



PARENTAL
ALIENATION &
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH FOR INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES

SSHRC  CRSH

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada



uOttawa

Findings from the International Survey on "Parental Alienation" and Domestic Violence

Simon Lapierre, PhD | Camila Cardeal, PdD(c) |
Raheleh Sazgar, PhD(c) | Tanishka Sharma, PhD(c) |
Naomi Abrahams, PhD(c) | Patrick Ladouceur, PhD(c)

International Forum on "Parental Alienation" and Domestic Violence
University of Ottawa
June 3, 2024





CONTEXT AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES



"Parental Alienation" & Domestic Violence: an International Partnership



The project objective is to develop an international partnership that brings together academic researchers and community organizations interested in and working with women who have experienced DV and have been seen as “engaging in PA”.



Participating countries: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Italy, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, New Zealand, Spain, United Kingdom, and United States of America.

Project Objectives



1

To examine how PA discourses are used in family court and child protection practices in the different participating countries, particularly in situations where women who have experienced DV are seen as “engaging in PA” and identify similarities and differences.

2

To document the impacts of PA discourses and practices on abused women and their children, and on community organizations working with women who have experienced DV.

3

To analyze strategies used by abused women, community organizations and researchers to challenge "parental alienation" discourses and practices, and to counteract claims made against women who have experienced domestic violence.

4

To develop tools to support abused women, community organizations and researchers who wish to challenge "parental alienation" discourses and practices, or counteract claims made against women who have experienced domestic violence.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM
THE INTERNATIONAL
SURVEY: SURVIVORS'
PERSPECTIVES**



Survivors' Survey



- 18 years old or older;
- Woman has at least one child under 18 years old;
- Woman has experienced domestic violence and abuse perpetrated by the child's father;
- Woman has been through either child protection or child custody proceedings;
- Woman has been seen as an "alienating" parent at some point during these proceedings, whether or not the term alienation was explicitly mentioned.

1072 respondents.

911 answered at least 60% of the survey questions.

Participants' profile



| Country women currently live | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| | Frequency | Percentage |
| Australia | 26 | 2.9 |
| Belgium | 11 | 1.2 |
| Brazil | 109 | 12.0 |
| Canada | 143 | 15.7 |
| France | 147 | 16.1 |
| Iceland | 77 | 8.5 |
| Ireland | 2 | 0.2 |
| Israel | 15 | 1.6 |
| Italy | 130 | 14.3 |
| New Zealand | 4 | 0.4 |
| Spain | 40 | 4.4 |
| United Kingdom | 105 | 11.5 |
| United States of America | 73 | 8.0 |
| Other | 23 | 2.5 |
| Prefer not to answer | 6 | 0.7 |
| Total | 911 | 100.0 |

The majority of the study's participants were:

- Between 36 and 45 years old (457; 50.2%).
- Completed a higher education degree (597; 65.5%).
- Had one or two children (359 women had one child (39.4%) and 327 women (35.9%) had two children).
- Had one child involved in the PA allegations (511; 56.1%.)
- Children were on average 10 years old.
- Girls (466; 51.2%) and boys (423; 46.5%) had similar numbers.



VIOLENCE TOWARDS WOMEN AND CHILDREN



Domestic Violence and Abuse



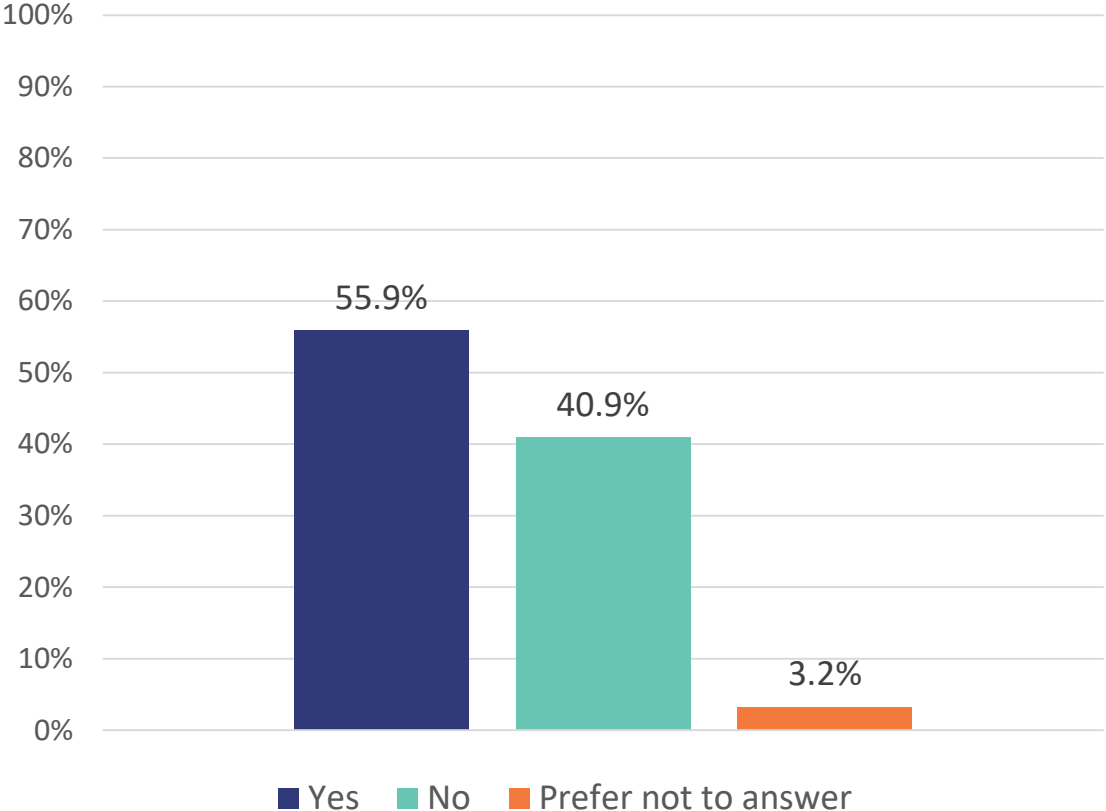
Children and their mothers **reported the violence and abuse** that had been perpetrated against them by the child's father to child custody or child protection services and the police:

- 868 (95.3%) had disclosed the violence and abuse to at least one professional involved in child custody or child protection proceedings.
- 532 (58.4%) indicated that the child had also disclosed domestic violence to at least one of these professionals.
- 689 (75.6%) had reported the violence that had been perpetrated towards them to the police.
- 244 (26.8%) indicated that the child had also reported or disclosed domestic violence to the police.

