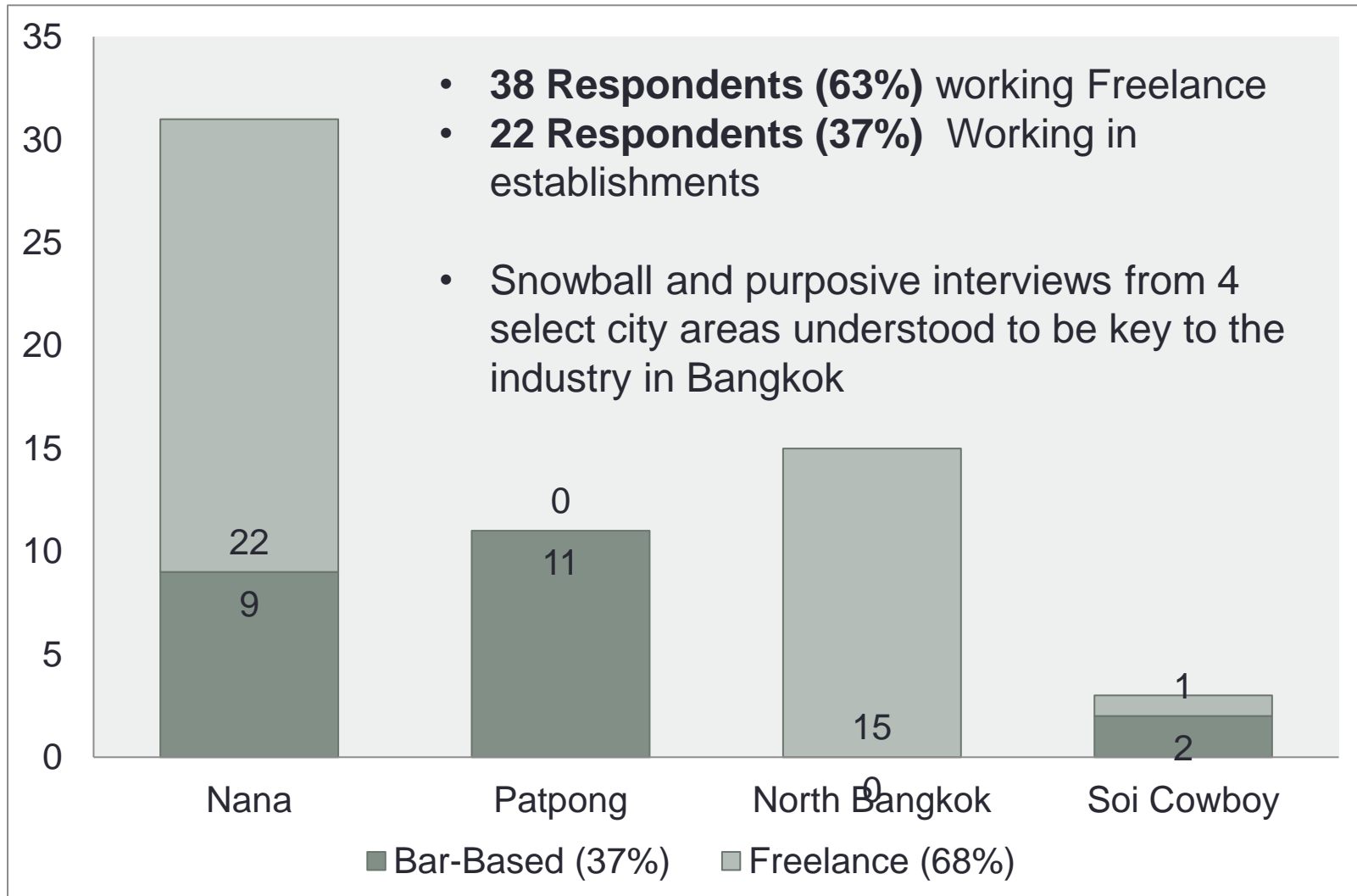


INITIAL FINDINGS

A Baseline Study on the Vulnerabilities and Resiliencies of Ladyboys in the Bangkok Sex Industry



SAMPLING



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Biological male at birth
- Self-identified as female or ladyboy
- Reporting to have been paid to have sex within the past month
- Able and willing to give informed consent to participate in the study

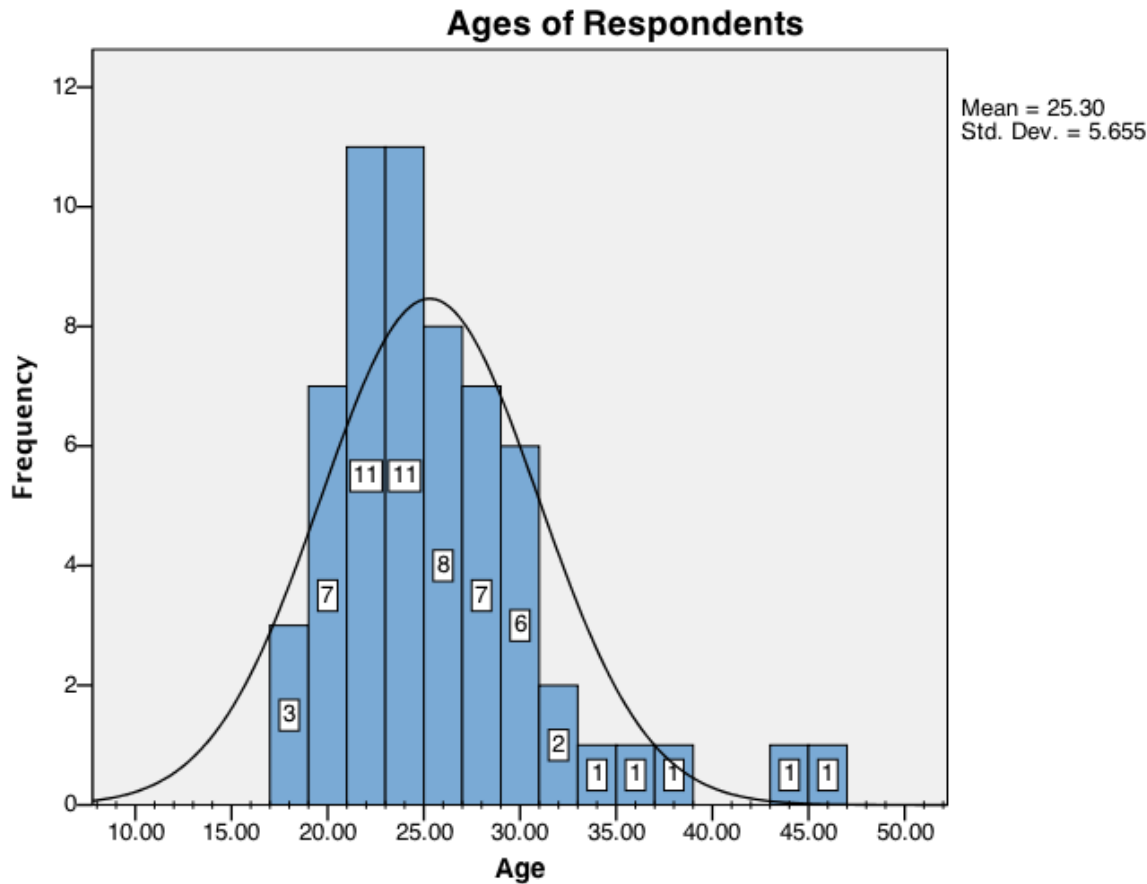
ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Interviewers/Field Researchers were trained using UNIAP Ethical Guidelines for Human Trafficking Research
- References for Sexual Health, Counseling Services, and Legal Aid were made available
- Respondents could choose to skip any question or stop the interview at any time

“Thank you so much for listening because some stories I can't tell anyone, even my friends.”

– Patpong, 22 years old

DEMOGRAPHICS

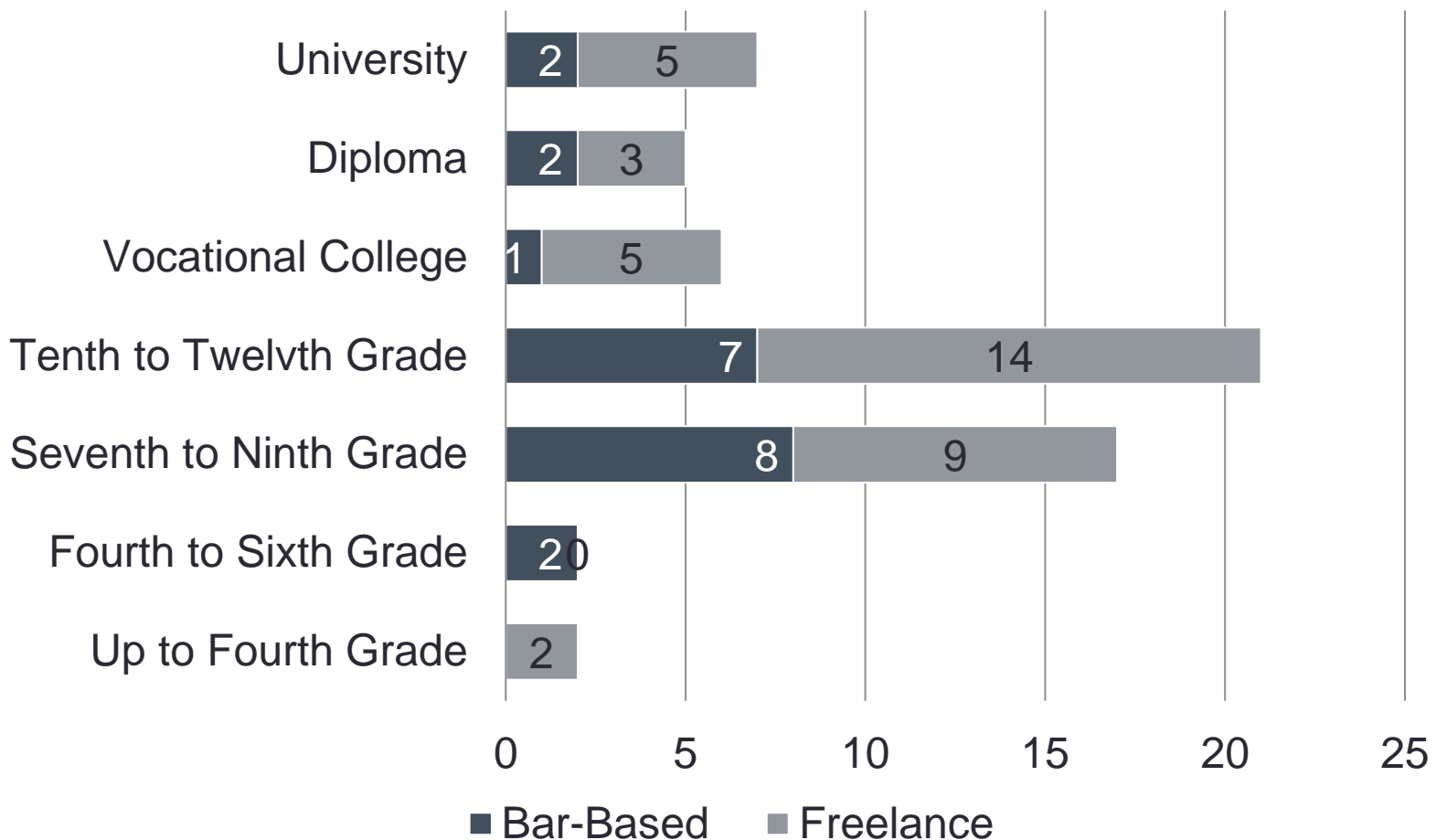


- RANGE: 28 years (18-46 years old)
- 53% fall within the UN Definition of youth (15-24 years old)
- 56% of those falling within this range worked as freelance sex workers.

