

Different Phases of Church Building - 0-50, 50-100, 100+

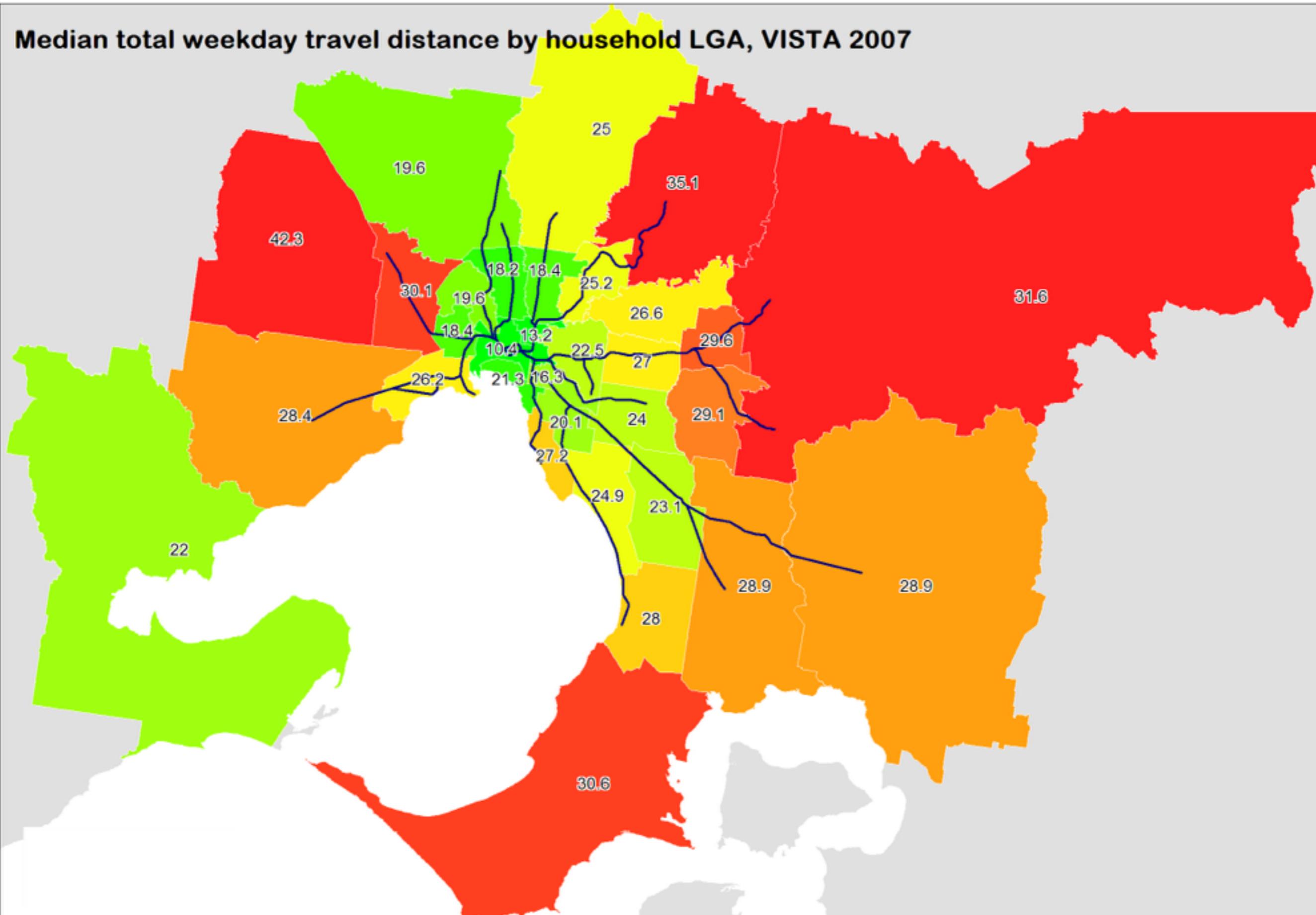
I. Where is the Growth

2014 Observations								
# of churches	Church size	% of membership	Total membership	# Net growth	2014 % growth	% of total membership	% of total growth	*Growth ratio
21	Over 1,000 members	39.8%	41707	404	1.0%	39.8%	15.9%	103.2
20	500-999 members	12.5%	13110	356	2.8%	12.5%	14.0%	36.8
64	200 to 499 members	18.6%	19469	618	3.3%	18.6%	24.3%	31.5
98	100 to 199 members	12.6%	13241	401	3.1%	12.6%	15.8%	33.0
142	50 to 99 members	9.4%	9867	514	5.5%	9.4%	20.2%	19.2
312	Under 50 members	7.0%	7376	311	4.4%	7.0%	12.2%	23.7
8 churches removed in 2014				-64				
657	All churches	100.0%	104770	2540	2.5%	100.0%	100.0%	41.2

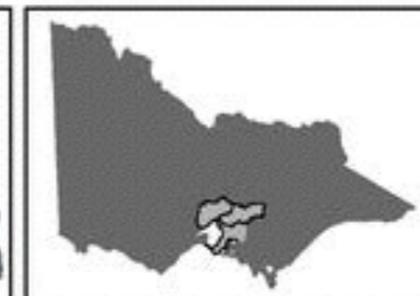
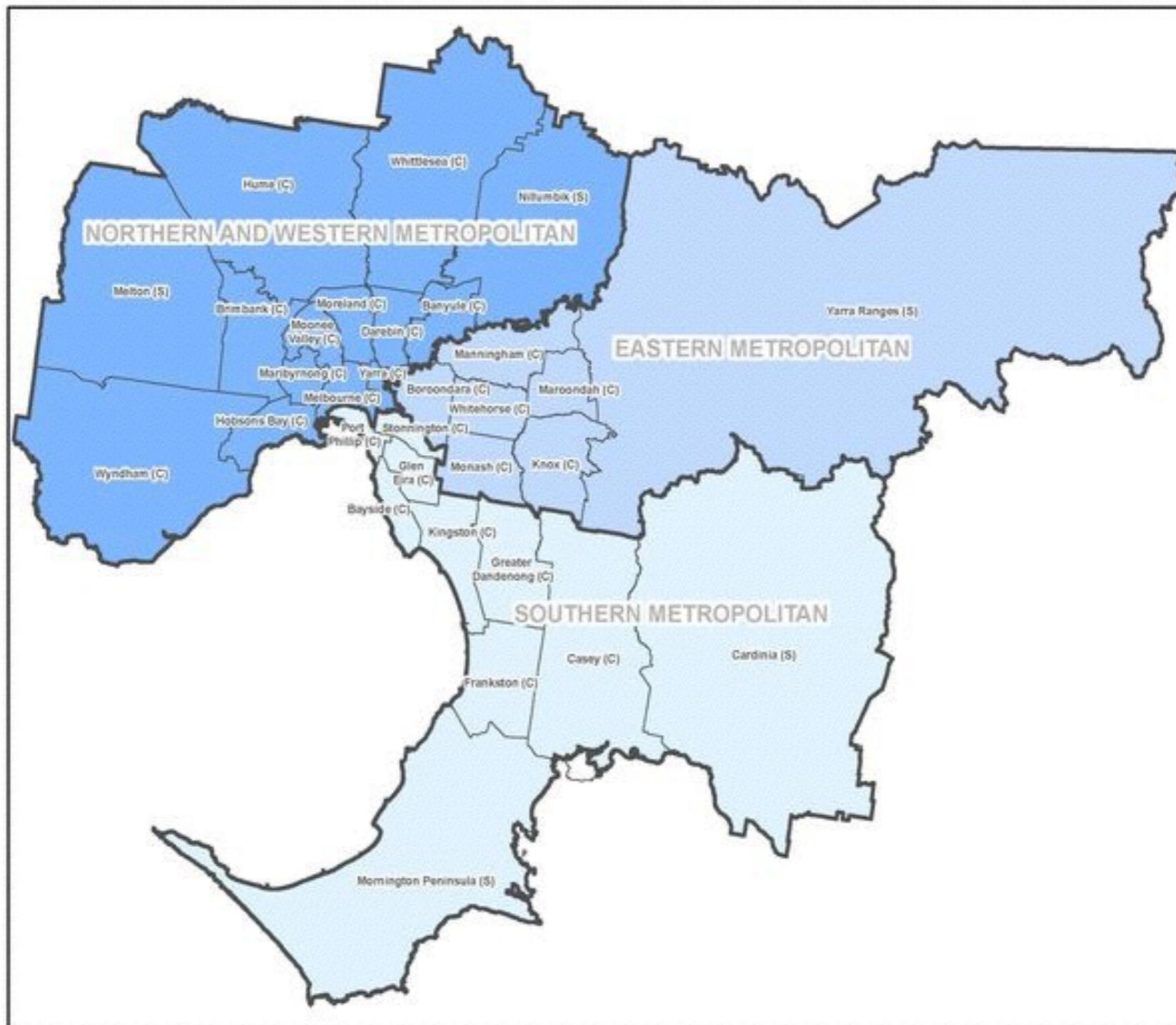
Greater Sydney



Median total weekday travel distance by household LGA, VISTA 2007



Victorian Government Regions and Local Government Areas (Metropolitan Melbourne)



Legend

- Vic Government Regions
- Local Government Areas

About the data :

Local Government Areas -
1259.0.30.001 - Australian Standard
Geographical Classification (ASGC) Digital
Boundaries (Intercensal), Australia, July
2010, Australian Bureau of Statistics (2010)

Victorian Government Regions - derived
from Local Government Areas

LGA status types -

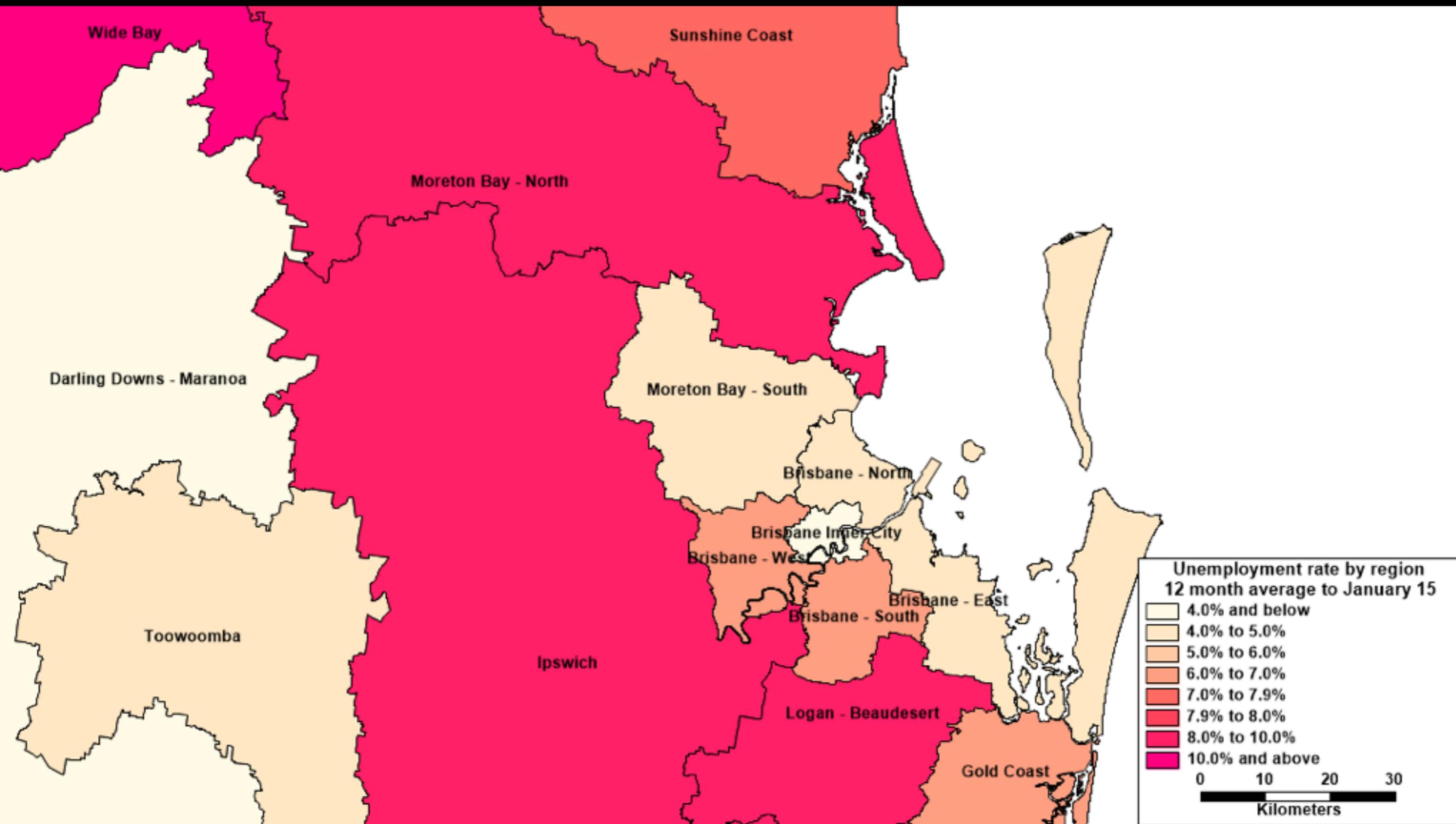
- (B) = Borough
- (C) = Council
- (RC) = Rural City
- (S) = Shire

Map prepared by :

Modelling, GIS and Planning Products
Business Planning and Communications Branch
Strategy and Policy Division
Department of Health

March 2011
GDA 1994 VICGRID94







Hauraki Gulf

North Shore

Waitemata Harbour

Auckland

Waitakere

Manukau

Manukau Harbour



Fiji Islands

- Tokoriki**
Amunuca Island
Tokoriki Island
- Malolo**
Malolo Island
Walu Beach
Likuliku Lagoon
- Viwa**
Viwa Island Resort
- Mamanuca Islands**
Tokoriki
Matamanoa
Mana
Castaway
Malolo
Malolo Lailai
Denarau
- Malolo Lailai**
Lomani Island
Musket Cove
Plantation Island
- Denarau**
Fiji Beach Resort
Golf Terrace Apts
Radisson
Sheraton Denarau
Sheraton Fiji
Sofitel
Westin Denarau



■ Island with one Resort
■ Mainland Resorts
■ Islands

II. Group 0-50

1. volatility - a lot of contact with non-Christians with a smaller number of disciples. Can be worn down. Surprising number of fall aways on teams.
2. mission focus - must use the zeal of a planting to invigorate and increase sharing. Must by nature have a lot of cold contact evangelism. Should at the same time, stress relational evangelism, lest only cold contact becomes the norm and evangelism is only thought in those terms.
3. visible, loving fellowship, John 13 and 17. See your love and unity. With a small group, with the same purpose and sacrifice, this becomes a very attractive community to those looking for family and friends. There is something exciting even to outsiders about the mission to start something new.
4. speedy resolution of conflicts.
5. small groups stay small without good leadership
6. training, training
7. in metro areas, take advantage of geography and take advantage of the all church activities - singles, campus, teens, marrieds events.

