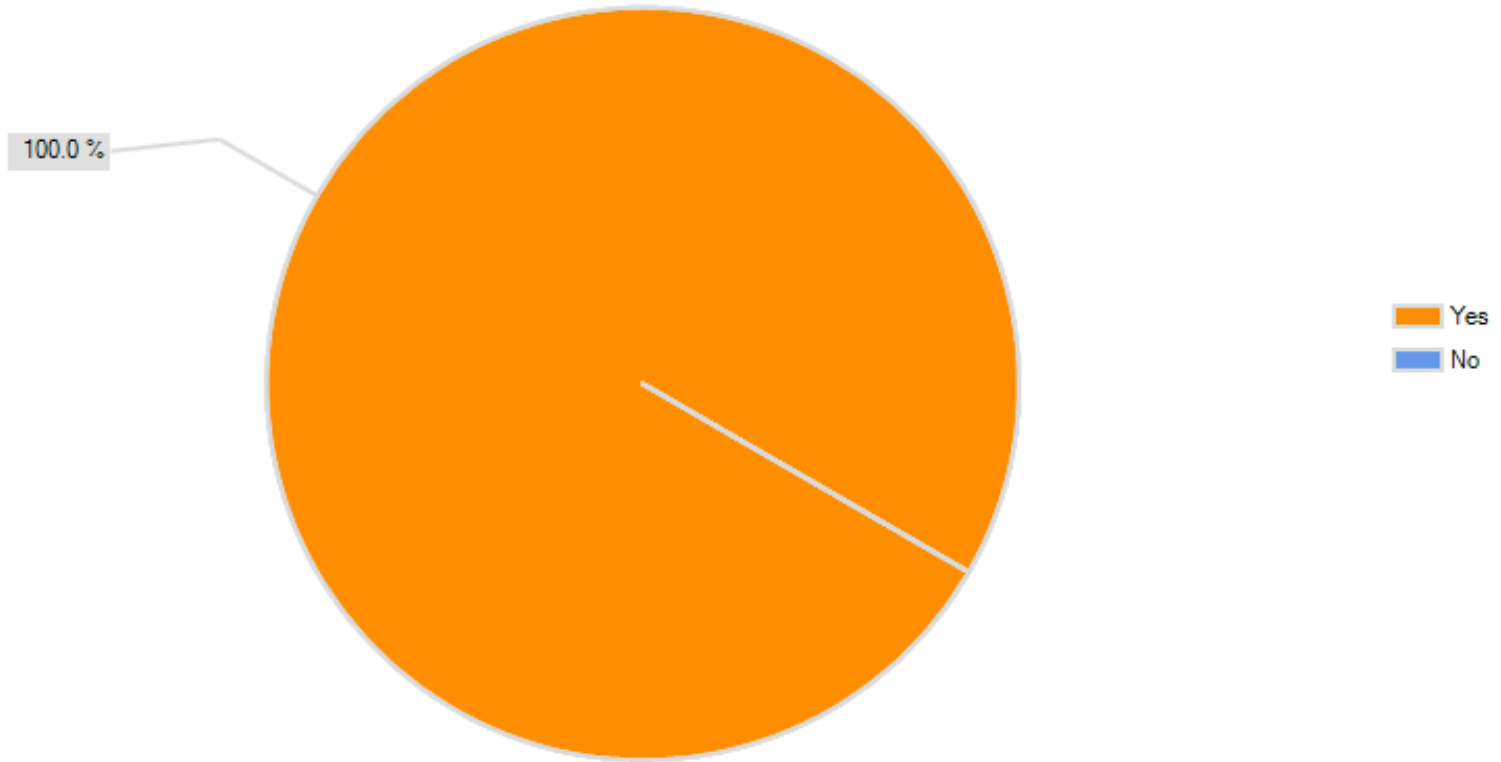


## **Young Somerville Advisory Group: Survey on Education in Somerville**

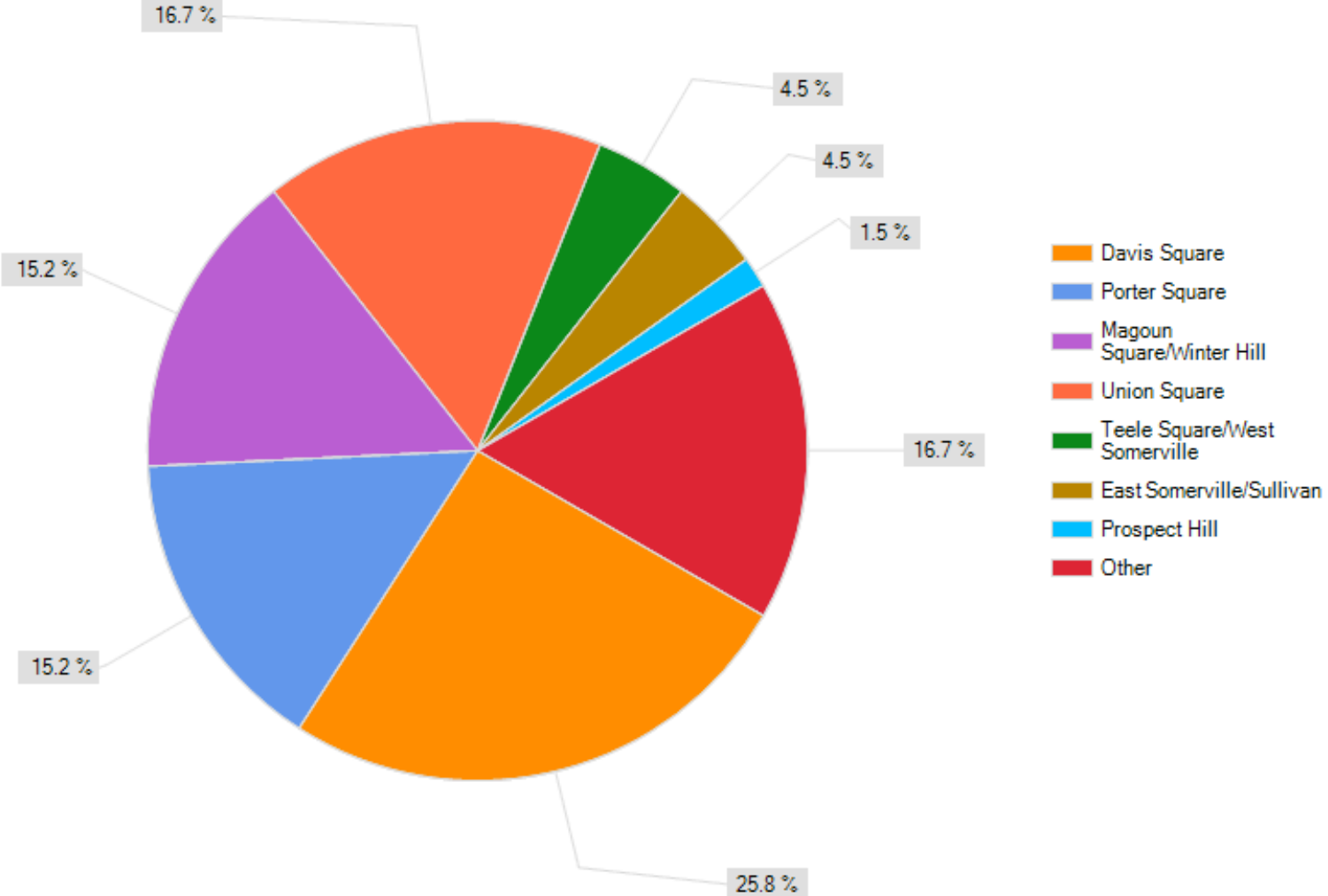
Mayor Curtatone's Young Somerville Advisory Group is comprised of thirty 21 to 35 year old Somerville residents. The group's goals are to increase the number of young residents engaged in our civic community, improve the quality of City services offered and increase communication between City government and people in this age group. The Group will accomplish set goals by advising the Mayor and City staff, initiating and organizing activities targeted to this demographic, and advocating on behalf of fellow Young Somerville residents.