DEMOGRAPHICS

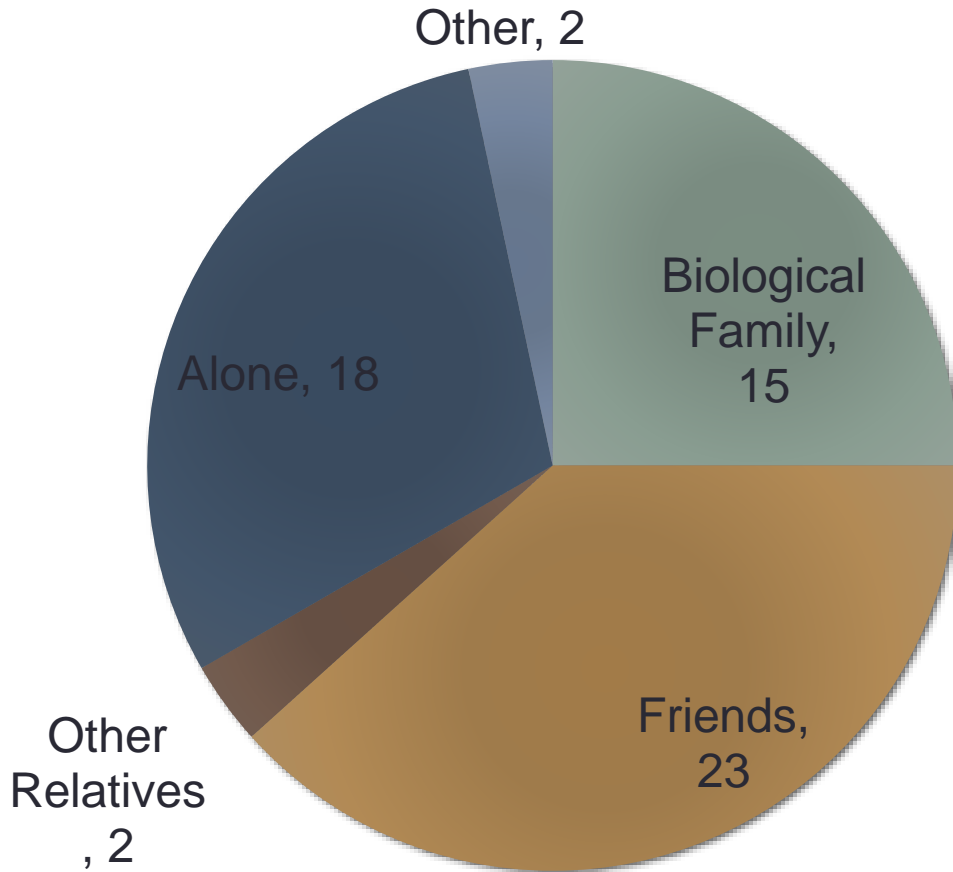
38 Respondents (63%) working Freelance
22 Respondents (37%) Working in establishments

Educational Attainment



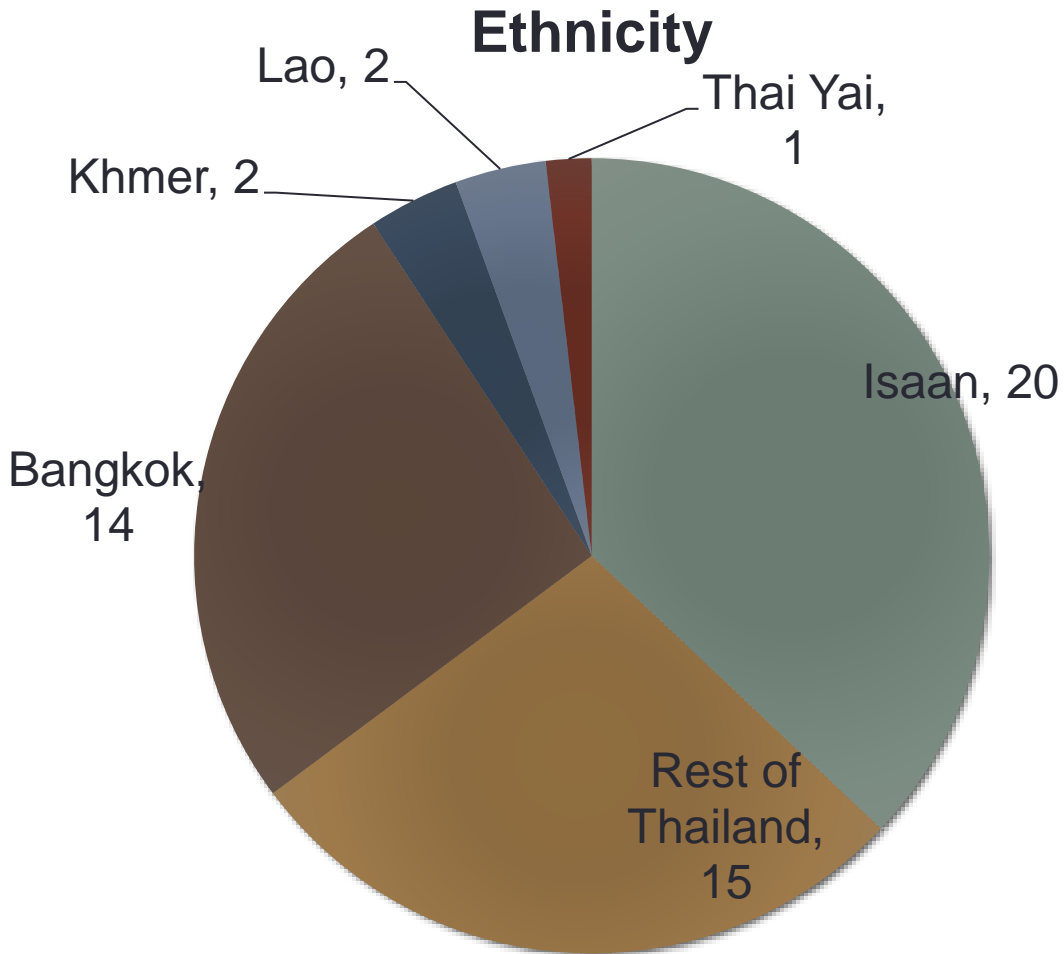
DEMOGRAPHICS

Living Arrangements



- Half (49%) have moved to Bangkok within the past 6 years.
- 23% have moved within the past 3 years.

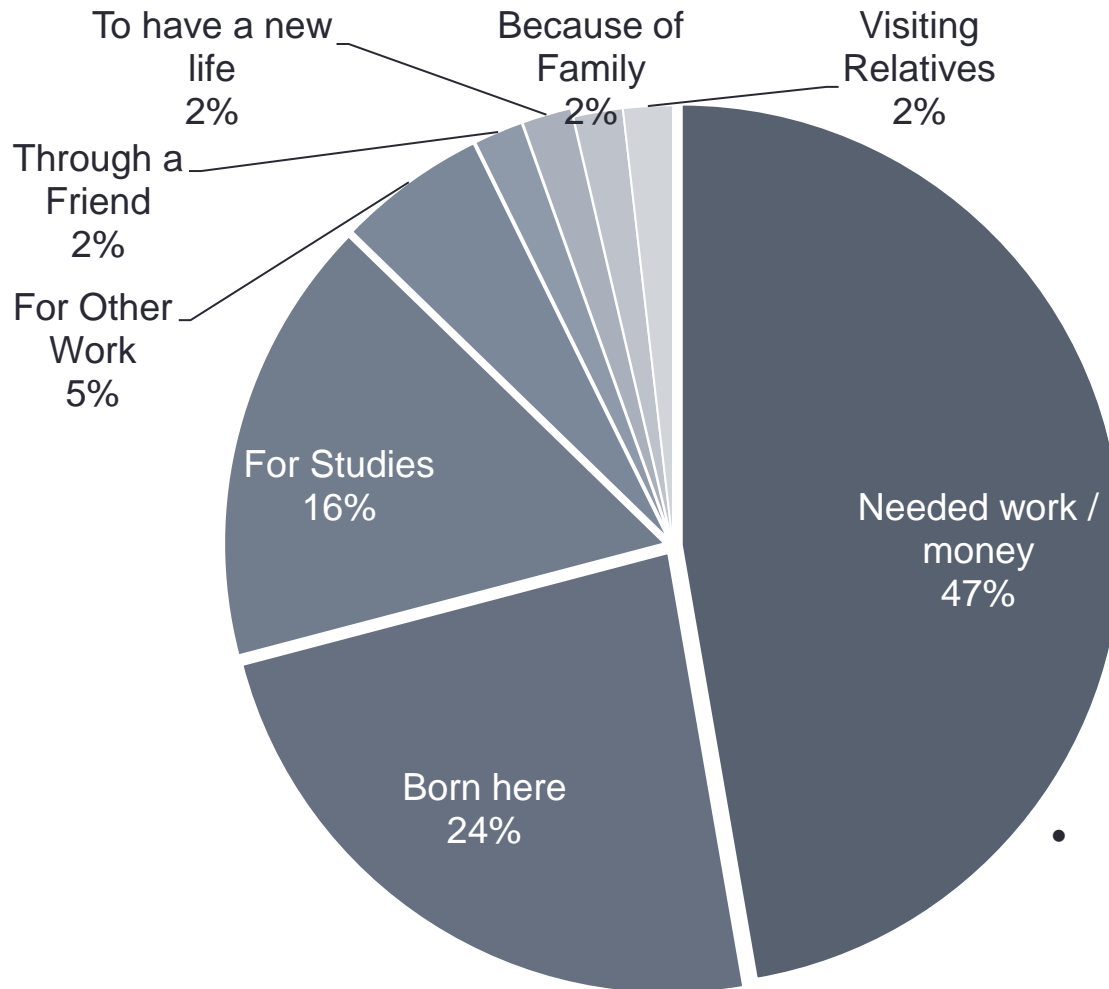
DEMOGRAPHICS



- Could there be an increase in ethnic minorities over the next few years with changes in policy and ASEAN agreements?
- Cambodia: Thai Influences on transgender community