III. 50-100

1.delegating ministry

2.church will grow by the number of converters you have. A converter, is someone who knows how to study all the way through with someone. Some are self-taught. Others can be trained.

3.Work with different gifts and skill sets. Some great visitor bringers aren't necessarily converters. There is an insensitivity that great visitors often have that work against them in the studies. They don't pick up the subtle emotional ticks. It is looking for those catches, slight changes when the Word touches the deep issues that must be addressed if they are going to become disciples. One can grow in their ability to discern to gain this perception.

4.training, training.



IV. 100+

1. regionalisation

2. follow the Spirit. Not the next door neighbour but someone across the city. Sometimes God is looking for those willing to travel great distances seeking truth, eg. Ethiopian Eunuch. Romans 2:6 God “will give to each person according to what he has done.” 7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honour and immortality, he will give eternal life. 8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

3. local vision. Need to think more strategically. Teens - might be the door to families. Campus future leaders. Singles and marrieds, because you have to move from a dependant ministry to a self-supporting ministry. Some children take longer being on their own financially. If you are leading the ministry, must have that heart. Planting Sydney - self-supported after three years. If your children are the only children in the church or only teens, pray and focus on converting comparable families for you children to have life long friends. Be slow to see the only solution moving to a bigger ministry to solve this issue. Must be willing to do that, but also faithful to change your environment.

4. Raising Leaders

V. Use of Stats

Robert Carreo

Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds. Proverbs 27:23

Prov. 27:23 Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds;

Statistics is the study of the collection, [analysis](#), interpretation, presentation, and organisation of [data](#).^[1]

The use of statistics for numerical analysis is inherently neither good nor bad. Statistics can be used in good healthy ways to reveal and discover needs or in bad ways to shame or blame, depending on the user. Used properly, they serve as a useful tool to monitor the health of the church.

I. What is the “good” about numbers and statistics.

1.They reveal an undeniable truth about the fruit of a ministry.

2.They tell an important part of the story of the well being of a ministry

3.They can highlight what the Lord is doing. i.e. 2 Samuel 18:7

4.They can validate or expose the actual impact of a leader or a program.

5.They can draw attention to needy situations that otherwise might be overlooked

WARNING & DANGER

II. What is potentially “wrong” with using statistics.

1. They can cause men to take pride in the fruit of their own labor.

2. They can cause men to put their security in the numbers instead of God (Like David in 1 Chron 21:1)

3. Numbers can glorify the leadership instead of the Lord.

4. They can create a competitive spirit among the brothers.

5. They can cause the church to focus on numbers instead of relationships.

6. They only tell part of the story of what’s happening. Some might think they tell the whole story and judge everything by them.

7. Some people erroneously think that numerical growth is proof of God’s blessings or evidence of the spirit. There are many groups with rapid growth that are clearly not godly or spirit led.

Scriptures exposing potential problems with stats ...

1 Chronicles 21 / 2 Samuel 24

“Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel.”

This to me is the most compelling warning against stats. There are several theories as to why the census was wrong. They all have to do with David not trusting God. It is not the “census” itself that is necessarily wrong. The issue is David’s heart relying on his numbers instead of God and not the use of numbers. God previously told Moses to do exactly what David did “Count the men”. The problem was David’s heart behind the census not the census itself.

Scripture legitimising the use of numbers and statistics

1. The most obvious is that God counts the number of people many times in the old and New Testament. From Moses taking a census to the numbers of the early church counts of members and baptisms (Exodus 30:3, Numbers 1, 4:2, 22, 26:2, Acts 2:42, 4:4)
2. In the parable of the lost sheep (Luke 15) the shepherd is well aware of *one* lost sheep out of *one hundred* sheep. It is nearly impossible to notice one missing sheep unless a person counts their sheep regularly.
3. The book of numbers is about God commanding Moses to count the people. If this “Census” of his people were sinful, God would not ask Moses to do this. (Numbers 1)
4. The book of Acts records several times exactly how many were baptised and their membership. Clearly someone was counting (Acts 2:41, 47, 4:4, 5:14, 6:7, 9:31)

Conclusion points

- There is no biblical prohibition against taking a count of God's people or recording baptisms in order to organise them and take care of them
- There are many precedents noted above in the scriptures for this.
- Using numbers to glorify ourselves, boast or to measure each other is sinful and wrong.
- Over emphasis of stats can tempt some leaders into deceit.
- Banning all use of statistics would be an over reaction to past mistakes not biblically founded. It would imply that God was in sin when he counted members and baptisms in the Bible.
- Using statistics presents a temptation toward pride and competition.
- Therefore they should be used for the specific purpose of checking the health of the church.
- Their use should be controlled so as not to tempt too many people, especially leaders.
- They should be publicly shared only in the context of glorifying God as used in the scriptures.
- As a human body has vital statistics, so does the body of Christ.
- They must be interpreted correctly

It is important to ..

1. Teach future generations how to use statistics properly.
2. Not use statistic in public ways without proper explanations.
3. Not use statistics to shame or blame or create competition

Important stats:

Every day 11 churches close their doors in America.

The USA now has less church attendees than India or China.

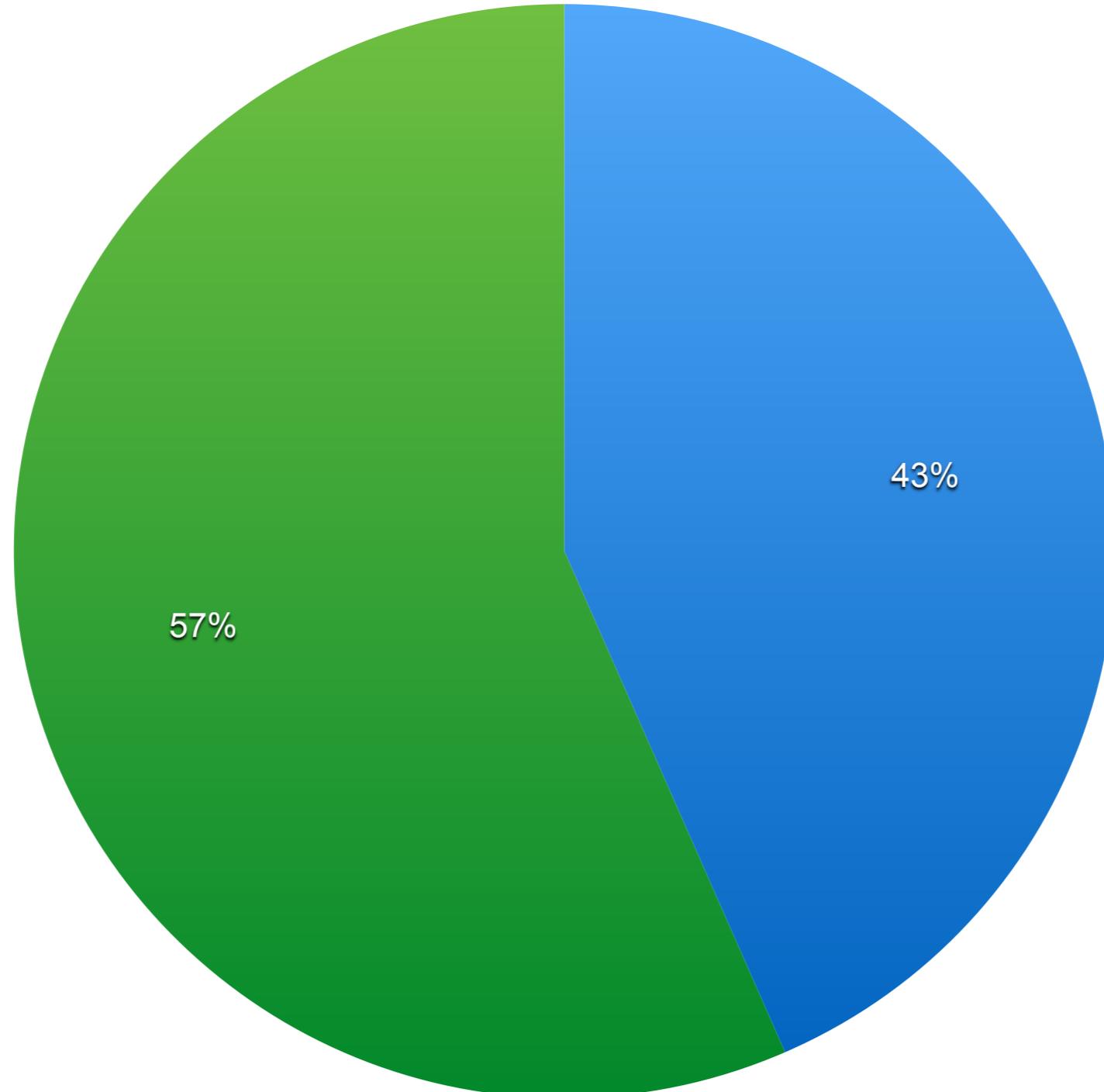
Since 2000, American Mosques have increased by 74%

The largest growing denominations average 2% growth per year.

