

**A Survey of The Homeless and Indigent
Ranking for Needs in Social Services and
Medical Directives; Terri Schiavo Revisited**

June, 2005

Dr. William Fuller,
Christine Wasson
& Kyle Cooper

**Angelo State University
San Angelo, TX**

Introduction

The recent issue regarding Terri Schiavo's family differences over the use of a feeding tube to keep her alive, has prompted many American citizens opinions on the use of life support systems, more specifically; many Americans position on the use of such devices related to others. Some began to air the question, "Would I want to be maintained alive only by the means of a medical life support system?"

What is the perception of a homeless, poor, or indigent person on the use of life support systems for themselves?

Forewarnings

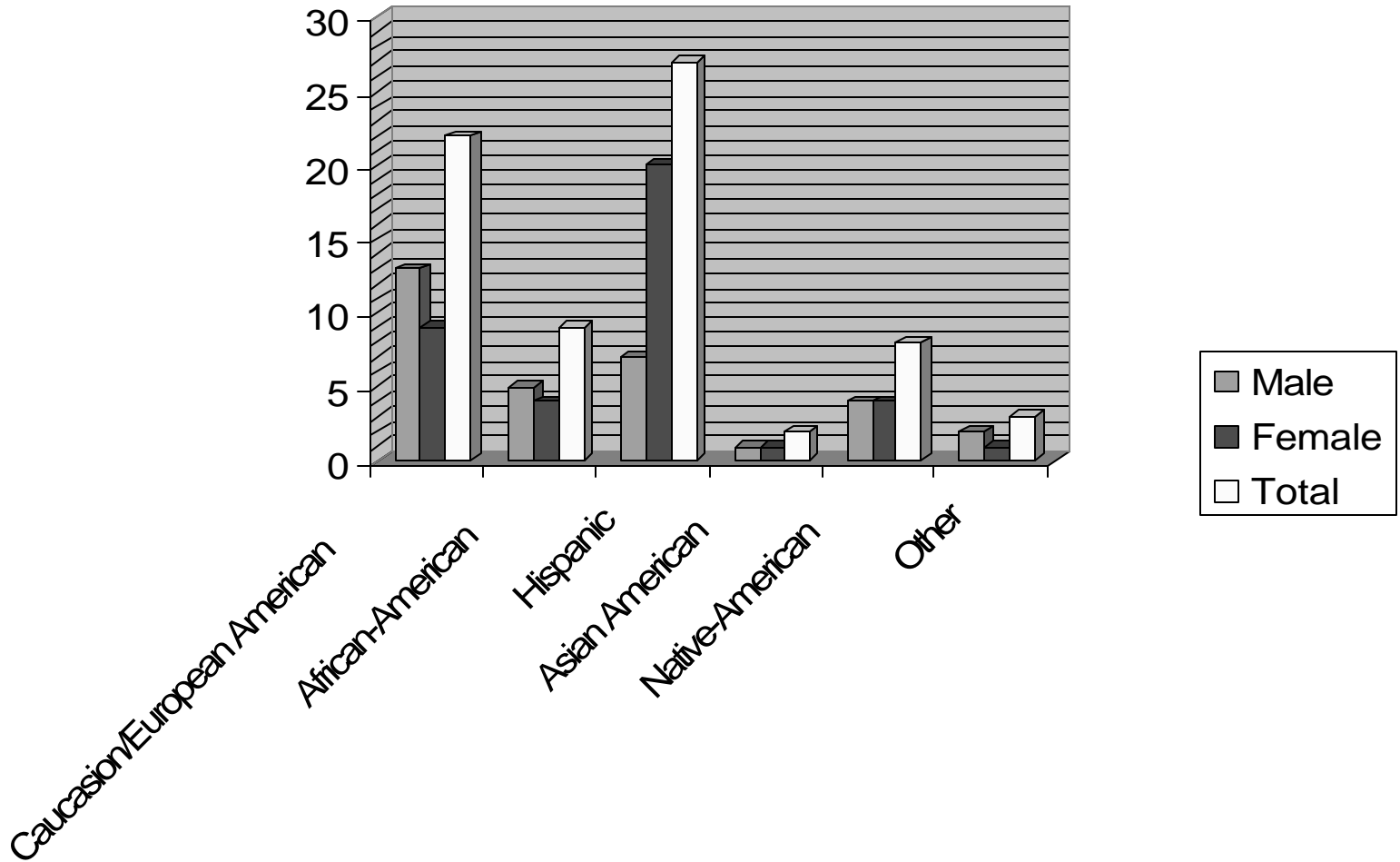
- Due to the capacities and limitations of a number of individuals in the gathered survey population, certain graphs or charts might contain a high percentage of “No Response” pie areas. Instances such as this were minimized as much as possible.
- Due to the capacities and limitations of the individuals who were surveyed, the charts might show to be incongruent in some forms. Participants were aided, if needed, through the surveys. Those that participated in the survey individually might have placed some inconsistency throughout their answers.
- All inconsistencies will be described and explained in the clearest fashion manageable.
- This data is not meant to be inferential, it is yet only the presentation and report of the statistics of the study.

Section I

C

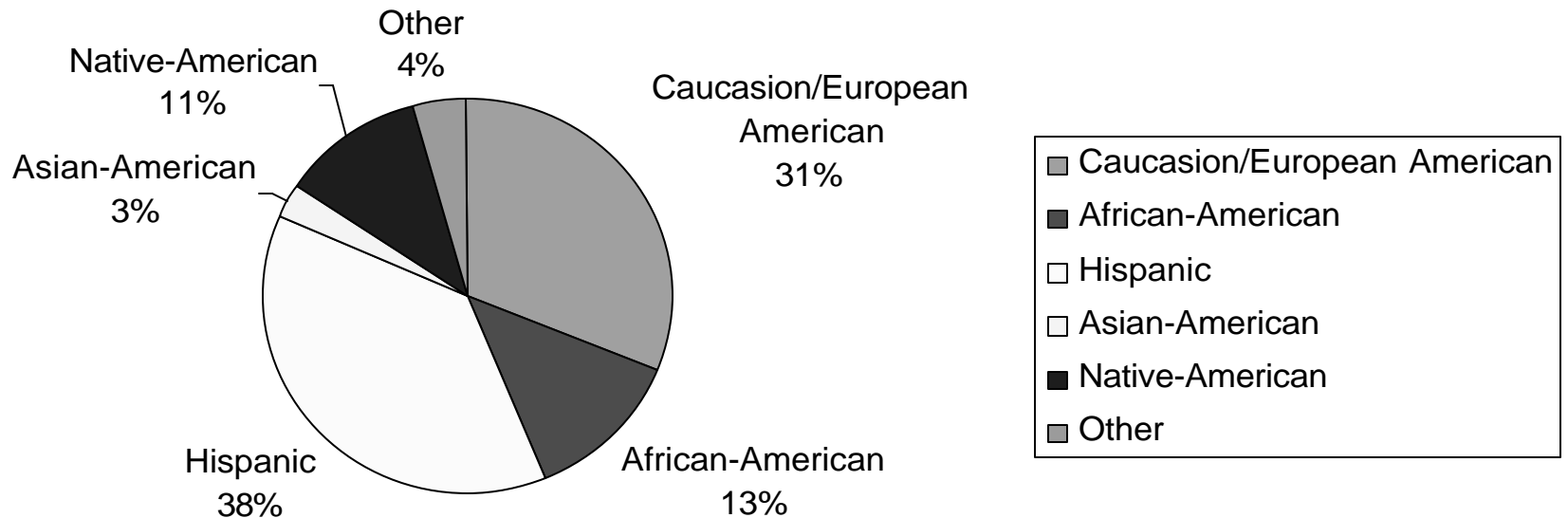
- General Demographic
 - Ethnicity
 - Age
 - Gender

