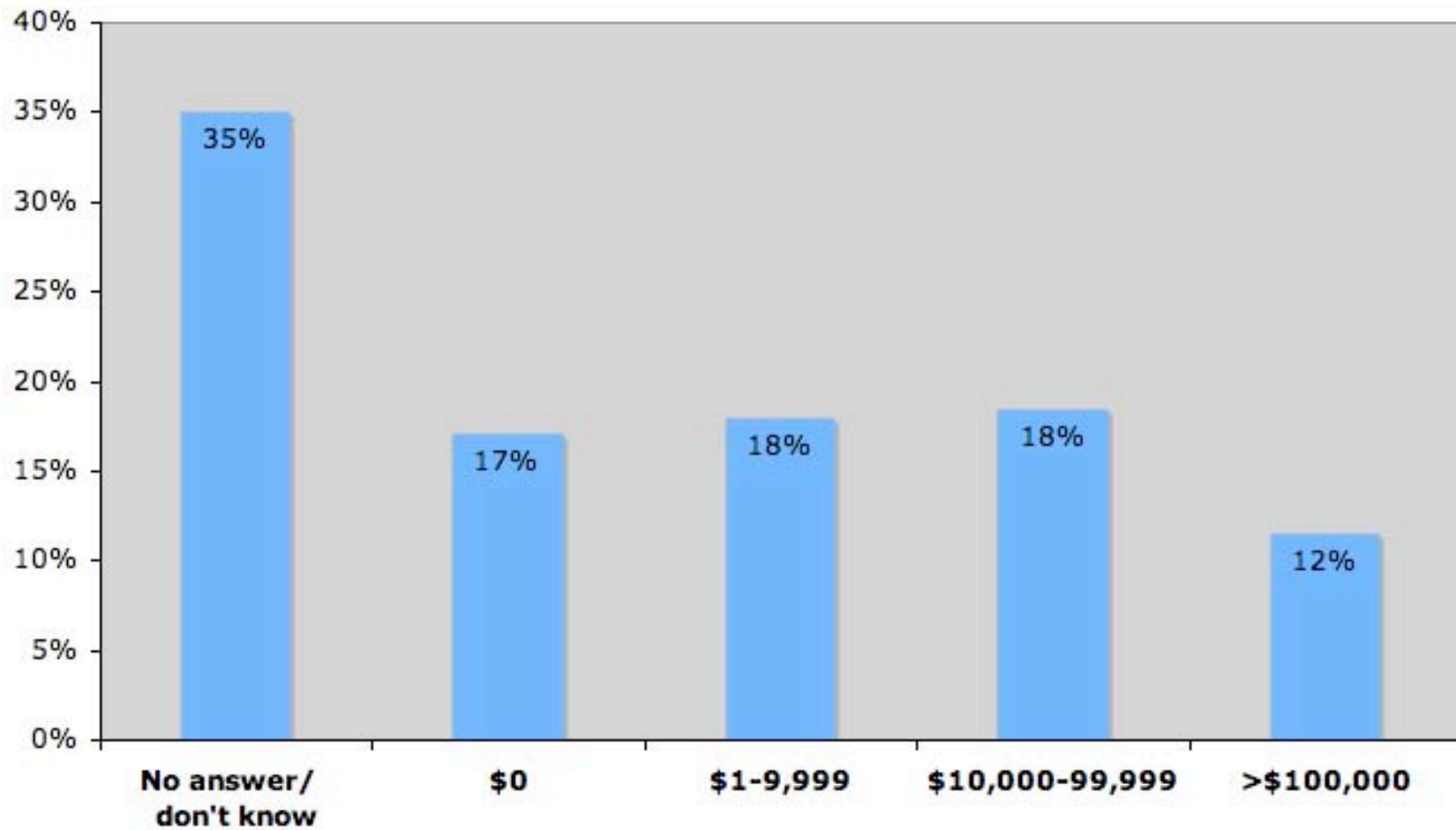


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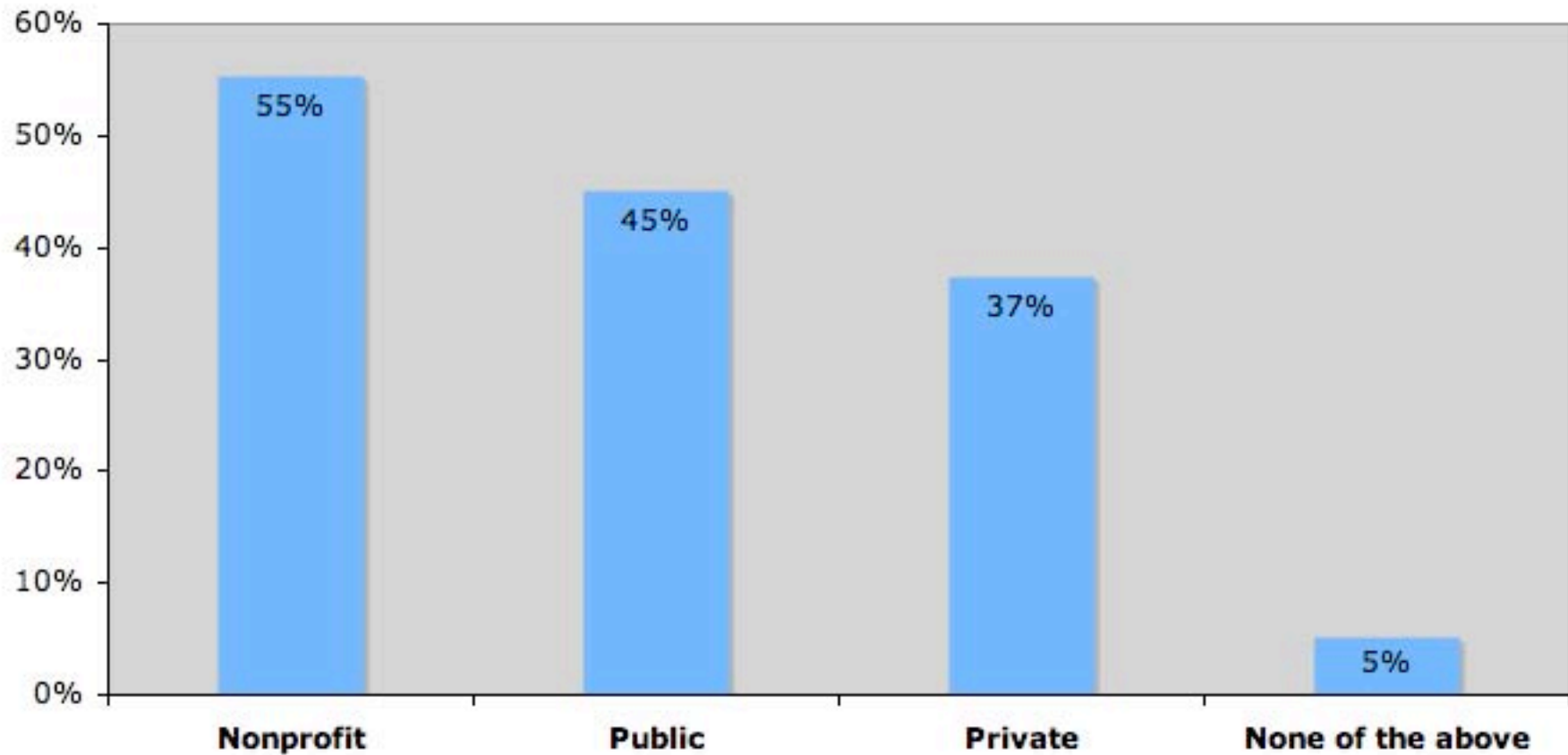
Median budget size: \$6000

Mode (most common answer): \$0

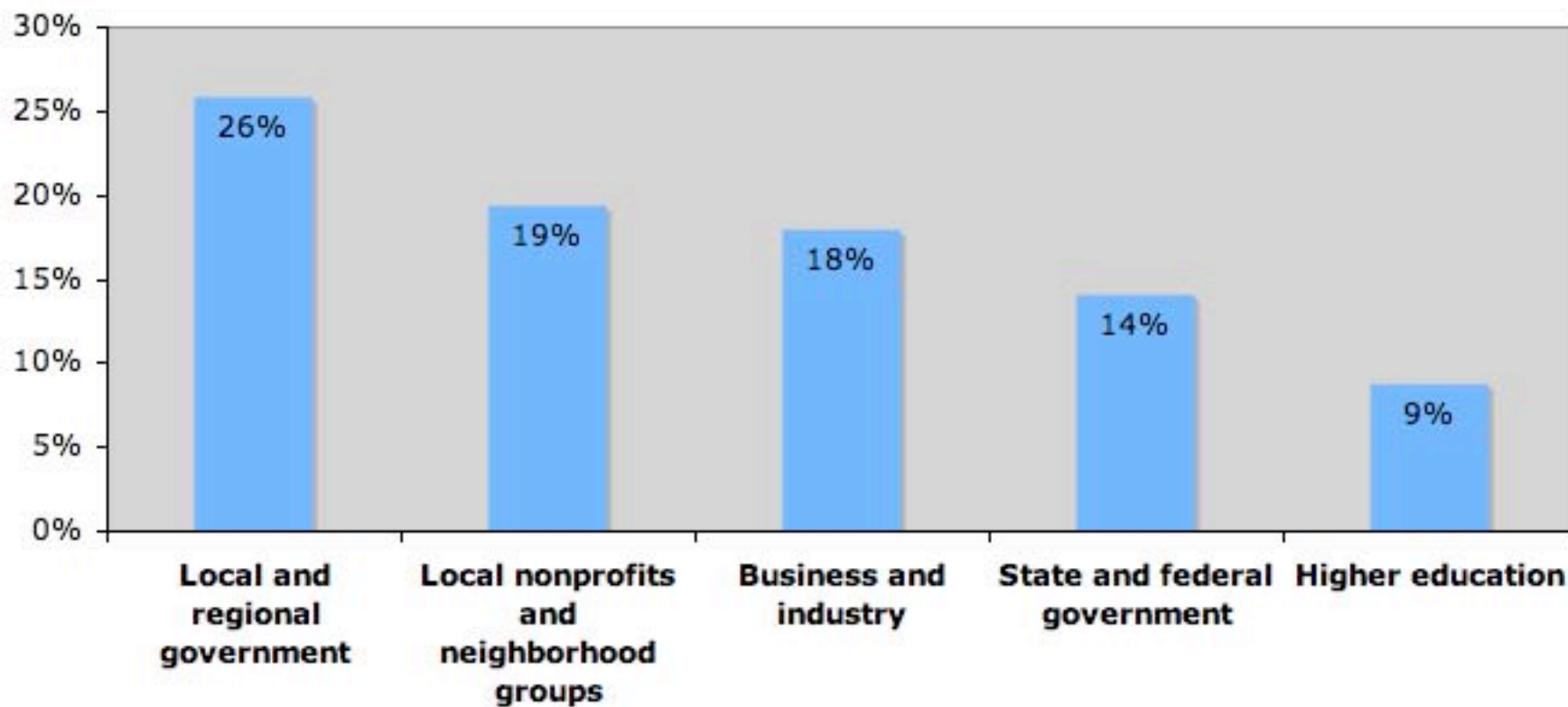
**Q38: Budget Size for Most Recent Project Facilitated (N=434)**



**Q5: Percentage of professionals (N=318) reporting paid work by sector of client**

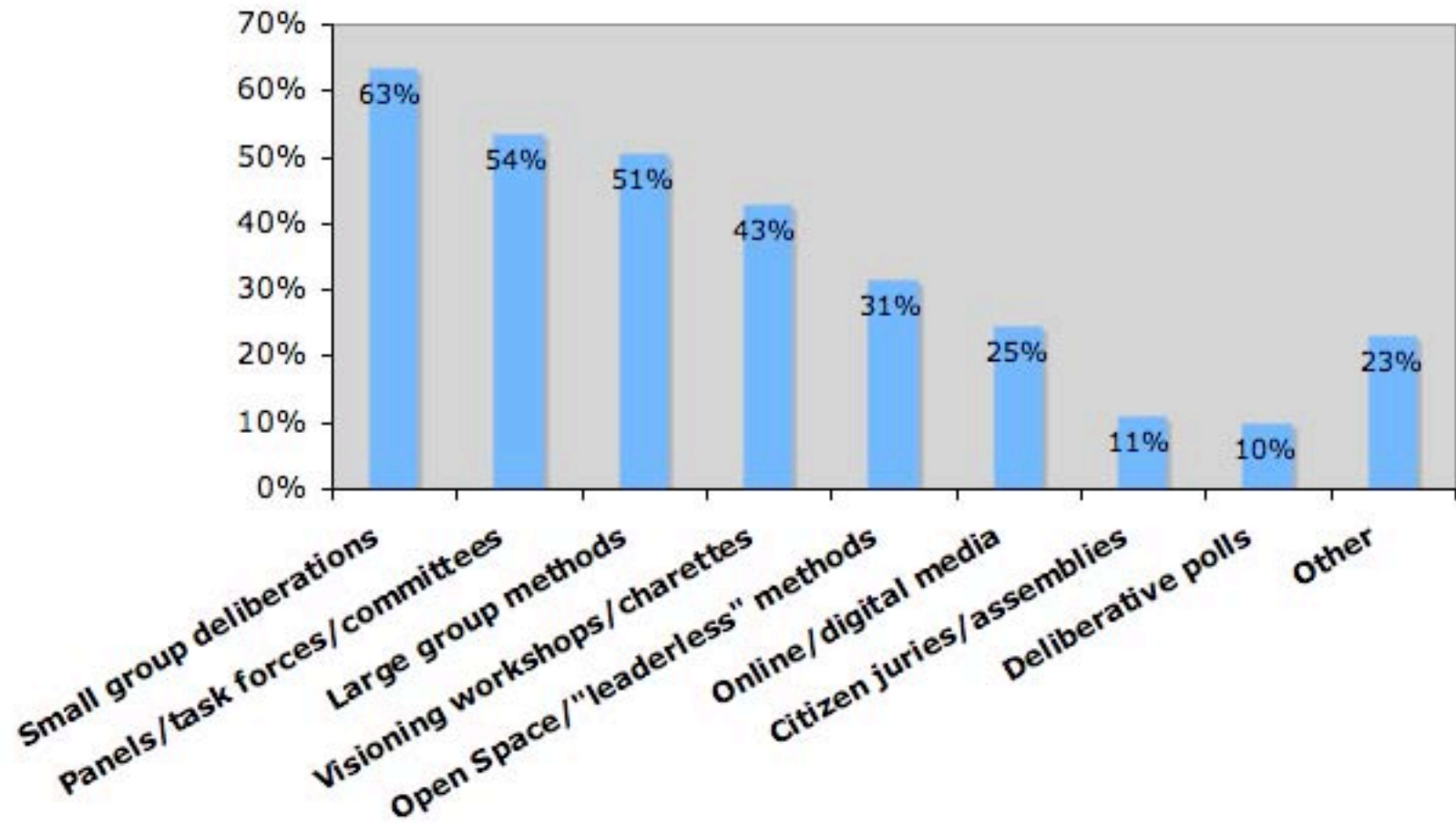


**Q7: Percentage of all selections (N=839) for top 3 most common sponsors in the last two years (five highest categories)**



