

# EDUCATIONAL DIFFERENCES IN RECREATIONAL FISHERMAN BEHAVIOR REGARDING SEAFOOD CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

Ebenezer O. Ogunyinka  
David R. Lavergne

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Office of Management and Finance  
Socioeconomic Research and Development Section

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# Background Information

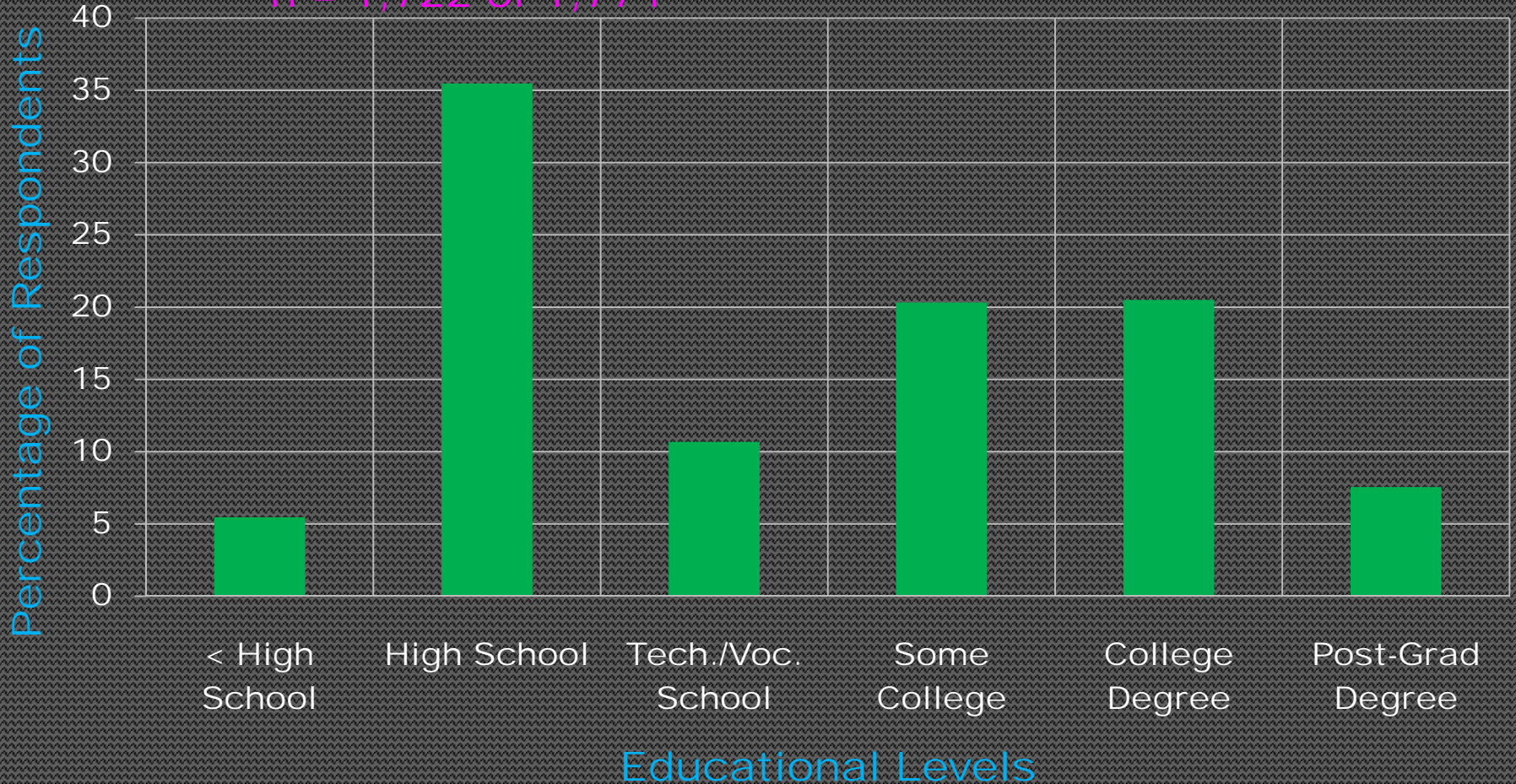
- Objective
  - Identify linkages between recreational fishermen's behavior in response to health/fish consumption advisories and highest education completed
- Data Source
  - 2008 LA Recreational Fisherman and Health Advisory Survey (LDWF-SRD)
- Scope of Survey
  - Activities within 12 month period prior to survey
  - Survey Sections – Freshwater (FW), Saltwater (SW), Fish Consumption and Health Advisory & Demographic Information

# Presentation Focus

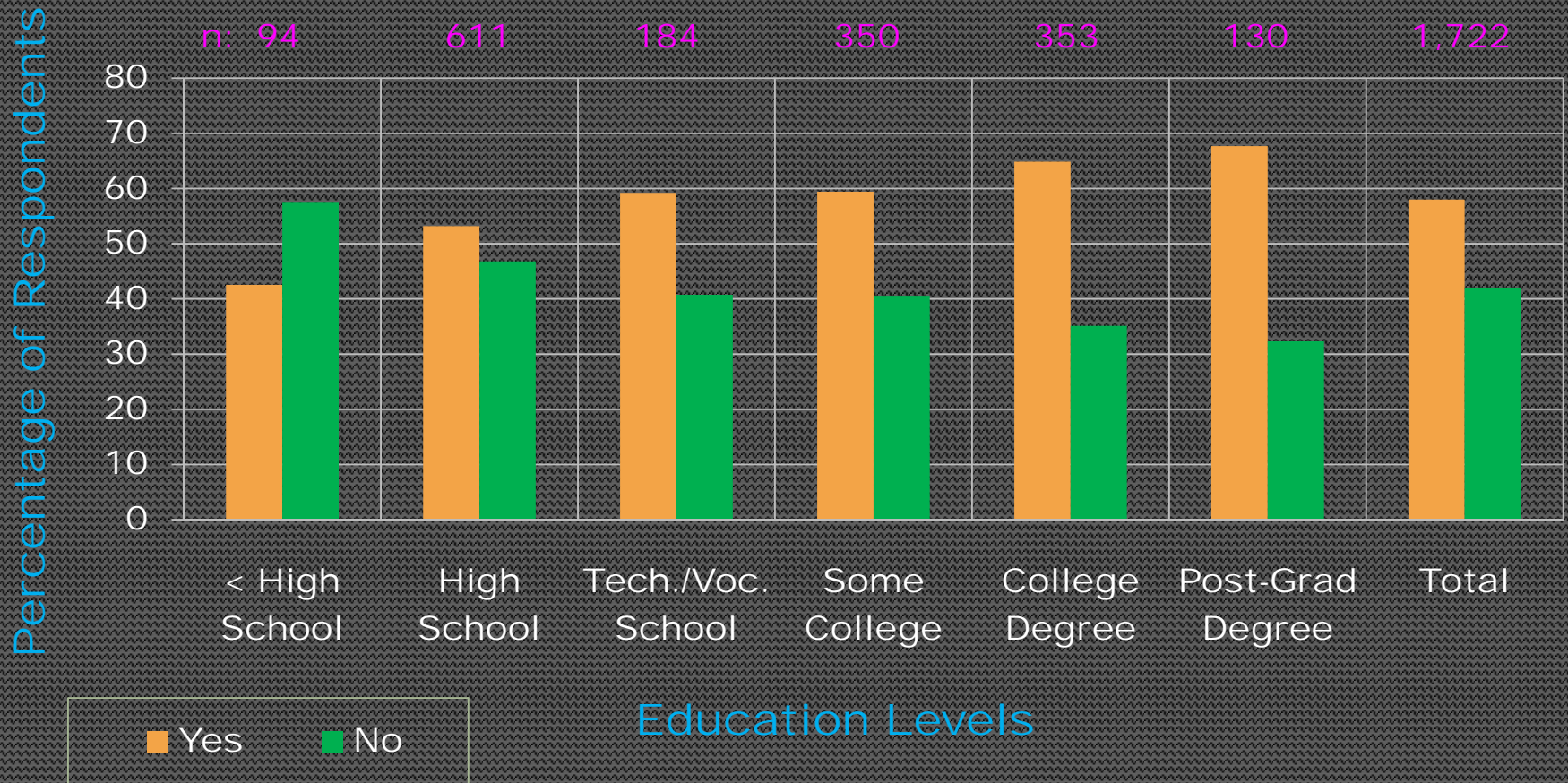
- Highest education completed
  - < High School, High School
  - Tech/Vocational Education and Some College
  - College, Post-Grad
- Awareness of health/fish consumption warnings for LA water bodies and fish species
  - Are they aware? Yes or No?
  - How did they become aware?
  - What did the warnings say?
  - How difficult were the warnings to understand?
- Effect of warnings on fishing activities
- Change in fish eating habits? Yes or No?
- Suggestion on best ways to reach them with info on warnings

