



# Data on the Menu: A Fresh Look at the State Retail Food Survey Results

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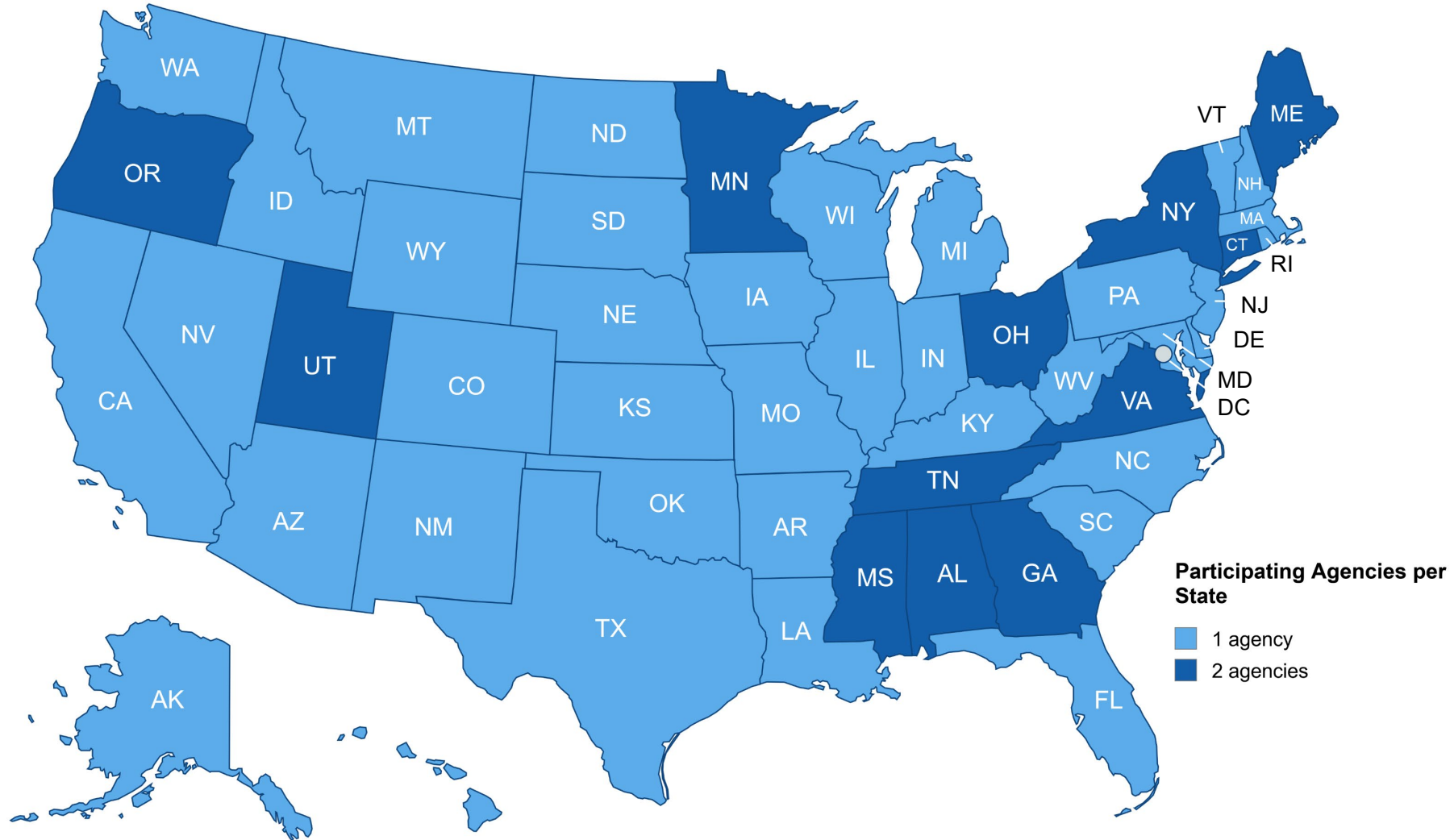
AFDO AEC | June 9, 2026



# Survey Methods & Program Demographics

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# 62 Participating State Agencies

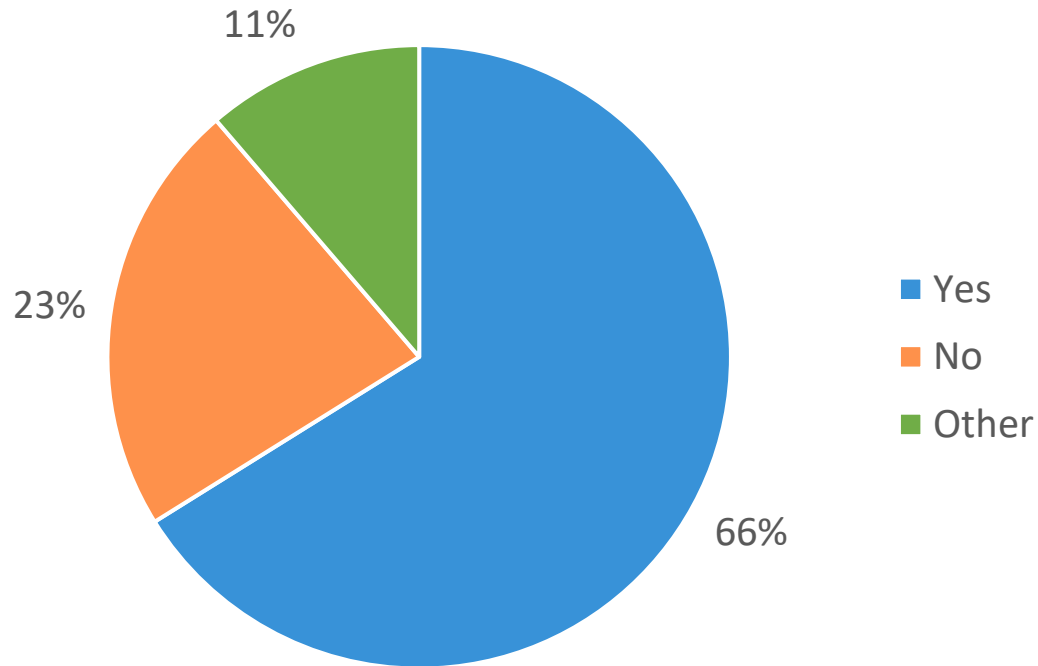




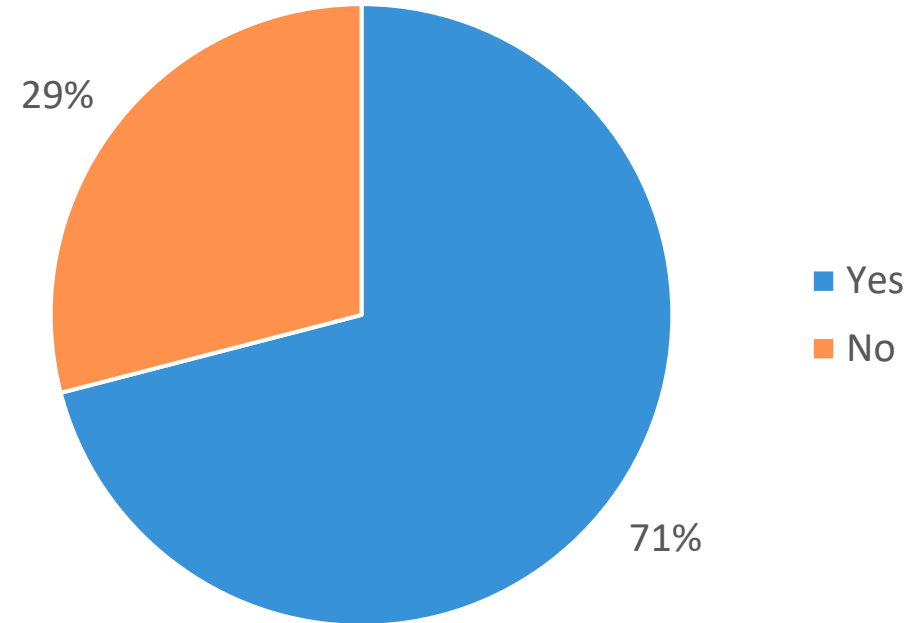
# State Agencies Inspecting or Permitting Retail Food Establishments



### Conducting Inspections



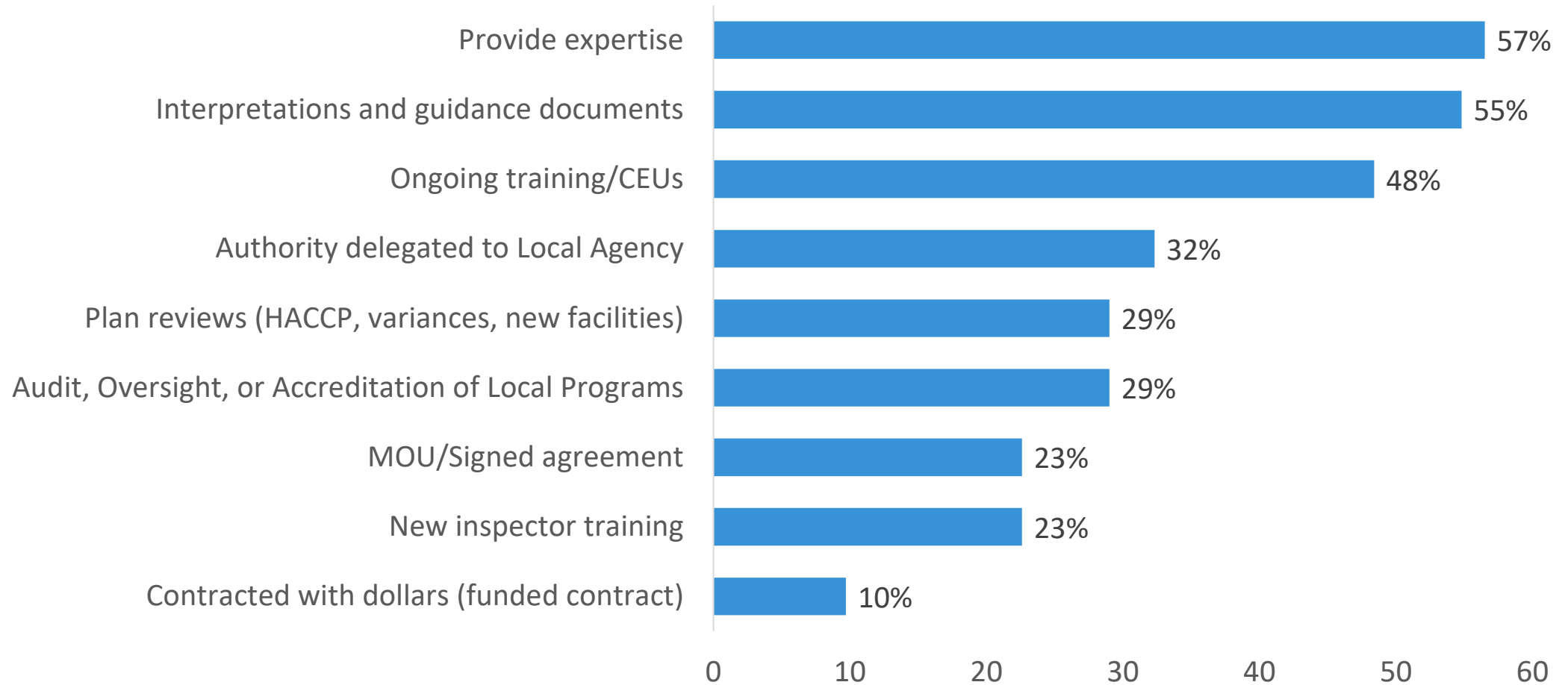
### Permitting



Other:

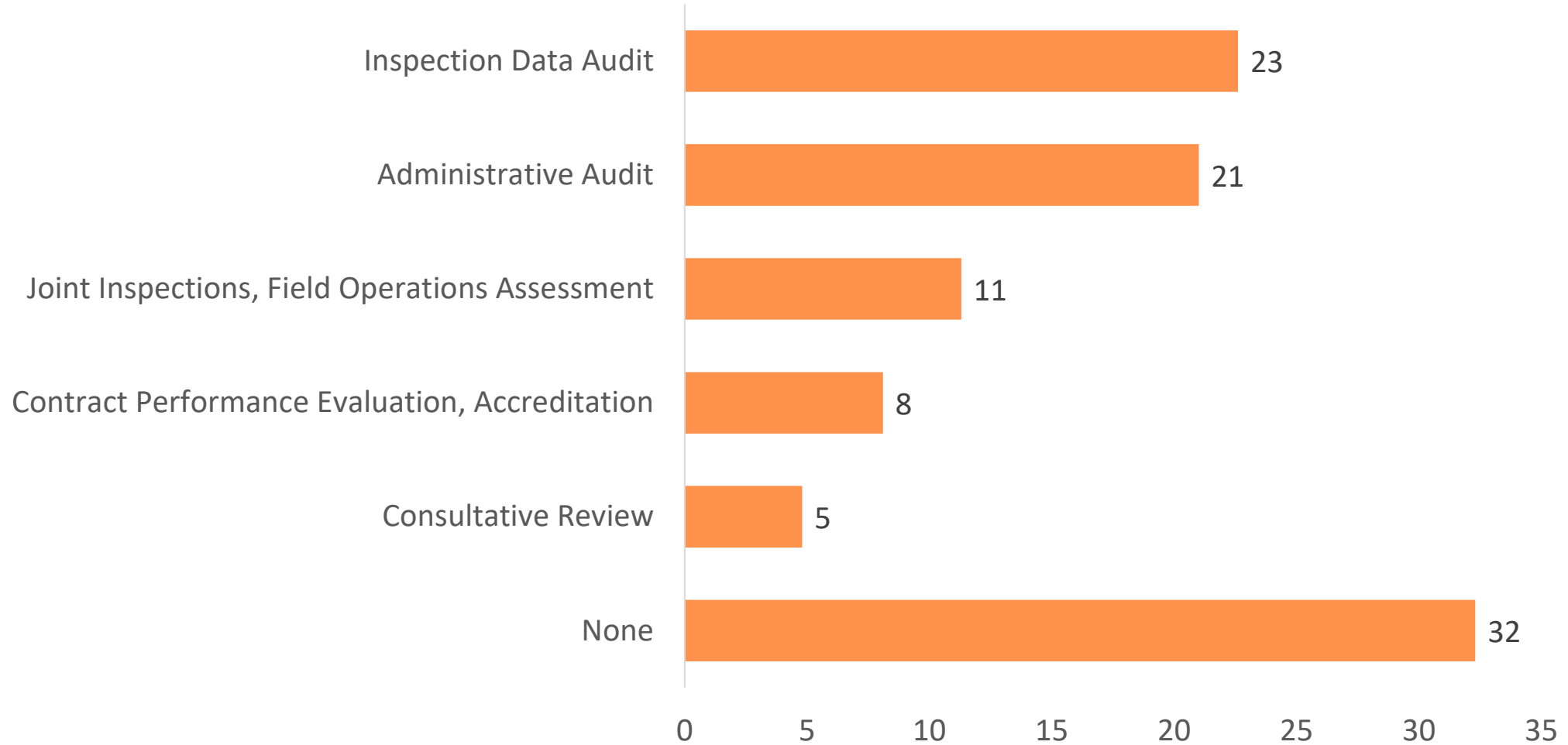
- State facilities or institutions (10%)
- Limited business types (2%)

# Relationship with Local Agencies that Conduct Retail Food Inspections





# State Oversight of Local Agencies





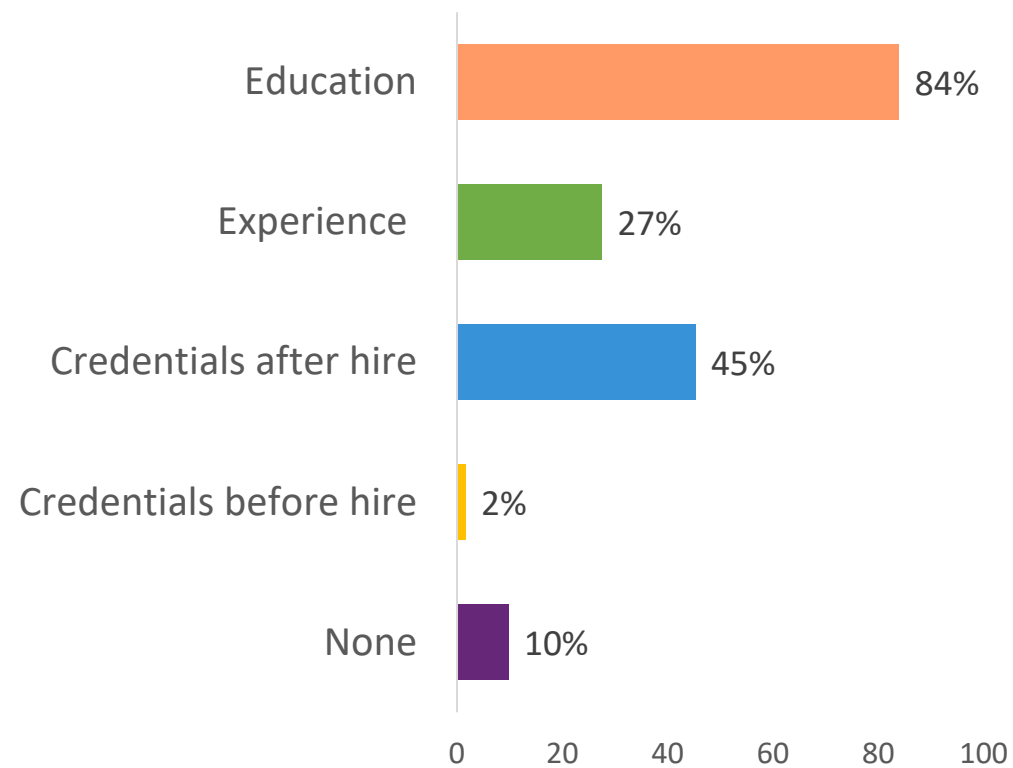
# Inspection Staff & Hiring

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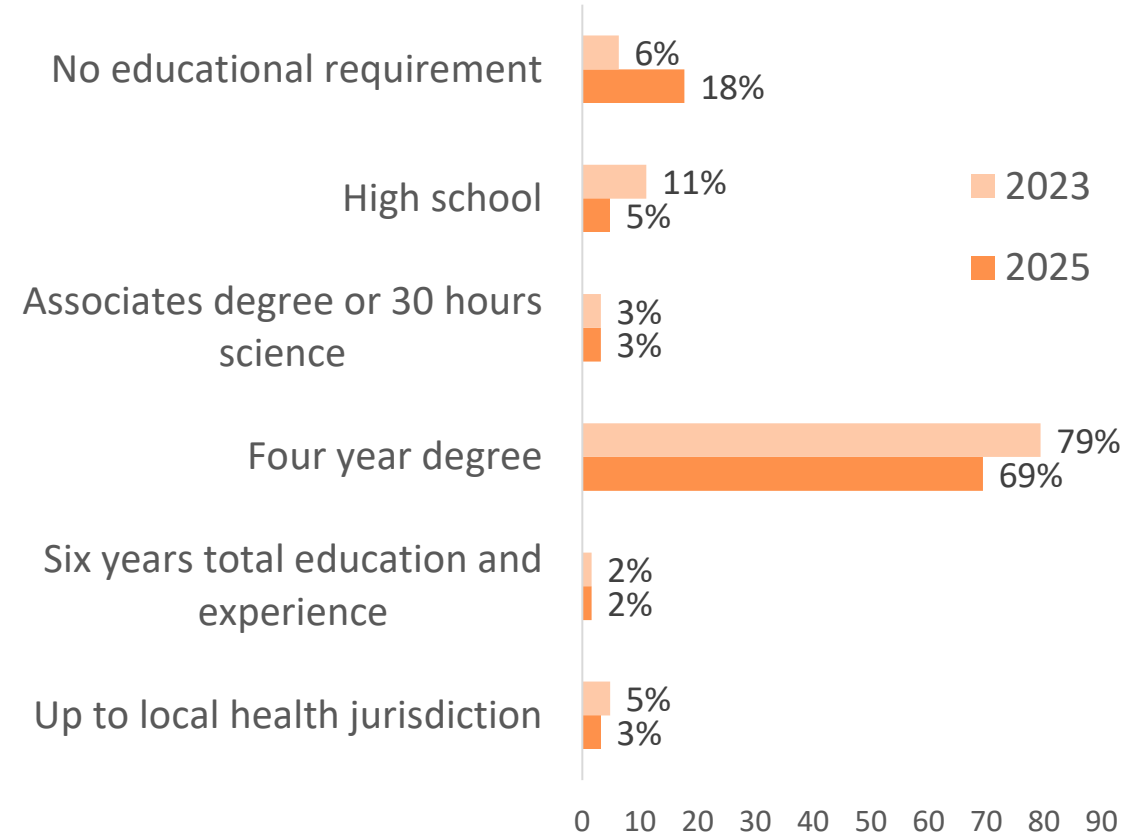


