

Remote Instruction Student Survey Results Summary

Survey administered by CITL

Report created by:

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Introduction & Purpose

- This survey was conducted by CITL on behalf of Memorial University to help instructors and faculties plan for the Winter 2021 semester.
- The survey ran from October 23, 2020 to November 4, 2020.
- The survey was public, but communications were targeted to students registered for the Fall 2020 semester. 18,952 students were identified by the Registrar's Office in this category.
- A summary of results will be presented to administrators and instructors to help plan for Winter 2021.

Overview & Limitations

- All questions in the survey were optional. Additionally, the survey was branching and not all participants would receive all questions.
- 3,585 responses were collected (18.92% response rate).

Overview & Limitations

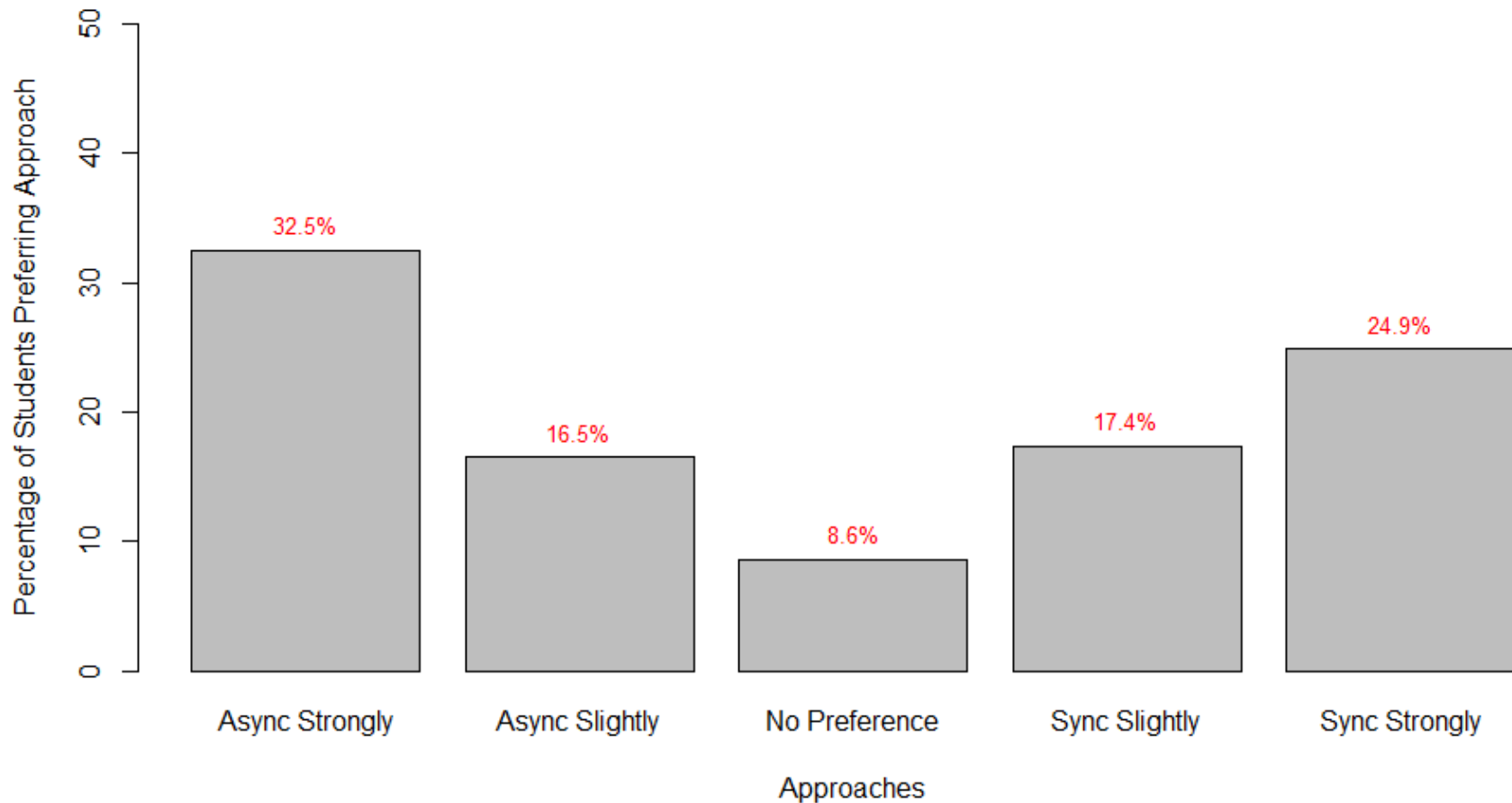
- Users were not authenticated, so non-students, staff or instructors may have also completed the survey.
- Students who do not have access to technology or consistent internet are likely under represented in this sample, as they would not have been able to participate as easily in the survey.

Teaching Approaches

- Please identify your preference for synchronous or asynchronous teaching approaches.
 - Asynchronous approaches: You, your classmates and your instructor interact at different times within a flexible timeframe.
 - Synchronous approaches: You, your classmates and your instructor interact through the same online tool at the same time.
- $n=3,212$
- A graph is also provided that groups together strong and slight preferences for each teaching approach.

