

# Objectum Sexuality 2009 Survey Results & Intro to OS

Amy Marsh, EdD, DHS, CH, CI  
Part I: 2021 Update

**Victor Hugo, *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*  
Translation by Walter J. Cobb, Puffin Classics, 1965**

What he loved above all in this his maternal edifice, what most aroused his soul, that which sometimes made him happy, was the bells. **He loved them, caressed them, talked to them, understood them.** From the carillon in the steeple of the transept to the great bell over the doorway, they all shared his love...

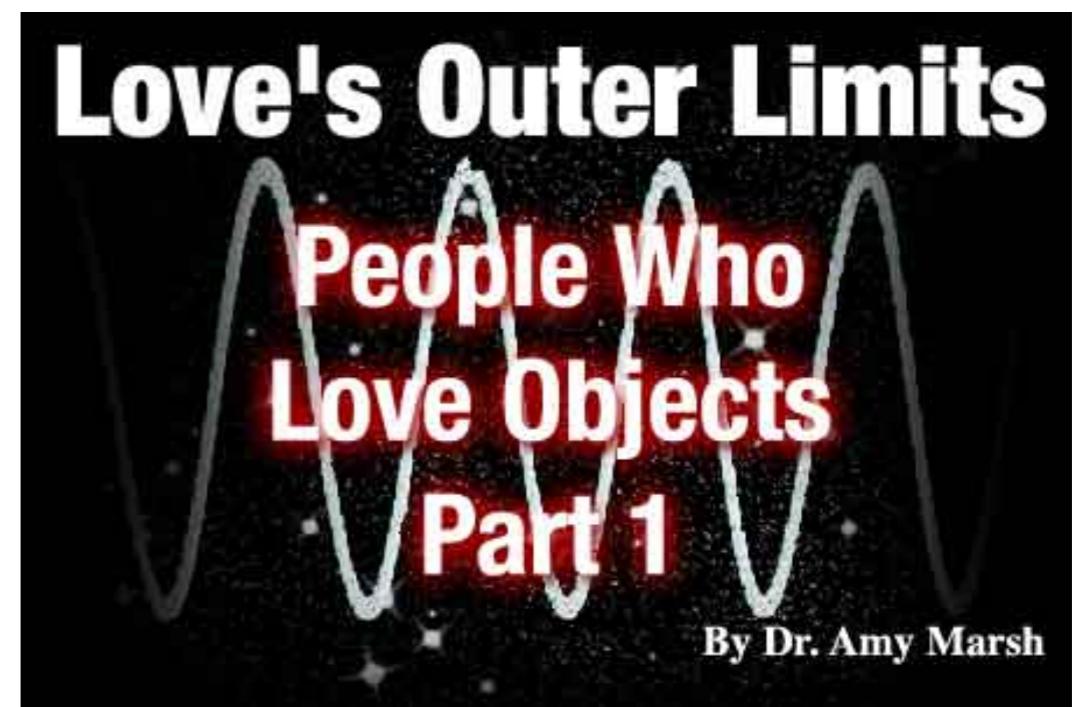
It would be difficult to appreciate fully his joy on days of the full tolling of the bells. The moment that the archdeacon sent him off with that one word, 'Go!' he scrambled up the spiral staircase of the belfry more quickly than another would have descended it. All out of breath, he hurried into the aerial chamber of the great bell, **looked at her for a moment intently and lovingly, then talked to her softly, patted her with his hand**, like a good horse about to set out on a long journey. He would pity her for the trouble he was going to cause her. After these first caresses, he called out to his assistants, stationed on a lower level of the tower, to begin. They seized the ropes, the capstan creaked, the enormous metal dome began to swing slowly. Quasimodo, panting, followed it with his eye. The first stroke of the clapper against the metal wall shook the wooden scaffolding on which he was standing. Quasimodo vibrated with the bell. 'Vah!; he would cry with a burdt of mad laughter. Meanwhile, the bell swung faster, and as it swung, taking an ever-wider sweep, Quasimodo's eye opened wider and wider, and became more and more...

It was simple enough to understand. Claude Frollo had accepted him, had adopted him, had nourished him, had reared him. While very small, it was between the knees of Claude Frollo that he had customarily sought refuge when the dogs and children barked after him. Claude Frollo had taught him to speak, to read, to write. Claude Frollo had made him the bellringer of Notre-Dame, and **to give the great bell in marriage to Quasimodo was to give Juliet to Romeo.**

# How Did I Get Involved?

- Autistic child draws a Valentine with pictures of Sutro Radio Tower (San Francisco) surrounded by hearts.
- Prior student research into Asperger's Syndrome sexuality.
- Heard about OS - found out there was an autism connection.
- Offered to do a survey of the membership.

# 2 Surveys of Members of OS Internationale



Published:  
“People Who Love Objects” (3-part column)  
*Carnal Nation*, 2009  
“Love Among the Objectum Sexuels”  
*Electronic Journal of Human Sexuality*, 2010  
Also: YourTango Experts, Good Therapy blogs.

**Electronic Journal of Human Sexuality, Volume 13, March 1, 2010**

www.ejhs.org

**LOVE AMONG THE OBJECTUM SEXUALS**

**Amy Marsh, DHS, ACS**

**ABSTRACT**

This article describes the first research conducted with a group of “objectum sexuals” (OS) or “objectophiles,” people who experience emotional, romantic, affectionate and/or sexual relationships with objects. Stories of people who identify as OS have been sensationalized in various media, but data is scarce. In March, 2009, the author conducted an internet survey of the English speaking members of OS-Internationale, an internet-based group of about forty objectophiles. Twenty-one respondents shared their histories and experiences, including their perceptions of varying degrees of reciprocity with their beloved objects. Additional insights have been gained through conversations and emails with members of the OS community and are included in this article.

**INTRODUCTION**

Objectum sexuals or objectophiles experience a range of emotional, romantic and/or sexual attractions to objects, often forgoing or dispensing with human romantic or sexual intimacy. Thanks to a glut of media coverage but a dearth of intelligent inquiry, objectum sexuality (OS) currently serves as a kind of ready made sexual sideshow, isolated from the “big top” of mainstream human sexual behavior. The lives of Erika Eiffel, Eija-Ritta Eklof Berliner-Mauer and other objectophiles have been chronicled by journalists who inevitably find themselves torn between straining to understand or simply exploiting the entertainment value of details which the public finds unusual or titillating.

It is important to know some history of the objectum sexuality community. In the early 1970’s, Eija-Ritta Eklof Berliner-Mauer, resident of a village in North Sweden, coined the term “objectum-sexuality.” She married the Berlin wall in 1979, gaining the first media attention for this orientation. In 1996 she created the first website dedicated to objectum sexuality, followed by an internet discussion group in 1999.

In 2002, Oliver Arndt, from Germany, created a large and active network called Objektpophilie.

In 2006, Erika Eiffel, a world champion archer, travelled to Europe to meet Eija-Ritta and Oliver. She came out to the public as an objectum sexual that same year and held a commitment ceremony with the Eiffel Tower in 2007. As she continued to travel and meet other objectum sexuals, Erika subsequently founded Objectum-Sexuality Internationale and created a new website and international forum of discussion for this community.

Eija-Ritta Berliner-Mauer, Erika Eiffel and Amy Wolfe were featured in a British “Strangelove” documentary (*Married to the Eiffel Tower*), which has since been repudiated by OS-Internationale as having sensationalized OS. Erika Eiffel has also appeared on Good Morning America (*In Love with the Eiffel Tower*), the Tyra Banks Show, and other American, European and Japanese media. In spite of her willingness to discuss her own story and the general features of objectum sexuality, her appearance in the media is invariably followed by a torrent of abusive and insulting comments which “go viral” on websites (including YouTube) and blogs. Other OS people who have encountered the media share similar experiences. In spite of numerous negative experiences with public ridicule or irresponsible actions of journalists, it seems that some OS advocates, including Erika, are willing to endure quite a lot in exchange for opportunities to inform the public through media.

With the exception of the author, “experts” who are approached by journalists for comments on objectum sexuality have generally assume a pathology or history of sexual trauma and/or categorize OS as a paraphilia or fetish. Experts continue to make these comments without actual data or contact with the OS community.

**LITERATURE**

To date, there are no published studies of objectum sexuals or objectum sexuality, though at least one other researcher is close to publishing her work. Jennifer Terry, Ph.D., an Associate Professor of Women’s Studies and Coordinator of the Queer Studies Program at the University of California, Irvine, presented on objectum sexuality at the Re-Thinking Sex - Gender and Sexualities Studies conference at University of Pennsylvania in March, 2009. Her research, titled “Loving Objects”, is due to be published in 2010, in the first issue of *Trans-Humanities*.

# Wanted to Know:

- Sexological implications: “what OS people do and how they feel about it?”
- Clinical considerations and best practices for helping professionals who may work with OS people.
- Connection to autism spectrum conditions?
- Later, a connection to object personification synesthesia?

# When “3” is a Jerk and “E” is a King: Personifying Inanimate Objects in Synesthesia

**Daniel Smilek<sup>1</sup>, Kelly A. Malcolmson<sup>1</sup>, Jonathan S. A. Carriere<sup>1</sup>,  
Meghan Eller<sup>1</sup>, Donna Kwan<sup>1</sup>, and Michael Reynolds<sup>2</sup>**

## Abstract

■ We report a case study of an individual (TE) for whom inanimate objects, such as letters, numbers, simple shapes, and even furniture, are experienced as having rich and detailed personalities. TE reports that her object–personality pairings are stable over time, occur independent of her intentions, and have been there for as long as she can remember. In these respects, her experiences are indicative of synesthesia. Here we show that TE’s object–personality pairings are very consistent across test–retest, even for novel objects. A qualitative analysis of TE’s personality descriptions revealed

that her personifications are extremely detailed and multi-dimensional, and that her personifications of familiar and novel objects differ in specific ways. We also found that TE’s eye movements can be biased by the emotional associations she has with letters and numbers. These findings demonstrate that synesthesia can involve complex semantic personifications, which can influence visual attention. Finally, we propose a neural model of normal personification and the unusual personifications that accompany object–personality synesthesia. ■

## References

[1] D. Smilek, K.A. Malcolmson, J. S. Carriere, M. Eller, D. Kwan, and M. Reynolds. When “3” is a jerk and “e” is a king: Personifying inanimate objects in synesthesia. *J Cogn Neurosci*, 19(6):981–992, June 2007.

# 2021 Update

- 2019 Study.
- Published in Nature/Scientific Reports.
- References Marsh survey.
- Finds significant link of OS to autism and synaesthesia.

OPEN

## Objectum sexuality: A sexual orientation linked with autism and synaesthesia

Julia Simner<sup>1\*</sup>, James E. A. Hughes<sup>1</sup> & Noam Sagiv<sup>2</sup>

Objectum-sexuality (OS) is a sexual orientation which has received little attention in the academic literature. Individuals who identify as OS experience emotional, romantic and/or sexual feelings towards inanimate objects (e.g. a bridge, a statue). We tested 34 OS individuals and 88 controls, and provide the first empirical evidence that OS is linked to two separate neurodevelopmental traits - autism and synaesthesia. We show that OS individuals possess significantly higher rates of diagnosed autism and significantly stronger autistic traits compared to controls, as well as a significantly higher prevalence of synaesthesia, and significant synaesthetic traits inherent in the nature of their attractions. Our results suggest that OS may encapsulate autism and synaesthesia within its phenomenology. Our data speak to debates concerning the biological underpinnings of sexuality, to models of autism and synaesthesia, and to psychological and philosophical models of romantic love.

Categories or continua of sexual orientation are recognised in social, psychological, political and biological sciences. One orientation almost entirely absent from this research arena is *objectum-sexuality* (OS; also known as *objectophilia*). OS individuals describe experiencing emotional, romantic and/or sexual feelings towards inanimate objects or structures. For example, Eija-Riitta Berliner-Mauer has described her romantic attraction towards the Berlin Wall<sup>1</sup> and others have written similarly about their feelings towards a range of objects (e.g., a bridge, a fence, a statue, an electronic soundboard)<sup>2</sup>. Our background in synaesthesia<sup>3,4</sup> and autism<sup>5,6</sup> led us to recognise potential features of both conditions from anecdotal descriptions given by OS individuals—and these features have also been noted by others<sup>7</sup>. For example, one survey<sup>7</sup> found that a high number of OS individuals (six out of 21) anecdotally reported autism, a set of neurodevelopmental traits that encompass difficulties in social communication, repetitive/routine behaviours, special interests, and sensitivity to sensory stimuli<sup>8</sup>. Although this earlier survey included no significance tests or baselines, it is possible calculate the prevalence of autism within that OS group (28.57%), and this is significantly higher than the general population estimate of 1.46%<sup>9</sup> ( $\chi^2(1) = 16.14, p < 0.001, 95\% \text{ CI} [0.09, 0.50]$ ). Another neurodevelopmental trait potentially relevant to OS is synaesthesia<sup>10</sup>, which affects around 4% of the general population<sup>11</sup> but occurs at higher rates in autism<sup>6,12,13</sup>. Synaesthesia gives rise to an unusual fusing of sensations—for example, experiencing a sense of colour when reading letters or numbers (*grapheme-colour synaesthesia*<sup>14</sup>). Important for our purposes here, is that some forms of synaesthesia imbue inanimate objects with genders or personalities. Hence people with *object-personification synaesthesia*<sup>15,16</sup> might feel that their house-keys are female, or that their pocket watch is shy. Other triggers are linguistic sequences such as letters and numbers (e.g., J might feel motherly, 7 might feel selfish; and this is known as *grapheme-personification synaesthesia* or *ordinal linguistic personification*<sup>4,17</sup>). These synaesthetic personifications have known neurological roots<sup>16,18</sup> and are reminiscent of descriptions given anecdotally by OS individuals about the objects they are attracted towards. Given the potential overlap between OS, autism, and synaesthesia, our study is the first to explore the relationship among them, using empirical behavioural testing.

In our study we tested 34 self-identified OS individuals and 88 controls, using questionnaires and objective measures related to OS, autism and synaesthesia. If OS is linked with autism, we predict significantly higher rates of diagnosed autism in our OS group, compared to controls and population baselines<sup>9</sup>. We will also use the Autism Spectrum Quotient<sup>19</sup> (AQ) to measure autistic traits, and predict that the OS group will show significantly higher autistic traits compared to controls. We will also investigate a possible link between OS and synaesthesia, and make several predictions. If OS is linked with synaesthesia, we first predict that OS individuals should

<sup>1</sup>School of Psychology, Pevensey Building, University of Sussex, Brighton, BN1 9QJ, UK. <sup>2</sup>Centre for Cognitive Neuroscience, College of Health and Life Sciences, Brunel University, London, Uxbridge, UB8 3PN, UK. \*email: [j.simner@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:j.simner@sussex.ac.uk)

# Quick Summary

- Respondents ranged from eighteen to sixty years old and included fifteen cisgendered females, two cisgendered males, three transgender men, and one intersex person.
- Most OS people surveyed have been aware of their attraction to objects for more than ten years. Twelve have known since childhood.
- Most consider their attraction to objects as an “orientation,” though not necessarily a sexual one. Most reject labeling OS as a “fetish.”
- Most express happiness with their relationships and only wish to feel more accepted by society.
- People were attracted to a wide range of objects, including transportation, small structures, large buildings and landmarks, machines and appliances, technology, sporting goods and statues.
- To express their affection, eighteen OS people take pictures of their objects, six make models, and nine create other forms of visual art.
- Most enjoy non-sexual human contact. Only two people desire sexual relationships with human beings. Eleven have never considered it and never will.
- Contrary to the popular perception of OS being “caused” by sexual trauma, only four report a history of abuse or coercion. For most, interest in objects pre-dated the trauma.
- Five respondents reported a diagnosis of Asperger’s Syndrome and one of Autism. Four without a diagnosis identify as having Asperger’s Syndrome. Three say they have “some traits” of Autism or Asperger’s.
- Respondents also reported ADD or ADHD, sensory integration issues, and Tourette’s Syndrome. Two suffer from post-traumatic stress and one from depression.

