

Genetics Survey of Physician Assistants: 2007 House of Delegates



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Methods

- Survey developed in cooperation with Vence Bonham and Greg Feero
- Replicated existing categories of data where able (i.e. specialty, setting)
- Took approximately 3 minutes to complete
- Administered to AAPA's House of Delegates on the last day of a three day meeting
- Approximately 250 surveys were distributed, 113 were returned
- Survey responses entered into a Filemaker database, exported to Excel for analysis
- Thanks to Murugu Manickam, MD for his analyses (and Cara McNellis for her data entry)

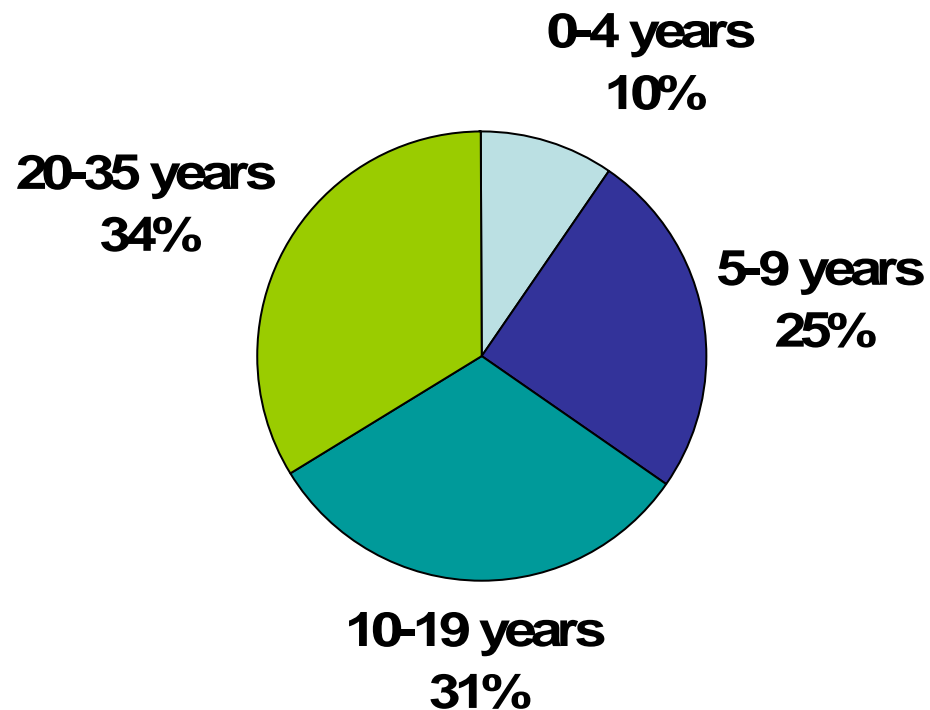
Demographics

Clinically practicing

Community characteristics

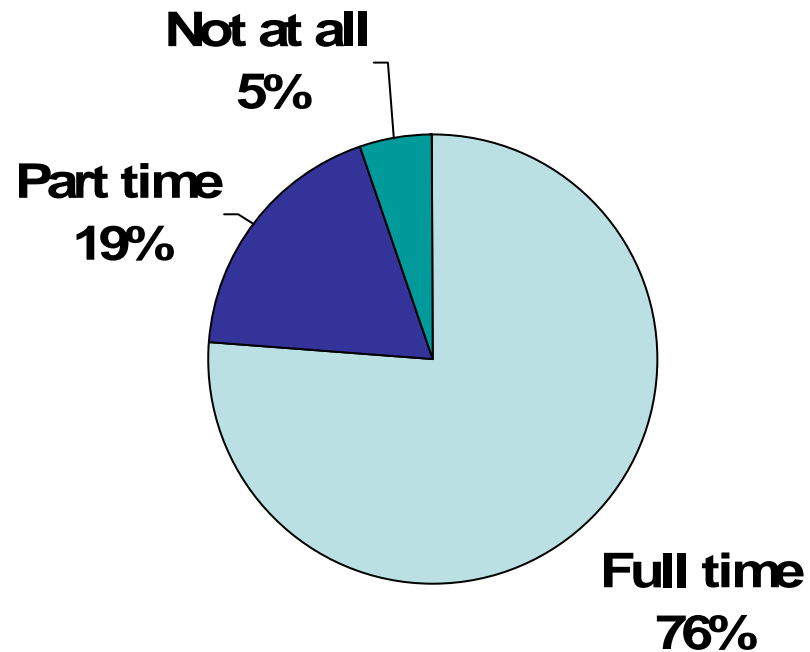
Practice setting and specialty

What year did you graduate from your PA program?



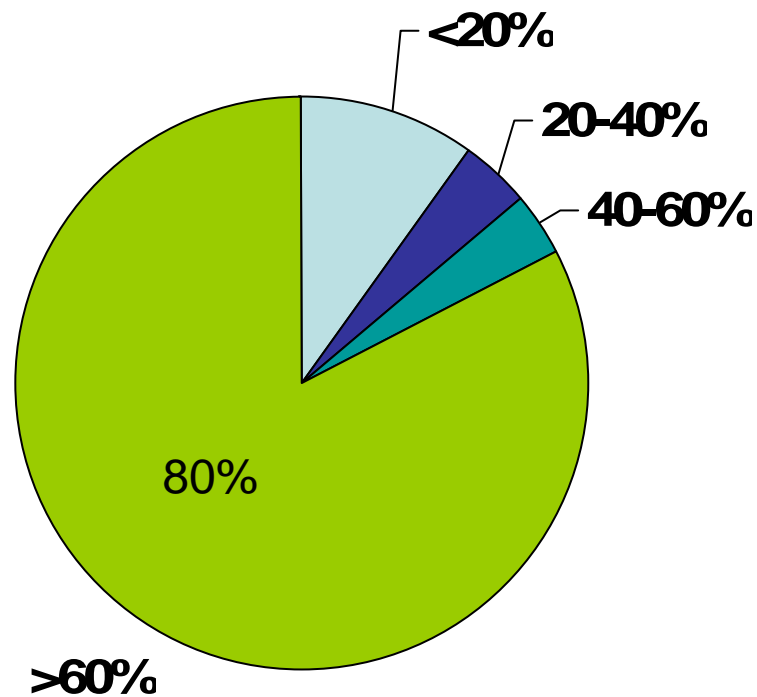
Mean = 16 years

Are you currently a clinically practicing PA?

