

Civic Engagement for Capacity Building for Age-Friendly Communities

A Multi-Generational Approach



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The Challenge

Research Findings

- 23+ years of research reveals that baby boomers are searching for meaningful civic engagement opportunities
- Baby boomers do not want to be siloed into a single age group experience

What Attracts Older Adults to Volunteer Service?

University of Maryland Center on Aging

ENGAGING THE 50+ POPULATION

Personal Development – Life Long Learning



Meaningful Roles

**Purposeful
Social Networking**

The Opportunity

Create new meaningful service experiences for multigenerational volunteers to serve side-by-side to build and sustain age-friendly communities.



Commitment to Test New Models of Service

- The University of Maryland – Dept. of Health Services Administration tested and implemented several volunteer service models that network across generations and diverse communities
- Legacy Corps for Health & Independent Living is a multi-generational, age-friendly, community based model



Legacy Corps for Health & Independent Living

- Respite Care in our national service intervention
- Respite care is an intermittent service to an individual/family living in the community to provide support services to sustain and enhance the quality of life of the caregiver thereby reducing the burden of the care giving task.



Legacy Corps Model Key Components



- Federal Program – AmeriCorps
- Serves caregiver families of low to moderate incomes
- Diverse communities (urban, rural, Native American, faith-based)
- Diverse members: retired health workers, students, non-English speaking, foster care teens, empty-nesters, farmers

- Commit to 450 hours of service for one year
- Receive a small stipend
- Serve two caregiver families (10-12 hours a week)
- Engage in co-learning experiences
- Receive an Educational Award (transferable to child or grandchild)
- Participate in national research
- Diverse recruitment strategies



Multigenerational Recruitment Campaign

San Diego, California

**SOMETIMES WE
TRADE EARRINGS!**

WHEN LUKE, 17 AND MILDRED, 61 MAKE THEIR ENTRANCE,
THEY MAKE AN IMPRESSION PEOPLE DON'T FORGET.

ESPECIALLY CAREGIVERS OF ELDERLY RELATIVES WHO NEED A BREAK.



“Building Age-Friendly Communities”



