



Towards a
**National Strategy
for Volunteering**



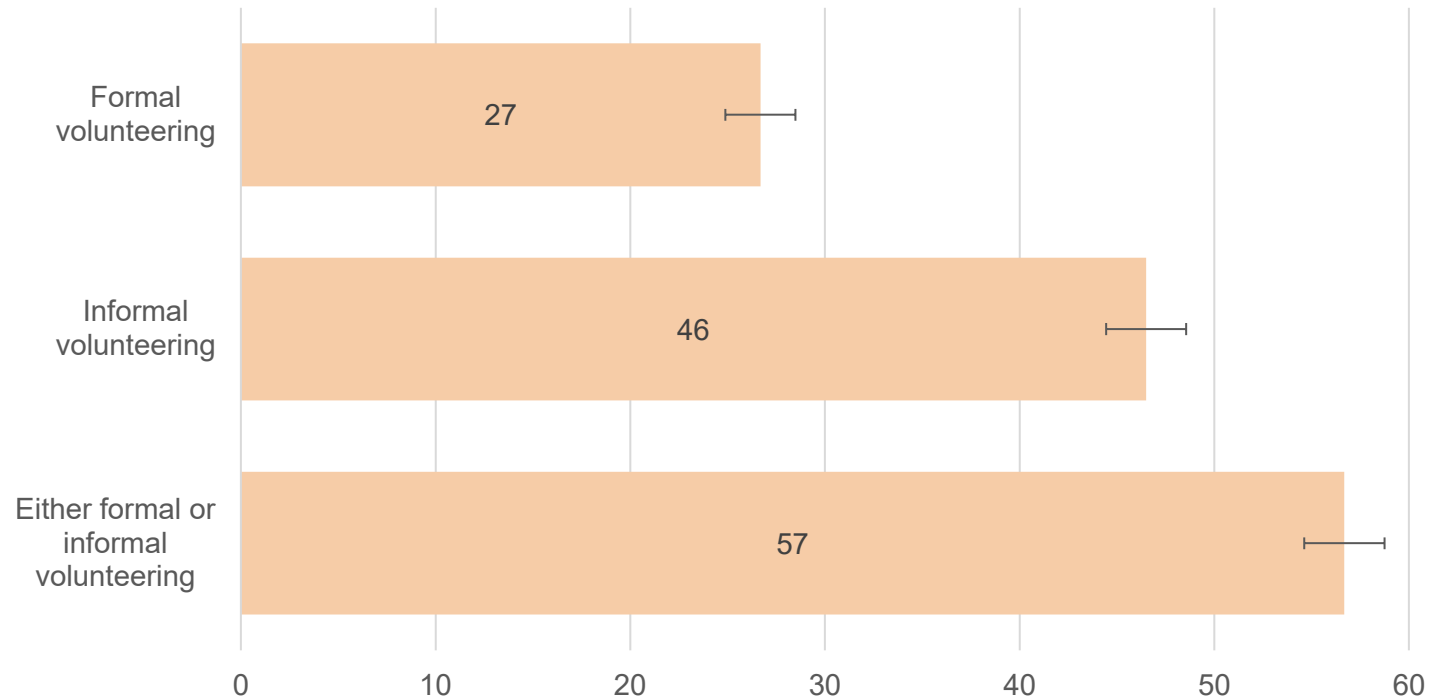
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**Volunteering in Australia 2022
The Volunteer Perspective**

Nicholas Biddle, Charlotte Boyer, Matthew Gray, Maria Jahromi

ANU Centre for Social Research and Methods

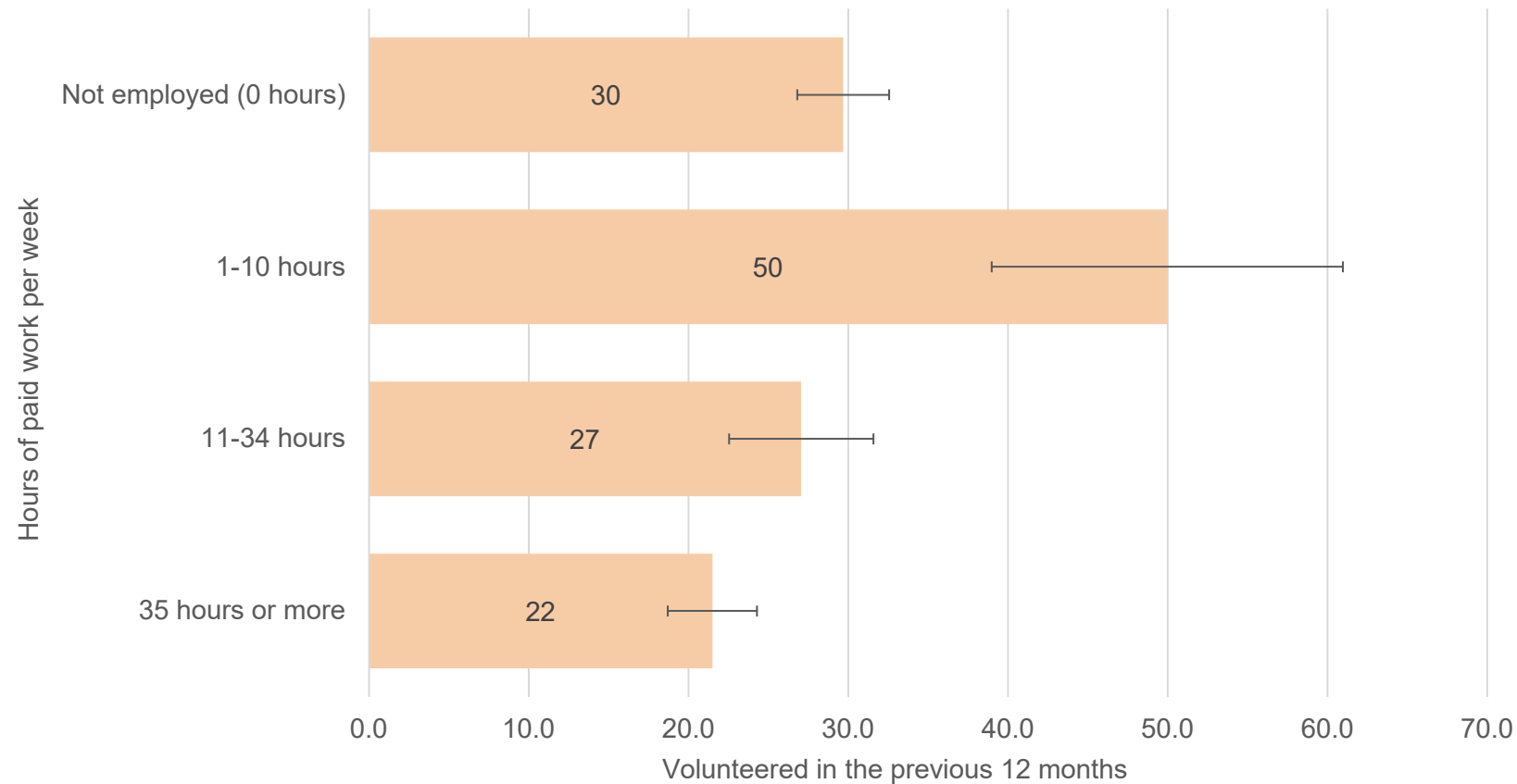
Rates of formal and informal volunteering (%)



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Rates of formal volunteering by paid employment status (%)