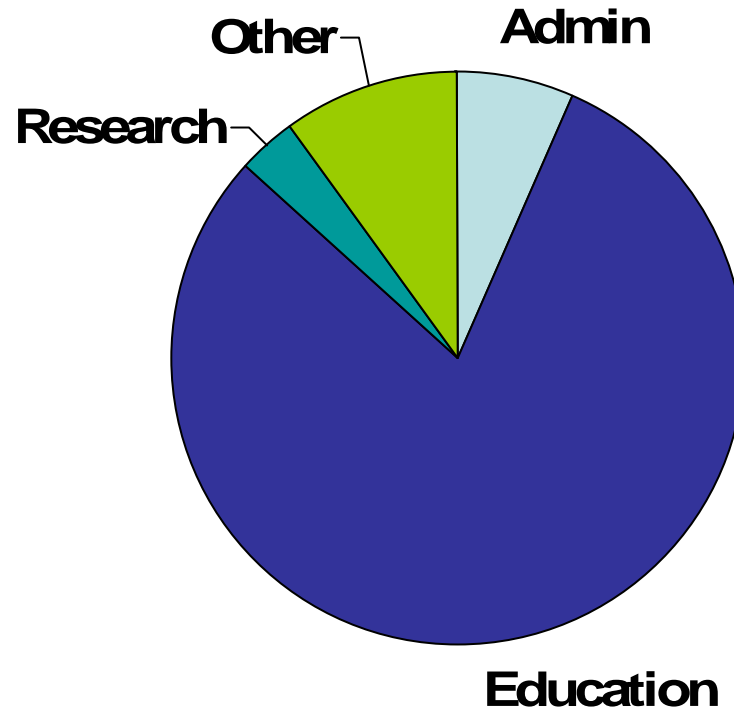


2006 AAPA Census – 90.8% in clinical practice

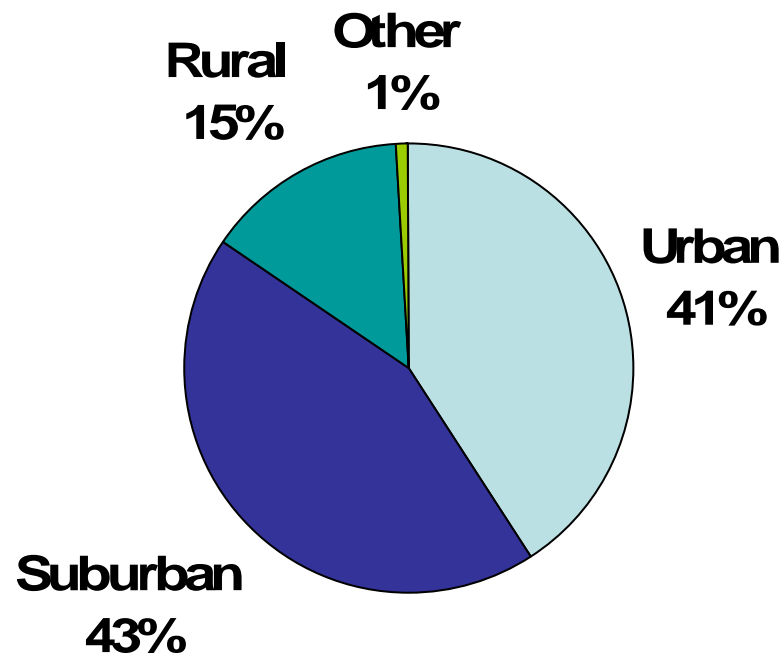
What proportion of your work-time is spent seeing patients?



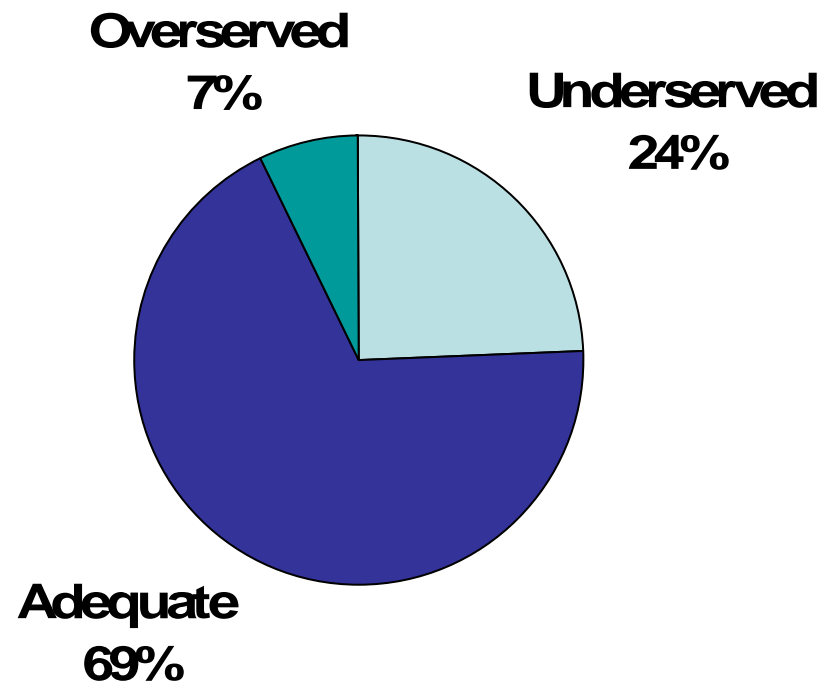
If you are not working in clinical practice...



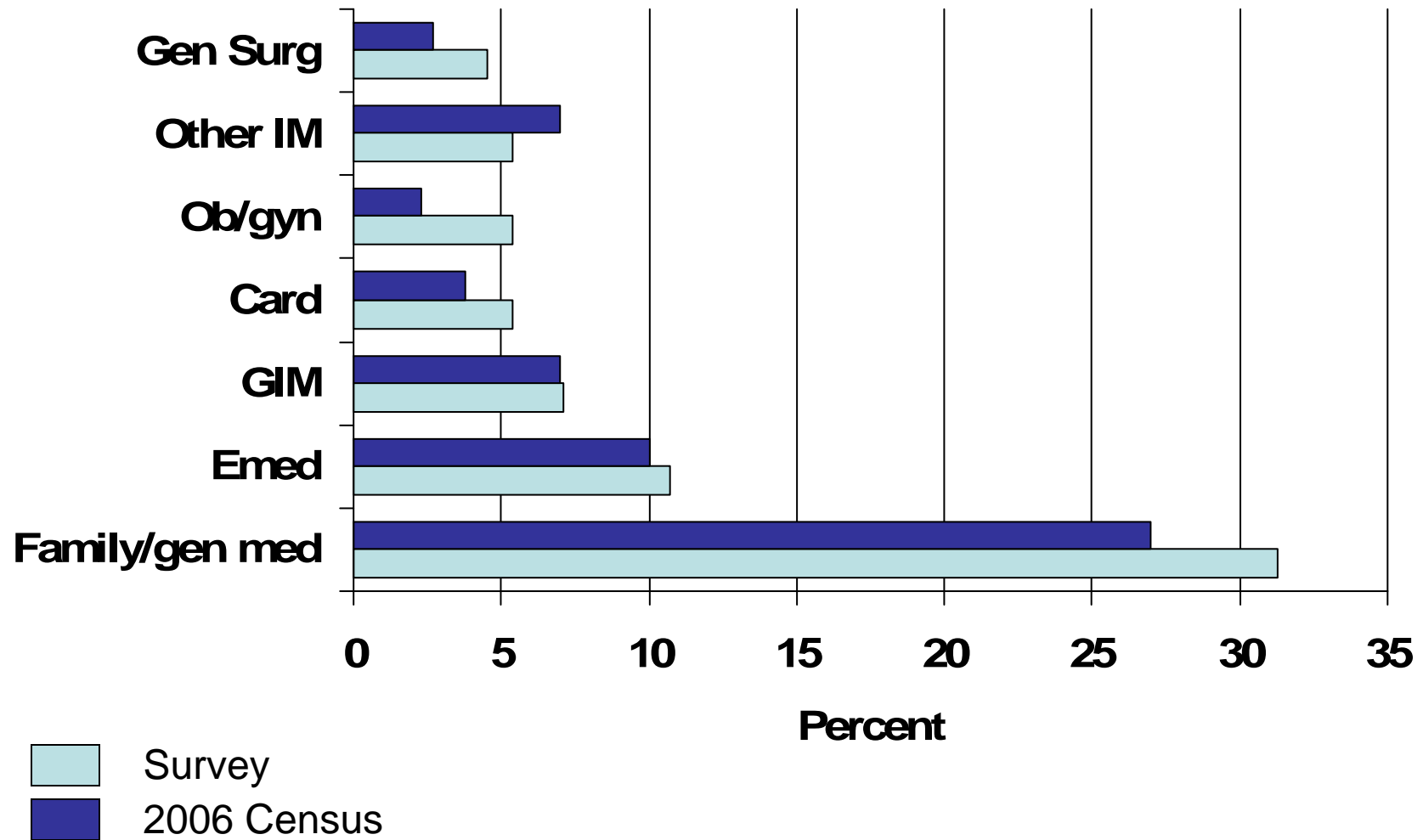
Which of the following best describes the community surrounding the area in which you work?



