

PAVE 2021 End of School Year Parent Survey Report



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Executive Summary

Survey Goal: In all we do, PAVE seeks to ensure the voices and experiences of families are centered in our education system. As part of that work, PAVE conducted a survey to hear from 628 families about their experiences with school in the 2020-21 school year, the ongoing impact of Coronavirus, and what they were planning for in the future. We hope that the findings from this comprehensive survey included in this report will be a resource to help school and system leaders inform their decisions and planning for the coming year.

About the survey respondents: The 628 survey respondents closely mirror the public school population in DC by race, Ward, and sector. The survey was available in English and Spanish.

End of Year Parent Survey Key Takeaways

Returning to school in-person:

- **66% said they felt comfortable sending their child to school in-person in the fall.** This is notable because at the time of the survey (5/20-6/10/21) many adults were not fully vaccinated and the vaccine was not yet available for children.
- Across all racial groups, parents' comfort level sending their kids to school in-person for next school year was close to **double the rate** that sent their children in-person in the fall.
- **Black/African-American and Hispanic/Latinx** respondents and respondents from **Ward 7 and 8** were **less likely to feel comfortable sending their children in-person.**

Parents' Experience with their Child(ren)'s School:

- Overall, parents' **satisfaction** with school **declined** in comparison to our **Fall Back to School** survey in most areas. In particular, parents' satisfaction with **communication from the school waned.**

- **Health and safety overall, specifically COVID related safety, and academic growth were top concerns for families next school year.** The next priority tier was around supporting children’s mental well-being and opportunities to socialize (this was also a common theme in the short-answer responses about what was challenging this year). Overall, the top concerns varied slightly across Wards and racial groups.

Academics and Enrichment:

- **63%** of respondents received **grade reports for assignments** and **69%** had verbal conversations with their child(ren)’s **teacher**. This was roughly the same across grade levels.
- Only **23%** of respondents **had at least one child who participated in tutoring before the pandemic (before March 2020)**. Since then, **39%** of respondents with children that were eligible for tutoring **participated during the pandemic (since March 2020)**, and **11% said some, but not all of their children participated**.
- For respondents that participated in tutoring after March 2020, **70% of parents responded that the tutoring services they received were extremely or very effective**. However, our survey *did not* give any benchmark or criteria to define “effective,” i.e. “my child grew academically, based on data.”

Mental Health Supports:

- Just over **half of respondents (54%)** reported they had **access to a mental health practitioner or clinician** at school, but **41%** reported they were **not sure**. When disaggregated by race, **White/Caucasian** respondents were **slightly more likely to report that they did have access** than **Black/African-American** or **Hispanic/Latinx** respondents.
- The top person in the school that respondents said they would **reach out to first in order to get mental health support** was a **school mental health professional (39%)**. **White** respondents and respondents who do **not receive benefits** were both about twice as likely to reach out to their child(ren)’s teacher (27%) than **Black/African-American** respondents who do receive benefits (13%, respectively).

Family Wellbeing and COVID Impact

- **Top Challenges:**
 - **Managing children's education at home** and **issues with racial inequity and injustice in our country** were the most frequent **top challenges for families**, at **39% and 44% respectively**.
 - For respondents living East of the River, issues with **racial inequity and injustice and violence in the community** were the top two challenges at **47% and 37% respectively**.
- **Basic Needs:**
 - **Black/African-American** and **Hispanic/Latinx** respondents were **4.3 times** more likely to report that they or their children **felt physically unsafe outside of their home** than **White/Caucasian** respondents.
 - **Only 58%** of respondents reported they are **able to use the internet when they need it without glitches, slowdowns, or getting disconnected**.
- **Vaccines:**
 - **93% of respondents reported their child(ren) are up to date with [non-COVID] shots/immunizations for school**, like tetanus, mumps, and measles. However, [May 2021 data](#) indicated that **77% of DCPS students and 76% of public charter school students are up-to-date on immunizations**. This calls for exploration into whether or not respondents have been made aware of all required immunizations going into the new year or if there was an issue with submitting the paperwork.

We look forward to sharing and discussing these findings with parent, system, and school leaders to help make sure the upcoming school year is responsive to the needs of families and communities and to help inform decisions and policy. We are extremely grateful to all of our partners for their collaboration and support to draft, disseminate and analyze the survey.

Project Overview

Background and Goal of End of School Year Parent Survey

- **Background:** This past year and a half has been an unprecedented time for education in DC. Longstanding inequities for families of color and low-income families were exacerbated by the pandemic, and many parents and caregivers took on the role of their child's primary teacher, a great deal doing so while working and managing a household full-time.
- **Survey Goal:** To help glean and share insights from parents' experiences as well as their hopes and plans for the future, PAVE surveyed 628 parents of children in DC schools with the goal of helping system and school leaders center the experiences of families in their decisions and plans for the fall.

Survey Methodology

- **Survey development:**
 - PAVE developed the survey in partnership with a number of community partners and parents leaders who reviewed the survey draft and gave feedback on how to make it more inclusive and accessible for families. We are so appreciative for all who provided feedback and guidance in this process.
- **Survey outreach:**
 - PAVE shared the online survey with parents through texts, email, social media, and through community partner networks.
 - The survey was offered in English and Spanish.
 - PAVE Community Organizers also made phone calls to support parents who could not complete the survey online.

- **Survey incentives:**

- A \$50 gift card was provided for all DC parents who responded to the survey as a thank you for their time.
- The first 100 respondents were sent a summer activity kit.

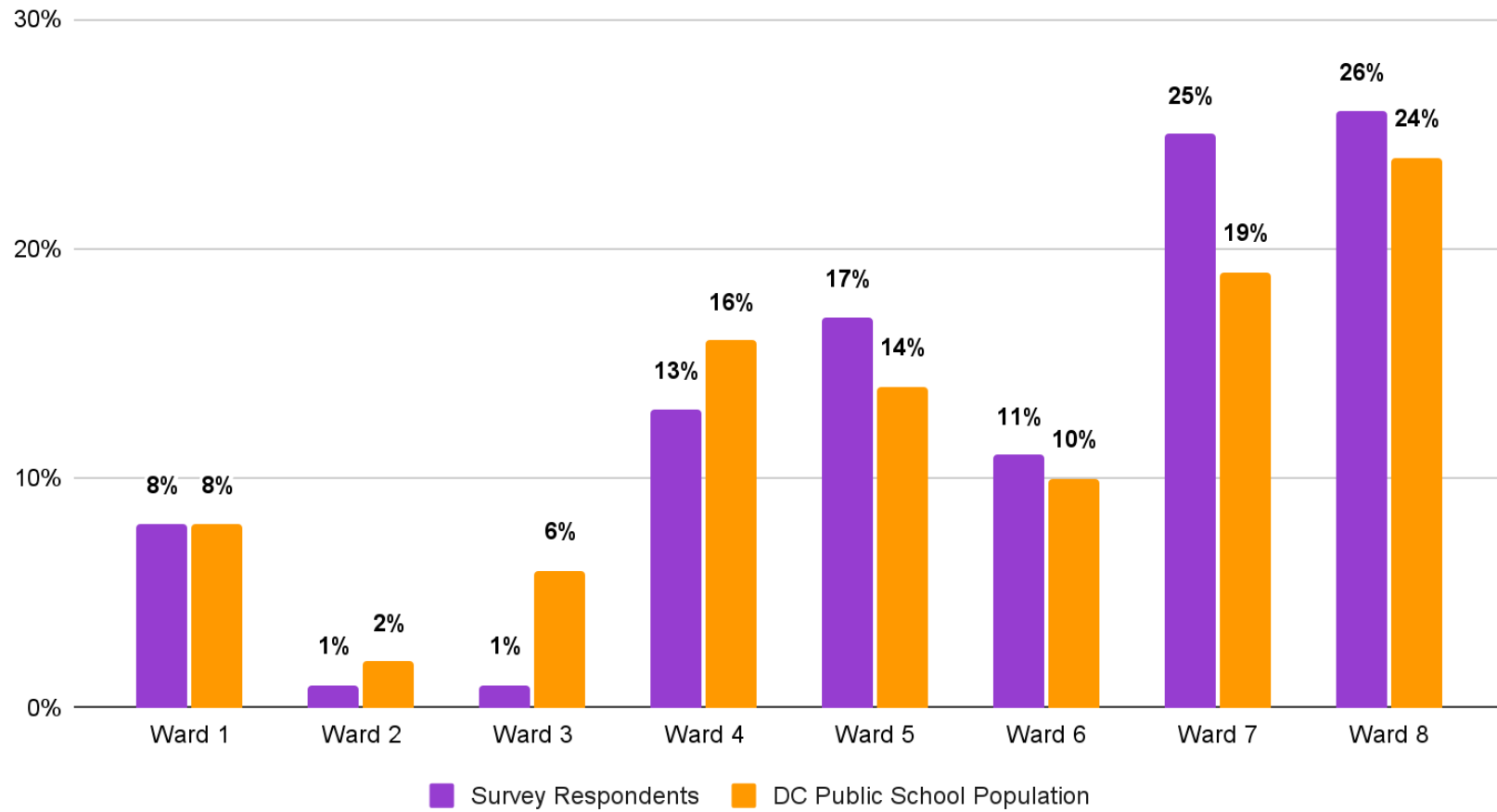
- **Survey analysis:**

- PAVE worked with EmpowerK12 in order to aggregate the survey data. You can find a comprehensive dashboard of all survey results that can be filtered by various demographics and student groups [here](#).
- We reported some highlights and takeaways below, showing disaggregated data for high-priority questions where there were notable differences.
- Important note: this is not an exhaustive analysis for all questions and subgroups. We encourage the use of the dashboard for further exploration of data and trends.

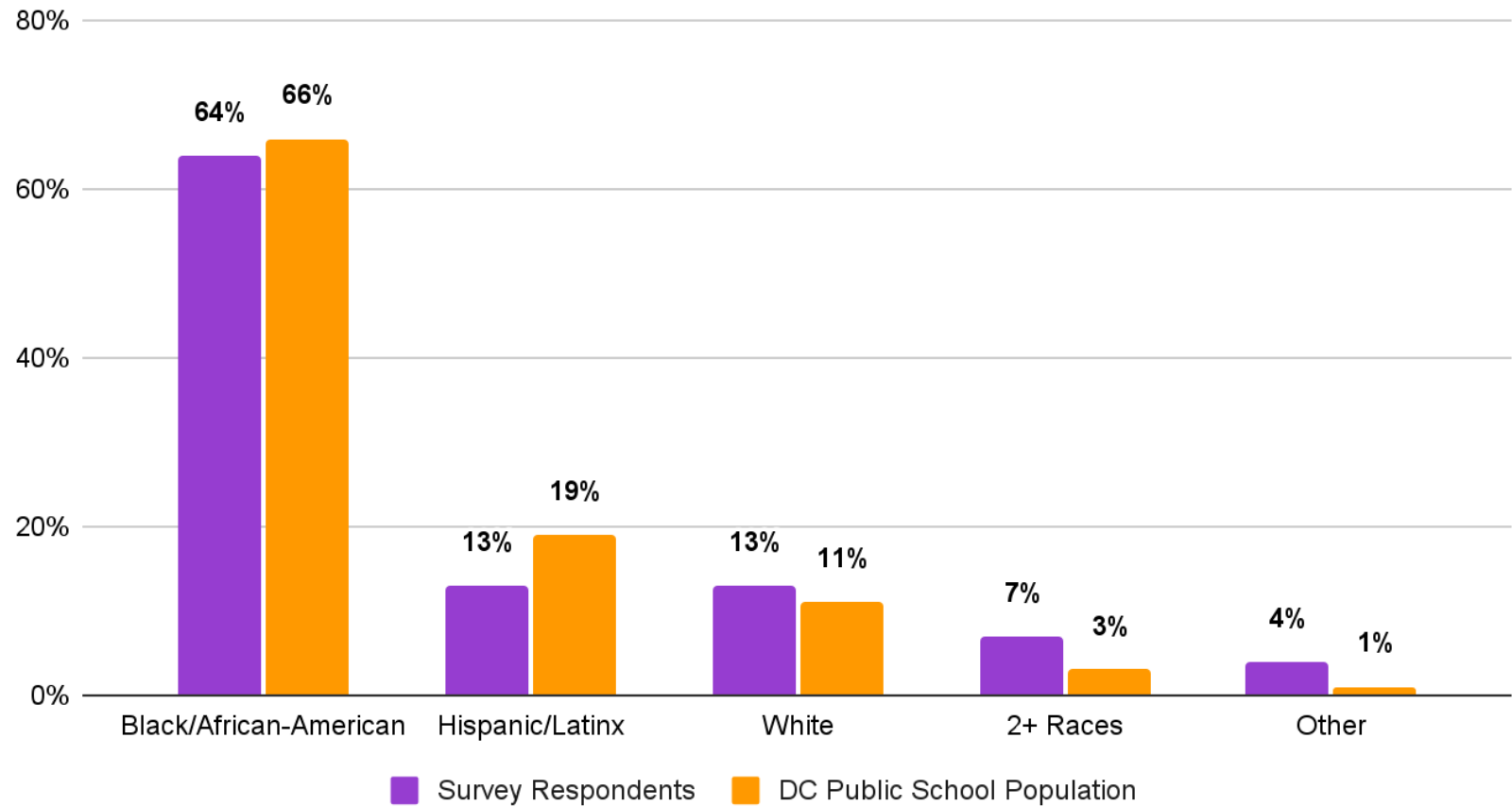
Overview of Survey Respondents

- The parents and caregivers we heard from were **representative** of our city's public school system, closely mirroring the breakdown across **race**, **ward**, and **sector**. See below for more information about the breakdown of respondents compared to DC's public education system.
 - *Note: we did not receive a significant sample size from Wards 2 or 3, so those wards are not reflected in ward-by-ward graphs. However, those responses are included in East of River vs. West of River graphs.*
- About a **third** of respondents were from families with children with an **IEP/504**. This compares to 16% of students with IEP's/504's in DC.
- **41%** reported that they had received **benefits such as SNAP, TANF, or Medicaid**. This compares to 43% of students in DC who are considered at-risk which includes children whose family receives SNAP, TANF, or Medicaid, are in high school and overage, are in the foster care system, or are homeless.
- While we did conduct some surveys over the phone, it should be noted that **most surveys were completed online**.
- The survey was open from **5/21/21 – 6/10/21**. *For reference, the last day for DCPS and some public charter schools was 6/19/21.*

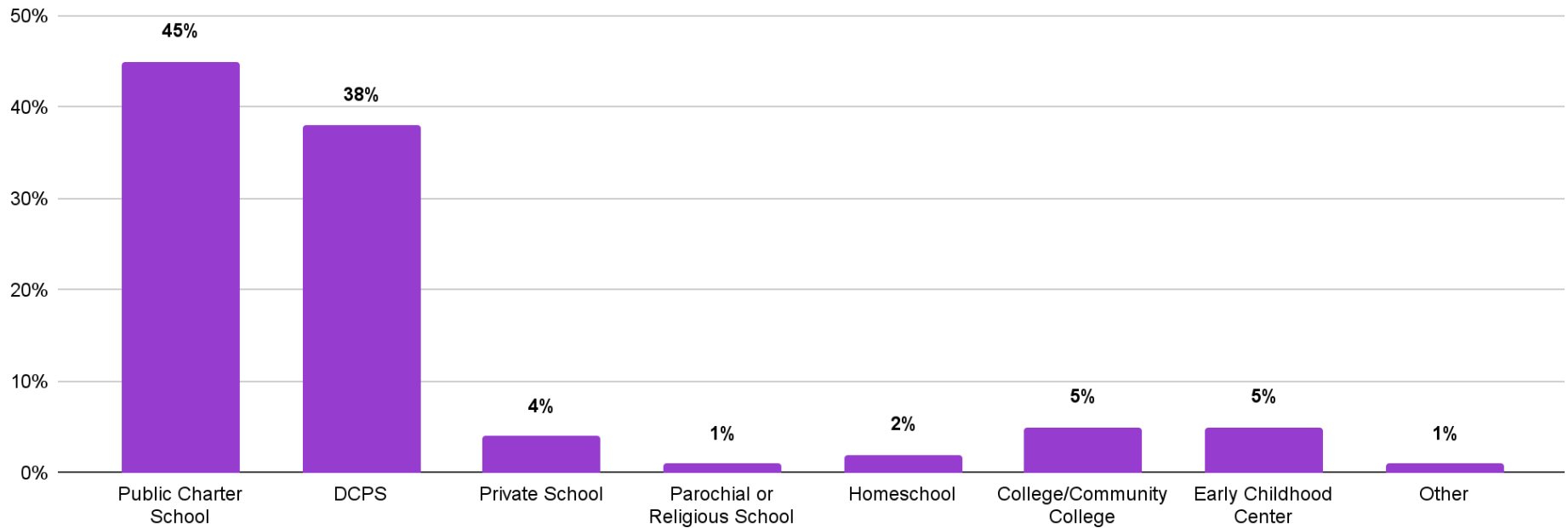
Respondents' Wards of Residence



Respondents' Race

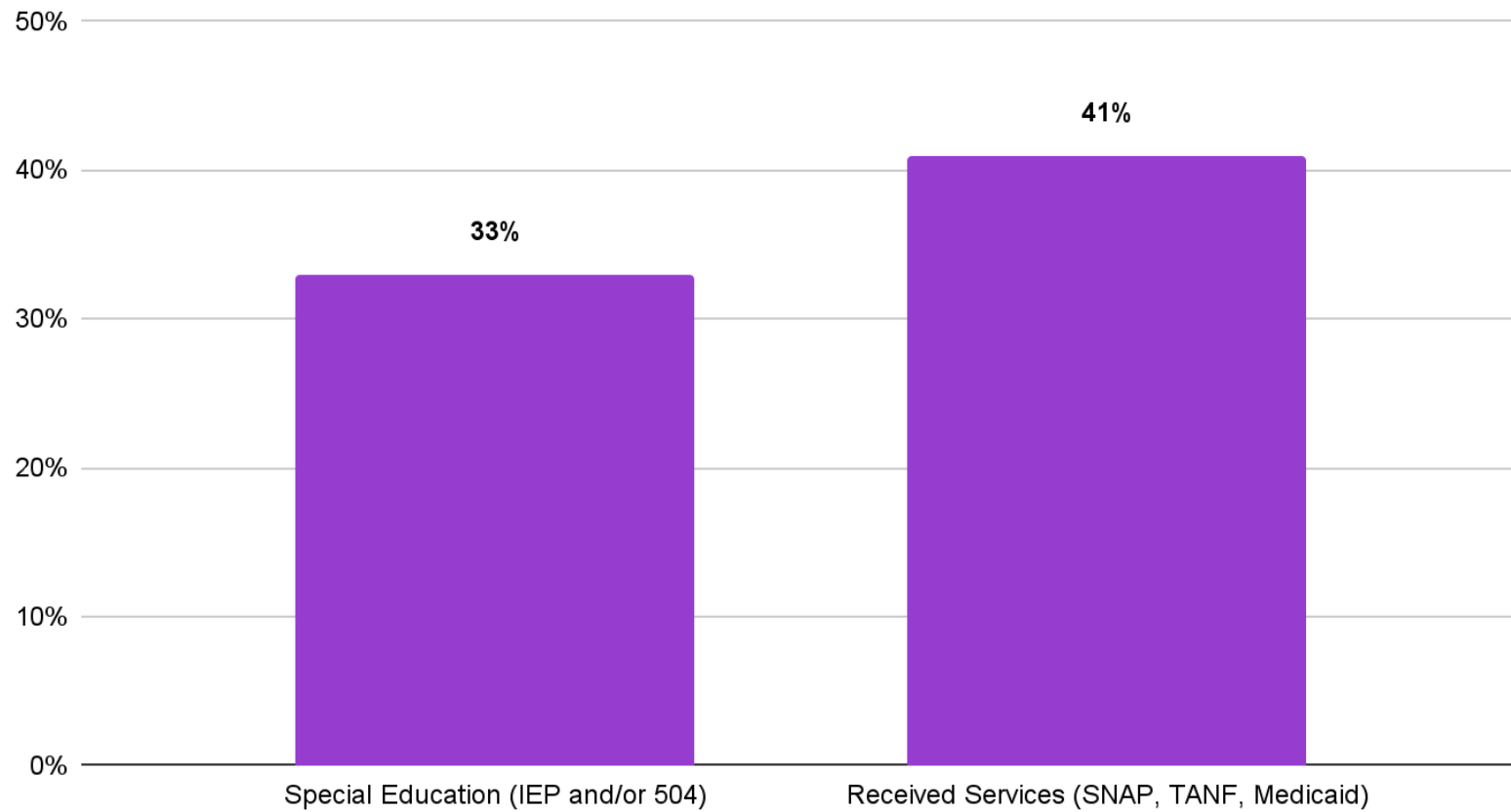


Type of School(s) Respondents' Children Attend



Note: parents could select more than one option for type of school as many parents have multiple children at different types of schools, which is why these combined percentages are over 100%.

Other Identifiers for Respondents' Children



Analysis of Survey Responses & Key Takeaways

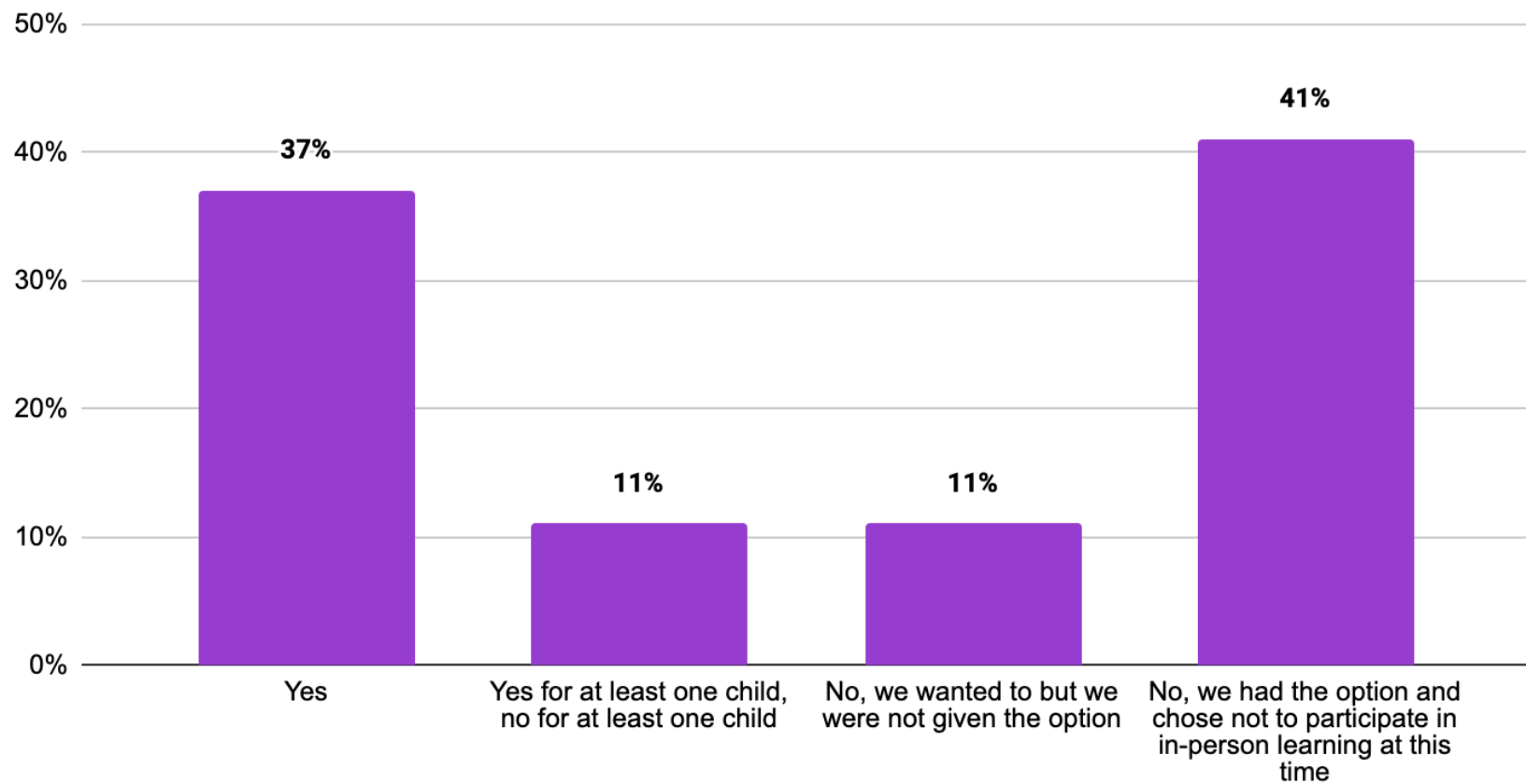
Returning In-Person - Beginning of School vs. End of School

We wanted to understand how many families (and which ones) made the decision to return to school in-person at the end of the school year to lift up any trends or patterns, and to compare those to families' comfort level for returning in-person in the fall. This is an important step in identifying some of the reasons for changes and to account for reopening plans, as many students have not been back in-person in over a year.

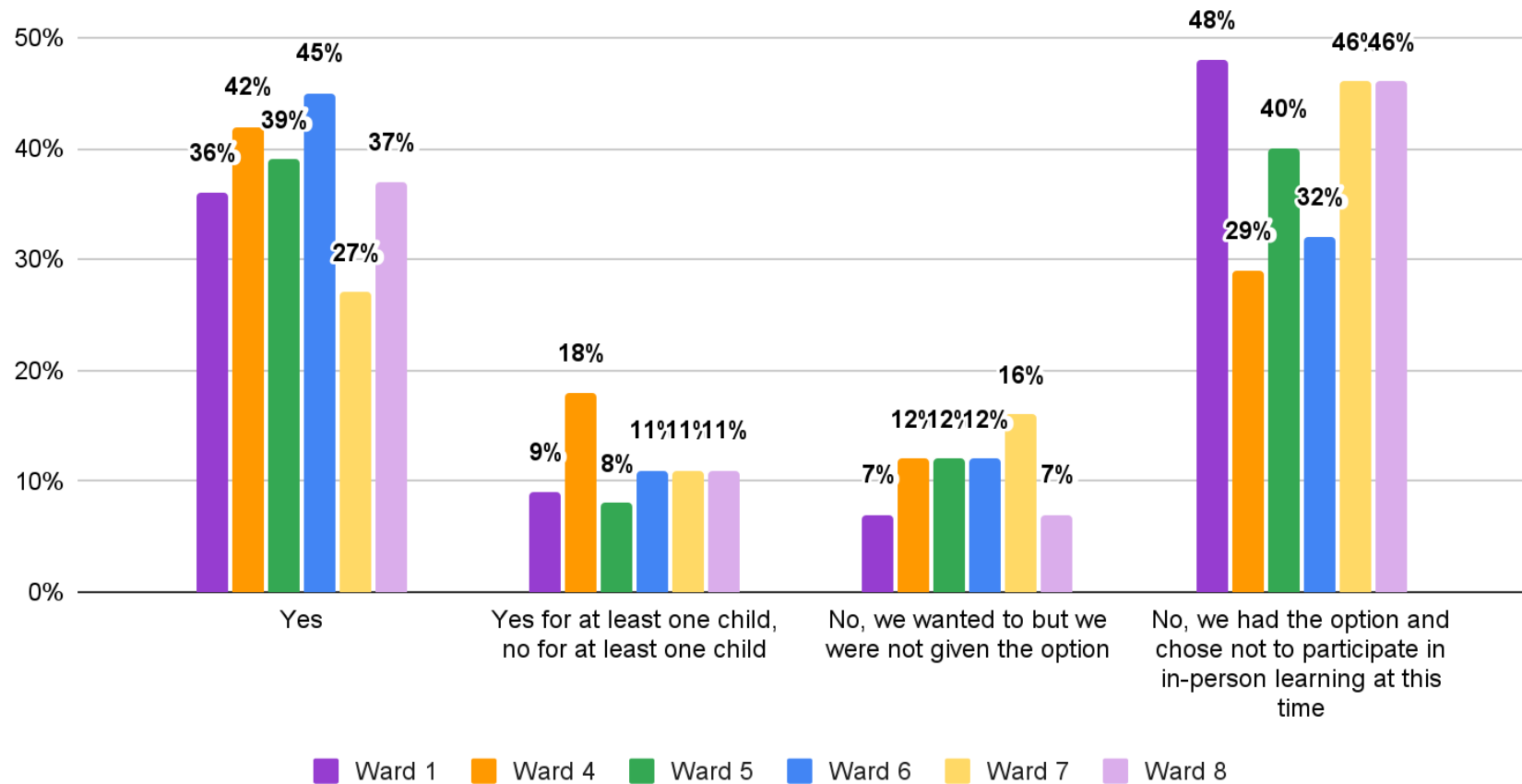
Takeaways: Returning In-Person in this Past School Year

- Overall, almost **half of respondents (48%)** said ***at least one of their children*** was learning in-person in the 2020-2021 school year, while **41% had the option and declined**.
- **White/Caucasian respondents** were more likely to send ***at least one of their children*** to school in person (**66%**) than **Black/African-American (46%)** or **Hispanic/Latinx respondents (48%)**. There were a variety of responses across Wards. The **largest difference** was that respondents from **Wards 1, 5, 7, and 8 declined the option** to return to school in-person by a **margin of 8-19%** compared to other wards.

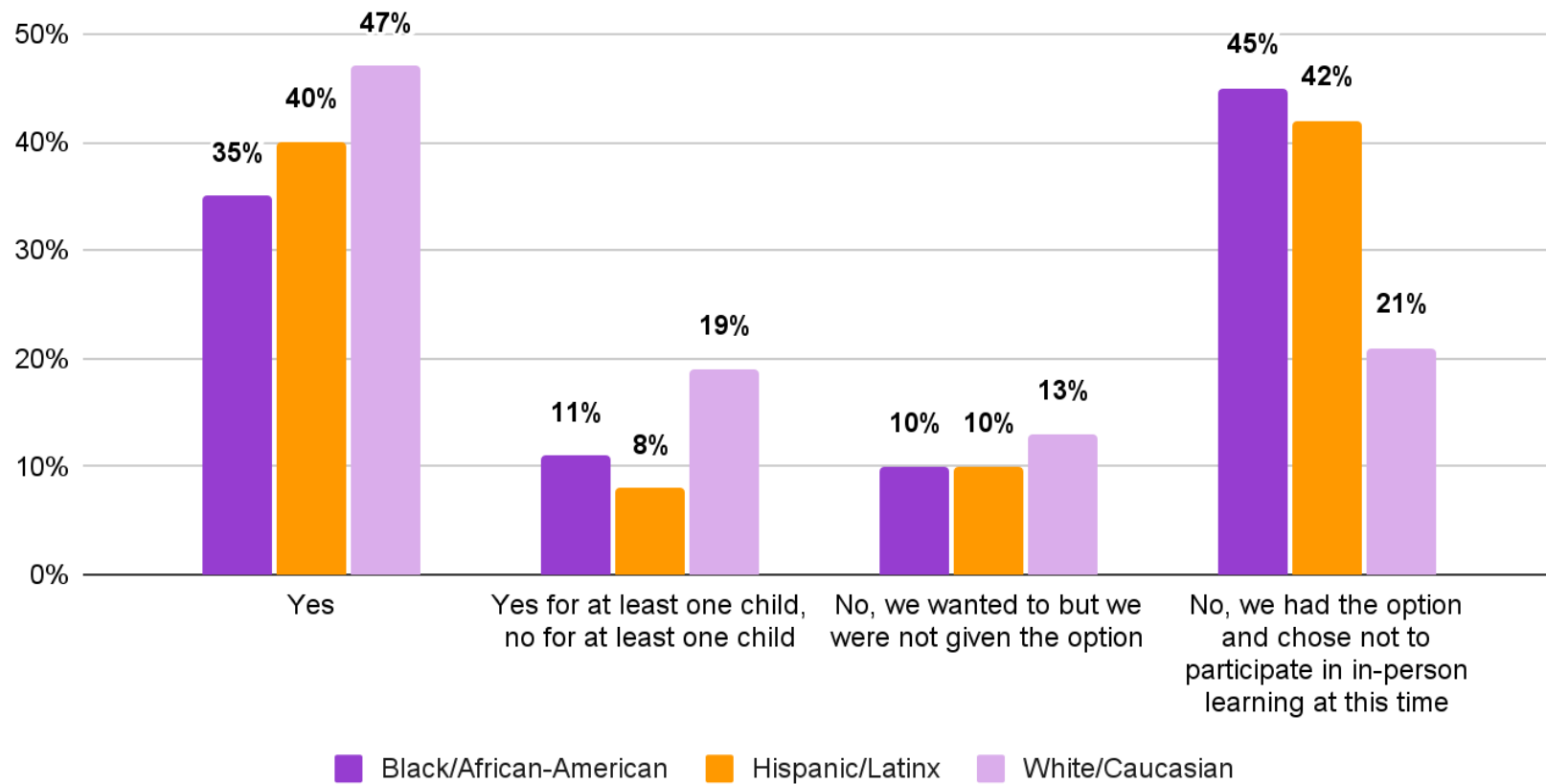
Are your children learning in person for any period of time at their school right now?



Are your children learning in person for any period of time at their school right now?



