

[Survey Overview]

Survey of Japanese Nursing Professionals Regarding Climate Change and Health

Health and Global Policy Institute (HGPI)
November 14, 2024

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Survey Findings Overview



Overview of this survey

Purpose: To gauge knowledge and awareness levels among nursing professionals in Japan regarding the human health impacts of climate change and to grasp their professional views and needs

Method: A self-administered survey on knowledge, awareness, and professional perspectives on climate change and health was created and administered using an online survey platform

Participants: 1,200 nursing professionals (including nurses, public health nurses, and midwives) from all regions of Japan

Survey period: August 26 to August 31, 2024

Ethical approval: This study was approved by the Niigata University Research Ethics Committee (Approval number: 2023-0358)

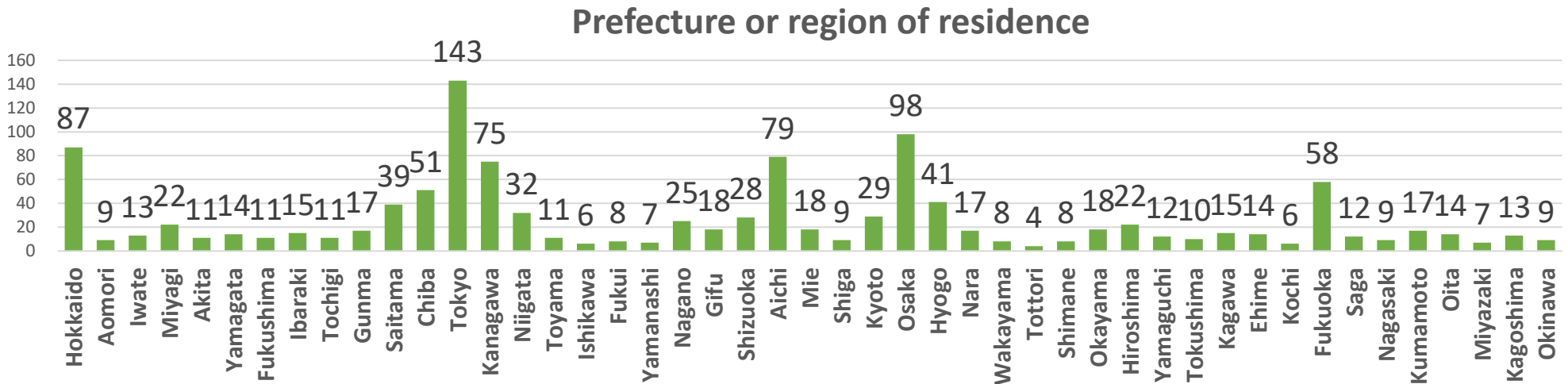
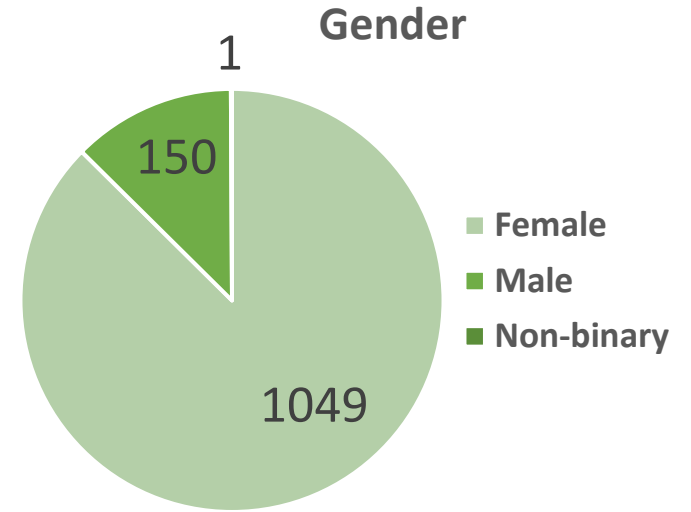
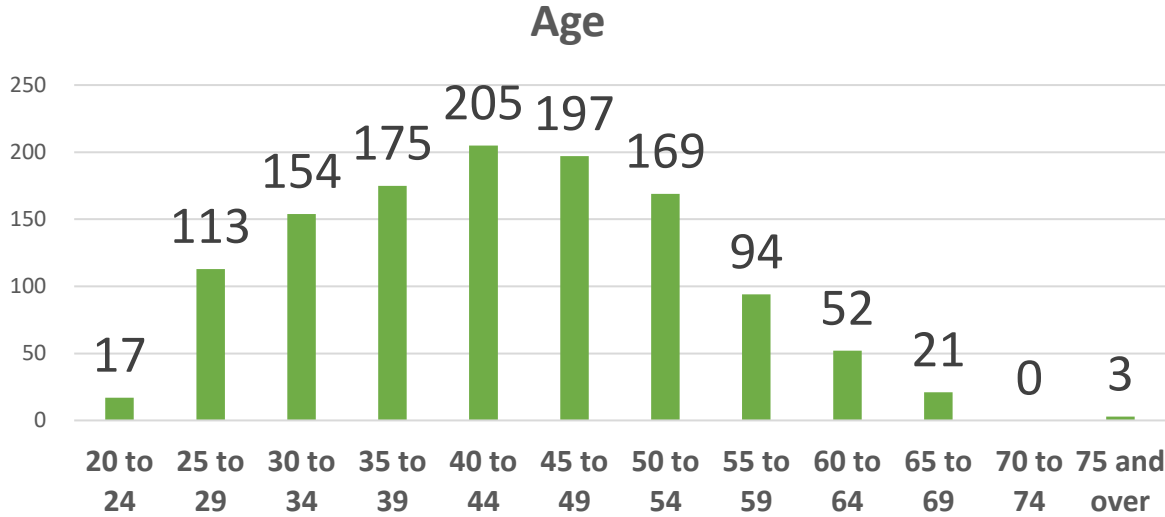
Research funding: This study was conducted with funding from Health and Global Policy Institute (HGPI)

Detailed Findings



Respondent Attributes (Gender, Age, Residence)

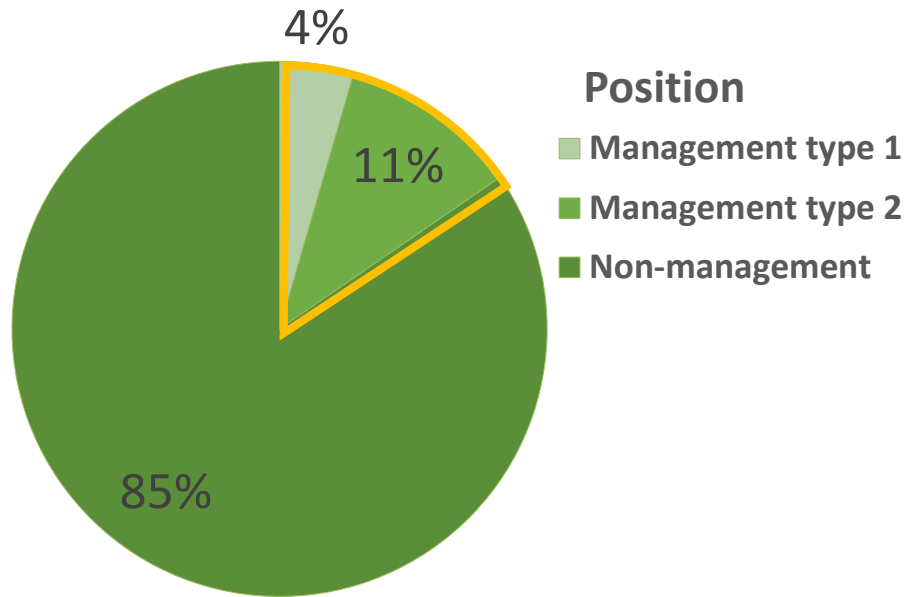
(Conducted August 2024. N=1,200)





Respondent Attributes (Position, Affiliated facility)

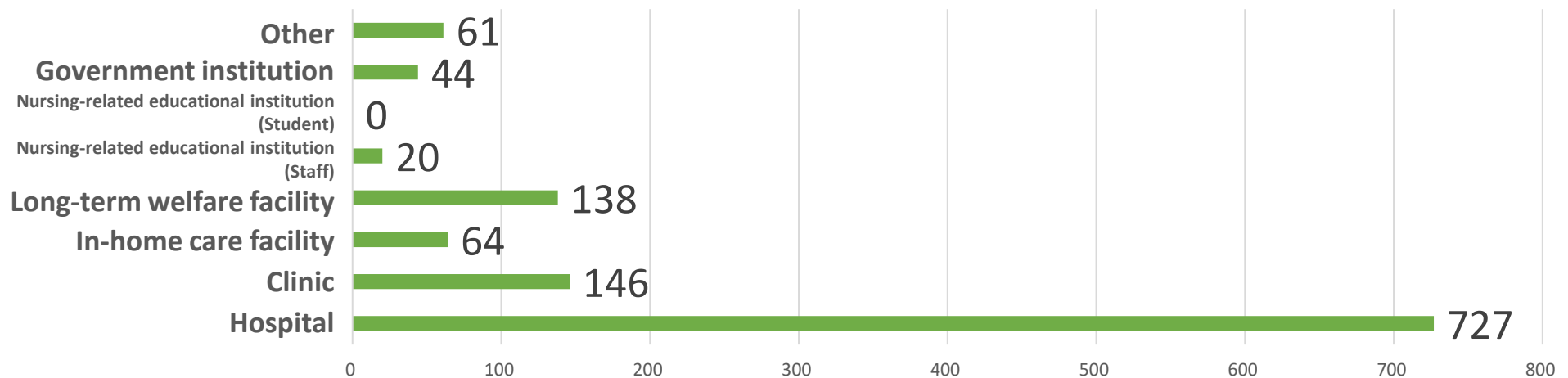
(Conducted August 2024. N=1,200)



Management type 1: Director of Nursing, General Manager, Deputy Director of Nursing, Prefectural or Municipal Section Chief, Home Nursing Station/Welfare Facility Director, Dean, etc.

Management type 2: Head Nurse, Assistant Head Nurse, Prefectural or Municipal Subsection Chief, Manager, Chairperson, Professor, etc.