# 1. What is the Highest Level of Education that You've Completed? (Check only one)

n = 1,722 of 1,774



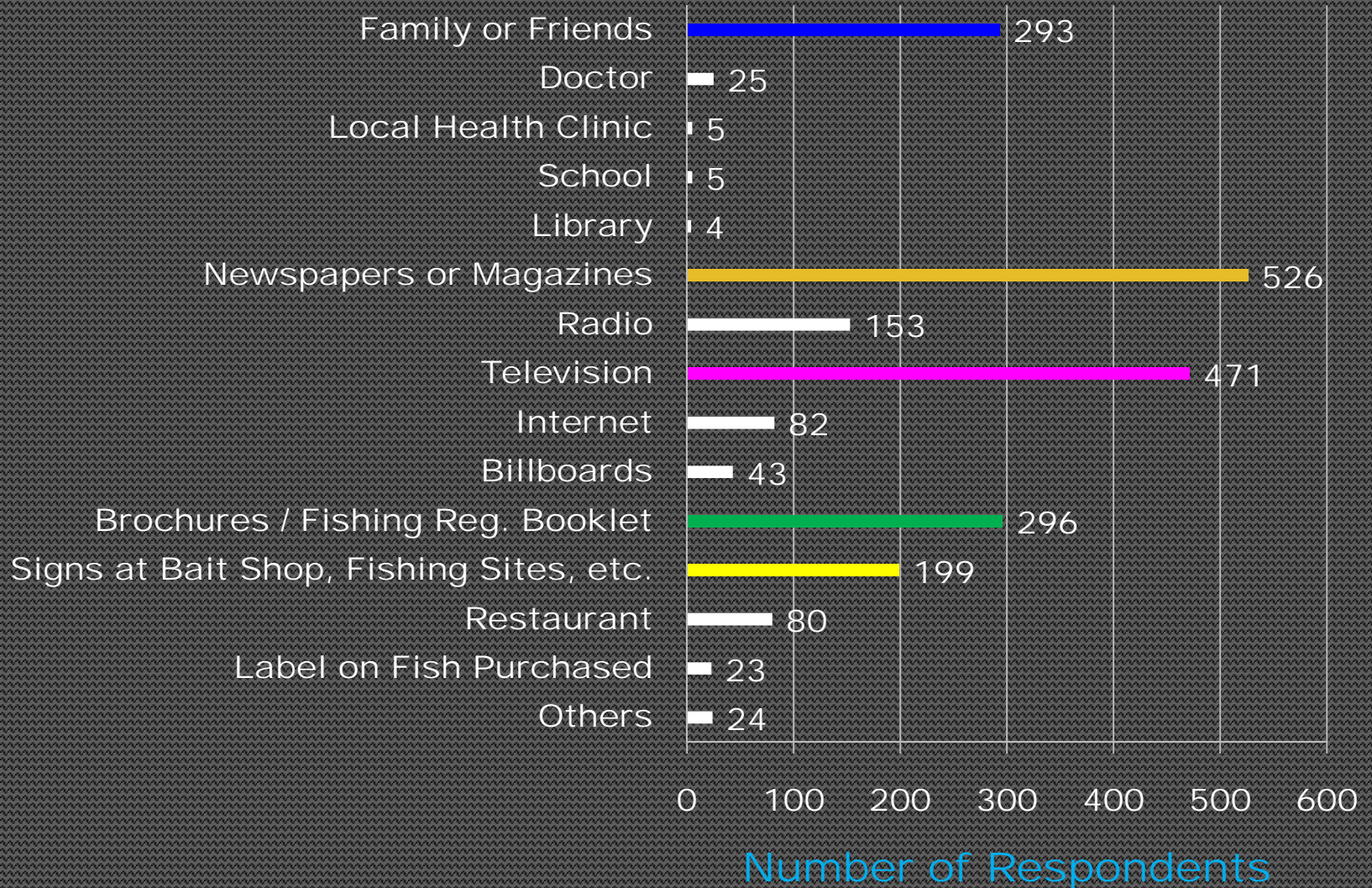
## 2. Have you ever Seen, Heard or Read any Fish Consumption Warnings for LA Waters or Fish Species?



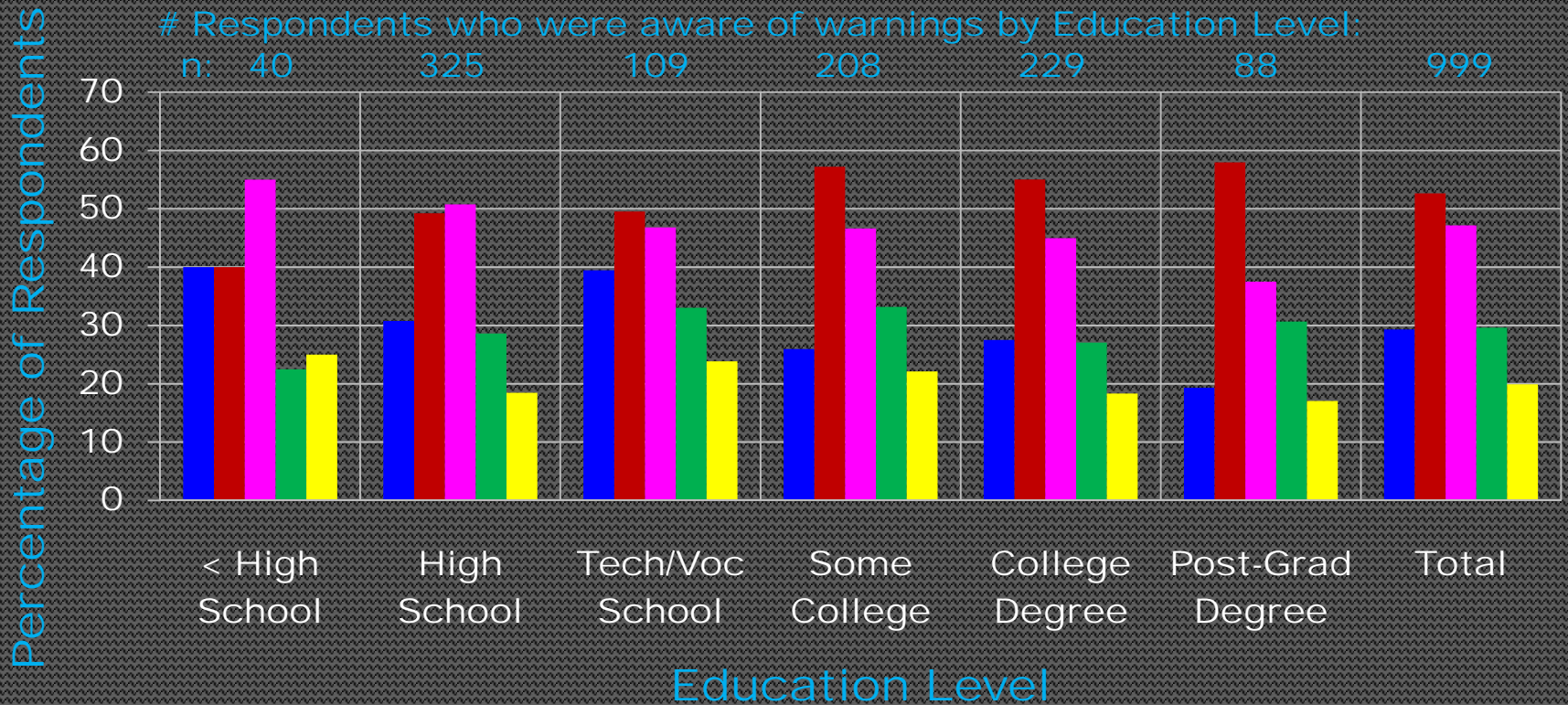
Note: The rest of the presentation is based on the total number of respondents who were aware of warnings and reported their education levels: N = 999

