

Background

- Data from human subjects is frequently collected in various formats (e.g., audio, video, images) as part of social science research projects.
- The Research Data Management Services unit at Texas A&M University Libraries planned to develop customized support for each discipline.
- Limited prior literature focused specifically on the research data management (RDM) needs of social science graduate students.

Methods

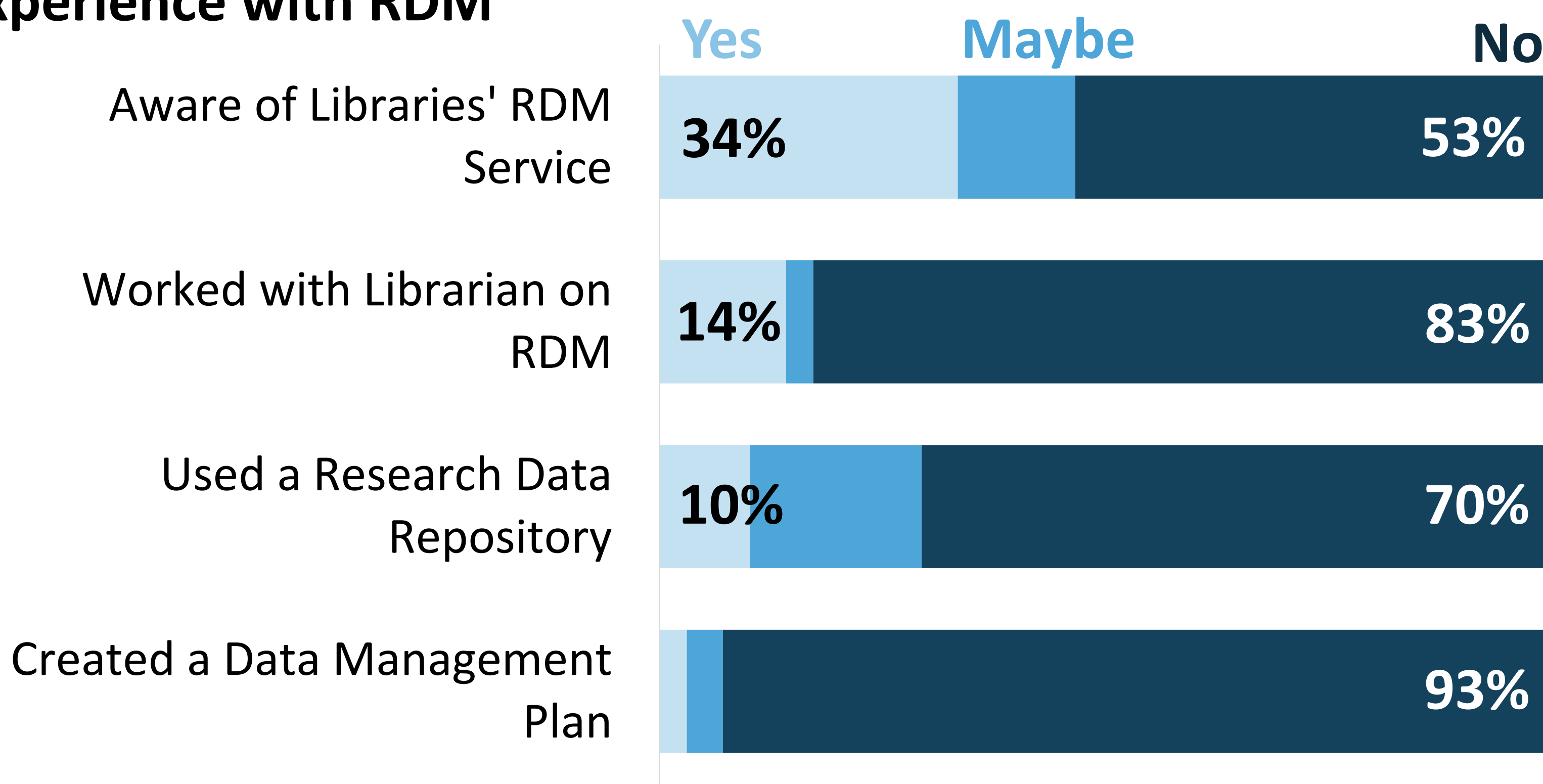
- Conducted a mixed methods study.
- Distributed survey in Fall 2021 to graduate students in the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD).
  - Survey topics included awareness, experience, and confidence with RDM.
  - 98 valid responses received from a population of 1,555 graduate students in CEHD for a 6% response rate.
- Descriptive statistics and one-way ANOVAs used for data analysis.
- Interviews conducted via Zoom in November 2021.
  - 10 graduate students participated after attending an RDM workshop.
  - Questions asked about their research methods and data format types, data organization and documentation, and data sharing and preservation.
  - Transcripts analyzed using conventional content analysis.