Main types of affiliated facilities

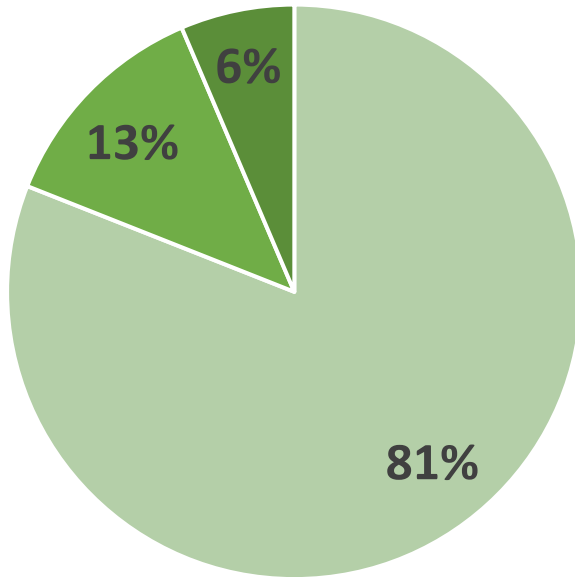




Respondent Attributes (Certification, Work History, Educational Background)

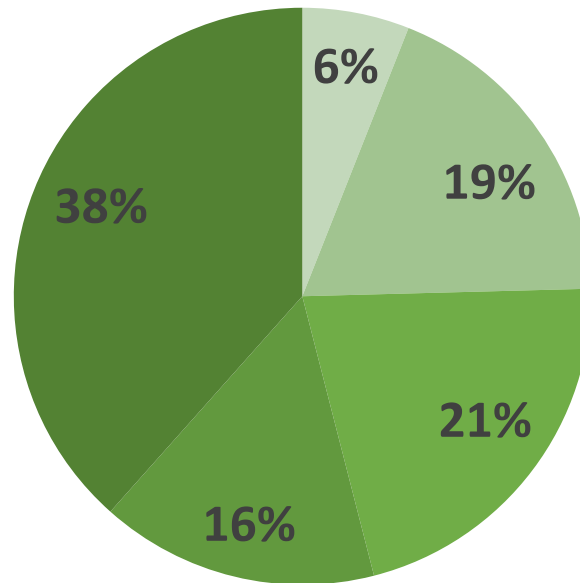
(Conducted August 2024. N=1,200)

National qualification



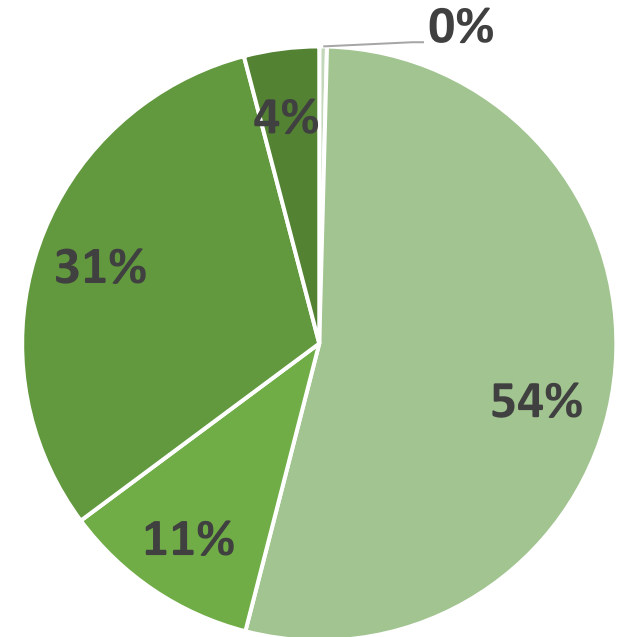
- Nurse qualification only
- Public health nurse qualification (Without midwife qualification)
- Has midwife qualification

Years of experience



- 4 years or less
- 5 to 9 years
- 10 to 14 years
- 15 to 19 years
- 20 years or more

Education



- High school
- Vocational school
- Junior college
- Four-year university
- Graduate school

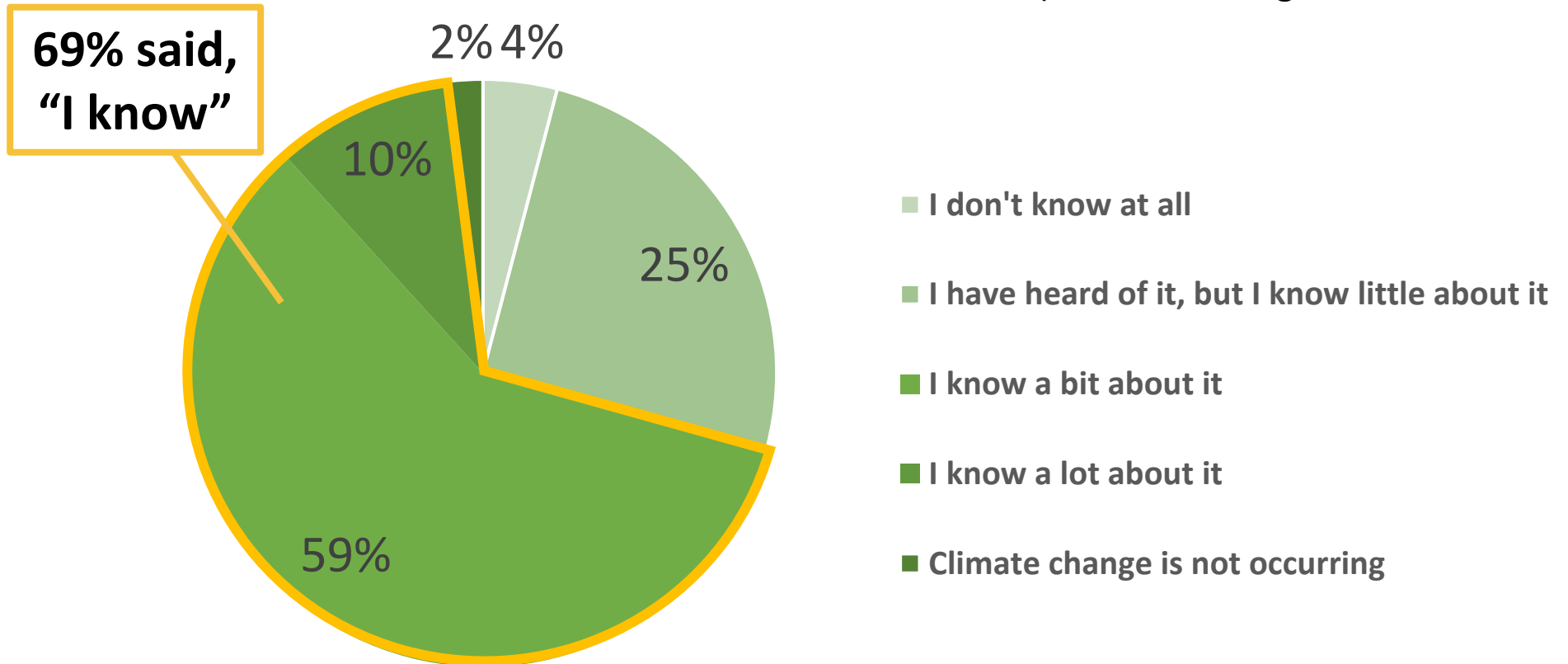
Awareness toward climate change and health



Please read the following. Did you know that climate change is occurring in every region around the world?

In recent years, continued global warming has led to an increase in extremely hot days and more frequent extreme weather events (such as torrential rains) in all regions of the world, and is having various impacts on people’s lives. Such changes in temperature, rainfall, and other weather patterns over long periods lasting several decades is called “climate change.”

(Conducted August 2024. N=1,200)

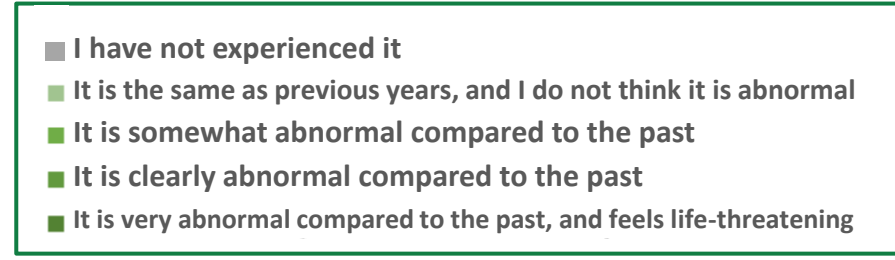
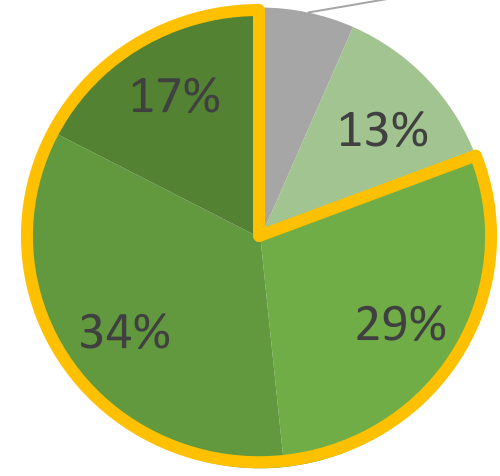
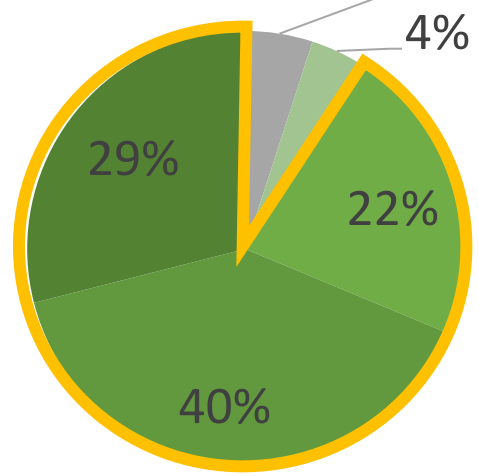




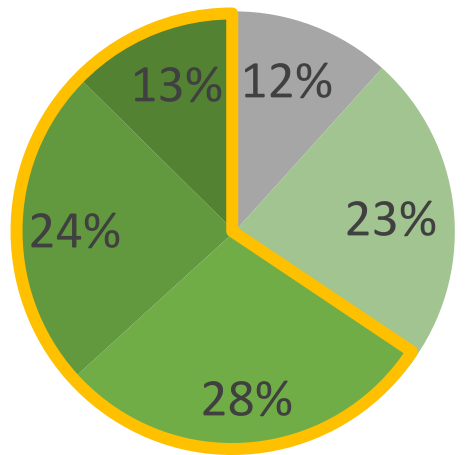
What is your experience of the frequency and intensity of the following weather events (a through e) in the area where you live over the past two to three years?

