

# Respondent Parents' Counsel Work Group



# **Work Group Recommendations**

# 1. Operational Structure

- Centralized, stand-alone office
- Governing Board
  - 9 member commission
  - No more than 5 members from the same political party
  - Members should be representative of each congressional district in the state
  - The commission should include at least 6 attorney members, 3 of which have experience serving as RPC
  - The Work Group urges including a former respondent parent as a commission member
  - Members should not include anyone currently under contract with the ORPC, current judicial officers, GALs, city/county attorneys or department employees.

- Executive Director Qualifications
  - At least 5 years experience as a licensed attorney
  - Familiar with the unique demands of representing respondent parents in the Colorado judicial system

## 2. Attorney Support

- Training
- Compensation
- Access to Resources
  - Independent Experts
  - Social Workers
  - Investigators
  - Paralegals
  - Motions Bank and Resource Library

- Centralized Appellate Process
  - Specialized pool of appellate attorneys
  - Assistance from ORPC requesting documents necessary for appeals
  - On-going monitoring of attorney work product to ensure quality representation

### **3. Attorney Accountability**

- Trial and Appellate Practice Standards
- Complaint Process

## **4. Rural Districts**

- Increased recruitment efforts
- Evaluation and piloting of parent representation models to meet the unique needs of rural districts
  - Circuit riding
  - Staff office
  - Partnering with existing agencies in the area

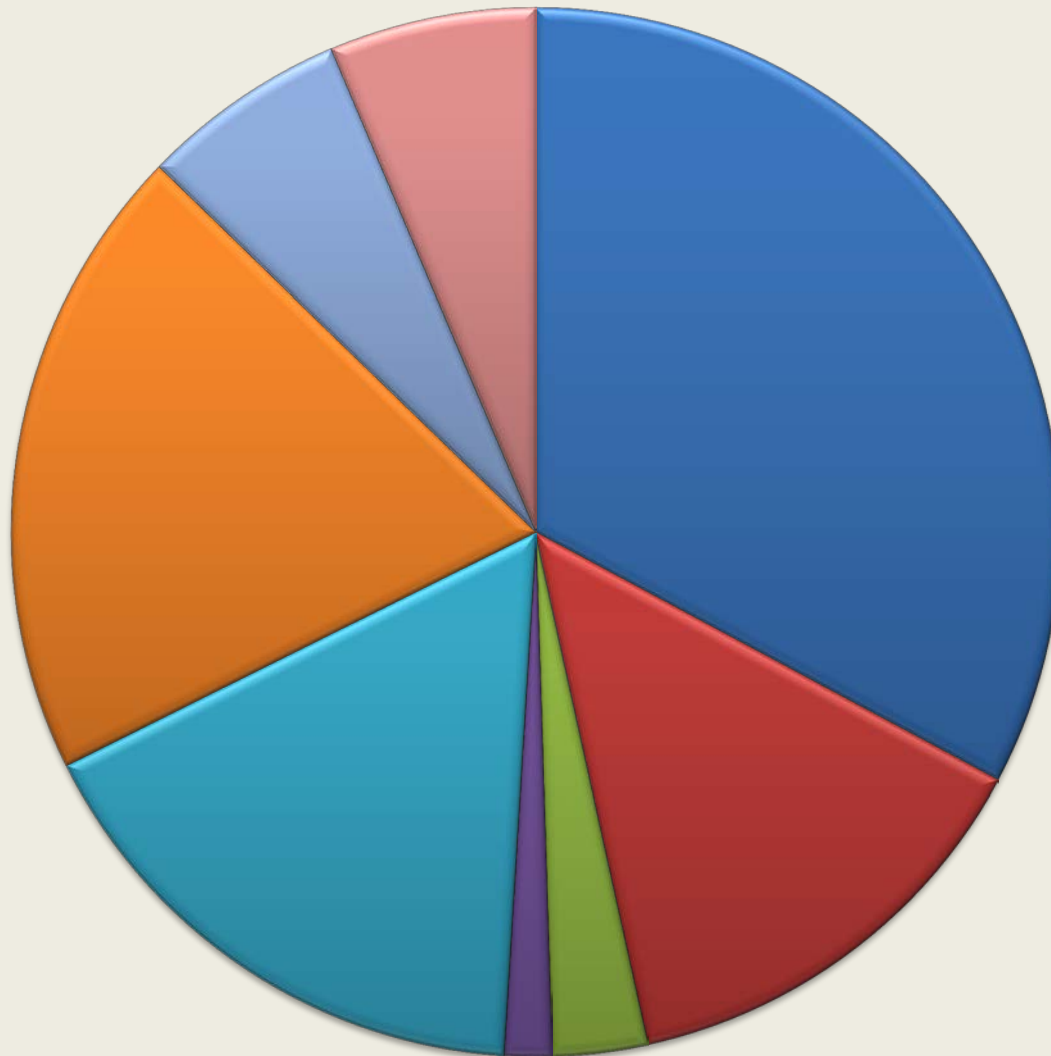
## **5. Pilot Programs**

- The Work Group urges ORPC to look to successful national parent representation models and pilot methods proven to improve the quality of parent representation.

