

Teaching variability during Ophthalmology Specialty Training: a survey across all 24 deaneries in the UK

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INTRODUCTION

- RCOphth curriculum ensures residents are equipped with theoretical knowledge and practical skills to achieve CCT; setting guidelines on delivery, format, and quantity of teaching during Ophthalmology Specialty Training
- Residents across the UK report **wide variation** in quality and quantity of teaching in their deaneries, but this has **not been previously formally assessed**

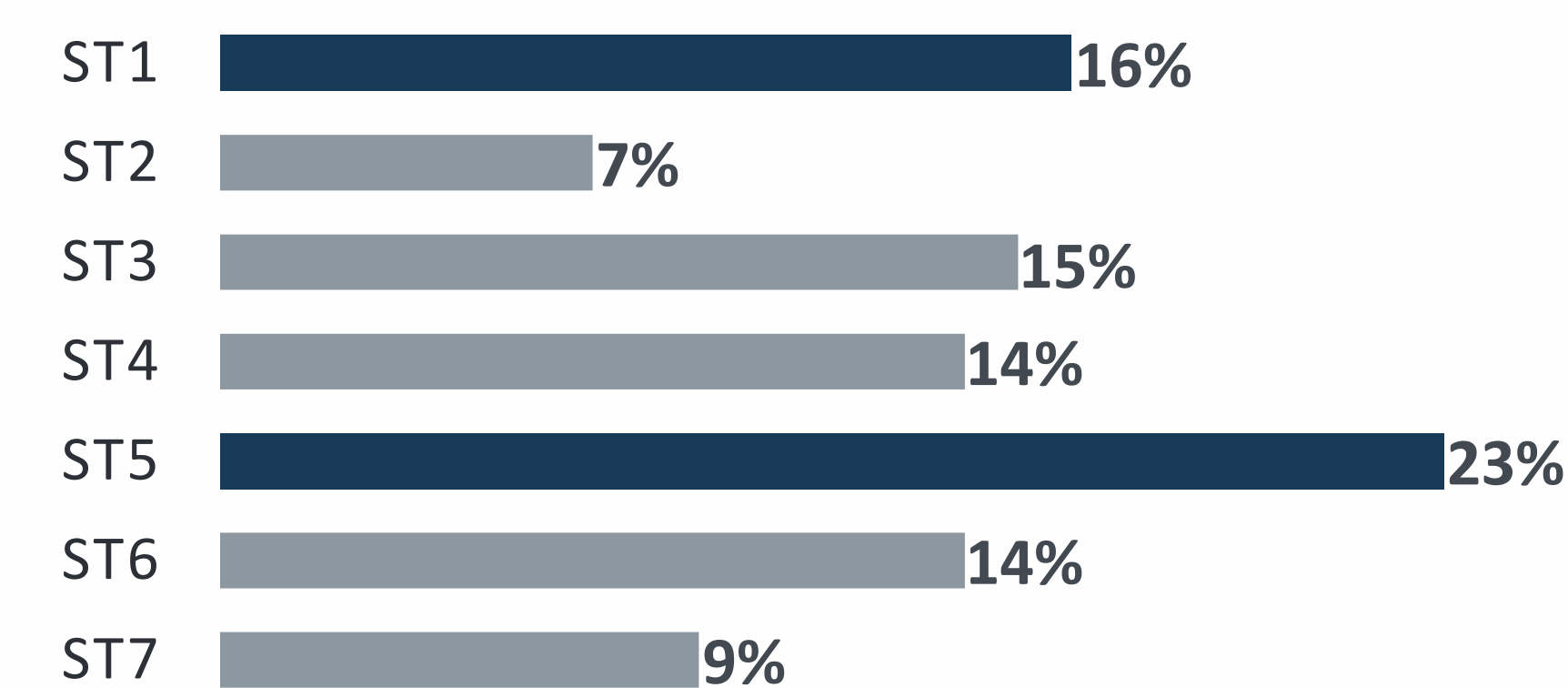
METHODOLOGY

- A **UK-wide survey** targeting ophthalmology residents was conducted to assess format, content, frequency, and quality of teaching
- 120 responses** from all **24 deaneries** were acquired

Deanery	Responses	Deanery	Responses
East Midlands – North	5	Scotland – East	2
East Midlands – South	1	Scotland – North	3
East of England	10	Scotland - Southeast	1
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	8	Scotland – West	7
London – North	13	Severn	3
London – South	13	Thames Valley	3
Mersey	7	Wales	3
North East	6	Wessex	3
North West	4	West Midlands	9
Northern Ireland	7	Yorkshire – North	2
Peninsula	5	Yorkshire – South	5

