

# Graduate Student Campus Climate Survey—Spring 2012



Office of Graduate and  
Professional Studies

# Acknowledgments

## *Survey facilitated by:*

- Office of Graduate and Professional Studies

## *Survey development and data analysis conducted with input and support from:*

- Office of the Vice President and Associate Provost for Diversity
- Division of Student Life, Student Life Studies
- Graduate Campus Climate Guiding Committee (composed of 4 faculty, 5 staff, and 5 students)

## **(1) Vision 2020**

Imperative 2: Strengthen our Graduate Programs

Imperative 6: Diversify and Globalize the A&M Community

## **(2) The University Diversity Plan**

- Accountability
- Climate
- Equity

## **(3) Previous Climate Studies at Texas A&M University**

- Student body survey - Hurtado (1998)
- Faculty (2006), staff (2007), and undergraduate (2008) climate surveys
- College and administrative unit surveys

# Survey Goals

- (1) Gain knowledge of strengths and challenges related to campus climate for graduate students
- (2) Proactively prioritize climate issues at the university level
- (3) Convey support and willingness to create a healthy climate, ideal for academic pursuit
- (4) Provide services, programs, and support mechanisms for climate challenges, which contribute to a more productive graduate student body through improvements to the graduate campus climate

# Outline

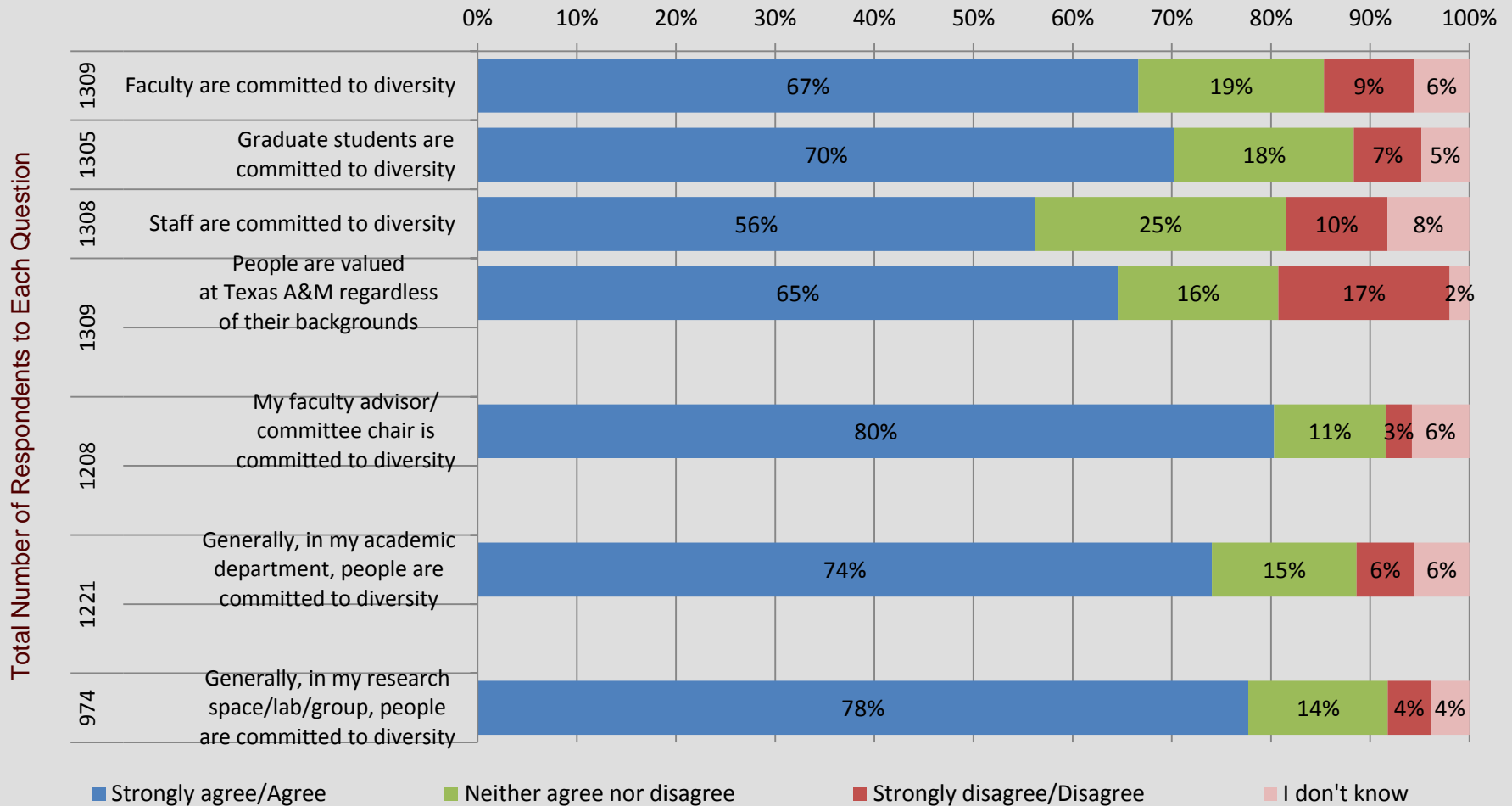
- ❑ Demographics
- ❑ Commitment to Diversity
- ❑ Inappropriate Behaviors
- ❑ Acts of Incivility
- ❑ Satisfaction with the Texas A&M Experience
- ❑ Physical Health and Emotional Well-being
- ❑ Stress at Texas A&M
- ❑ Safety at Texas A&M
- ❑ Access to Resources
- ❑ Mentoring
- ❑ Equity Issues

# Demographics

By Degree Objective		Male	Female	Total
	Doctoral	53%	49%	51%
	Masters	47%	51%	49%
	Total	755	630	1385
By Ethnicity				
	Asian	5%	5%	5%
*Ethnicity includes U.S. citizens/permanent residents only	Black & 2+/1 Black	6%	10%	8%
	Hispanic/Latino(a)	14%	17%	16%
	White	75%	68%	71%
	Total	418	426	844
By Citizenship				
	U.S.	56%	68%	61%
	China	11%	9%	10%
	India	9%	6%	8%
	International-Other	24%	17%	21%
	Total	770	637	1407
By Self-reported Historically Underrepresented Status				
	Yes	37%	47%	41%
	No	56%	48%	52%
	I prefer not to respond	7%	5%	6%
	Total	731	617	1348

