

It is useful to keep the results of the Heritage Health Index in mind when considering environmentally sensitive preservation practices.

In particular, federal agencies, national collections, and larger institutions have an opportunity to model green and cost effective solutions that could be replicated at smaller institutions. This would have broad impact on the care of U.S. collections as well as the environment.



A PUBLIC TRUST AT RISK:
The Heritage Health Index Report
on the State of America's Collections

A PROJECT OF HERITAGE PRESERVATION AND THE INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

Heritage Health Index Facts

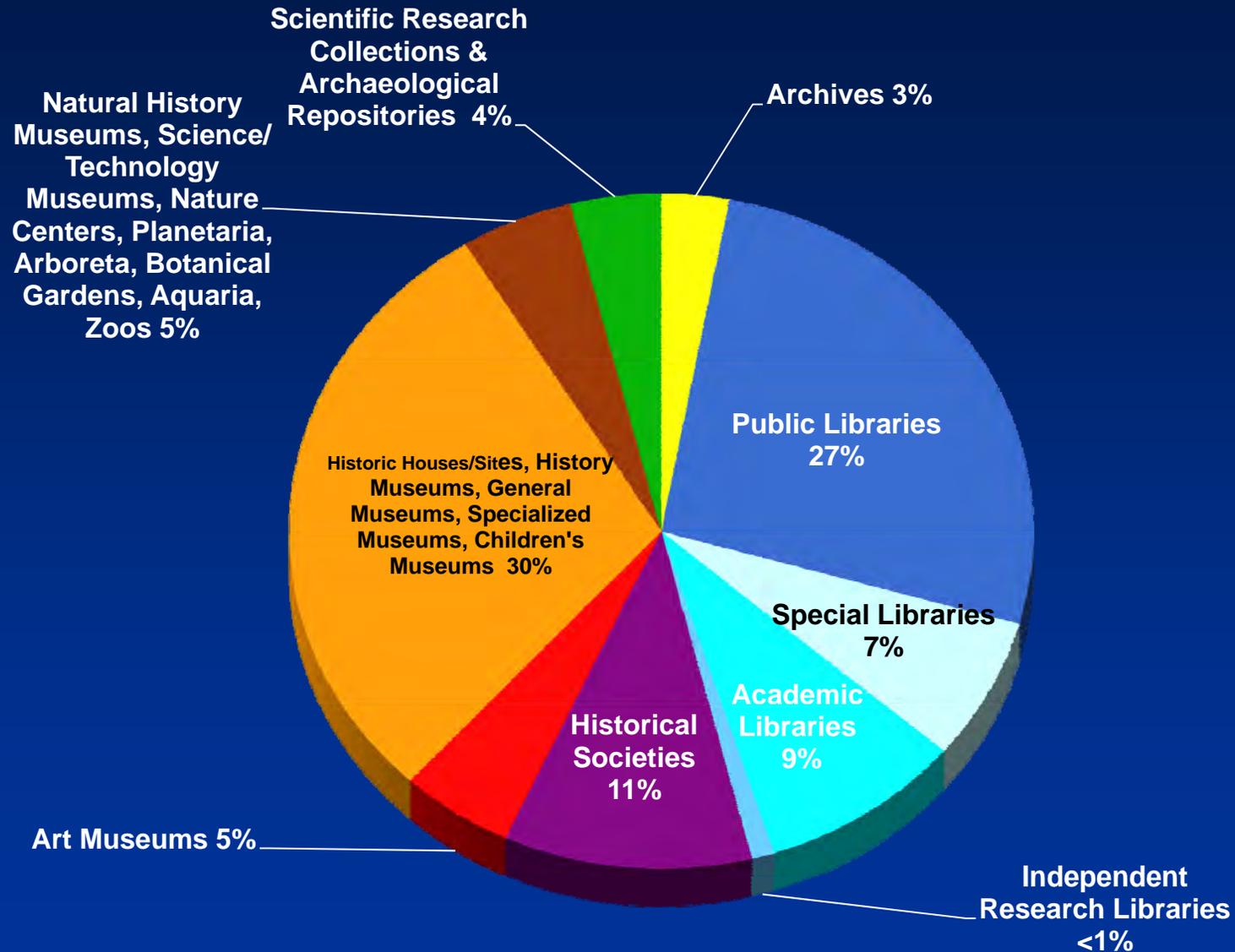
- ◆ Coordinated by Heritage Preservation in partnership with the Institute for Museum and Library Services with funding from the Getty Foundation and other private foundations.
- ◆ Developed with the input of 35 national associations and federal agencies that represent collecting institutions and in consultation with more than 100 leading collections and preservation professionals.
- ◆ Surveyed archives, historical societies, libraries, museums, archaeological repositories, and scientific research organizations, of all sizes, and from every U.S. state and territory.
- ◆ Gathered data on the condition and preservation needs of a full range of collections from art to vertebrate paleontology.
- ◆ Conducted from August-December 2004.
- ◆ Had an overall response rate of 24% with 3,370 surveys returned.
- ◆ Had a 90% response rate from a targeted group of 500 of the nation's largest and most significant collections that included all NARA units and state archives.
- ◆ Published *A Public Trust at Risk: The Heritage Health Index Report on the State of America's Collections* in December 2005.
- ◆ Received national and international attention, including stories in *The New York Times*, *Associated Press*, *Reader's Digest*, *Christian Science Monitor*, and on National Public Radio and ABC television.

