



AMERICAN STUDENT
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Examining The Financial Challenges Of Today's Young Adults

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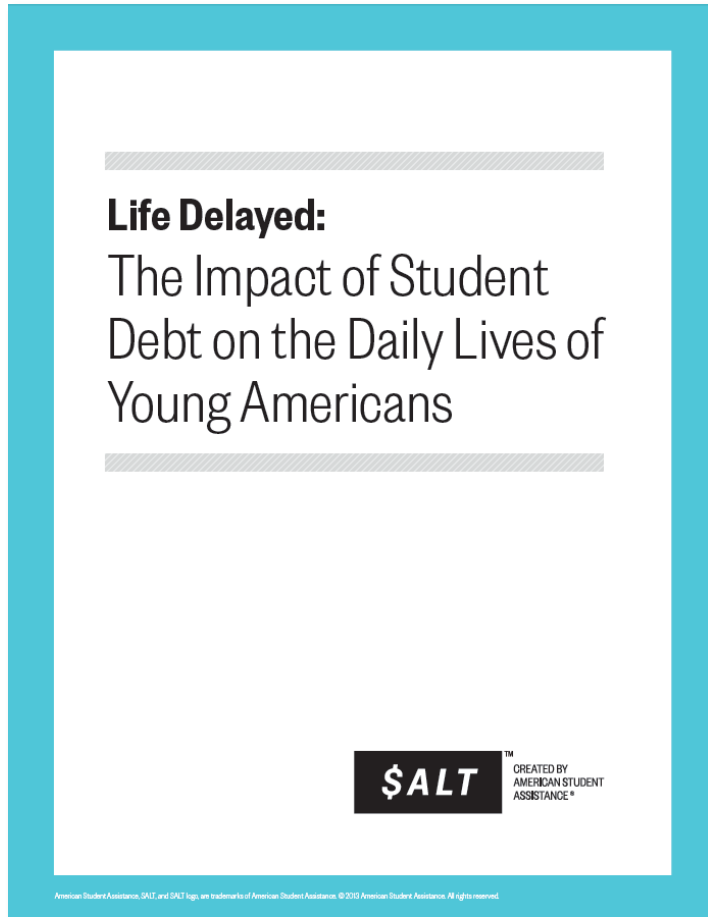
More than 275
participating schools

Over 1 Million
active members

- **Background**
- **Findings**
 - Views on college and repayment
 - Impact of debt on life choices and life style
- **Solutions**

- **What do you think today's young adults are saying about their financial challenges?**
- **What are your administrators telling you the students are concerned about?**

Background



How does student debt affect the daily lives of young Americans?

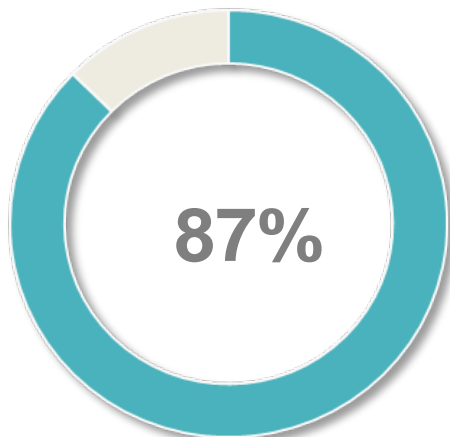
Source: *Life Delayed: The Impact of Student Debt on the Daily Lives of Young Americans*. American Student Assistance, 2013.

A broader reach and expanded number of respondents from 2013 study.

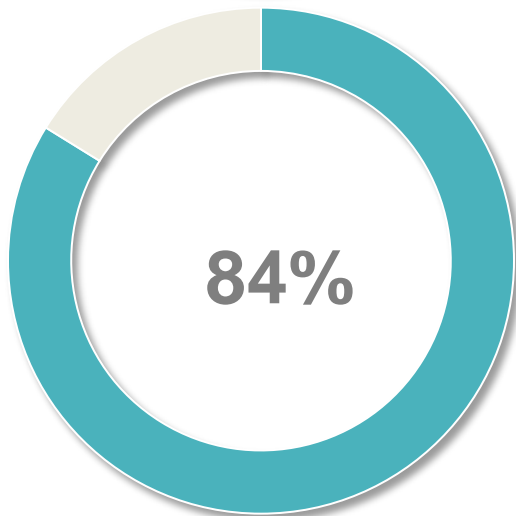
- Nearly 2,000 respondents distributed across the following populations:
 - Community college grads
 - 4 year public and 4 year private grads
 - Graduate students or graduate degree holders and medical/law students or degree holders
- All participants either currently have or had student loan debt.
- All respondents were 15 years or less out from earning their degrees.