# Survey Results



# 204 Respondents



■ RPC (67)

■ Judicial Officer (28)

■ District Administrator (6)

■ Family Court Facilitator (3)

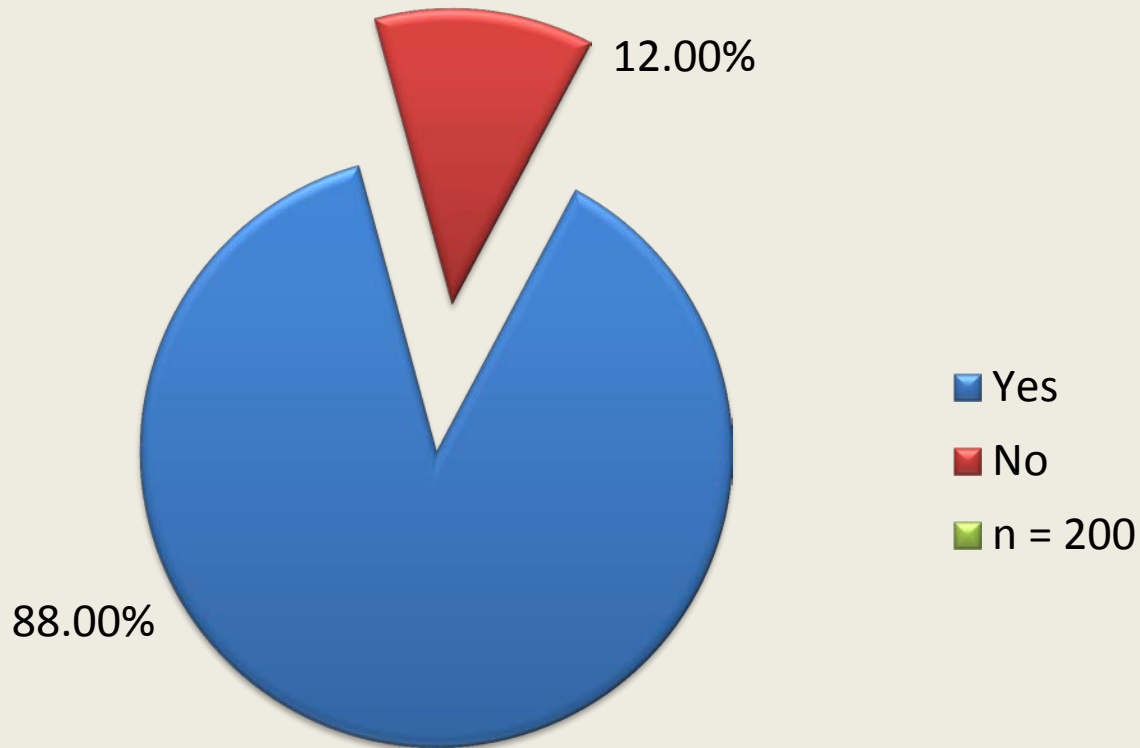
■ GAL (34)

■ City/County Attorney (40)

■ Department of Human Services (13)