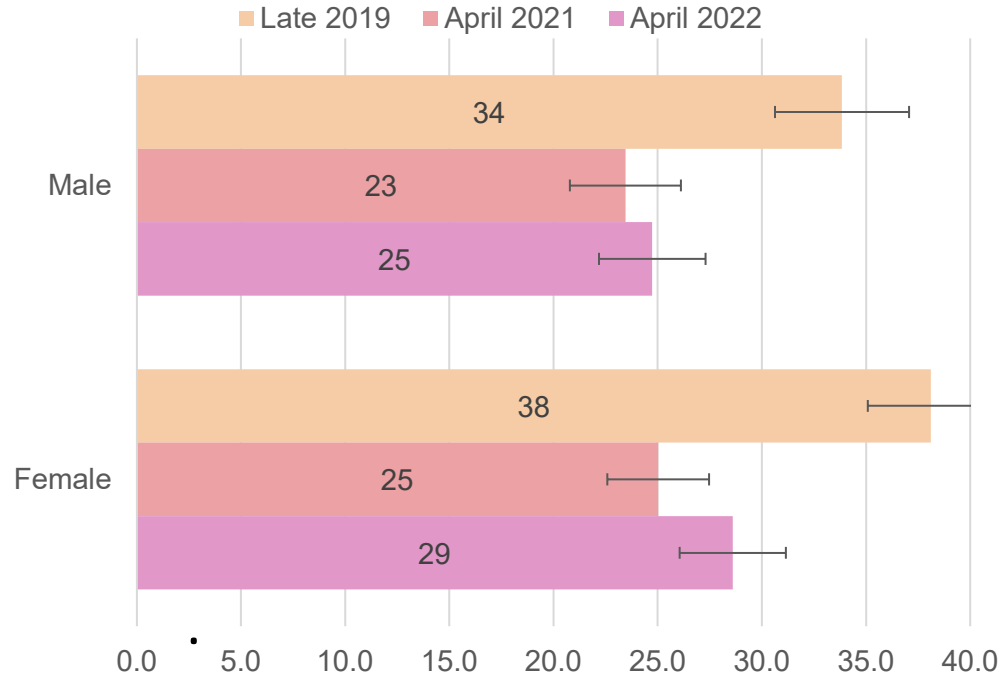


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Trends in volunteering

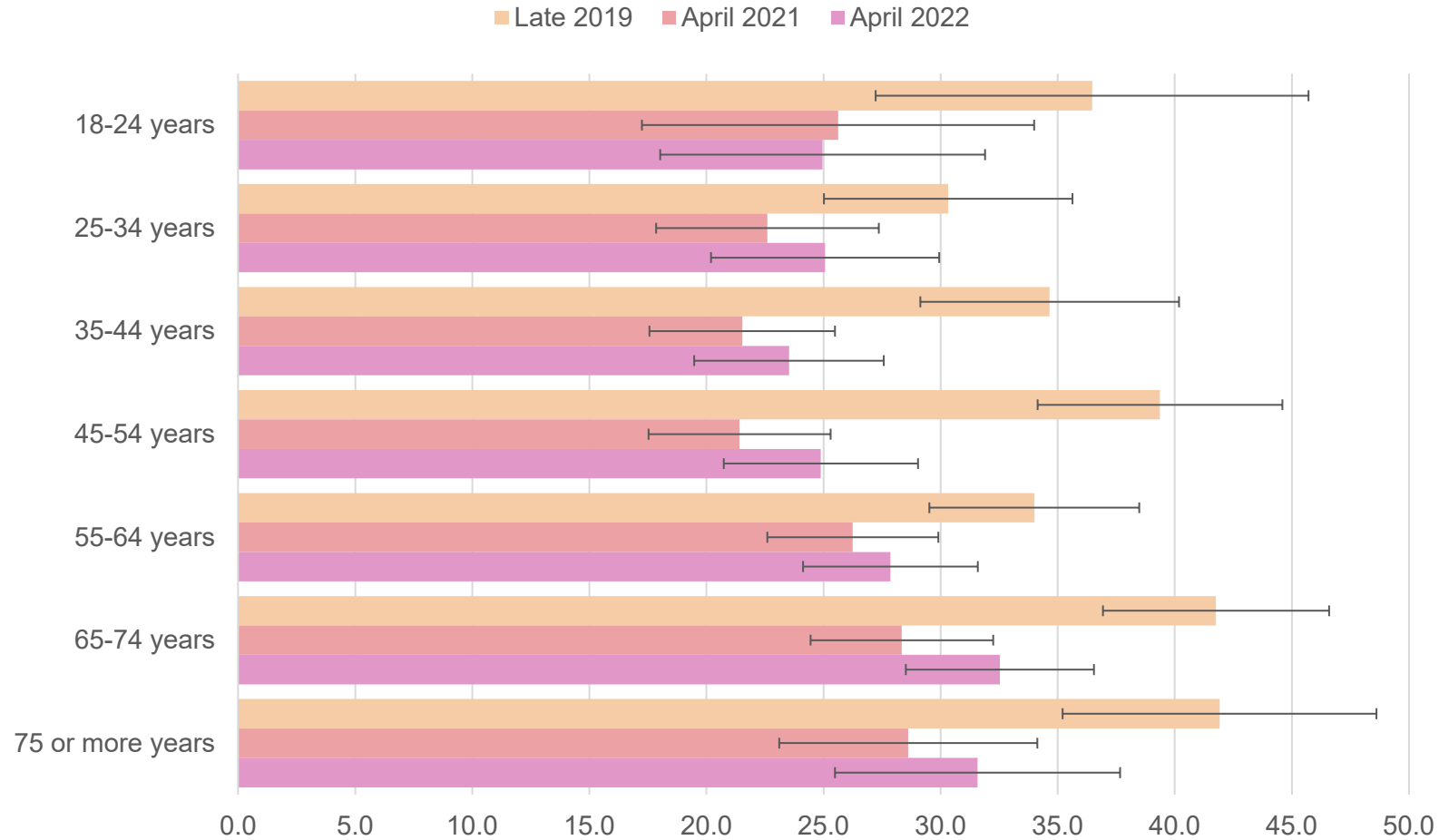
% volunteered, 2019-22



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Rates of formal volunteering by age (%)

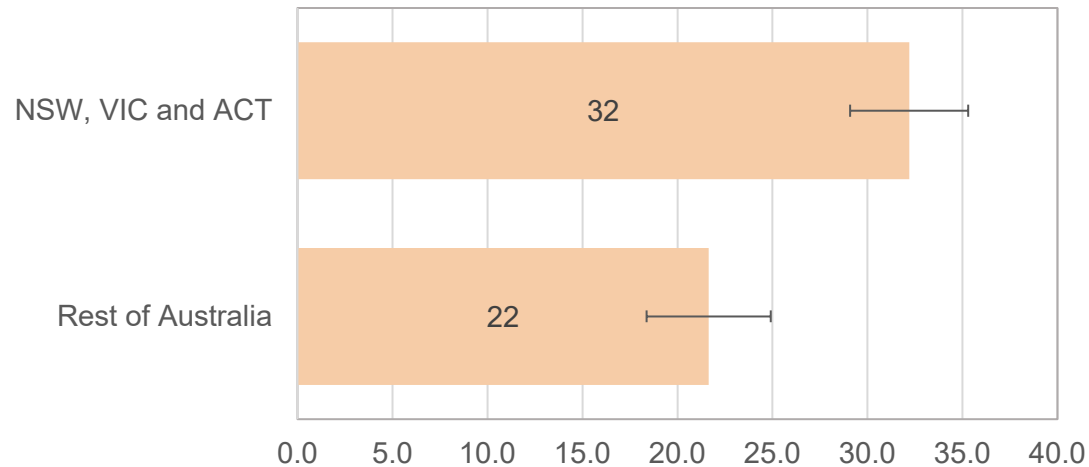


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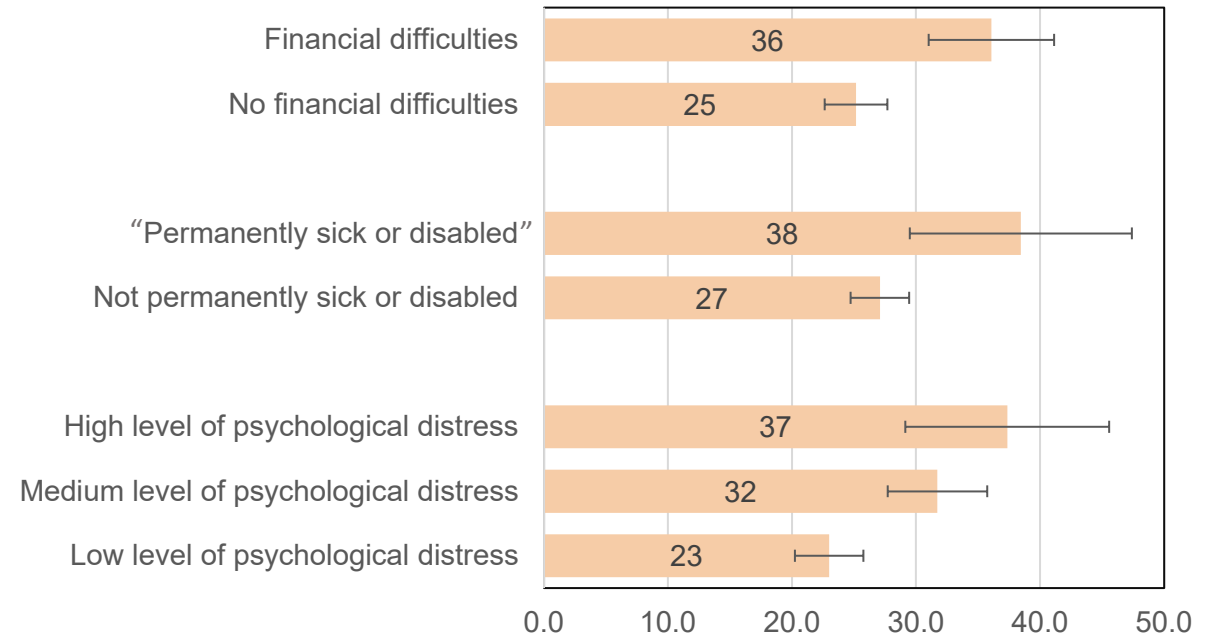


Stopped volunteering activity due to COVID-19 (%)

