

# Analysis of the Maternity Services Engagement Survey “Addressing Operational Pressures Across Our Maternity Services” 03.07.2018 – 13.08.2018

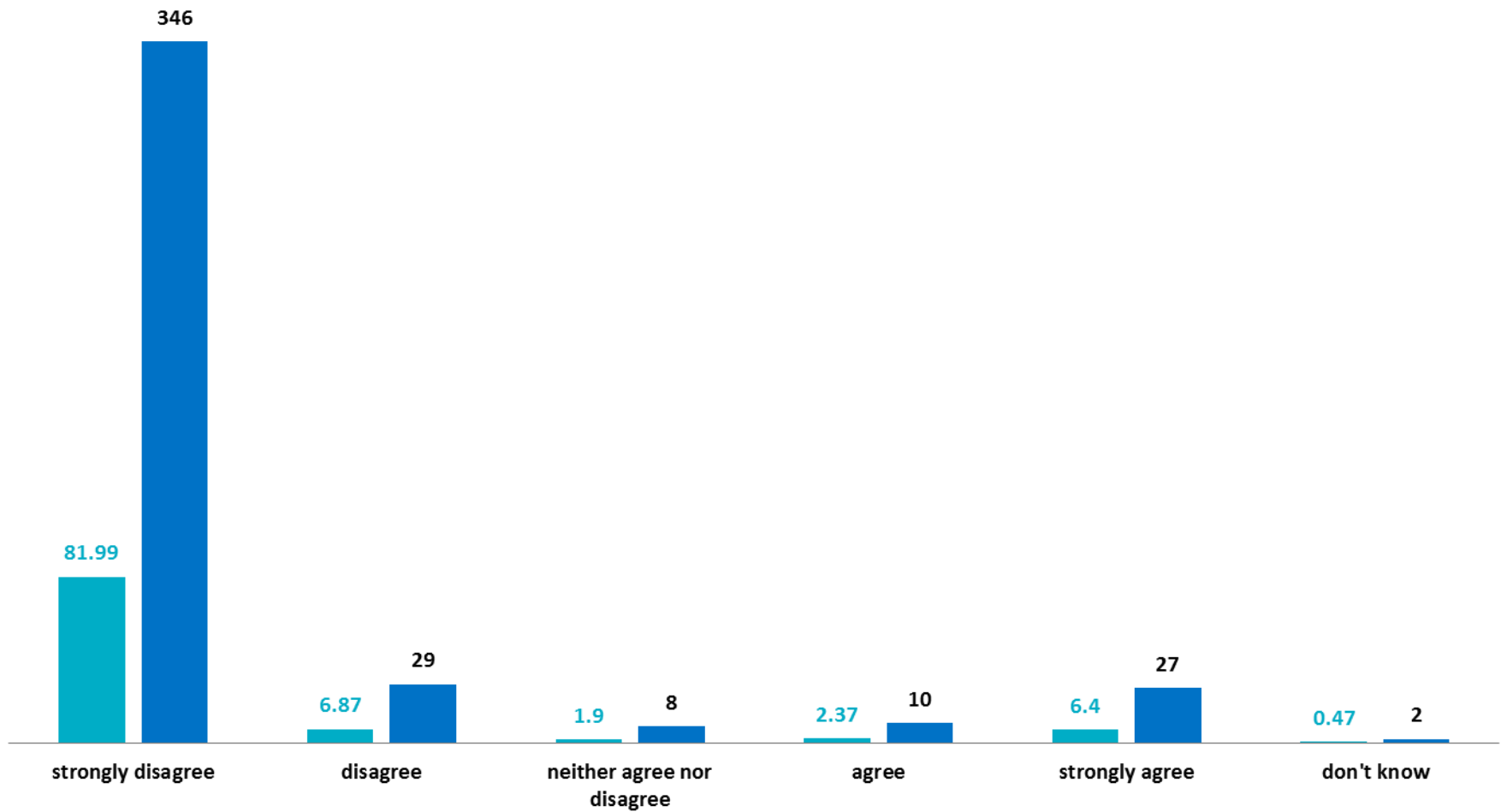
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Deputy Head of Midwifery



Proud To **Care**  
Make It **Happen**  
We Value **Respect**  
Together We **Achieve**

**Q1: How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement:  
There are convincing reasons to extend the temporary suspensions of inpatient services at  
Oswestry, Bridgnorth and Ludlow Midwife Led Units**

■ Percentage of responses ■ Number of responses



## Q2 - Are there any advantages and disadvantages of the proposed changes which we haven't considered in our engagement document?

### Key Themes...

1. The effect of a long uncomfortable journey for labouring women on poor rural roads
2. Local women wanting to use local services
3. Closing the MLUs will mean that women can't transfer to their local MLU for PN care
4. Near misses/risk of an increase in the number of babies born before arrival and the stress that will bring to the woman and the person transferring her
5. Increase in calls to ambulance services
6. Reduced continuity of care
7. Potential impact on BF support
8. Financial implications to the families affected
9. The loss of the wonderful services that the MLUs offer and provide
10. Removal of maternal choice and not in line with Better Births
11. Proposal to build 600 more family homes in Oswestry – have you considered growth?
12. No advantages
13. You have covered everything in your notification

### **Q3: Is there anything the Trust could do differently, or are there alternative solutions you would like the Trust to consider?**

#### **Key Themes...**

1. Re-open/keep open the MLUs
2. Offer better choice including choice of having a home birth
3. Remove the option of home births to allow adequate staffing of MLUs
4. More air ambulances to cope with the size of the county
5. Concerns about travelling to Telford for routine, low risk midwife-led care
6. Make future decisions that are reversible, not permanent
7. Keep the units open and use the on call midwife to deliver at the unit rather than at home
8. Keep Ludlow open, fully staffed for 18 months before using statistics on usage
9. Extend use of the facilities to private companies for a fee and reinvest the money into the MLUs
10. Consider Birthing Units like Powys
11. Employ more midwives / use incentives to promote recruitment
12. Cut management not services
13. The units were running perfectly as they were – why fix something that was not broken?

