

A Survey of Community Bands in Ontario

Conducted by Roger Mantie, PhD Candidate, University of Toronto

under the auspices of the Canadian Band Association-Ontario and the Wilfrid Laurier Centre for Music in the Community, with additional support provided by Trillium Foundation.

This survey was conducted between February and April, 2008. It involved nine bands, randomly selected from three pools, stratified to geographically represent three areas of the province: the Greater Toronto Area, southwestern Ontario, and the rest of Ontario. 270 responses were collected. Band-by-band comparisons in Part V are included to demonstrate homo/heterogeneity among/between bands. To protect the identity of bands, labeling has been randomized (i.e. Band #1 is not the same band throughout).

This document contains raw data (descriptive, summative statistics), some of which is included in an article in the Spring 2009 issue of *Canadian Winds*, the journal of the Canadian Band Association. Inferential analysis for a peer-reviewed journal submission is currently being conducted.

Further information about the study can be obtained from the author. This document is for informational purposes only, and may not be cited or distributed without permission.

Please note: I will begin a position as Assistant Professor in music education at the College of Fine Arts of Boston University, September, 2009. Until then I can be reached at roger.mantie@utoronto.ca.

April 3, 2009

PART I - All numbers expressed as a percentage (except Q7.1). Numbers may not total 100% due to rounding. "Other" refers to no response or answers not conforming to the format.

		YES	NO		Other
1	Did you learn to play your instrument in school?	66	33		1
1.1	If no, where/how did you learn?	see below			
2	Have you ever taken private lessons on your instrument?	60	40		
3	Have you ever taken piano lessons?	64	35		1
4	Have you ever sung in a choir?	78	22		
5	Do you sing regularly with an ensemble?	16	83		1
6	Have you ever played recorder?	53	45		2
7	If you could start again, would you choose the instrument you play now?	80	16		4
7.1	If no, please list your preferred choice: (total # of responses, not percentage)	saxophone (7), french horn (6), trumpet (6), piano (6), flute (5) * no other response received more than 2 (18 different inst listed)			
8	Do you own your instrument?	88	12	1	
9	If you own your instrument, what is its quality? (if you own more than one, answer for your main instrument)	student model 15	inter. model 28	pro model 47	10
		YES	NO		Other
10	Have you ever played your instrument professionally (for money)?	46	53		1
11	Do you enjoy playing solo parts with the band?	70	28		2
12	Do you regularly play chamber music or small group?	34	65		1
12.1	If yes, please describe:	Approx. 35 different types of ensembles listed, exhibiting a wide range of instrumentations.			
13	Do you play along with recordings or computer programs (eg. Music Minus One, Smart Music, Band-in-a-Box)?	30	70		
14	Are you involved with mentoring other members of the band?	22	77		1
15	Do you believe the conductor should be paid?	90	7		3
16	Do you regularly bring a pencil to rehearsals?	84	15		2
16.1	In no, please explain:	Primary answers: forget, already supplied			
		YES	NO	N/A	Other
17	Do you erase parts before returning them?	20	66	12	1
18	Do you ever help out with the moving of band equipment?	77	22		1
19	Are you or have you ever been a member of the band's executive?	39	60		1
20	Do you do regular volunteer work for groups outside of music?	52	47		1
21	Has a health-related issue ever prevented you from playing your instrument?	35	65		
22	Do you require eyeglasses for reading music?	71	28		1
23	Have you had to make special adaptations in order to play your instrument?	10	88		2
23.1	If so, please describe:	see below			
24	Do you employ some form of assistance (cart, dolly, etc.) to carry your instrument to/from rehearsals?	4	94		2
		YES	NO		Unsure
25	Is this the closest band to where you live?	60	31		10

1.1 A large majority listed some form of community band (town/civic, Boys & Girls, church, Salvation Army, etc.), followed by "self-taught" and "private lessons." Only a handful listed something other than these choices (eg. School of Music, RAF).

23.1 The list included: special glasses, left-handed trombone trigger, dental work, toothguard, covering teeth so not to cut lip, hand strap, neck band to support elbows, wrist wraps; physio, very poor eyesight, slight adjustment of 1 key for nerve problem, arm brace for tendonitis, progressive spasti - now wear noseclips and have disabled a trill key, orthodontist to correct teeth, reading glasses, broken arm accommodations, music reading glasses, rest to avoid CT, plateau clarinet.

PART II - All responses expressed as a percentage. Numbers may not total 100% due to rounding. "Other" refers to no response or answers not conforming to the format.

		SA	A	N/N	D	SD	other
26	I feel my school music experience prepared me well for participation in this band. (If N/A please leave blank.)	46	27	9	3	2	13
27	I have to work hard to be able to play the music performed by this band.	9	41	25	17	4	2
28	I feel my musical abilities have improved since joining this band.	45	37	11	4	1	1
29	It is important that I feel a sense of personal improvement in my musical activities.	45	45	8	0	0	2
30	My enjoyment of making music is affected by the pieces we play.	44	43	9	3	0	1
31	My enjoyment of playing with the band is affected by the conductor.	54	39	4	1	1	1
32	My enjoyment of the music depends on the tempo of the piece.	7	23	39	17	12	3
33	My enjoyment of the music depends on how interesting (or fun) my individual part is.	12	50	21	11	3	3
34	The musical proficiency of this ensemble is important to me.	32	55	12	1	0	1
35	Rehearsals are more important to me than performances.	11	33	39	13	3	1
36	Playing my instrument relaxes me.	32	49	12	5	1	1
37	Playing my instrument is physically challenging.	14	41	22	16	6	1
38	Playing my instrument is mentally challenging.	27	55	12	4	2	1
39	My spirit improves when I play with the band.	48	40	10	1	0	1
40	Outside of work and family, playing with the band is more important than my other activities.	26	32	28	12	1	0
41	I appreciate assistance from someone (friend, teacher, instructor) when learning.	21	57	16	4	0	1
42	I enjoy learning (anything, not just music) on my own.	27	51	15	4	0	2
43	When trying to learn something new, I soon give up if I am not initially successful.	1	5	22	48	23	1
44	Compared to my lifetime goals and what I had ideally hoped to become, I am very satisfied with my life.	25	49	17	6	1	2
45	Lack of initial success just makes me try harder.	17	55	23	4	0	1
46	This band is well-known in the community.	23	45	17	12	1	2
47	This band is well-respected in the community.	25	43	24	7	0	1
48	Social interaction with other musicians is important to me.	24	55	16	2	0	1
49	I am a valued member of this ensemble.	21	50	24	1	1	2

50	I have occasional disagreements with other members in this ensemble.	4	14	21	30	29	1
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PART III - All responses expressed as a percentage. Numbers may not total 100% due to rounding. "Other" refers to no response or answers not conforming to the format.