Areas with most extensive restriction versus areas with less severe restrictions



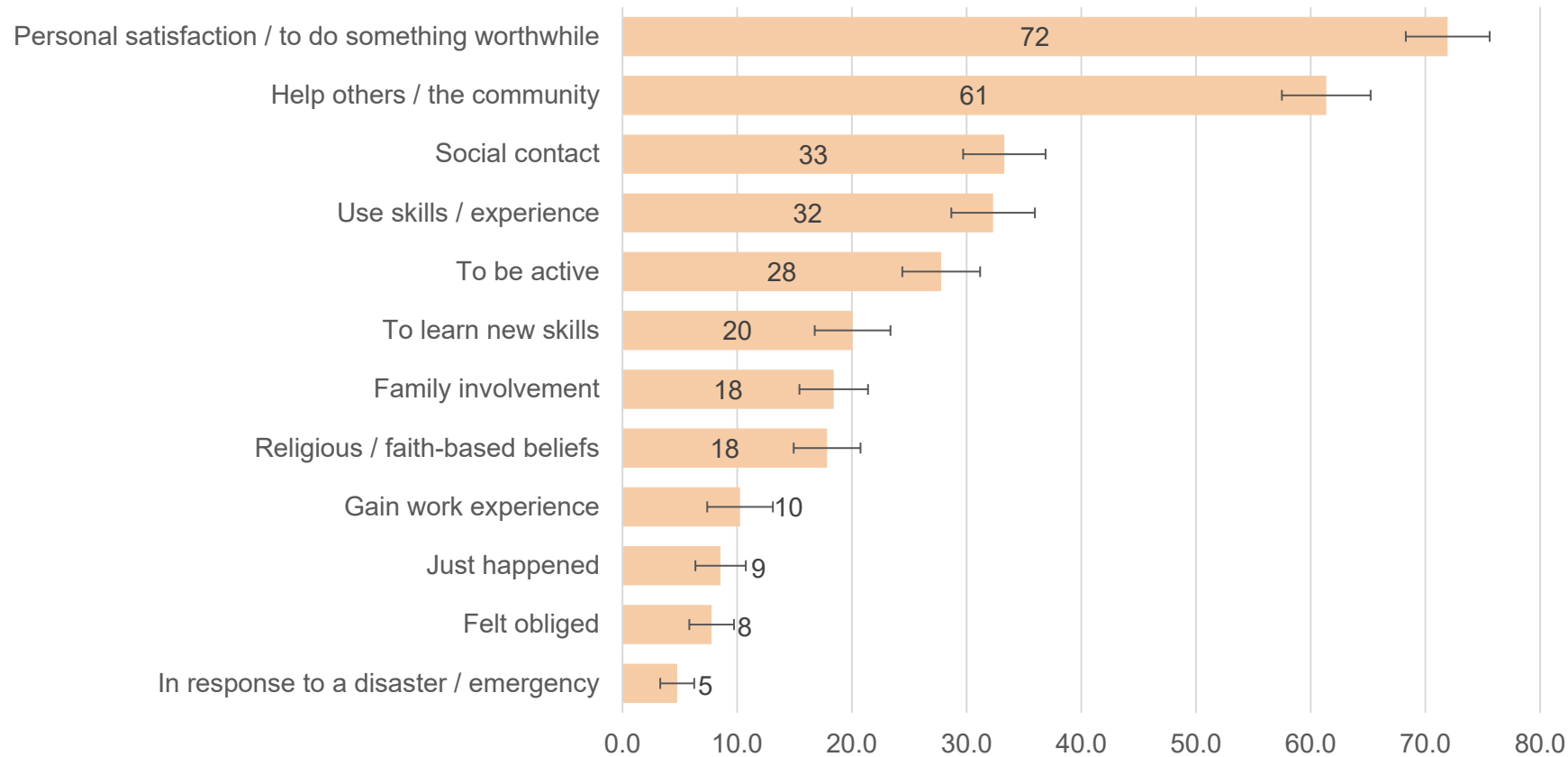
Characteristics associated with stopping volunteering due to COVID



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Reasons for volunteering (%)



"It gives my life meaning and improve [sic] my self-value"

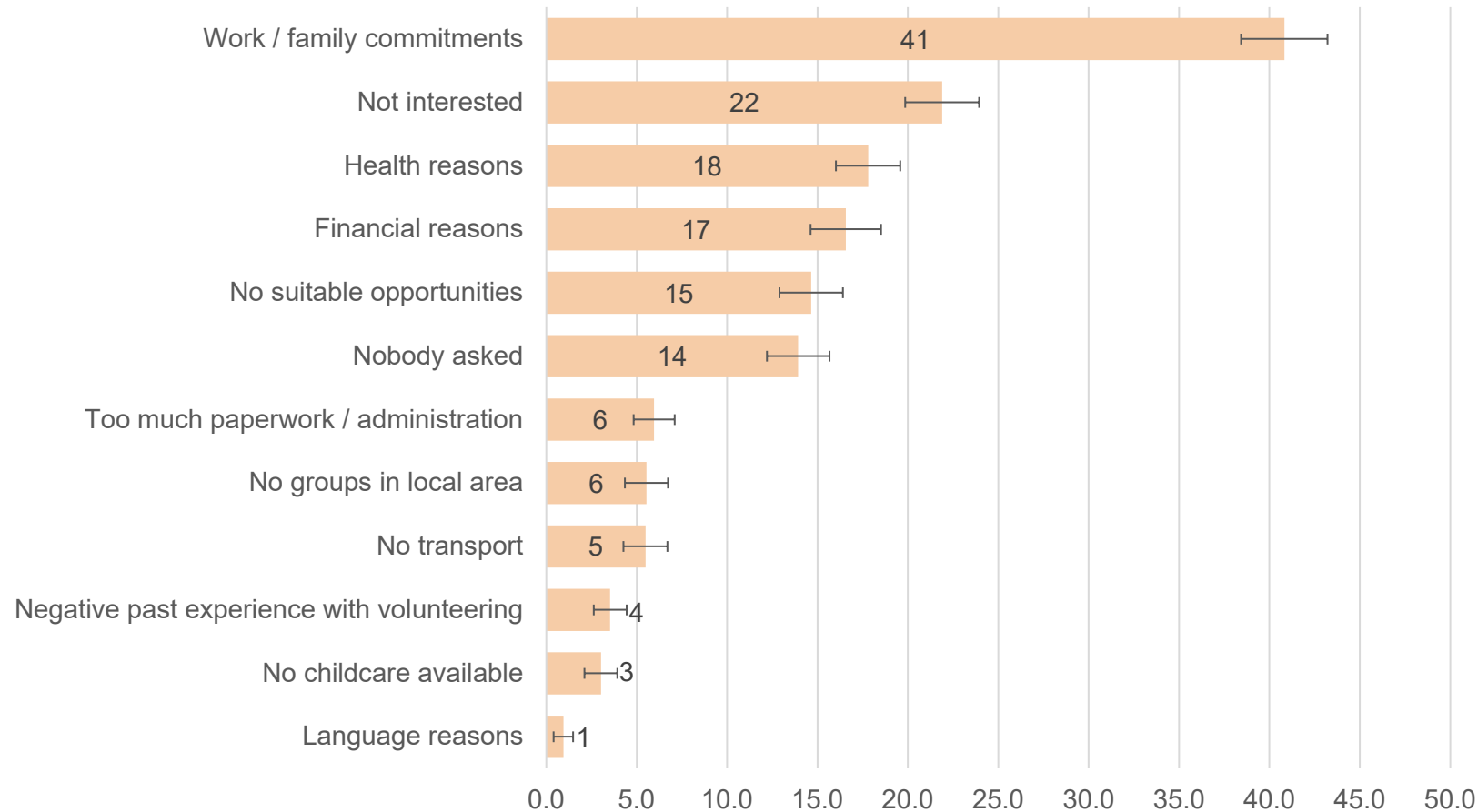
"Felt like I was helping, giving something back to society, making someone's life a little happier."



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Reasons for not volunteering (%)



“Volunteered running a playgroup. It was a lot to take on in conjunction with my job 3 days a week and a young family.”

