

Christ's Mission in Ravenna

A report by
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Ohio Conference
April 18, 2009

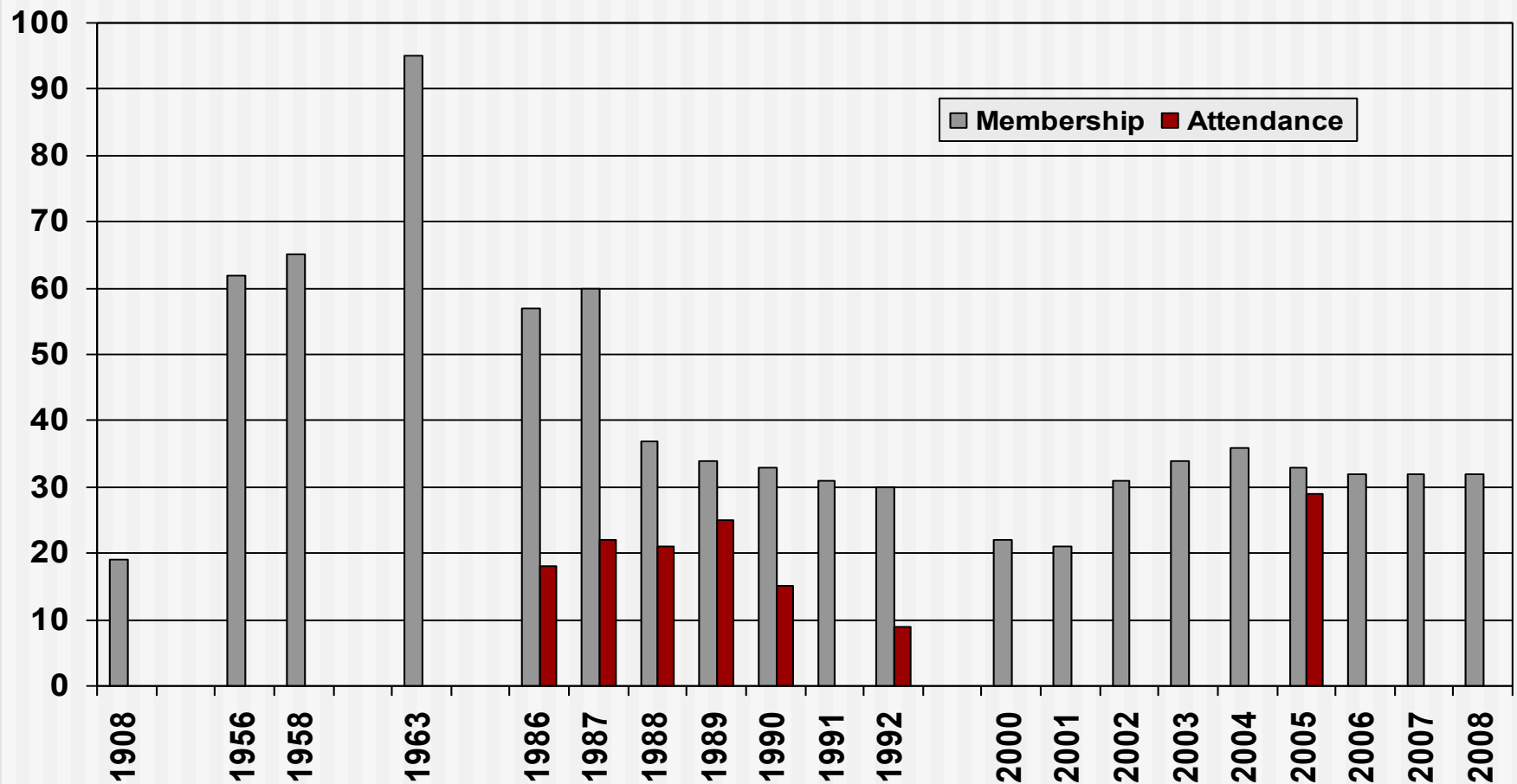
Background

- Branch Sabbath School started in Ravenna in 1903
- First pastor assigned in 1907
- Organized as a church with 19 members on December 12, 1908
- Started a church school in the fall of 1909 and it continued for 25 years
- Purchased first building in 1911

Background

- Evangelism campaign in Masonic Temple in spring of 1948
- Campaign in Kent in spring of 1949
- Groundbreaking for new building on August 25, 1957
- Airatorium meetings in fall of 1960
- New building dedicated March 25, 1961
- Yeagley-Sickler campaign in 1963
- County Faith booth in 1964

Membership & Attendance



Goals of this Study

- Understand the people who live in the Ravenna community
- Identify the needs in the community
- Suggest some opportunities for missional involvement by the Ravenna Adventist Church
- Ask, What is God doing in Ravenna?

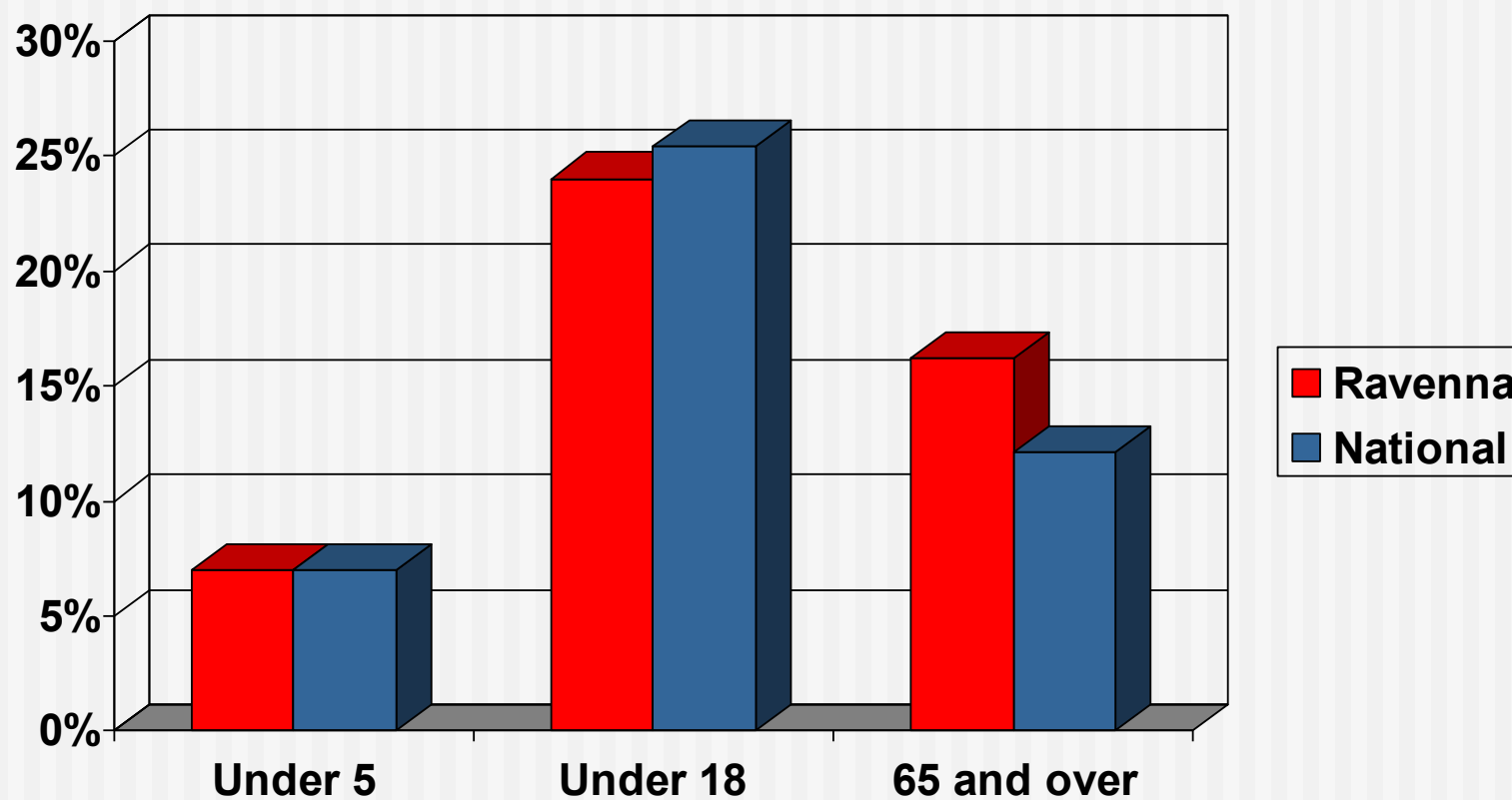
Ravenna as a Mission Field

- Portage County has a population of 147,000
- Town of Ravenna has a population of 11,400
- The county constitutes suburbs of the Akron metropolitan area
- Who are these people? How do they make a living? What are their needs?

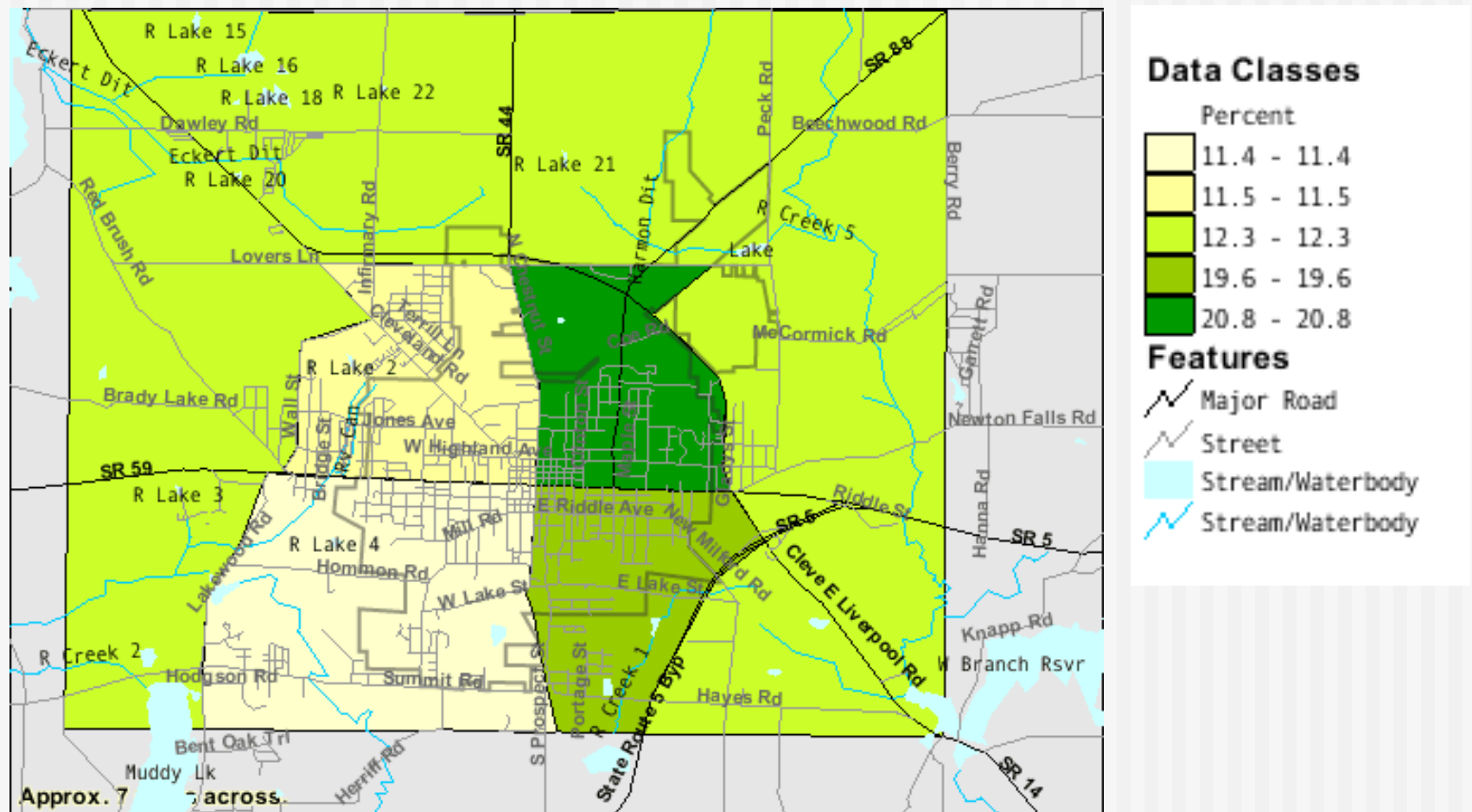
Adventist Presence

- Portage County has 1 Adventist per each 4,345 population
- U.S. – 1 per 305
- World – 1 per 450
- Ghana – 1 per 73
- Fiji – 1 per 37
- New Guinea – 1 per 23
- Rwanda – 1 per 21
- Jamaica – 1 per 14
- Belize – 1 per 10

