

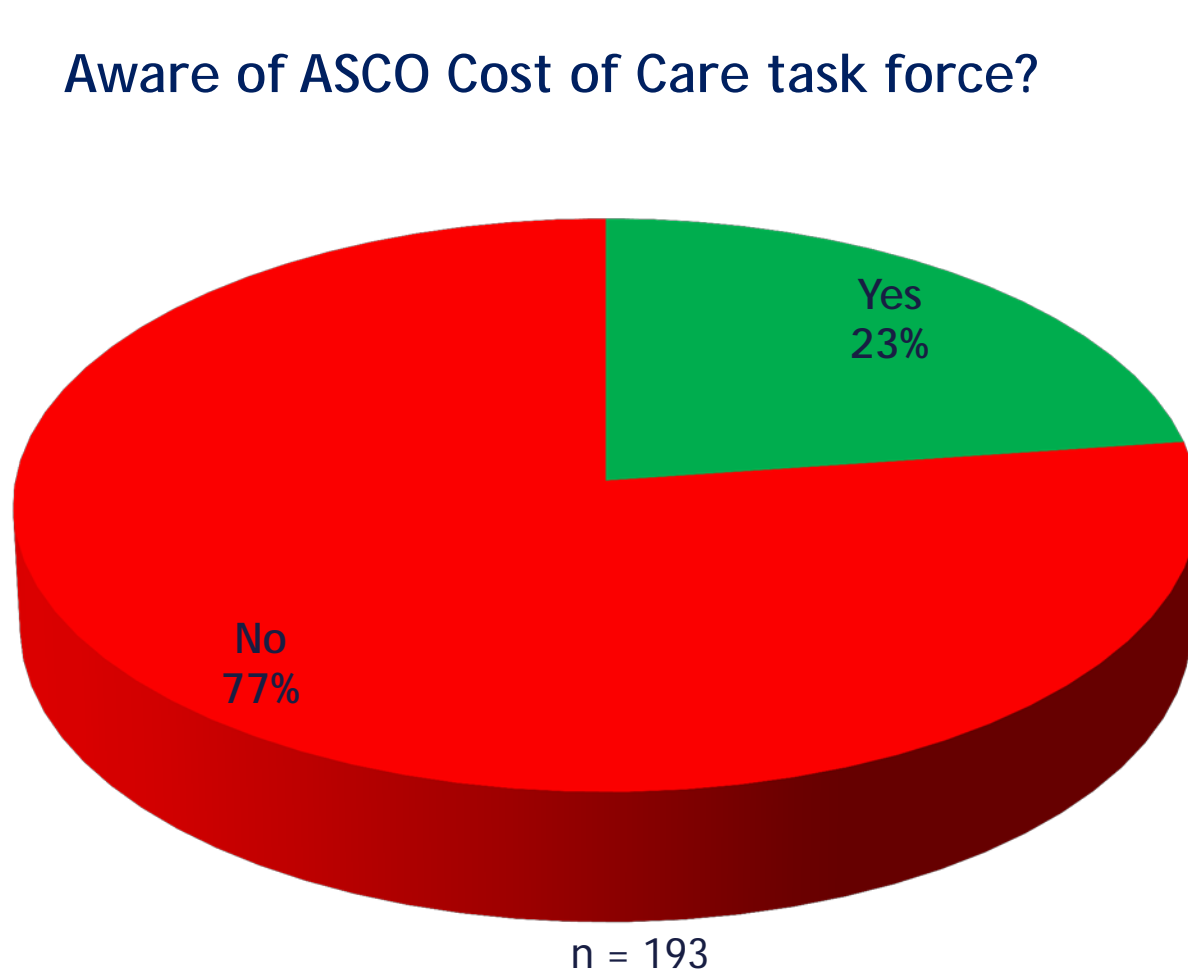
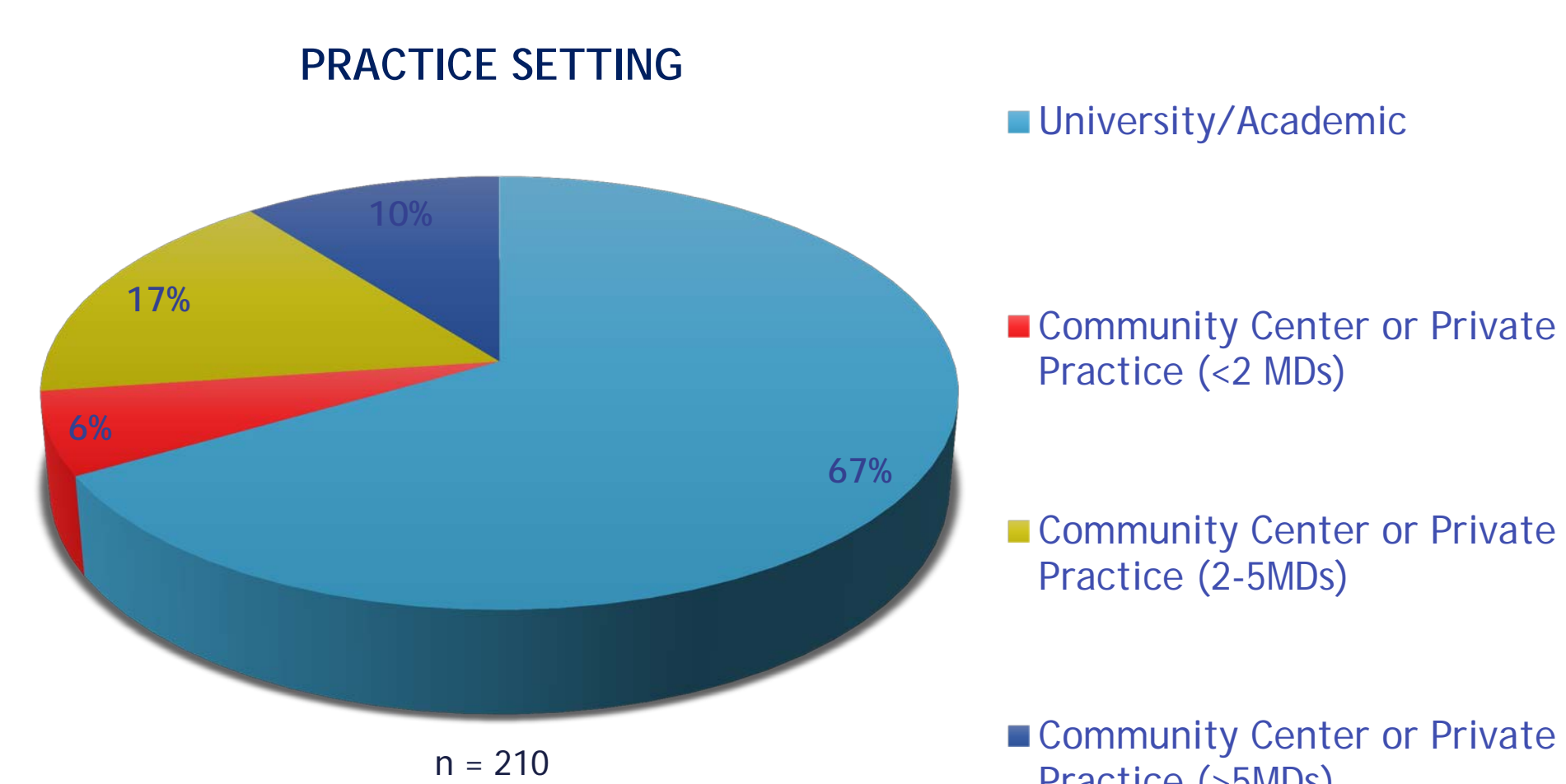
Purpose

- Medical expenses can have a profound economic impact on American households. Many remain underinsured, and the out of pocket (OOP) costs of medical care represent a significant portion of their income.
- Cancer patients are especially sensitive to financial burden, due to the complexity of care and increasingly high cost of