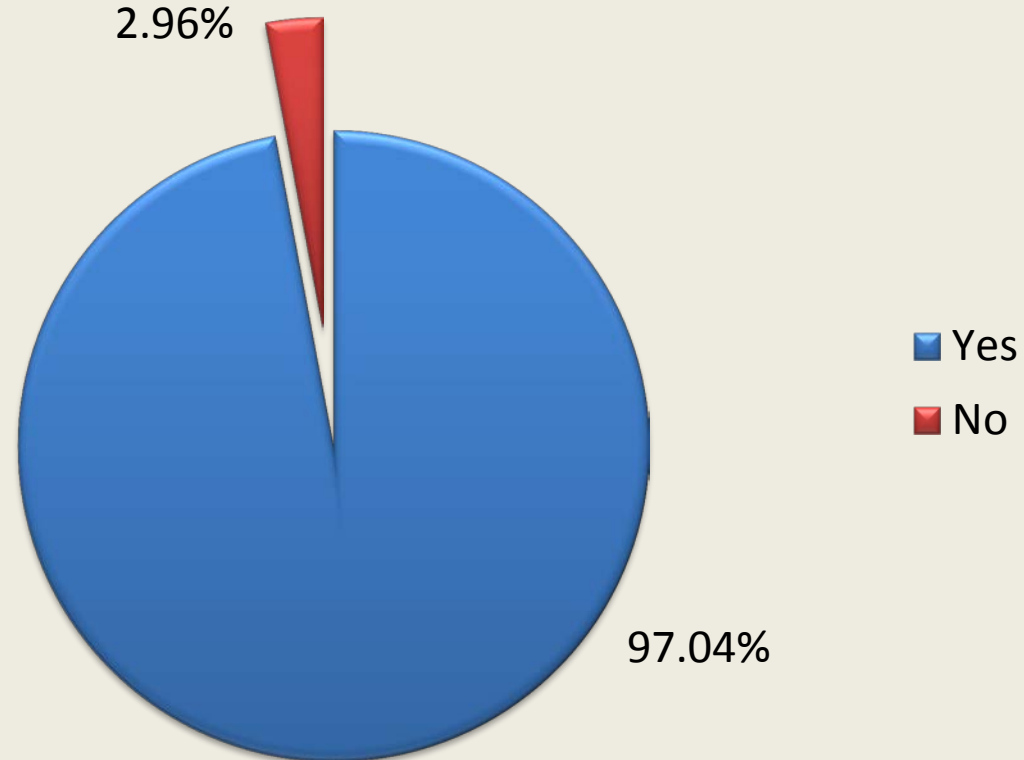
■ Other (13)

Do you support the creation of a stand-alone agency to oversee the practice of respondent parent representation in Colorado?