(Conducted August 2024. N=1,200)

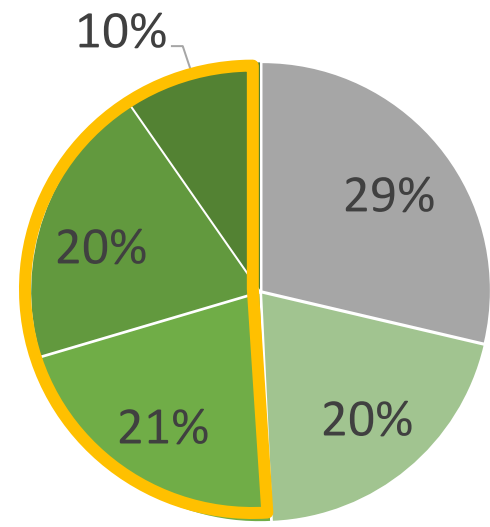
a. High temperatures 5% b. Heavy/torrential rain 7%



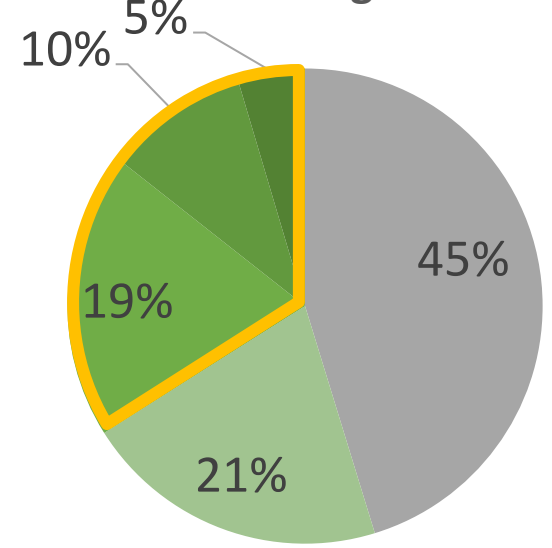
c. Typhoons and storm surges



d. Flooding



e. Drought

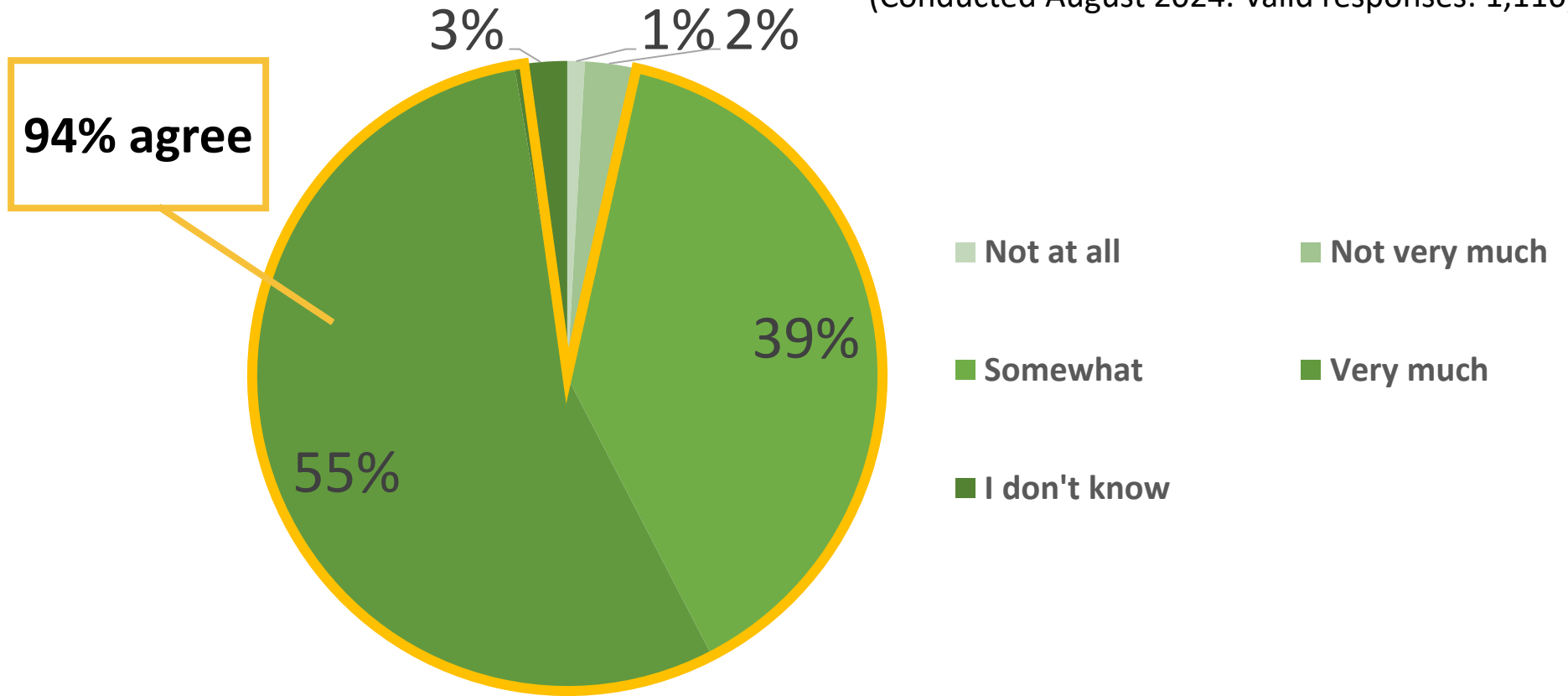




Do you think climate change is causing the changes in frequency and intensity of the weather events that you are experiencing?

For those who responded, “It is somewhat abnormal compared to the past,” “It is clearly abnormal compared to the past,” or “It is very abnormal compared to the past, and feels life-threatening” regarding weather phenomena in the area where you live, please select one of the following options.

(Conducted August 2024. Valid responses: 1,116)

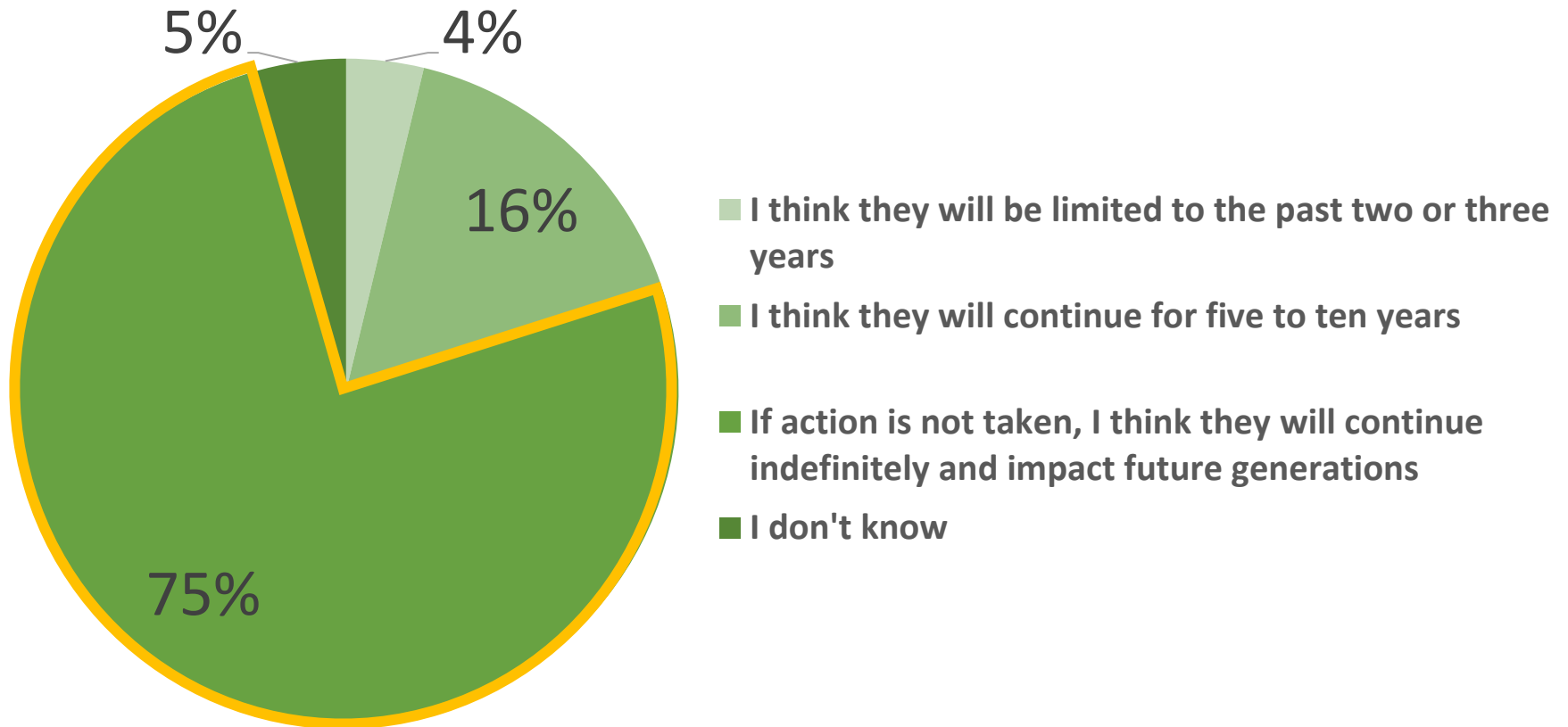




Do you think the changes in the frequency or intensity of the weather events that you are experiencing will continue in the future?

For those who responded, “It is somewhat abnormal compared to the past,” “It is clearly abnormal compared to the past,” or “It is very abnormal compared to the past, and feels life-threatening” for weather phenomena in the area where you live, please select one of the following options.

(Conducted August 2024. Valid responses: 1,116)



Knowledge regarding climate change and health

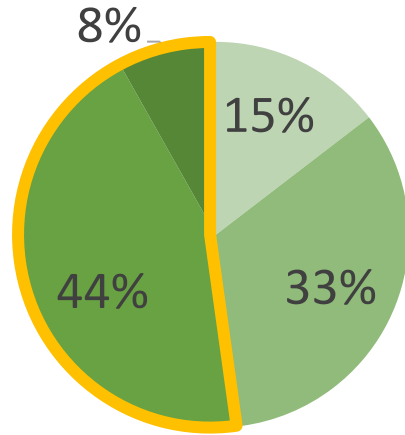


Please answer truthfully how familiar you are with the items shared below.

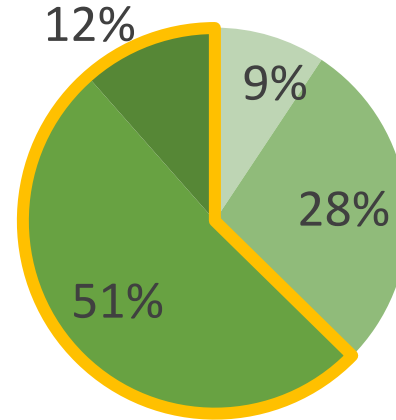
(Conducted August 2024. N=1,200)

The following statements on climate change and health are from various specialist organizations such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations (UN), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan.

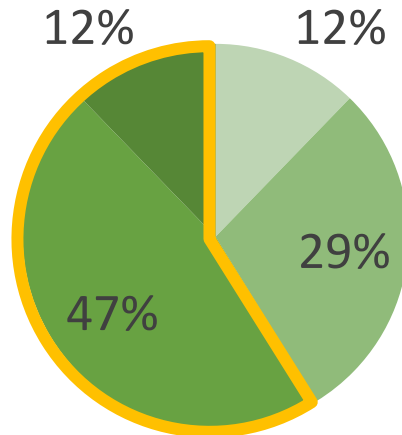
a. Climate change is caused by global warming, which is mainly driven by human activities that increase greenhouse gasses (GHGs) in the atmosphere.



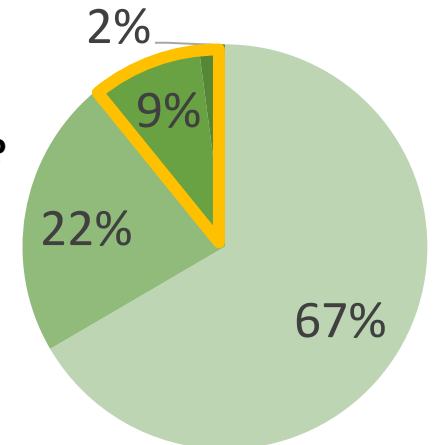
b. Climate change can increase the likelihood of adverse human health effects. (In addition to heat stroke, it can worsen respiratory diseases such as asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) due to air pollution, alter the timing of infectious disease outbreaks, cause mental illnesses, or result in undernourishment due to food supply crises.)



c. Adverse health impacts due to climate change will be more felt by children, senior citizens, and other vulnerable groups (such as people living in poverty, people living with disabilities and diseases, and women).



