



The State Bar *of California*

# Analytical Work to Support February 2025 Bar Exam Scoring and Remediation

Mission Advancement & Accountability Division

Based on data available as of April 21, 2025

# Overview of Analytical Projects

<b>➤ Analyze Exam Content</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
(1) Review essay/performance test content for a representative sample of applicants	Confirm the gradable content was captured by Measure Learning platform; identify percent of sample that experienced a test disruption using various indicators
(2) Identify the number/percent of all test takers who did not experience at least one test disruption	Support scoring adjustment and remediation considerations
<b>➤ Explore Applicant Self-Reported Exam Experiences</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
(1) Analyze post-February 2025 bar exam survey	Support scoring adjustment and remediation considerations



# Analyses of Exam Content

## Indicators of Test Disruption



## Indicators of Test Disruption Used in Analyses of Exam Content

Type of Measure	Indicator of Test Disruption	Data source	Notes
Exam Data	Missing one or more essays, including Performance Test (PT)	ML data file that reports time spent on each essay and the PT for each applicant	
	Fewer than 171 Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ) submitted	MCQ answer file (ACS)	
	At least one essay is below the expected word-count range.	Individual essay response text provided by Meazure Learning (ML)	Using February 2024 as the benchmark, we flagged any 2025 essay under 2 standard deviations as shorter than normal.
	Any essay including PT submitted outside the 95th–100th percentile of the allotted time.	ML data file that reports time spent on each essay and the PT for each applicant	For non-accommodated applicants: essays submitted in less than 55 minutes or more than 60 minutes; PT was submitted less than 80 minutes or more than 90 minutes.
	Total testing time (either day) outside the normal range	Day-level start/finish file (ML)	



## Indicators of Test Disruption Used in Analyses of Exam Content

Type of Measure	Indicator of Test Disruption	Data source	Notes
<b>Staff review of essay/PT submissions</b>	At least one essay or the PT was not gradable	Essays/PT submissions	Here staff skimmed content to confirm content was relevant (and not, for example, a paste-in of the essay/PT prompt)
	At least one essay or the PT was shorter than the rest of their written submissions.	Essays/PT submissions	Staff skimmed across all essays and PT to get a sense if any were significantly shorter.
	At least one essay or the PT contained a message from the applicant about technical problem faced during the exam.	Essays/PT submissions	In most cases, this was a short message.
	At least one essay or the PT remained in notes and was not pasted into question submission box	Essays/PT submissions	This is an indicator that the cut and paste function did not work.
	At least one essay or the PT had a cut-off sentence	Essays/PT submissions	At least one essay or the PT had a cut-off sentence
<b>Reports of Disruption</b>	ML reported that applicant contacted ML on Day 1 re: technical problem	ML data file that captured all requests for technical assistance during the exam for remote test takers only.	This file was limited to remote test takers only.
	Applicant participated in post-exam survey and reported experiencing a technology, administrative, or proctor issue during the essay or PT portion of the exam	Feb 2025 Post-exam Survey	
	Applicant contacted State Bar regarding a technology issue experienced during essay/PT portion of exam	Messages sent through AIMS portal; emails sent to State Bar	



# Project: Analyze Essays/Performance Test Content for 351 Test Takers

## Objective

According to Measure Learning (ML), the exam platform successfully captured content for all five essays and the performance test (PT) in either the essay/PT submission box or corresponding “notes” boxes for 98% (4,009) of **4,086\* test takers**.

The purpose of this analysis was to explore captured essay content more deeply for a representative sample (351) of the 4,009 applicants to estimate the percent of test takers (TTs) that may have experienced a test disruption. This analysis was conducted in early March 2025 using data that was available at the time.

## Results

- ✓ The vast majority (93%) of the sample appears to have experienced at least one disruption during essay/PT portion of the exam.
- ✓ Remote and in-person TTs appear to have experienced differences on a few measures test disruption.

\* This was based on a data file ML provided the State Bar in late February 2025.



## Results (sorted from high to low for total test takers' results)

		Total TTs		Remote		In-Person	
Type of Measure	Indicator of Test Disruption	N=351	Percent	N=240	Percent	N=111	Percent
Reports of disruption	Filled out post-exam survey and reported experiencing a technology, administrative, or proctor issue during the essay or PT portion of the exam	222	63%	148	62%	74	67%
Exam data	Any essay including PT submitted outside the 95th–100th percentile of the allotted time.	189	54%	137	57%	52	47%
Reports of disruption	Applicant contacted State Bar regarding a technology issue experienced during essay/PT portion of exam	122	35%	85	35%	37	33%
Staff review of essay submissions	At least one essay or the PT had a cut-off sentence	101	29%	61	25%	40	36%
Applicant reports of disruption	Applicant contacted ML on Day 1 re: technical problem (remote applicants only)	85	24%	85	35%	n/a	n/a
Staff review of essay/PT submissions	At least one essay or the PT was shorter than the rest of their written submissions.	8	2%	5	2%	3	3%
Staff review of essay/PT submissions	At least one essay or the PT contained a message from the applicant about technical problem faced during the exam.	7	2%	4	2%	3	3%
Staff review of essay/PT submissions	At least one essay or the PT remained in notes and was not pasted into question submission box	5	1%	5	2%	0	0%
Staff review of essay/PT submissions	At least one essay or the PT was not gradable	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
	<b>Total TTs who experienced at least one of the above</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>91%</b>



# Project: No-Disruption Group Analysis

## Objective

To identify test takers who experienced no exams disruptions, thereby providing a baseline for exam performance comparison.

## Results

We analyzed “non-disruption” two ways—first by using disruption reports with exam metrics, and second by using exam metrics alone.

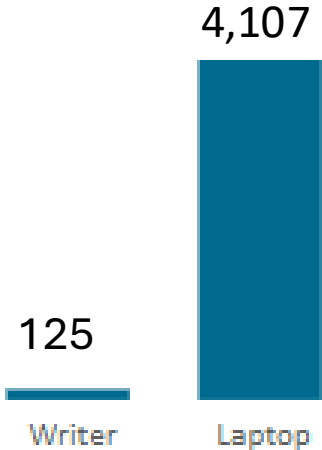
	No-Disruption Criteria	Number of TT's	Percent
<b>Initial Analysis:</b> Exam metrics + Disruption reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No disruption reported (by TT's via survey or to SB, or by Measure)</li><li>• Time-on-task for every essay within the normal band</li><li>• All essays submitted &amp; in the expected length range</li><li>• At least 171 MCQs answered</li></ul>	319	8%
<b>Follow-up Analysis:</b> Exam metrics only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All essays submitted</li><li>• At least 171 MCQs answered</li><li>• Each essay within the expected word-count range</li><li>• Time-on-task for every essay within the normal band</li><li>• Total Day 1 + Day 2 testing time within the normal range</li></ul>	1,523	37%