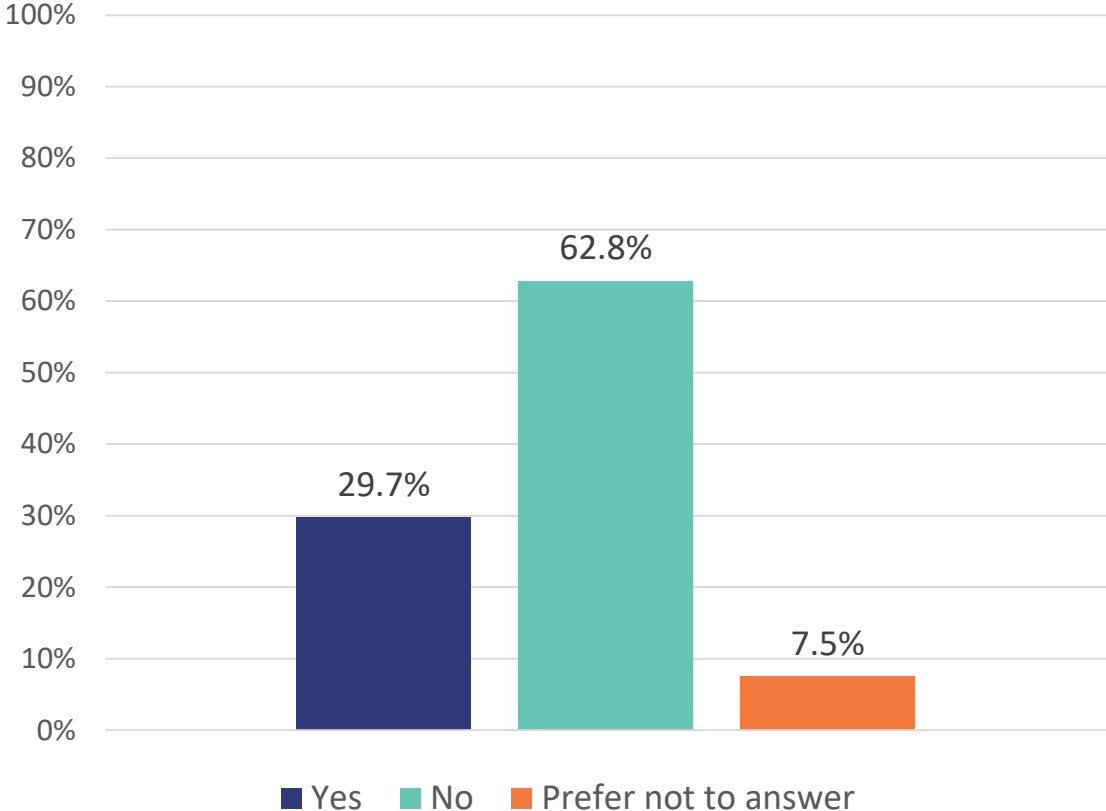
Child Physical and Sexual Abuse



Physical abuse towards the child by the father been raised as an issue



Sexual abuse towards the child by the father been raised as an issue



Child Physical and Sexual Abuse



Children and their mothers **reported that child abuse** had been disclosed to at least one professional involved in child custody or child protection and had been reported to the police.

Child physical abuse

- 479 (94%) had disclosed the physical abuse to at least one professional involved in child custody or child protection proceedings.
- 394 (77.4%) stated that the child had disclosed this abuse to at least one of these professionals.
- 382 women (75%) had reported it to the police.
- 242 women (47.6%) stated that the child had also reported or disclosed it to the police.

Child Physical and Sexual Abuse



Children and their mothers **reported that child abuse** had been disclosed to at least one professional involved in child custody or child protection and had been reported to the police.

Child sexual abuse

- 251 (92.6%) had disclosed the sexual abuse to at least one professional involved in child custody or child protection proceedings.
- 203 (74.9%) stated that the child had disclosed sexual abuse to at least one of these professionals.
- 230 (84.9%) had reported it to the police.
- 137 (50.5%) stated that the child had disclosed or reported it to the police.

Domestic Violence and Abuse



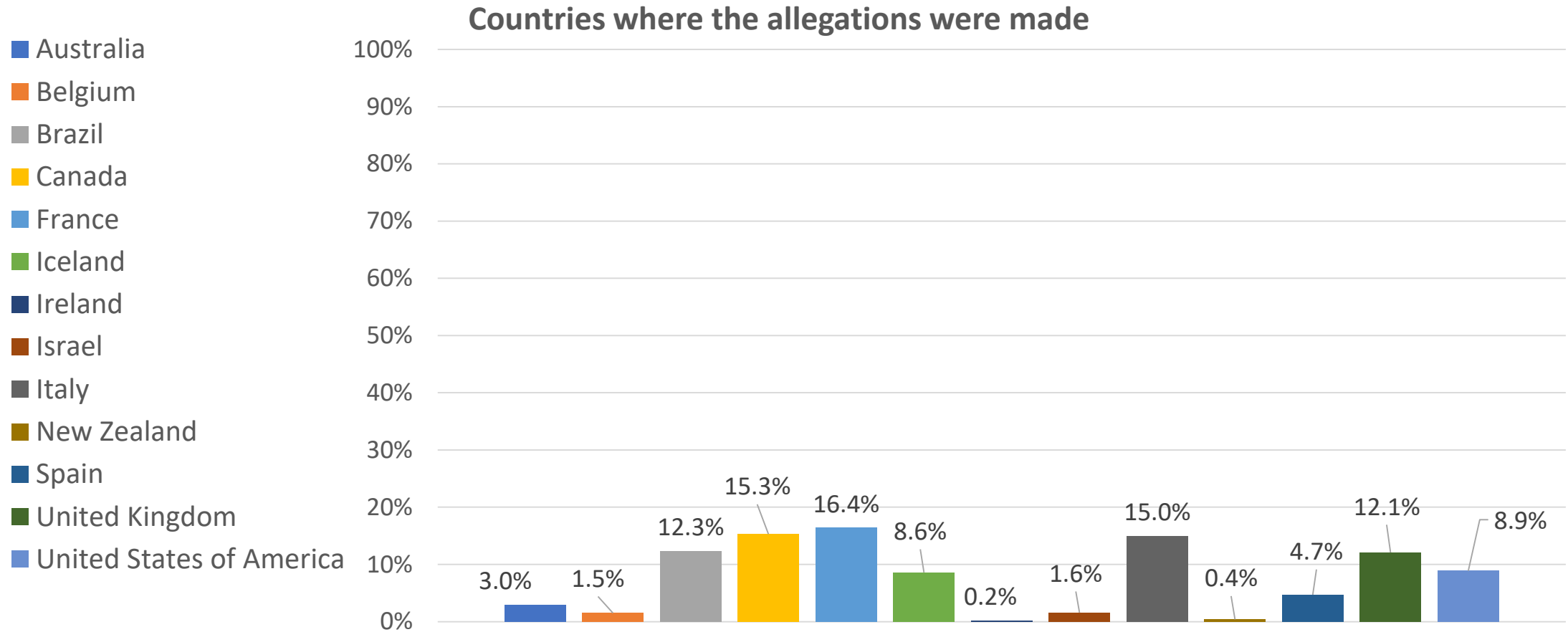
Although women and children disclosed and reported the violence and abuse committed against them by the child's father, there are few cases in which the father has been found guilty or convicted:

- 121 (13.3%) stated that the father had been convicted or found guilty in criminal proceedings for the **domestic violence and abuse** perpetrated by the child's father.
- 21 (4.1%) stated that the father had been found guilty or convicted in criminal proceedings for the **child physical abuse** perpetrated by the child's father
- 9 (3.3%) stated that the father had been found guilty or convicted in criminal proceedings for the **child sexual abuse** perpetrated by the child's father

