# Remittances and the Dominican Republic

## Survey of Recipients in the Dominican Republic

## Survey of Senders in the United States

Columbia University

New York City

November 23, 2004

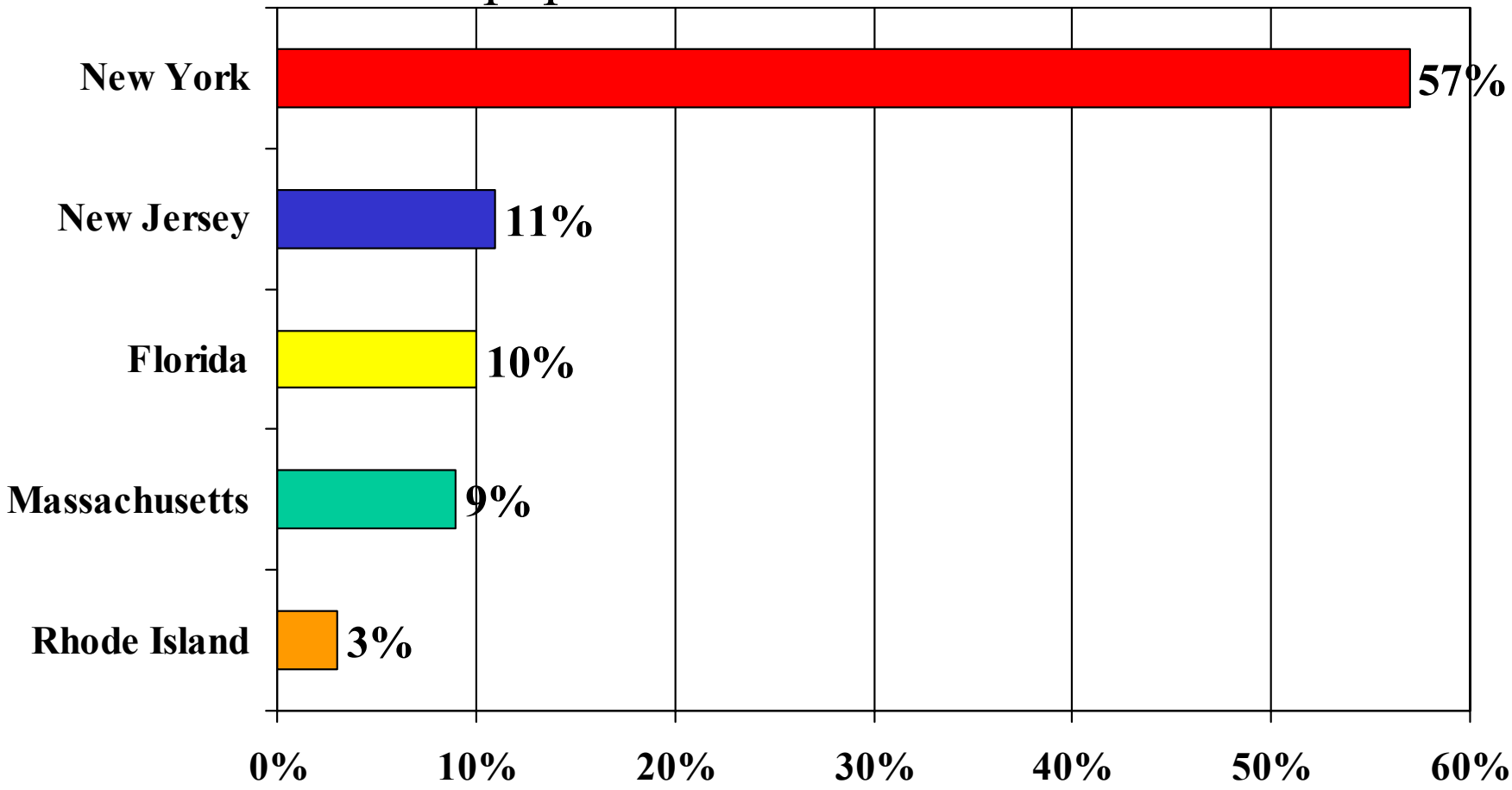
Bendixen & Associates

# I. The U.S. Sample

- National sample of Dominican adults in the United States.
- 801 national interviews conducted from October 18 to October 30 with a margin of error of 4 percentage points.
- 567 interviews of regular remittance senders.

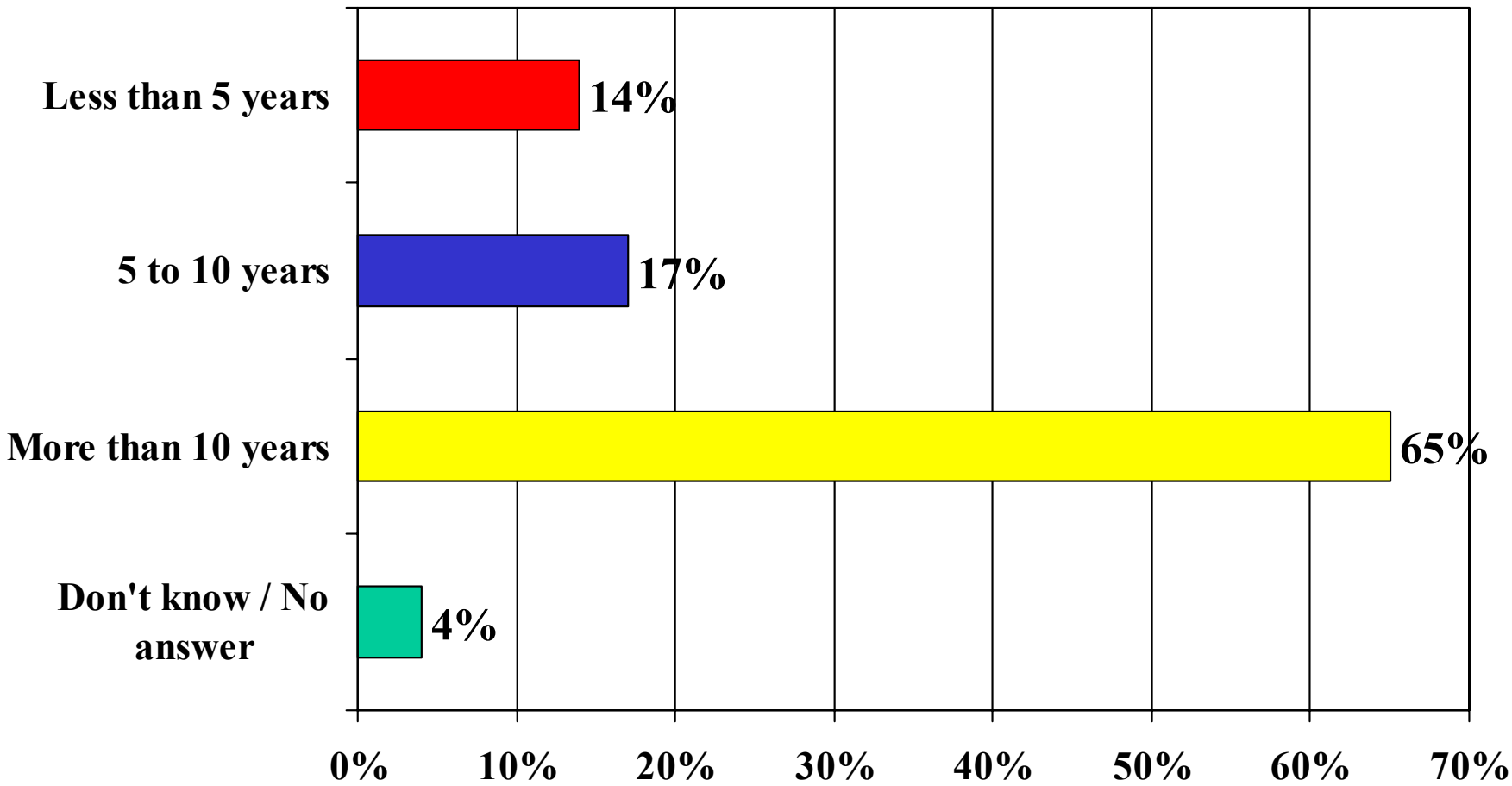
# States where interviews were conducted

Interviews were conducted in the 5 states where **90%** of the Dominican adult population resides in the United States