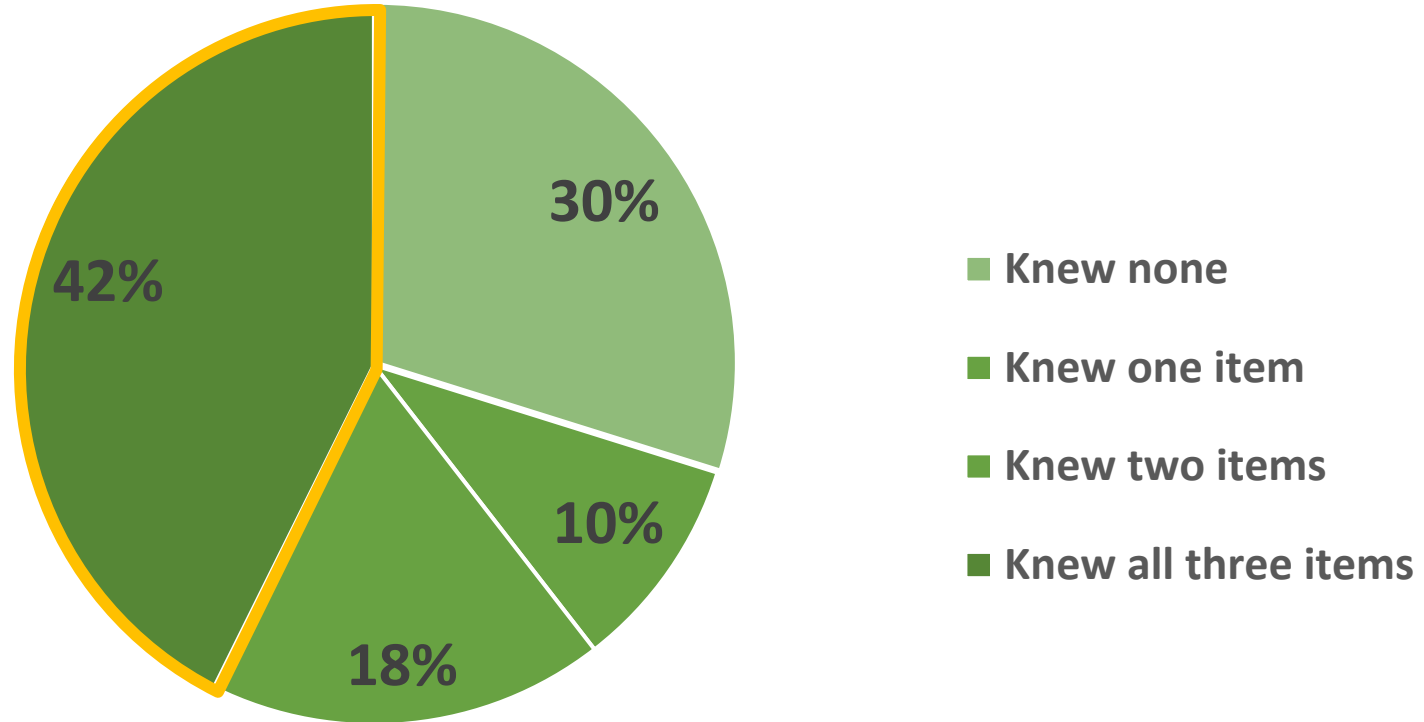
d. Are you familiar with the concept of planetary health?





Please answer truthfully how familiar you are with the items shared below.
(Conducted August 2024. N=1,200)

Respondents who knew about all items (a though c)

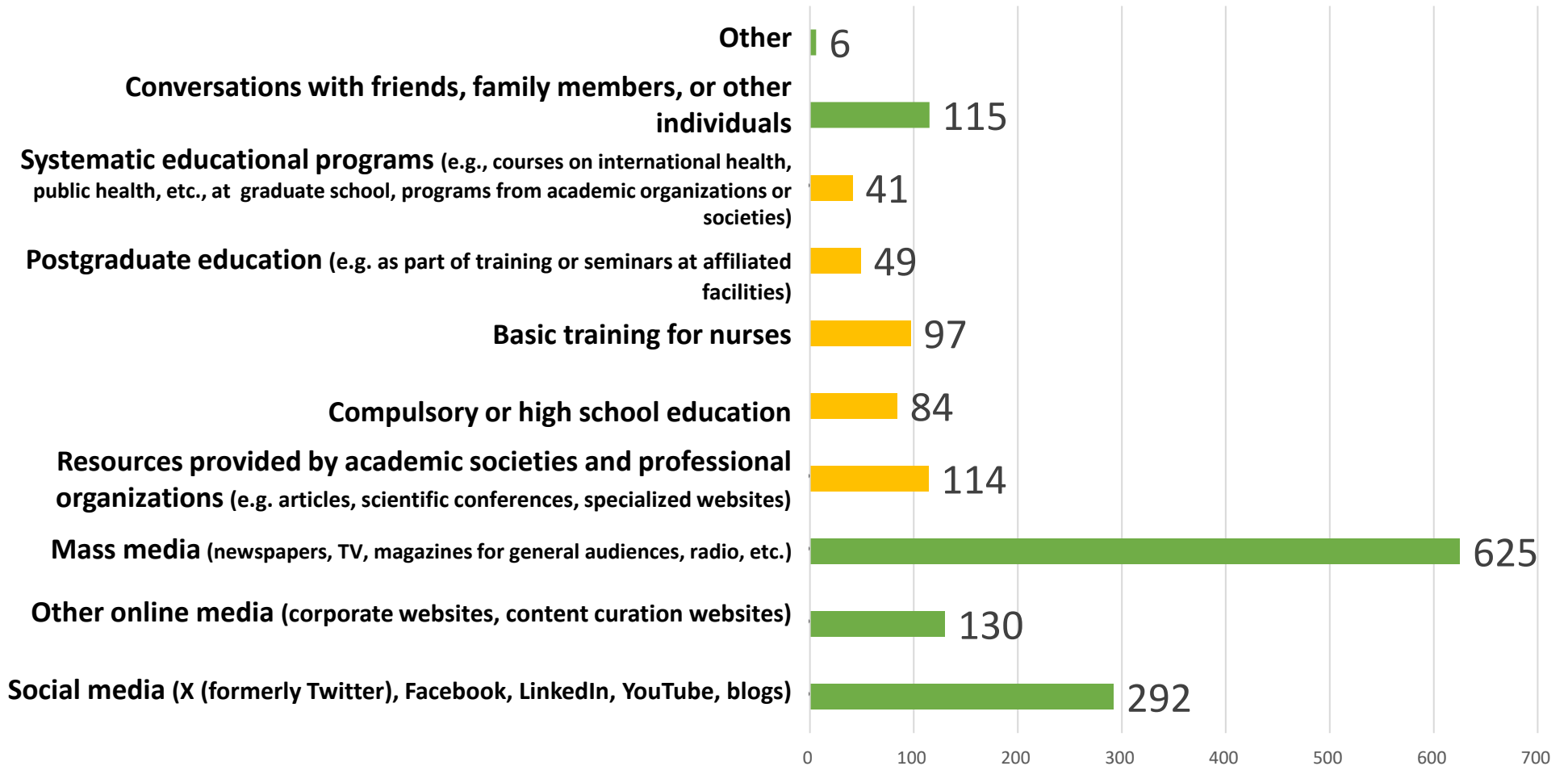




Where did you learn what you know about climate change and health?

For those who selected “somewhat ” or “very well” regarding the aforementioned information on climate change and health, please select all information sources that apply.

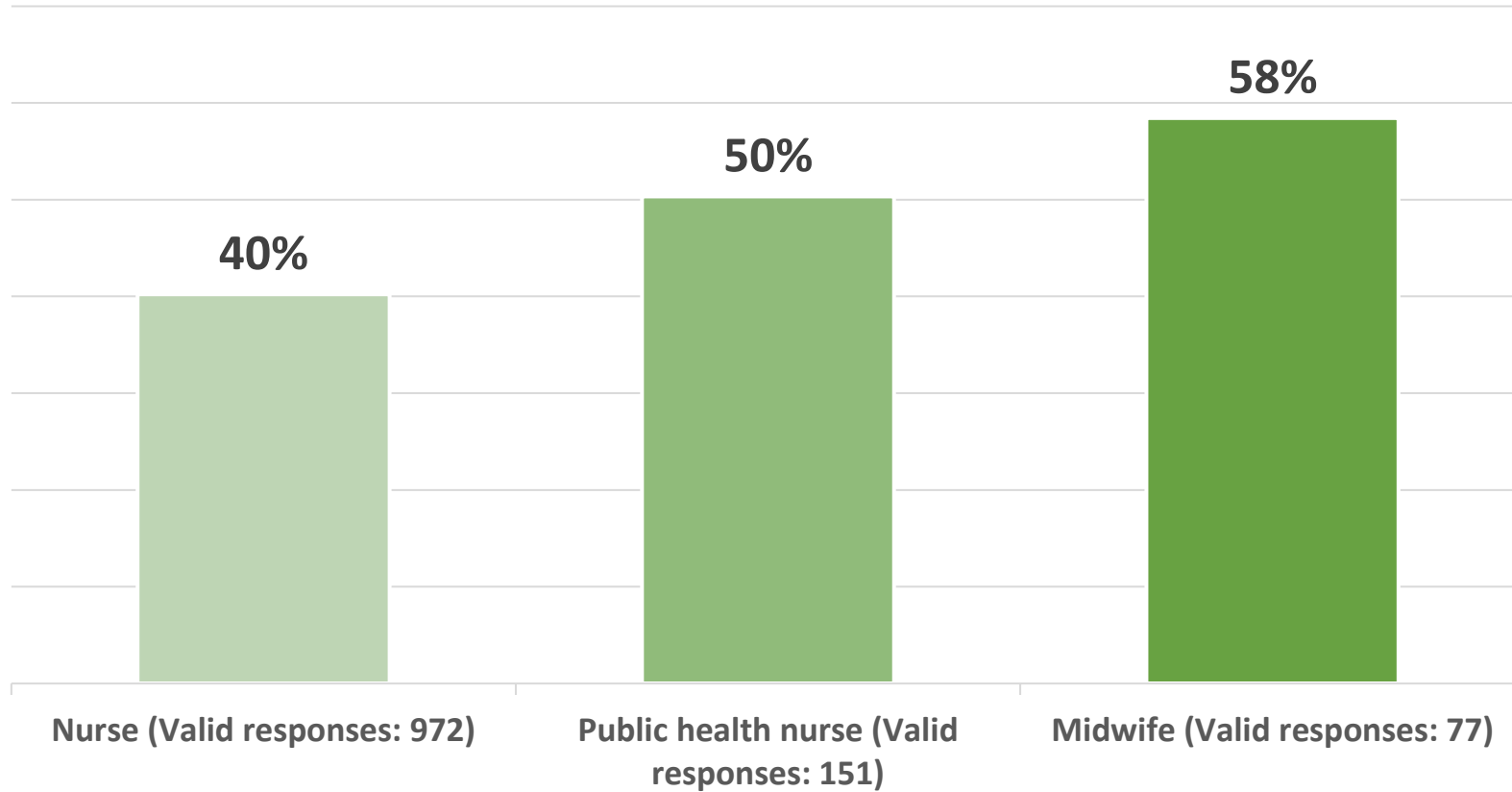
(Conducted August 2024. Valid responses: 847, multiple responses allowed)