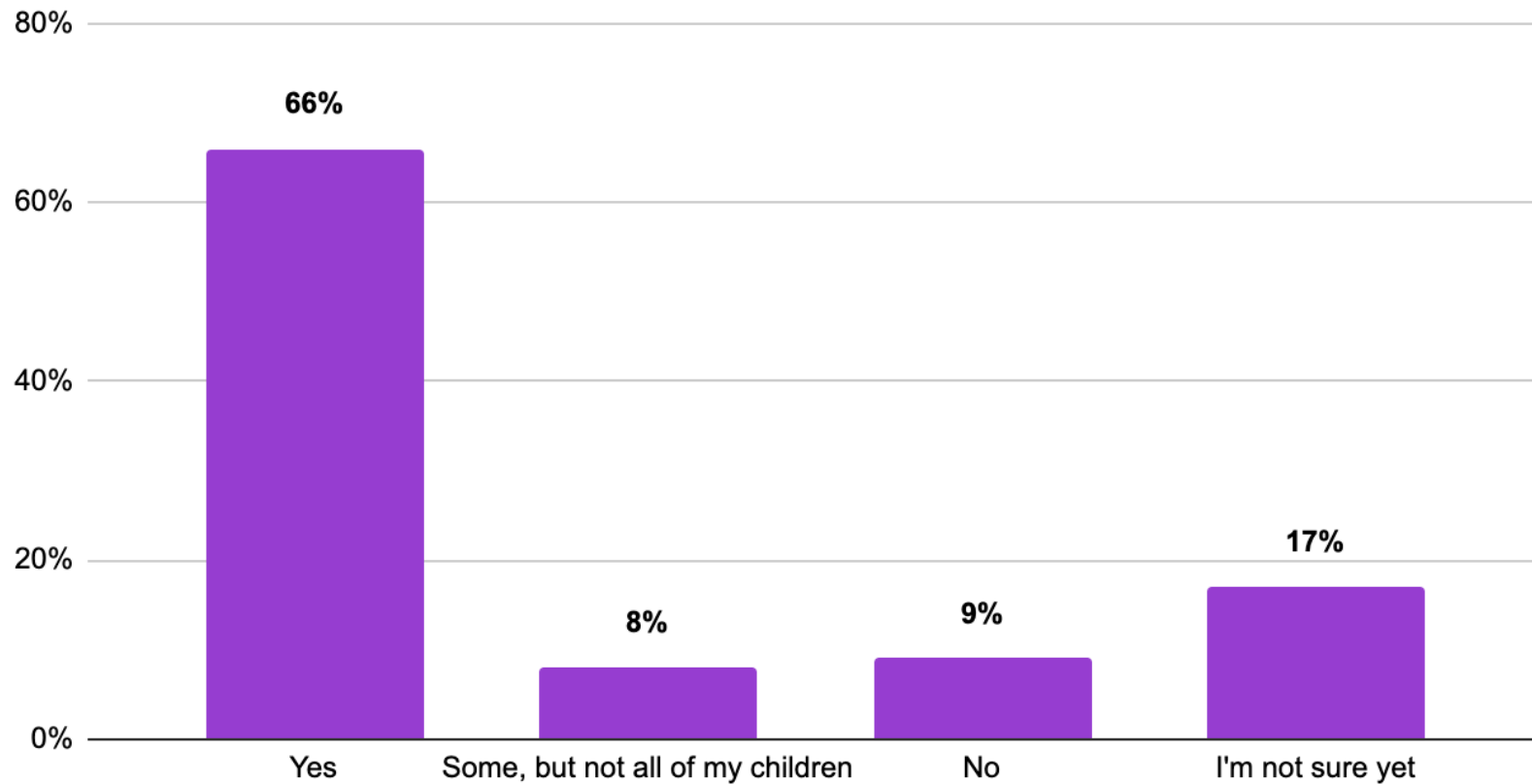
Are your children learning in person for any period of time at their school right now?



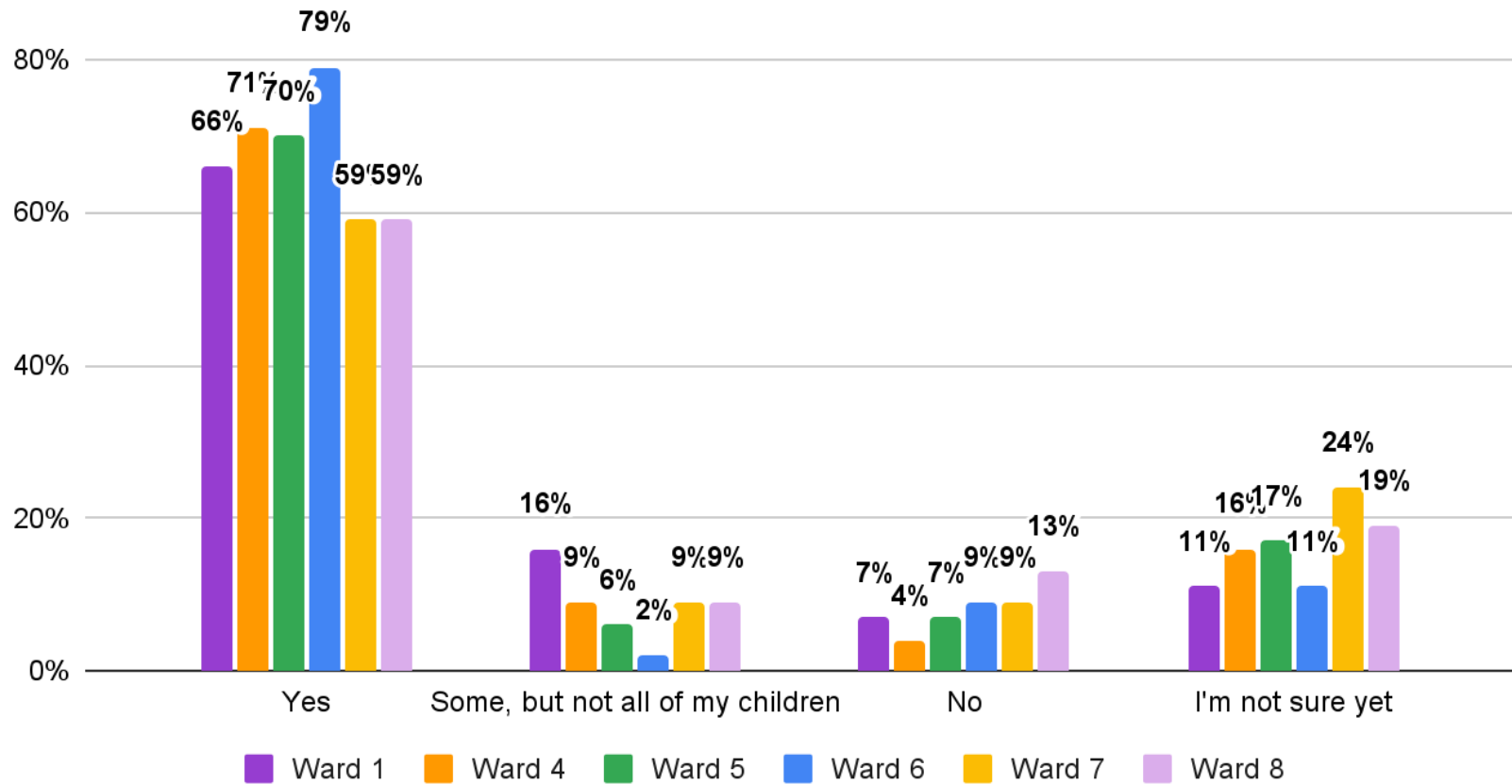
Takeaways: Returning In-Person in the Fall 2021

- **66%** of respondents reported that they were **comfortable** sending their children to school **in-person this fall**, **17%** were **not sure yet**, and **8%** said **some, but not all children**.
 - *Note: at the time of the survey (5/20-6/10/21), many adults were not fully vaccinated and the vaccine was not yet available for children ages 12 - 15. Additionally, [case counts were on the decline](#).*
- Respondents from **Ward 7 and 8** were **less likely to say yes than other wards by at least 7%**.
- **90% of White/Caucasian** respondents reported **yes**, while only **61% of Black/African-American respondents** and **77% of Hispanic/Latinx respondents** said **yes**. **Black/African-American** respondents were about **twice as likely to say no or not sure yet** than both groups.
- For **White/Caucasian, Black/African-American, and Hispanic/Latinx respondents**, the percentage of respondents who said they were comfortable returning in-person **doubled** the rate of those whose children returned in-person in Spring 2021.
- Respondents **who received benefits** (closest to those considered at-risk) were **12% less likely to say yes to feeling comfortable sending their children to school in-person** than those not receiving benefits.

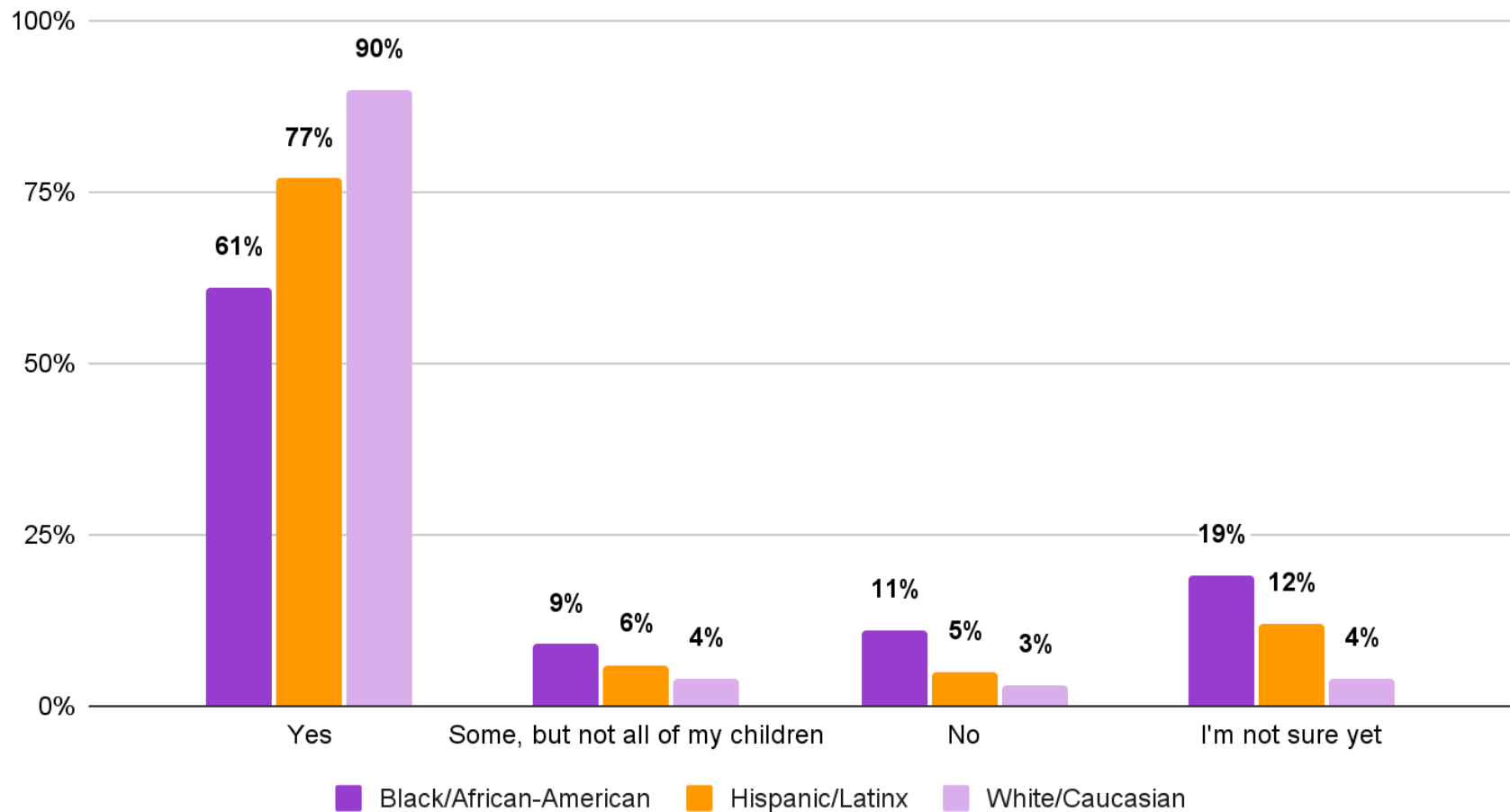
Are you comfortable sending your children back to school in-person in the fall?



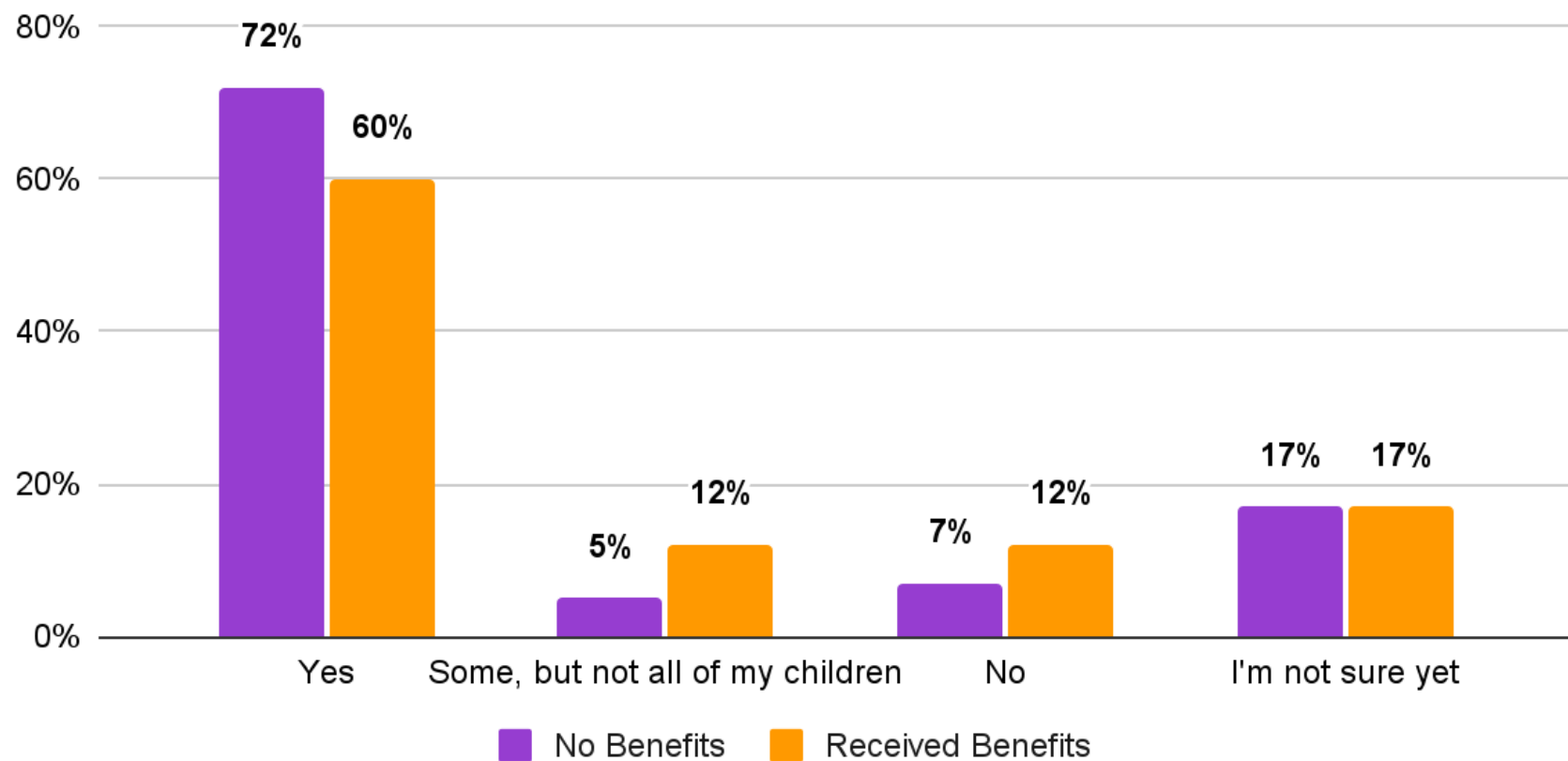
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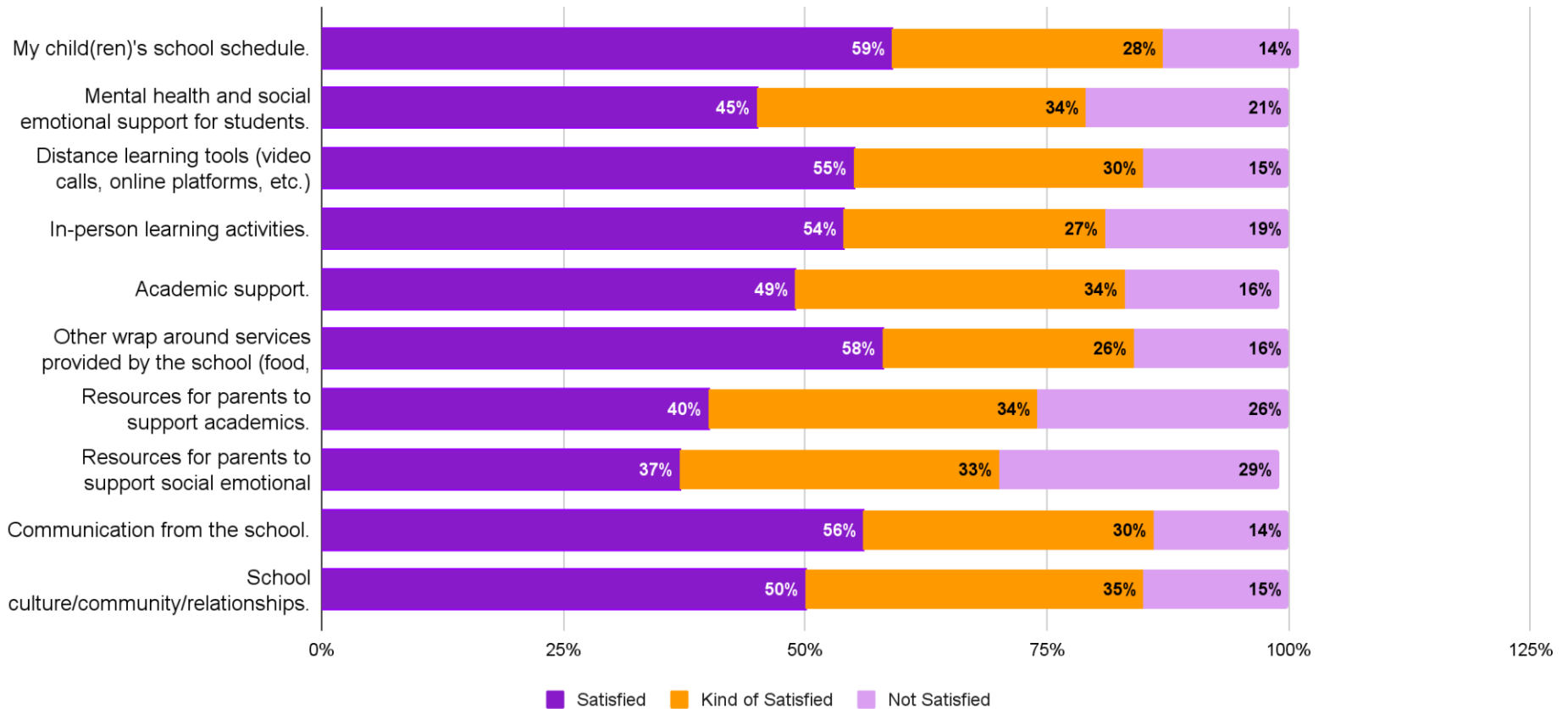
Parents' School Experience: Satisfaction and Concerns

We wanted to understand what was working for parents last year, what areas they were not satisfied with, and what their top concerns are for the new school year in order to help inform planning and investments for system and school leaders. Where possible, we also wanted to compare any changes in satisfaction from our Fall Back to School Survey to help evaluate any changes made.

Takeaways: Parent's Satisfaction with their Child(ren)'s School

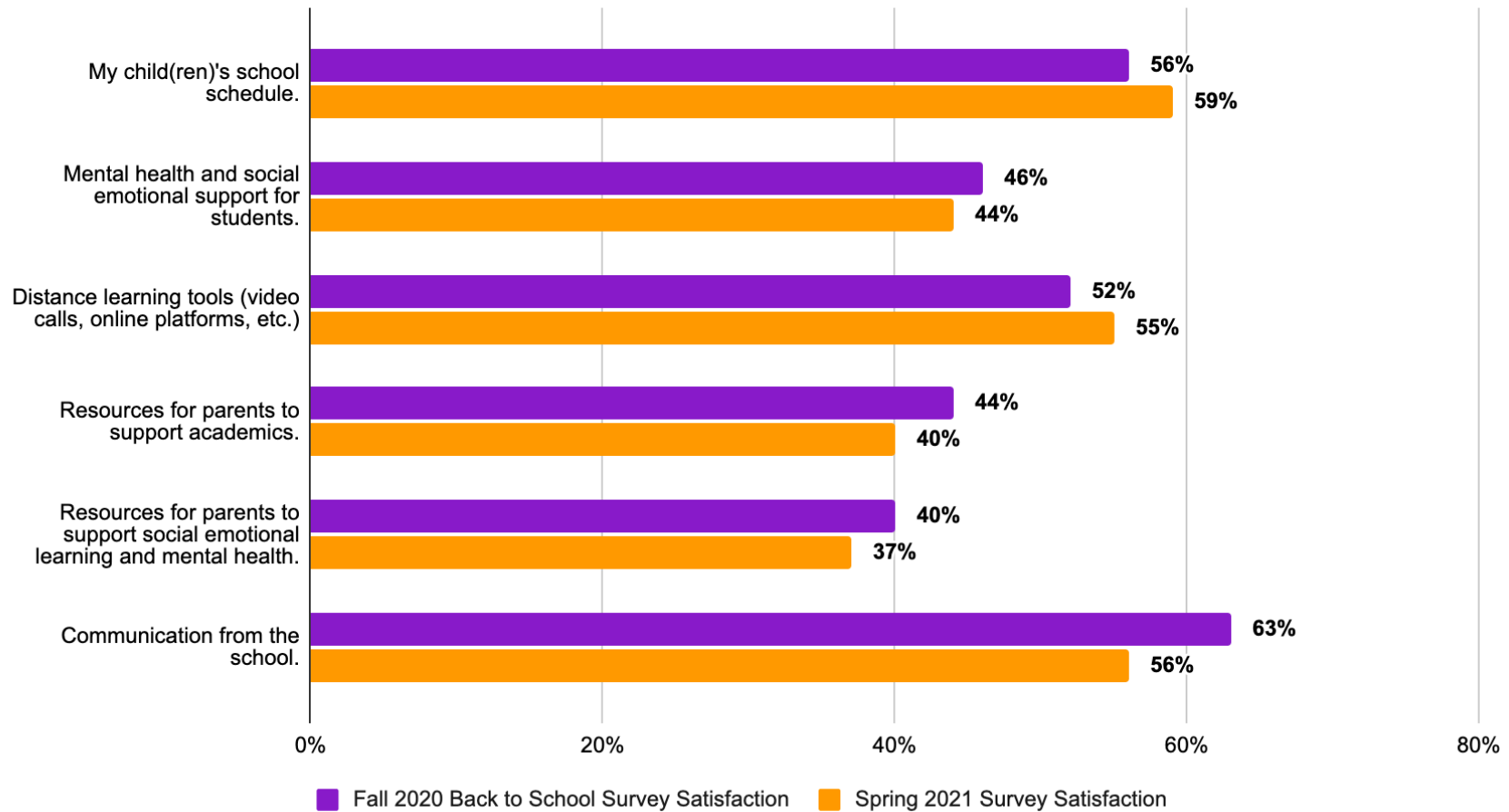
- More than **half** of respondents reported they were **satisfied** with their child(ren)'s **school schedule** (59%) and **communication** from the school (56%). This was also reflected in short-answer questions, where many respondents shared appreciation for consistent communication with teachers. However, in our fall 2020 survey, parents reported **63%** satisfaction, showing a decline in parents' satisfaction with communication.
- With respect to **satisfaction** around resources for **parents to support academics**, the responses were roughly split for **satisfied (40%)**, **kind of satisfied (34%)**, and **not satisfied (26%)**.
- Where applicable, **more than half of respondents** were **satisfied with in-person activities (54%)**, while less respondents were satisfied with **resources for parents to support academics (40%)**, and **resources for parents to support social emotional learning and mental health (37%)**.

Parent Satisfaction with Child(ren)'s School



Note: N/a was an option which is why not all add up to 100%.

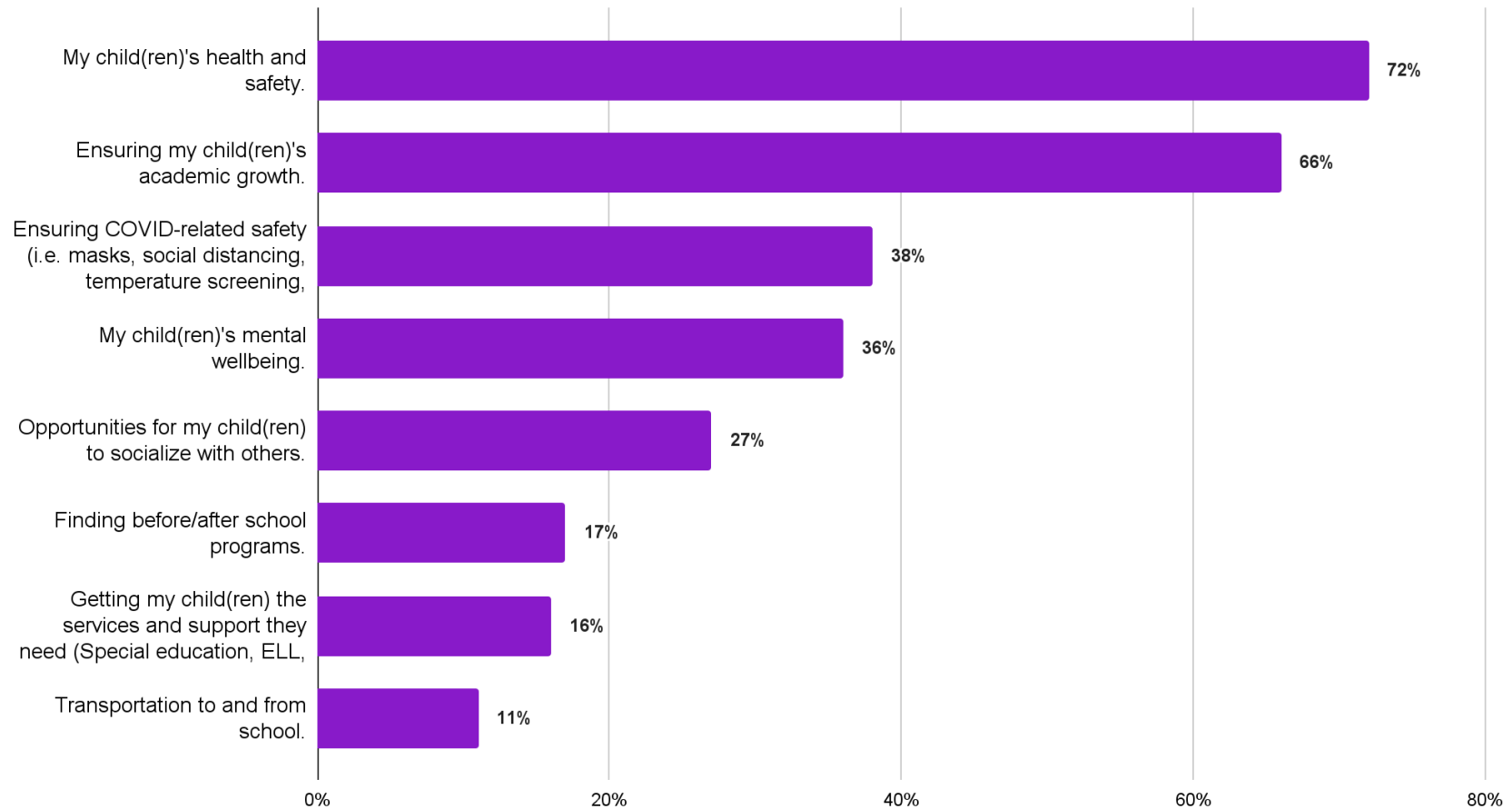
Fall Back to School vs Spring Survey Satisfaction



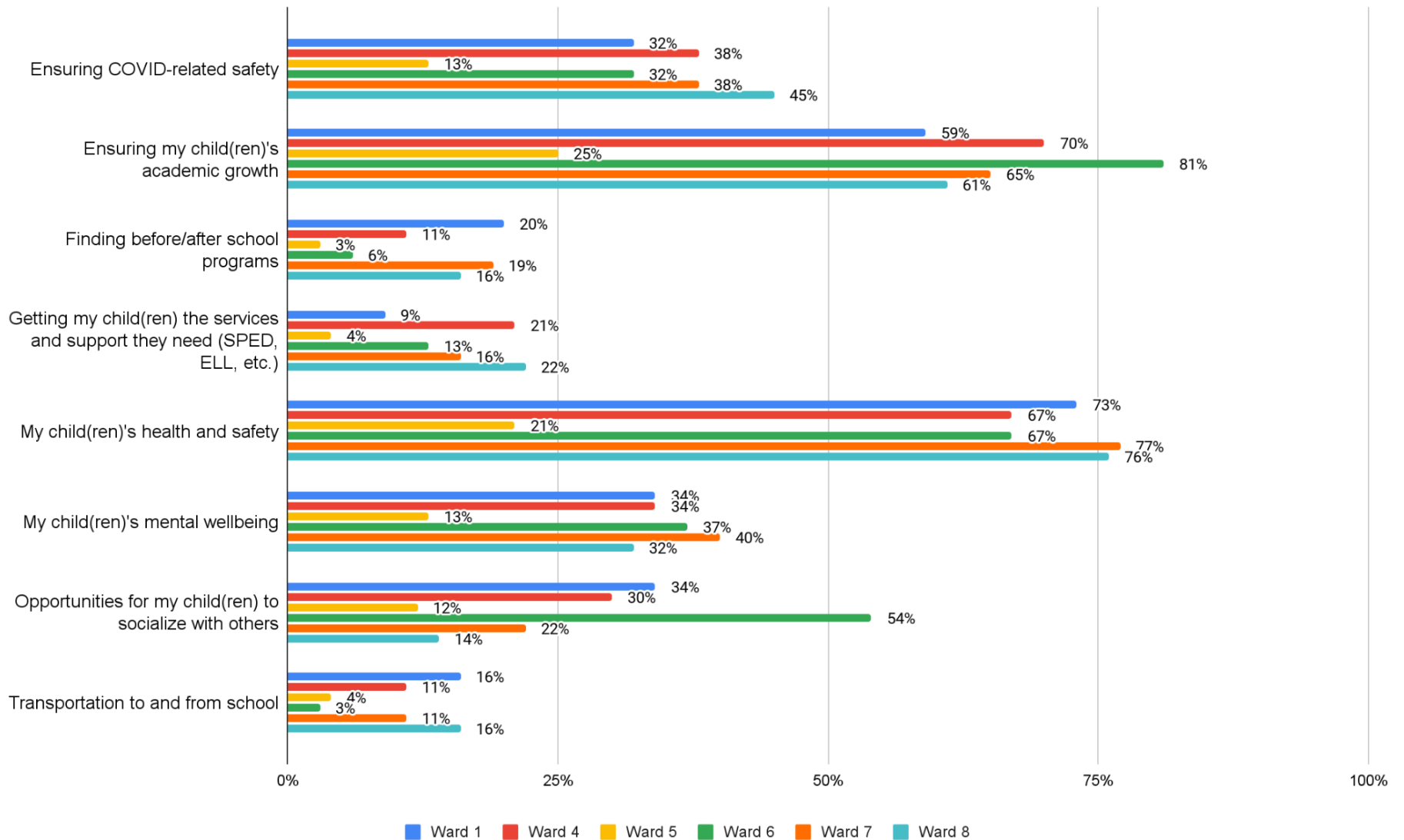
Takeaways: Top Concerns for Next School Year

- Overall, when asked to select their **top three concerns** for the upcoming school year, the concerns that were picked most often were:
 - **1) their children's health and safety (72%)**
 - **2) ensuring their children's academic growth (66%)**
 - **3) ensuring COVID-related safety (38%)**
- Children's **mental well-being** and **opportunity to socialize with others** were common secondary tier responses across wards. Both were especially high for **White/Caucasian families**.
- **Lack of socialization** was a common challenge reflected in the short-answer responses.
- **Black/African-American and Hispanic/Latinx respondents were much more concerned about COVID-related safety, with 42% and 44% respectively, than White/Caucasian respondents (14%).**

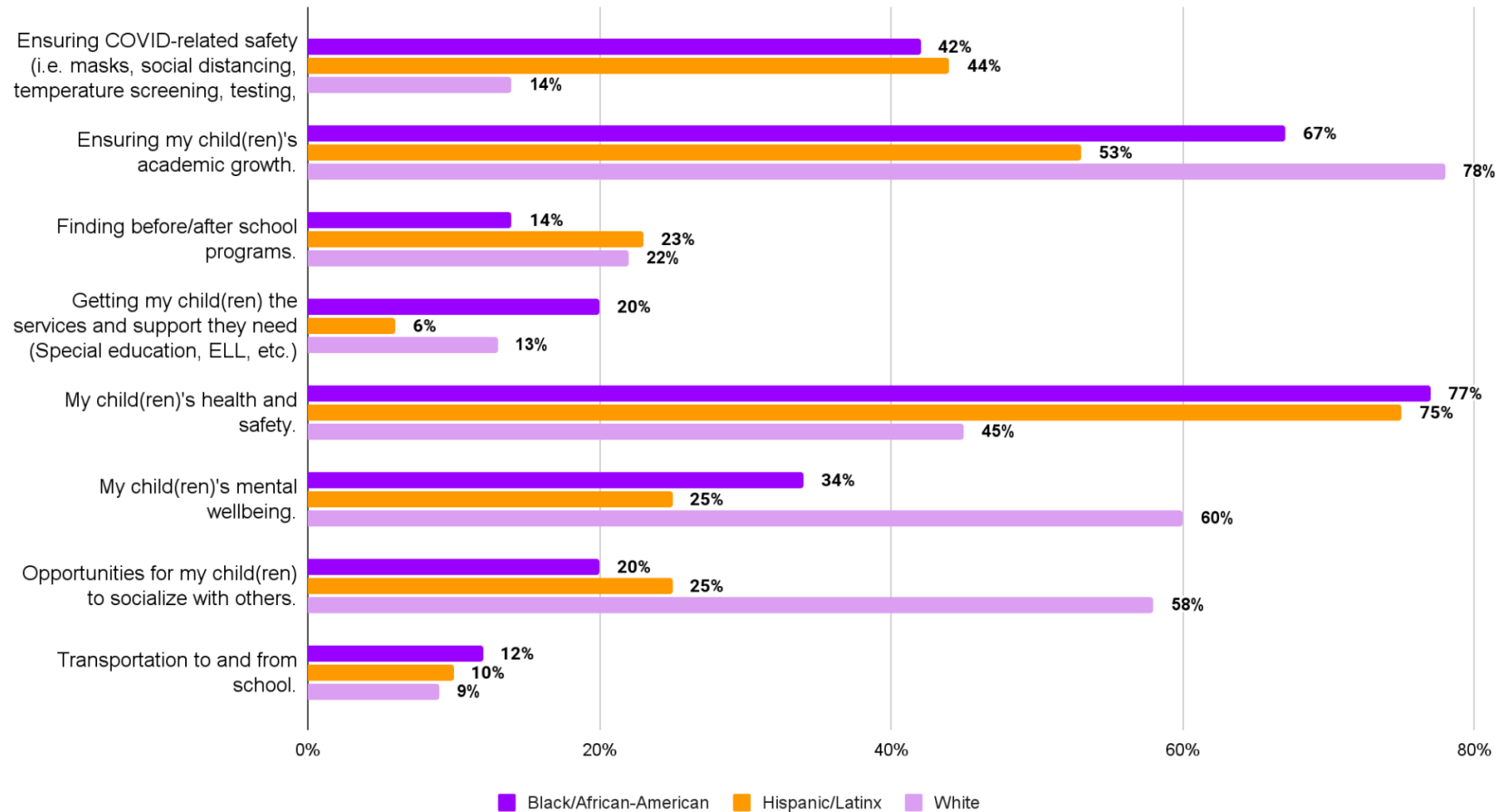
What are the TOP THREE concerns you have about the new school year?