## Q4: Who do you think would be most affected by the changes?

### Key Themes...

1. Women who live rurally
2. Women without a partner
3. Women who have no access to a driver may have to rely on public transport/taxi
4. Women with limited access to support childcare for what will be a longer period of time
5. Labouring women who arrive at Telford, 2cm dilated and advised to return home
6. Those local to the currently suspended services
7. The vulnerable – financial, psychological, social implications
8. Women in all areas except Telford or Shrewsbury
9. Anyone who would have accessed services from their local MLU
10. Women who may have no visitors postnatally
11. Midwives currently working on the MLUs
12. Women needing support currently provided by MLUs including BF support
13. Everyone! Closing MLUs will create more strain on the services that remain in Shropshire
14. Women choosing to deliver at an MLU could opt for a home birth instead but if women chose to go to Telford or Shrewsbury they would have the reassurance of having more midwives available

## Q5: Is there anything we can do to lessen the impact of any changes?

### Key Themes...

1. Offer women home births
2. Stop offering women MLU delivery
3. Keep the MLUs open
4. More local midwives
5. Don't keep opening/closing the units – women need consistency and Telford & Shrewsbury are busy enough already without closing 3 rural MLUs
6. Scrap the proposals to close MLUs – based on flawed arguments
7. Revisit the proposals to ensure that closing the MLUs really is the right decision before signing off
8. Stop taking away women's choices
9. Free transport to and from Telford or Shrewsbury 24/7
10. How can you lessen the impact of a closure?
11. Employ more midwives and finance them by reducing management levels
12. Get on with it, make closures permanent and end the uncertainty
13. Think outside the box to help new mothers
14. Let the midwives speak in confidence as they currently have their hands tied
15. Give staff reasonable notice before cancelling/changing their shifts – there is no work life balance

## **Q6: We will continue to listen to women who have chosen to give birth in Bridgnorth, Ludlow and Oswestry directly. Is there any additional information we need to make available, and how or where should it be provided?**

### **Key Themes...**

1. All information should be easily available to the public as a whole through a wide choice of medium, GP surgeries, HVs and mother's groups
2. Publicise actions and give simple honest information
3. Give reassurance that a comprehensive service will be provided
4. Will you listen to what we are asking for?
5. You haven't listened to the public so far otherwise the MLUs would not be closed
6. Listen to those who have used the service but also ask prospective mothers what they would like to see from maternity services
7. Explain the risk assessments more clearly as women feel they are being denied the chance to have their babies at MLUs for no good reason eg small for dates or previous bad experience
8. Care is fragmented at present – no continuity of care
9. Cascade information clearly to staff so that they are able to fully support their women
10. What is the exact cost of running an MLU and where would the money saved be used
11. Publish information about adverse outcomes for mother/baby as a result of mother's travelling long distances when in labour
12. Can you tell us how many women would have given birth in the units if they had been open

## **Q7: Is there anything else that you think we should take into account when making any further decisions regarding the temporary suspension of services at the rural Midwife Led Units?**

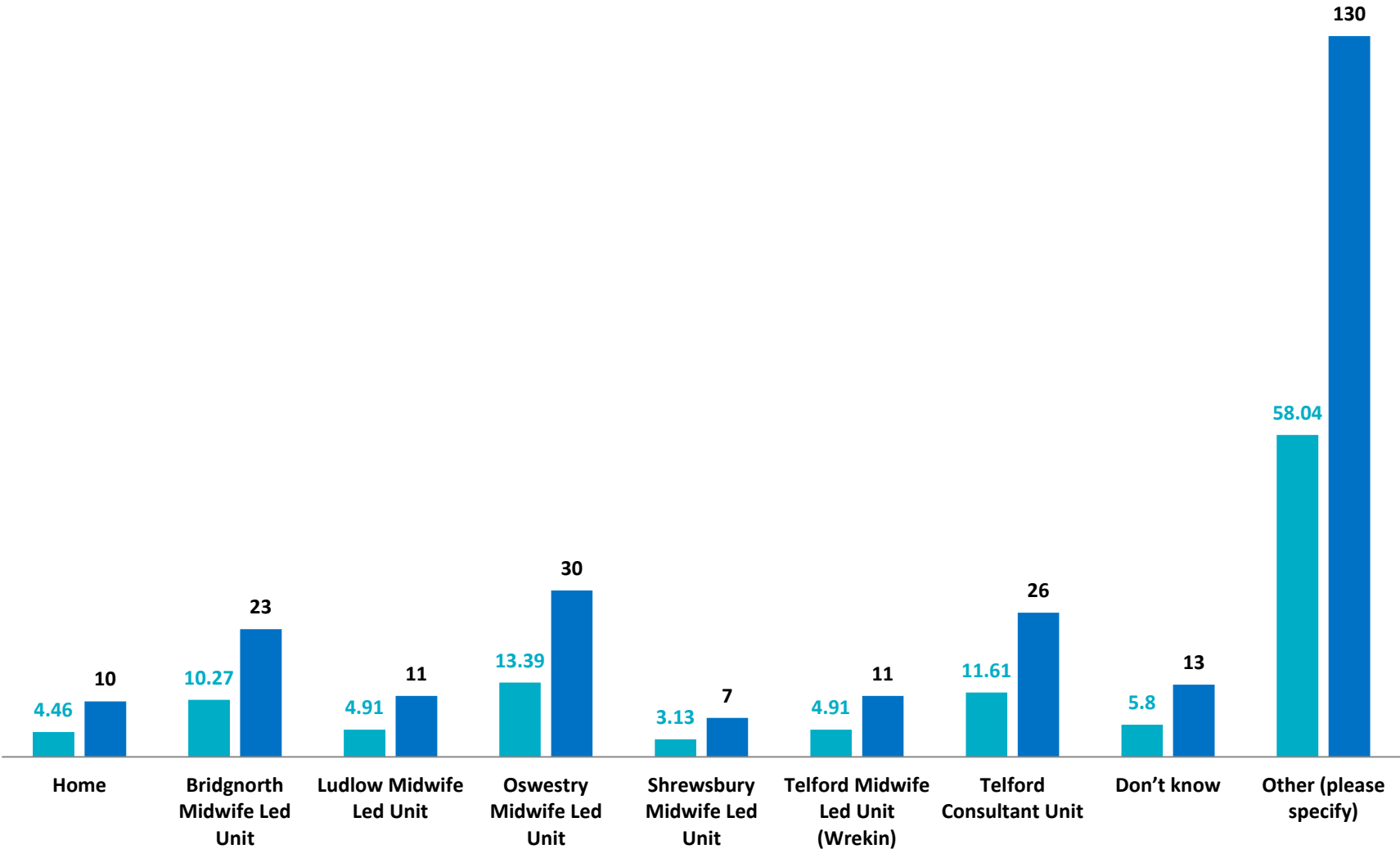
### **Key Themes...**

1. Statistics are unreliable because the units have been opened and closed so often
2. The needs of the people in the rural areas who want to give birth close to home
3. Concerns about travelling long distances eg partner's work long hours, away on business
4. Response time of ambulance services
5. It's a shame that such wonderful services are going unused
6. Every closure reduces the public confidence in the Trust which is generally thought to be lying or incompetent (or both)
7. Listen to the people, read the results of the survey and act on them
8. Increase staffing
9. Growth of the population
10. Finances/cost implications for rural expectant women
11. Services should be based on need not budget
12. How will increasing the distances that labouring women have to travel make it more "safe"
13. Postnatal support with BF, MH and reassurance
14. The increased stress for expectant and newly delivered mums
15. You are taking away choice and going against NHS guidelines
16. Road access



