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Survey Setup & Methodology

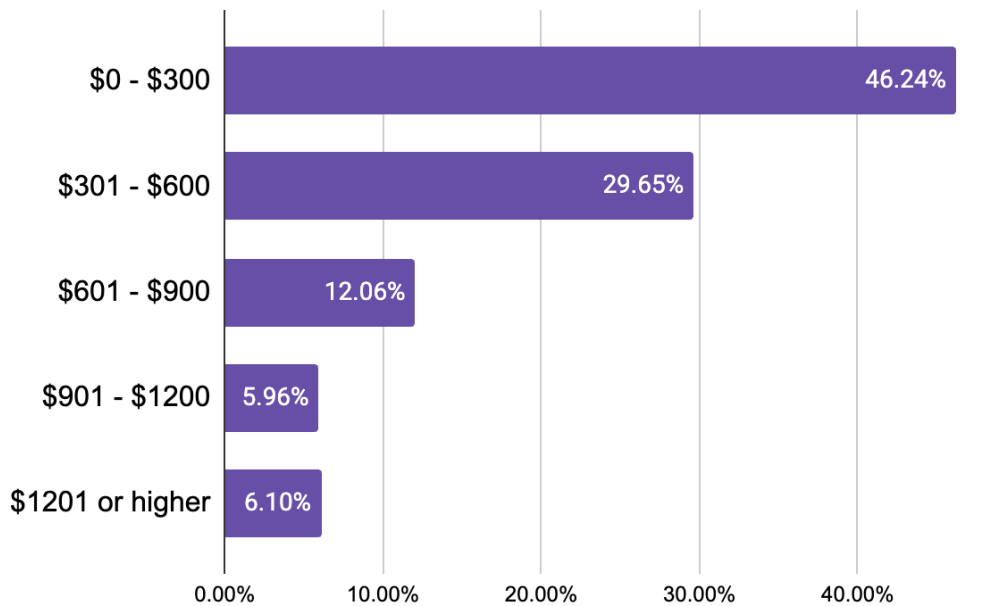
Grow Progress surveyed 705 American Federation of Teachers (AFT) members from August 29 to September 2. The margin of error is 3.69% at a 95% confidence level and 3.10% at a 90% confidence level.

Key Takeaways

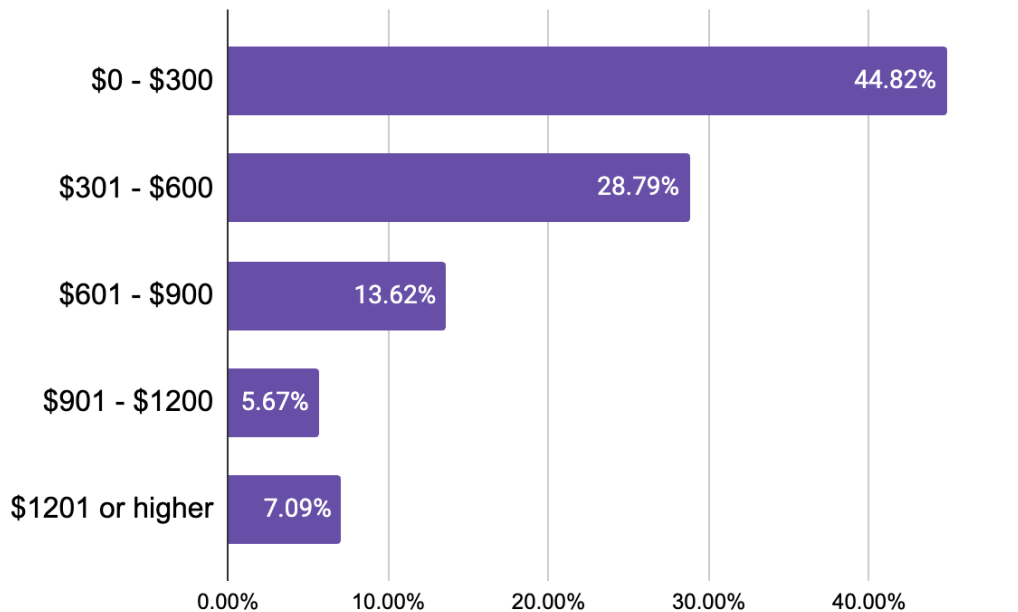
- **Member Spending on Food:** A substantial proportion of members, 49.5%, anticipate needing to purchase food for their students this year. [Source](#).
- **Member Spending and Financial Strain:** Members are consistently spending their own money on classroom supplies. The survey finds that a significant portion of members anticipate spending up to \$600 of their own money this year, with 46.24% spending up to \$300 and 29.65% spending between \$301 and \$600. Members reported a similar spending pattern from the previous school year as well. [Source 1](#), [Source 2](#).
- **Perceptions of the Trump Administration's Impact:** The survey reveals a strong negative perception of the Trump administration's policies, with 54.75% of members reporting the policies having a "Very negative" impact. In contrast, only a small minority reported a positive impact, with 5.96% saying "Very positive" and 2.13% saying "Somewhat positive". [Source](#). The primary concerns among those who reported negative impacts include:
 - **Fear and Anxiety:** Many members express fear related to immigration policies, specifically ICE raids and deportations, and its effect on students and their families.
 - **Funding and Resources:** A large number of members cite budget cuts, lack of funding, and other financial-related issues. [Source](#)
- **AFT Member Demographics:** The majority of AFT members who were surveyed were between 35 and 54 years old (61.04%), and the vast majority of members (74.61%) have an advanced degree. [Source 1](#), [Source 2](#).

