



# **2023 Matriculating Optometry Student Survey Report**

**November 2023**

## **Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023**

### Member School Abbreviations

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| AZCOPT    | Arizona College of Optometry, Midwestern University   |
| CCO       | Chicago College of Optometry, Midwestern University   |
| IAUPR     | Inter American University of Puerto Rico, School of Optometry                               |
| ICO       | Illinois College of Optometry   |
| IUSO      | Indiana University, School of Optometry   |
| KYCO      | University of Pikeville, Kentucky College of Optometry                                      |
| MCO       | Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University                                    |
| MCPHS     | Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, School of Optometry                  |
| NECO      | New England College of Optometry  |
| NOVA      | Nova Southeastern University, College of Optometry  |
| NSUOCO    | Northeastern State University - Oklahoma College of Optometry                               |
| OSU       | The Ohio State University, College of Optometry   |
| PCO/Salus | Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University                                       |
| PUCO      | Pacific University, College of Optometry  |
| RMUCO     | Rocky Mountain University of Health Professions, College of Optometry                       |
| SCCOMBKU  | Southern California College of Optometry at Marshall B. Ketchum University                  |
| SCO       | Southern College of Optometry   |
| SUNY      | State University of New York, College of Optometry  |
| UABSO     | University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Optometry                                    |
| UCB       | University of California, Berkeley, Herbert Wertheim School of Optometry and Vision Science |
| UHCO      | University of Houston, College of Optometry   |
| UIWRSO    | University of the Incarnate Word, Rosenberg School of Optometry                             |
| UMSL      | University of Missouri at St. Louis, College of Optometry                                   |
| WUCO      | Western University of Health Sciences, College of Optometry                                 |

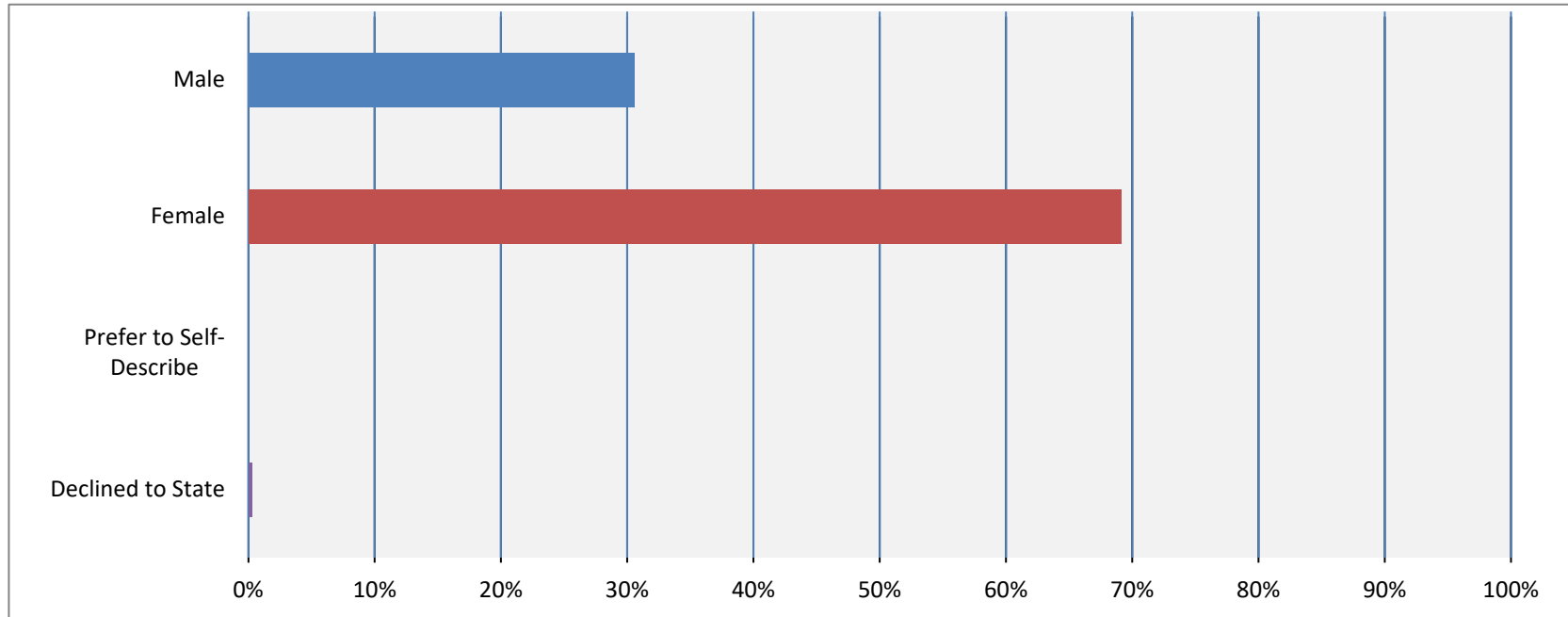
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

## Q1 Gender

Answered: 729

Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices          | 2023       |        | 2022   |
|-------------------------|------------|--------|--------|
| Male                    | 223        | 30.59% | 30.66% |
| Female                  | 504        | 69.14% | 68.80% |
| Prefer to Self-Describe | 0          | 0.00%  | 0.22%  |
| Decline to State        | 2          | 0.27%  | 0.33%  |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>729</b> |        |        |

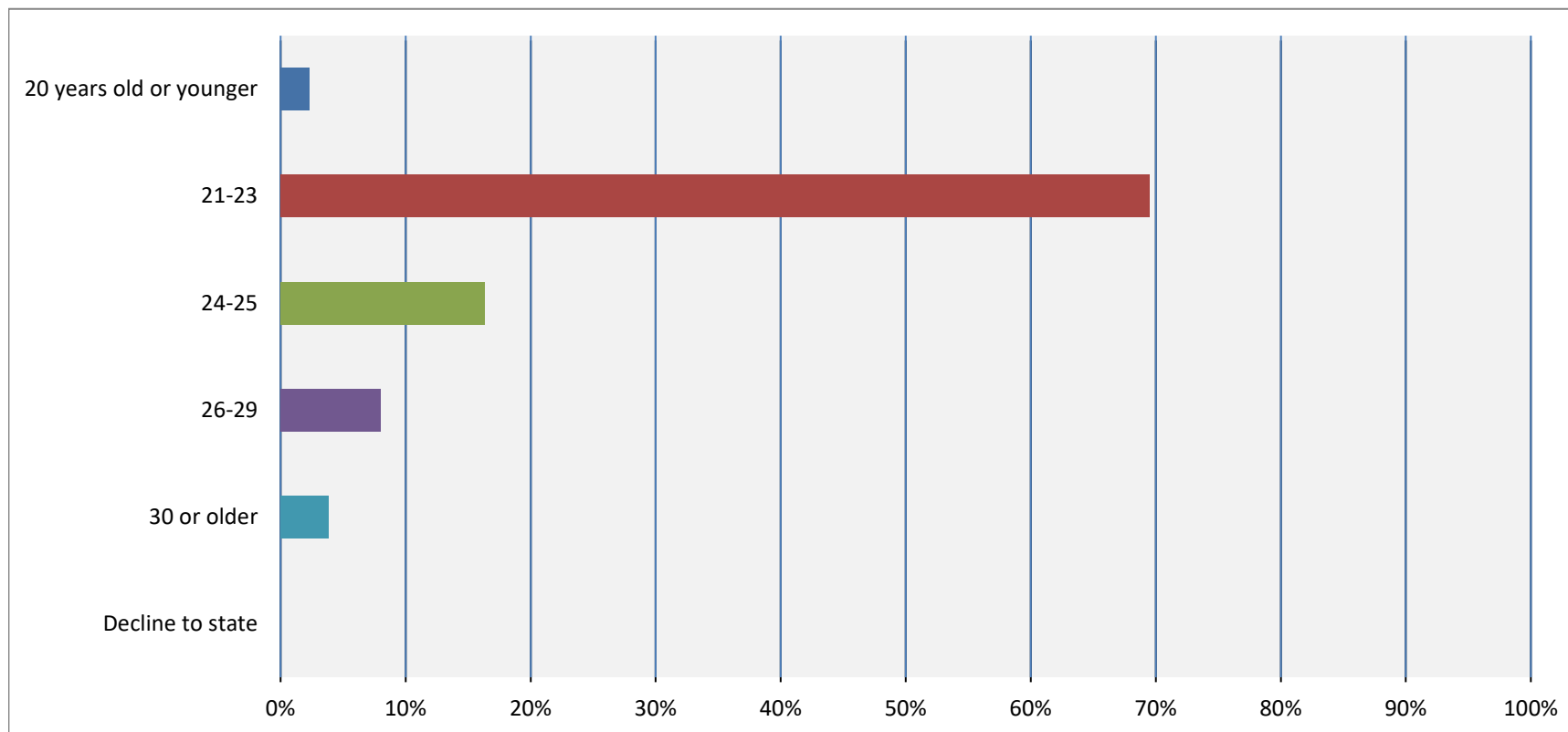
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

## Q2 Age

Answered: 728

Skipped: 1



| Answer Choices          | 2023       |        | 2022   |
|-------------------------|------------|--------|--------|
| 20 years old or younger | 17         | 2.34%  | 1.64%  |
| 21-23                   | 506        | 69.51% | 66.74% |
| 24-25                   | 119        | 16.35% | 17.12% |
| 26-29                   | 58         | 7.97%  | 10.14% |
| 30 or older             | 28         | 3.85%  | 4.14%  |
| Decline to state        | 0          | 0.00%  | 0.22%  |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>728</b> |        |        |

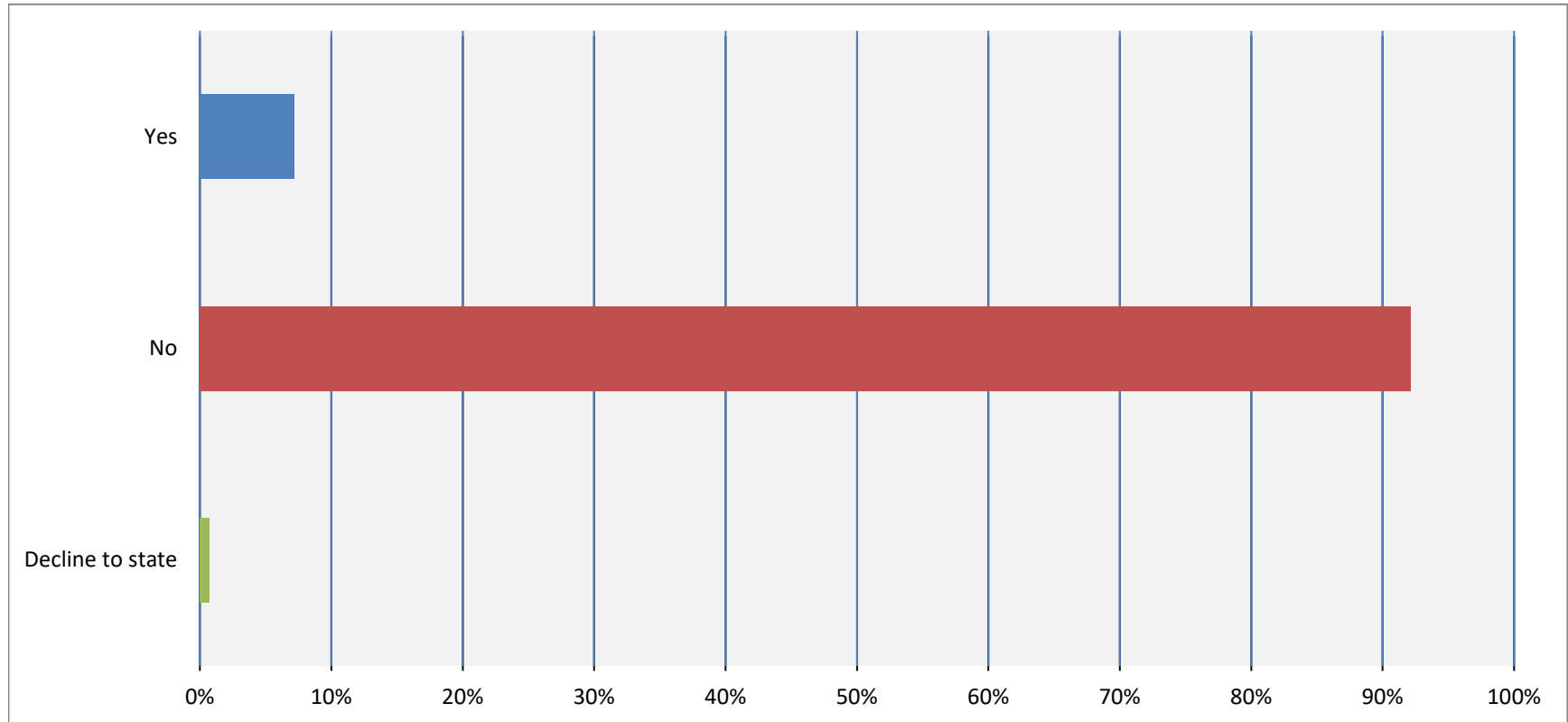
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

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## Q3 Are you Hispanic or Latino?

Answered: 726

Skipped: 3



| Answer Choices   | 2023 |        | 2022   |
|------------------|------|--------|--------|
| Yes              | 52   | 7.16%  | 8.25%  |
| No               | 669  | 92.15% | 91.21% |
| Decline to state | 5    | 0.69%  | 0.54%  |
| Total            | 726  |        |        |

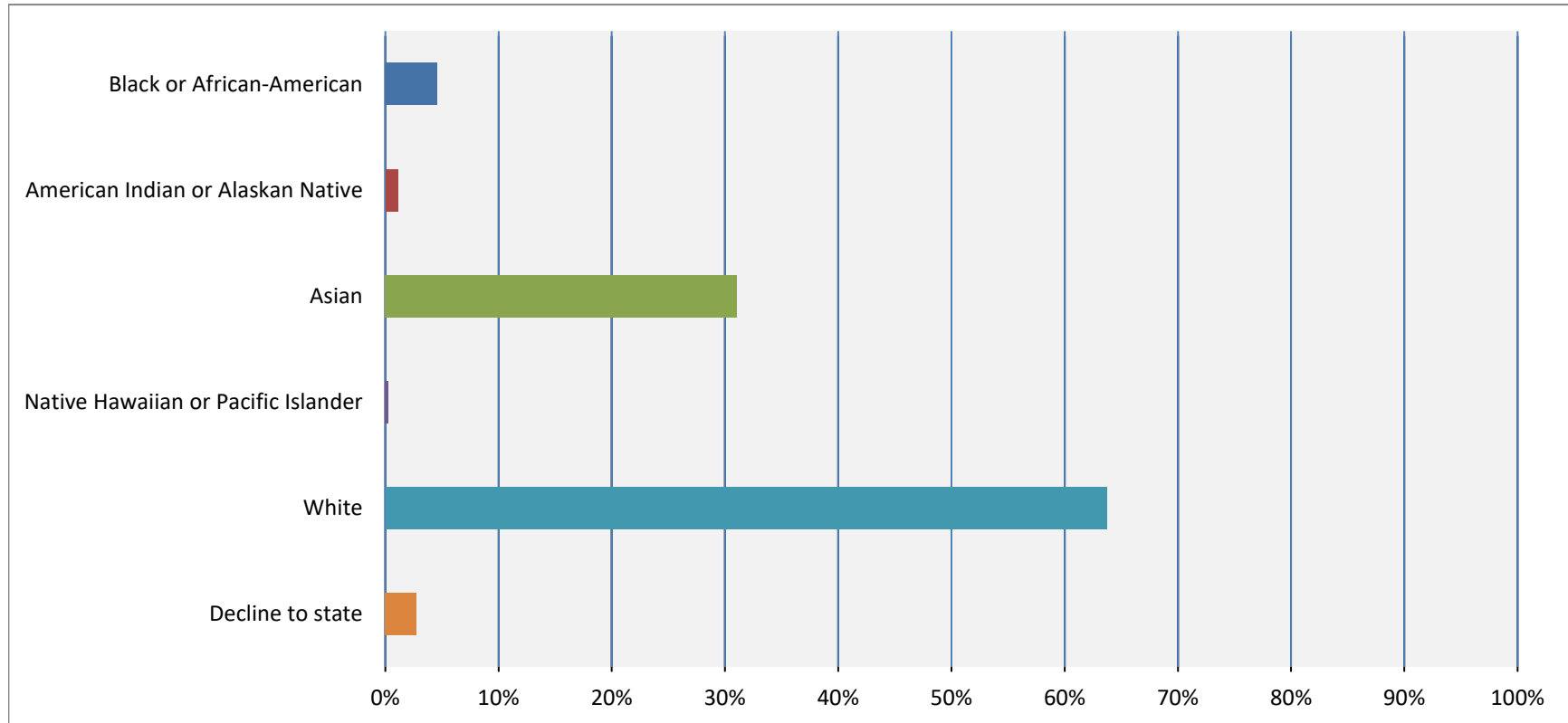
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

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## Q4 Which of the following best describes your race? (Please mark one or more races.)

Answered: 722

Skipped: 7



| Answer Choices                      | 2023 |   | 2022   |
|-------------------------------------|------|---|--------|
| Black or African-American           | 33   | 4.57%                                       | 6.02%  |
| American Indian or Alaskan Native   | 8    | 1.11%                                       | 1.75%  |
| Asian                               | 224  | 31.02%                                      | 31.62% |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 2    | 0.28%                                       | 0.66%  |
| White                               | 460  | 63.71%                                      | 62.91% |
| Decline to state                    | 20   | 2.77%                                       | 1.97%  |
| Total Respondents: 722              |      | (Respondents may choose more than one race) |        |

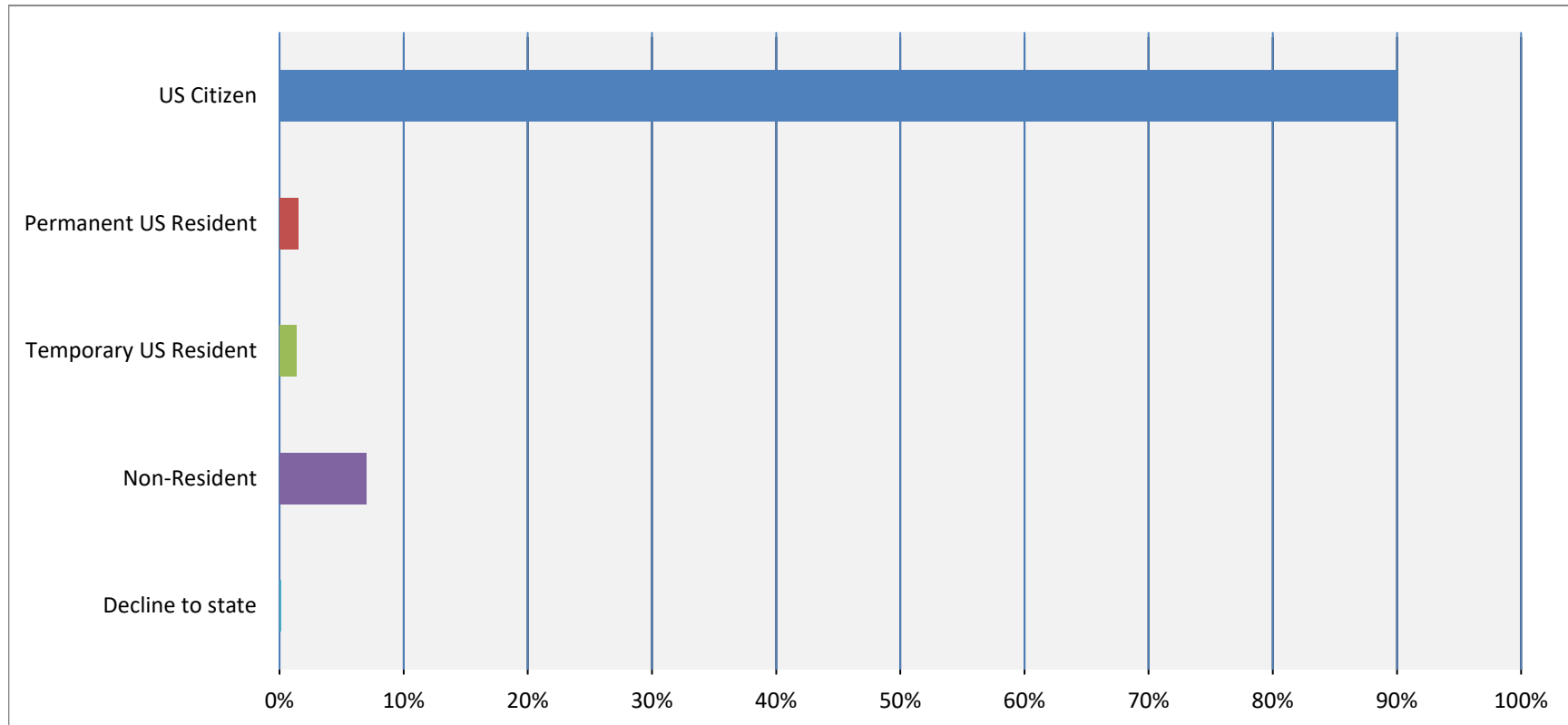
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

## Q5 What is your US citizenship status?

Answered: 729

Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices        | 2023 |        | 2022   |
|-----------------------|------|--------|--------|
| US Citizen            | 656  | 89.99% | 91.66% |
| Permanent US Resident | 11   | 1.51%  | 1.84%  |
| Temporary US Resident | 10   | 1.37%  | 0.54%  |
| Non-Resident          | 51   | 7.00%  | 5.85%  |
| Decline to state      | 1    | 0.14%  | 0.11%  |
| Total                 | 729  |        |        |

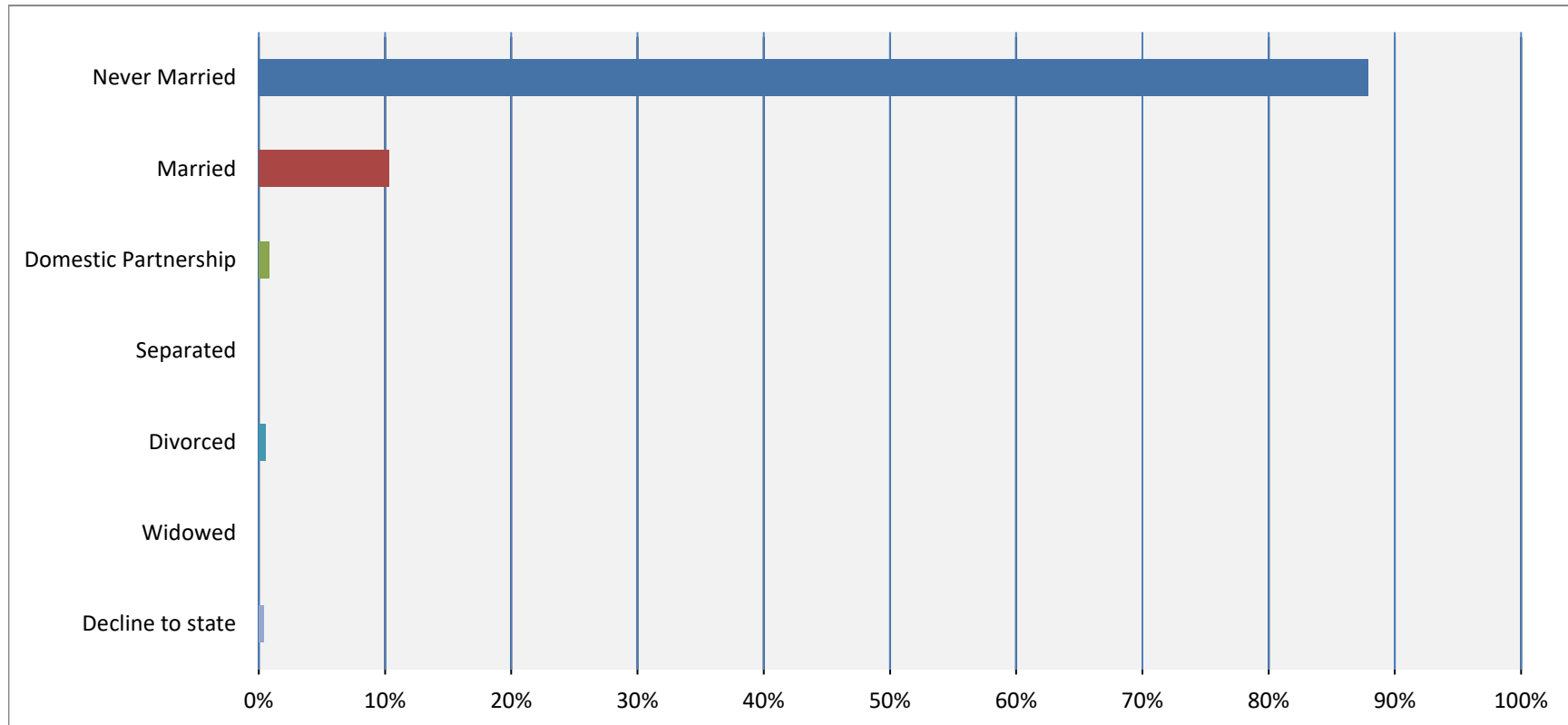
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## Q6 What is your marital status?

