

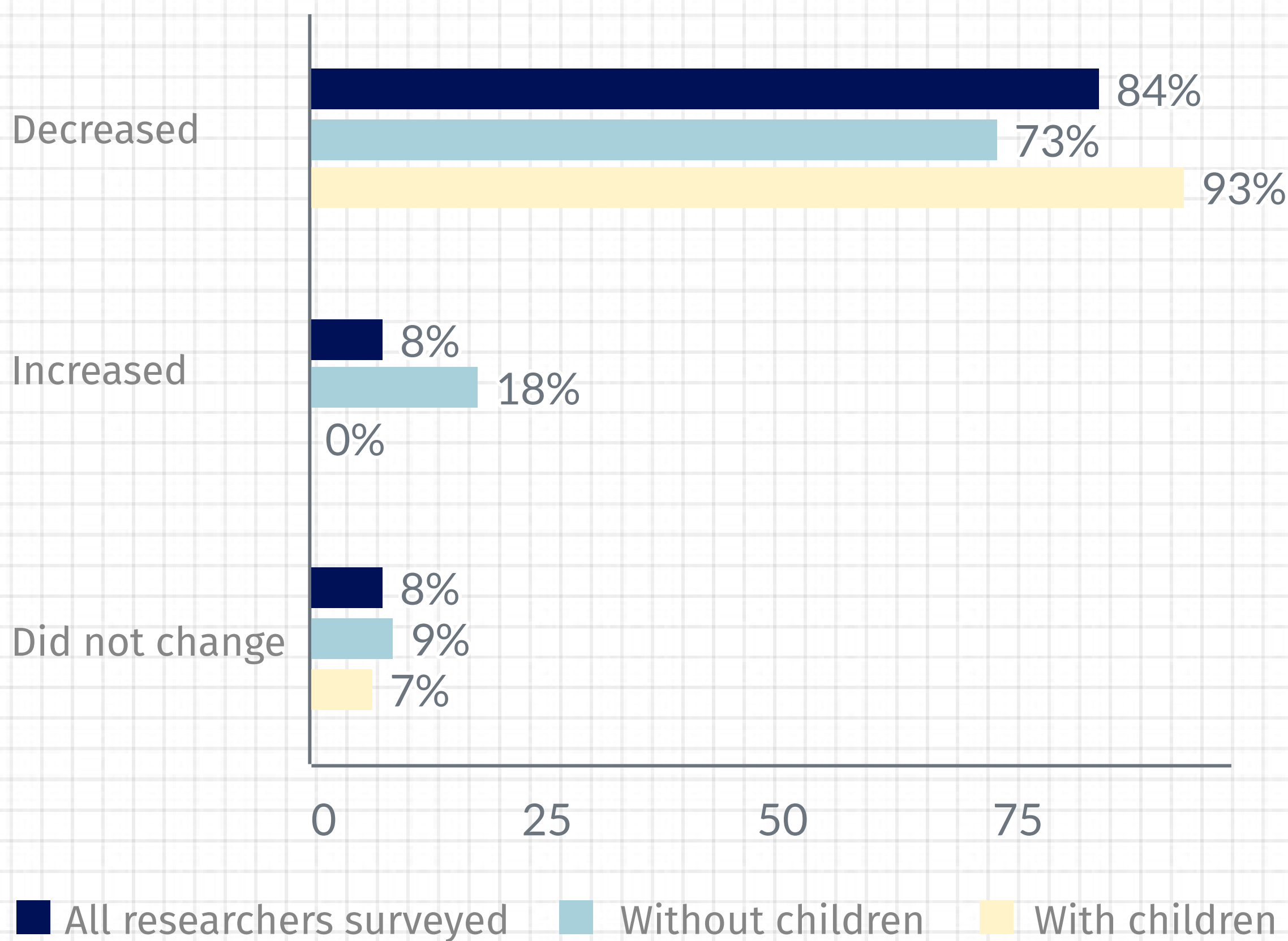
# Impact of COVID-19

Survey Outcomes for Early Career Researchers\*

## Leiden University Medical Center

### Productive working hours

My productive working hours...



Average decrease among respondents who reported a decrease

♥ 36%

Childcare duties, lack of access to crucial facilities to collect data and pandemic-related stress all lead to a decrease in productivity.

- "I'm unable to productively work 8 hours a day on my laptop."
- "Hard to be an international living alone with very limited network, isolation messes with your mental state".
- "The most important now is to take care of the kids. Homeschooling, keeping them occupied."
- "Initially there was plenty of computer work (grants/papers/data analysis), but I need to generate new data to stay productive."