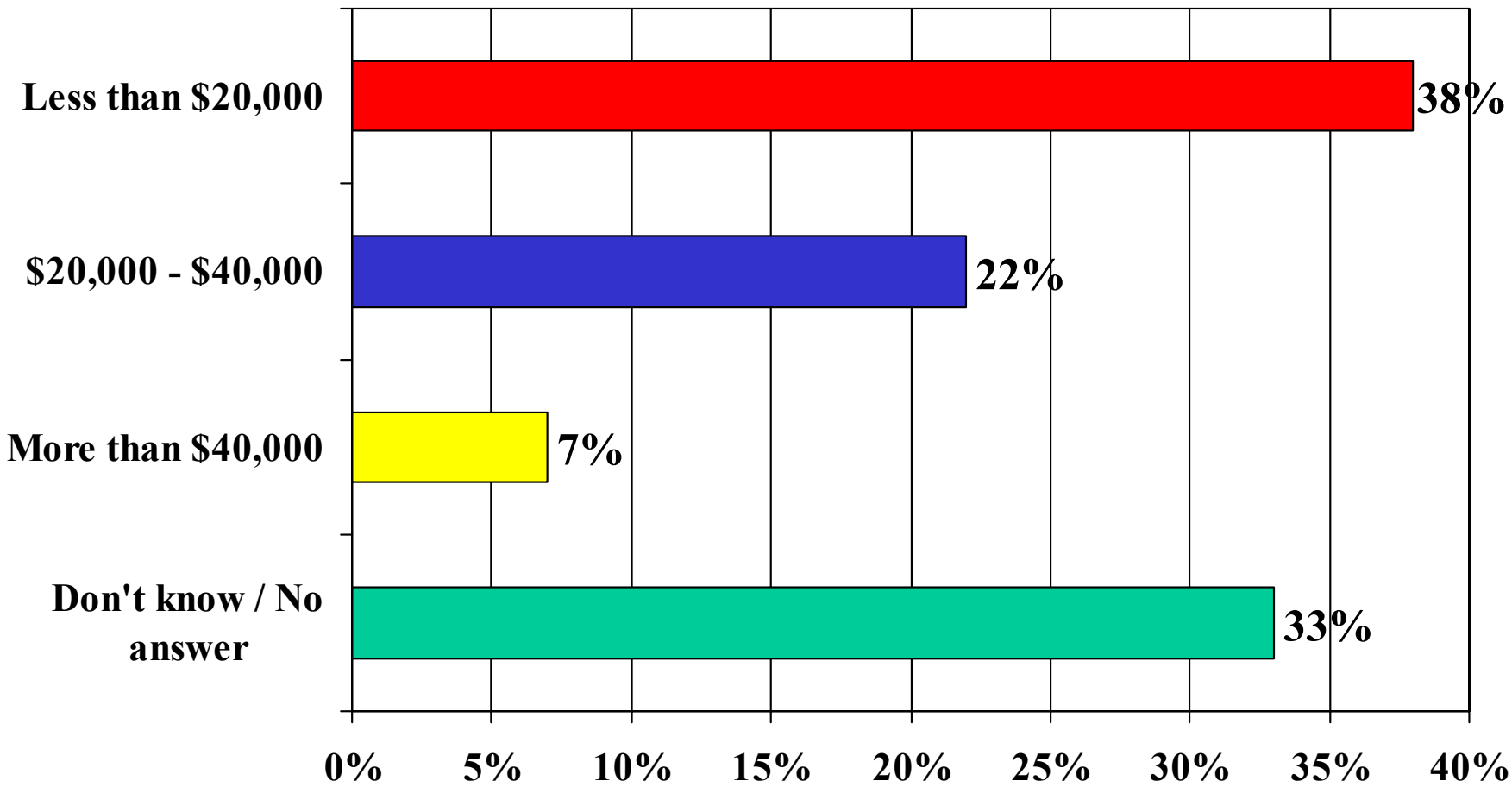


# II. Demographics of Dominican Adults in the United States that send Remittances on a Regular Basis

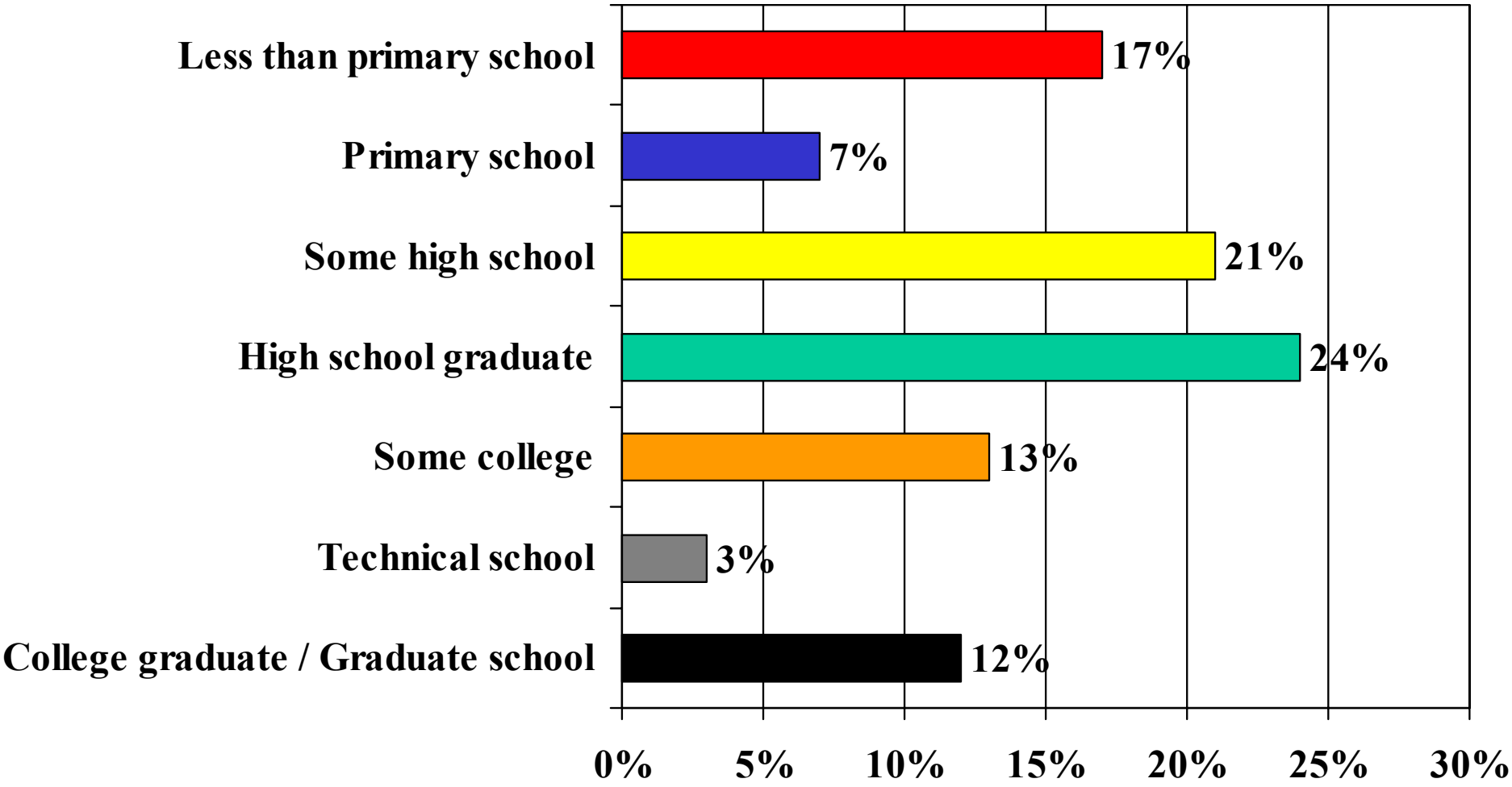
# Residency in the United States



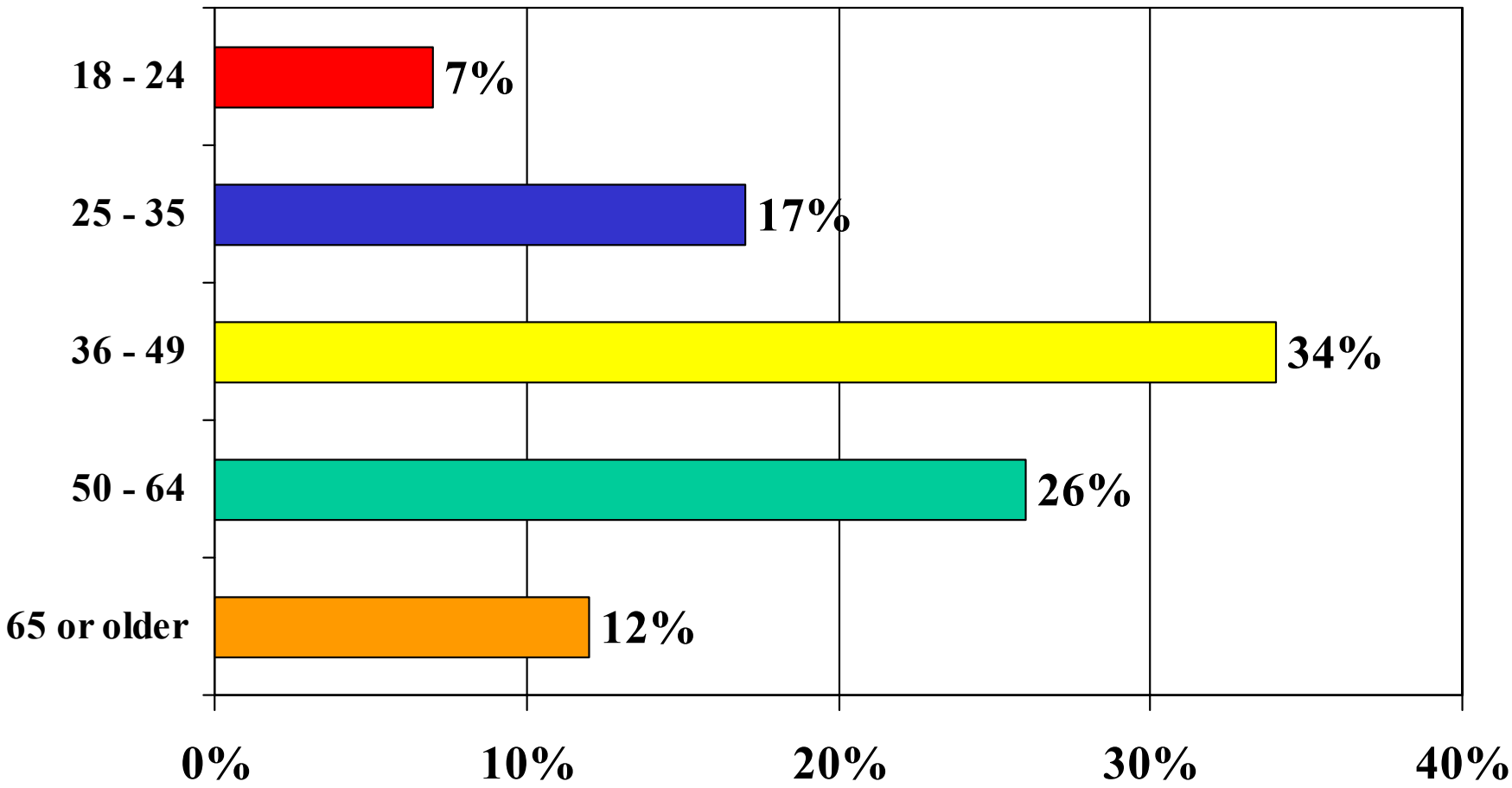
# Annual Income



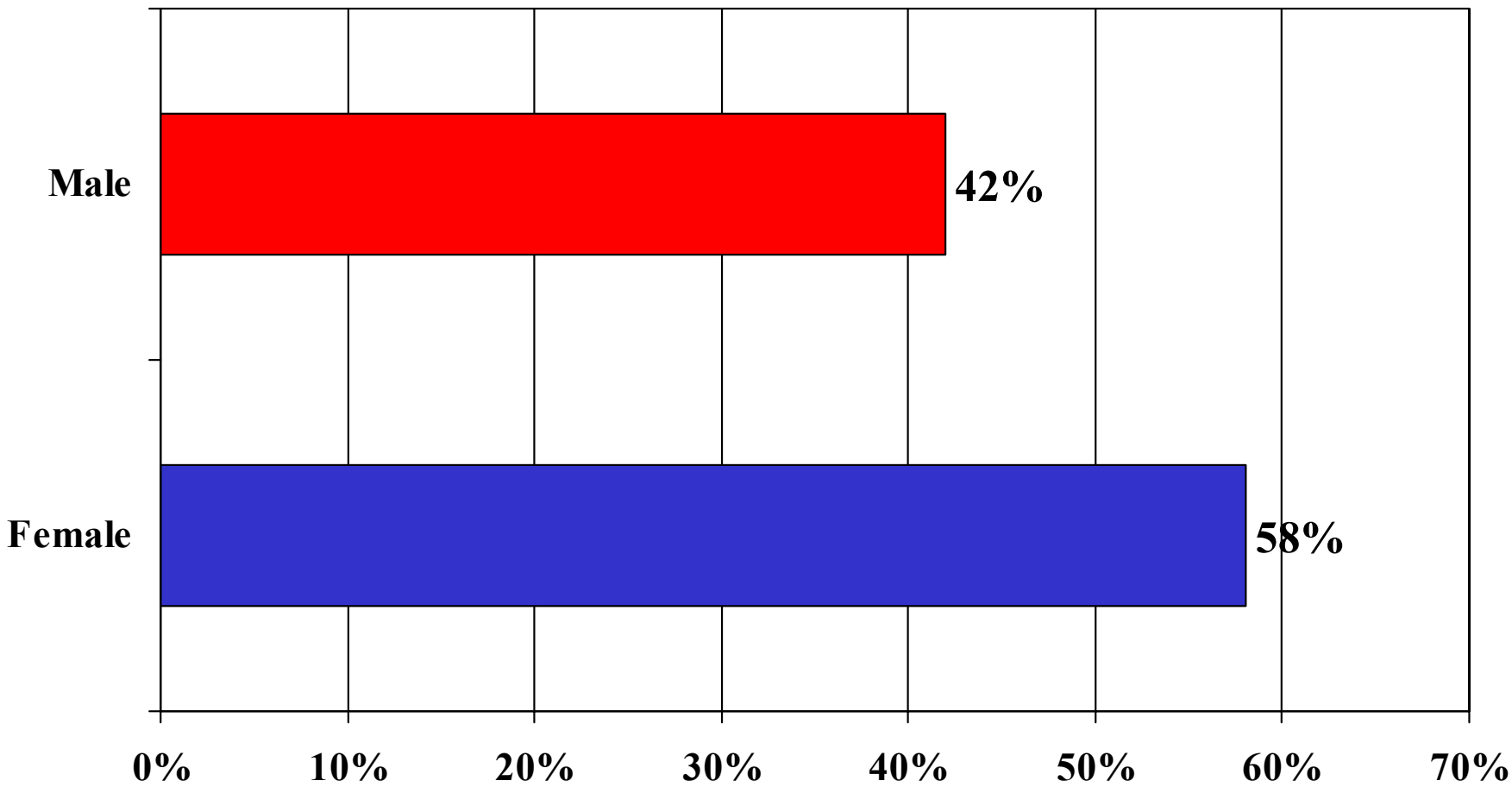
# Education


Less than primary school
17%
Primary school
7%
Some high school
21%
High school graduate
24%
Some college
13%
Technical school
3%
College graduate / Graduate school
12%
0%
5%
10%
15%
20%
25%
30%

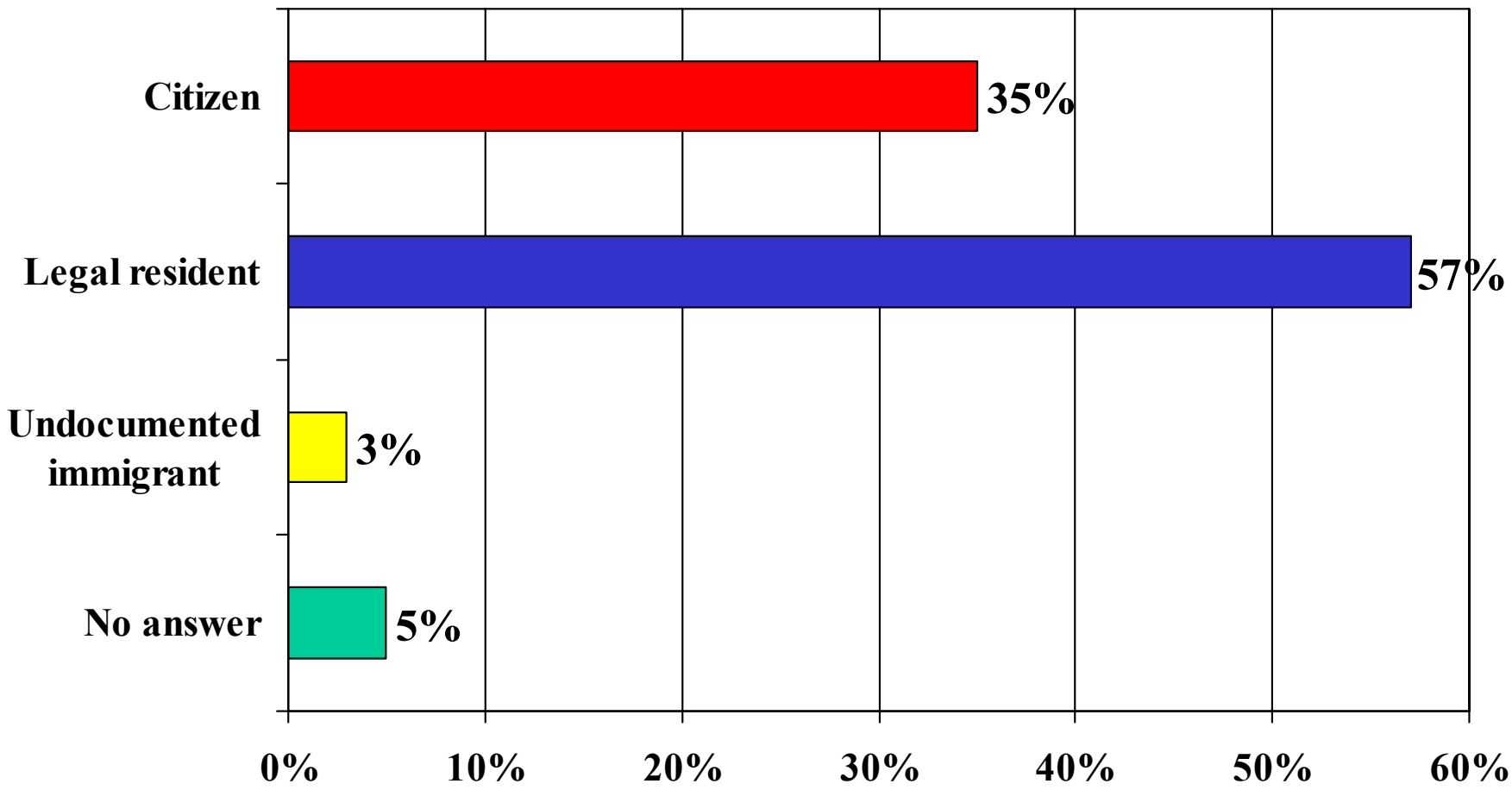
# Age



# Gender



# Citizenship Status

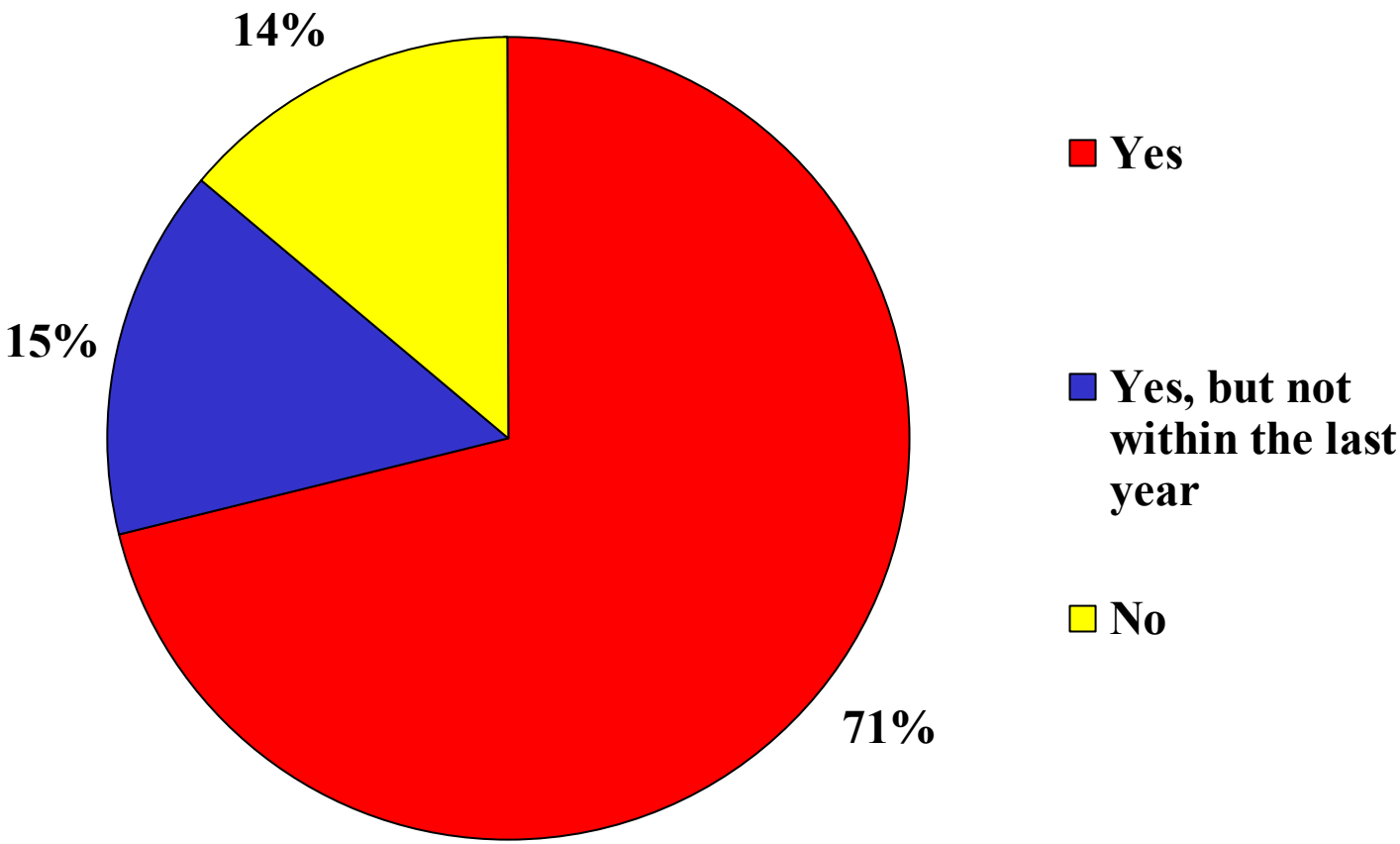


# III. Remittance Senders

- **71 percent** of the estimated 1 million (U.S. Census 2003) Dominican adults in the United States send remittances on a regular basis.
- Our study indicates that approximately **710,000** Dominican adults living in the United States send about **$1.6 billion** to their families on a yearly basis. Each remittance averages approximately **$150**.
- Our study also indicates that Dominicans living in the U.S. send money home about **15** times per year.

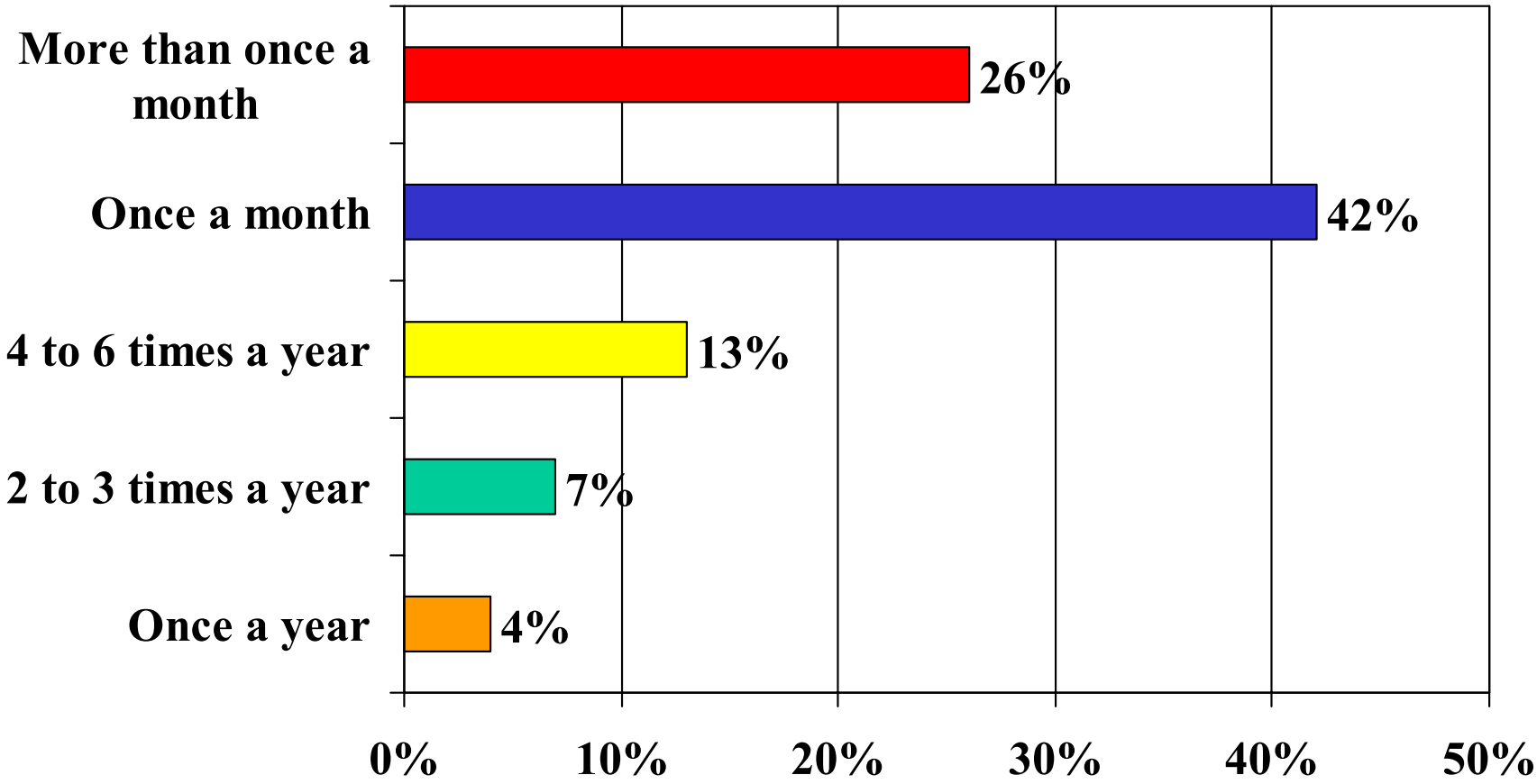
# Remittance Senders in the United States

