
Sayoni Queer Women Survey 2010 Report

For Queer Women Living in Singapore

Sayoni Administration Team • March 2011



Data collection: Feb 2010 - June 2010

Publication Date: March 2011

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Abstract

Objectives:

1. To gain some perspective on the actual needs of queer women, and what we can do about them
2. To provide free and accessible information to researchers, and act as a starting point for further research into the field
3. To ameliorate the dire lack of information on queer women in Singapore. Currently, there is no proper understanding of how the women's queer community functions, other than biased and disjointed personal views.

The survey is broken down into five main aspects. Questions in each category are streamlined and standardised for easy answering, by presenting most of the questions as rating questions where possible.

1. Introduction
General background.
2. Family, Friends and Work
Questions on how out the respondent is in their various social circles, how this group has reacted to the information, and the respondent's intention to come out to that particular group.
3. Personal
Questions on a personal level relating to sexual orientation. Probes how the respondents come to realise their sexuality, different aspects of personal identity, and how their sexuality has affected them. Also includes information on relationships of respondents.
4. Financial
Questions to ascertain the financial status of queer women as a community - on income, occupation and industry, housing and car ownership.
5. Feedback on Sayoni and the community
Take note that the answers to these questions with the exception of two, are not presented in this report as they are meant for internal feedback

This survey was not carried out with a null hypothesis in mind, and much of the information contained in this report is processed descriptive statistics. Where possible, averages and trends have been pre-computed, and presented along with a broad analysis of the data.

The data is broken down across the entire population, and then by **Age**. It was decided that a comparison across ethnicities and religion would not be statistically viable for the purpose of this report.

Methodology

1. The survey was carried out on an online medium, for the following reasons:
 - a) Anonymity. Many queer women are deep in the closet, and would be more inclined to respond to a computer honestly, knowing their identity is not compromised.
 - b) Unfeasibility of other mediums, such as mail, personal interviews, paper surveys et cetera, as it is very difficult to find out the personal details of the target audience, who are mostly in the closet, or obtain a sufficient sample size to administer paper surveys.
 - c) Wider outreach than other mediums.
2. The software used is an opensource software, phpSurveyor
3. Publicity
 - a) Emails sent out to LGBT mailing lists in Singapore
 - b) Publicity through popular online weblogs and e-magazines, and social networking.
 - c) Publicity through commercial portals for the LGBT community
4. Analysis
 - a) Analysed using SPIB and inbuilt data analyser of the survey system
 - b) For comparison and hypothesis testing, the population is taken to be the general Singaporean population. All stats for comparison are taken from Singstat¹

¹ www.singstat.gov.sg

Introduction

As with the Report of 2008, The data in this report is presented such that:

1. Answers to multiple-choice are presented in their processed form.
2. Answers to open-ended questions are not processed
3. Data is presented in piecharts, bar charts and graphs, with percentage and ratings rather than raw numbers.
4. The percentages are based on the number of people who answered the question, not the entire population.

If the reader requires more information not contained within, especially the open-ended questions or raw data, feel free to contact us at admin@sayoni.com. We will try our best to oblige your request.

Population Data

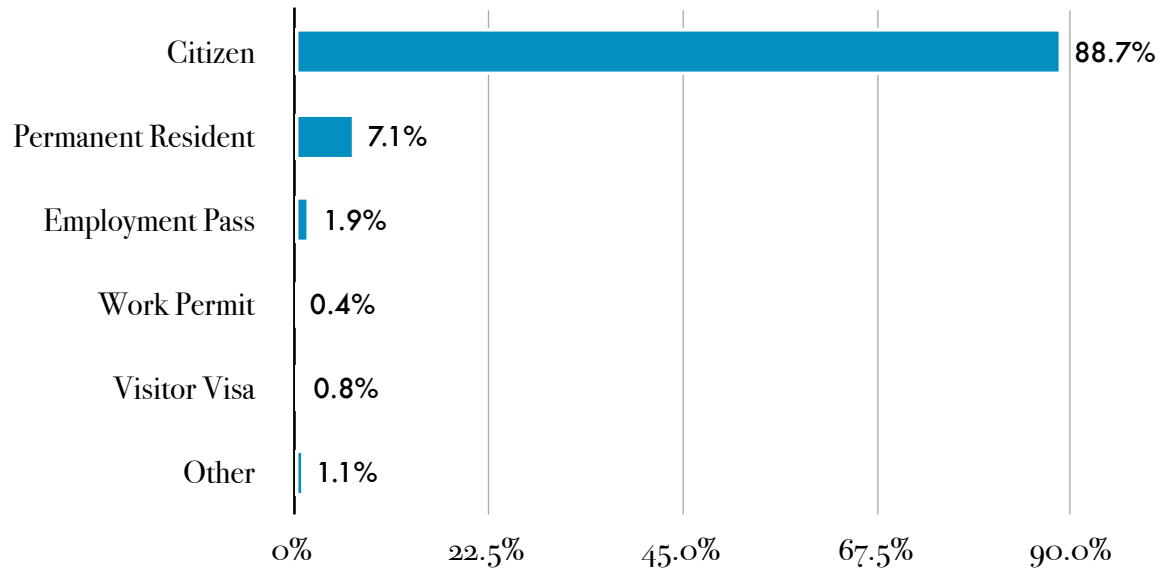
The survey-takers, in general, are women who are already integrated into the queer community, as they are likely to frequent LGBT resources. There are likely to be many women who are deeply closeted, or isolated from the rest of the community, who are not represented in this survey. Not only that, the less financially advantaged, or technically unaware queer women may be vastly underrepresented in this survey, as they might not possess or know how to use a computer.

Minority ethnic groups and religions, unfortunately, are vastly under-represented in this survey. Their numbers do not meet the necessary numerical criteria in order to effect an accurate comparative analysis. Therefore the data is not fully representative of queer women in Singapore.

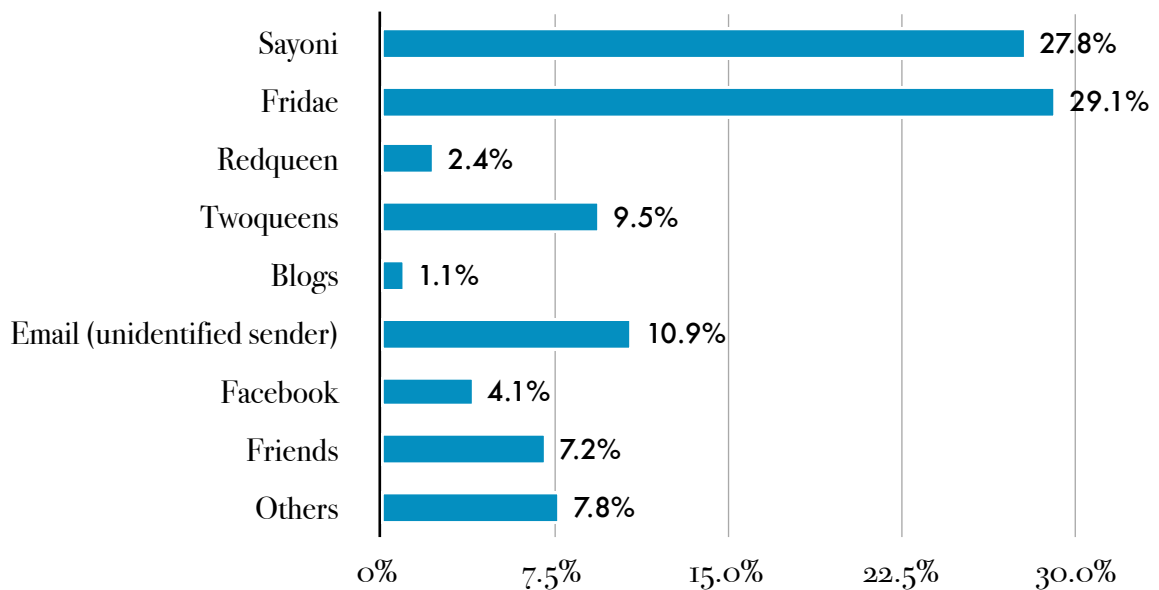
Pre-Survey

Total sample size: 530

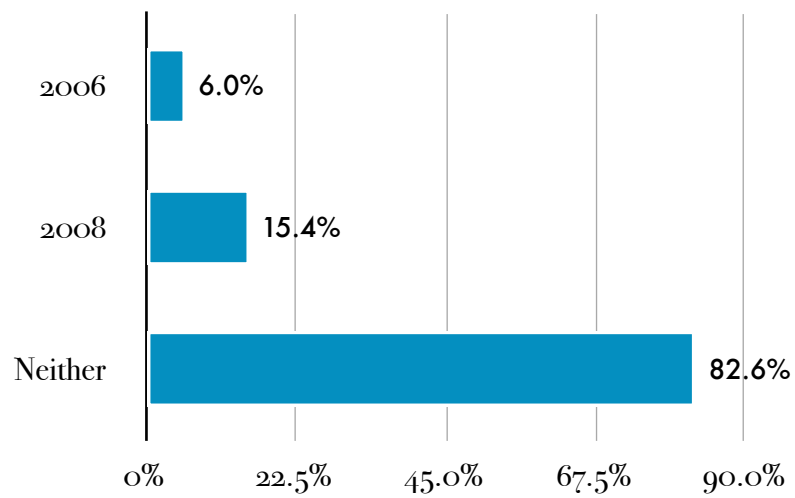
Qn 5 - Citizenship Status



Qn 6 - Where they heard of survey



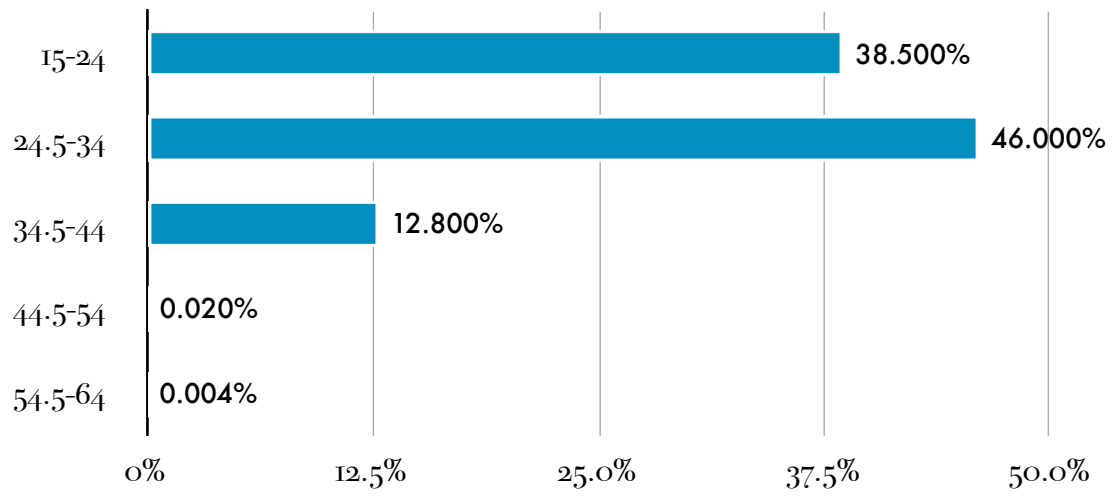
Quite a few people did not identify the email sender. Given mass emails were sent by many queer organisations especially Sayoni, Redqueen and Twoqueens, it is likely the populace in this category meant one of these organisations. When participants indicate they found it through facebook, it is likely a combination of friends sharing the link, or messages from the Sayoni group.

Qn 7 - Previously Taken Sayoni Queer Women Survey

It is very useful to note that a vast majority of the populace who took the survey this year has not taken the survey in the previous years, which would indicate that the sample population we are studying this year is radically different from the previous years. Given this disparity, we would strongly discourage any comparison between the results of 2006, 2008 and this year's.

Introduction

Qn 12 - Age group

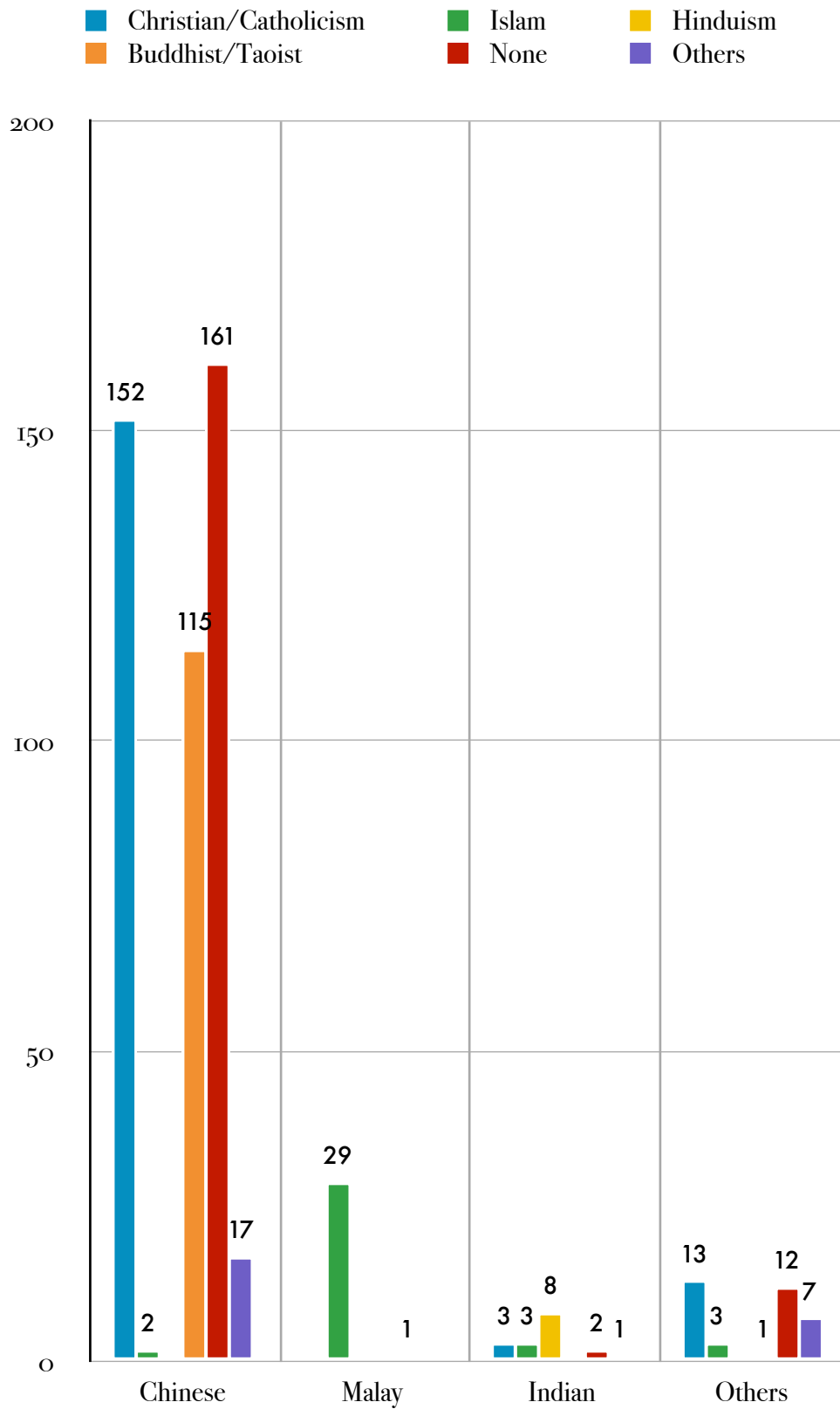


Mean = 27.7

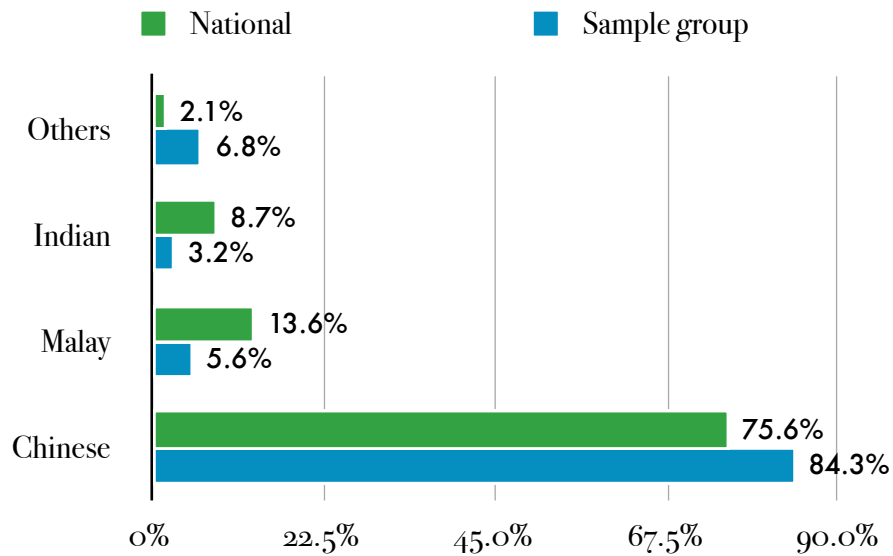
Minimum = 16

Maximum = 65

Qn 13 and 14 - Ethnicity and Religion (raw numbers)

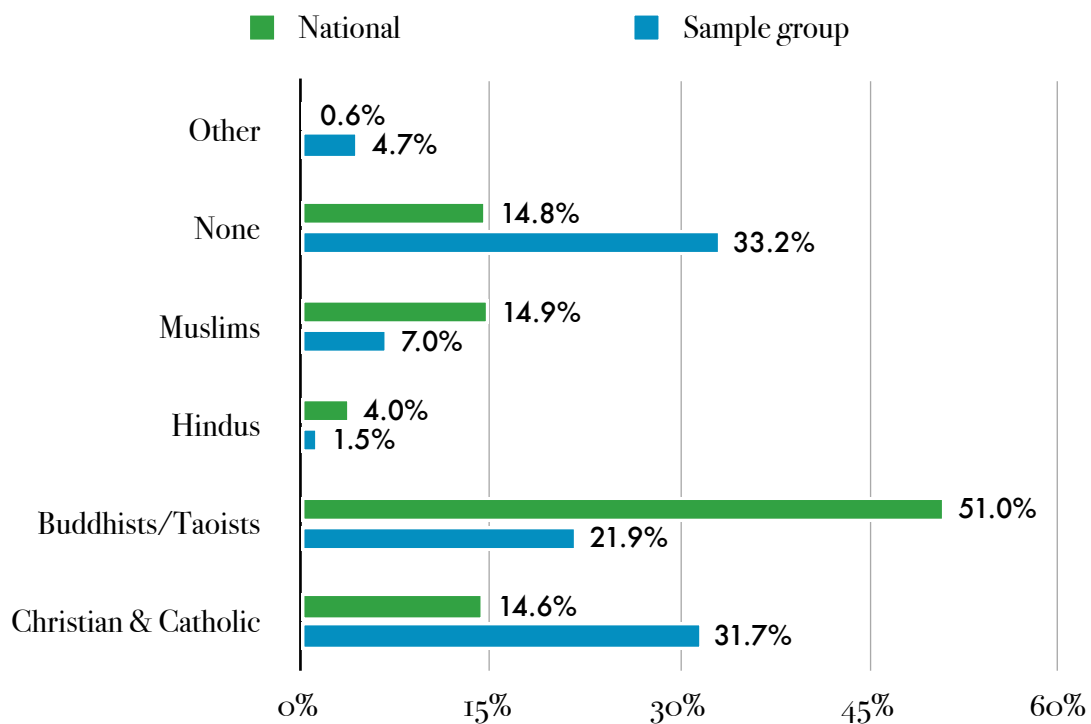


• Ethnic percentages



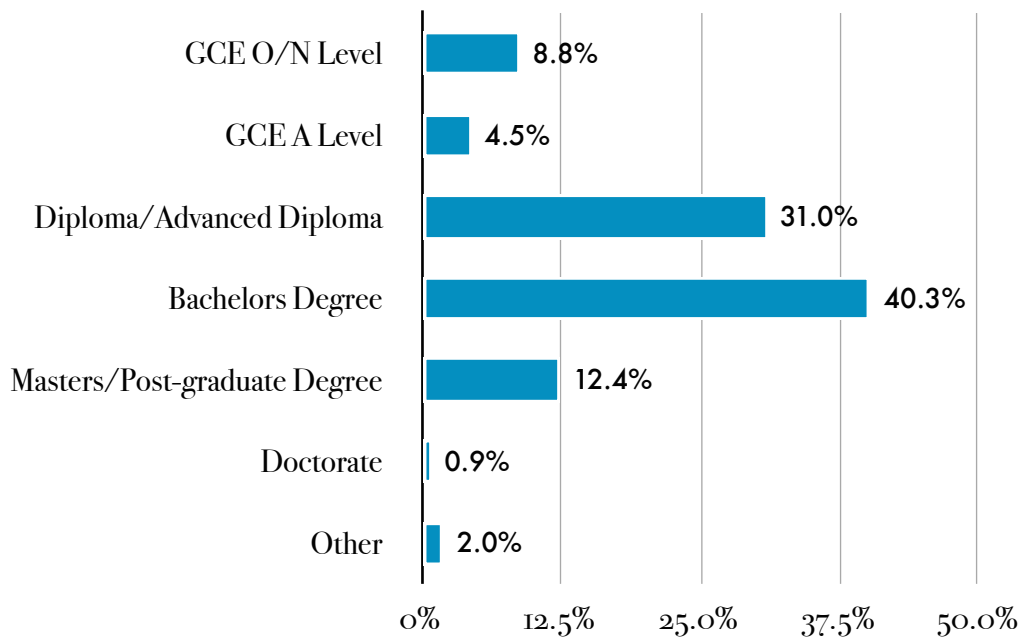
A chi-squared test at 5% level of significance, against the expected frequencies of current ethnic proportion², will prove that the ethnic minorities of Indians and Malays are significantly under-represented. Curiously, the “Others” option is vastly over-represented.

• Religious Percentages

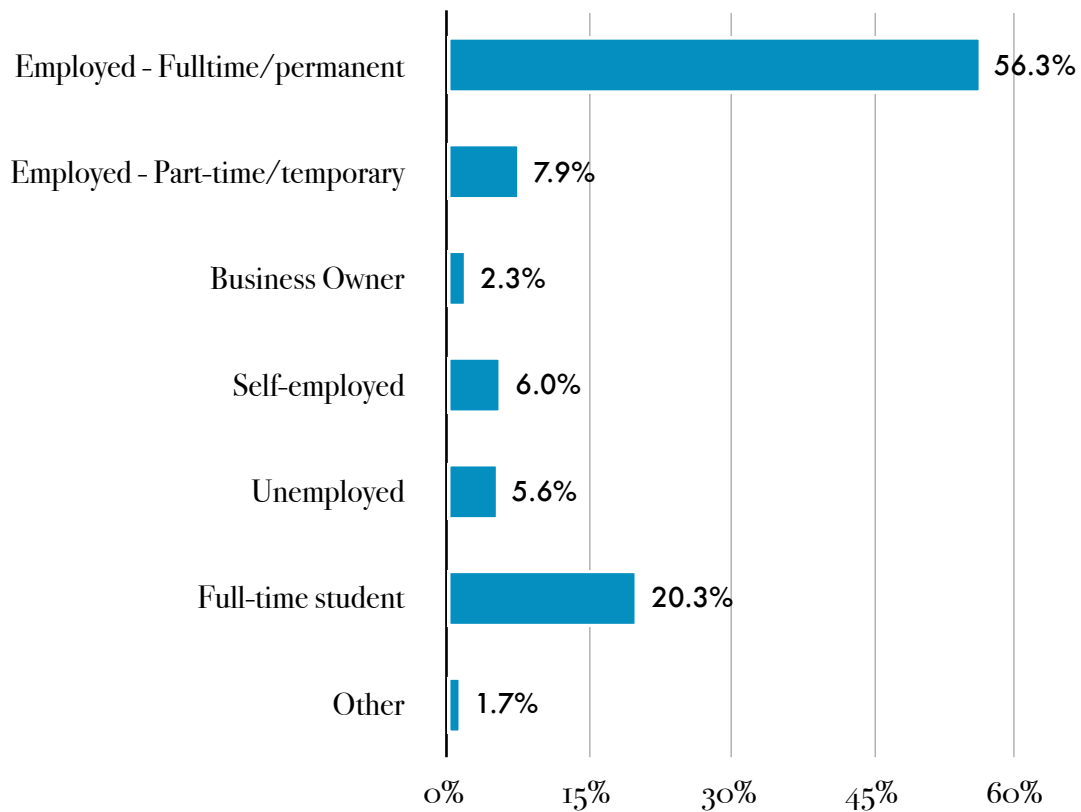


² National percentages taken from *General Household Survey 2005 Release 1*

Qn 15 - Highest Education Level



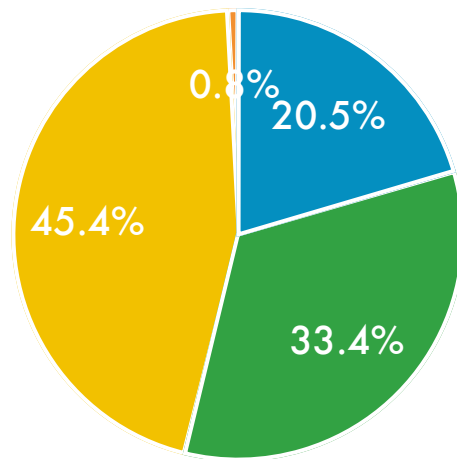
Qn 16 - Employment



Family, Friends and Work

Qn 18 - Have you informed your immediate family of your sexual orientation?

- Yes all members
- Yes one or more members
- No none
- No immediate family/no contact - 0.8%



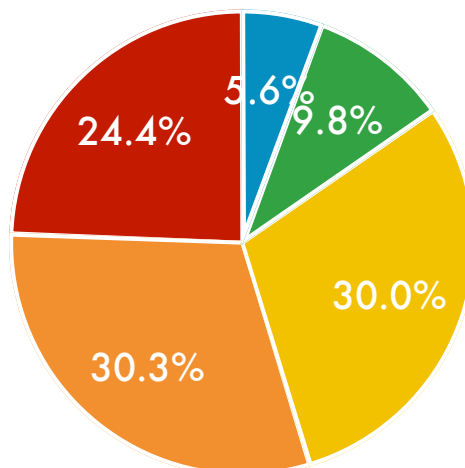
Qn 19 - If you have informed your family, to what extent have they rejected or accepted it?

[1- complete rejection, 5- complete acceptance]

n = 287

Mean = 3.58

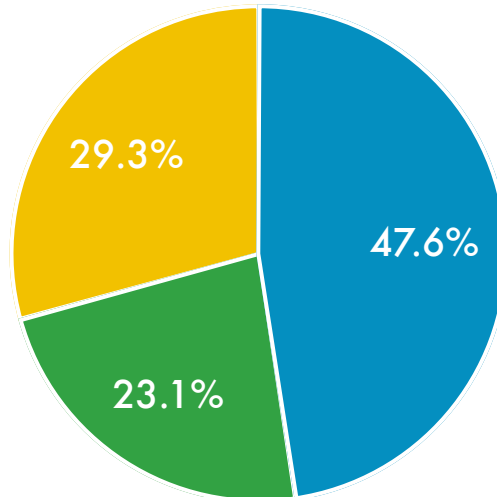
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5



Qn 20 - If none or not all of your family members know, do you intend to reveal your sexual orientation to them?

n = 420

● Unsure ● Yes under these conditions ● No because of these reasons

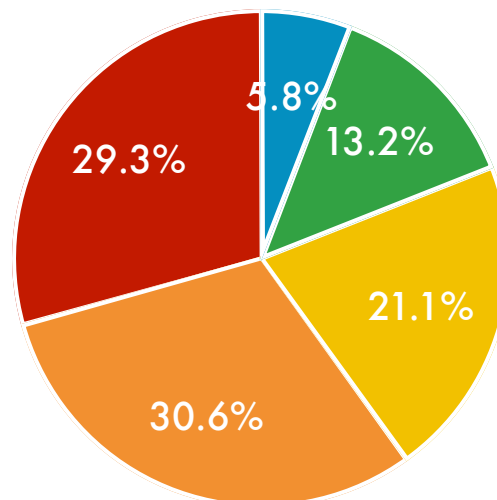


Qn 22 - Have you informed your friends of your sexual orientation?