Toplines

1. How much of your own money – not reimbursed – do you anticipate spending on school supplies this year for your classroom?



2. How much of your own money – not reimbursed – did you spend last school year on school supplies for your classroom?



3. Comparing this year to last year, what is causing your classroom supplies spending to go up, down, or stay the same?

Insufficient funding and supplies from district (25% of responses)

- “Supplies are not provided to me”

- “Needs not included in district/site budget - for instance classroom library books; art supplies; storage bins/furniture; colored paper; printer ink”
- “There is never enough supplies (copy paper, pencils, cleaning supplies, paper towels) given to us throughout the year so I always end up spending money out of pocket.”

Spending is going up because costs are rising (16% of responses)

- “Everything costs more! Also the Dollar Tree—a teacher's go-to store—is no longer ‘everything a dollar’ but then it went up to a \$1.25 during the pandemic and now it's gone up again where many items are no longer a \$1.25 but now a \$1.50, \$1.75, to \$3.00. This is disastrous for a teacher's budget.”
- “Supplies are three[,] four times more expensive. Driving to buy supplies [is] expensive. Delivery fees are expensive. District [has] limited places we can go buy supplies.”
- “Everything is more expensive now.”

Making effort to reduce personal spending (16% of responses)

- “I make a point to limit my personal spending. I believe that I can provide a positive environment with minimal out of pocket spending.”
- “I am spending less of my own money this year because I need it to cover personal expenses.”

More students are in need/not arriving with their own supplies (10% of responses)

- “Parents do not bring the supplies we ask for, but I am getting better at making do with what I get”
- “The children at my school don't have the funds to buy school supplies or snacks. So I am constantly buying supplies for them throughout the year.”

Transitioning to teaching new grade level or class (10% of responses)

- “I moved rooms and was assigned to new courses, so some things for [this] year are more for personal convenience. Last year I published an Amazon wishlist on social media, but I don't feel right doing that every year.”
- “I am teaching a different grade level and I need supplemental resources. The county does not supply these and the curriculum they have chosen does not provide any of this as well. It is very limited. The county wants us to teach certain skills or strategies, but I need to purchase some of the products in order to do so.”
- “Last year my classroom was a new classroom and I have more to purchase to get it up and running in an educationally sound way.”

Able to use/reuse supplies from previous years (6% of responses)

- “I have a lot of stuff because I've been teaching 20+ years but always need to buy more when it comes to different types of paper, awards/certificates, treats/prizes for my kiddos, some decor. Paper towels and tissues! There's ALWAYS something to buy, ALWAYS!”
- “In the early years of my career I easily spent more than \$1000 of my own money every year. Now that I'm nearing retirement I am spending way less because I already have most of what I need for my classroom.”
- “I work in a high school, where we just tend to use/need less of the daily classroom supplies compared to middle or elementary. I made a pretty large investment my first year teaching at this school, and those supplies are still in use”

4. What kind of supplies are you buying for your students and classroom this year?

Basic classroom needs including pencils, paper, and notebooks (69%)

- “Notebooks, folders, bulletin board supplies, office supplies, instructional items, books, rewards, food, snacks, jackets, clothing, personal toiletry items.”
- “all the basics - pencils, copybooks, folders, glue, scissors, crayons, markers, etc...”