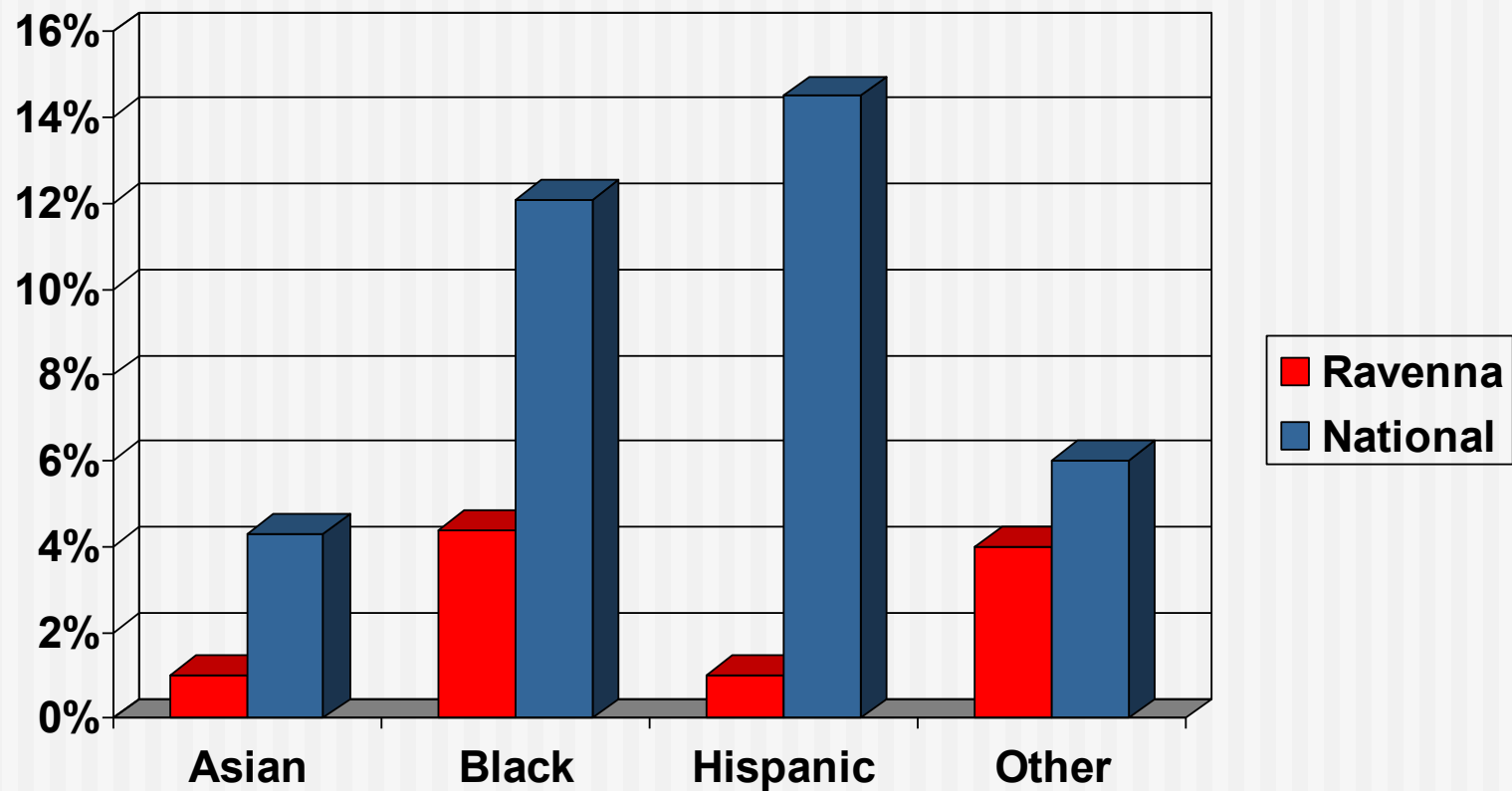
Age Groups



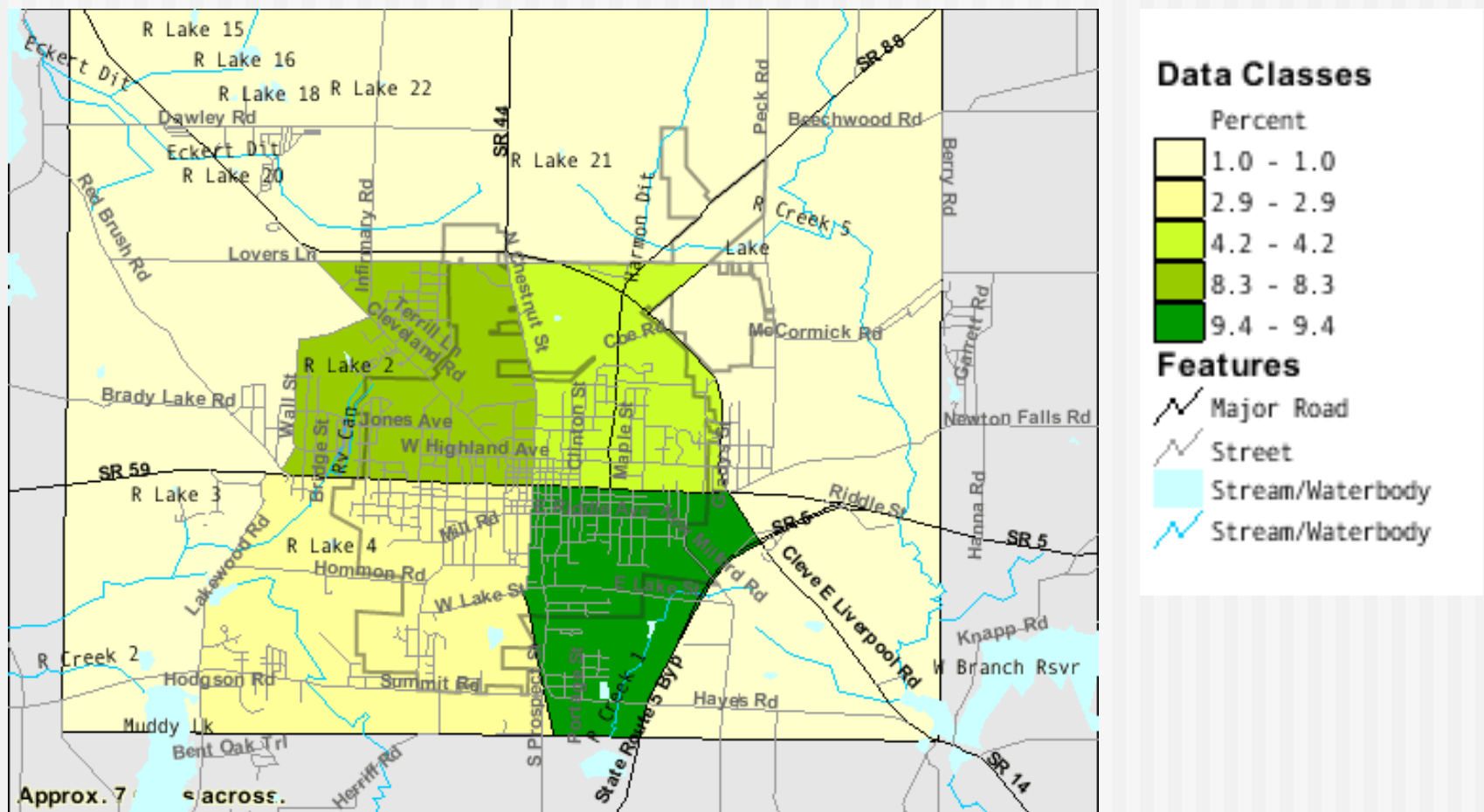
Over 65 Years of Age



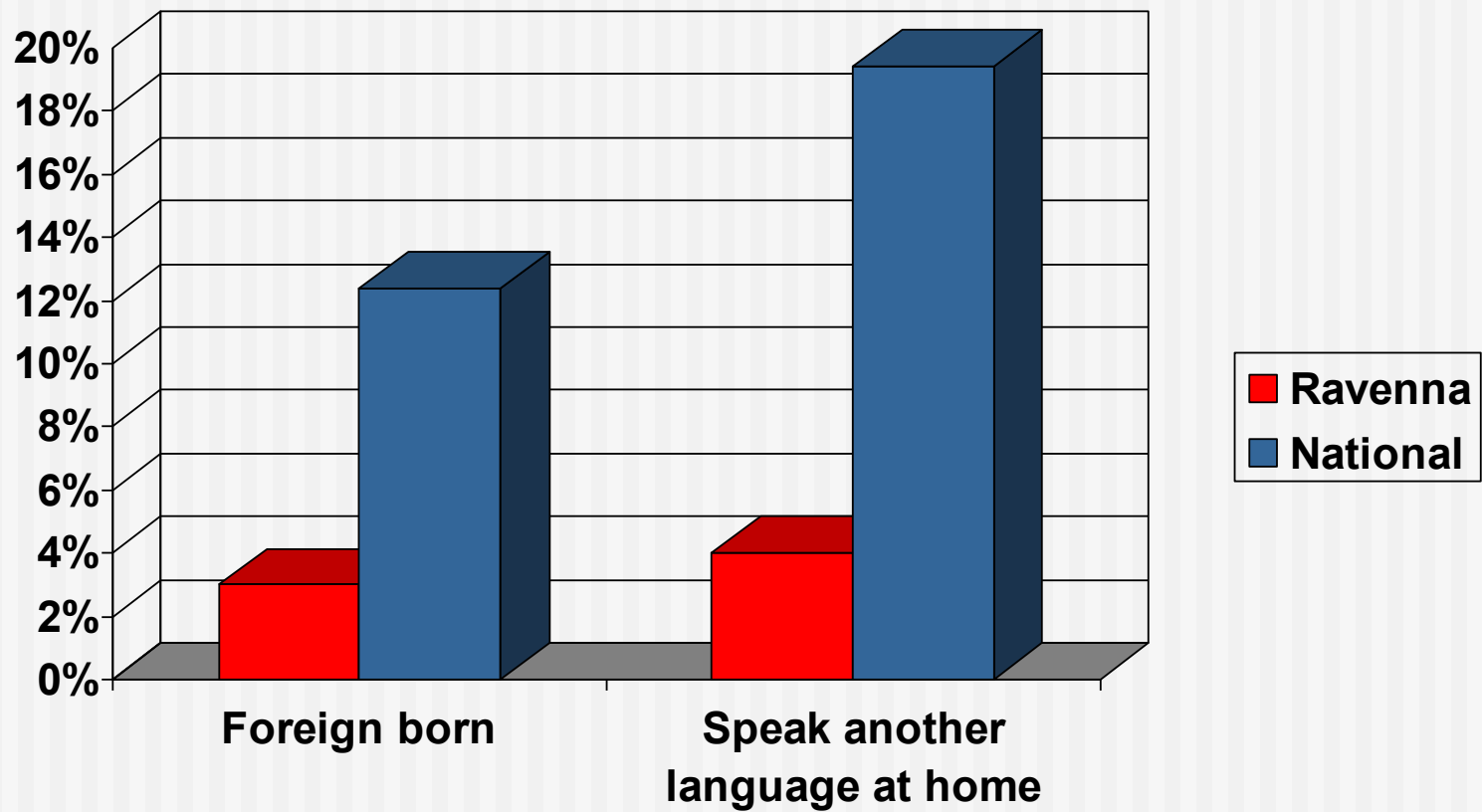
Ethnic Minorities



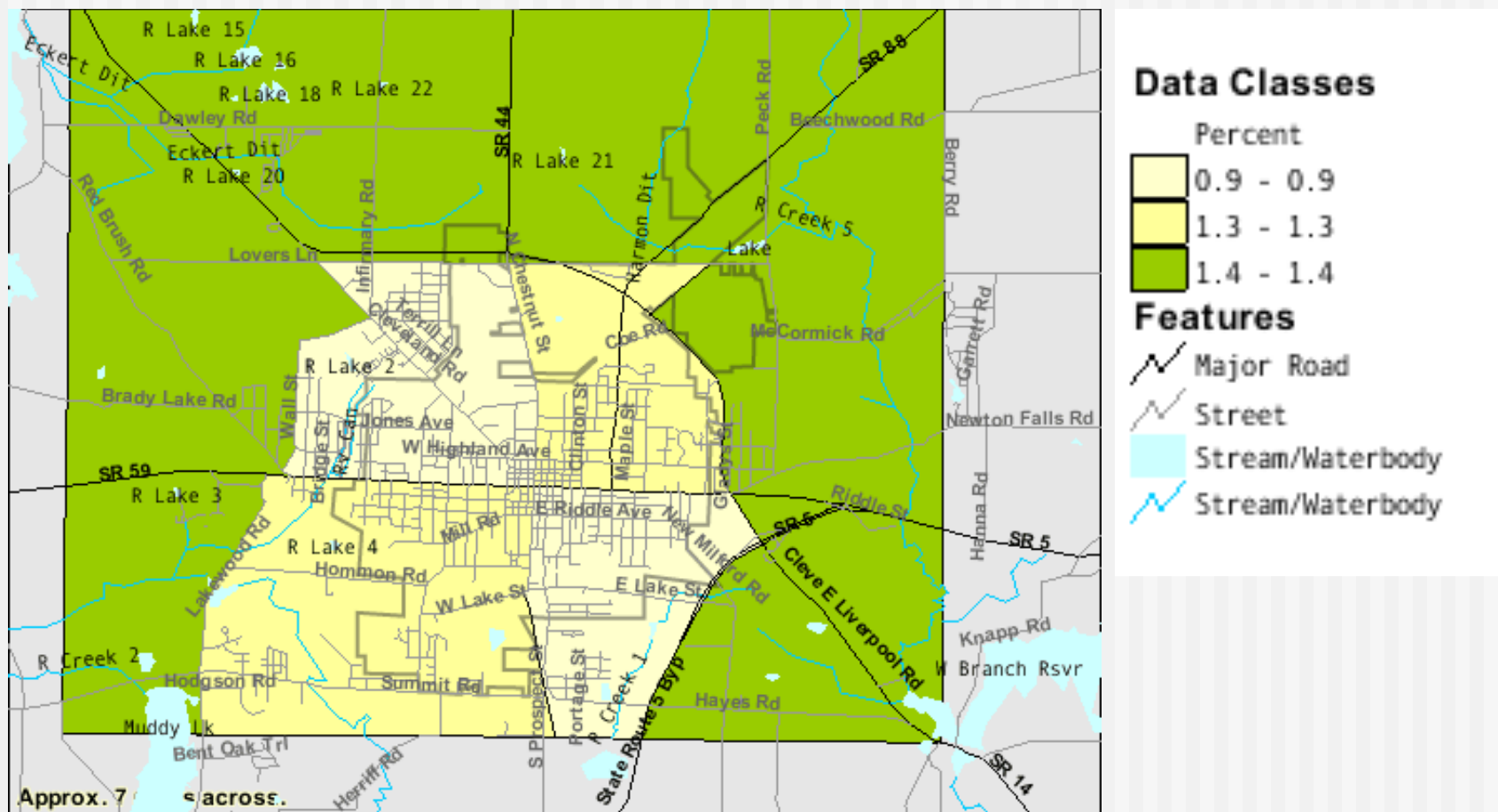
African Americans



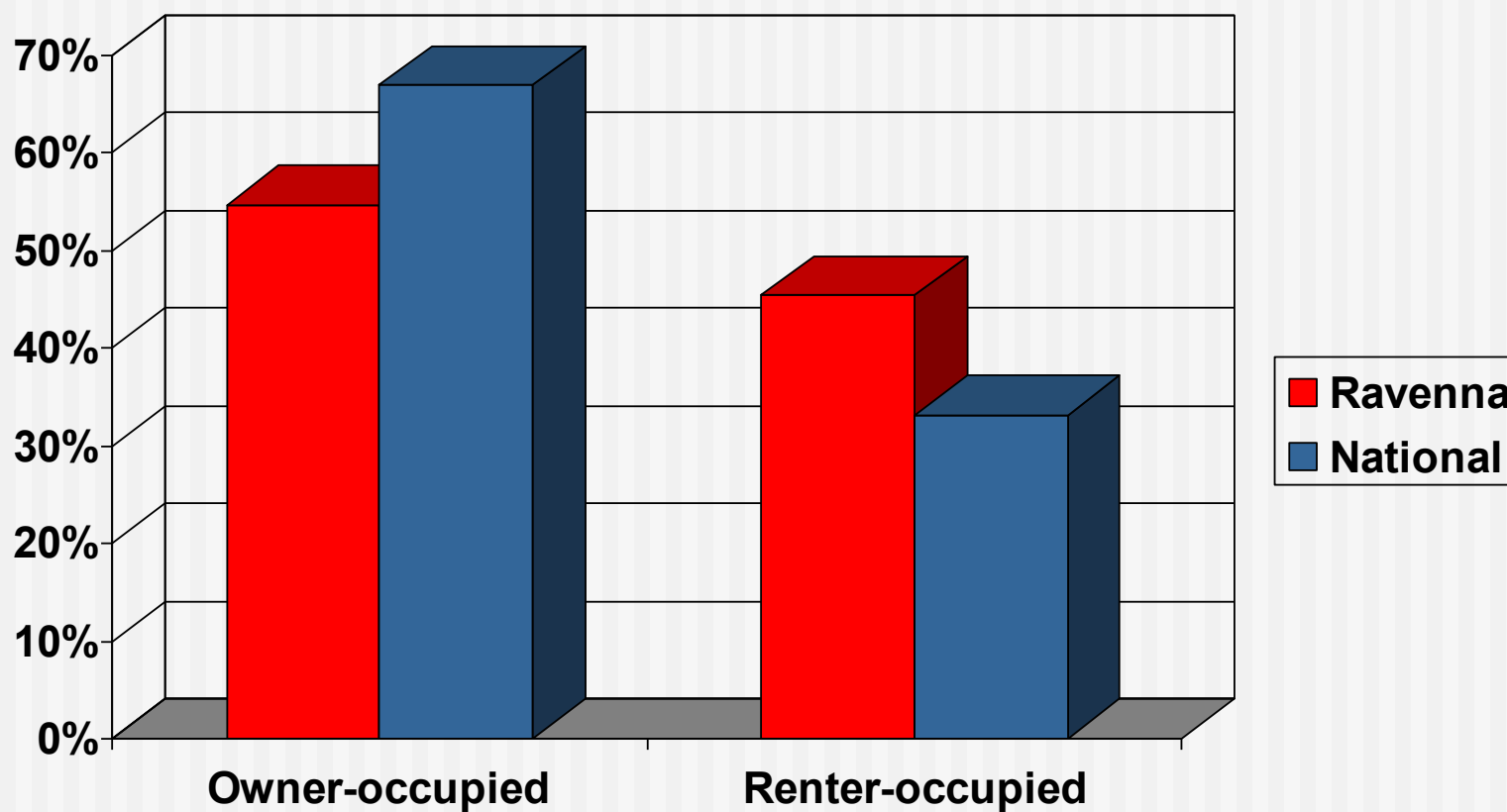
Immigrants



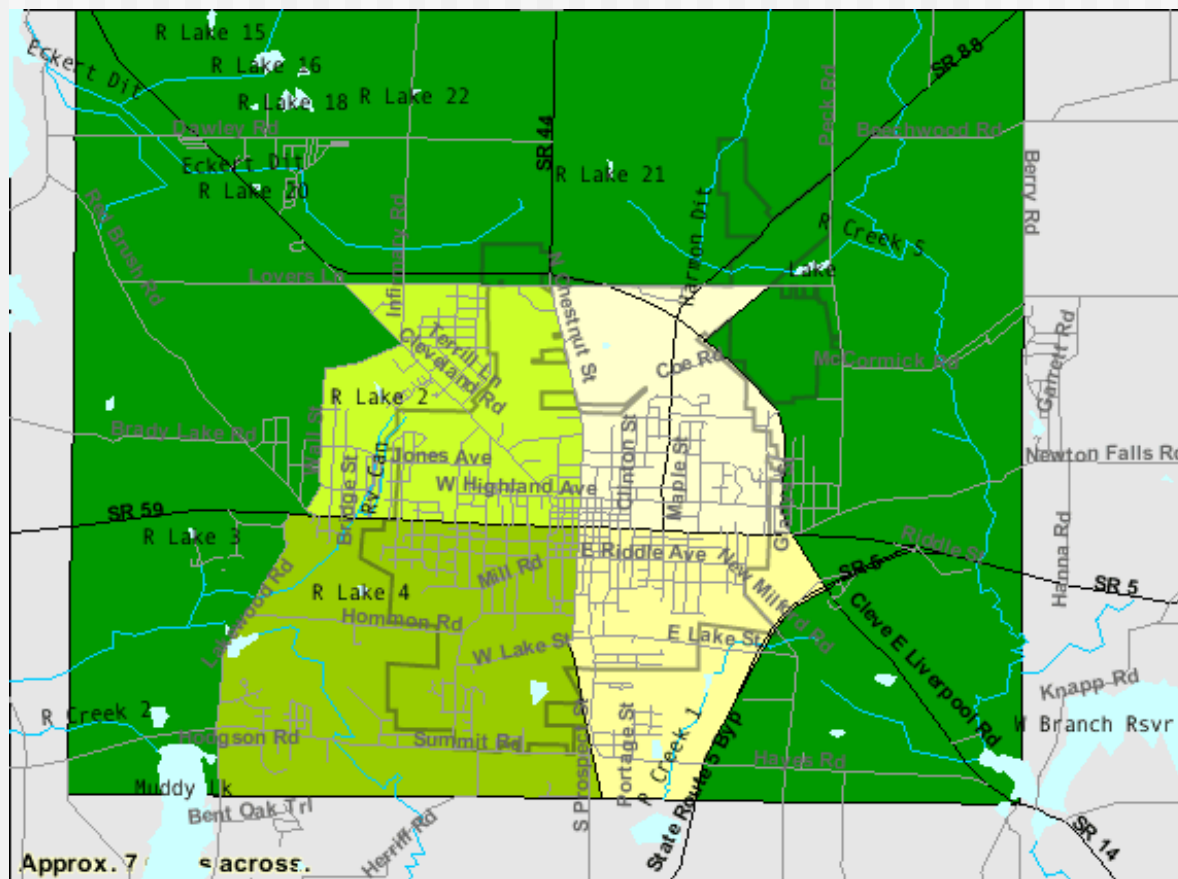
Immigrants



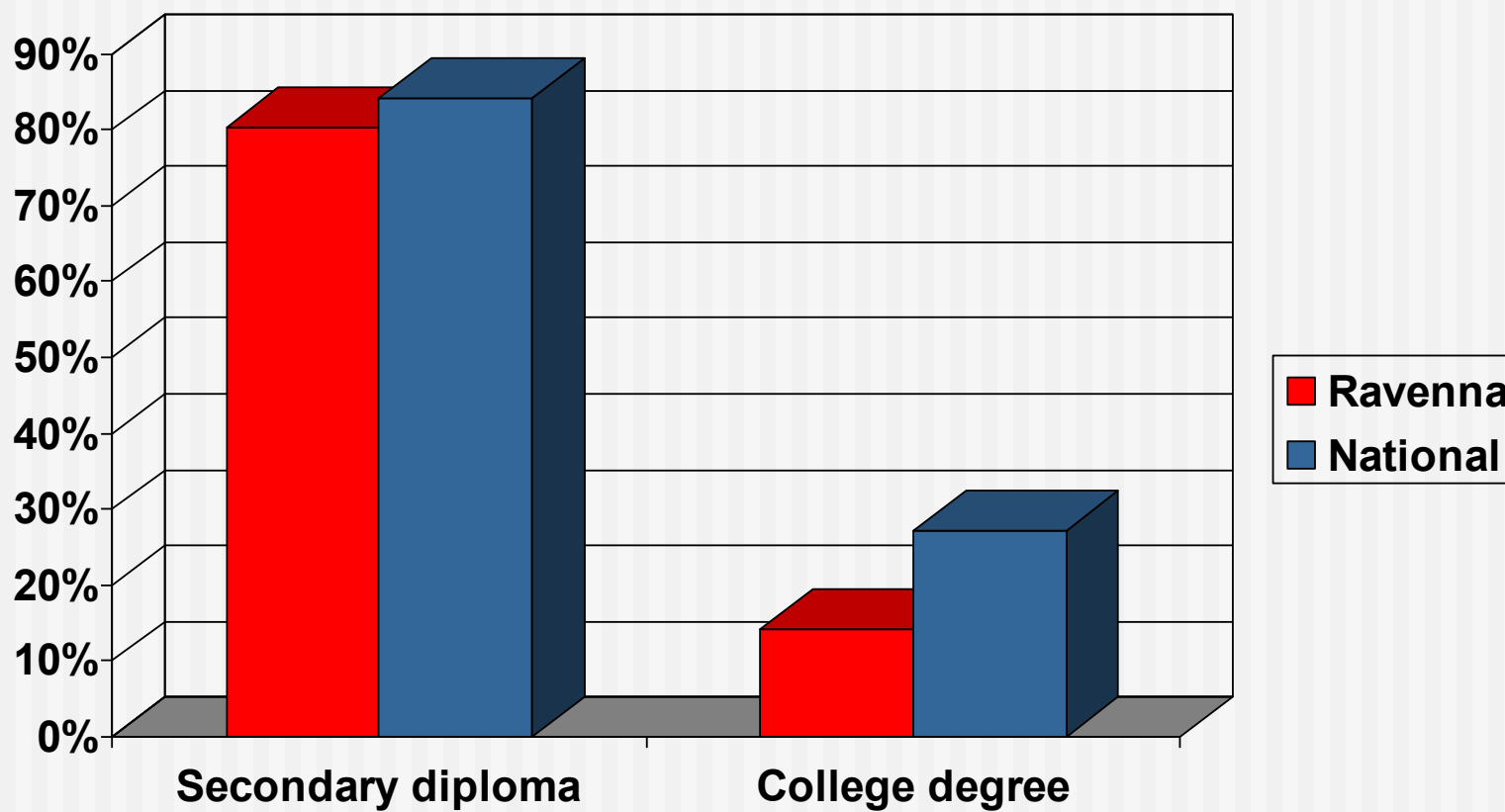
Housing



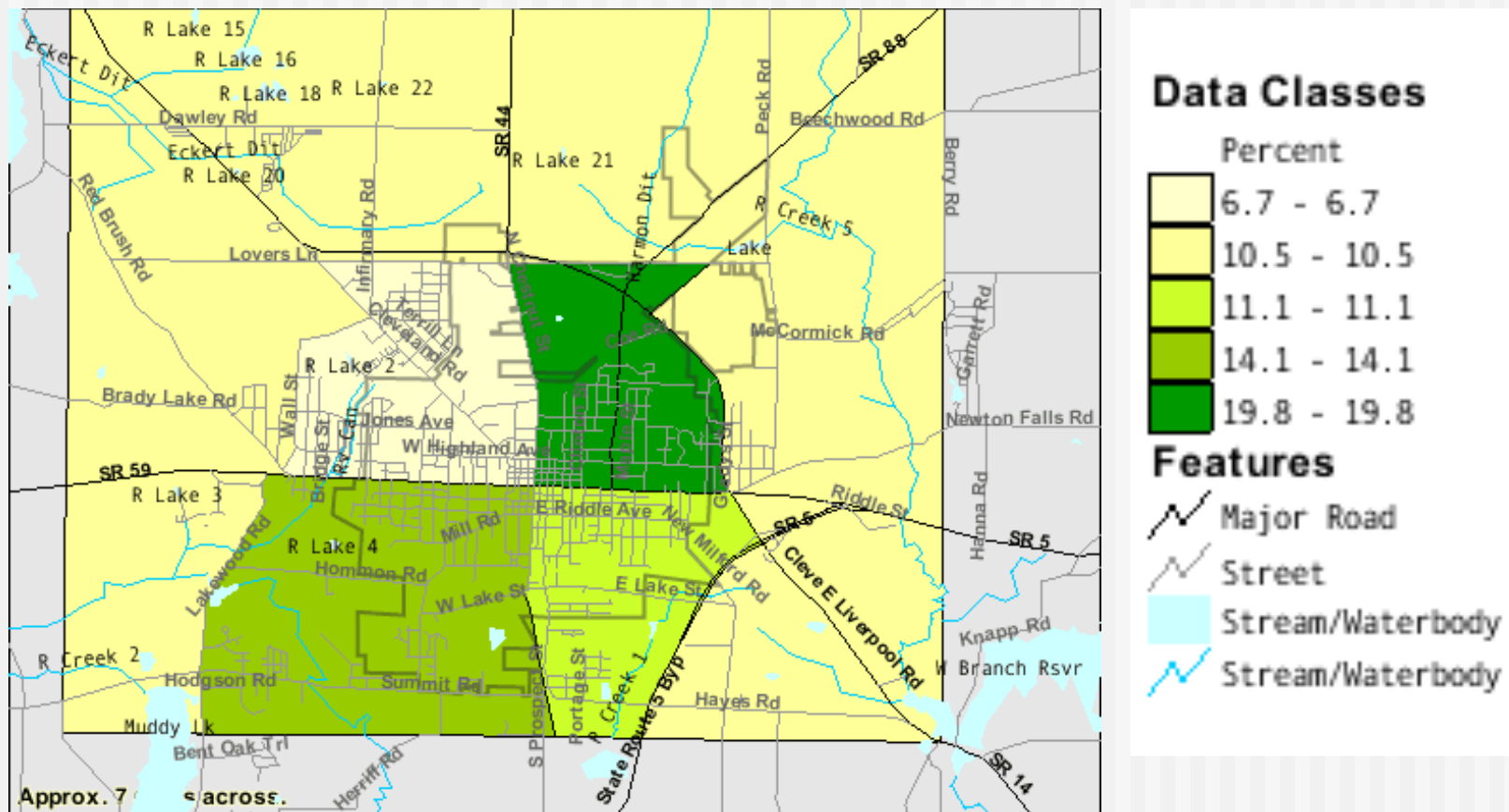
Homeowners



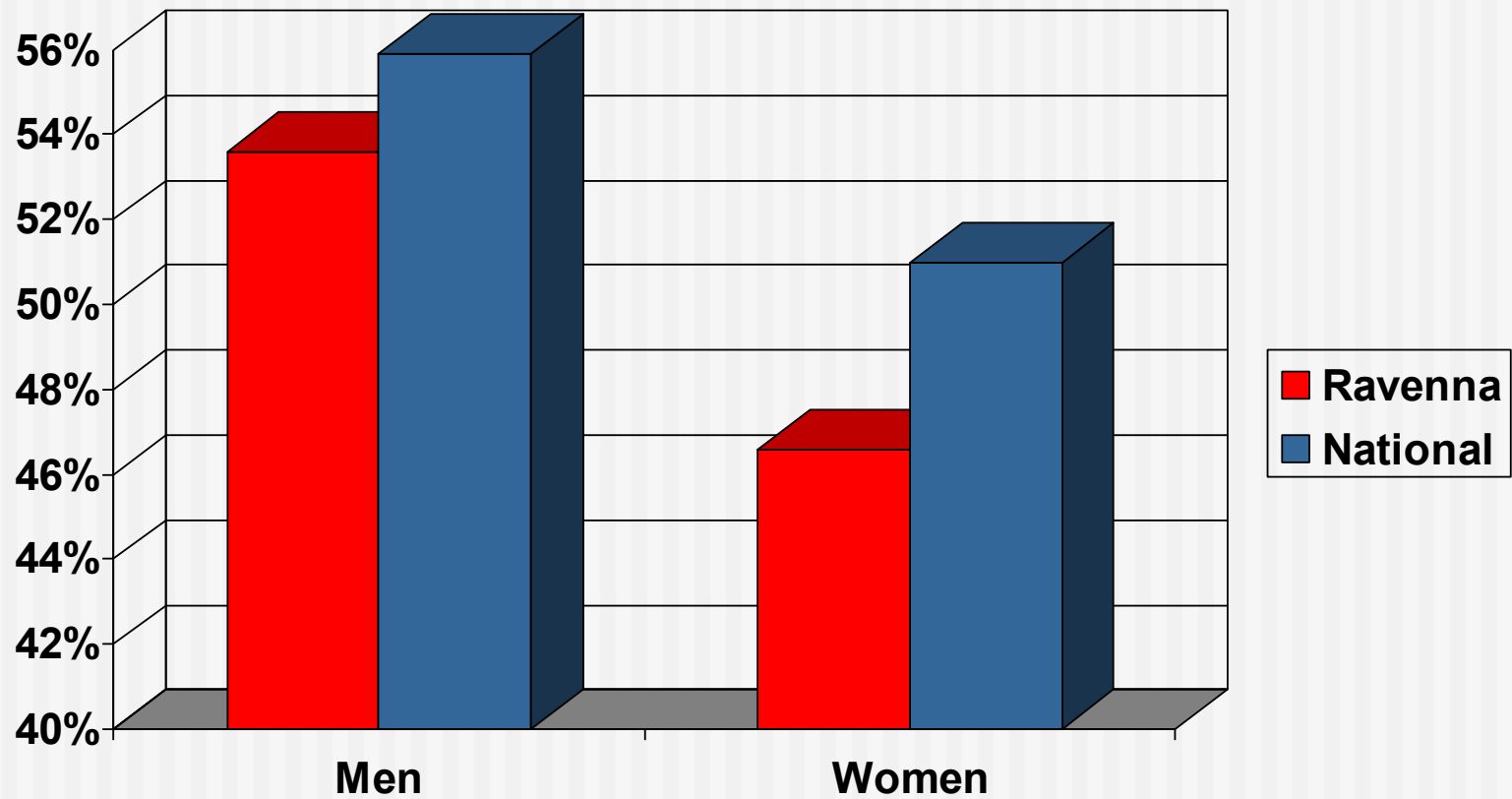
Education



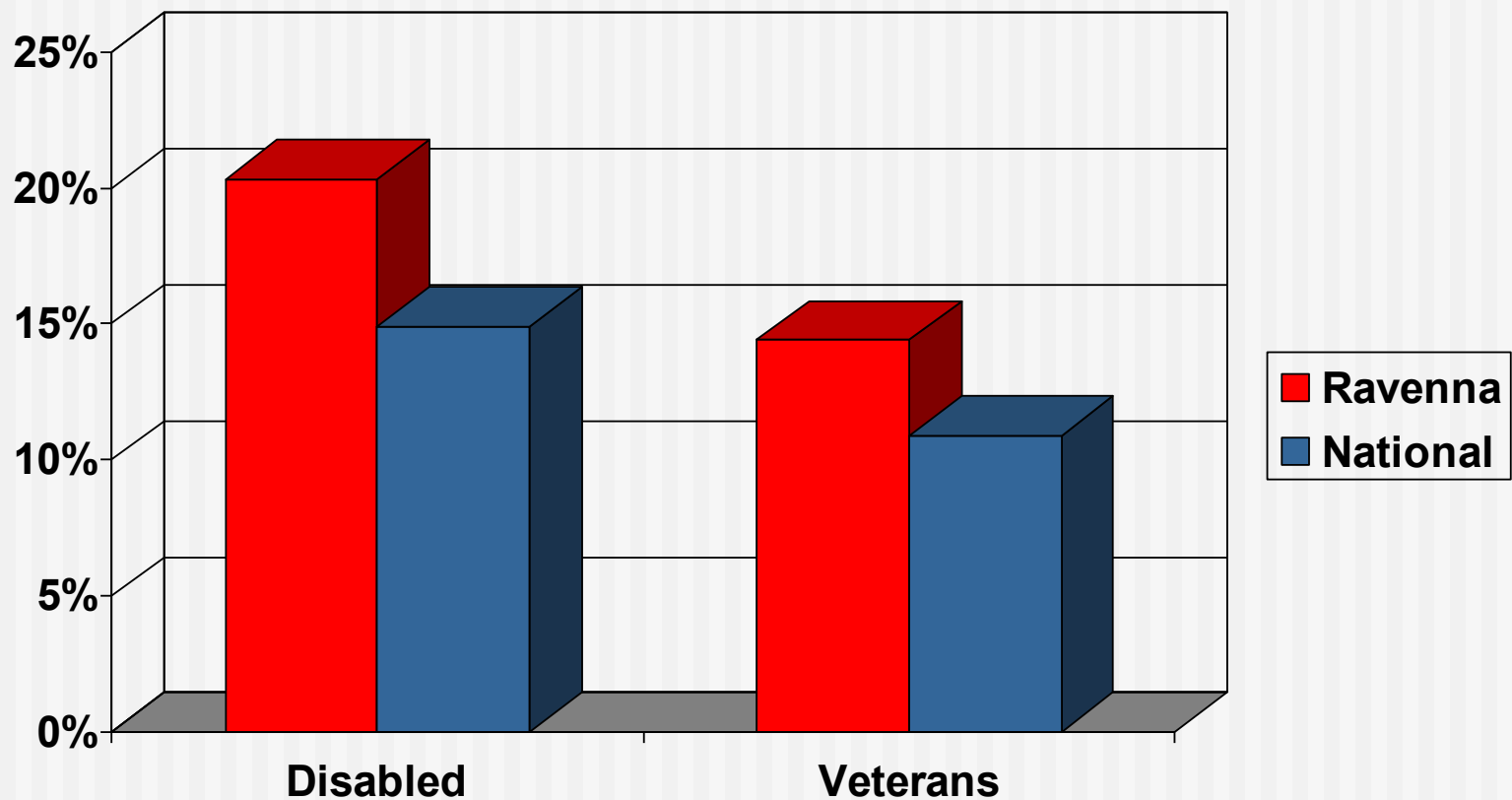
College Graduates



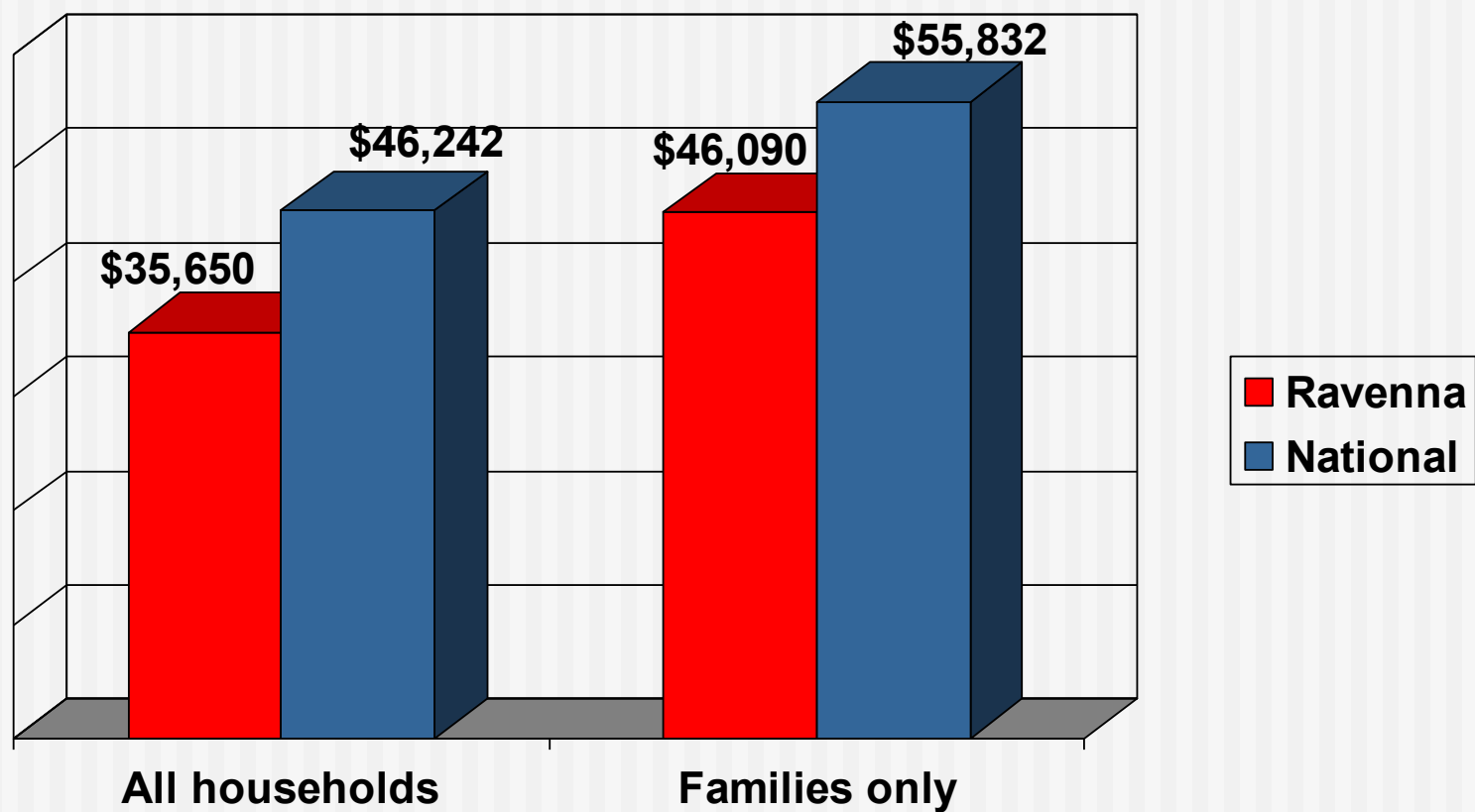
Married



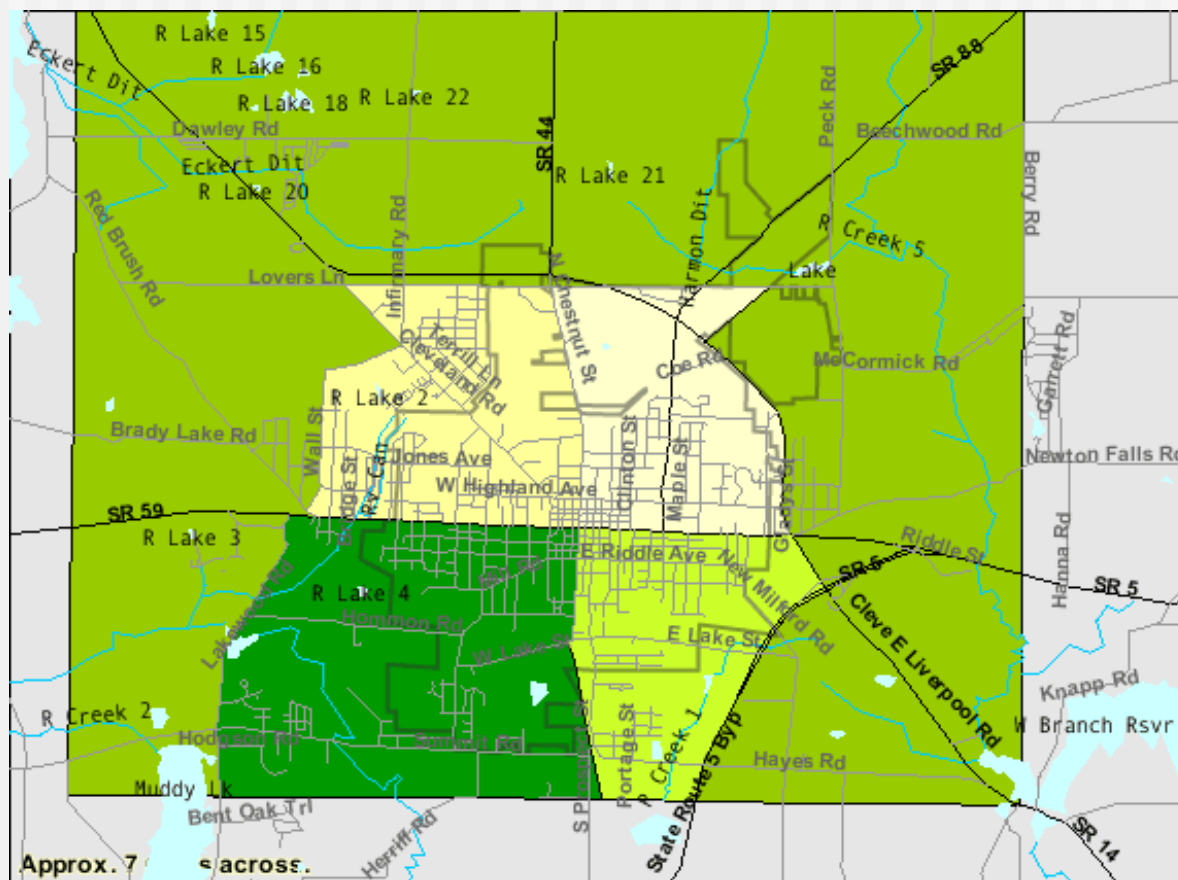
Special Needs



Median Income

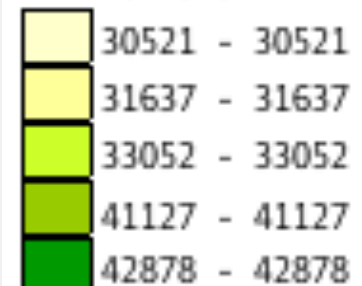


Median Household Income

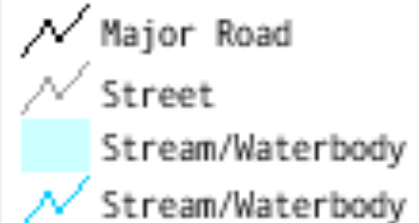


Data Classes

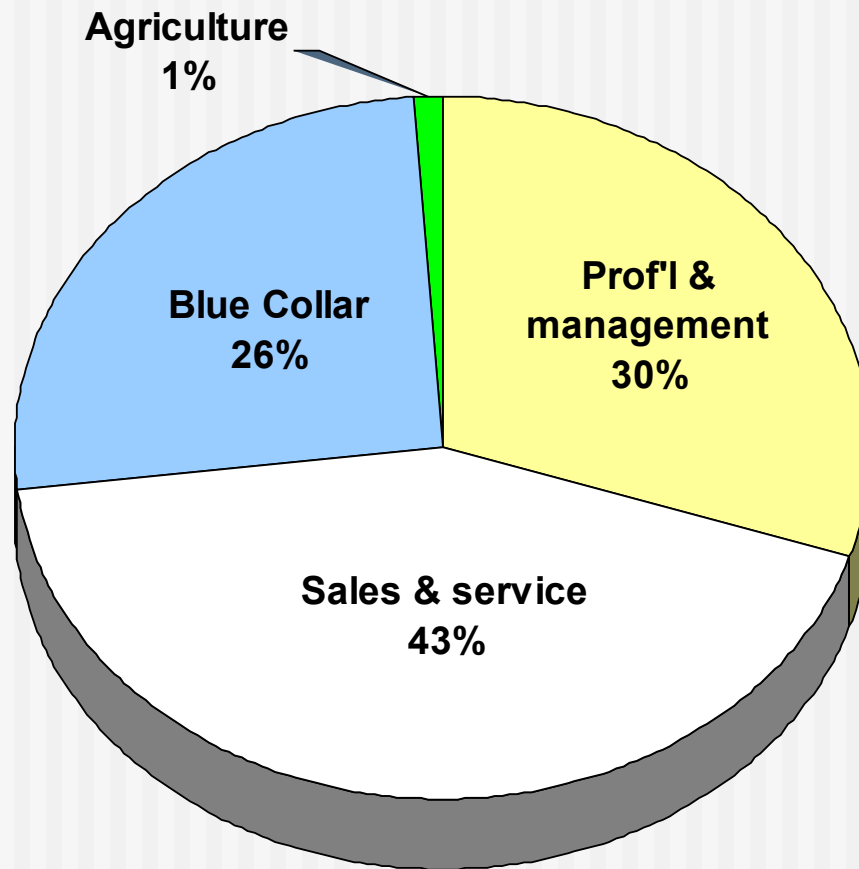
Dollars



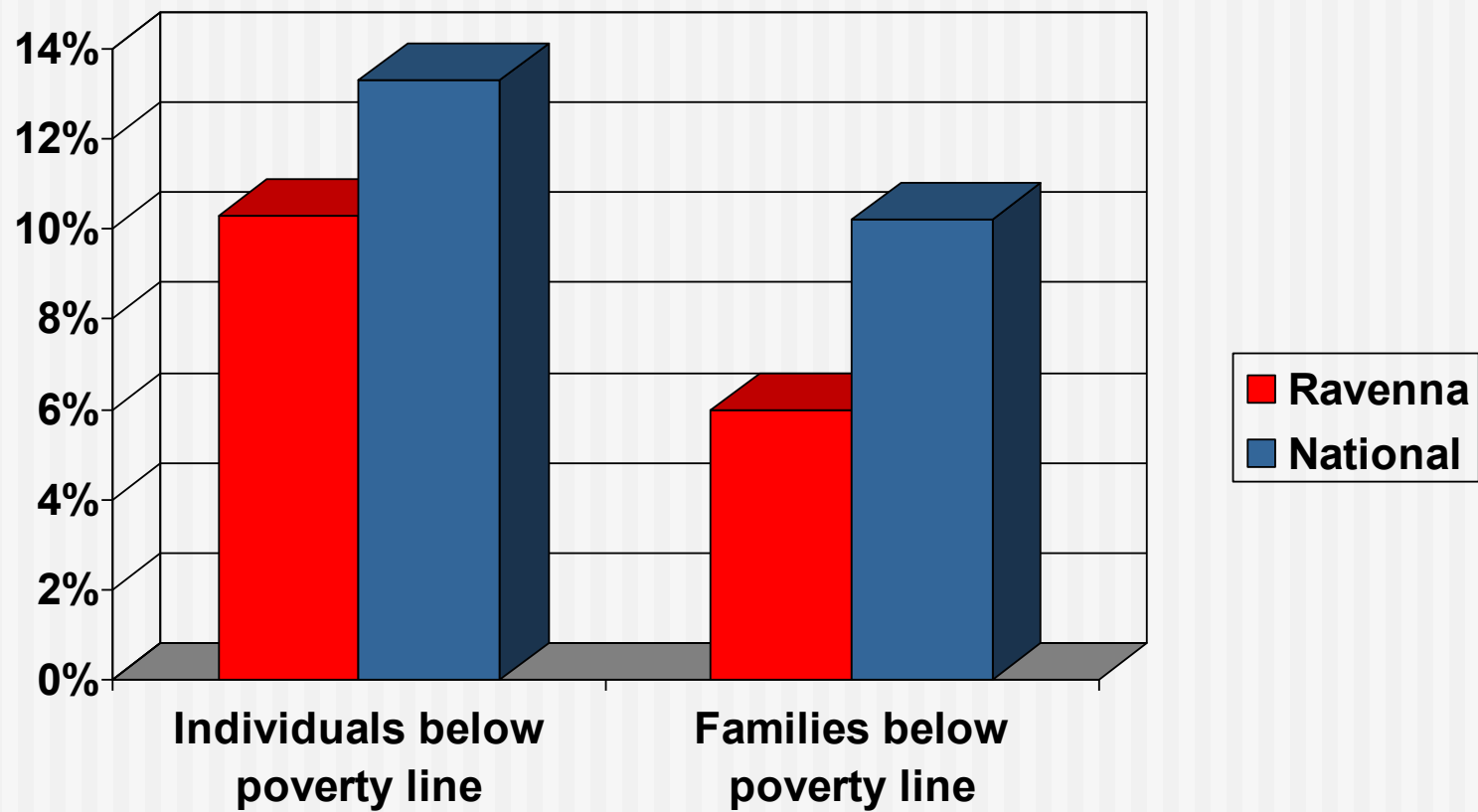
Features



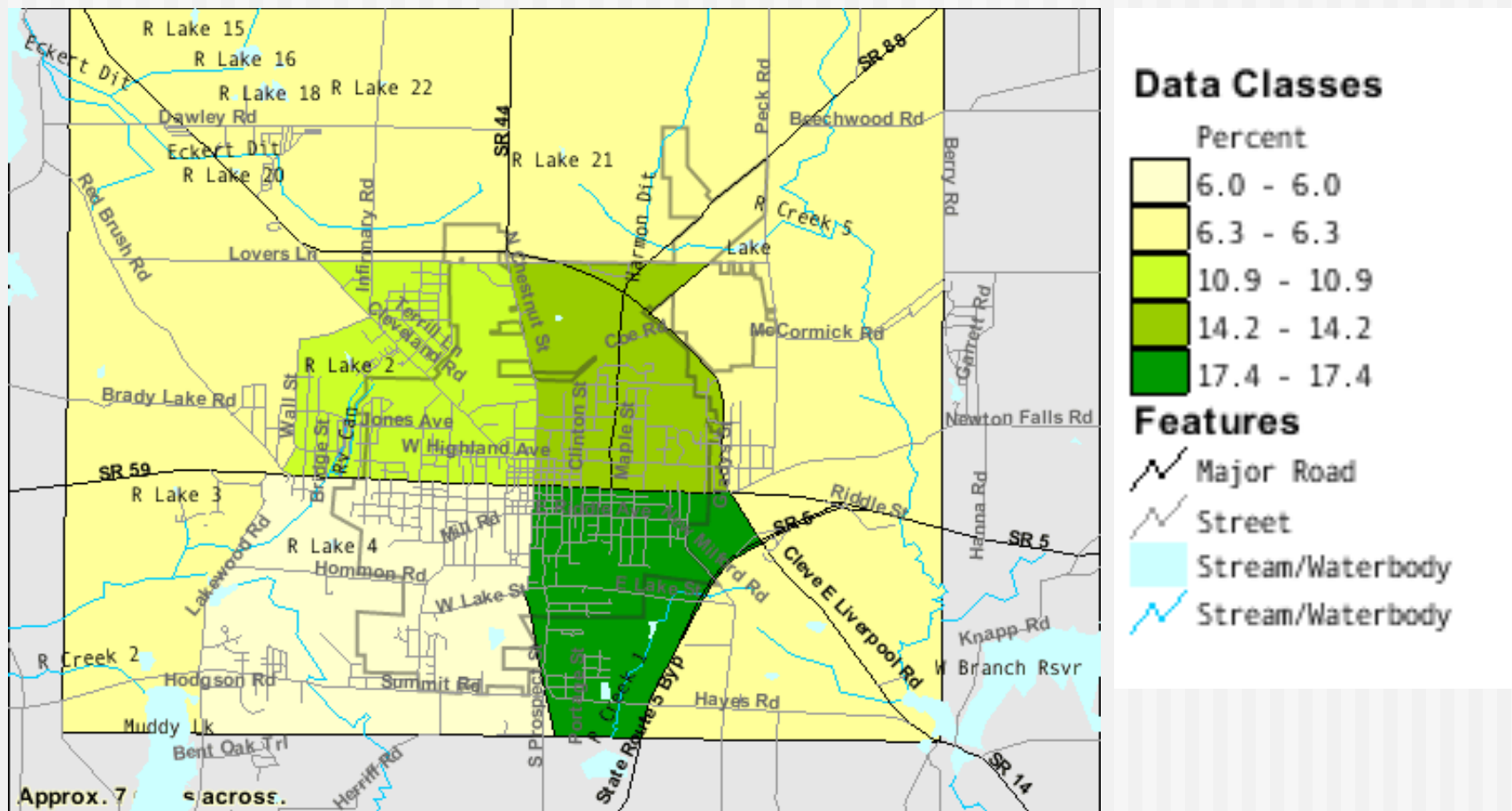
Occupations



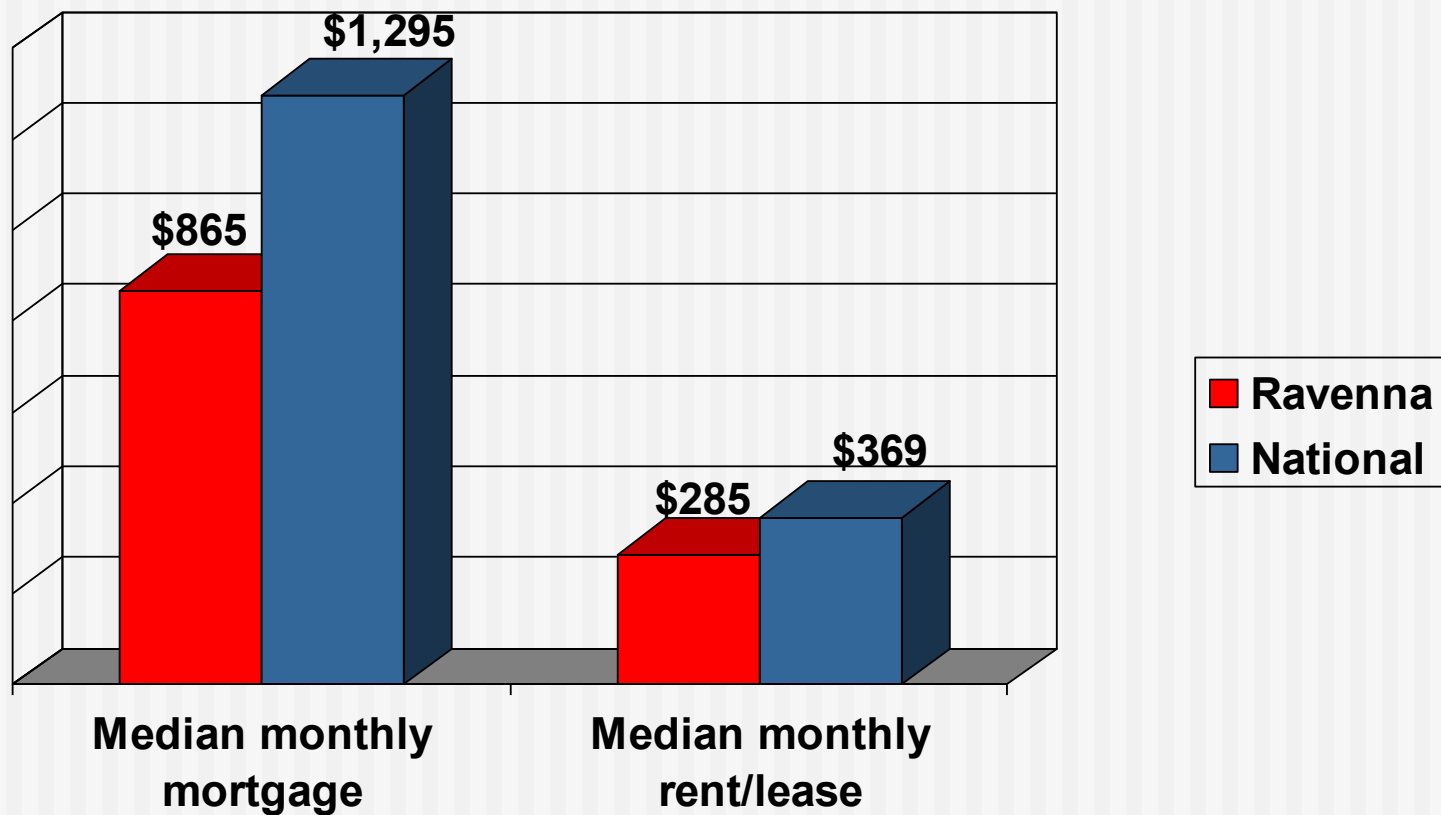
Poverty



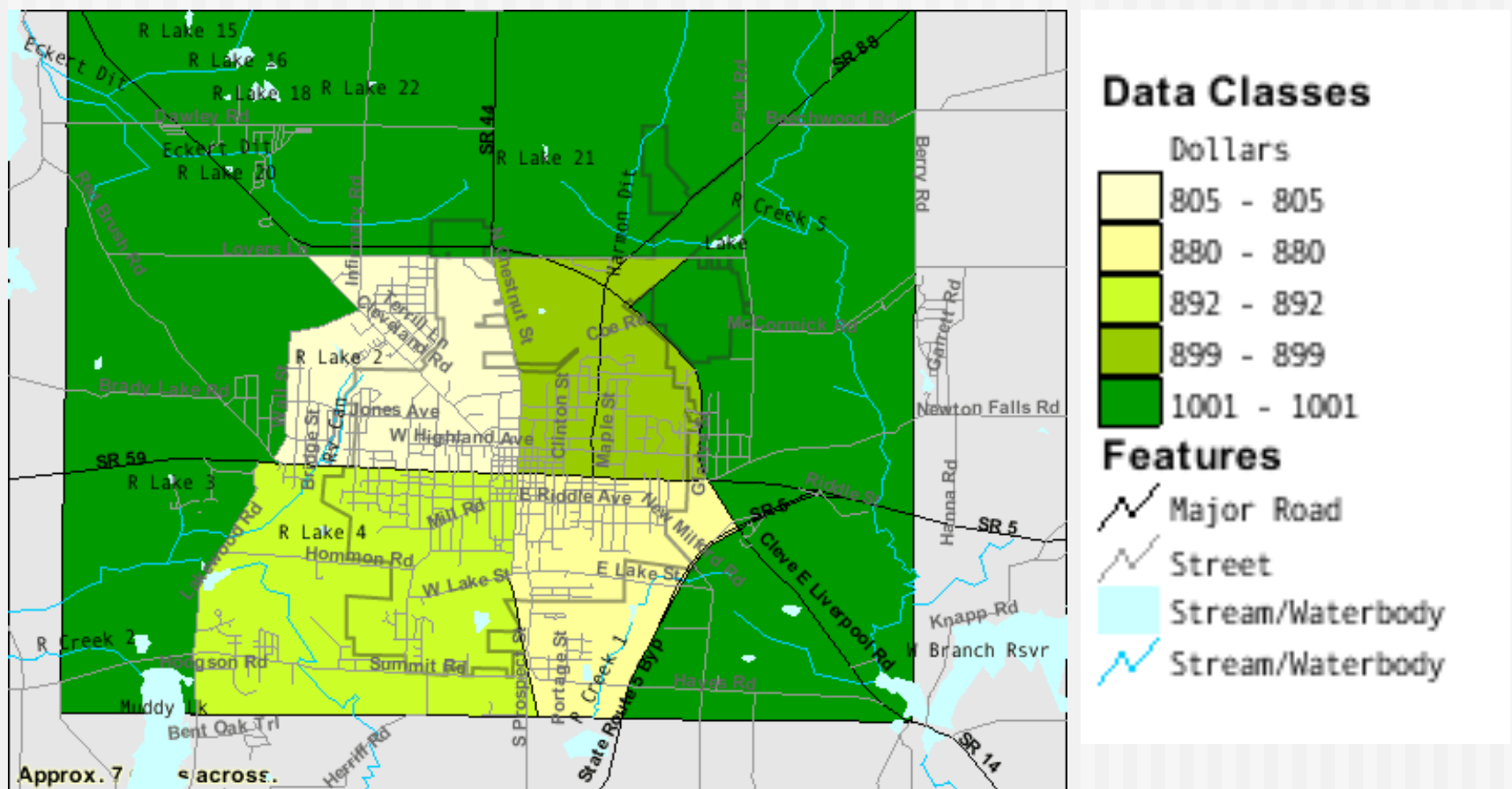
People in Poverty



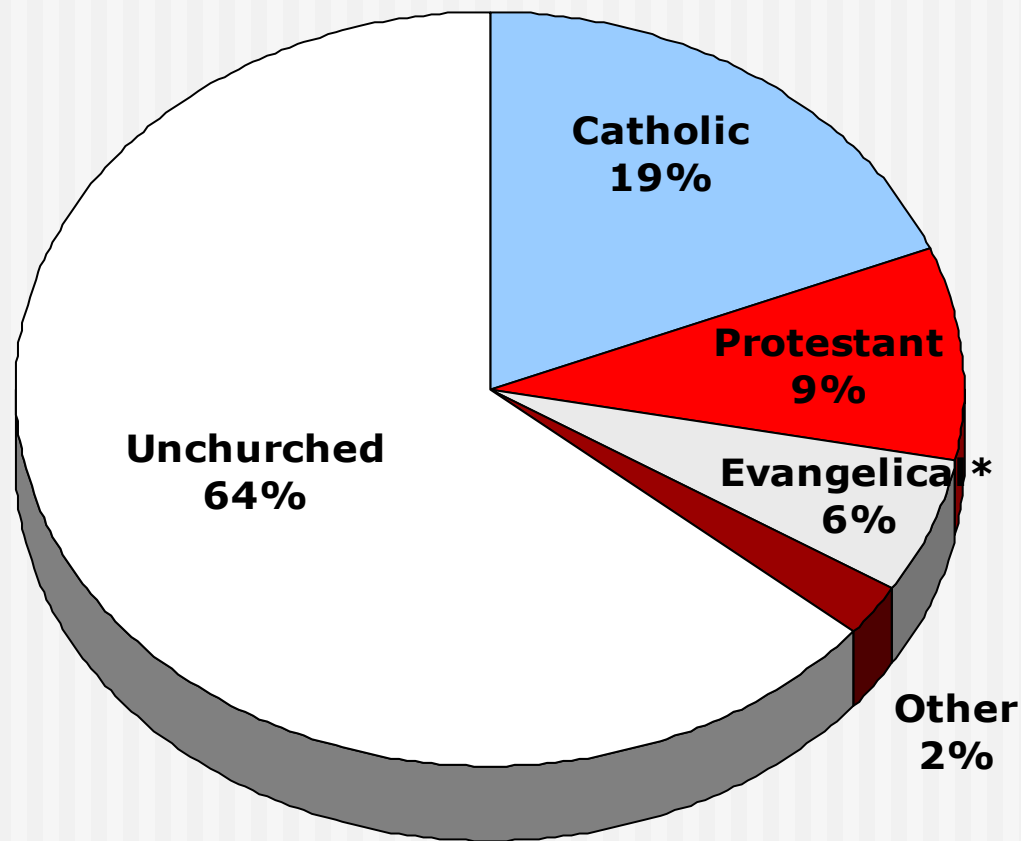
Cost of Housing



Housing Cost



Religious Profile of Portage County



*Includes Adventists

Public Media