# Employment Requirements

### Minimum Employment Requirements for Retail inspectors

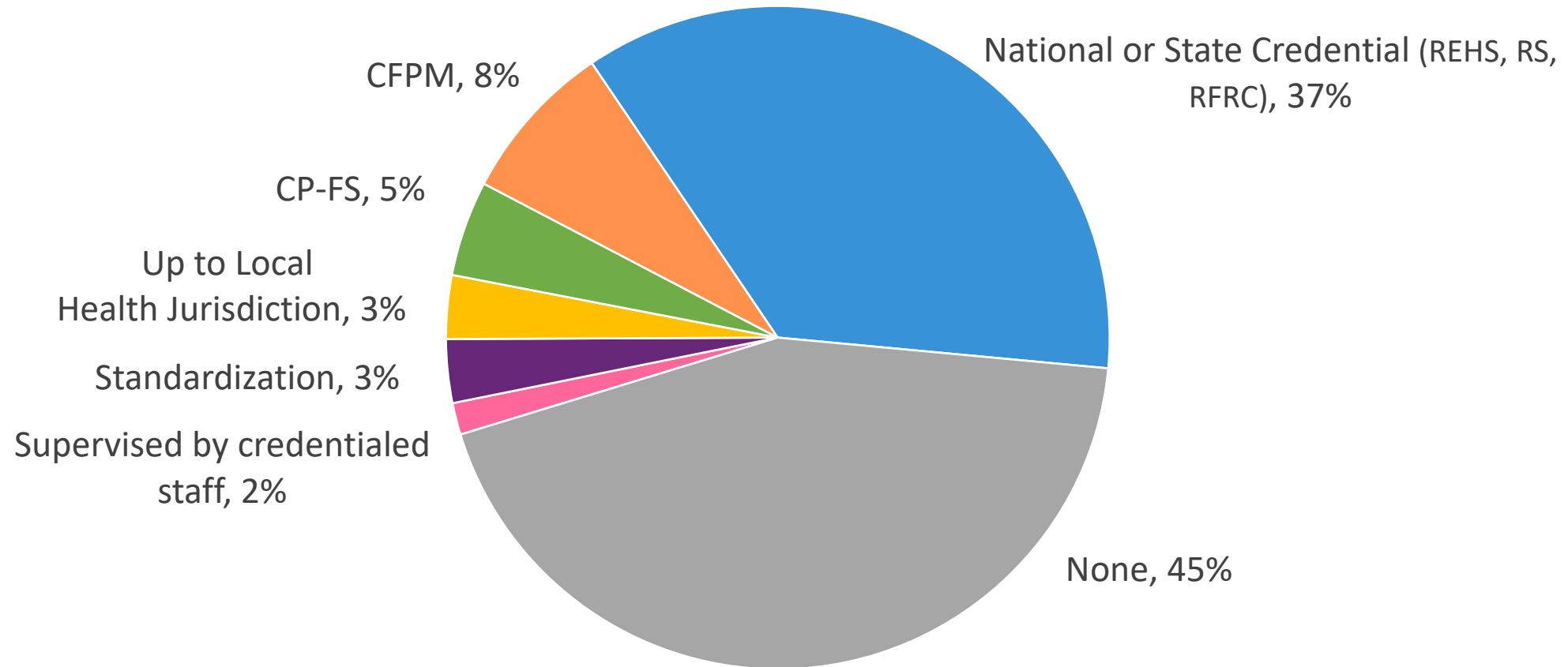


### Minimum Education



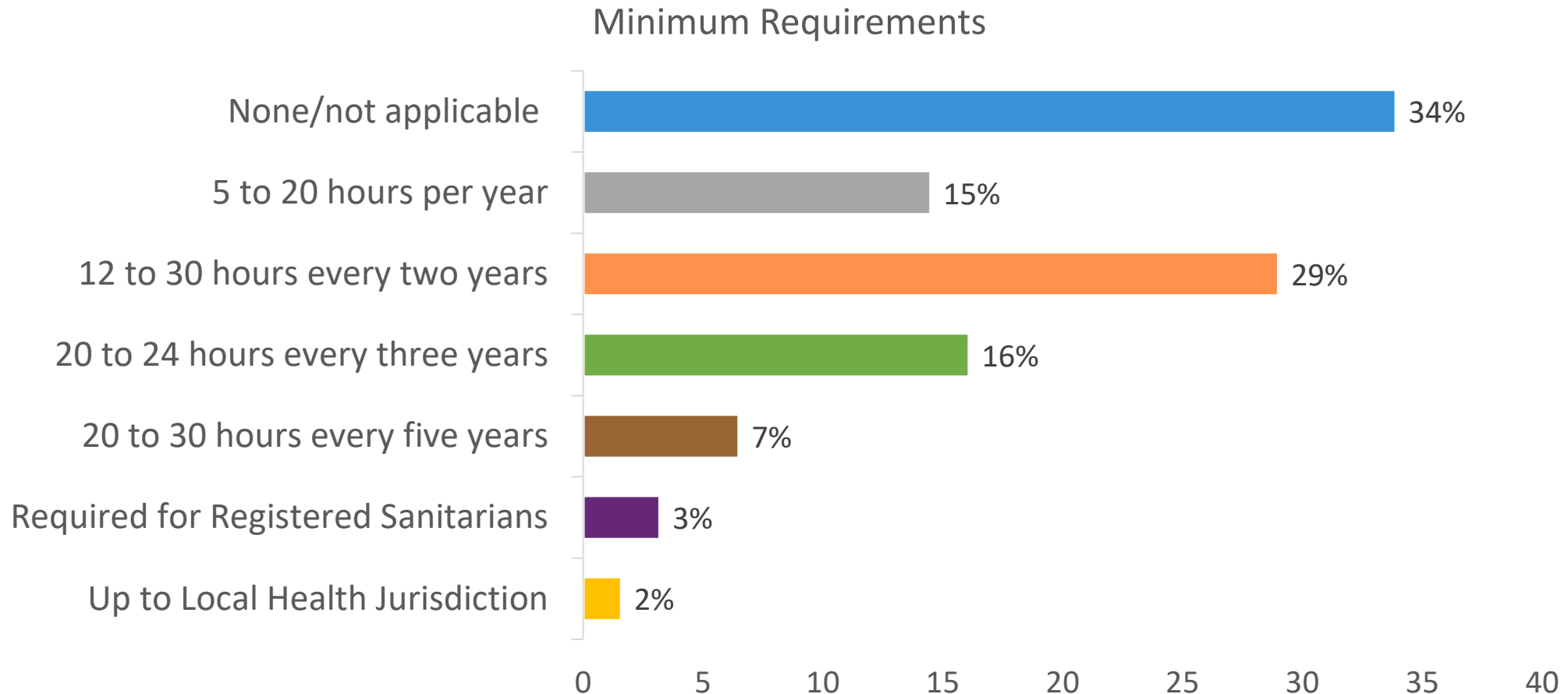


# Credential Minimum Requirements





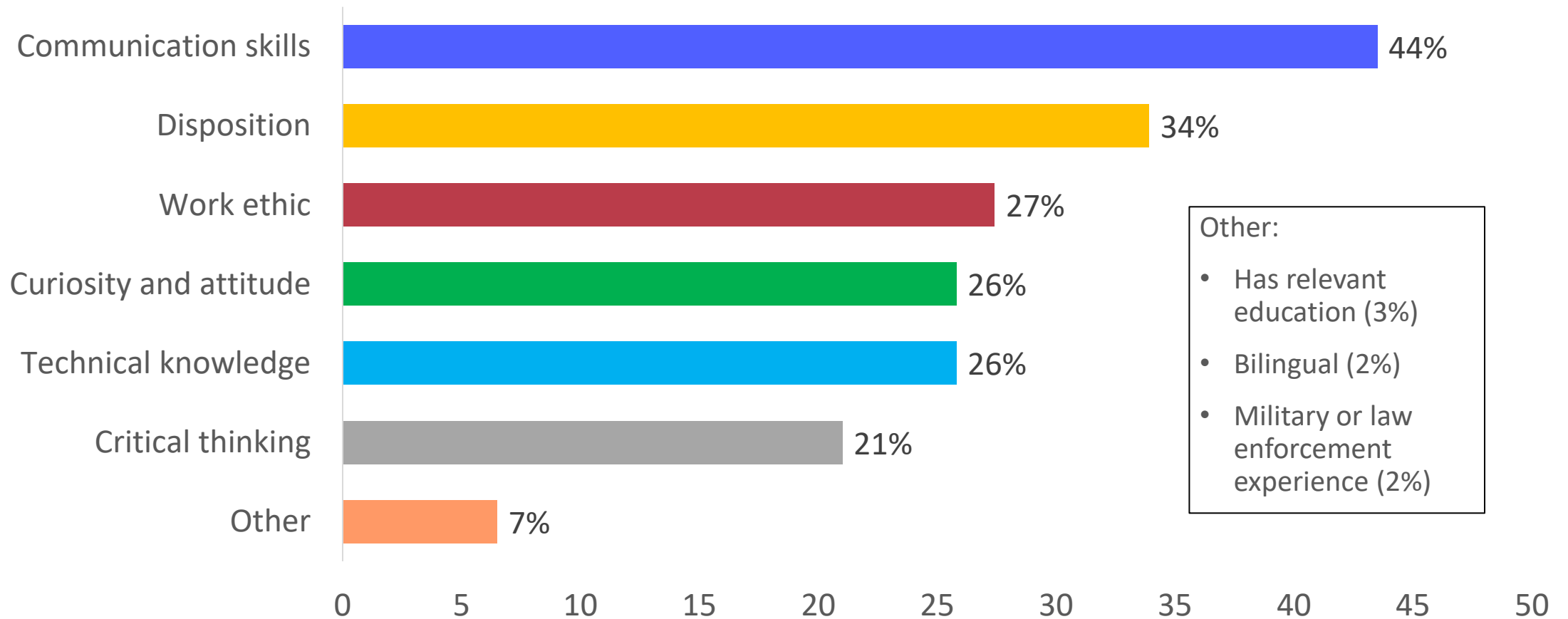
# Continuing Education





# Hiring Inspectors for Success

## Entry Level Characteristics



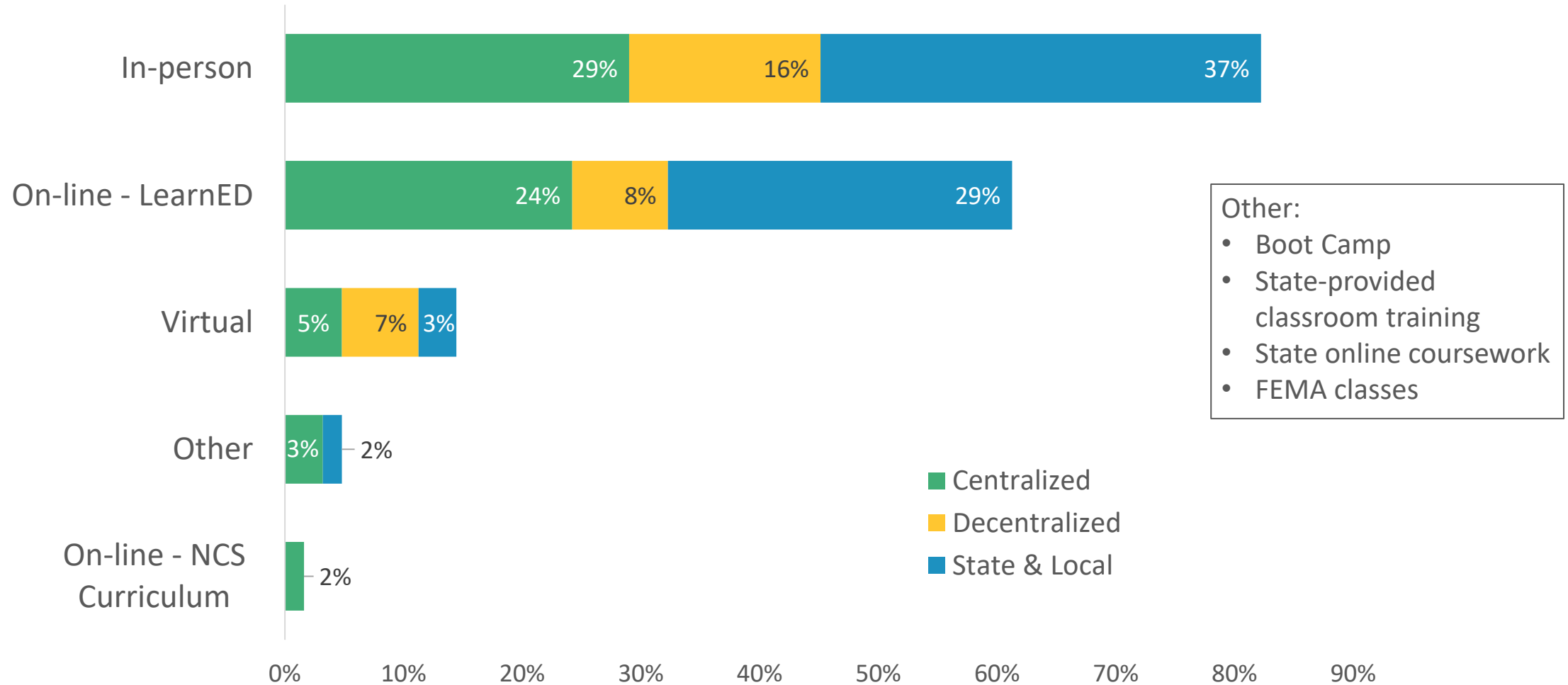


# Training & Standardization

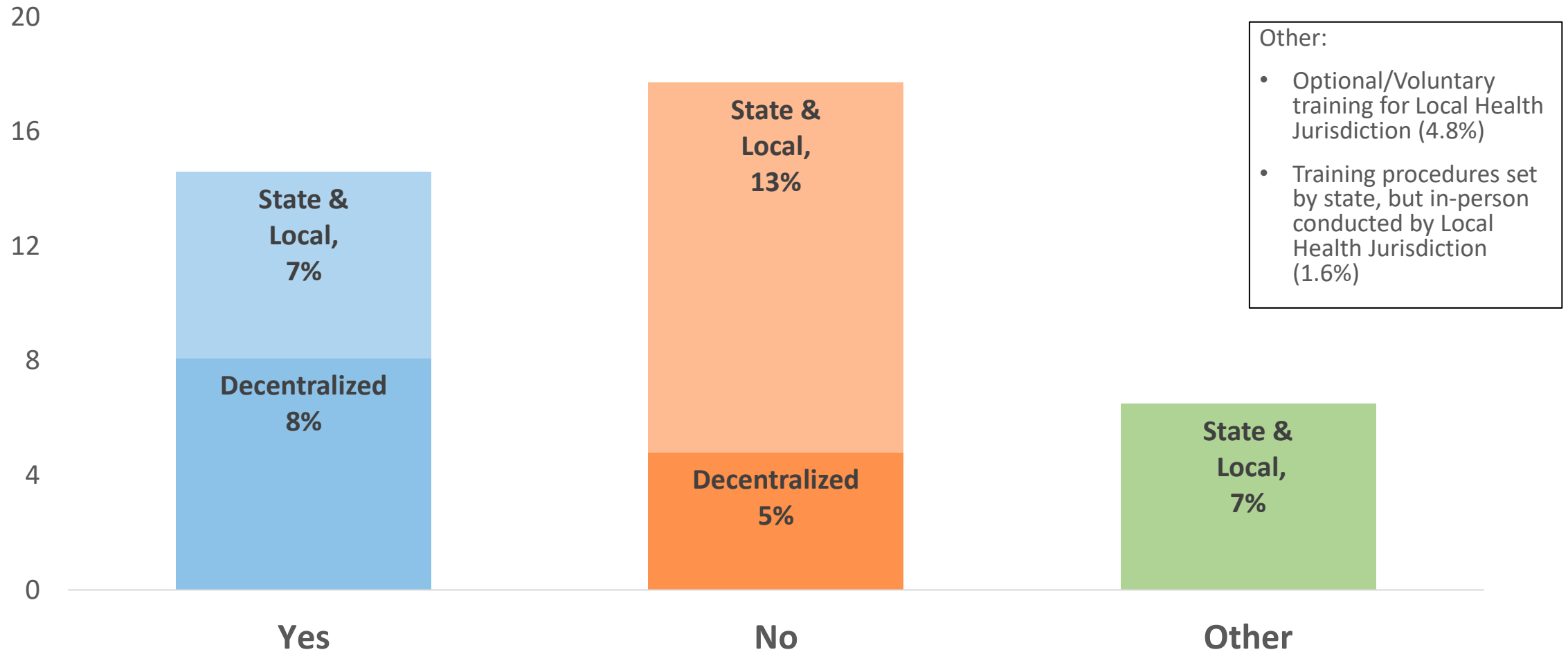
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# State-conducted new inspector training