### Current concerns

% of respondents that are highly concerned



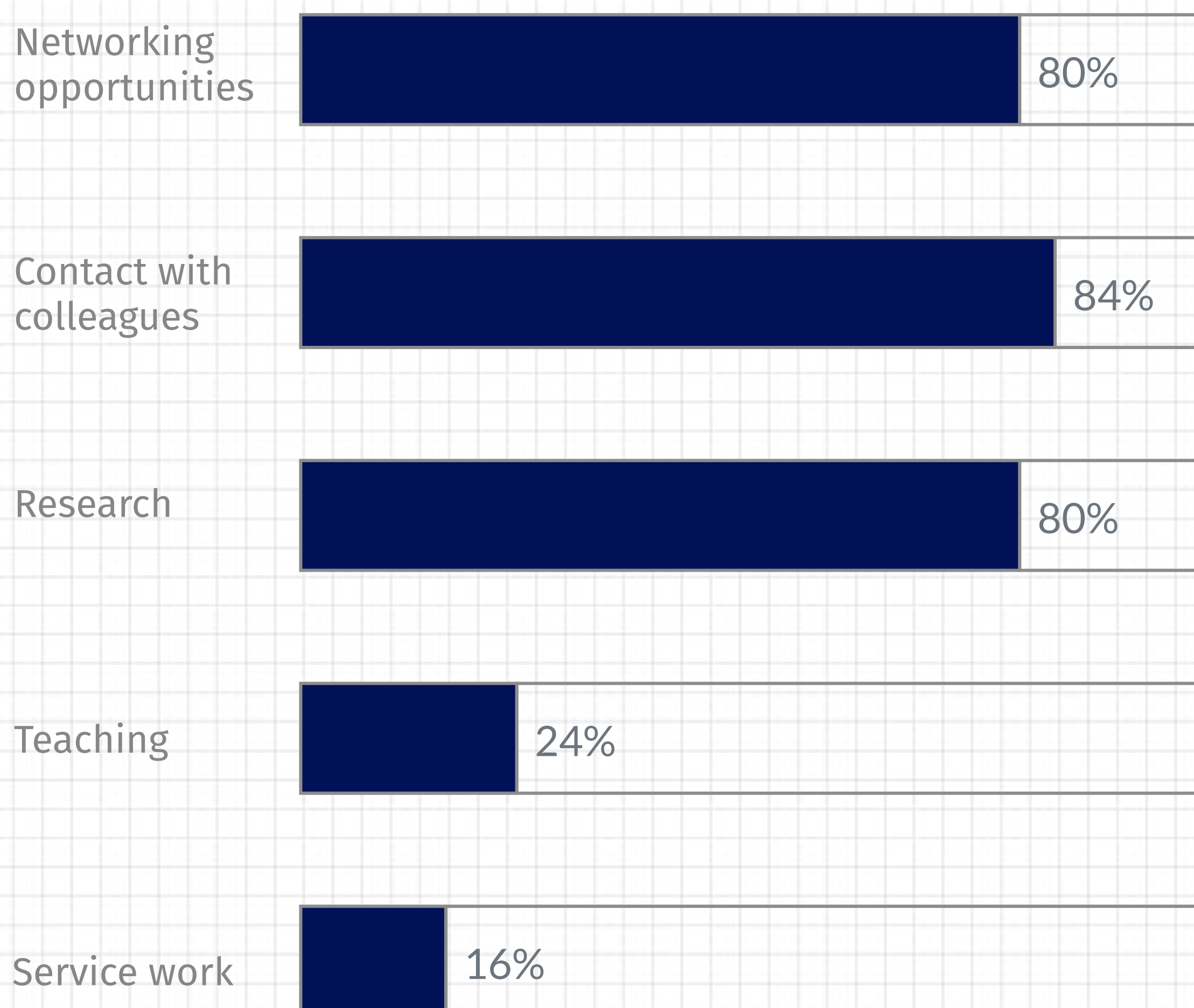
With data collection severely impacted for many, concerns about fewer publications and becoming less competitive for grants are high. Concerns about teaching seem relatively low among respondents, although motivating students is reported to be more difficult to do online. Maintaining work-life balance is considered more difficult by most; expectations of fast responses to e-mails lead to stress. There are concerns about mental health as well as back problems due to non-ergonomic home offices. The inability to generate preliminary data may translate to fewer grants in the future, and some funding opportunities (e.g. from charities) may disappear. As resumes become less competitive than usual, concerns about future career steps are high.

- "Fear of inability to gather enough data for papers, and grant proposals (limited amount of time due to temporary contract)."
- "It is hard to keep work vs life separate."
- "Huge stress levels, not good for my general health."
- "Without funding, the chances to be competitive for obtaining a tenure track or faculty position, becomes smaller."
- "No lab work, no experiments, no new data."

\*All results and quotes in this infographic are from researchers working at the Leiden University Medical Center

# Impact on areas of work

% of respondents that reported a 'high impact'