- *Ravenna Record-Courier*

- *Kent Stater*

- *Stow Record*

- Multiple papers

- TV Stations

- WVPX Channel 23
 - WEAO Channel 49
 - WBNX Channel 55
 - WNEO Channel 45

- Radio

- WAKR 1590 AM
 - WZIP 88.1
 - WKSU 89.7
 - WRMU 91.1
 - WAPS 91.3
 - WZKL 92.5
 - WKDD 96.5
 - WONE 97.5
 - WNIR 100.1

Information from Civic Agencies: Community Needs

- Slowing of the economy
- People losing their homes
- Finding jobs/job training
- Poverty has increased significantly in the last six years
- Healthy Community Partnership

Health Indicators

- 20% get no exercise
 - 58% of children get no exercise
 - 16% exercise outside of school compared to 64% nationally
- 15% are chronic alcohol users as compared to 5% nationally
 - 40% of adolescents have used alcohol in the last 30 days
- 19% of adults smoke
 - 17% of adolescents

Health Indicators

- More than 10% of adults have no health coverage
- One in five eligible children are not registered with Medicaid
 - Half get no dental care
- Nine percent of mothers get no prenatal care
- One in five pregnant women smoke
- 26% of women over 40 have not had a mammogram in the last year

Mental Health Indicators

- One in five adults has mental health or substance abuse disorders
