



MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL
INTERPRETERS ASSOCIATION
Leading the advancement of professional interpreters

MMIA 2006 Compensation Survey Summary Report

Prepared by:

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Acknowledgements

- ⑦ MMIA member-Interpreter Reviewers
- ⑦ MMIA Executive Committee
- ⑦ **Susan S. Fish, PharmD, MPH, Co-Director, MA in Clinical Investigation, Boston University School of Medicine**
- ⑦ MMIA members who answered the questionnaire

The MMIA 2006 Interpreter Salary Survey is published in accordance with federal and state privacy and antitrust laws. It meets all the conditions set forth by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission that apply to compensation surveys.

What Methodology was Used?

- ⦿ Survey developed between August and September 2006
- ⦿ Pilot survey tested and reviewed during September 2006
- ⦿ Comments and feedback integrated into final survey instrument
- ⦿ Professional researcher reviewed final survey instrument for construct validity

What was the Process Like?

- ⦿ Questionnaire sent by email to MMIA membership
- ⦿ Two follow-up email reminders
- ⦿ Survey opened on 10/3/06 and closed on 11/1/06
- ⦿ Not a scientific survey
- ⦿ Data is self-reported

Survey Content

◎ **73 Questions**

◎ **One question:** Screen out employers and interpreters in administrative roles

◎ **9 Questions:** Geographic location, Demographics: race, gender, ethnicity, age, language, length of time in U.S.

◎ **11 Questions:** Education, training and work experience

◎ **50 Questions:** Wages, benefits, work settings, employment status

Sample Question

What is the highest level of training in interpreting you have received?

- Workshop at my place of work or other
- Interpreter training certificate program
- Undergraduate level college interpreter training/education program
- Graduate level college interpreter training/education
- Other (please specify)

Who Participated?

1326 MMIA members with valid emails invited to participate

426 Members responded and completed online survey

30 U.S. States where MMIA respondents are located

75% of respondents located in Massachusetts

Classification of Respondents

- ◎ Of the 426 respondents, the initial question screened out 80 employers (managers, coordinators, directors)
- ◎ Six interpreting compensation categories
 1. Staff medical interpreters
 2. Freelance medical interpreters
 3. Staff legal interpreters
 4. Freelance legal interpreters
 5. Translators
 6. Telephone / Video / Remote interpreters

What questions were on our minds?

- ◎ Where are MMIA interpreters working?
- ◎ What are the base salaries and salary ranges?
- ◎ How does compensation compare between different variables?
 - specialties
 - freelance vs. staff status
 - general educational levels
 - interpreter training
 - demographics
 - regions