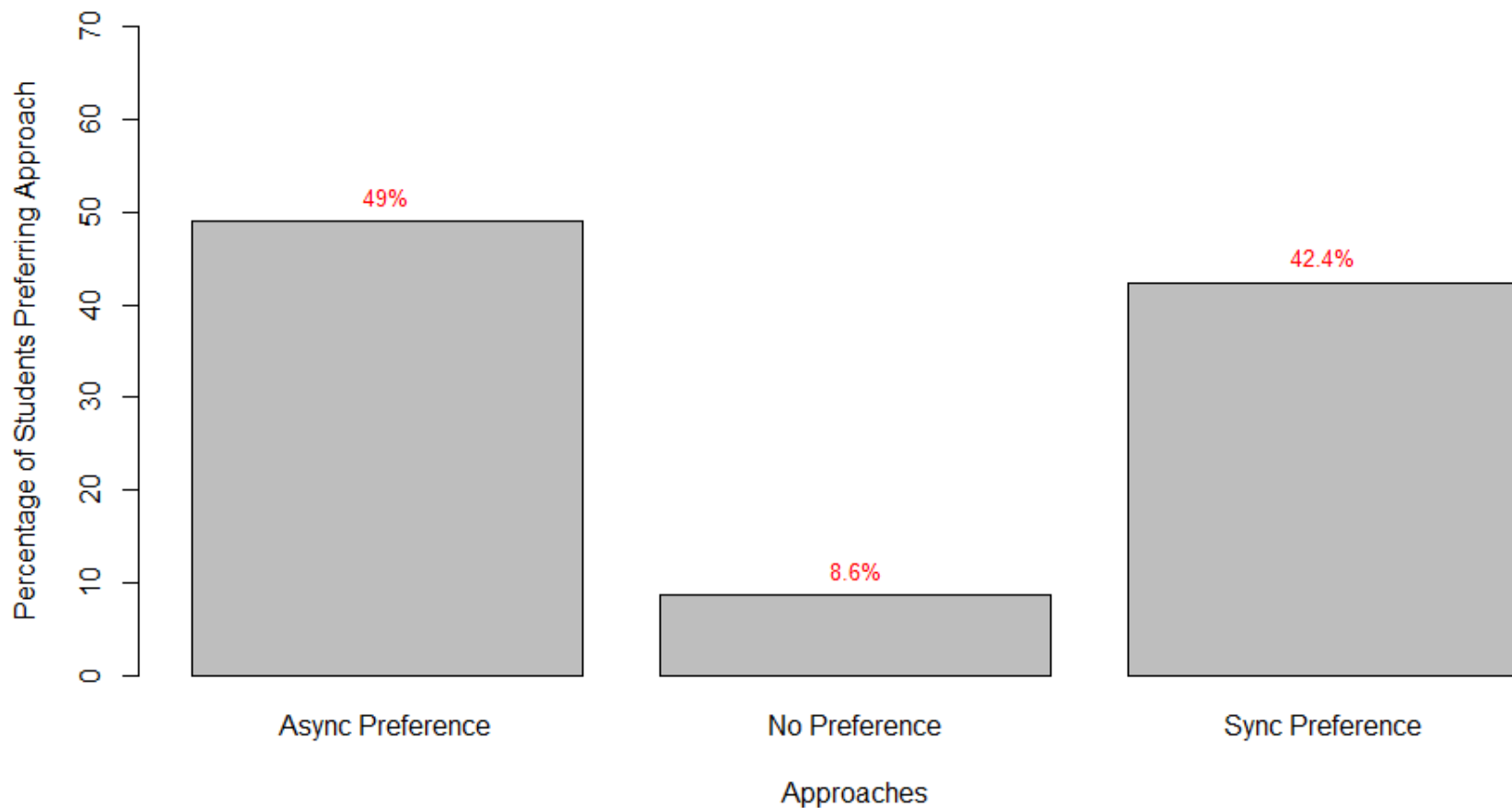
Teaching Approaches

Student Teaching Approaches Preferences



Teaching Approaches

Student Teaching Approaches Preferences



Teaching Approaches

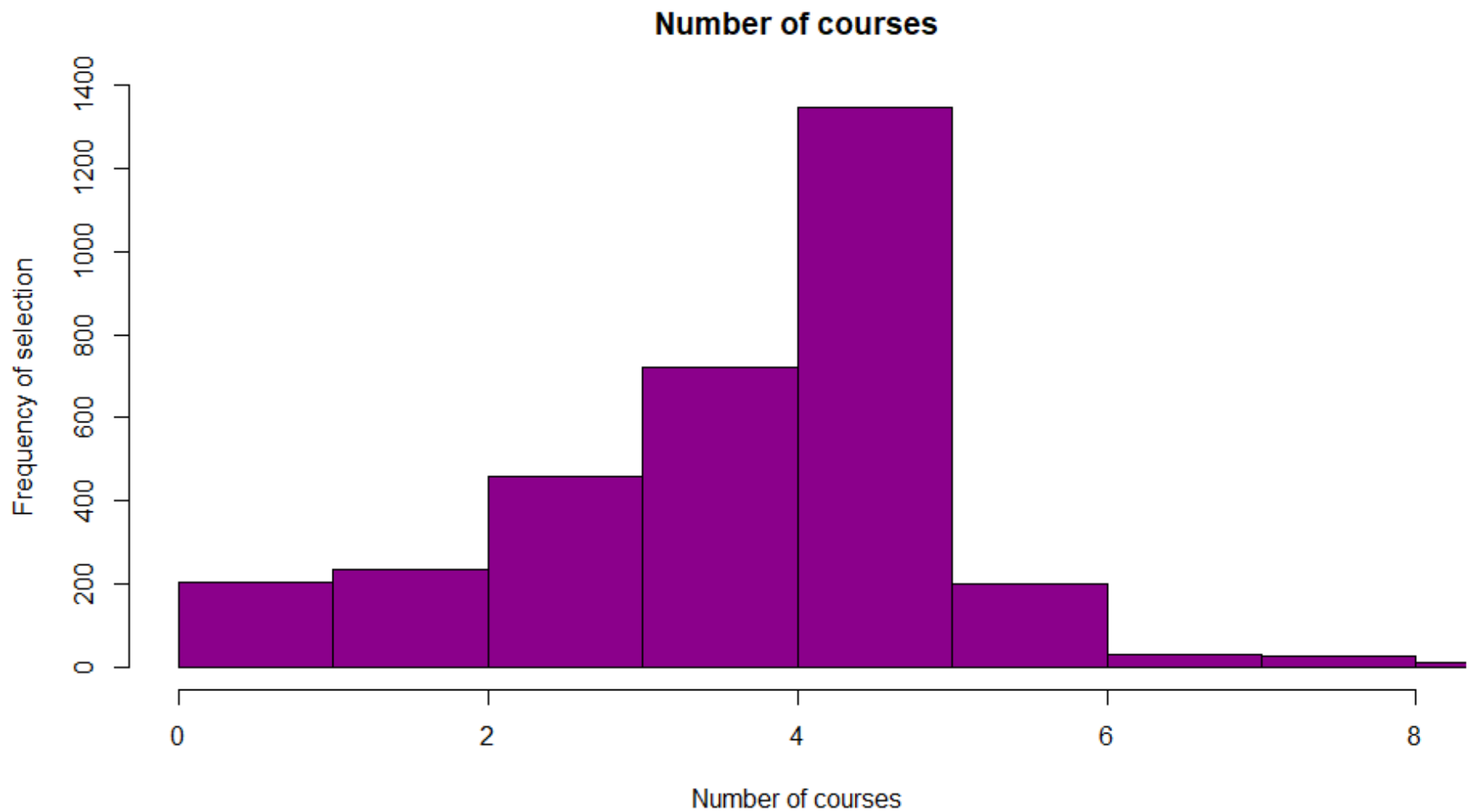
- These graphs show that students slightly prefer to learn through asynchronous approaches versus synchronous approaches, as defined in this survey.
- The number of students showing no preference has decreased since the [June 2020 survey](#). Additionally, the preference for synchronous is slightly stronger versus the June 2020 survey.

	Async Preference	No Preference	Sync Preference
June 2020	52.9%	12.3%	34.8%
October 2020	49.0%	8.6%	42.4%

Course Work

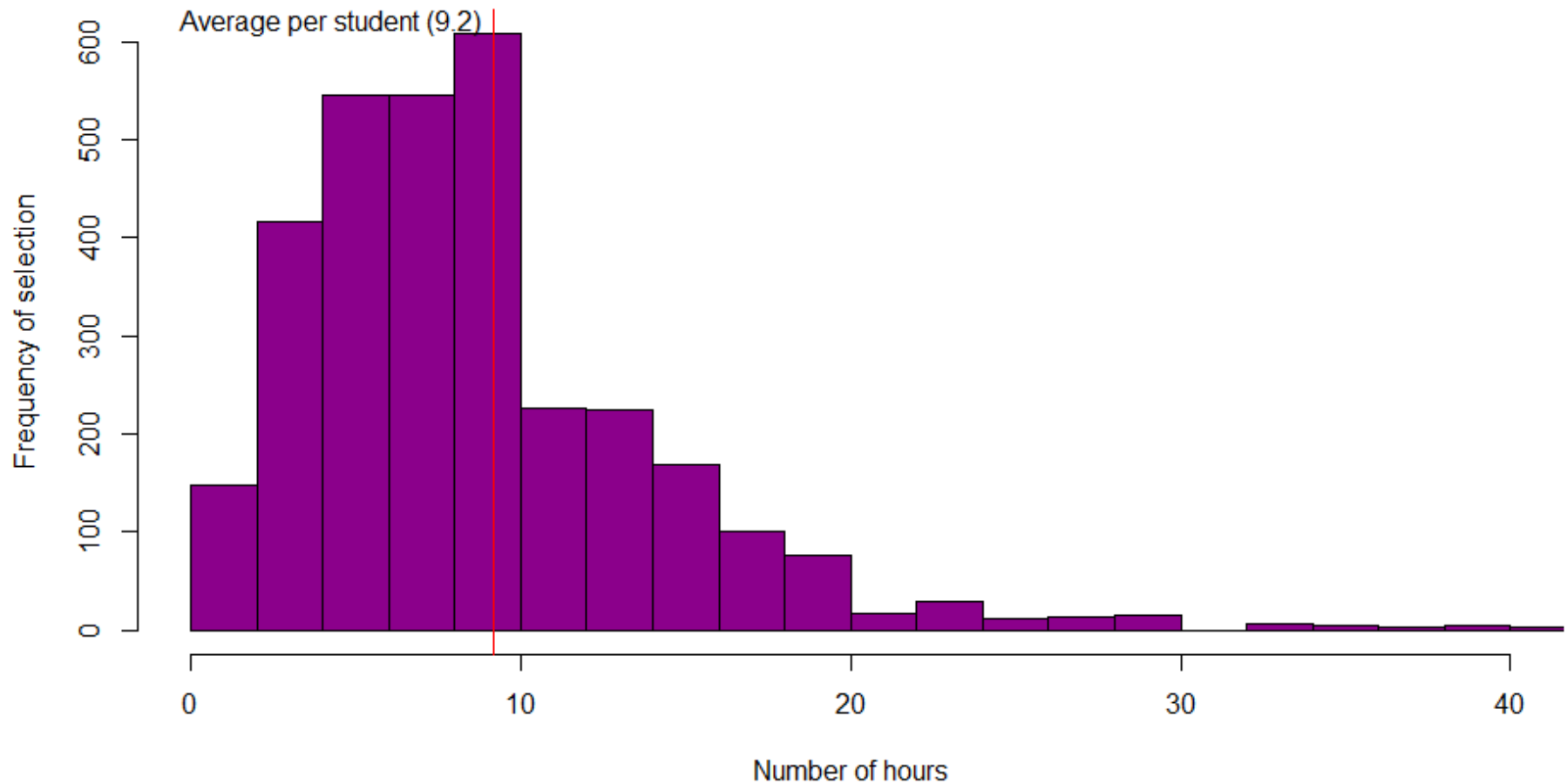
- How many courses did you take this semester? [n=3,232]
- On average, how many hours each week do you spend on all tasks related to your course work (please include all tasks, for example: lecture time, assessments, studying, reading)? [n=3,184]
- The total number of hours spent on course work for all courses was divided by the number of courses for each student, and an average number of hours worked per student, per week, per course was calculated.