 - 15% of adolescents compared to 5% across the State of Ohio
- 35% have been treated for MH problems in the last year, compared to 20% nationally
 - 22% of adolescents, compared to 16%

Adult Mental Health Problems (2005)

- 28% Depression
- 18% Bipolar disorders
- 14% Alcohol dependence
- 11% Anxiety disorders
- 9% Adjustment disorders
- 8% Psychotic conditions
- 8% Drug abuse

Adolescent Mental Health Problems (2005)

- 36% Attention deficit/behavior
- 28% Adjustment disorders
- 12% Bipolar disorders
- 9% Anxiety disorders
- 7% Depression
- 2% Drug abuse

Extension Service Survey

- 90% of residents agree that “We need to preserve agricultural land in Portage County.”
- 91% agree, “People move to Portage County for its rural character.”
- 68% agree, “Portage County is a farming community.”

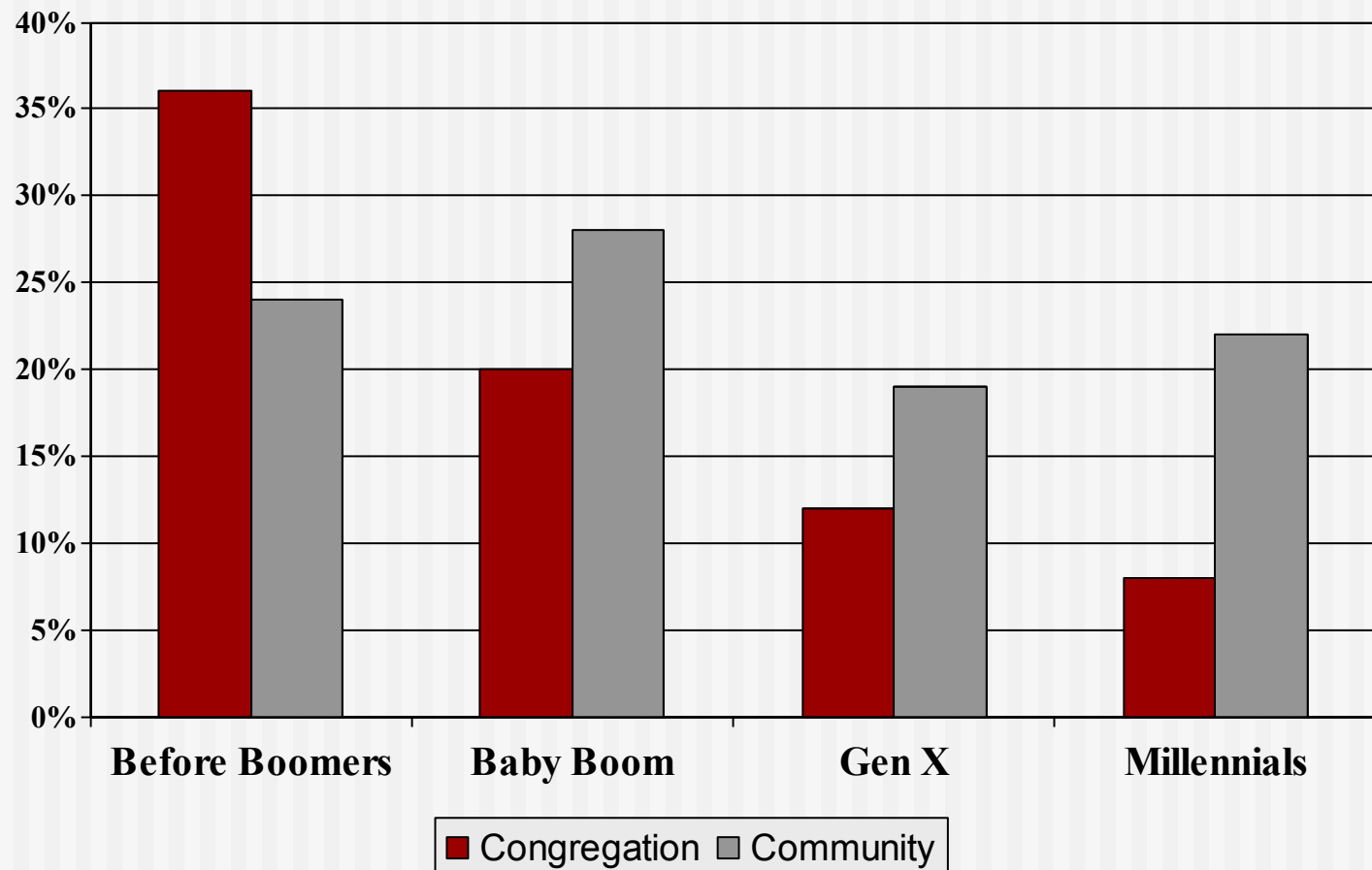
No Child Left Behind

- 34 out of 132 elementary schools in Portage County have a performance index below 50 percent
 - This includes private and parochial schools

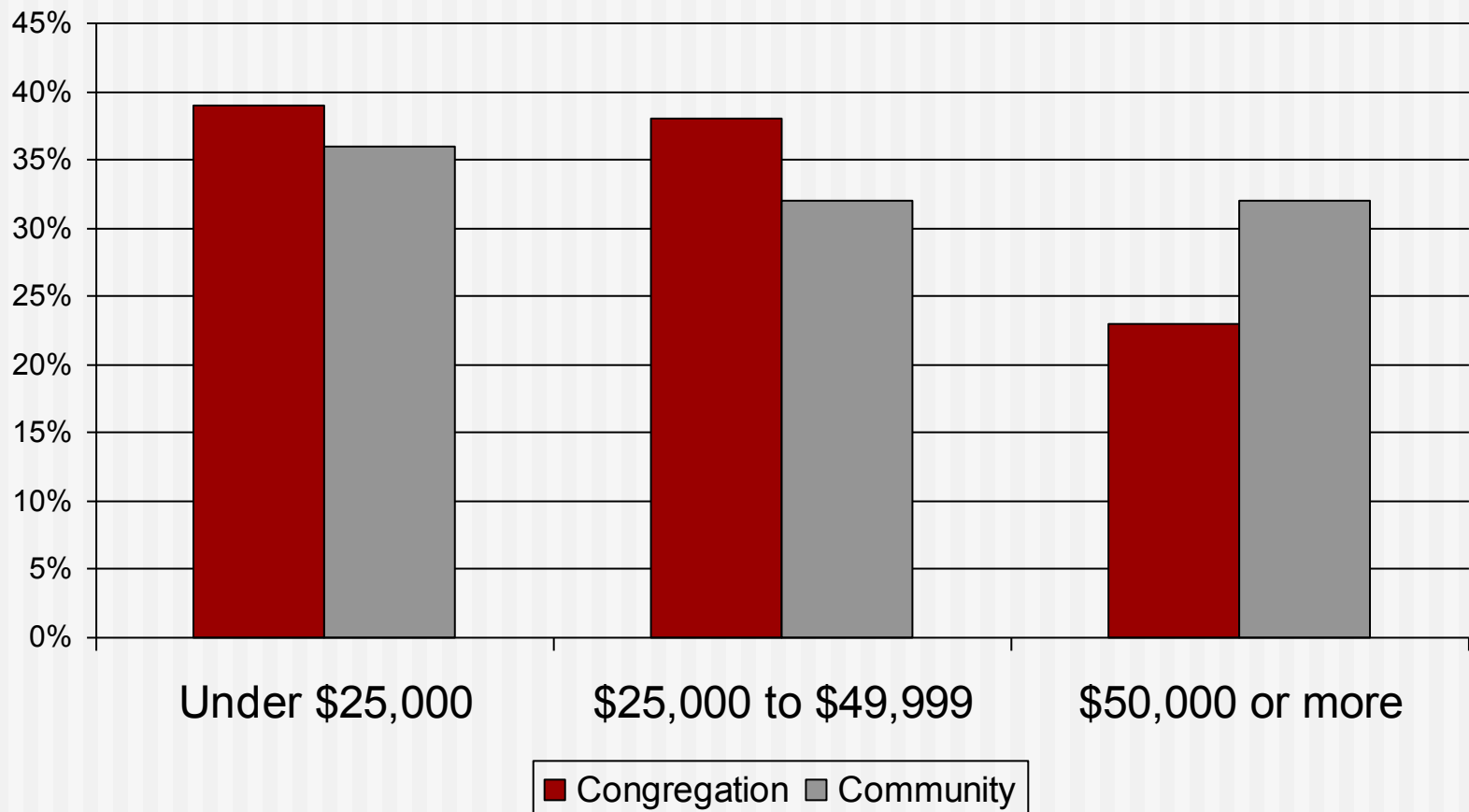
Survey of Congregation

- A standard questionnaire was distributed during worship on Sabbaths in April 2009.
- A total of 26 usable questionnaires were returned which represents the majority of the typical Sabbath attendance.