Ethnicity Summary of Survey Sample



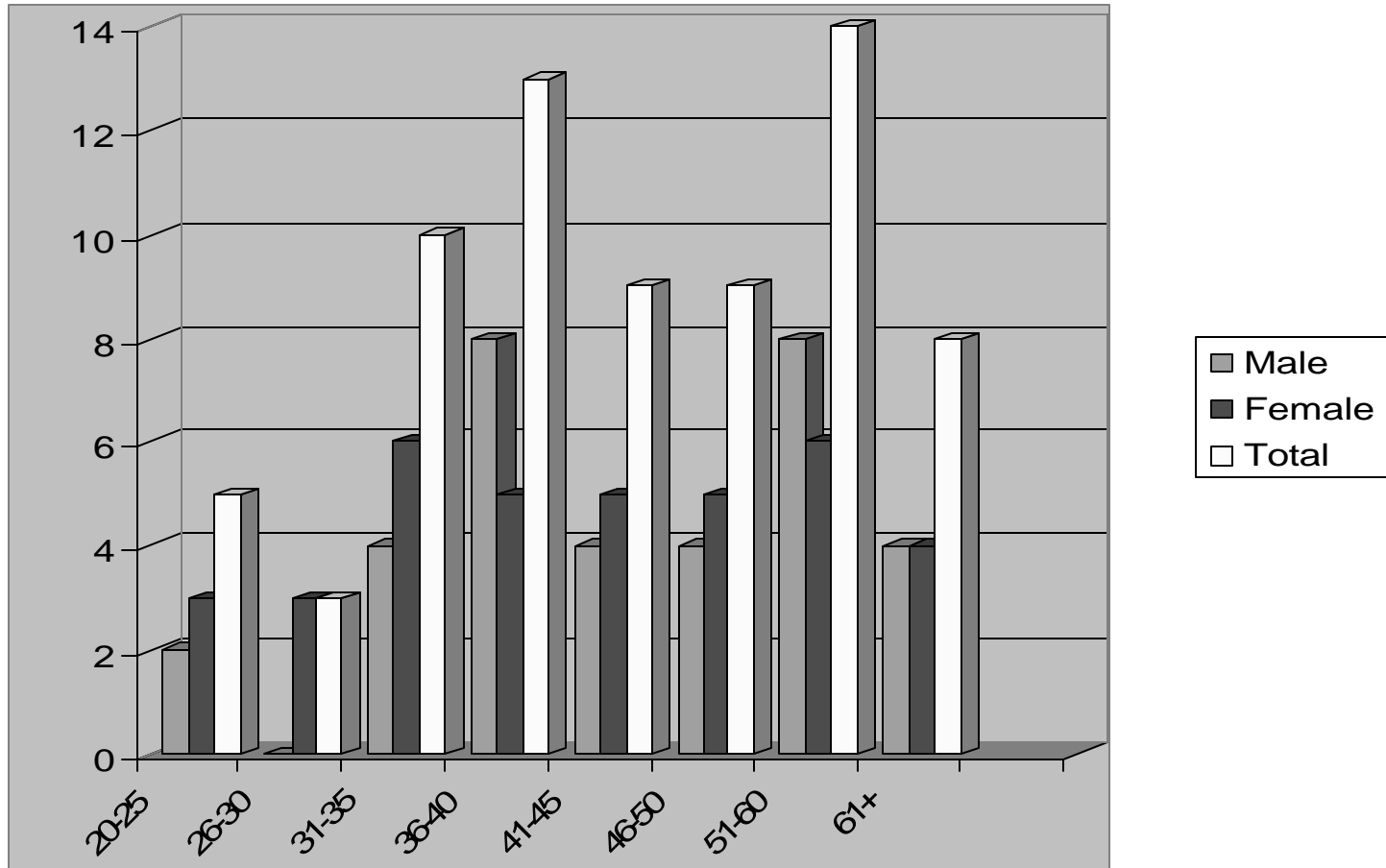
71 individuals at the local Soup Kitchen in Wesley United Methodist Church participated in the study.

Summary of Ethnicity (Continued)



Although African-Americans only comprise 4-5% of the total population of 84,000, African-Americans represent 13% of the total population in the survey sample.

Age Summary of Survey Sample



20-25 Age Range = 5

26-30 Age Range = 3

31-35 Age Range = 10

36-40 Age Range = 13

41-45 Age Range = 9

46-50 Age Range = 9

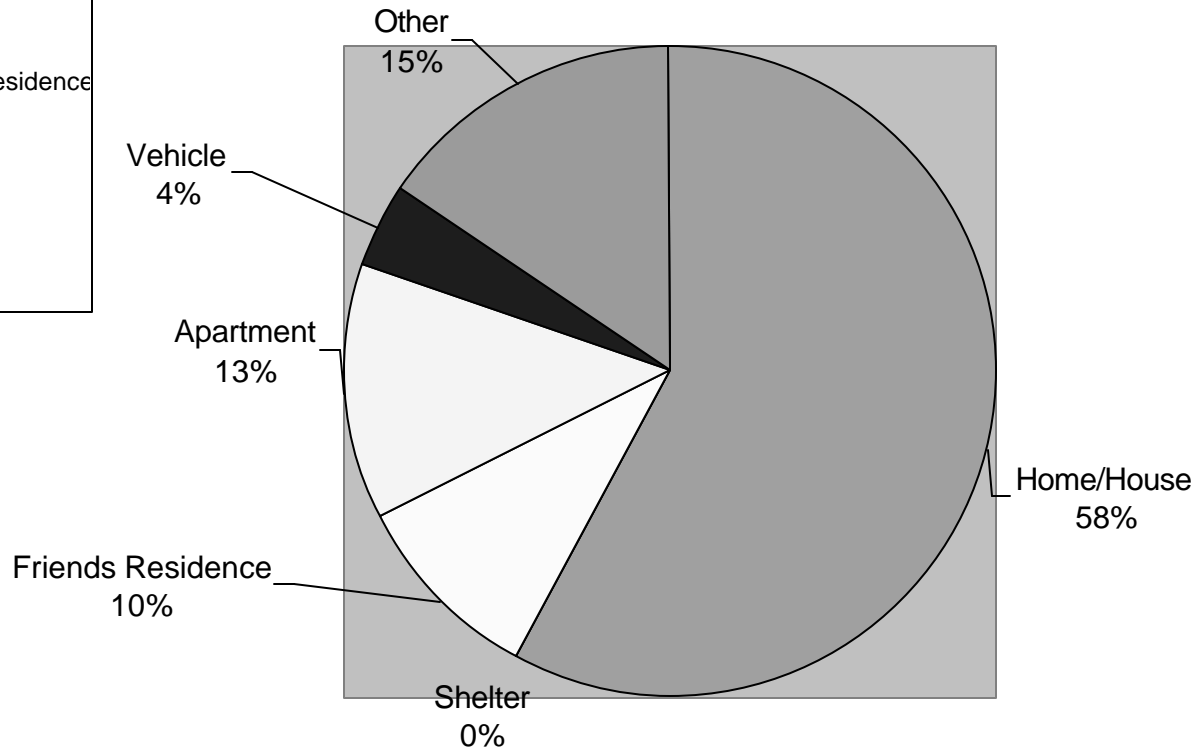
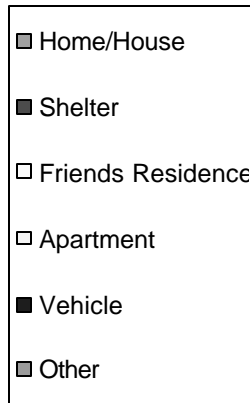
51-60 Age Range = 14

