

# San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly Membership Survey

In 1968, AA's New York General Service Office began to regularly survey AA members in Canada and the United States.

The 2017 General Service Conference discussed concerns with the survey methodology and **outdated group data**. The decision was to discontinue the survey until the problems could be corrected. The last survey was conducted in 2014.

Click this link to view the 2014 survey: [https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/p-48\\_membershipsurvey.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-48_membershipsurvey.pdf)

**Young Peoples Coordinating Committee - December 2020**



# San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly

## Membership Survey

- Updating GSO's group database is the responsibility of the local areas. It is coordinated by the Area Registrar and completed through the work of the District Committee Members (DCMs), District Registrars, and General Service Representatives (GSRs).
- The GSO survey summarizes the U.S./Canada membership by age, sex, occupation. It is just one of the 12-Step work resources they make available.
- GSO does not conduct 12-Step work; 12-Step work is the responsibility of local AA areas.
- The demographic information of the membership in our local area is helpful to the planning of the 12-Step work available to be conducted by our area's standing committees.

**Young Peoples Coordinating Committee - December 2020**



# San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly Membership Survey

## About this survey.....

The San Diego-Imperial Area's Young People Coordinating Committee started the development of the survey with questions selected from the 2014 GSO Membership Survey. They added more questions and answer options before requesting a review by the 2019 Area Delegate and Area Alternate Delegate, three Past Delegates, a Past Trustee, and several other interested volunteers. The final survey was drafted and translated into Spanish. The English and Spanish surveys were set up in Typeform, an online data collection tool. There were no mandatory questions and there was opportunity for individuals to make open-ended statements.

The survey was launched **during the COVID** pandemic. Members of the San Diego-Imperial Area's Young People Coordinating Committee visited each area district's Zoom meeting of GSRs to request they communicate the request to participate in the survey.

- Data collection opened on May 21, 2020 and ended on September 12, 2020.
- 947 members responded.

**Young Peoples Coordinating Committee - December 2020**



# **San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly**

## **Membership Survey**

All surveys are a snapshot in time. This survey captured the affects of the quarantine on members in the closure of in-person meetings. While meetings did open via internet platforms, the disruption most likely limited the reach of the request to participate in the survey to those who where in the reach of the San Diego-Imperial Area's districts.

1. The 947 respondents is a reasonably reliable sample size for our local area.
2. Where applicable, comparison data of the 2014 GSO survey to the local survey is presented.
3. The best use of this survey is in the development of ideas for 12-Step work.
4. The last section of this presentation holds opinions expressed in the members' own words. The comments inventory our shortcomings in attraction.

**12-Step work saves the lives of those who take action  
as well as those to whom it extends the hand of AA.**

**Young Peoples Coordinating Committee - December 2020**

# San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly Membership Survey

## Demographics

### Contents

- Race / Ethnicity
- Gender
- Sexual Orientation
- Age
- Marital Status of Members
- Do you identify as a member of an organized religion?
- Are you now or have you ever served in the military?
- Are you a dependent of an active member of the military?

# **San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly**

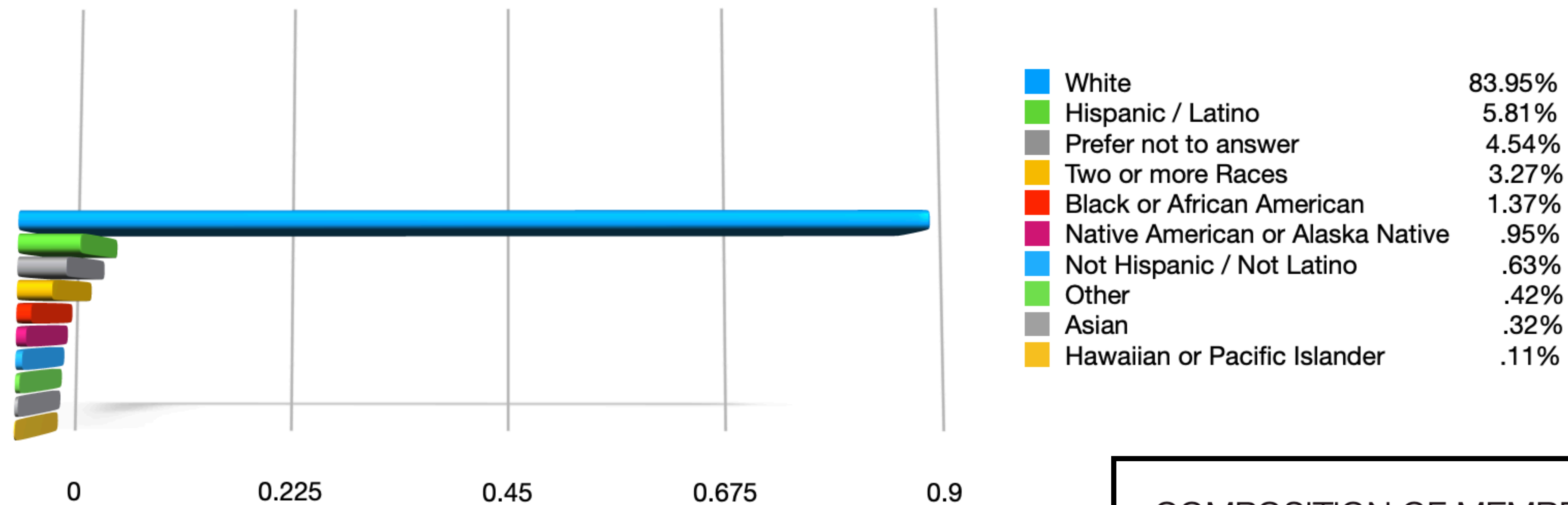
## **Membership Survey**

### **A note about the Race / Ethnicity statistics.....**

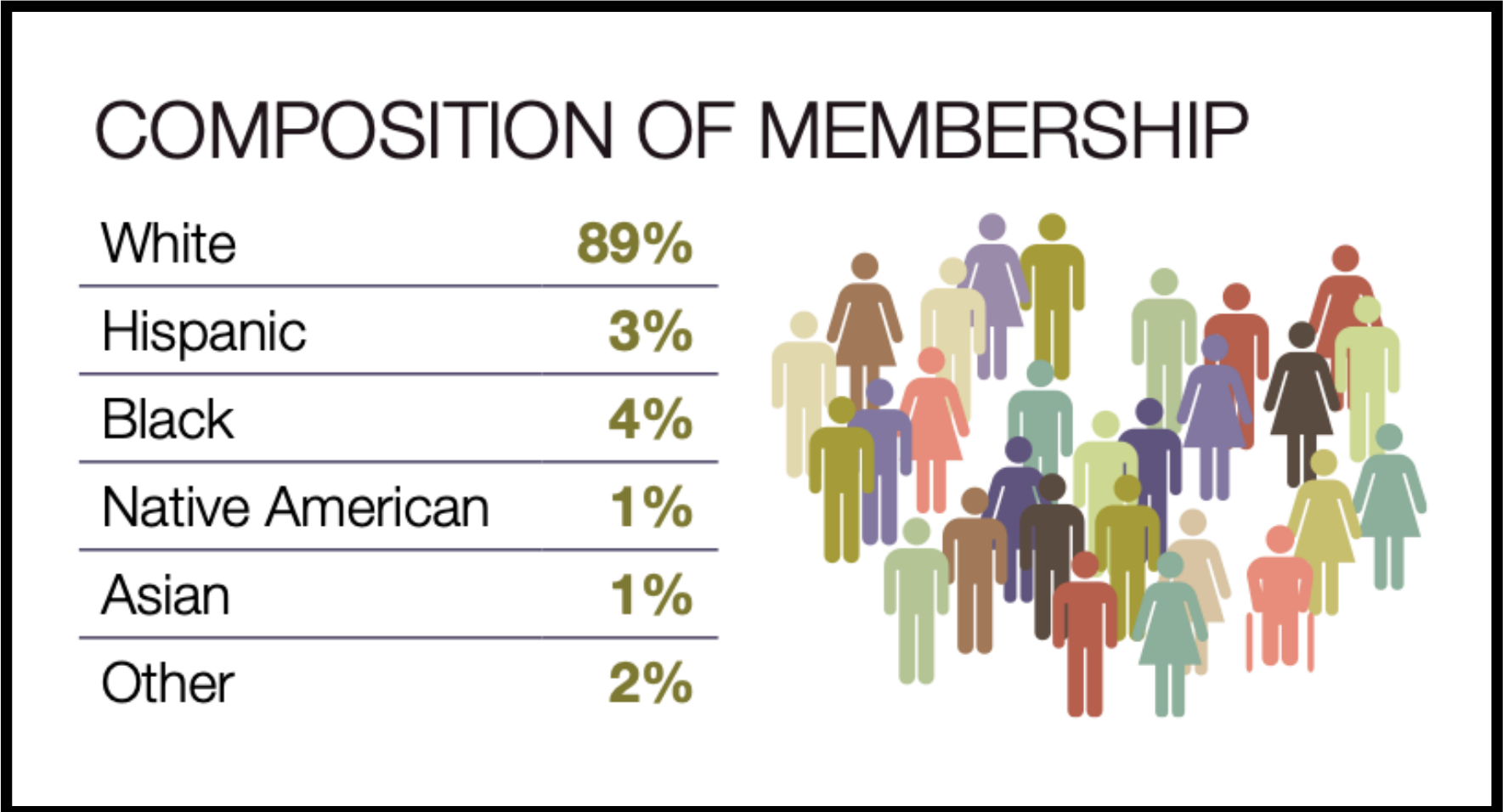
This Spanish version of this survey is not considered in the data because it received less than 10 responses. However, 55 responses made to the English survey were by individuals who identified themselves as bilingual in Spanish.