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Academics and Enrichment

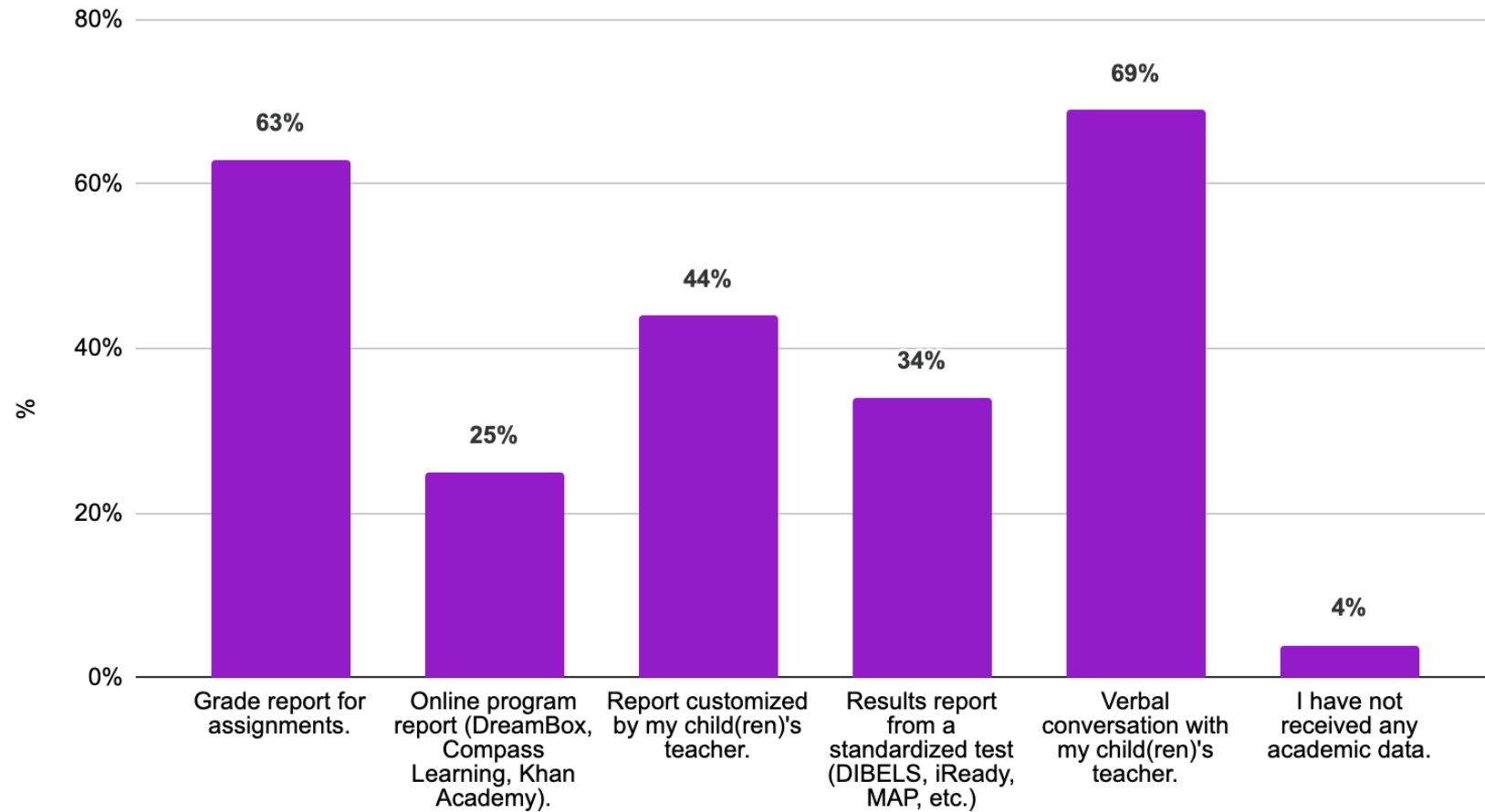
Despite immense efforts on behalf of students, parents, teachers, and school leaders, we know that too many students fell behind in their learning last year and missed critical opportunities for enrichment. We wanted to understand what conversations about academics were already happening and gain insights into parents' perspectives about tutoring and enrichment programs in order to help support learning in the new year.

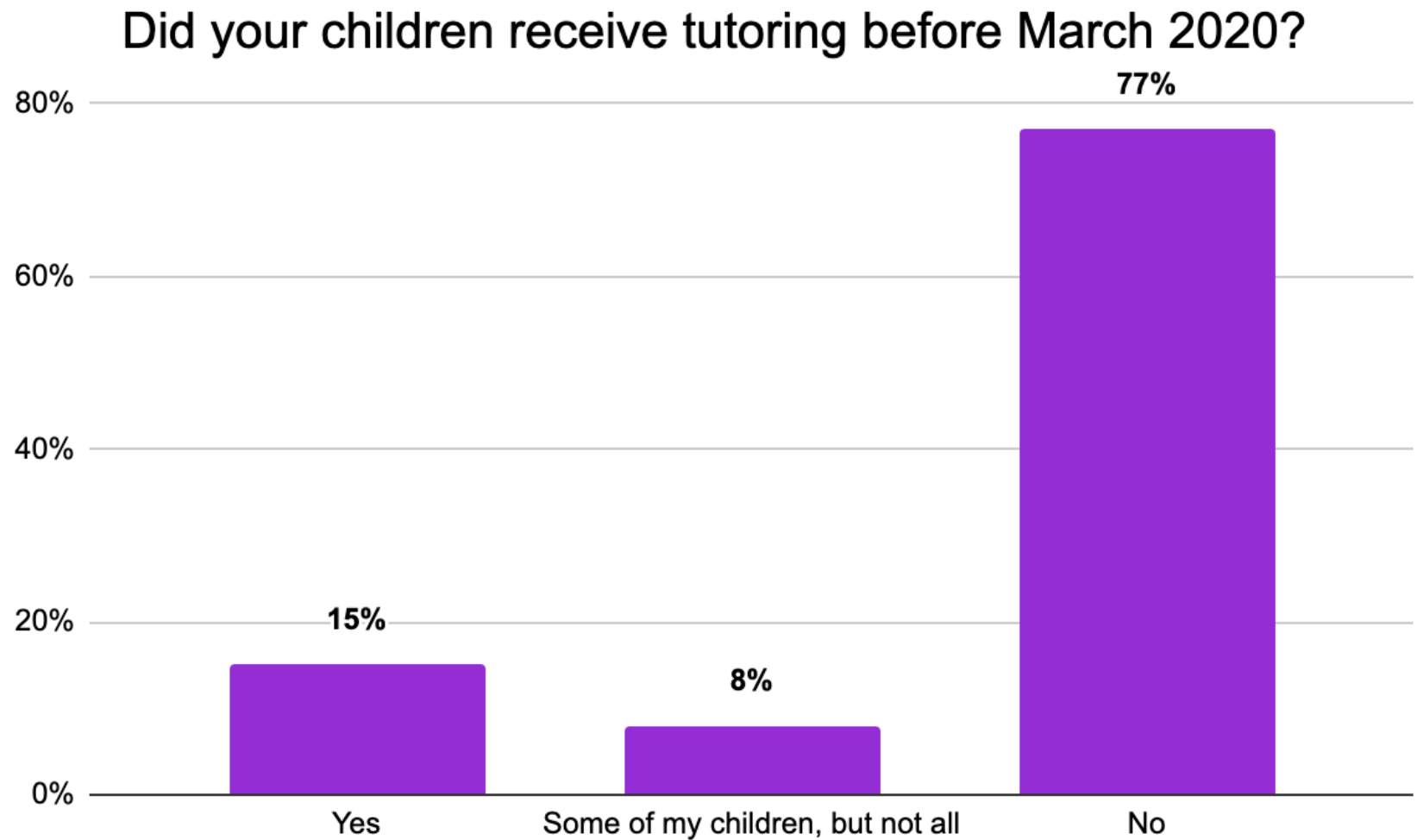
Takeaways: Academic Data and Tutoring

- Respondents mainly received academic information through **grade reports about assignments (63%)** and **verbal conversations (69%)** with their **child's teacher**.
- The vast majority of respondents' children did not receive tutoring before March 2020 (77%). For those whose children were eligible for tutoring since March 2020, **39%** said their children **participated**, **11%** said **some of their children, but not all**.
 - **42% of Black/African-American respondents** reported that their child(ren) **received tutoring** since March 2020, compared to **36% of Hispanic/Latinx** and **36% of White/Caucasian respondents**.
- **70%** said that tutoring was either **very** or **extremely effective**. **Only 1% of respondents reported it was not very effective**.
 - **84% of Hispanic/Latinx respondents** reported that the tutoring was **extremely and very effective**, while **68% of Black/African-American** and **72% of White/Caucasian respondents** reported that.
- For those that did not yet participate in tutoring, **63%** said they would be **open** to it for at least some of their children. **68% of Black/African-American respondents** reported that they would be **open** to tutoring

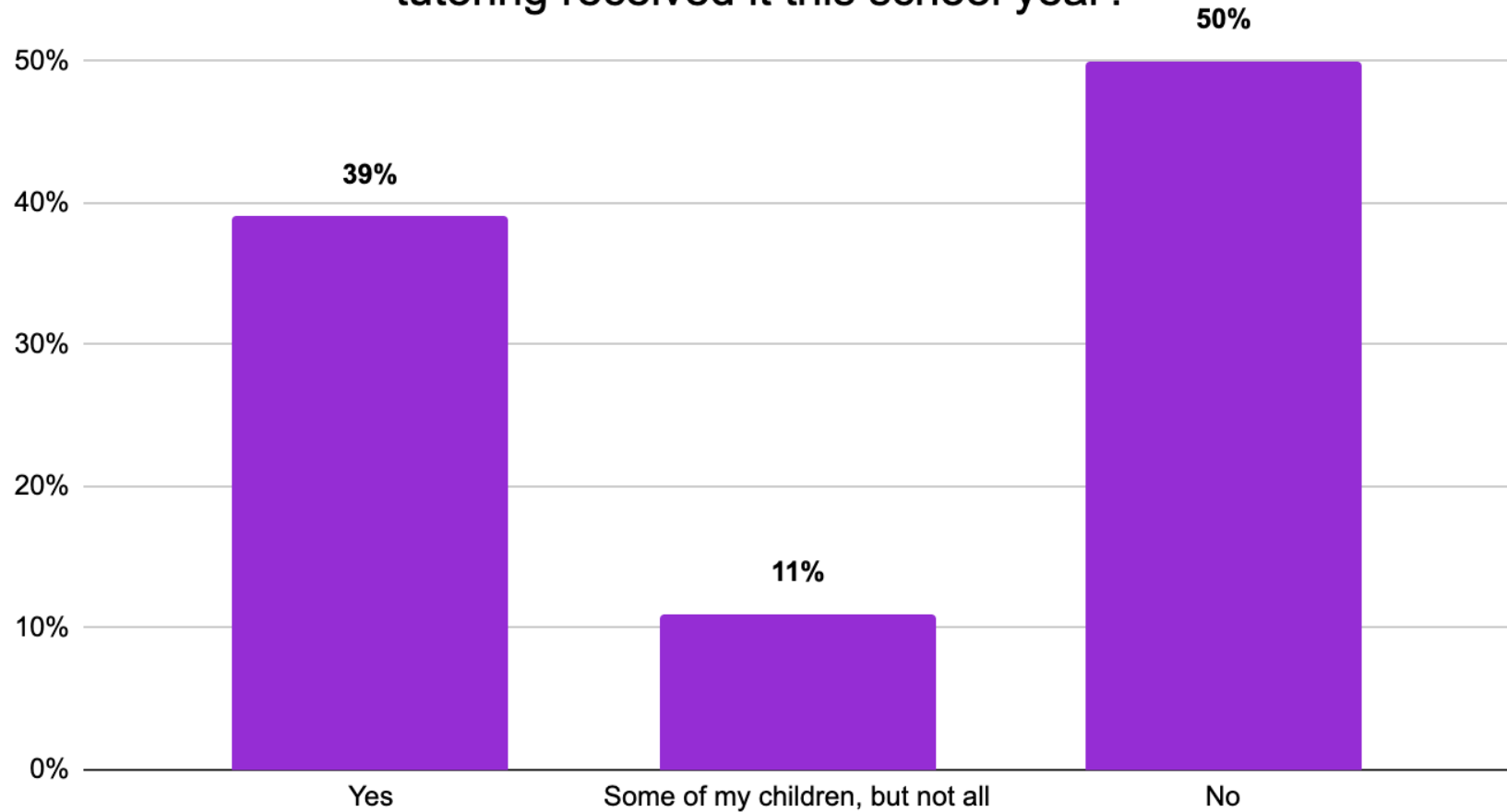
for at least some of their kids, compared to **47% of Hispanic/Latinx** and **53% of White/Caucasian respondents**.

How have you received data about how your children are doing academically?

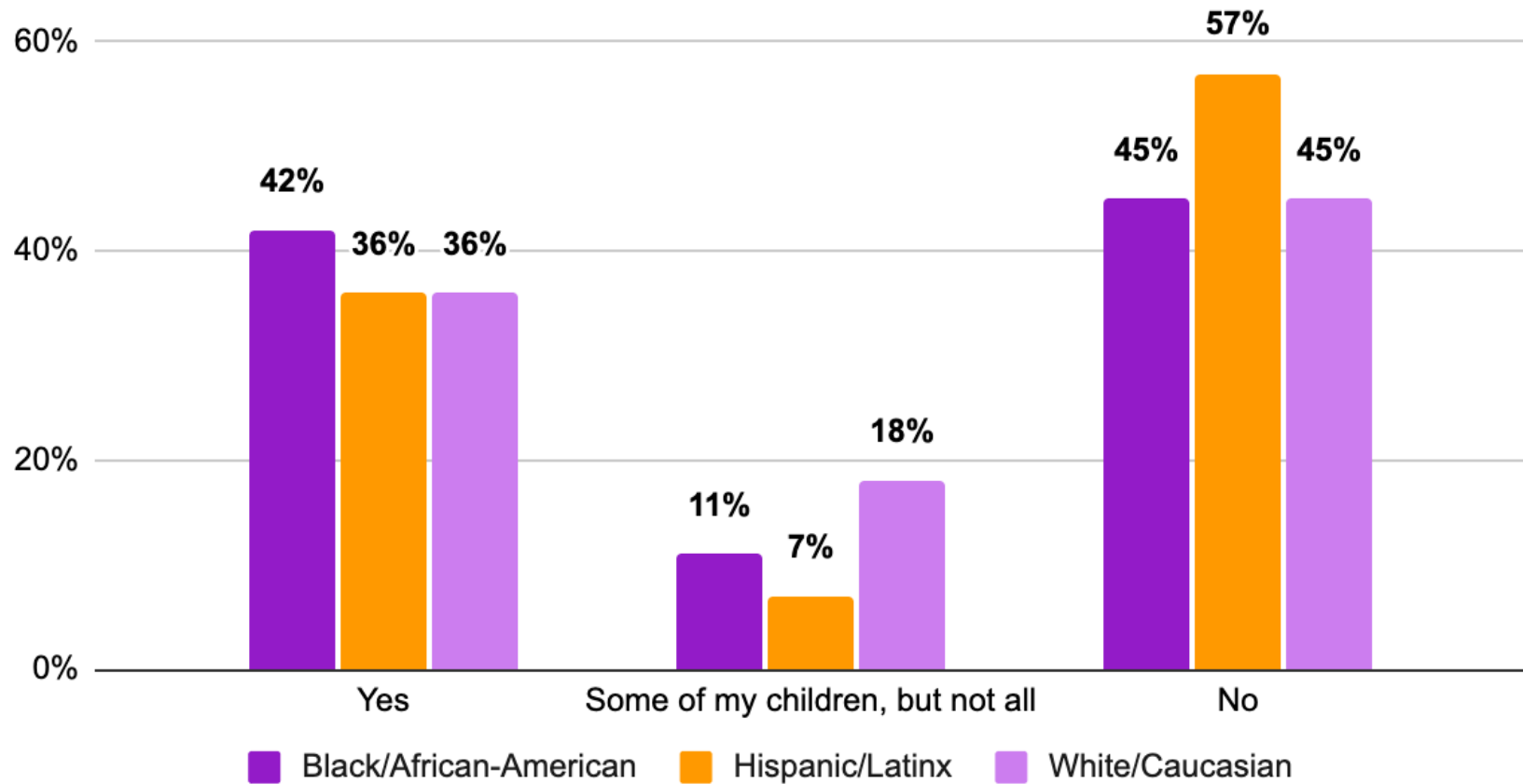




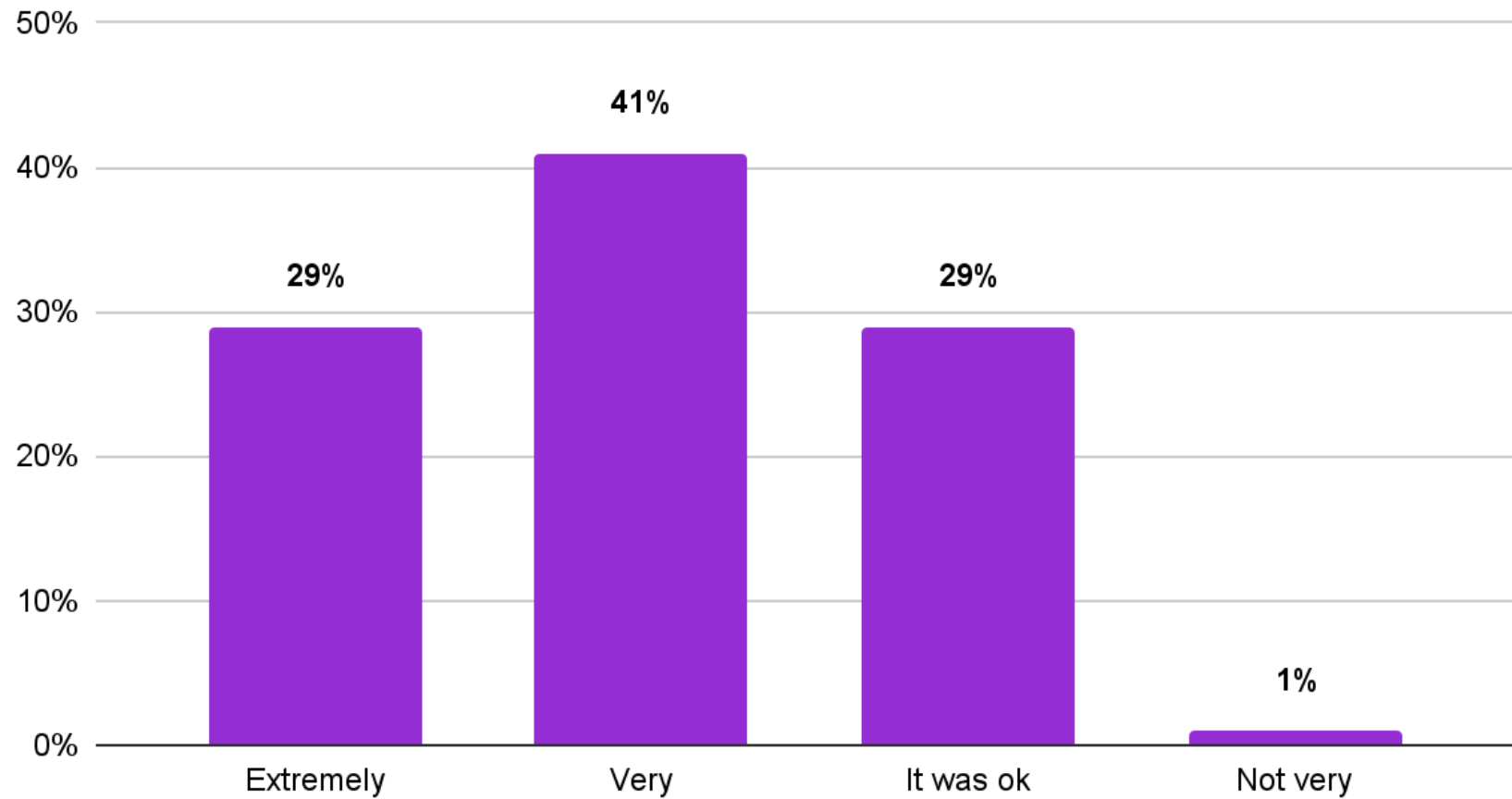
Since March 2020, have your children that are eligible for academic tutoring received it this school year?



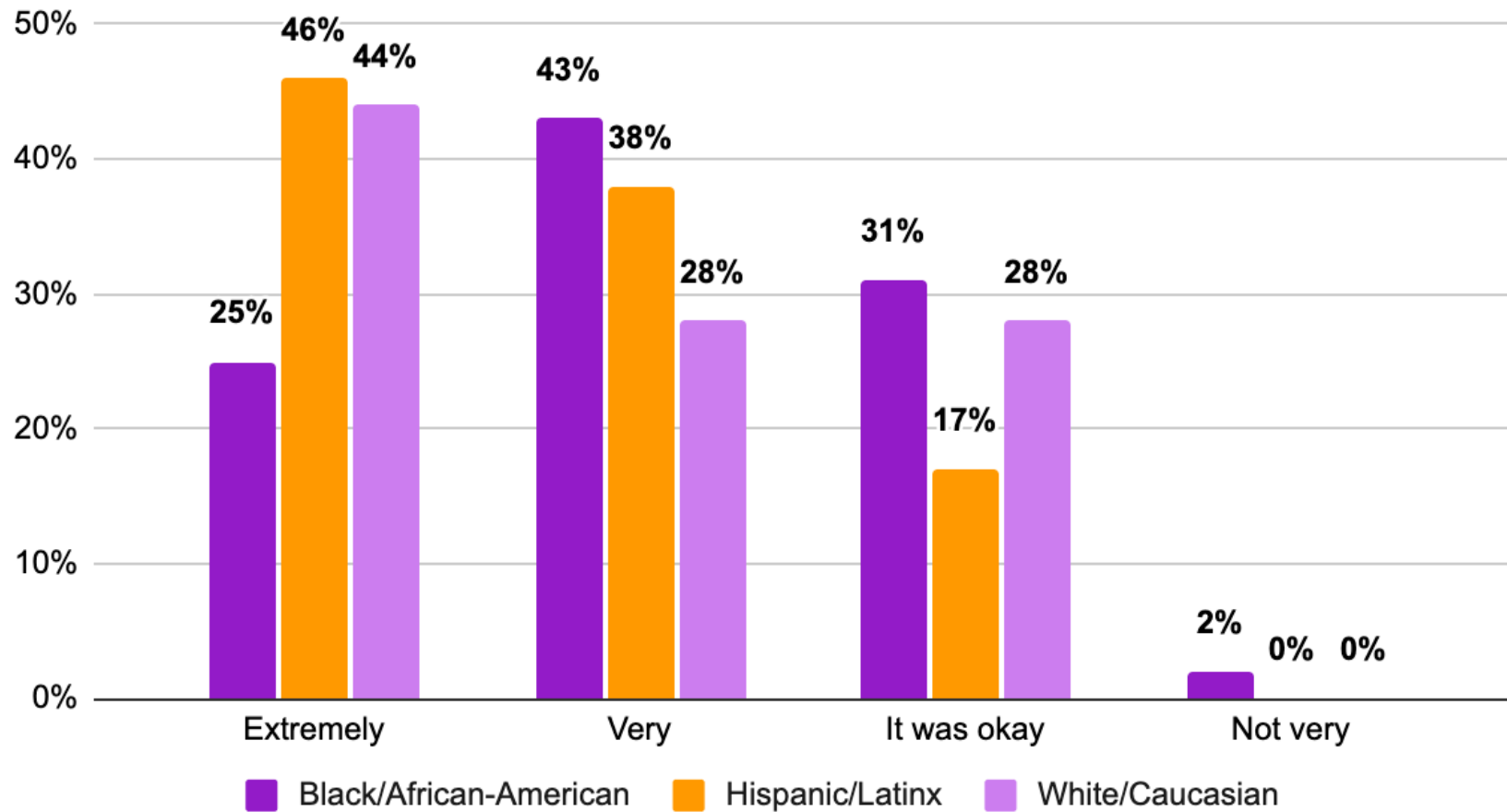
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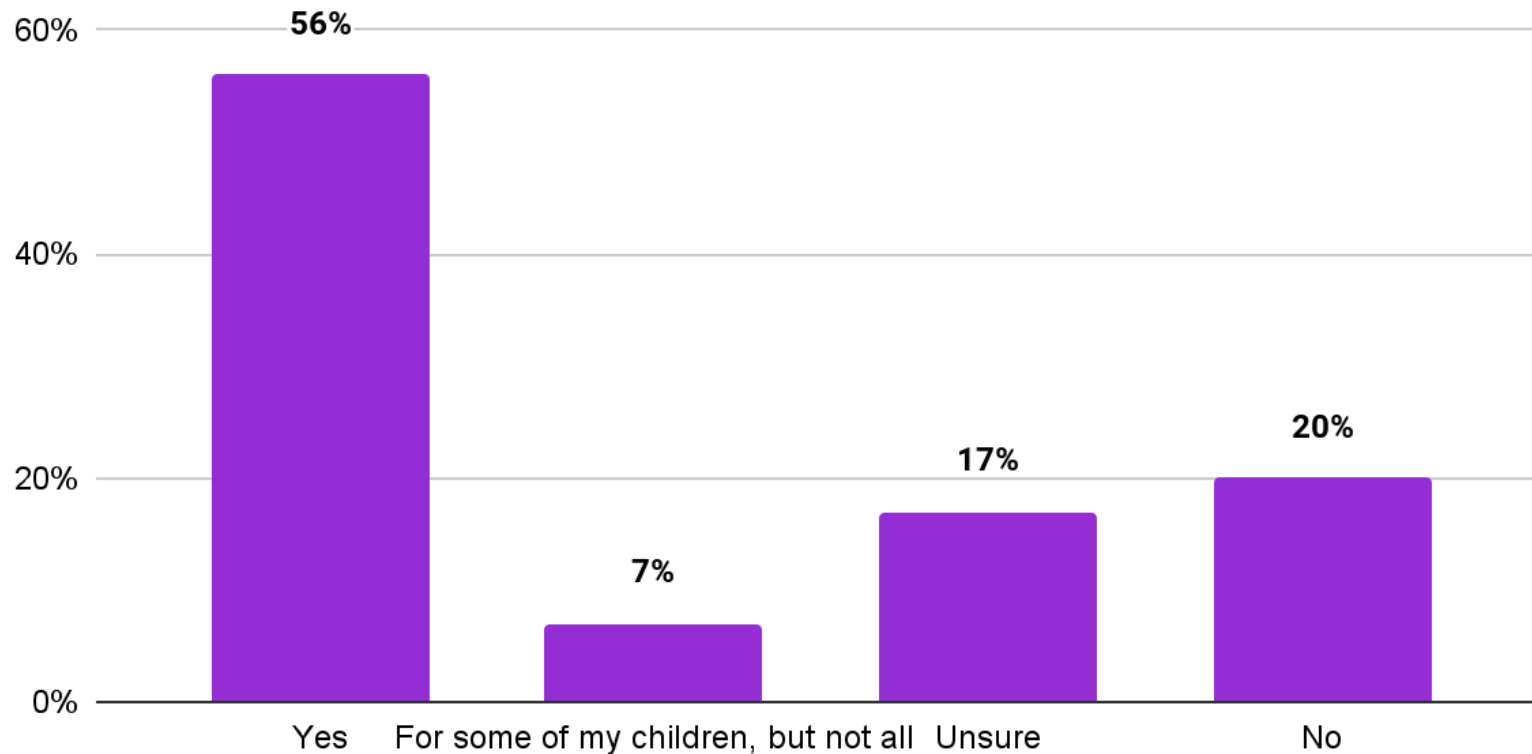
How effective was the tutoring?



How effective was the tutoring?

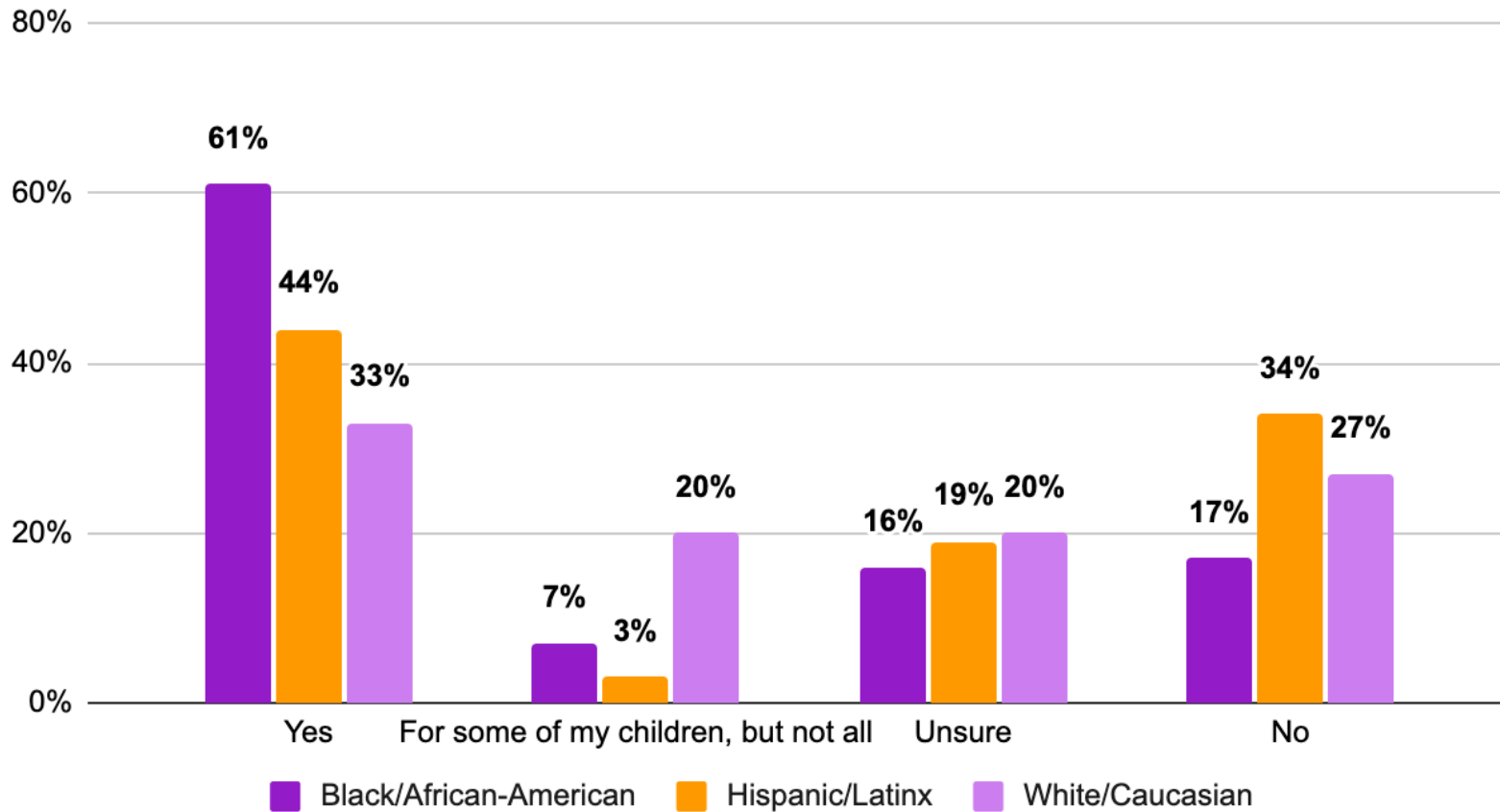


(For those who's child(ren) did not yet received it) Would you be open to tutoring?



