

Ramp Up for Research Days: On-Campus + Online = Success

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Introduction

During fall 2015, Himmelfarb Library and The George Washington University Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) collaborated to increase health sciences student participation in GW's annual Research Days event.

The library launched two new initiatives designed to target both on-campus students and Distance Education (DE) students: six "Ramp Up to Research Days" workshops with both in-class and WebEx components, and a customized Research Days portal within the Health Sciences Research Commons (HSRC) digital repository.

Methods & Materials Collaboration

- GW Office of Vice President of Research (OVPR)
- GW Schools of Medicine, Nursing and Public Health
- Bepress/Digital Commons on repository redesign

Initiative 1: HSRC Customized

- Library staff handled submission and archiving of posters, rather than funneling poster presenters through the self-submission process in HSRC
- Reduced the number of fillable metadata fields
- Established a default Creative Commons license for posters (CC-BY-NC-ND 4.0)

Initiative 2: Research Day Workshops

Poster Presentation Skills for GW Research Days

- **The ABCs of Abstract Writing**, Dr. Linda Werling (January 21, 2016)
- **Show Off Your Data! How to Create Graphs, Pie Charts and Tables**, Tom Harrod (February 24, 2016)
- **Tips for Creating an Effective Poster Design**, Barbara McGowan and Catherine Sluder (March 8, 2016; PPT only)
- **Preparing Effective Posters**, Dr. Anamaris Colberg-Poley (March 9, 2016)
- **How to Present your Poster and Wow the Judges!**, Dr. Rosalyn Jurjus and Gisela Butera (March 22, 2016)
- **Research Day and Beyond...!**, Meaghan Corbett and Gisela Butera (March 23, 2016)

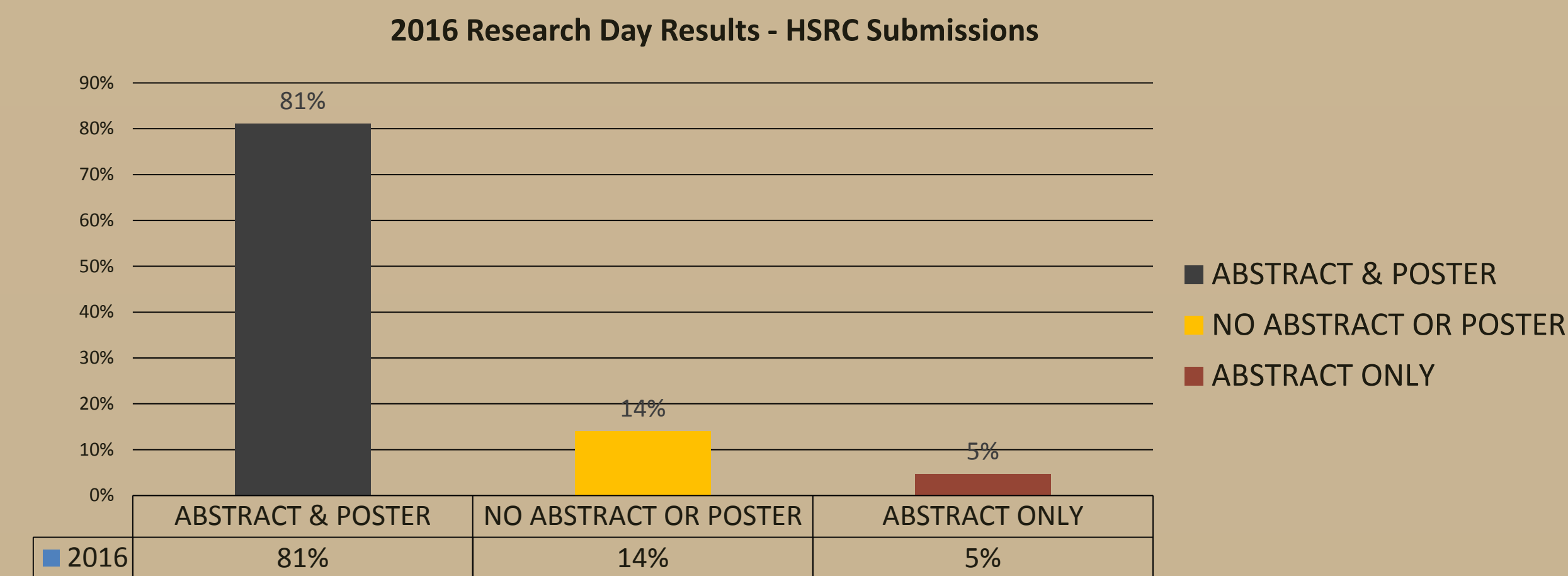
Outreach: Distance Education Students

- Workshops broadcast online via WebEx
- Created pilot process for video submission
- Embedded streaming video capability in HSRC to showcase DE student work