Distribution of Respondents by Primary Source of Work

28%

Freelance Medical
Interpreters

25%

Staff Medical
Interpreters

1%

Staff Legal
Interpreters

6%

Freelance Legal
Interpreters

11%

Freelance Social
Service Interpreters

12%

Freelance Translators

4%

Staff Translators

4%

Staff Social Service
Interpreters

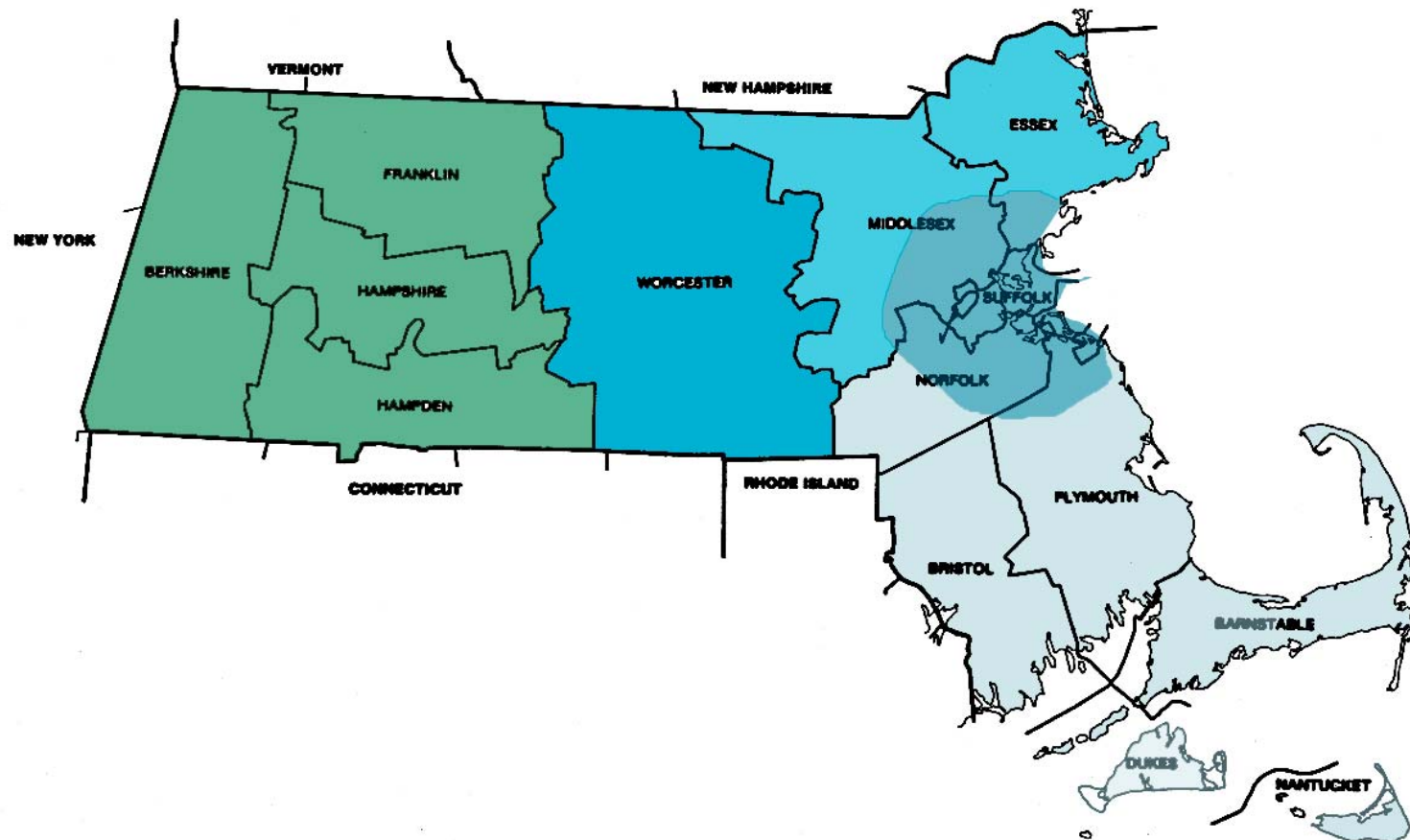
4%

Other

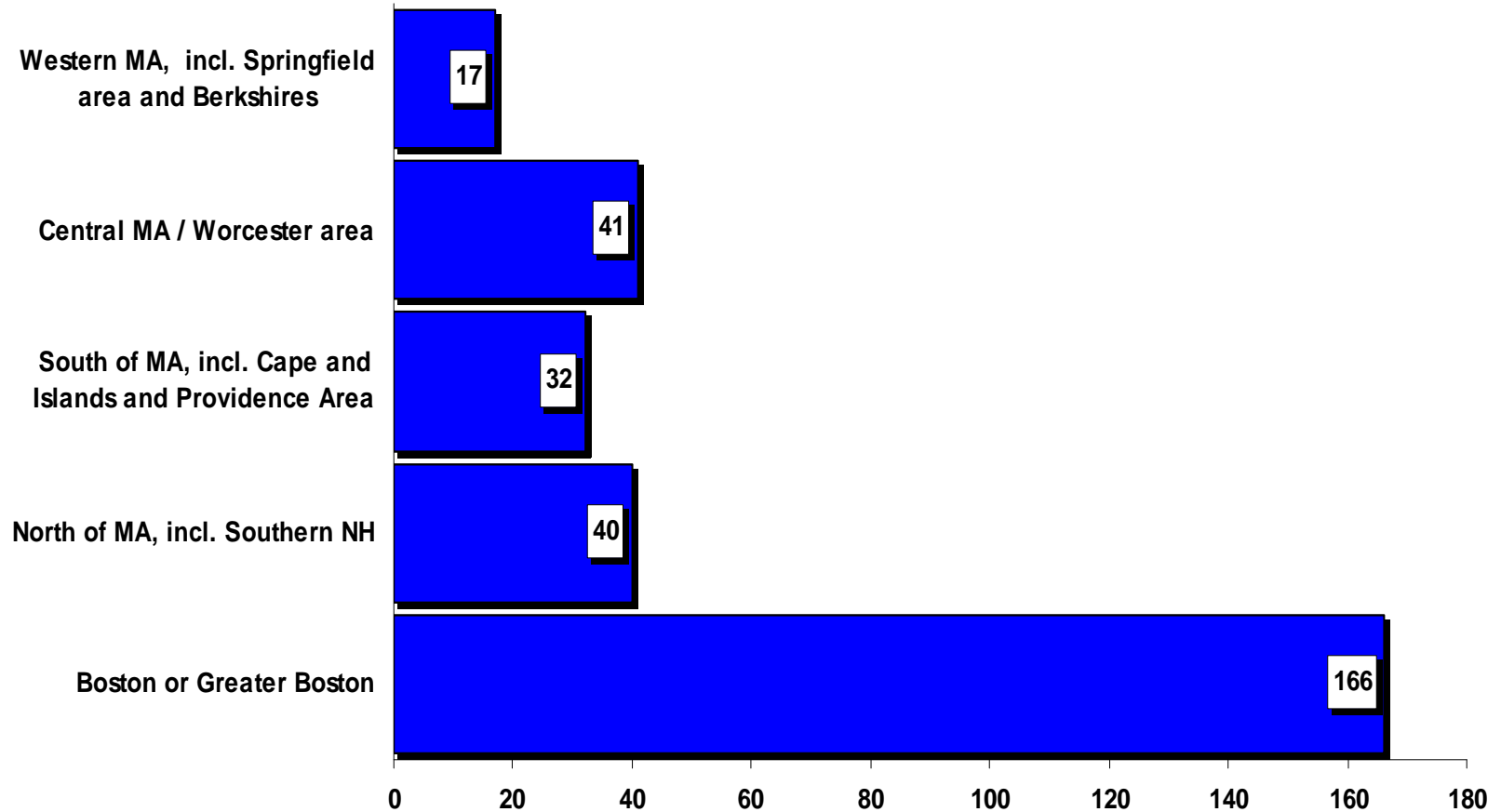
5%

Telephone / Video
Interpreters