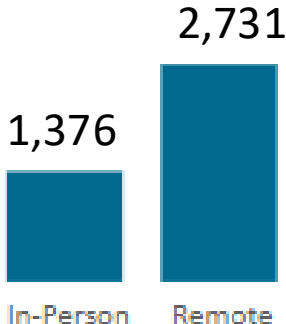


# FEBRUARY 2025 CBX OVERVIEW

**4,232** TEST TAKERS ATTENDED THE EXAM

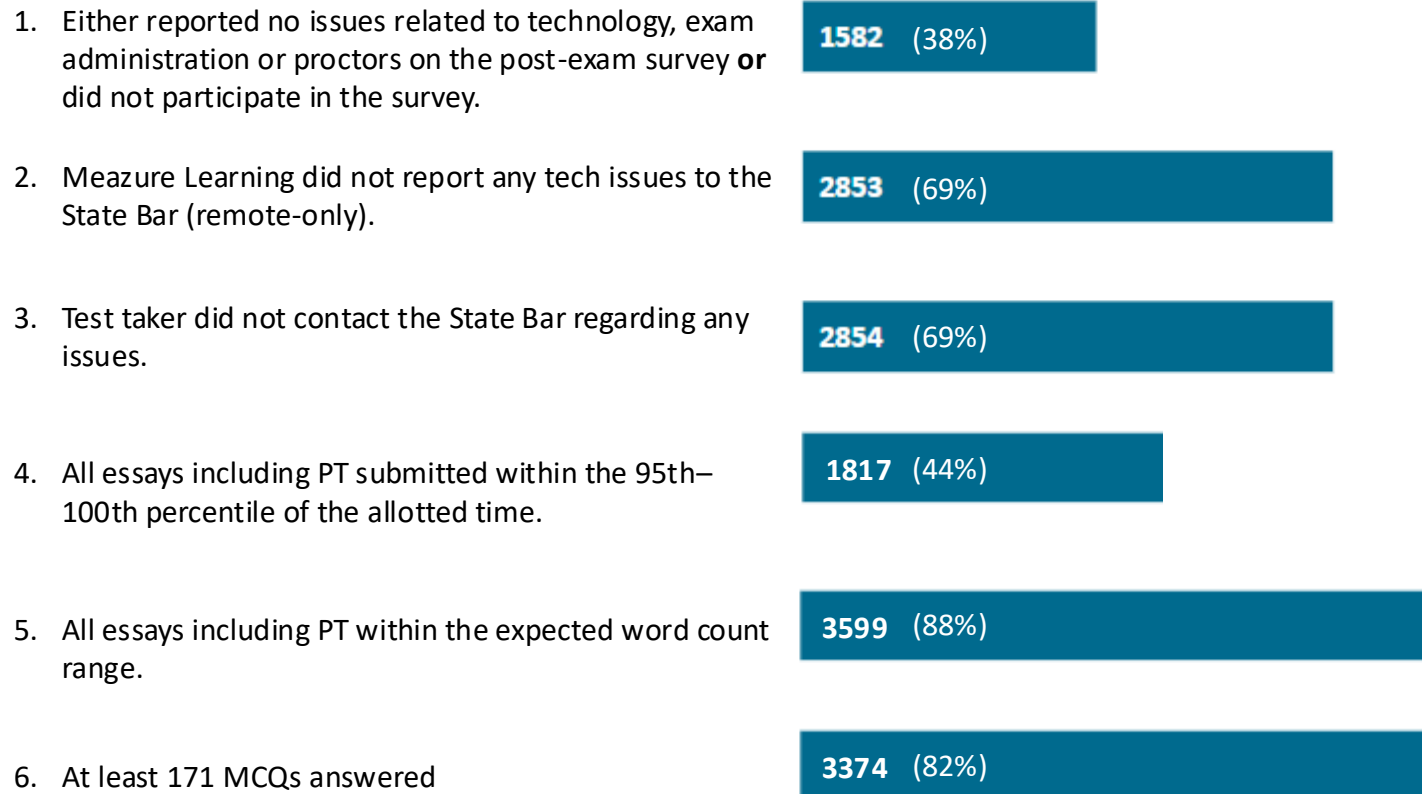


**4,107** LAPTOP TEST TAKERS INCLUDED IN THIS ANALYSIS



# No-Disruption: Exam metrics + Disruption reports

## No. of “Non-disrupted” Test Takers

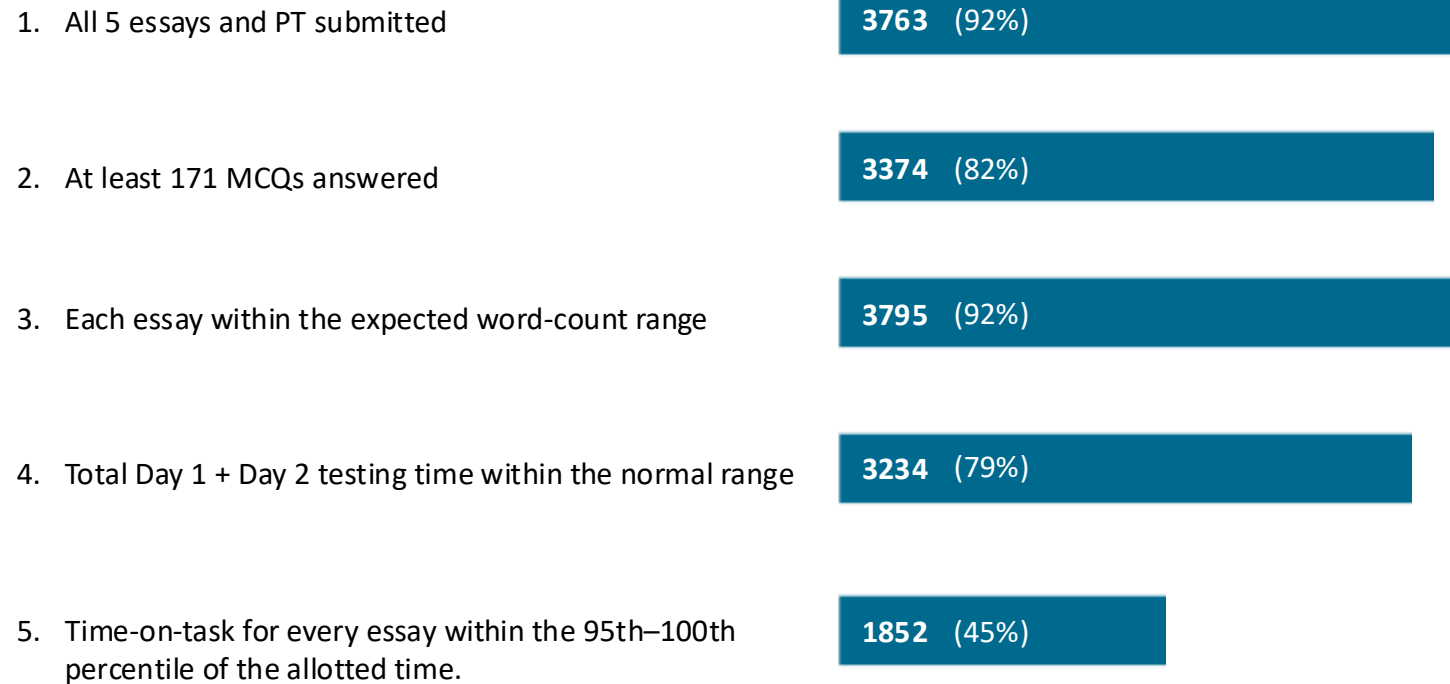


**The “Non-Disrupted” Group:** A total of **319 (8%)** test takers met all 6 criteria. They reported no issues (via survey or email/AIMS), had no technical problems flagged by Meazure Learning, submitted all essays within normal time and length ranges, and responded to at least 171 MCQ’s.



# No-Disruption: Exam metrics

## No. of “Non-disrupted” Test Takers



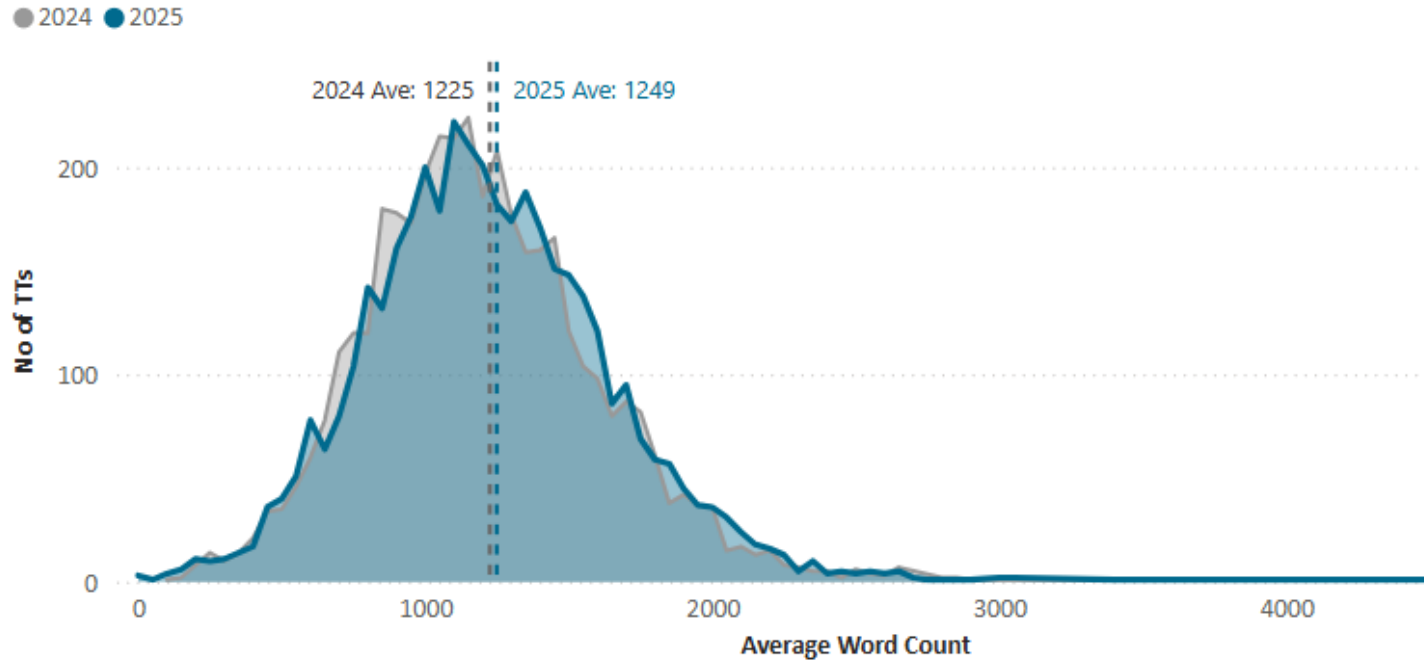
**The “Non-Disrupted” Group:** A total of **1,523 (37%)** test takers met all 5 criteria. They submitted all essays, answered at least 171 MCQ’s, submitted all essays within normal time and length ranges, and completed Day 1 plus Day 2 within the normal total testing time.



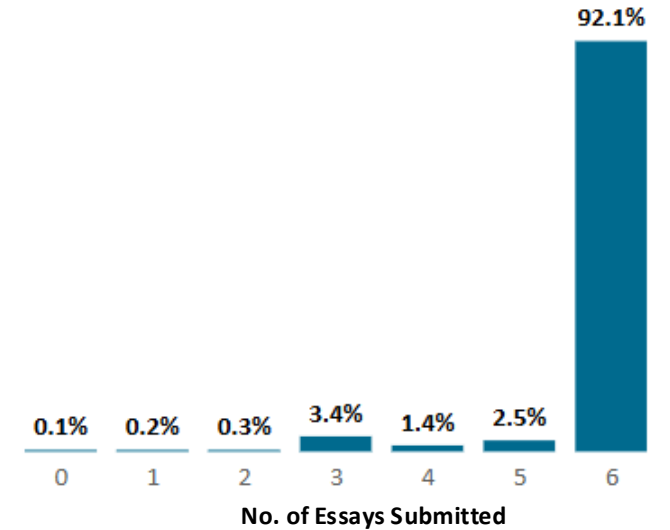
# Word Count Analysis – Feb 2024 vs. Feb 2025

Essay word counts serve as a disruption signal—blank or very short responses point to technical issues. A deeper look at word-count patterns shows 2025 mirrors 2024 for the majority of test takers; a small tail of outliers stands out—121 blank essays in 2025 versus 29 in 2024, and full-essay completion dropping from 99 percent to 92 percent.

**AVERAGE WORD COUNT: FEB 2024 VS FEB 2025**



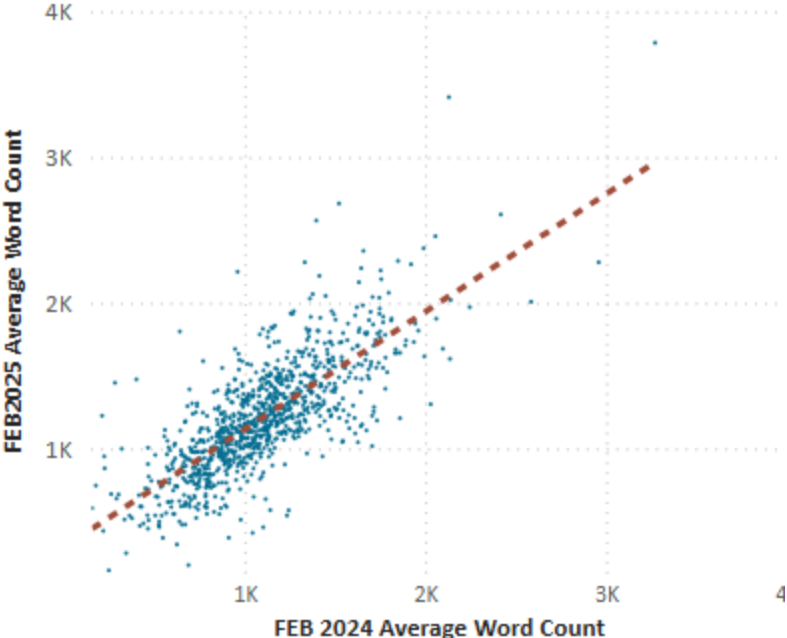
**NUMBER OF ESSAYS SUBMITTED: FEB 2025**



# Word Count Analysis – Repeaters

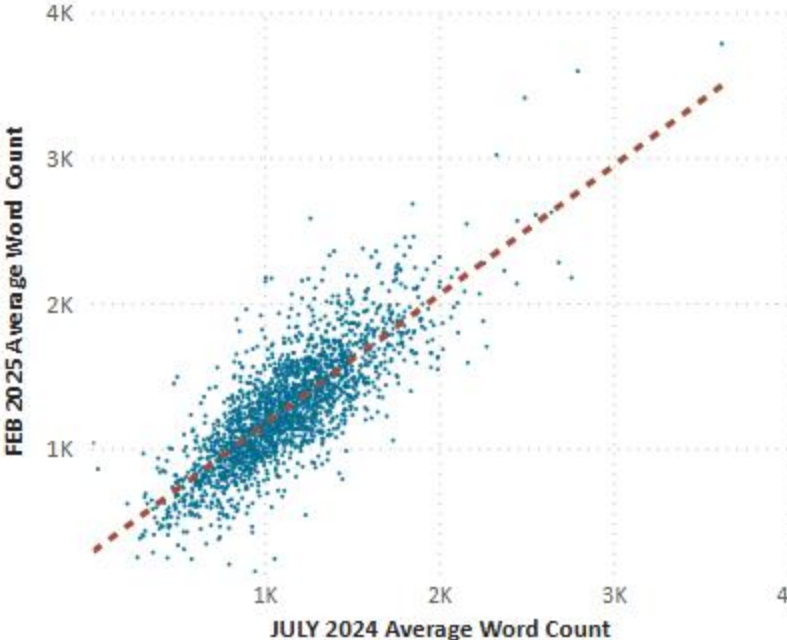
Repeater analysis shows a strong correlation—those who wrote more in 2024 also tended to write more in 2025. Comparing February 2025 repeaters with both February 2024 and July 2024 cohorts suggests that essay lengths remained consistent across attempts.

REPEATERS: FEB 2024 VS FEB 2025



Feb. 2025- Ave. Word Count: **1210**  
Feb. 2024- Ave. Word Count: **1095**

REPEATERS: JULY 2024 VS FEB 2025



Feb. 2025- Ave. Word Count: **1276**  
July 2024- Ave. Word Count: **1122**

# February 2025 Post-Bar Exam Survey Preliminary Results



# Key findings

**Response Rate:** 2,811 applicants (66%) participated in the survey.

## Widespread issues:

- **Over 80%** of respondents reported *encountering* at least one issue related to technology, administration, or proctoring during the exam.
- **79%** experienced typing delays and **75%** reported problems with the cut and paste function during the essay/performance test
- **Over 50%** reported that the exam platform crashed or froze during the Multiple-Choice Question portion of the exam.