# Q8: If you are currently pregnant and a user of our services - where are you booked to give birth?

■ Percentage of responses ■ Number of responses



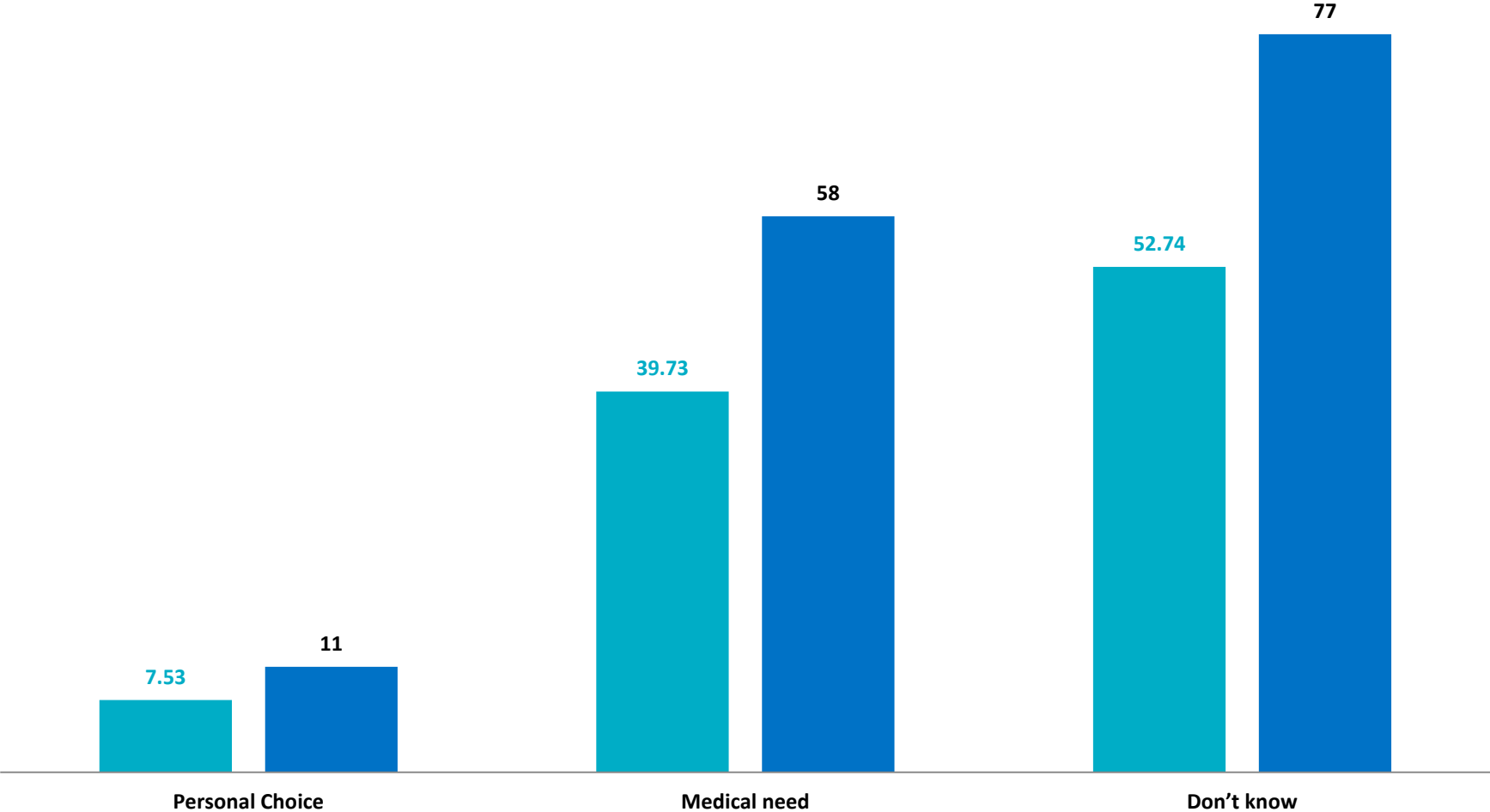
## Q8: If you are currently pregnant and a user of our services - where are you booked to give birth? “Other” responses only

Many of the “other” responses received were from people who did not meet the question criteria therefore it should not be taken that this reflects that women were actually booked to give birth elsewhere...

1. Home because I don't want to risk having to travel over an hour to deliver at an MLU
2. Originally booked for Bridgnorth but now this option has been taken away from me
3. I'm having twins so had to be consultant led
4. I have no option as I am high risk anyway and even if I could choose, Bridgnorth is closed. I would like my aftercare to be at Bridgnorth x3
5. Wrexham Maelor x 8
6. Impossible to book at Ludlow as I never know if it's going to be open or closed
7. Constantly changing due to closures so it's looking like it will be Telford
8. Would prefer Ludlow MLU but may have to choose a home birth
9. Booked for RSH but depends if the work is completed so it may be Telford
10. Still undecided
11. Chester x1
12. Homebirth against medical advice

# Q9: If you are booked to have your baby at Telford Consultant Unit was this your choice or because of medical need?

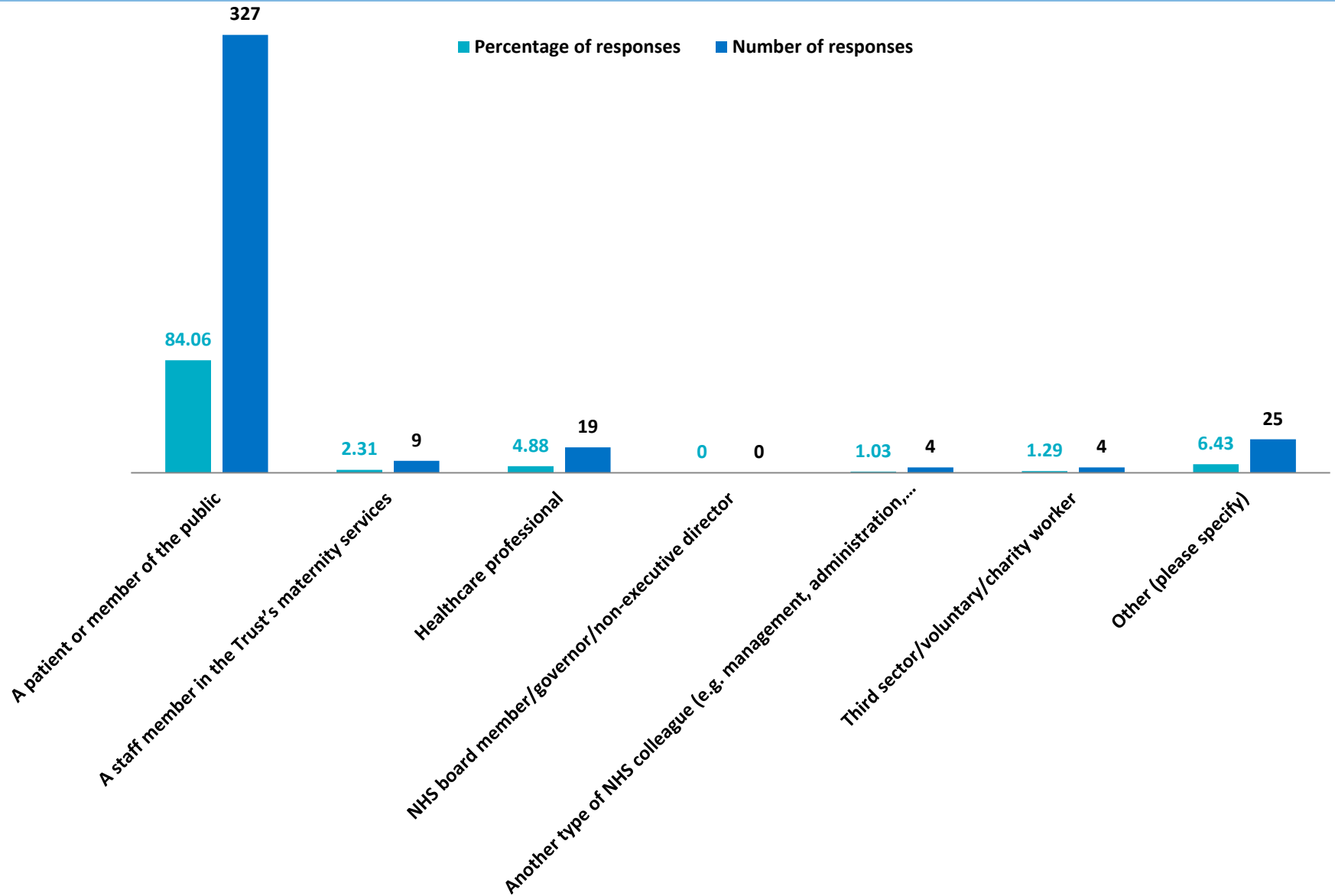
■ Percentage of responses ■ Number of responses