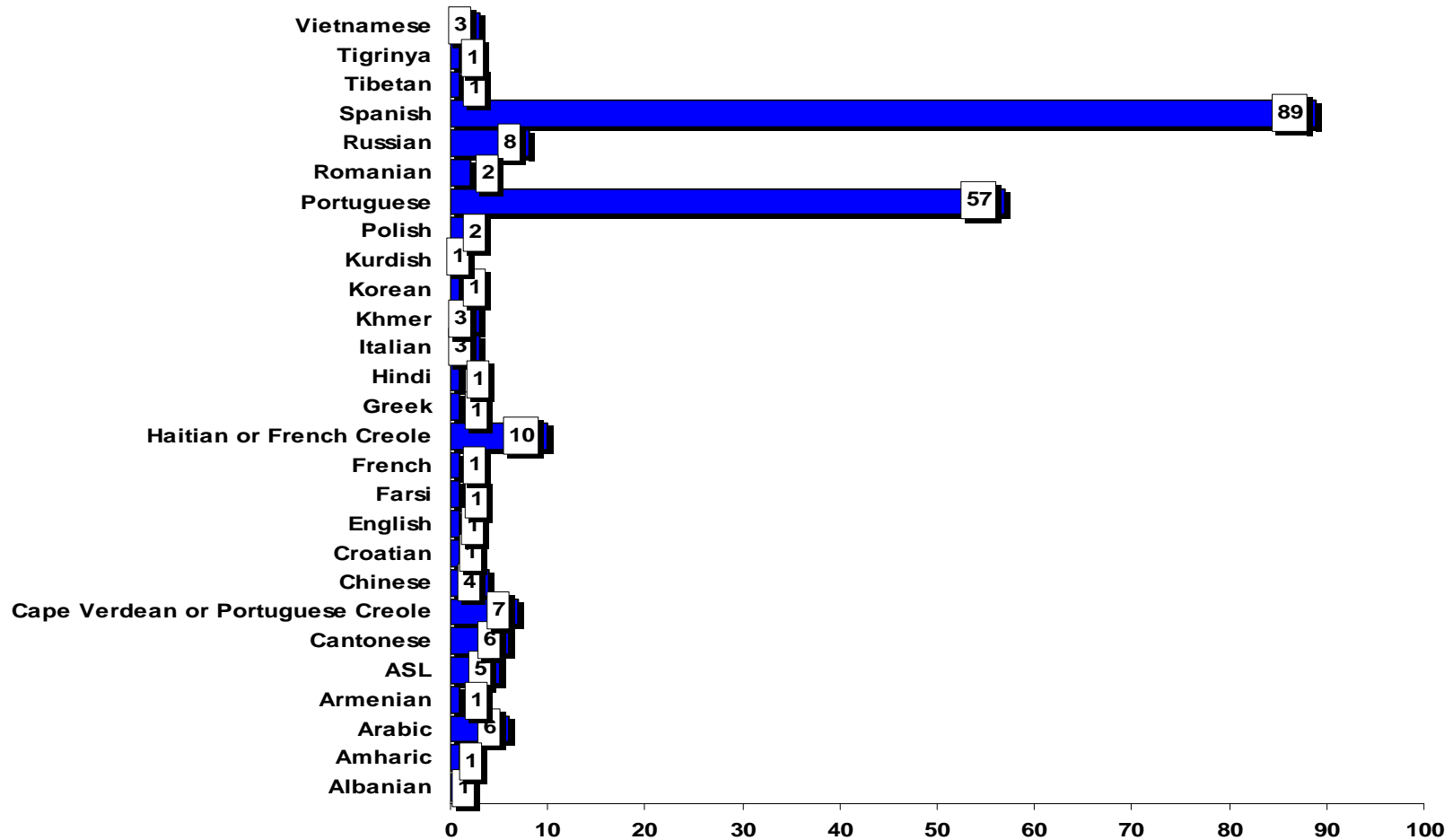
Geographic Distribution of Respondents



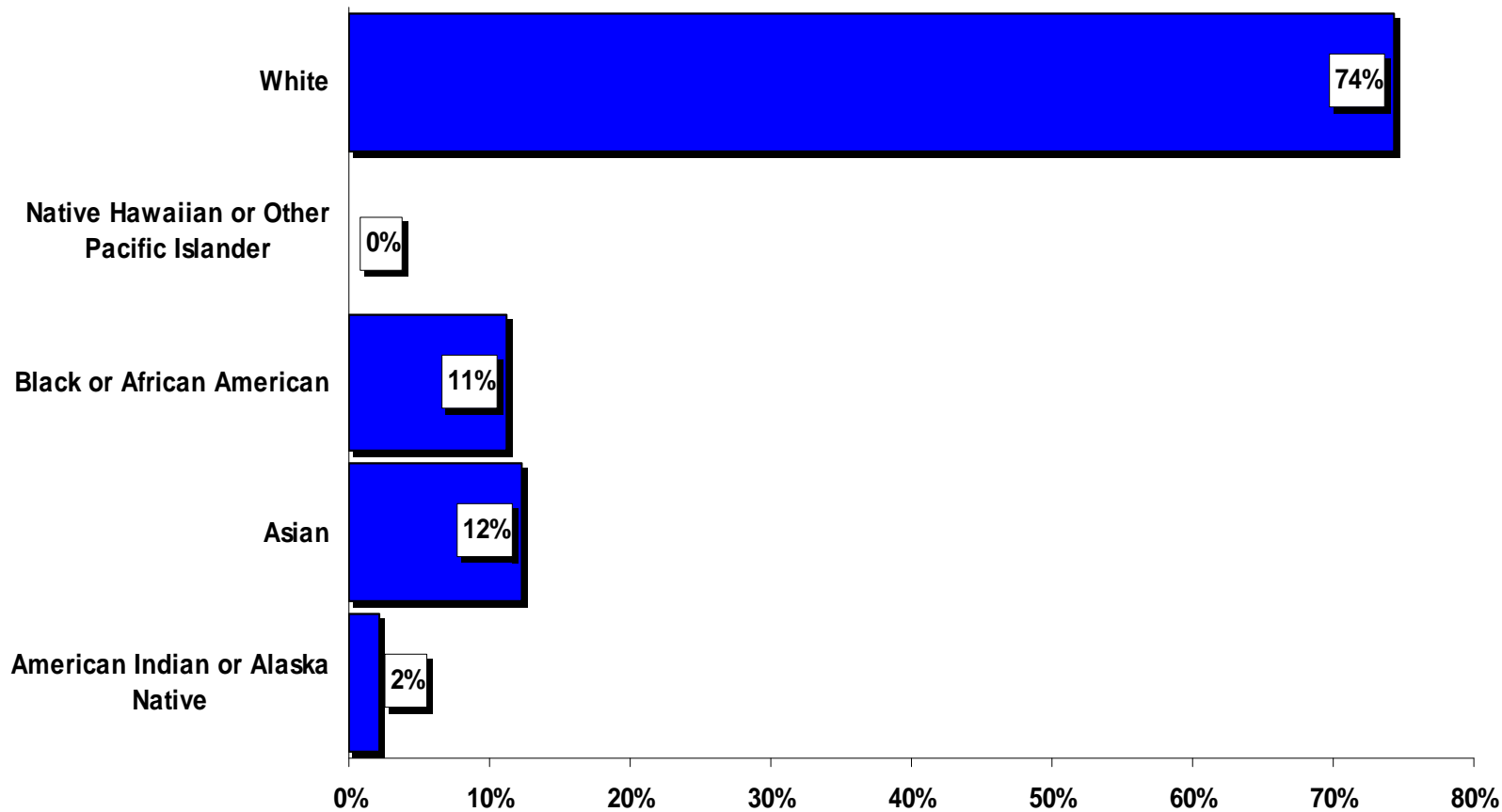
Number of Respondents per Massachusetts Region



Languages Spoken by Respondents



Racial Distribution of Respondents



General Findings

89%

of interpreters report having received 40 or more hours of interpreter training

66%

of interpreters also work as translators while only 41% have received training in translation and 17% are accredited translators

