

# The Impact of COVID-19 on Litigation

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# Background

COVID-19 forced courtrooms into near stasis, shutting down litigation and freezing the ongoing cases where they stood.

Eventually, some litigation transferred to virtual procedures, but the inherent challenge of arguing a case within a digital platform presents its own challenges.

This study was created to help understand the impact that COVID-19 has had on litigation, the challenges of the virtual courtroom, and what the legal life what might look like as we enter the new normal.



## Factors Investigated

1. What cost-saving measures litigation firms have used
2. The current status of ongoing litigation cases
3. The effectiveness of moving hearings/motions to a virtual environment
4. Sentiments about moving toward a virtual litigation practice
5. Outlook for litigation cases by practice area post-COVID-19



## Methodology

- Online survey hosted and administered by GLG
- Respondents are lawyers from U.S.-based law firms



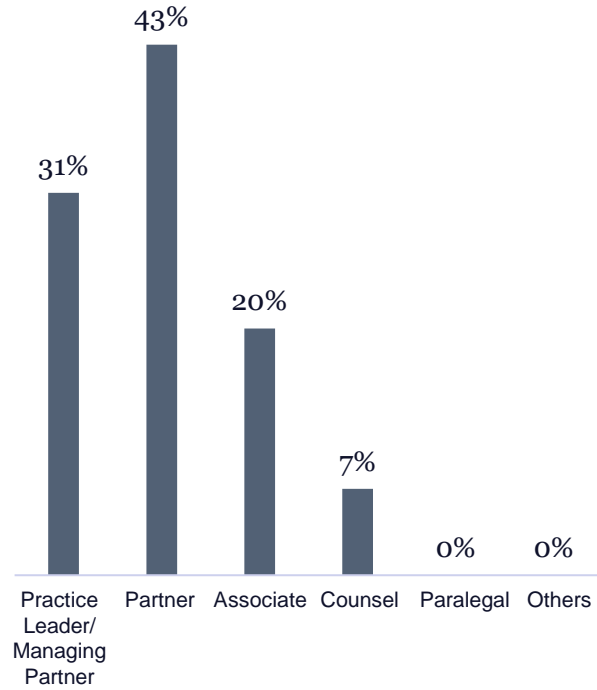
## Fielding Time

- May 12, 2020 – June 12, 2020

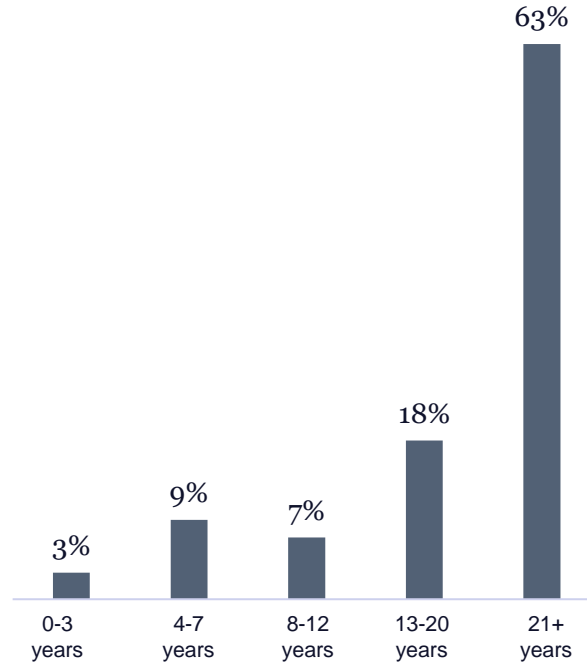
# Firmographics & Demographics

# Demographics

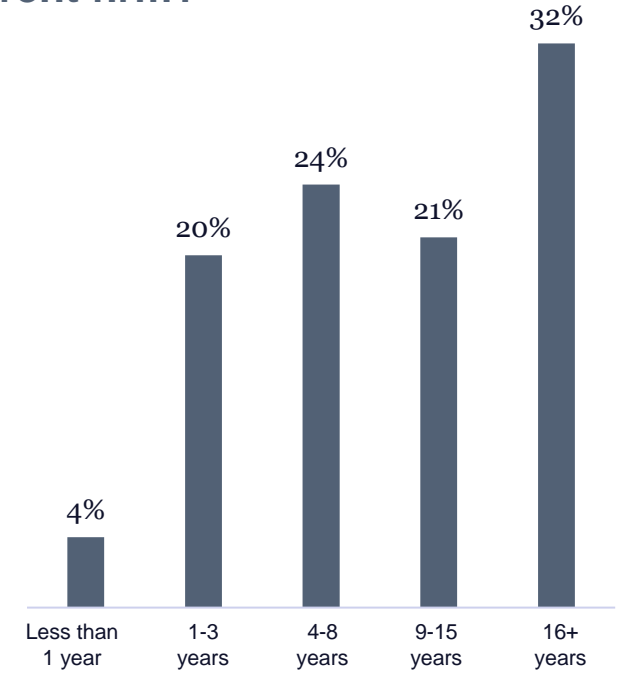
## What is your current title?



## How long have you been practicing law?



## How long have you been with your current firm?



# Summary

# Key Findings

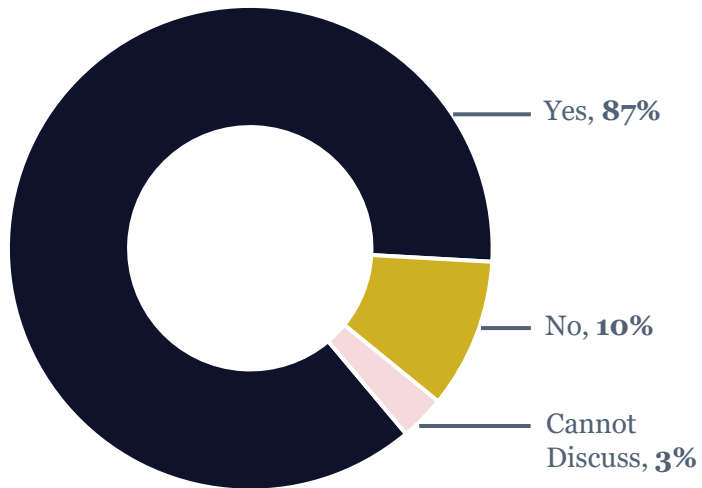
While the most litigators who took GLG's survey said that COVID-19 had significant impact on their compensation (87%), the pandemic seems to have had a lesser-than-might-be-expected immediate impact on either their firms or on the legal process itself. The survey found that most attorneys (74%) have participated in and support virtual hearings, but most (87%) are eager to return to in-person litigation, which they feel is necessary to truly practice the art of law.

The litigators we surveyed largely believe that their world will change post-COVID-19. Nearly half of those we spoke to expect their office space to physically change, with 56% of those saying they expected less office space, and 83% expecting more remote workforce. Further, 63% of those we surveyed expect there will be an increase in litigation as courtrooms reopen, likely due to the pressure building up behind a backlog of cases.

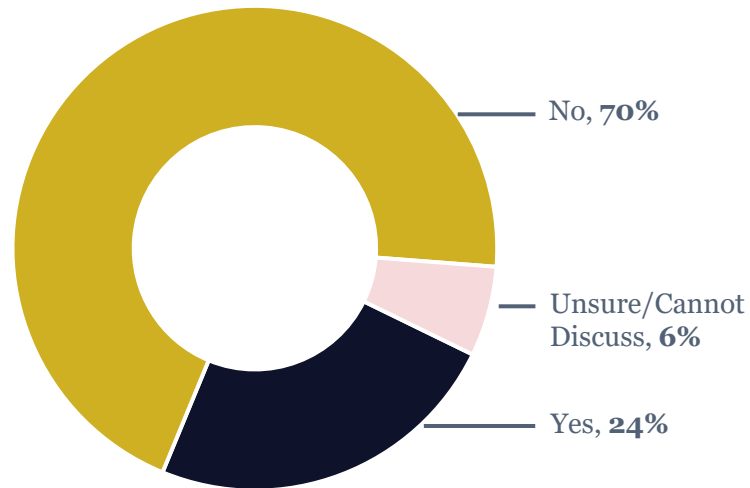
With COVID-19 cases resurging and states taking a cautious approach to reopening, this backlog is likely to be litigated both virtually and in person – 38% of those we surveyed advocate making virtual litigation permanent. Attorneys will need to be prepared for this uptick, gathering the insight and expertise they need to successfully argue cases in either circumstance.

# Key Findings

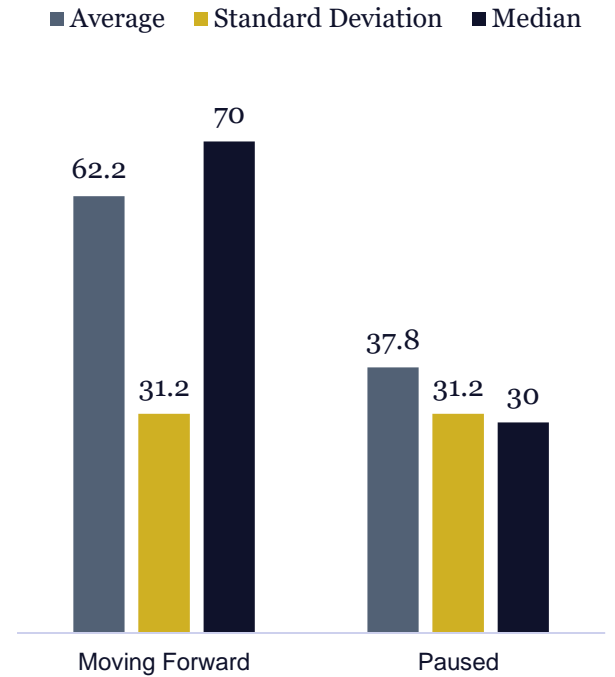
Has your compensation been adversely impacted?