61+ Age Range = 8

Section II

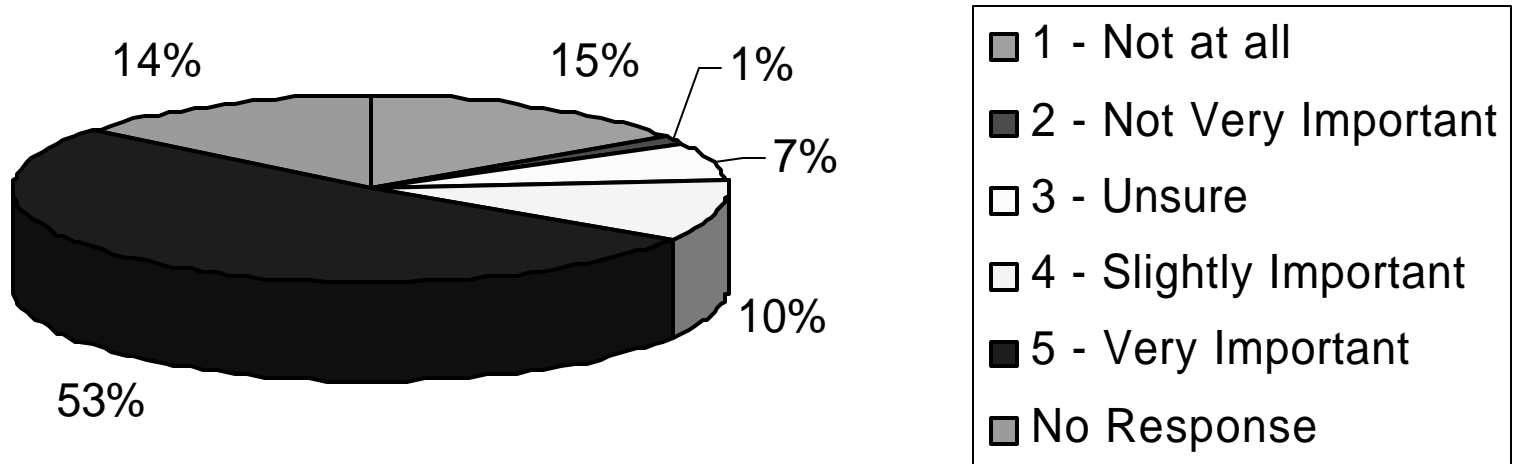
What Best Describes
Your Current Living
Conditions?

Summary of Living Conditions



However; many participants defined a “home” as a vacant house or building, beneath a bridge or in a park. In future research, efforts will be taken to place a definition on “home”, so as to gain a more accurate statistic.

0% report that they live in a shelter.



How important would it be for you to obtain Shelter/Living Assistance Services?