Please answer truthfully how familiar you are with the items shared below. (By qualification)

(Conducted August 2024. N=1,200)



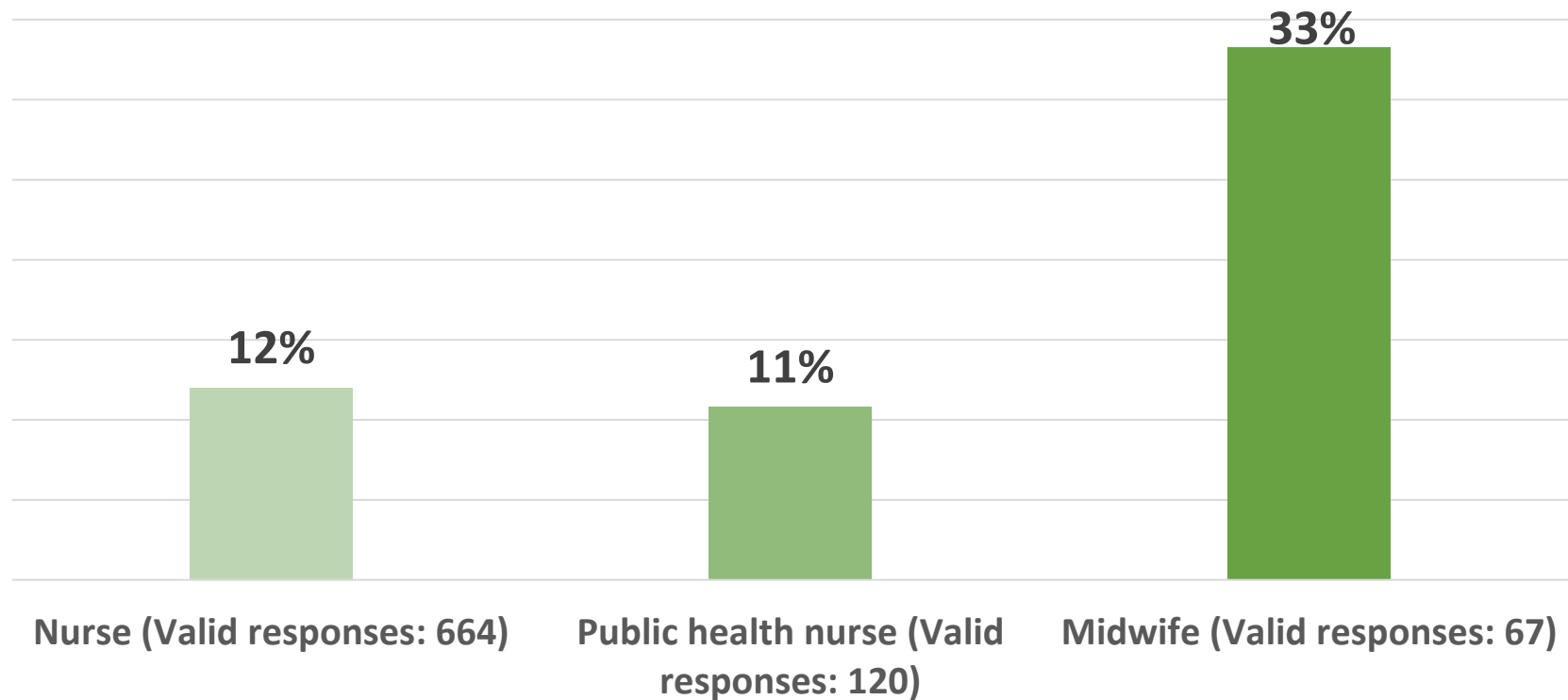


Where did you learn what you know about climate change and health?

For those who selected “somewhat” or “very well” regarding the aforementioned information on climate change and health, please select all information sources that apply.

Resources provided by academic societies and professional organizations (e.g. articles, scientific conferences, specialized website) (By qualification)

(Conducted August 2024. Valid responses: 847, multiple responses allowed)



Professional perspectives on climate change and health



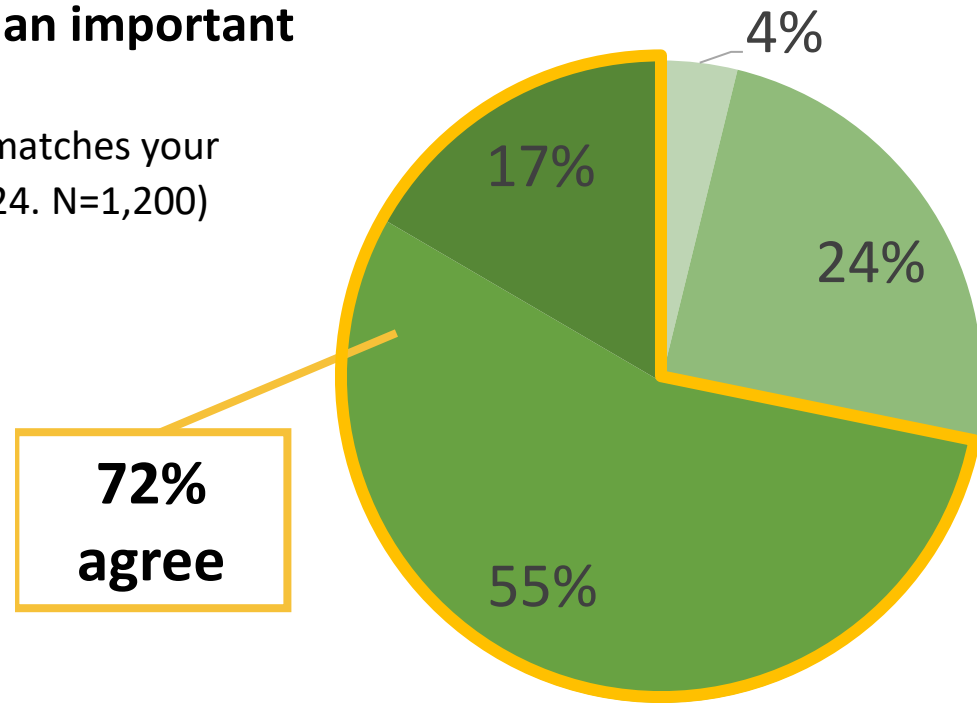
After reading the following statement, please share the degree to which you agree from the perspective of your profession (public health nurse, midwife, or nurse.)

The World Health Organization (WHO) speculates that the various direct and indirect impacts of climate change on human health will result in approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year between 2030 and 2050. Furthermore, in 2018, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) presented a statement titled, “Nurses, Climate Change and Health” which states, “The nursing profession has a duty to contribute to climate change adaptation (reducing vulnerability to the harmful effects) and mitigation (reducing or preventing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions) as it is committed to protecting health and wellbeing and to promoting social justice.”

a. Do you think climate change is an important issue for nursing professionals?

Please select the answer that most closely matches your current awareness. (Conducted August 2024. N=1,200)

- Disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Somewhat agree
- Agree

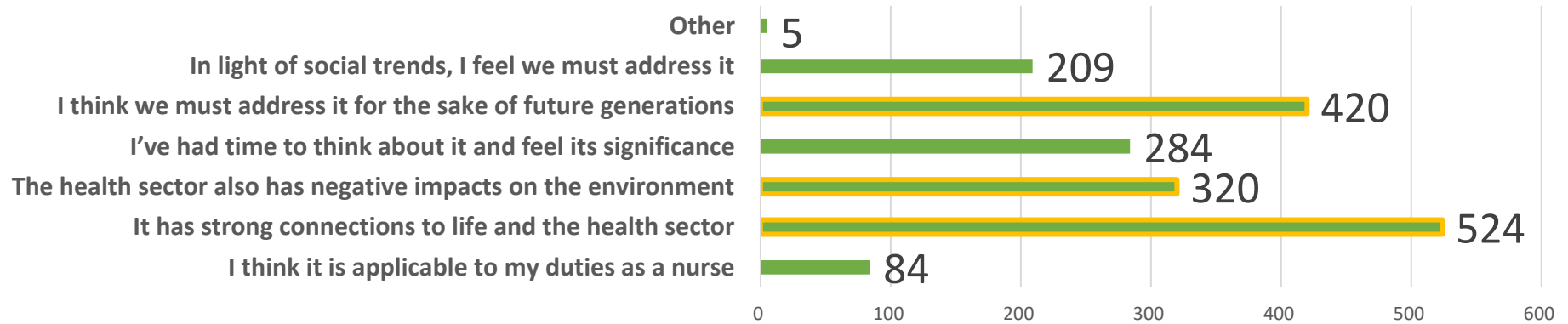




After reading the following statement, please share the degree to which you agree from the perspective of your profession (public health nurse, midwife, or nurse).

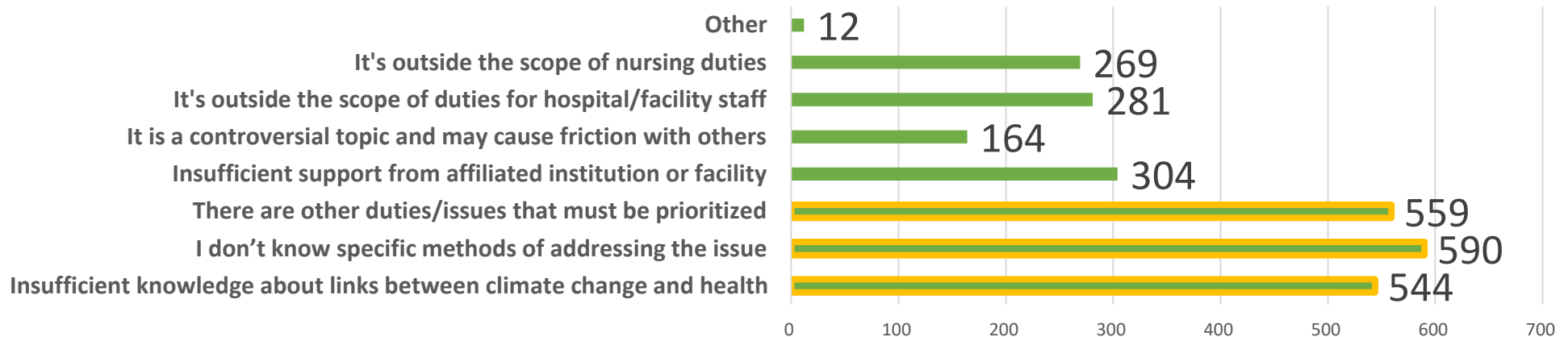
a-1. For those who selected “Somewhat agree” or “Agree,” what are the main reasons you think so?