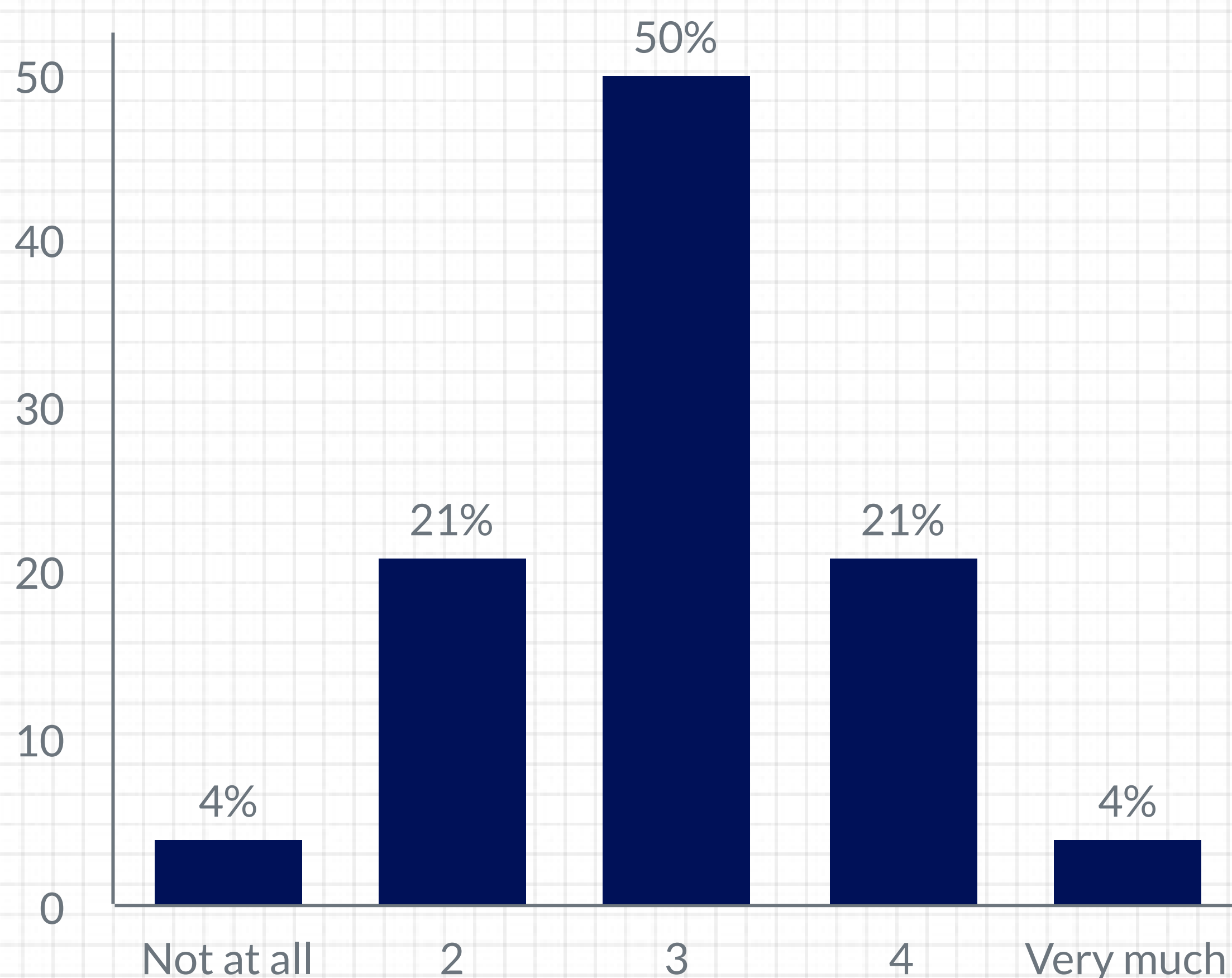


As labs are closed and research with human subjects is on hold, research is severely impacted. Those who have some data ready use the time to write manuscripts. With conferences and meetings cancelled, opportunities for networking have all but disappeared. Contact with colleagues is very much reduced and only online, leading to feelings of disconnection and isolation.

- "The labwork is completely on hold. Only progression is in writing manuscripts and proposals."
- "All clinical research is temporarily stopped. New projects cannot get started."
- "Almost no networking due to canceled conferences and meetings, and very little contact in person."
- "A lot of time lost due to IT. Follow me slow, don't have a laptop with capacity to run remote access."
- "No conferences, no cross departmental seminars, no mingling or meeting colleagues, no new collaborations"

# University's support

Do you feel supported by Leiden University?



What can Leiden University do to support you better?

More regular updates, extensions of contracts and grants, as well as acknowledgment of the effects on research output and its consequences for grant applications and career progression, would all be much appreciated.

- "Understanding that the delay caused by the pandemic will translate to less results, less publications, lower chance of funding and staying in science."
- "I would like to know clearly what the university will be able to do to help postdocs/PhDs at the end of the project."
- "Setting up meetings, clear regular updates on the most recent developments."
- "Any form of solidarity in contract extension would be greatly appreciated since I cannot generate the data required to get funding currently."
- "Understanding for that I cannot work all my contract hours with the children being at home."

# Positive experiences

"I'm very happy with the support we get from our research group. Within the first week a virtual structure was provided for the group meetings at different levels and also for social interactions."

- "A lot of progress has been made with respect to online conferencing: less travel time etc."
- "Our department is actively engaging people, trying to maintain connections through news letters, information mails, coffeekbreaks online and so on. I think they deserve an applause"
- "This crisis brings out the creativity of people, and a feeling of collectively battling a common enemy."

# Demographics

Number of respondents

 25

Gender

 76%

Children at home

 56%

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Assistant professor or Postdoc

 88%

Temporary contract

 60%



YAL