This survey was conducted to gather information from Young Somerville residents on what interests the Young Somerville demographic has in the education system in the City of Somerville. All respondents responded that they were from Somerville. Raw information from open responses is listed after all the compiled chart data. The survey was sent out on April 14, 2010 and this data was compiled on April 27, 2010. 66 total responses were taken during that time.

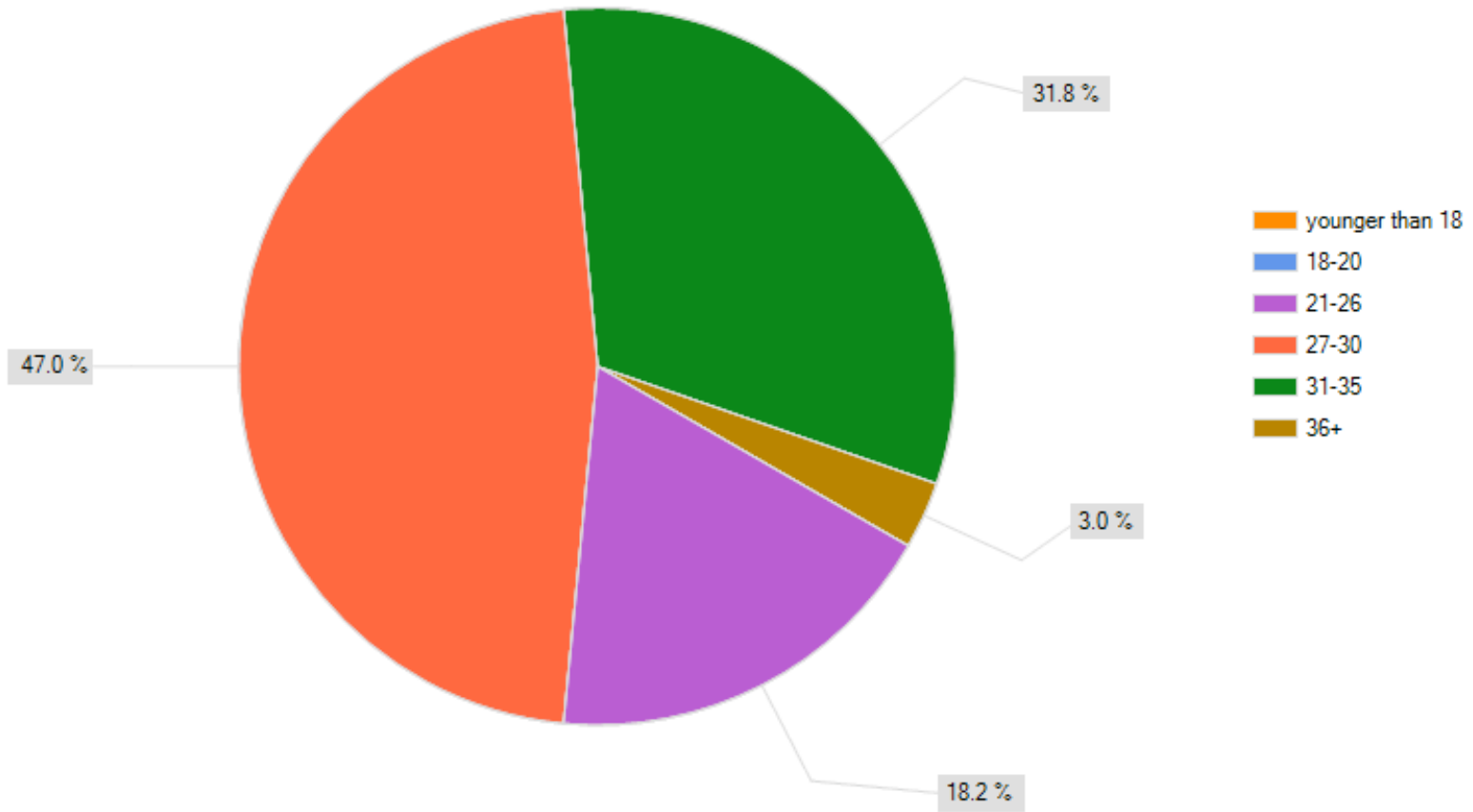
### Do you live in Somerville?