HRC Dashboard

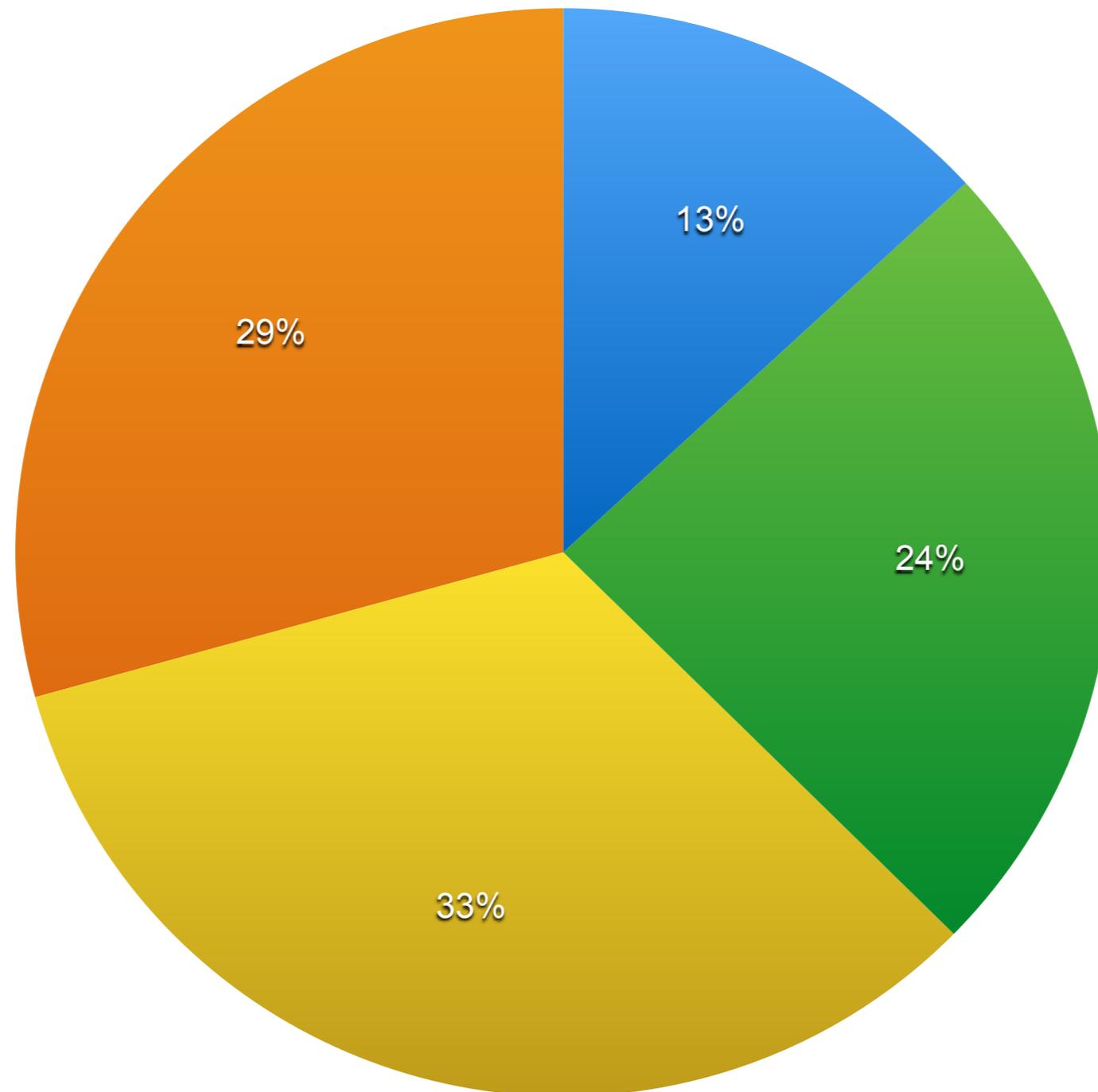
Baptisms by Gender

● Male ● Female



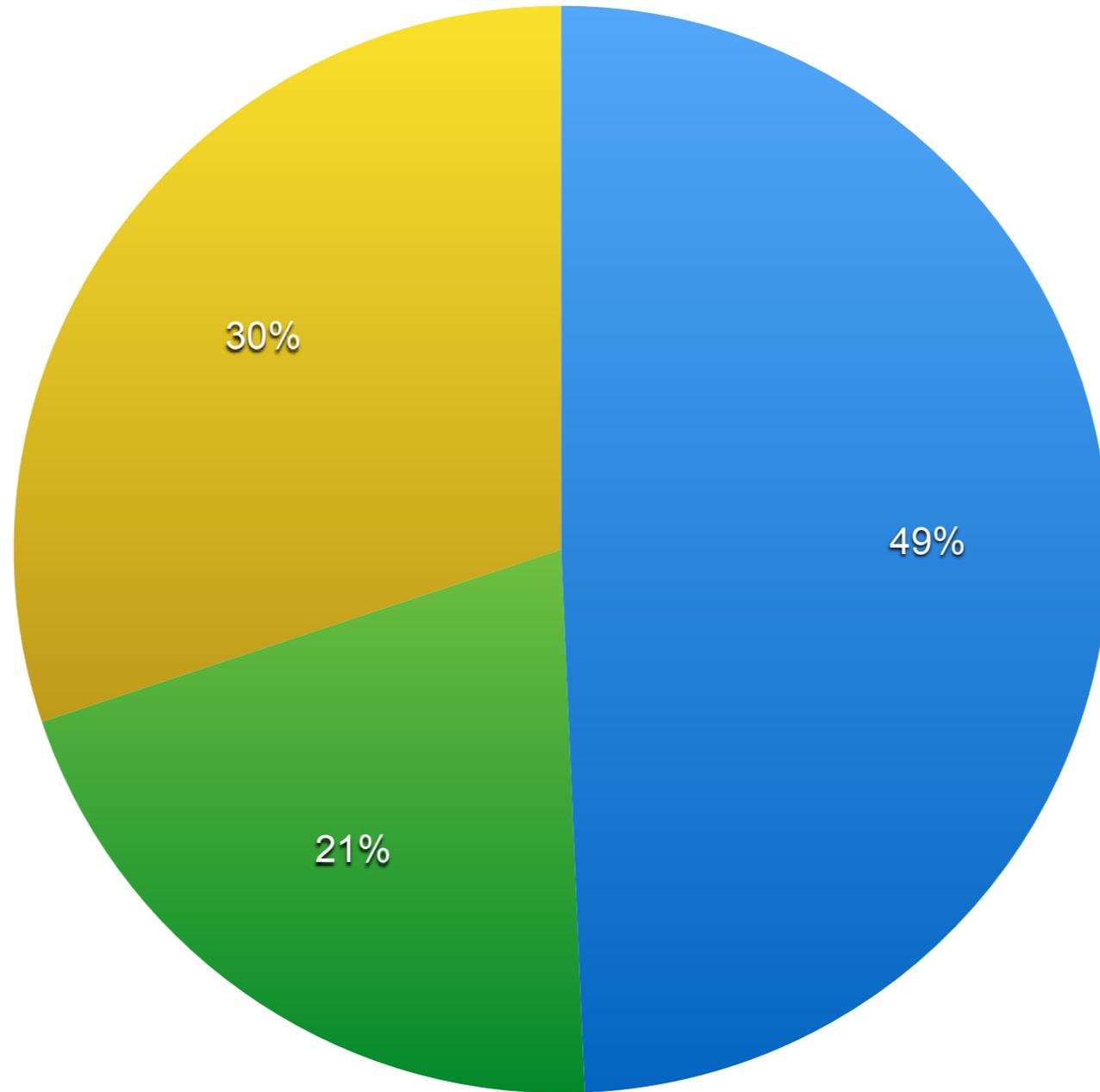
Baptisms by Demographic Ministry

● Teen ● Campus ● Single ● Married



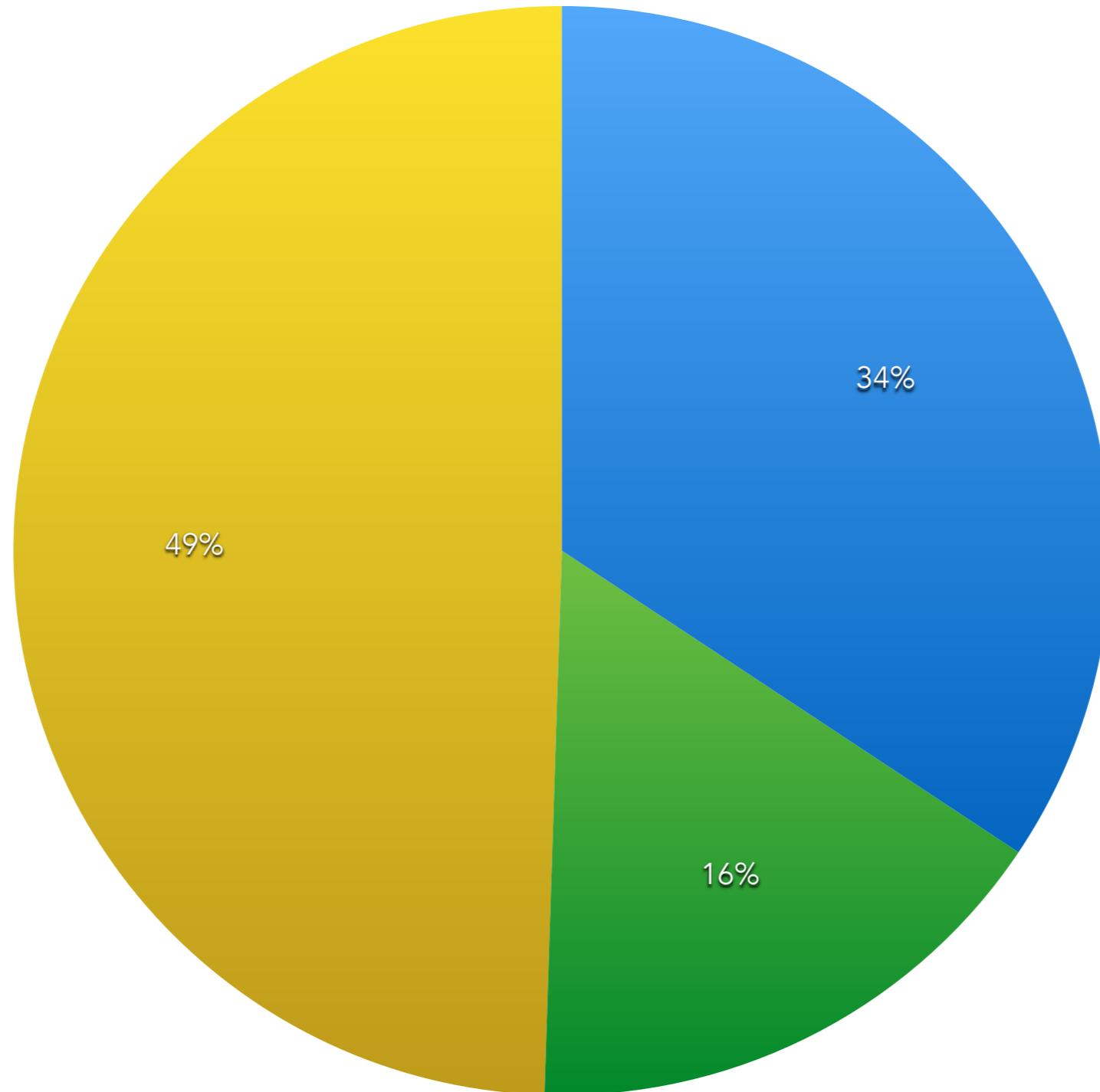
Baptisms by Contact

● Cold Contact ● Old Contact ● Family



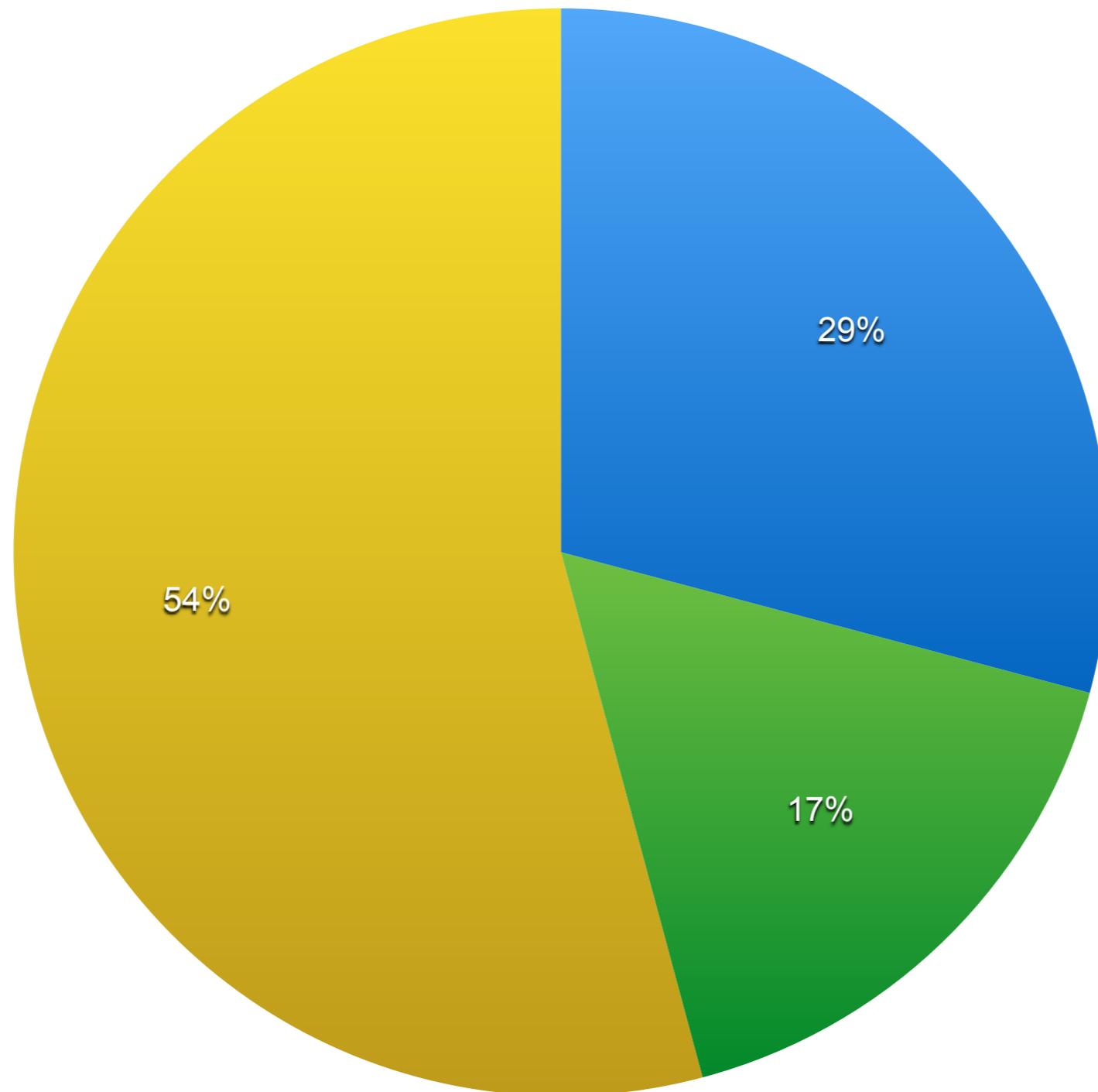
Baptisms by Race

● White ● Other ● Black



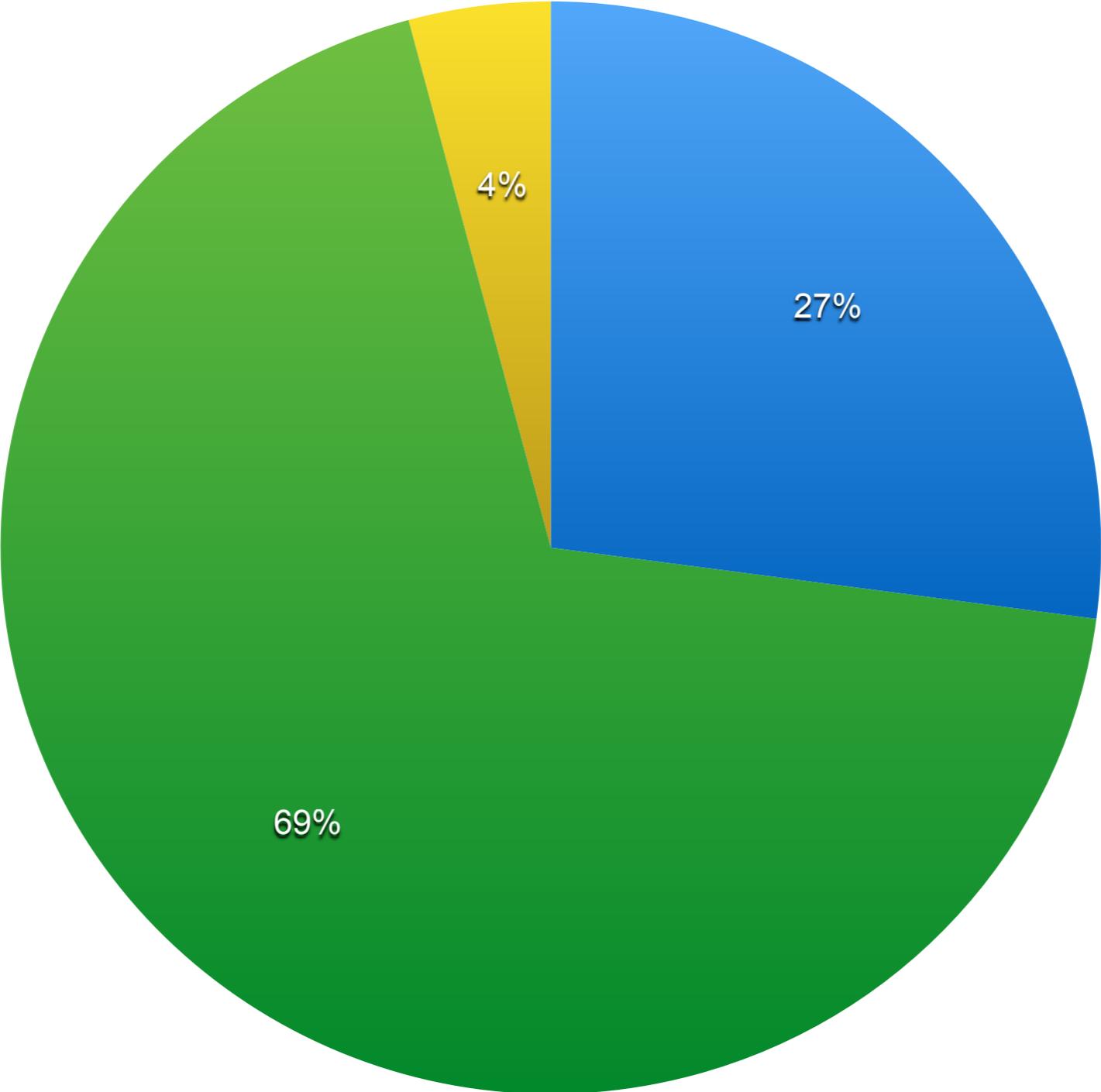
Fallaways by Duration

● Under 6 Mo ● Under Year ● Year+



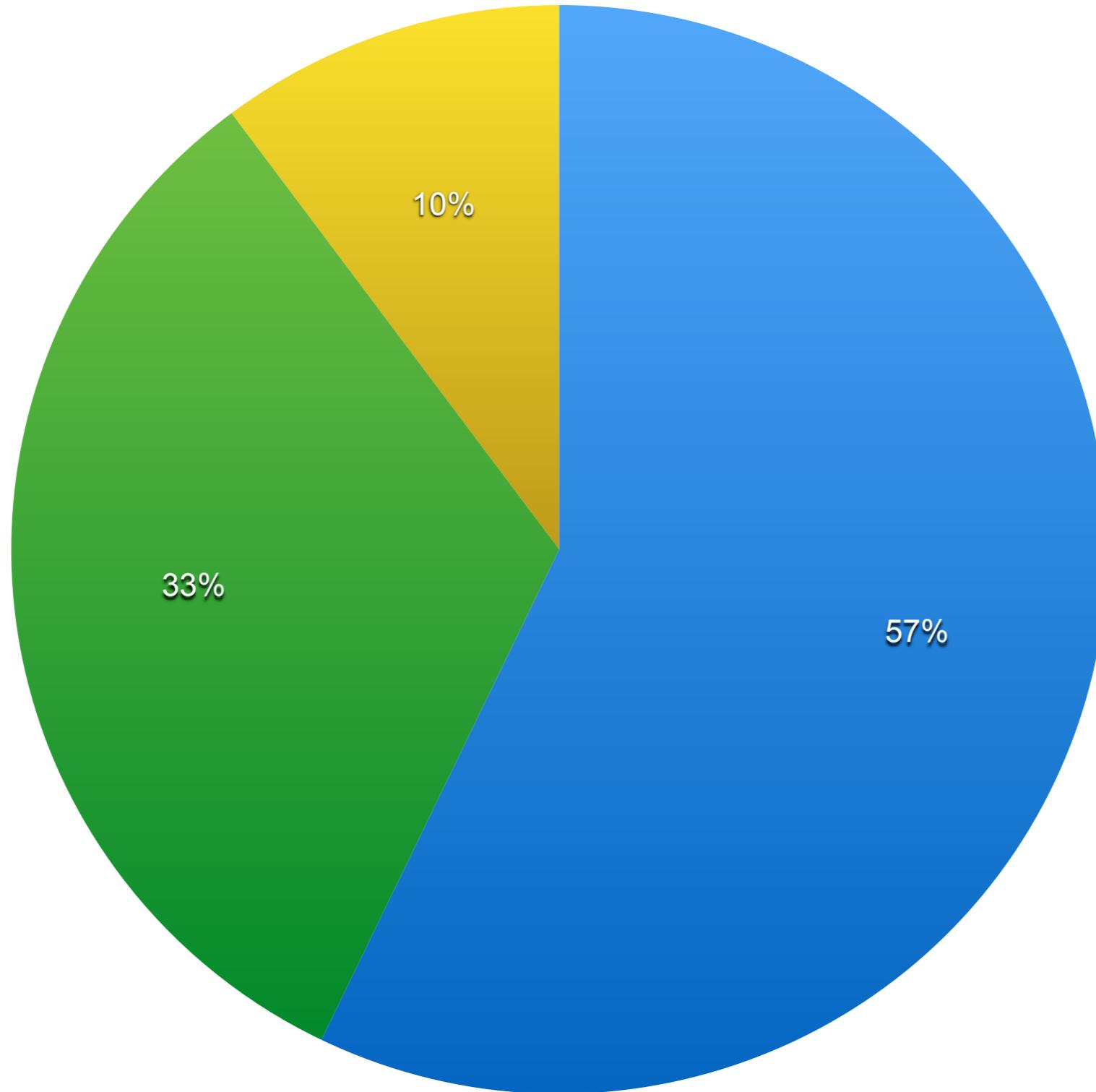
Fallaways by Reason

● Romantic ● Other ● Family

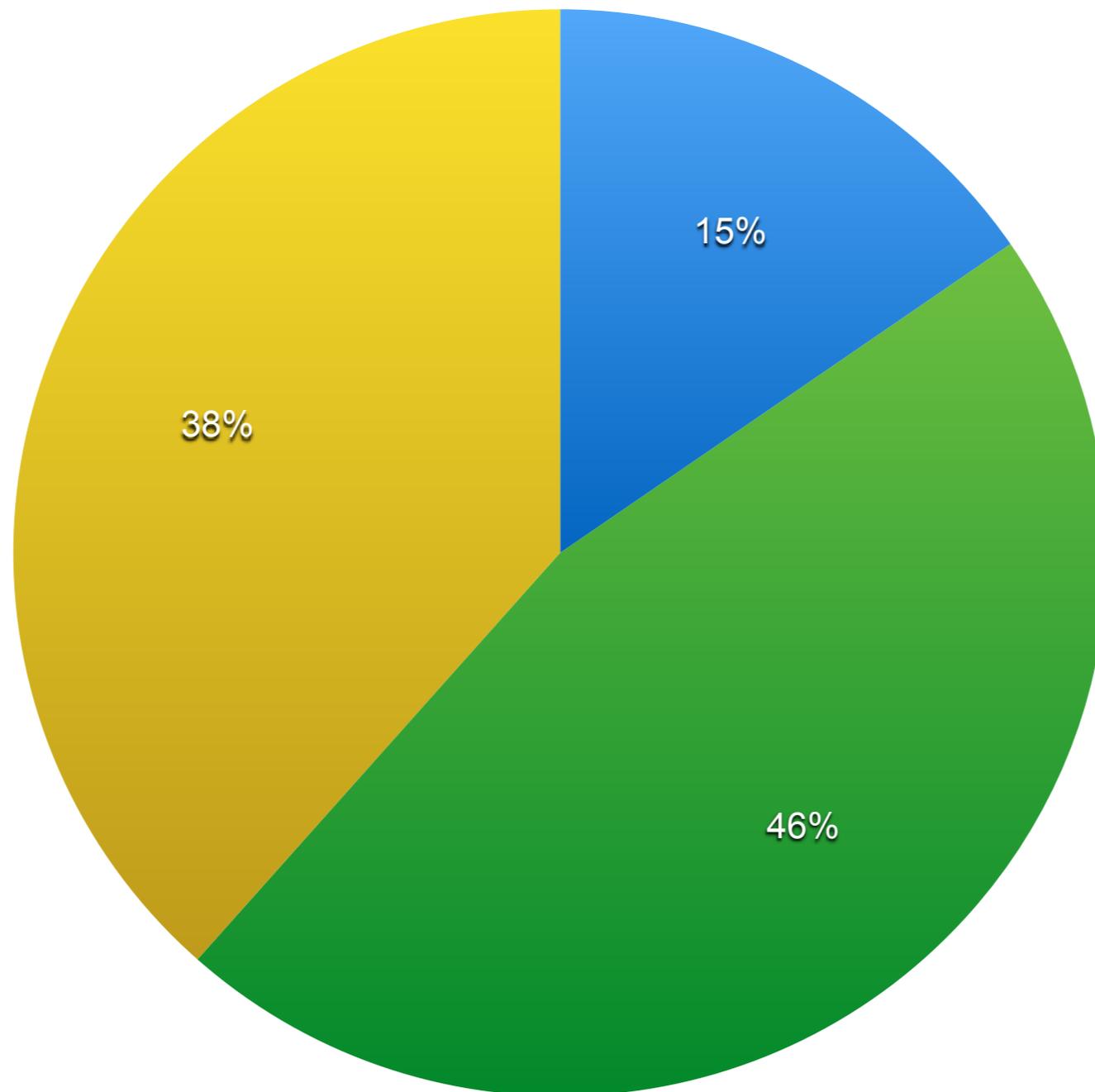


Fallaways by Race

● Black ● White ● Other



Move Outs by Reason



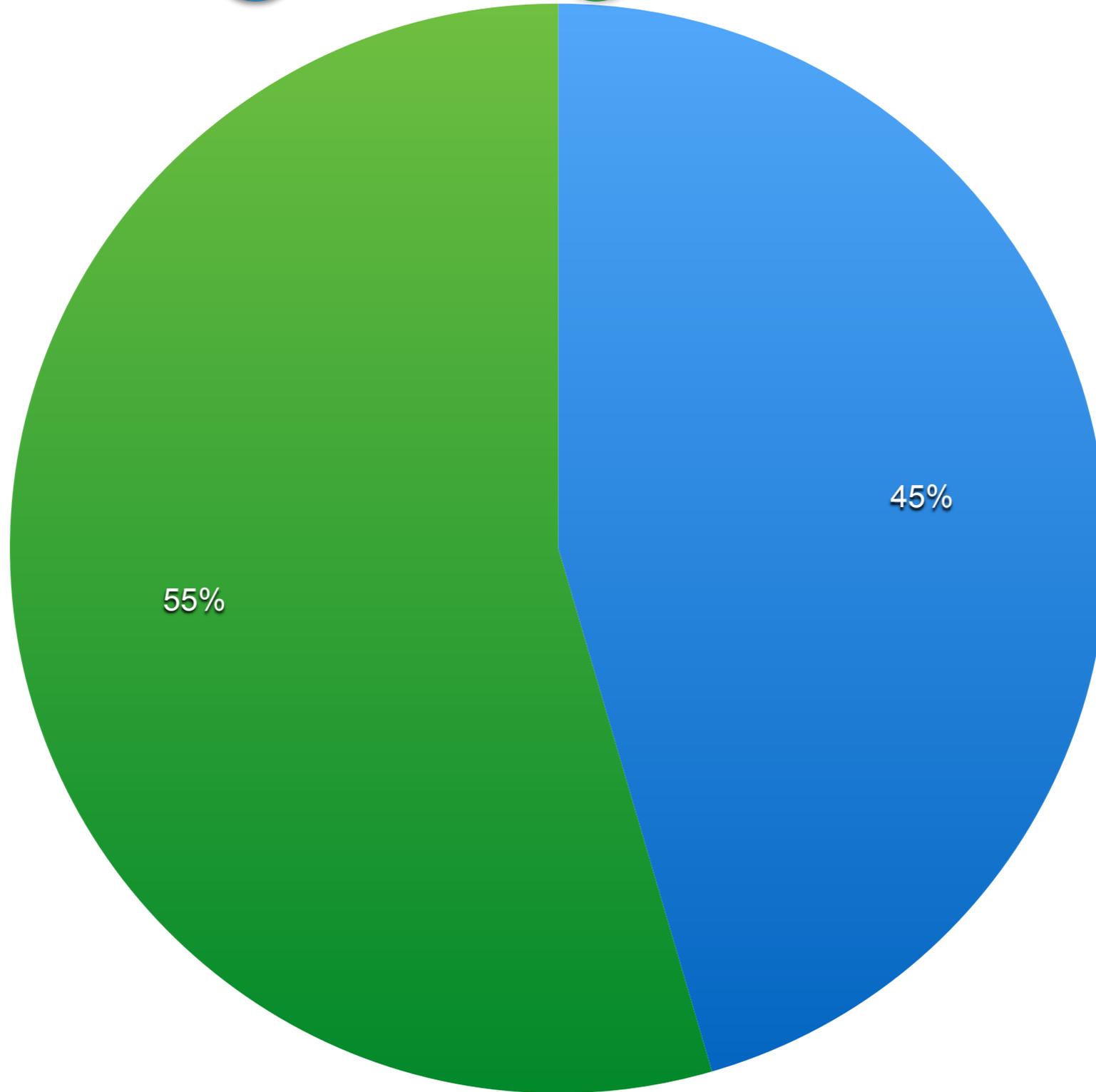
Membership by Gender



Male

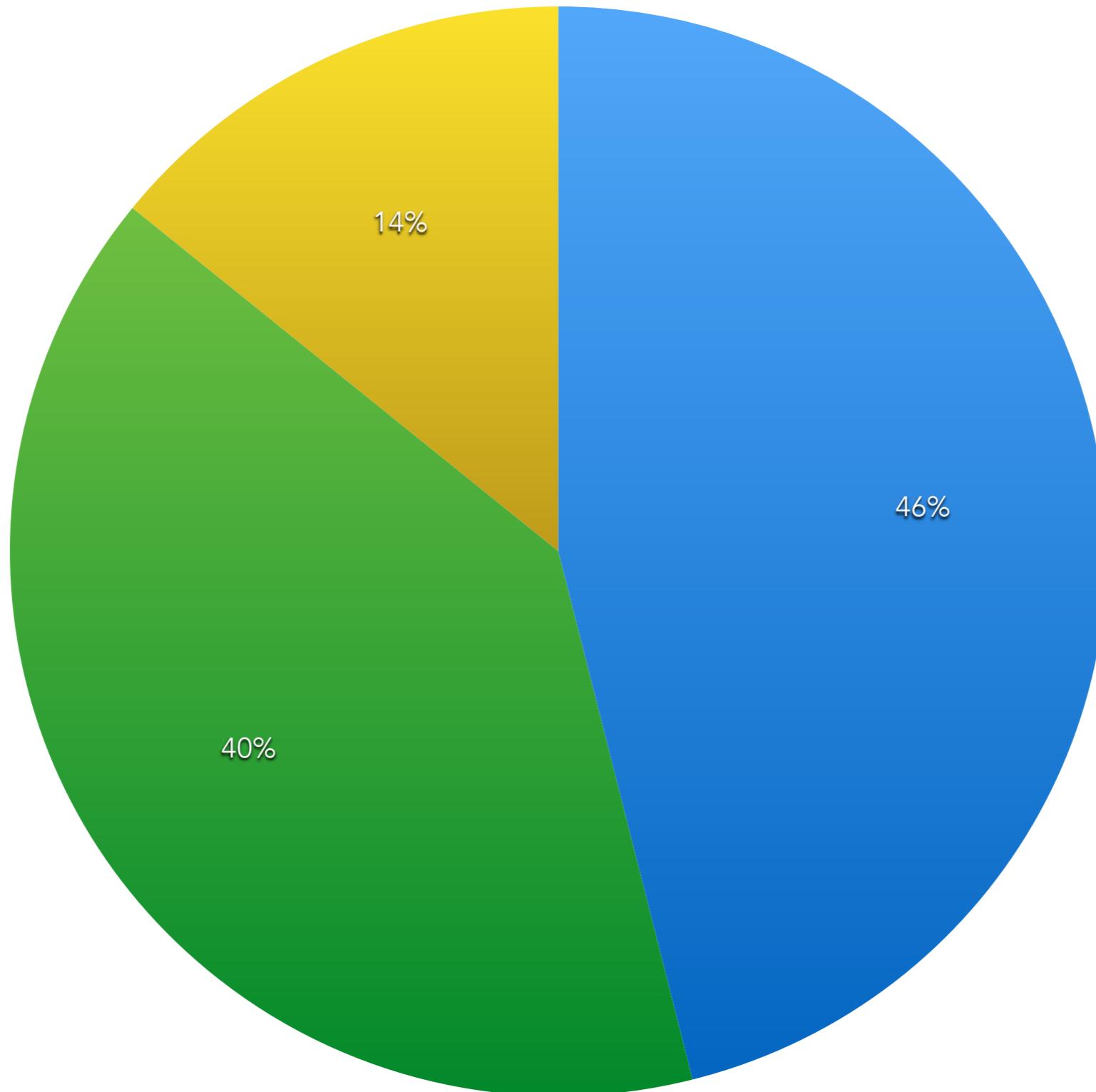


Female



Membership by Race

● White ● Black ● Other



VI. Surveys

Sample: SCOC 2014 Year End Survey

Please circle ONE best answer. No names please. ID (circle one): T C S M M(Teen Parent)

1. Do you maintain a regular discipline of prayer (not just blessings at meals and bedtime)?
Yes No

2. When was the last time you made a special “date” for an extended prayer to God (like a prayer walk for example)?
 - a. Less than week b. More than a month
 - c. More than a month d. More than a year e. never

3. Have you read the entire Bible (not just this year, but over the course of your life)? Yes No
4. Did you follow a plan (of any kind) for Bible reading in 2014? Yes No
5. How many days out of the last ten have you studied your Bible (that is, you had a “quiet time”)?
 - a. 1-2 b. 3-4 c. 5-6 d. 7+
6. When was the most recent time you fasted?
 - a. Less than week b. More than week c. more than six months d. More than a year
7. When was the last time you initiated a Bible study with one of your personal contacts?
 - a. Less than a month b. More than a month c. More than six months d. More than a year

