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# Freshman Perceptions of Parental Involvement

Beginnings Subgroup  
March 2012 Forum

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# Today's Presenters



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- Amanda Bowsher, *Institutional Research, Planning & Assessment*
- Nicole Roop, *Keystone Program, School of Engineering*
- Brian Watkins, *Office of Parent and Family Affairs*
  
- Discussants
  - Erin Iverson, *Department of Resident Life*
  - Brian Watkins, *Office of Parent and Family Affairs*
  - Colleen Farmer, *School of Public Health*

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# Beginnings Subgroup Members



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Joann Prosser, Chair

Amanda Bowsher

Tiffane Cochran

Barbara Goldberg

Beverly Greenfeig

Erin Iverson

Claire Jacobson

Sharon La Voy

Pam Phillips

Britt Reynolds

Nicole Roop

Hilary Sazama

Dian Squire

*Department of Resident Life*

*Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment (IRPA)*

*IRPA*

*Counseling Center*

*Counseling Center*

*Department of Resident Life*

*Education Policy Studies*

*IRPA*

*IRPA*

*Undergraduate Admissions*

*College of Engineering*

*Office of Extended Studies*

*Orientation*

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# Forum Agenda



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- Parental Involvement results from the 2009 Beginning Student Survey (*CAWG*)
- Results from the 2011 University of Maryland Biennial Parent Survey (*Office of Parent and Family Affairs*)
- Discussion with campus professionals with experience on parent issues



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# Beginning Student Survey: Campus Assessment Working Group

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# Beginning Student Survey (BSS)



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- Annual survey since 1996, administered within the 8-10<sup>th</sup> week of the fall semester in select first-year courses
- Gathers data on first-year undergraduates' experiences at and perceptions of UM
- BSS 2009: 2100 (~50%) FTFT survey respondents (4202 total)

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# Limitations



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- Use caution when generalizing results
  - Convenience sample
  - Data are self-reported

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# Part One: Discussion topics



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Frequency with which students self-report discussing the following topics with their parent(s)/guardian(s)

- Physical/Emotional well-being
- Academics
- Social life
- Involvement (e.g., organizations, sports, jobs, internships)
- Future (e.g., career, graduate school, future planning)
- Finances



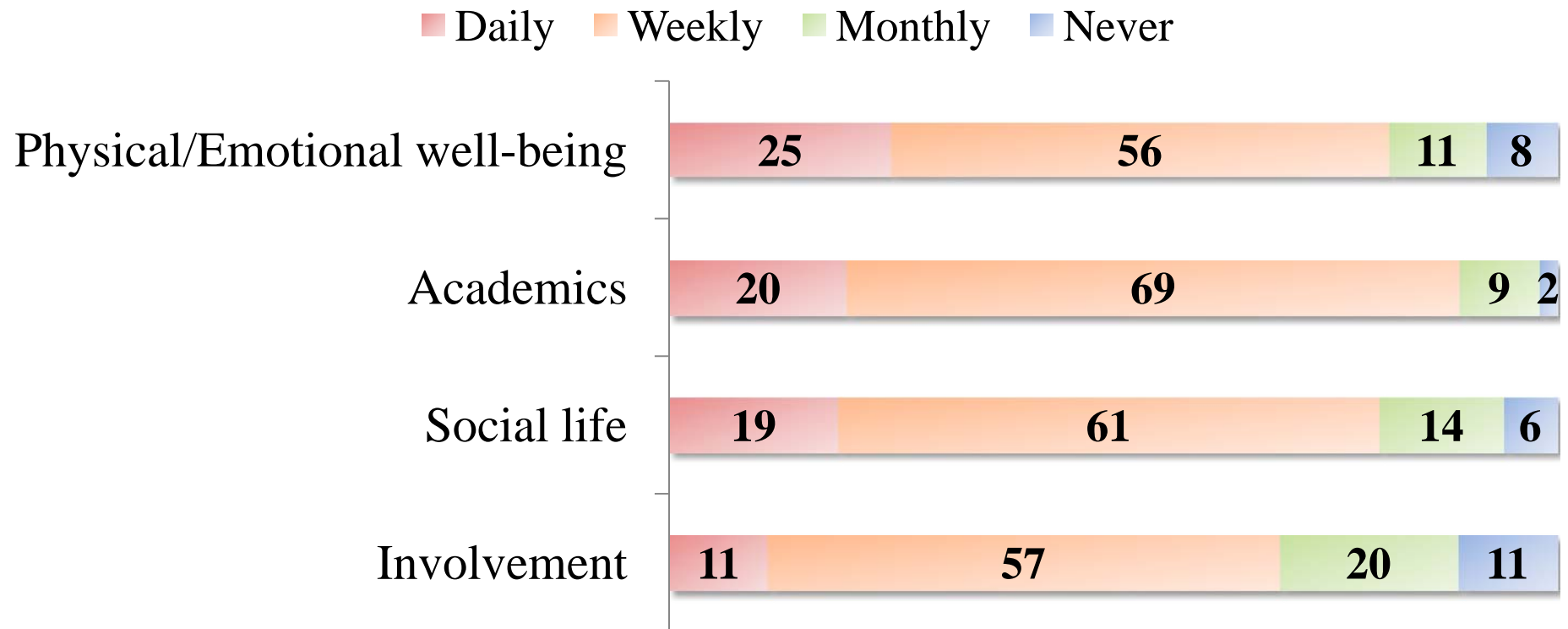
# Topics Students Discuss with their Parents



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Since coming to UM, how often do you and your parent(s)/guardian(s) typically discuss:



*Responses may not sum to 100% due to rounding.*

# Topics Students Discuss with their Parents

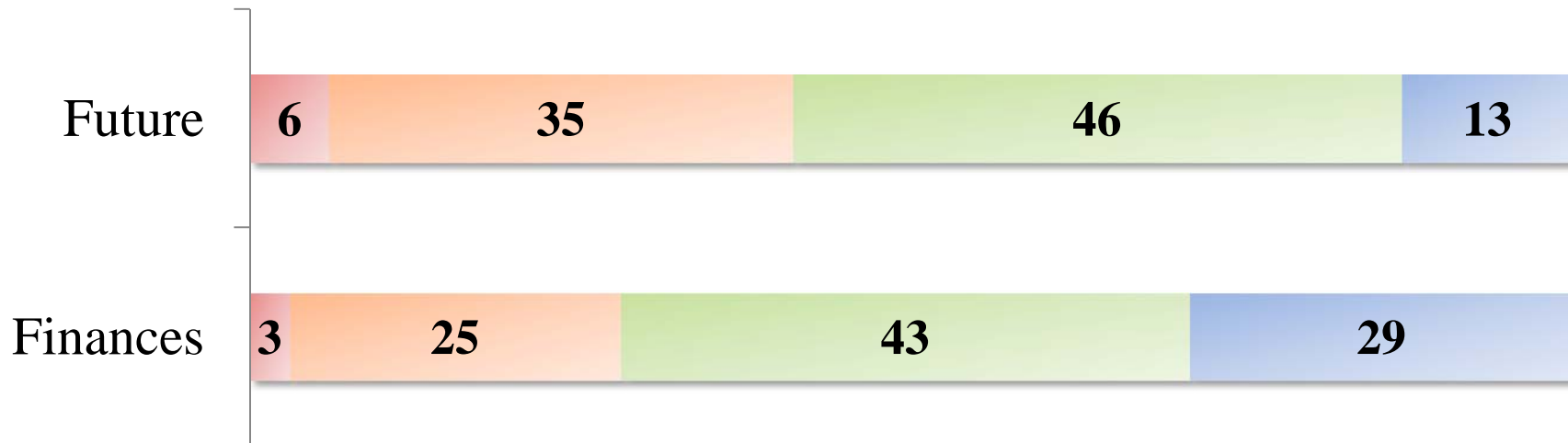


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**Since coming to UM, how often do you and your parent(s)/guardian(s) typically discuss:**

