



A Sui Generis Role: The Educational and Clinical Impact of Chief Residents on Consultation-Liaison, Emergency Room, and Inpatient Psychiatric Services

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BACKGROUND

- Chief residents (CR) play an important role in the functioning of a residency program.
- Traditionally, there is greater priority placed on administrative responsibilities in this role.
- There has been movement towards having CRs for specific clinical services.
- In the academic year of 2021-22, the Psychiatry Residency Program at Rush University Medical Center had CR in all the 3 "in-hospital" clinical services - Consultation-Liaison, Emergency Room, and Inpatient Psychiatry.
- In the absence of robust data, the objective of this project is to gauge the educational and clinical impact, whether positive or deleterious, of CR on junior residents (JR), supervising attendings (ATT) and CR themselves.

METHODS

- We administered 3 types of anonymous surveys - 1 each for JR (N= 16), ATT (N=12) and CR (N= 9).
- There was a mix of positively and negatively framed questions to prevent acquiescence bias.
- We utilized a 5-point Likert scale ranging from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree".
- Surveys included questions regarding how the CR role impacted education, service workflow, medical student education, and autonomy.



- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Neutral
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

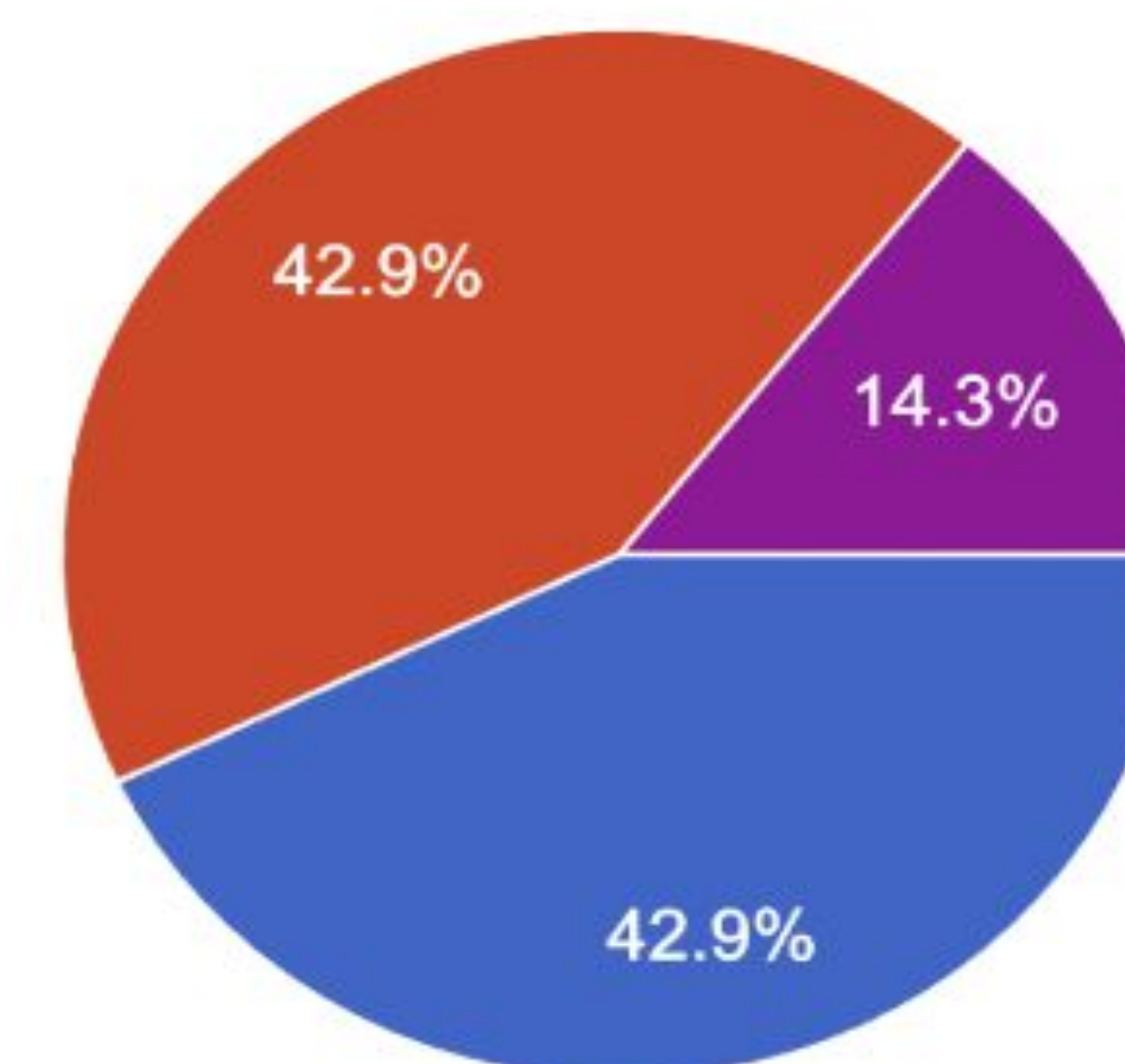
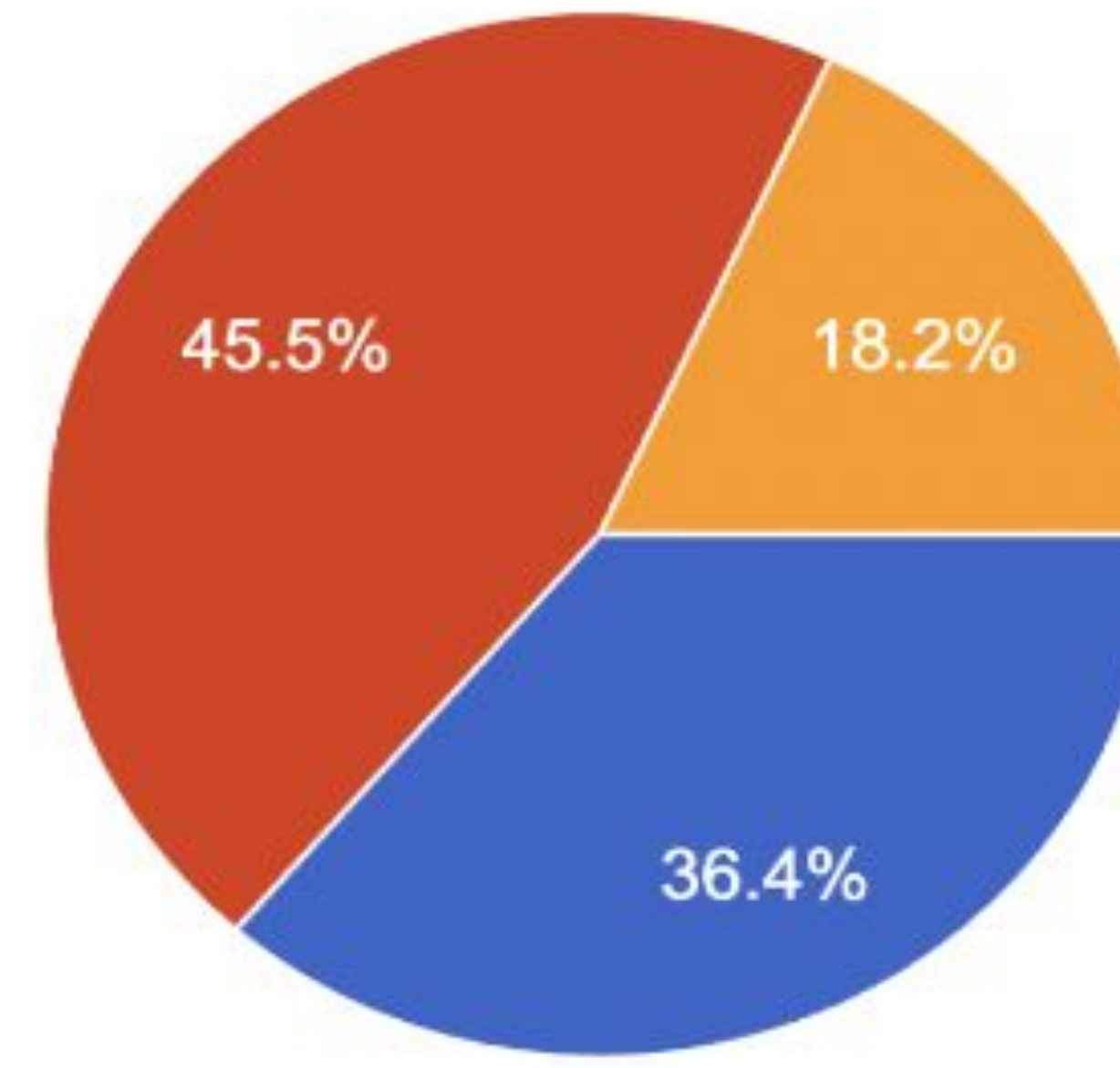
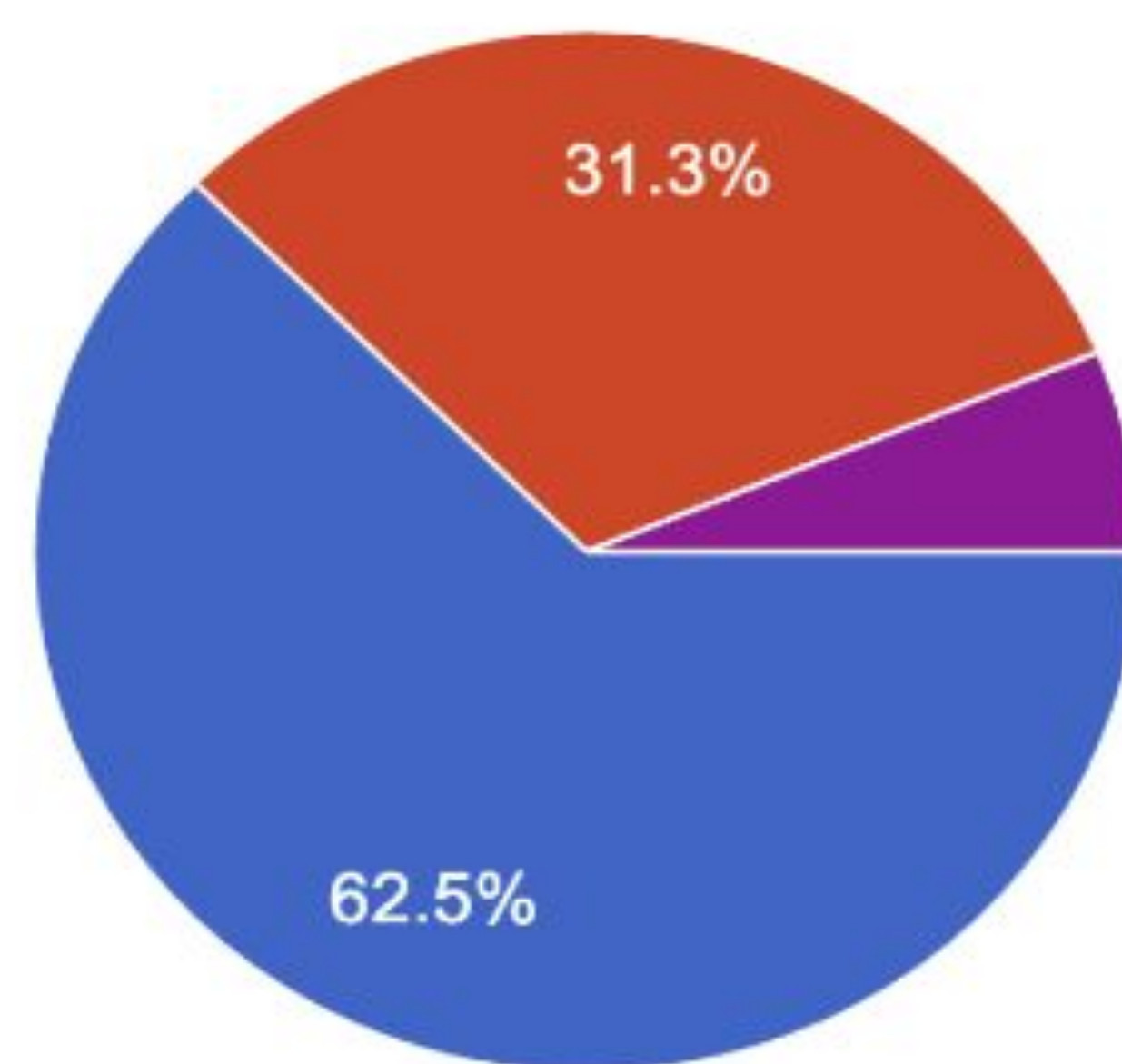
RESULTS