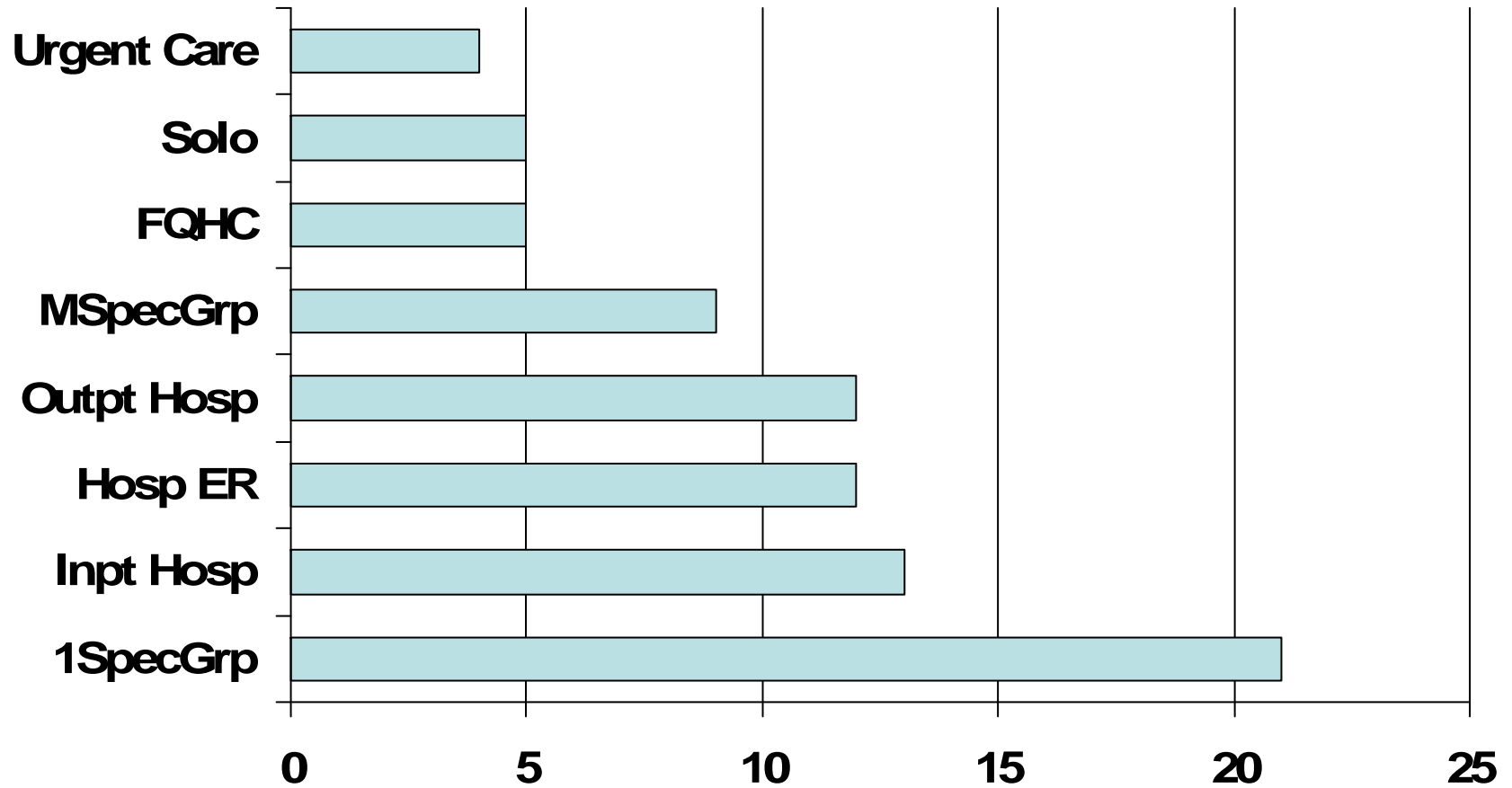
How would you describe the availability of general medical services in and around your practice location?