■ Daily ■ Weekly ■ Monthly ■ Never



*See Finances snapshot on CAWG website for more information about student finances*

*Responses may not sum to 100% due to rounding.*

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# Demographics Differences



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- First-Generation student status
  - Self-reported: “Do either of your parent(s)/guardian(s) have a college degree or higher?”
- Race/Ethnicity
  - Reported White, Black/African American, Hispanic and Asian/Pacific Islander responses
  - Unknown and American Indian/Alaska Native not reported due to interpretation difficulty and small sample size (respectively)
- Male/Female
- Only statistical differences reported

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# Topics Students Discuss: First-Generation College Student Differences

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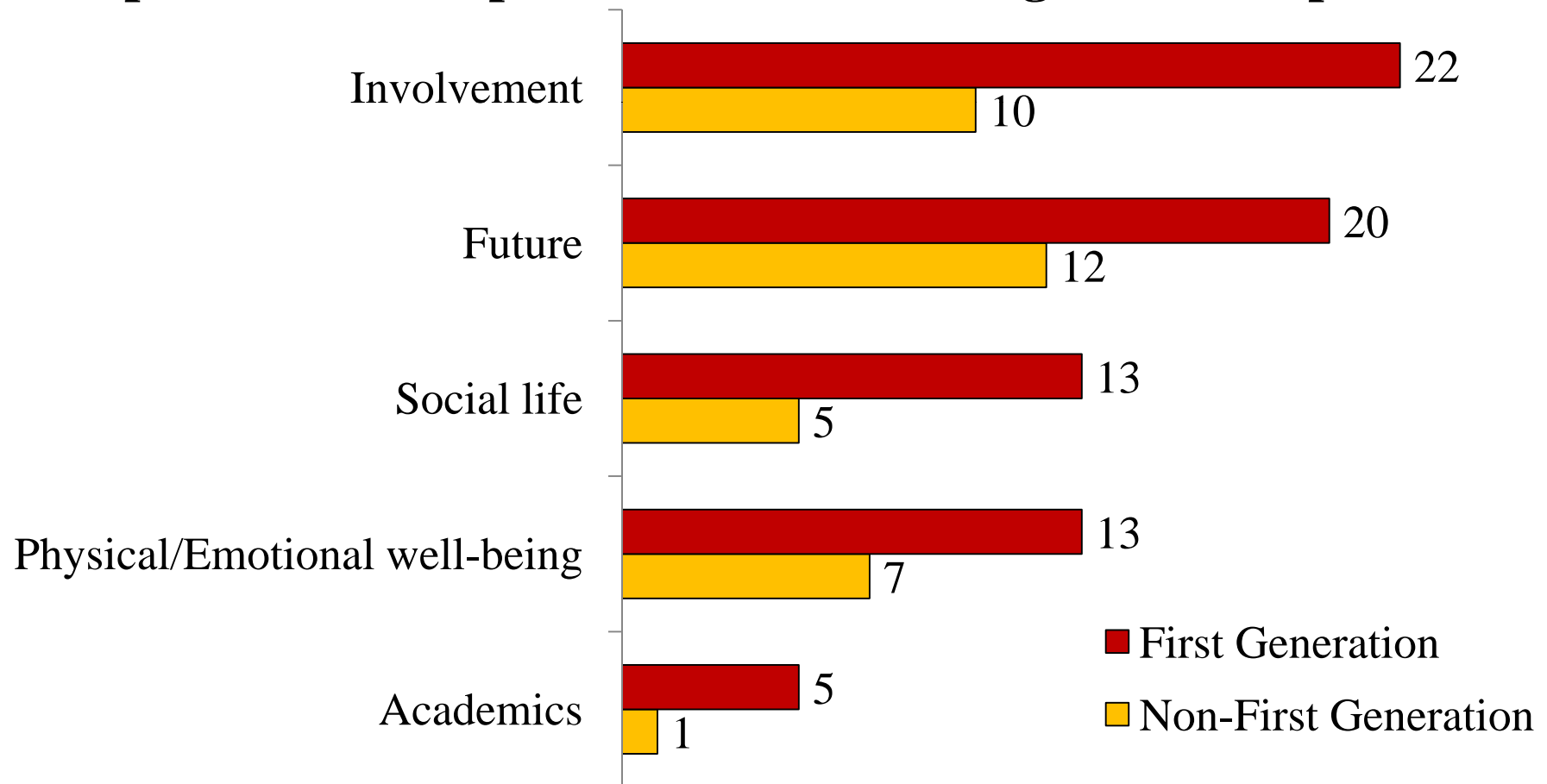


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## Topics students report **NEVER** discussing with their parents



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# Topics Students Discuss: First-Generation College Student Differences

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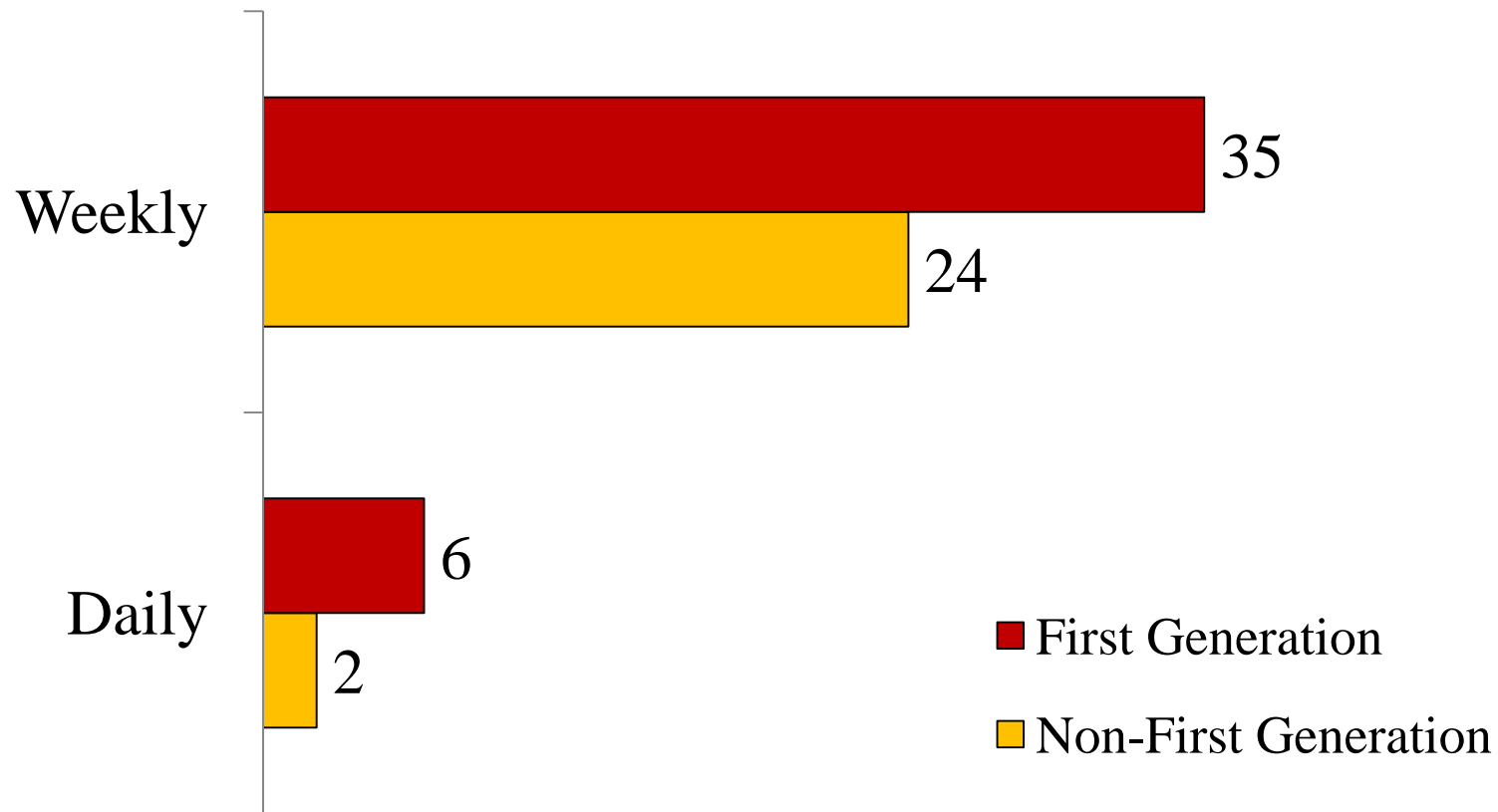


