

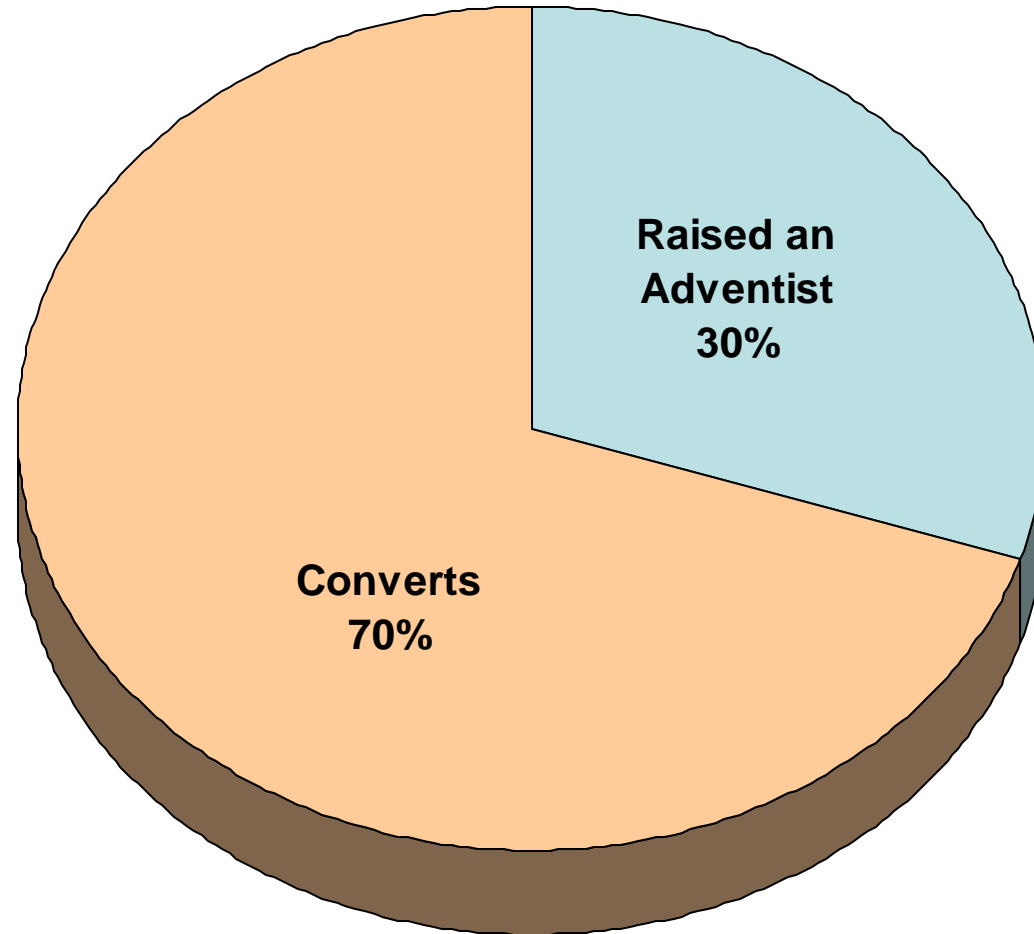
Survey of Former & Inactive Church Members

International Survey conducted for the
GC Archives, Statistics & Research Office
by the Center for Creative Ministry
2013

Source of Information

- A total of 1,053 interviews were conducted in many parts of the world during 2012 and 2013. The interviewers used a standard interview guide that was approved by the General Conference office of Archives, Statistics and Research. The interviewers were Doctor of Ministry graduates of Andrews University who took the class Field Research in Ministry (GSEM730) from Monte Sahlin and have participated in research projects both as graduate students and since graduating, as well as experienced staff interviewers. The standard allowance for sampling error for a sample of this size is three percentage points, plus or minus.

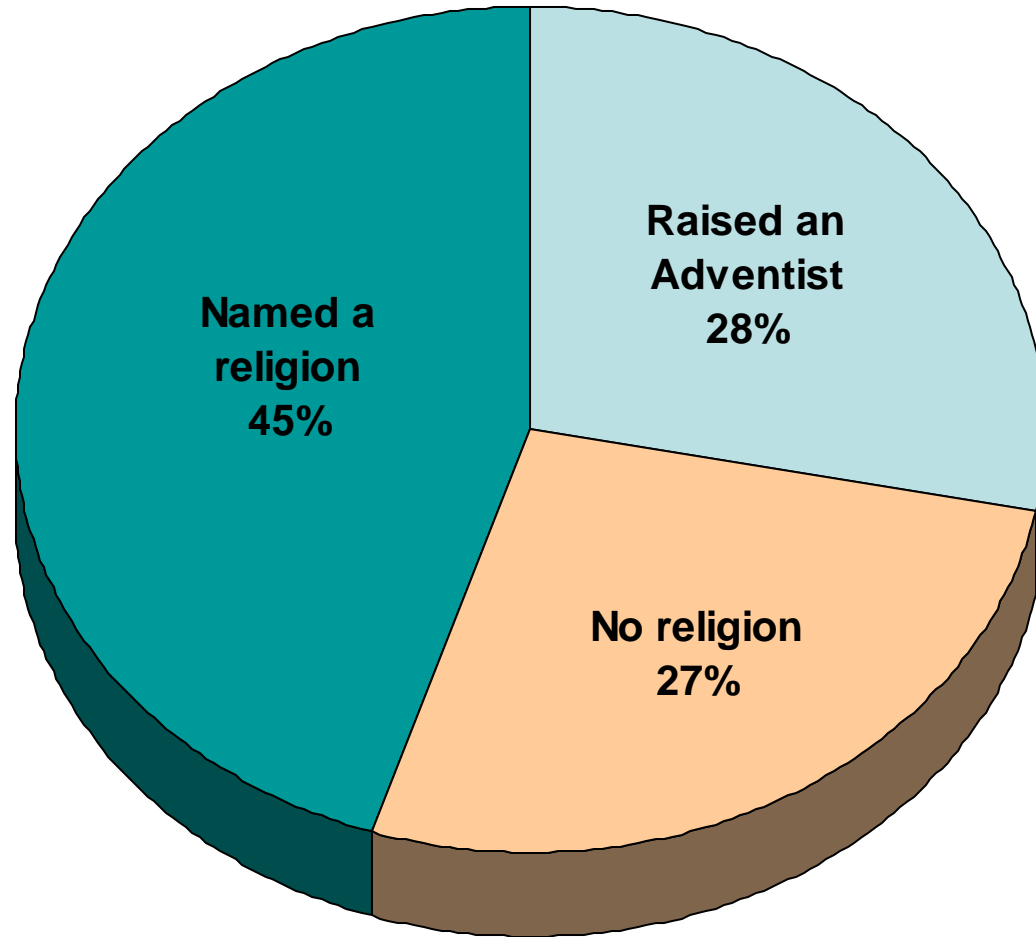
How their Relationship with the Adventist Church Began



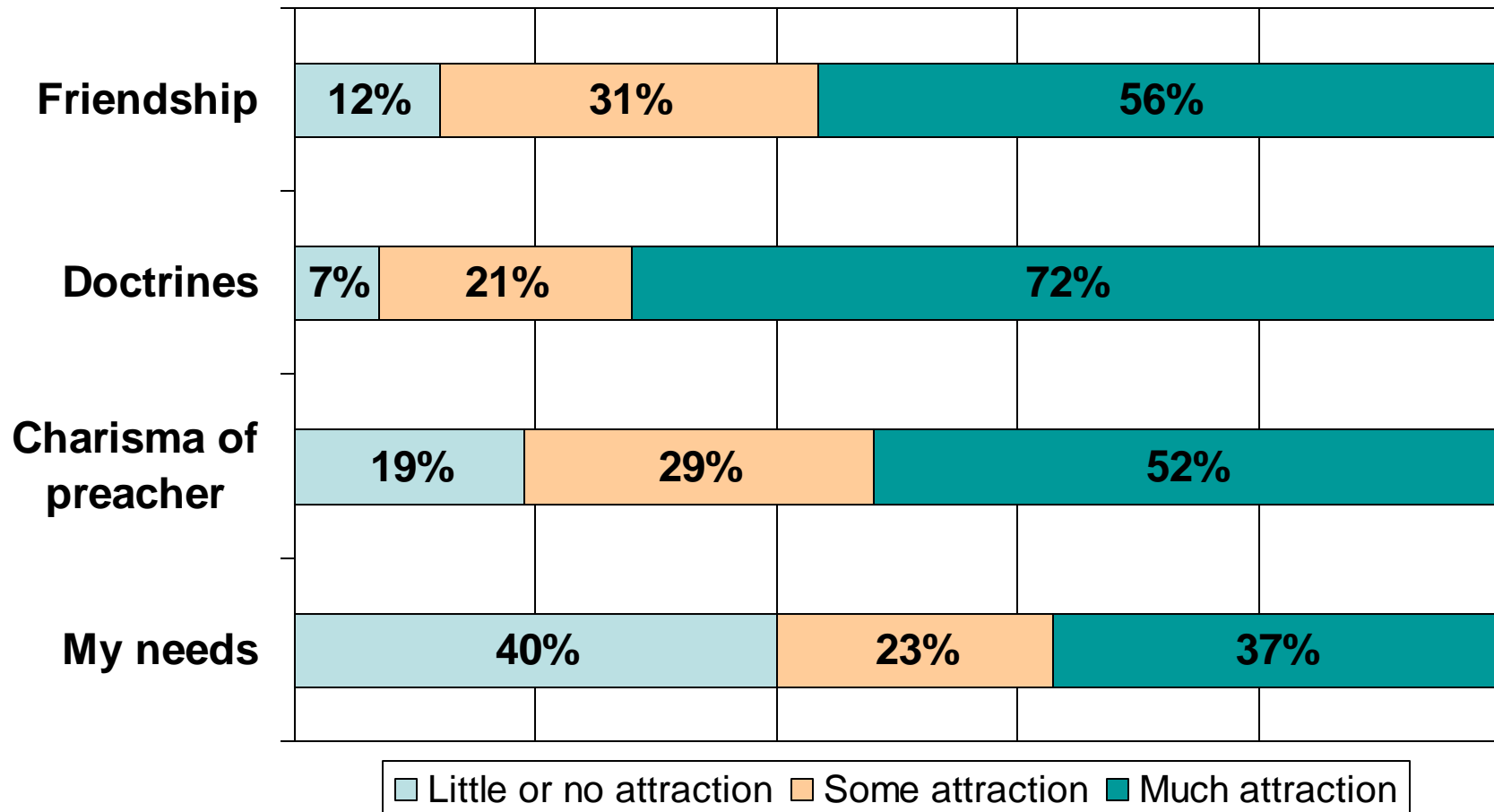
First Contact with the Seventh-day Adventist Church