Has your firm reduced/ furloughed staff as a result of COVID-19?



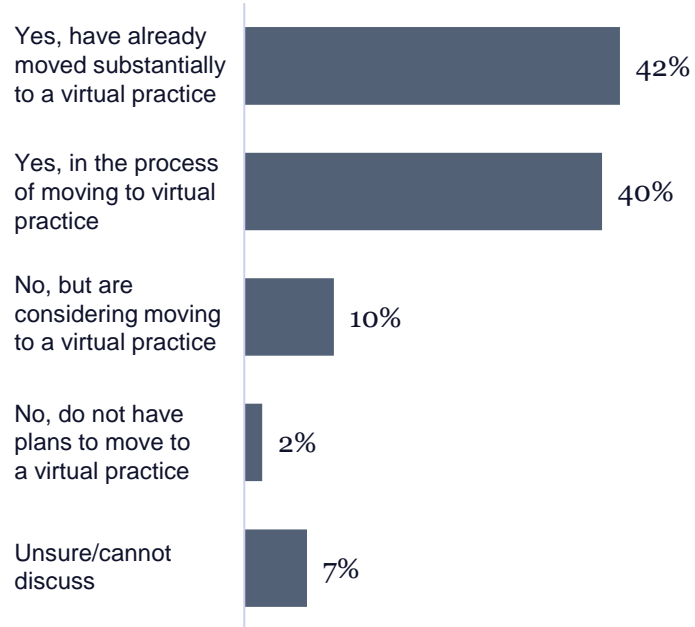
What is the current status of your ongoing litigation cases?



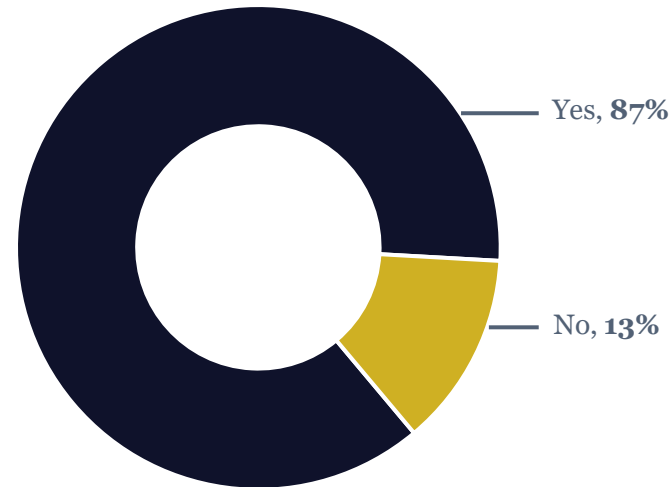


# Key Findings

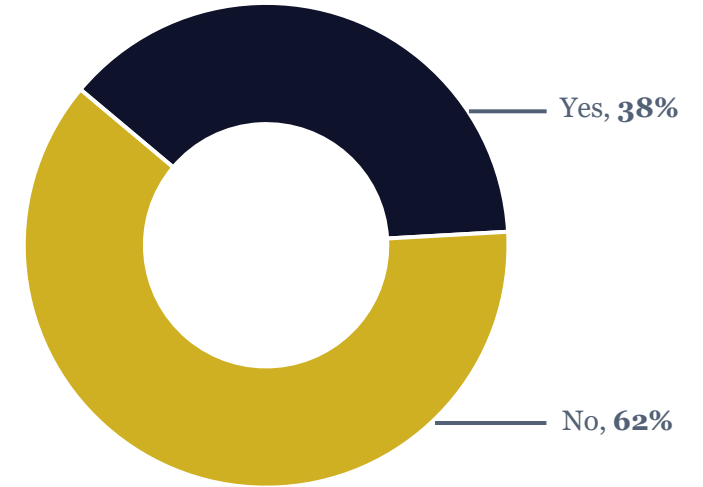
Have the jurisdictions in which you practice moved to virtual practice for depositions/hearings and motions/trials?



Do you support a move toward virtual litigation practice during office/court closures due to COVID-19?

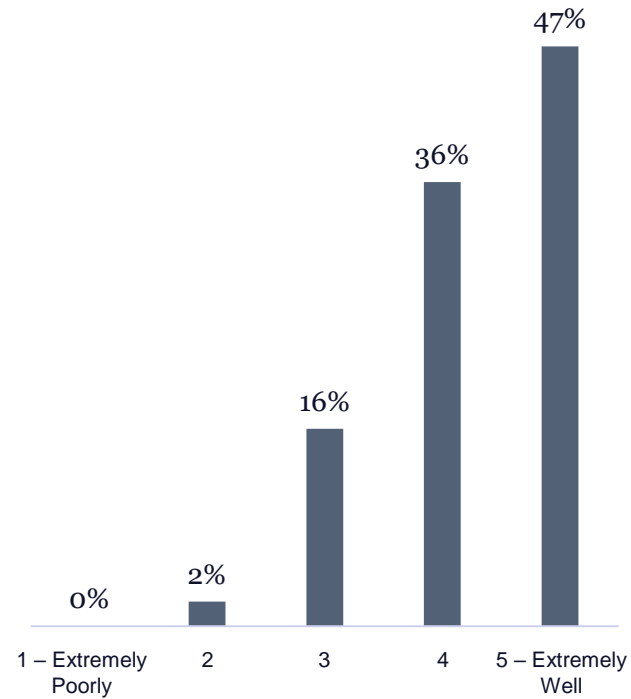


Do you support a move toward virtual litigation practice permanently?

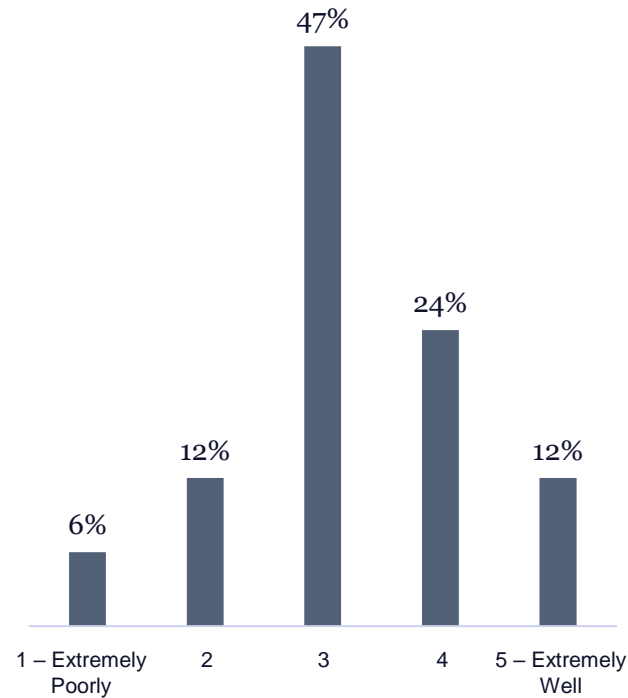


# Key Findings

Please rate how well you feel your firm has handled COVID-19 related challenges overall, where 1 = “Extremely poorly” and 5 = “Extremely well?”

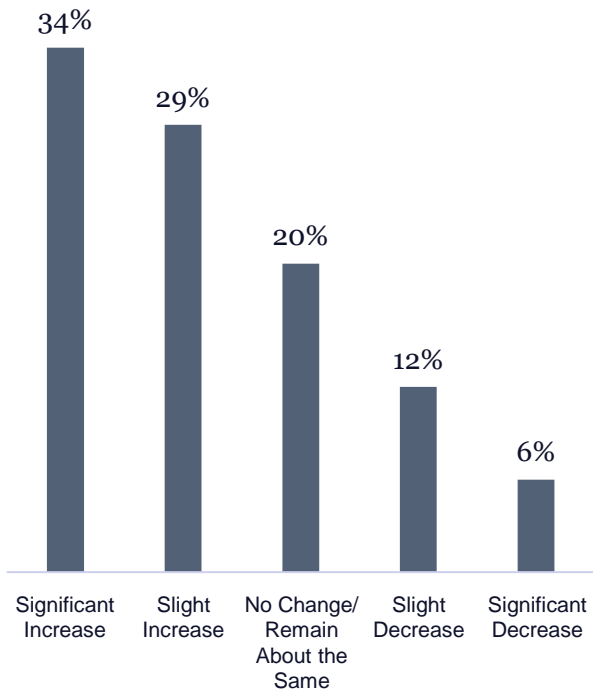


Please rate how concerned you are about your clients' ability to weather the crisis, where 1 = “Not at all concerned” and 5 = “Extremely concerned.”

