



YACHAD NEW ENGLAND

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GOALS FOR TABLETS

Attend Zoom programs

Play games

Access music, TV, movies, audiobooks

Check and send emails

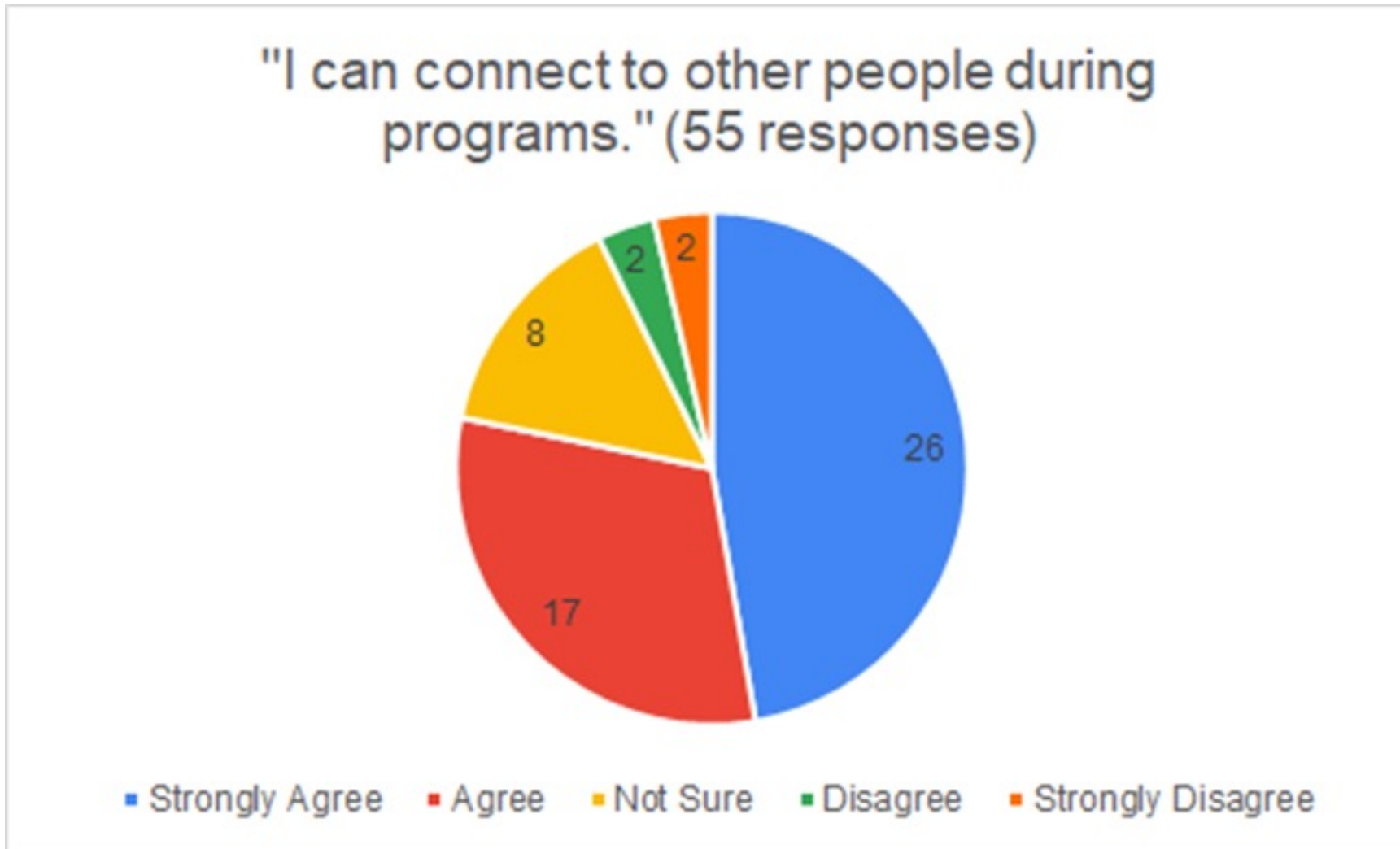
Video call family, friends, and others

Using Alexa

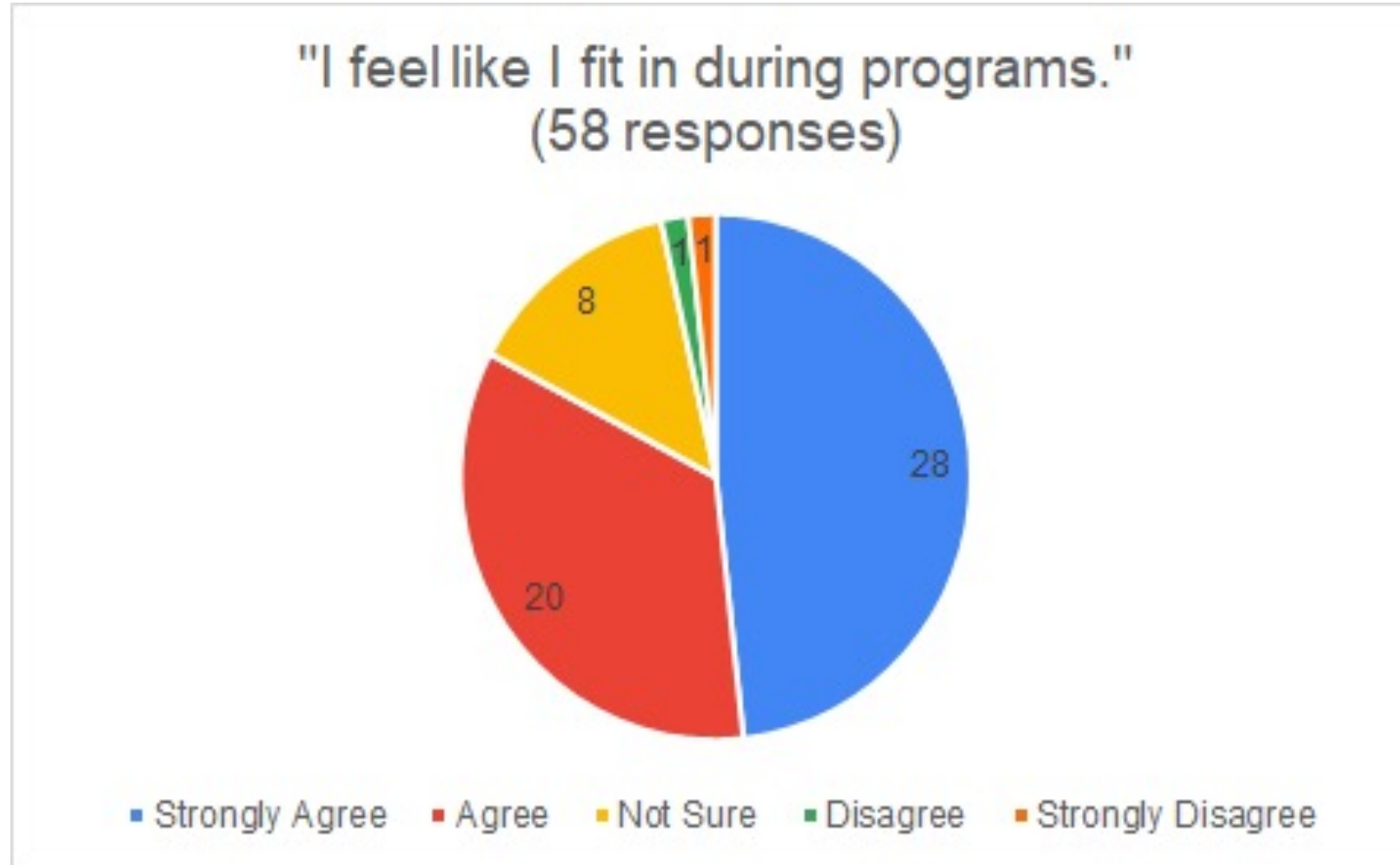
Use social media (e.g. Facebook)

Search for employment

YACHAD NE MEMBERS SURVEYED IN AUGUST '20 ABOUT SOCIAL CONNECTIONS VIA OUR ZOOM PROGRAMS



PARTICIPANTS WERE ASKED IF THEY “FIT IN”



BENEFITS OF ATTENDING YACHAD NE ZOOM PROGRAMS

	# of Responses (of 61 total)
Help me connect with friends	44
Make me feel less lonely	37
Improve my social skills	36
Help me feel good about myself	36
Make me feel supported	34
Improve my life skills	29
Improve my computer skills	17
None of the above	4

INTERNET RISKS FOR THOSE W/IDD & AUTISM

Virtually all Yachad young adults with a smartphone report at least one of the following:

- **Routinely Friending strangers on Facebook or Snapchat - this becomes access point**
- **Visiting other social sites or dating sites, e.g. Match.com, Friendster or Tinder**
- **Sending money or purchasing gift cards for strangers**
- **Sexting and sending pictures to strangers, often showing partial or full nudity**
- **Dangerous meet-ups, going in cars, going to apartments**
- **Having in-person or online sex w/people they don't know**
- **Being recorded in compromising situations**
- **Bullied/harassed online or via phone, called names & shamed**
- **Threatened with physical harm, even needing restraining orders**
