



Public Library Services Status: Survey Report

RI Office of Library & Information Services

May 2021

About the survey

Survey purpose: assess status of libraries as of the week of May 17, 2021.

- Distributed on May 14, 2021
- Closed May 21, 2021

Distributed to 48 public library systems

- 34 public library systems responded

As of May 21, most coronavirus restrictions were lifted in Rhode Island; libraries may now operate at 100% capacity.

Is your library currently quarantining returned materials?

38% of respondents are quarantining materials

- 35% quarantine materials returned via book drop, circulation desk, etc.
- 12% quarantine materials returned via delivery

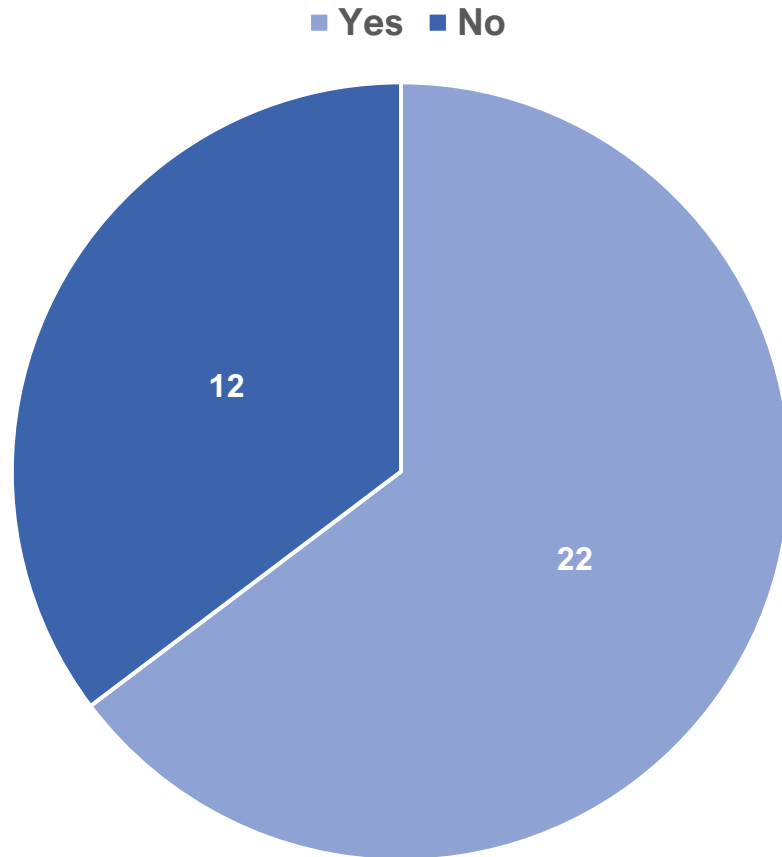
Materials returned via book drop, circulation desk, etc.

- 9 libraries plan to stop soon, most by July 1
- 3 do not plan to stop quarantining these materials

Materials returned via delivery

- 2 libraries plan to stop by June 28
- 2 do not plan to stop quarantining these materials