- 30% Raised as an Adventist
- 28% Through a friend, relative, neighbor or coworker
- 23% Through public evangelism
- 8% Someone going door to door
- 4% Through an Adventist school
- 4% From literature
- 2% Humanitarian and health ministries
- 2% Through an Adventist institution
- 1% From a music group
- 1% From the Internet
- >0% From a radio or television ministry
- 4% Other things

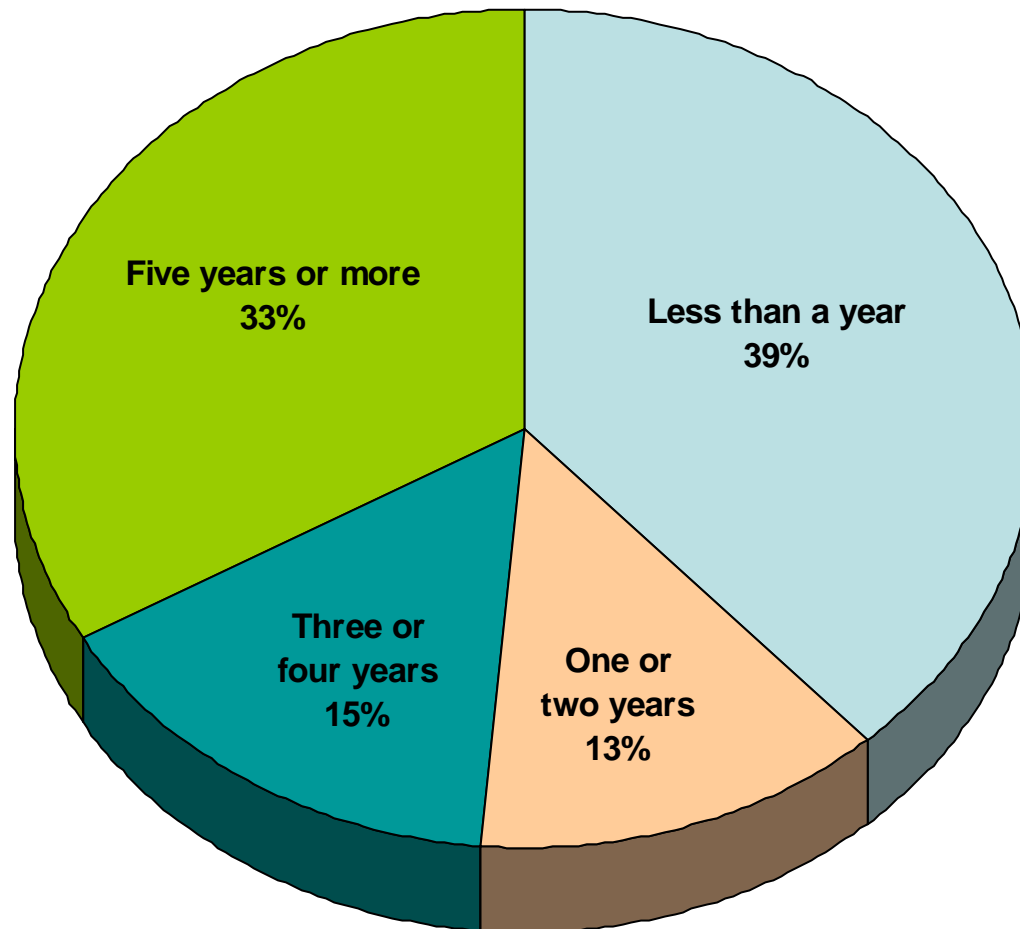
Religion Before Joining the Seventh-day Adventist Church



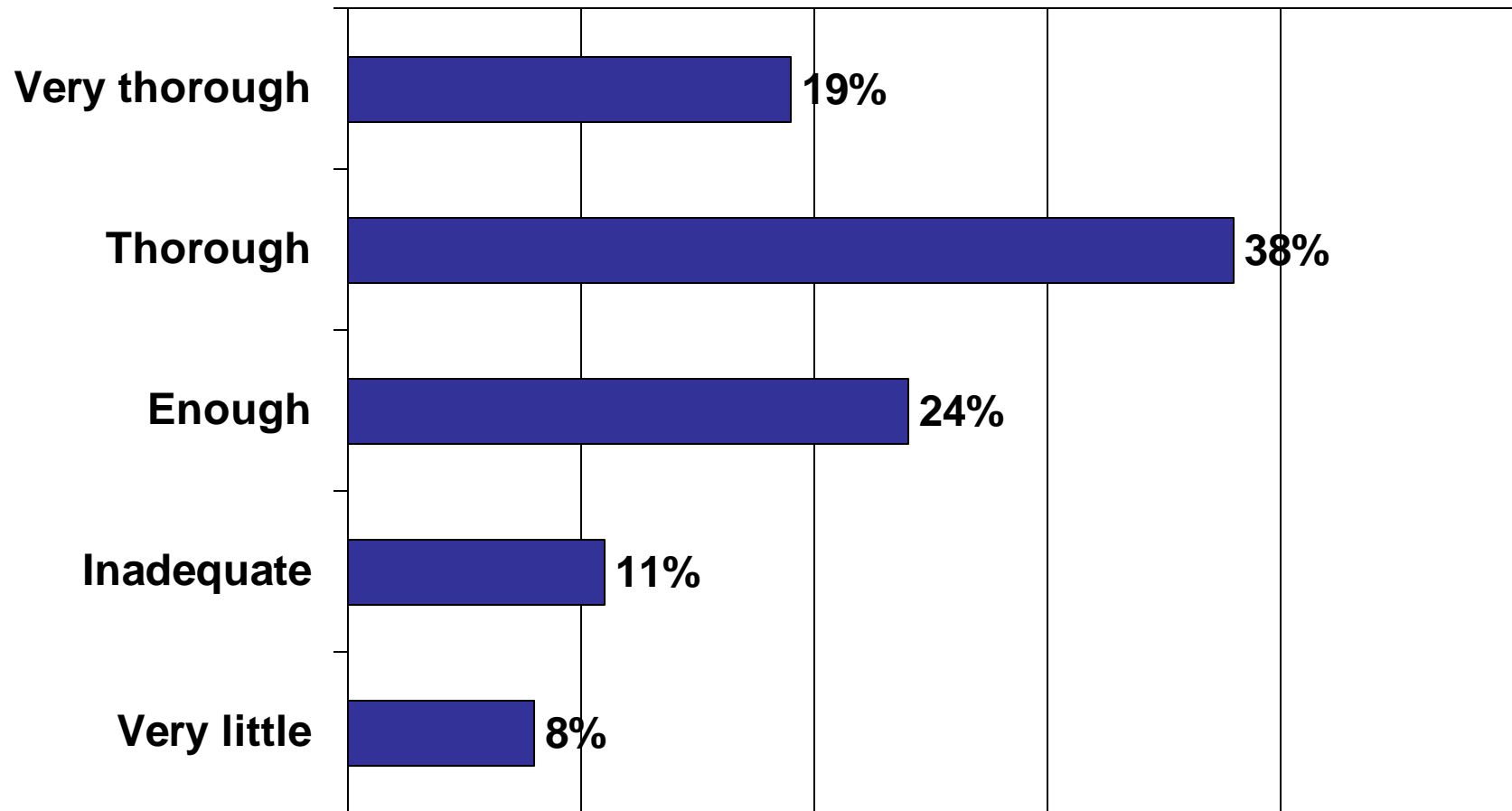
What most attracted you when you decided to join the Adventist Church?