Survey Participants

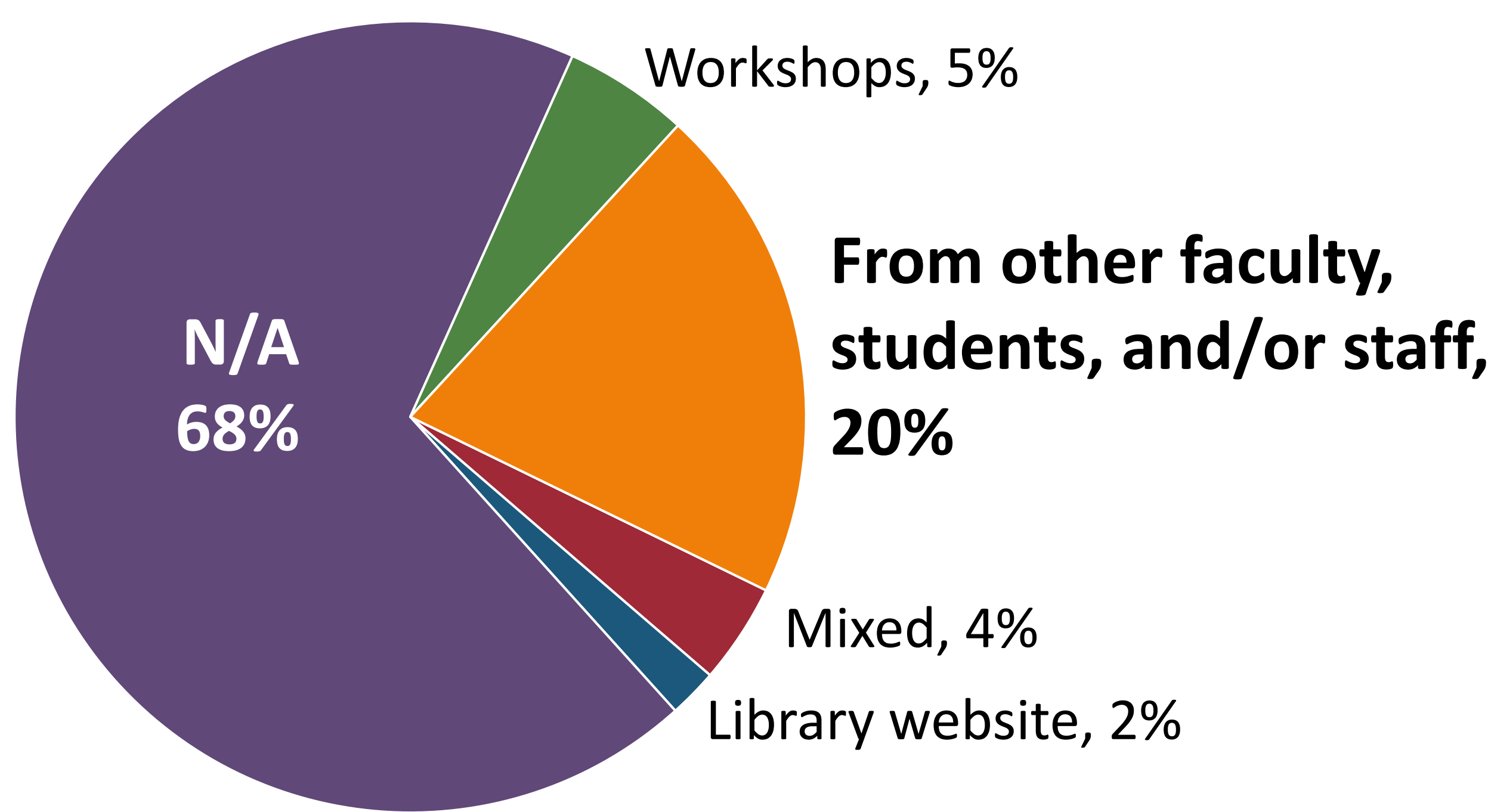
Department	Ed. Admin. & Human Resource Dev.	6 (6%)
	Educational Psychology	51 (52%)
	Health & Kinesiology	19 (19%)
	Teaching, Learning, & Culture	16 (16%)
	Unknown	6 (6%)
Years in Program	2 Years or Less	64 (65%)
	More Than 2 Years	34 (35%)
Degree Pursuing	Doctoral	81 (83%)
	Master’s	17 (17%)
Gender	Female	81 (83%)
	Male	12 (12%)
	Unidentified	5 (5%)
Race/Ethnicity	White & Asian	76 (78%)
	Under-represented Minority (Black, Hispanic or Latino, Native American, Pacific Islander)	22 (22%)
Citizenship	U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident	61 (62%)
	International Student	37 (38%)