Books and educational materials to support learning (25%)

- “I fundraise for books (English dept.) for the entire school, actual school supplies, replacing beat up books, food for field trips/activities.”
- “Chromebook chargers, headphones, markers, glue, highlighters, phone caddy, printer toner, printer ink, paper, all of the materials for making custom course-specific notebooks, classroom amenities like tampons and pads, hand sanitizer, tea, coffee, snacks, pens, Kahoot pro, Quizizz pro, gimkit, GPT-plus, domain and hosting fees for my website which is their textbook, I purchased a \$650 air conditioner because it gets so hot that the kids just shut down and district won't provide it, poster paper, and other misc costs that come up every year.”

Decorations and organizational items that enhance the classroom environment (23%)

- “Containers to keep students' books and consumable books and supplies organized as they sit at tables where they can work collaboratively.”
- “Things to label desks, pocket constitutions for my classes, decorations of the classroom, supplies for students like Kleenex, etc”
- “Decorations, hooks for their backpacks, stickers and prizes”

Snacks and food for students (20%)

- “All of the basics and sometimes even food or clothes for students who are struggling.”
- “Kleenex, hand sanitizer, food, (students need food due to lack of it at home), school supplies-pens, pencils, paper, markers and colored pencils.”

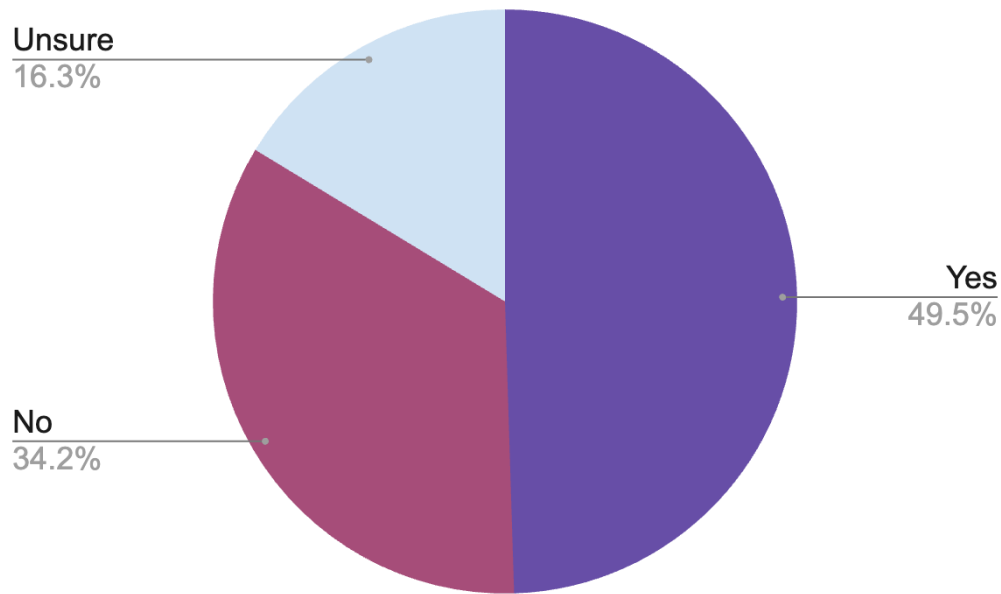
Cleaning products (18%)

- “Lysol wipes, tissues, cleaning supplies”
- “I am buying cleaning supplies, Kleenex, sanitizing supplies, room deodorants, hooks for hanging items, containers for storing manipulatives.”
- “Tissues, hand sanitizer, cleaning wipes, paper towels, meal/breakfast bars, classroom decorations (moved into a new room), classroom incentives (tickets, candy, chips, fidget toys, stickers, etc.)

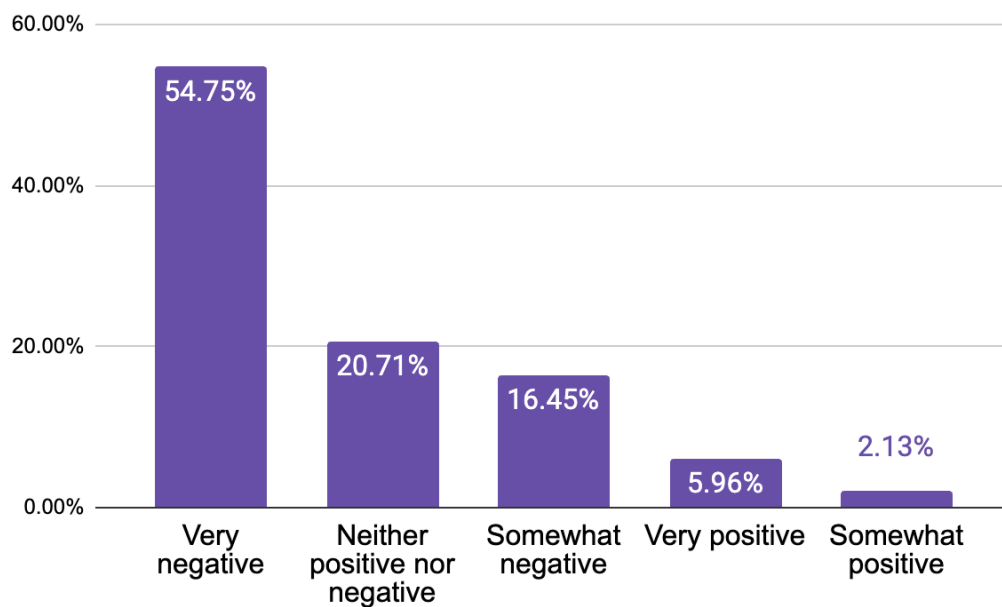
Incentives, treats, and rewards (17%)