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## WEEKLY and DAILY Discussions about Finances



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# Topics Students Discuss: Male/Female Differences

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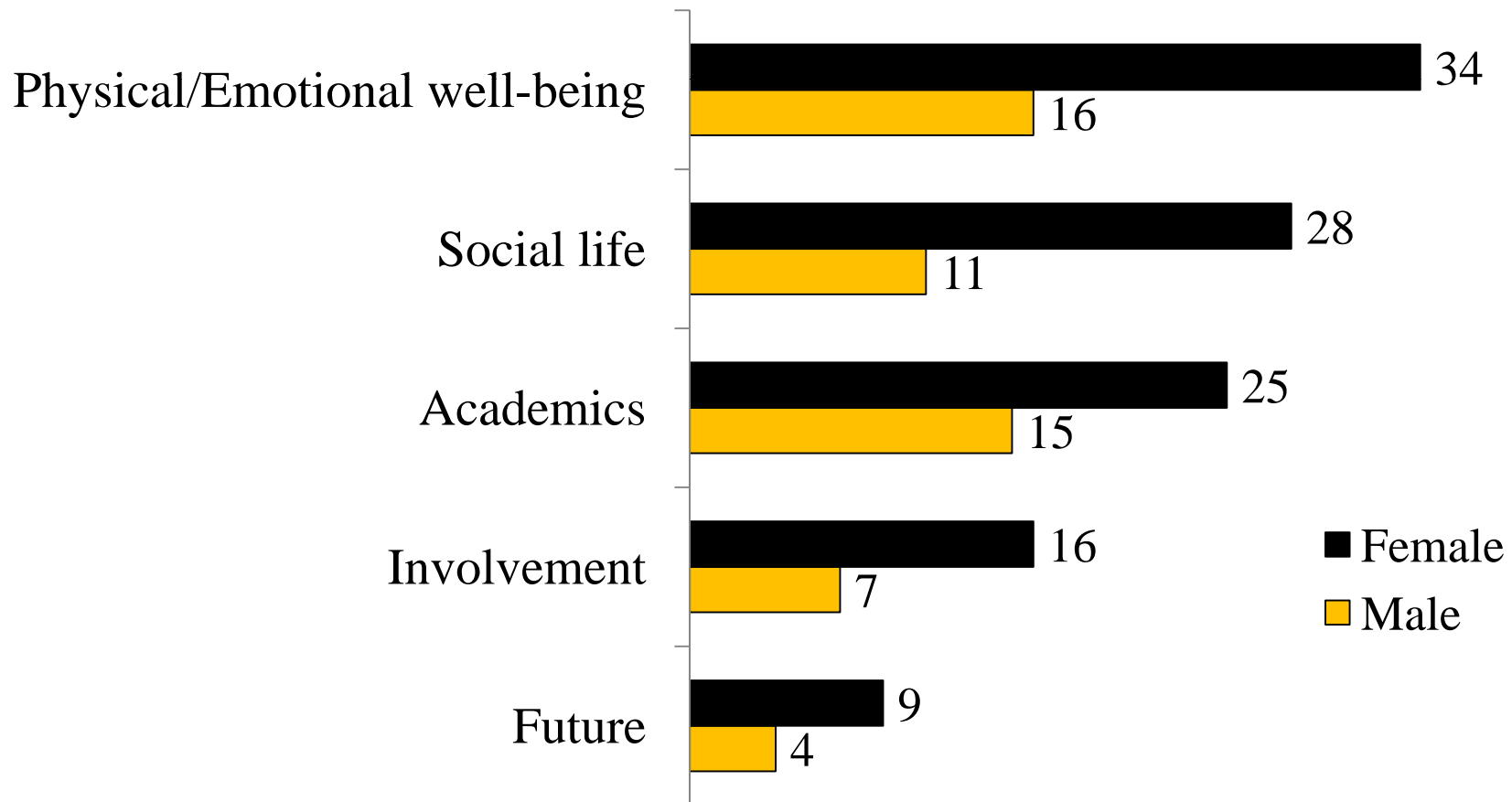


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## Topics students discuss with their parents on a DAILY basis



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# Part Two:

## Parental Messages about College

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- Importance of college degree
- Expectations for academic performance
- Specific suggestions about adjusting to college
- Encouragement to pursue a specific major

# Parental Messages about College

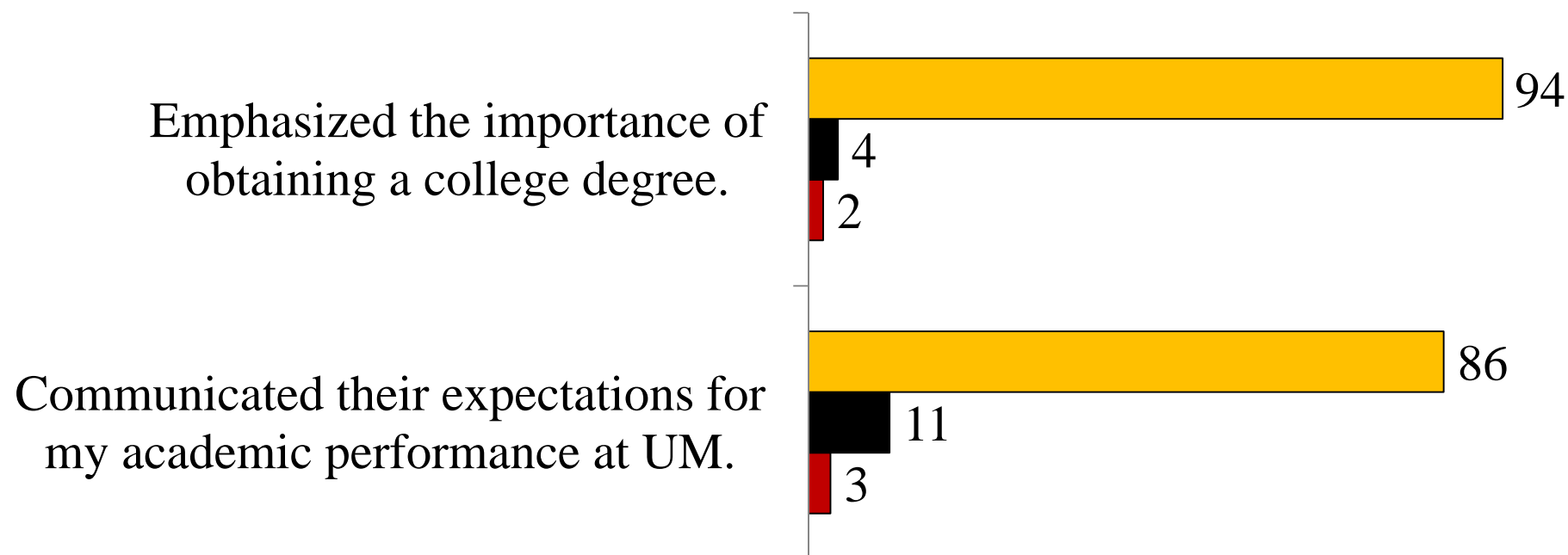


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## My parent(s)/guardian(s) have ...

