

INTRODUCTION:

- A journal club is a group of health care professionals who meet regularly to critically evaluate peer-reviewed articles published in research journals, and to discuss their clinical applicability.
- Journal clubs are credited with strengthening critical thinking, research, and group presentation skills as well as improving participants' ability to apply research to clinical practice.¹
- Journal clubs began in the 19th century among physicians so they could stay abreast of the literature and avoid the prohibitive costs of journal subscriptions.
- At least 84% of postgraduate medical education training programs in North America, across specialties, incorporate journal clubs into their curriculum.²
- Over the past two decades, leaders in professional chaplaincy have called for chaplains to increase their involvement in evidence-based practice and research of spiritual care.
- The first set of *Standards of Practice for Chaplains in Acute Care* included an expectation of research literacy.
- In 2012, Fitchett and colleagues found that only 12% of ACPE residencies studied had research-related curricula, 27% provided limited exposure to research, and 62% offered no programming designed to increase research literacy.³
- Despite the prevalence of journal clubs in other medical disciplines and their proven impact on research literacy and evidence based practice, little is known about the prevalence of journal clubs in CPE.
- The purpose of this study, the first of its kind, is to examine the prevalence of journal clubs in CPE residencies accredited by ACPE in the United States and establish baseline prevalence data which can be used to determine the effectiveness of future programs that are developed to increase research literacy in CPE programs.

METHODS:

In November 2016 this survey was sent to one certified educator at 201 ACPE accredited residencies.

- Does your CPE Center have a journal club for CPE residents?** If the response to this question was negative, then the survey ended. However, if the response was affirmative, then the survey continued.
- How long have you had a journal club for CPE residents?** Responses for this single-select, multiple-choice question included:
 - Less than 1 year
 - 1 year
 - 2-3 years
 - 3 or more years
- Who leads the journal club?** Responses for this multi-select, multiple-choice question included:
 - CPE Supervisor
 - Chaplain
 - 1st Year CPE Resident
 - 2nd Year CPE Resident
 - Supervisory Education Student
 - MD
 - RN
 - Social Worker
 - Other (please specify), which included an empty text box for free-text answers to be written in.
- How long are the journal club meetings?** Responses for this single-select, multiple-choice question included:
 - Less than 1 hour
 - 1 hour
 - 1.5 hours
 - 2 hours
 - More than 2 hours

REFERENCES:

- Lizarondo, L. M., Grimmer-Somers, K., Kumar, S., & Crockett, A. (2012). Does journal club membership improve research evidence uptake in different allied health disciplines: A pre-post study. *BMC research notes*, 5(1), 588. Moharari, R. S., Rahimi, E., Najafi, A., Khashayar, P., Khajavi, M. R., & Meysamie, A. P. (2009). Teaching critical appraisal and statistics in anesthesia journal club. *QJM*, 102(2), 139-141.
- Mullen, S. J., & Sabri, K. (2016). Role of journal club in Canadian ophthalmology residency training: A national survey of program directors. *Can J Ophthalmol*, 51(3), 226-231
- Fitchett, G., Tartaglia, A., Dodd-McCue, D., & Murphy, P. (2012). Educating chaplains for research literacy: results of a national survey of clinical pastoral education residency programs. *J Pastoral Care Counsel*, 66(1), 3.