Course Work



Course Work

Average time spent on coursework (per course, per week)

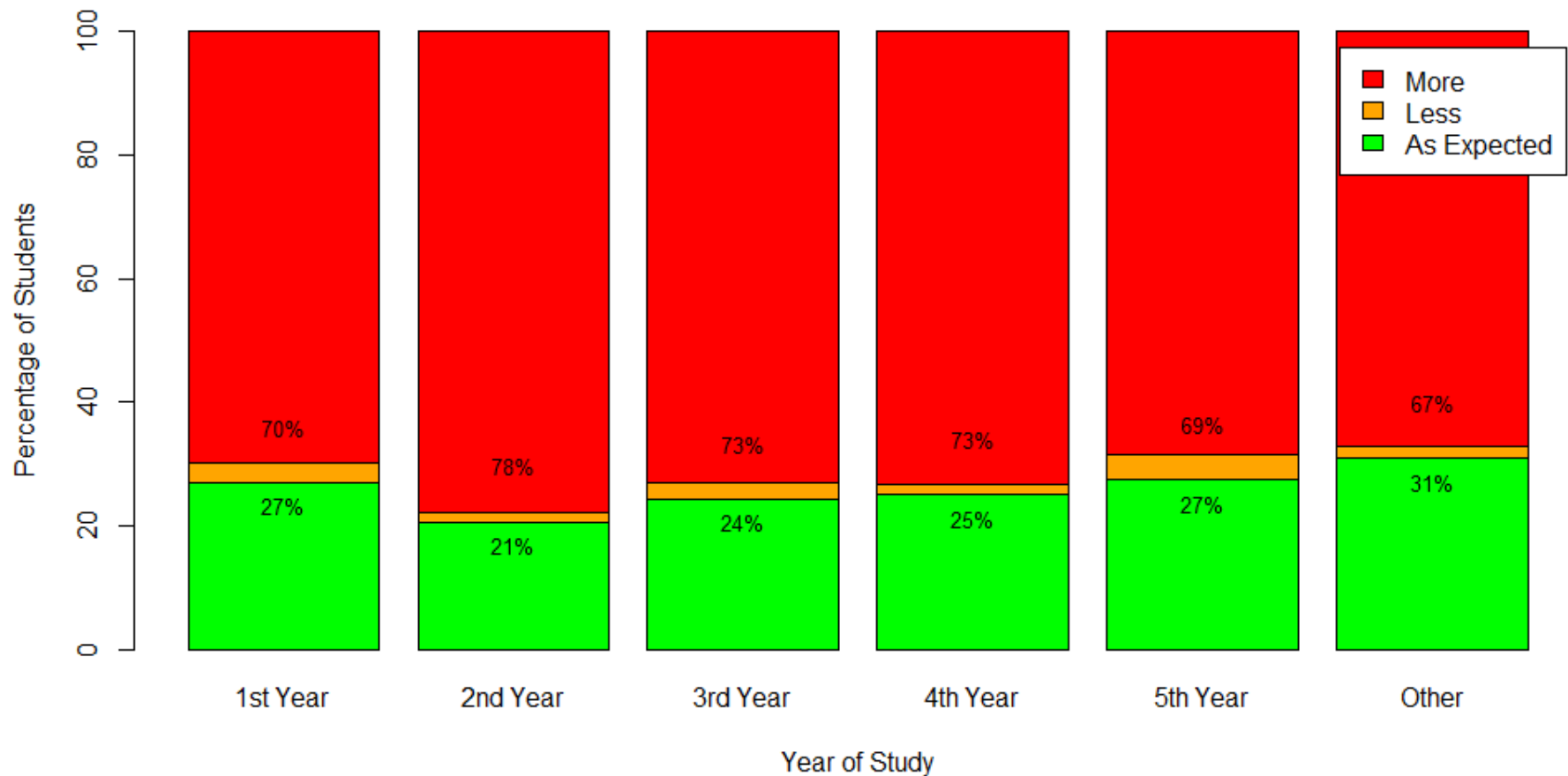


Workload Expectations

- How does the workload this semester compare to your expectations? [n=3,249]
- These overall workload expectations have been broken down by year of study and level of study.
- Undergraduate Students = 2,710
- Graduate Students = 322

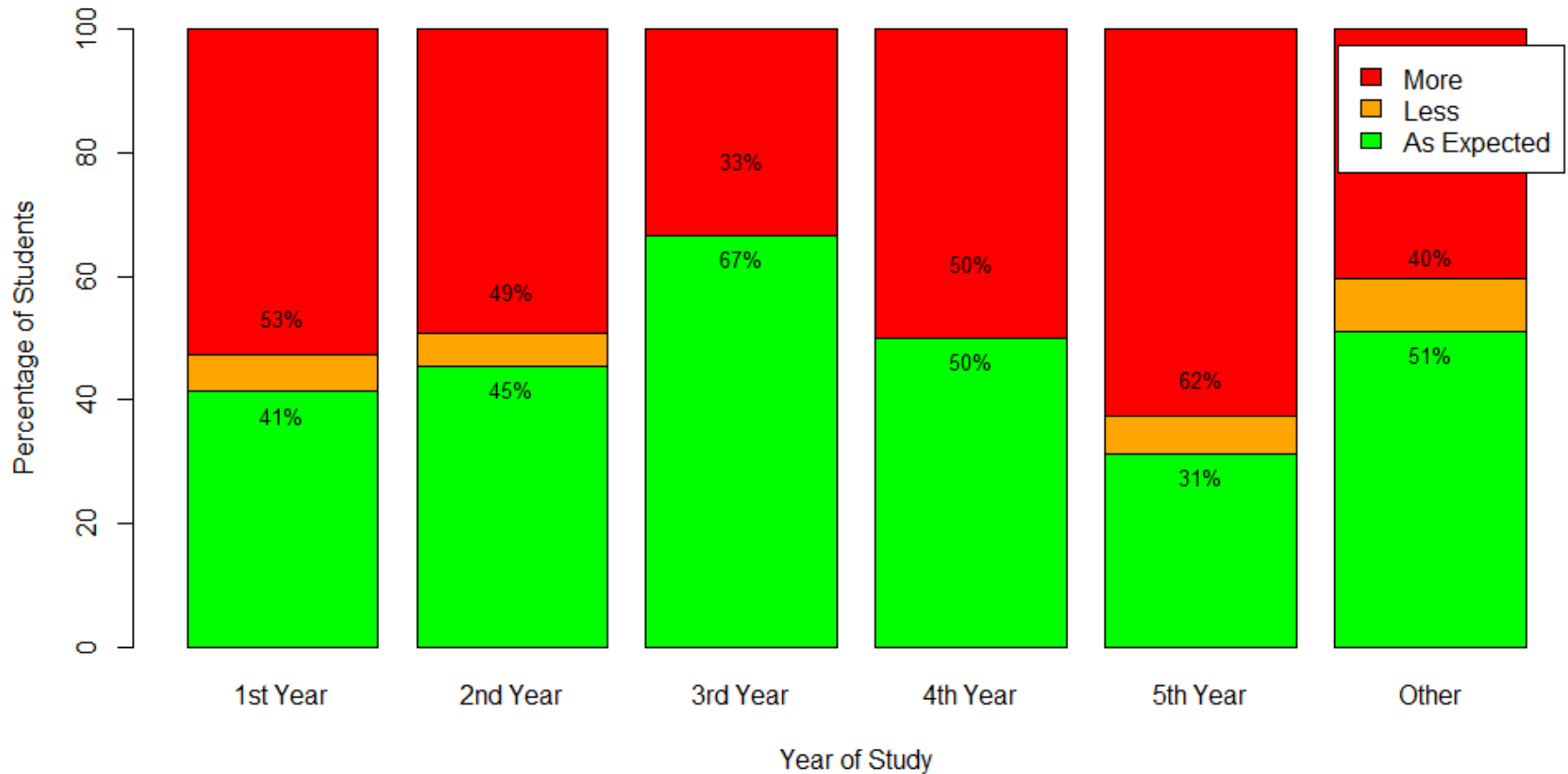
Workload Expectations

Workload Expectations by Year of Study (Undergraduate Students)



