



Nationwide Survey of Parents of  
K-12 Students & School Administrators on:

# **Perceptions of School-Based Mental Health**

# Methodology

- John Zogby Strategies was commissioned by Effective School Solutions to conduct a nationwide, online survey of 1,000 parents with children enrolled in K-12, and 200 school administrators.
- John Zogby Strategies conducted these surveys October 25 through November 3.
- Each invitation was password-coded and secured so the IP addresses were not tracked and to prevent each respondent from taking the survey more than once.
- Overall margins of error include +/- 3.2 percentage points for the survey of parents and +/- 7.1 percentage points for the school administrators. Subsets of the data have higher error margins.
- Additional factors - such as question wording and question order – can create error. JZS took steps to reduce such error.

# Sample Characteristics

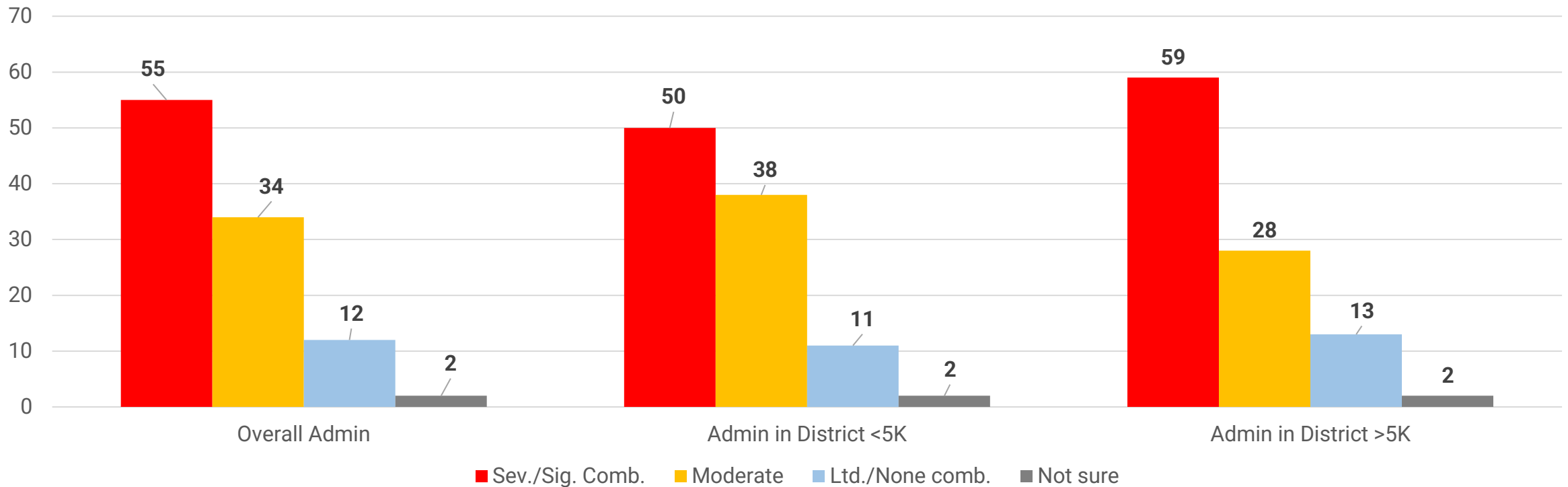
| Demographics  | Parents  | Administrators  |
|---------------|--|---|
| Location      | <p><b>Large city</b> = 29%</p> <p><b>Small city</b> = 23%</p> <p><b>Suburban</b> = 33%</p> <p><b>Rural</b> = 16%</p> | <p><b>Large city</b> = 60%</p> <p><b>Small city</b> = 12%</p> <p><b>Suburban</b> = 23%</p> <p><b>Rural</b> = 6%</p> |
| District Size | <p><b>&lt;5K</b> = 53%</p> <p><b>&gt;5K</b> = 47%</p>  | <p><b>&lt;5K</b> = 53%</p> <p><b>&gt;5K</b> = 47%</p>   |
| Region        | <p><b>East</b> = 19%</p> <p><b>South</b> = 36%</p> <p><b>Central/Great Lakes</b> = 27%</p> <p><b>West</b> = 18%</p>  | <p><b>East</b> = 25%</p> <p><b>South</b> = 36%</p> <p><b>Central/Great Lakes</b> = 18%</p> <p><b>West</b> = 22%</p> |

# Key Takeaways

- High percentages of school administrators across the board say they are facing a severe/significant level of mental health problems in their schools.
- A significant majority of parents report that they believe the level of mental health problems in their child's school is severe, significant, or moderate.
- Nearly half of parents and educators say they are concerned about not enough staff to address student needs, and administrators are concerned about lack of funding for mental health.
- More than half of administrators said they need more information about funding sources for school-based mental health.