Current primary specialty



Primary setting



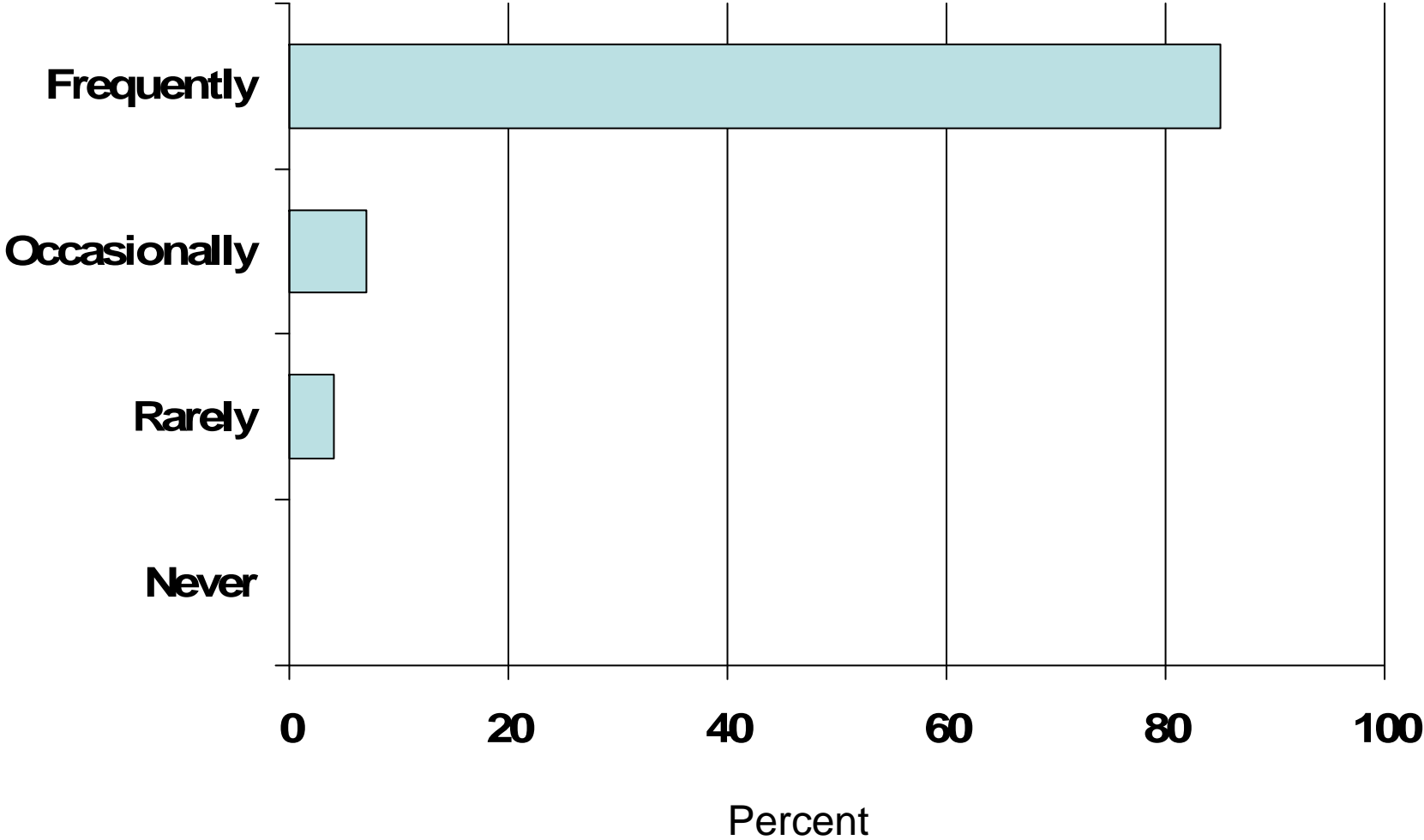
Use of genetics in practice

Family history

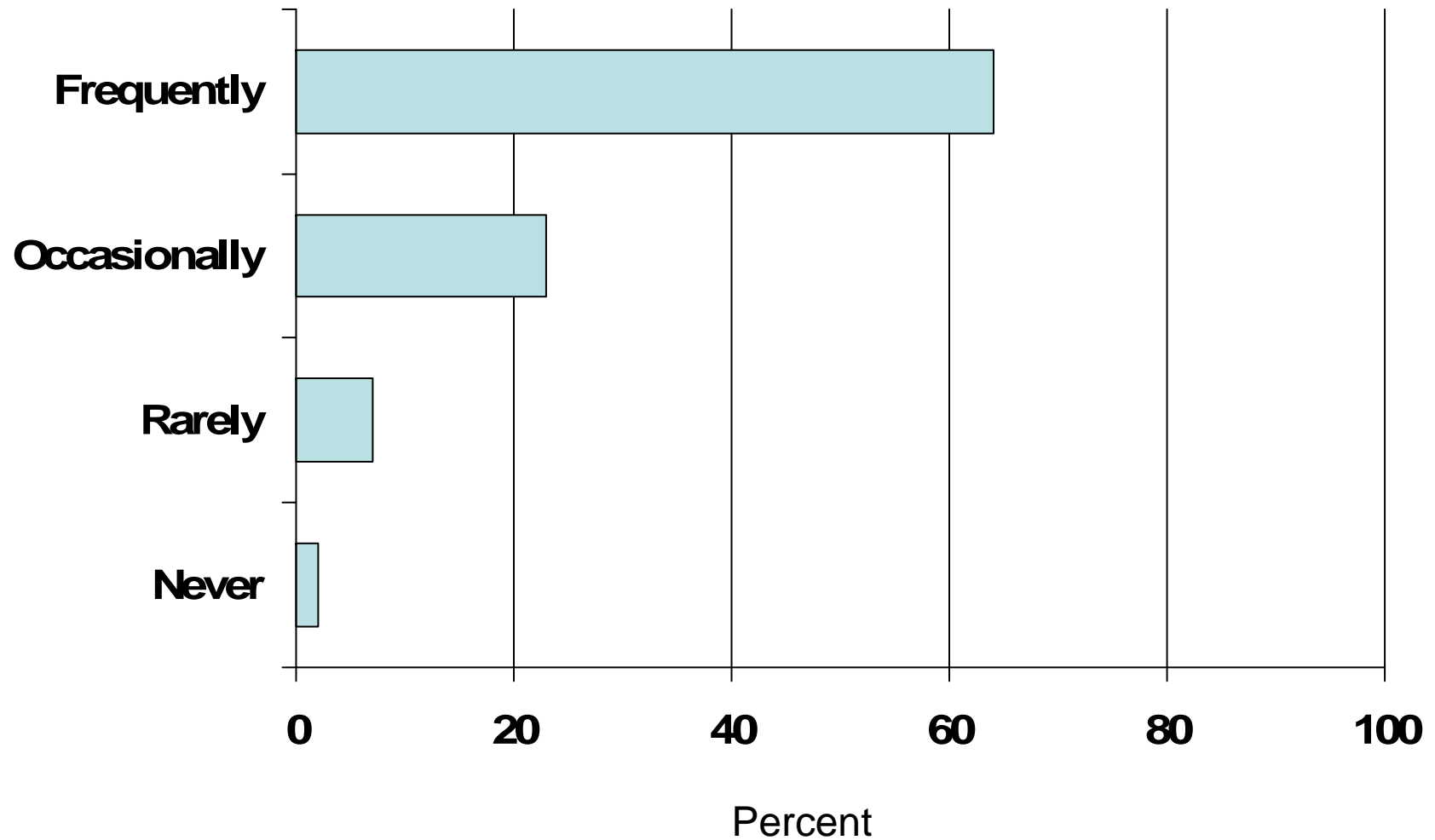
Genetic consults

Perception of physician knowledge

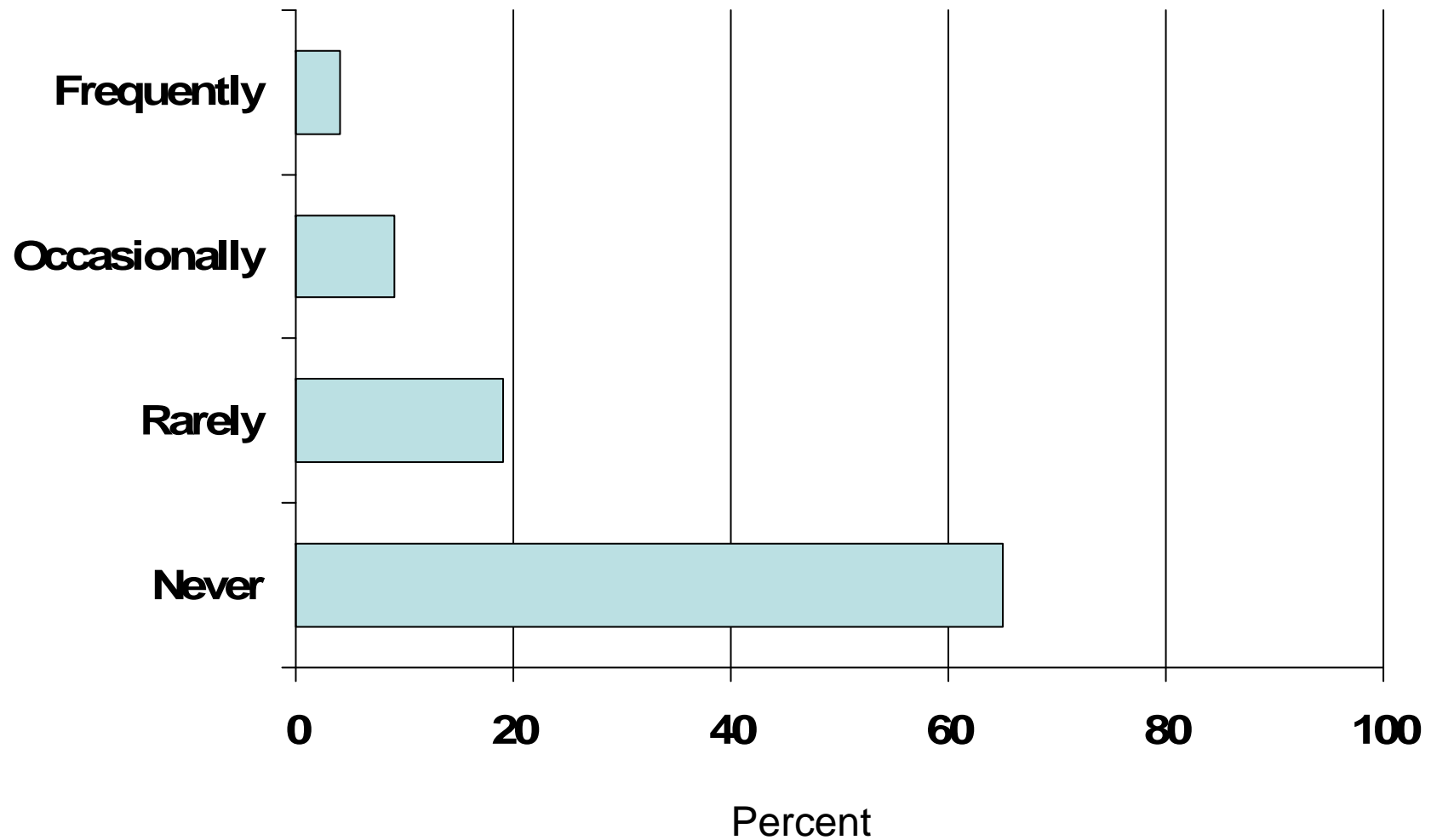
In the past 6 months approximately how frequently have you gathered family history information in the context of patient visits?