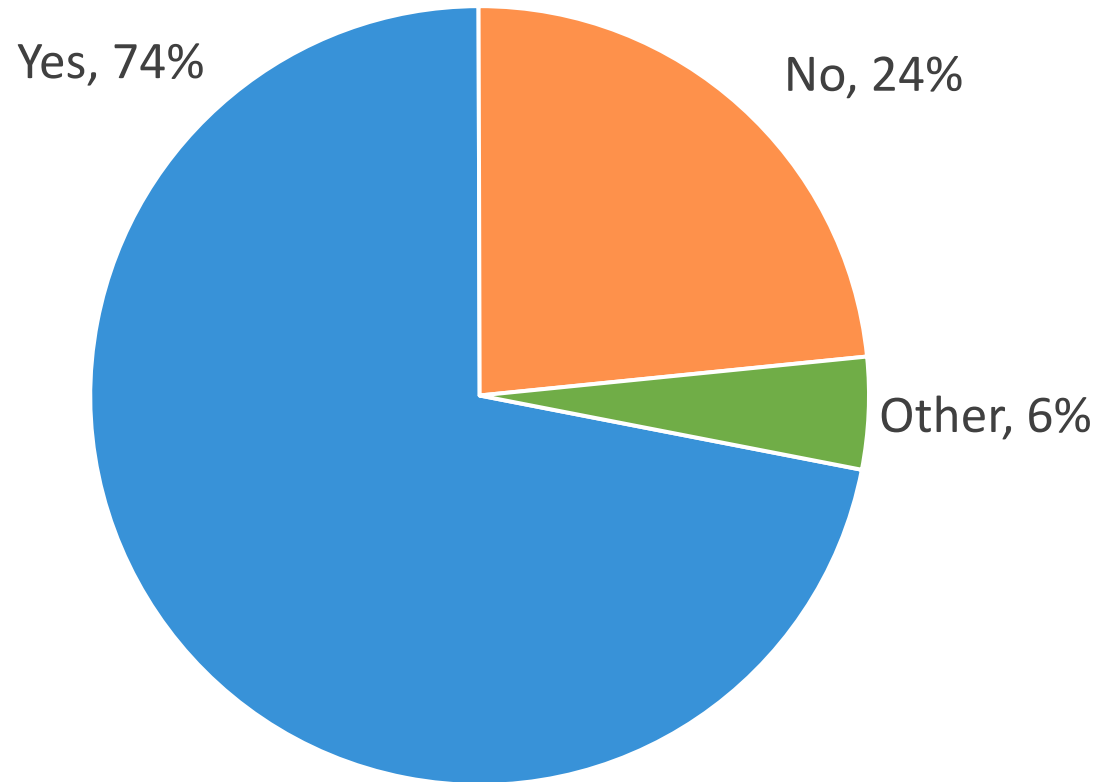


# If you provide training for local health jurisdiction inspectors, is it the same format?





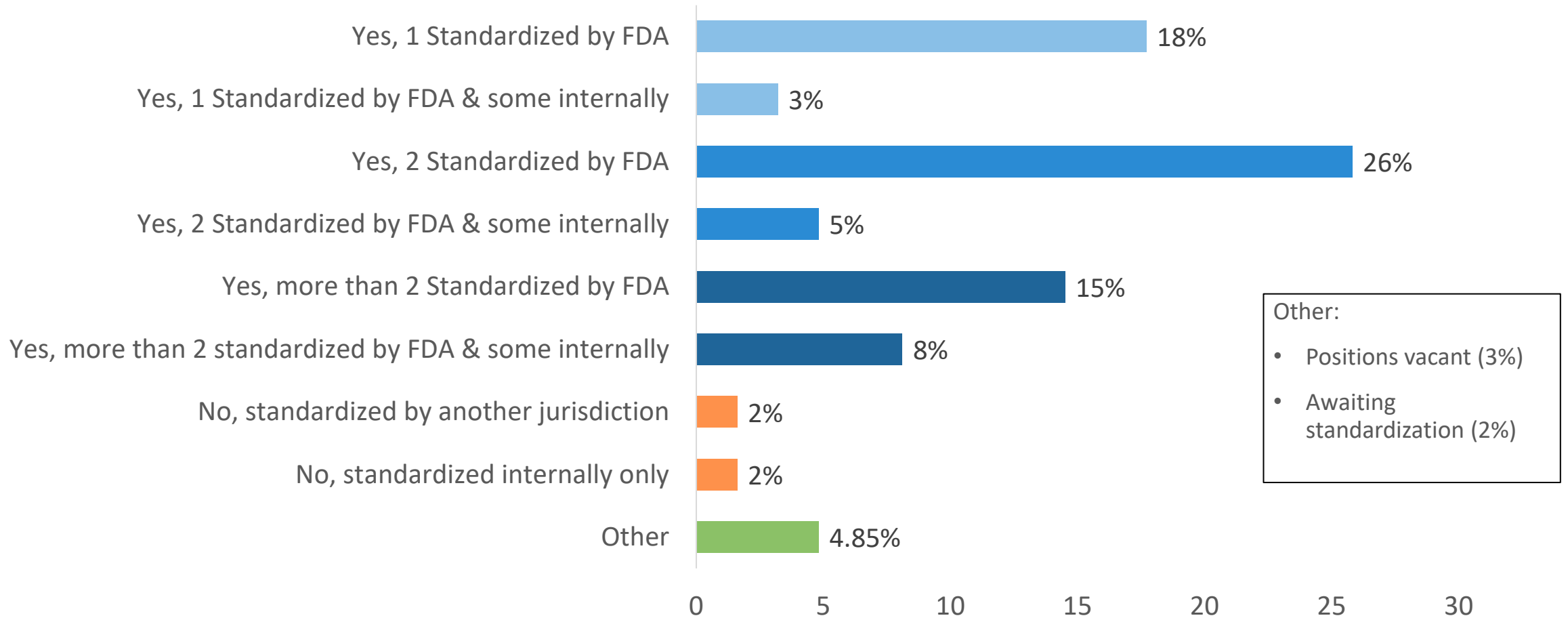
# Do you have a standardization program?



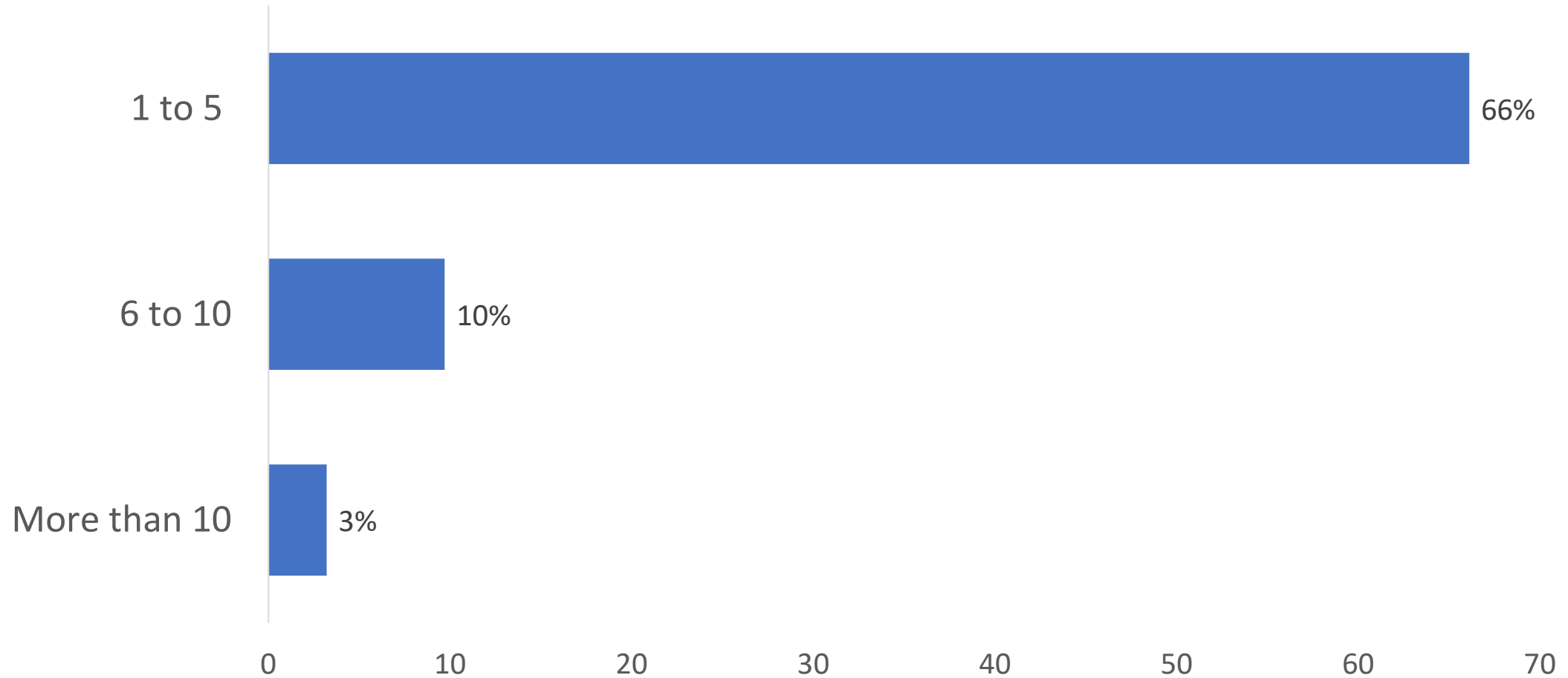
## Other:

- Position is vacant; unsure if it will be filled (2%)
- Voluntary Local Health Jurisdiction standardizations (2%)
- New program just beginning (2%)

# Are your Standardization Officers FDA Standardized?



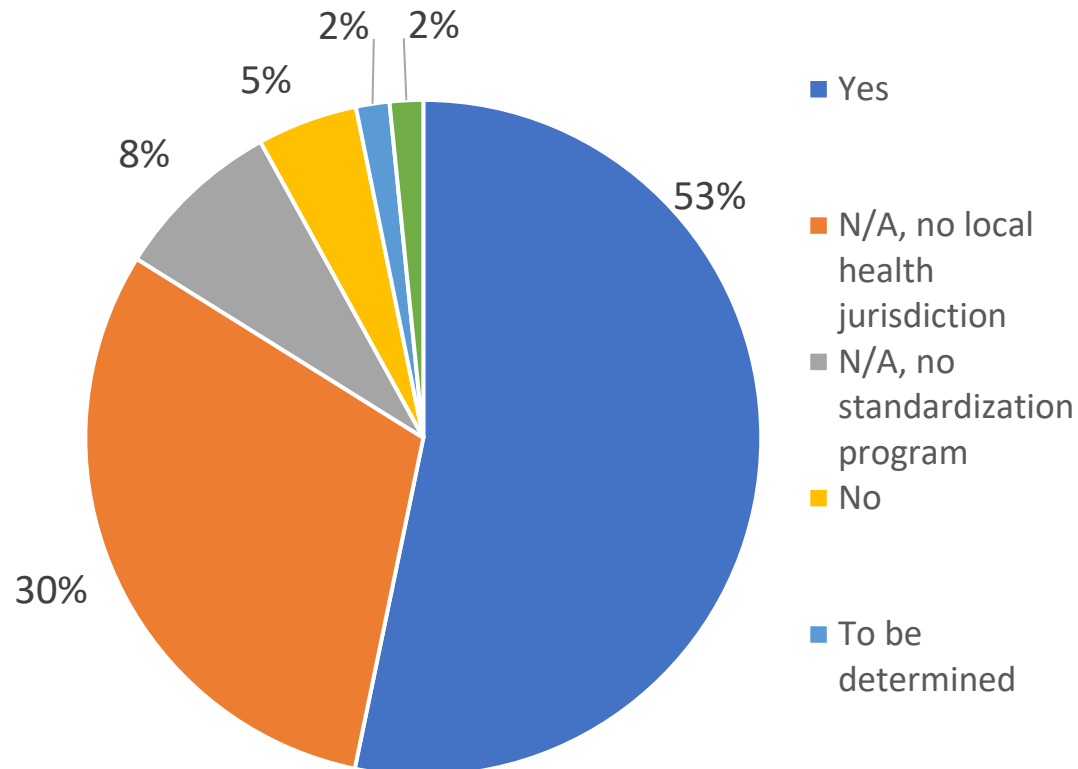
# Number of Standardization Officers in Program