Answered: 725

Skipped: 4



| Answer Choices       | 2023 |        | 2022   |
|----------------------|------|--------|--------|
| Never Married        | 637  | 87.86% | 88.19% |
| Married              | 75   | 10.34% | 10.18% |
| Domestic Partnership | 6    | 0.83%  | 0.98%  |
| Separated            | 0    | 0.00%  | 0.11%  |
| Divorced             | 4    | 0.55%  | 0.11%  |
| Widowed              | 0    | 0.00%  | 0.00%  |
| Decline to state     | 3    | 0.41%  | 0.43%  |
| Total                | 725  |        |        |



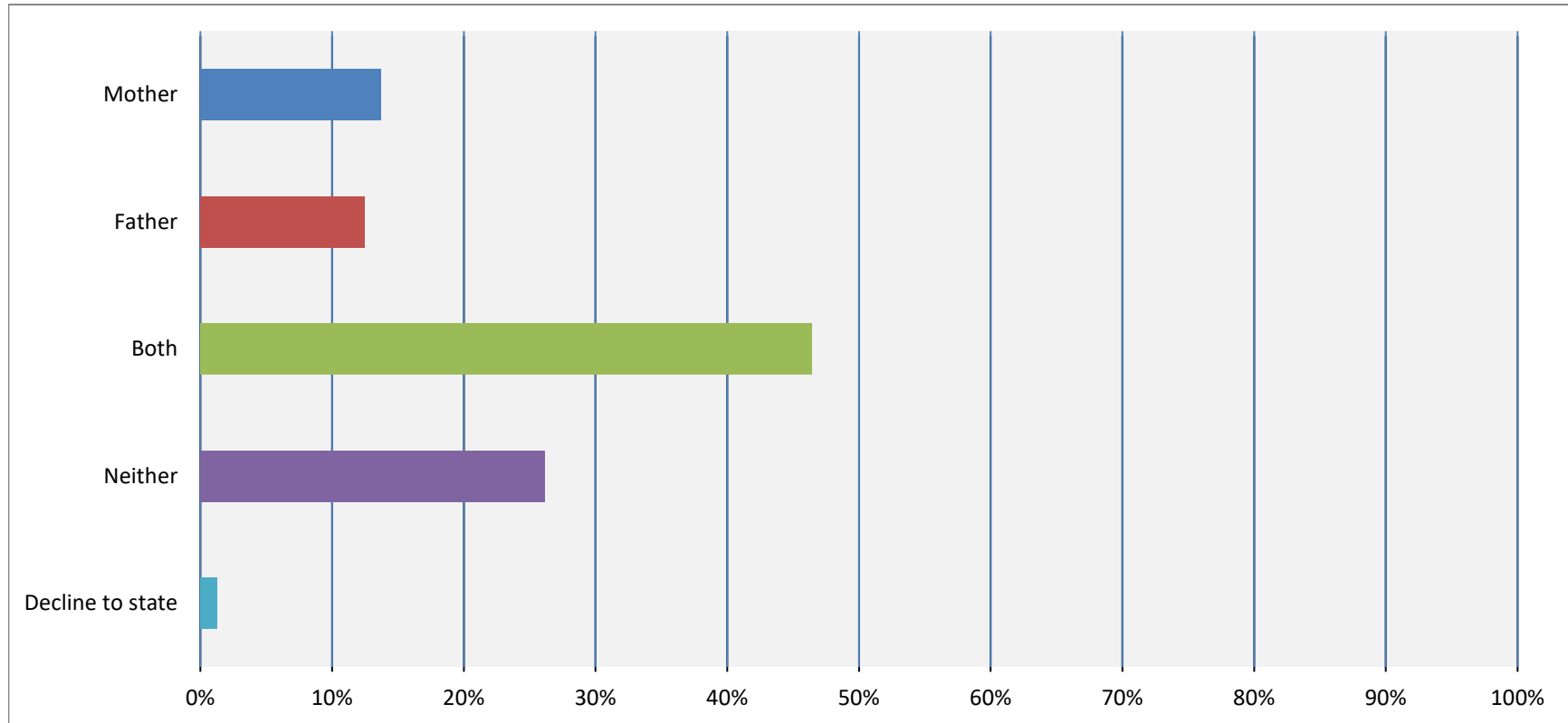
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## Q7 Which of your parents completed a 4-year degree?

Answered: 722

Skipped: 7



| Answer Choices   | 2023 |        | 2022   |
|------------------|------|--------|--------|
| Mother           | 99   | 13.71% | 13.36% |
| Father           | 90   | 12.47% | 10.64% |
| Both             | 335  | 46.40% | 45.71% |
| Neither          | 189  | 26.18% | 29.10% |
| Decline to state | 9    | 1.25%  | 1.19%  |
| Total            | 722  |        |        |

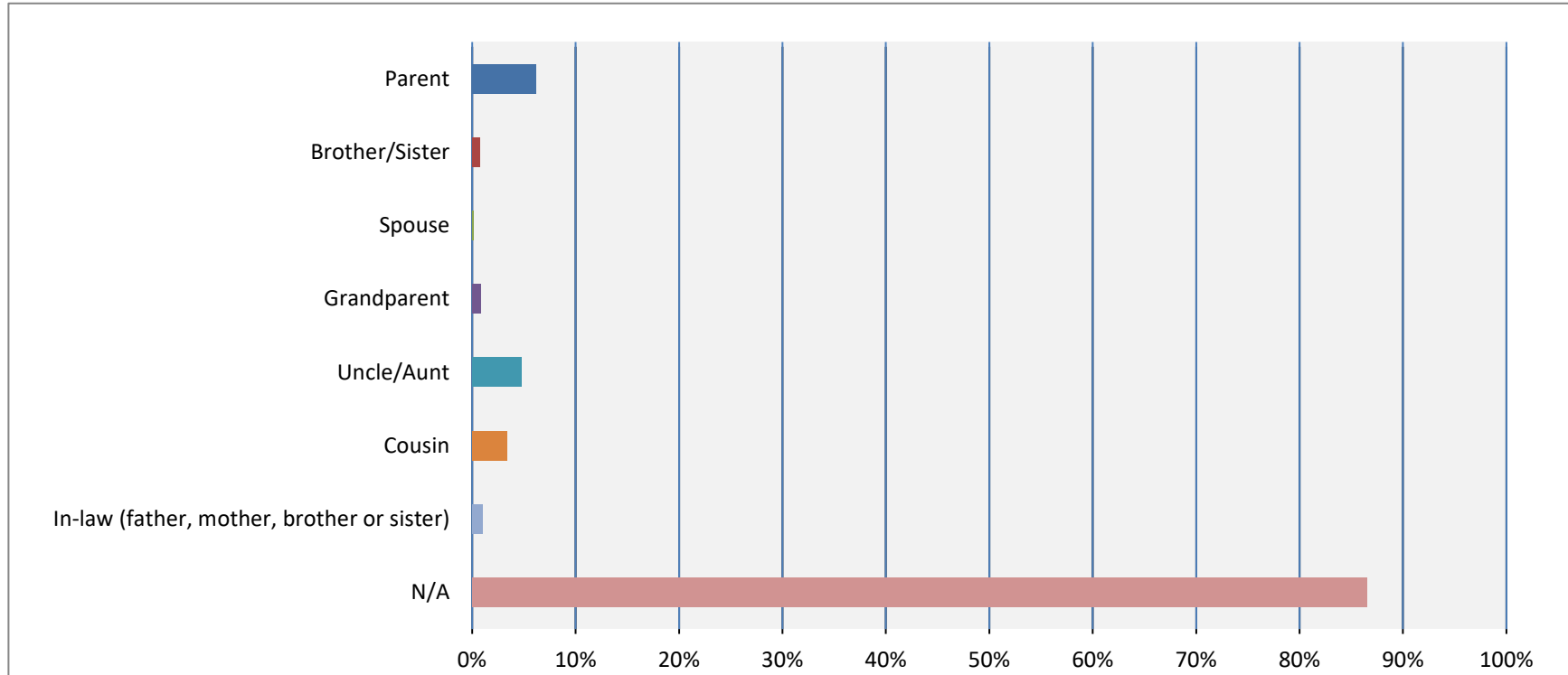
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

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## Q8 Do you have any relatives who are optometrists? (Check all that apply.)

Answered: 711

Skipped: 18



| Answer Choices                             | 2023  |        | 2022   |
|--|---|--------|--------|
| Parent                                     | 44  | 6.19%  | 4.58%  |
| Brother/Sister                             | 5   | 0.70%  | 1.68%  |
| Spouse                                     | 1   | 0.14%  | 0.11%  |
| Grandparent                                | 6   | 0.84%  | 1.12%  |
| Uncle/Aunt                                 | 34  | 4.78%  | 4.13%  |
| Cousin                                     | 24  | 3.38%  | 3.35%  |
| In-law (father, mother, brother or sister) | 7   | 0.98%  | 0.78%  |
| N/A  | 615   | 86.50% | 86.70% |
| <b>Total Respondents: 711</b>              | (Respondents may choose more than one relative) |        |        |

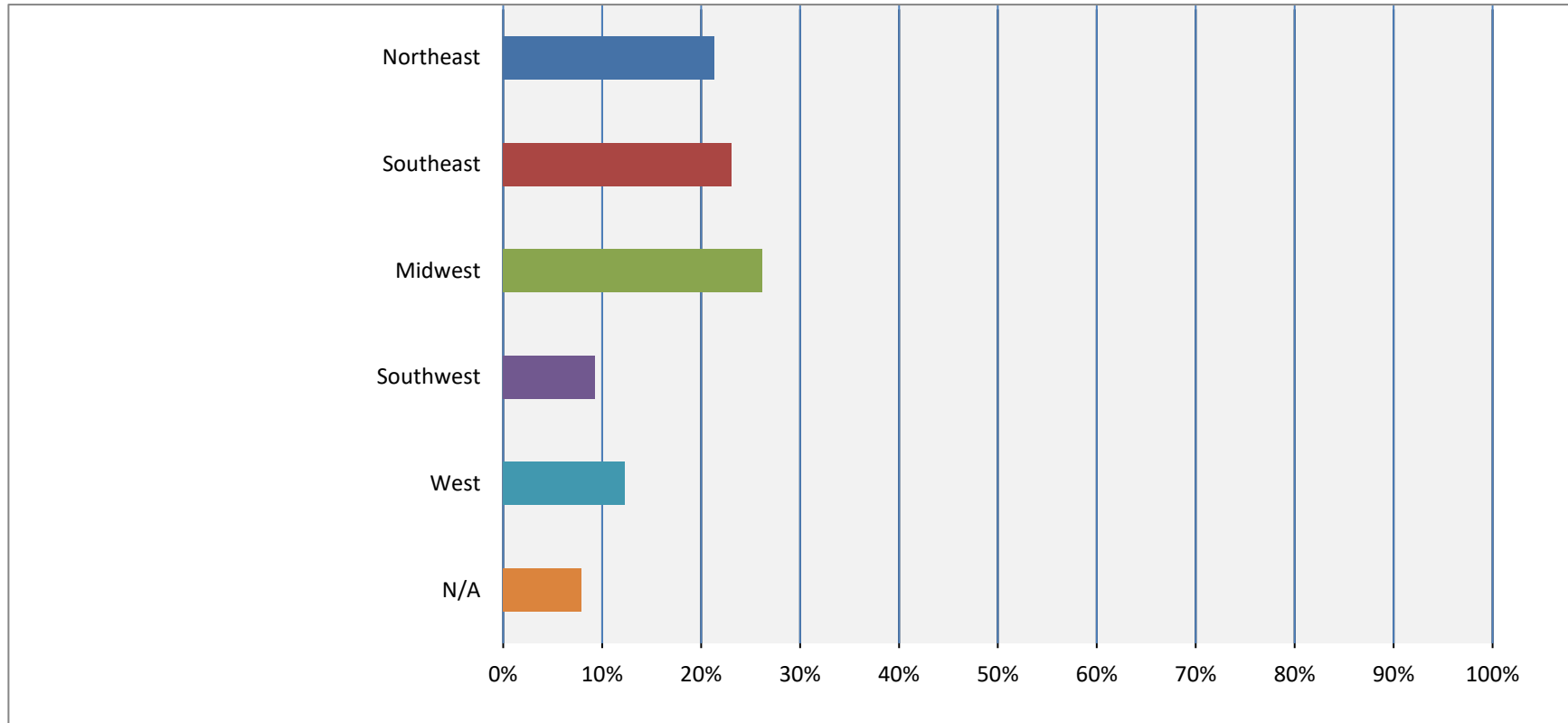
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

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## Q9 Which region of the United States do you consider to be your permanent residence?

Answered: 723

Skipped: 6



| Answer Choices | 2023 |        | 2022   |
|----------------|------|--------|--------|
| Northeast      | 154  | 21.30% | 18.13% |
| Southeast      | 167  | 23.10% | 19.65% |
| Midwest        | 189  | 26.14% | 30.73% |
| Southwest      | 67   | 9.27%  | 9.66%  |
| West           | 89   | 12.31% | 15.42% |
| N/A            | 57   | 7.88%  | 6.41%  |
| Total          | 723  |        |        |

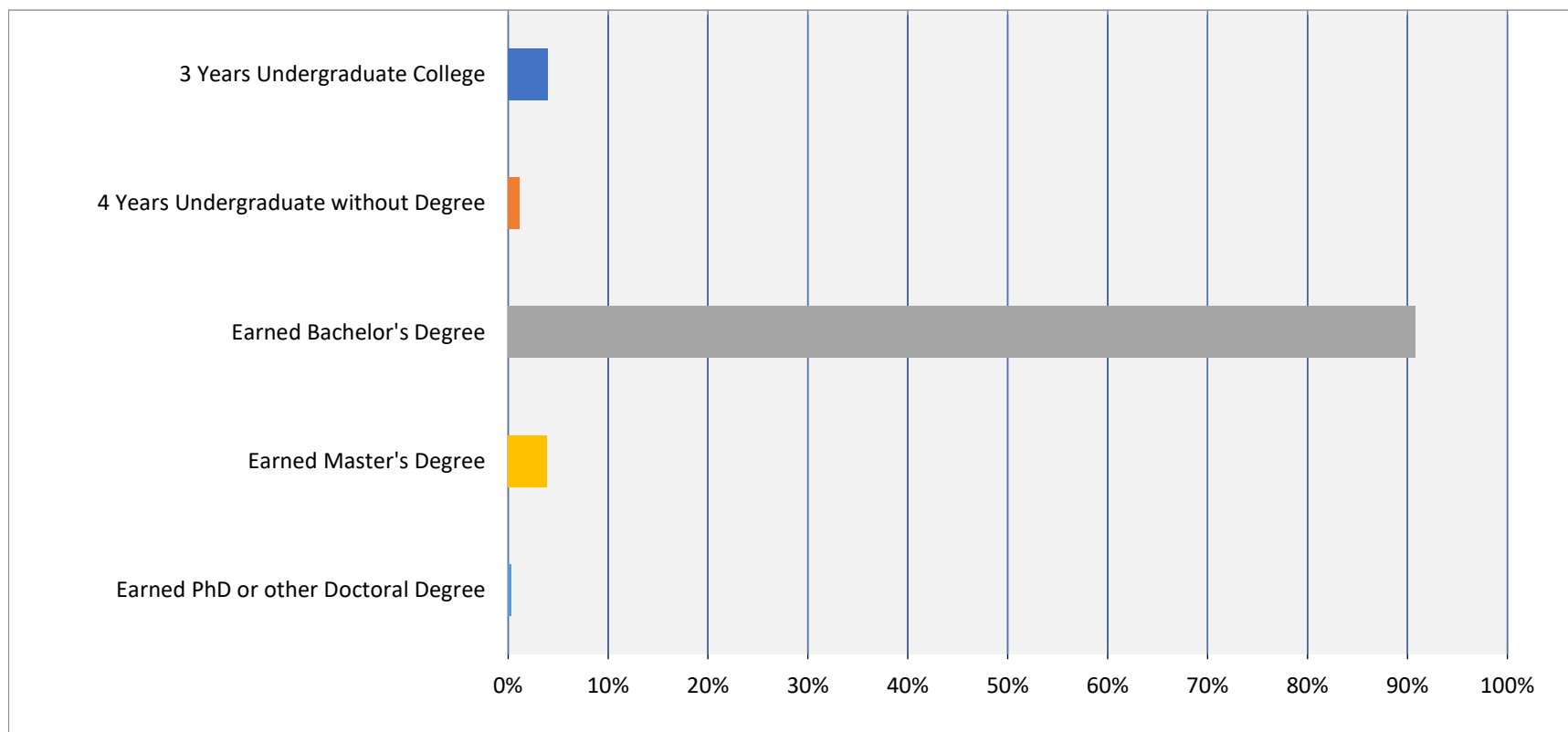
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

## Q10 What is your highest level of education?

Answered: 728

Skipped: 1



| Answer Choices                       | 2023       |        | 2022   |
|--------------------------------------|------------|--------|--------|
| 3 Years Undergraduate College        | 29         | 3.98%  | 4.12%  |
| 4 Years Undergraduate without Degree | 8          | 1.10%  | 1.41%  |
| Earned Bachelor's Degree             | 661        | 90.80% | 91.12% |
| Earned Master's Degree               | 28         | 3.85%  | 3.14%  |
| Earned PhD or other Doctoral Degree  | 2          | 0.27%  | 0.22%  |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>728</b> |        |        |

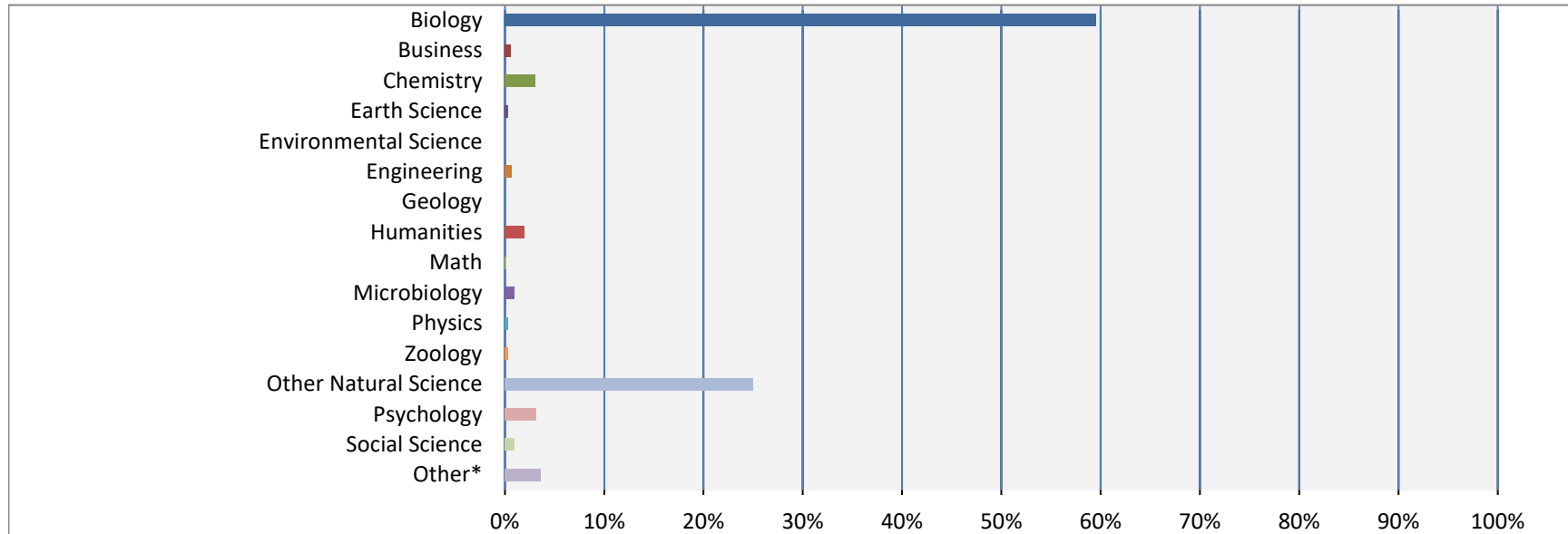
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

## Q11 What was your college major?

Answered: 727

Skipped: 2



| Answer Choices            | 2023       |  | 2022       |
|---------------------------|------------|--|------------|
| Biology                   | 433        | 59.56%   | 56.62%     |
| Business                  | 4          | 0.55%  | 1.41%      |
| Chemistry                 | 22         | 3.03%  | 4.56%      |
| Earth Science             | 2          | 0.28%  | new option |
| Environmental Science     | 0          | 0.00%  | new option |
| Engineering               | 5          | 0.69%  | 0.76%      |
| Geology                   | 1          | 0.14%  | new option |
| Humanities                | 14         | 1.93%  | 1.95%      |
| Math                      | 1          | 0.14%  | 0.43%      |
| Microbiology              | 7          | 0.96%  | new option |
| Physics                   | 2          | 0.28%  | new option |
| Zoology                   | 2          | 0.28%  | new option |
| Other Natural Science     | 182        | 25.03%   | 25.27%     |
| Psychology                | 23         | 3.16%  | 4.34%      |
| Social Science            | 7          | 0.96%  | 3.15%      |
| Other*                    | 26         | 3.58%  | 1.63%      |
| <b>Total Respondents:</b> | <b>727</b> | (Some respondents provided more than one major.) |            |

\*Other majors included Public Health (15), Allied Health (4), Technology Systems (2), Interdisciplinary Studies (2), African-American Studies (1), Judaic Studies (1), General Studies (1)

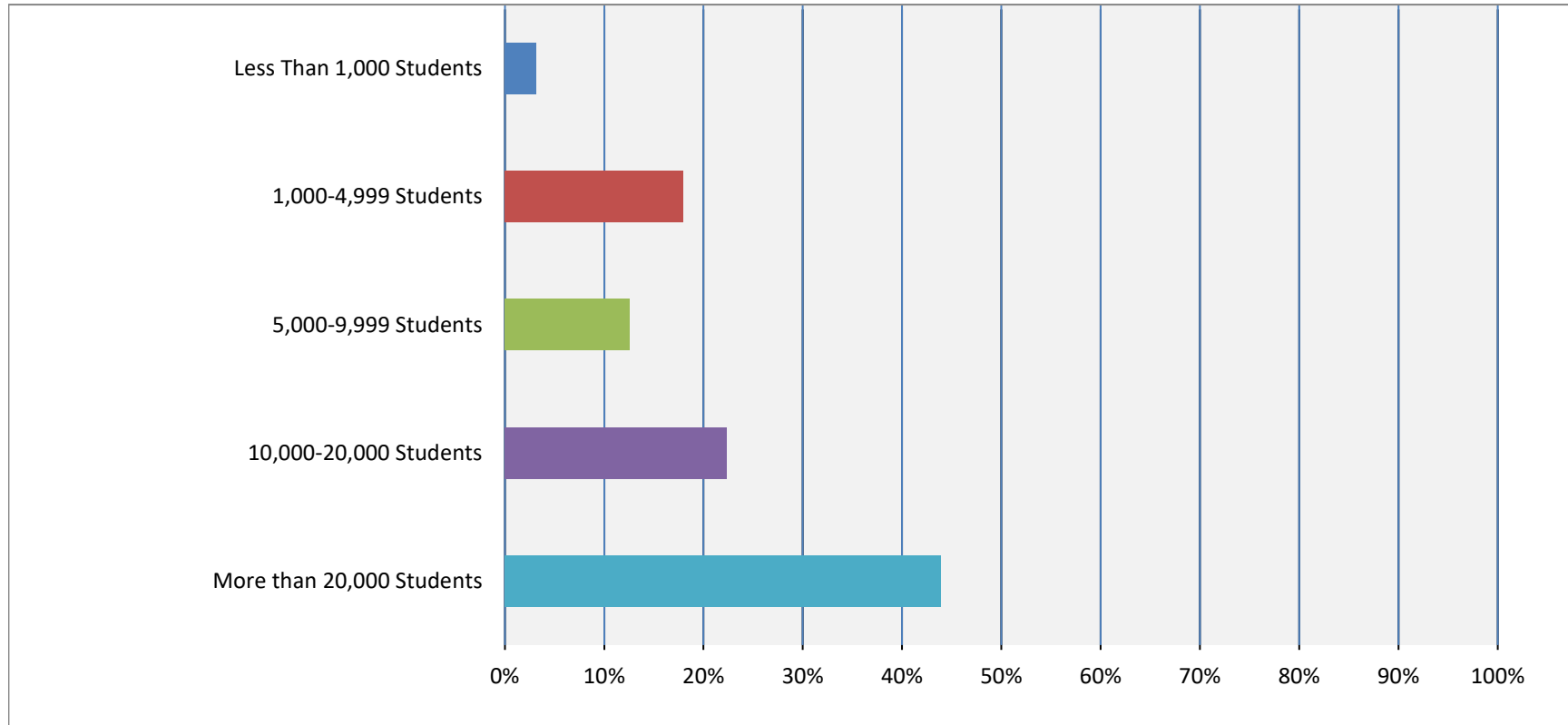
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