# Is Objectum Sexuality a Sexual Orientation?

## **From my 2009 statement:**

...According the people who love objects, the answer is "yes." They object to being referred to as "fetishists" or being told they are simply "obsessed." A key point for OS people is that they experience and feel emotions for the "being" of an object. So what is "sexual orientation?" The definition of "sexual orientation" found on the website of the American Psychological Association comes close to the ways in which OS people experience and describe themselves and their relationships. The APA definition (with references to heterosexuality, homosexuality and bisexuality deleted) is as follows:

*"Sexual orientation is an enduring emotional, romantic, sexual, or affectional attraction toward others. It is easily distinguished from other components of sexuality including biological sex, gender identity (the psychological sense of being male or female), and the social gender role (adherence to cultural norms for feminine and masculine behavior). Sexual orientation exists along a continuum... Sexual orientation is different from sexual behavior because it refers to feelings and self-concept. Individuals may or may not express their sexual orientation in their behaviors."*

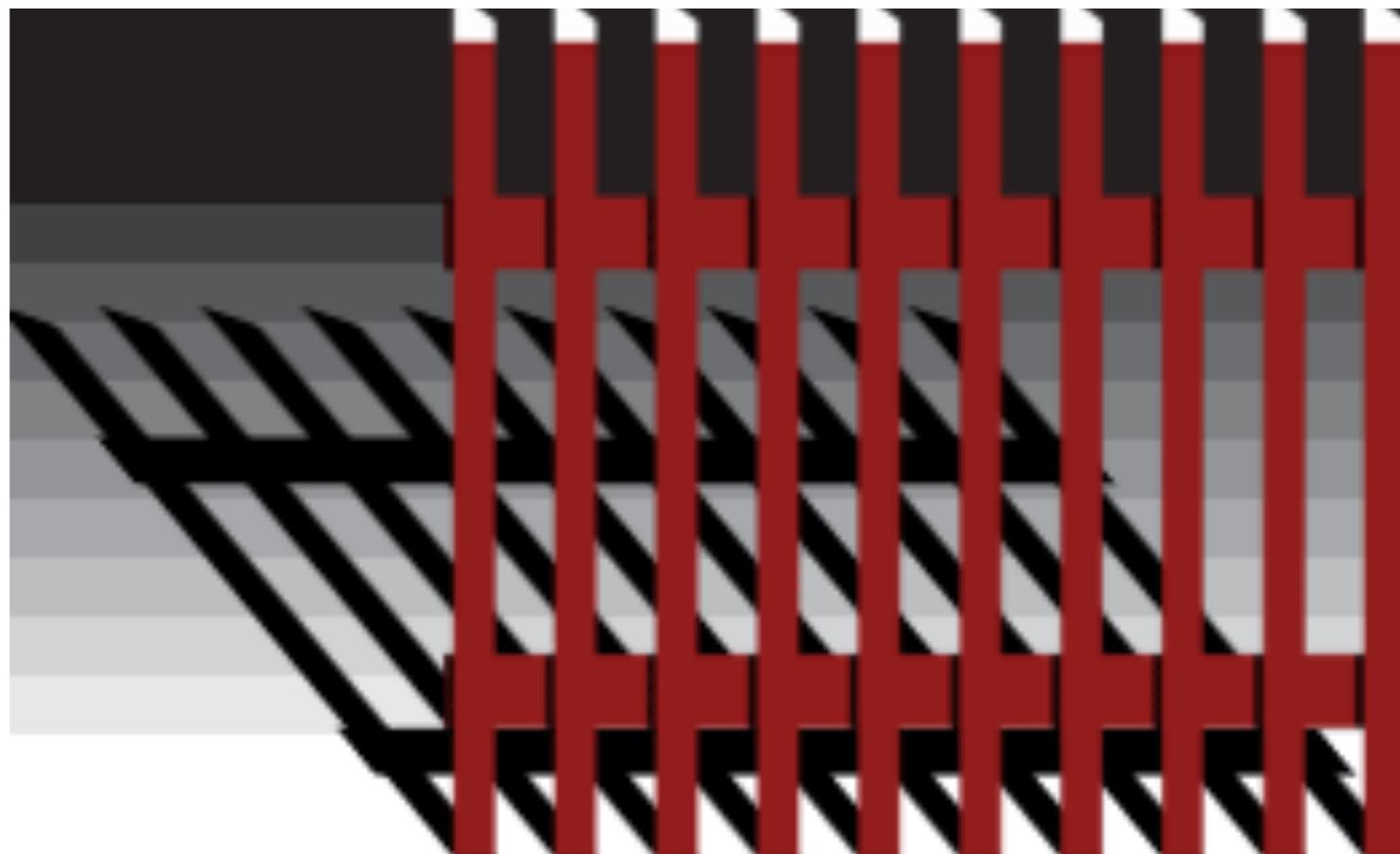
## Marsh Spectrum of Human/Object Intimacy©

Behavior with Objects → Interest in Objects → Orientation Toward Objects

Sex Toy Use	Increased Object Interest	Fetish/Paraphilia	Increased Object Orientation	Objectum Sexuality - Sexual or Romantic Orientation	Objectum Intimacy - Full Object Relationship
Utilitarian Physical Involvement	Utilitarian Physical Involvement	Utilitarian Physical Involvement	Utilitarian Physical Involvement	Utilitarian Physical Involvement	Utilitarian Physical Involvement
	Physical Desire for Object	Physical Desire	Physical Desire	Physical Desire	Physical Desire
		Object Fantasies	Object Fantasies	Object Fantasies	Object Fantasies
			Some Sense of Object Personality and/or Gender	Fuller Sense of Object Personality and/or Gender	Full Sense of Object Personality and/or Gender
			Emotional Attachment - No Need for Reciprocity	Emotional and Romantic Attachment - Wish for Reciprocity	Emotional and Romantic Attachment - Sense of Reciprocity
				Potential or Actual Sense of Object Consciousness	Actual Sense of Object Consciousness
					Spiritual Connection
Occasional Object Use -Primary Focus is on Sex with Self or Other Humans	Objects Frequently Used as Accessories in Sex with Humans	Objects Required for Sex with Self or Other Humans	Less Interest in Sex with Humans	Little or No Interest Human Sex Partners	No Interest in Human Sex Partners

# What is Objectum Sexuality?

- Is it a paraphilia or fetish?
- Is it an obsessive compulsive disorder?
- Is it some other form of mental illness?
- Is it a rare sexual/affectionate orientation?



Graphic from OS Internationale Website

# OS Community

# 2021 Update

- OS community has expanded beyond OS Internationale into many social media groups and platform.
- Self-definition of what should be included in OS has expanded.
- International news stories.
- Newer documentaries such as *Animism: People Who Love Objects* (2013). <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4568710/>
-

# I am married to the Berlin Wall: Woman

**She has been diagnosed with a condition called Objectum-Sexuality — a fetish for inanimate objects**

BERLIN: A woman with a bizarre fetish for inanimate objects has revealed she has been married to the Berlin Wall for 29 years.

Eija-Riitta Berliner-Mauer (54) whose surname means Berlin Wall in German, wed the concrete structure in 1979 after being diagnosed with a condition called Objectum-Sexuality.

Berliner-Mauer claimed she fell in love with the structure when she first saw it on TV when she was seven.

She began collecting "his" pictures and saving up for visits. On her sixth trip in 1979, they tied the knot before a handful of guests. While she remains a virgin with humans, she insists she has a full, loving relationship with the wall.



**IN LOVE:** Eija-Riitta Berliner-Mauer at the Berlin Wall in 1978.

PIC COURTESY/BERLINER-MAUER, LIDEN, SWEDEN

Berliner-Mauer, who lives in Sweden, said, "I find long, slim things with horizontal lines very sexy. The Great Wall of China's attractive, but my husband is sexier."

Objectum-Sexuality is feelings of love, attraction, arousal and commitment for a particular object.

— Agencies

## Eija-Riitta Berliner-Mauer OS Pioneer



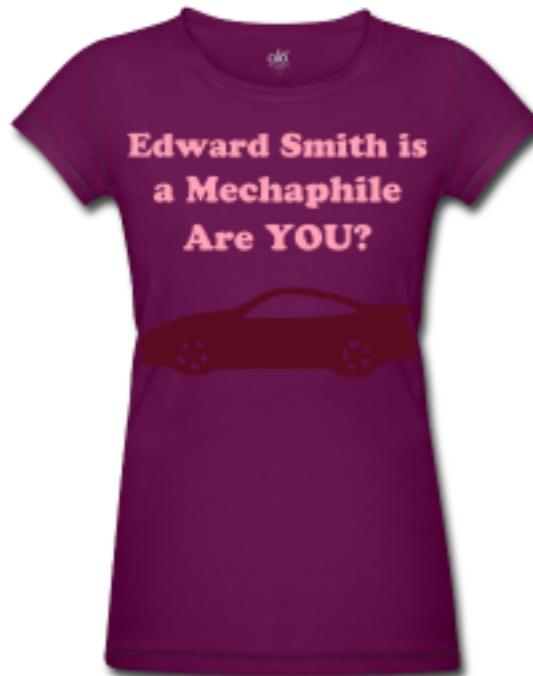
# Erika La Tour Eiffel OS Pioneer



<http://www.sosomagazine.com/soso/ErikaEiffel.html>

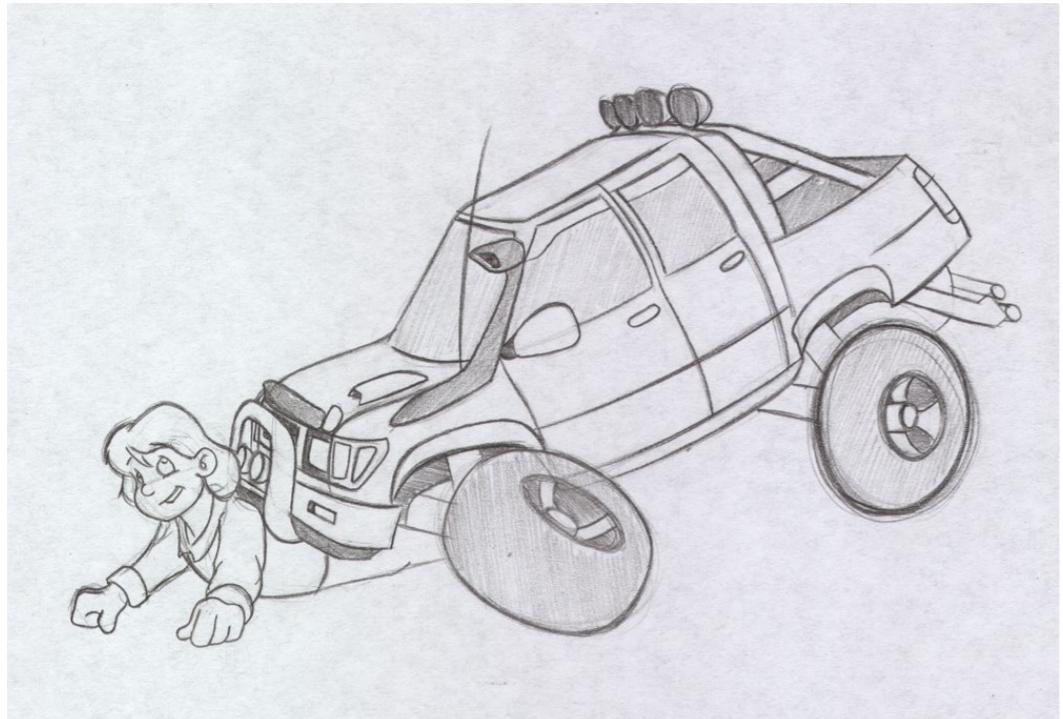
# Edward Smith

“Mechaphile”  
Cars



<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/weird-news/mechaphile-sex-thousands-cars-now-2356854>

# Mechaphile Culture: Often More Explicitly Sexual



**'I have sex with my car'**  
*- but I always use a condom!*

**Jordan Witham has a bizarre and disturbing relationship with his prized Volkswagen Beetle – he has sex with it on a regular basis**

**L**IKE MANY MEN, JORDAN WITHAM is obsessed with his car. But while most boy racers would draw the line at a wax and polish, his obsession has gone into overdrive. The 20 year old is in love with his Volkswagen Beetle – and has been having sex with it for four years.

Despite never having kissed a girl before, virgin Jordan has become an experienced lover, covering his car with kisses and caresses before having penetrative sex with the exhaust pipe. "I don't fancy people," says Jordan. "It's cars that do it for me – I don't want to marry or have kids."

Jordan's mum, Debbie, 53, doesn't know about her son's habit but his dad, David, 50, a door installer, does – and amazingly hasn't tried to put the brakes on his relationship.

Jordan says: "When I told my dad I was sexually attracted to my car, he just said that there are lots of different people out there who are attracted to lots of different things.

"I'm not ready to tell Mum, though. She sees the world in a different way and is always asking me if I've found a nice girl."

Jordan is one of just a handful of extreme

car lovers in the world known as mechaphiles, and says his obsession was fuelled as a child. He says: "I had hundreds of toy cars as a kid and often played in my dad's Beetle. I used to talk to it, but I didn't think it was odd as all my mates had imaginary friends."

After Jordan passed his driving test at 16, he spent his £750 savings on his first car, a 1967 VW Beetle. Jordan says: "I just knew she was a 'girl' car and I named her Ingo. She hadn't worked in years, but as soon as I saw her, I had to have her."

It was only while restoring Ingo that Jordan, who has never been attracted to women, realised his feelings were sexual. "I could feel myself falling in love while I worked on Ingo," he says. "I once became so aroused, I started rubbing her bodywork and masturbating. It didn't feel strange, just really exciting."

"After a few minutes, I felt a desire to connect with her further, so I had penetrative sex with the exhaust pipe."

Jordan began making love to his car a couple of times a week, while his parents were out. He recently moved out of their home to make it easier to carry on his relationship.

"I don't always have sex with the car," he explains. "Sometimes I stroke and kiss her bodywork, or rub myself up against her. If I've just been driving her, I have to wait for the exhaust pipe to cool down before I have sex."

And I always use a condom because of all the dirt and dust inside."

Jordan, who also masturbates while reading car magazines, has spent over £2,500 refurbishing Ingo. Most of Jordan's earnings from his job stacking shelves at a supermarket are spent on her. Now he has spent a further £200 on a "boy" car, a Trans Am he calls Todd, and is experimenting with a "gay" relationship.

Jordan says: "He's very masculine. When I first bought him, I felt like I was cheating on Ingo, but now we all work well together."

"I have sex with Ingo more than Todd because Todd is kept in the driveway, not in the garage," he explains. "I have to sneak outside in the middle of the night to have sex with him."

Unsurprisingly, Jordan from Missouri, USA, describes himself as a bit of a loner – though he has now made friends with another mechaphile over the internet.

Jordan says: "I enjoy my life. If I end up an old man, living on my own with just my cars, I'll be happy."

By Lisa Woollard

• See Jordan in *My Car Is My Lover – Strangelove*, 10pm, 28 May on Five.