[1- totally not out, 5 - totally or almost totally out]

Mean = 3.64

● 1 ● 2 ● 3 ● 4 ● 5

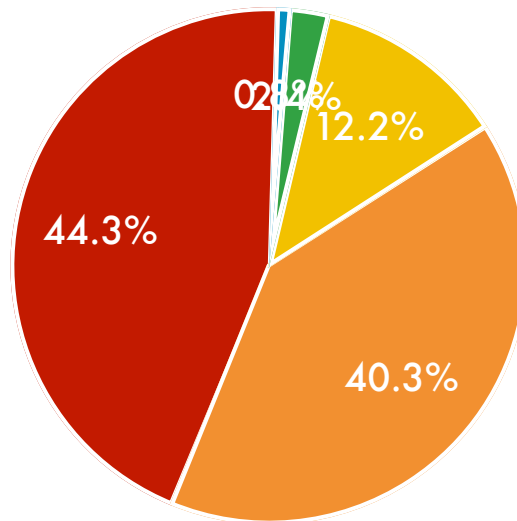


Qn 23 -If you have informed your friends, to what extent have they rejected or accepted it?

[1- complete rejection, 5- complete acceptance]

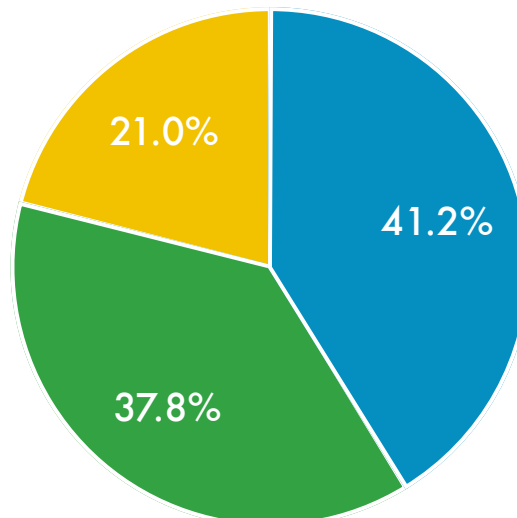
n = 501

Mean = 4.25



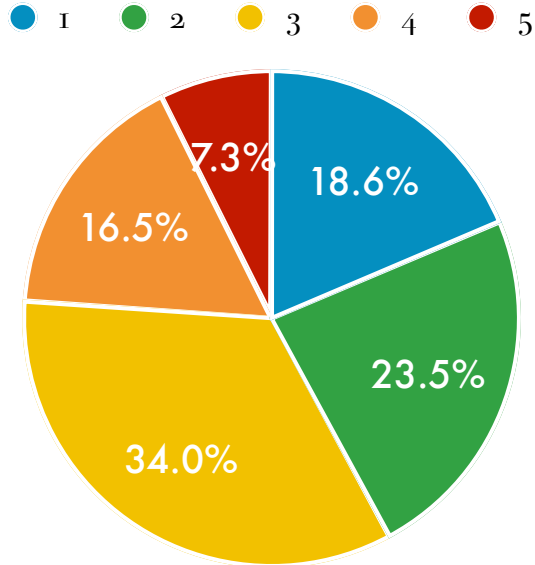
Qn 24 -If none, or not all of your friends know, do you intend to reveal your sexual orientation to them?

n = 376



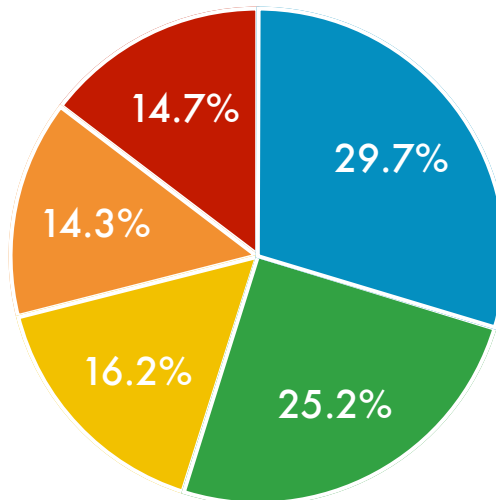
Qn 26- Currently, your social circle (people you interact frequently/regularly with, outside of work/school) is composed of mostly...
[1 - mostly straight, 5 - mostly queer]

Mean = 2.70



Qn 27 - Have you informed anyone your current work or school environment about your sexual orientation?
[1- totally not out, 5 - totally or almost totally out]

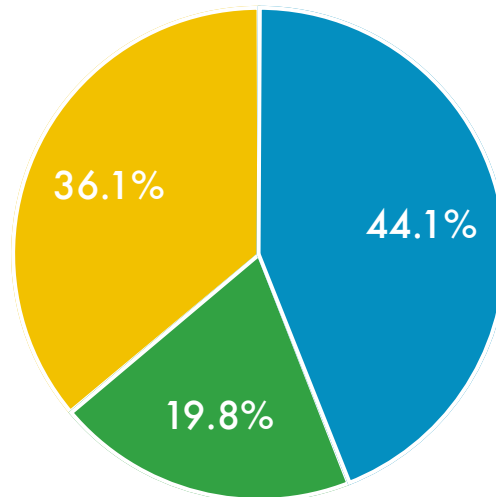
Mean = 2.59



Qn 28 - If you have not informed anyone, or not everyone, do you intend to inform them?

n = 454

● Unsure ● Yes under these conditions ● No because of these reasons



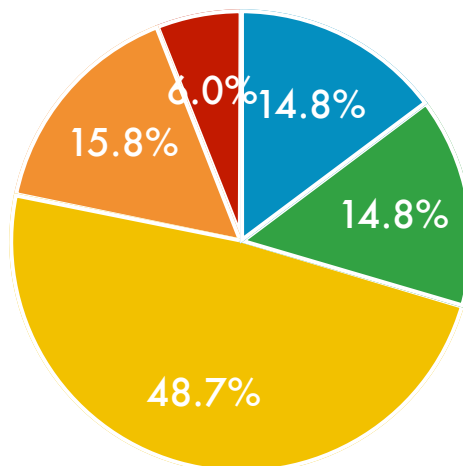
Qn 29 - If you are working, have you ever experienced or witnessed any discrimination against queer people in your workplace, or yourself as a queer person?

[1 - no discrimination, 5 - strong discrimination]

n = 386

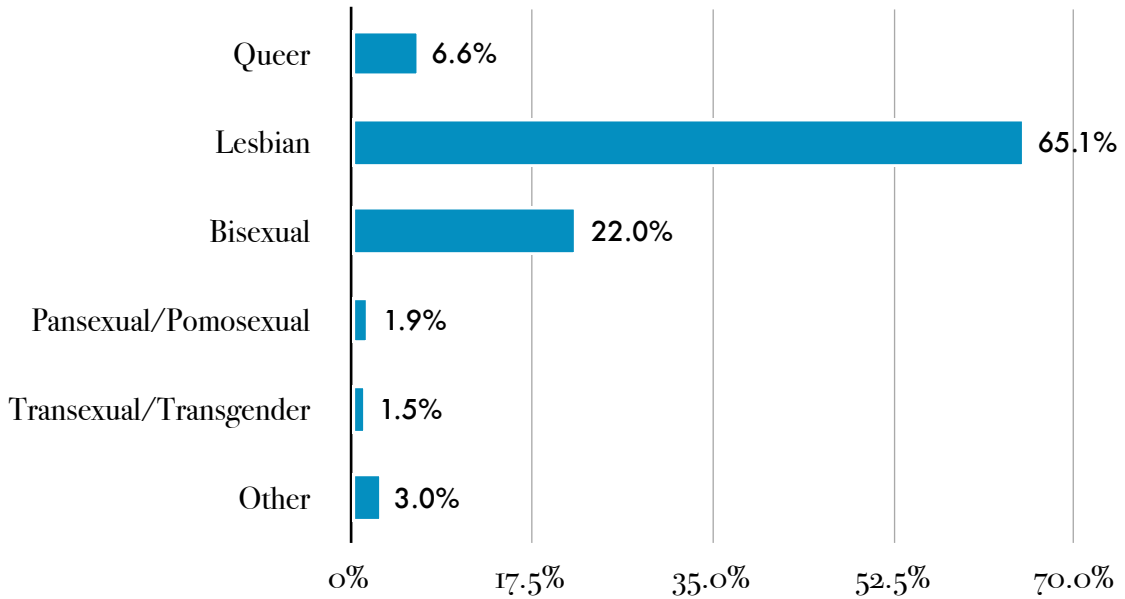
Mean = 2.83

● 1 ● 2 ● 3 ● 4 ● 5



Personal

Qn 34 -What do you identify as?



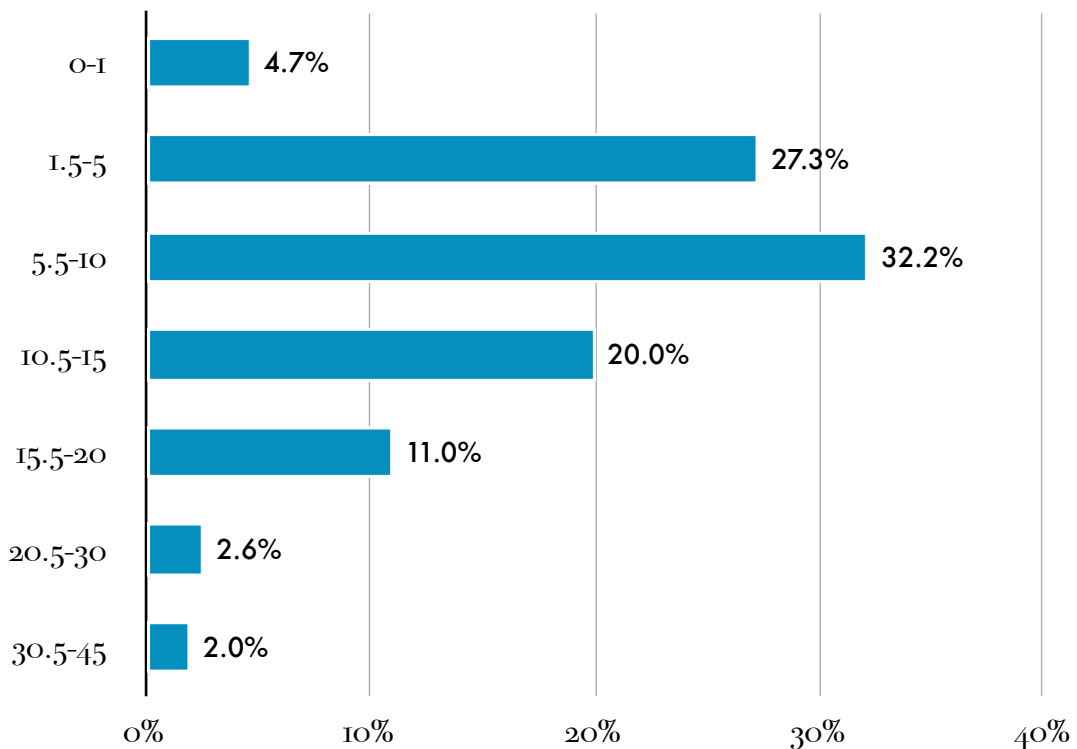
Qn 35 - For how many years have you identified as such?

n = 508

Mean = 10.5yrs

Minimum = 0.5 yrs

Maximum = 50 yrs

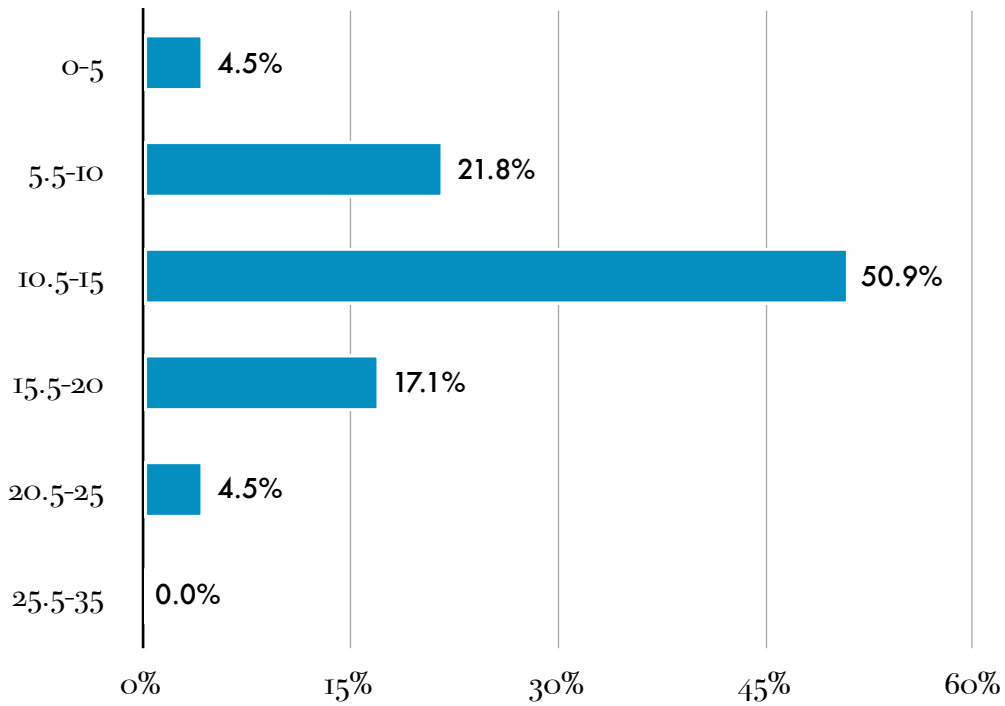


Qn 37 - Age of first attraction to girls (in years)

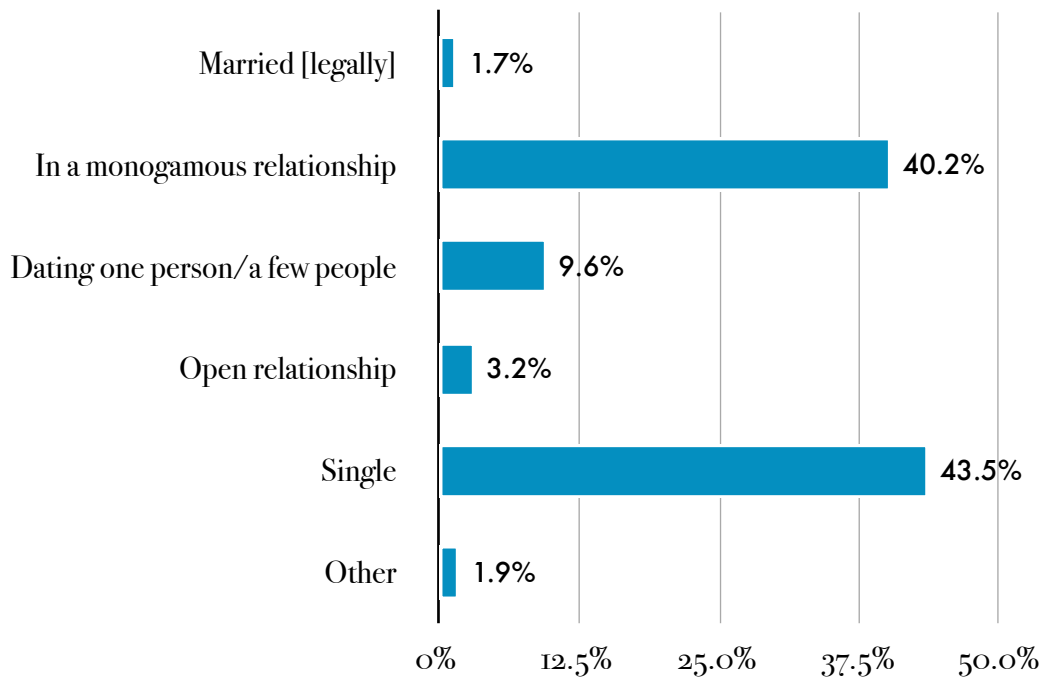
Mean = 13.1 yrs

Minimum = 3 yrs

Maximum = 38 yrs

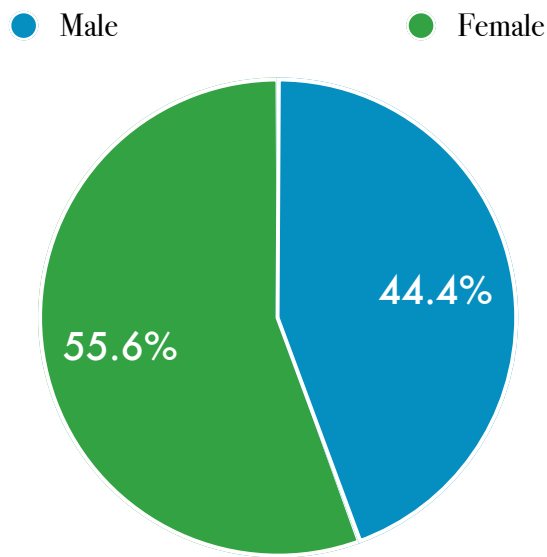


Qn 38 - Relationship Status



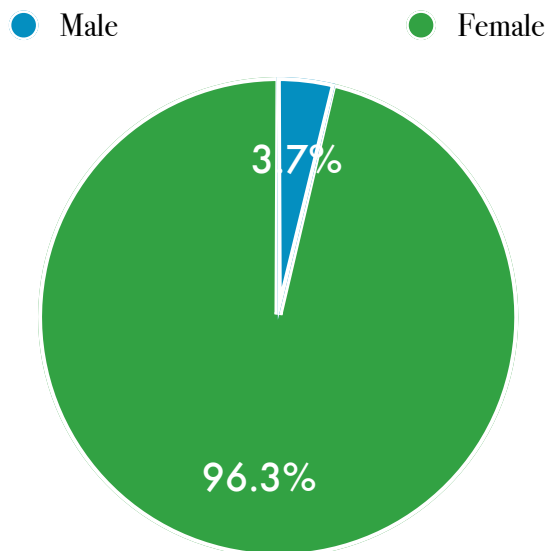
Qn 39 - Gender of Partner in Marriage

n = 9



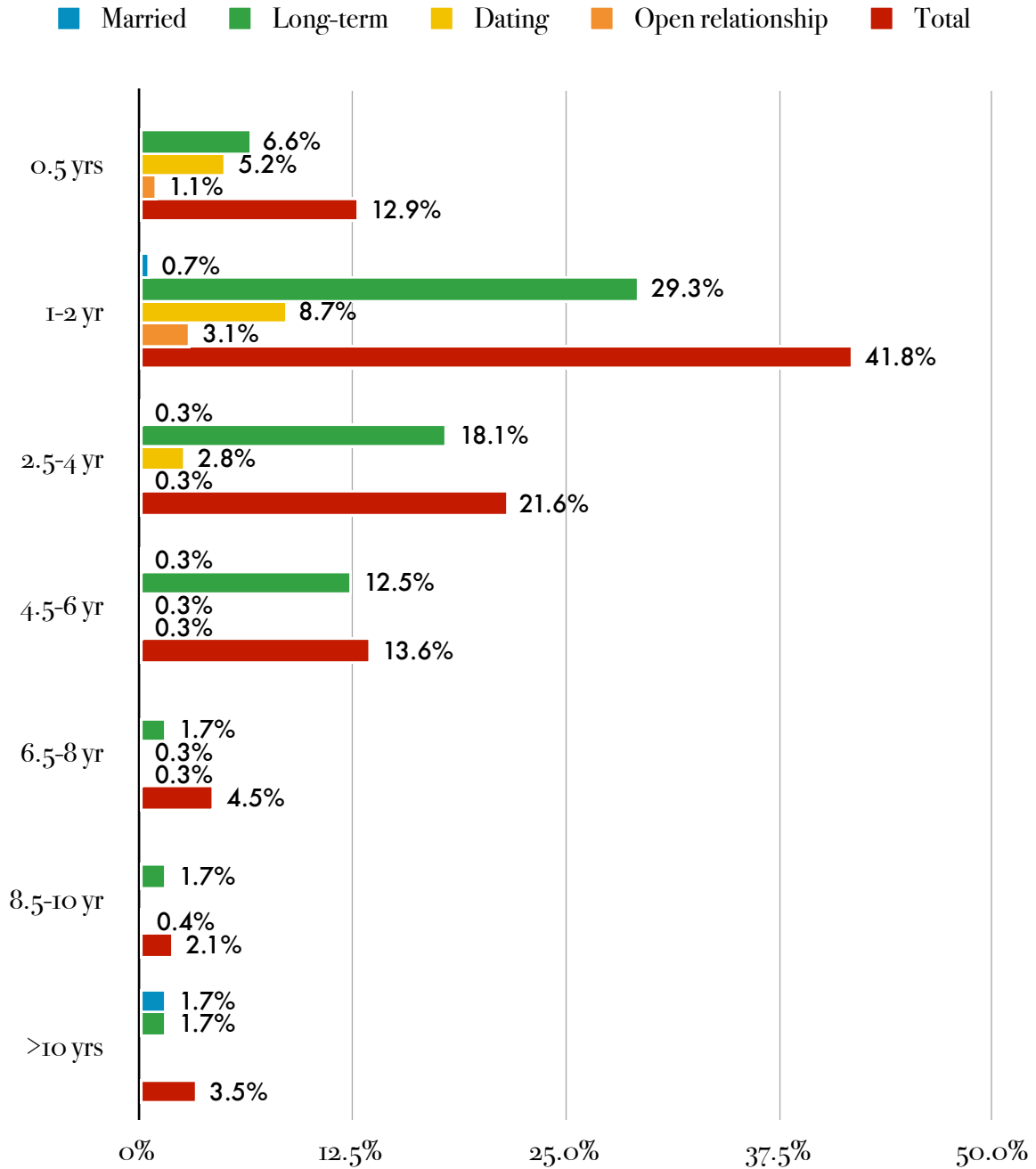
Qn 40 - Gender of Partner in Monogamous relationship

n = 214



*** Qn 41 - If you are not single, how long have you been in your current relationship status?**

Percentages based on those who indicated they were in a relationship of some kind, excluding those in the Other category.



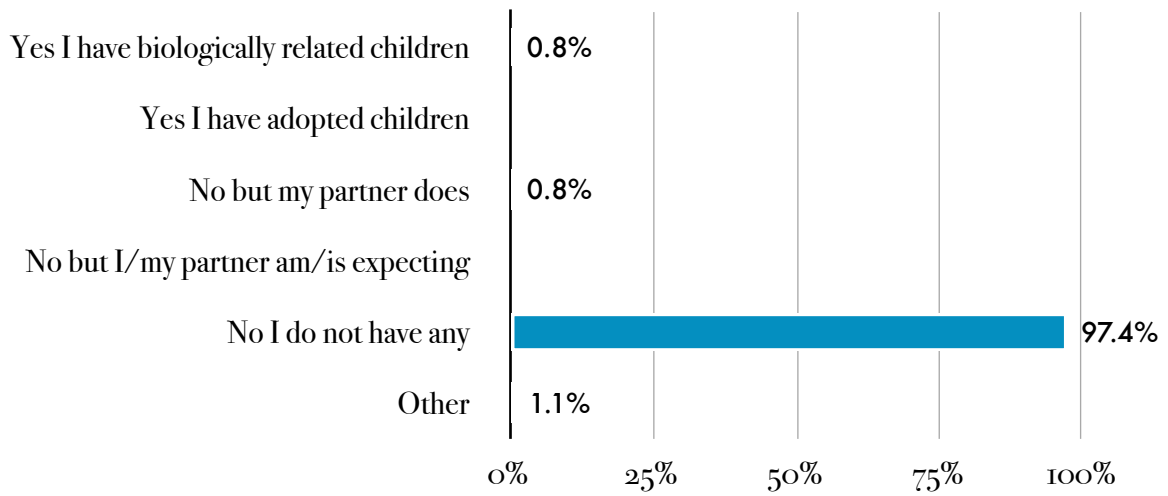
n=291

Mean = 3.15 yrs

Minimum = 0.2 yrs

Maximum = 28 yrs

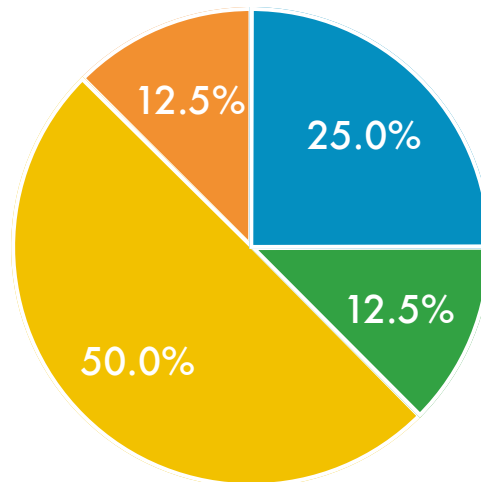
Qn 42 - Children



Qn 43 - If you have children, what is the parentage? And if you had them with a female partner, what option did you use?

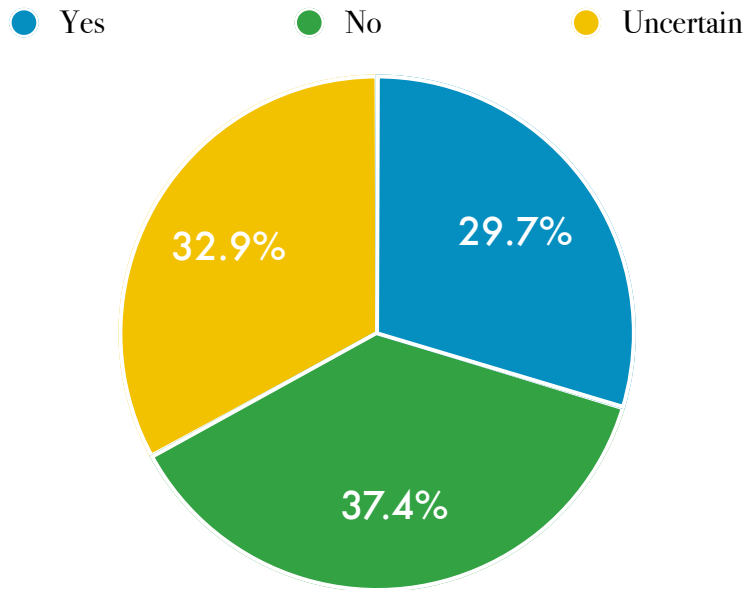
n = 8

- Originally male
- Artificial insemination
- Previous marriage of self or partner
- Misc



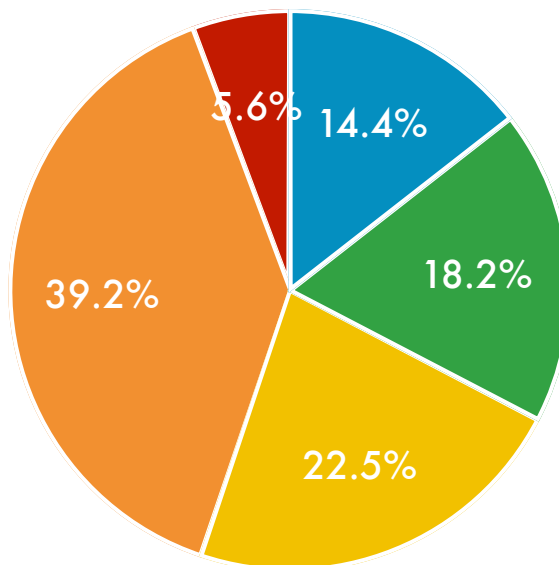
Qn 44 - If you do not have children, do you want any?

n = 519



Qn 46 - Do you identify with any labels, if at all?

● Butch ● Femme ● Andro ● None ● Other

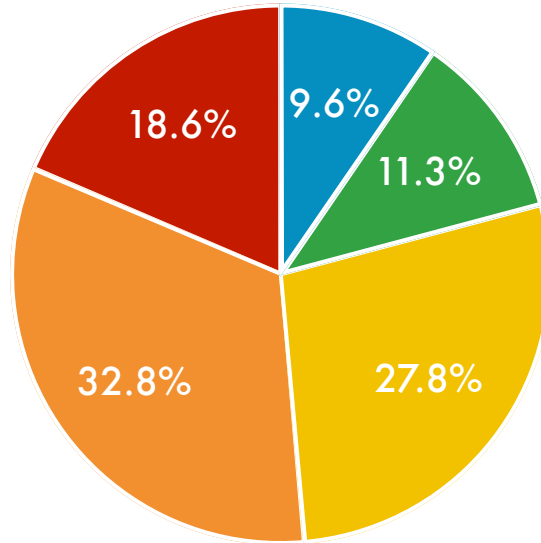


Qn 47 - Do queer people around you see themselves as butch, femme or andro etc.?

