

Introduction

While only 1 in 5 fellowship applicants succeed in securing a fellowship, it is also true that 4 out of 5 industry pharmacists did not complete a fellowship. Student pharmacists frequently have difficulty understanding that both can be true. This gap in understanding has been frequently cited by student pharmacists and recent graduates participating in the IPhO Coaching Service. Based upon the low awareness of non-fellowship industry paths, this topic was featured in the 4th Annual IPhO National Student Event, hosted by the University of the Pacific - IPhO chapter on March 25, 2017 in San Francisco where nearly 200 students from around the country assembled. The general session, open to all students, featured a keynote presentation by IPhO Executive Director James Alexander, entitled, *The PATHS to Industry*.

Objectives

- Improve awareness of the variety of traditional and non-traditional career paths through which student pharmacists can gain entry into the pharma industry.
- Evaluate student pharmacist attendee satisfaction with the case study presentation and content in meeting professional development needs.

Methods

- Case study examples featured in this program were sourced from selected student pharmacists and recent graduates who participated in the IPhO Coaching Service during 2014-2016. Names and schools were removed to maintain confidentiality.
- Electronic versions of the 7-question survey were sent to students via email and social media (i.e. Facebook) to complete within 30 days of the event.

Results

The number of student attendees was 160, far exceeding the forecast and was unprecedented for an IPhO program. There was a low survey response rate unfortunately of 14.4% (N=23) as the survey was distributed one week from the program's completion.

Of those attendees that completed the program evaluation; 21.7% were P1, 39.1% were P2, 30.4% were P3, and 8.7% were P4 students.

Figure 1. Overall, how satisfied were you with the event?

Satisfaction was ranked on a scale of 1 through 6, from Not Satisfied to Extremely Satisfied. No responses were recorded for choice "2."