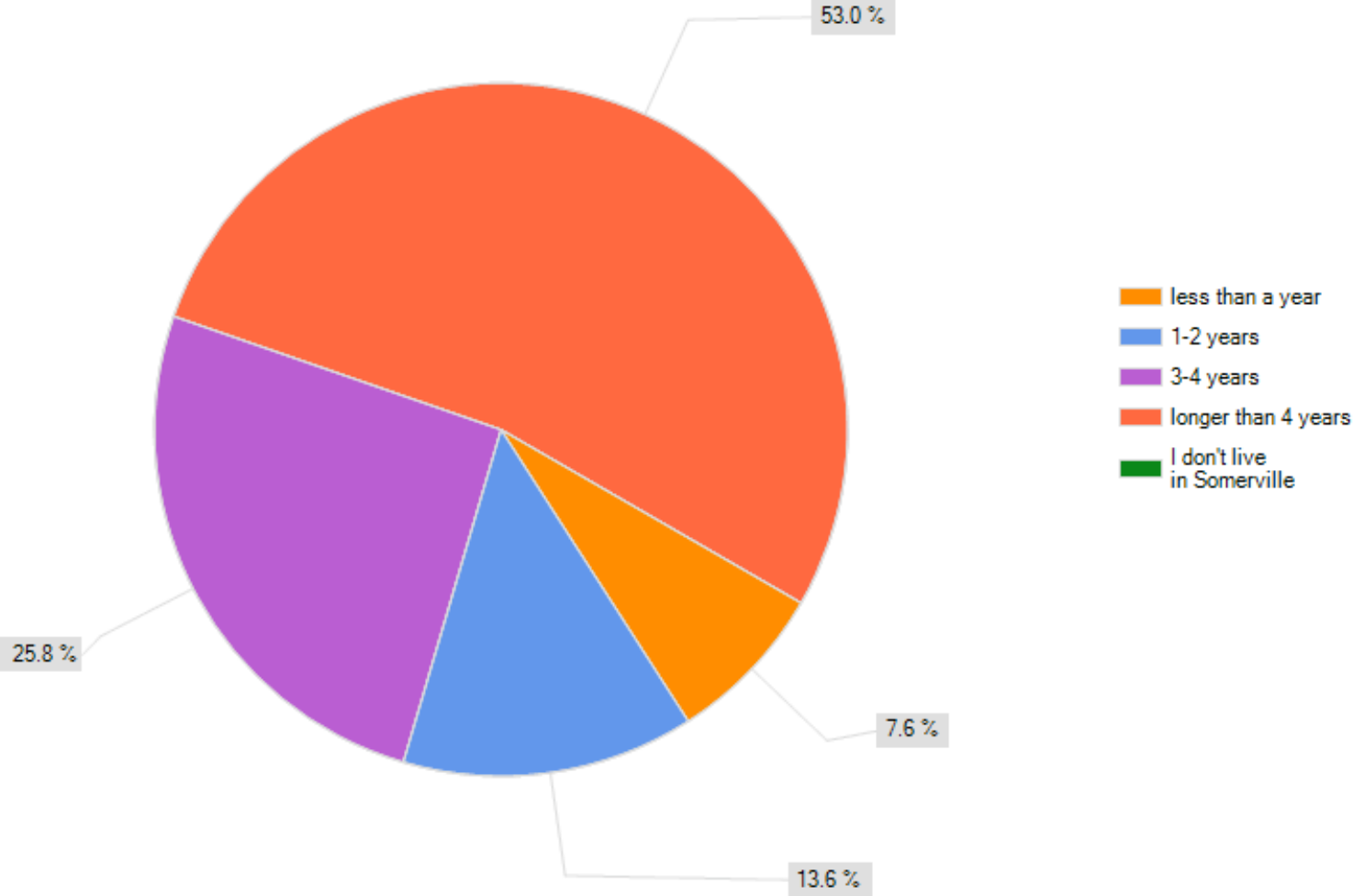
**If yes, what neighborhood do you live in?**



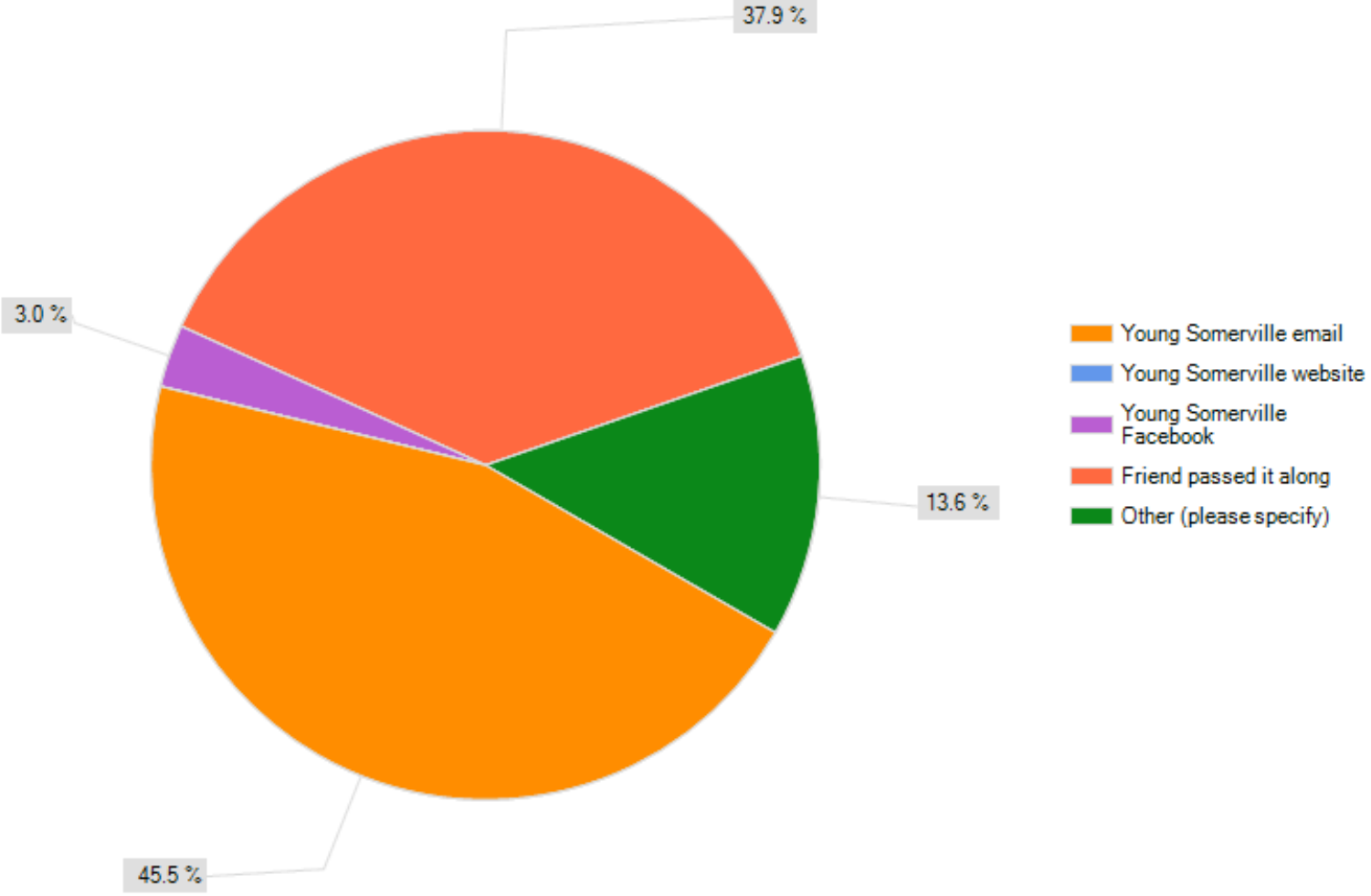
Please select your age group from the list:



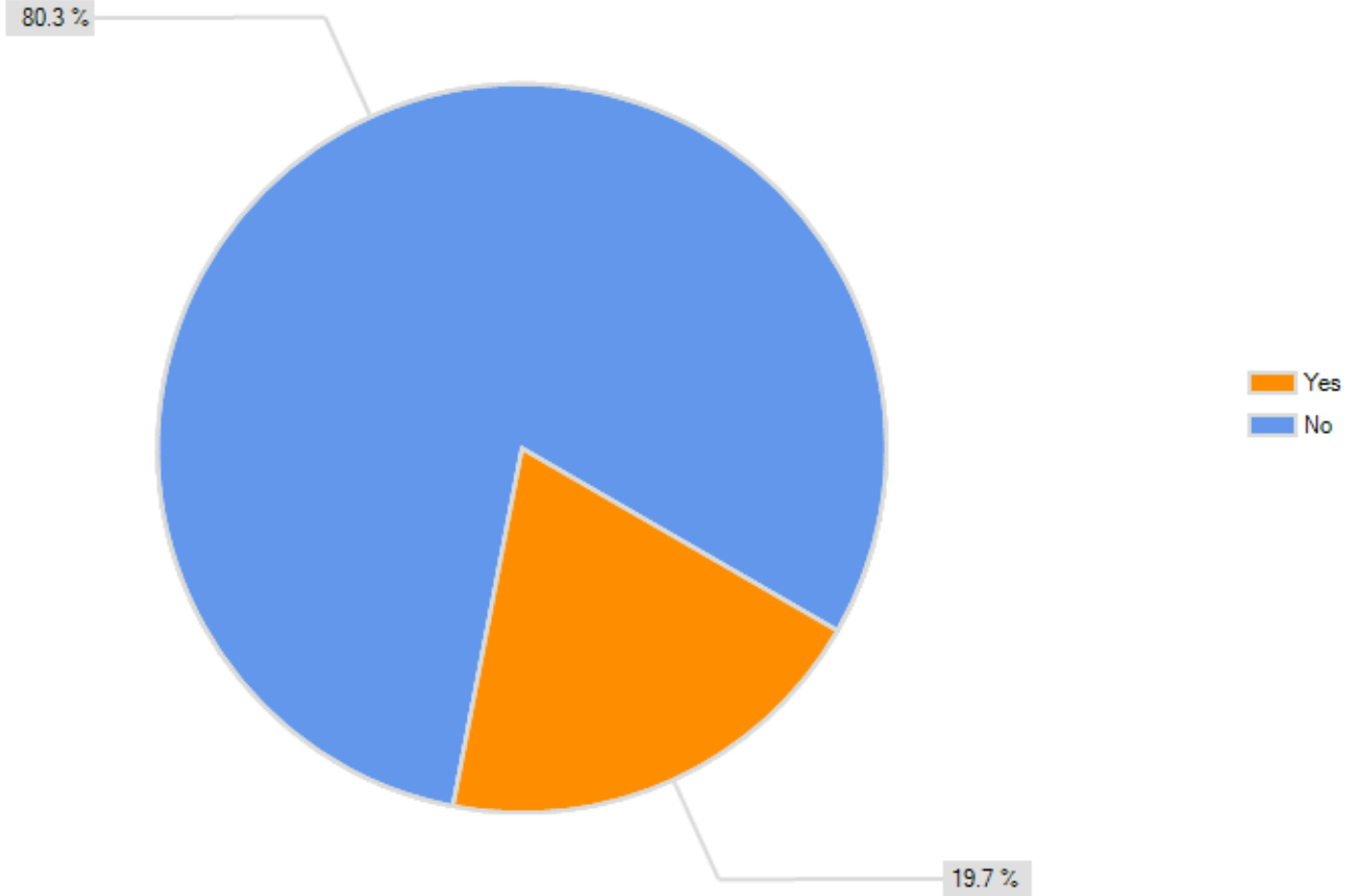
### How long have you lived in Somerville?



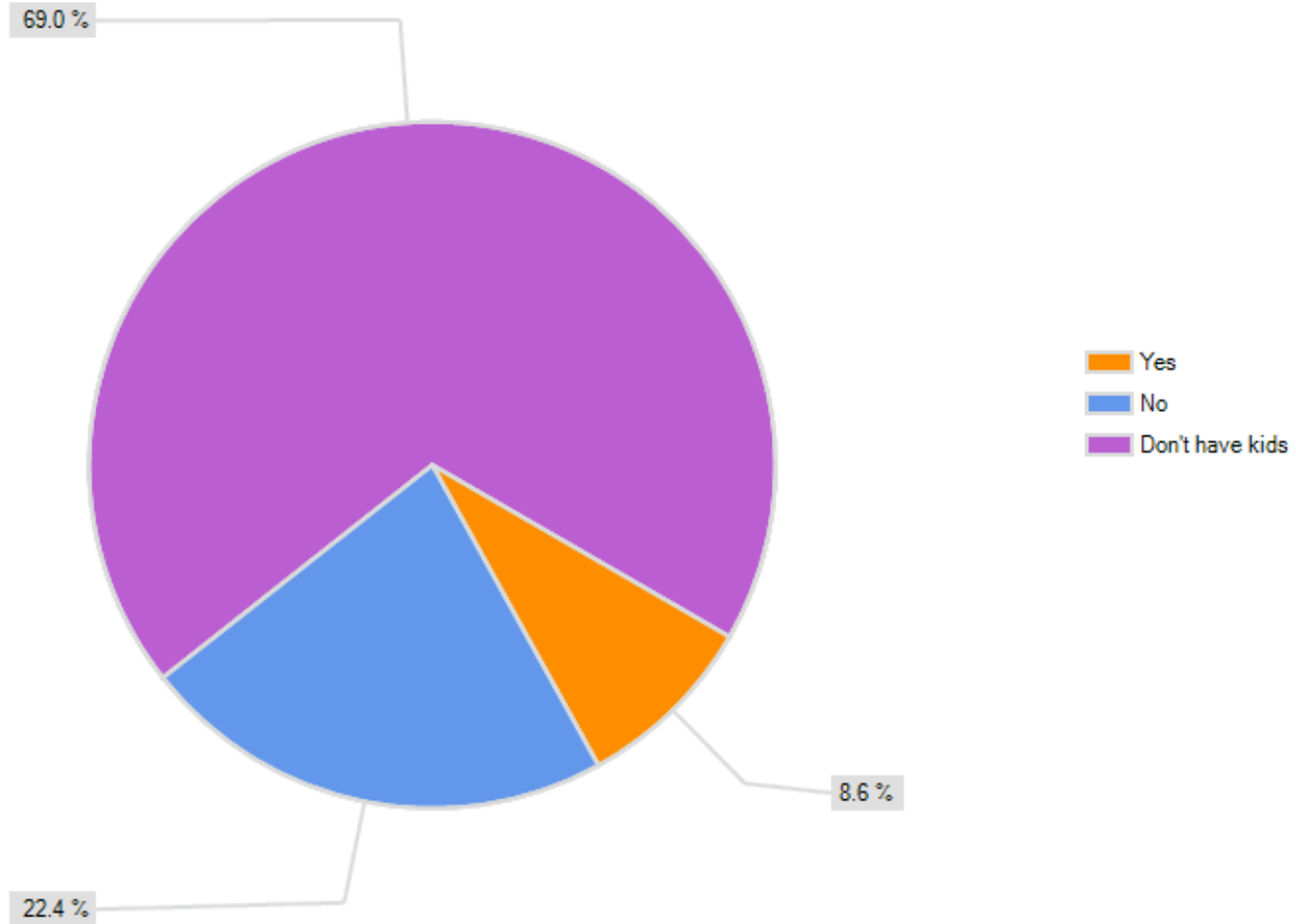
**How did you find out about this survey?**