51	How long have you been playing your instrument?	1 yr. or less 1	2-4 yrs. 5	5-10 yrs. 13	11-20 yrs. 21	21+ yrs. 59	other 1
52	How much do you practice your instrument (outside of rehearsals)?	never 12	1x/wk. or less 29	2-3x/ wk. 28	3-4 x/ wk. 18	once a day or more 12	other 1
53	How long have you played in bands?	1 yr. or less 1	2-4 yrs. 9	5-10 yrs. 17	11-20 yrs. 23	21+ yrs. 49	other 0
54	How long have you played with this band?	1 yr. or less 15	2-4 yrs. 25	5-10 yrs. 24	11-20 yrs. 20	21+ yrs. 16	other 1
55	How often do you get together on an informal basis to make music with others?	never 36	1x/mo. or less 27	2-3x/ mo. 9	3-4 x/ mo. 4	once a week or more 24	other 1
56	How often do you hum or sing by yourself just for fun?	never 6	1x/wk. or less 11	2-3x/ wk. 11	3-4 x/ wk. 8	once a day or more 63	other 1
57	How often do you socialize with band members outside of rehearsals?	never 36	1x/mo. or less 32	2-3x/ mo. 9	3-4 x/ mo. 6	once a week or more 16	other 1
58	Approximately how many of your closest friends are in this band?	none 46	1-2 36	3-4 9	5-6 4	7+ 3	other 2
59	How far do you travel to participate in this band	under 1K 7	1-5K 28	5-10K 29	10-30K 24	over 30K 11	other 1
60	How many other music groups do you belong to?	none 35	1-2 41	3-4 16	5-6 5	7+ 1	other 1
61	How many groups do you belong to outside of music? (Examples include social clubs, recreational groups, professional organizations, service groups, etc.)	none 24	1-2 48	3-4 21	5-6 5	7+ 0	other 1
62	How much time would you estimate your band's librarian spends on his/her duties each month?	N/A 13	none 2	1-3 hours 32	3-5 hours 26	over 5 hours 24	other 3
63	How much time would you estimate your band's conductor spends preparing for each rehearsal?	none 1	less than 1 hour 23	1-2 hours 39	2-3 hours 15	over 3 hours 15	other 8
64	How many hobbies or other recreational pursuits do you have (other than playing your instrument)?	none 6	1-2 39	3-4 39	5-6 11	7+ 4	other 1
65	How many times per week do you get some form of physical exercise?	never 5	1x/wk. or less 18	2-3x/ wk. 29	3-4 x/ wk. 24	once a day or more 23	other 1
66	How often do experience colds, flus, etc.?	almost never	1-2x/ yr.	3-5x/ yr.	6-9 x/ yr.	more than 9x/ yr.	other

		42	44	11	2	0	1
67	I generally find the musical level of this band to be:	quite low 1	a little low 7	okay 35	high 44	very high 12	other 2
68	Relative to my abilities, this band is:		below my level 17	at my level 66	above my level 13	other 4	
69	How you would best describe your own musical activities? If none of these words fit, please include a word that you feel better describes your musical activities. actual mean adjusted mean (n=200)	hobby	recreation	leisure	lifelong learning	your choice of word	
		3.53 3.21	3.67 3.36	3.13 2.74	3.72 3.72	3.63 0.84	
70	What are your reasons for being in this ensemble. (Again: put down your own word if none of these adequately capture your reasons). actual mean adjusted mean (n=206)	the music	social/people in the group	the conductor	the convenience of time/location	your choice of word	
		4.45 4.45	3.39 2.91	3.17 2.69	2.53 2.11	4.36 1.25	
71	What are the most important attributes of a conductor? (And again: include your own attribute if it is not already in the list). actual mean adjusted mean (n=187)	communication with the ensemble	has high musical standards	chooses the right repertoire	personality	teaching/conducting ability	your choice of word
		3.14 3.10	2.95 2.82	2.50 2.31	3.15 2.95	3.74 3.74	3.50 0.19

Q69-Q71: many respondents did not answer these questions according to the instructions, resulting in a lower n. Values were calculated by transposing responses. I.e. the number of 1s were multiplied by 5, 2s by 4, etc.

The “actual mean” reflects the mean based on the number of responses per word. This number is helpful in comparing responses that include a write-in word (resulting in a 5 point rather than 4 point scale). The adjusted mean is helpful in demonstrating how many people choose to write in an own choice word (not many), as well as reflecting the relative weightings of responses.

Q69 own choice words included: fun/enjoyment (9), profession/professional/semi-pro (9), passion (7), work/challenge (6), relaxation/stress release (5), beauty/spiritual (4), service/giving (2), a calling (2)

Q70 own choice words included: opportunity to play (11), something to do (10), maintain (keep up playing) (8), improve/learn (7), love to play (5), invited to play (5), enjoyment (5), experience (4), family reason (4)

Q71 - only 10 write-in words proffered, two of which were "all of the above." Others were humour, integrity, knowledgeable, a leader, makes fun, musicality, prepared, and tolerant.

PART IV - Numbers may not total 100% due to rounding. "Other" refers to no response or answers not conforming to the format.