## Impact on performance:

- A majority of respondents (**61%**) reported that technology issues “significantly” interfered with their ability to perform their best on the exam.

## Overall dissatisfaction:

- **62%** percent of respondents reported being “very dissatisfied” with their exam experience.

## Exam format preference:

- When asked about future exam formats, **51%** reported that they preferred in-person testing, while **49%** favored a remote format.

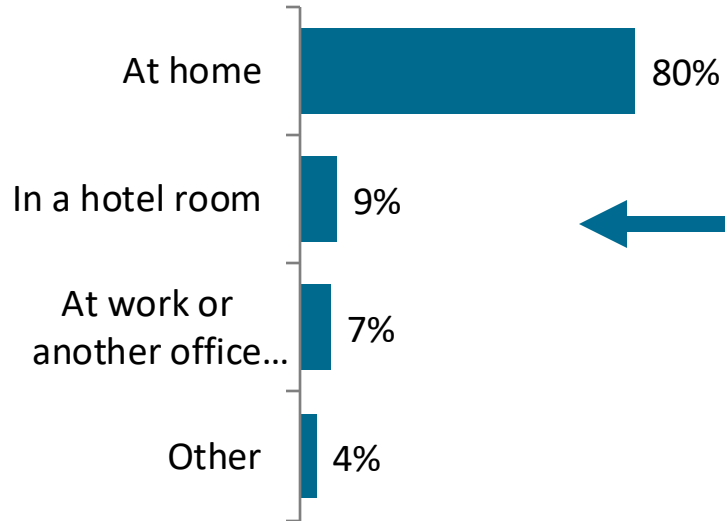
## Comparison with Past Post-Exam Surveys

- Problems with technology and overall dissatisfaction **were higher** in the February 2025 exam compared with post-exam surveys for February and July 2024 exams.

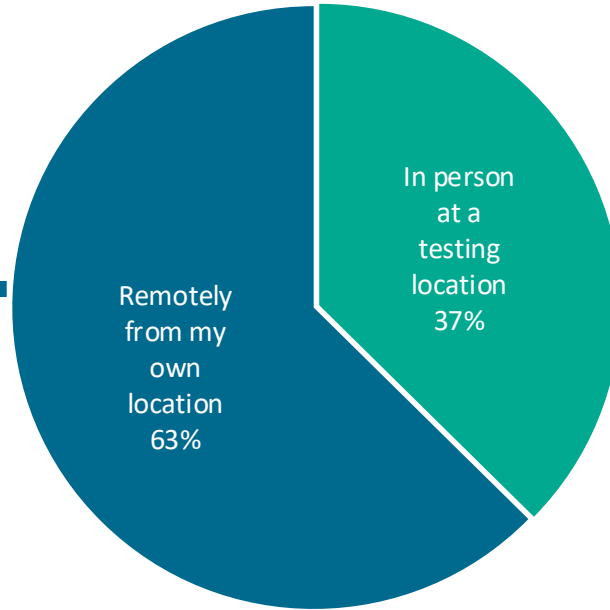


# General Information

➤ 80% of respondents who took the exam remotely did so from their homes.

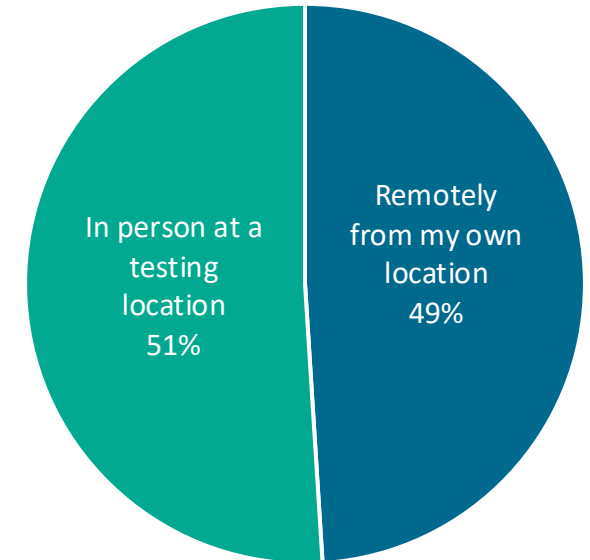


➤ The share of respondents who took the exam remotely (63%) was similar to overall test takers (65%).



Question: Where did you take the February 2025 bar exam?

➤ Based on their experience nearly half of all respondents (49%) would prefer to take the exam remotely in the future.



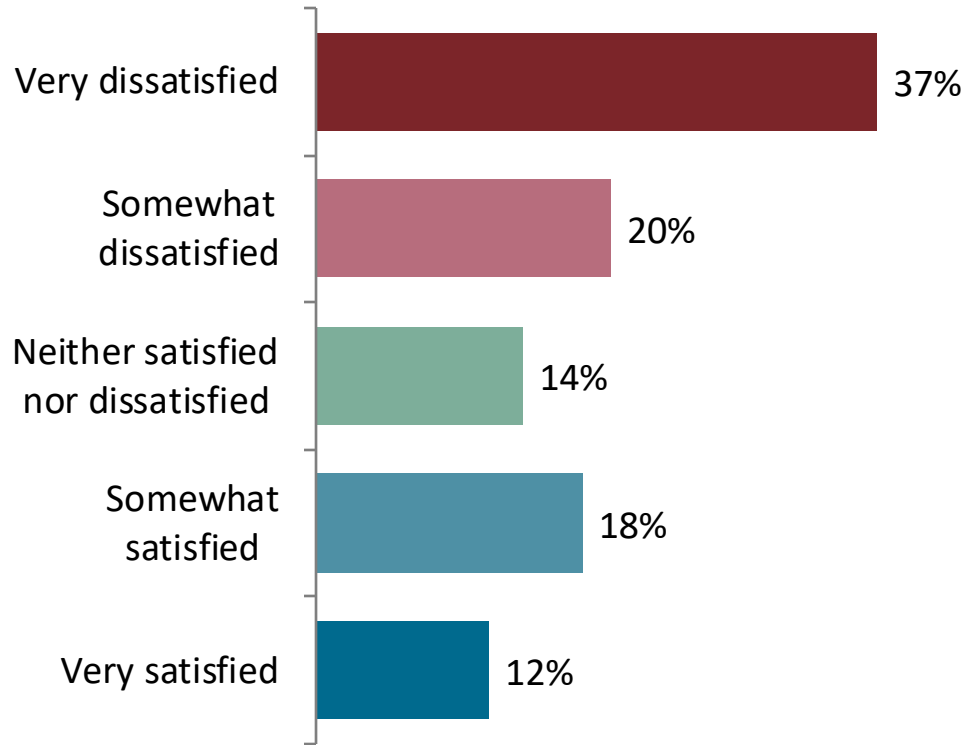
Question: Based on your experience, how would you prefer to take the exam if you were to site for it again in the future?





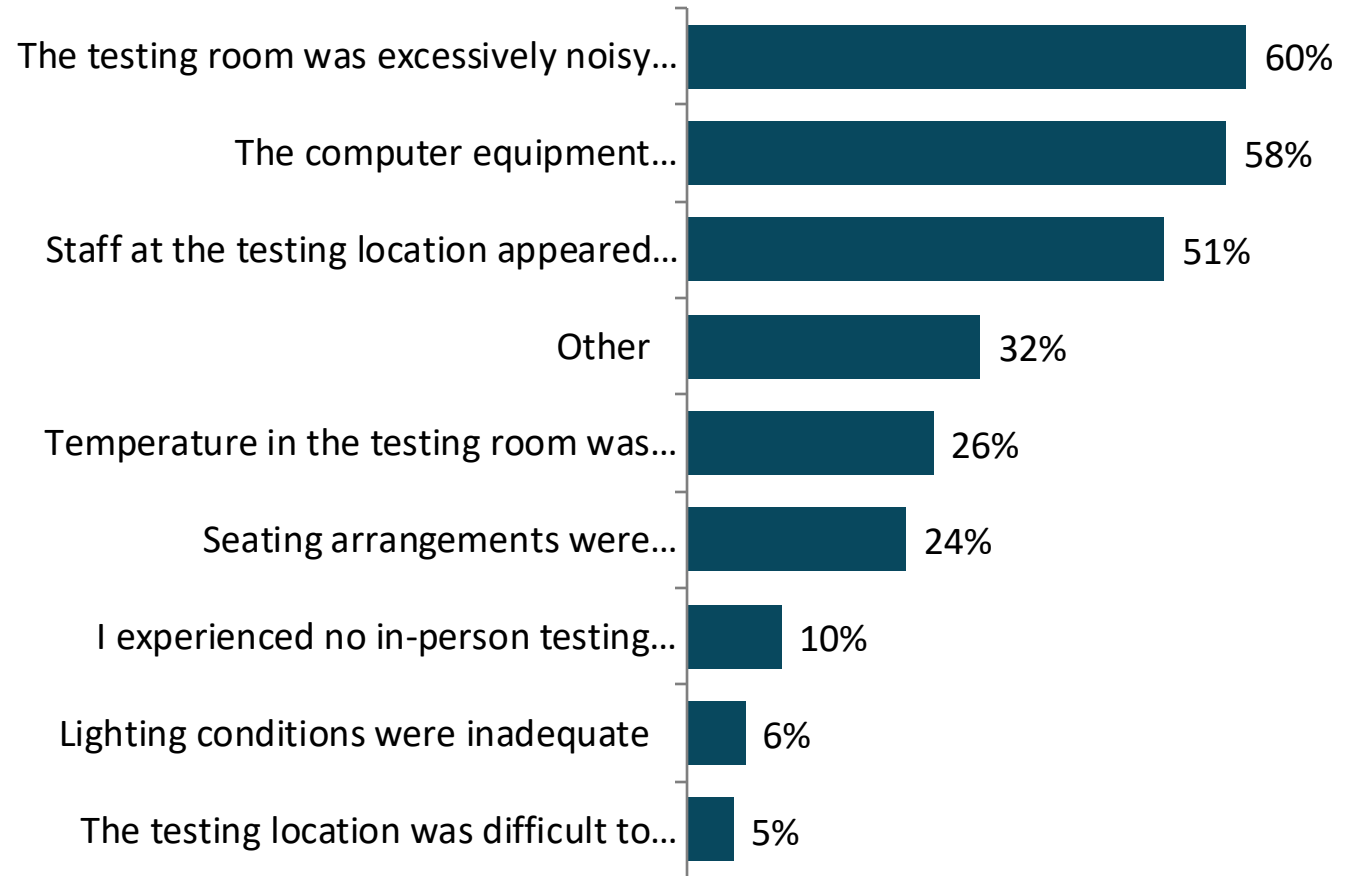
# In-Person Testing Experience

➤ The majority of respondents (57%) who took the exam in-person were dissatisfied with their testing location and 30% were satisfied.



Question: How would you describe your level of satisfaction with the in-person testing location?

➤ The three most common issues experienced at in-person testing centers were related to noise/distractions, computer problems, and staffing.