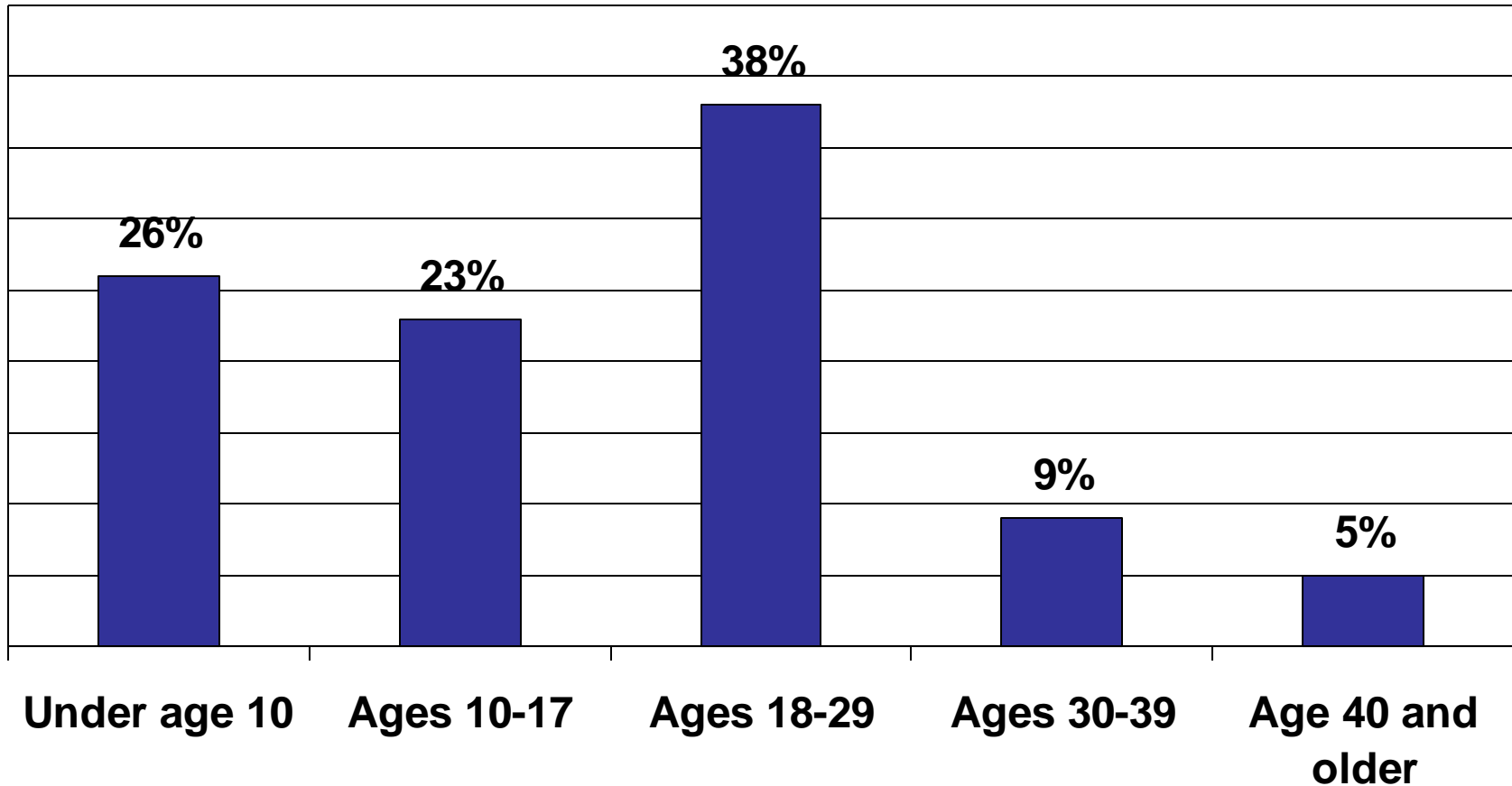
Time from First Contact to Baptism



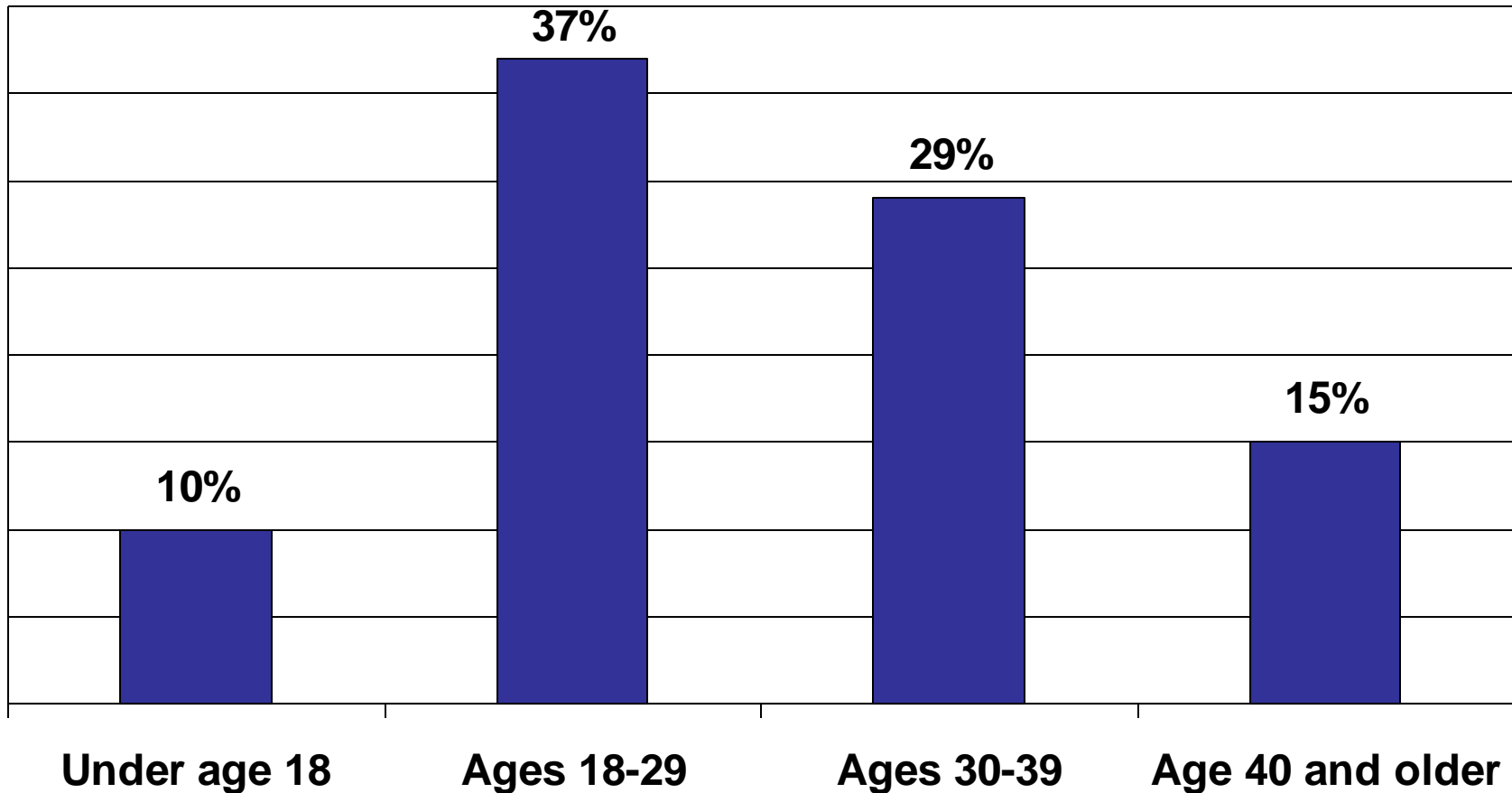
How would you describe the instruction given when you joined the church?



