2018 Campus-Wide Civic Engagement Survey

#iLEAD NEVADA

AS UN
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

N
University of Nevada, Reno

Office of Student Persistence Research and Center for Student Engagement

Method

- All students received an email invitation to take the Campus-Wide Civic Engagement Survey from April 24th to May 16th

- Survey topics covered:

  - Food insecurity
  - Housing insecurity
  - Civic engagement behaviors
  - Club impact
  - Interest in running for government
  - Civic engagement efficacy
  - Campus climate around engagement

  - Barriers and benefits
  - Voting
  - GivePulse
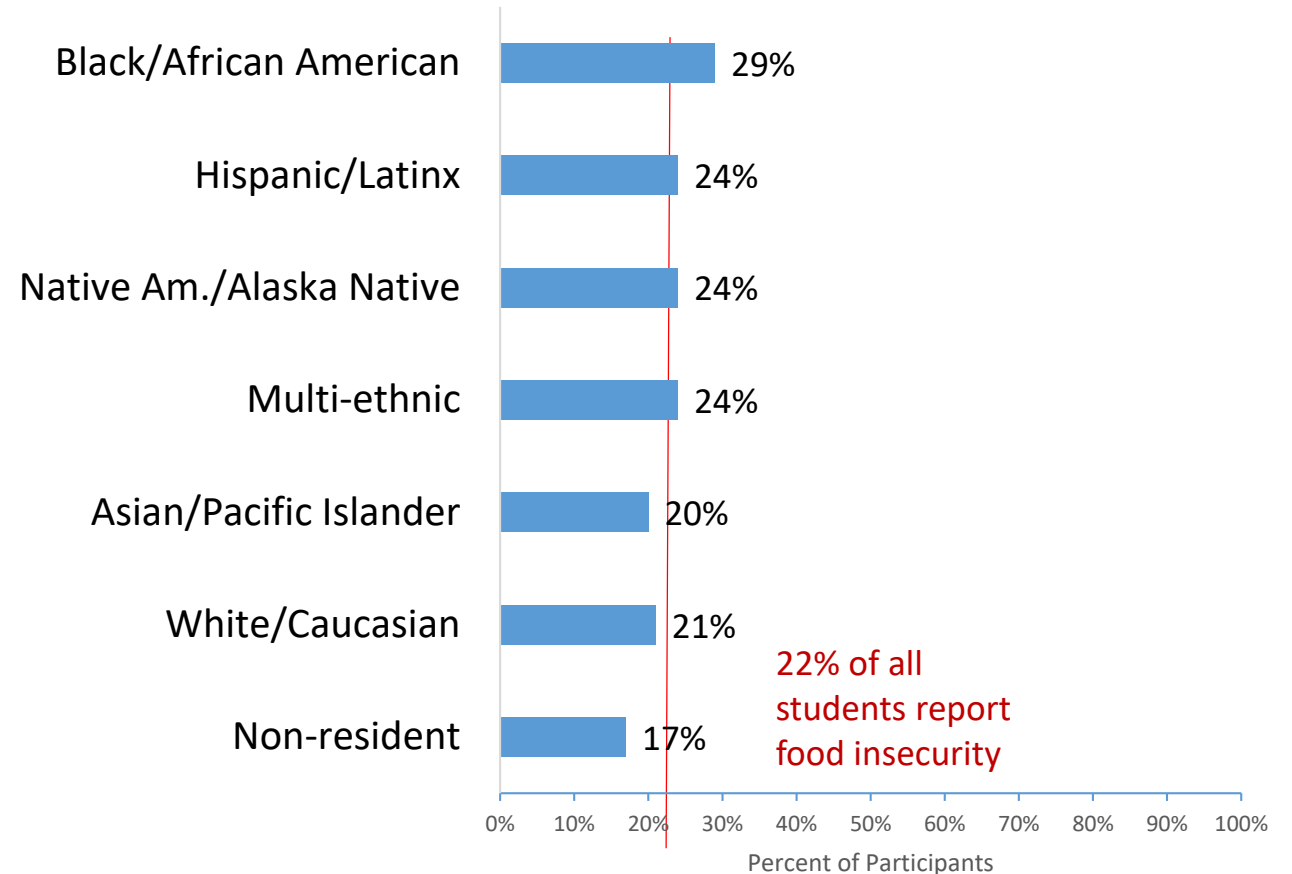 - Social issues of most concern

Demographics

- 26% (4,332) undergraduates participated (all undergraduates, N = 16,868)

- 68% (2,922) female participants

- 28% (658) identified as first generation (of participants with FAFSA information, n = 2,372)

Race/Ethnicity	Percent	Count
White/Caucasian	56%	2409
Hispanic/Latinx	21%	931
Asian/Pacific Islander	10%	444
Black/African American	3%	122
Native Am./Alaska Native	1%	38
Multi-ethnic	7%	297
Non-resident	1%	41
Unknown	1%	50
Grand Total	100%	4332

Undergraduate Food Insecurity

- Food insecurity was measured as selecting sometimes or often across five items

- 22% (956) of all participants reported food insecurity

- 26% (170 of 658) of first generation participants reported food insecurity

- Black/African American (29%, 35 of 122), followed by Hispanic/Latinx/a/o (24%, 222 of 931) were most likely to report being food insecure.
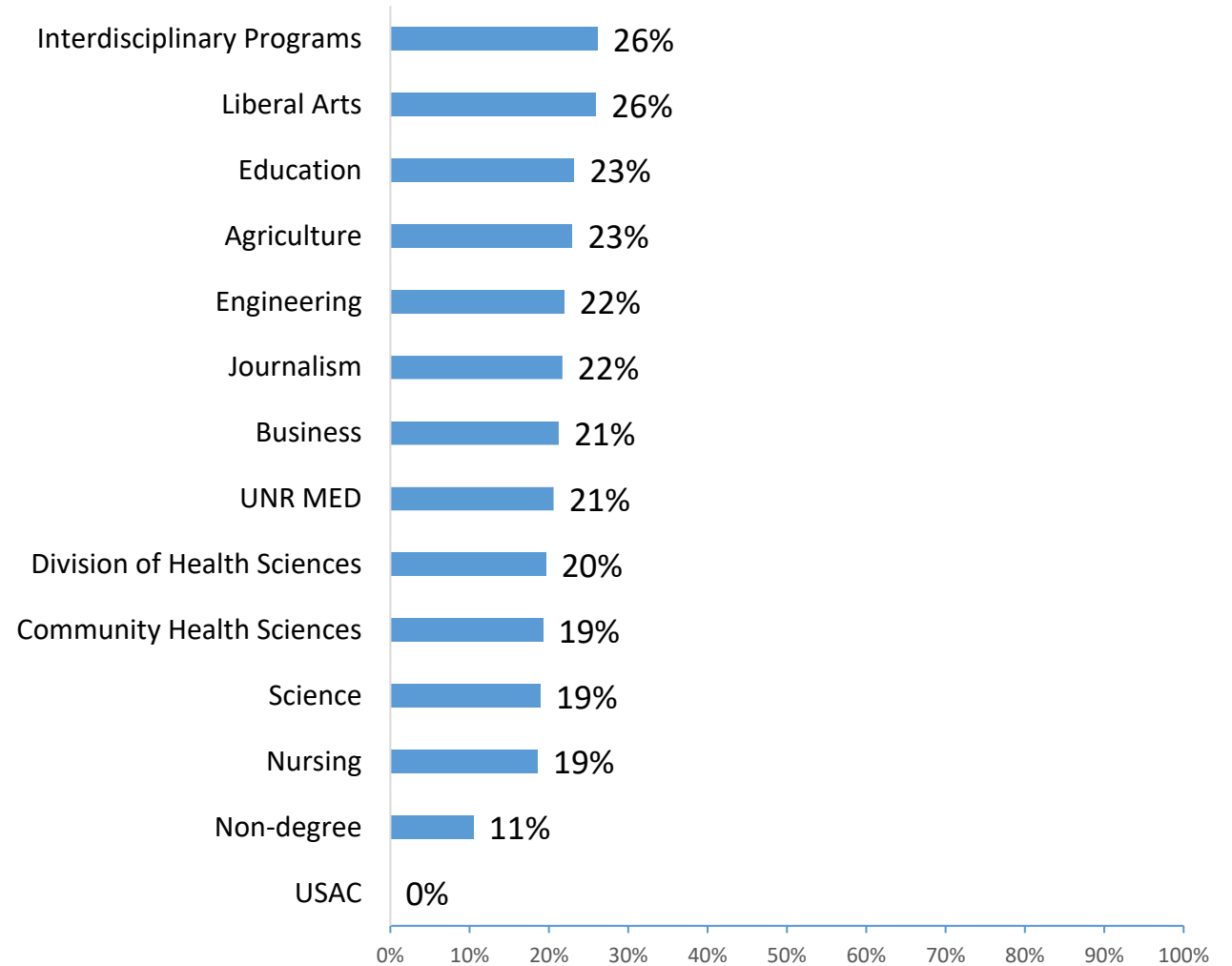
Food Insecurity by Race, n = 4,332

Race	Percent
Black/African American	29%
Hispanic/Latinx	24%
Native Am./Alaska Native	24%
Multi-ethnic	24%
Asian/Pacific Islander	20%
White/Caucasian	21%
Non-resident	17%

22% of all students report food insecurity

Percent of Participants

Undergraduates Reporting Food Insecurity by College

College	% Food Insecure	# Food Insecure	Grand Total
Interdisciplinary Programs	26%	63	241
Liberal Arts	26%	205	790
Education	23%	77	332
Agriculture	23%	84	366
Engineering	22%	124	566
Journalism	22%	23	106
Business	21%	134	631
UNR MED	21%	14	68
Division of Health Sciences	20%	21	107
Community Health Sciences	19%	103	534
Science	19%	96	506
Nursing	19%	8	43
Non-degree	11%	4	38
USAC	0%	0	4
Grand Total	22%	956	4332

Food Insecurity by College, n = 4,332

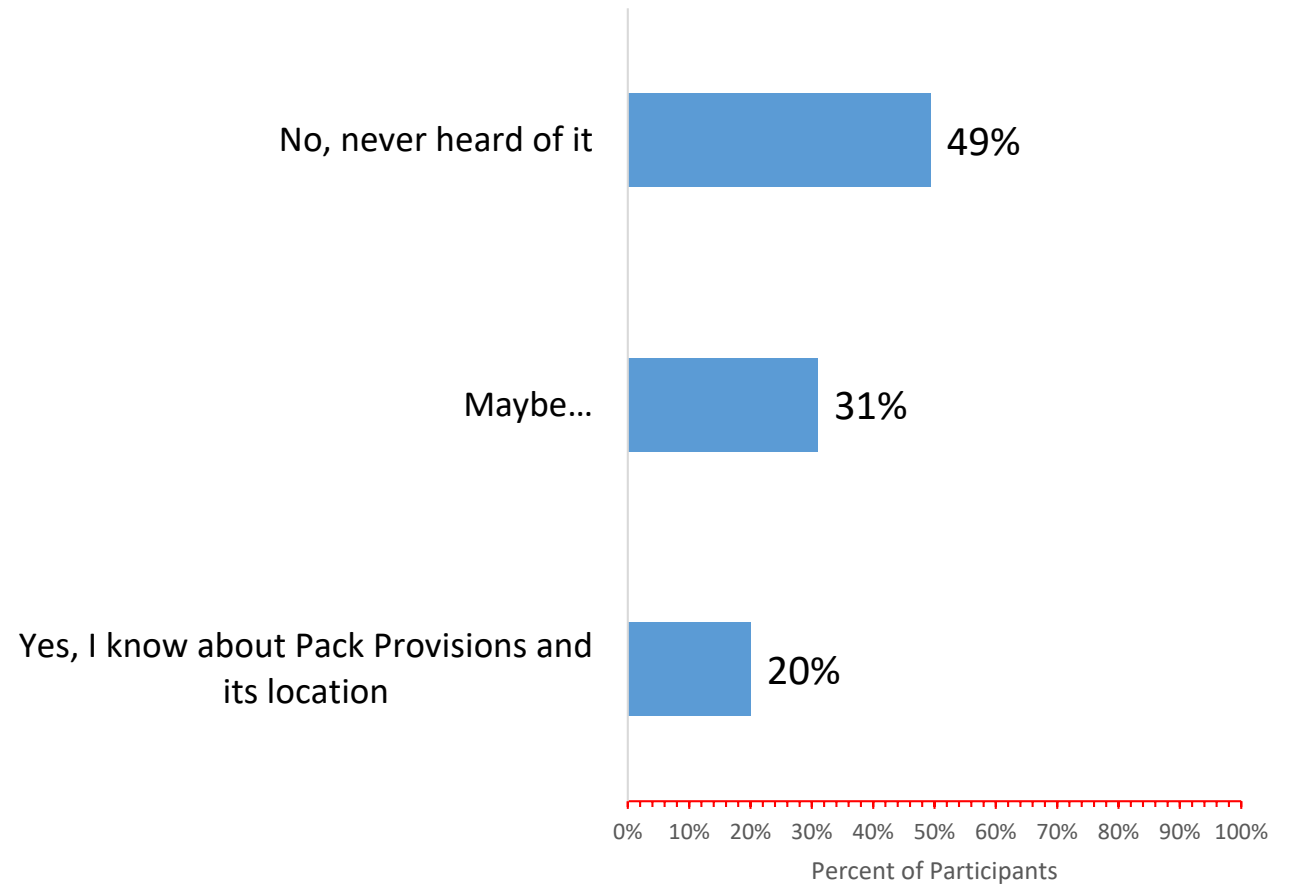| College	%
Interdisciplinary Programs	26%
Liberal Arts	26%
Education	23%
Agriculture	23%
Engineering	22%
Journalism	22%
Business	21%
UNR MED	21%
Division of Health Sciences	20%
Community Health Sciences	19%
Science	19%
Nursing	19%
Non-degree	11%
USAC	0%

Pack Provisions

Almost half of participants are not aware of Pack Provisions.