Findings: Views On College And Repayment

Q. How important is getting a college education to the below . . .



Reported that college was important to their feelings of personal success



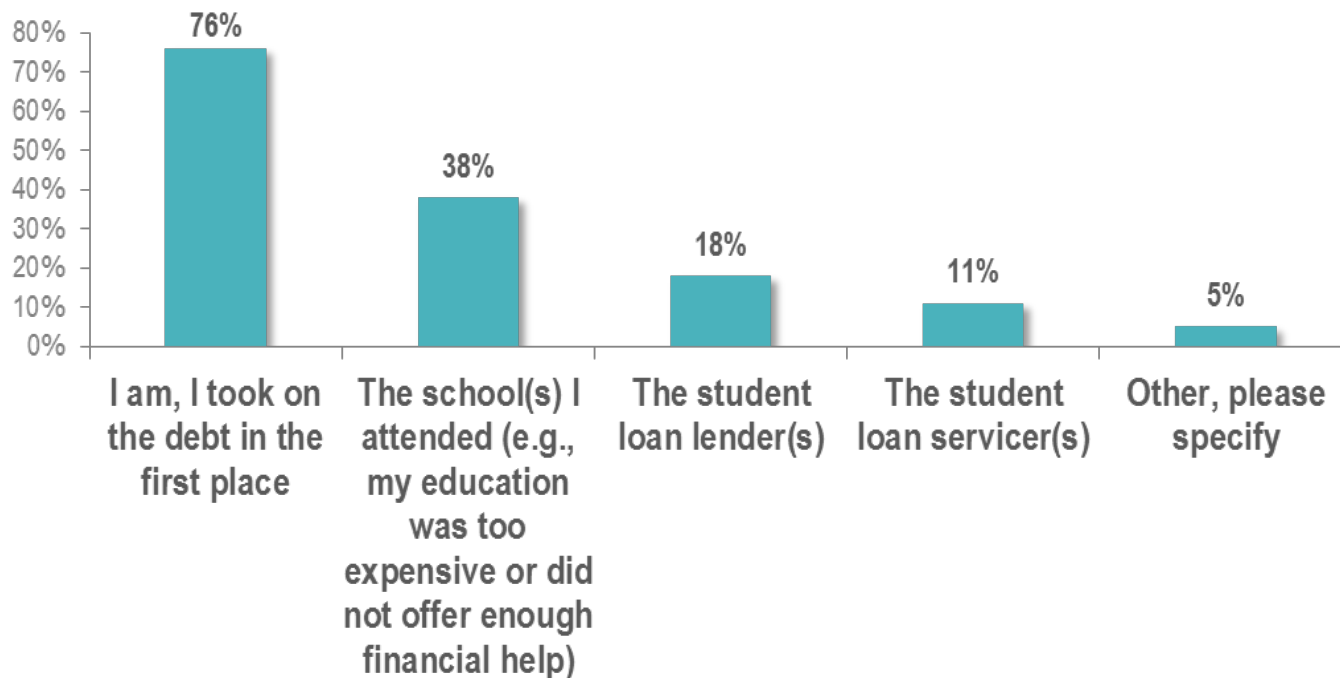
Viewed college as central to their ability to make a comfortable living

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“I wish that I had only used what I needed and not accepted it all. I wish that school was more affordable so no one had to go into debt to achieve an education.”

Student Loan Debt Ownership

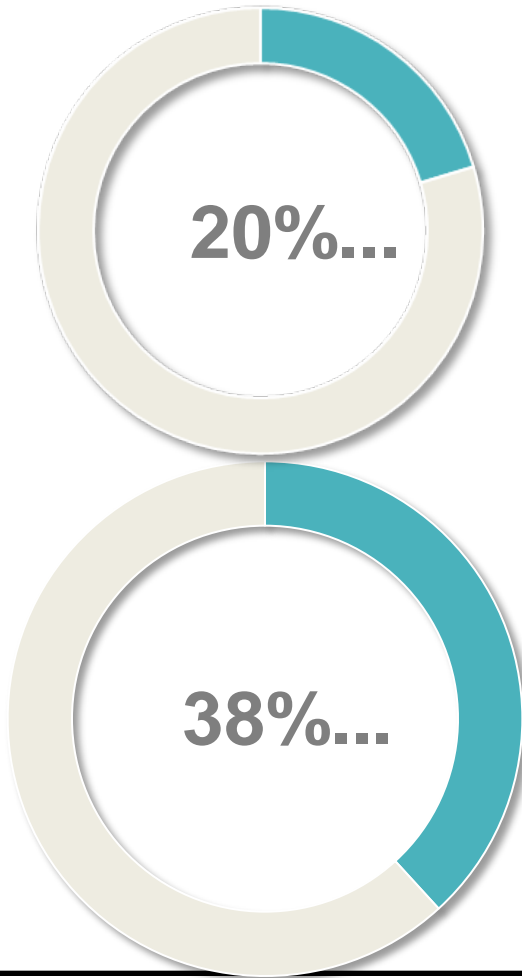
Q. Who do you believe is responsible for the size of your student loan debt? (Multi-select)



- 51% selected that they were *solely* responsible for the size of their student debt

Initial Understanding Of Student Loans

Q. Thinking back to when you signed up for your student loans, did you fully understand the amount of debt you were taking on?

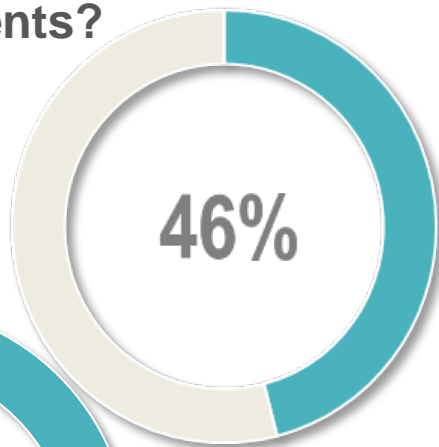


...Say they did not understand at all

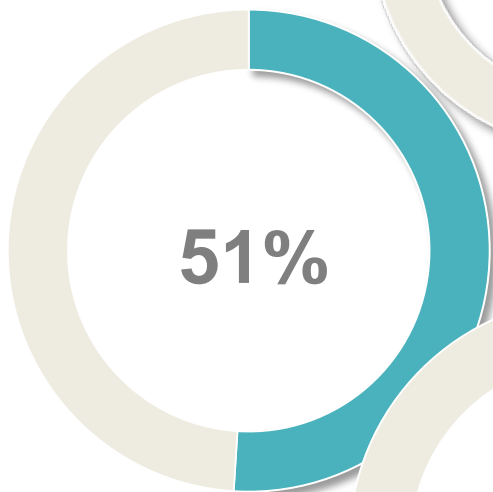
...Report they fully understood the debt they were taking on when they took out their loans

Repayment Challenges

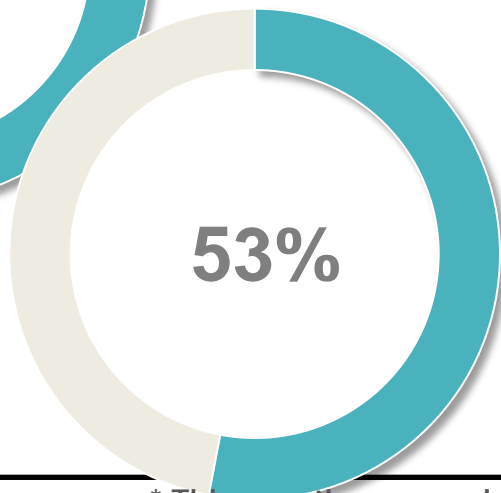
Q. How easy or difficult is it for you to make your monthly loan payments?