8. When was the last time you were present in a Bible study with a seeker?

a. Less than month b. More than month c. More than six months

d. more than a year

9. When was the last time you memorised Scripture?

a. Less than a month b. More than a month c. six months d. more than a year

10. When was the last time you provided aid or service to the poor (other than the Wednesday benevolence contribution)?

a. Less than a week b. Less than month c. more than six months d. more than a year

11. When was the last time you completed a spiritual or devotional book other than the Bible?

a. More than a week b. More than a month c. More than six months

12. Are you married? Yes No

13. How many days in the last ten days did you pray with your spouse (other than mealtime)?

a. 0-2 b. 3-4 c. 5-6 d. 7+ e. N/A

14. Do you live a Christian household? Yes No

15. Do you have a regular time set aside for Family Fun each week (board games, cards, etc.)
Yes No

16. Do you have children? Yes No

17. During 2014, about how many Family Devotionals did your family have?

a. None b. 1-5 c. 6-10 d. 11-20 e. 20+ f. N/A

18. How many days of the last ten days have you prayed with your children (other than mealtime?)

a. 0-2 b. 3-4 c. 5-6 d. 7+

19. Does your child have a best friend in the SCOC?

a. Yes b. No

20. Do you have a best friend in the SCOC?

a. Yes b. No

21. Are you involved in a discipling relationship with a spiritual mentor in SCOC? yes no

22. Are you involved in a discipling relationship in which you serve as someone's spiritual mentor?

Yes No

23. When was the last time you sat down for a dedicated time of discipleship with your spiritual mentor?

- a. Less than week b. More than week c. More than a month d. More than a year

24. When was the last time you sat down for a dedicated time of discipleship in which you were the spiritual mentor?

- a. Less than week b. More than week c. More than a month d. More than a six months e. more than a year f. N/A