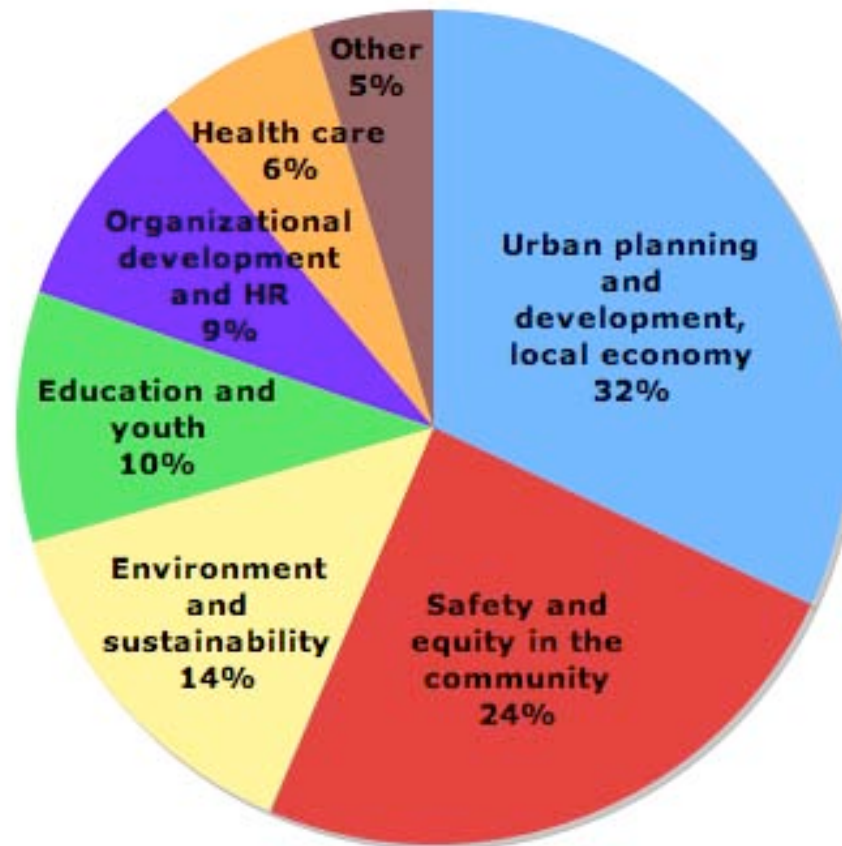
### Q21: Methods Used Most Often in Current Practice

Percentage of total respondents reporting frequent use (N=418)



On average, respondents had covered 5 topics in the last two years.

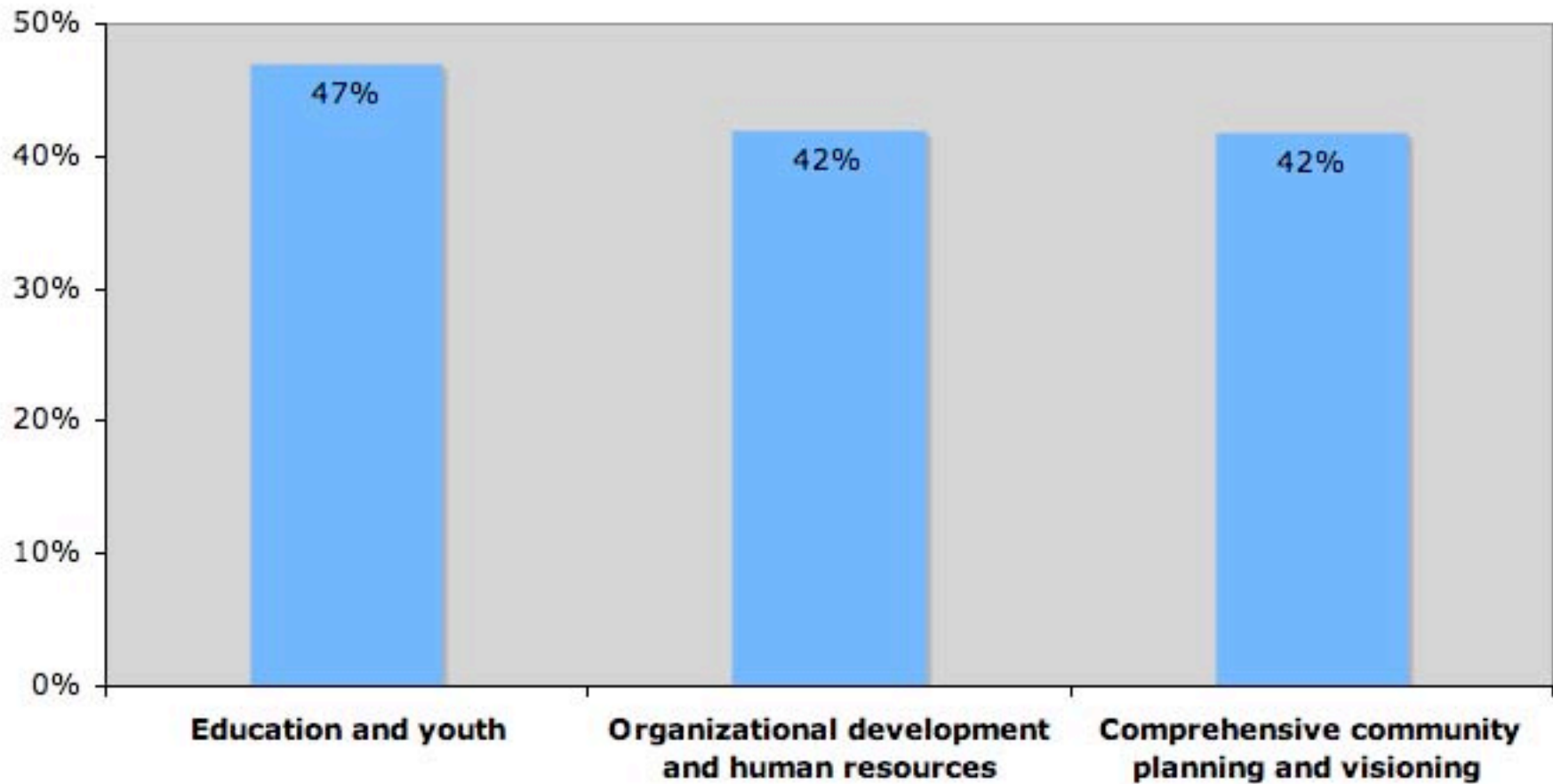
**Q22: Topics Covered in D&D Events Facilitated by Respondents Over the Last Two Years by Category, as % of all Topics Selected (N=2106)**



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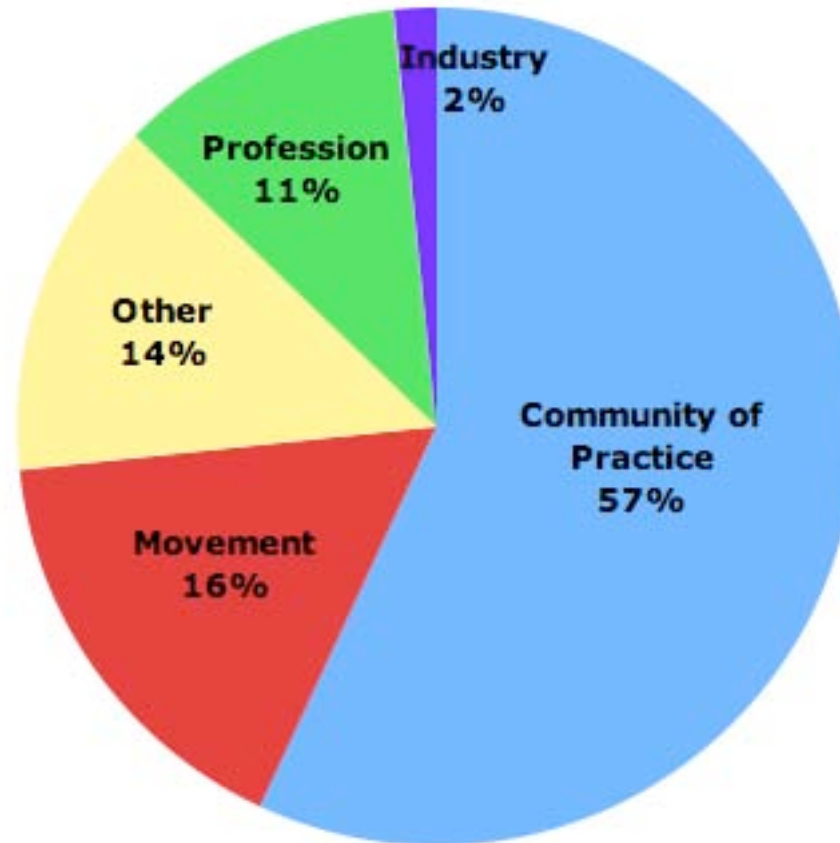
**Q22: Percentage of total respondents (N=419) who have facilitated on top three topics over the last two years**



# Field Values and Beliefs

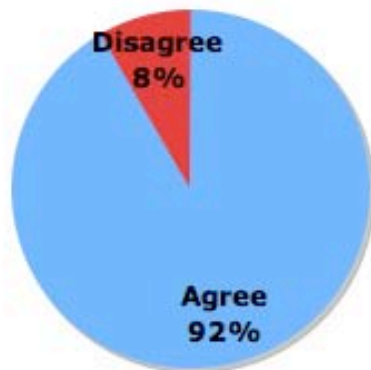
These slides provide information on respondents' perspectives on opportunities and challenges in the field as it grows, including beliefs about successful outcomes, common problems, who should lead the field going forward, and which research is most helpful to current practice. Some questions also probe respondents' sense of others' perspectives on dialogue and deliberation efforts.