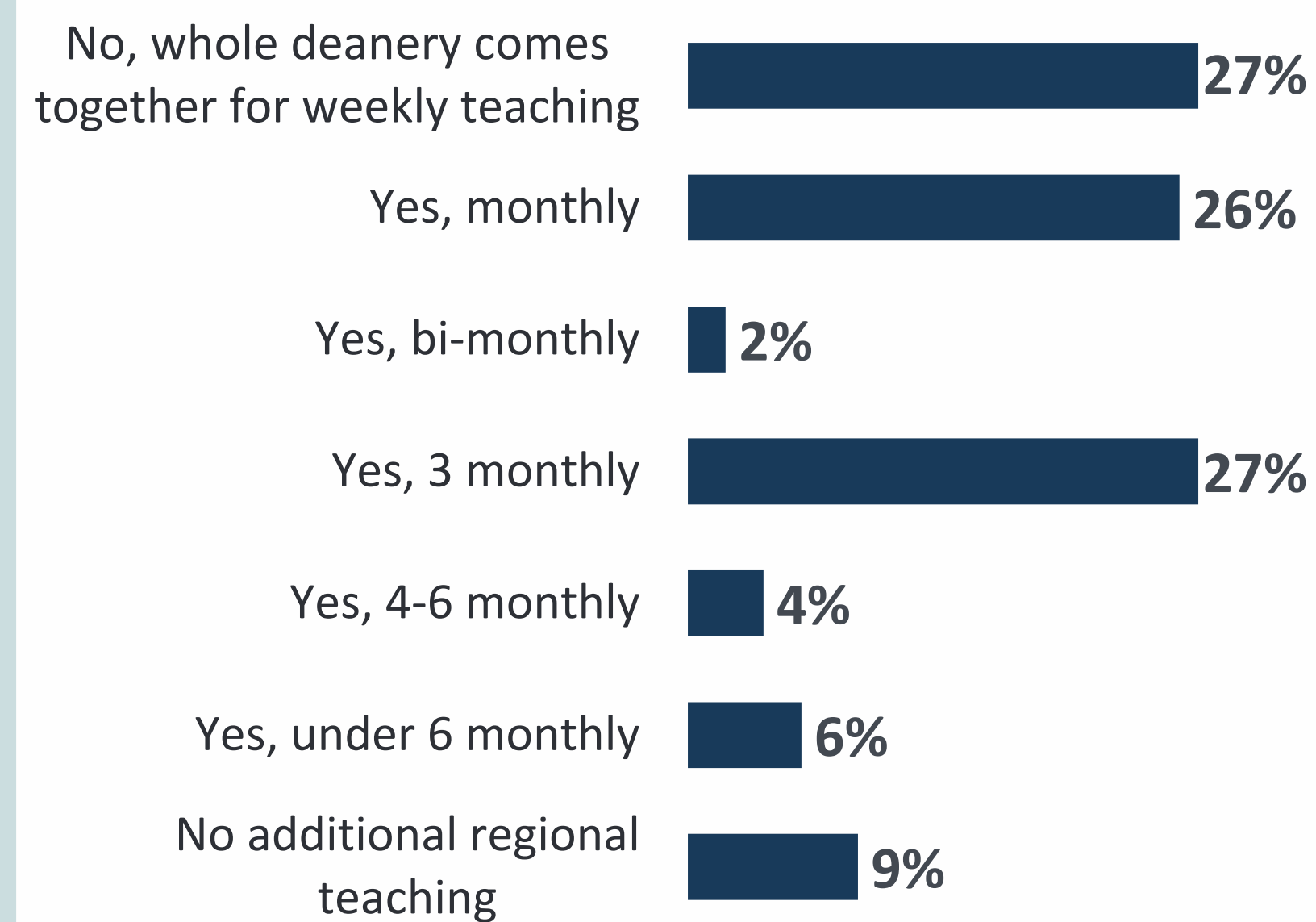
RESULTS

STAGE OF TRAINING OF RESPONDENTS

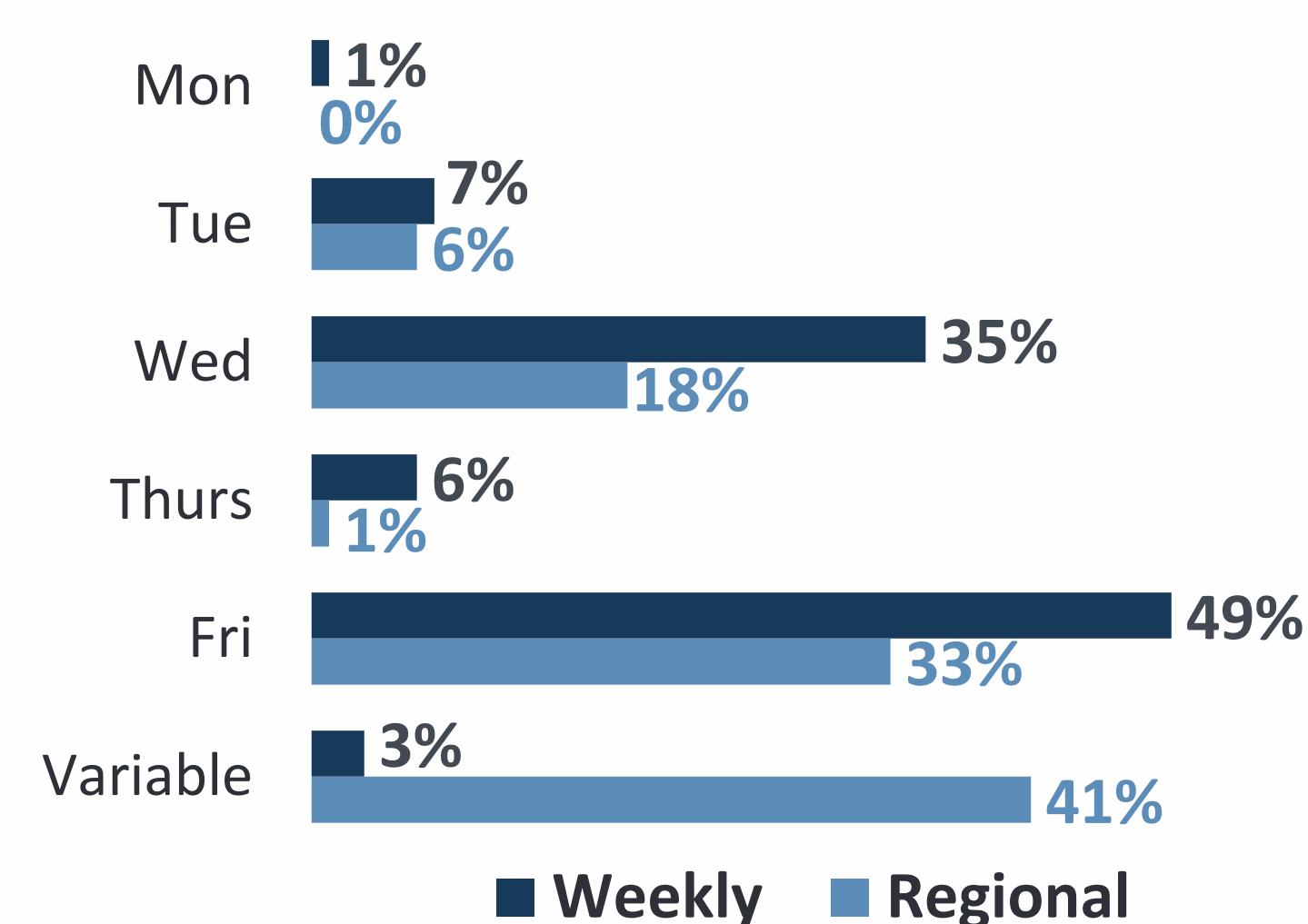


89% Receive weekly teaching
11% Do not receive weekly teaching

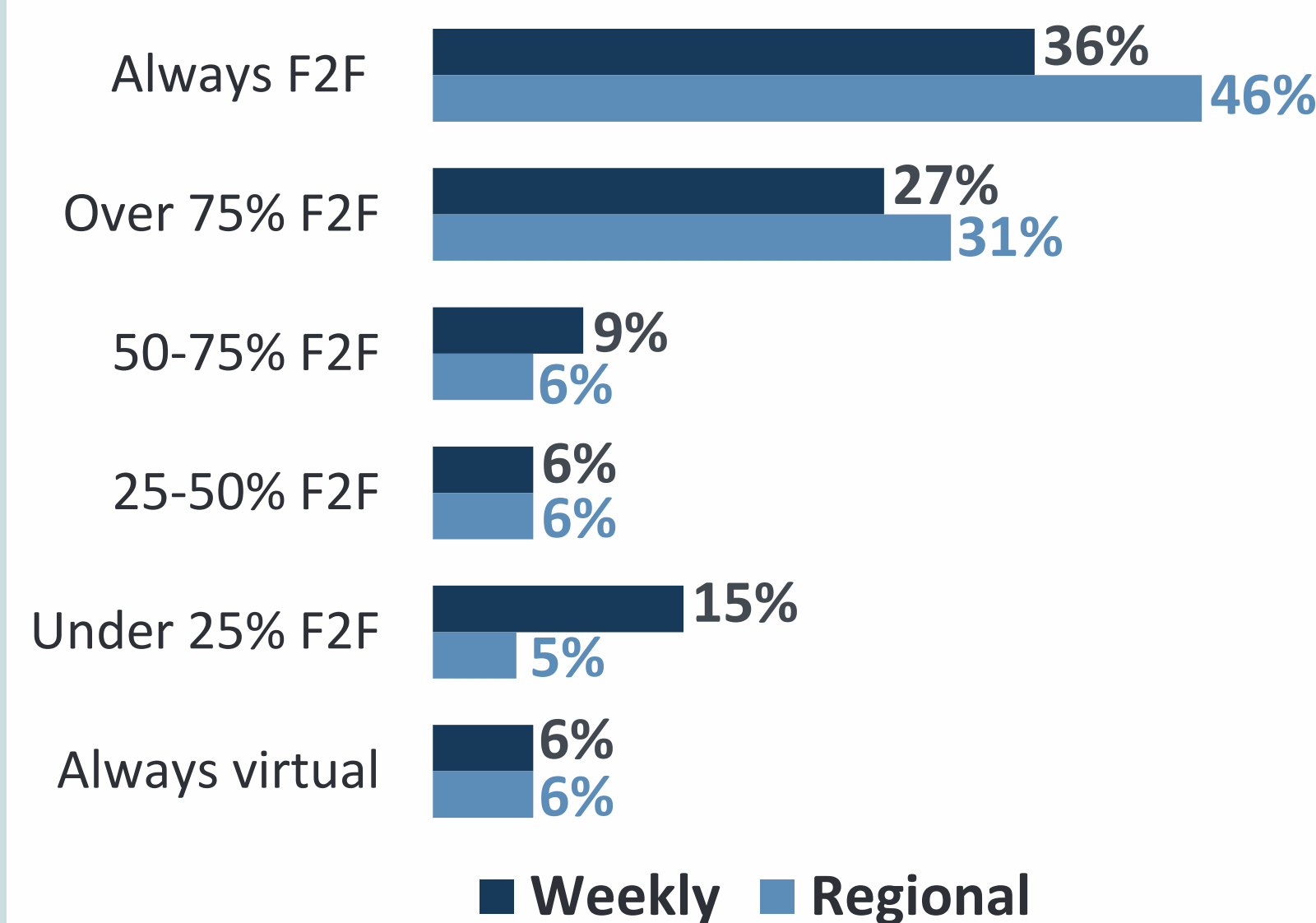
ADDITIONAL REGIONAL (DEANERY-WIDE) TEACHING FREQUENCY



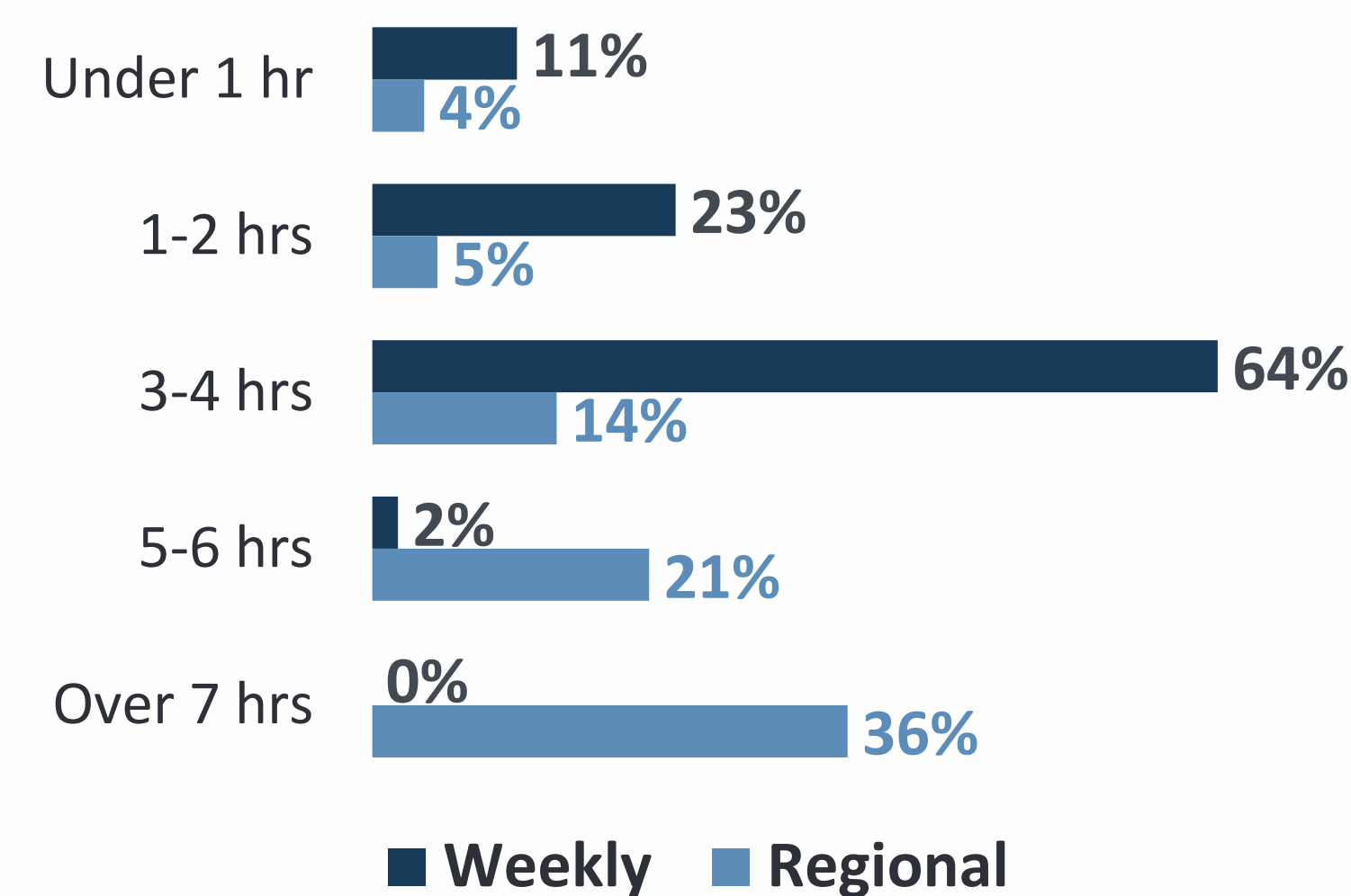
DAY OF WEEKLY AND REGIONAL TEACHING



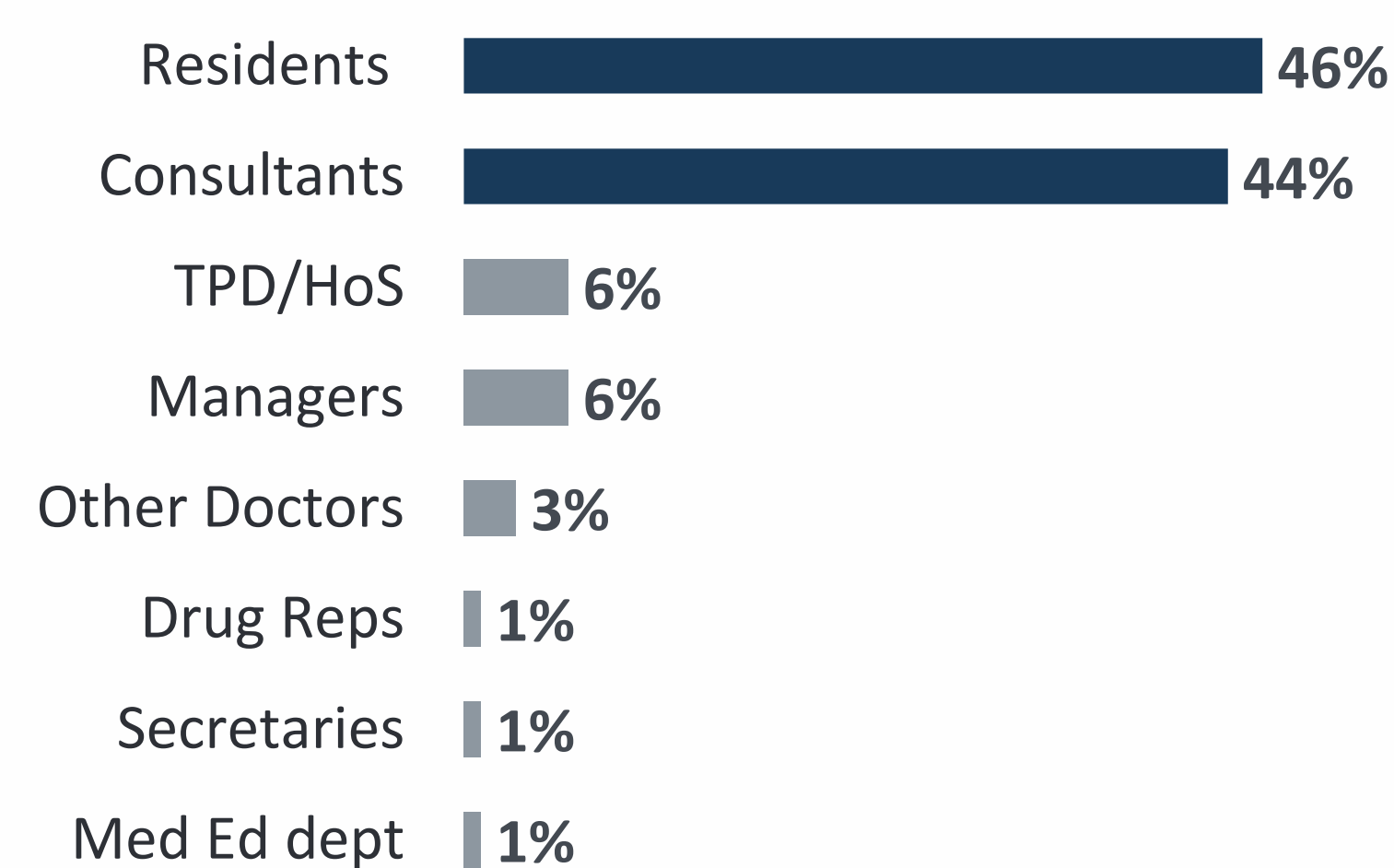
WEEKLY AND REGIONAL TEACHING: VIRTUAL VS FACE-TO- FACE