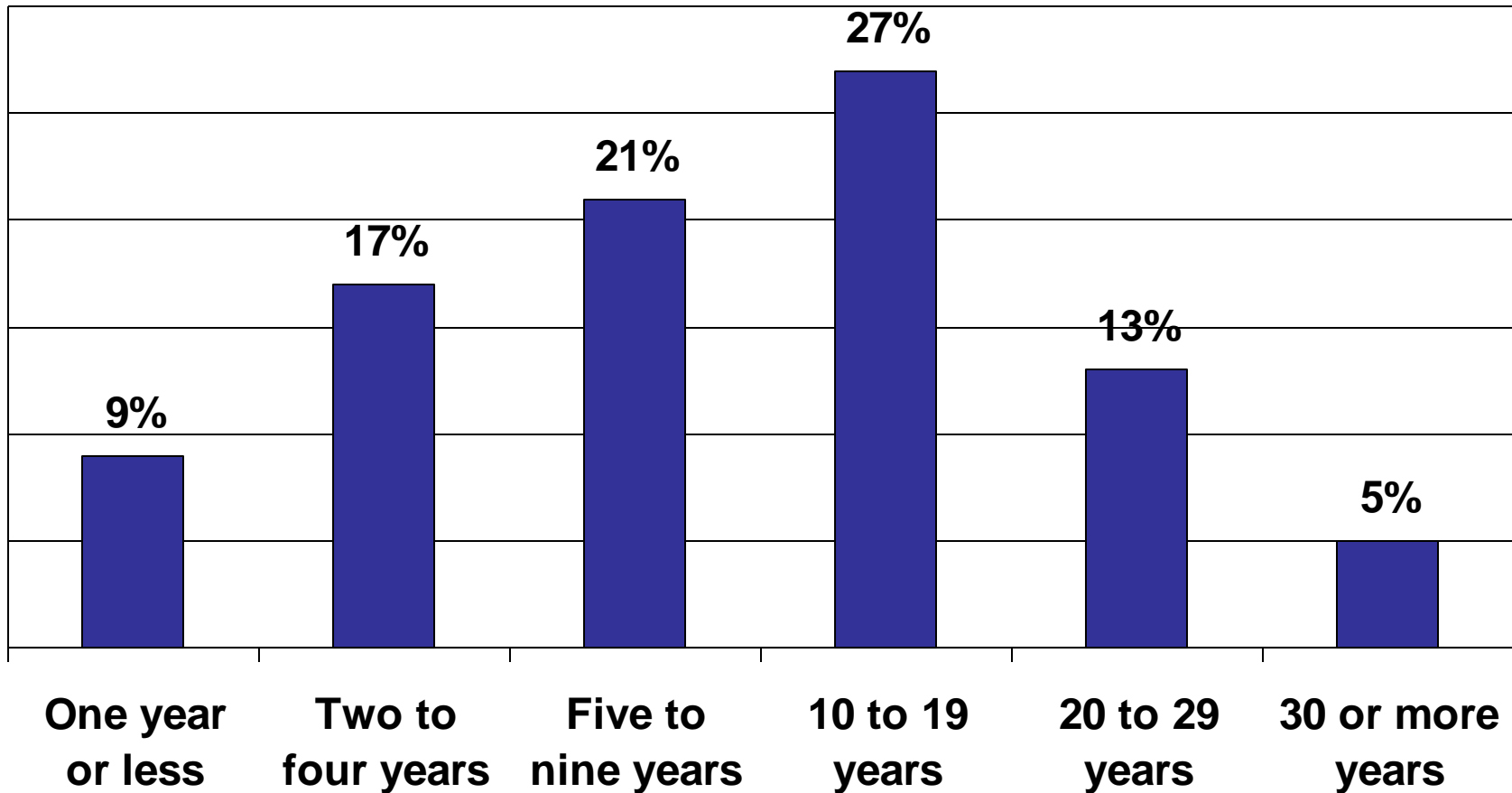
Age When First Started Attending the Adventist Church



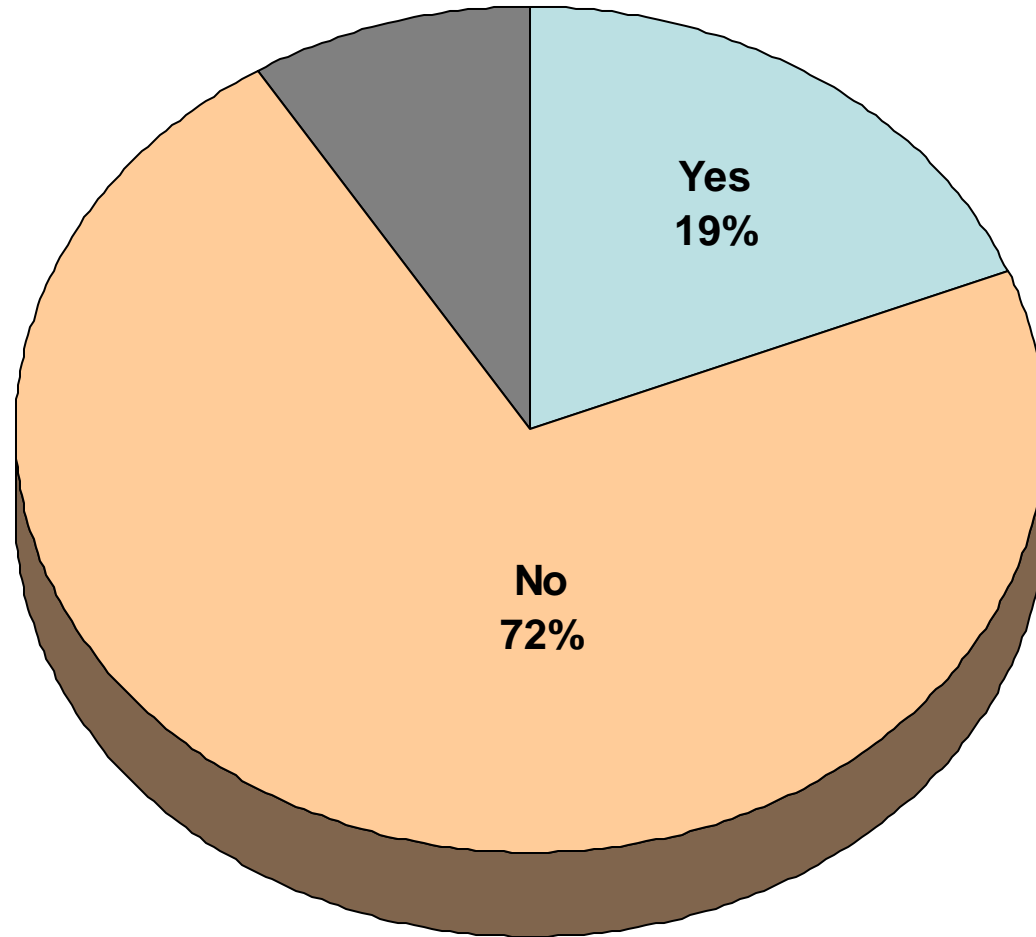
Age When Stopped Attending the Adventist Church



