

Hurricane Sandy Exploratory Survey

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Post-Sandy Exploratory Survey

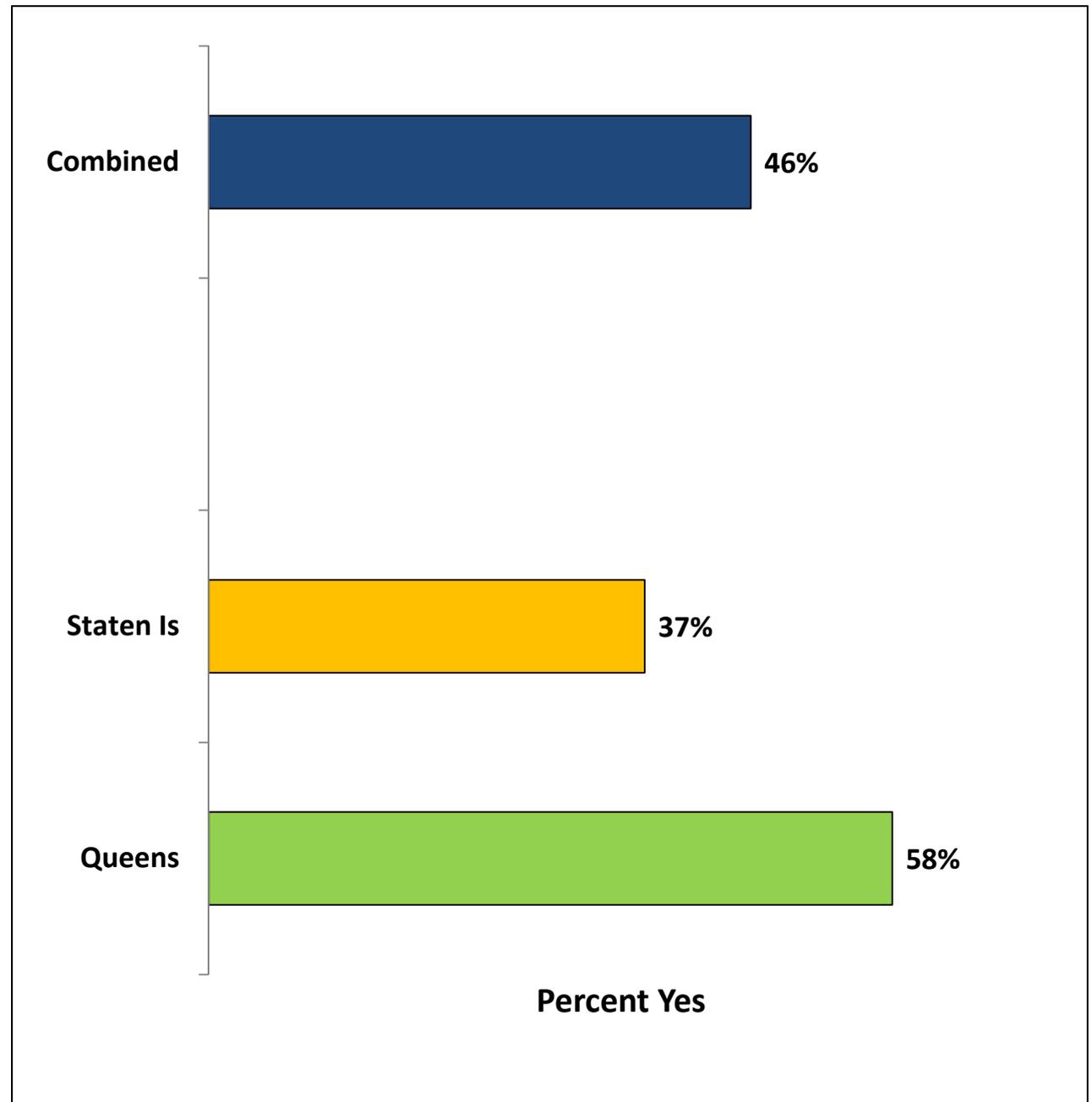
Methodology

- Landline Telephone survey
- Interviewed 89 residents in Evacuation Zone A in Queens (n=38) and Staten Island (n=51)
- N=89 => 90% confidence +/- 5% to 10%
- February 2013

Did you leave your home before Sandy to go someplace safer?

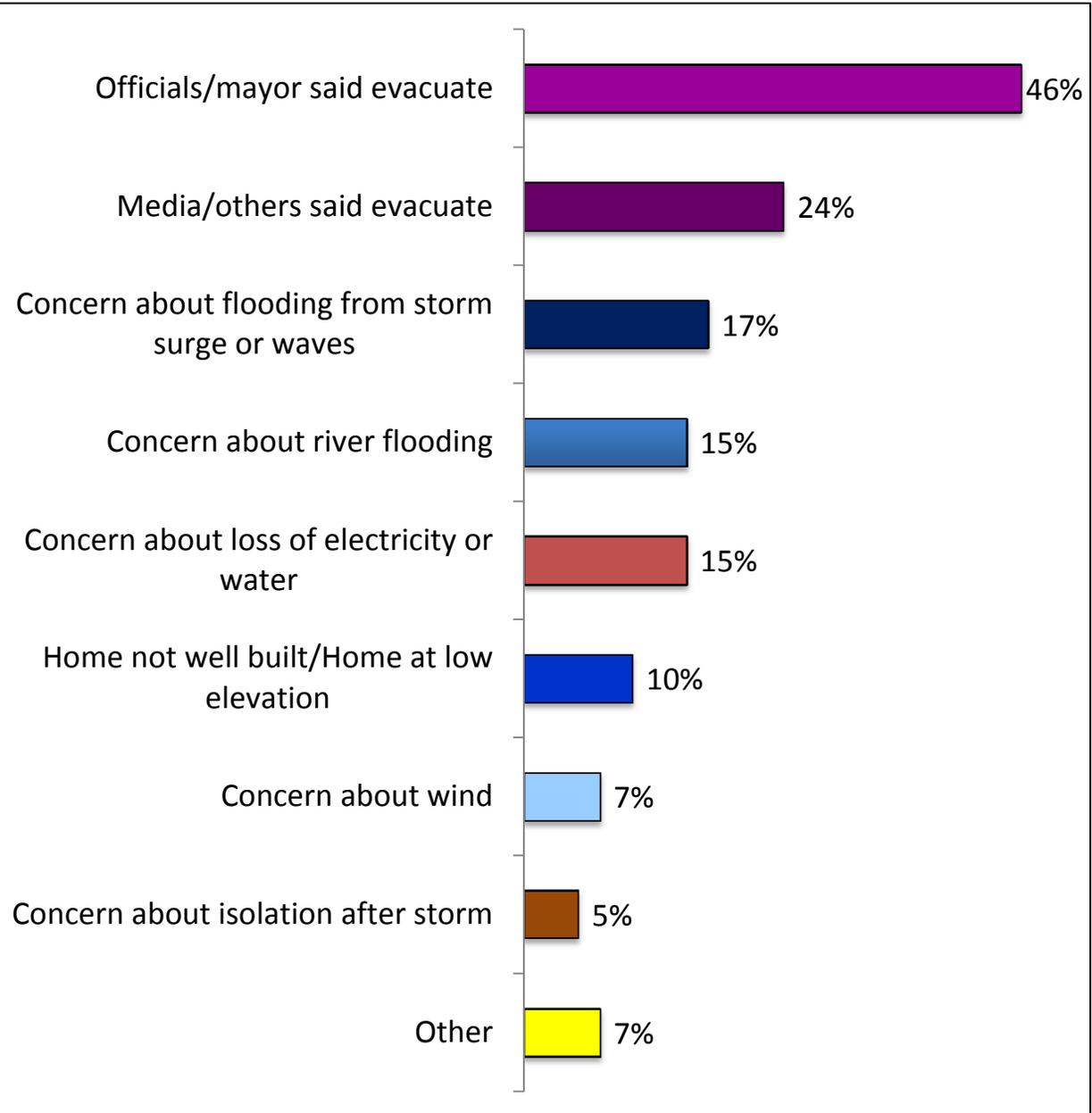
Overall, 46% of the 89 respondents said they evacuated for Sandy.