## Q10: What is your postcode?

<b>Anon</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CH</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CV</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>DY</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>HR</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>LD</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>LL</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Pontesbury</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>SY</b>	<b>252</b>
<b>TF</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>WR</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>WV</b>	<b>89</b>

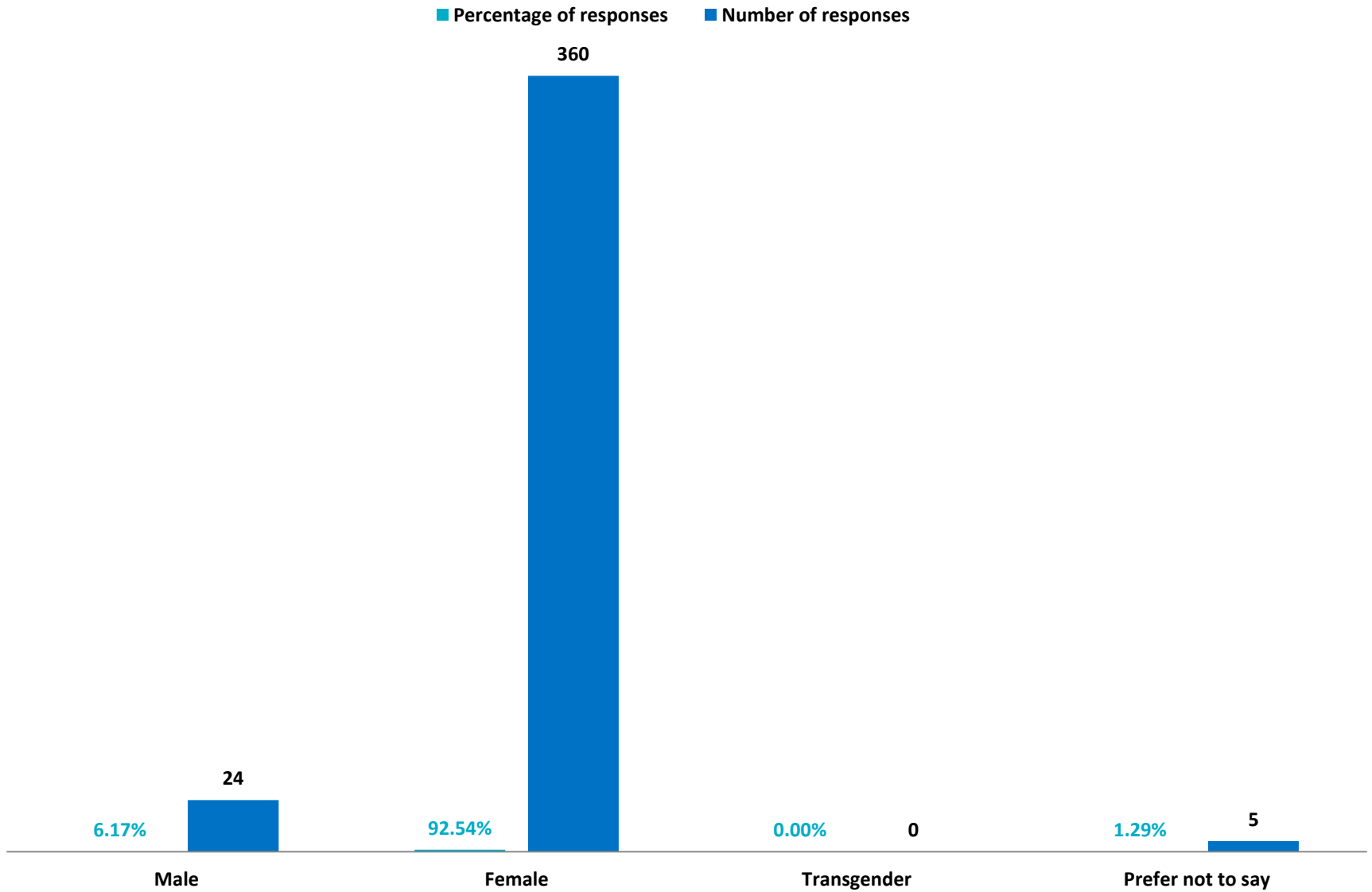
# Q11: Which of the following best describes you?