## Have you ever sent money to your relatives in the Dominican Republic?

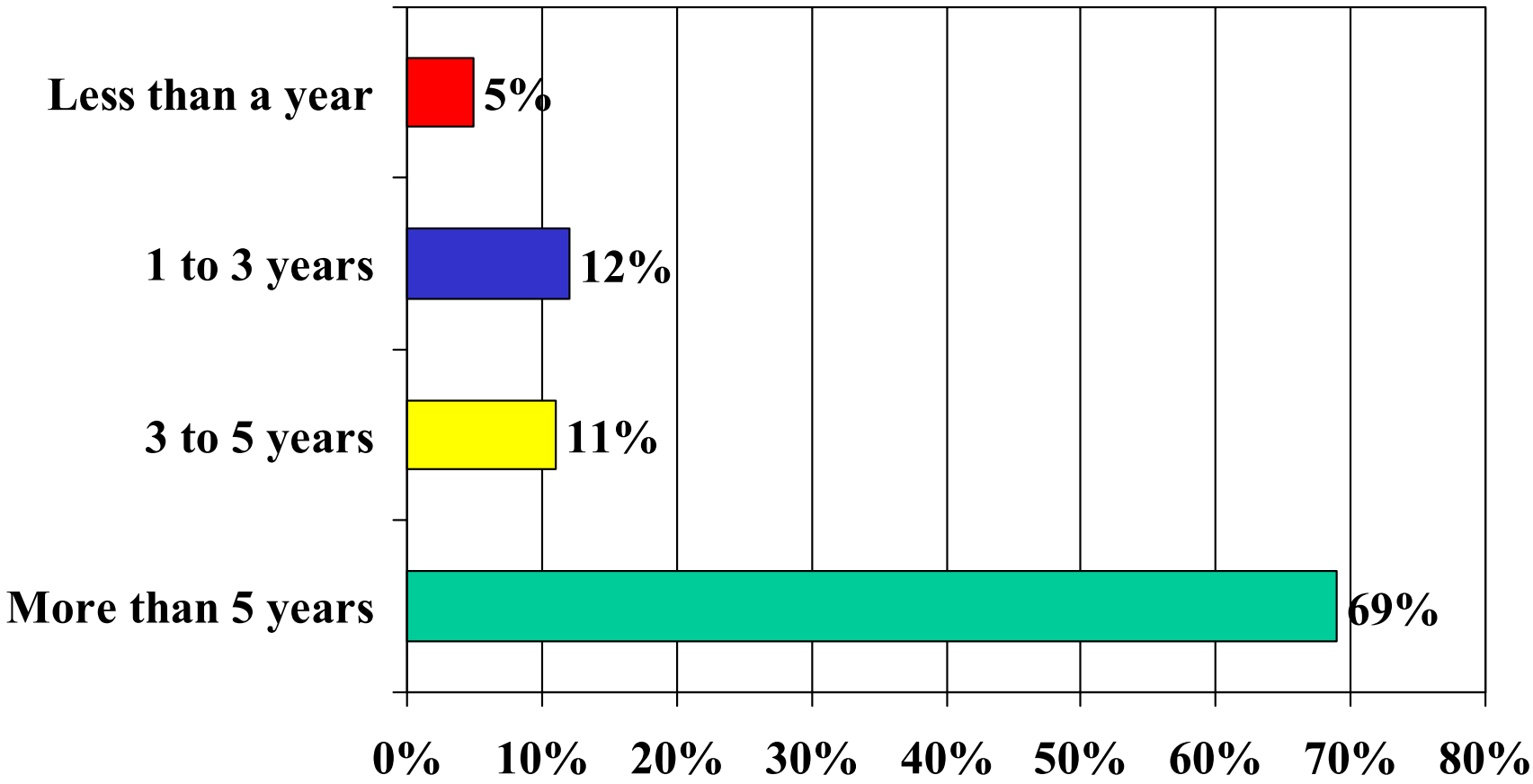


# How often do you send money to your relatives in the Dominican Republic?

## Average – 15 times a year

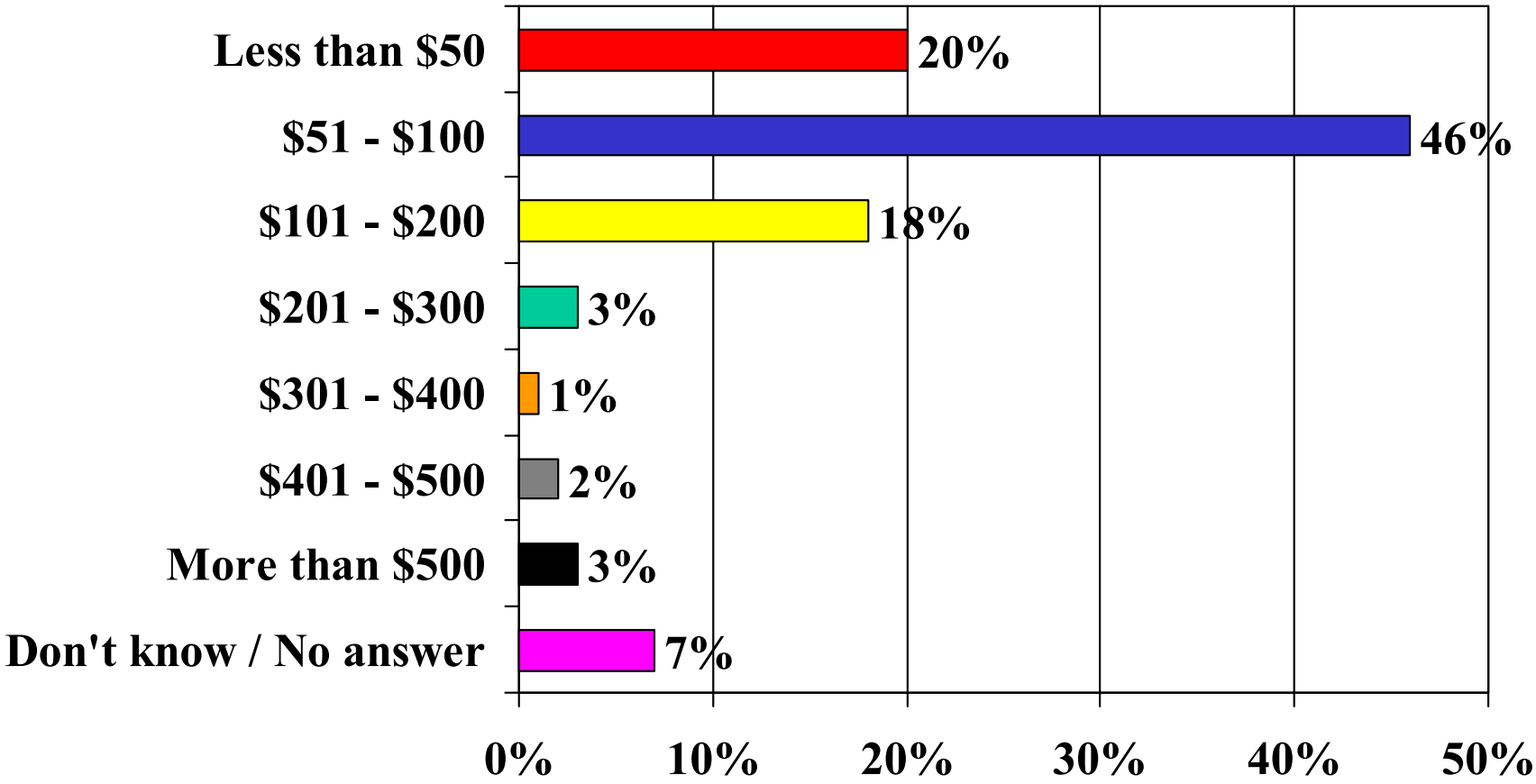


# How long have you been sending money to your relatives in the Dominican Republic?

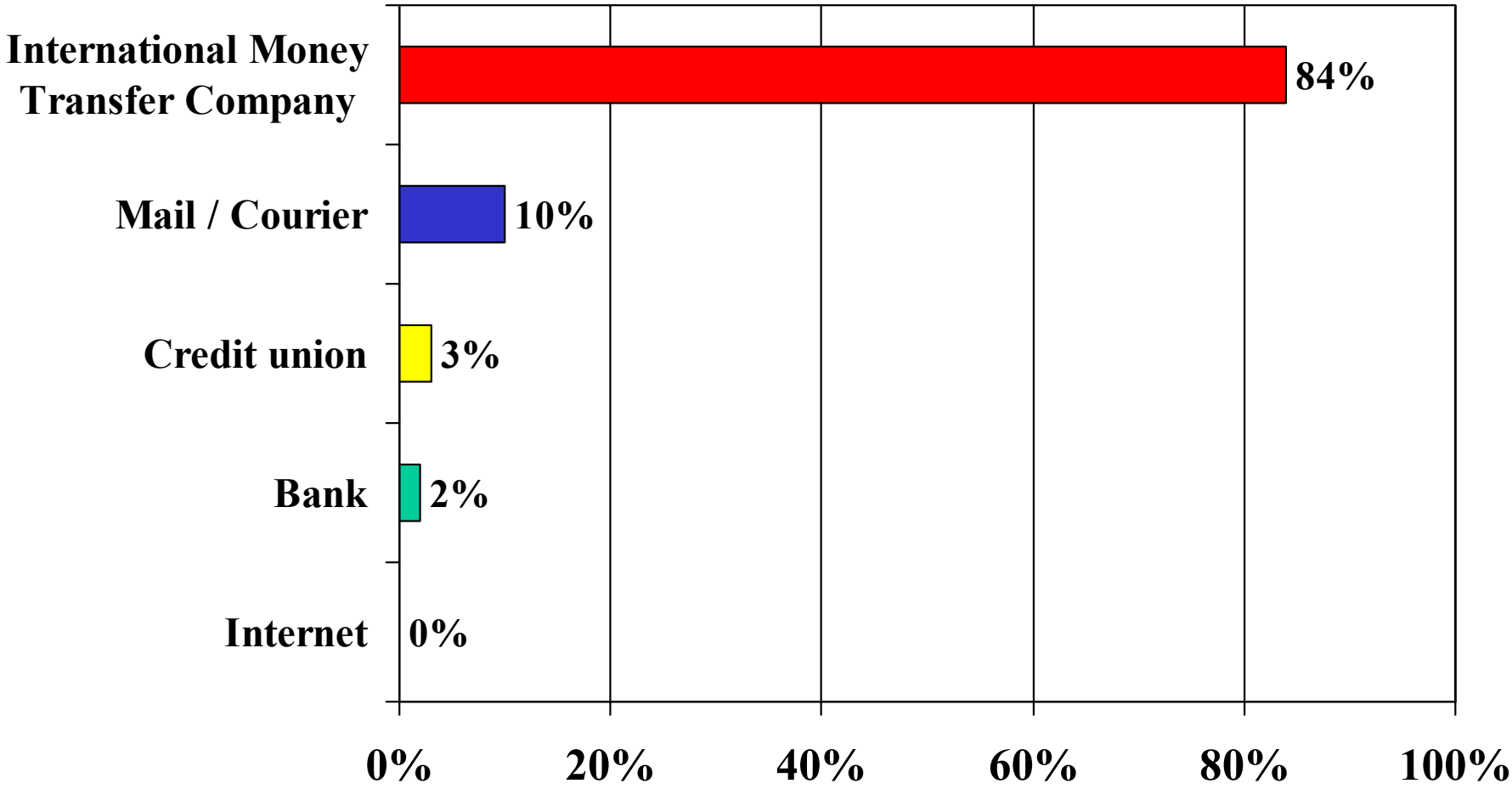


# How much money – on average – do you send with each remittance?

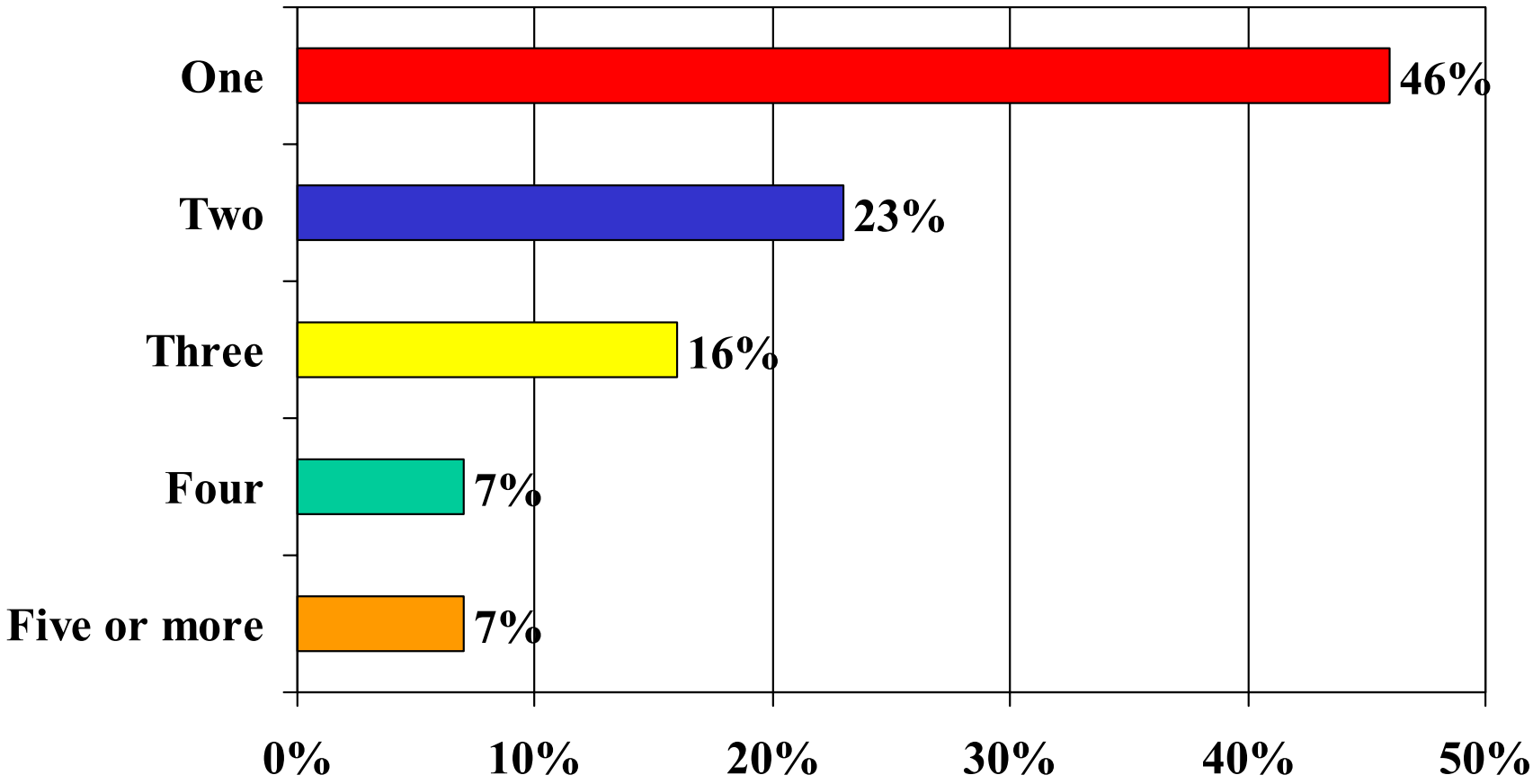
## Average – $150



# How do you send the money to your relatives in the Dominican Republic?



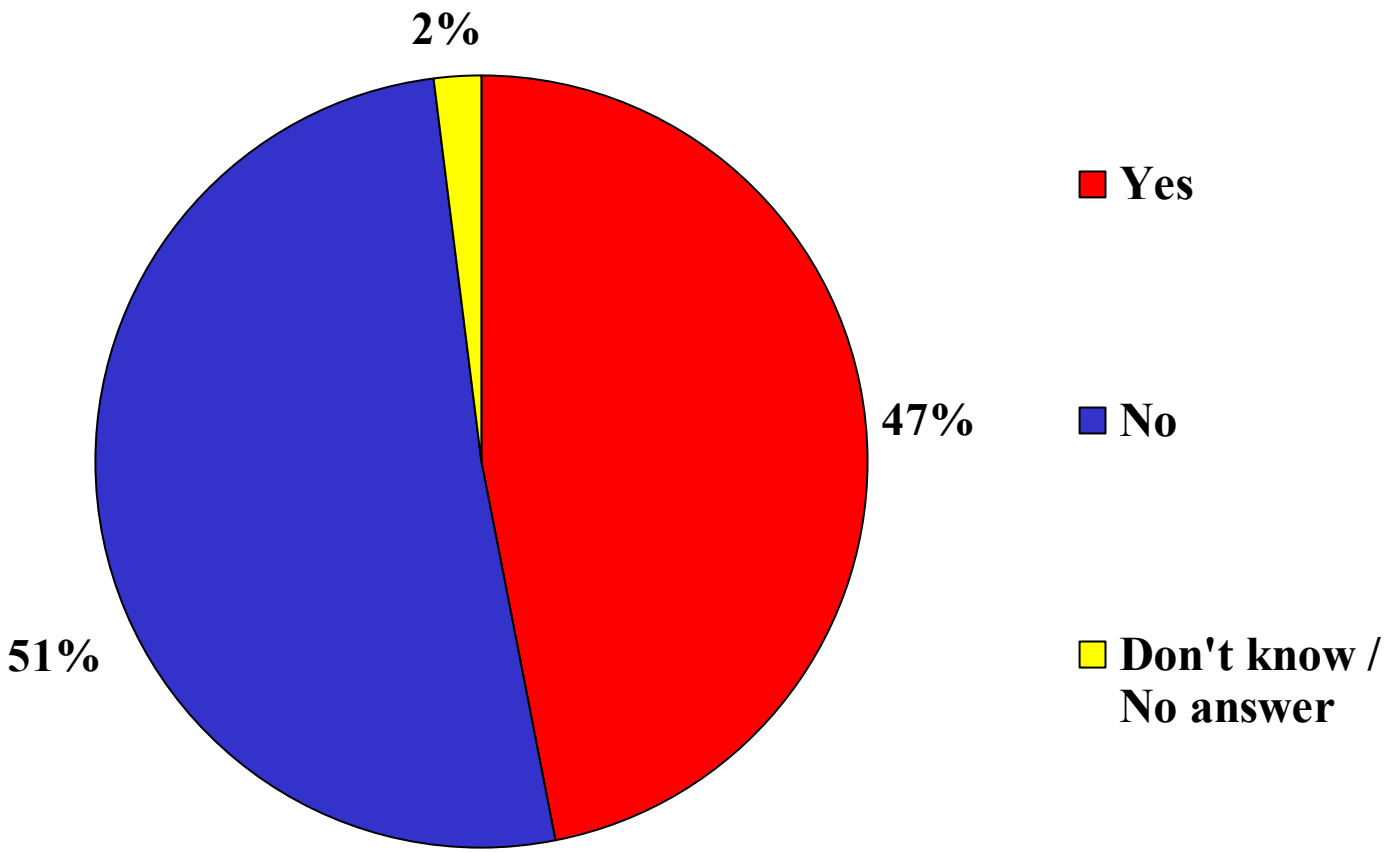
# How many people do you send money to?



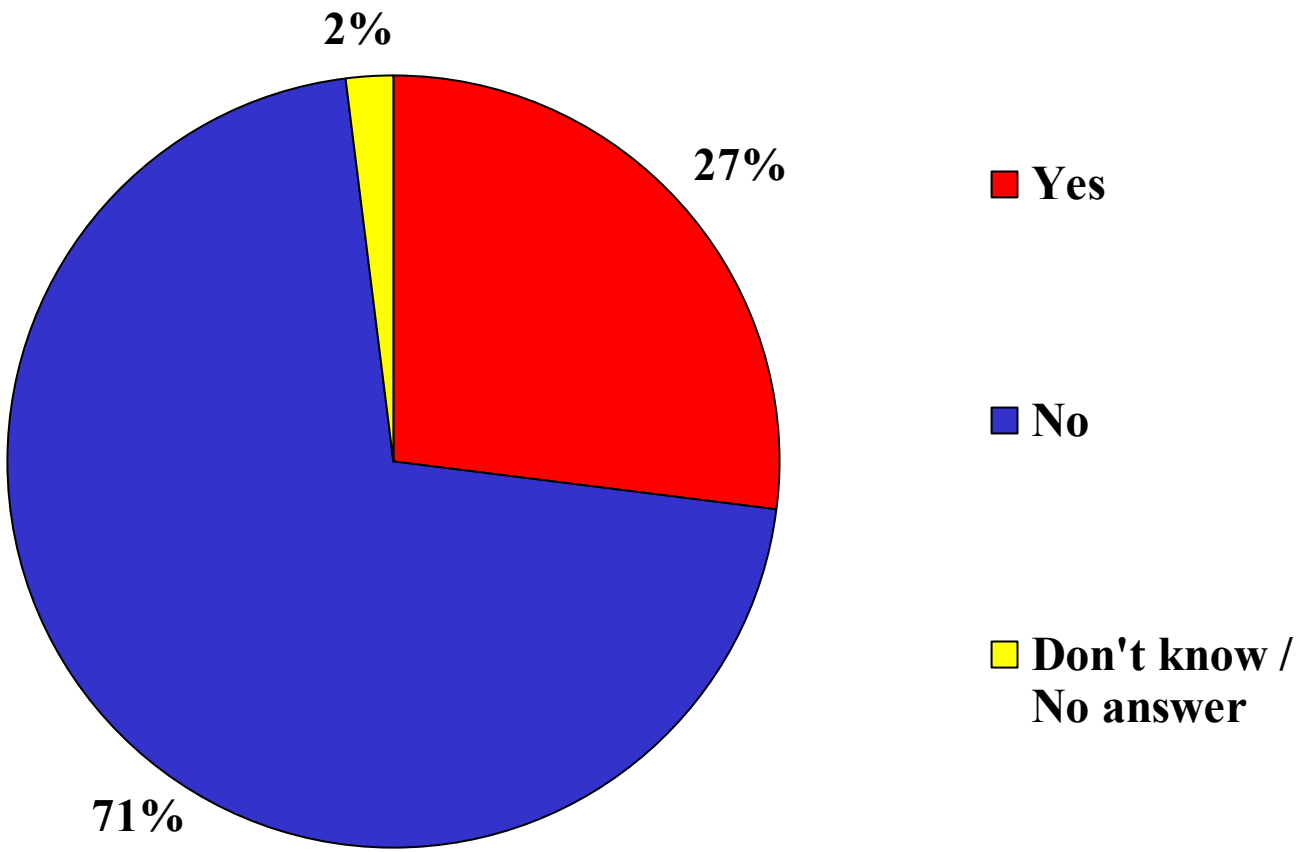
# IV. Dominican Remittance Senders in the United States and the Banking System

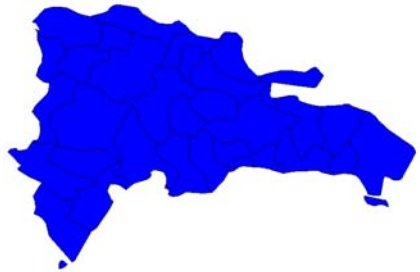
# Do you have a bank account in the United States?