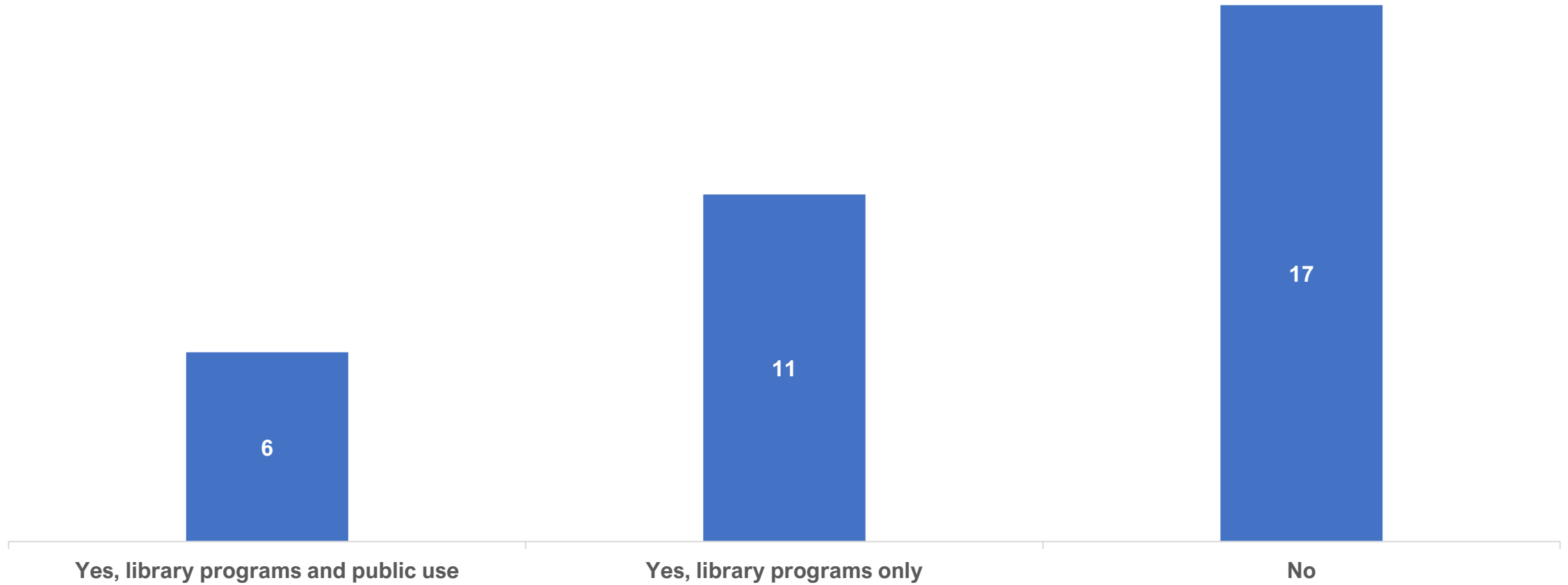
Have you reopened your reading area(s) to allow patrons to read newspapers and magazines?



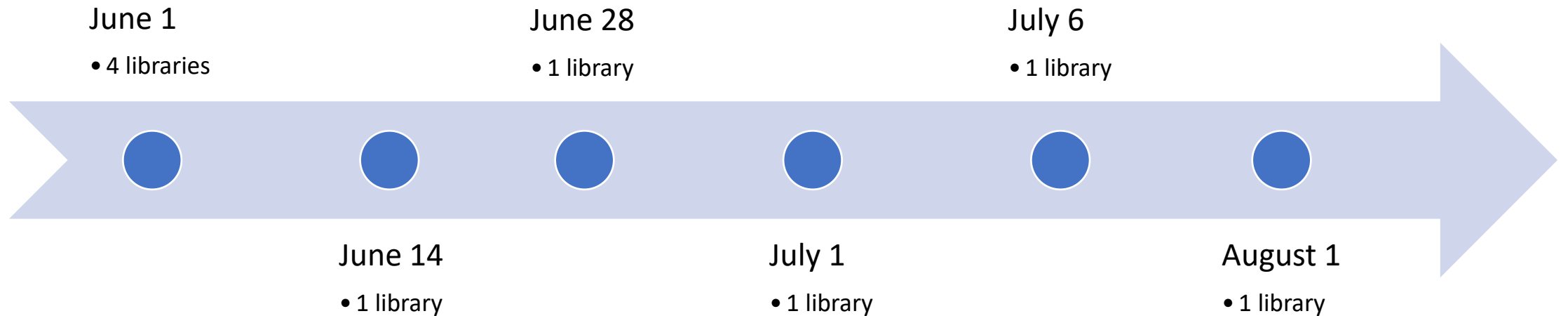
If no, do you plan to reopen these areas soon?

83% of libraries responding No will reopen reading areas by **July 6**.

Have you reopened your programming spaces? (This includes meeting rooms.)