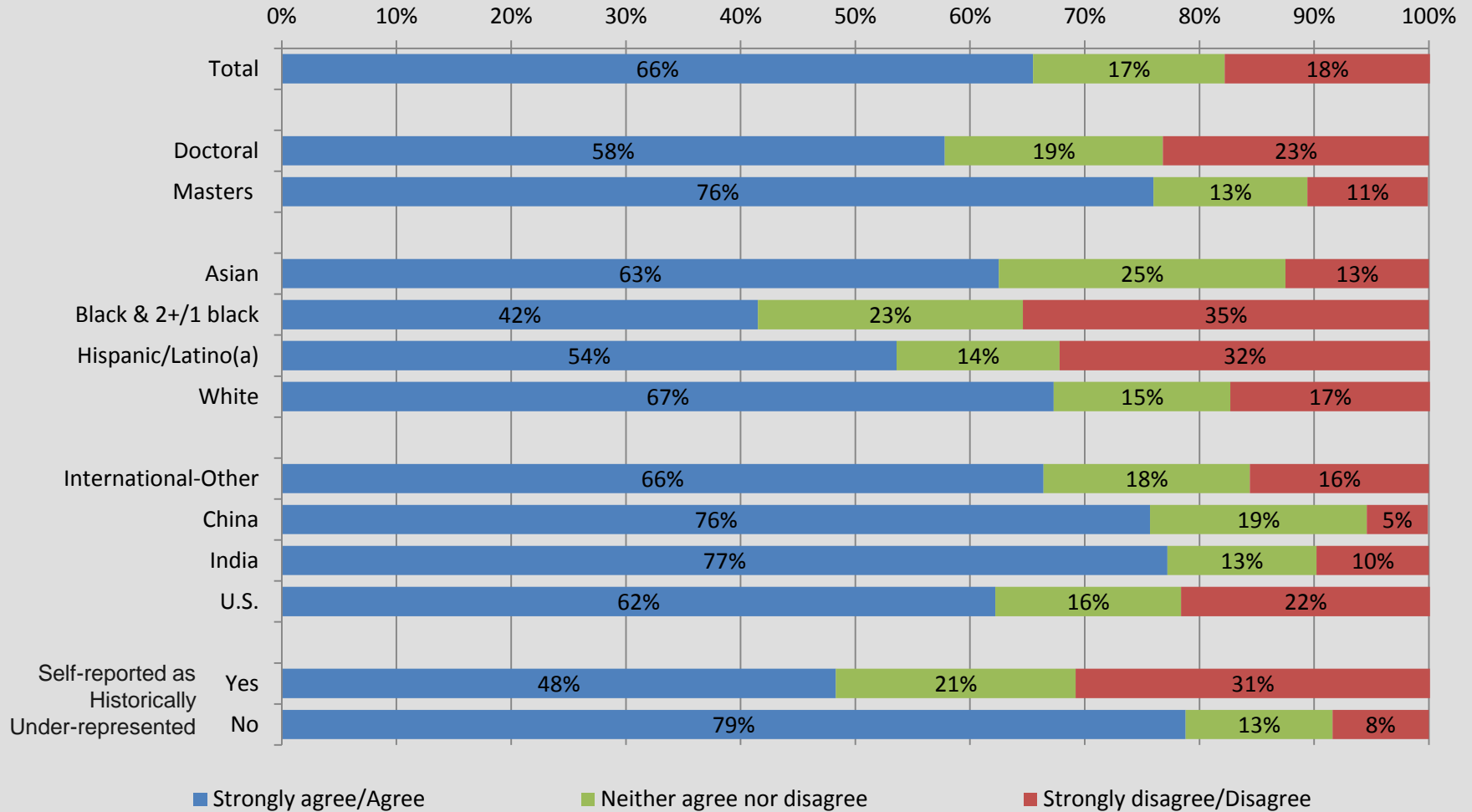
# Commitment to Diversity

# Graduate student perceptions of commitment to diversity at Texas A&M University

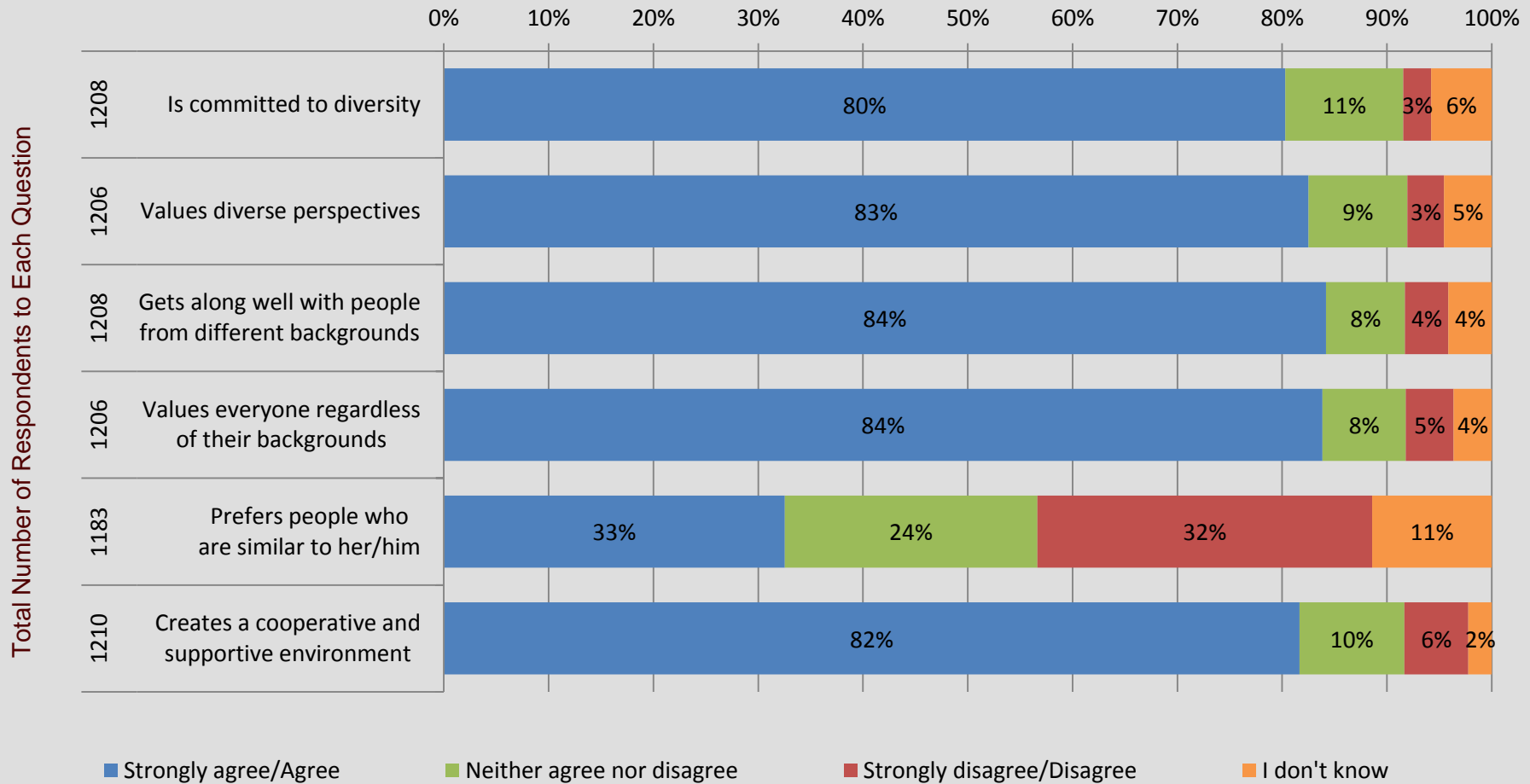




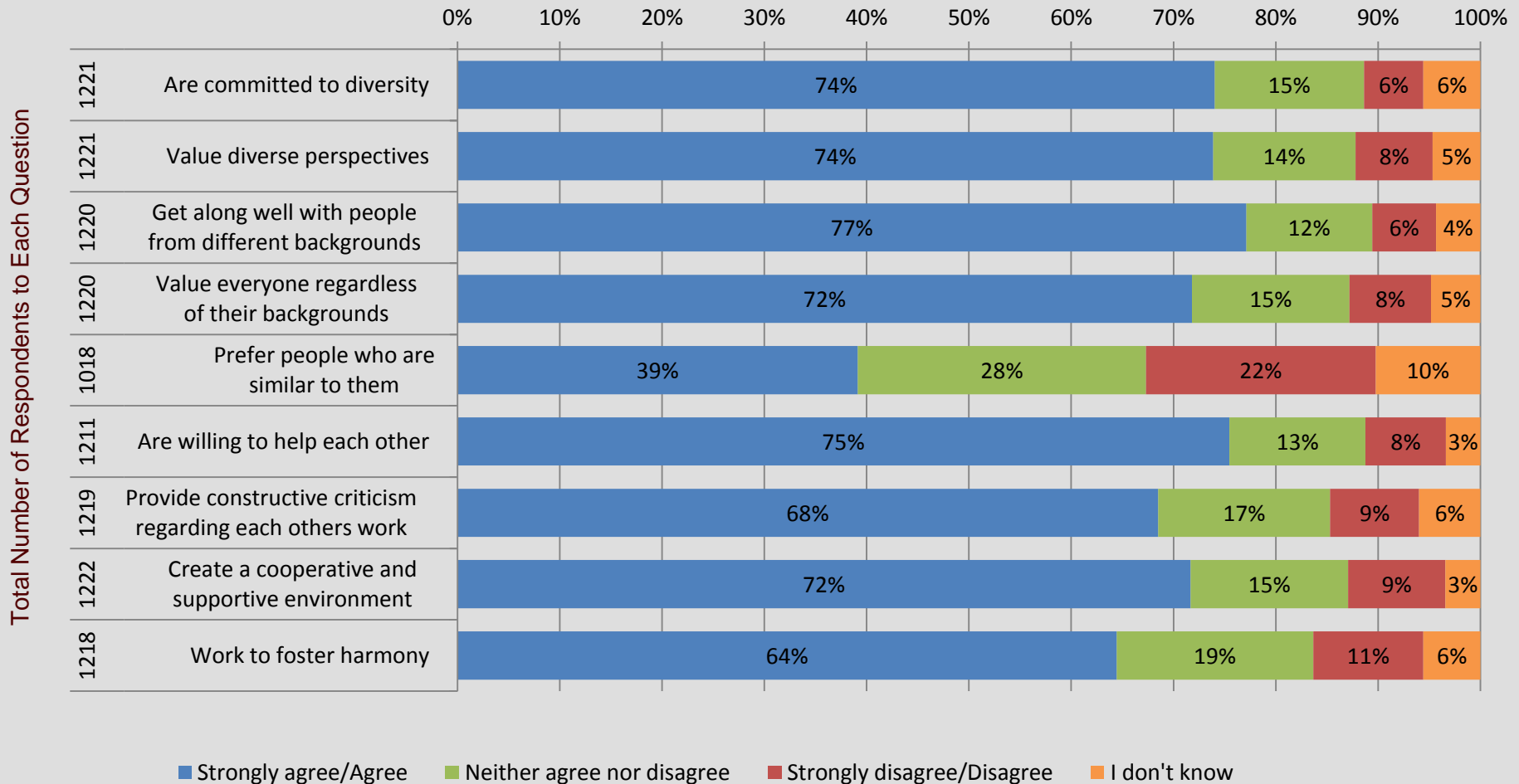
# Graduate student perceptions of the valuing of diversity regardless of background at Texas A&M University – by group affiliation (n=1261)



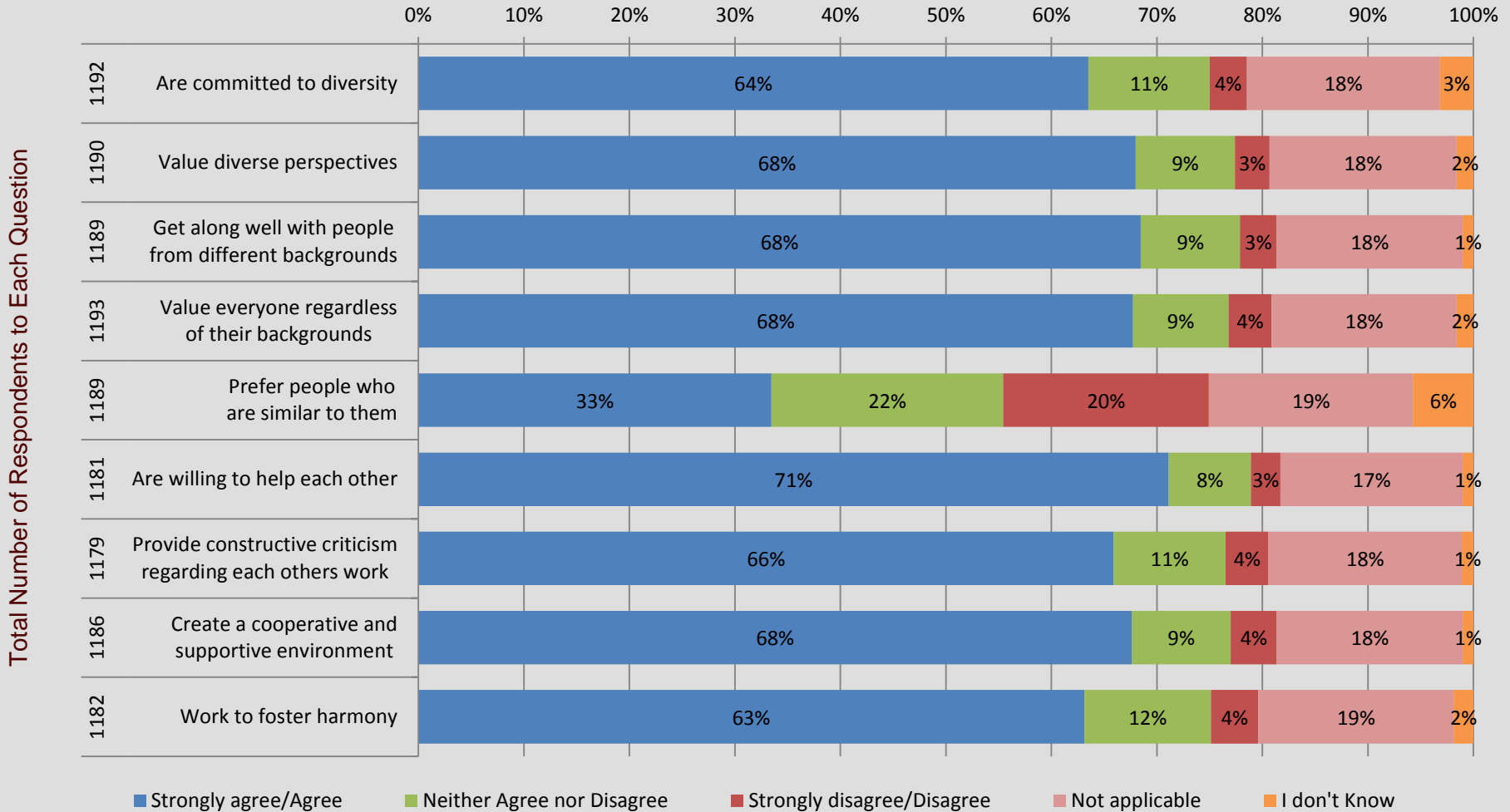
# Graduate student perceptions of their faculty adviser/committee chair