Note: this was only answered by respondents who did not participate in tutoring if eligible since the pandemic.

Would you be open to tutoring?

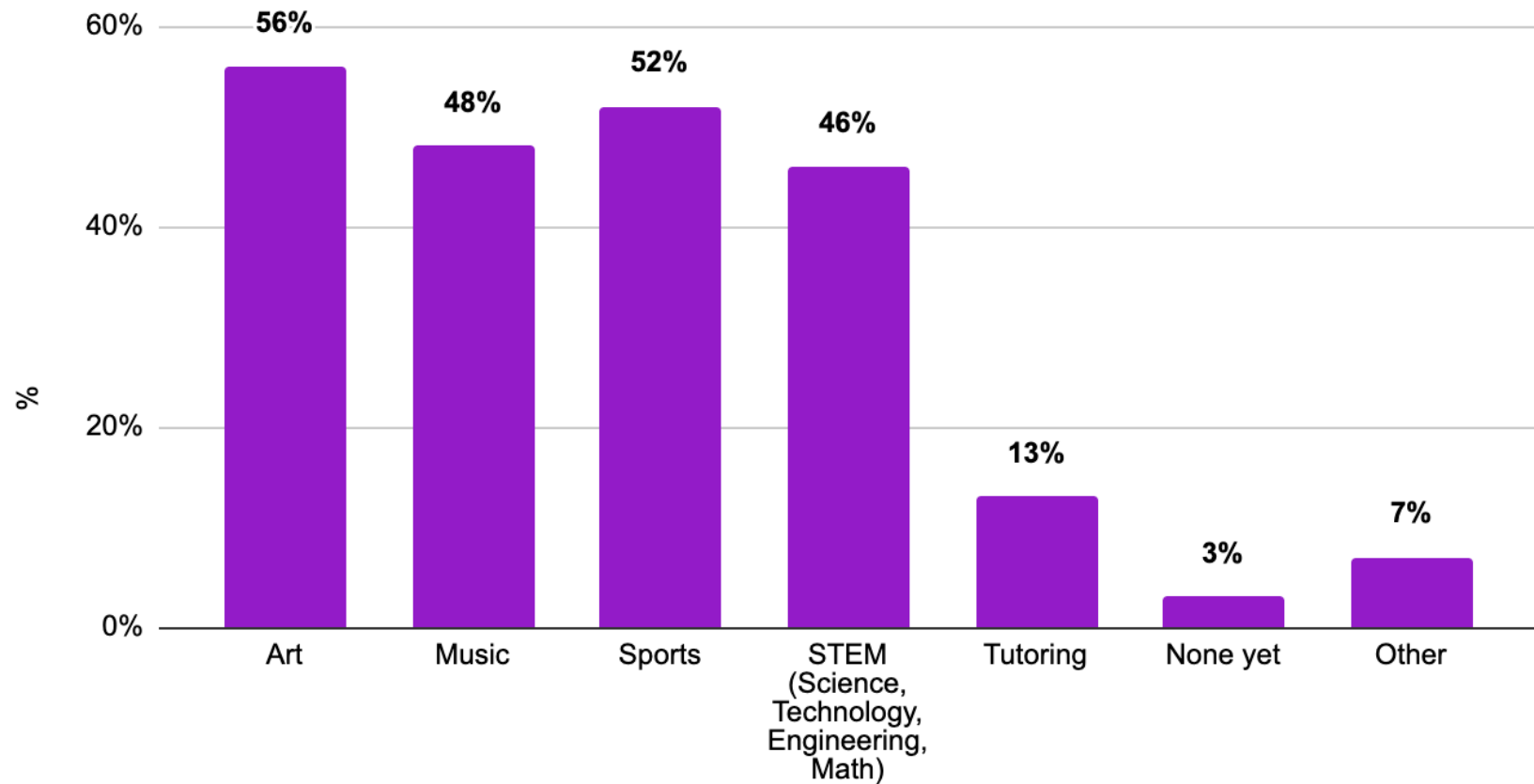


Note: this was only answered by respondents who did not participate in tutoring if eligible since the pandemic.

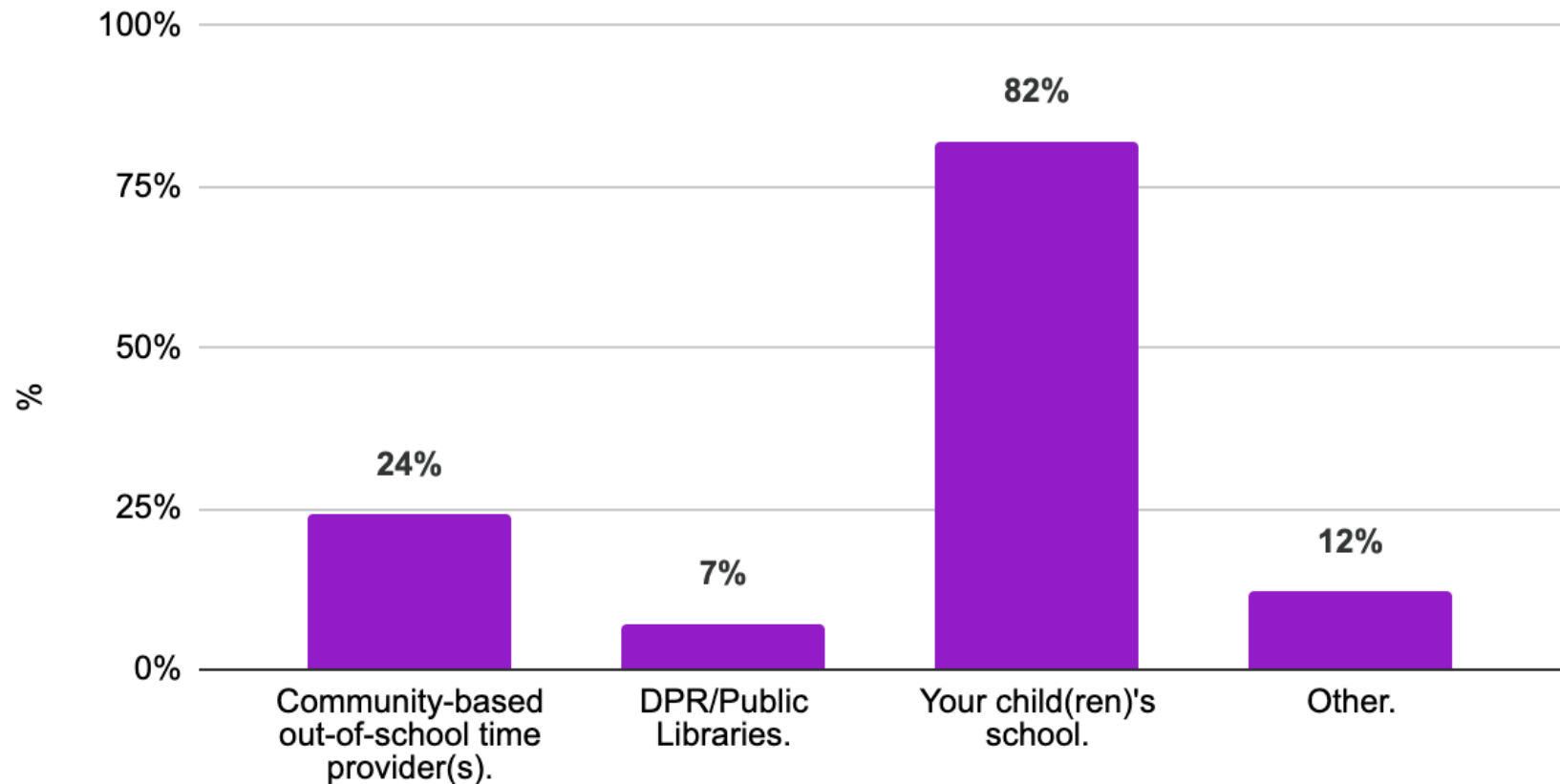
Takeaways: Enrichment Programs

- Respondents said their kids were most interested in **art, sports, music, and STEM enrichment activities.**
- Over **82%** of respondents said they access specials or enrichment programs through their **child(ren)'s school.** **24%** reported they accessed them through **community-based out-of-school time providers.**

What enrichment activities are your kids MOST interested in engaging in?



If your child has access to specials or enrichment programs, are these programs offered through (check all that apply):



School-Based Mental Health Supports

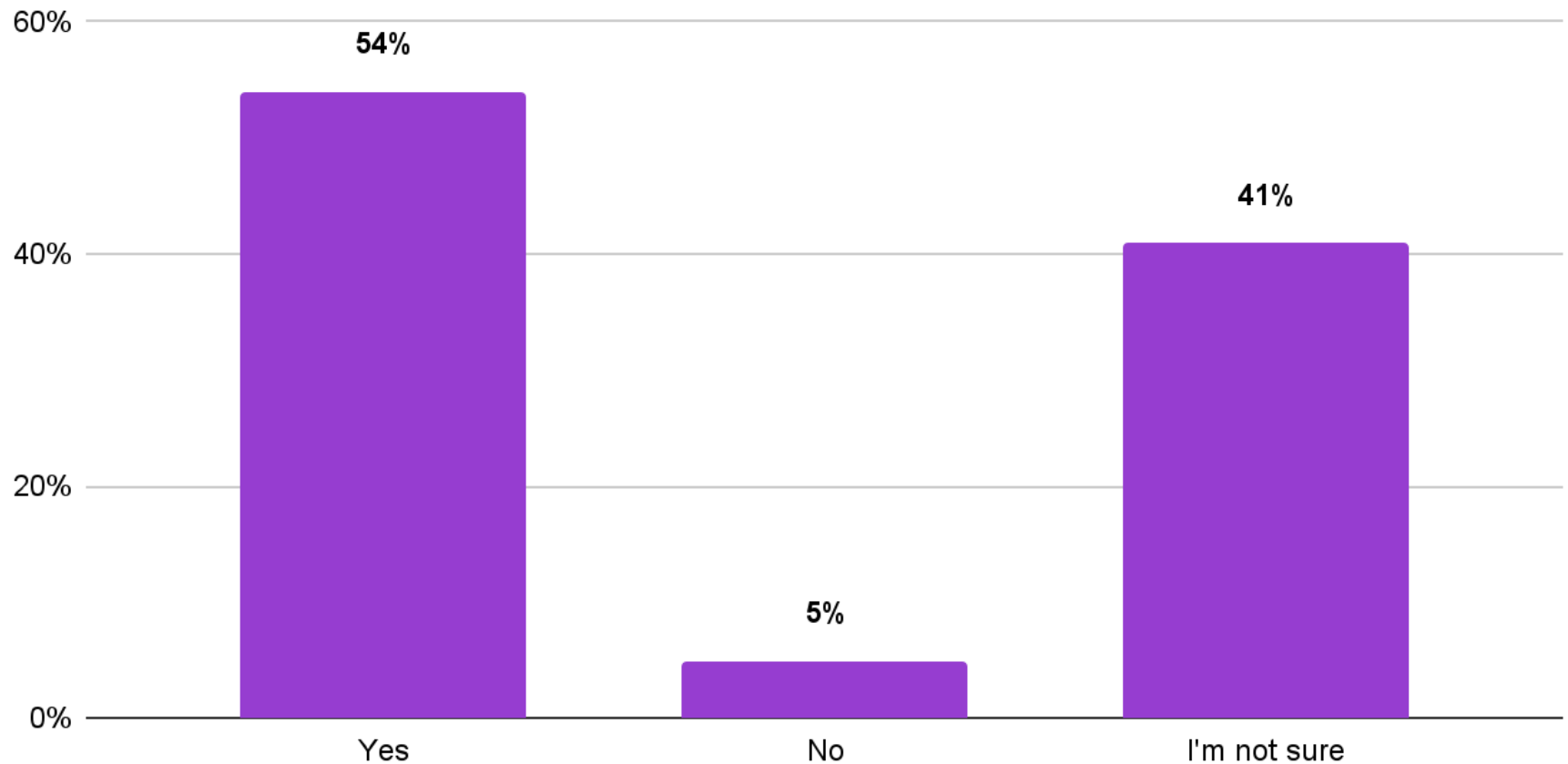
School-based mental health has been a top priority for parent leaders and the broader community. We wanted to understand how parents felt about their experience this past year and how they accessed information about support in order to help expand effective communication and implementation in the coming year.

Takeaways: School-Based Mental Health Access, Point of Contact, and Satisfaction

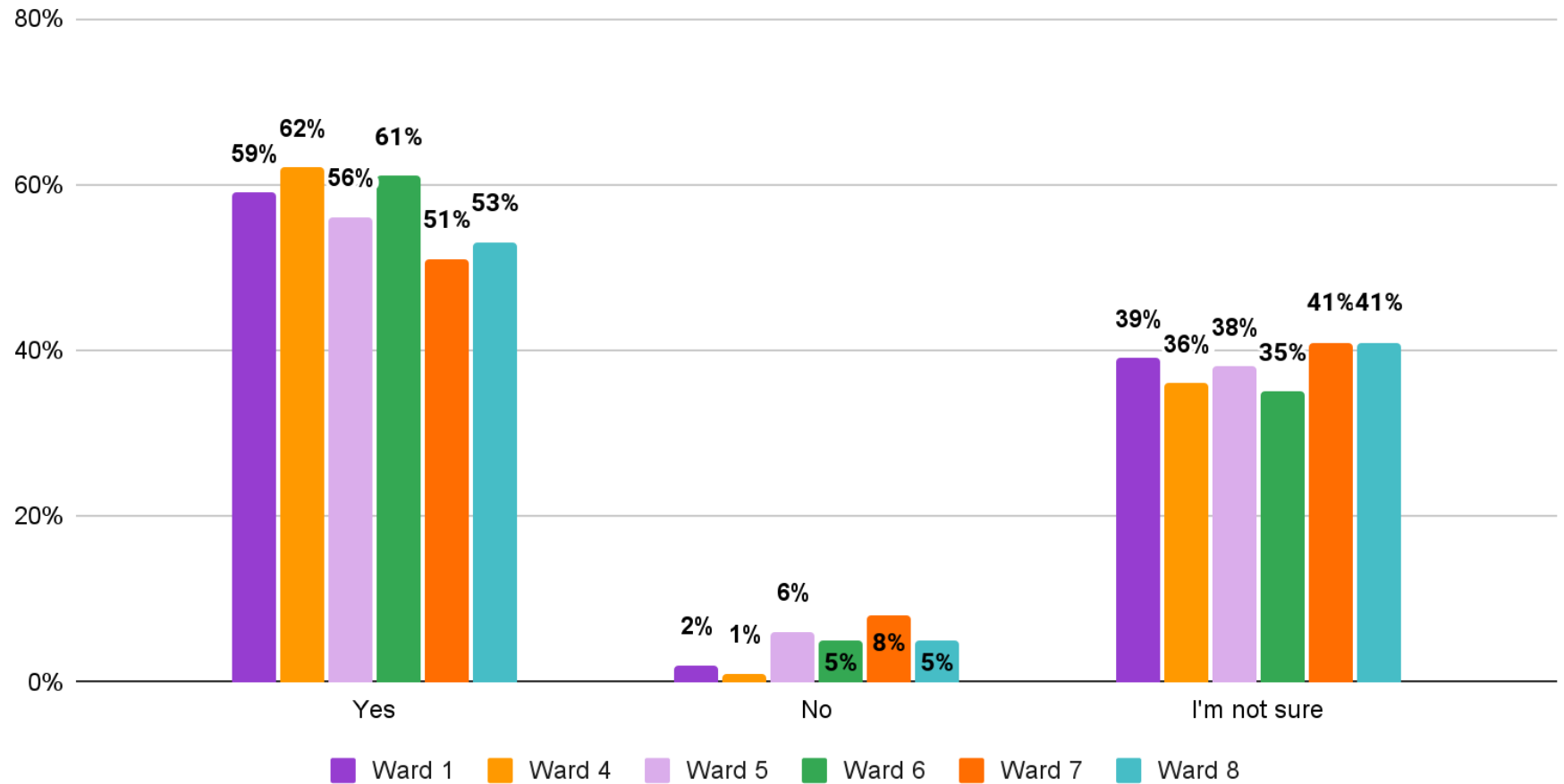
- Just over **half of respondents (54%)** reported they had **access to a mental health professional or clinician** at school, but **41%** reported they were **not sure**.
- There were only **slight variations in responses about access across wards**. When disaggregated by race, **White/Caucasian** respondents (**62%**) were **slightly more likely to report that they did have access** than **Black/African-American (53%)** or **Hispanic/Latinx respondents (47%)**.
- Those who **received benefits** were **slightly less likely** to report **having access at school**, with **53% of respondents who receive benefits** and **60% of respondents who do not receive benefits**.
- Overall, **school-based mental health professionals** were selected the most for respondents to go to **first for help for mental health challenges**, at **39%**.
- **White/Caucasian** respondents and those **not receiving benefits** were **slightly more likely to reach out to their child's teacher** than other racial groups and those who are receiving benefits. **Hispanic/Latinx** respondents were far more likely to reach out to a **mental health professional (78%)** than **Black/African-American (40%)** or **White/Caucasian respondents (34%)**.

- Overall, **45%** of respondents are **satisfied with mental health and social emotional support for students**, **34%** reported **kind of satisfied**, and **21%** were **not satisfied**.

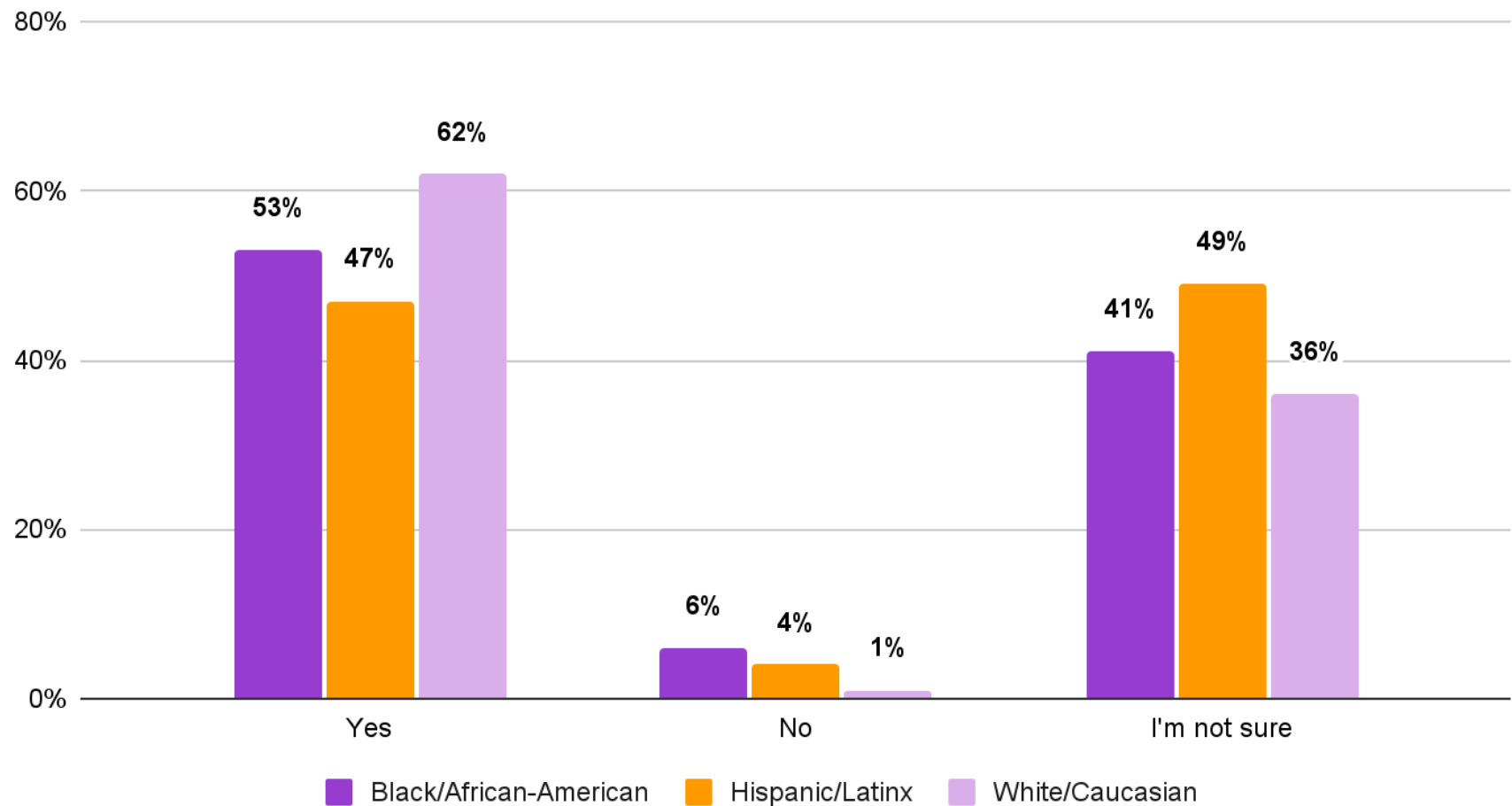
Does your school have access to a mental health professional/clinician?

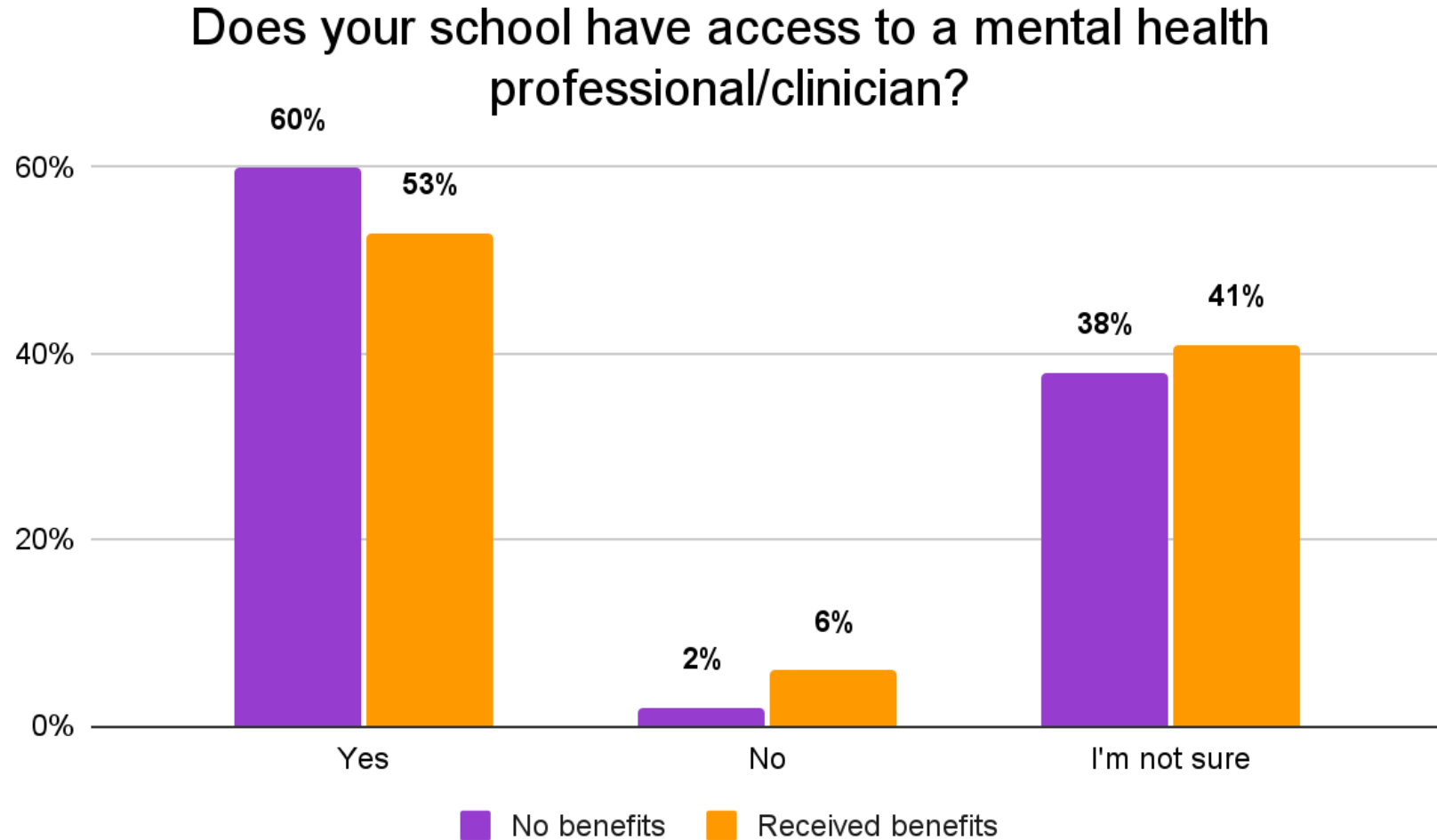


Does your school have access to a mental health professional/clinician?

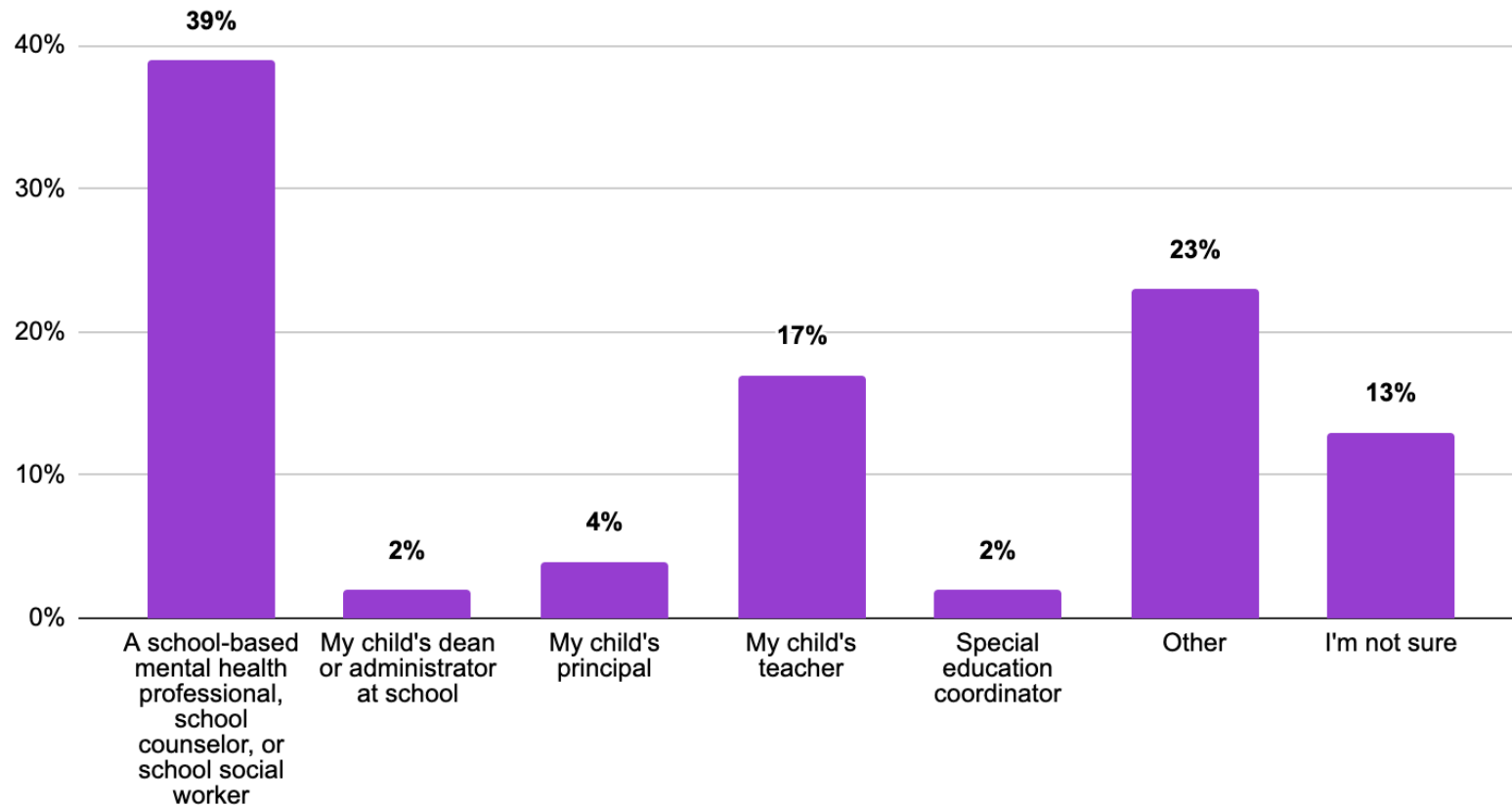


Does your school have access to a mental health professional/clinician?