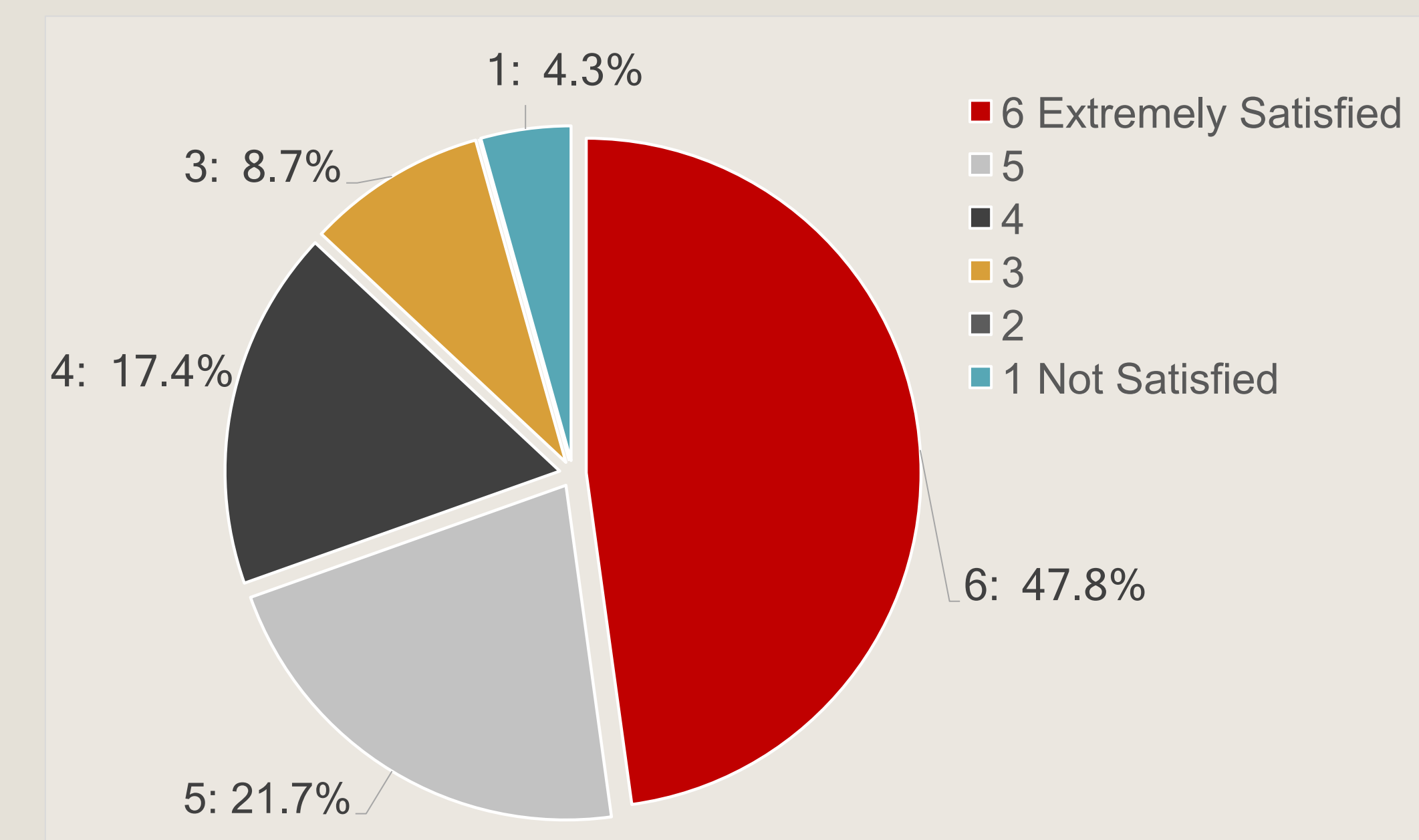


Figure 2. How valuable was the presentation "PATHS to Industry?"

Value was ranked on a scale of 1 through 6, from Not Valuable to Extremely Valuable. No responses were recorded for choices "2" or "3"