### 3A. How Did You See, Hear or Read about the Warnings? (Check all that apply)

Source of Information on Warnings



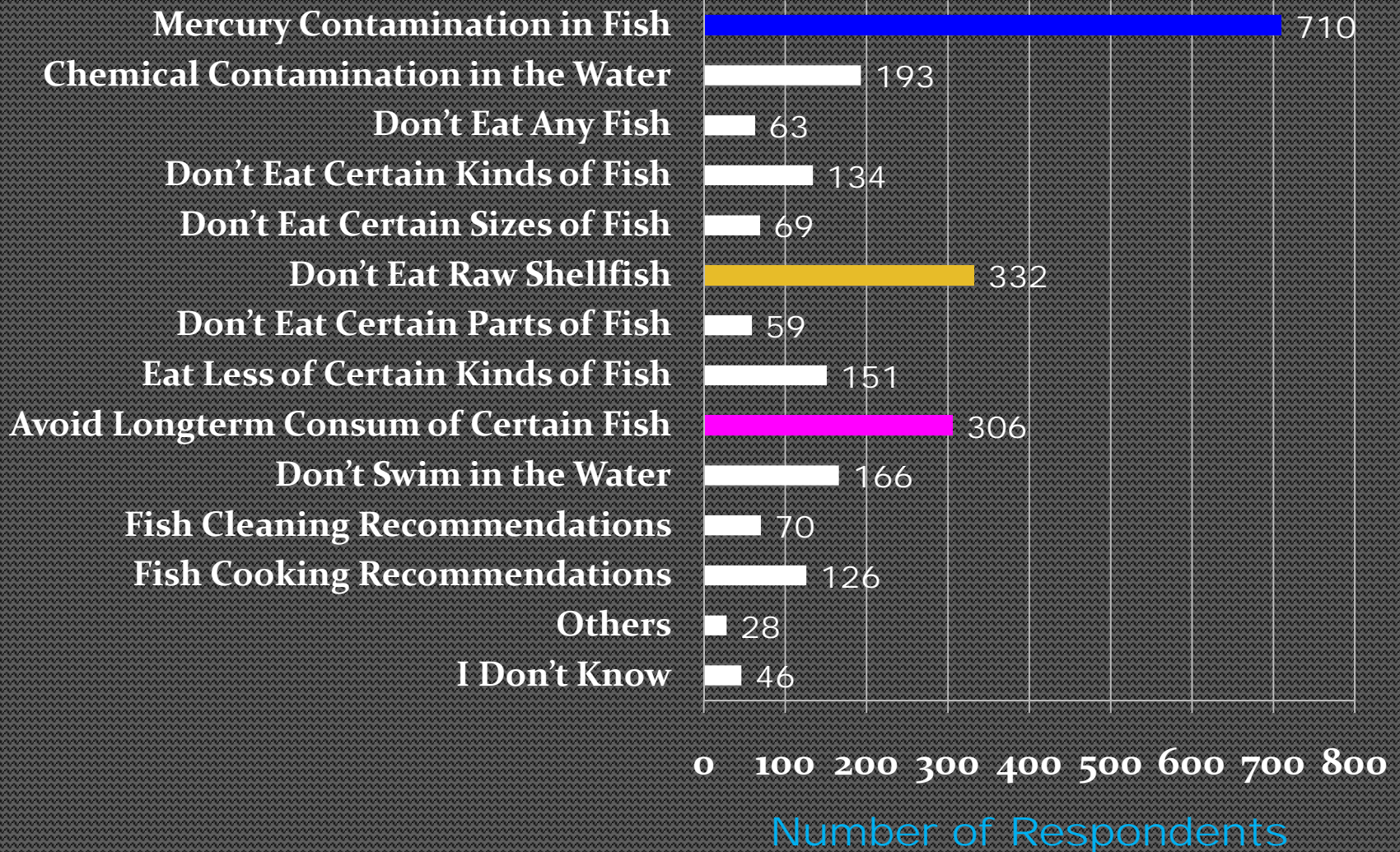
# 3B. How Did You See, Hear or Read about the Warnings? (Check all that apply)



- Family or Friends
- Television
- Signs at Bait Shop, Fishing Sites, etc.
- Newspapers or Magazines
- Brochures / Fishing Reg. Booklet

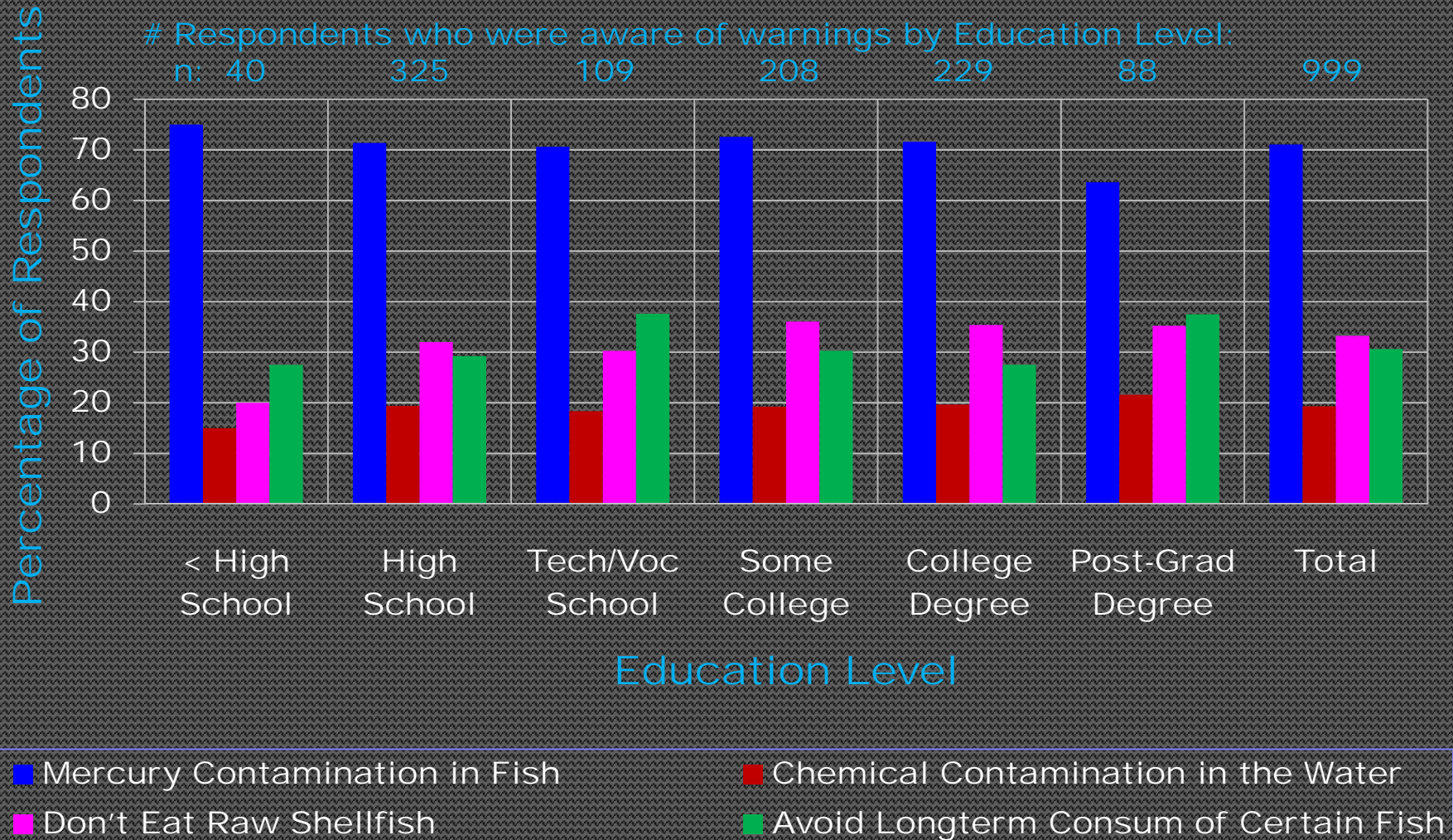
## 4A. What Did the Warnings Say? (Check all that apply)