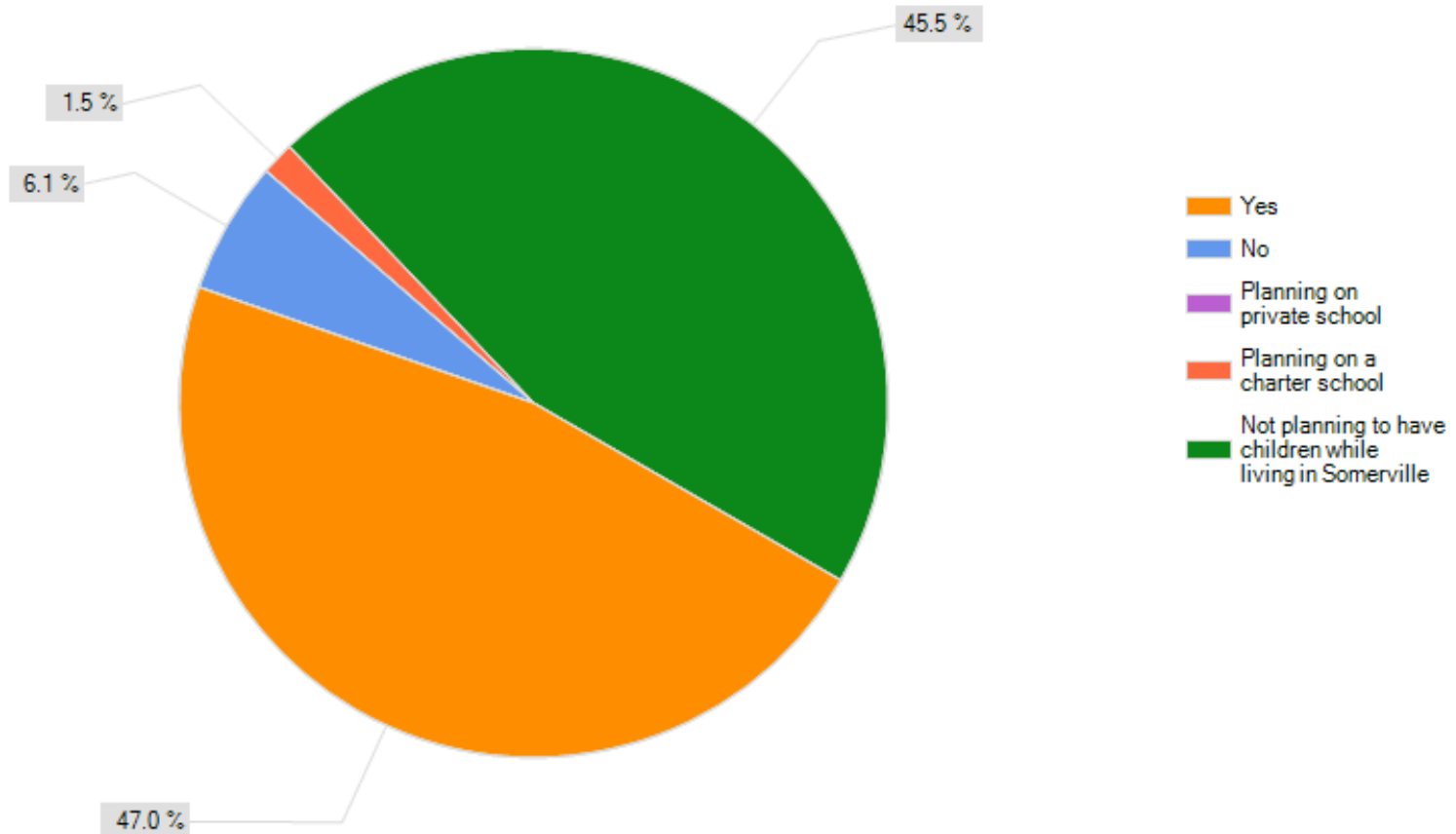
### Do you have children?



