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Firearm Injury Prevention through Design and Delivery of a Gun Lock Distribution

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BACKGROUND

- Approximately **half** of U.S. gun owners do not safely store guns.¹
- Approximately one half of unintentional firearm injury deaths among children and adolescents **occurred at their home.**²

OBJECTIVES

- The objectives of this proposed study are:
 - Create a temporary gun lock distribution program
 - Determine if community members are interested and informed about firearm safety
 - Provide a way to decrease chances of accidental firearm injury

METHODS

Develop

Collect

Analyze

- Conduct a literature review regarding gun locks and gun screenings to families in hospitals across the U.S.
- Provide free gun locks at community festival in Southside Bethlehem and offer optional survey to those who obtained one
- Describe reactions from community members and how they want LVHN to be more involved in providing future information on firearm safety

RESULTS

Figure 1: Planned Usage of Gun Lock

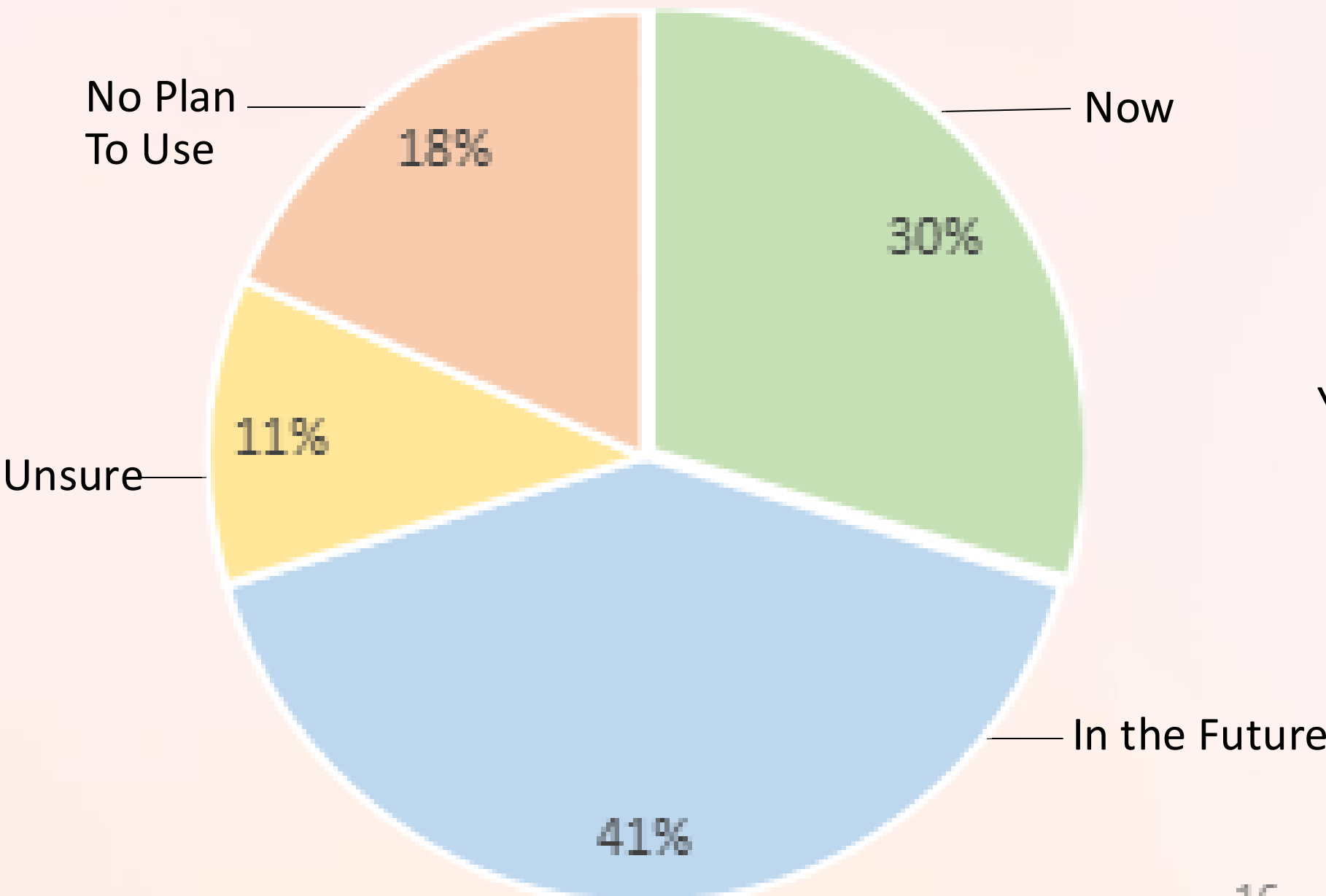


Figure 2: Plan to Give Away

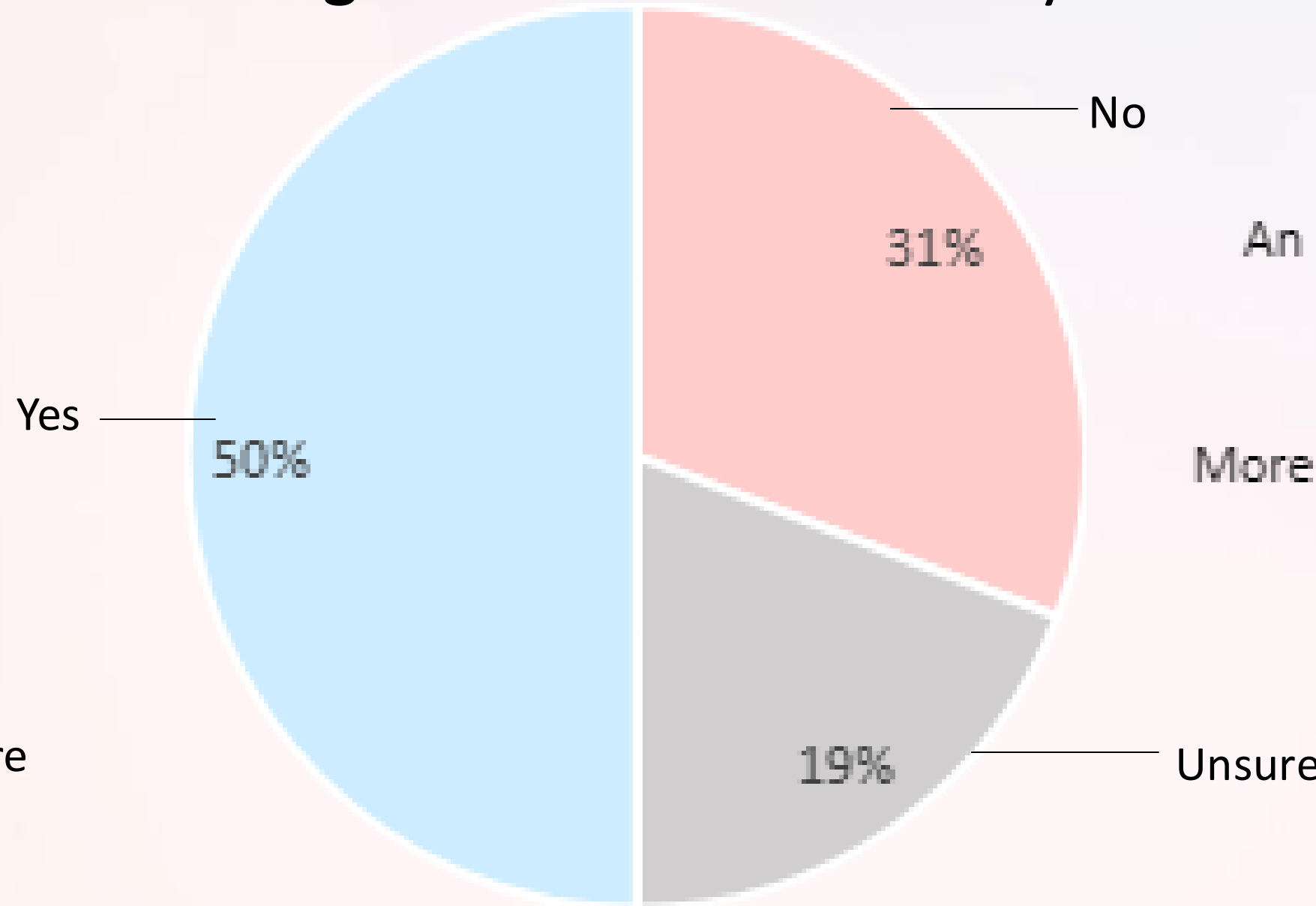


Figure 4: Participants' Confidence in Firearm Safety Knowledge

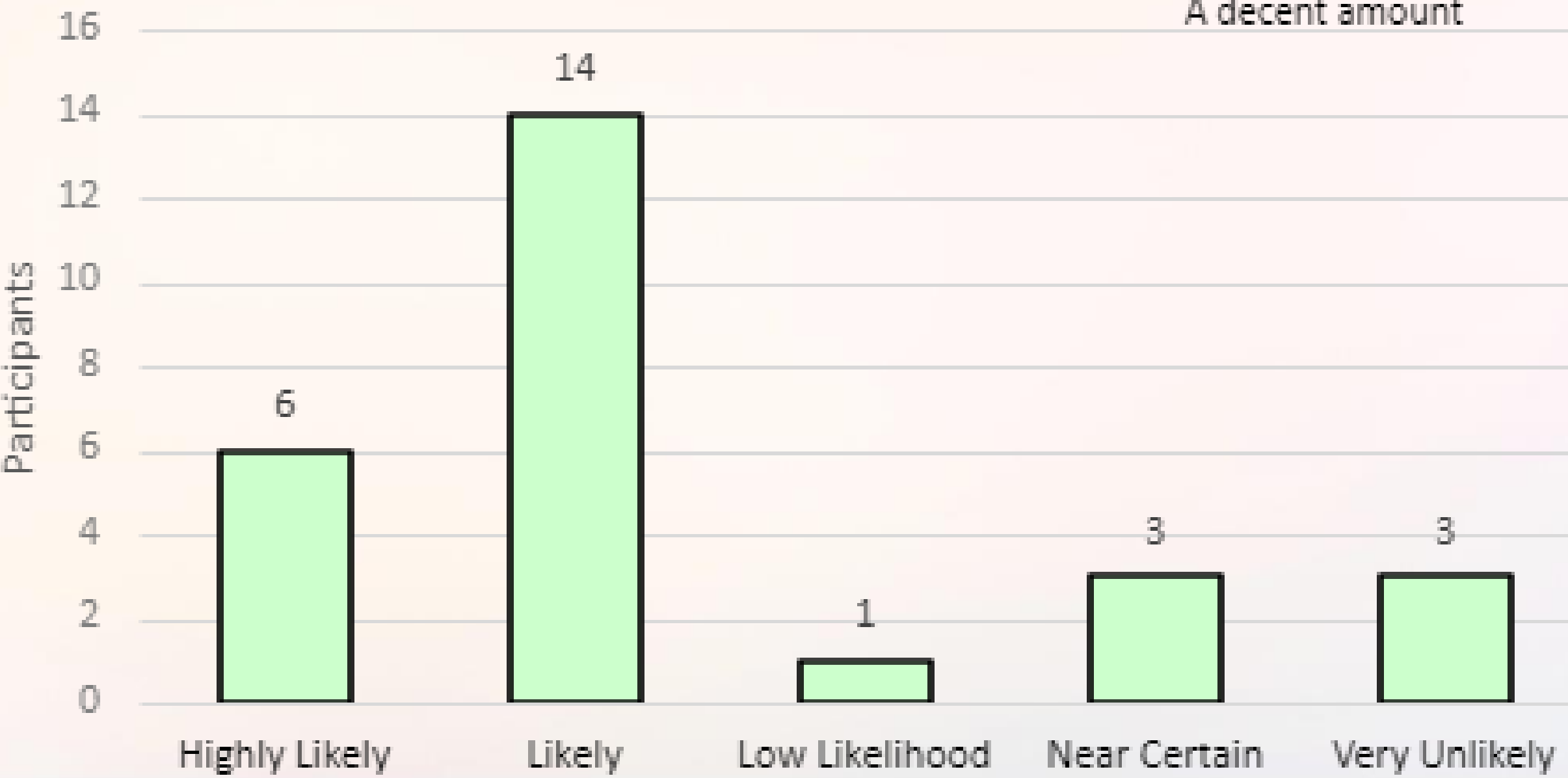


Figure 5: Participants' Likelihood of Referring to Handouts Provided

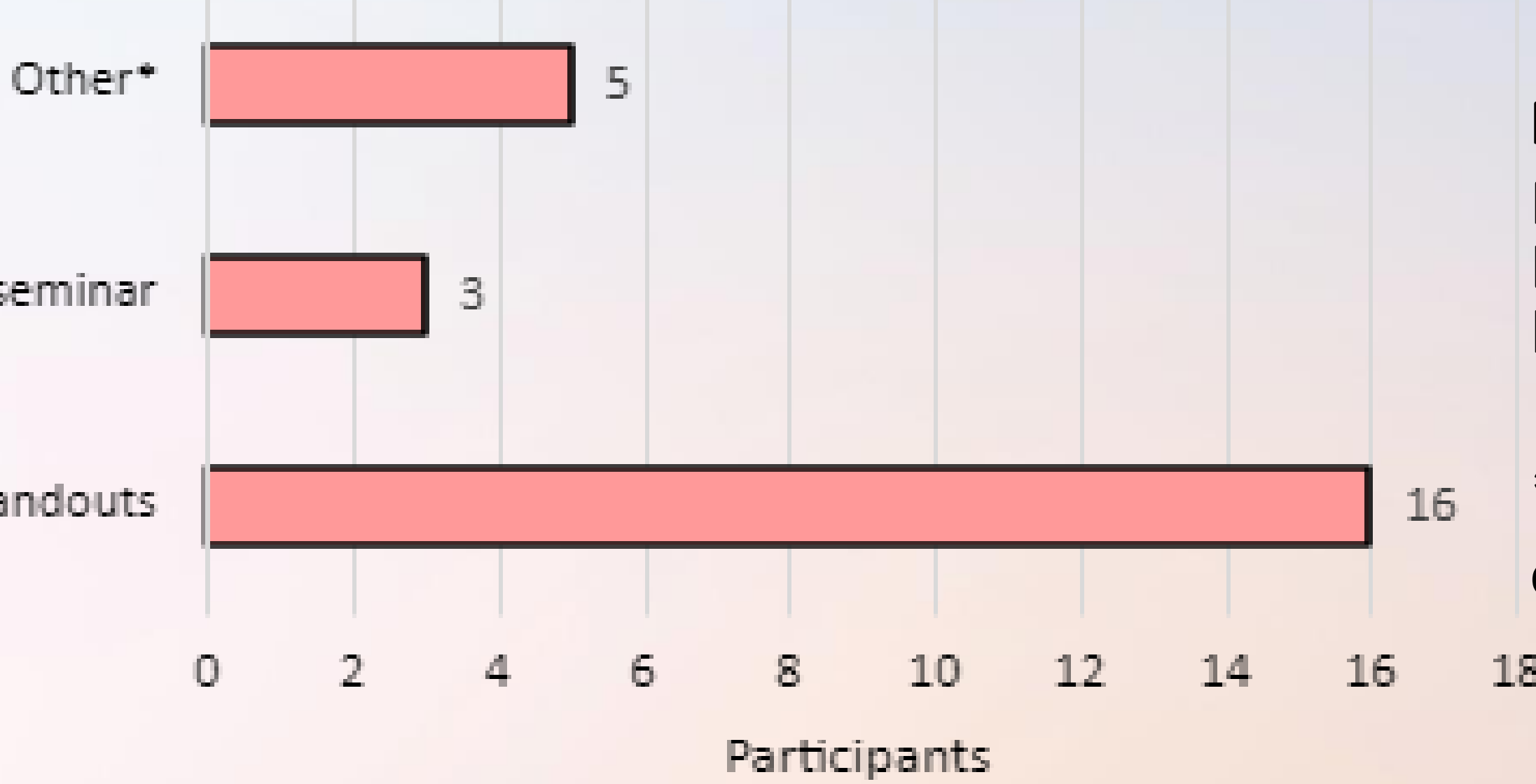
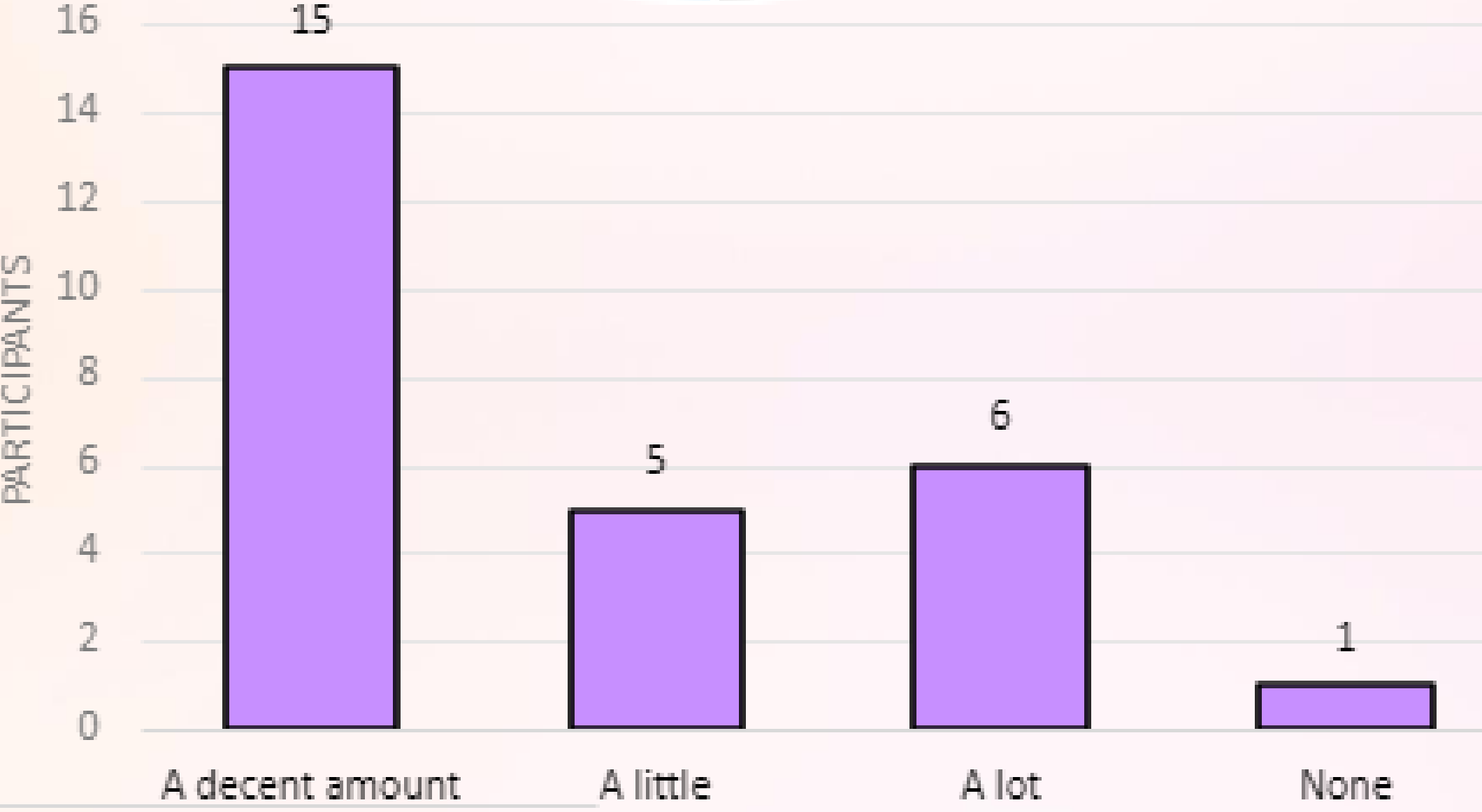


Figure 3: Participants Preferred Way of LVHN Providing More Information

*Those who selected other did not specify

CONCLUSION

- Out of **1,002 gun locks**, **739** were taken
- **27 attendees** participated in survey
- Those open to discussing gun violence were directly affected by it
- Many took a lock even if they openly admitted to not owning a firearm nor knowing someone who does

FUTURE STEPS

- Healthcare providers are in a special position to conduct gun screenings and provide gun locks during visits to help inform families before injury can take place
- A **permanent gun lock distribution program** should be put in place at Lehigh Valley Health Network

References:

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2. Wilson RF, Mintz S, Blair JM, Betz CJ, Collier A, Fowler KA. Unintentional Firearm Injury Deaths Among Children and Adolescents Aged 0–17 Years — National Violent Death Reporting System, United States, 2003–2021. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2023;72:1338–1345. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7250a1>.



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