- “Pencil boxes for manipulatives, prizes for incentives, random things to make learning more engaging.”
- “Incentives, classroom decor, peppermints and other snacks/candy treats, deodorant, cleaning products.”
- “Rewards, games, and therapy materials”

5. Do you anticipate needing to purchase food for your students this year?



6. Overall, are you seeing positive or negative impacts of the Trump administration's policies in your schools and communities?



7. Please describe the positive or negative impacts, if any, you have seen or experienced as a result of the Trump administration's policies in your schools and communities.

Decreased/inadequate funding and resources for schools, leading to larger class sizes and program cuts (31%)

- “Class sizes are increasing, teachers are leaving the field due to lack of funding, school budgets are tighter, parents are donating less because they are also dealing with higher costs.”
- “Cuts in funding for education. Less programs, less resources, less teachers, almost less of everything.”
- “Fewer funding for schools and staff. Class sizes are larger due to cuts in Title 1 funding and we had to cut an interventionist position. Families can't afford to buy supplies so either teachers buy or schools buy. When schools buy that leaves less money for spending on other educational resources.”

Concerns about ICE activity and deportation affecting student attendance and safety (32%)

- “At the beginning of the school year staff was worried that positions would be cut due to the federal government withholding federal funding. This has hurt the morale in my district. Students (and parents) are scared to come to school due to ICE. Some families in our community have already been affected by the ICE raids. Obviously this is devastating to families and the community.”
- “I teach in Downtown Los Angeles, and my school site is at the center of the ICE raids. Many of my students are recent immigrants, and a great deal of them are scared to come to school.”
- “Many of my students fear ICE. Some have had income-earning relatives deported, meaning there is less household income for school supplies. Students ask if I will have to take down my "all are welcome" type decor.”

No noticeable change or impact observed (12%)

- “Haven't noticed anything in my class or school.”
- “I have not noticed too many changes from last year to this year.”
- “I haven't noticed very much of a difference yet. I never do honestly from administration to administration, my day-to-day, teaching trials and tribulations and victories pretty much stay the same.”

Increased division within and politicization of education, decreasing trust in teachers (10%)

- “There is a lot of division and tension between people and fear about things that are happening. Students are being bullied about things they can't control

and do not feel safe to be their authentic self. Teachers are worried and living in a state of uncertainty due to being understaffed, underfunded, and unsupported. As social-emotional concerns rise there is less and less support to address these concerns. Staff teachers are stretched so thin to meet the needs of students both at public school and those in private or homeschools as base schools are responsible for special education evaluations even for students who don't plan to come to public school or use the IEPs created for them. There are more but those are top of mind.”