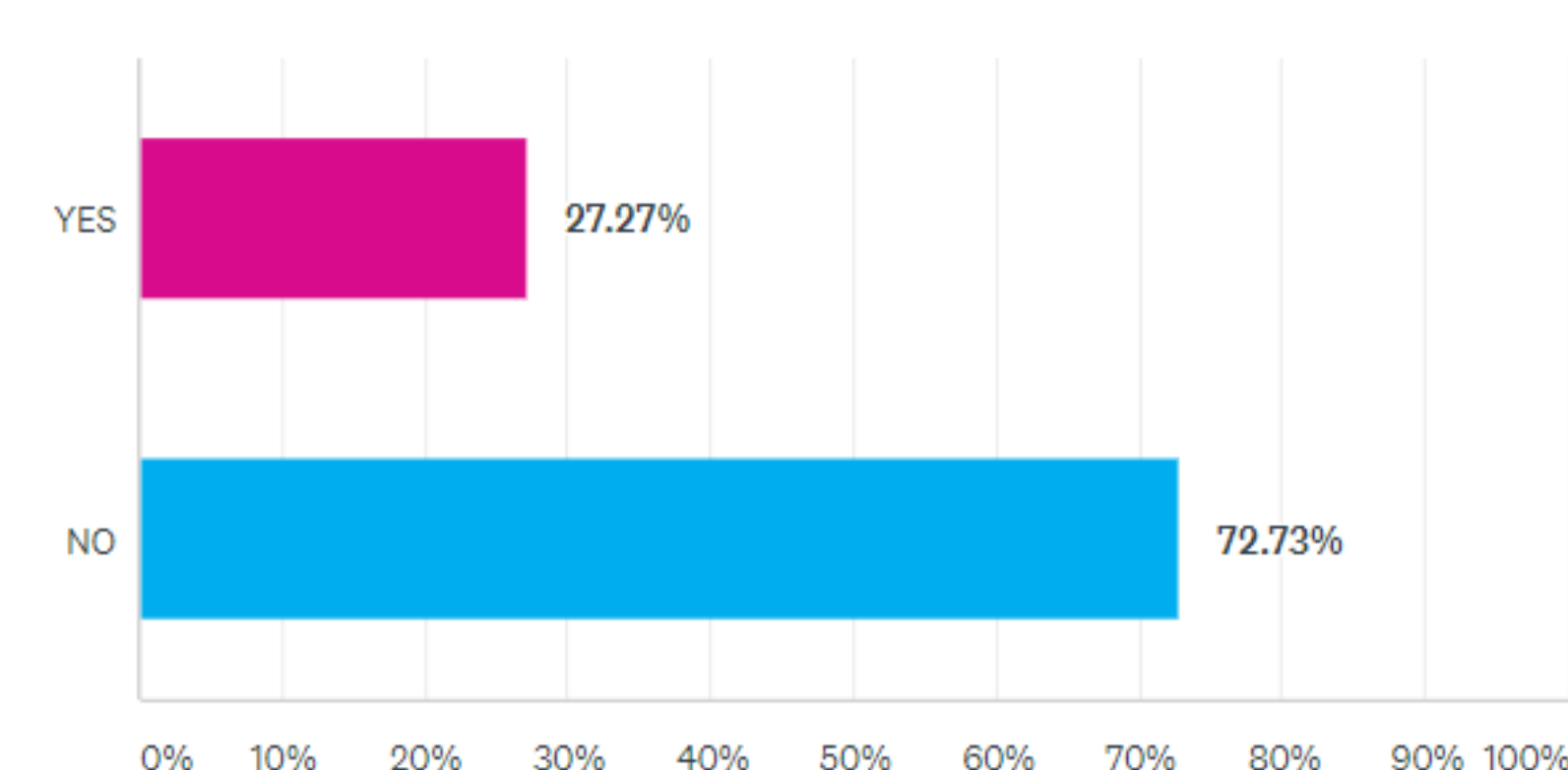
- How frequently does your journal club meet?** Responses for this single-select, multiple-choice question included:
 - Once per month
 - Twice per month
 - Weekly
 - Other (please specify), which included an empty text box for free-text answers to be written in.
- Do you think journal clubs should be incorporated into every CPE program?** Responses for this single-select, multiple-choice question included:
 - Yes
 - No
 - Not sure. An empty text box was provided and survey respondents were instructed to "Please explain your answer."
- Would you be interested in learning more about journal clubs?** Responses for this single-select, multiple-choice question included:
 - Yes
 - No. An empty text box was provided and survey respondents were instructed to "Please explain your answer."

RESULTS:

- 88 of 201 certified educators completed the survey yielding a 44% response rate.
- 24 (28%) indicated they did have a journal club but only 23 (26%) responded to all remaining six questions.