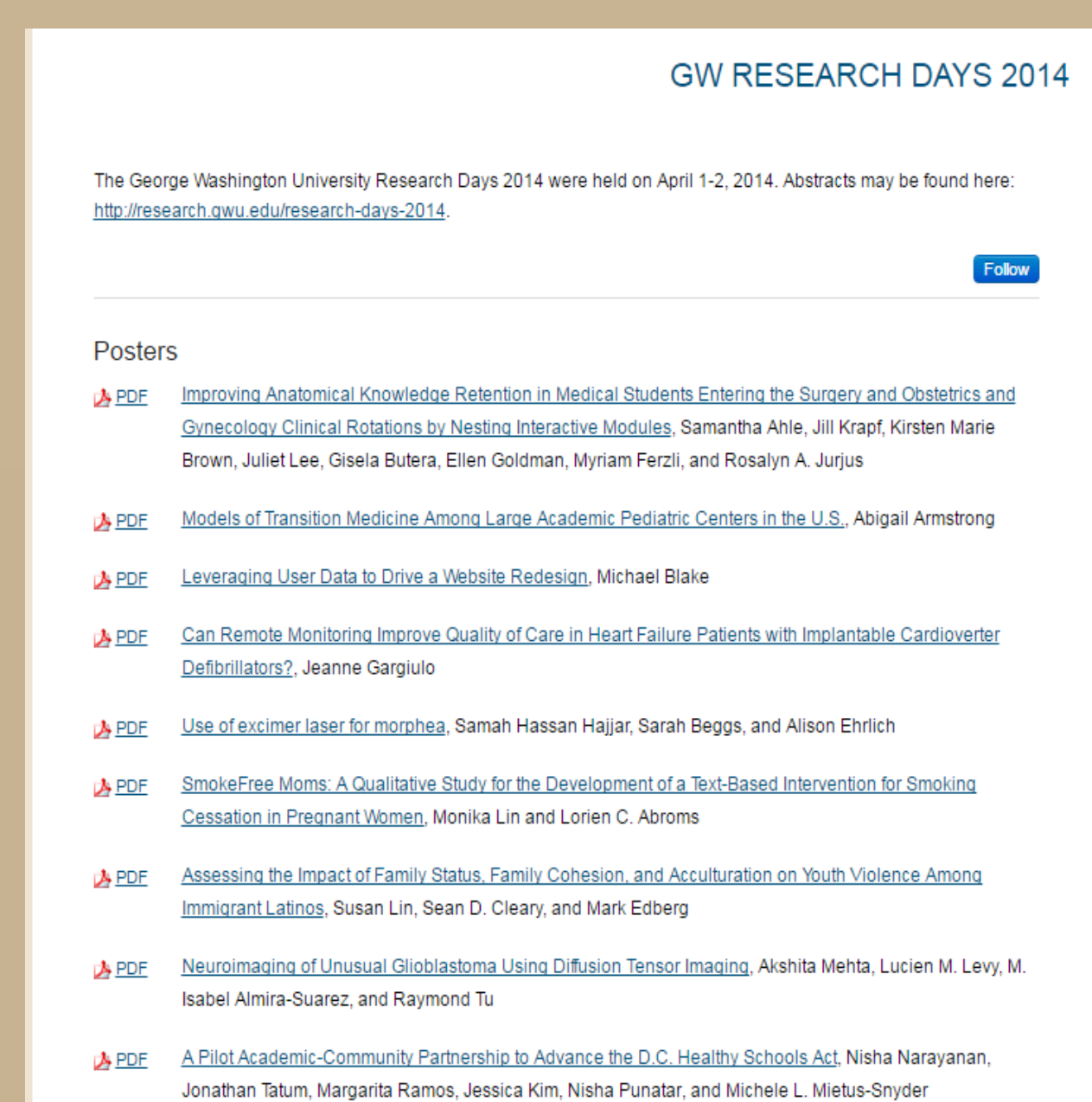
Results: Health & Medicine

GW Research Day Participants 2014 - 2016

Year	Total Participation	Abstract/Poster (Yes)
2016	321	261
2015	287	18
2014	245	11