Only 20% of participants know about Pack Provisions AND its location

Awareness of Pack Provisions, n = 4,281

No, never heard of it — 49%

Maybe… — 31%

Yes, I know about Pack Provisions and its location — 20%

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%
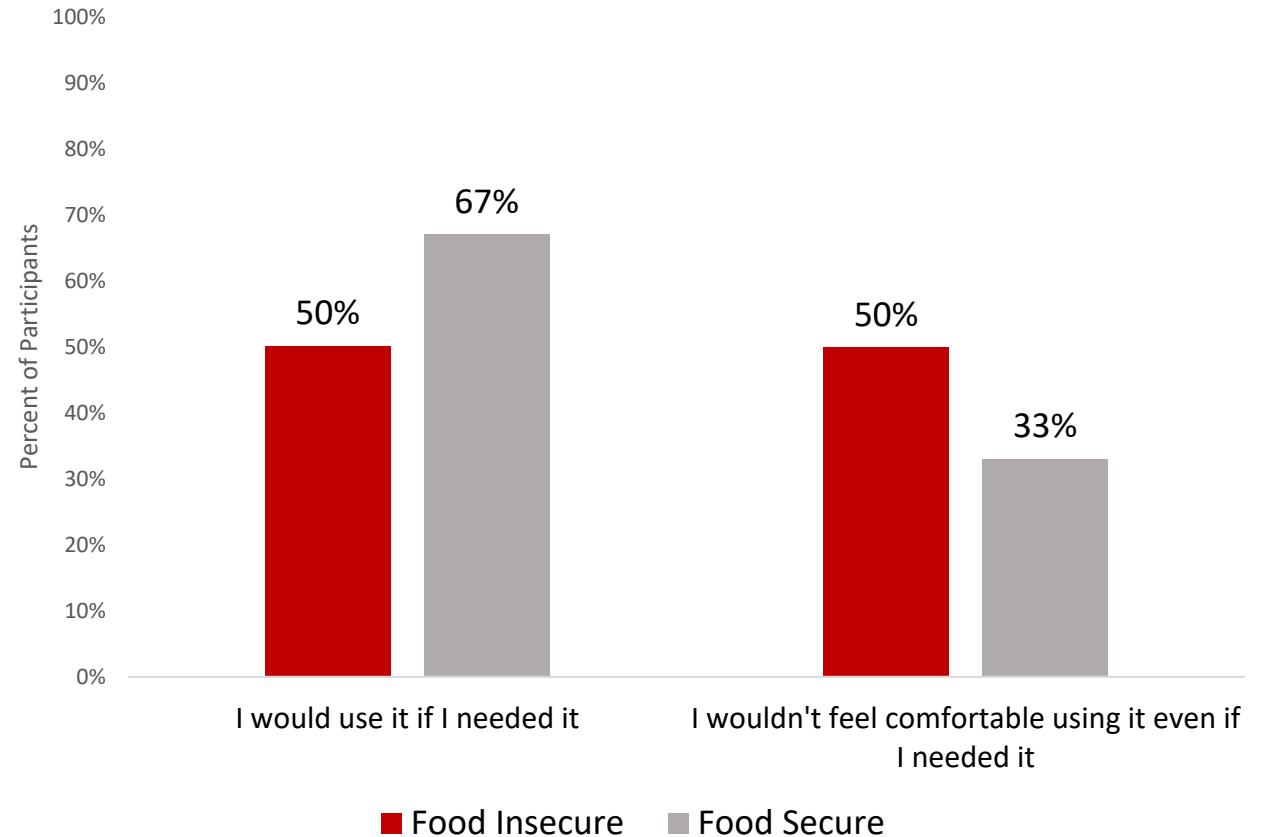
Percent of Participants

Using Pack Provisions

Overall, 36% of participants said they would not feel comfortable using Pack Provisions even if they needed it.

Of those who indicated food insecurity, 50% said they would use it and 50% said they would not be willing to use it.

Willingness to Use Pack Provisions by Food Insecurity Status, n = 4,281

Pack Provisions: Across Surveys

- 2016:
  - 23% of undergraduates report food insecurity
  - Are you the type of person who would use an emergency food pantry?
    - All undergraduate participants - 14% selected "yes"
    - Food insecure undergraduate participants – 21% selected "yes"

- 2018:
  - 22% of undergraduates report food insecurity
  - Would you use the food pantry (Pack Provisions)
    - All participants – 64% selected "I would use it if I needed it"
    - Food insecure participants – 50% selected "I would use it if I needed it"
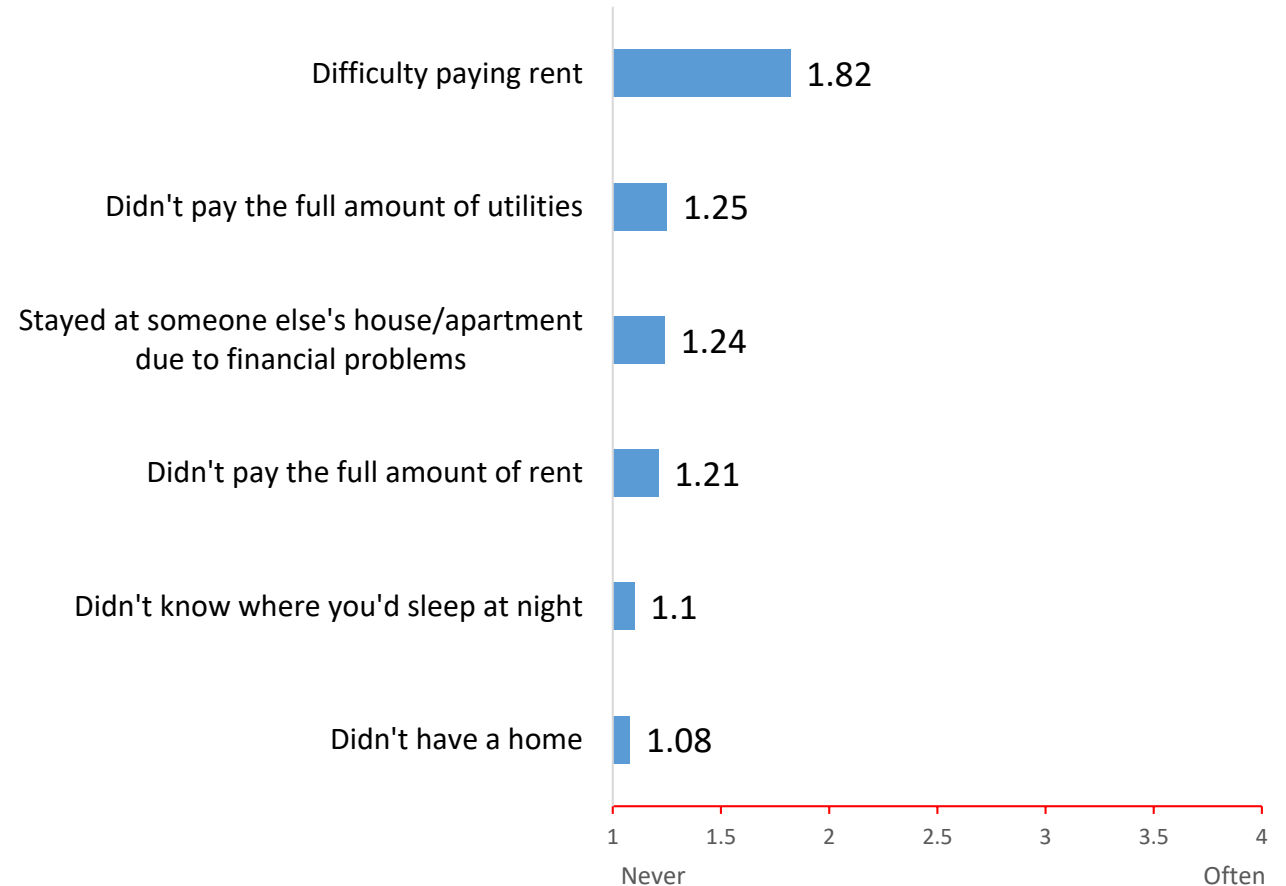
Qualitative Responses

- Food insecure participants who reported they would not use Pack Provisions were asked "why?"

- 595 participants

- Top 3 write-in response categories
  - Others have greater need (29%, n =173)
  - Pride/shame/embarrassment (15%, n =92)
  - Social Stigma (15%, n = 87)

Housing Insecurity

The most common type of housing insecurity was difficulty paying rent followed by difficulties paying utilities.

83 participants indicated that in the past 6 months they sometimes or often did not have a home.
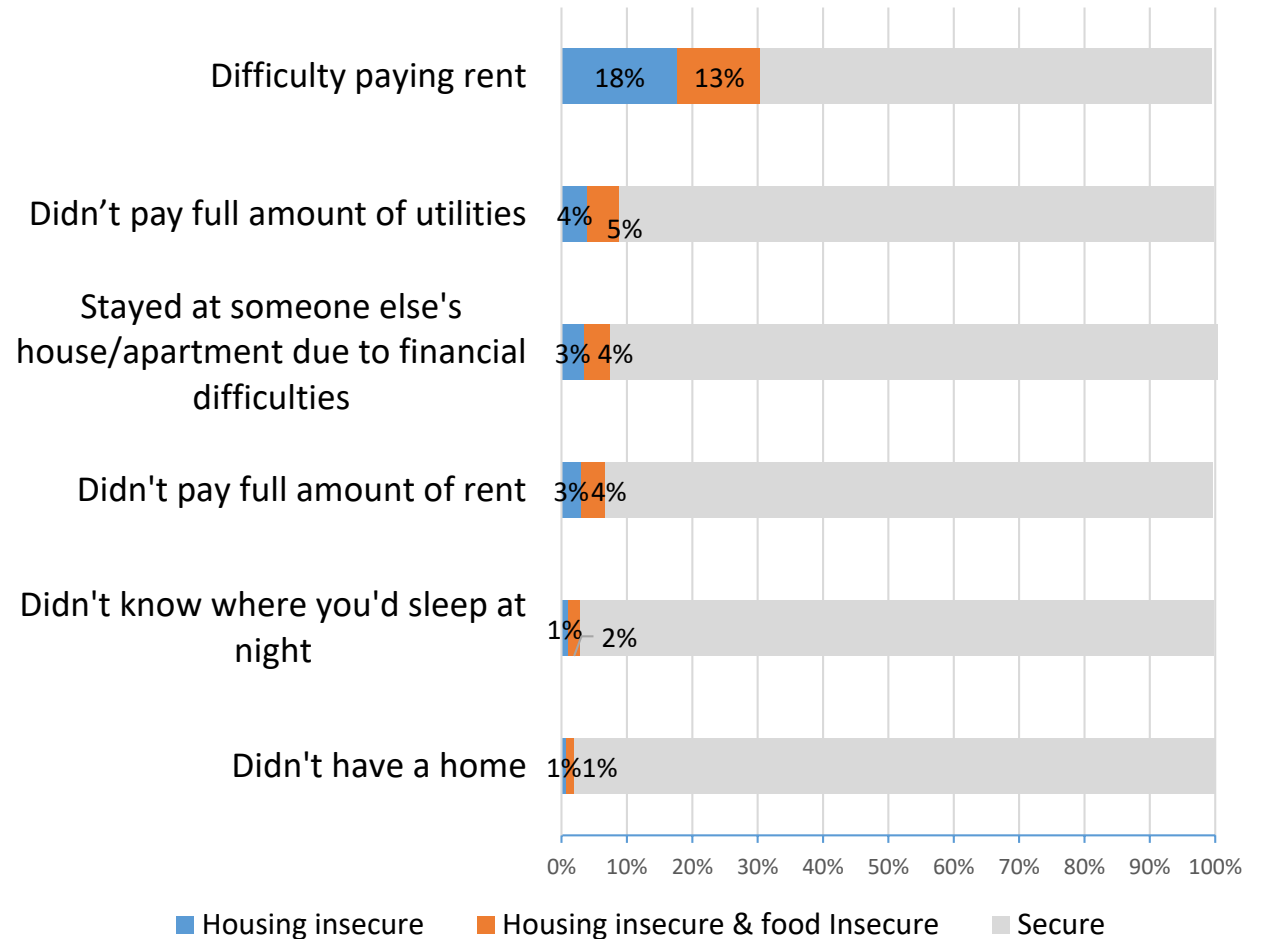
Mean Responses to Housing Insecurity Items, n = 4,160

Item	Mean
Difficulty paying rent	1.82
Didn't pay the full amount of utilities	1.25
Stayed at someone else's house/apartment due to financial problems	1.24
Didn't pay the full amount of rent	1.21
Didn't know where you'd sleep at night	1.1
Didn't have a home	1.08

Scale: 1 (Never) to 4 (Often)

Food Insecurity and Housing Insecurity

Across all but one item, more than half of participants endorsing a housing insecurity items also reported food insecurity.

Overlap Between Housing Insecurity and Food Insecurity, n = 4,160
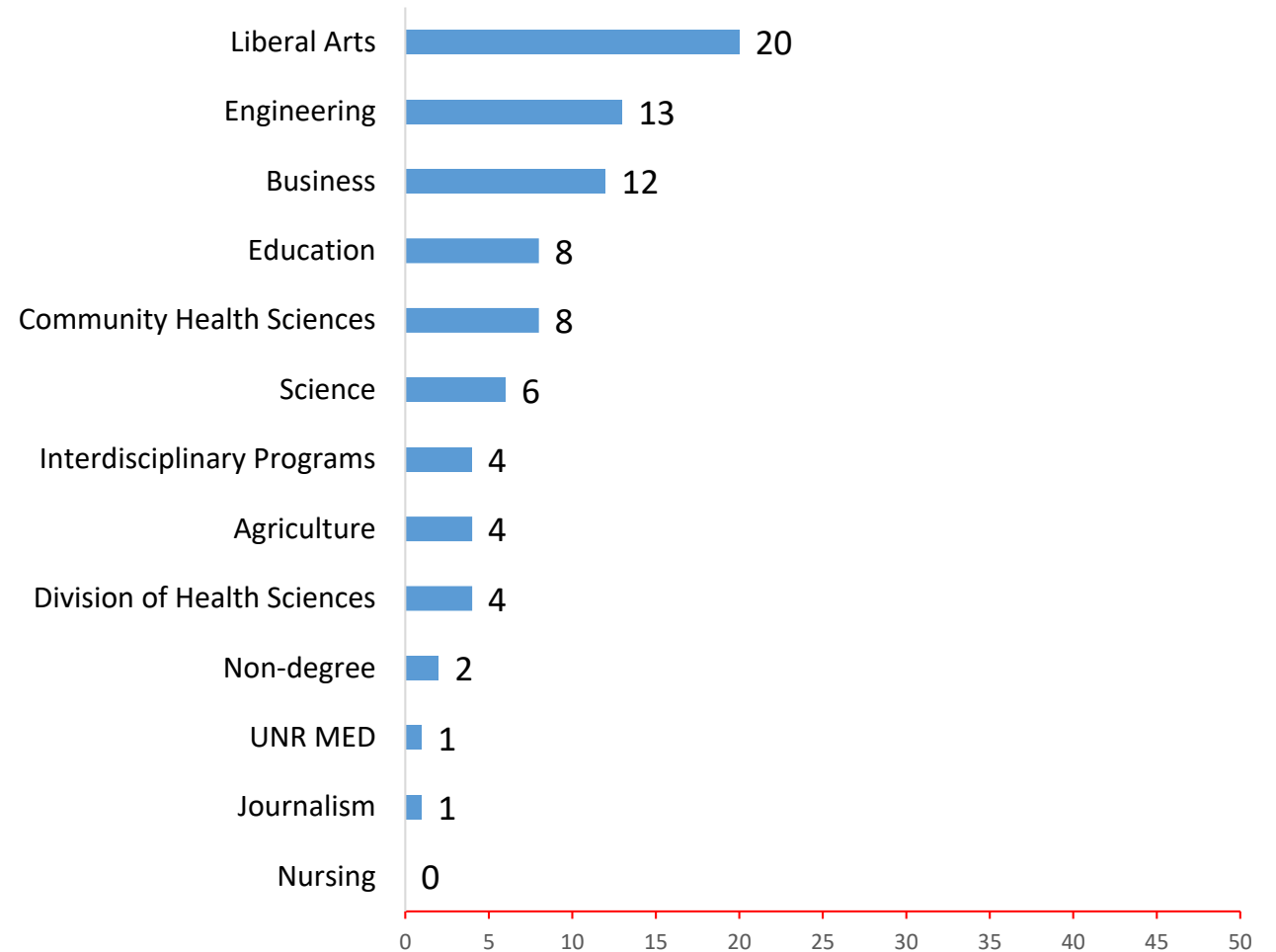
Category	Housing insecure	Housing insecure & food Insecure
Difficulty paying rent	18%	13%
Didn't pay full amount of utilities	4%	5%
Stayed at someone else's house/apartment due to financial difficulties	3%	4%
Didn't pay full amount of rent	3%	4%
Didn't know where you'd sleep at night	1%	2%
Didn't have a home	1%	1%

Legend: ■ Housing insecure ■ Housing insecure & food Insecure ▨ Secure

Housing Insecurity, n = 4,160

	Housing insecure (not food insecure)	Housing insecure & food insecure	All Housing Insecure
Difficulty paying rent	741 (18%)	528 (13%)	1269 (30%)
Didn't pay full amount of rent	123 (3%)	154 (4%)	277 (7%)
Didn't pay full amount of utilities	168 (4%)	198 (5%)	366 (9%)
Stayed at someone else's house/apartment due to financial difficulties	143 (3%)	164 (4%)	307 (7%)
Didn't know where you'd sleep at night	40 (1%)	80 (2%)	120 (3%)
Didn't have a home	31 (1%)	52 (1%)	83 (2%)

Housing Insecure: Didn't Have a Home by College

The majority of individuals reporting the most severe type of housing insecurity (not having a home) are from the college of Liberal Arts (however, this is the college with the most respondents, 756).