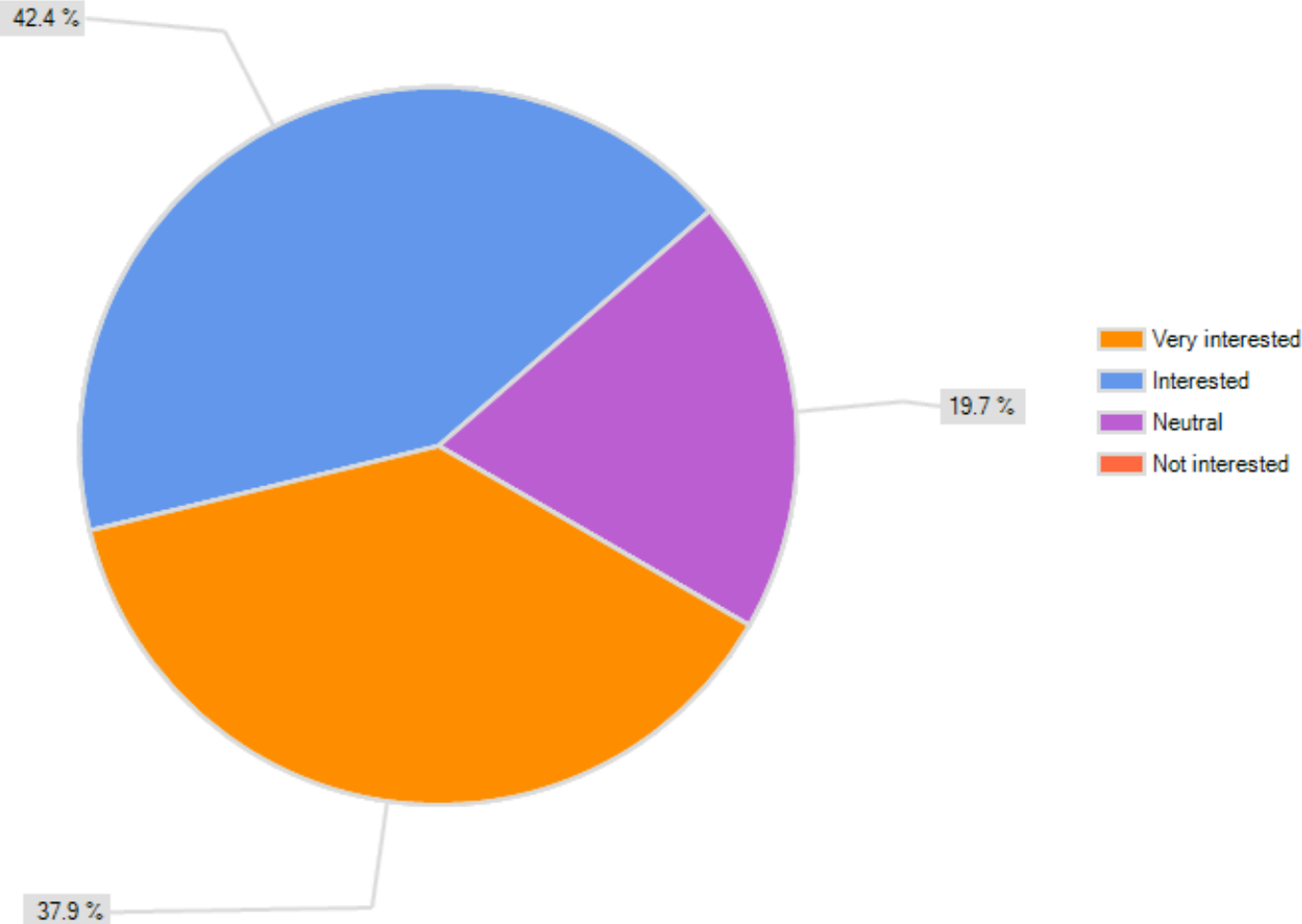
**If you have children, do they attend school in Somerville Public Schools?**



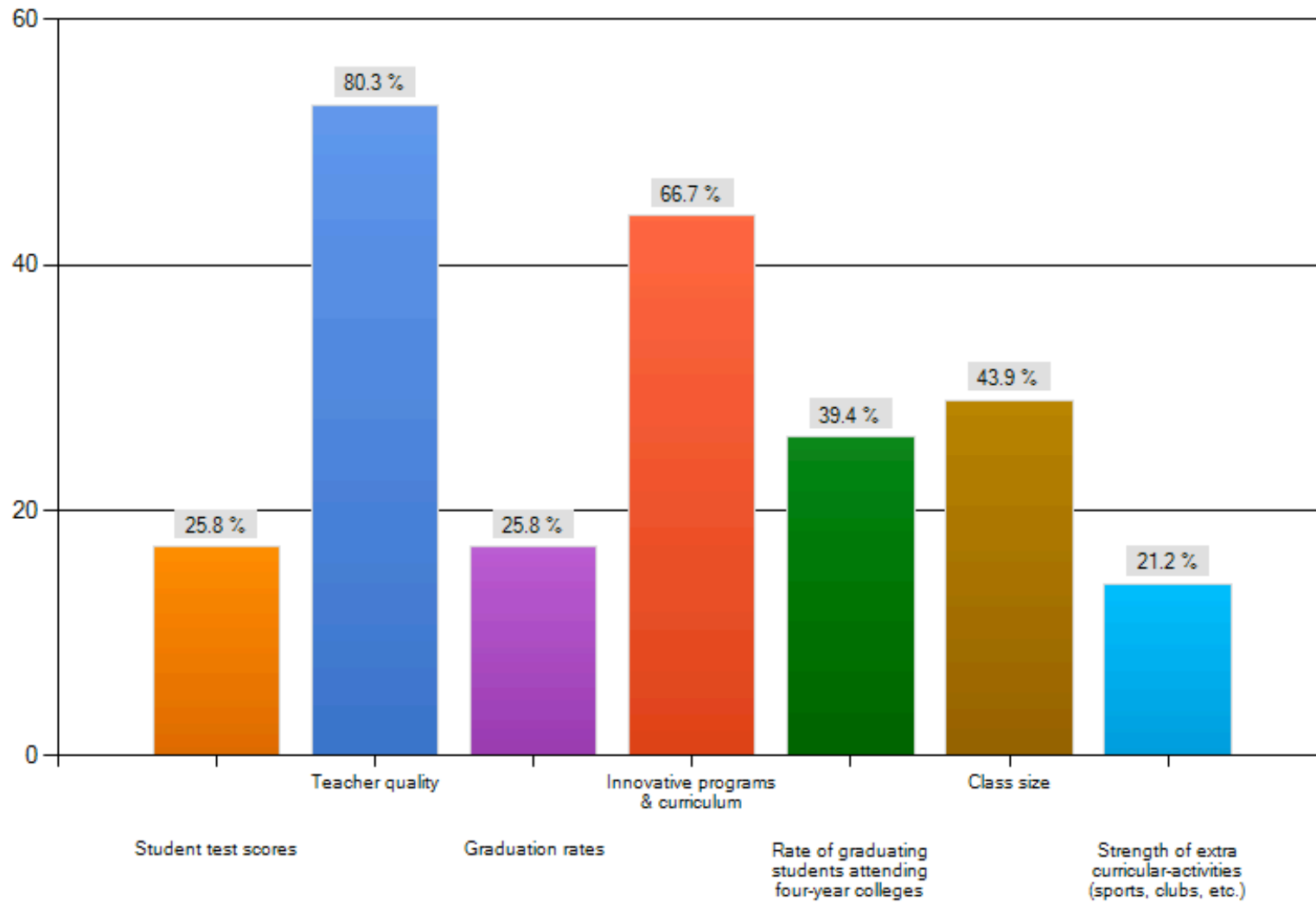
**If you are planning on having children in Somerville, do you plan to send them to Somerville Public Schools?**