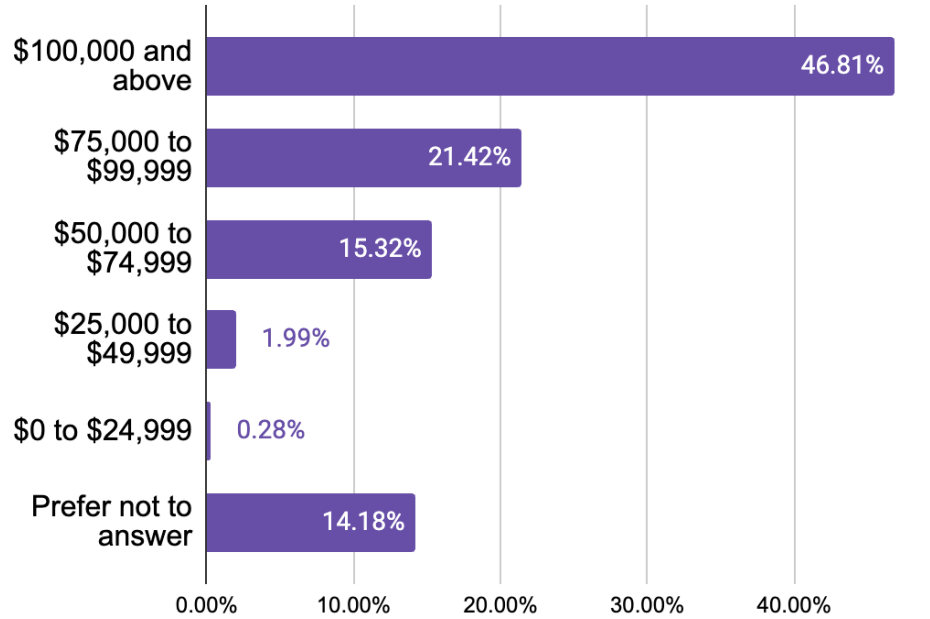
- “I have seen mostly negative impacts such as lack of support materials for ESOL students, lack of understanding that all students do not learn the same, lack of empathy towards students who may need food assistance, and creating an overall disrespect towards teachers and our expertise.”
- “Less funding, fear mongering within the community. Mostly an increase in combative behavior, disrespect, and racial intolerance from students.”
- “...Feel like parents have no trust in us- we can't be trusted because of how we are talked about by republicans...”
- “The administration and Texas representatives are continually pushing a negative agenda and instilling a lack of trust in public teachers. Money is being taken away from public schools, while more requirements are being imposed on districts and teachers who already lack the time and funds to meet current ones. Our school nurse now has to check a google form for each student who comes into her office before she can check on the student’s needs.”

Negative impact on diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives (5%)

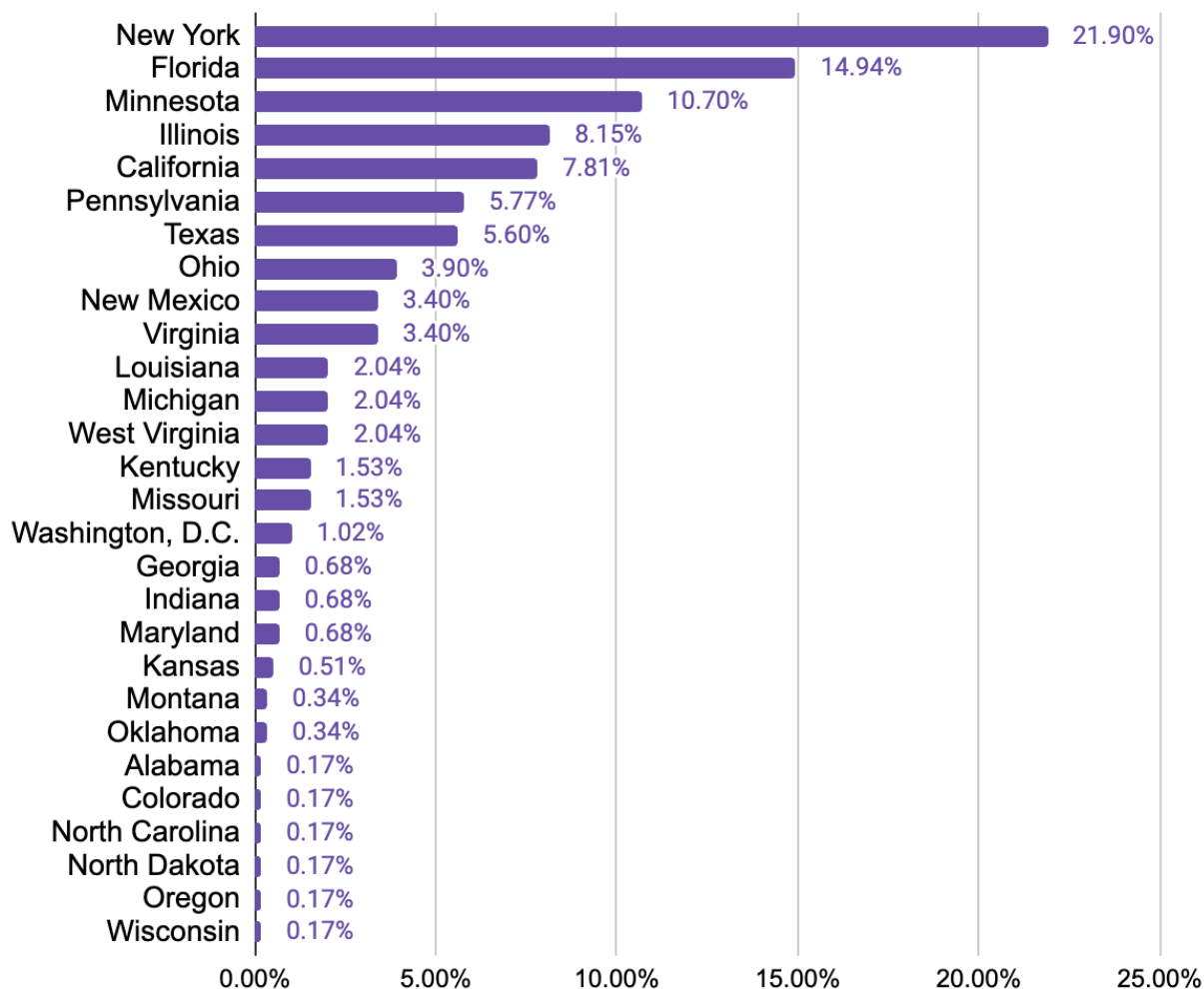
- “...Getting rid of DEI is going to have long ranging and catastrophic effects on our students and staff teachers who are in any way divergent from the "norm" including gender, race, religion, ethnicity, sexuality, etc”
- “...We aren't allowed to call students their preferred name unless it's on their birth certificate. We now can't even mention inclusion. And yet they want the 10 commandments (only THEIR approved version) to be displayed in classrooms but won't allow other religions to have their texts displayed.”
- “The zealot attacks on alleged "woke" and "diversity" programs demonstrate utter disregard for anyone that is not white and christian.”