## Q12 What was the approximate size of your undergraduate institution?

Answered: 724

Skipped: 5



| Answer Choices            | 2023 |        | 2022   |
|---------------------------|------|--------|--------|
| Less Than 1,000 Students  | 23   | 3.18%  | 3.91%  |
| 1,000-4,999 Students      | 130  | 17.96% | 14.89% |
| 5,000-9,999 Students      | 91   | 12.57% | 12.07% |
| 10,000-20,000 Students    | 162  | 22.38% | 22.50% |
| More than 20,000 Students | 318  | 43.92% | 46.63% |
| Total                     | 724  |        |        |

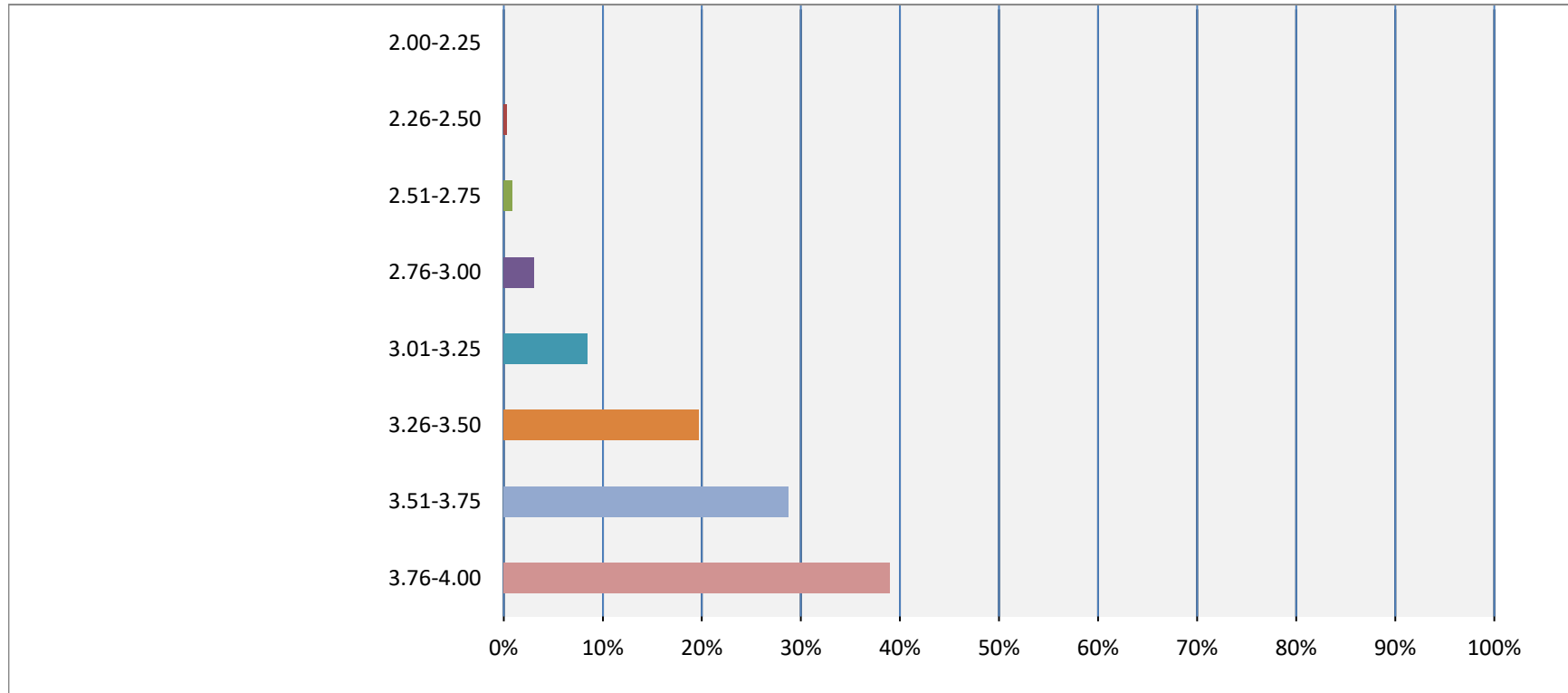
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

## Q13 What was your cumulative undergraduate grade point average?

Answered: 721

Skipped: 8



| Answer Choices | 2023       |        | 2022   |
|----------------|------------|--------|--------|
| 2.00-2.25      | 0          | 0.00%  | 0.11%  |
| 2.26-2.50      | 2          | 0.28%  | 0.44%  |
| 2.51-2.75      | 6          | 0.83%  | 1.64%  |
| 2.76-3.00      | 22         | 3.05%  | 4.69%  |
| 3.01-3.25      | 61         | 8.46%  | 10.26% |
| 3.26-3.50      | 142        | 19.69% | 20.52% |
| 3.51-3.75      | 207        | 28.71% | 28.06% |
| 3.76-4.00      | 281        | 38.97% | 34.28% |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>721</b> |        |        |

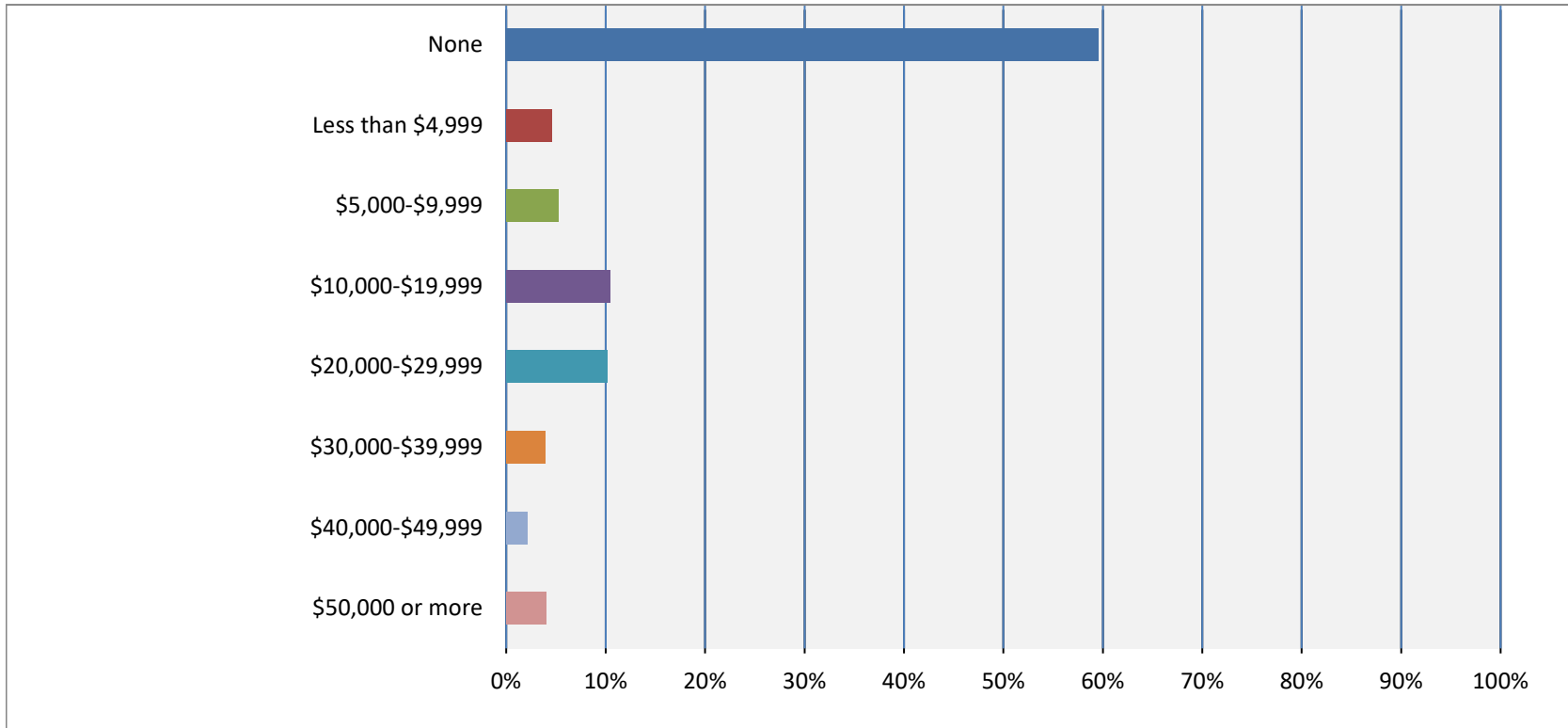
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

## Q14 What is your undergraduate indebtedness level?

Answered: 720

Skipped: 9



| Answer Choices    | 2023       |        | 2022   |
|-------------------|------------|--------|--------|
| None              | 429        | 59.58% | 56.17% |
| Less than \$4,999 | 33         | 4.58%  | 4.70%  |
| \$5,000-\$9,999   | 38         | 5.28%  | 4.59%  |
| \$10,000-\$19,999 | 75         | 10.42% | 11.58% |
| \$20,000-\$29,999 | 73         | 10.14% | 11.58% |
| \$30,000-\$39,999 | 28         | 3.89%  | 4.26%  |
| \$40,000-\$49,999 | 15         | 2.08%  | 2.08%  |
| \$50,000 or more  | 29         | 4.03%  | 5.03%  |
| <b>Total</b>      | <b>720</b> |        |        |



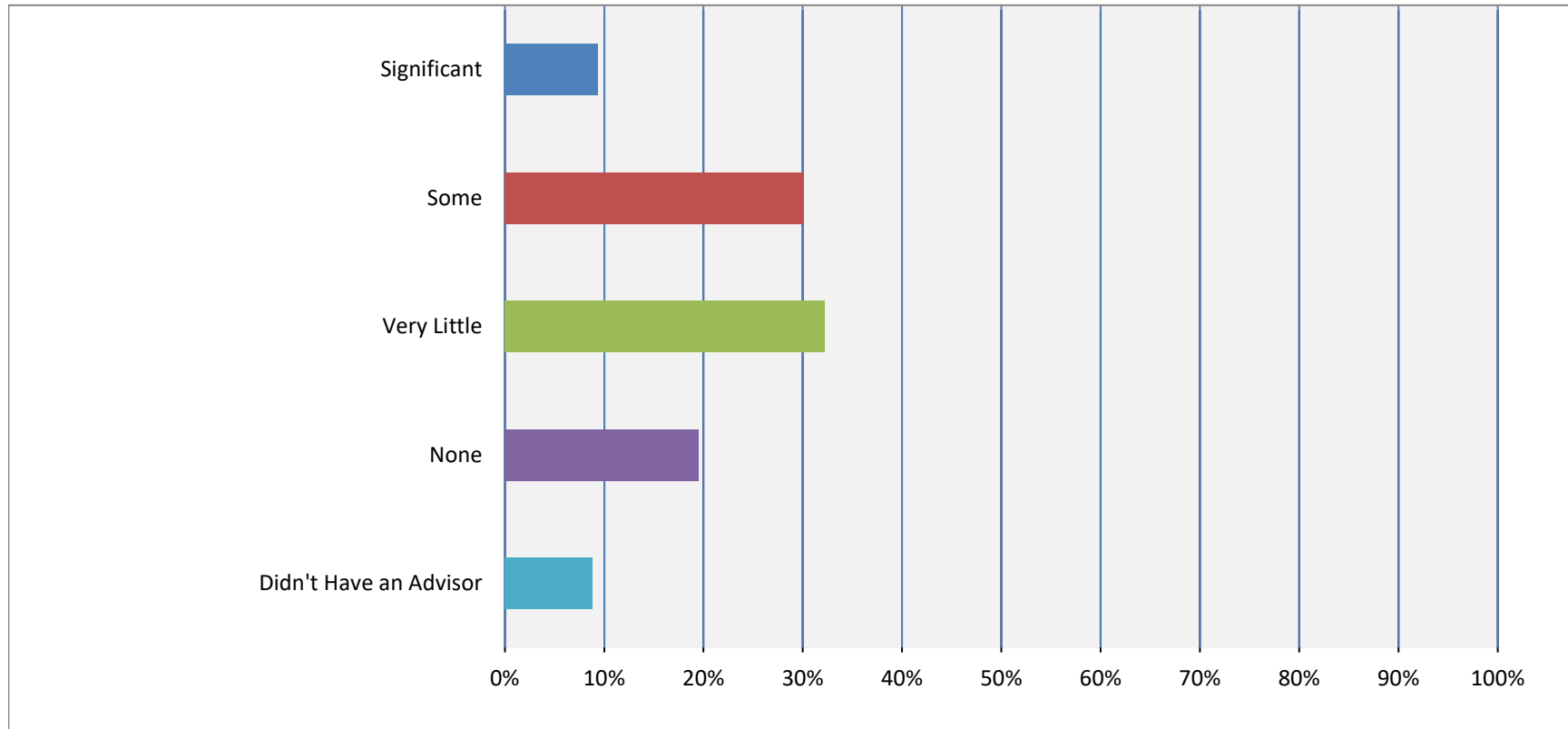
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

## Q15 How much assistance did you receive from your health professions advisor at your undergraduate institution?

Answered: 727

Skipped: 2



| Answer Choices         | 2023       |        | 2022   |
|------------------------|------------|--------|--------|
| Significant            | 68         | 9.35%  | 9.02%  |
| Some                   | 219        | 30.12% | 29.57% |
| Very Little            | 234        | 32.19% | 31.96% |
| None                   | 142        | 19.53% | 21.41% |
| Didn't Have an Advisor | 64         | 8.80%  | 8.04%  |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>727</b> |        |        |

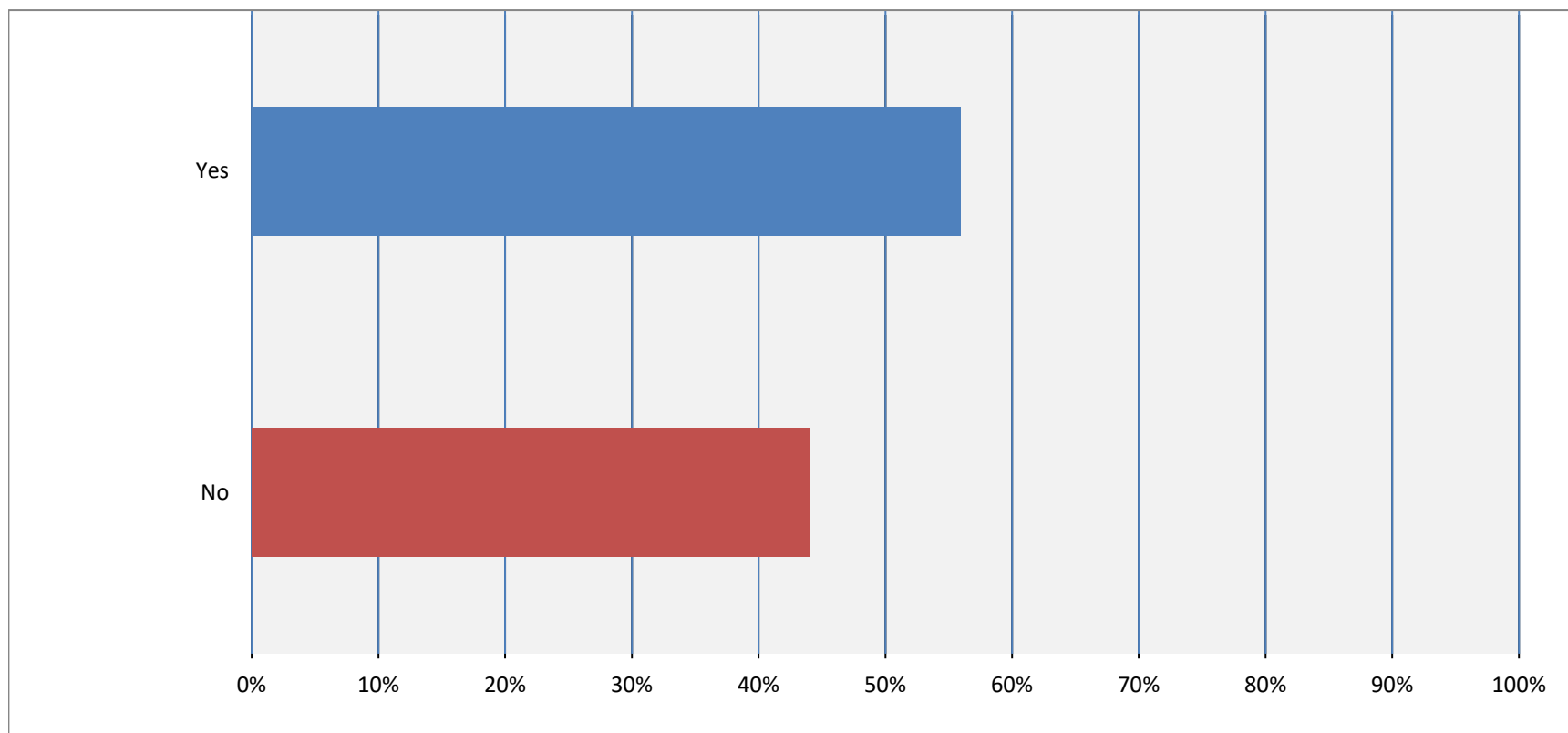
## Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

**Q16 At your undergraduate campus, did you belong to a pre-optometry club, pre-health club, or pre-med club?**

Answered: 728

Skipped: 1



| Answer Choices | 2023 |        | 2022   |
|----------------|------|--------|--------|
| Yes            | 407  | 55.91% | 57.53% |
| No             | 321  | 44.09% | 42.47% |
| Total          | 728  |        |        |

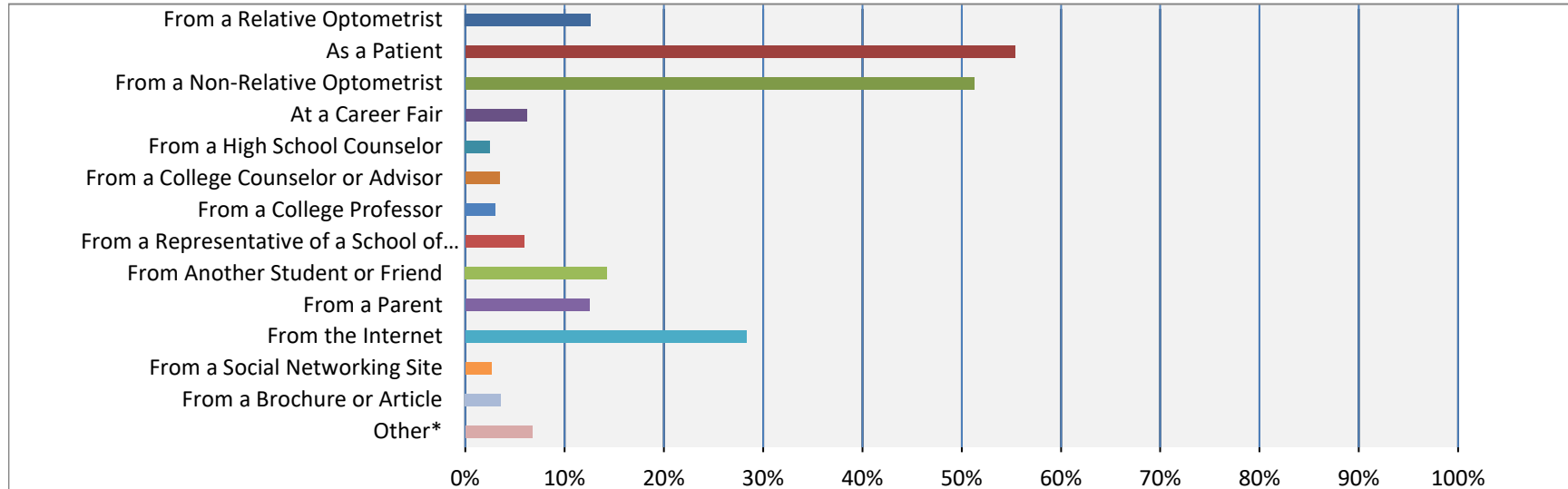
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

## Q17 How did you learn about the profession of optometry? (Check all that apply.)

Answered: 728

Skipped: 1



| Answer Choices                                 | 2023  |        | 2022   |
|--|---|--------|--------|
| From a Relative Optometrist                    | 92  | 12.64% | 11.47% |
| As a Patient                                   | 403   | 55.36% | 54.44% |
| From a Non-Relative Optometrist                | 373   | 51.24% | 54.22% |
| At a Career Fair                               | 45  | 6.18%  | 4.33%  |
| From a High School Counselor                   | 18  | 2.47%  | 1.41%  |
| From a College Counselor or Advisor            | 25  | 3.43%  | 3.57%  |
| From a College Professor                       | 22  | 3.02%  | 2.38%  |
| From a Representative of a School of Optometry | 43  | 5.91%  | 8.87%  |
| From Another Student or Friend                 | 104   | 14.29% | 14.18% |
| From a Parent                                  | 91  | 12.50% | 10.71% |
| From the Internet                              | 206   | 28.30% | 30.52% |
| From a Social Networking Site                  | 19  | 2.61%  | 3.90%  |
| From a Brochure or Article                     | 26  | 3.57%  | 2.71%  |
| Other  | 49  | 6.73%  | 7.14%  |
| <b>Total Respondents 728</b>                   | (Respondents may choose more than one source) |        |        |

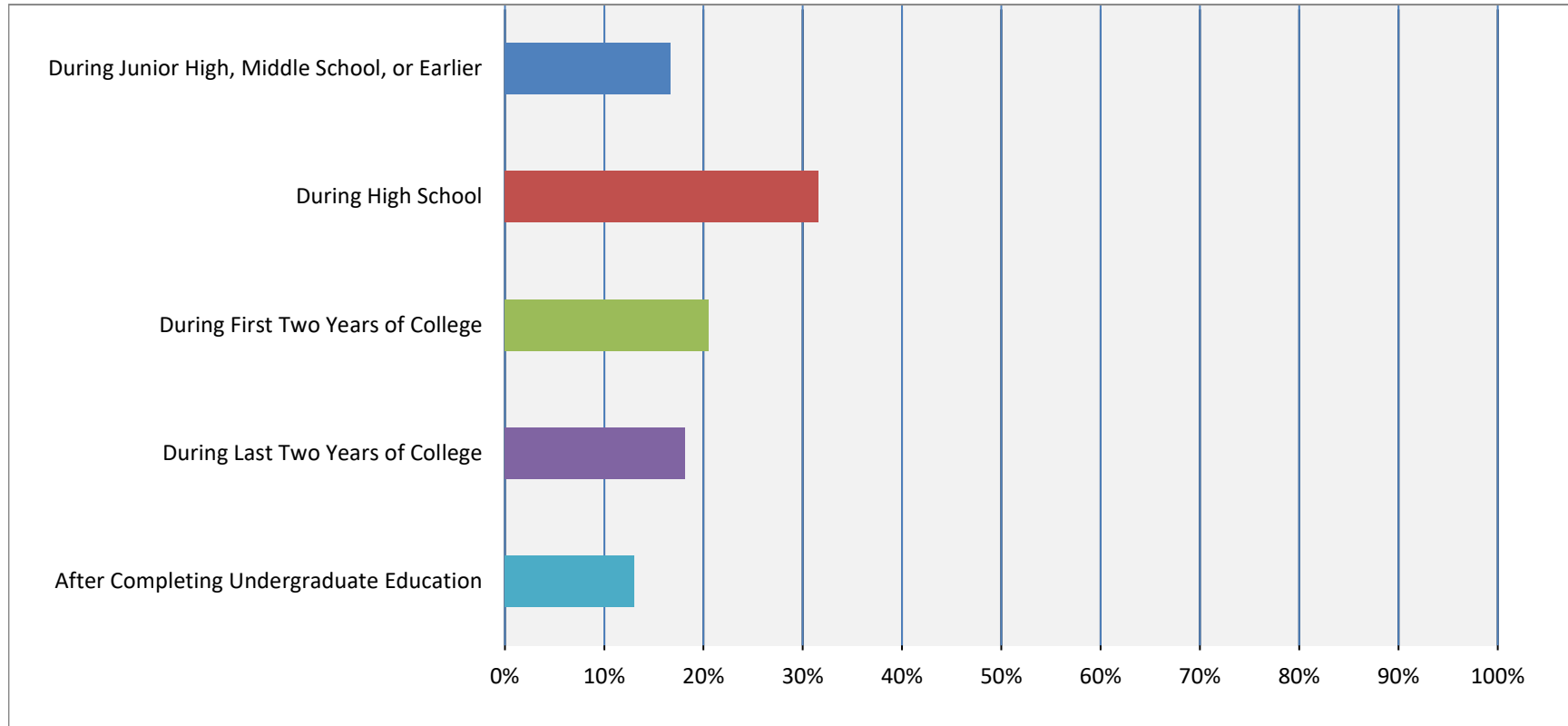
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