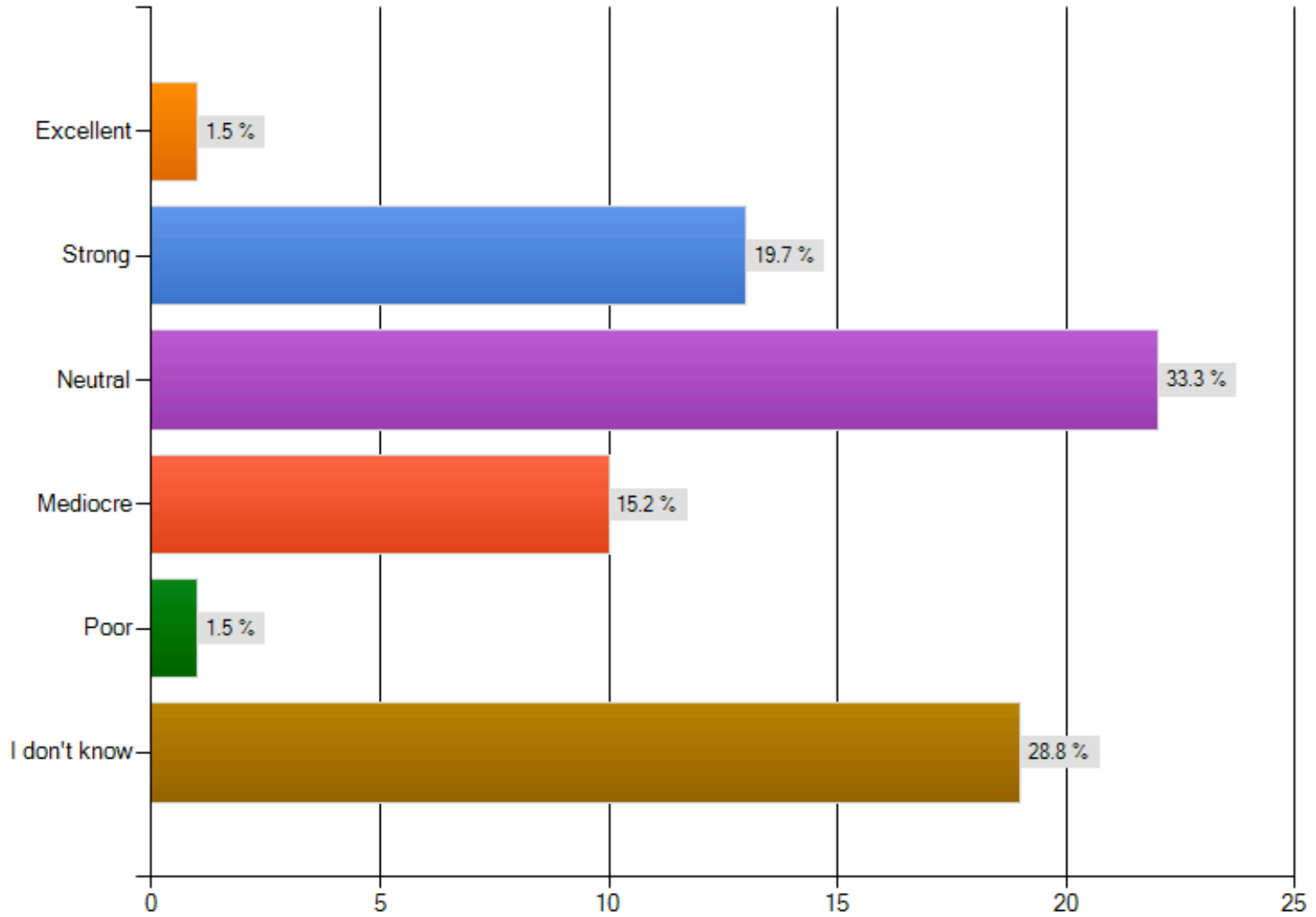
**How interested are you in educational issues in Somerville?**



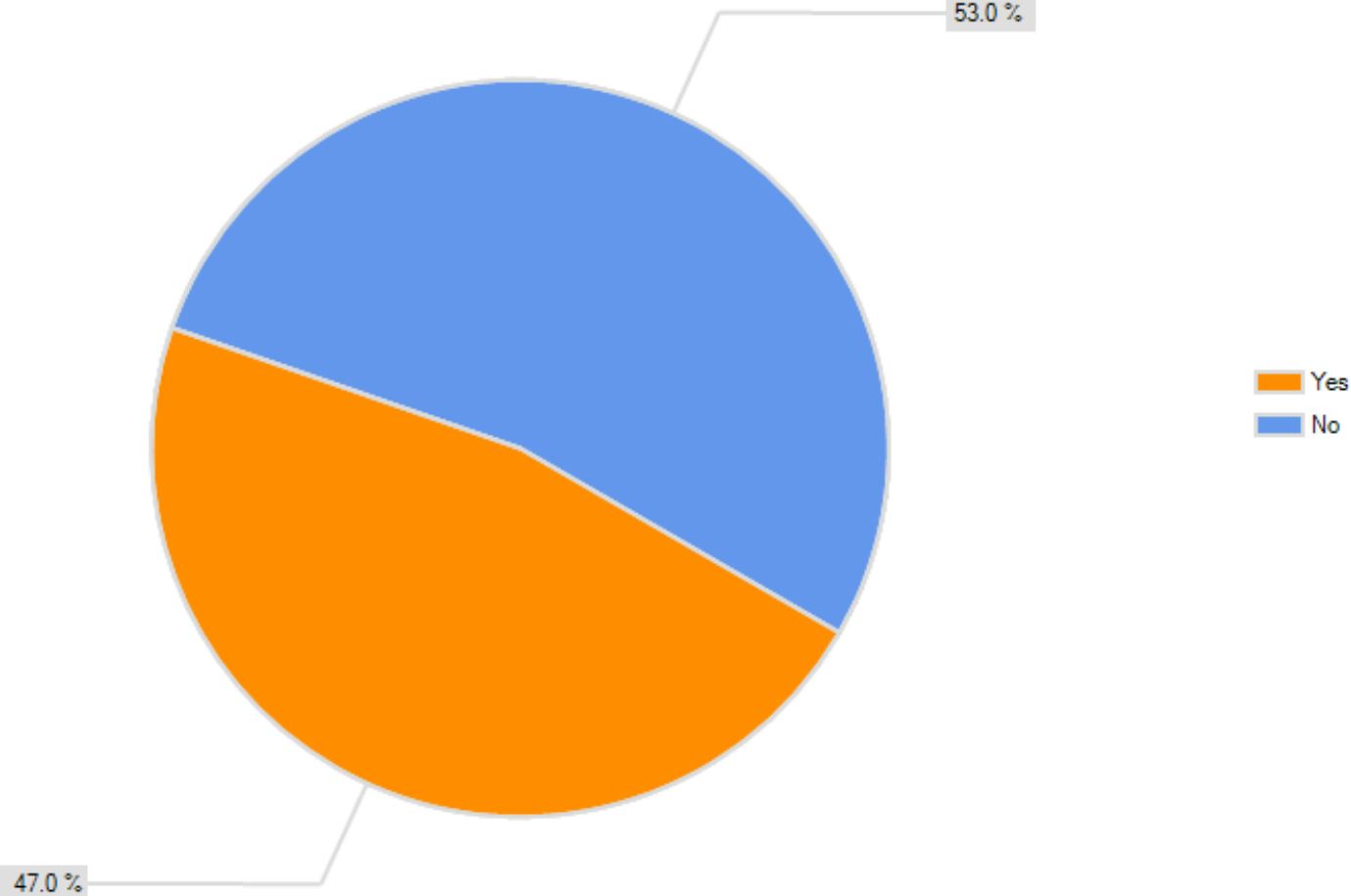
**In your mind, what are the most important indicators of a strong school system? Please check your top three choices.**