# Race / Ethnicity

## 2020 SDIAA Membership Survey

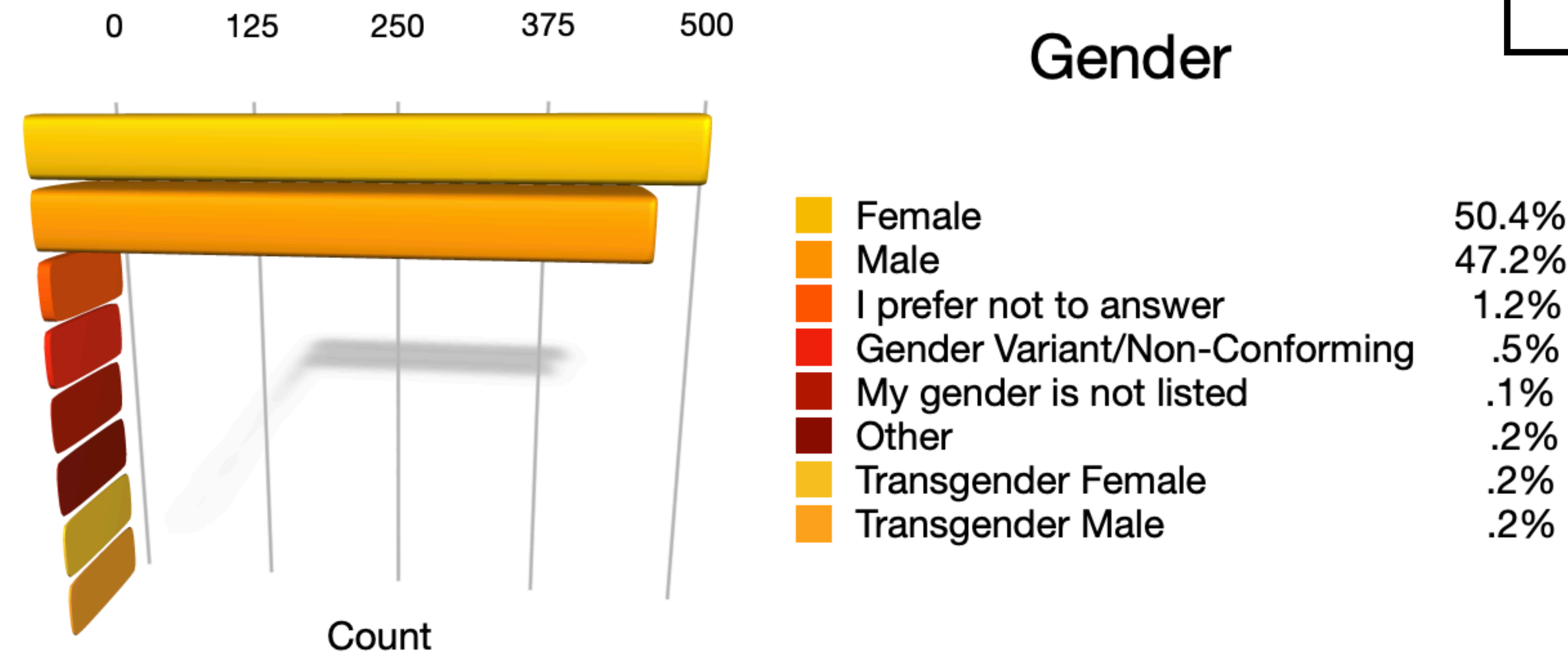


2014 GSO  
Membership Survey



# 2020 SDIAA Membership Survey

The local survey data indicate the proportion of female to male members is narrower than reflected in the U.S./Canada.



**2014 GSO  
Membership  
Survey**

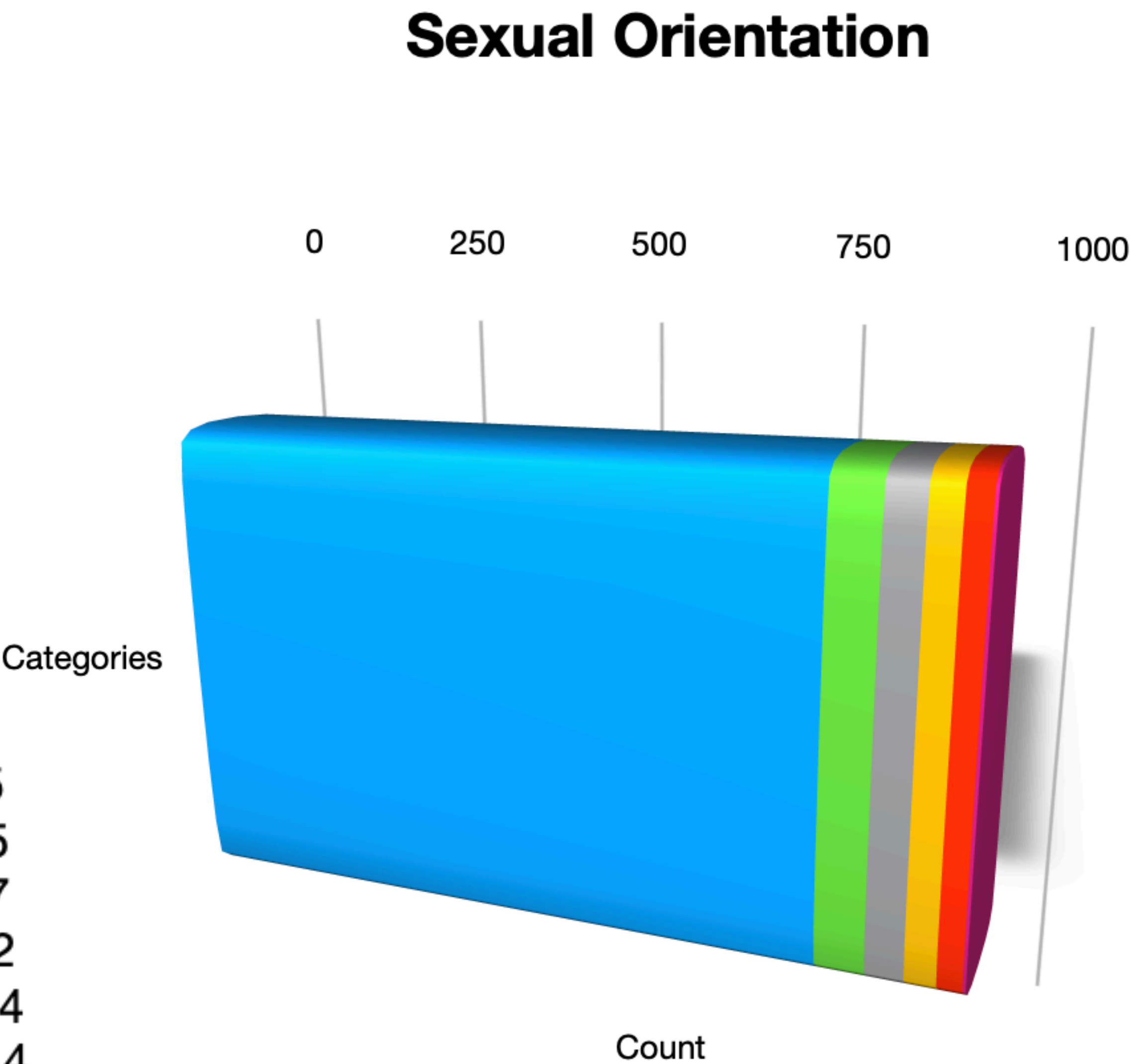


Discussing which answer options are needed for this question caused the 2017 Conference to consider the necessity of consulting outside professionals on the GSO survey.

The responses to SDIAA’s survey indicates a sizable portion of our area’s AA members fall into categories outside of Heterosexual. The last section of this presentation holds several comments to consider in regards to 12 Step work for those who are not Heterosexual.

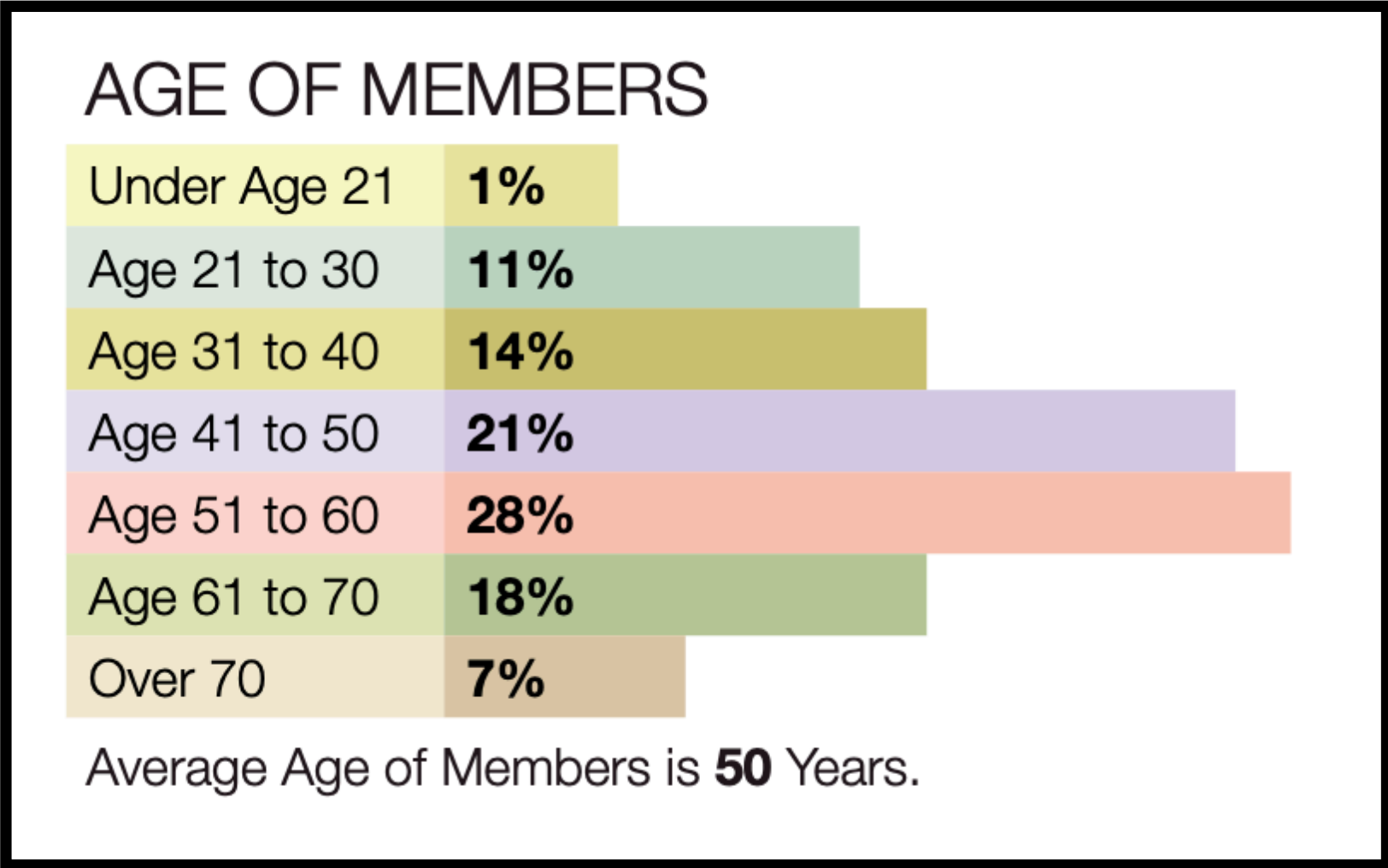
What does the data on our local area make you consider in the formation of 12-Step work?