72 Circle the statement that best describes you:	a. I am in excellent overall health.	30	%
	b. I am in good general health.	55	%
	c. I experience occasional health problems.	12	%
	d. I experience many health problems.	1	%
	Other/no response	2	%
73 Circle the statement that best describes your health in the past six months:	a. My health has been improving.	9	%
	b. My health has been stable.	83	%
	c. My health has been getting worse.	4	%
	Other/no response	3	%
74 I feel _____ when I perform in front of family and friends. (Please fill in the blank - eg. "proud") (n=249)	good/great/happy/pleased/fine/fulfilled/satisfied/joy/accomplishment/okay/relaxed/content/comfortable	47	%
	proud/important	31	%
	nervous/pressure/scared/intimidated	10	%
	excited/fantastic/energized/confident/challenged	9	%
	self-conscious/shy/silly/awkward	3	%
75 I feel _____ when I perform for the community. (Please fill in the blank - eg. "proud") (n=249)	good/great/glad/happy/pleased/fulfilled/joy/content/accomplishment/wonderful/satisfied/okay/grateful	44	%
	proud/honoured/important/appreciated/useful/special	41	%
	excited/energized/exhilarated/ invigorated	8	%
	nervous	7	%
76 What is your instrument?		%	%
	flute	12	trumpet/cornet 15
	clarinet	20	trombone 10
	oboe	3	euphonium 5
	bassoon	1	tuba 4
	saxophone	9	percussion 4
	french horn	6	other 1
			no response 8

77 Please list your three favourite styles of music:

	%		%
classical (all genres)	27.9	blues	1.3
pop/rock	14.8	Latin	1.2
jazz	10.5	religious/sacred	1.2
Broadway/show/film	8.6	Dixie	1.0
band/brass band/military	6.9	modern *	1.0
big band/ swing	5.2	all styles	0.8
folk	1.8	other **	4.6
funk/R&B/soul/reggae	1.8	no response	11.4

* it was not exactly clear what was meant by "modern"
 ** "other" included: Balkan, Ballad, country, crooners, French, instrumental, international, world, Mexican, honky tonk, Spanish, techno, oldies, waltzes

78 Why did you choose to involve yourself with a community band? (use the back of the page if necessary)

love of music/playing	28.4	%
maintain/improve playing	14.4	%
hobby/recreation/activity/(use of time)	10.4	%
enjoyment/fun	8.3	%
recommendation/invitation	7.2	%
lifelong involvement	5.4	%
family/friends/(social)	4.3	%
stress relief/relaxation	2.9	%
community service	2.5	%
resume playing	2.5	%
professionally related	1.8	%
to learn to play	1.4	%
musical level of group	1.1	%
no response	9.3	%

79 Please list your primary reason(s) for joining this particular group:

musical reasons (music, playing, learning, improving, maintaining, repertoire) and fun/enjoyment	23.6	%
convenience (location, time, cost, etc.)	20.0	%
social: family, friends, people	15.5	%
nature of the group (accepting, high skill level, reputation)	15.5	%
good use of time: opportunity/activity/relaxation/invitation	15.3	%
the conductor	5.9	%
civic/community	1.4	
longevity (always done it)	1.8	%
other	0.9	

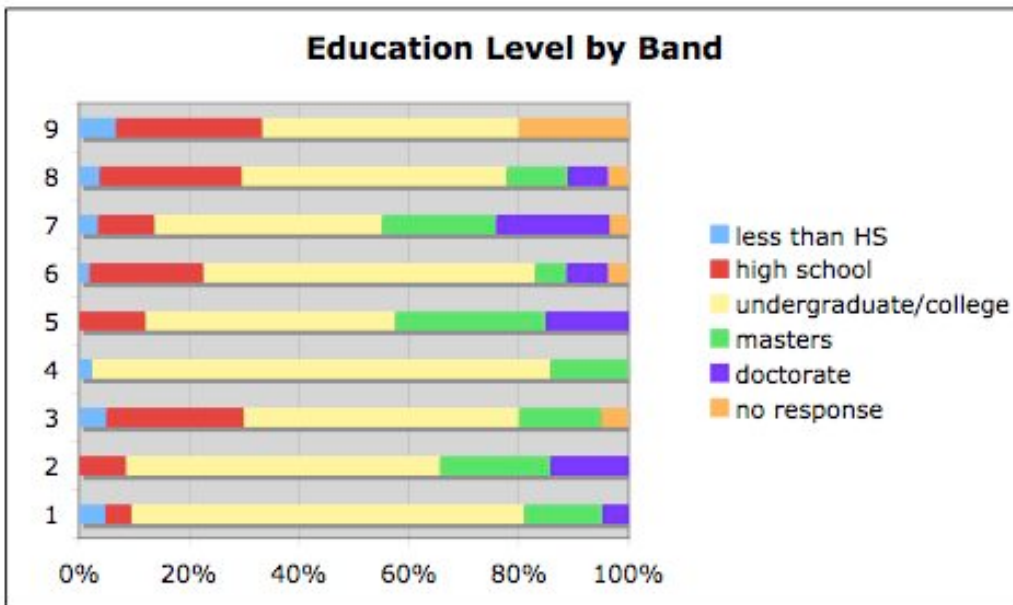
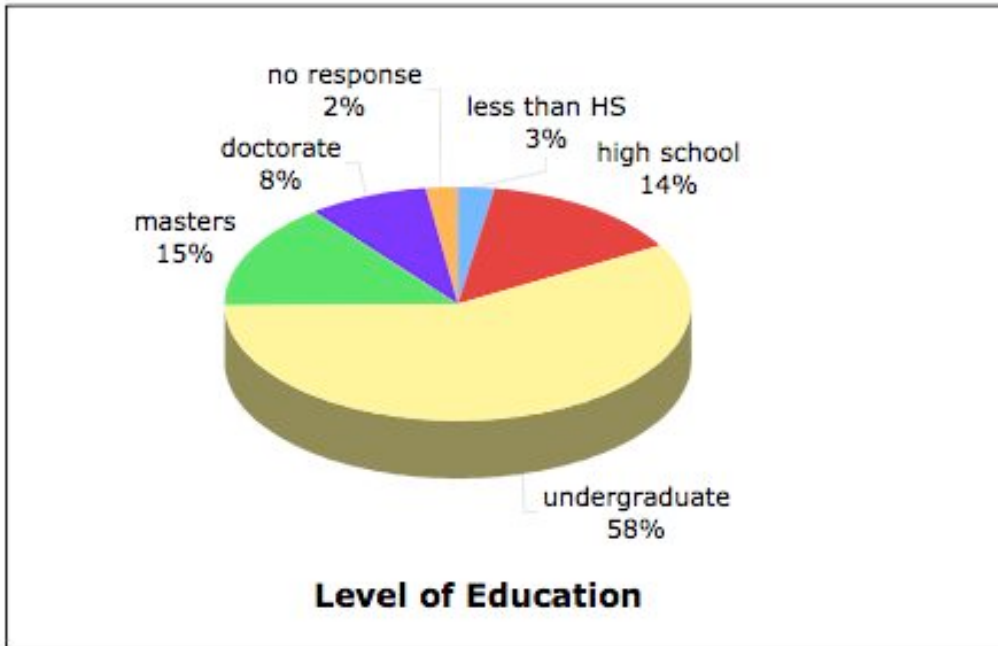
80 Please describe your most memorable experience with this group: (use the back of the page if necessary)	performance-related (memorable performance, guest conductor, recording CD)	43.0	%
	personal achievements (playing a solo, receiving awards)	9.6	%
	other	7.8	%
	none	5.6	%
	playing for others	5.2	%
	rehearsals/learning	2.6	%
	conductor-related	1.9	%
	no response	24.4	%
81 Please describe your most memorable set-back or negative experience with this group? (use the back of the page if necessary)	none	19.9	%
	other	13.2	%
	interpersonal conflict	10.7	%
	personal performance/limitations	9.9	%
	negative experience w/ conductor	9.2	%
	performance: group	5.9	%
	loss of conductor	2.9	%
	lack of members	2.9	%
no response	25.4	%	
82 Please list the three most important things you have learned through your involvement with bands:	musical/learning related	36.5	%
	interpersonal: teamwork/cooperation/tolerance/patience/respect, etc.	31.3	%
	"character": work/effort/self-discipline, commitment, etc.	16.7	%
	good use of time: fun/enjoyment/learning, etc.	8.0	%
	appreciation of music (variety)	3.7	%
	other	3.8	%