Overall, all colleges/programs reported 1%-3% housing insecurity (except Nursing that had 0 participants reporting housing insecurity).
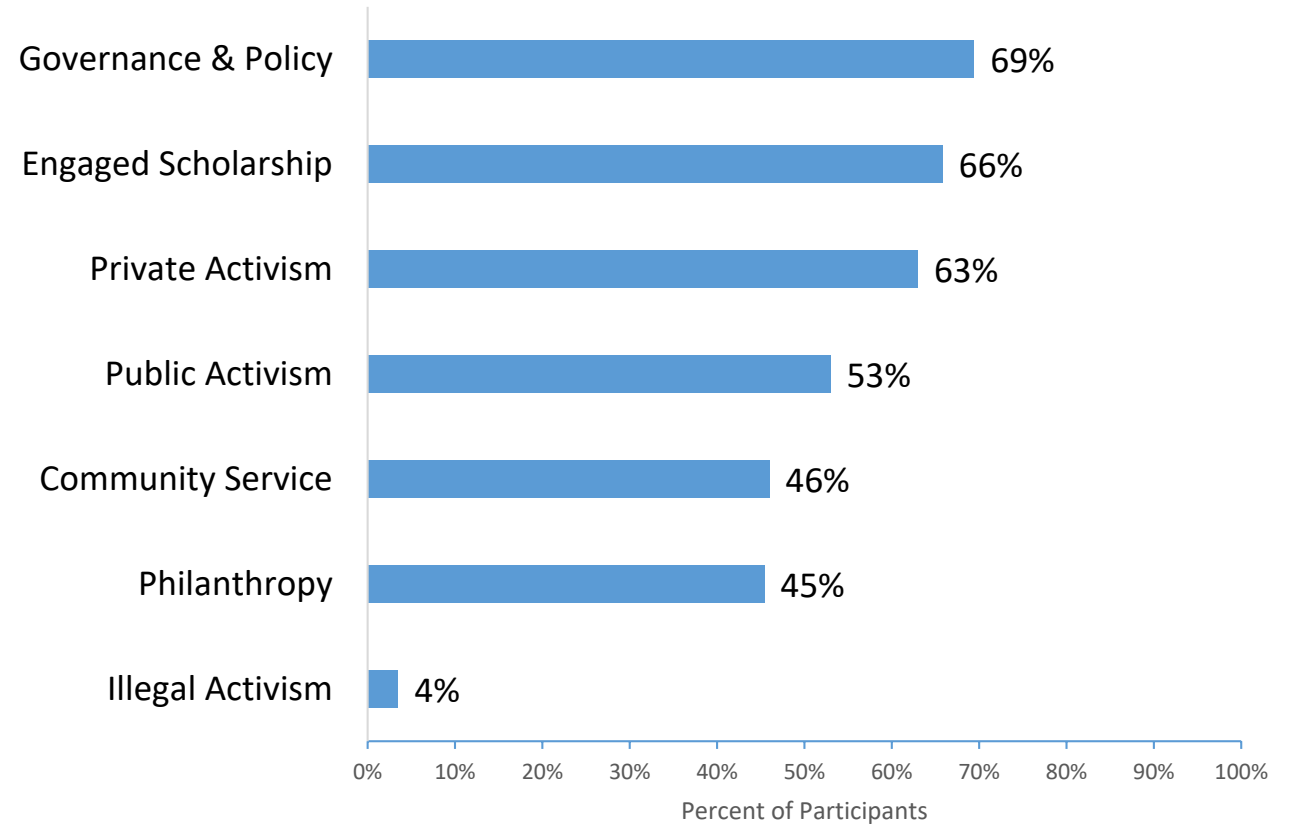
Number Reporting "Sometimes" or "Often" Not Having a Home in the Past 6 Months

College	Number
Liberal Arts	20
Engineering	13
Business	12
Education	8
Community Health Sciences	8
Science	6
Interdisciplinary Programs	4
Agriculture	4
Division of Health Sciences	4
Non-degree	2
UNR MED	1
Journalism	1
Nursing	0

Types of Civic Engagement Behaviors

Over half of participants reported participating in Governance & Policy, Engaged Scholarship and Activism as a student at UNR.
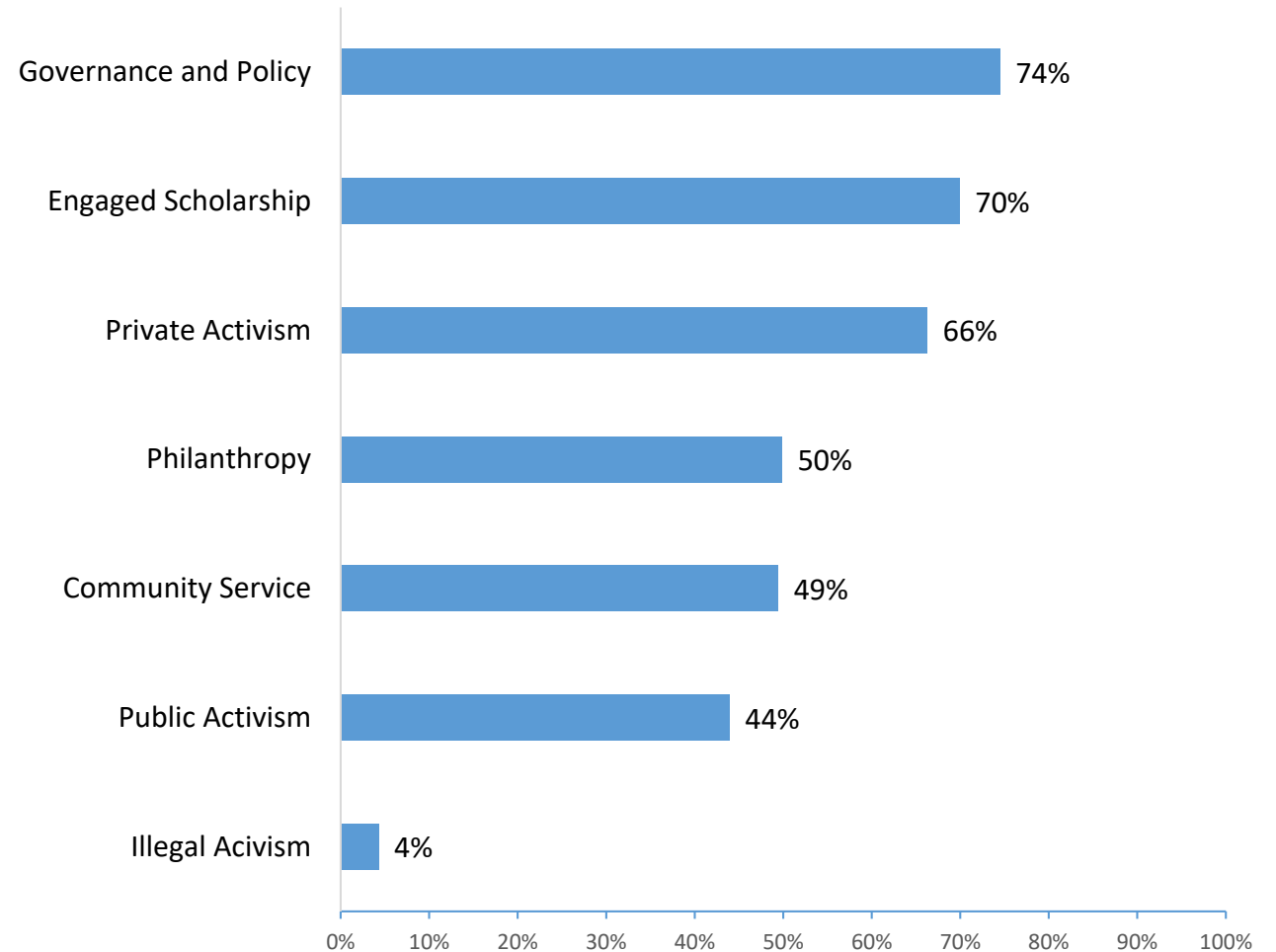
Proportion Participating in Civic Engagement by Type as a Student, n = 4,332

Type	Percent
Governance & Policy	69%
Engaged Scholarship	66%
Private Activism	63%
Public Activism	53%
Community Service	46%
Philanthropy	45%
Illegal Activism	4%

Percent of Participants

First Generation: Types of Civic Engagement Behaviors

Overall, first generation participants are more likely to report engaging in all types of civic engagement with the exception of public activism when compared to traditional participants.

Proportion of First Generation Participants Participating in Civic Engagement my Type, n = 658

Type	Percentage
Governance and Policy	74%
Engaged Scholarship	70%
Private Activism	66%
Philanthropy	50%
Community Service	49%
Public Activism	44%
Illegal Acivism	4%

Top Behaviors in Categories: As a Student

- **Governance & Policy** (7 items)
  - Signed a petition - 54%
  - Voted in a local, state, or national election 44%
  - Contacted a public official – 18%

- **Engaged Scholarship** (4 items)
  - Educated yourself about conditions (outside of the classroom) – 57%
  - Discussed conditions with strangers (outside of the classroom) – 40%
  - Chose a career path to improve conditions or worked for an organization that is changing conditions – 34%

- **Community Service** (1 item)
  - Volunteered for a community service organization – 46%

Top Behaviors in Categories: As a Student, Part 2

- ## Philanthropy (2 items)
  - Donated your own money to a community service organization or charity – 37%
  - Collected donations or raised money for a community organization/charity – 25%

- ## Activism Public (4 items)
  - Tried to get your family and friends to change their behavior to improve conditions – 37%
  - Expressed opinion(s) on social media about current "conditions" issues and events – 30%
  - Participated in a public rally, march, peaceful protest, or demonstration to support a cause – 18%

- ## Activism Private (4 items)
  - Purchased a product or service because it benefited a cause – 49%
  - Changed personal behavior to improve conditions – 45%
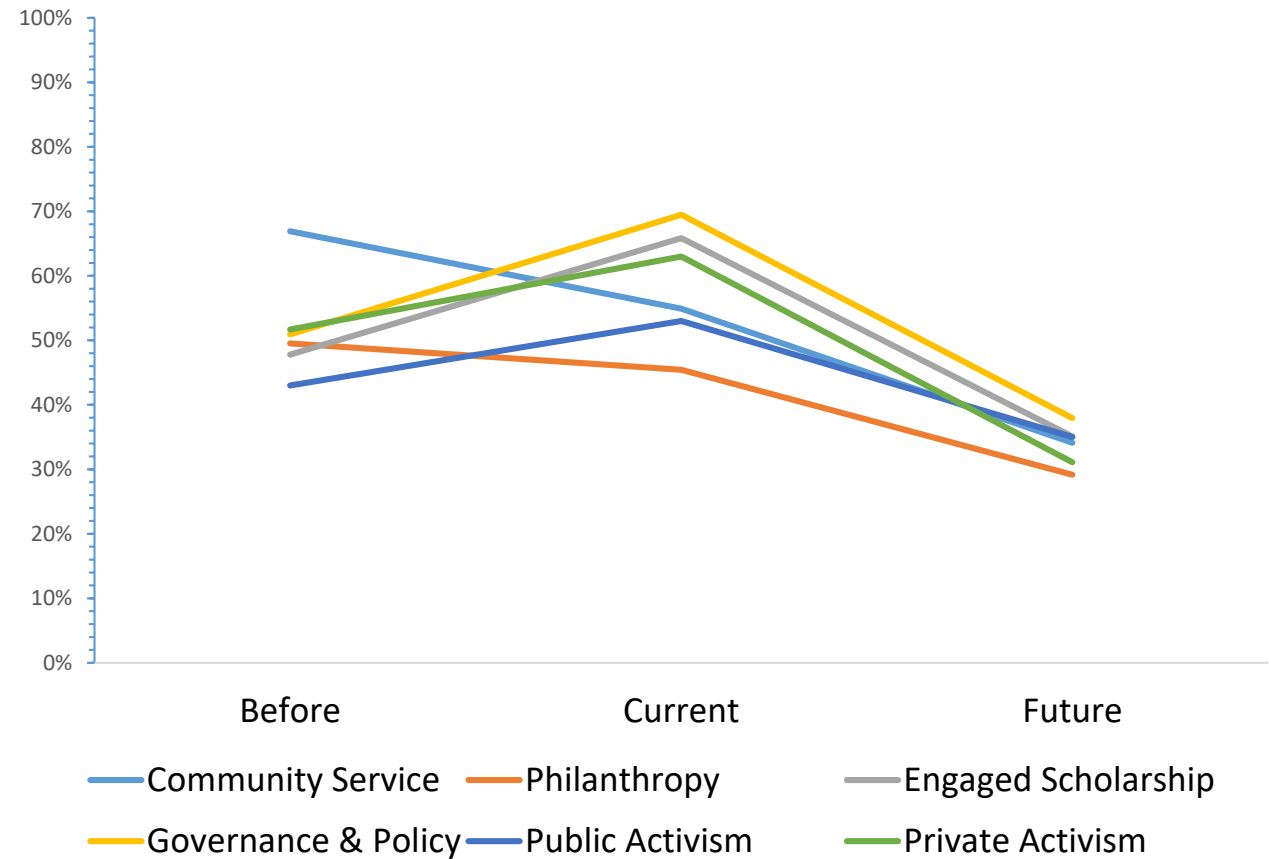 - Boycotted a product or service to improve conditions – 25%