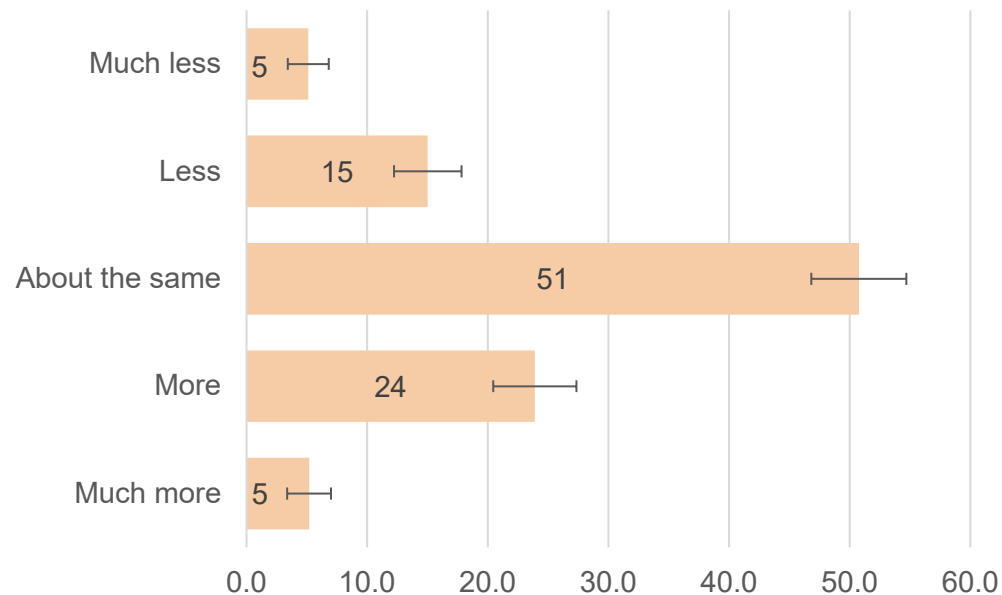


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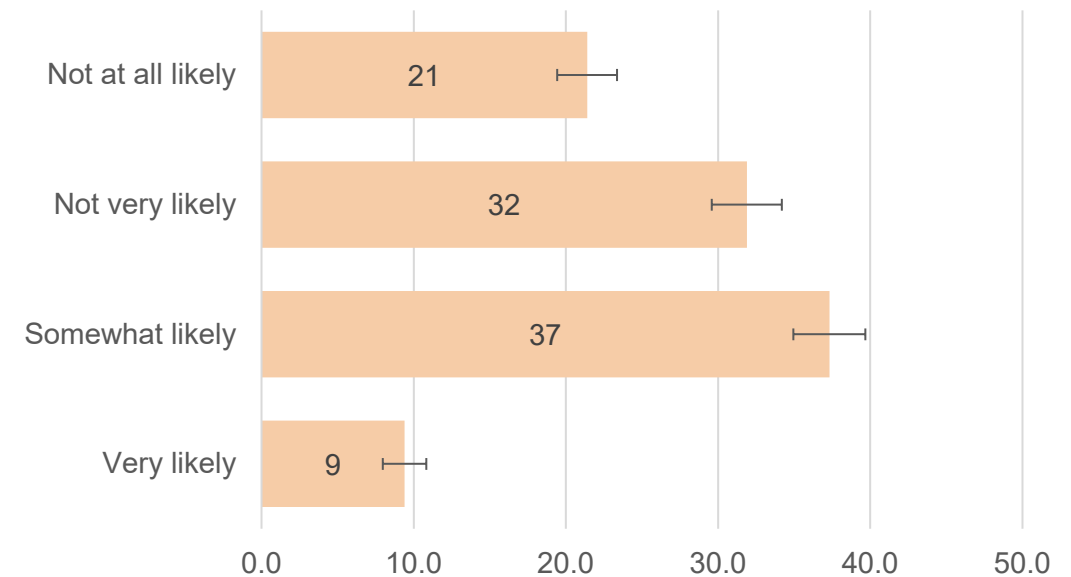


Future volunteering

Current volunteer's intentions of future volunteering (%)



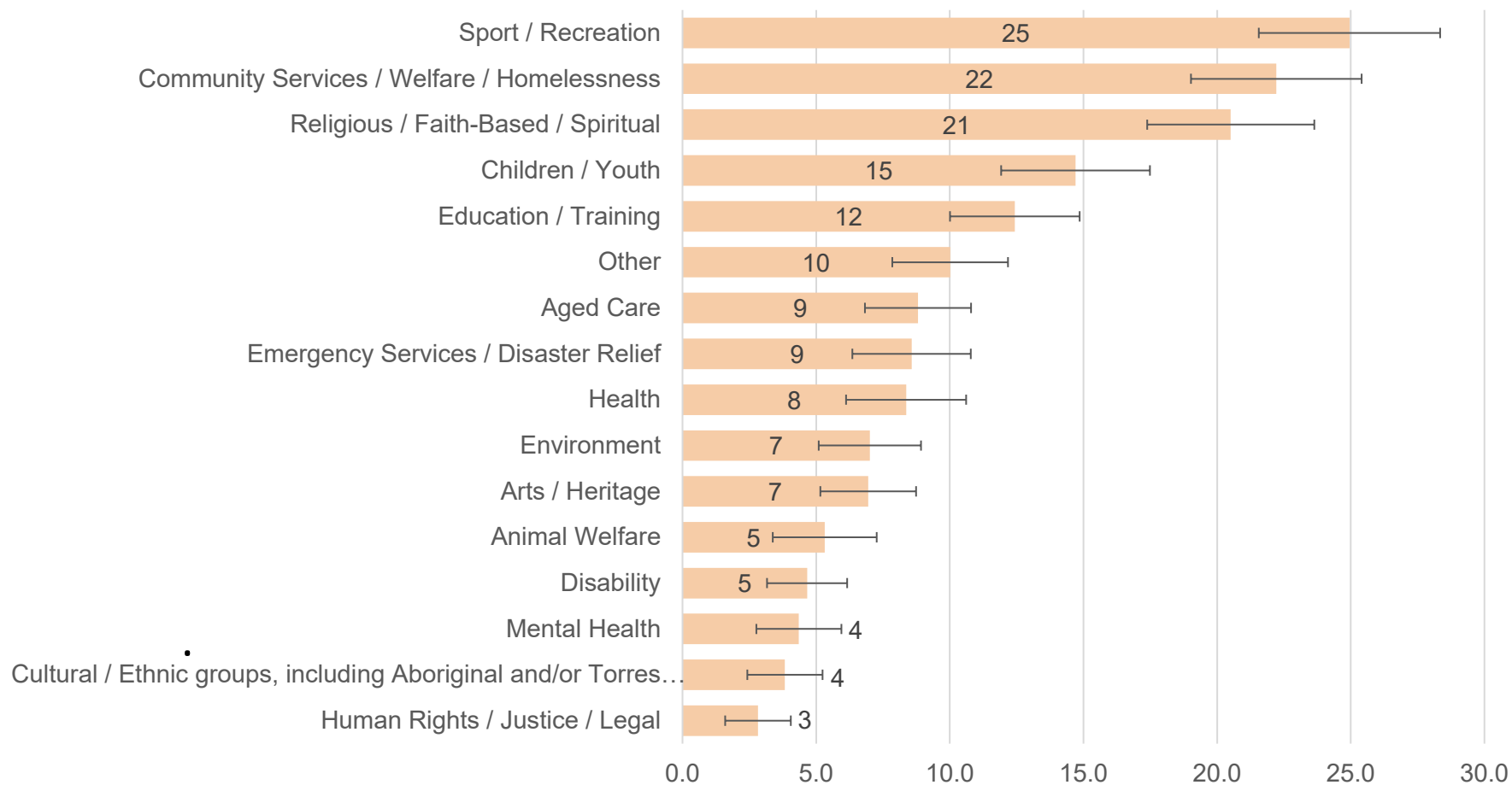
Intentions commencing / recommencing volunteering (%)



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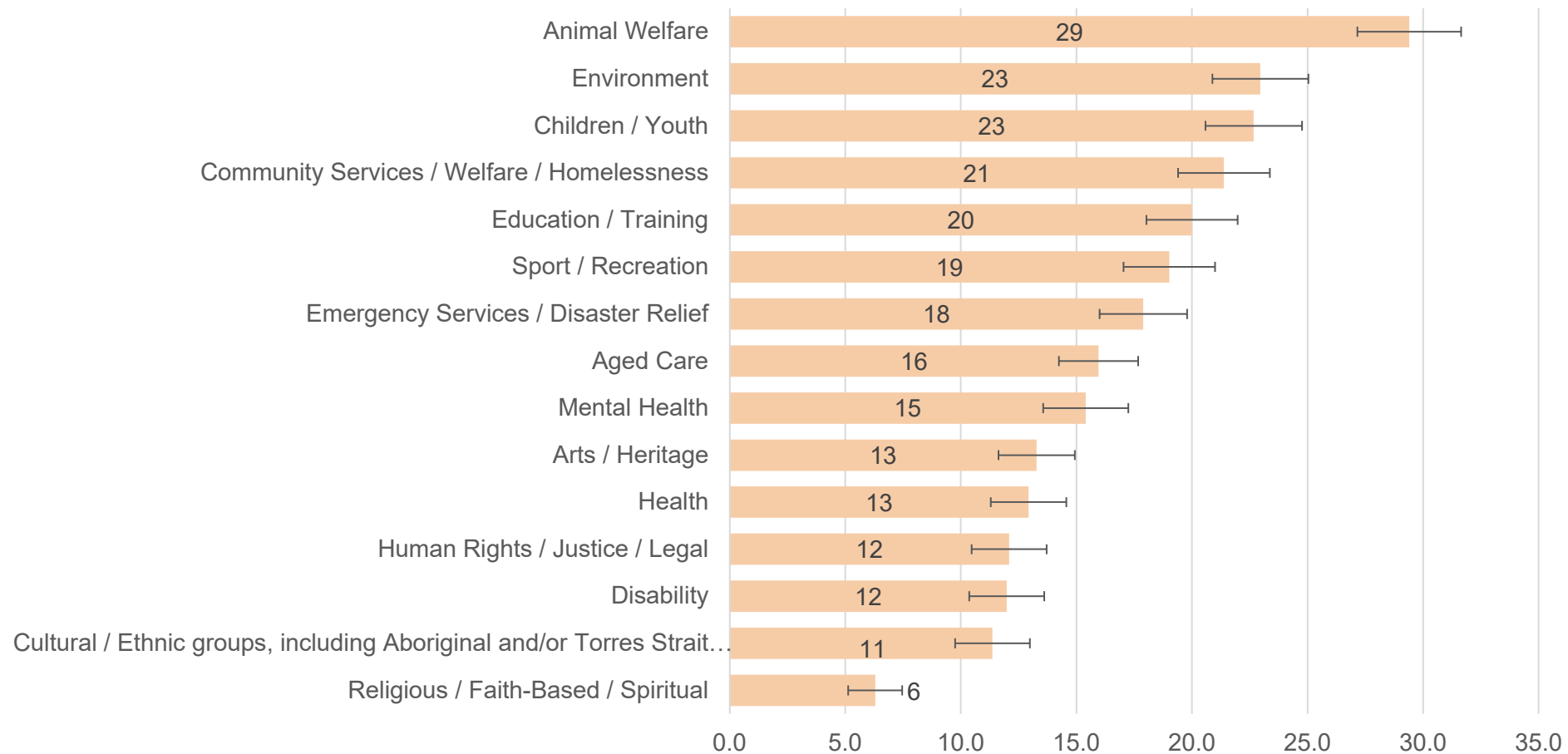
Type/sector of organisations currently volunteer for (%)



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Type/sector of organisations like to volunteer for in the future - non-volunteers (%)



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Volunteering and wellbeing

- The pandemic impact had little/no impact for some but for others it had a negative impact and for others a positive impact
 - Having to stop volunteering
 - Increased workloads for those who were able to continue their volunteering
 - Shift from in person to online volunteering
- those who continued volunteering reported greater life satisfaction than those who stopped

"It has been very positive, I have been volunteering for 2 years since covid started. I volunteer in a food program making meals and serving the homeless and not so homeless. I love it and I get much more out of it than I give."