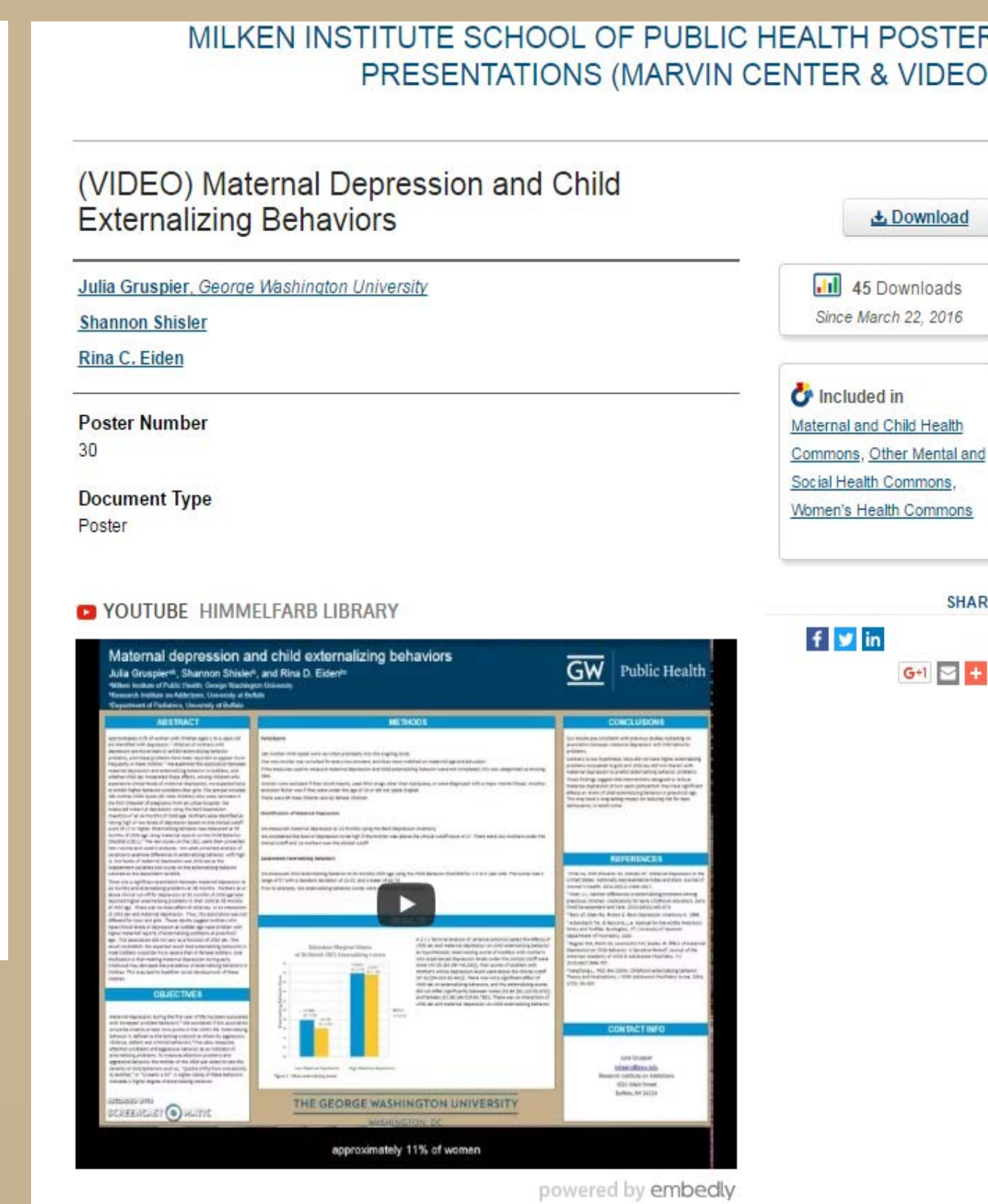
Past HSRC Research Days Portal



2016 HSRC Redesigned Portal

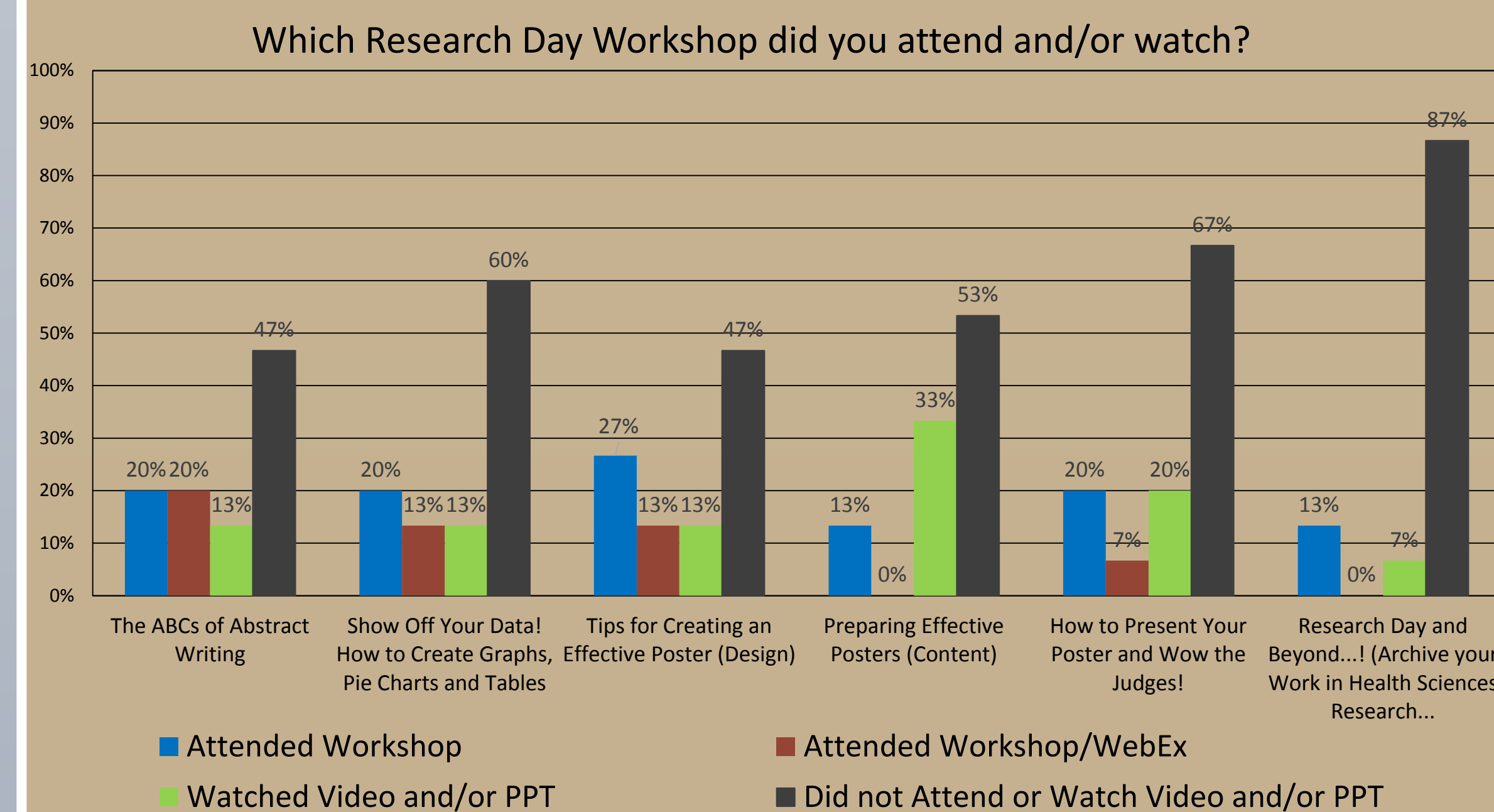


2016 DE Video Pilot

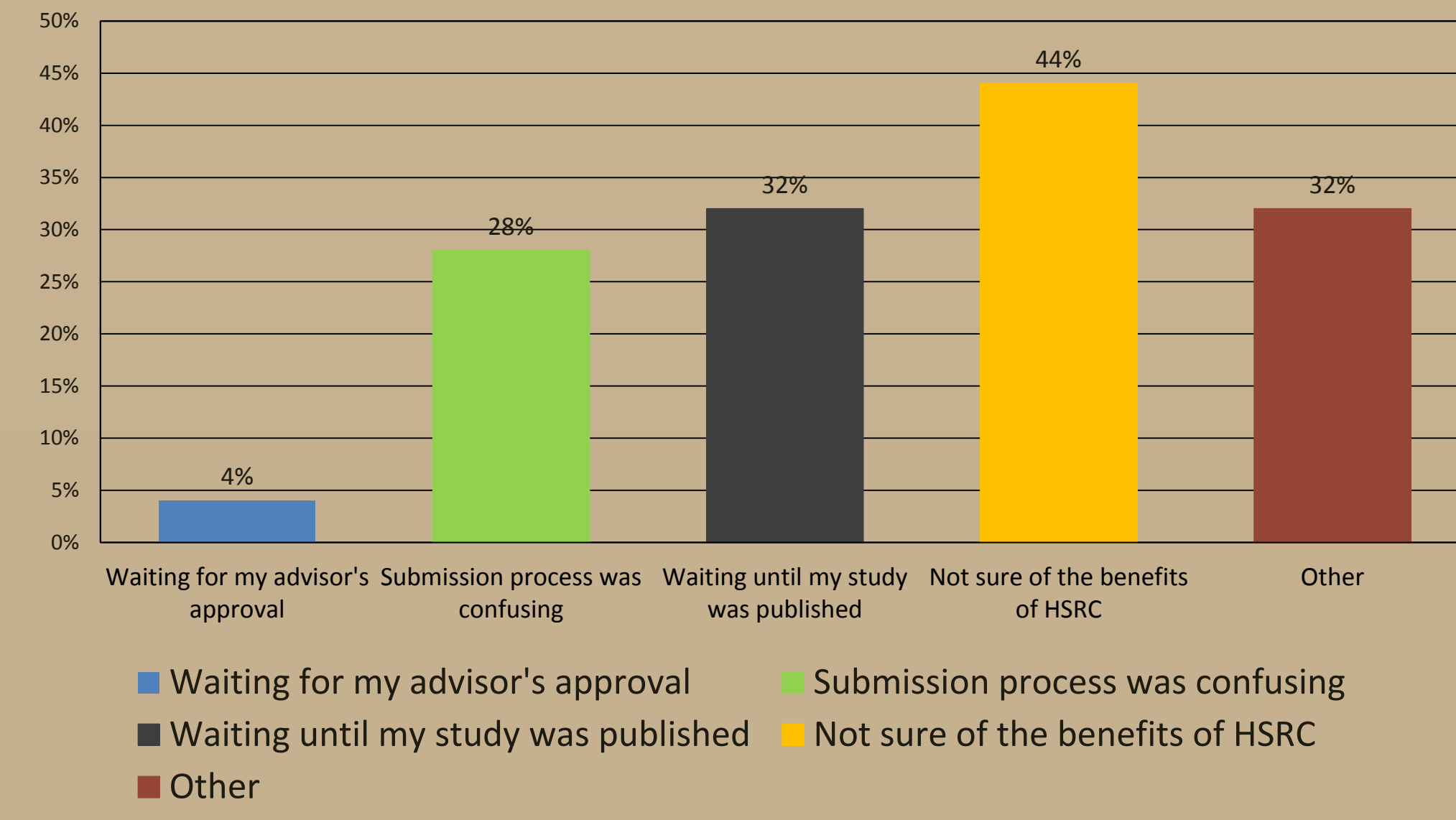


GW Research Day 2016: Survey Results

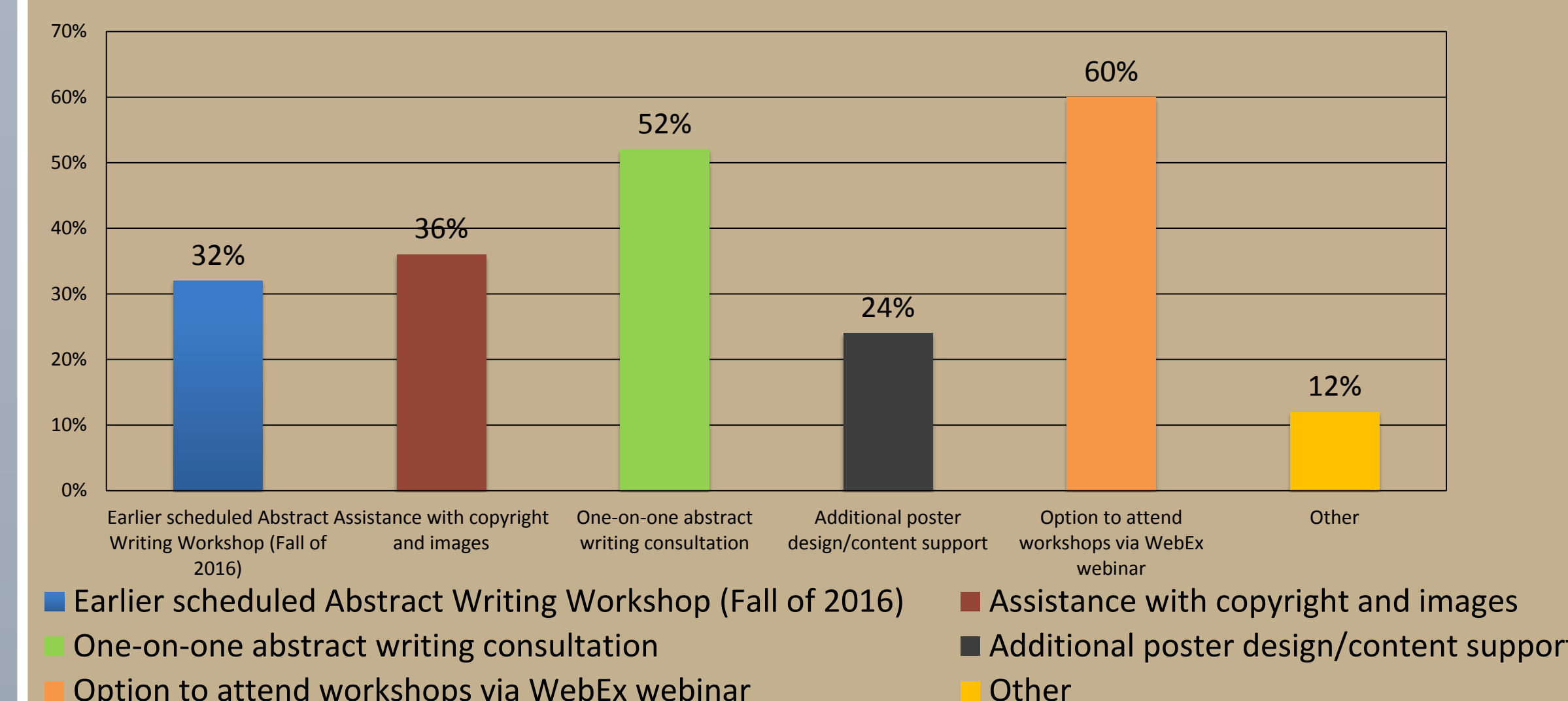
Participants	Responses
261	68



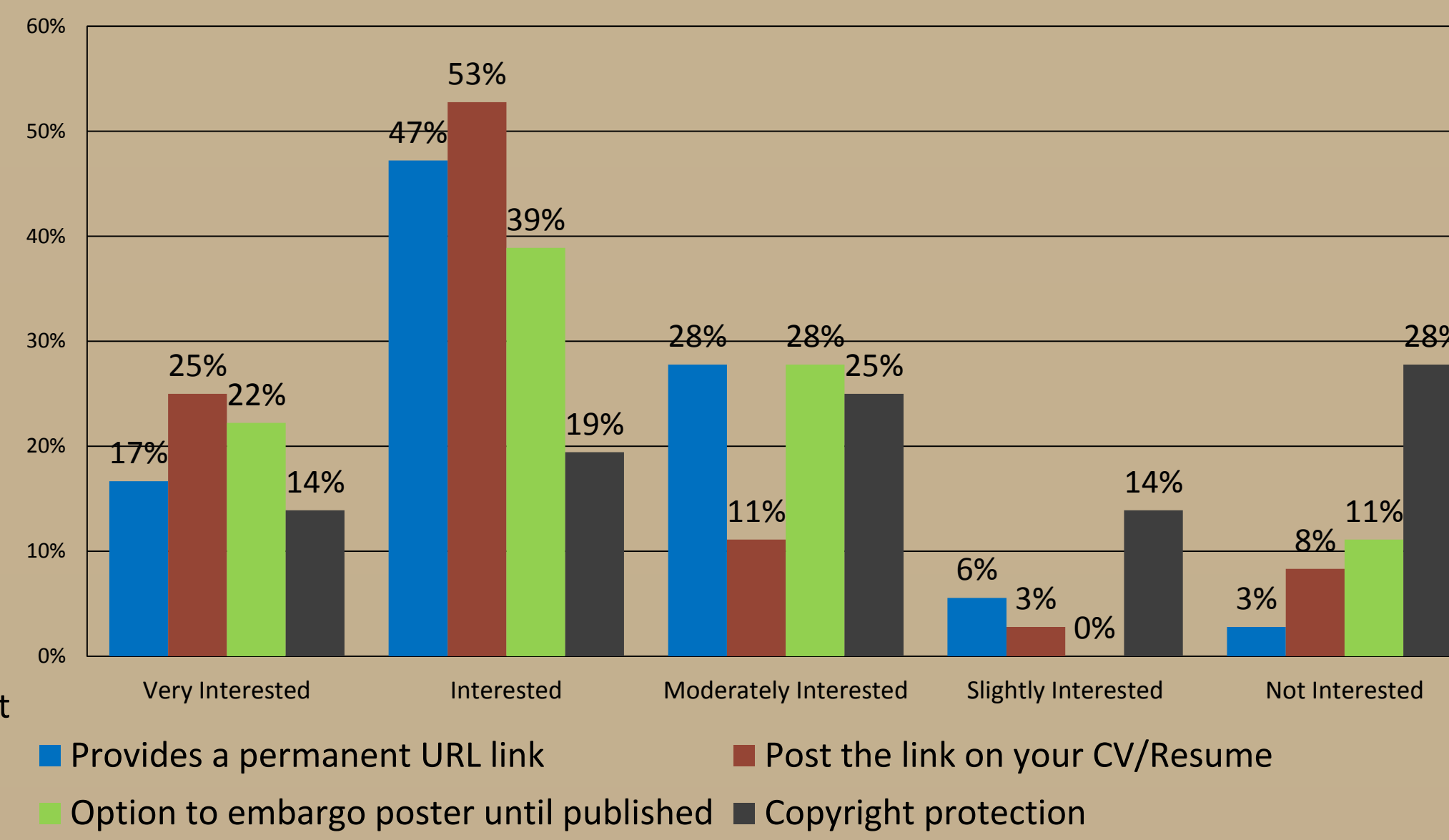
Why you have not submitted your poster to HSRC?