## Q11: Which of the following best describes you? – “Other” responses only

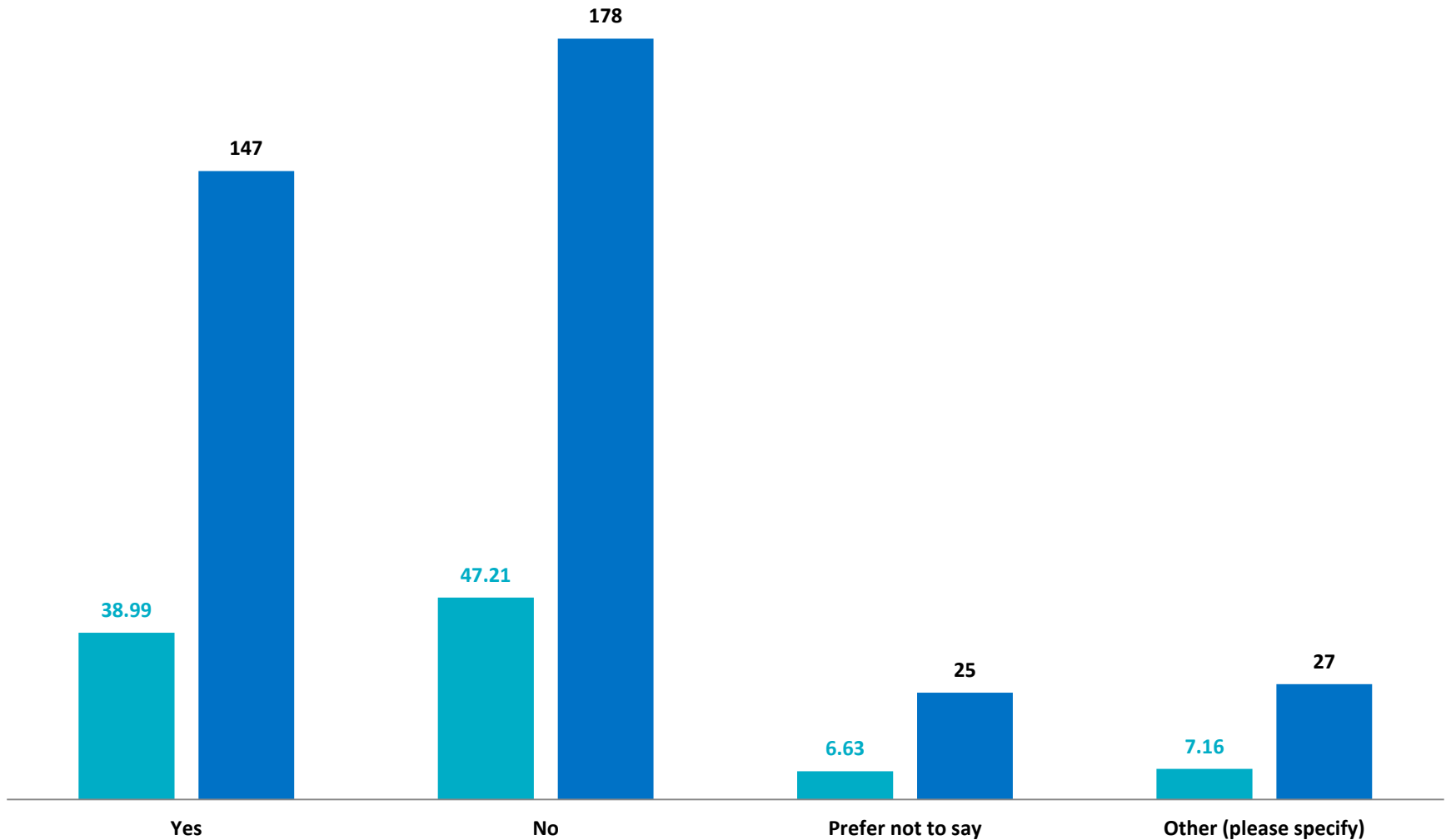
1. Midwife in another Trust
2. Retired GP
3. Ex healthcare professional who worked in SaTH
4. Mother/Grandmother of a service user
5. Parent who has previously delivered on MLUs
6. Retired ex NHS
7. Previous user of the service
8. Former secretary of the 1980's Ad Hoc Committee
9. Student Midwife
10. Healthcare Professional at RJAH
11. Resident of Gobowen
12. Taxpayer

# Q12: What is your gender?



# Q13: If female, are you currently pregnant or have you given birth within the last 12 months?

■ Percentage of responses ■ Number of responses



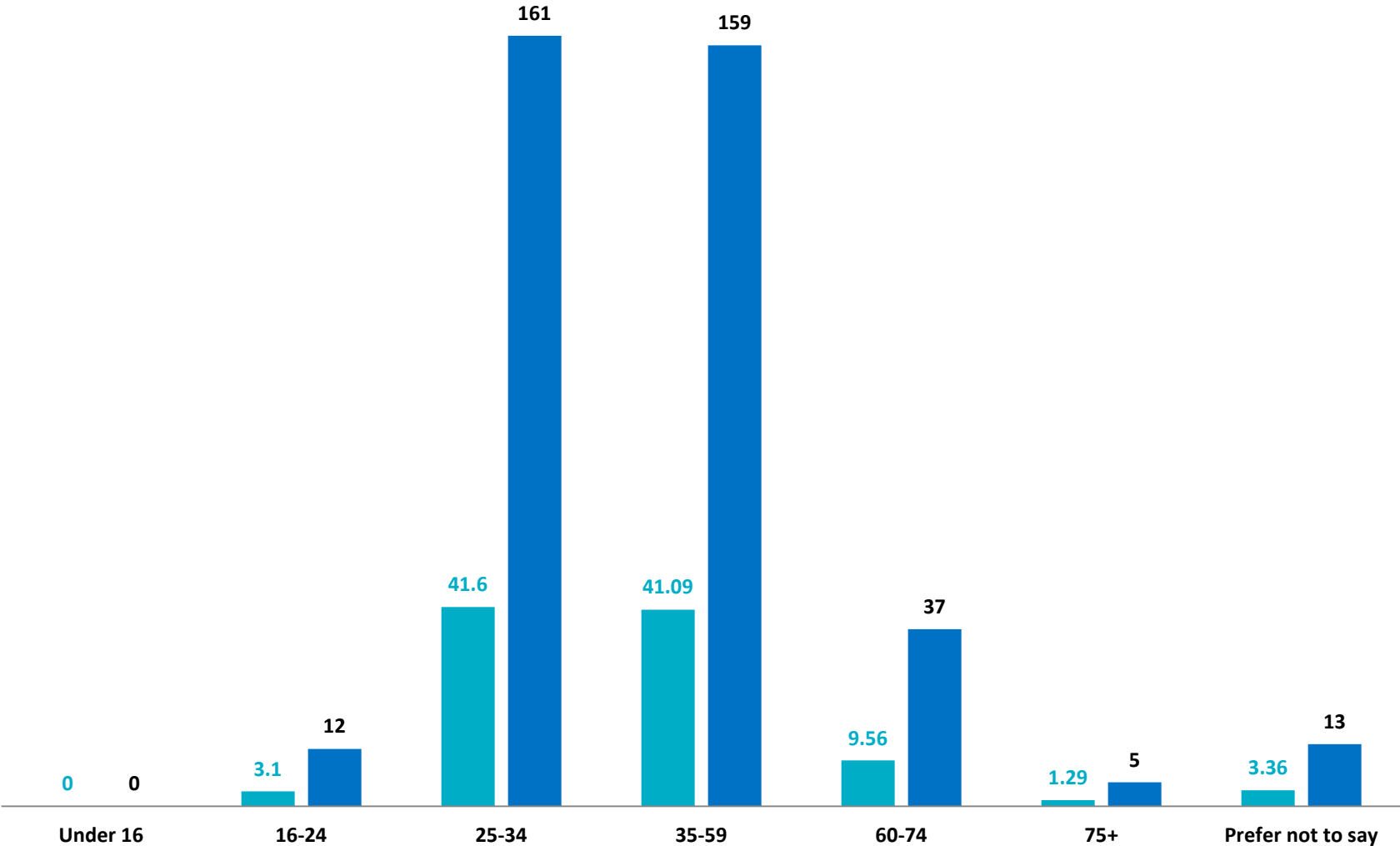


**Q13: If female, are you currently pregnant or have you given birth within the last 12 months? – “Other” responses only**