Number of Years Regularly Attended an Adventist Church

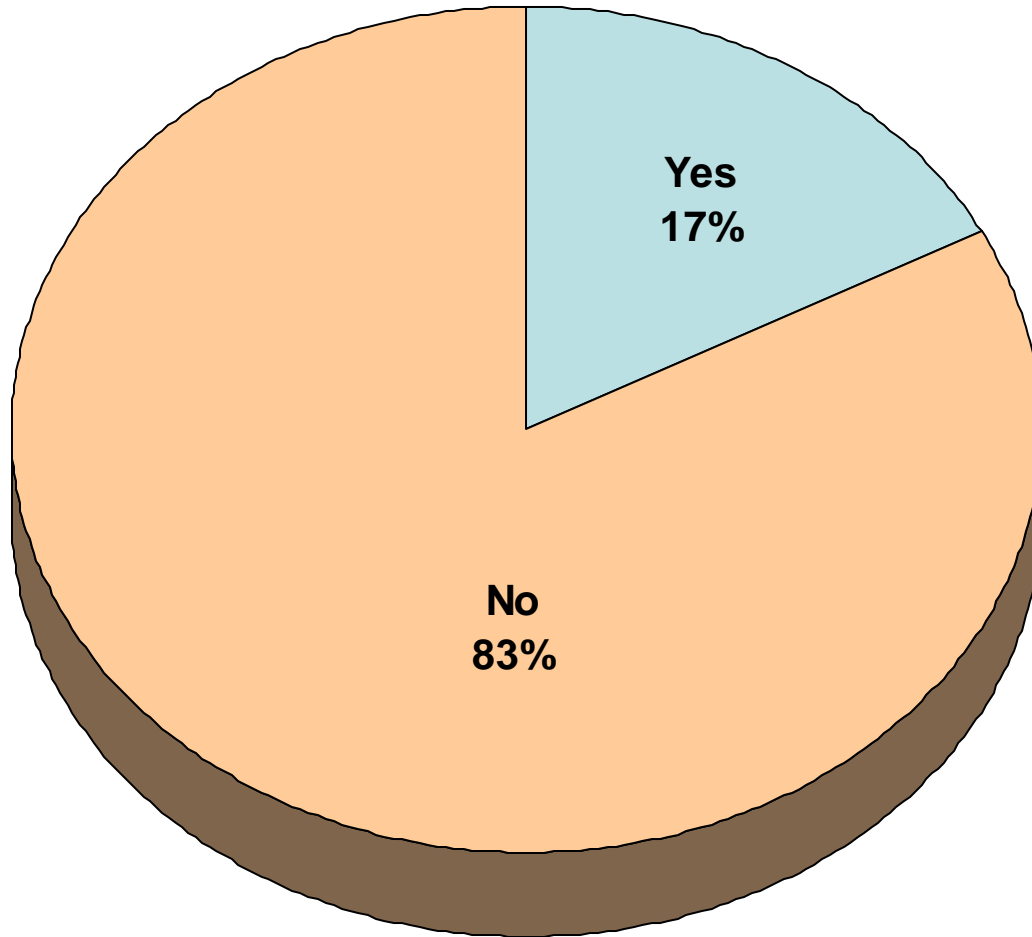


Held a Volunteer Leadership Role in the Adventist Church

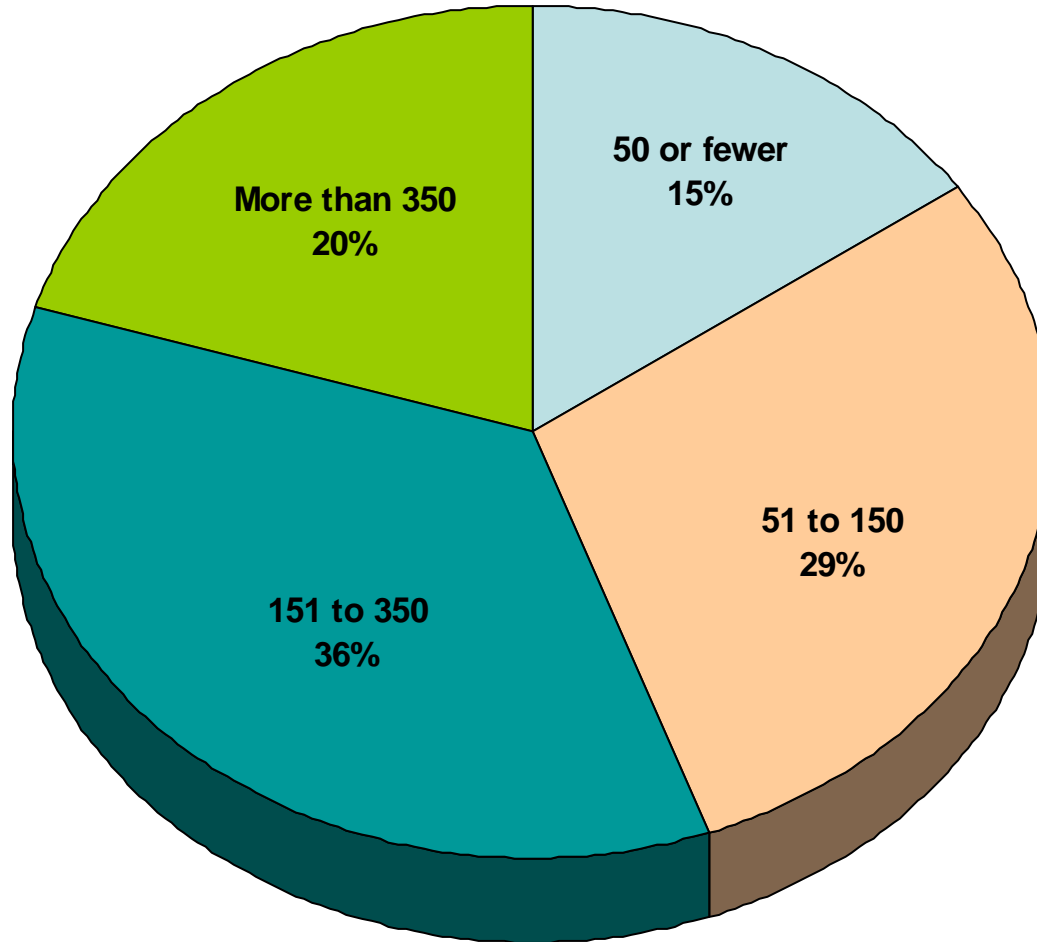


About eight percent of the interviewees could not remember.