Of all respondents in active repayment say it's difficult for them to do each month



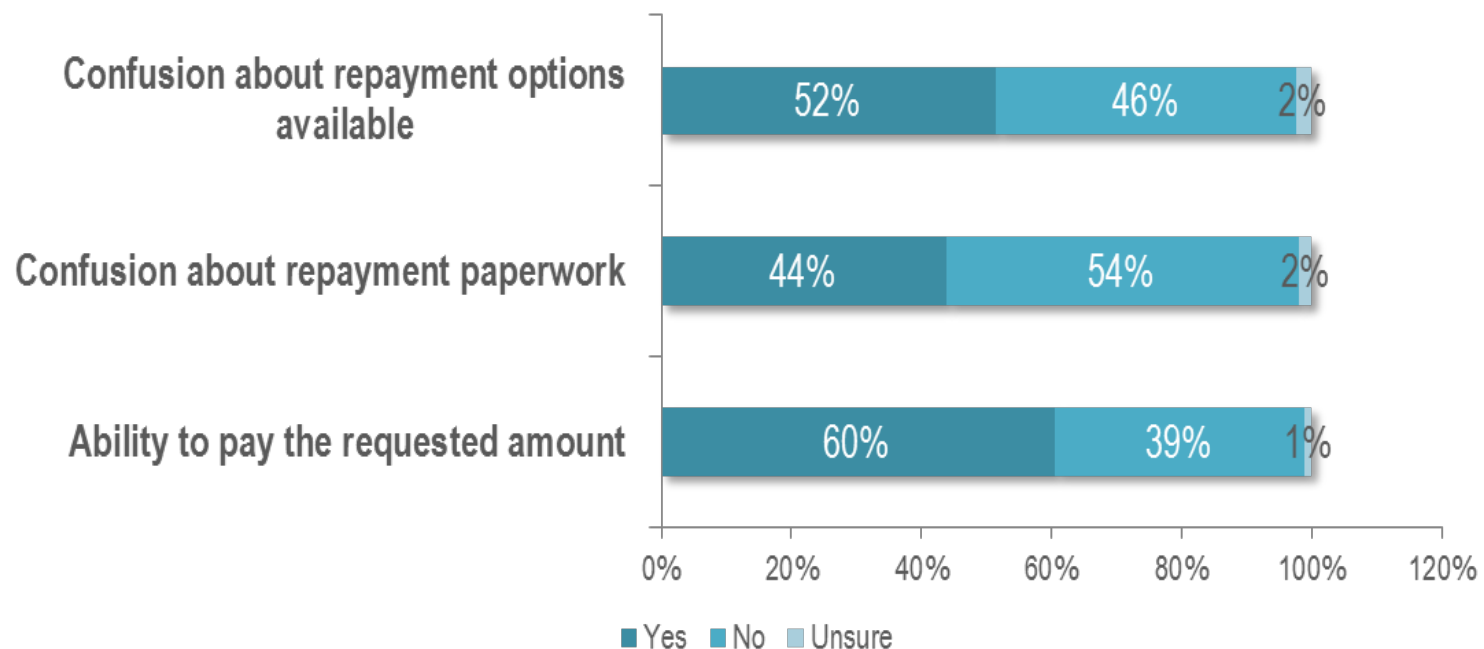
Even more so for those making less than 70K