"Covid has restricted the voluntary visits of our music group to the local nursing home. They and us are poorer for this restriction."



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Conclusion

- Volunteering supports the delivery of crucial social services and contributes to the broader wellbeing of individuals and communities
- Strongly affected by shifts in the social and economic landscape
- Rates of volunteering have gradually been declining for at least two decades and fell dramatically during COVID. As of April 2022, rates have hardly recovered
- Some shift towards virtual opportunities, but volunteering in person at an organisation/in community remains most popular way to volunteer
- Policy challenge is to find ways for those who aren't volunteering or who have stopped volunteering but want to from engaging or re-engaging



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Volunteering in Australia 2022
The Organisation Perspective



Curtin University



Griffith
UNIVERSITY
Queensland, Australia



THE UNIVERSITY OF
**WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**



Volunteering
AUSTRALIA

Volunteering in Australia Research



Professor Kirsten Holmes, Associate Professor Leonie Lockstone-Binney,
Professor Amanda Davies & Associate Professor Patrick Dunlop



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Methodology

- Online survey open 13 May to 22 June 2022
- Target population: representatives of Australian volunteer involving organisations
- Newsletters, social media, direct emails, VIKTOR/VIRA Mailing List
- 1208 unique organisations (+93 multiple representatives)
- 97% of respondents named their organisation



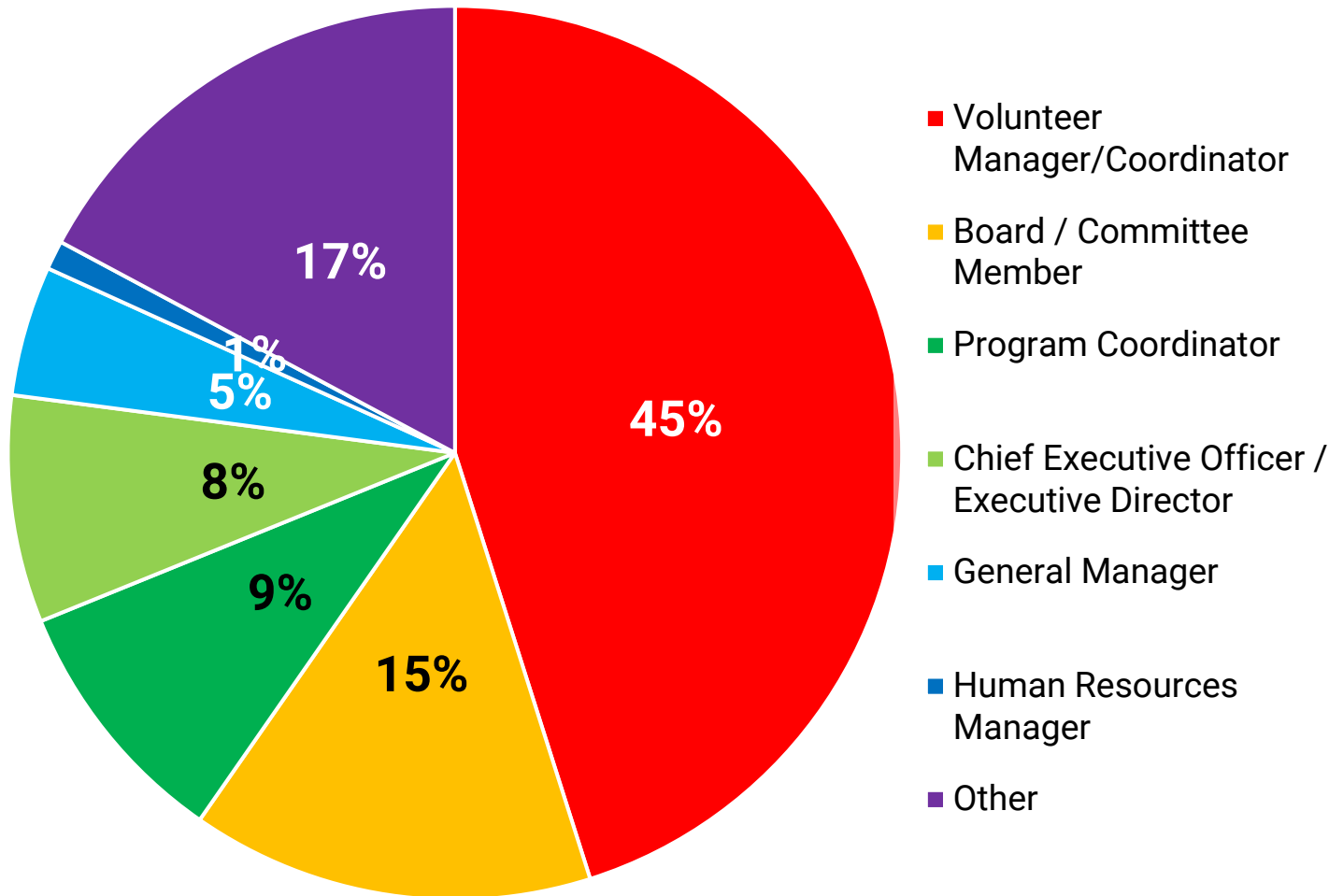
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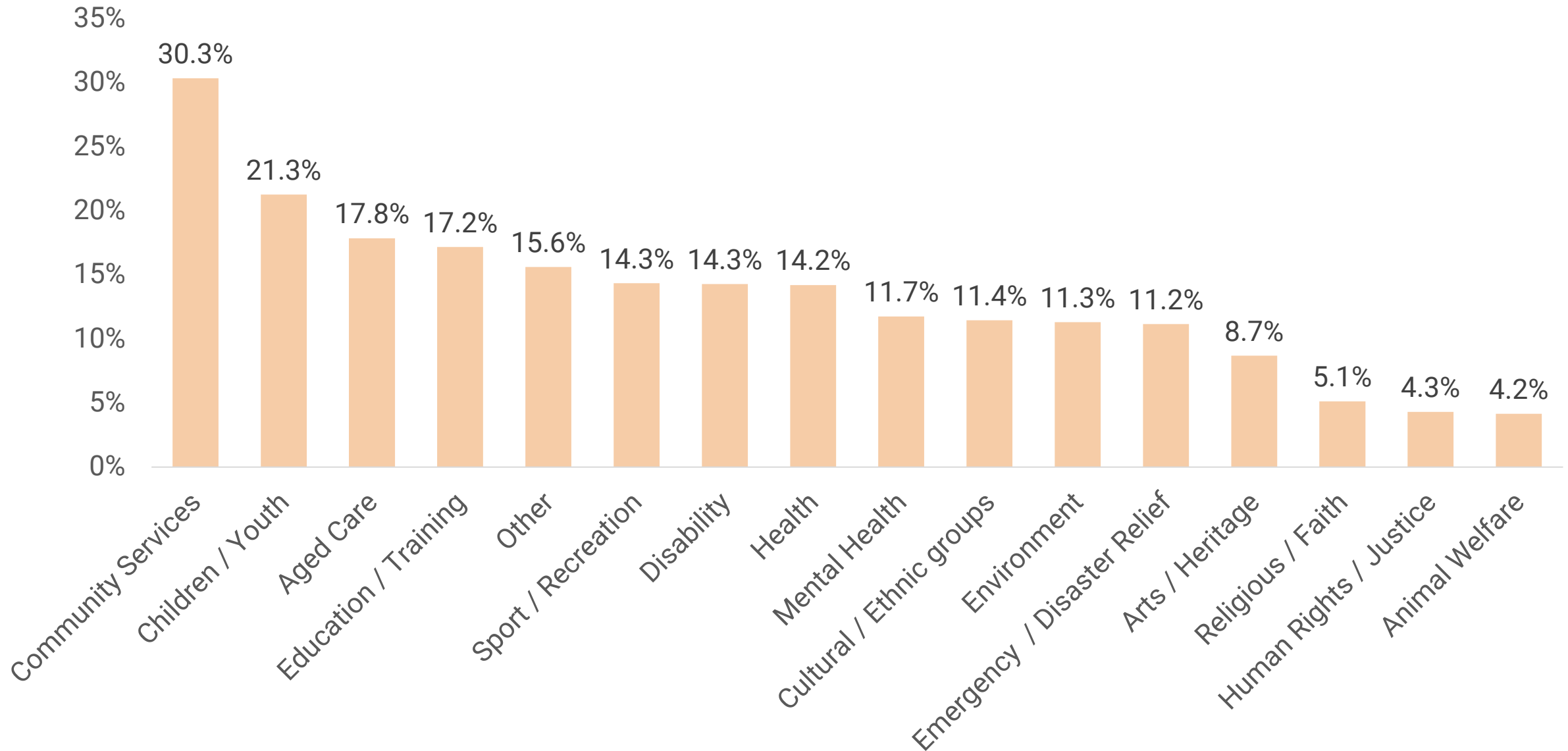
Survey Respondents