# Graduate student perceptions of people in their academic department

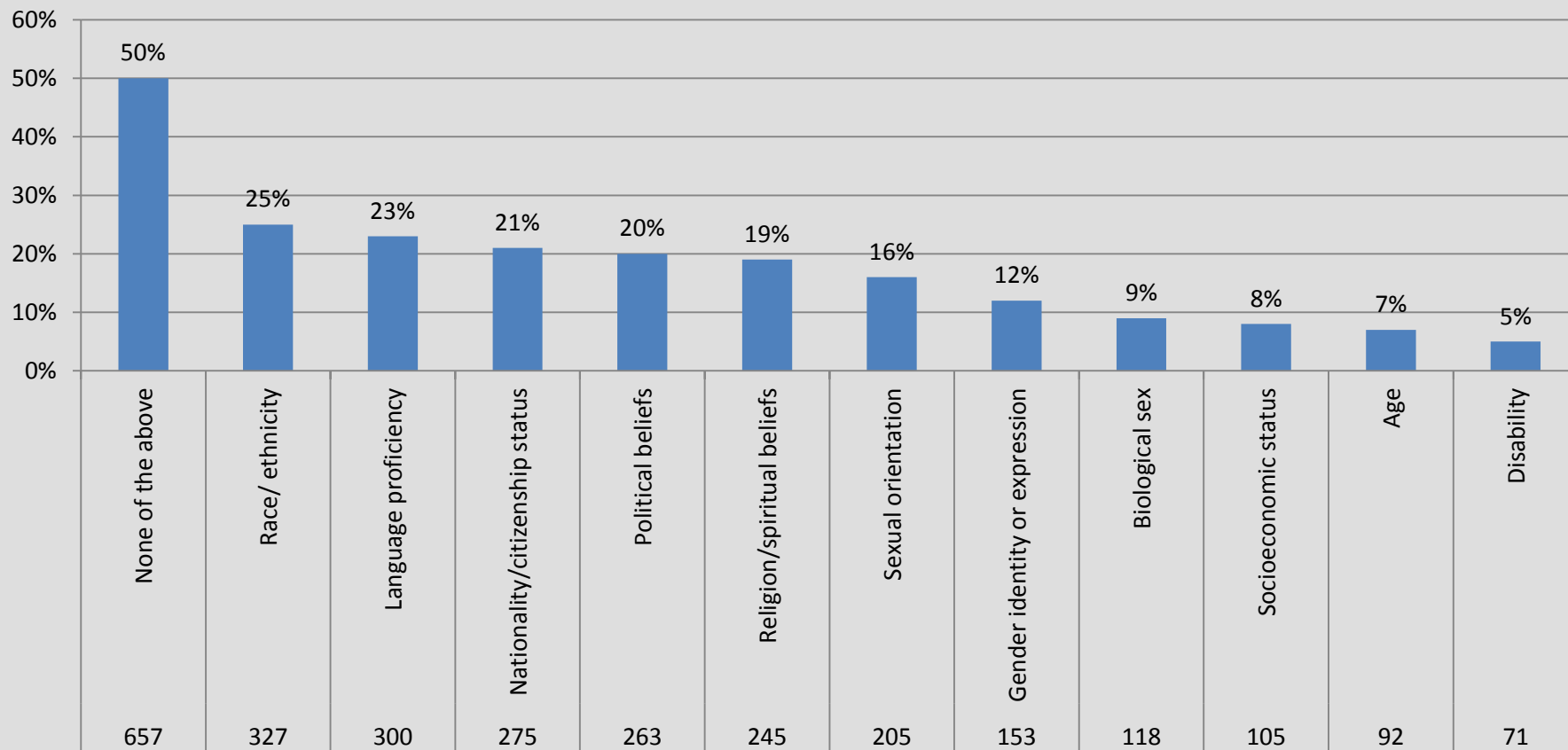


# Graduate student perceptions of people in their research space/lab



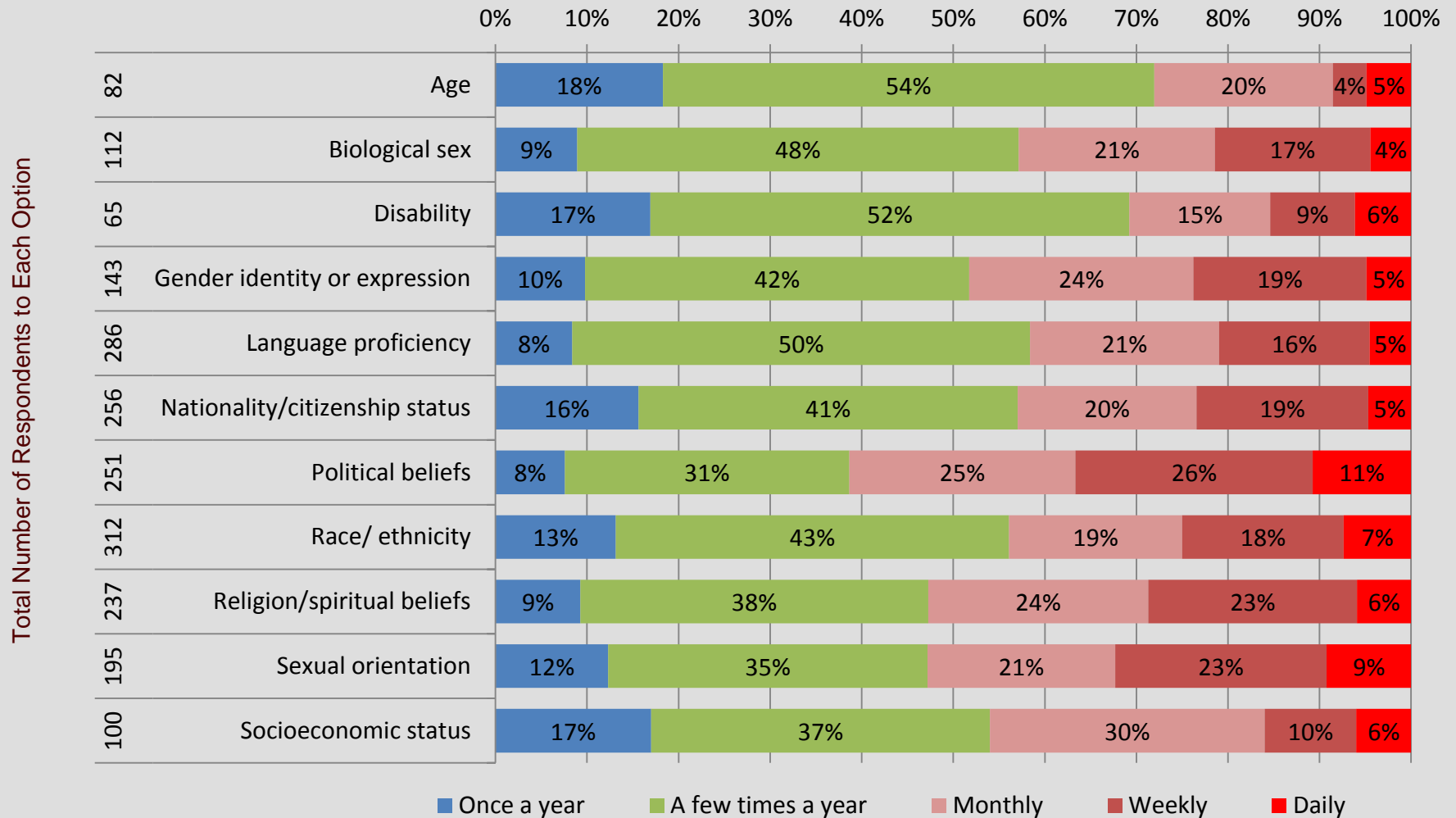
# Inappropriate Behaviors

# Graduate student observation of and/or experience with inappropriate behaviors/comments

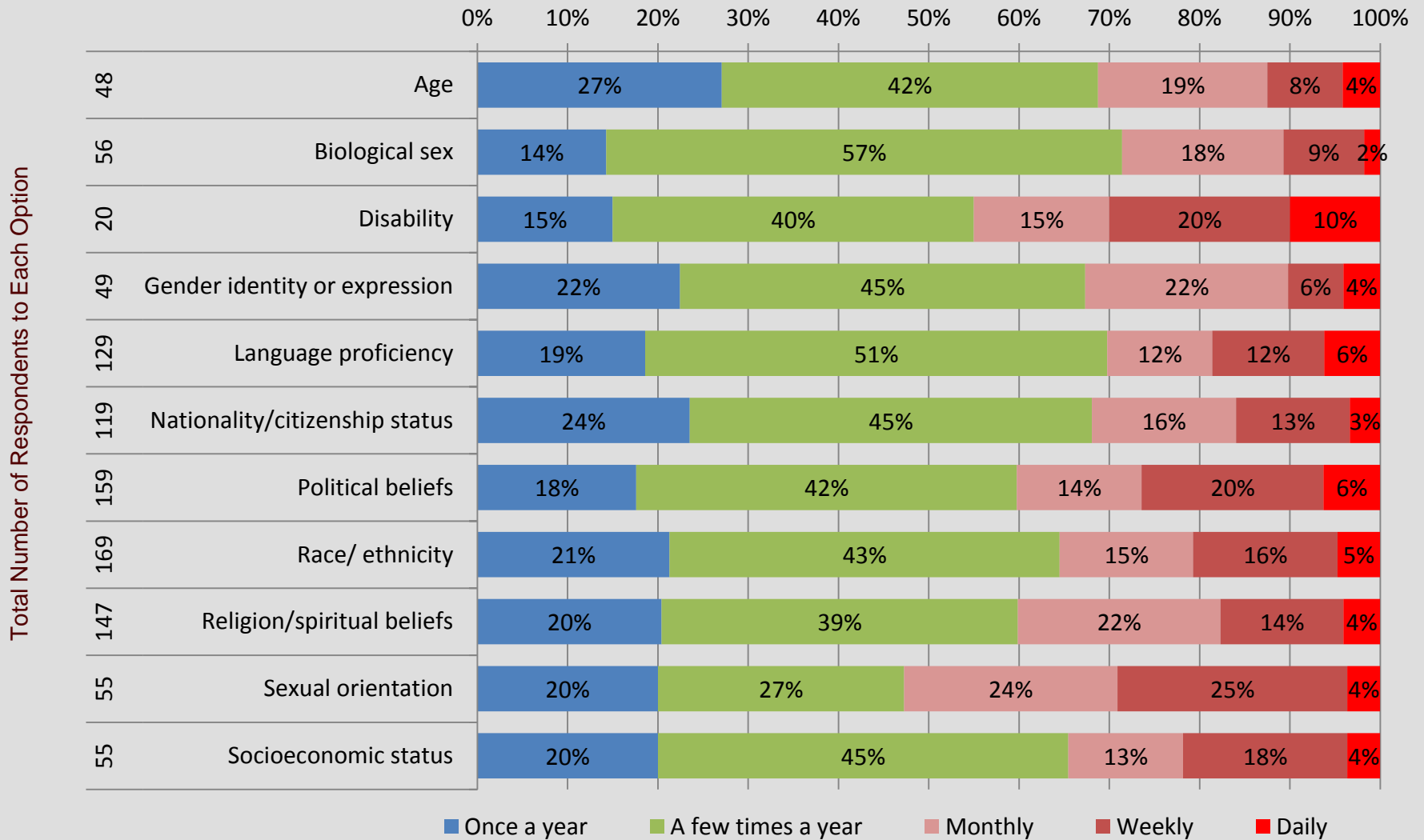


Total Number of Respondents to Each Option (Check That All Apply)