There was nothing relevant noted in the “other” selections

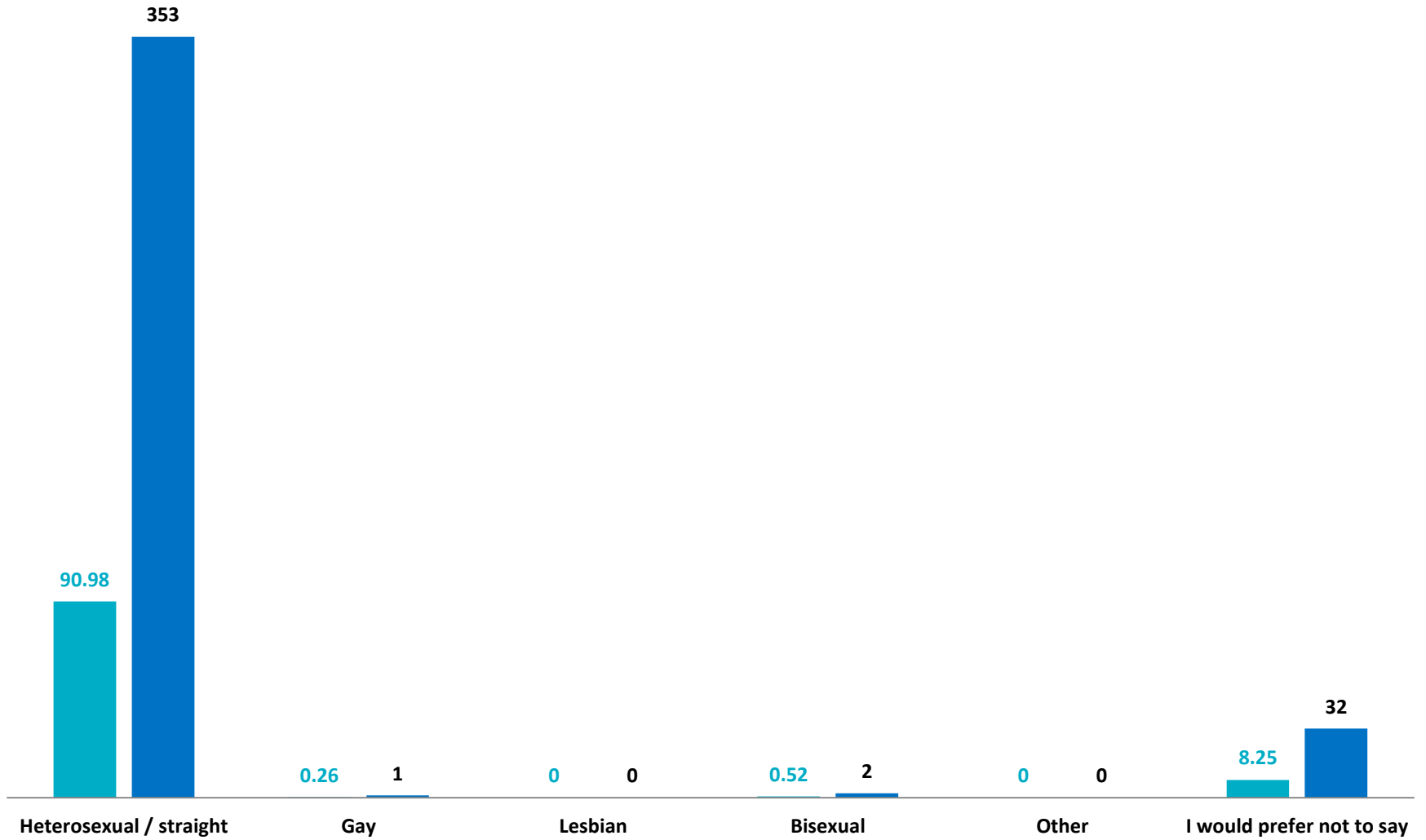
# Q14: What is your age?