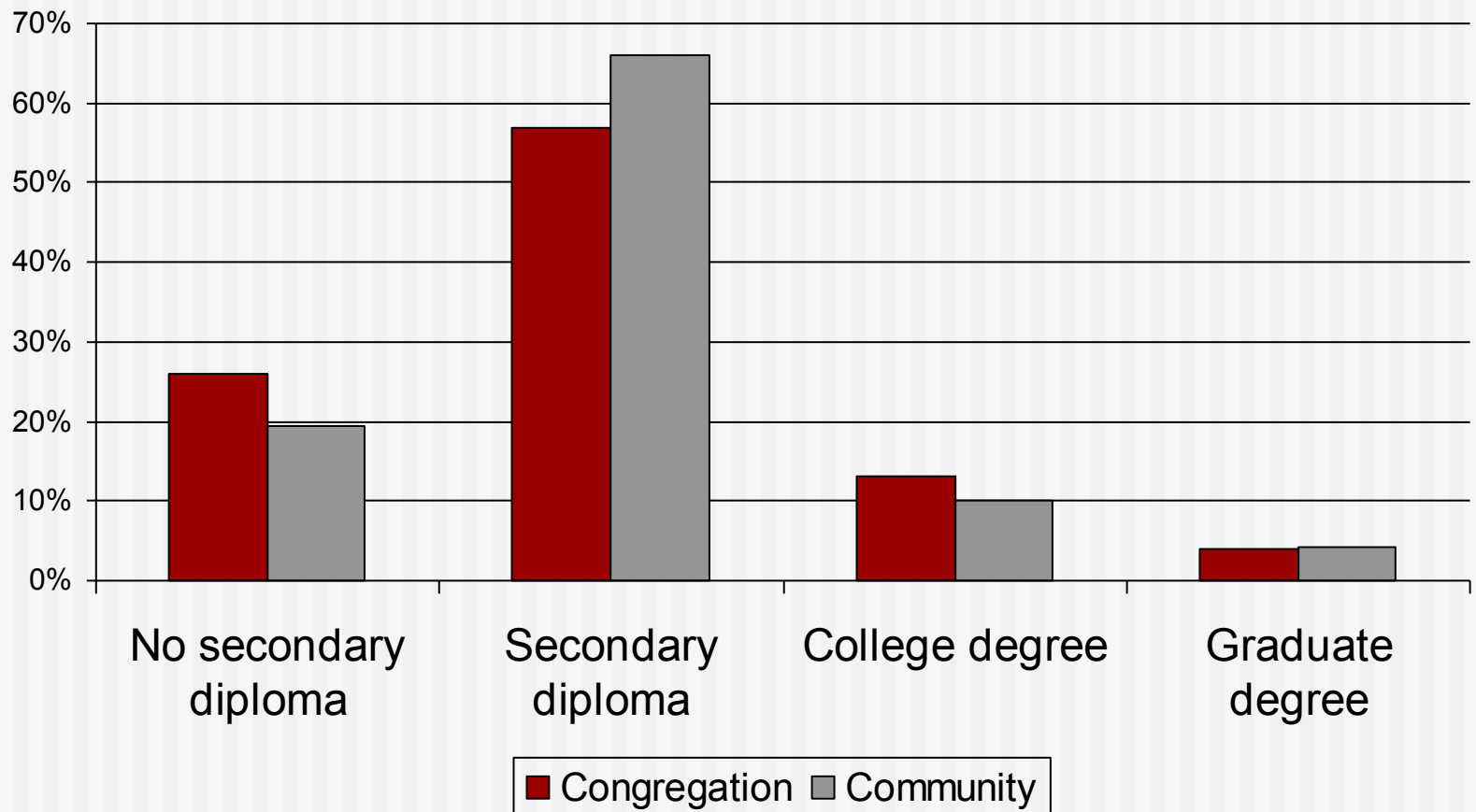
Age groups by generation



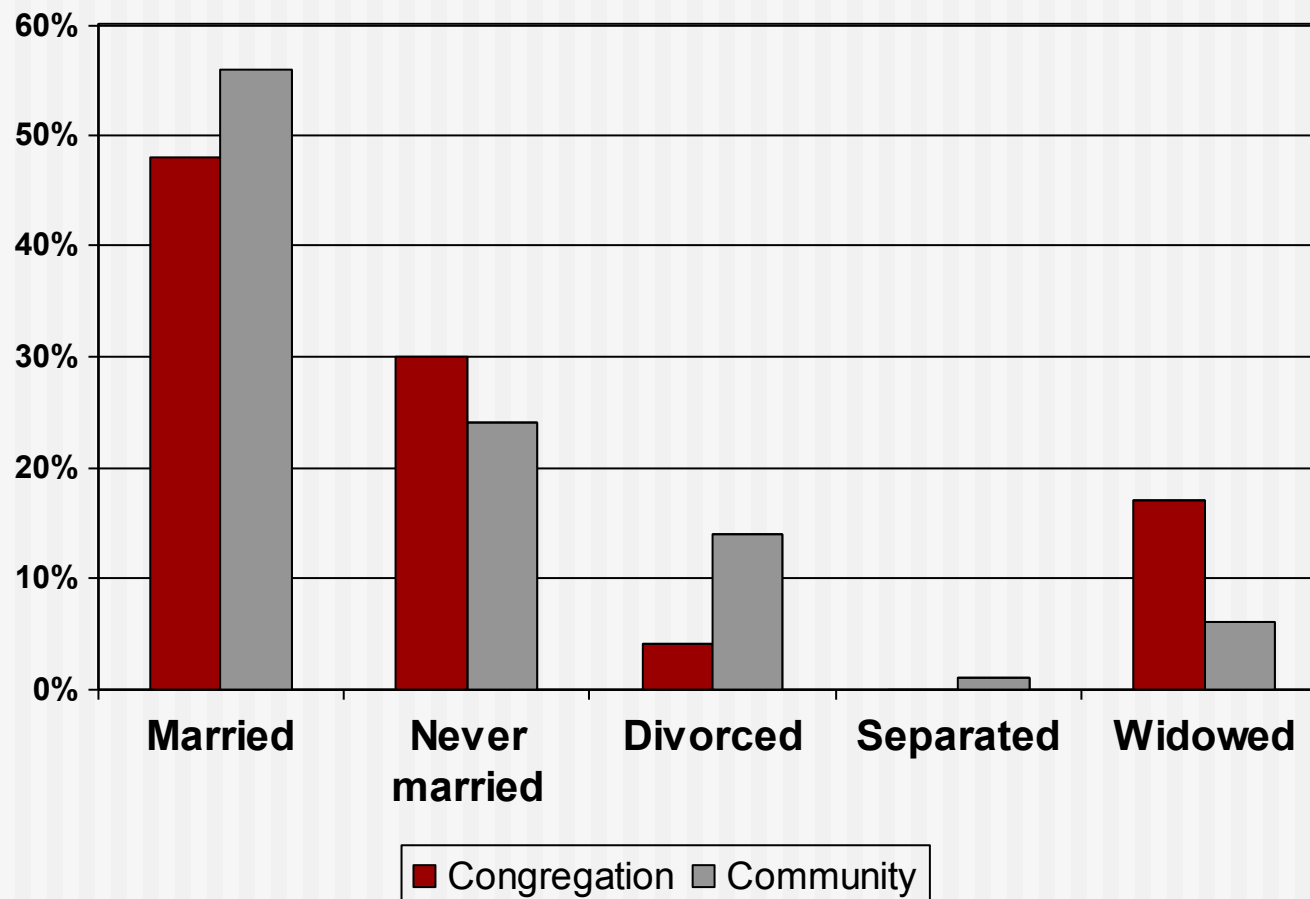
Annual household income



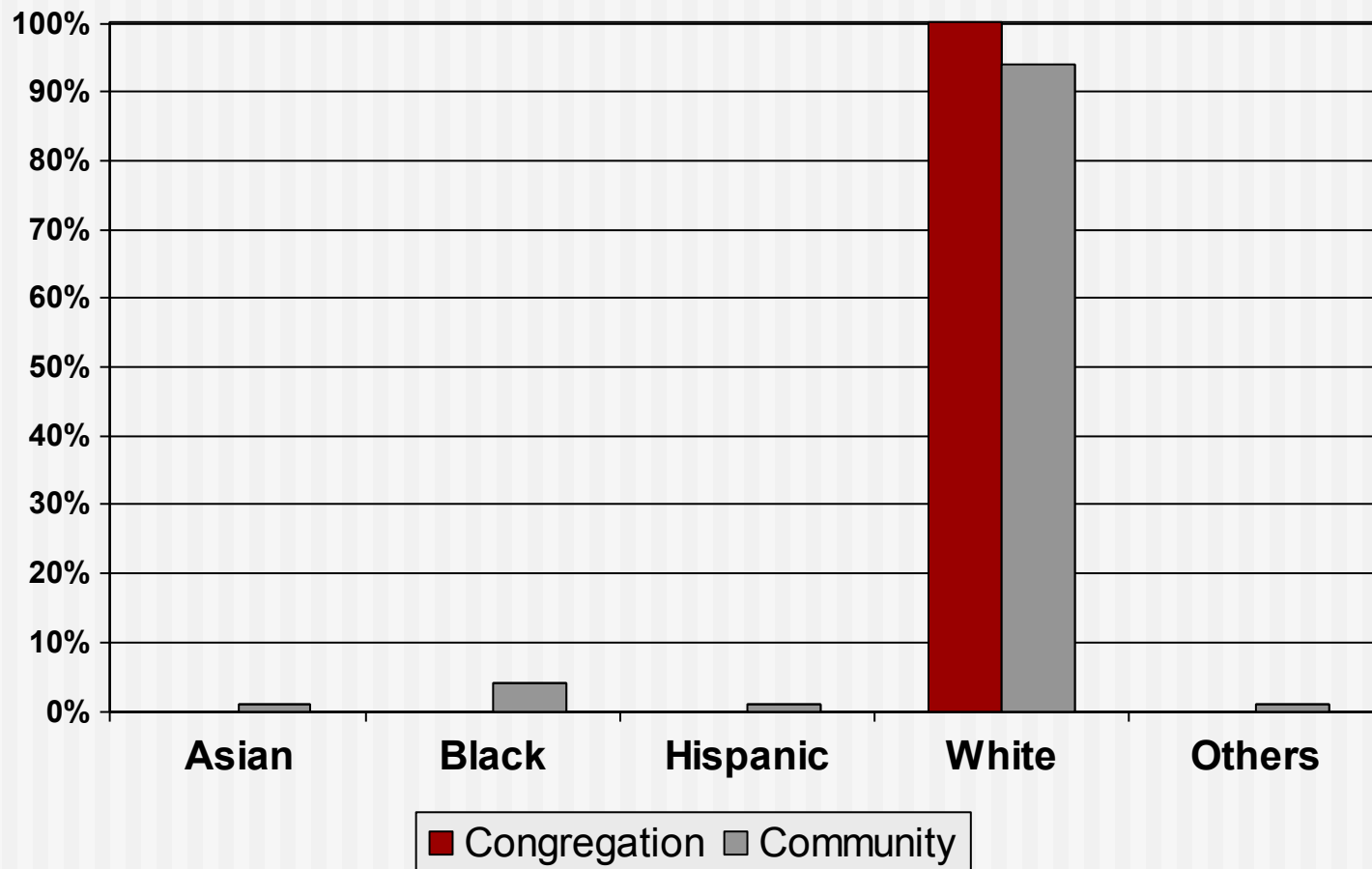
Level of education



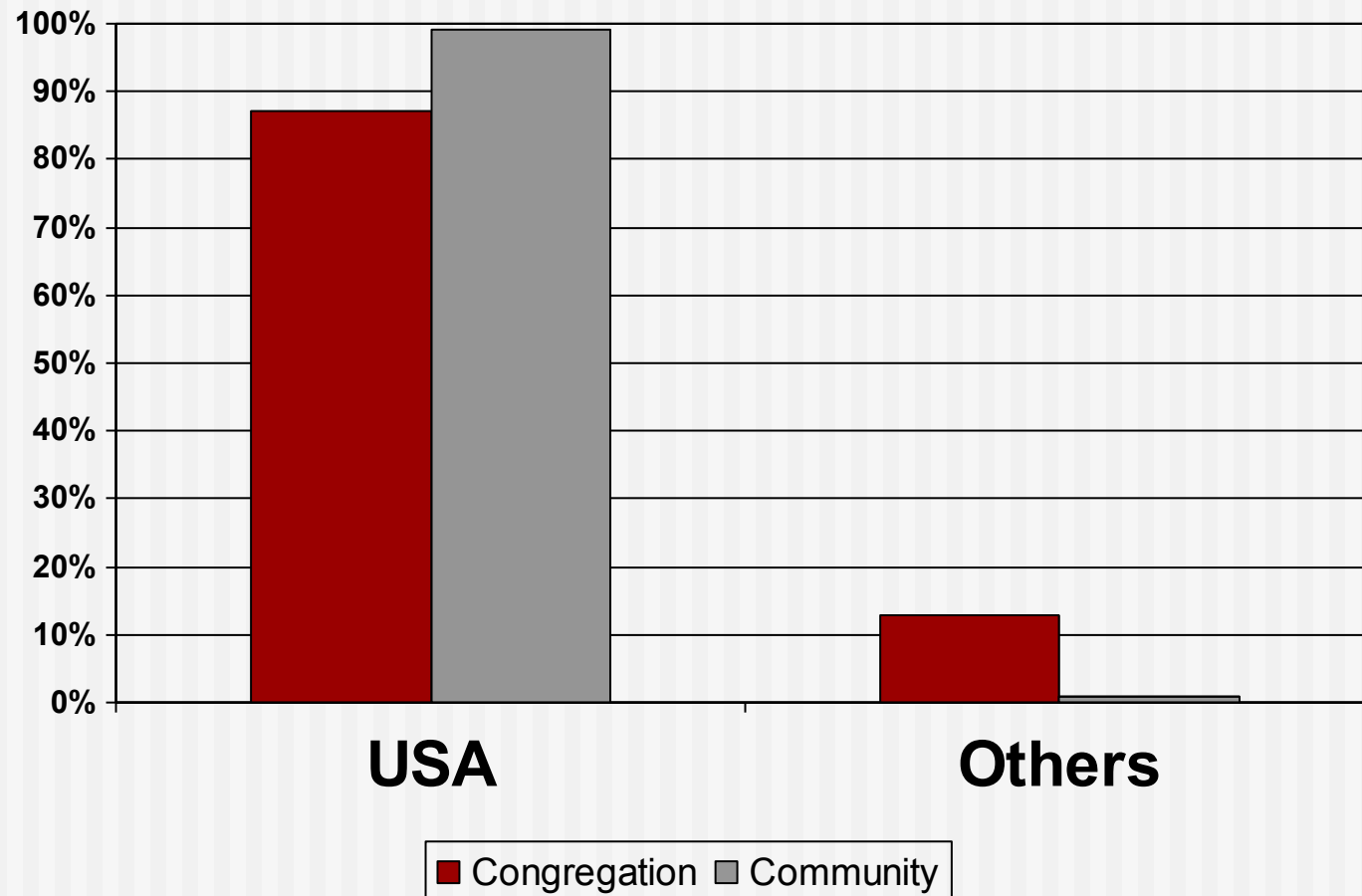
Marital status



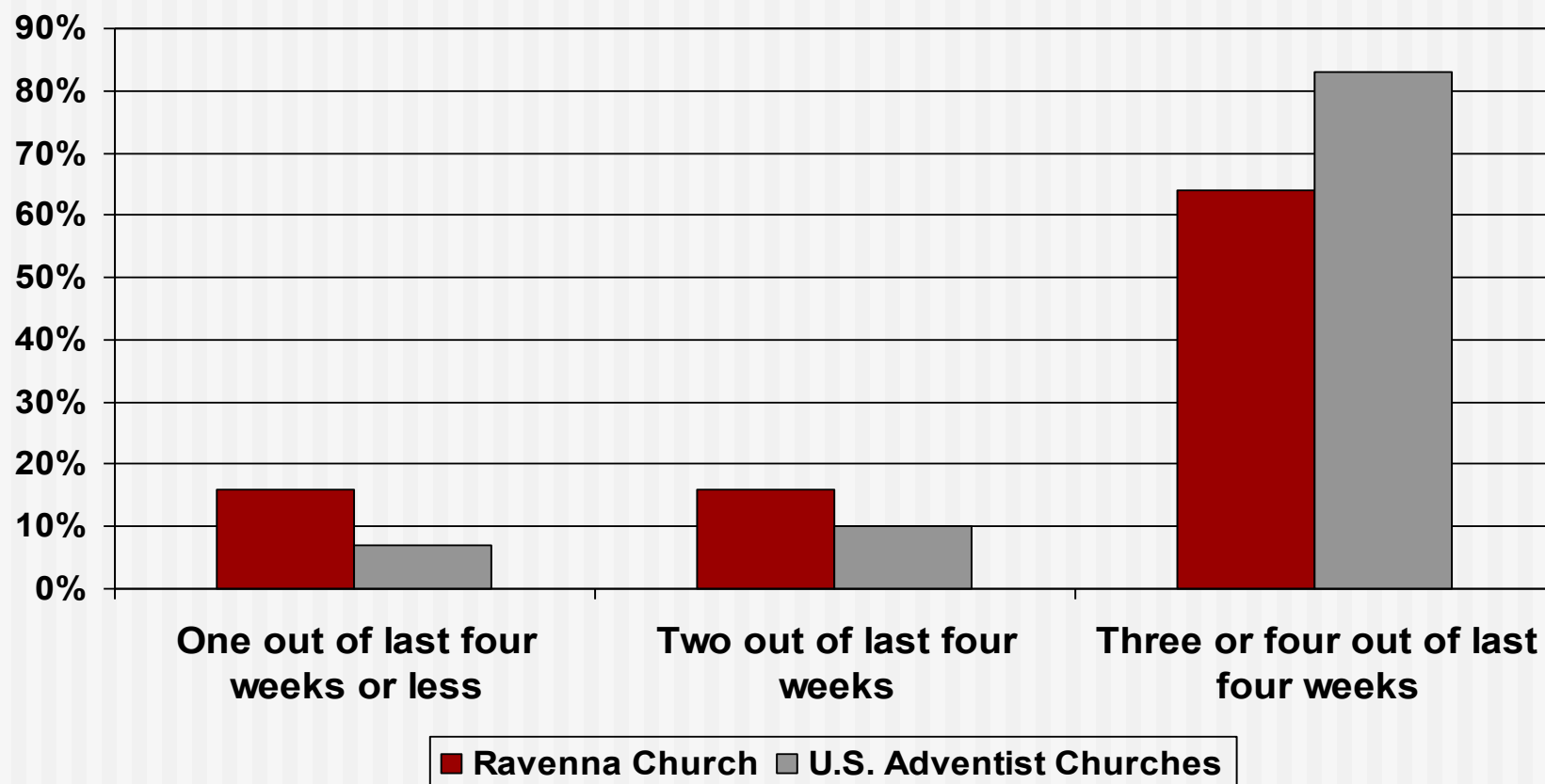
Ethnicity



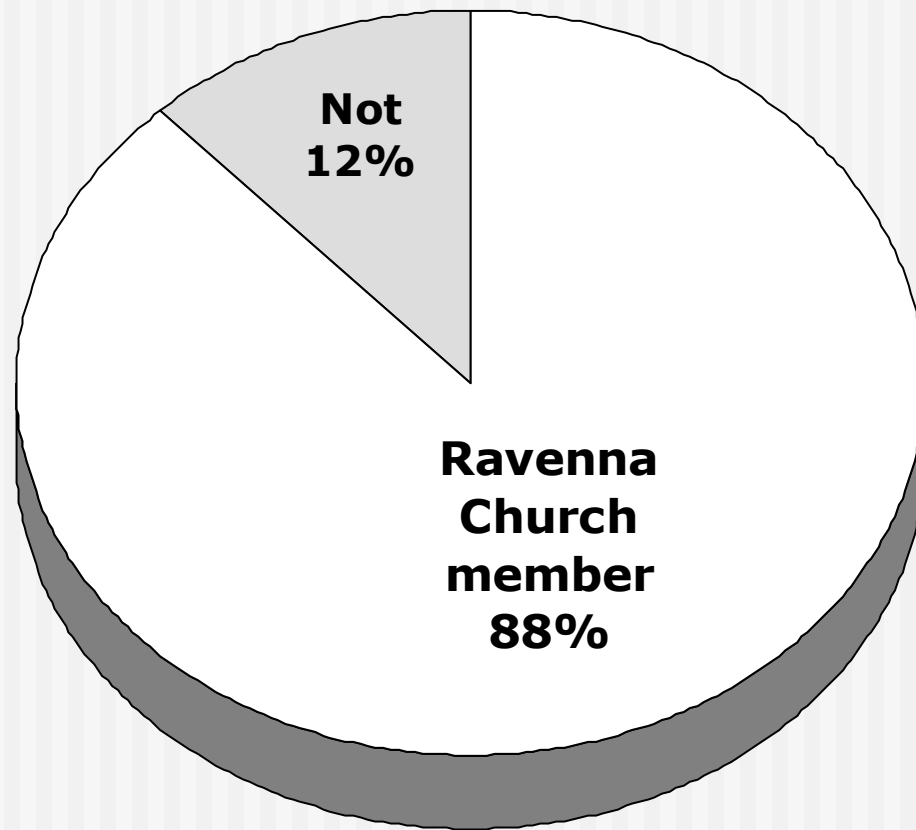
Citizenship at birth



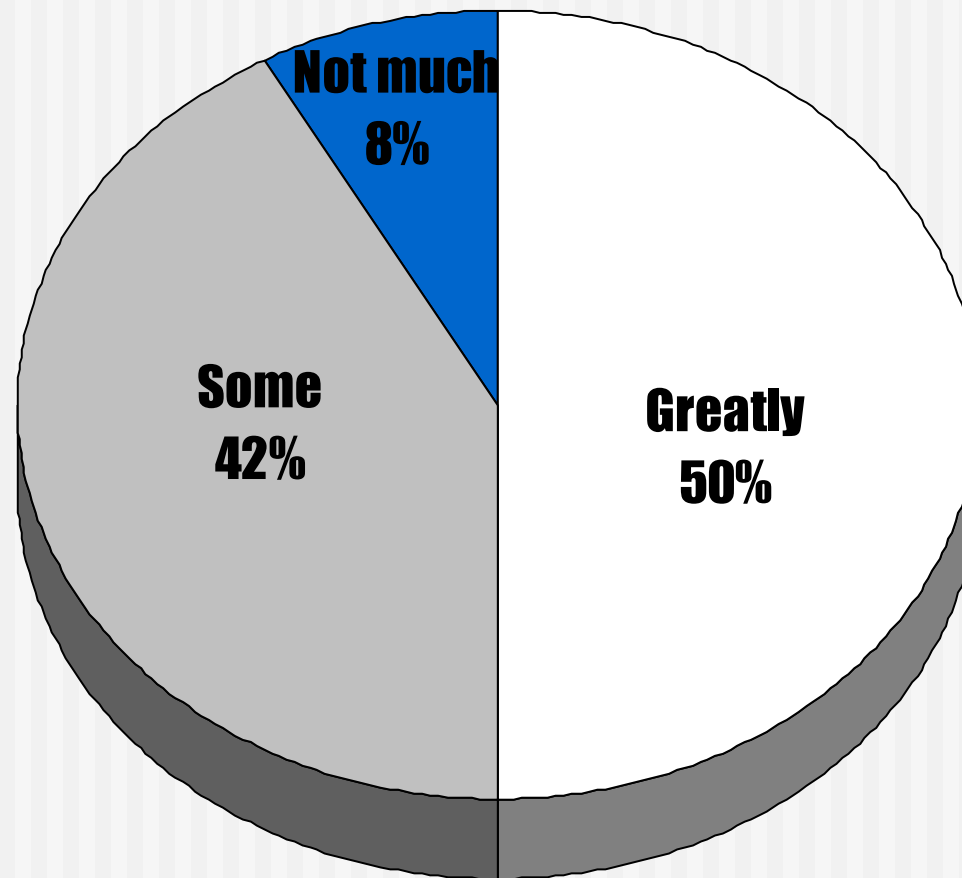
Attendance



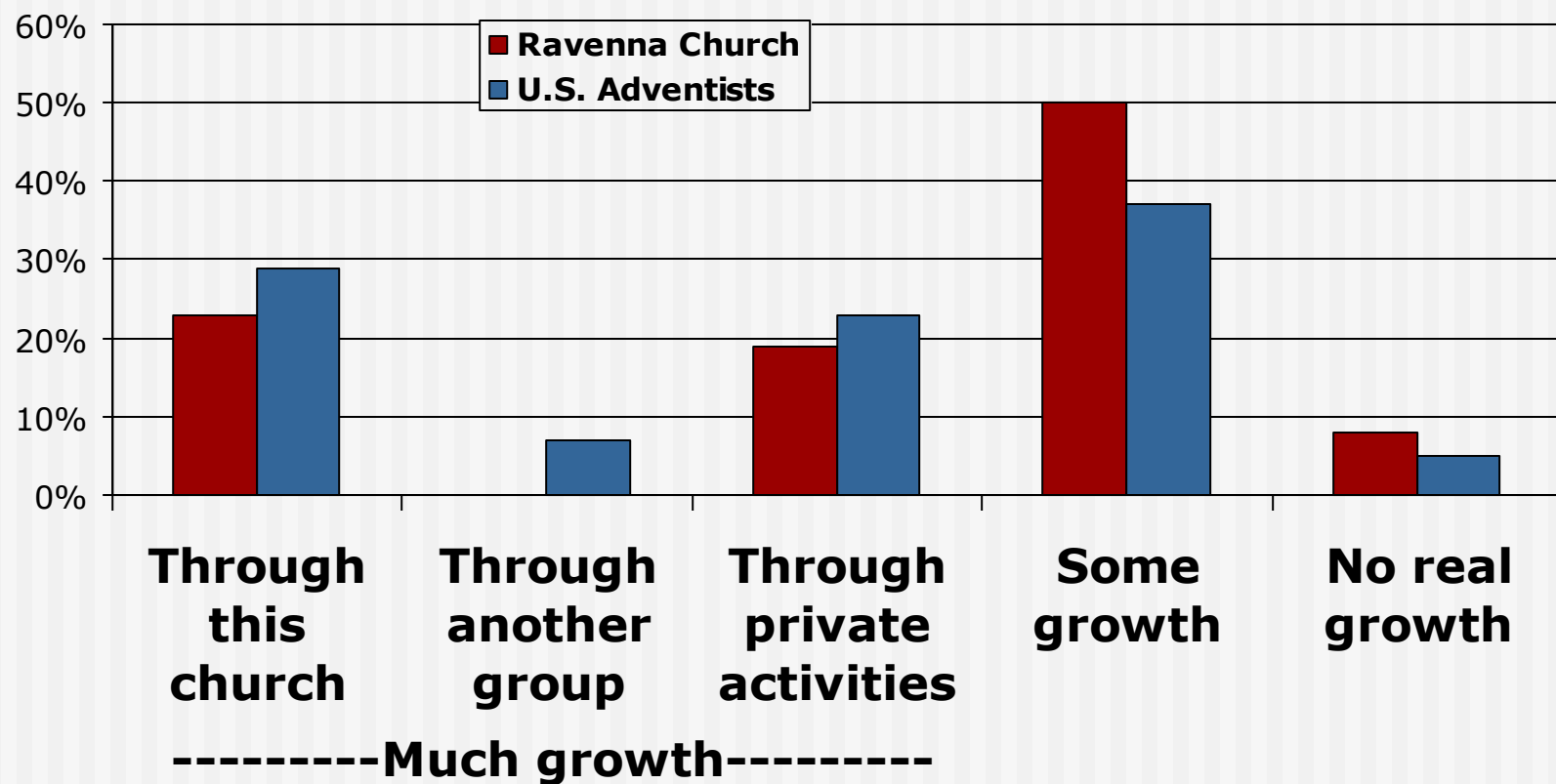
Church Membership



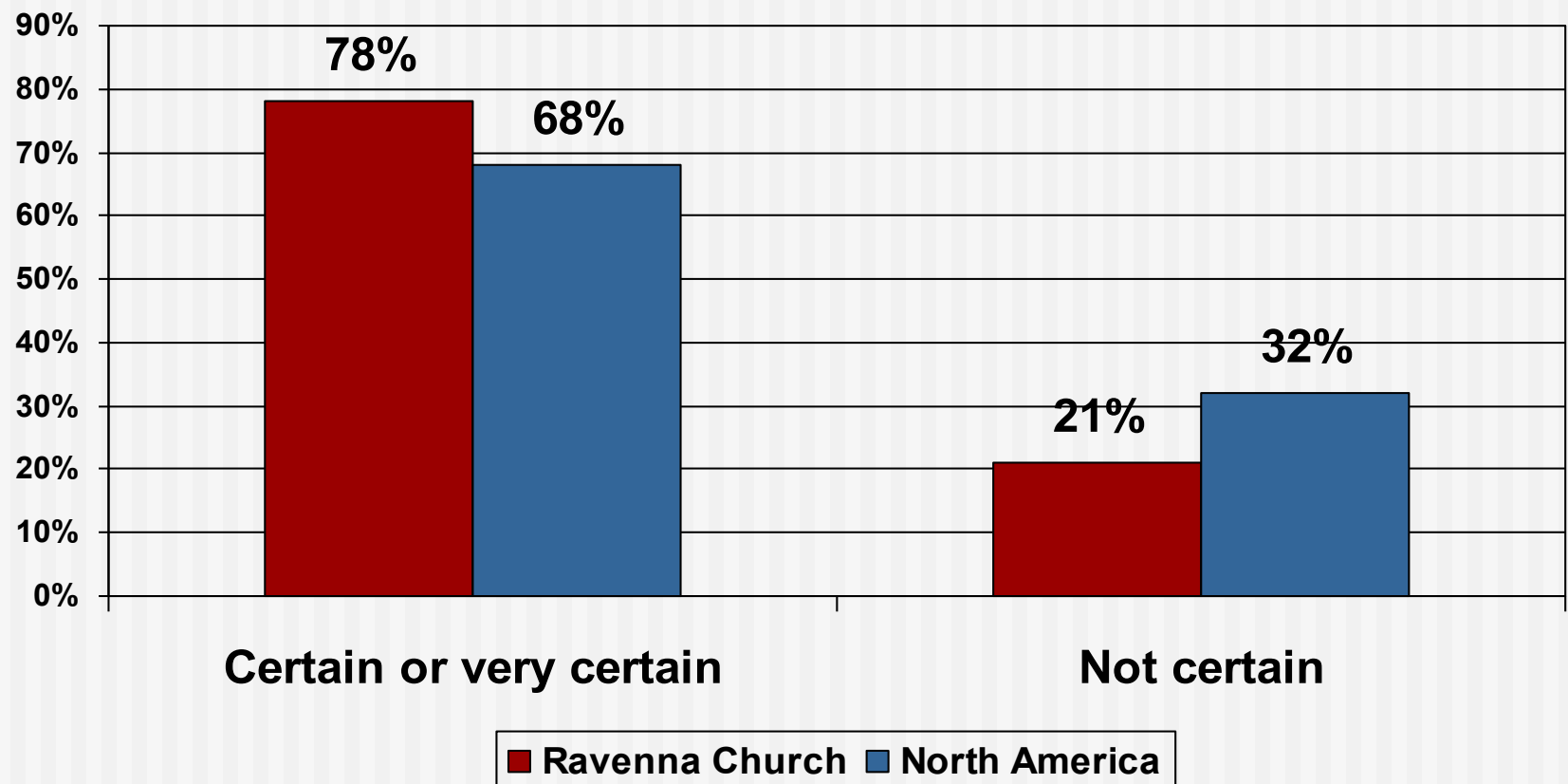