**Q23: Term that best describes the people and organizations currently leading D&D efforts? (N=403)**

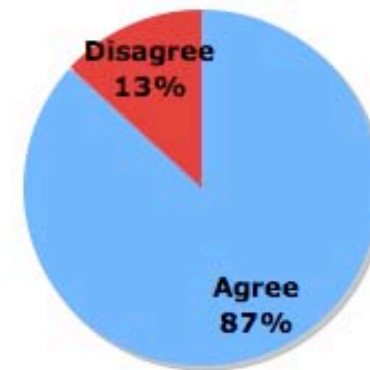


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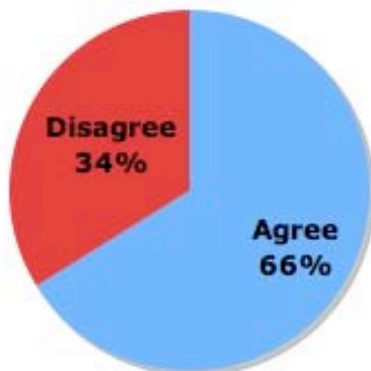
**Q24: Many people who do not currently support D&D efforts would change their minds if they could experience a single great D&D process. (N=427)**



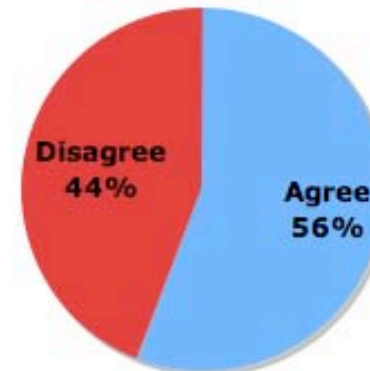
**Q24: Expanded access to standardized deliberation tools (community dialogue kits, best practice guidelines, issues guides, e.g.) is enhancing dialogue and deliberation in America. (N=394)**



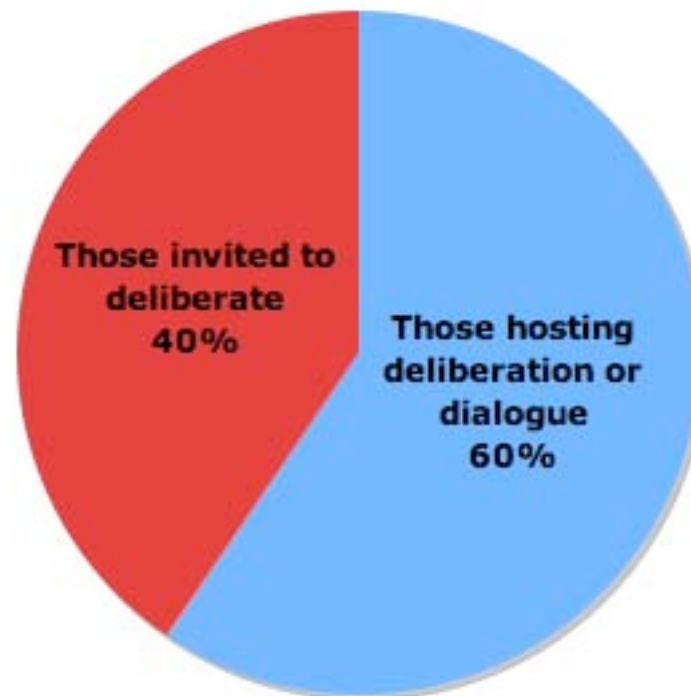
**Q24: Training facilitators from within the local community is usually preferable to bringing in professionally-trained facilitators from outside the community. (N=414)**



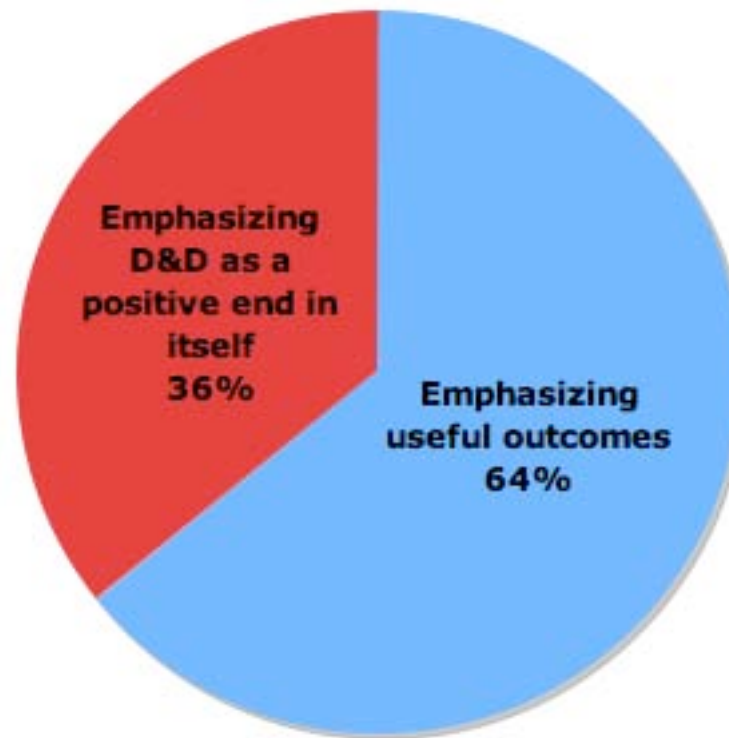
**Q24: While there is some good work done in the commercial sector by for-profit consulting firms, high quality D&D facilitation services are more likely to be found in the nonprofit sector. (N=413)**



**Q25: In general, dialogue and deliberation facilitators face the most pressure for particular outcomes from ... (N=415)**

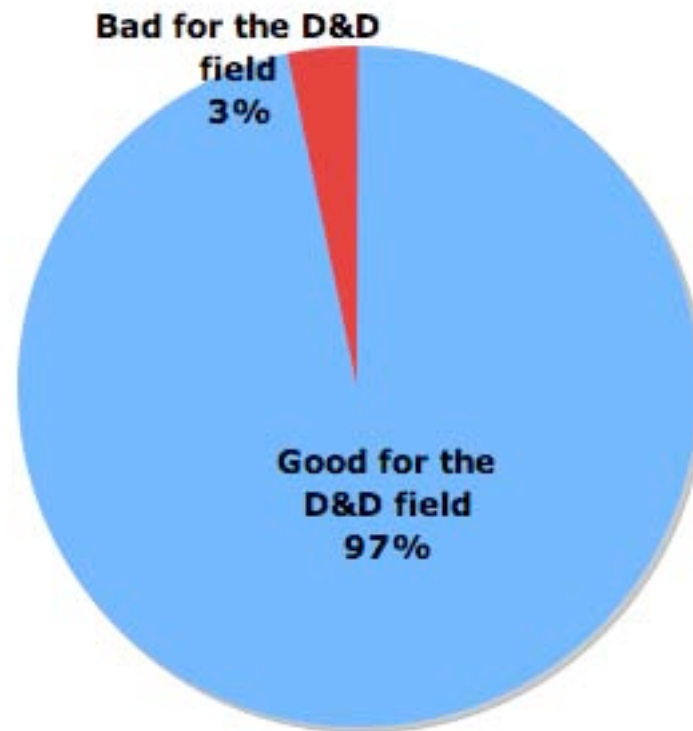


**Q26: In general, D&D practitioners should promote the benefits of deliberation by ... (N=418)**



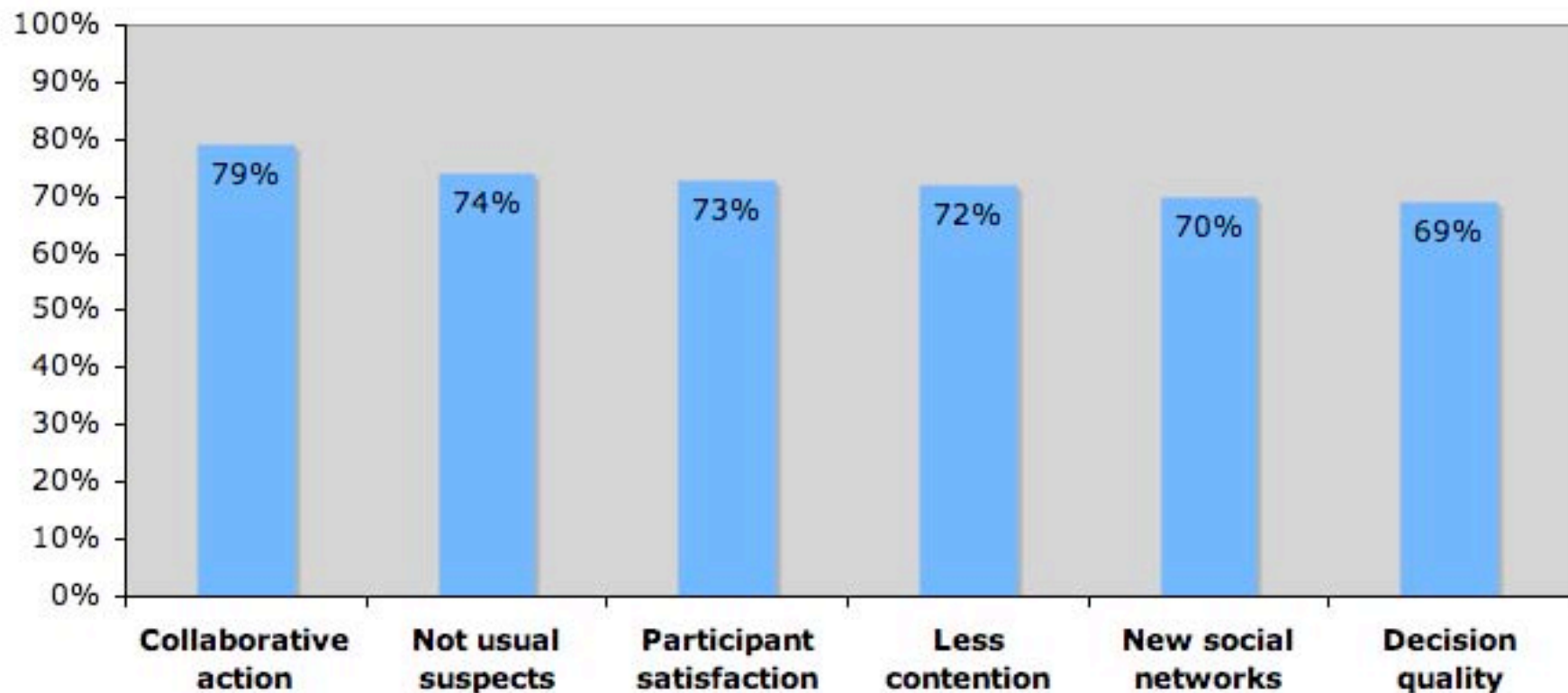


**Q27: The expanded use of deliberative methods within for-profit corporations (with employees or customers) is ... (N=413)**

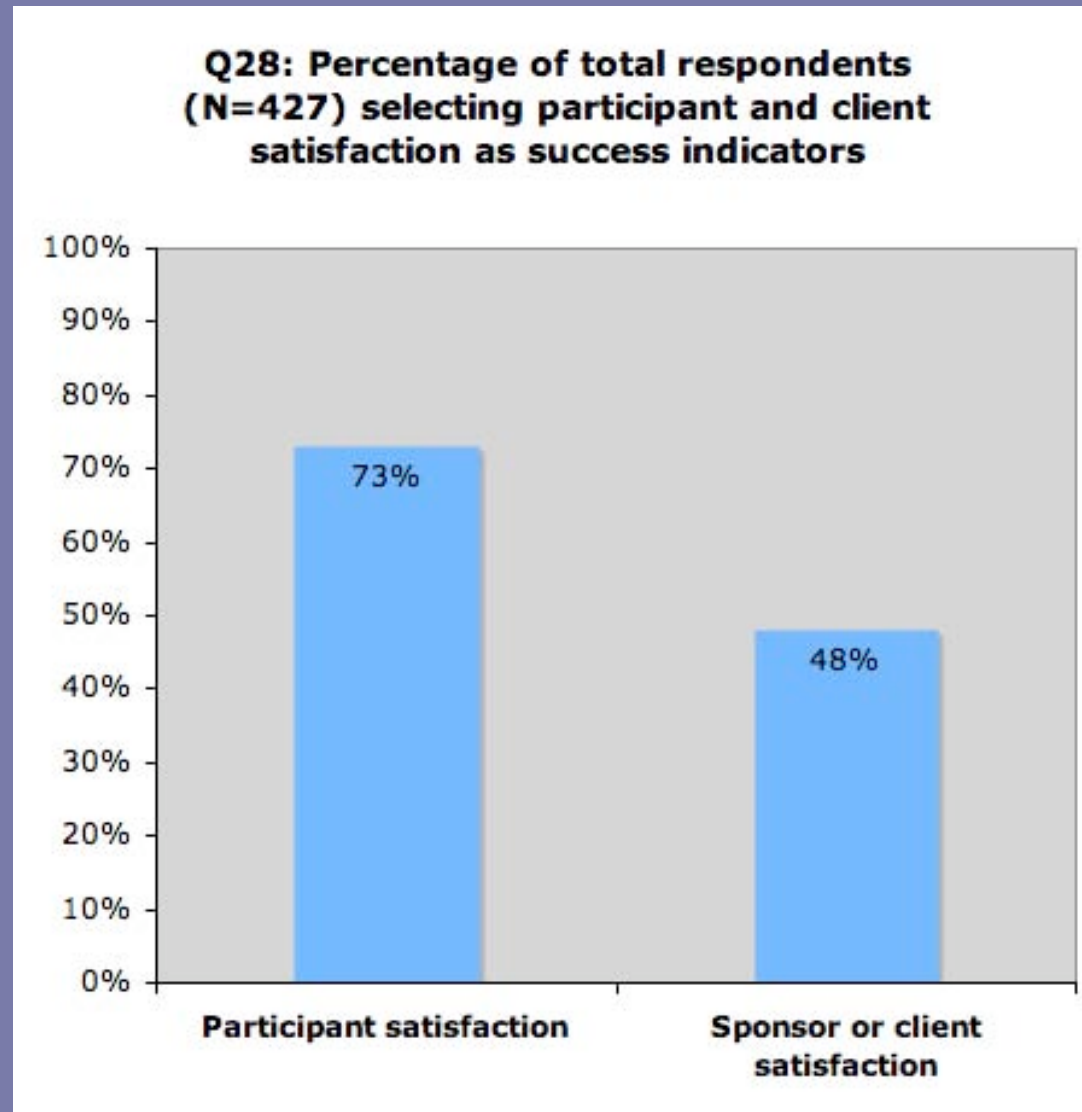


Respondents generally believe that it is important to measure many different outcomes as indicators of process success. The only outcome receiving much less support than other options was whether money was saved as a result of a D&D process (27%).