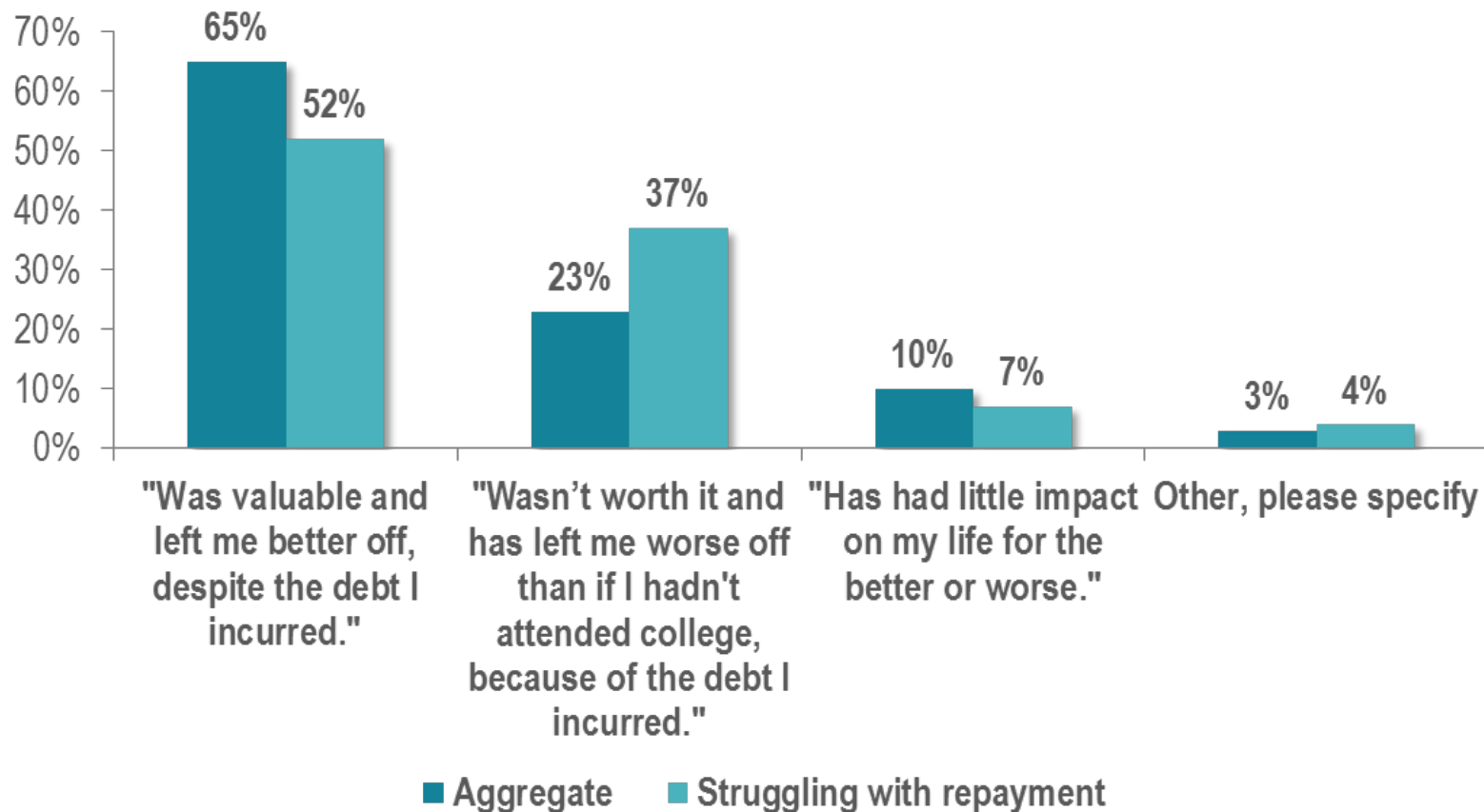
And for those who had debt greater than 30K

* This question was only asked only of those who indicated some degree of active repayment

Q. Have you/had you ever run into any of the following problems with repayment of your loans?

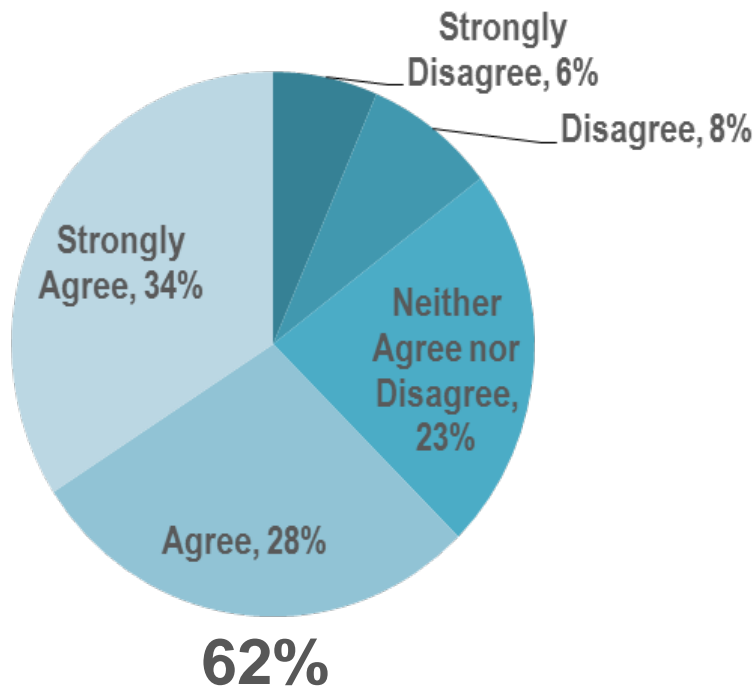


Q. Please complete this thought. "My college experience ..."

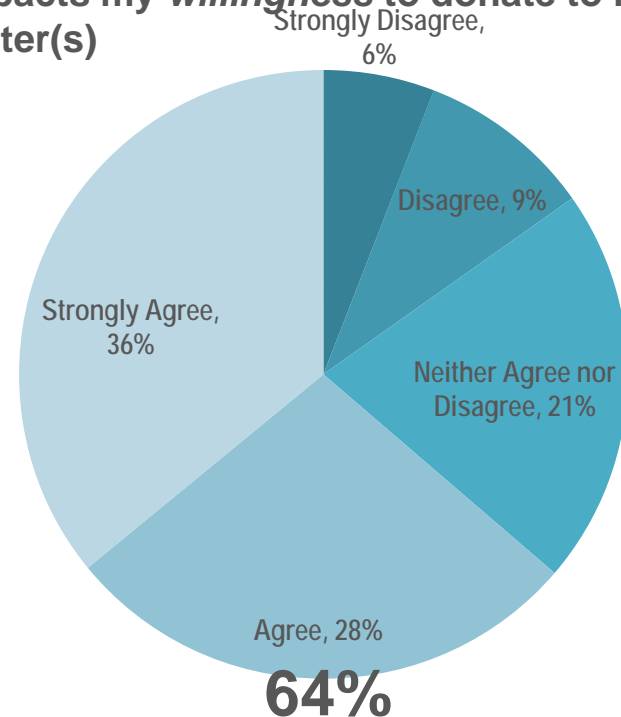


Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements when thinking about your alma mater?