## Q18 When did you first think about optometry as a potential career? (Please check one.)

Answered: 721

Skipped: 8



| Answer Choices                                | 2023       |        | 2022   |
|---|------------|--------|--------|
| During Junior High, Middle School, or Earlier | 120        | 16.64% | 13.94% |
| During High School                            | 228        | 31.62% | 27.77% |
| During First Two Years of College             | 148        | 20.53% | 24.04% |
| During Last Two Years of College              | 131        | 18.17% | 21.08% |
| After Completing Undergraduate Education      | 94         | 13.04% | 13.17% |
| <b>Total</b>                                  | <b>721</b> |        |        |

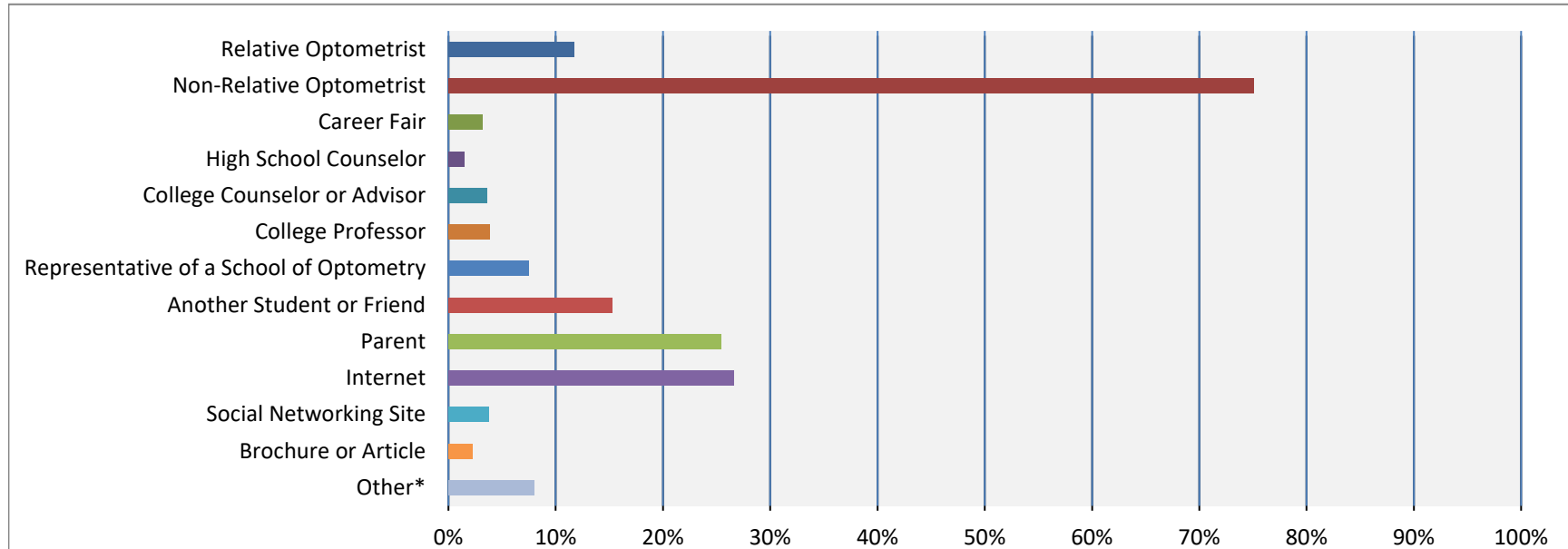
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

**Q19 Who or what influenced your decision about optometry as a potential career for you? (Check all that apply.)**

Answered: 725

Skipped: 4



| Answer Choices                          | 2023  | 2022   |
|---|---|--------|
| Relative Optometrist                    | 85  | 11.72% |
| Non-Relative Optometrist                | 544   | 75.03% |
| Career Fair                             | 23  | 3.17%  |
| High School Counselor                   | 11  | 1.52%  |
| College Counselor or Advisor            | 26  | 3.59%  |
| College Professor                       | 28  | 3.86%  |
| Representative of a School of Optometry | 54  | 7.45%  |
| Another Student or Friend               | 111   | 15.31% |
| Parent                                  | 184   | 25.38% |
| Internet                                | 193   | 26.62% |
| Social Networking Site                  | 27  | 3.72%  |
| Brochure or Article                     | 16  | 2.21%  |
| Other*                                  | 58  | 8.00%  |
| <b>Total Respondents 725</b>            | <b>(Respondents may choose more than one influence)</b> |        |

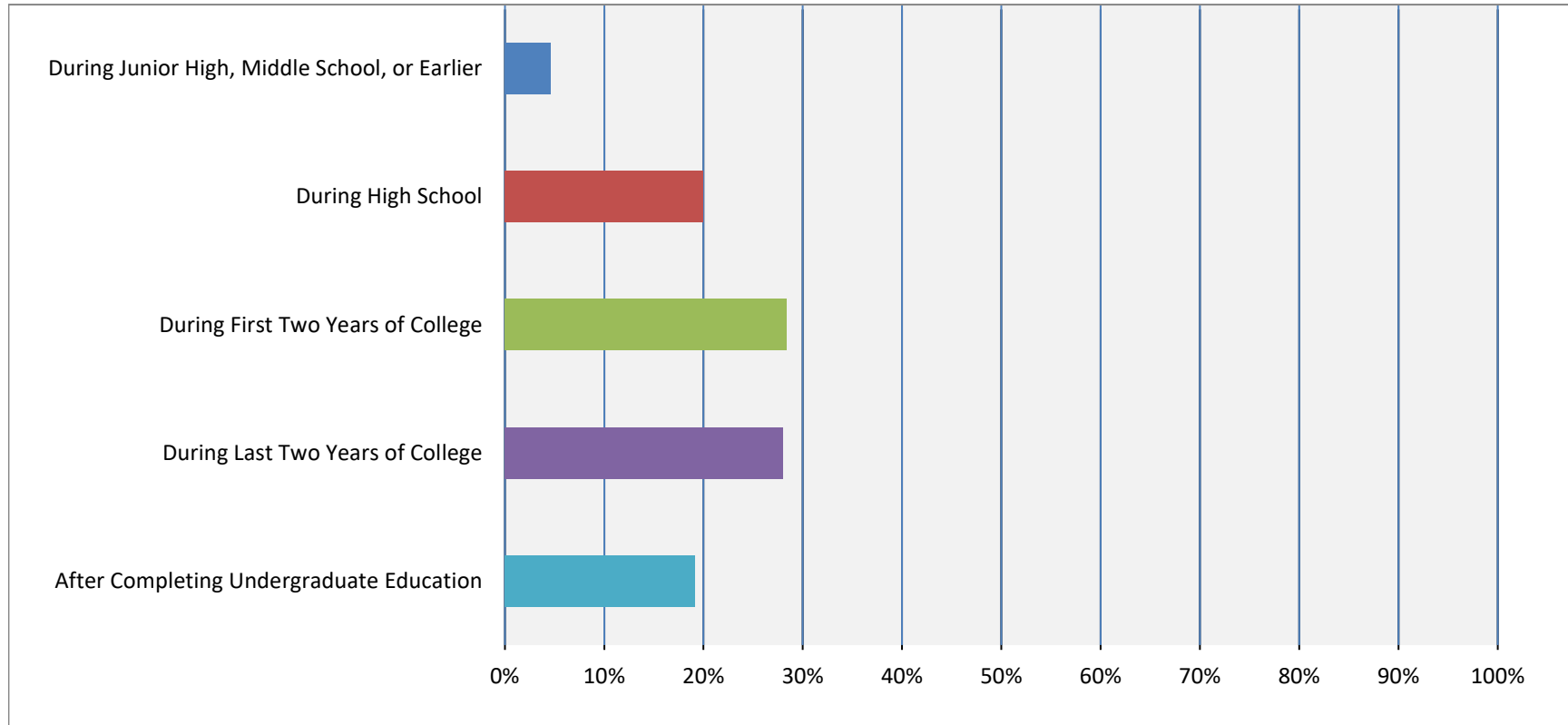
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

**Q20 When did you finally decide that you definitely wanted to pursue optometry? (Please check one.)**

Answered: 722

Skipped: 7



| Answer Choices                                | 2023       |        | 2022   |
|---|------------|--------|--------|
| During Junior High, Middle School, or Earlier | 33         | 4.57%  | 3.92%  |
| During High School                            | 144        | 19.94% | 17.10% |
| During First Two Years of College             | 205        | 28.39% | 27.23% |
| During Last Two Years of College              | 202        | 27.98% | 31.26% |
| After Completing Undergraduate Education      | 138        | 19.11% | 20.48% |
| <b>Total</b>                                  | <b>722</b> |        |        |

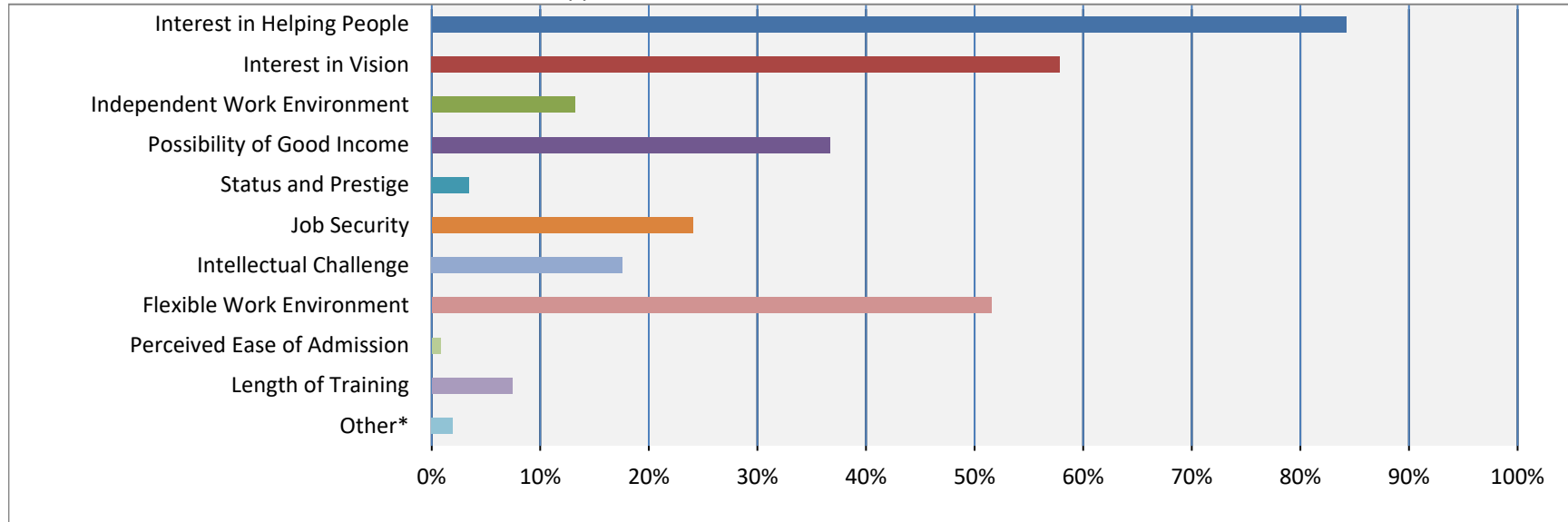
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

**Q21 Of the following considerations, which top three reasons summarize your reasons for choosing optometry?**

Answered: 728

Skipped: 1



| Answer Choices               | 2023   |        | 2022   |
|------------------------------|--|--------|--------|
| Interest in Helping People   | 613  | 84.20% | 82.79% |
| Interest in Vision           | 421  | 57.83% | 61.58% |
| Independent Work Environment | 96   | 13.19% | 15.37% |
| Possibility of Good Income   | 267  | 36.68% | 41.34% |
| Status and Prestige          | 25   | 3.43%  | 3.35%  |
| Job Security                 | 175  | 24.04% | 21.75% |
| Intellectual Challenge       | 128  | 17.58% | 15.58% |
| Flexible Work Environment    | 375  | 51.51% | 49.78% |
| Perceived Ease of Admission  | 6  | 0.82%  | 0.43%  |
| Length of Training           | 54   | 7.42%  | 5.52%  |
| Other*                       | 14   | 1.92%  | 0.97%  |
| <b>Total Respondents 728</b> | <b>(Respondents may choose more than one reason)</b> |        |        |

\*"Other" includes patient relationships (3), good work/life/family balance (2), bringing healthcare to underserved communities (2), great field for women/women dominated (1), educating people on importance of eye health(1), interest in working with eyeballs and invasive practice (1), interest in ocular disease (1), personal binocular vision challenges that optometry helped me with (1), research (1), ability to bring own passions into the field (1).

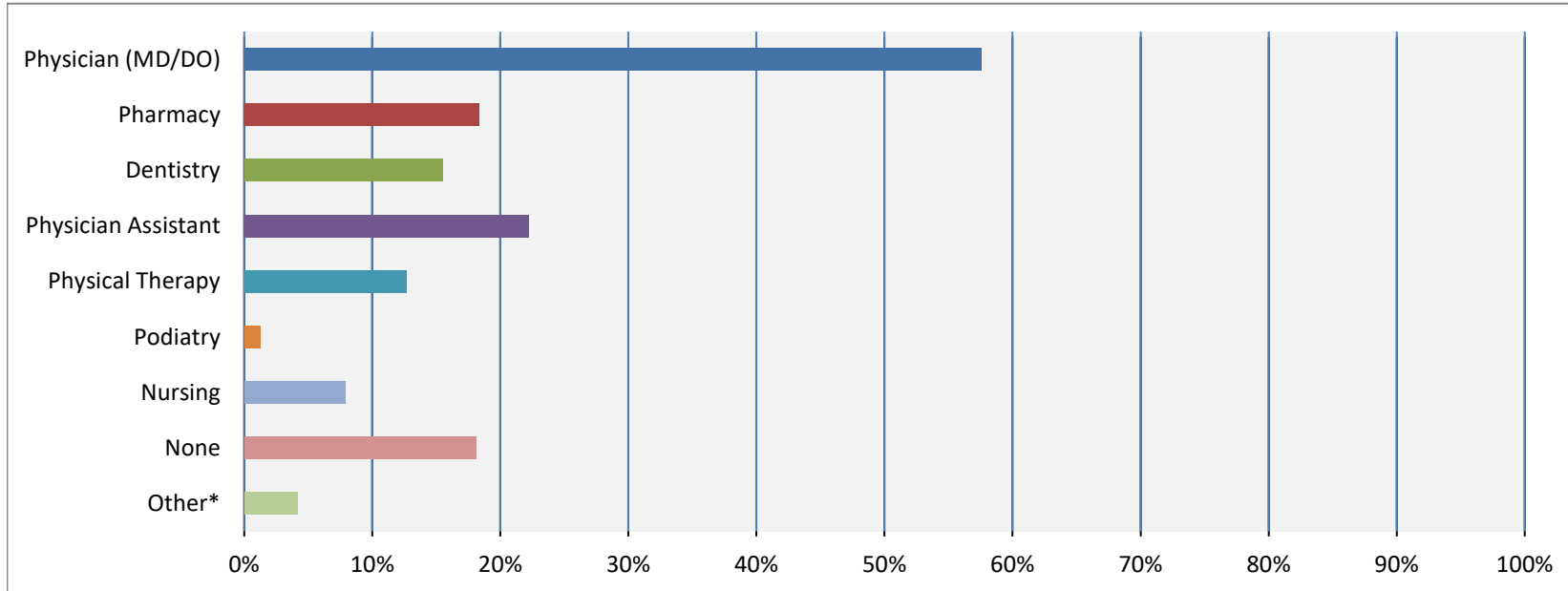
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

**Q22 What health professions did you consider other than optometry? (Check all that apply.)**

Answered: 724

Skipped: 5



| Answer Choices               | 2023  |        | 2022   |
|------------------------------|---|--------|--------|
| Physician (MD/DO)            | 417   | 57.60% | 54.25% |
| Pharmacy                     | 133   | 18.37% | 20.37% |
| Dentistry                    | 112   | 15.47% | 18.19% |
| Physician Assistant          | 161   | 22.24% | 23.64% |
| Physical Therapy             | 92  | 12.71% | 13.62% |
| Podiatry                     | 9   | 1.24%  | 1.74%  |
| Nursing                      | 57  | 7.87%  | 9.91%  |
| None                         | 131   | 18.09% | 16.12% |
| Other                        | 30  | 4.14%  | 5.45%  |
| <b>Total Respondents 724</b> | (Respondents may choose more than one profession) |        |        |



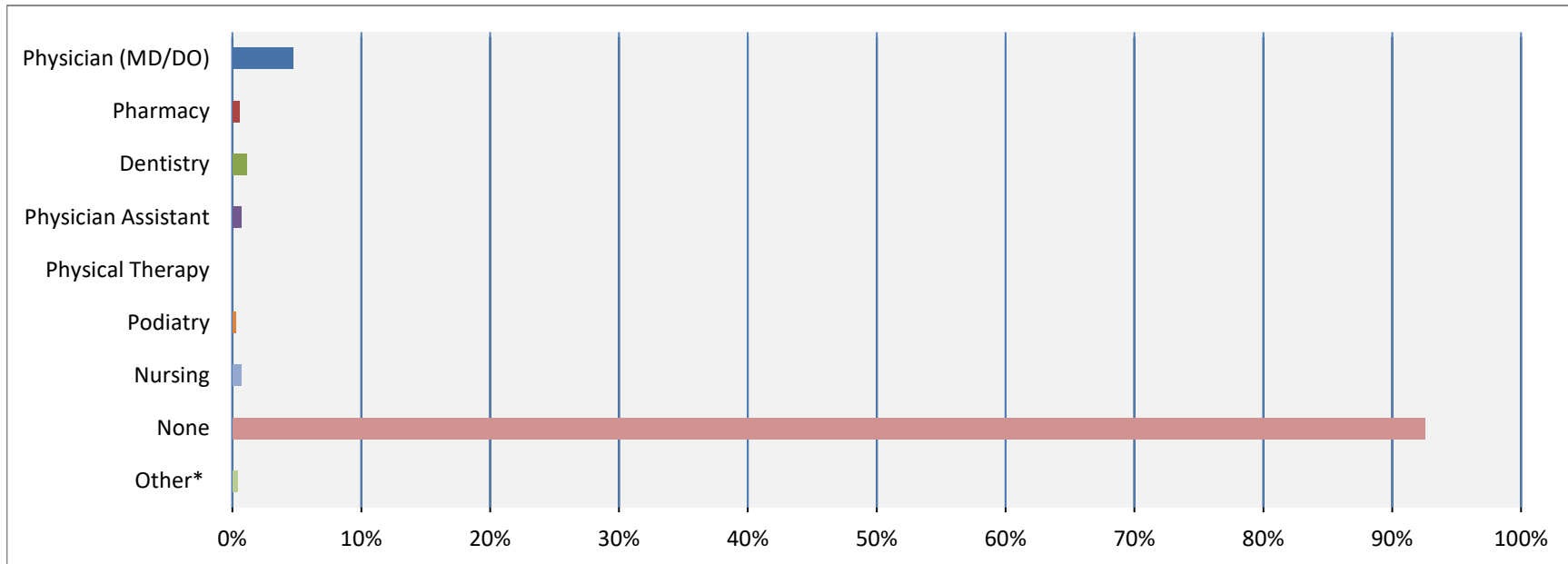
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

## Q23 Did you apply to any other health professions? (Check all that apply.)

Answered: 724

Skipped: 5



| Answer Choices               | 2023   |        | 2022   |
|------------------------------|--|--------|--------|
| Physician (MD/DO)            | 34   | 4.70%  | 6.11%  |
| Pharmacy                     | 4  | 0.55%  | 0.55%  |
| Dentistry                    | 8  | 1.10%  | 0.76%  |
| Physician Assistant          | 5  | 0.69%  | 1.86%  |
| Physical Therapy             | 0  | 0.00%  | 0.33%  |
| Podiatry                     | 2  | 0.28%  | 0.00%  |
| Nursing                      | 5  | 0.69%  | 1.20%  |
| None                         | 670  | 92.54% | 83.19% |
| Other*                       | 3  | 0.41%  | 0.44%  |
| <b>Total Respondents 724</b> | <b>(Respondents may choose more than one profession)</b> |        |        |

\*"Other" includes Chiropractic (2) and Veterinary Medicine (1)

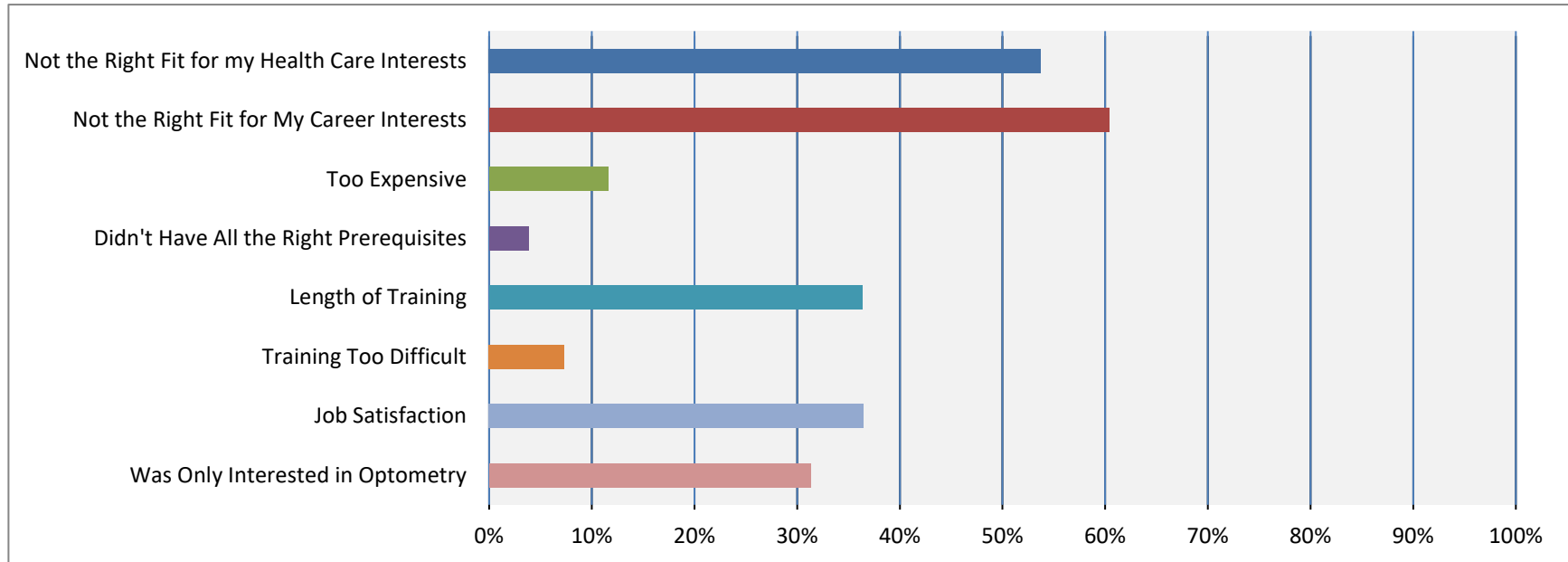
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

## Q24 Why didn't you choose another health profession as your future career? (Check all that apply.)

Answered: 724

Skipped: 5



| Answer Choices                                 | 2023   |        | 2022   |
|--|--|--------|--------|
| Not the Right Fit for my Health Care Interests | 389  | 53.73% | 55.68% |
| Not the Right Fit for My Career Interests      | 437  | 60.36% | 58.62% |
| Too Expensive                                  | 84   | 11.60% | 8.30%  |
| Didn't Have All the Right Prerequisites        | 28   | 3.87%  | 4.59%  |
| Length of Training                             | 263  | 36.33% | 31.44% |
| Training Too Difficult                         | 53   | 7.32%  | 8.19%  |
| Job Satisfaction                               | 264  | 36.46% | 34.61% |
| Was Only Interested in Optometry               | 227  | 31.35% | 30.13% |
| <b>Total Respondents 724</b>                   | <b>(Respondents may choose more than one reason)</b> |        |        |