83 Please list three things that would make the community band experience better for you. (use the back of the page if necessary)

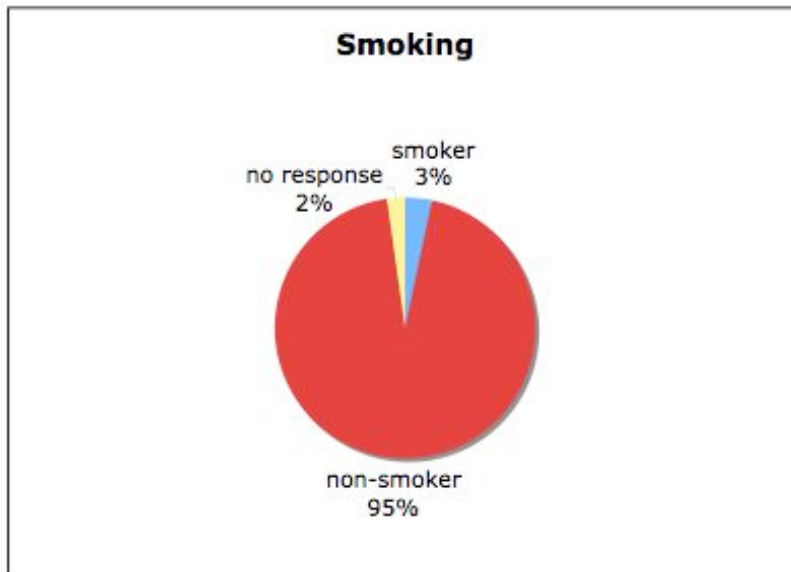
performance issues (tuning, dynamics, playing standards, etc.) *more rehearsals/higher standards	27.0	%
interpersonal/membership/organizational issues	22.6	%
music/repertoire	15.5	%
convenience (commute, fees, facilities, scheduling, etc.)	11.0	%
more performances	8.9	%
community awareness/support	6.6	%
nothing	6.0	%
other	2.4	%

PART V - Numbers may not total 100% due to rounding. Please note that in order to protect the anonymity of ensembles, bar graph representation has been randomized. That is, band #5 in one graph is not the same as band #5 in another graph. To further protect anonymity, bar graph representation is reported in terms of percentage as opposed to a numerical tally.

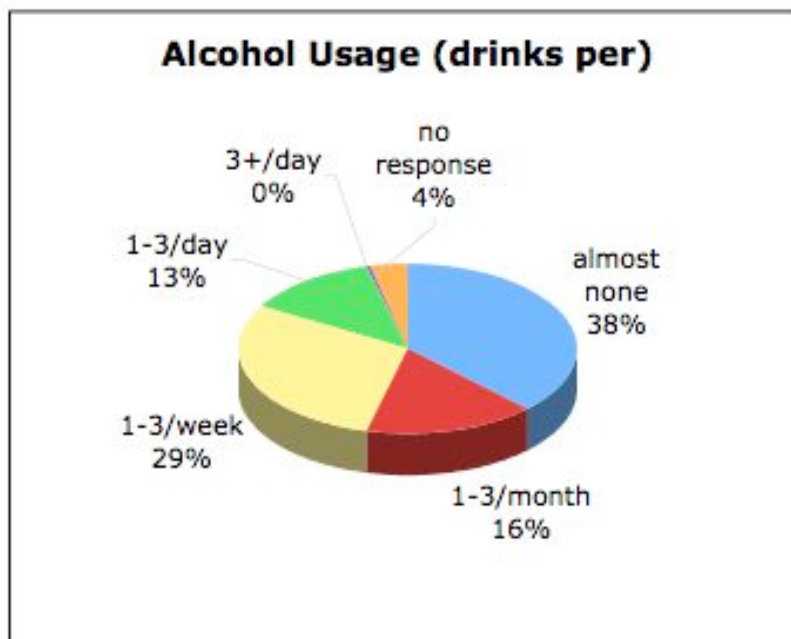
84. What is your highest level of education?