YES

**Closer REAL LIFE**

*Jordan fell in love with his "girl" car while restoring it*

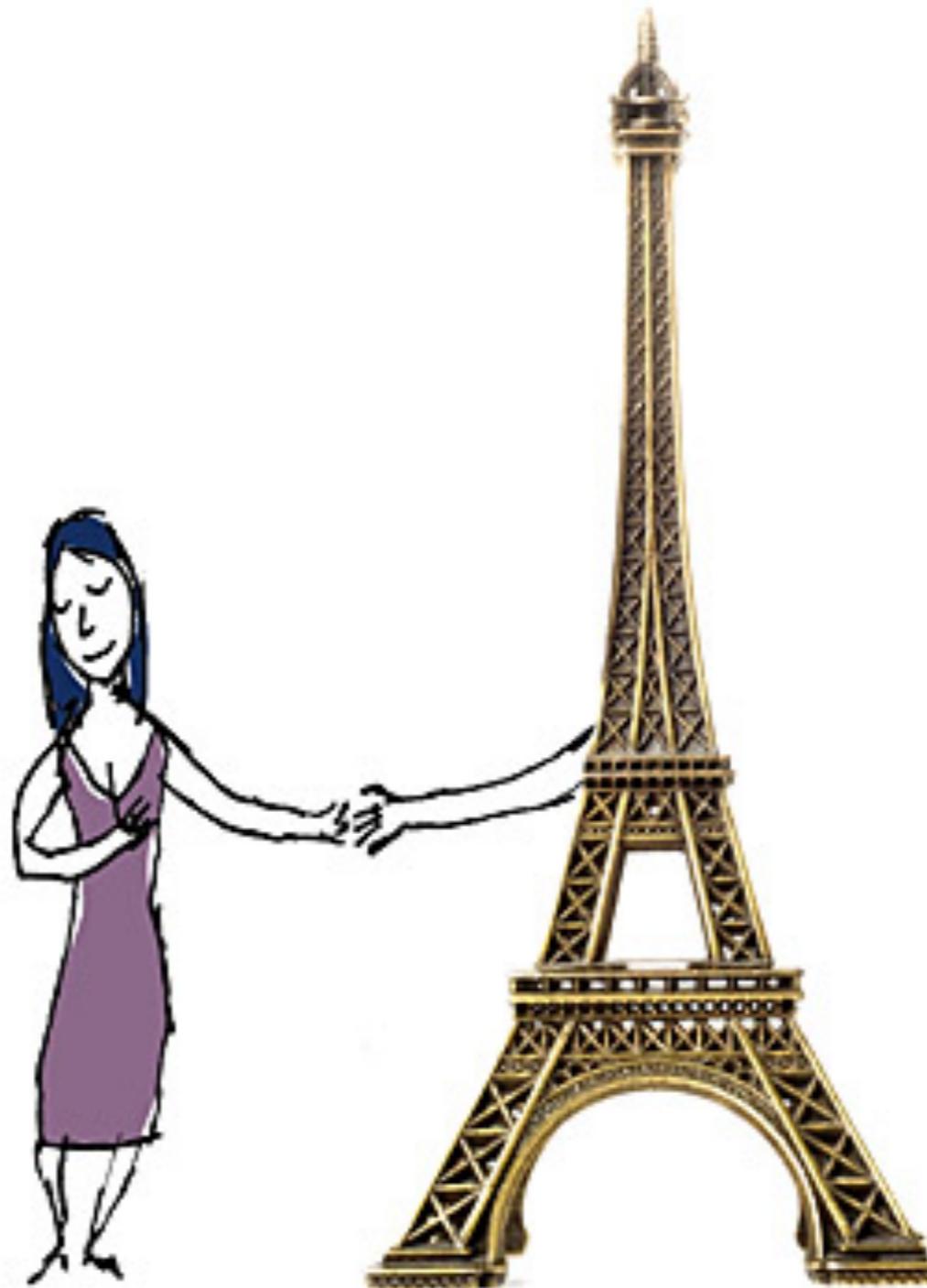
**Jordan is now also having sex with a "boy" car**

24 - 30 MAY 2008 CLOSER 4



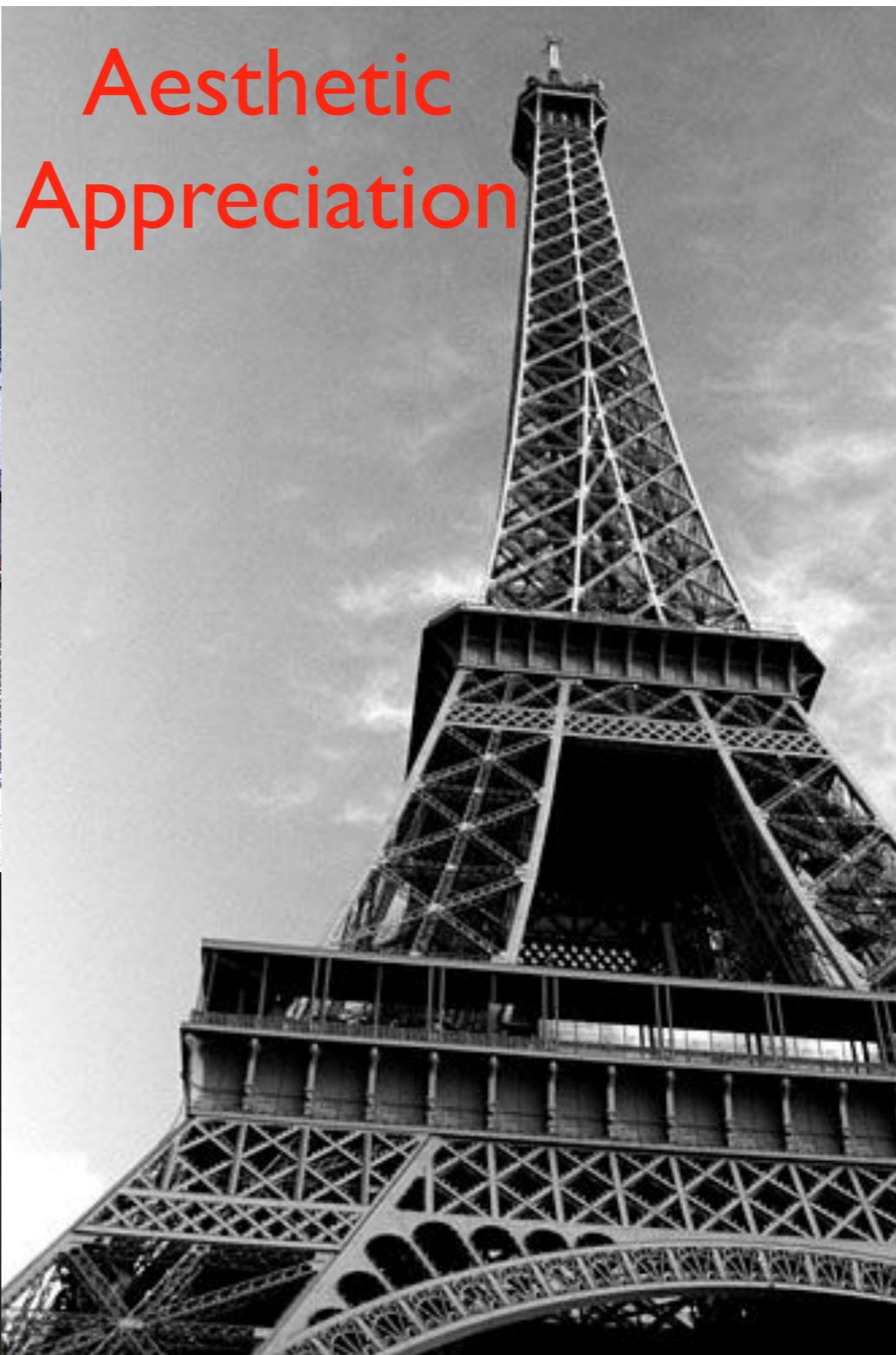
<https://www.toptenz.net/10-people-who-fell-in-love-with-inanimate-objects.php>

**Amy Wolfe, 1001 Nacht Carnival Ride**



# The Beloved Objects

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/love-objects/article4282870/>



# Aesthetic Appreciation



# Landmarks

Eiffel Tower  
Berlin Wall  
Golden Gate Bridge





**Planes, Trains &  
Automobiles**

# Robots & Statues



“Pygmalionism”



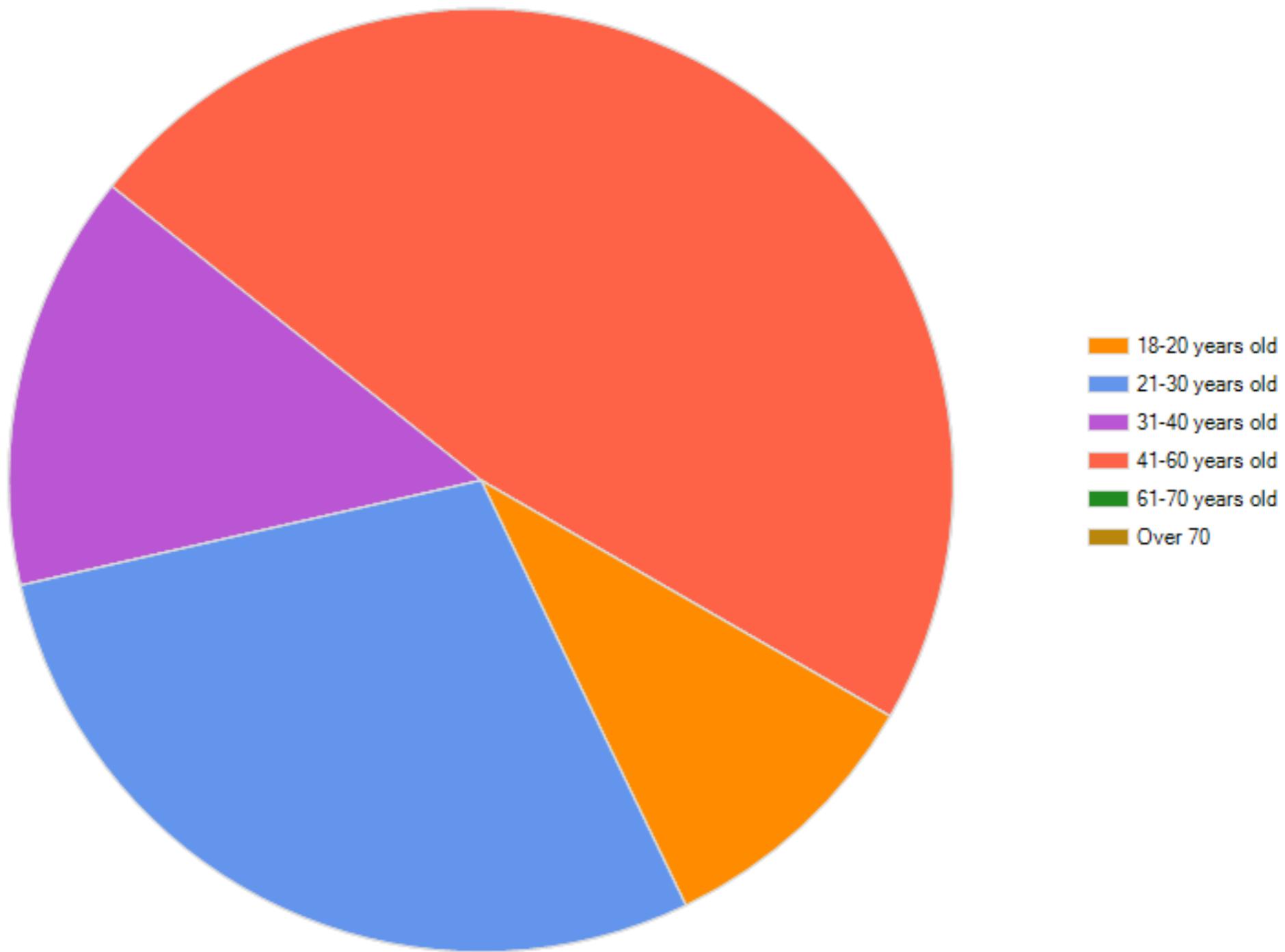
# Equipment



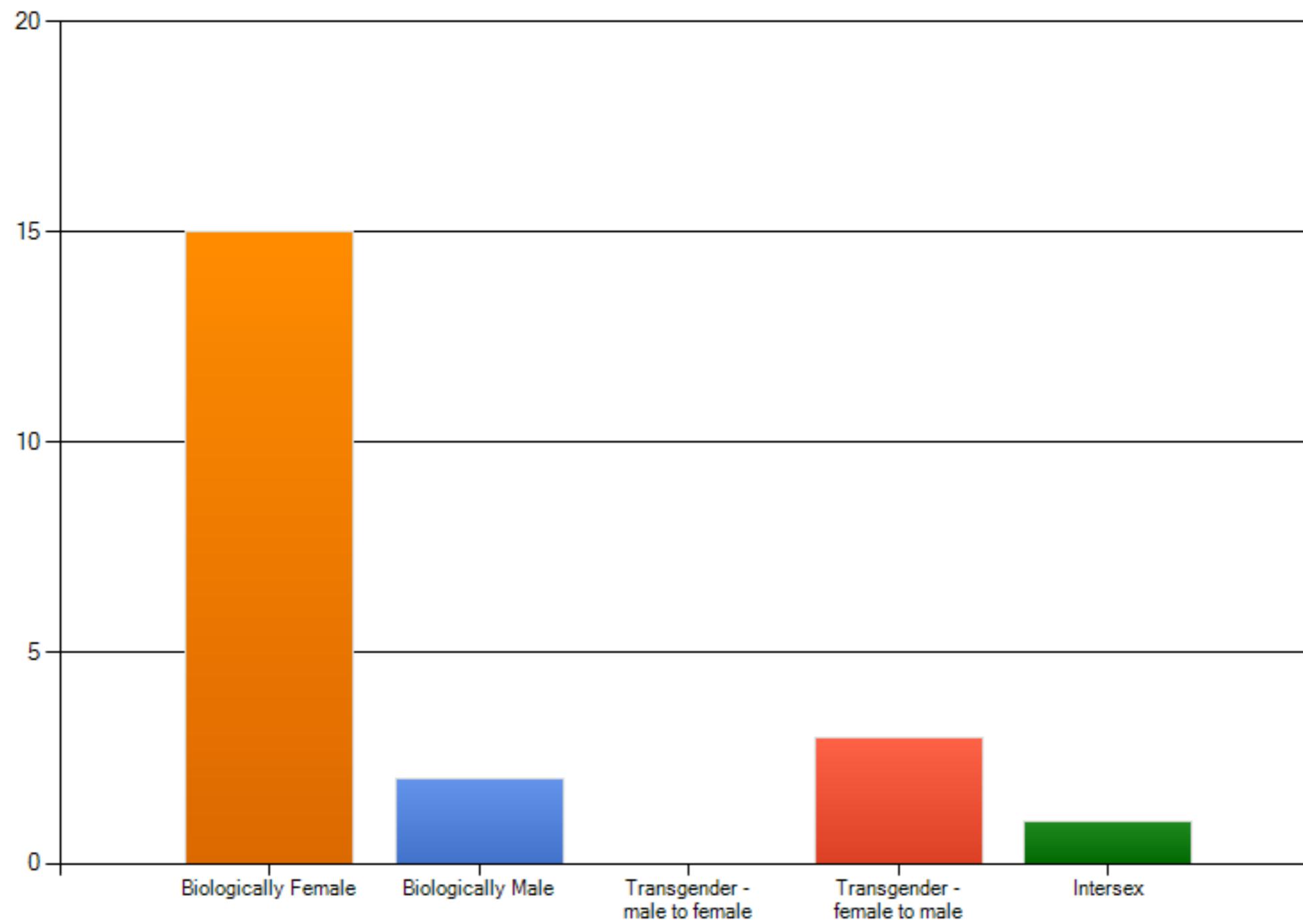
# Personal Objects

Survey Research  
2009:  
Convenience Sample of 21  
English-speaking members of OS  
Internationale.