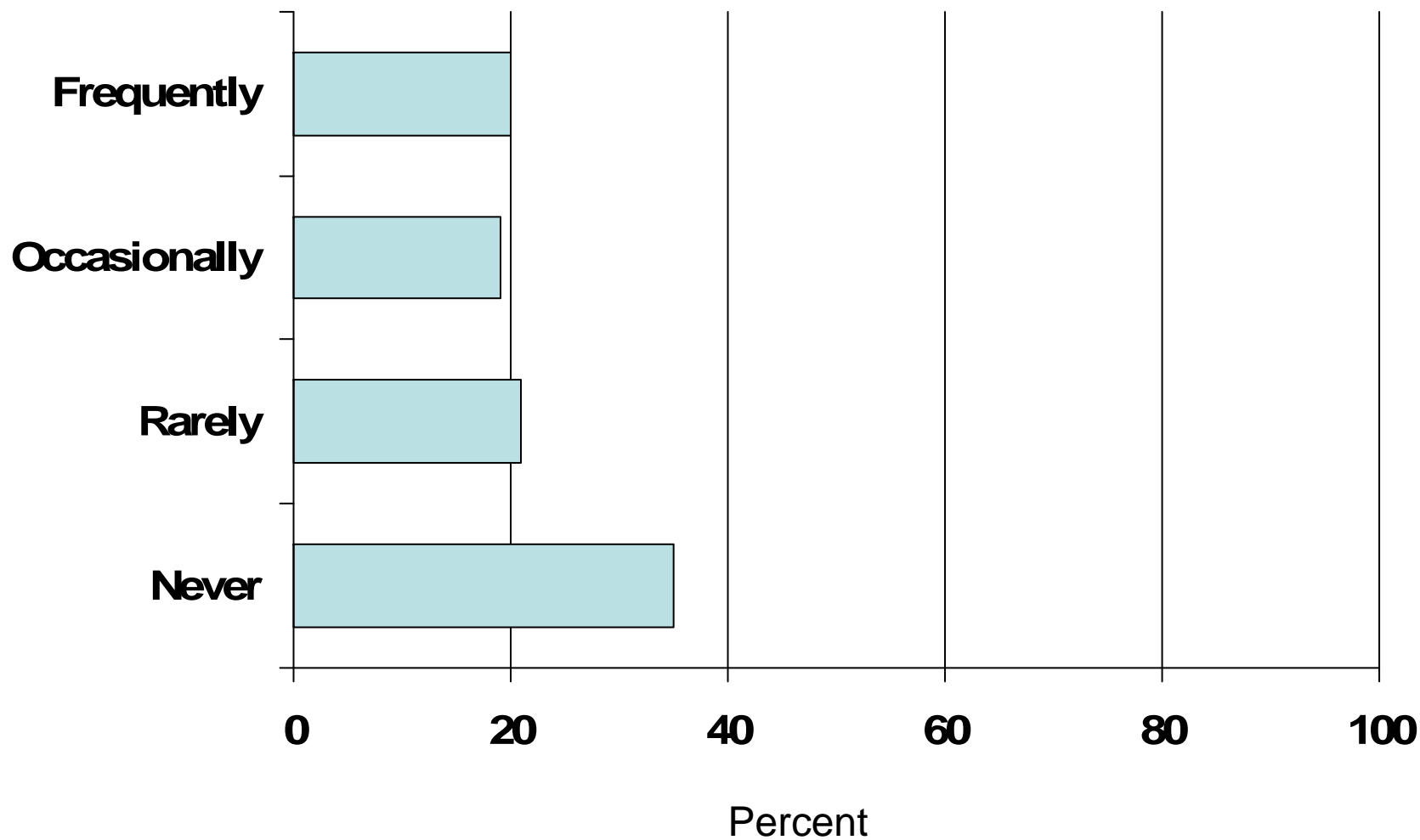
In the past 6 months, how often have you used family history information when making clinical decisions or recommendations for your patients?



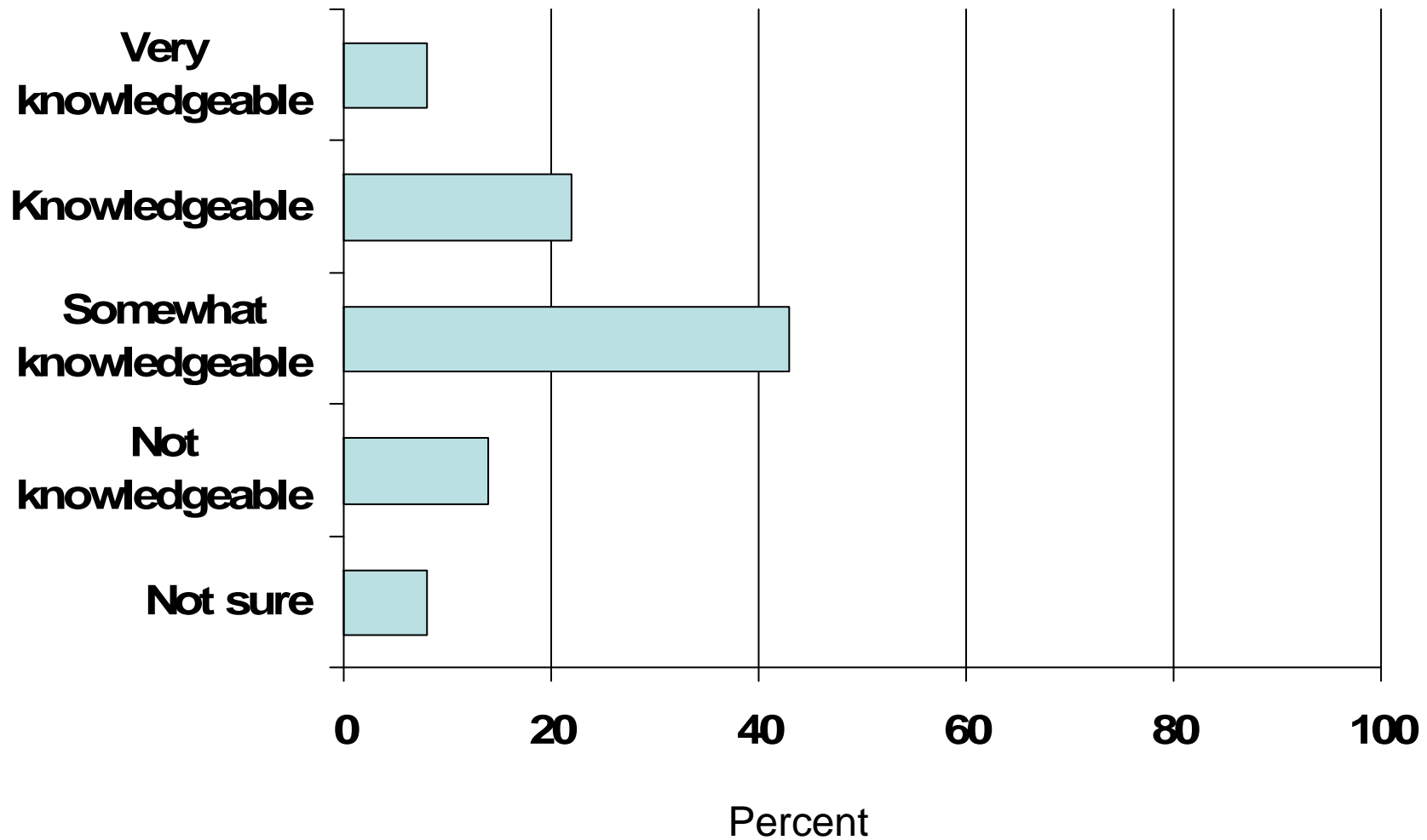
In the past 6 months, how often have you contacted a genetics specialist (a medical geneticist, genetics counselor, or advance practice nurse geneticist) for a formal or informal consultation or referral?