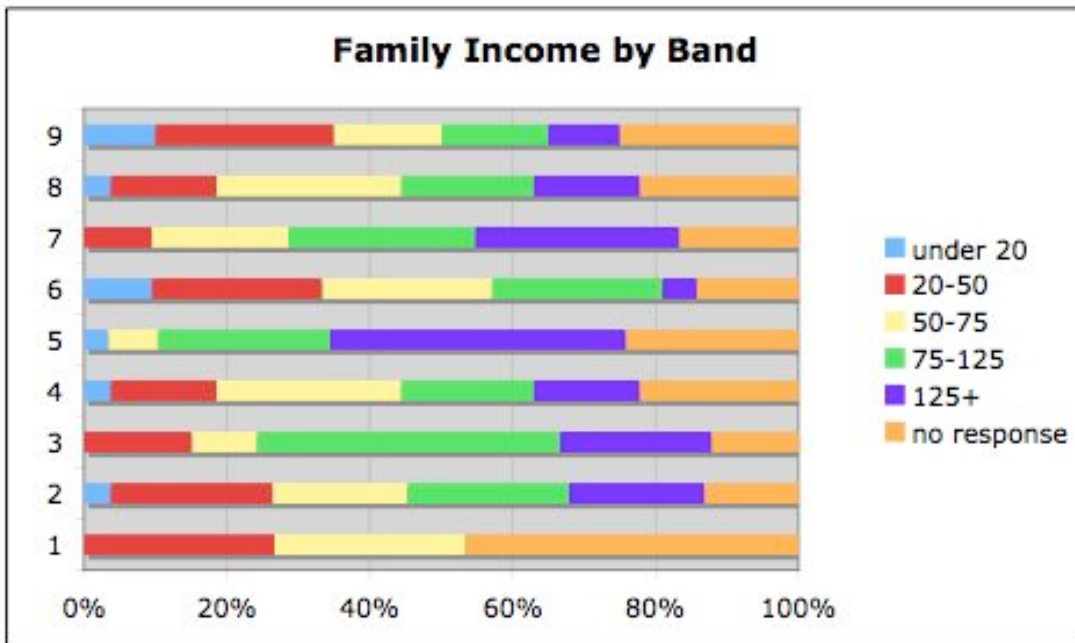
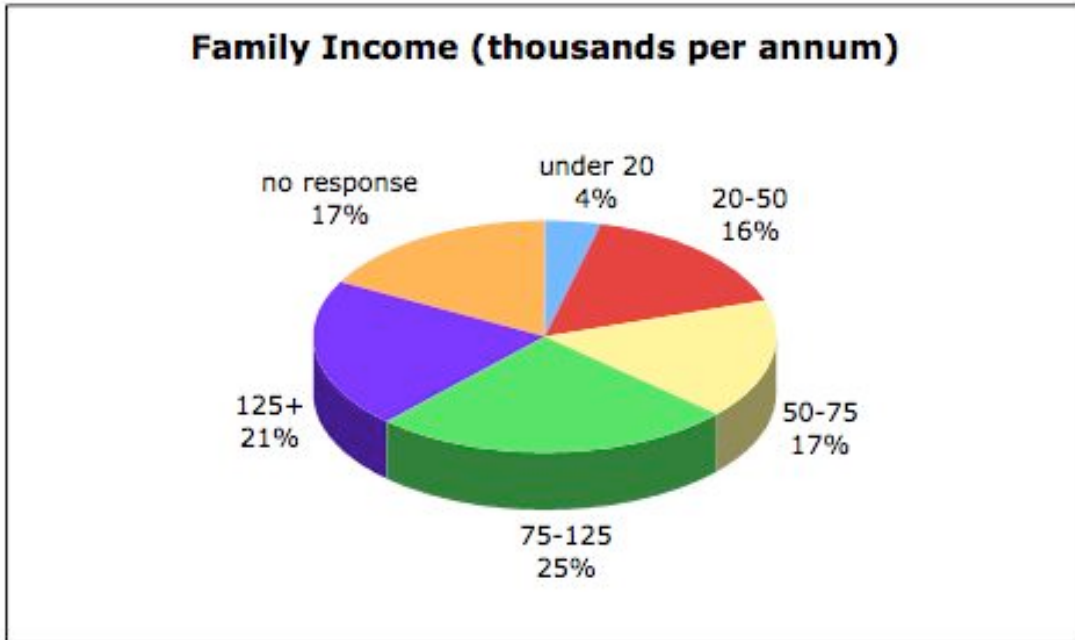
85. Are you a smoker?



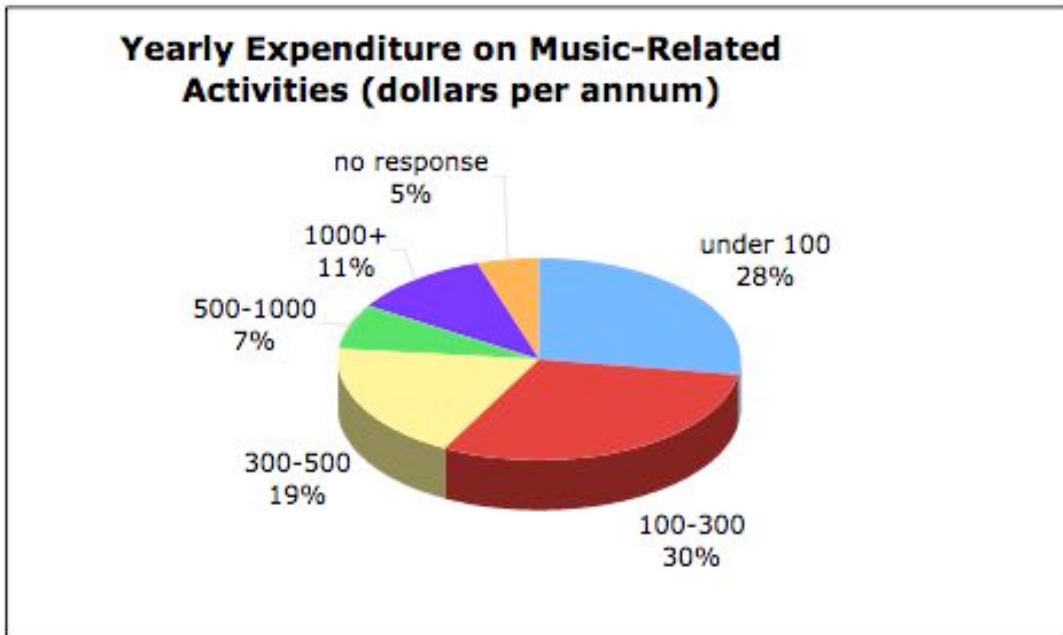
86. How many alcoholic beverages do you usually consume on average?