**Q28: Percentage of respondents (N=427) selecting as success indicators (top 6 only):**

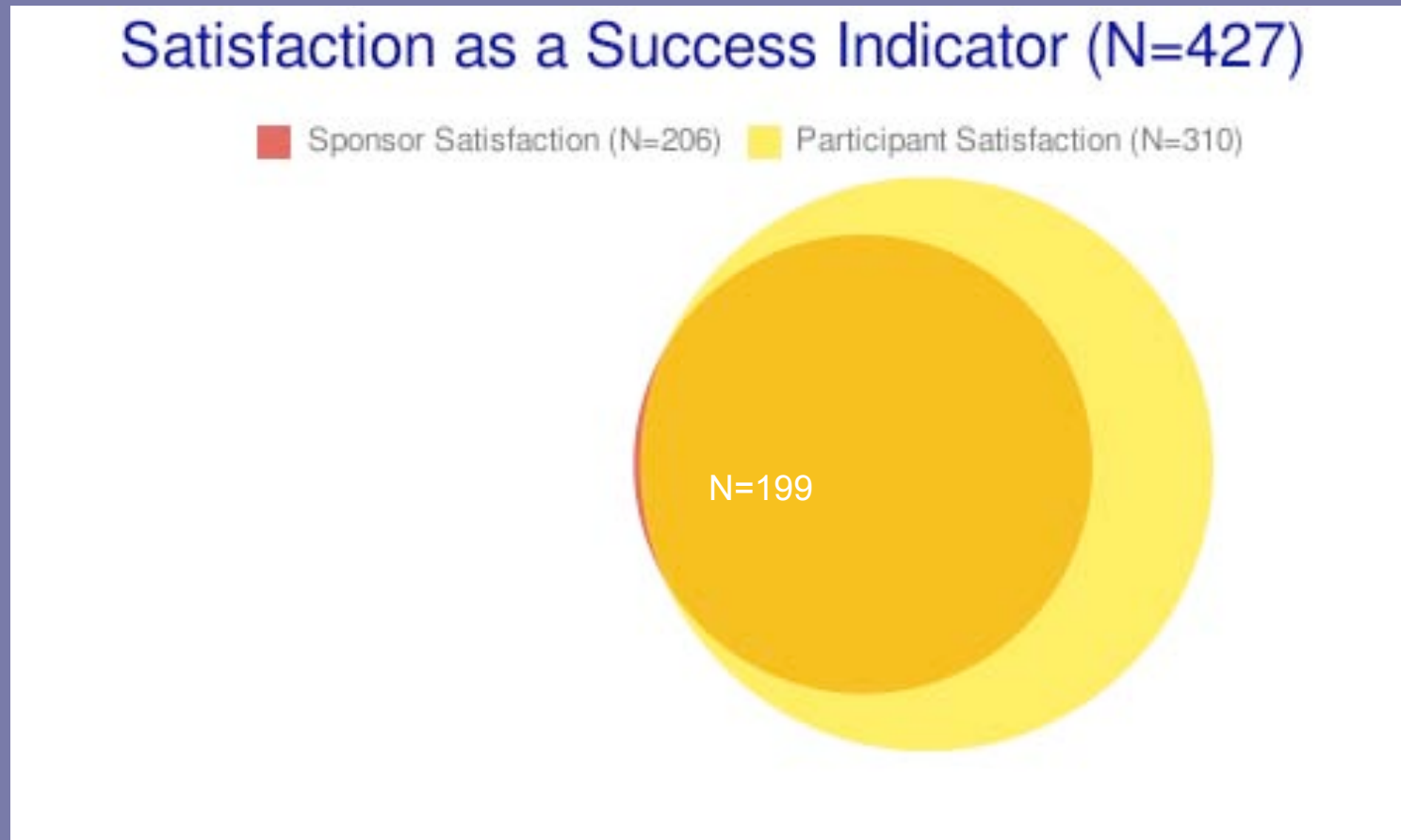


Respondents chose participant satisfaction as a success indicator more often than sponsor satisfaction.

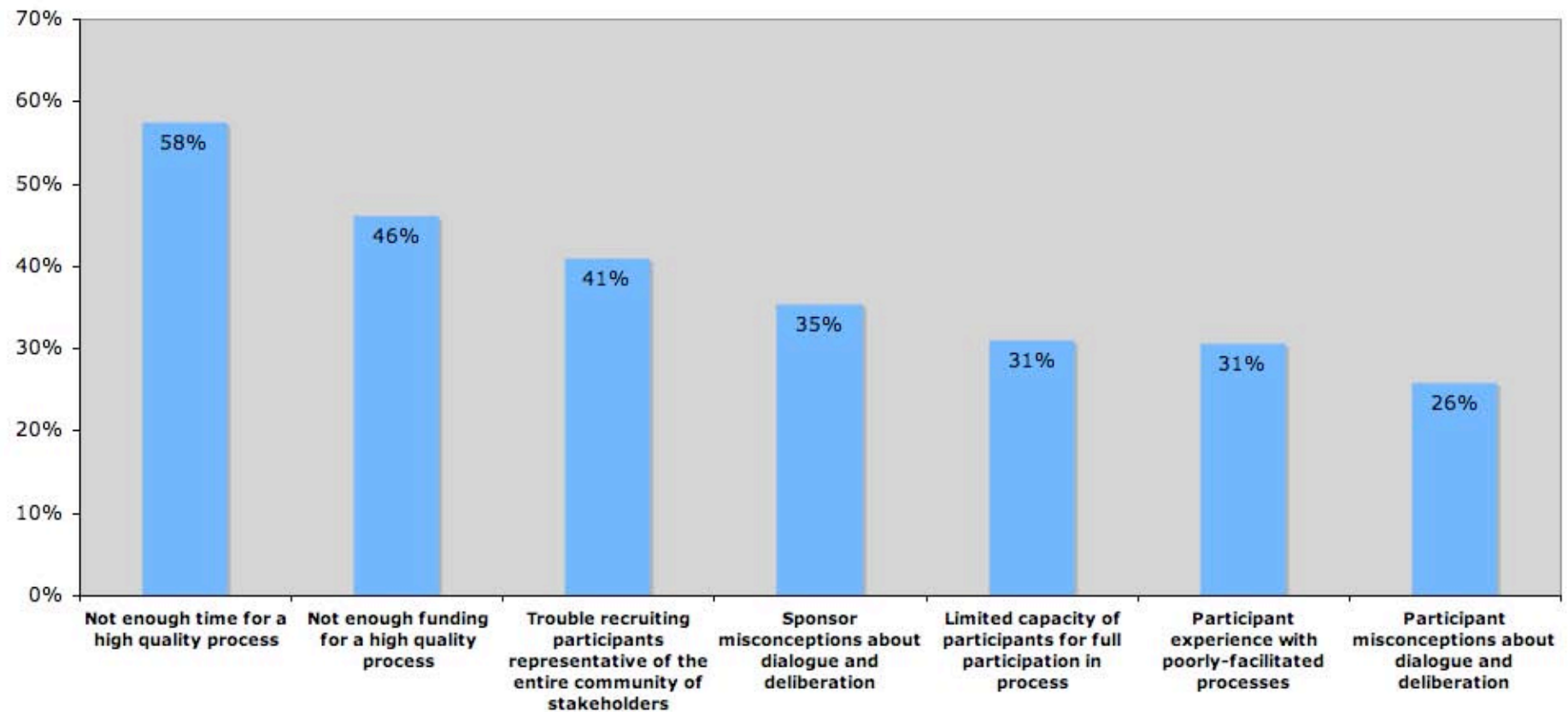


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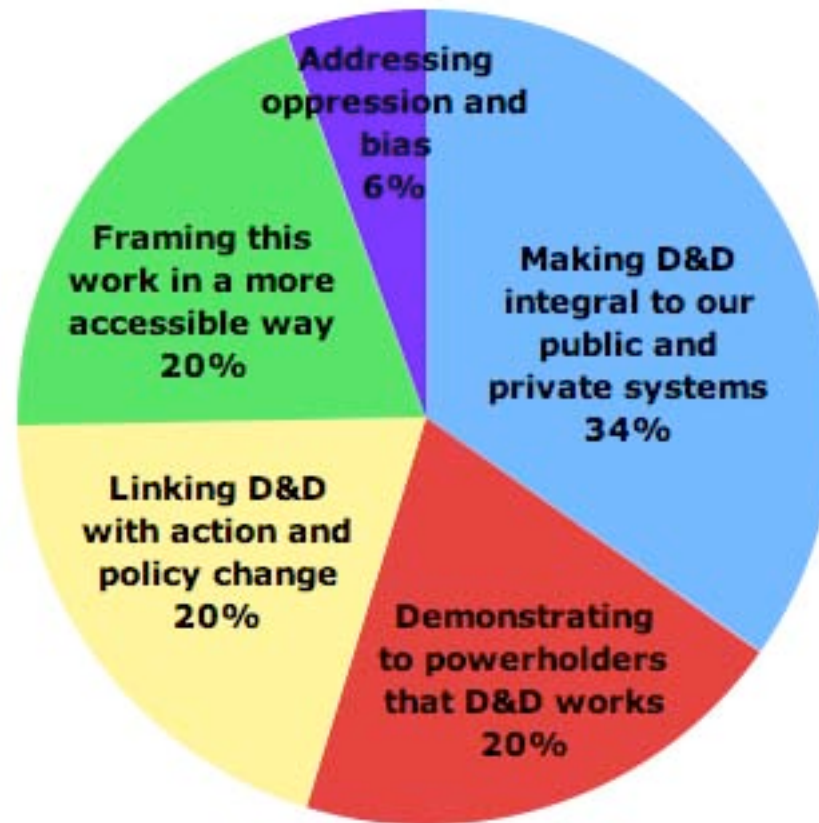
Respondents who did choose sponsor satisfaction nearly always chose participant satisfaction as well.



**Q30: Percentage of total respondents (N=417) reporting as their top 3 challenges (7 most common only)**



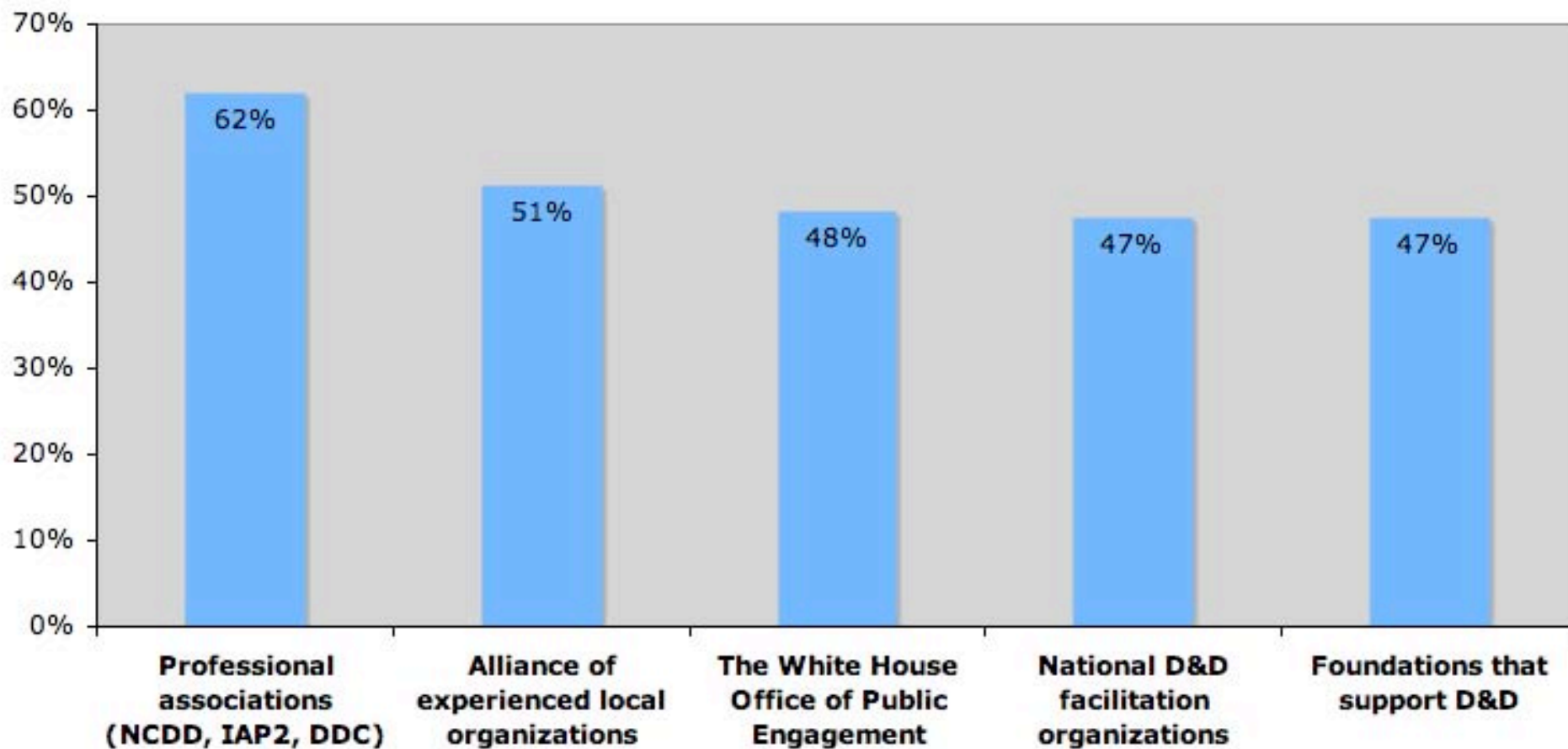
**Q29: Most important challenge facing the  
D&D community, based on challenges  
defined by NCDD conference attendees**