[1 - none, or almost none, 5 - all, or almost everyone]

Mean = 3.4

● 1 ● 2 ● 3 ● 4 ● 5



Qn 48- How important are these aspects of your identity to you?

[1- not important at all, 5 - very important]

Mean Rating:

Sexuality - 3.88

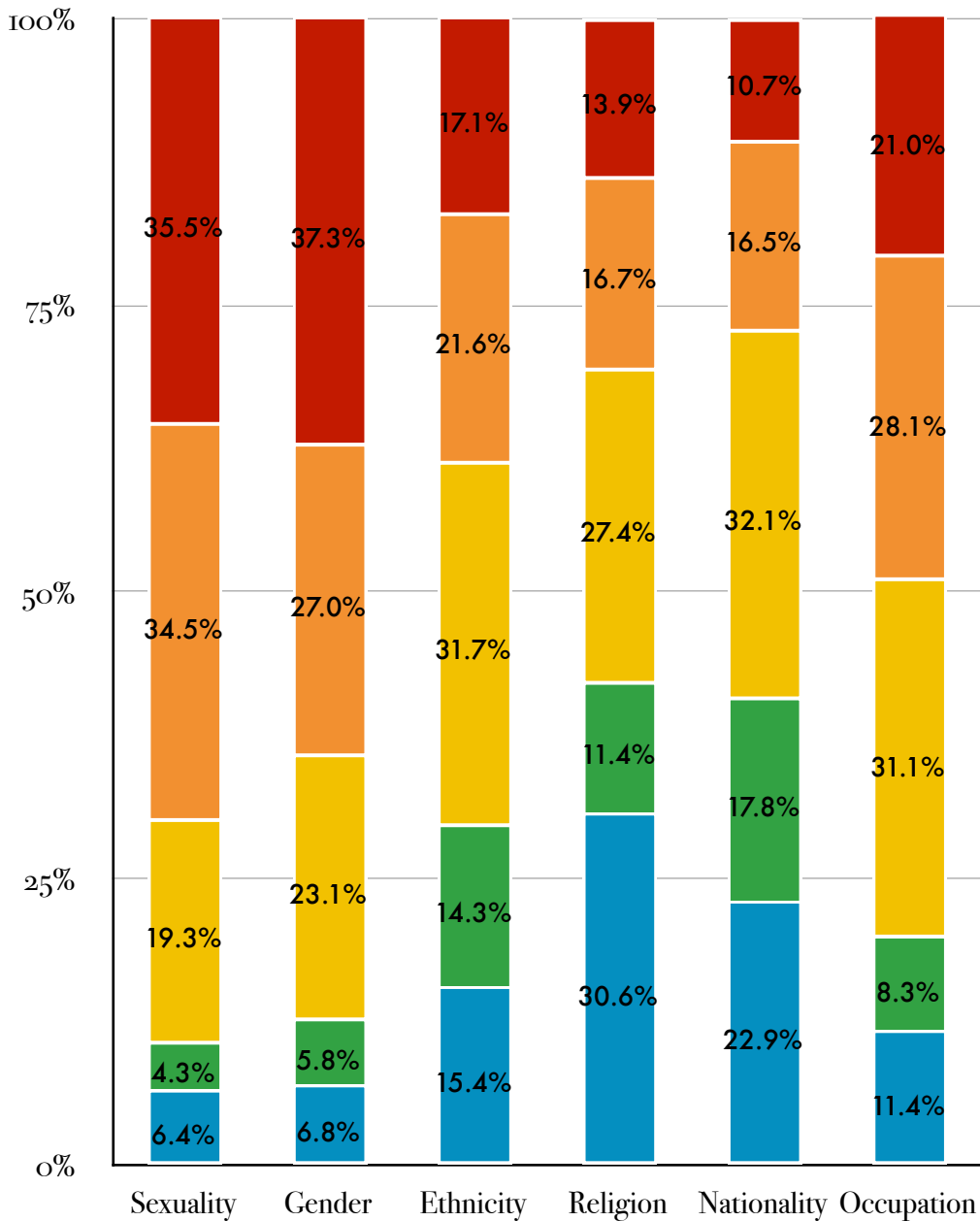
Gender - 3.82

Ethnicity - 3.11

Religion - 2.72

Nationality - 2.74

Occupation - 3.39

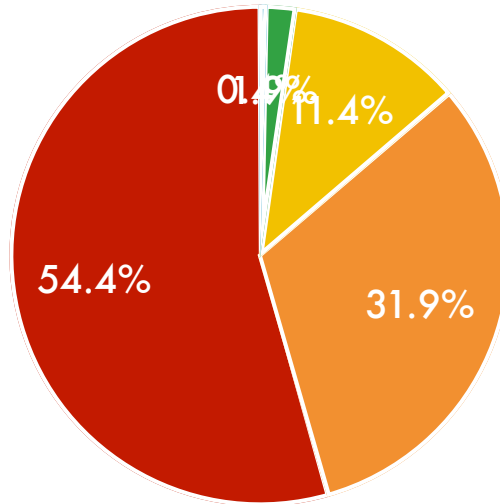


Qn 49 - How comfortable are you with your sexual orientation?

[1 - very uncomfortable, 5 - very comfortable]

Mean = 4.38

● 1 - 0.4% ● 2 - 1.9% ● 3 ● 4 ● 5

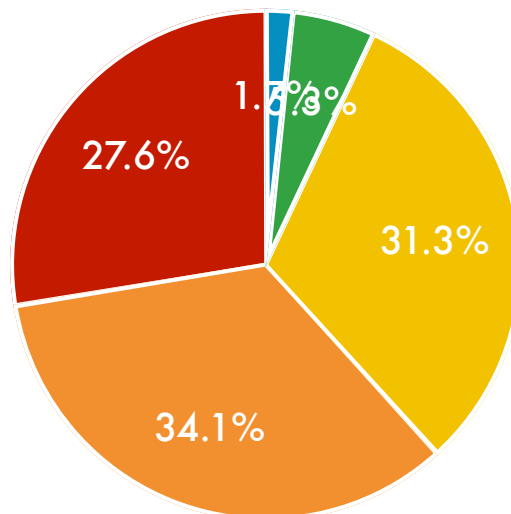


Qn 50 - Impact on emotional health

[1 - very negative, 5 - very positive]

Mean = 3.81

● 1 - 1.7% ● 2 - 5.3% ● 3 ● 4 ● 5



A vast majority of the population is very comfortable with their orientation, and few are reporting emotional health problems. In fact, majority have indicated that coming out has improved their state of emotional health.

Qn 51 -How has coming out [both to yourself and others] affected your emotional well-being (e.g. level of happiness)?

[1 - not important at all, 5 - very important]

n = 37

Mean Rating:

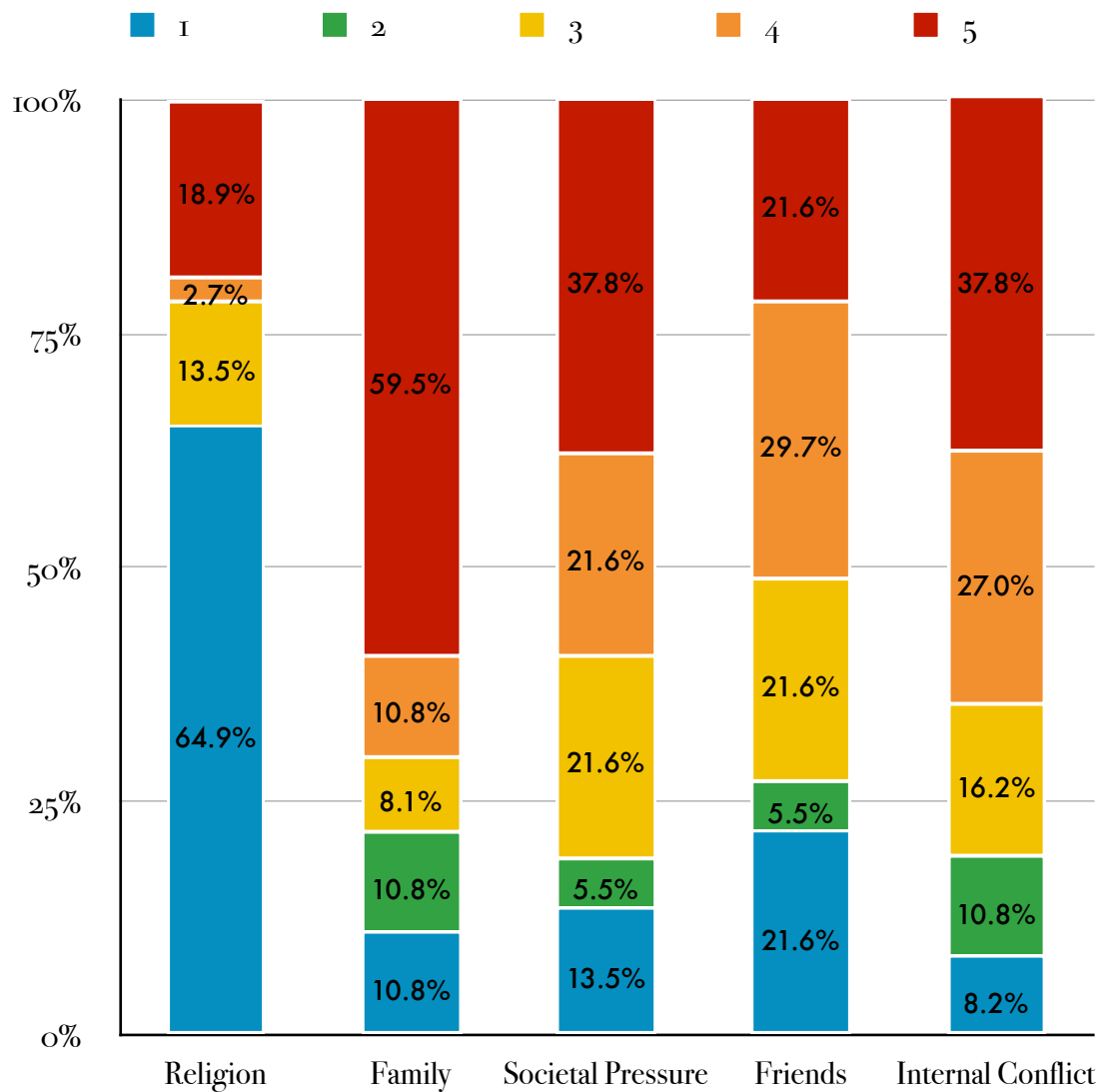
Religion - 2.11

Family - 3.97

Societal Pressure - 3.65

Friends - 3.24

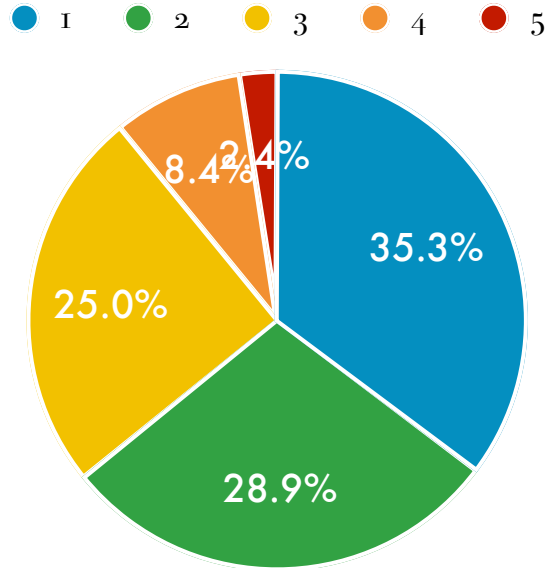
Internal Conflict/Confusion - 3.76



Qn 53 - Are you active in the community, in terms of activism, attendance at pride events, talks etc?

[1- not involved at all, 5 - very involved]

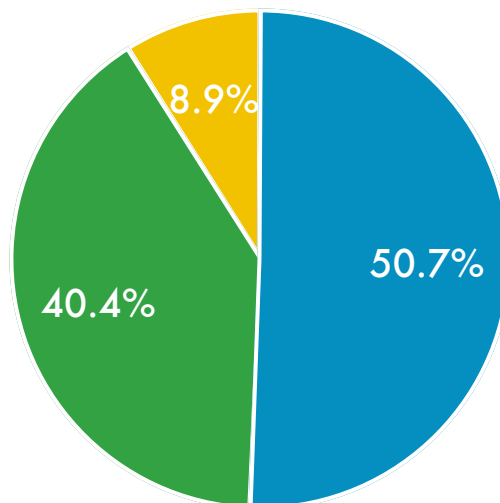
Mean = 2.14



Qn 54 - If given an opportunity, would you get involved?

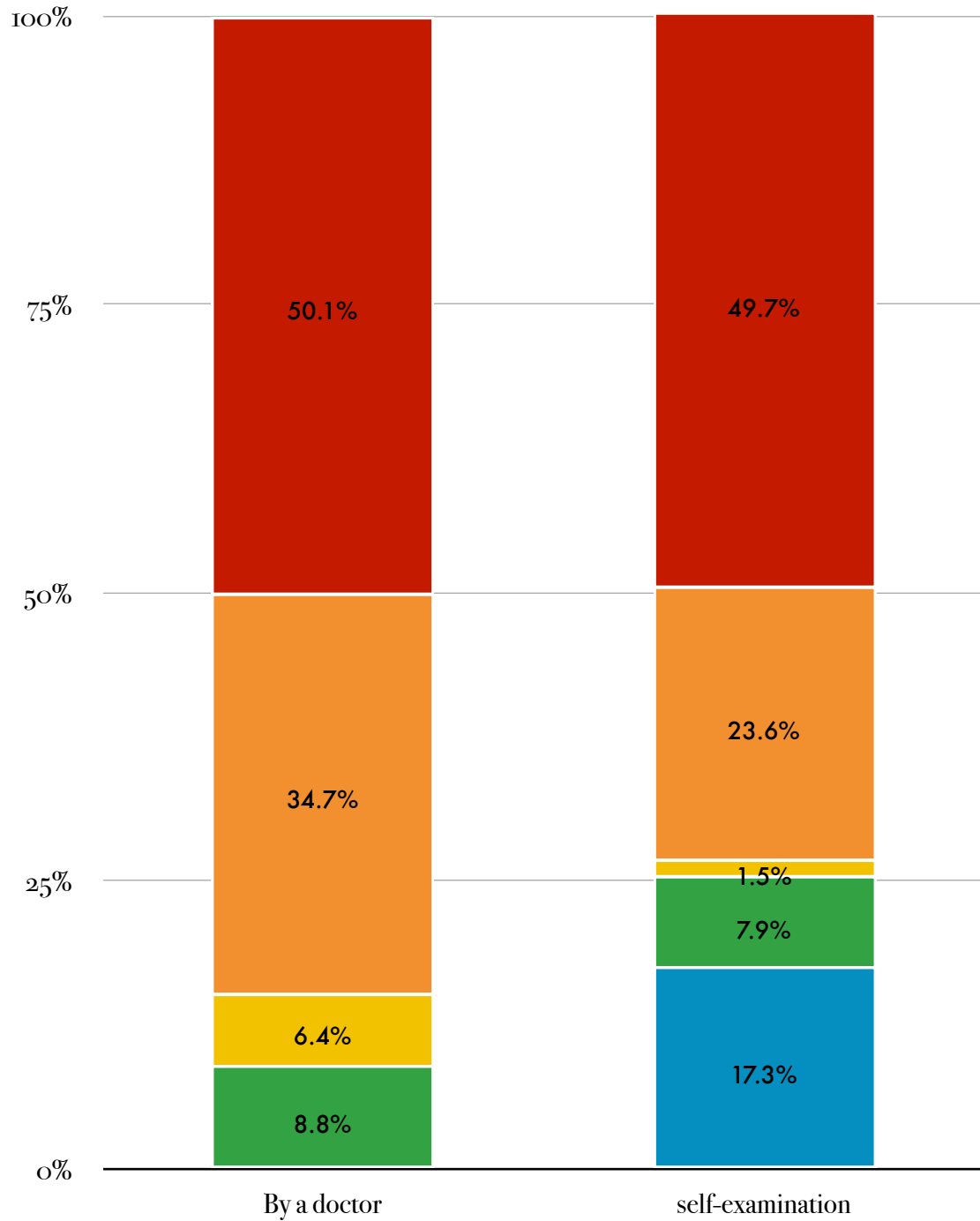
n = 381

● Unsure ● Yes under these conditions ● No because of these reasons

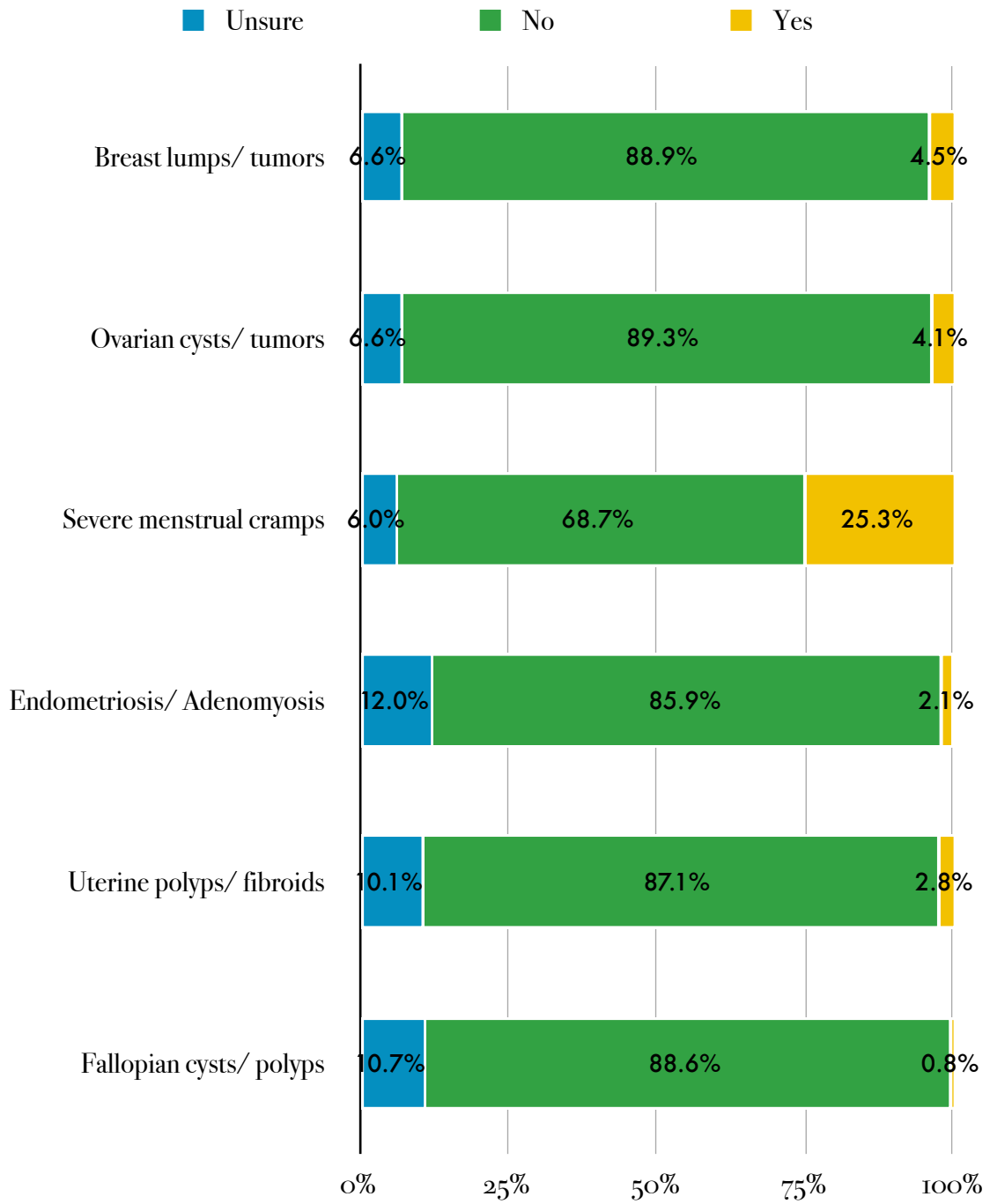


Qn 55 & 56 - How often do you undergo breast examination...

- Monthly
- Once a year
- Once in two years
- Less than once in 2 years/Never
- Only when something doesn't seem right

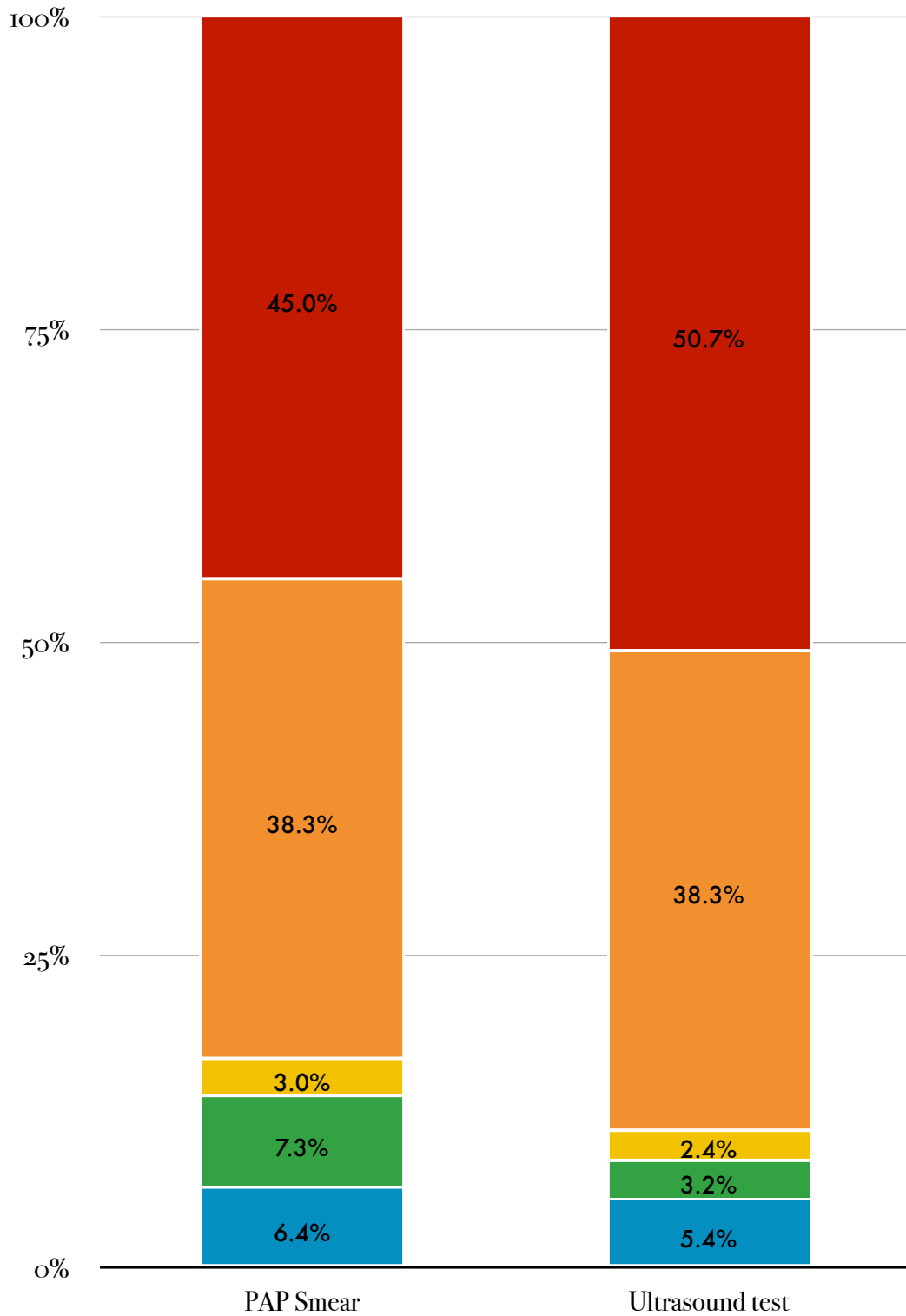


Qn 57 - Do you have a history of...



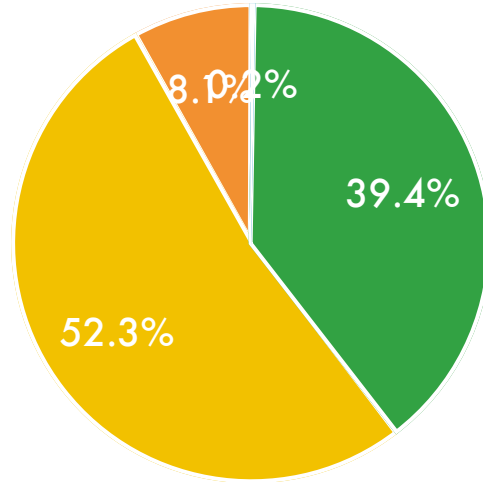
Qn 58 & 59 - How often do you undergo a

- Once in a year
 - Once in five years
 - Only when something doesn't seem right
- Once in two years
 - Less than once in 5 years/never



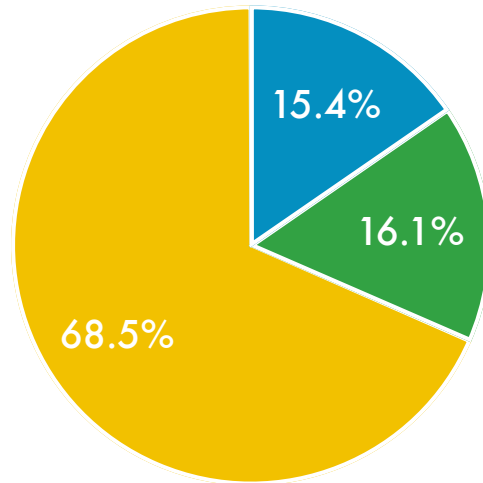
Qn 6o - Do you think regular health check-ups are important?

- Not important - 0.2%
- Somewhat important
- Important
- Only when something doesn't seem right



Qn 6I - Do you think your sexuality affect your decision to seek healthcare for female illnesses?