<div></div>	Heterosexual	82.63% - 785
<div></div>	Gay	5.79% - 55
<div></div>	Lesbian	2.84% - 27
<div></div>	Bi-sexual	4.42% - 42
<div></div>	No Answer	3.89% - 34
<div></div>	Other	.42% - 4

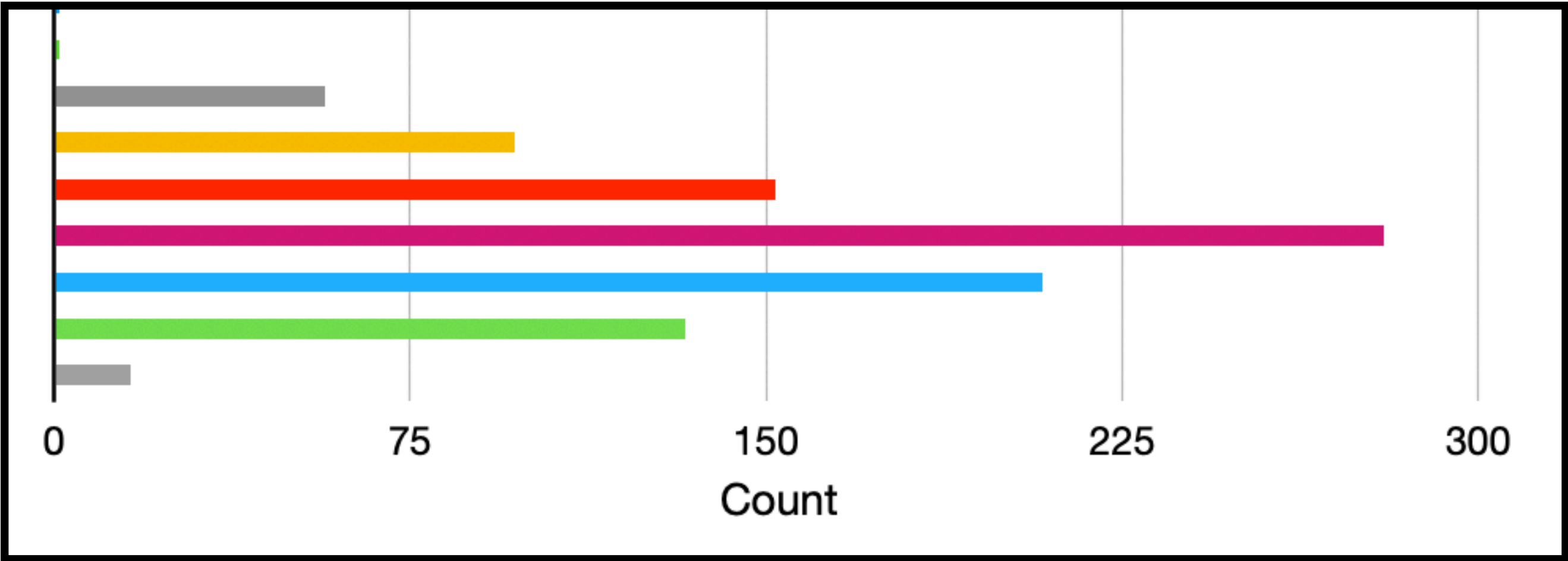


# Age of Members

2014 GSO Membership Survey



2020 SDIAA Membership Survey



The trend of the age bands from the 2014 GSO survey is similarly reflected in the data of the 2020 survey of San Diego members. However, for San Diego, there is lower proportion of the members under age 50 and over the age of 60. The age band of 51 to 60 is the largest.

Age 10 to 14	.1%
Age 19 to 21	.1%
Age 21 to 30	6.0%
Age 31 to 40	10.3%
Age 41 to 50	16.1%
Age 51 to 60	29.6%
Age 61 to 70	22.0%
Age 71 to 80	14.1%
Age 81 to 90	1.7%

# Marital Status of Members

**Compared to the 2014 GSO Membership Survey, San Diego Area members report a higher rate as Married / Life Partner, a lower rate in Single or Divorced, and the same in Other categories.**

## 2014 GSO Membership Survey

### MARITAL STATUS OF MEMBERS

Married/ Life Partner	Single	Divorced	Other
<b>41%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>6%</b>

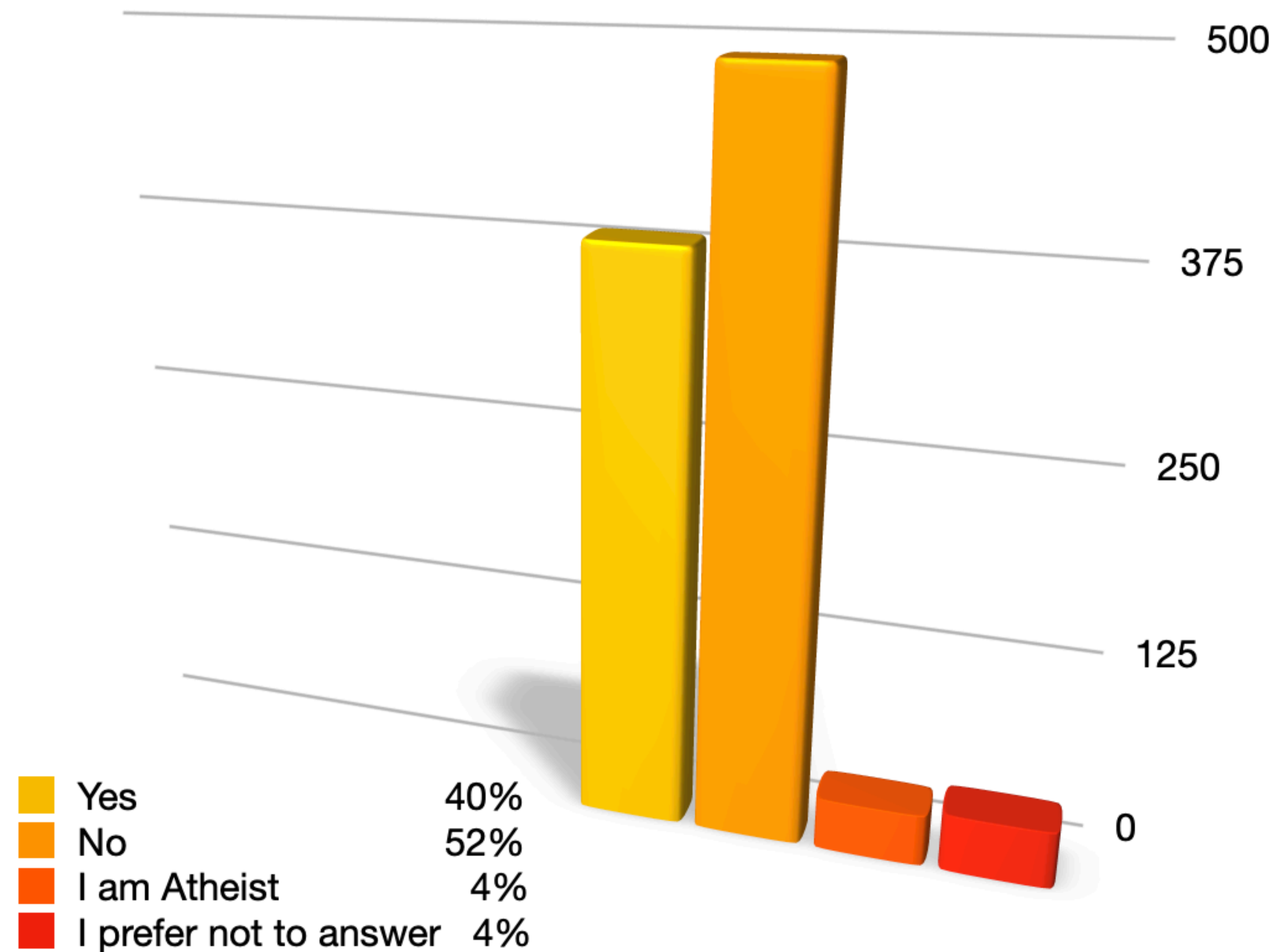
## 2020 SDIAA Membership Survey

Married / Life Partner	Single	Divorced	Widowed	Prefer not to answer
<b>52%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>2%</b>

**This question was not included in the 2014 GSO Membership Survey.**

**This question was presented in the San Diego survey because the answer plays a key role in discussions on AA literature. A few respondents made noteworthy comments that appear in the last section of this presentation.**