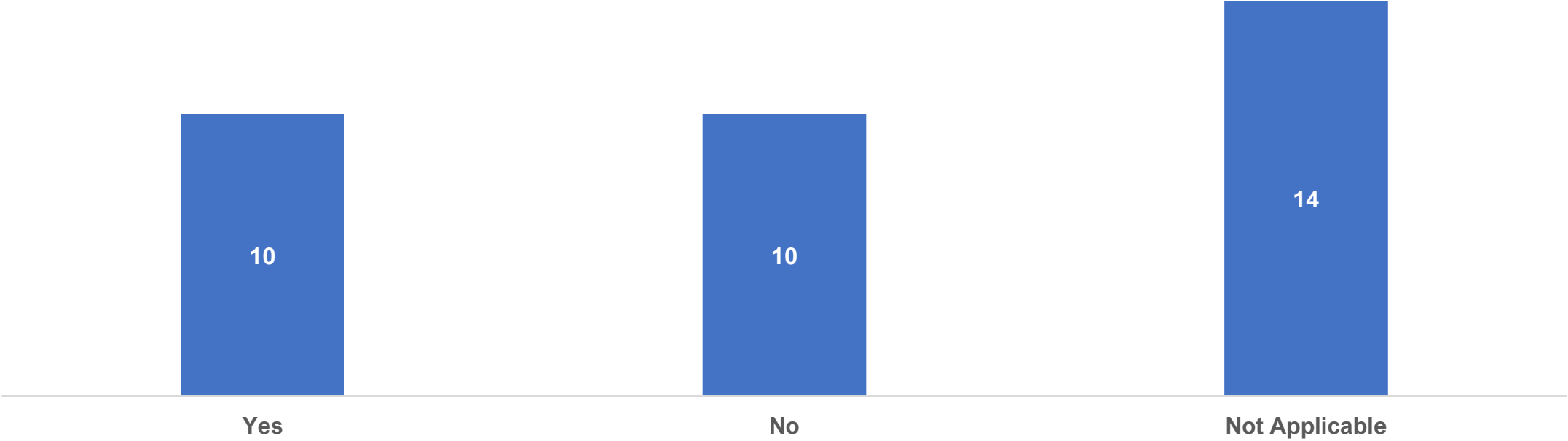


If no, when do you plan to reopen those spaces?