■ Agree/Strongly Agree   ■ Neutral   ■ Disagree/Strongly Disagree



*Responses may not sum to 100% due to rounding.*



# Parental Messages about College

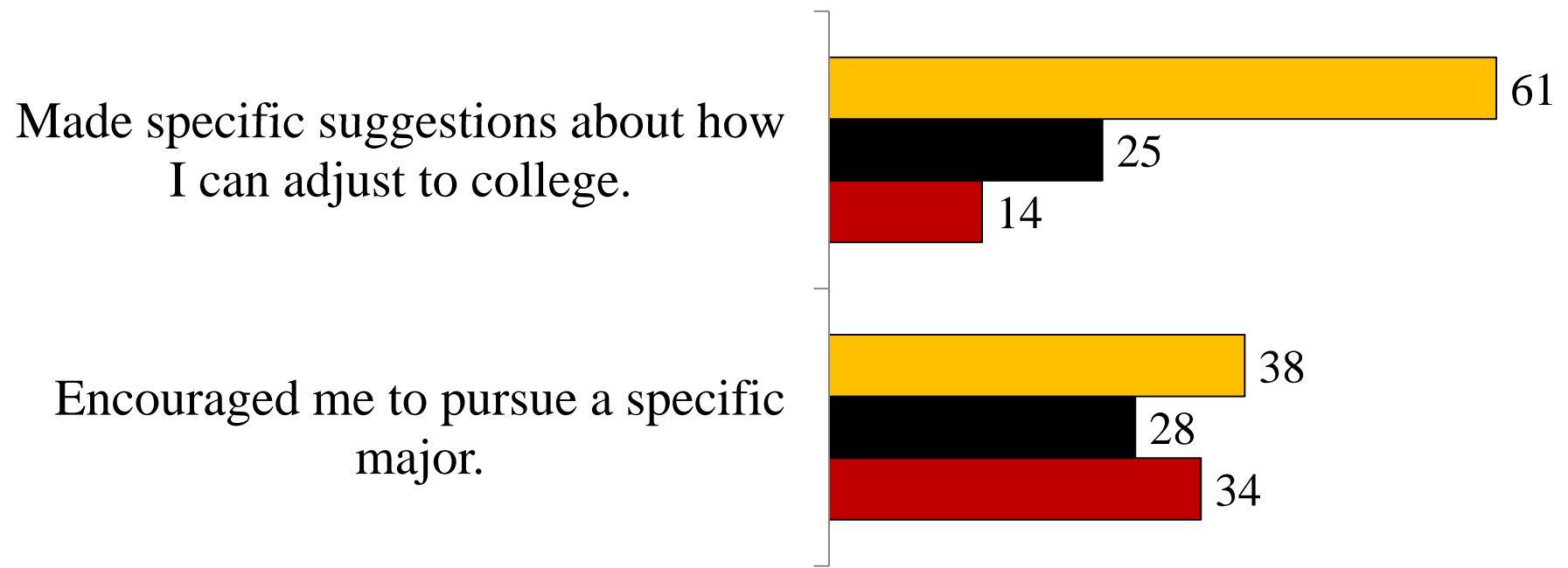


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## My parent(s)/guardian(s) have ...

■ Agree/Strongly Agree   ■ Neutral   ■ Disagree/Strongly Disagree



*Responses may not sum to 100% due to rounding.*



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# Differences by Demographics

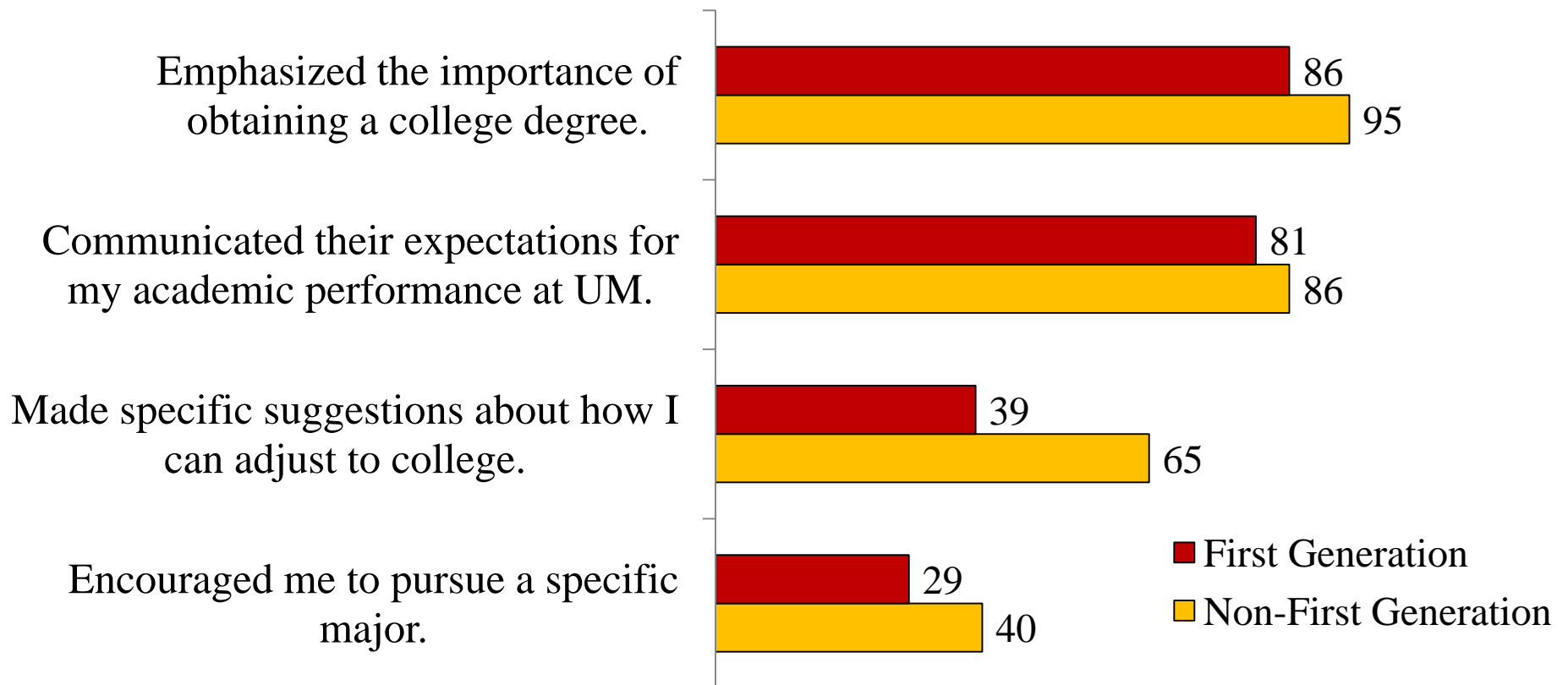
# Parental Messages: First-Generation College Student Differences



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## Percentages of First-Generation and Non-First Generation students who **AGREED** that their parents have ...