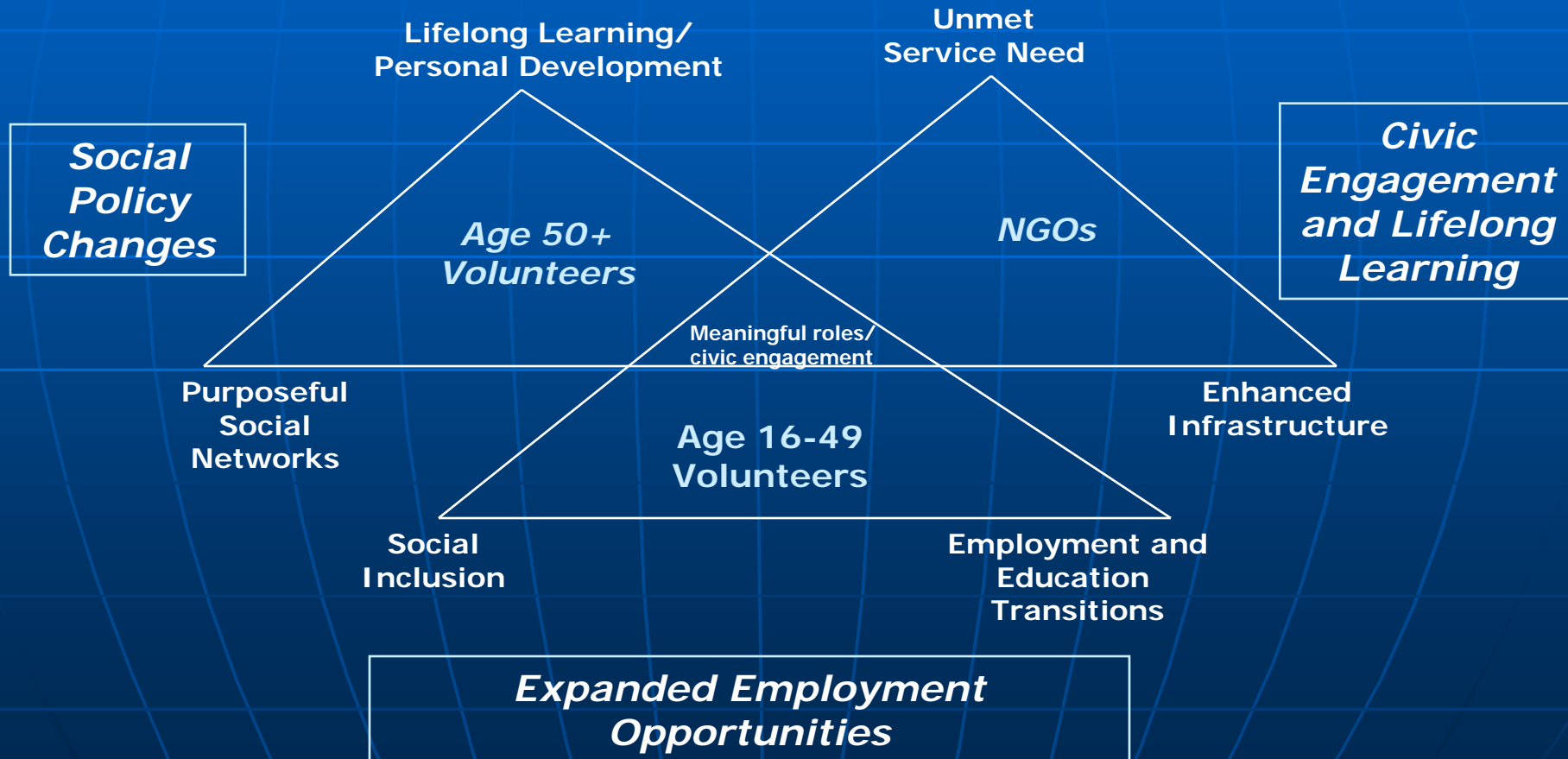
20 Programs

11 States



A Policy Model for Civic Engagement through Multigenerational Service Teams

Sustainable Communities

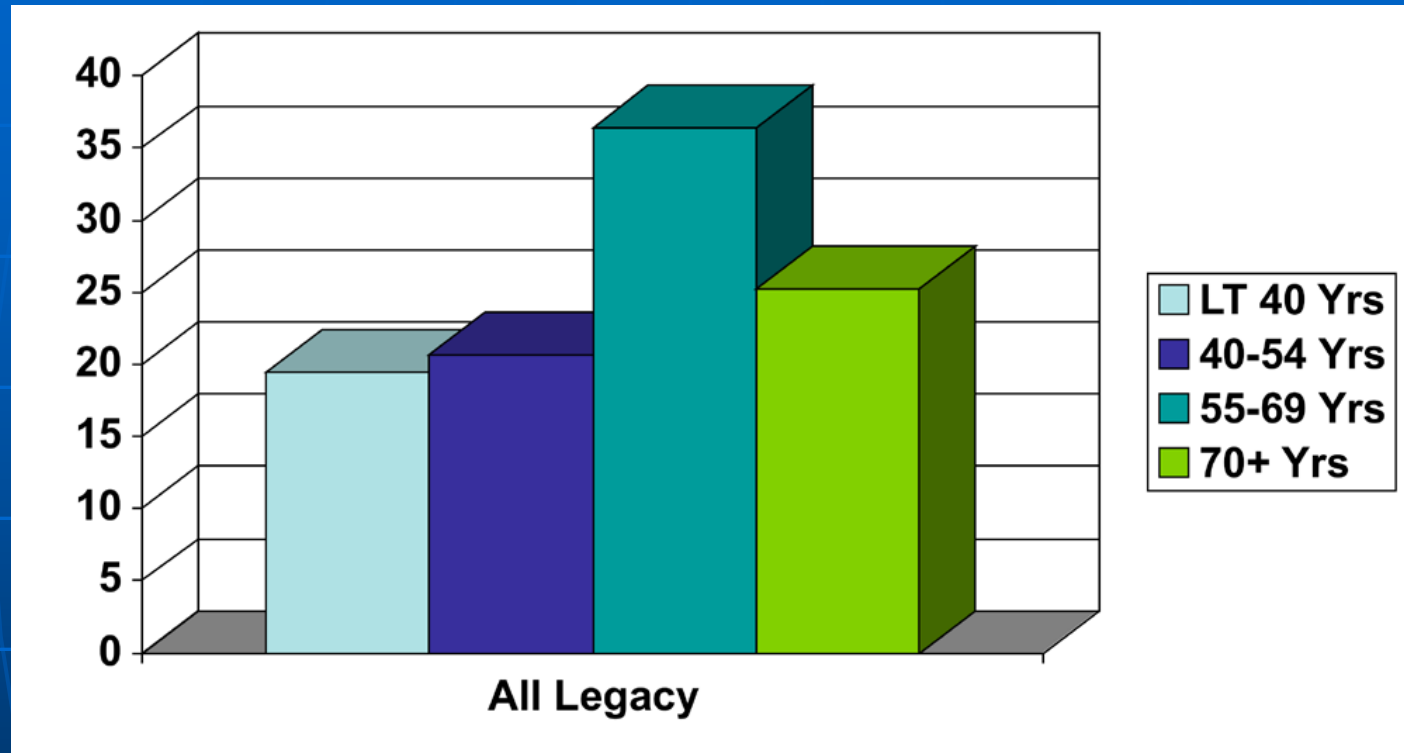


Design and Measurement Process and Goals for Members

- **Baseline administered at first interview. (We no longer use separate forms for different age groups and we no longer use baseline or followup knowledge forms) Aging attitudes survey will be deleted in 2011**
- First followup administered 5-6 months into project
- Exit interview administered at end of contract (1 or 2 years into program)