Heritage Health Index

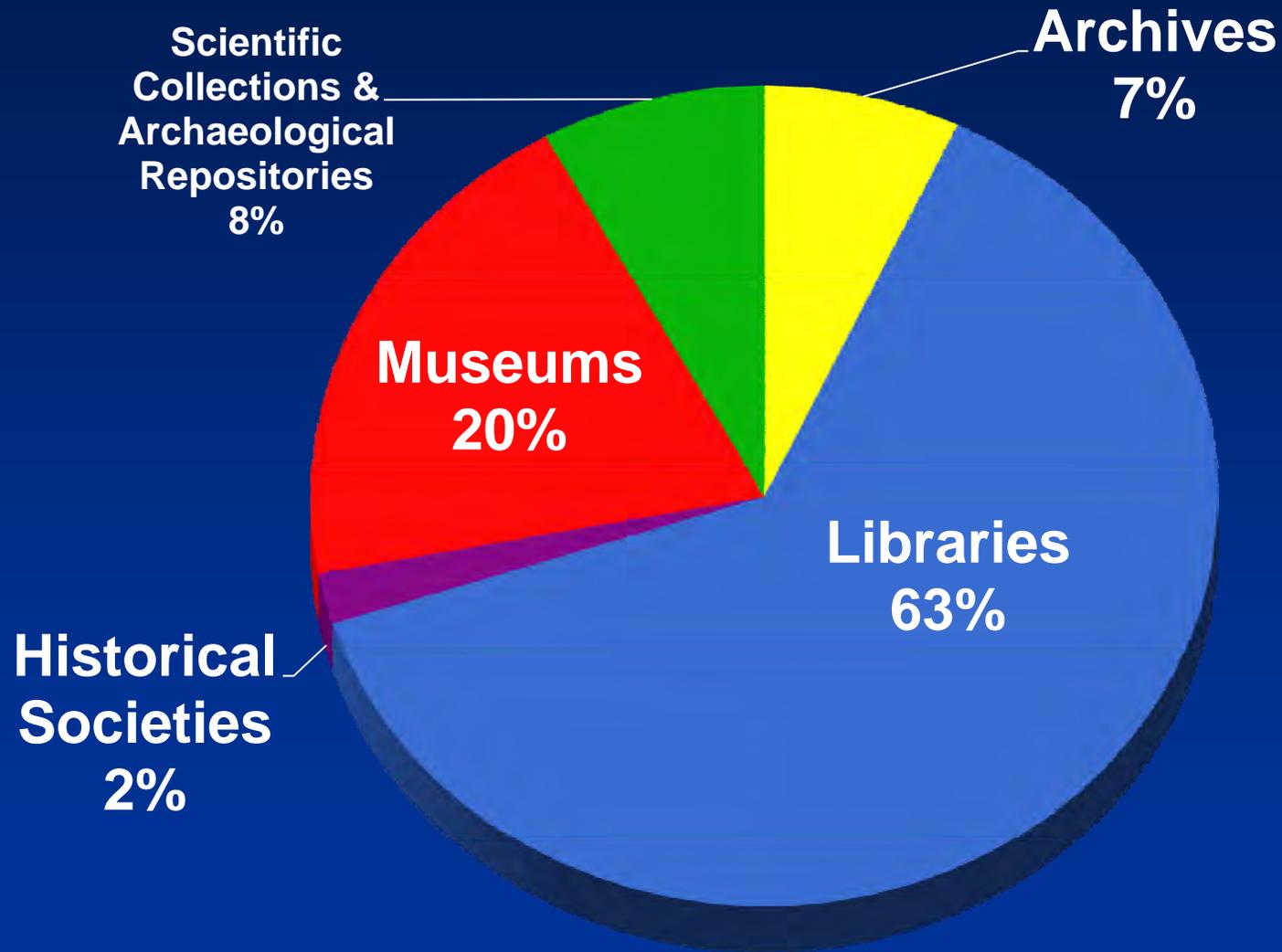
Data about Archives

- Based on Heritage Health Index data, Heritage Preservation projects that there are 30,827 collecting institutions in the U.S.
- Of these, 1,033 collecting institutions cited their primary function was as an archive. **Data from this group is reported in this presentation.**
- In addition, 13,407 collecting institutions (or 44%) cite having archives as an additional function. These include libraries and historical societies.
- Since the number of archives in the Heritage Health Index survey population was small, it was sampled at 100%. (Record centers, private, or corporate archives were not included in the sample.) In total, 206 archives participated in the survey. Archives responded at a slightly higher rate than other institutions (35%) and the data from archives has a margin of error of $\pm 5.5\%$.

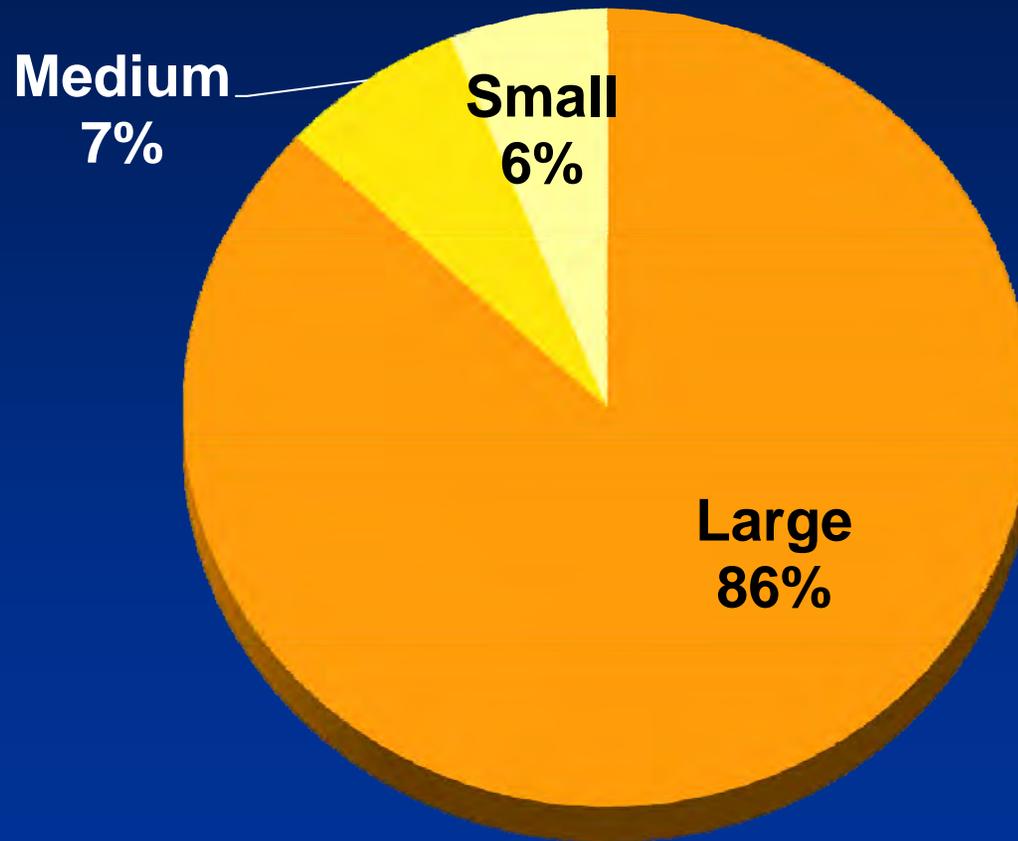
Representation by Type of Institution



4.8 Billion Collections Items Held by U.S. Institutions



360 Million Collections Items Are Held by U.S. Archives

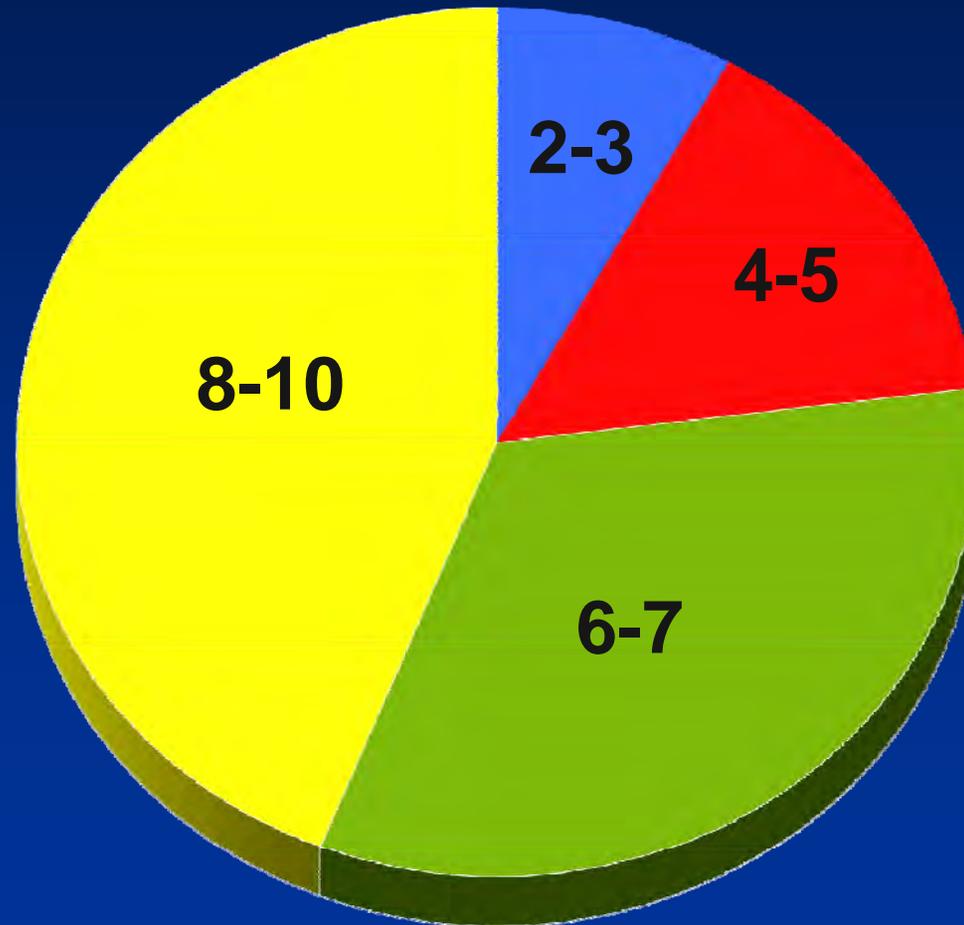


Large= 5,000 linear feet or more of unbound sheets, Medium= 1,000-4,999 linear feet of unbound sheets , Small=1,000 linear feet or less of unbound sheets.
One linear foot of materials=one collection item.