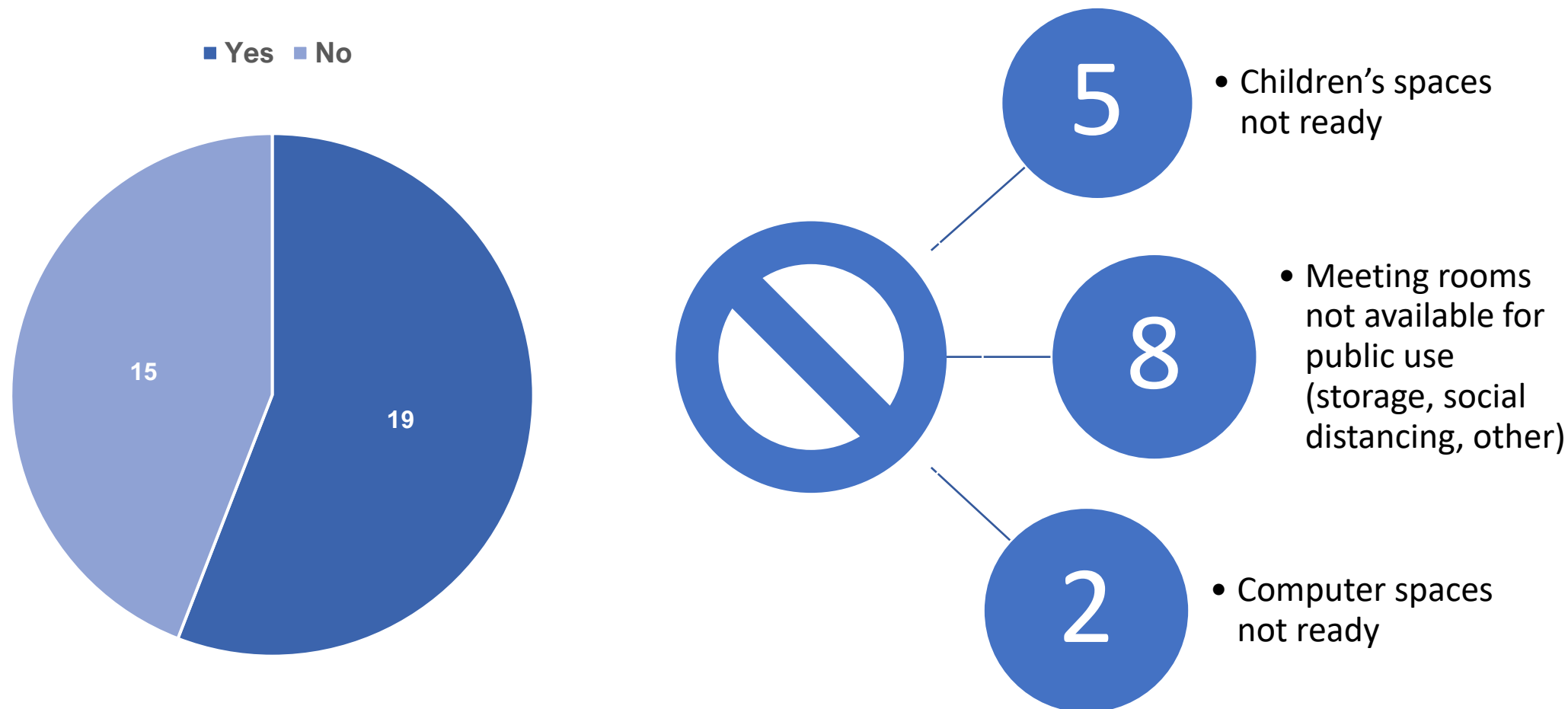


5 libraries do not have clear timeline for reopening programming spaces.

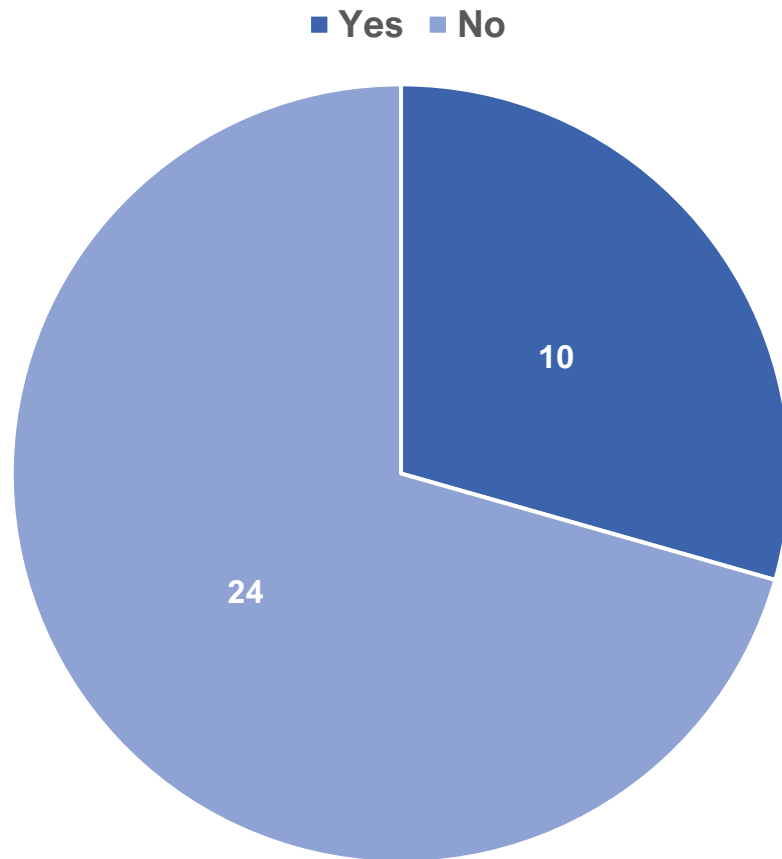
Have you reopened your study room(s)?