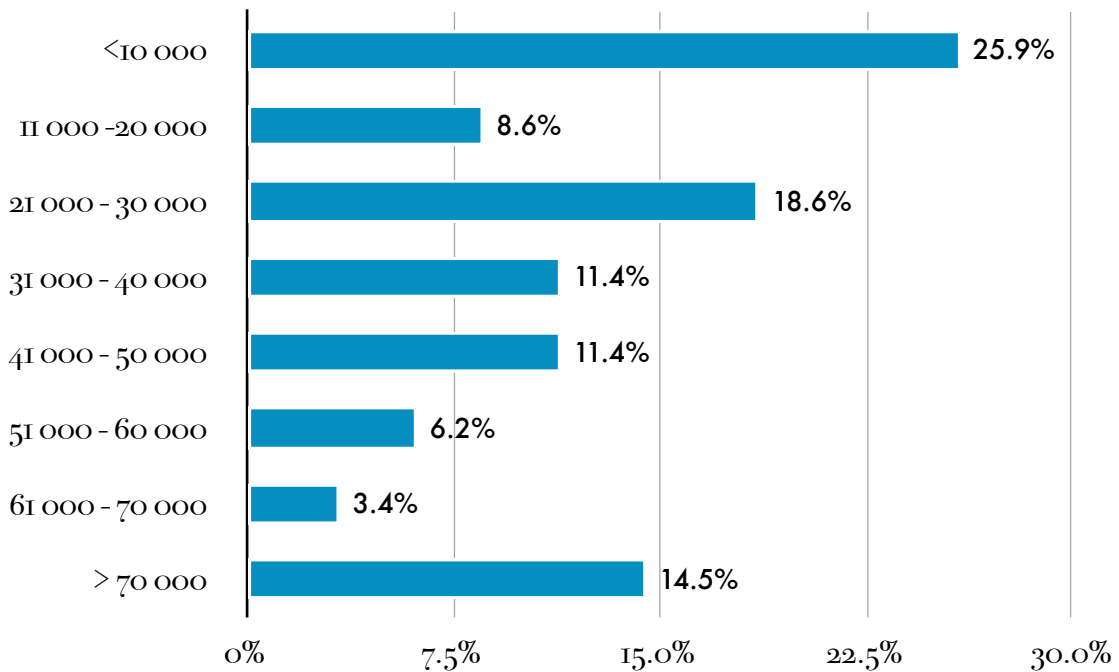
- Yes
- Sometimes
- No



Financial

Qn 63 - Annual Income (in S\$)

n = 385 [students, Unemployed and those in the Other category excluded from results]



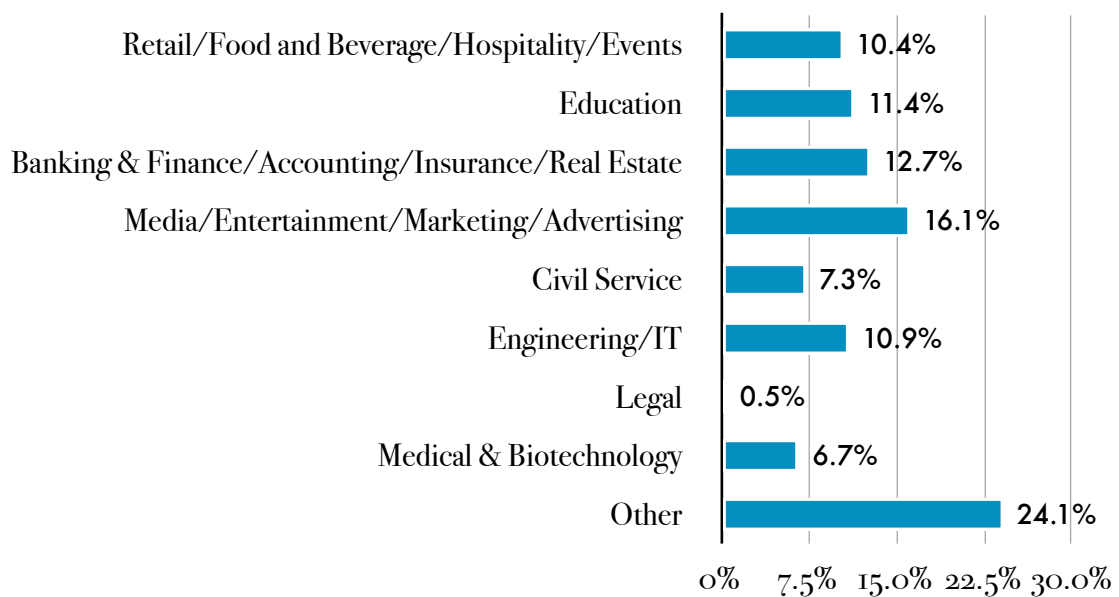
Mean = \$40 283

Minimum = \$0

Maximum = \$5 00 000

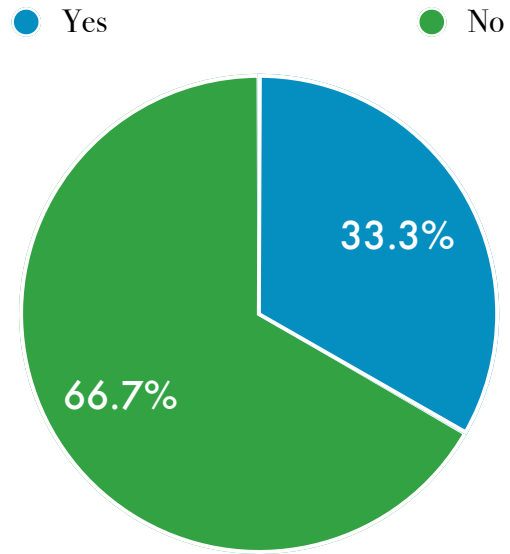
Qn 64 - Industry

n = 386



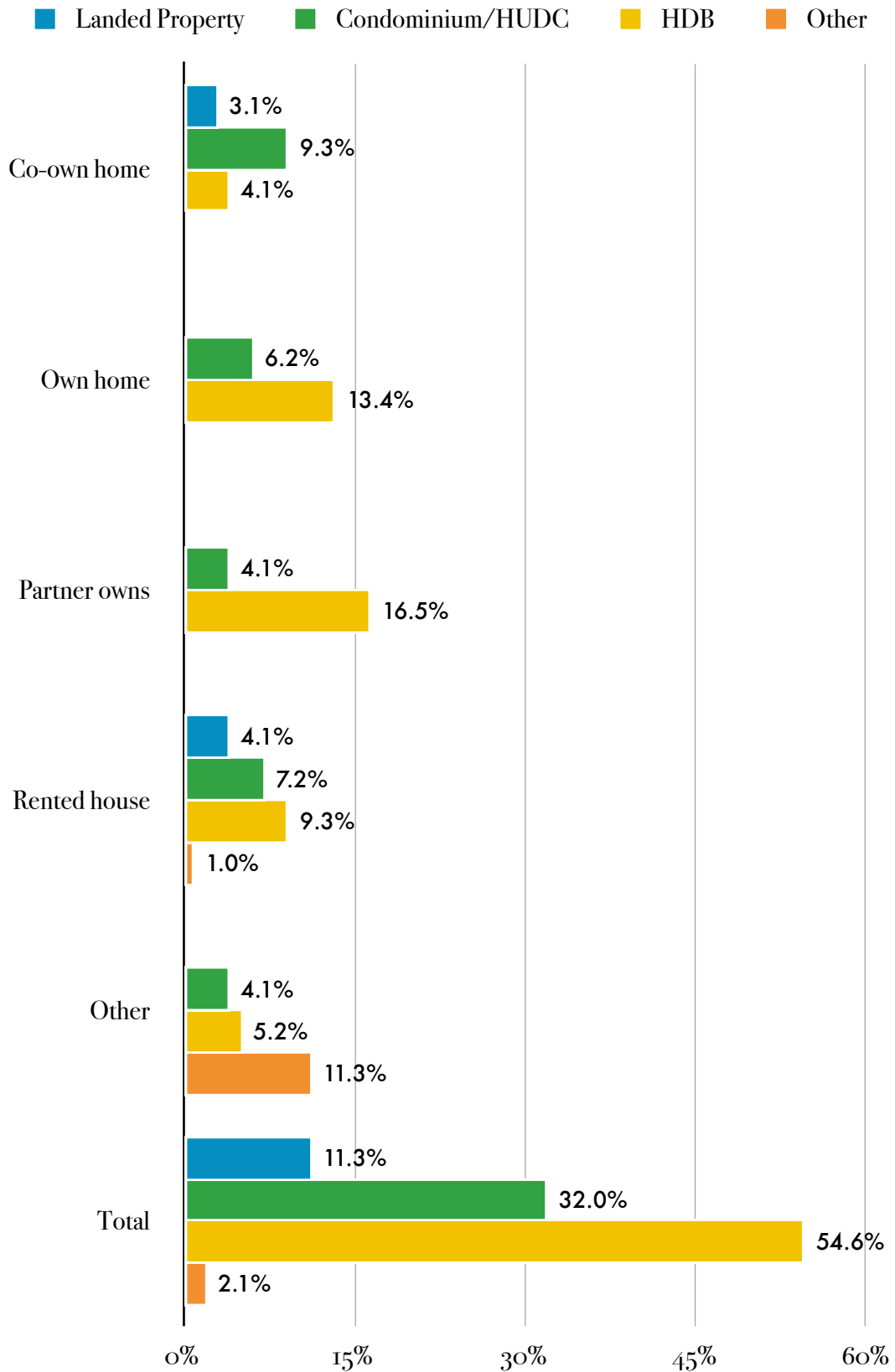
Qn 66 - If in a relationship, do you live with your partner?

n = 291



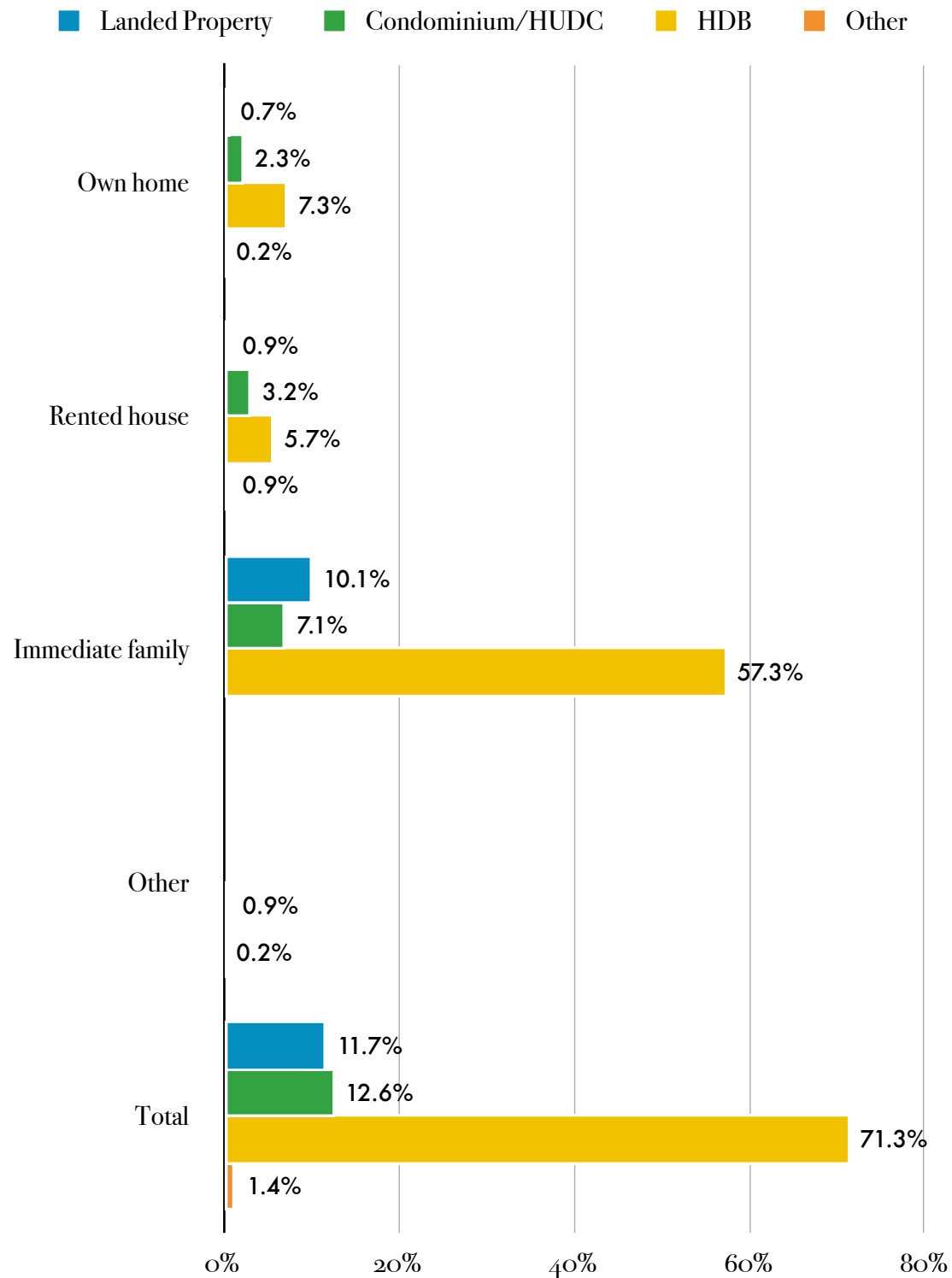
Qn 67,70 - Home Ownership, and type of residence of respondents who live with their partners

n = 97



*** Qn 68, 69, 70 - Ownership of home, and type of house for singles and attached people who don't live with their partners**

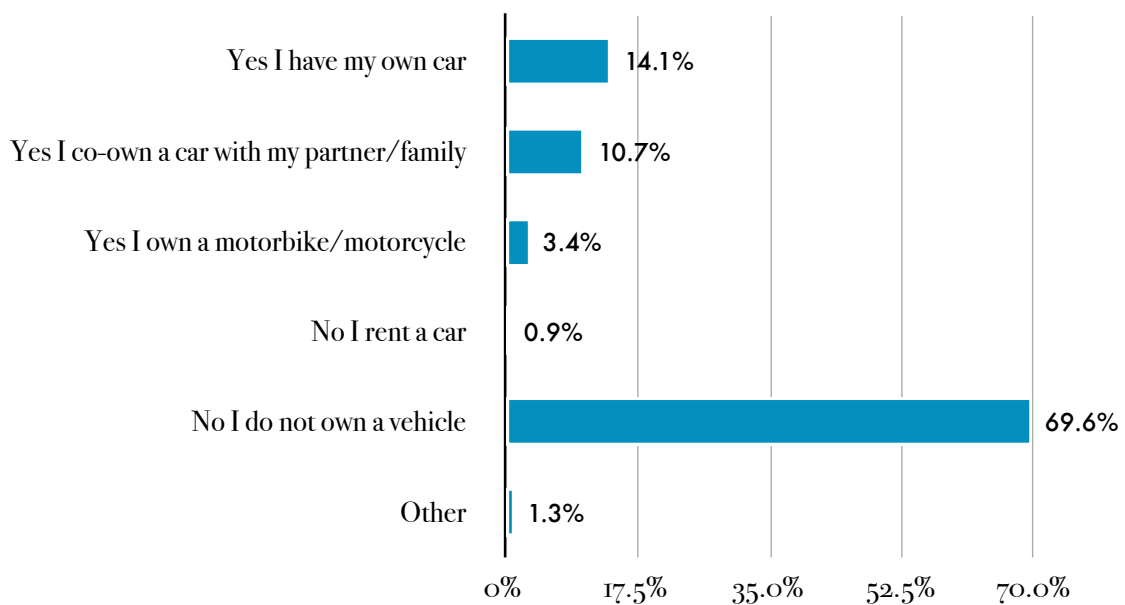
n = 436



Overall, the percentage of women who live independently, and/or have some ownership of their own homes is low. This could be because³

1. Current public housing regulations are disadvantageous to singles, including queer women and men. Married couples are given priority for public housing (Housing Development Board [HDB] apartments). Moreover, for singles, only people over 35 are eligible to buy an HDB apartment,
2. Not many can afford to buy private property
3. Asian tradition of living with their parents until marriage

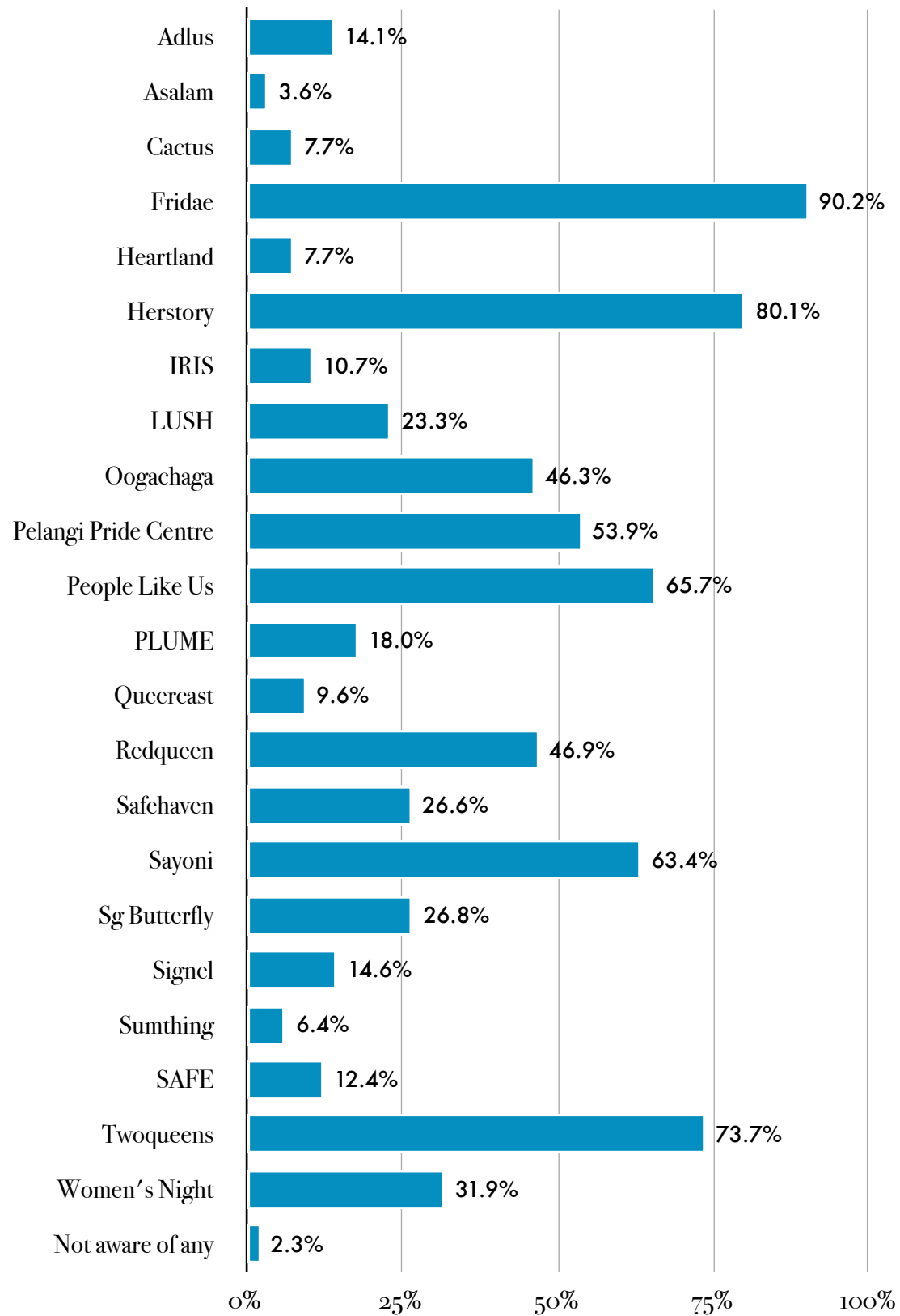
Qn 71 - Car ownership



³ These are proposed reasons for the observed trend, and are un-tested hypotheses

Feedback

Qn 72 - Knowledge of Queer Organisations



Qn 8o - Suggestions for community services

[answers are completely unedited for spelling and grammar mistakes, and are presented in their raw form.]

Reading groups.

Self improvement workshops Discussion groups

hmmm more non-social events from sayoni.

set up meetings for people my age (undergrad)!

get togethers with no agenda. people just getting together to network with none of that political/arty/sporty pretensions.

OC Women's support group

Events that welcome queer persons of all genders and orientations

Social events that are not held in a bar/club. Wine tasting, dinner events, travel events etc.

towel club for women

Fancy dress parties

Movie nights, club nights, costume parties!

PRIDE!

Currently involved with sg butterfly, will stick to them because I am having enough problems from my mother due to my participation in their activities.

In Spain, that's where I'm from, we have the Gay Pride Week around June 28th. I'd love to celebrate the Gay Pride Day here, but I understand the country situation is really different here, we can get legally married and adopt in Spain and we even have a gay neighbourhood in Madrid.

groups for emotional support

LGBT parents gatherings

more arts & media events such as queer film screenings, readings, plays etc

People Like Us, Women's Night
pride day parades, protests
perhaps talks.
Indignation
All events which allow me to know professional working people
Counselling, guidance and sports events
movies night, k box night, chalet, short trips eg to tioman..
more talk on financial management, stress and life management
It would be a good idea if community organization could organize some non-clubbing events sometimes.
Activities/Events to find or to group together like minded people amongst lesbians through the means of conducting screening, such survey or interviews.
pride parades, art openings
One that helps women and gay people at work more than anything else. Oh, and one that teaches lesbians to take care of their bodies and looks to beat the ugly lesbian stereotype. Lesbians are the only groups to complain that their community was too beautifully represented on TV (ala L word)
More talks on sexual orientation and gatherings.
herstory,twoqueens
gathering at places that won't be disturbed by the general public
parades/ fairs
I usually attend the parties they organise.
I would support any queer events and services that exist - indeed having worked as a part of multiple queer organisations over the last 15 years i would love to volunteer and actively contribute.
Lesbian events.

Data by Age Group

The percentage of people who indicated they were in the “44.5-54” and “54.5-64” age group are too small to make any comparison, hence their data is left out in this comparison chart. All charts have the Total Population data(including the age groups left out) built in, for easy comparison.

Total Numbers

15-24: n = 205

24.5-34: n = 245

34.5-44: n = 68

44.5-54 = 10

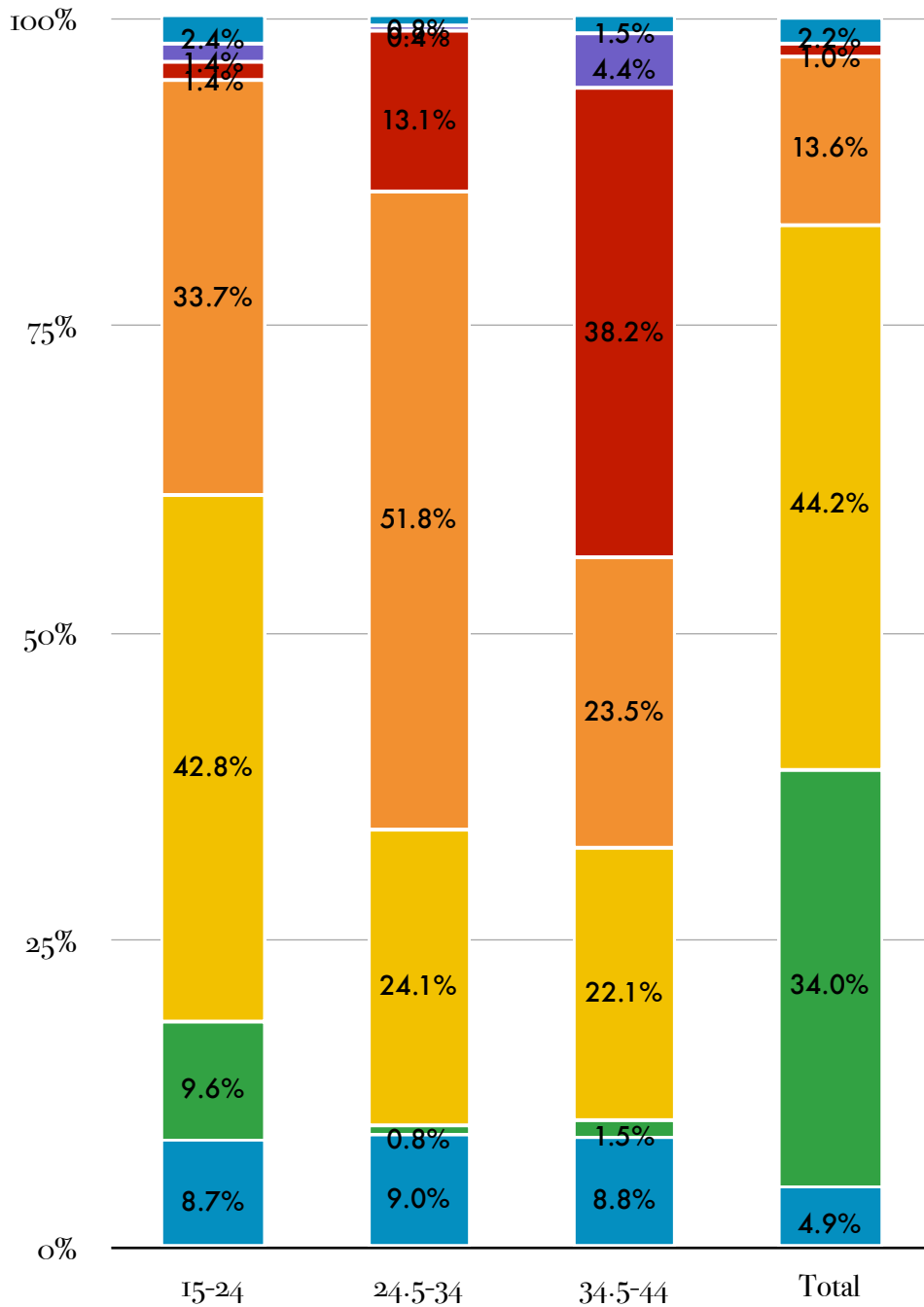
54.5-64 = 1

Introduction

Qn 15 - Education Level

(Those in the "GCE 'O'/'N' Level category in blue starts from the bottom of the graph)

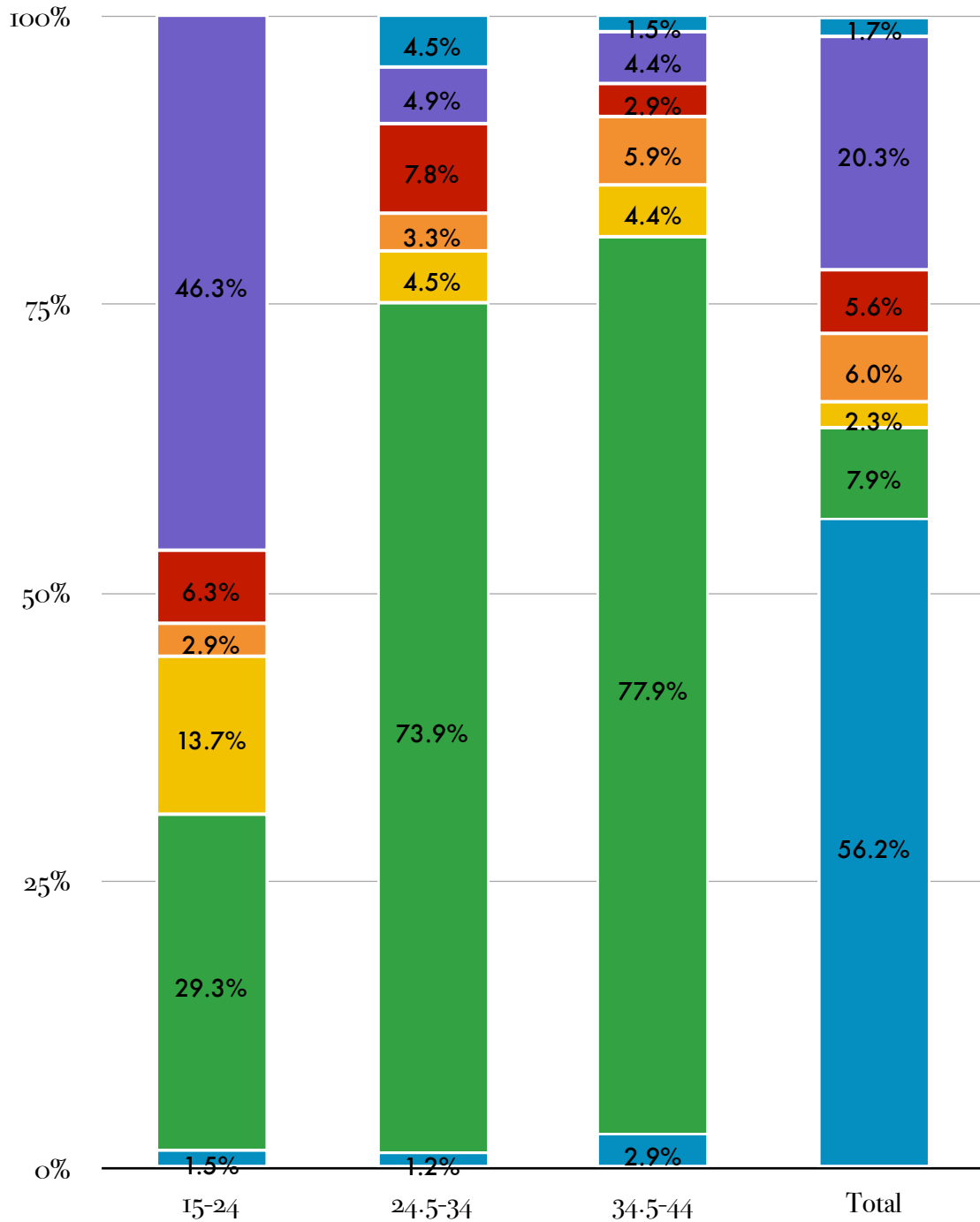
- GCE 'O'/'N' Level
 - Diploma/Advanced Diploma
 - Masters/Post-graduate Degree
 - Other
- 'A' Level/IB
 - Bachelors/Graduate Degree
 - Doctorate