Student loan debt hinders my actual *ability* to donate to my alma mater(s)



The amount of student loan debt I incurred impacts my *willingness* to donate to my alma mater(s)

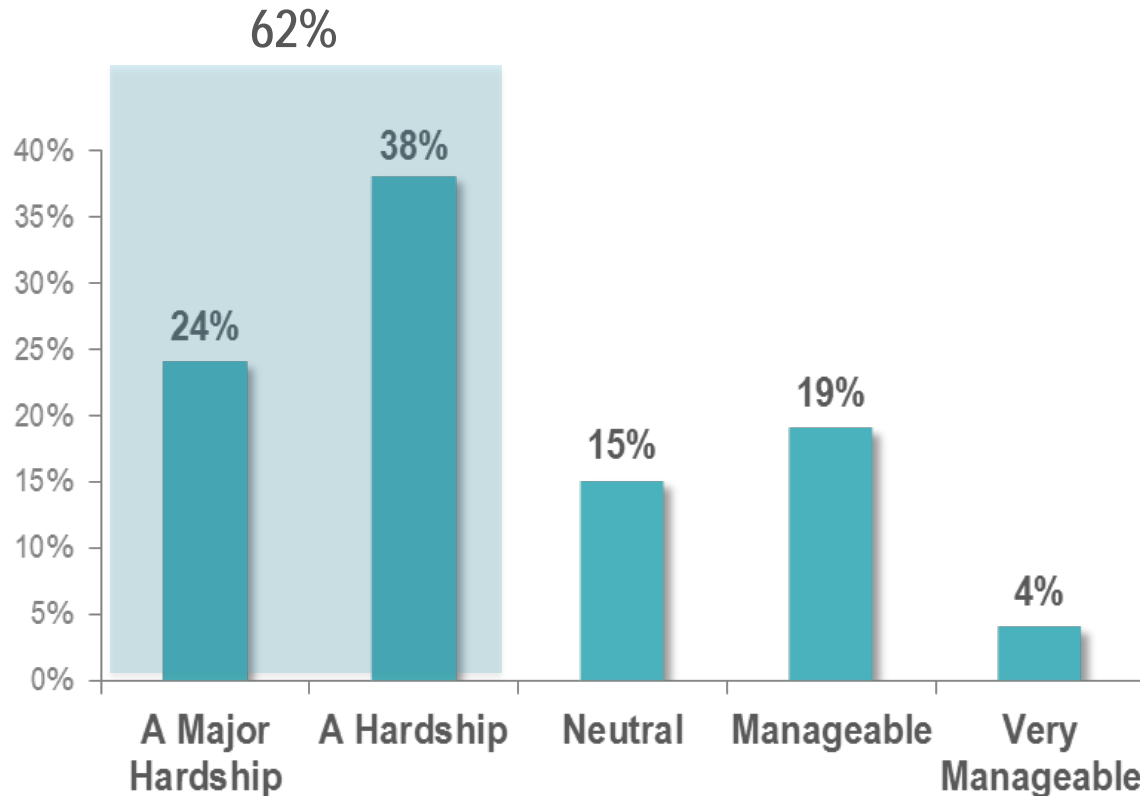


Findings: Impact Of Debt On Life Choices And Life Style

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“...Something that poor people and those from modest means will be saddled with for 20-30 years, preventing them from buying a home or having children...”

Q. Please select the answer that best completes this statement. "When I include my student loan debt, my total household debt is or will be..."