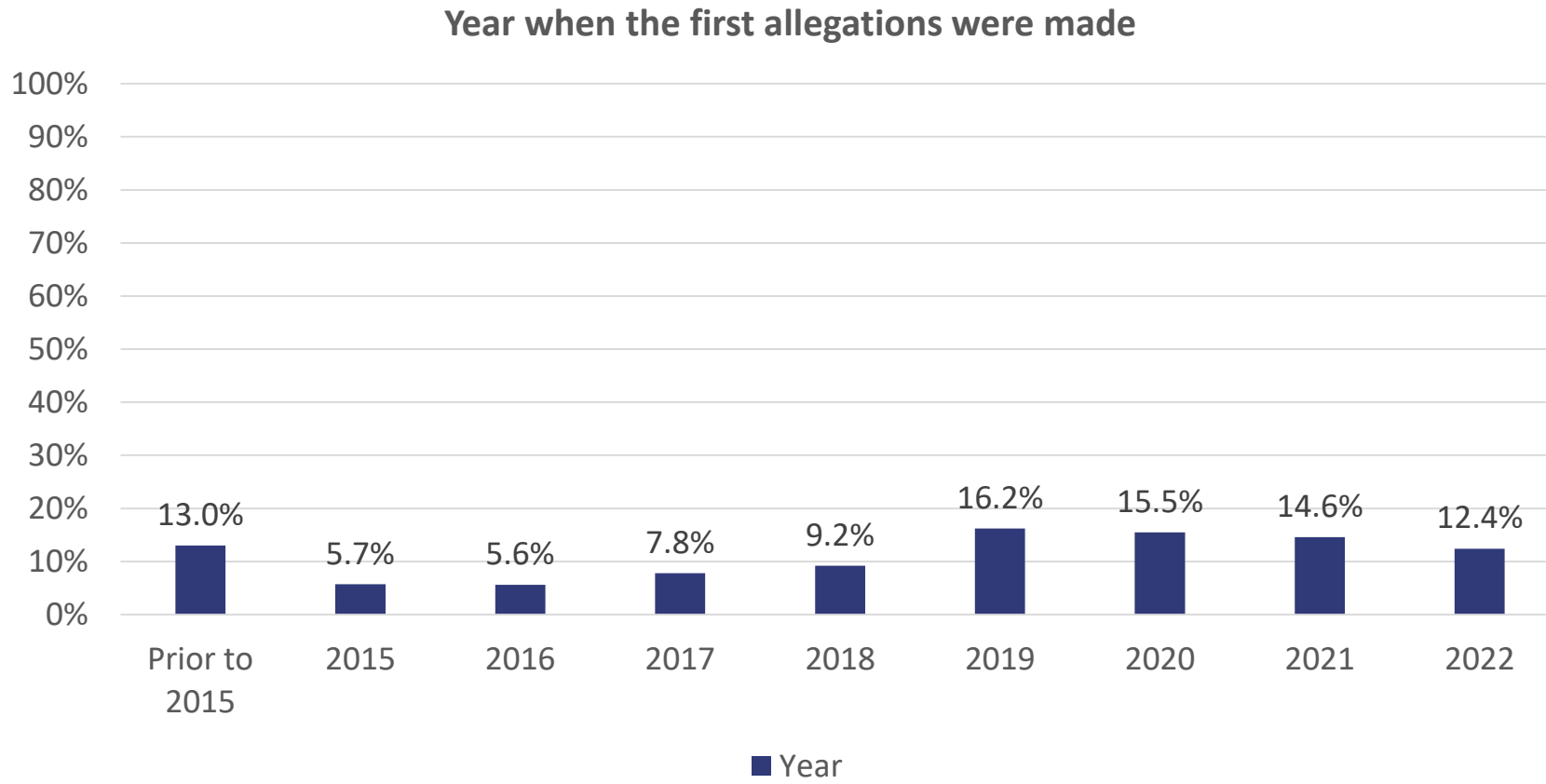
“PARENTAL ALIENATION” ALLEGATIONS



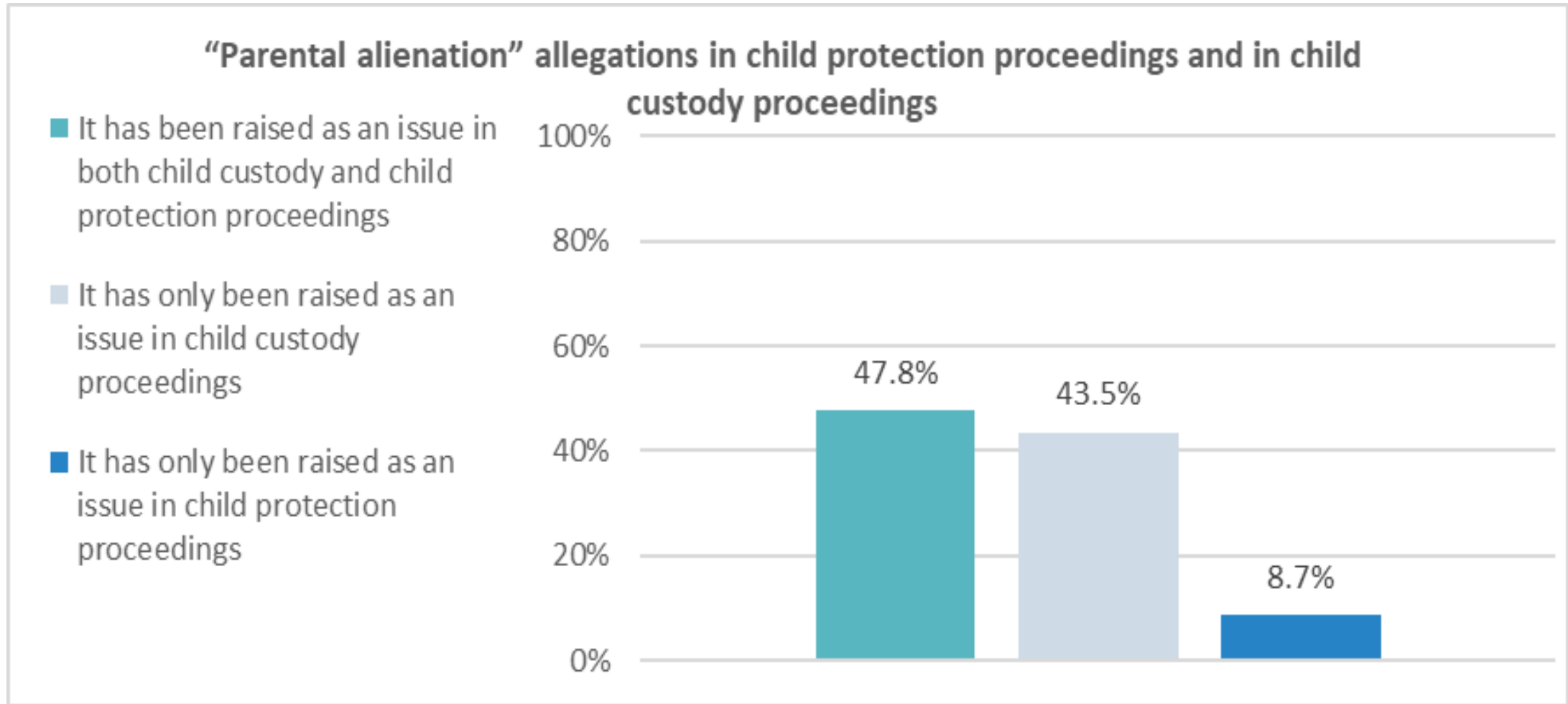
"Parental Alienation" Allegation Based on Country



"Parental Alienation" Allegation Based on Year



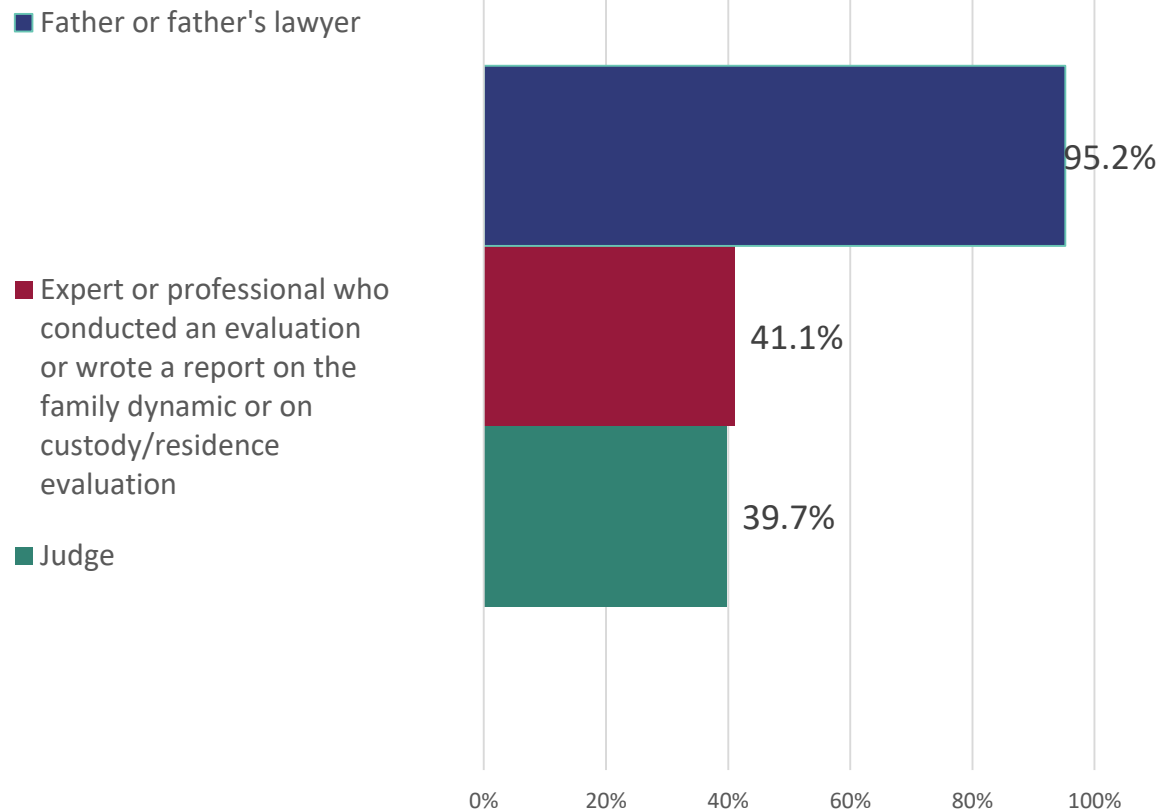
Accusations of "Parental Alienation" in Child Protection and Child Custody