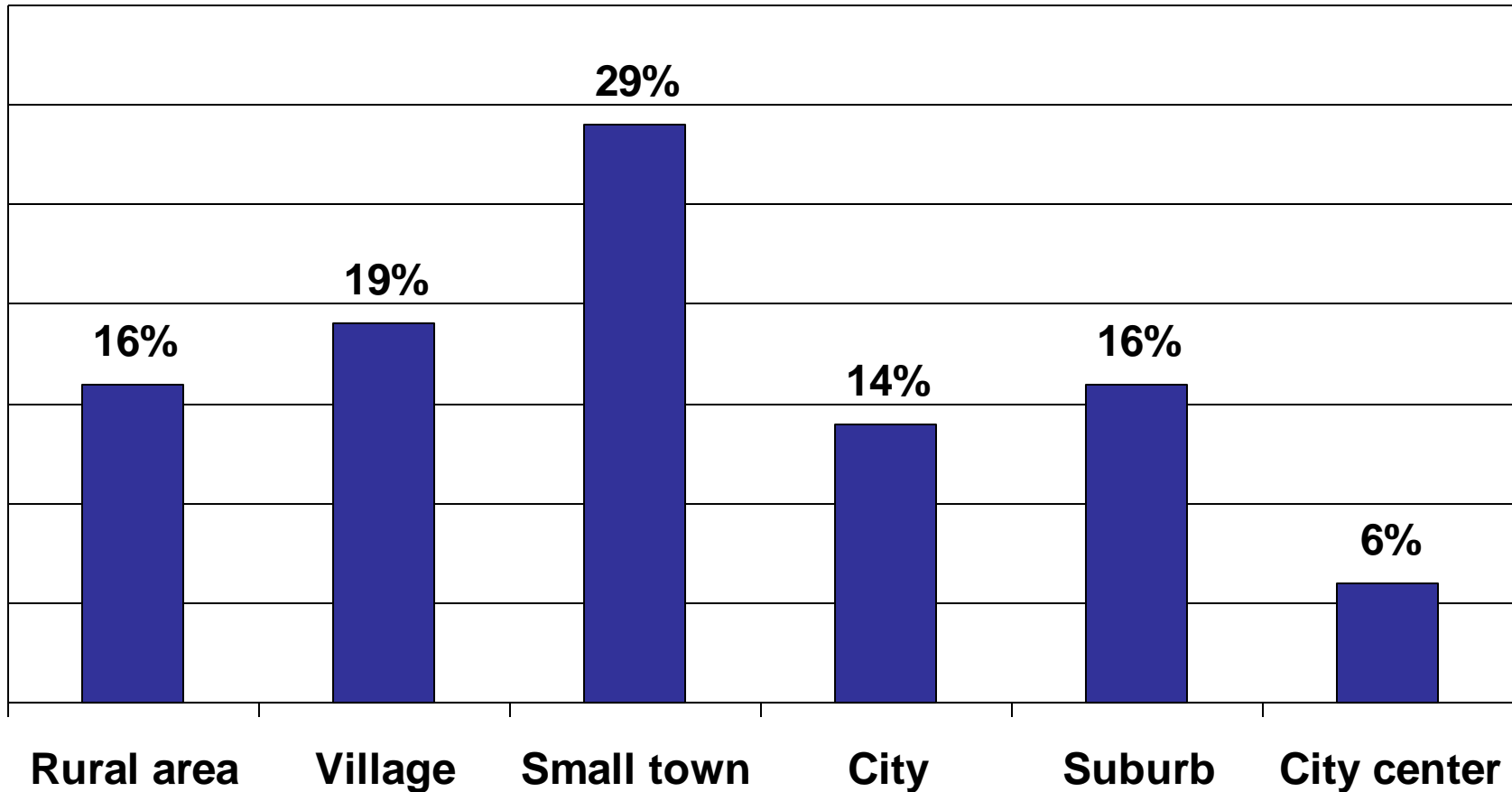
Attended an Adventist School



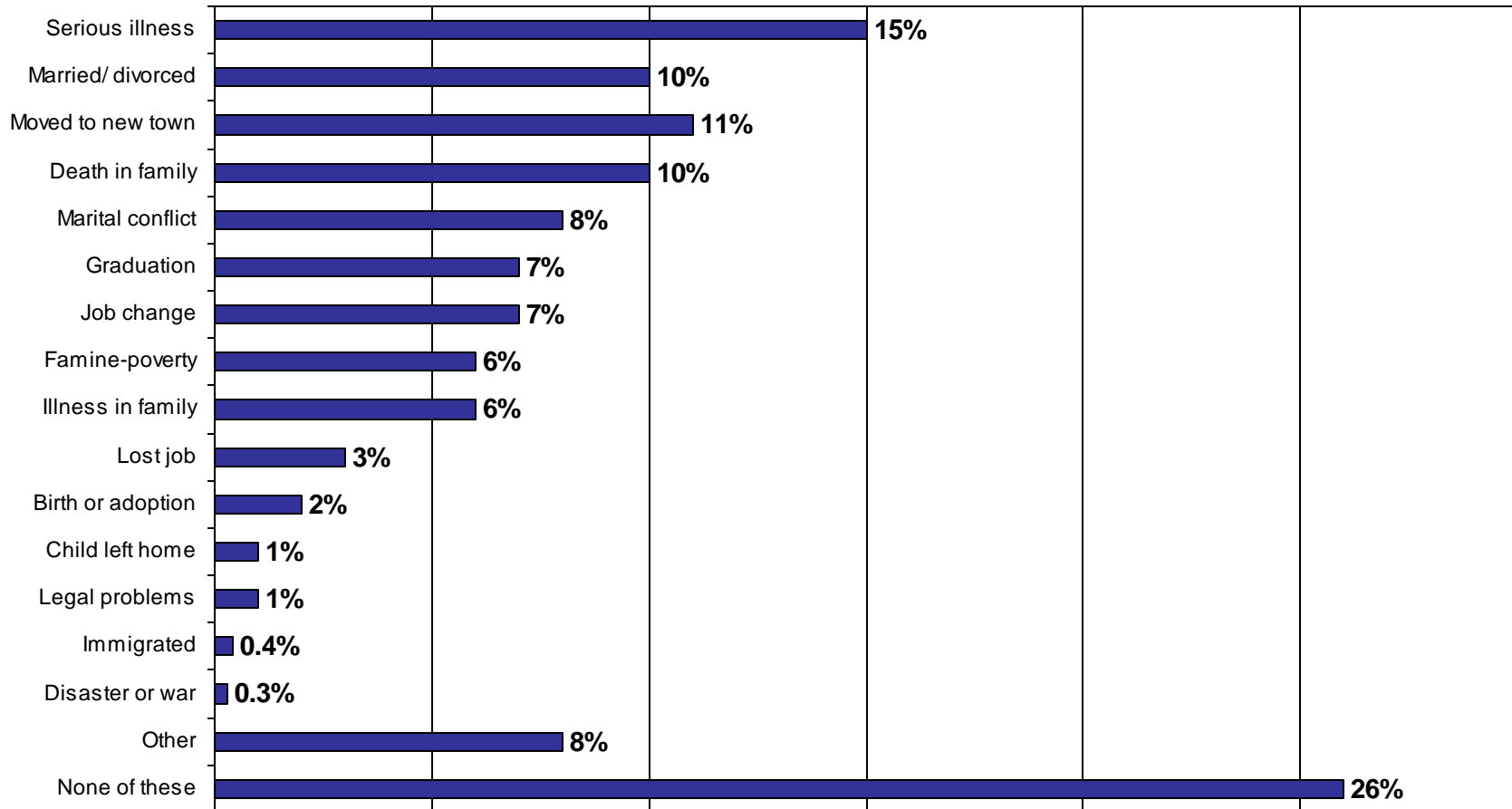
Typical Attendance of the Local Church Last Attended



Community Context of the Local Church they Last Attended



Life Events in the Year Leading Up to Decision to Stop Attending



What Happened When They Stopped Attending Church

- 40% No one contacted me
- 19% A church member came to visit me
- 17% A local elder came to visit me
- 15% A local church member contacted me by phone
- 10% An Adventist relative made contact
- 9% The pastor came to visit me
- 6% The pastor contacted me by phone or Email
- 3% An Adventist, not a local member contacted me
- 2% I received a letter in the mail
- 0.3% Printed material was mailed to me

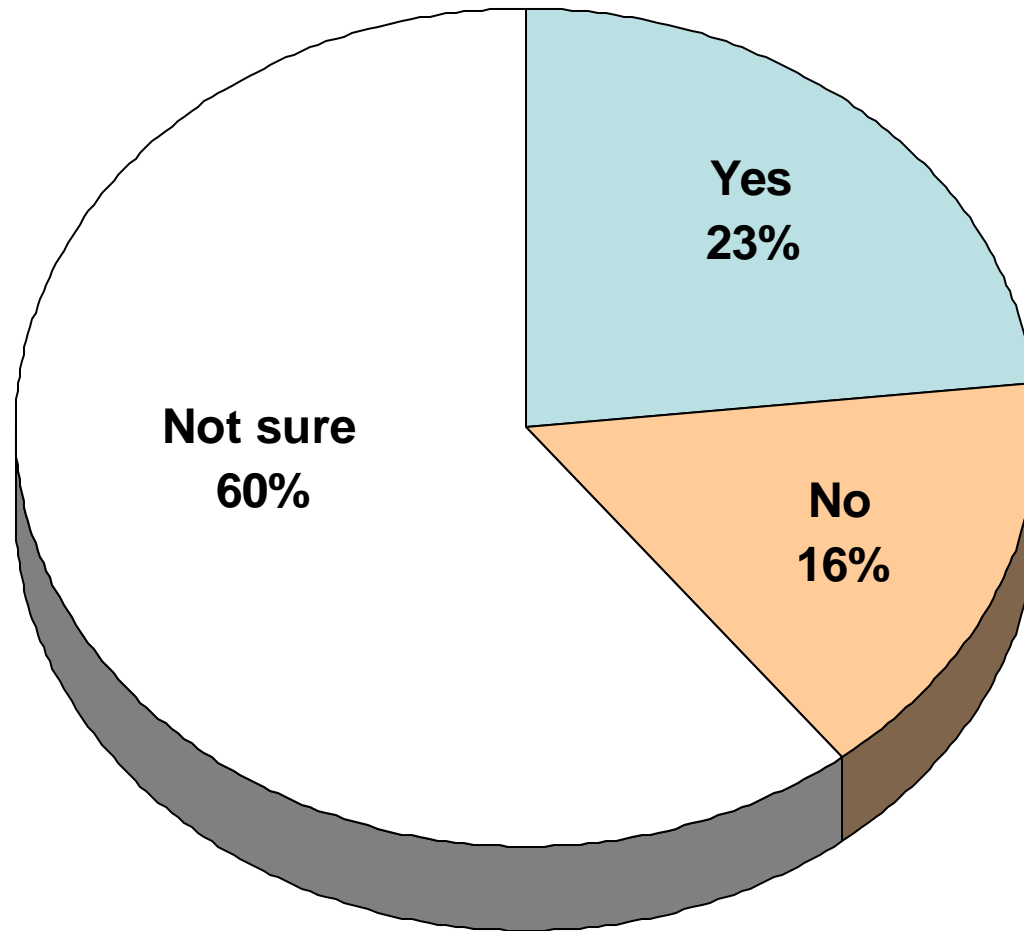
Most Important Reasons Why Decided to Stop Attending

- 28% No big issue; I just drifted away
- 25% Lack of compassion for the hurting
- 19% Moral failure on my part
- 18% I did not fit in
- 14% Too much focus on minor issues
- 13% Conflict in the congregation
- 12% Moral failures of members
- 11% Moral failures of leaders
- 11% Pressure from family or friends
- 10% Race, ethnic or tribal issues

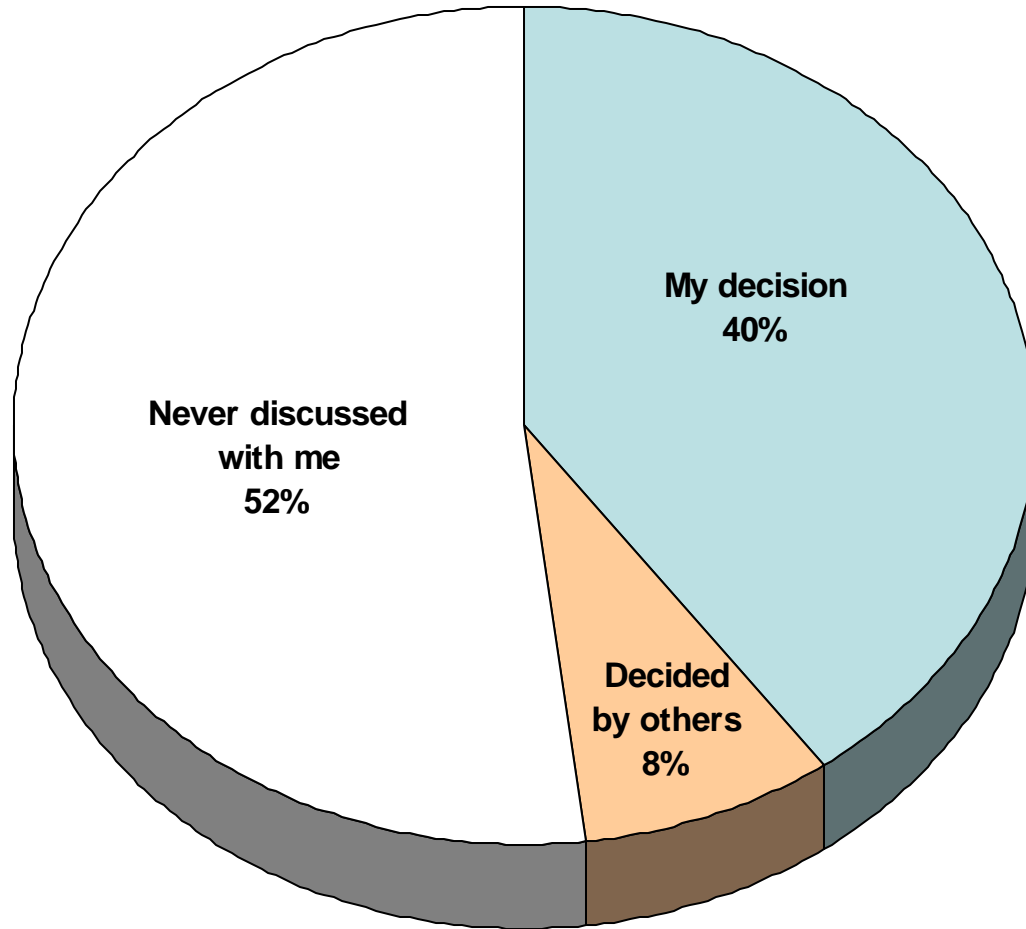
Most Important Reasons Why Decided to Stop Attending