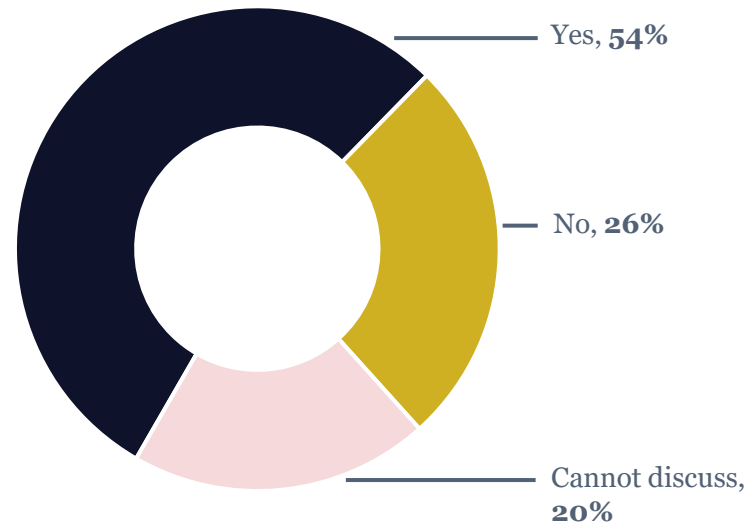


# Key Findings

Do you expect to see a change in the amount of litigation post COVID-19?

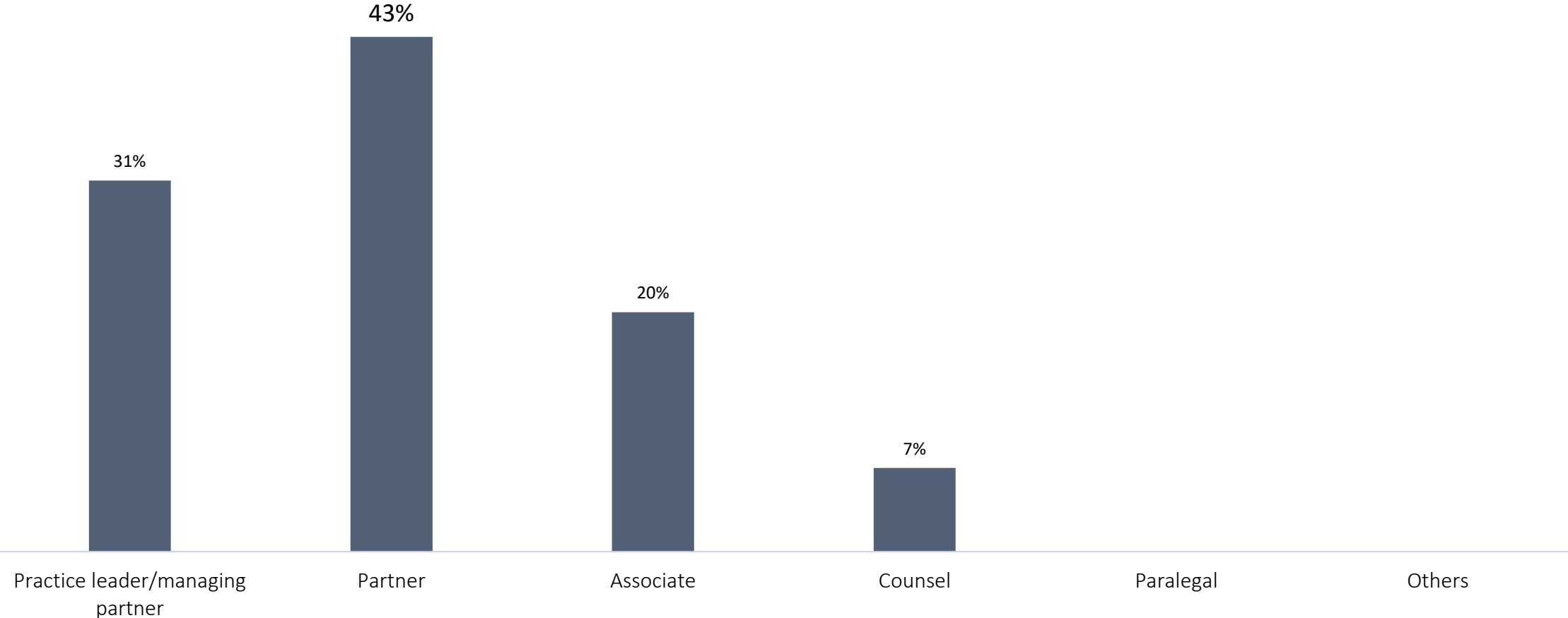


Are your clients speaking with you regarding potential COVID-19 related litigation (either bringing or defending)?

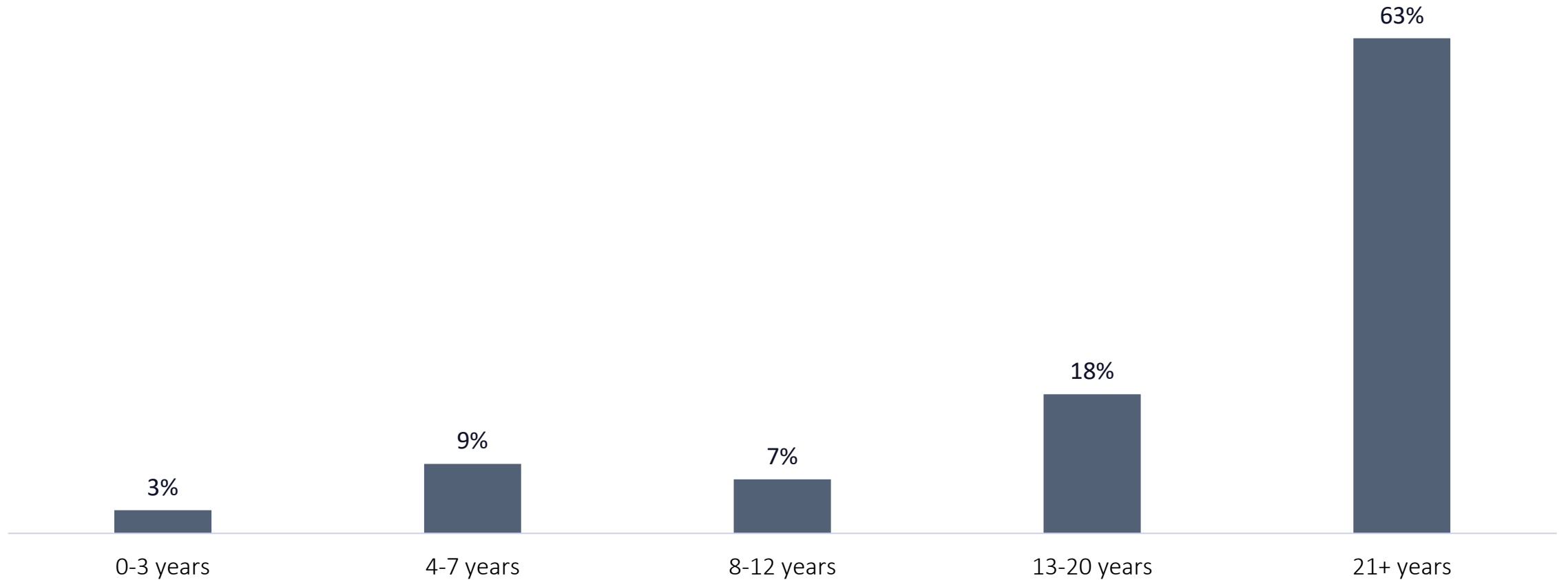


# Detailed Findings

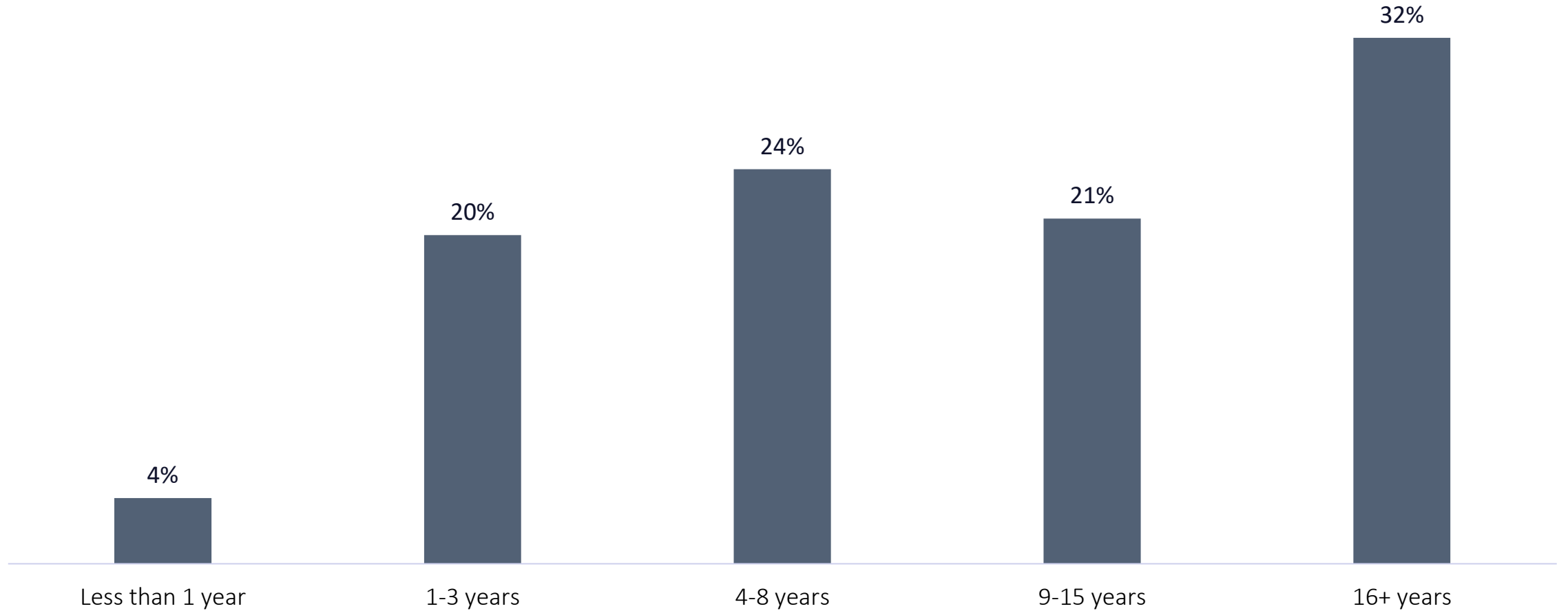
# What is your current title?