Q. Has your student loan debt negatively affected/impacted your ability to do any of the following?



21% say **yes** it has impaired their ability to **get married**



55% say **yes** it has impaired their ability to **buy a home**

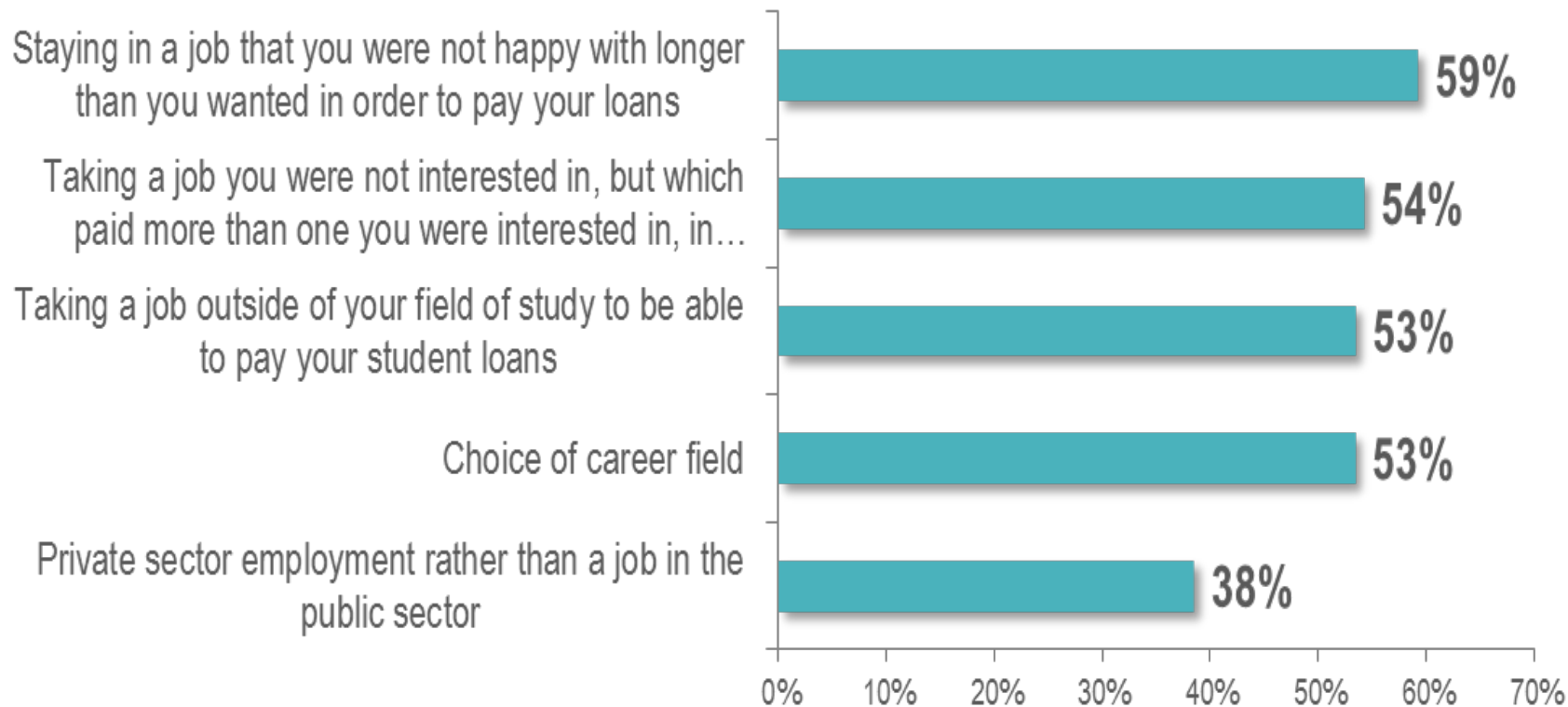


28% say **yes** it has impacted their ability to **start a family**

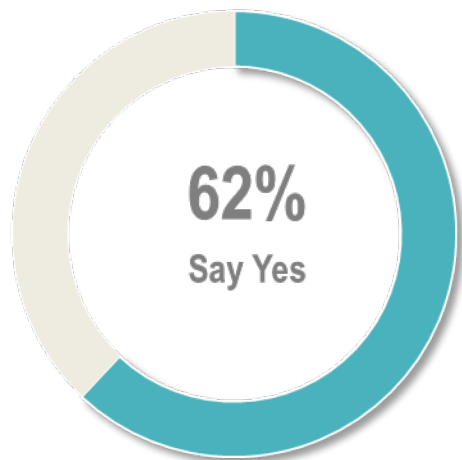


43% say **yes** it has limited their ability to **attend graduate school**

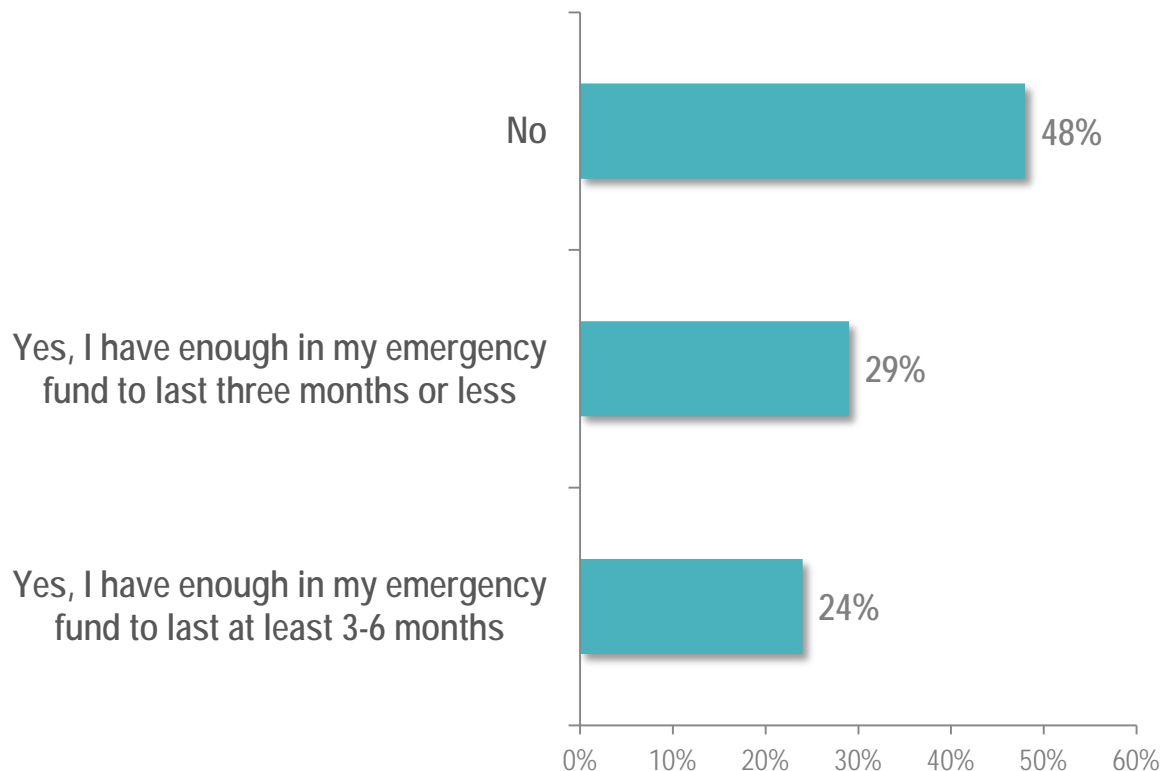
Q How much of an impact did/does your student loan debt have on your decisions regarding the following?