- 8% Few members of my age group
- 7% Legalistic attitudes
- 6% Pastor was dictatorial
- 6% Church did not do much to help the poor
- 5% I did not believe some doctrines
- 5% Unrealistic demands on members
- 4% Low standards
- 3% The worship was not very spiritual
- 3% Too much asking for money
- 2% Church voted to drop me from membership
- 1% Apostate ideas were promoted

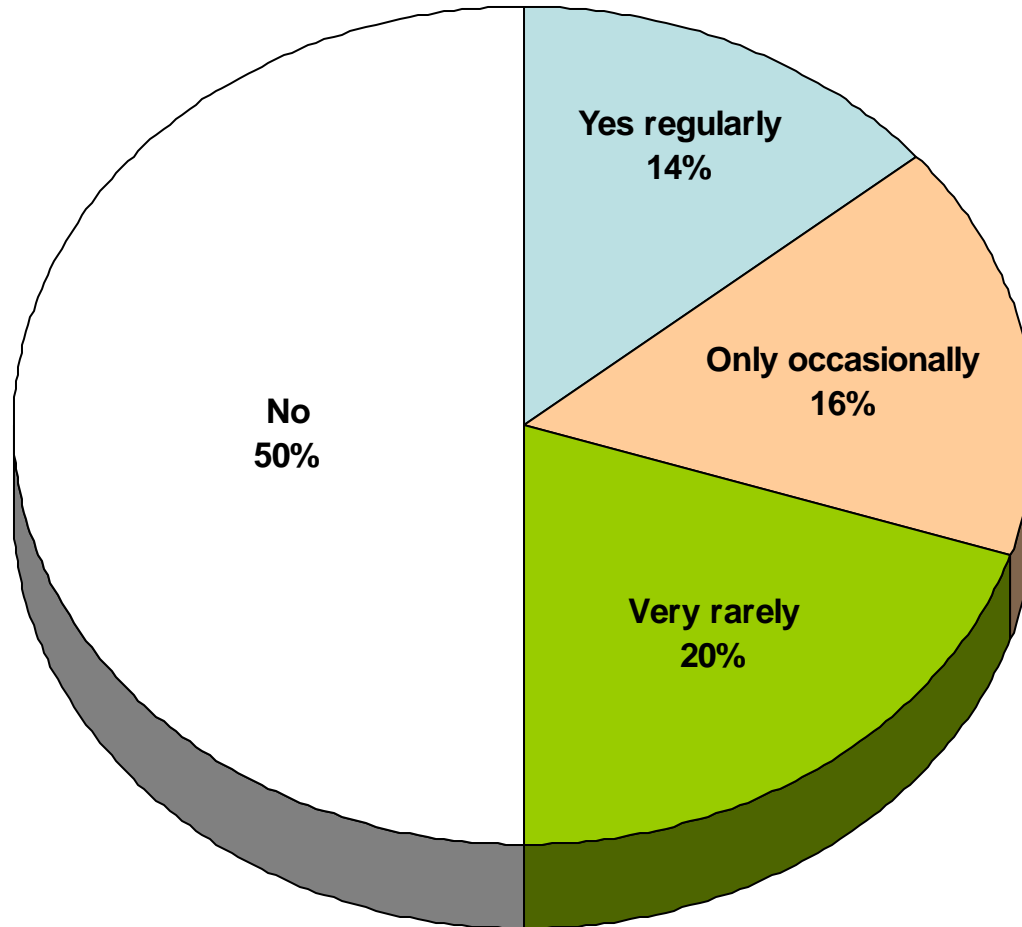
Is your name still on the membership list?



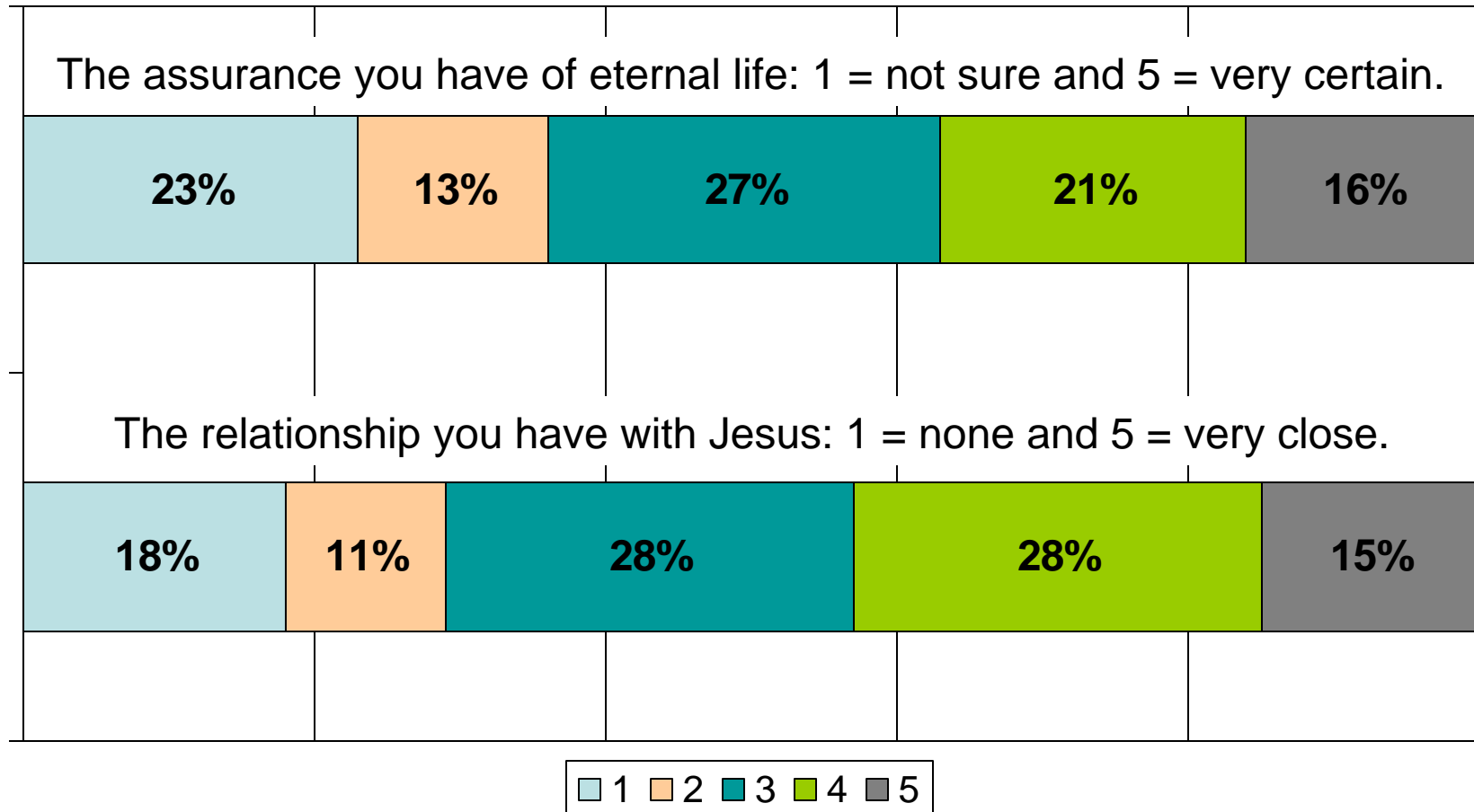
Did you decide to withdraw or were you expelled from the church?