Demographic Questions

8. What is your yearly household income?

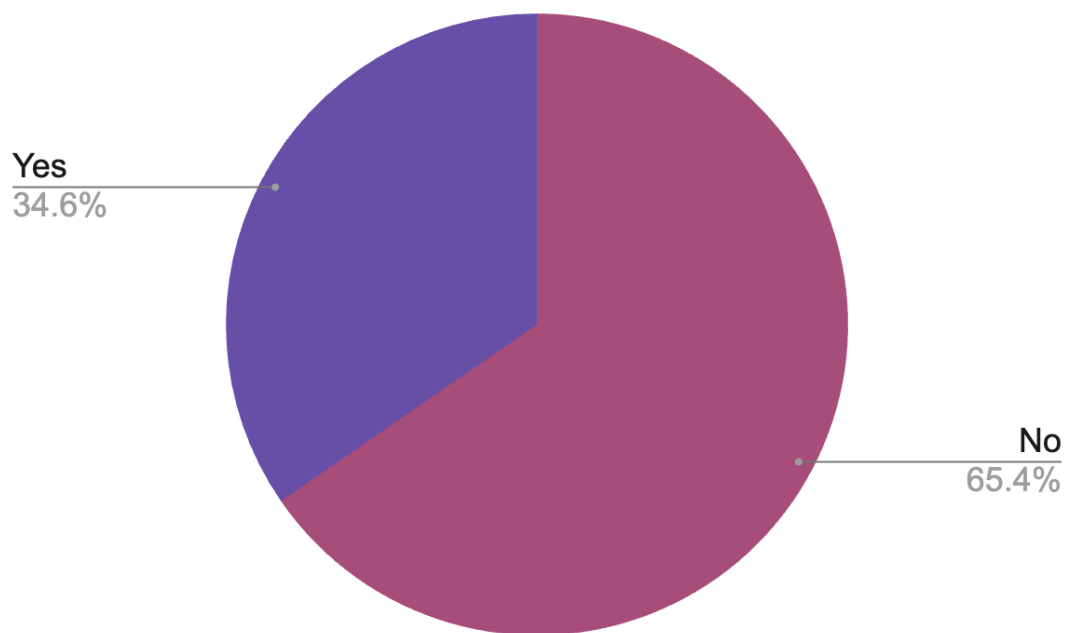


9. State by State Breakdown (based on zip code)

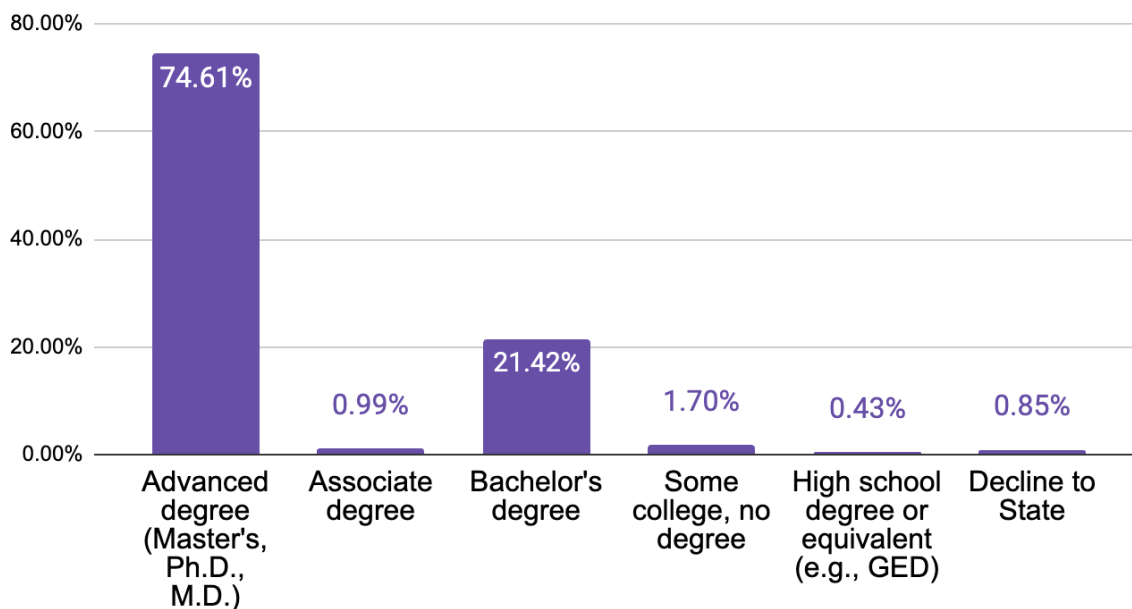


**There were many responses that had