71%

of respondents report Portuguese or Spanish as their primary language

55%

of respondents are Hispanic or Latino

43%

of interpreters have less than 5 years of work experience as an interpreter

80%

of respondents are female

109

Number of Ethnicities reported

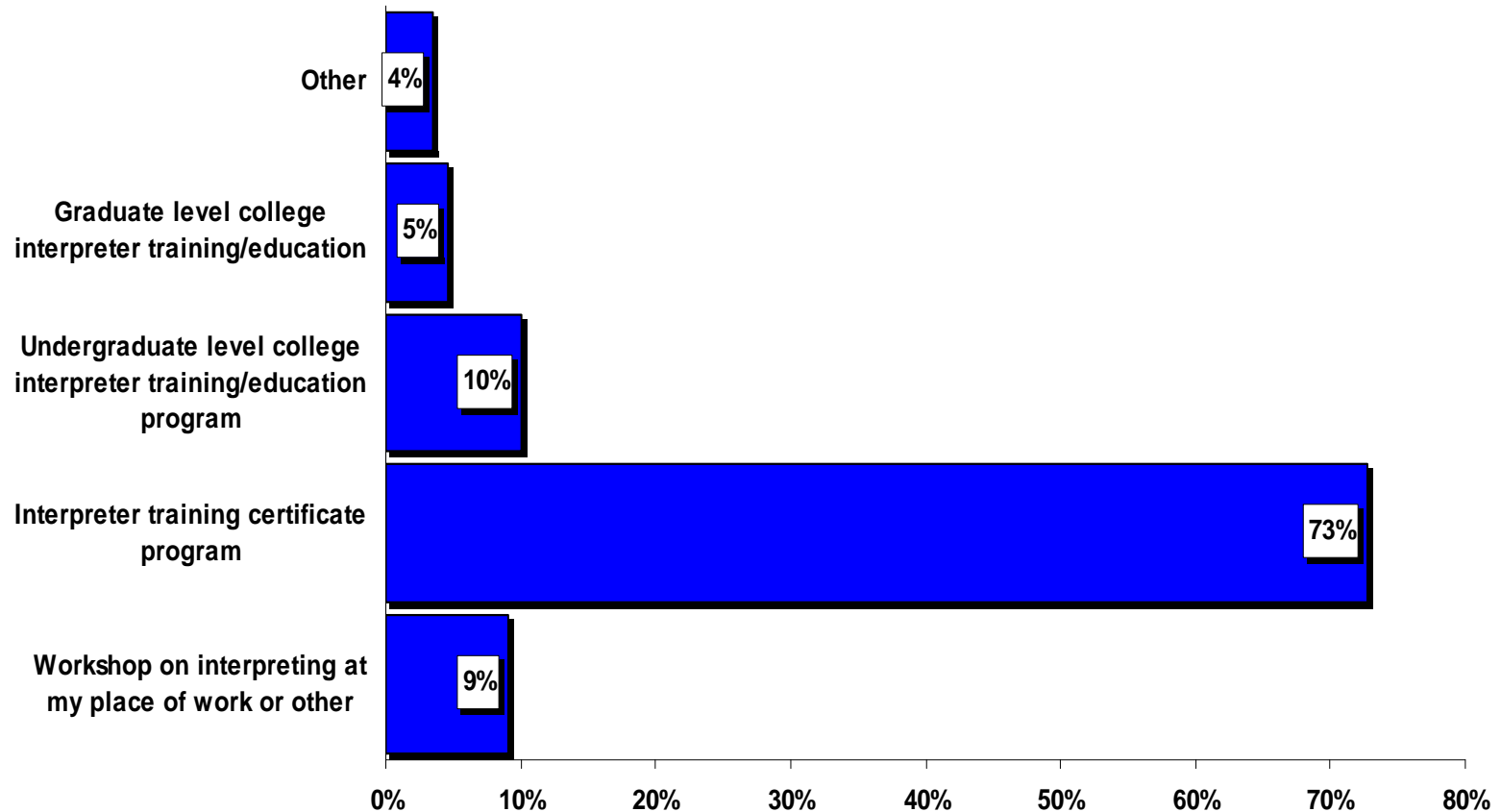