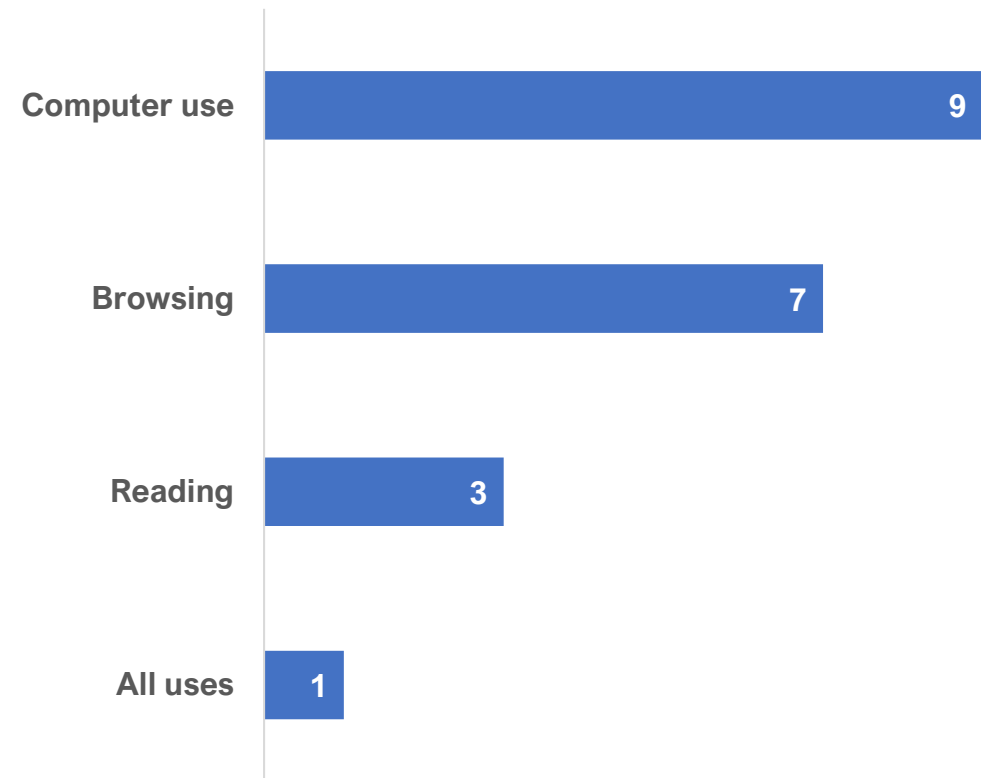
Have you reopened all areas of your library?



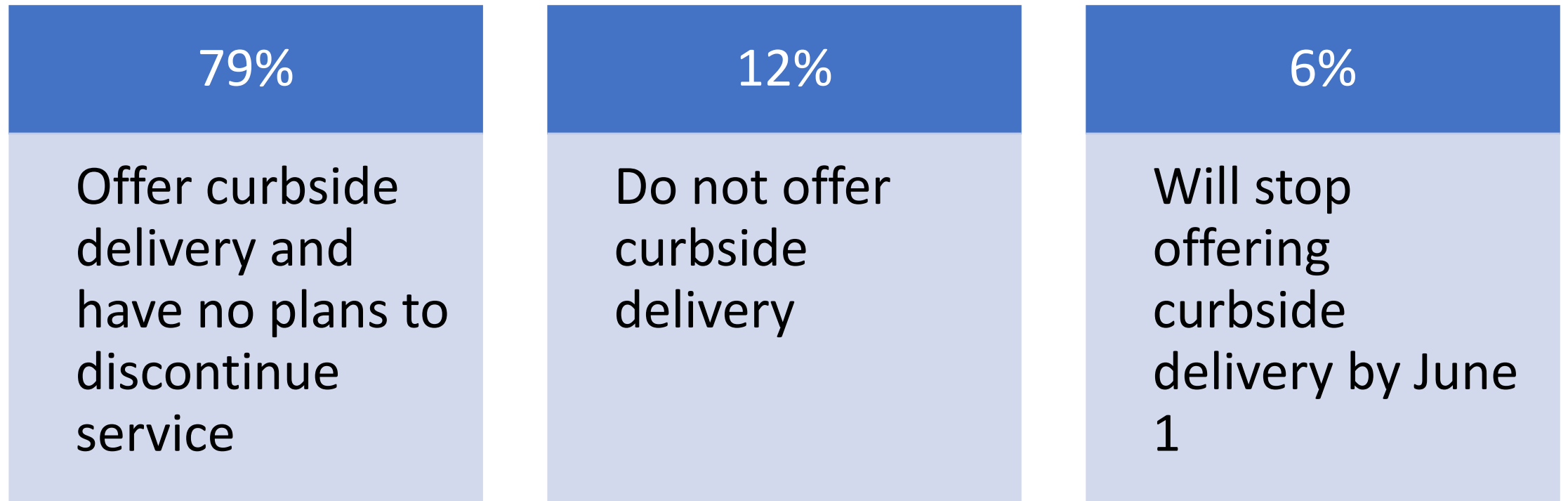
Do you limit the amount of time patrons are in the library?