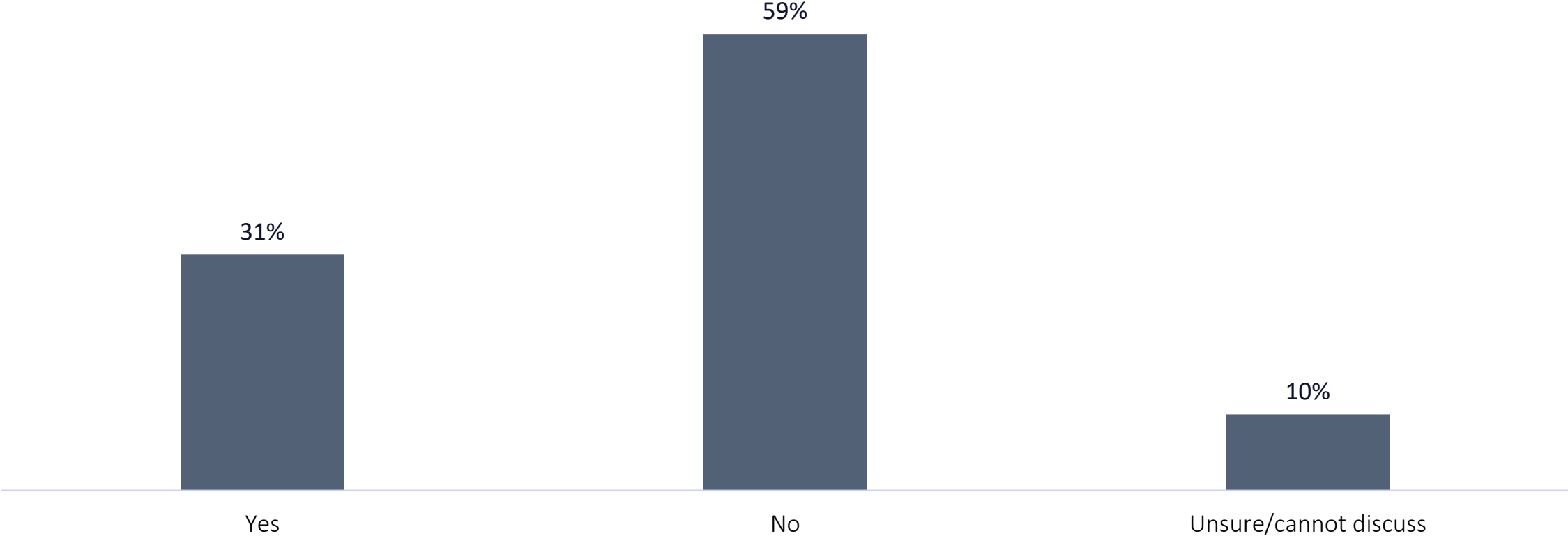
# How long have you been practicing law?