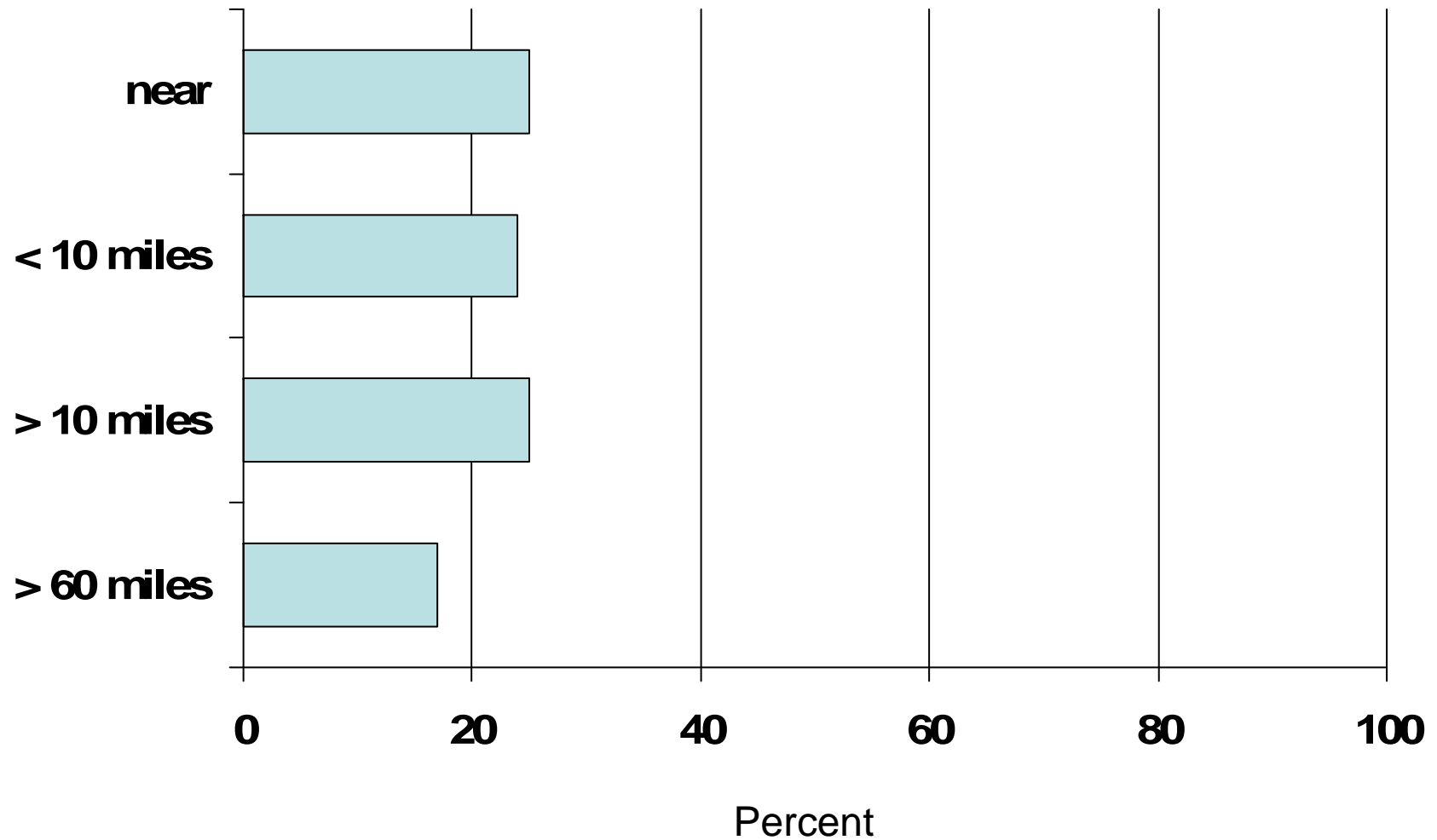
In the past 6 months, how often have you contacted a non-genetics specialist (e.g., a cardiologist, gastroenterologist, etc.) for a formal or informal consultation or referral on a genetics issue?



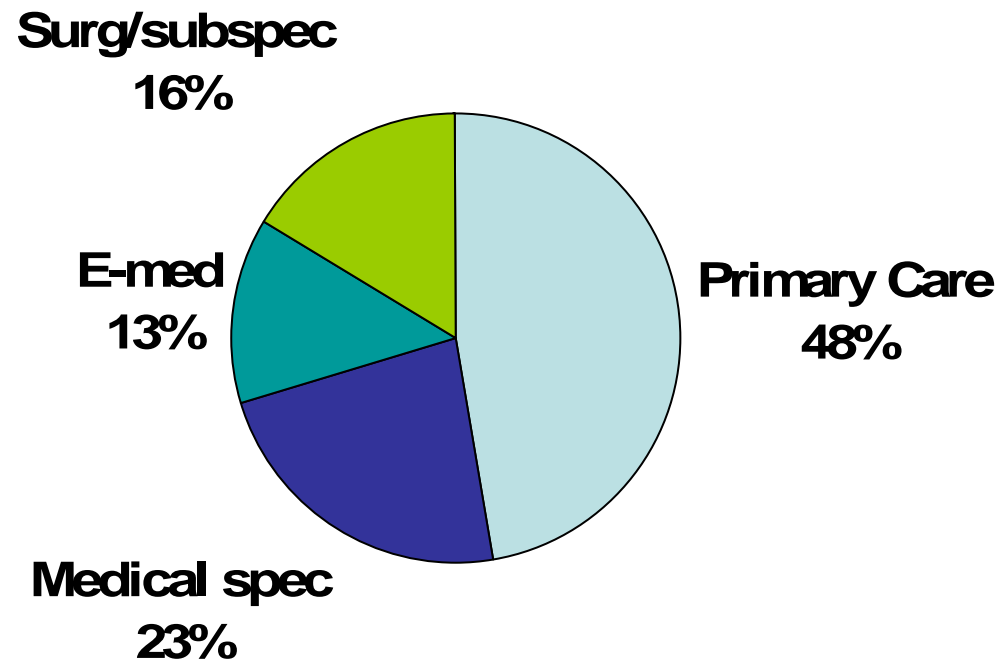
How knowledgeable do you feel that your supervising physician is regarding genetics (if you have more than one supervising physician, estimate the average knowledge)?