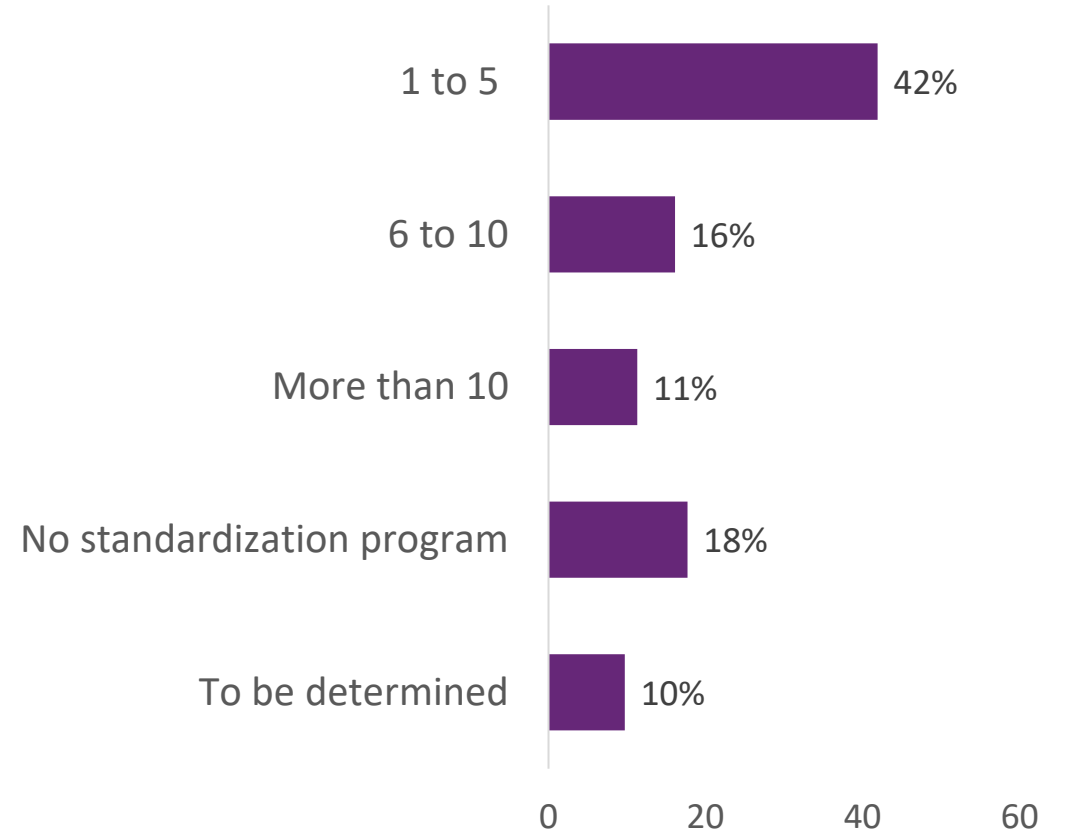


# Standardization Program

### State Standardizes Staff from Local Health Jurisdictions

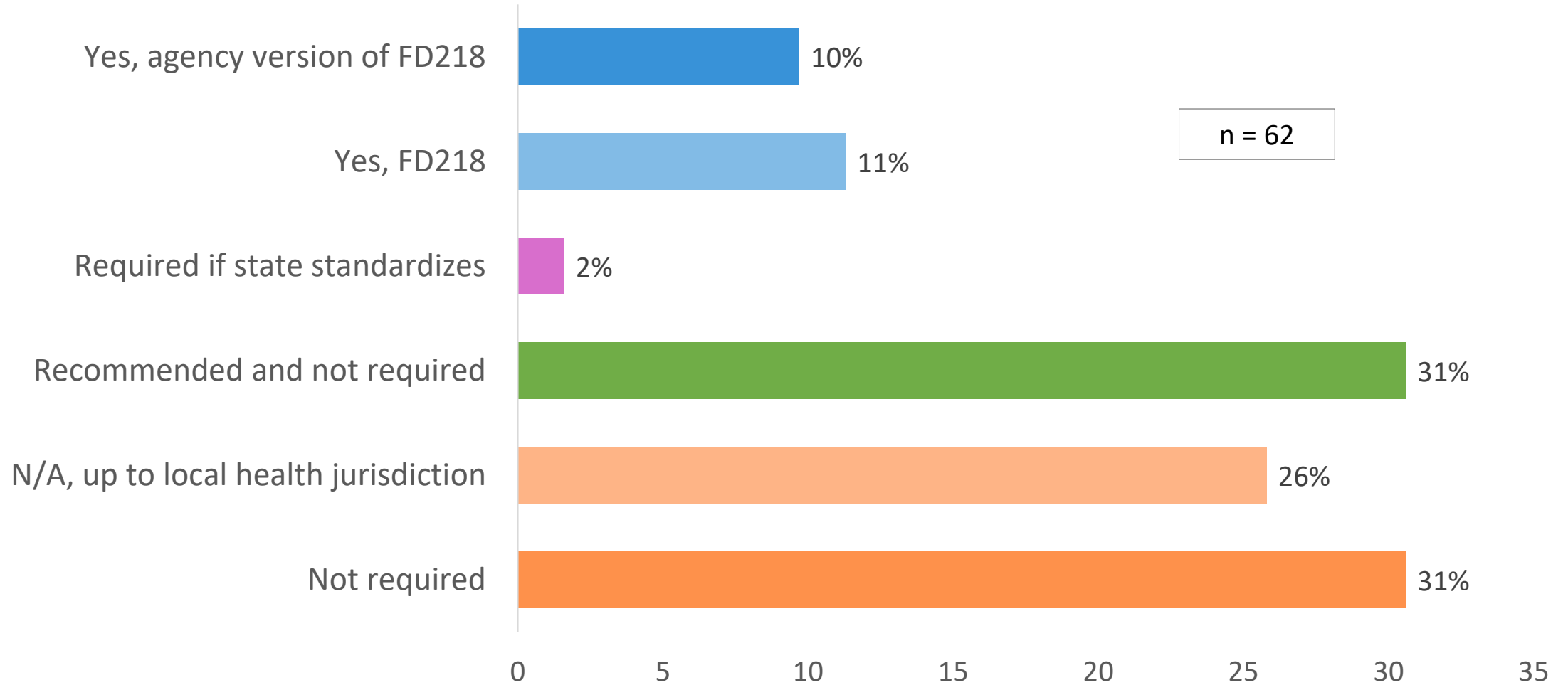


### Staff Standardized Per Year





# FD218 Required for Inspectors



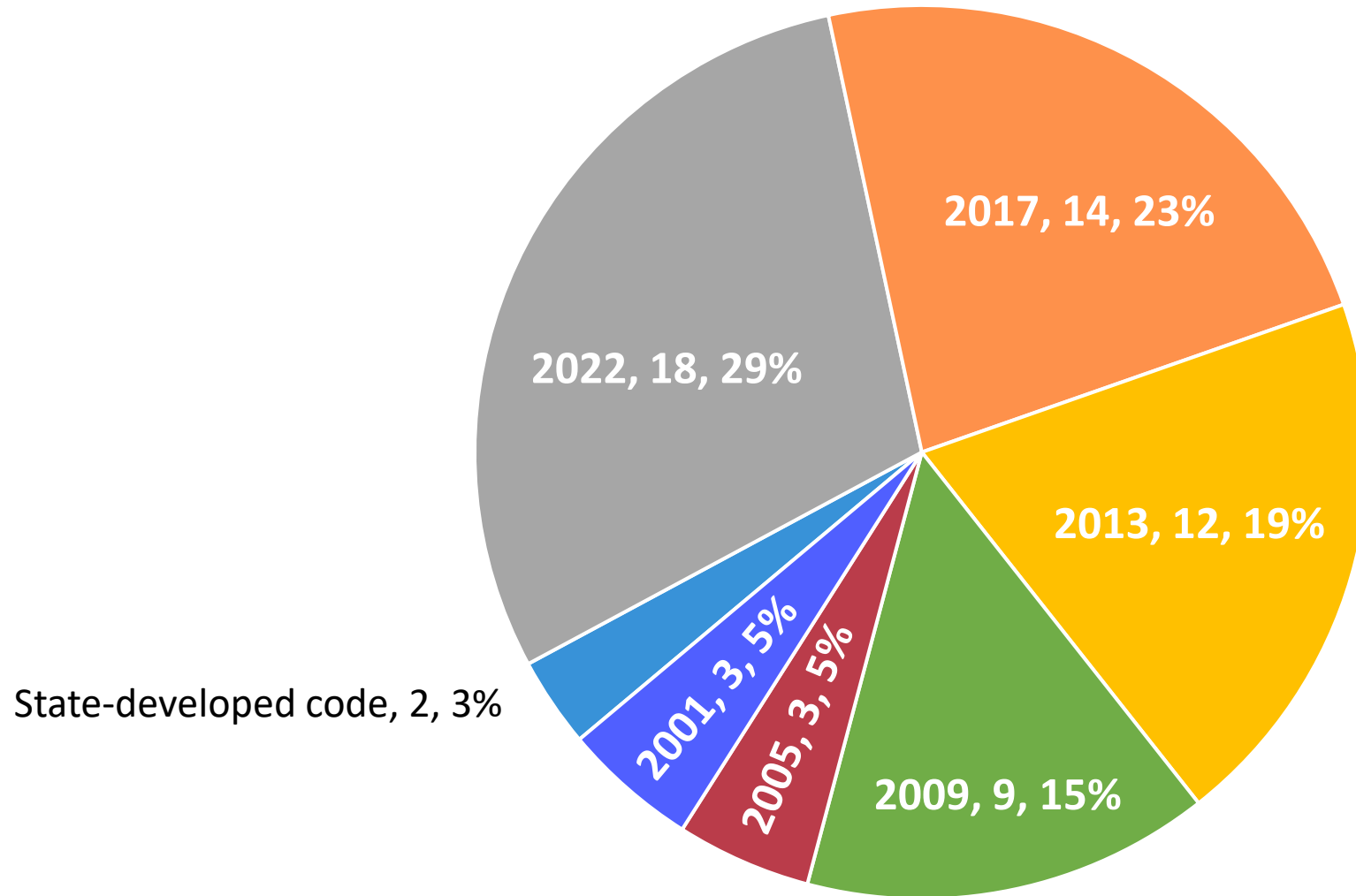


# Food Code

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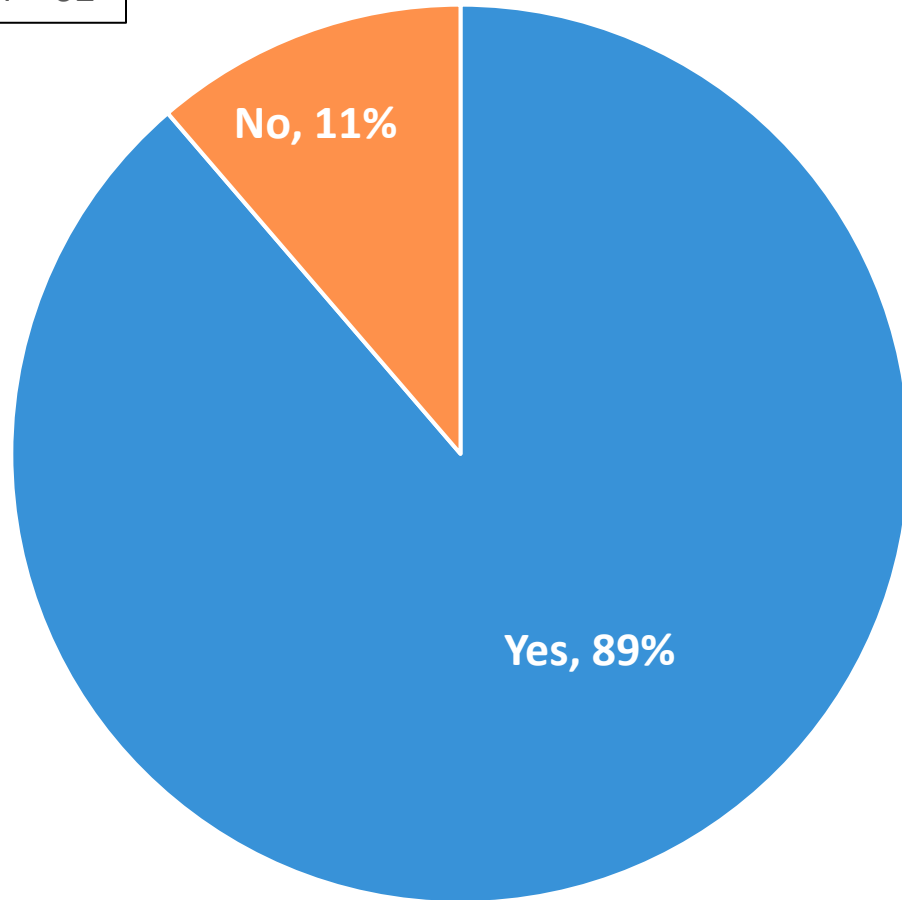
# Food Code Version Adopted by State



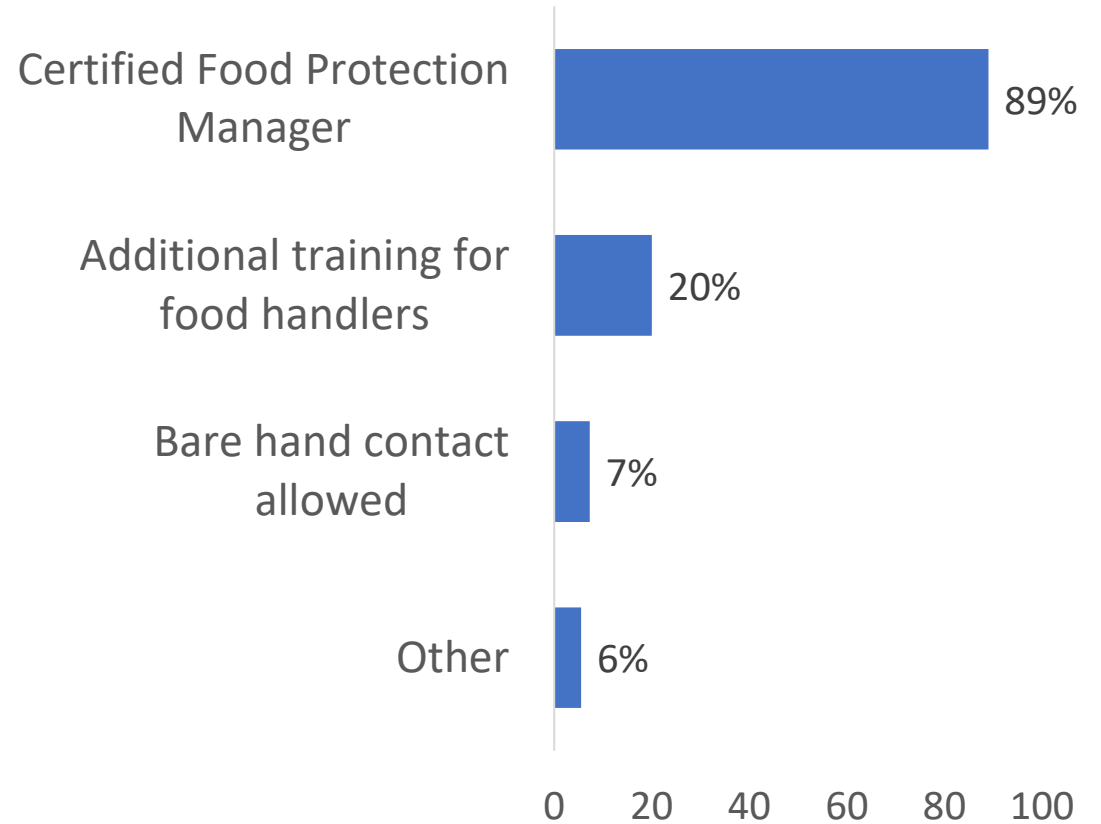
# Does your state food code differ from the FDA Model Food Code? If so, how?