Civic Engagement Over Time

Increases from before to current

- Governance & Policy

- Engaged Scholarship

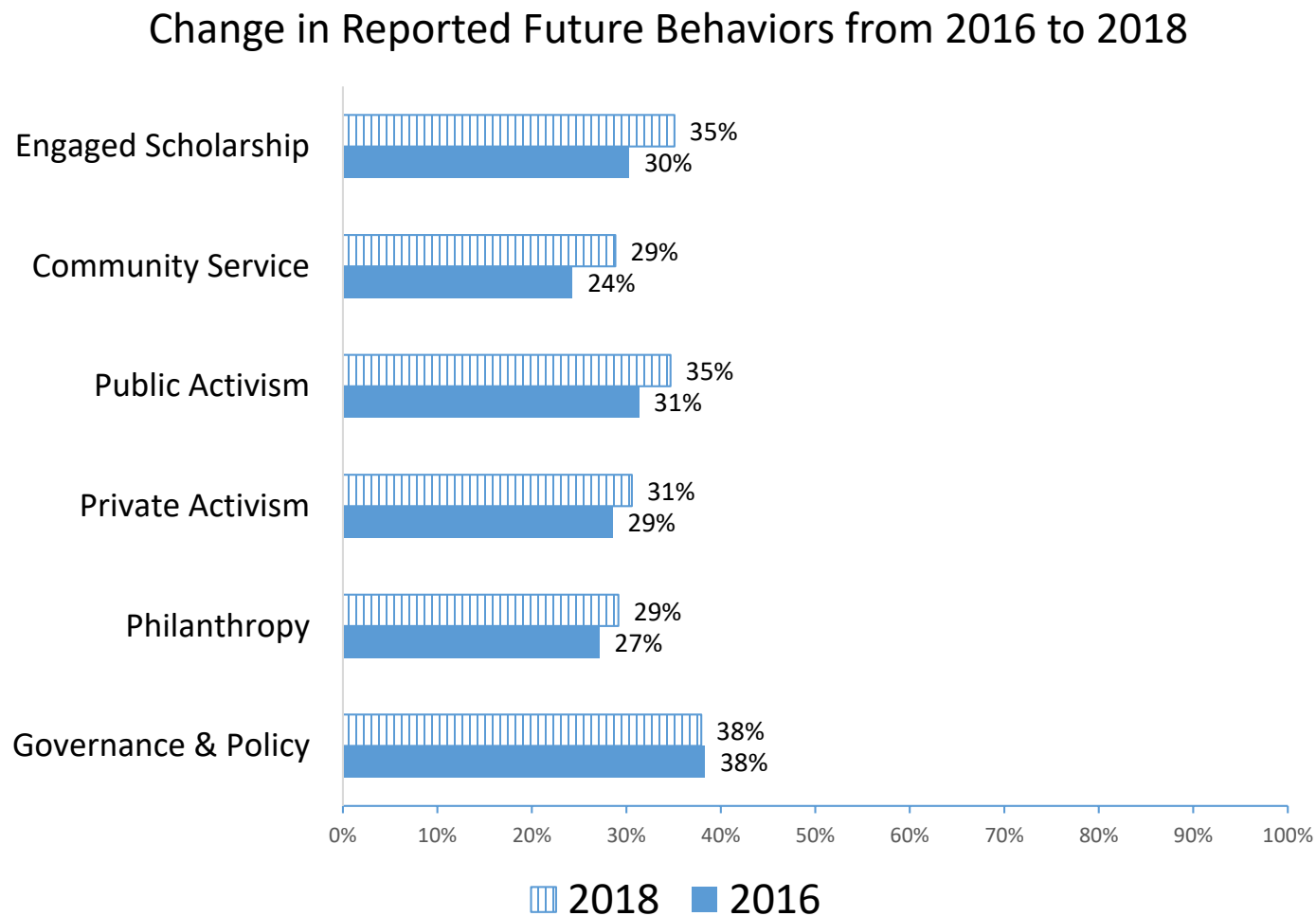- Private Activism

- Public Activism

Less intention to engage in all behaviors in the future

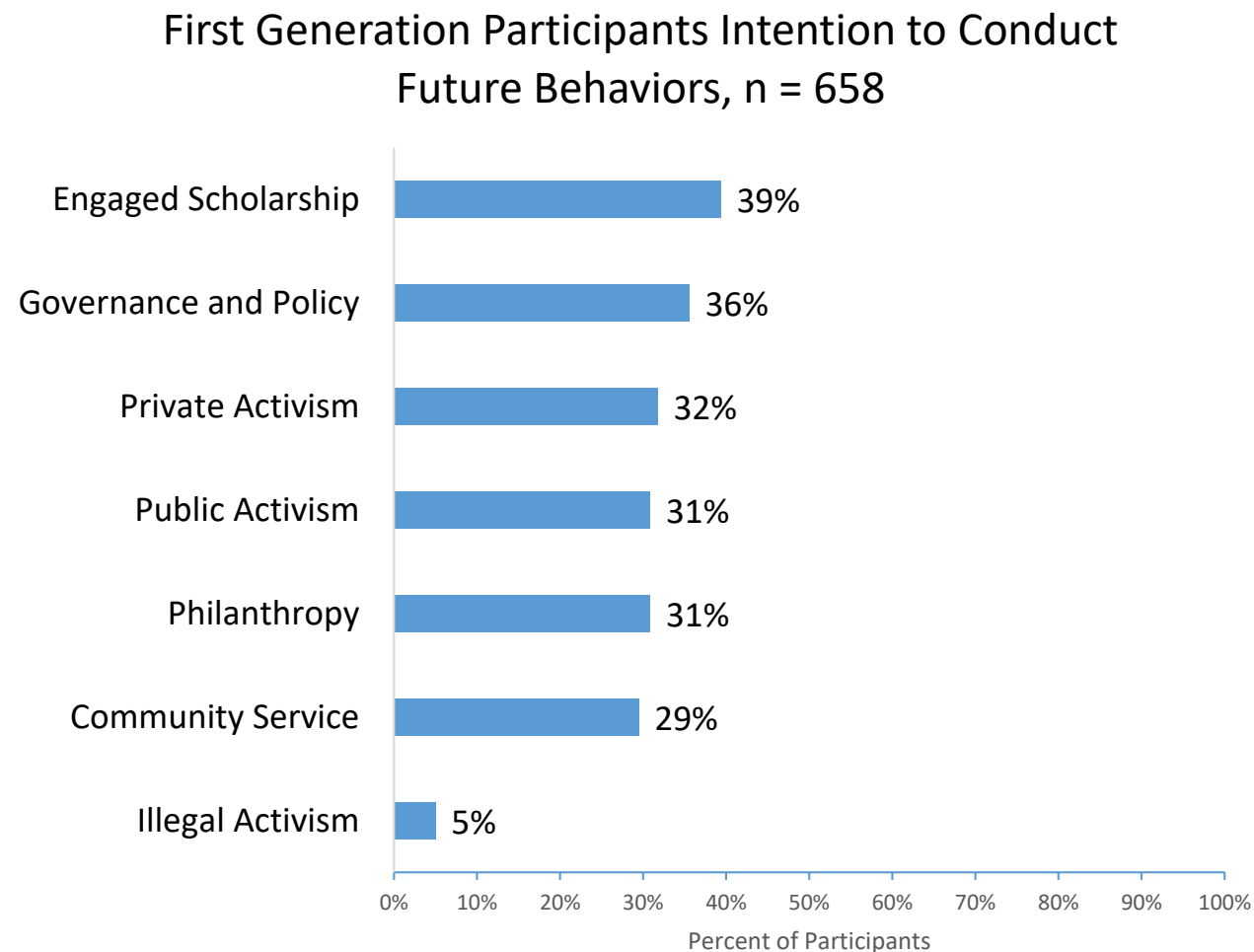## Percent Participating in Civic Engagement by Type Over Time, n = 4,332

Change in Future Behaviors

Aggregated reports show increased endorsement of conducting behaviors in the future in 2018 when compared to 2016.

Change in Reported Future Behaviors from 2016 to 2018

Behavior	2018	2016
Engaged Scholarship	35%	30%
Community Service	29%	24%
Public Activism	35%	31%
Private Activism	31%	29%
Philanthropy	29%	27%
Governance & Policy	38%	38%

Legend: 2018, 2016
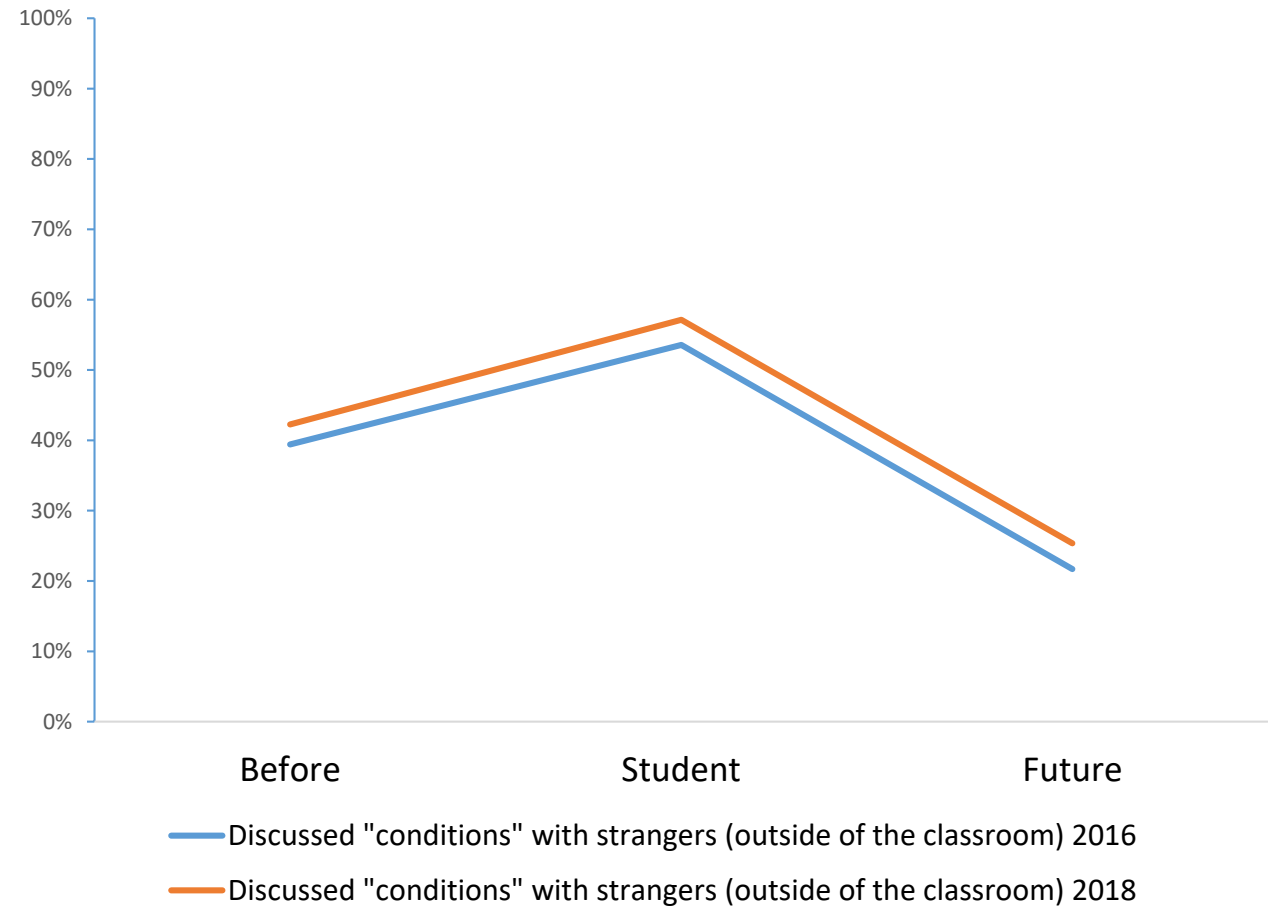
First Generation: Future Behaviors

First generation participants were slightly more likely to report intention to conduct engaged scholarship and public activism, behaviors in the future.

First Generation Participants Intention to Conduct Future Behaviors, n = 658

Behavior	Percent
Engaged Scholarship	39%
Governance and Policy	36%
Private Activism	32%
Public Activism	31%
Philanthropy	31%
Community Service	29%
Illegal Activism	5%

Percent of Participants

Discussion Questions

Aggregate responses to the discussion question remained similar from 2016 to 2018

Discussion Questions 2016 & 2018

Legend:
- Discussed "conditions" with strangers (outside of the classroom) 2016
- Discussed "conditions" with strangers (outside of the classroom) 2018

Shared Participants: 2016 & 2018

ONLY PARTICIPANTS FROM BOTH SURVEYS – Yes, as a Nevada student

	New in 2018	
Participated in a public rally, march, peaceful protest, or demonstration to support a cause	118	7%
Wrote a "letter to the editor" of a media source to express your opinion	21	1%
Expressed an opinion on social media about current "conditions" issues and events	140	9%
Blogged about current "conditions" and events	54	3%
Purchased a product or service because it benefited a cause	181	11%
Boycotted a product or service to improve "conditions."	156	10%
Changed your personal behavior to improve "conditions."	164	10%
Tried to get your family and friends to change their behavior to improve "conditions."	148	9%
Volunteered for a political party or campaign	51	3%
Canvassed a neighborhood or called likely voters for a political party or candidate	30	2%
Voted in local, state, or national election	303	19%
Contacted a public official at any level of government to express your opinion	141	9%
Collected signatures on a political petition or registered new voters	30	2%
Signed a petition	163	10%
Contributed your own money to a political campaign or politician	35	2%
Collected donations or raised money for a community organization, charity, or political campaign	154	9%
Donated your own money to a community service organization or charity	167	10%
Volunteered for a community service organization	190	12%
Educated yourself about "conditions" (outside of the classroom)	189	12%
Discussed "conditions" with strangers (outside of the classroom)	169	10%
Conducted scholarly research to improve "conditions."	113	7%
Chose a career path to improve conditions or worked for an organization that is changing conditions	126	8%
TOTAL	**1632**	**100%**

Benefits

The top 7 benefits are listed in the figure

Most participants agreed that they participated in civic engagement for self-satisfaction reasons, followed by professional advancement reasons.