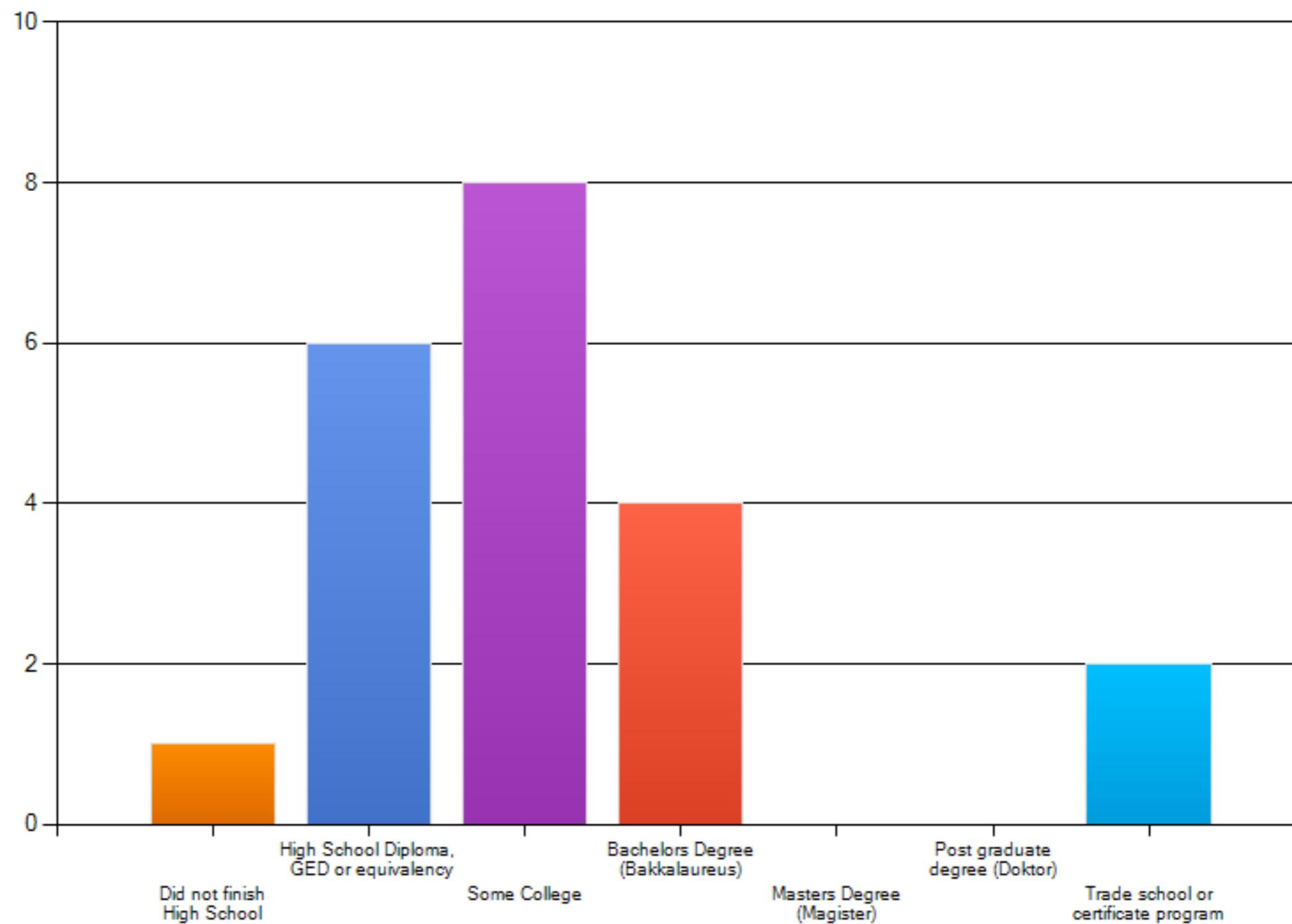
### Age: How old are you?



### Gender Expression/Sex: How do you describe yourself?



### Education: What is your highest level of education?



**Self Identity: Do you describe yourself as an "OS person" - a person with objectum sexuality?**

Objektophilie

Gay Man  
as a "mechasexual" or a "car lover"

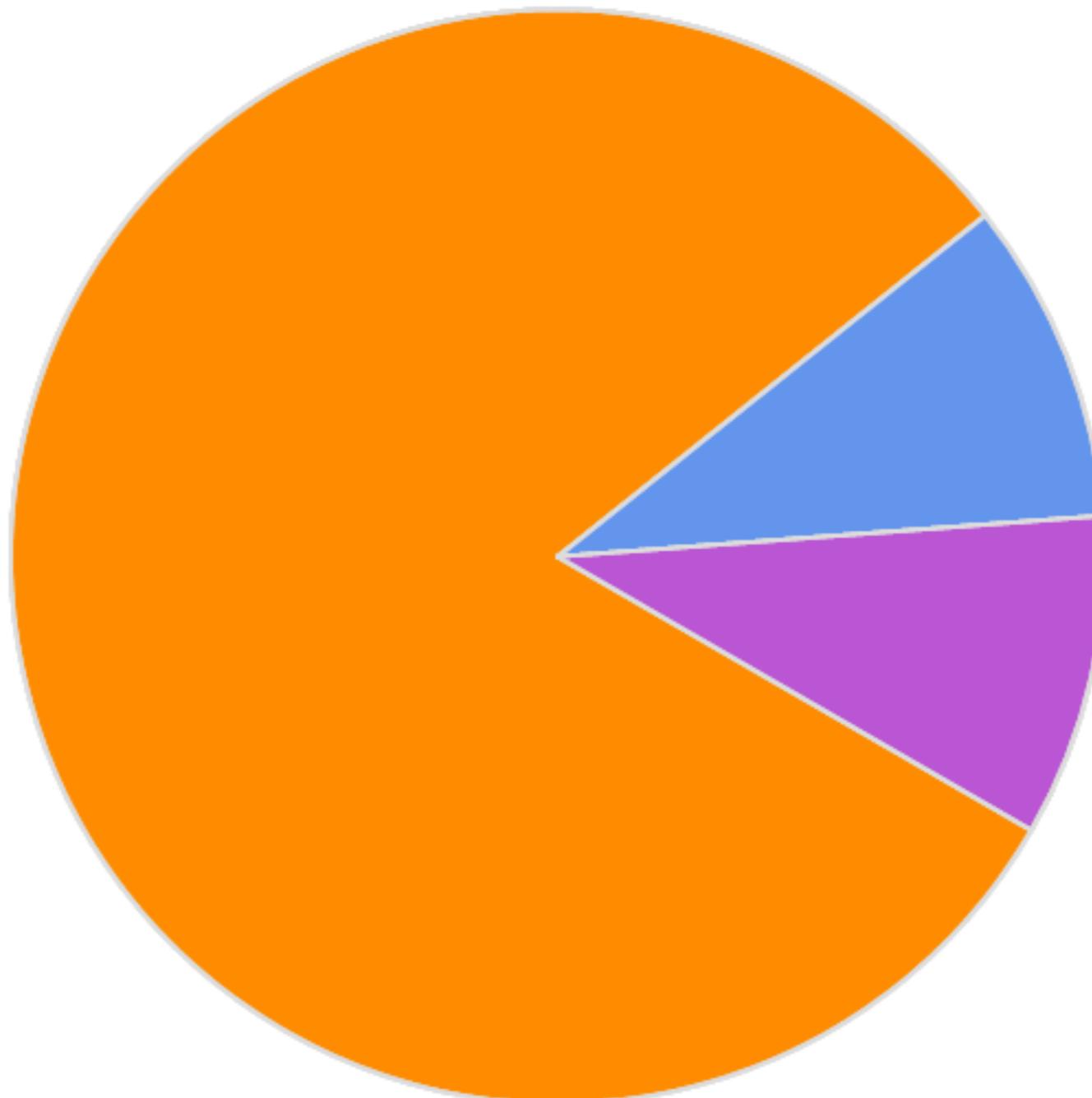
Objectum-inspired, -fascinated,  
affectionate [not romantic either]