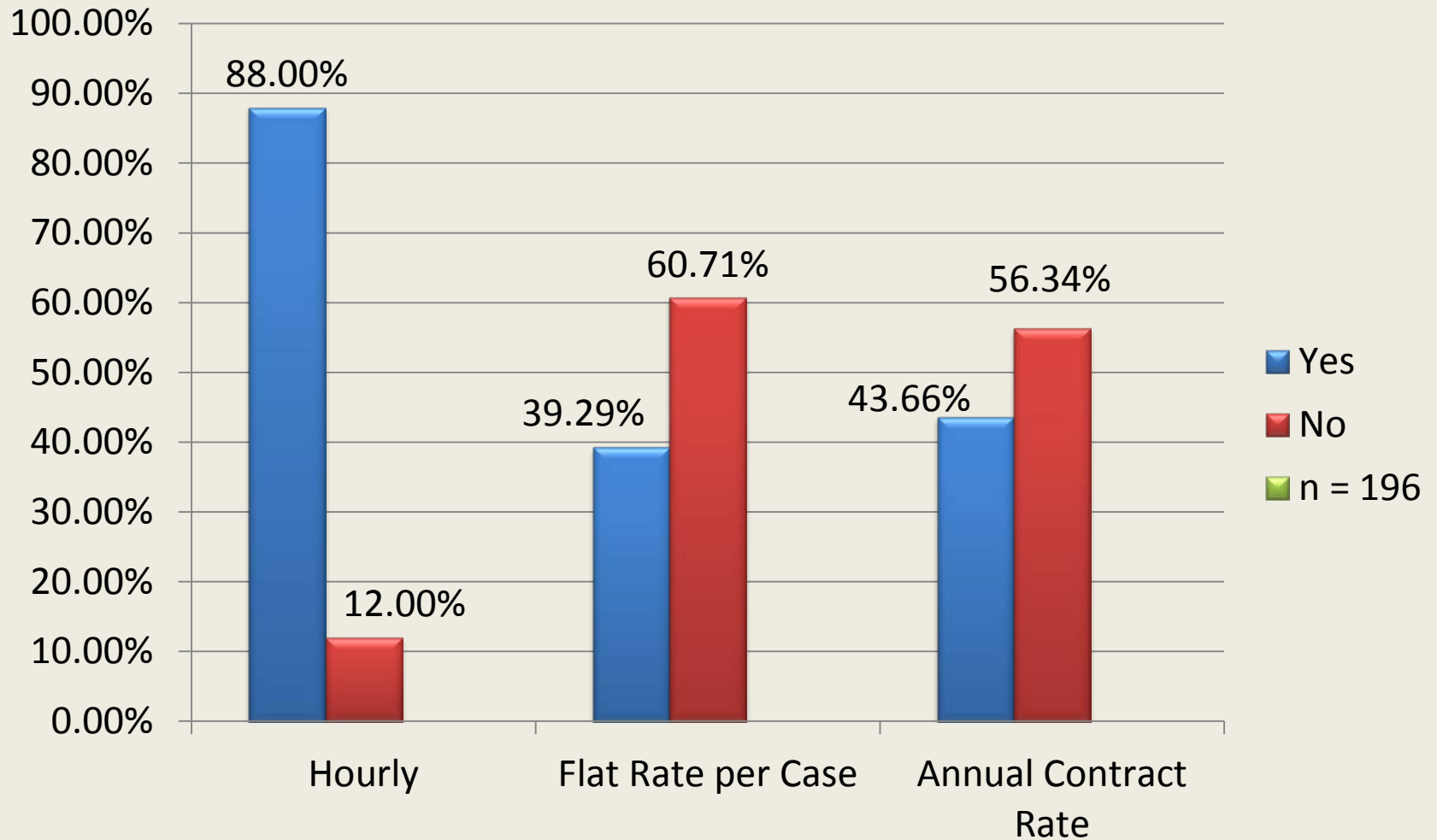


# Do you support additional role specific training?

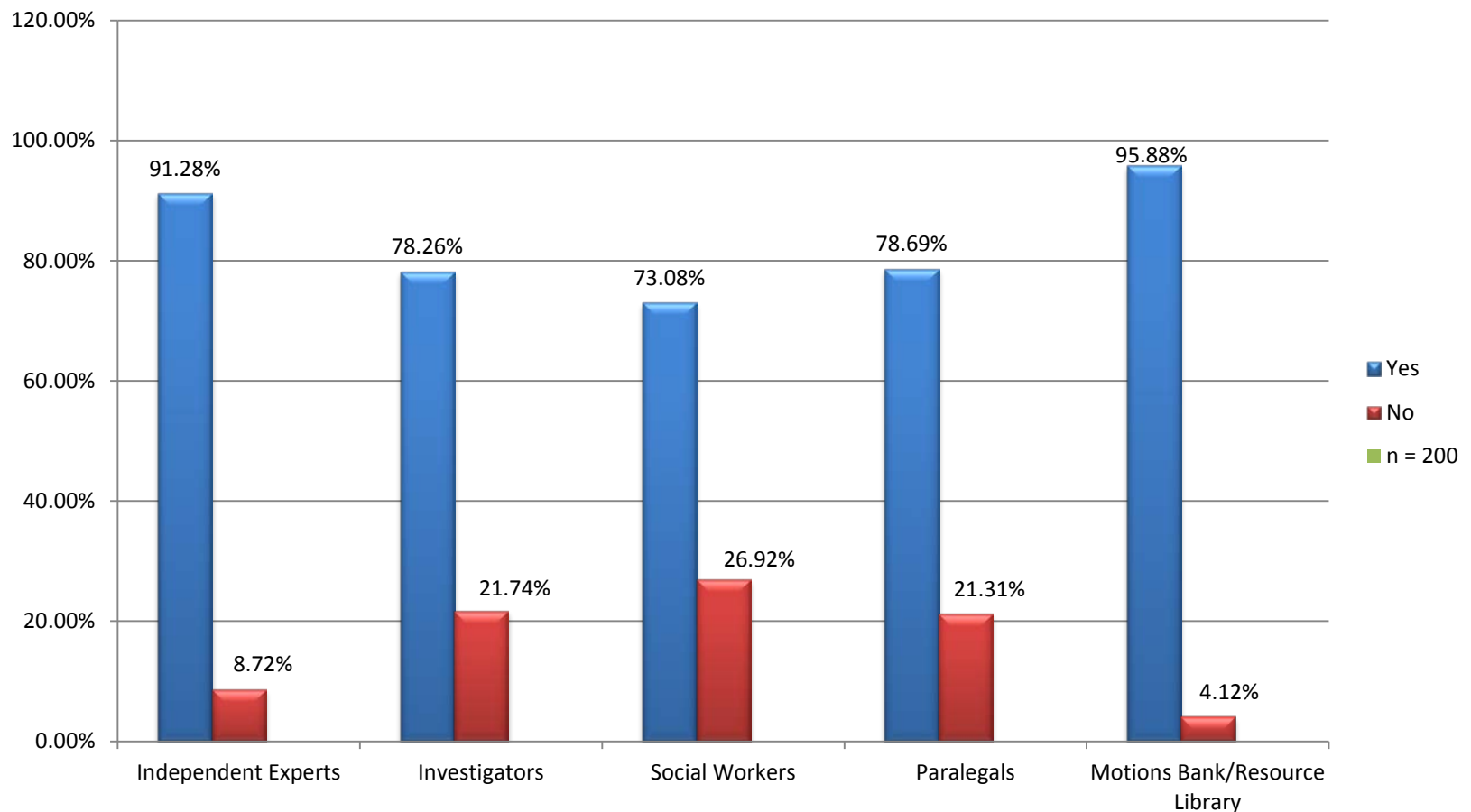