**Do you identify as a member of an organized religion?**

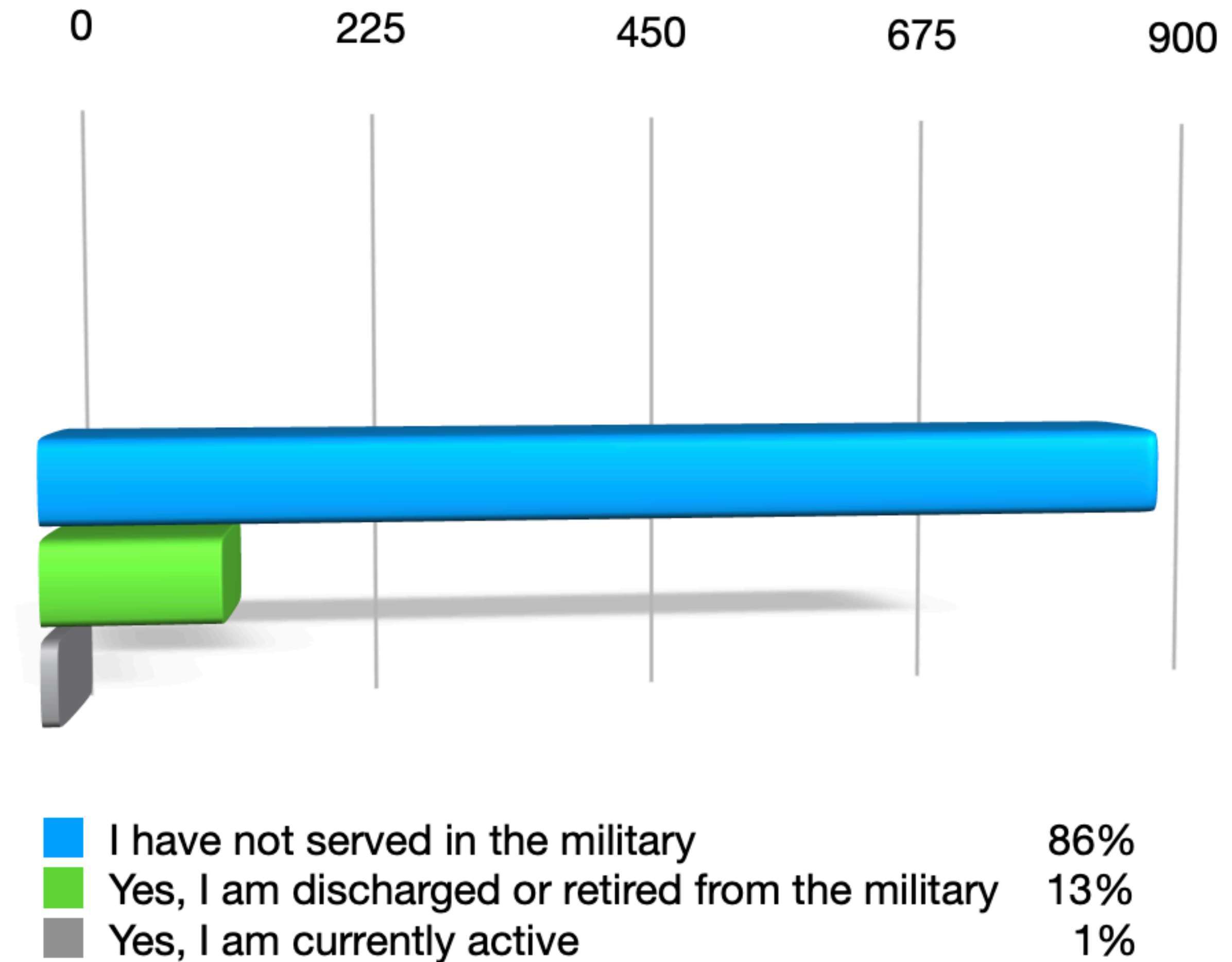




## Are you now or have you ever served in the military?

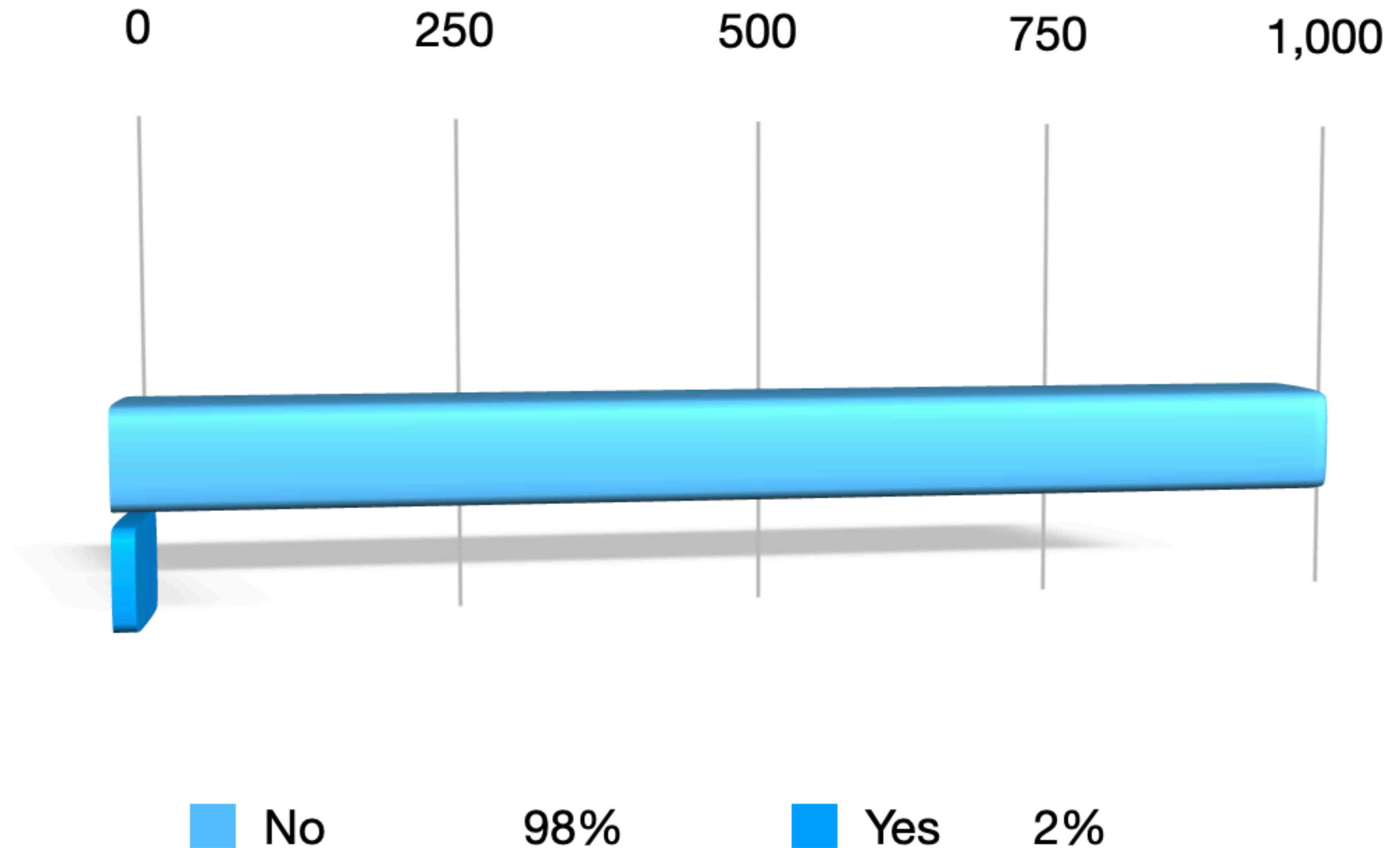
This question was not included in the 2014 GSO Membership Survey. It was included in the San Diego Membership Survey because of the area's consideration to create an Armed Forces Committee.

The survey results indicate only 1% of the respondents in San Diego meetings are currently active in the military.



This question was not included in the 2014 GSO Membership Survey. It was included in the San Diego Membership Survey because of the consideration to add an Armed Forces Committee to our area's list of standing committees.

### Are you a dependent of an active member of the military?



# San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly Membership Survey

## Group Life

### Contents

- Do you have a home group?
- Years of Sobriety
- Number of Meetings Attended per Week
- Introduction to AA - Referral Sources

## GROUP MEMBERSHIP



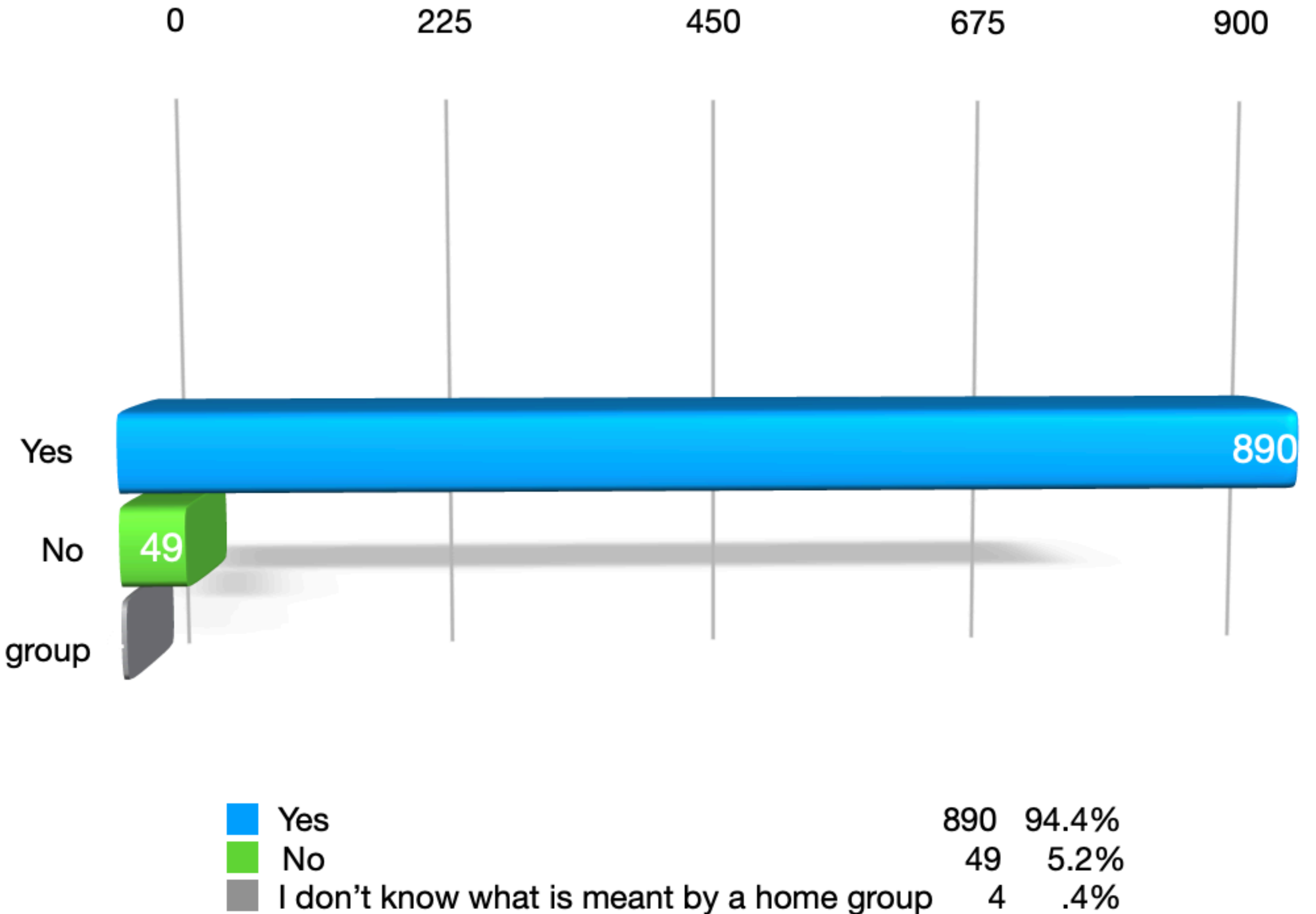
**86%** of the members belong to a home group.

## 2014 GSO Membership Survey

Compared to the 2014 GSO Membership Survey, the SDIAA survey shows stronger home group membership. It is likely this survey primarily reached members who participate in service. It is reasonable to expect group representatives have a home group.

I don't know what is meant by a home group

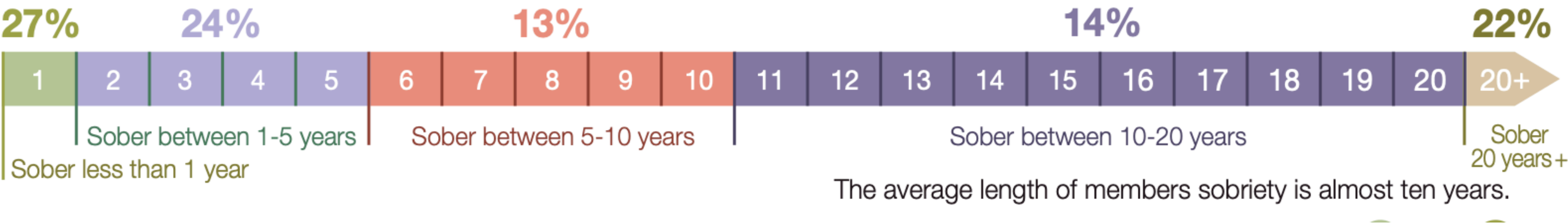
## Do you have a home group?