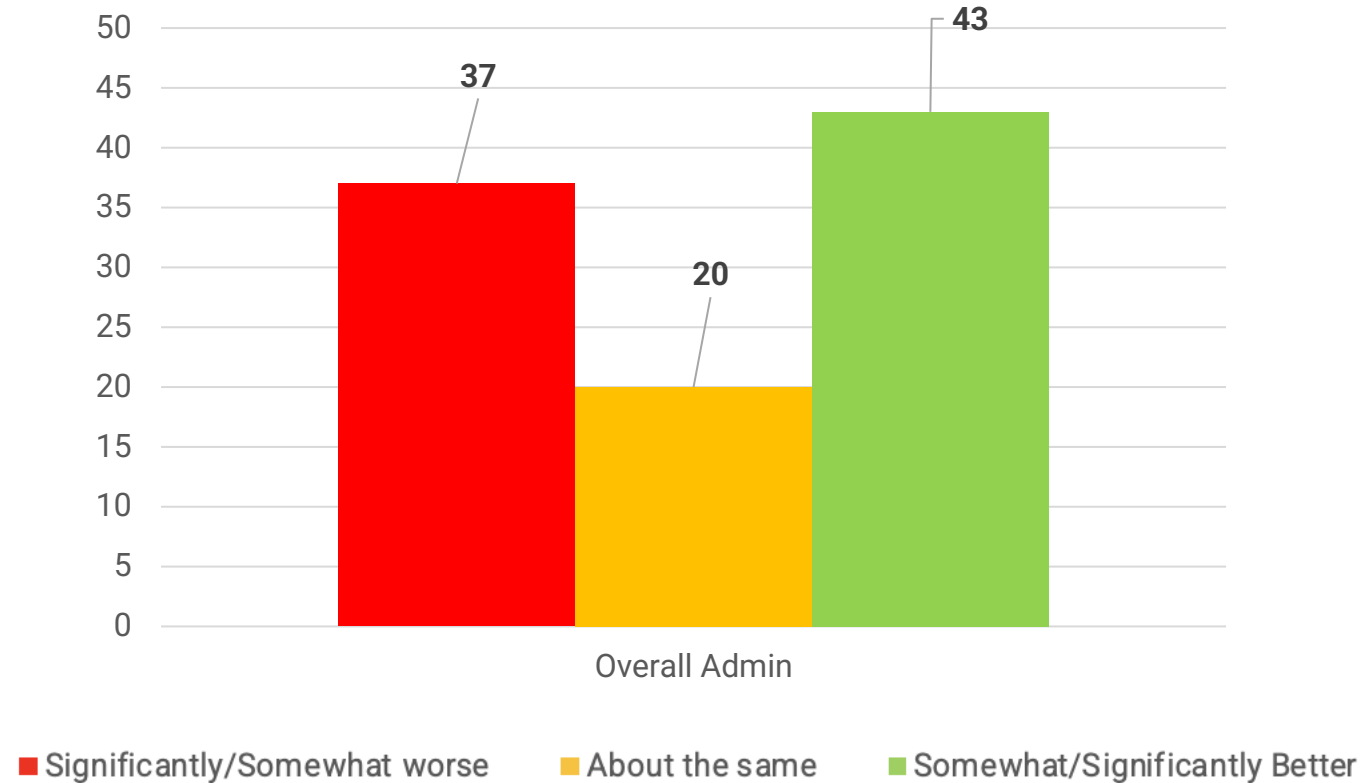
# School Administrators

# How would you describe the level of mental health challenges in your school?



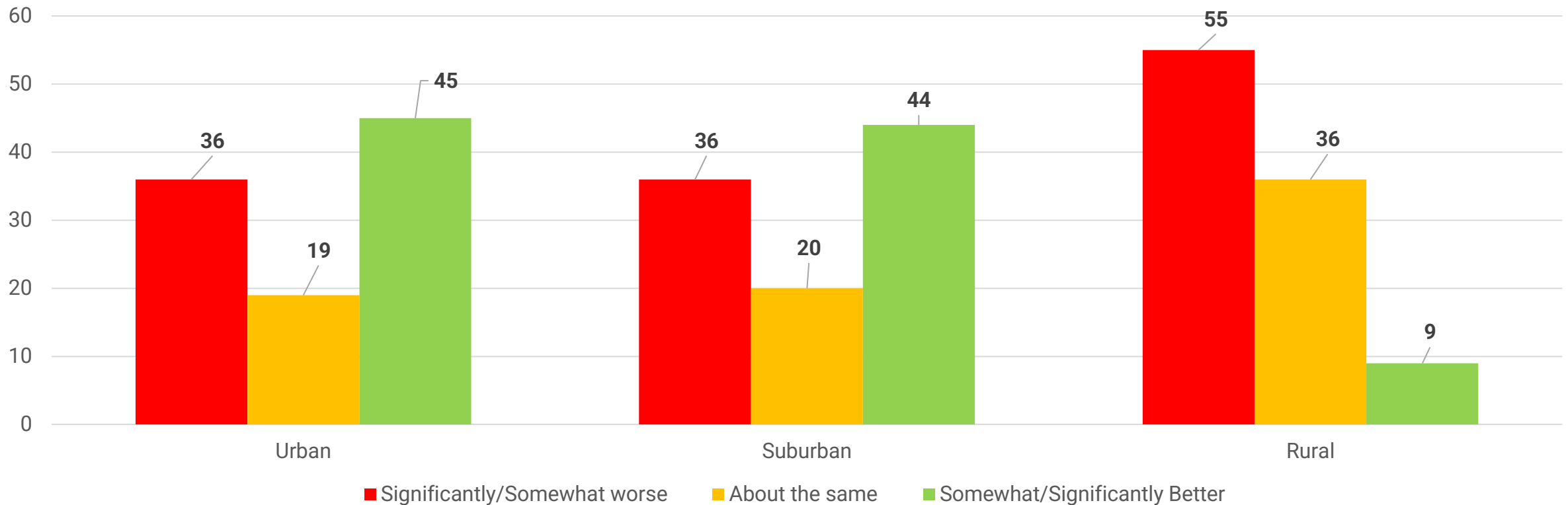
**Nearly 90% of administrators describe mental health challenges in schools as moderate to severe.**

# How does the level of mental health challenges for your student body compare to one year ago?



*Nearly 3/5 of administrators believe mental health challenges among students have increased or stayed the same year over year.*