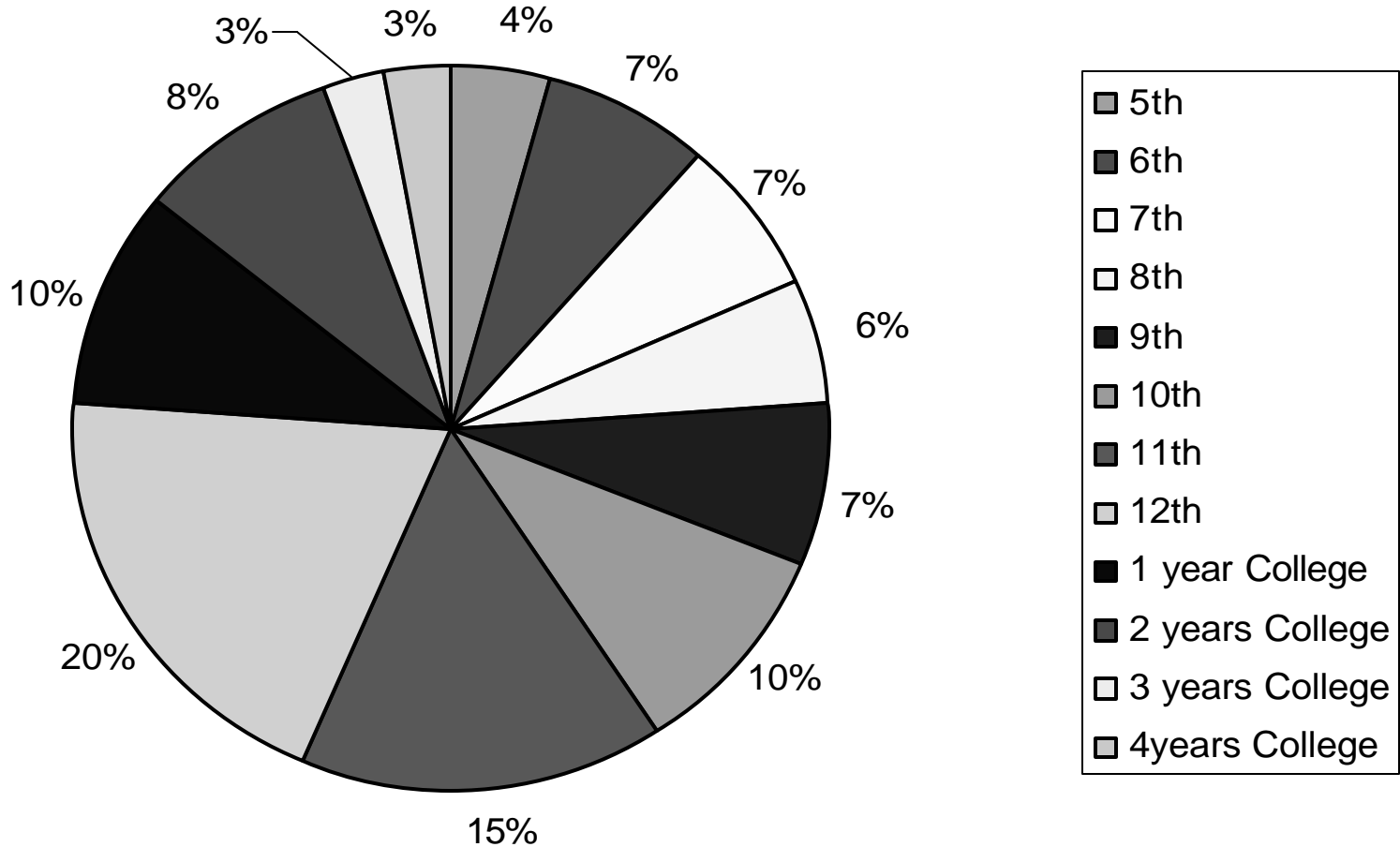
Section III

C

■ Education

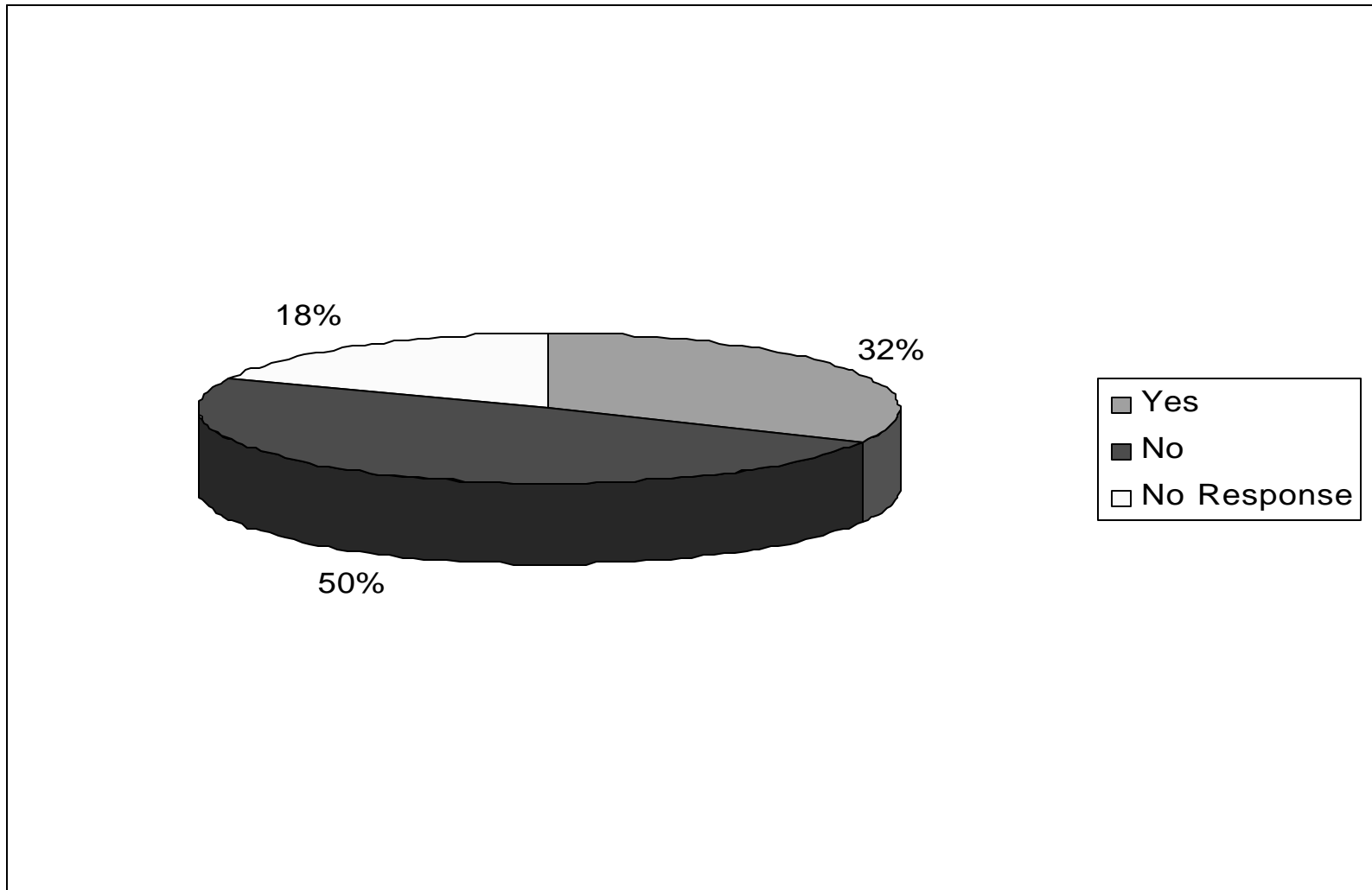
- What is the last grade you completed?
- If any, how many years of college did you attend?
- If services were available, would you like the opportunity to earn and receive a GED?

Education Summary



The two larger pie sections, 20% and 15%, represent that over a third of the respondents have completed their High School education or come close to completion. On further note; roughly 24 % of participants had attended college (with variation in tenor).

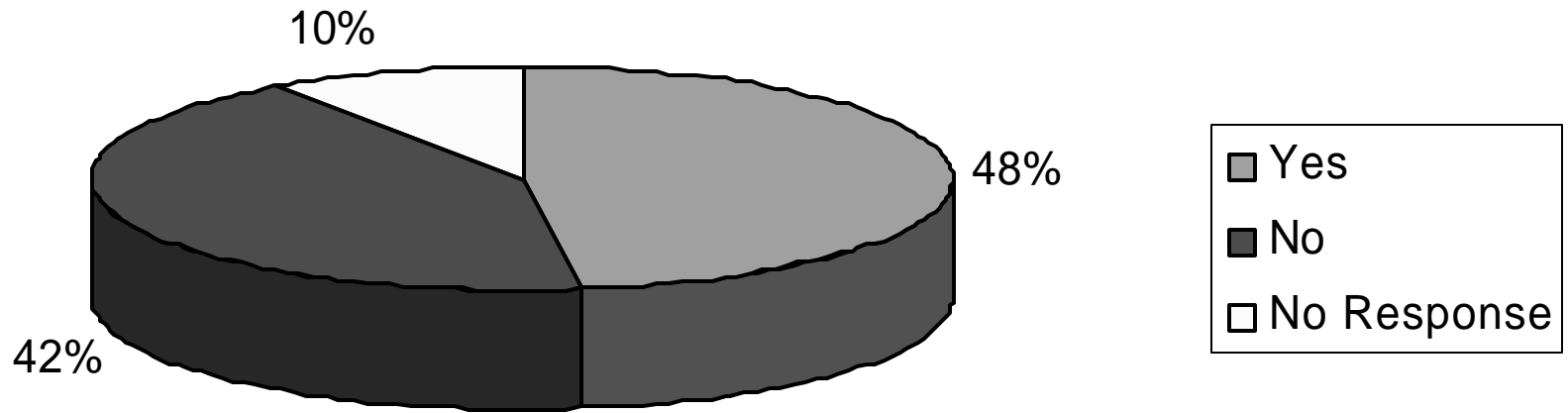
Would you be interested in obtaining a GED?



This question was asked, in part, in hopes of further study and instituting a program which will allow the individuals desiring a GED, an opportunity to receive one.