Type of Role Occupied by the Respondent

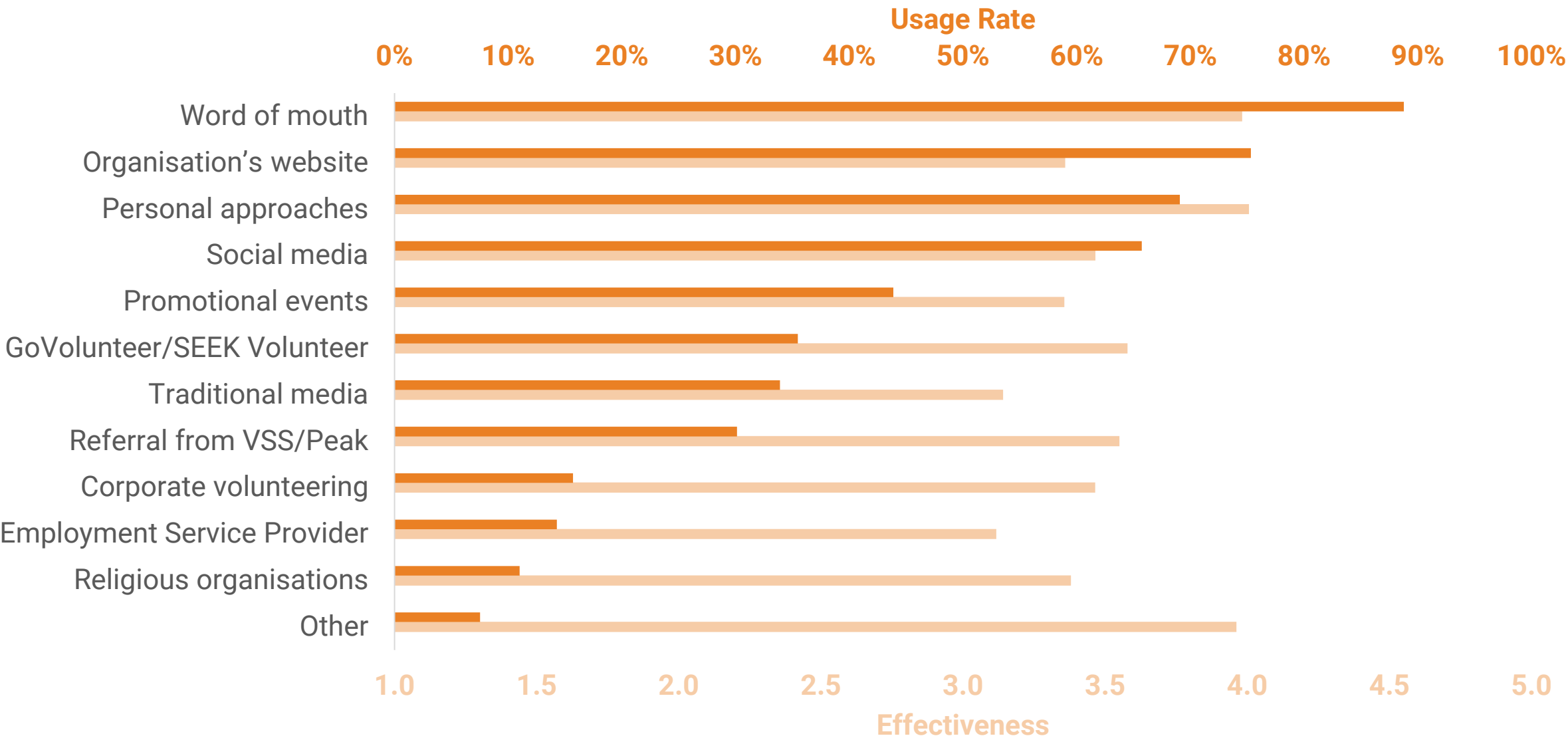


- 60% in paid roles
- 80% 2+ years' tenure (mean = 9 years, sd = 9)
- Respondents reported spending 40% of their FTE time supporting volunteers