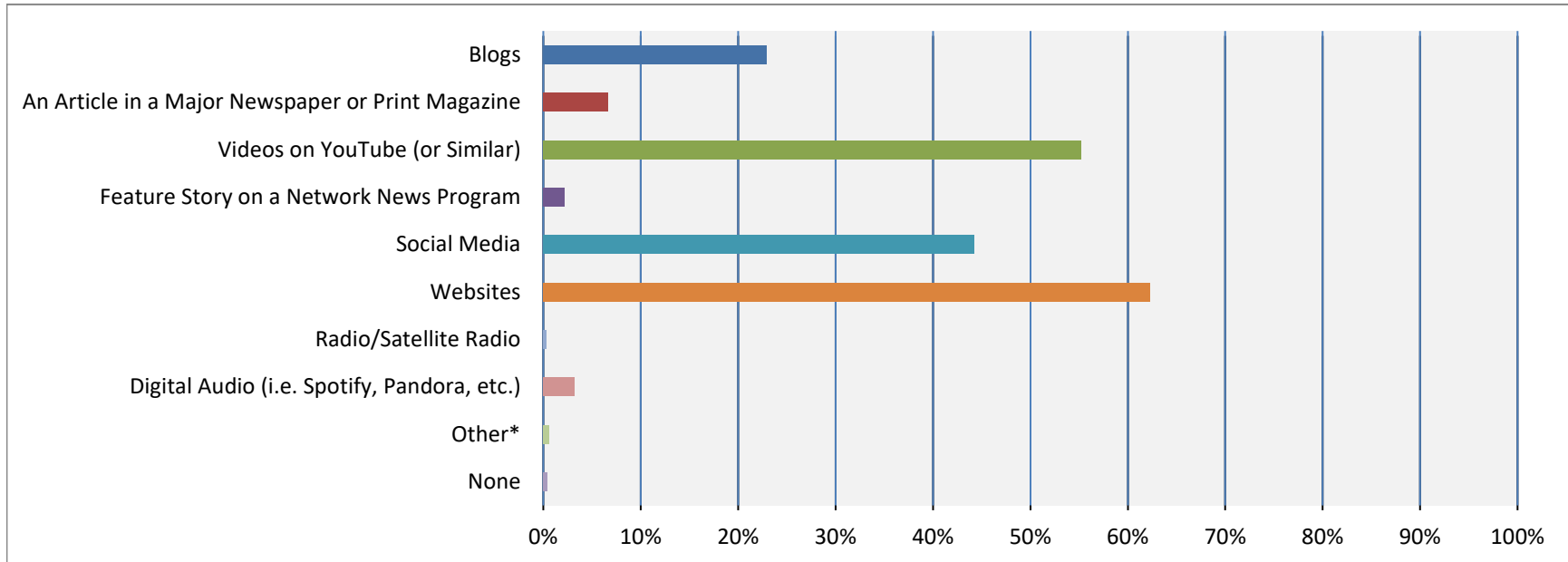
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

**Q25 When you were investigating the profession of optometry, which media helped encourage you to learn more? (Check all that apply.)**

Answered: 694

Skipped: 35



| Answer Choices                                    | 2023  |        | 2022       |
|---|---|--------|------------|
| Blogs   | 159   | 22.91% | 32.53%     |
| An Article in a Major Newspaper or Print Magazine | 46  | 6.63%  | 10.04%     |
| Videos on YouTube (or Similar)                    | 383   | 55.19% | 52.62%     |
| Feature Story on a Network News Program           | 15  | 2.16%  | 2.62%      |
| Social Media                                      | 307   | 44.24% | 42.69%     |
| Websites  | 432   | 62.25% | 77.84%     |
| Radio/Satellite Radio                             | 2   | 0.29%  | 0.44%      |
| Digital Audio (i.e. Spotify, Pandora, etc.)       | 22  | 3.17%  | new option |
| Other*  | 4   | 0.58%  | 0.66%      |
| None  | 3   | 0.43%  | 0.33%      |
| <b>Total Respondents 694</b>                      | (Respondents may choose more than one medium) |        |            |

\*"Other" includes podcasts (2) and Reddit (2)

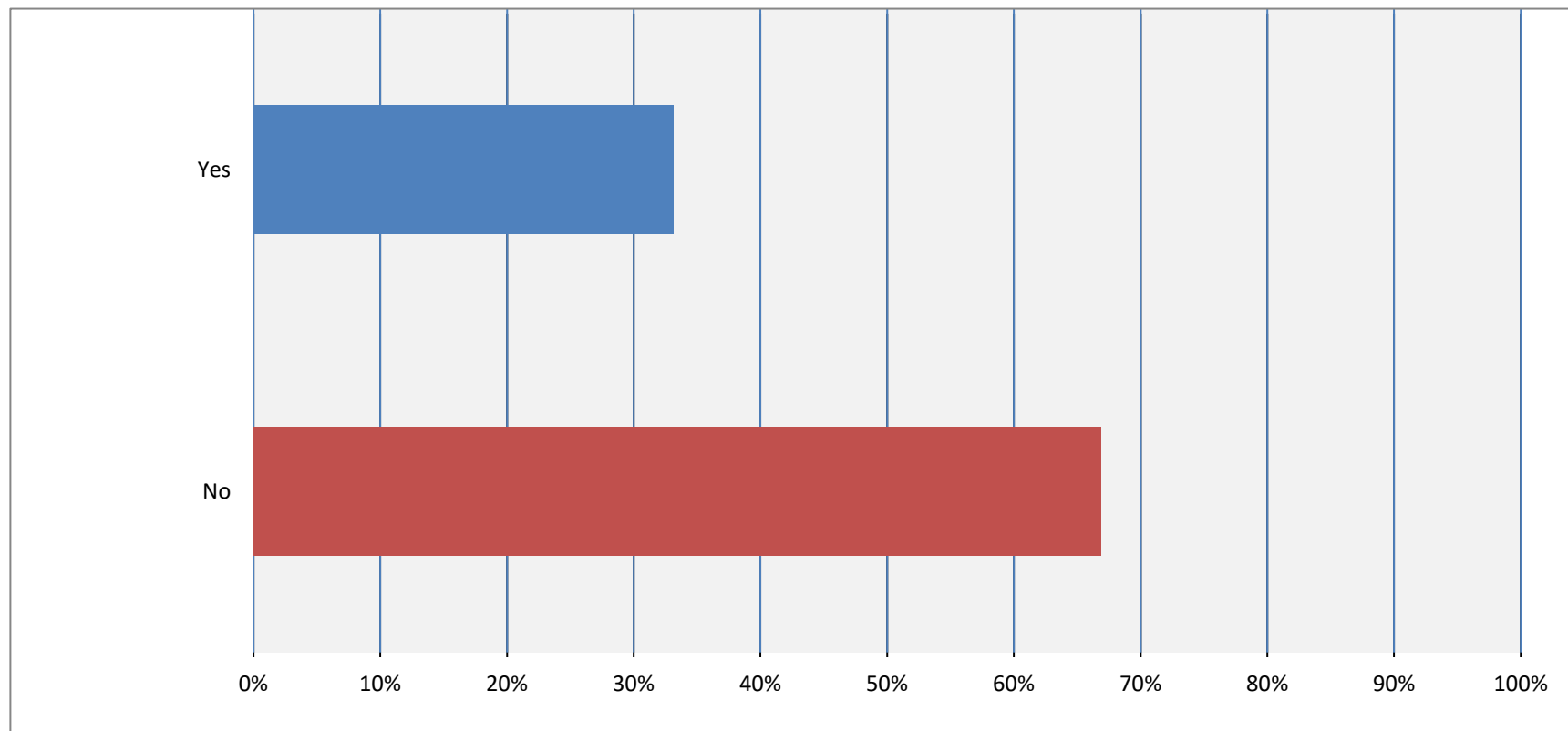
## Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

**Q26 Are you familiar with the Optometry Gives Me Life applicant development campaign and/or the futureeyedoc.org website?**

Answered: 725

Skipped: 4



| Answer Choices | 2023 |        | 2022   |
|----------------|------|--------|--------|
| Yes            | 240  | 33.10% | 16.70% |
| No             | 485  | 66.90% | 83.30% |
| Total          | 725  |        |        |

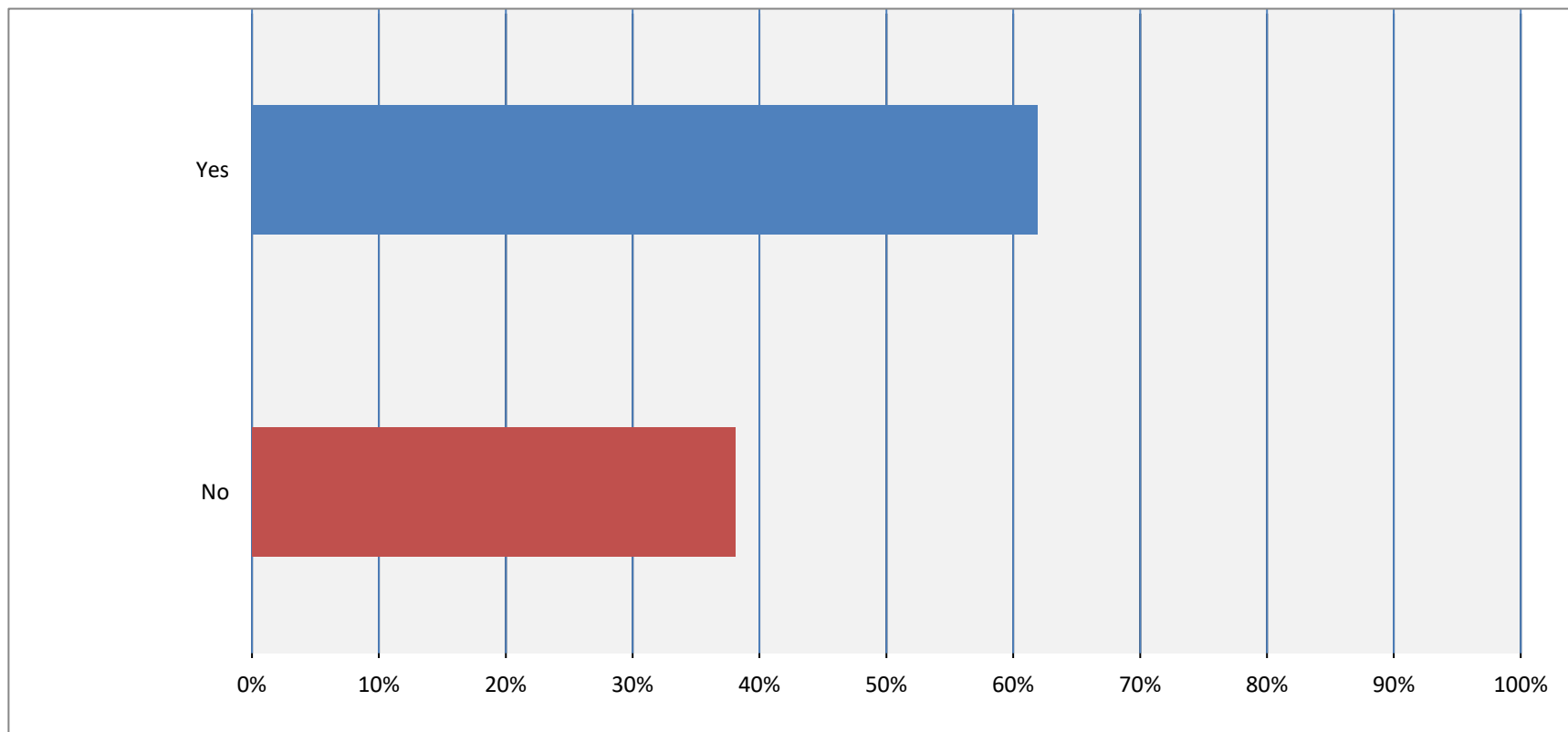
## Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

**Q27 Have you seen any of the visuals for the Optometry Gives Me Life advertising campaign for optometry applicants?**

Answered: 661

Skipped: 68



| Answer Choices | 2023 |        | New Question |
|----------------|------|--------|--------------|
| Yes            | 409  | 61.88% |              |
| No             | 252  | 38.12% |              |
| Total          | 661  |        |              |

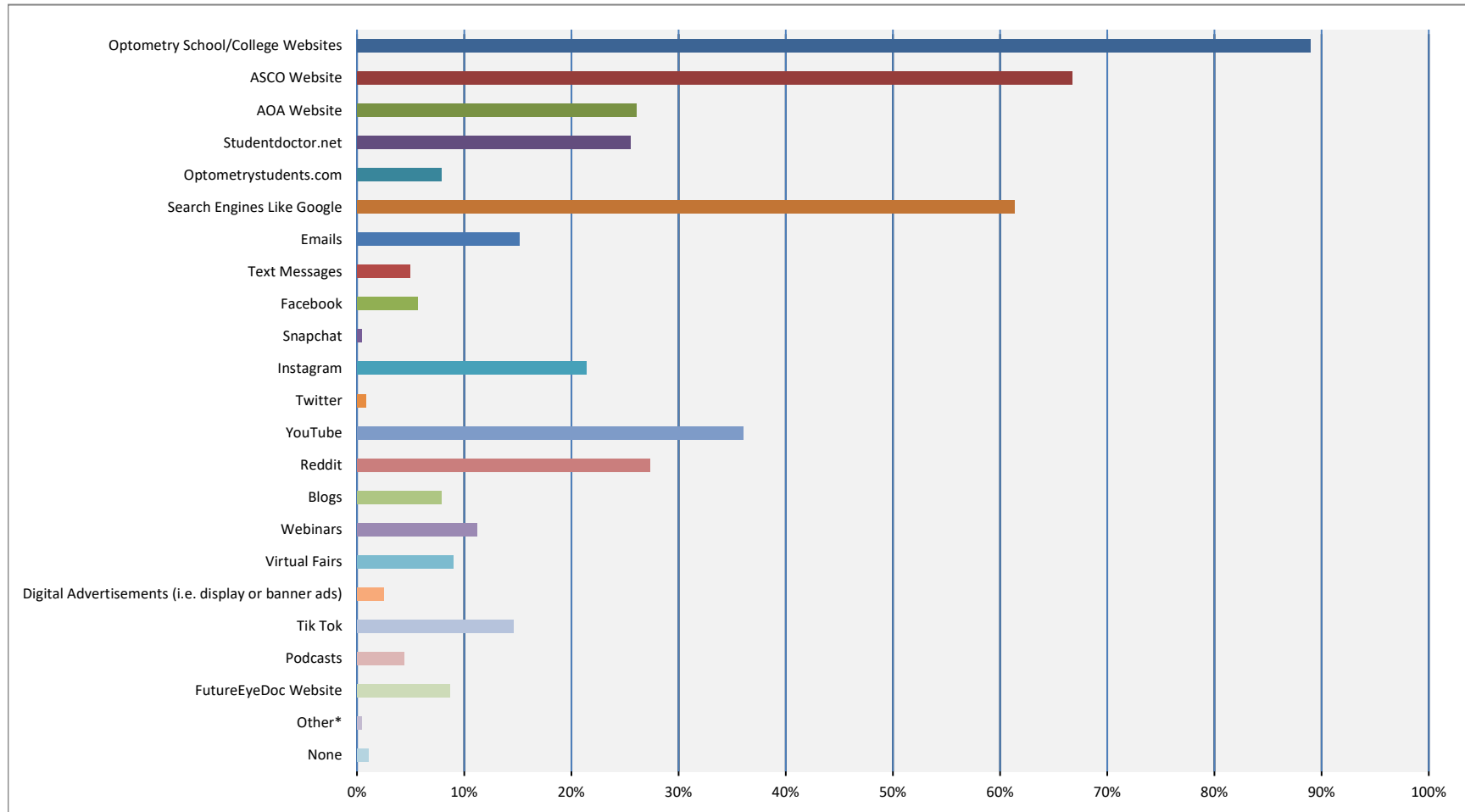
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

**Q28 From which online resources did you find information about the profession of optometry? (Check all that apply.)**

Answered: 725

Skipped: 4



(continued on following page)

# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

**Q28 From which online resources did you find information about the profession of optometry? (Check all that apply.)**

Answered: 725

Skipped: 4

| Answer Choices                                      | 2023   | 2022   |
|---|--|--------|
| Optometry School/College Websites                   | 645  | 88.97% |
| ASCO Website  | 484  | 66.76% |
| AOA Website   | 189  | 26.07% |
| Studentdoctor.net                                   | 185  | 25.52% |
| Optometrystudents.com                               | 57   | 7.86%  |
| Search Engines Like Google                          | 445  | 61.38% |
| Emails  | 110  | 15.17% |
| Text Messages                                       | 36   | 4.97%  |
| Facebook  | 41   | 5.66%  |
| Snapchat  | 3  | 0.41%  |
| Instagram   | 155  | 21.38% |
| Twitter   | 6  | 0.83%  |
| YouTube   | 261  | 36.00% |
| Reddit  | 198  | 27.31% |
| Blogs   | 57   | 7.86%  |
| Webinars  | 81   | 11.17% |
| Virtual Fairs                                       | 65   | 8.97%  |
| Digital Advertisements (i.e. display or banner ads) | 18   | 2.48%  |
| Tik Tok   | 106  | 14.62% |
| Podcasts  | 32   | 4.41%  |
| FutureEyeDoc Website                                | 63   | 8.69%  |
| Other*  | 3  | 0.41%  |
| None  | 8  | 1.10%  |
| <b>Total Respondents 725</b>                        | <b>(Respondents may choose more than one medium)</b> |        |

\*"Other" includes *Review of Optometry* (1), Eyes on Eyecare website (1), Career Search websites (1)

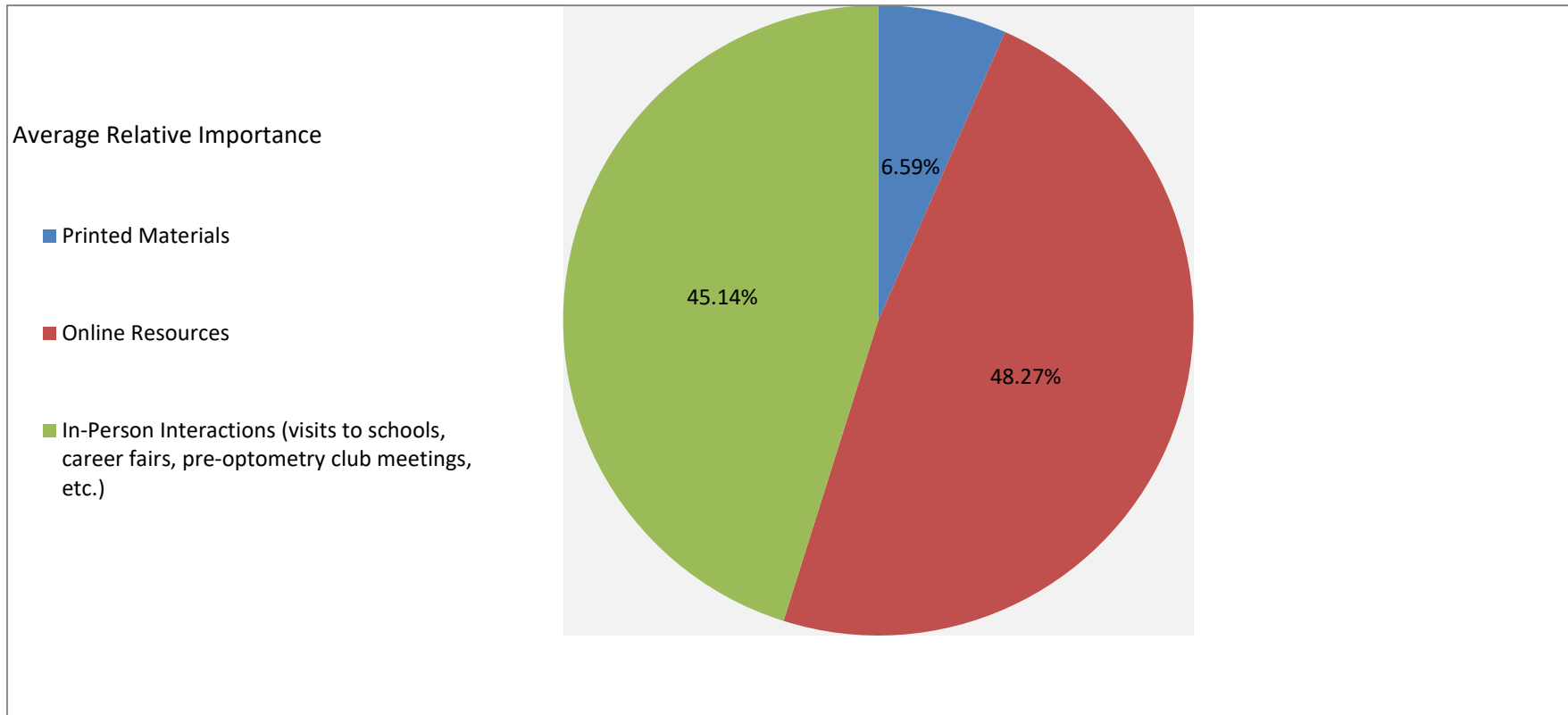
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

**Q29 How important were the following resources to you as you chose optometry as your future career?**

Answered: 729

Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices  | Average Relative Importance 2023 | 2022   |
|---|----------------------------------|--------|
| Printed Materials   | 6.59%                            | 7.96%  |
| Online Resources  | 48.27%                           | 47.85% |
| In-Person Interactions (visits to schools, career fairs, pre-optometry club meetings, etc.) | 45.14%                           | 44.19% |
| Total Respondents 729   | 100.00%                          |        |



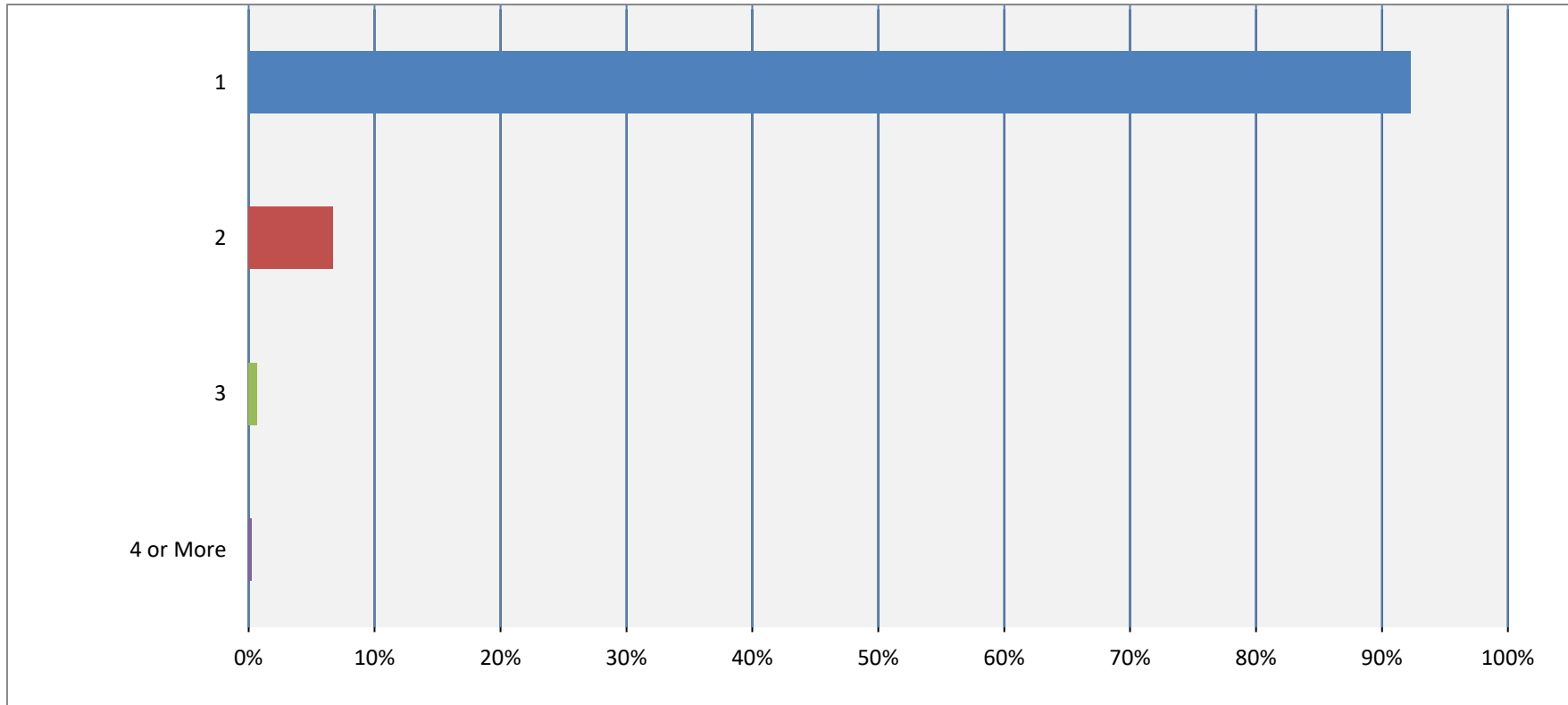
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

## Q31 How many times did you apply to optometry school before being accepted?

Answered: 728

Skipped: 1



| Answer Choices | 2023 |        | 2022   |
|----------------|------|--------|--------|
| 1              | 672  | 92.31% | 92.60% |
| 2              | 49   | 6.73%  | 6.64%  |
| 3              | 5    | 0.69%  | 0.65%  |
| 4 or More      | 2    | 0.27%  | 0.11%  |
| Total          | 728  |        |        |