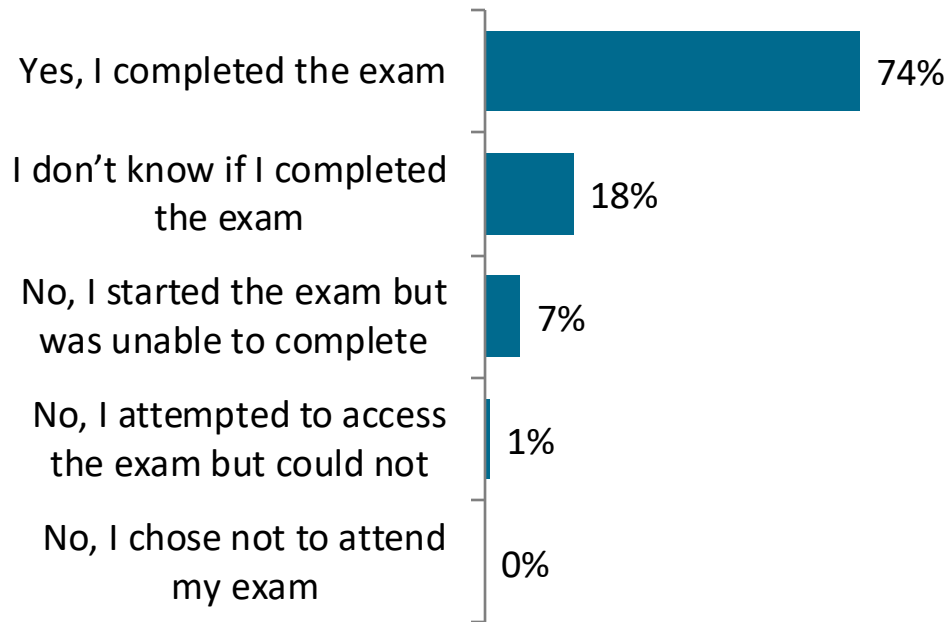


Question: Did you experience any of the following issues at the in-person testing location? (Check all that apply)



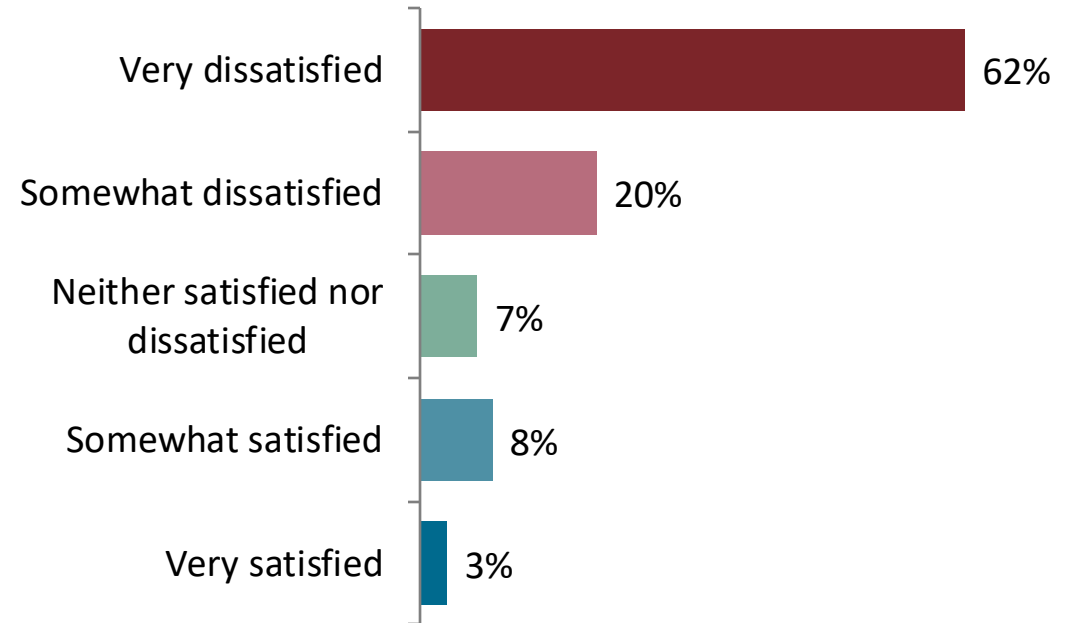
# Exam Completion, Satisfaction, Future Preference

➤ The majority of respondents (74%) reported that they completed the entire exam. Nearly one in five reported that they did not know if they completed it.



Question: Were you able to complete the entire exam?

➤ The majority of respondents (82%) were either very or somewhat dissatisfied with their exam experience.

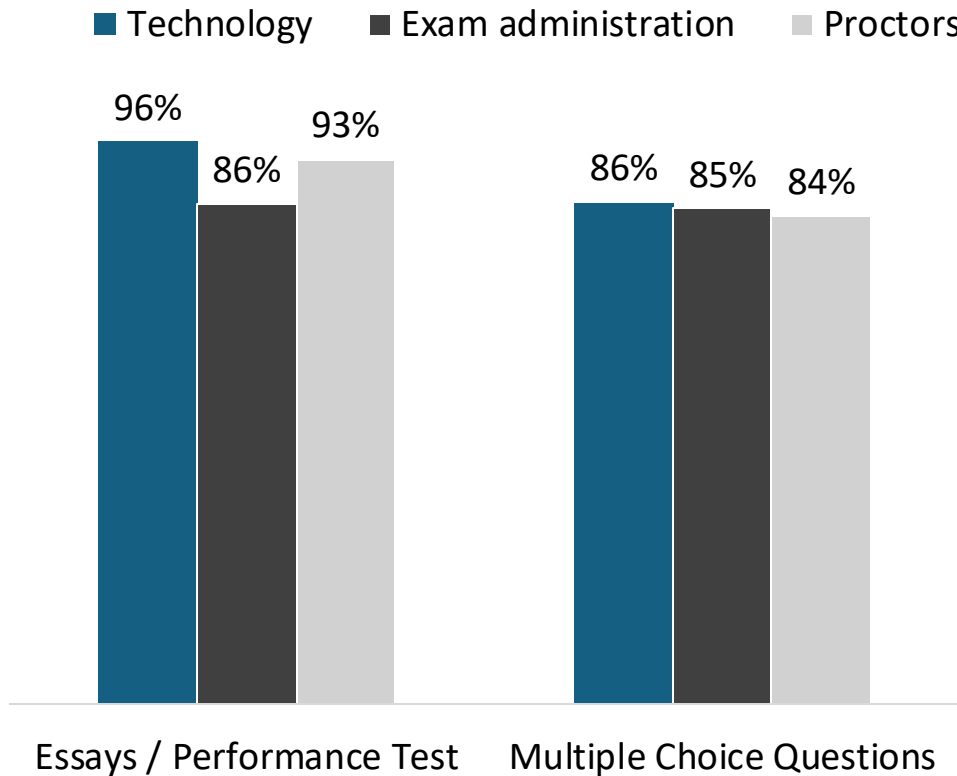


Question: Overall, how satisfied were you with your exam experience?



# Issues Experienced During Exam

Percent of respondents that experienced at least one issue related to technology, exam administration, or proctors



- The vast majority of respondents reported experiencing at least one issue related to technology, exam administration, or proctors during the exam.
- Over 90% reported experiencing at least one issue related to technology or proctors during the essays/performance test portion of the exam.
- More respondents reported experiencing issues with technology and proctors during the essays/performance test portion of the exam versus during the multiple-choice questions portion of the exam.

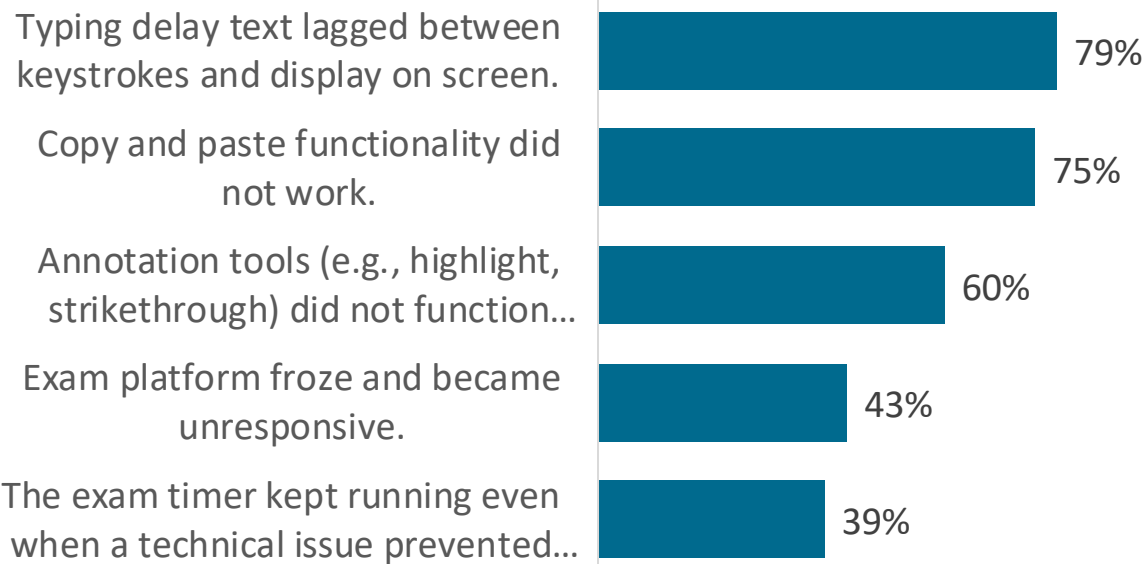
*Results based on responses to questions regarding experiencing issues related to technology, exam administration, and proctors during the exam. See following slides for more details.*



## Technology: Top 5 Issues Experienced

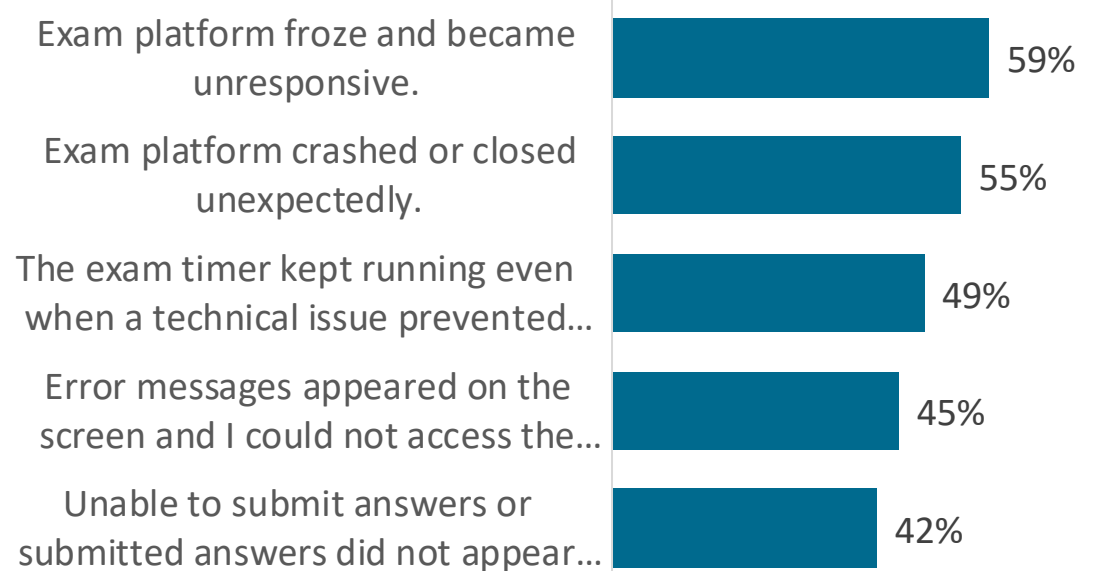
### Essays / Performance Test

➤ Nearly 80% reported experiencing issues related to typing delays during the essay/performance test and 75% reported that the copy and past function did not work.



### Multiple Choice Questions

➤ Over half of all respondents experienced the exam platform freezing/becoming unresponsive or crashing/closing unexpectedly during the multiple-choice question portion of the exam.