Average Agreement of Benefits of Civic Engagement, n = 3,578

Benefit	Average
Gives me a feeling of satifaction	3.3
It helps me contribute to something I believe in	3.2
Makes me feel like a good person	3.2
It looks great on a CV or resume for work/graduate school	3.1
Gives me valuable experience for my professional career	3.1
Helps me make contacts for my professional career	3.1
I enjoy meeting new people	3.1

Scale: 1 (Disagree) — 1.5 — 2 — 2.5 — 3 — 3.5 — 4 (Agree)
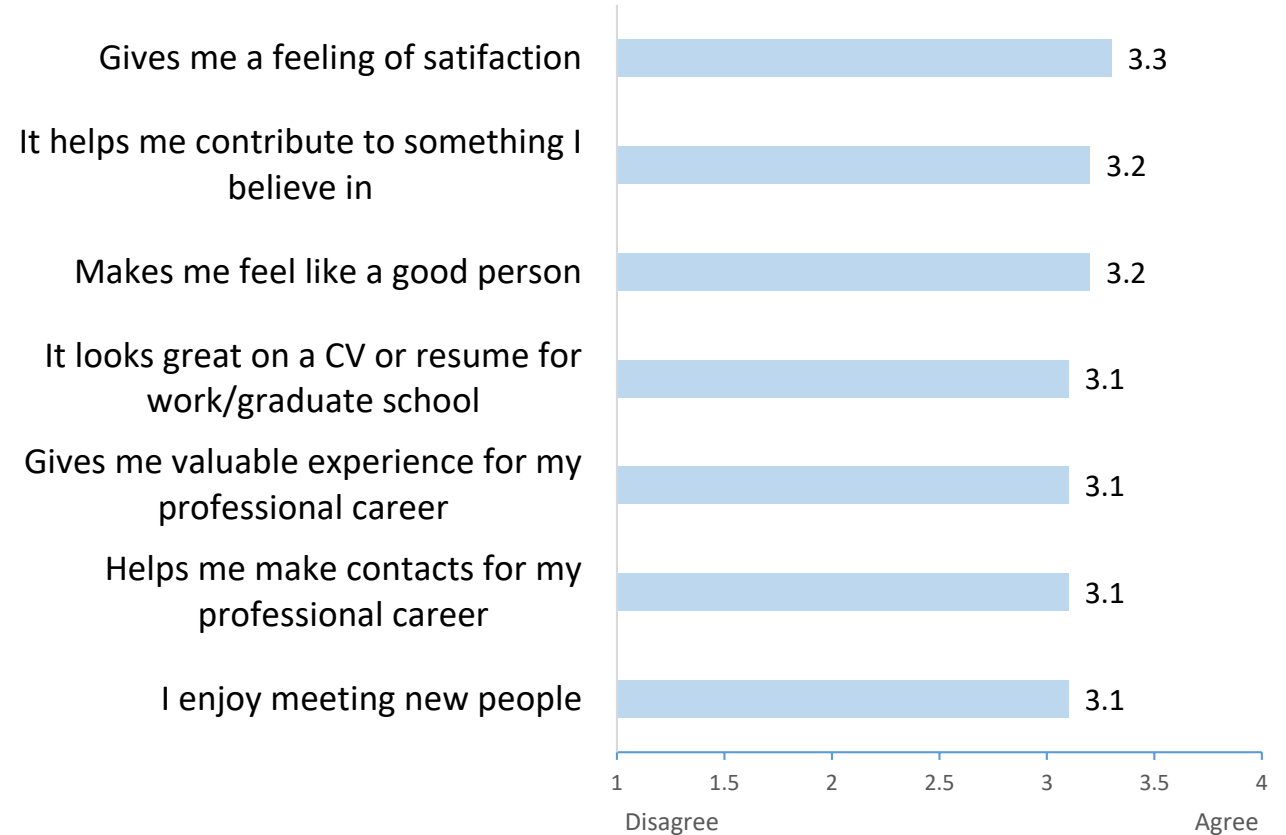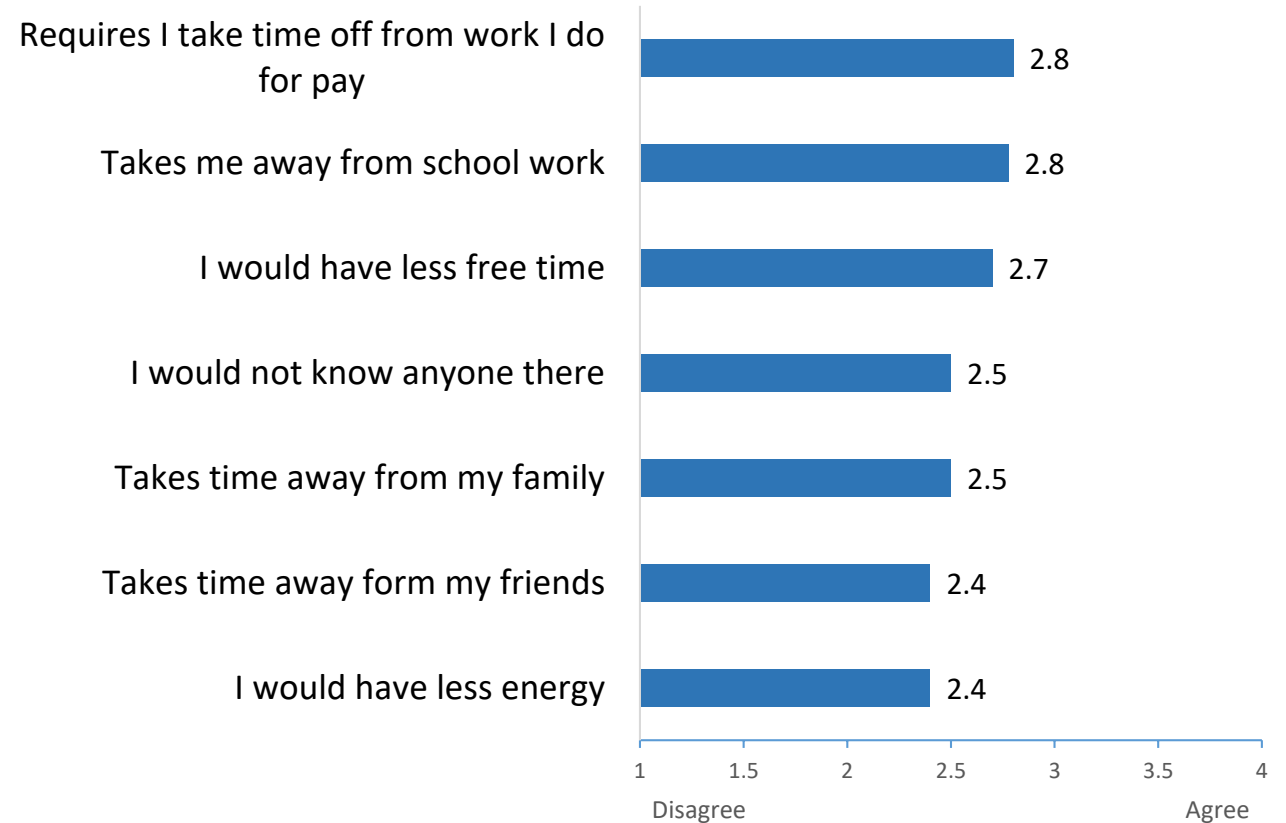
Barriers

The top 7 barriers are listed in the figure

All averages remained on the disagreement end of the scale.

The top barriers tended to be about allocation of time and competing priorities.

## Average Agreement of Barriers to Civic Engagement, n = 3,578

Barrier	Average
Requires I take time off from work I do for pay	2.8
Takes me away from school work	2.8
I would have less free time	2.7
I would not know anyone there	2.5
Takes time away from my family	2.5
Takes time away form my friends	2.4
I would have less energy	2.4

Scale: 1 (Disagree) — 4 (Agree)

Club Involvement

Not quite half of participants in this survey identified as being part of a recognized club on campus.

Yes – 1,531

No – 1,943

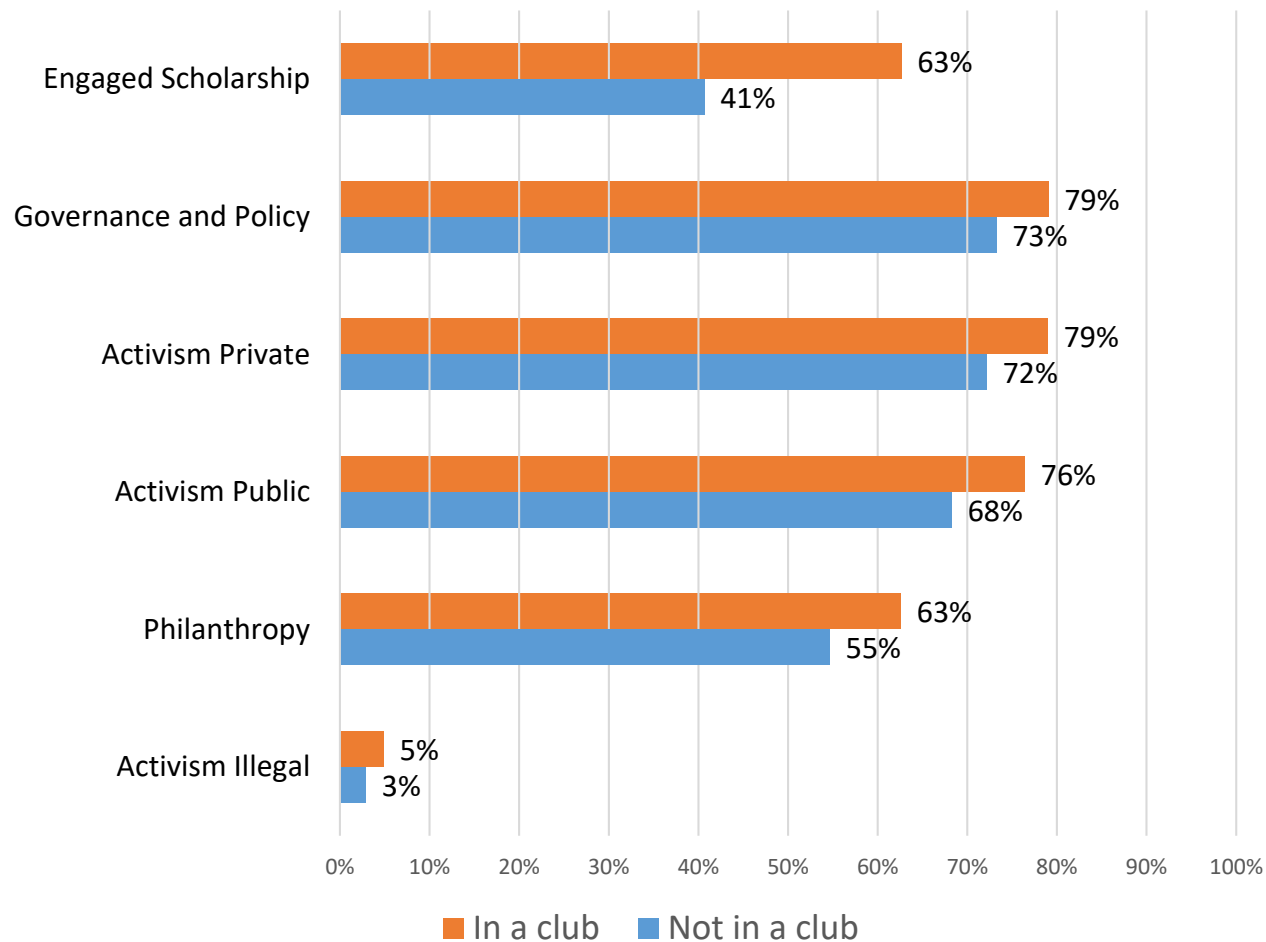Are you a part of an ASUN recognized club?, n = 3,474

56%

44%
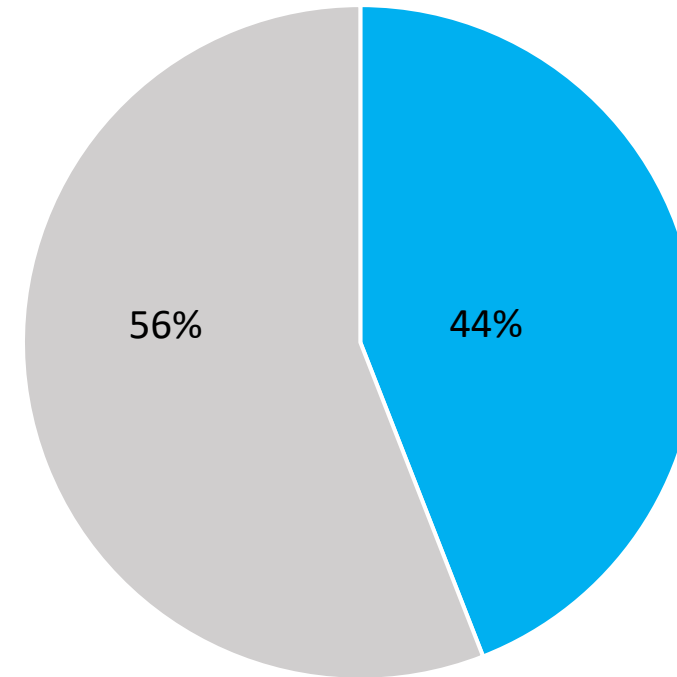
■ Yes ■ No

Club Status on Civic Engagement

Those reporting they are in a club are more likely to report engaging in all types of civic engagement behaviors.