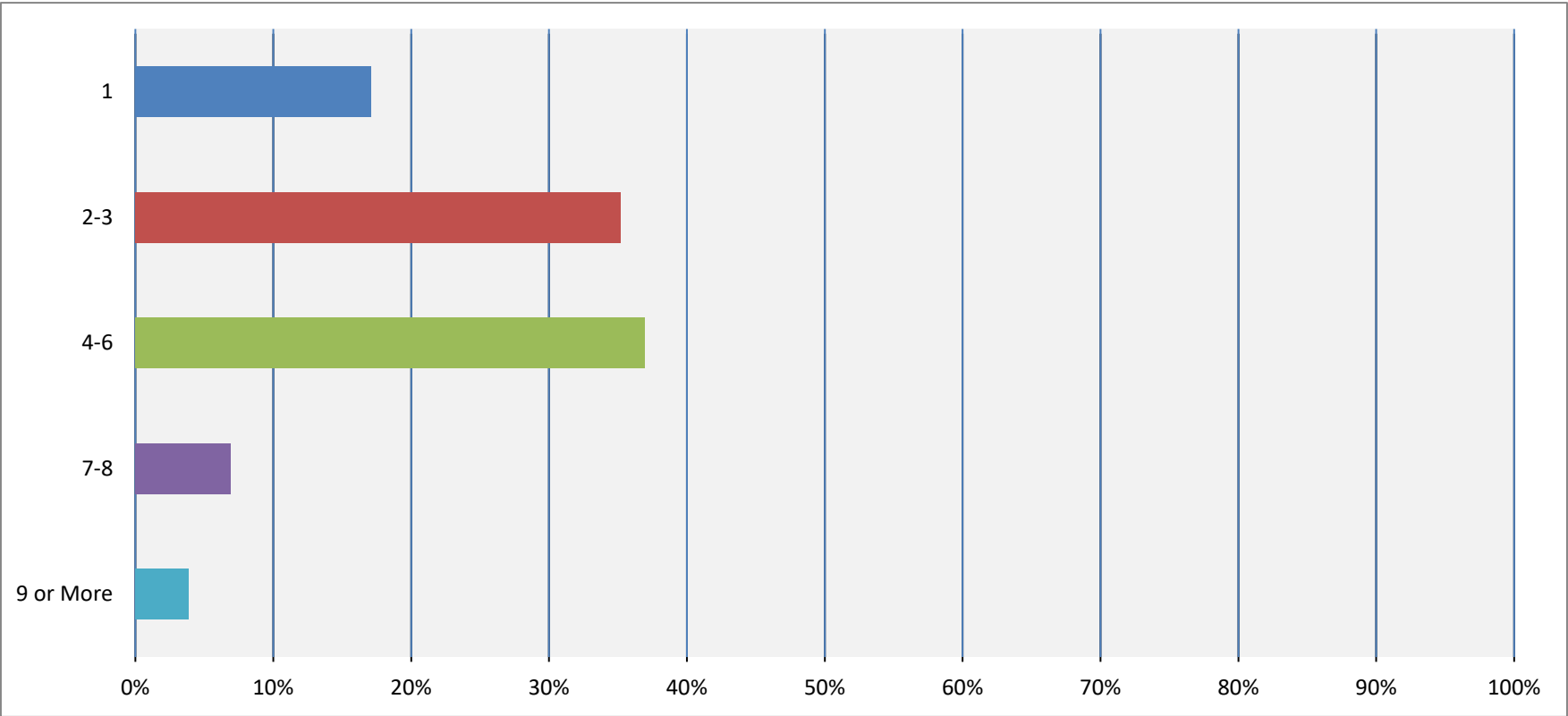
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

## Q32 To how many schools of optometry did you apply this year?

Answered: 725

Skipped: 4



| Answer Choices | 2023 |        | 2022   |
|----------------|------|--------|--------|
| 1              | 124  | 17.10% | 16.36% |
| 2-3            | 255  | 35.17% | 31.20% |
| 4-6            | 268  | 36.97% | 39.11% |
| 7-8            | 50   | 6.90%  | 8.13%  |
| 9 or More      | 28   | 3.86%  | 5.20%  |
| Total          | 725  |        |        |

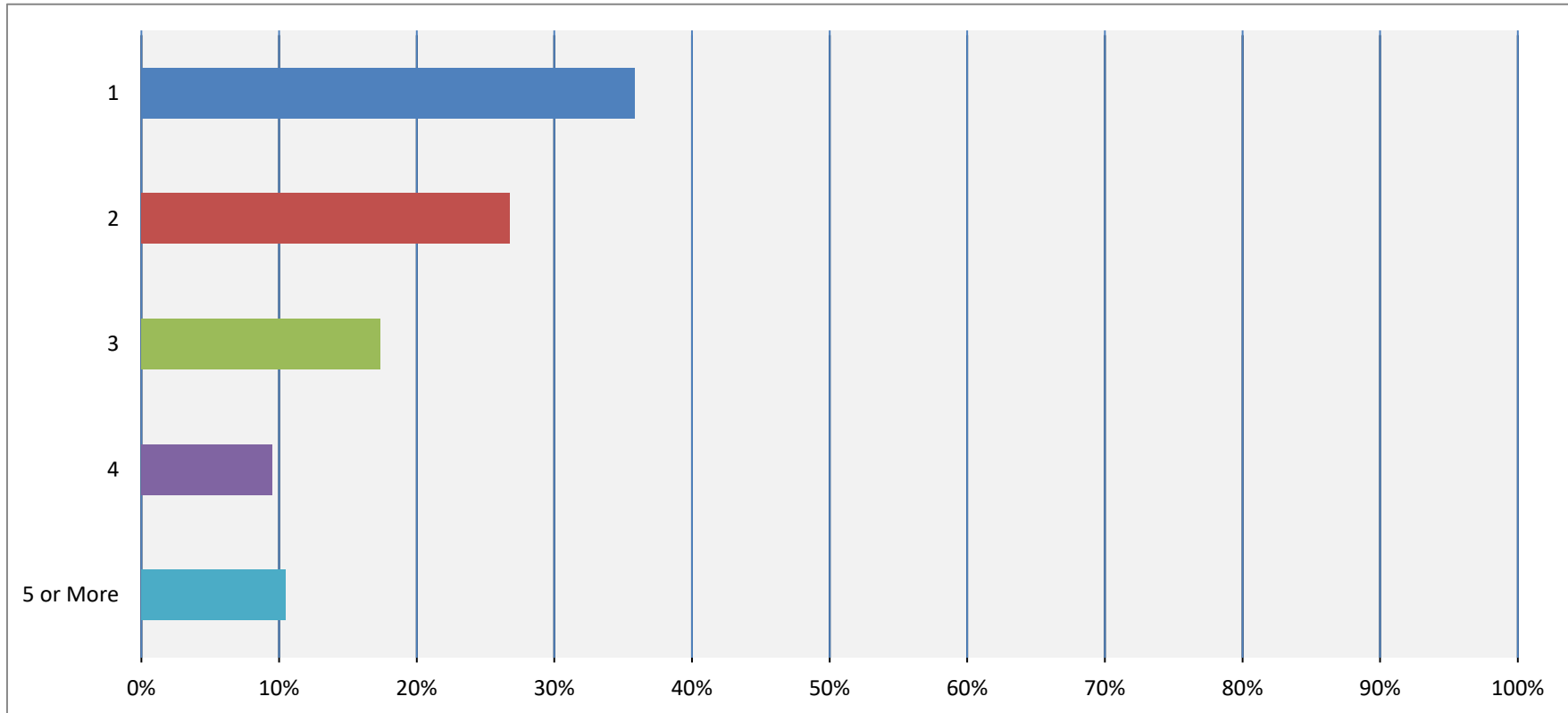
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

## Q33 From how many schools of optometry did you receive acceptance?

Answered: 725

Skipped: 4



| Answer Choices | 2023 |        | 2022   |
|----------------|------|--------|--------|
| 1              | 260  | 35.86% | 36.78% |
| 2              | 194  | 26.76% | 23.50% |
| 3              | 126  | 17.38% | 19.04% |
| 4              | 69   | 9.52%  | 9.79%  |
| 5 or More      | 76   | 10.48% | 10.88% |
| Total          | 725  |        |        |

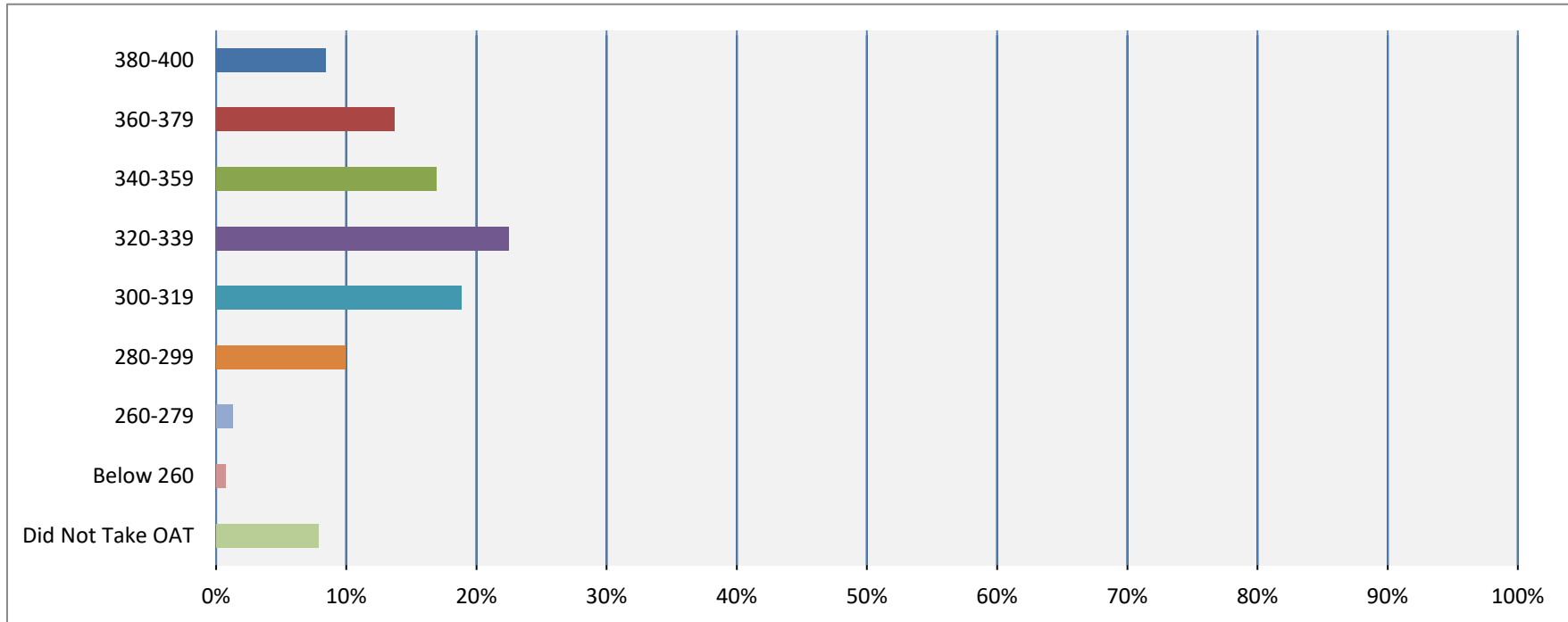
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

## Q34 What was your highest Academic Average OAT score?

Answered: 716

Skipped: 13



| Answer Choices   | 2023       |        | 2022   |
|------------------|------------|--------|--------|
| 380-400          | 60         | 8.38%  | 8.00%  |
| 360-379          | 98         | 13.69% | 10.30% |
| 340-359          | 121        | 16.90% | 17.20% |
| 320-339          | 161        | 22.49% | 19.17% |
| 300-319          | 135        | 18.85% | 23.22% |
| 280-299          | 71         | 9.92%  | 11.50% |
| 260-279          | 9          | 1.26%  | 1.97%  |
| Below 260        | 5          | 0.70%  | 0.11%  |
| Did Not Take OAT | 56         | 7.82%  | 8.54%  |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>716</b> |        |        |

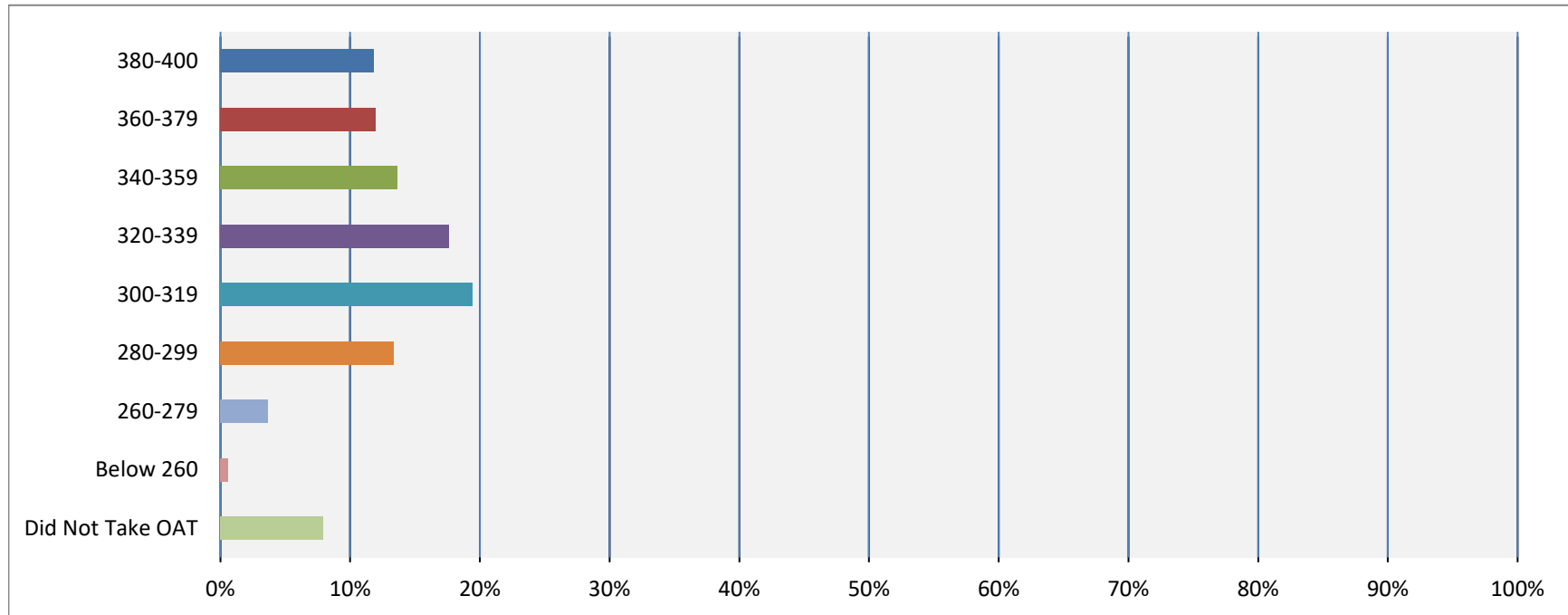
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

## Q35 What was your highest Total Science OAT score?

Answered: 710

Skipped: 19



| Answer Choices   | 2023       |        | 2022   |
|------------------|------------|--------|--------|
| 380-400          | 84         | 11.83% | 10.02% |
| 360-379          | 85         | 11.97% | 8.69%  |
| 340-359          | 97         | 13.66% | 14.03% |
| 320-339          | 125        | 17.61% | 17.59% |
| 300-319          | 138        | 19.44% | 19.38% |
| 280-299          | 95         | 13.38% | 16.37% |
| 260-279          | 26         | 3.66%  | 4.57%  |
| Below 260        | 4          | 0.56%  | 0.67%  |
| Did Not Take OAT | 56         | 7.89%  | 8.69%  |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>710</b> |        |        |

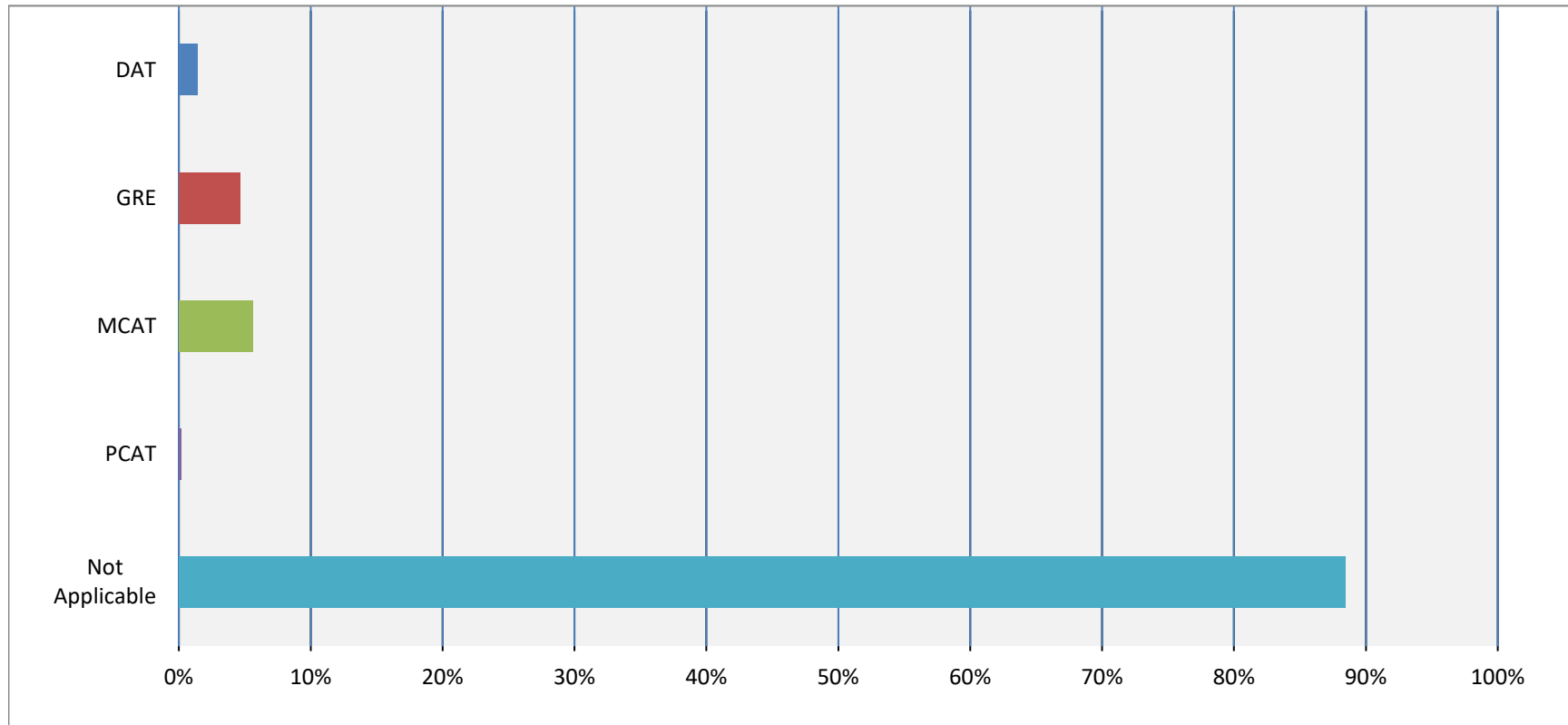
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

**Q36 What other standardized exams did you submit as part of your application during the application process? (Check all that apply.)**

Answered: 711

Skipped: 18



| Answer Choices               | 2023 |   | 2022   |
|------------------------------|------|---|--------|
| DAT                          | 10   | 1.41%                                       | 0.57%  |
| GRE                          | 33   | 4.64%                                       | 7.13%  |
| MCAT                         | 40   | 5.63%                                       | 4.19%  |
| PCAT                         | 1    | 0.14%                                       | 0.34%  |
| Not Applicable               | 629  | 88.47%                                      | 88.34% |
| Total Responses Received 711 |      | (Respondents may choose more than one exam) |        |

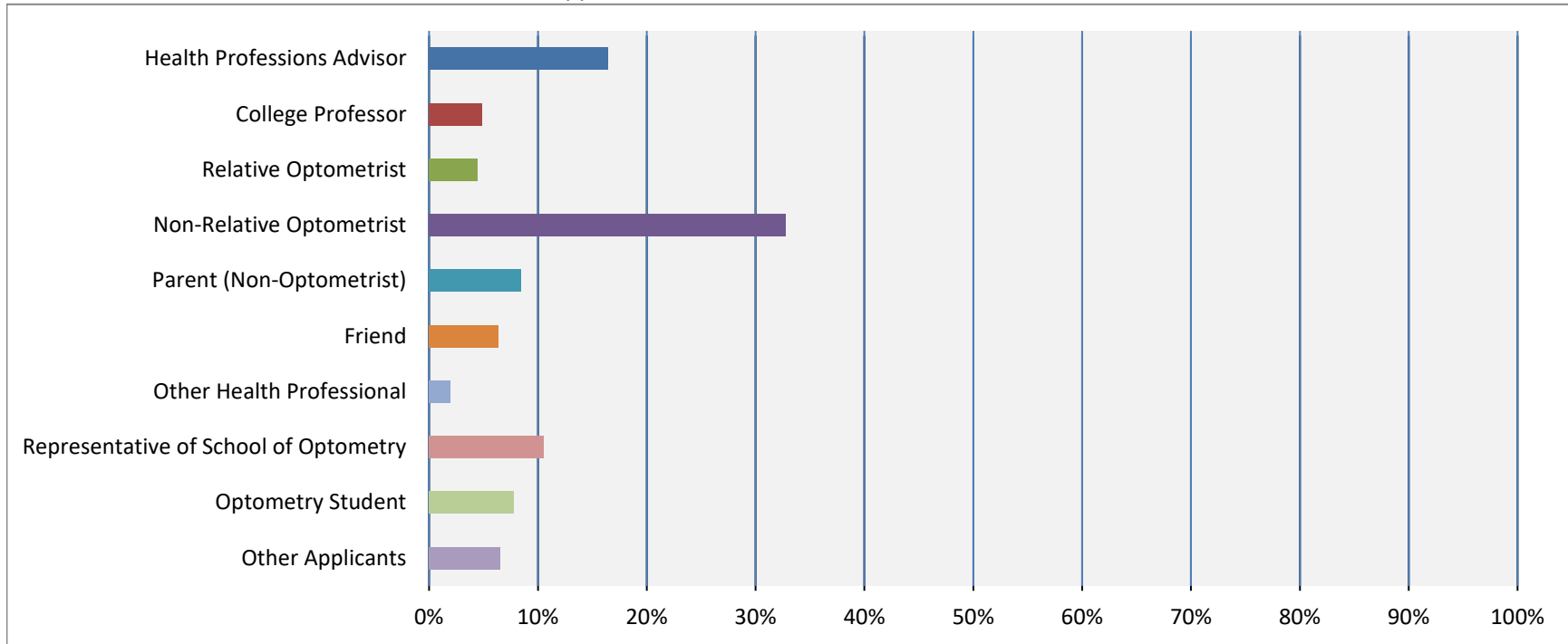
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

## Q37 Whom did you consider to be your primary advisor during the admissions process?

Answered: 723

Skipped: 6



| Answer Choices                        | 2023       |        | 2022   |
|---------------------------------------|------------|--------|--------|
| Health Professions Advisor            | 119        | 16.46% | 17.36% |
| College Professor                     | 35         | 4.84%  | 3.19%  |
| Relative Optometrist                  | 32         | 4.43%  | 4.62%  |
| Non-Relative Optometrist              | 237        | 32.78% | 31.54% |
| Parent (Non-Optometrist)              | 61         | 8.44%  | 8.24%  |
| Friend                                | 46         | 6.36%  | 6.81%  |
| Other Health Professional             | 14         | 1.94%  | 1.98%  |
| Representative of School of Optometry | 76         | 10.51% | 11.76% |
| Optometry Student                     | 56         | 7.75%  | 9.67%  |
| Other Applicants                      | 47         | 6.50%  | 4.84%  |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>723</b> |        |        |