*** Qn 16 - Employment Status**

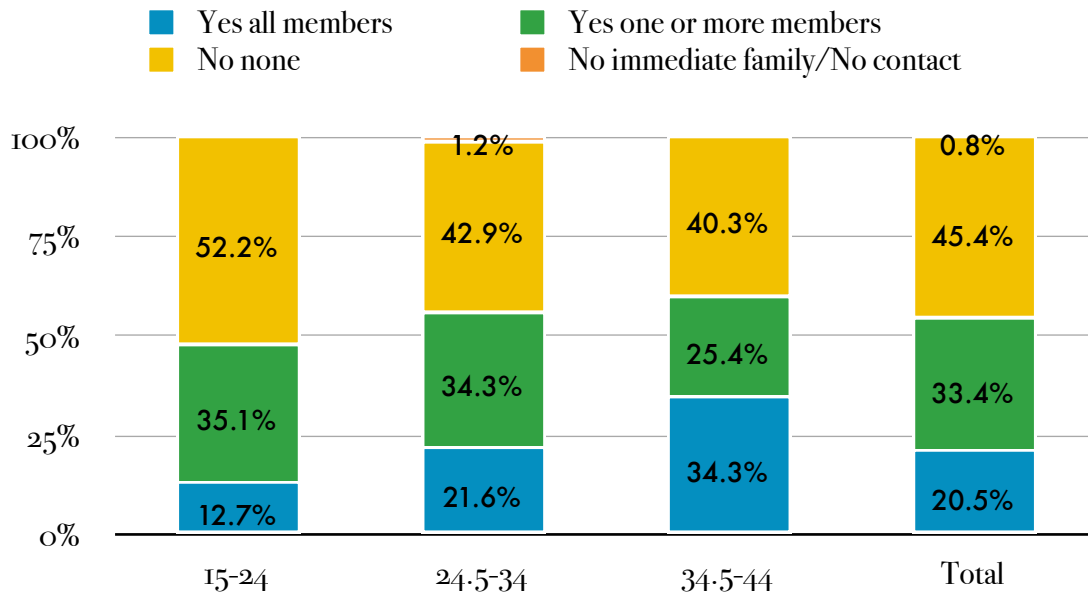
(Those in the "Employed - Fulltime/perm" category in blue starts from the bottom of the graph)

- Employed - Fulltime/perm
- Business Owner
- Unemployed
- Other
- Employed - Part-time/temp
- Self-employed
- Full-time student



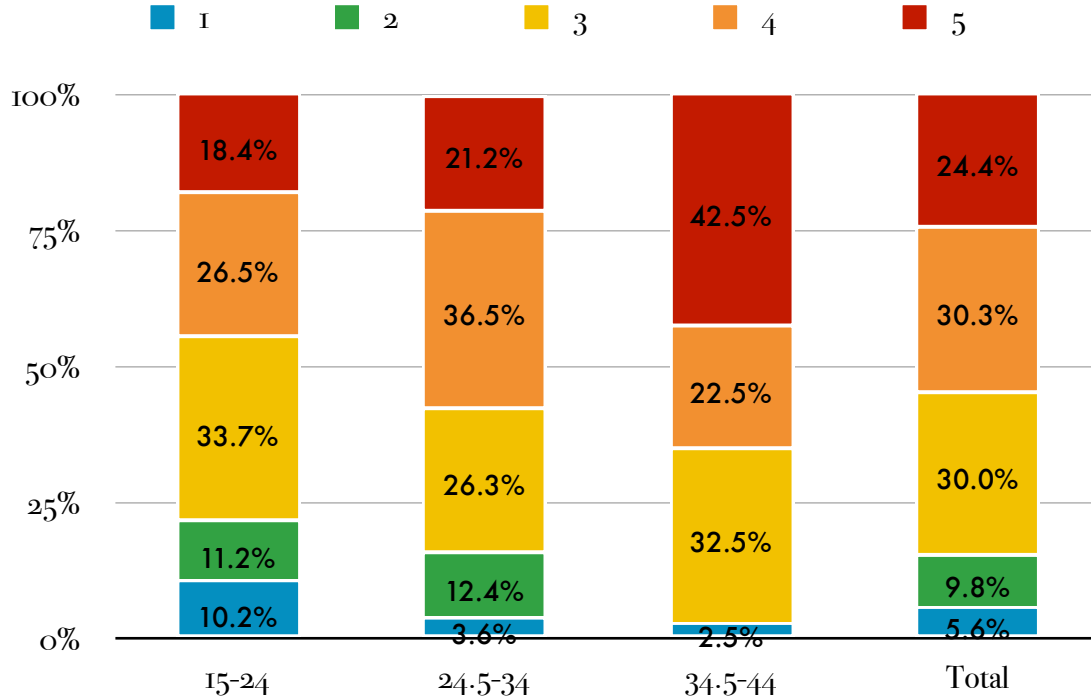
Friends, Family and Work

Qn 18 - Have you informed your immediate family of your sexual orientation?



Qn 19 - If you have informed your family, to what extent have they rejected or accepted it?

n = 287



Mean Ratings:

15-24: 3.59

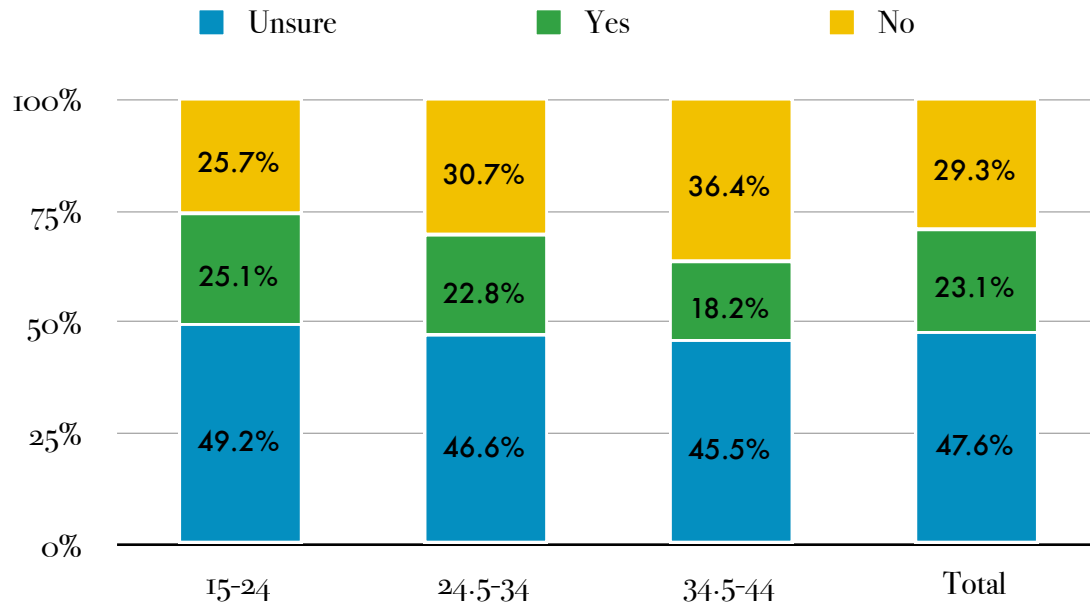
34-5-44: 4.34

24-5-34: 3.59

Total: 3.58

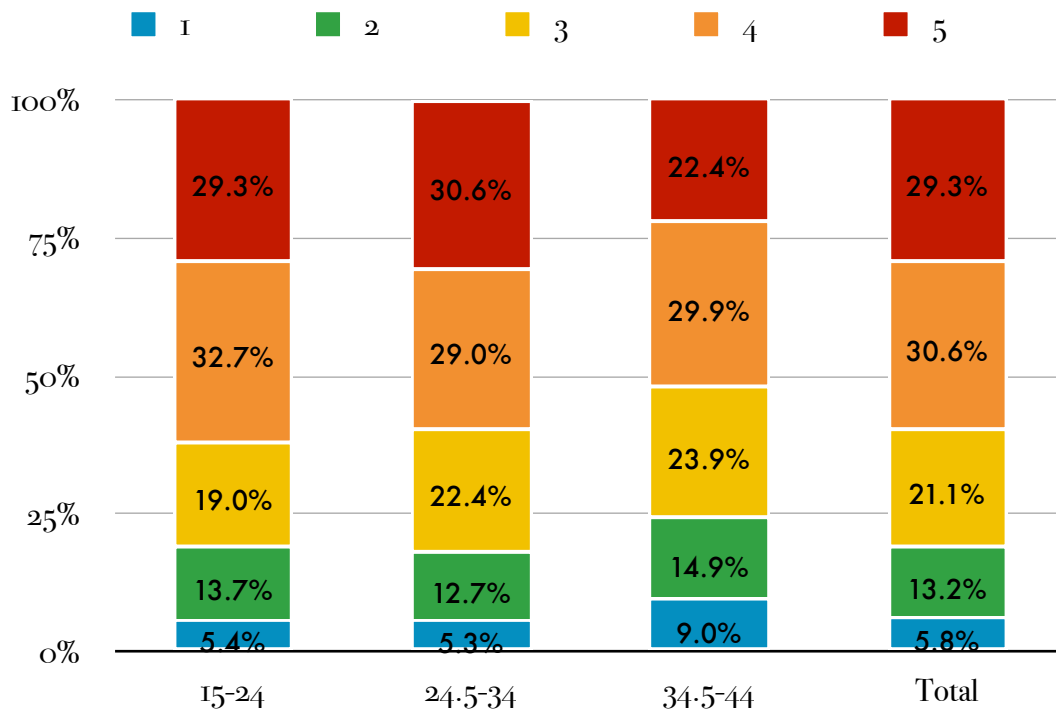
Qn 20 - If none or not all of your family members know, do you intend to reveal your sexual orientation to them?

n = 420



Qn 22 - Have you informed your friends of your sexual orientation?

[1- not out at all, 5 - completely out]



Mean Ratings:

15-24: 3.67

24.5-34: 3.67

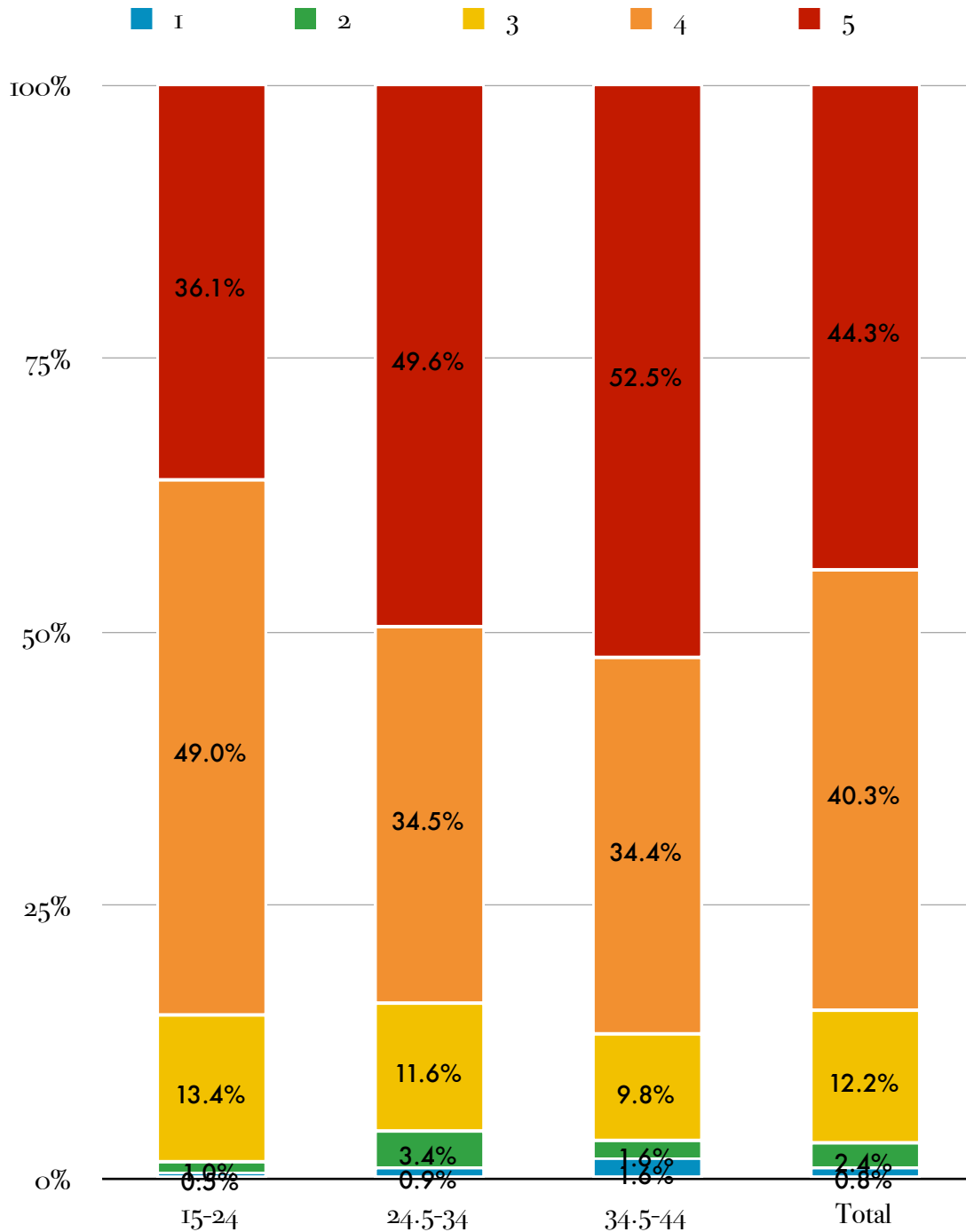
~~34.544~~ 3.4²

Total: 3.64

Qn 23 -If you have informed your friends, to what extent have they rejected or accepted it?

[1- complete rejection, 5 - completely acceptance]

n = 501



Mean Ratings:

15-24: 4.19

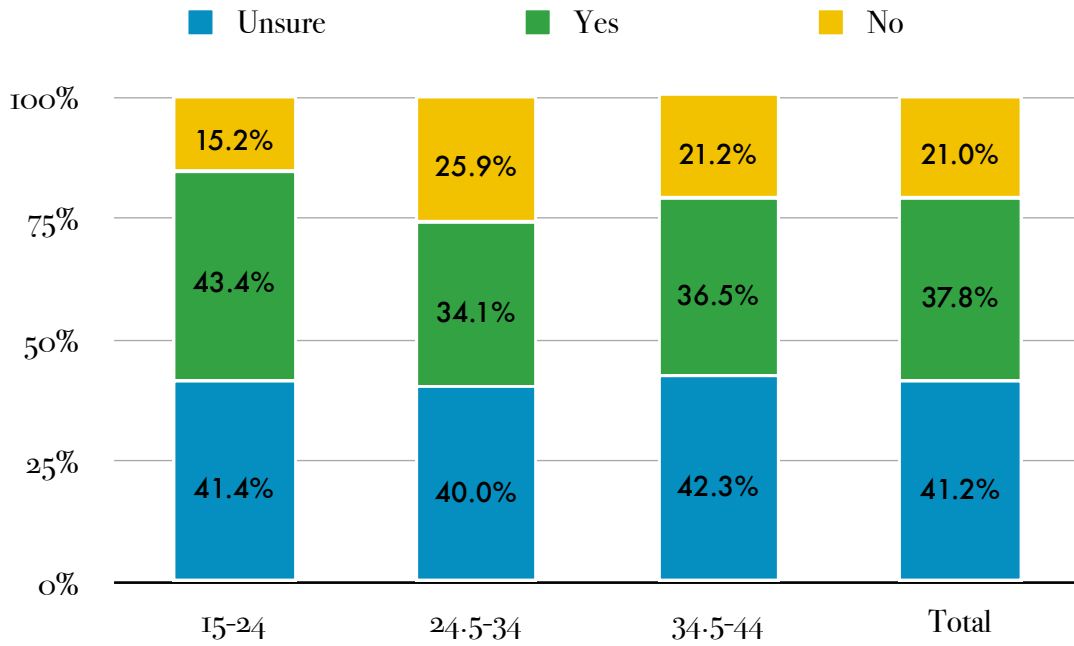
24.5-34: 4.28

34.5-44: 4.34

Total: 4.25

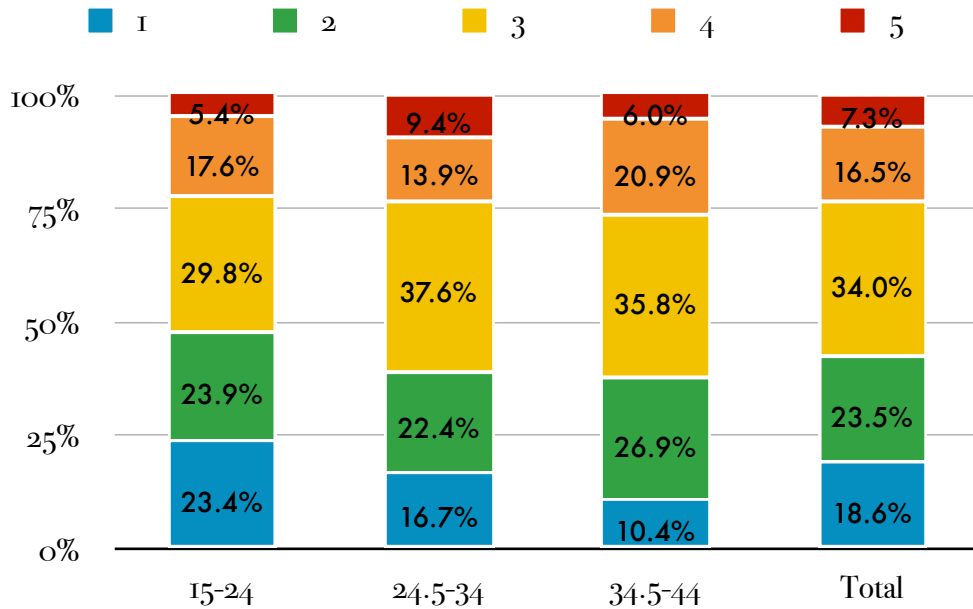
Qn 24 - If none, or not all of your friends know, do you intend to reveal your sexual orientation to them?

n = 376



Qn 26 - Currently, your social circle (people you interact frequently/regularly with, outside of work/school) is composed of mostly...

[1 - mostly straight people, 5 - mostly queer people]



Mean Ratings:

15-24: 2.58

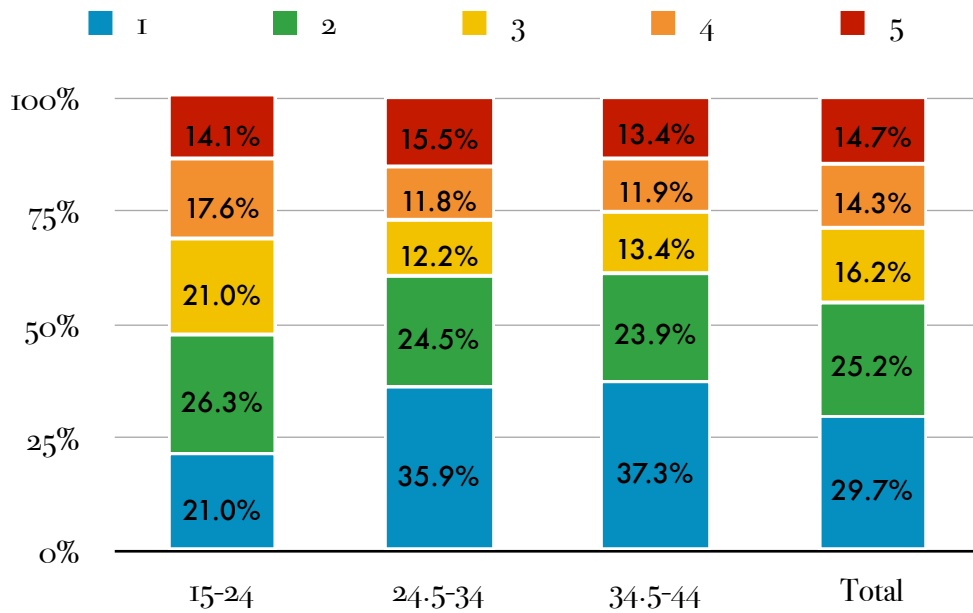
24-5-34: 2.77

34-5-44: 2.85

Total: 2.70

Qn 27 - Have you informed anyone your current work or school environment about your sexual orientation?

[1- not out at all, 5 - completely out]



Mean Ratings:

15-24: 2.78

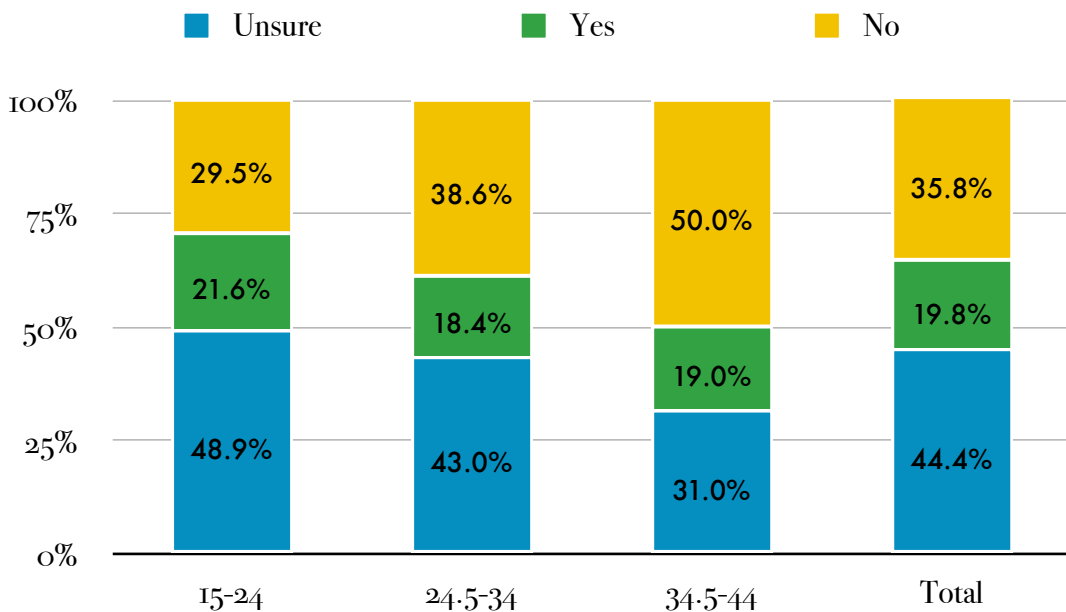
24.5-34: 2.47

34.5-44: 2.40

Total: 2.59

Qn 28 - If you have not informed anyone, or not everyone, do you intend to inform them?

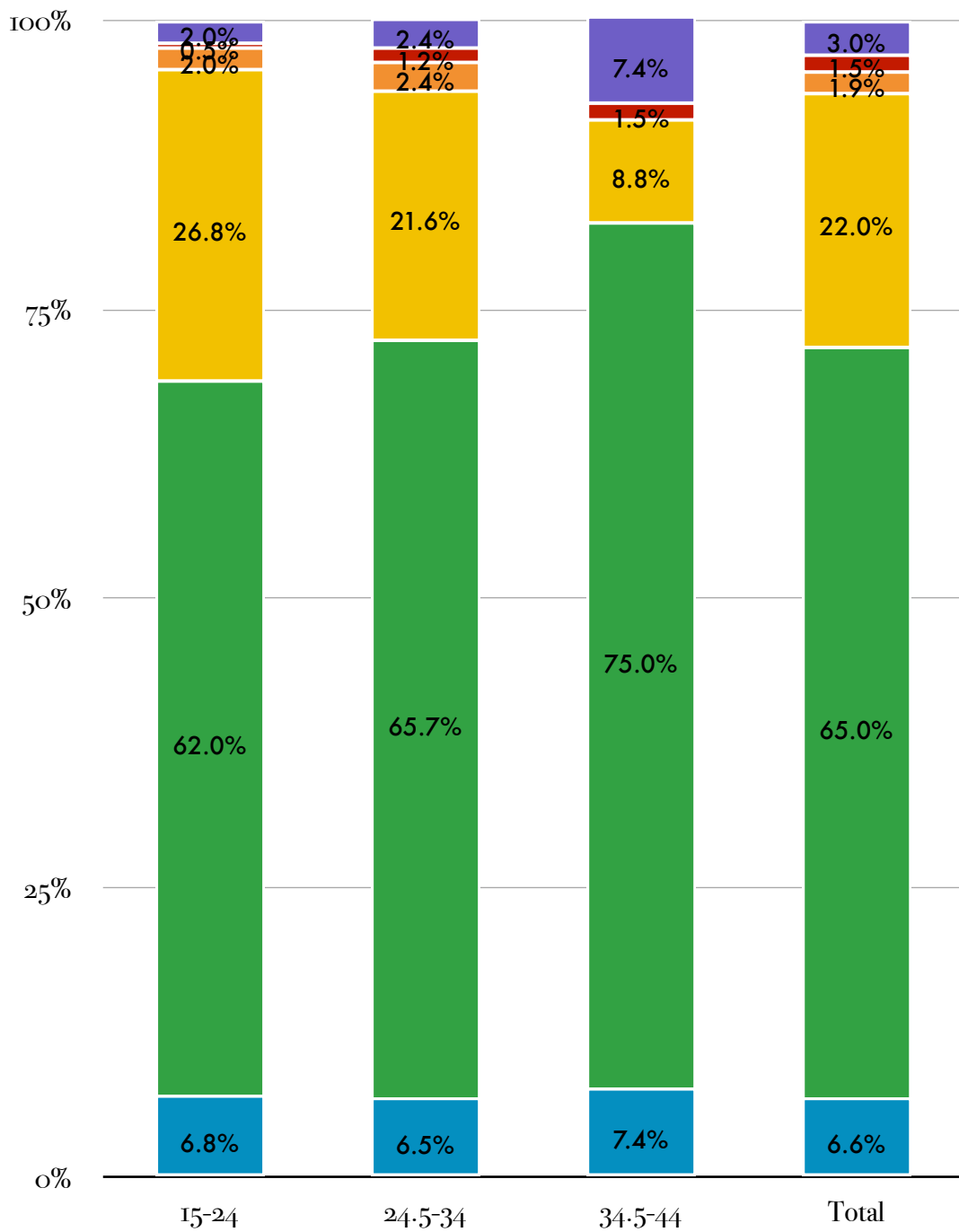
n = 454



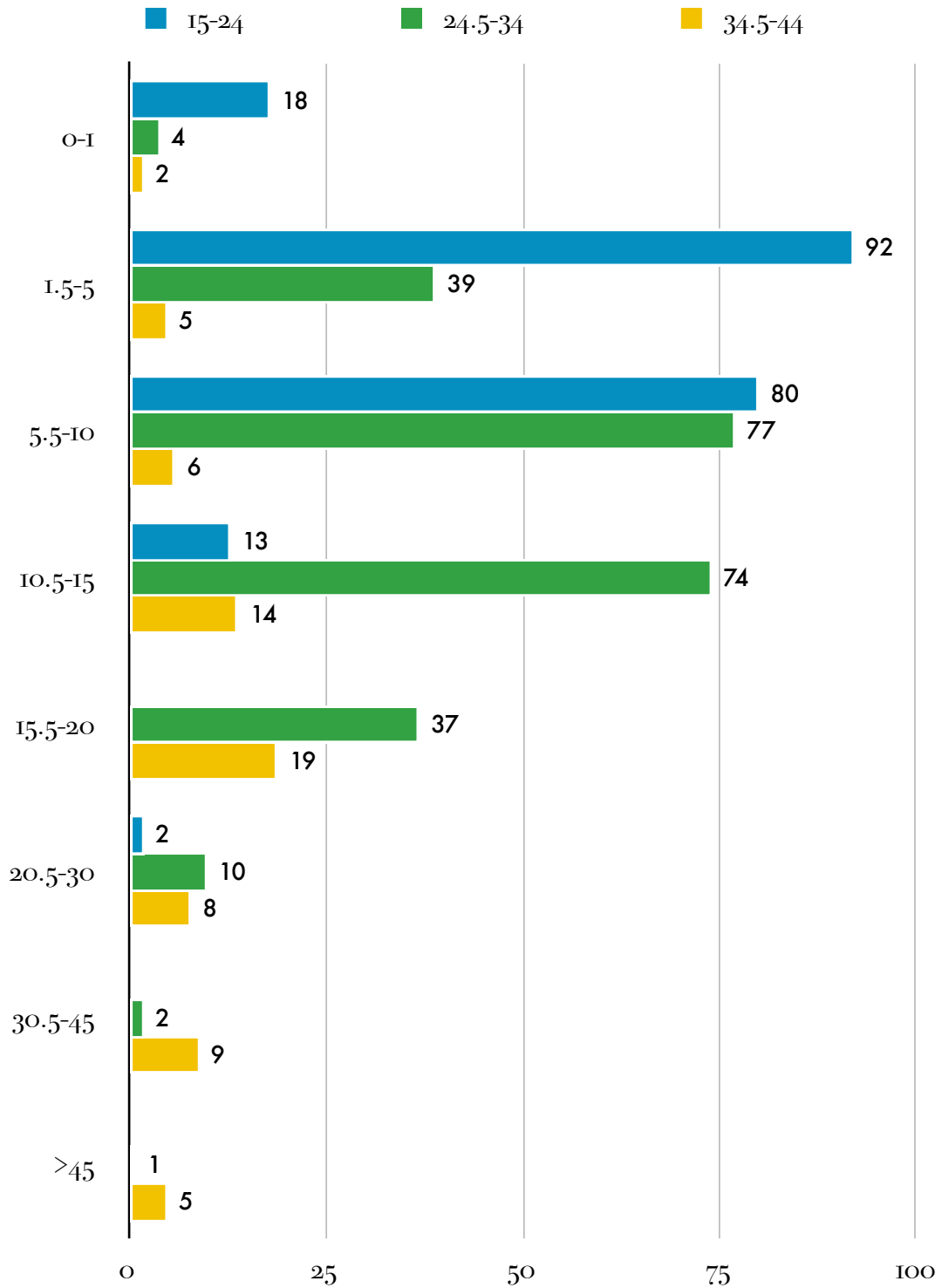
Personal

Qn 34 -What do you identify as?