No specific orientation

As a person who always loved objects  
since my early days

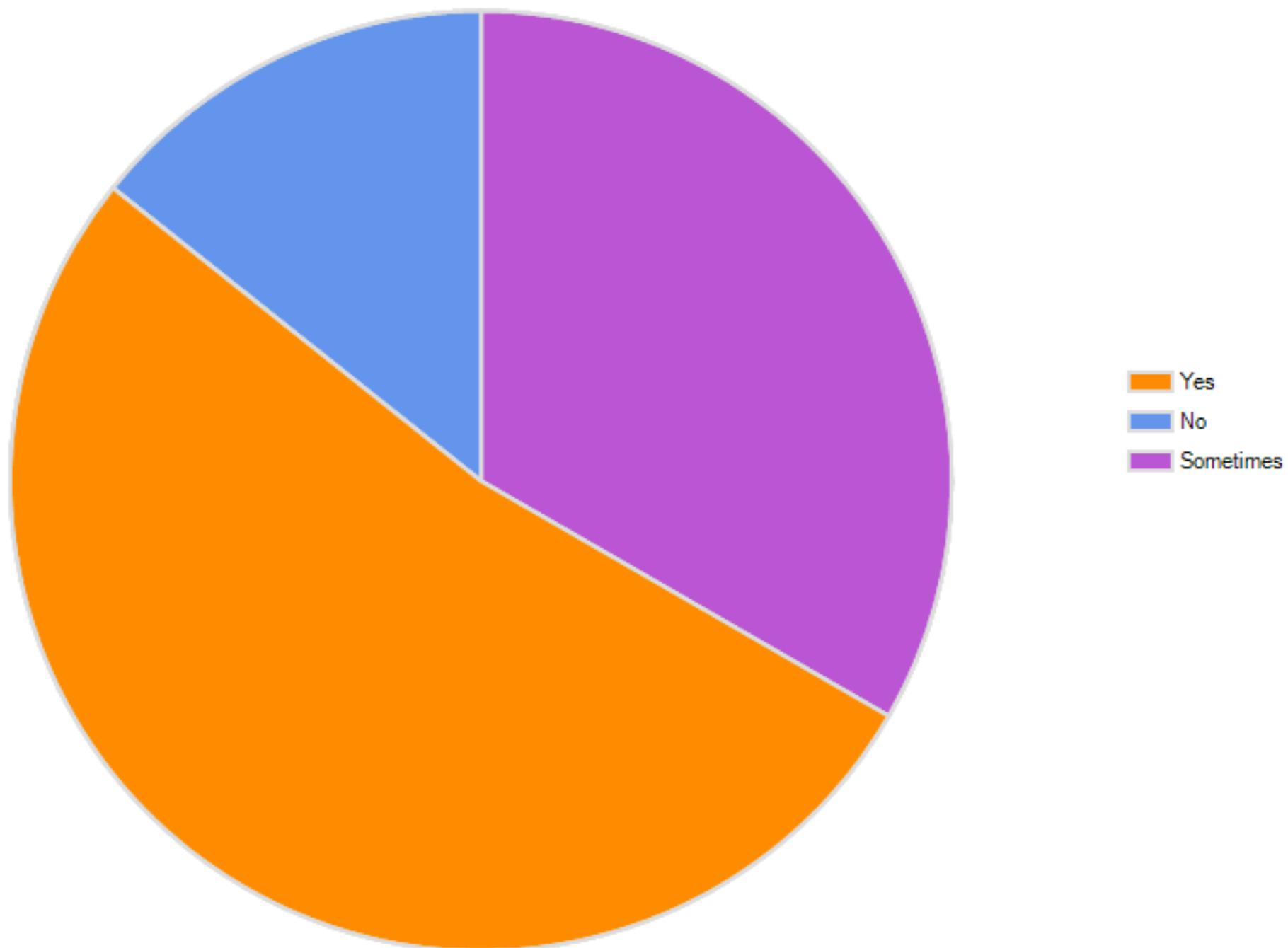
Bisexual

As a person, my sexuality is not who I  
am

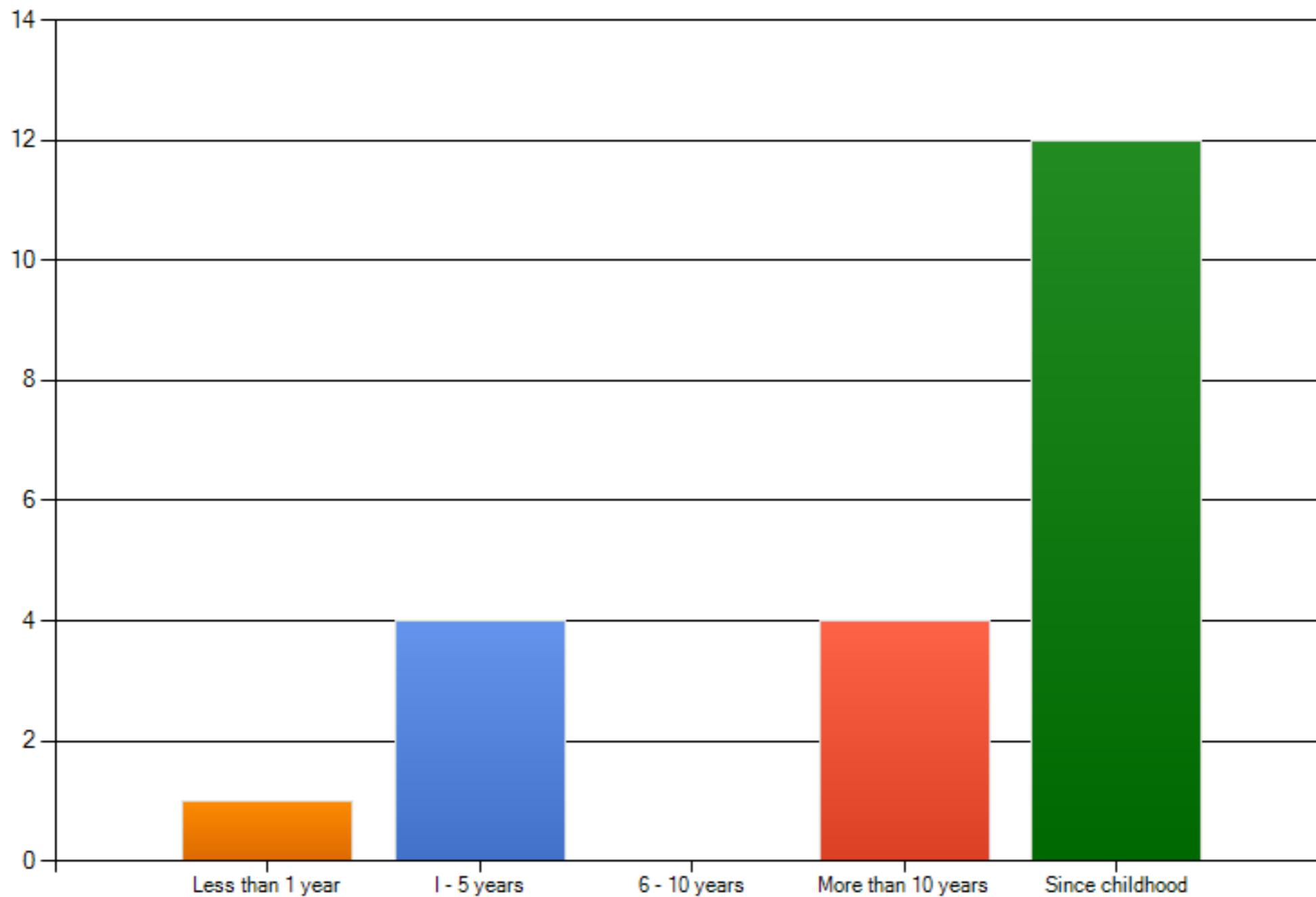


Yes  
No  
Sometimes

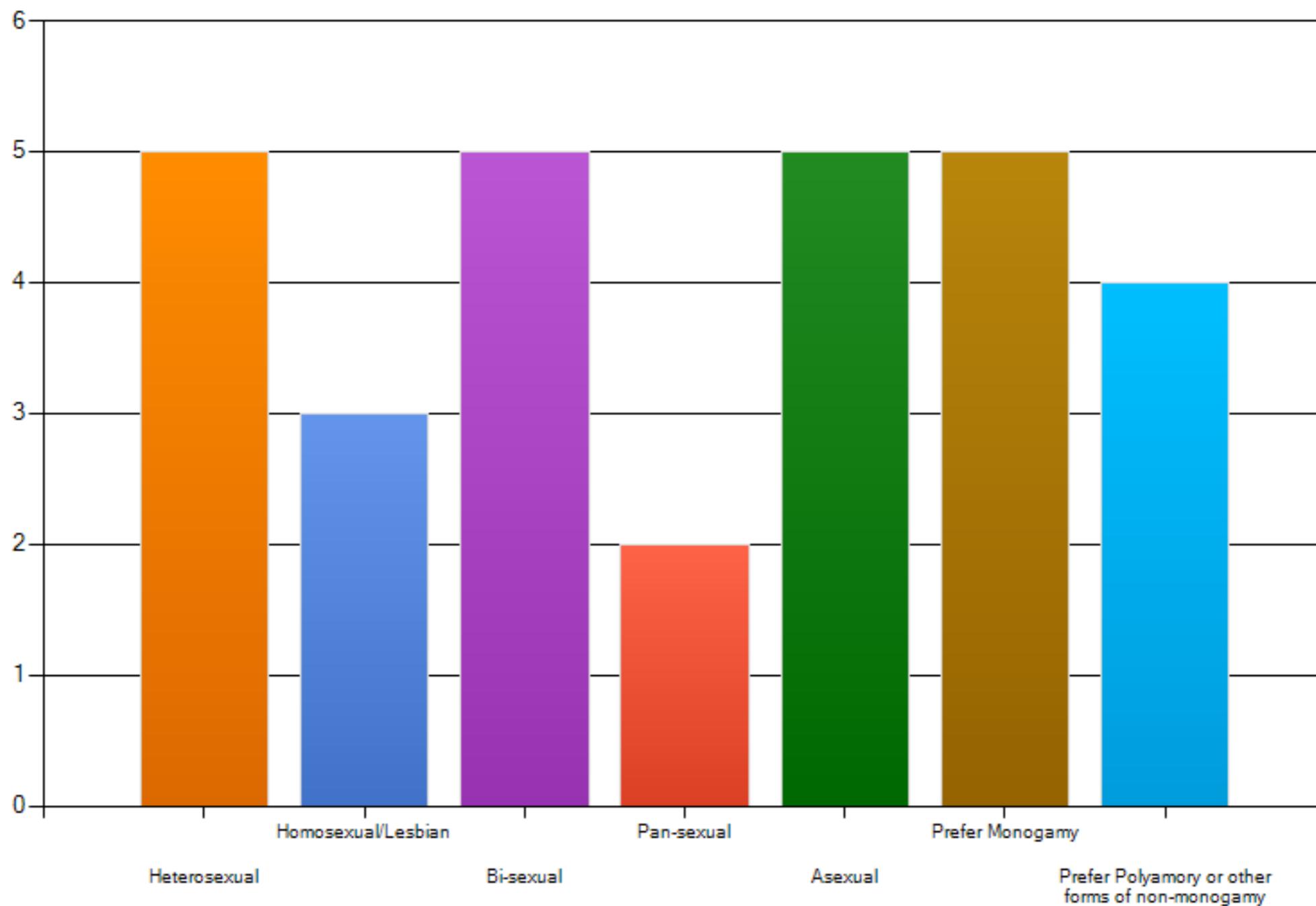
**Self Identity: Are you comfortable with other people describing you as an  
"OS person?"**



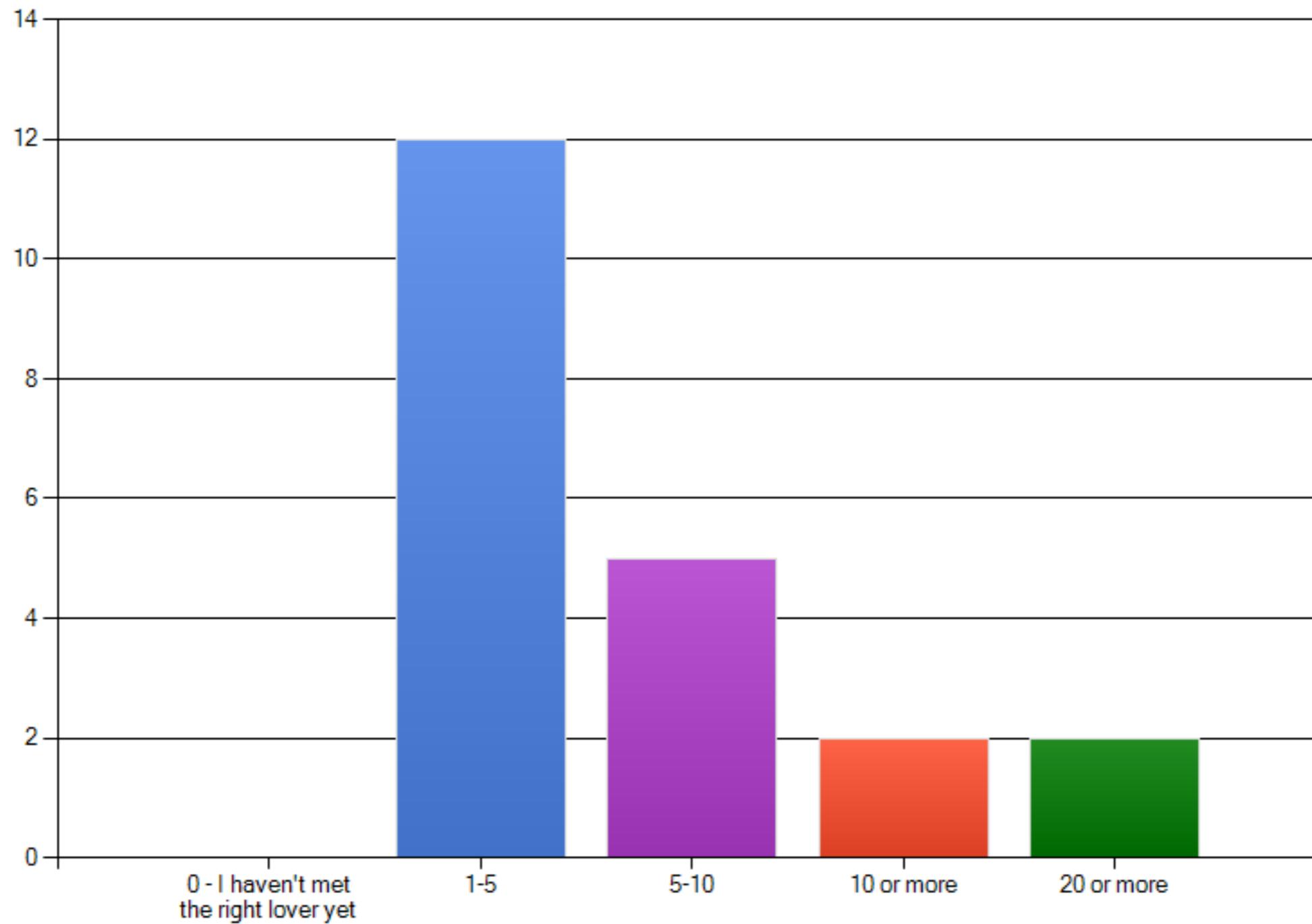
**How long have you been aware of yourself as a person with a romantic and/or sexual attraction to objects?**



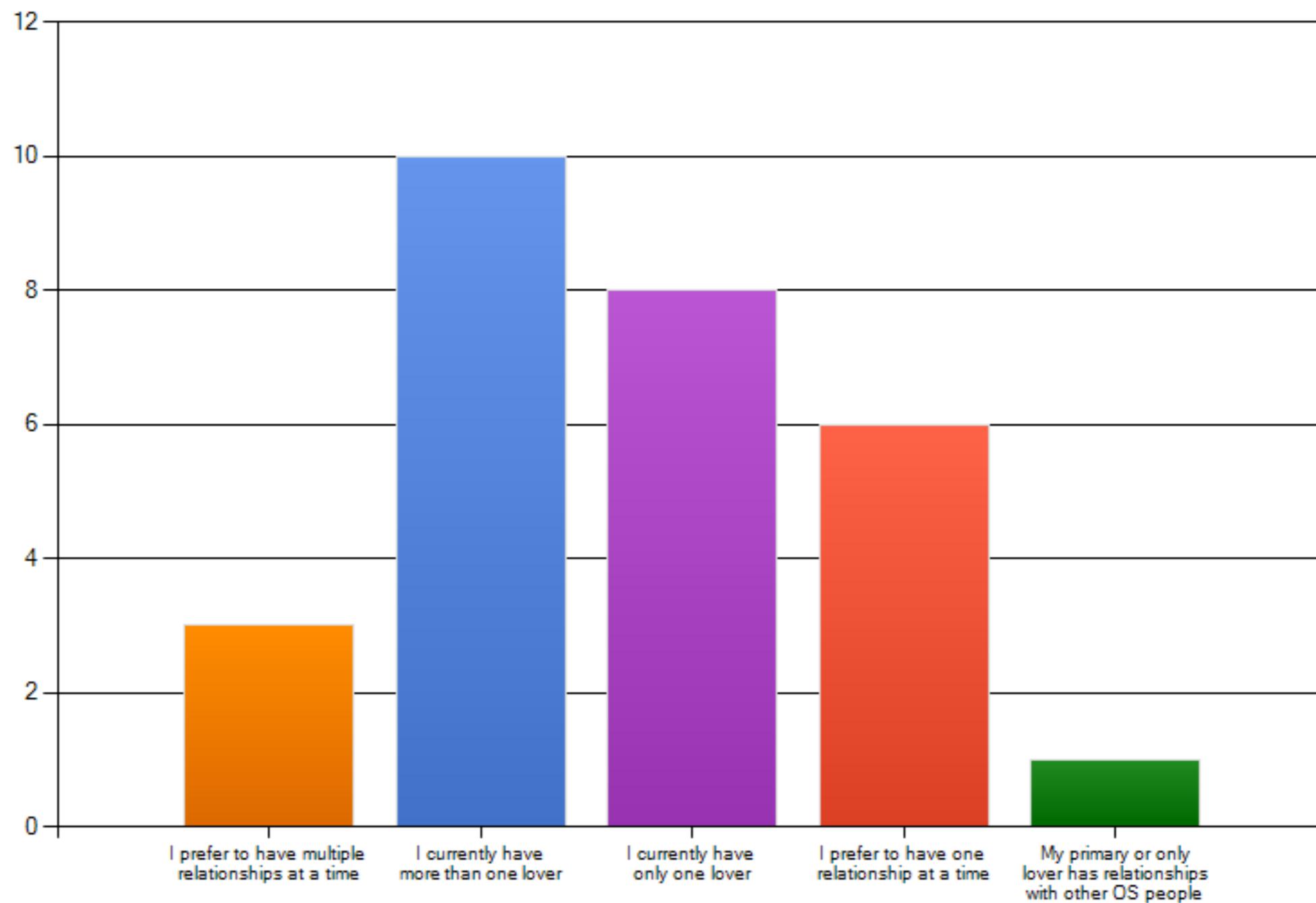
**Gender & Preferences: How do you describe your own gender expression and relationship preferences? Please choose all that apply.**



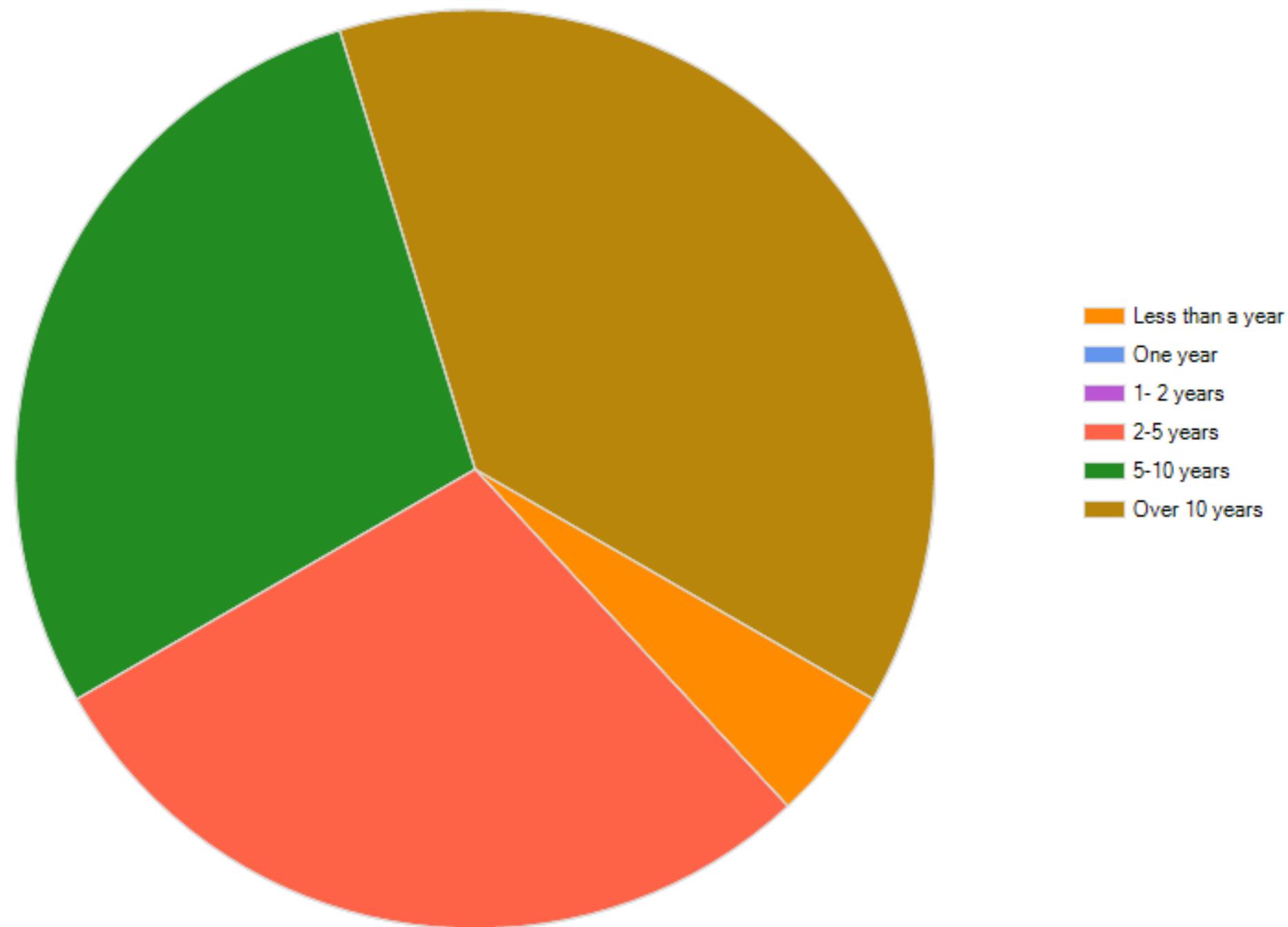
### How many OS relationships have you had in your life?