The percentage was greater in Queens (58%) than in Staten Island (37%). [$P(\chi^2) = .04$]



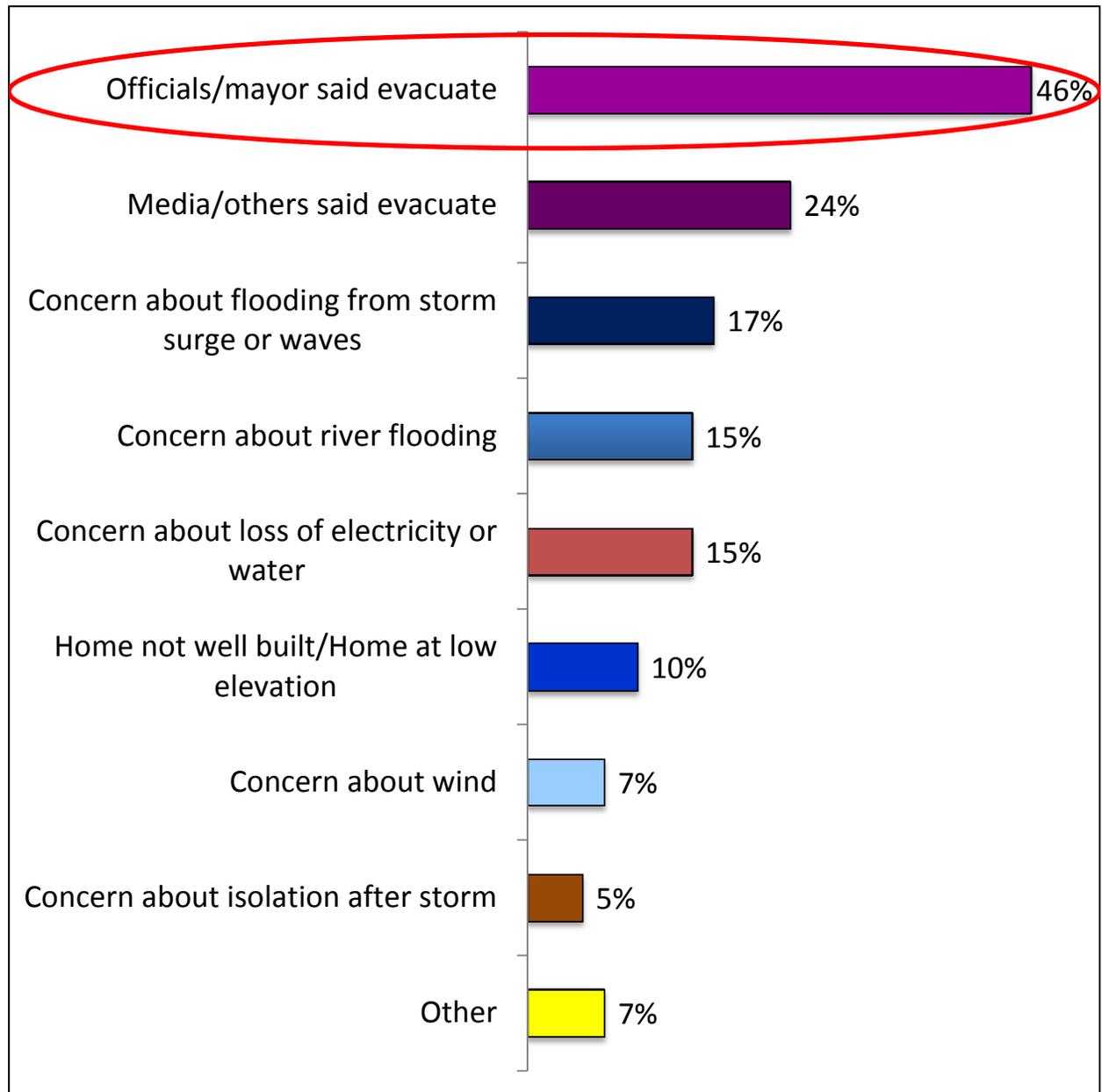
What made you decide to go someplace safer?

Evacuees were asked why they decided to go someplace safer. Responses were categorized, and more than one response was permitted, causing sums to exceed 100%



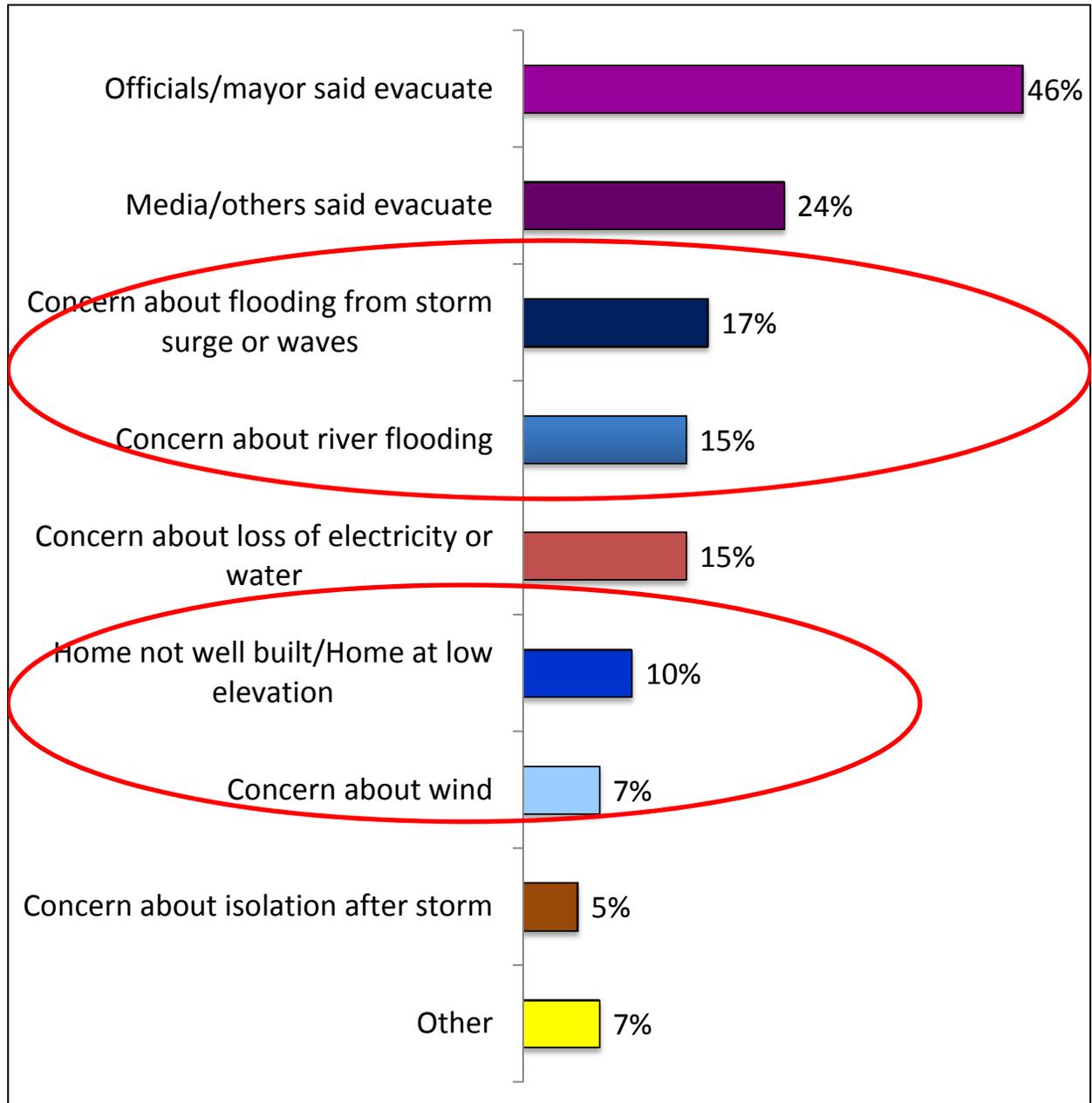
What made you decide to go someplace safer?

The plurality of evacuees cited advice or orders from the mayor or other public officials as their motivation for leaving.



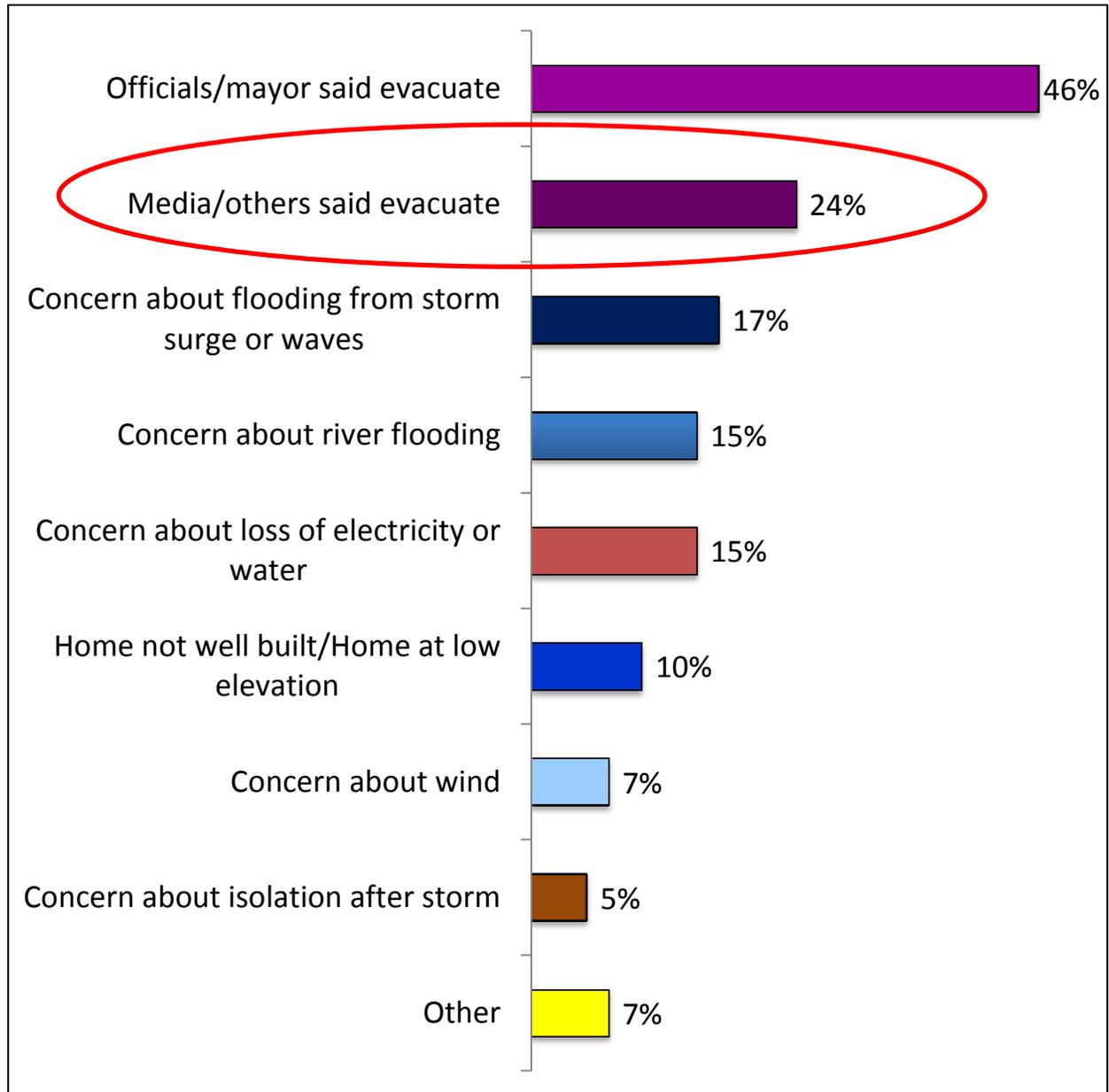
What made you decide to go someplace safer?