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# Parental Messages: Race/Ethnicity Differences

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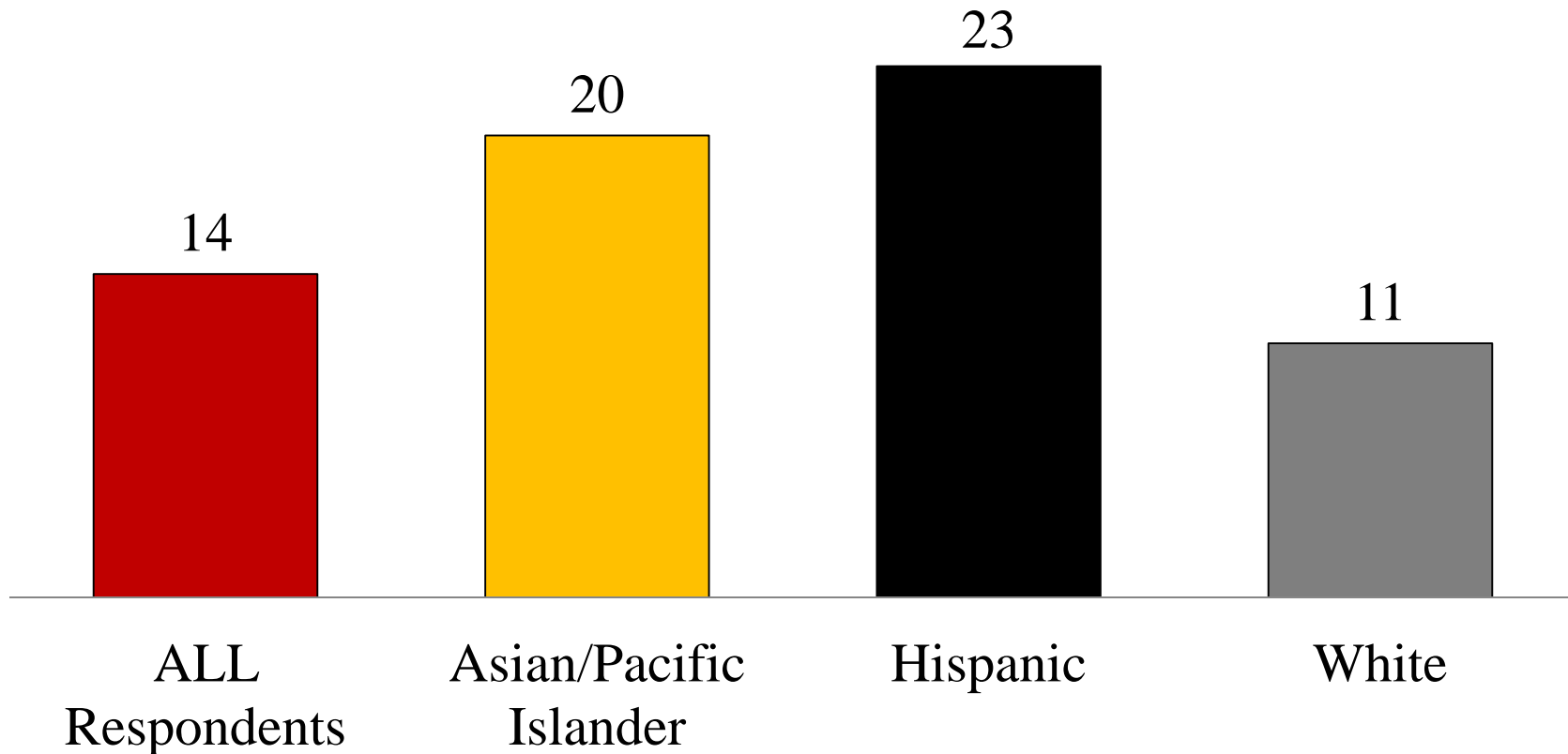


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**Percentages of students who DISAGREED that their parents have made *specific suggestions about how they can adjust to college***



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# Parental Messages: Race/Ethnicity Differences

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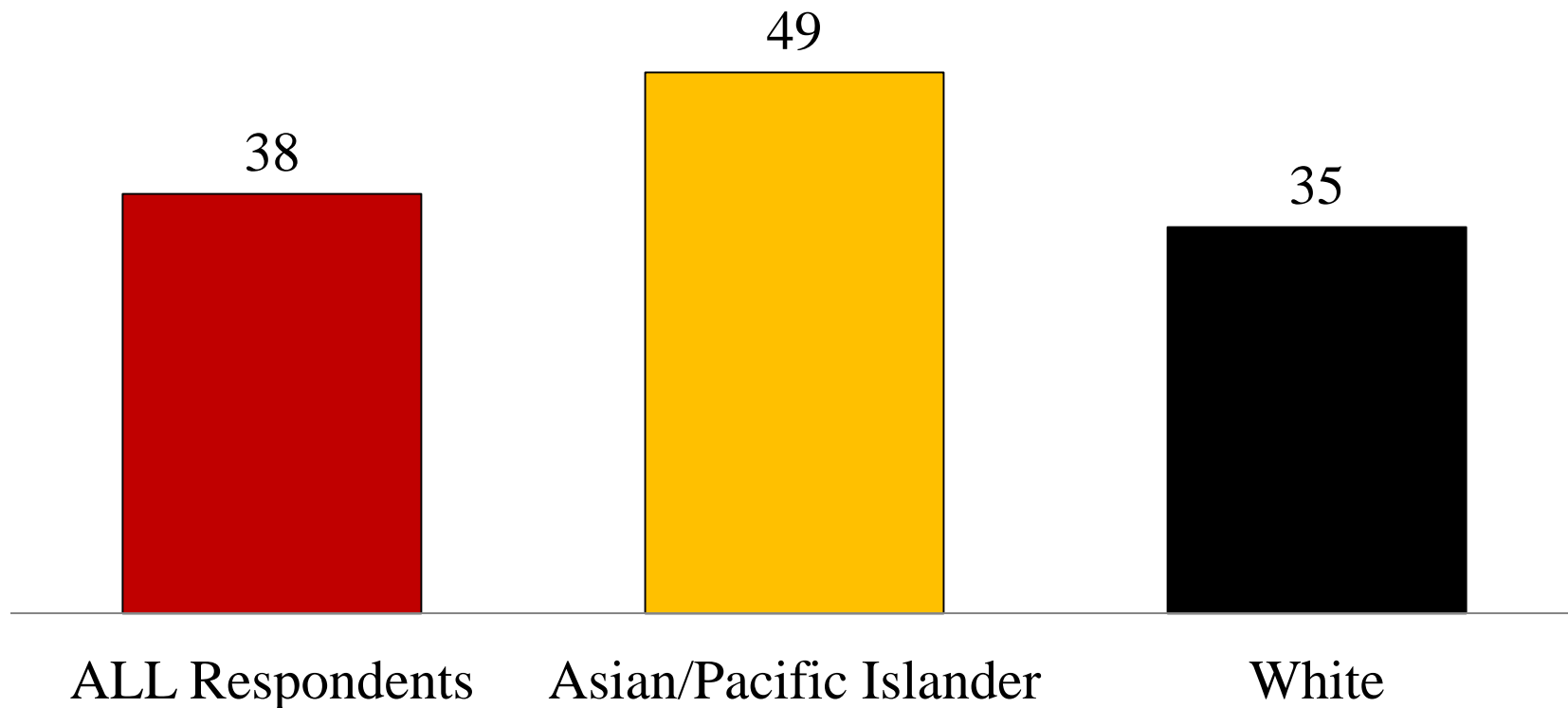


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**Percentages of students who **AGREED** that their parents  
*encouraged pursuit of a specific major***



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# Part Three:

## Who handles problems at college?

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Parents, students or both?

1. Parents initiate contact with campus
2. Students request parents make contact with campus
3. Students attempt resolution first before engaging parents
4. Students resolve without asking parents to intervene

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# Who Handles Problems at College?



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## If I have a problem at college ...