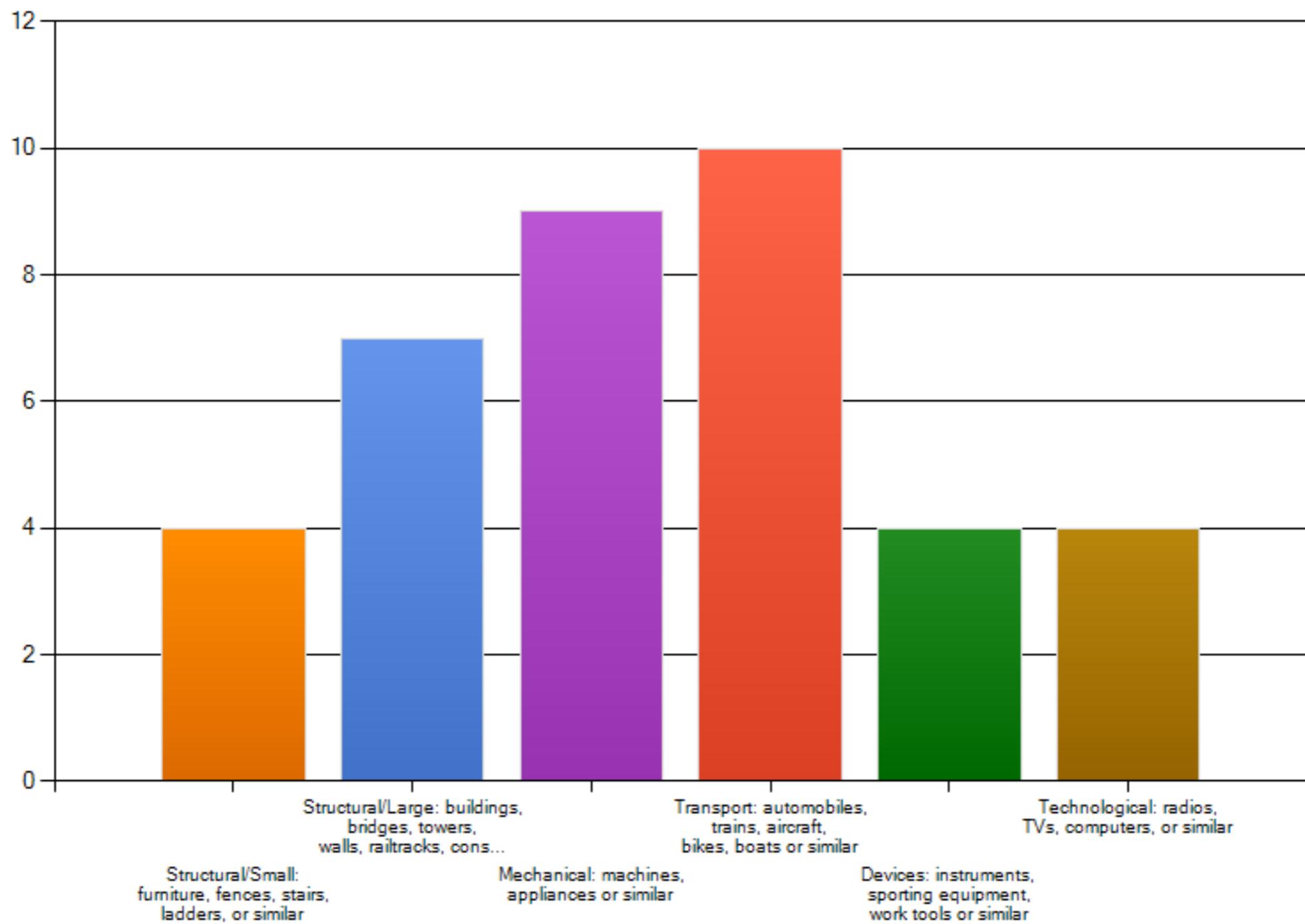
**Number of Relationships: Please indicate the choices which apply to you. You can have more than one answer.**



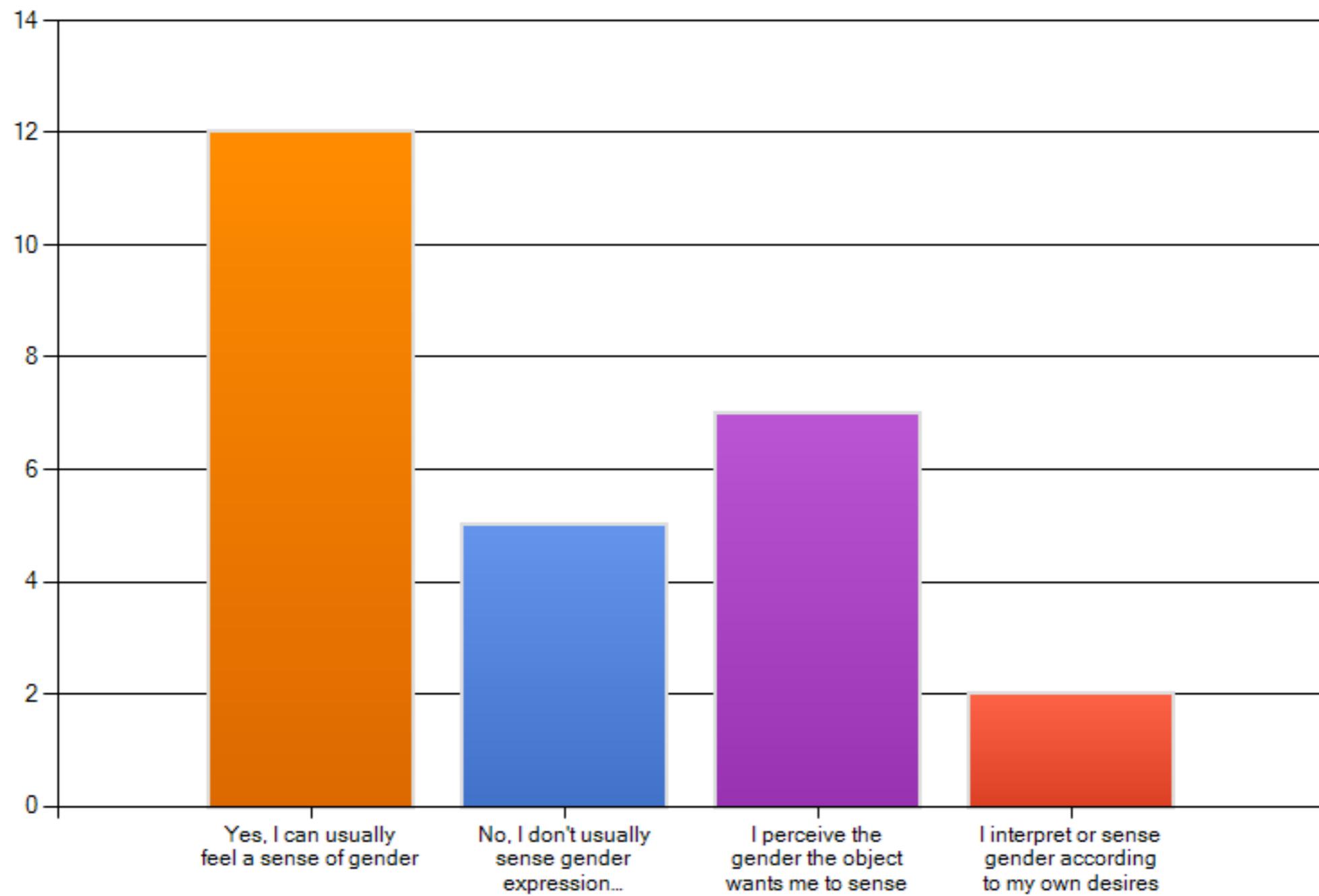
**Duration: How long was/is your longest relationship with a beloved object?**



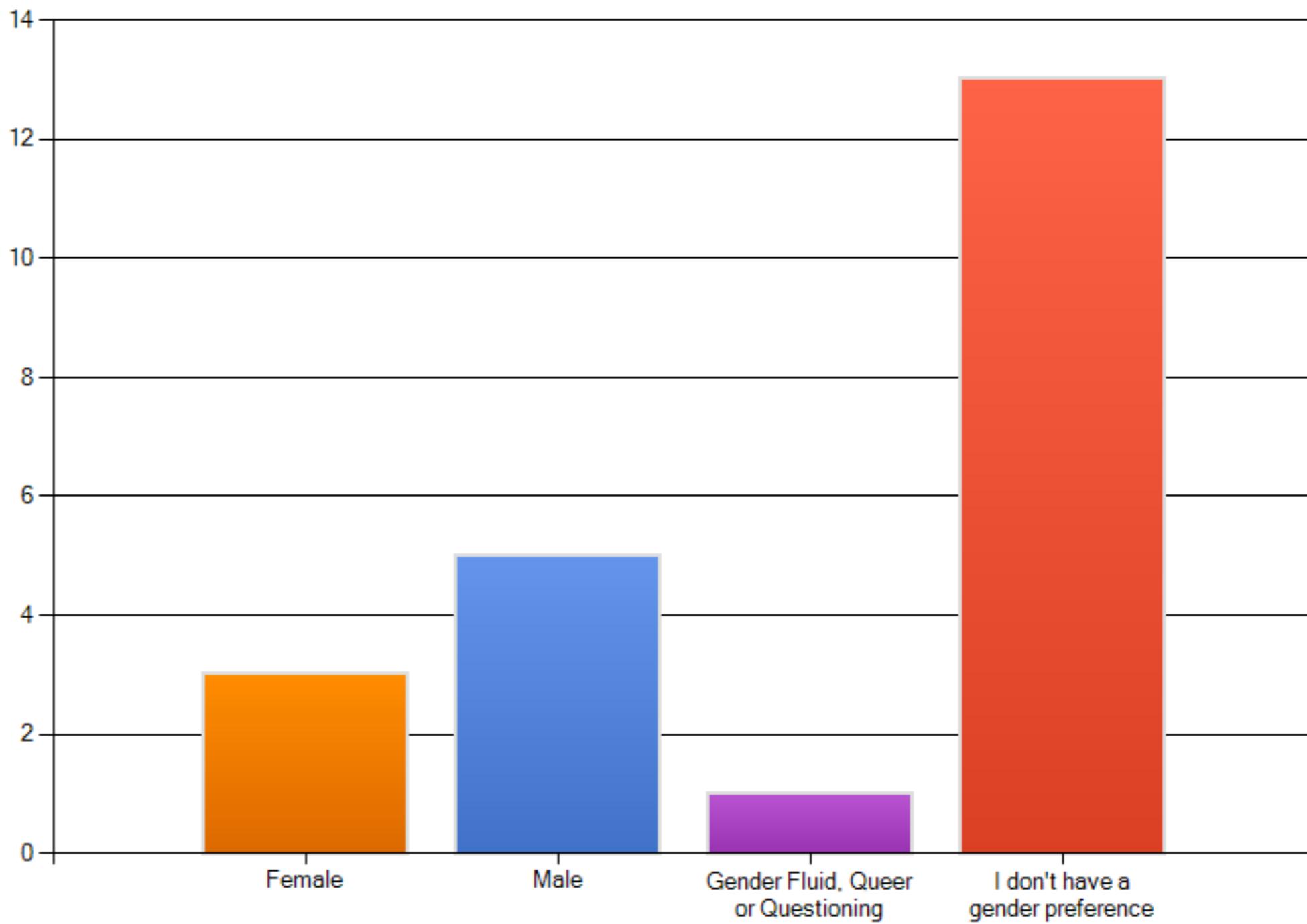
**Types of Lovers: What types of lovers attract you? Please choose all that apply.**



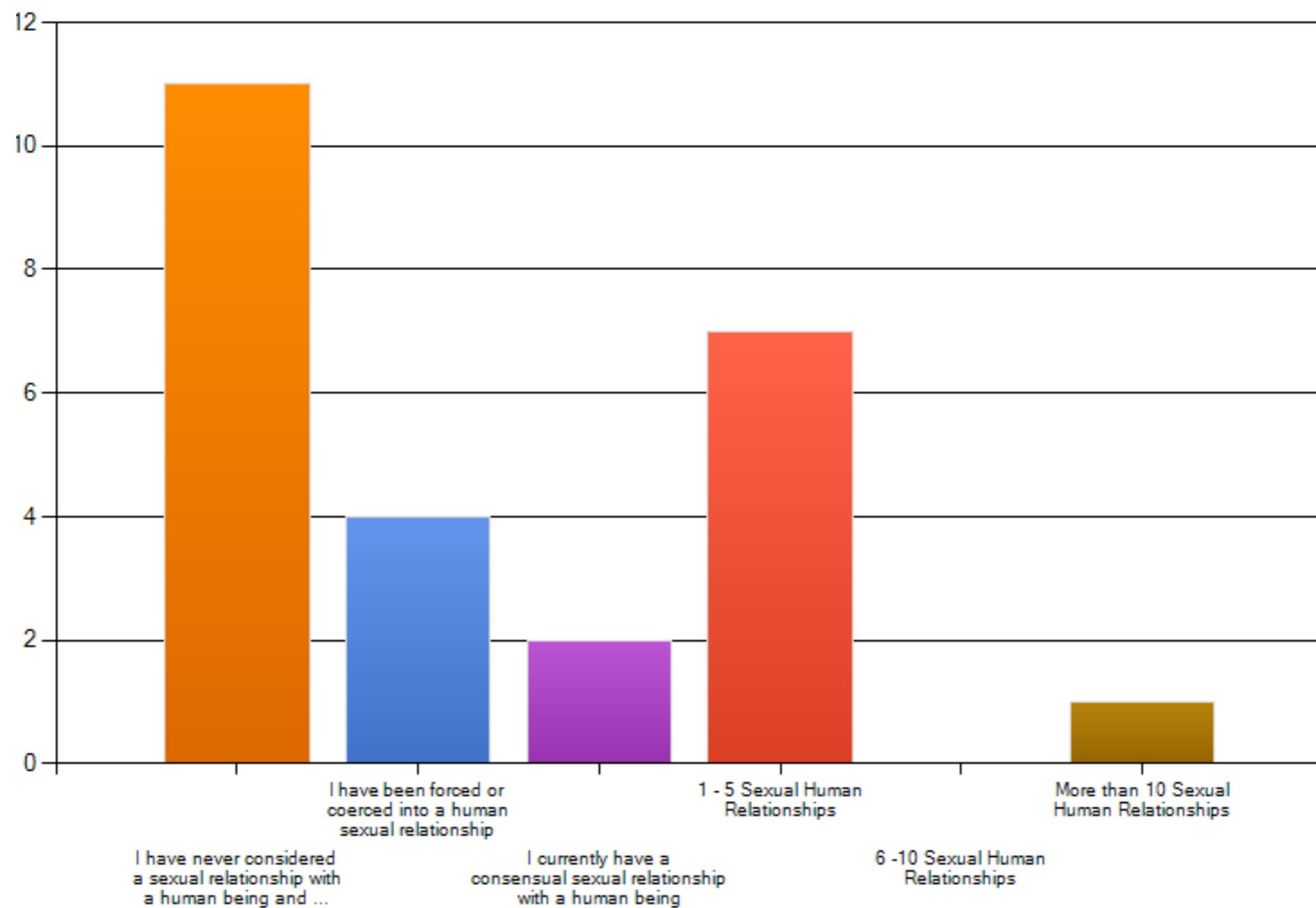
**Gender Perception: Do you sense gender expression in the beloved objects that attract you?**  
**Please choose all that apply.**



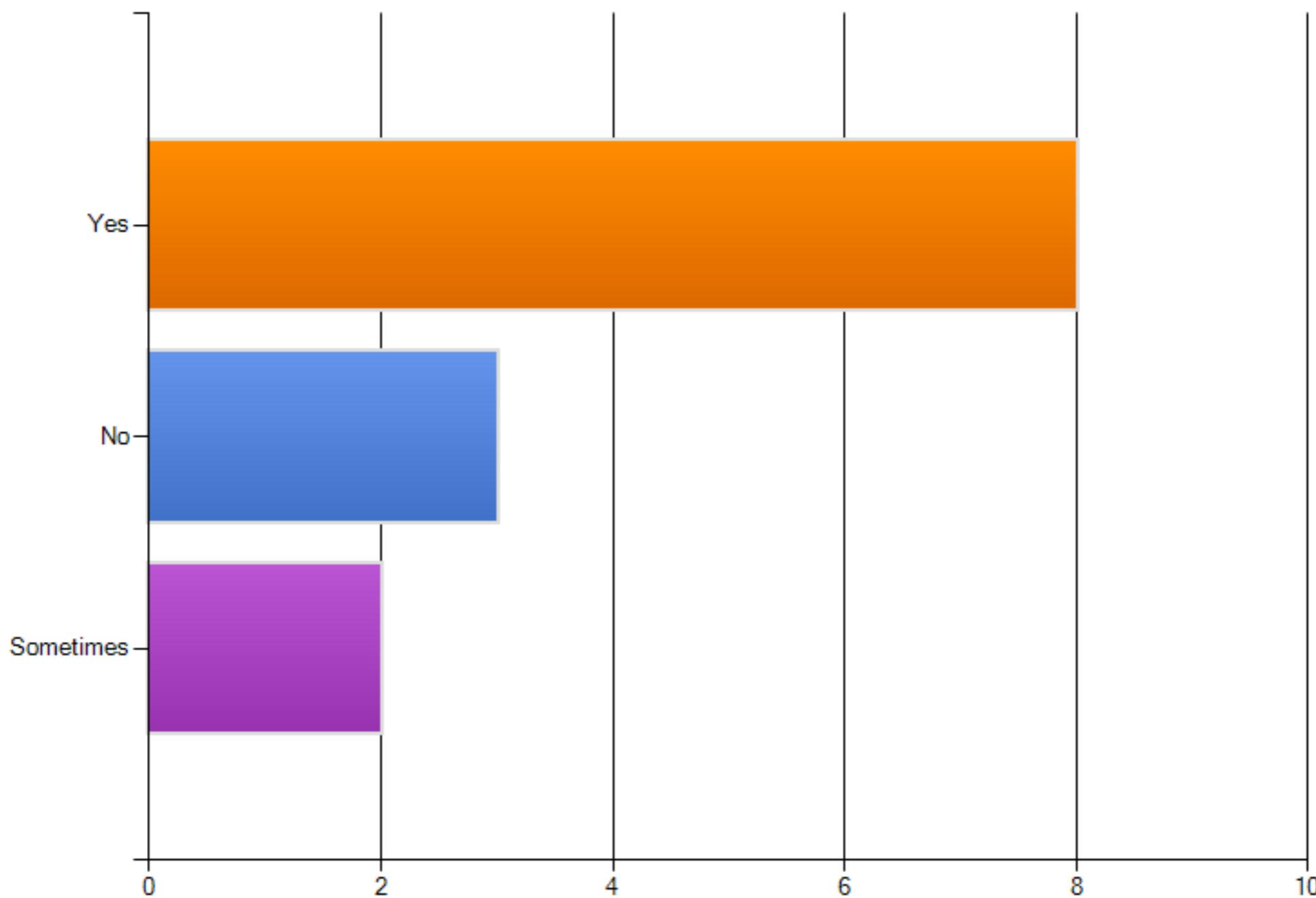
**Gender: Do you have a gender preference in beloved objects? If so, what is it?**