Contents of Warnings

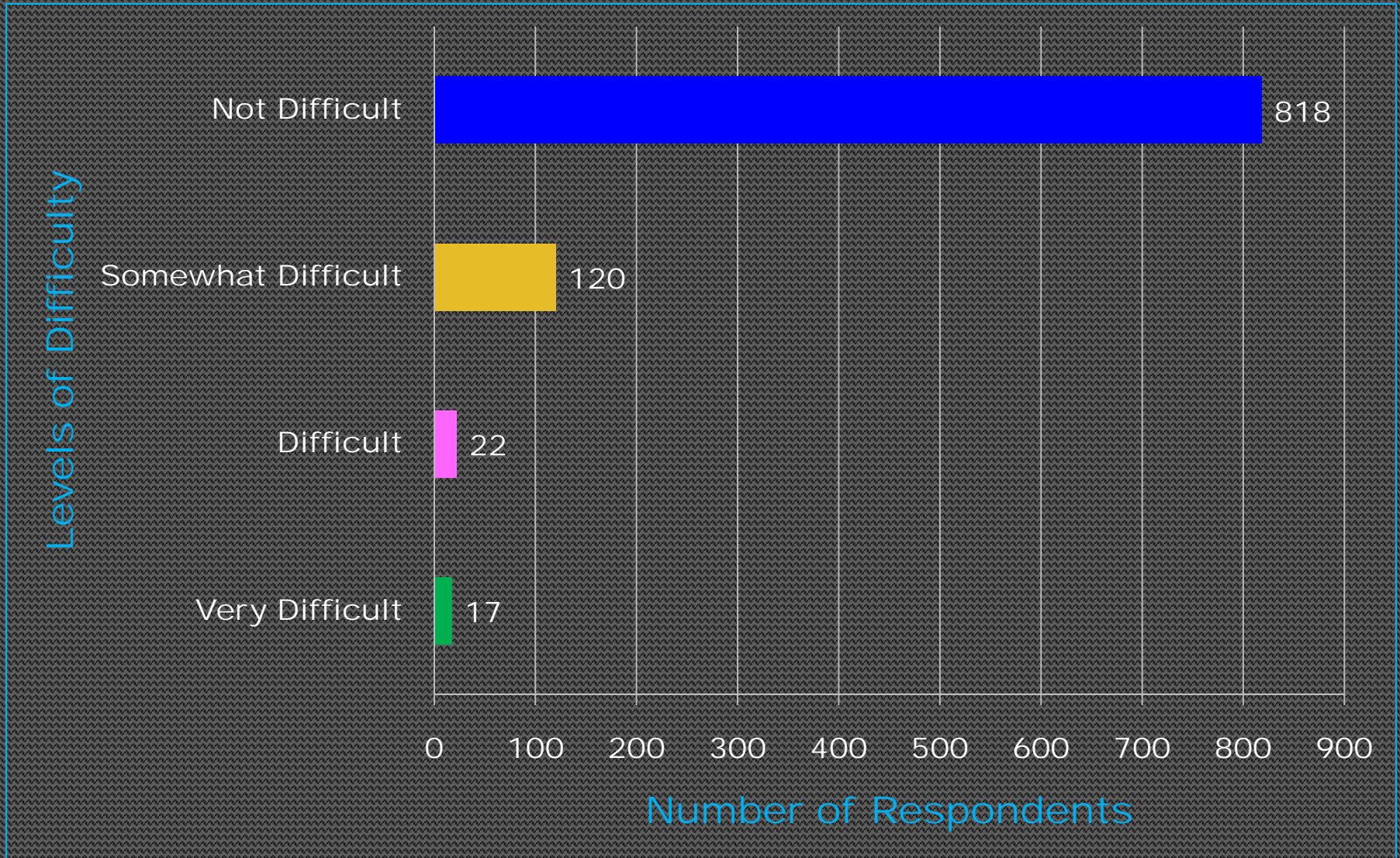




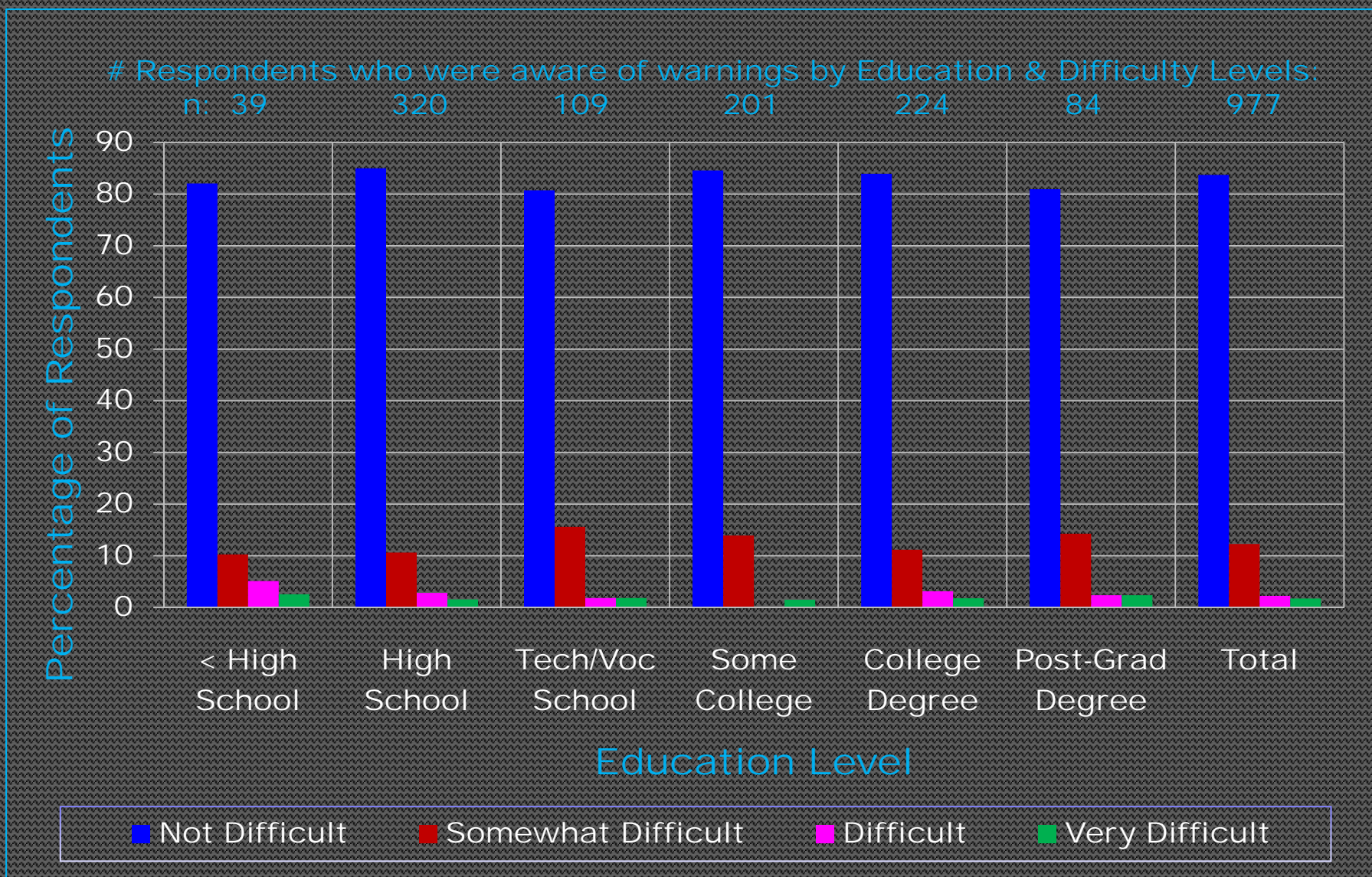
## 4B. What Did the Warnings Say? (Check all that apply)



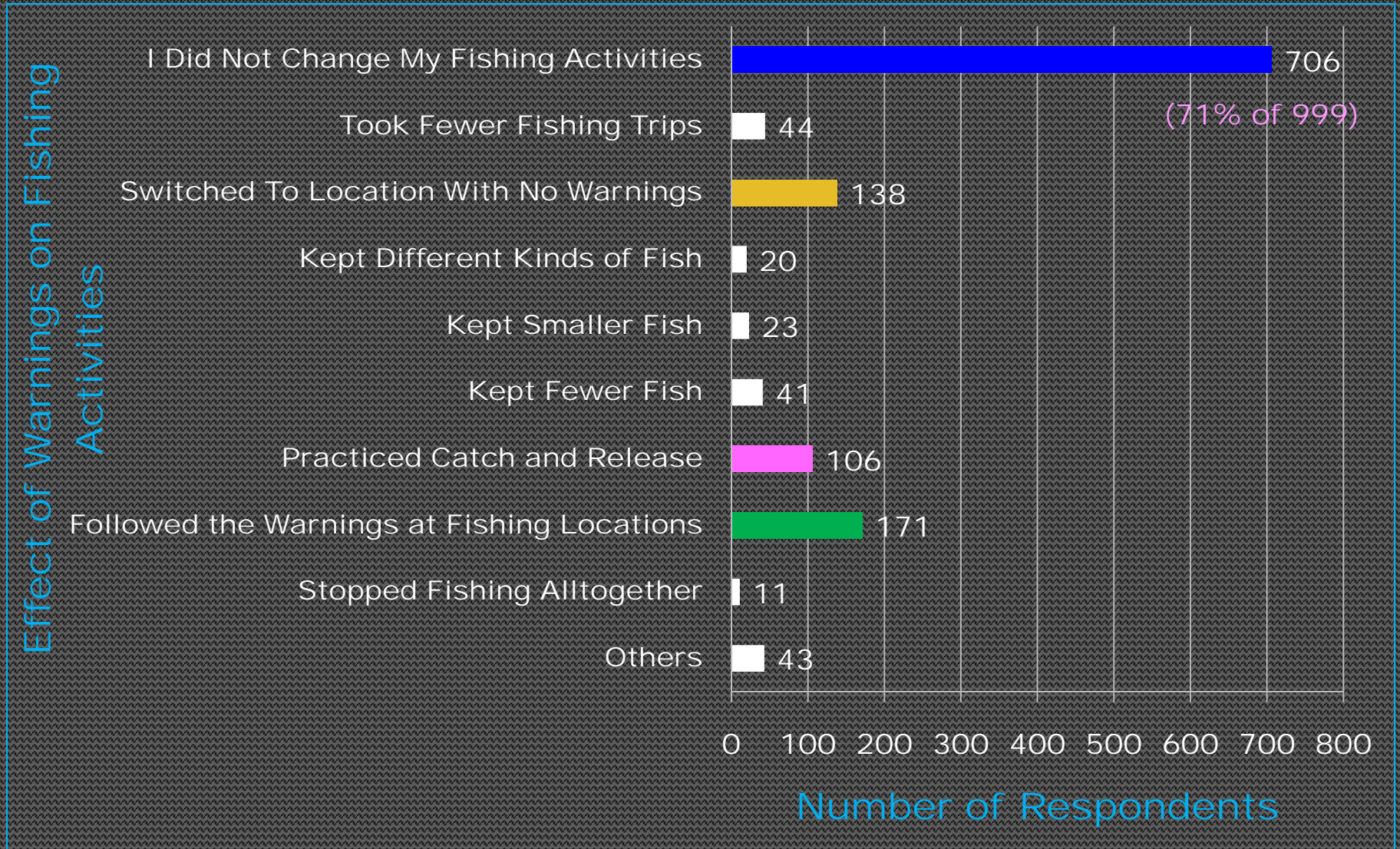
# 5A. How Difficult was the Information in the Warnings to Understand? (Check only one)