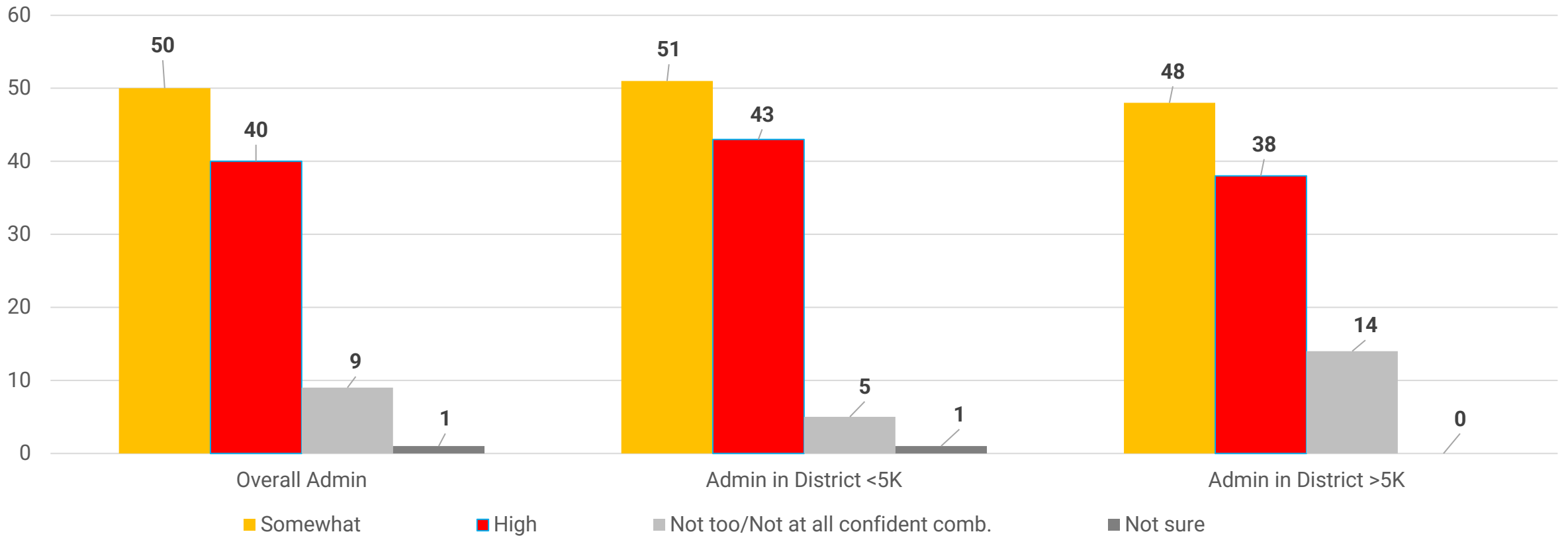
# How does the level of mental health challenges for your student body compare to one year ago? [by location]



*In rural areas, 55% of administrators describe the level of mental health challenges for the student body to be significantly worse than a year ago.*

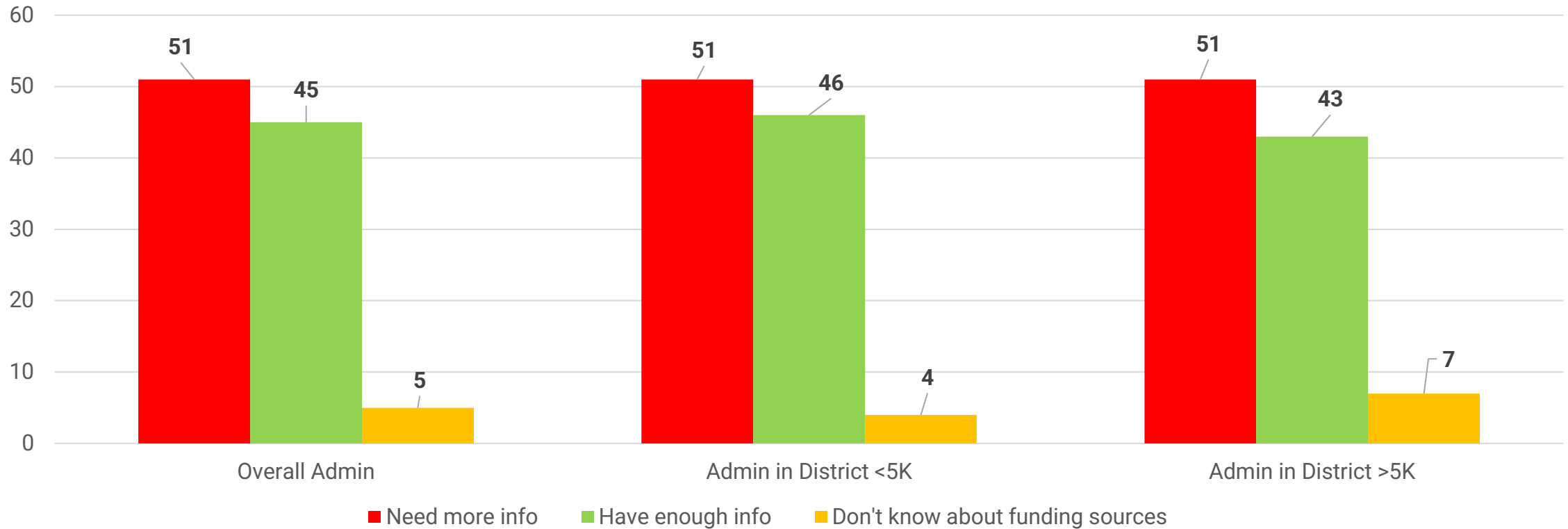


# Overall, how confident are you in staff ability to deal with mental health challenges in your school(s)?



**Only 40% of administrators report a high level of confidence in the ability of their schools to deal with mental health challenges.**