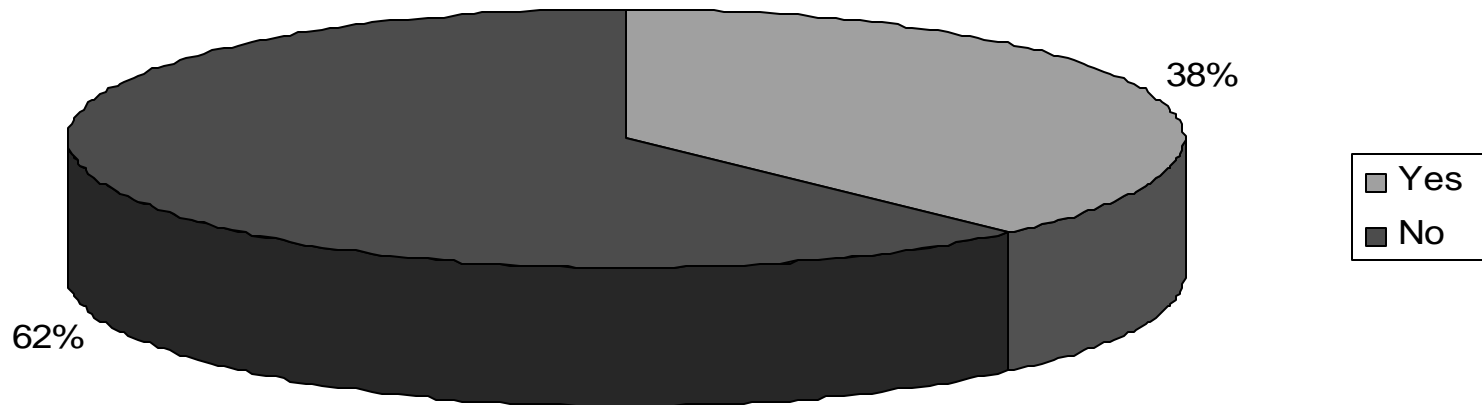
Section IV

Employment



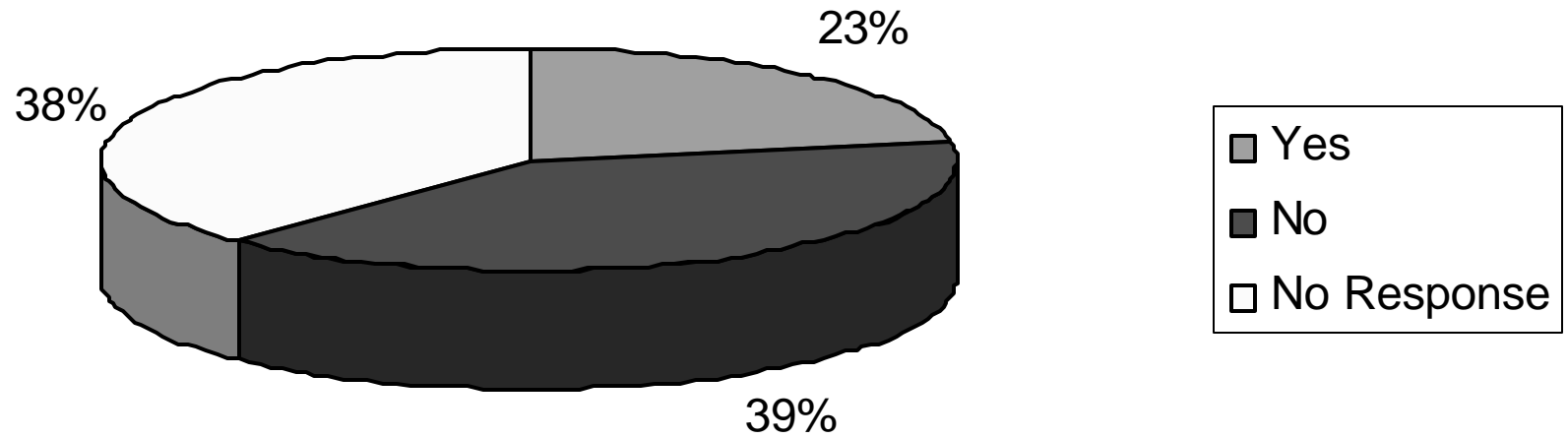
Have you been employed within
the last 6 months?

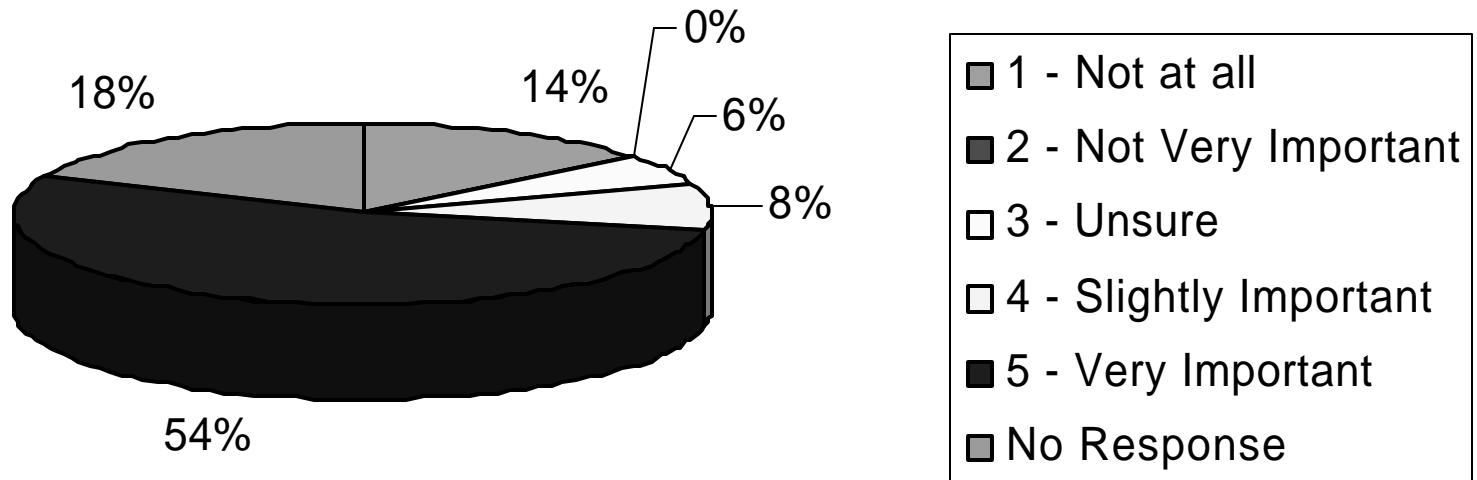
Are You Currently Employed?



The contrast between this slide and the prior slide is representative of a possible loss of an additional 10 % of individuals in employment among the sample population, over a 6 month period.

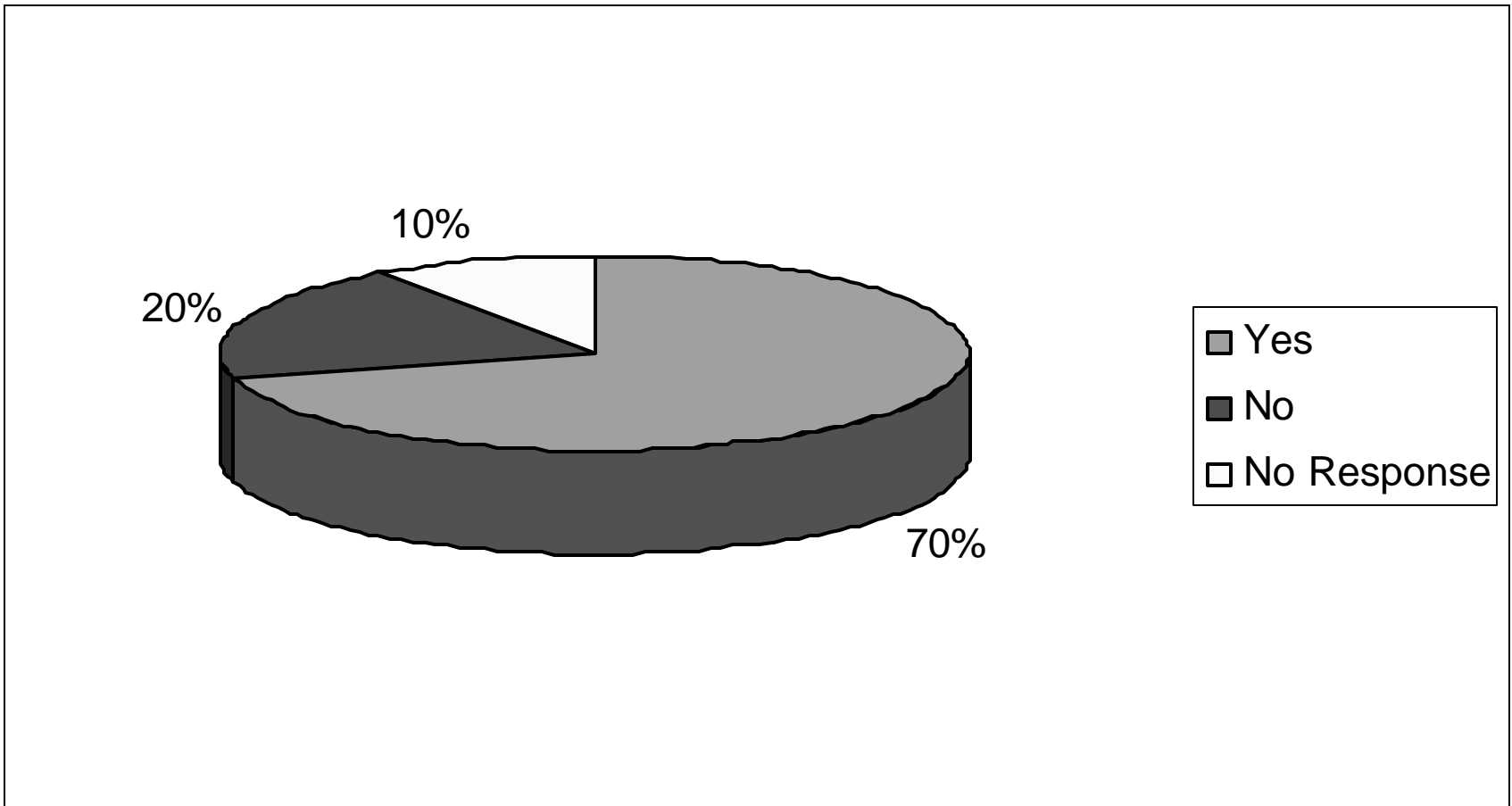
Are you currently seeking employment?





How important is
employment to you?

Do you believe that an able bodied person should be employed rather than be a recipient of government benefits or donations from fellow citizens?