(Conducted August 2024. Valid responses: 862)



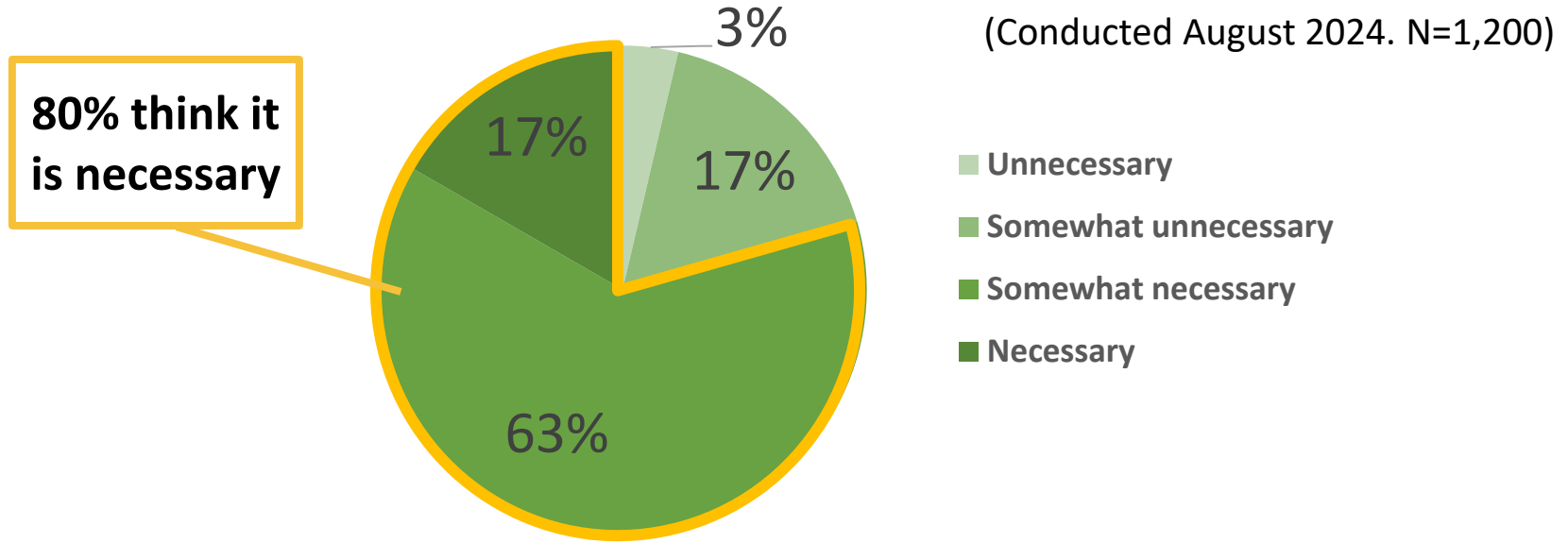
a-2. Do you think there any obstacles that hinder nursing professionals when attempting to take action for the issue of climate change?

(Conducted August 2024. N=1,200)



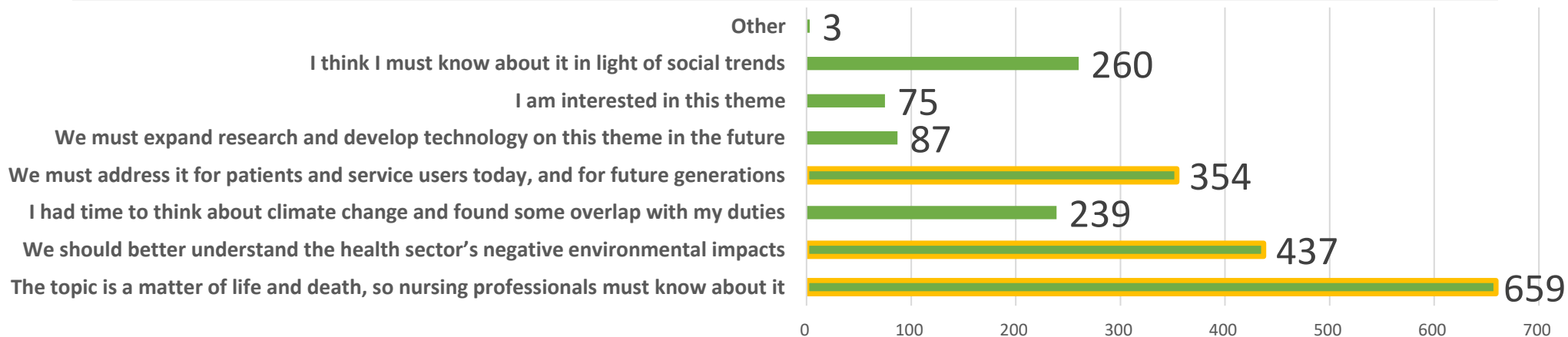


Do you think it is necessary for nursing professionals to learn about climate change and health?



For those who selected **“Somewhat necessary”** or **“Necessary,”** what are the main reasons you think so?

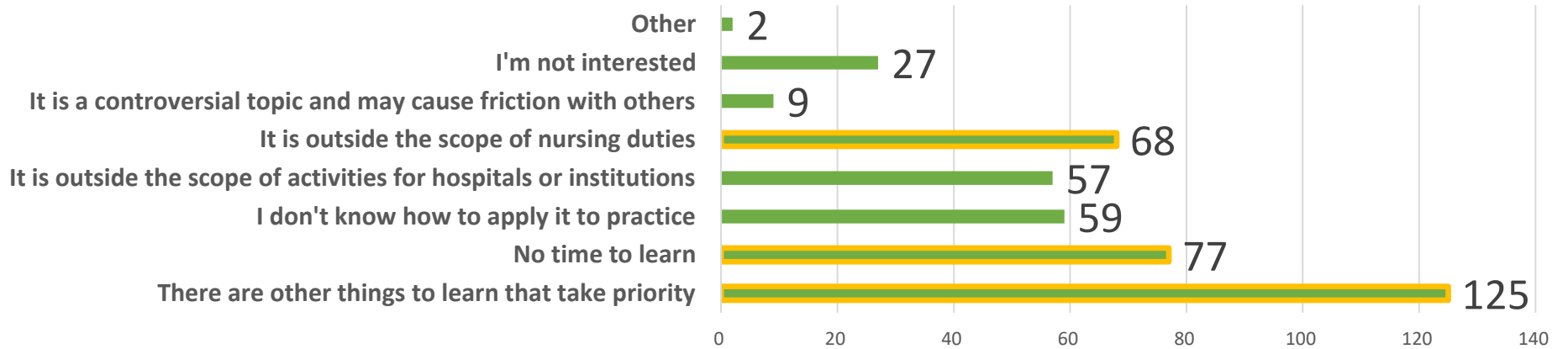
(Conducted August 2024. Valid responses: 954)





Do you think it is necessary for nursing professionals to learn about climate change and health?

For those who selected **“Somewhat unnecessary”** or **“Unnecessary,”** what are the main reasons you think so?
(Conducted August 2024. Valid responses: 246)





Professional views on climate change and health impacts (By affiliated facility)

(Conducted August 2024. N=1,200)

Do you think it is necessary for nursing professionals to learn about climate change and health?



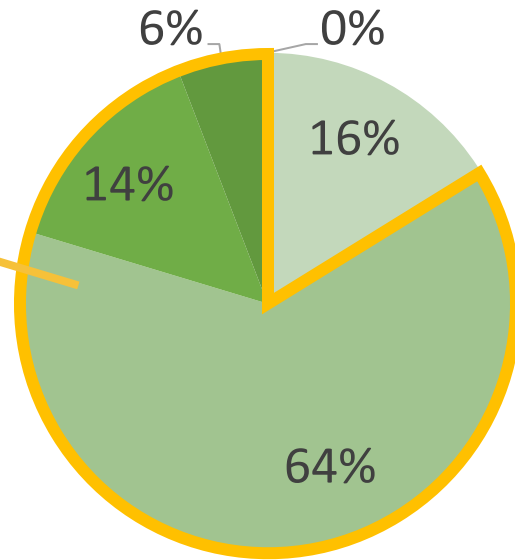
**Willingness to take action
for climate change and
health**



How much do you want to learn about climate change and health?

(Conducted August 2024. N=1,200)

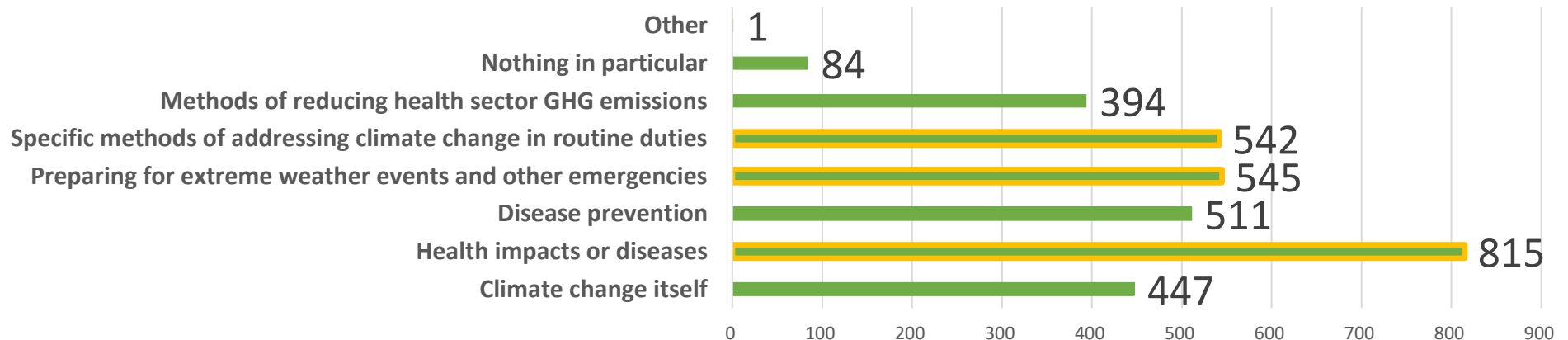
84% want to learn



- Currently, I do not think I need to learn about it
- Given the opportunity, I'd like to learn about it
- I am thinking of studying it on my own in the future
- I already know about it somewhat, and in the future I'd like to continue learning more about it

What would you like to know about climate change and health? (Multiple responses allowed)

(Conducted August 2024. N=1,200)