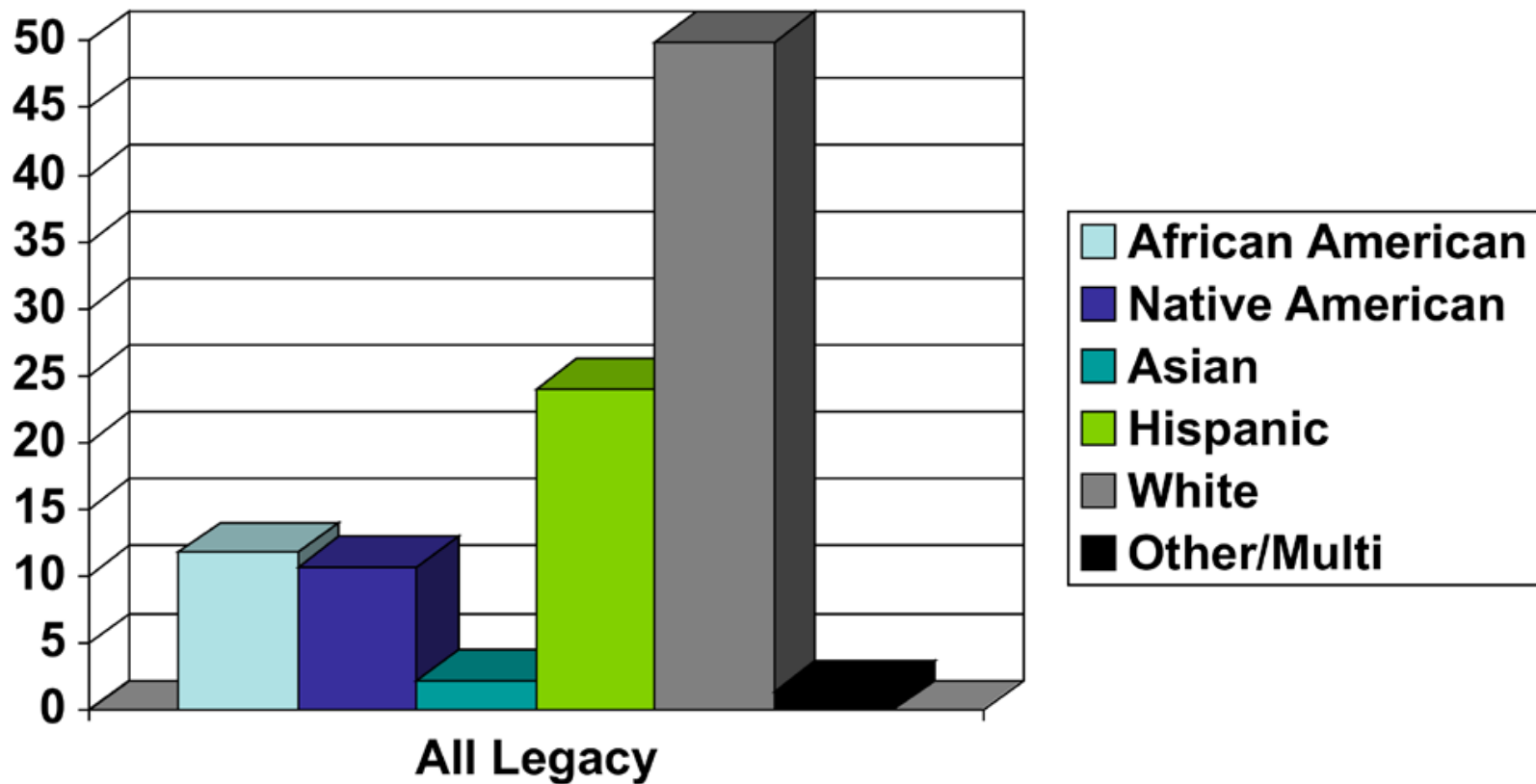
- Revisit interview administered 3-5 years after leaving program (Conducted by evaluator)
- GOAL: 1) Improve scores in community attachment, knowledge acquired while in program, and net positive change from baseline to revisit interview.
- 2) Demonstrate ongoing and improved levels of participation in community or government service, lifelong learning and informal caregiving to support families of dependent elders.