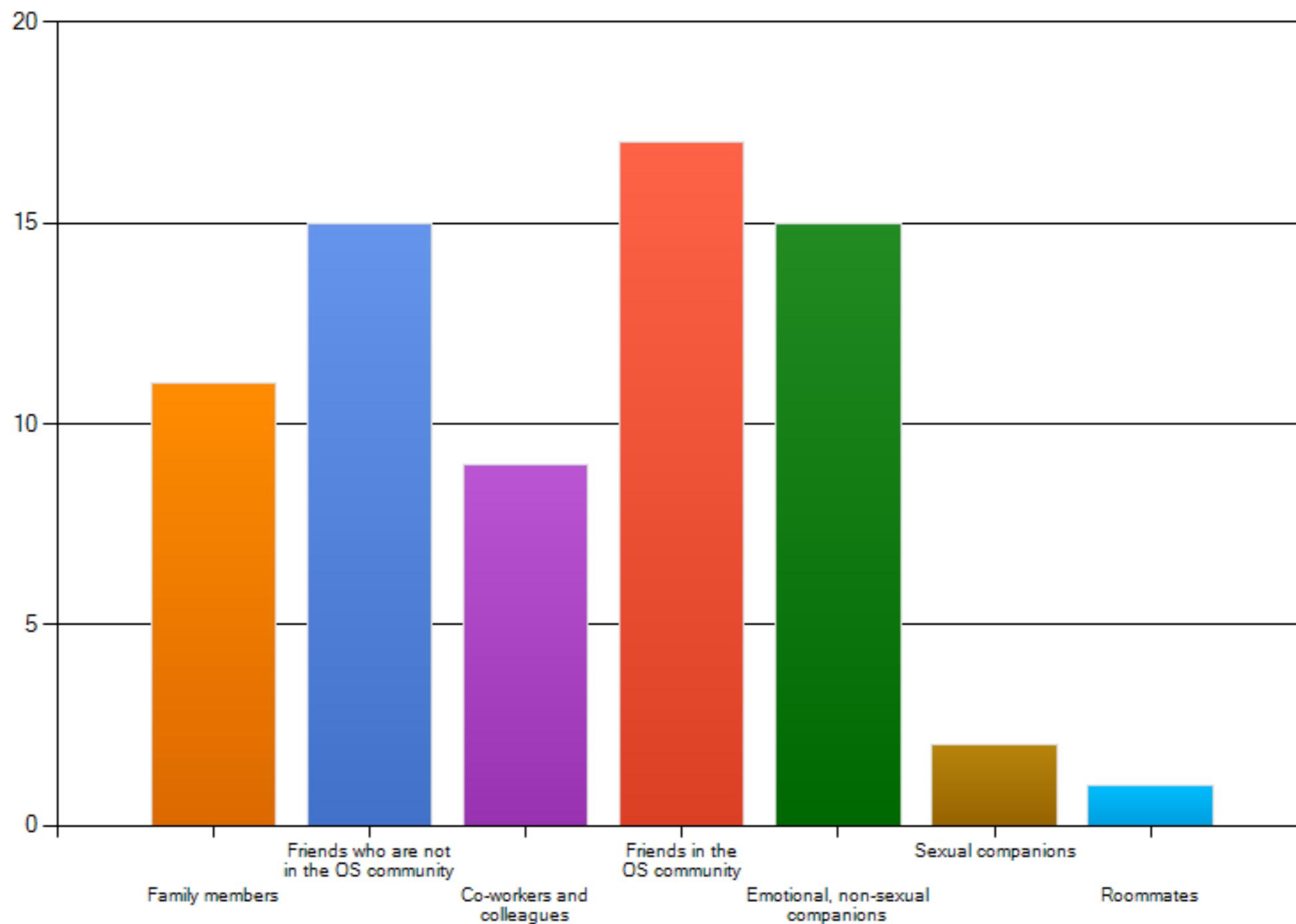
**Human Lovers: Have you ever had a sexual relationship with a human being? If so, how many? If so, were the relationships consensual or forced? You may choose more than one answer.**



**When you self-please, do you enjoy being close with a representation of your lover,  
such as a model or a picture?**



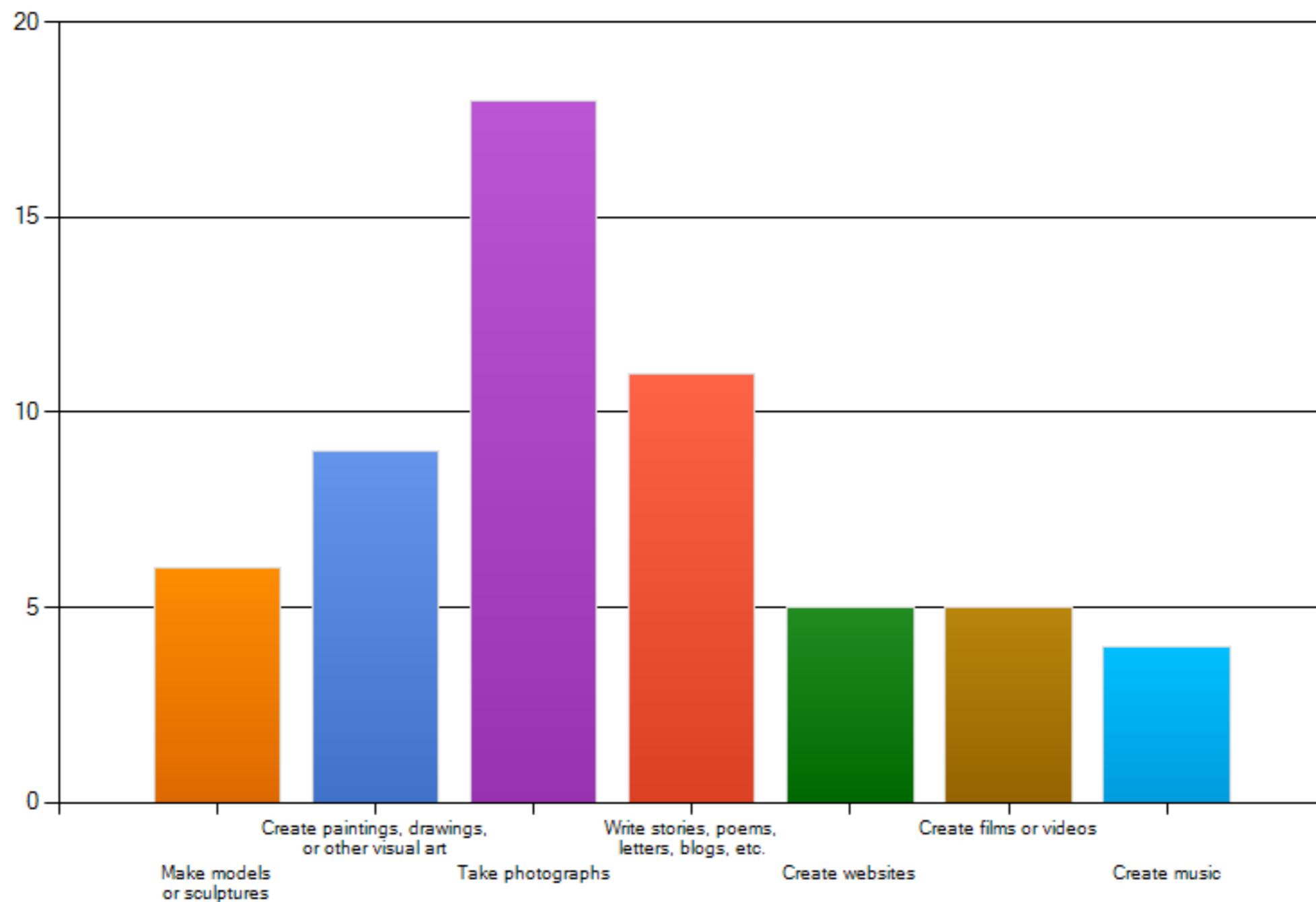
### Human Companionship: What kinds of human relationships do you enjoy?





# Eros

**Representations: In order to feel close to your lover(s) and as part of the enjoyment of the relationship, do you:**



# Possible Causes of OS?

- Abuse or trauma?
- Animism?
- Autism?
- Synesthesia?

# Autism Spectrum

- A range of expressions and approaches to OS.
- Not everyone has a diagnosis.
- More in Part Two.

# Animism

- From Wikipedia
- Animism (from Latin anima "soul, life") refers to the belief that non-human entities are spiritual beings, or at least embody some kind of life-principle. Animism encompasses the beliefs that there is no separation between the spiritual and physical (or material) worlds, and souls or spirits exist, not only in humans, but also in all other animals, plants, rocks, natural phenomena such as thunder, geographic features such as mountains or rivers, or other entities of the natural environment. Animism may further attribute souls to abstract concepts such as words, true names, or metaphors in mythology. Animism is particularly widely found in the religions of indigenous peoples, including Shinto, and some forms of Hinduism, Buddhism, Pantheism, Christianity and Neopaganism.

# Synesthesia

- From Wikipedia
- Synesthesia (also spelled synæsthesia or synaesthesia, plural synesthesiae or synaesthesiae), from the ancient Greek σύν (syn), "together," and αἴσθησις (aisthēsis), "sensation," is a neurologically based condition in which stimulation of one sensory or cognitive pathway leads to automatic, involuntary experiences in a second sensory or cognitive pathway. People who report such experiences are known as synesthetes.

**http://  
www.synesthete.org/**

### **What is Synesthesia?**

Synesthesia is a perceptual condition of mixed sensations: a stimulus in one sensory modality (e.g., hearing) involuntarily elicits a sensation/experience in another modality (e.g. vision). Likewise, perception of a form (e.g., a letter) may induce an unusual perception in the same modality (e.g. a color).

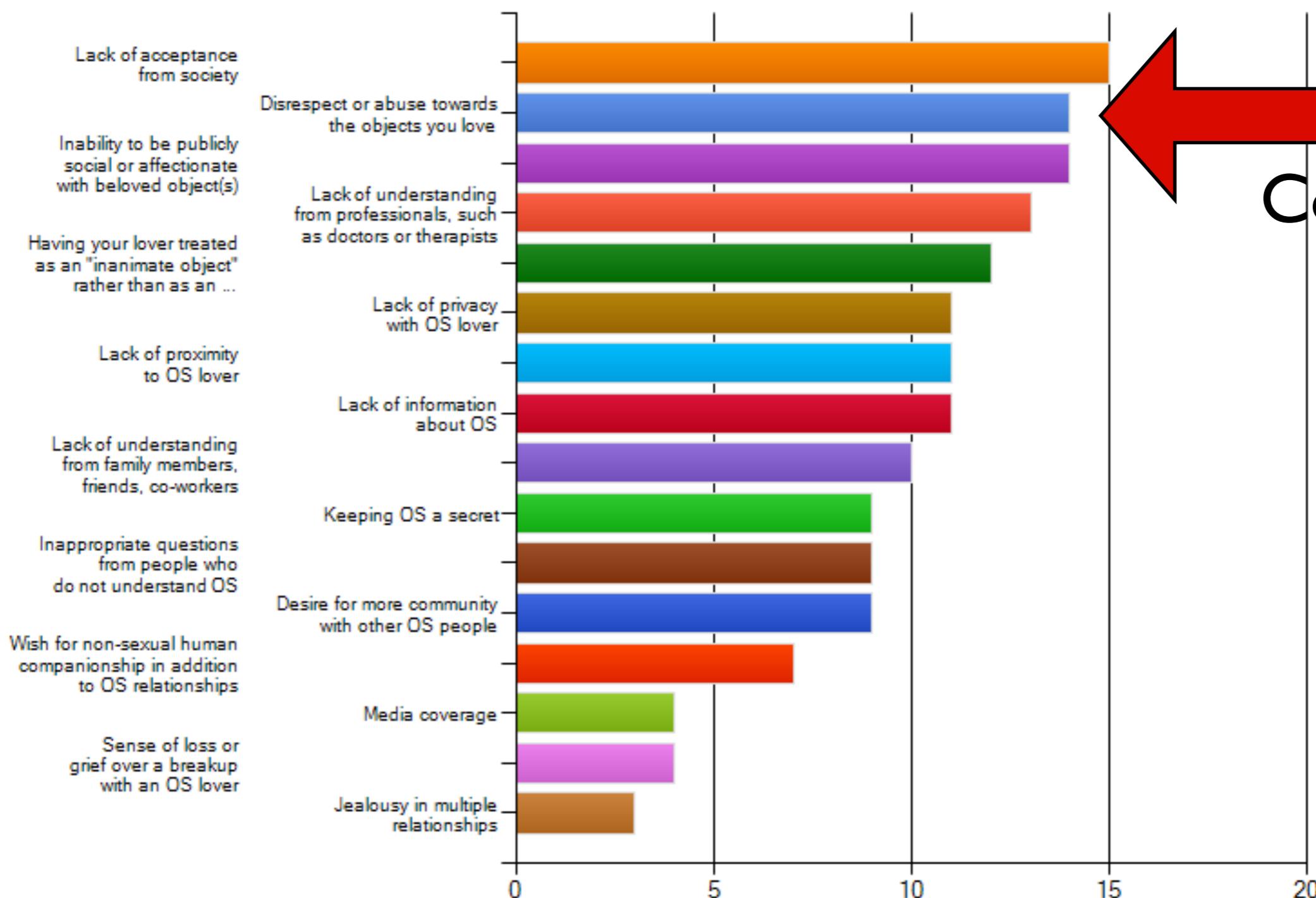
### **What is the Synesthesia Battery?**

This battery of tests provides a standard battery of questions, tests and scoring. This test is available to the whole community of researchers and synesthetes for their use in making scientific progress. Your data will be kept entirely private, for use only by yourself, and by a researcher if you provide a valid email address for one.