Q. Have you put off saving for retirement, or other major investments, because of student loan debt?

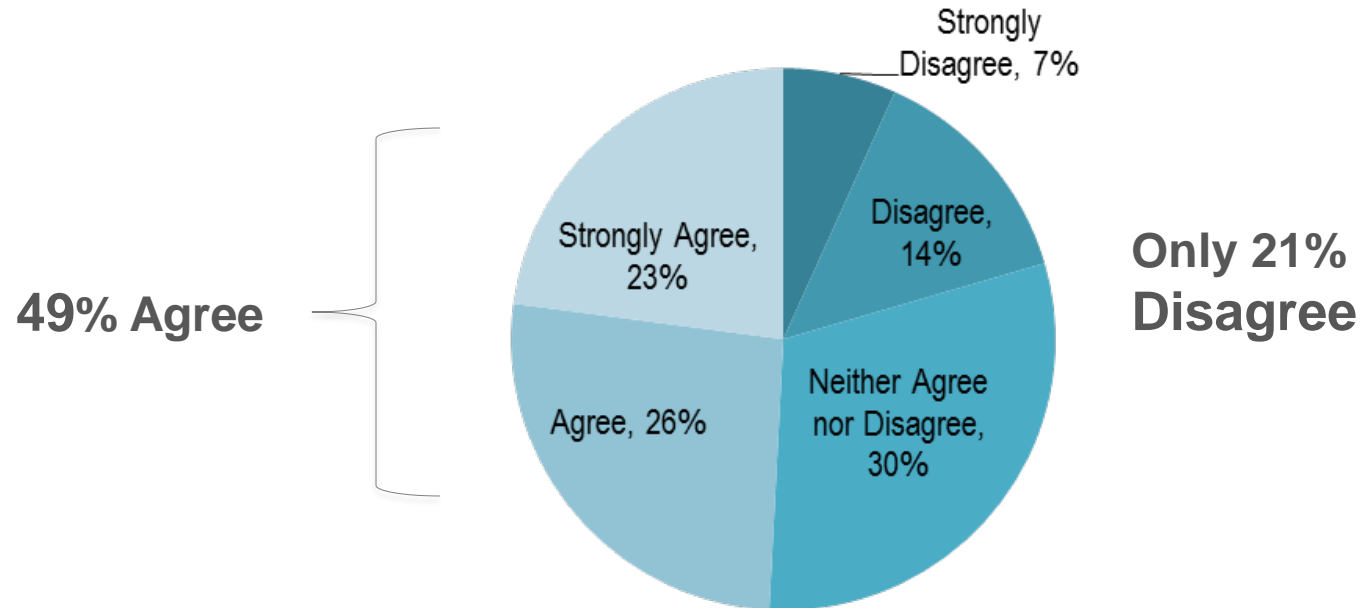


Q. Do you have an emergency fund?

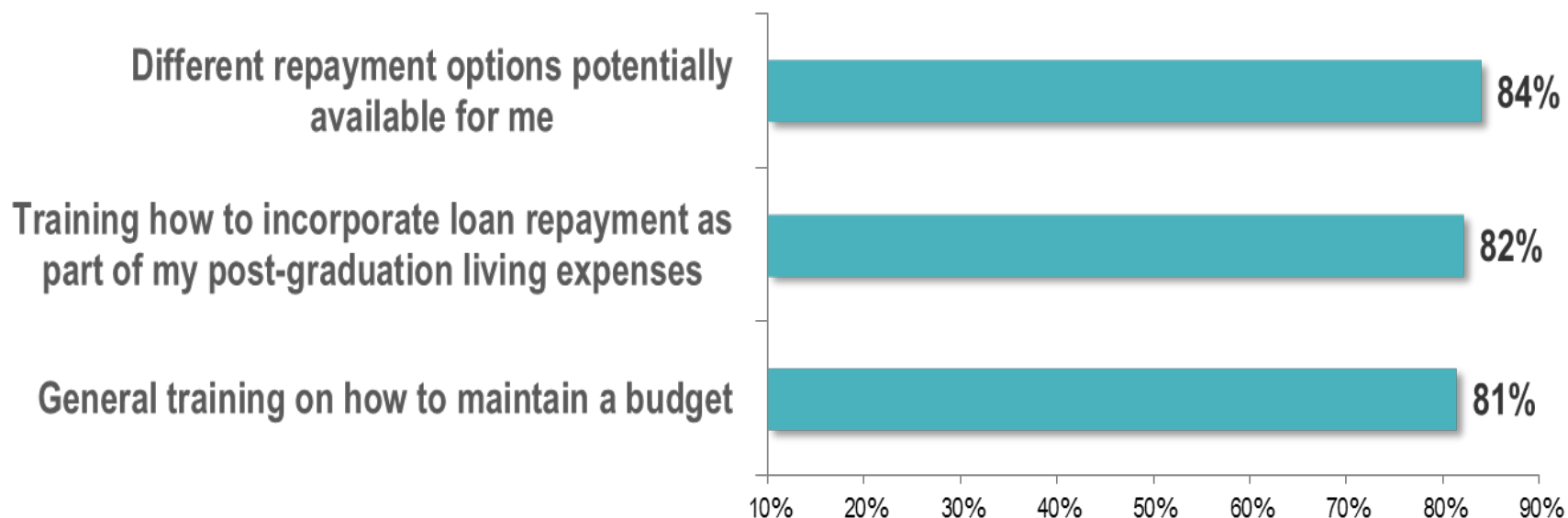


Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements when thinking about your alma mater?

My alma mater(s) should play a larger role in helping me manage my student loans.