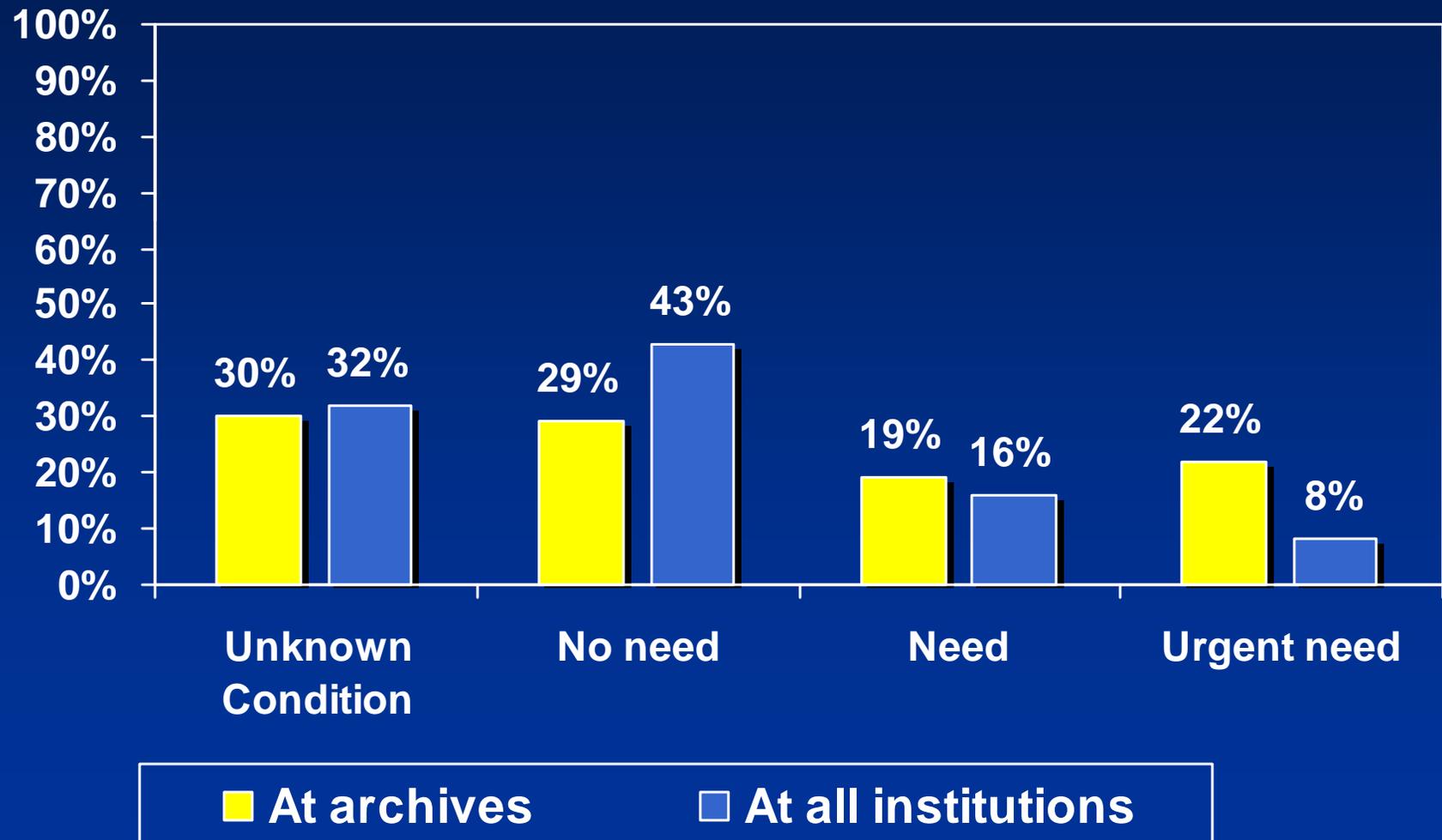
Most Archives Care for More Than Six Types of Collections

Collections types:

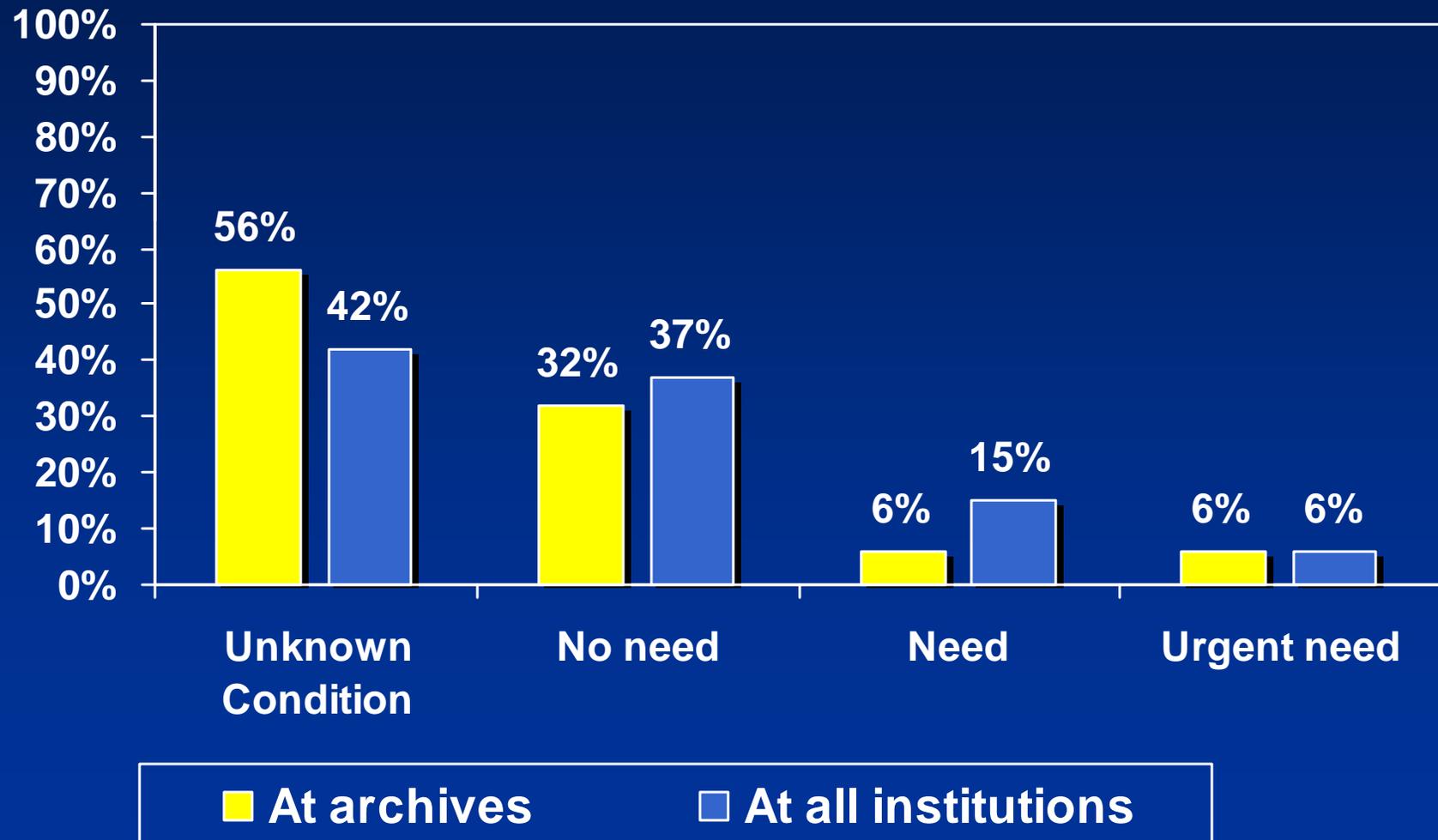
- Books and bound volumes
- Unbound sheets
- Photographic collections
- Moving image collections
- Recorded sound collections
- Digital material collections
- Art objects
- Historic and ethnographic objects
- Archaeological collections
- Natural science specimens