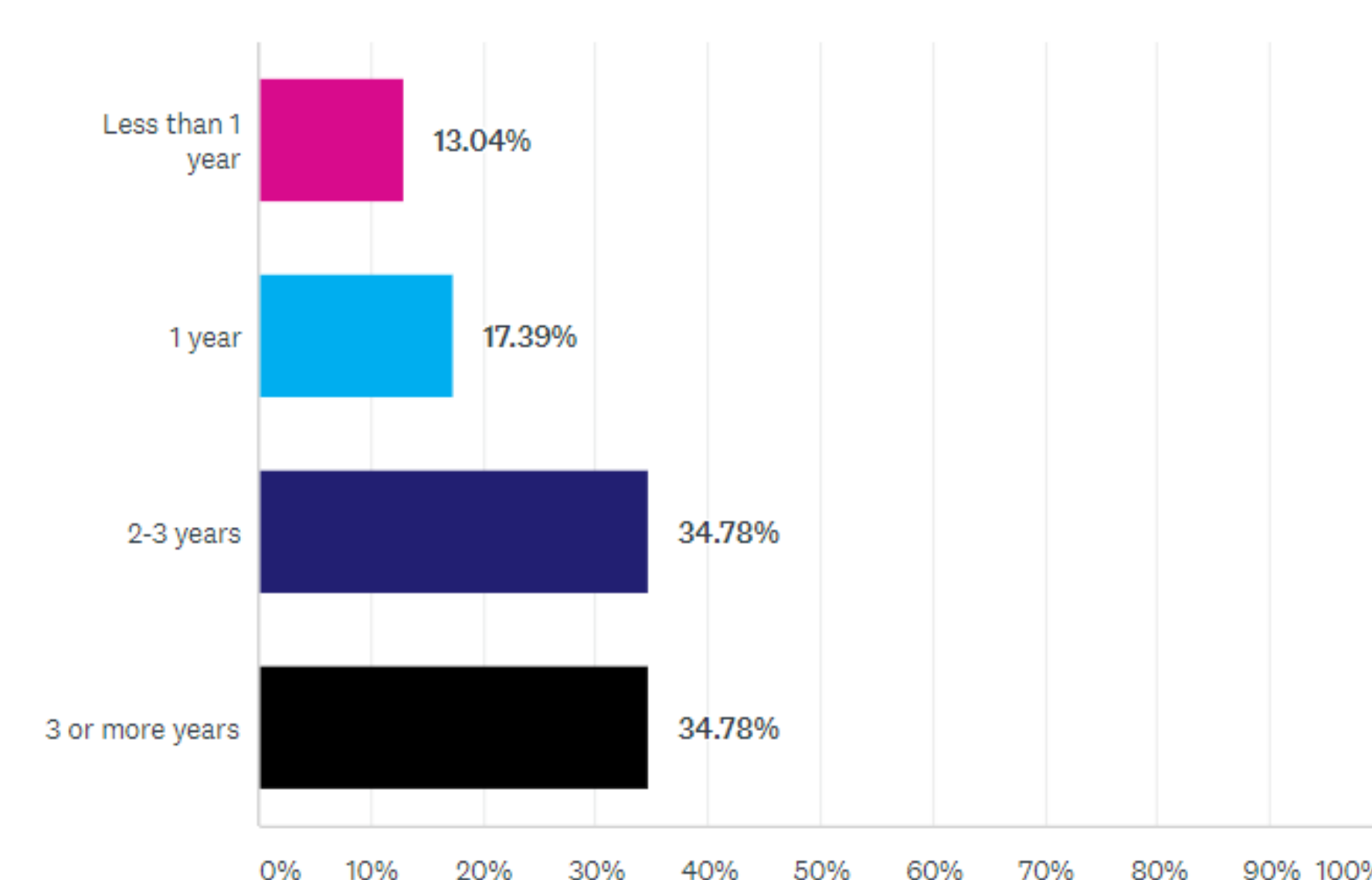
Q1 Does your CPE Center have a journal club for CPE residents?