treatment. The American Society for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) has recognized the runaway cost, but the impact of their Cost of Care task force initiative has been limited.
- Radiation therapy is an important and routinely utilized treatment modality in modern cancer treatment, however the financial burden for radiation oncology patients is largely unknown. Furthermore, there are currently no financial toxicity tools validated for use in radiation oncology.
- We hypothesize that radiation oncologists do not routinely screen for financial distress, and that a significant percentage of patients encounter financial toxicity as a result of radiation treatment.

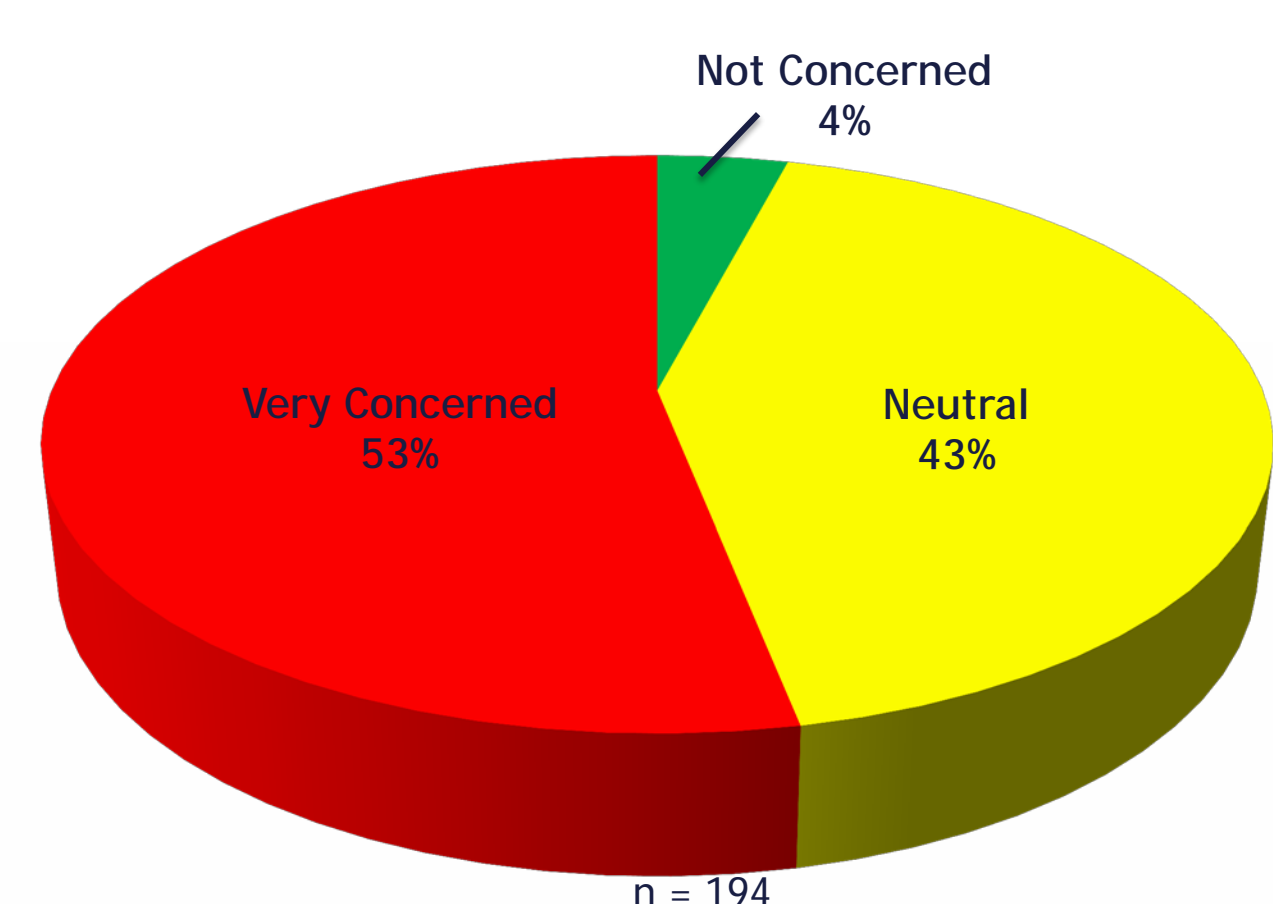
Methods

- IRB-approved prospective, non-interventional observational study.