How accessible are genetic service providers in your clinical setting?



Sub-analyses by broad specialties



Sub-group family history

- Gathering family history - less frequently by surgical/subspecialties (76% v 90+%)
- Using family history - primary care (73%) and medical specialties (79%) higher than ER (57%) or surgery (35%)
- PAs out of school longer more frequently gathered and used family history
 - 0-4 years always the lowest (64% and 55%, respectively)

Sub-group referrals

- Referral to genetics expert – “Never” most common across the board
- Referral to non-geneticist – most “frequently” by ED PAs
- Two-thirds have never referred to a genetic specialist – those having a geneticist in the “same location” refer more often

Sub-group perceived supervising MD knowledge

- Attendings' knowledge – perceived highest knowledge in medical specialties (54%), lowest knowledge in emergency medicine (14%)

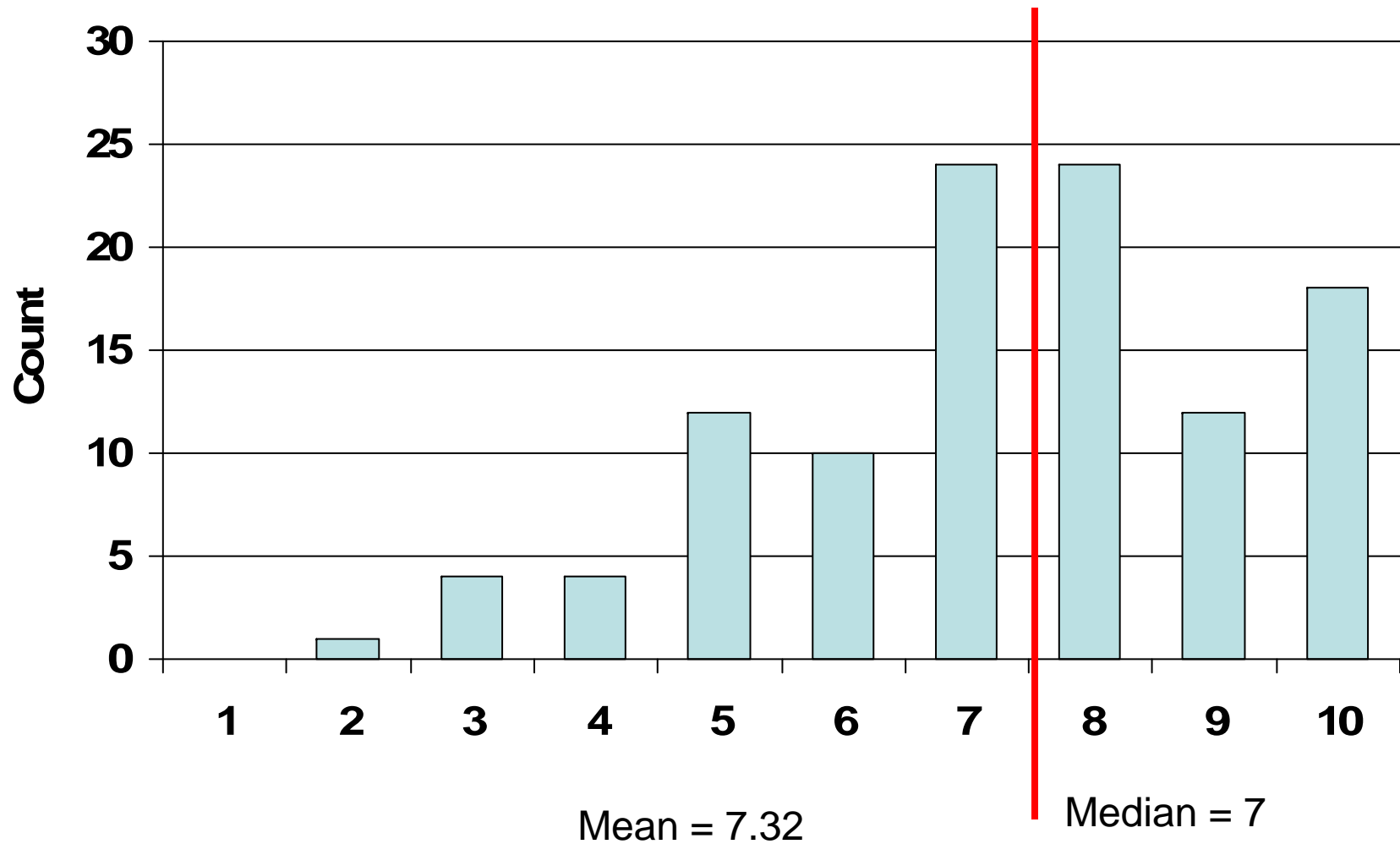
Learning about genetics

NCHPEG

CME

Family history tools

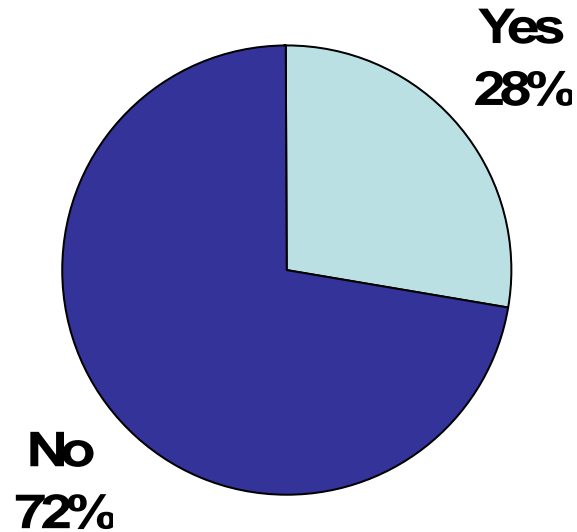
On a scale of 1-10 how important is genetics in the education of physician assistants?