- Queer
- Lesbian
- Bisexual
- Pansexual/pomosexual
- Transsexual/transgender
- Other



Qn 35 - For how many years have you identified as such? (in years)



Mean Lengths:

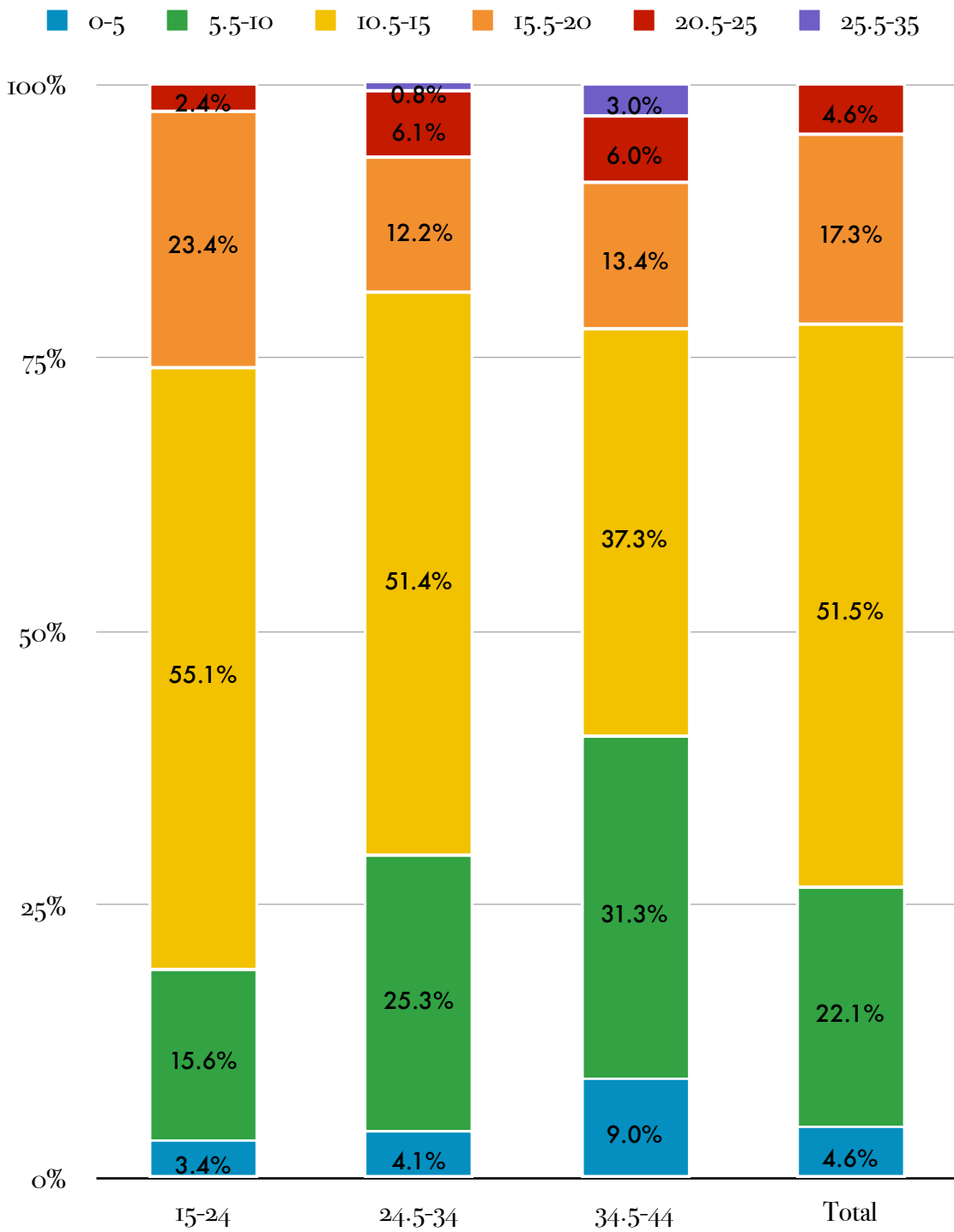
15-24: 5.59

24.5-34: 11.8

34.5-44: 18.3

Total: 10.5

Qn 37 - Age of first attraction to girls



Mean Ages:

15-24: 13.3

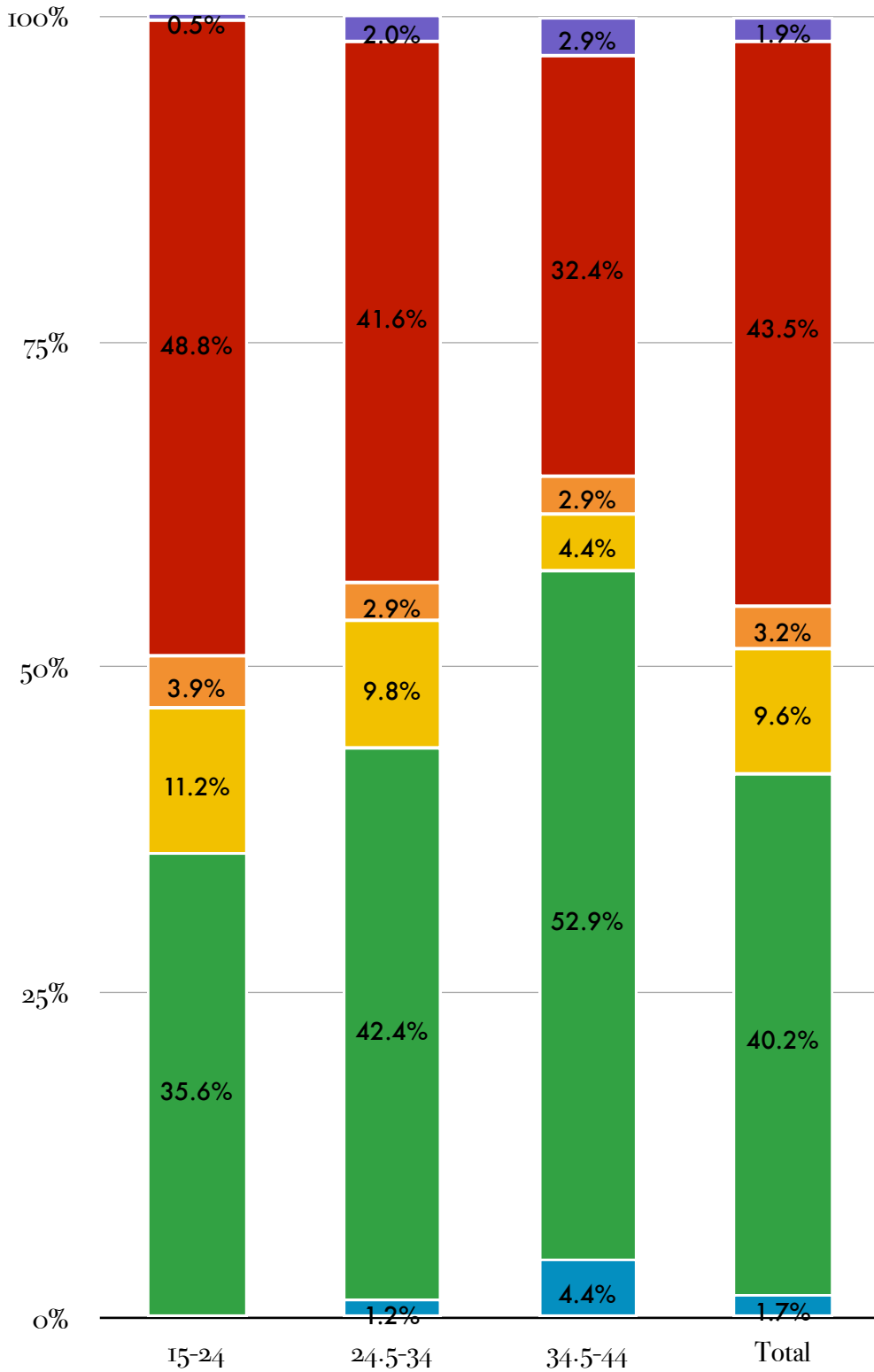
24.5-34: 12.7

34.5-44: 12.9

Total: 13.1

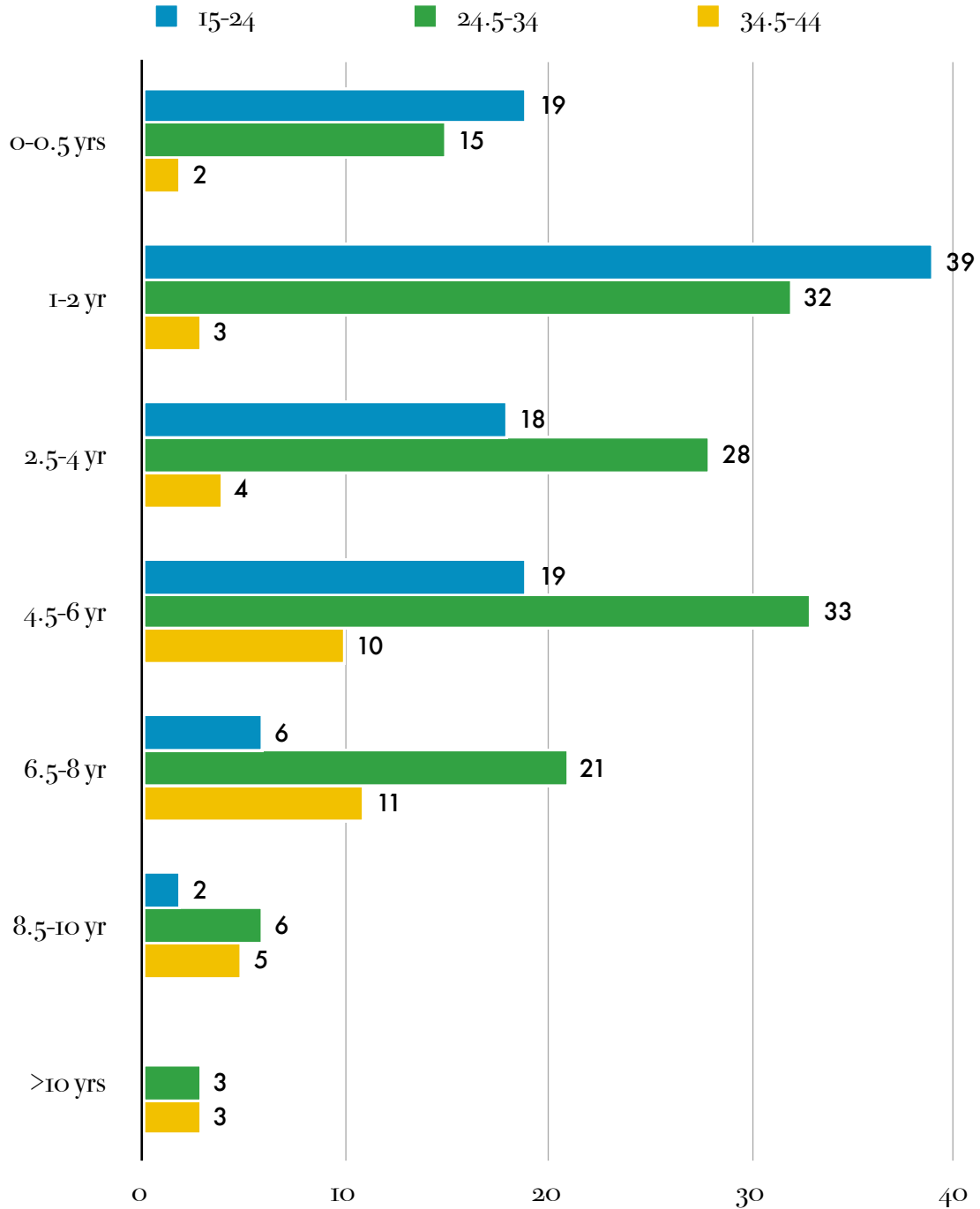
Qn 38 - Relationship Status

■ Married[legally]
 ■ Monogamous
 ■ Dating
 ■ Open Relationship
■ Single
 ■ Other



Qn 41 - If you are not single, how long have you been in your current relationship status?

(category “0-0.5” in blue starts from the bottom of the graph)



Mean Lengths:

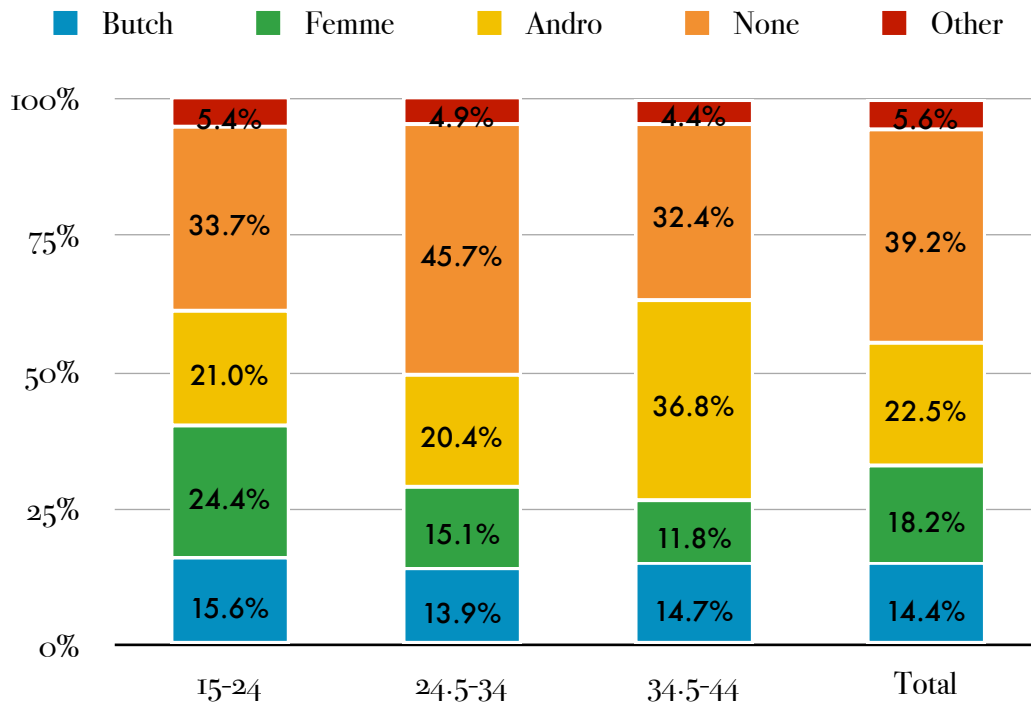
15-24: 1.95

24.5-34: 2.82

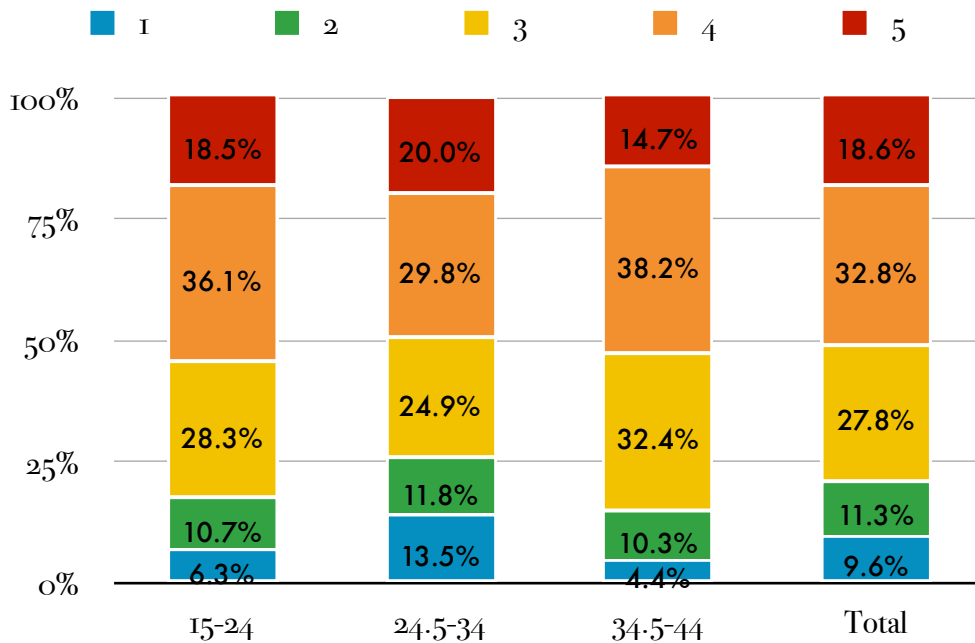
34.5-44: 5.82

Total: 3.15

Qn 46 - Do you identify with any labels, if at all?



Qn 47 - Do queer people around you see themselves as butch, femme or andro etc.?
[1- none at all, 5 - most or all]



Mean Ratings:

15-24: 3.26

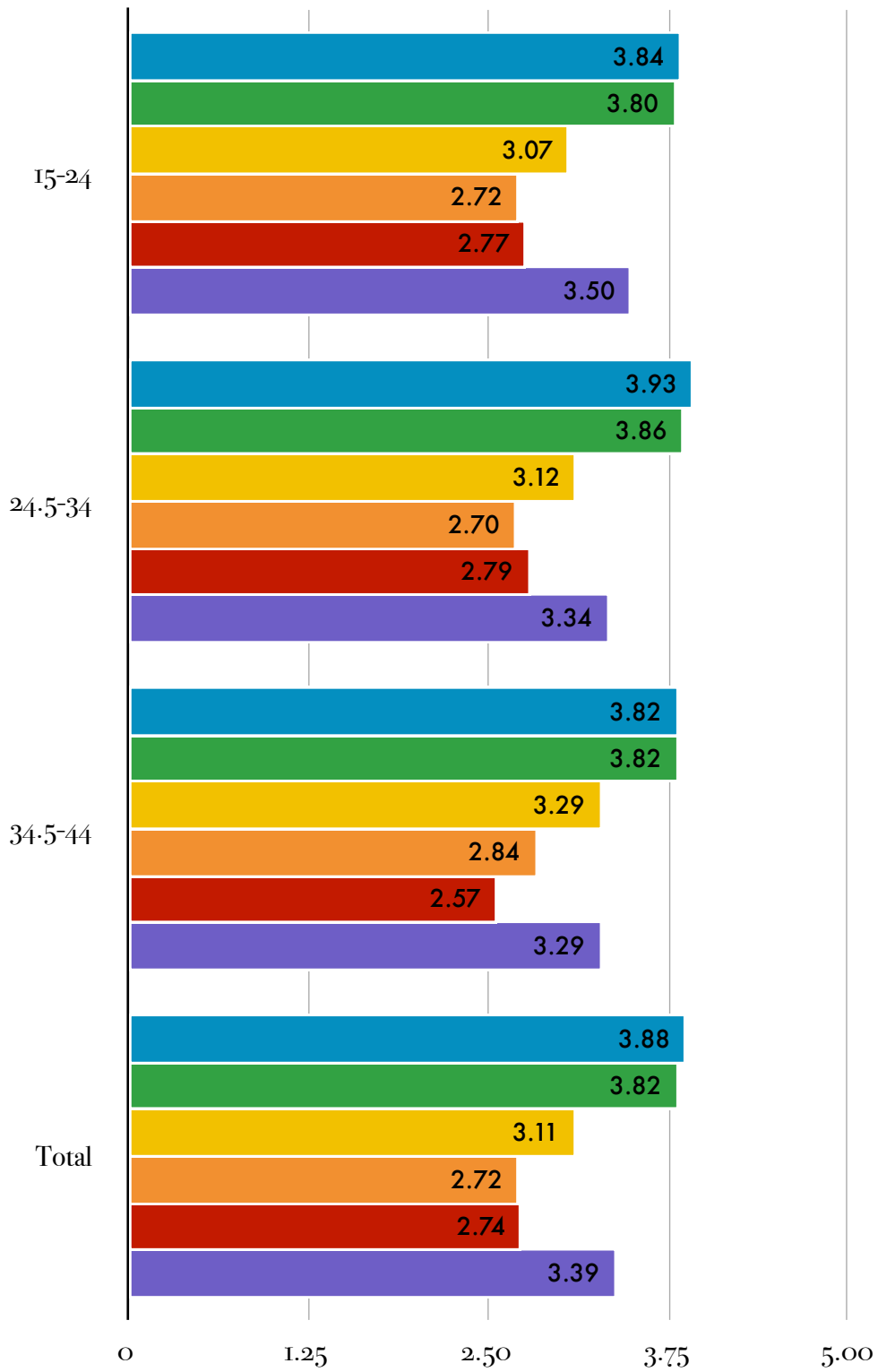
24.5-34: 3.31

34.5-44: 3.49

Total: 3.4

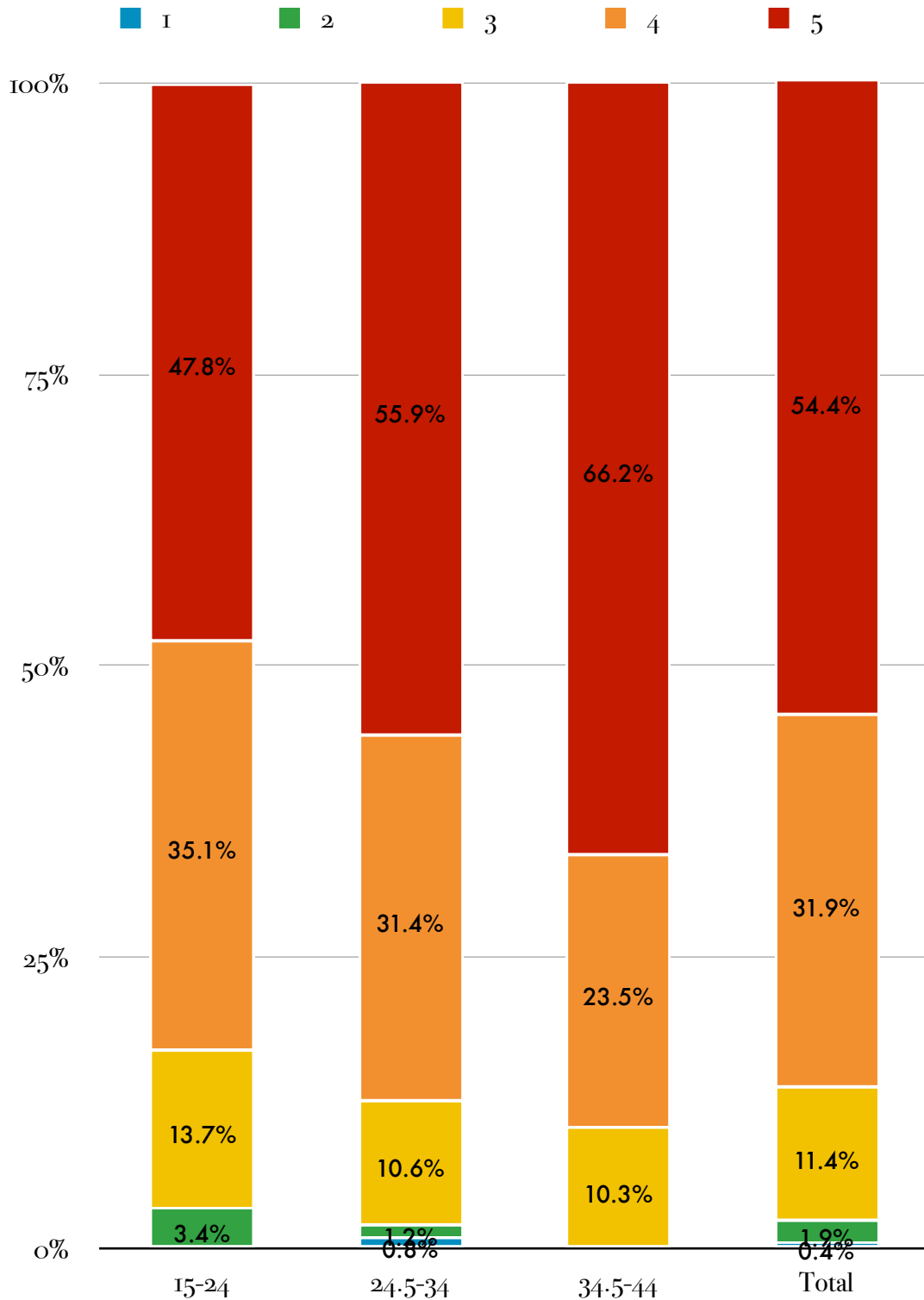
Qn 48- How important are these aspects of your identity to you? [mean rating]

■ Sexuality
 ■ Gender
 ■ Ethnicity
 ■ Religion
 ■ Nationality
■ Occupation



Qn 49 - How comfortable are you with your sexual orientation?