incorrect/invalid zip codes listed, since members entered them manually. The numbers here represent the 589 zip codes that were valid.*

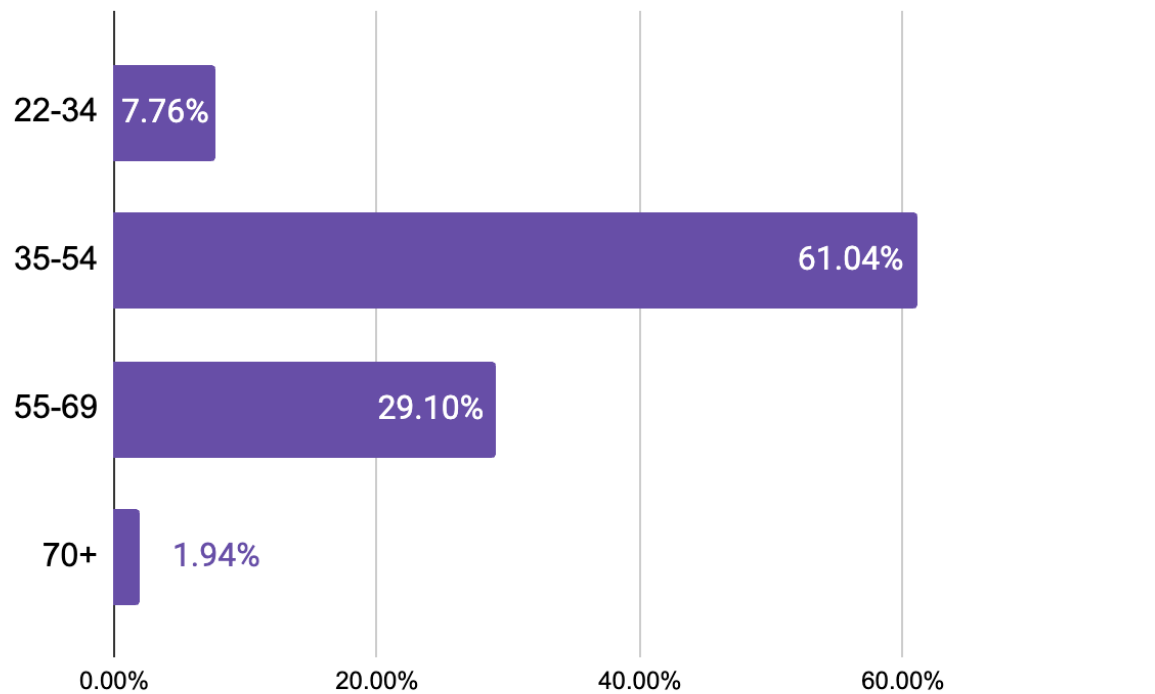
10. Are you the parent or guardian of any children under the age of 18?