- **Physician survey** to gauge (1) provider understanding of treatment costs, (2) their willingness to adopt use of financial toxicity tools.
- **Patient survey** to determine (1) patient-reported outcome measure (PROM) of financial distress, (2) covariates to aid in development of financial toxicity screening tools.
 - Questionnaire developed by optimizing the comprehensive score for financial toxicity (COST) measure for radiation oncology.
 - Inclusion criteria: (1) Received radiation therapy, as either stand-alone or part of multimodal treatment regimen. (2) >3 months post final radiation treatment.

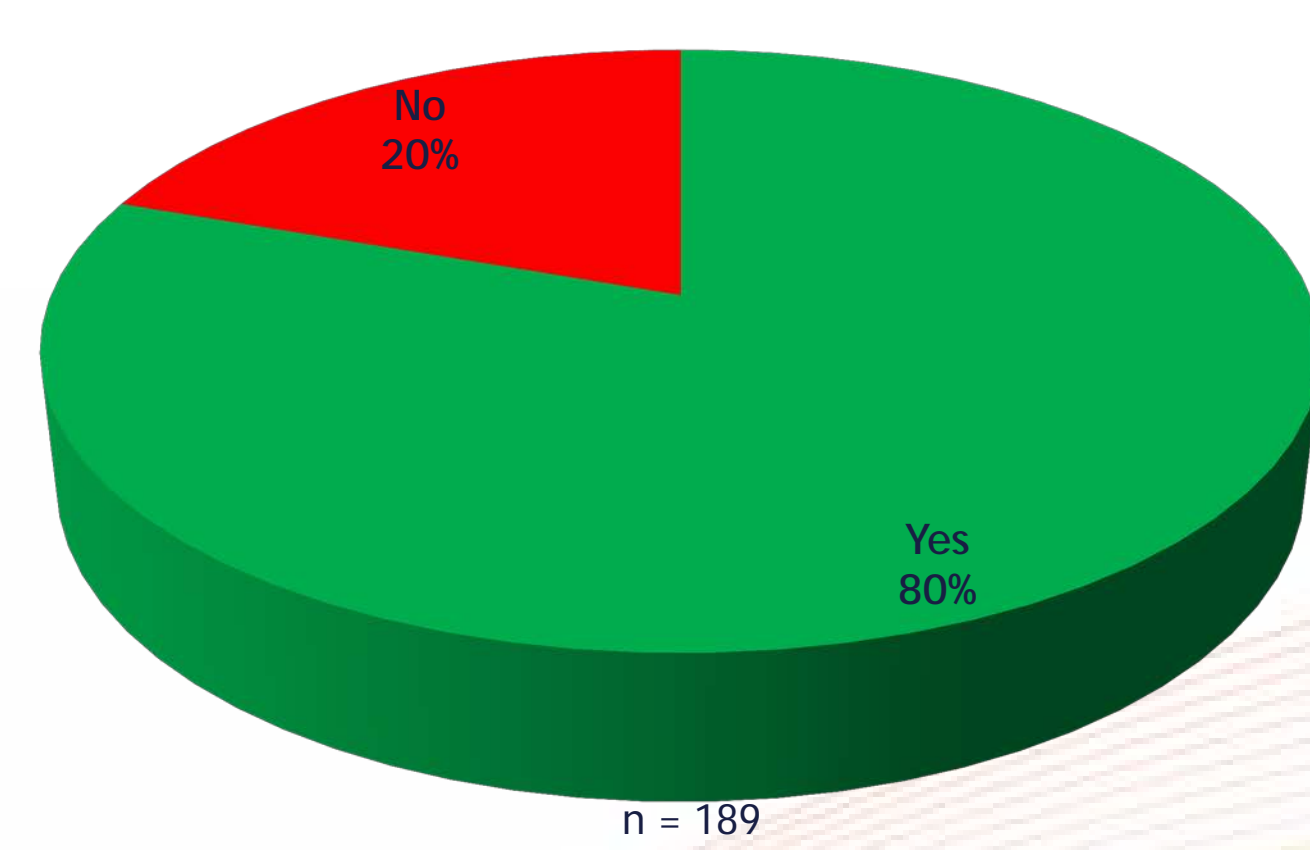
Results – Physician Survey



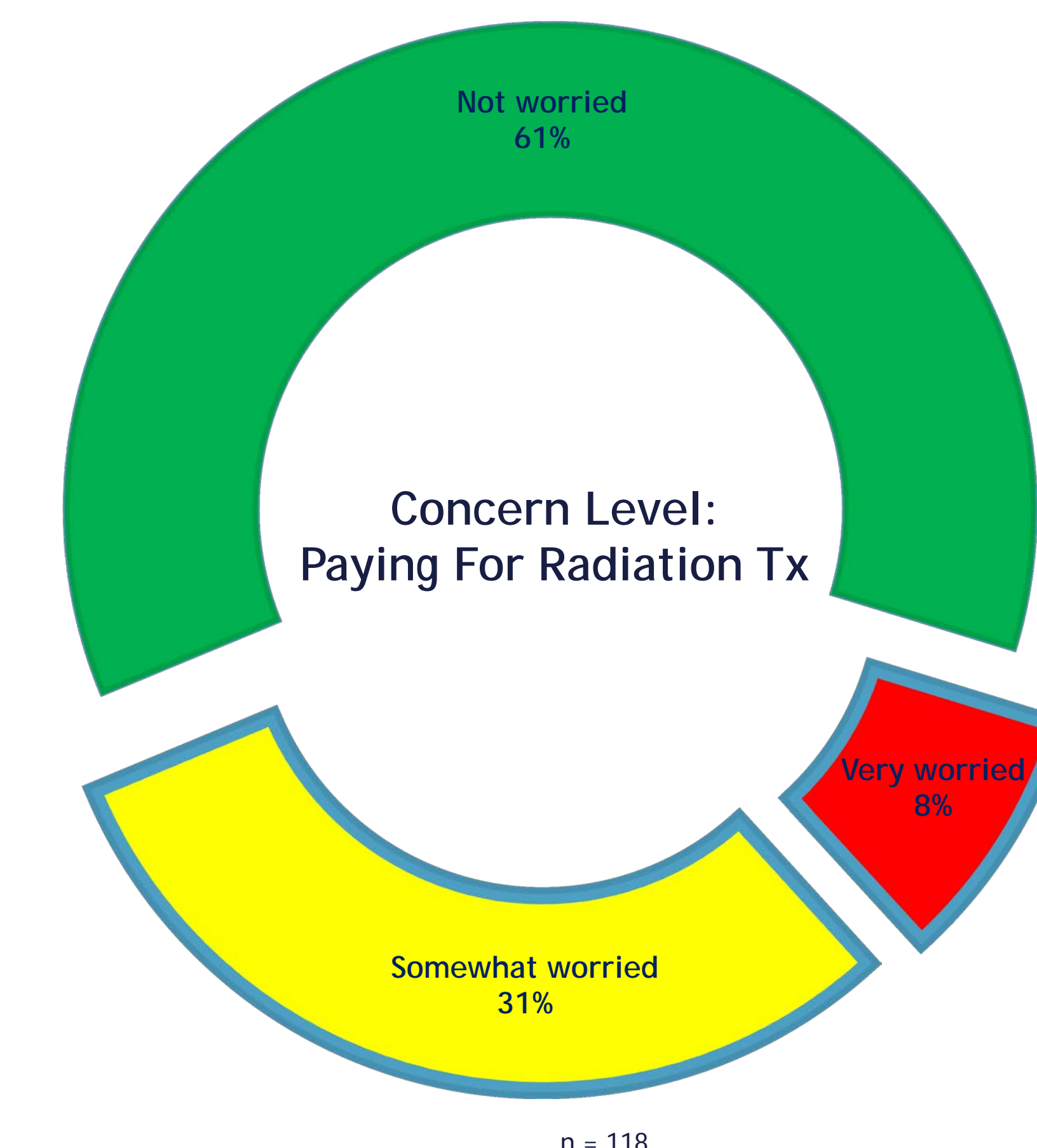
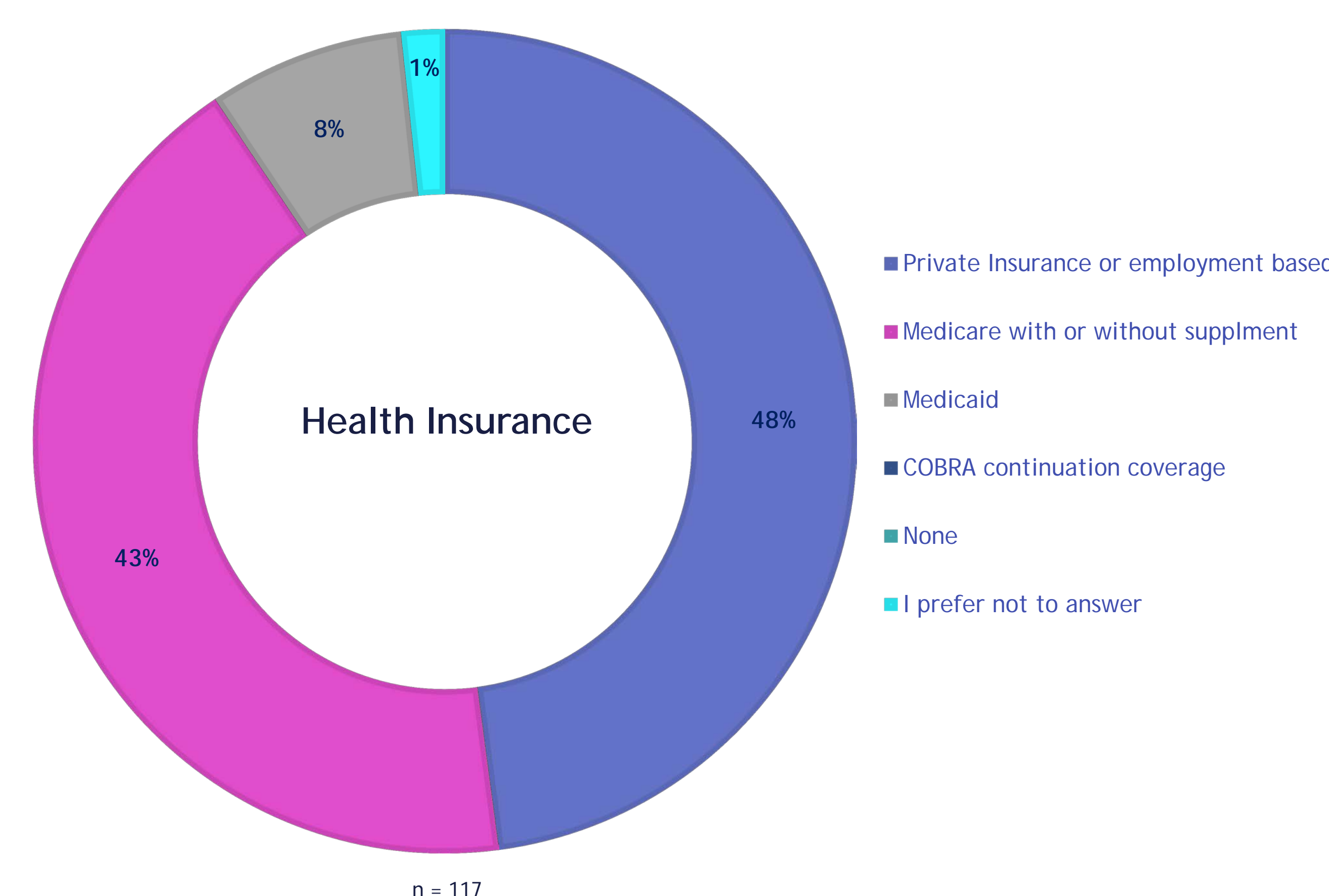
How concerned are you that the costs of radiation therapy will adversely affect patients (co-pays, deductibles, transportation costs, etc.)?