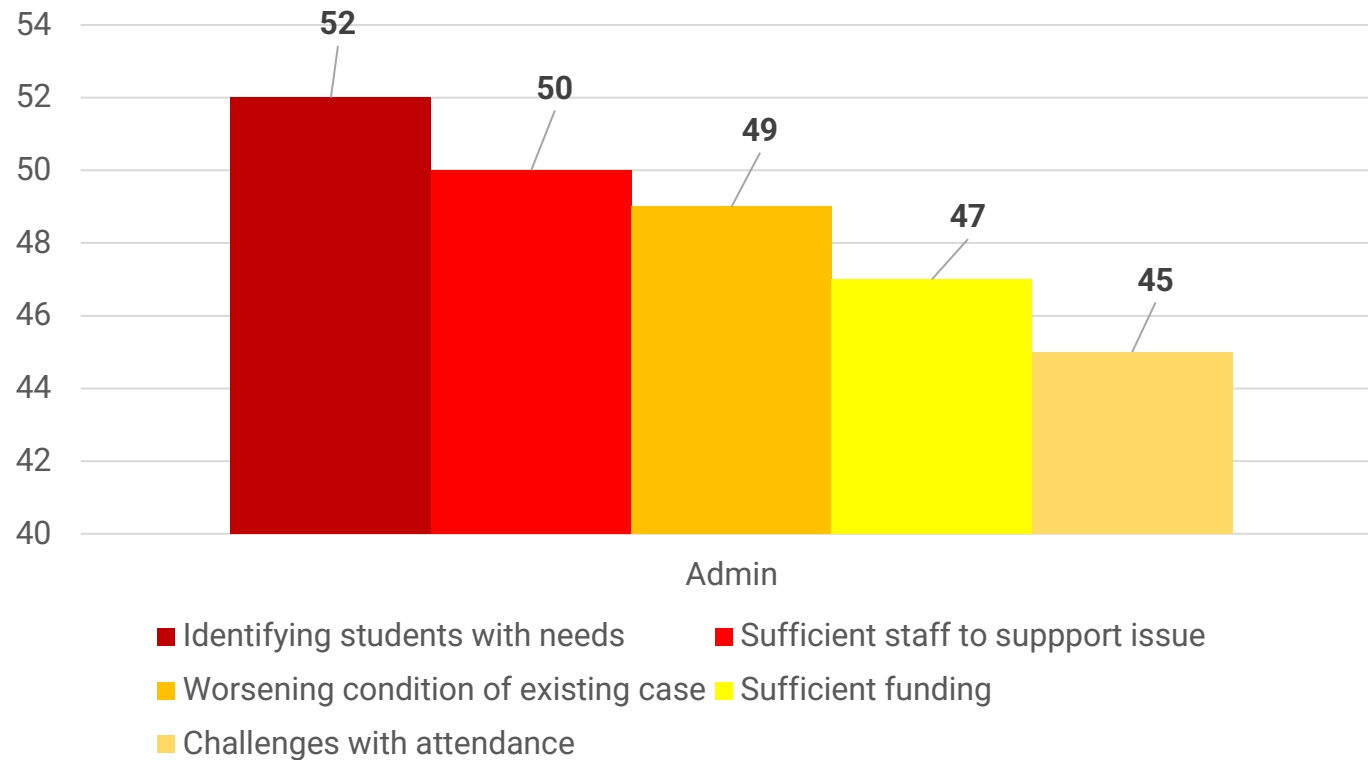
# How Would You Describe Your Level of Awareness of Funding Sources for Mental Health in Your School District?