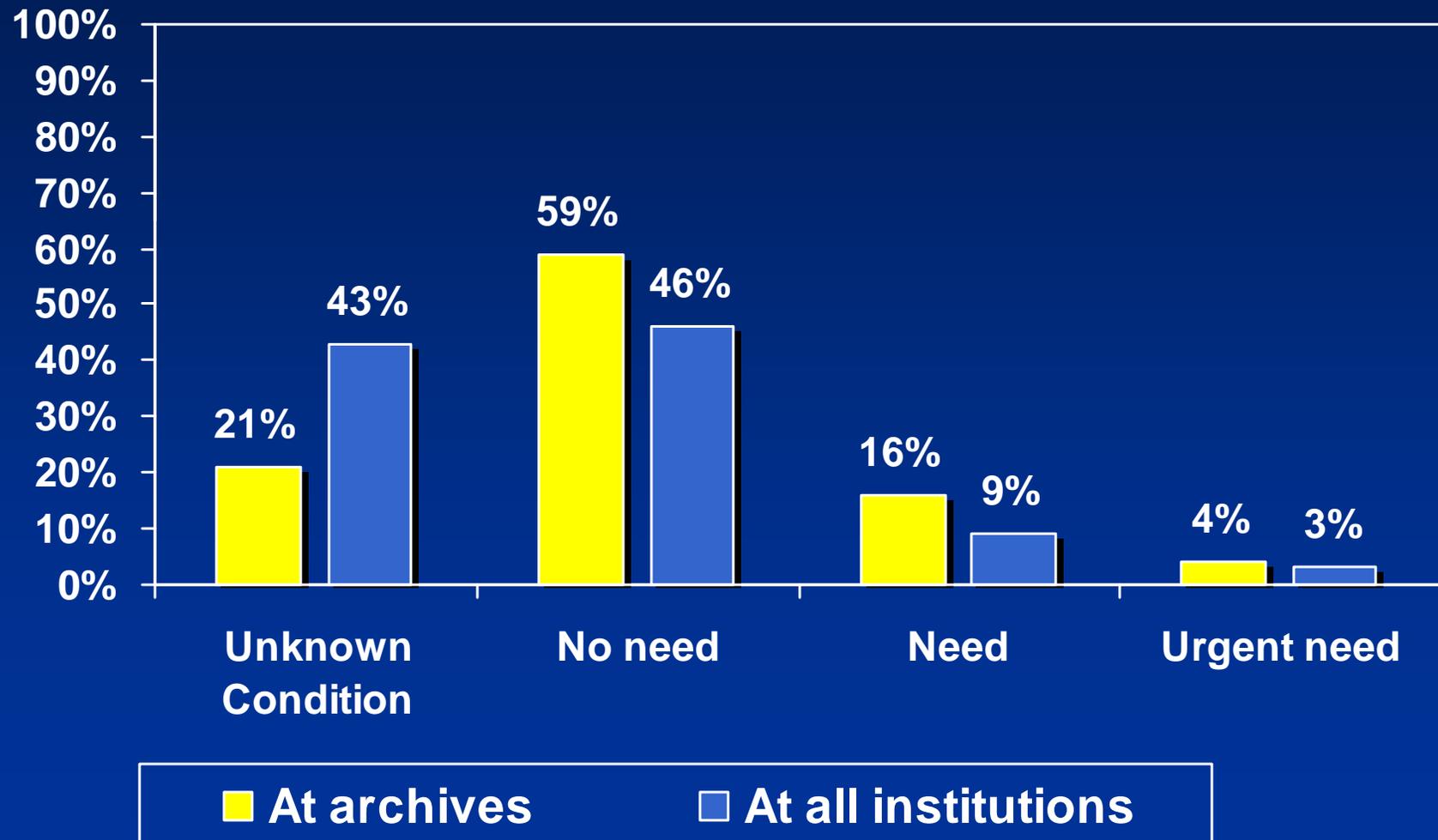
Archives Care for 24% of the Nation's 44 Million Linear Feet of Unbound Sheets



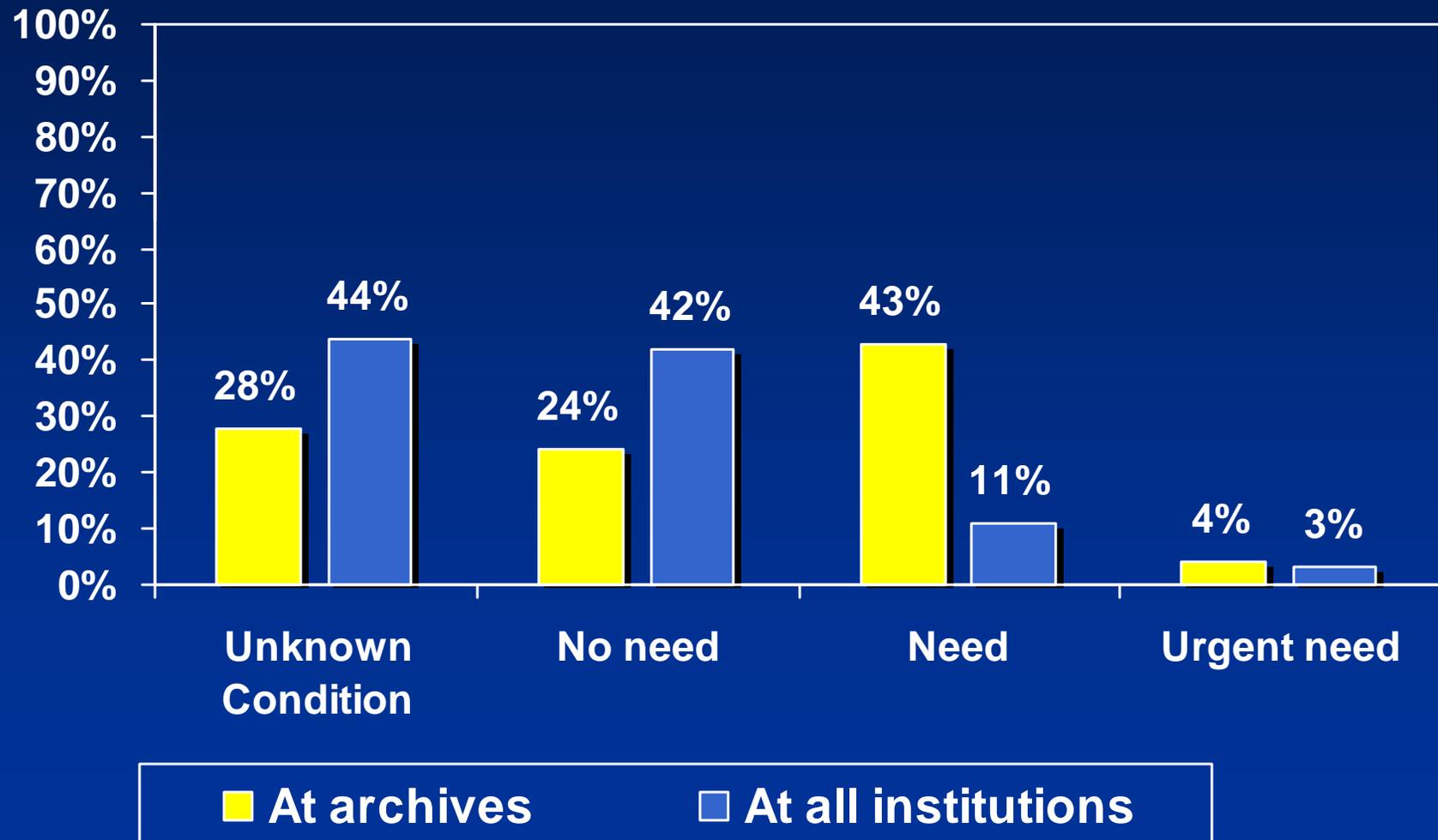
Archives Care for 41% of the Nation's 727 Million Photographic Items