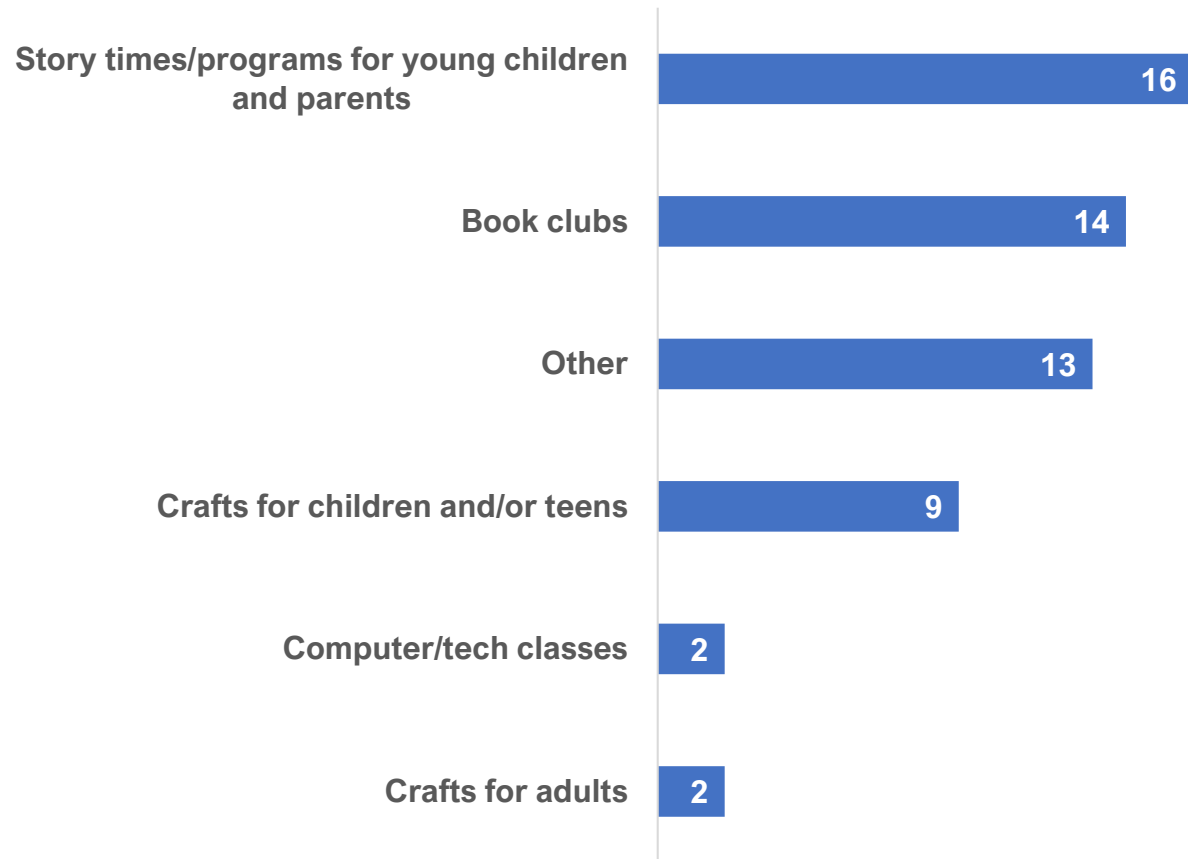
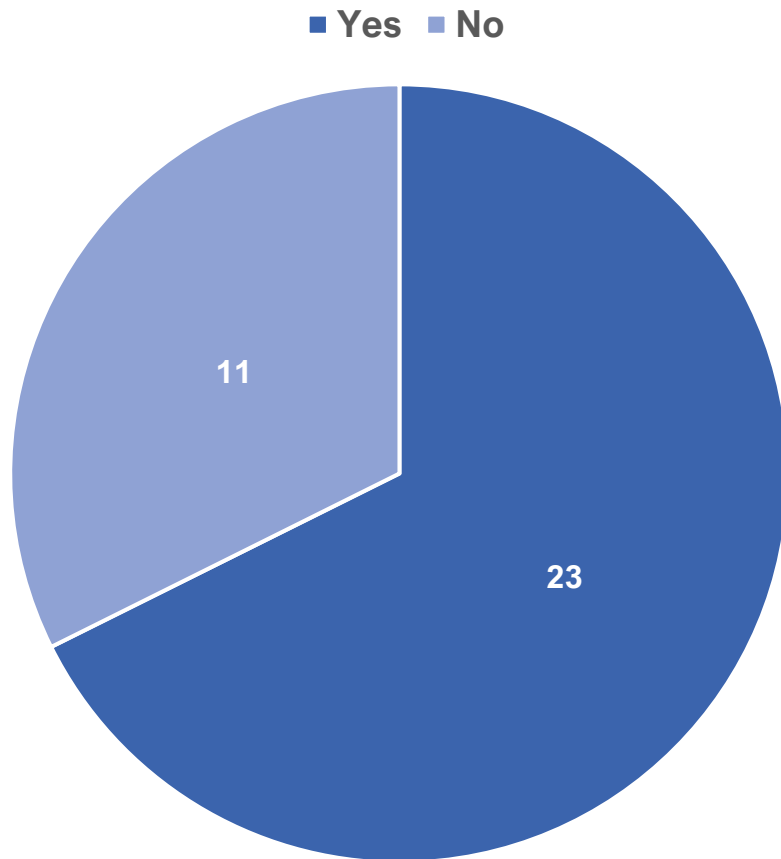
Patron activities with time limits