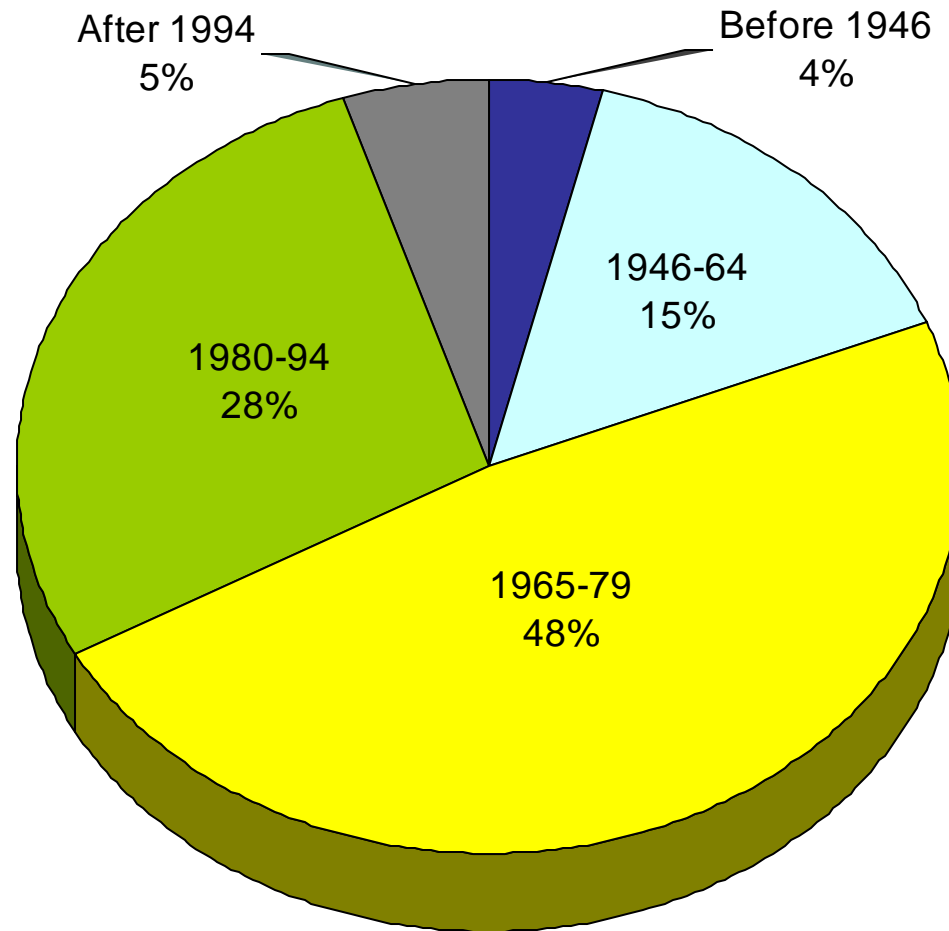
Do you now attend a different religious group?



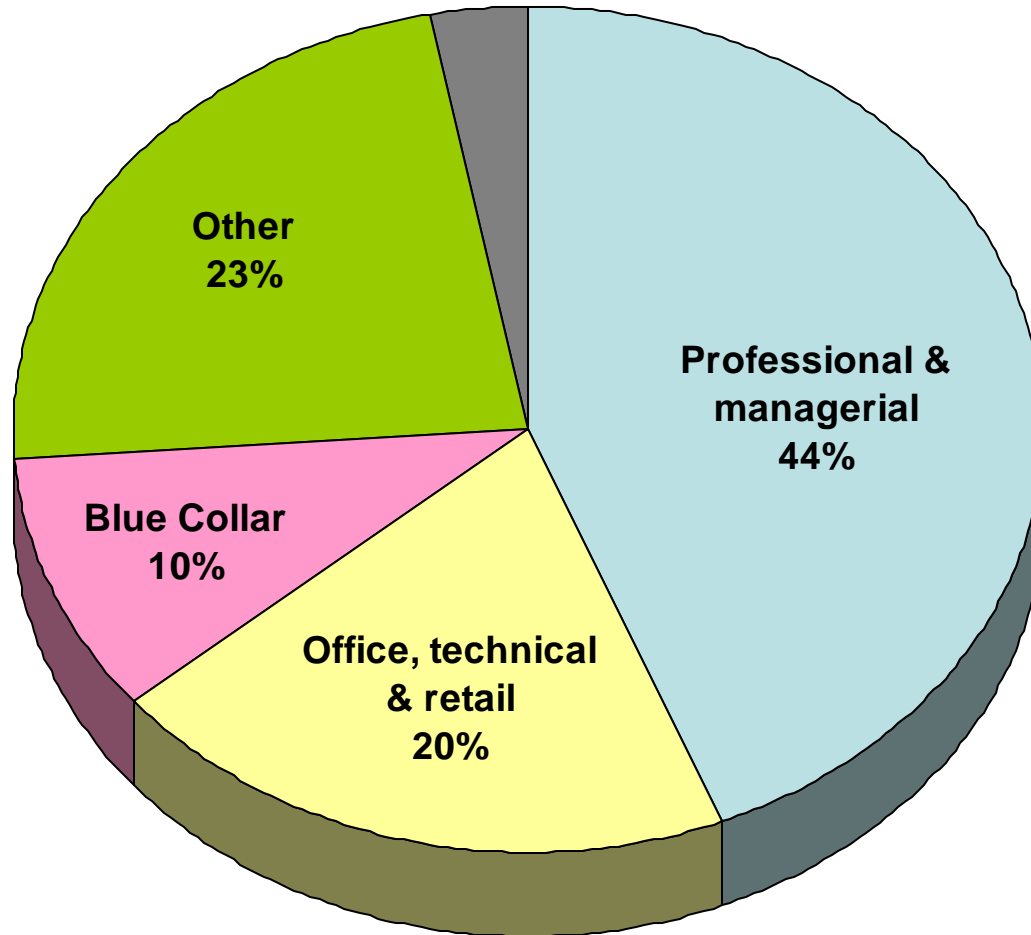
Spiritual Condition of Inactive and Former Members



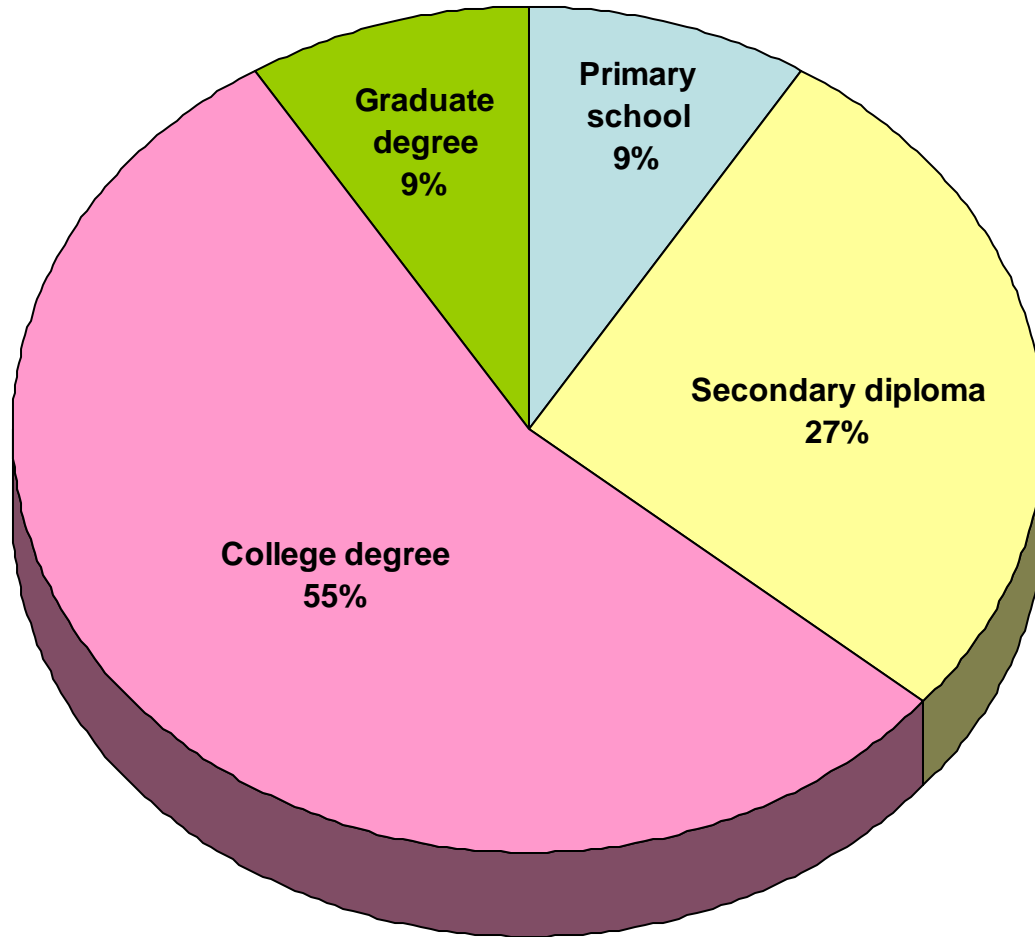
Age by Generations



Occupation



Education Completed



Gender