Junior Residents

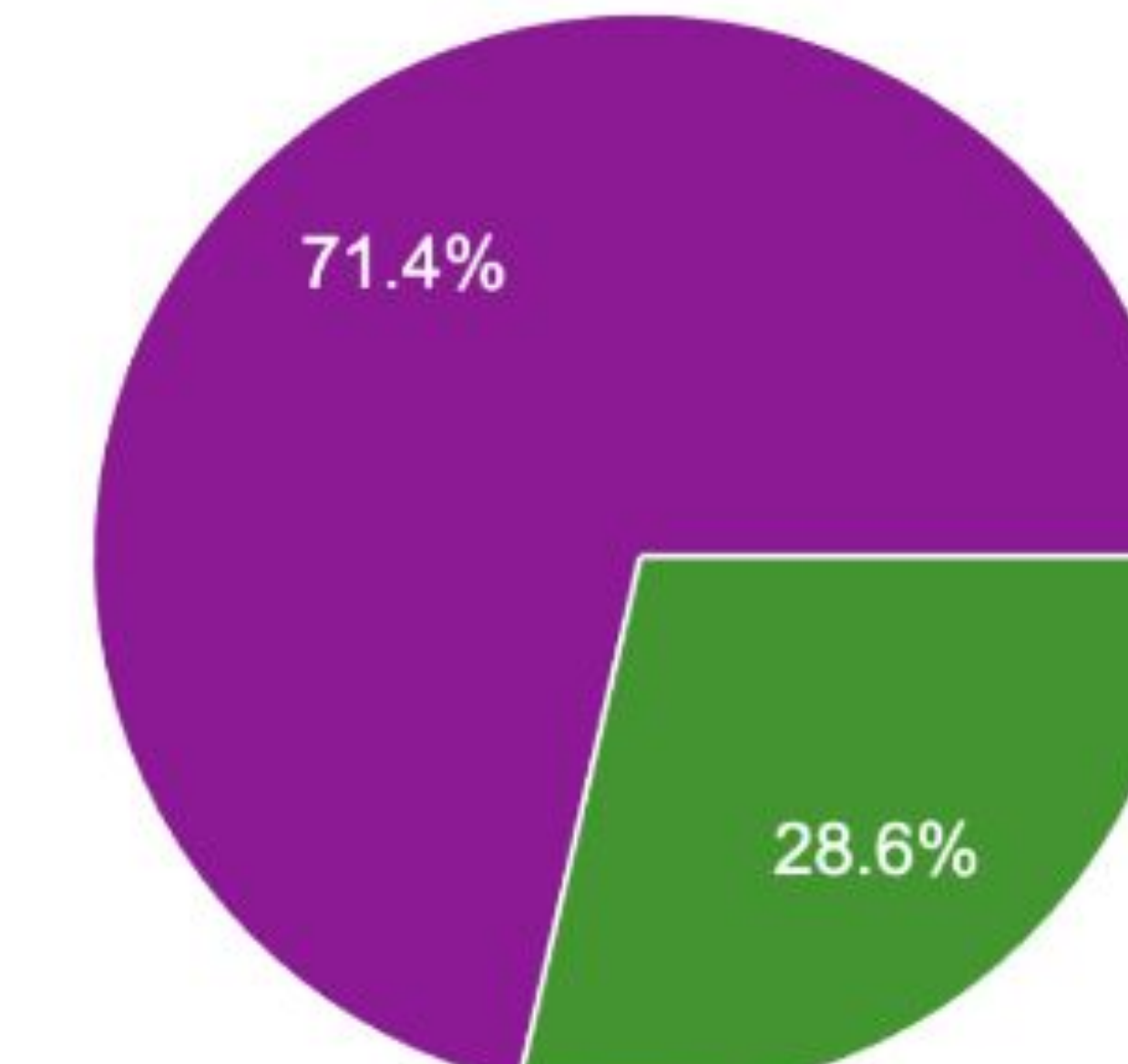