# Frequency of observing inappropriate behaviors and/or comments

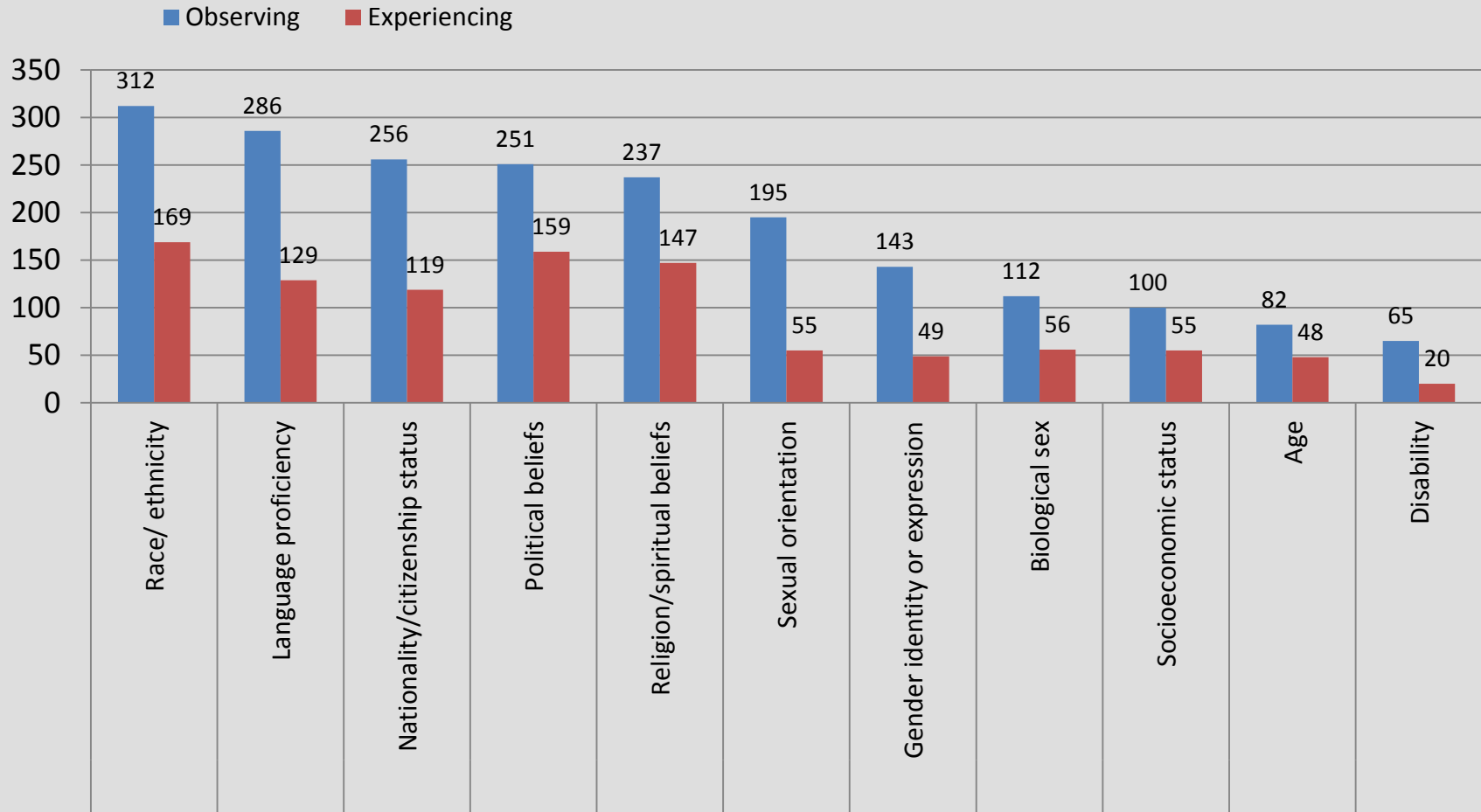


# Frequency of experiencing inappropriate behaviors and/or comments





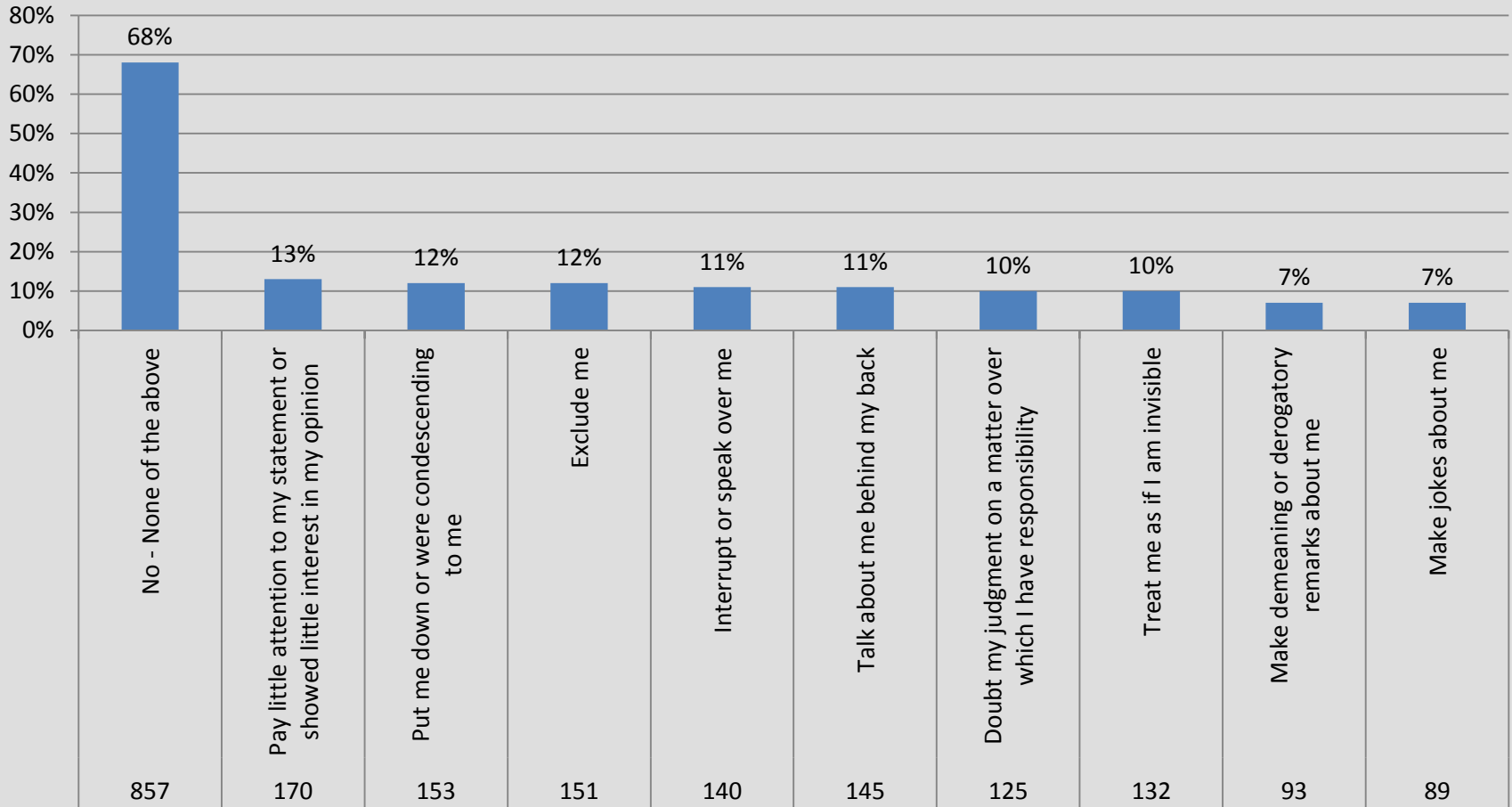
# Comparison frequency of observing vs. experiencing inappropriate behaviors and/or comments



Note: Number above bar indicates number of responses (observing vs. experiencing) to questions, “Frequency of Observing Inappropriate Behaviors and/or Comments” (Slide 15) and “Frequency of Experiencing Inappropriate Behaviors and/or Comments” (Slide 16). Responses were aggregated from scale including, Once a Year, A Few Times a Year, Monthly, Weekly, and Daily.

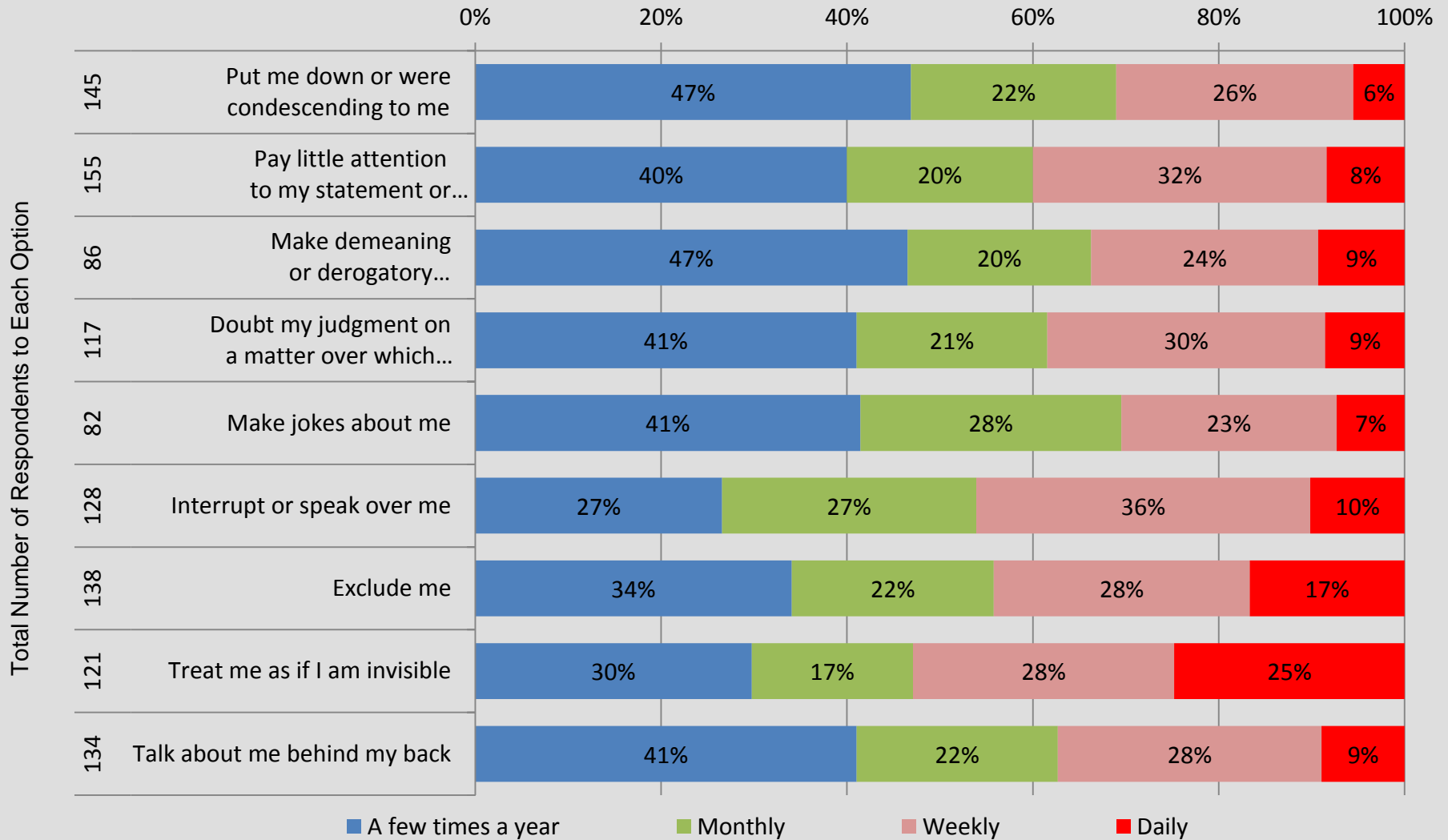
# Acts of Incivility

# Graduate student experience with acts of incivility



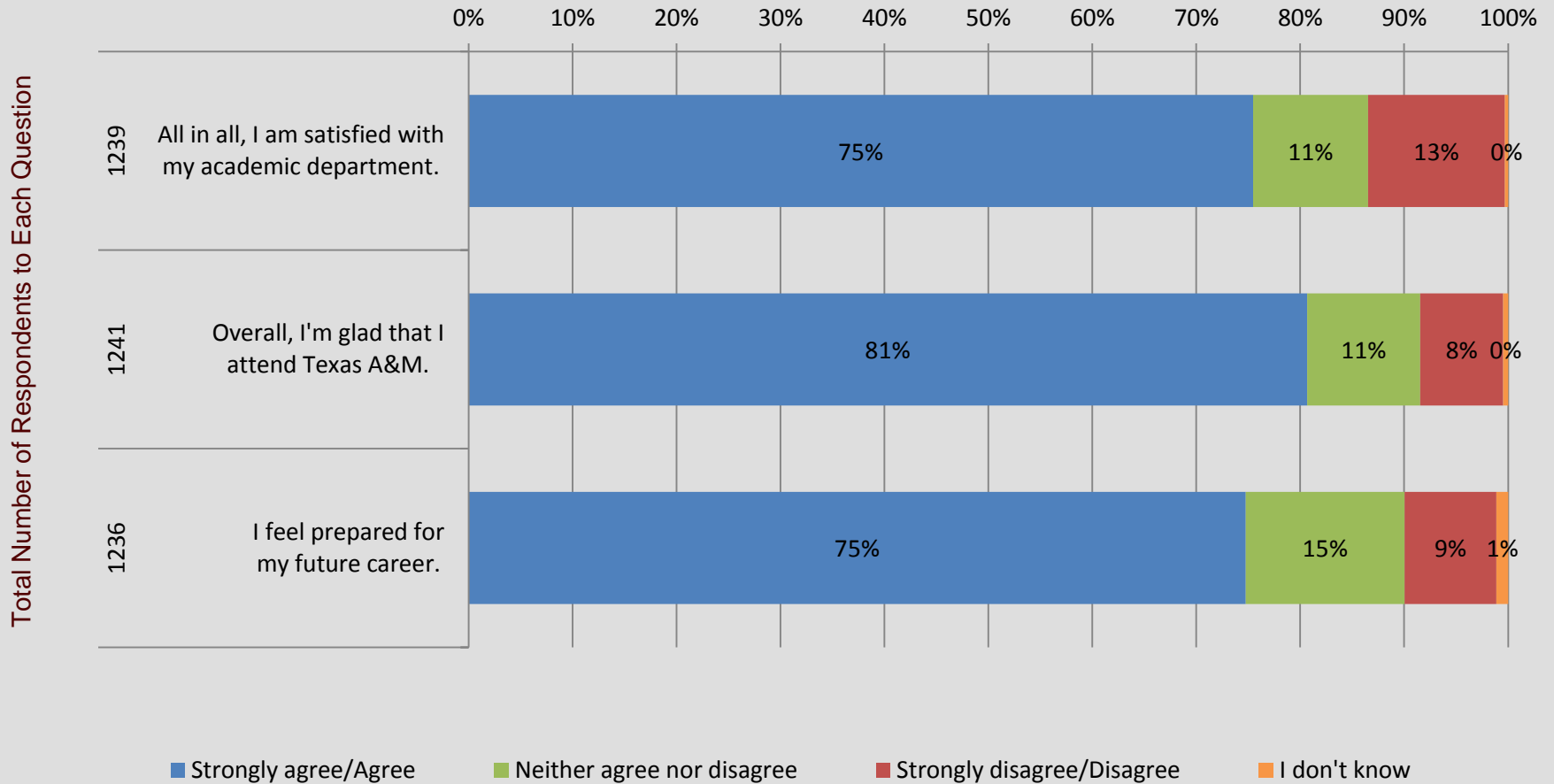
Total Number of Respondents to Each Option (Check That All Apply)