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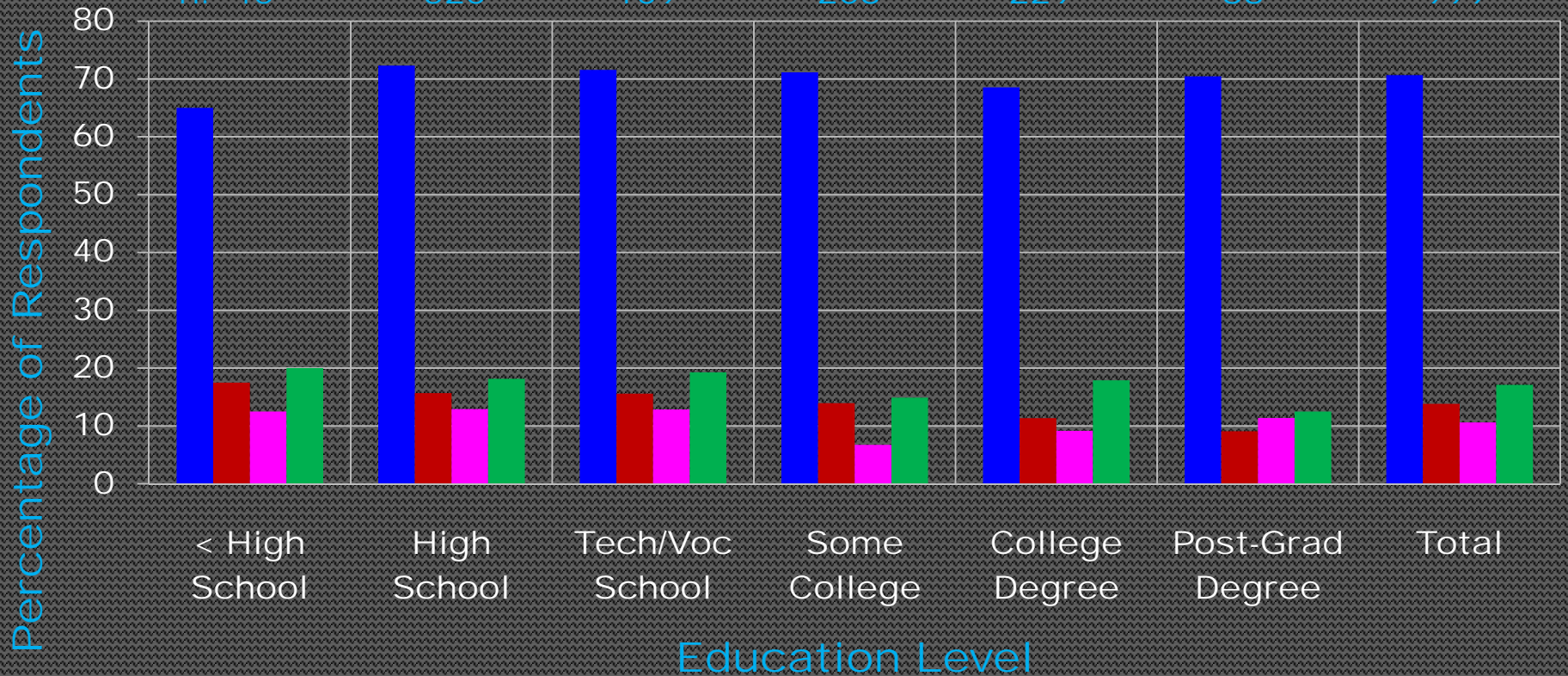
# 6A. How have these Warnings affected your Fishing Activities? (Check all that apply)



# 6B. How have these Warnings affected your Fishing Activities? (Check all that apply)

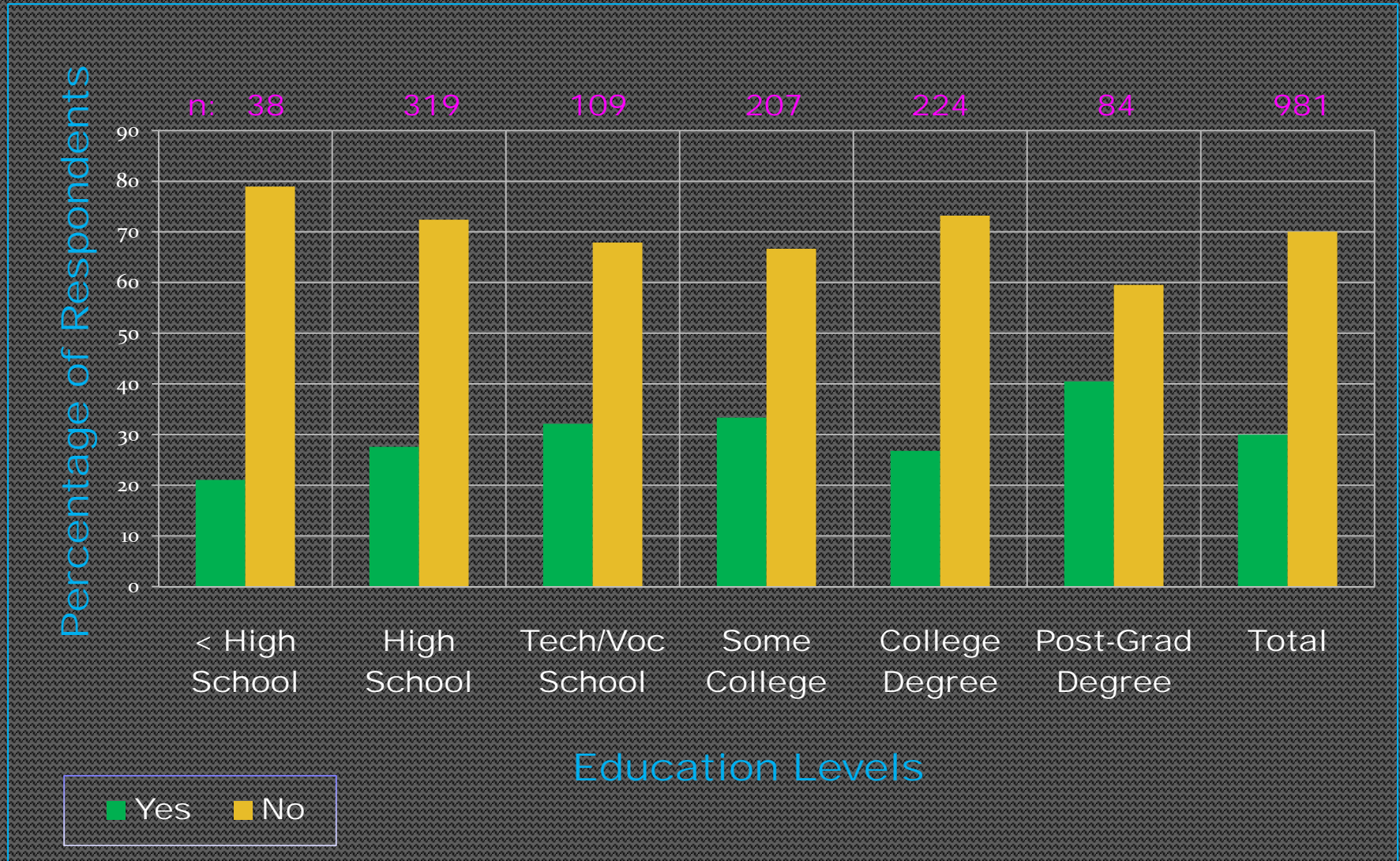
# Respondents who were aware of warnings by Education Level:

n: 40      325      109      208      229      88      999



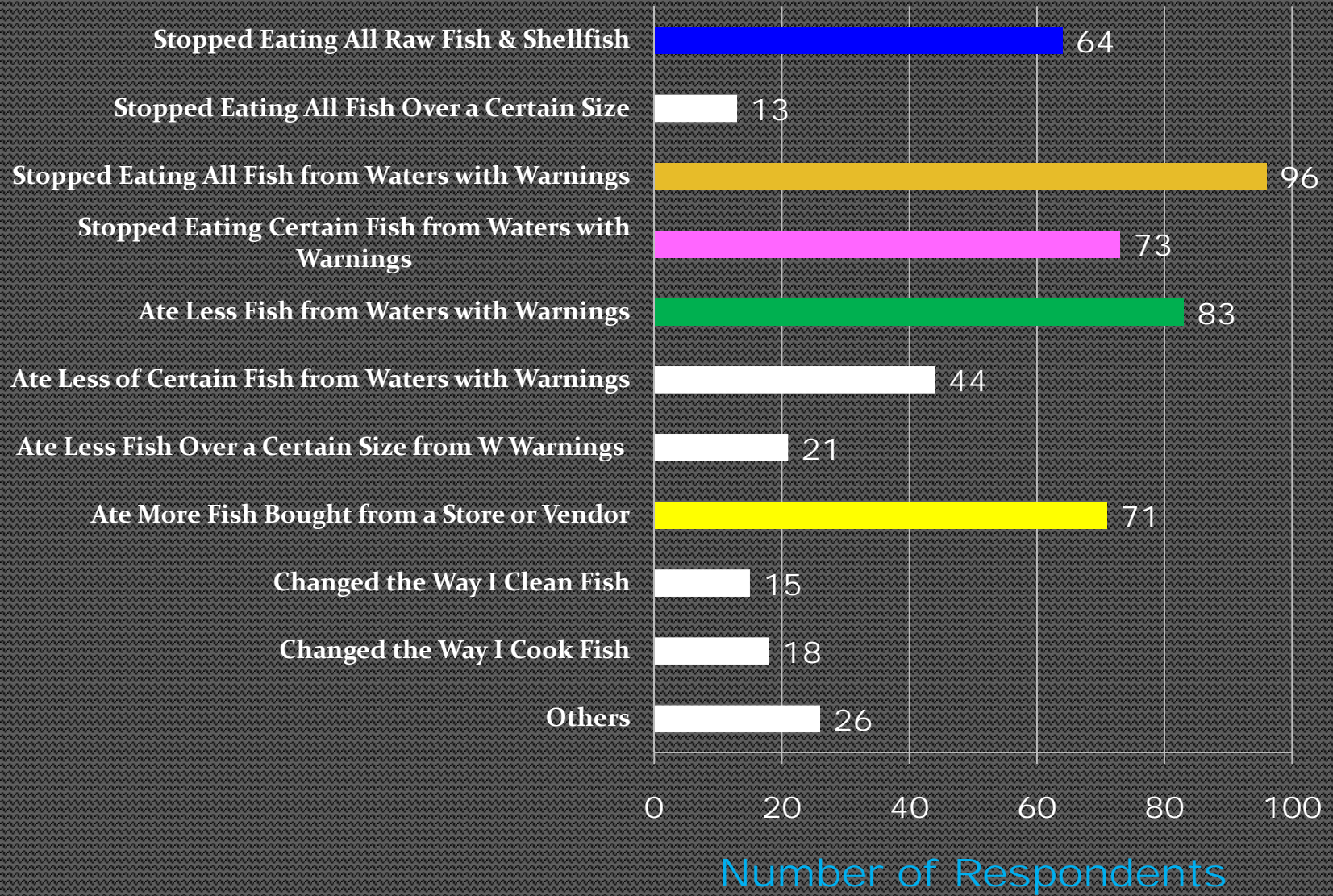
- I Did Not Change My Fishing Activities
- Switched To Location With No Warnings
- Practiced Catch and Release
- Followed the Warnings at Fishing Locations