25. When was the last time you sat down for a dedicated time of discipleship with your spouse (i.e. couples dtime)?

- a. Less than week b. More than week c. More than a month d. not married

26. Assuming you are involved in a discipling relationship, would you like to schedule discipleship times with your spiritual mentor more or less frequently? More Less

27. Assuming you are involved in a discipling relationship, does your spiritual mentor expect too much or too little of you?

- a. Too little b. Too much

28. When was the last time you completely confessed sin to a brother or sister in Christ?

- a. Less than week b. More than week c. More than a year d. never

29. When was the last time that a brother or sister in Christ (other than immediate family) encouraged you?

- a. Less than week b. More than week c. More than a month d. More than a year

31. When was the last time that a brother or sister in Christ (other than immediate family) corrected or reproved you?

- a. Less than week b. More than week c. More than a month d. More than a year

32. When was the last time that a brother or sister in Christ (other than immediate family) had a special time of prayer with you?

- a. Less than week b. More than week c. More than a month d. More than a year

33. Does church leadership currently expect too much or too little from you?

- a. Too much b. Too little

34. Do you believe that the Holy Spirit is currently guiding this church?

- a. Absolutely b. Most likely

35. When you contribute financially to SCOC, is it your conviction that you are currently giving to God?

- yes no

36. Is it your conviction that the HRC is a divine institution of God?

- a. Absolutely b. Most likely

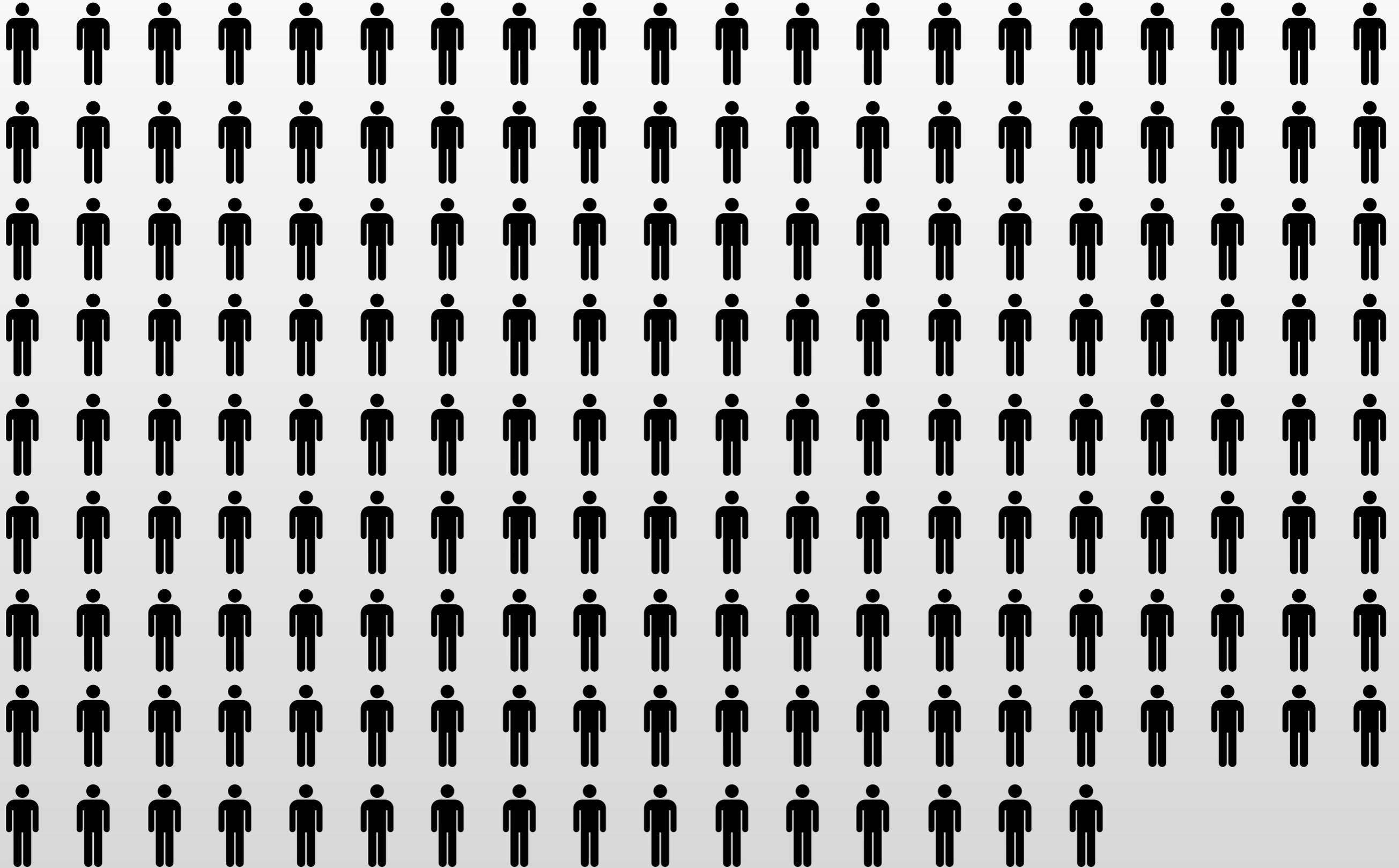
Sydney Church of Christ

2015 Mid-Year Survey

176 people were surveyed



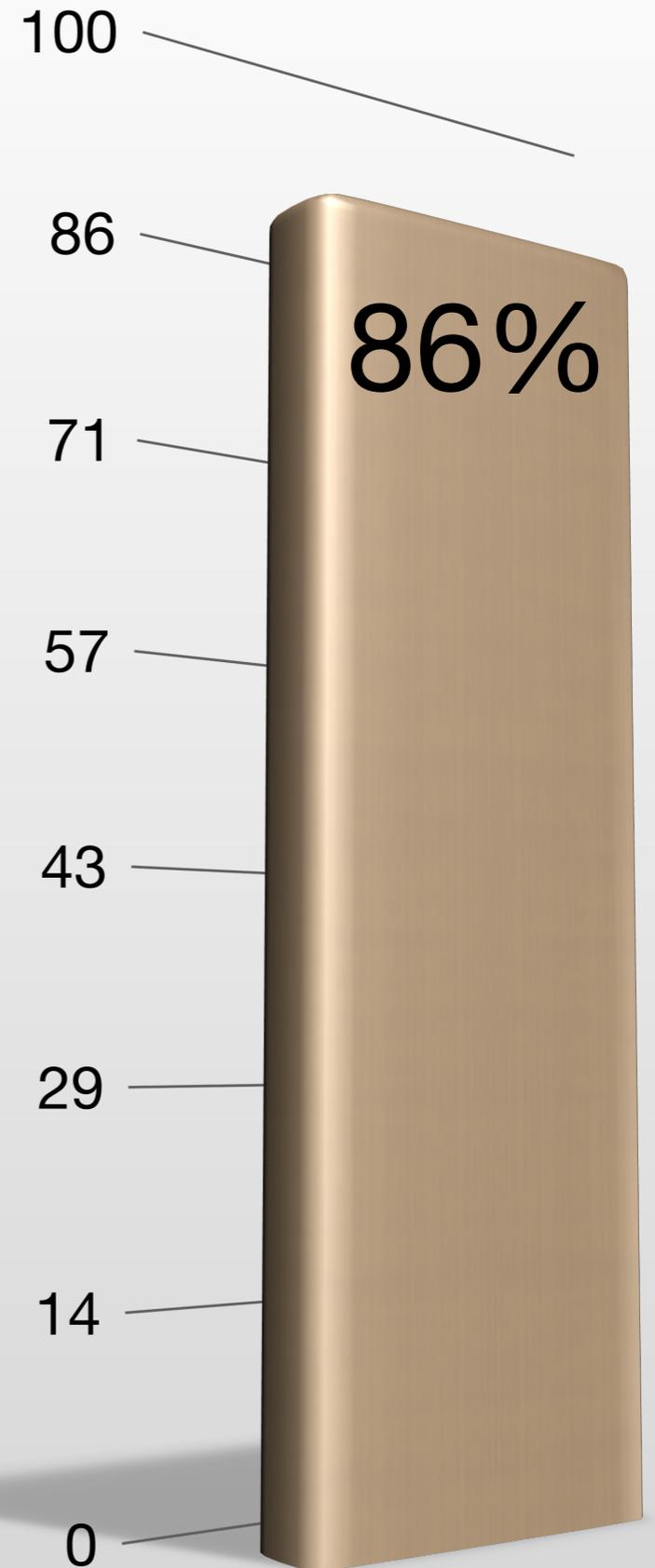
176 people were surveyed



Of those surveyed...