n = 62

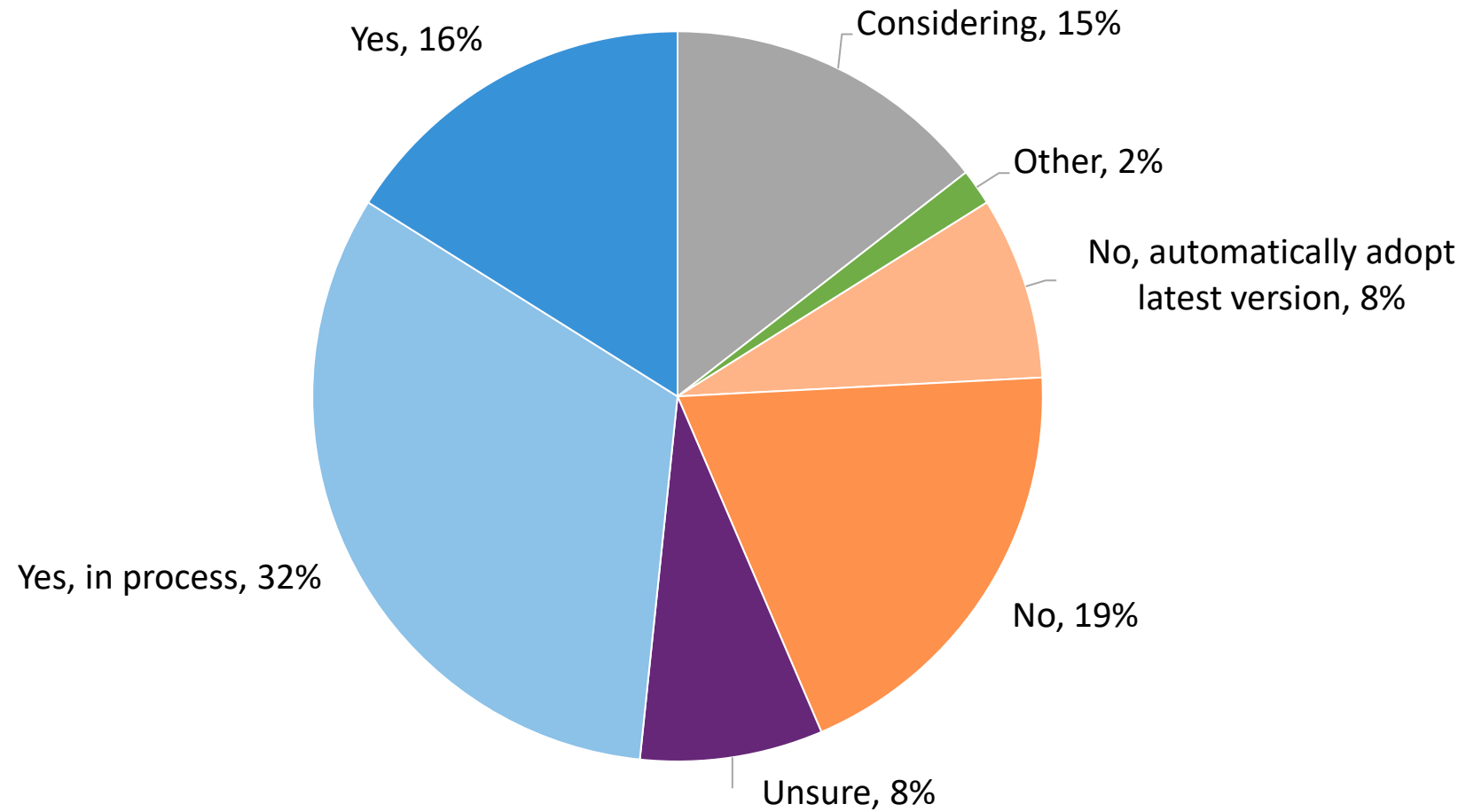


How it differs (n = 55)

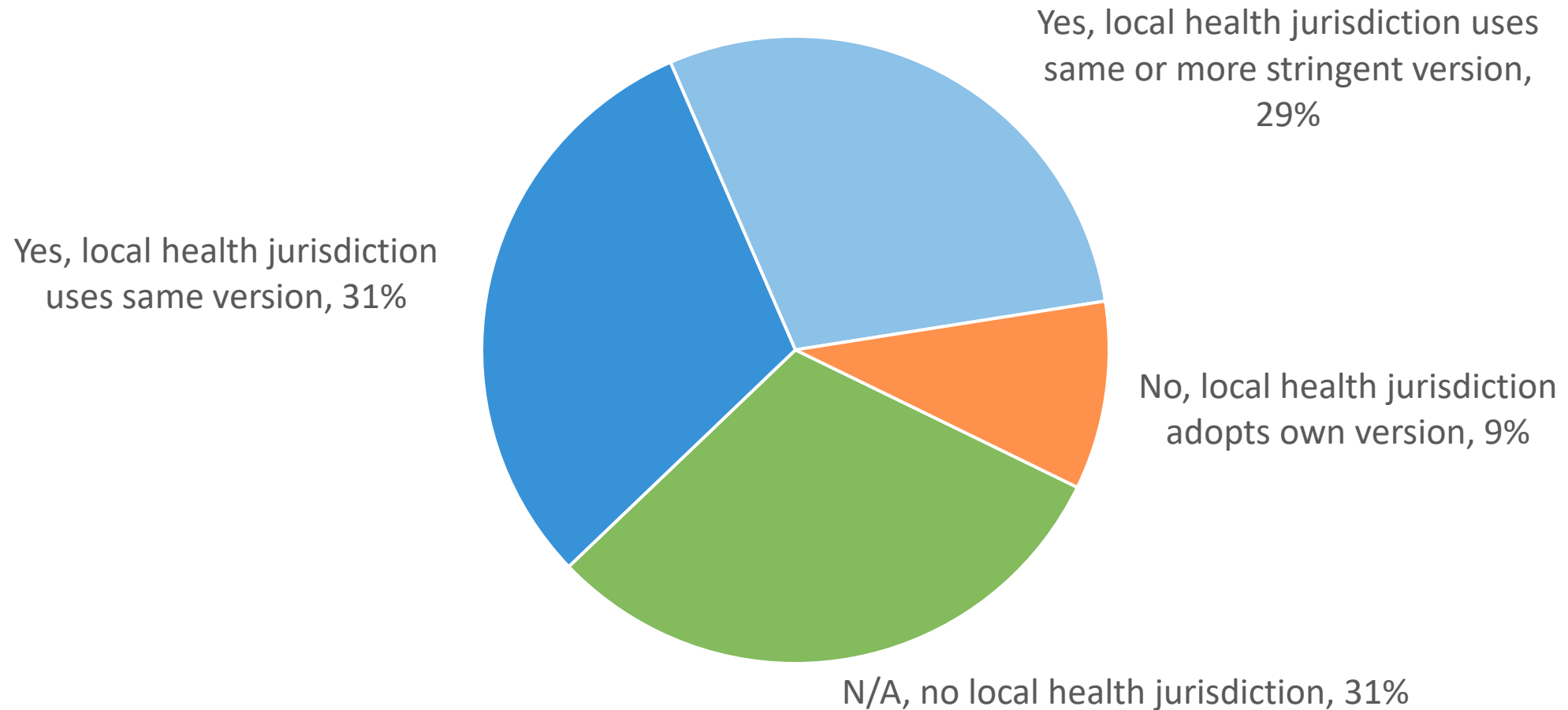




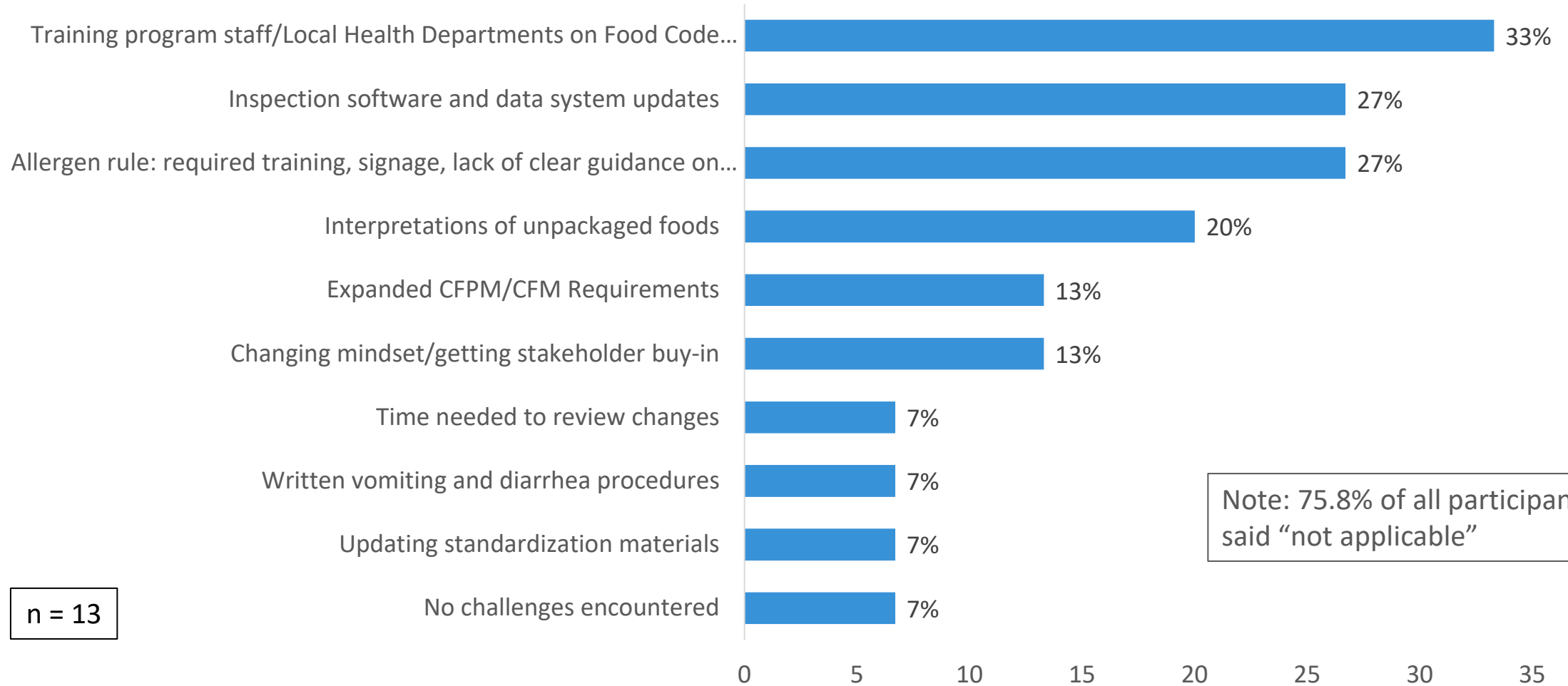
# Do you plan to update your food code?