## Dominican Remittance Senders



# Do you have a bank account in the Dominican Republic?

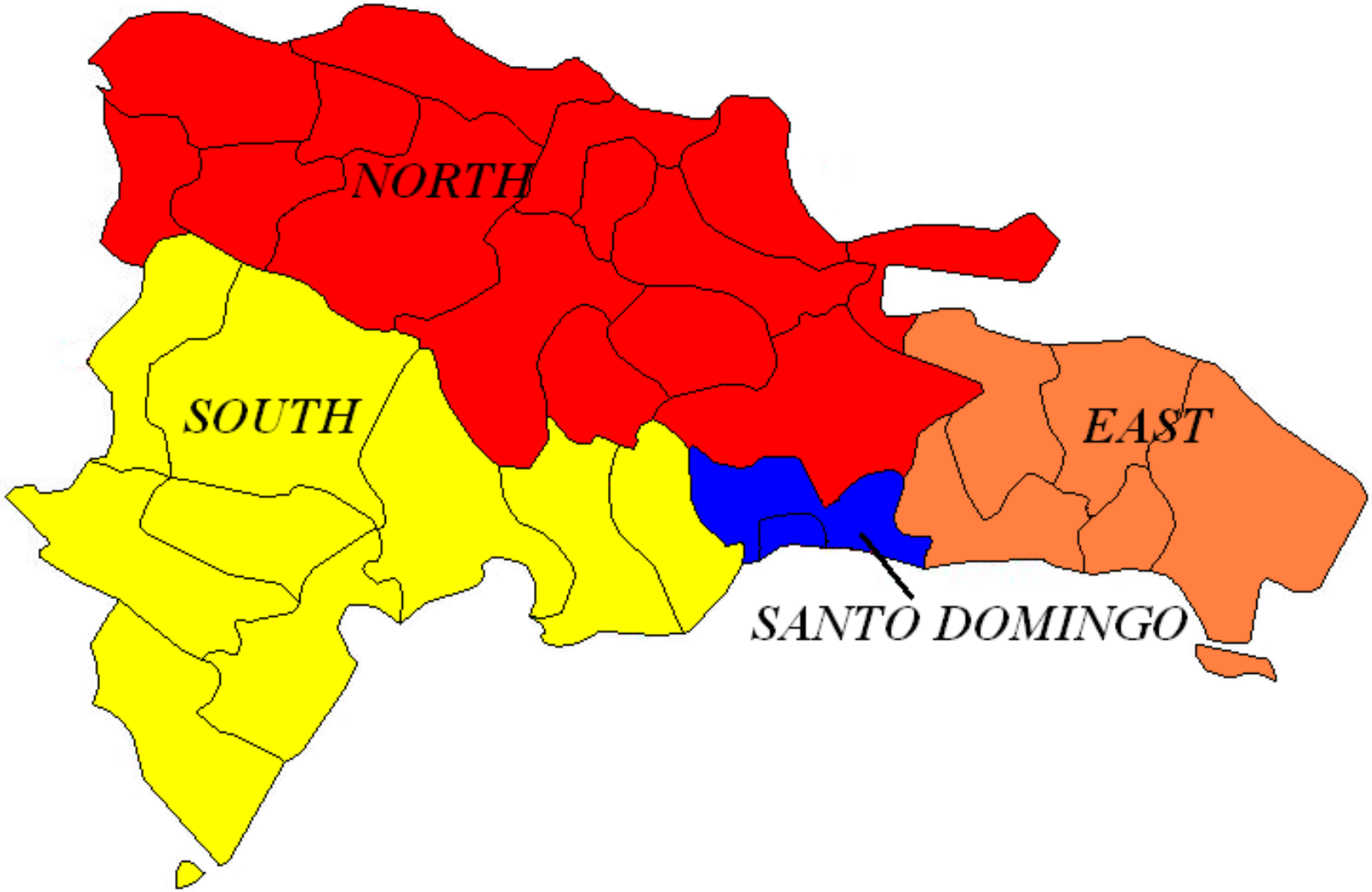




# V. The Dominican Sample

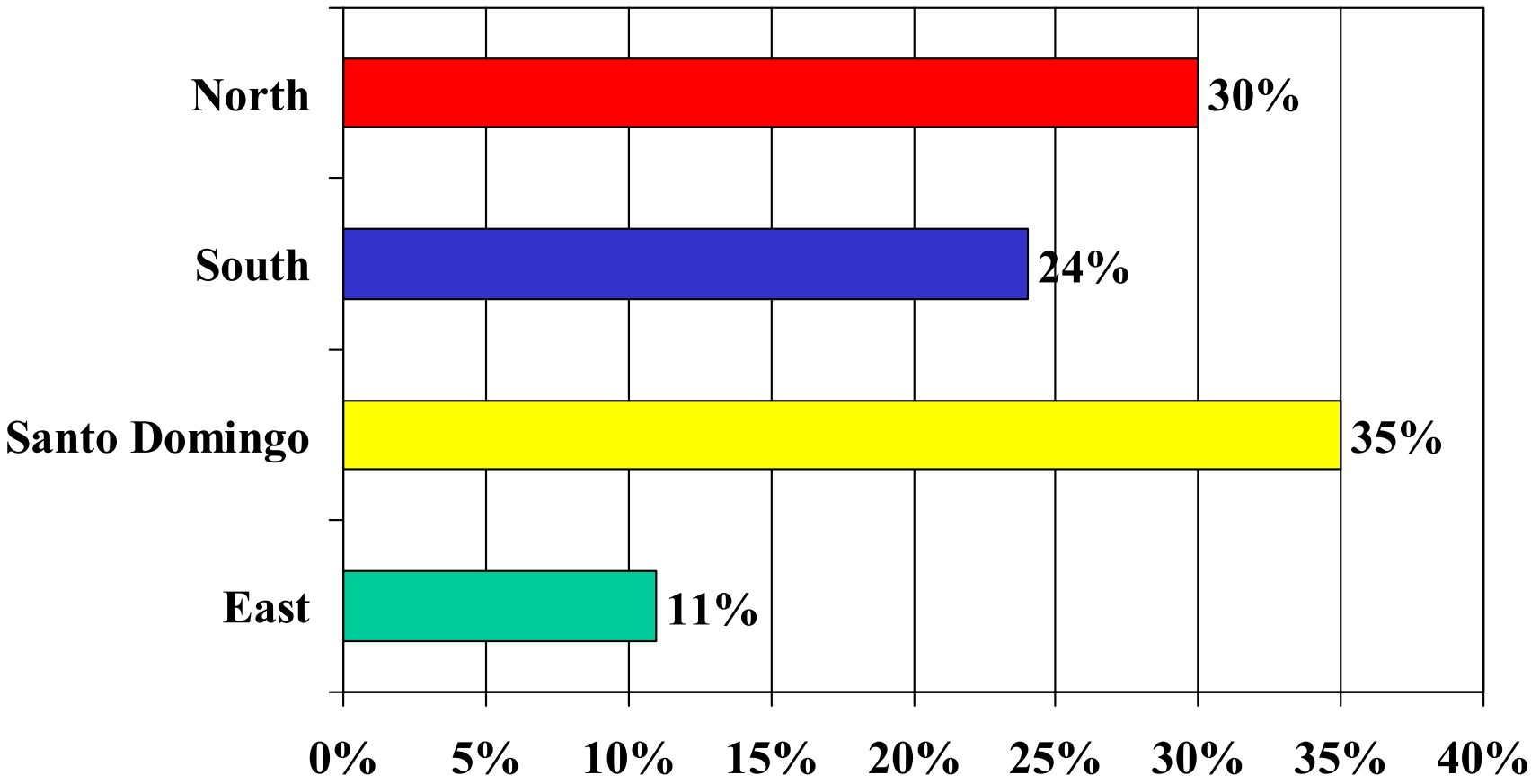
- National sample of adults in the Dominican Republic.
- 2999 national interviews conducted from October 18 to November 5 with a margin of error of 2 percentage points.
- 1133 interviews of regular remittance recipients.