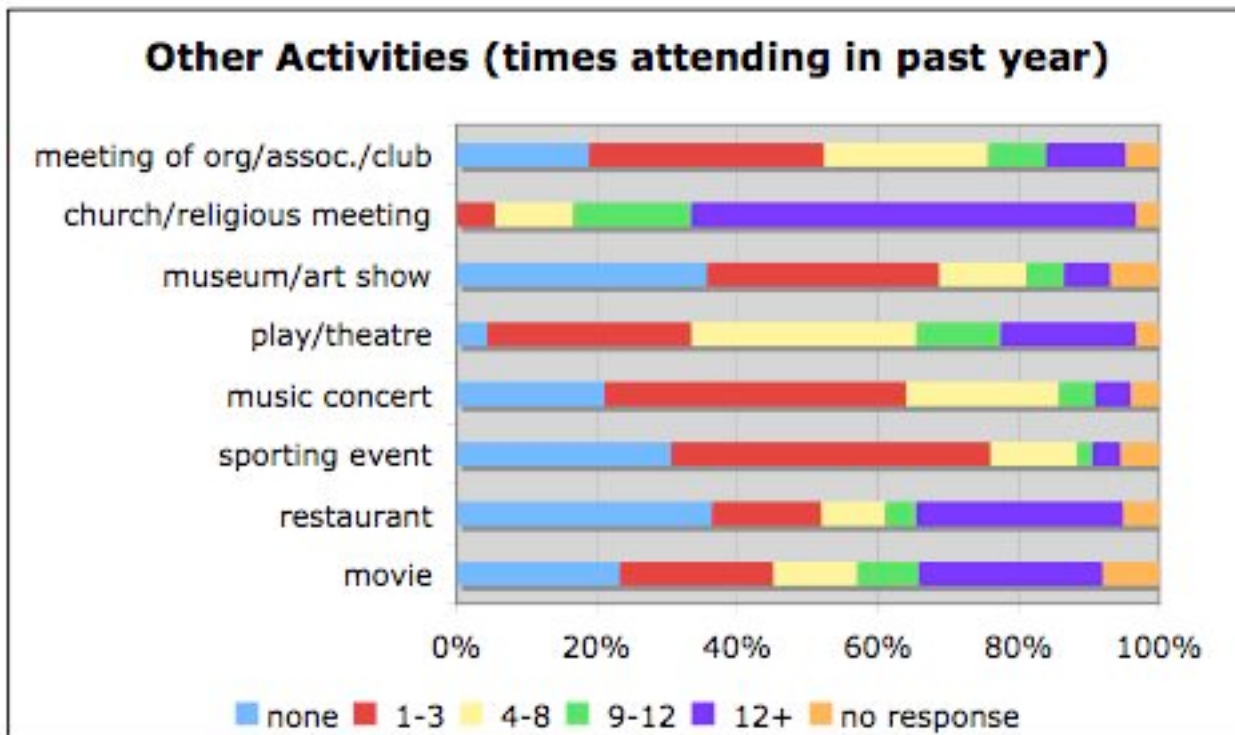
87. What is your family income?



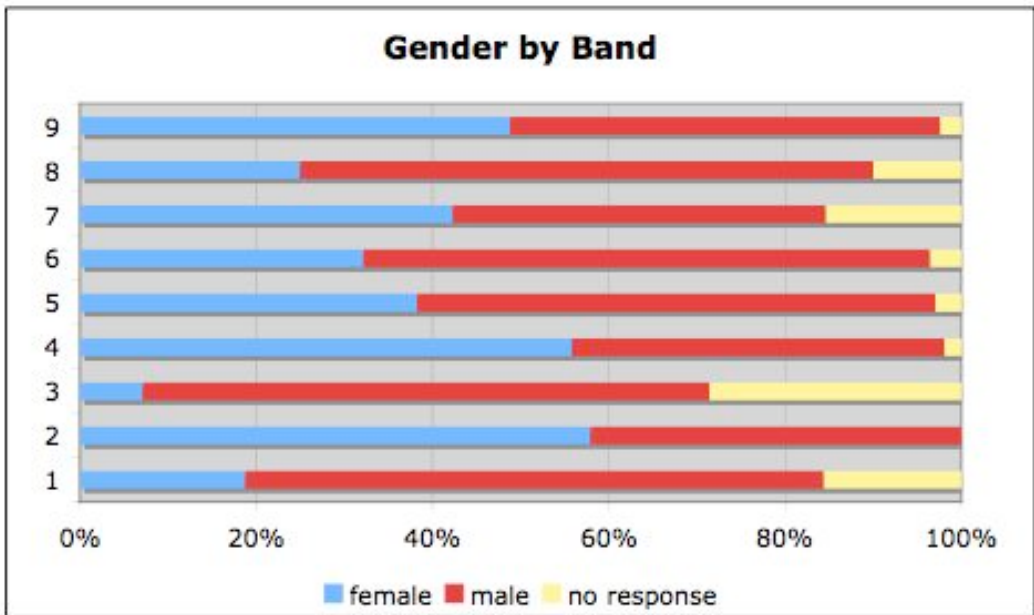
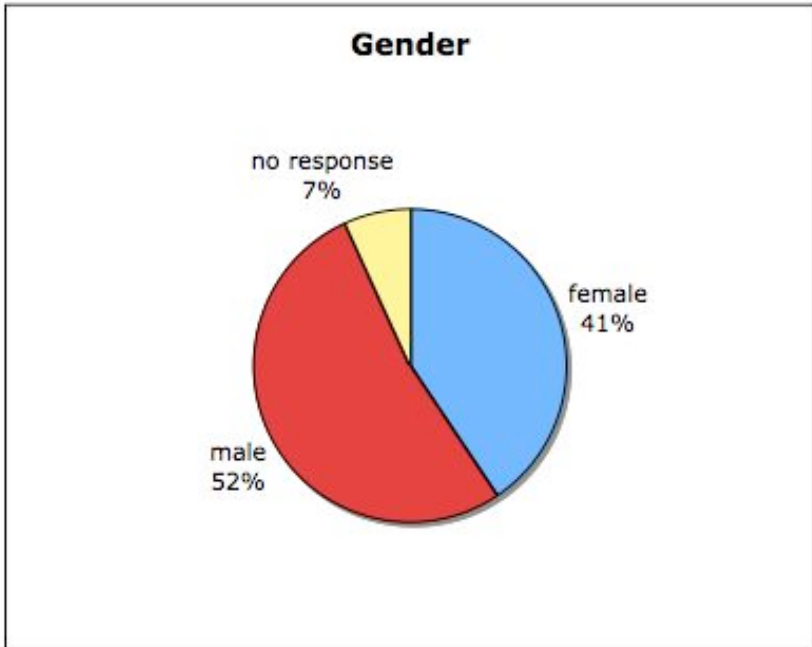
88. What is your estimated yearly expenditure on music and music-related activities (excluding your instrument)?