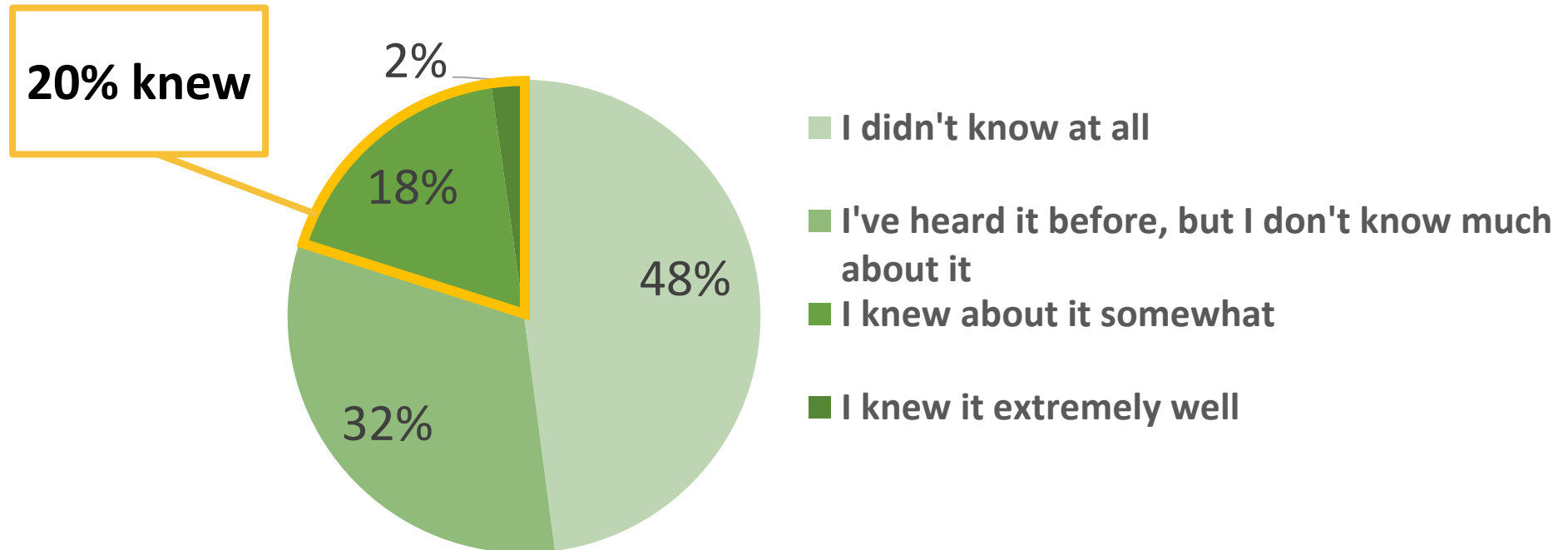


Did you know that the health sector accounts for 6.4% of Japan's total annual GHG emissions (approx. 70 million t-CO₂)?

Please share how familiar you are with the information provided below.

(Conducted August 2024. N=1,200)

It was reported that the volume of medical waste increased to approx. 2 to 3 times normal levels during the COVID-19 pandemic. Including the consumption of such medical supplies, total health sector GHG emissions amounted to 6.4% of the national annual total (approx. 70 million t-CO₂). This is greater than annual GHG emissions for Tokyo (approx. 60 million t-CO₂). It is reported that in the future, GHG emissions will continue to be high due to increased healthcare demand and growing disease and treatment complexity.



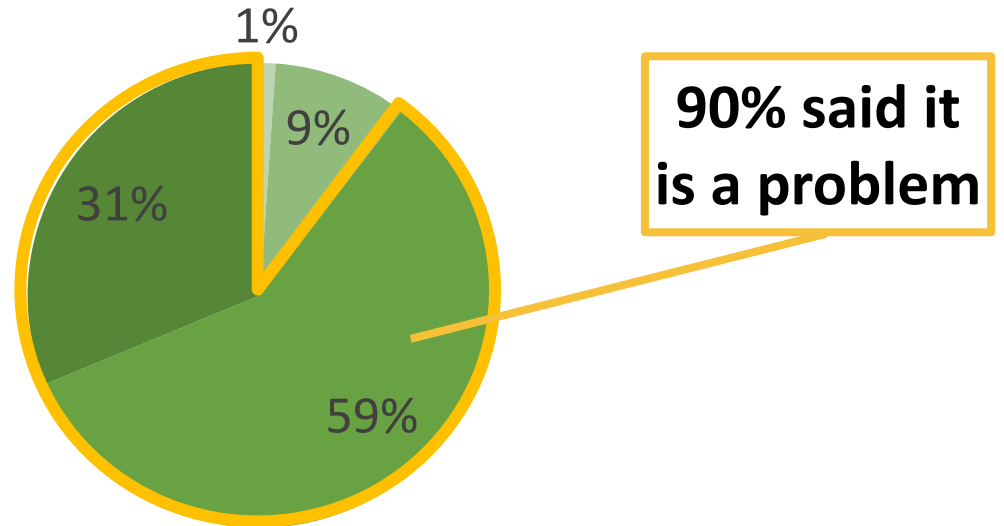


Regarding the adverse climate impacts of health sector GHG emissions

A. How do you feel about the issue?

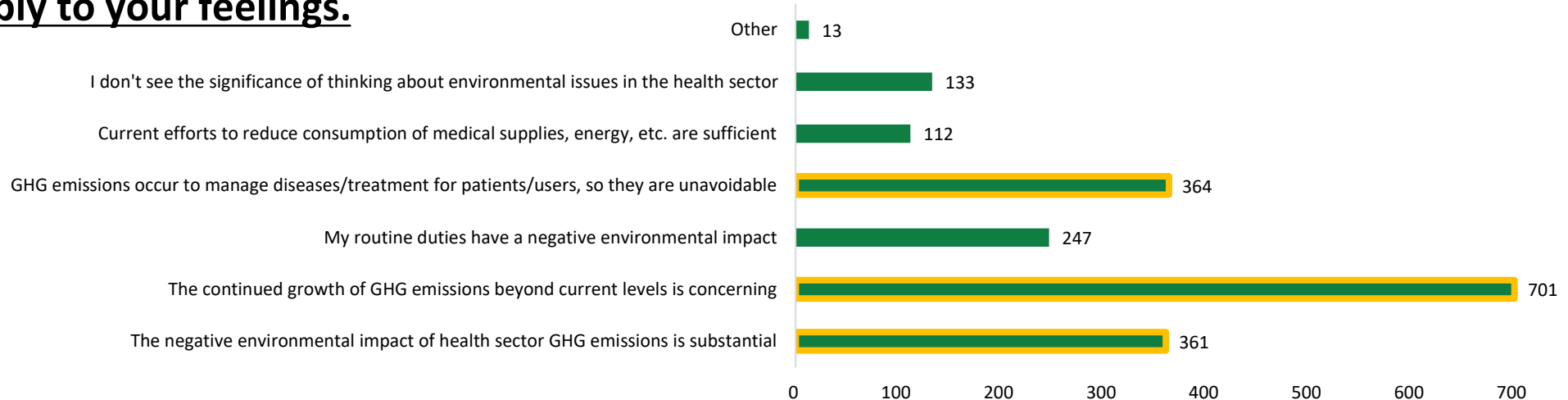
(Conducted August 2024. N=1,200)

- It is not a problem at all
- It is not much of a problem
- It is somewhat of a problem
- It is a major problem



B. Please select all statements that apply to your feelings.

(Conducted August 2024. N=1,200. Multiple responses allowed)

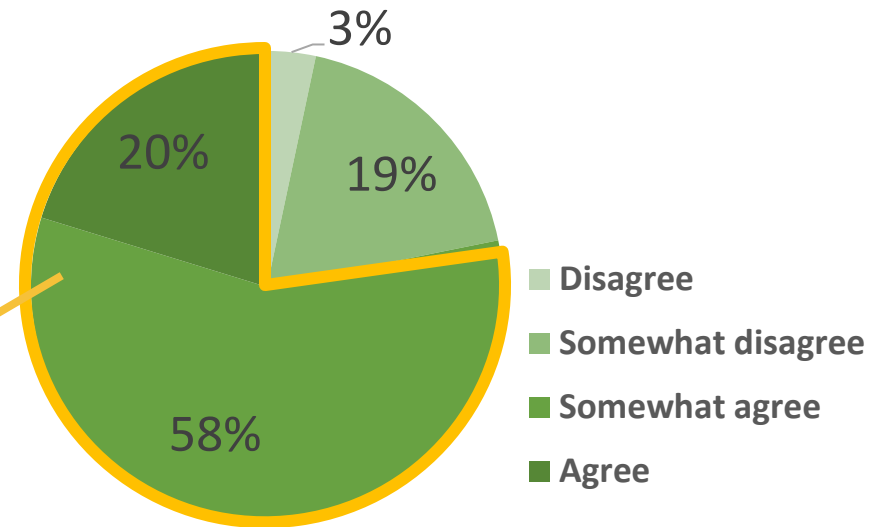




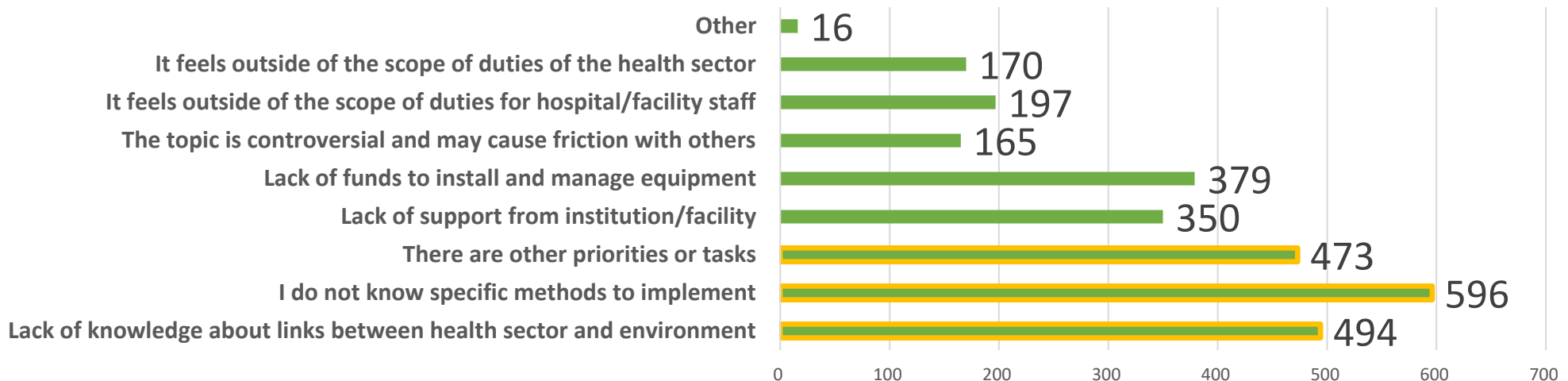
In your professional opinion (as a public health nurse, midwife, or nurse), how much do you agree with the following statement?