# Dominican Republic Regions



# Dominican Republic Regions

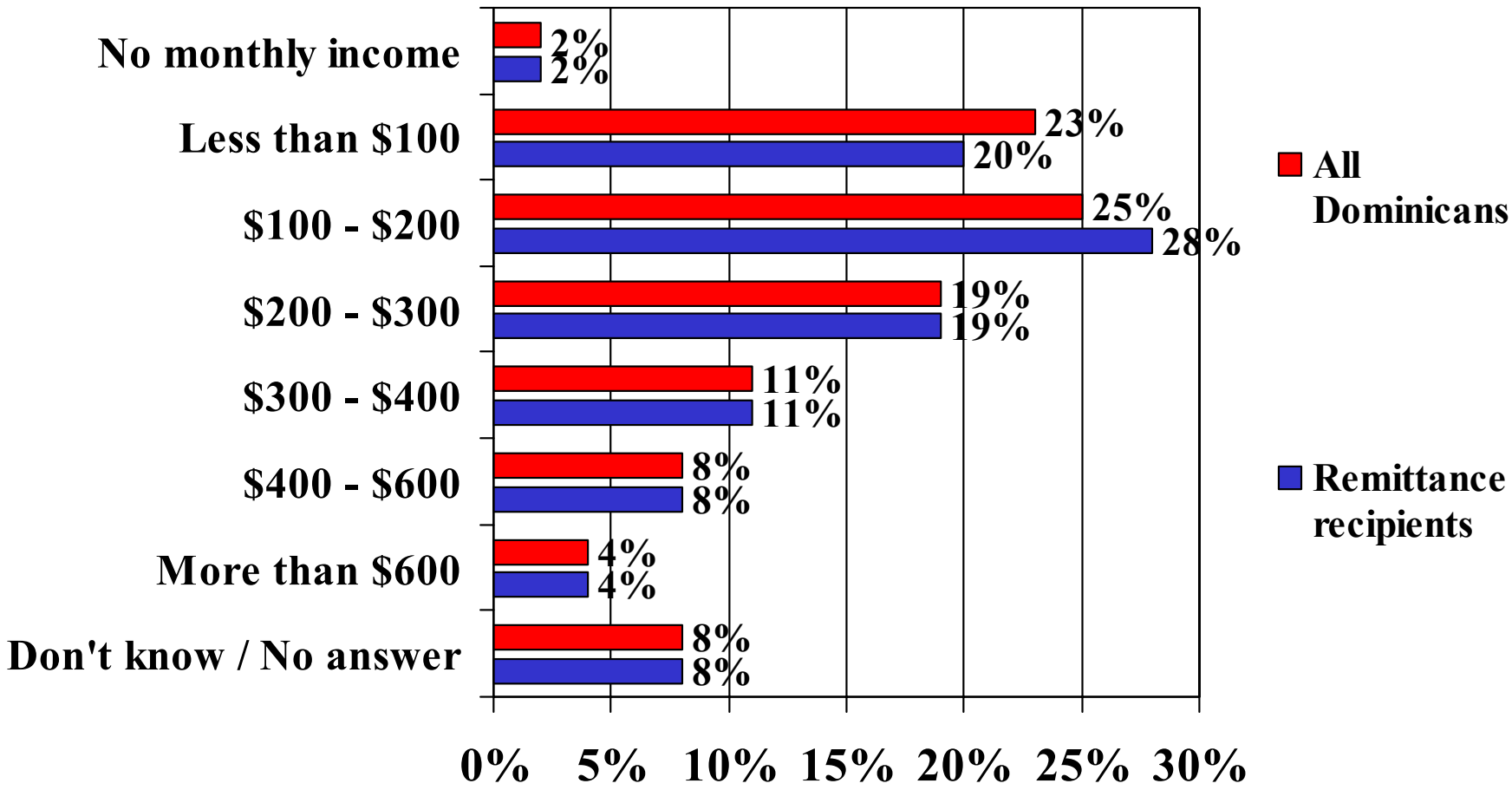
## Remittance Recipients



# VI. Demographics of Dominicans that receive Remittances on a Regular Basis

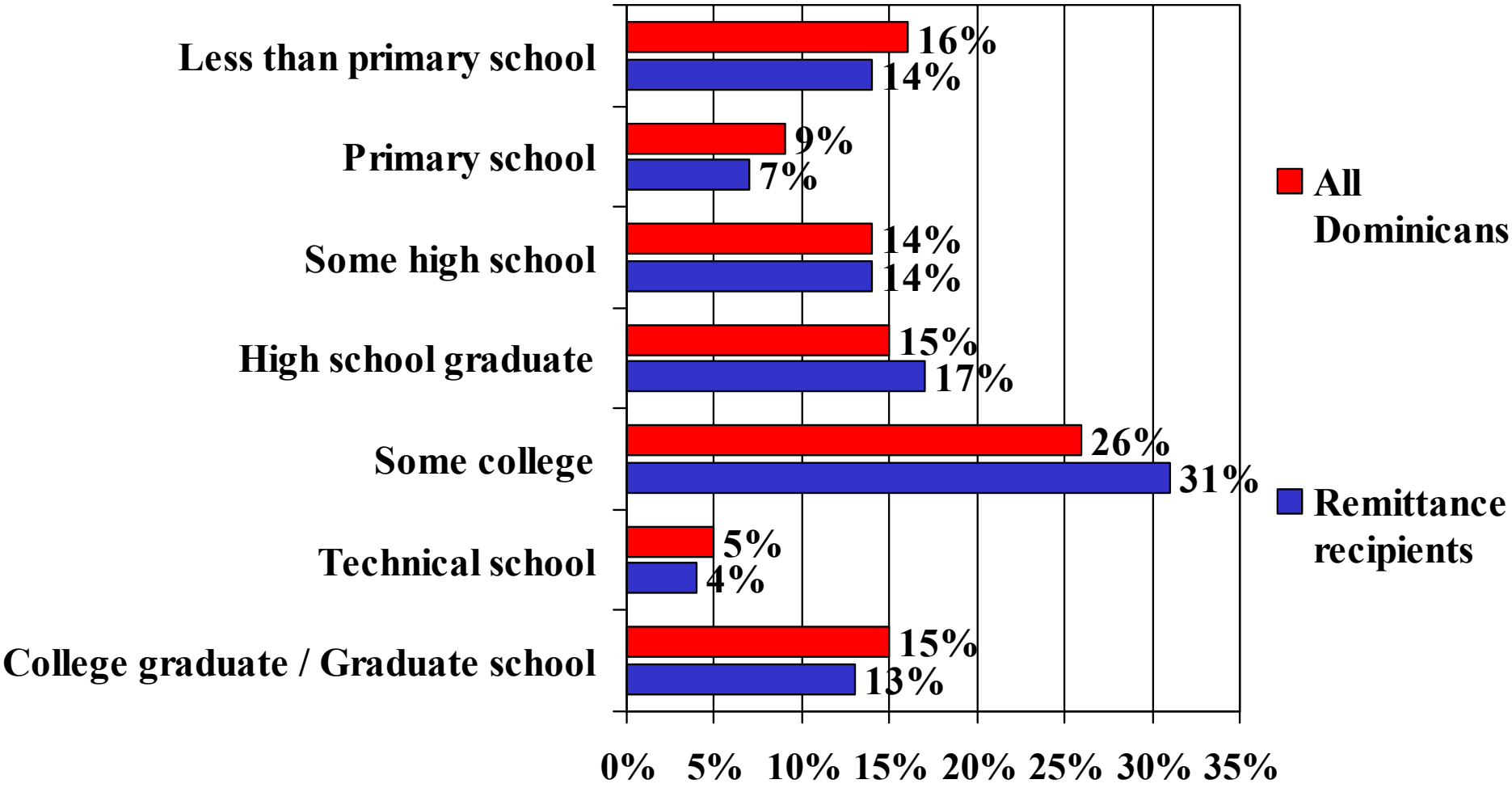
# Monthly Income

## Dominican Adults



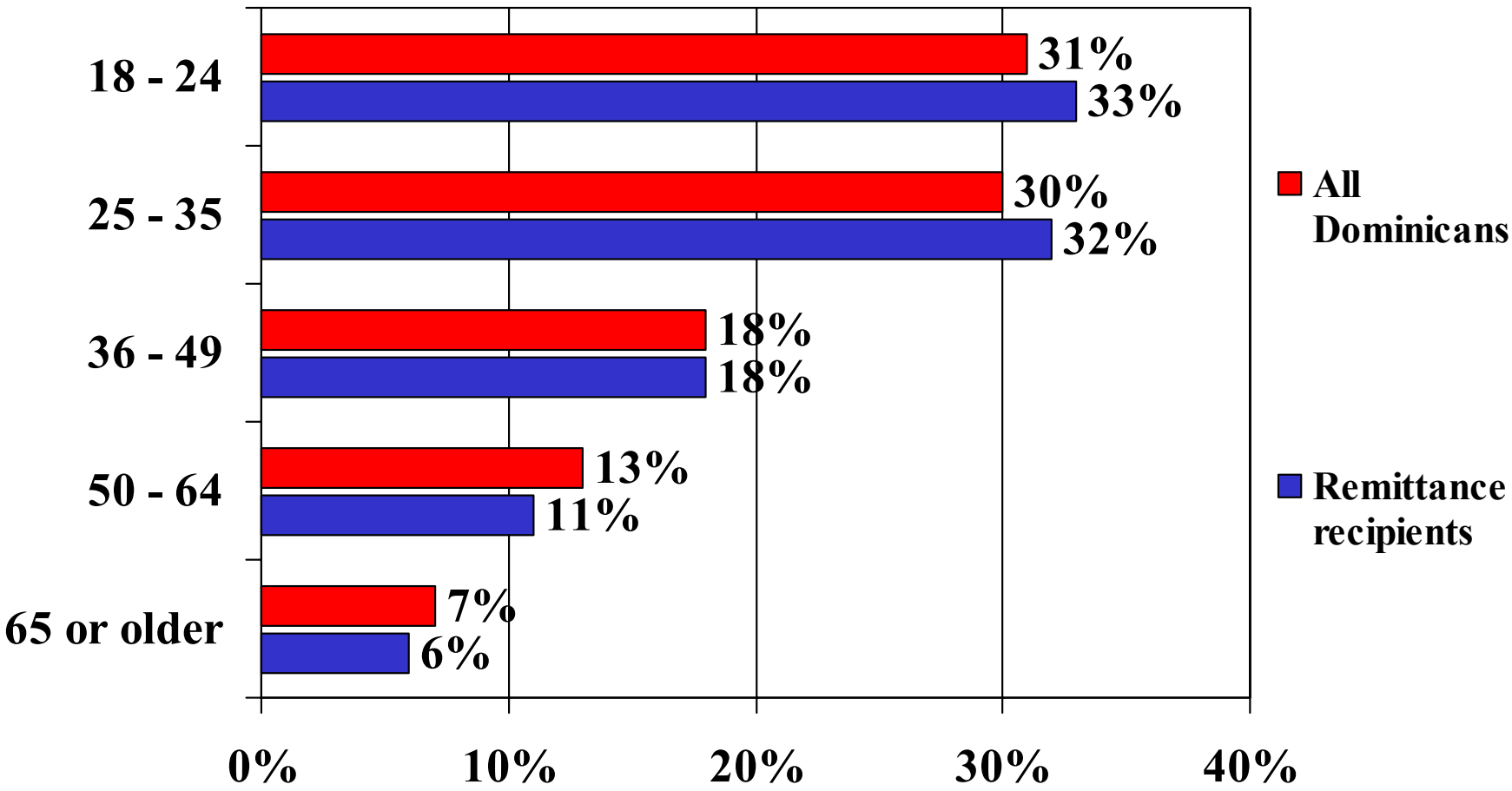
# Education

## Dominican Adults



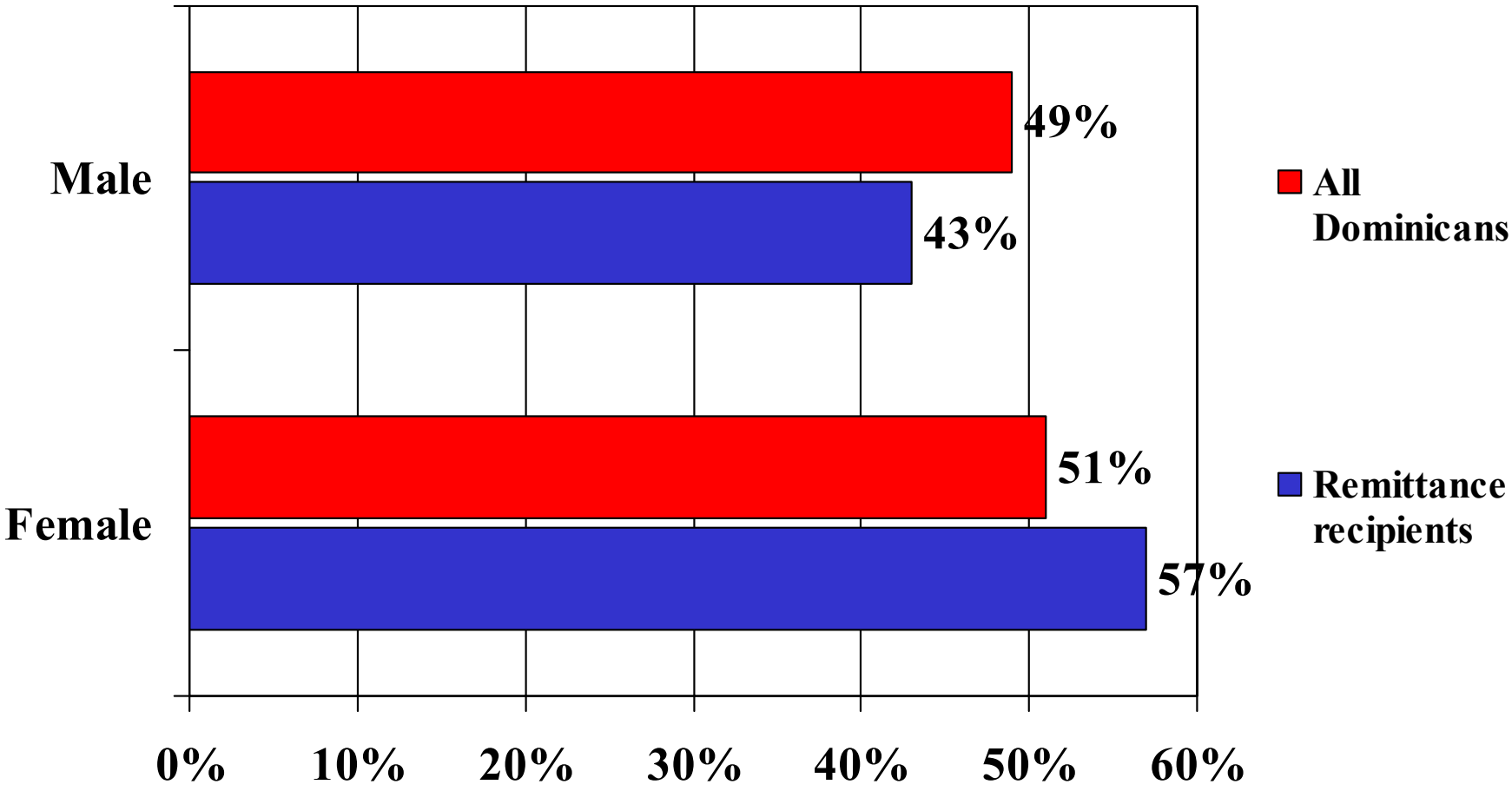
# Age

## Dominican Adults



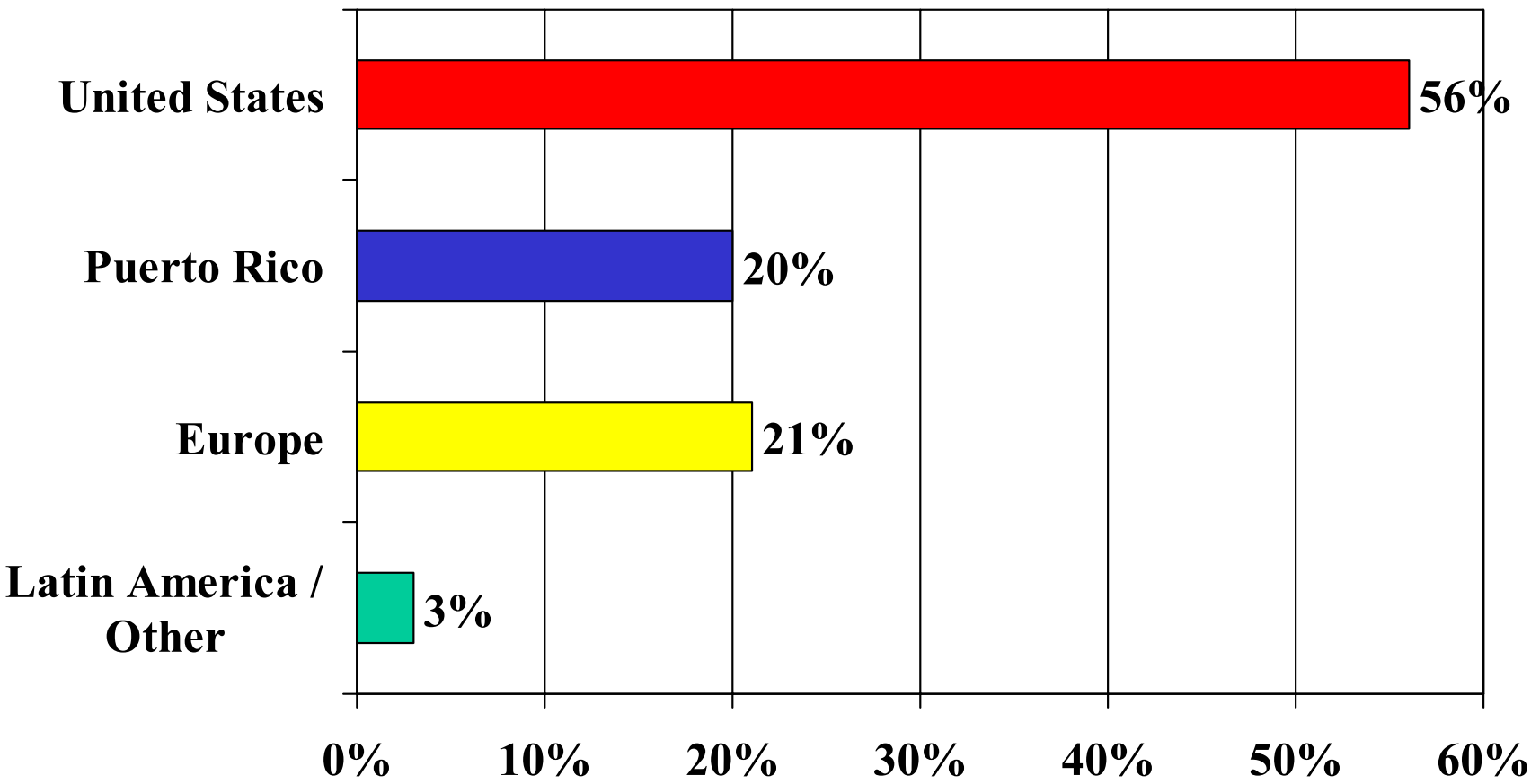
# Gender

## Dominican Adults

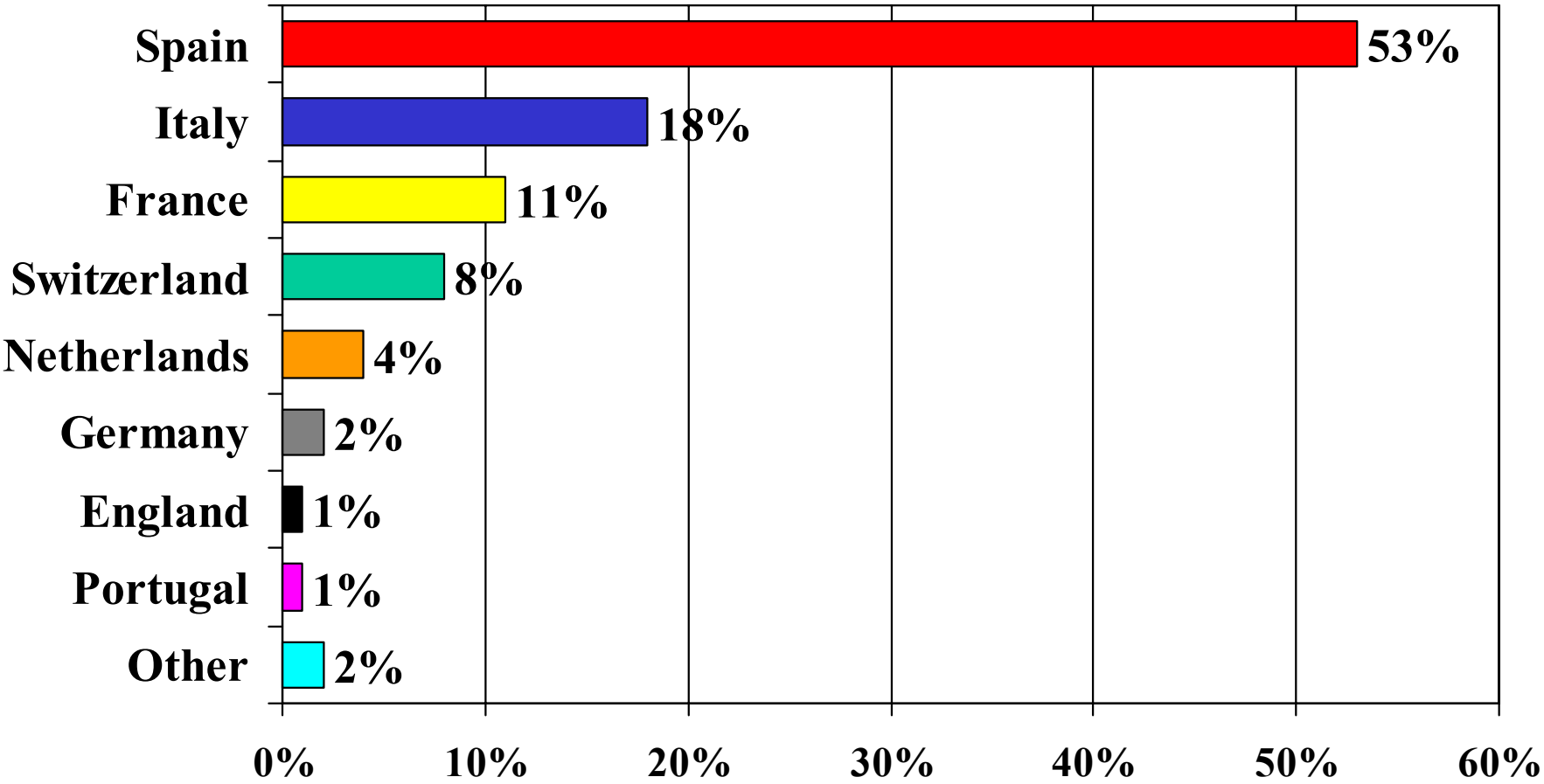


# Where does your relative live?

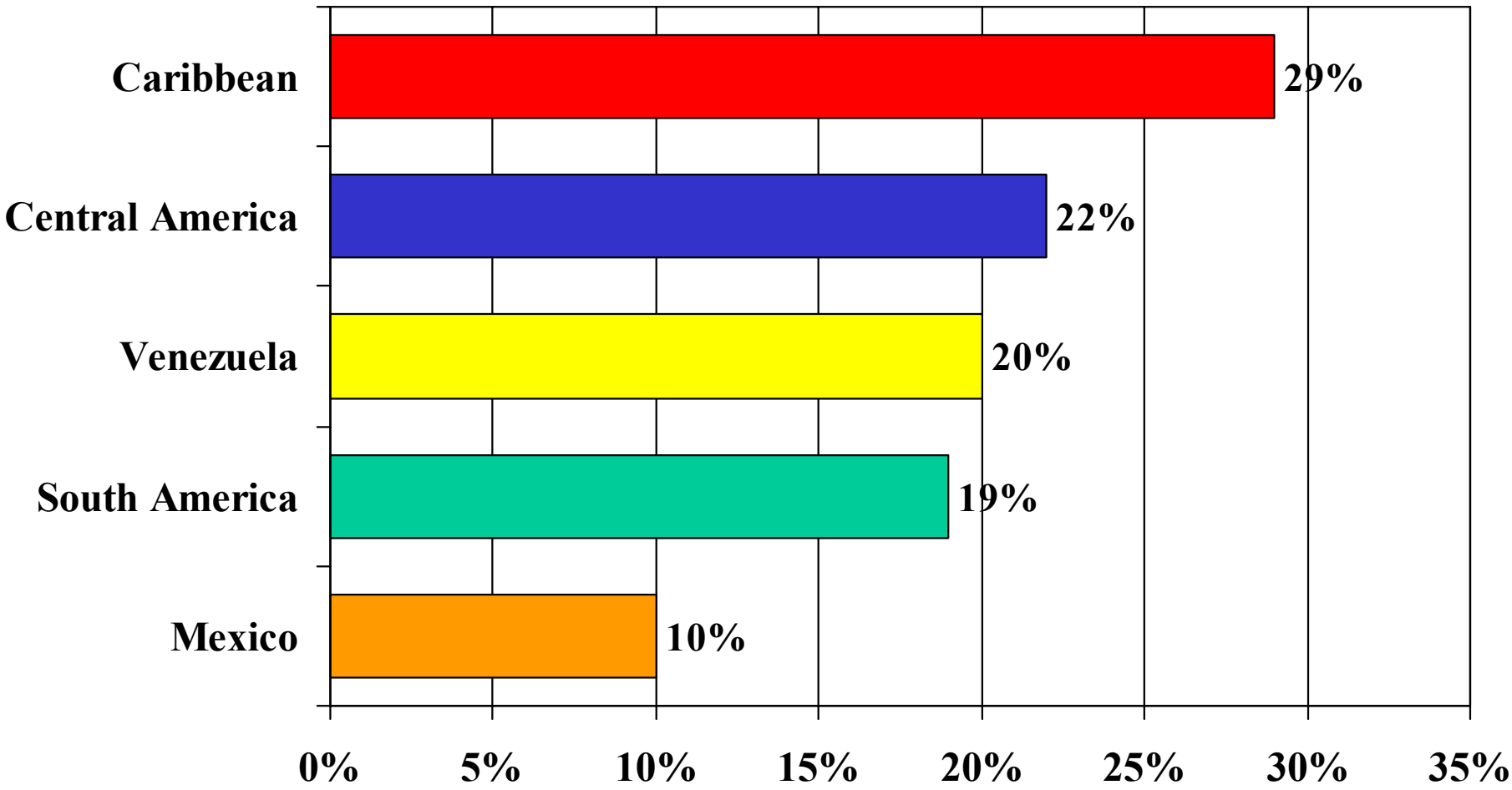
## Remittance Recipients



# Where does your relative live in Europe?



# Where does your relative live in the Americas?

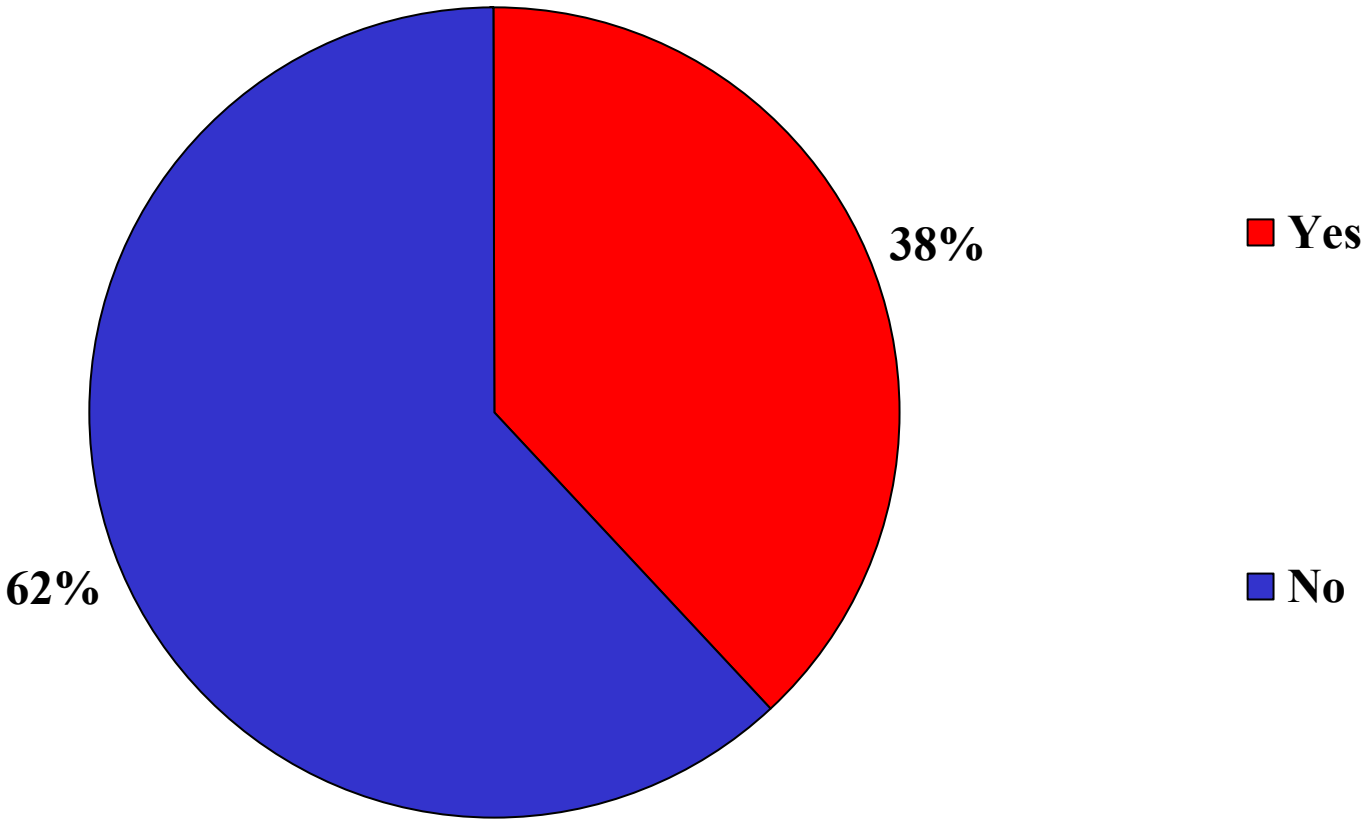


# VII. Remittance Recipients

- **38 percent** of Dominican adults receive remittances on a regular basis. According to the Oficina Nacional de Estadisticas (ONE), there are approximately 5.1 million Dominican adults.
- Our study of remittance recipients in the Dominican Republic shows that **1.9 million** Dominicans receive about **$2.7 billion** in remittances every year. An estimated **$1.6 billion** comes from the United States and the other **$1.1 billion** from Europe, Puerto Rico, and the rest of the world.
- The average remittance received is **$141**.
- The average Dominican receives a remittance **10** times a year.