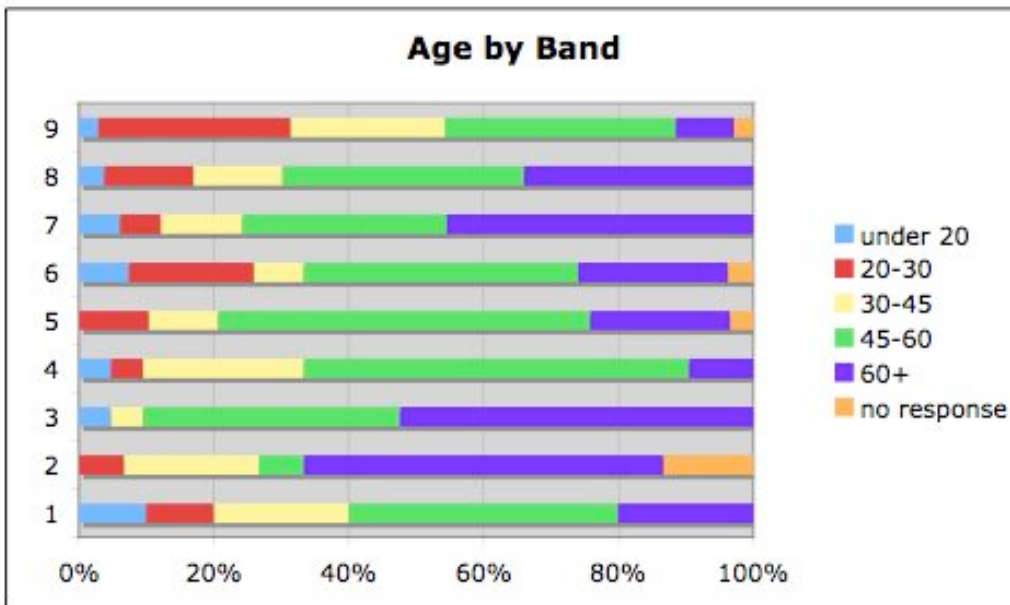
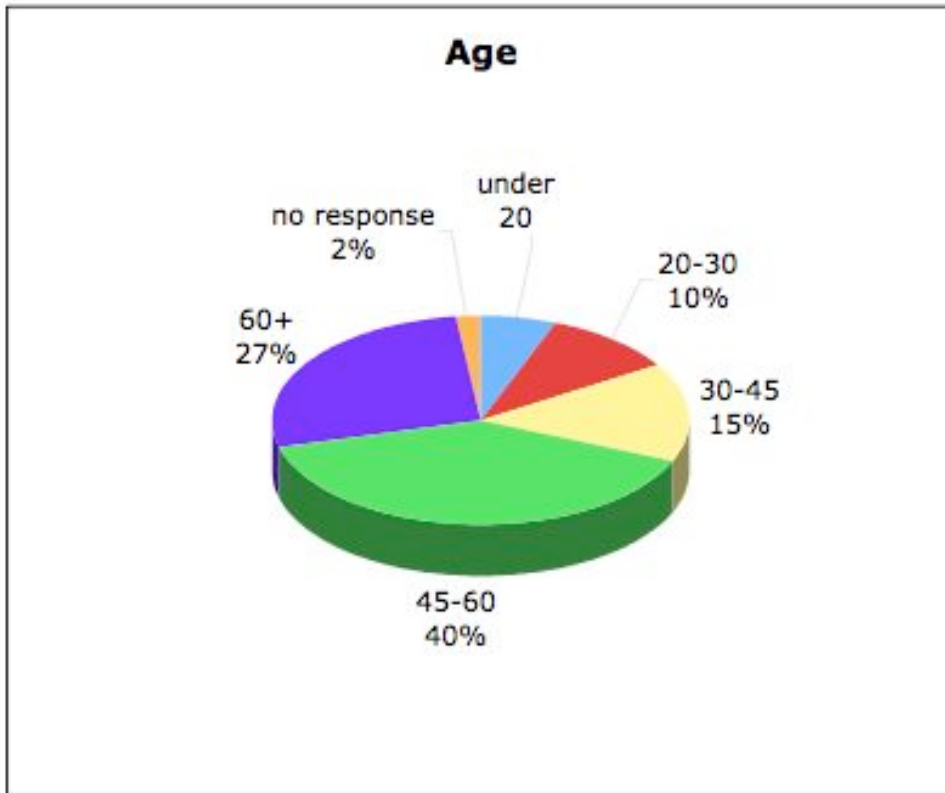
89. During the past year, how many times did you go to a:



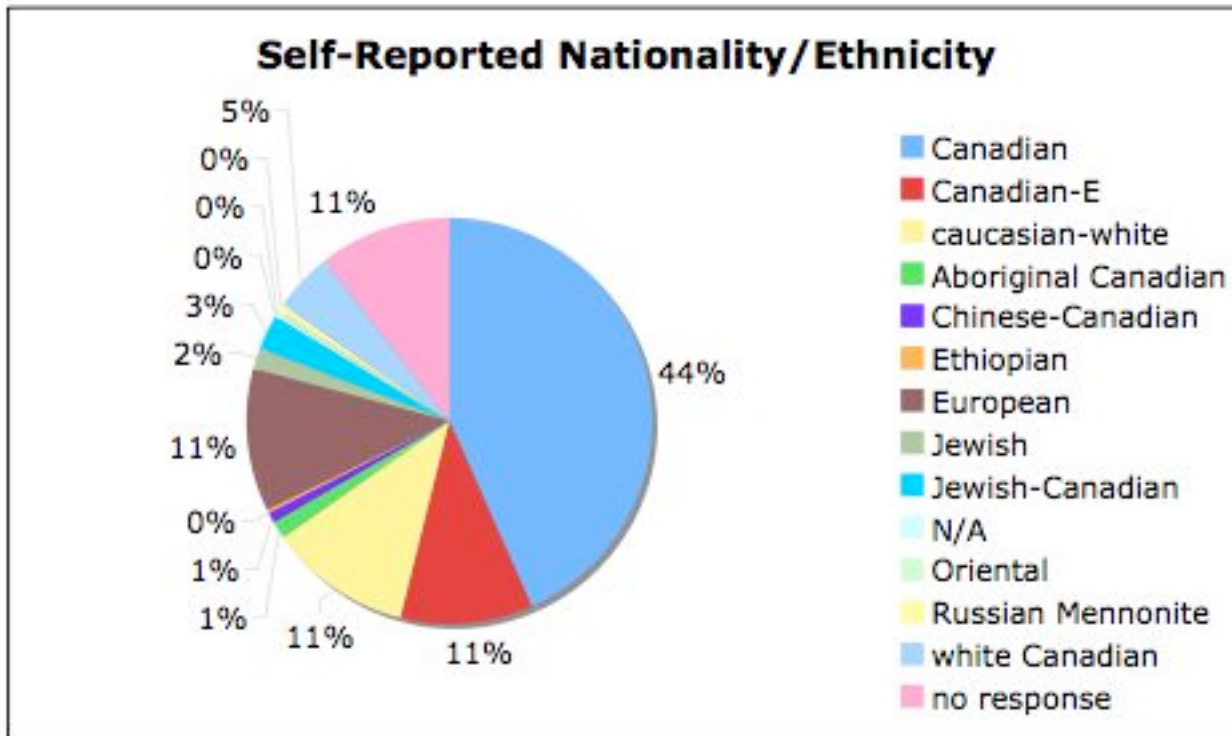
90. Gender



91. Age

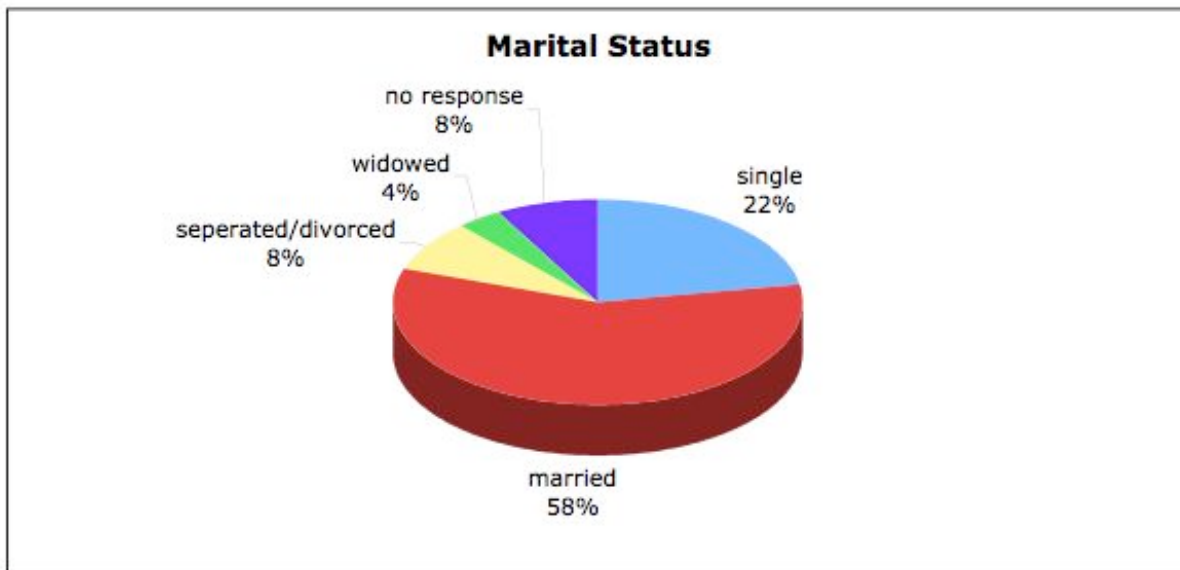


92. What is your self-described nationality/ethnicity?

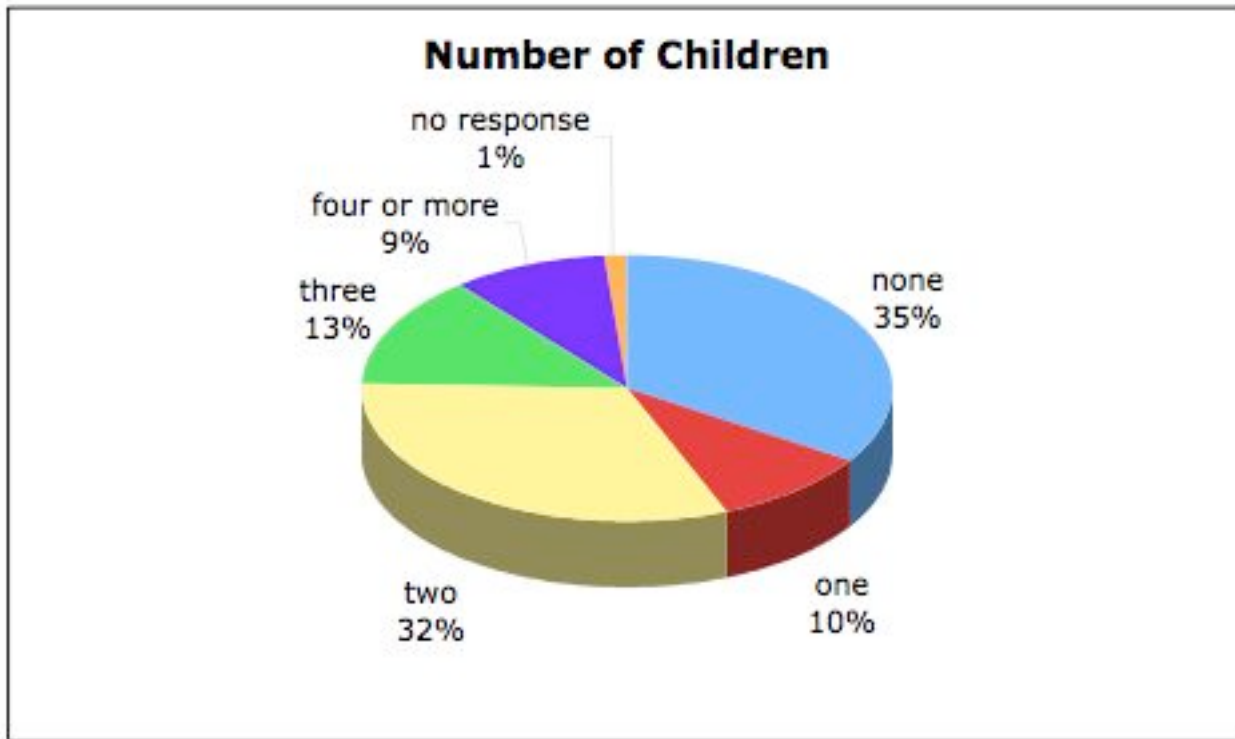


* Canadian-E is Canadian hyphenated with a European country, an overwhelming majority of which were northern and western European. It is unclear why so many responses indicated “white Canadian.”

93. What is your marital status?



94. How many children do you have?



95. If you have children, do any of them play instruments?

68% YES

32% NO