Age Composition of Members in Legacy Corps Sites

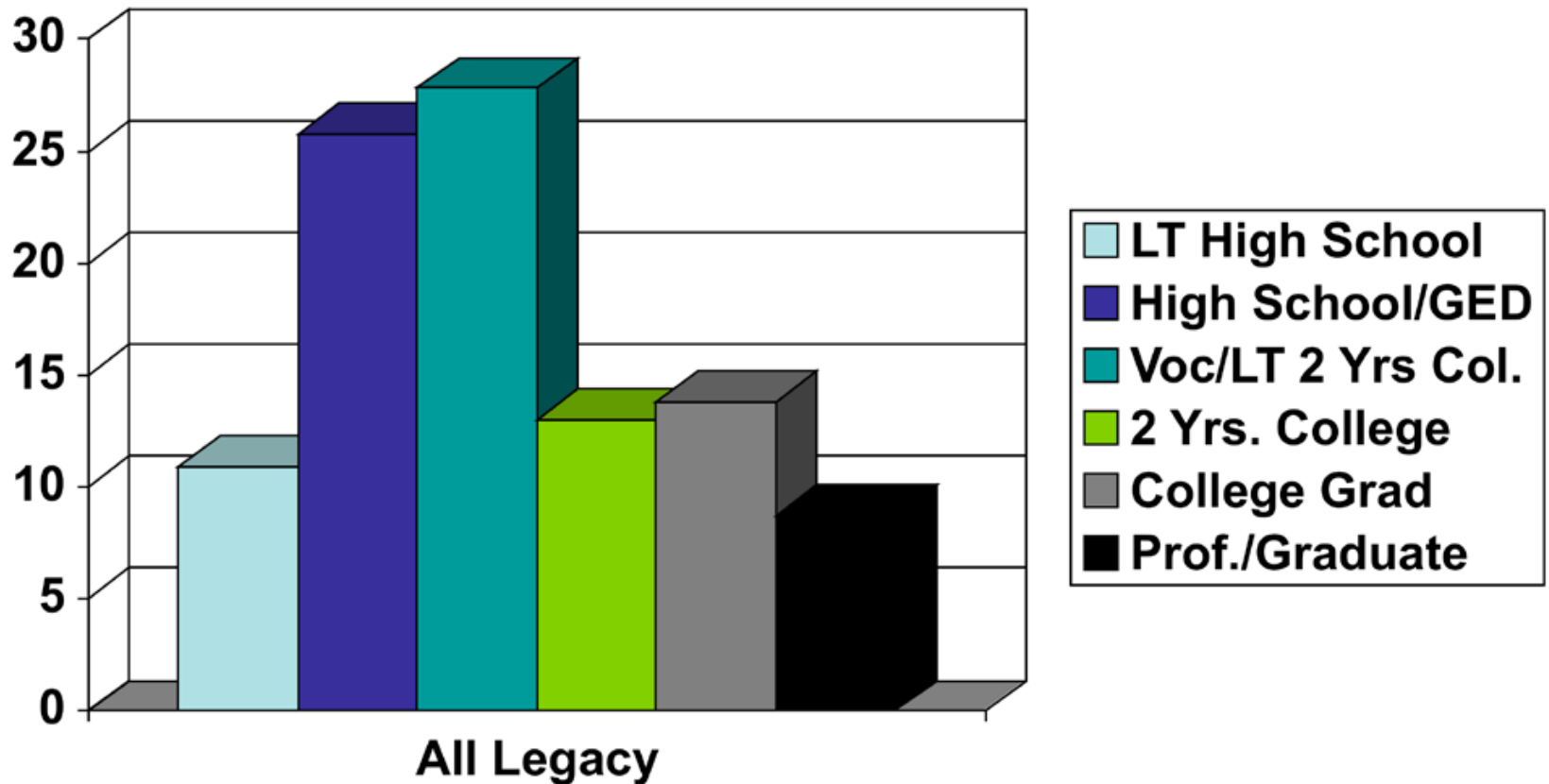


Alpert and West Palm Beach Sites report oldest average age among the sites with mean ages of 68.2 and 66.8 years. Average for all sites is 55 years. San Diego has youngest mean of 41 years.

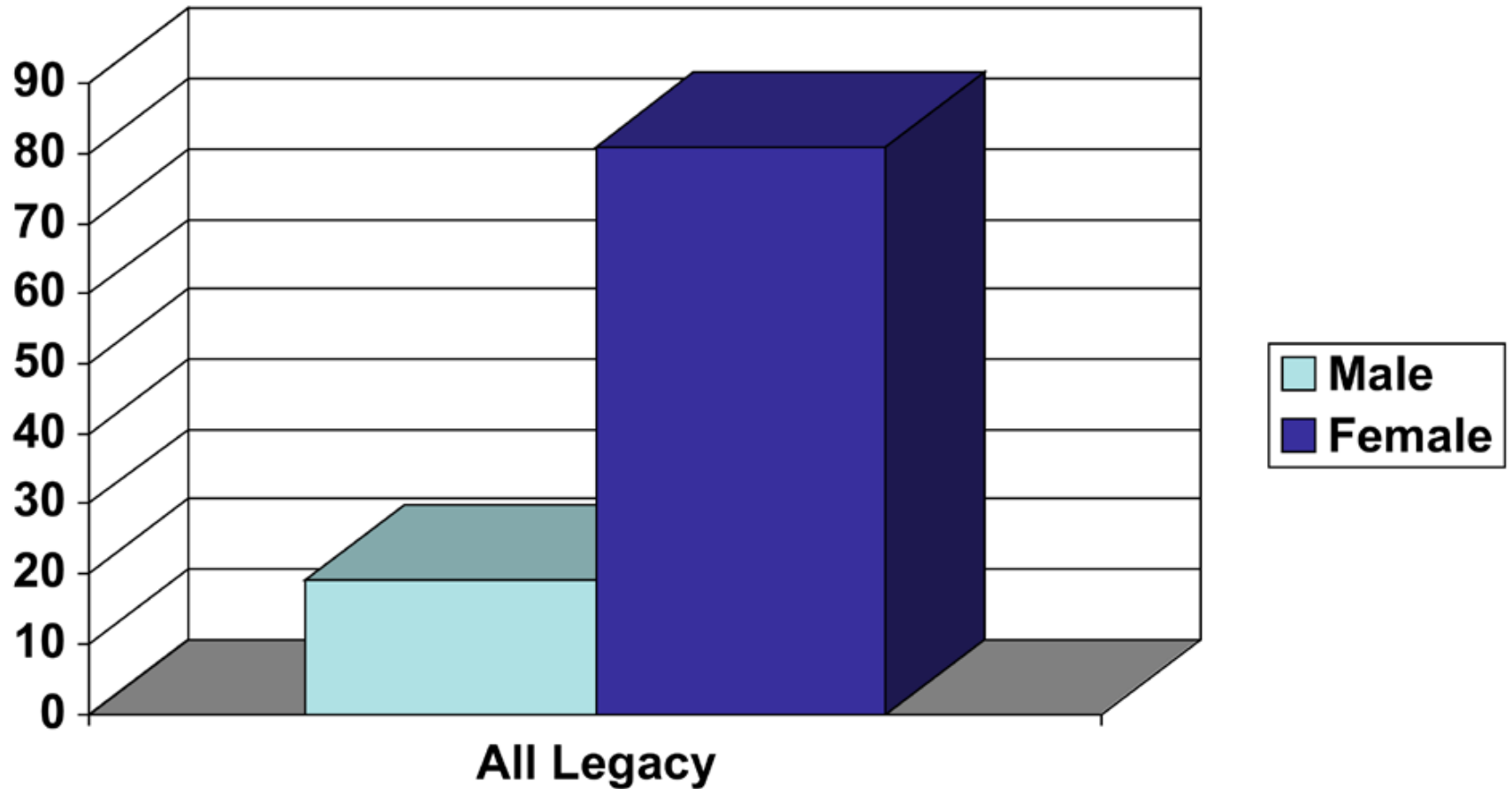
Racial/Ethnic Composition of Members in Legacy Corps Sites



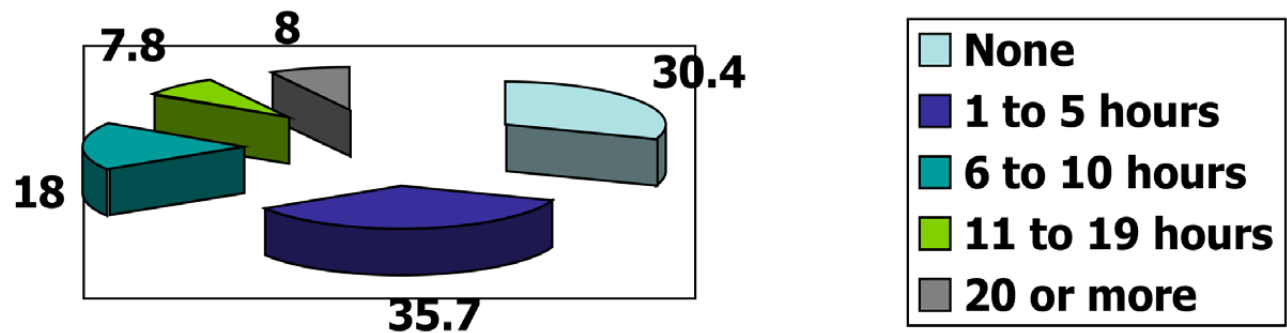
Level of Education of Members in Legacy Corps Sites