- **Sharing social security numbers or other personal information**
- **Sharing bank account info**

MISTAKES PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS MAKE

1. NOT ASKING OR REALIZING THESE ADULTS ARE AT RISK

- Clients rarely seek help unless it comes up in conversation or they are asked directly.

2. NOT REALIZING INDIV. W/IDD & AUTISM ARE TECH SAVVY

- Clients enjoy online activities and some spend a considerable amount of time on their devices which increased during COVID

3. REACTING BY TAKING AWAY OR RESTRICTING USE OF DEVICES

- Instead **LETS: Listen** to understand the extent of risk; show **empathy**; **teach** online and personal safety; give **support**
These are better responses than taking away devices

4. MINIMIZING THE NEED TO REPORT TO ODDP AND THE POLICE

- Some perpetrators are serial offenders intentionally targeting individuals with disabilities. This is criminal behavior and very underreported

SOME WAYS TO HELP:

- **Become aware of internet safety issues**
- **Be proactive - Don't be afraid to talk about internet safety and scams.**
- **Train staff - recognize "red flag" stories from clients regarding talking to strangers online, sharing pictures or giving anyone money**
- **Train clients - show powerpoint presentations for groups and individuals who need reminders on how to stay safe. hold discussion-based groups about these topics in a safe space, judgement-free zone. Help clients overcome feeling embarrassed or ashamed.**
- **Help parents and caregivers to have appropriate and measured responses**