# Frequency of experiencing acts of incivility



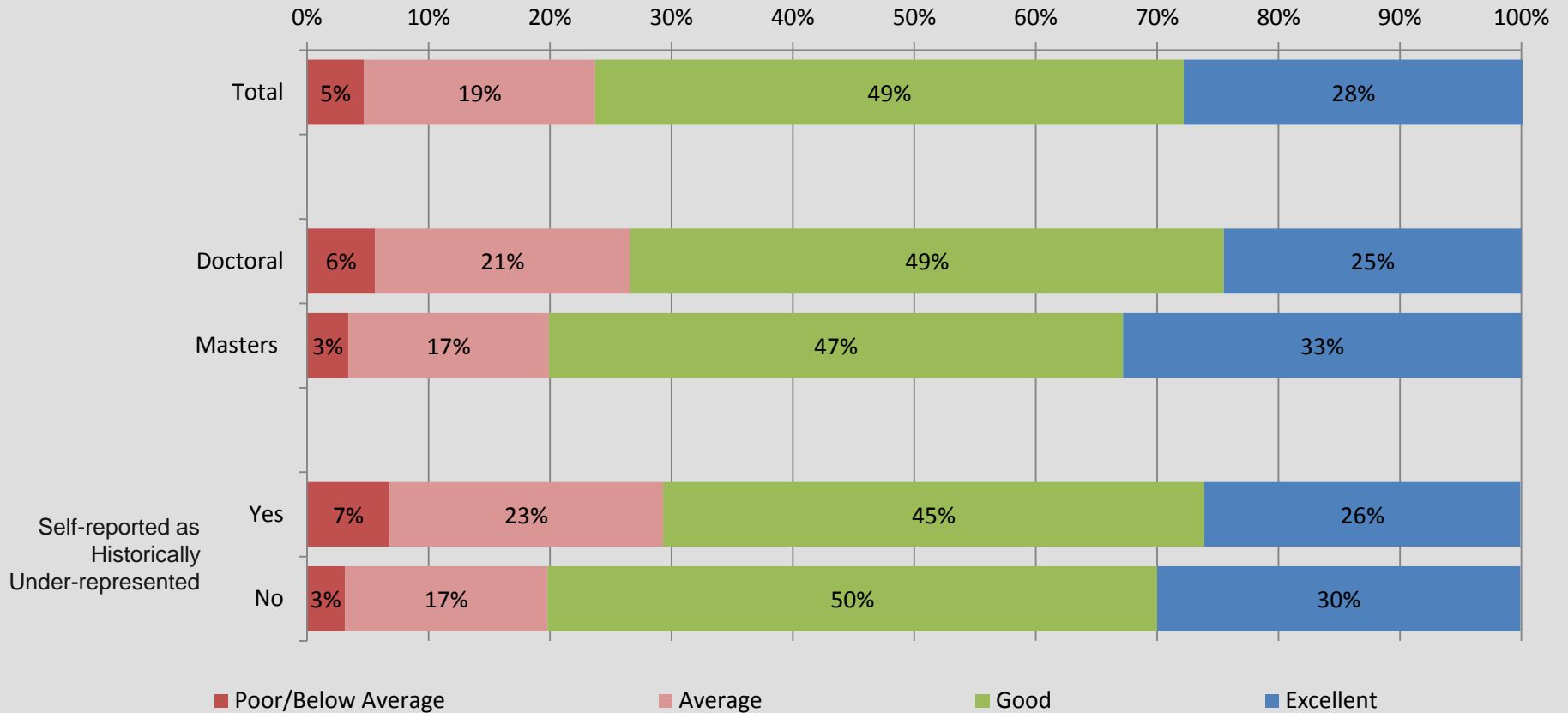
# Satisfaction with the Texas A&M Experience

# Graduate student satisfaction with the Texas A&M experience



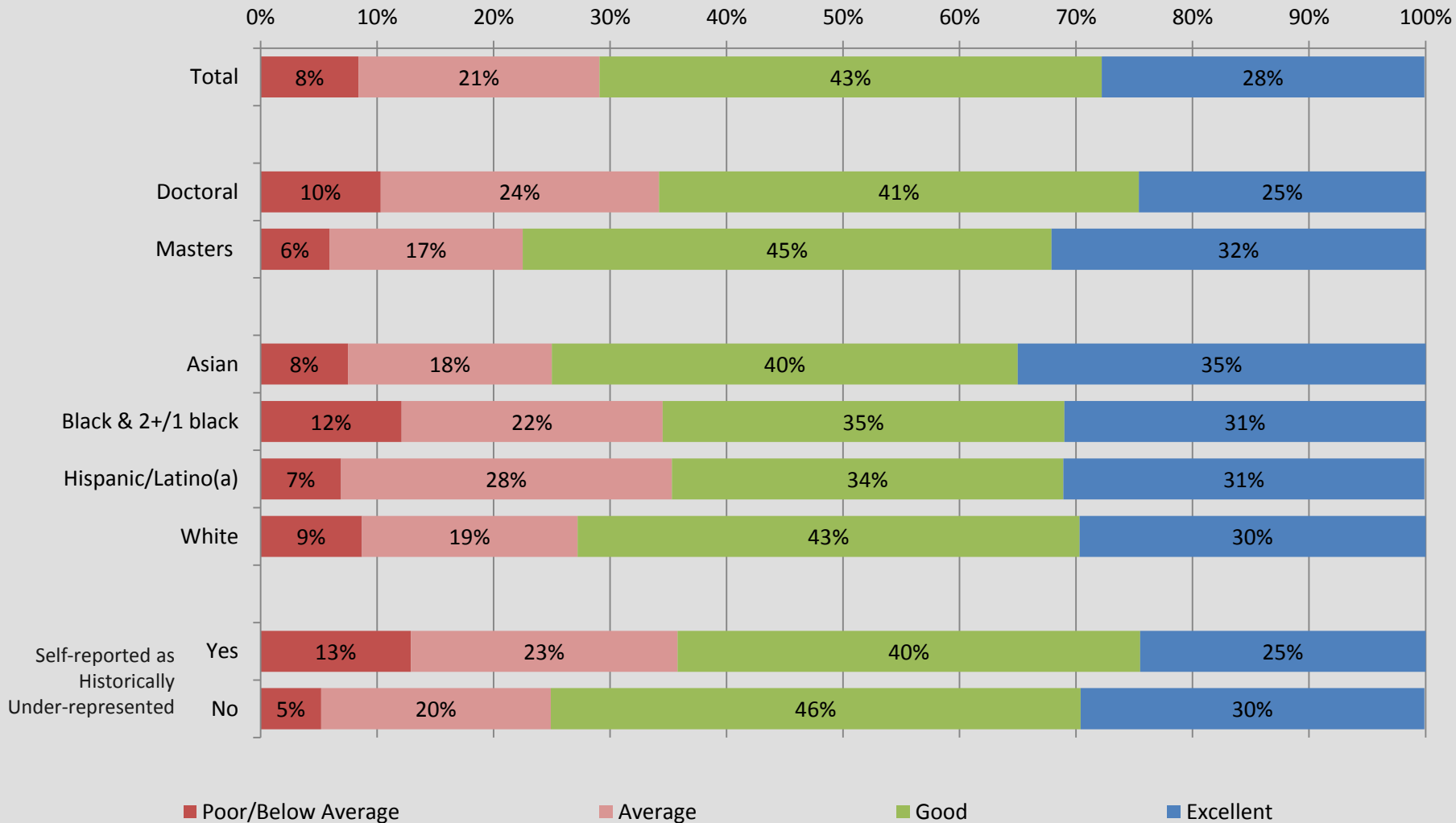
# Physical Health and Emotional Well-being