n = 203



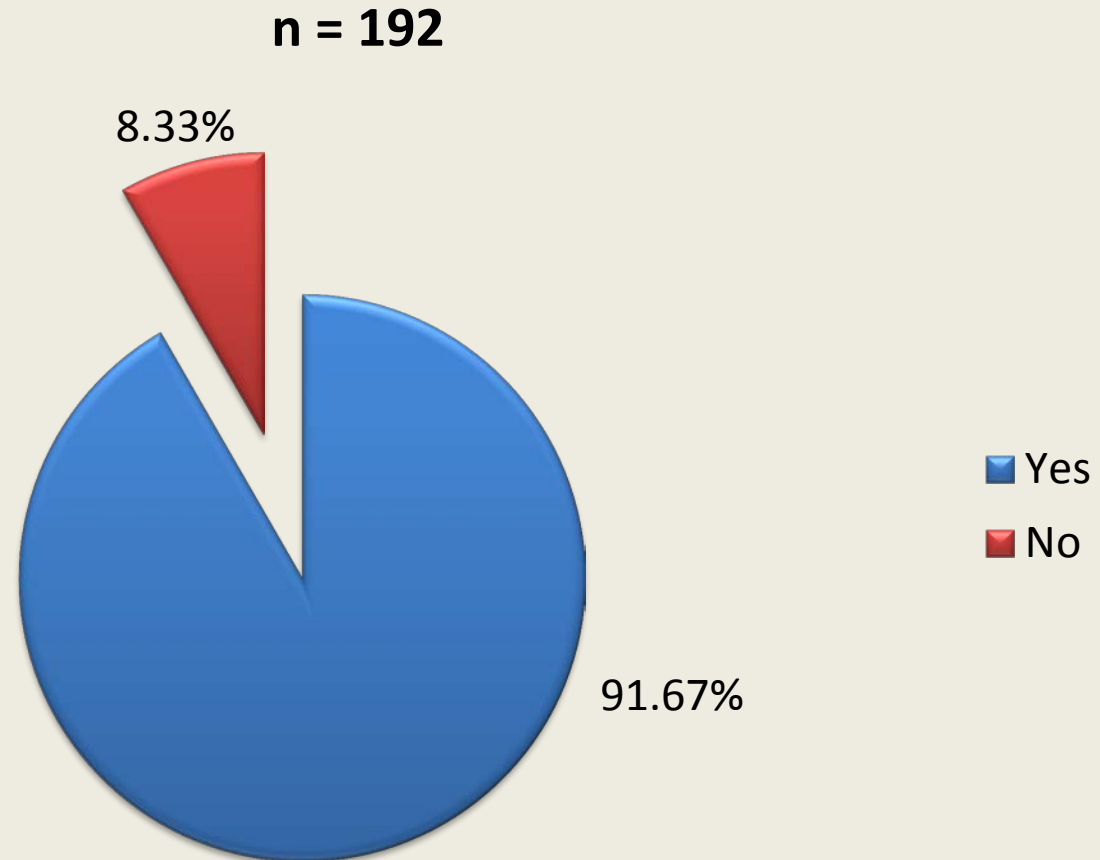
# Please indicate which compensation methods you support.