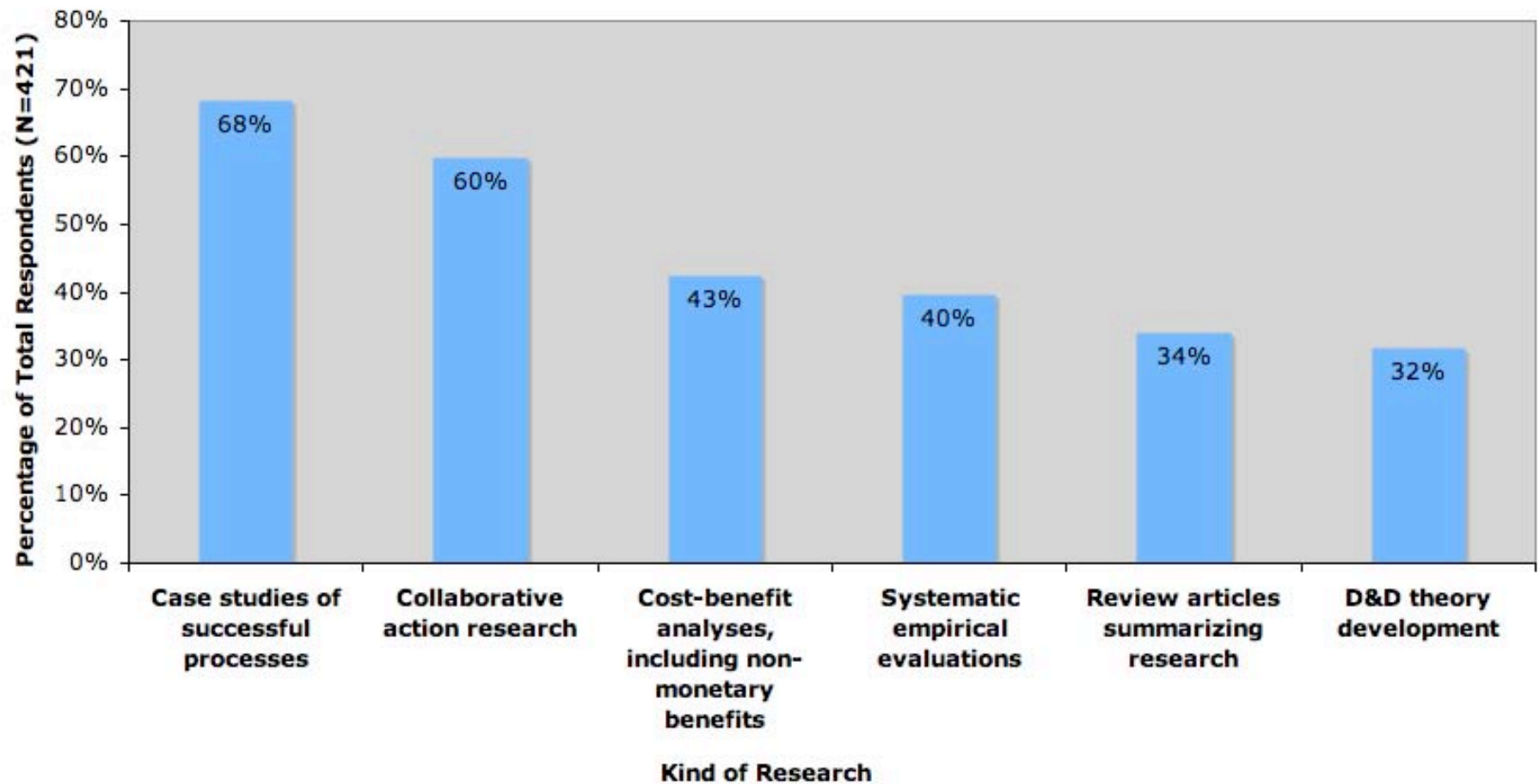
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**Q31: Percentage of total respondents (N=394) selecting top 3 categories of actors who should take the lead in advancing D&D in America (5 most common only)**



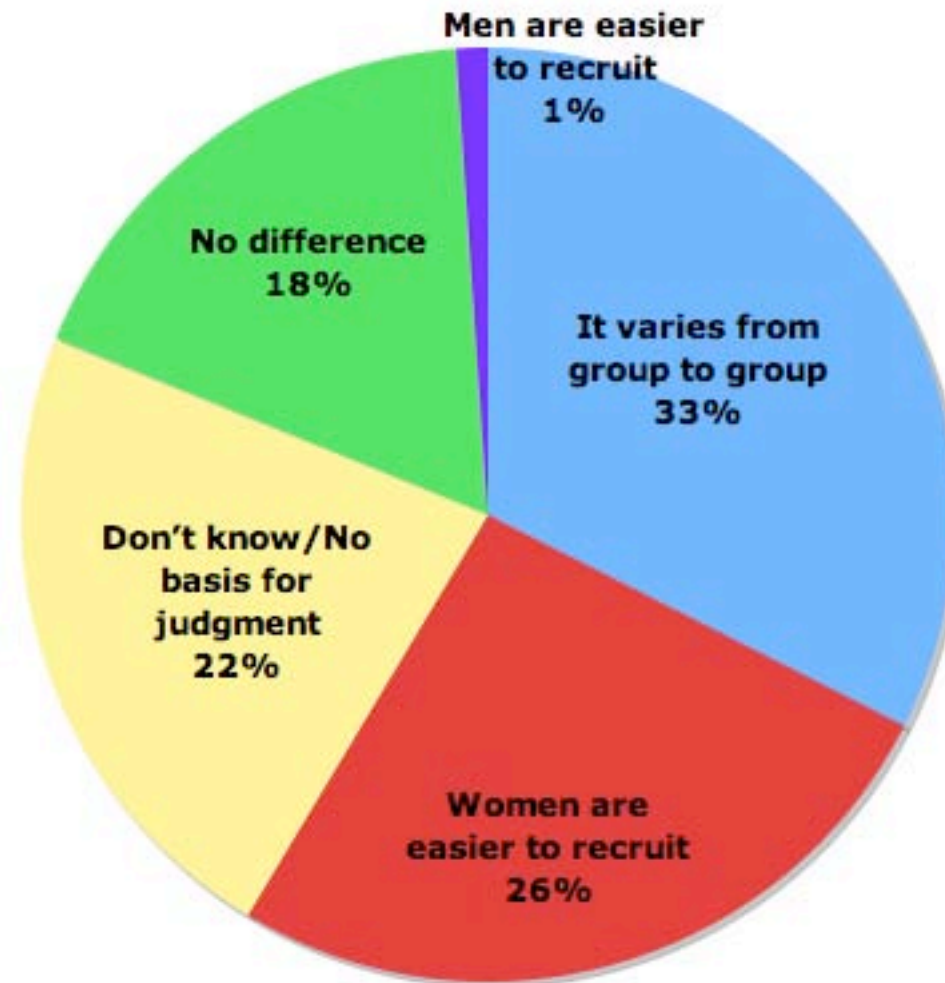
### Q43: Research on D&D That Would Be Helpful to Respondents



# The Role of Gender in Deliberation

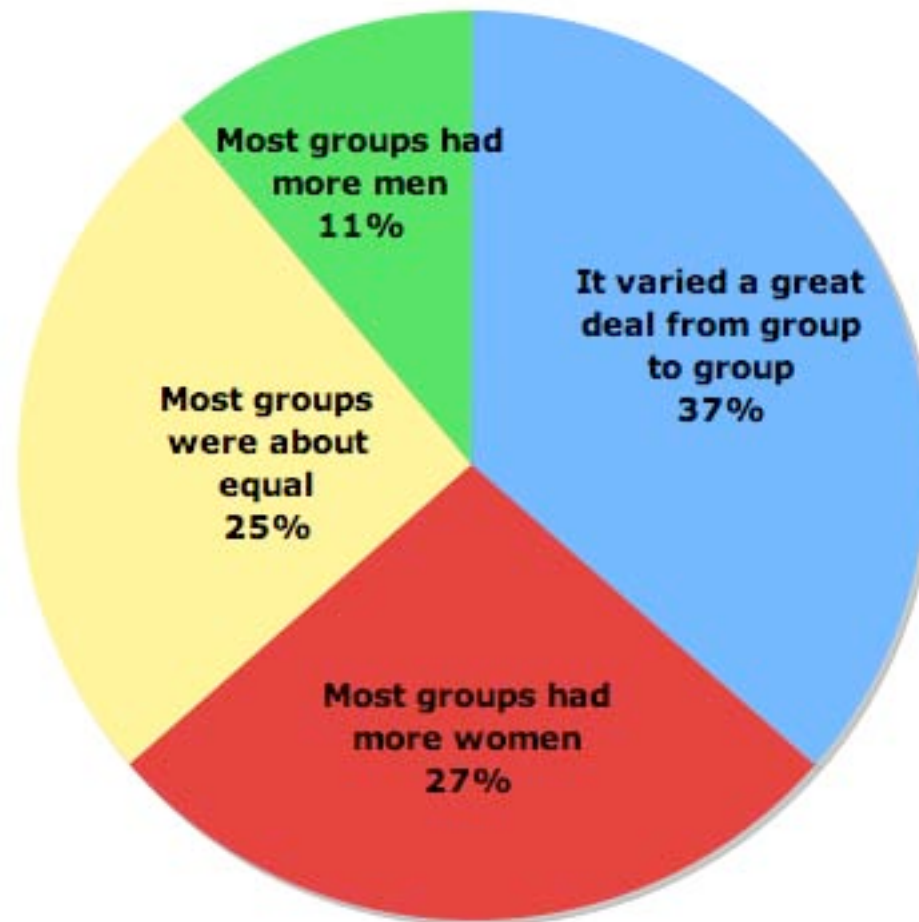
These slides provide information on how respondents think gender might affect recruitment of participants or styles of participation. Demographic information on the gender balance of survey respondents is also included here.

**Q19: If you have been involved in recruitment for D&D projects, is it generally easier to recruit men or women or is there no difference? (N=419)**

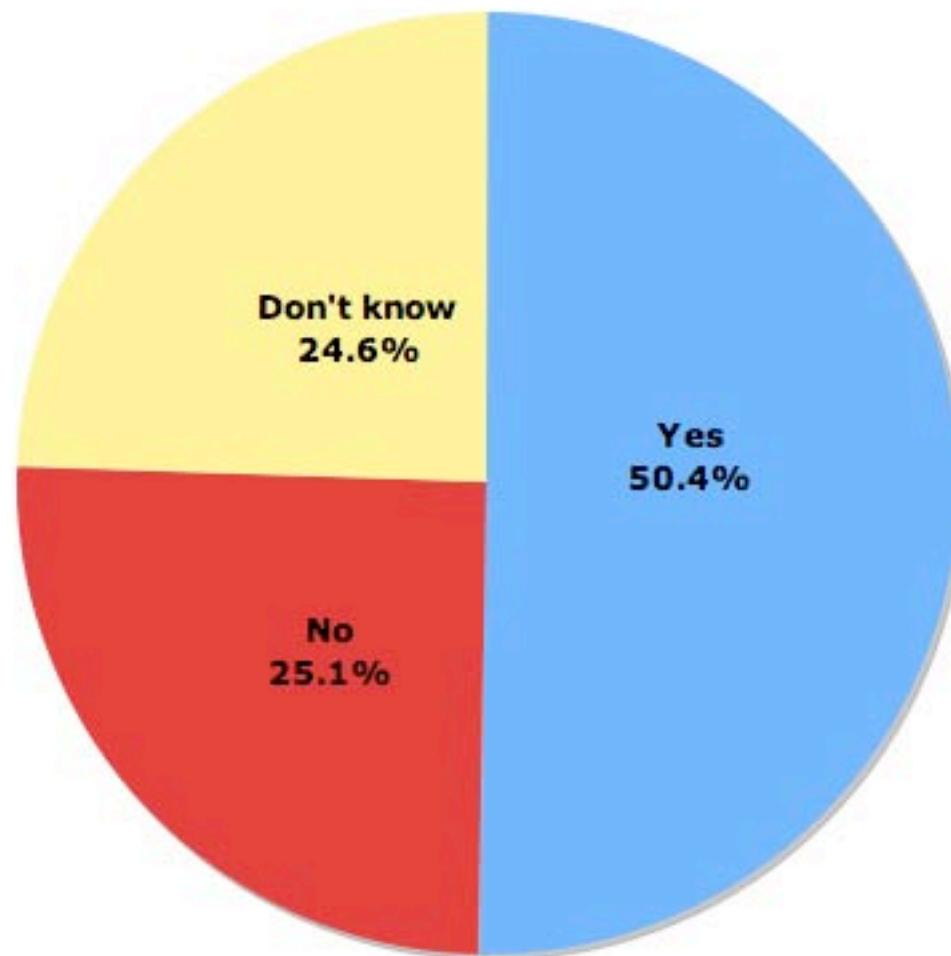


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**Q18: Gender Balance of Participants in Groups Facilitated  
Over the Past Two Years (N=419)**