How much does worship at Ravenna Church help you with everyday life?



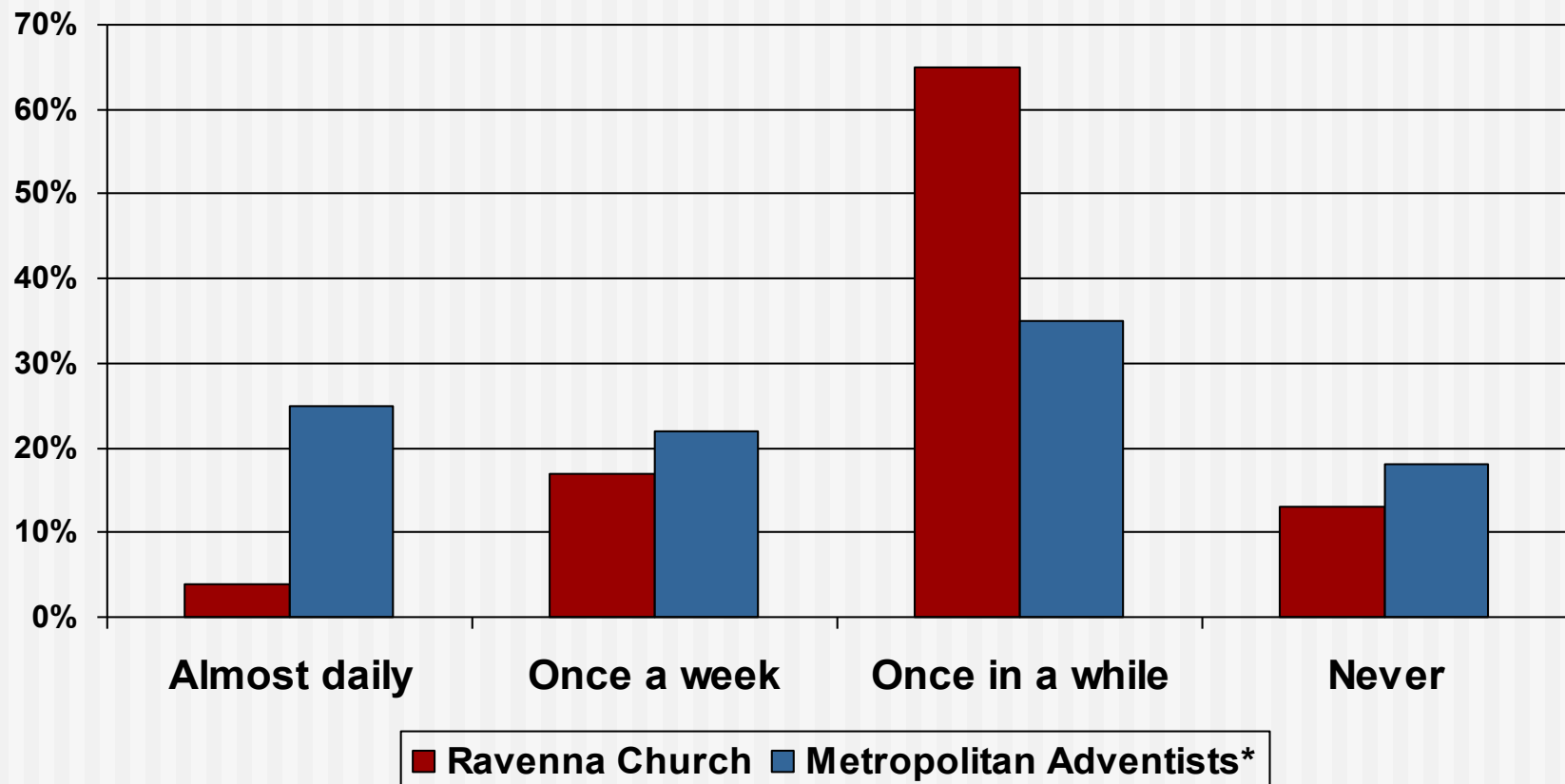
How much have you grown in your faith in the last year?



Assurance of Salvation

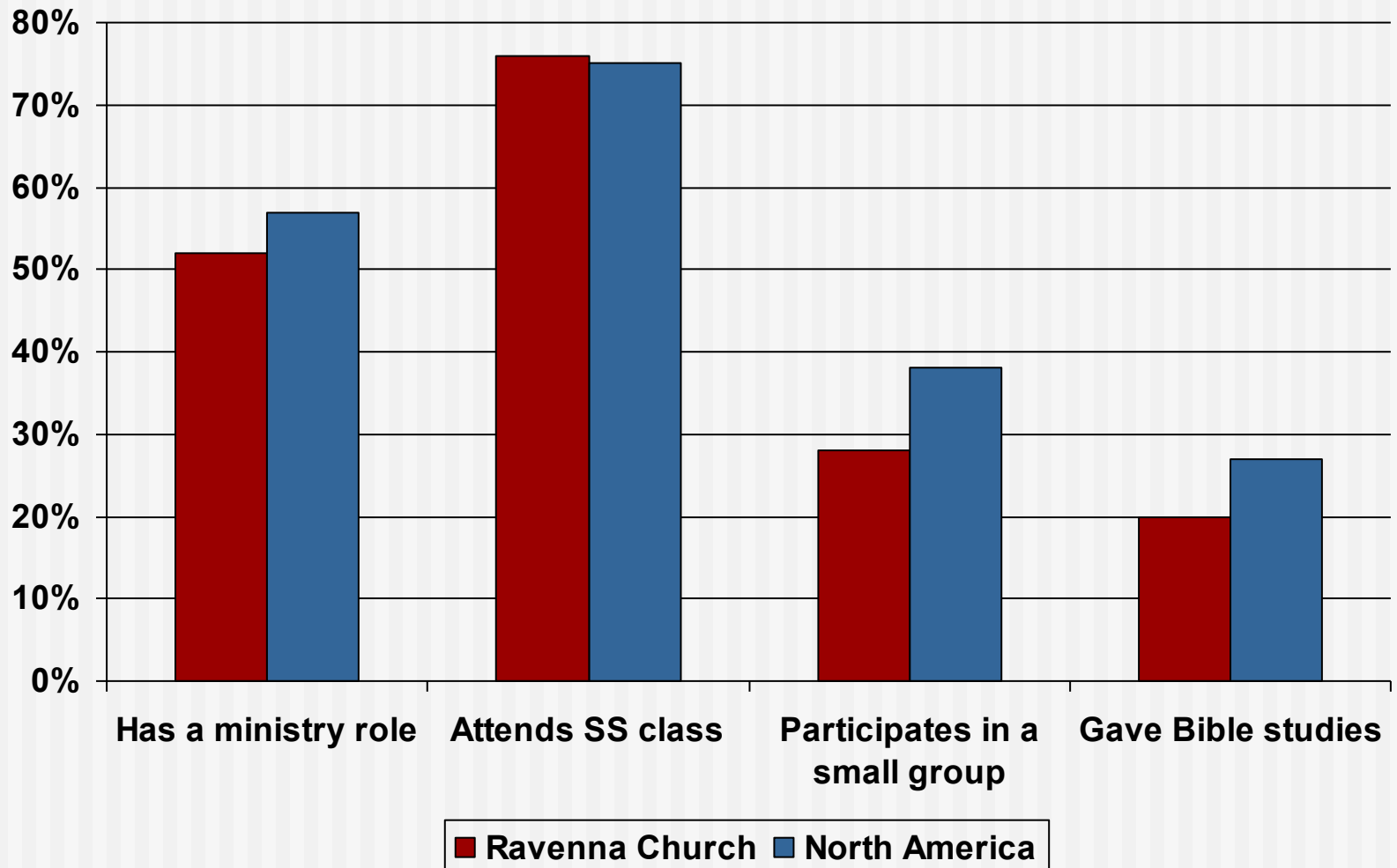


Conversations with Coworkers about their Personal or Family Needs or Spiritual Topics

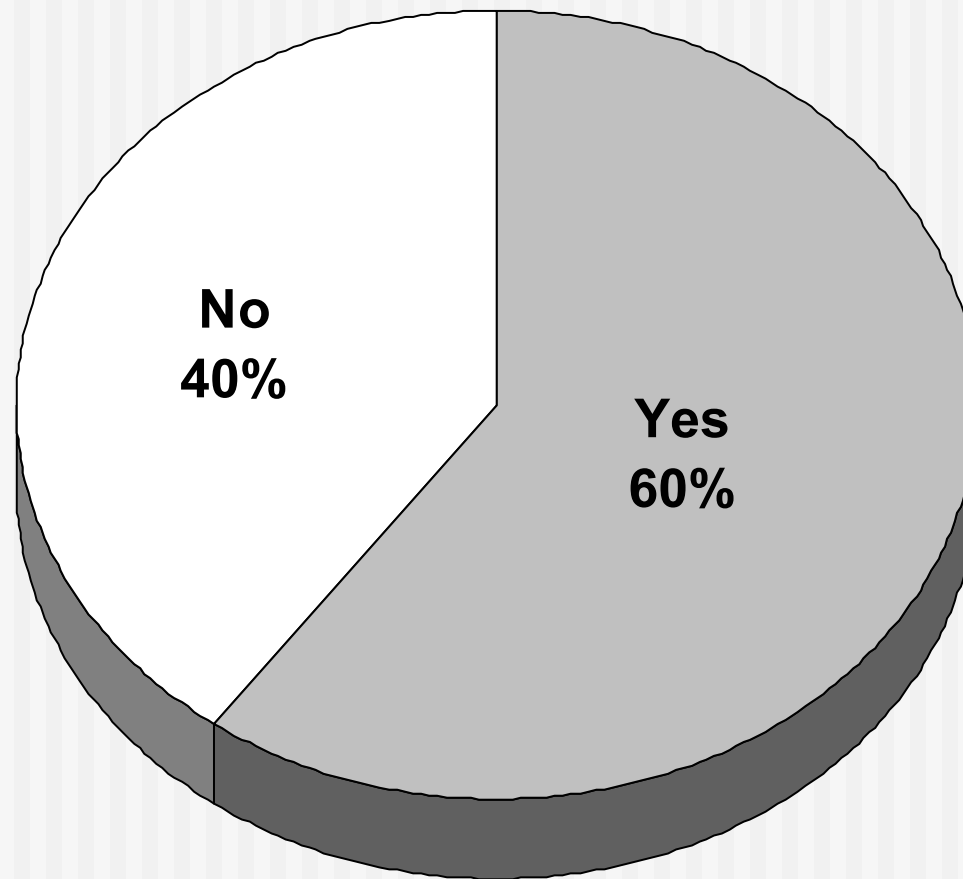


*Mission in Metropolis, p 110

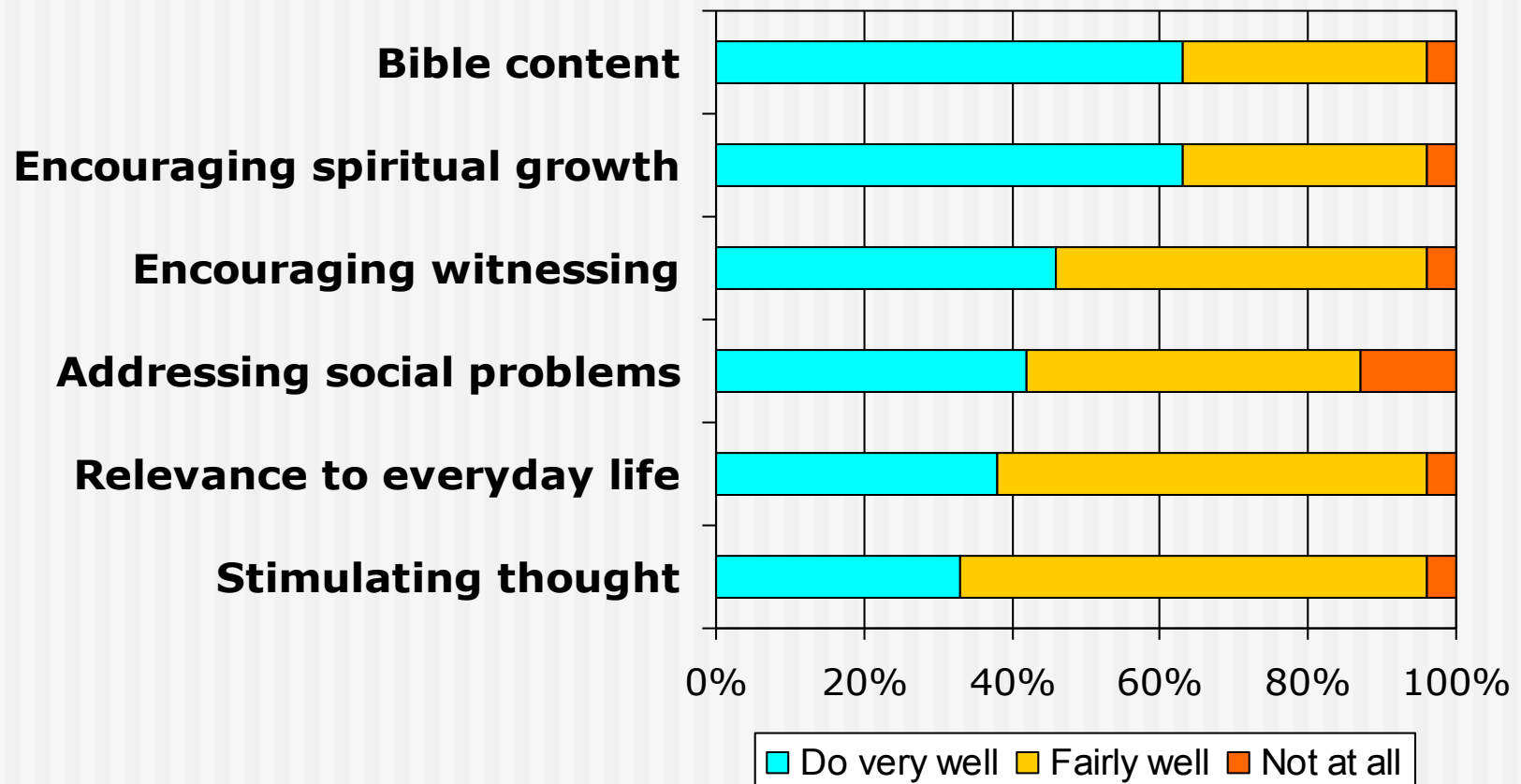
Church Involvement



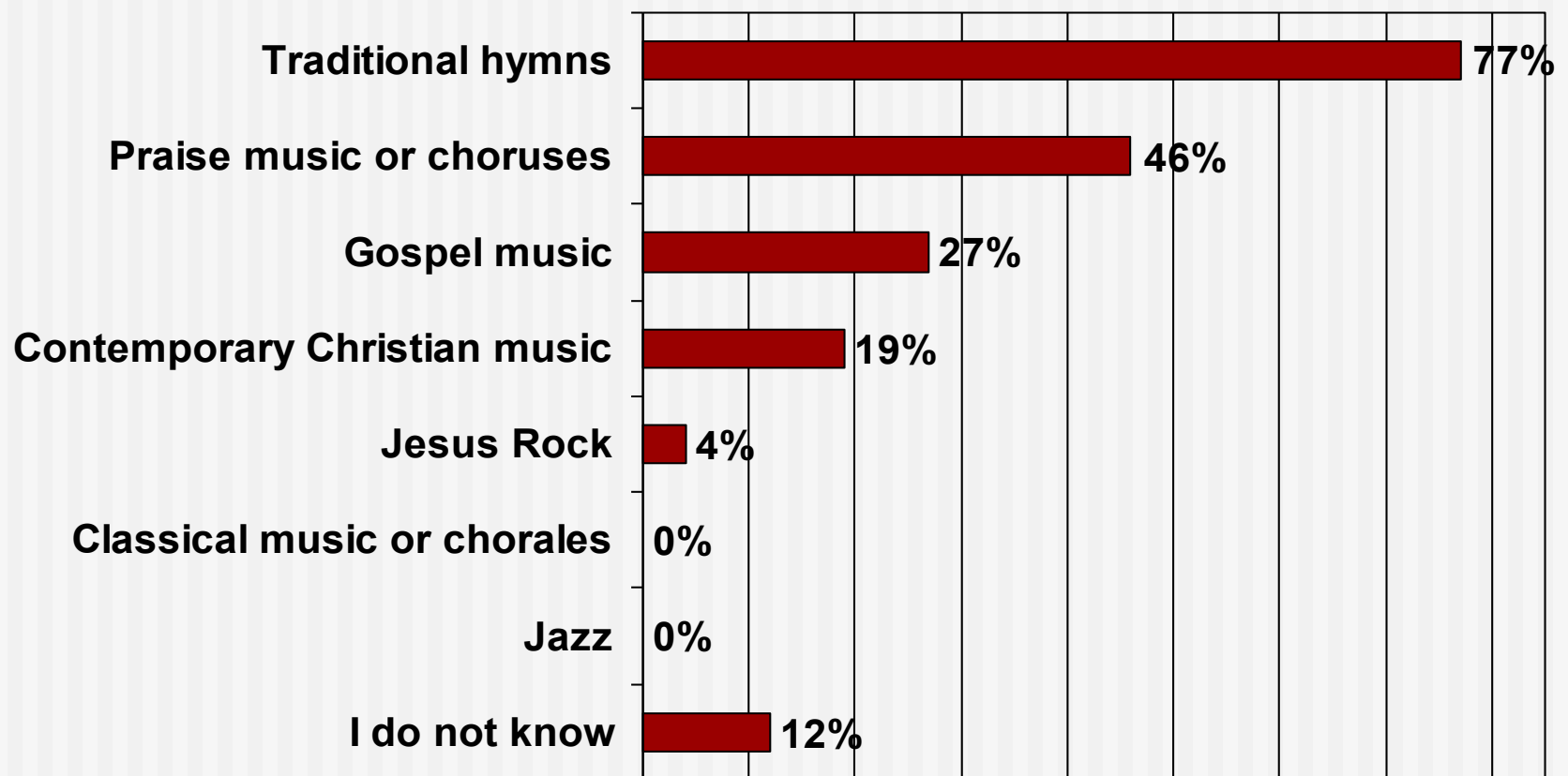
Has anyone asked you personally to volunteer time in the last year?