# Clinical Considerations

**Problems: What are the problems you face as an OS person, both as an individual and in relationships with your OS lover(s)? Choose all that apply.**



A  
Big  
Concern

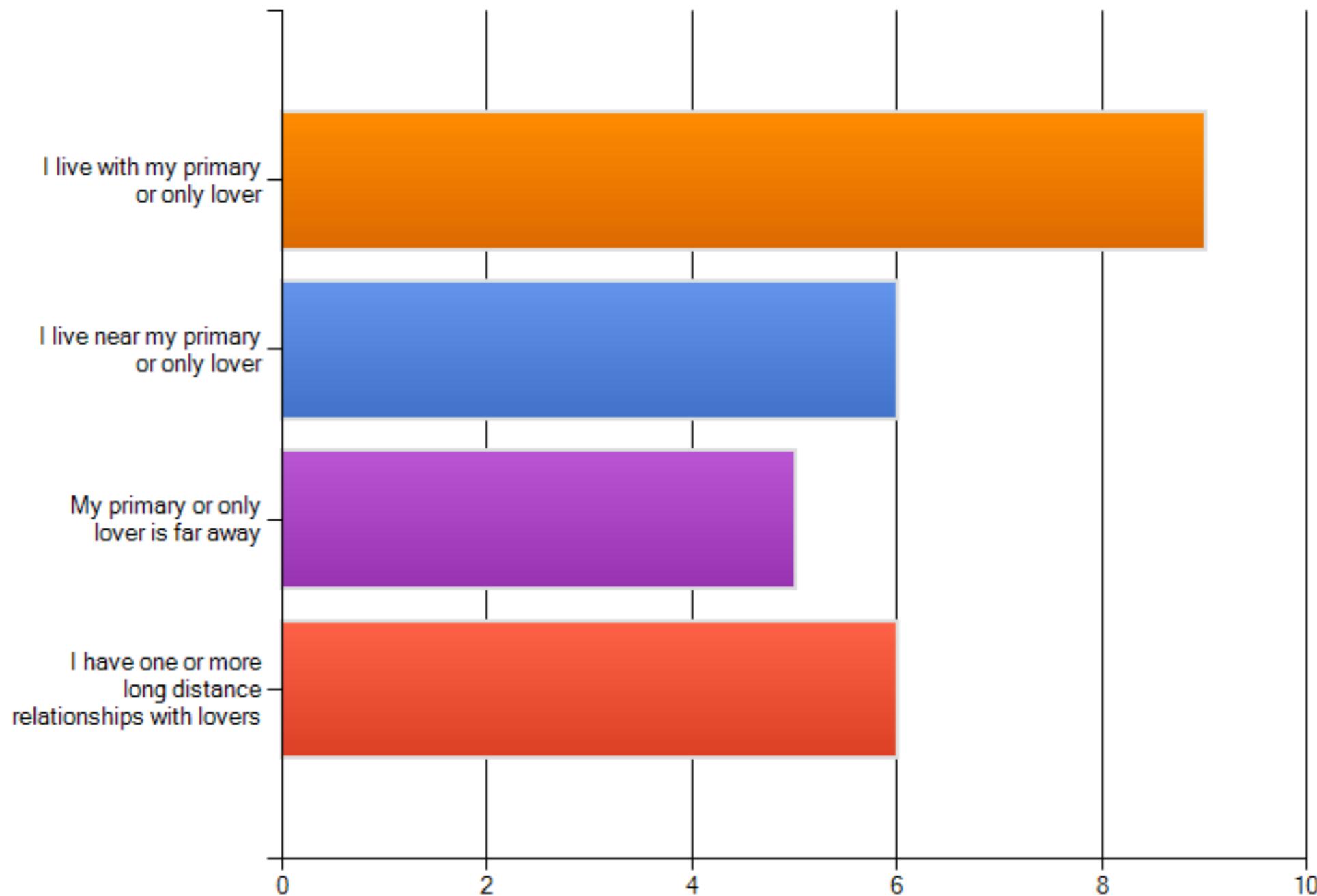
# Unrequited Love

Some OS people fall in love with objects which are inaccessible to them.

Lack of privacy, yearning, heartbreak, frustration, sometimes trespassing social boundaries.

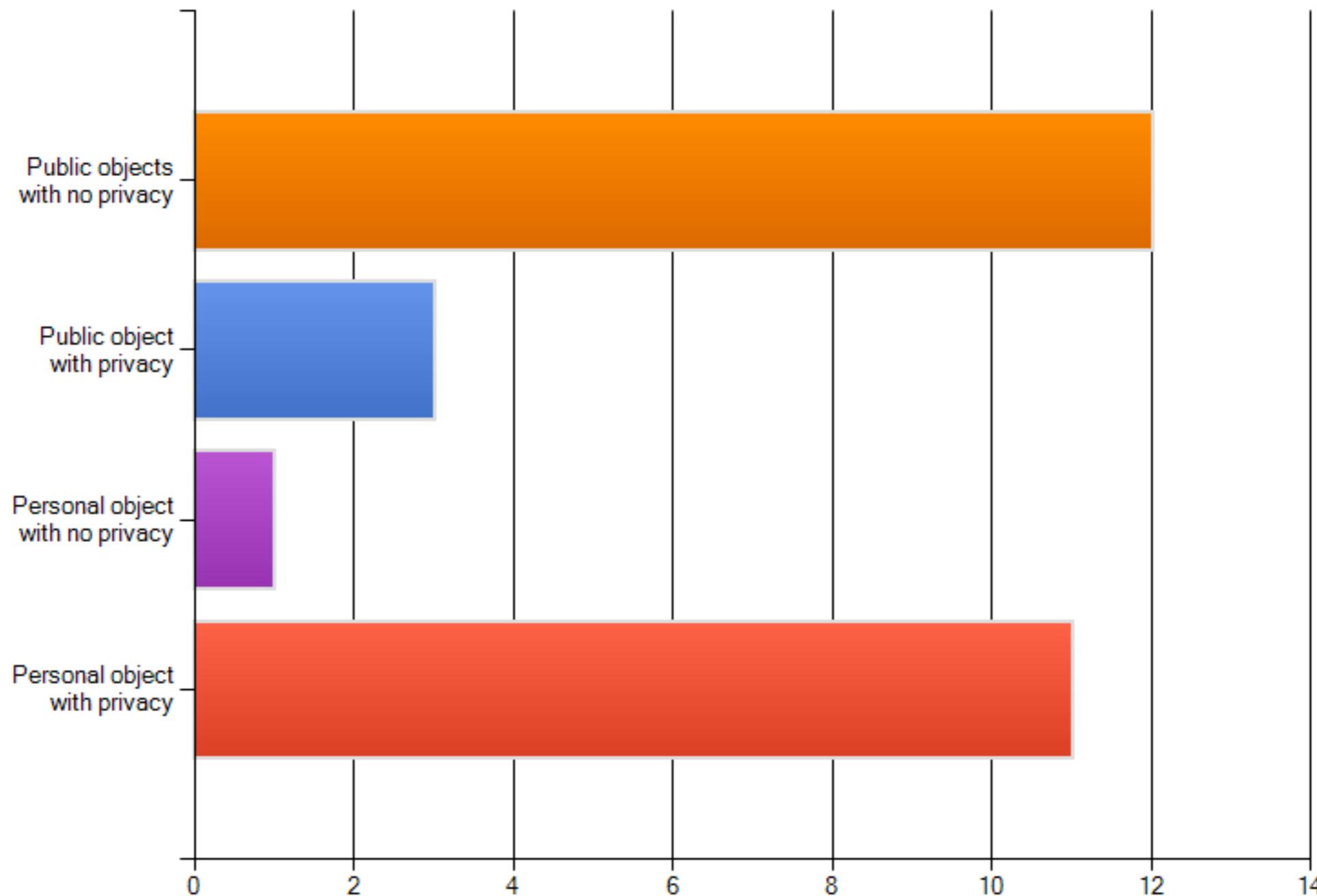


**Physical Proximity: How close are you to your beloved object(s)? Please answer all that apply.**



# Lack of Privacy

**Privacy Issues: With regard to your beloved objects, how would you describe the level of privacy?**



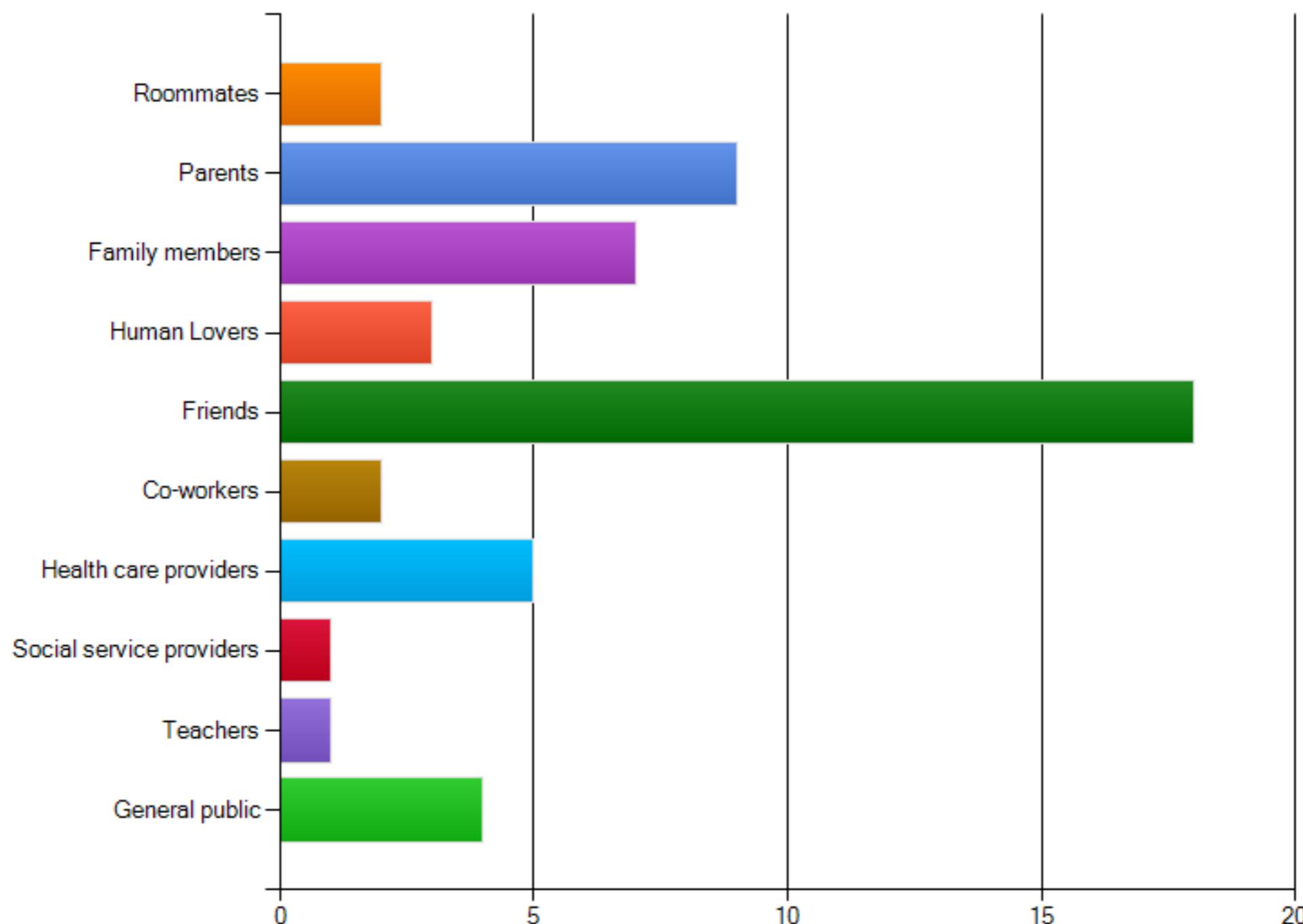
# Harm to Beloved Objects

Some OS people live with  
humans who threaten and  
damage the beloved objects.  
Or a beloved object may be a  
public structure which is harmed  
or demolished.  
Fear, grief, anger, loss.



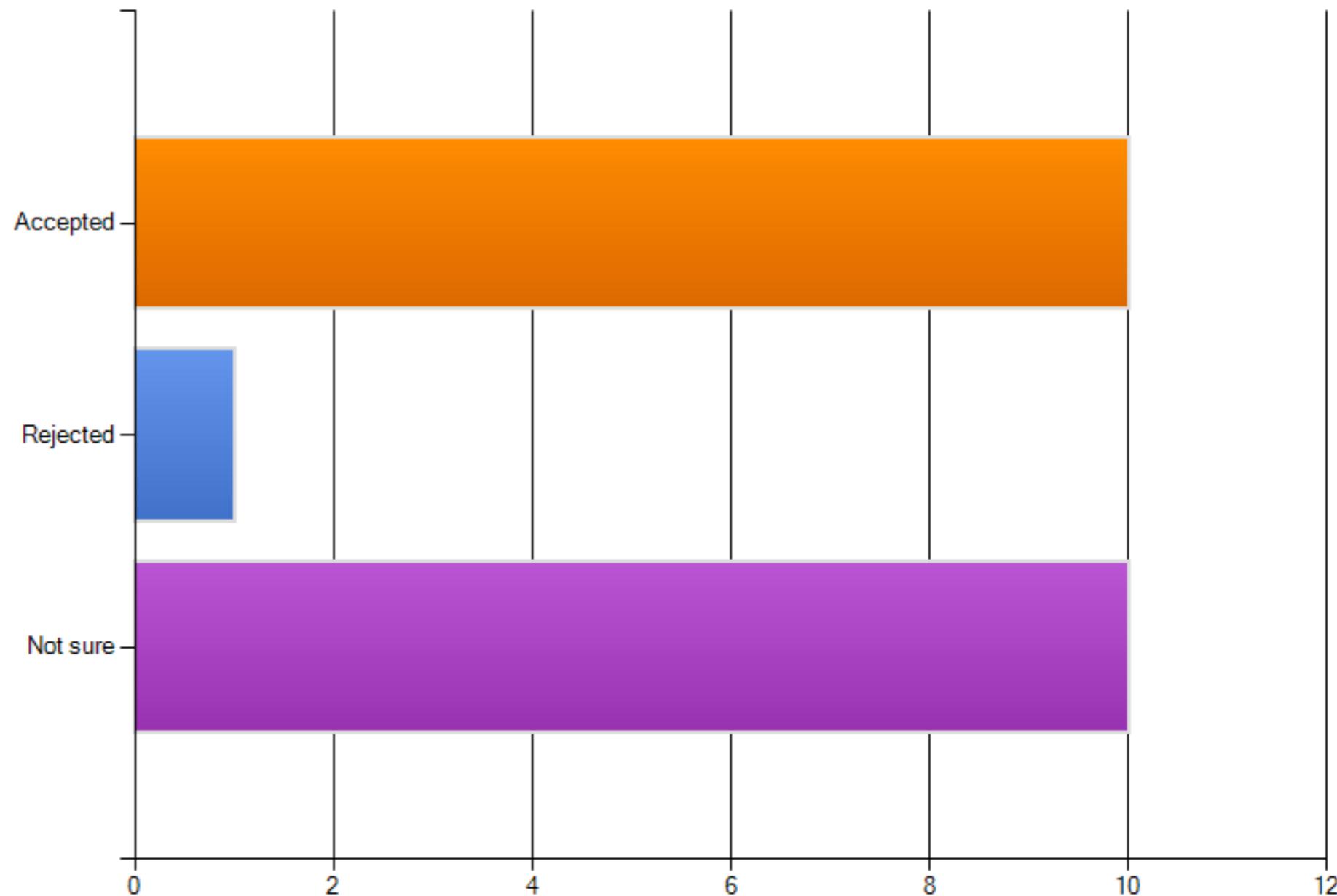
# Who Knows?

**Talking about OS: Who knows about your OS relationships and preferences?**



# Acceptance

Acceptance: When you tell people about your OS relationships and preferences, do you feel generally



# Articles

- Marsh,A. 2020. Objectum Sexuality. *Tickle.Life*. <https://www.tickle.life/blog/objectum-sexuality/>
- Marsh,A. 2019. Further Thoughts on Objectum Sexuality. <https://amymarshsexologist.com/2019/02/14/objectum-sexuality-further-thoughts/>
- Marsh,A. 2011. Is it Love or Is It Object Personification Synesthesia? *Good Therapy*. <https://www.goodtherapy.org/blog/love-versus-object-personification-synesthesia/>
- Marsh,A. 2010. Love Among the Objectum Sexuals. <https://amymarshsexologist.com/2019/02/14/objectum-sexuality-further-thoughts/>
-

# Survey mentioned in Wikipedia

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Object\\_sexuality](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Object_sexuality)

**End of Part One:  
Objectum Sexuality**