MIGRATION

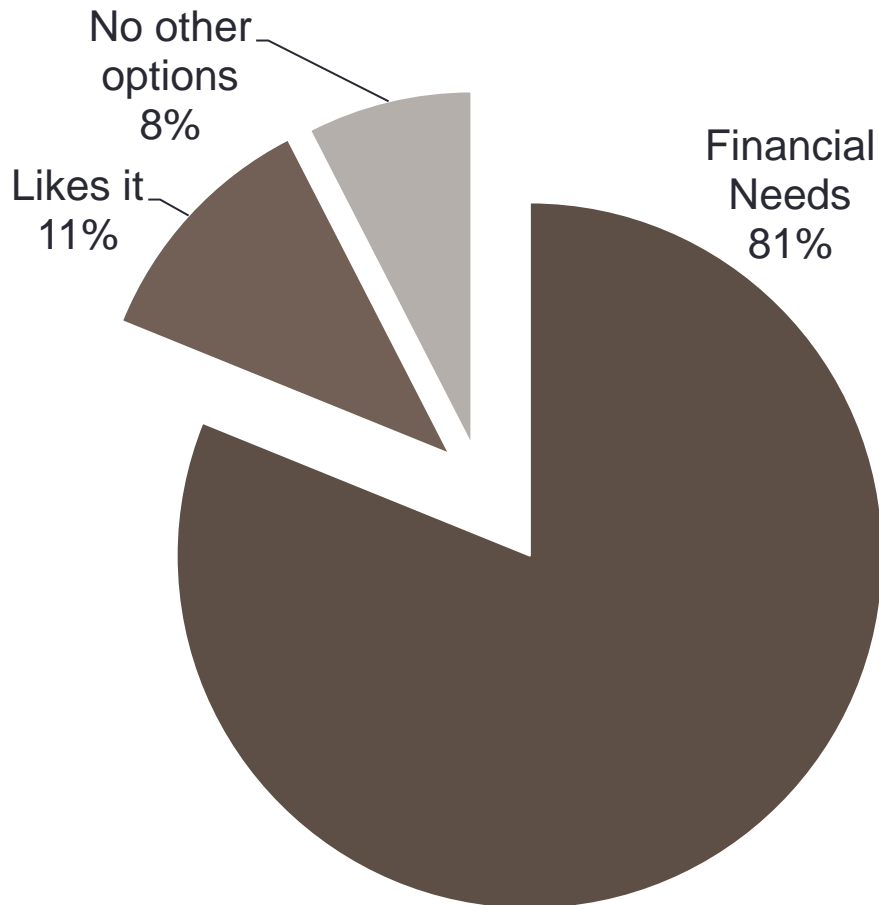
What Brought You to Bangkok? (Open ended question)



- 4 specifically mention migrating to escape problems at home.

ENTRANCE INTO THE INDUSTRY

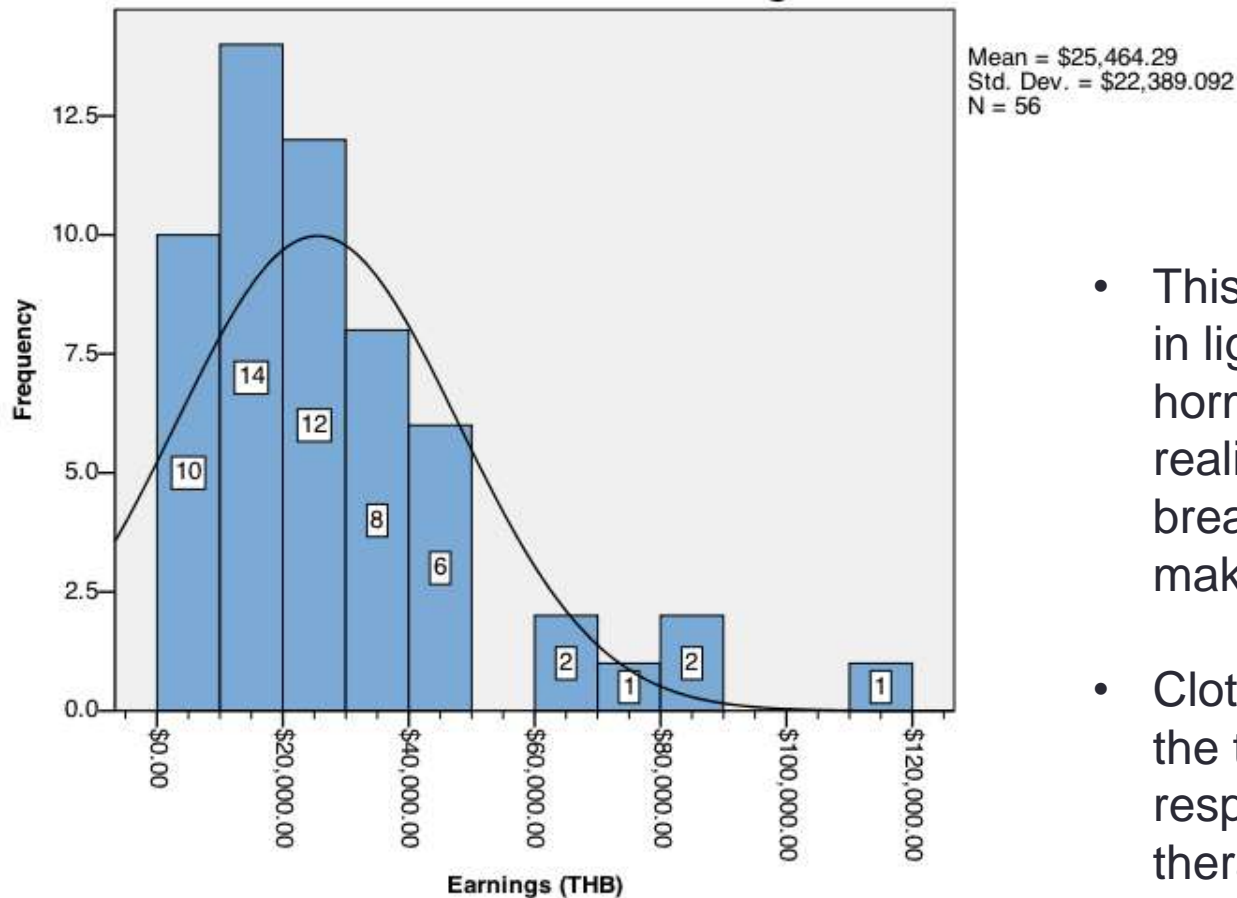
Why the Entertainment Industry? (Open ended question)



- **82%** state that they were introduced to the industry by a friend
- **14%** state that they came by themselves
- **34%** state entering because they perceived it to be “easy money”
- Other answers include: dressing as a woman, having a boyfriend, getting education, finding a supporter, gaining independence."

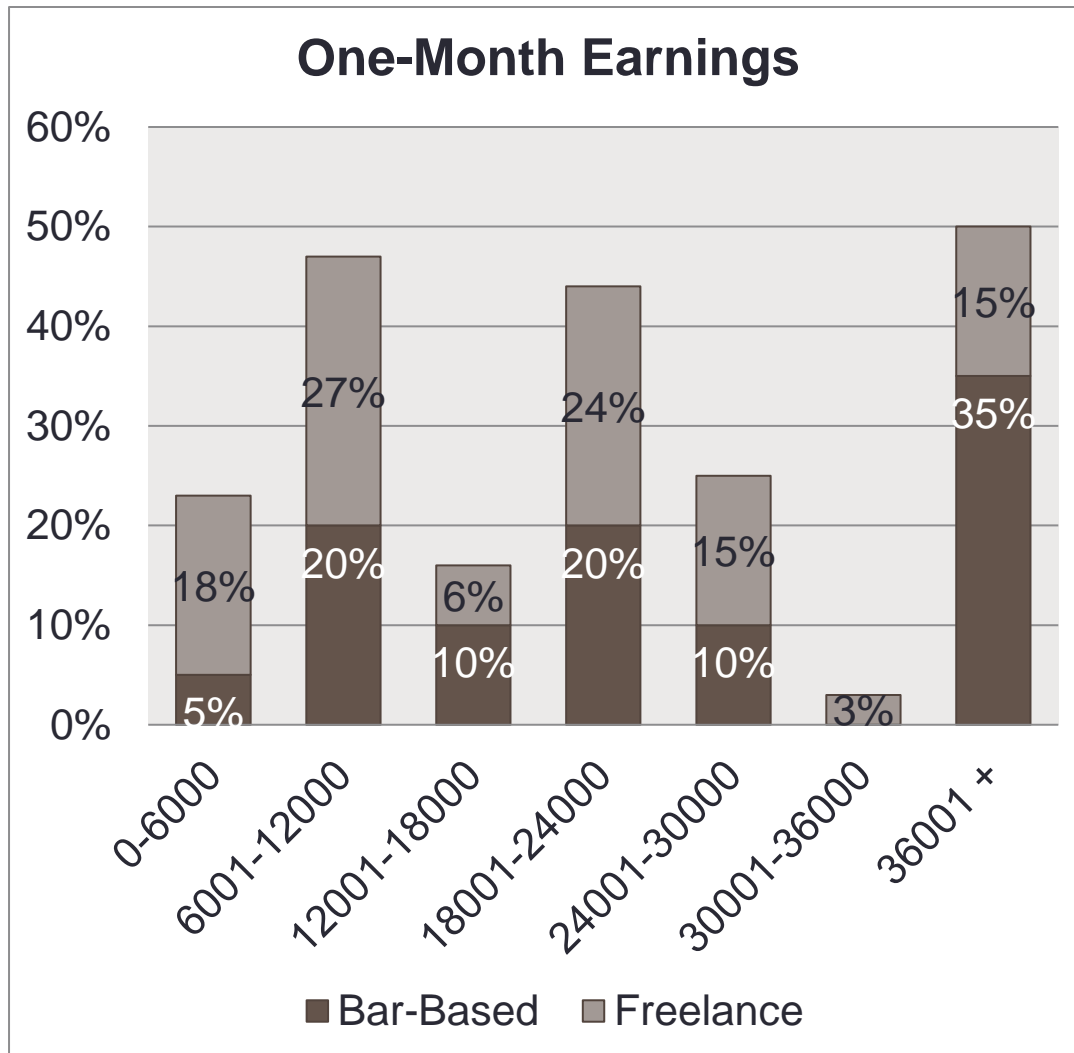
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

One Month Earnings



- Freelance Mean: 22,139 Baht / month
- Bar-Based Mean: 31,450 Baht / month
- This needs to be considered in light of the costs of hormone therapy, gender realignment surgeries (60K), breast implants (40K), makeup, clothes, hair, etc.
- Clothes and makeup listed in the top 5 monthly expenses of respondents. Hormone therapy also listed for some.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS



- Three in four (78%) state that sex work is their primary employment.
- 60% State that it is their sole employment.

38 Respondents (63%) working Freelance

22 Respondents (37%) Working in establishments

“So-So. I feel bad about this job. But, I have to do it because I have to take care of my family and myself. It is very easy to get money in this job.”

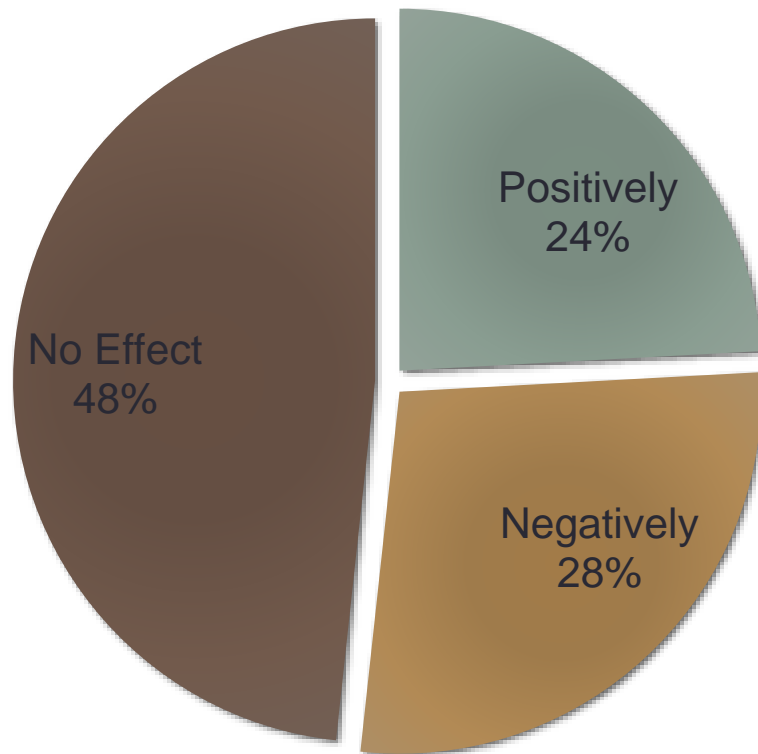
- Bar-based Sex worker, 25, Patpong

“I can get a lot of money, but this job is very degrading.”