56%

of respondents hold a bachelor's, master's or higher degree

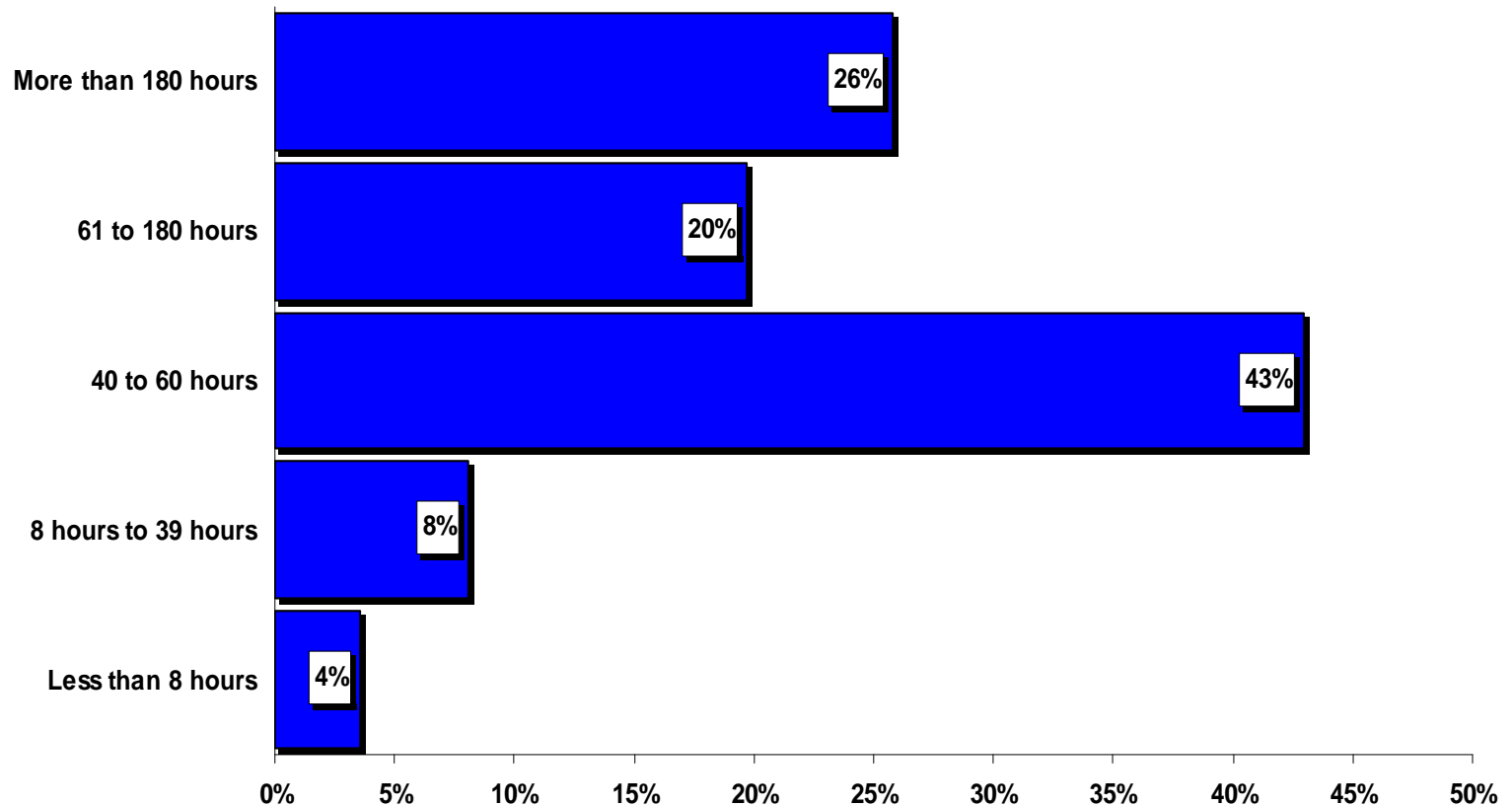
74%

of respondents report their racial identity as white

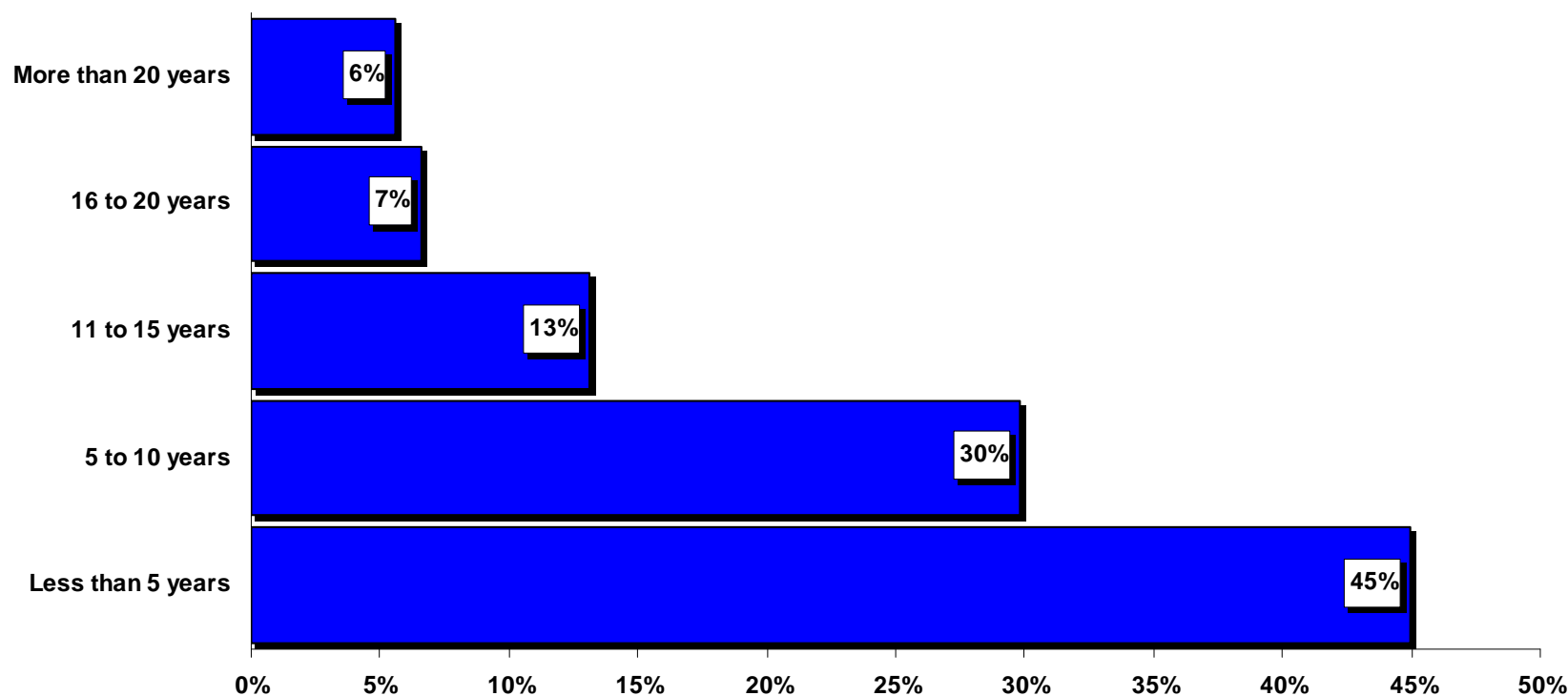
What is the highest level of training in interpreting you have received?