# 2014 GSO Membership Survey

## LENGTH OF SOBRIETY (YEARS)



# 2020 SDIAA Membership Survey

YEARS OF SOBRIETY									
< 1	2-5	6-9	10-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-40	41-50	>50
11%	22%	12%	12%	7%	6%	9%	18%	3%	1 person

In comparison to the 2014 GSO Membership Survey, the San Diego area shows a much lower percentage of members who have been sober less than one year; the percentages for the time bands between 1-5 years and 6-10 years are also lower, but only slightly. The San Diego data also indicates 55% of its members have been sober greater than 10 years.

**What do these numbers say about the 12-Step work conducted in our area? How should the numbers differ when considering the two surveys have a gap of 6 years?**

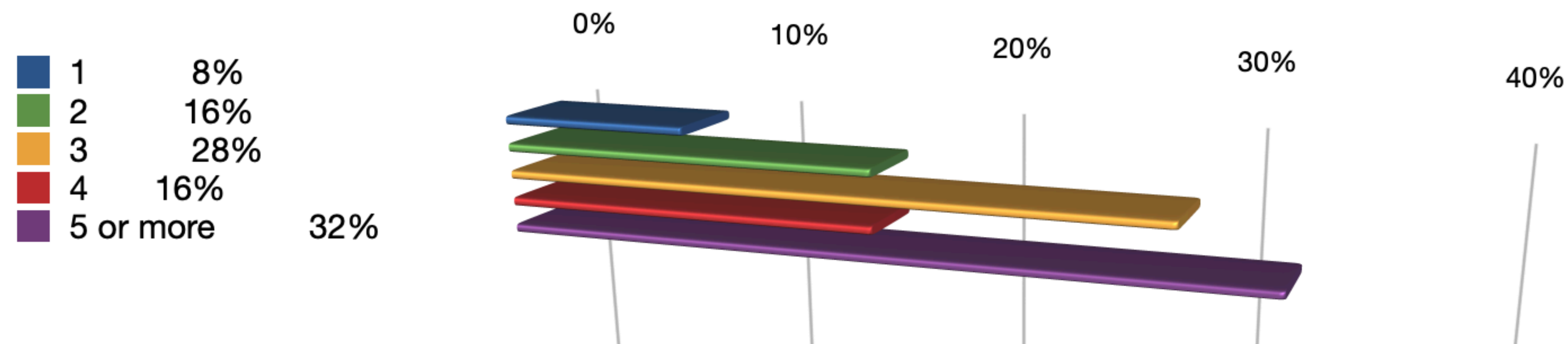
# 2014 GSO Membership Survey



The 2020 SDIAA Membership Survey data indicate San Diego members attend 3 or more meetings per week. The effect of the pandemic in attending more or fewer meetings is unknown. Here are a few comments respondents offered:

- **I haven't been to one in a while.**
- **Depends on my mental health status and school**
- **2 a month before pandemic**
- **With Zoom - 2 ...before five or more**
- **With Zoom: - 4 or 5 week  
- 2 to 3 week**

## 2020 SDIAA Membership Survey Meetings per Week



**In what ways could Zoom vs. In-person meetings be an important consideration in regards to:**

- **AA Unity?**
- **The service structure?**
- **The Intergroups?**



# Introduction to AA

**\*Respondents were allowed multiple selections**

## 2020 SDIAA Membership Survey

Treatment or Recovery Facility/Program	33%
Through an AA Member	29%
Self-motivated	21%
Family member	17%
Judicial System	10%
Mental Health Professional	10%
Other 12-Step Program	6%
Internet Search	6%
Non-AA Friend or Neighbor	4%
Other	4%
Medical Professional	3%
Employer or Work Associate	3%
Al-Anon or Alateen Member	2%
AA Literature	1%
Correctional Facility	1%

**How can this information be used by the San Diego area's standing committees in planning 12-Step work?**

The SDIAA data shows a shift in the top two referral sources with **Treatment or Recovery Facility** overtaking **Through an AA Member**. The categories of **Self-motivated**, **Family**, **Judicial System**, and **Mental Health Professional** retained the ranking held in the 2014 GSO Membership Survey.

The San Diego data included an option of **Internet Search** that was not included in the GSO survey.

Compared to the GSO survey, the San Diego data shows a increase in referrals by **Non-AA friend or Neighbor**, and decreases in **Other**, **Medical Professional**, **Employer or Work Associate**, **AA Literature** and **Correctional Facility**.

## 2014 GSO Membership Survey

INTRODUCTION TO A.A.\*

Through an A.A. member	32%
Treatment facility	32%
Self-motivated	30%
Family	27%
Judicial System	12%
Counselor/Mental Health Professional	13%
Medical Professional	4%
Employer or fellow worker	4%
Non-A.A. friend or neighbor	3%
Correctional facility	2%
Al-Anon or Alateen member	2%
A.A. literature	2%
Newspaper/magazine/radio/TV	1%
Member of clergy	1%
Internet	1%
Other	6%

# **San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly Membership Survey**

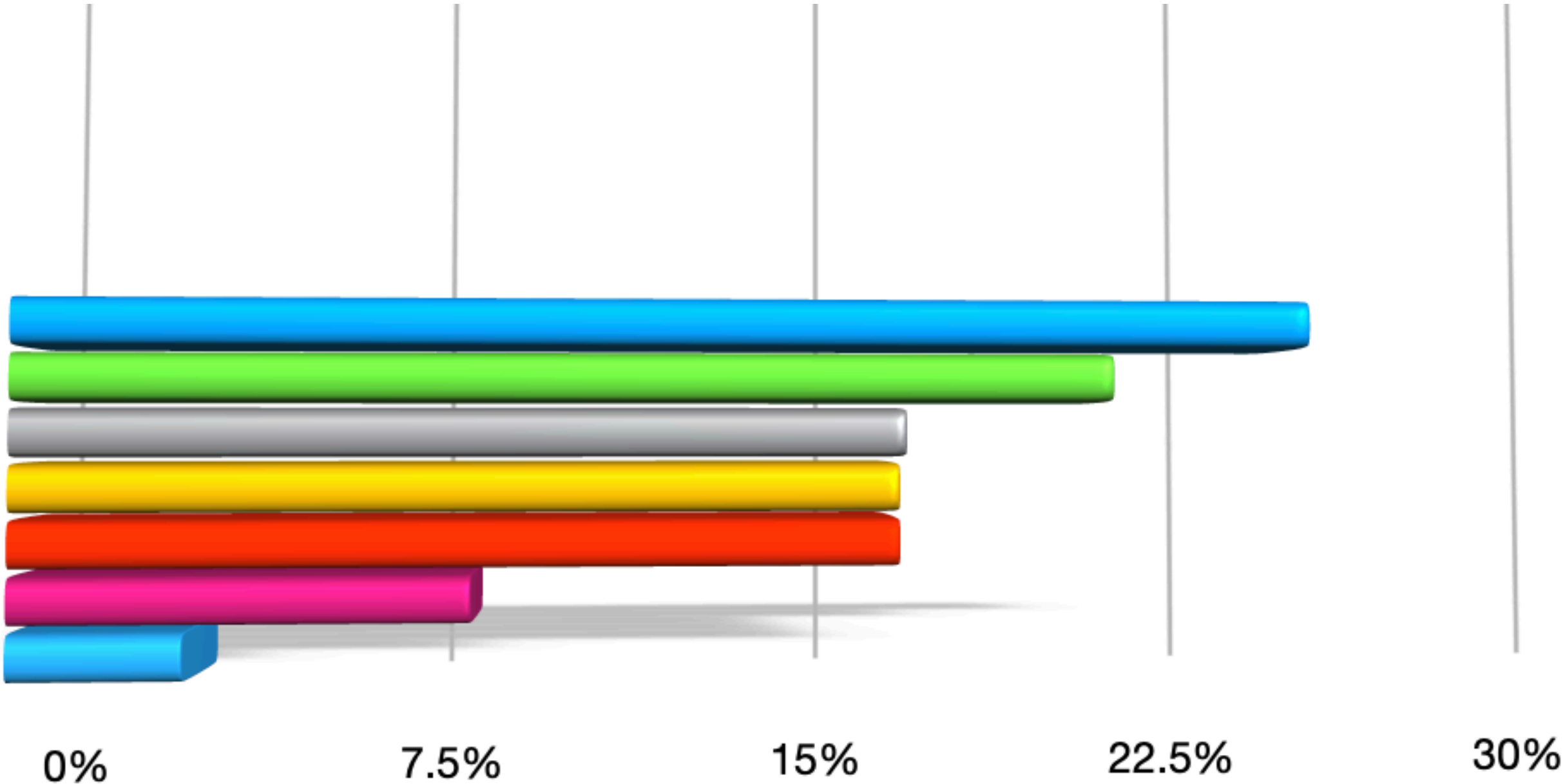
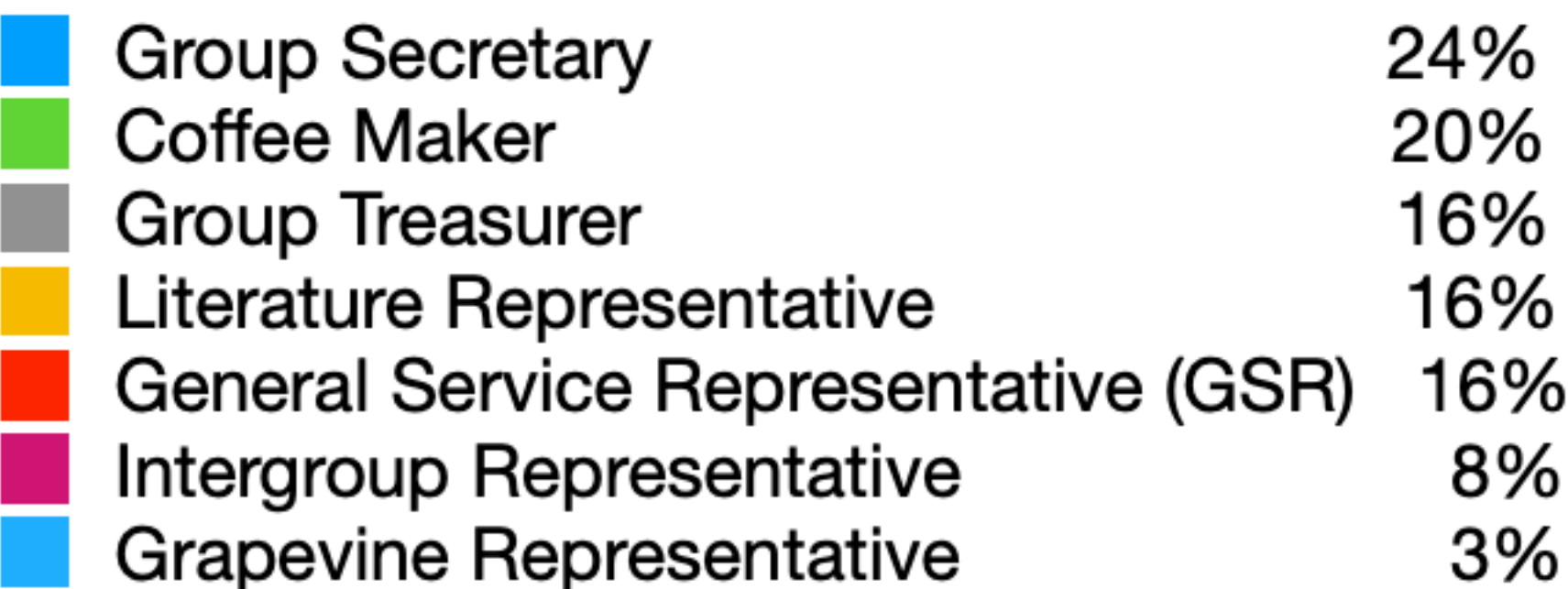
**Service Positions within the Group**