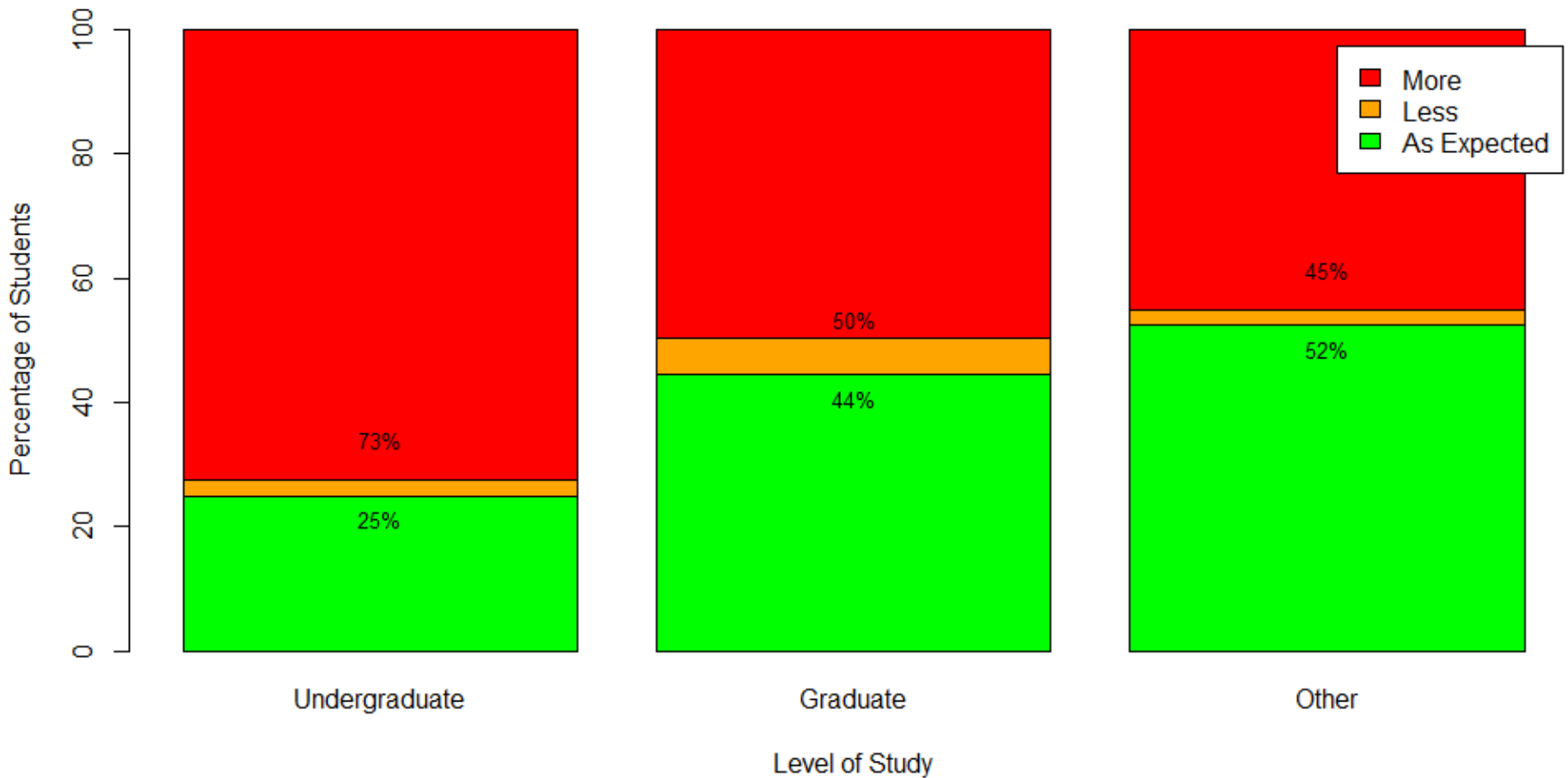
Workload Expectations

Workload Expectations by Year of Study (Graduate Students)



Workload Expectations

Workload Expectations by Level of Study



Undergraduate Goals

- Please choose the most applicable status related to your current academic program/career goals. [n=2,981]
- This question was presented to students who identified as undergraduate students.

Undergraduate Goals

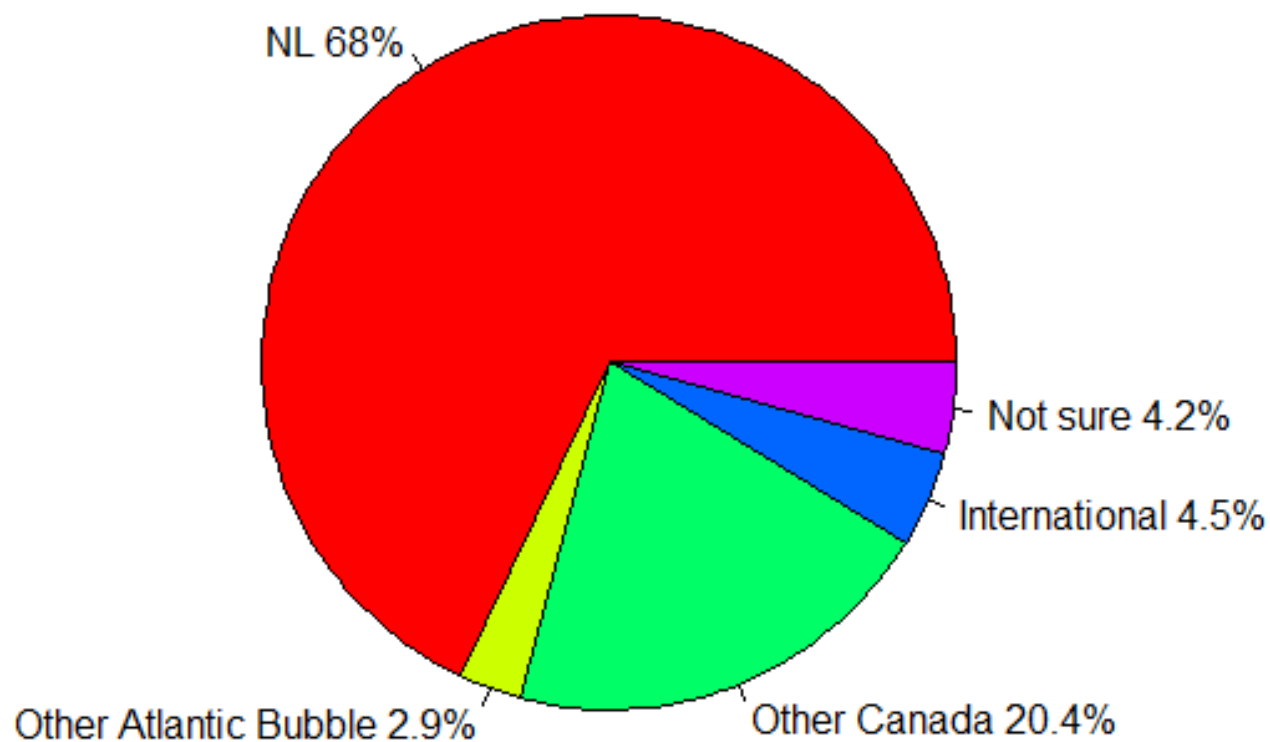
Declared a program of study and a clear career path	1231
Declared a program of study but not sure of my career path	876
Haven't declared a program of study but have a career path in mind	423
Unsure what academic program or career path is right for me	100

Location for Winter 2021

- Where will you be studying for the winter 2021 semester? [n=2,981]
- This statistic combines a few questions that ask if students are within Canada or outside Canada, and collects postal code data for those within Canada.

Location for Winter 2021

Student Location in Winter 2021

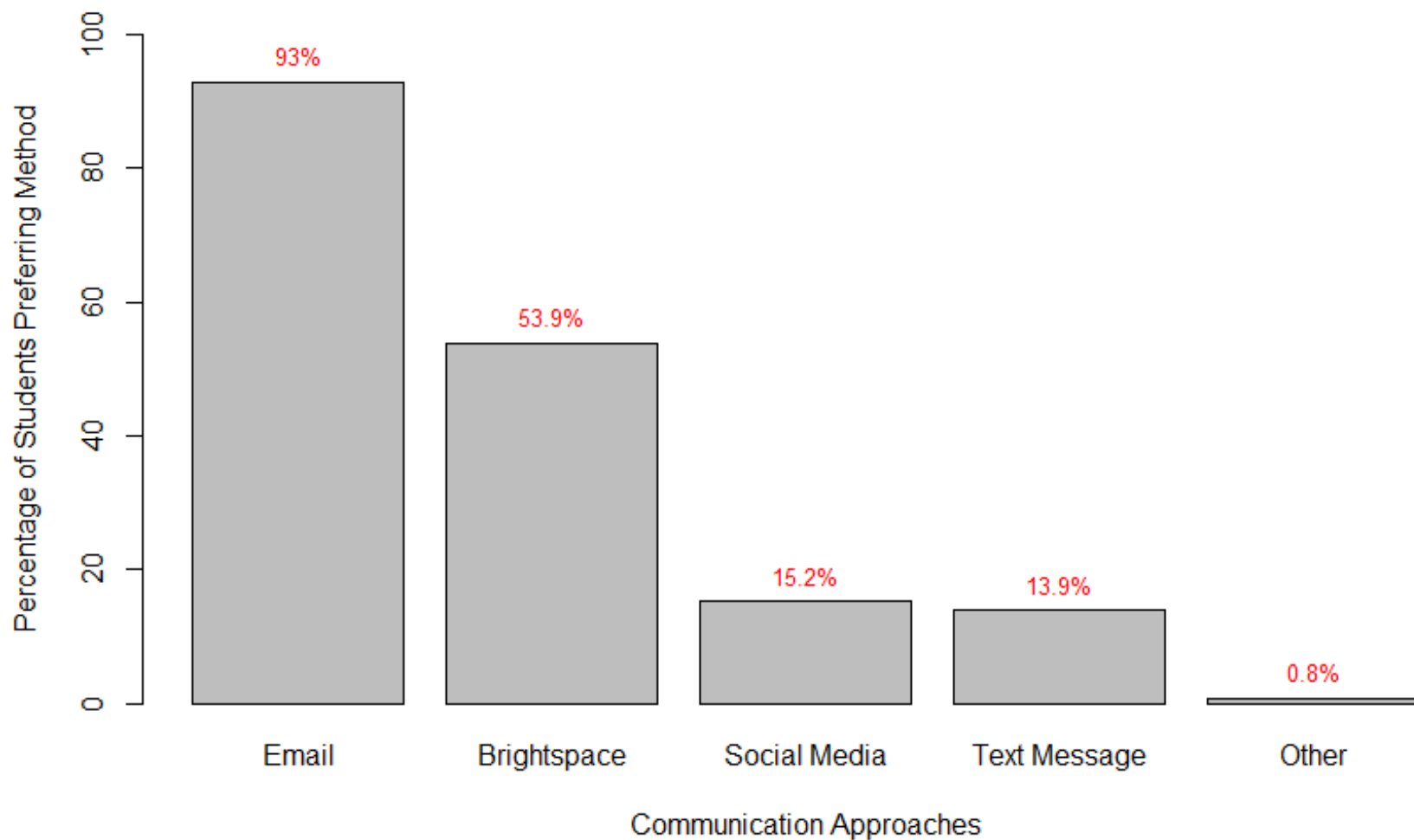


Communications

- Questions were asked of the students regarding the communications they receive from Memorial University.
- Students could select more than one approach.
- How do you want to receive communications from Memorial University? [n=3,313]