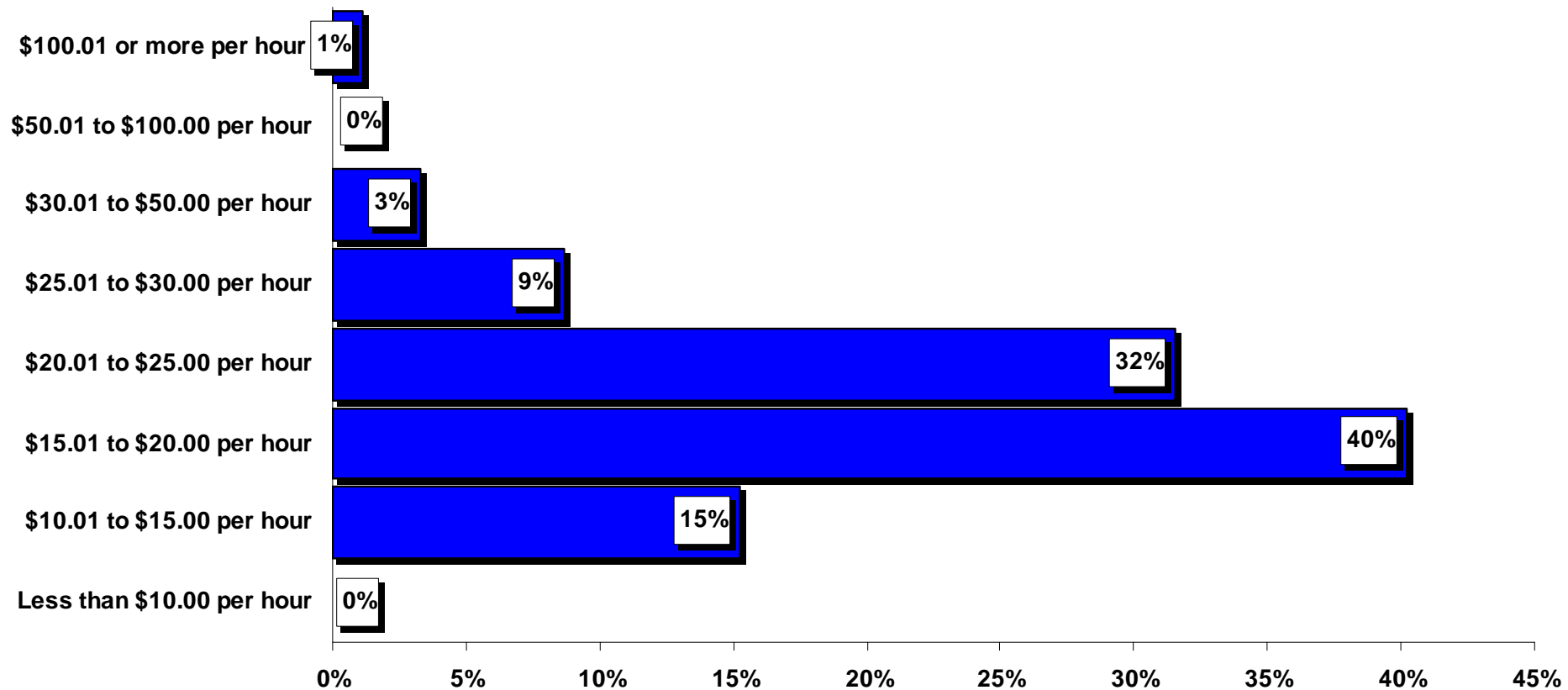
How many hours of training was this program?



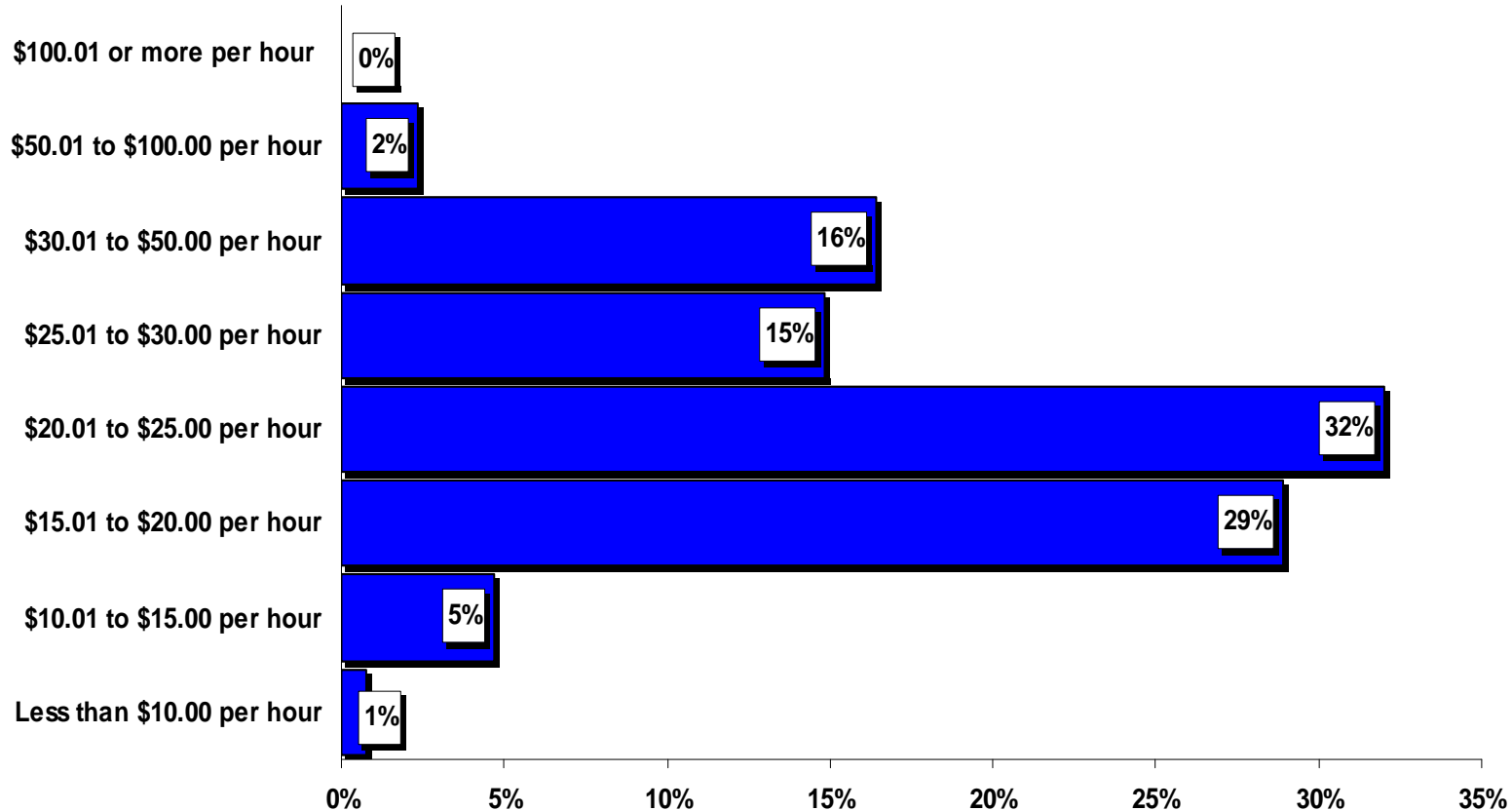
How many years of work experience do you have as an interpreter?