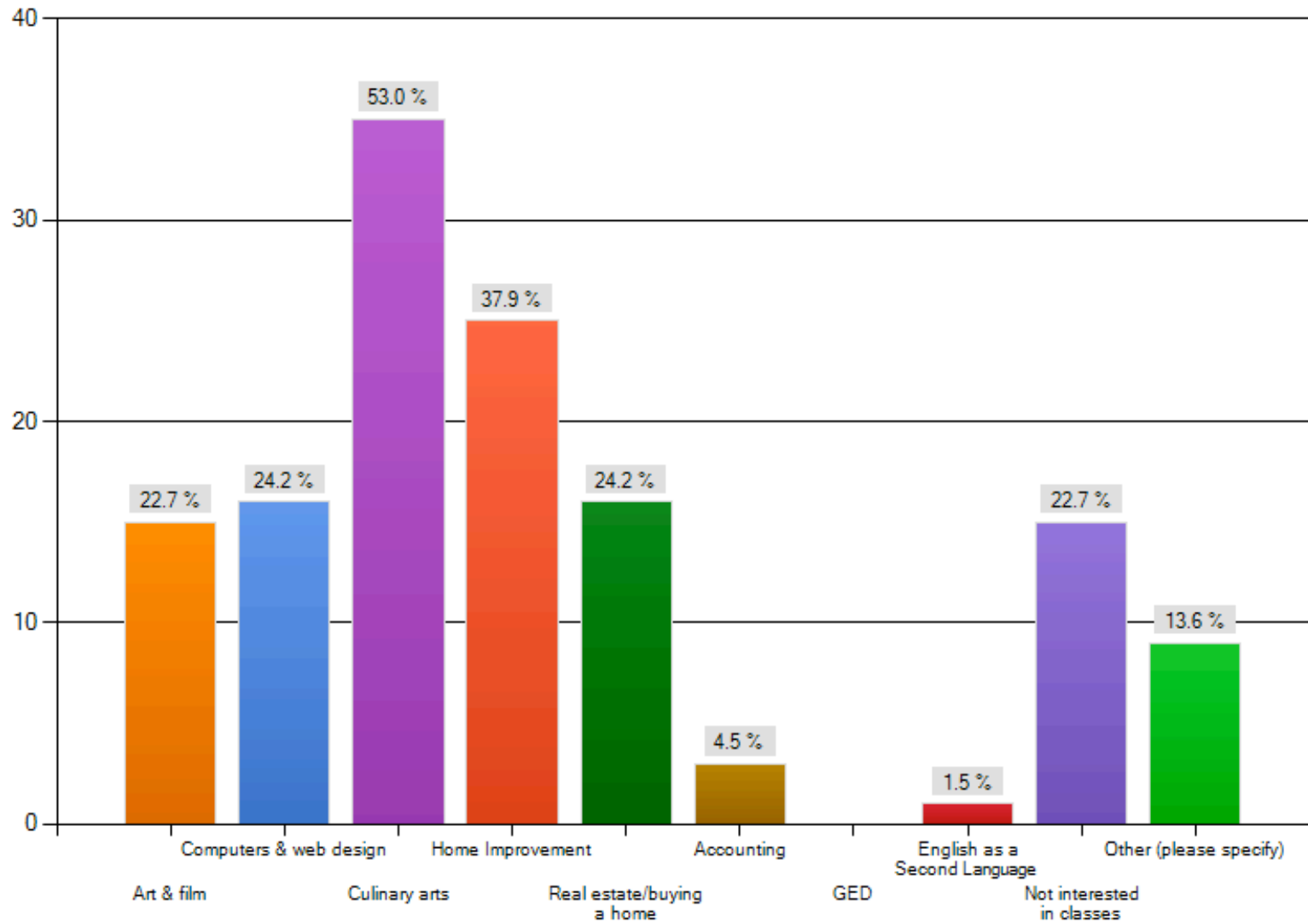
### What is your perception of the Somerville school system?



**Did you know that Somerville offers adult education classes?**



### What types of adult education classes might you be interested in taking?



**Please explain any education initiatives you would like to see take place in Somerville or any questions you have for the Somerville Department of Education:**

I'd love to chat with someone about this--too many to list, but thesprouts.org might give you a sense for what I'm looking for.

I would like to see foreign language instruction implemented in the the K-8 schools.

I think the Somerville school district is perceived as mediocre, at least by those outside the city, who do not really know Somerville. What can the Dept. of Education do to improve Somerville schools and their reputation? What can Somerville residents do to help? What would you say to Somerville families to help encourage them to choose public schools over private (or over moving to another town where the school system has a better reputation)?

I wish there was a real diversity in terms of the school choices. Cookie-cutter style schools, making everything the same should not be a goal. Getting back to the "magnet" themes should be looked back into.

I'd really like to volunteer, but I'm nervous about my ability to make a weekly time commitment. In what ways can I get involved?

I think education in ways to make your home more energy efficient would be great!!

I would like to see a Montessori program like the one in Cambridge. I would also like a junior kindergarten option for kids like our daughter who will miss the cut-off by a few days for kindergarten.

More language education at younger ages. Less homework. I hope the conversations in which administrators/teachers tell kids what they won't accomplish in life including encouraging them into lower tracks or to drop out are no longer present in our school system.

I don't know what the best educational policies are, but it seems to me that being really strict on teachers and students would be a good idea. I would like to see bad teachers get fired, students who are held back multiple times get expelled or sent to a remedial school, and things of that nature. Kids who aren't disruptive should not be punished because they have kids who are 2 years older than them in their classes. No 13-year-olds in 5th grade or situations like that. That's just perverse.

I'd love to see initiatives on healthy eating (mainly organic and local) and environmental awareness.

Sign Language classes

I think reduced youth violence can be an indicator of a strong education program. I would like to see very high standards set for the teachers hired to teach at Somerville programs. I would also like to see schools either maintain the current city funding for their budgets or increase their funding as education/after school programing should have major emphasis, as these students will be the future of Somerville.

Perhaps Somervillians who speak a particular language teaching other Somervillians? I'd love to improve my Spanish.

After school clubs- math club, history club, science club, etc. with volunteer time and donated space from the schools.