Communications

Communication Preferences

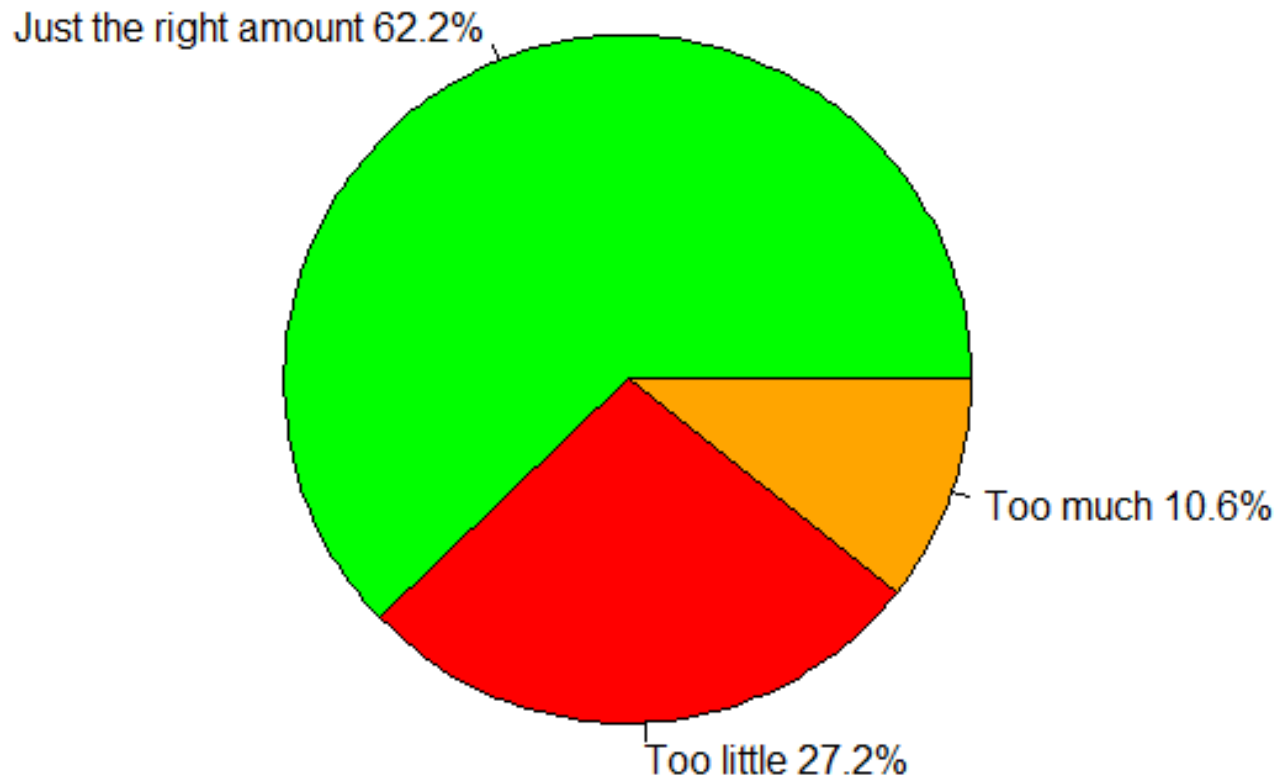


Communications

- How do you feel about the amount of communications you currently receive from Memorial University? [n=3,207]

Communications

Amount of Communications Received



Communications

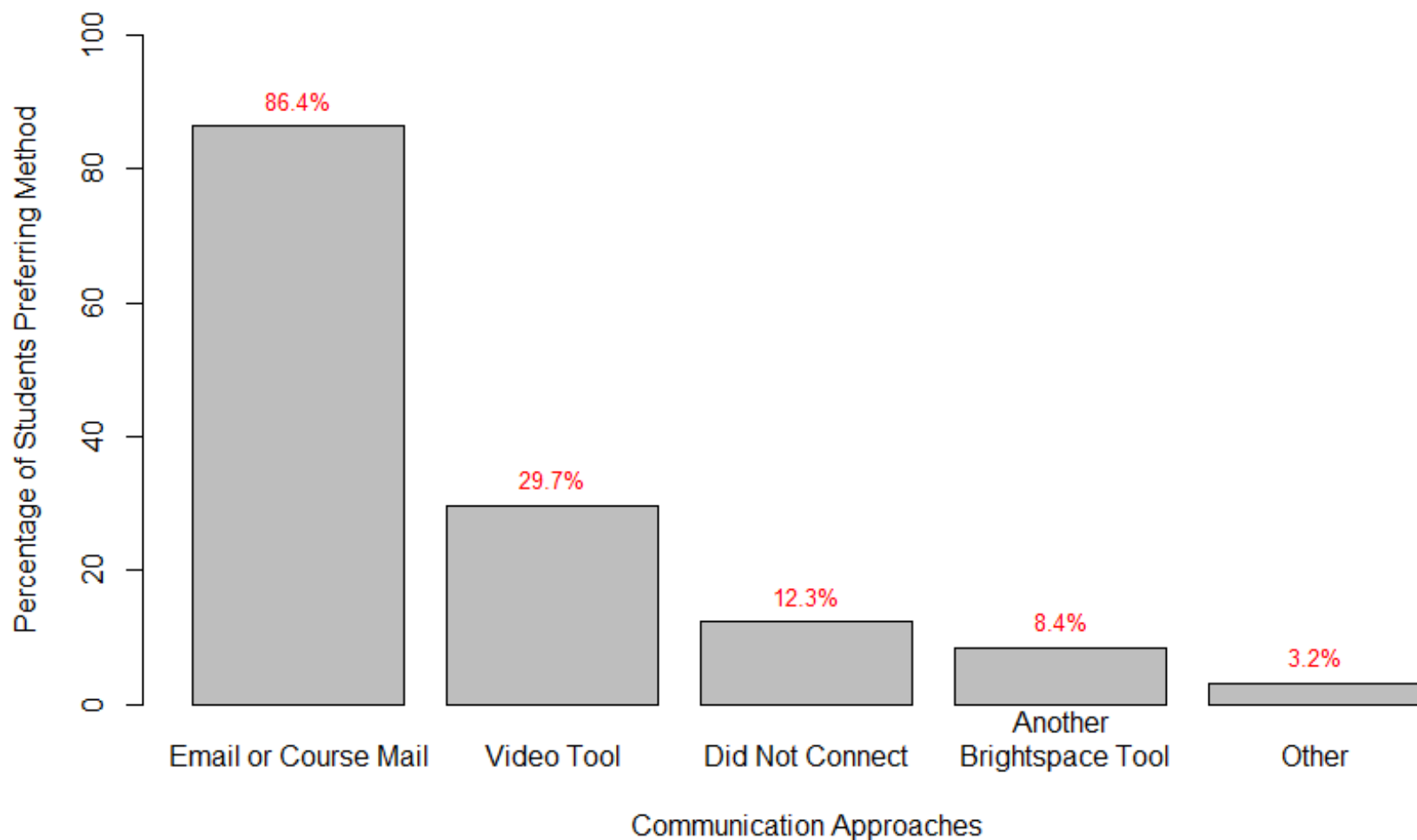
- Students overwhelmingly prefer to be communicated via email or through Brightspace, whereas they do not want to be contacted via social media or text message.
- Students also feel that they are receiving enough communication, although just over one quarter of respondents (27.2%) feel that they are not receiving enough.

Communications

- How did you connect with your instructor outside any scheduled class time this semester? [n=3,255]
- Students could select multiple methods. The purpose of this question was to find out how students communicate with instructors outside of scheduled and structured sessions.

Communications

Connect with instructors outside of class time

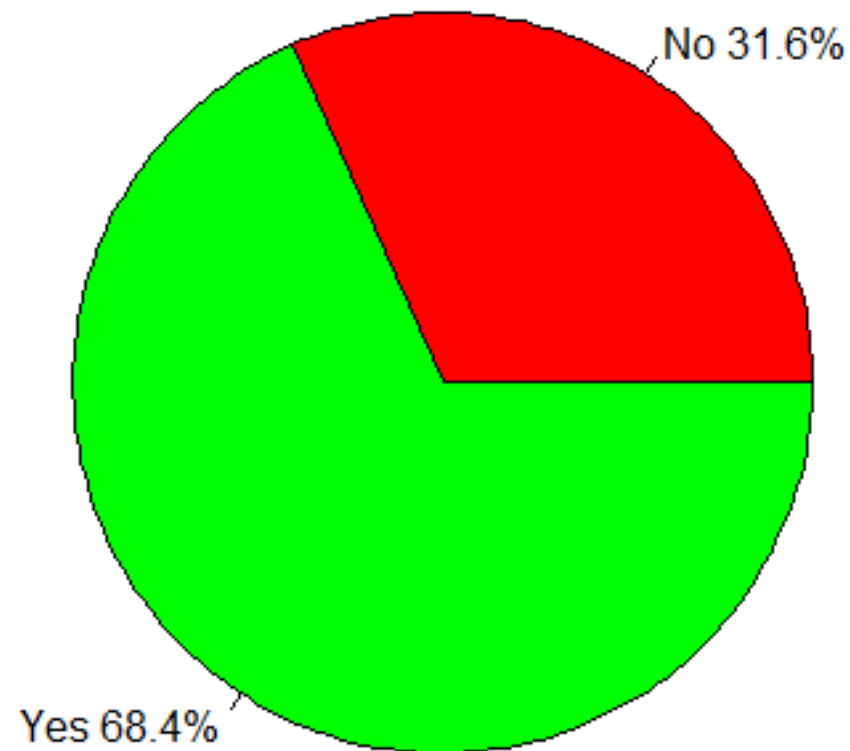


Text Books

- Were you able to access your textbooks and other resources sold by the campus bookstores in a timely manner this semester?
[n=2,551]