# How long have you been with your current firm?

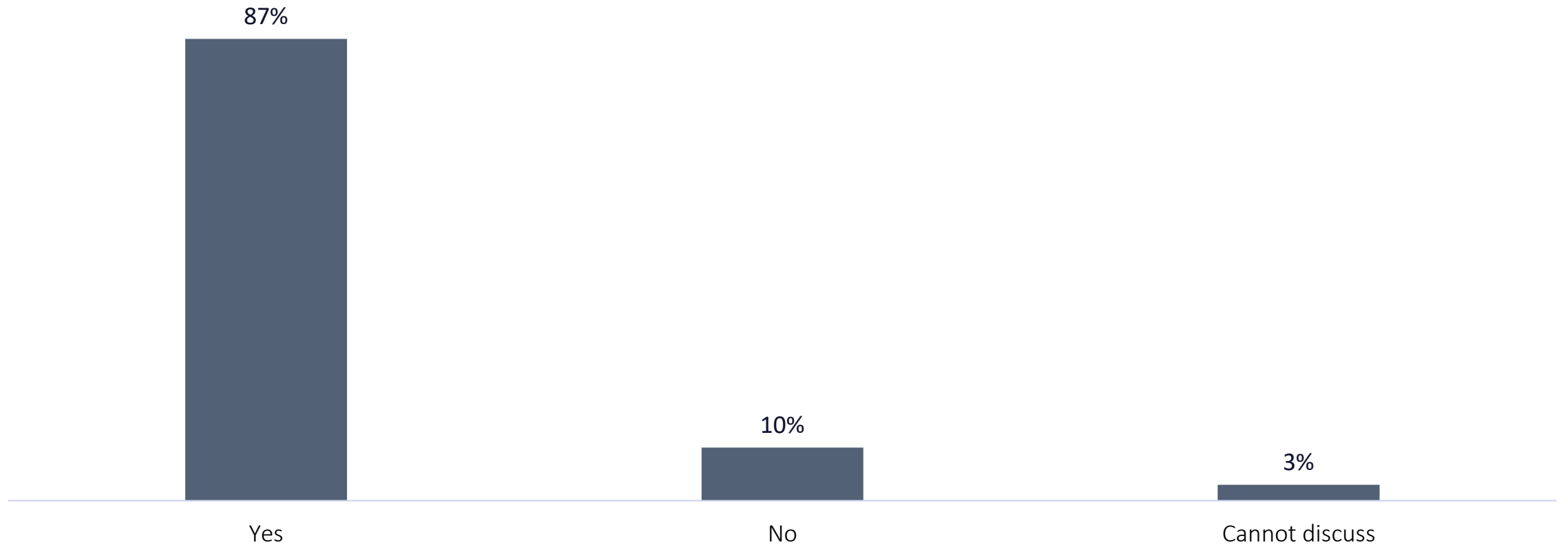


# Has your firm modified salaries/partner compensation as a result of COVID-19?

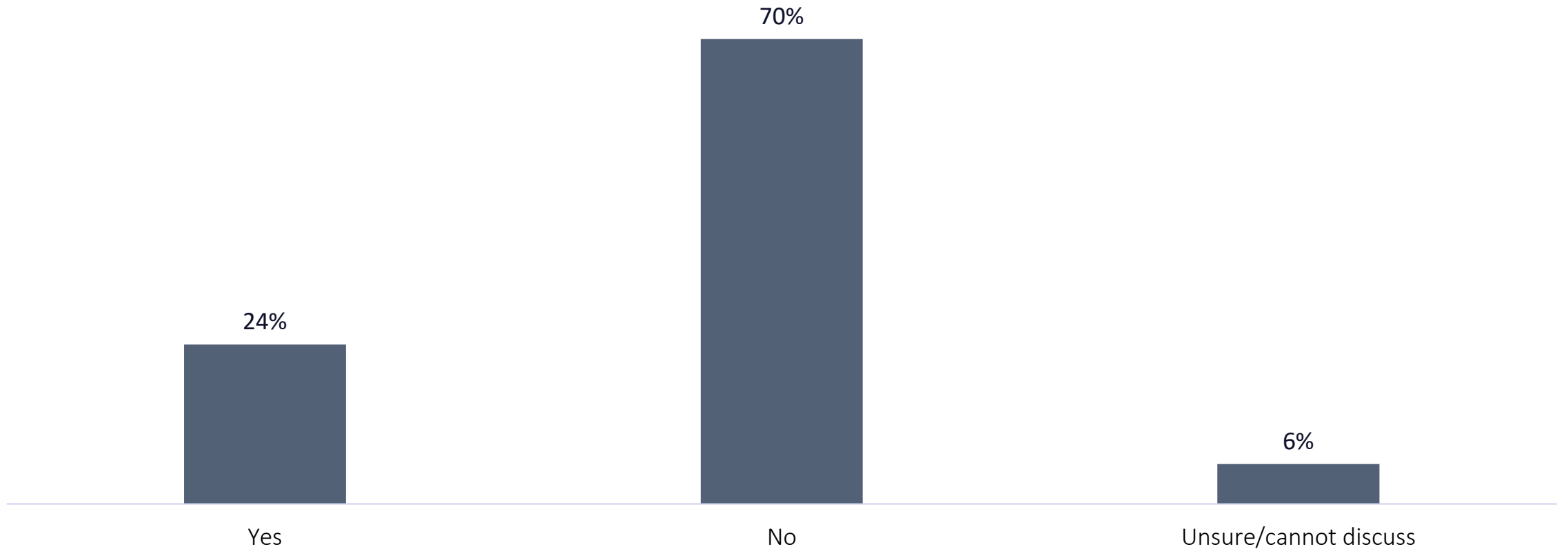




# Has your compensation been adversely impacted?



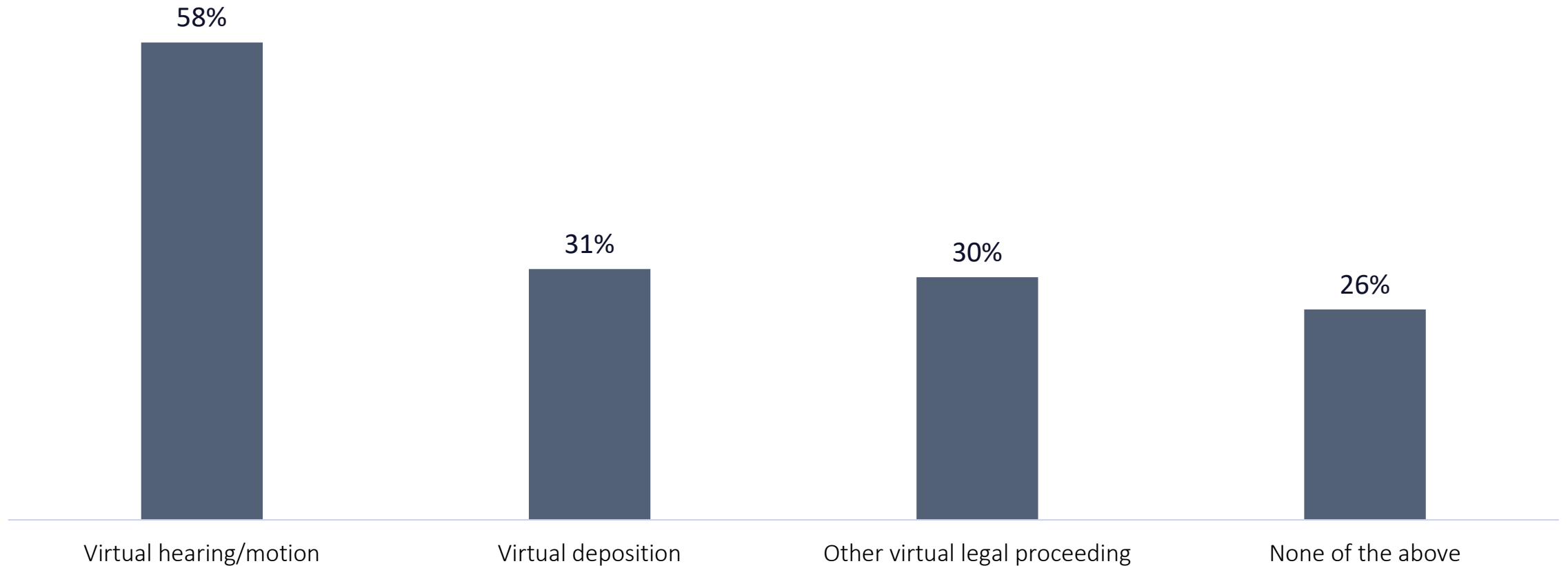
# Has your firm reduced/furloughed staff as a result of COVID-19?



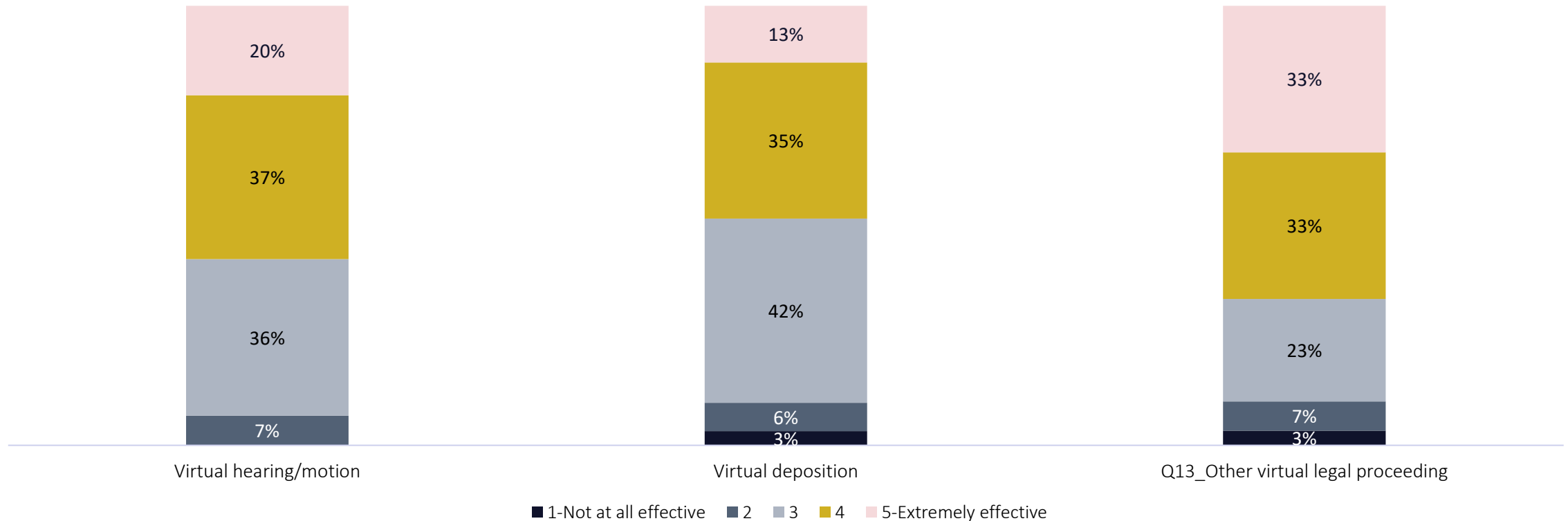
# What is the current status of your ongoing litigation cases?



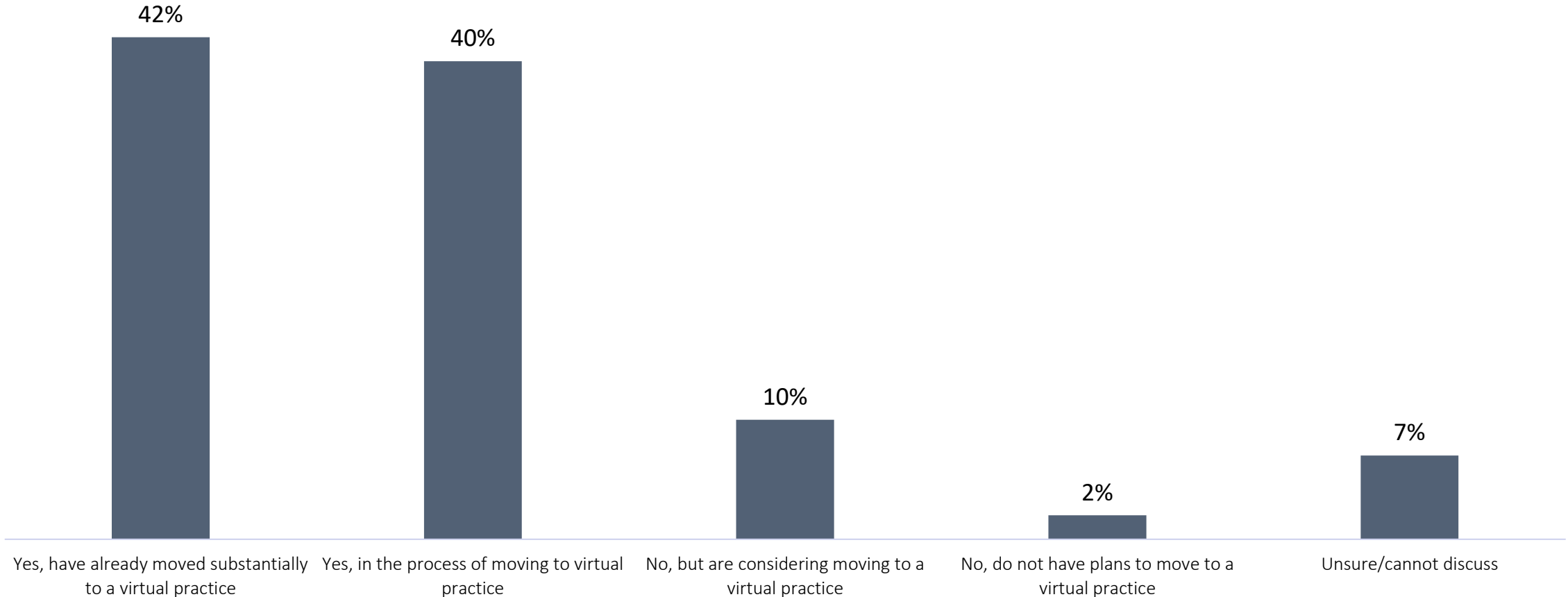
# Have you participated in a virtual hearing/motion, deposition, or other legal proceeding due to COVID-19?