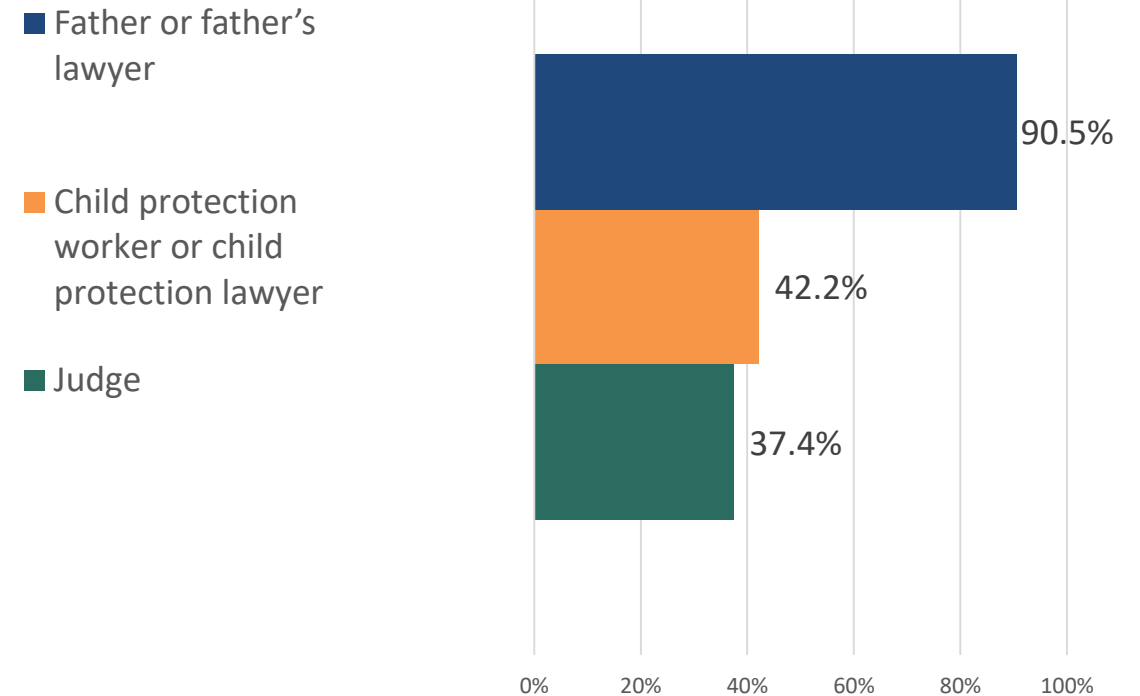
Identifying Sources of Accusations as "Alienating" Mothers in Child Protection And Child Custody



Most selected professionals who have described the woman an alienating parent in **child custody** proceedings



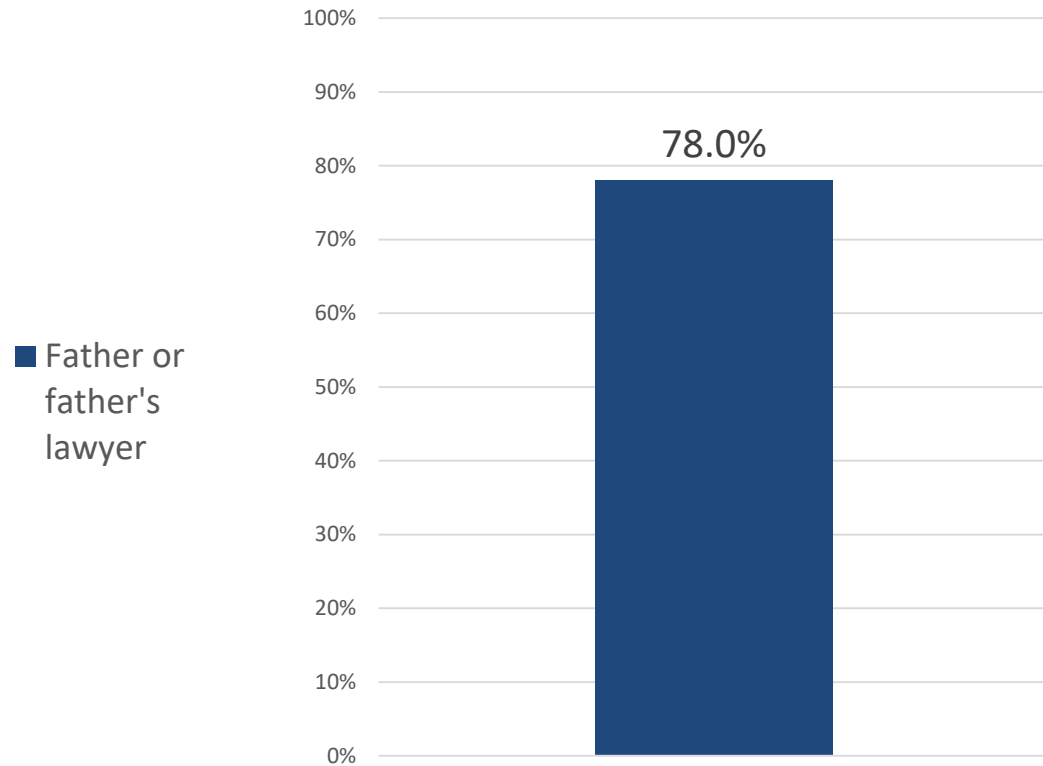
Most selected professionals who have described the woman as an alienating parent in **child protection** proceedings.



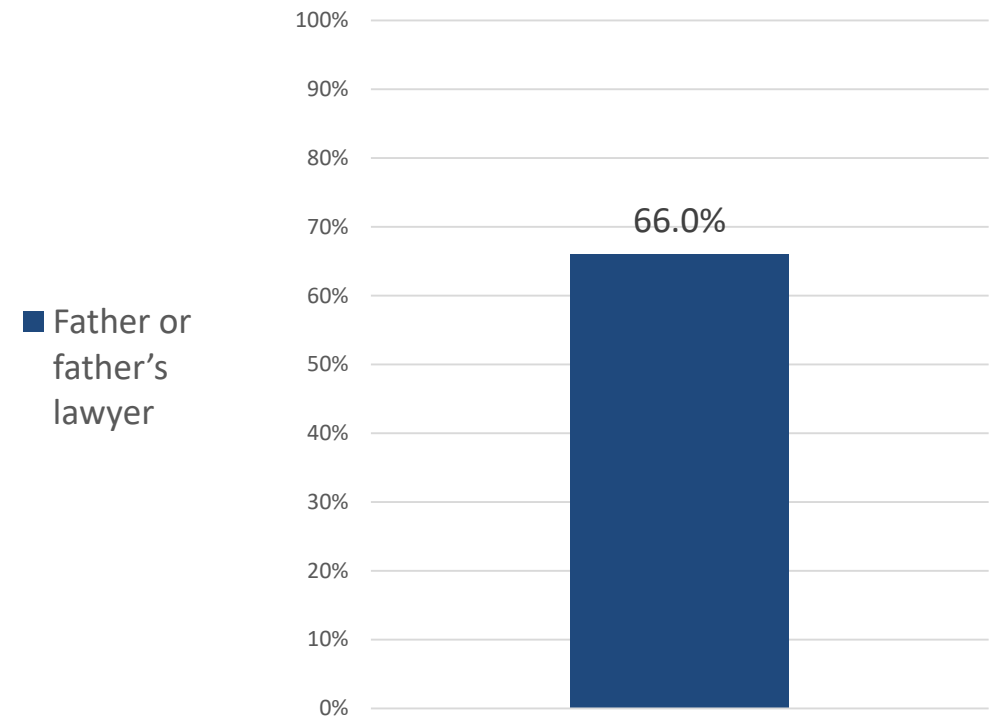
Identifying Sources of Accusations as "Alienating" Mothers in Child Protection And Child Custody