Sector/Core Focus

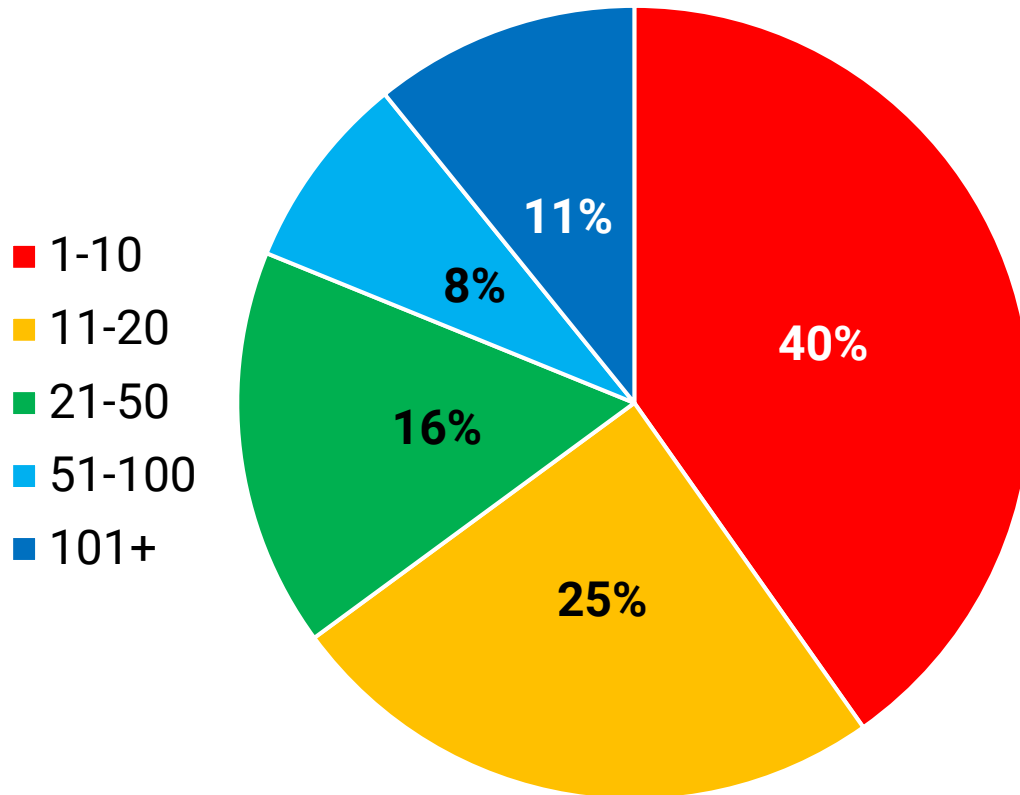


Recruitment Methods and Effectiveness

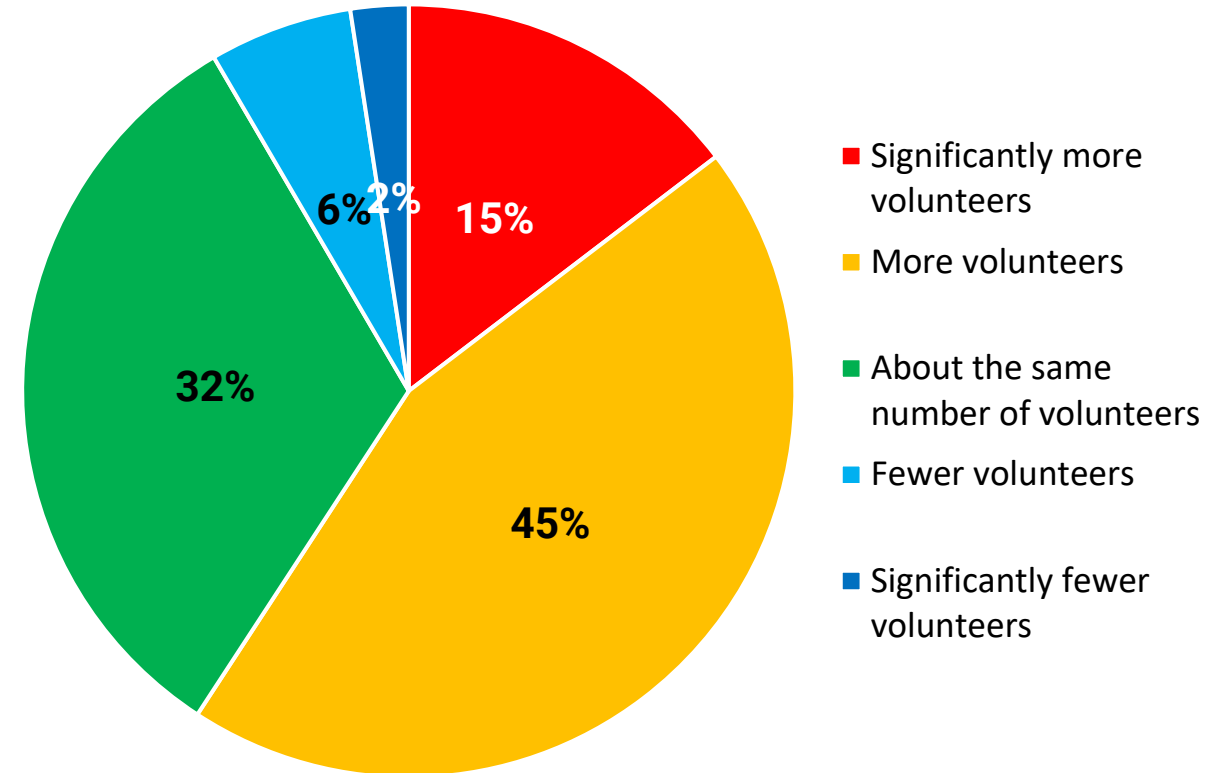


Demand for Volunteers

Immediate Term

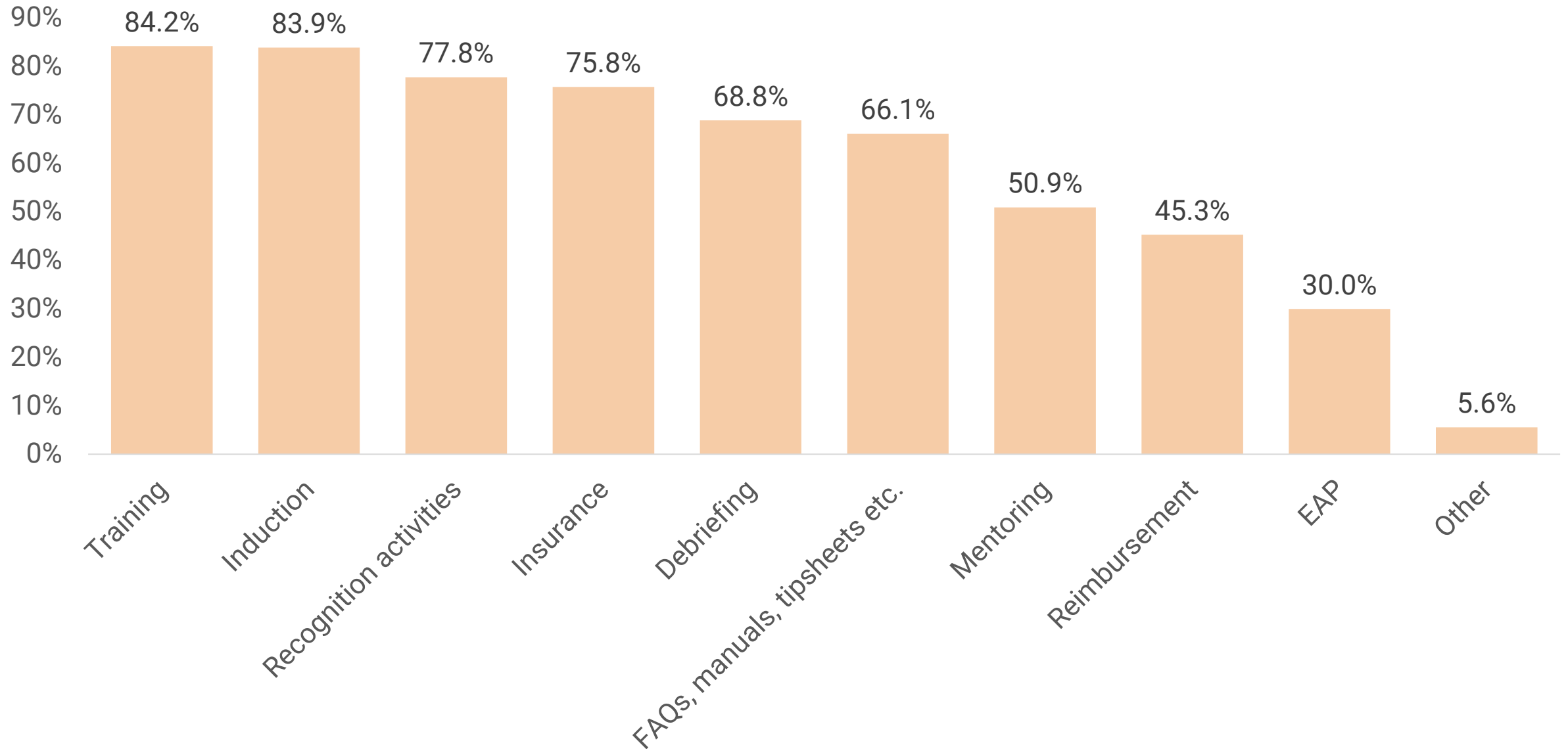


Next Five Years



85% said their organisation needs more volunteers!

Forms of Support for Volunteers



Circumstances, Challenges and Changes



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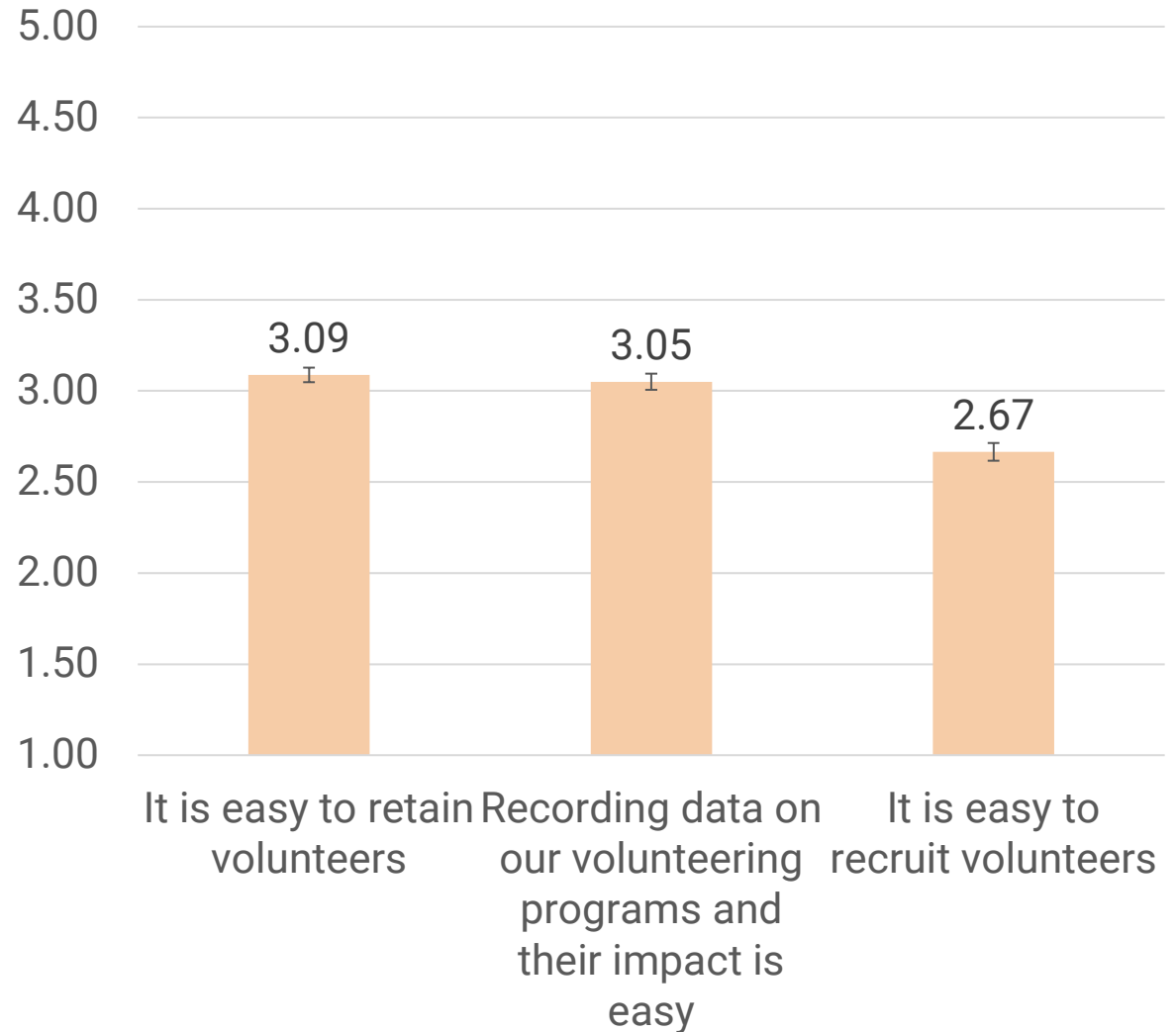
Top 3 - Going Well