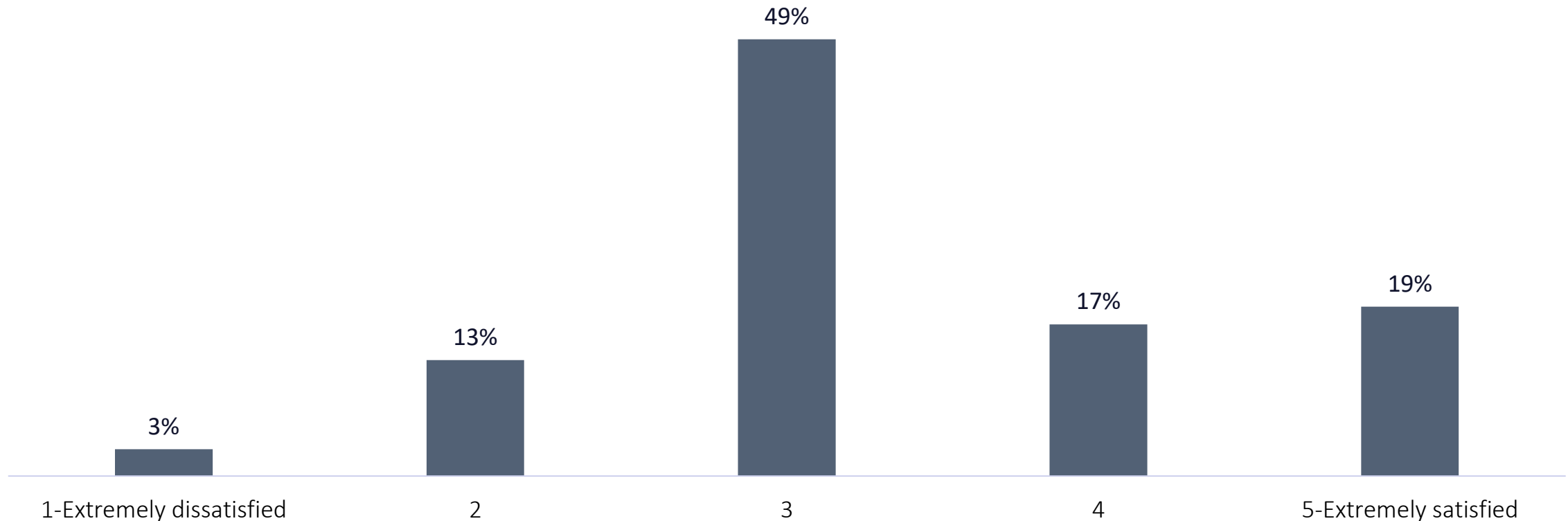
# Rate the effectiveness of the following virtual activities you have participated in due to COVID-19, where 1 = “Not at all effective” and 5 = “Extremely effective”



# Have the jurisdictions in which you practice moved to virtual practice for depositions/hearings and motions/trials?



**Rate your satisfaction with the speed with which courts have moved to virtual practice during COVID-19, where 1 = “Extremely dissatisfied” and 5 = “Extremely satisfied”**



# Do you support a move toward virtual litigation practice during office/court closures due to COVID-19?

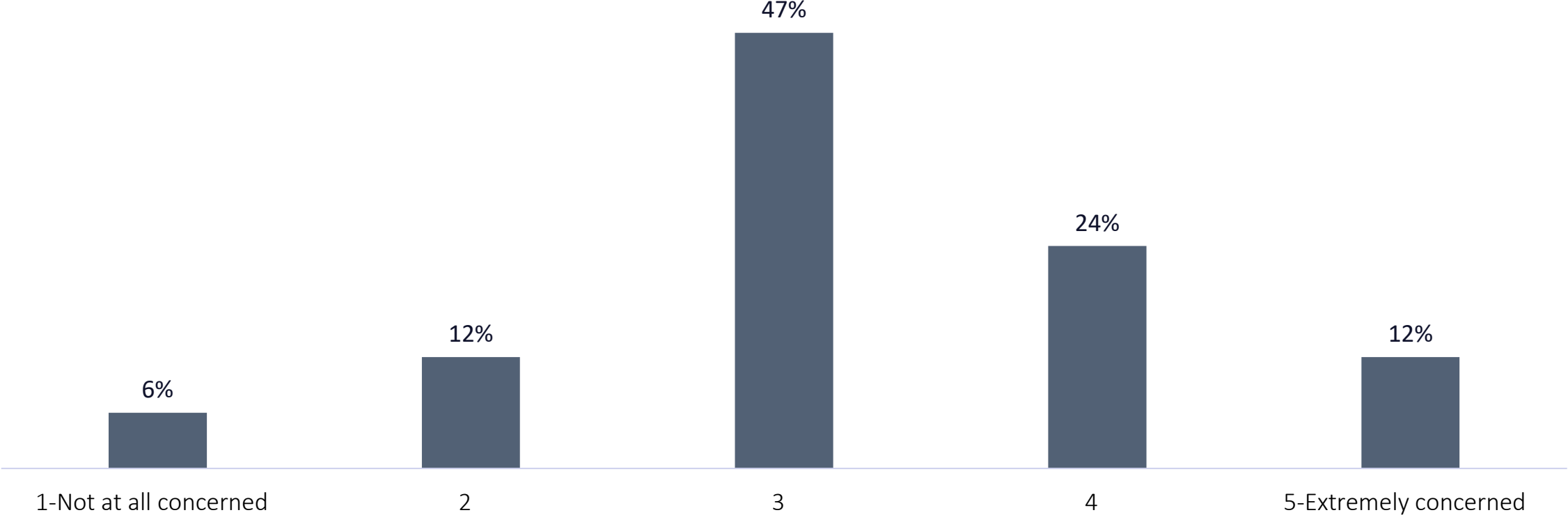




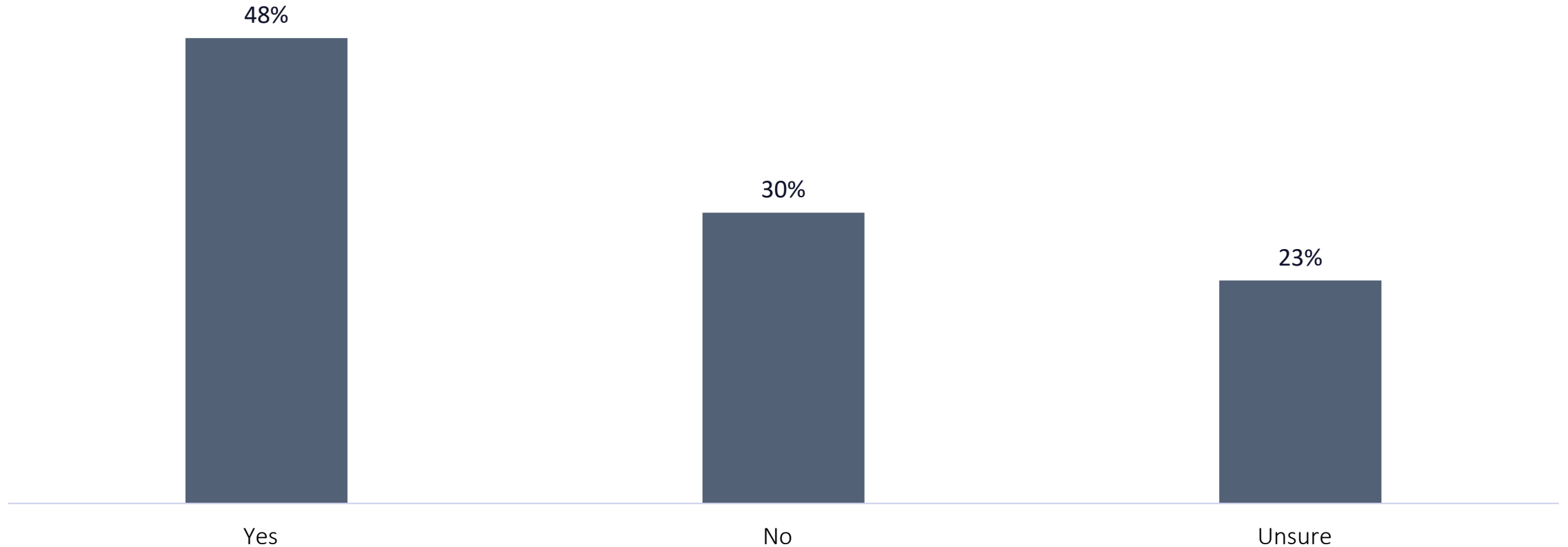
# Do you support a move toward virtual litigation practice permanently?