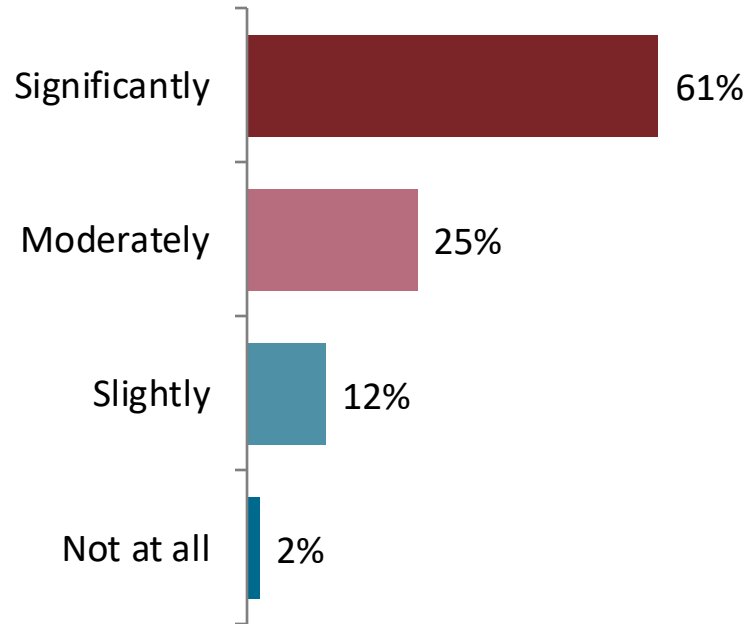


Question: Did you experience any of the following technology issues during the exam? (Check all that apply for each component of the exam)



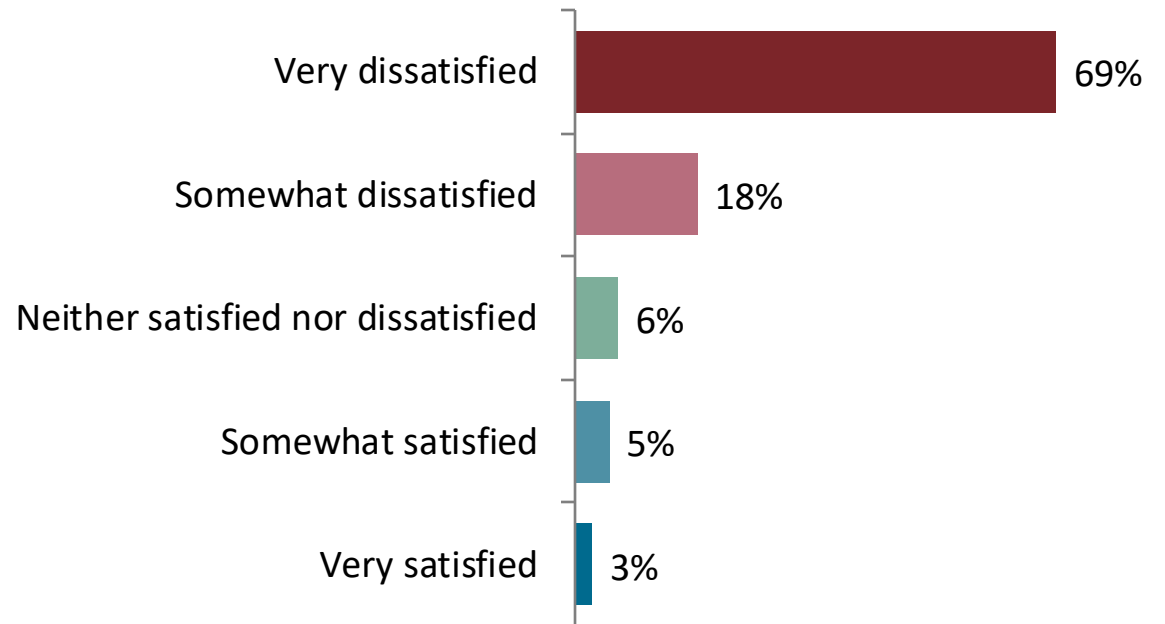
## Technology: Impact and Satisfaction with Online Platform

➤ The majority of respondents (86%) thought the technology issues significantly interfered with their ability to perform their best on the exam.



Question: To what extent do you think the technology issues you experienced interfered with your ability to perform your best on the exam?

➤ The majority of respondents (87%) were either very or somewhat dissatisfied with Meazure Learning's online exam platform.

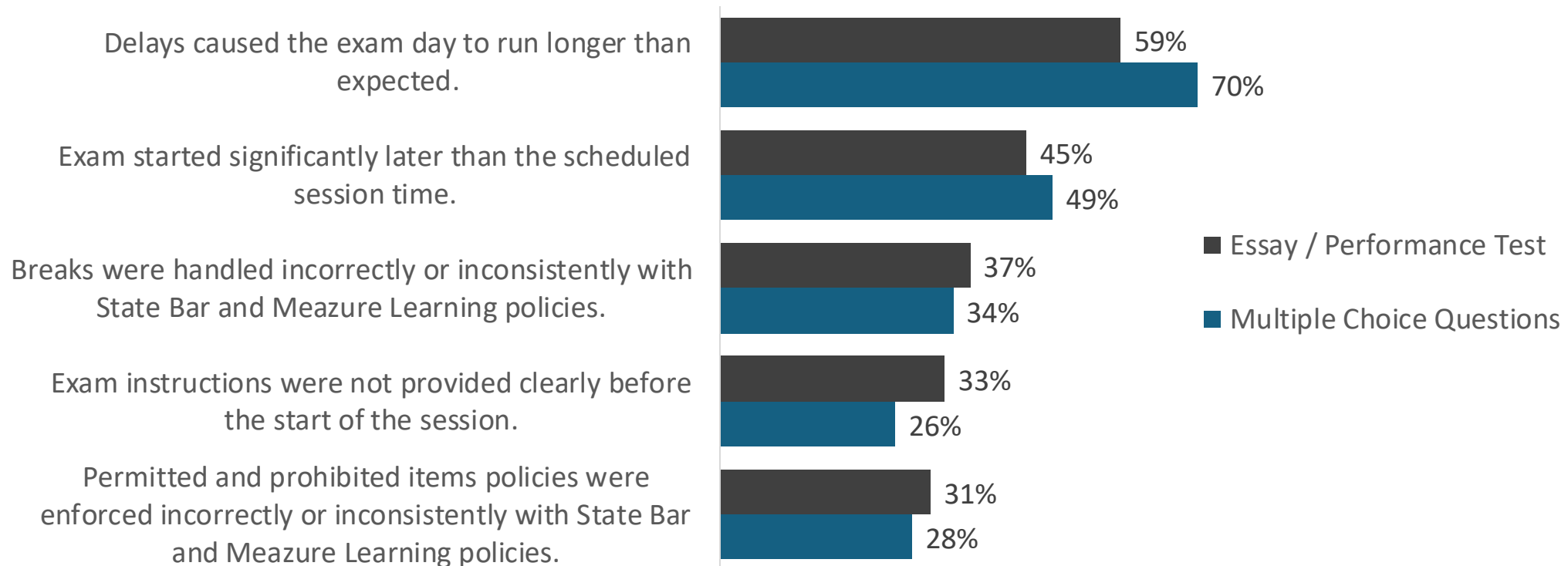


Question: How would you describe your level of satisfaction with Meazure Learning's online exam platform?



## Exam Administration: Top 5 Issues Experienced

- Respondents identified the same top 5 exam administration issues for both portions of the exam.
- The top reported exam administration issue: delays that cause the exam day to run longer than expected.

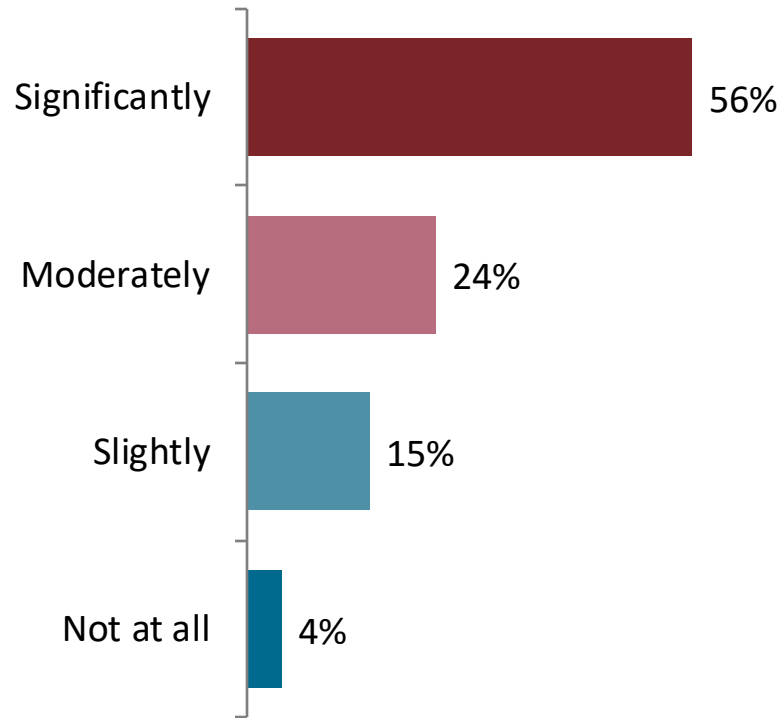


Question: Did you experience any of the following exam administration issues during the exam? (Check all that apply for each component of the exam)



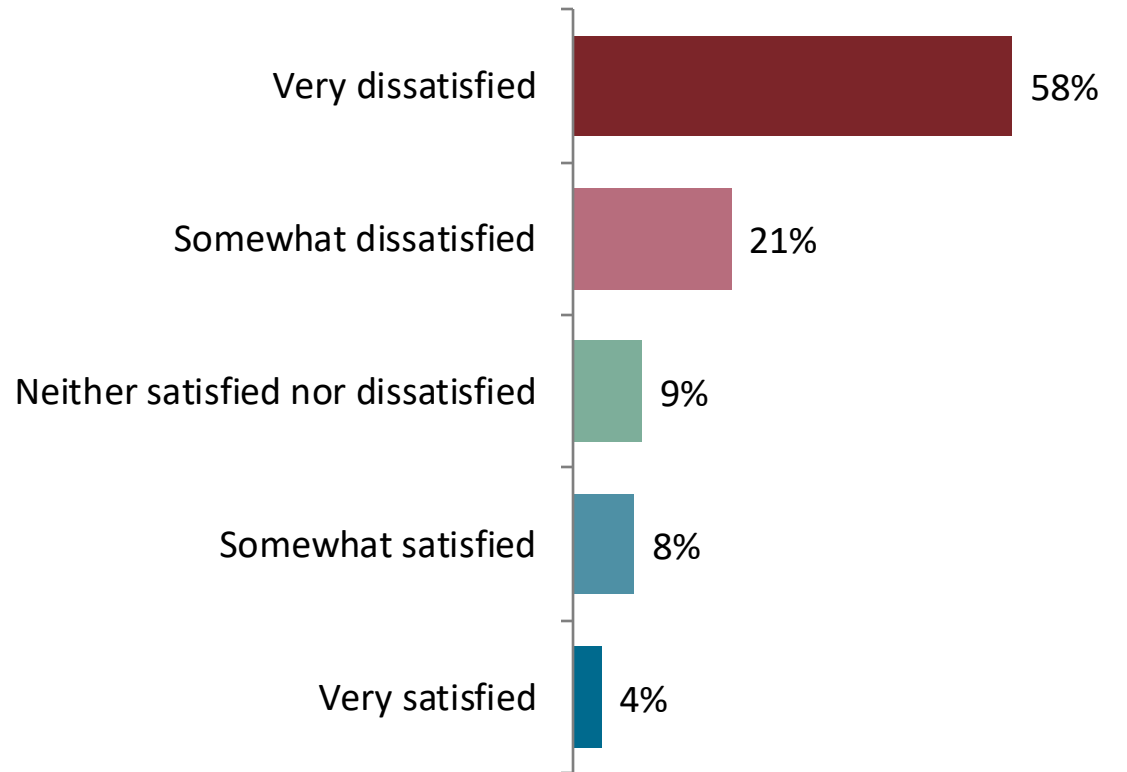
## Exam Administration: Impact and Satisfaction

➤ Over half of respondents (56%) thought the exam administration issues significantly interfered with their ability to perform their best on the exam.