# 7. Have you changed your Fish Eating Habits Because of these Warnings?



# 8A. If you have Changed your Fish Eating Habits, then How Have they Changed? (Check all that apply)

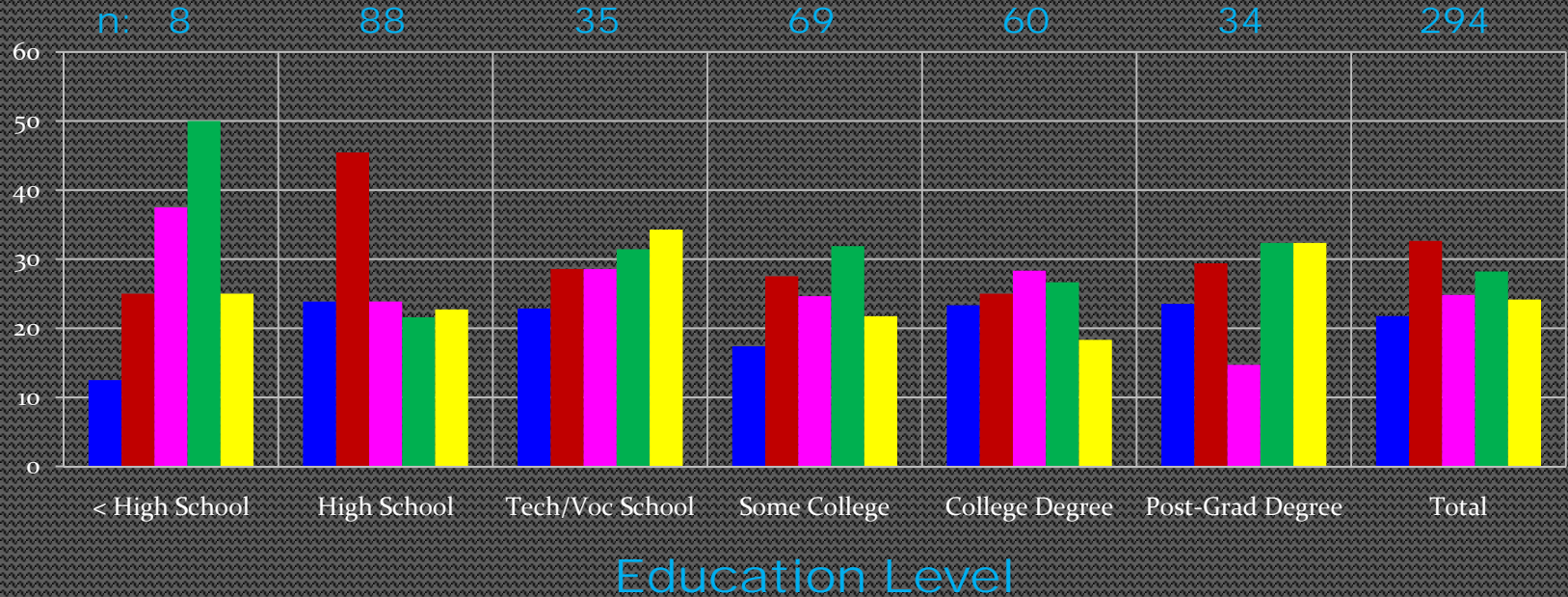
How Fish Eating Habits Changed



# 8B. If you have Changed your Fish Eating Habits, then How Have they Changed? (Check all that apply)

Percentage of Respondents

# Respondents Who Changed Fish Eating Habits by Education Level:

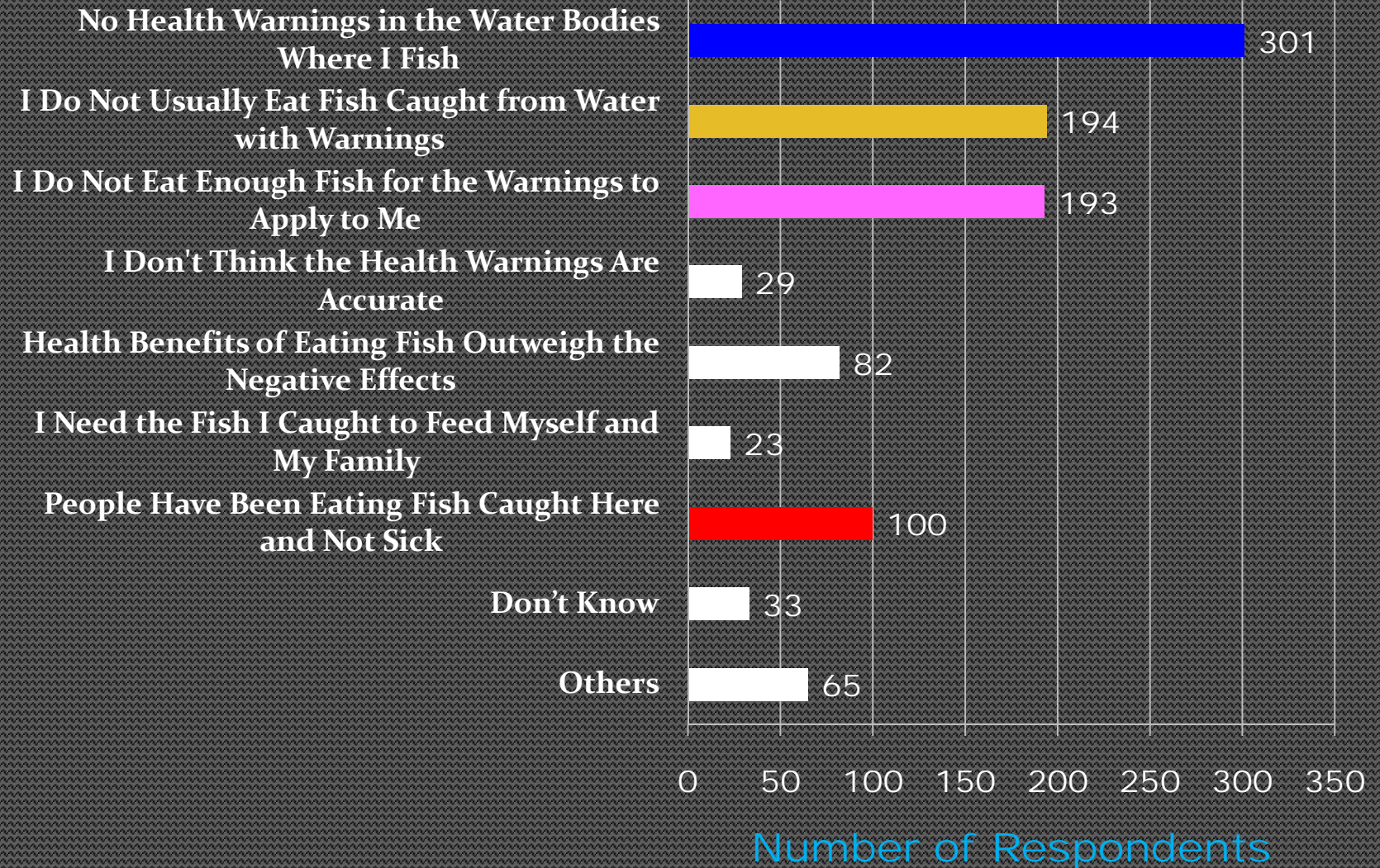


- Stopped Eating All Raw Fish & Shellfish
- Stopped Eating All Fish from Waters with Warnings
- Stopped Eating Certain Fish from Waters with Warnings
- Ate Less Fish from Waters with Warnings
- Ate More Fish Bought from a Store or Vendor



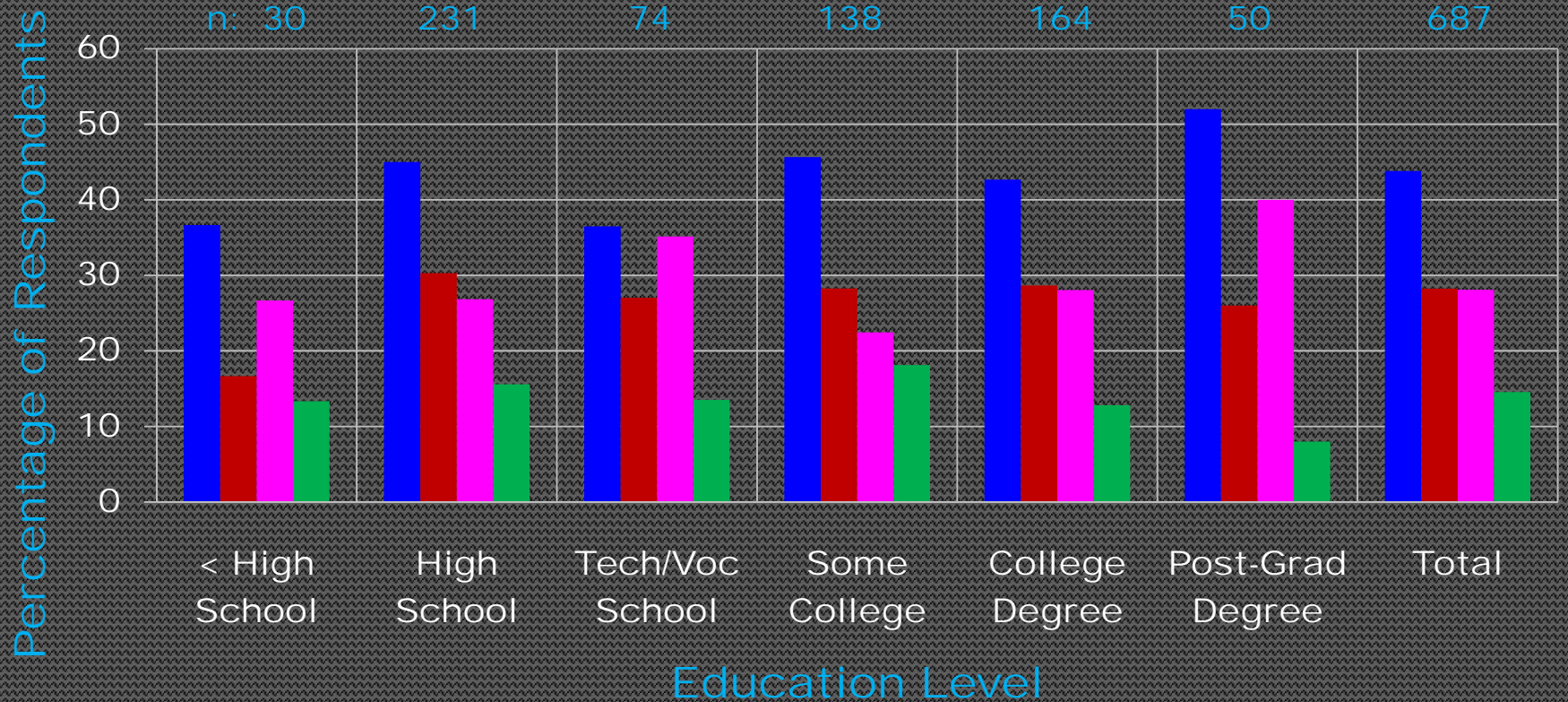
# 9A. If you did not Change your Fish Eating Habits, then Why did you not Change? (Check all that apply)