1. My parents would contact a campus official to resolve it for me **WITHOUT ME ASKING them to.**
2. I would **IMMEDIATELY** ask my **parents/guardians** to contact a campus official to solve the problem for me.
3. I would **attempt to resolve it on my own BEFORE** asking my parents to contact a campus official.
4. I would attempt to **resolve it on my own WITHOUT EVER** asking my parents to contact a campus official.

**EXTERNAL LOCUS of CONTROL**



**INTERNAL LOCUS of CONTROL**

# Who Handles Problems at College?

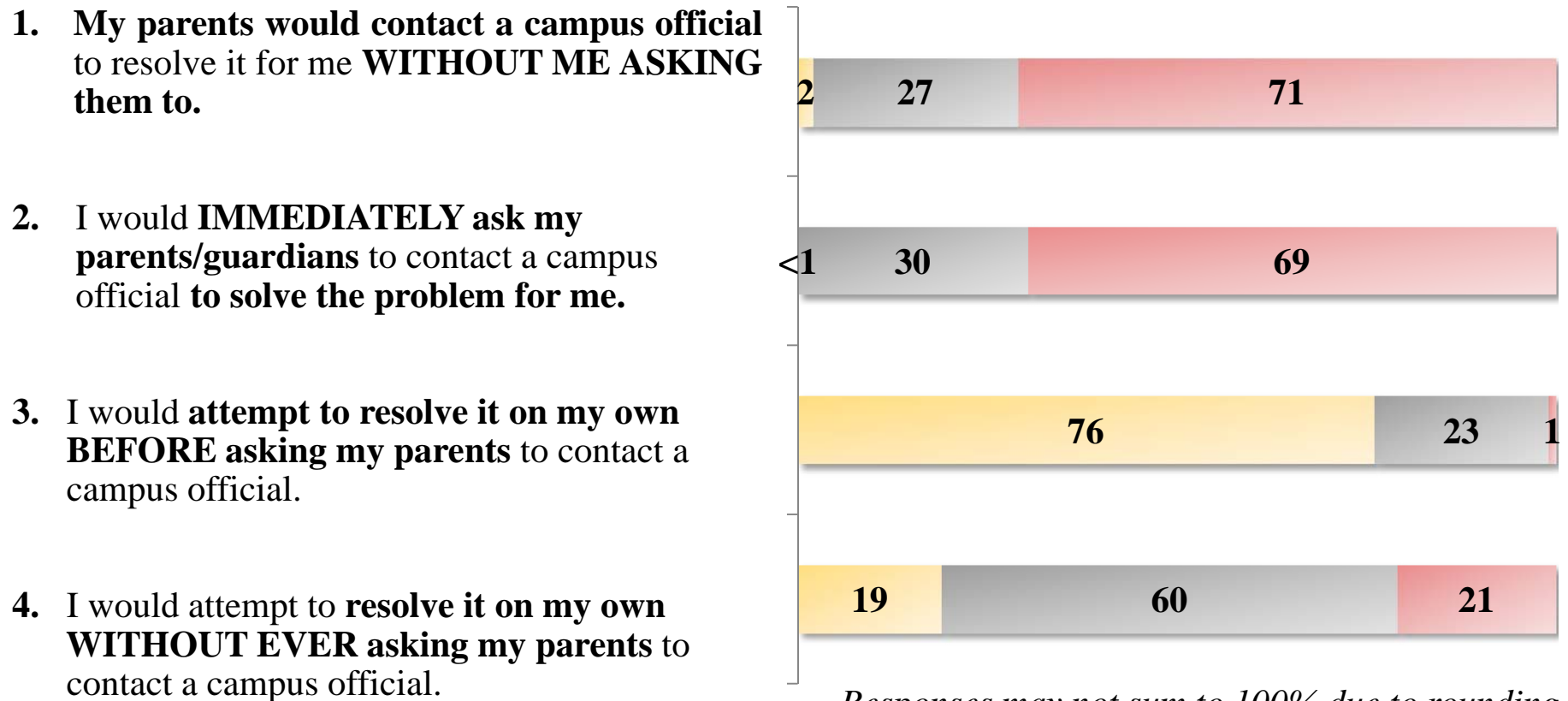


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## If I have a problem at college ...

Always Sometimes Never



Responses may not sum to 100% due to rounding.





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# Parent Survey:

## Office of Parent and Family Affairs

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# Parent Survey – Office of Parent and Family Affairs

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- Biennial survey since 2007, administered every two years in April to parents of current, traditional age (22 and under) undergraduate students
- Gathers data on parents' awareness of and satisfaction with our services and resources, as well as various trends regarding parental involvement
- 2011 Parent Survey: 1,369 respondents out of 24,000

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# Parent Survey – Limitations



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- Use caution when generalizing results
  - Self-selected sample
  - Data are self-reported

# Topics Students Discuss with their Parents ...according to their parents

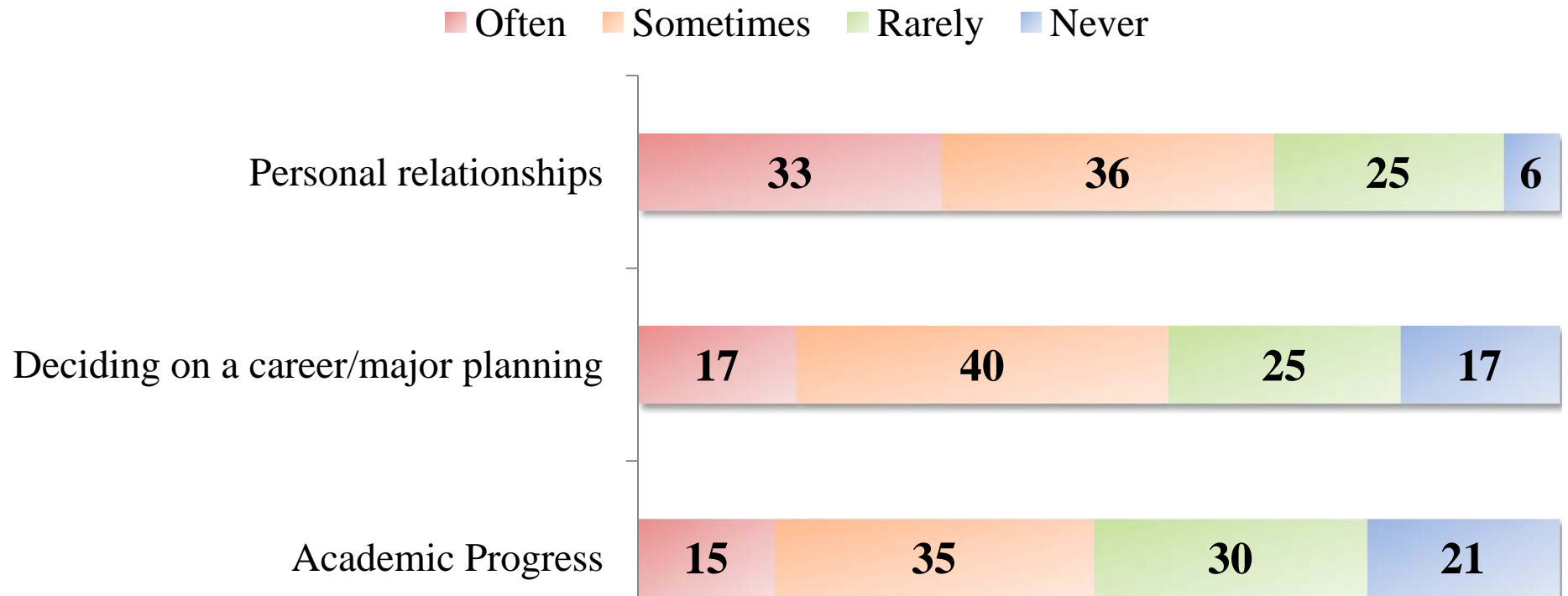


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**Since starting college, to what extent has your student requested your assistance or advice regarding the following topics?**