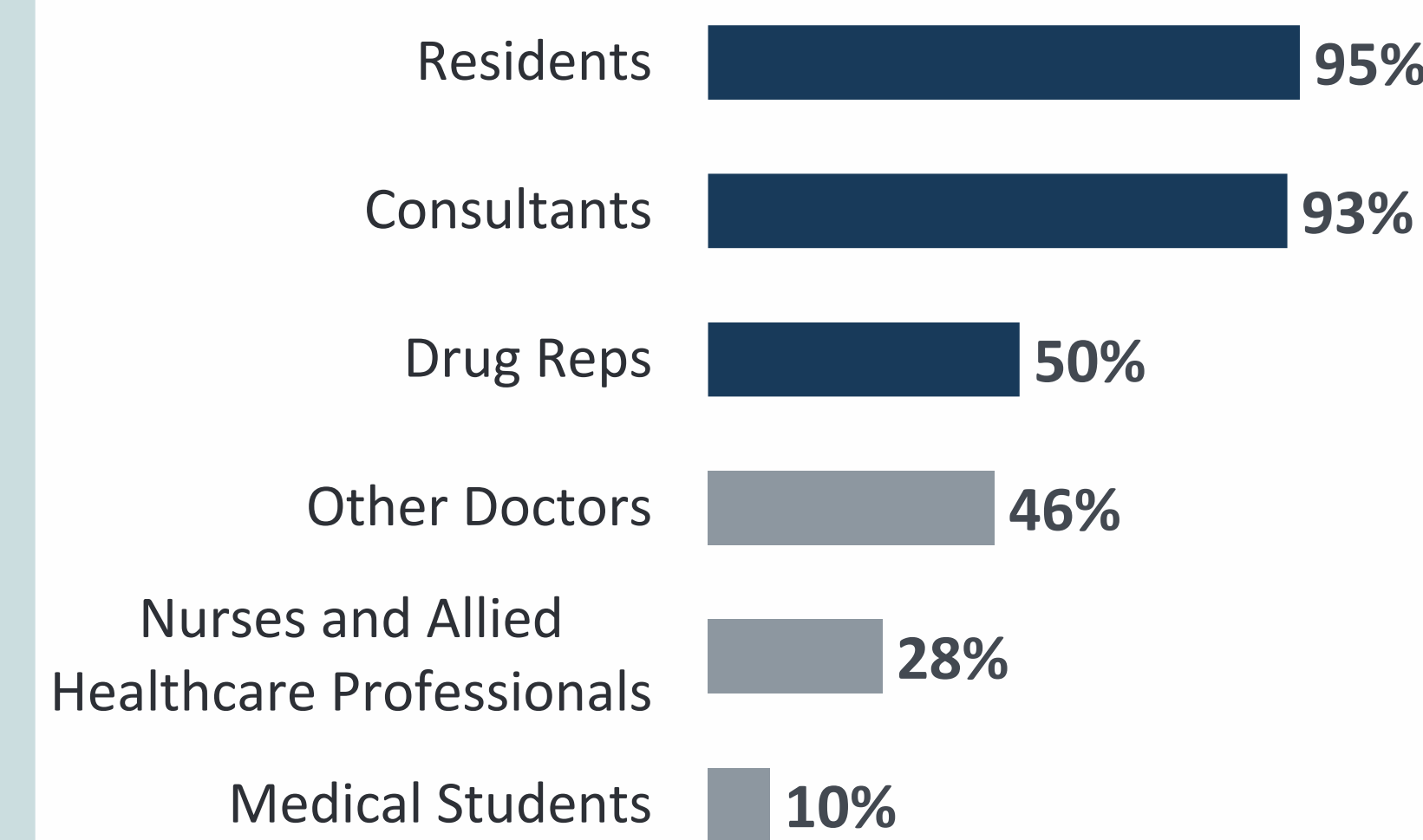
HOURS OF WEEKLY AND REGIONAL TEACHING



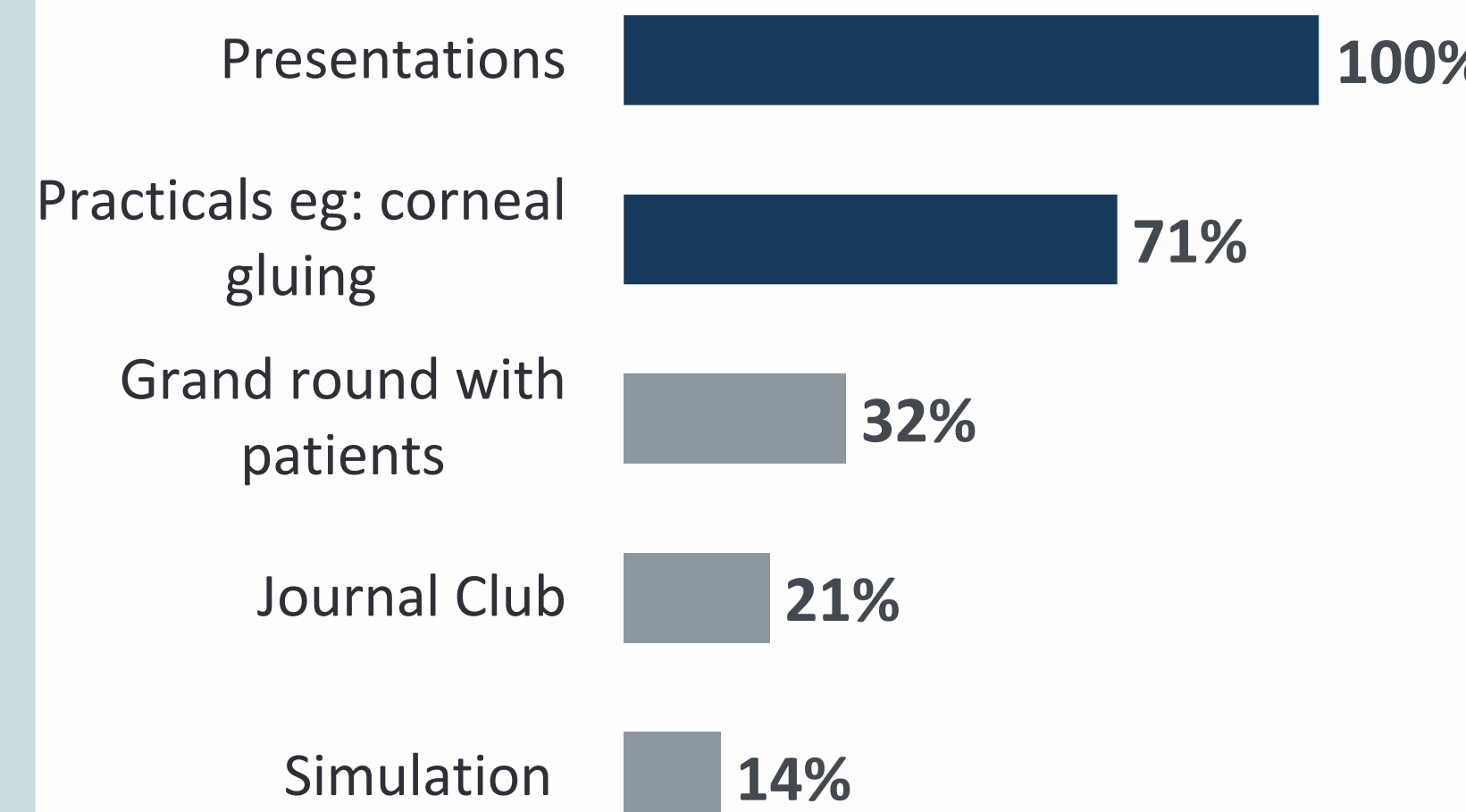
WHO ORGANISES THE WEEKLY TEACHING



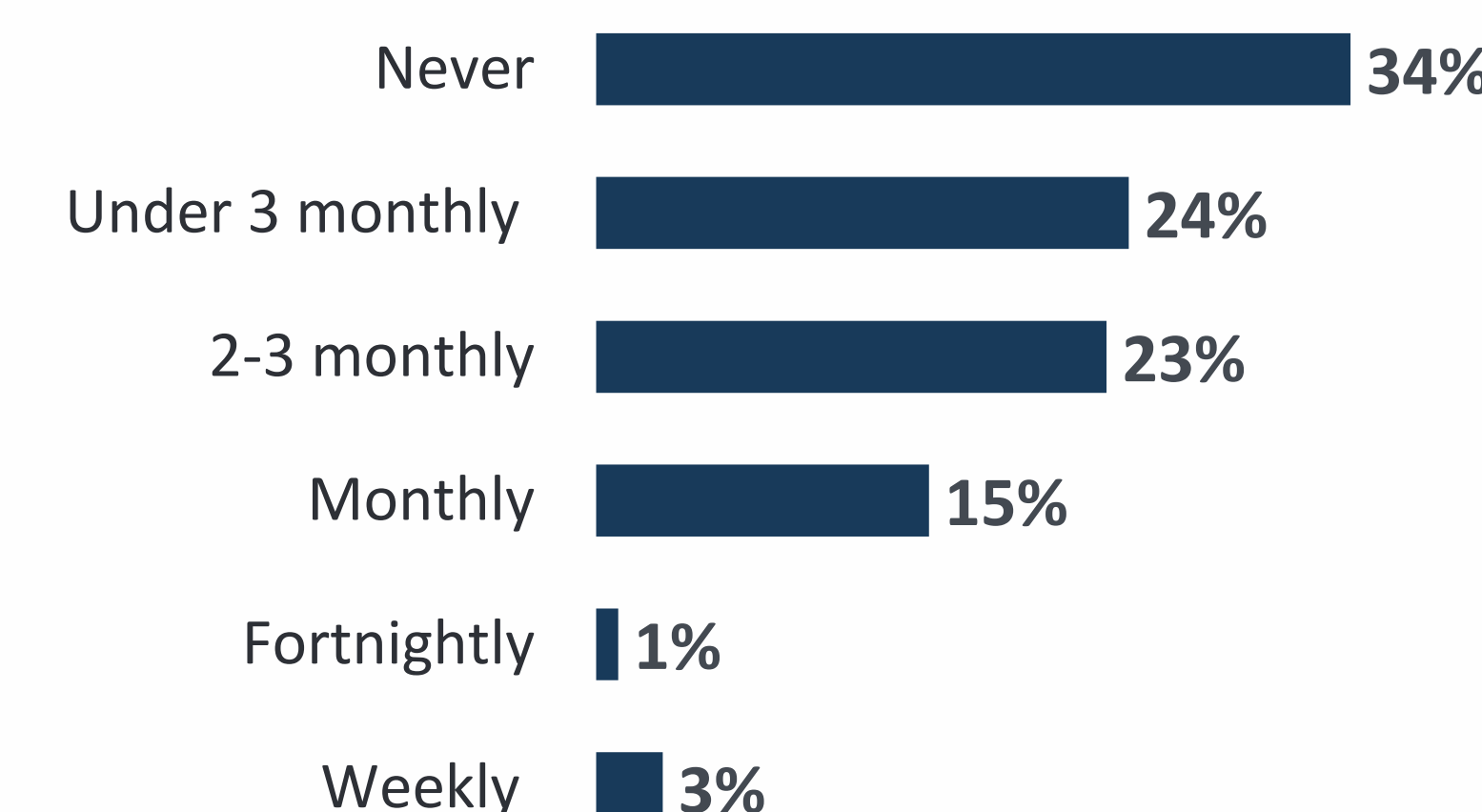
WHO PRESENTS AT WEEKLY TEACHING



TEACHING FORMATS RECEIVED IN THE LAST YEAR

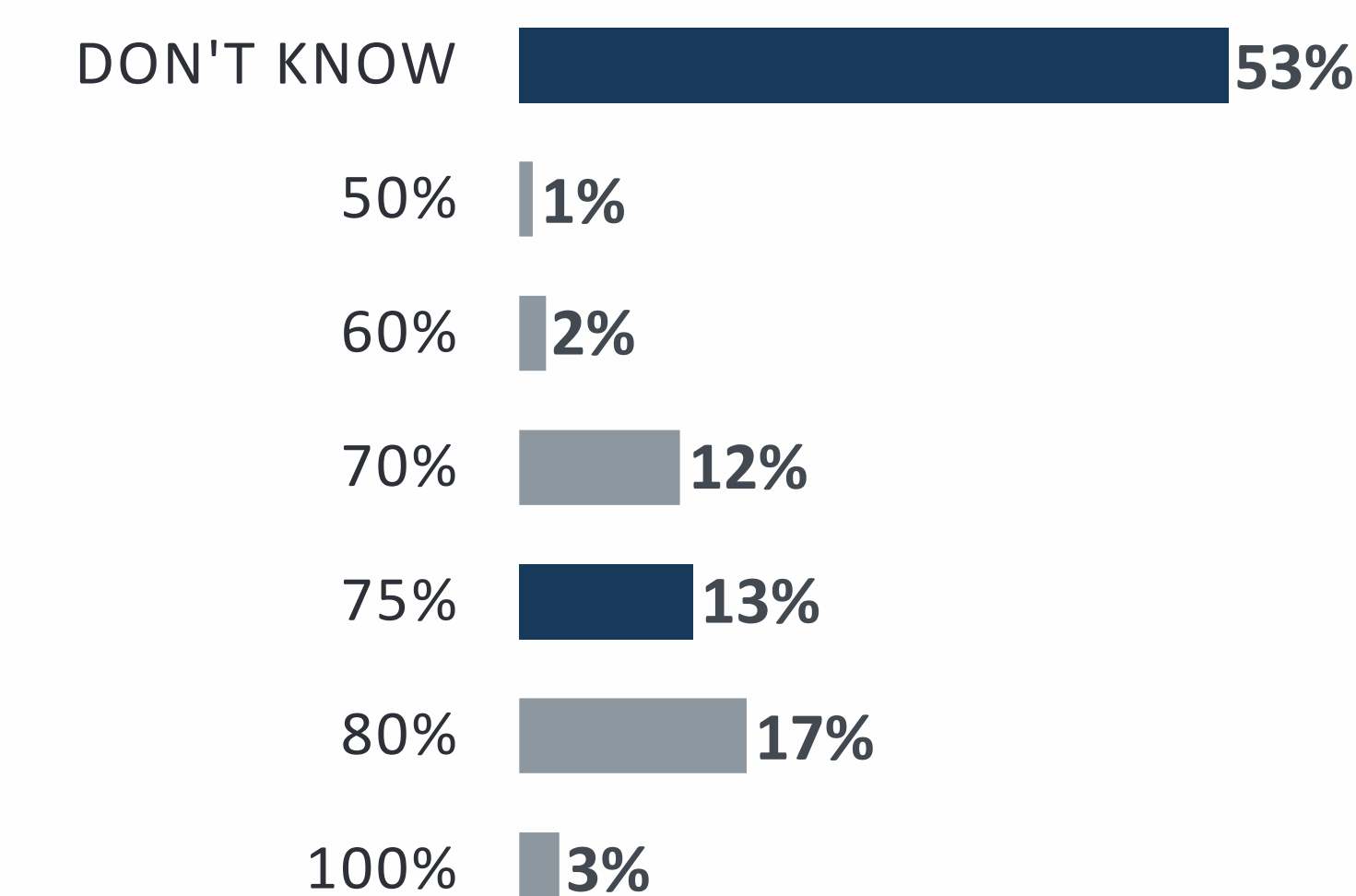


FREQUENCY OF BEING PULLED FROM TEACHING TO COVER CLINIC/ THEATRE / A&E

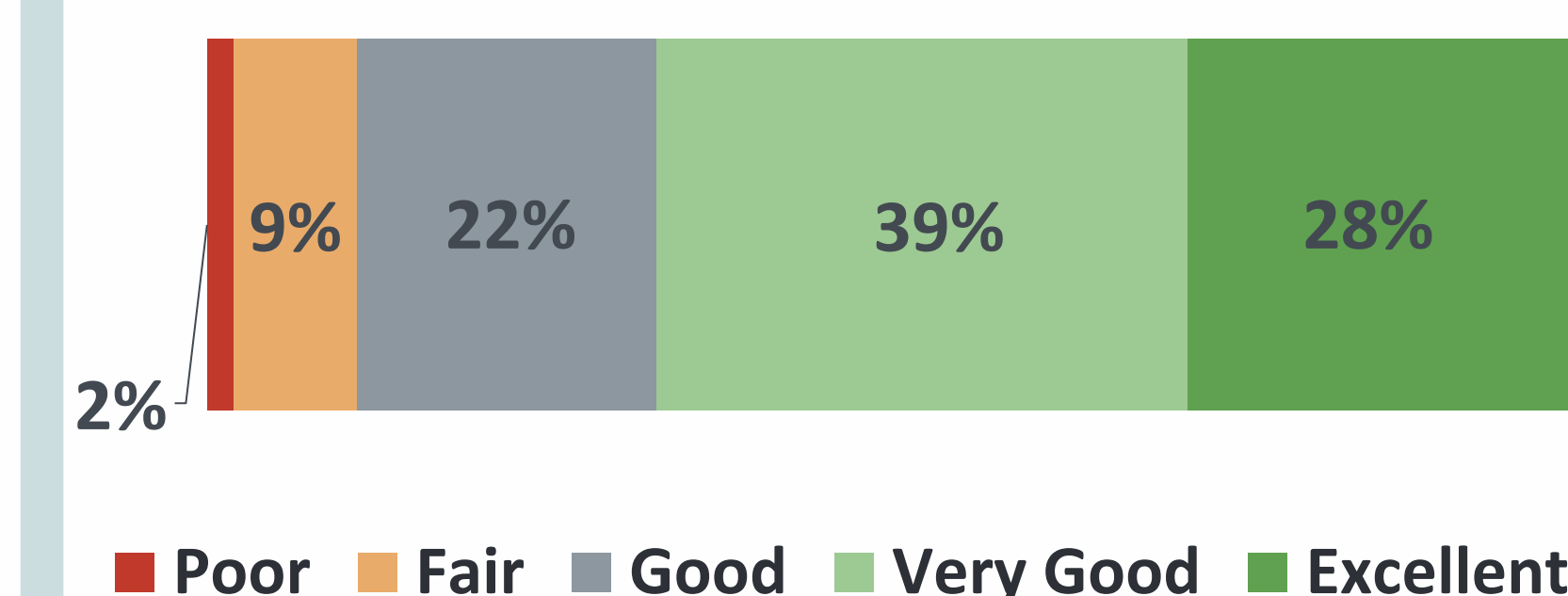