**Young Peoples Coordinating Committee - December 2020**



# 2020 SDIAA Membership Survey

## Participation in Group Service Positions



This question is unique to the 2020 SDIAA Membership Survey. Respondents selected all options in which they have participated.

### Other Group Service Positions Mentioned by Respondents:

- Speaker Getter
- Greeter
- Clean-Up Crew
- Timer
- Sponsorship Representative
- Phone List Keeper

# San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly Membership Survey

## Participation Beyond the Group

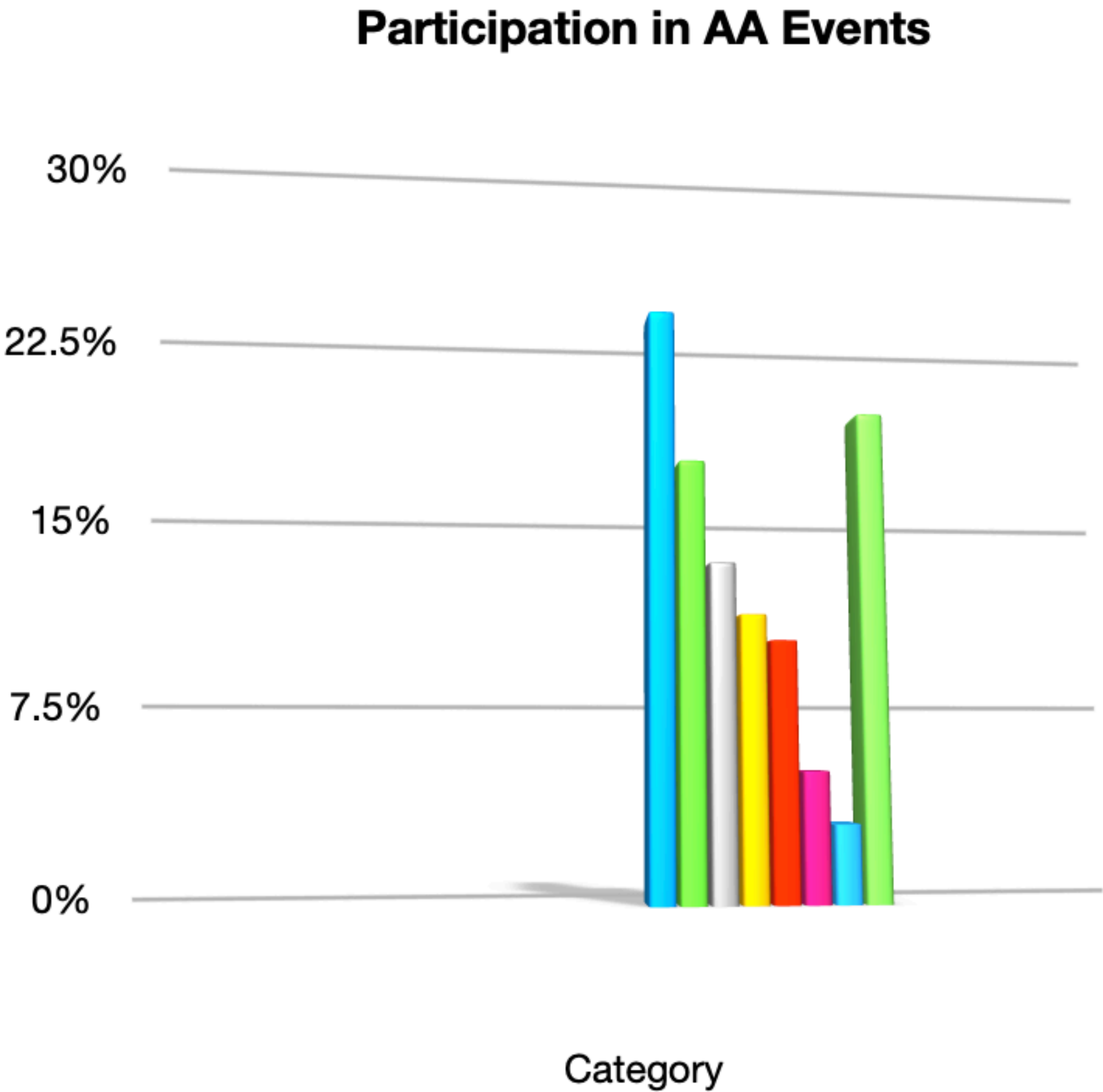
### Contents

- Participation in AA Events
- Participation in Service Beyond the Group

**This question is unique to the 2020 San Diego Survey. It was submitted for the benefit of informing service boards or committees on the frequency of member participation in events outside their group.**

**Survey respondents were asked to check all events they attend.**

Conventions and Roundups	23%
Workshops	17%
Picnics	13%
Holiday Marathons	11%
Alano Clubs	10%
Dances	5%
Young People Events	3%
Other	19%



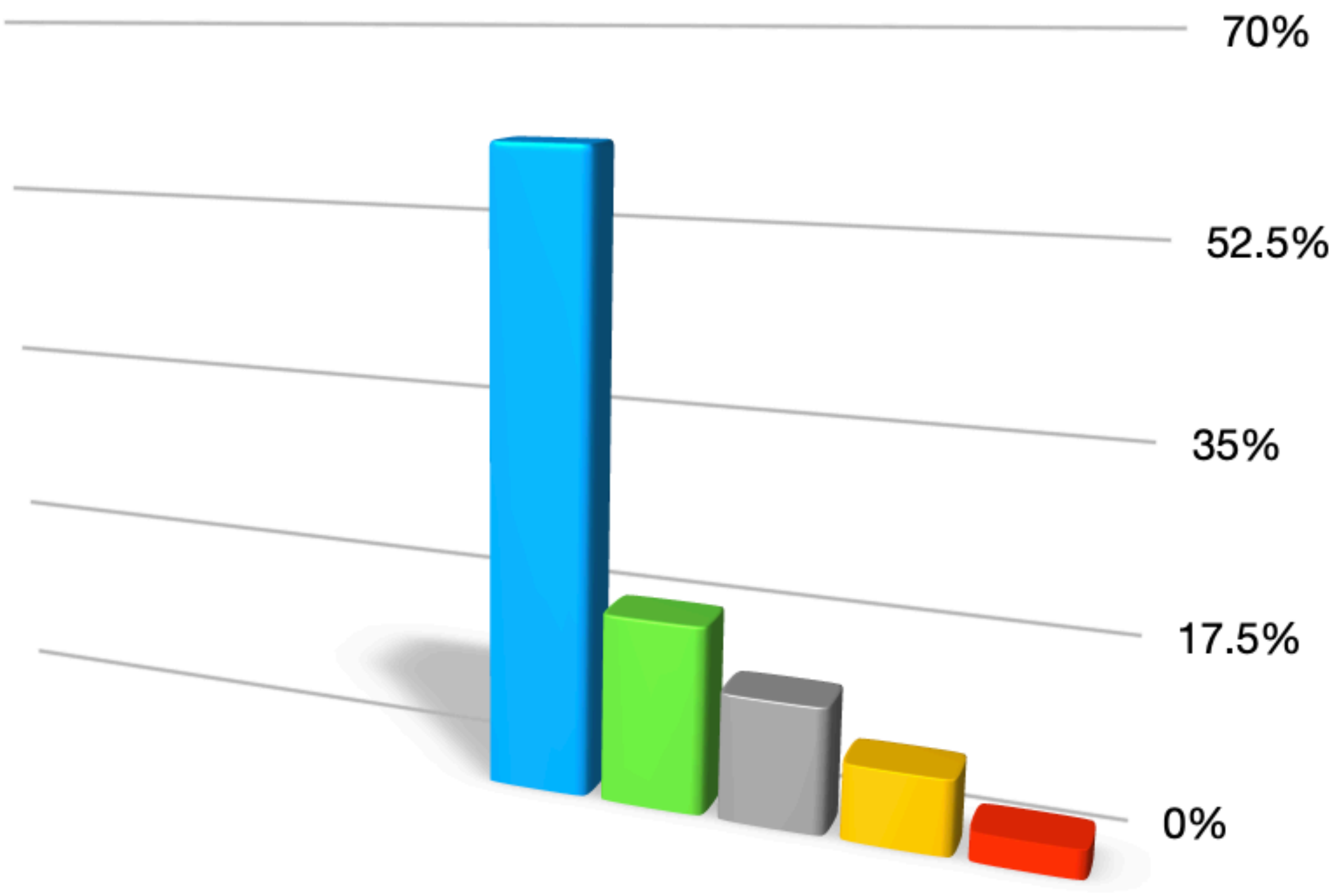
This question is unique to the 2020 San Diego Survey. It was submitted for the benefit of informing the standing committees on the frequency of member participation in their 12-Step work.

Survey respondents were asked to check all events they attend.

# Service Beyond the Group

## Service Beyond the Group

Hospitals & Institutions (H&I) Committee	60%
District Committee Member (DCM)	18%
Public Information Committee (PI)	12%
Area Officer	7%
Accessibilities Committee	3%





# **San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly Membership Survey**

## **Accessibility in AA**

### **Information to Consider in Forming 12-Step Work**

**In their own words and age group....**

In the next 4 slides:

1. Languages spoken other than English;
2. Identified Accessibility issues; and
3. & 4. Member Comments regarding their needs.