***More than 50% of administrators need more information about funding sources for school-based mental health.***

# Top Concerns among Admin

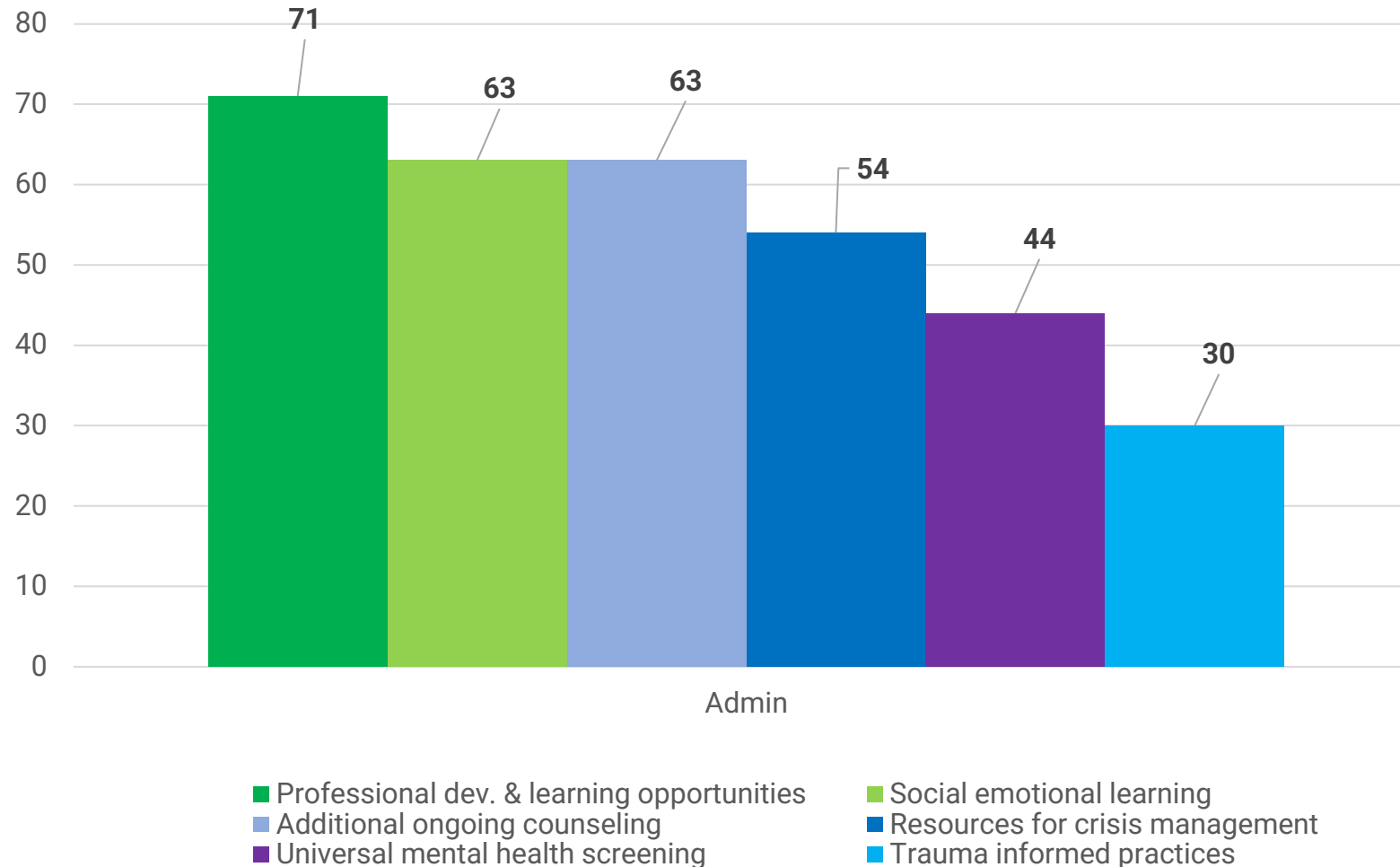
[select all that apply]



*Administrators report student identification and sufficient staffing as their major pain points.*

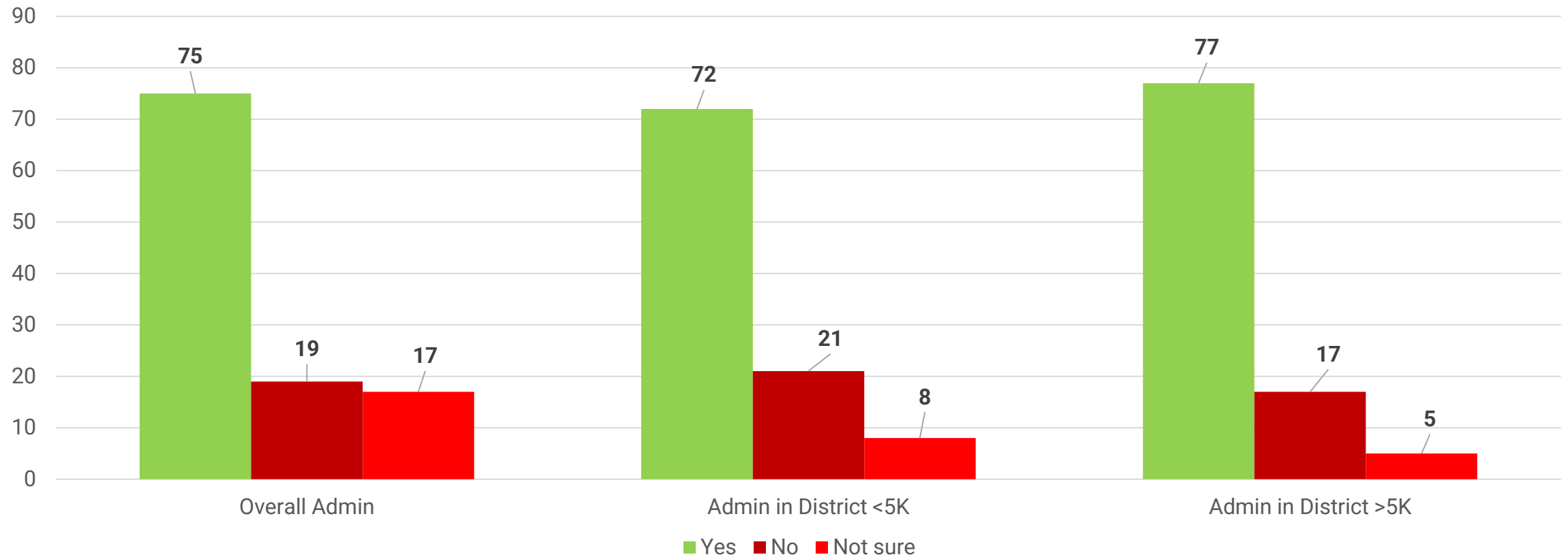
# Initiatives in Place to Support Student Mental Health

[select all that apply]



***Despite stated priorities, only 44% of districts are using screening and only 63% have put in place additional counseling.***