Many evacuees mentioned perceived vulnerability as a reason for leaving. If the four responses were combined they would constitute the largest response category (49%).



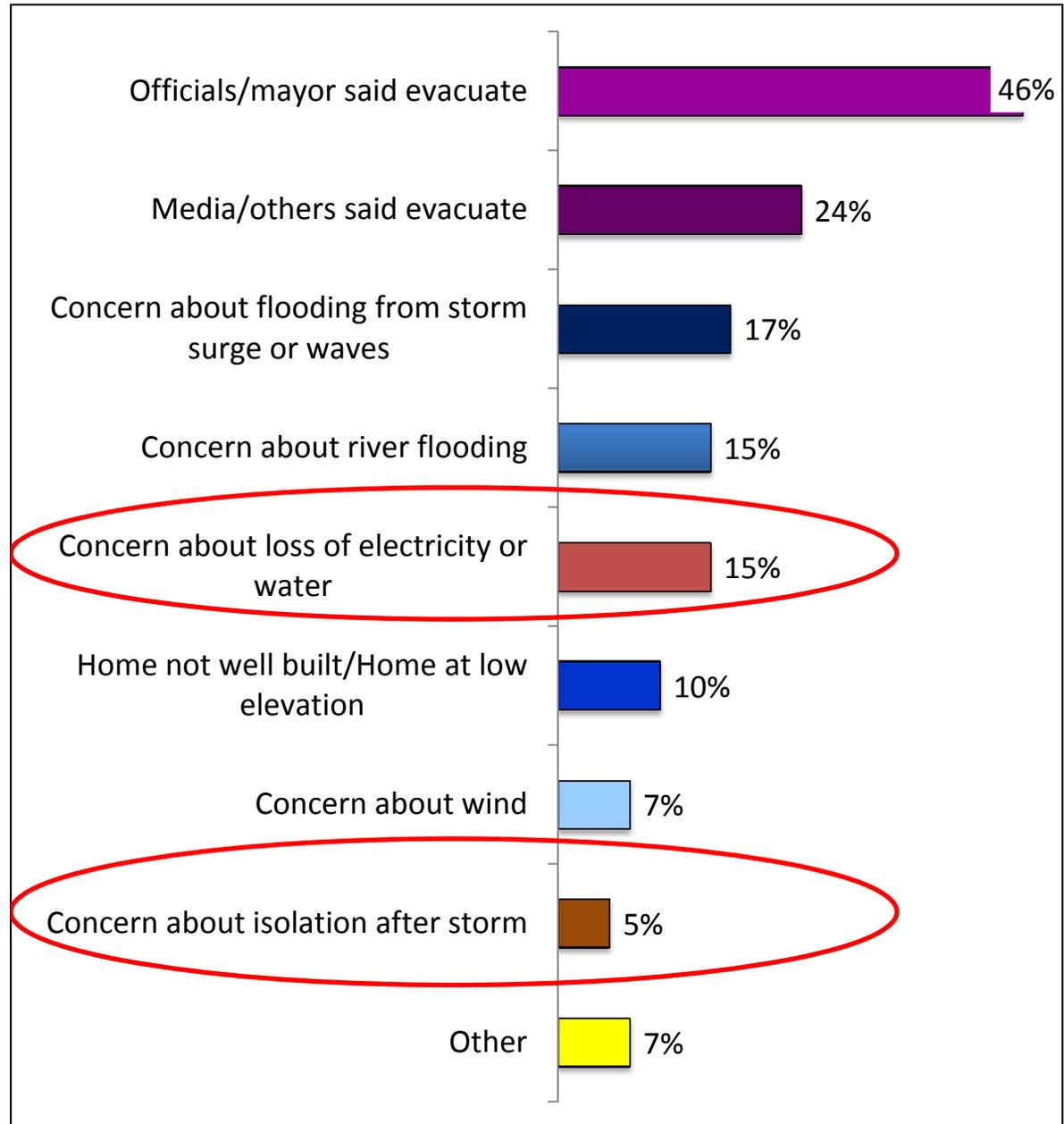
What made you decide to go someplace safer?

Almost one –in-four people said advice or appeals from others – primarily media or friends and relatives – were why they evacuated.



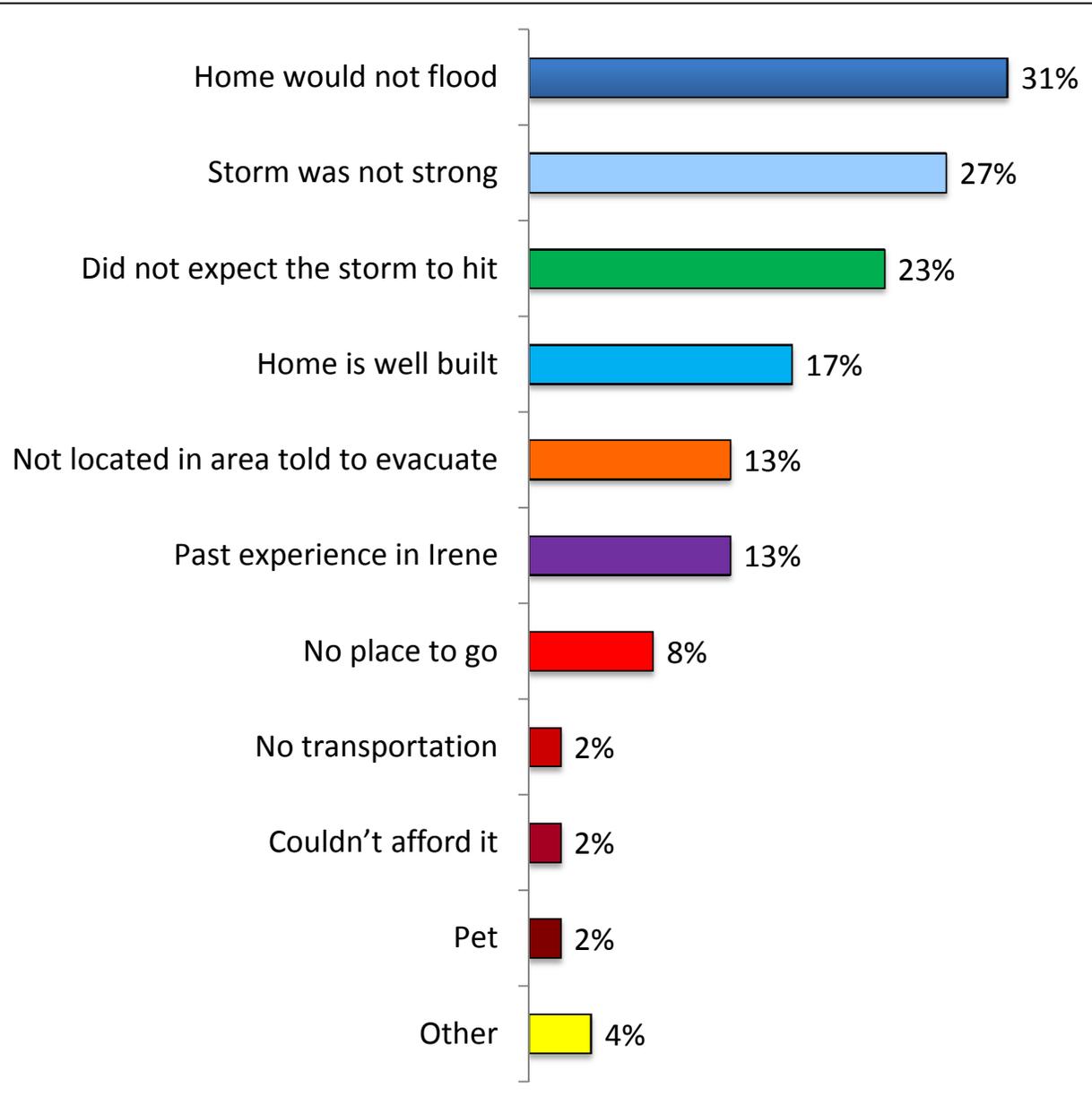
What made you decide to go someplace safer?