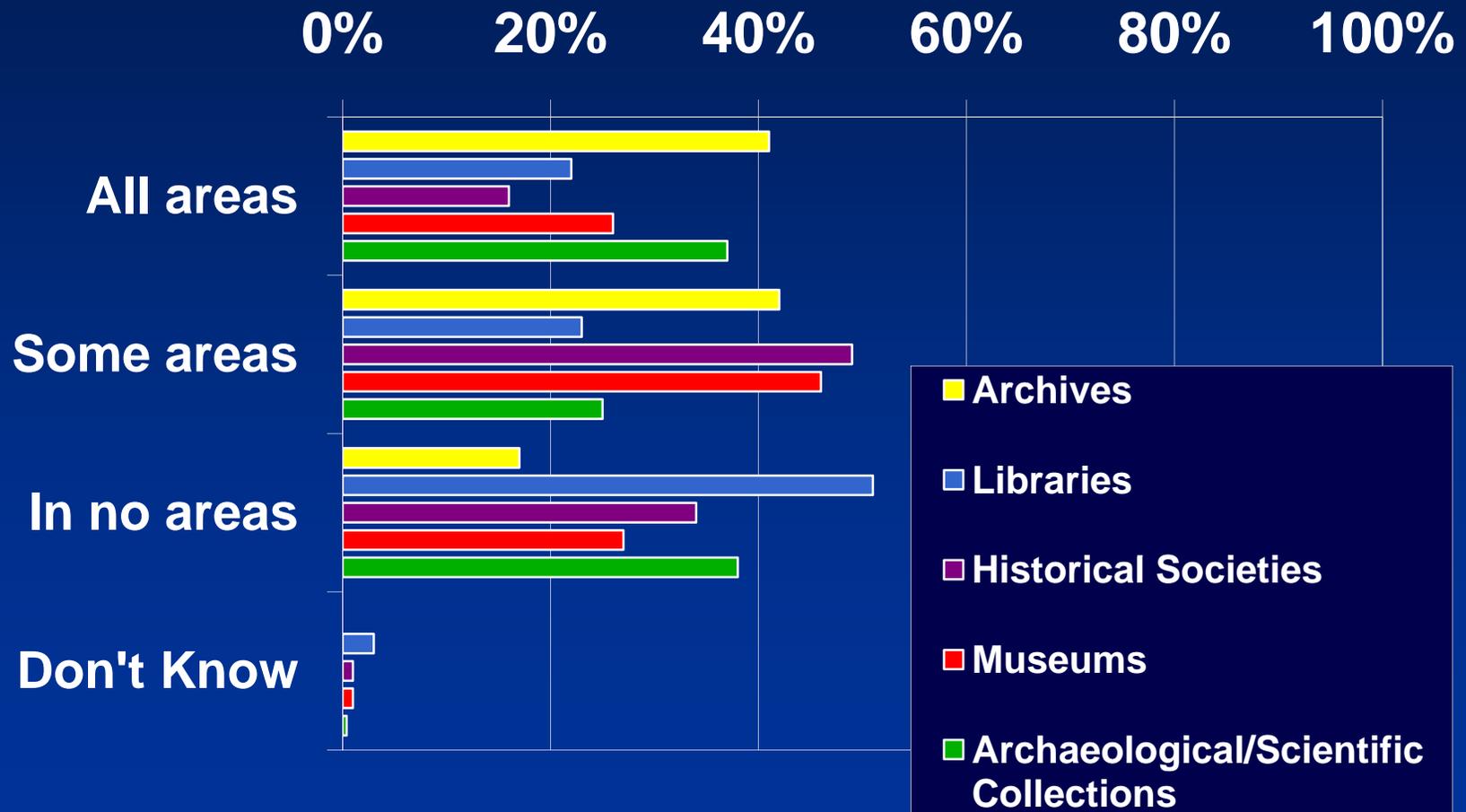
Archives Care for 6% of the Nation's 40 Million Moving Image Items



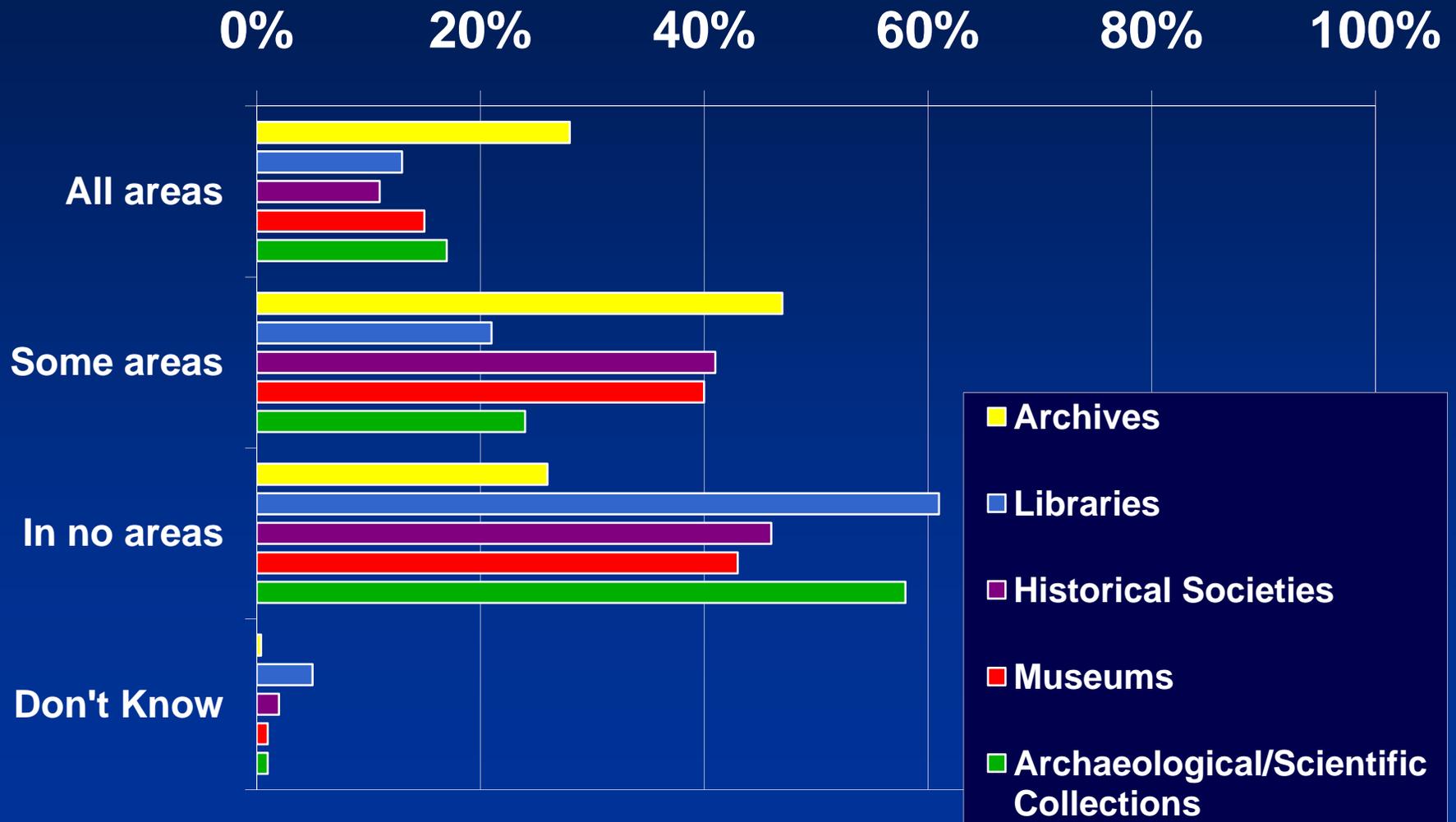
Archives Care for 6% of the Nation's 46 Million Recorded Sound Items



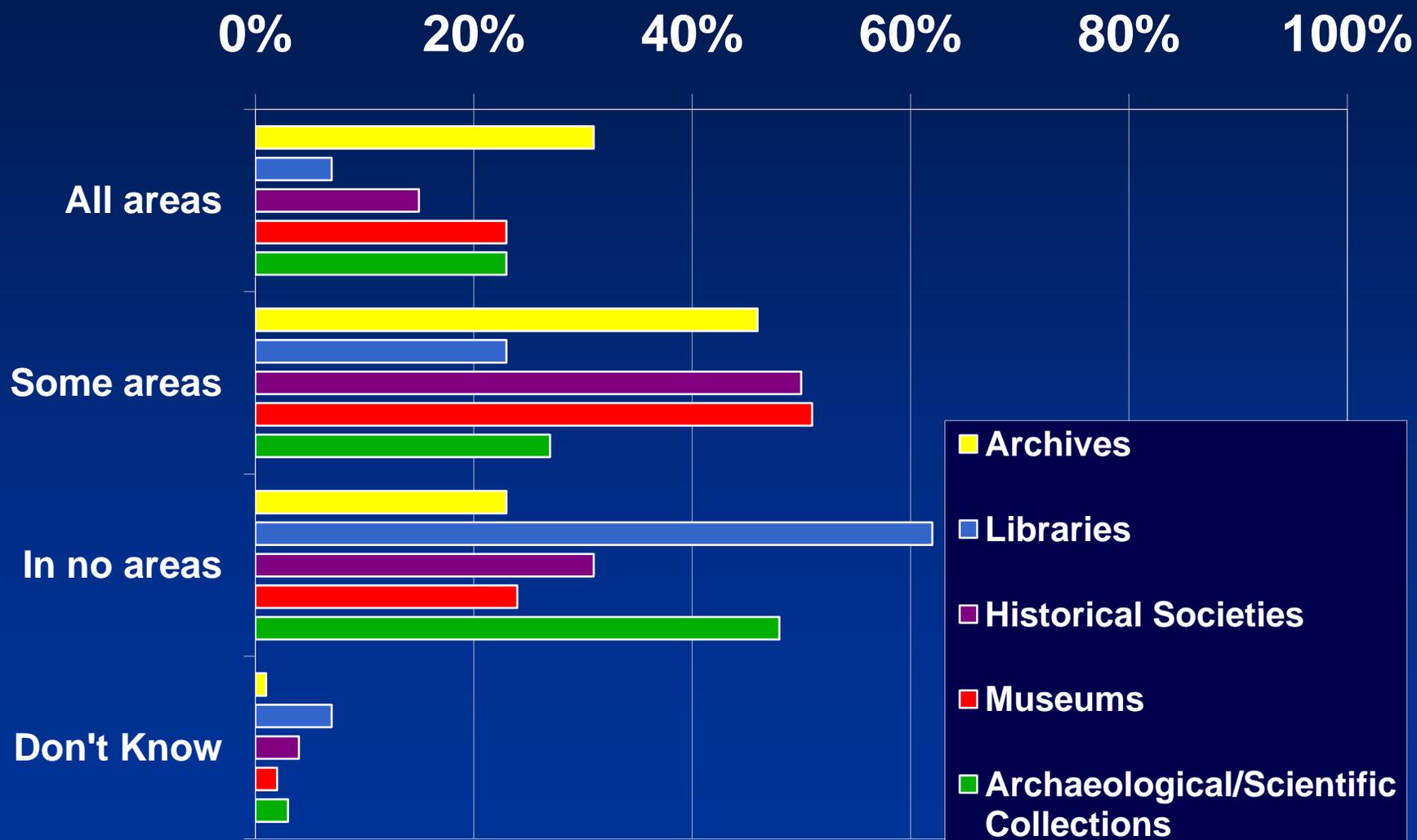
Use of Temperature Controls for the Preservation of Collections