# Do You Feel Your Schools Implement Best Practices Around Mental Health?

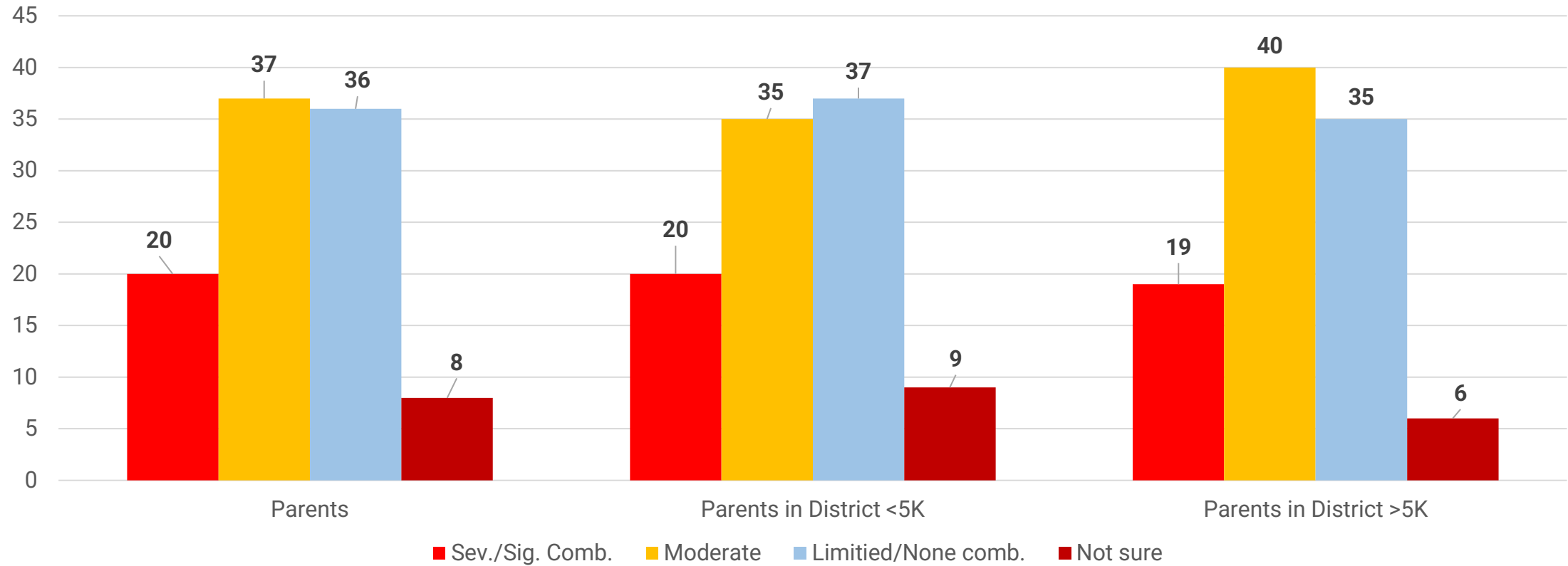


*While 75% of administrators believe that their schools implement best practices around mental health, only 45% of parents concur with that statement. [See slide 17 for comparison](#)*