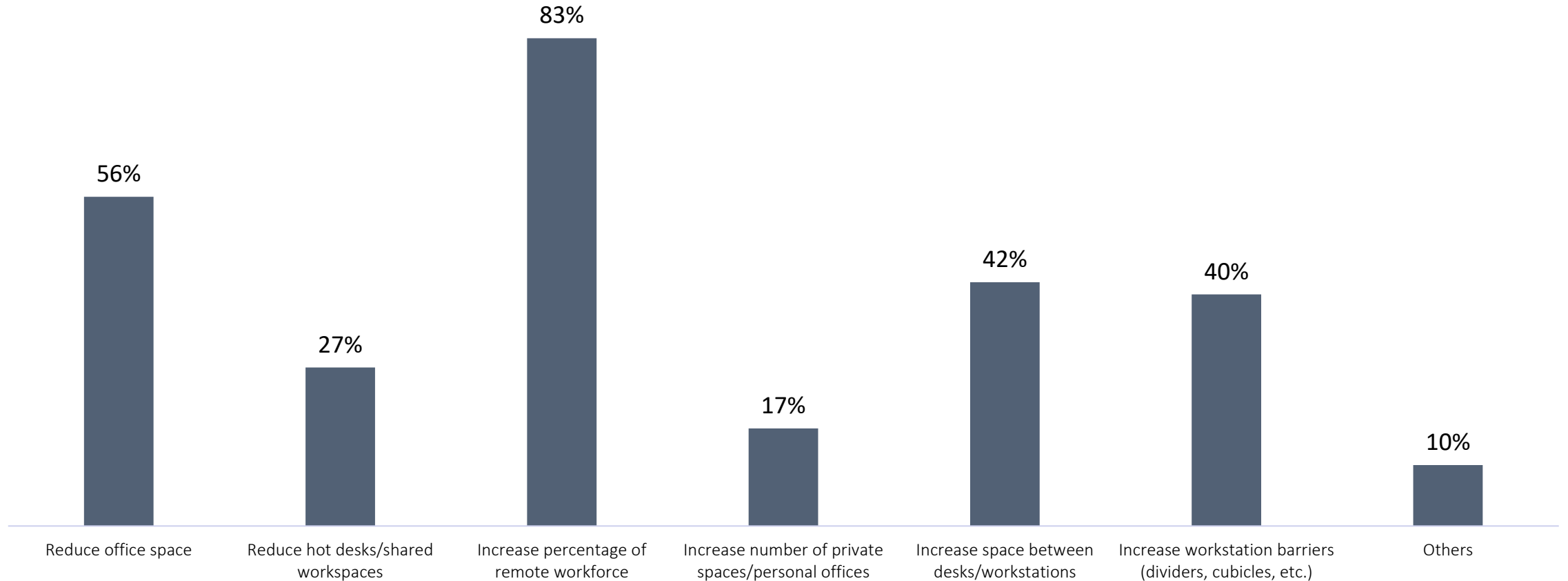
**Please rate how concerned you are about your clients' ability to weather the crisis, where 1 = "Not at all concerned" and 5 = "Extremely concerned"**



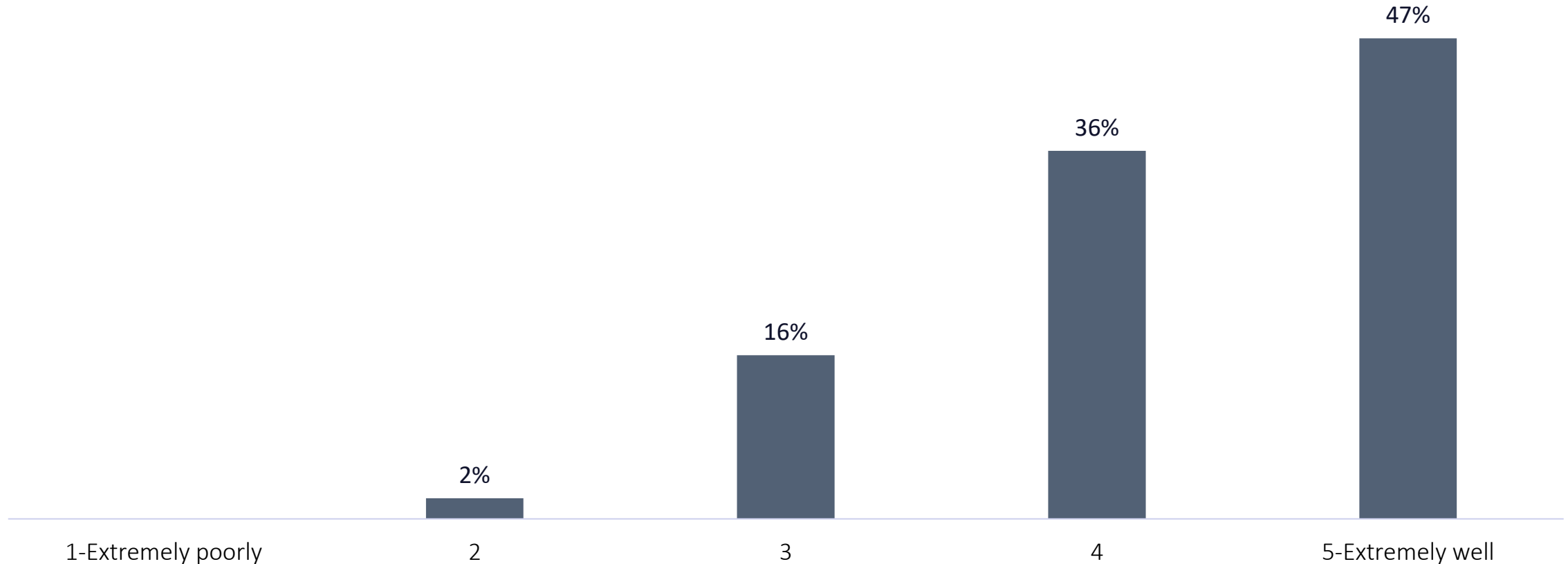
# Do you think your firm will change its physical structure / office configuration as a result of COVID-19 (e.g., less office space, more hot desks, more work from home, etc.)?



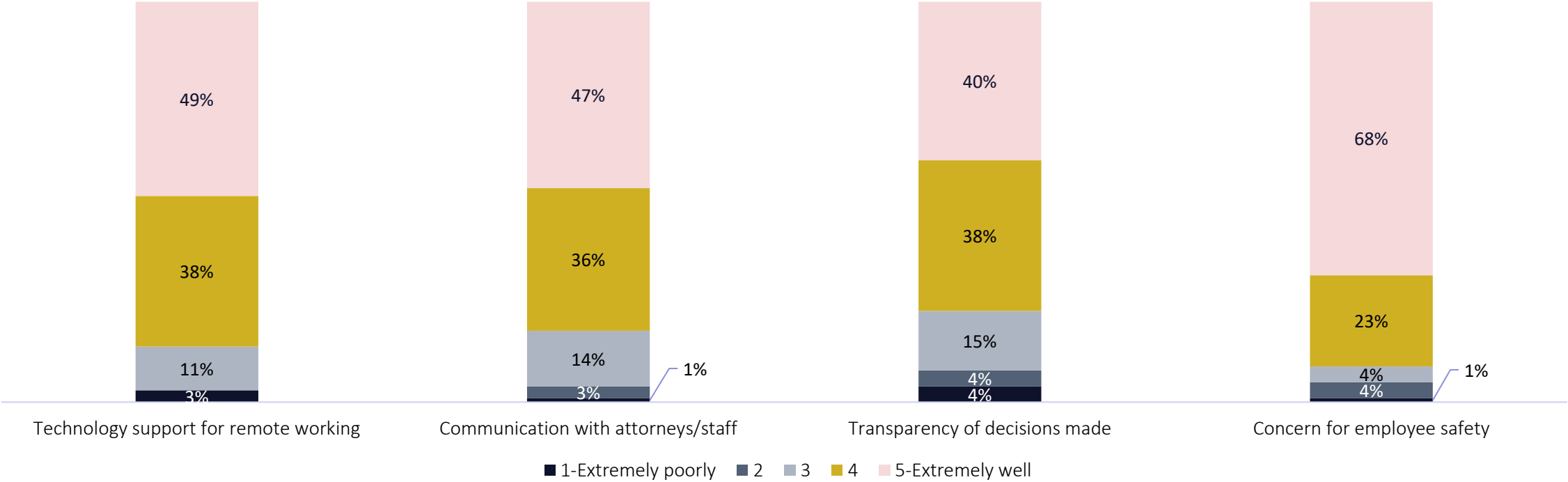
# How do you anticipate your firm changing its physical structure/office configuration as a result of COVID-19?



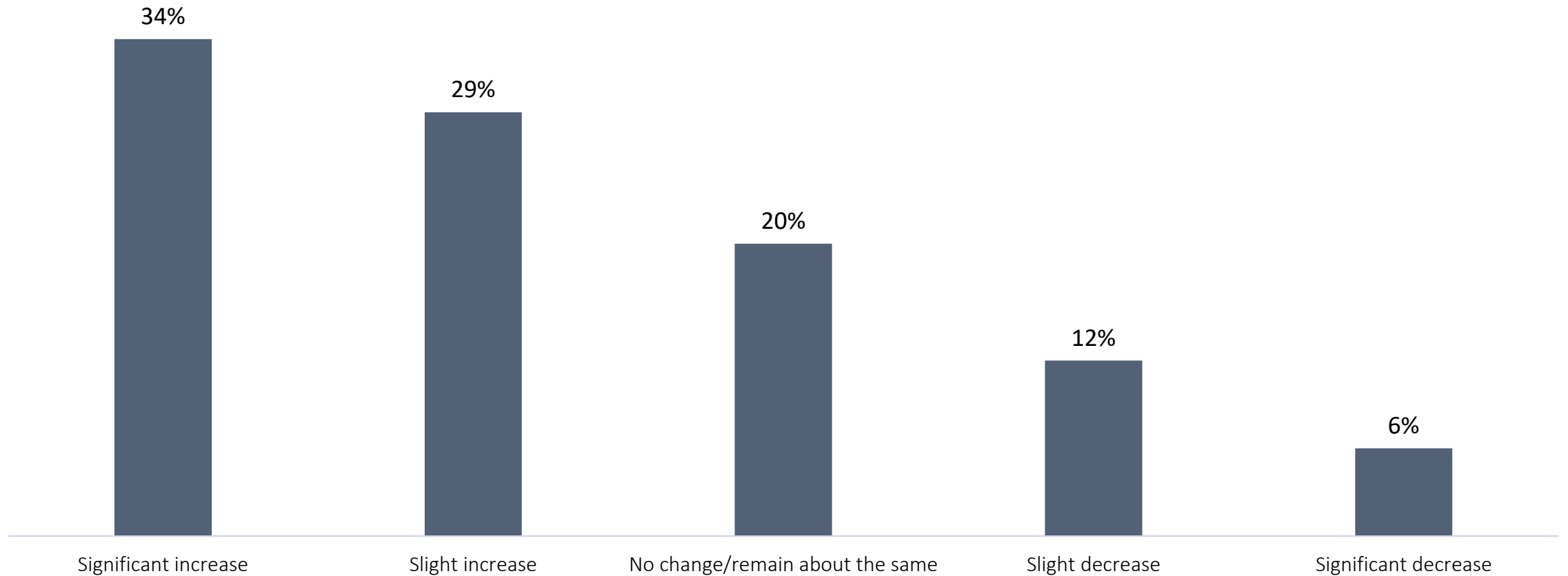
**Please rate how well you feel your firm has handled COVID-19 related challenges overall, where 1 = “Extremely poorly” and 5 = “Extremely well”**