Answered: 88 Skipped: 0



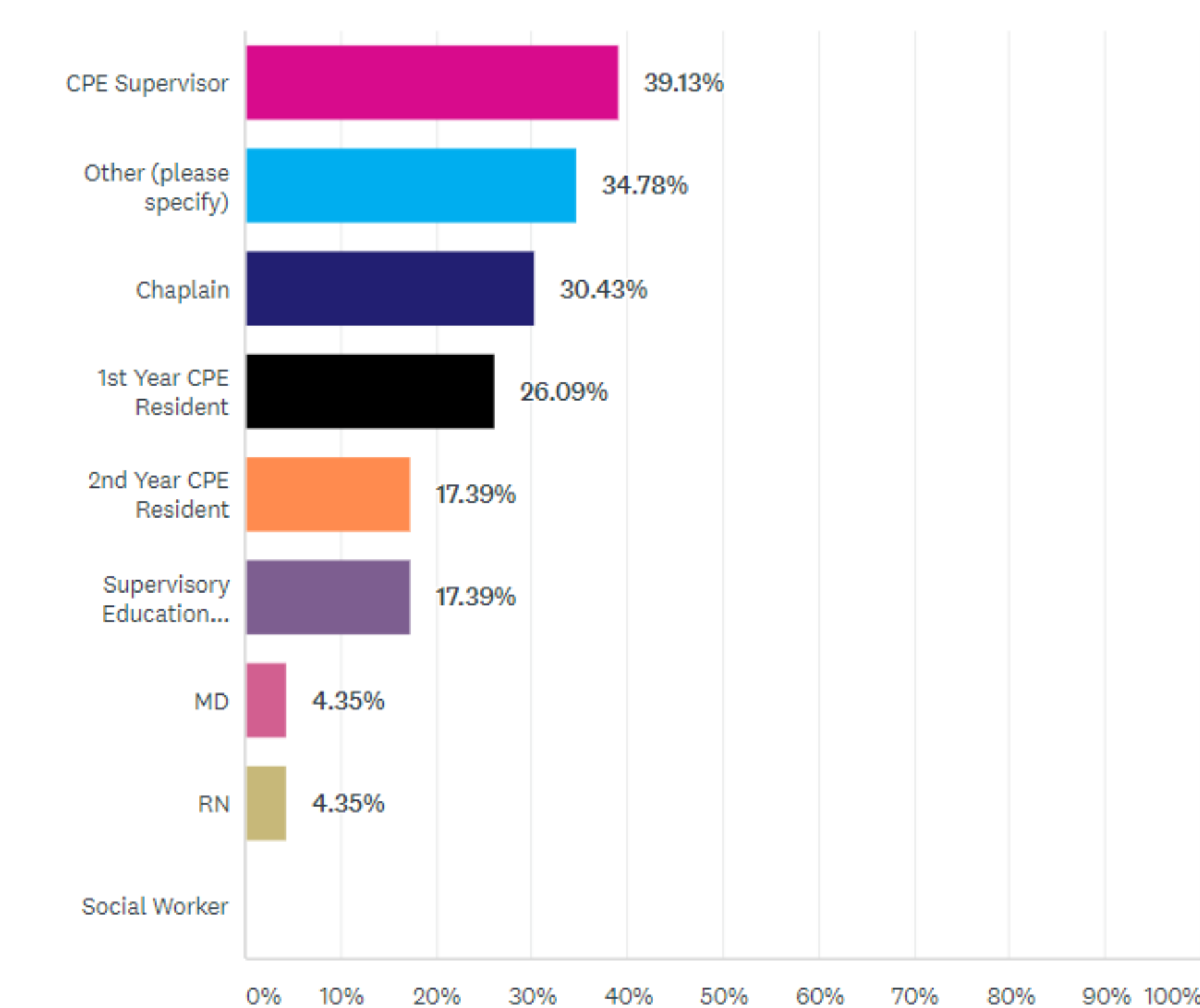
Q2 How long have you had a journal club for CPE residents?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 65