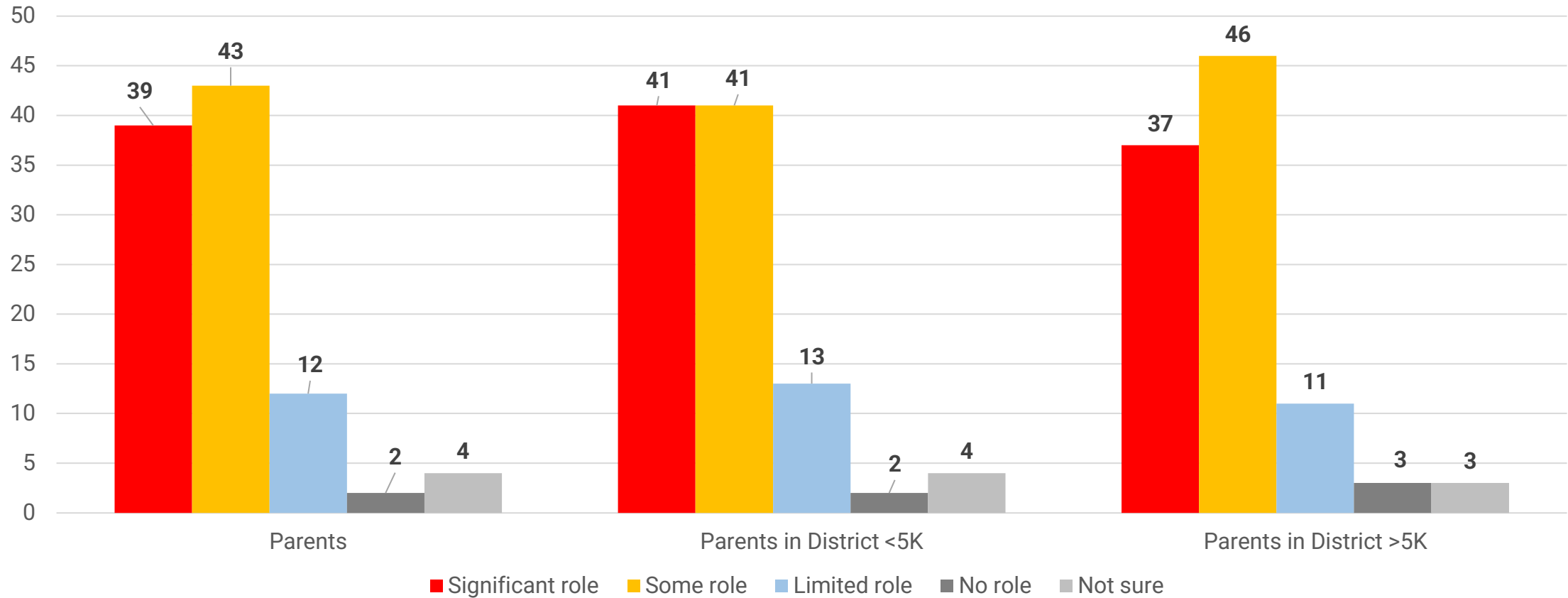
# Parents

# How would you describe the level of mental health challenges in your school?



***Nearly 60% of parents describe mental health challenges in schools as moderate to severe.***

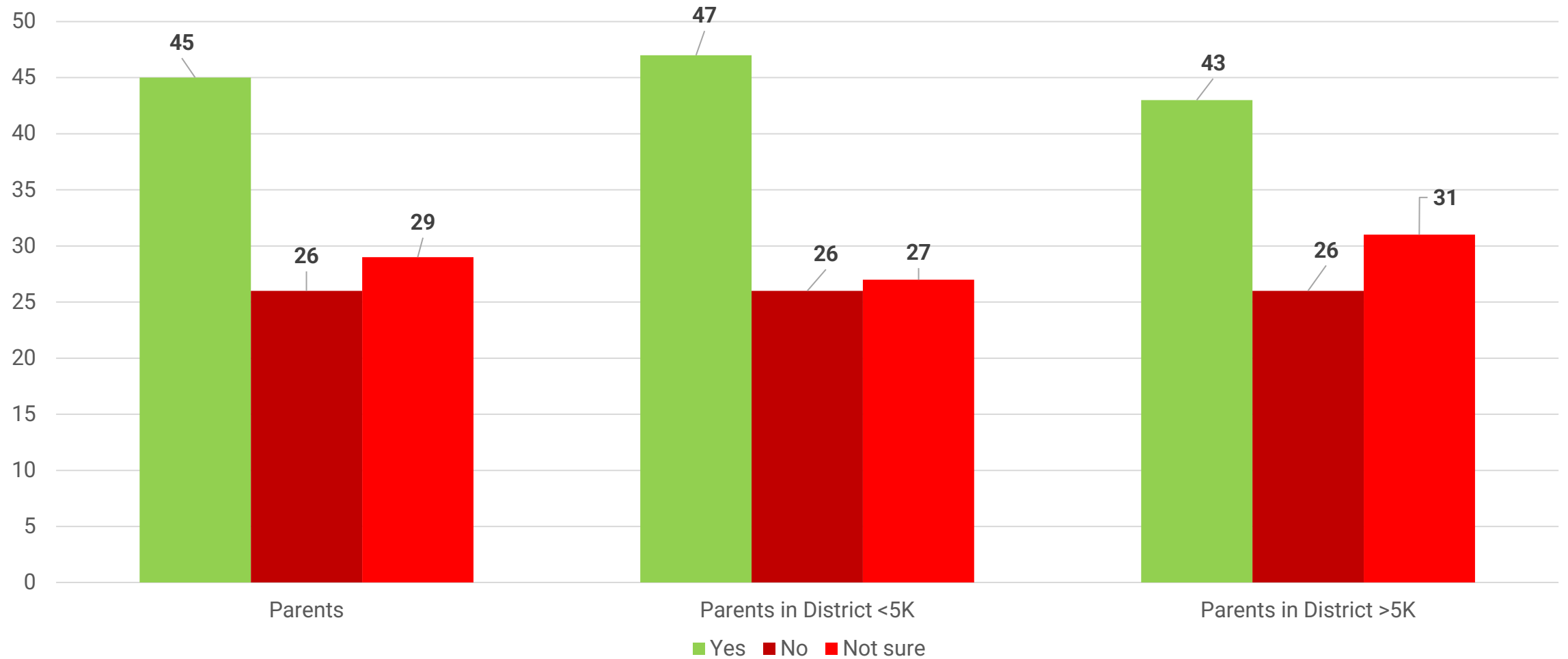
# How significant a role should your child's school play in supporting student mental health?



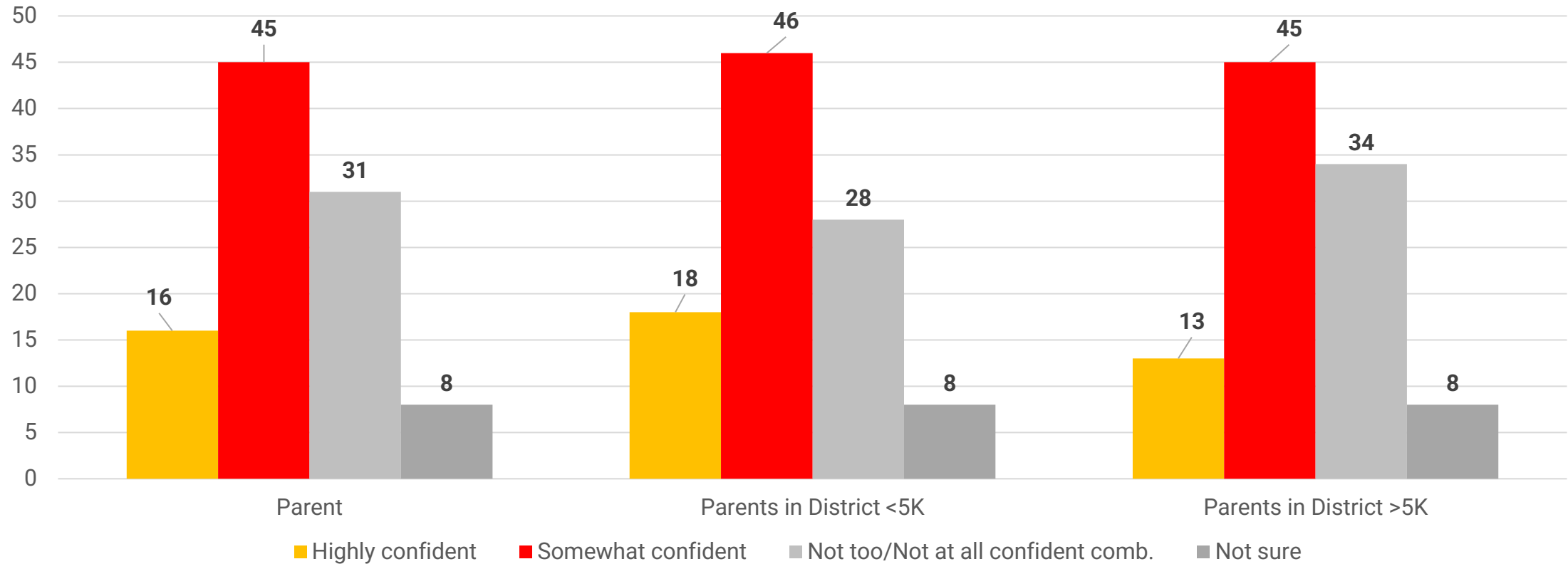
**Over 80% of parents state that schools should play a role in supporting mental health with almost 40% stating that this should be a significant role.**