Participation in Civic Engagement Behaviors by Club Status, n = 3,474

| Behavior	In a club	Not in a club
Engaged Scholarship	63%	41%
Governance and Policy	79%	73%
Activism Private	79%	72%
Activism Public	76%	68%
Philanthropy	63%	55%
Activism Illegal	5%	3%

Give Pulse

- 715 undergraduate participants of the survey were found on GivePulse
  - 550 indicated they were part of a club
  - 165 indicated they were not part of a club
    - Some of these memberships are campus departments

Club Impact on Civic Engagement

Participants were significantly more likely to report participating in civic engagement after they joined a club at UNR

$p < .0000$

Average Rating of Civic Engagement Participation Before and After Joining a Club, n = 1,520

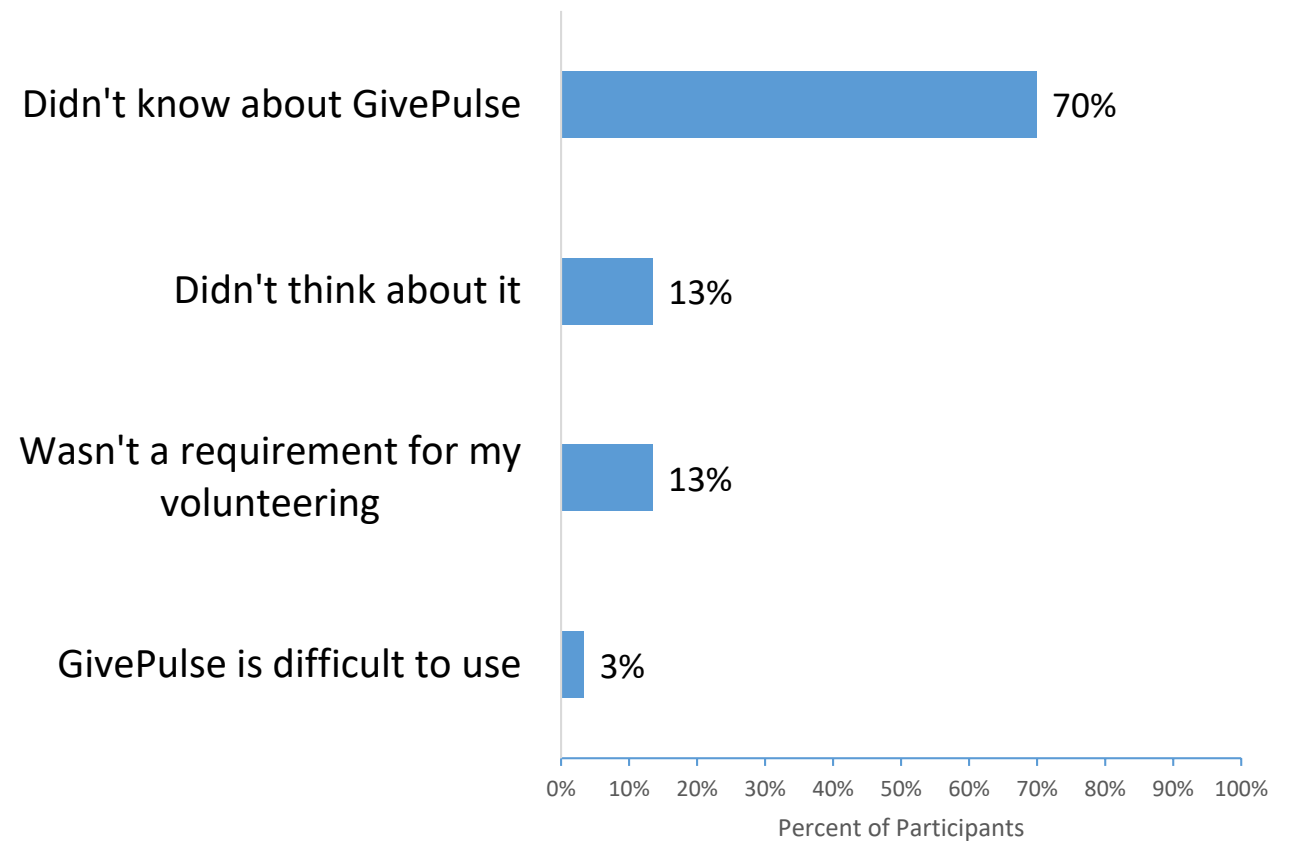AFTER — 1.9
BEFORE — 1.4

Never   A Lot
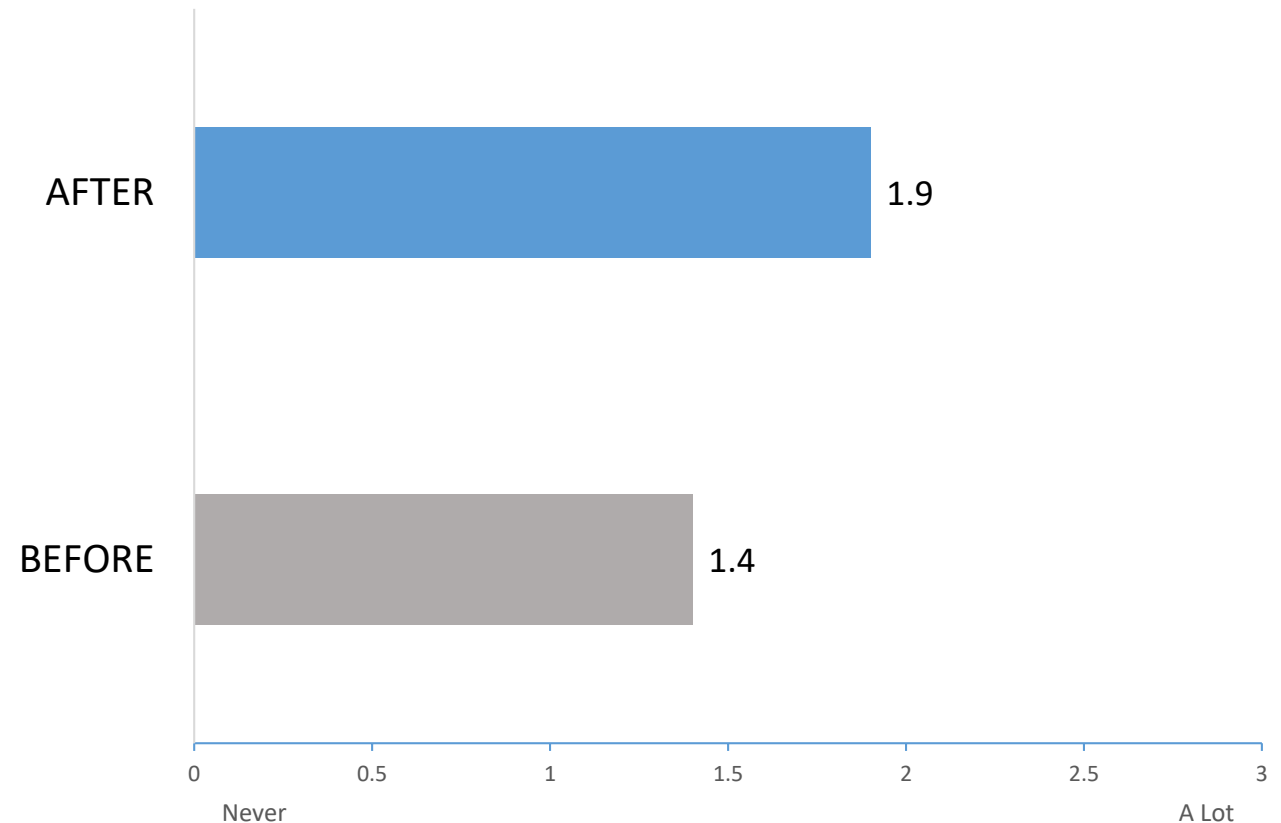
Have you volunteered?

- 66% of participants said they had volunteered as a student at UNR
  - 53% of those said they volunteered because they were part of an organization
    - Club – 65%
    - Fraternity or Sorority – 47%
    - Service Learning – 25%
    - Religious group – 14%

- But only 30% recorded their hours in GivePulse!

Reasons for NOT Using GivePulse

The vast majority of participants indicating they had volunteered but didn't use GivePulse reported that they didn't know about GivePulse

Reasons for Not Using GivePulse to Track Volunteer Hours, n = 1,957
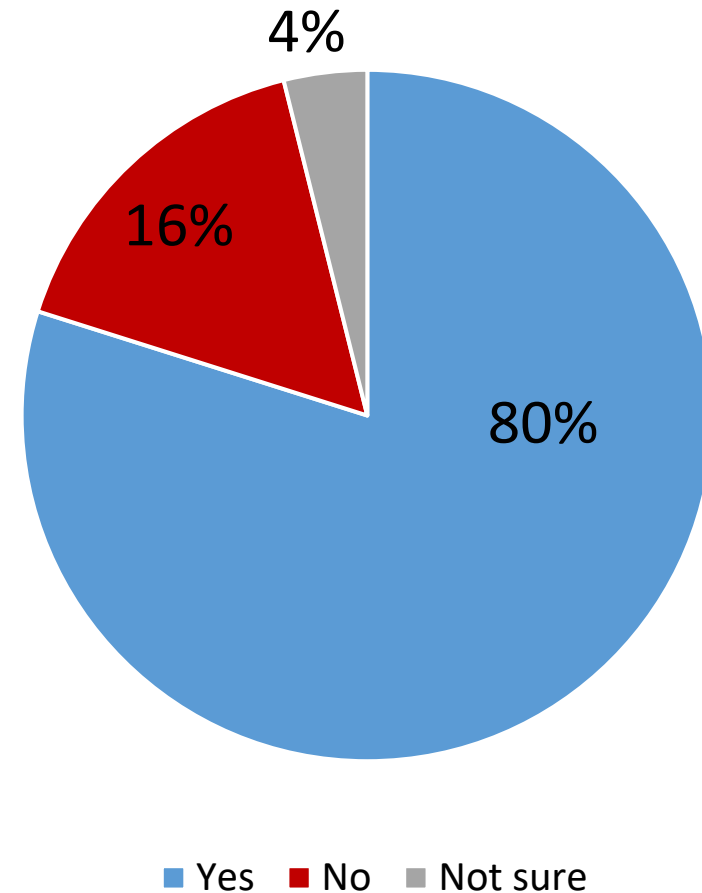
Didn't know about GivePulse — 70%

Didn't think about it — 13%

Wasn't a requirement for my volunteering — 13%

GivePulse is difficult to use — 3%

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Percent of Participants

Voting

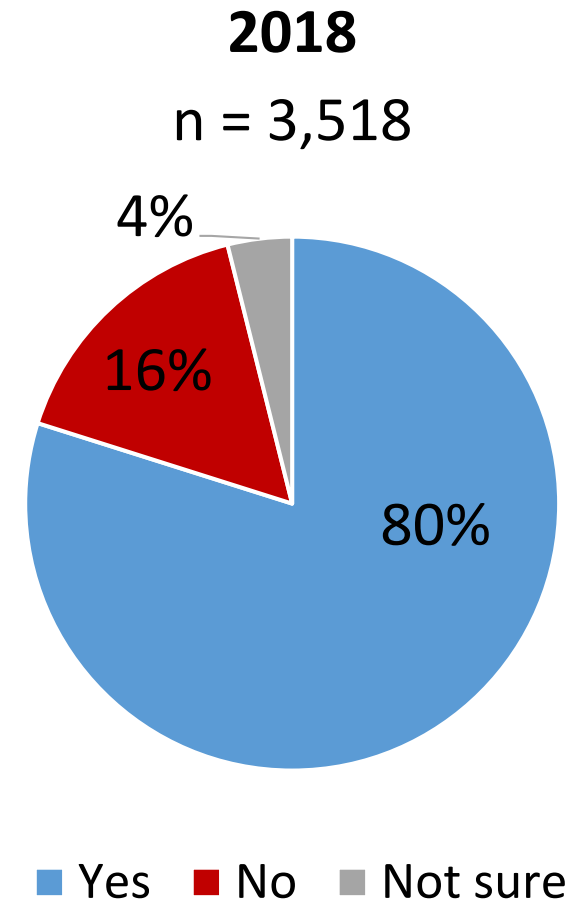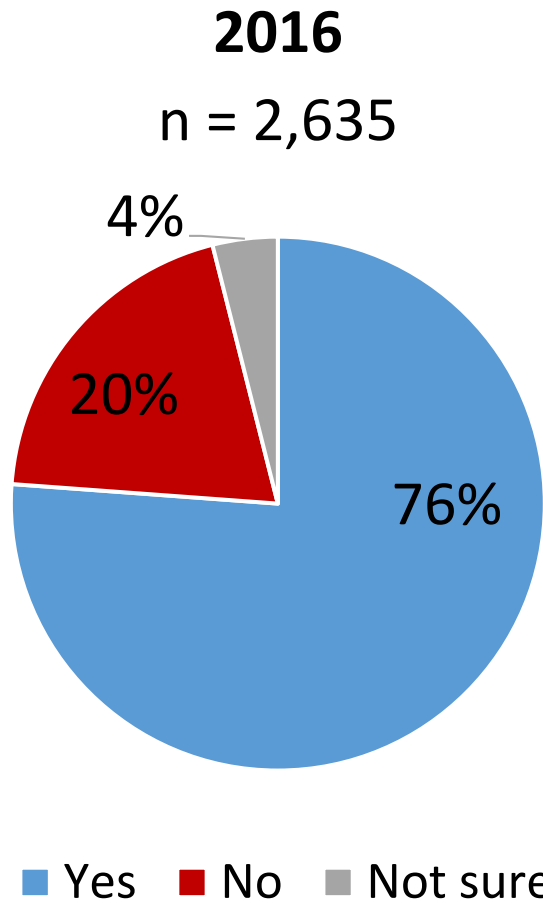The majority of participants report being registered to vote.

No difference between first generation and traditional participants

83% of registered voters are registered in Nevada

Are you registered to vote?, n = 3,518

4%

16%

80%

■ Yes   ■ No   ■ Not sure

Registered to Vote

2016

n = 2,635

4%

20%

76%

■ Yes ■ No ■ Not sure

2018

n = 3,518

4%

16%

80%

■ Yes ■ No ■ Not sure

Registered to Vote by Race

Race/Ethnicity		
White/Caucasian	82%	1985
Hispanic/Latino/a/x	78%	758
Black/African American	83%	84
Alaskan Native/Native Am.	89%	27
Asian	72%	330
Pacific Islander	89%	18
Multi-ethnic	83%	246
Grand Total	80%	3448

Have Voted in…

Student Elections

42%

58%
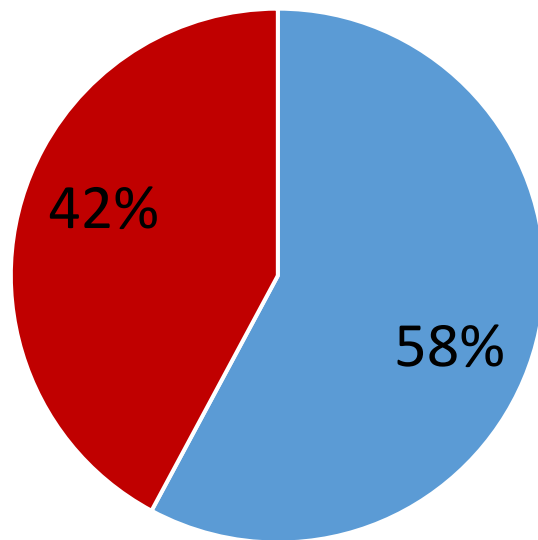
■ Yes ■ No

Local, State, or National Elections

37%

63%

■ Yes ■ No

Maletsky, L. (2018). 2018 campus-wide civic engagement survey. Unpublished raw data. Office of Student Persistence Research and Center for Student Engagement at the University of Nevada, Reno. For questions contact: 775 784-6589
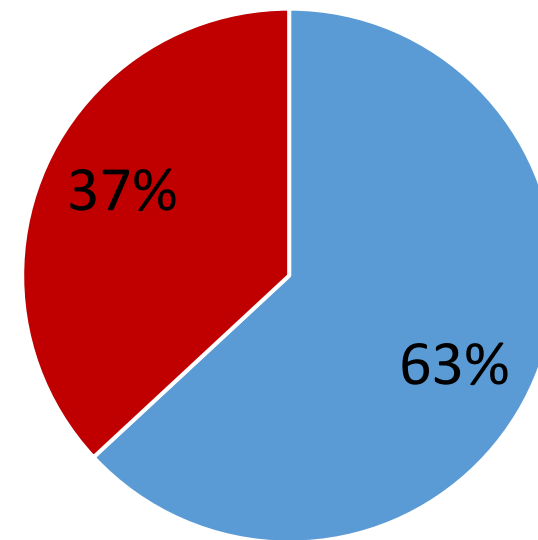
Intention to Vote in Midterm Election by Race

Race/Ethnicity		
White/Caucasian	64%	1982
Hispanic/Latino/a/x	56%	753
Black/African American	60%	84
Alaskan Native/Native Am.	59%	27
Asian	51%	329
Pacific Islander	44%	18
Multi-ethnic	64%	245
Grand Total	61%	**3438**

Barriers to Voting

Over half of participants reported not knowing enough about the issues as their biggest barrier to voting.