Text Books

Timely access to bookstore resources

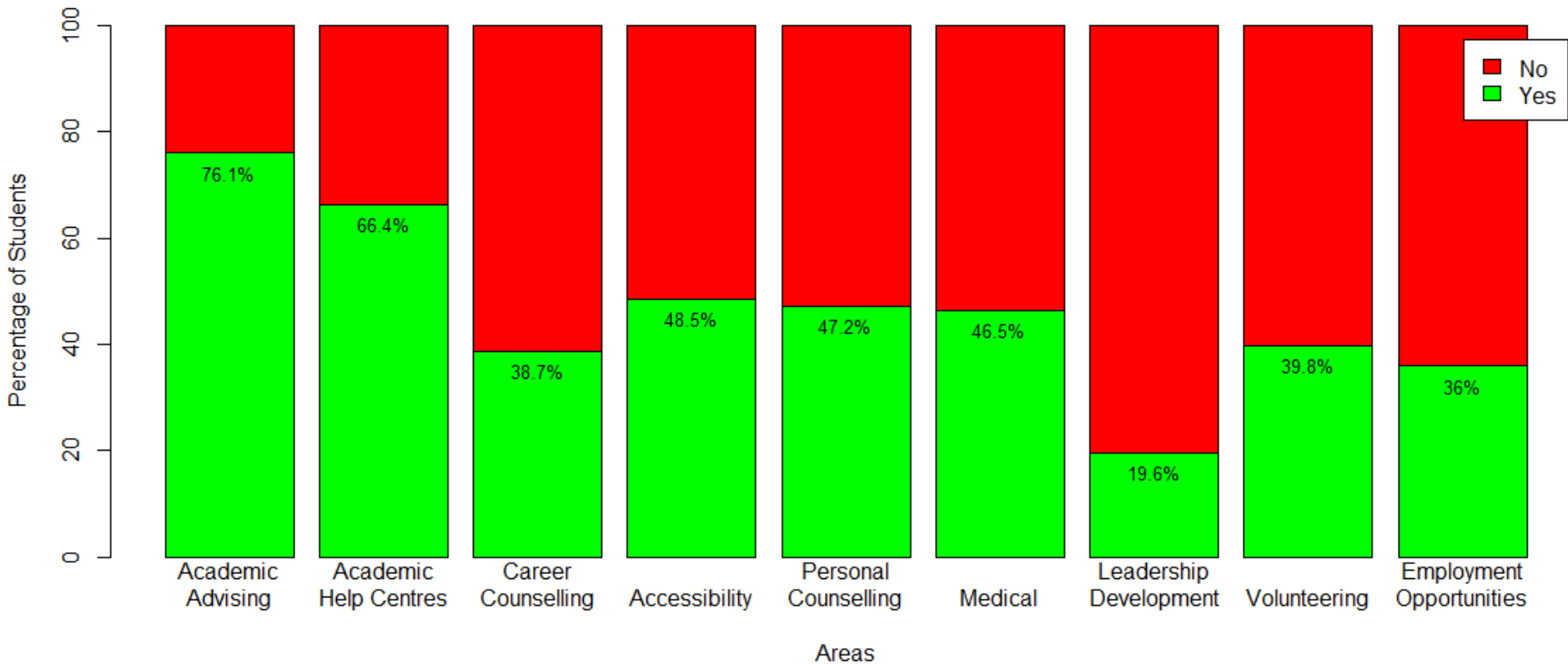


Support Services

- Do you know where to go at Memorial for each of the following...?
- Graphs are presented for students who identified as undergraduate [UG] students and those who identified as graduate [G] students.
- Students were asked about the following areas:
 - Academic Advice [UG = 2,690 G = 343]
 - Career Counselling [UG = 2,633 G = 325]
 - Accessibility Services [UG = 2,616 G = 319]
 - Academic Help Centres [UG = 2,387 G = 287]
 - Personal Counselling [UG = 2,610 G = 325]
 - Medical Services [UG = 2,521 G = 306]
 - Leadership Development [UG = 2,574 G = 321]
 - Volunteering Opportunities [UG = 2,598 G = 315]
 - Employment Opportunities [UG = 2,595 G = 321]
- Individual n values are shown listed above.

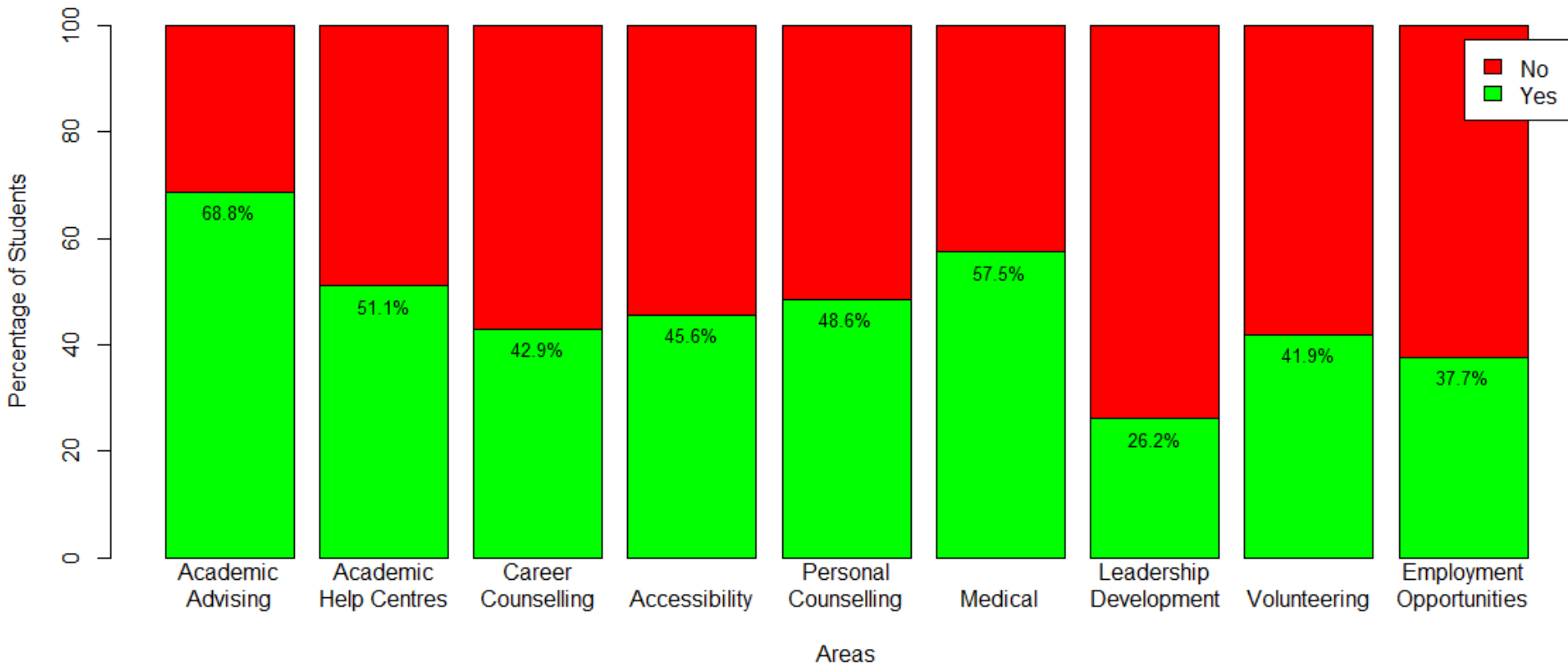
Support Services

Do you know where to go for ...? (Undergraduate Students)



Support Services

Do you know where to go for ...? (Graduate Students)