Gender Composition of Members in Legacy Corps Sites

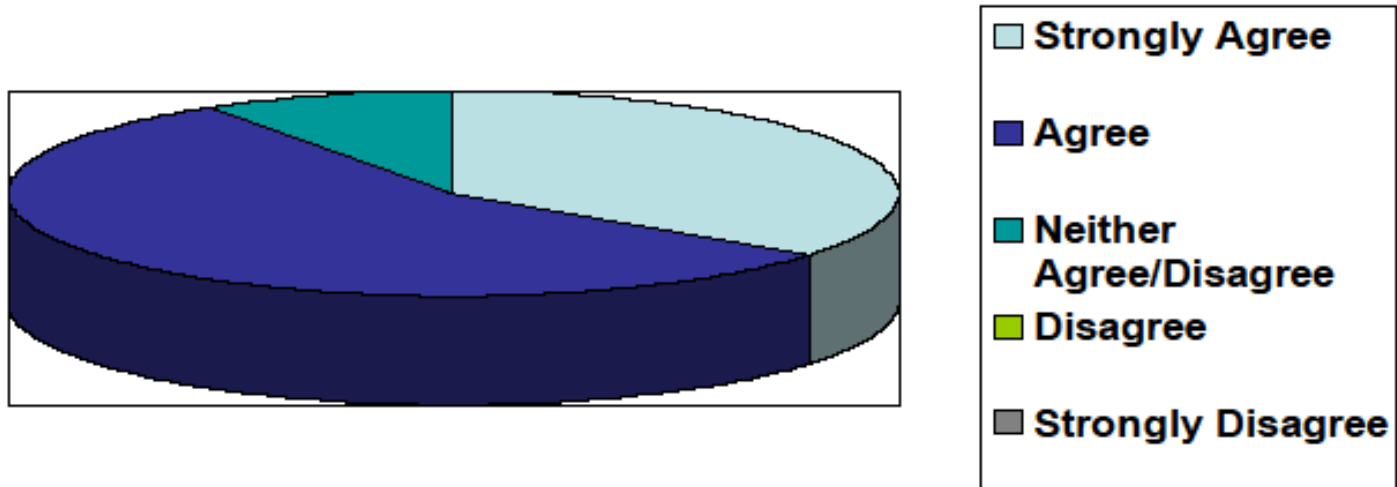


Involvement in Volunteer Activities Prior to Legacy Experiences, All Sites (Respondents 24 and Older)

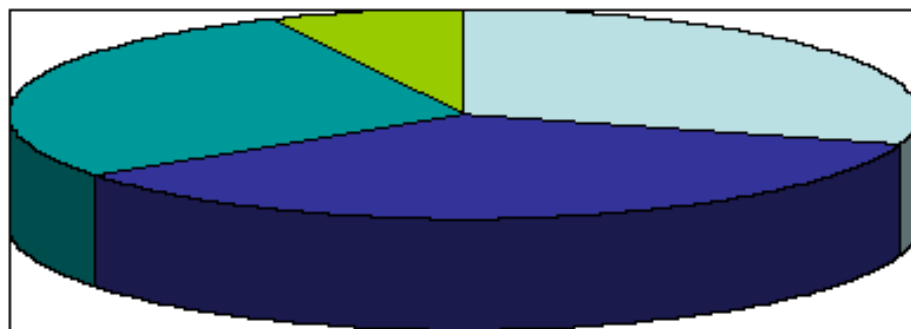


Among youngest cohort, age 18-23, 48% had never volunteered. Among the experienced volunteer group, 5% indicated it had been required and 44% reported that some of the volunteer activity part had been required.