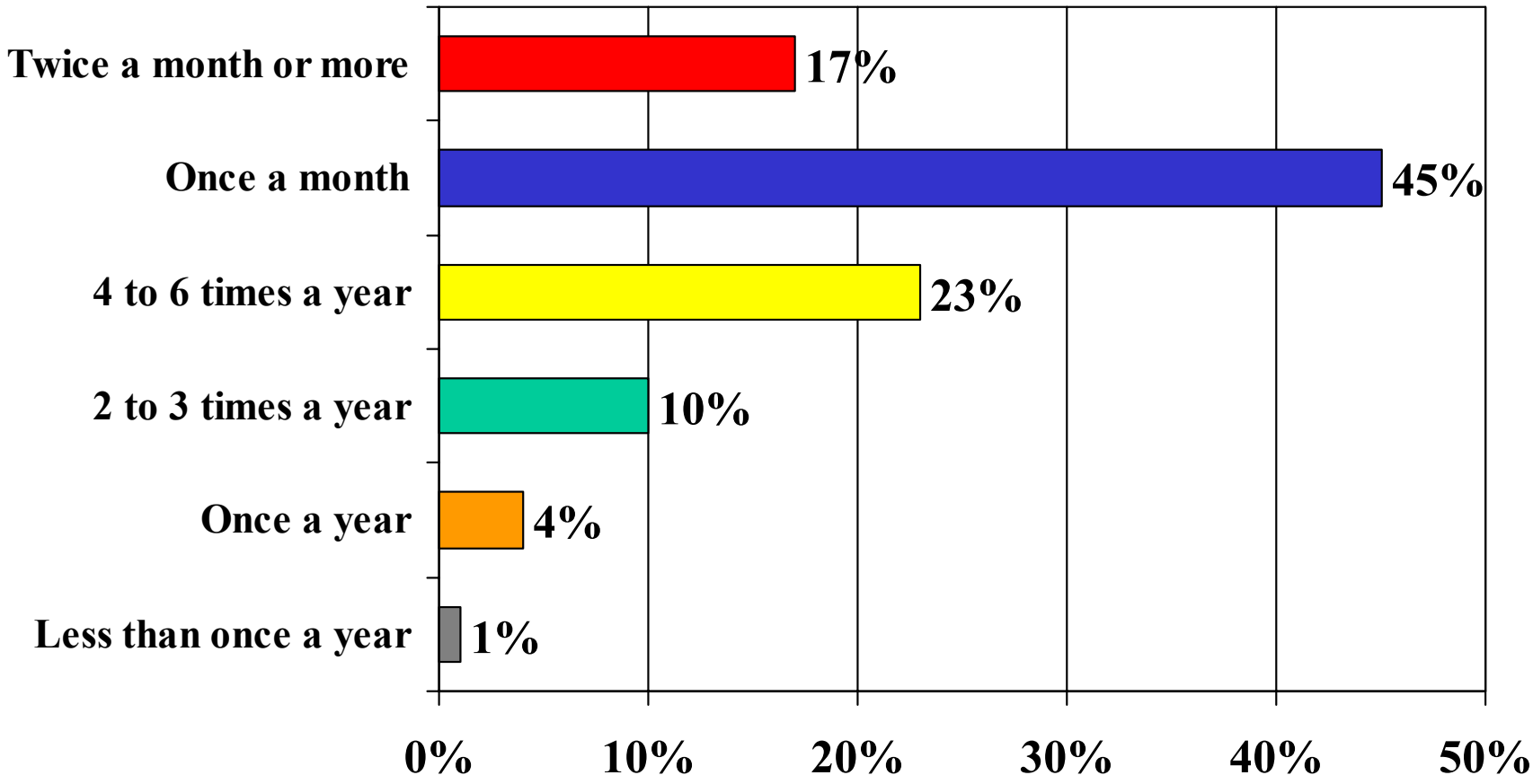
# Regular Remittance Recipients in the Dominican Republic