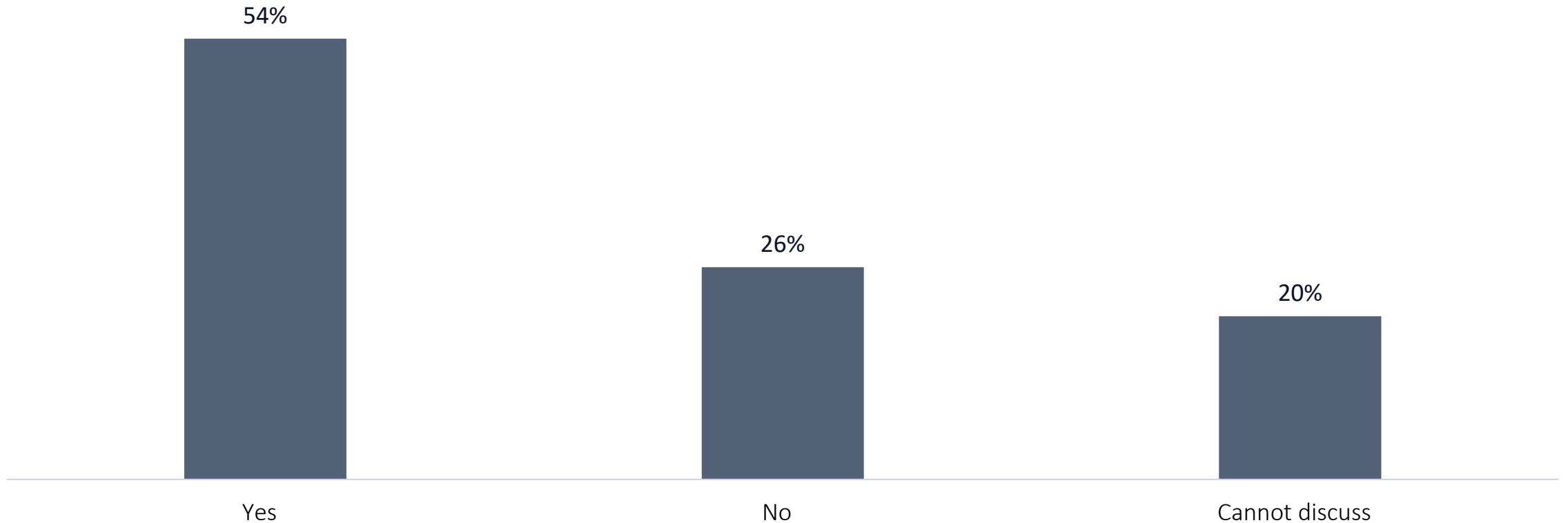
# Please rate how well you feel your firm has handled the following COVID-19 related challenges, where 1 = “Extremely poorly” and 5 = “Extremely well”



# Do you expect to see a change in the amount of litigation post-COVID-19?

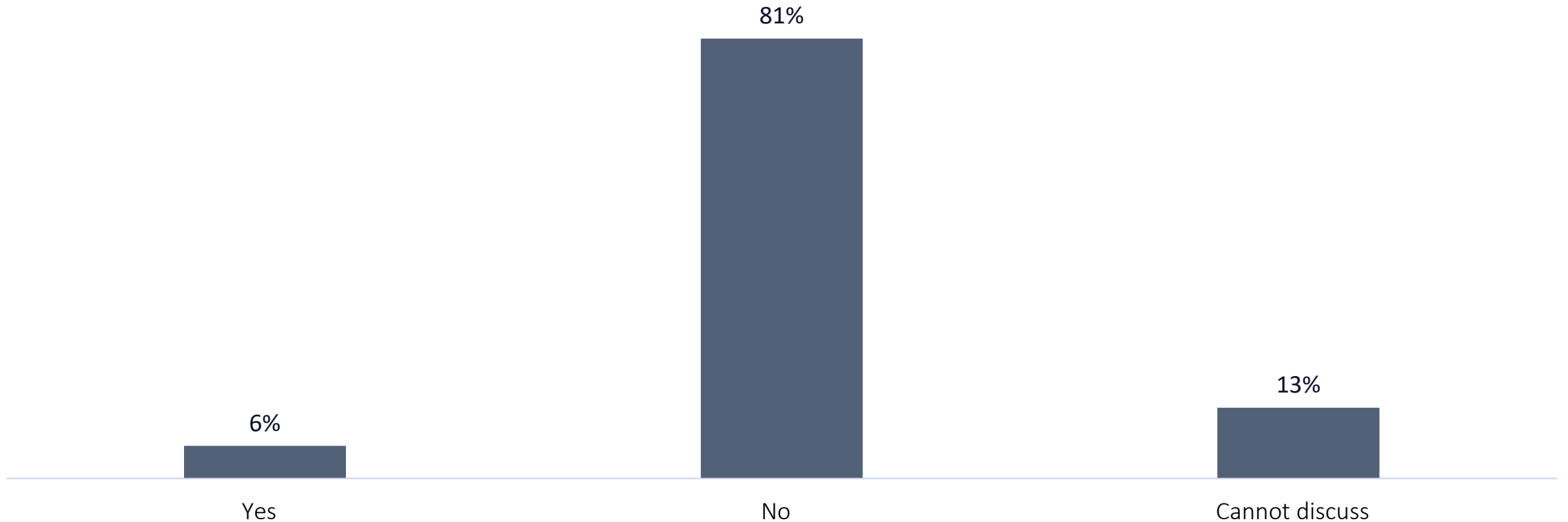


# Are your clients speaking with you regarding potential COVID-19 related litigation (either bringing or defending)?

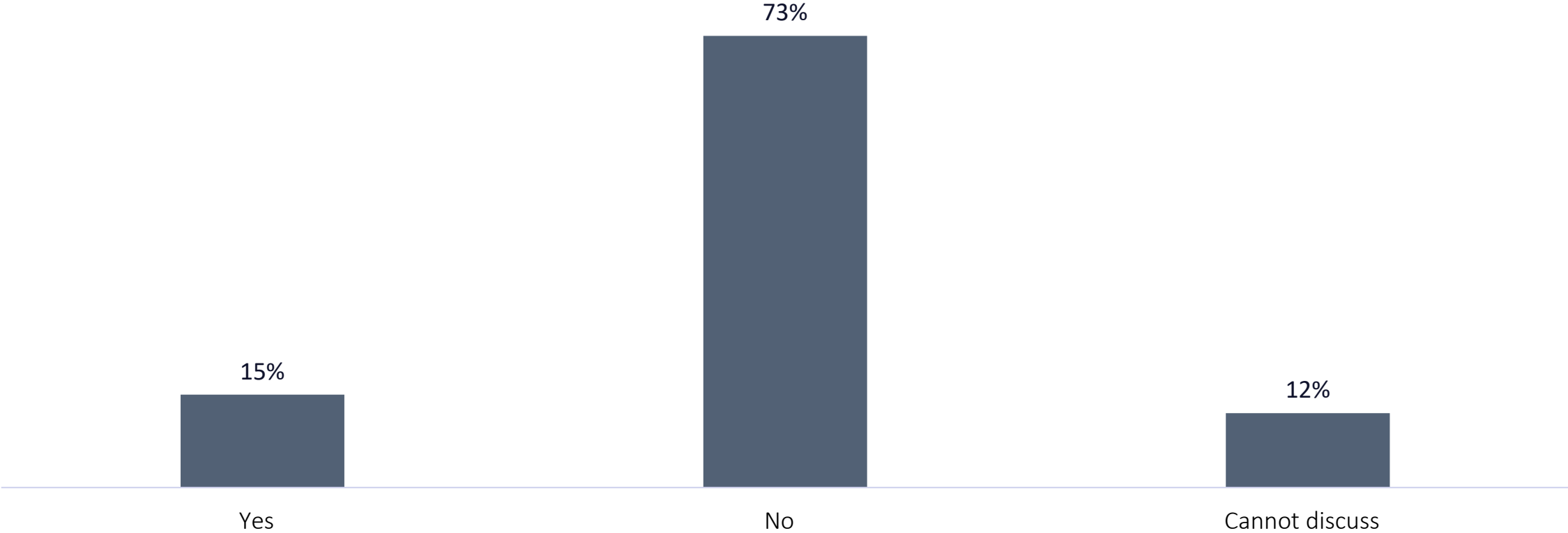




# Have you filed a COVID-19 related suit on behalf of a client to date?



# Have you had a COVID-19 related suit filed against a client to date?



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This study was run by the GLG Surveys team; learn more about conducting a survey with GLG [here](#).

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