Why Fish Eating Habits Didn't Change



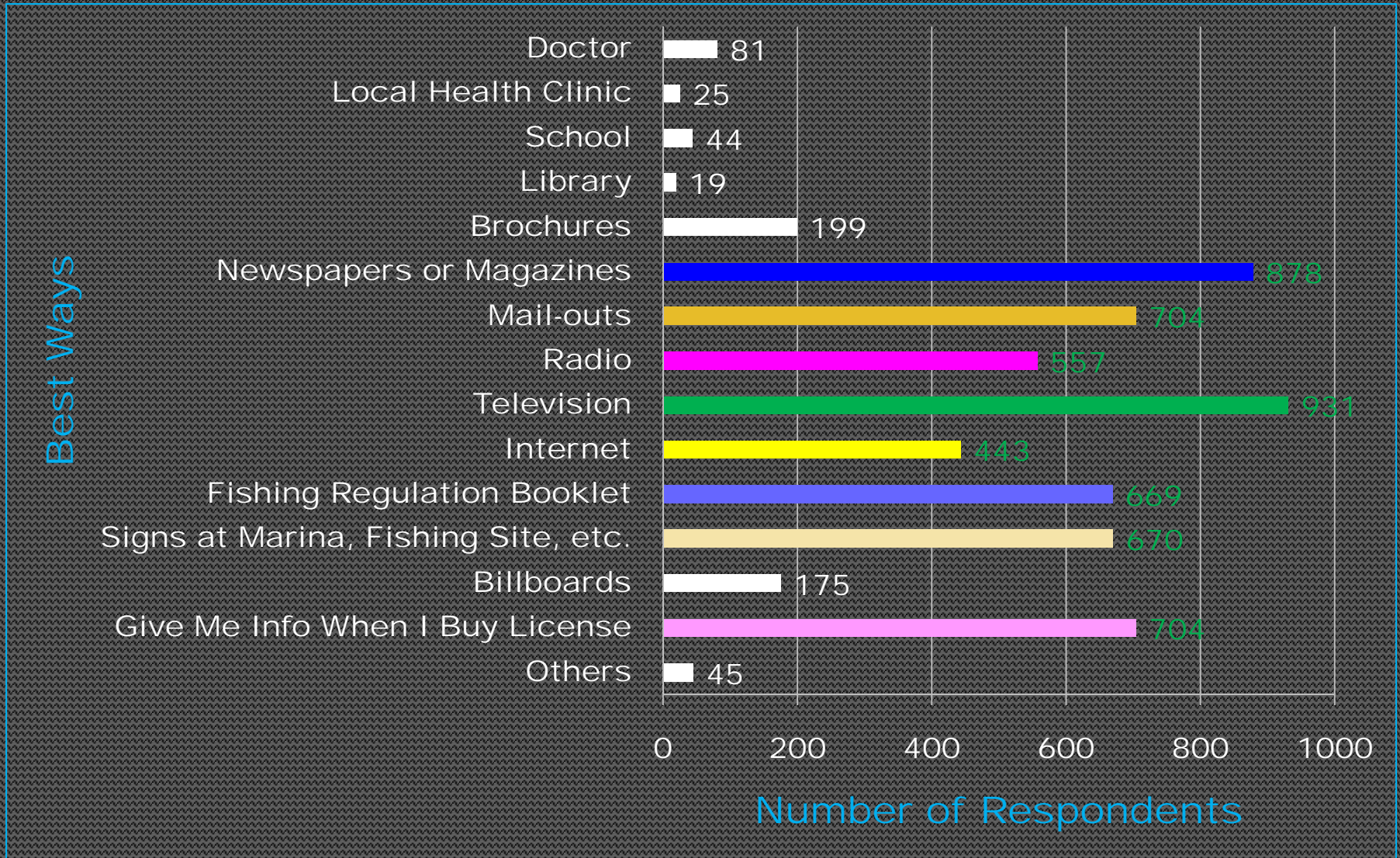
# 9B. If you did not Change your Fish Eating Habits, then Why did you not Change? (Check all that apply)

# Respondents Who Didn't Change Fish Eating Habits by Education Level:

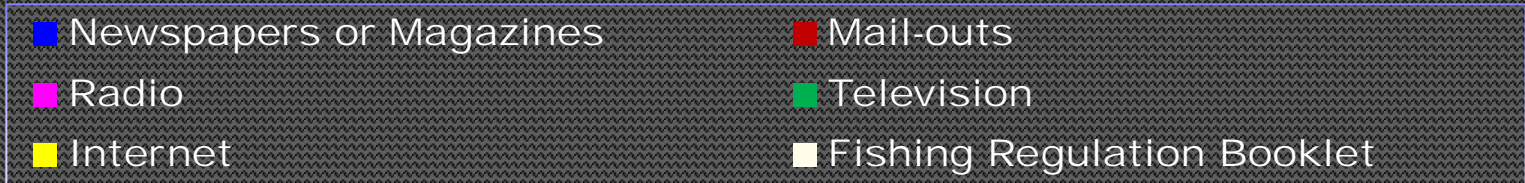
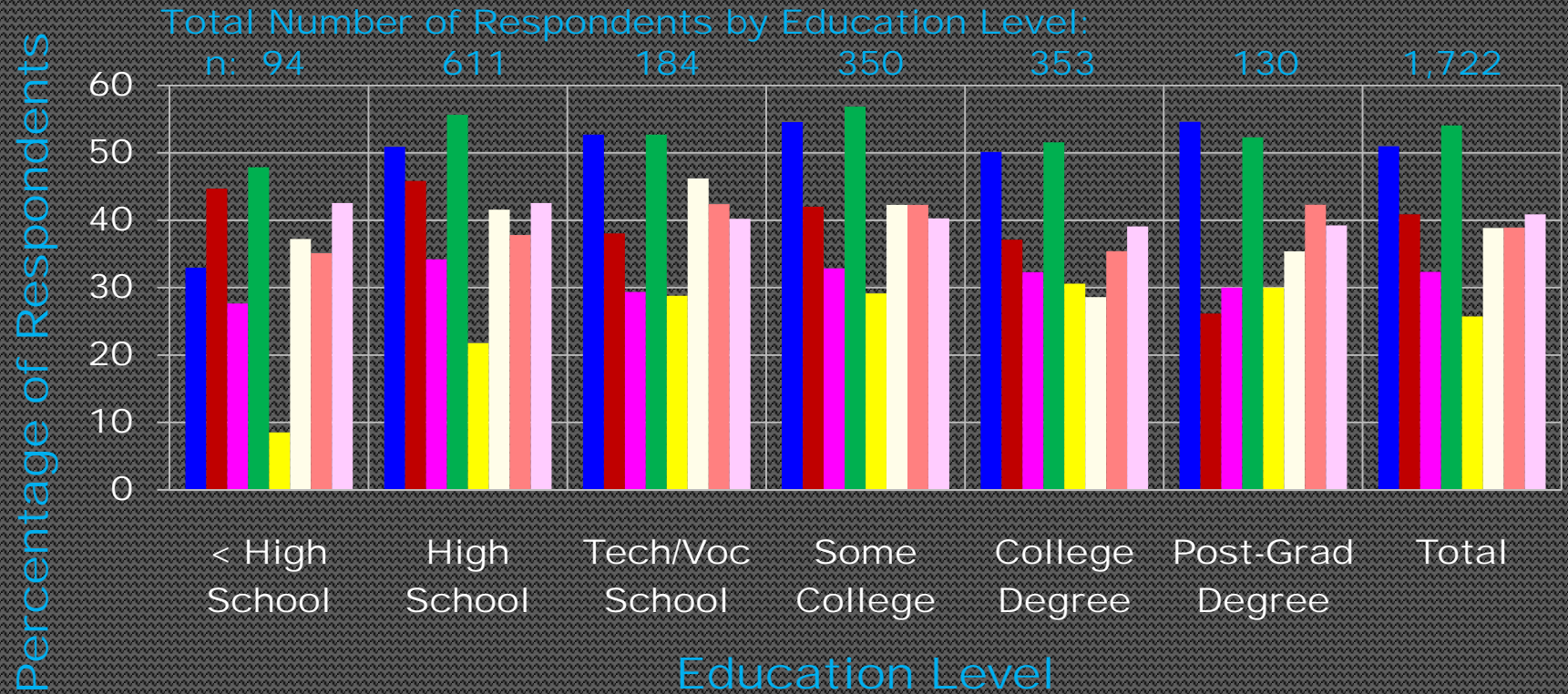


- No Health Warnings in the Water Bodies Where I Fish
- I Do Not Usually Eat Fish Caught from Water with Warnings
- I Do Not Eat Enough Fish for the Warnings to Apply to Me
- People Have Been Eating Fish Caught Here and Not Sick

# 10A. What are the Best Ways to reach you with Information about Rec. Fishing and H/FC Warnings? (Check all that apply)



# 10B. What are the Best Ways to reach you with Information about Rec. Fishing and H/FC Warnings? (Check all that apply)



# Summary & Conclusion

- Awareness of health/fish consumption warnings rose with education.
- Only among respondents with less than high school education was the majority (~ 58%) unaware of warnings.
- Mercury contamination in fish was the top warning reported by the majority of respondents (62-75%) across education levels.
- Majority of respondents (> 80%) across education levels had no difficulties in understanding what the warnings say.
- Majority of respondents (65-72%) across education levels didn't change their fishing activities. Most of the few that changed fishing activities followed warnings at fishing locations.

# Summary & Conclusion

- Variations exist in how education levels have affected fish eating habits.
- Variations exist in how education levels have influenced respondents who did not change fish eating habits.
- Variations exist in respondents' preferences for sources of information on warnings. Preference for the internet rose with education.

## Contact Information

Ebenezer Ogunyinka  
LA Dept. Wildlife & Fisheries  
Socioeconomics Section  
P. O. Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000  
Tel.: (225) 763 3957  
E-mail: [eogunyinka@wlf.la.gov](mailto:eogunyinka@wlf.la.gov)

Website Link :

2008 LA Recreational Fisherman and Health Advisory Survey Report  
<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/pdfs/research/Survey%20Report.pdf>