# Please indicate if you support improved access to the following resources.

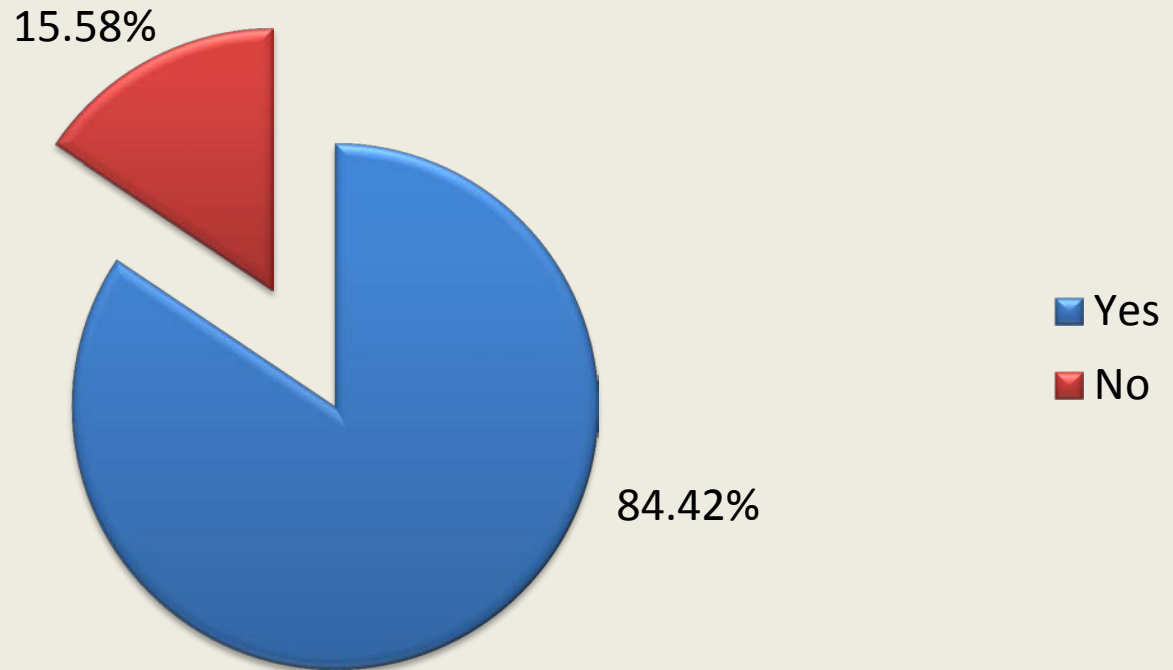


# Do you agree that practice standards should be adopted?

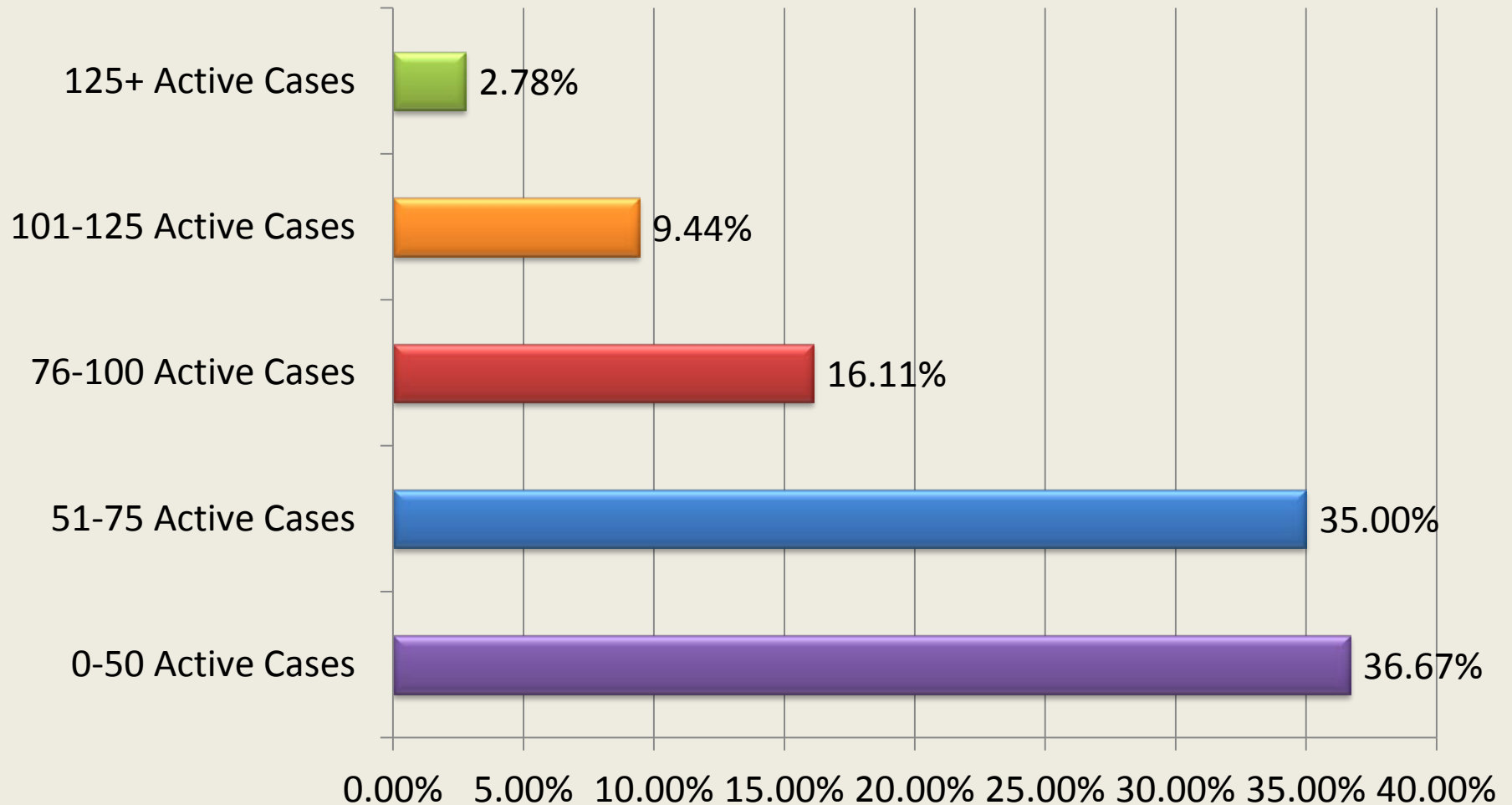