First professional who have described the woman as an alienating parent in child custody proceedings



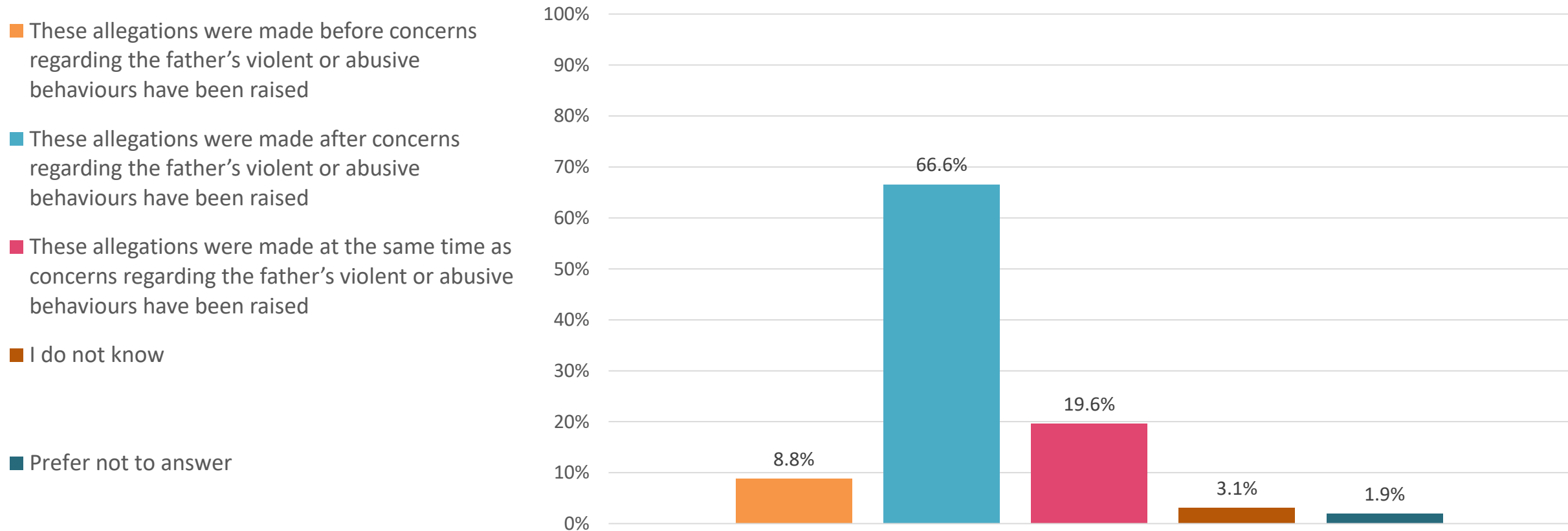
First professional who have described the woman as an alienating parent in child protection proceedings



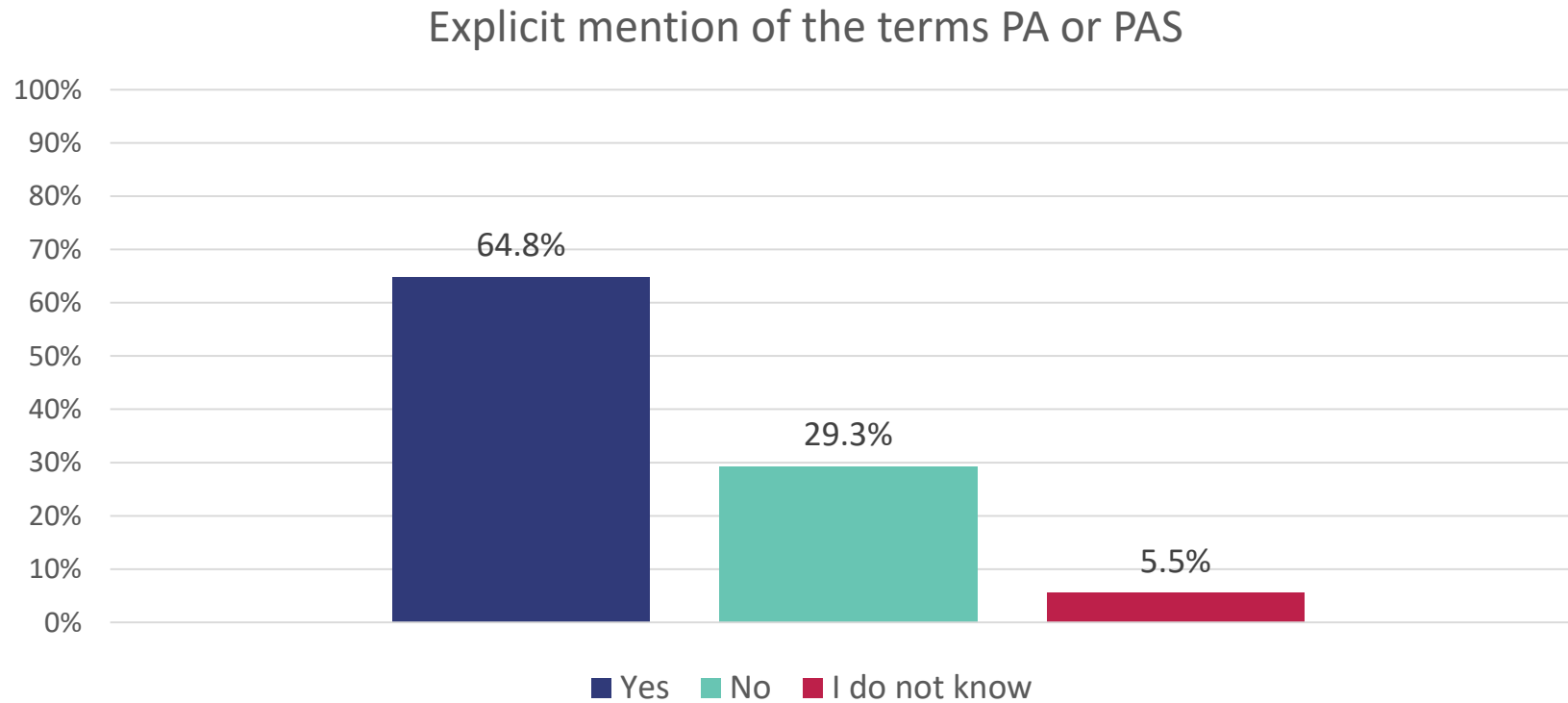
PA Allegations & Father Violent Behavior



“Parental alienation” allegations made **before** or **after** concerns regarding the father’s violent or abusive behaviours have been raised