When available, the entire health sector should actively adopt options for providing healthcare services that are less burdensome to the environment. (Conducted August 2024. N=1,200)

78% agree



Which factors do you view as obstacles to such efforts? (Conducted August 2024. N=1,200)

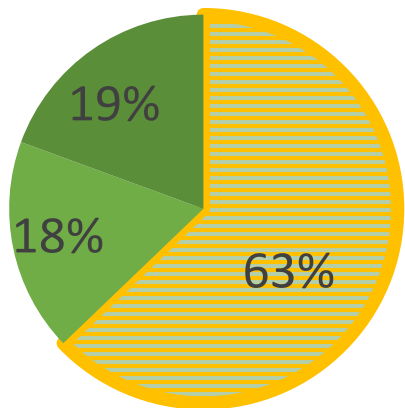




Are the following initiatives currently being implemented at the organizational level in your institution or facility? (Conducted August 2024. N=1,200) ■ Yes ■ No ■ I don't know

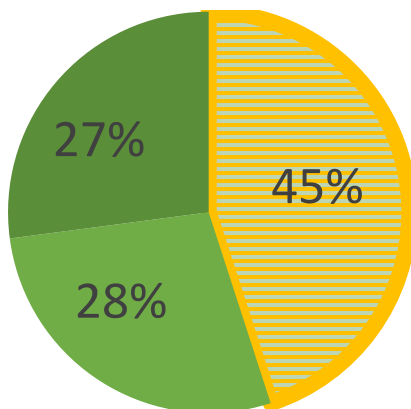
1. Waste management

(e.g. proper garbage separation, recycling, introducing waste reduction measures)



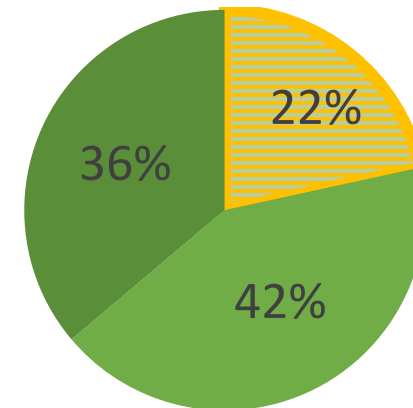
2. Use of digital technology

(e.g. actively adopting electronic terminals to reduce paper usage, encouraging telemedicine)



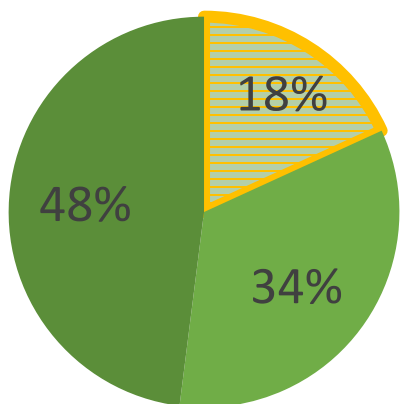
3. Energy management

(e.g. facility-wide electricity reduction, use of renewable energy such as solar, use of energy-efficient equipment)



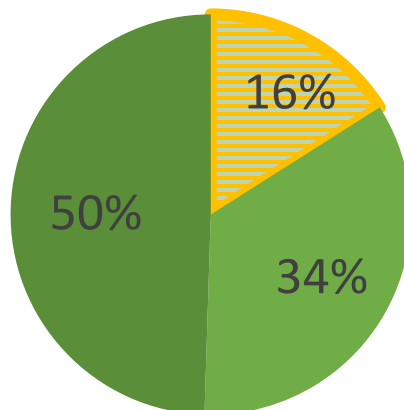
4. Environmentally-friendly facility management

(e.g. use of environmentally-friendly building materials or architectural design)



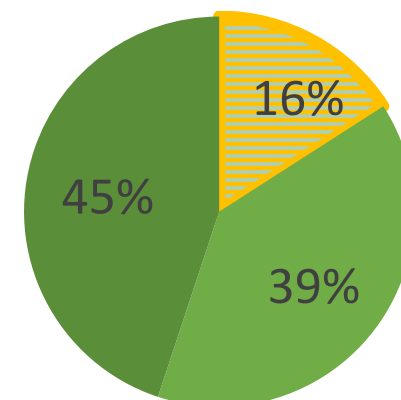
5. Use of sustainable supply chains

(e.g. use of medical devices/drugs made with renewable resources, environmentally-conscious procurement)



6. Initiatives for movement and transportation

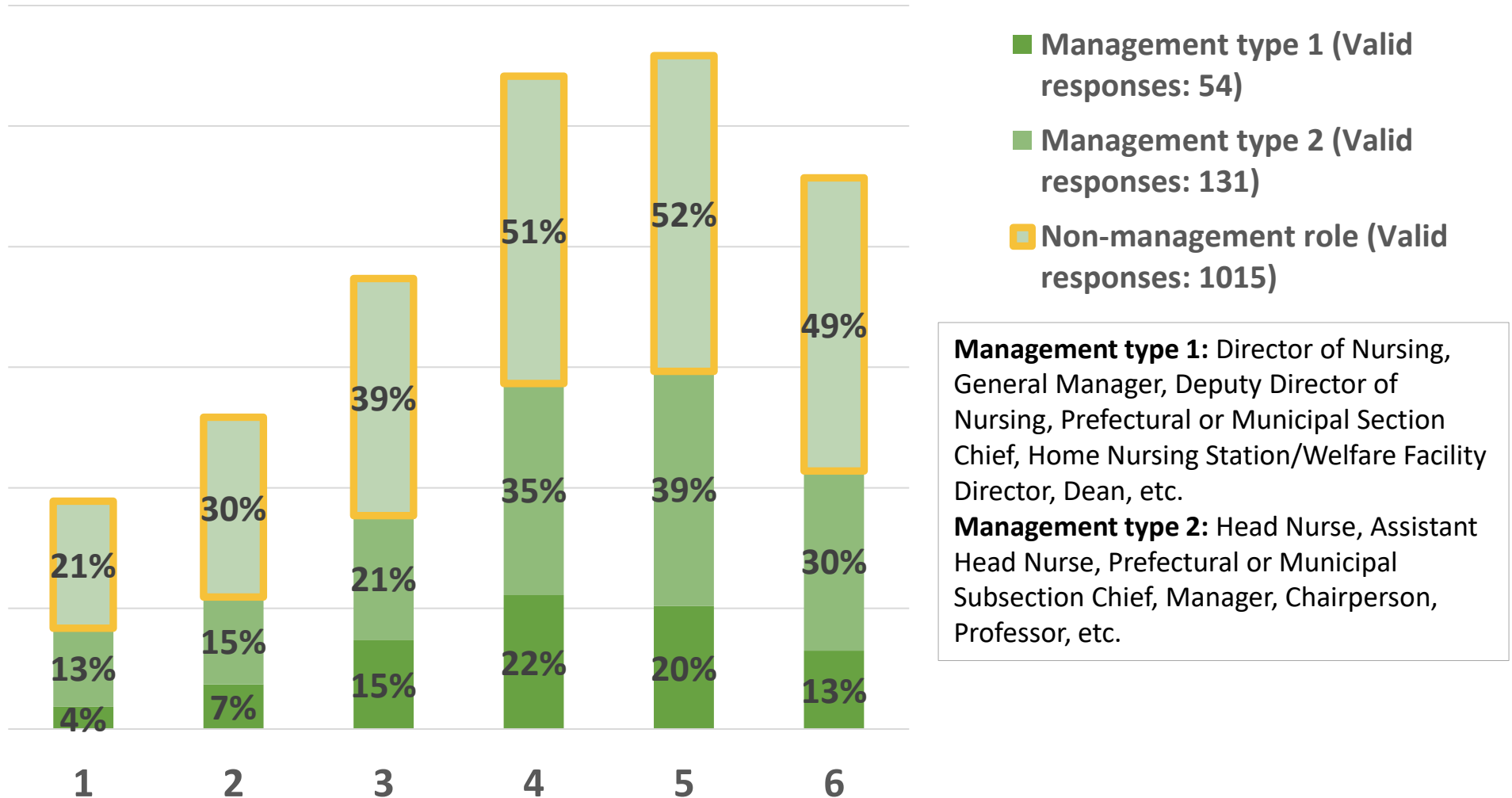
(e.g., use of electric/hybrid business vehicles, encouraging employees to walk or use public transportation)





Breakdown of respondents who selected “I don’t know” regarding initiatives at affiliated facilities (By position)

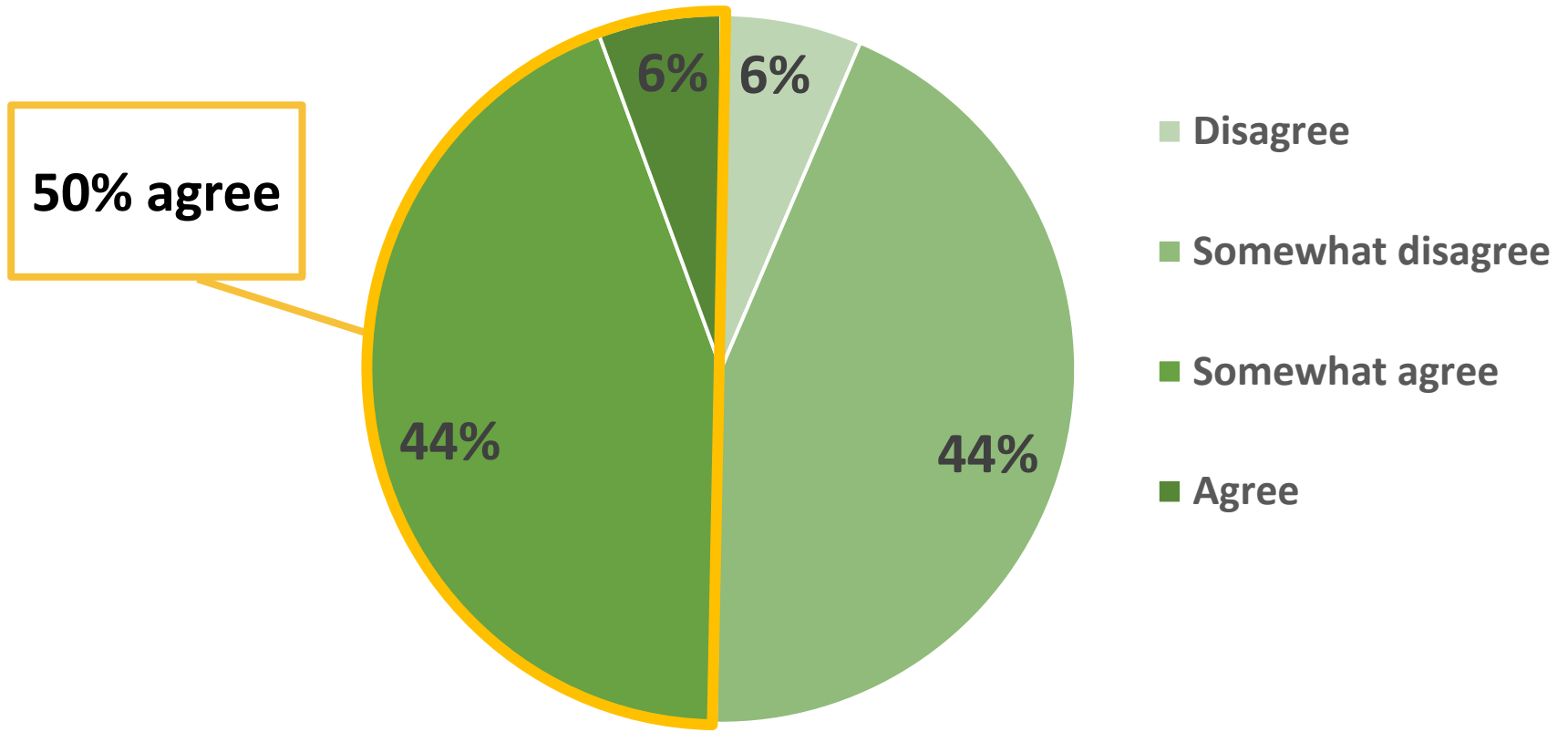
(Conducted August 2024. Valid responses: 847)





Do you think nursing professionals can play roles in educating patients or client to respond to and prepare for extreme weather events while keeping the health impacts of climate change in mind?

(Conducted August 2024. N=1,200)





When you are not at work, do you provide information, consultation, or support regarding health or healthcare to family members, friends, neighbors, and others close to you?

(Conducted August 2024. N=1,200)