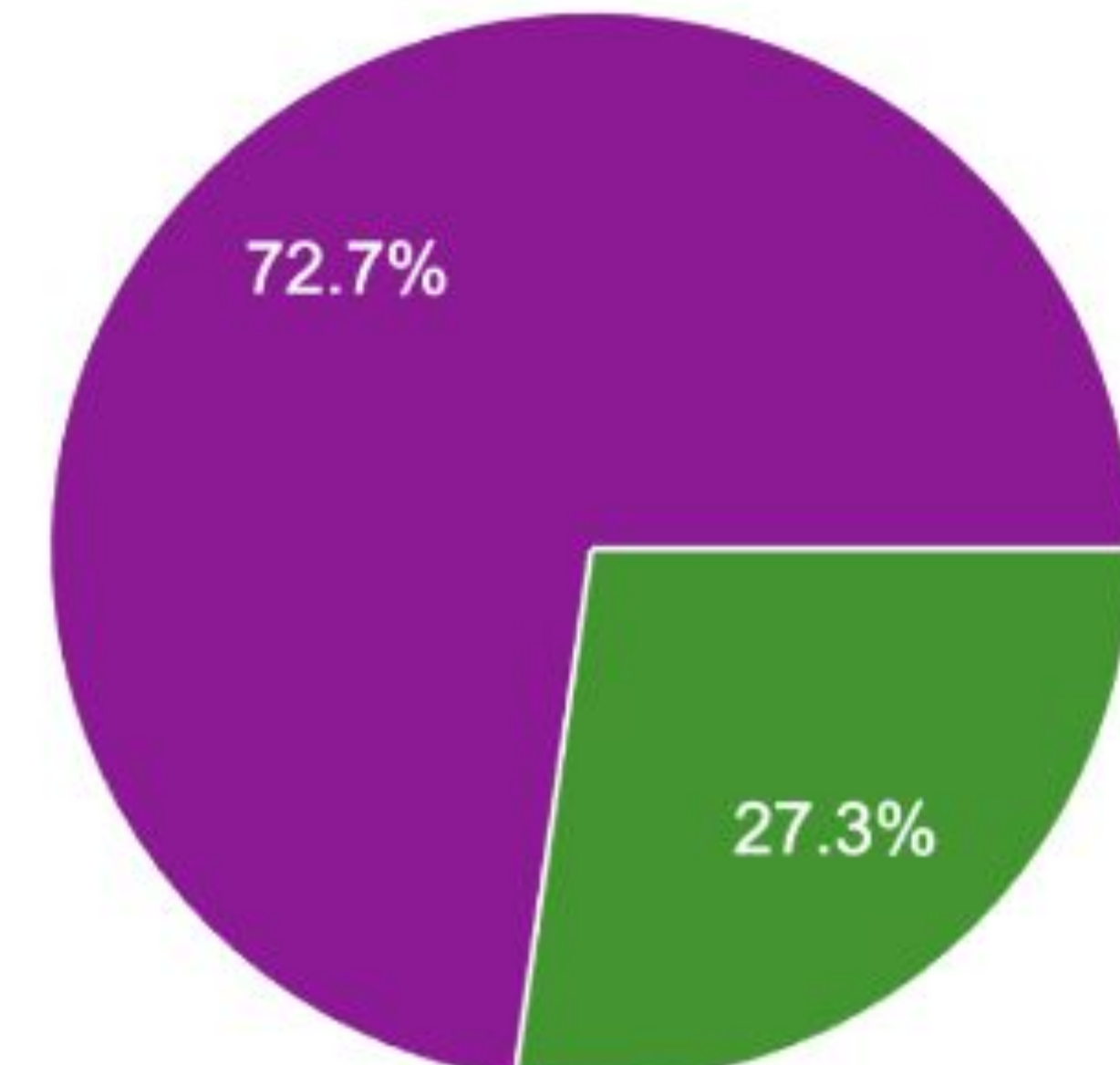
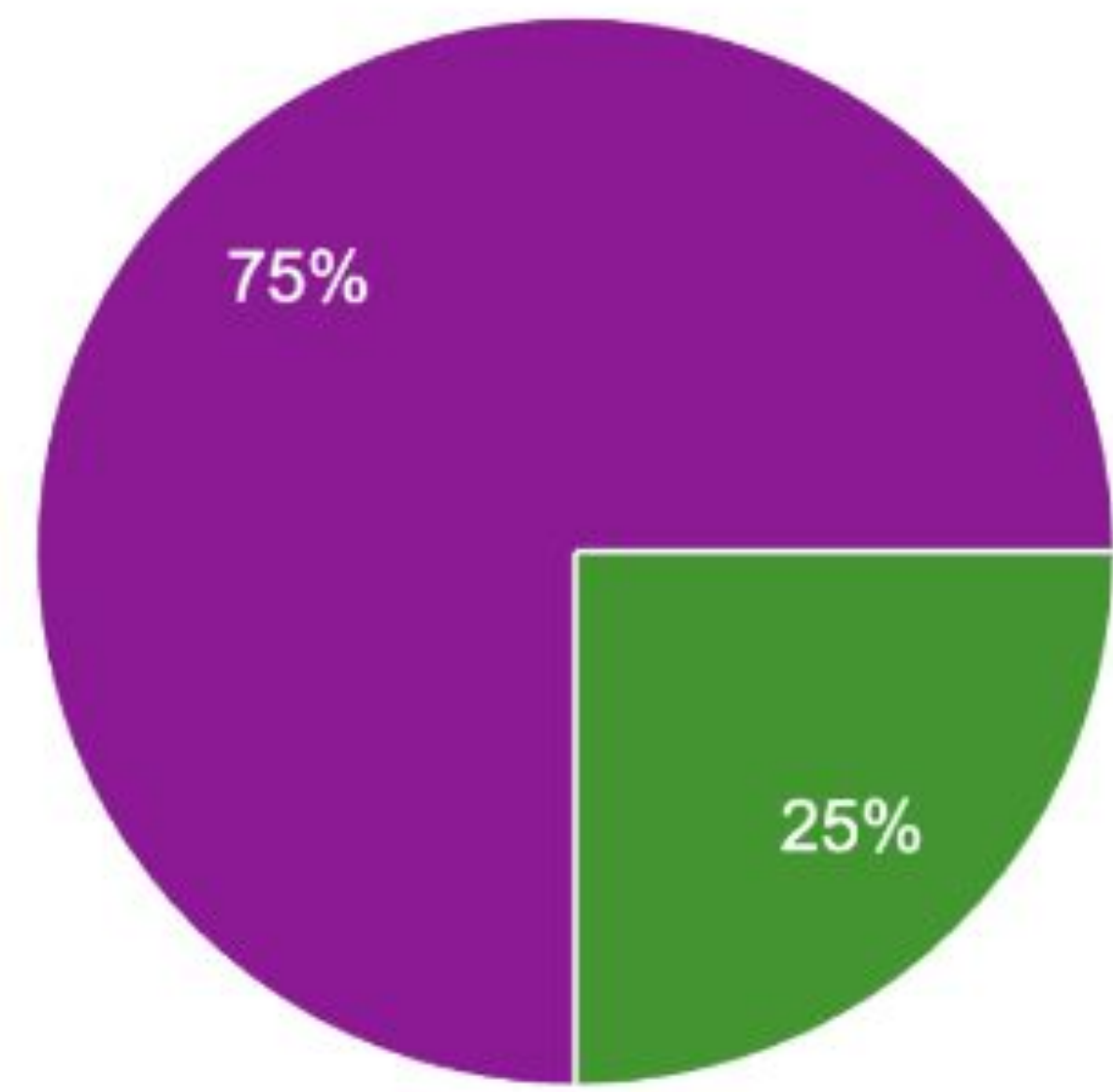
Attendings