- Free lance Sex worker, 27, Royal Palace

RELATIONSHIPS

Does being a lady boy effect your intimate, personal relationships?



- One in three (31%) describe themselves as being in a committed relationship.
- One-in-Six are in a committed relationship in which their partner is unaware of their work.
- 90% state that they have a best friend.
- 81% of this group state that their best friend is also transgender.

What are the positive effects / what are the negative effects?

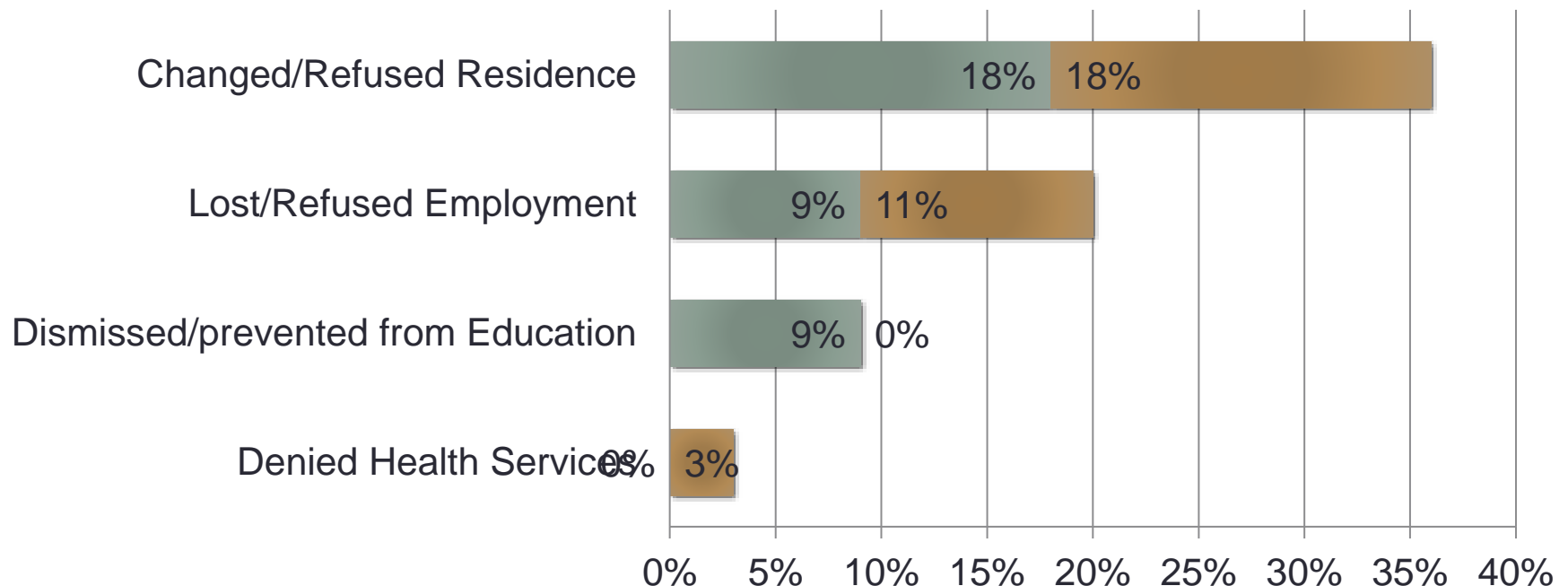
STIGMA / DISCRIMINATION

BECAUSE OF BEING A LADYBOY

- Thailand is often seen as 'open and accepting' of ladyboys by Thais and foreigners alike. However...

Within the Past 12 Months:

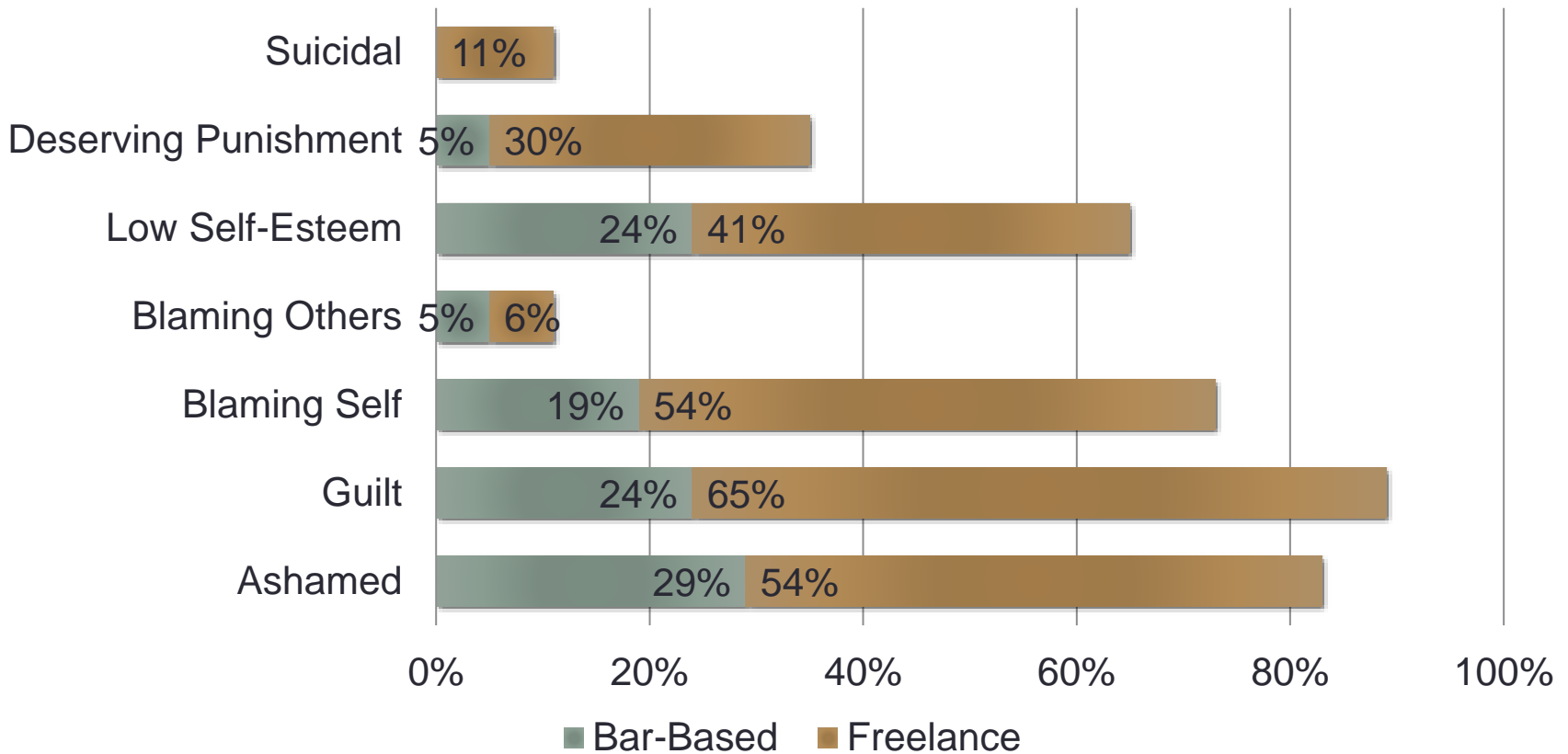
■ Bar-based ■ Freelance



STIGMA / DISCRIMINATION

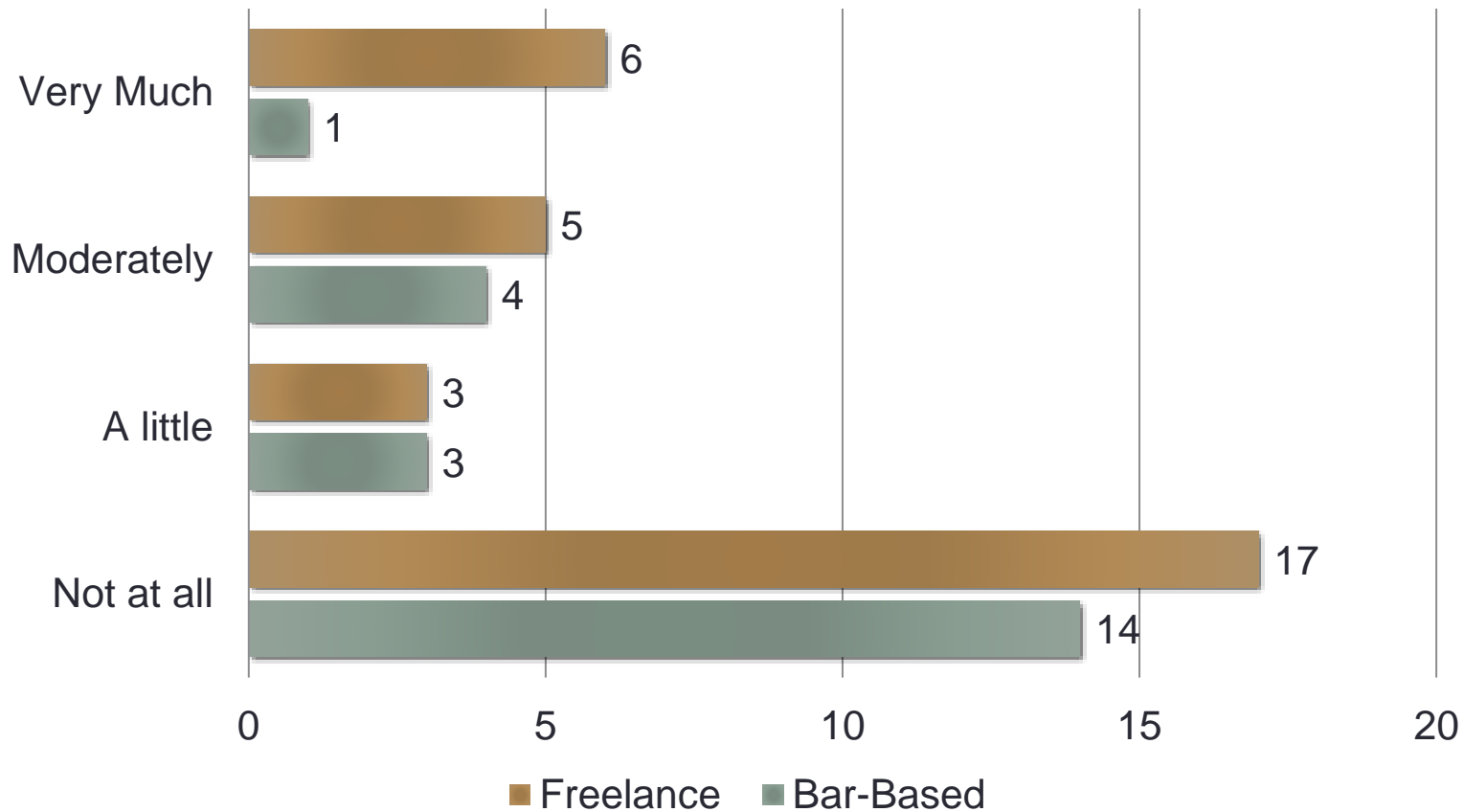
BECAUSE OF SEX WORK

Feelings within the past 12 months:



STIGMA / DISCRIMINATION

Does sex work effect your intimate, personal relationships?