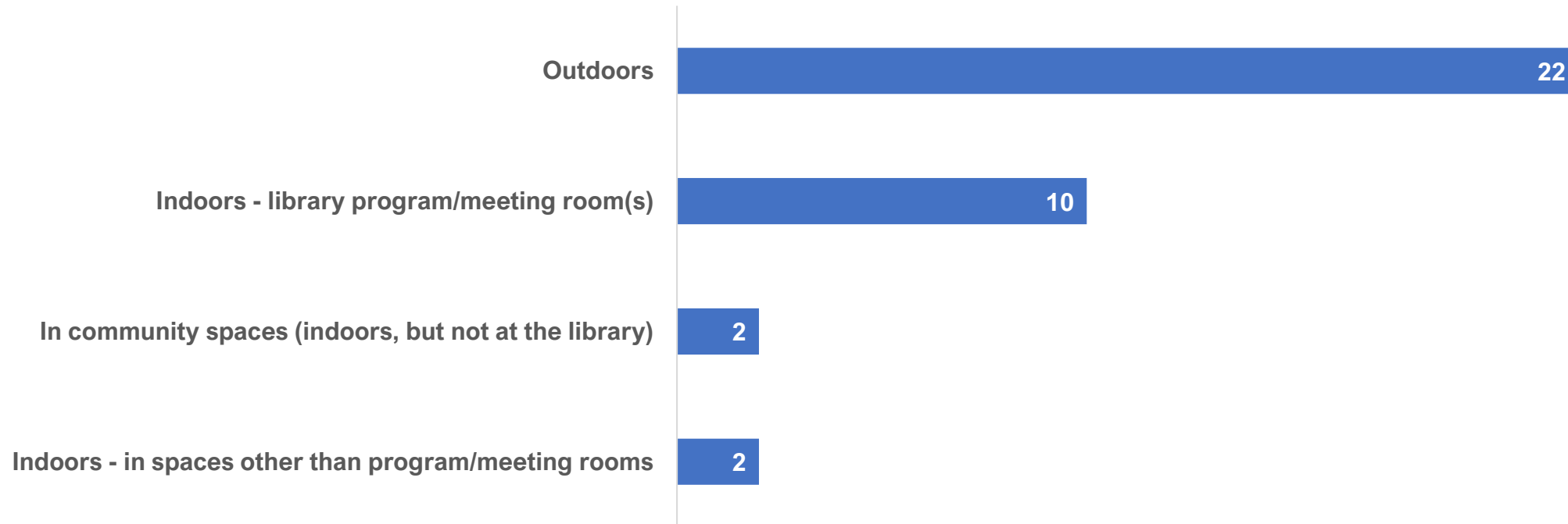
Are you offering curbside delivery services?