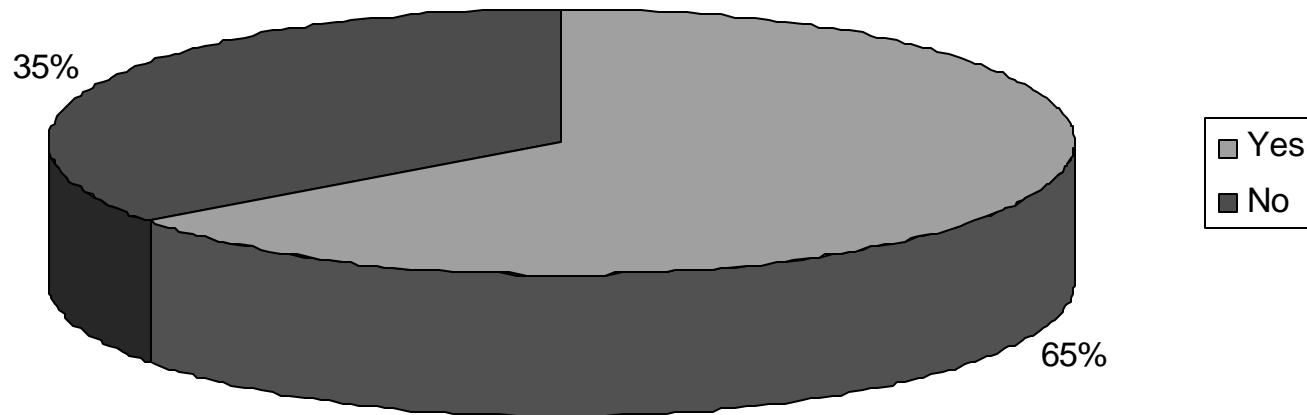
Is this category of “Yes” responses an indication of positive work ethics orientation?
Assumptions and stereotyping state that homeless individuals do not want to work,
but instead want handouts.

c

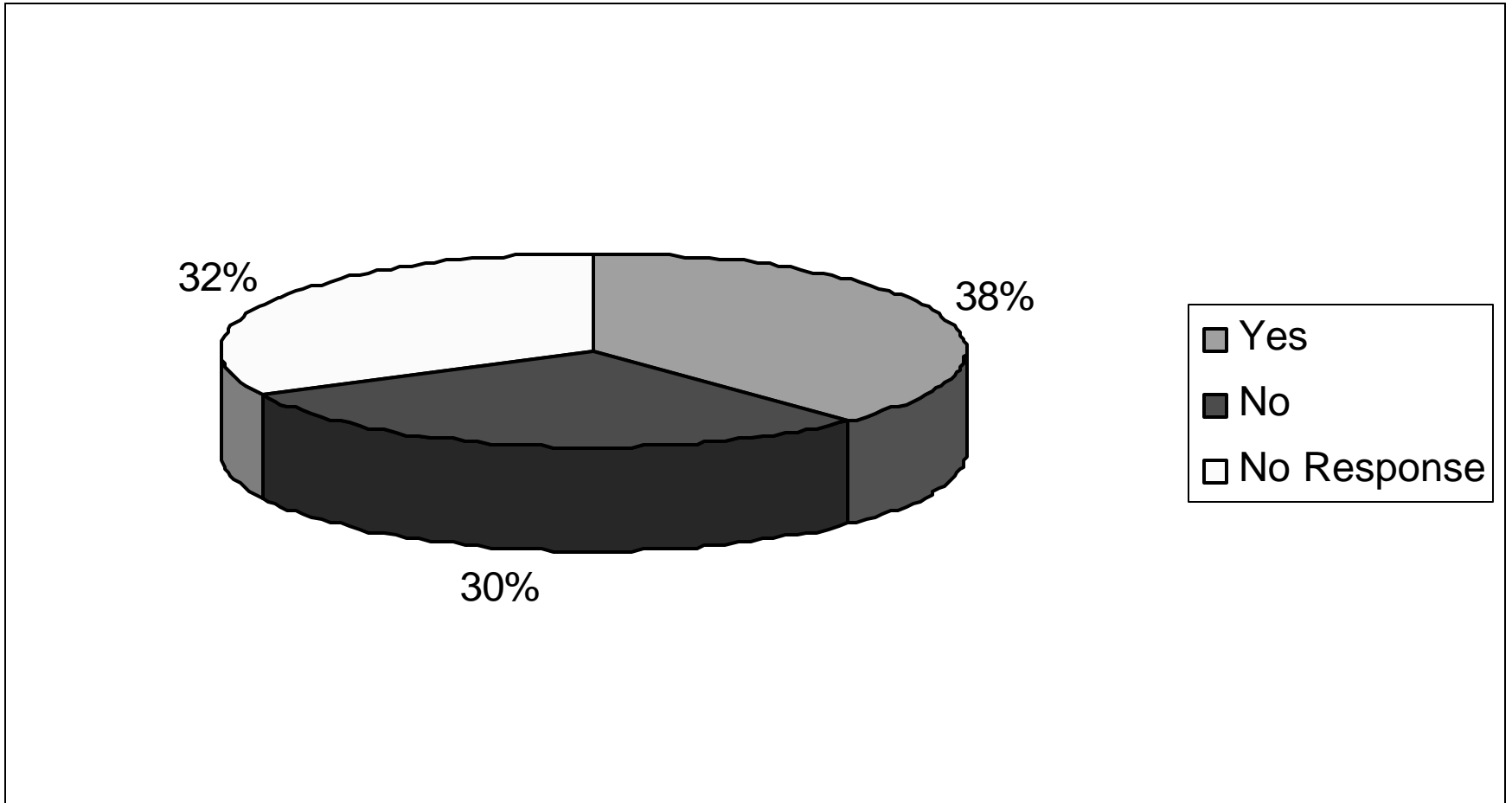
Section V

Medical Information

Do you have any known medical conditions?