# Graduate student physical health Total vs. Group affiliation (n=1199)



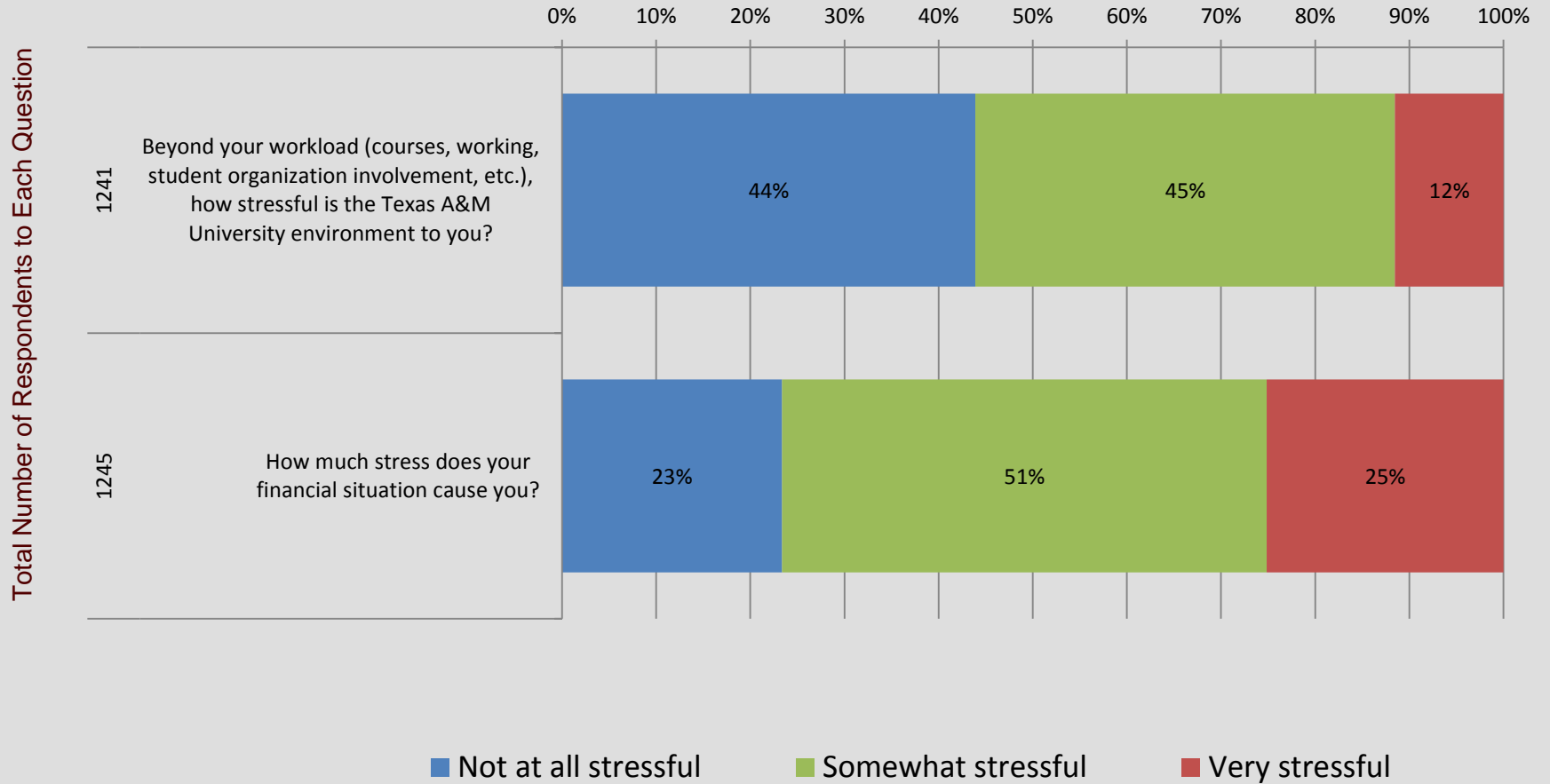


# Graduate student emotional well-being Total vs. Group affiliation (n=1197)

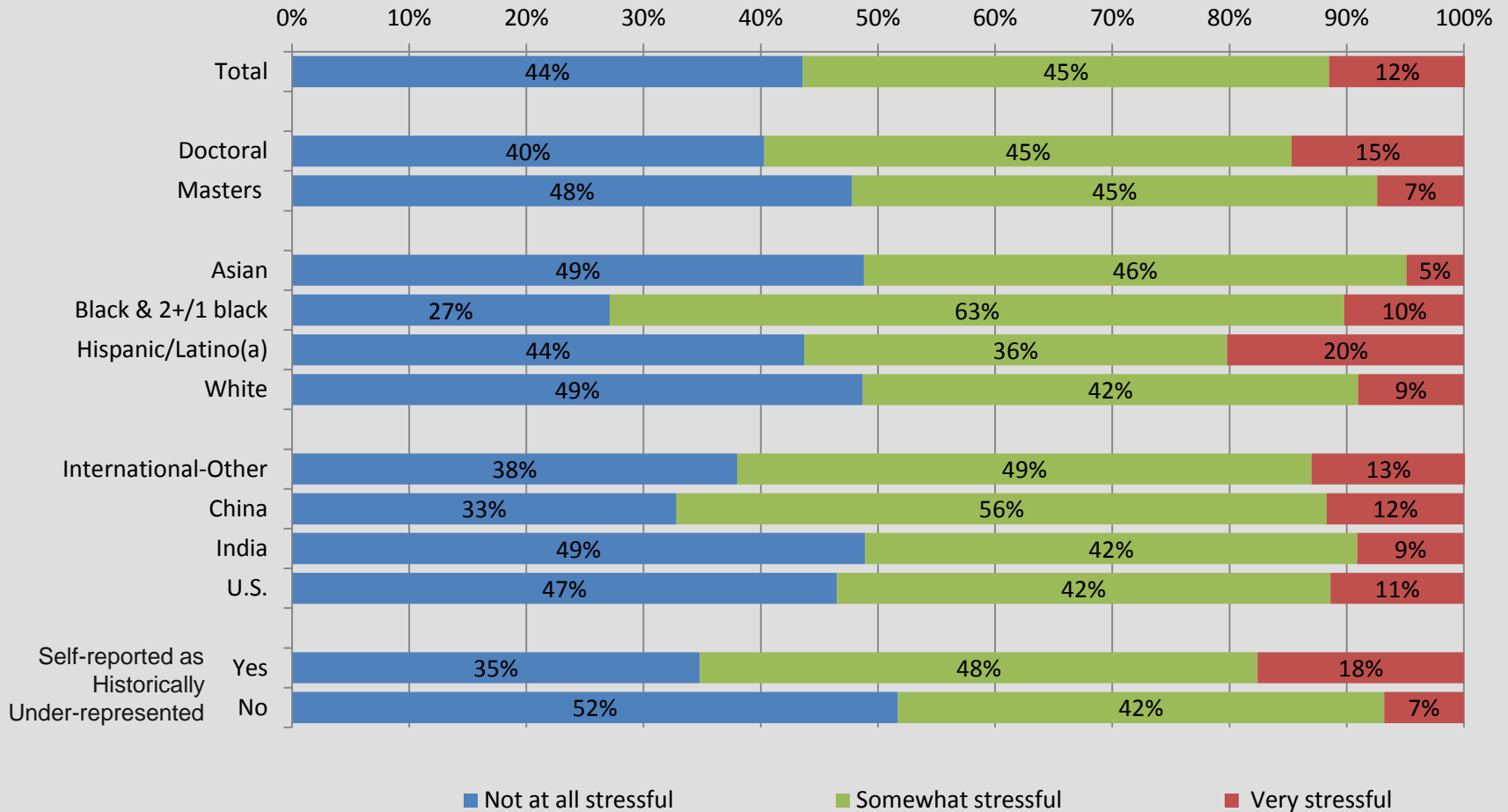


# Stress at Texas A&M

# Graduate student stress at Texas A&M University

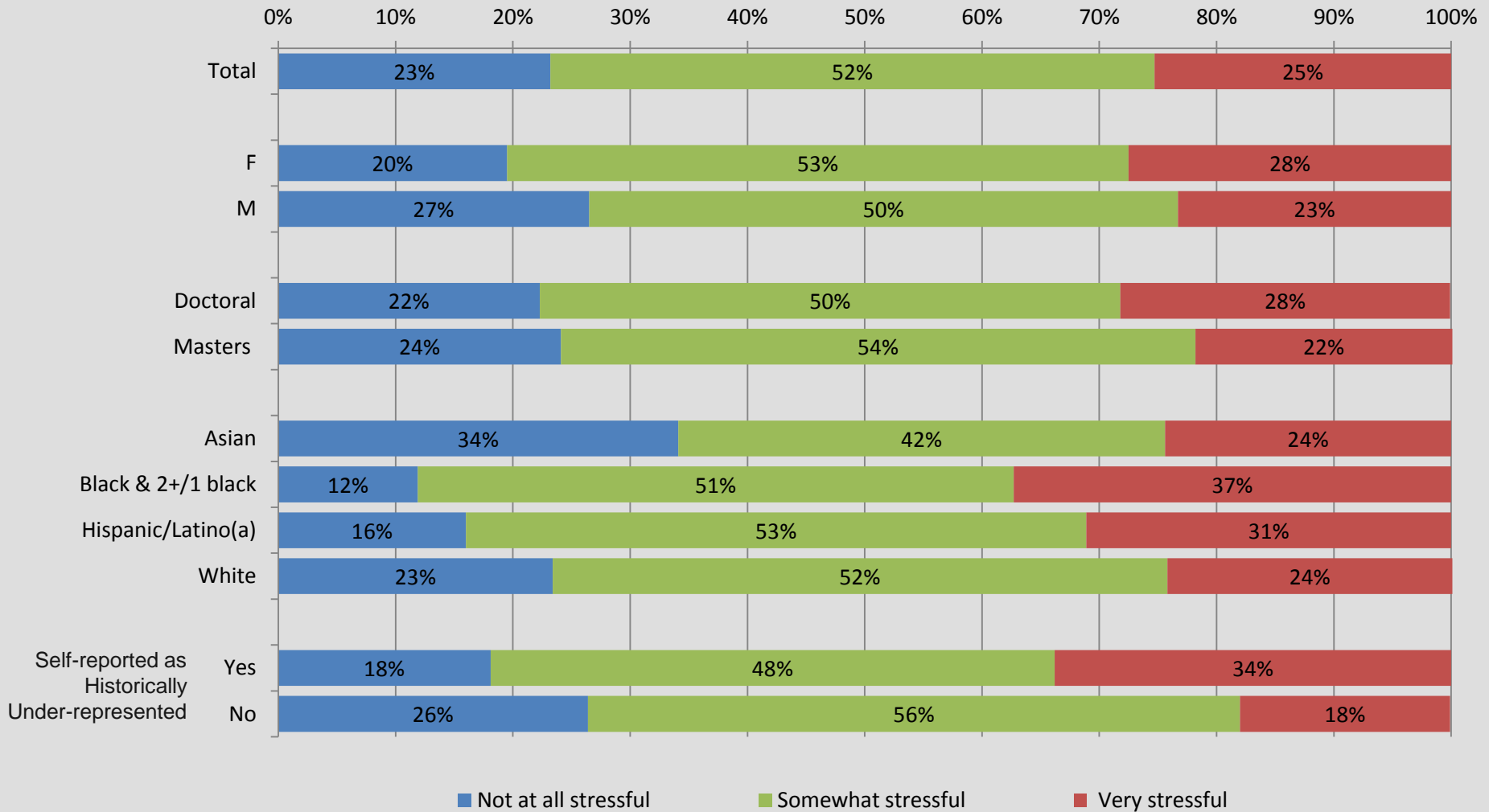


Graduate student stress as a result of the Texas A&M University environment, beyond workload (courses, working, student organization involvement, etc.)  
Total vs. Group affiliation (n=1219)



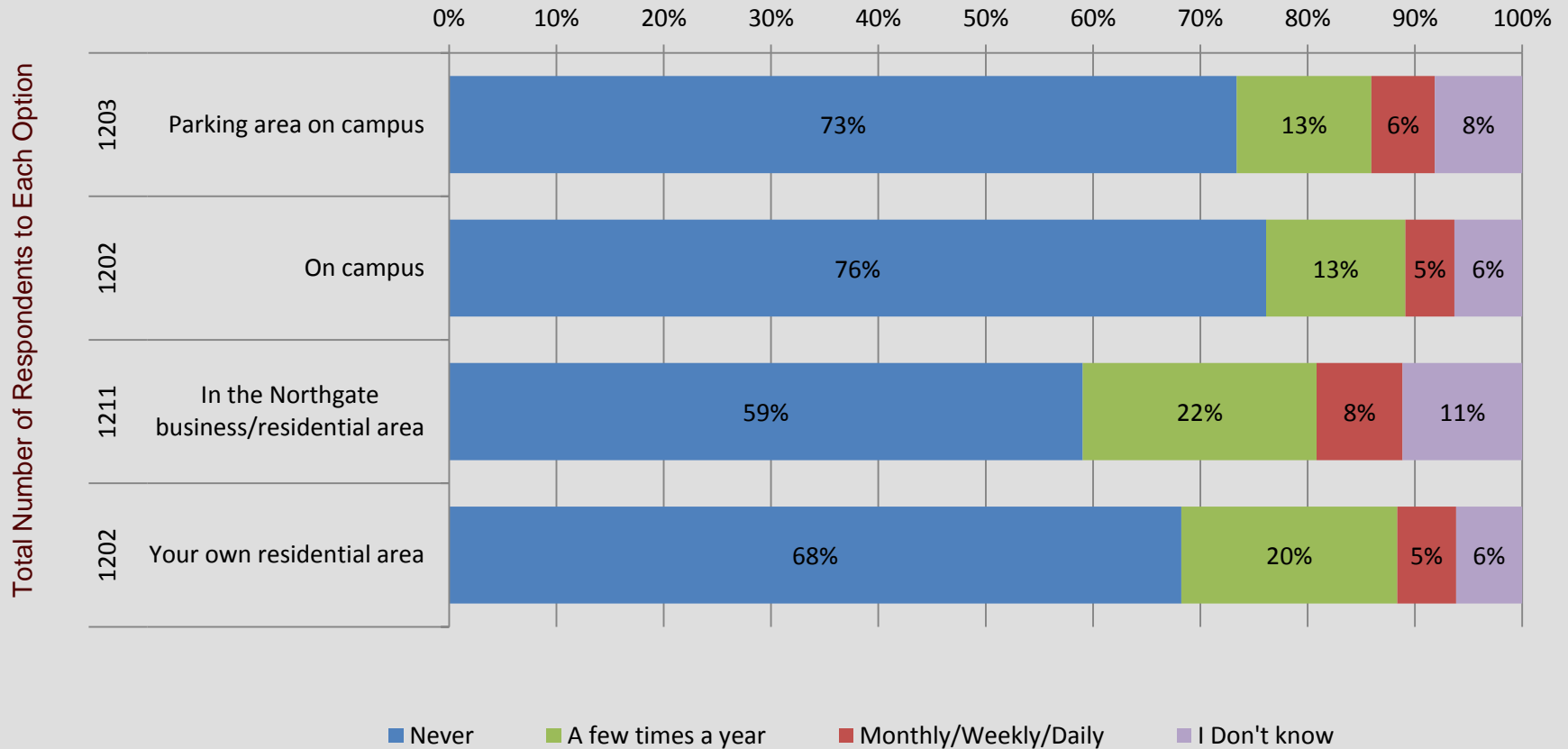
# Graduate student stress as a result of financial situation