86%

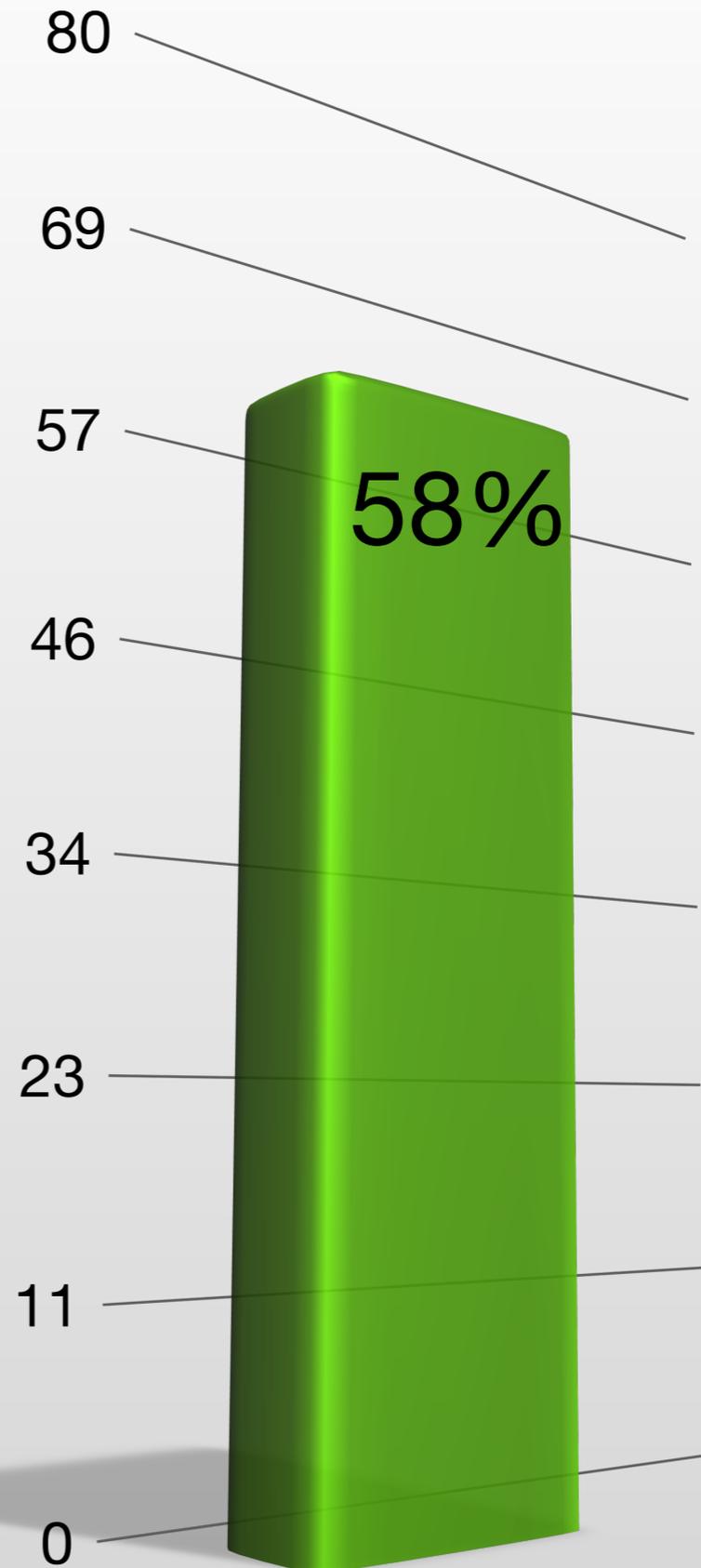
said they have been encouraged by a brother or sister in Christ in the last month



Of those surveyed...

58%

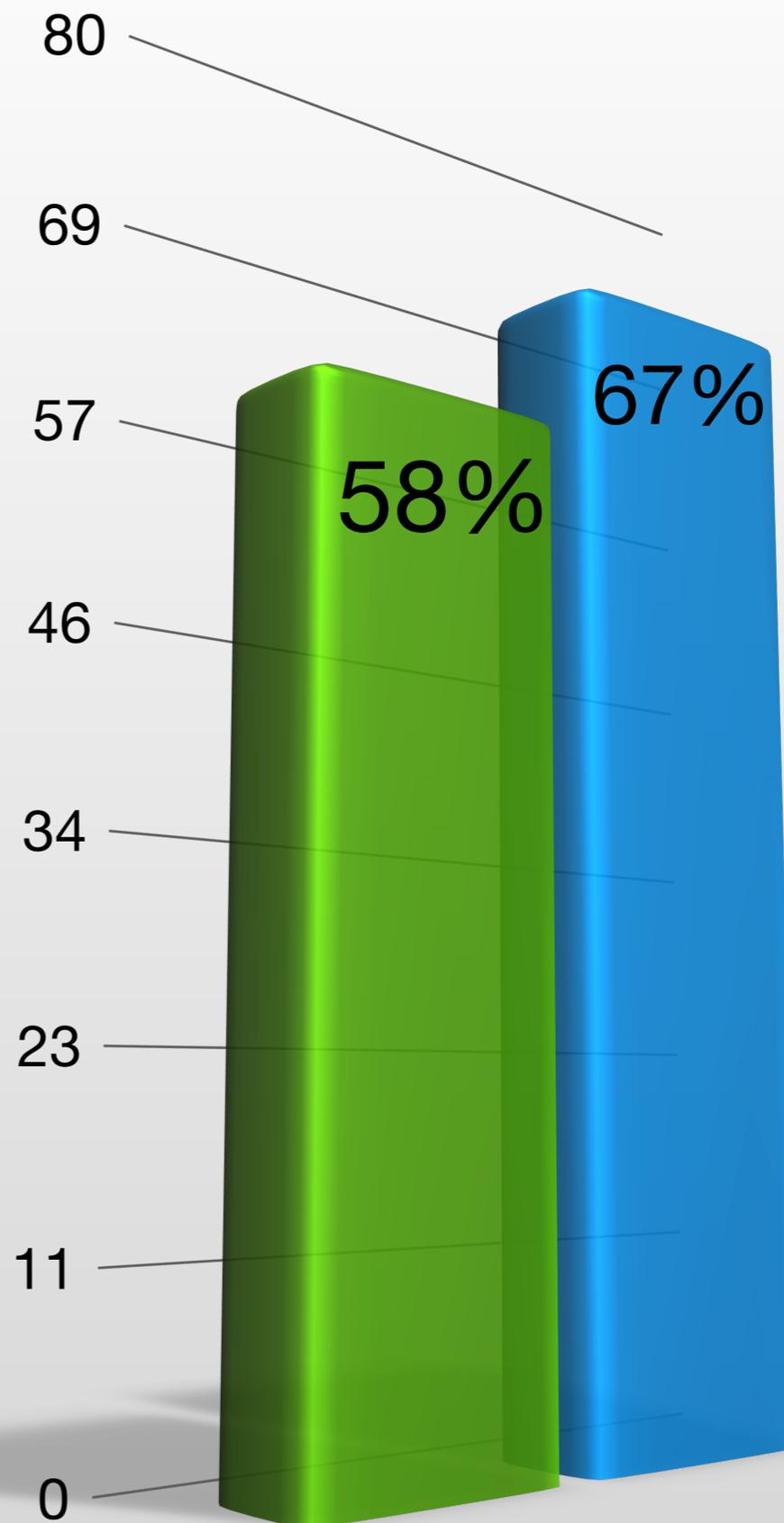
have initiated a
Bible Study in the
last six months



And...

67%

have been present
in a Bible Study in
the last six months



Leading to...

45 Baptisms

&

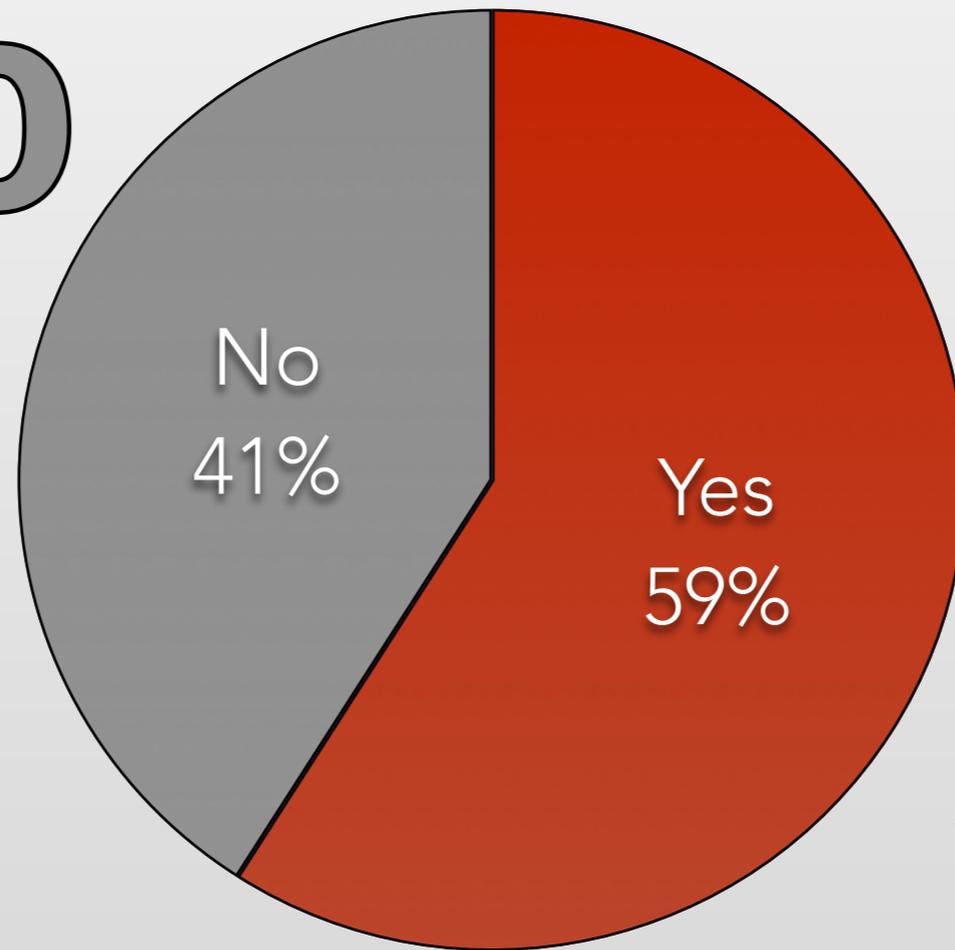
8 Restorations

In the last 18 months

Q: When it comes to church contributions, do you feel you are currently giving your best to God?