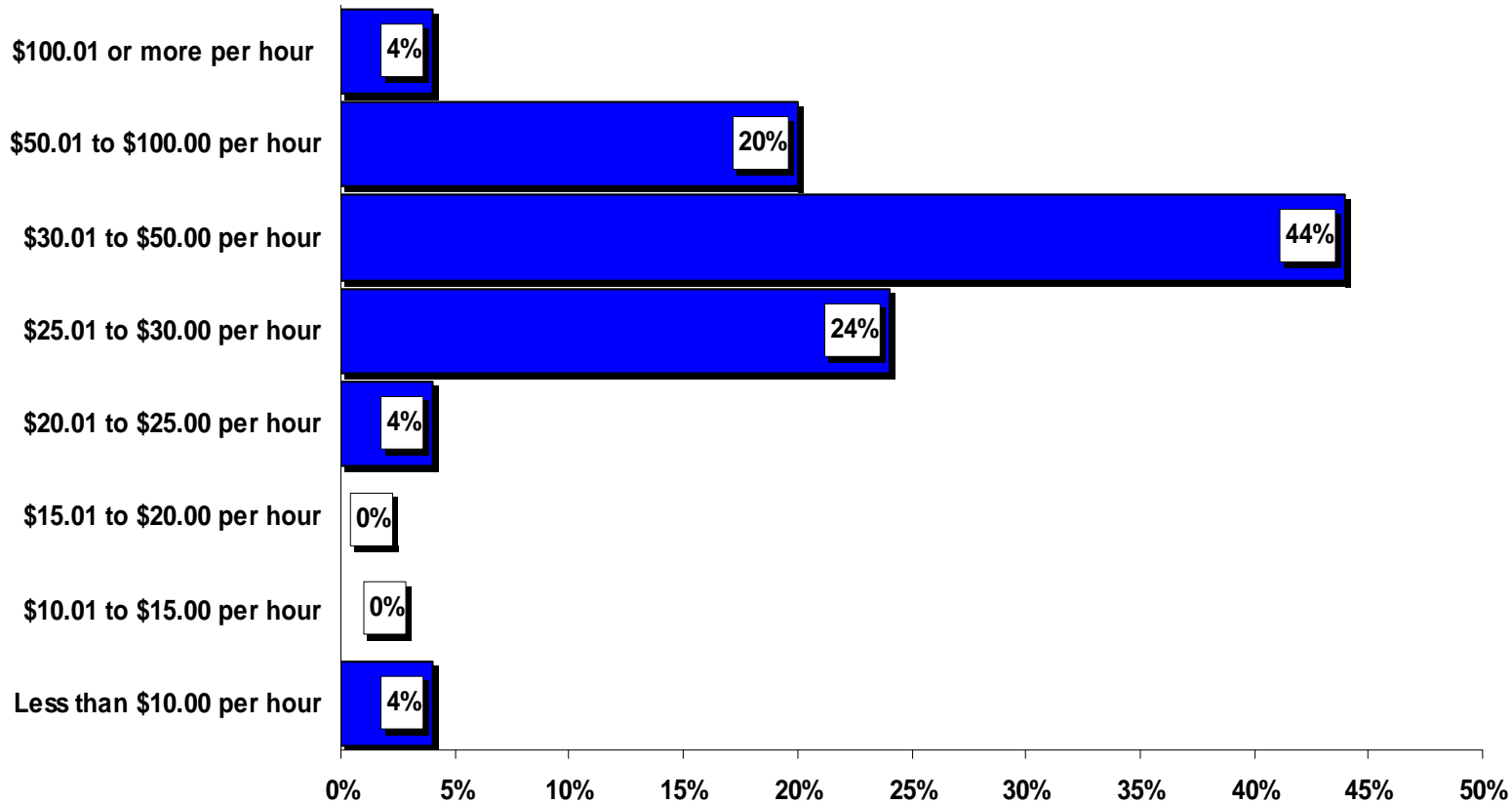
Staff Medical Interpreter Wages



Freelance Medical Interpreter Wages

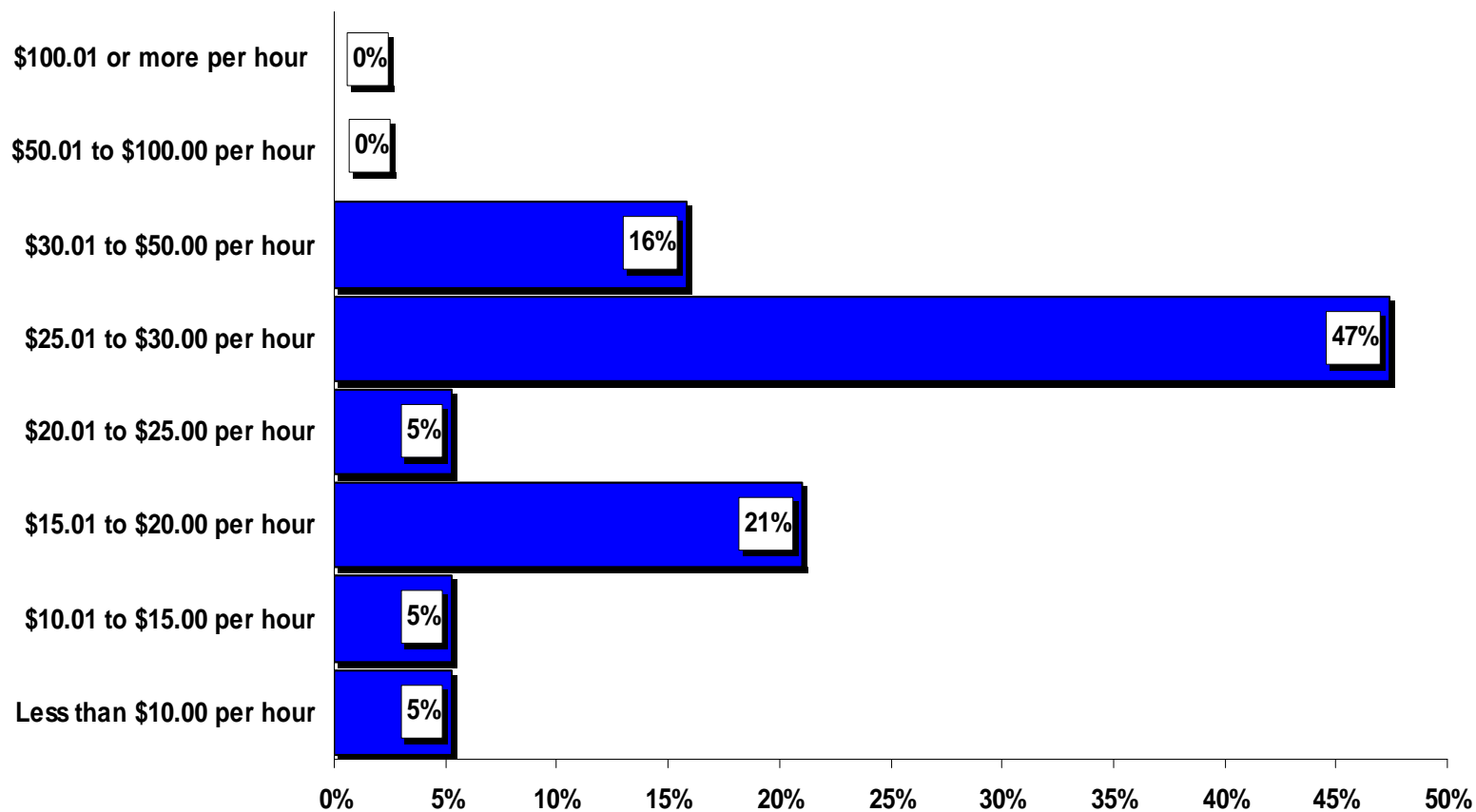


Freelance Legal Interpreter Wages*



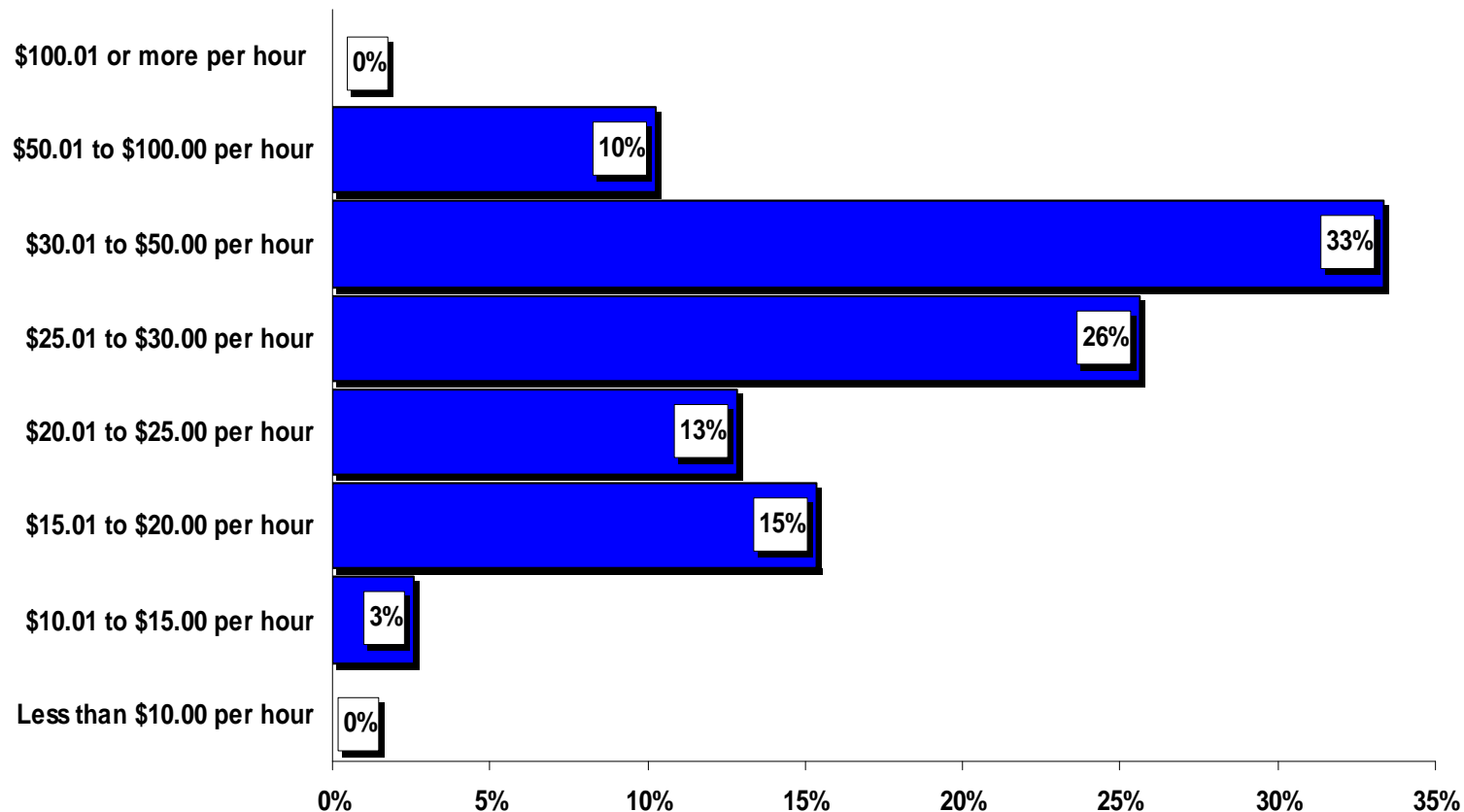
*not statistically significant.

Human / Social Services Staff Interpreter Wages *



*not statistically significant.

Human / Social Services Freelance Interpreter Wages



Next Steps / Recommendations

- ◎ Publish & distribute *MMIA Interpreter Compensation Survey Report* (will be posted on www.mmia.org in Spring of 2007)
- ◎ MMIA plans to conduct yearly compensation surveys
- ◎ Propose a standard survey tool in association with other interpreter organizations
- ◎ Propose a national yearly interpreter compensation survey



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