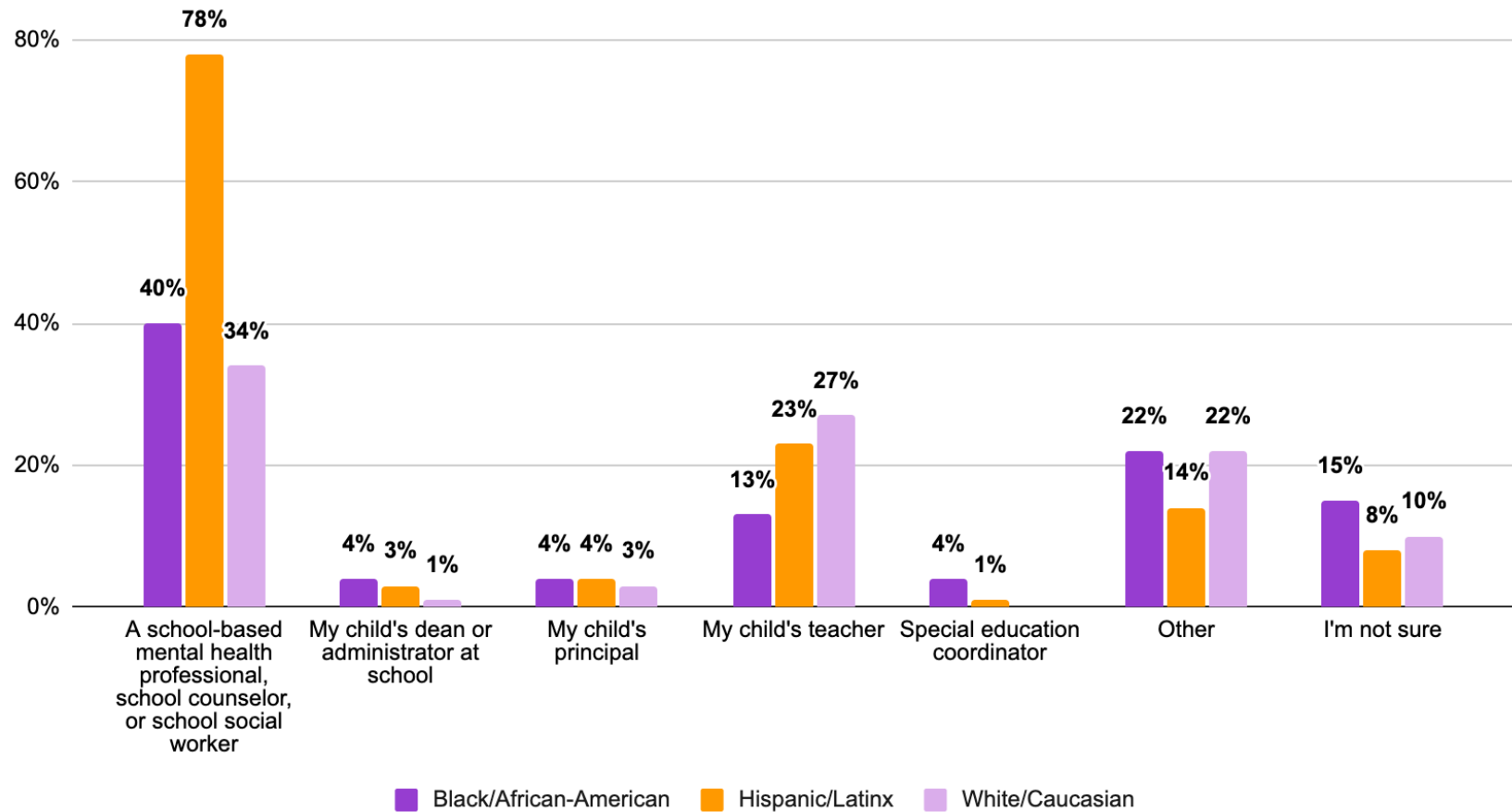




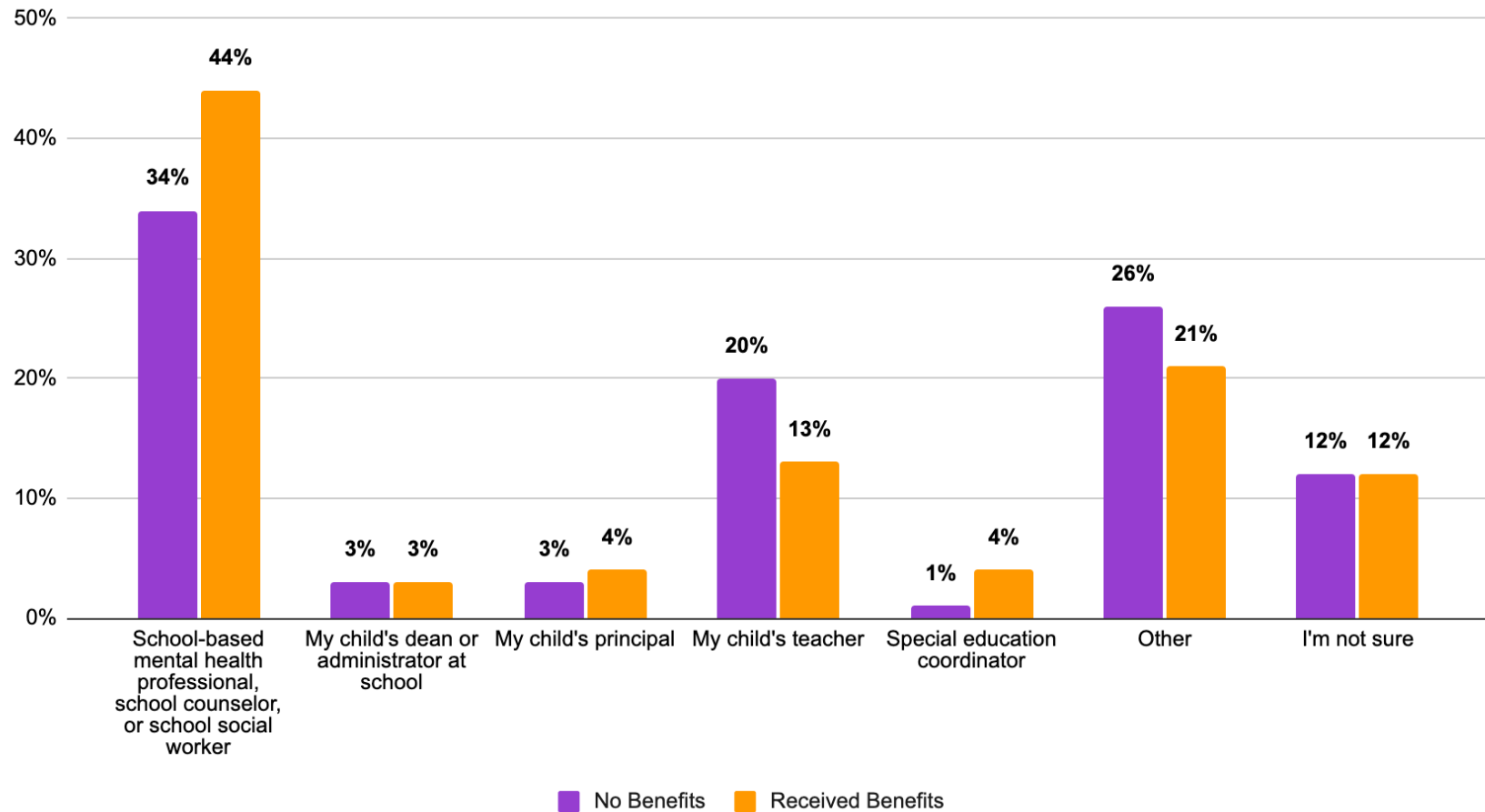
If your child is experiencing mental health challenges, who would you go to FIRST for help?



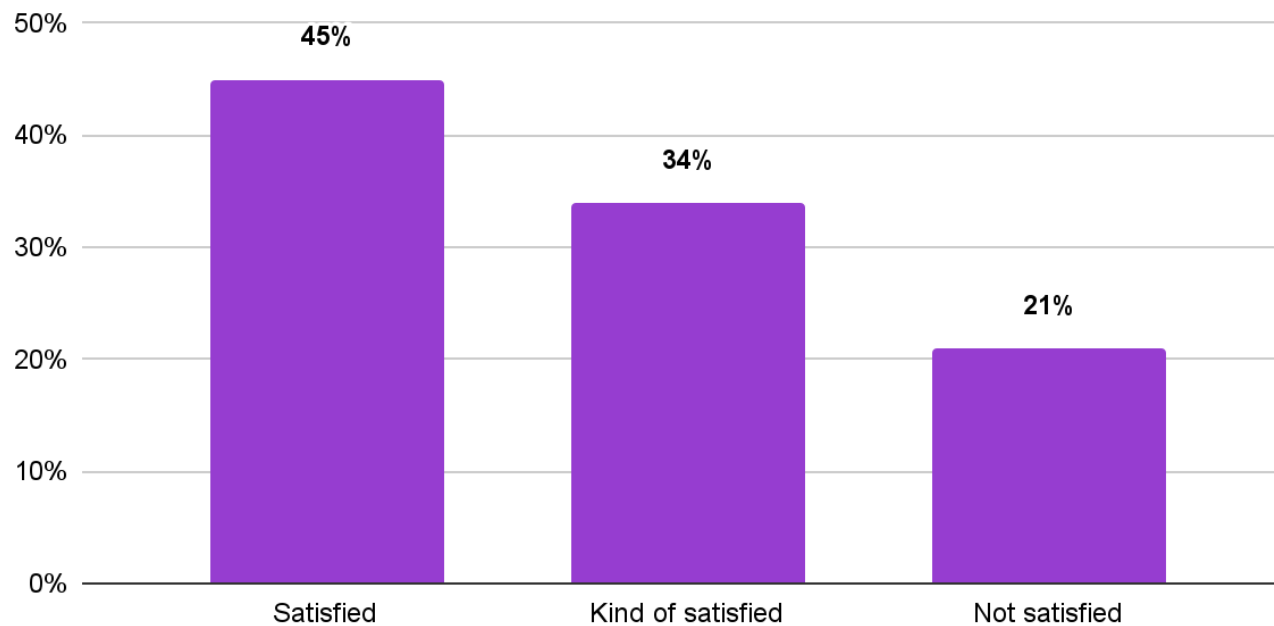
If your child is experiencing mental health challenges, who would you go to FIRST for help?



If your child is experiencing mental health challenges, who would you go to FIRST for help?



How satisfied are you with mental health and social emotional support for students?



Family Wellbeing and COVID Impact

COVID-19 impacted families far beyond education. School lies at the intersection of many different issues, and we wanted to understand how families were faring amid the pandemic from a holistic perspective to help inform policymakers and school leaders of community needs.

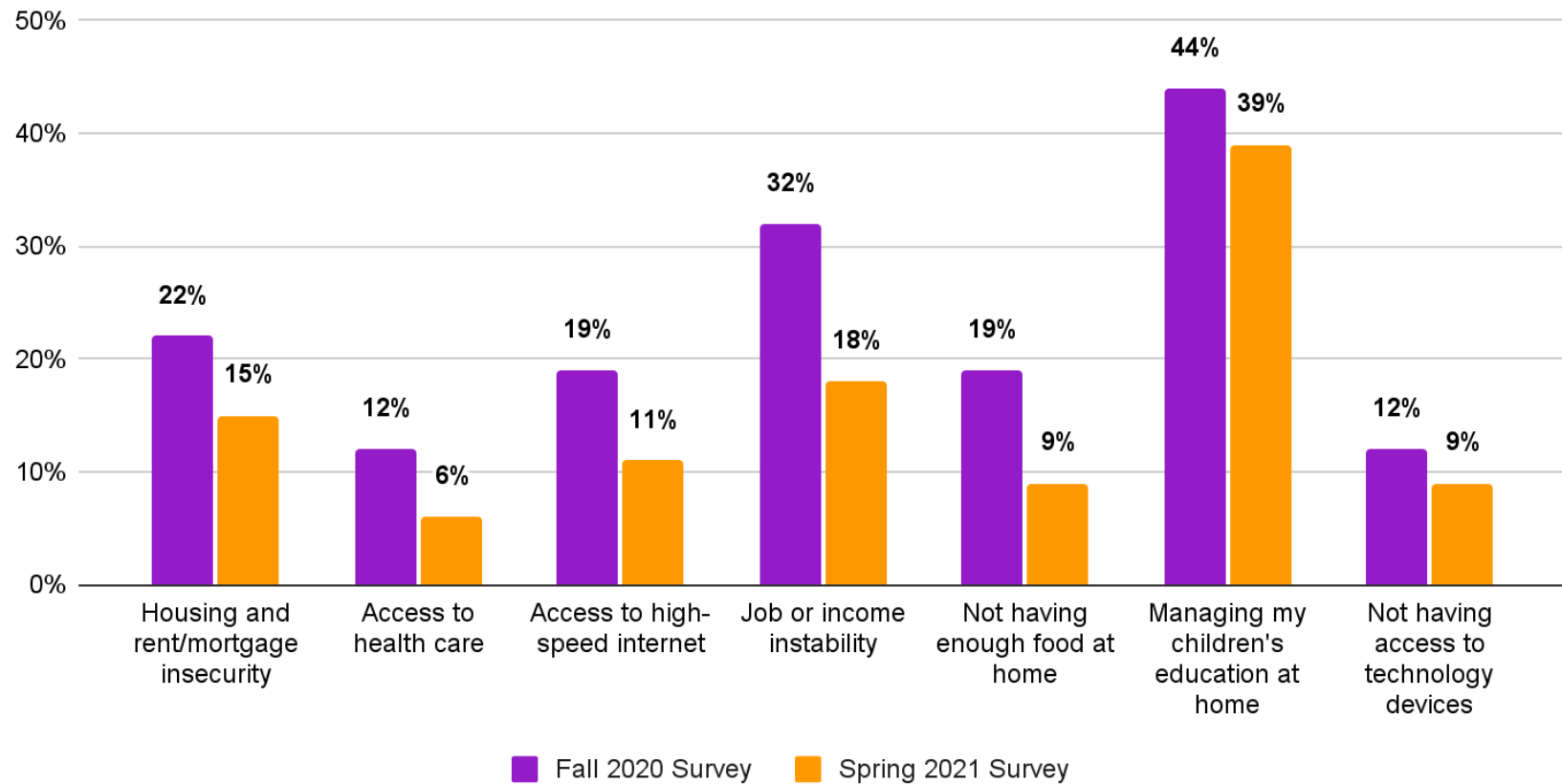
Takeaways: Top Challenges for Families

- **Overall, the rate of “top challenges”** (includes very or most challenging responses) **for parents declined between the Back to School and End of School surveys** (where applicable - not all options were included in the Back to School survey).
- **Managing children’s education at home** and **issues with racial inequity and injustice in our country** were the most frequent top challenges, at **39%** and **44%** respectively.
- For respondents **living East of the River**, issues with **racial inequity and injustice and violence in the community** were the **top two challenges** at 47% and 37% respectively. **Managing children’s education at home** was more of a top challenge for respondents **West of the River**.
- **Managing children’s education at home** remained a **top challenge across income brackets** (highest was \$150,000 - \$199,999 at 67%) and **grade bands** (highest was pre-K at 52%).
- Across racial groups, issues with **racial inequity and injustice** were most challenging for **Black/African-American** respondents (**33%**), followed by **Hispanic/Latinx (22%)**, and then **White/Caucasian (13%)**.
- **Not having access to technology and internet, job or income instability, housing insecurity, and violence in their community** was **more of a top challenge** for respondents **receiving benefits** than those that did not receive benefits.

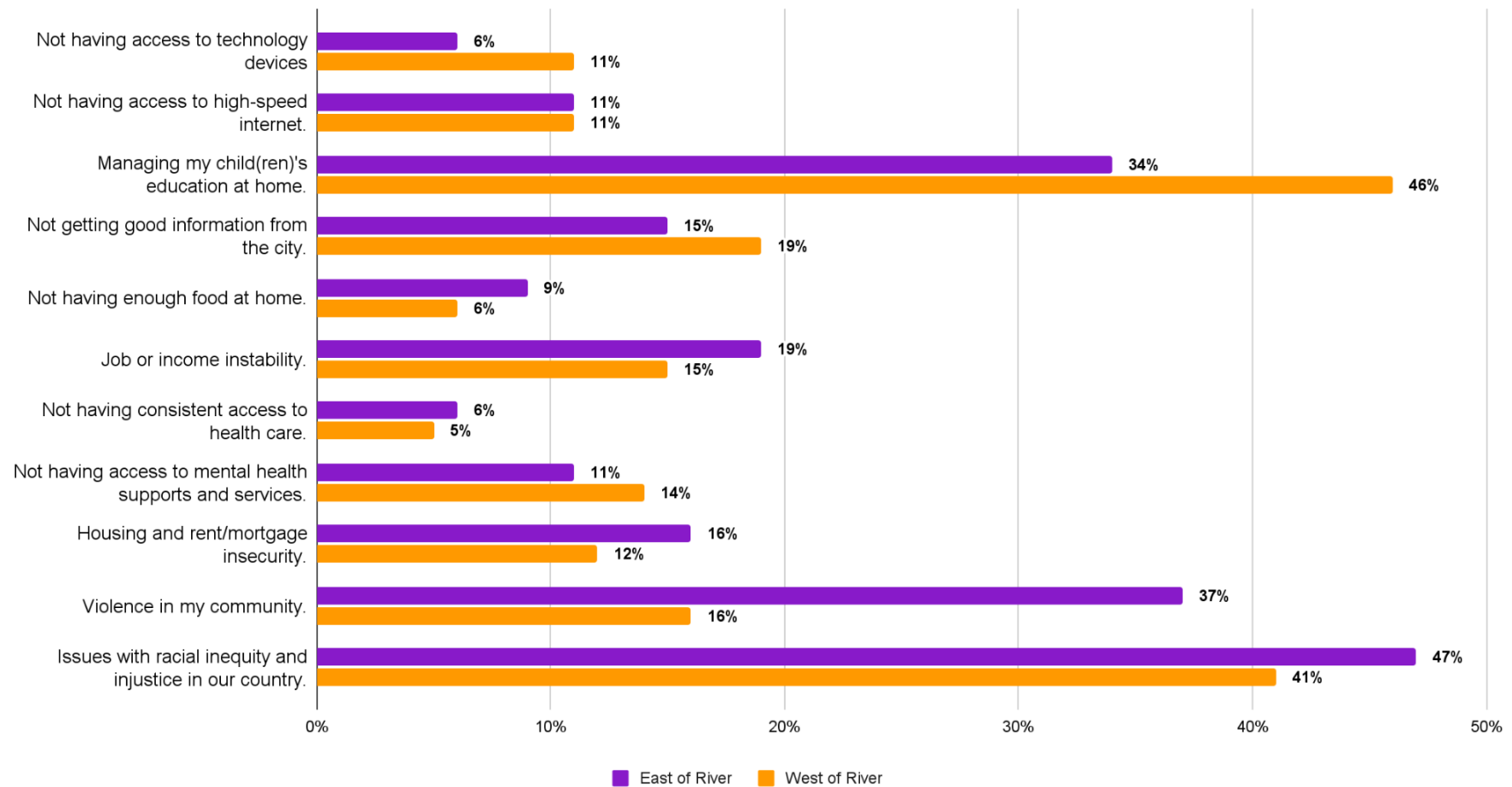
Top Challenges

Challenges for Parents	1 - Not at all Challenging	2	3	4	5 - Most Challenging
Not having access to technology devices.	73%	8%	11%	5%	4%
Not having access to high-speed internet.	64%	11%	14%	4%	7%
Managing my child(ren)'s education at home.	21%	14%	25%	14%	25%
Not getting good information from the city.	37%	18%	28%	9%	8%
Not having enough food at home.	74%	9%	8%	4%	5%
Job or income instability.	56%	11%	15%	4%	14%
Not having consistent access to health care.	79%	8%	7%	2%	4%
Not having access to mental health supports and services.	62%	14%	11%	6%	7%
Housing and rent/mortgage insecurity.	63%	10%	12%	5%	10%
Violence in my community.	42%	14%	17%	8%	19%
Issues with racial inequity and injustice in our country.	27%	11%	19%	14%	30%

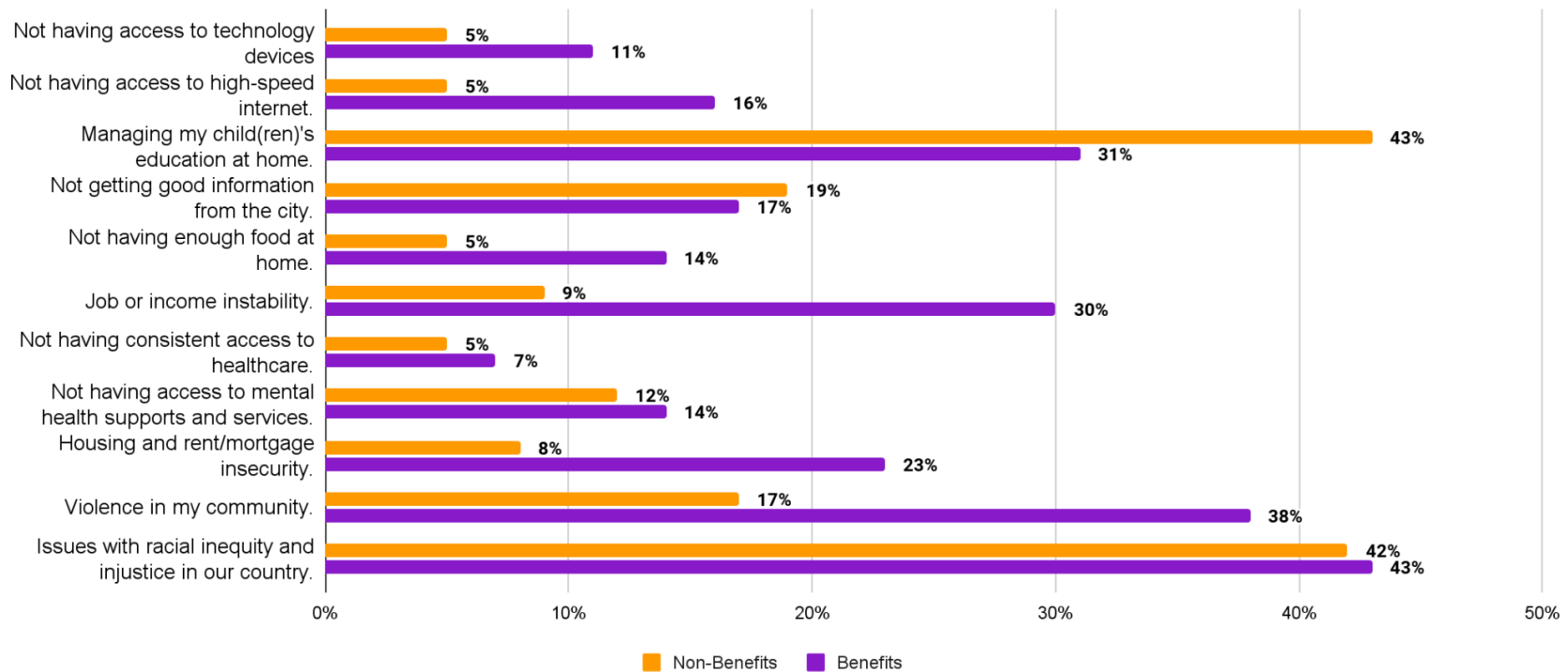
Top Challenges for Parents (% Listed as MOST or VERY Challenging)



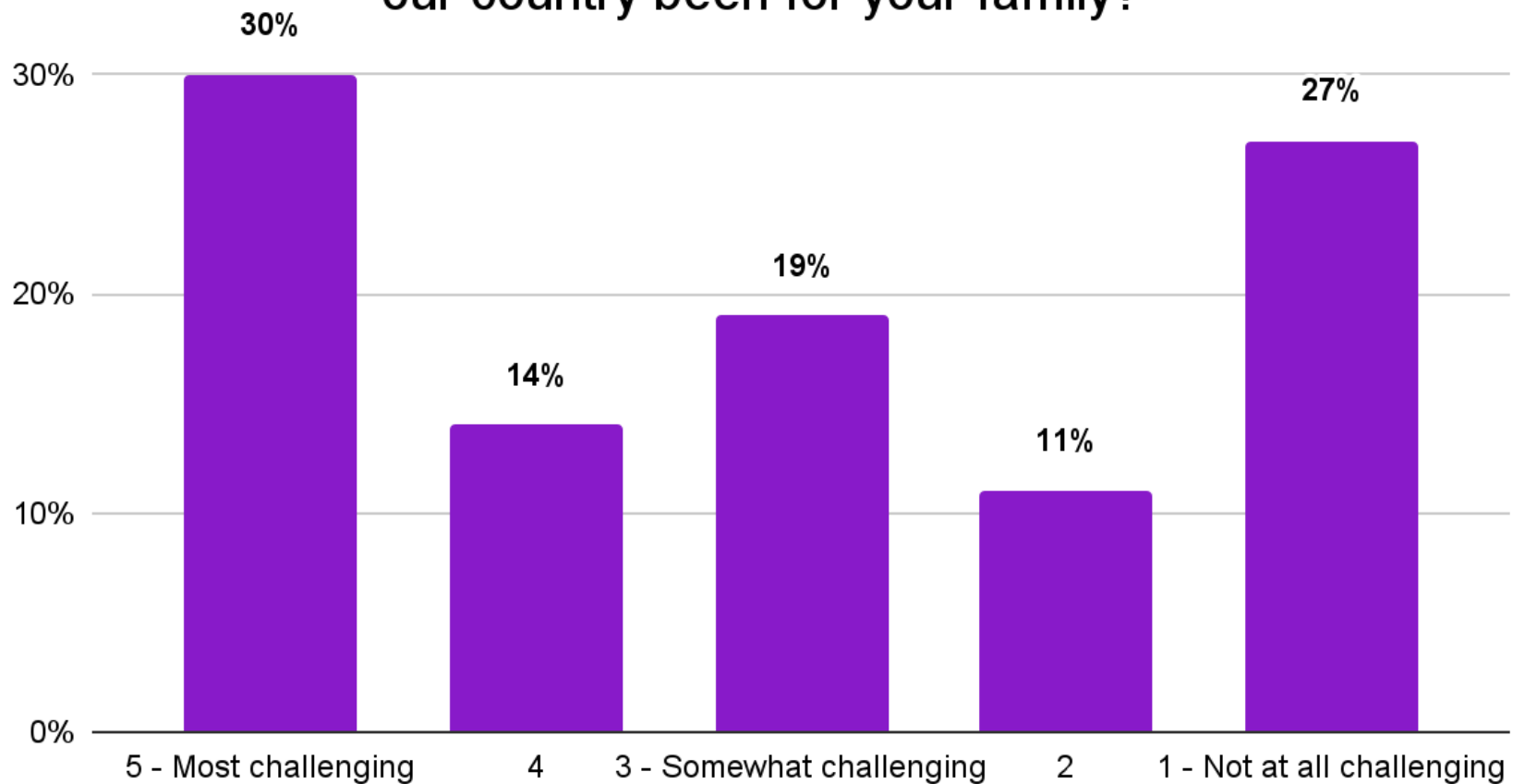
Top Challenges For Respondents East vs. West of River (% listed as VERY or MOST Challenging)



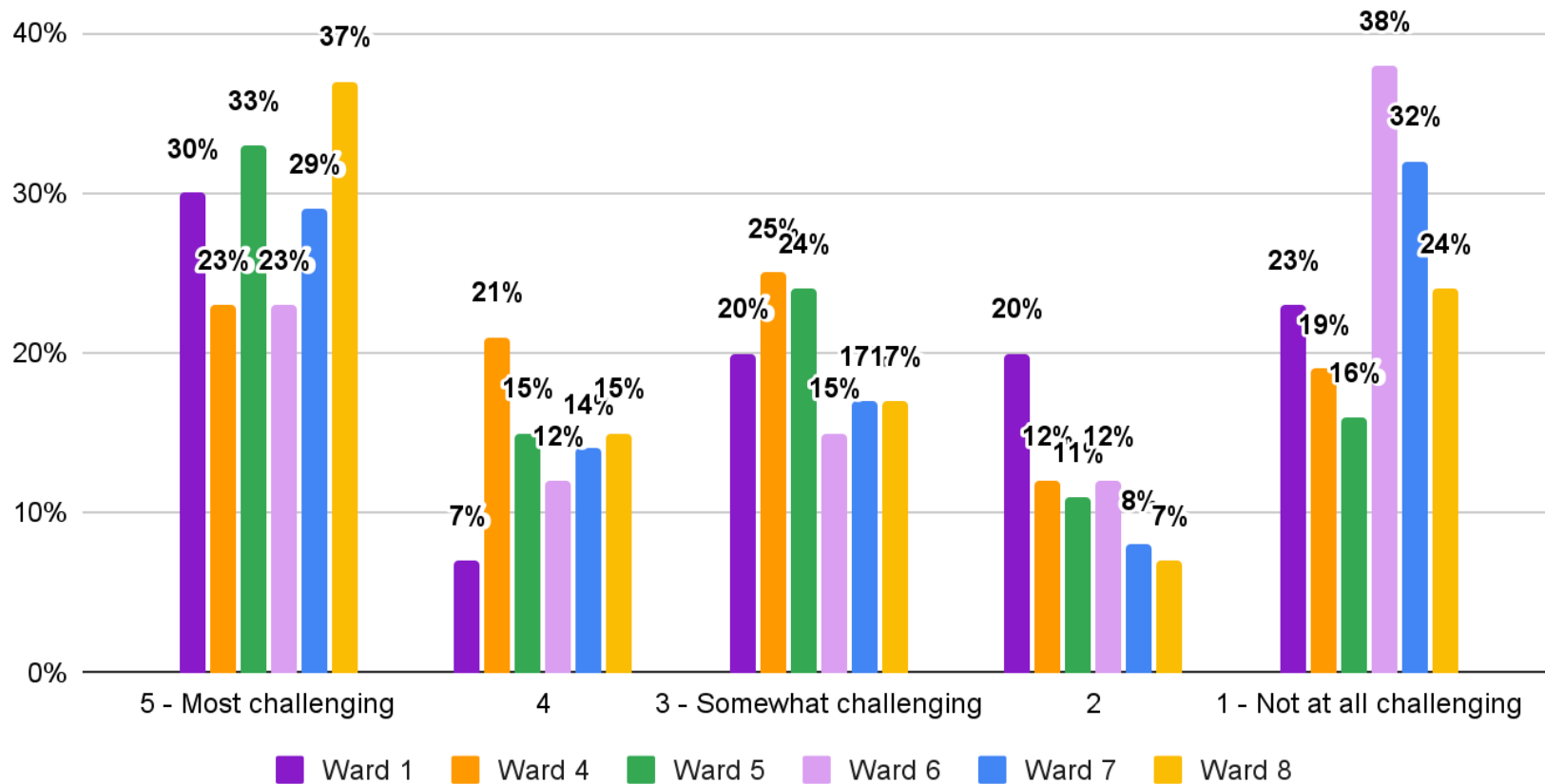
Top Challenges for Parents Who Received Benefits (% listed as VERY or MOST Challenging)



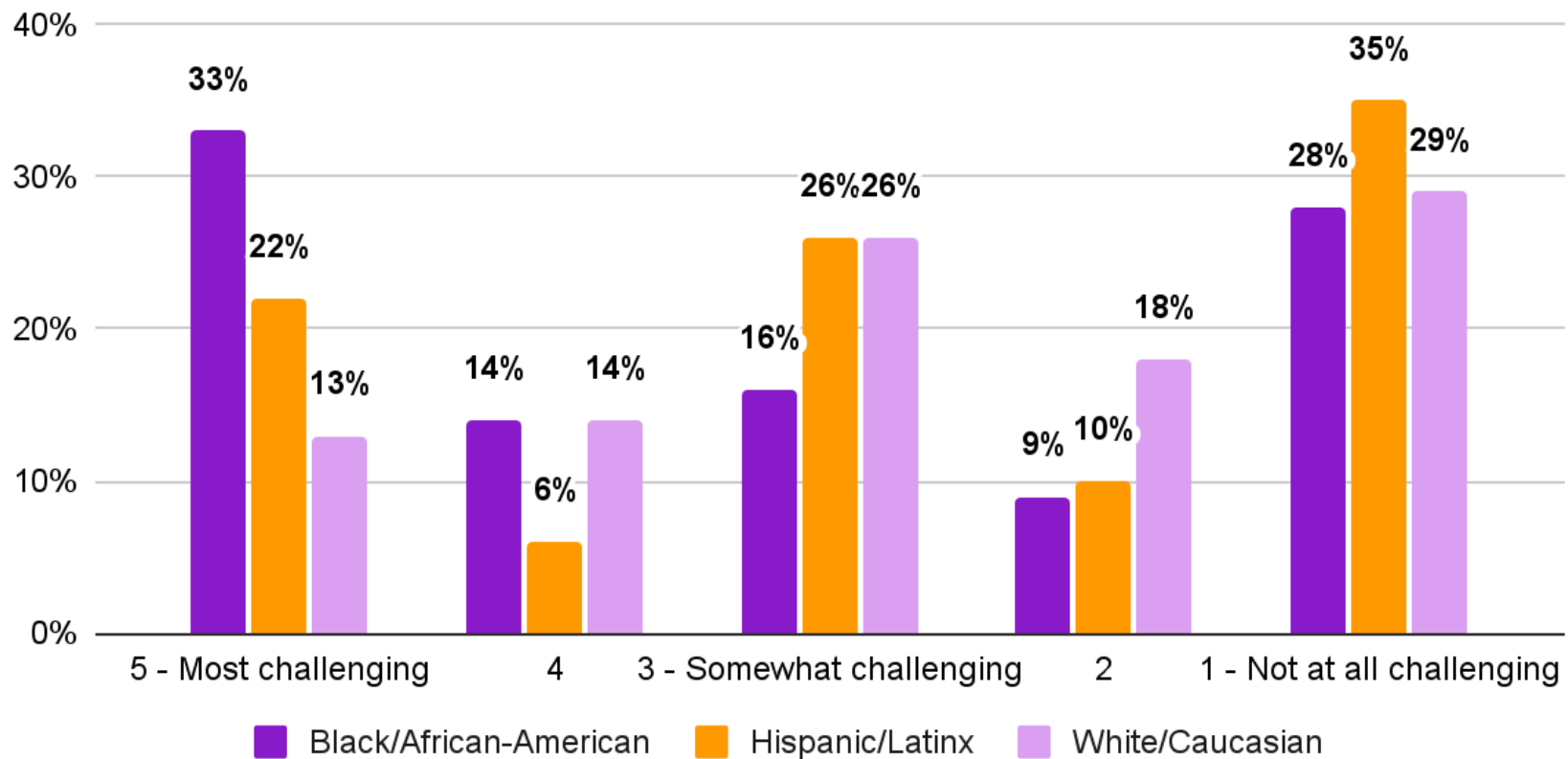
How challenging has issues with racial inequity and injustice in our country been for your family?



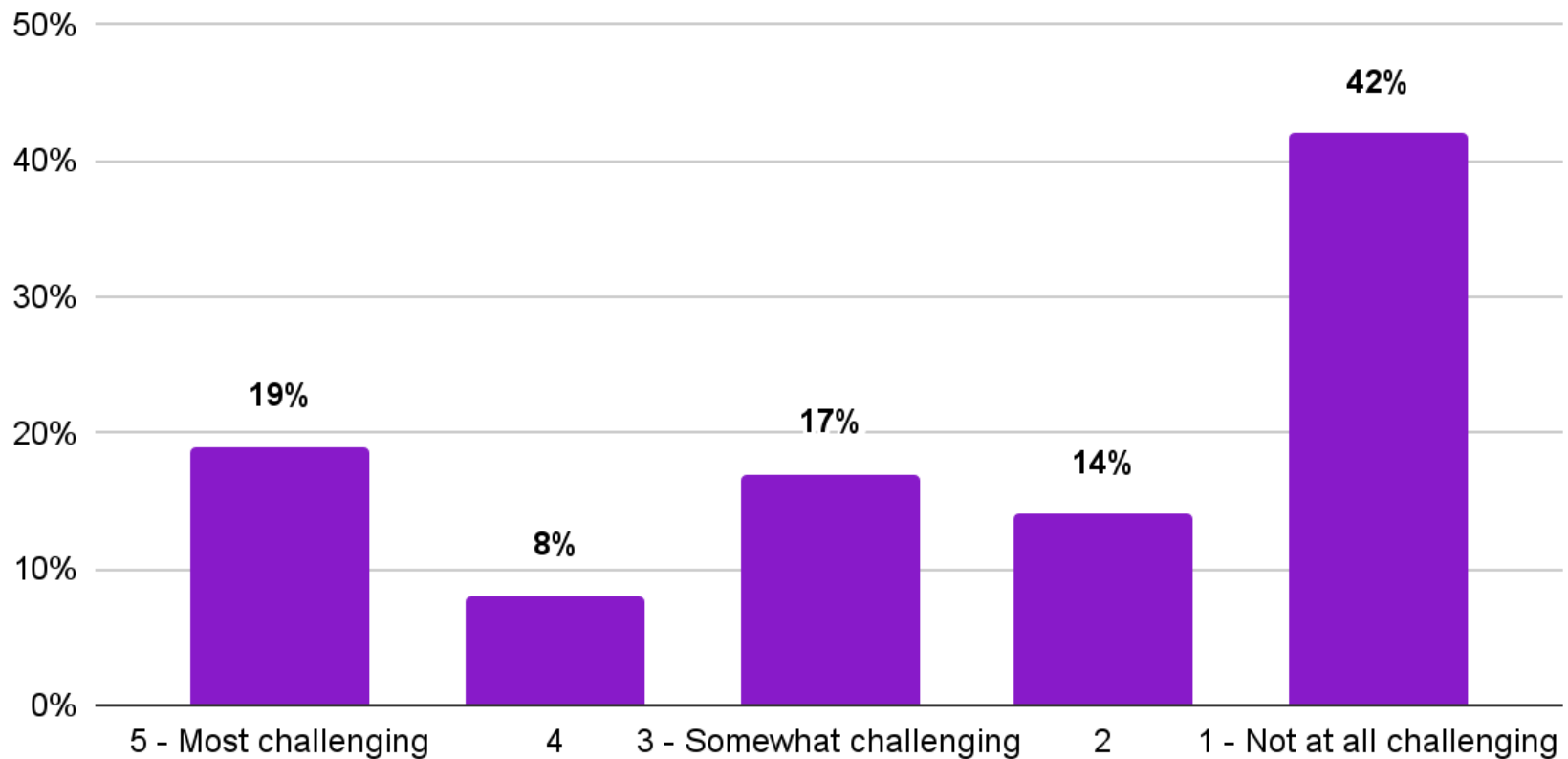
How challenging has issues with racial inequity and injustice in our country been for your family?