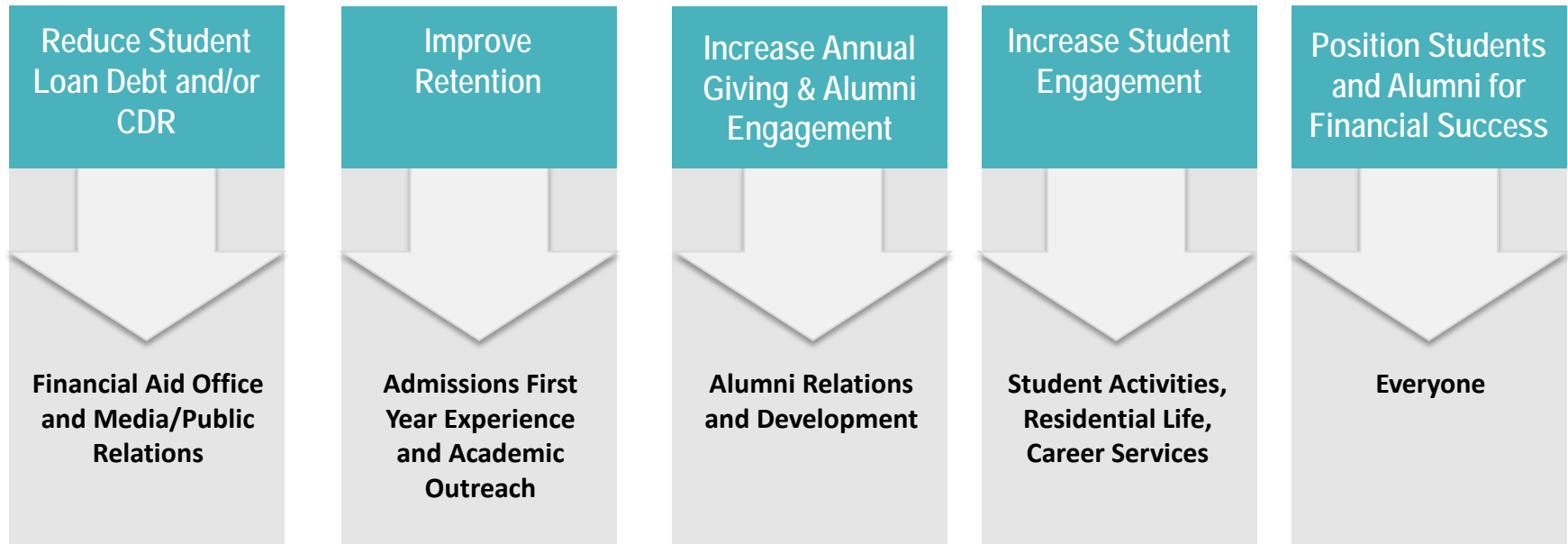
Q. Once out of school, how valuable would/will be the following types of information/resources?



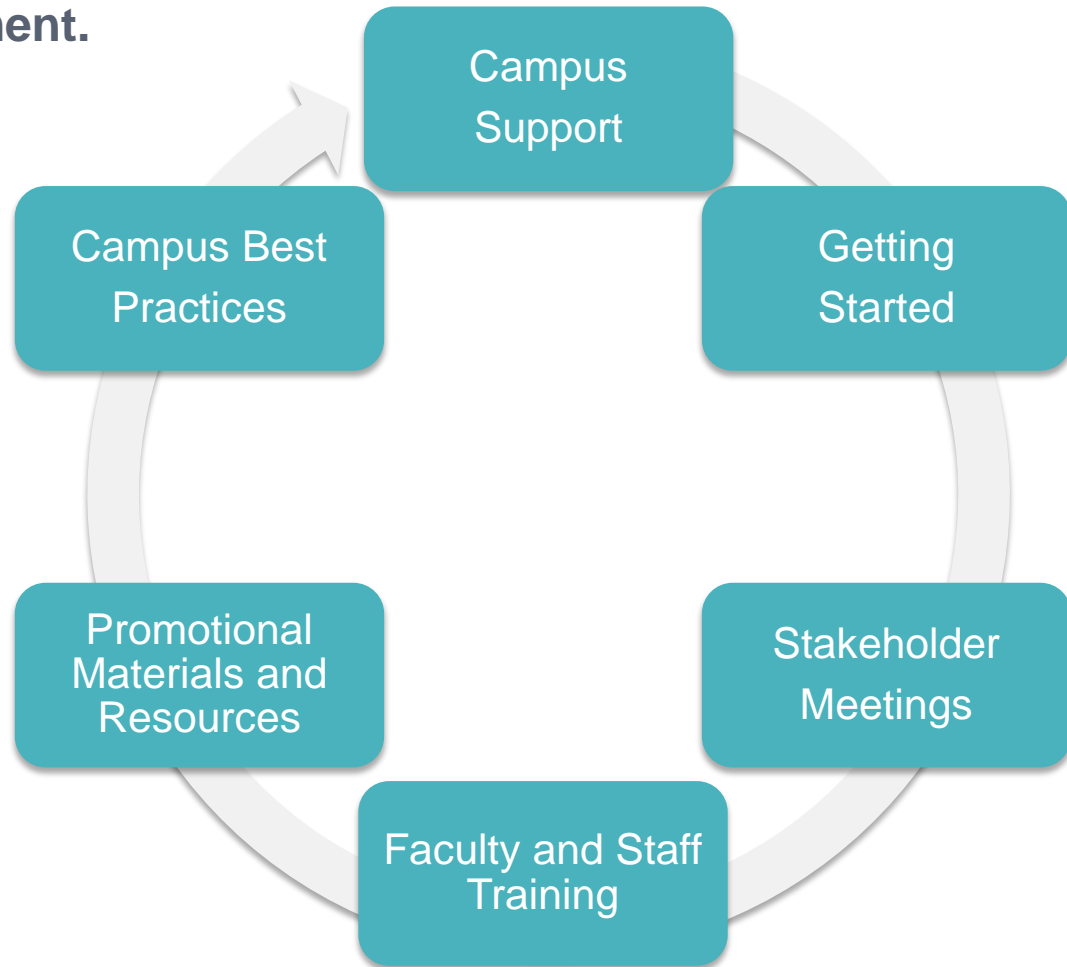
Solutions: Financial Education Opportunities

- Respondents largely view their education as valuable but that the resulting debt can mean future significant tradeoffs
- For some, that debt and the ensuing struggle colors their view of their overall college experience and hinders donations
- The process of repayment remains a confusing one, even for these highly educated respondents
- Student debt in combination with other household responsibilities limits the career, life and purchasing decisions many of these recent alums make
- Significant portion of respondents reported being ill-prepared to handle their debt and agreed that more education would be valuable

Achieving University Wide Goals



Create your own movement.



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