## Total vs. Group affiliation (n=1223)



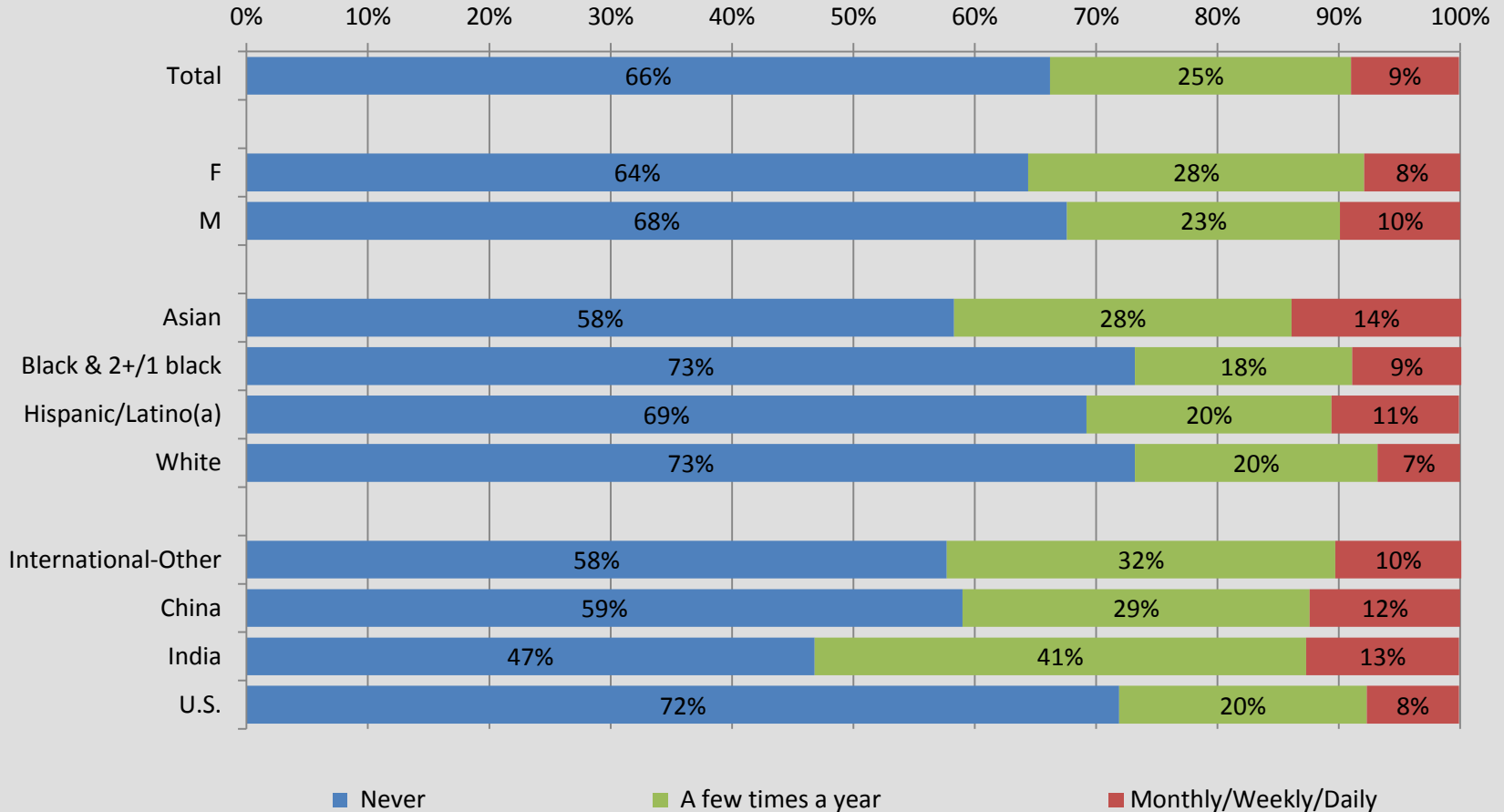
# Safety at Texas A&M

# Graduate student frequency of safety concerns



# Graduate student frequency of safety concerns in the Northgate business and residential areas

## Total vs. Group affiliation (n=1059)

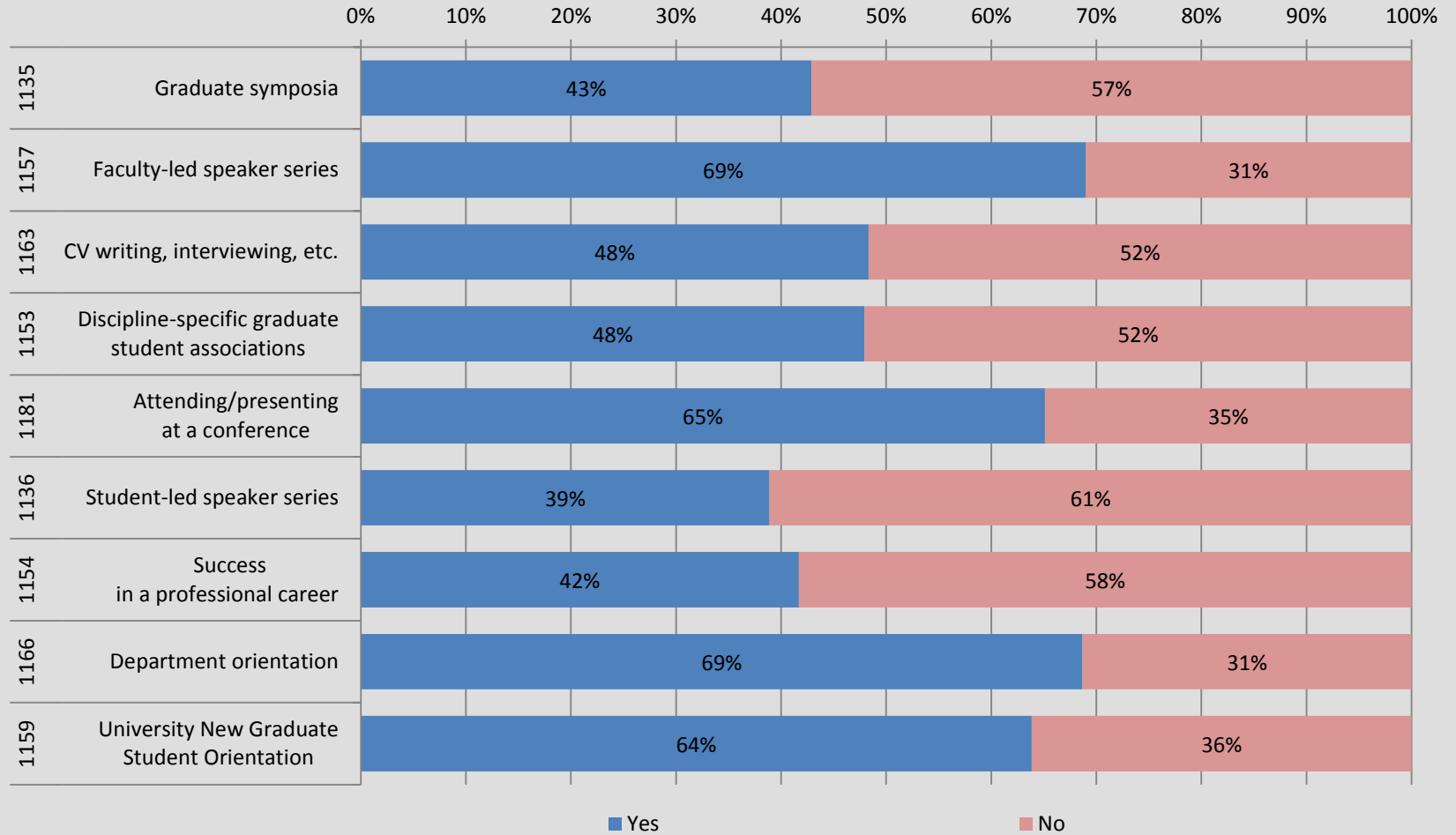




# Access to Resources

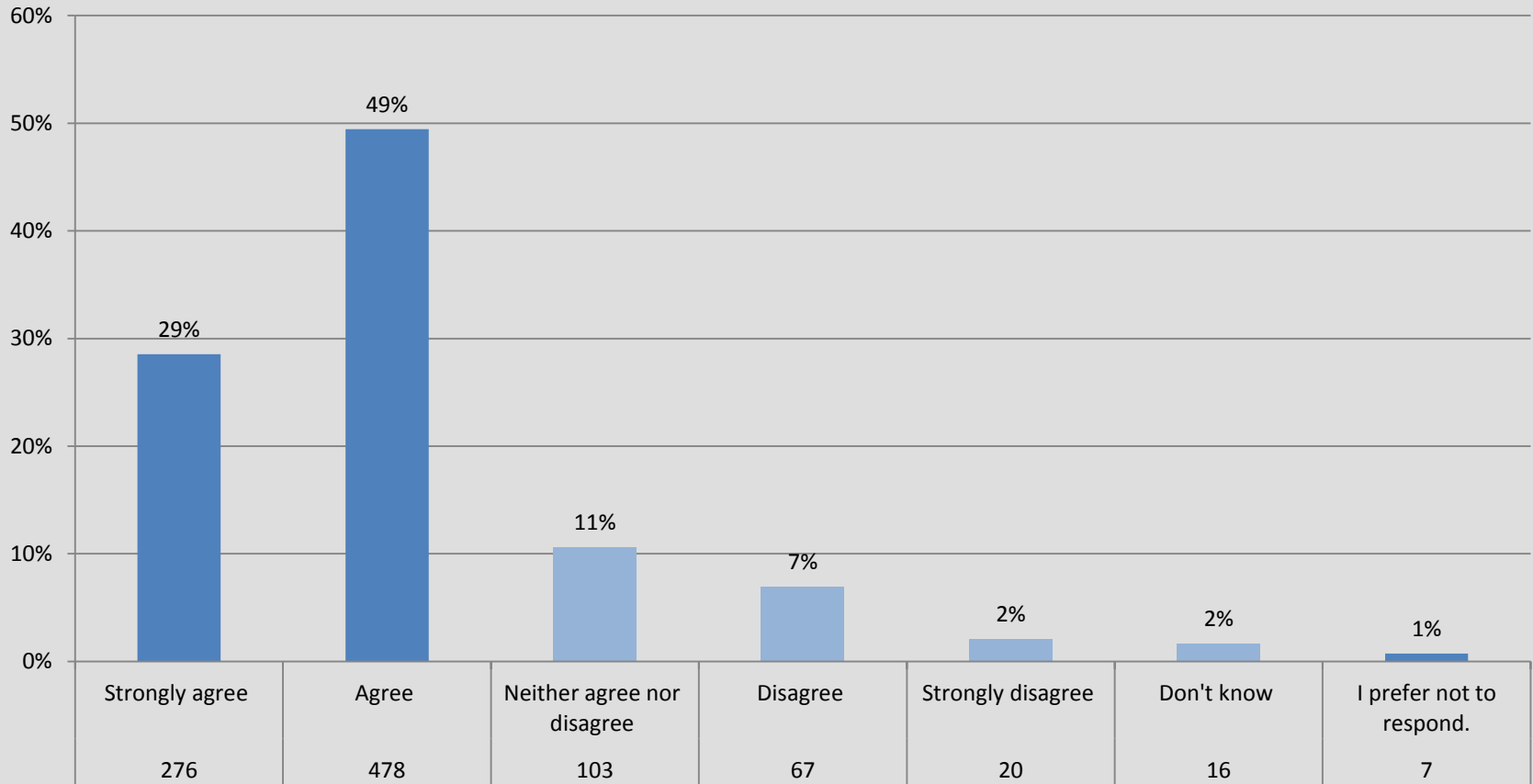
# Graduate student participation in professional development