41%

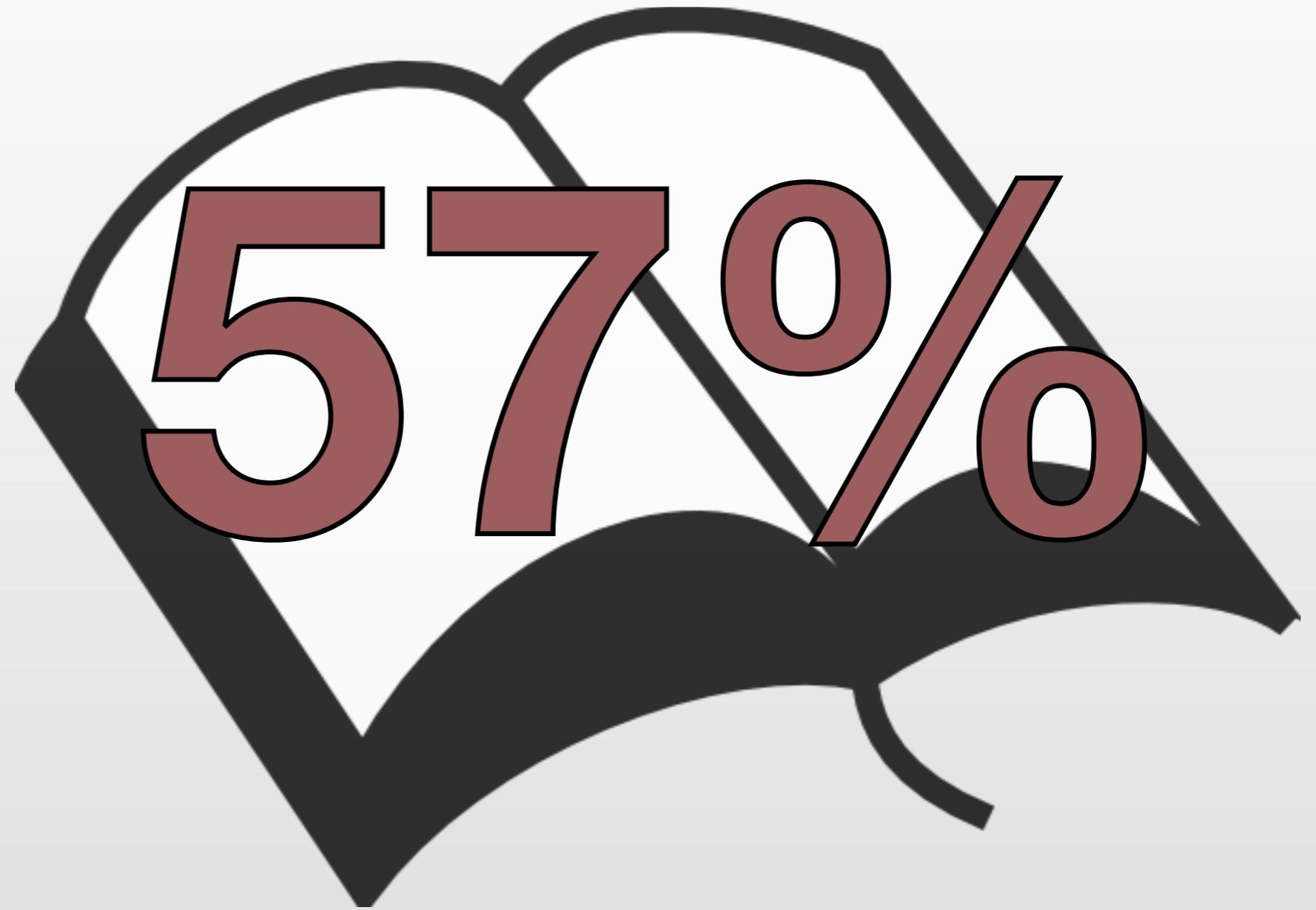
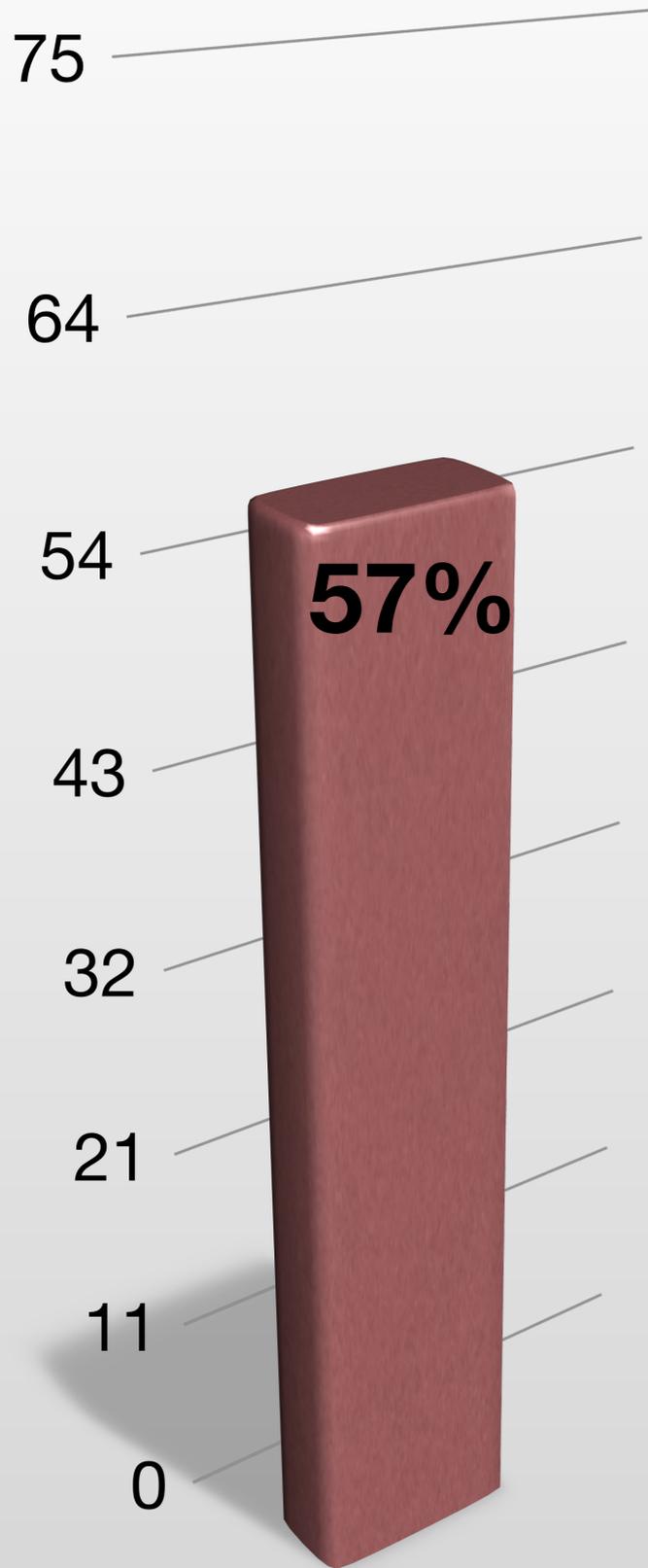
said "No"



59%

said "Yes"

Of those surveyed...

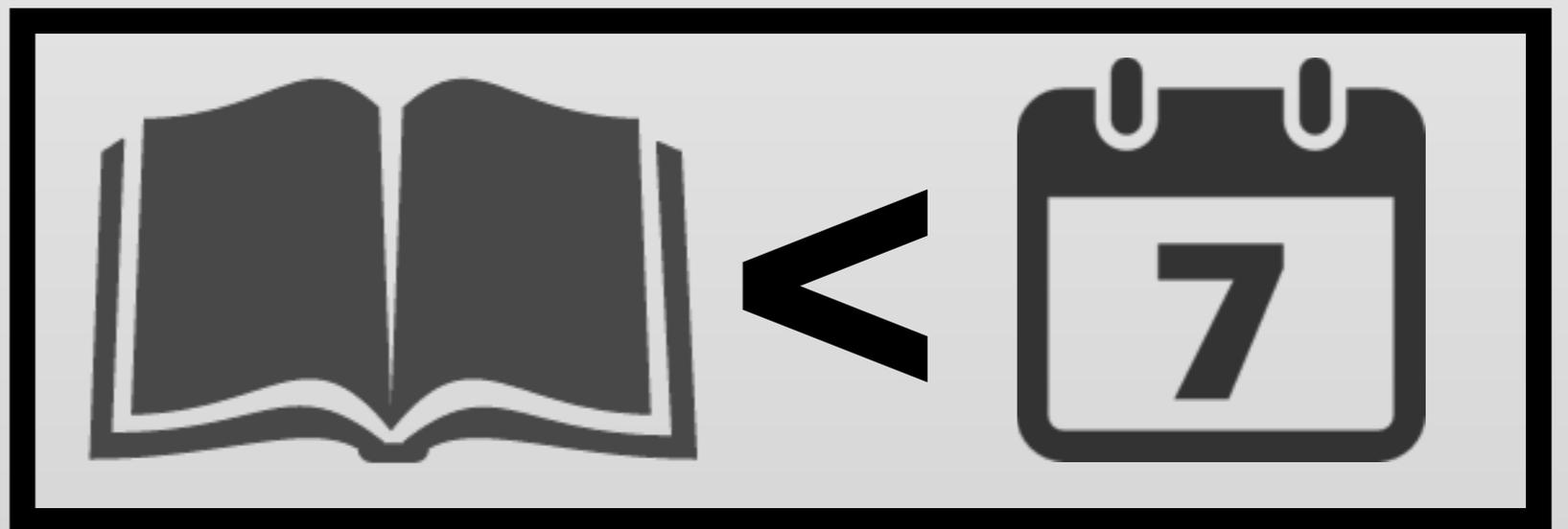
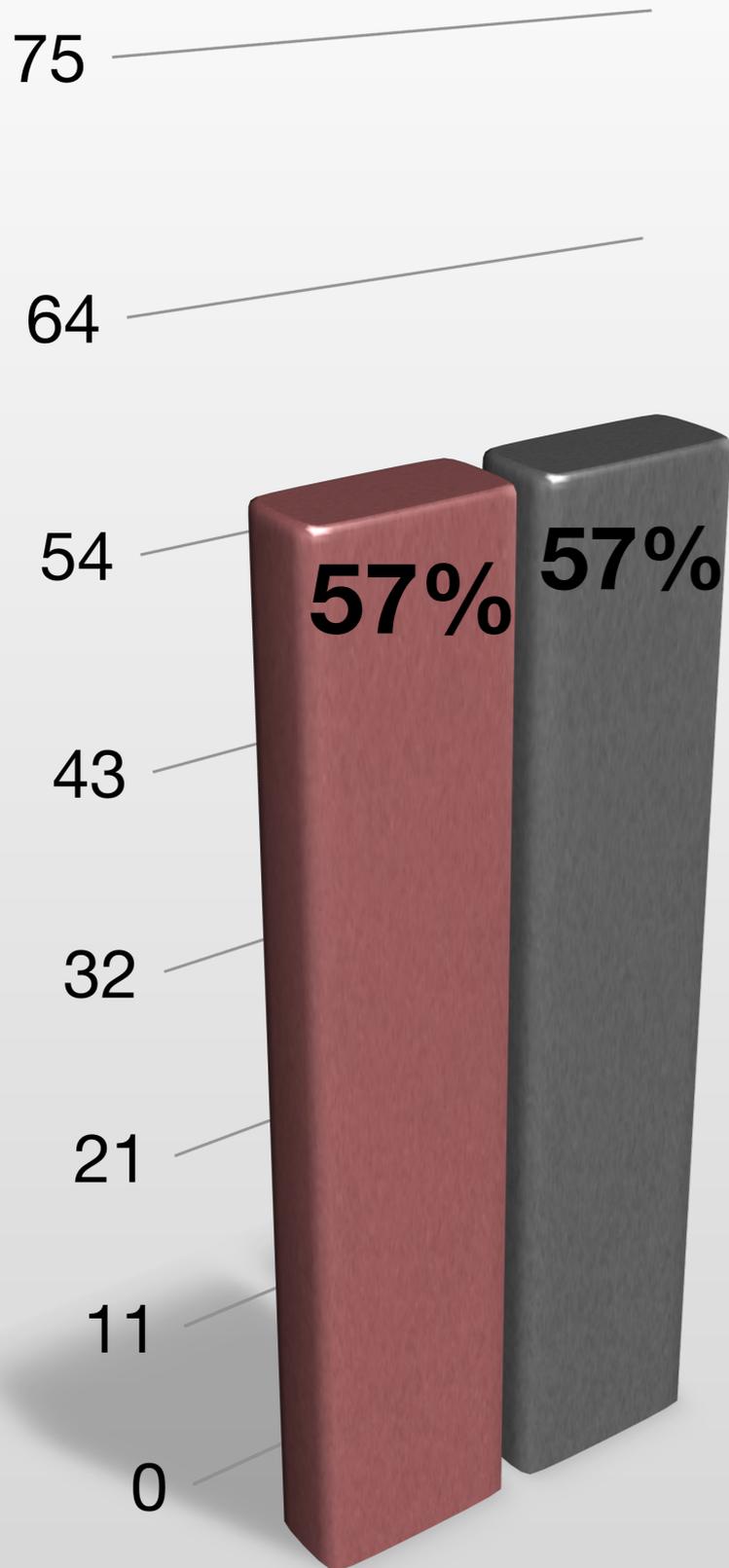


have not read the
entire Bible.