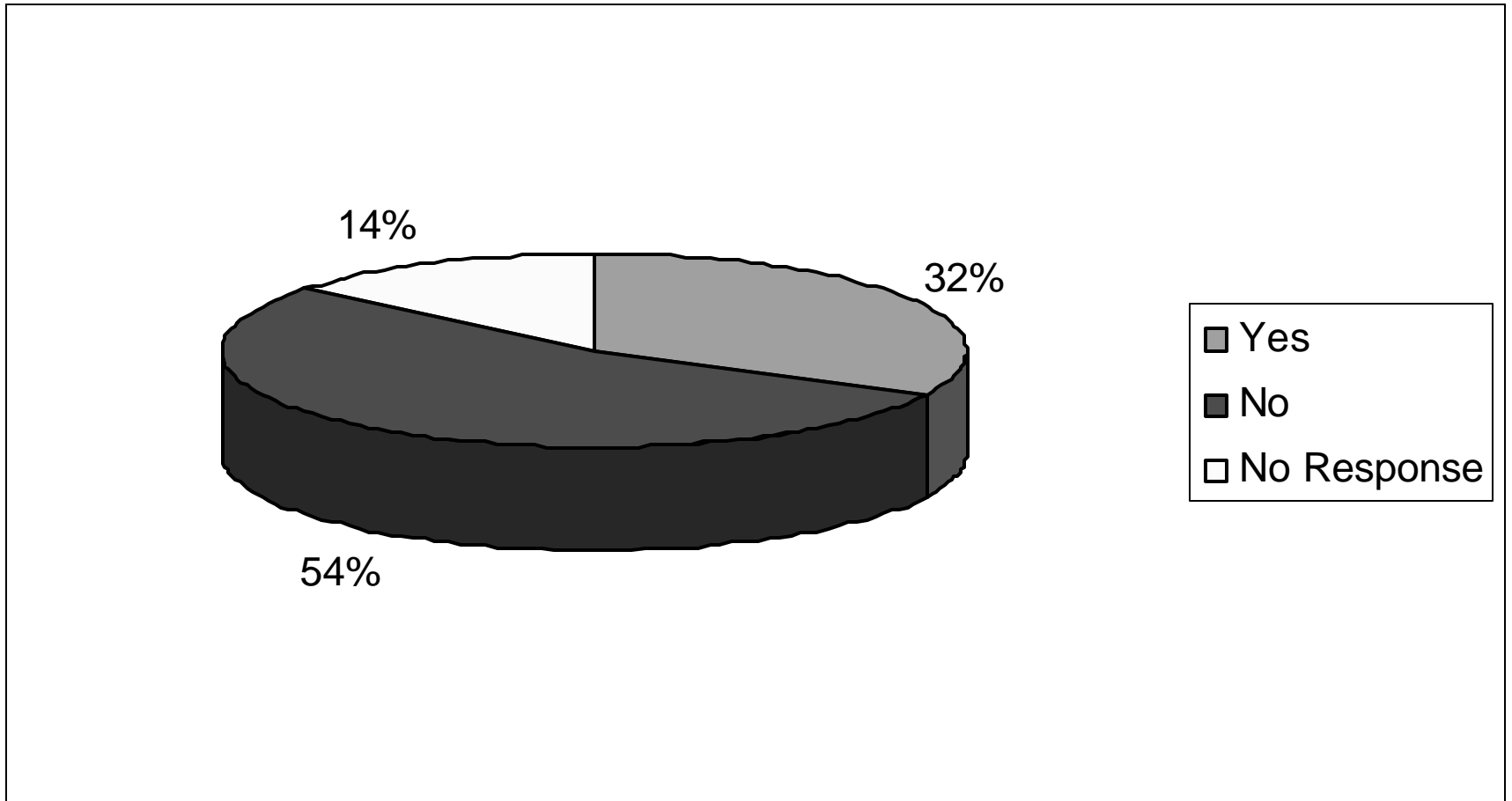


If you answered YES, have you received treatment for the condition?



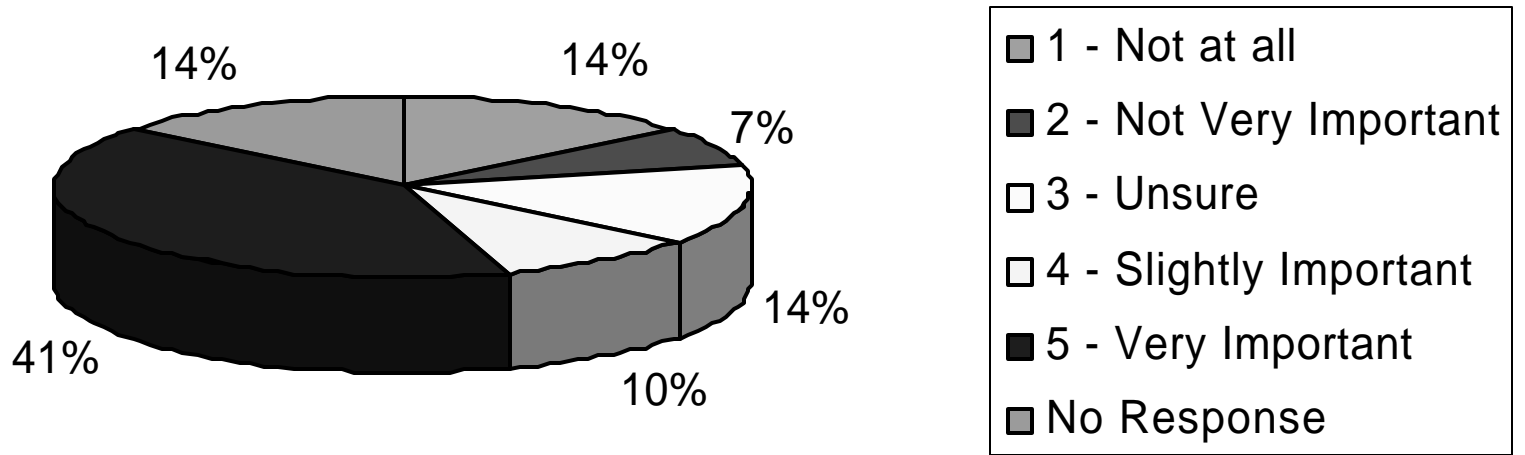
Almost half of those individuals reporting to have a medical condition have not received treatment for their illness.

Have you been seen by a Wesley Nurse?



The interpretation of this graph shows over half (54%) of the respondents have not been seen by the Staff Nurse (RN) who operates out of the Health Screening Program, a component of the Soup Kitchen.

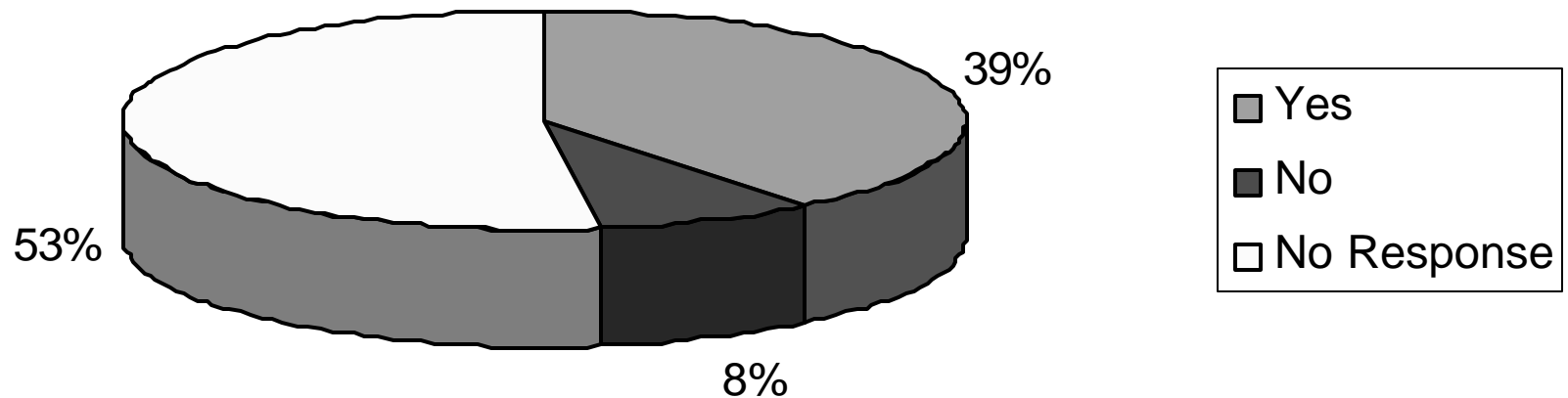
The RN is available Monday through Friday and provides basic screenings and vital sign readings.



How important is it for you to obtain
Mental Health/Counseling Services?