Question: To what extent do you think the technology issues you experienced interfered with your ability to perform your best on the exam?

➤ The majority of respondents (79%) were either very or somewhat dissatisfied with the administration of the exam.

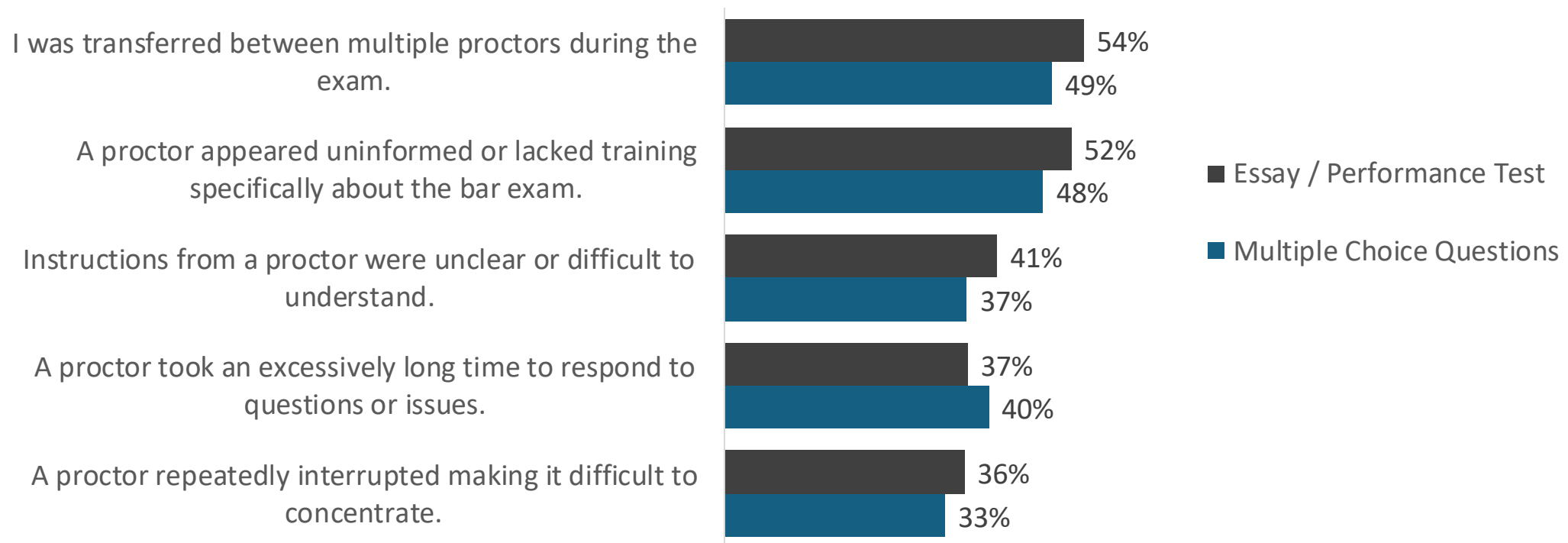


Question: How would you describe your level of satisfaction with the administration of the exam?



## Proctors: Top 5 Issues Experienced

- Respondents identified the same top 5 issues related to proctors for both portions of the exam.
- The top reported proctor issue was being transferred between multiple proctors during the exam. The next most frequent issue experienced was proctors appearing uninformed and lacking training about the bar exam



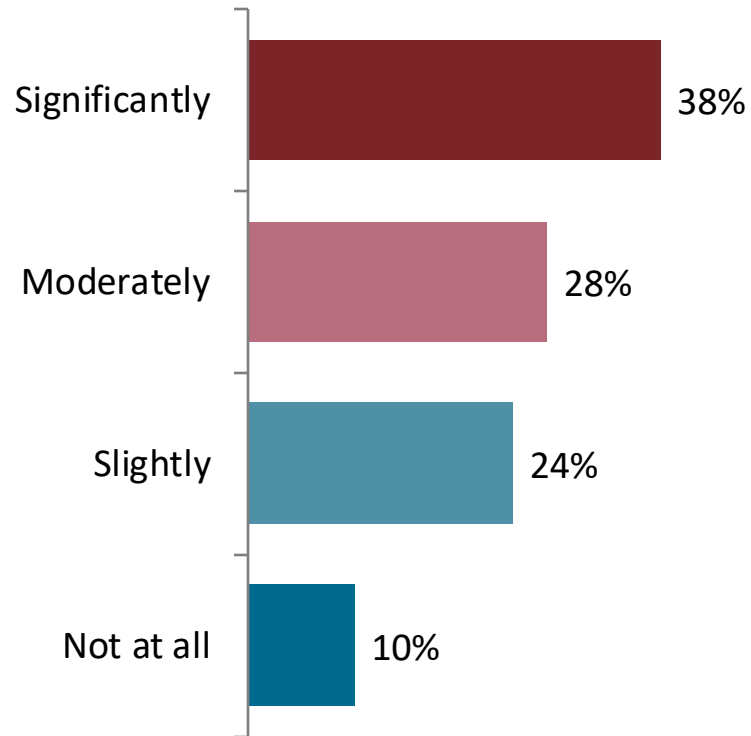
Question: Did you experience any of the following issues with a proctor during the exam? (Check all that apply for each component of the exam)





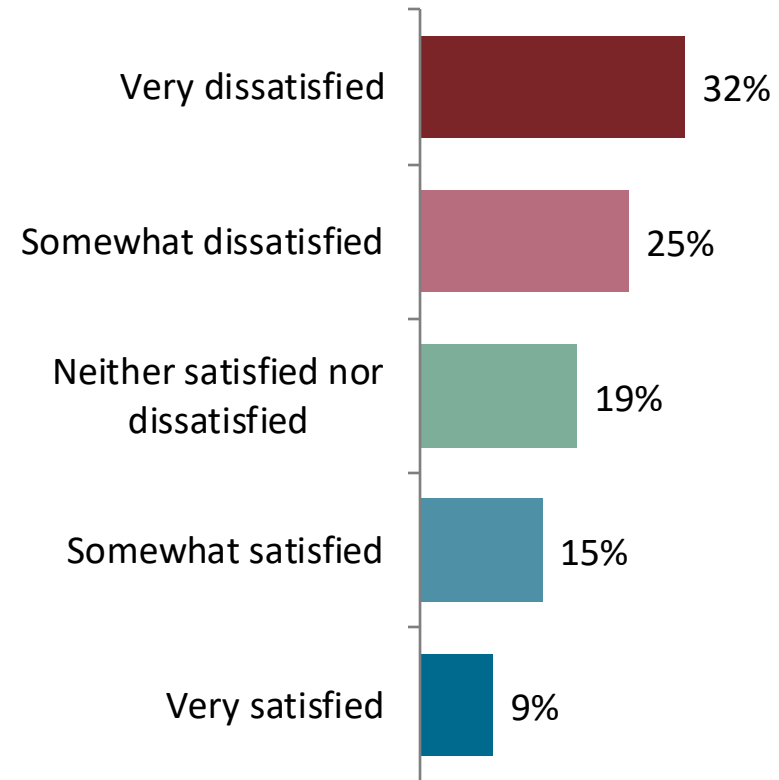
## Proctors: Impact and Satisfaction

➤ Nearly 4 in 10 respondents thought the proctor issues they experienced significantly interfered with their ability to perform their best on the exam.



Question: To what extent do you think the proctor issues you experienced interfered with your ability to perform your best on the exam?

➤ Over half of respondents (57%) were either very or somewhat dissatisfied with the proctors.



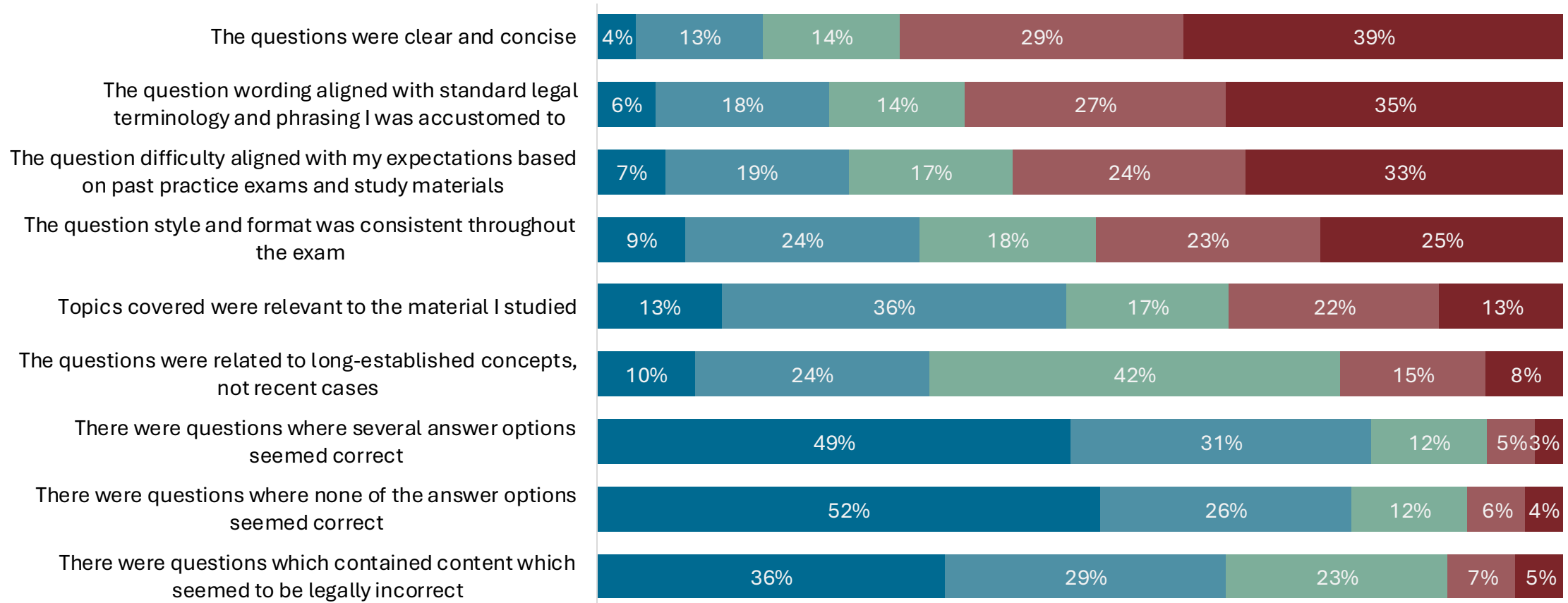
Question: How would you describe your level of satisfaction with the proctors?



# Multiple-Choice Questions

- Nearly 70% of respondents disagreed with the statement: “The questions were clear and concise.”
- Over 60% disagreed with the statement “Question wording was aligned with standard legal terminology and phrasing I was accustomed to.”

■ Strongly agree  
 ■ Somewhat agree  
 ■ Neither disagree nor agree  
 ■ Somewhat disagree  
 ■ Strongly disagree



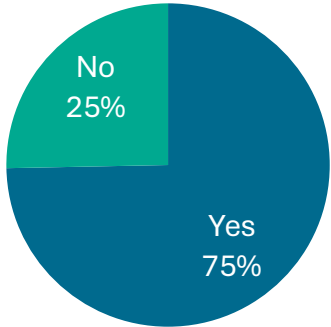
Question: Please rate your agreement with the following statements about the multiple-choice questions.