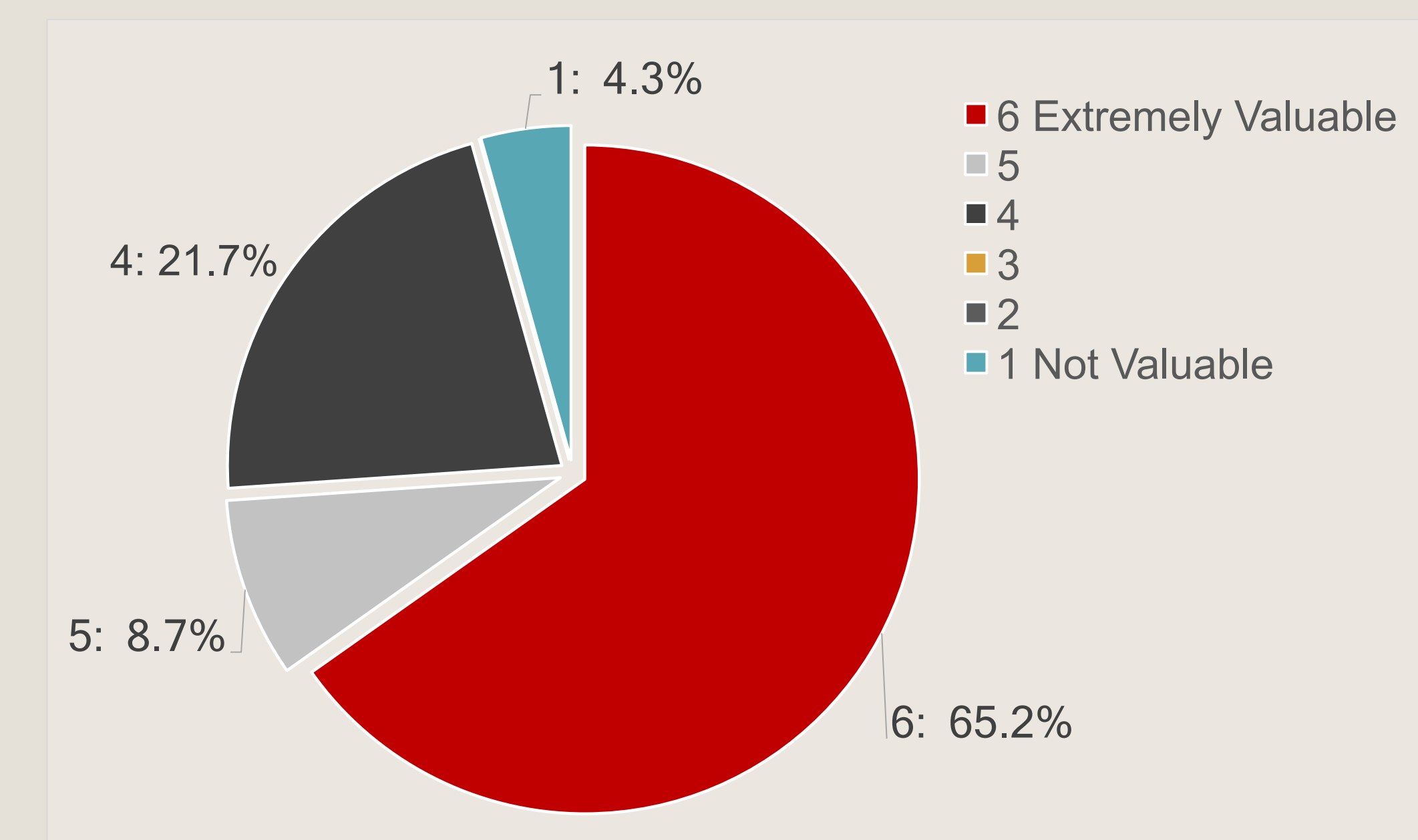


Figure 3. How much of the presented information was new to you?

Respondents were asked to rank percentage of new information learned in 25% increments (0-100%).