Chief Residents

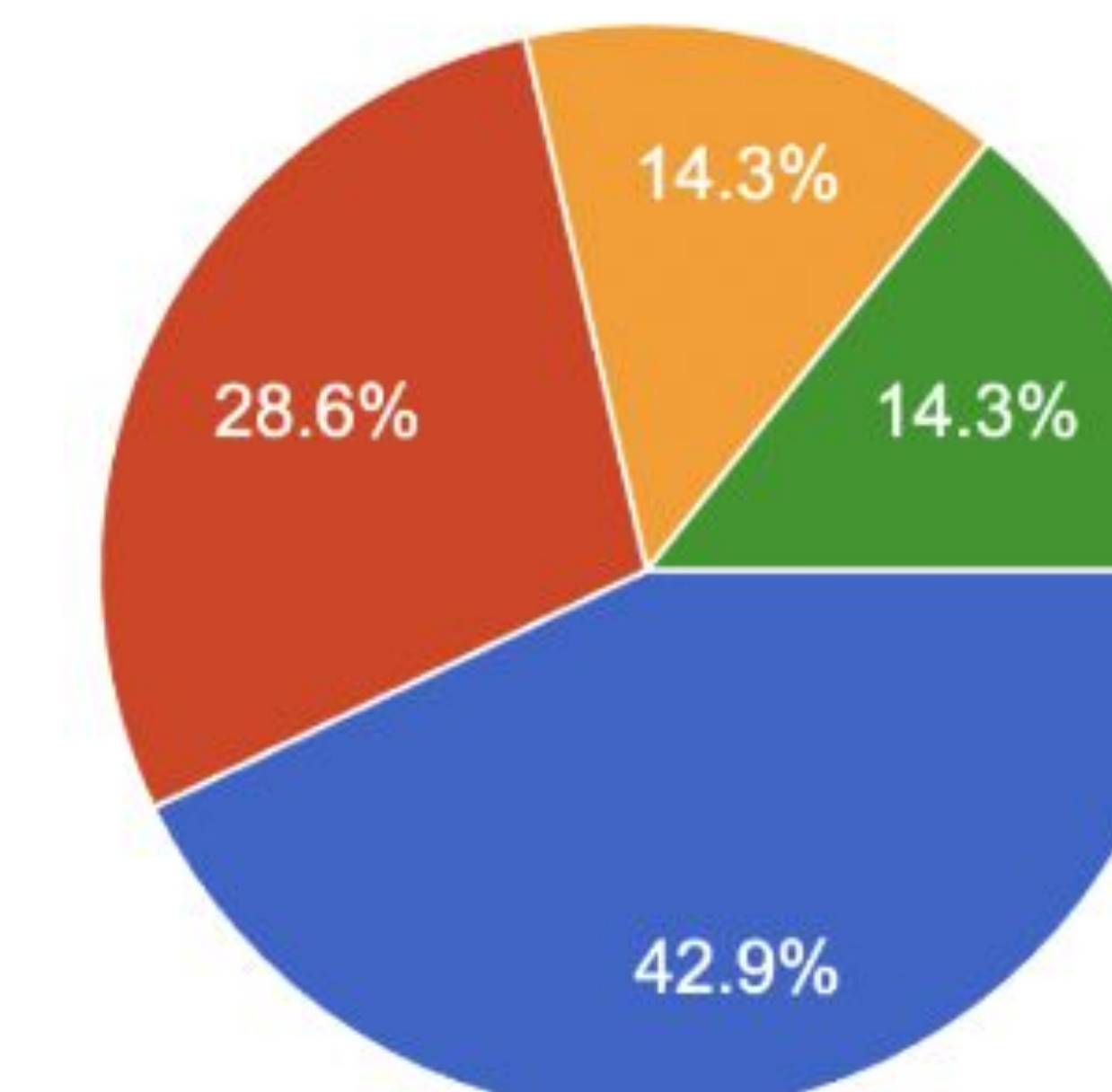
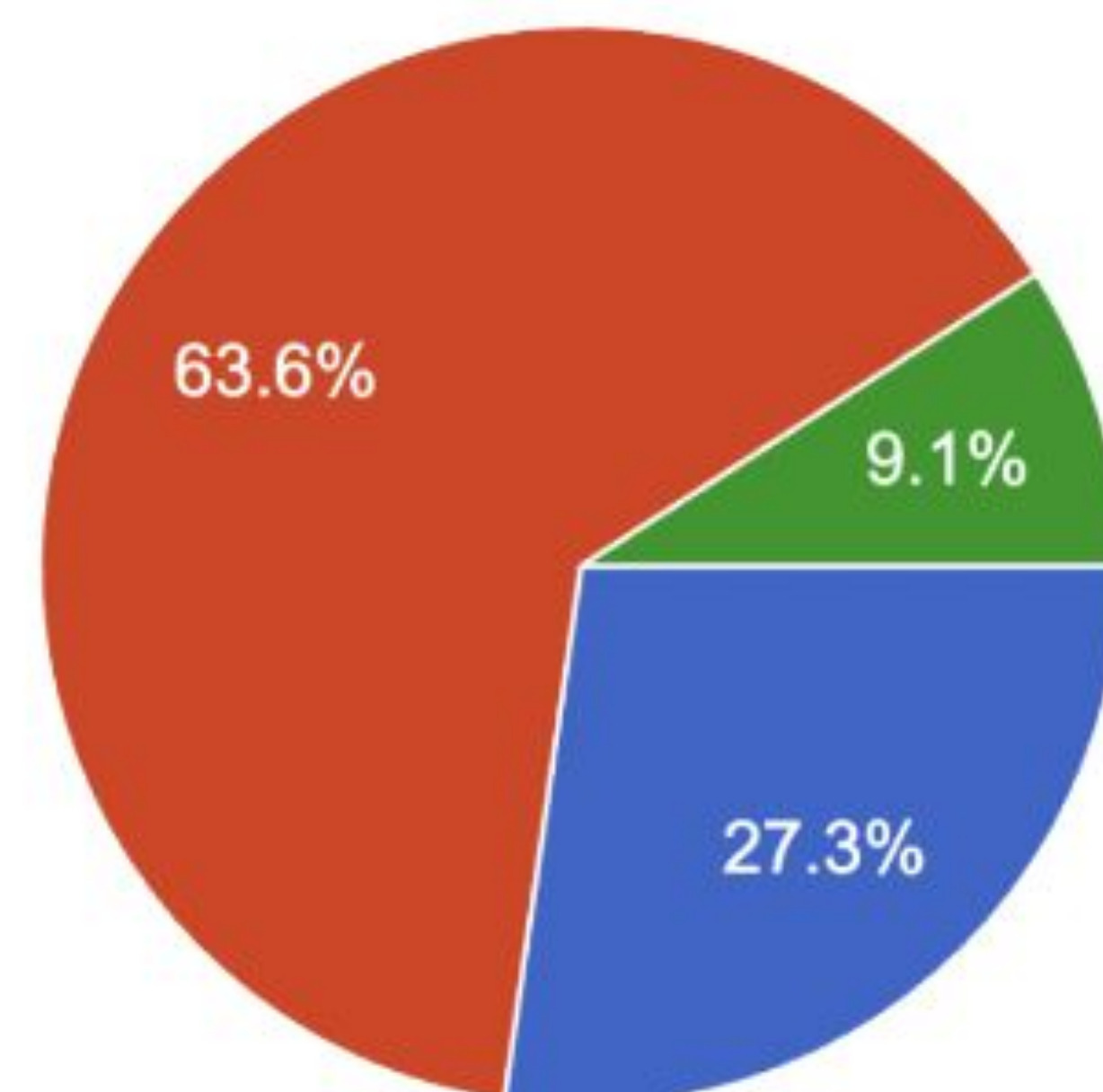
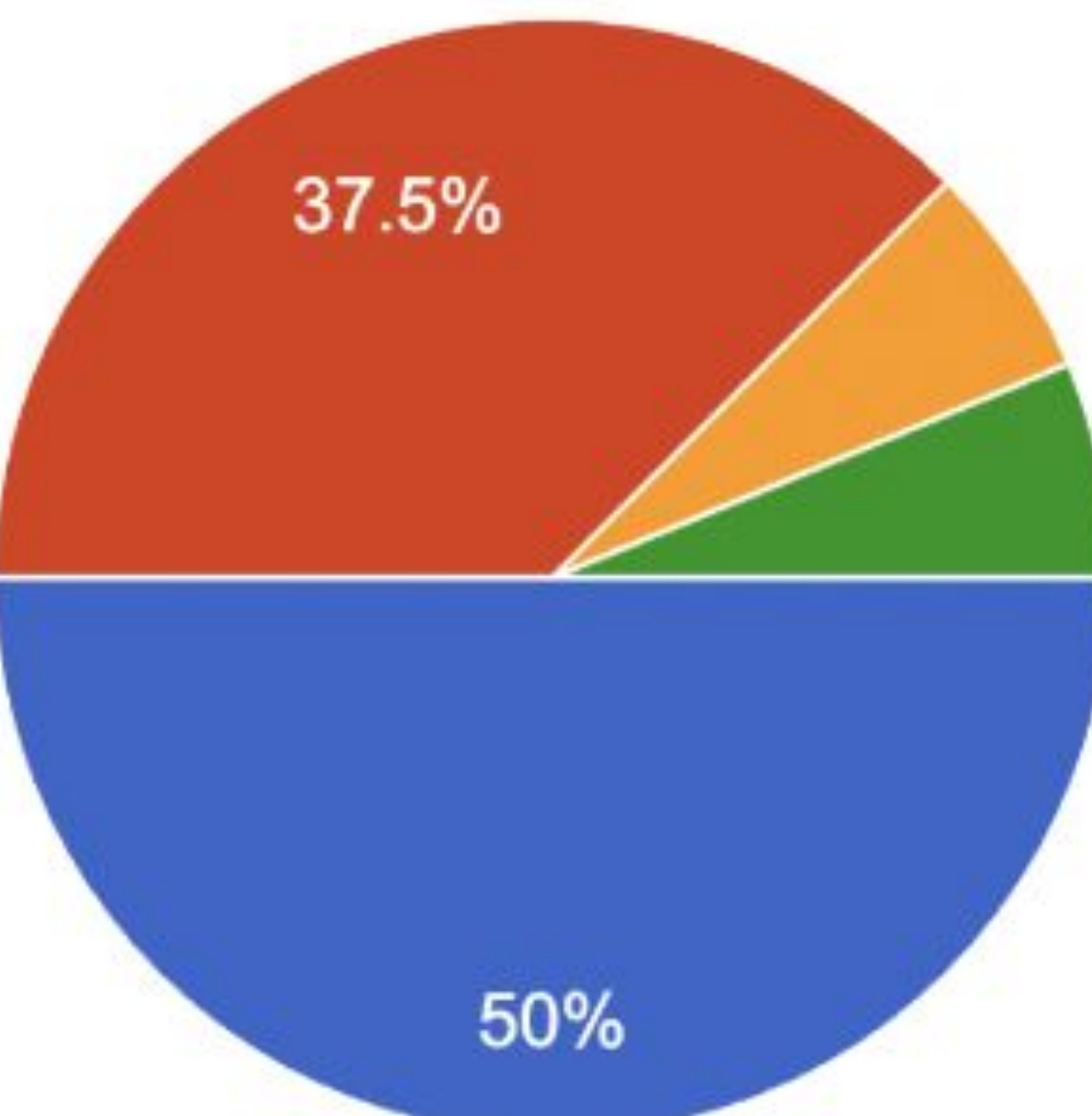
Presence of CR decreased Opportunities Given To JR as Teachers



Presence of CR Improved Educational Experience on Service



Presence of CR Impeded Autonomy of JR



DISCUSSION

- High response rates: 16/16 (100%) for JR, 11/12 (91.6%)for ATT & 7/9 (77.77%) for CR.
- There was overwhelmingly positive feedback regarding the role of CR on improving educational value and service workflow.
- There were no major concerns raised regarding presence of CR negatively impacting opportunities for JR to be resident-teachers for medical students.
- While overall there were no major concerns about CR negatively impacting JR autonomy, some ATTs and CRs themselves raised concerns.
- A large minority of CRs felt that adequate levels of autonomy were not provided to them.
- The perceived service supervisory burden varied by attendings.
- The feedback echoed a shared sentiment across all 3 groups - ATT, JR and CR.
- Limitations include small sample, single institution, and respondents' familiarity with researchers.

IMPLICATIONS

- The role of Chief Residents should not be merely administrative.
- This sui generis position circumvents the traditional team hierarchy seen in academic medicine, occupying a unique space that can help coalesce the team.
- This data and feedback can be used to address concerns regarding autonomy and supervisory burden.
- Psychiatry residency programs can utilize this data to further develop Chief Residents' roles for clinical services.