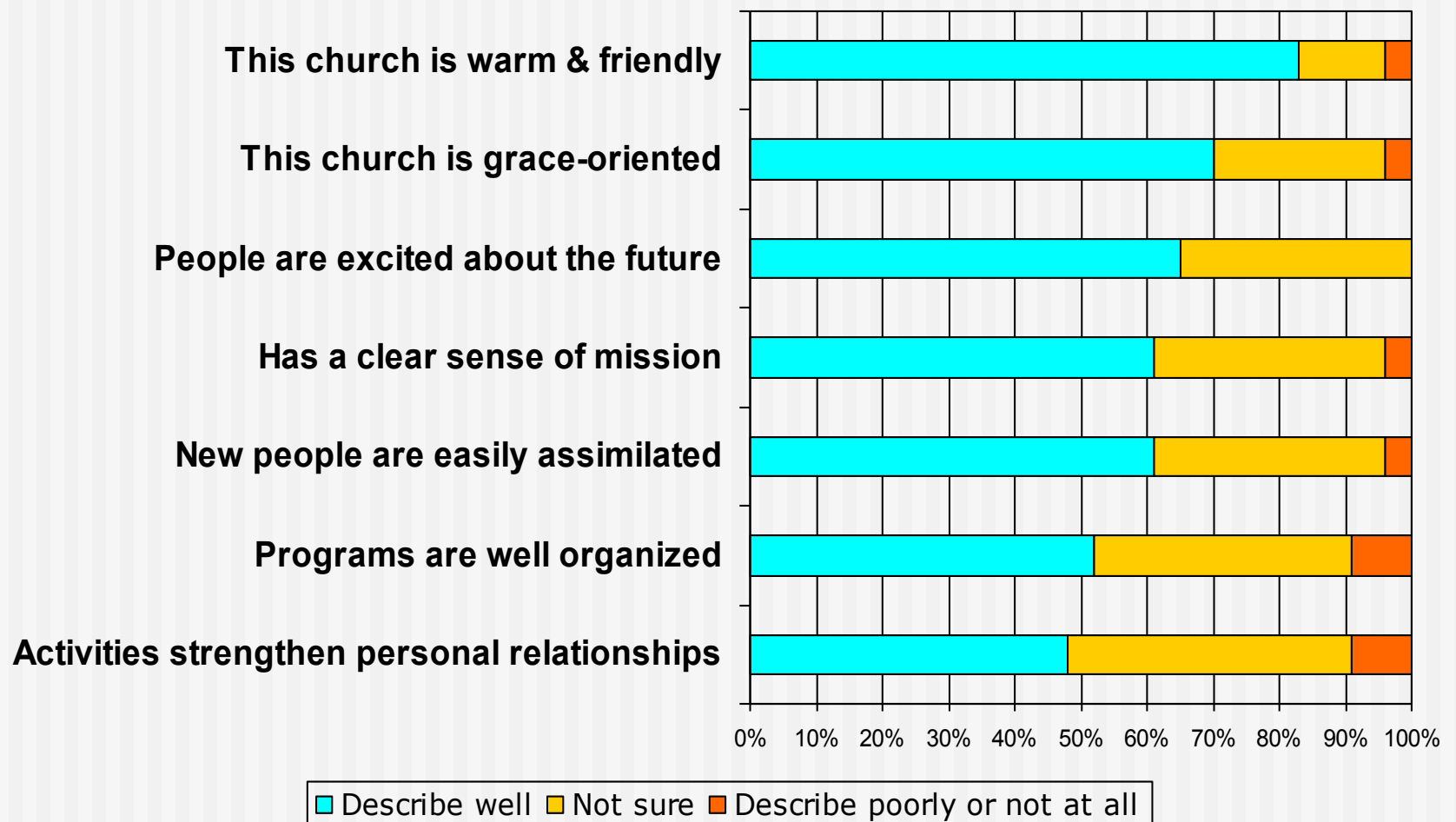
Evaluation of Sermons



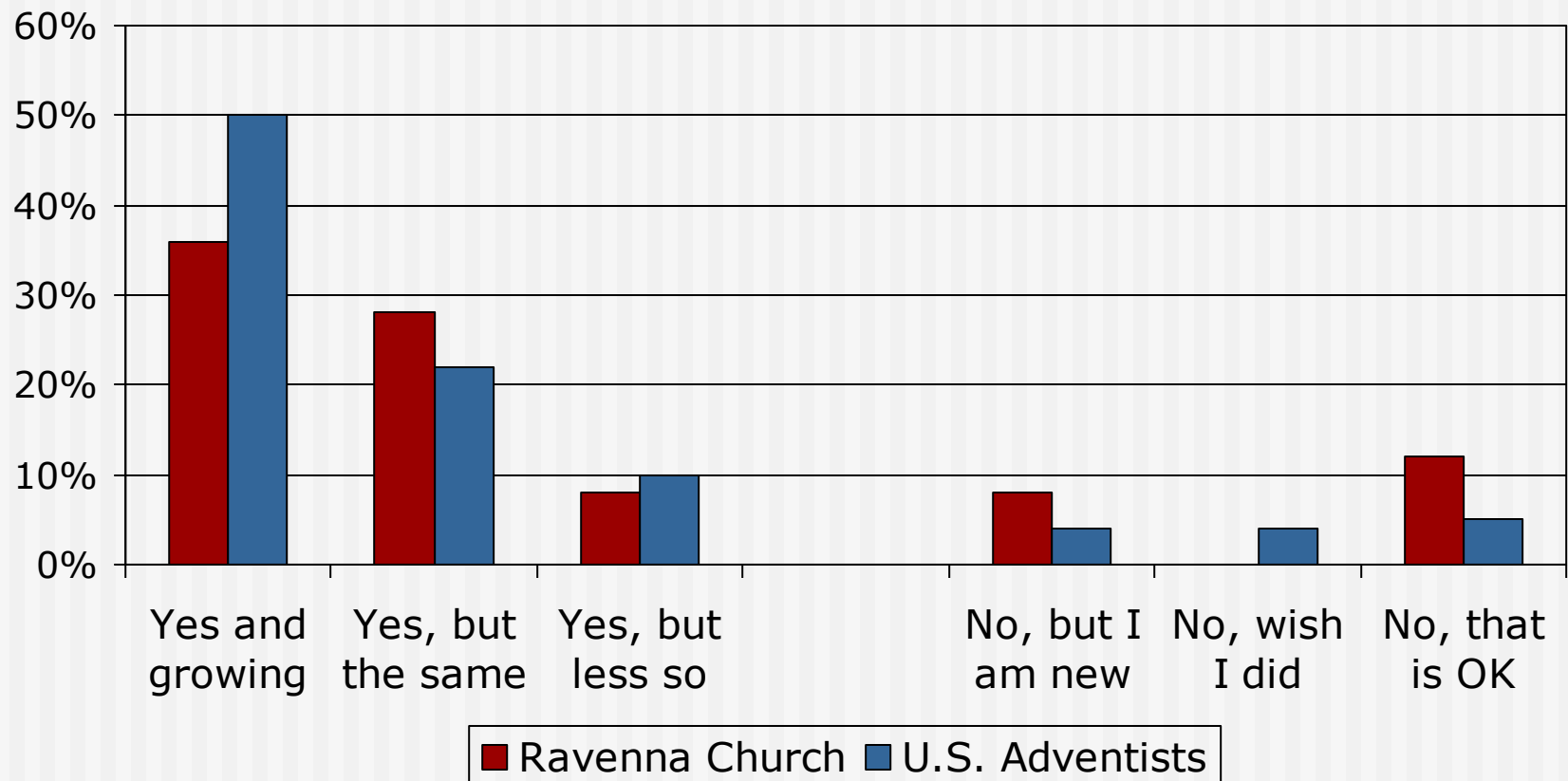
Music Preferences



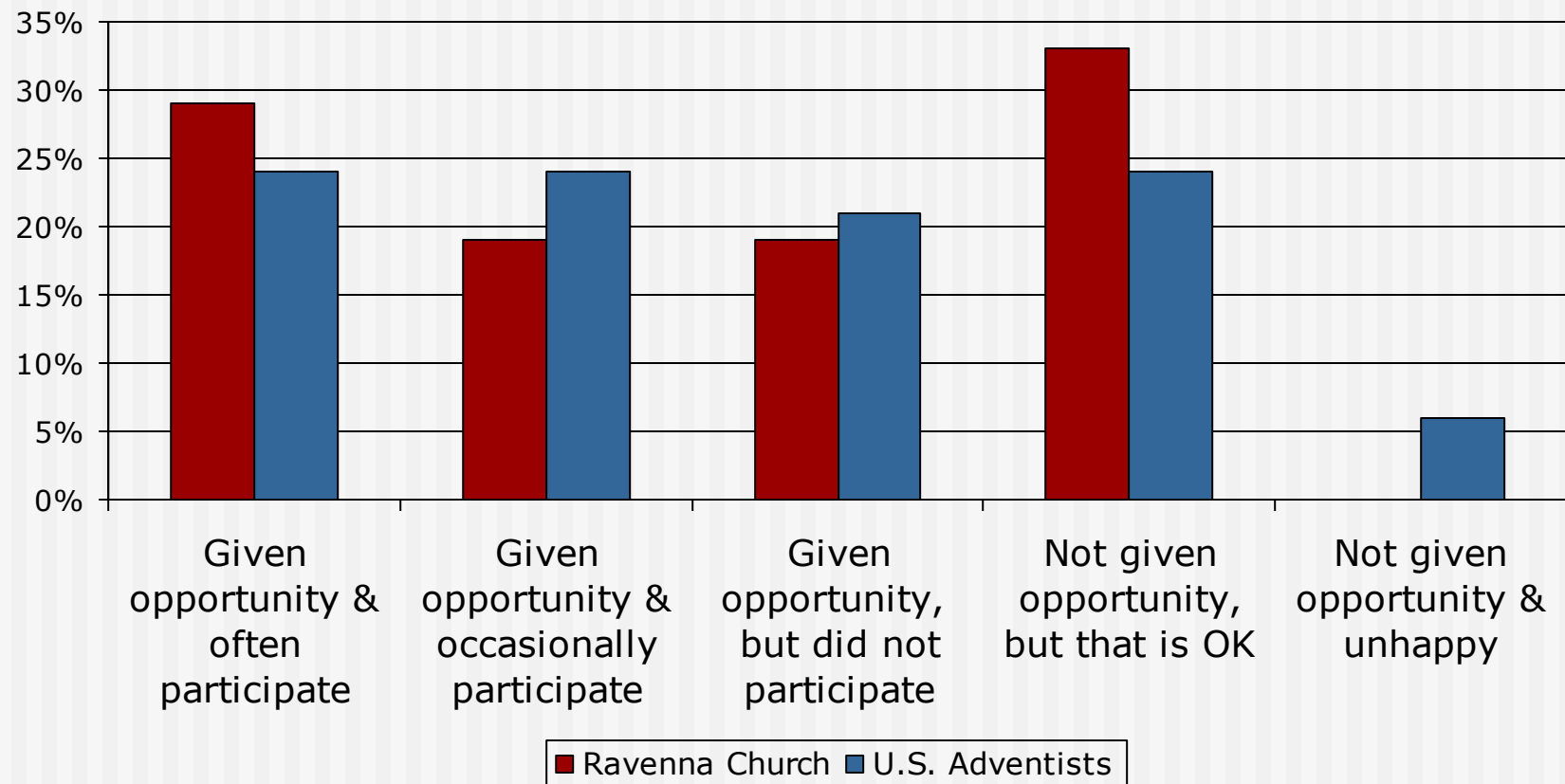
Perceptions of Ravenna Church



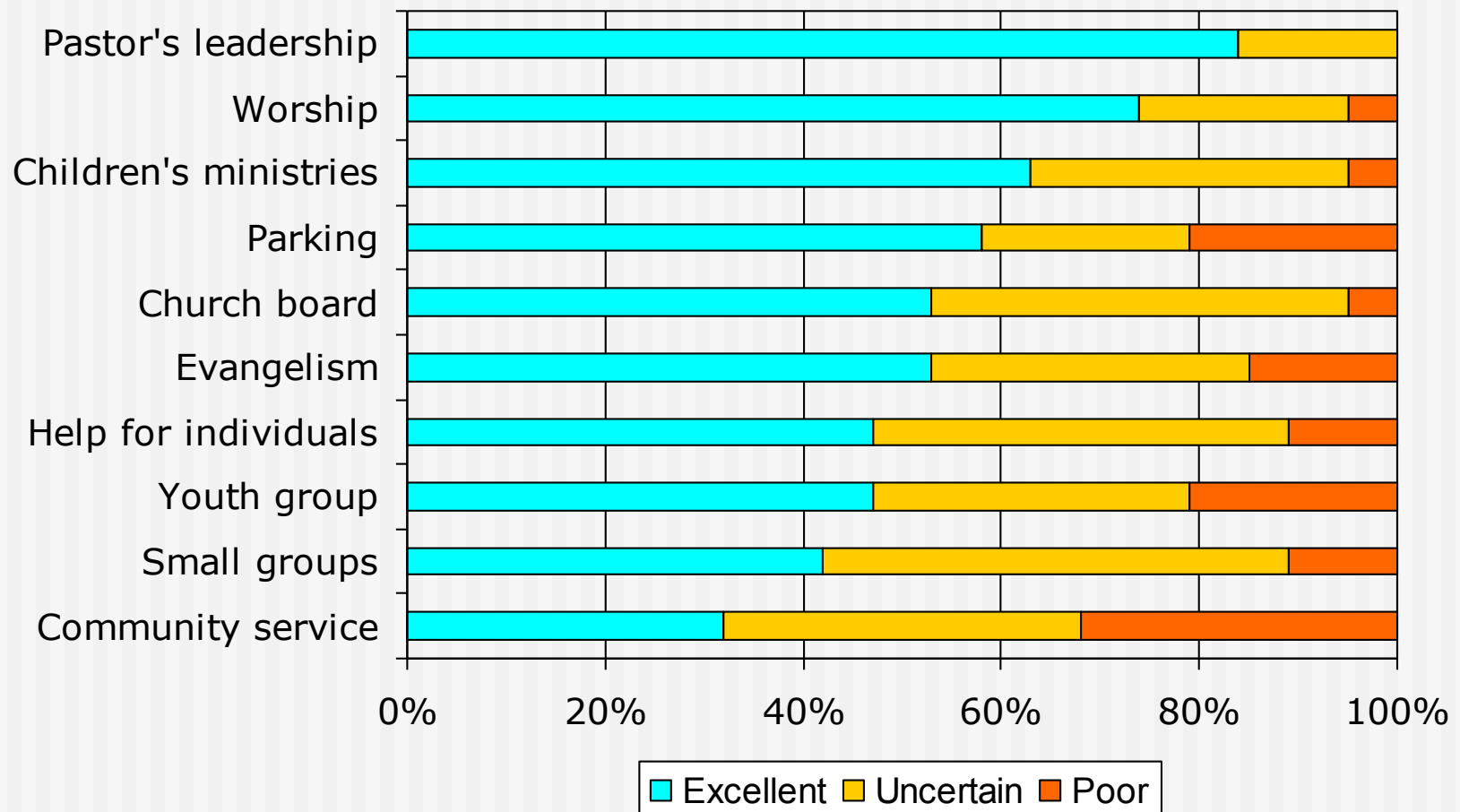
Strong sense of belonging to Ravenna Church



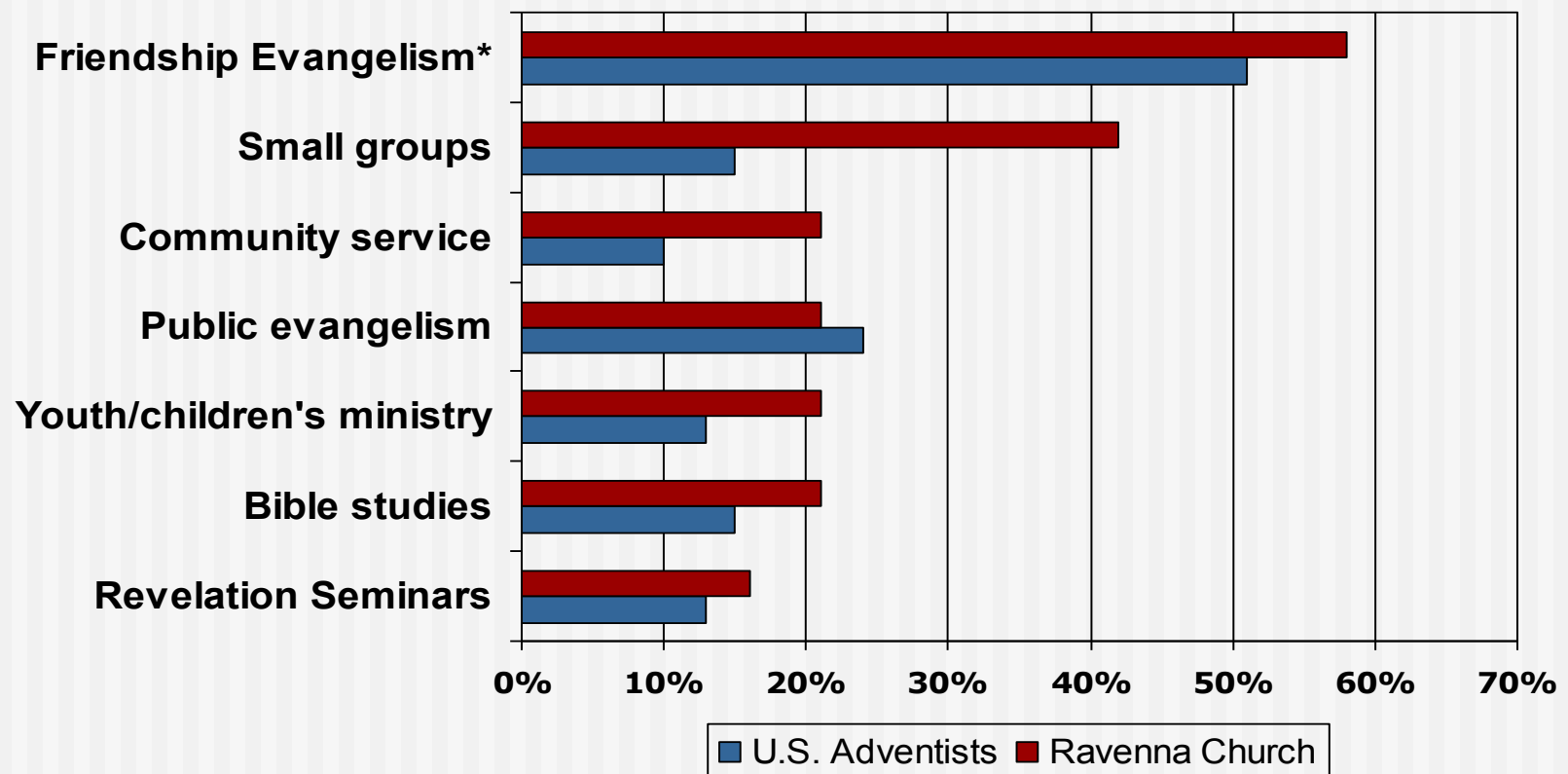
Involvement in making important decisions