■ Percentage of returns ■ Number of returns

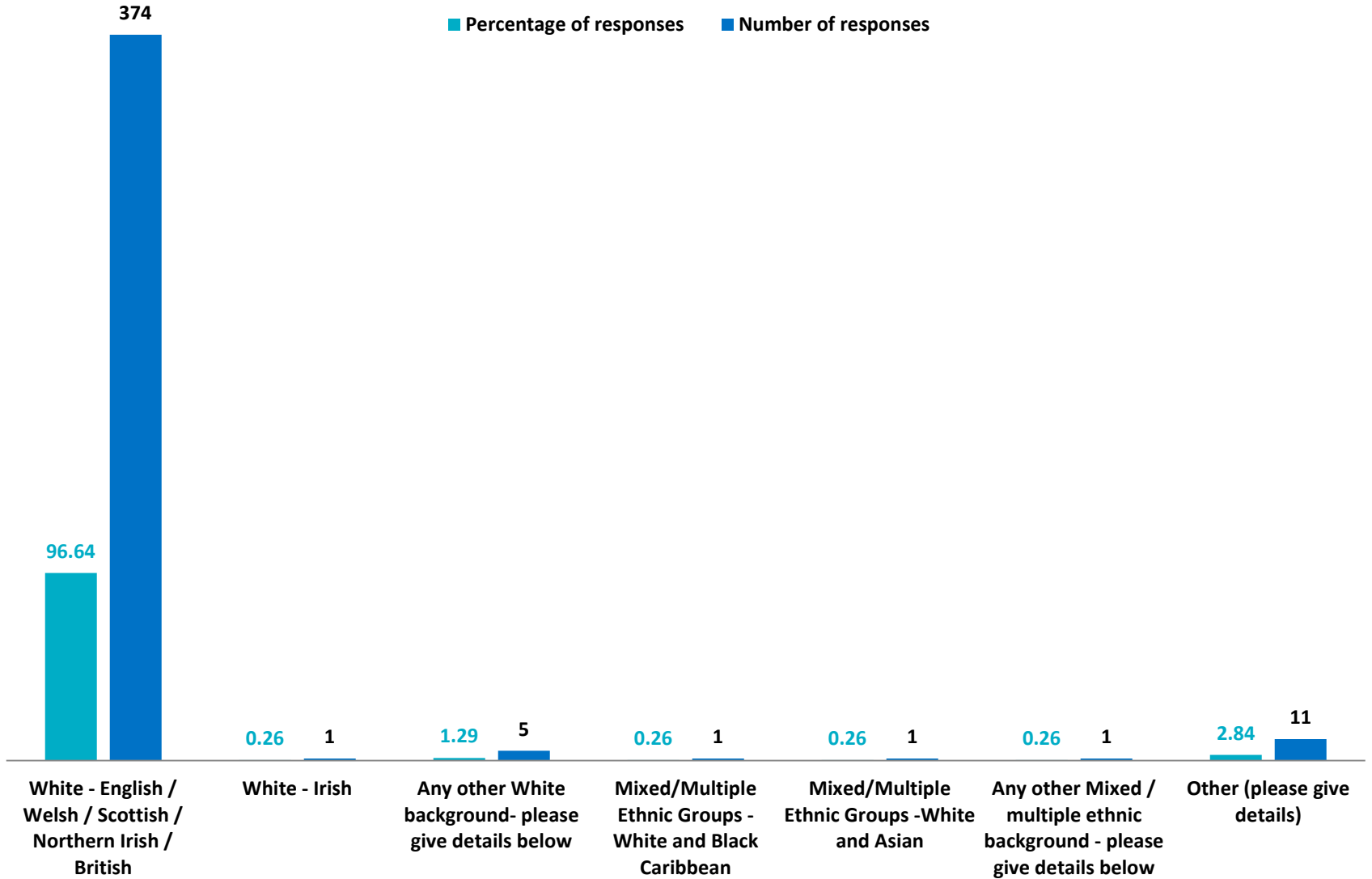


# Q15: Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

■ Percentage of responses ■ Number of responses



# Q16: What is your ethnicity?

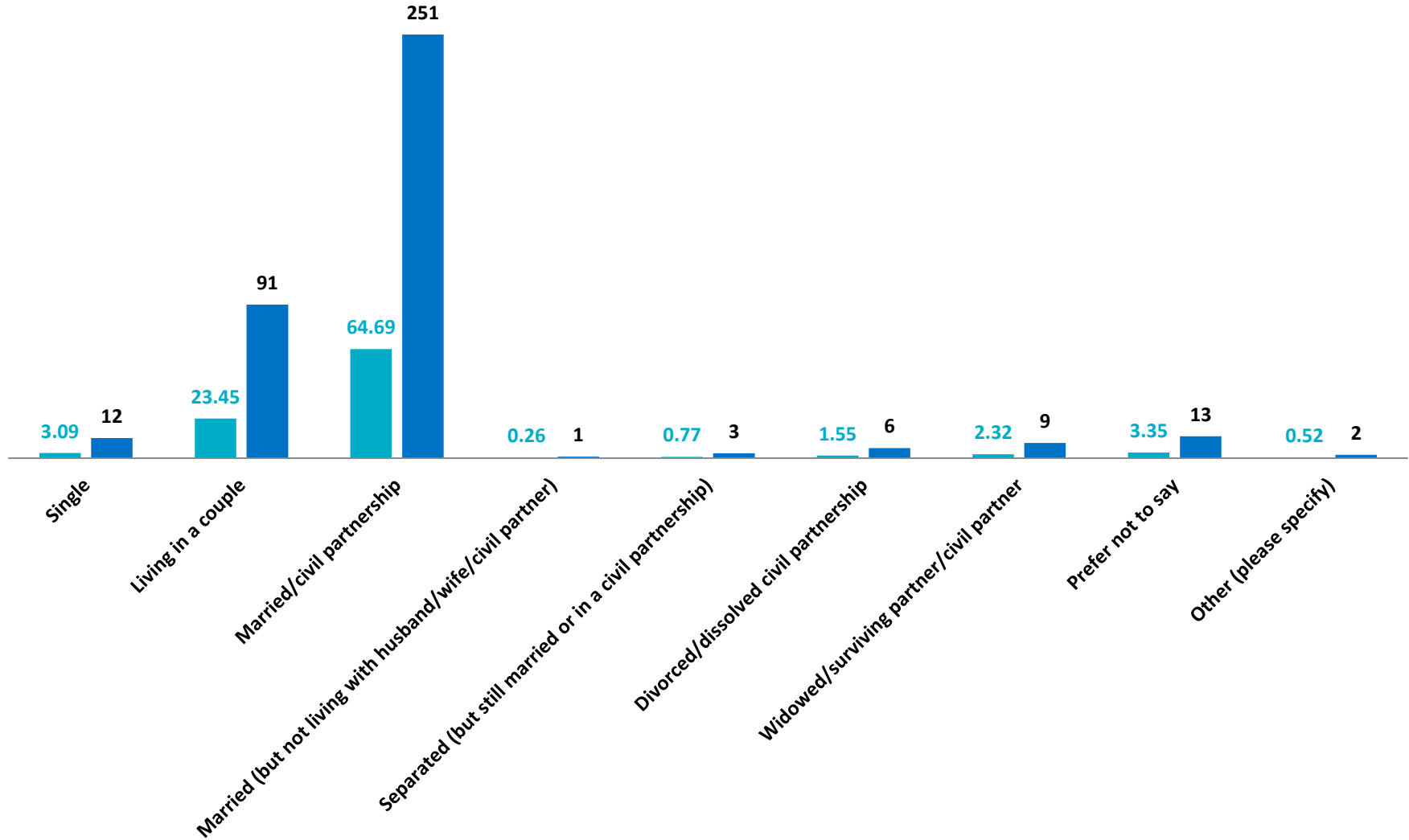


## Q16: What is your ethnicity? – narrative responses to ‘other’

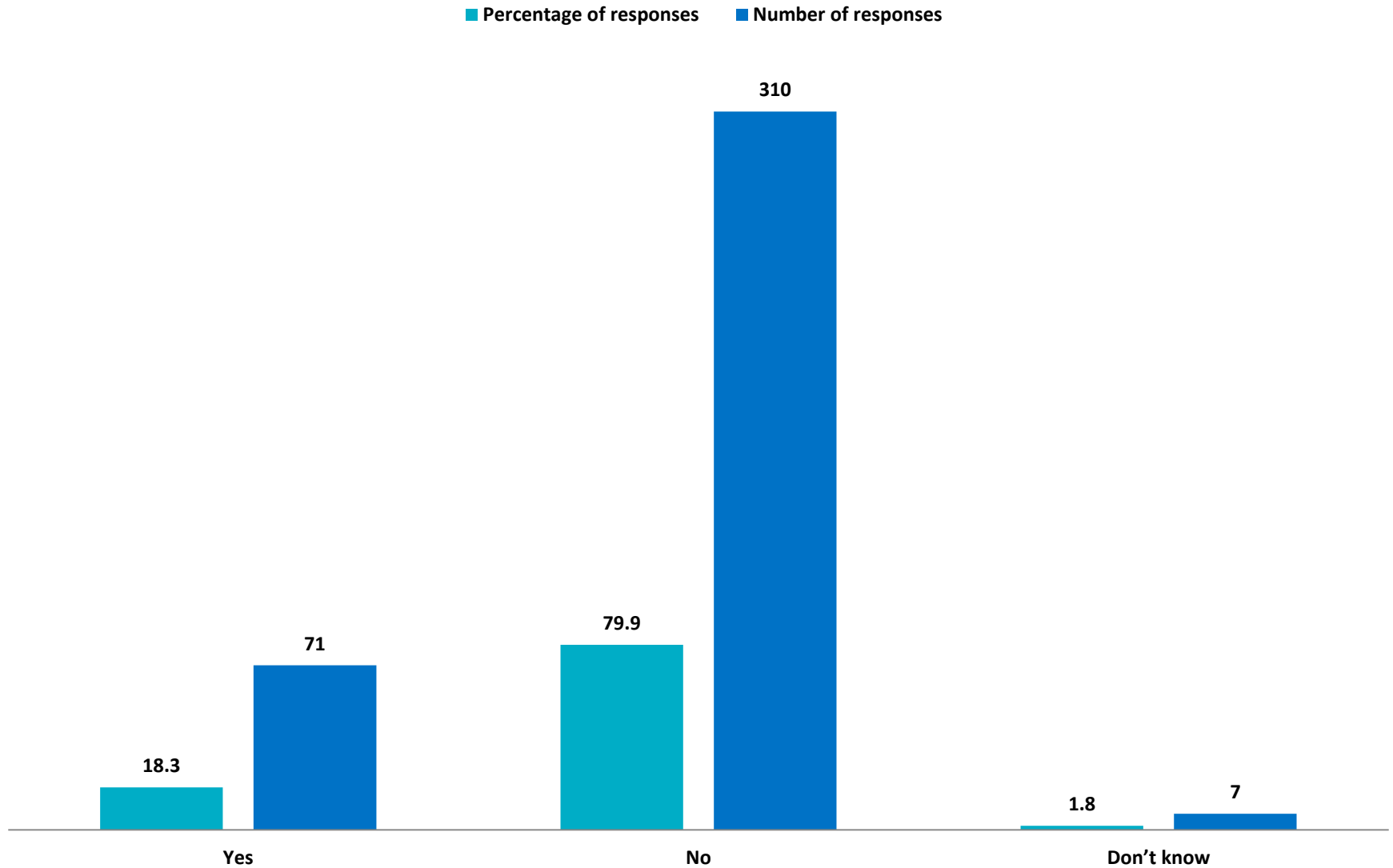
1. Majority of responses stated that this information was irrelevant