Findings

Experience with RDM



Method of Hearing about RDM Service



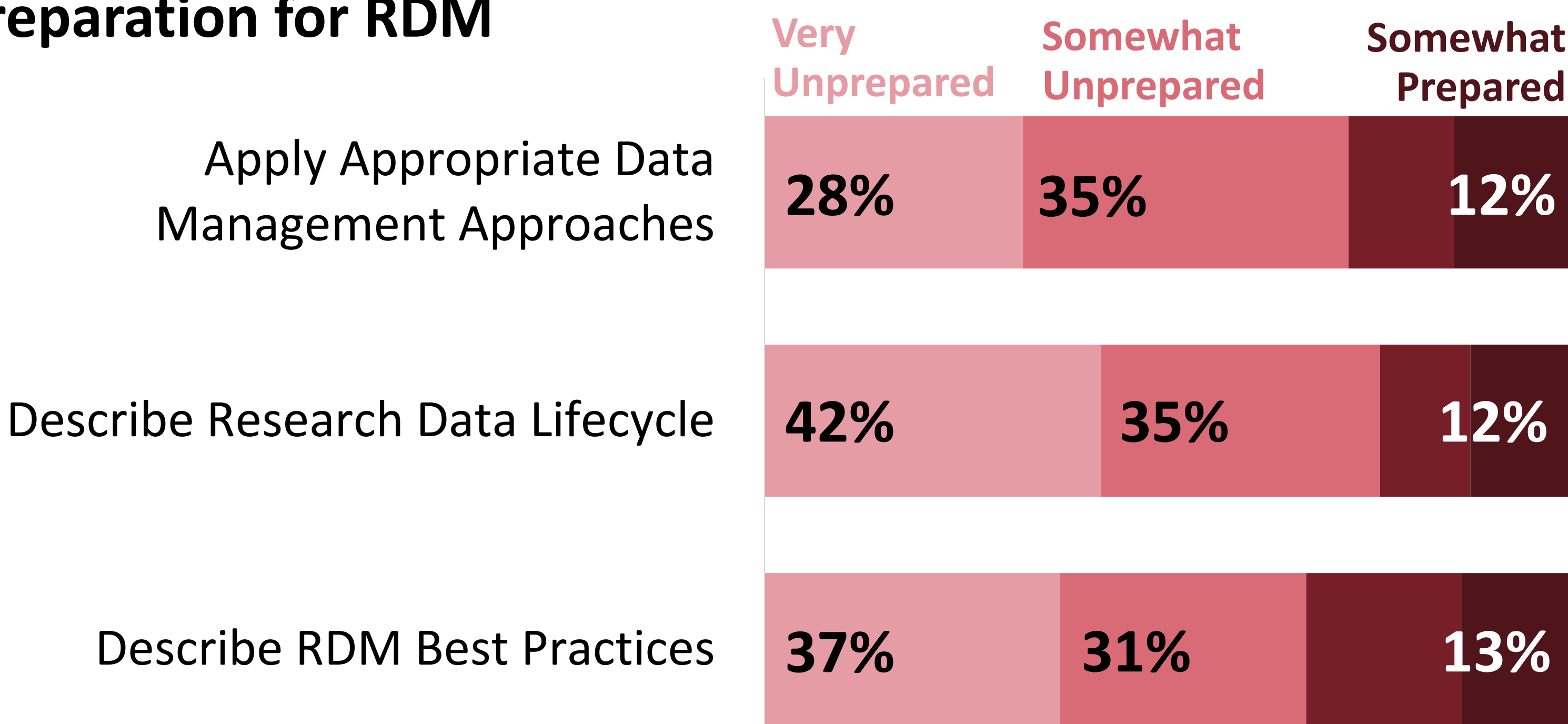
Preparation Differences

- White and Asian students had a statistically significant higher level of RDM preparedness than under-represented minorities.
- U.S citizens and permanent residents had statistically significant higher levels of RDM preparedness than international students.
- No differences in RDM preparedness by years in their program.

Confidence Differences

- Respondents had a low degree of confidence in RDM.
- U.S. citizens and permanent residents had statistically significant higher confidence levels in doing RDM than international students.
- No differences in RDM confidence levels by race/ethnicity or by years in their program.

Preparation for RDM



Recommendations for Practice

Topics to Cover in RDM Trainings

- Data documentation and organization for individual projects
- Data documentation and organization when working in teams
- Creating a data management plan
- Using a data repository
- Sharing research data
- Implications of using proprietary software
- Data analysis with open access software
- Data storage for long-term use
- Data security measures
- Implications of storing data from human subjects in the cloud

Implications For Library RDM Services

- Continue to advertise services.
- Integrate/collaborate with course instructors or at the departmental level.
- Market directly to international graduate students.
- Use inclusive instruction to account for international graduate students’ lack of confidence in RDM.

Published Article

Zhou X., Xu Z., & Kogut A. (2023). Research data management needs assessment for social sciences graduate students: A mixed methods study. *PLoS ONE*, 18(2), e0282152.  
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0282152>