Ideas for next year's Research Day Workshops



I would have submitted if I'd been aware of the following benefits:



Conclusions

- 81% of 2016 students agreed to have their poster and abstract uploaded to HSRC, compared to 6% of submitters in 2015.
- Pilot DE portal resulted in 3 DE students submitting a video presentation.
- Workshops were perceived to be helpful but technical problems with WebEx led to low participation from DE students.



(Photos used with permission from individual students and GW Office of Vice President for Research)

Future Directions

Collaboration: OVPR & Stakeholders

- Begin Research Days planning process earlier in the year.
- Create guidelines for DE students who wish to submit video presentations (length, format, content, etc.)
- Improve marketing of workshops and instructions on how to participate via WebEx.
- Establish a presence on OVPR's Research Days FAQ webpage where students go first for information.

Himmelfarb:

- Educate presenters on the use of copyrighted material, such as images and music, in their posters and videos.
- Advertise the benefits of archiving posters in HSRC (applying for residency, CV, resume ...).
- Include a field for students to upload a photo of themselves and their poster.

Take-Aways:

- Forming partnerships is key to success
- Need to start planning process earlier in the year
- Make students aware of the benefits of archiving their poster and abstract in HSRC

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the following groups: Digital Commons, GW Research Days Committee Members and GW Research Days student participants.