I Don't Know…., n = 3,462

Enough about the issues — 57%
How to use an absentee ballot — 28%
Where to vote — 16%
How to register if I live in the residence hall — 11%
How to register to vote — 9%
If I'm eligible — 7%

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%
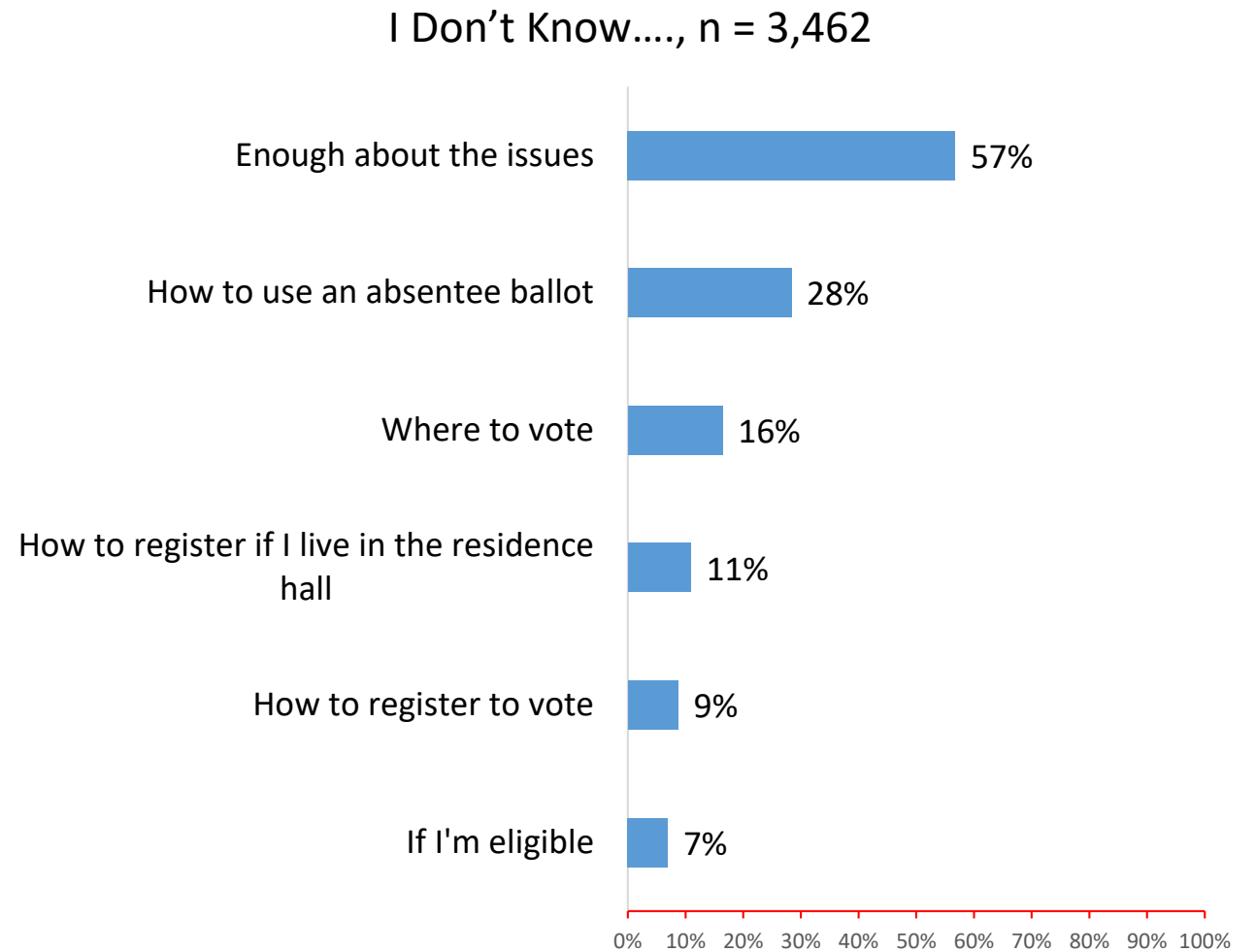
Interest in Running for Office

The majority of participants had no interest in running for office.

Club officer was the position for which participants were most likely to endorse

136 participants indicated a lot of interest in running for student government

150 participants indicated a lot of interest in running for a local, state, or national office

Level of Interest in Running for Various Offices, n = 3,569

Local, State, or National Office — 29%

Student Government Officer — 31%

Club Officer — 43%

Legend: Very Little | Some | A Lot
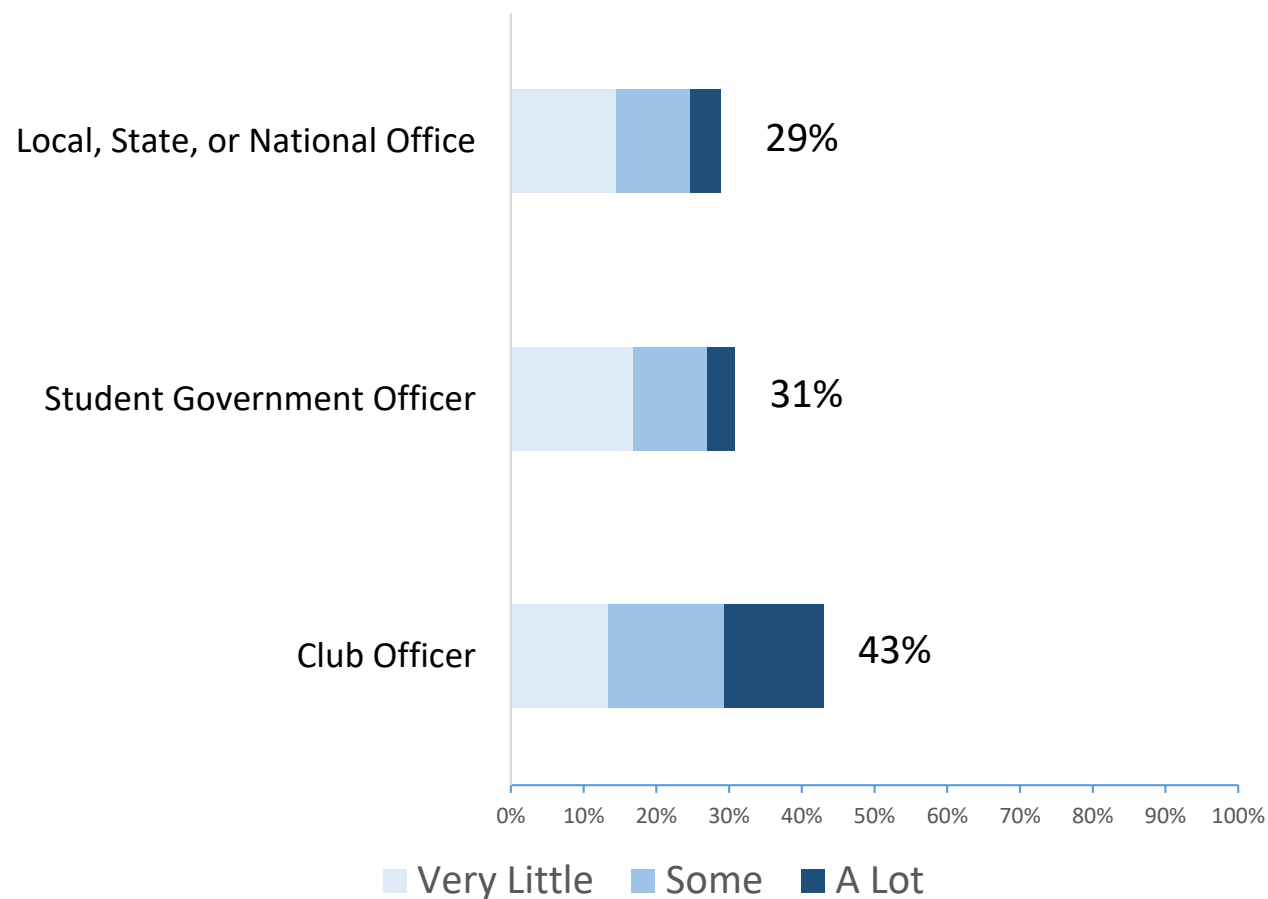
Topics of Interest for PDI Event, n = 3,518

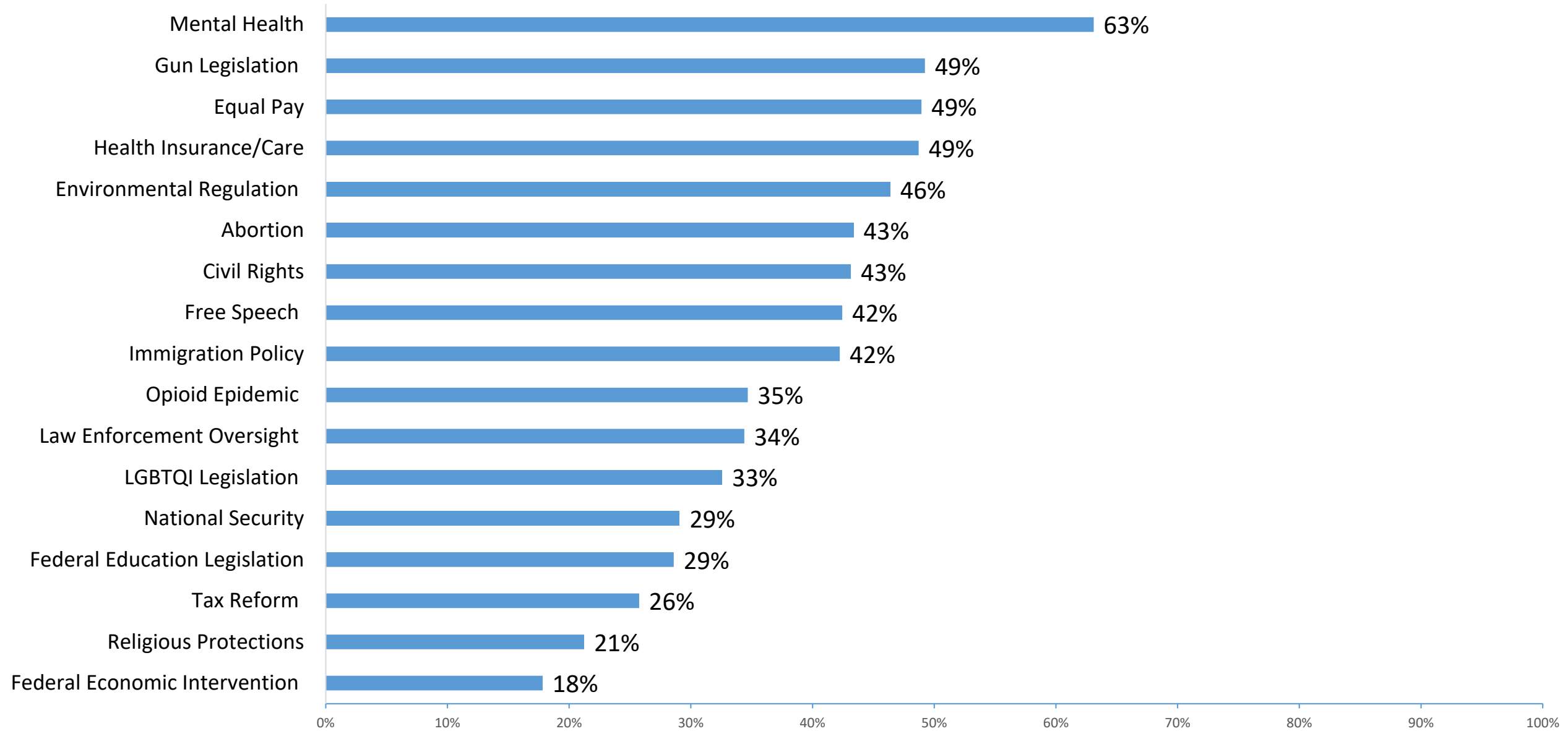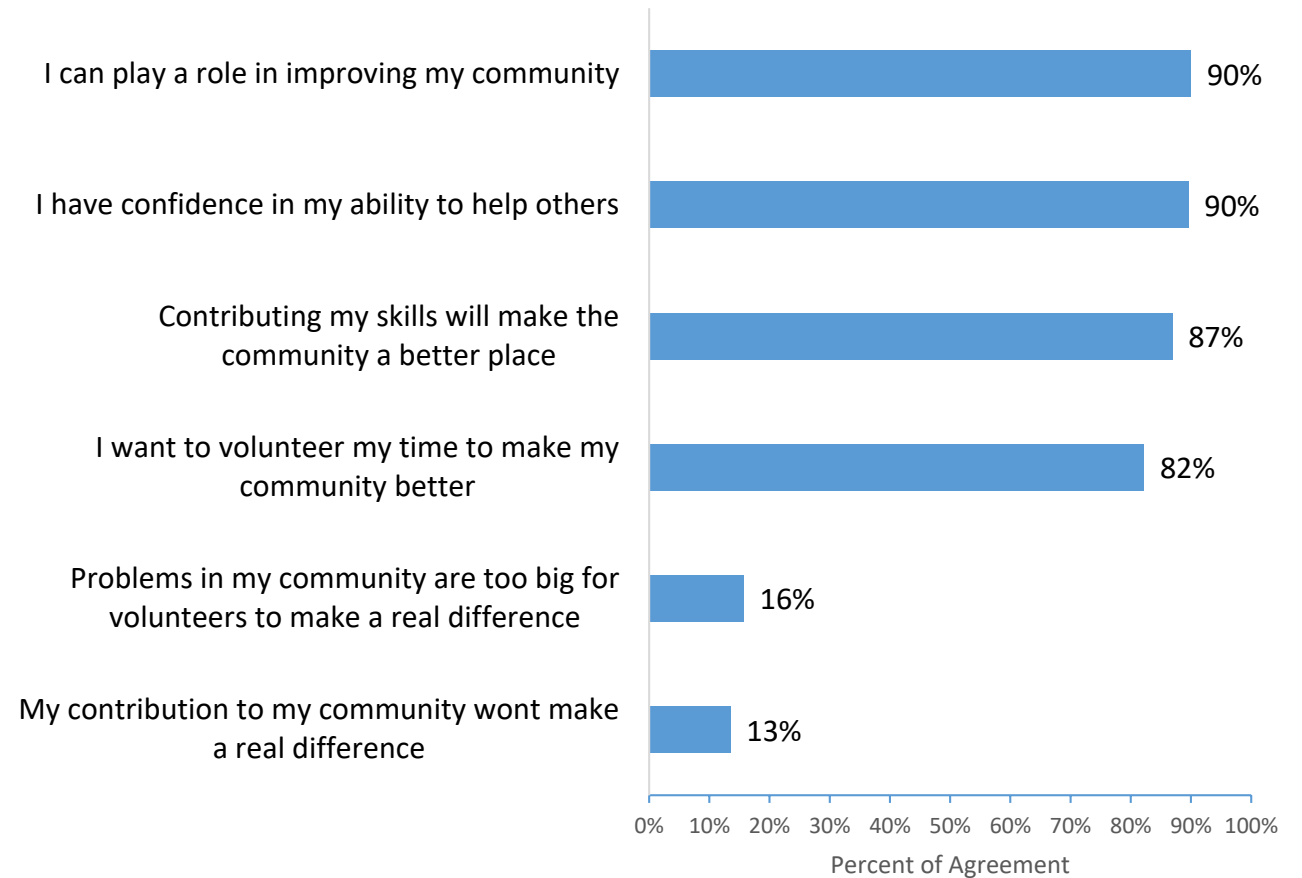| Topic	Percentage
Mental Health	63%
Gun Legislation	49%
Equal Pay	49%
Health Insurance/Care	49%
Environmental Regulation	46%
Abortion	43%
Civil Rights	43%
Free Speech	42%
Immigration Policy	42%
Opioid Epidemic	35%
Law Enforcement Oversight	34%
LGBTQI Legislation	33%
National Security	29%
Federal Education Legislation	29%
Tax Reform	26%
Religious Protections	21%
Federal Economic Intervention	18%

Skip Logic

- Participants were directed to one of three paths in the survey
  - Confidence to make a difference
  - Campus Climate
  - Locations of learning

I can make a difference

Most participants agreed they could use their time and skills to help others and improve the community.