The 2020 San Diego Member Survey asked this question:

**If English is your second language, please let us know your primary language or languages. (Skip this question if you are a native English speaker.)**

Spanish	German	American Sign Language (ASL)	French	Russian	Farsi
10	4	3	2	2	1

Of the total 947 respondents, 22 individuals responded to speaking six languages other than English. The chart displays the specific languages and the number of individuals who reported skills in it.

Can these individuals can be helpful in strengthening services in carrying the message in our local area?

Survey Question: Do you have accessibility needs?

The answer options are listed in the column headers of the table and the count of responses are shown by age group. This question is unique to the 2020 San Diego Survey. This information can be useful in planning 12-Step work.

Note that a variety of accessibility issues span numerous age groups.

The responses are organized by age group.

Because of the inaccessibility of the survey platorm, there were no reports in the categories of Blind or Literacy

ACCESSIBILITIES ISSUES								
	No longer able to drive	Deaf or Hard of Hearing	Physical Access Issues - Wheelchair, Stairs	Dual Diagnosis / Mental Illness/ Anxiety	PTSD	Traumatic Brain Injury	Child Care	Chronic Pain
Age 19 to 21				1				
Age 21 to 30	2			2	1	1		
Age 31 to 40	1			2			1	
Age 41 to 50		1	1	3	3	1	4	
Age 51 to 60	1	6	4	7	2		1	1
Age 61 to 70	1	11	3	4	1			1
Age 71 to 80	4	13	4					
Age 81 to 90								

# San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly Membership Survey

## Is AA Accessible?

The next two slides organize by age group the answers to this open-ended question:

**Do you have accessibility needs?**

Please think about the size of the AA membership San Diego-Imperial Area represented in each age group.

**Which AA Traditions can be used in discussions in an effort to create AA Unity?**



## Comments on Accessibilities Issues

These Accessibilities comments cover a variety of issues within the Fellowship. They are organized by age group.

Age 21 to 30	Drama within individuals; stereotypes and rumors; gossiping and formation of cliques; meetings that have a variety of different individuals coming together for one primary reason / purpose.
Age 21 to 30	Open to Addicts that are also Alcoholics still.
Age 21 to 30	Meeting times of day are an accessibility issue
Age 21 to 30	I have found only 1 LGBTQ group / Lack of LGBT meetings in North County San Diego
Age 21 to 30	Received no response from admin of sites for LGBTQ AA
Age 31 to 40	I love AA, but meetings are often not trauma-informed or intersectionally inclusive. As a result, they can re-traumatize trauma survivors and marginalized populations. I've also experienced AA meetings turn into OA meetings. As someone who is recovering from an eating disorder and views these issues from a Health at Every Size angle, this can feel very isolating.
Age 31 to 40	I am in rehab
Age 31 to 40	No mid afternoon meetings
Age 31 to 40	ESA dog, anxiety issues
Age 41 to 50	Isolation when drinking / Fear
Age 41 to 50	Relapse seems more common in meetings here than where I got sober. But no issues with accessibility.
Age 41 to 50	Would suggest more sponsorship workshops
Age 41 to 50	There are very few AA meetings that discuss the solution = Big book directions...
Age 41 to 50	I got sober elsewhere, and the meetings in SD seem less focused on the solution.
Age 41 to 50	Work hours and location can sometimes create issues to go to a meeting.



## Comments on Accessibilities Issues

These ideas may inspire you to help groups. They are worth a review.

<b>Age 51 to 60</b>	Stairs but no elevators or ramps as I use assistive device to ambulate
<b>Age 51 to 60</b>	No gay women's meeting in my area
<b>Age 51 to 60</b>	I would prefer women military AA meetings
<b>Age 51 to 60</b>	I am reluctant to share about my depression, anxiety and PTSD as they are considered outside issues.
<b>Age 51 to 60</b>	Just a busy life schedule, working more than 40 hours per week, 3 children, married, etc.
<b>Age 51 to 60</b>	Language barriers
<b>Age 61 to 70</b>	Meetings held in rooms with good acoustics
<b>Age 61 to 70</b>	ASL Interpreter
<b>Age 61 to 70</b>	No microphones. Even with hearing aids cant hear. Ask people to speak up the answers are, "Not here to meet your needs - clean your ears out- move to center of the room etc."
<b>Age 71 to 80</b>	Not enough senior women's groups.
<b>Age 71 to 80</b>	Meetings held in rooms with good acoustics

# San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly Membership Survey

**In their own words.....**

The remaining slides display the responses to the invitation to make open-ended comments to the following questions:

- In the space below, please name any issues that are causing you difficulty in finding meetings that accommodate your needs.
- If there is/are any other issue(s) or concern you have, please tell us about it below.

The open-ended comments have been organized into topics for the benefit of presentation.

# San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly Membership Survey

## Consider the use of Sharing Sessions in Service to the Fellowship

Please review the member comments as if you were attending a Sharing Session.

A useful resource for holding a discussion with any group, district, committee or assembly on these matters is in this piece of Service Material: *How to Conduct a Sharing Session* - [https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/smf-111\\_en.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/smf-111_en.pdf)

How can the principles held in AA's Traditions be applied to strengthen unify of the Fellowship?

# San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly Membership Survey

**In their own words.....**

The next 5 slides hold the wide-ranging views of members about meetings during the pandemic.

They are listed in the age group of the respondent who made them.



## Comments on Meetings during the Pandemic

**25 respondents specifically identified the pandemic as an accessibility issue.**

	Comments Regarding Meetings During the Pandemic
<b>Age 19 to 21</b>	
<b>Age 21 to 30</b>	We need in person meetings again. Too many people are relapsing.
<b>Age 21 to 30</b>	We should keep regional zoom meetings going after the pandemic ends.
<b>Age 21 to 30</b>	Zoom is amazing
<b>Age 21 to 30</b>	There is nothing really causing difficulty finding meetings. Zoom has been a "god send" during the corona virus.
<b>Age 21 to 30</b>	Central office is San Diego needs to update on line app for AA meetings.
<b>Age 31 to 40</b>	I'm ok as long as I have Internet access
<b>Age 31 to 40</b>	<b>I'm concerned about how the COVID-19 situation is impacting the recovery community.</b>
<b>Age 31 to 40</b>	Security in zoom meetings
<b>Age 31 to 40</b>	Covid-19, how are we going to make sure that we don't spread the virus if we go back to in person meetings? Can Zoom or virtual meetings continue to be an option for those at risk?

## Comments on Meetings during the Pandemic

**Please keep in mind the pandemic may go on for several more months.  
This is a time to be mindful of Tradition One: AA is only vulnerable from within.**

<b>Age 41 to 50</b>	Just very grateful zoom meetings started. I can connect folks I got sober with. I have new sponsees. We got to be with a newcomer on video after a meeting when she told on herself for buying a sky vodka bottle. We got to be with her as she dumped it out. Priceless experience!
<b>Age 41 to 50</b>	Zoom meetings have allowed a lot more accessibility. If we can do both even after pandemic that would be great. Also, as a newbie it is a little difficult to figure out what is going on initially. But after a few meetings have a better understanding
<b>Age 41 to 50</b>	Not attending in person meetings while there is a pandemic.
<b>Age 41 to 50</b>	I'm a mom with kids. Grateful for zoom meetings.



## Comments on Meetings during the Pandemic

Age 51 to 60	Meeting Room app does not work in downtown/greater San Diego. So stupid
Age 51 to 60	I would very much appreciate that San Diego participate in online meeting finder application like meeting finder.
Age 51 to 60	Zoom listing of meetings I know of but can't find online'
Age 51 to 60	Conservatives rebellion of mask wearing and Covid's threat in general.
Age 51 to 60	Not all meetings take collections in zoom meetings during Covid-19
Age 51 to 60	I want our meetings to open back up. For us and especially the new comer. We now have small groups at each others home. It's not enough room for everyone so that's the issue.
Age 51 to 60	Zoom meetings are not secure....There is a technology gap in the recovery community which makes it hard to use more secure online meeting methods like Microsoft Teams, or Google Hangouts, or even zoom with individual invites.
Age 51 to 60	Covid precautions make it difficult to hold meetings and many people are not keeping others comfortable and safe even in an outdoor setting preferring to defy logic and hug, kiss, not wear a mask, etc. Luckily I have found many zoom and Skype AA mtgs for now and am not too concerned about my anonymity so I can attend those.
Age 51 to 60	I'm concerned that my home group is becoming split due to some member's fear of losing anonymity if zoom meetings are hybridized with in person meetings.
Age 51 to 60	Others reluctance to creating and participating in hybrid in-person/zoom meetings.
Age 51 to 60	Just social distancing and wondering how it will be when meetings open back up. While I want to stay safe, I miss being at fact-to-face meetings.
Age 51 to 60	I'm missing in person contact

## Notes for you to review later

The service structure is designed to achieve 2-way communication between the groups and AA as a whole.<sup>1</sup>

The specific parts of the service structure that are participating in today's roundtables are the:

Chairs of our area's standing committees<sup>2</sup>; and the

General Service Representatives. <sup>3</sup>Standing committees serve to:

A. Organize information needed to carry the message. Examples are: A workshop to inform the groups on how to conduct meetings using technology; and a workshop for the Clergy to explain what AA and what AA is not.

B. Create services that assist to carry the message. An example is the Policy Committee's work in developing guidelines that follow AA's Traditions when creating flyers to be posted on the area's publicly- accessible website; or the Finance Committee's review of an unbudgeted expense.

C. Directly carrying the message. The Cooperation with the Elder Community carries the message to a specific segment of the outside population; and the Armed Services Committee carries the message to a population that is considered remote due to the need to develop specific strategies to access it.