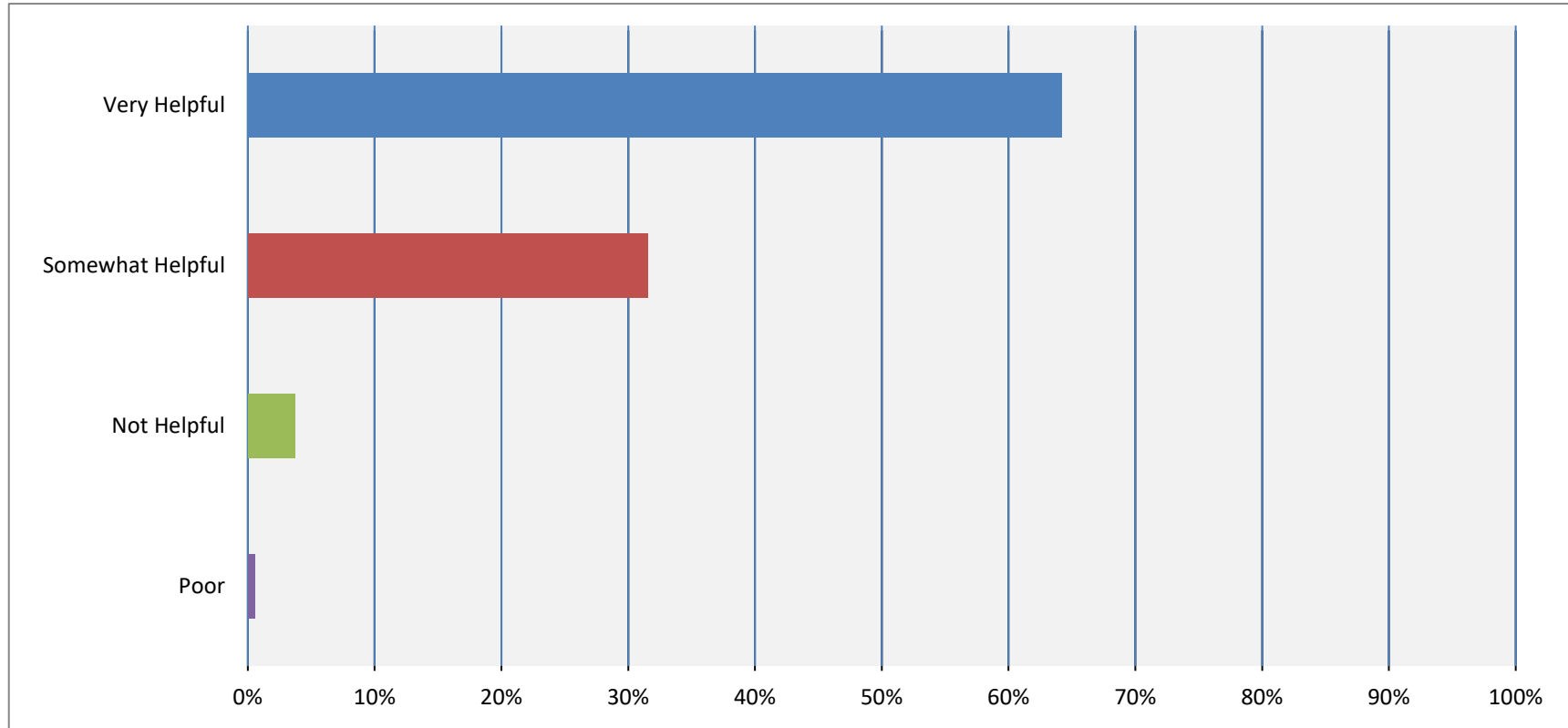
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

## Q38 How would you rate this advisor's helpfulness in providing information?

Answered: 723

Skipped: 6



| Answer Choices   | 2023 |        | 2022   |
|------------------|------|--------|--------|
| Very Helpful     | 464  | 64.18% | 65.64% |
| Somewhat Helpful | 228  | 31.54% | 29.63% |
| Not Helpful      | 27   | 3.73%  | 3.30%  |
| Poor             | 4    | 0.55%  | 1.43%  |
| Total            | 723  |        |        |



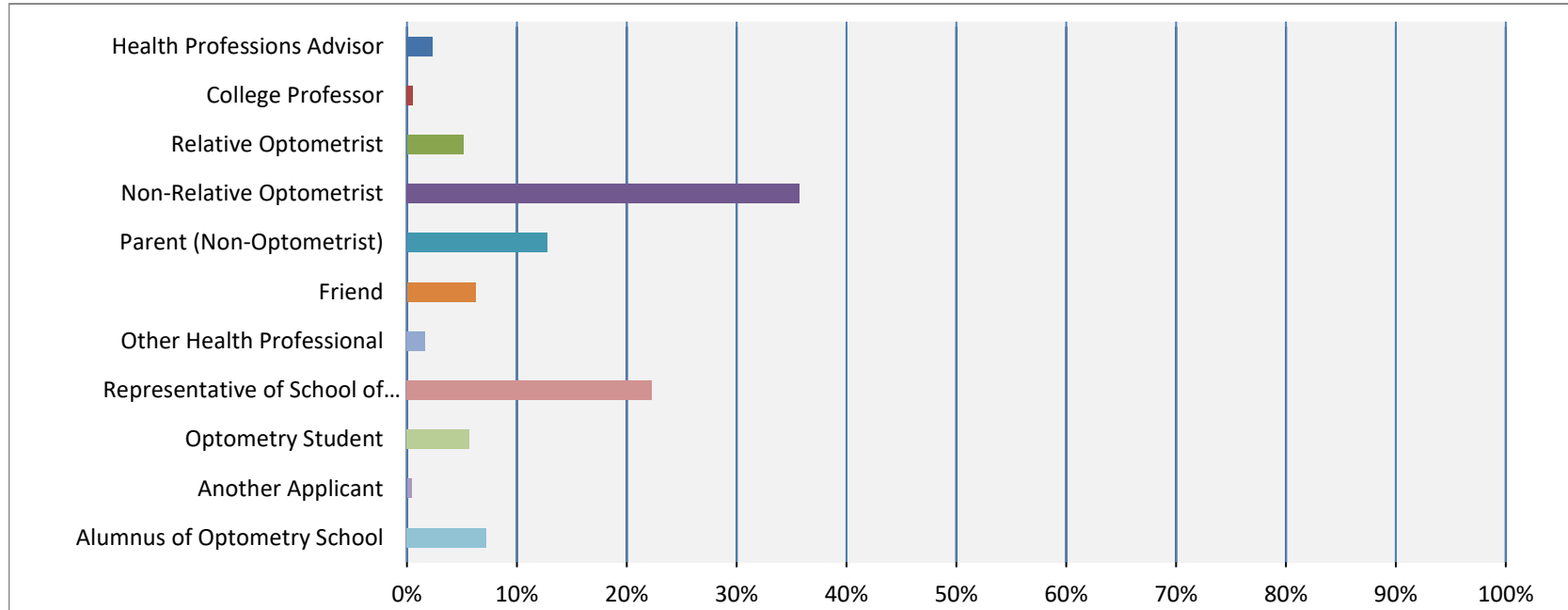
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

**Q40 Of the following individuals, who most influenced your choice of this optometry school?**

Answered: 722

Skipped: 7



| Answer Choices                        | 2023       |        | 2022   |
|---------------------------------------|------------|--------|--------|
| Health Professions Advisor            | 17         | 2.35%  | 2.73%  |
| College Professor                     | 4          | 0.55%  | 0.55%  |
| Relative Optometrist                  | 37         | 5.12%  | 4.69%  |
| Non-Relative Optometrist              | 258        | 35.73% | 32.06% |
| Parent (Non-Optometrist)              | 92         | 12.74% | 13.74% |
| Friend                                | 45         | 6.23%  | 4.91%  |
| Other Health Professional             | 12         | 1.66%  | 1.53%  |
| Representative of School of Optometry | 161        | 22.30% | 23.56% |
| Optometry Student                     | 41         | 5.68%  | 8.07%  |
| Another Applicant                     | 3          | 0.42%  | 0.98%  |
| Alumnus of Optometry School           | 52         | 7.20%  | 7.20%  |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>722</b> |        |        |

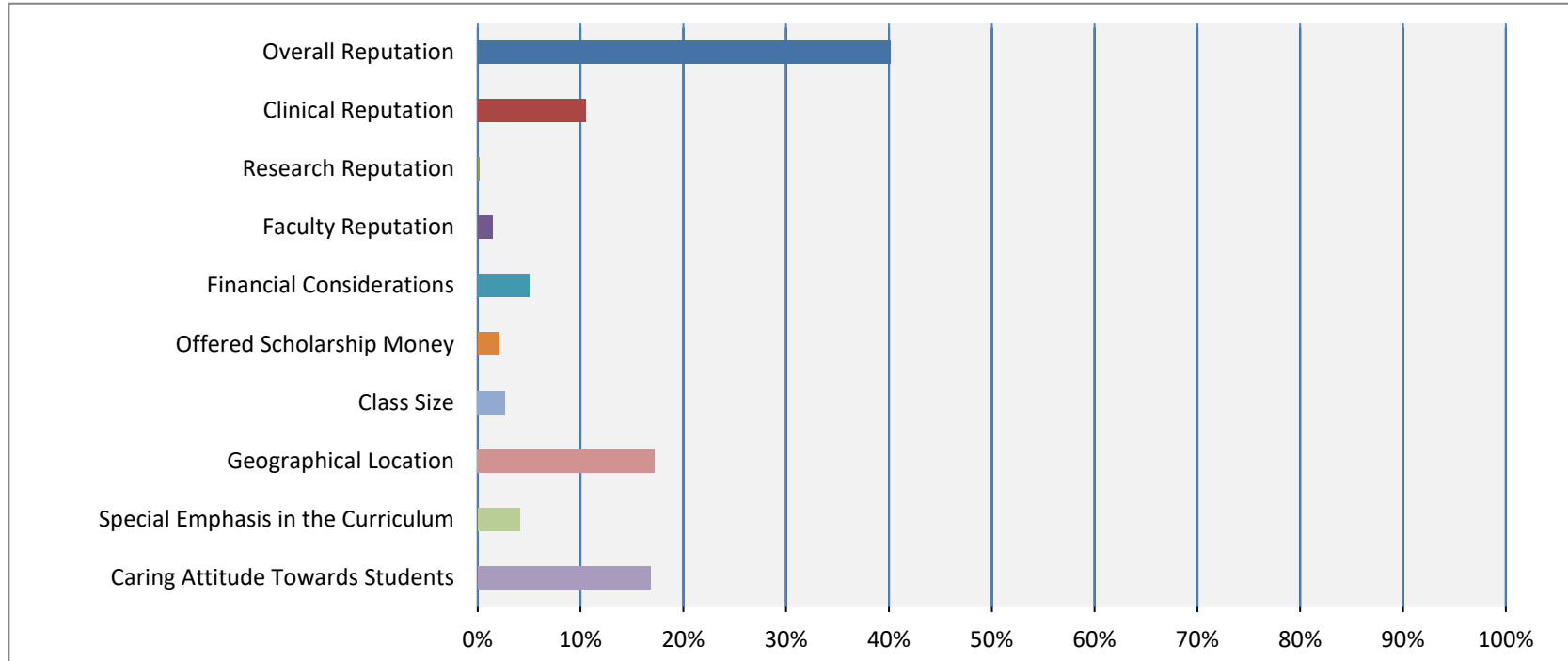
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

**Q41 Of the following considerations, which one best summarizes your reason for choosing this optometry school?**

Answered: 715

Skipped: 14



| Answer Choices                     | 2023       |        | 2022   |
|------------------------------------|------------|--------|--------|
| Overall Reputation                 | 287        | 40.14% | 36.78% |
| Clinical Reputation                | 75         | 10.49% | 10.02% |
| Research Reputation                | 1          | 0.14%  | 0.66%  |
| Faculty Reputation                 | 10         | 1.40%  | 1.32%  |
| Financial Considerations           | 36         | 5.03%  | 4.96%  |
| Offered Scholarship Money          | 15         | 2.10%  | 2.42%  |
| Class Size                         | 19         | 2.66%  | 3.08%  |
| Geographical Location              | 123        | 17.20% | 19.49% |
| Special Emphasis in the Curriculum | 29         | 4.06%  | 3.74%  |
| Caring Attitude Towards Students   | 120        | 16.78% | 17.51% |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>715</b> |        |        |

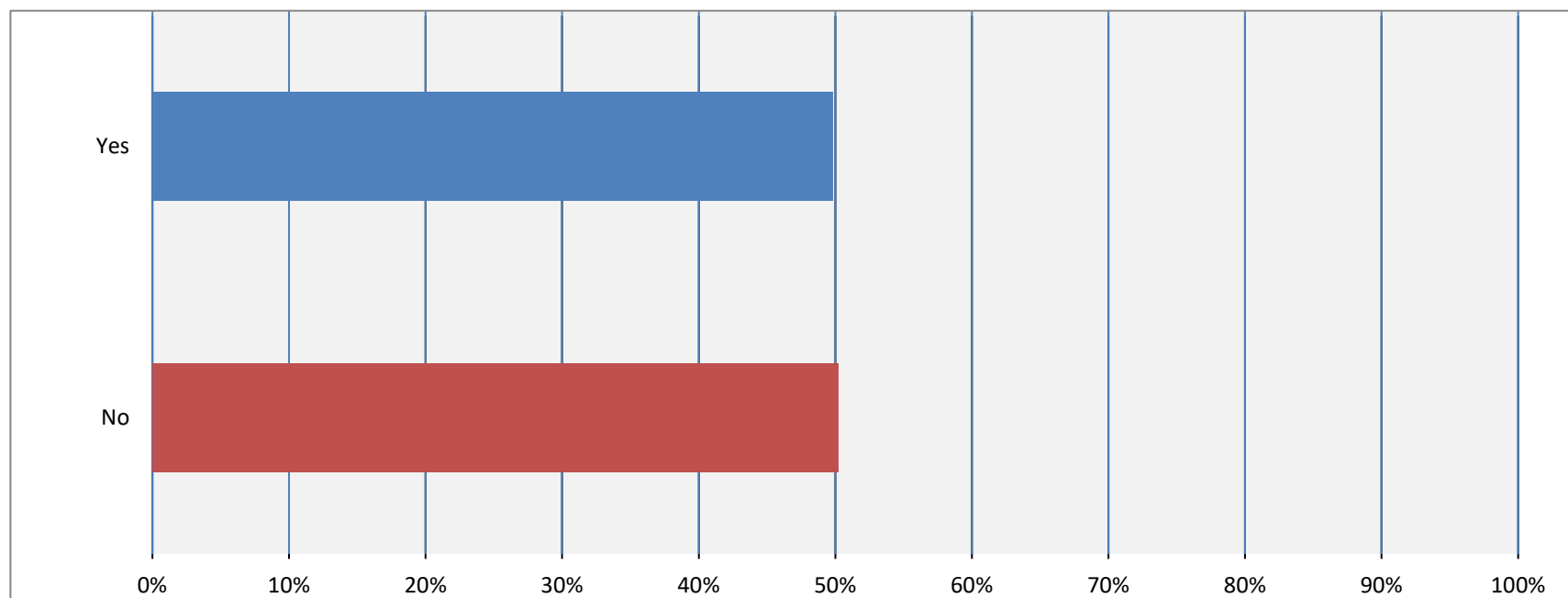
## Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

### Q42 Did you receive scholarship money to attend this optometry school?

Answered: 729

Skipped: 0



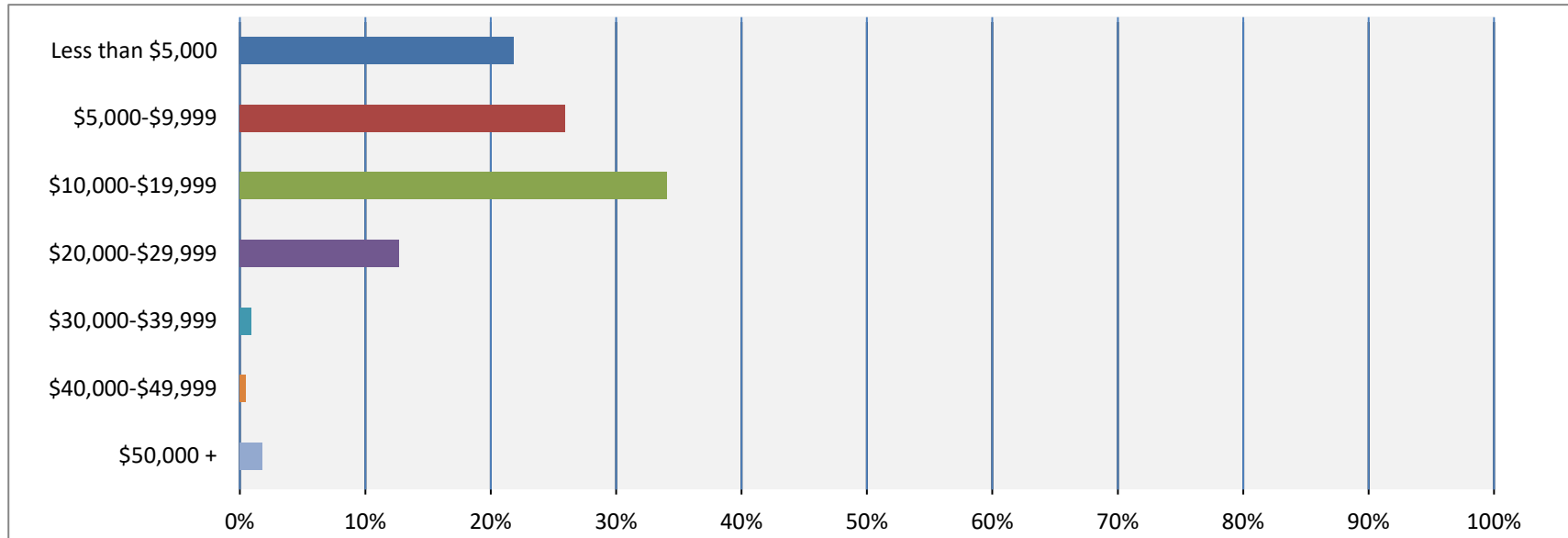
| Answer Choices | 2023 |        | 2022   |
|----------------|------|--------|--------|
| Yes            | 363  | 49.79% | 42.05% |
| No             | 366  | 50.21% | 57.95% |
| Total          | 729  |        |        |

# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

**Q42 (continued) If you received scholarship money to attend this optometry school, how much did you receive?**

**Annual Awards:** Answered: 220  
Skipped: 9



| Answer Choices       | 2023       |        | 2022   |
|----------------------|------------|--------|--------|
| Less than \$5,000    | 48         | 21.82% | 25.99% |
| \$5,000-\$9,999      | 57         | 25.91% | 24.67% |
| \$10,000-\$19,999    | 75         | 34.09% | 29.07% |
| \$20,000-\$29,999    | 28         | 12.73% | 16.74% |
| \$30,000-\$39,999    | 2          | 0.91%  | 1.32%  |
| \$40,000-\$49,999    | 1          | 0.45%  | 1.32%  |
| \$50,000 +           | 4          | 1.82%  | 0.88%  |
| Amount Not Specified | 5          | 2.27%  | 0.00%  |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>220</b> |        |        |

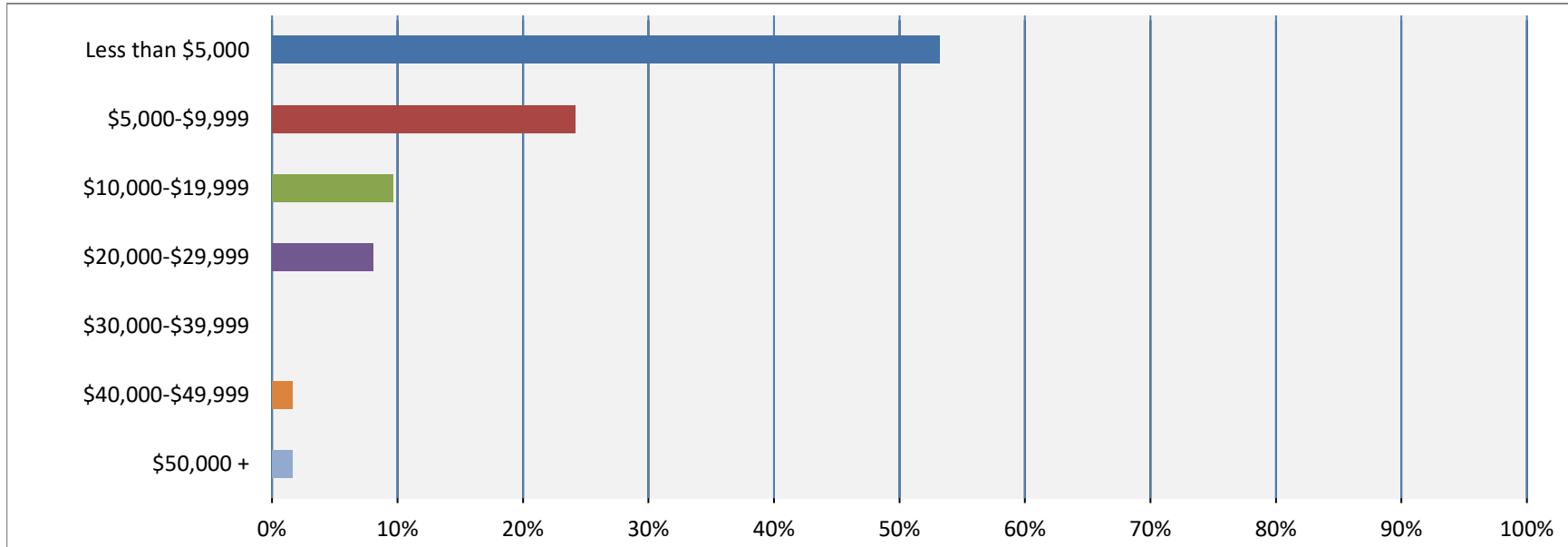
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# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

**Q42 (continued) If you received scholarship money to attend this optometry school, how much did you receive?**

**One-Time Awards:** Answered: 124  
Skipped: 5



| Answer Choices       | 2023       |        | 2022   |
|----------------------|------------|--------|--------|
| Less than \$5,000    | 66         | 53.23% | 48.91% |
| \$5,000-\$9,999      | 30         | 24.19% | 27.01% |
| \$10,000-\$19,999    | 12         | 9.68%  | 16.79% |
| \$20,000-\$29,999    | 10         | 8.06%  | 5.11%  |
| \$30,000-\$39,999    | 0          | 0.00%  | 0.73%  |
| \$40,000-\$49,999    | 2          | 1.61%  | 0.73%  |
| \$50,000 +           | 2          | 1.61%  | 0.73%  |
| Amount Not Specified | 2          | 1.61%  | 0.00%  |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>124</b> |        |        |

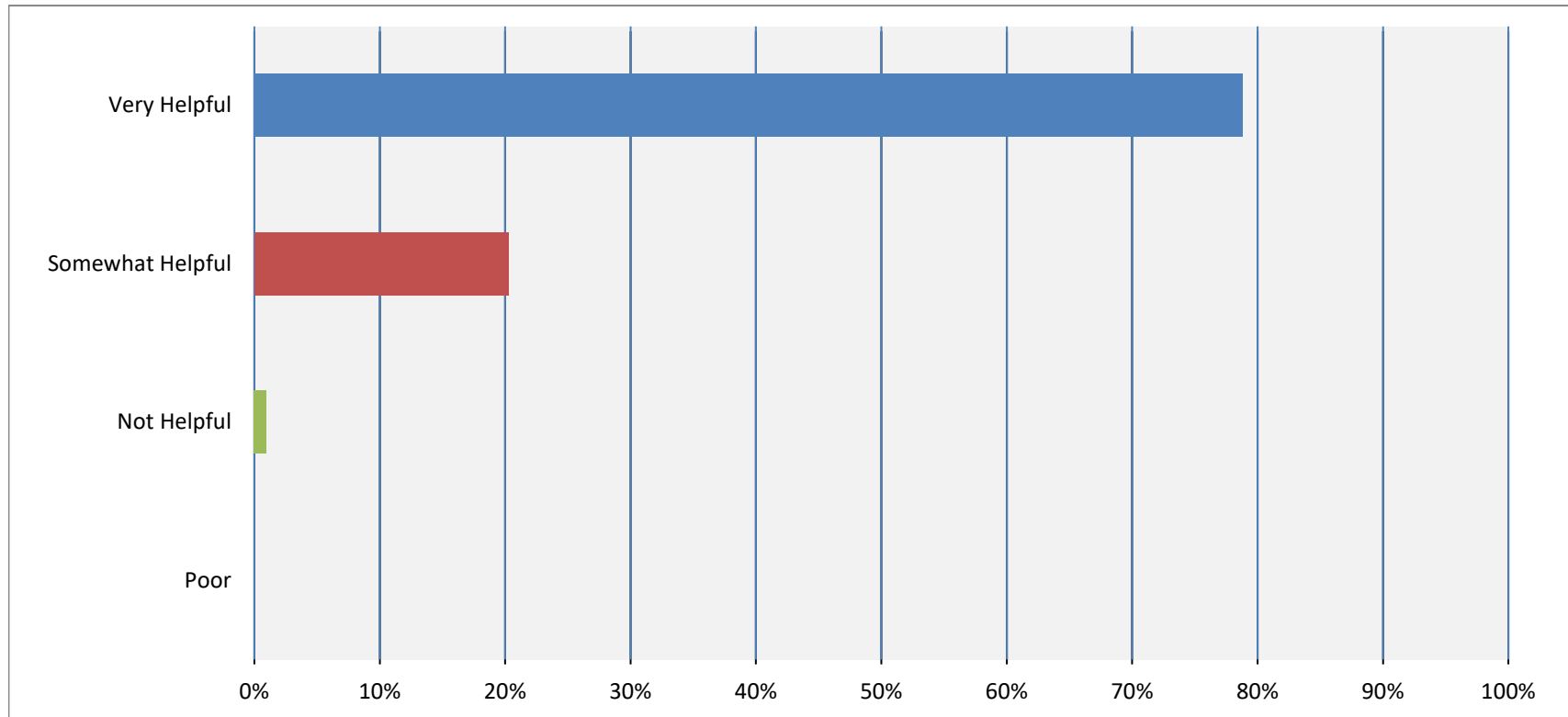
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