After Legacy, Would Rely on Person As Working Partner

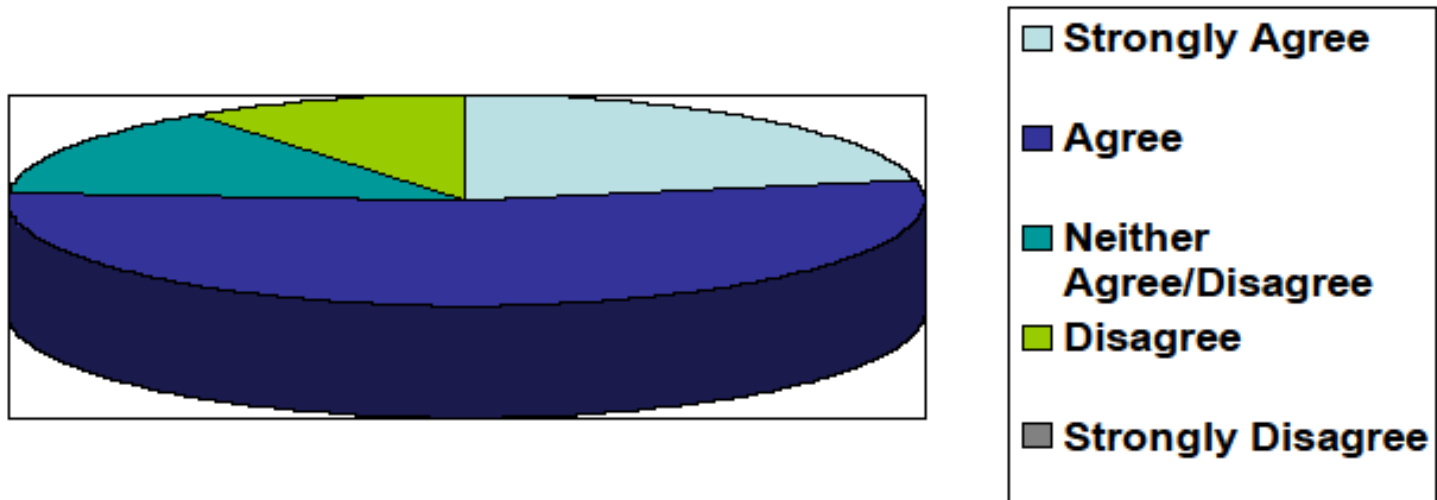


After Legacy, Would Talk about Personal, Family Issues with Person

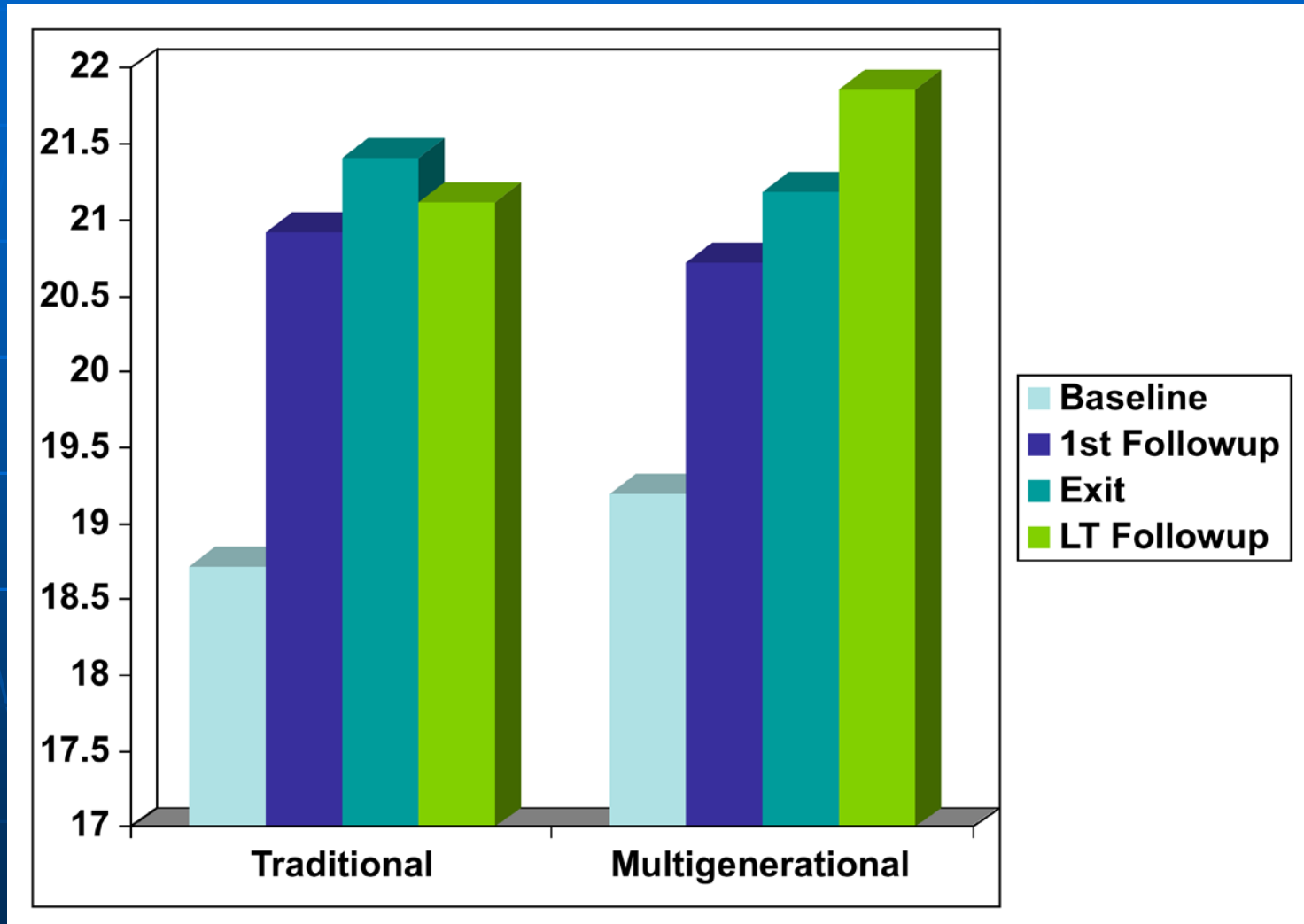


- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither Agree/Disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly Disagree