20% cited concerns about being without electricity or water or being isolated during and after the storm.



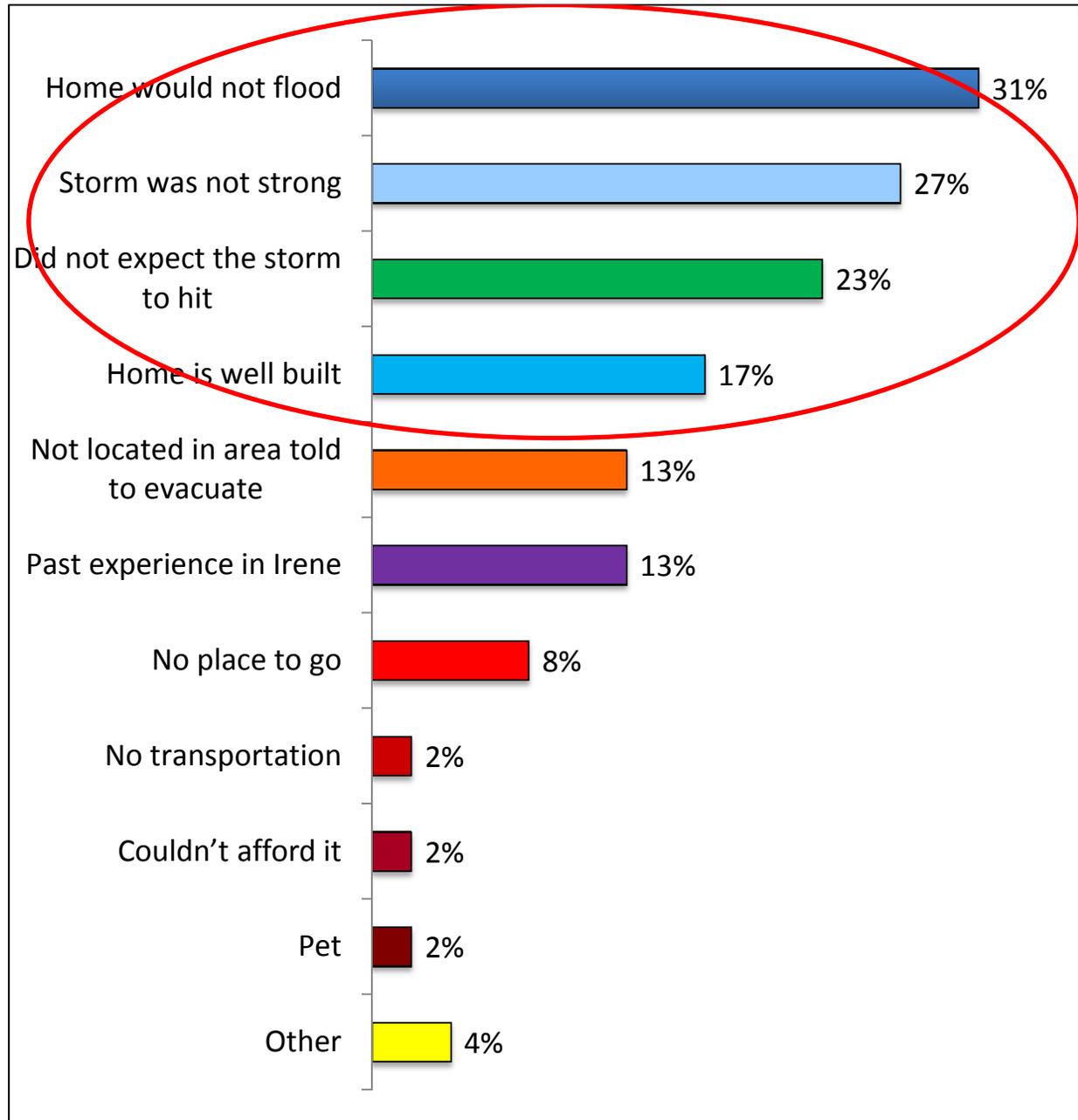
What made you decide not to go someplace safer?

Respondents who didn't evacuate were asked why not. Again, responses were grouped into categories, and more than one response was accepted.



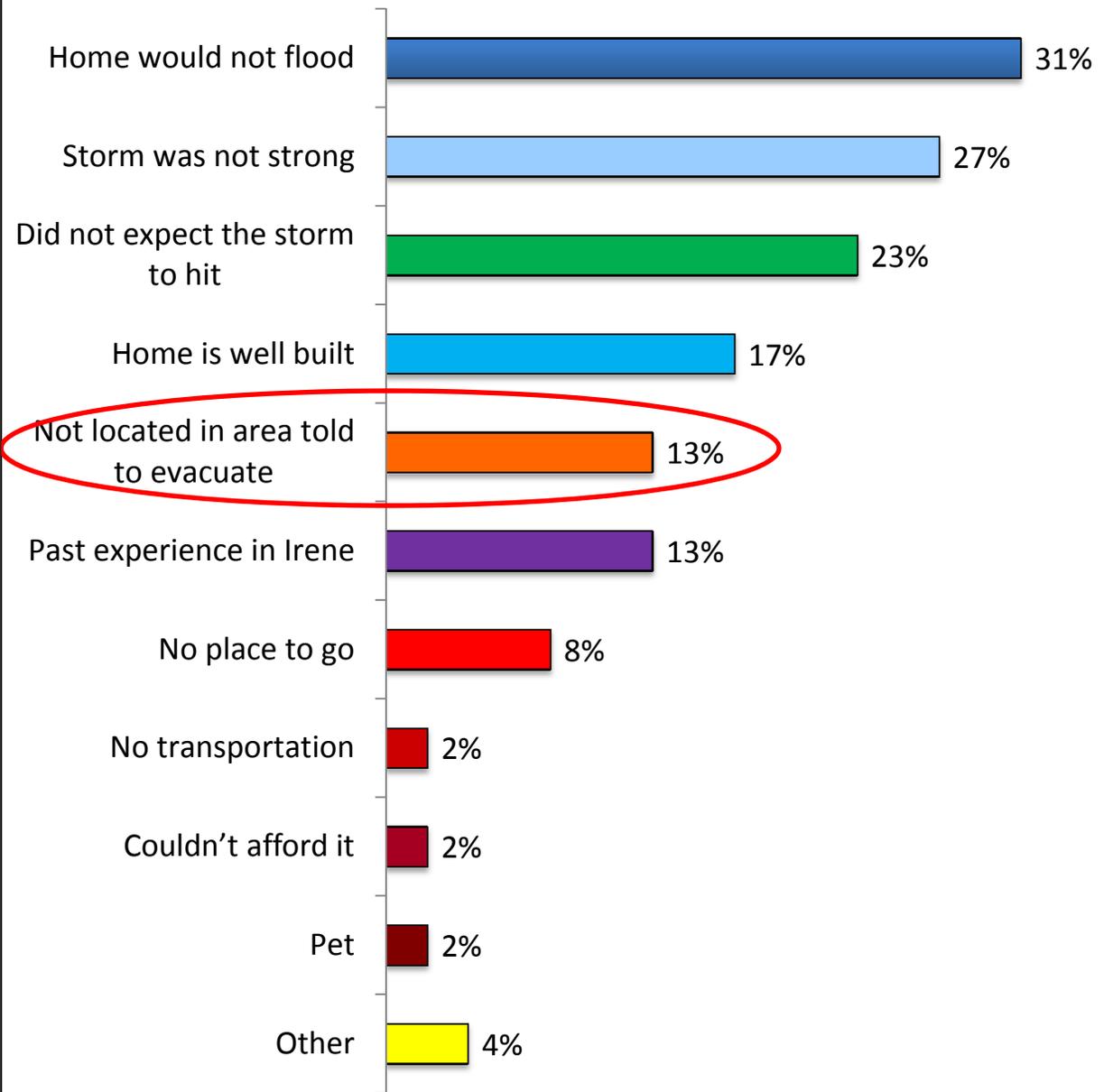
What made you decide not to go someplace safer?

The great majority of responses cited perceptions of feeling safe – homes being safe from flooding, homes being well built, the storm not being strong enough to pose a safety threat, and the storm being expected to strike elsewhere.