# When the Food Code is adopted, do locals follow (if applicable)?



# Challenges to Implementing 2022 FDA Model Food Code



Note: 75.8% of all participants said "not applicable"

n = 13



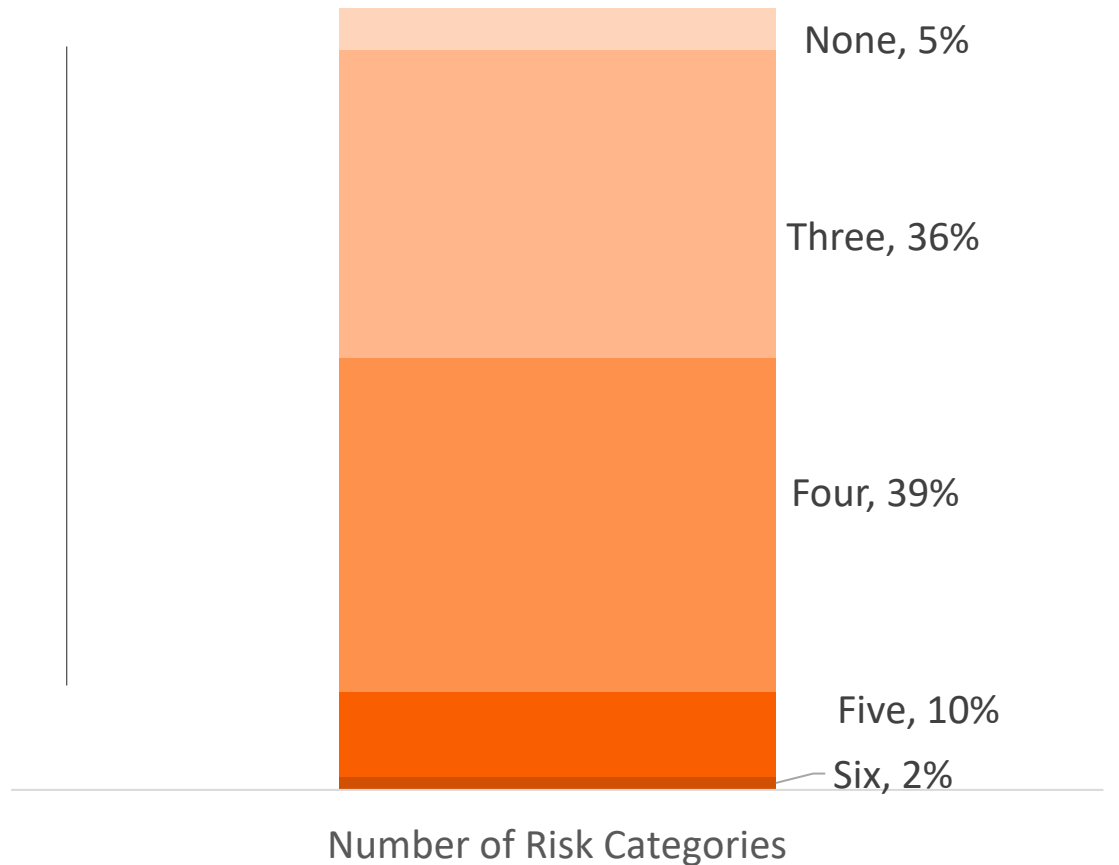
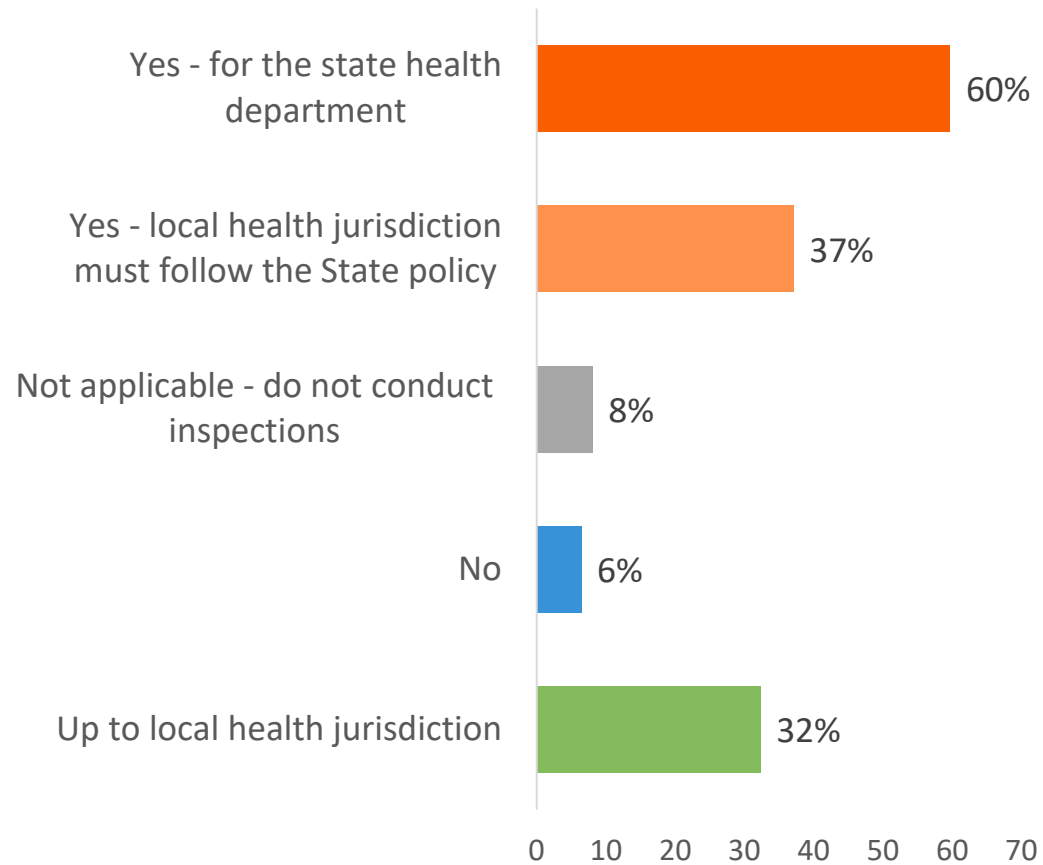
# Facility Risk Categories & Inspection Frequency

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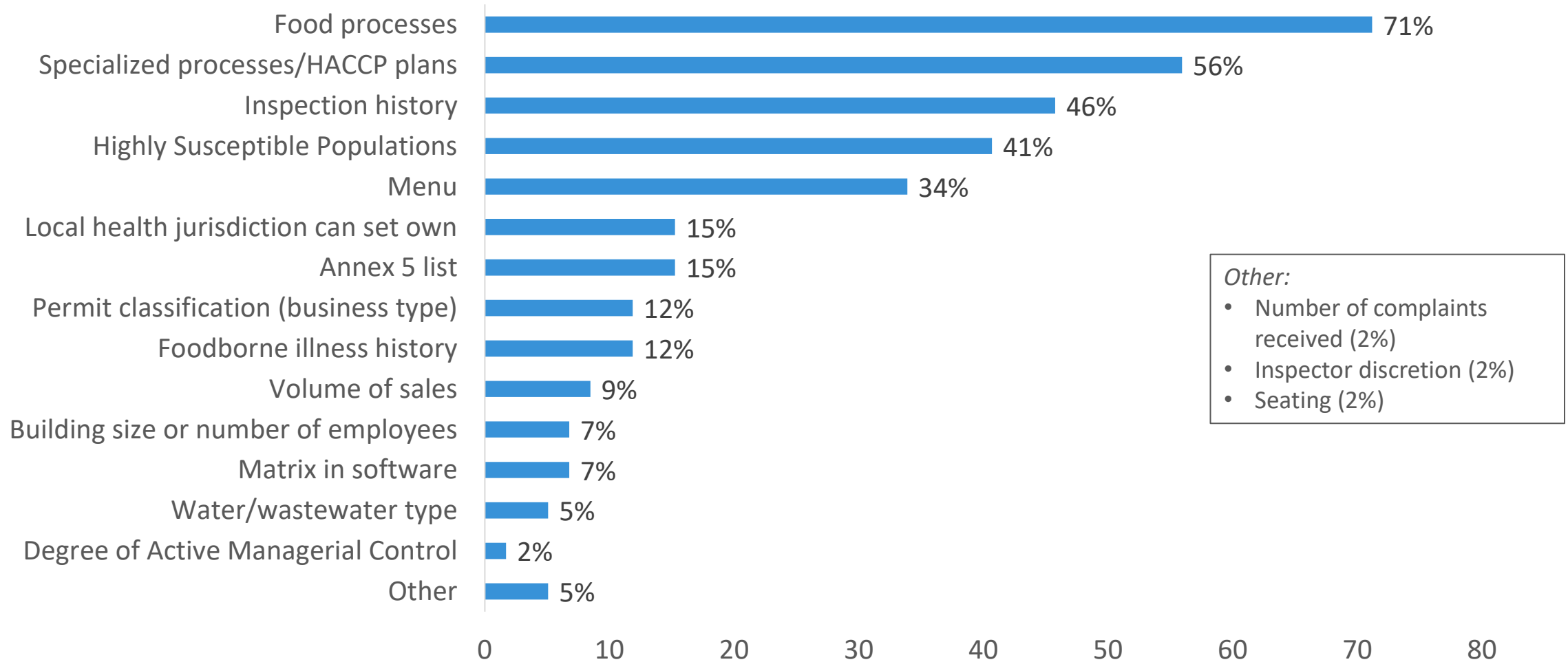


# Risk Categorization

## Program has a written risk categorization policy for retail food establishments

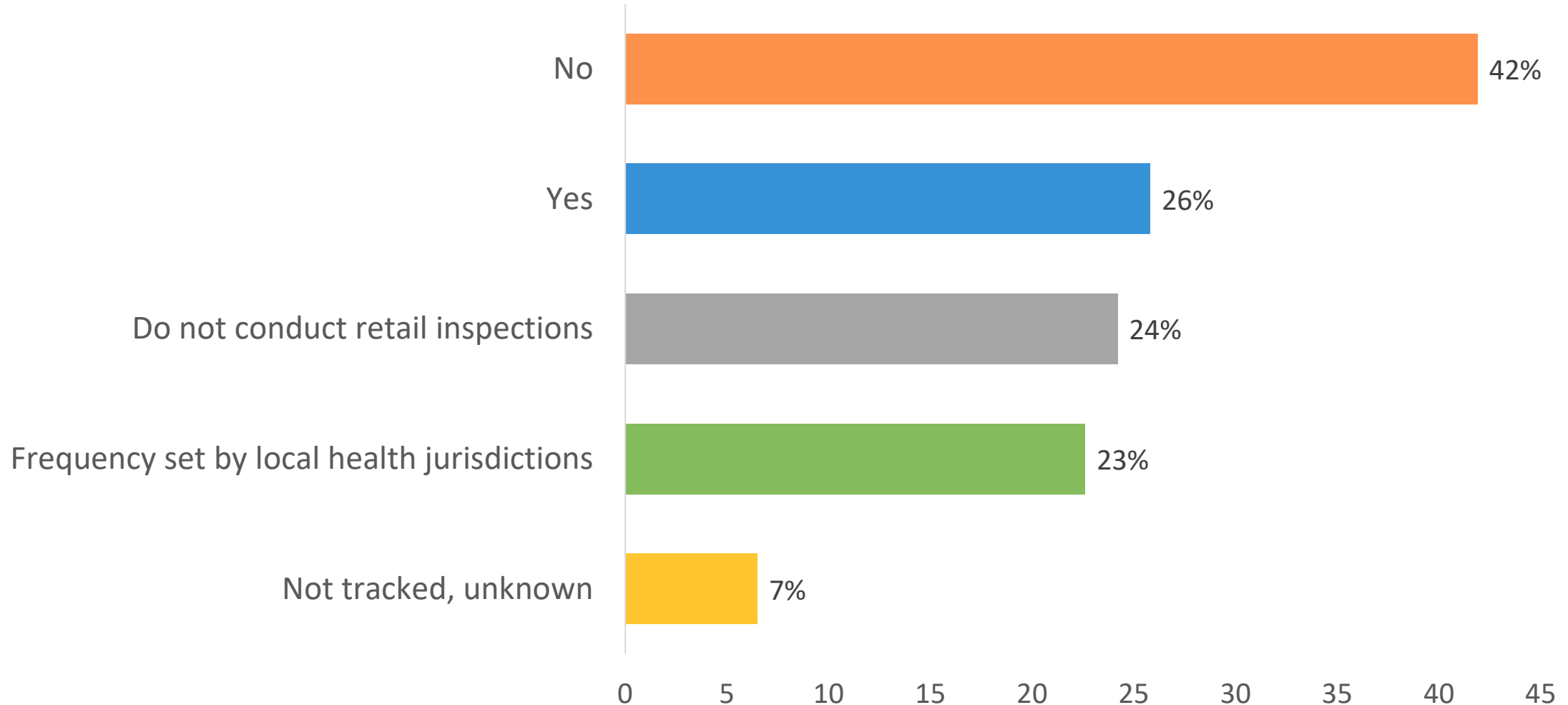


# What criteria do you use to apply a risk category to your facilities?



Note: 59 said they have a written risk categorization policy for retail food establishments. Chart is based on n = 59.