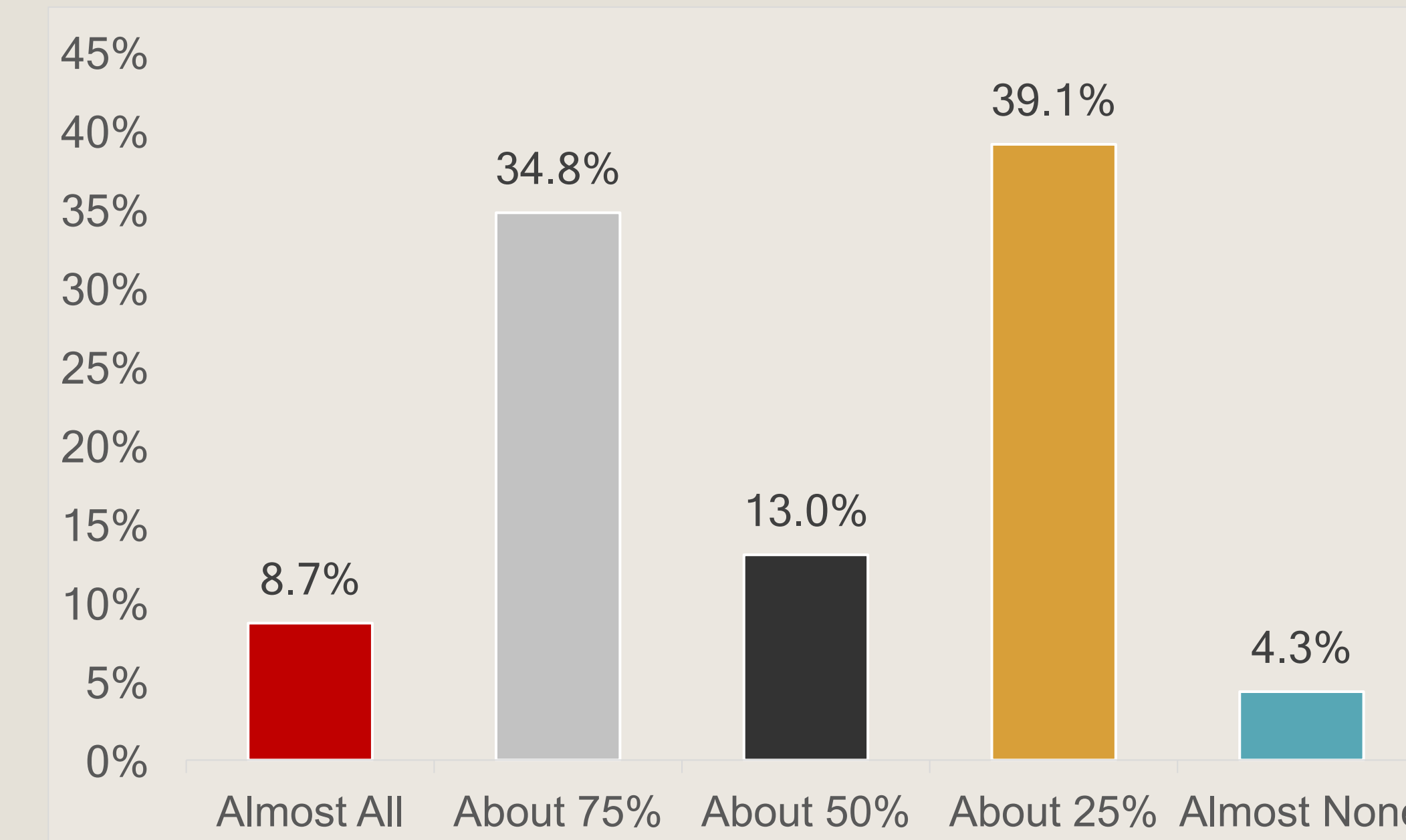


Table 1. Frequently cited topics for future programs

Internship opportunities
The process of applying for fellowships
CV Workshops
Industry functional areas review
Comparisons of affiliated vs non-affiliated programs
Opportunities abroad
Growing fields within industry

Disclosures

[†]Andy Szeto, Pharm.D Candidate, 2018 at Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy, has nothing to disclose. [†]Joanne Vo, Pharm.D Candidate, 2018 at Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy, has nothing to disclose. [‡]Rosemary Boshar, Pharm.D, Sanofi Genzyme/MCPHS Fellow has nothing to disclose. [§]Jerry Silverman and [§]Jim Alexander, Industry Pharmacists Organization, have nothing to disclose on this work.

Discussion

While only a small subset of attendees (14.4%) completed the survey, a majority of respondents (16 of 23; 69.5%) were very or extremely satisfied with the program. A large majority of program attendees were P2s (39.1%) and P3s (30.4%). 65.2% of respondents found the "PATHS to Industry" presentation extremely valuable. 56.5% of attendees found that more than half of the information presented was new to them.

Upon analysis of the free-response entries of the survey, students listed more specific examples of the opportunities for industry employment, and the detailed process by which they can apply. Students also would have liked to see more advice regarding how to become a strong fellowship candidate, how to gain industry exposure, and how to craft their CVs. Additionally, and due to the very large students turnout, respondents requested more time for networking opportunities and larger physical space for the program, both for seating comfort and ease of networking.

Conclusion

The interest of student pharmacists in pursuing an industry career continues to increase. As the presence of IPhO in pharmacy schools across the United States continues to grow, it is increasingly important for IPhO to continuously identify gaps in career knowledge and utilize this information to plan its professional programs to best meet IPhO student member needs.

Participation in the 2017 IPhO National Student Event significantly exceed the previous three years. A case study format was used to highlight common paths to industry when a fellowship is not available. A majority of attendees who completed an evaluation survey found the, *PATHS to Industry*, presentation extremely valuable. Based upon this very positive response, IPhO has begun working on an interactive resource for students and recent graduates to use in helping them to identify industry career options and PATHS to success.