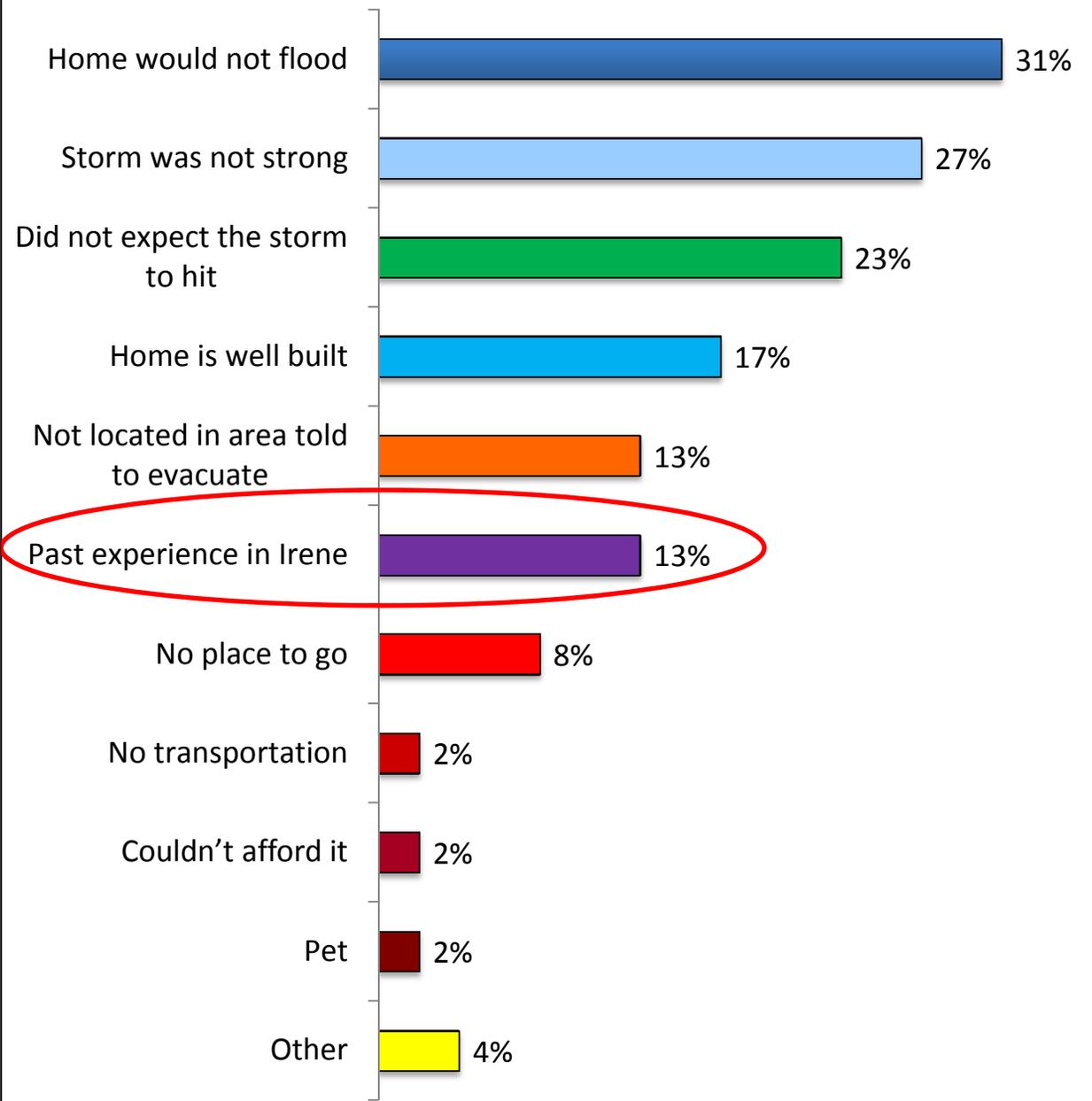
What made you decide not to go someplace safer?

Another group indicated that they were not included in evacuation notices from public officials.



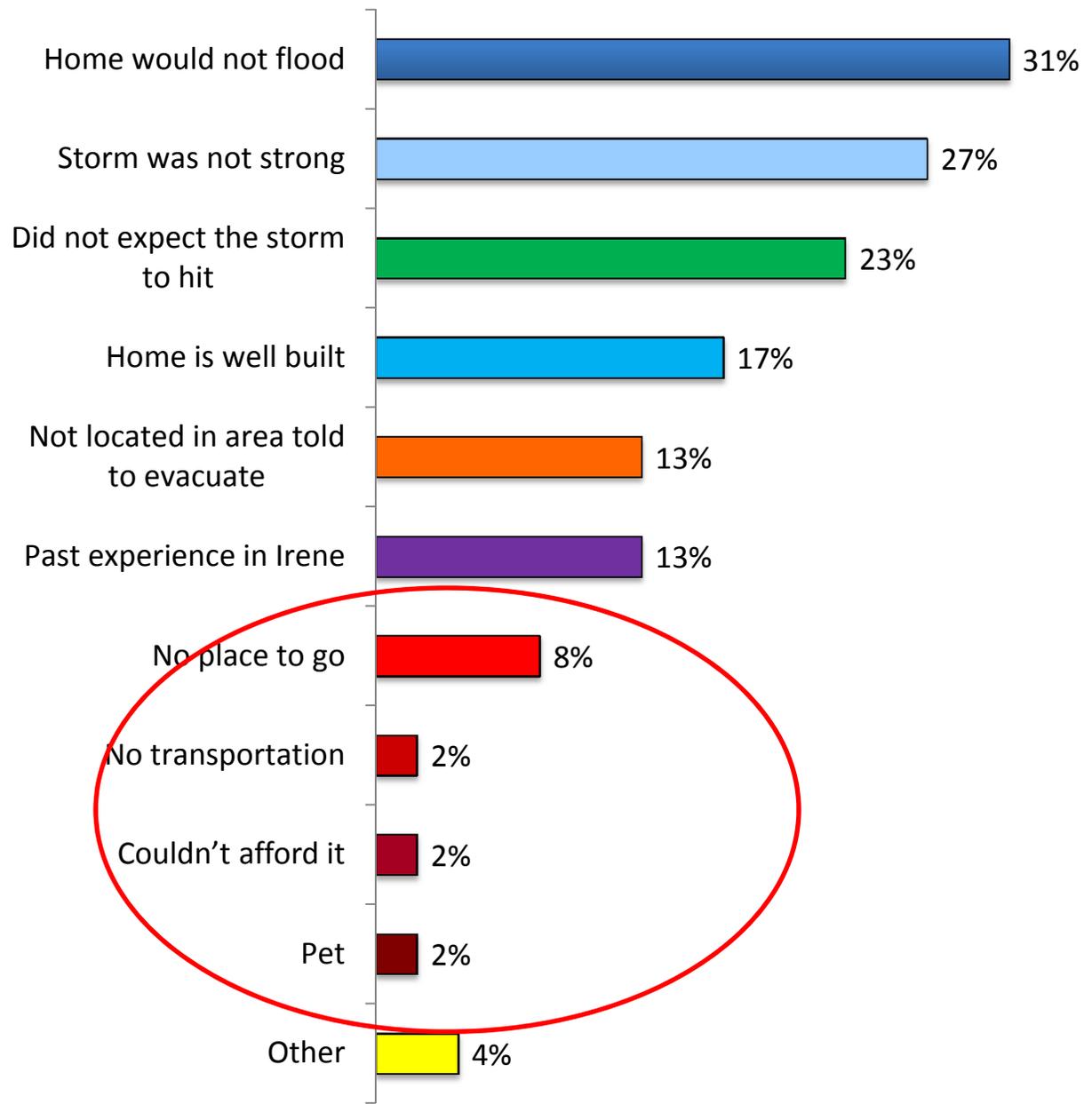
What made you decide not to go someplace safer?

13% mentioned experiences in Irene as a reason for not leaving in Sandy. Presumably this had to do with leaving in Irene and experiencing little impact.