Total Number of Respondents to Each Option



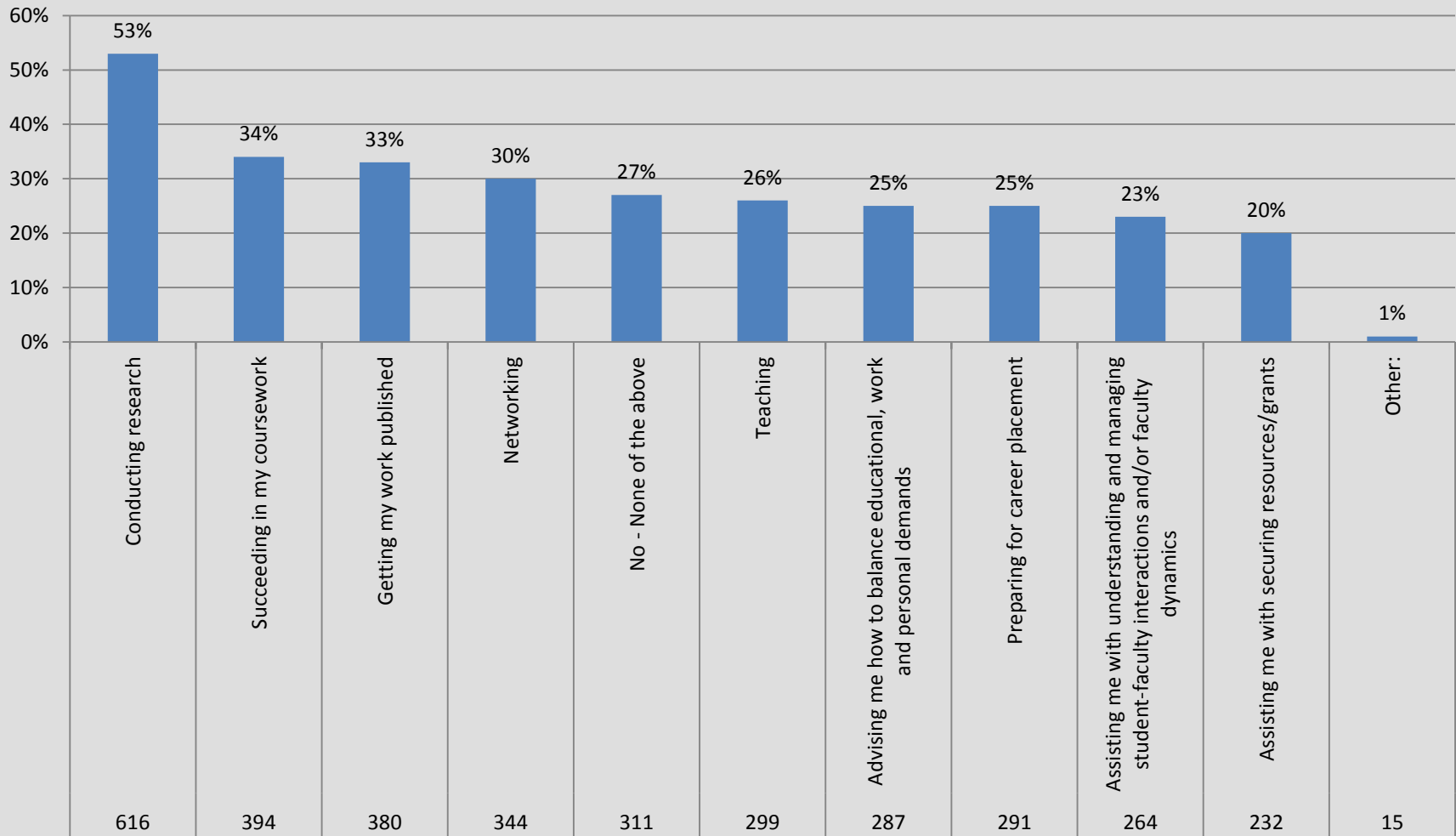
# Mentoring

# Graduate student satisfaction with mentoring



Total Number of Respondents to Each Option

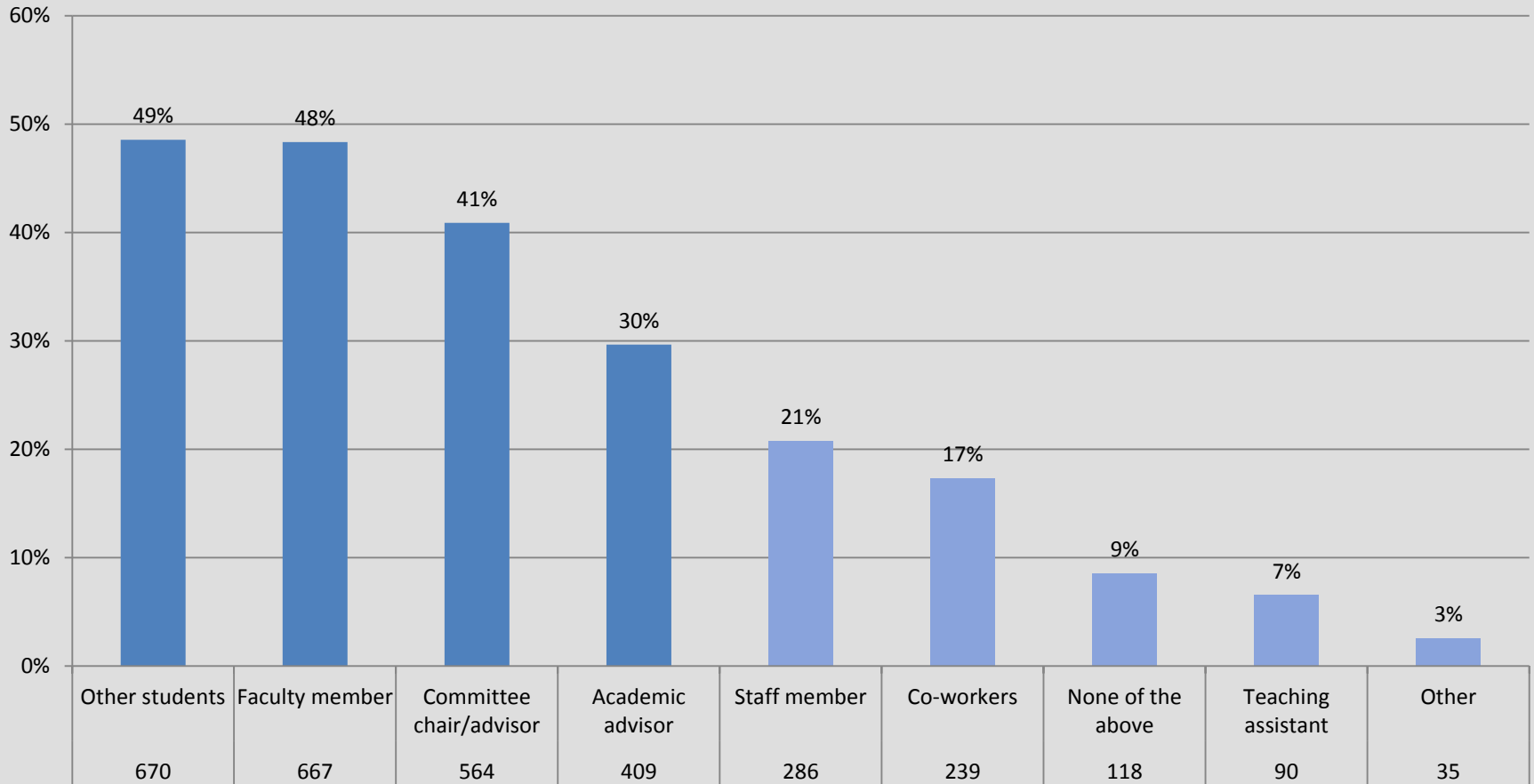
# Graduate student mentoring experience



Total Number of Respondents to Each Option (Check That All Apply)

# Equity Issues

# Graduate student resource persons when experiencing equity issues



Total Number of Respondents to Each Option (Check That All Apply)

## Enhancing Diversity

- Promote a more visible institutional commitment to and valuing of diversity.
- Provide activities that educate people about differences, help individuals see the value of diversity, foster respectful interactions, and encourage higher levels of interaction, including between undergraduate and graduate students. Initiate focus groups to better understand the drivers of lower satisfaction levels for doctoral, Black & 2+/1 Black, Hispanic/Latino(a), and self-reported historically underrepresented students in order to implement appropriate interventions that foster a good climate for all graduate students.
- Improve efforts to work together with the Bryan-College Station community to decrease the occurrences of inappropriate behaviors and/or comments.
- Promote existing services and reporting mechanisms designed to address incidents of inappropriate behavior, incivility, concerning behavior, and inequity.



## Student Success in Academic/Work Environment

- Monitor time to degree, achievement of degree milestones, and reasons for leaving.
- Enhance academic advising, especially for international graduate students and underrepresented minorities, to monitor adjustment, acculturation, and other issues of concern for these groups.
- The graduate student environment in the academic department and research space/lab/group should be improved with combined efforts of department staff, faculty and students to address issues like cooperation, how well people work to foster harmony, provide constructive criticism, etc.
- Educate students about employment policies in place, and encourage more transparency in faculty/student relationships, including up-front articulation of graduate student expectations for research versus employment.
- Improve communication of professional development opportunities and enhance program offerings at department and University levels.
- Encourage excellence in faculty mentoring and consider additional incentives for faculty members who excel in advising and mentoring their graduate students.

## Graduate Student Quality of Life

- Consider focus group discussions to identify what issues impact physical health and emotional well-being. Work with appropriate offices on campus to enhance services.
- Academic departments should ensure they communicate to students the transportation resources available after buses stop running, and Transportation Services should consider an increase in services to students during certain time frames (evenings and weekends).
- Compare personal safety concerns raised in this report with the published Texas A&M University Police Department Survey report. Meetings with the Graduate Student Council, International Student Association and affiliate groups, and the local police to discuss safety issues (in the Northgate business/residential area, particularly) might be useful to address the reported graduate students concerns for personal safety on-campus, in the Northgate business/residential area, and in their own residential areas.
- Focus efforts on reducing financial stress and enhancing financial planning education for graduate students at various points in their degree program. Possible interventions could be directed toward graduate assistant compensation, financial aid and counseling, and programs to educate graduate students in various financial matters (e.g., financing graduate studies, etc.).

For additional information, visit:

## **Office of Graduate & Professional Studies**

Suite 112, Jack K. Williams Building

Website: [ogaps.tamu.edu](http://ogaps.tamu.edu)

E-mail: [ogaps@tamu.edu](mailto:ogaps@tamu.edu)

## **Office of the Vice President & Associate Provost for Diversity**

Website: [diversity.tamu.edu](http://diversity.tamu.edu)