## Are you receiving money from a relative living abroad?

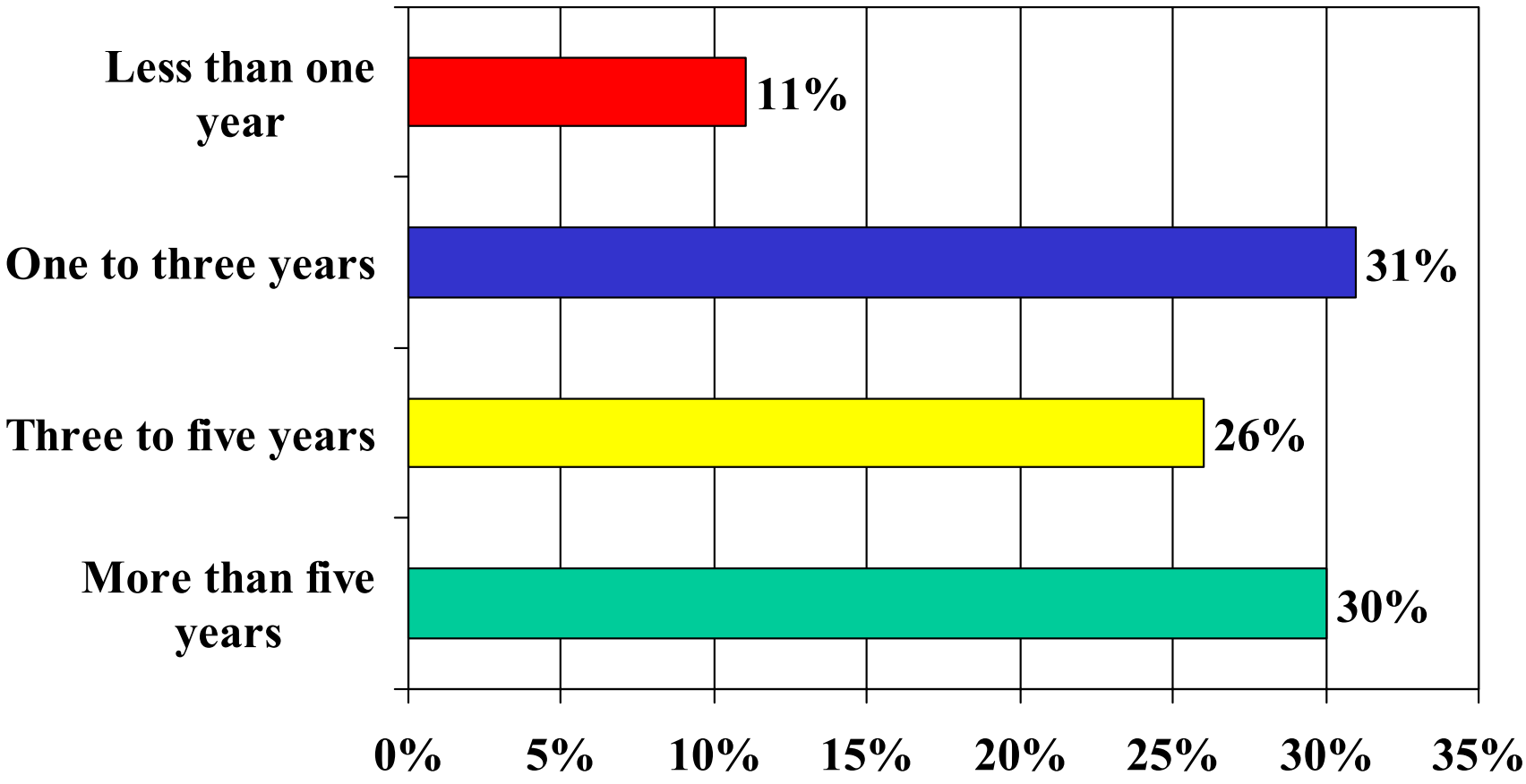


# How often do you receive money from your relative living abroad?

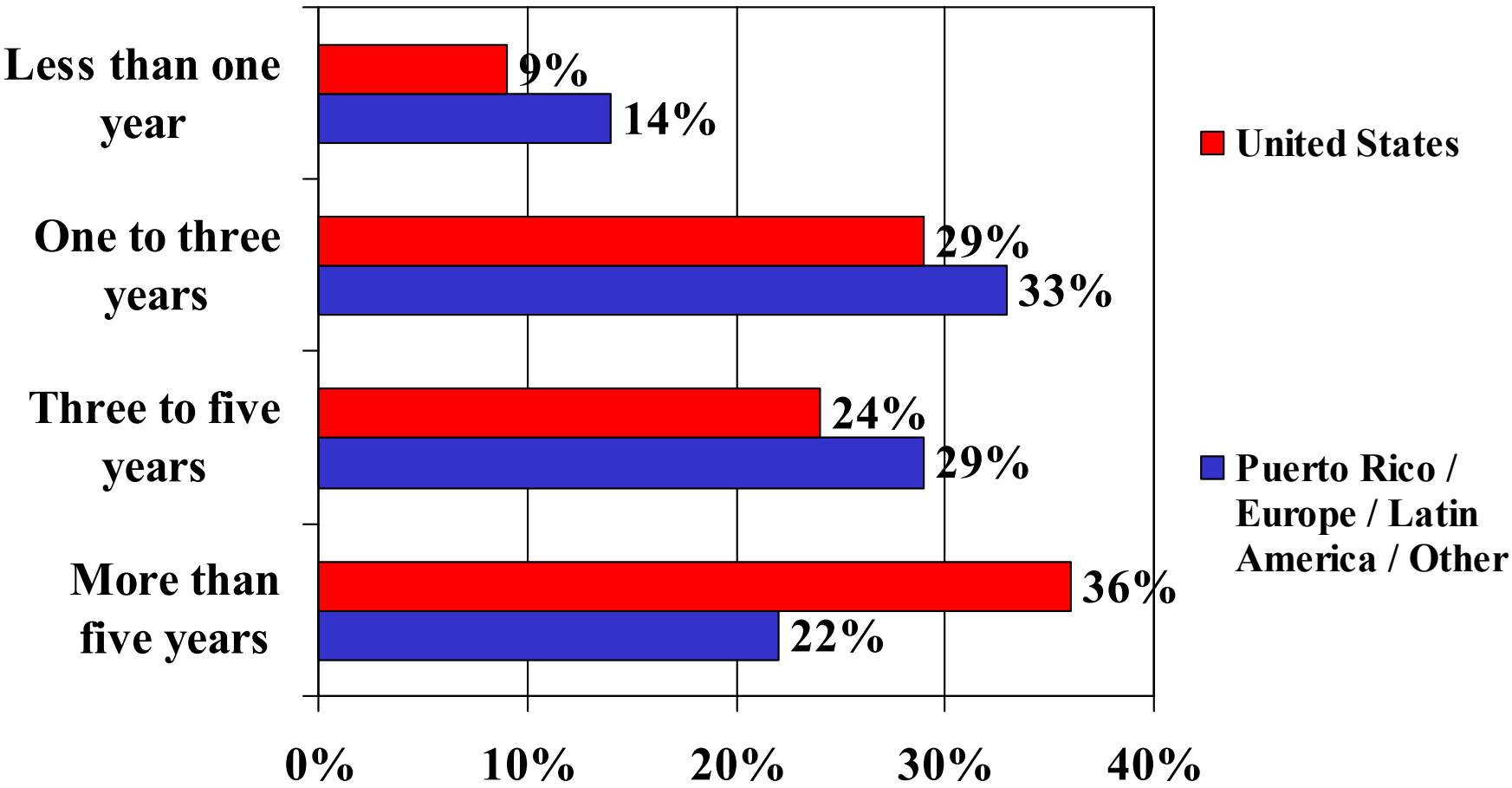
## Average – 10 times a year



# How long have you been receiving money from this relative?

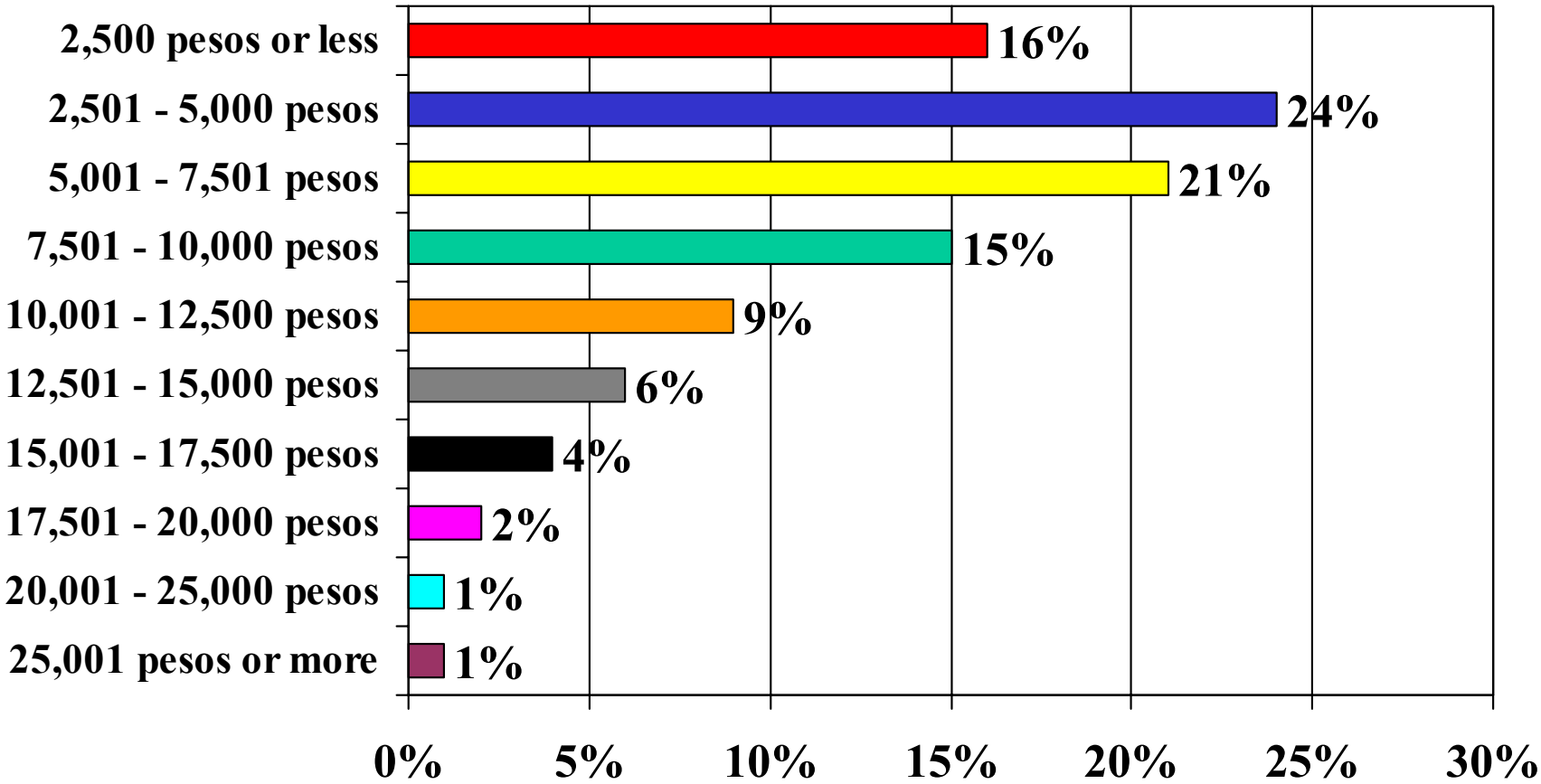


# How long have you been receiving money from this relative?

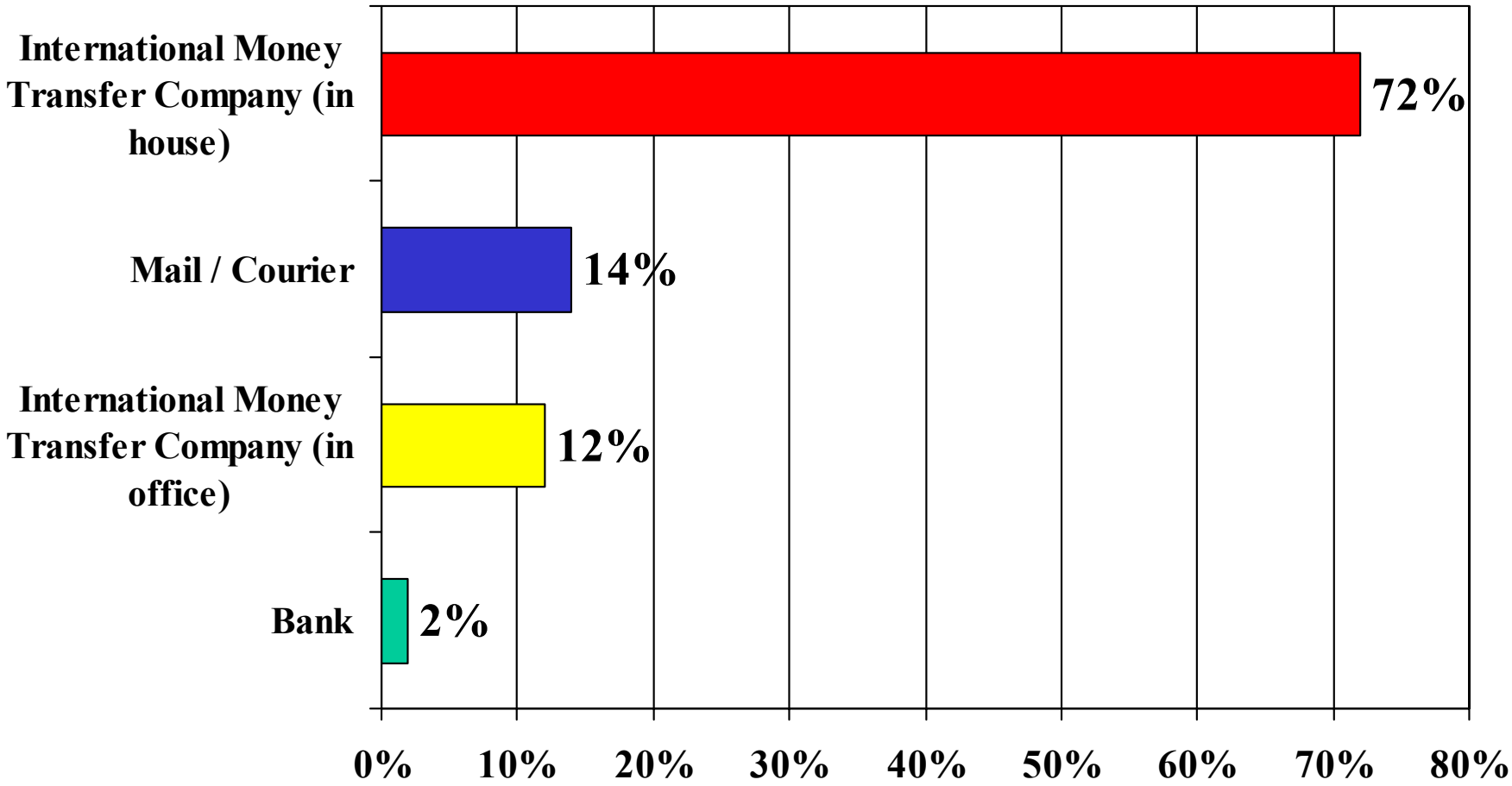


# How much money – on average – do you receive with each remittance?

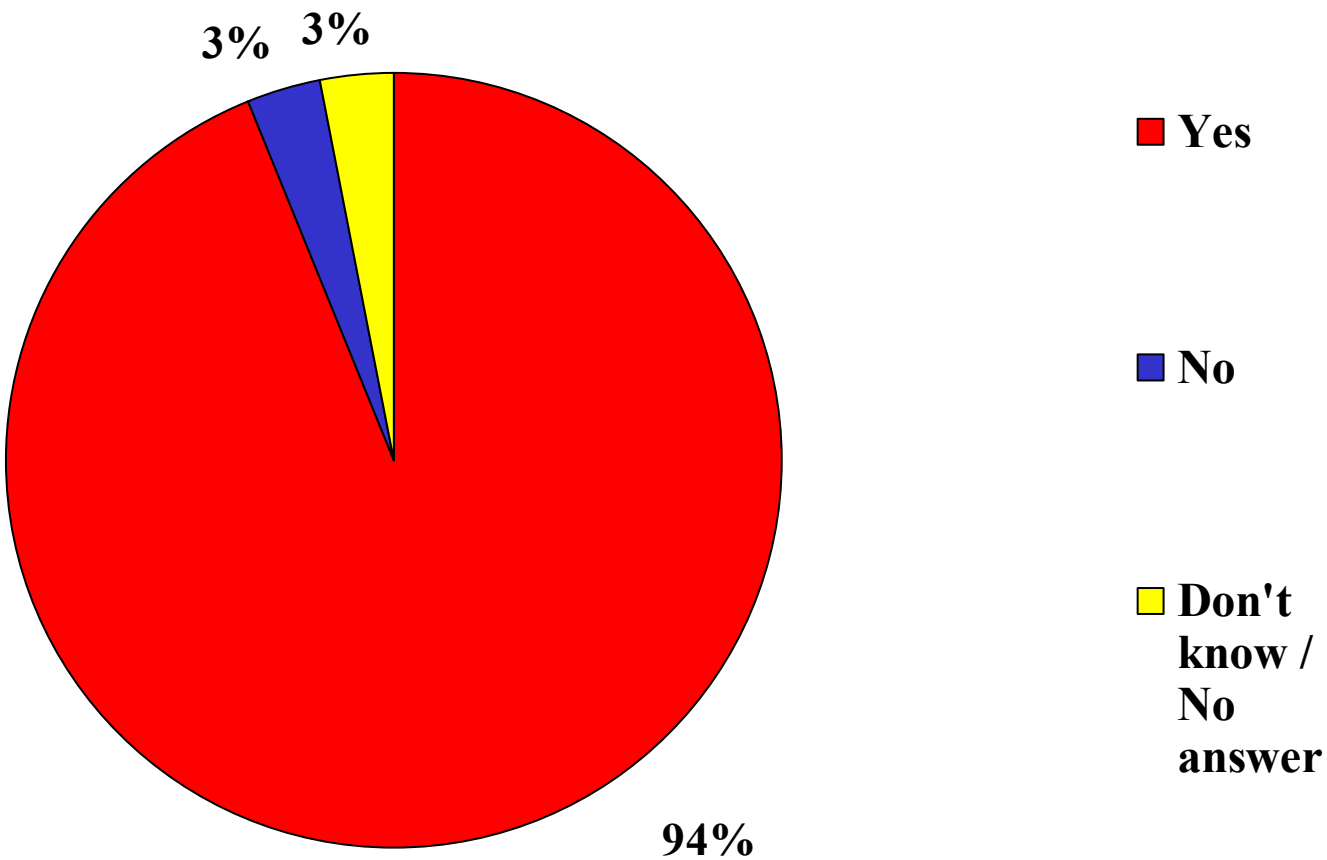
Average – $141



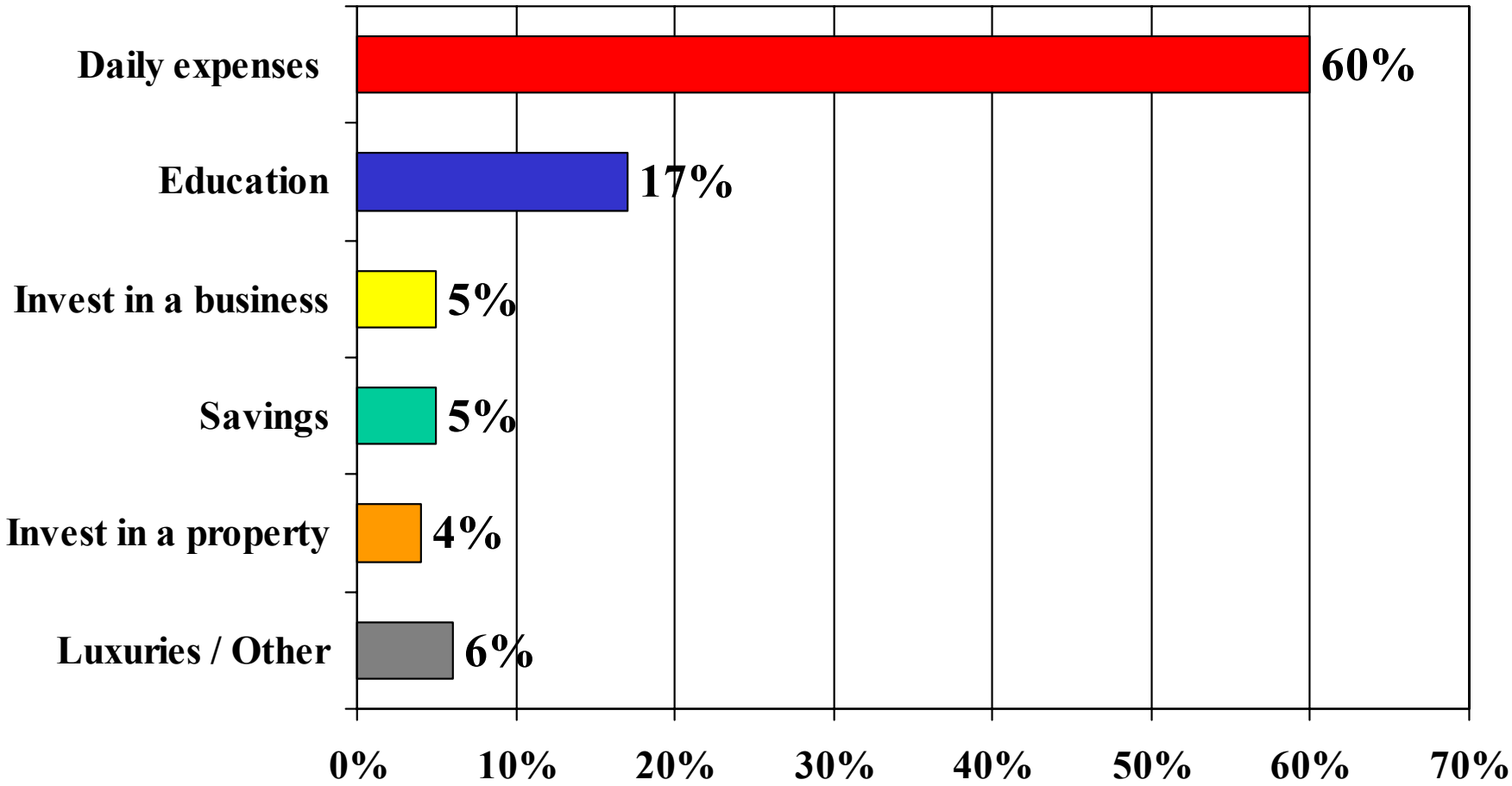
# How do you collect your remittance?



# Are you satisfied with the services of your current international money transfer company?

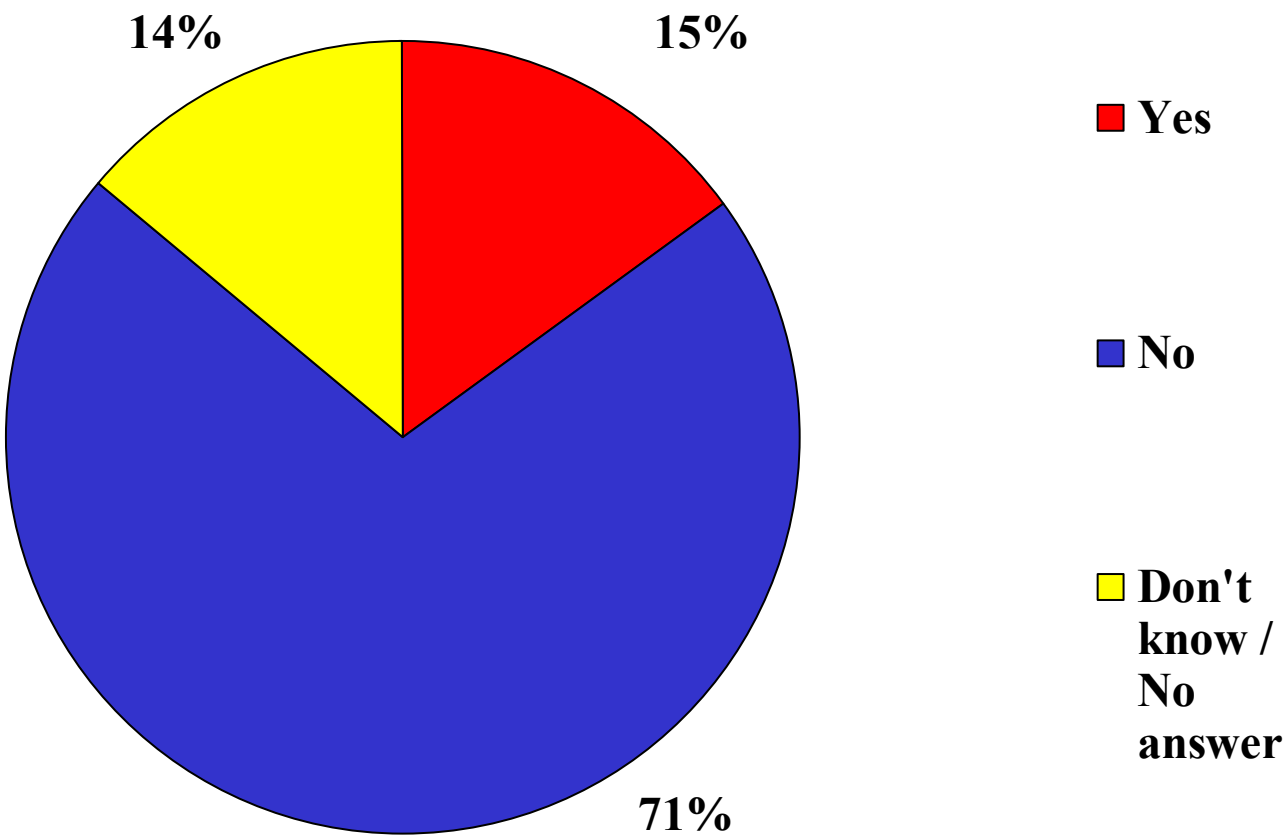


# How is the money used?

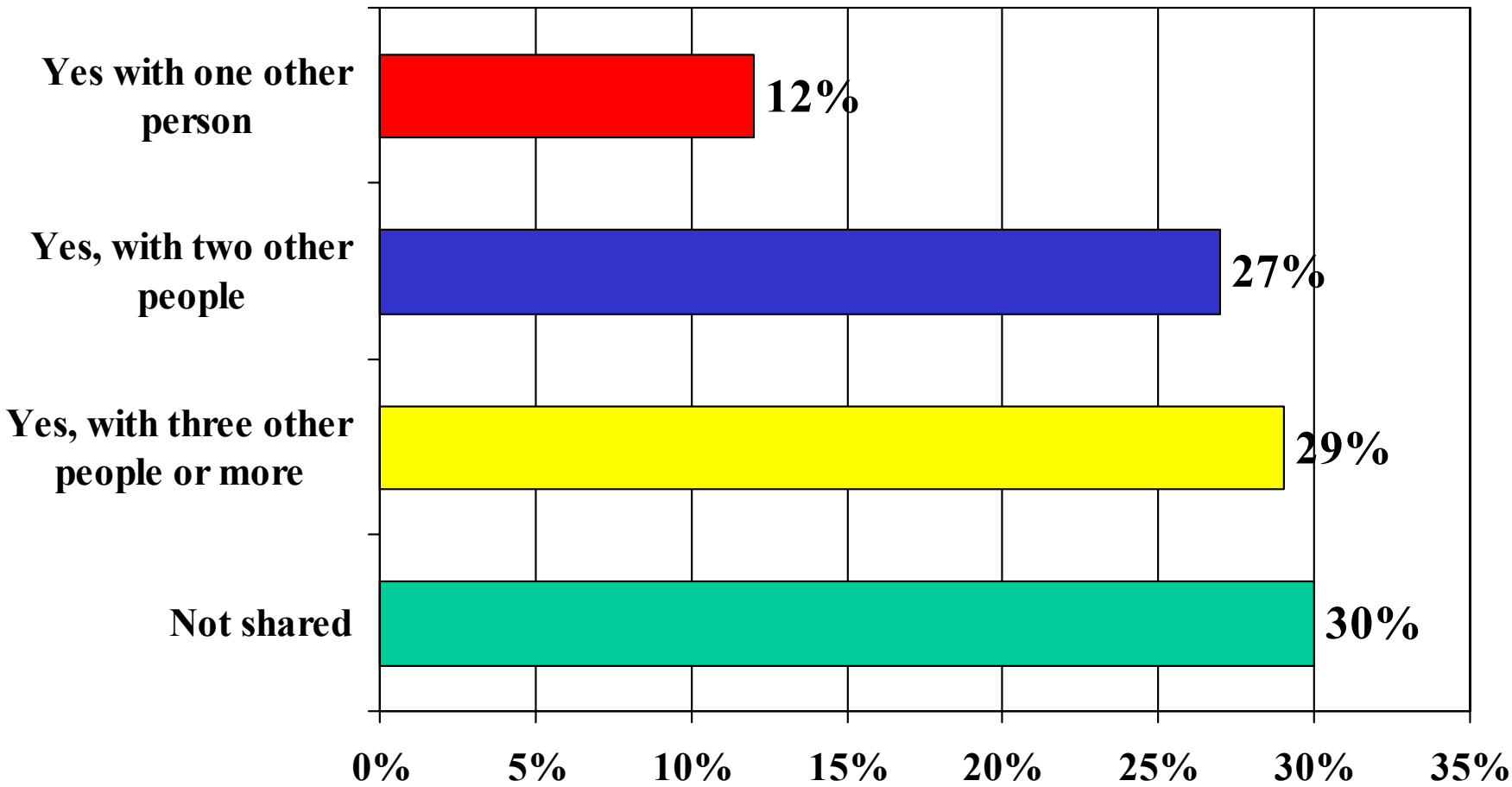


# Do you use the money from the remittance as collateral to get a bank loan?

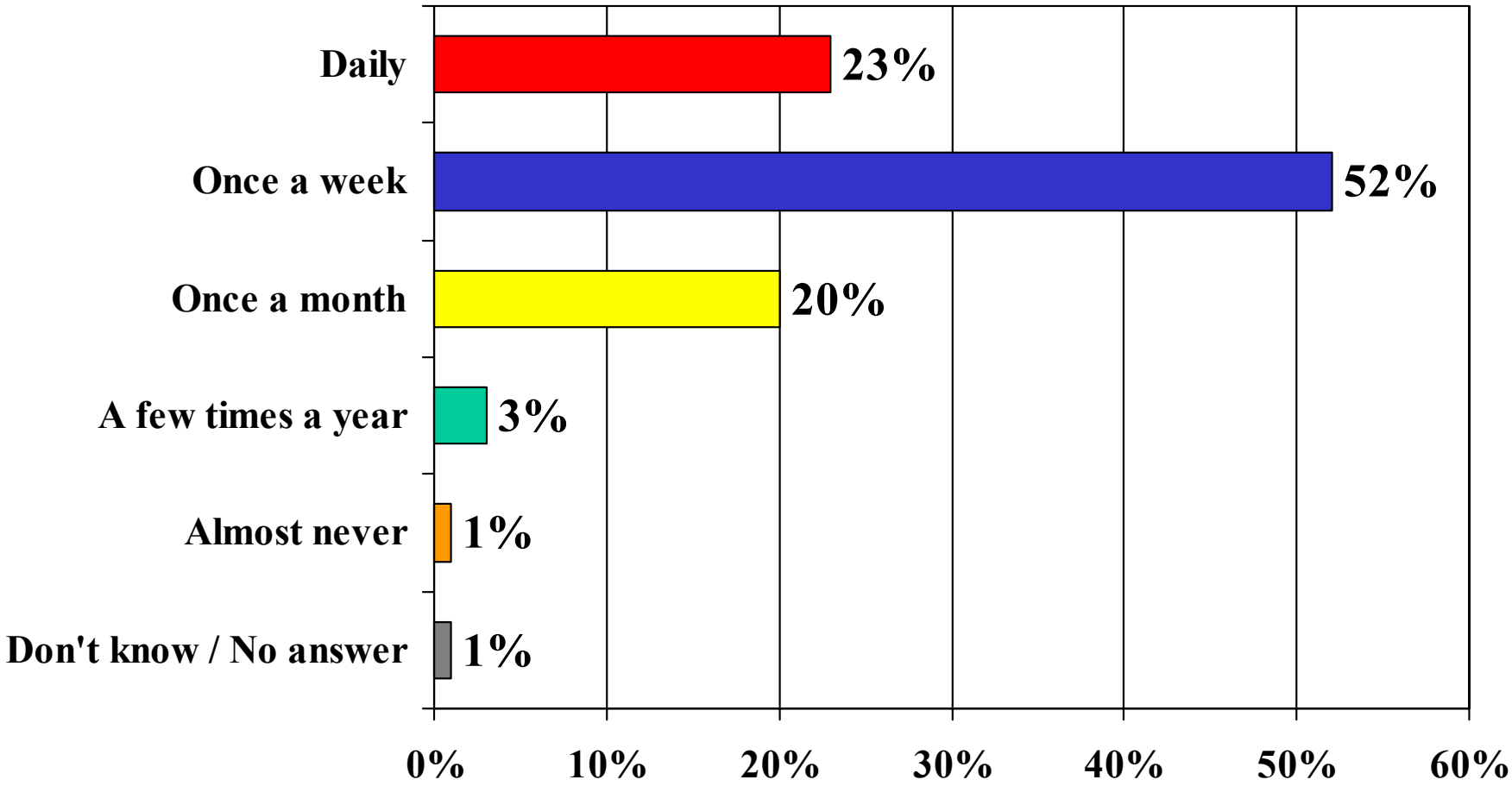
Respondents who invest in a business, a property or savings only*



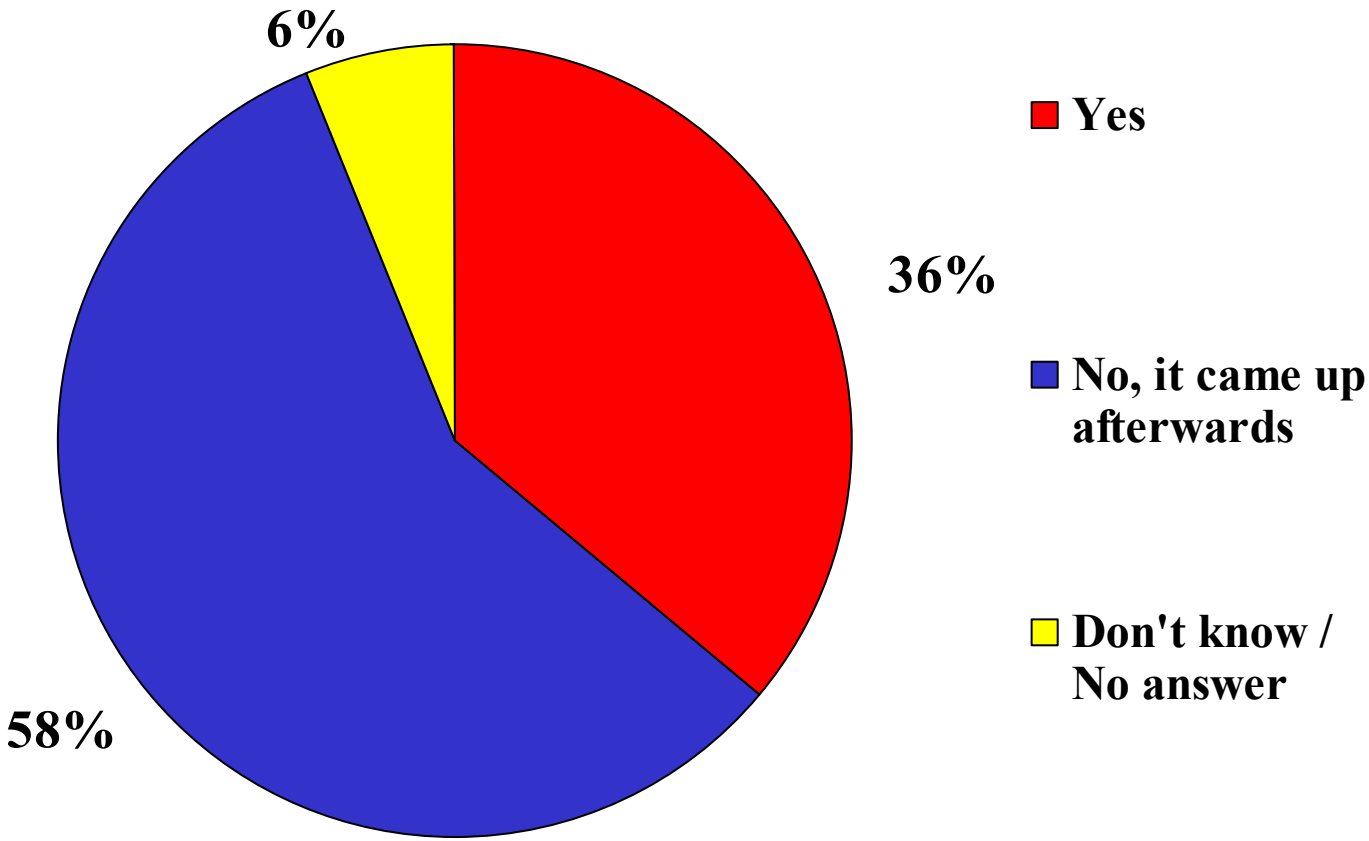
# Is your remittance shared with another person? If so, how many people?