- *“When you look at me, do not look down because we are good people like you too.”*

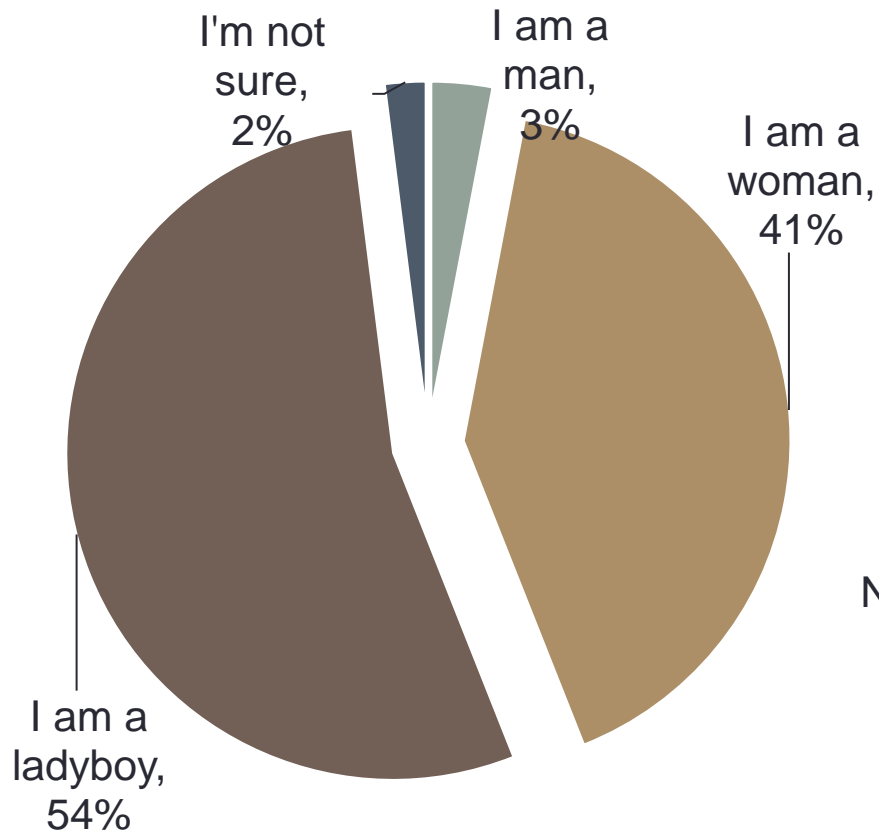
--Freelance Worker, 28 years old

- *“If people came to teach young kids about the difficulties [of being a ladyboy] they wouldn't be a ladyboy like me -- it's too difficult of a life.”*

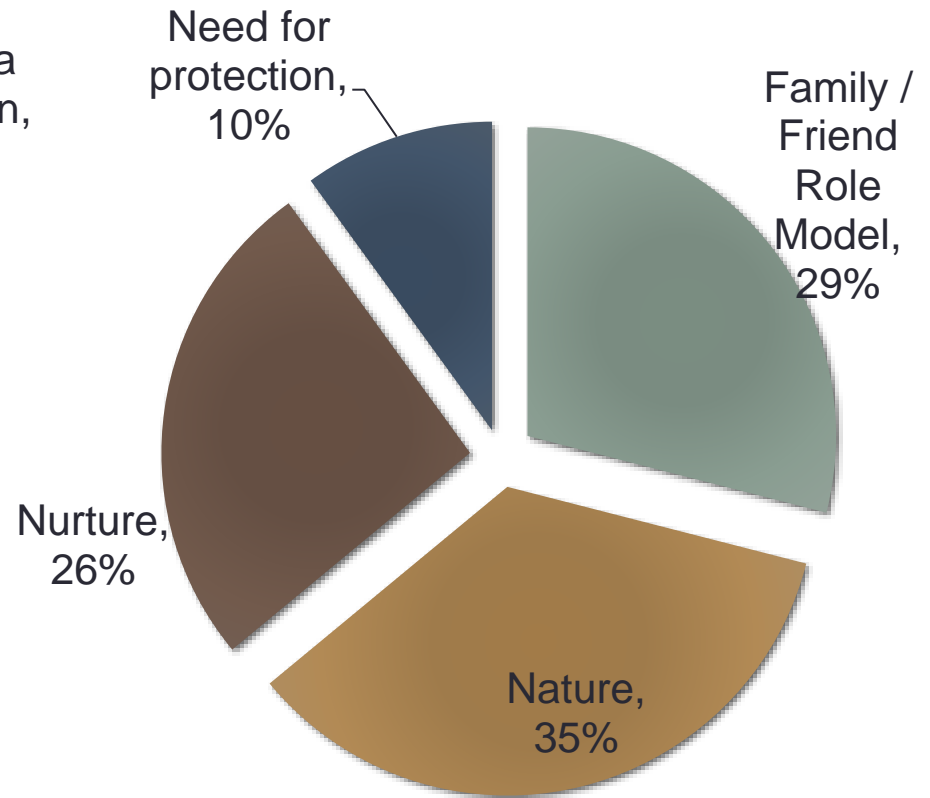
-- Patpong, 44 years old

SEXUAL / GENDER IDENTITY

How do you understand your gender?

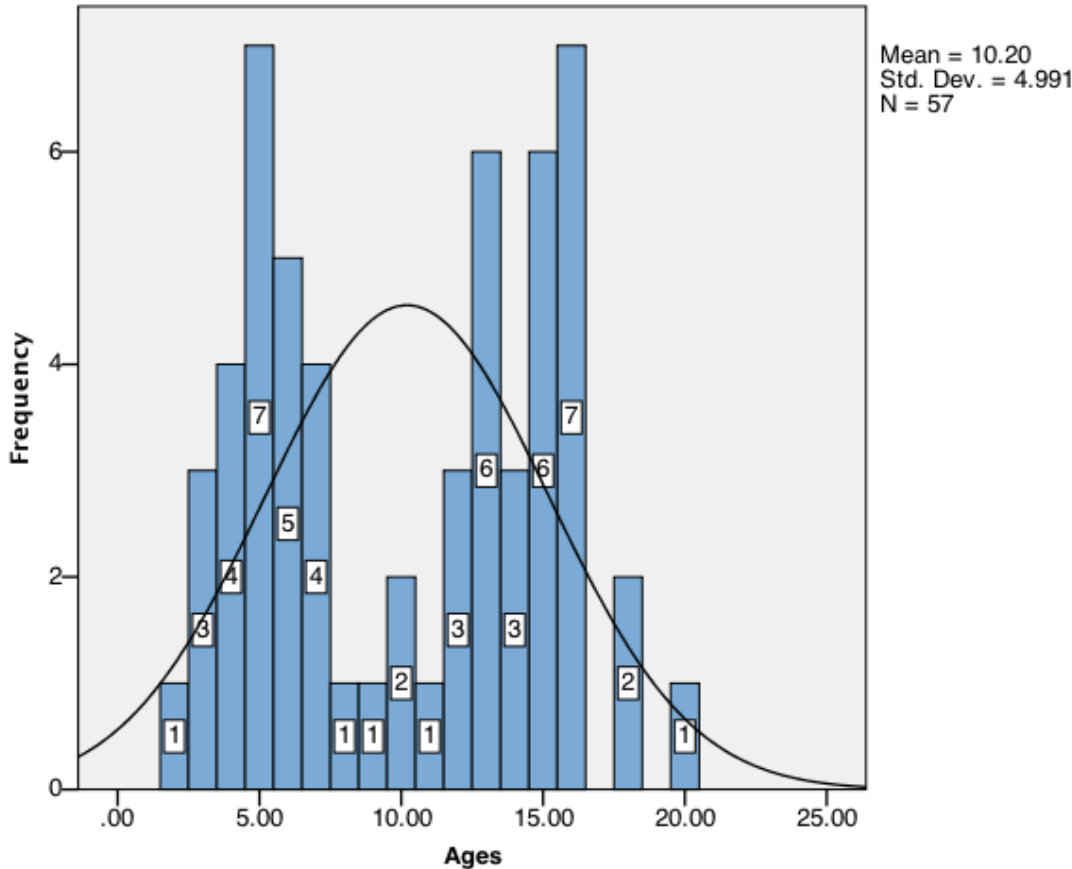


Did anything influence you in becoming a Ladyboy?
(Open ended question)



SEXUAL / GENDER IDENTITY

When did you "become" a ladyboy?



WHEN DID YOU "BECOME" A LADYBOY?

Before Age 10	26 or (46%)
Age 10-20	31 or (54%)
Range	2-20 Years

Are these two distinct bell curves indicative of the nature/nurture debate?

SEXUAL / GENDER IDENTITY

PROCEDURES UNDERTAKEN

Taking Feminizing Hormones:	87%	N=60
Unaware of Side Effects of Hormones:	36%	N=53
Reconstructive Surgeries:	66%	N=58

FIRST SEXUAL EXPERIENCE

Ages

- Respondent (avg.) – 15 years old
- Partner (avg.) – 19 years old
- Range: 0-23 years
- 27% qualify as child sexual abuse
- Youngest case: 9 years with 30 year old man

Nature of Experience

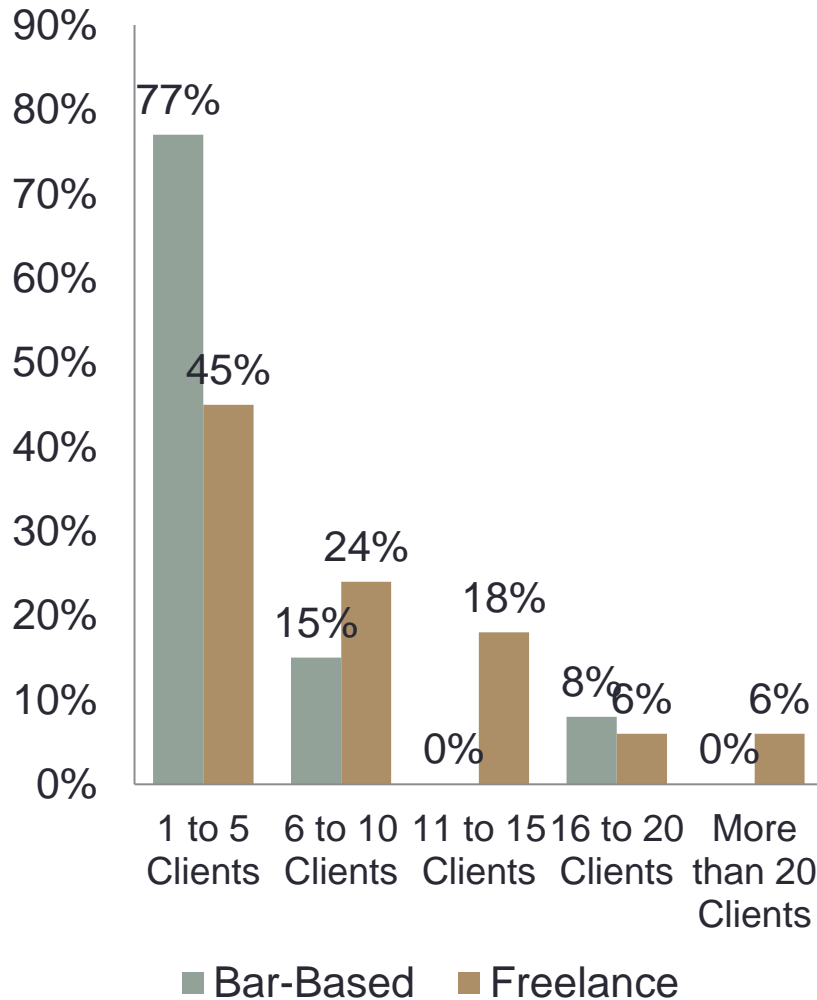
- 10 people (18%) describe this first experience as forced or coerced.