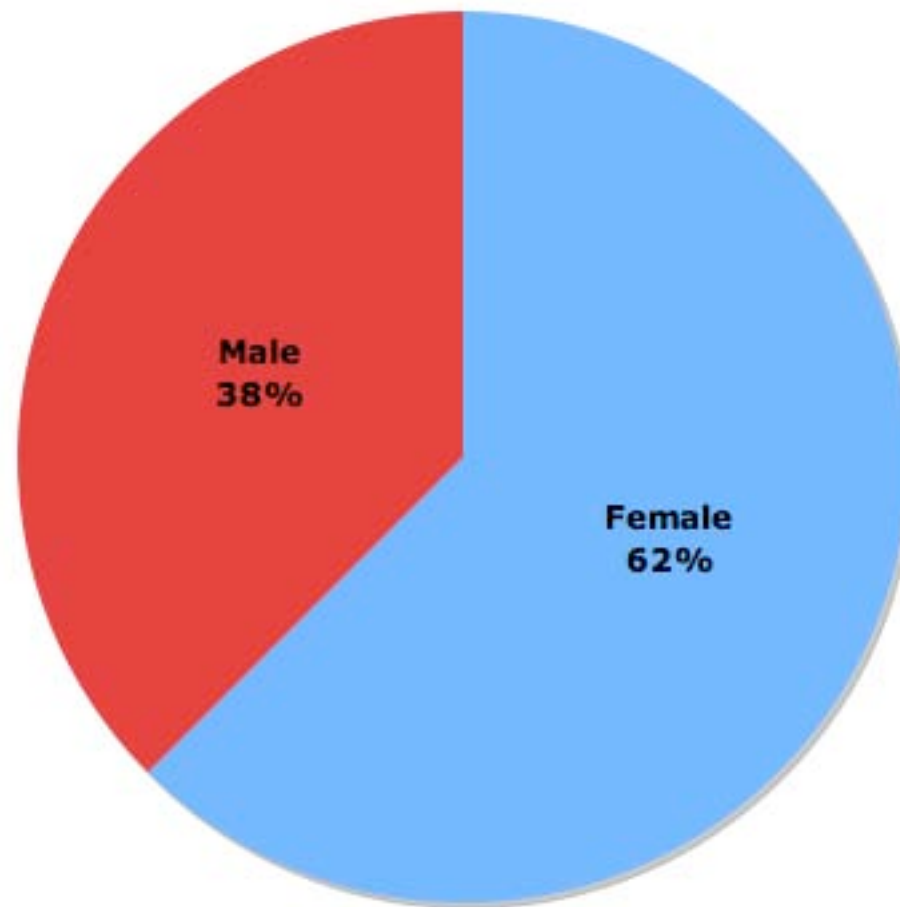


**Q20: Do men and women have different styles of participation, in your observation? (N=415)**



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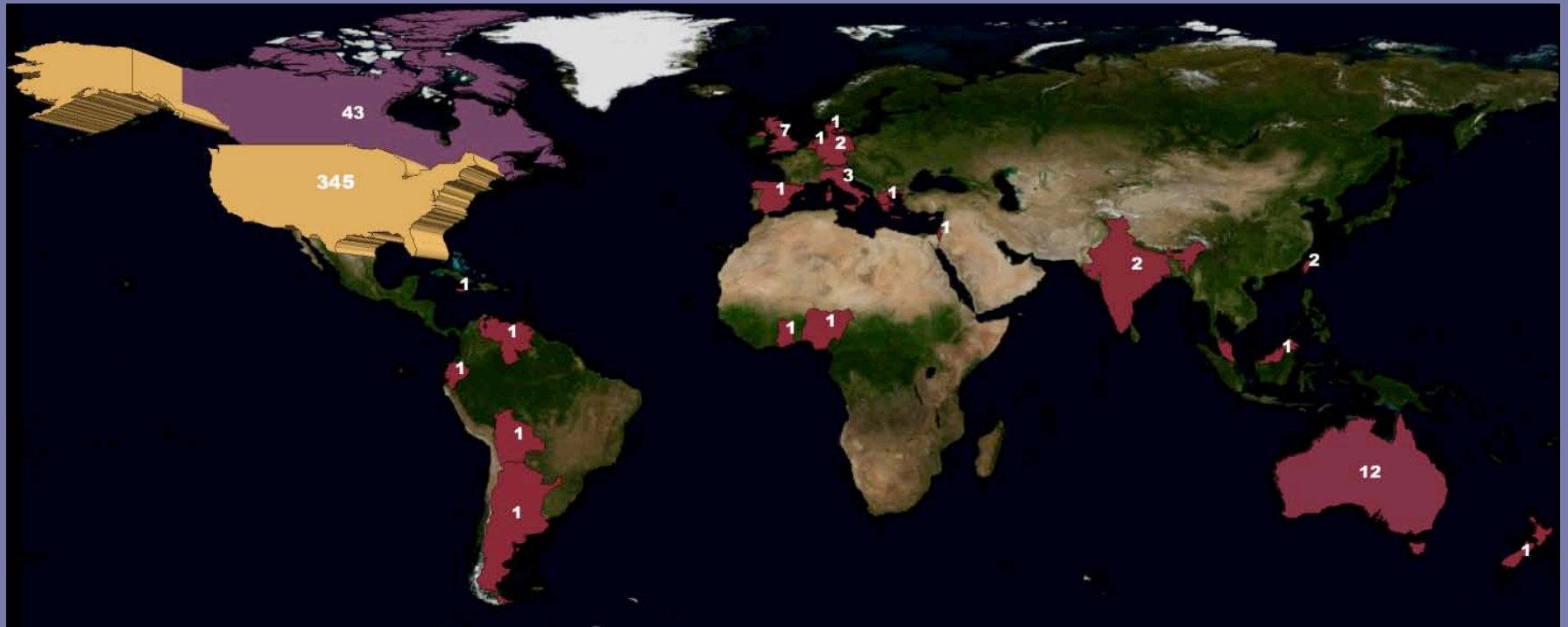
**Q33: Respondent Gender (N=431)**





# Demographics

These slides provide information about the demographics of survey respondents, including their memberships, employment in D&D work, and involvement in field-building events.



The target population was in the U.S., but the survey was distributed worldwide.

U.S.: 345    Canada: 43    Australia: 12    UK: 7

Countries with 1-3 respondents: Argentina, Bolivia, Denmark, Ecuador, Germany, Ghana, Greece, India, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Spain, Taiwan, Venezuela

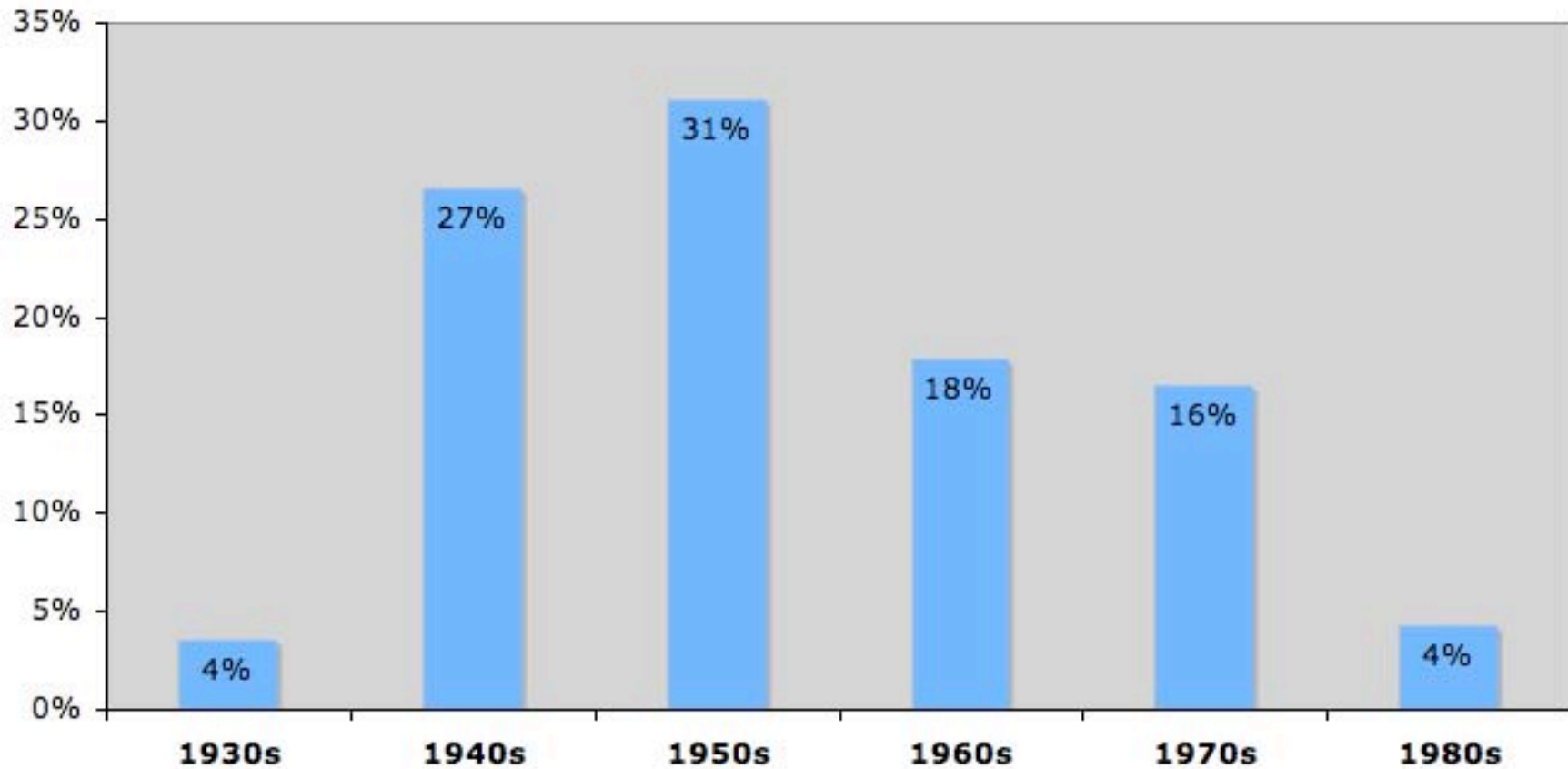
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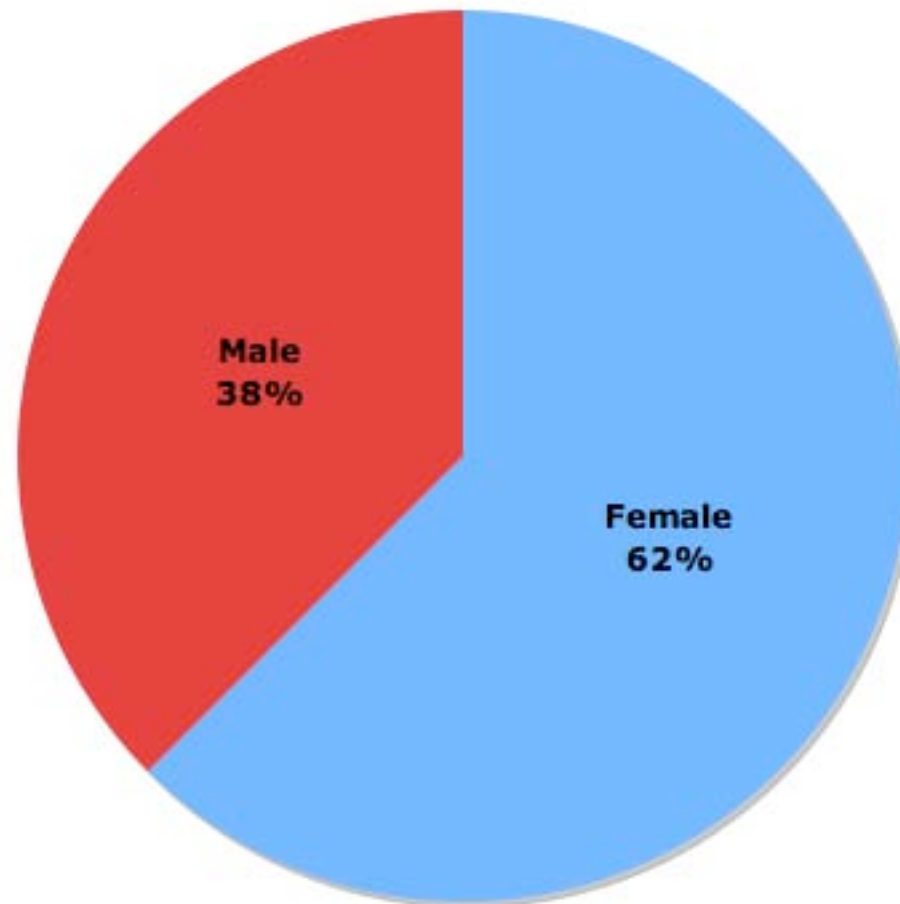
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Median age: 53   Ave. age: 51.5   Mode: 62 (22 in 1969)