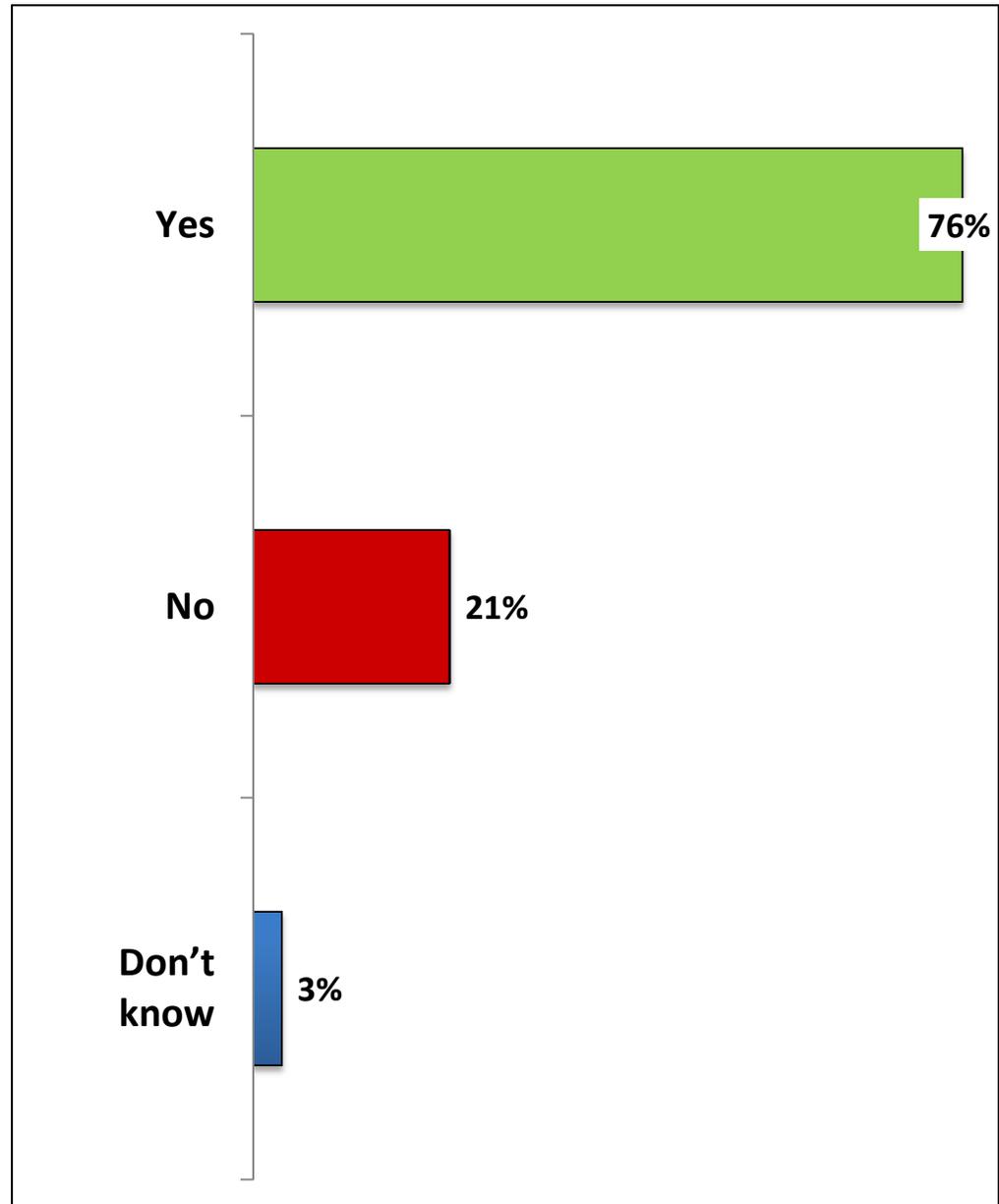
What made you decide not to go someplace safer?

Most other reasons given had to do with obstacles to leaving – having no place to go, no way to get there, no money, or needing to take care of pets.



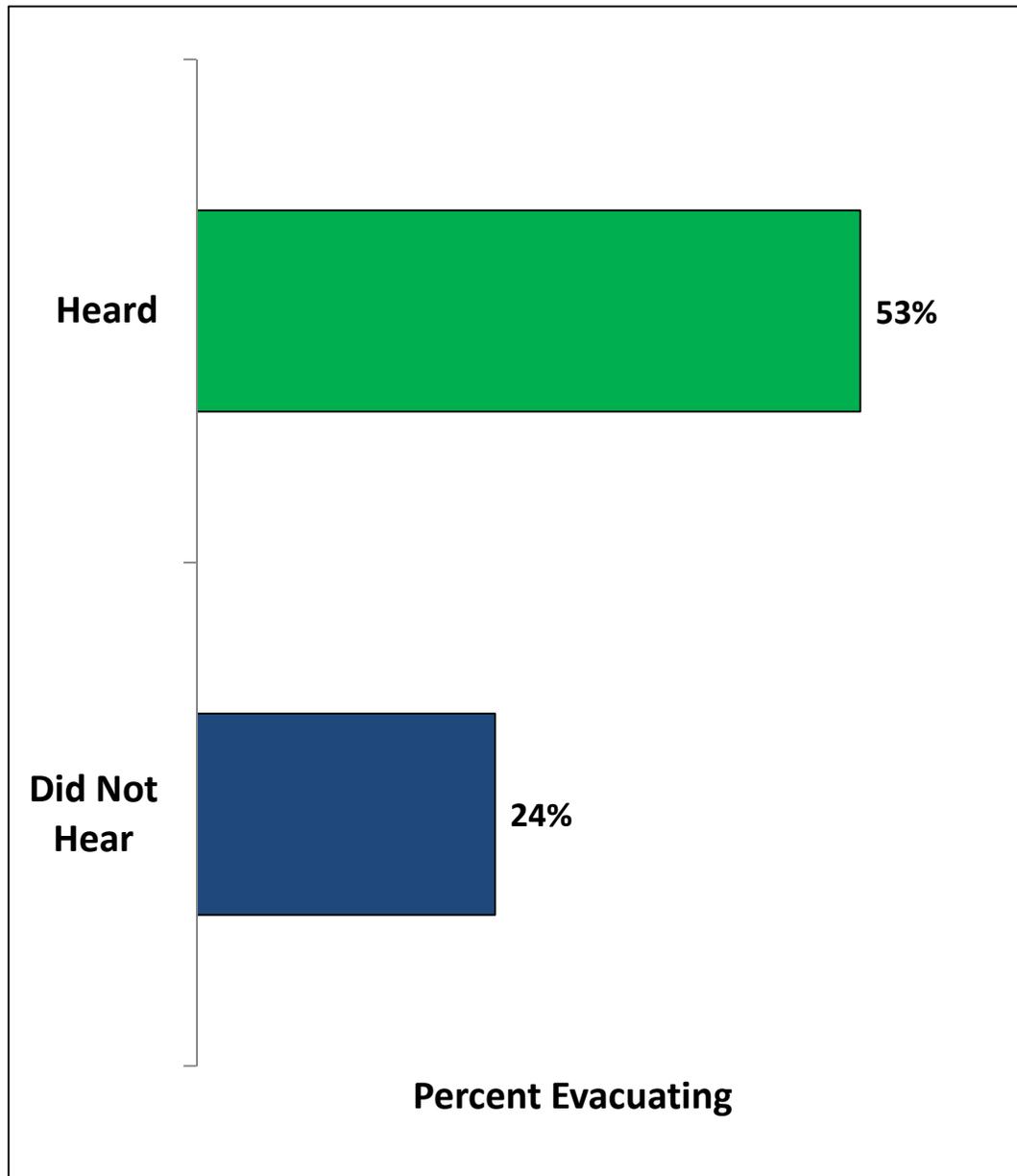
Did you hear from the mayor's office or any other public officials, either directly or indirectly, that you should evacuate your home and go someplace safer?

The great majority of those interviewed said they heard evacuation notices from the mayor or other public officials.



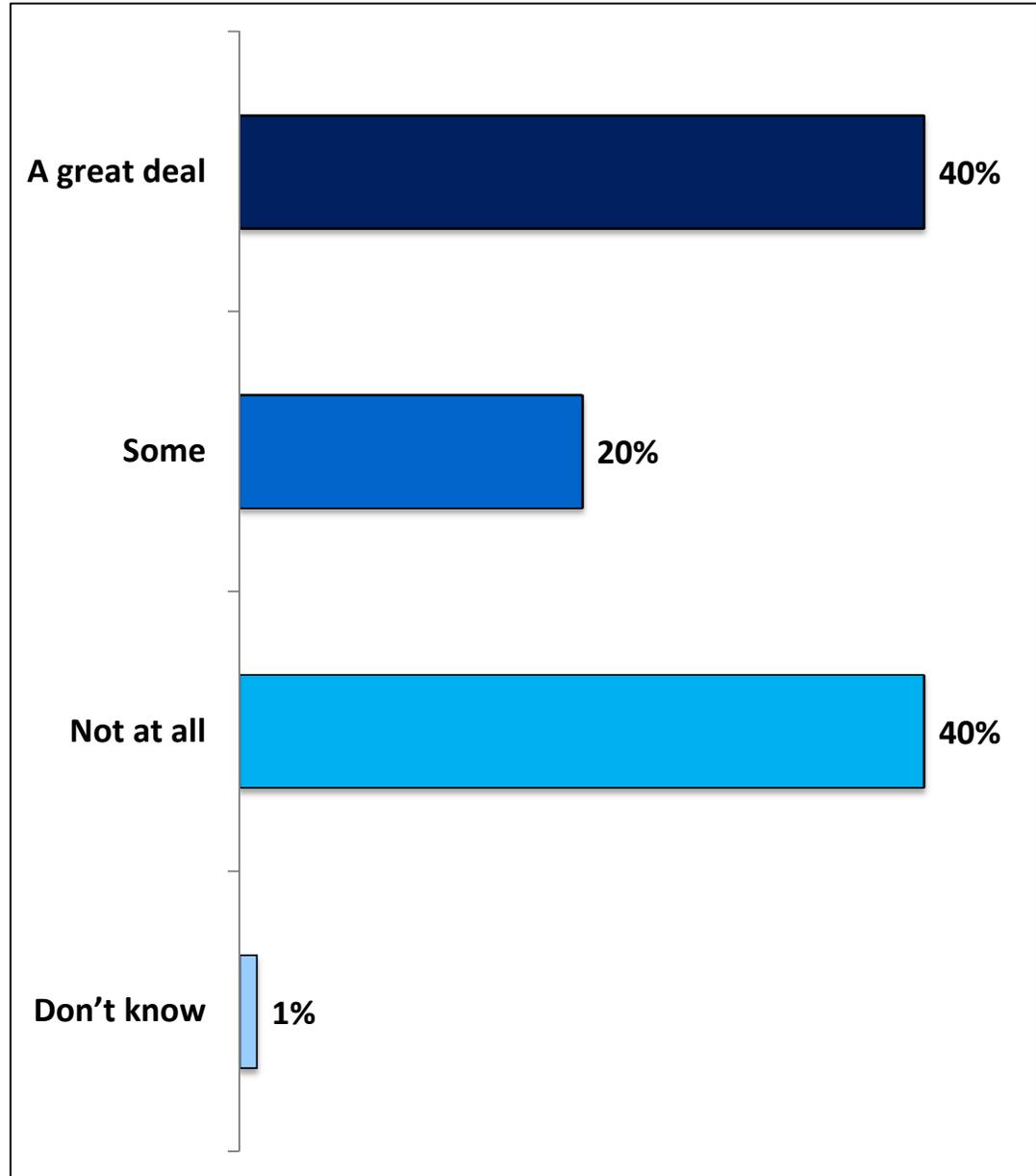
Evacuation Rates for Hearing vs. Not Hearing Evacuation Notices