First Partner

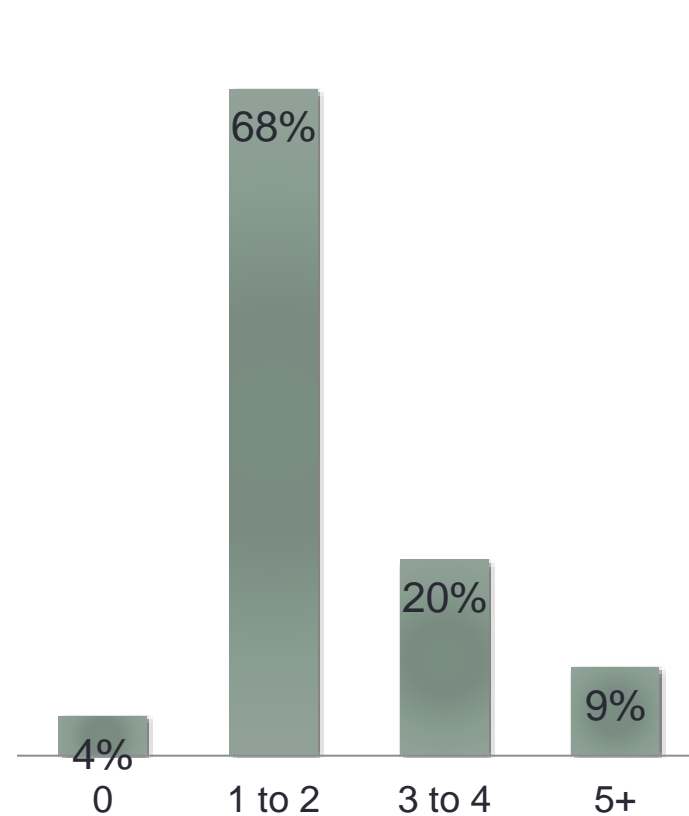
- “Friends” – 50%
- Partner – 18%
- Stranger – 10%

SEX WORK

Clients (Past Week)



Clients (Past Day)

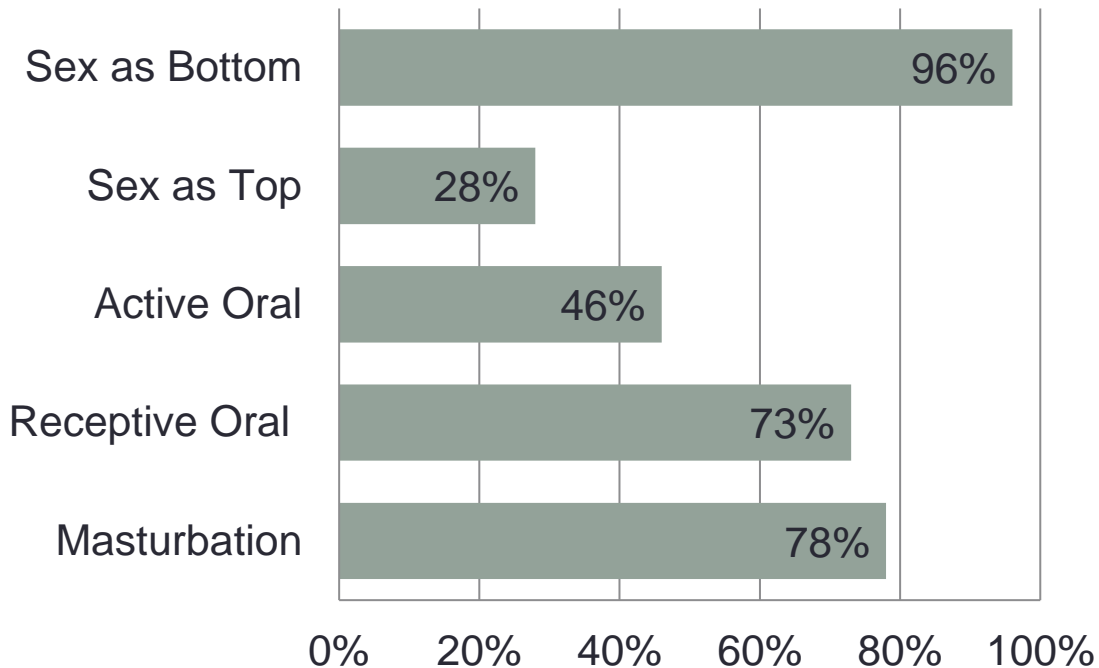


- Average: 8 clients per week
- Range: 1 – 40 clients/week

SEX WORK

Respondents were asked, “out of 10 clients, how many would require the following...”

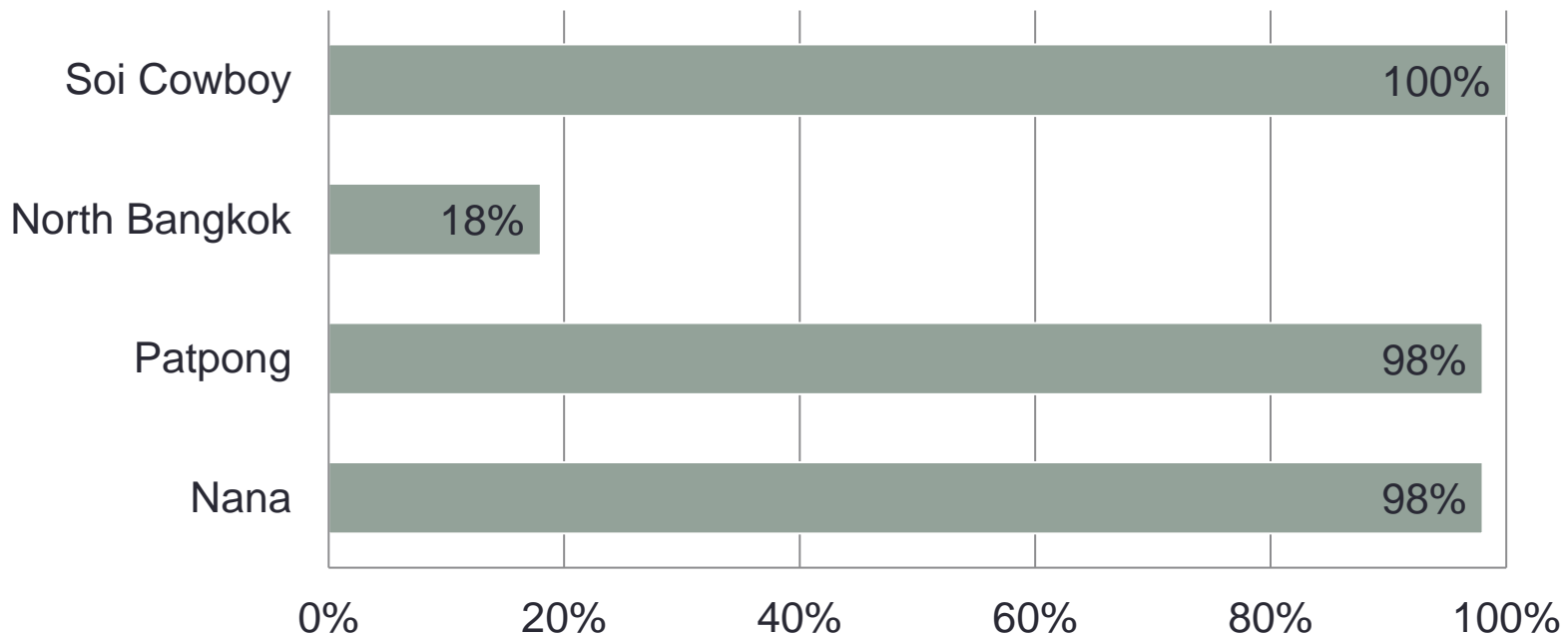
Sexual Services Required



- 56% state that they have been filmed/photographed for Pornography

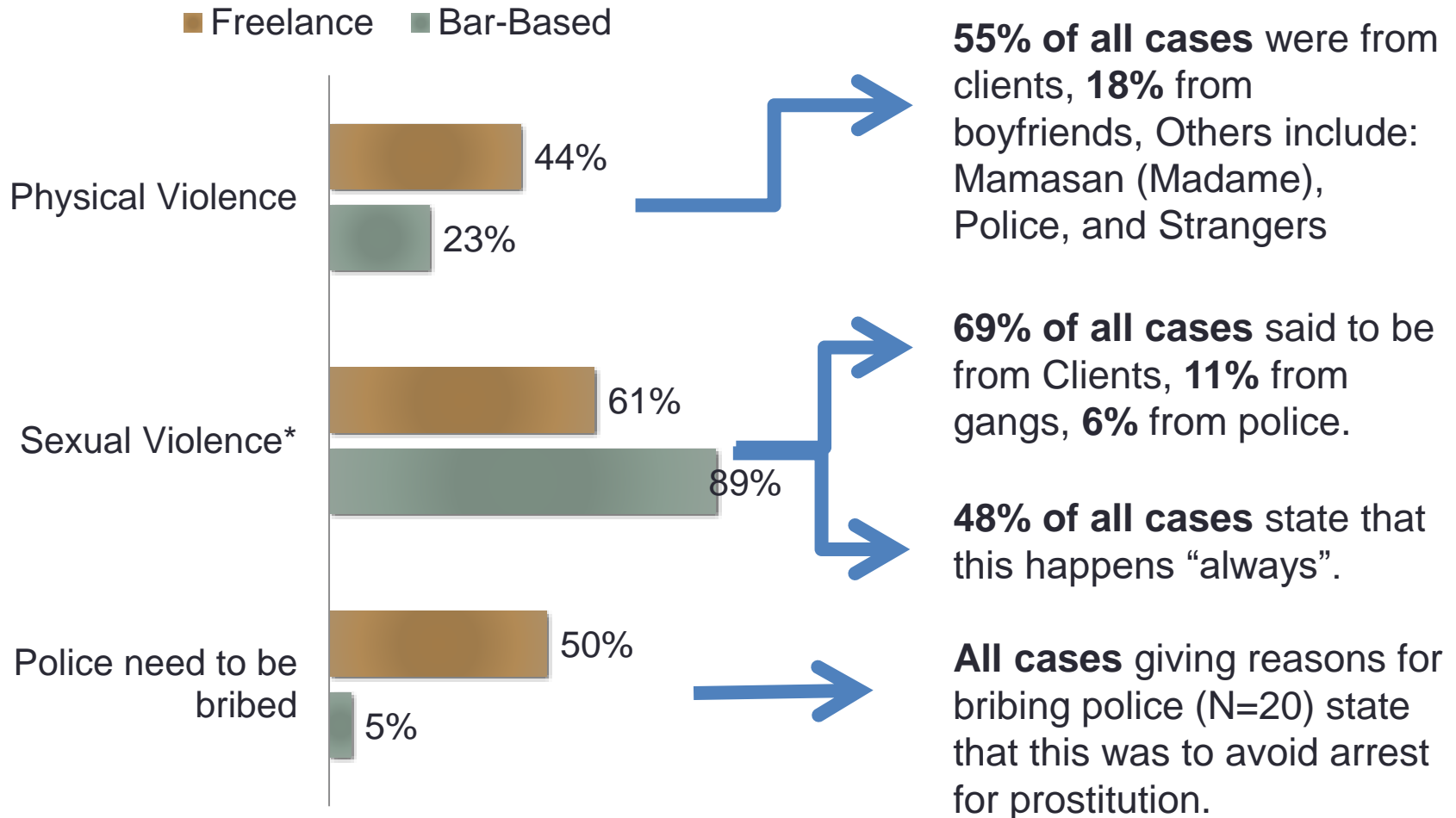
SEX WORK

About What % of Your Clients are Foreign?