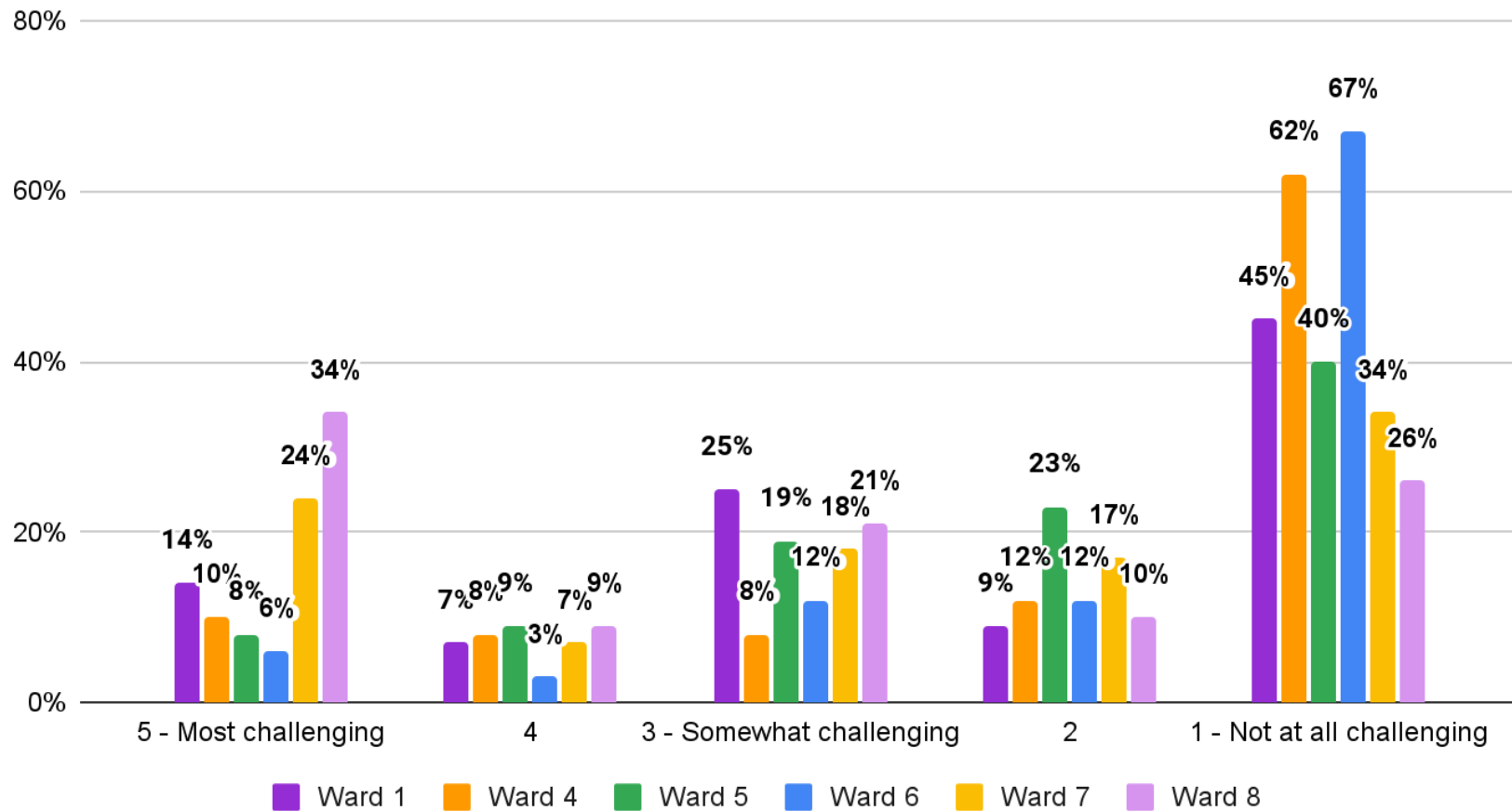
How challenging has issues with racial inequity and injustice in our country been for your family?



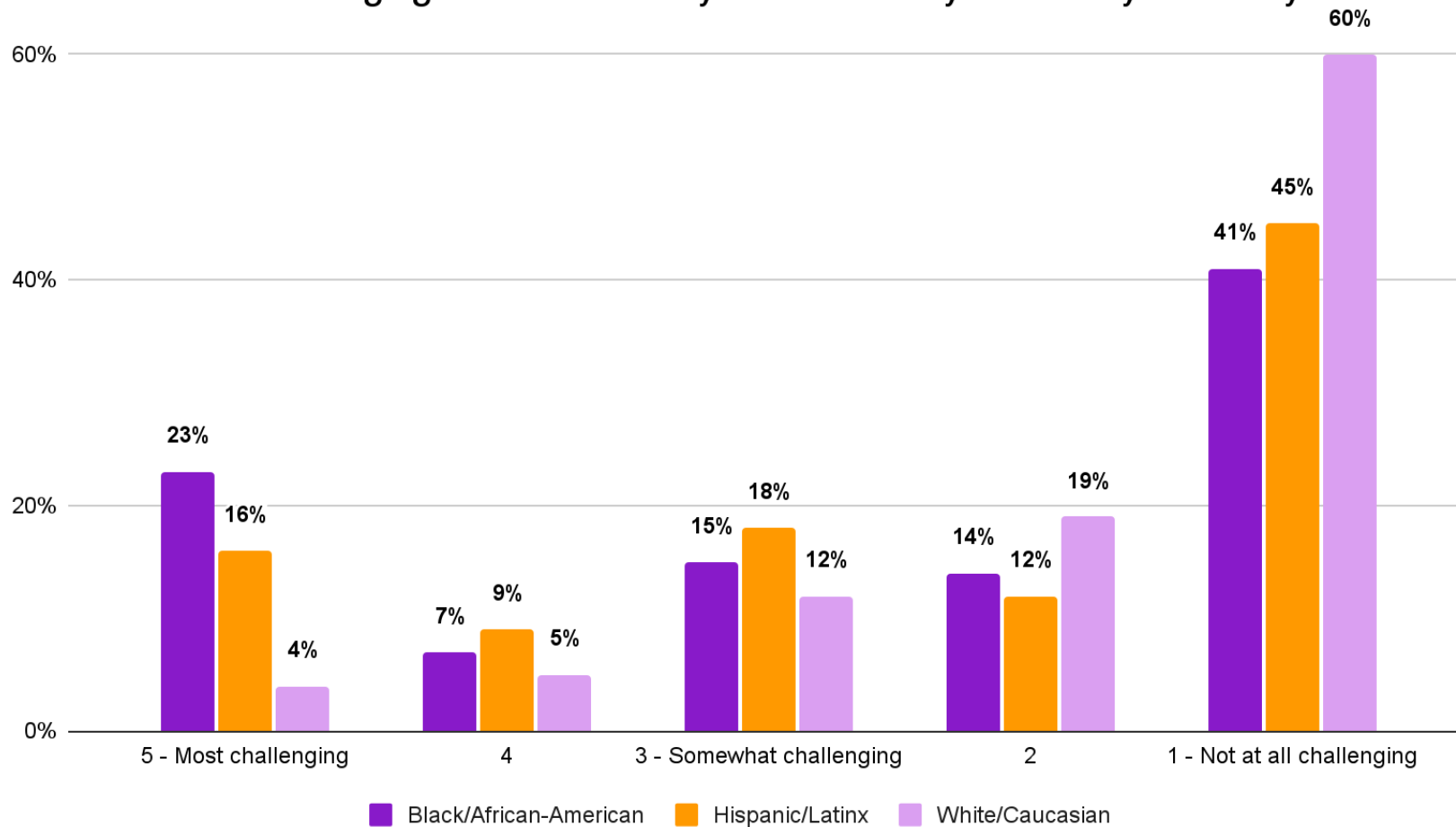
How challenging has violence in your community been for your family?



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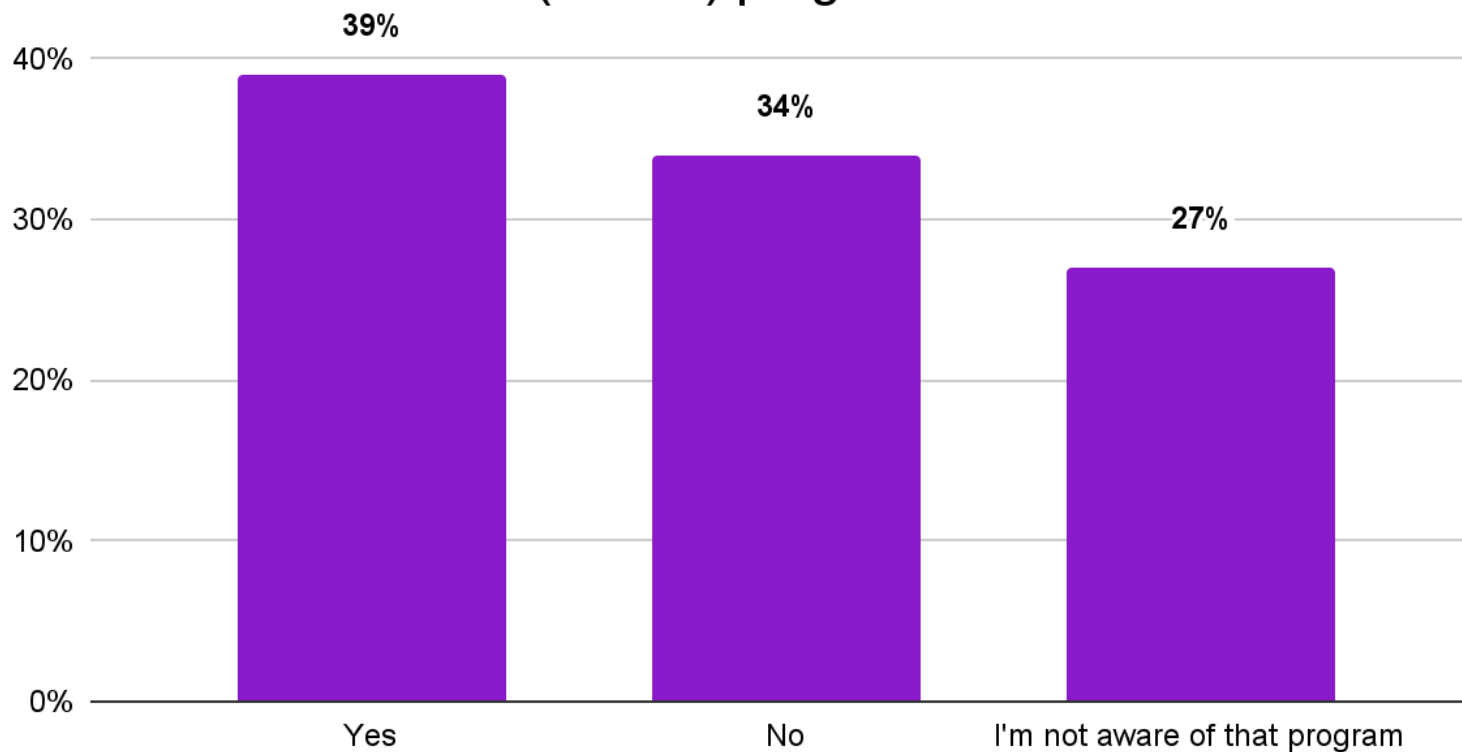


Takeaways: Basic Needs

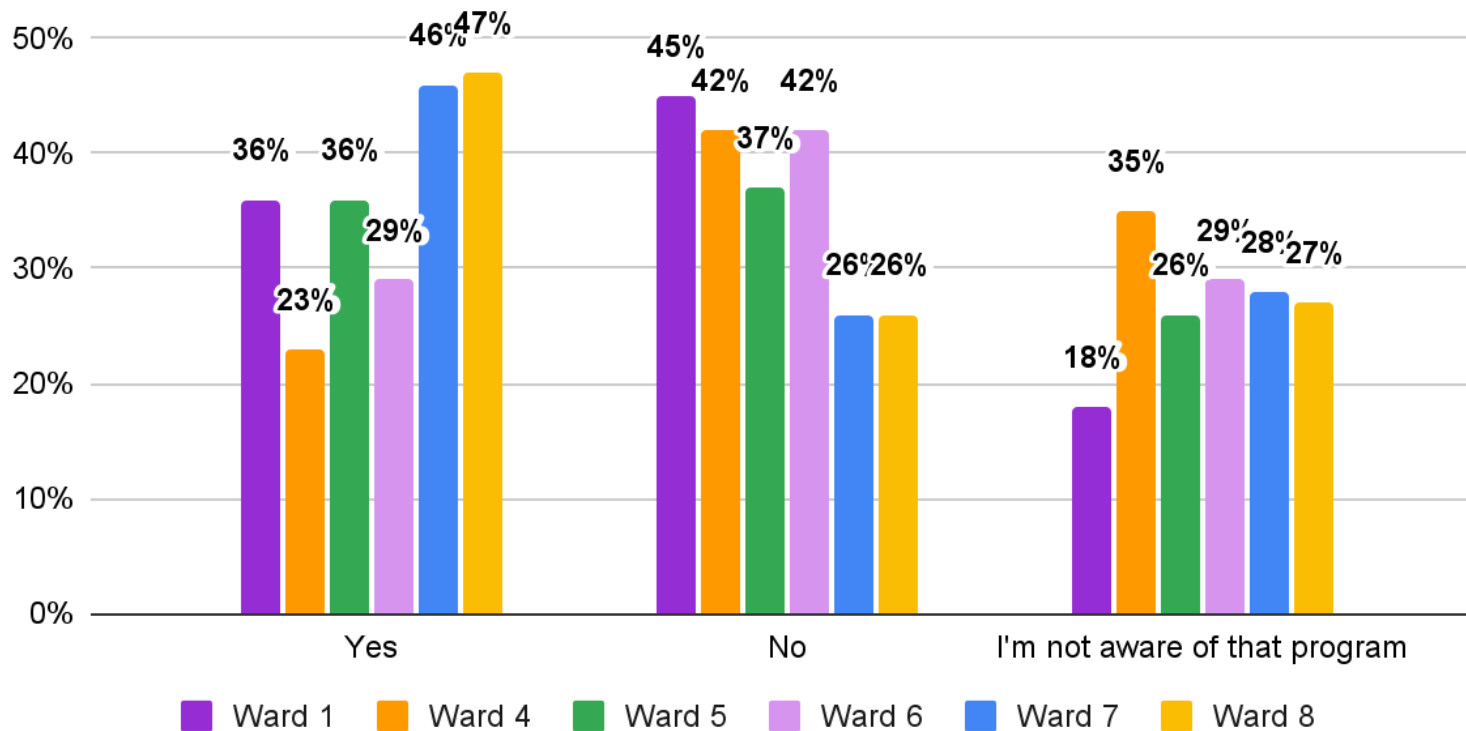
- **Food:**
 - P-EBT participation is highest in **Wards 7 (46%), and 8 (47%)**, with **39%** of respondents **participating** overall. **27% were not aware of the program**. **Hispanic/Latinx respondents reported food access as more of a challenge** than Black/African-American or White/Caucasian respondents.
- **Housing and Home Environment:**
 - **Black/African-American and Hispanic/Latinx** respondents were **4.3 times** more likely to report that they or their children **felt physically unsafe outside of their home** than White/Caucasian respondents. Rates varied across Wards.
 - The rate for **Black/African-American and Hispanic/Latinx** respondents that did not have a stable home environment was **6% and 5% respectively**. All White/Caucasian respondents reported having a stable place to live.
- **Internet:**
 - While internet access is **high overall (98%)**, **59%** of respondents said they are **able to use the internet when they need it without glitches, slowdowns, or getting disconnected**.
- **Health Care:**
 - **18% of Hispanic/Latinx respondents reported that not everyone in their household has access to health insurance**, compared to **3% and 1%** for **Black/African-American and White/Caucasian** households respectively.
- **Vaccines:**
 - **Respondents from Ward 7 and 8 were lowest in percentage** of adults that **planned on getting the COVID vaccine**, at **53% each**. **55% of Black/African-American** respondents reported **yes**, while Hispanic/Latinx (87%) and White/Caucasian (96%) respondents were much higher.
 - **93% of respondents reported their child(ren) are up to date with [non-COVID] shots/immunizations for school**. However, [May 2021 data](#) indicated that **77% of DCPS students and 76% of public charter school students are up-to-date on immunizations**. This calls for exploration into whether or not respondents have been made aware of all required immunizations going into the new year or if there was an issue with submitting the paperwork.

Access to Food

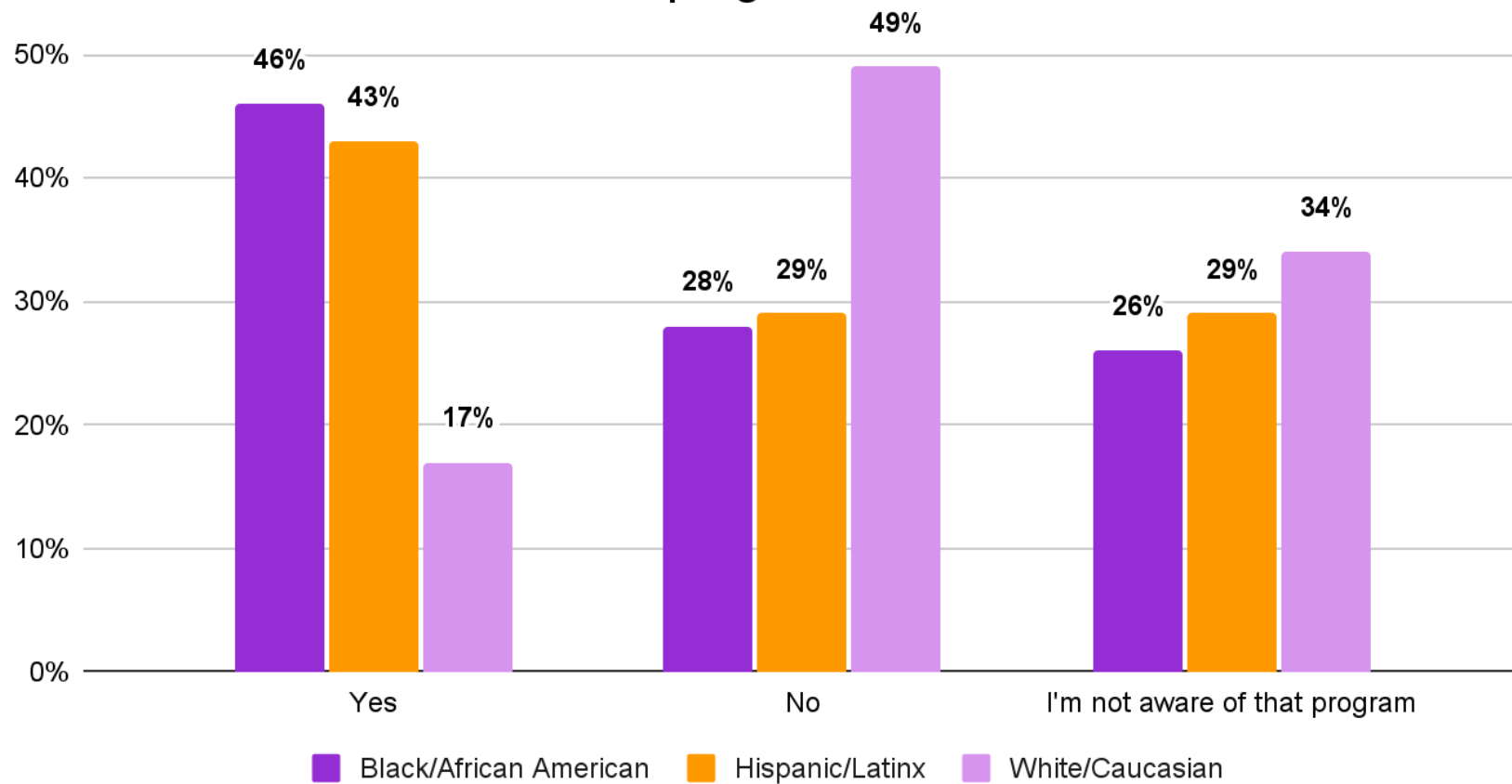
Are you participating in the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program?



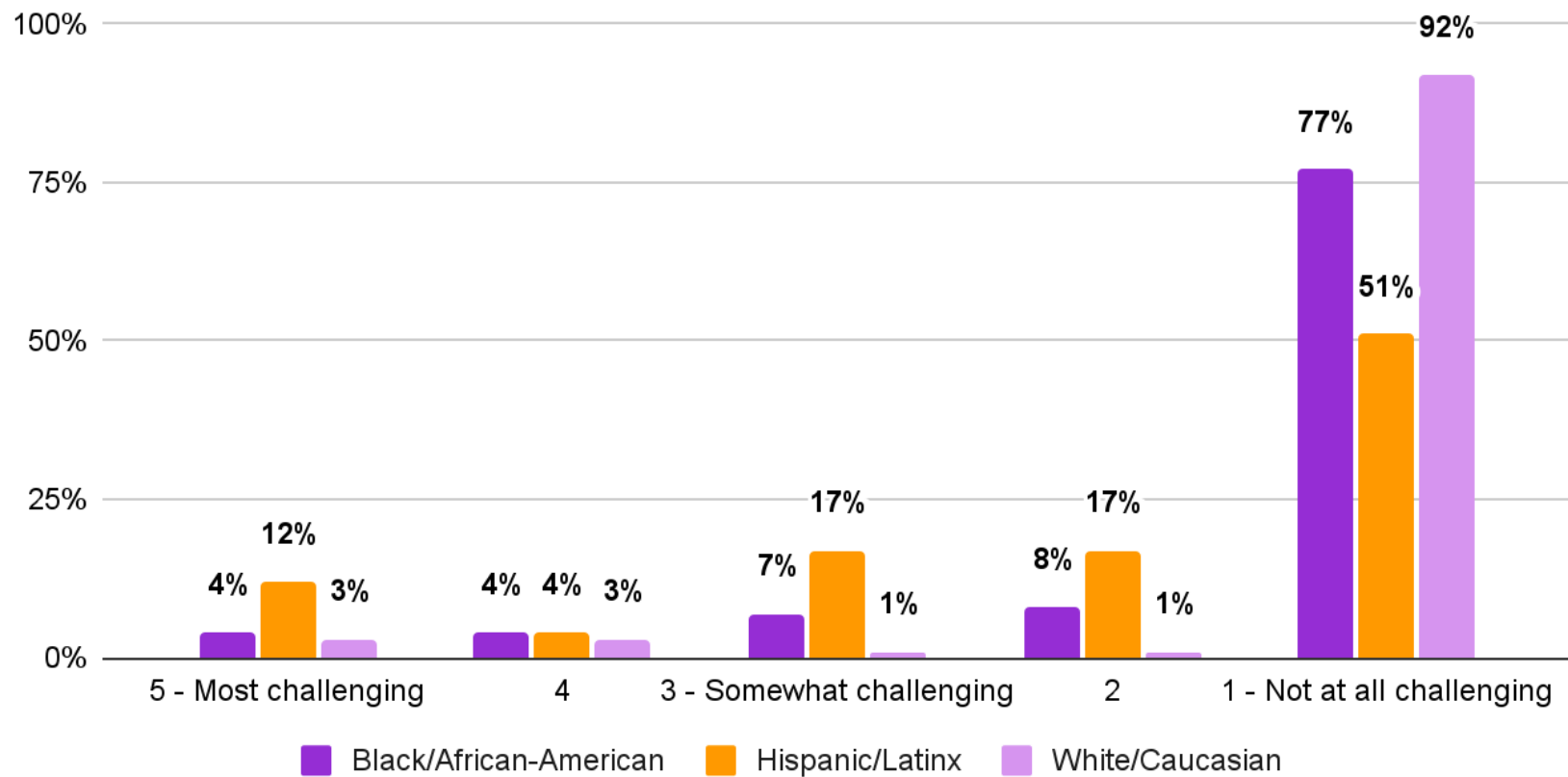
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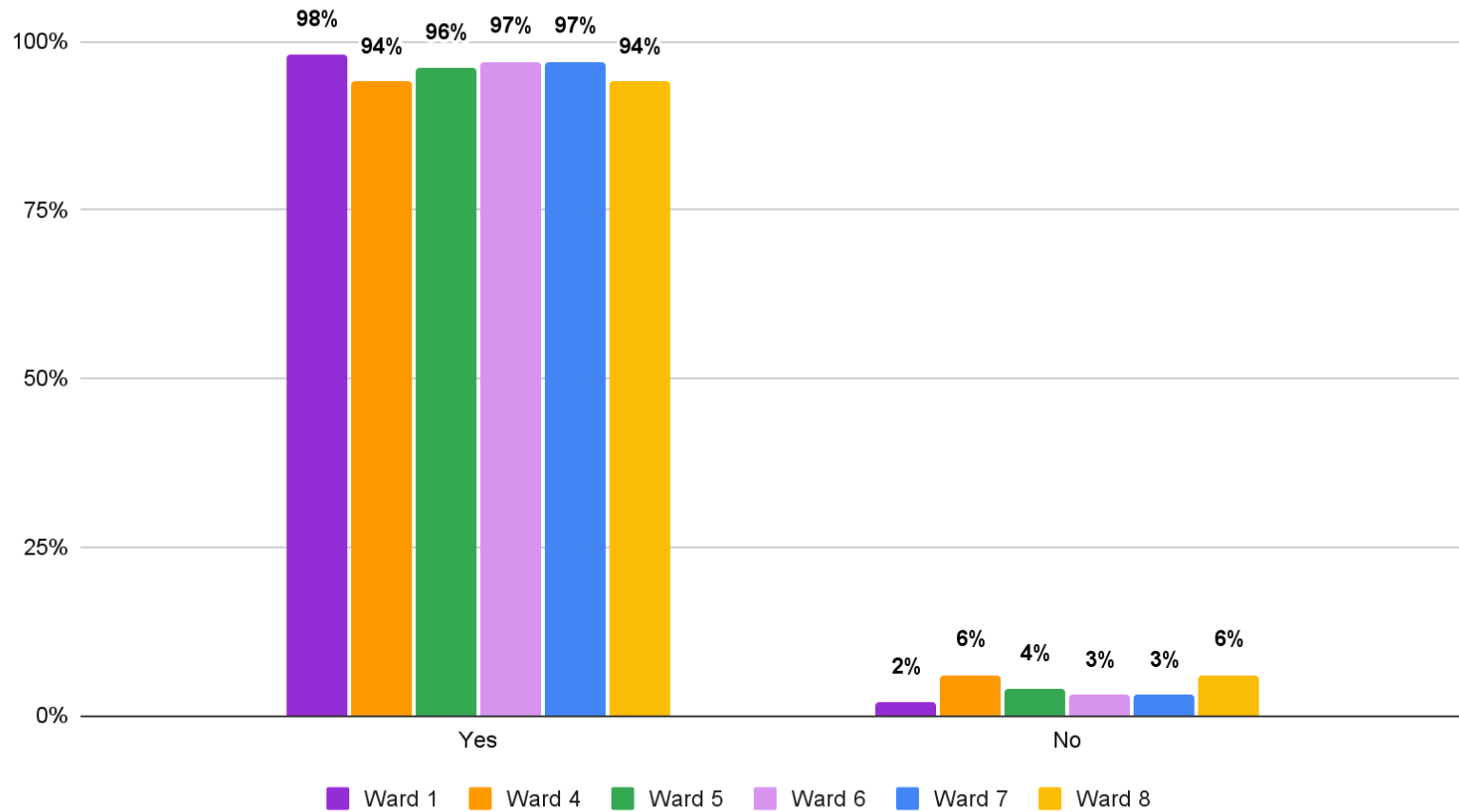


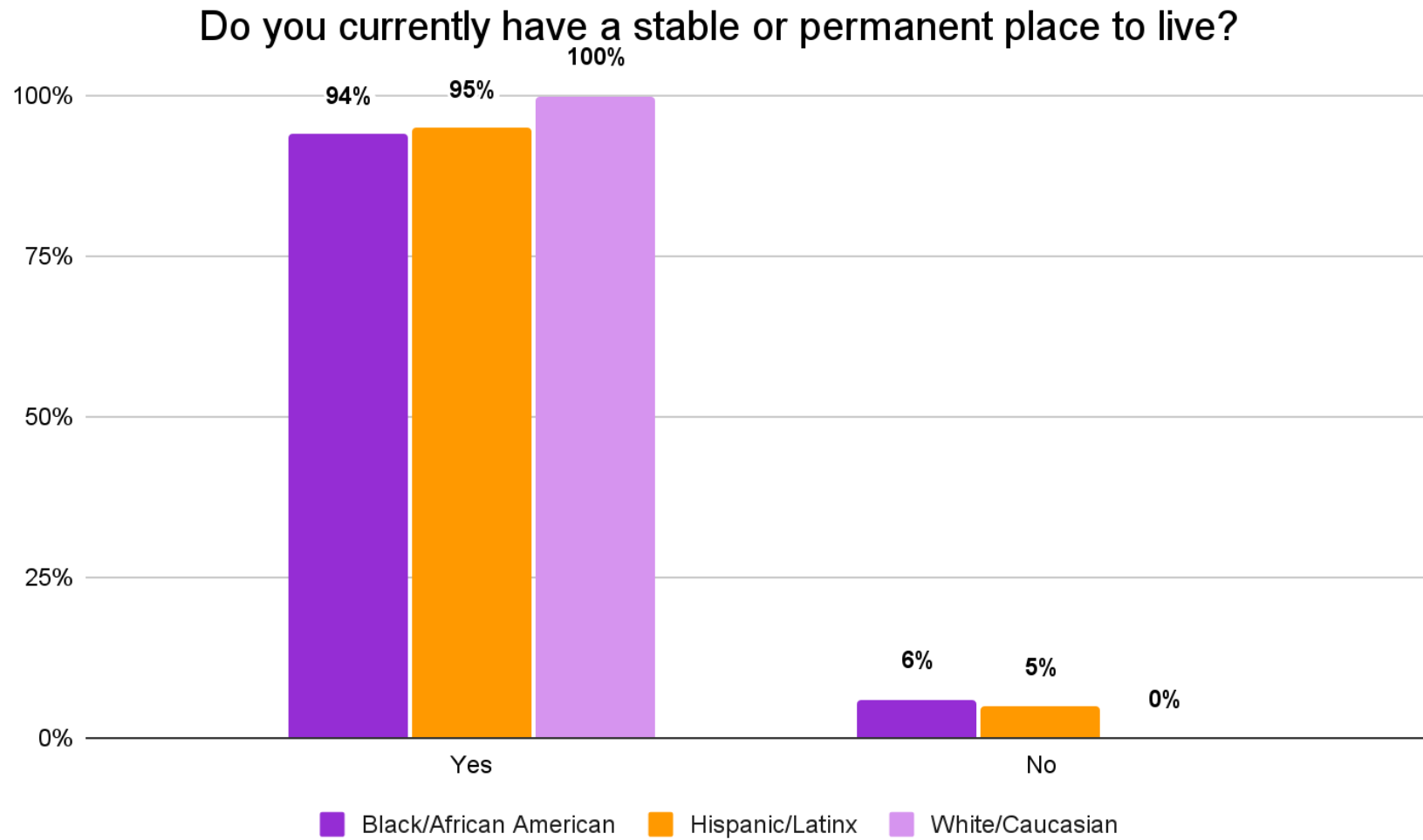
How challenging has not having enough food at home been for your family?