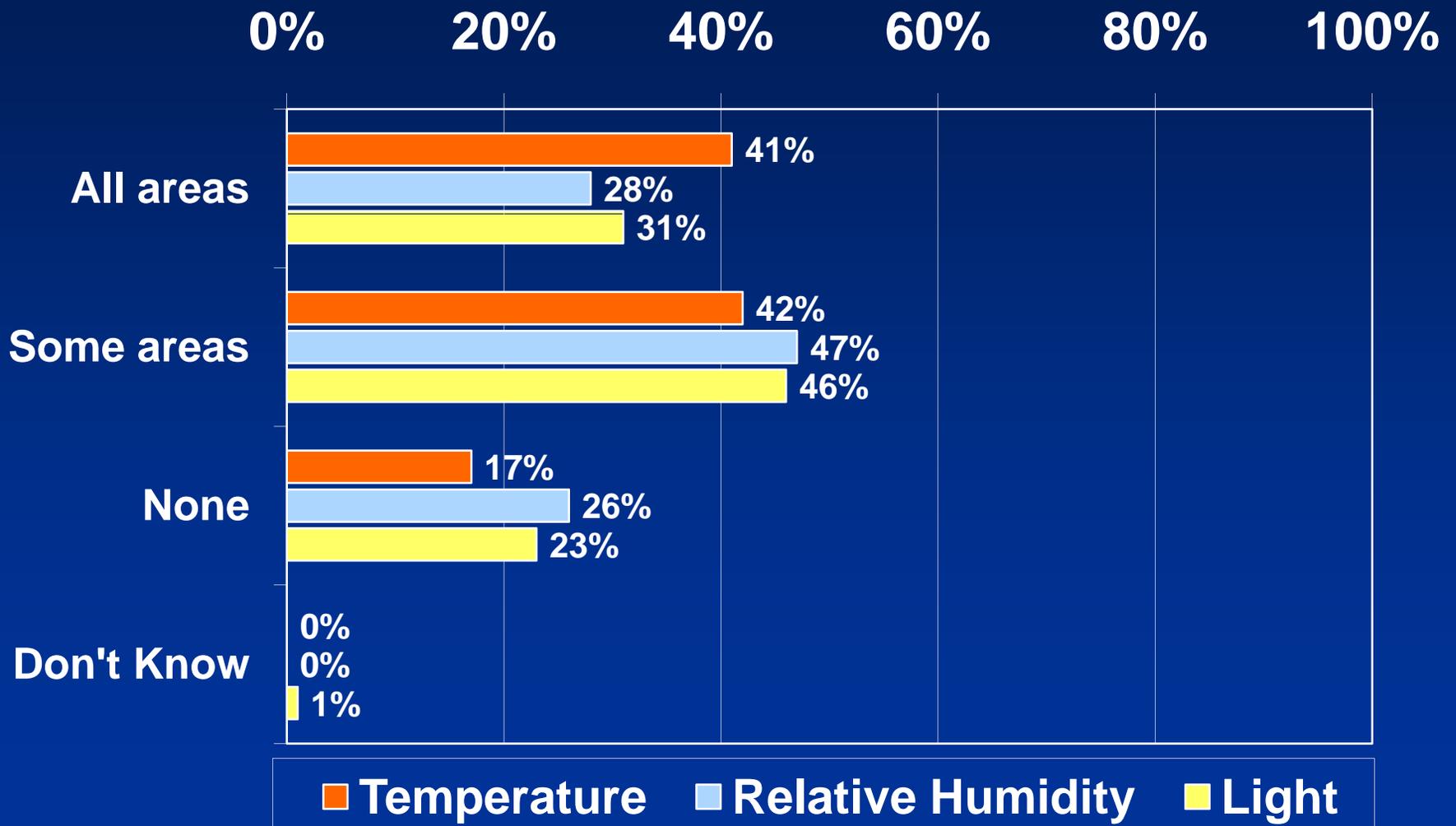
Use of Humidity Controls for the Preservation of Collections



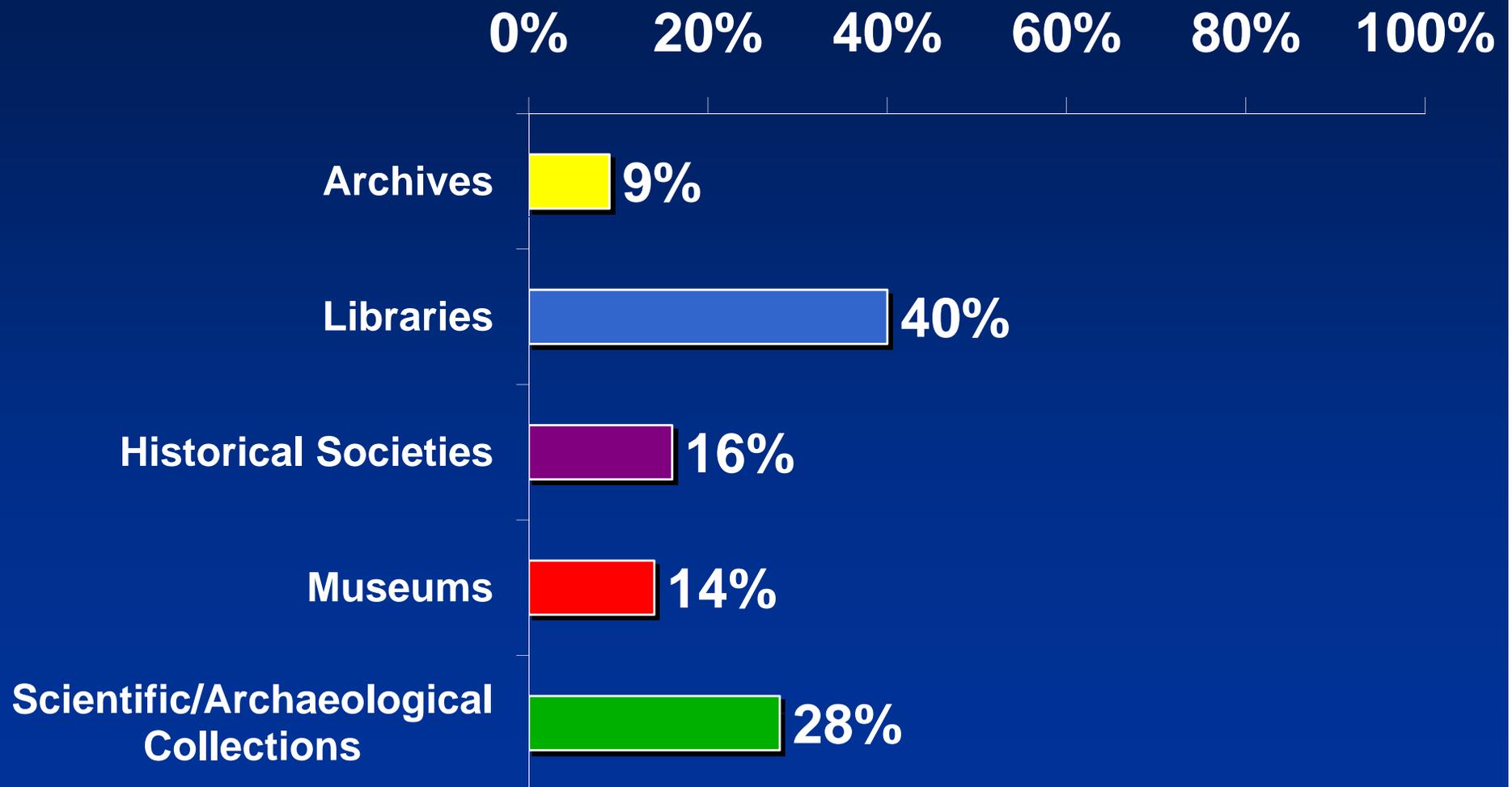
Use of Light of Level Controls for the Preservation of Collections