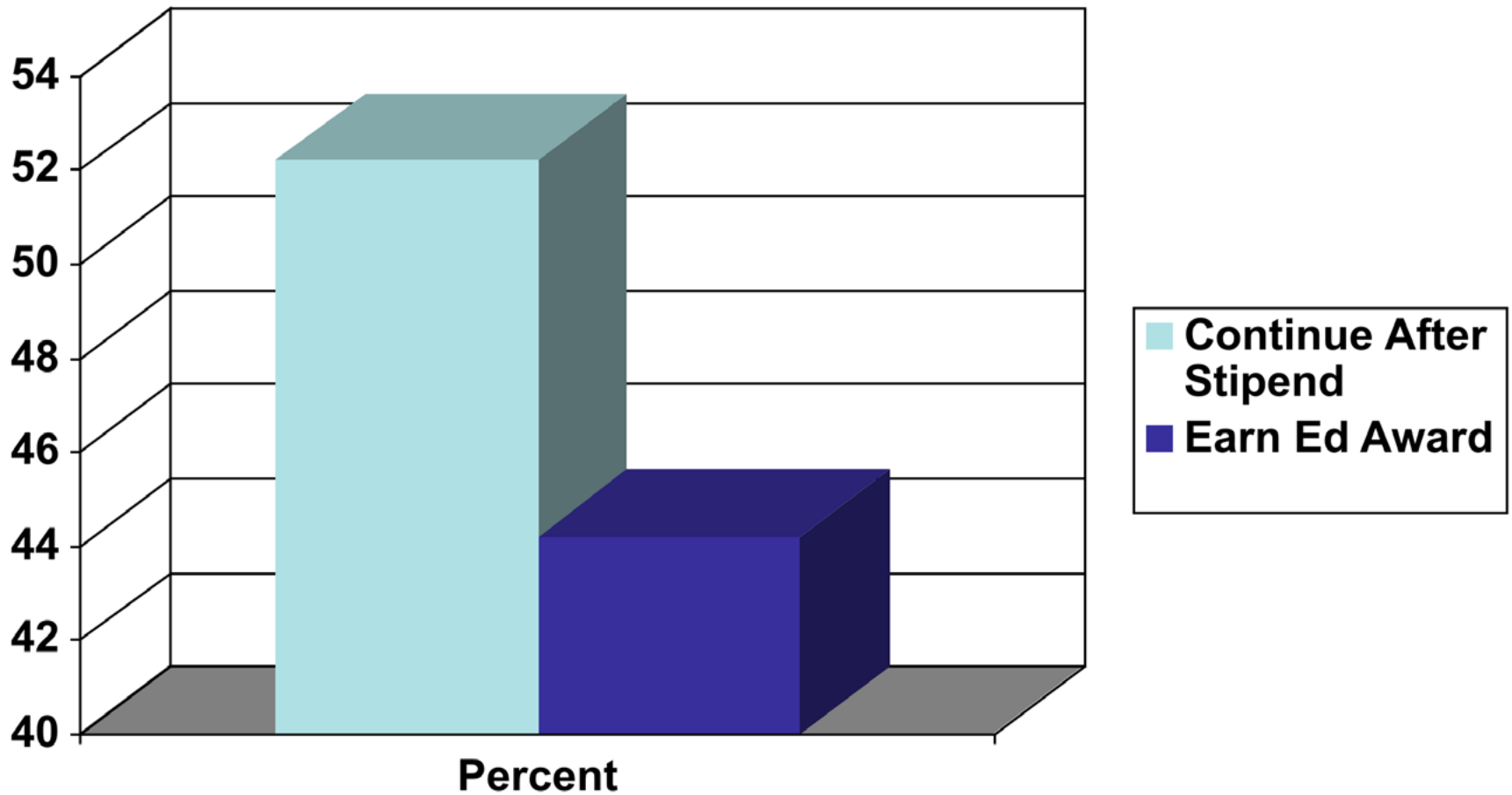
After Legacy, Would Go to Social Occasions with Person



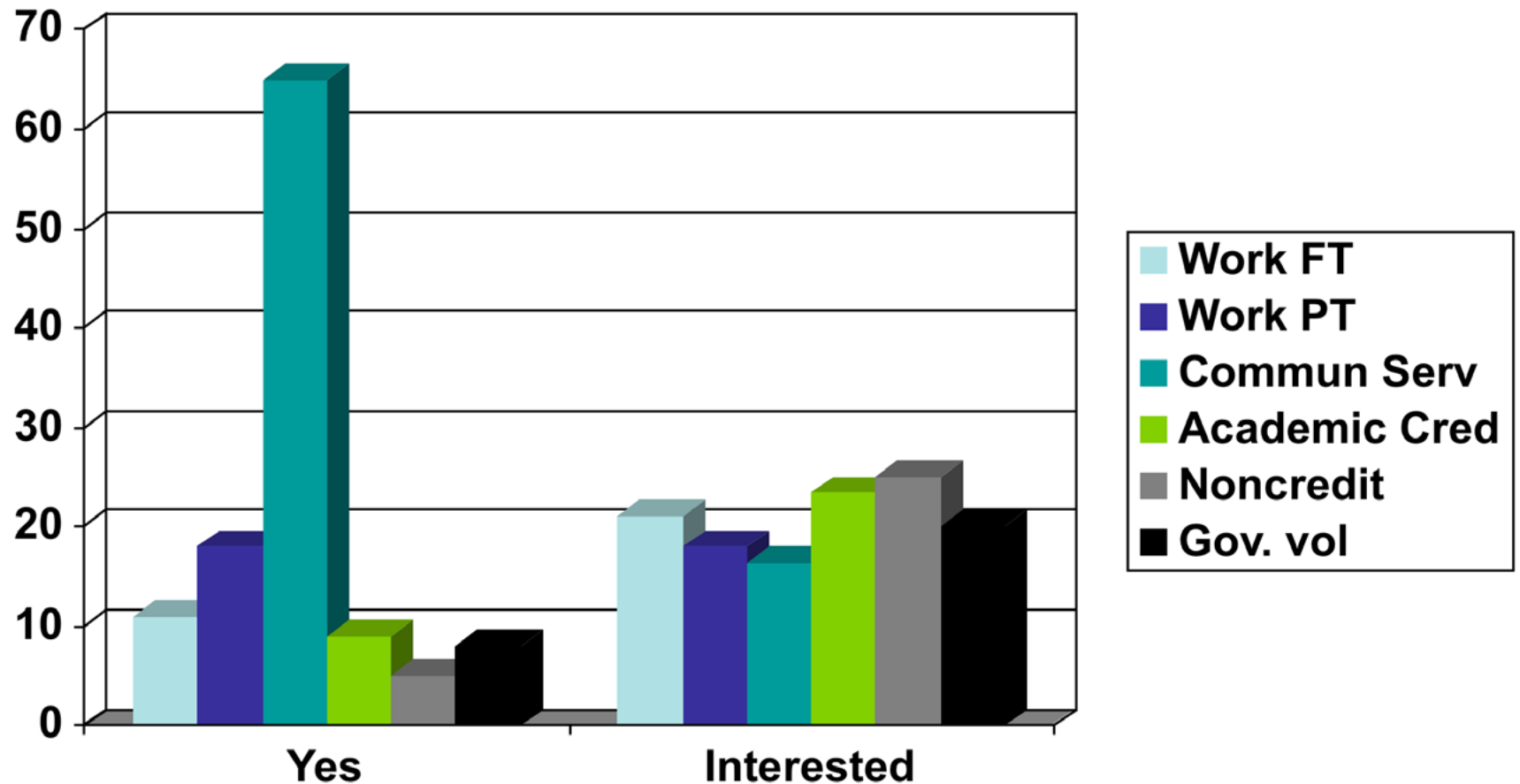
Community Attachment Changes For Single Provider and Multigenerational Team Sites