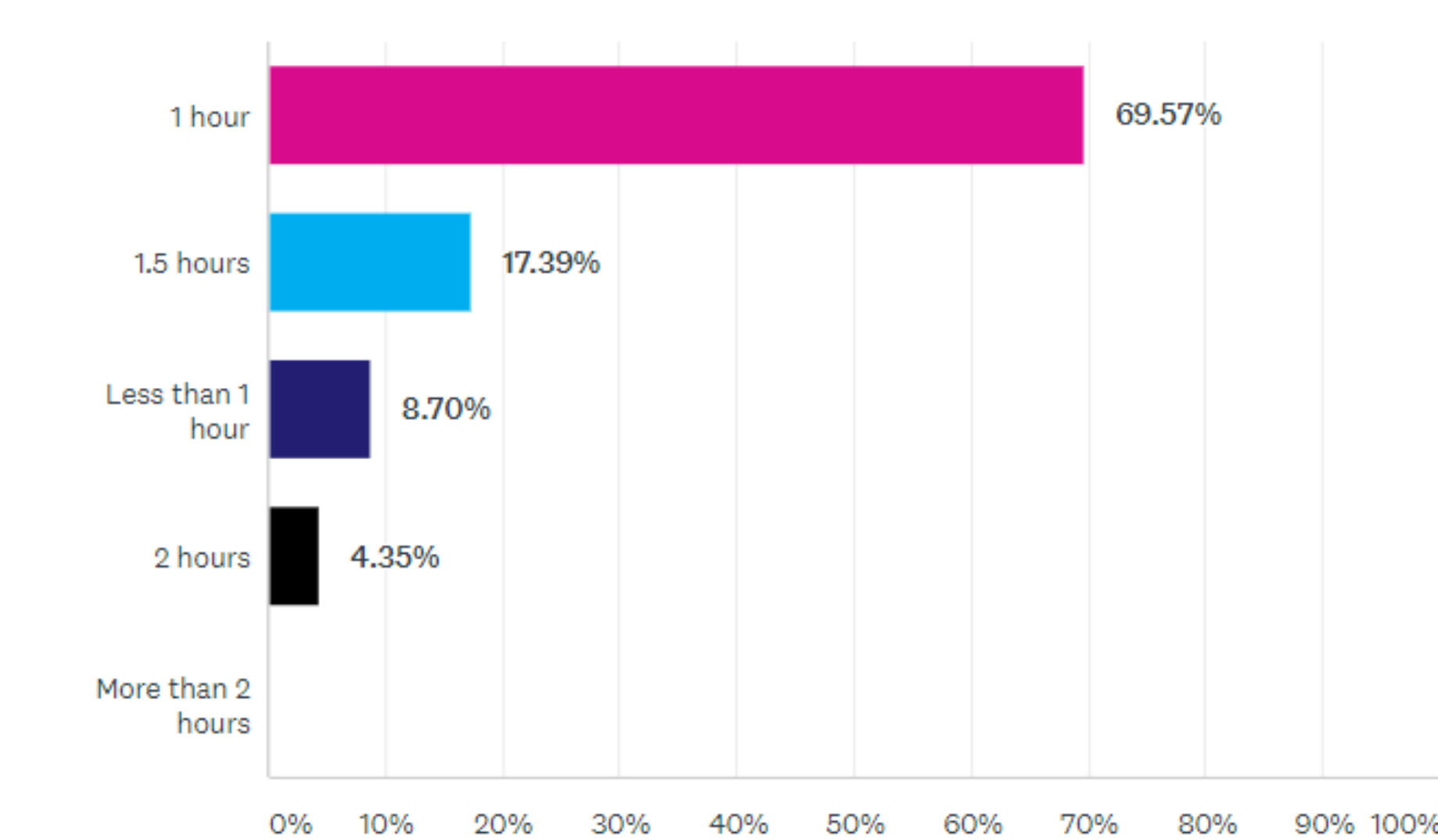
Q3 Who leads the journal club?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 65