# How often do you communicate with your relative?



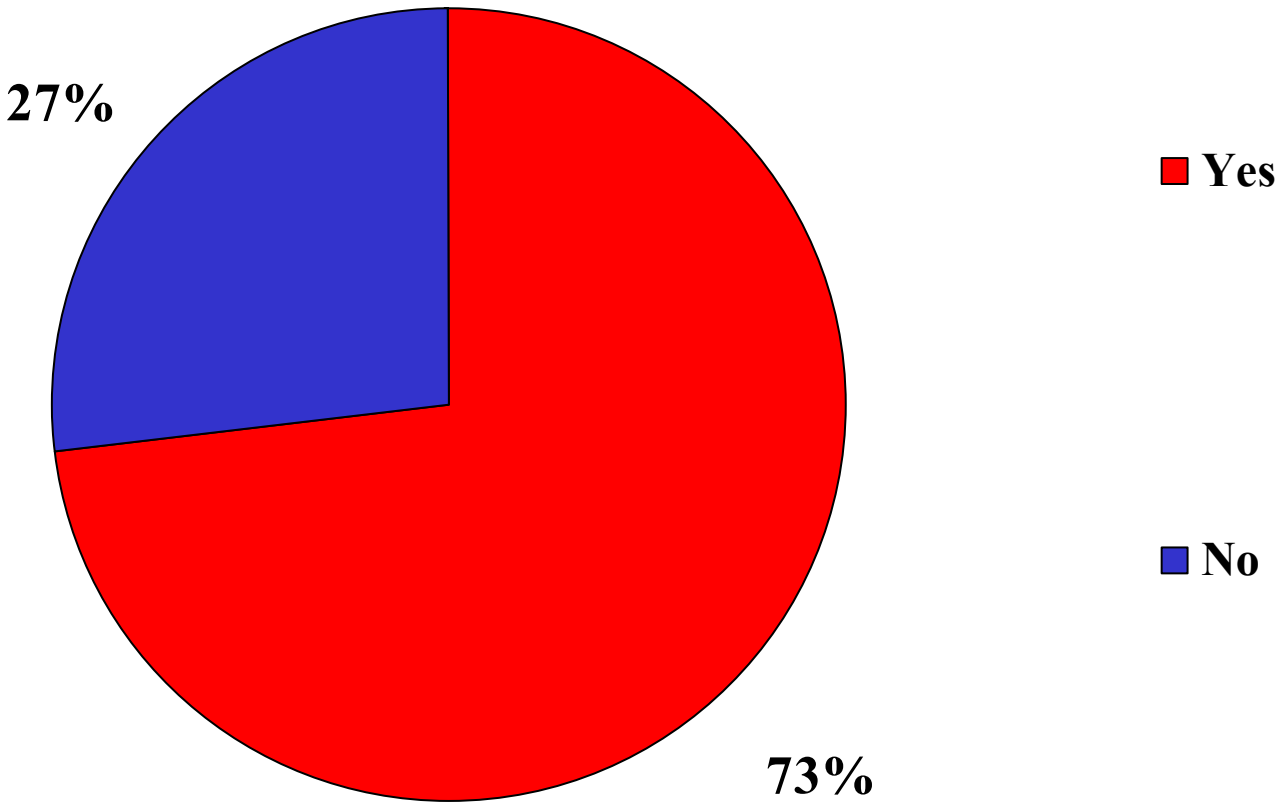
# Was there an agreement to send remittances before your family member left?



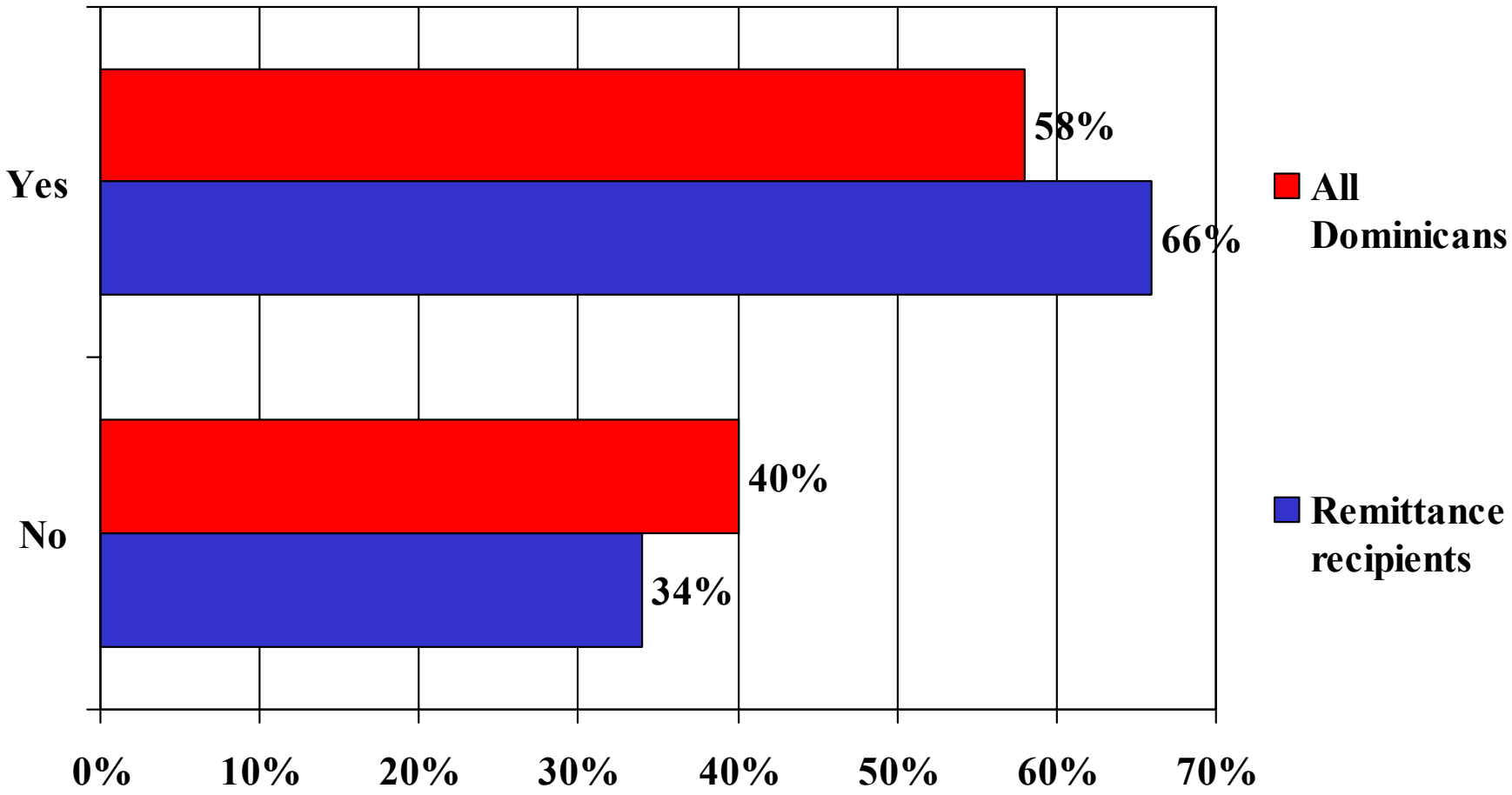
# VIII. Dominican Remittance Recipients and the Banking System

# Is there a bank near your home?

## Remittance Recipients

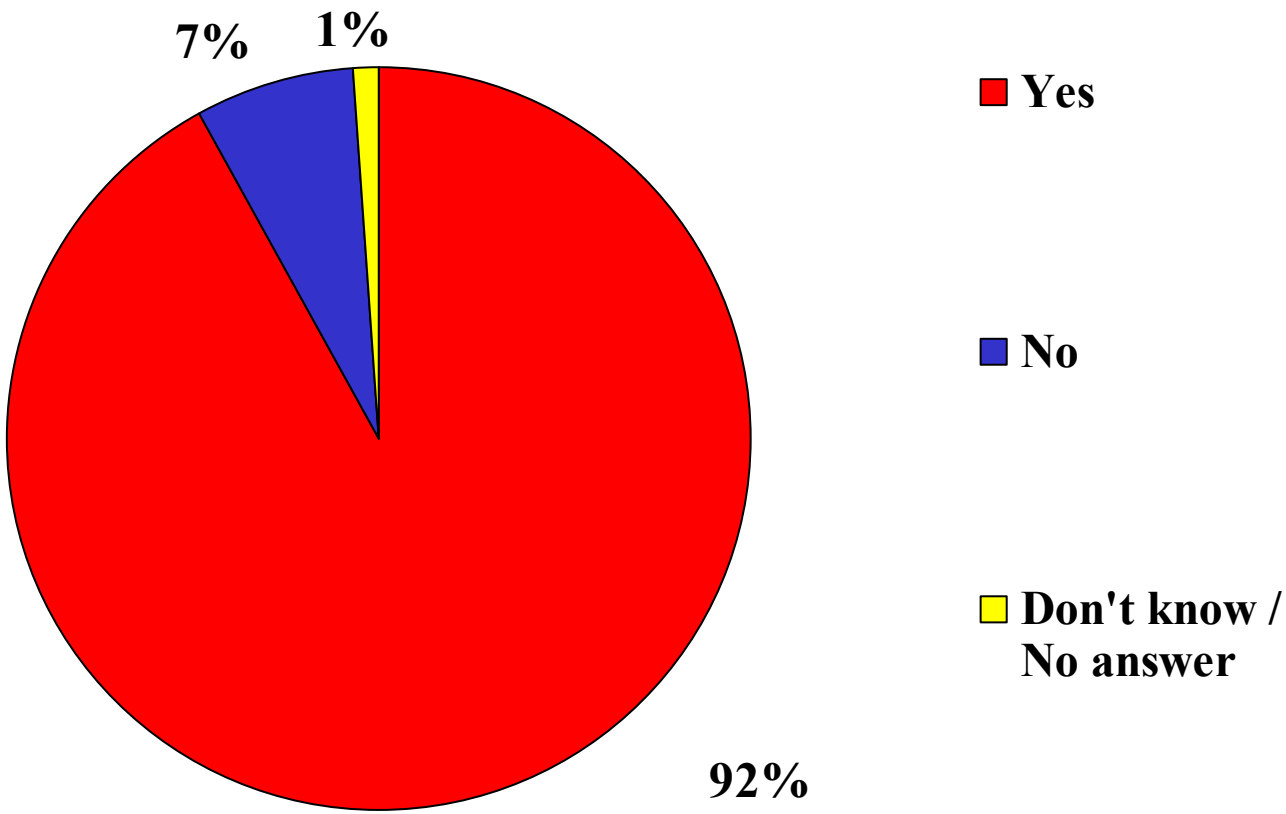


# Do you have a bank account?



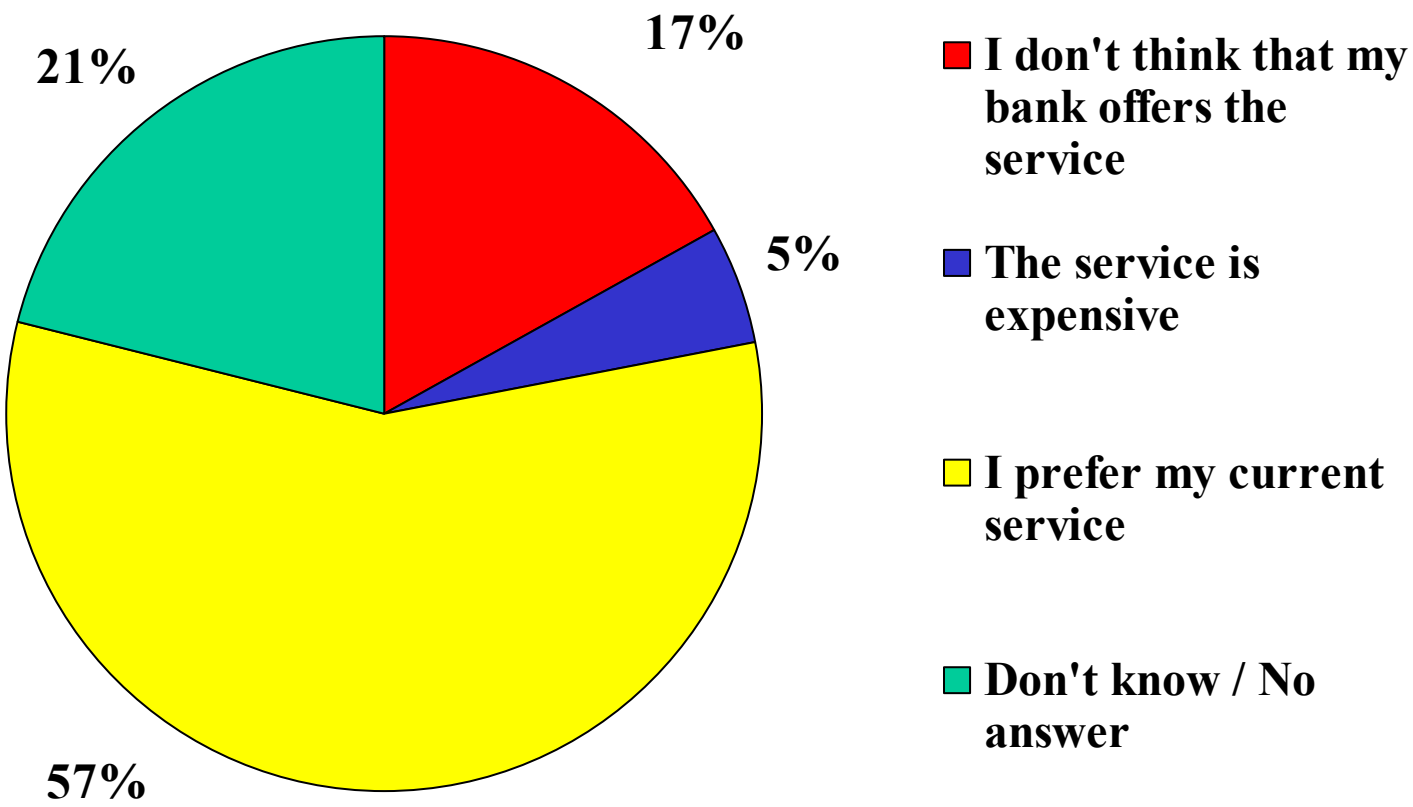
# Do you have a savings account?

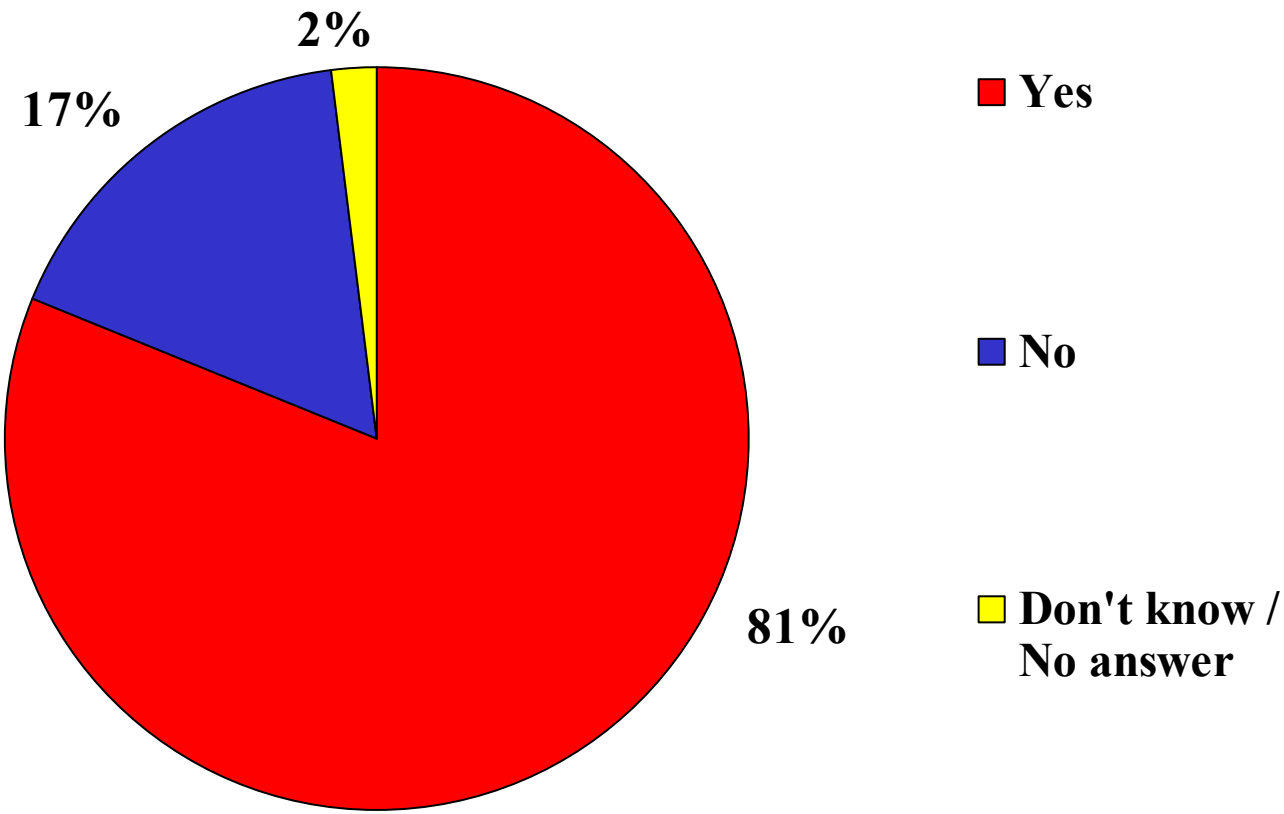
## Respondents who have a bank account only



# Why do you not use your bank account to receive remittances?

## Respondents who have a bank account only



# Do you know how to operate an automatic teller machine (ATM)?

## Remittance Recipients