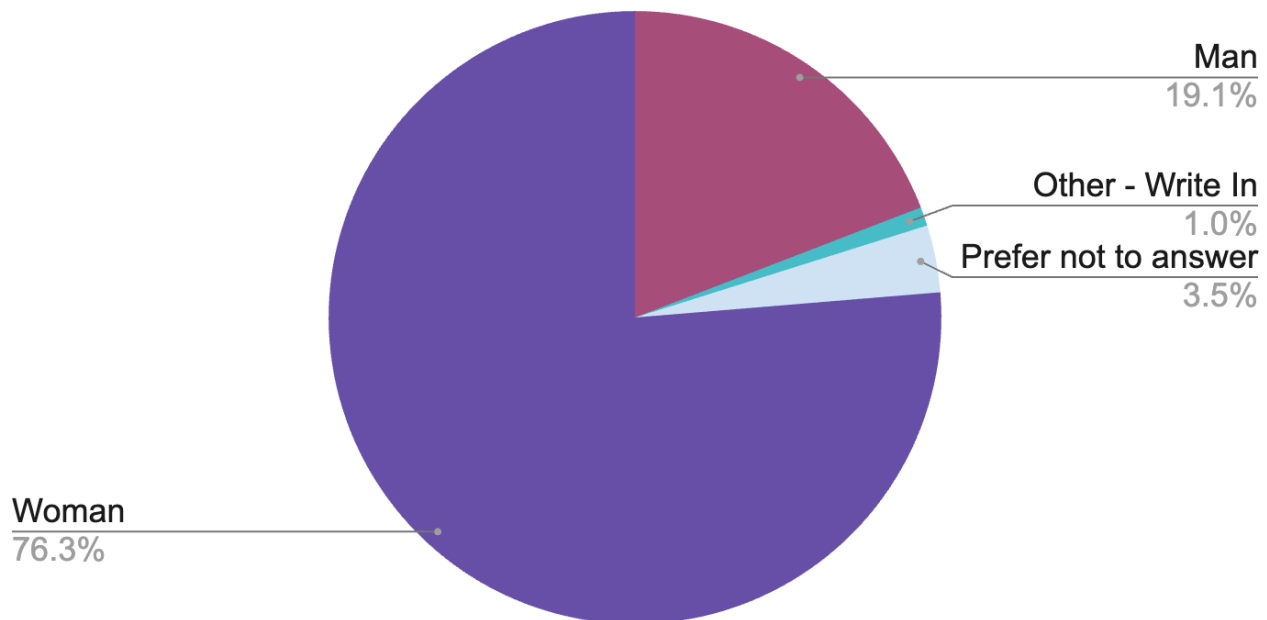
11. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?



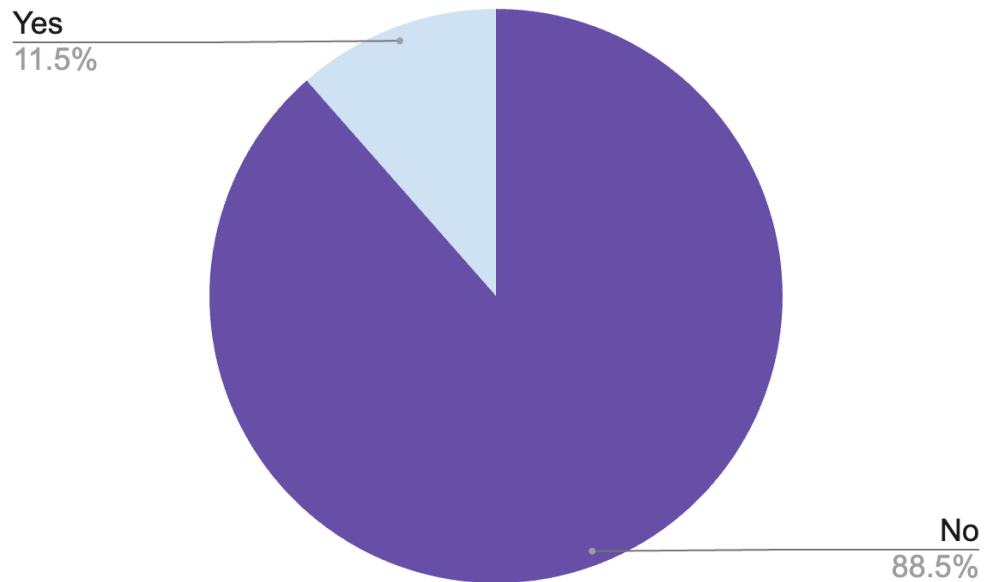
12. What is your age in years?



13. What is your gender?



14. Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?



15. What is your race?