Residents who said they heard evacuation notices from public officials were significantly more likely to evacuate in Sandy than those who said they didn't hear notices. [$P(\chi^2) = .025$]



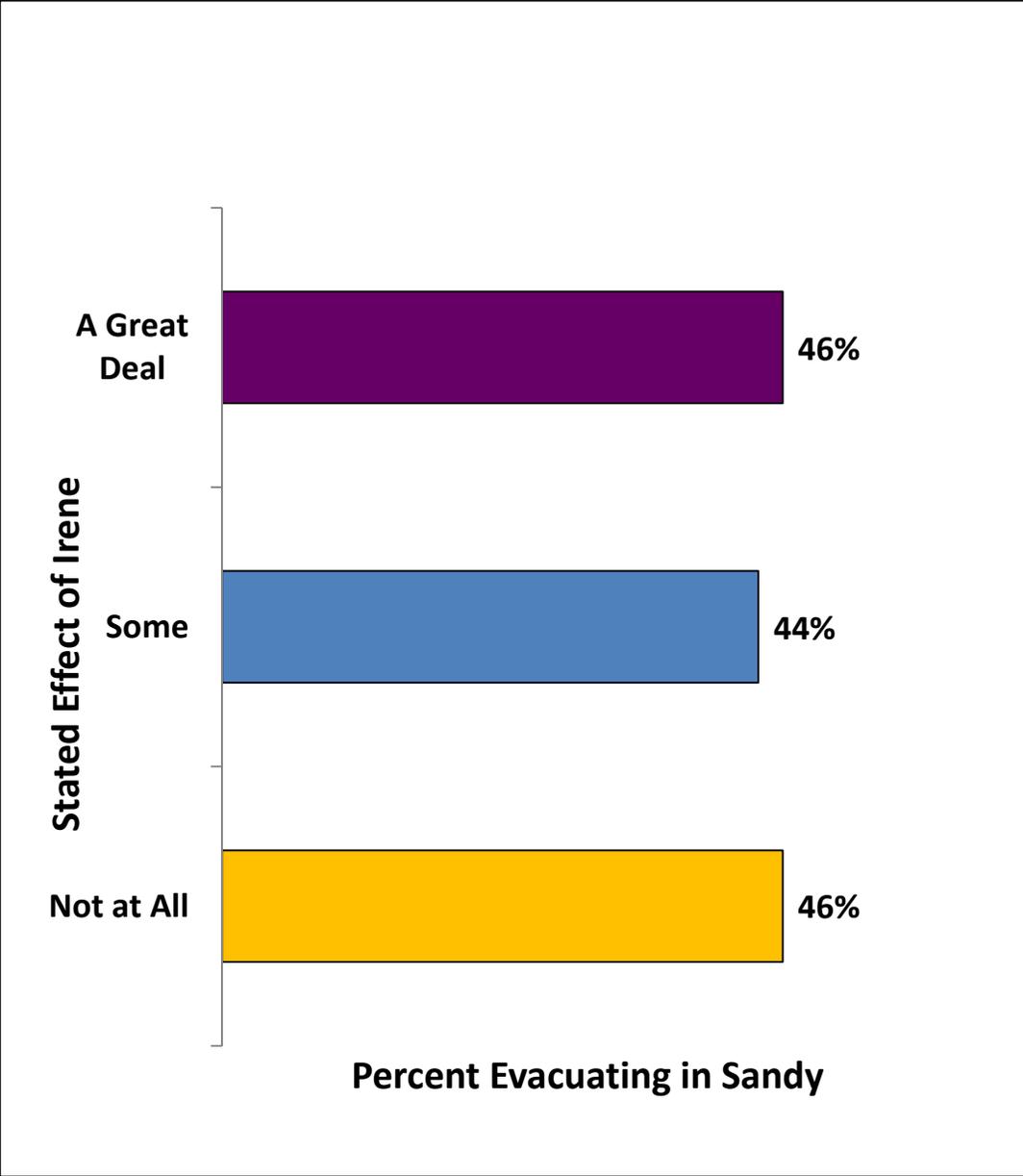
How much did your experiences in Irene affect your decision to evacuate or not in Sandy?

Forty percent said their experiences in Irene affected their evacuation decision in Sandy a great deal and another 20% said it affected their decision some. Forty percent also said it had no effect at all.



Evacuation Rate by Stated Effect of Irene

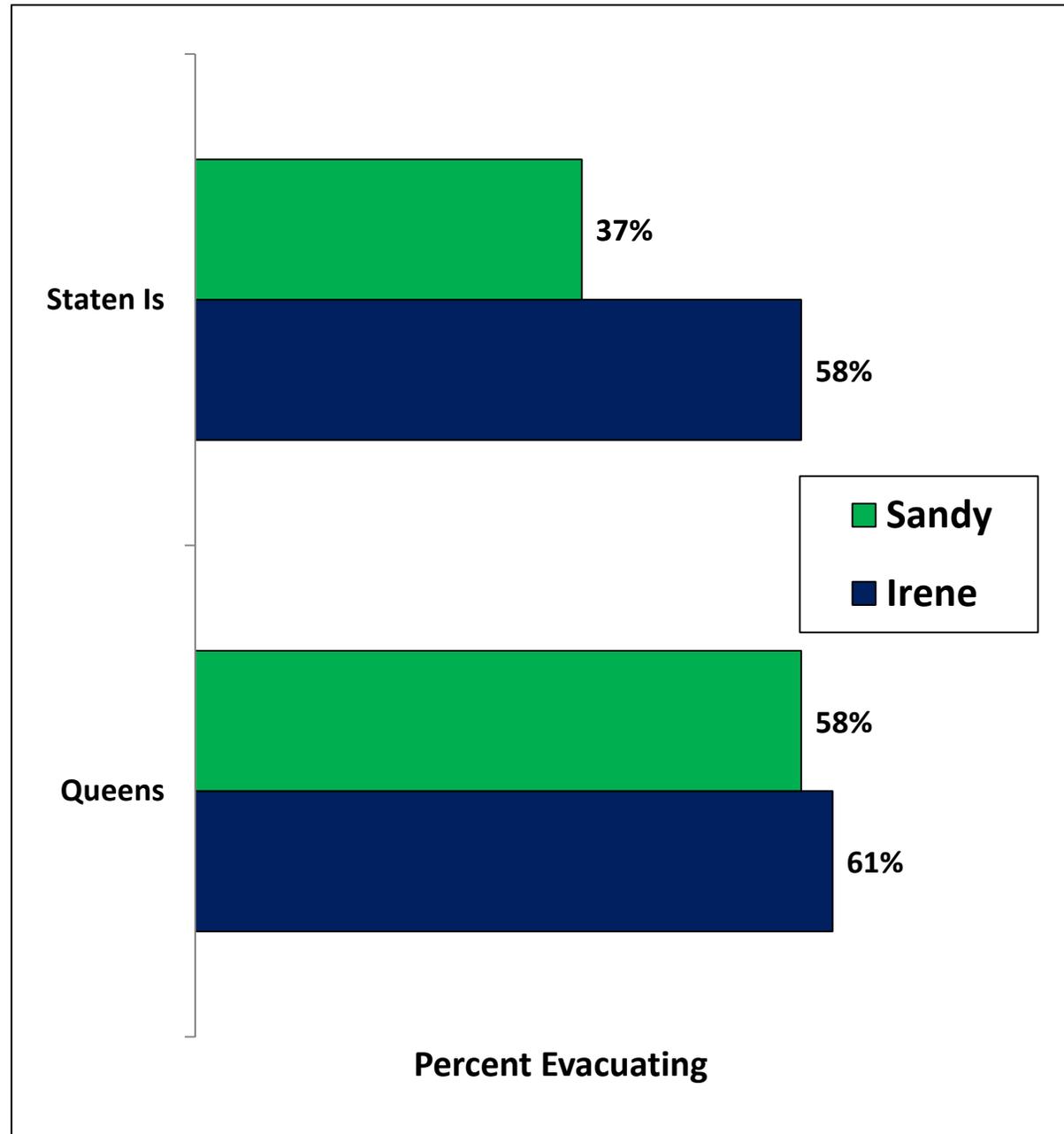
Although respondents said their experience in Irene affected their evacuation decision in Sandy, those who said it affected their decision were no more or less likely to evacuate in Sandy than those who said it did not affect their decision.