Overall Evaluation

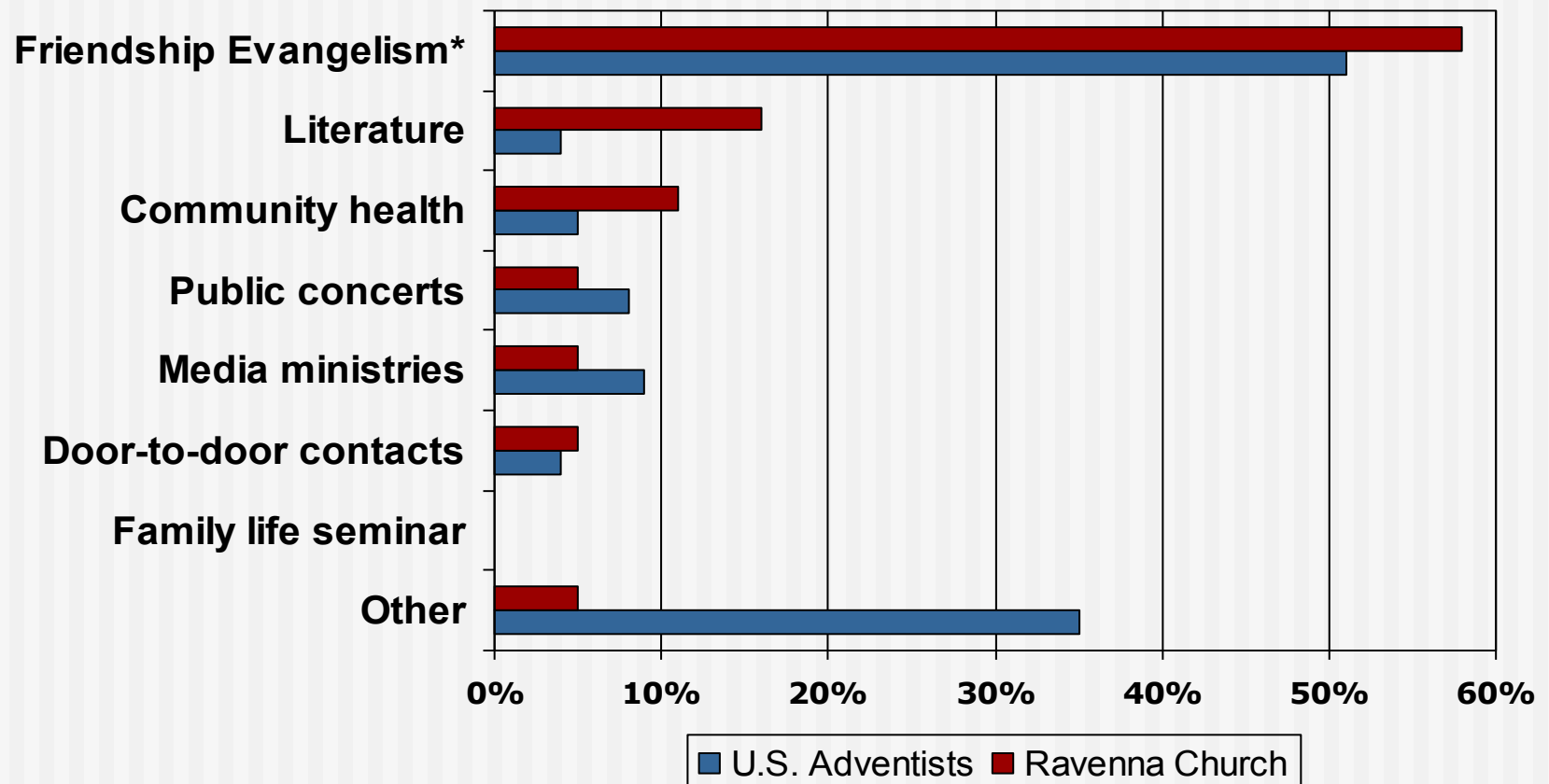


Observed to be Most Effective Methods to Bring in New Members



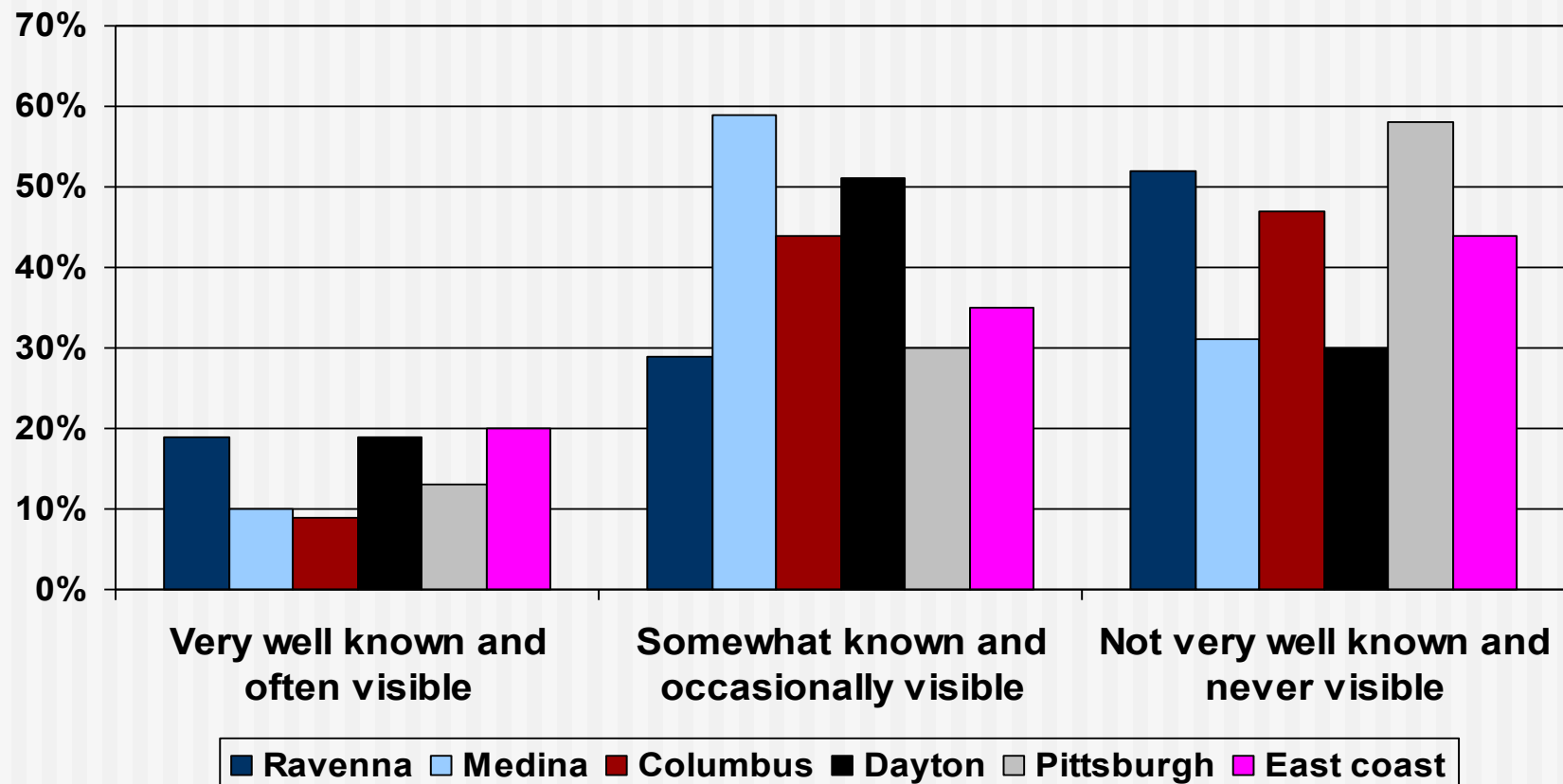
*Personal contact by
relatives, work associates,
acquaintances

2 - Observed to be Most Effective Methods to Bring in New Members

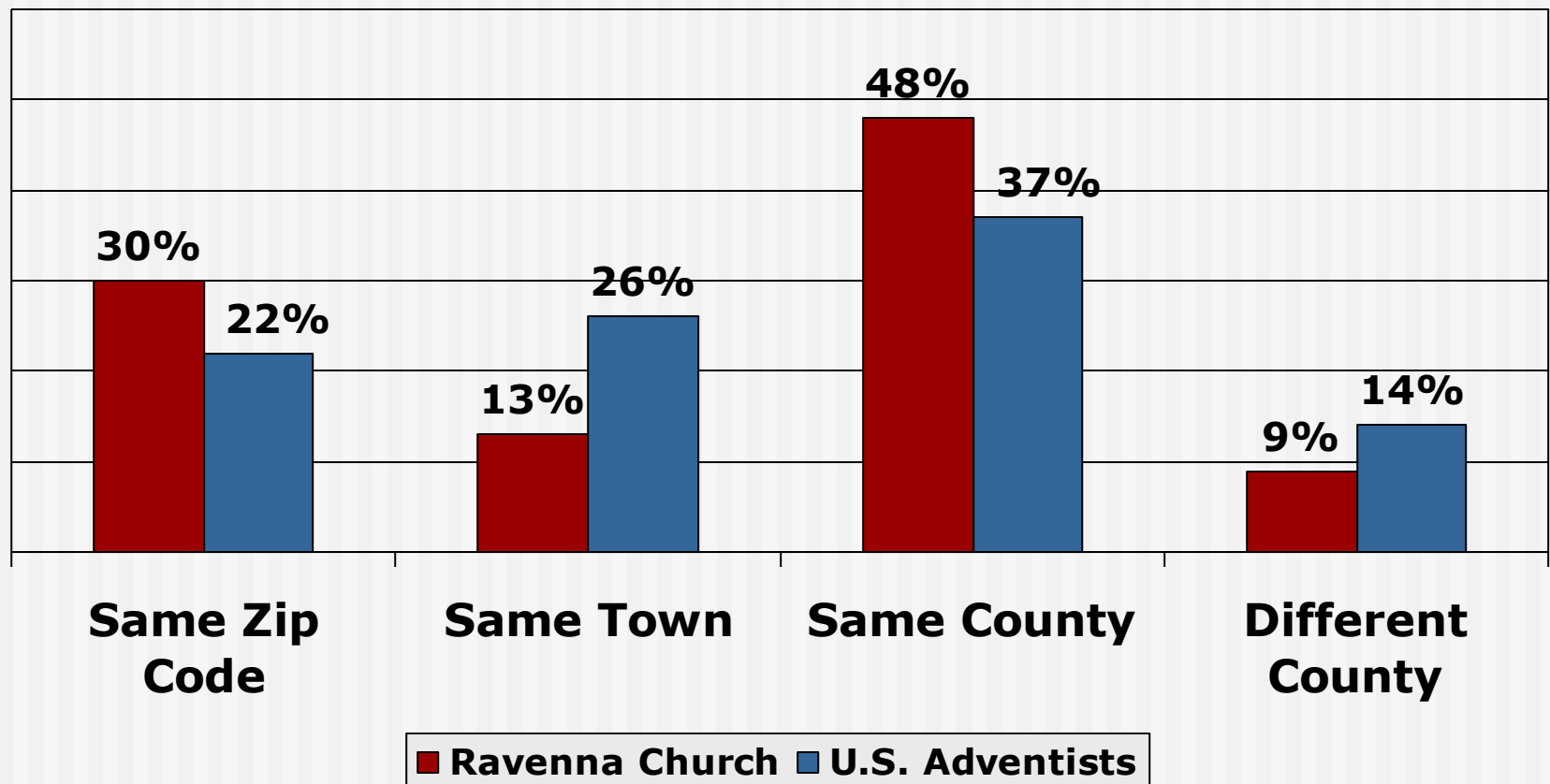


*Personal contact by
relatives, work associates and
acquaintances

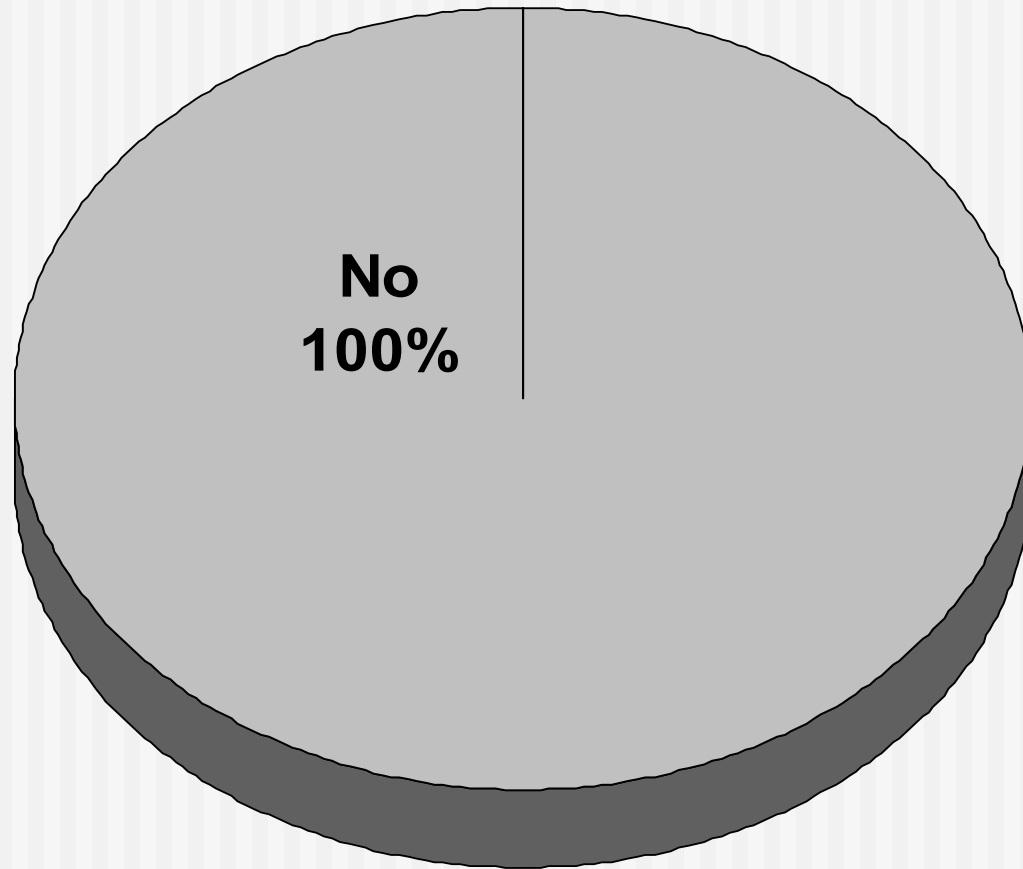
Visibility of the Adventist Church in this Metropolitan Area



How Far is Your Home from the Church?



Do you belong to a service club or civic group of some kind?

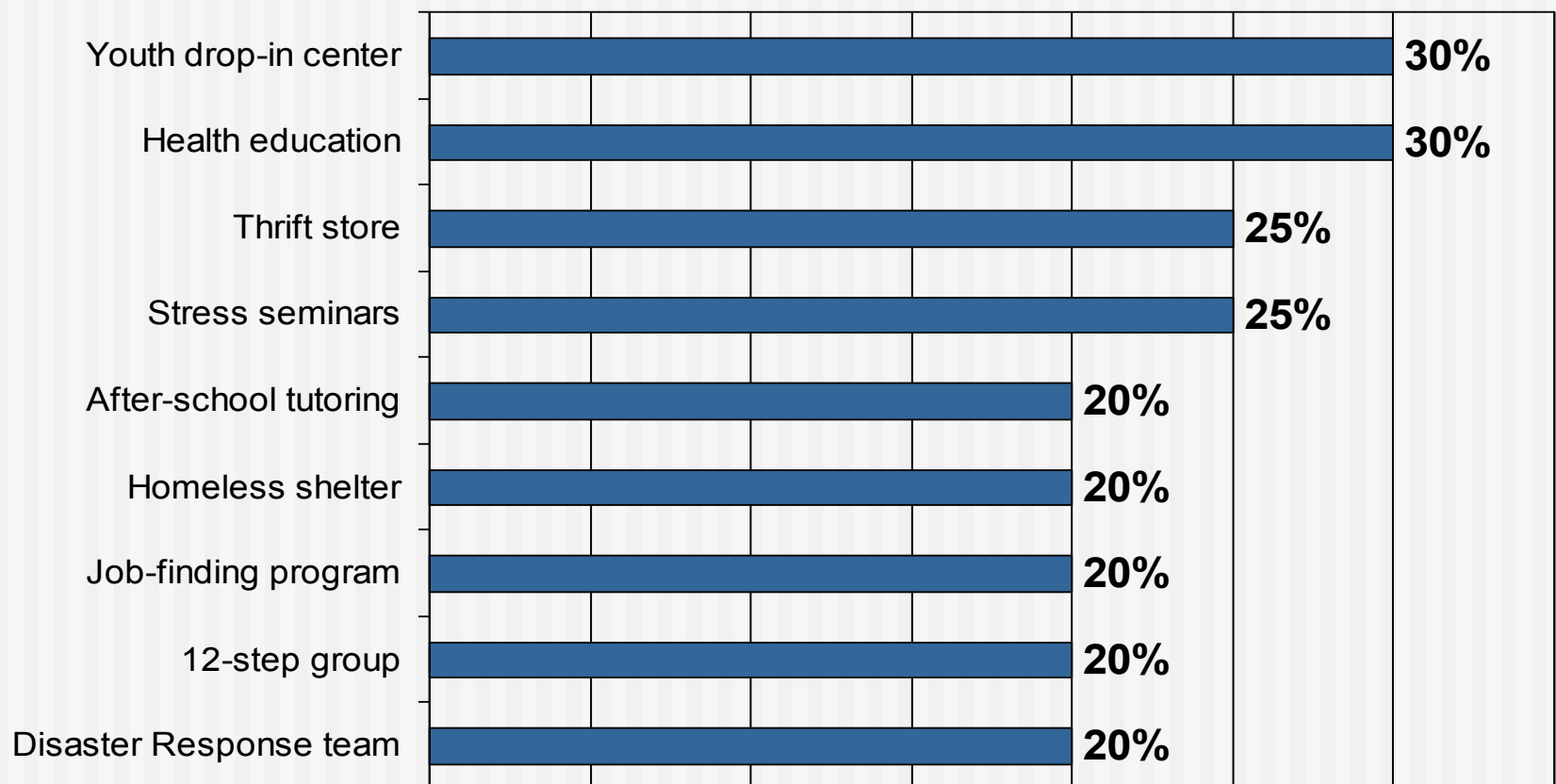


What major need in the community should the church address?

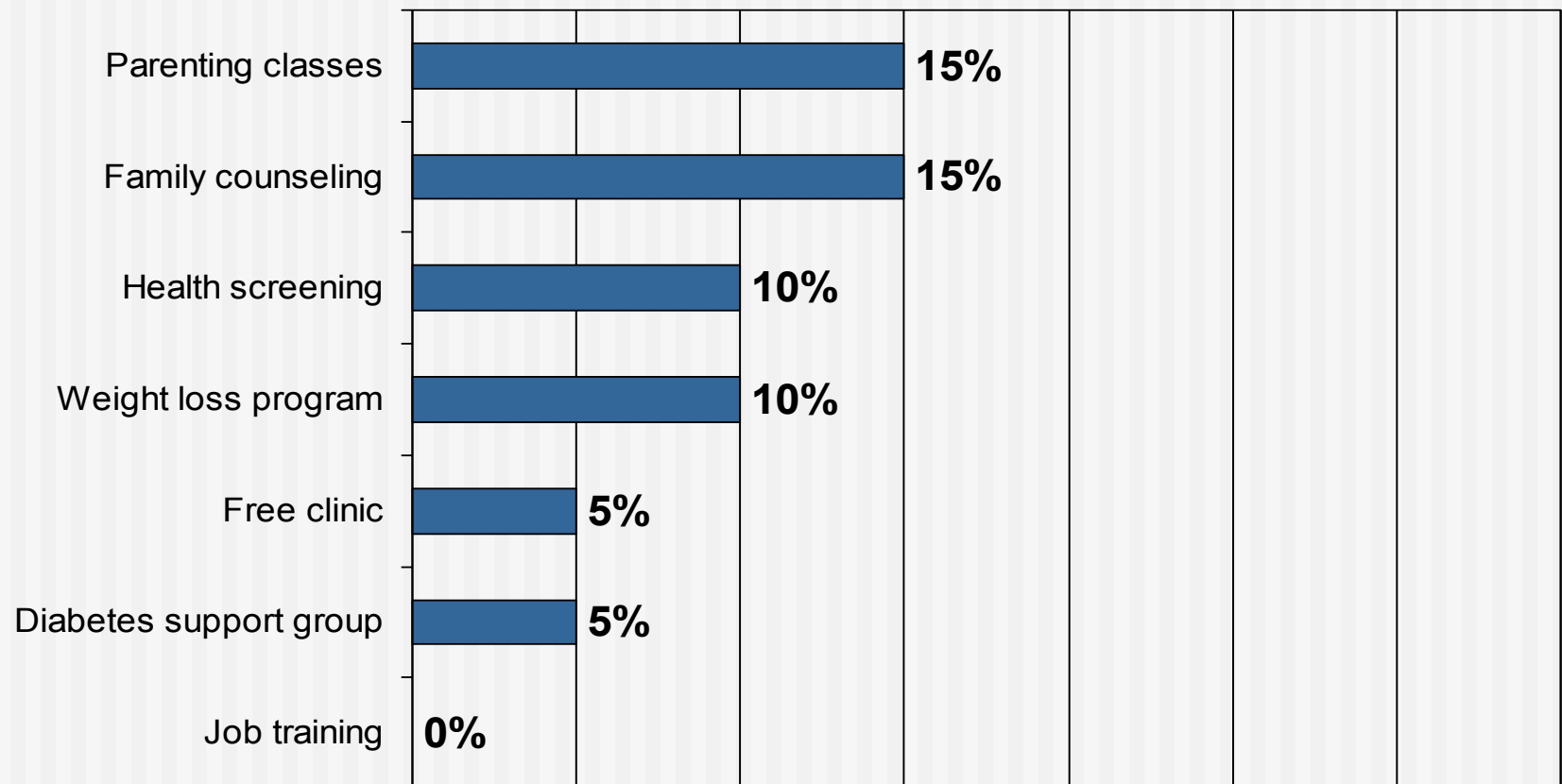
- Adventist awareness
- Poverty
- Maybe a community service center
- Spiritual needs

-
- 77% of the people attending Ravenna Church are willing to get personally involved in some kind of community service outreach.

Community Ministries: Willing to get Personally Involved – Pt 1



Community Ministries: Willing to get Personally Involved – Pt 2



Analysis

- Research has shown that growth in Adventist churches comes from:
 - Community involvement
 - Rich spirituality
 - Intentionality (goals, planning)
 - A positive atmosphere in congregation
 - Activities for the unchurched on Sabbath

Recommendations

- Join the Health Community Partnership
- Interview community leaders for their input
- Start a stress seminar and support group for the unemployed
- Study the possibility of opening a thrift store/youth drop-in center
- Appoint a communication officer (and possibly get training)

Recommendations

- Have a monthly PIE meeting (People in Evangelism) to share experiences and provide training in Friendship Evangelism
- Convene a meeting of the members who are under 45 years of age and ask them to make recommendations as to how to engage more young adults

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