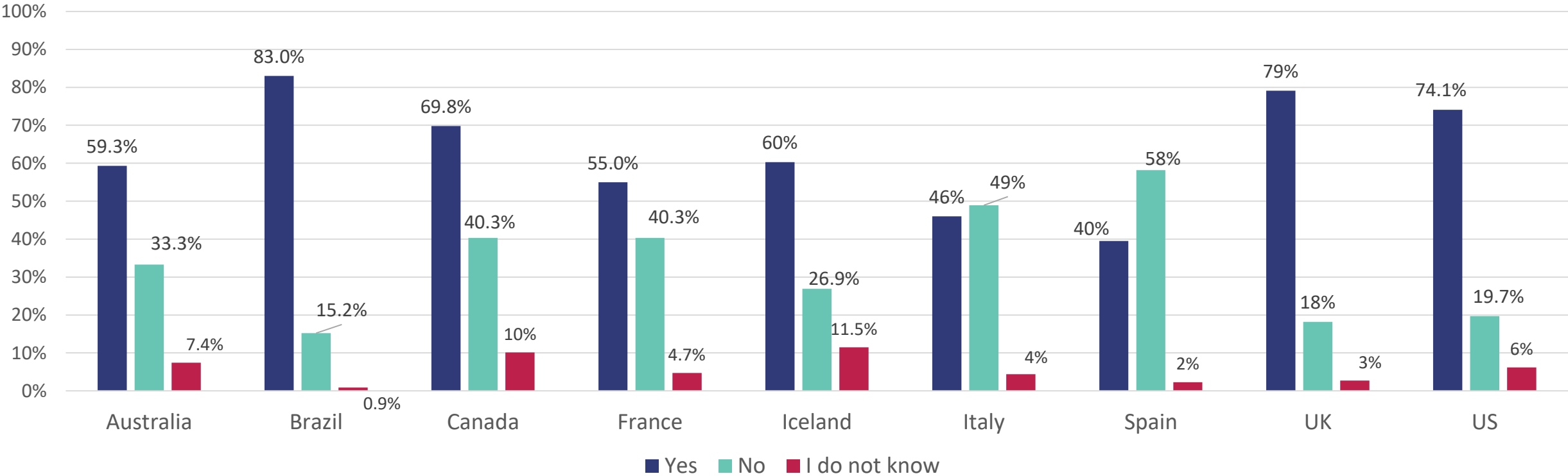
Explicit mention of the terms “parental alienation” or “parental alienation syndrome”



Explicit mention of the terms “PA” or “PAS” by country



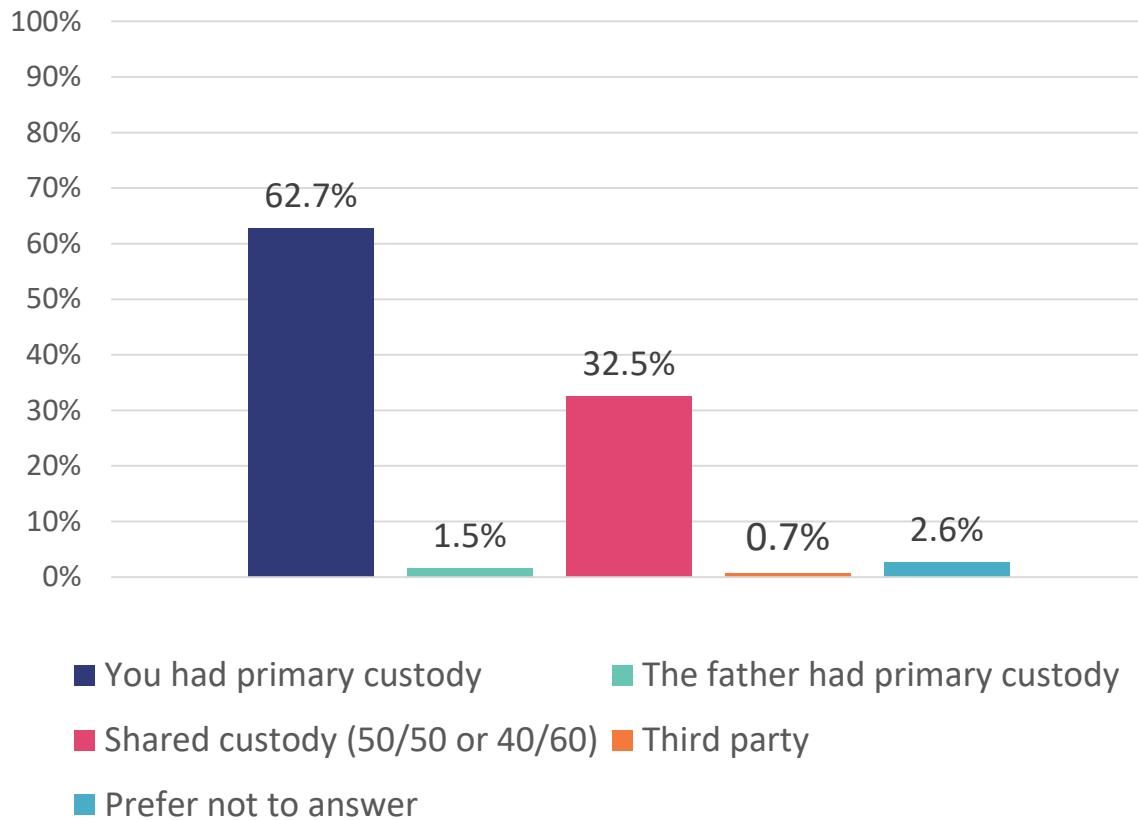
Explicit mention of the terms PA or PAS by country



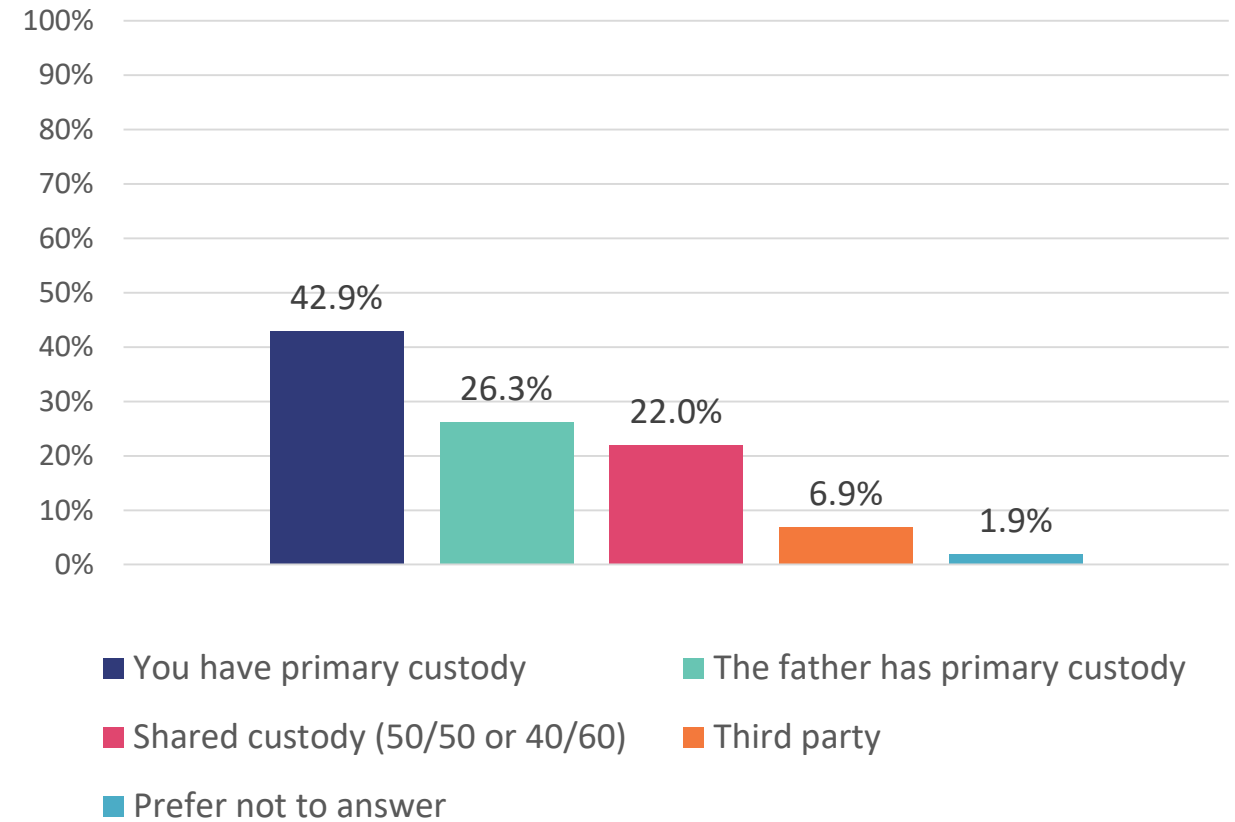
Impacts of “Parental Alienation” Allegations on Custody Arrangements