72% Take a register
28% No register

DO YOU KNOW THE MINIMUM ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENT FOR TEACHING



OVERALL QUALITY OF TEACHING IN THE LAST YEAR



POSITIVE COMMENTS

- "Really good we **know the schedule** for the whole year"
- "**Enthusiastic presenters** who put a lot of effort in"
- "Well attended by **consultants** with **lively discussion/debates**"
- "**OSCEs with real patients** are great"
- "**Bi-yearly competitions** for surgery videos and research"
- "Varied, complex **tertiary centre cases** for all subspecialties"
- "**Applicable to all levels**, medical student to world-leading experts"
- "**Virtual** extremely **helpful** for my **learning difficulty** as I can record it, or I miss half of what is being taught"
- "Easily **accessible** on blackboard"
- "**Non-judgemental**, proactive atmosphere"

NEGATIVE COMMENTS

- "Often clear that the **teacher is not prepared** regardless of having plenty of notice. Essentially, I go there for some sandwiches and small talk. If I learn a bullet point that's a bonus"
- "**Cancelled** with poor reason e.g. they did not know teaching was on"
- "Trainees can be **on rota for clinic**, expected to **watch** teaching in **RSTA**"
- "Have to **apply for study leave** which is **burdensome**"
- "Hospital **2 hours away** from teaching site so often **unable to attend**"
- "**No option for virtual** despite repeated requests"
- "1 in 3 rota to present so **intense** and a **lot of time** spent researching and **making PowerPoints**"
- "**Multiple consultants** often ask you to present which can get exhausting, they **don't present themselves**"
- "**Expert talks on random research** difficult to follow as junior trainee"
- "**Never cover the basics**, always the weird and wonderful diagnoses"

DISCUSSION

- Highest rated deaneries** for quality of teaching: Mersey (4.6/5), London-North (4.4/5), North West (4.2/5)
- 33% of UK residents **never have teaching cancelled**. For those who have cancellations, 81% have no alternative arranged
- Less taught subspecialties: Neuro-ophth and Uveitis**
- 77% of residents get **additional ophthalmology teaching** outside weekly and regional teaching
- 34% get combined teaching with other specialties e.g., **Neurology, Radiology**