**Q34: Birth Year of Respondents by Decade (N=425)**



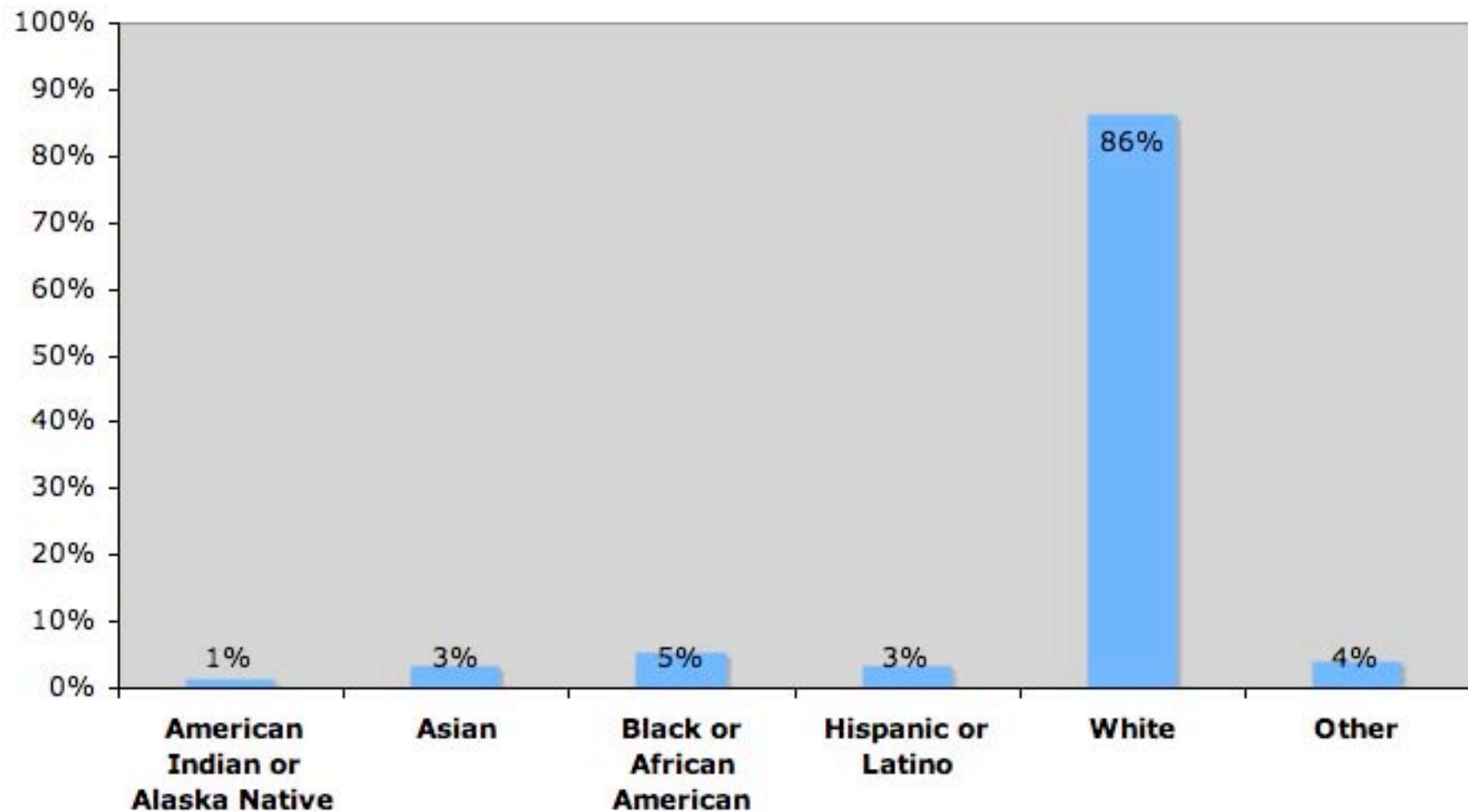
**Q33: Respondent Gender (N=431)**



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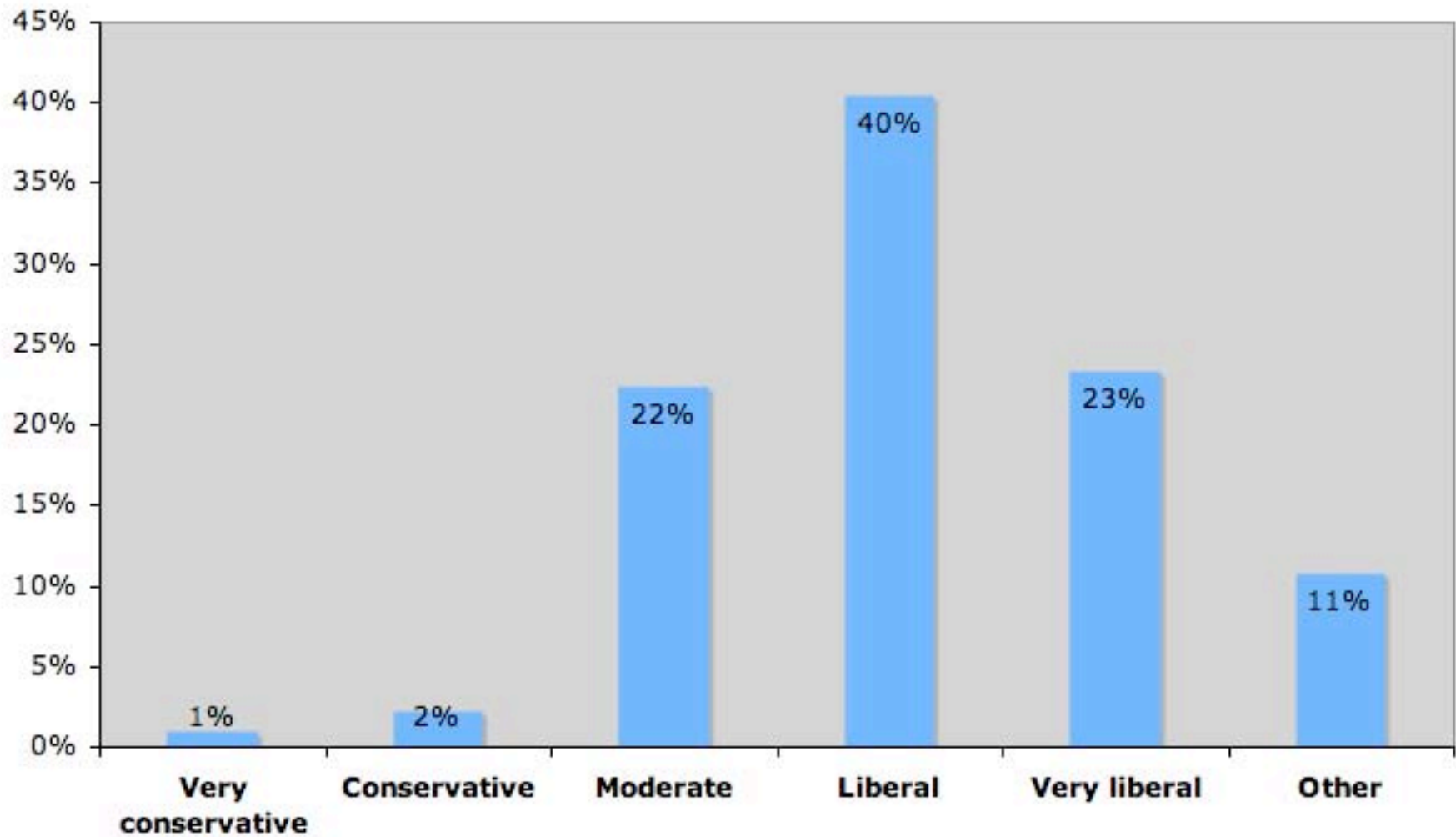


### Q35: Racial and Ethnic Background of Respondents (N=420)



Percentages add to >100% due to selection of multiple categories

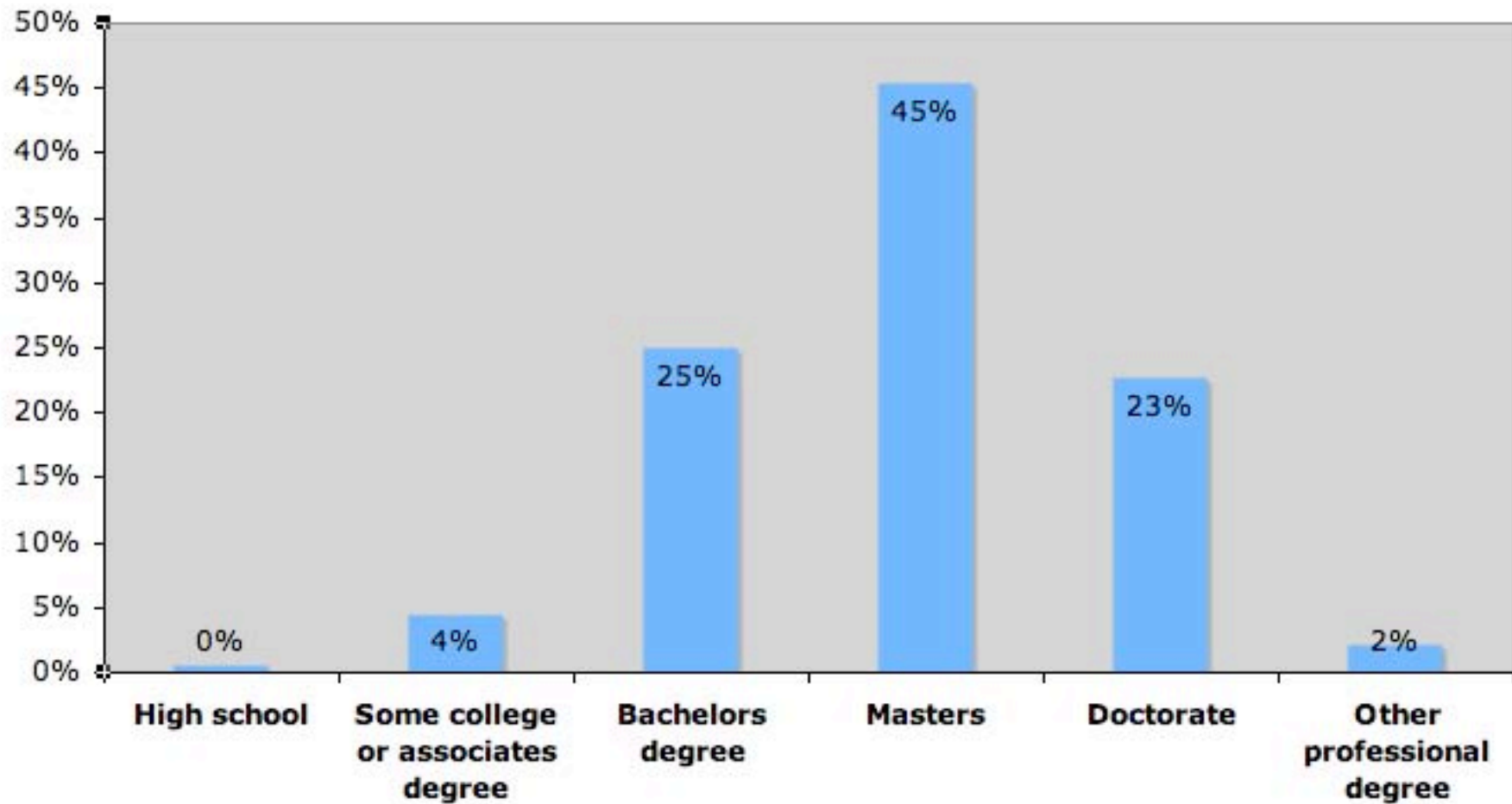
### Q40: Political Perspective of Respondents (N=420)



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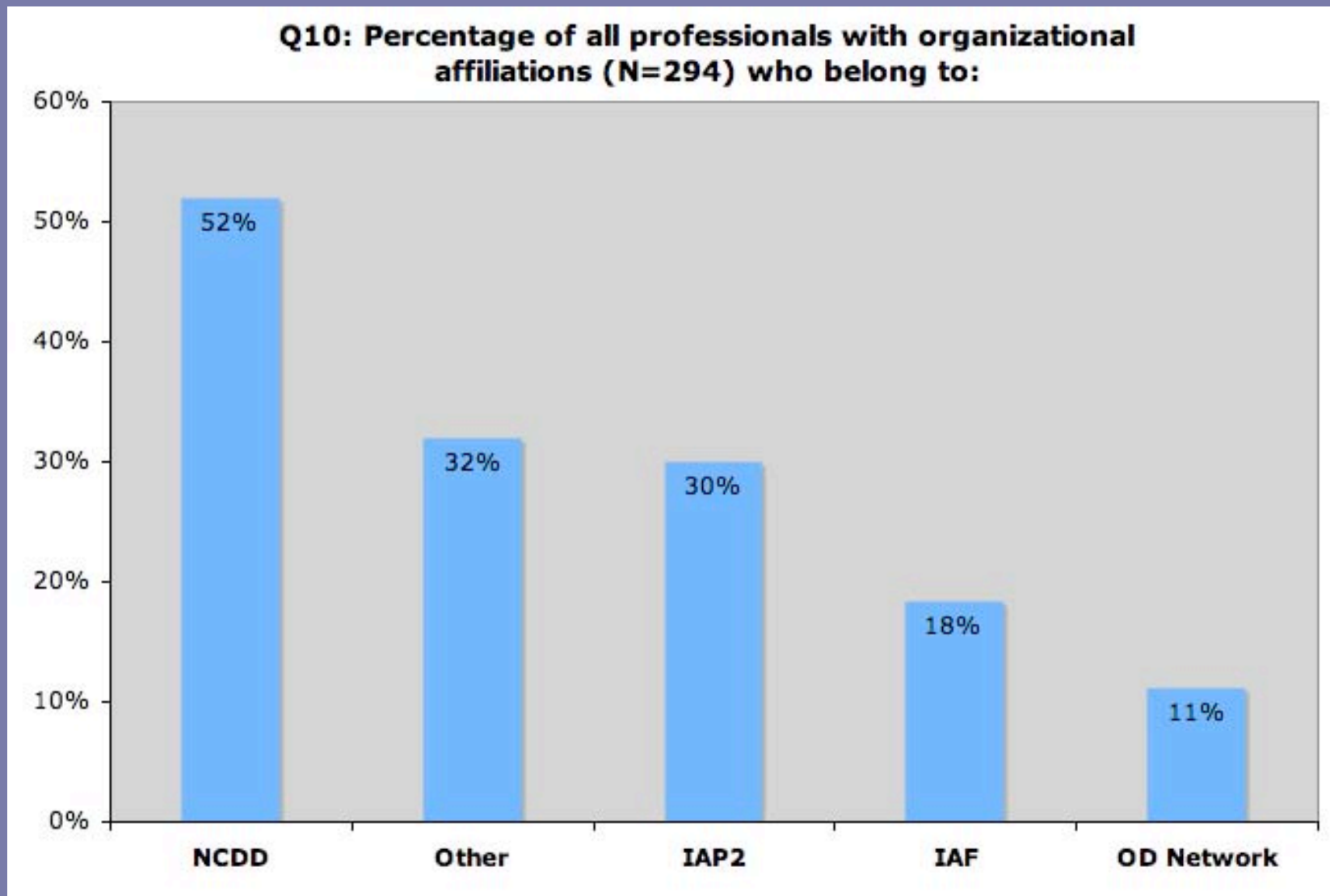