Archives' Use of Environmental Controls for the Preservation of Collections



Institutions Using No Environmental Controls* for the Preservation of Collections



*Including temperature, relative humidity, and light

Most Common Causes of Damage or Loss to Collections

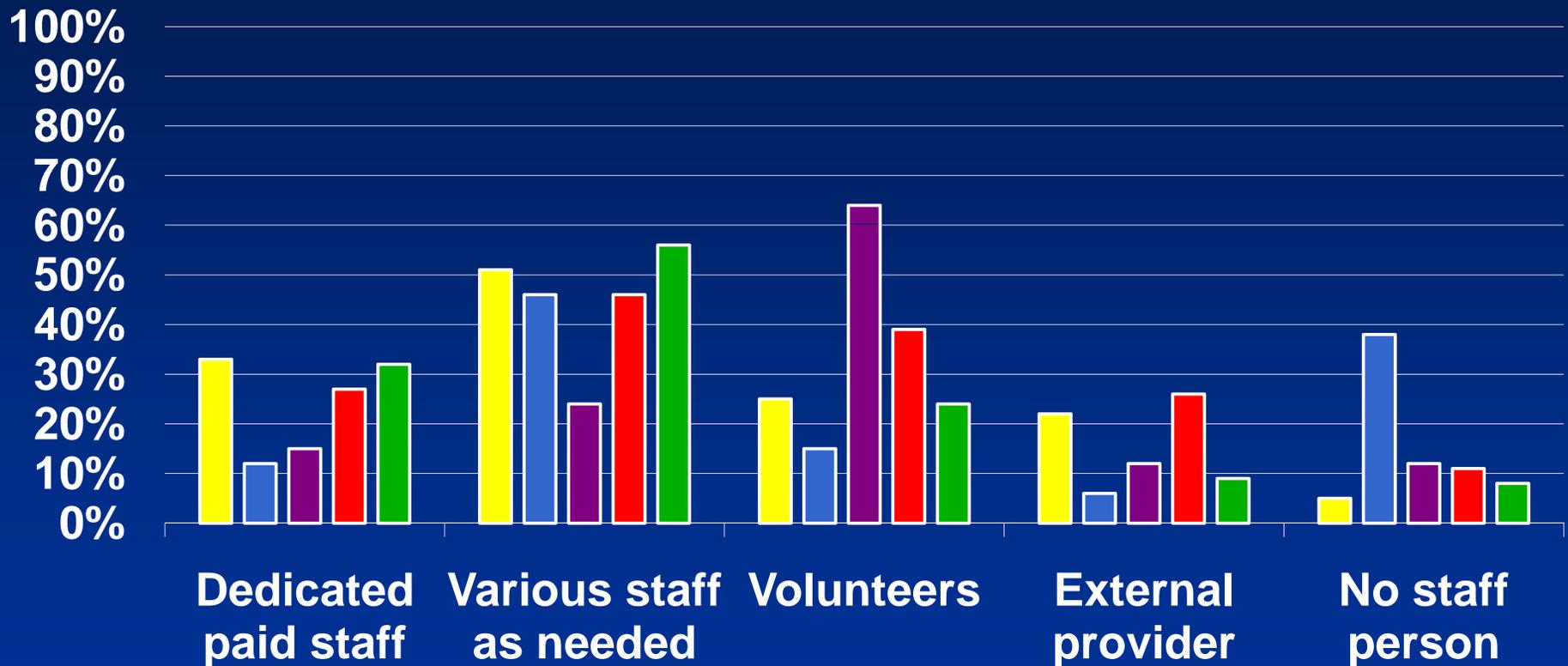
	At archives	At all institutions
Improper storage or enclosure	76%	65%
Handling	65%	54%
Water or moisture	64%	53%
Obsolescence of playback equipment	57%	32%
Light	56%	59%

Combines some damage/loss and significant damage/loss for collections that currently are in need of treatment.

Conservation/Preservation Needs

	At archives	At all institutions
Condition surveys/assessments	78%	68%
Staff training	77%	70%
Finding aids/cataloging collections	75%	65%
Conservation treatment	73%	62%
Preservation of digital collections	68%	45%
Environmental controls	65%	63%
Reduce exposure to light	53%	49%
Security	48%	45%
Integrated pest management	38%	45%