Evacuation in Sandy vs. Irene

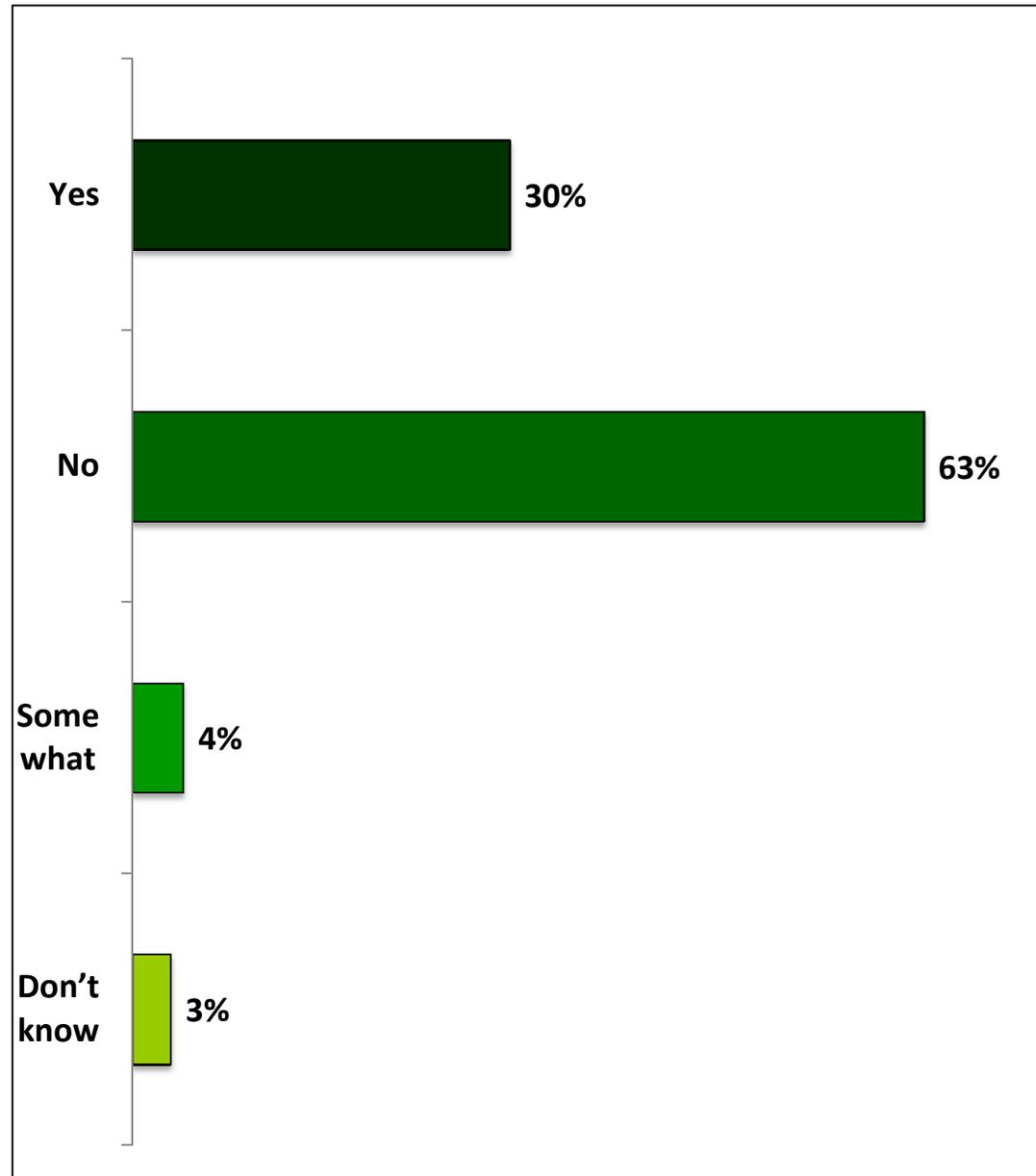
In Staten Island fewer in our sample evacuated in Sandy than the general population evacuation rate in Irene.

In Queens there was no statistically significant difference in our sample in Sandy and the general population in Irene.



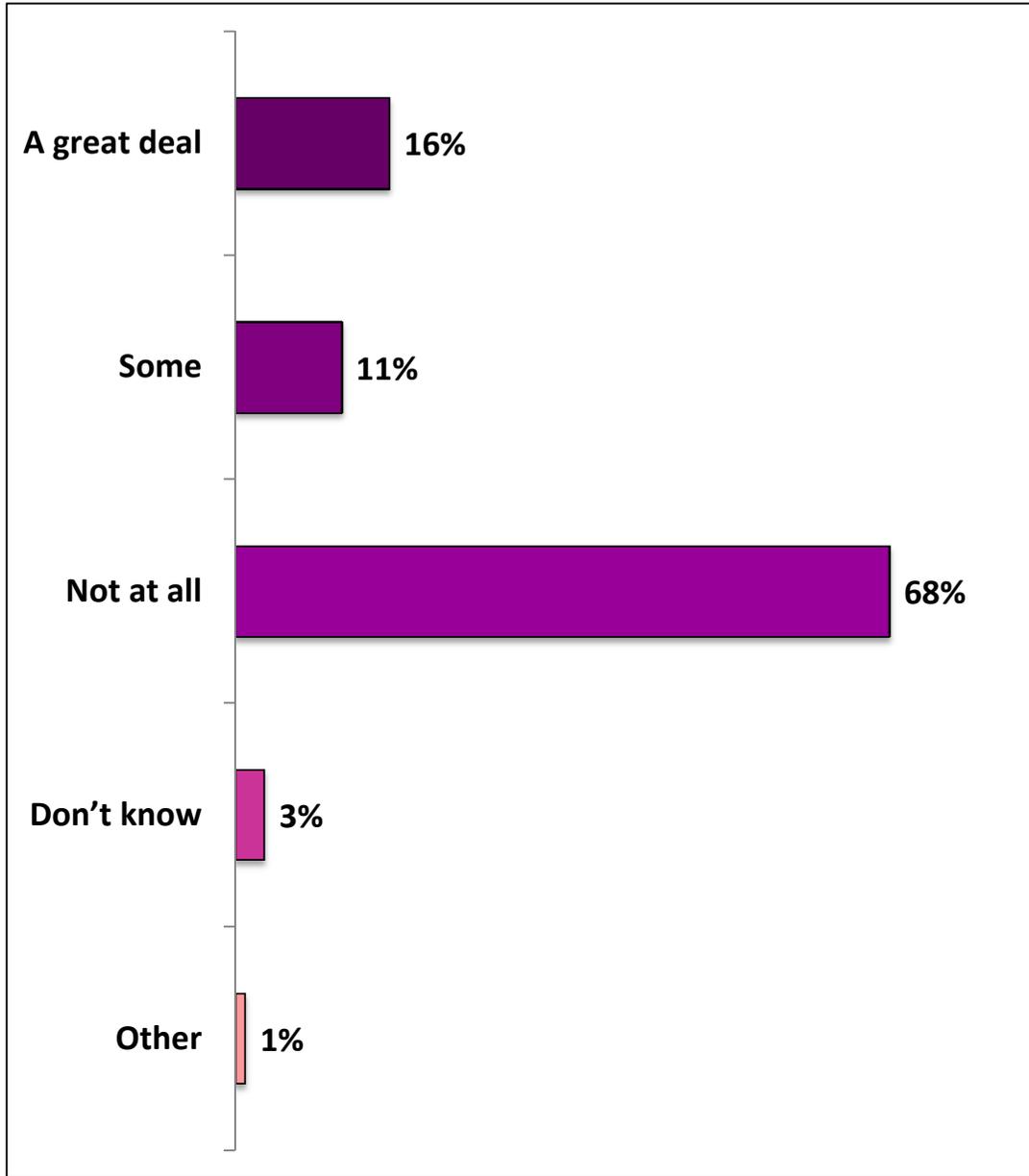
Were you aware during the threat that warnings about Sandy for the New York area came from the local NWS office, not the NHC, due to meteorological characteristics of Sandy?

Most respondents said they were unaware that warnings for Sandy in their areas came from the local NWS office rather than the National Hurricane Center.



How much did that affect your decision to evacuate or not in Sandy?

Two-thirds of those who said they were aware that NYC warnings for Sandy were issued by their local NWS office said that fact had no effect on their evacuation decisions in Sandy.



Evacuation Rates by Stated Awareness of Warning Source in Sandy

There were no statistically significant differences in evacuation rates in Sandy based on whether respondents were aware that warnings for Sandy were issued by their local NWS office rather than the National Hurricane Center.