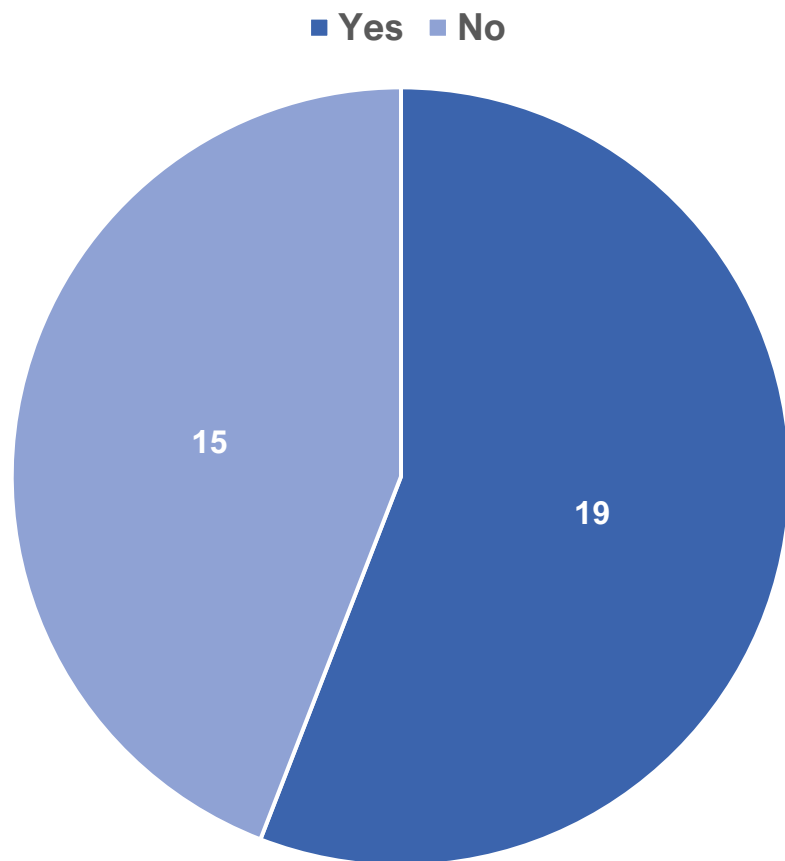
Have you resumed offering in-person programs?



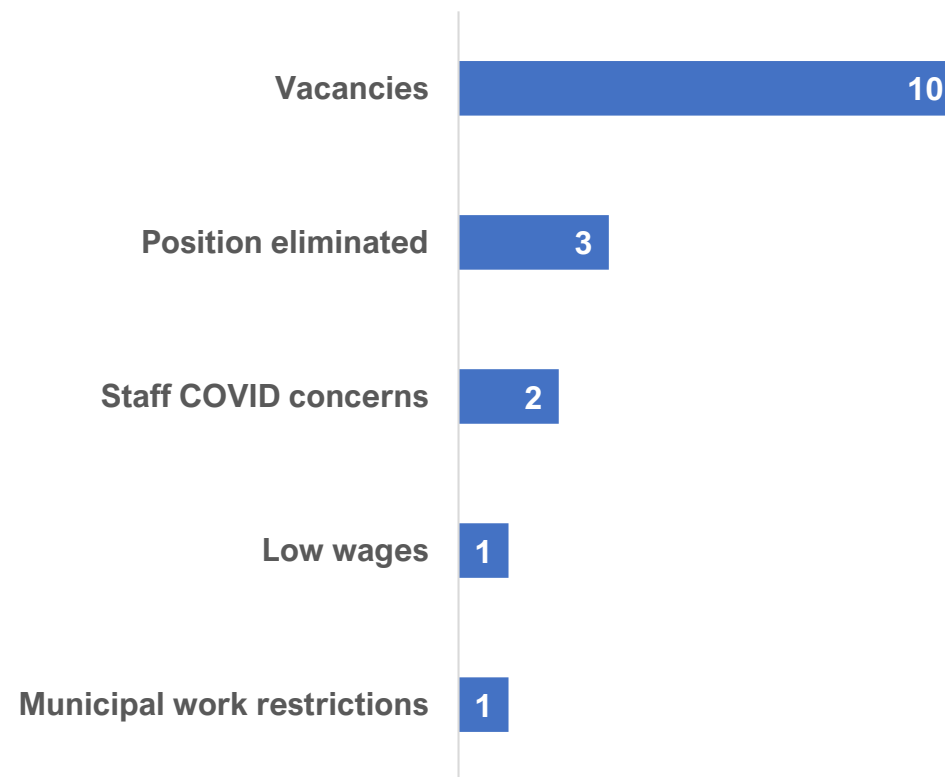
Where are you holding your in-person programs?



Is your library staffed at pre-pandemic levels?



If no, what is the reason?



Is the library open the number of hours required by the Minimum Standards for Public Libraries?

76% of respondents are meeting hours requirement for Minimum Standards

Reasons cited for not meeting minimum hours requirement:

- Slower traffic in evening hours
- Municipal restrictions
- Staff vacancies