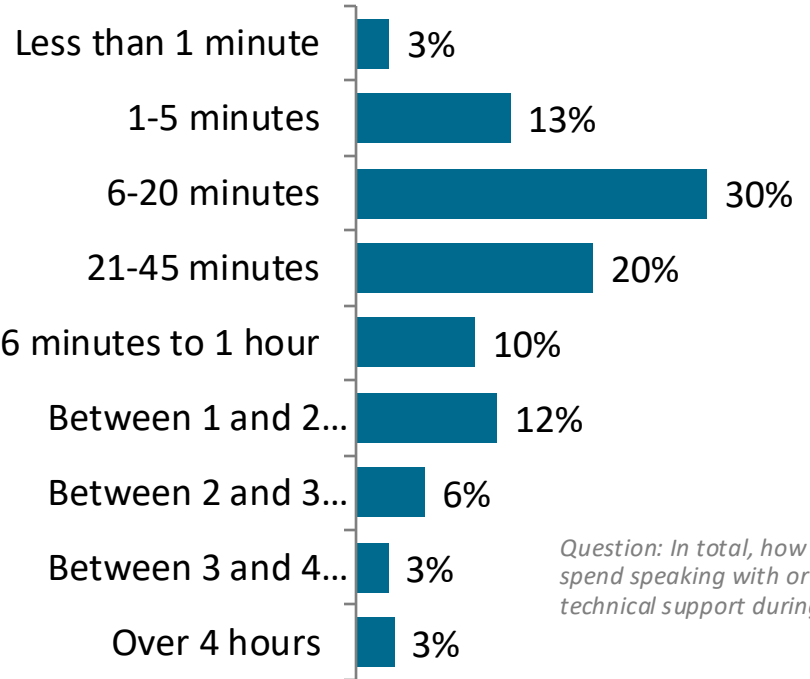
# Measure Learning Technical Support

➤ Nearly one quarter of respondents who sought technical support spent over one hour speaking with or waiting for technical report.

➤ Three out of four respondents encountered issues during the exam that required them seek technical support.

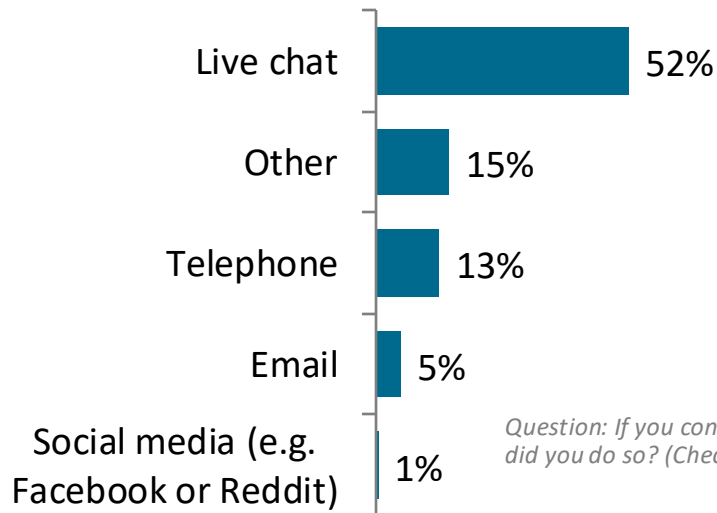


Question: During the exam, did you encounter any issues that required you to contact Measure Learning technical support, required your proctor to attempt to fix a technology related-issue, or required your proctor to transfer you to a technical support agent?



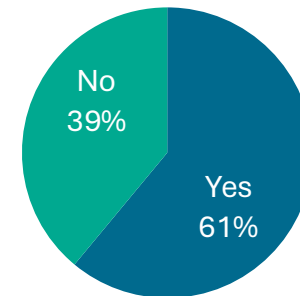
Question: In total, how much time did you spend speaking with or waiting for technical support during the exam?

➤ Over half of respondents (52%) reported contacting Measure Learning directly via live chat.



Question: If you contacted Measure Learning directly, how did you do so? (Check all that apply)

➤ Nearly 40 percent reported that the support they received did not resolve the issues that required technical support.

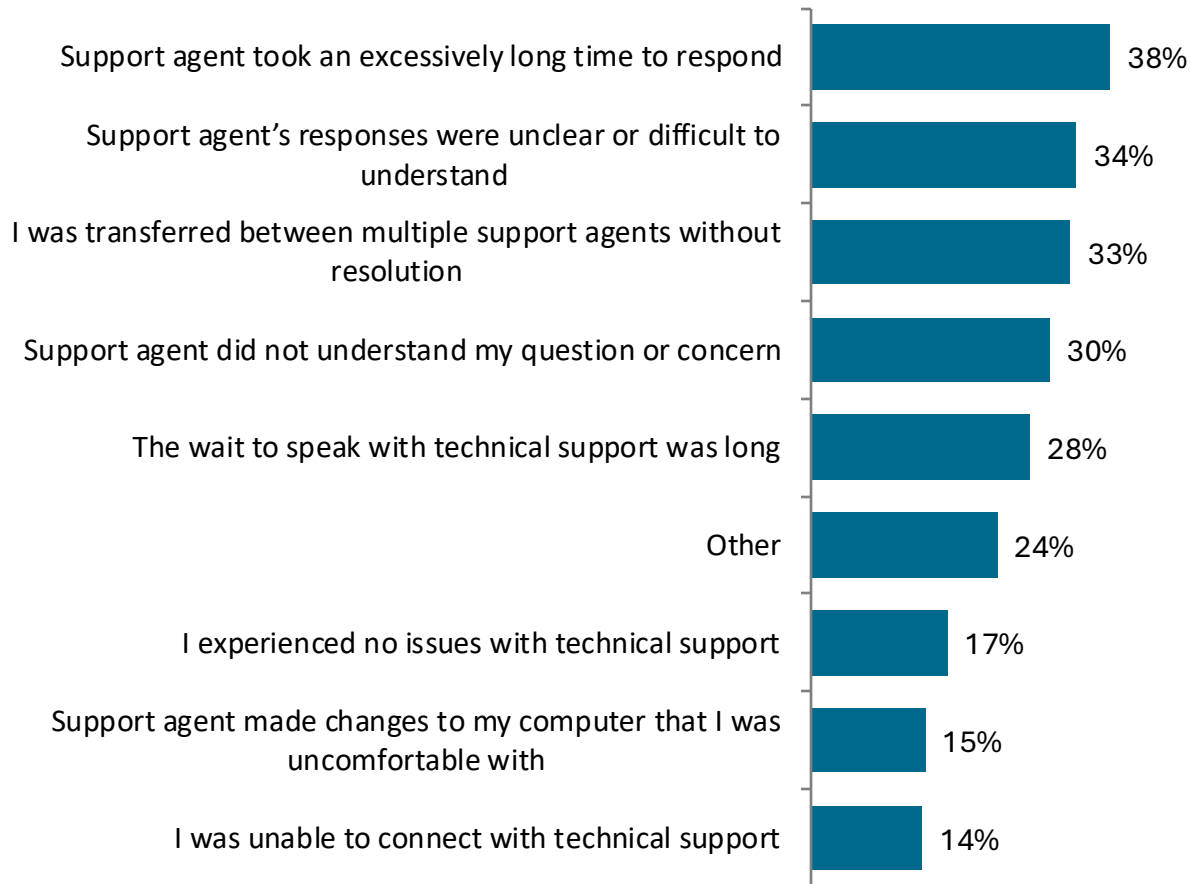


Question: Did the support you received resolve your issue?



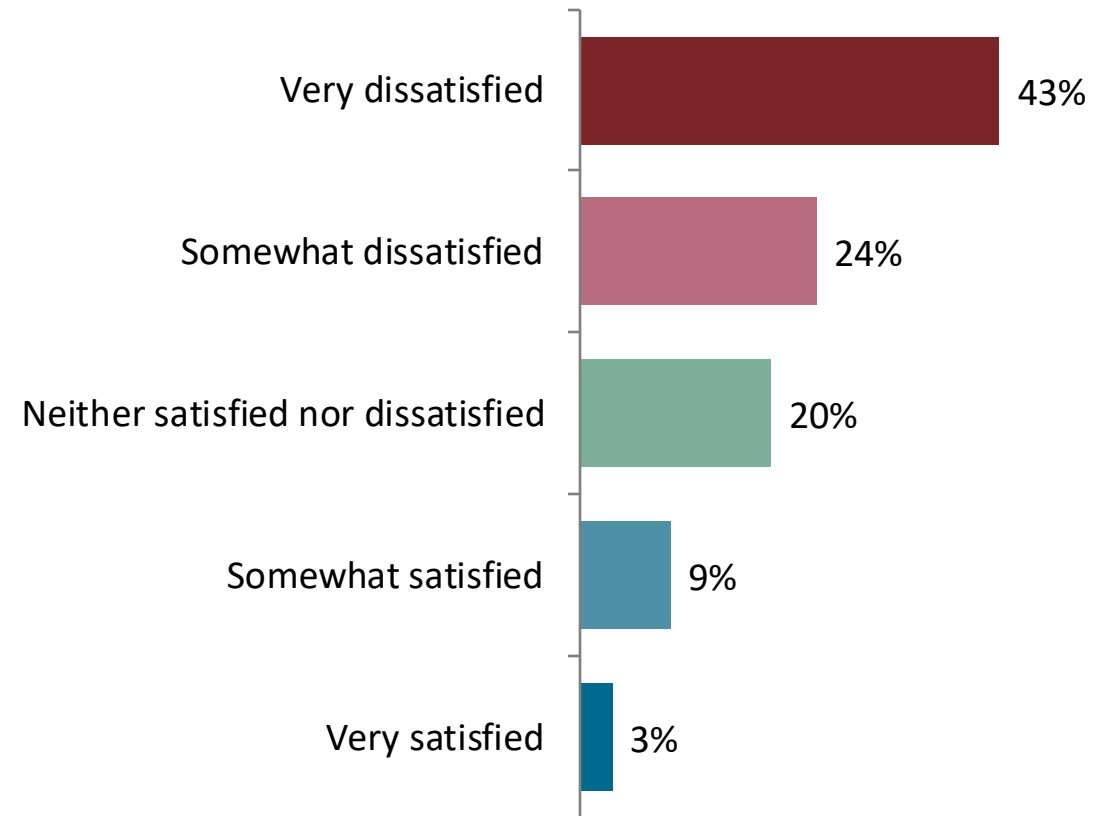
## Issues and Satisfaction with Technical Support

- Over one in three respondents reported that:
- \* the support agent took an excessively long time to respond
  - \* the support agent's responses were unclear or difficult to understand
  - \* they were transferred between multiple support agents without resolution.



Question: During the exam, did you experience any of the following issues when interacting with technical support? (Check all that apply)

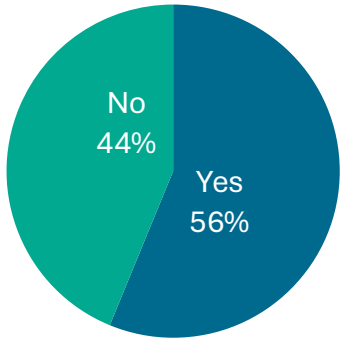
- Nearly 70 percent of respondents were either very or somewhat dissatisfied with the level of technical support during the exam.



Question: How would you describe your level of satisfaction with technical support during the exam?