Participants tended to disagree that their contribution would not make a difference and that community problems were too big to be changed.

Percent Agreeing they Can Impact their Communities, n = 1,171

- I can play a role in improving my community — 90%
- I have confidence in my ability to help others — 90%
- Contributing my skills will make the community a better place — 87%
- I want to volunteer my time to make my community better — 82%
- Problems in my community are too big for volunteers to make a real difference — 16%
- My contribution to my community wont make a real difference — 13%

Percent of Agreement

Campus Climate Concerning Different Perspectives, n = 1,030

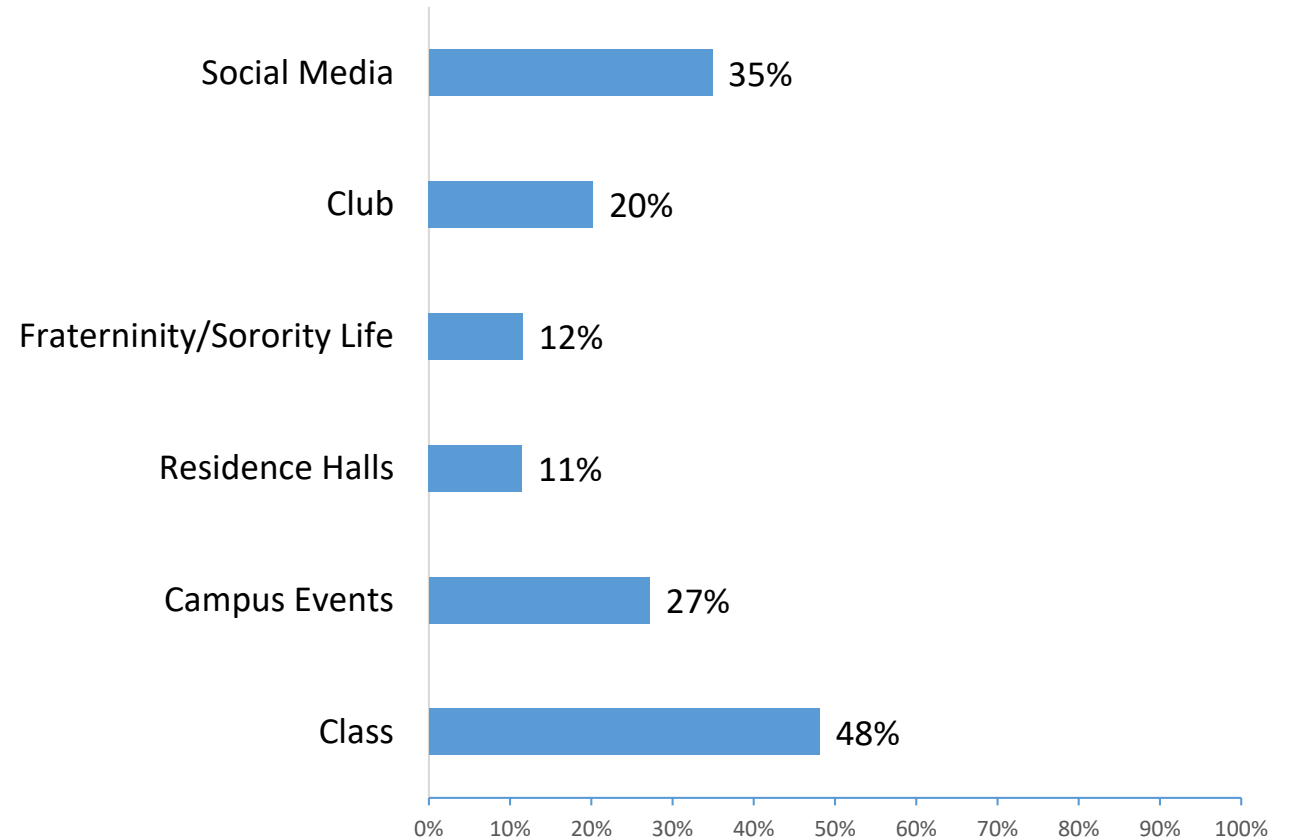| Statement	Percentage
Out-of-class activities help students explore diverse perspectives	83%
Faculty help students think through new and challenging ideas	78%
This campus helps students appreciate the value of an informed citizen	77%
This campus helps students recognize the importance of taking the perspective of others seriously	69%
Faculty teach about the importance of diverse viewpoints	66%
This campus has high expectations for students to take the perspectives of others seriously, especially those with whom they disagree	65%
Students are respectful when discussing controversial issues	59%
It is safe to hold unpopular viewpoint on this campus	59%
This campus does not take the opinions of under-represented students seriously	40%
Faculty don't know enough about diverse viewpoints to effectively encourage discussion and debate	36%

Campus Climate by Race

- All Climate questions were examined by race.
- The only one item differed between white and non-white participants.
  - This campus does not take the opinions of under-represented students seriously.
    - White participants more strongly disagreed (-.46) than non-white participants who only slightly disagreed (-.01).

Learning Locations

Participants indicated that class followed by social media were the primary locations of learning about people and groups who improve society.

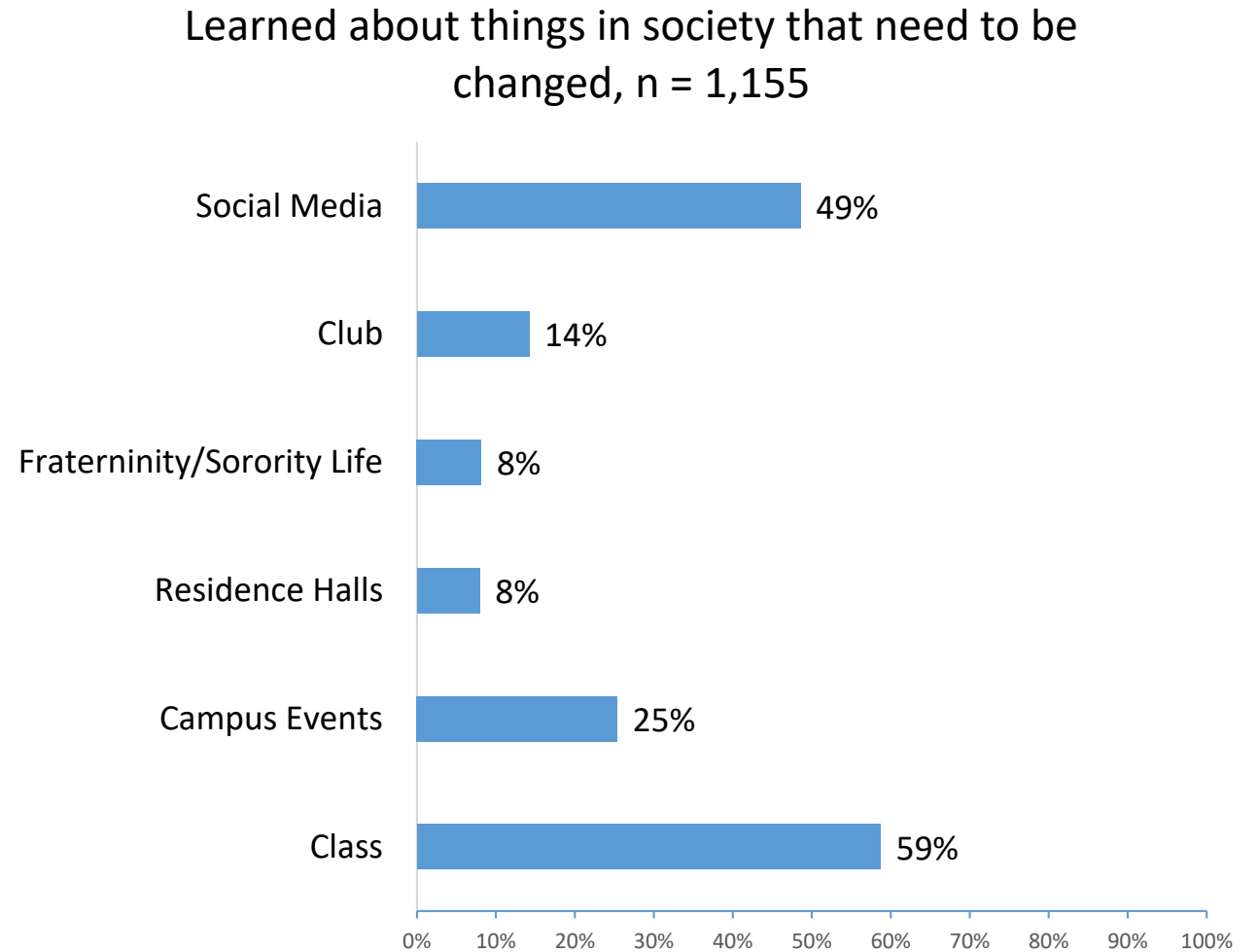*Categories are not mutually exclusive

Learned about people and groups who make society better, n = 1,158

Location	Percentage
Social Media	35%
Club	20%
Fraterninity/Sorority Life	12%
Residence Halls	11%
Campus Events	27%
Class	48%

Learning Locations, Part 2

Participants indicated that class followed by social media were the primary locations of learning about things that need to be changed.
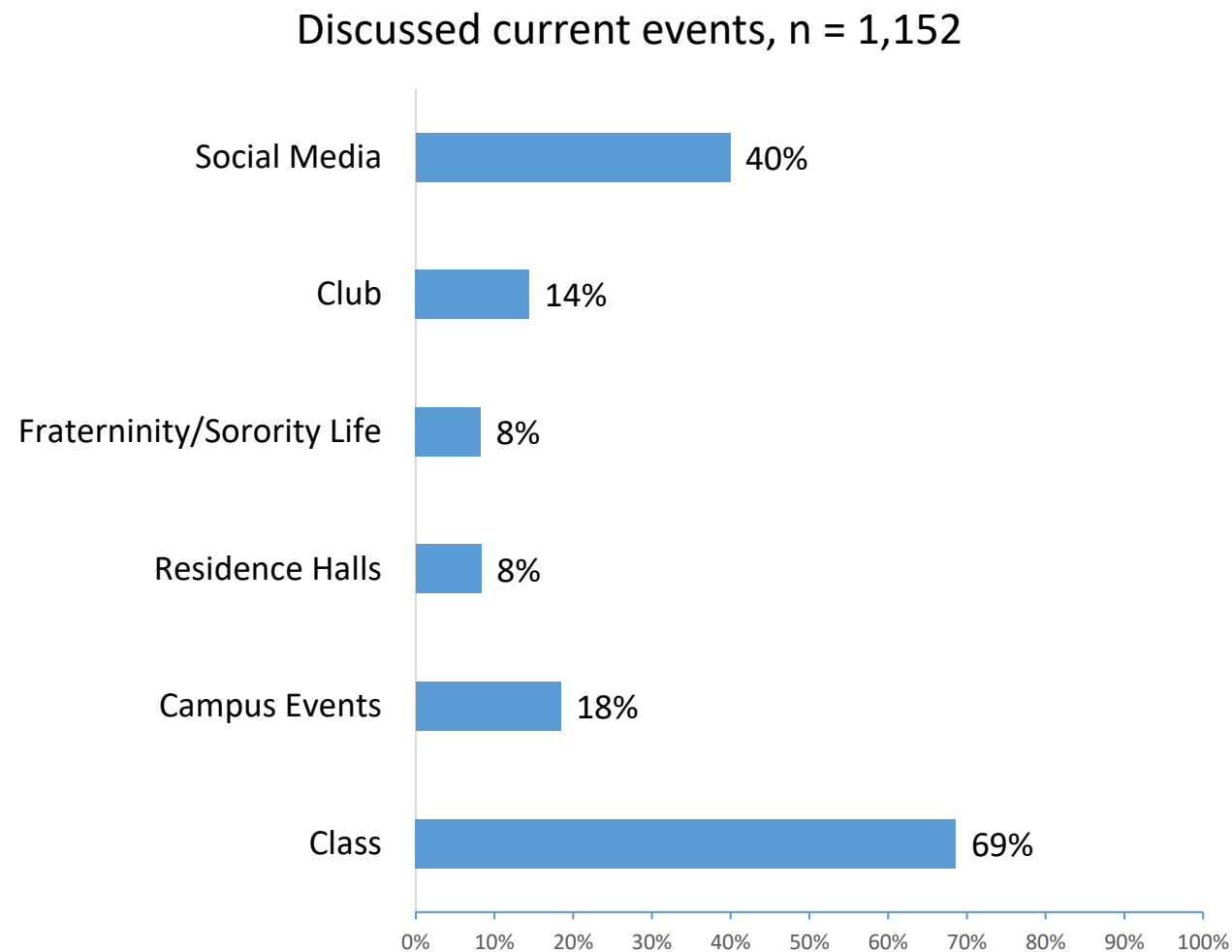
*Categories are not mutually exclusive

Learned about things in society that need to be changed, n = 1,155

Location	Percentage
Social Media	49%
Club	14%
Fraterninity/Sorority Life	8%
Residence Halls	8%
Campus Events	25%
Class	59%

Learning Locations, Part 3

Participants indicated that class followed by social media were the primary locations to discuss current events.

*Categories are not mutually exclusive

Discussed current events, n = 1,152

Learning Locations, Part 4

Participants indicated that class followed by social media were the primary locations to learn how to connect classroom ideas with real world problems.

*Categories are not mutually exclusive

Learned how to connect classroom ideas with real world problems, n = 1,098

Location	Percentage
Social Media	20%
Club	11%
Fraterninity/Sorority Life	5%
Residence Halls	5%
Campus Events	12%
Class	70%