2. Western European
3. Eastern European

# Q17: Relationship status - are you...

■ Percentage of responses ■ Number of responses

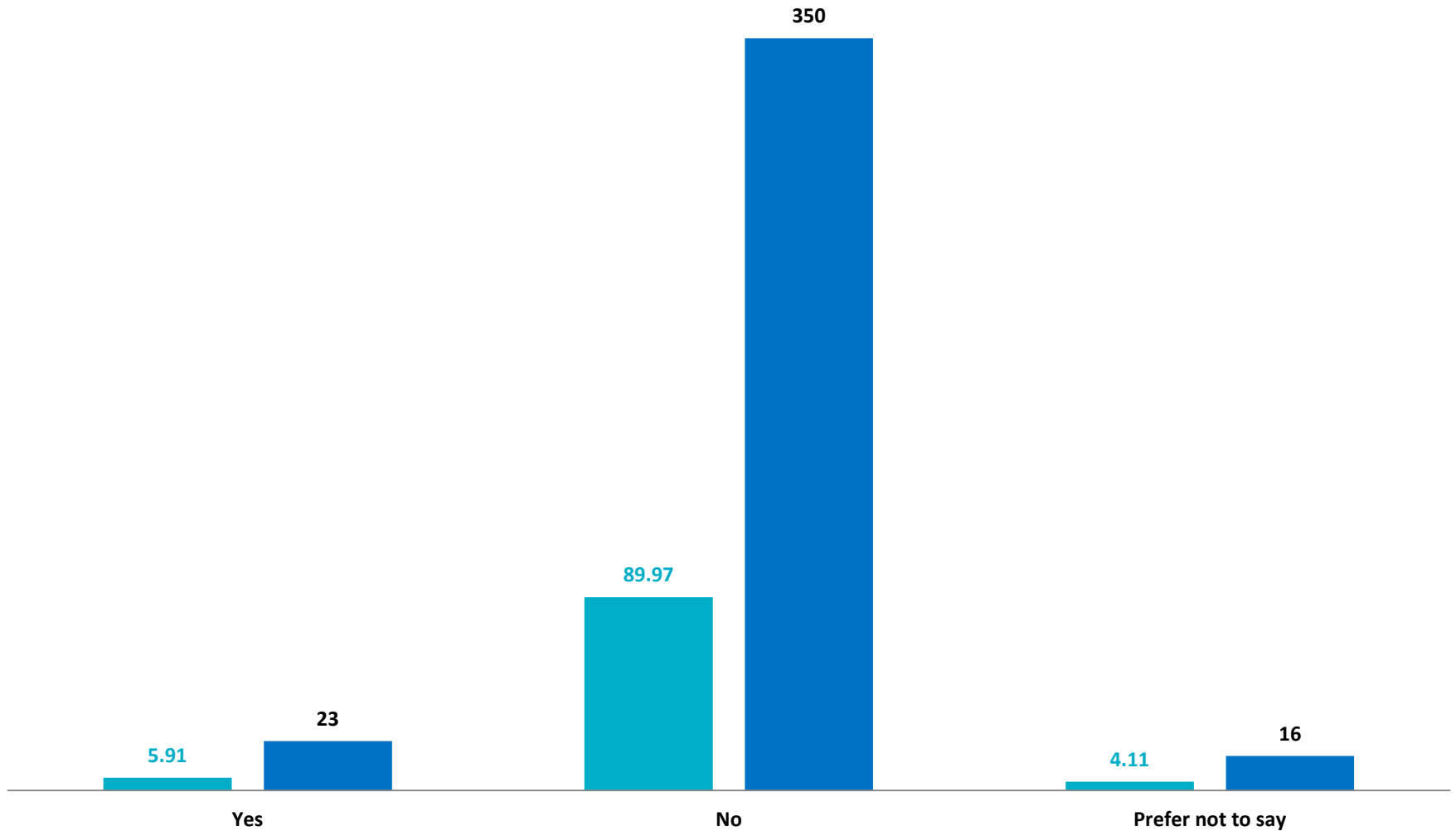


## Q18: Do you look after someone at home who needs support due to illness, disability or age?



# Q19: Do you consider yourself to have a disability?

■ Percentage of responses ■ Number of responses





## Q20: What is your religion?