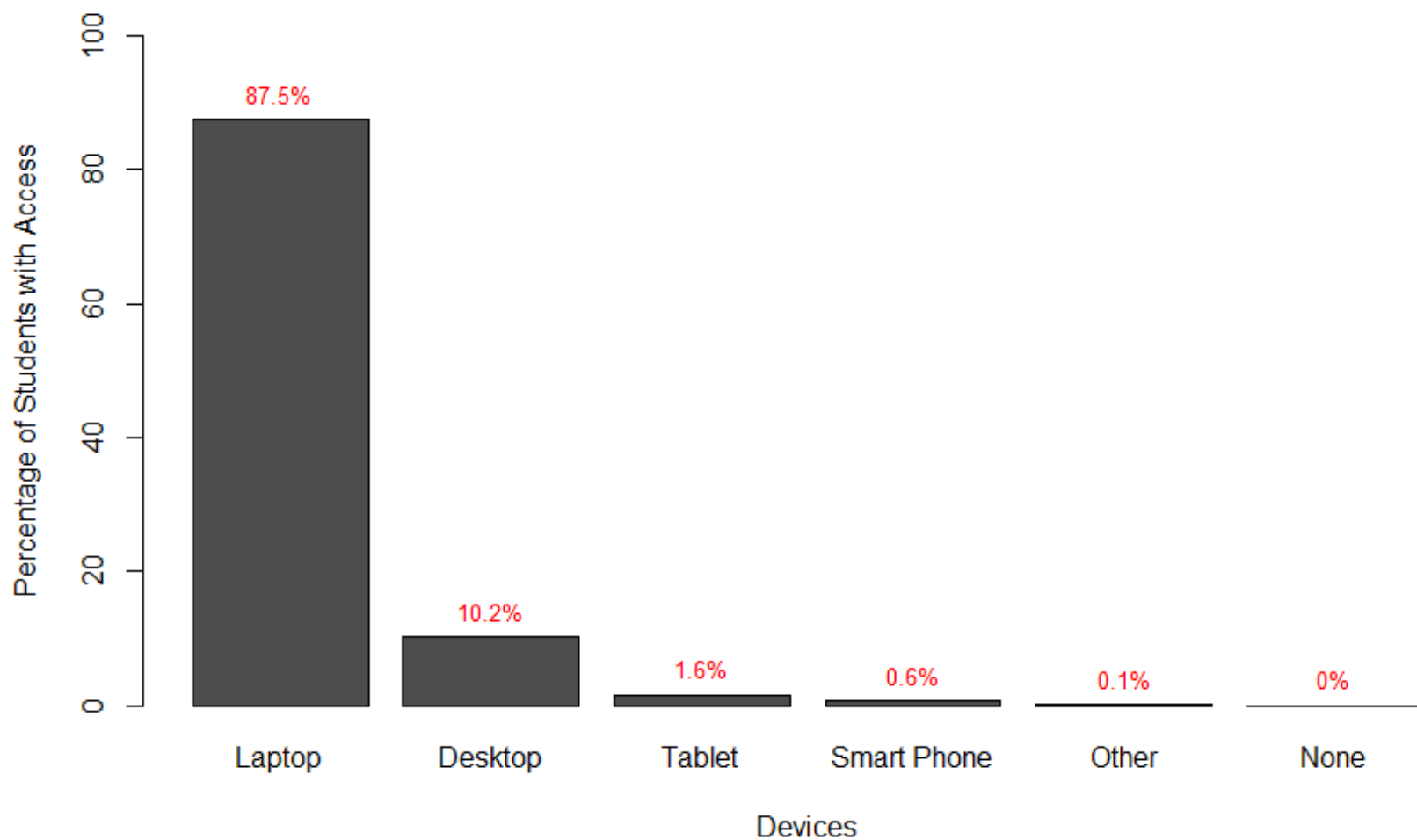


Primary Devices

- Which of the computing devices do you primarily use for your course work? (Select one) [n = 3,572]

Primary Devices

Student Primary Devices

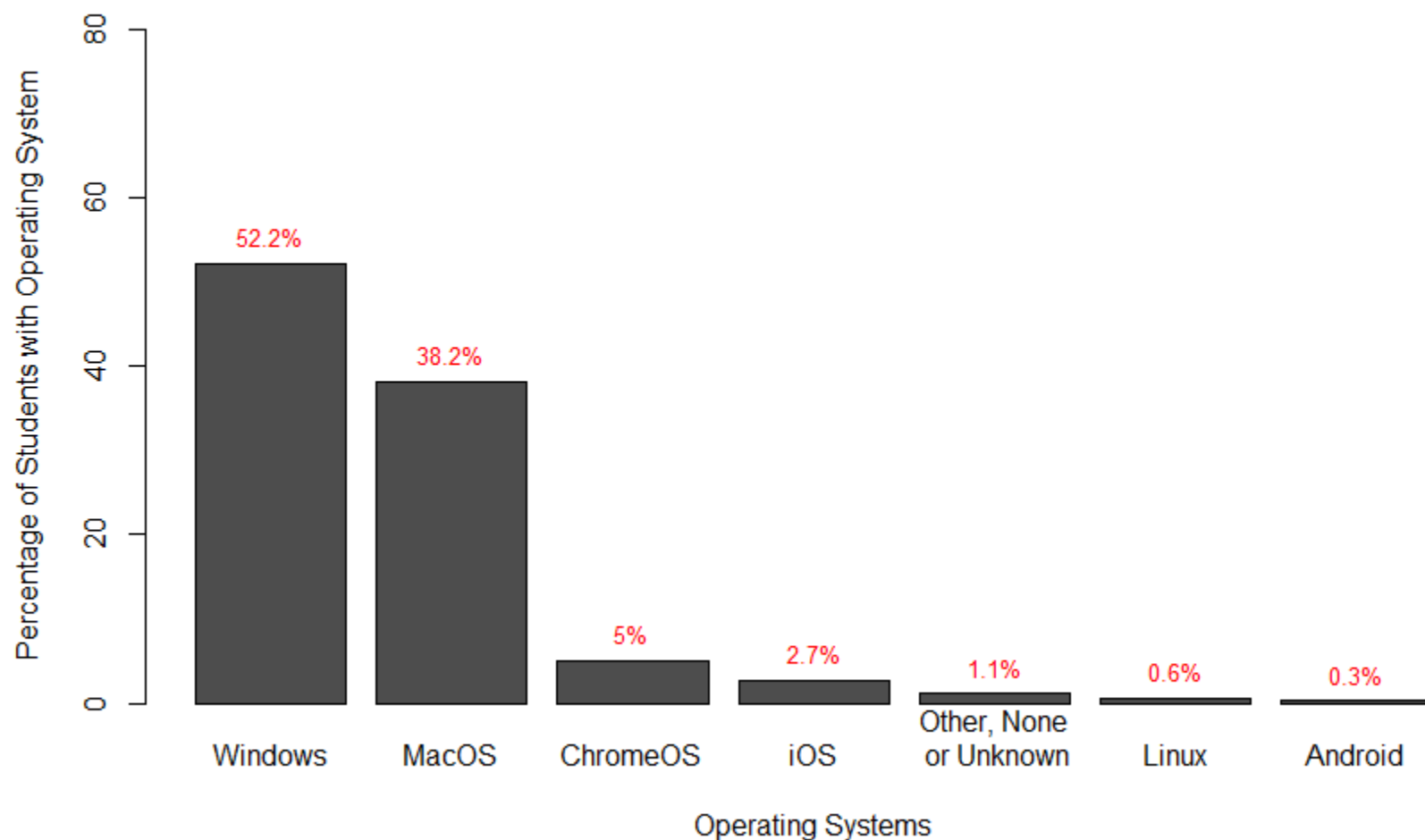


Primary Devices

- What operating system(s) does your primary device have installed?
(Select one) [n = 3,574]
- A limitation of this question is that it only allowed one selection. Some students selected other, in order to list all of the operating systems all of their devices ran.

Primary Devices

Student Primary Device Operating Systems

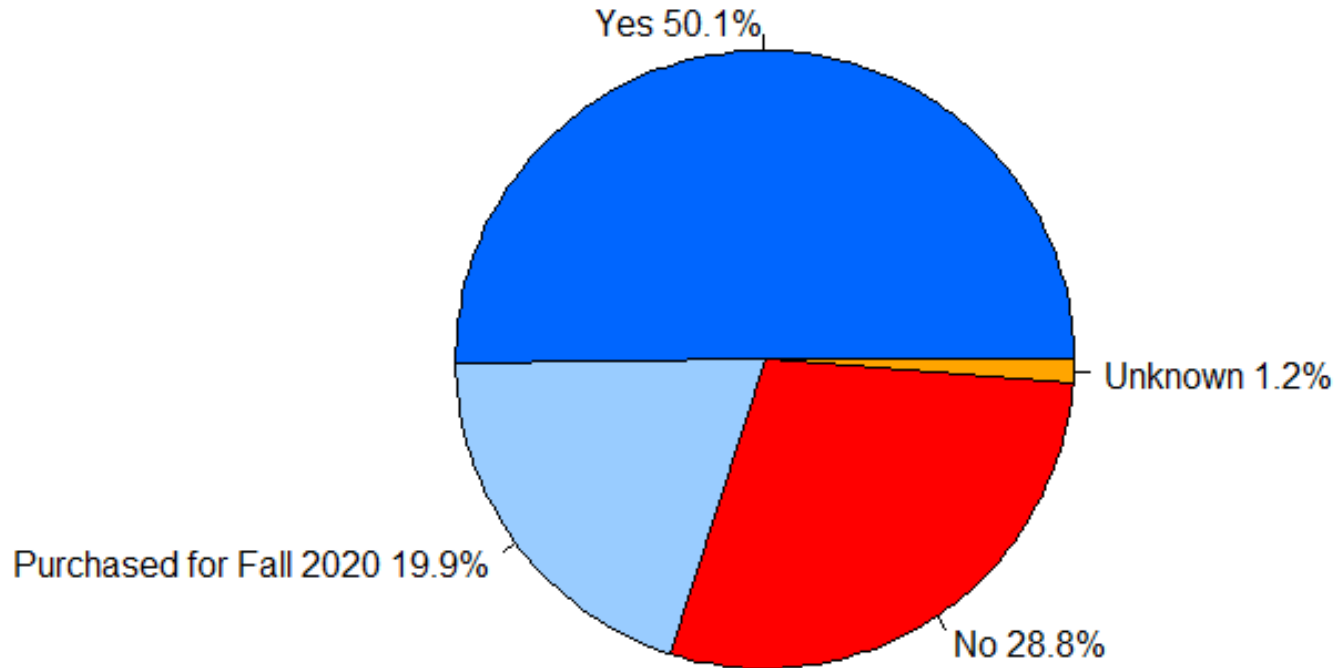


Primary Device Recency

- Was your primary device purchased within the last 3 years? [n = 3,574]

Primary Device Recency

Primary Device Purchased Last 3 Years



Primary Device Recency

- This measure was selected as it was believed that device recency could be used as a proxy for a modern, well equipped computer, likely to meet the minimum requirements for remote learning.
 - This was chosen instead of specifying a minimum hardware specification as that information was likely not readily available to students when completing the survey.
- 70% of students have a recent device that was purchased in the last three years.
- Although 30% of students do not have a recent computer, or are not sure, this does not mean the computer is incapable of handling remote instruction.