*(Source: 2011 Parent Survey – Office of Parent and Family Affairs)*



*Responses may not sum to 100% due to rounding.*

# Topics Students Discuss with their Parents ...according to their parents

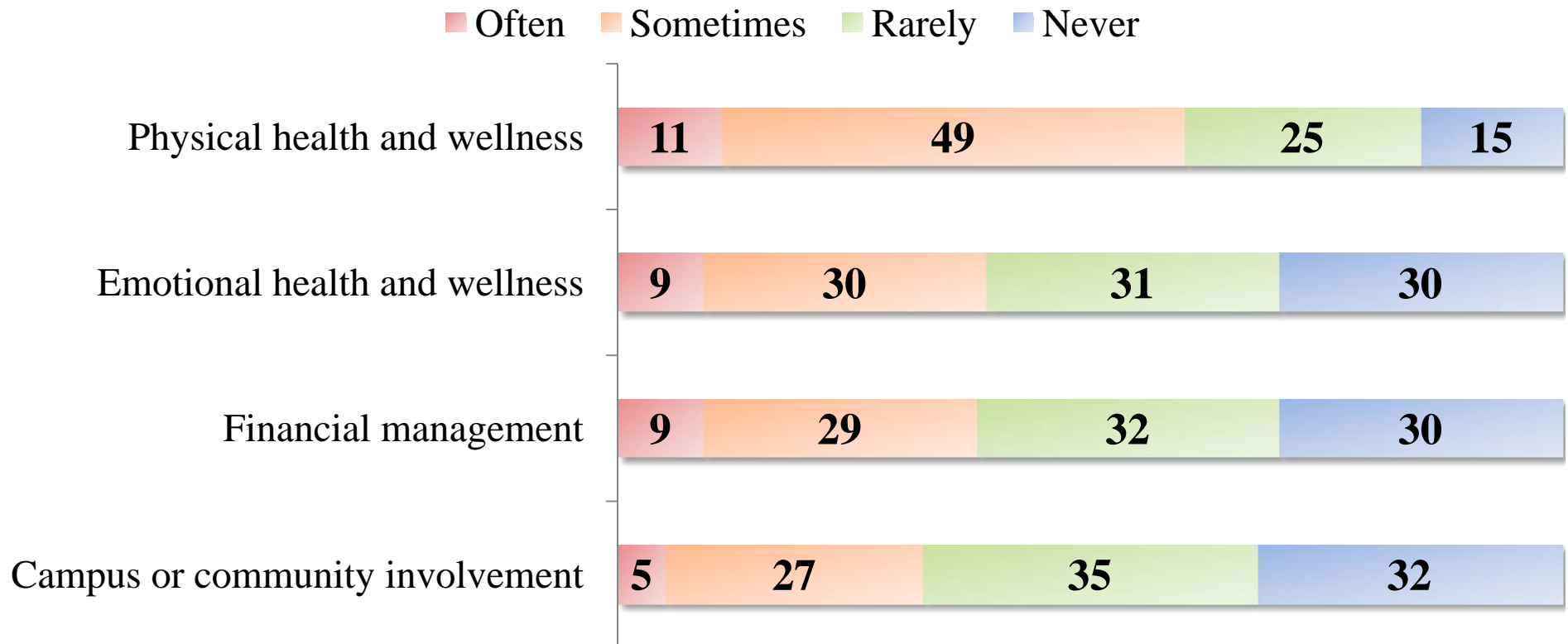


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**Since starting college, to what extent has your student requested your assistance or advice regarding the following topics?**

*(Source: 2011 Parent Survey – Office of Parent and Family Affairs)*



*Responses may not sum to 100% due to rounding.*

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# Parental Response



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**When your student brought up a topic and requested your assistance or advice, how did you respond?**

*(Source: 2011 Parent Survey – Office of Parent and Family Affairs)*

<b>I encouraged my student to resolve the situation/issue on his/her own.</b>	4%
<b>I offered suggestions to my student but let him/her make his/her own decision.</b>	94%
<b>I told my student what to do.</b>	1%
<b>I intervened or resolved the situation/issue on behalf of my student.</b>	1%
<b>I refrained from providing any advice, assistance, or intervention to my student.</b>	< 1%

*Responses may not sum to 100% due to rounding.*

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# Parent/Student Communication



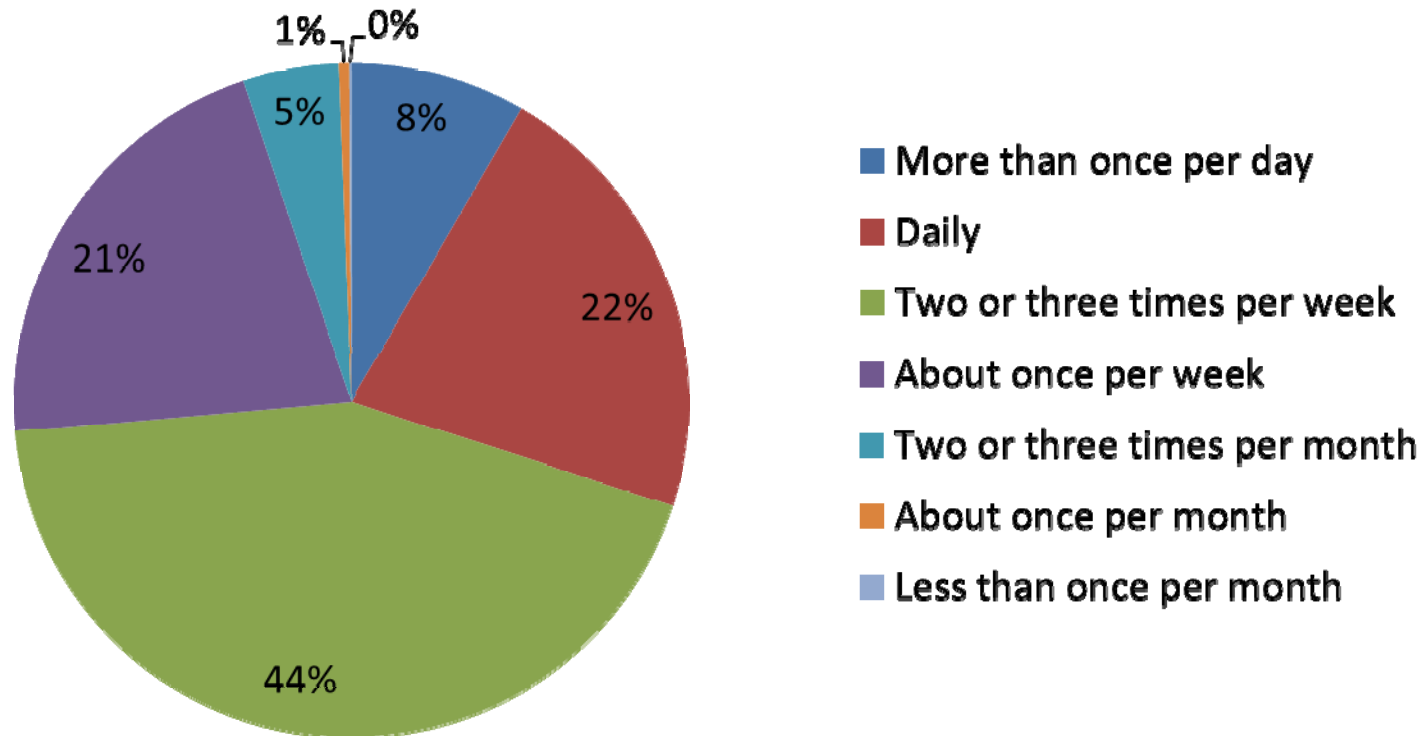
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## How often do you typically communicate with your student?