# Contact with the State Bar

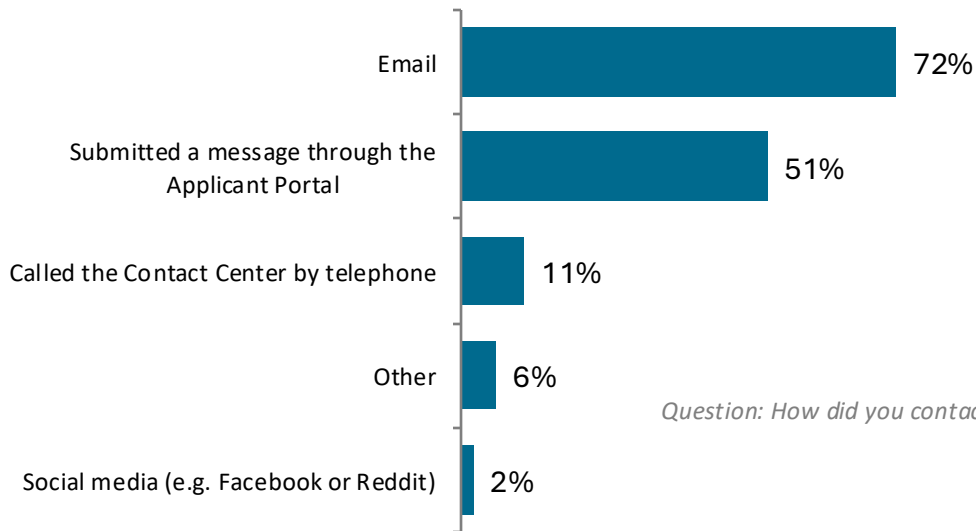
➤ Over half (56%) have contacted the State Bar regarding issues they faced related to the exam.



Question: Have you contacted the State Bar regarding issues you faced related to the exam?

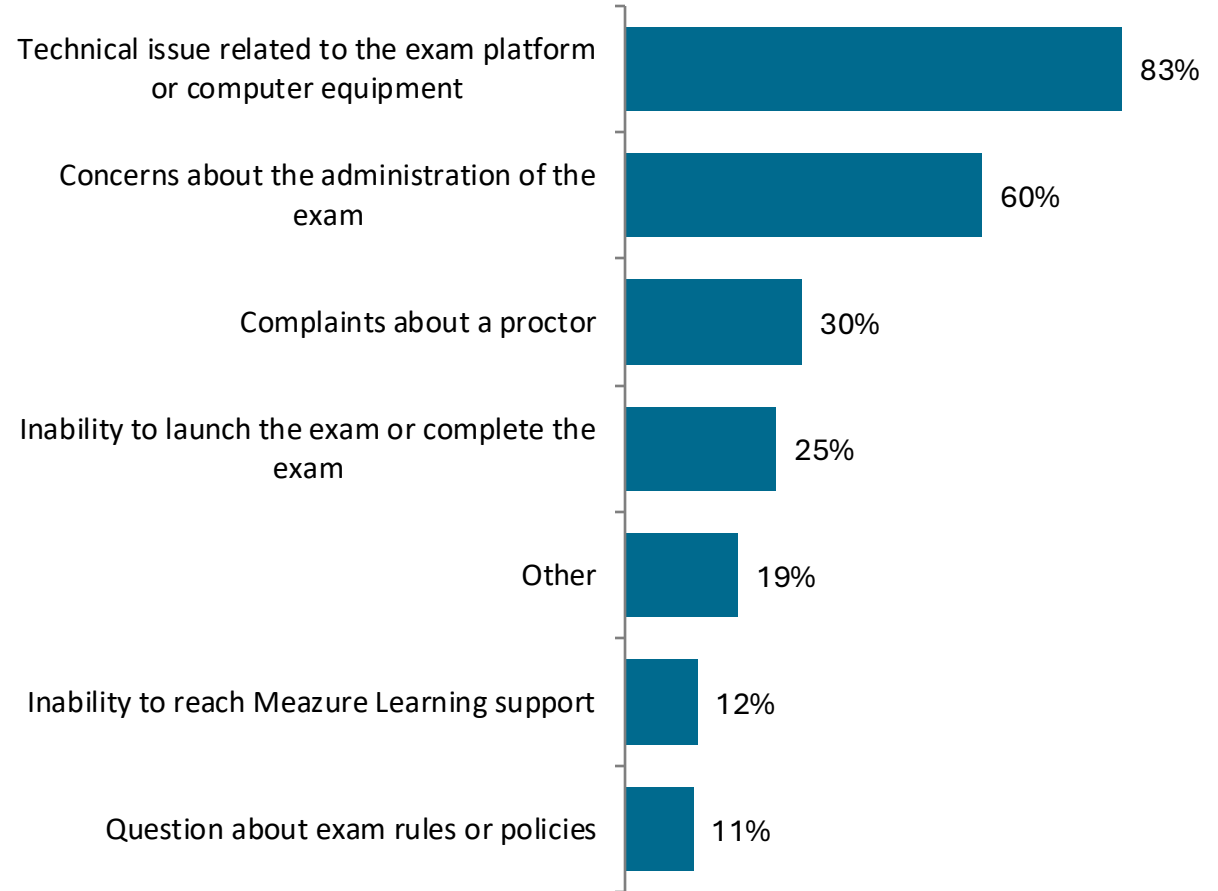


**72% contacted the State Bar via email.**



Question: How did you contact the State Bar?

➤ Over 80% contacted the State Bar regarding a technical issue related to the exam platform or computer equipment while 60% contacted the State Bar regarding concerns about exam administration.

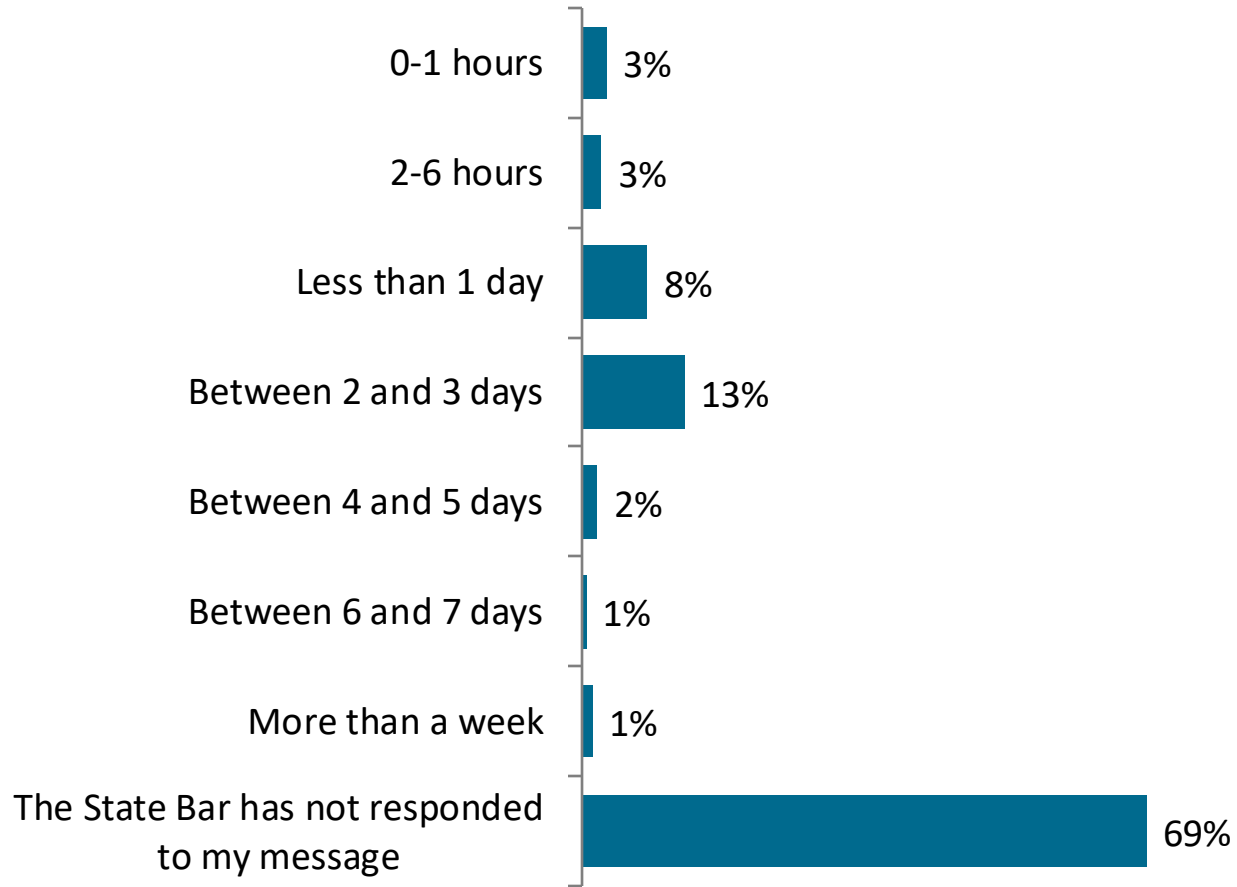


Question: What type of issue did you contact the State Bar about? Check all that apply



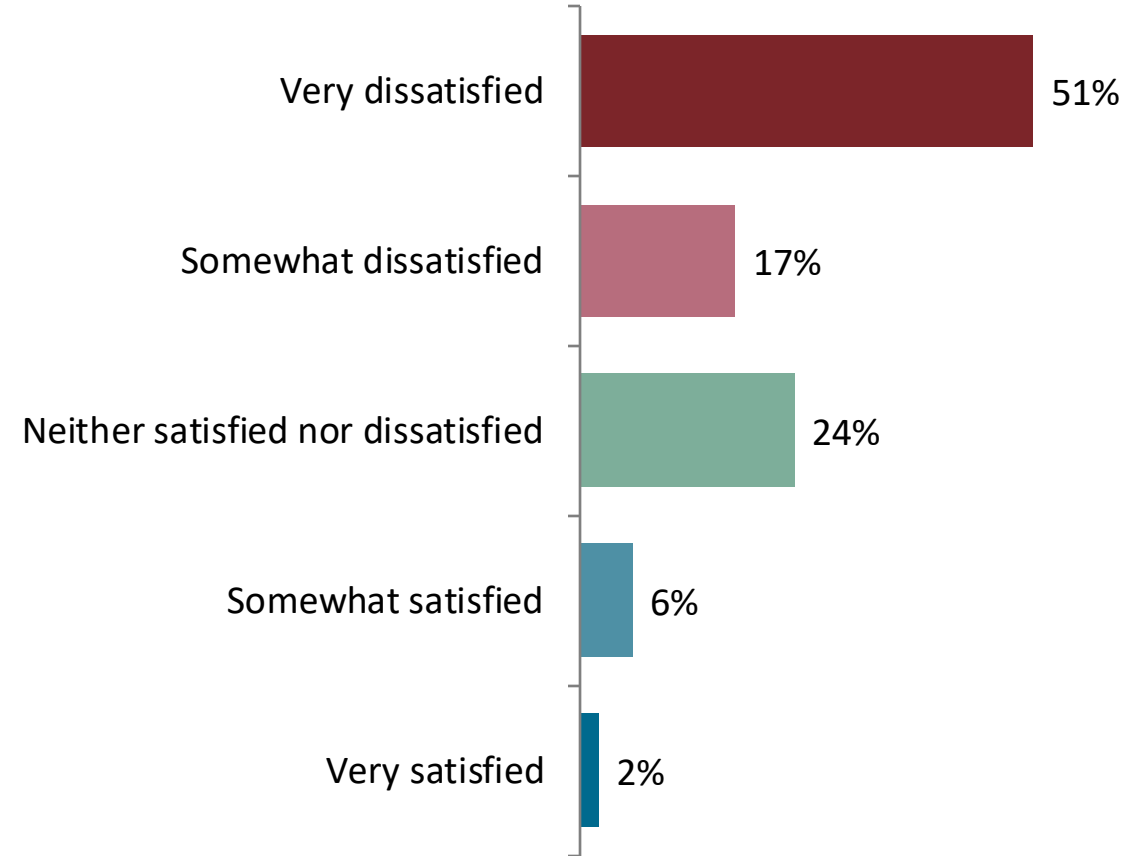
## State Bar Response Time and Satisfaction

➤ Nearly 70% report that the State Bar has not responded to their message.



Question: On average, how quickly did the State Bar respond to you?

➤ Nearly 70% of respondents who contacted the State Bar were either very or somewhat dissatisfied with the State Bar's response to them.



Question: How would you describe your level of satisfaction with the State Bar's response to you?