I'm really pushing for the whole organisation to understand what, how important the volunteers are. And that's like me getting anecdotal evidence from each of the staff members to actually take a moment, think of a situation where a volunteer was super helpful to the organisation that they've been impacted by

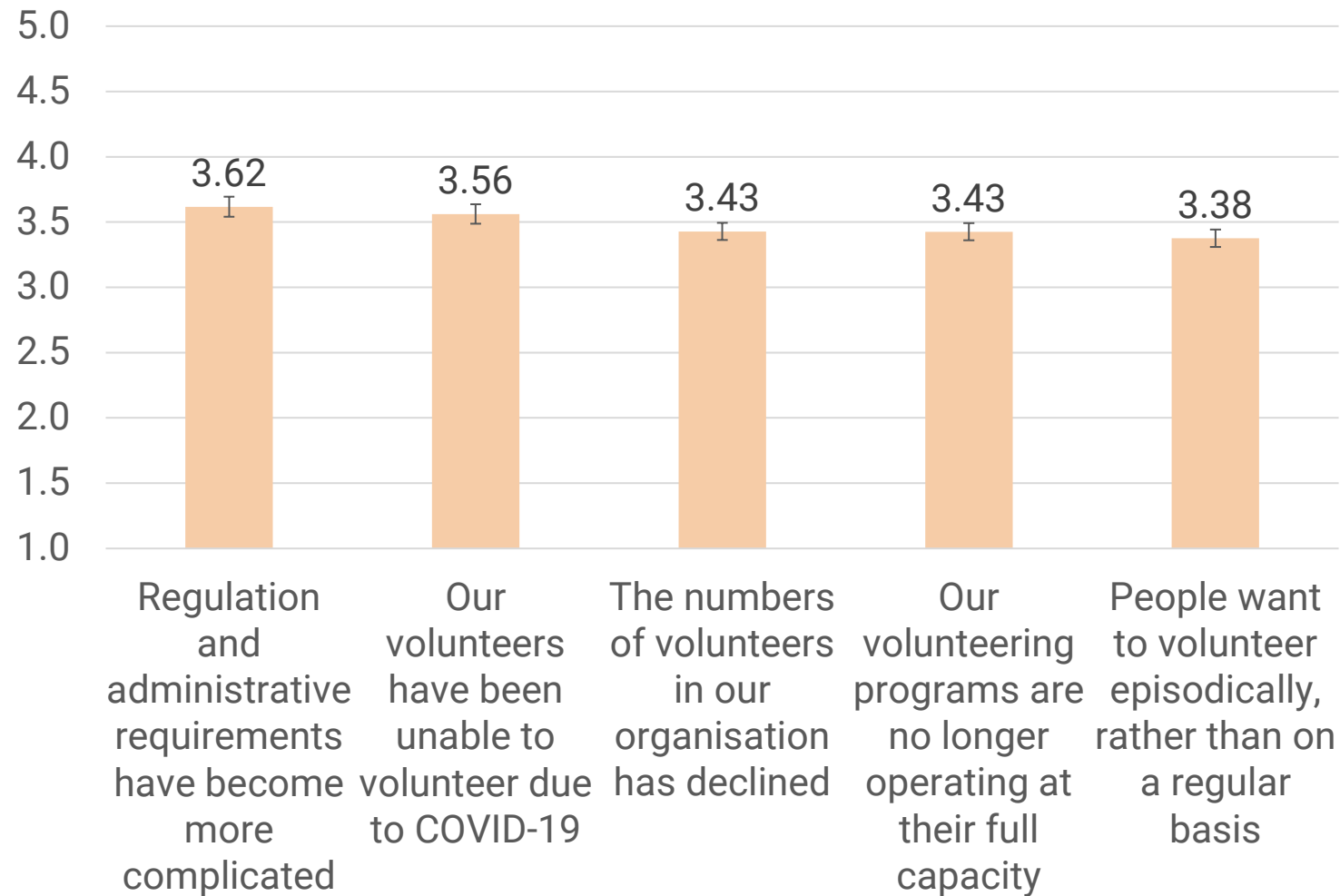
Top 3 - Could Be Better

I think we're noticing people being a lot more selective with the volunteer roles they're looking for and wanting to use specific skills if they are volunteering...I think we're now starting to look a lot more at skilled volunteering opportunities, corporate workplace opportunities or matching people better to different skills



1 = Strongly disagree 3 = Neither 5 = Strongly agree

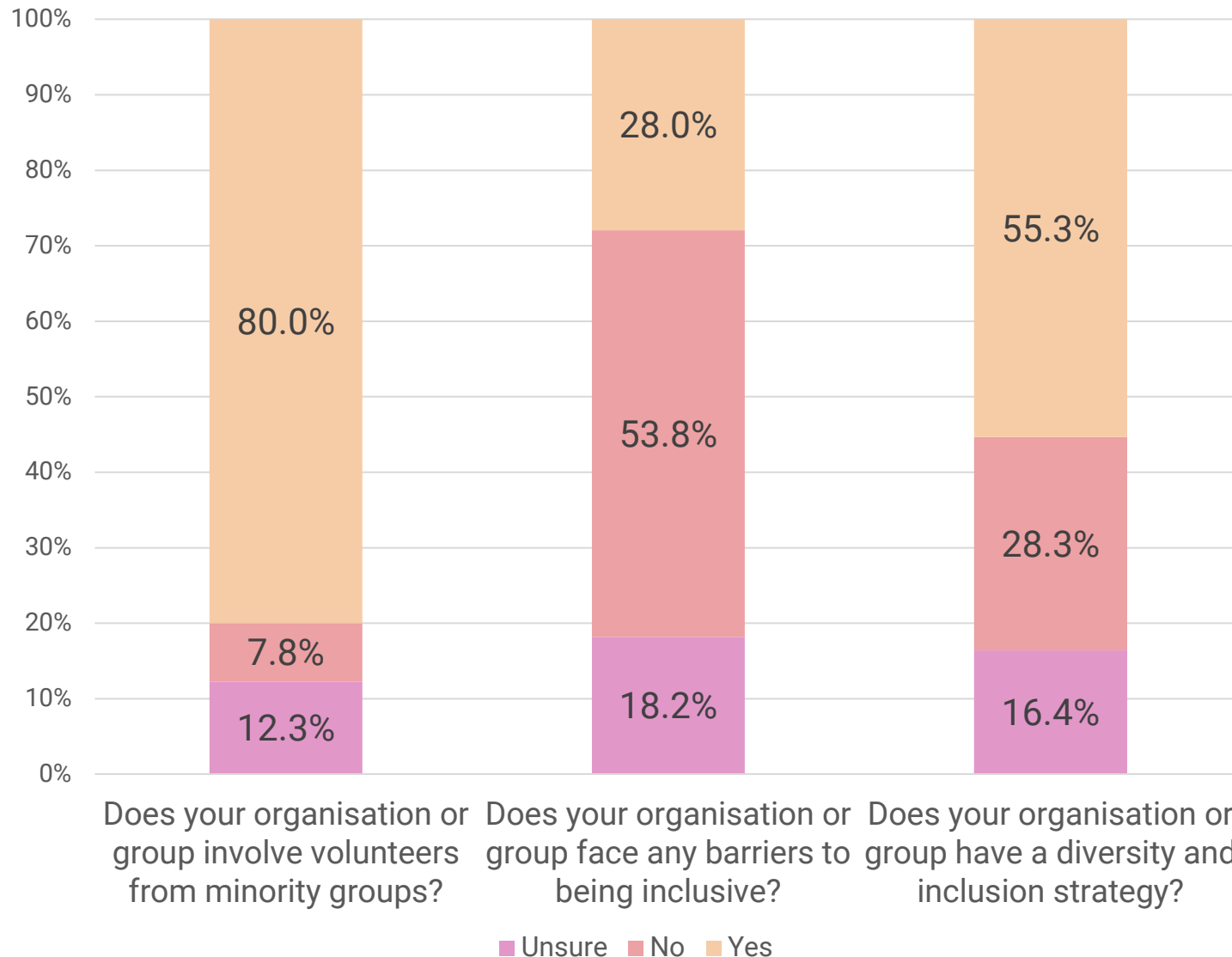
Top 5 Changes Since COVID-19



1 = Strongly disagree 3 = Neither 5 = Strongly agree

One of the impacts from COVID is moved to offer more virtual opportunities. So definitely we've invested in some new initiatives there. I think COVID will be an issue for some time, but it has really opened up the doors with hybrid working and technologyenabling more virtual volunteering

Diversity and Inclusion



I think we're past the awareness stage, particularly in community sport. Everyone is aware of diversity and inclusion. It's now at a stage where we need to provide more educational opportunities and resources to help our volunteers become comfortable and safe with promoted diversity

Employee Volunteers

- 30% organisations involved employee/corporate volunteers
- Employee volunteering appears more common among Animal Welfare, Environment, Disability, and Community Services / Welfare / Homelessness organisations
- Of the organisations not currently involving employee volunteers, 53% indicated that they did not have the appropriate volunteering opportunities for this cohort

I mean our biggest partner is (corporate de-identified) so we have a lot of vollies that come through from there, highly professional, organised people, beautiful to work with. But yeah, they just have a set of expectations...



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Q&A



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Sarah Wilson

National Strategy Director, Volunteering Australia



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