*(Source: 2011 Parent Survey – Office of Parent and Family Affairs)*



*Responses may not sum to 100% due to rounding.*

# Parent/Student Communication

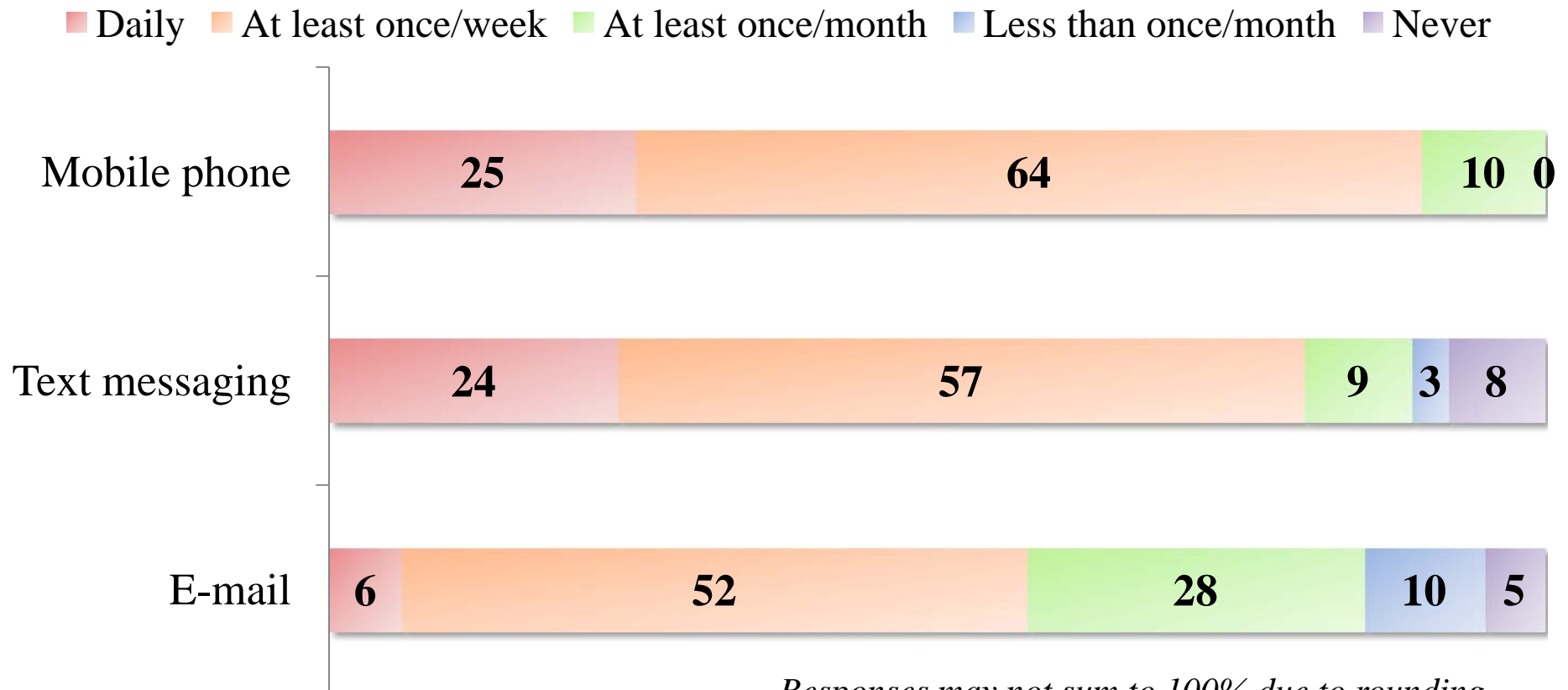


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## Methods of communication used

(Source: 2011 Parent Survey – Office of Parent and Family Affairs)



Responses may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



# Parent/Student Communication

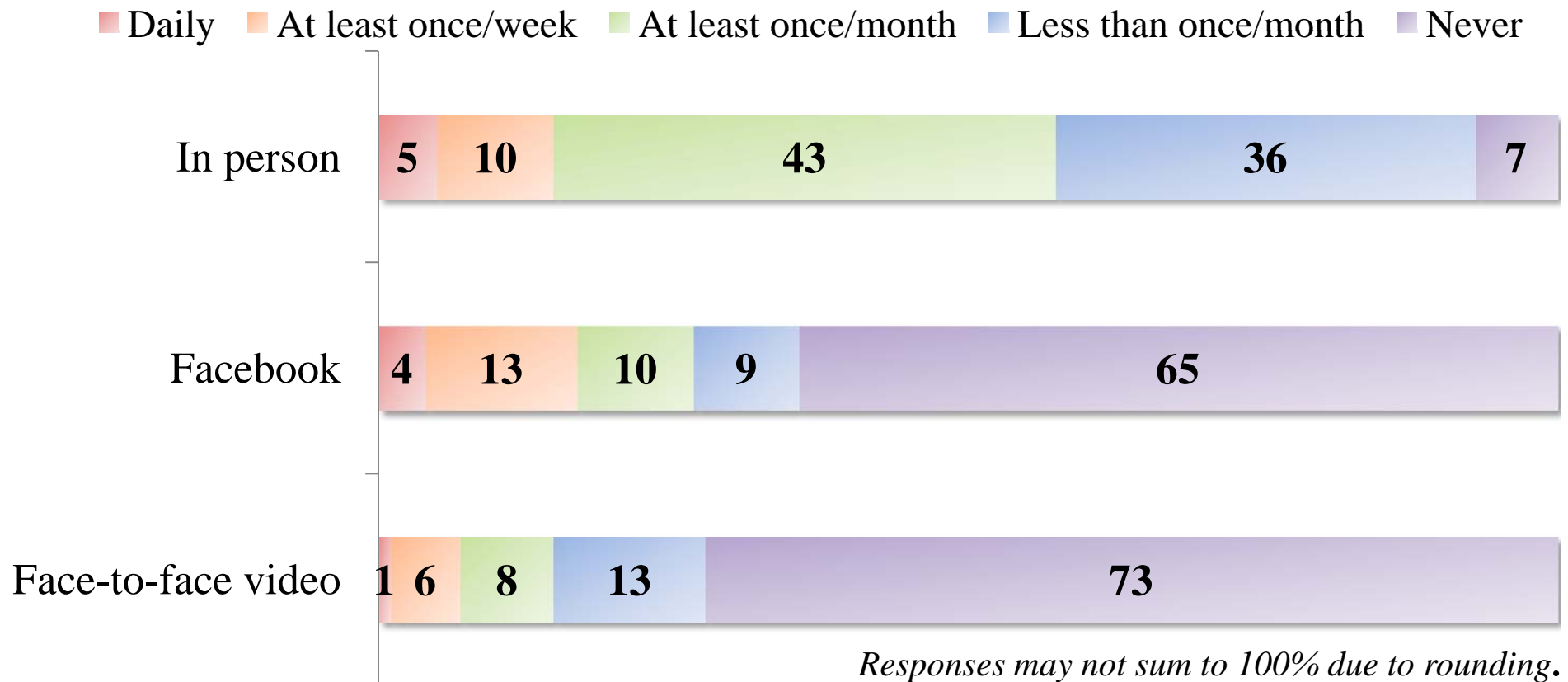


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## Methods of communication used (cont.)

(Source: 2011 Parent Survey – Office of Parent and Family Affairs)





# Panel Discussion Questions



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The CAWG Snapshot on Parental Involvement is  
available at:

[www.umd.edu/cawg](http://www.umd.edu/cawg)