- Locales in this study were places mainly catering to foreign clientele.
- Need for further research on **local Thai demand** for sexual services.

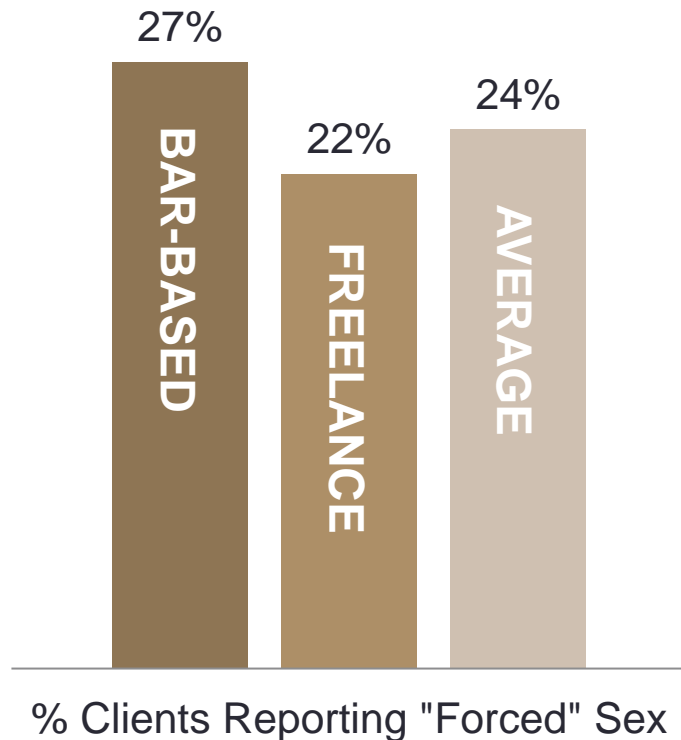
VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ABUSE



* Sexual violence here means unwanted sexual touching.

VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ABUSE

“Forced” Sex: Bar-Based and Freelance



Respondents were asked if they were willing to share their experiences of sexual violence.

13 Respondents shared stories of being “forced” to have sex against their wishes

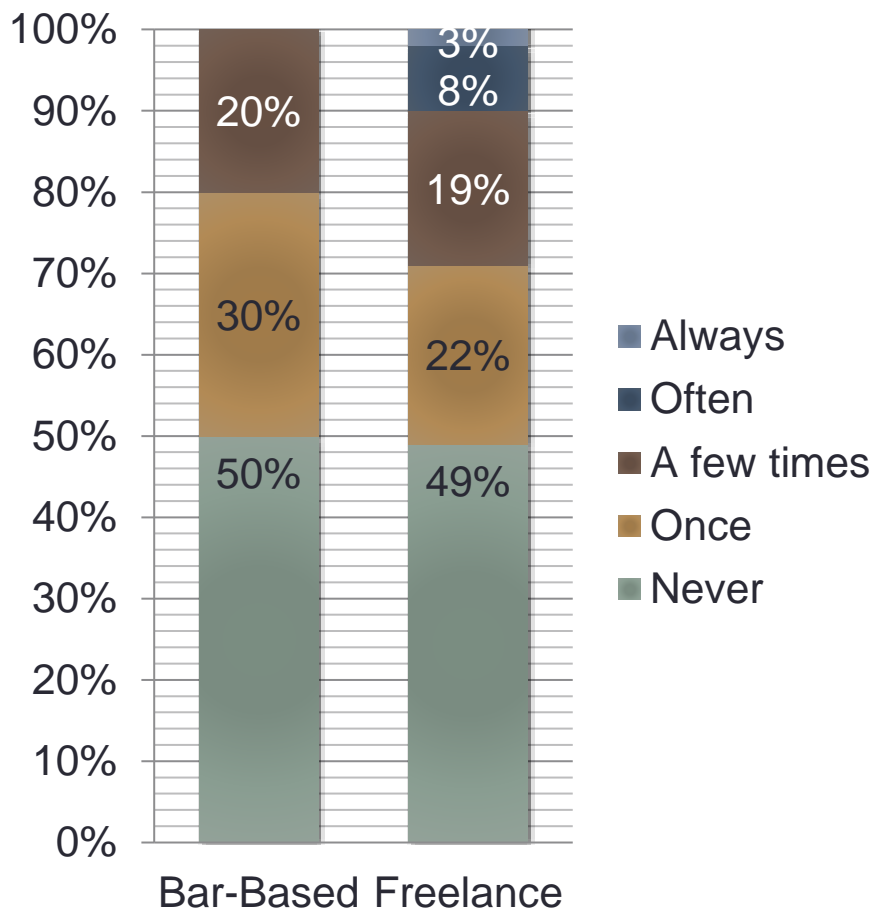
6 stories involved rape/gang rape by strangers on the street

5 stories involved forced sex/forced bareback by clients

1 story involved persistent rape by a family member

HEALTH

Frequency of Unprotected Sex with Clients



REASONS FOR UNPROTECTED SEX (OPEN ENDED; N=21)

Likes Client	4	19%
Offered More Money	6	29%
Drunk	1	5%
Tricked	1	5%
No Condom	4	14%
Broken Condom	7	33%

26% state that they have **NOT** received any formal sexual health education.

SEXUAL HEALTH

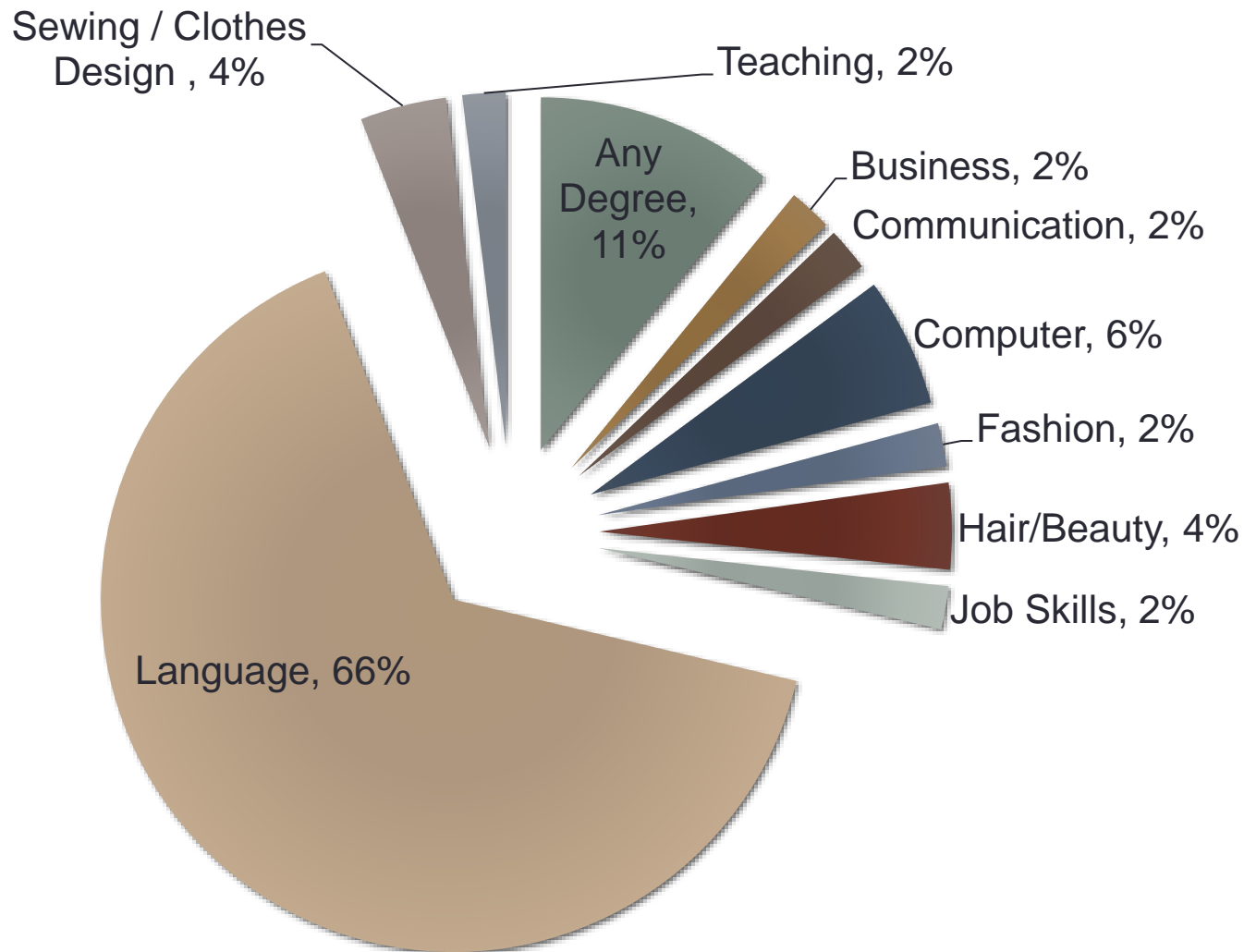
STI SYMPTOMS (past 6 months)	FREQ	%
Rashes, ulcerations, lumps on or around genitals	9	16%
Urethral Discharge, pain in testicles, trouble in urination	4	7%
Other sicknesses*	21	37%

*Cold (16), Heart Trouble (1), Sore Throat (2).