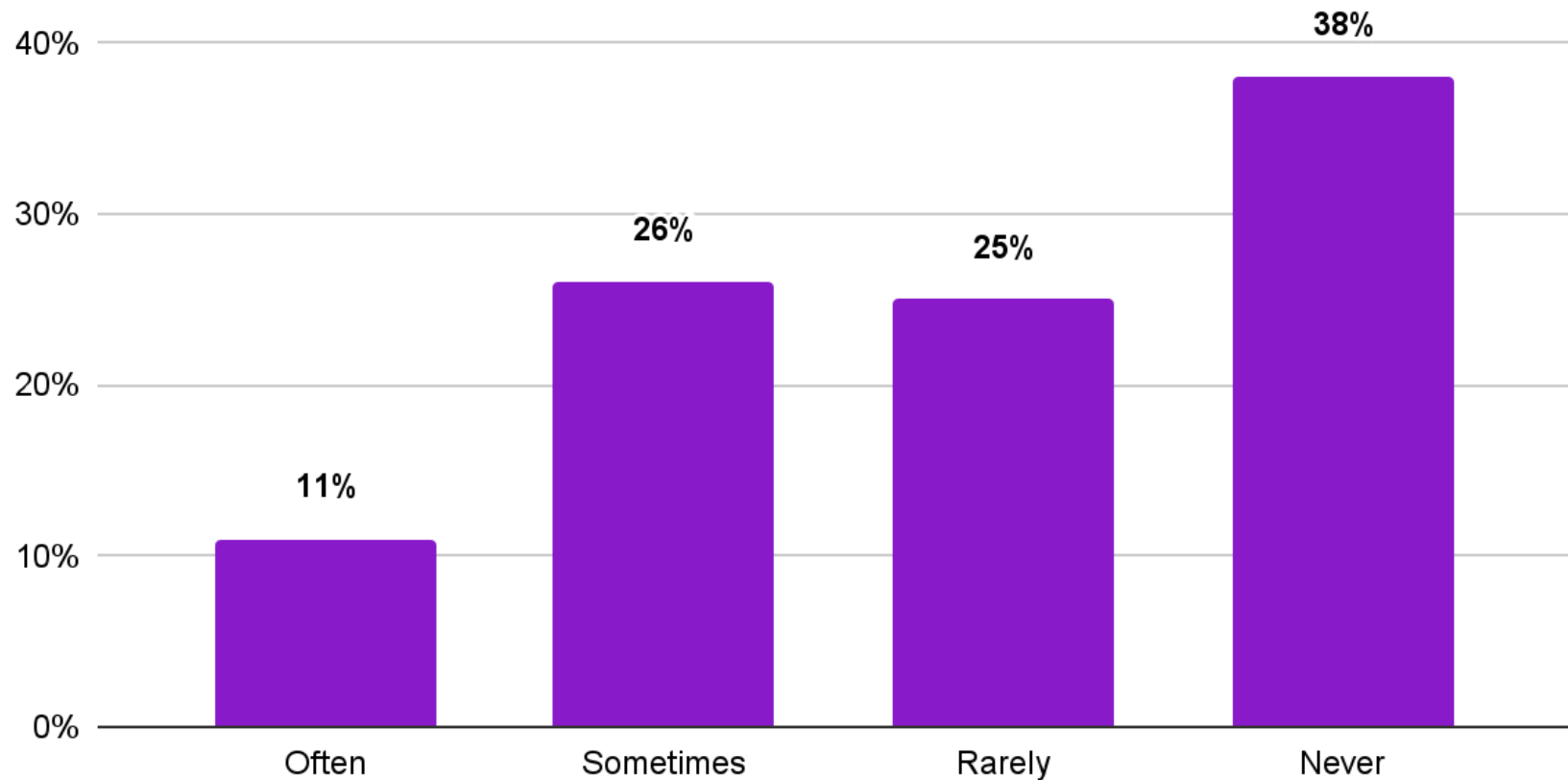
Housing and Home Environment

Do you currently have a stable or permanent place to live?

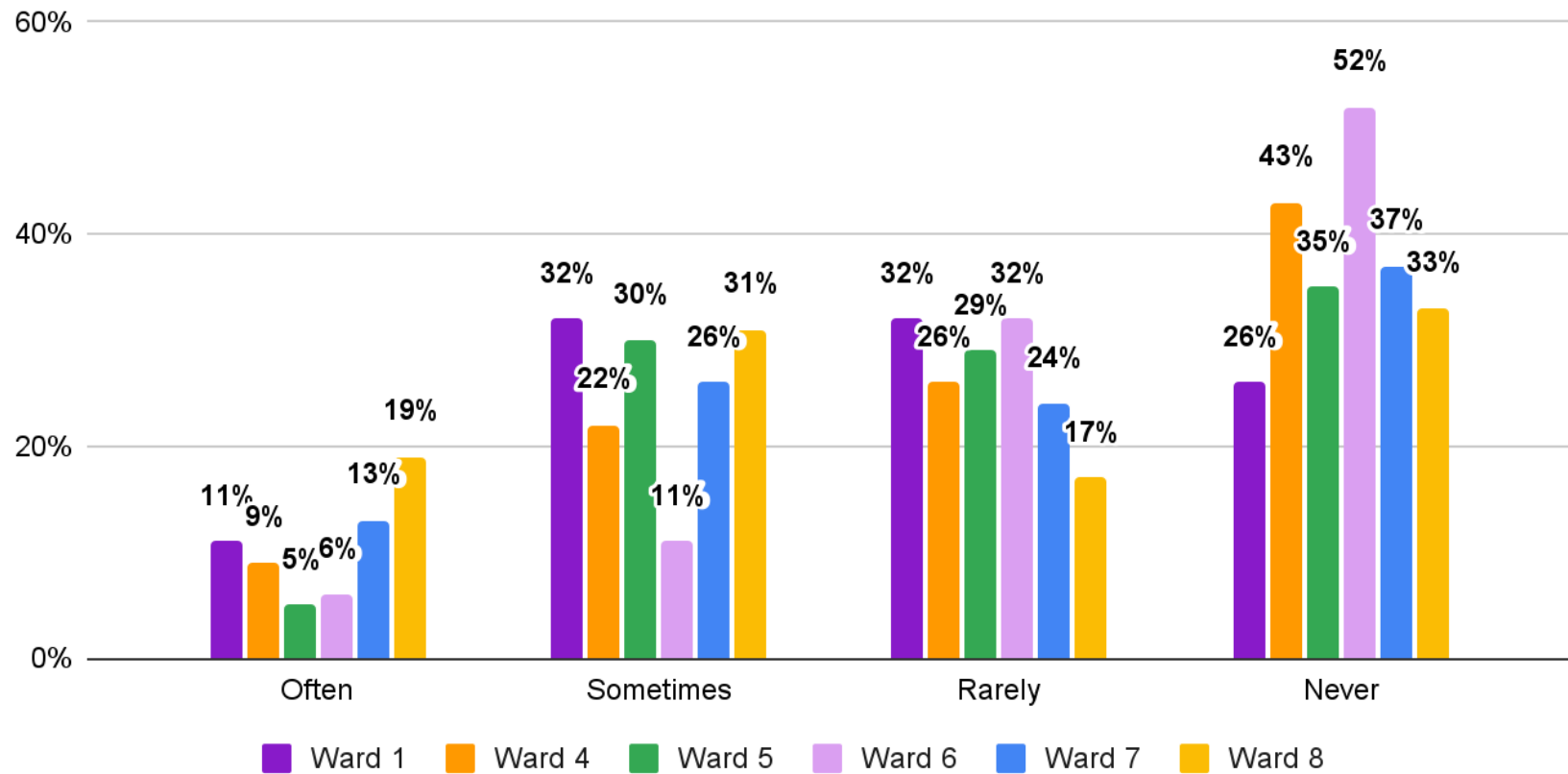




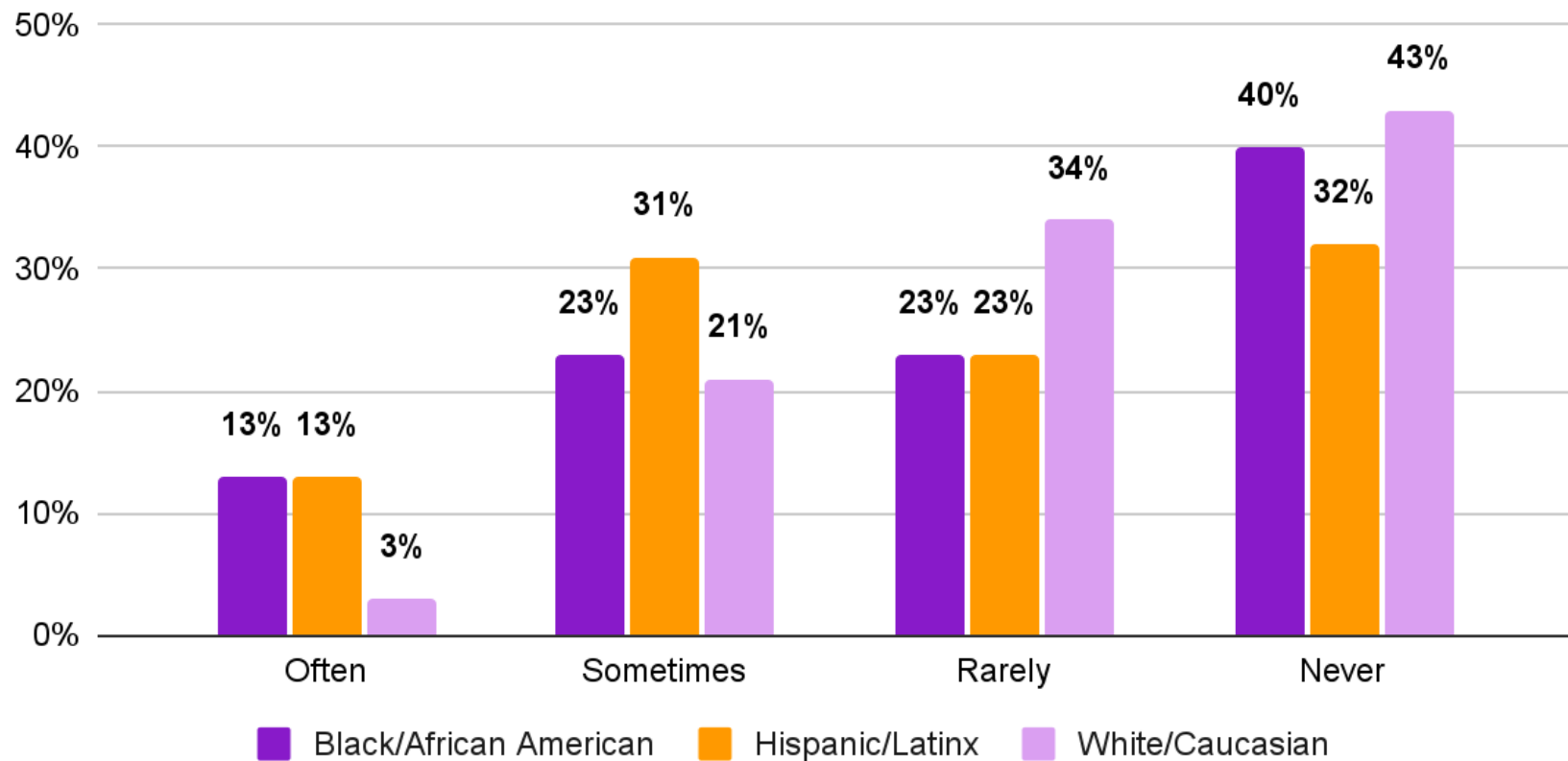
This school year, how often have you or your children felt physically unsafe outside of your home in your neighborhood?



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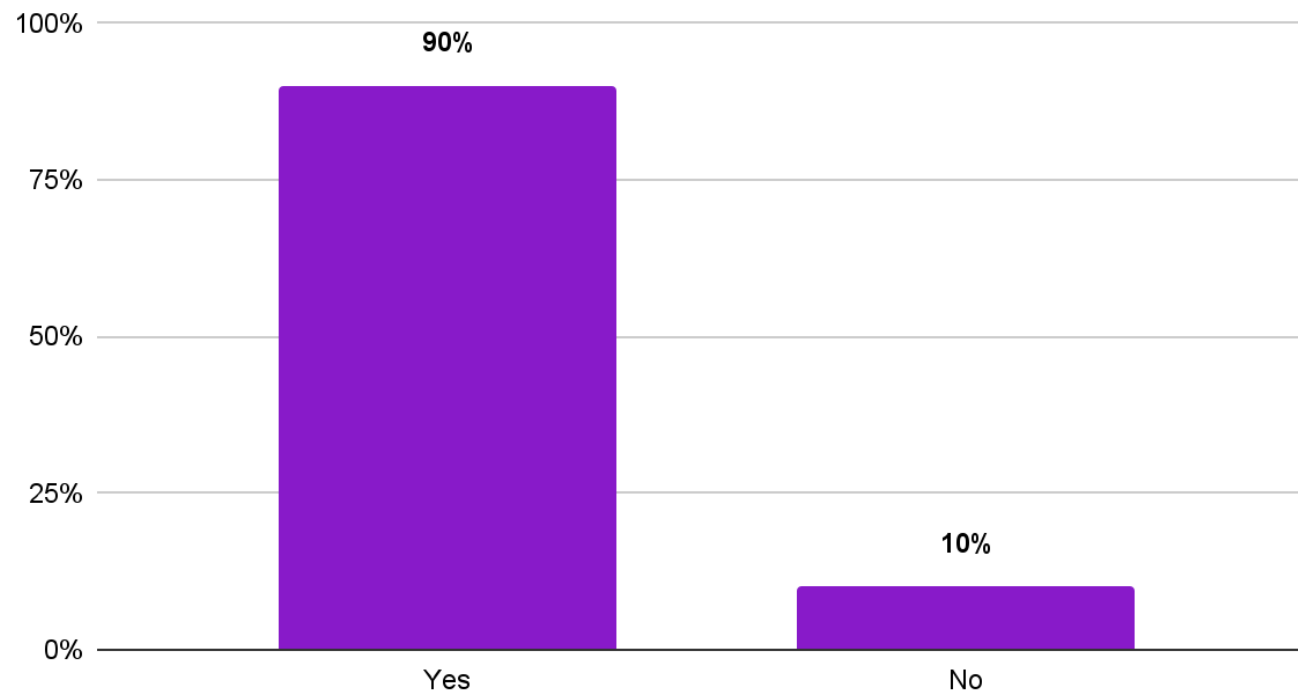


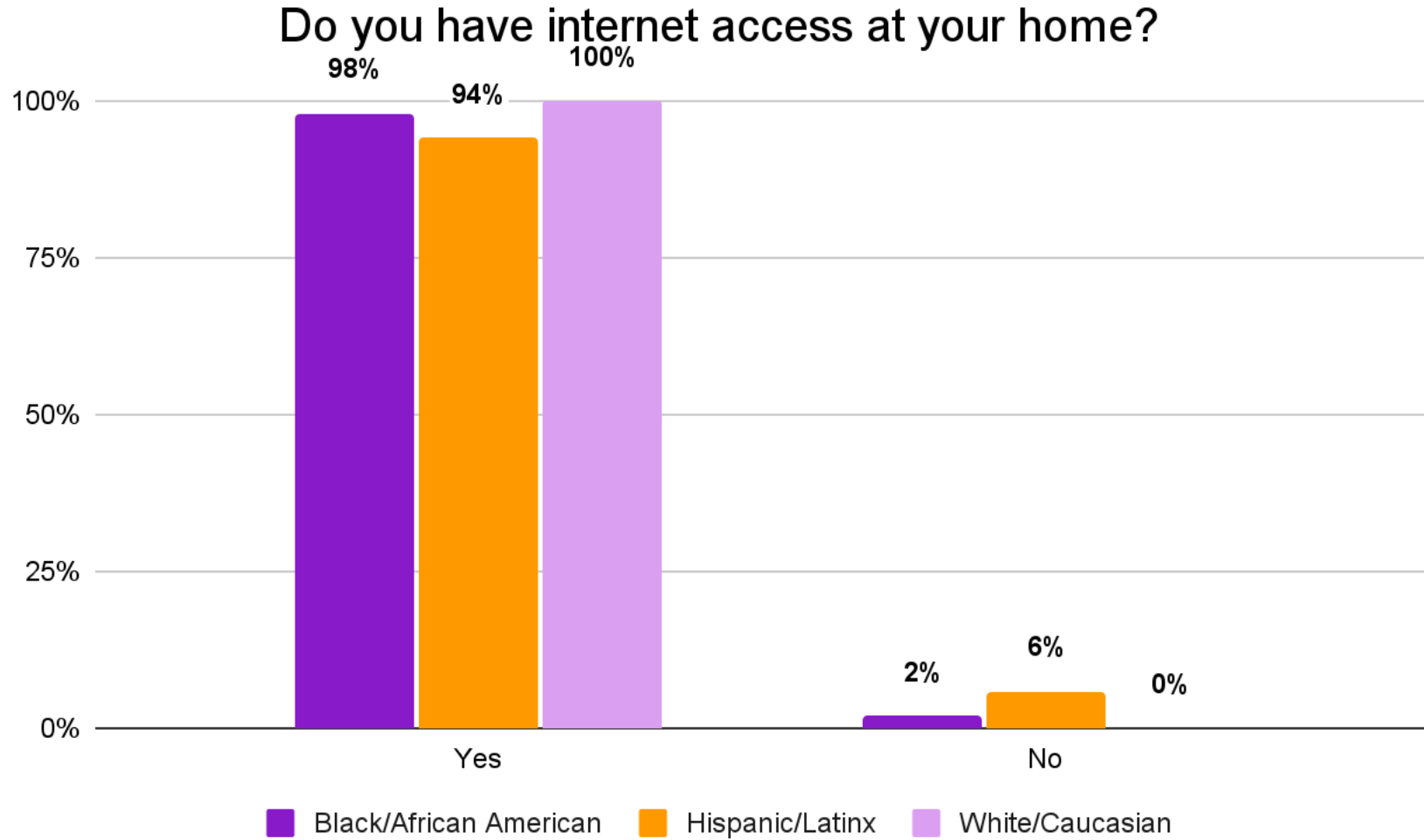
This school year, how often have you or your children felt physically unsafe outside of your home in your neighborhood?



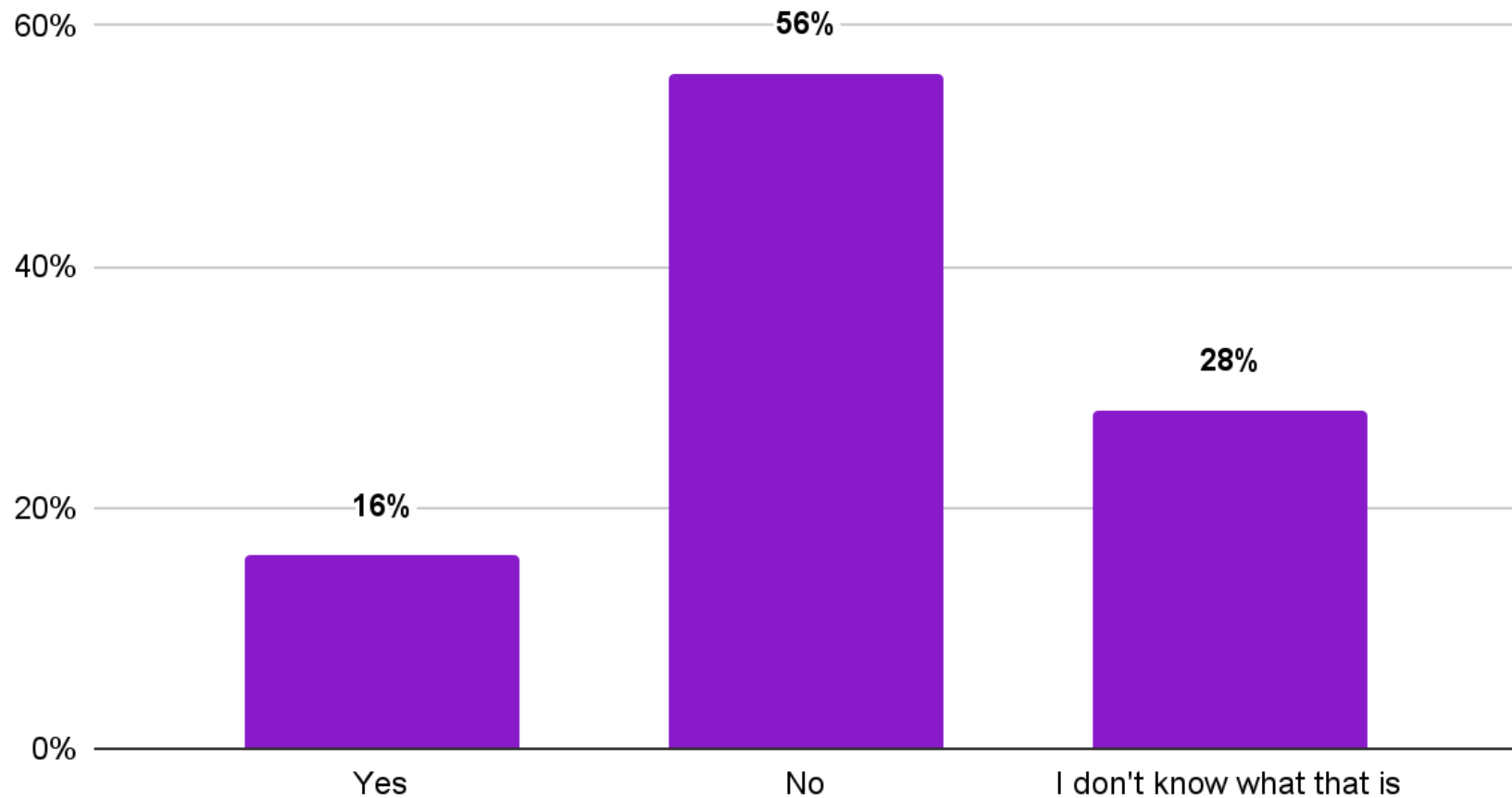
Internet

Do you have internet access at your home?

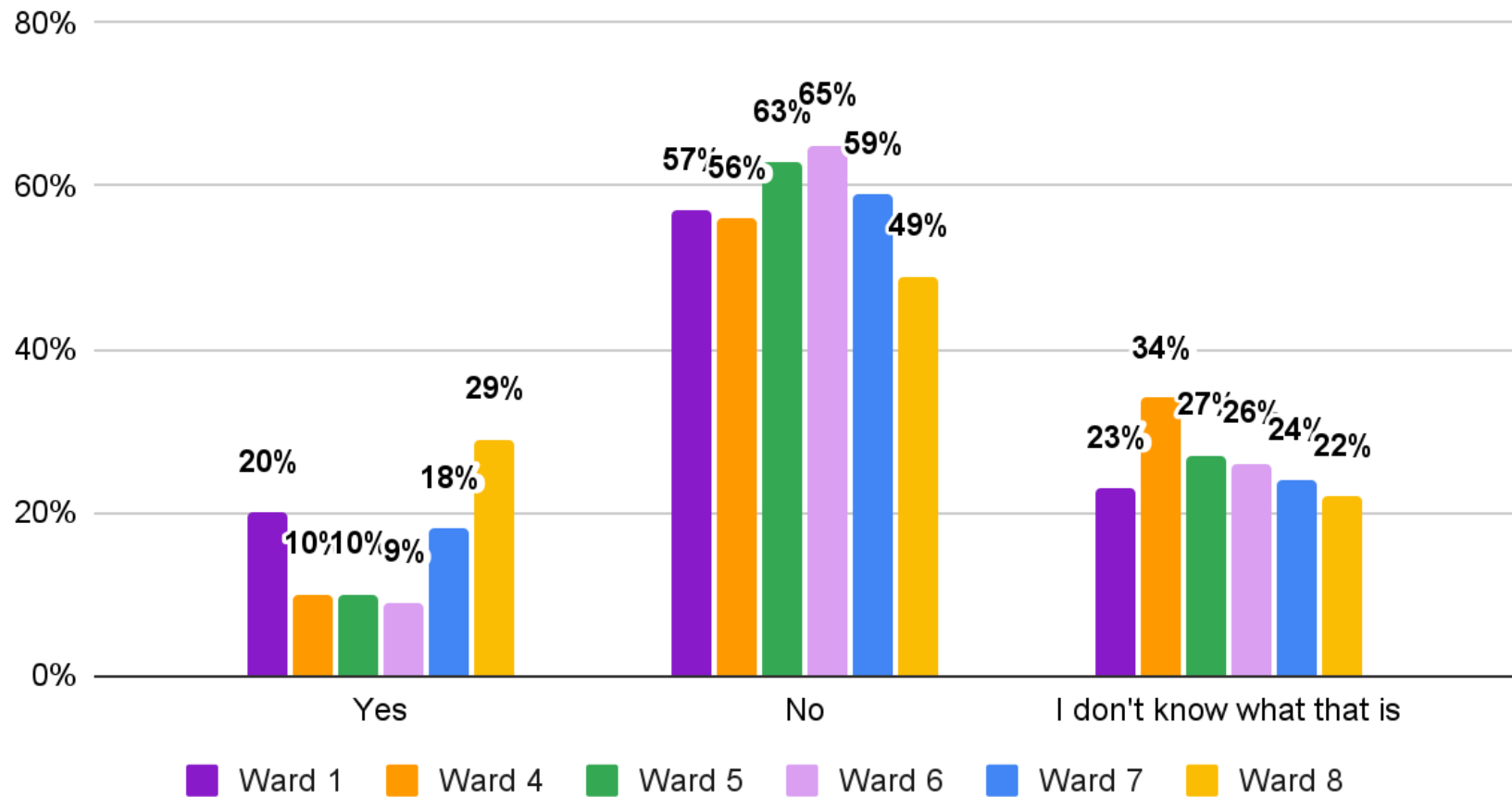




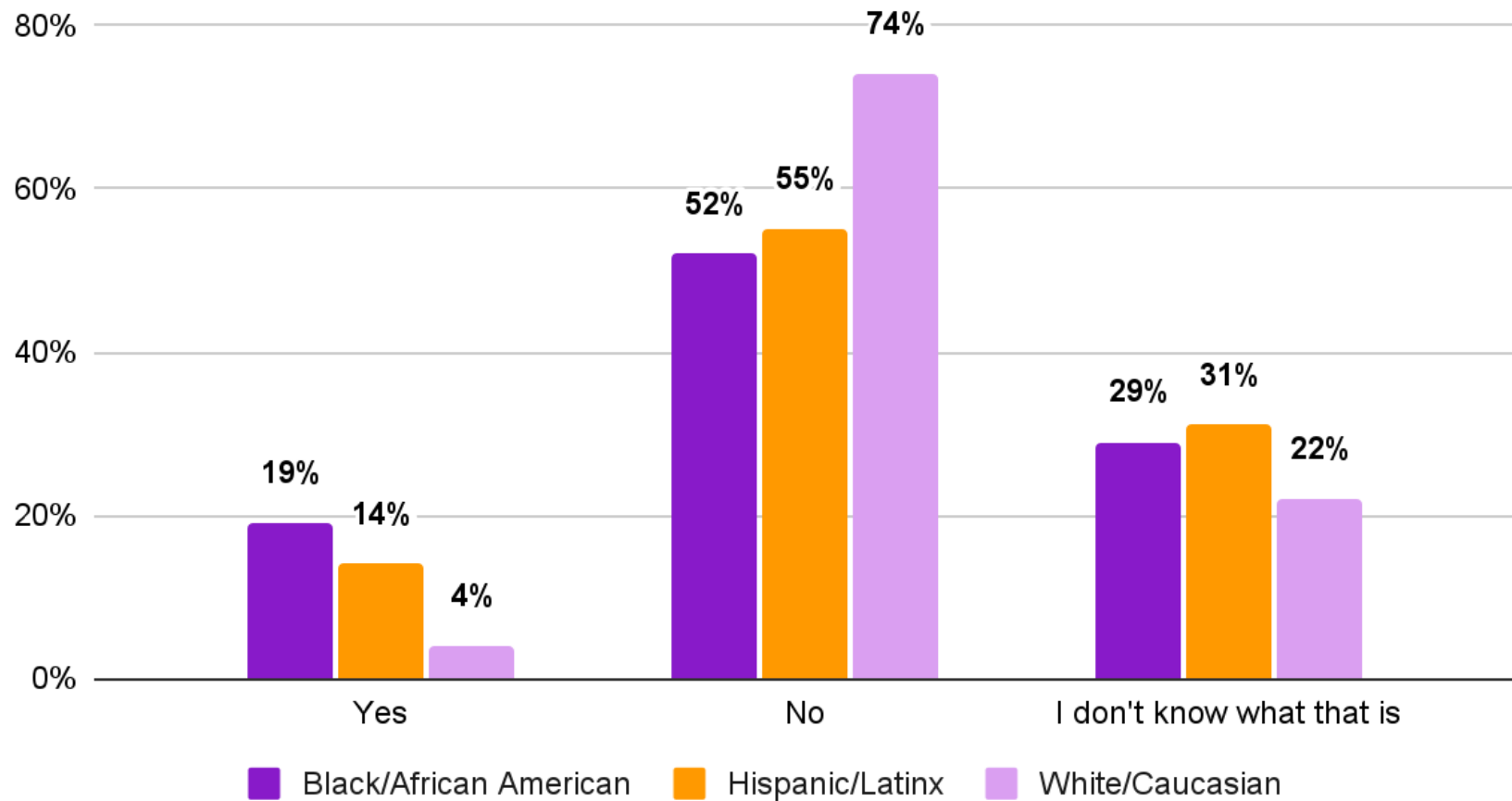
Do you utilize DC's Internet for All program?