[1- very uncomfortable, 5 - very comfortable]



Mean Ratings:

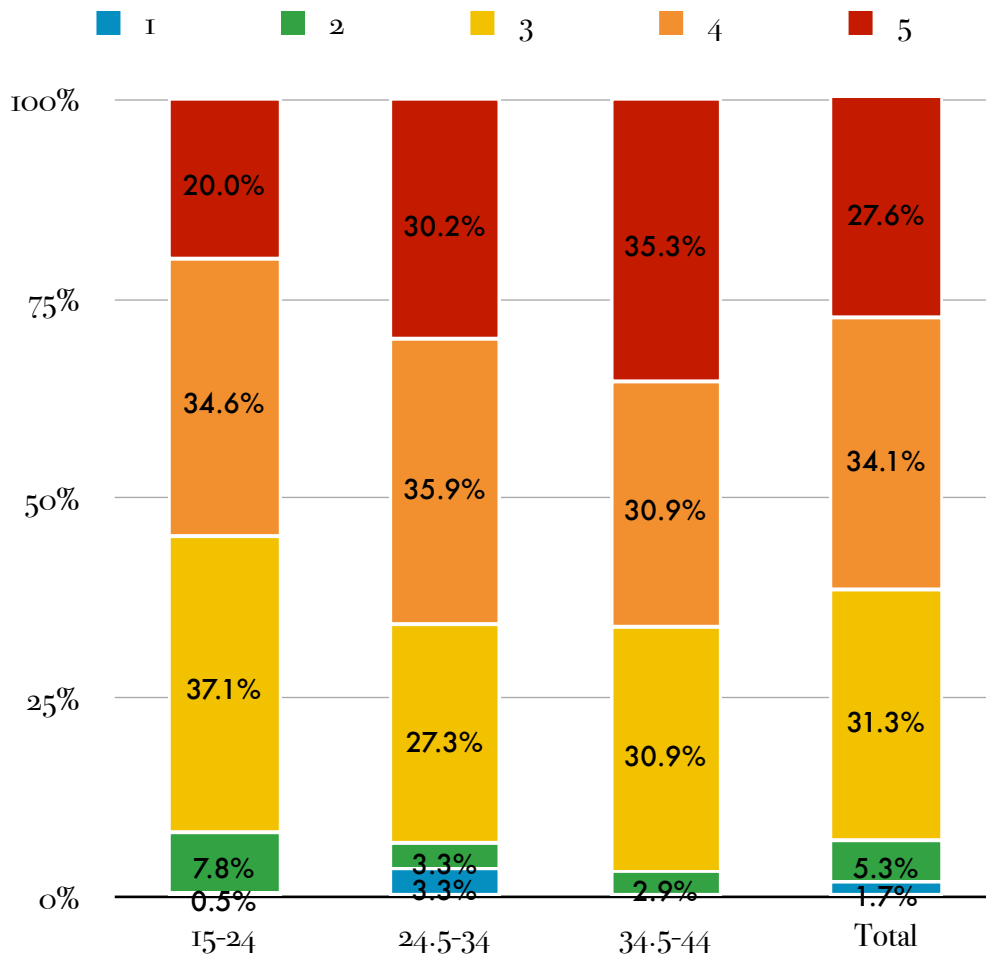
15-24: 4.27

24.5-34: 4.40

34.5-44: 4.56

Total: 4.38

Qn 50 - Impact of sexuality on emotional health
[1- negatively, 5 - positively]



Mean Ratings:

15-24: 3.76

24.5-34: 3.87

34.5-44: 3.99

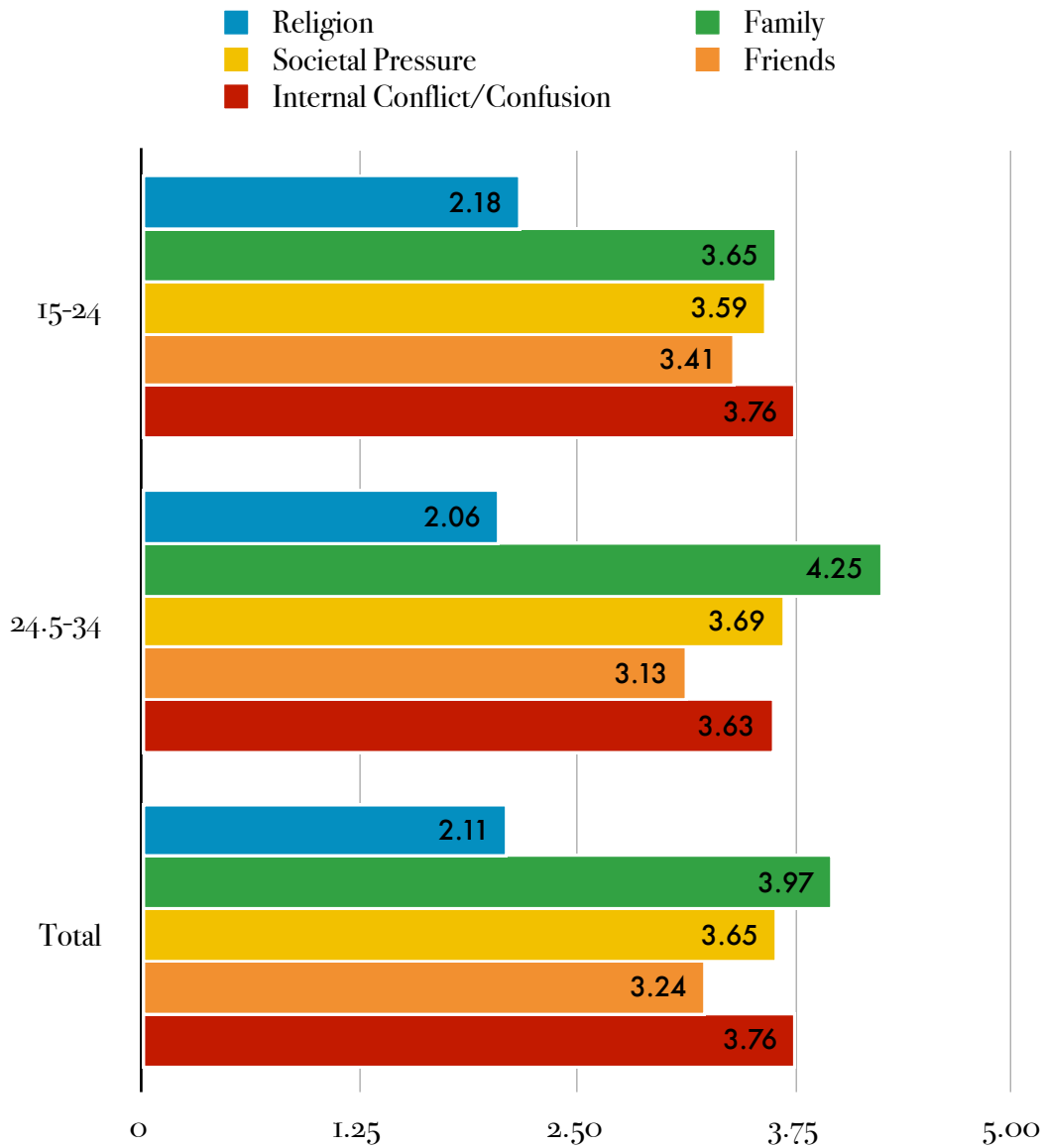
Total: 3.81

Qn 51-How has coming out [both to yourself and others] affected your emotional well-being (e.g. level of happiness)?

15-24: n = 17

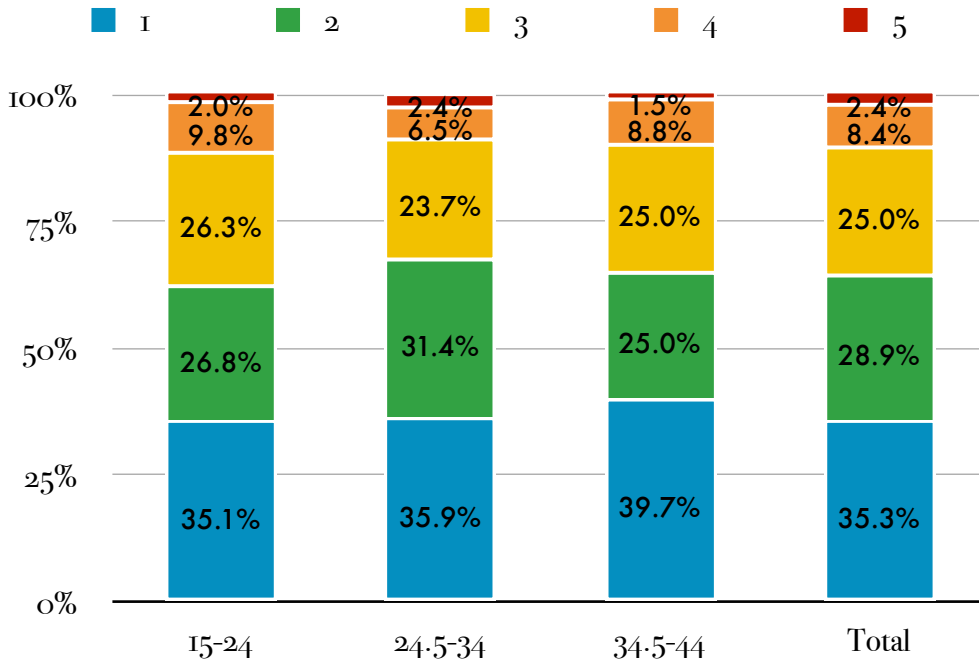
24-5-34: n = 16

34-5-44: n= 2 [left out of the graphs as the number is too small for fair comparison]



Qn 53 - Are you active in the community, in terms of activism, attendance at pride events, talks etc?

[1- not involved at all, 5 - very involved]



Mean Ratings:

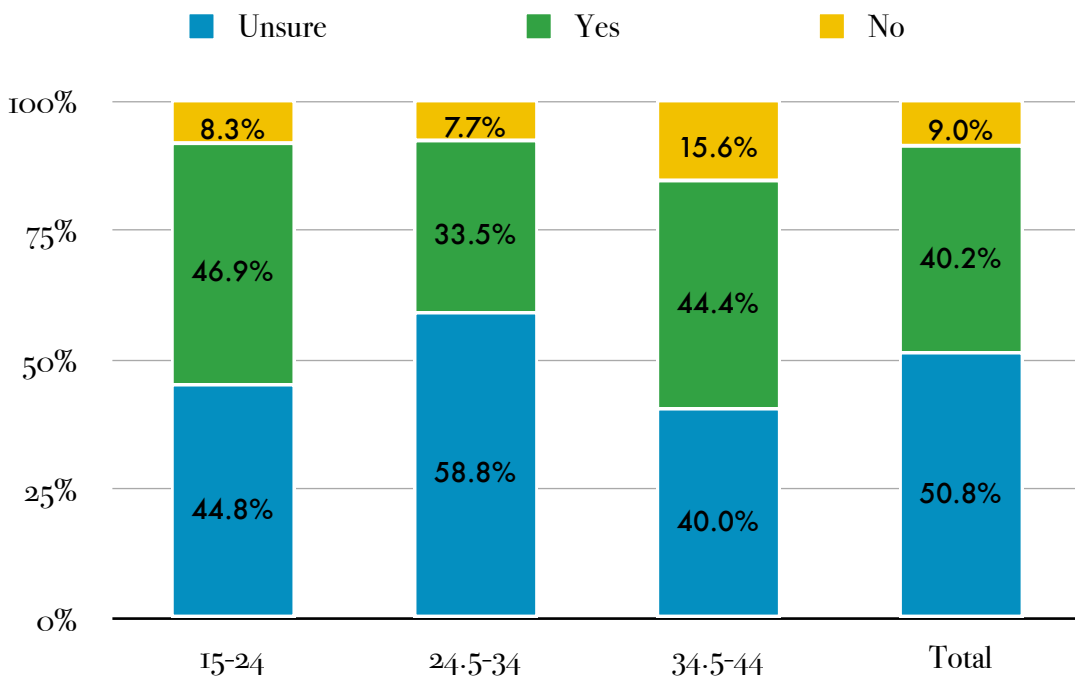
15-24: 2.17

24.5-34: 2.08

34.5-44: 2.07

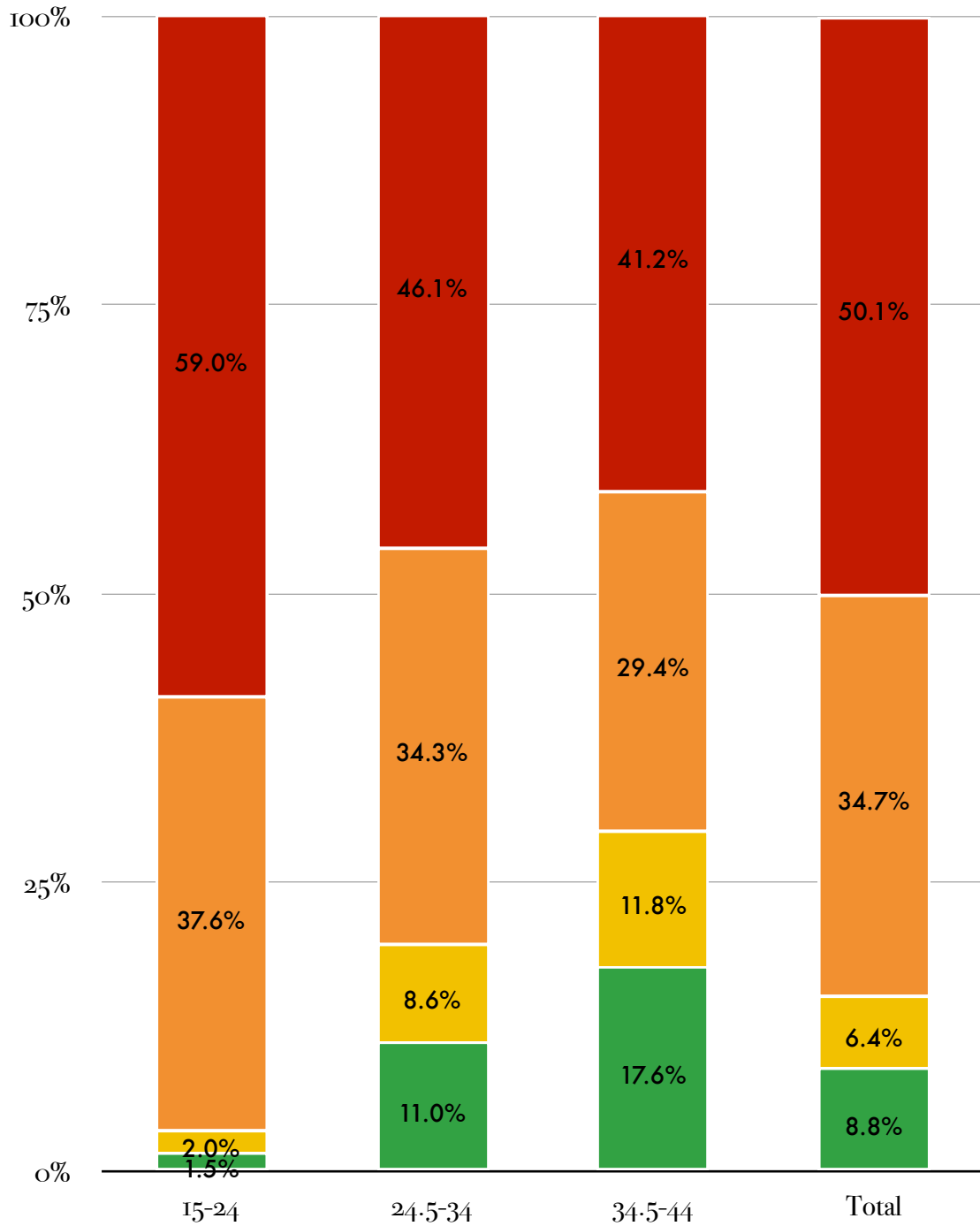
Total: 2.14

Qn 54 - If given an opportunity, would you get involved?



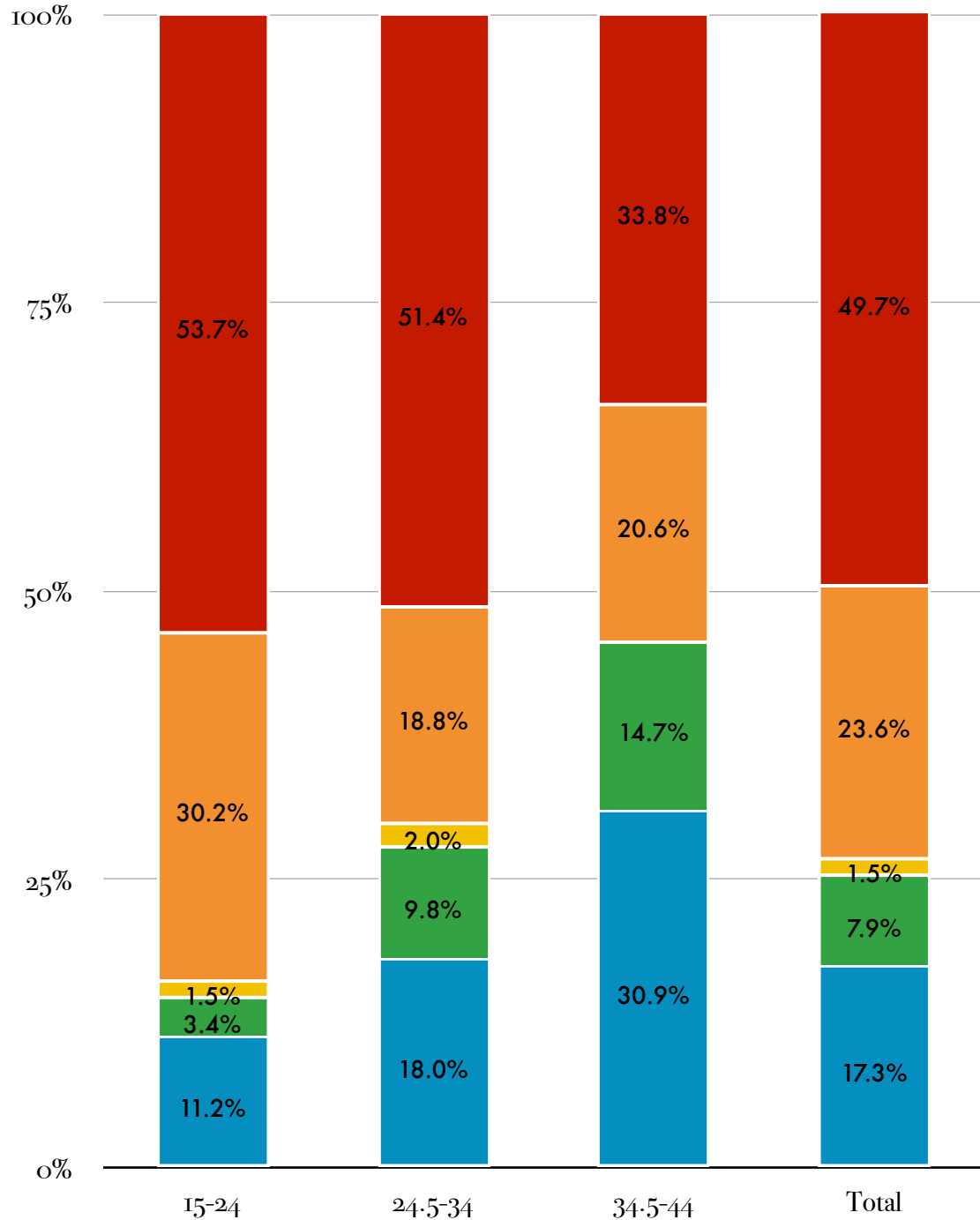
Question 55 - How often do you undergo breast examination by a doctor?

- Monthly
- Once in two years
- Only when something doesn't seem right
- Once a year
- Less than once in 2 years/Never

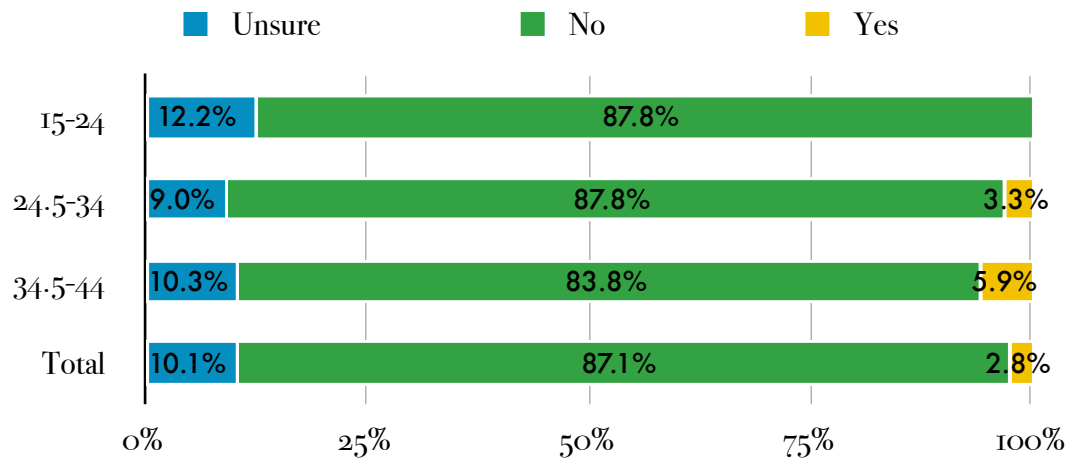


Question 56 - How often do you undergo breast examination? (selfbreast-examination)

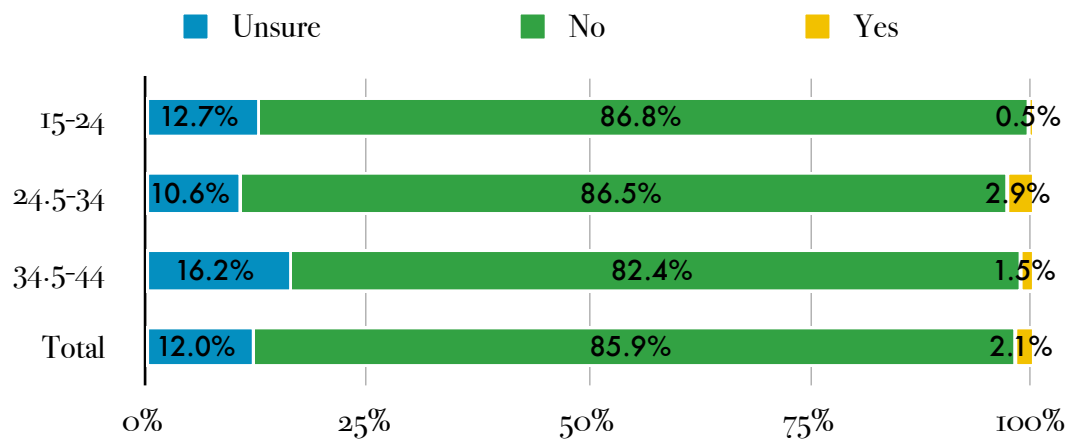
- Monthly
- Once a year
- Once in two years
- Less than once in 2 years/Never
- Only when something doesn't seem right



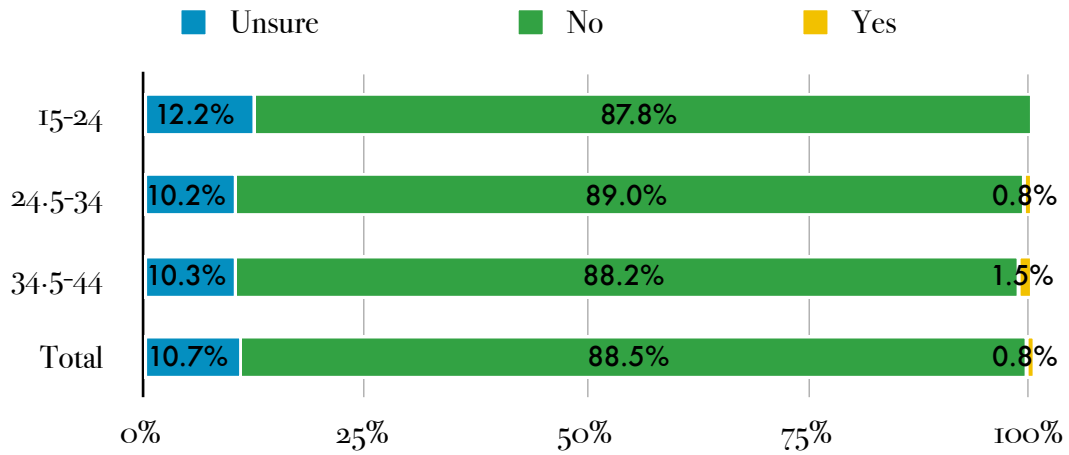
Qn 57 - Do you have a history of uterine polyps/fibroids?



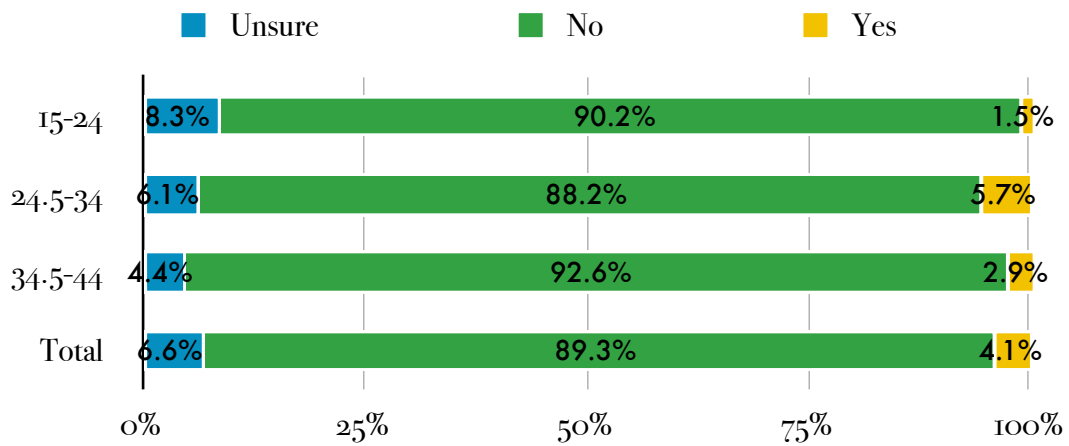
Qn 57 - Do you have a history of endometriosis/adenomyosis?



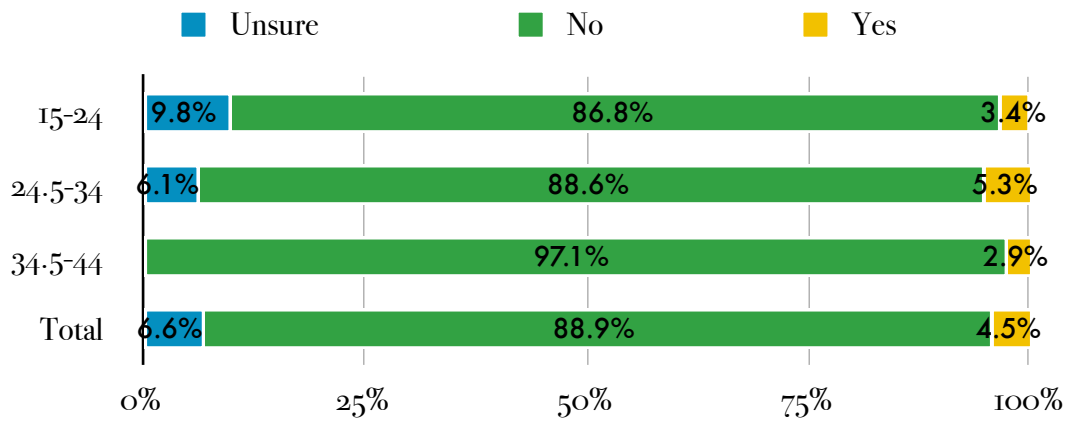
Qn 57 - Do you have a history of fallopian cysts/polyps?



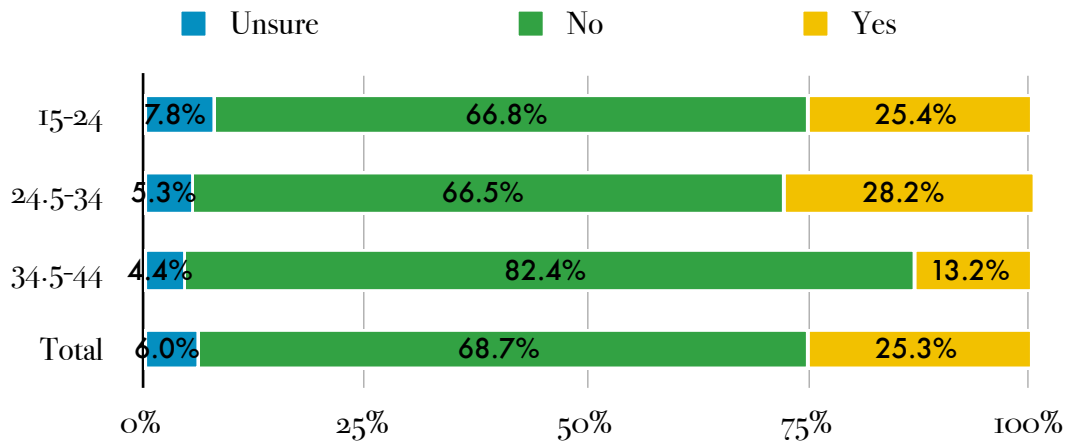
Qn 57 - Do you have a history of ovarian cysts/polyps?



Qn 57 - Do you have a history of breast lumps/tumours?