Internet

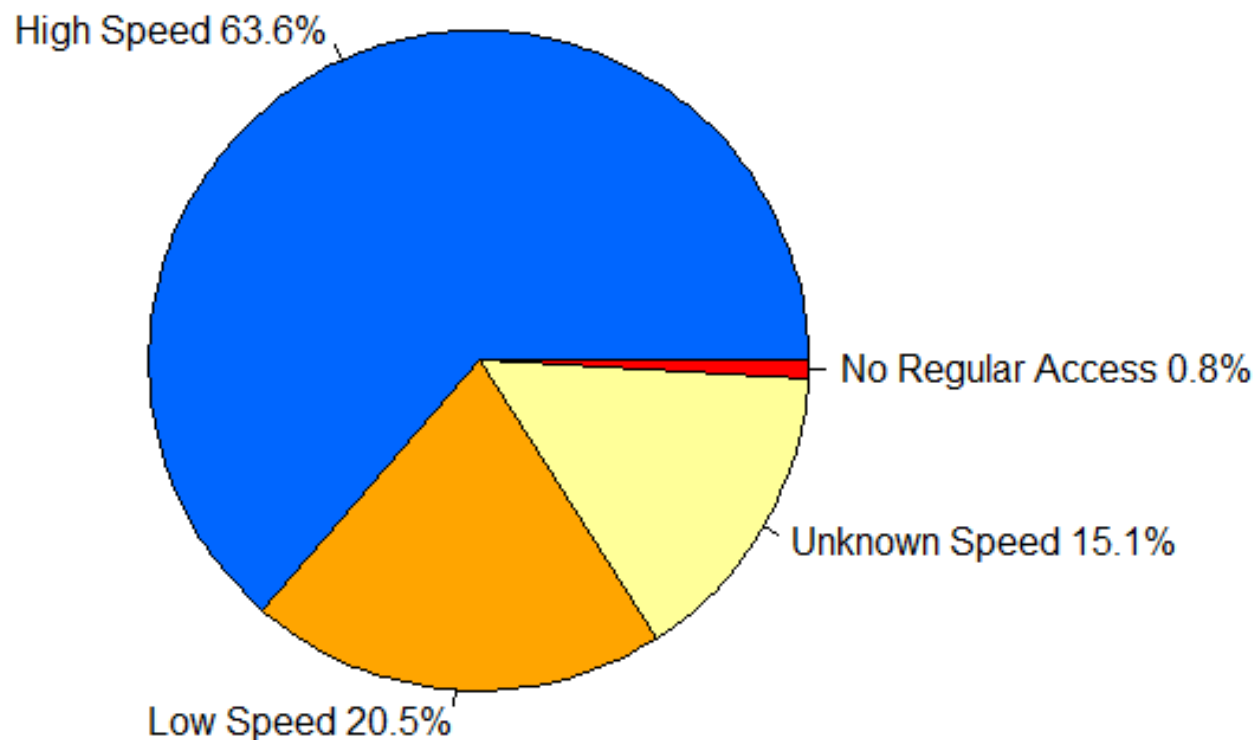
- These questions gauged student access to high speed internet, and looked at whether they had a metered data plan. Both of these factors would potentially limit student access to online courses.

Internet: High Speed Access

- For the following questions, **high speed internet** is defined as 10 Mbps download speed and 3 Mbps upload speed.
- A speed test website was also provided if students were unsure of their internet speed.
- Do you have access to high speed internet? n=3,542

Internet: High Speed Access

Internet Access Speed



Internet: High Speed Access

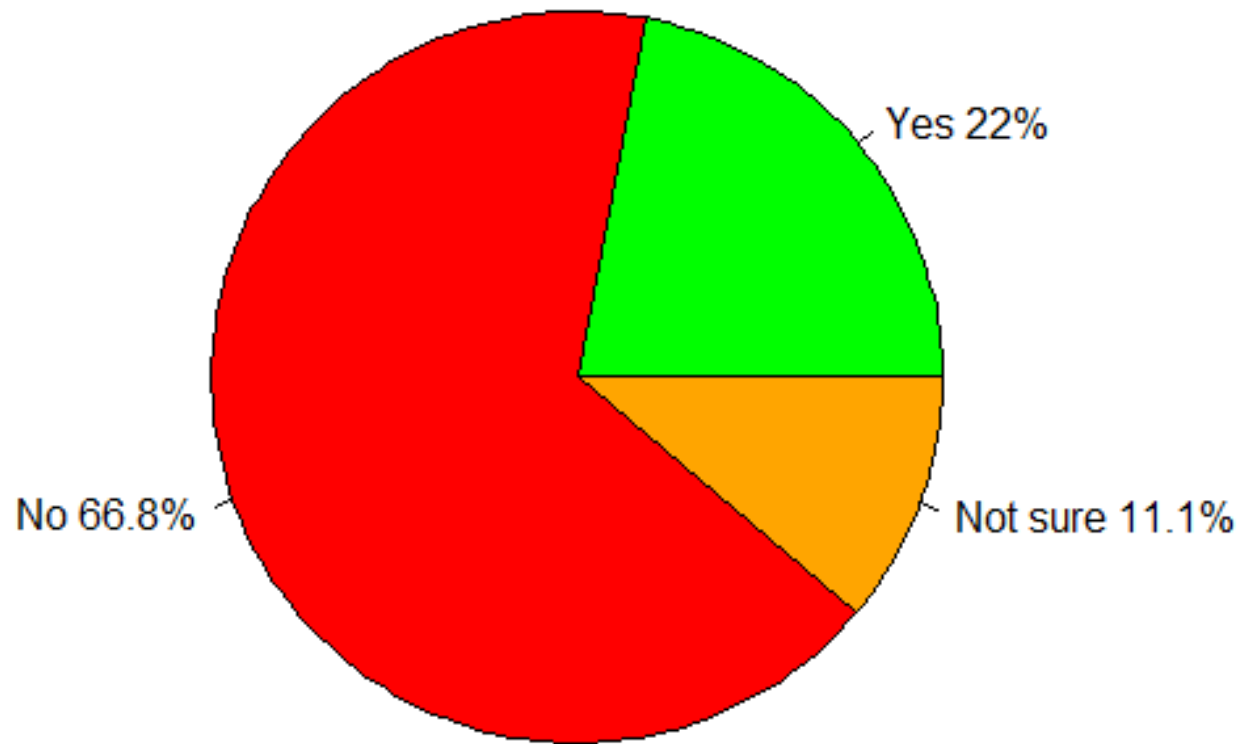
- This data shows that universal access to high speed internet did not exist for students during the fall semester.
- Instructors may want to consider how to teach with lower bandwidth techniques to help reduce bandwidth inequalities that exist among students, or to survey their students directly in their courses.
- Between 21.3% (low speed and no access) and 36.4% (including unknown speed) of students may not have access to high speed internet suitable for synchronous sessions and other high bandwidth learning activities.

Internet: High Speed Access

- These numbers improved slightly from an earlier survey conducted by CITL in the summer. This is likely due to a combination of factors:
 - Procurement of higher speed access by students (where available)
 - Students with poor or no access not registering for the fall semester
- An additional question was asked in this survey for those who had no access to high speed internet.
- Do you have reliable access to another source of high-speed internet outside of your home? (For example, a nearby community or public hot spot.) [n=1,276]

Internet: High Speed Access

Access to Other High Speed Source



Internet: High Speed Access

- Including these additional students in the high speed category results in an 8% increase in the number of students with access to high speed within or outside the home.
 - An increase from 63.6% to 71.6%
- But this access may not be regular or convenient for these students.
- This means 29.4% of all students have no access to high speed within or outside the home.

Internet: Metered Connection

- Having a metered connection, or an internet plan with a data cap, means that if your internet usage is over the cap, you are required to pay an additional charge on top of your usual monthly fee.
- Do you have a metered data connection, or do you have data caps on your internet service? n=3,495
- Those who selected 'No Access' in the last question would not have seen this question.

Internet: Metered Connection

Metered Data Plans



Internet: Metered Connection

- A metered internet package is a pay-per-use package, or a package with a data cap, at which point bandwidth is charged or bandwidth is throttled (slowed down).
- Can also be read as “How many students have unlimited internet packages?”
- 12.6% of students know they have limitations on their data access. 29.4%, are not sure if they have limits or not.
- Students with data caps or pay-per-use may be more reluctant to participate in high bandwidth activities. Or may be faced with unexpected internet bills after their high bandwidth activities are concluded.

Demographics

- How old are you? [n=3,144]

Under 20	20 - 29	30 - 39	40 - 49	Over 50
1040	1717	248	104	35

Demographics

- What is your current year of study? [n=3,038]

1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year	4 th Year	5 th Year	Other
872	724	573	439	249	181

Demographics

- What is your campus of study? [n=3,145]

Grenfell Campus	Labrador Institute	Marine Institute	Online Campus	St. John's Campus
303	1	95	211	2535

Contact Us

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