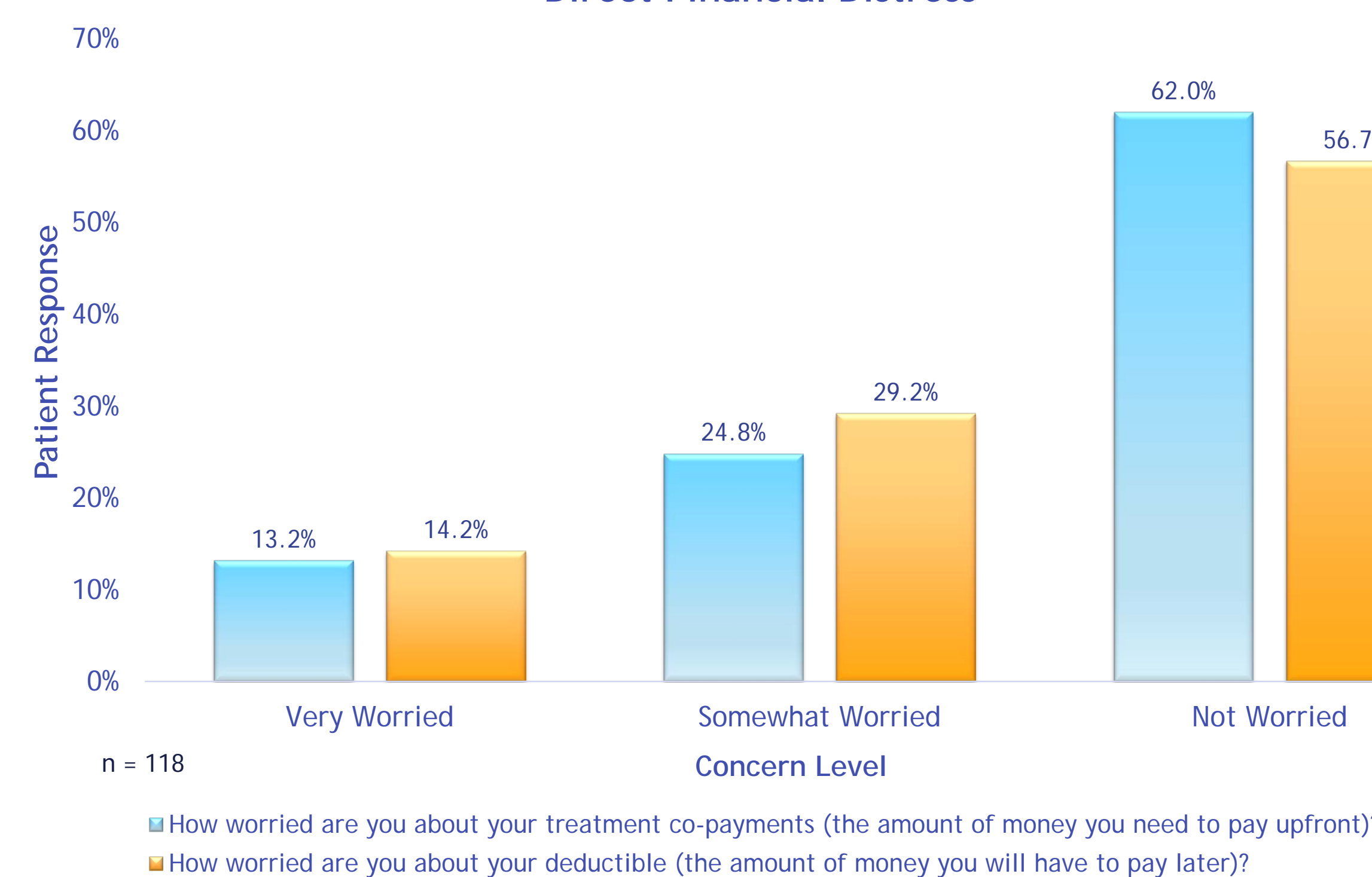
Do you believe that a financial screening tool would be useful in clinical practice?



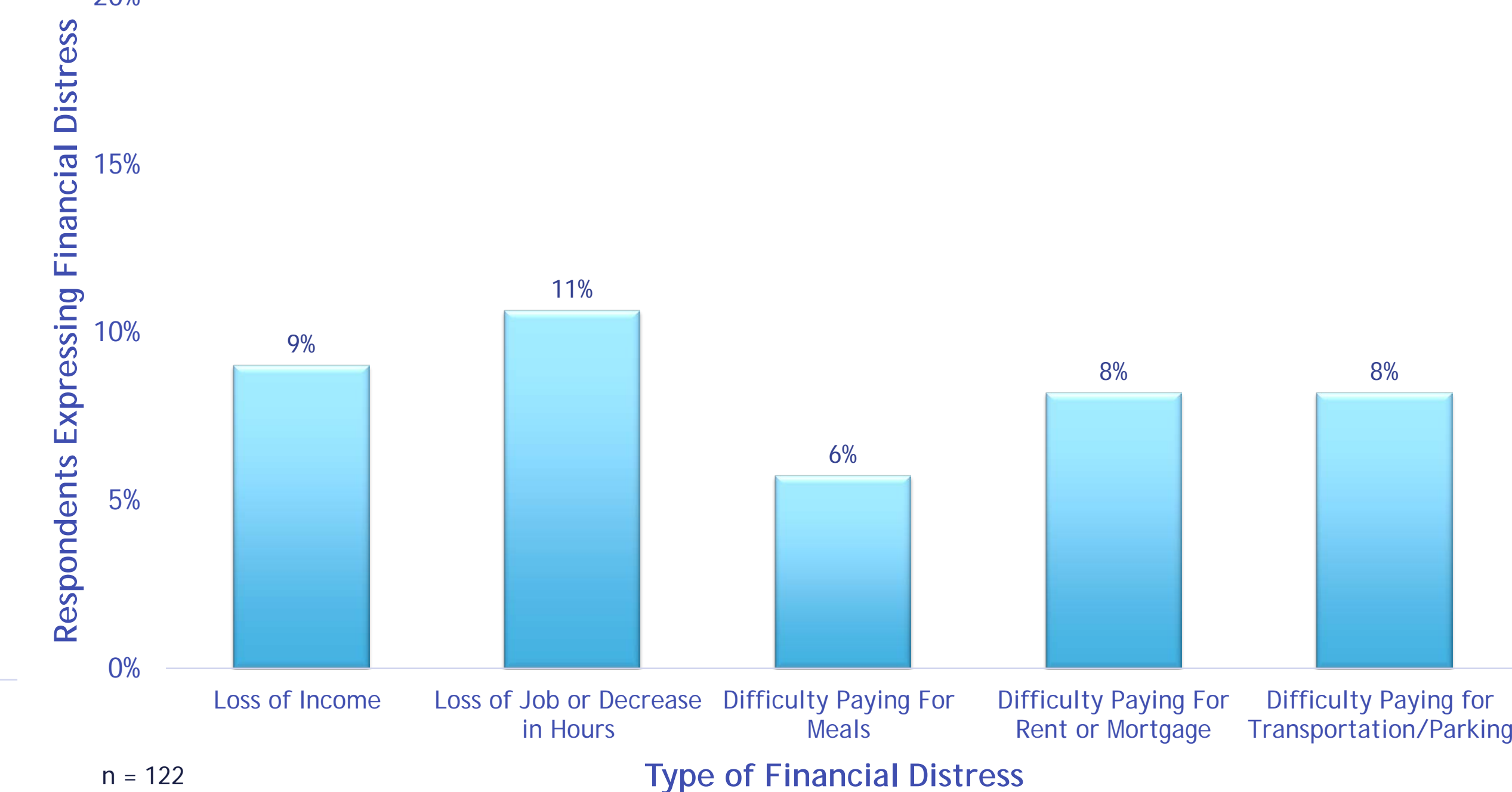
Results – Patient Survey



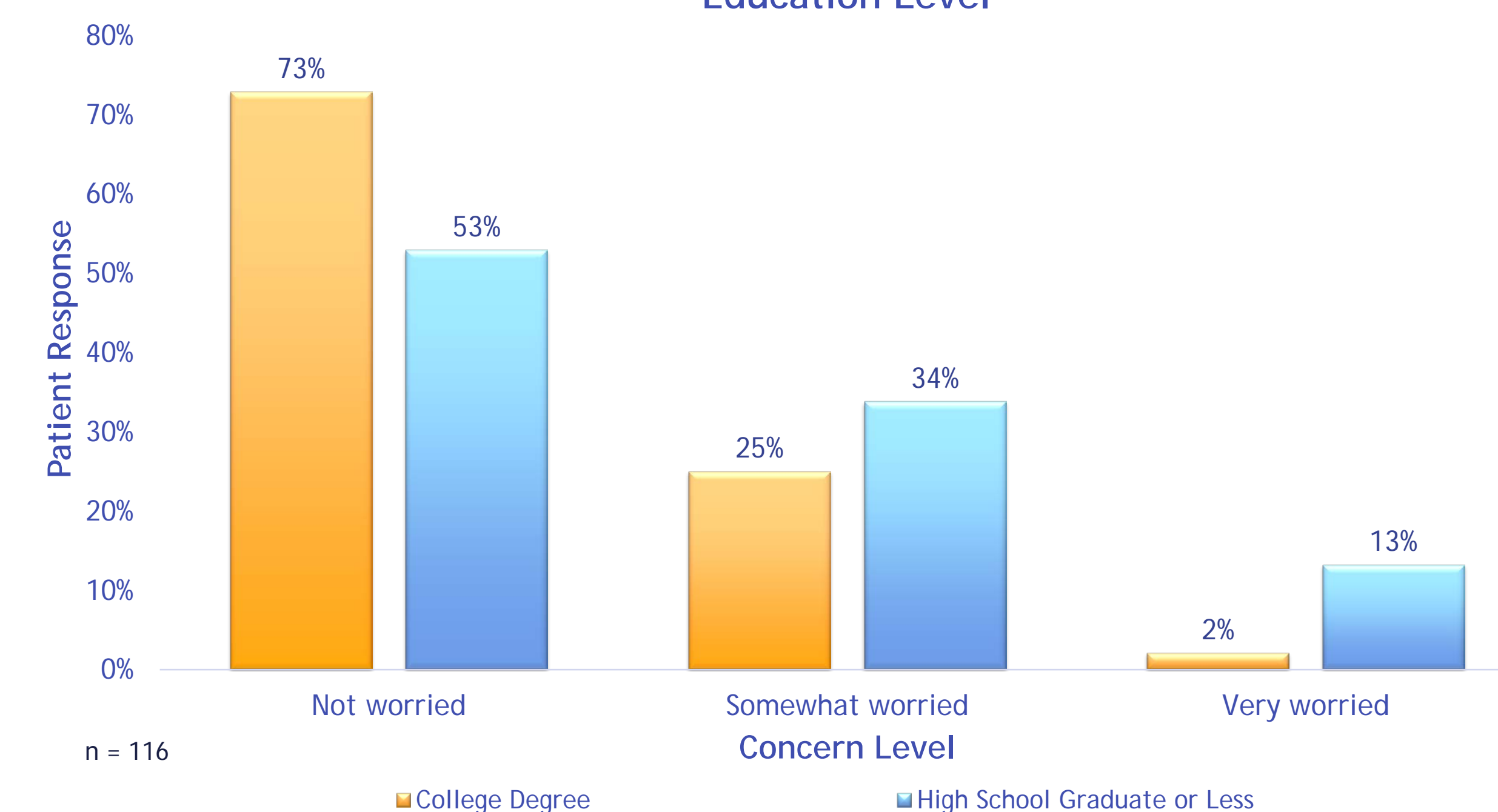
Direct Financial Distress



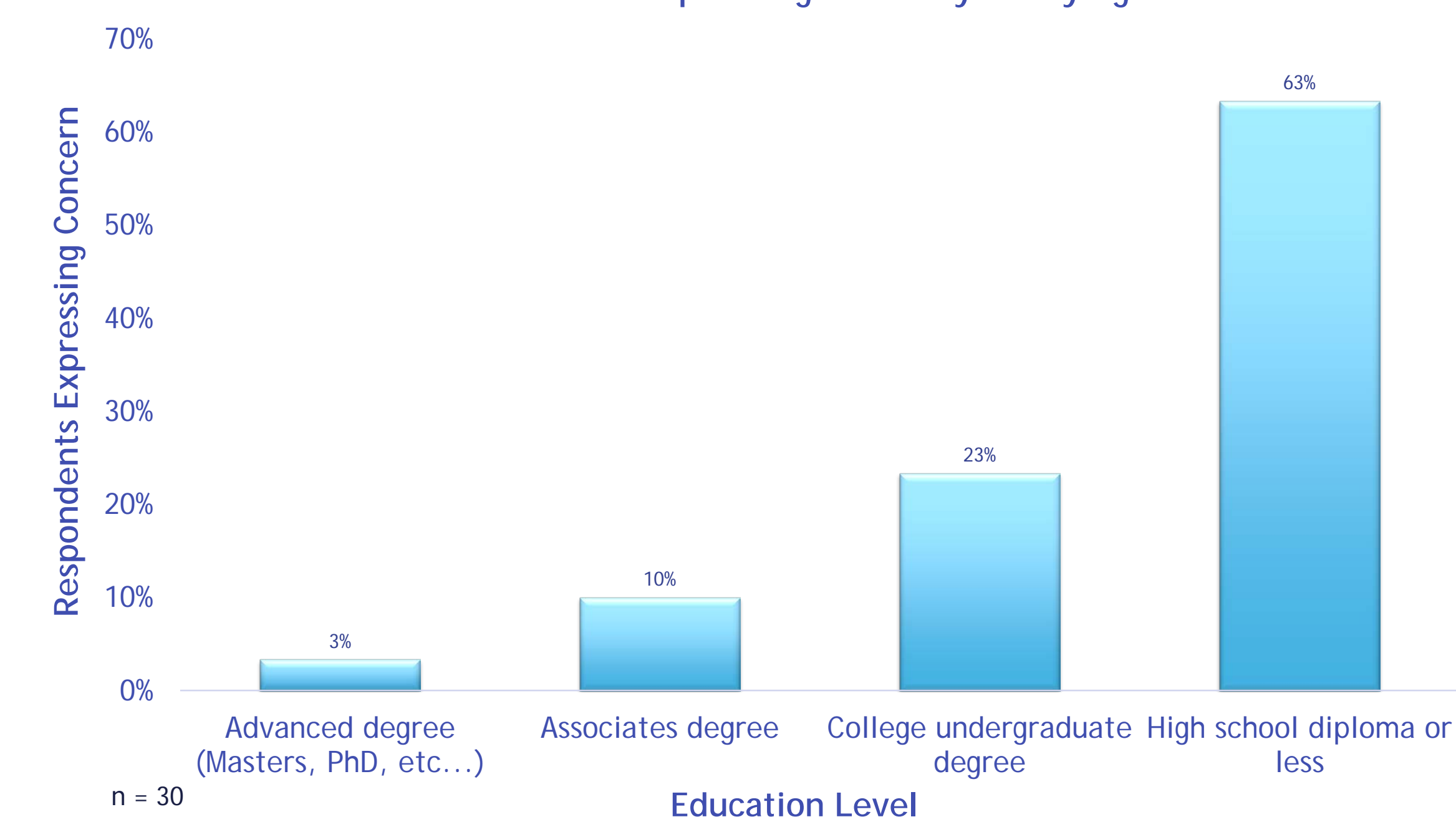
Indirect Financial Distress



Education Level



Education Level of Patients Expressing Difficulty in Paying Other Bills



Conclusions

- Large awareness gaps within the radiation oncology community about ASCO's Cost of Care task force.
- >50% of radiation oncologists are very concerned that the costs of radiation therapy will adversely affect their patients, and 80% believe that a financial screening tool would be useful in addressing the issue.
- Although binary insurance status is positive, financial distress from underinsurance remains an issue.
- ~40% of patients face financial distress as a result of radiation therapy.
- ~10% of patients have a loss/decrease in income as an indirect financial sequelae of radiation therapy.
- Level of formal education has a clear link to risk of financial toxicity.