### Q11: Highest degree received



Percentage of total respondents (N=432)

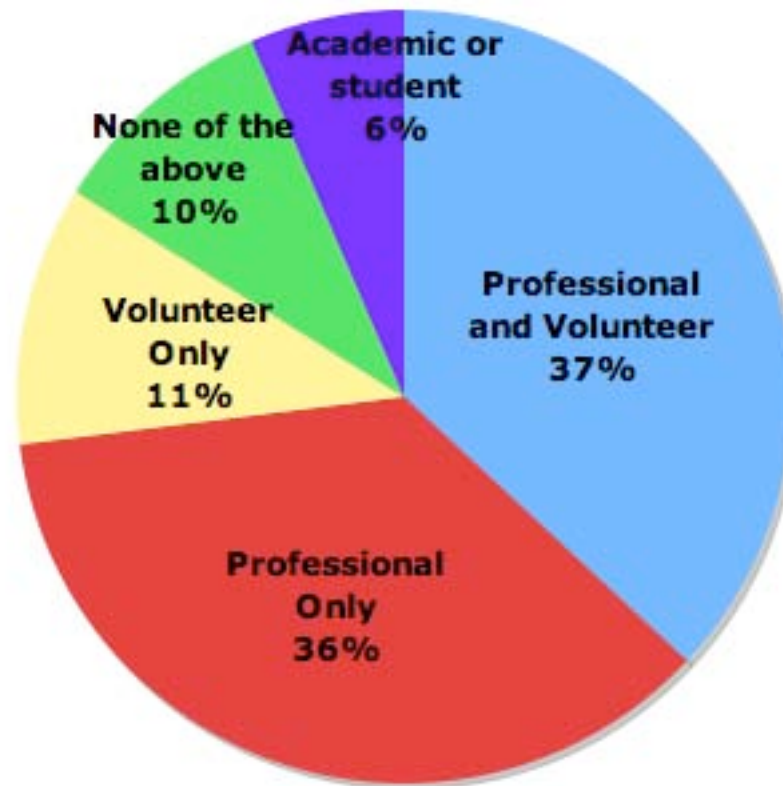
93% of professionals belong to at least one organization. Those who belong to at least one professional association belong to 1.6 organizations on average.



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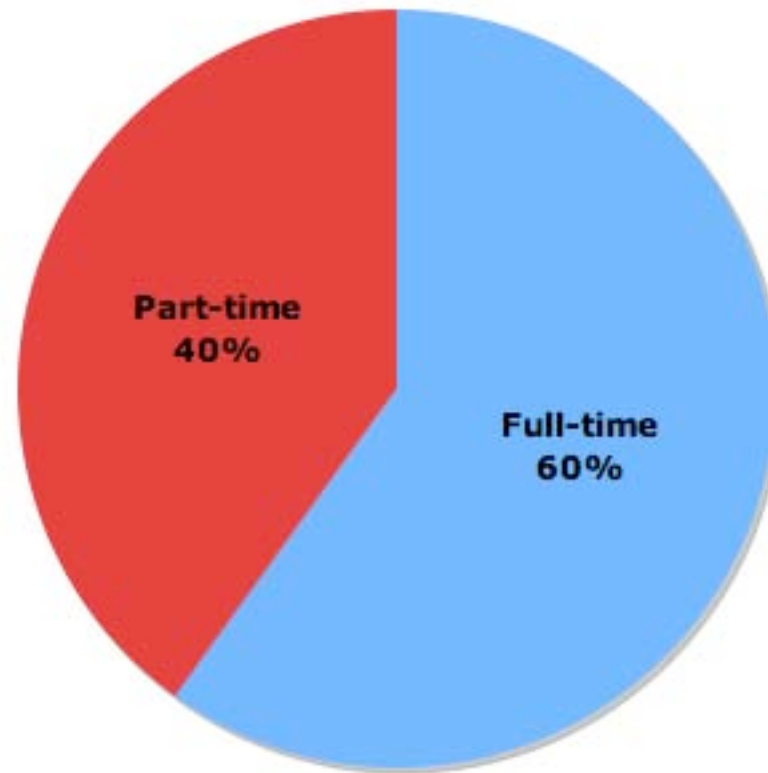
## Employment in Dialogue and Deliberation Work

**Q3: Type of Practice (N=431)**

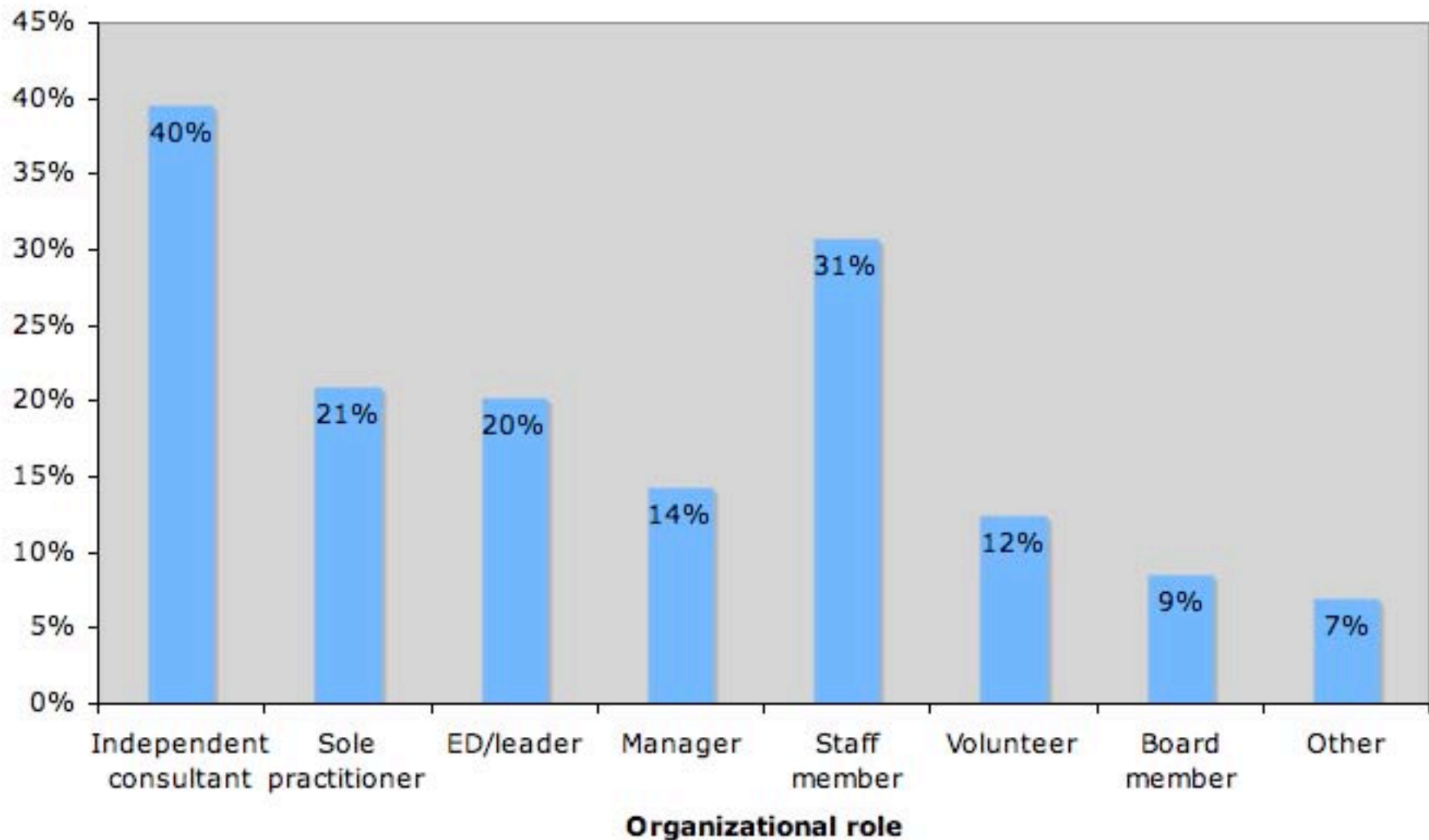


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**Q4: Percentage of professionals (N=314)  
reporting engagement in D&D work  
on a full-time or part-time basis**

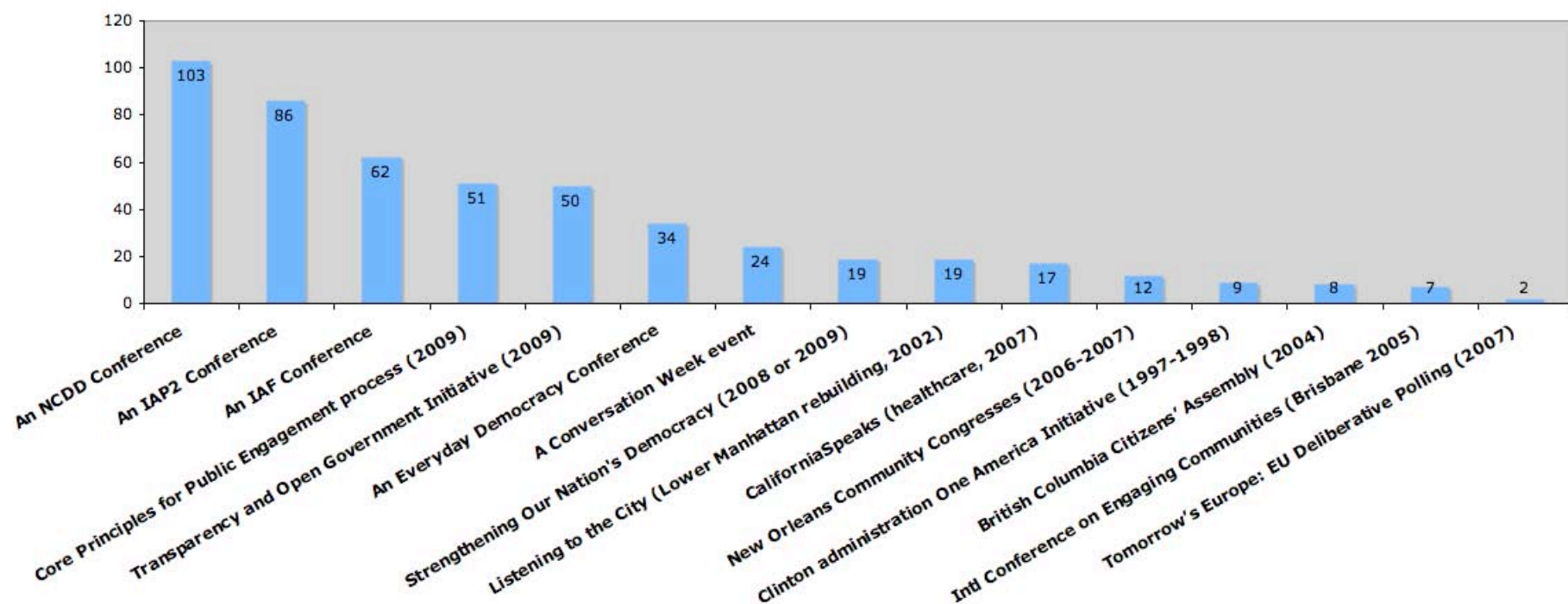


**Q6: Percentage of professionals (N=316) reporting role as:**



251 practitioners, or 58% of all respondents, reported participation in at least one of the field-building events listed in the chart below. On average, practitioners who reported participation had participated in two of the events.

**Q39: Number of Respondents Participating in Field-Building Events and Conferences (N=434)**



*Thanks so much for your interest  
in the survey.*

For more information about the sample, survey  
limitations, and opportunities to discuss the results,  
please see the survey website, at:

<http://sites.lafayette.edu/ddps>