<sup>1</sup> The service structure is broken down into parts with each having a specific function in the 2-way communication. See The Concepts for more information. Concepts 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11 describe the relationships of the various parts of the service structure; Concepts 3, 4, 5, 9, and 12 describe the spiritual principles of the structure. [https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_us/en\\_bm-31.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_us/en_bm-31.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> AA areas form committee to conduct and support 12-Step work because GSO does not directly do 12-Step work; they are simply the repository of information, literature, and other resources. [https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/f-6\\_yourAAGSO.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-6_yourAAGSO.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> You are the link between your group and AA as a whole. [https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/p-19\\_gsr.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/p-19_gsr.pdf) The main communication hub between your group is your district. Your key information resource is your District Committee Member, who is a member of the Area Committee. [https://www.aa.org/assets/en\\_US/f-12\\_yourDCM.pdf](https://www.aa.org/assets/en_US/f-12_yourDCM.pdf)



## Comments on Meetings during the Pandemic

<b>Age 61 to 70</b>	Now that I have zoom meetings to attend, night driving is NOT a problem!!
<b>Age 61 to 70</b>	In-person meetings are a safety issue in the Covid situation.
<b>Age 61 to 70</b>	COVID 19! Zoom meetings have been awesome!
<b>Age 61 to 70</b>	I love the zoom meetings and hope they continue.
<b>Age 61 to 70</b>	Keep zoom meetings after the pandemic
<b>Age 61 to 70</b>	I couldn't find meetings that now open. Also the same problem finding zoom meetings.
<b>Age 61 to 70</b>	None, but AA as a whole needs NY, or Regional Office to issue some level of COVID-19 Response Plan for the meetings. I believe it will help a lot to set a base level of "expected" behaviors and meeting place arrangements when we do get back together
<b>Age 61 to 70</b>	I will have some reservations about face-to-face meeting until we have a vaccine. However, I do miss hugs!
<b>Age 61 to 70</b>	I'm concerned about when we resume meeting at the clubhouse or facility like a church. how are we to be safe from Covid-19
<b>Age 61 to 70</b>	I want the Zoom meetings to continue
<b>Age 61 to 70</b>	Need to get back to regular meetings, zoom does not cut it
<b>Age 61 to 70</b>	Three high-risk factors for COVID-19.

## Comments on Meetings during the Pandemic

<b>Age 71 to 80</b>	I am an elder with underlying med issues.
<b>Age 71 to 80</b>	I'll be interested to see how ZOOM changes AA. I'm deeply missing this year's convention.
<b>Age 71 to 80</b>	Zoom mtgs are difficult for me as I am hard of hearing
<b>Age 71 to 80</b>	Do not want to go back to in-person too soon.
<b>Age 71 to 80</b>	Zoom for many business meetings could save a great deal of 7th Tradition money. For some discussion maybe look at zoom for General Service Board meetings maybe even the General Service Conference.
<b>Age 71 to 80</b>	Start the meetings again. No masks or social destining
<b>Age 71 to 80</b>	Concerned about connecting with newcomers on ZOOM
<b>Age 71 to 80</b>	People who come to mtgs who are ill and contagious.
<b>Age 81 to 90</b>	meeting availability other than zoom
<b>Age 81 to 90</b>	Accommodation rules for this pandemic face to face meetings. Possible anonymity violations.



# San Diego-Imperial Area Assembly Membership Survey

**A Member's Eye View .... These final slides hold  
food for thought in discussion of AA's Traditions.**

The remaining slides display the open-ended comments from survey respondents. The typos were made by the respondent. Repetitions are included for the benefit of seeing the frequency each idea was expressed. The comments are grouped into the topics of: **Inclusion, Safety, Service, General Service Conference, 12-Step work, AA Traditions, Our Primary Purpose.**

Please take the time to review this information to get a feel for what 947 of today's AA members are experiencing. There is a lot of work to be done in serving the groups.

## What's on the minds of the membership?

Inclusion	Want to make AA more inclusive and welcoming to people of color. Either at existing meetings or by supporting POC only meetings.
Inclusion	traditional meetings are very unwelcoming to atheists & agnostics, continue using lord's prayer at meetings makes some non-christians/other religions uncomfortable and not feel like they are welcome or belong
Inclusion	the promotion of profanity, excluding many members
Inclusion	Too much PC in CA
Inclusion	Changing pronouns (he/she) to neutral pronouns.
Inclusion	AA needs to do work to be inclusive to all marginalized populations, but especially people of color. The most recent statistics I've read are that non-whites make up 40% of the general population, but only 11% of AA. Therefore, the organization and its members need to do work to be an antiracist, safe space.
Inclusion	I generally go to women's meetings due to some past issues with men in mixed groups. Just feel more comfortable about opening up among women.
Inclusion	To always make sure a newcomer always feels welcome.
Inclusion	AA needs to address issues of belonging, equity, diversity, and inclusion in its published materials and structure.
Inclusion	Im a Vet with PTSD/ Bipolar/incest, child abuse and rape survivor. None of that means squat. If I were deaf or in a wheelchair I'd need assistance, but otherwise I don't need the program to be sensitive to me. I needed to get with the program.
Inclusion	My concern is about racial inclusion--AA needs to be better about making people who are "other" feel accepted and wanted as a necessary part of the herd.
Inclusion	forming little cliques like high school and doing things like bullying and acting as if one person is better or higher up on a hierarchy scale than another fellow alcoholic is something very prevalent
Inclusion	Regressiveness in AA
Inclusion	This survey was a bit invasive
Inclusion	I moved here from 100 miles away due to gender-based harrassment / outspoken homophobia in another region's AA meetings that interfered with the quality of recovery. So thank you for that not being a problem in Area 8.
Inclusion	sustainability, relevance to young people, developing low literacy version of Big Book, new edition, Mental health issues.
Inclusion	Would like to see more meetings for professionals.
Inclusion	AA should be more pro-active and address access and safety for communities of color.
Inclusion	AA in san Diego is primarily white.
Inclusion	Many groups I have been to in La Jolla seem less welcoming than others I have been
Inclusion	AA is getting way too affected by political correctness and this will destroy our fellowship. Plenty of evidence it is already doing so.
Inclusion	No concerns, just gratitude for the program, so thankful, I do prefer women's meetings



## What's on the minds of the membership?

Safety	Too many guys who are aggressively hitting on women and not enough people standing up or them.
Safety	no issues; we dont need a safety card' the HP protects AA
Safety	Too much underlying sexism and narcissism at mixed meetings and sexist rhetoric in the Big Book. It's a turn-off and it needs a major update. I'm sure Bill W. would gladly welcome that but the old men and some crazy old women in AA don't want to change it.
Safety	Some "personalities" go too far and there are no accountability measures for behavior
Safety	I believe more meetings should take an active role in protecting attendees from predatory and/or discriminatory behavior.
Safety	No issues. I know our safety issues and I try to be part of the solution.
Safety	Beligirent homeless using meetings as a place to sleep and get coffee
Safety	How to handle "unruly" or inappropriate member while understanding that we are all sick!
Safety	Older men trying to hit on the newcomer women, homeless alcoholics and drug addicts trying to approach newcomers after the meeting
Safety	Physical safety, IT SAFETY
Safety	We meet in a very safe neighborhood
Safety	Long time sober male members in AA are often inappropriate with newcomer females.
Safety	Safety of meetings is always important.
Safety	If they read this before my first meeting they wouldn't have let me in. OB, CA group wants Security guards
Safety	Protecting new comers from predators
Safety	Safety Card or Pamphlet for newcomers is a must
Safety	Our group had issues with homeless/mental illness/ aggressive individuals disturbances. As a group we formulated our safety plan. We were beginning to implement when moved to Zoom meetings. Which has its own challenges but I trust following the Traditions will work out.
Safety	None, but grateful for the Safety Card! : )
Safety	always concerned about predatory behavior in meetings
Safety	Homeless and mentally ill wandering thru meetings or coming in for coffee and disrupting meetings sometimes snoring thru meetings
Safety	Please more emphasis on this card in AA
Safety	Some meetings do not police themselves well. There can be bullies, sexual predators, etc. making it uncomfortable for women, minorities, newcomers.
Safety	Safety with old timers talking or hitting on newcomers
Safety	I worry about people recording in meetings with their phones

## What's on the minds of the membership?

<b>Service</b>	<b>Are we "attracting" members into service?</b>
<b>Service</b>	<b>Need for Traditions Workshops</b>
<b>Service</b>	<b>Finding willing Committee Members</b>
<b>Service</b>	<b>Blue tooth capability at assemblies and conferences. Hearing impaired</b>
<b>Service</b>	<b>1) not nearly enough groups have a GSR 2)Social Media- The Grapevine needs to leverage social media more to have younger people, more people join AA. Especially as we move away from paper/print as a society.</b>
<b>General Service Conference</b>	<b>Stop trying to change the Big Book</b>
<b>General Service Conference</b>	<b>More information needs to make its way to the individual meetings okay. Especially those who don't really connect with AA as a whole. I do what I can but can't get out much. Thank you for all you do.</b>
<b>12-Step Work</b>	<b>More Public Information &amp; Outreach to the Military</b>
<b>12-Step Work</b>	<b>Suggest that people who are willing to pick up those who cant get to meetings and take them home after become a volunteers</b>



## What's on the minds of the membership?

Tradition Seven	AA needs to stop investing in physical presence and switch to virtual presence. We don't need to be paying for office space in New York City! We need NY to take care of literature and copyright. And our local Central's need to switch to virtual, too.
Tradition Seven	\$\$ is going to be an issue keeping the doors of meetings open, the central offices, etc. I'm also concerned that people who may need us more than ever now (drinking away idleness, fear, etc) can't find us or feel comfortable in the new norm - for now.
Tradition Seven	I'm concerned for the future of GSO since book sales and contributions are way down
Tradition Seven	financial support for services
Tradition Eleven	anonymity in social media
Tradition Eleven	Anonymity on social media
Tradition Eleven	Ánonymity with online meetings
Tradition Two	Not enough attendees at Steering Committees, so decisions are made about meetings, locations, etc, that really don't make sense but "majority rules"
Tradition One	Safety in the rooms while maintaining traditions.
Tradition One	Groups deviating from our 12 traditions.

## What's on the minds of the membership?

<b>Our Primary Purpose</b>	It works, it really does
<b>Our Primary Purpose</b>	I love AA
<b>Our Primary Purpose</b>	Stay with primary purpose
<b>Our Primary Purpose</b>	Stay with principles
<b>Our Primary Purpose</b>	Finding sponsorship
<b>Our Primary Purpose</b>	Staying in the common solution in meetings. Clearly stating the common problem.
<b>Our Primary Purpose</b>	We should be on the AA app. It's annoying and embarrassing that the San Diego central office hasn't joined yet.
<b>Our Primary Purpose</b>	1. Safety & anonymity from Zoom Bombers. 2. Encouraging members to do service work. 3. Pamphlet/outline on how to best help a wet drunk.
<b>Our Primary Purpose</b>	A lot of AA meetings are like therapy sessions and do not talk about the solution in the big book!!!!!!
<b>Our Primary Purpose</b>	I wish there can be a AA court on horrible sponsors. LOL
<b>Our Primary Purpose</b>	I am concerned that it seems that New York and many local entities have a very strong opinion that we should only share about alcohol, and never drugs. If AA is serious about such a position, they should remove all references to drugs from Dr. Bob's story, they should remove all references to drugs from Dr. Paul O's story, etc. To be clear, I am not in favor of that solution. But to suggest that members shouldn't share about drugs other than alcohol is hypocritical.
<b>Our Primary Purpose</b>	singleness of purpose not being adhered to. people who don't identify as alcoholics participating in meetings.