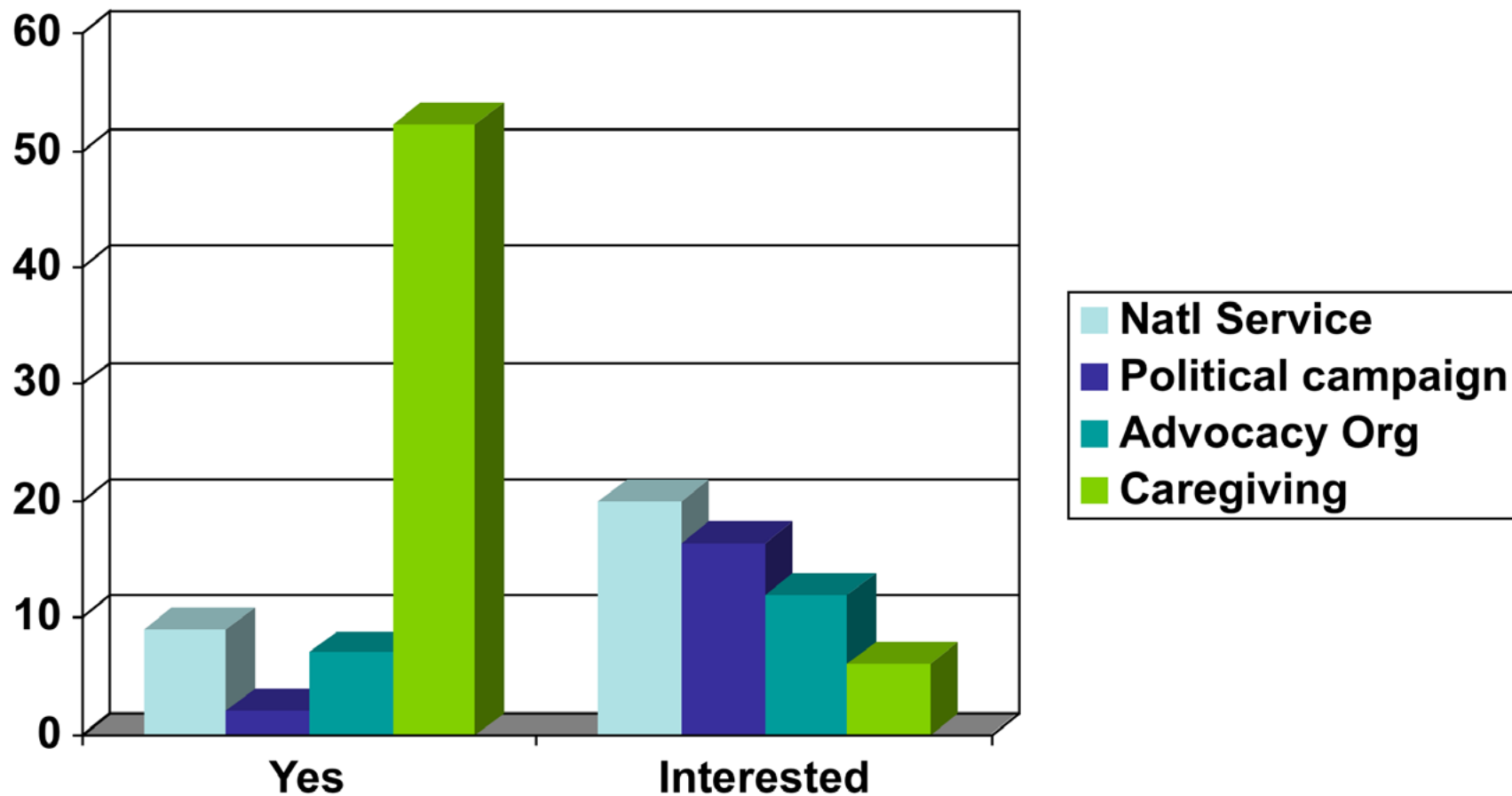
Long Term Activities



Types of Long Term Activities



Types of Long Term Activities cont.



REPLICATION

Does The Multi-generational Model Work?

- Flexible model: adapts to local community needs
- Demonstrated to attract diverse volunteers
- Cost Efficient
- Applicable to any service area
- Integrates life-long learning and meaningful civic engagement
- Promotes age-friendly communities

International Research Findings and Implications for Service

www.amazon.com

For more information on
Legacy Corps:

www.sph.umd.edu/hlsa/aging/legacycorps



Civic Engagement and the Baby Boomer Generation

**Research, Policy,
and Practice Perspectives**



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Editors**