# Do you support the establishment of a formal complaint process through ORPC?

n = 199

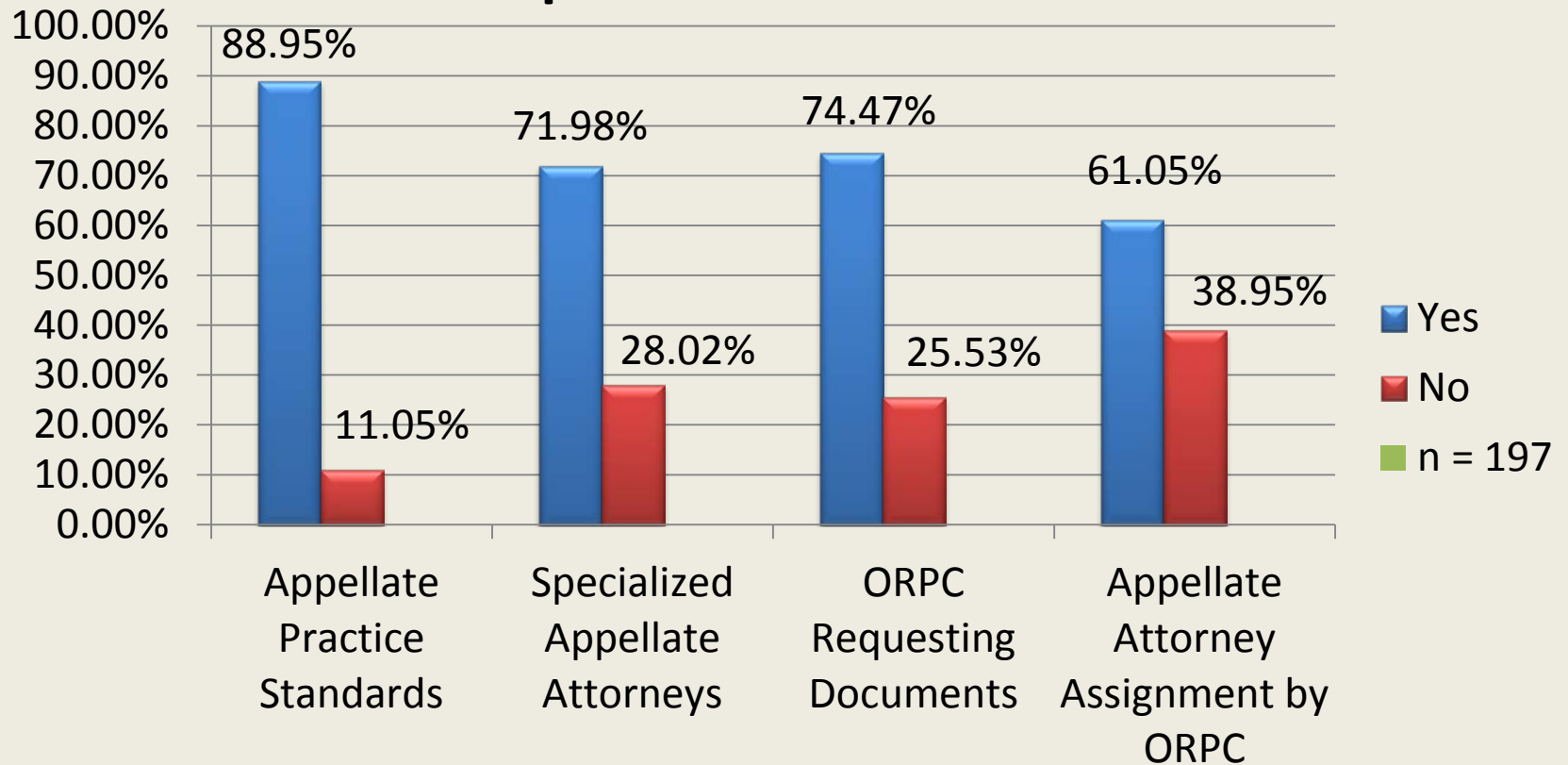


# What do you believe a reasonable caseload should be for a full-time RPC?

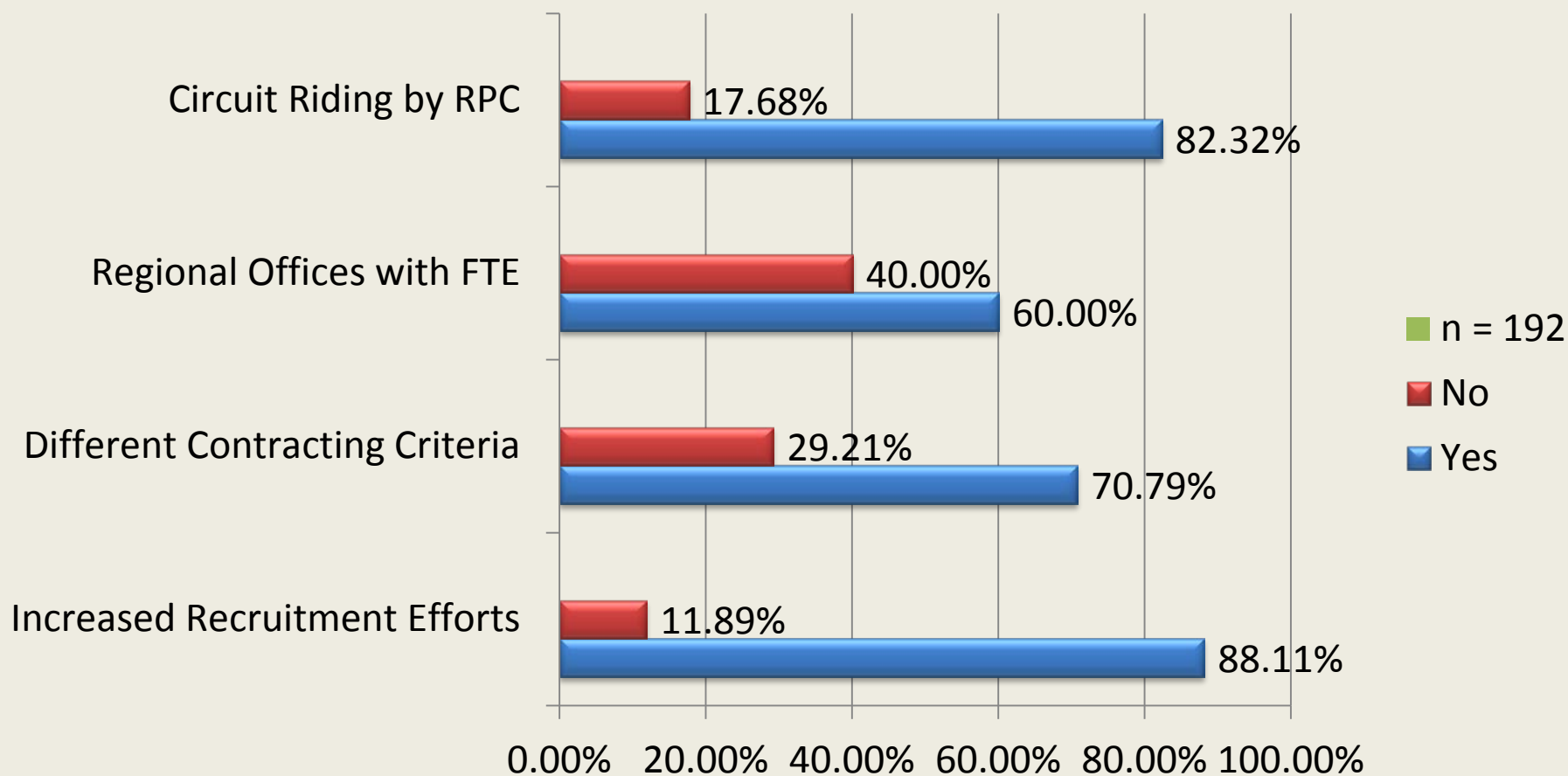




# Do you agree with the following recommendations aimed at improving the quality of appellate representation?



# Do you support the following efforts aimed at improving parent representation in rural districts?



# Do you believe pre-filing representation for parents would be beneficial?

n = 171