Custody arrangements **before** “parental alienation” was alleged



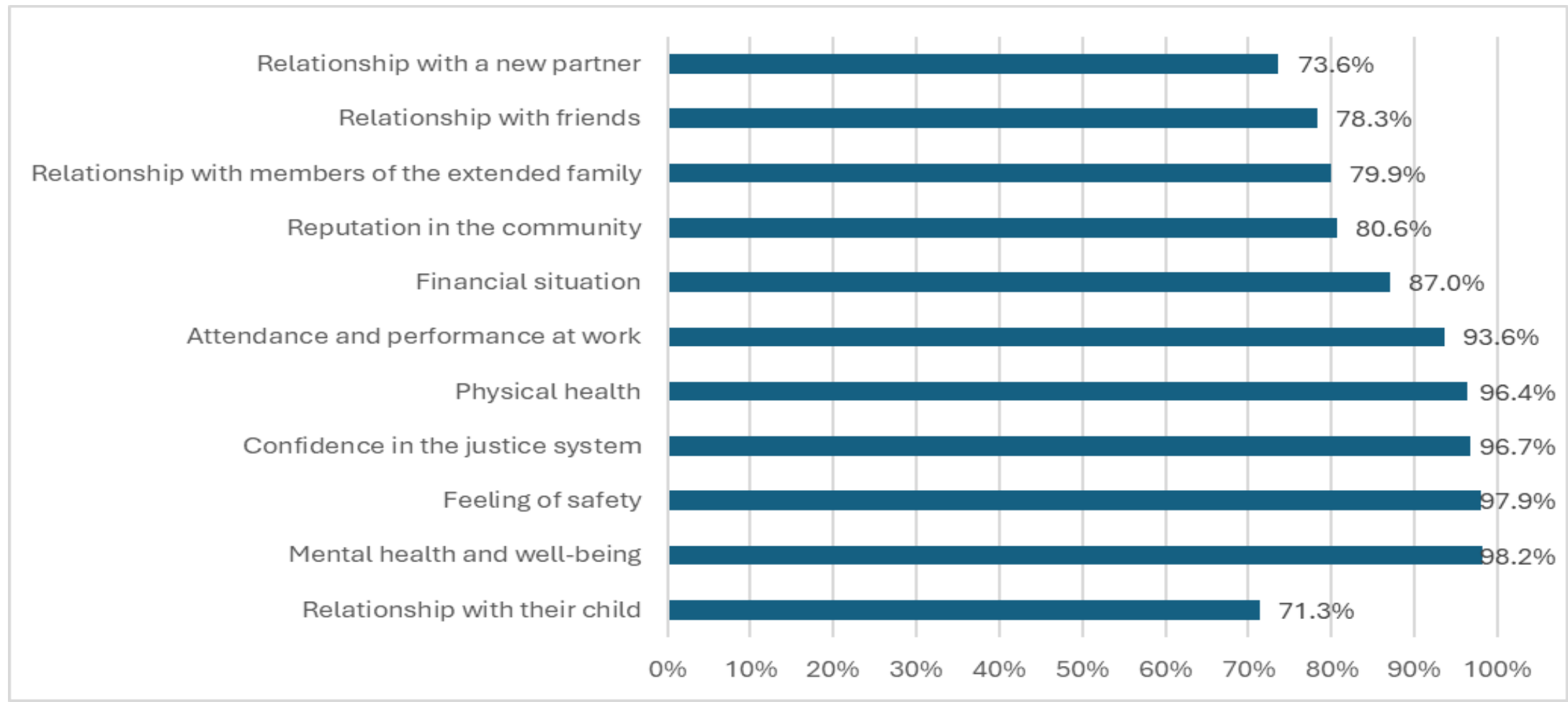
Custody arrangements **after** “parental alienation” was alleged