# Are you meeting your inspection frequency?



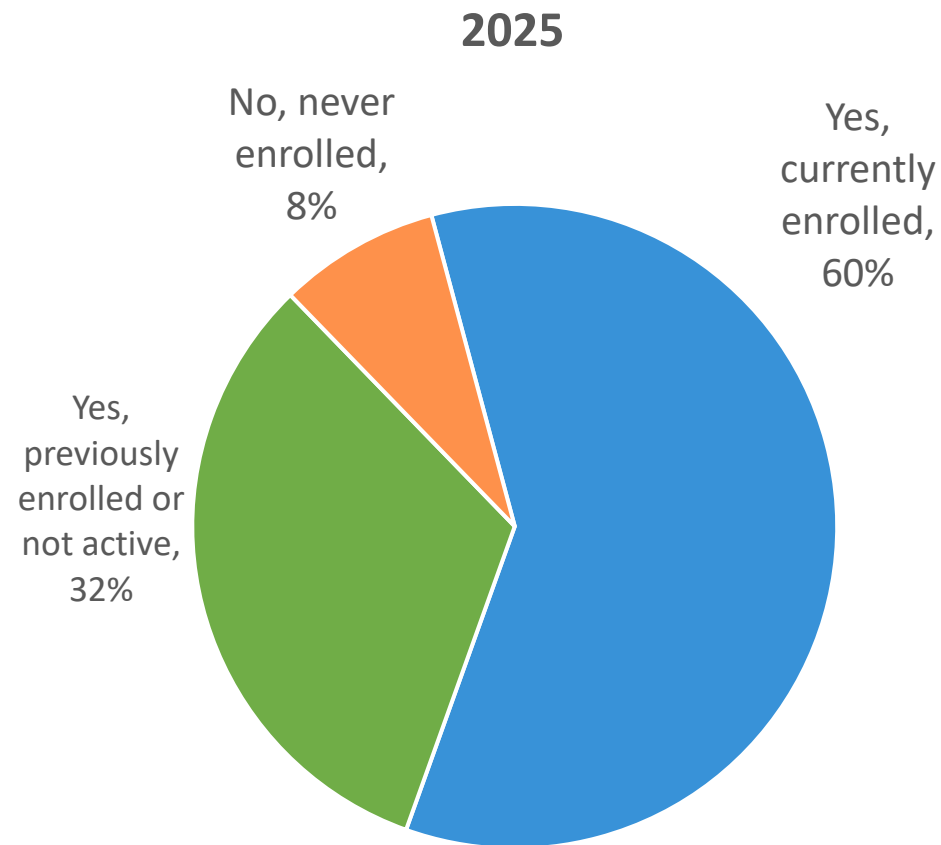


# Retail Food Program Standards

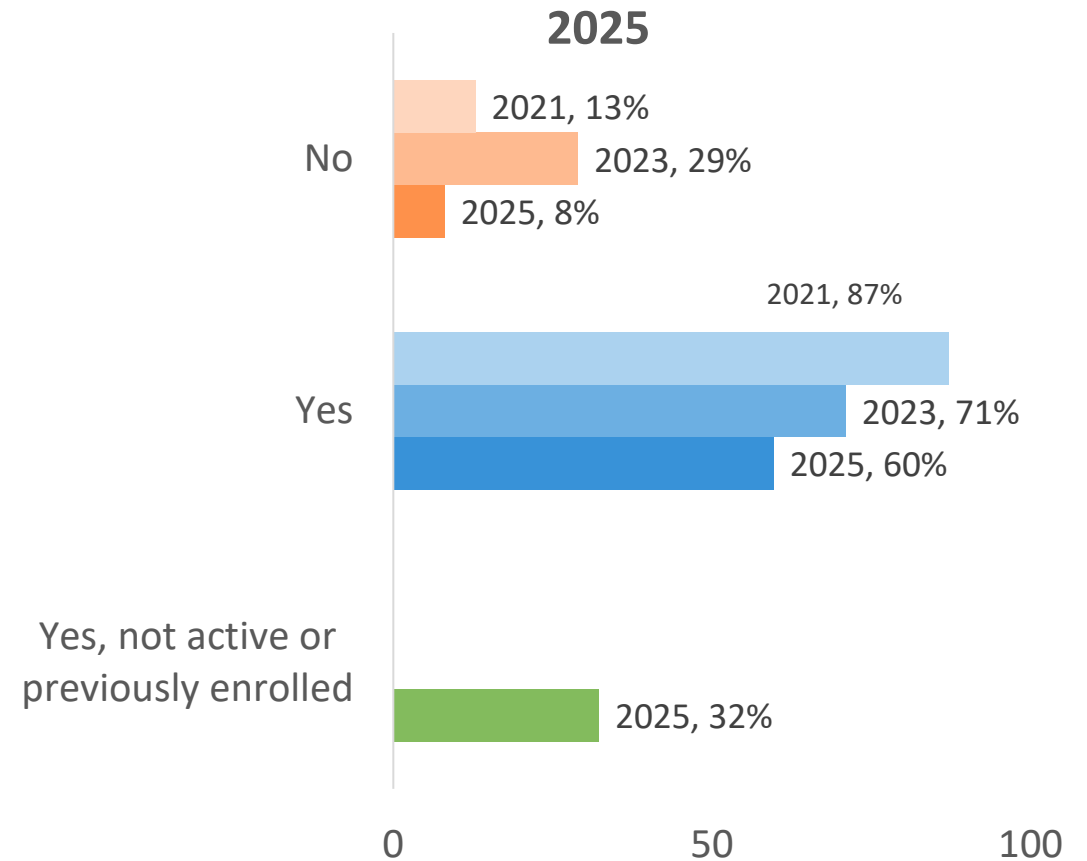
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# Standards Enrollment



## Comparison Between 2021, 2023, and 2025



# Which standards are you working on? Which are most challenging to meet?



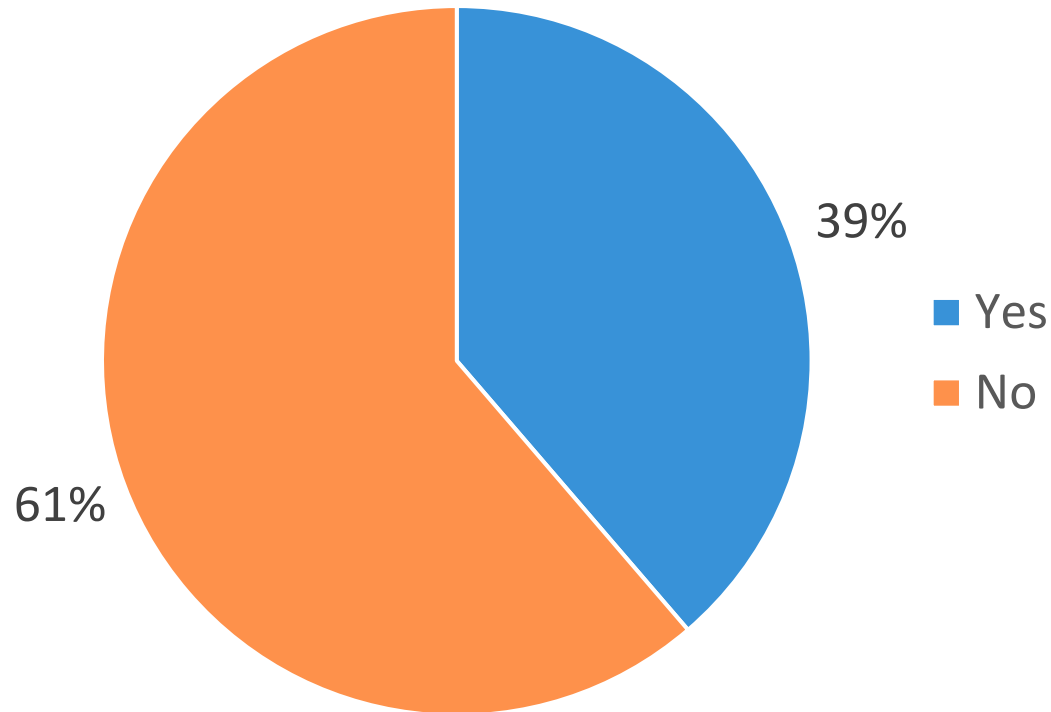
Retail Program Standards	Which standards are you working on?		Most challenging to meet in 2025?
	2023	2025	
<b>Standard 1</b> - Regulatory Foundation	18%	5%	24%
<b>Standard 2</b> - Trained Regulatory Staff	30%	18%	16%
<b>Standard 3</b> - Inspection Program based on HACCP Principles	18%	8%	3%
<b>Standard 4</b> - Uniform Inspection Program	19%	19%	10%
<b>Standard 5</b> - Foodborne Illness Preparedness and Response	19%	19%	10%
<b>Standard 6</b> - Compliance and Enforcement	13%	10%	18%
<b>Standard 7</b> - Industry and Community Relations	13%	11%	0%
<b>Standard 8</b> - Program Support and Resources	11%	3%	27%
<b>Standard 9</b> - Program Assessment	19%	11%	13%



# Top Six Barriers to VNRFRPS Conformance

Barrier	Percentage
Lack of staff or time	60%
Limited funding	40%
Lack of available data (cost of food safety software, data tracking tools, software limitations or lack of technology)	26%
Leadership support	16%
Complex current funding model	13%
Competing priorities	13%

# Does your program have a data professional for reports and metrics?



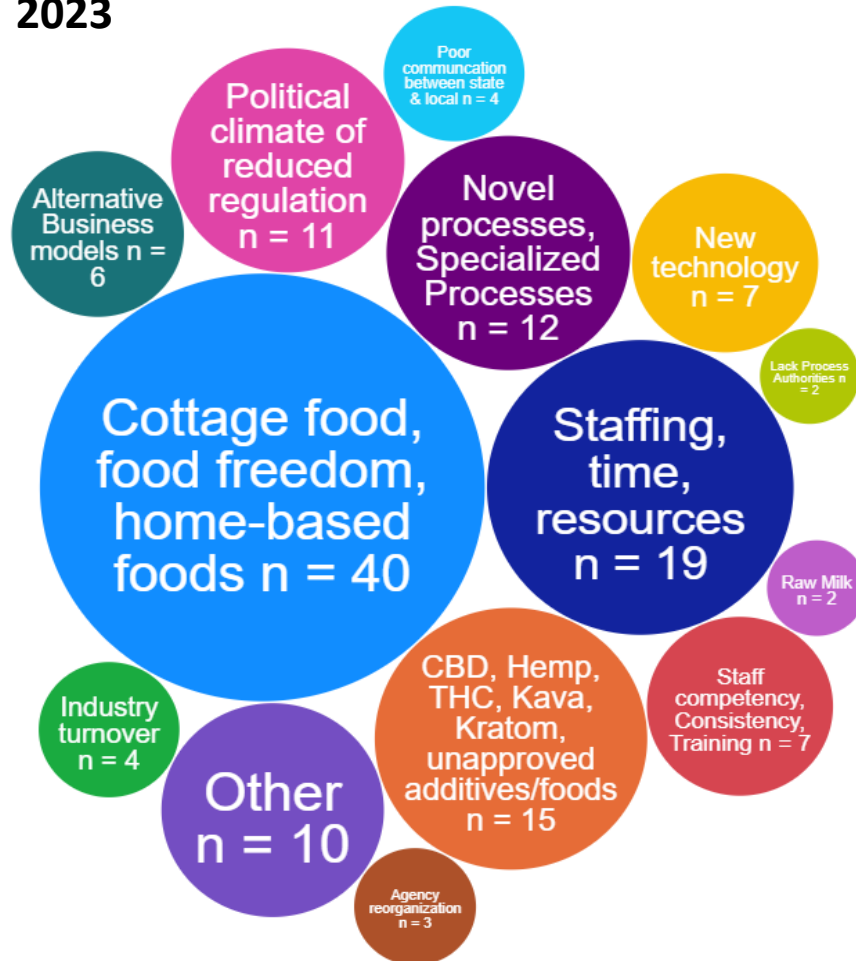
**28% said “lack of available data” is a barrier** to retail standards conformance, citing issues such as:

- Cost of food safety software
- Data tracking tools
- Software limitations
- Lack of technology

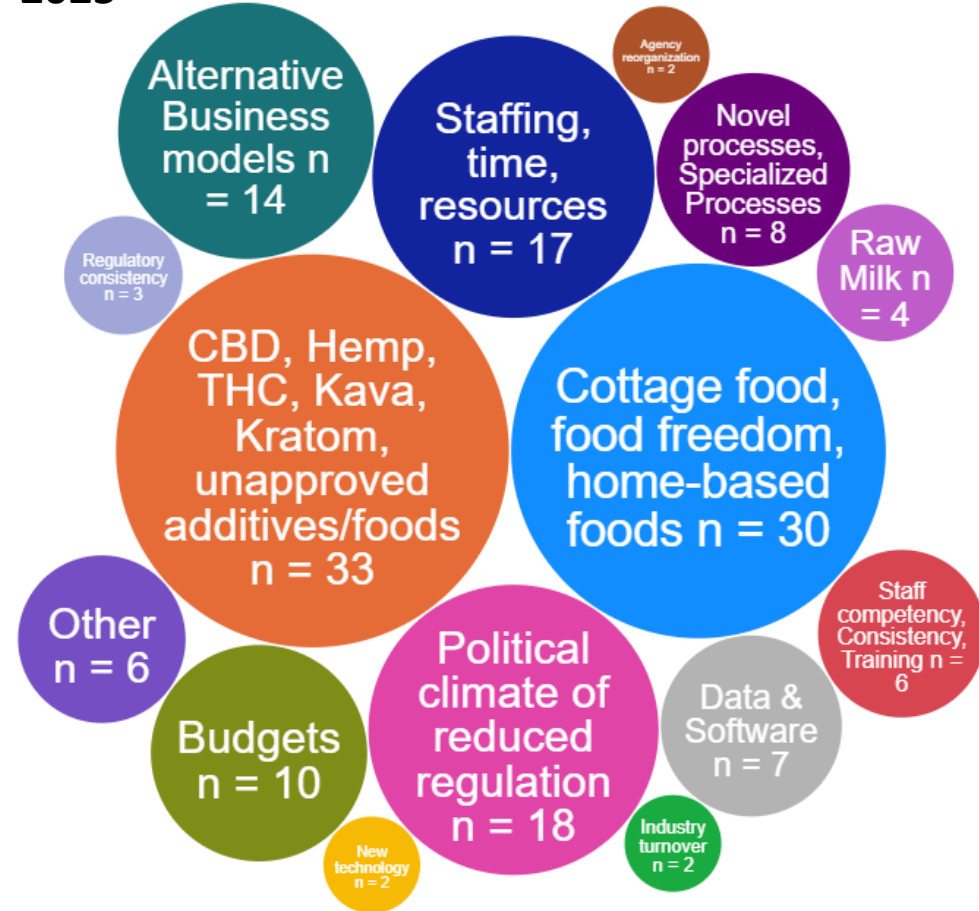


# Emerging issues comparison

2023



2025





# Thank You!

Is there anything else you would like to learn more about?