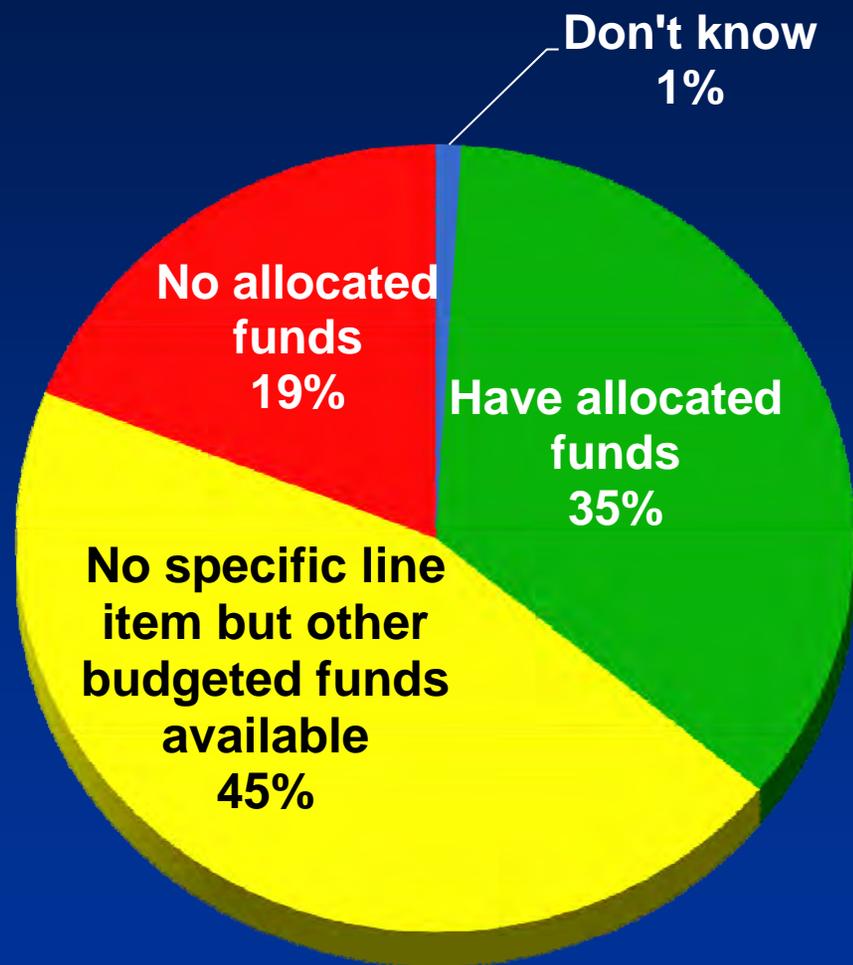
Staffing for Conservation/Preservation



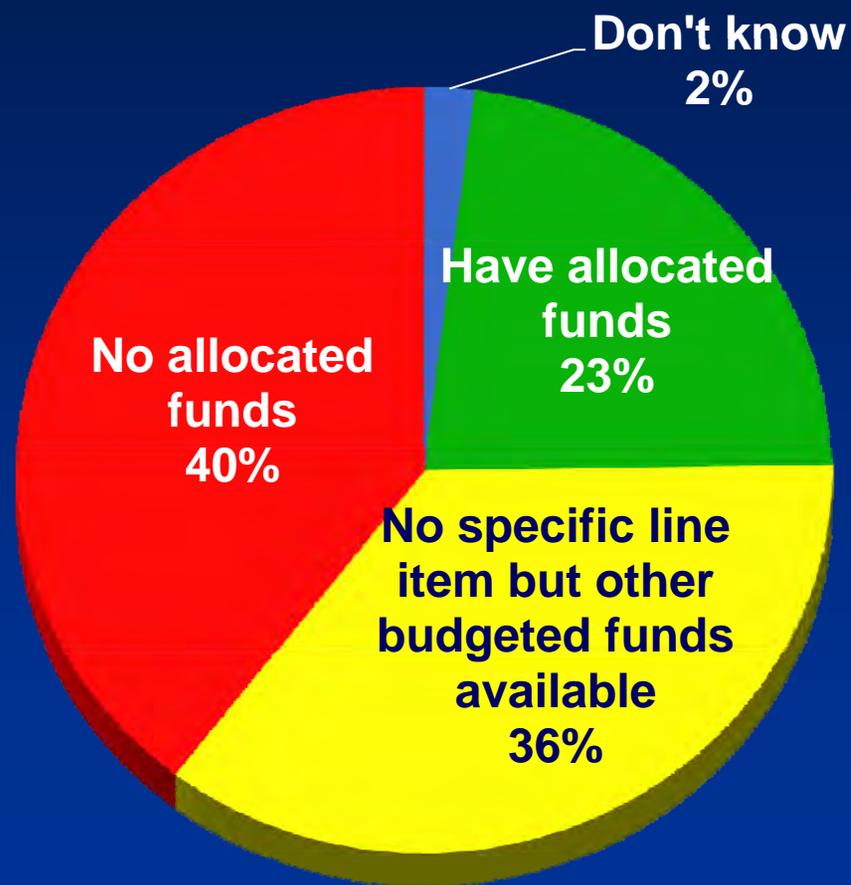
■ Archives ■ Libraries ■ Historical Societies ■ Museums ■ Scientific/Archaeological Collections

Multiple responses allowed

How Funds Are Allocated for Conservation/ Preservation in Annual Budget

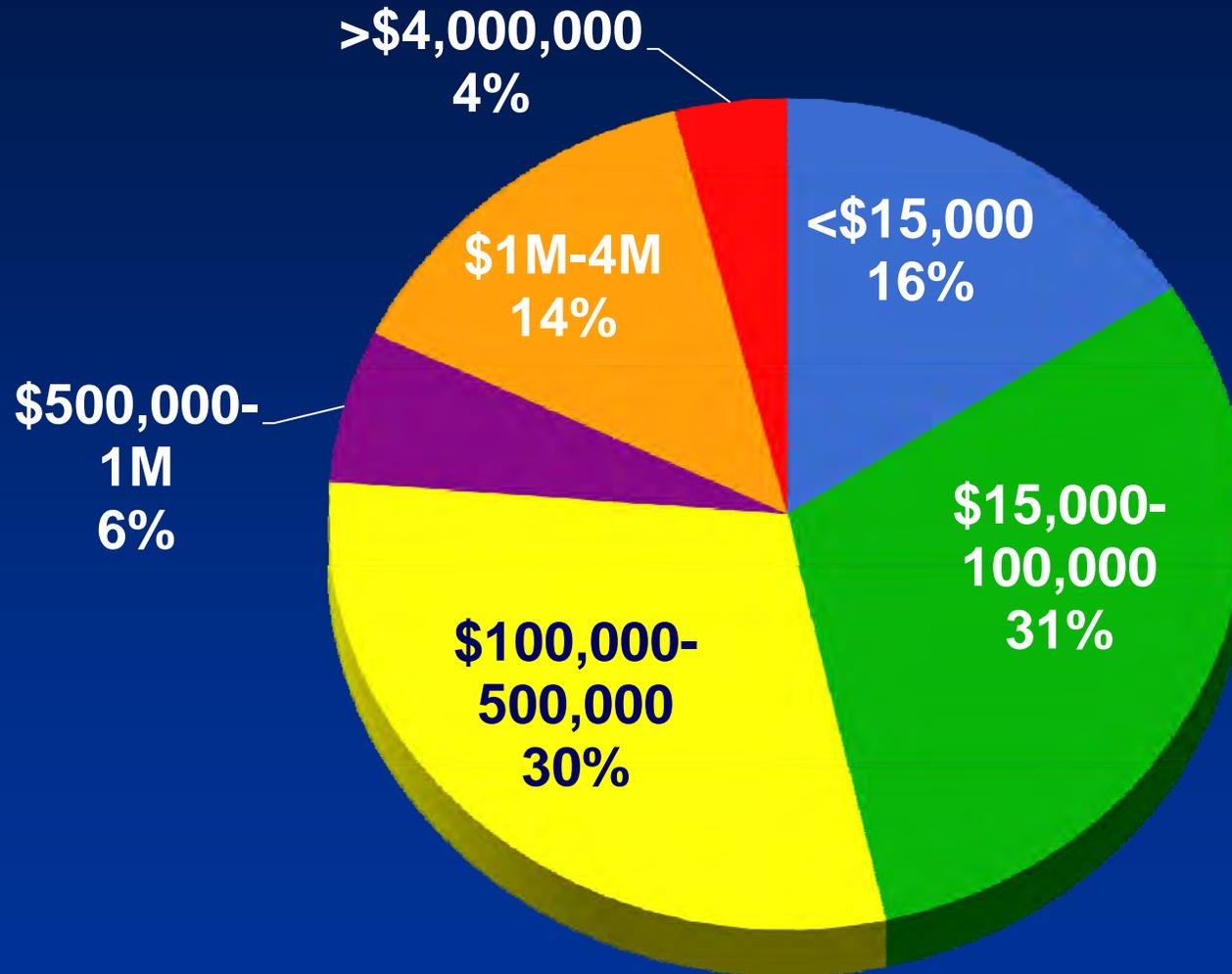


At archives



At all institutions

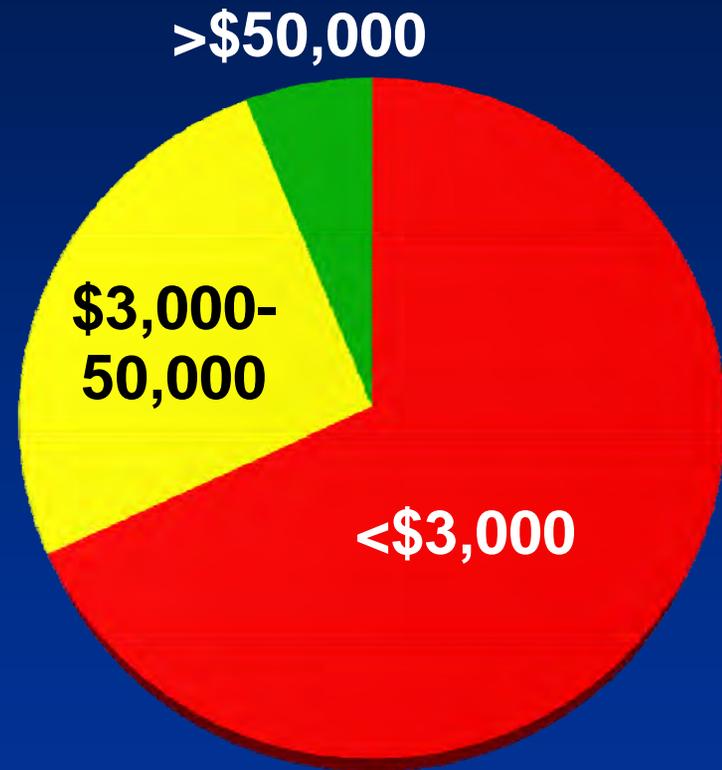
Archives by Annual Operating Budget



Annual Budget for Conservation/Preservation



At archives



At all Institutions

Includes funds for staffing, supplies, equipment, surveys, treatment, preservation reformatting, commercial binding, consultants, contractors, and other preservation costs

For more information, contact Kristen Laise at Heritage Preservation (202-233-0800 or survey@heritagepreservation.org).

Full Heritage Health Index report available at www.heritagehealthindex.org



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