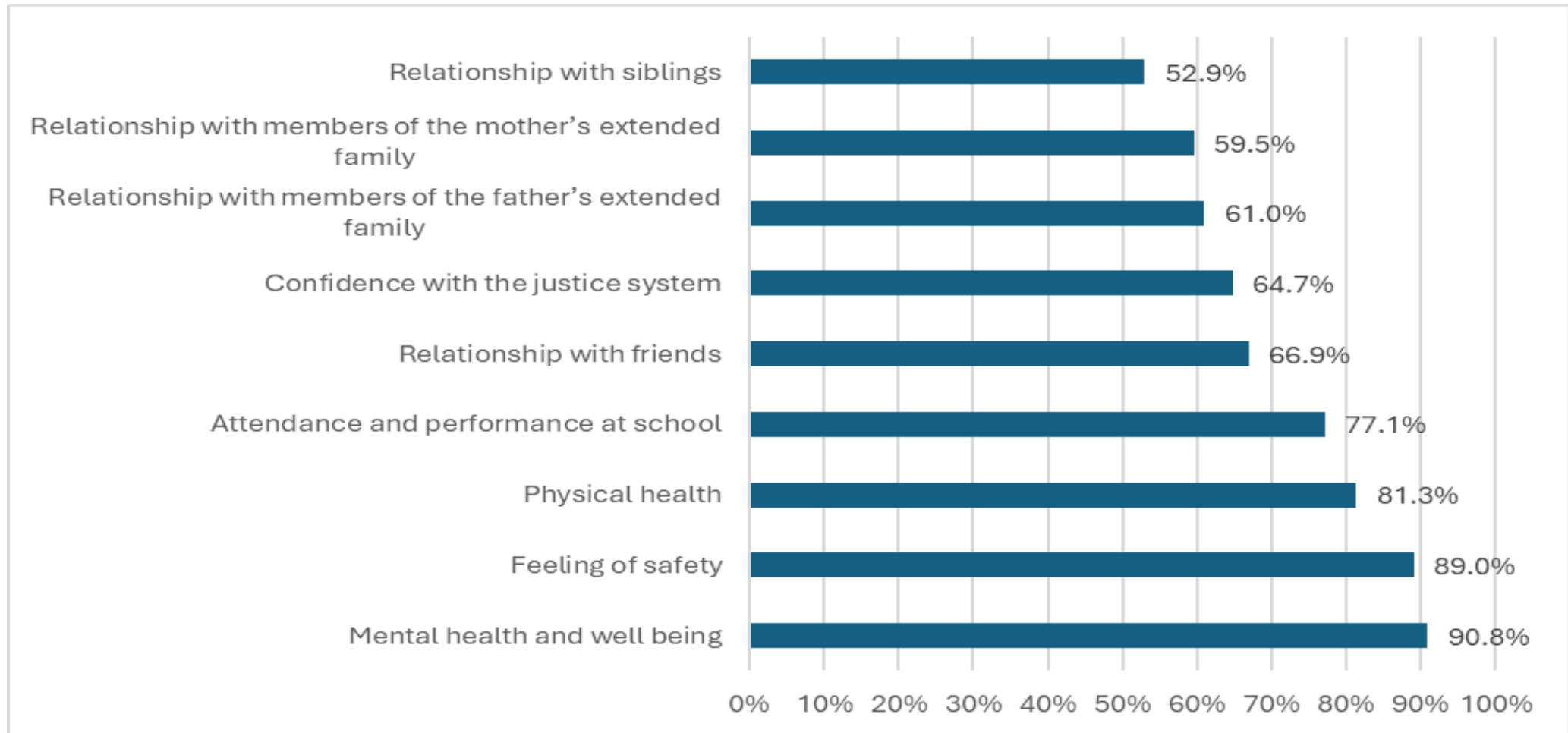
THE IMPACTS OF
“PARENTAL ALIENATION”
ALLEGATIONS ON WOMEN
AND CHILDREN



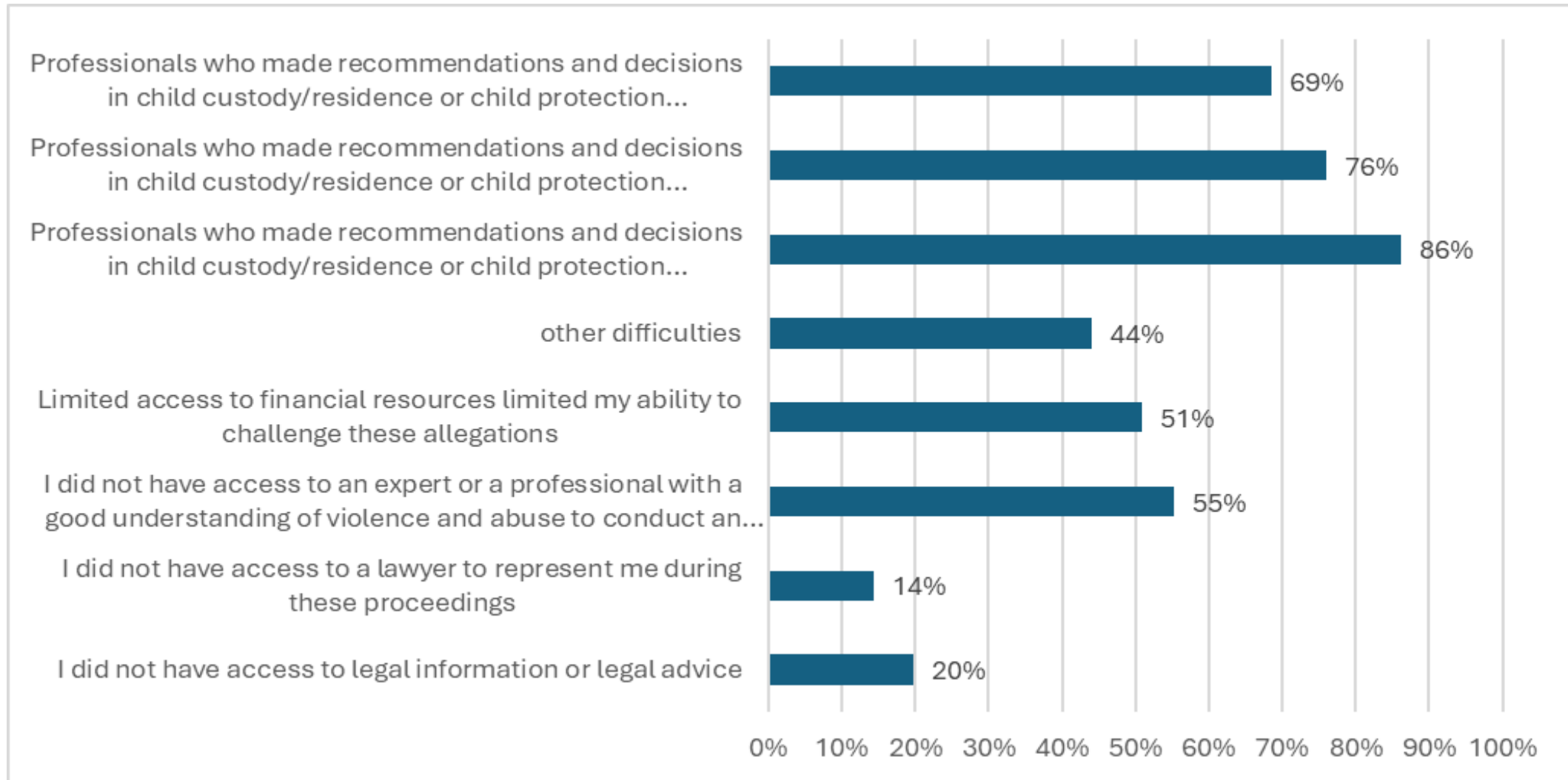
The Impacts of “Parental Alienation” Allegations on Women



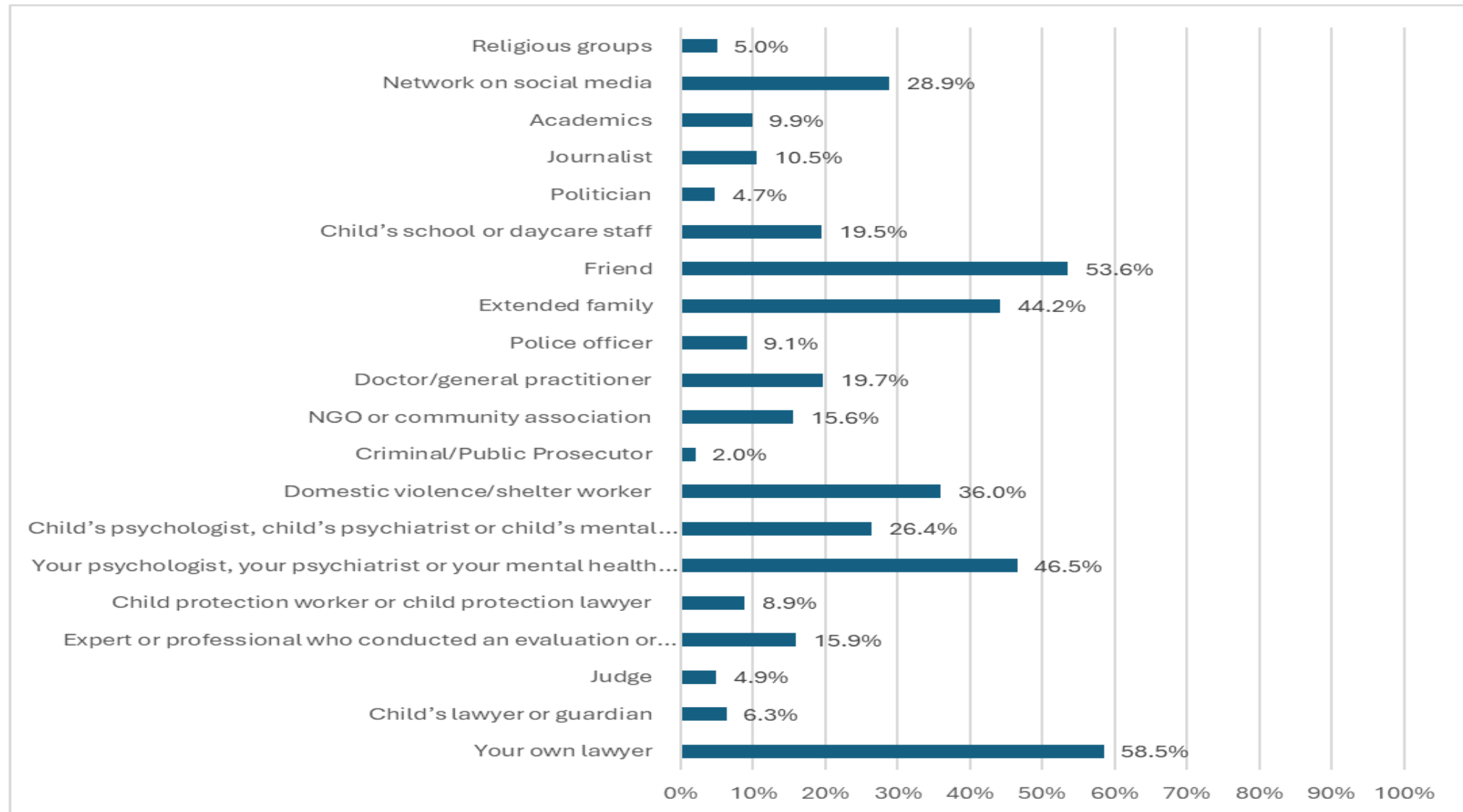
The Impacts of “Parental Alienation” Allegations on Children



Difficulties women experienced in challenging "PA" allegations



Support Women found to challenge "PA" allegations



Thank you!



padv@uottawa.ca



parentalalienationdv.com



@padvint



@padvint



Parental Alienation &
Domestic Violence