## Q43 How would you rate this school's helpfulness during the admissions process?

Answered: 726

Skipped: 3



| Answer Choices   | 2023 |        | 2022   |
|------------------|------|--------|--------|
| Very Helpful     | 572  | 78.79% | 80.67% |
| Somewhat Helpful | 147  | 20.25% | 18.24% |
| Not Helpful      | 7    | 0.96%  | 0.87%  |
| Poor             | 0    | 0.00%  | 0.22%  |
| Total            | 726  |        |        |

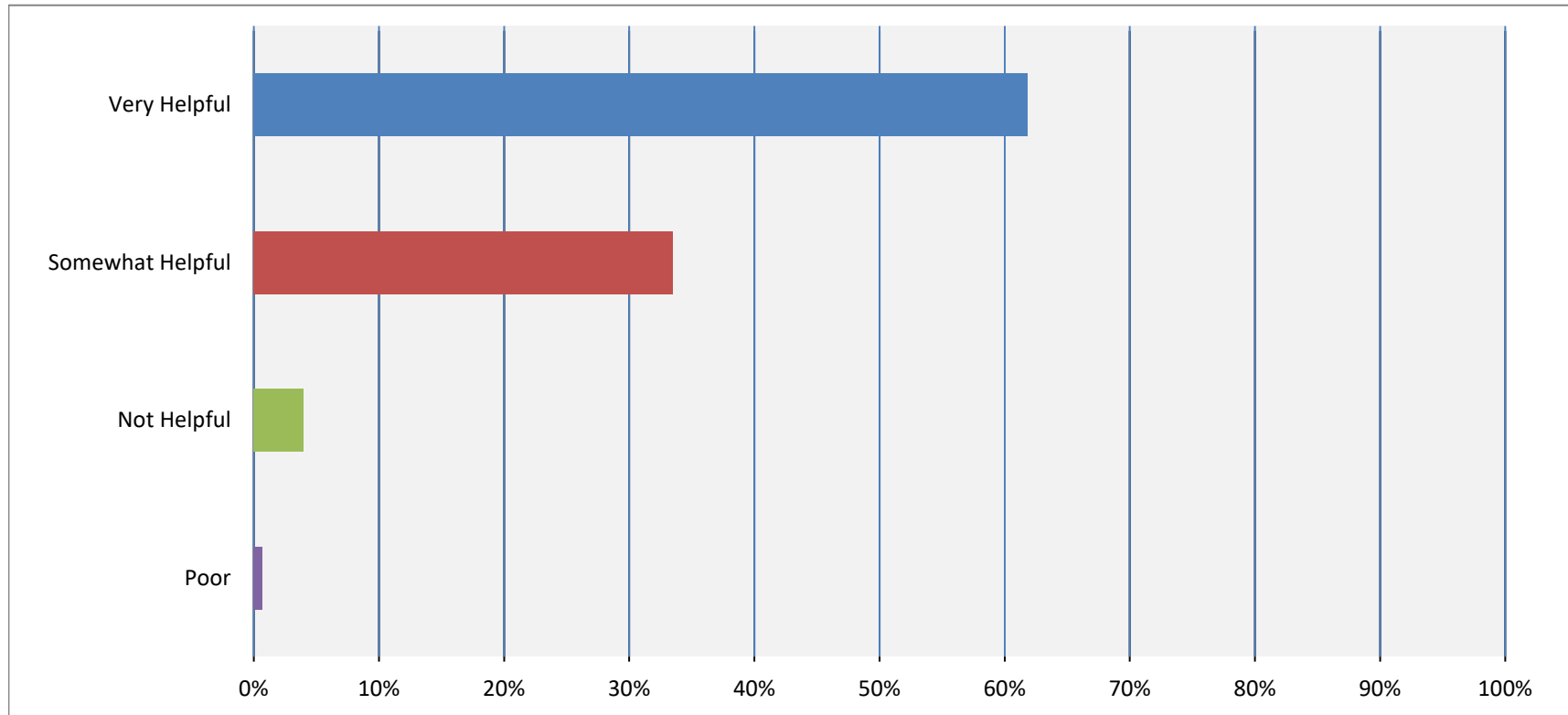
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

## Q44 How would you rate this school's helpfulness in providing financial aid information?

Answered: 726

Skipped: 3



| Answer Choices   | 2023 |        | 2022   |
|------------------|------|--------|--------|
| Very Helpful     | 449  | 61.85% | 59.57% |
| Somewhat Helpful | 243  | 33.47% | 34.46% |
| Not Helpful      | 29   | 3.99%  | 5.43%  |
| Poor             | 5    | 0.69%  | 0.54%  |
| Total            | 726  |        |        |

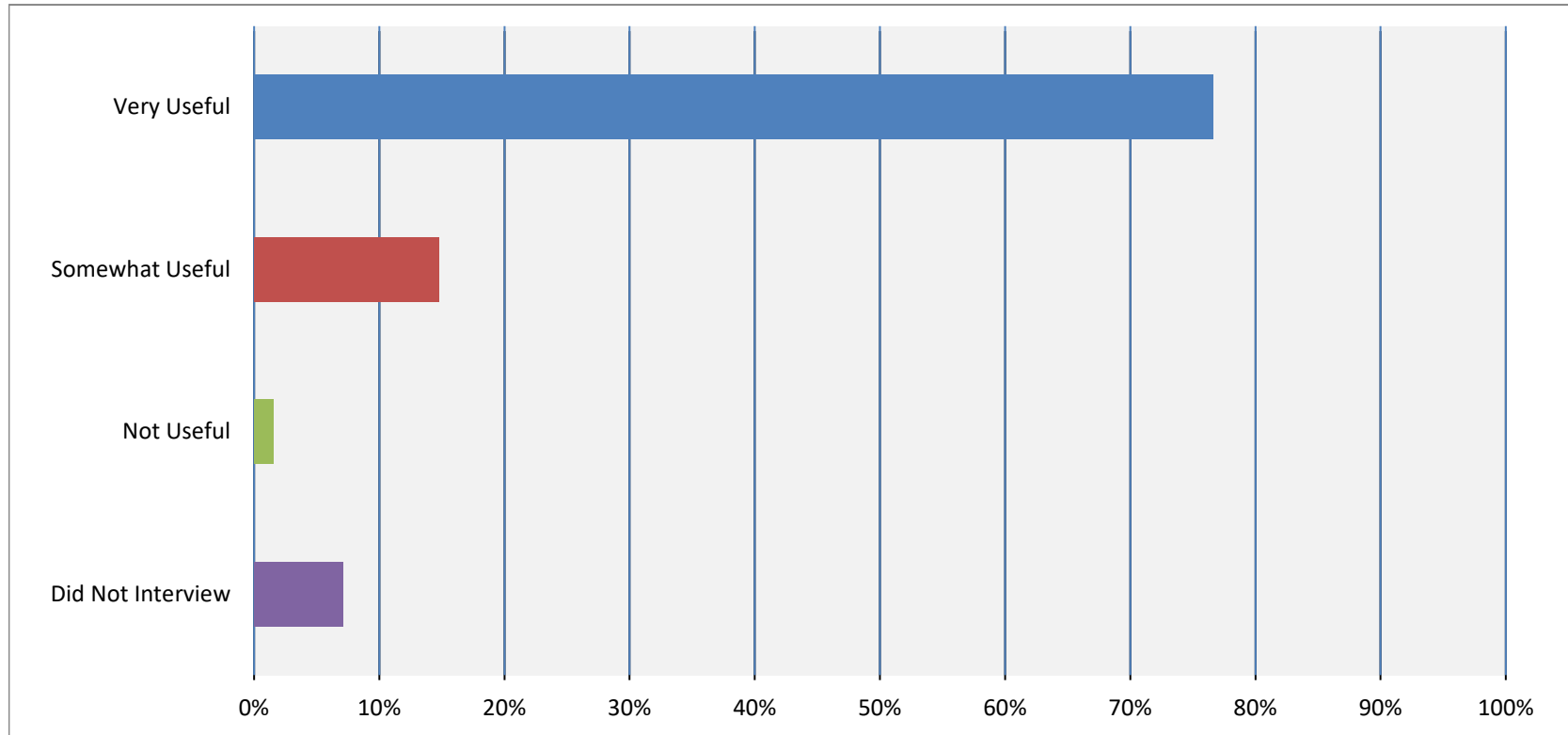
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

## Q45 How useful was the on-site interview in choosing which optometry school to attend?

Answered: 719

Skipped: 10



| Answer Choices    | 2023 |        | 2022   |
|-------------------|------|--------|--------|
| Very Useful       | 551  | 76.63% | 70.34% |
| Somewhat Useful   | 106  | 14.74% | 19.30% |
| Not Useful        | 11   | 1.53%  | 2.94%  |
| Did Not Interview | 51   | 7.09%  | 7.42%  |
| Total             | 719  |        |        |

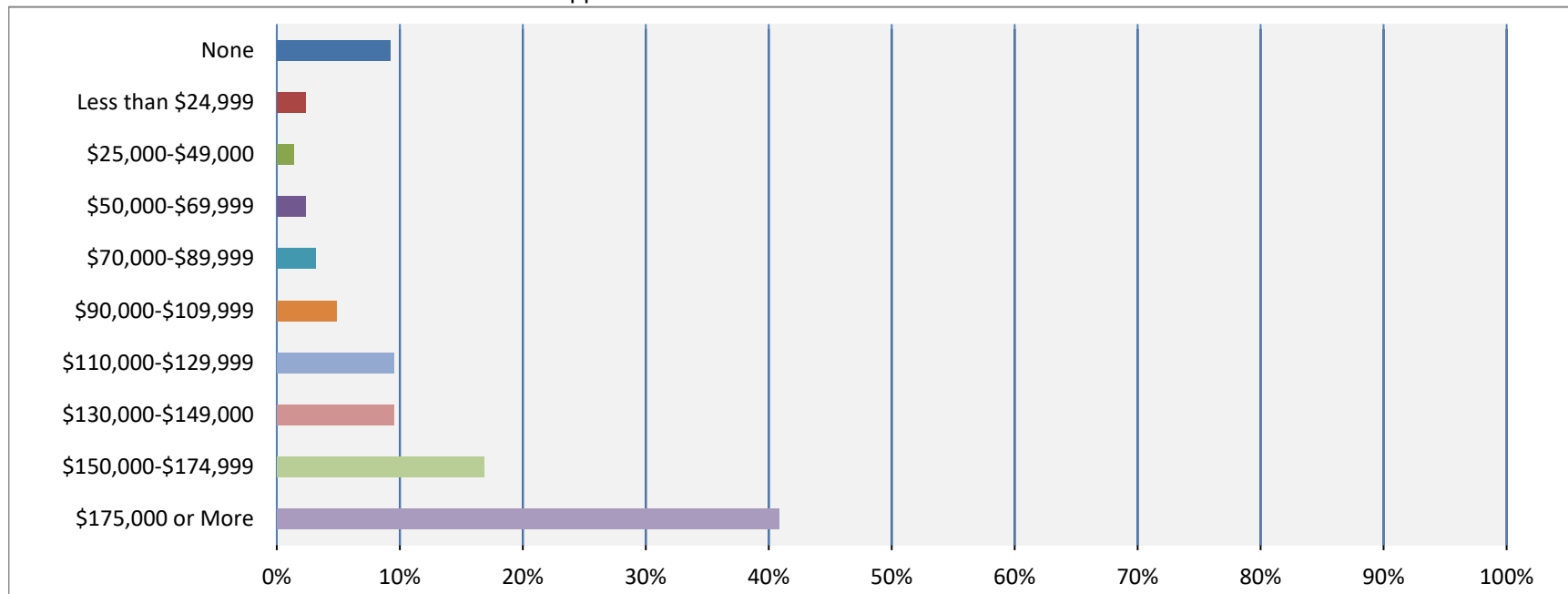


# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

**Q46 What do you estimate your debt level will be for optometry school? (Do not include any debt for your undergraduate education.)**

Answered: 725  
Skipped: 4



| Answer Choices      | 2023       |        | 2022   |
|---------------------|------------|--------|--------|
| None                | 67         | 9.24%  | 7.82%  |
| Less than \$24,999  | 17         | 2.34%  | 3.58%  |
| \$25,000-\$49,000   | 10         | 1.38%  | 3.04%  |
| \$50,000-\$69,999   | 17         | 2.34%  | 3.04%  |
| \$70,000-\$89,999   | 23         | 3.17%  | 3.80%  |
| \$90,000-\$109,999  | 35         | 4.83%  | 5.32%  |
| \$110,000-\$129,999 | 69         | 9.52%  | 10.10% |
| \$130,000-\$149,000 | 69         | 9.52%  | 8.25%  |
| \$150,000-\$174,999 | 122        | 16.83% | 15.74% |
| \$175,000 or More   | 296        | 40.83% | 39.31% |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>725</b> |        |        |

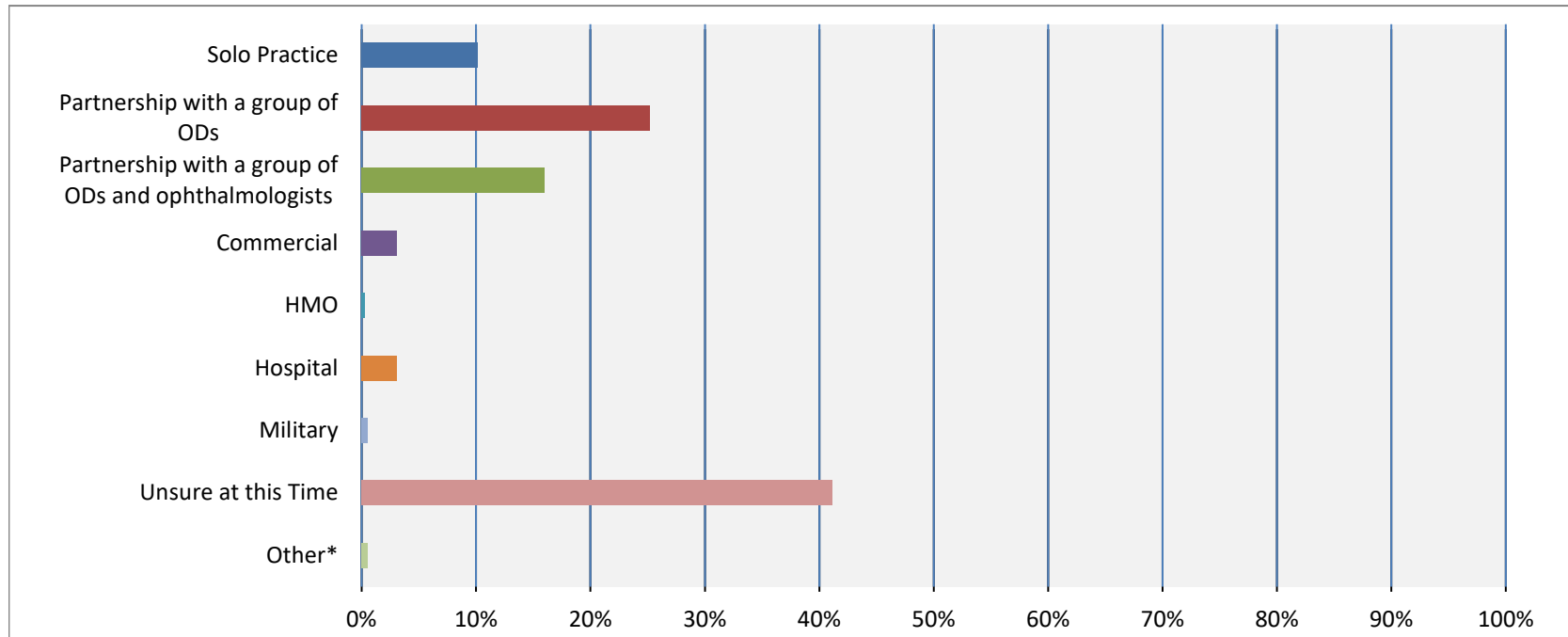
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

## Q47 What type of practice do you plan to enter?

Answered: 719

Skipped: 10



| Answer Choices                                       | 2023       |        | 2022   |
|--|------------|--------|--------|
| Solo Practice  | 73         | 10.15% | 9.41%  |
| Partnership with a group of ODs                      | 181        | 25.17% | 24.62% |
| Partnership with a group of ODs and ophthalmologists | 115        | 15.99% | 16.74% |
| Commercial   | 22         | 3.06%  | 1.64%  |
| HMO  | 2          | 0.28%  | 0.00%  |
| Hospital   | 22         | 3.06%  | 3.50%  |
| Military   | 4          | 0.56%  | 0.66%  |
| Unsure at this Time                                  | 296        | 41.17% | 43.00% |
| Other*   | 4          | 0.56%  | 0.44%  |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>719</b> |        |        |

\*Other includes community health center (2), IHS (1) and academic institution (1)

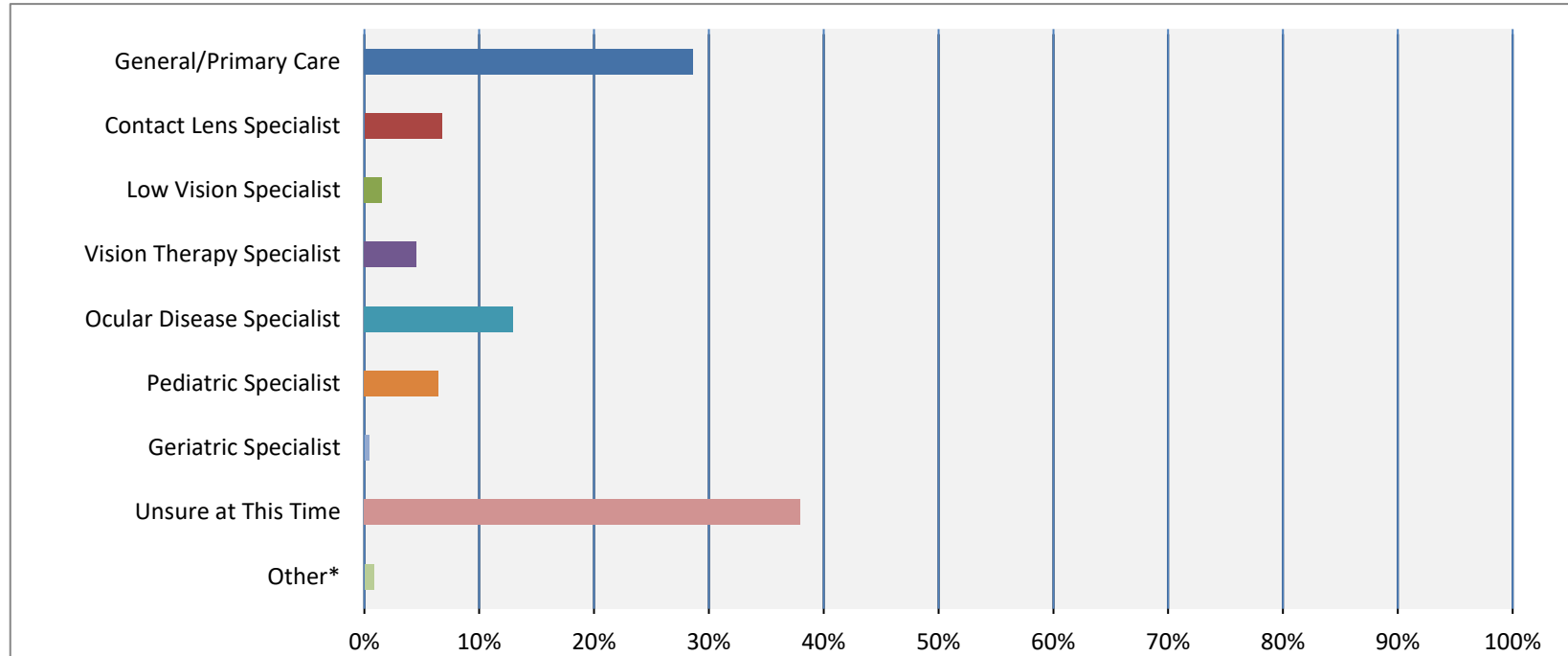
# Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

## Q48 What type of optometry are you planning to practice?

Answered: 727

Skipped: 2



| Answer Choices            | 2023       |        | 2022   |
|---------------------------|------------|--------|--------|
| General/Primary Care      | 208        | 28.61% | 29.21% |
| Contact Lens Specialist   | 49         | 6.74%  | 4.56%  |
| Low Vision Specialist     | 11         | 1.51%  | 1.30%  |
| Vision Therapy Specialist | 33         | 4.54%  | 4.56%  |
| Ocular Disease Specialist | 94         | 12.93% | 12.27% |
| Pediatric Specialist      | 47         | 6.46%  | 6.62%  |
| Geriatric Specialist      | 3          | 0.41%  | 0.43%  |
| Unsure at This Time       | 276        | 37.96% | 39.85% |
| Other*                    | 6          | 0.83%  | 1.19%  |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>727</b> |        |        |

\*Other includes neuro-optometry/neurovision/neuro-ophthalmic (3), myopia (1), aviation optometry or sports vision (1), research in optometry and genetics (1)

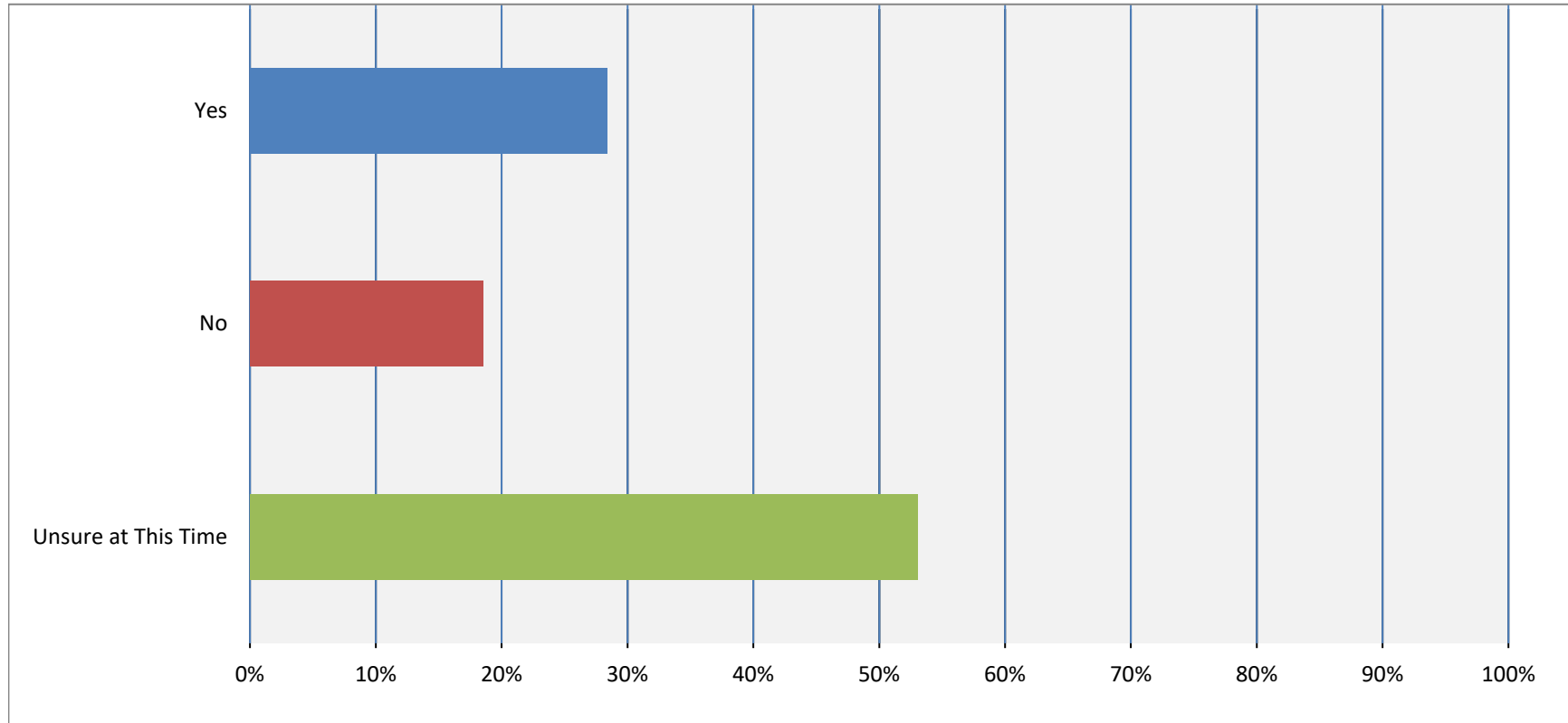
## Matriculating Optometry Student Survey 2023

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

### Q49 Do you plan to pursue a residency after graduating from optometry school?

Answered: 729

Skipped: 0



| Answer Choices      | 2023 |        | 2022   |
|---------------------|------|--------|--------|
| Yes                 | 207  | 28.40% | 33.48% |
| No                  | 135  | 18.52% | 17.12% |
| Unsure at This Time | 387  | 53.09% | 49.40% |
| Total               | 729  |        |        |