# Do You Feel Your Child's School Implements Best Practices Around Mental Health?



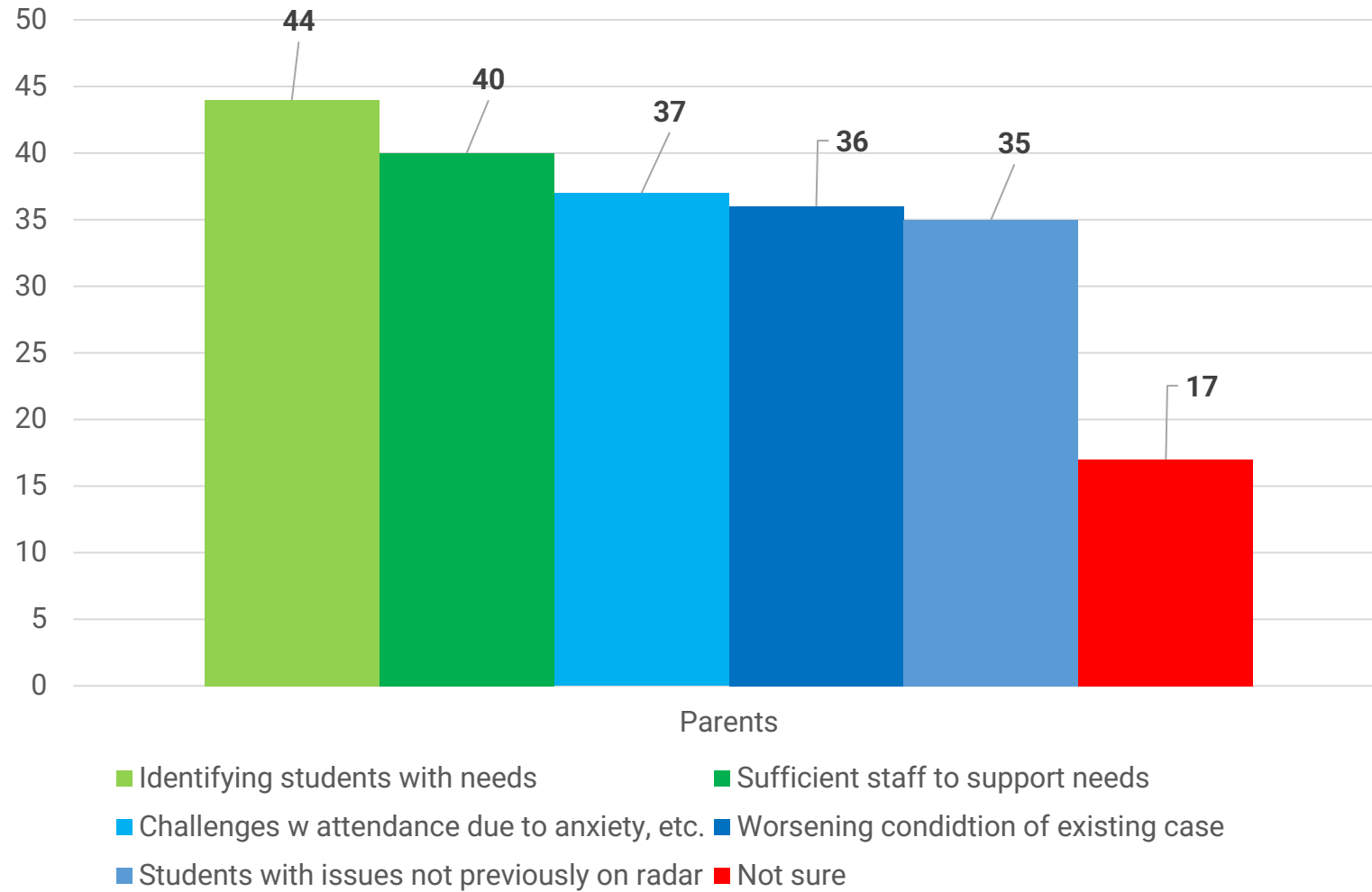
# Overall, how confident are you in school's staff ability to deal with mental health challenges in your child's school?



***See, slide 9 for comparison. Note, 40% of administrators are confident in school's staff to deal with mental health challenges vs. roughly 31% of parents.***

# Top Concerns among Parents

[select all that apply]





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