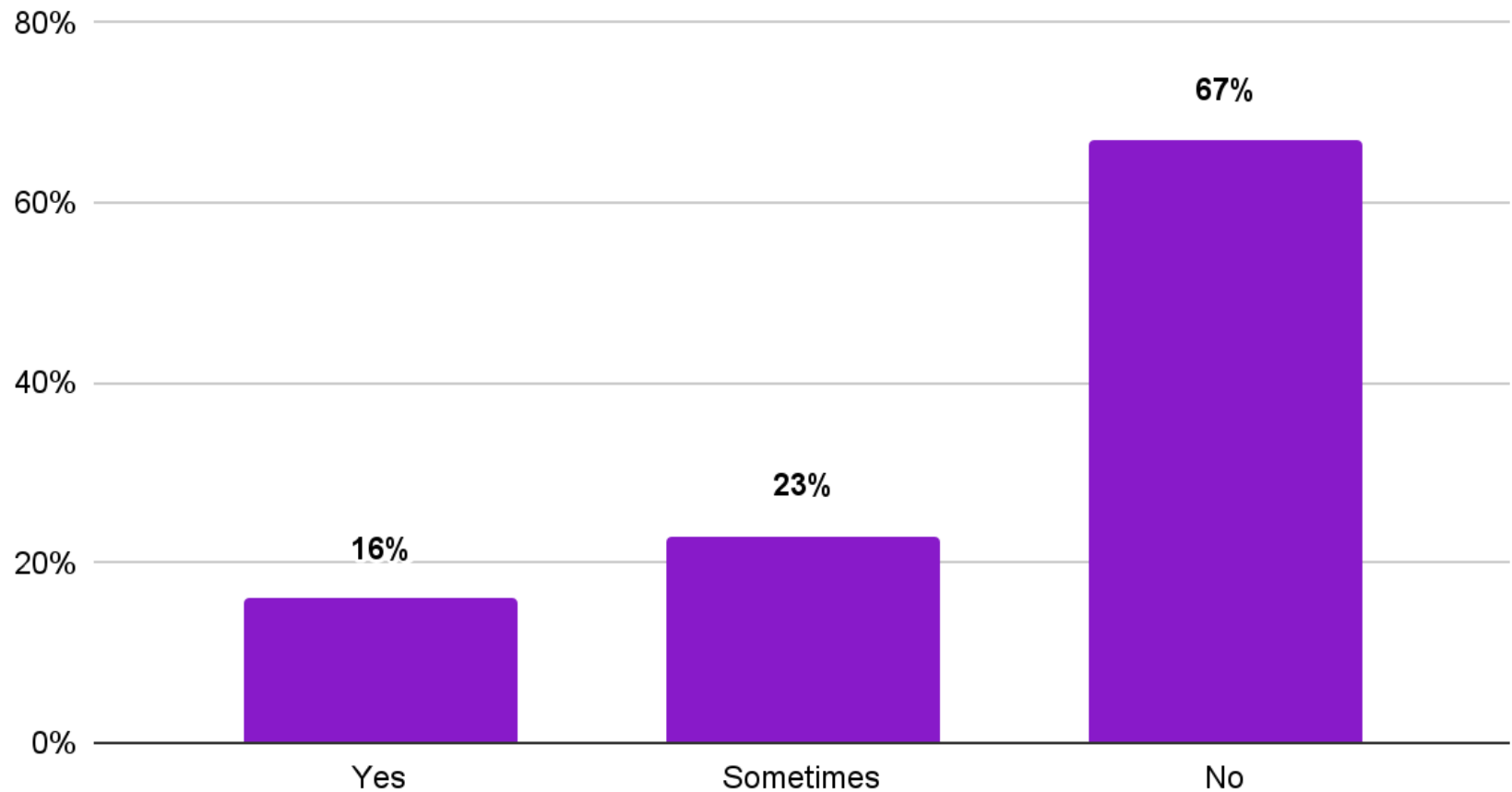
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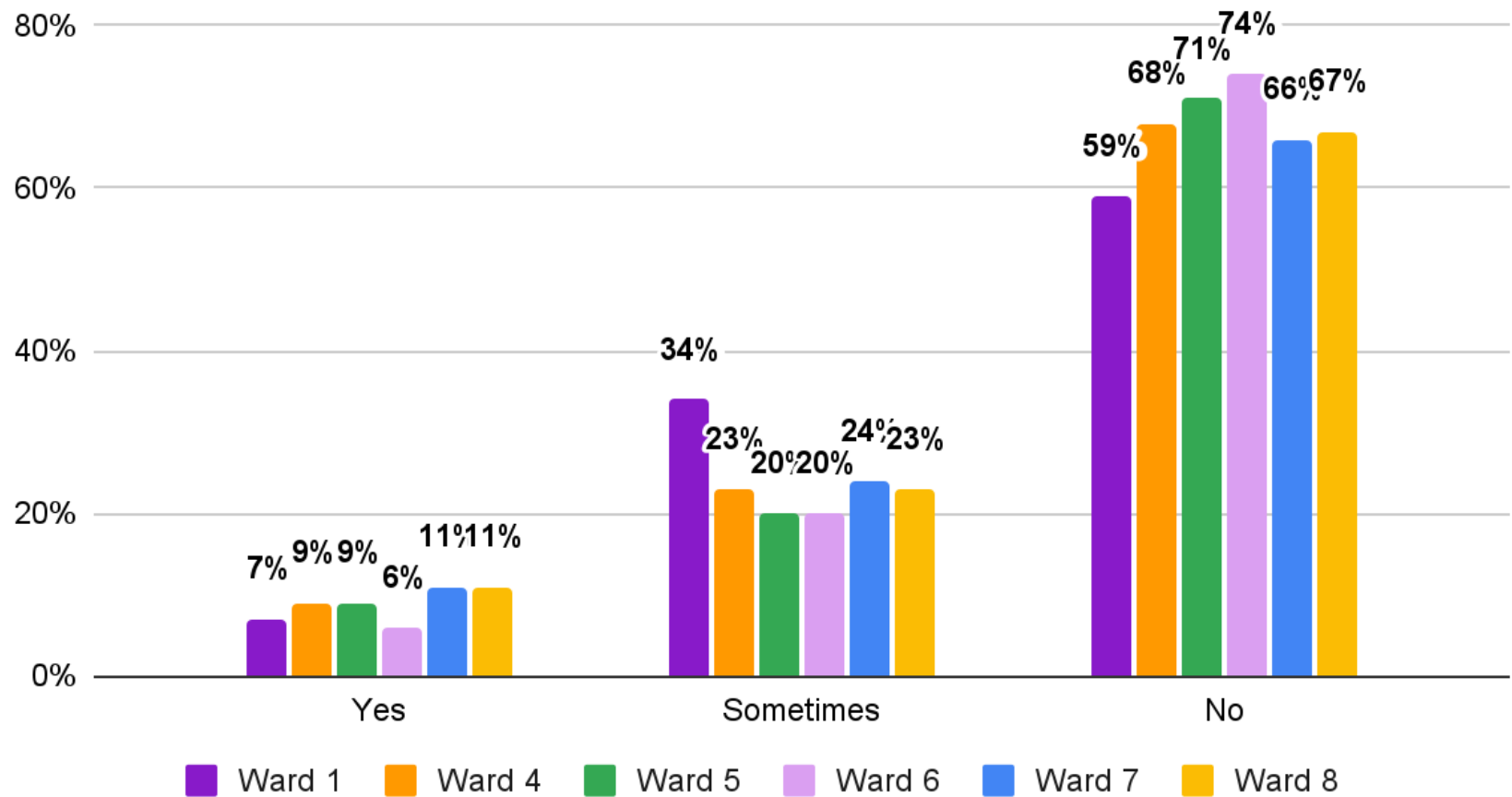
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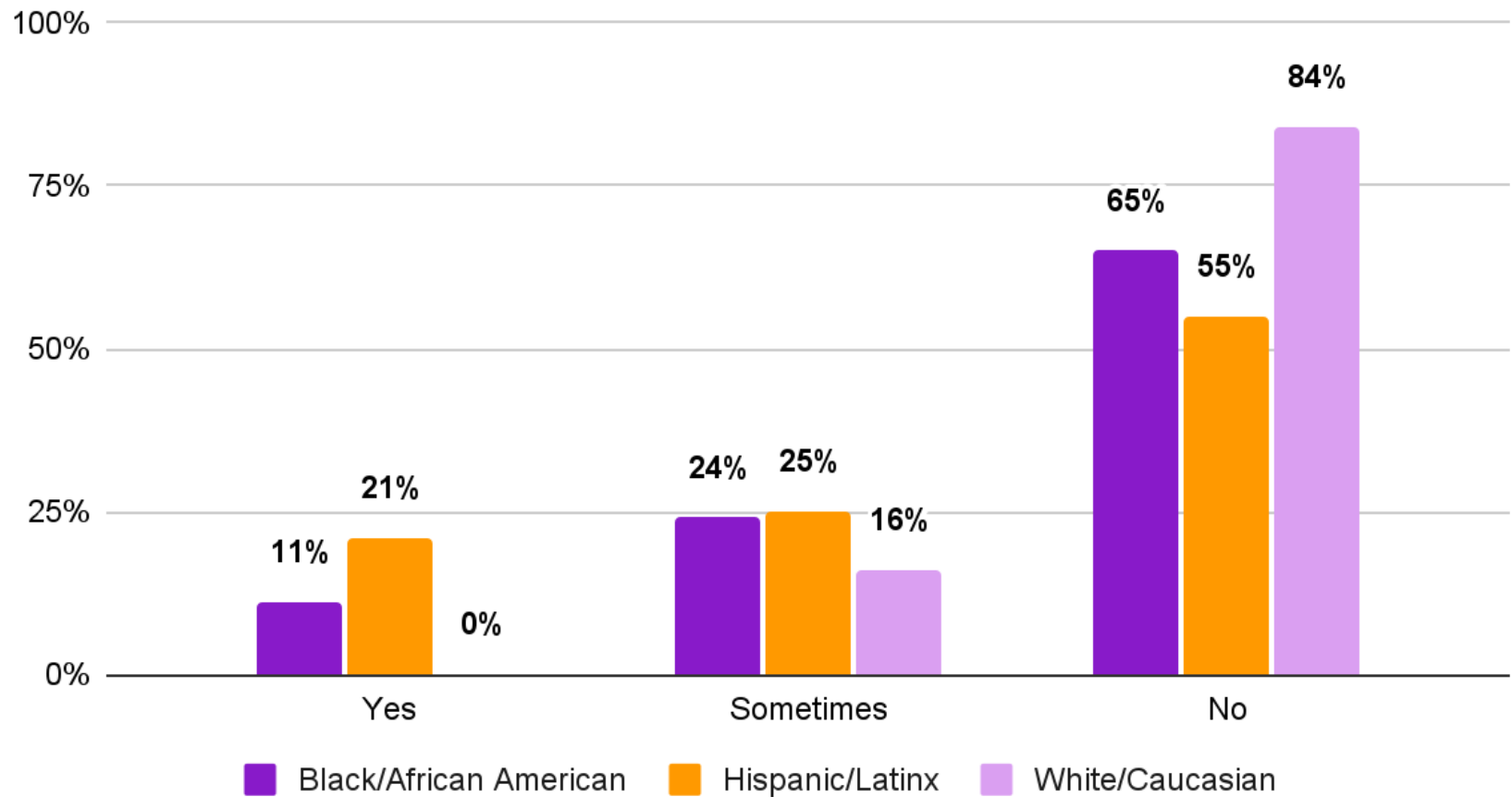
Do you rely on a hotspot for internet access?



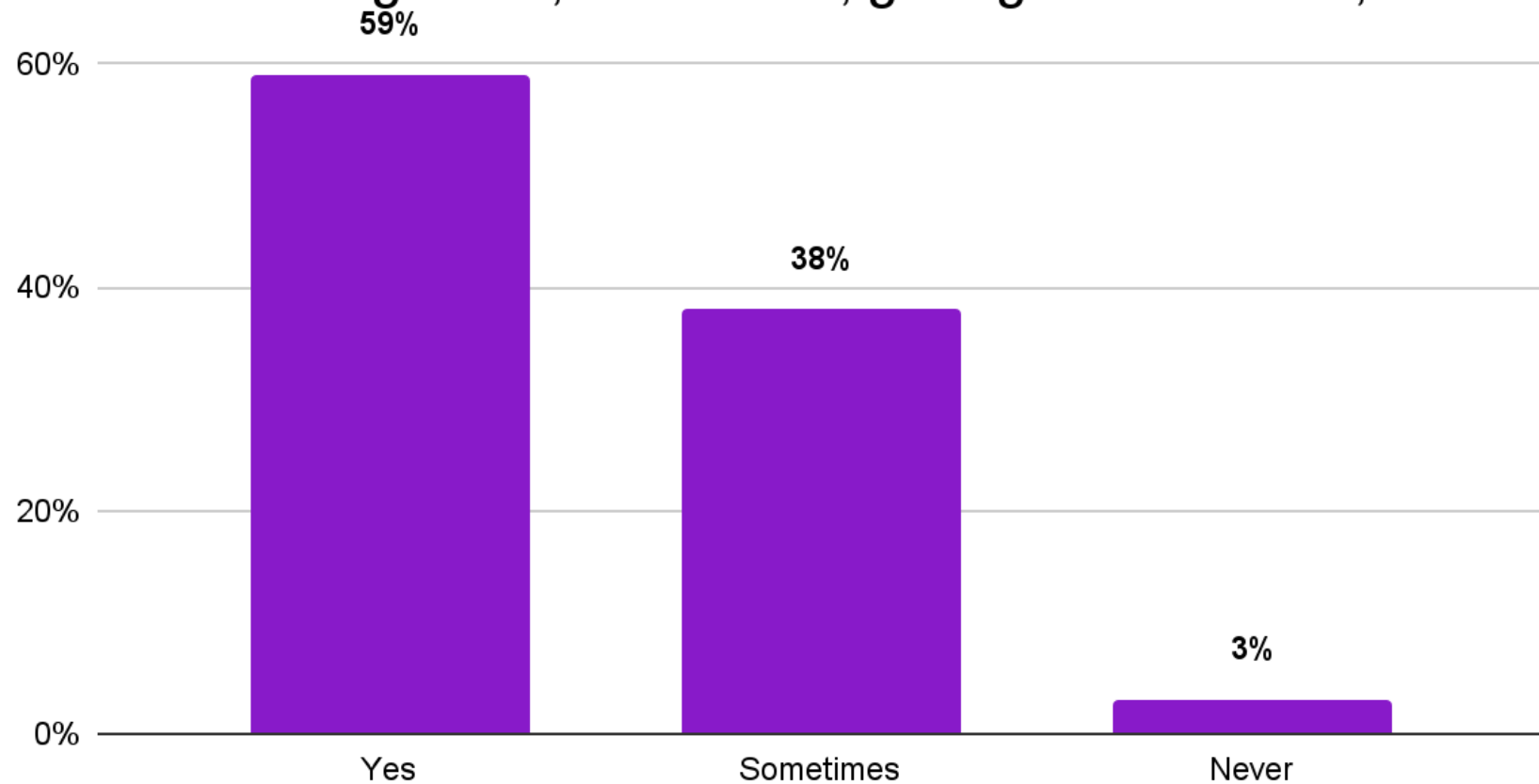
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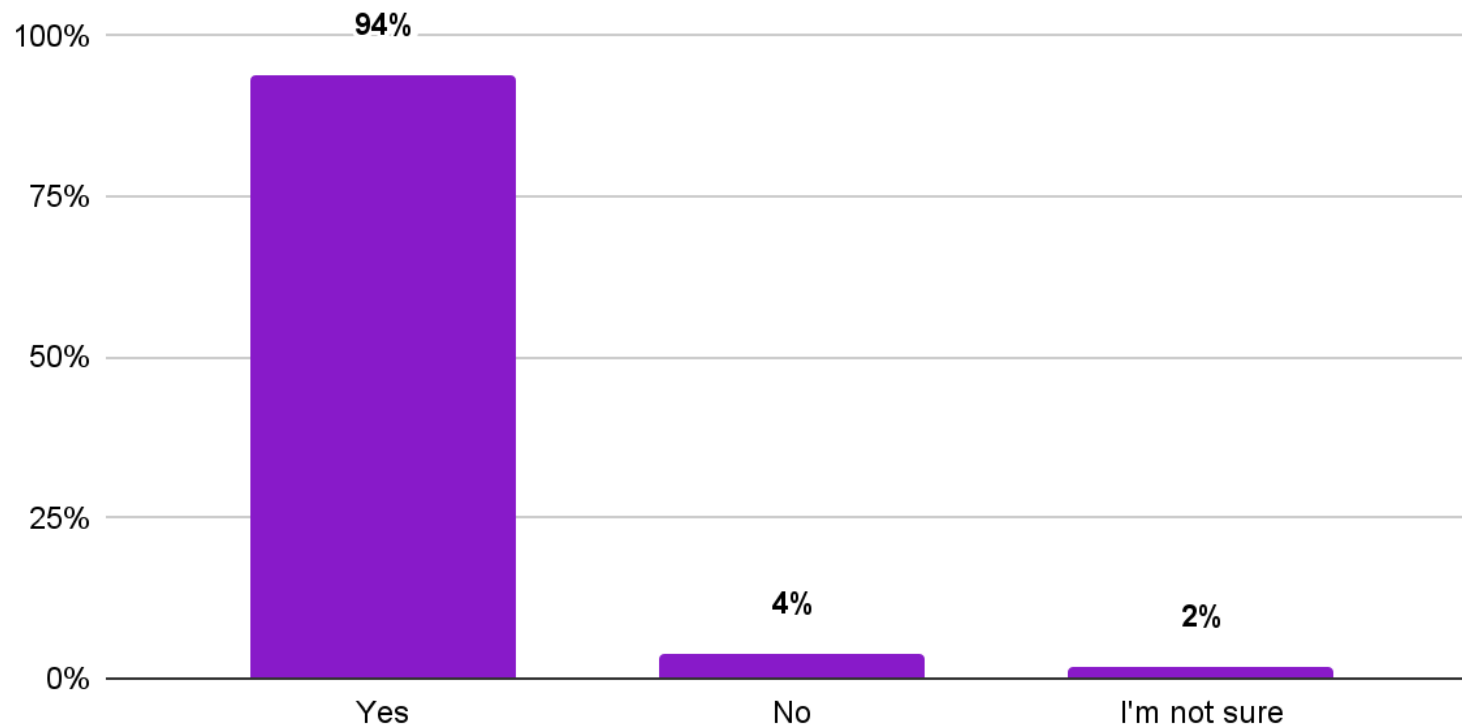


Is everyone in your family able to use the internet when they need it without glitches, slowdowns, getting disconnected, etc?

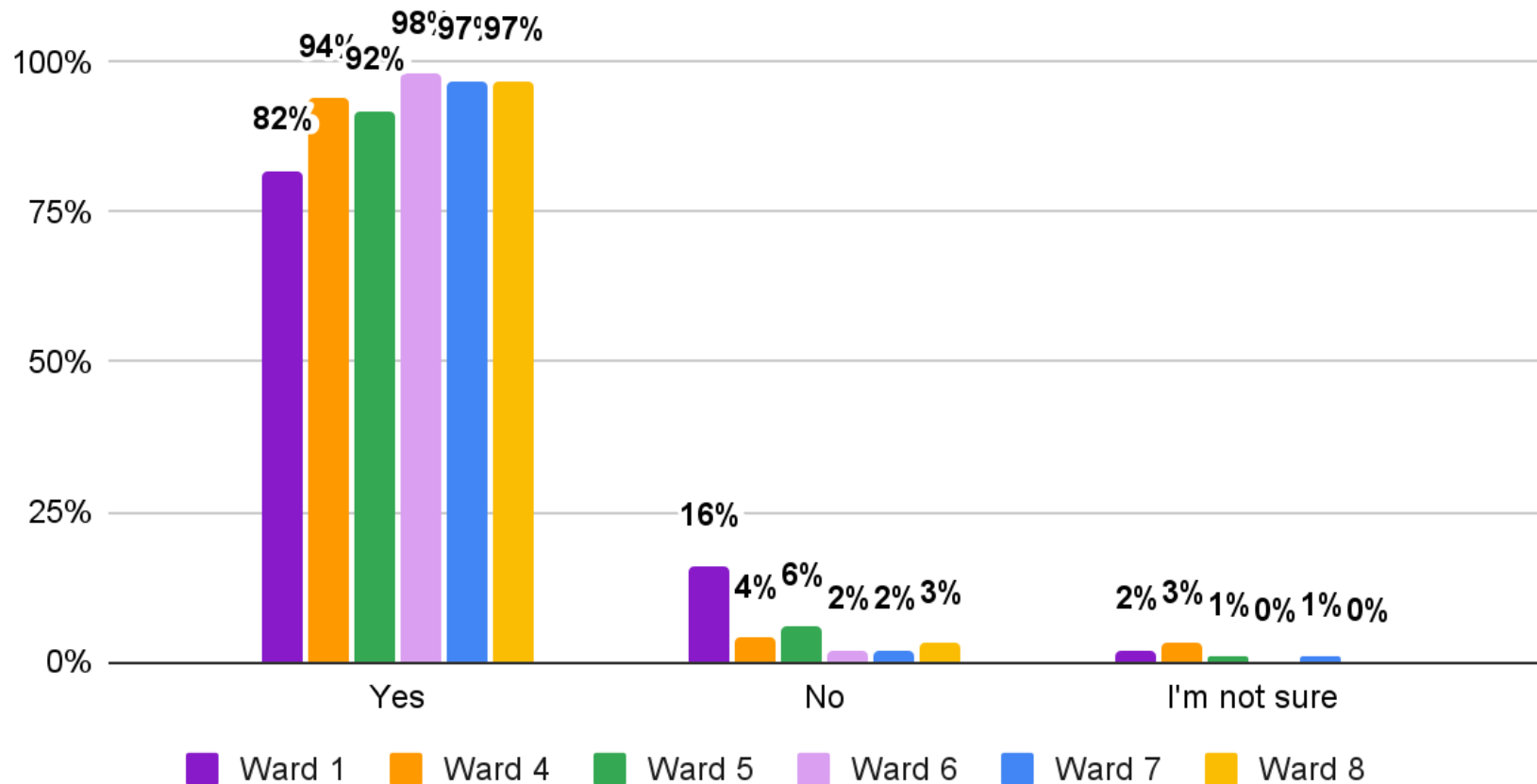


Health Care

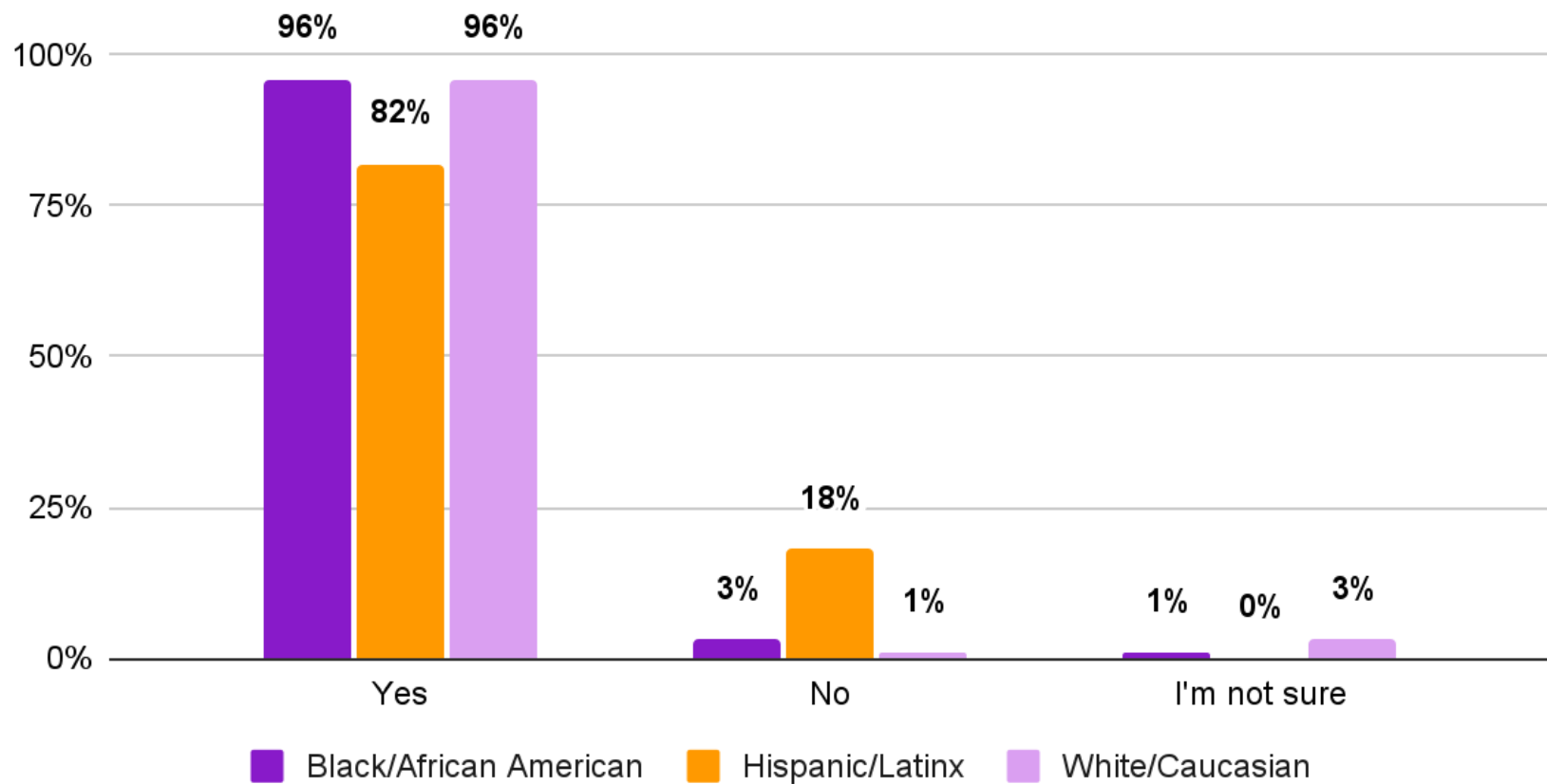
Does everyone in your household have health insurance at this time?



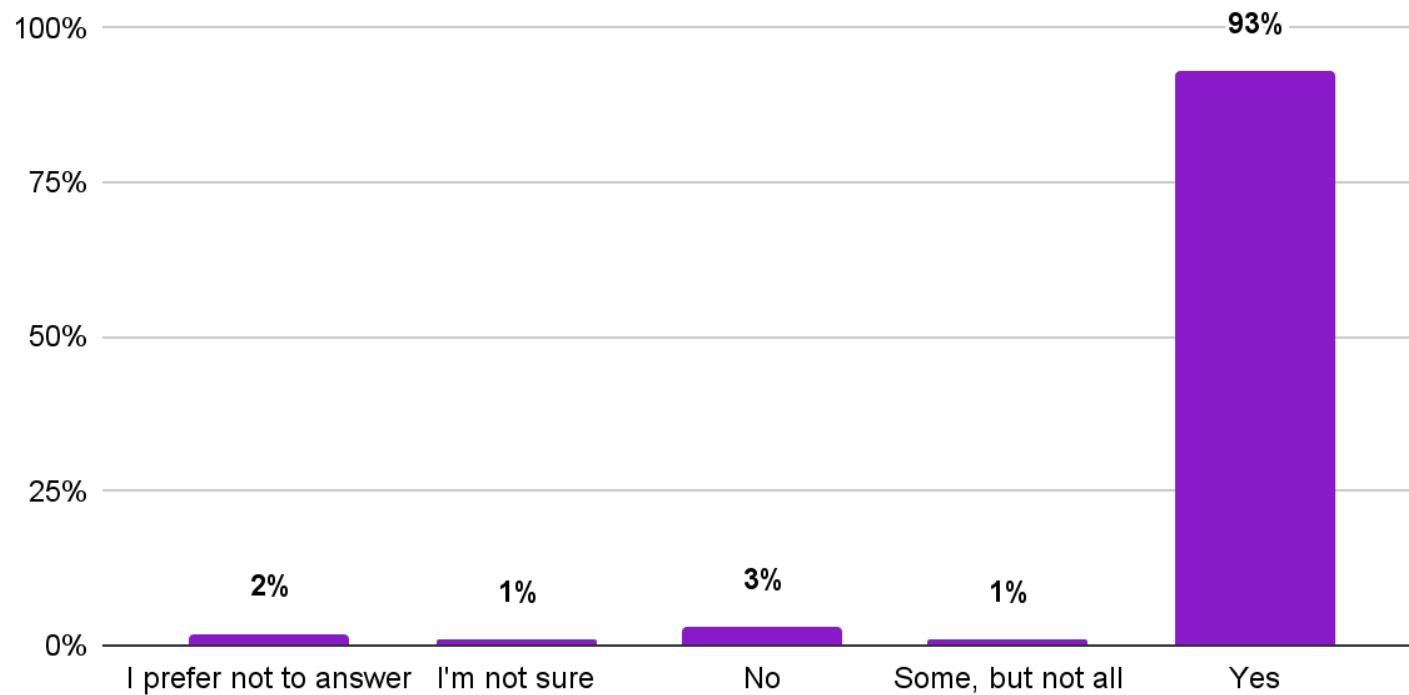
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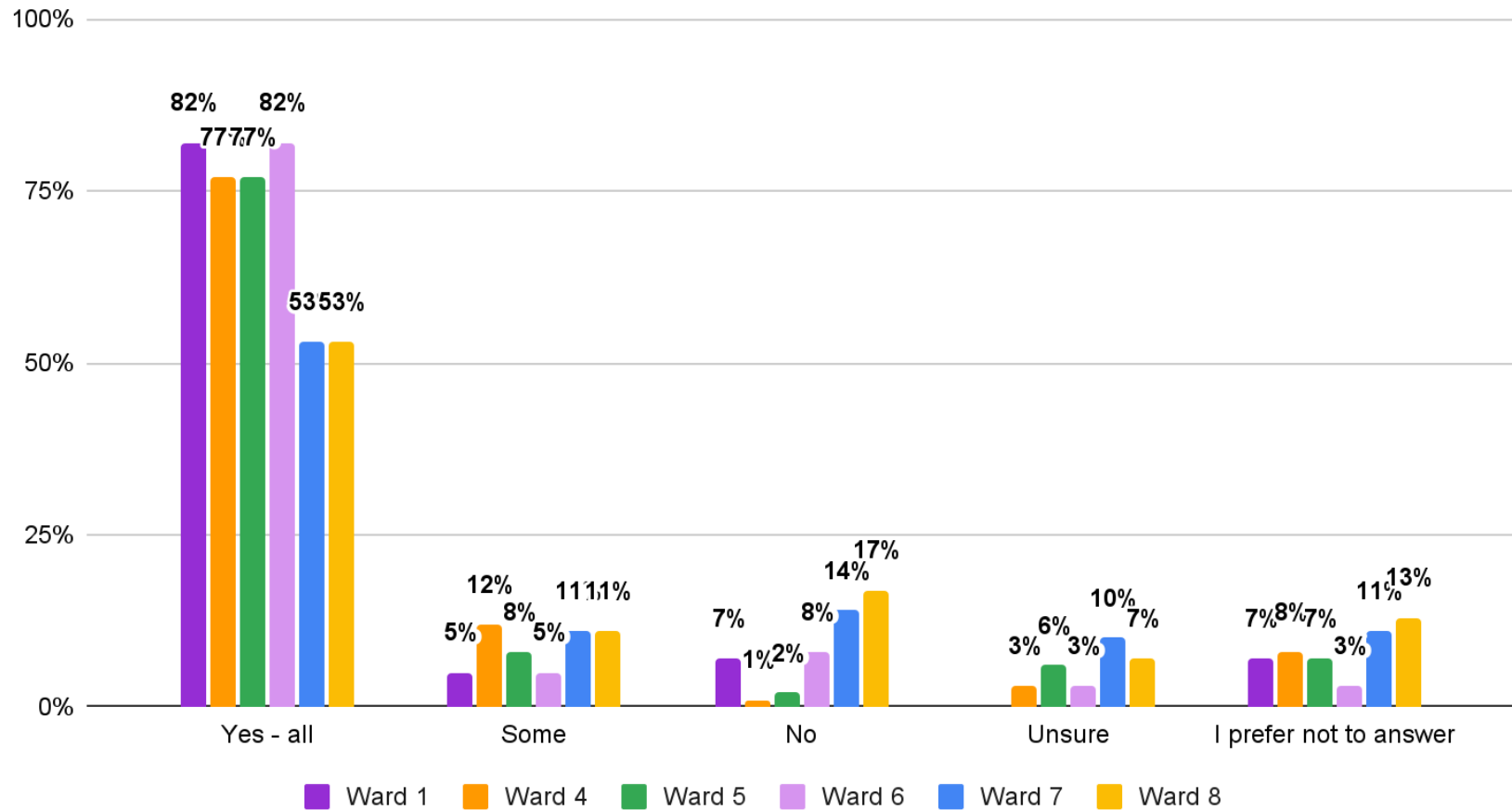
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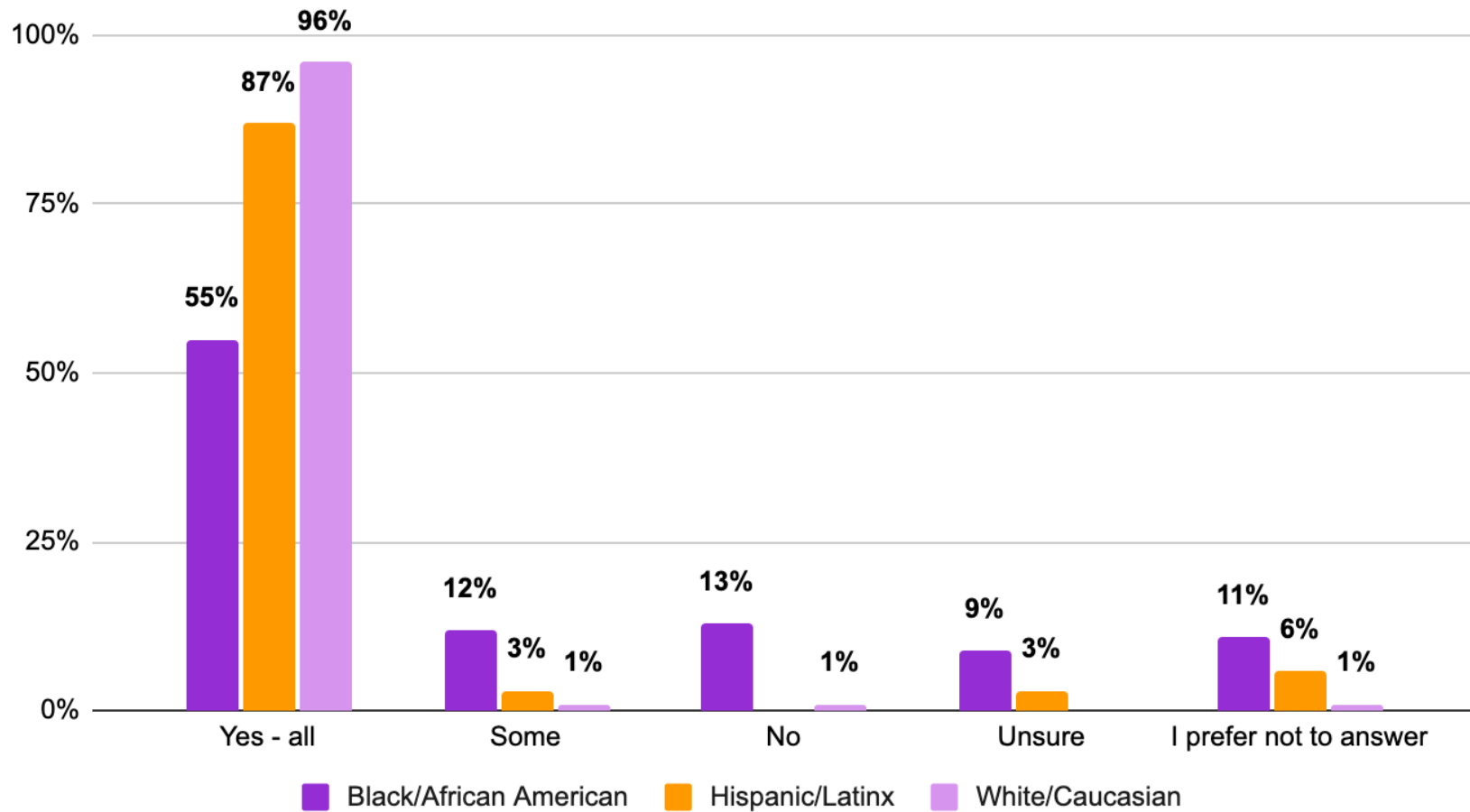
Are your children up to date on required shots/immunizations for school, like tetanus, mumps, measles, etc?



Are adults in your household planning to get the vaccine for COVID-19?



Are adults in your household planning to get the vaccine for COVID-19?



Conclusion

We hope that DC leaders are able to use these insights to drive their decision-making as we look ahead into the new school year. While we are proud of this project, we know that the work doesn't stop here. DC system, school, and community leaders must continue to connect with families in a variety of accessible ways to understand and respond to their experience, meet their needs, and co-create a community-centered, equitable education system. Further, PAVE parent leaders will use these findings to help select their policy priorities in the coming year.

Thank you again to all parent leaders who responded to and shared the survey and to our community partners for their support! We are so grateful to work in coalition with so many powerful advocates and leaders who are working on behalf of #DCKids!

Find out more at @dcpave!