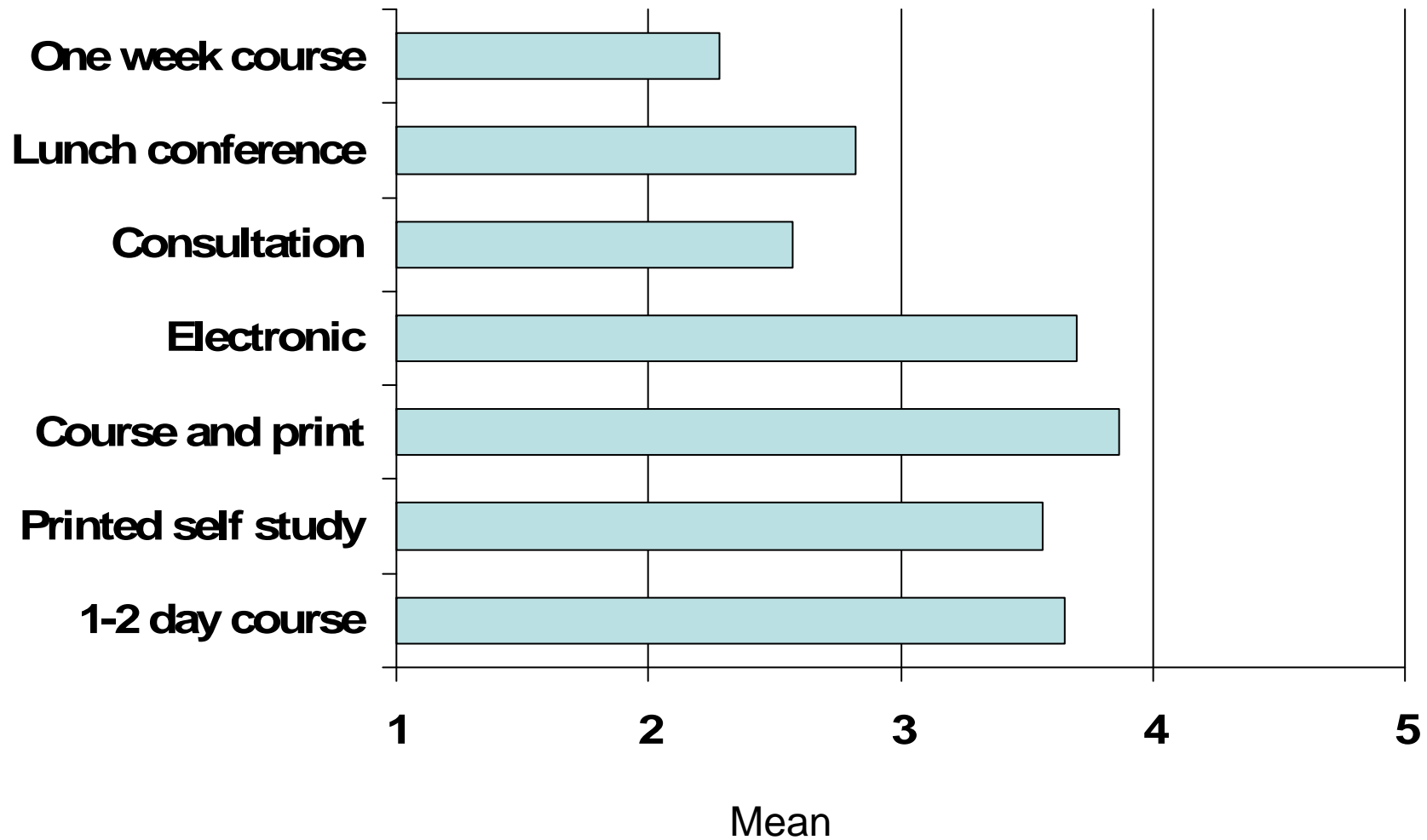
Importance related years since graduation

- 0-4 years 6.6
- 5-9 years 7.1
- 10-19 years 7.5
- 20-35 years 7.5

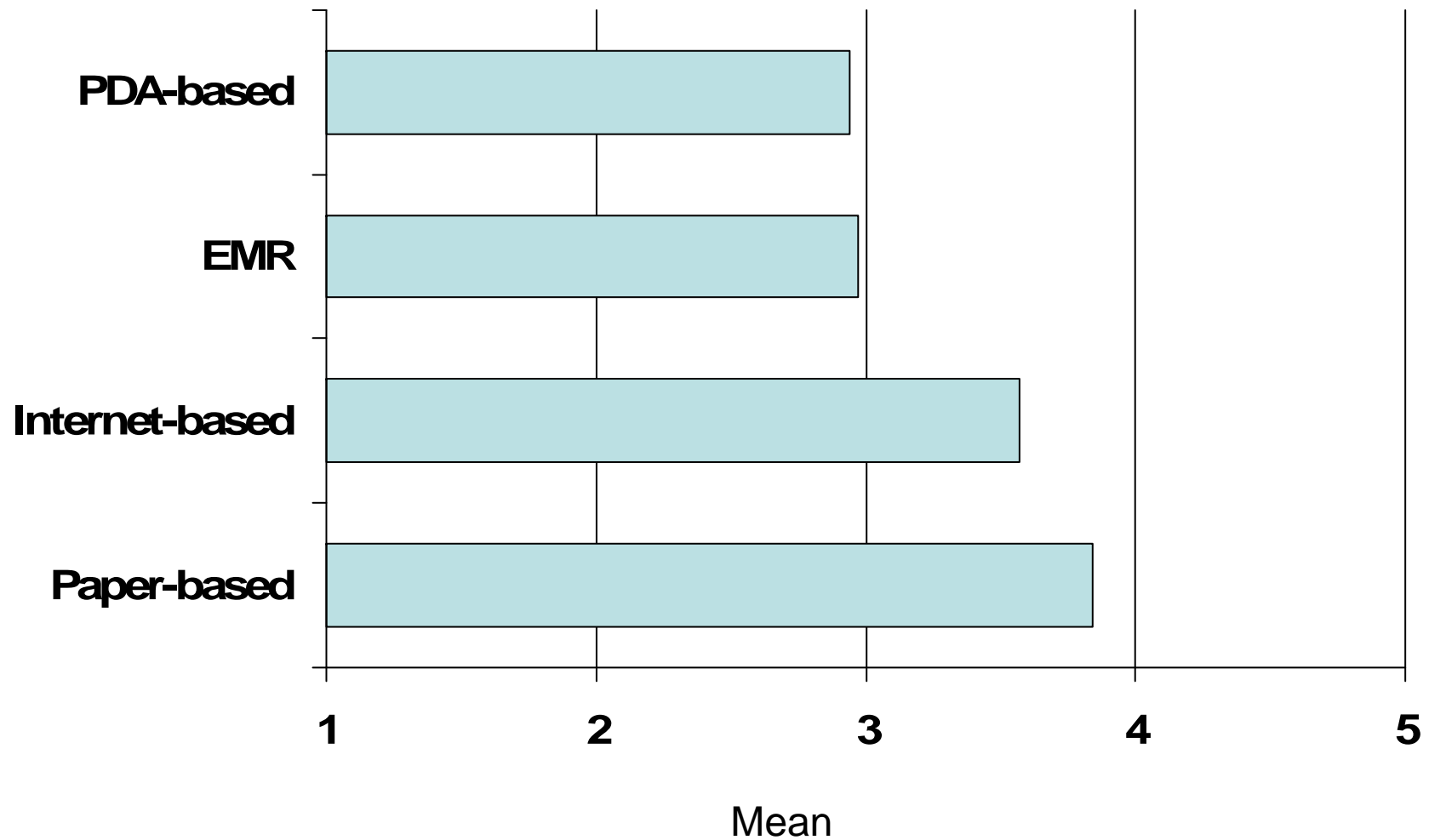
Have you heard of the National Coalition for Health Professional Education in Genetics?



On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 = not at all helpful and 5 = most helpful, please rate the usefulness of the following formats for learning about genetics.



On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 = not at all helpful and 5 = most helpful, please rate the usefulness of the following types of clinical tools to incorporate genetics into your clinical practice.



Summary

- This is a subset of a subset of a subset of a subset of PAs, but we learned...
- Most of these PAs gather and use family history frequently
- Few of these PAs refer patients to genetic specialists
- Specialty, geography and experience influence genetic knowledge

Summary

- Most of these PAs believe genetics is important
- Most are not aware of NCHPEG
- PAs are open to a variety of educational media as long as they are print, electronic or short in-person conferences
- Paper is still king for tools in practice

Final thoughts

- If we could pick a handful of questions on genetics for next year's conference survey what would you pick?

- Thanks again to Murugu!