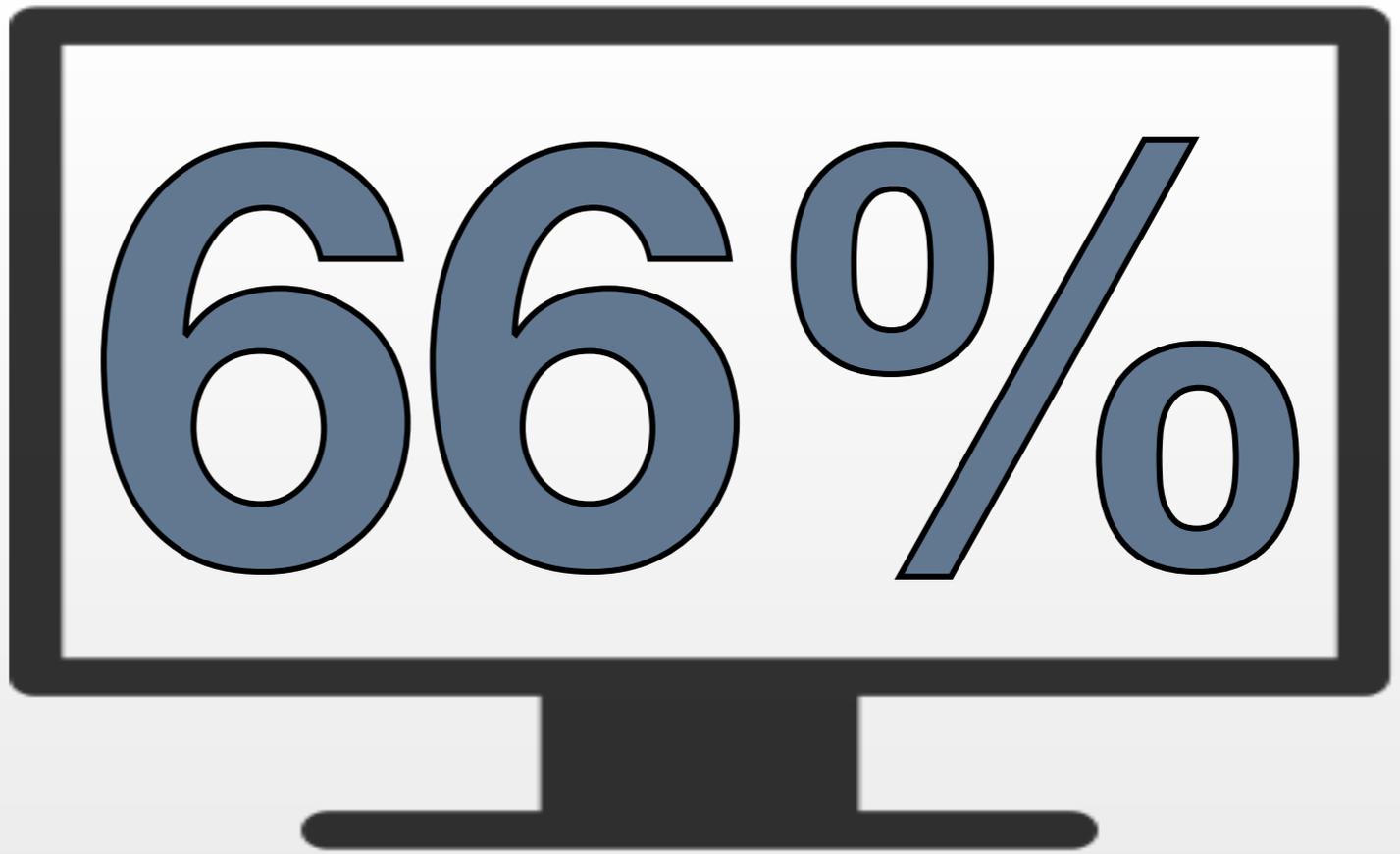
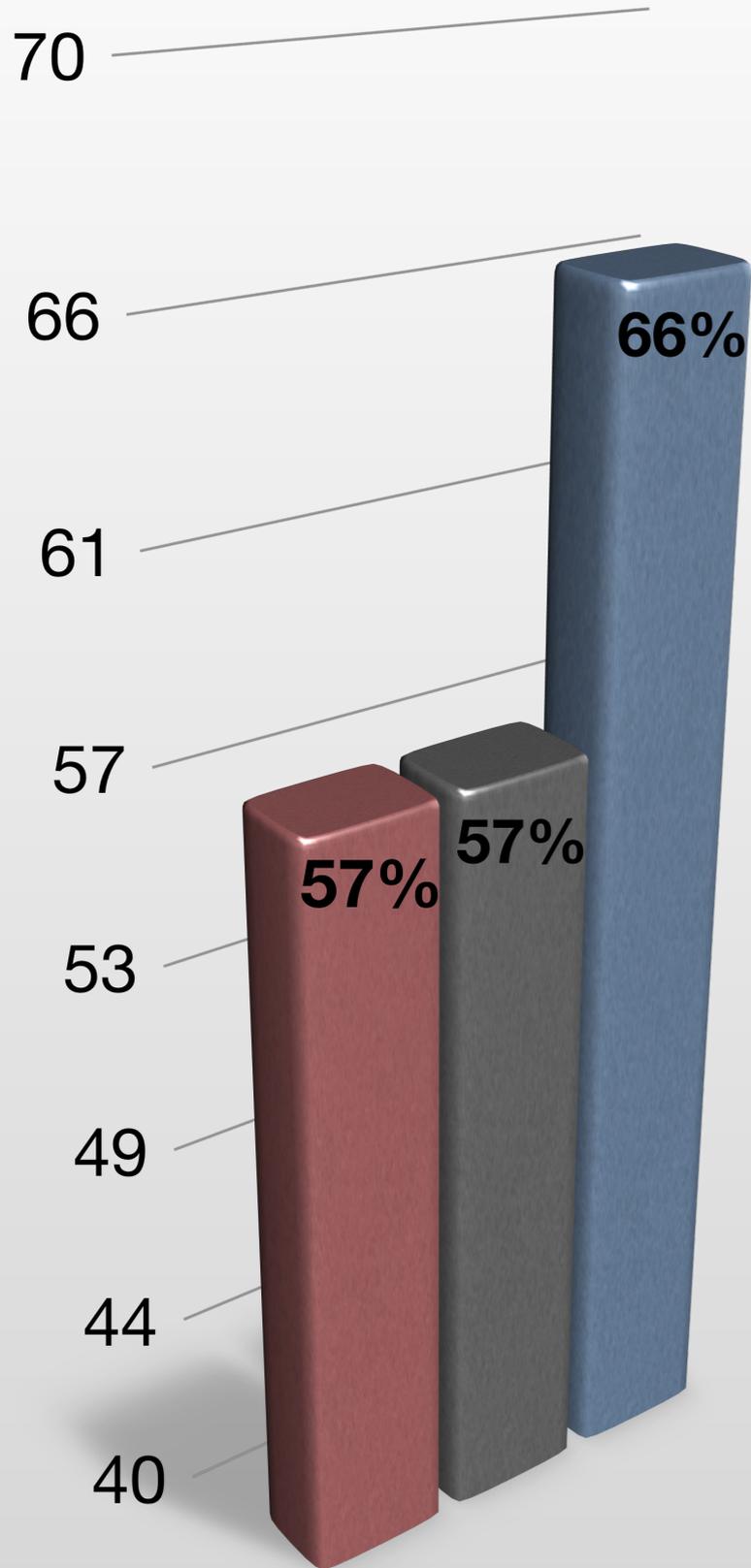
And...

57%

had less than 7 Quiet
Times in the last ten days



Yet...



spend at least

**3 HOURS
A WEEK**



*surfing the
internet*





Of the parents surveyed...

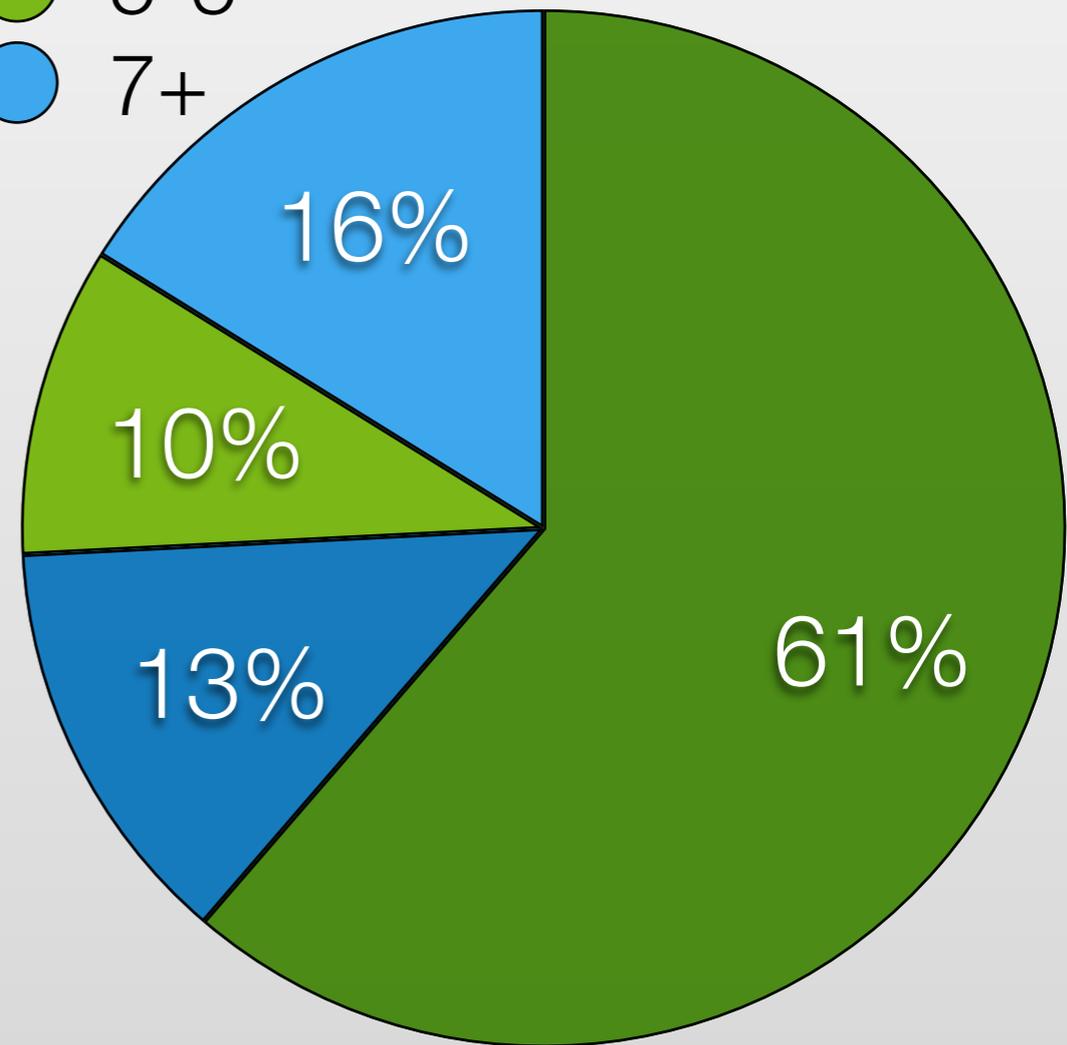
In the last 10 days

61%

have prayed with their children

0-2
times

- 0-2
- 3-4
- 5-6
- 7+





Of the parents surveyed...

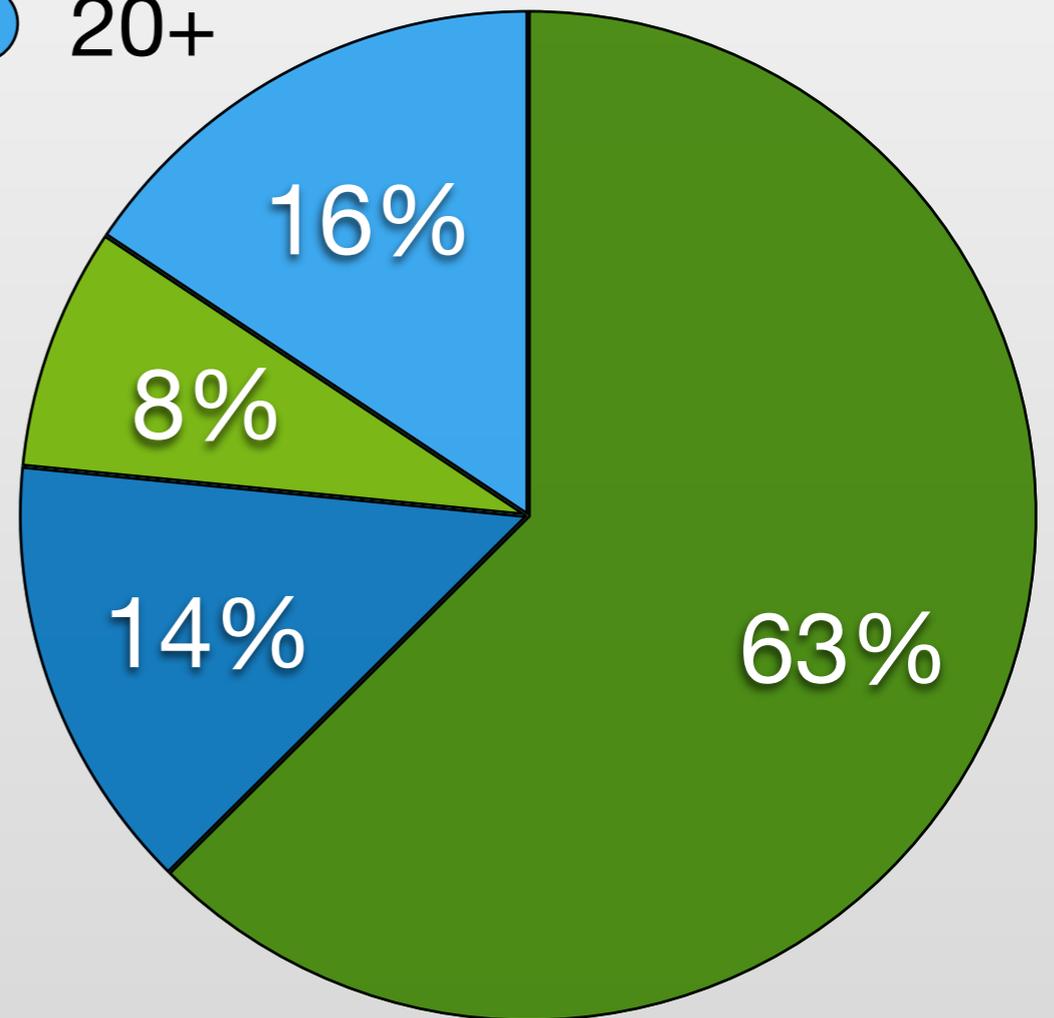
60%

have had less than

5 FAMILY
DEVOTIONALS

this year

- 0-5
- 6-10
- 11-20
- 20+





Yet...

70%

believe that as a parent...

*they have
established enough
spiritual advisors*

● Yes
● No