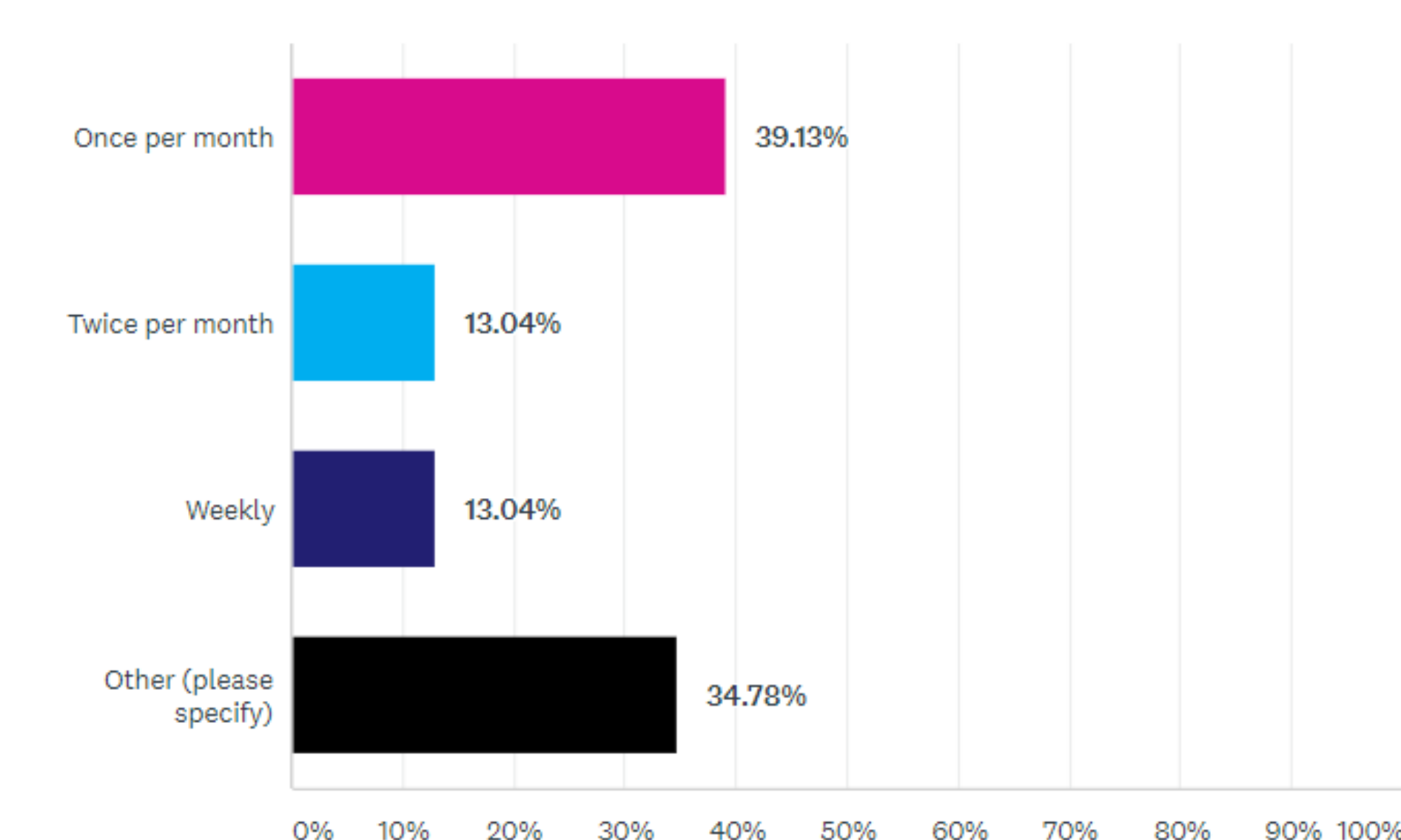
Q4 How long are the journal club meetings?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 65



Q5 How frequently does your journal club meet?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 65



Responses to "Other" included:

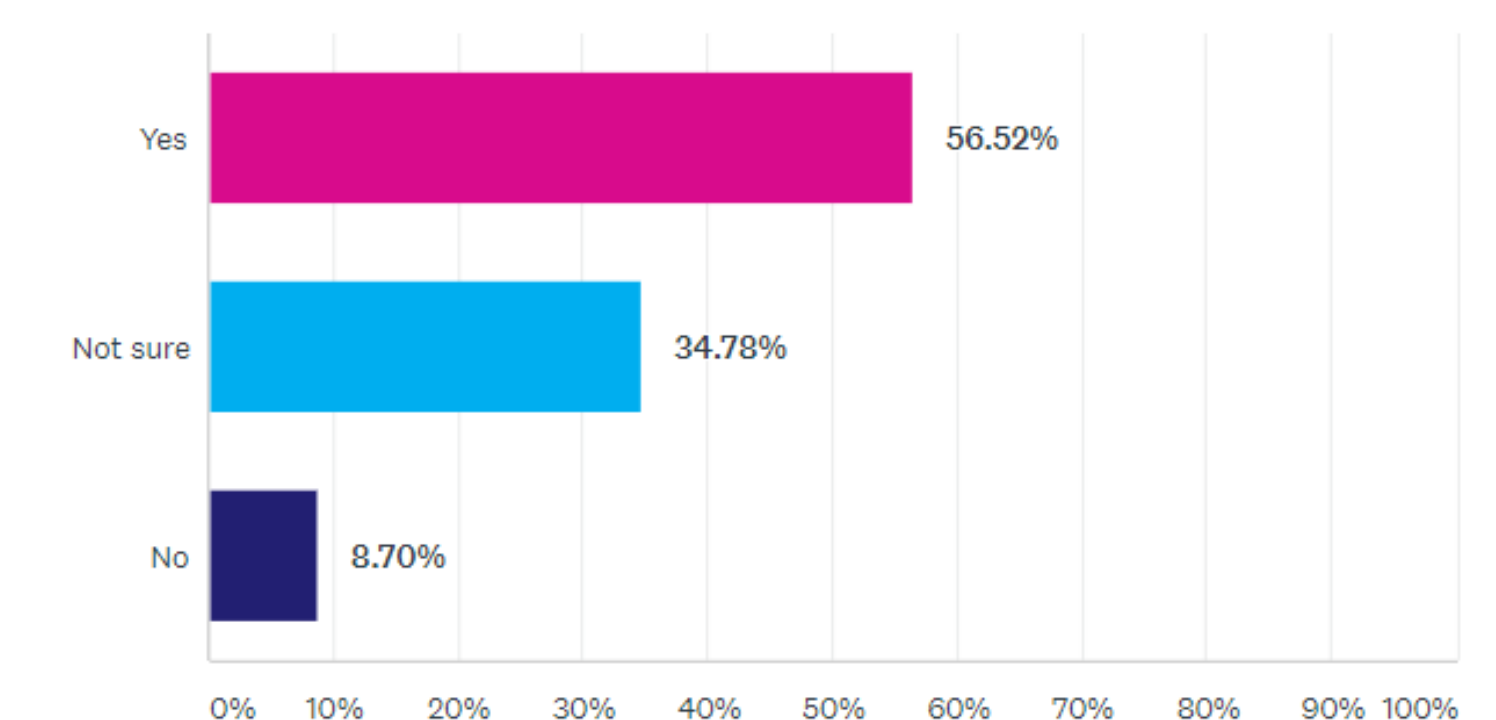
- 6 times a year
- 4-6 times per year
- Every 6 weeks or so
- Quarterly with other education in between
- Starting the academic year, we will meet monthly
- Quarterly
- Less than 1/month

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Q6 Do you think journal clubs should be incorporated into every CPE program?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 65