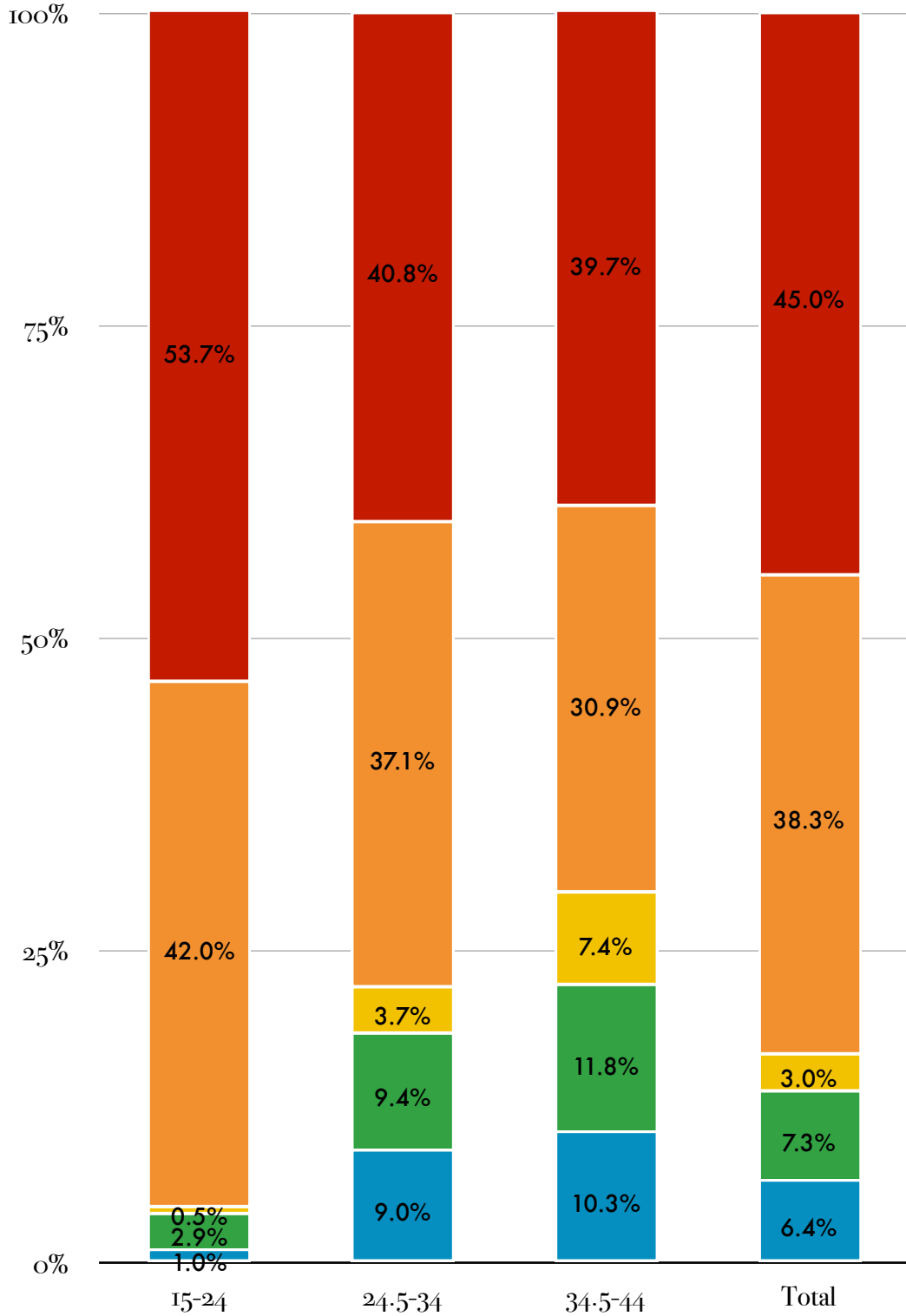


Qn 57 - Do you have a history of severe menstrual cramps?



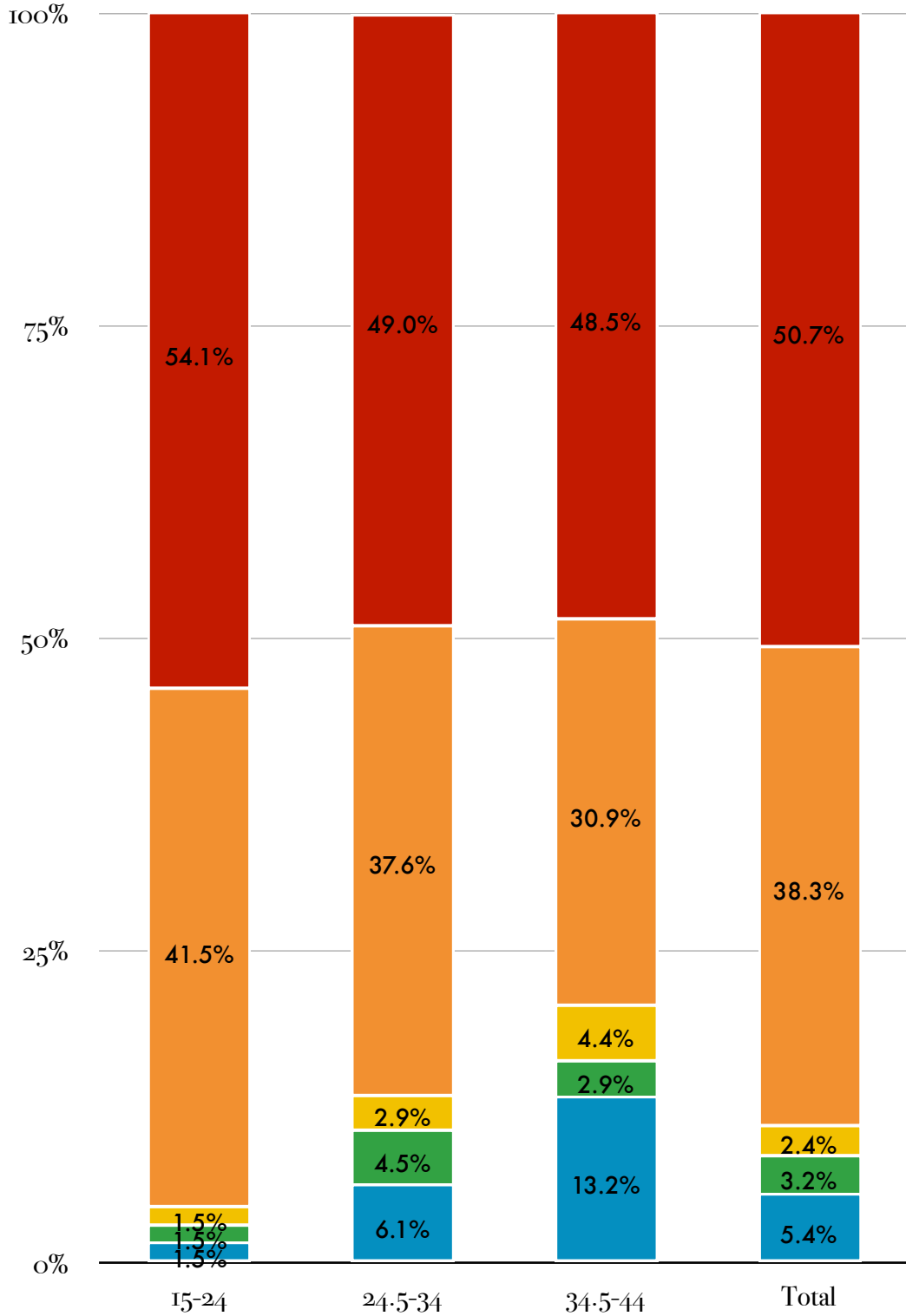
Question 58 - How often do you go for a PAP smear?

- Once in a year
 - Once in five years
 - Only when something doesn't seem right
- Once in two years
 - Less than once in 5 years/never

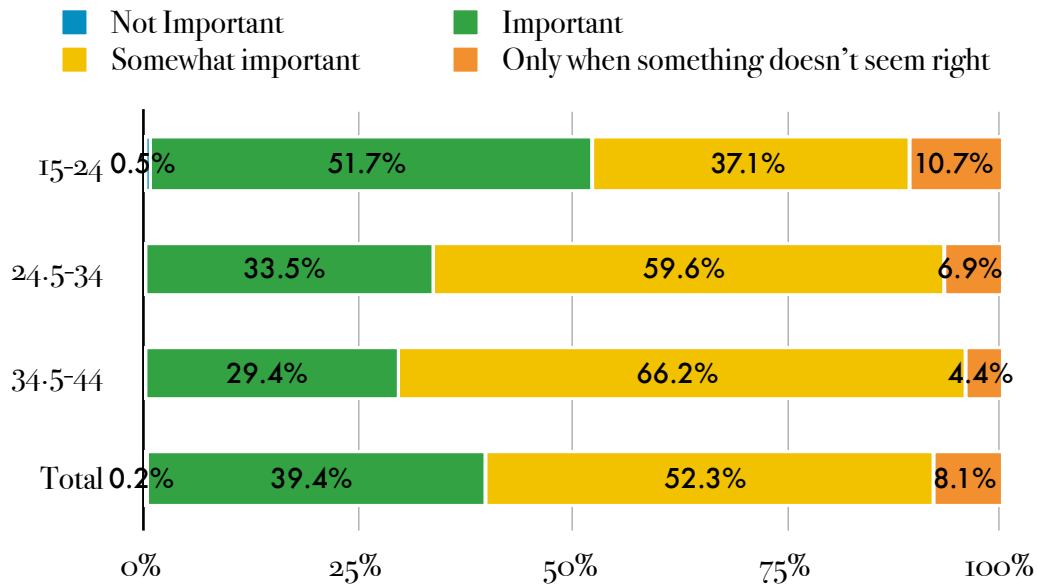


Question 59 - How often do you go for an ultrasound test?

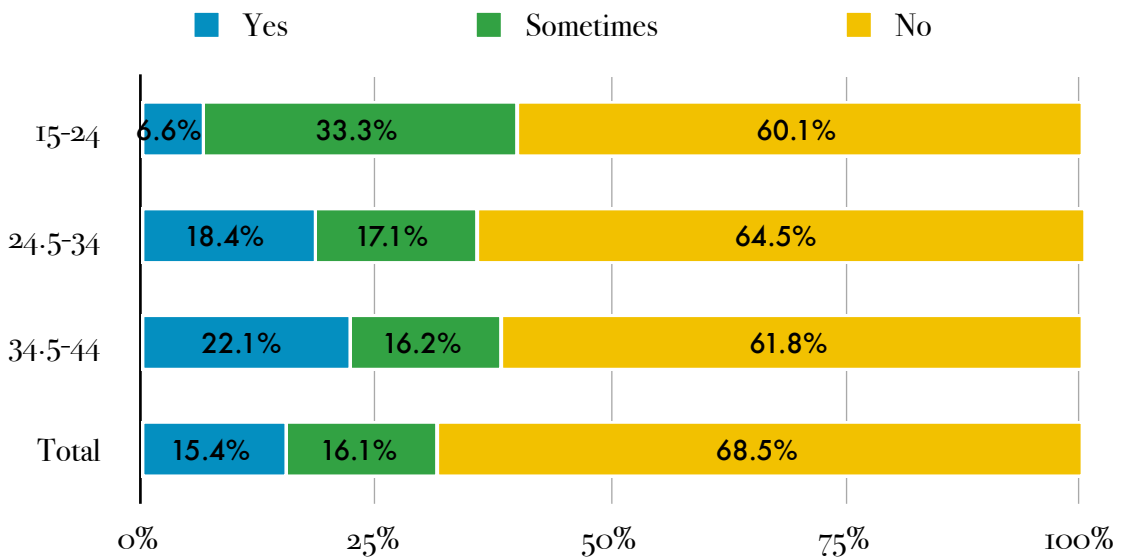
- Once in a year
- Once in two years
- Once in five years
- Less than once in 5 years/never
- Only when something doesn't seem right



Qn 6o - Do you think regular check-ups are important?



Qn 6r - Do you think your sexuality affect your decision to seek healthcare for female illnesses?



Financial

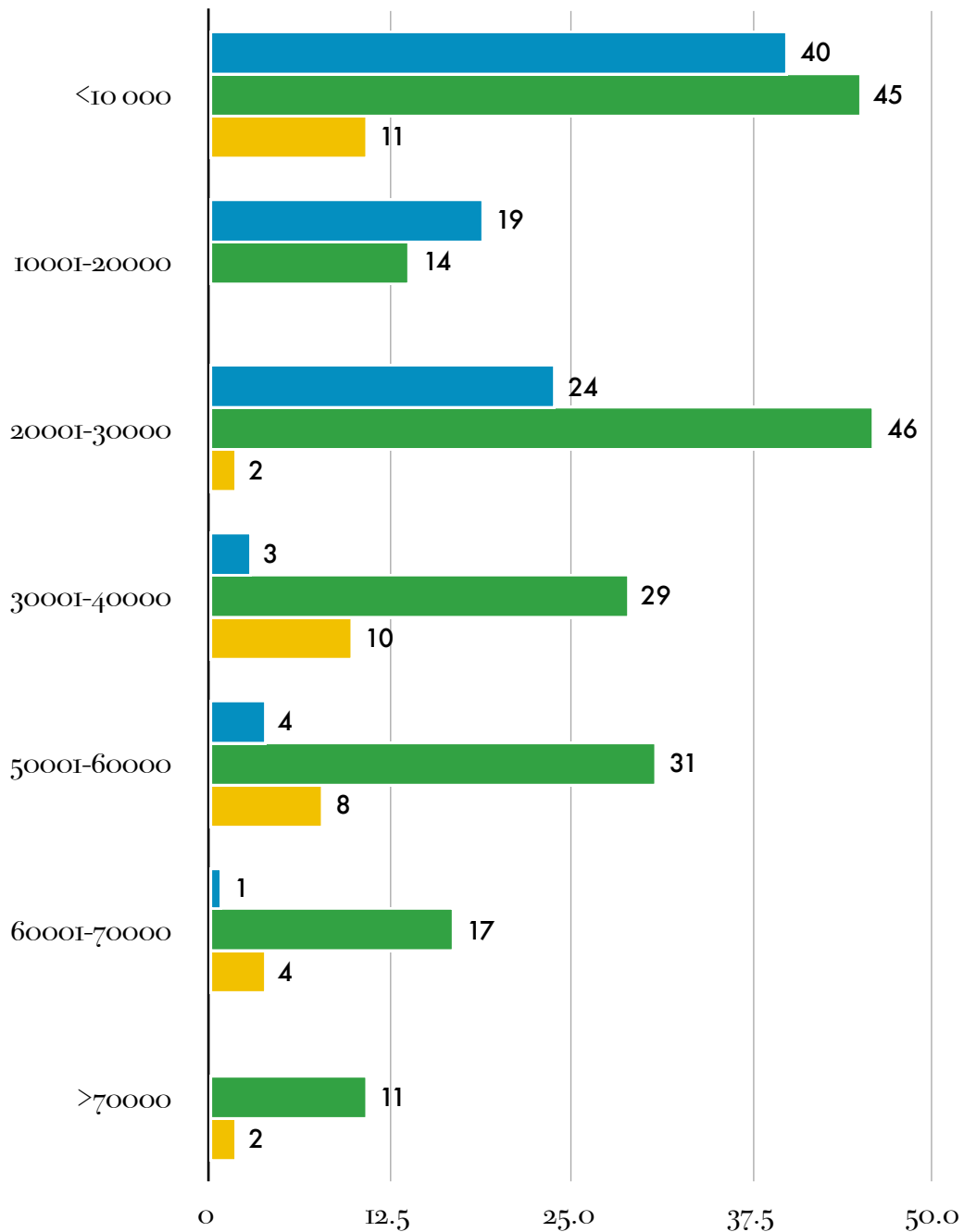
Qn 63 - Annual Income (in S\$)

■ 15-24 ■ 24-34 ■ 34-44

15-24: n = 94

24-34: n = 219

34-5-44: n = 62



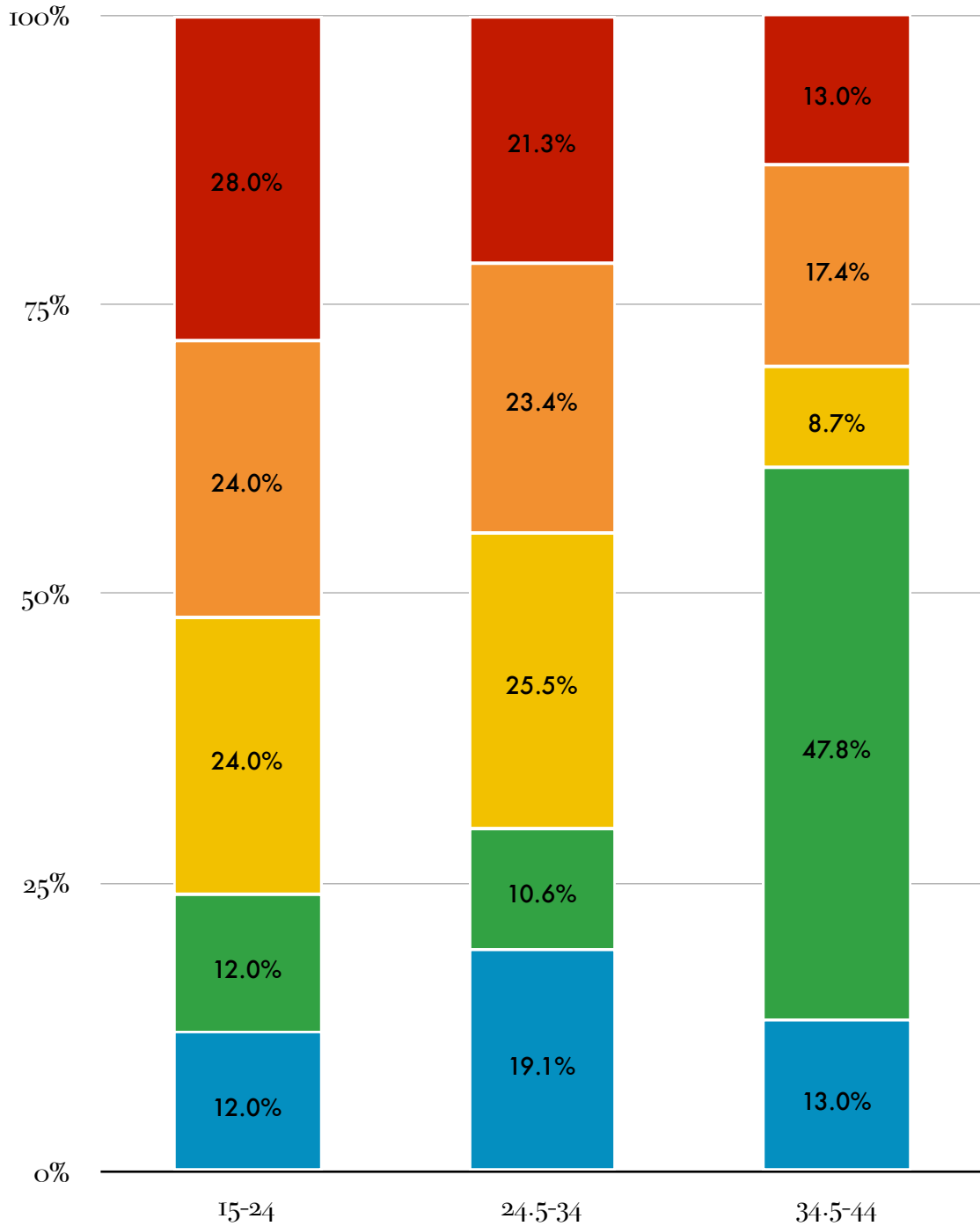
Qn 67 - Attached people who live with their partners

15-24: n = 25

24-5-34: n = 47

34-5-44: n = 23

- Yes we co-own our home
- Yes I own my own home
- No my partner owns it
- No it is a rented home
- Other

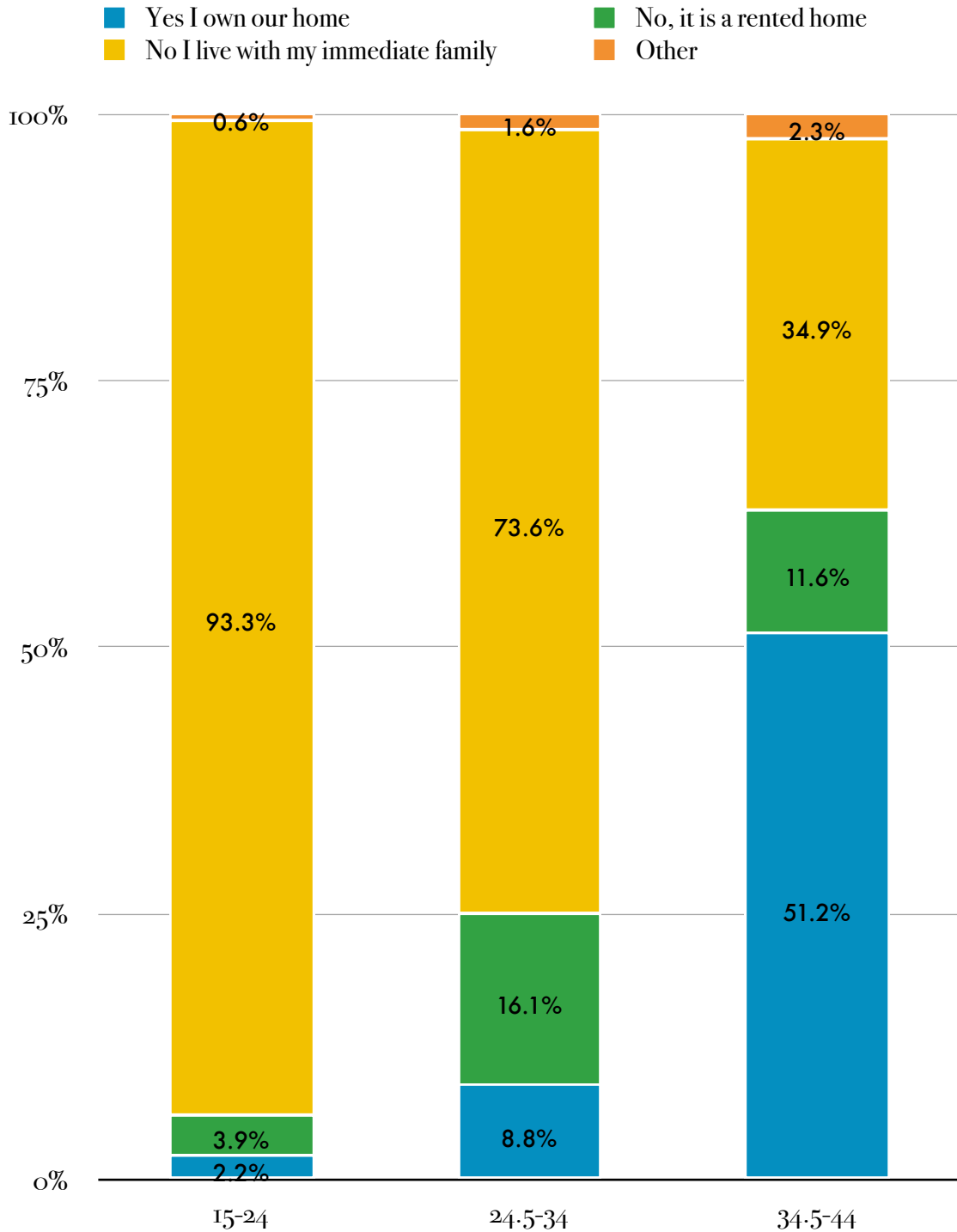


Qn 68 - Attached people who don't live with partners, and single people

15-24: n = 179

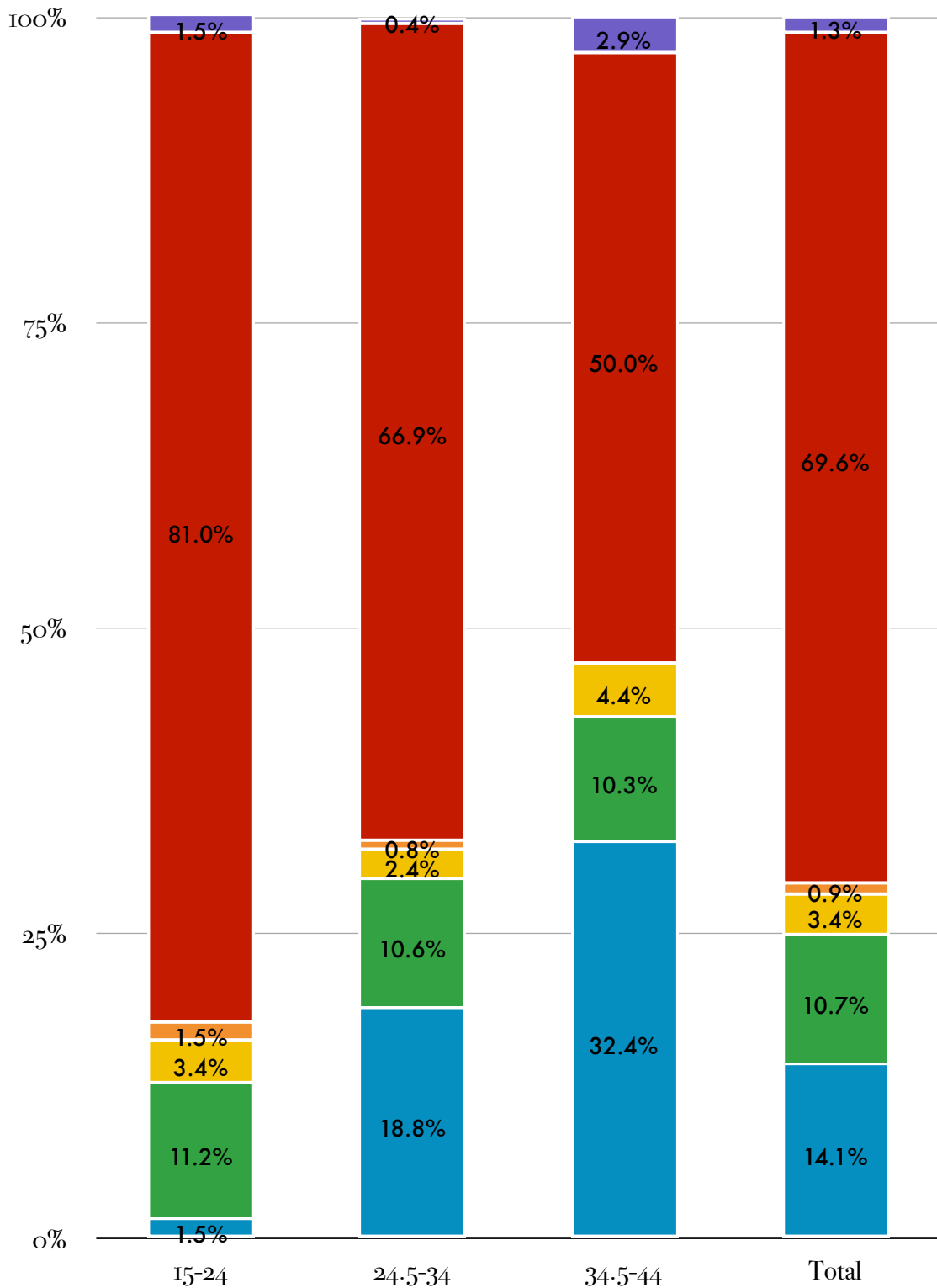
24-5-34: n = 193

34-5-44: n = 43



Qn 71 - Car ownership

- Other
- No I do not own a vehicle
- No I rent a car
- Yes I own a motorbike/motorcycle
- Yes I co-own a car with my partner/family
- Yes I have my own car



Acknowledgments

Thanks to the following parties.

1. All the individuals who who responded to the survey
2. GLBT Organisations which helped publicise the survey
 - I. Twoqueens (www.twoqueensparty.com)
 - II. Signel
 - III. Fridae
 - IV. Redqueen
 - V. Cactus-sg
 - VI. Oogachaga
3. Weblogs which helped publicise the survey
 - I. The Online Citizen
 - II. Singapore Daily
 - III. YawningBread
 - IV. Individual bloggers
4. All the individuals who helped refine the survey, including the Sayoni Administration Team

Appendix: Questionnaire

Please turn over for a printable version of our survey