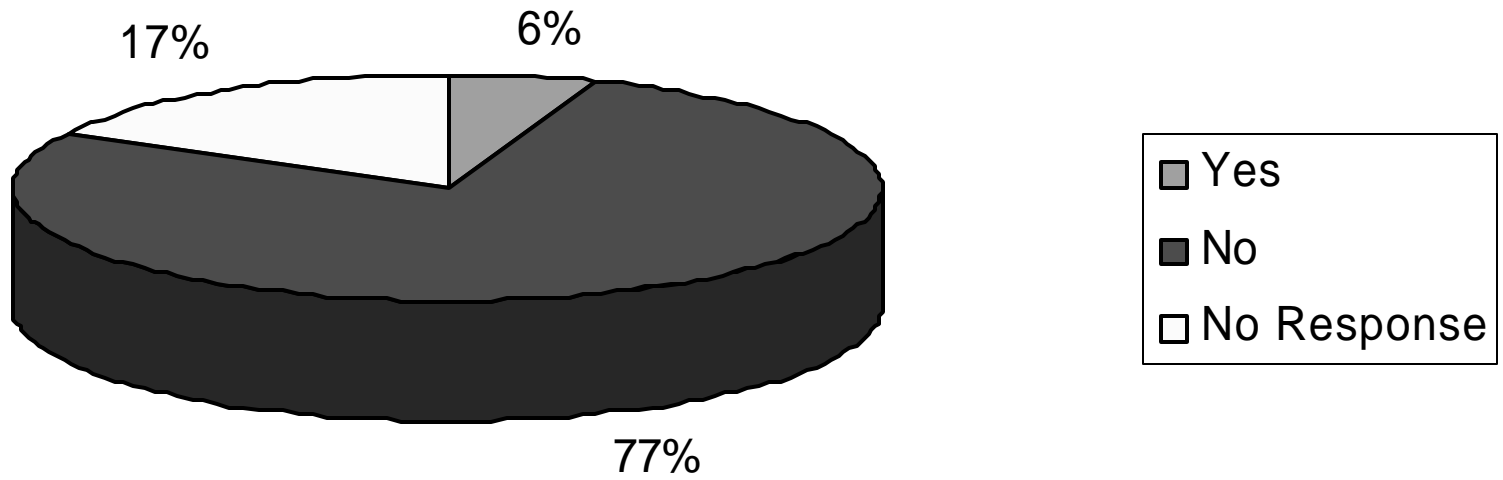
Terri Schiavo and Medical Directives

Are you familiar with the Terri Schiavo case?

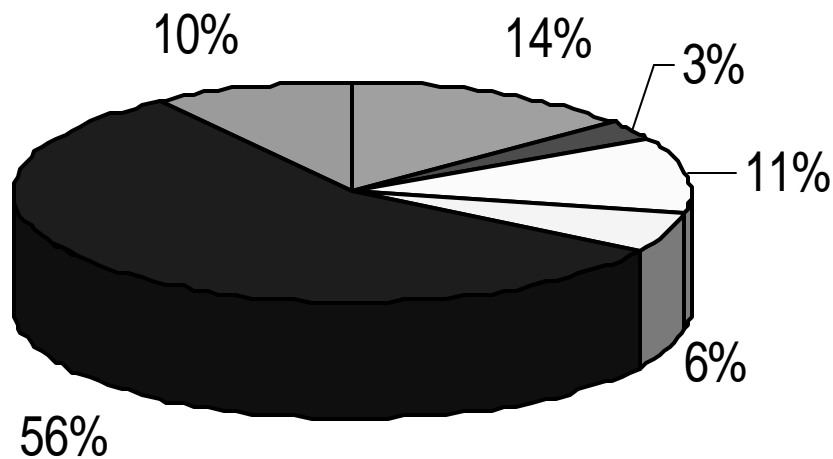


Participants who were not familiar with the case, were explained to in clear detail. Those of who were familiar with the situation were still spoken with about the topic, to highlight the subject, so as to be thorough in the assessment.

Do You Have A Medical Directive?

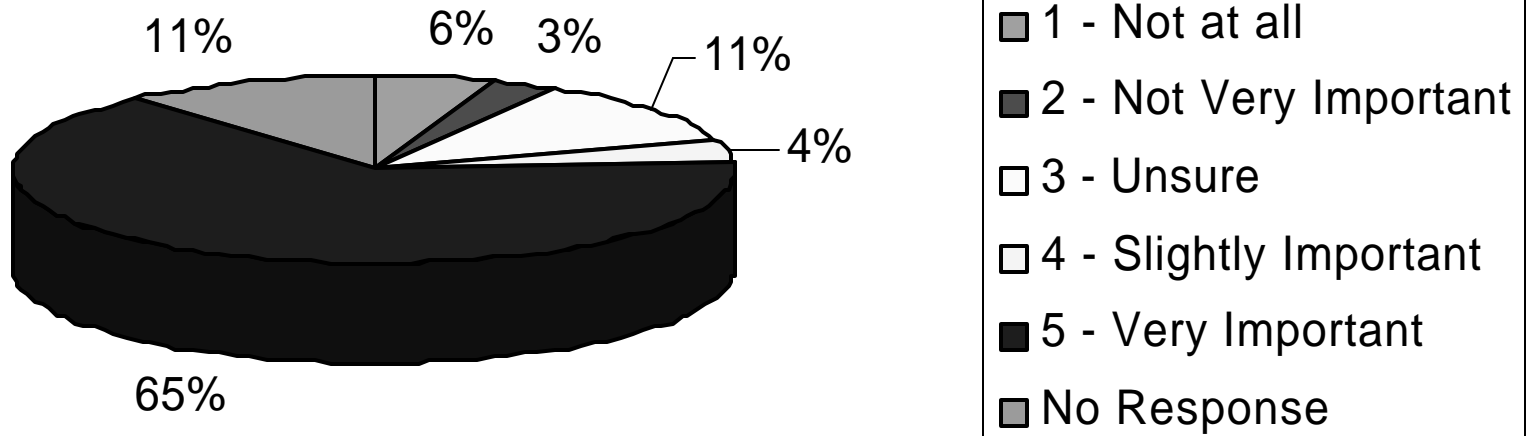


How Important Is It For You To Obtain A Medical Directive?

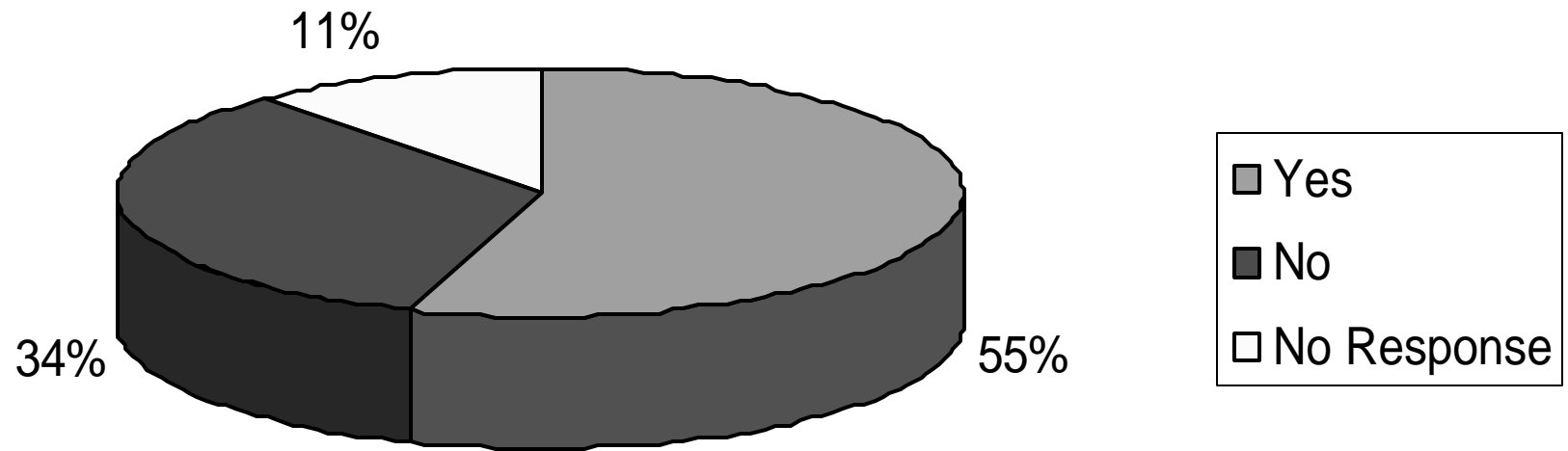


- 1 - Not at all
- 2 - Not Very Important
- 3 - Unsure
- 4 - Slightly Important
- 5 - Very Important
- No Response

How Important Is a Medical Directive To You?



Would You Like To Receive Assistance In Obtaining A Medical Directive?



**A Survey of The Homeless and Indigent
Ranking for Needs in Social Services and
Medical Directives; Terri Schiavo Revisited**

June, 2005

Dr. William Fuller,
Christine Wasson
& Kyle Cooper

**Angelo State University
San Angelo, TX**