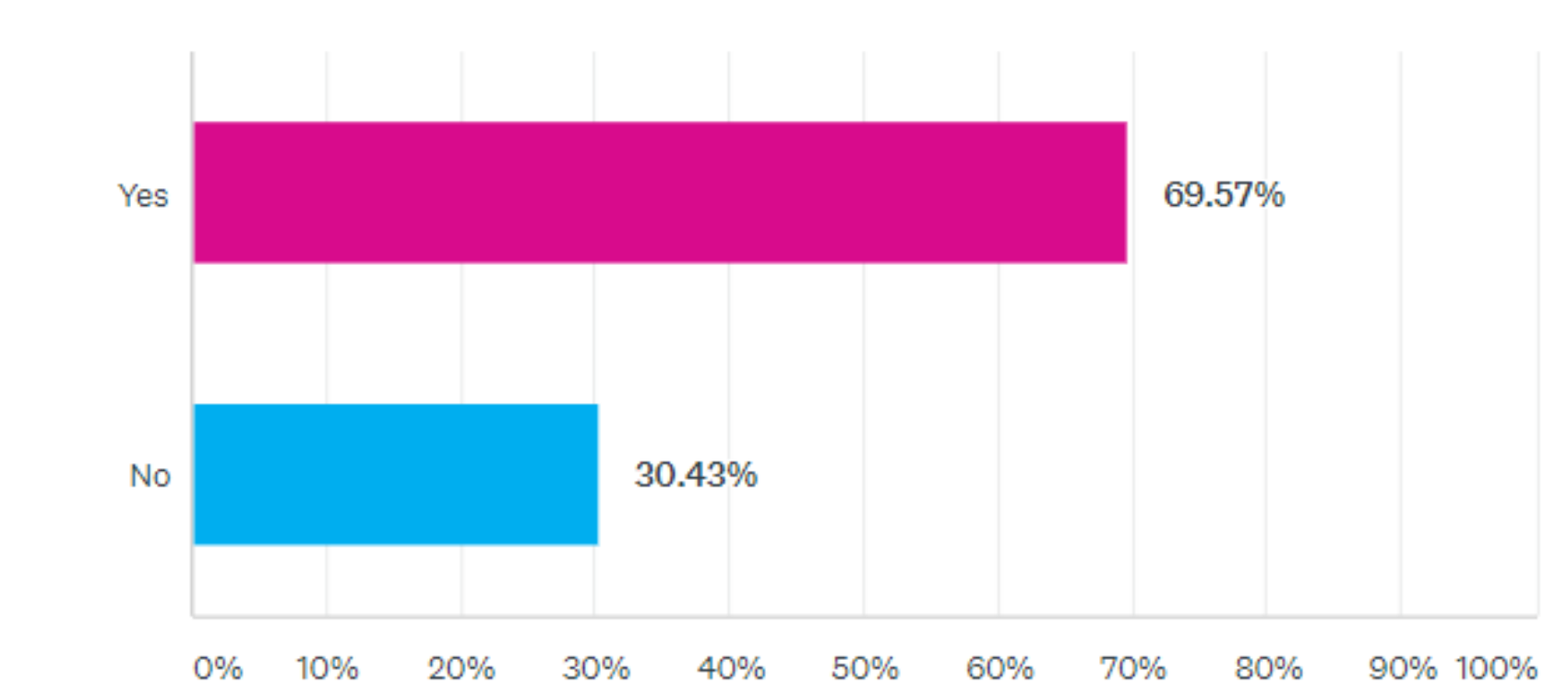


Responses to "Not sure" included:

- I imagine most programs do not have the time, expertise, interest or resources to implement one
- I think that is a center/supervisor decision based on the needs of the students and/or center
- A journal club for CPE Residents is important; not sure that it is appropriate for level I interns.
- Reading/discussing together journal articles has promoted integration of multi-disciplinary reflection and application into spiritual care practice
- I don't have strong opinion either way
- Requires a knowledgeable journal club facilitator and research literate participants
- Helps integrate medicine and spiritual care
- This helps develop the discipline of reading and advancing knowledge beyond the residency.
- Journal Club is not a one size fits all approach to research or ongoing continuing education. Just as not all CPE programs address the same student population.
- Ours is like the ebb and flow of the tides
- As didactic time

Q7 Would you be interested in learning more about journal clubs?

Answered: 23 Skipped: 65



Written responses included:

- It would be interesting to see the variety of ways in which Journal Clubs are organized and implemented.
- The issue is not only reading and critiquing the literature, but also how to use the materials in a practical way.
- I would like to know what others see as the impact of the journal club.
- If it is new information and in collaboration with ACPE Research Network
- Want to know what others are doing.
- I'm curious as to whether other programs encourage residents to attend journal clubs for other disciplines. We are experimenting with that some as well. How many folks are offering interdisciplinary journal clubs?
- Learning how other programs do journal clubs would be interesting.

CONCLUSIONS:

- Journal clubs are not prevalent in CPE residencies as an educational activity for increasing research literacy, despite their common use in training programs for other healthcare professions and significant interest in journal clubs among CPE certified educators.
- In our study, the majority of journal clubs were led by a CPE certified educator, yet the current rates of research literacy of CPE certified educators are unknown and merit further study.
- There is significant interest in journal clubs among CPE certified educators and a strong desire for more training in implementing and leading them.