HIV / AIDS		
Fears/concerns about contracting HIV/AIDS	47	84%
Knows someone with HIV/AIDS	27	46%
Been tested with the past 6 months	35	67%

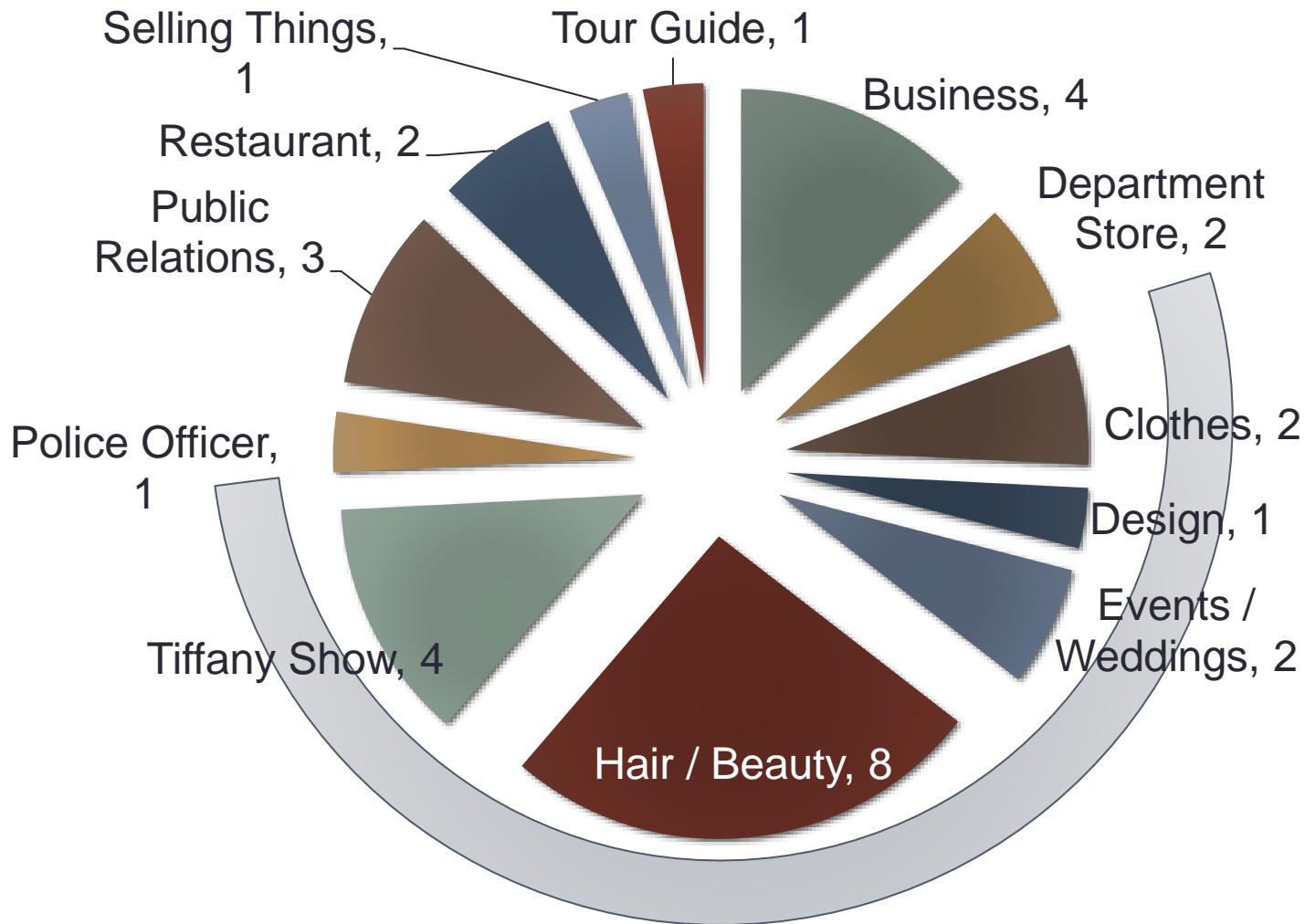
ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT

SKILLS DESIRED TO LEARN (OPEN ENDED QUESTION)



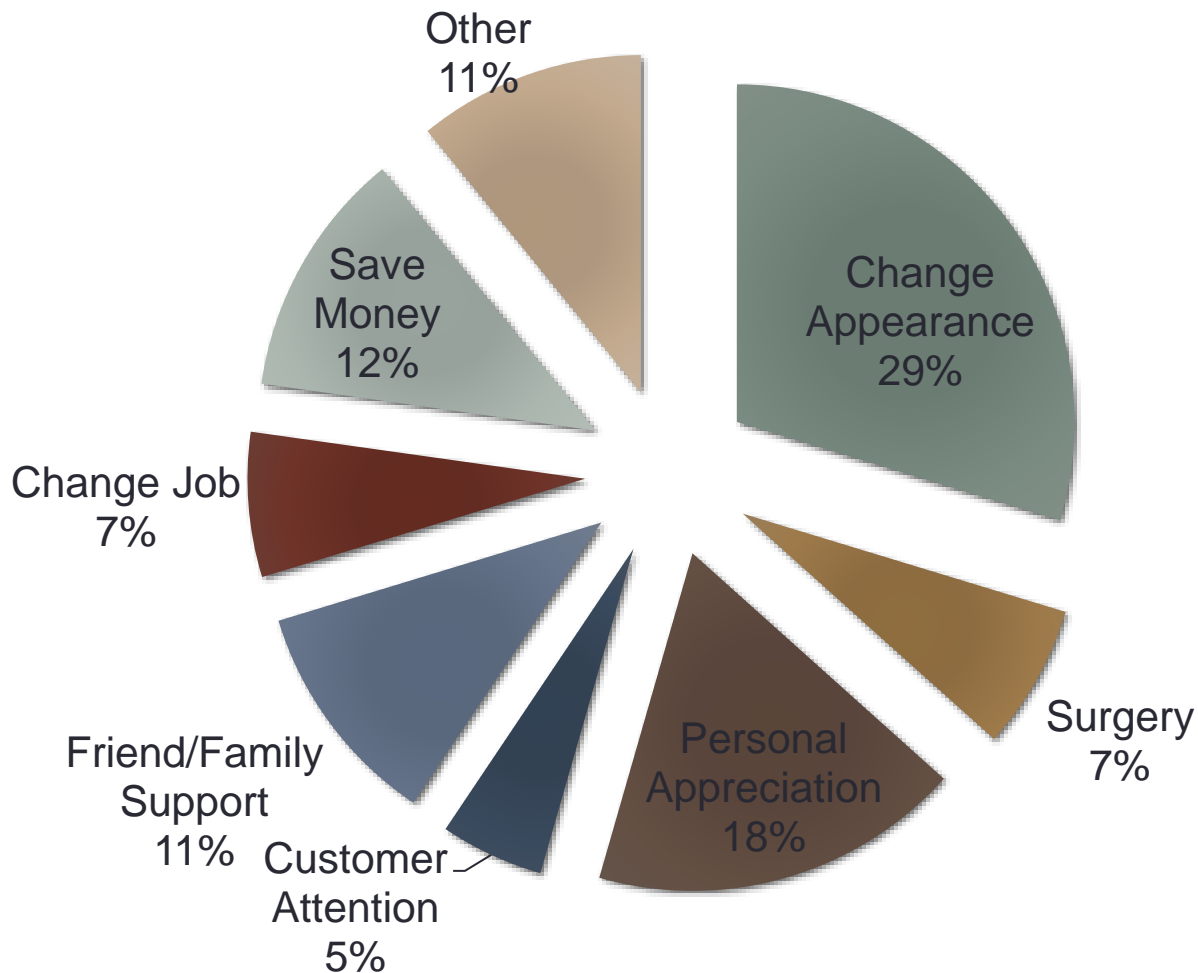
ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT

JOBS PERCIEVED TO BE AVAILABLE IN BANGKOK (OPEN ENDED QUESTION)



DIGNITY AND SELF-IDENTITY

What would increase your sense of self-confidence?
(Open ended question)



- *I really want you to know that no body would ever choose to do this and live this lifestyle and I really want to leave, I don't know what to do anymore.*

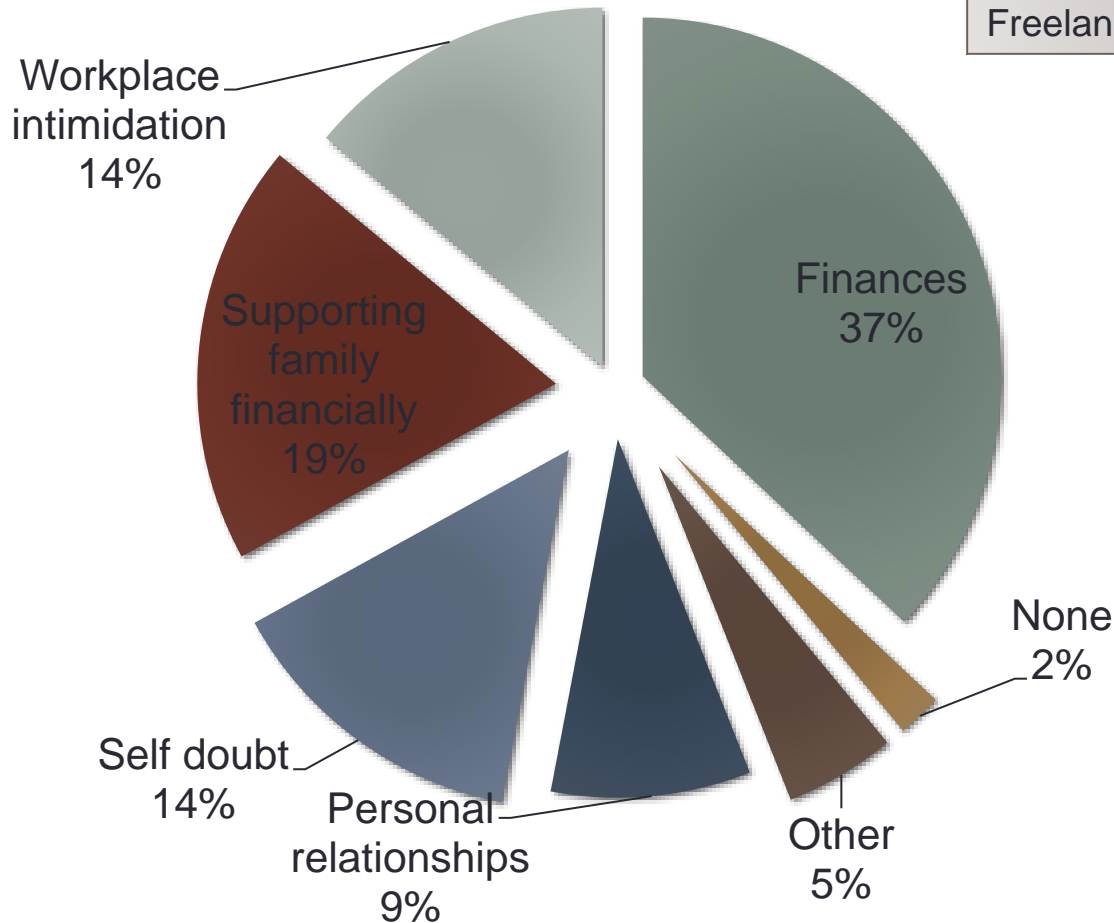
-- Freelance, 21 years old

- *I would like social acceptance for ladyboys because they don't make trouble with society. Everyone should have equal rights.*

-- Freelance, 21 years old

DIGNITY AND SELF-IDENTITY

What are the biggest obstacles facing you right now?
(Open ended question)



	Self-Value / Confidence	Confidence in Doing Job
Bar-Based	8.27	7.14
Freelance	7.58	6.58

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Sexual Exploitation has almost exclusively focused on young girls and some women. Young men and transgender need a higher profile by the anti-trafficking movement.
- Alternative job opportunities need to be provided to transgender people who are seeking to leave the sex industry.
- Transgender people need safe integrated communities where they can learn how to be people rather than focus on their sexualities.
- Sexual health needs require more effective preventive education and strategies.
- Further research (particularly qualitative) is needed to understand family life and identity development of transgendered persons.
- There needs to be better collaboration between those who have an interest in this issue so that resources and learning can be shared that go beyond sexuality and HIV.