

TallahasseeVoices

Hurricane Preparedness Survey

Released 5.30.07

Contact:

Jenna Newitt, jenna@tallahasseevoices.com

Sonia Prusaitis, sonia@kerr-downs.com

Phillip Downs, Ph.D., pd@kerr-downs.com

850-906-3111

And The Tallahassee Democrat

TallahasseeVoices extends a special thanks to Jay Baker, Ph.D., Hurricane Expert at FSU, jbaker@garnet.acns.fsu.edu and Richard Smith, Director of Emergency Management in Leon County, richard@leoncountyfl.gov for their contributions to this study.

TallahasseeVoices is a pro bono Internet survey panel sponsored by Kerr & Downs Research and The Tallahassee Democrat. There were 670 responses to the survey sent out in August, 2006. Panel results have been weighted to reflect the demographics of Leon County and results are representative of all local residents who have access to the Internet at home, work, or school. Go to our website at www.tallahasseevoices.com to join our panel and let your voice be heard.

TallahasseeVoices surveys have accurately predicted local votes on:

- The coal plant
- Sales tax increase for healthcare
- Switching City elections from Fall to the Spring
- Nearly all local elections it has covered

TallahasseeVoices, an experiment in democracy

To join, go to www.tallahasseevoices.com

Hurricane preparedness

- Local residents feel safer than Florida residents: Only 6% of local residents feel extremely vulnerable to hurricane damage compared to 21% of Floridians
- 2 out of 3 local residents have family disaster plans
- Only 13% of local residents have made their homes structurally stronger since the last hurricane season
- 6 in 10 local residents have hurricane survival kits
- High %s of local residents have 3 day supplies of:
 - Prescription medicines (95%)
 - Flashlights/lanterns (91%)
 - Non-perishable foods (82%)
 - Outdoor grills with fuel (77%)

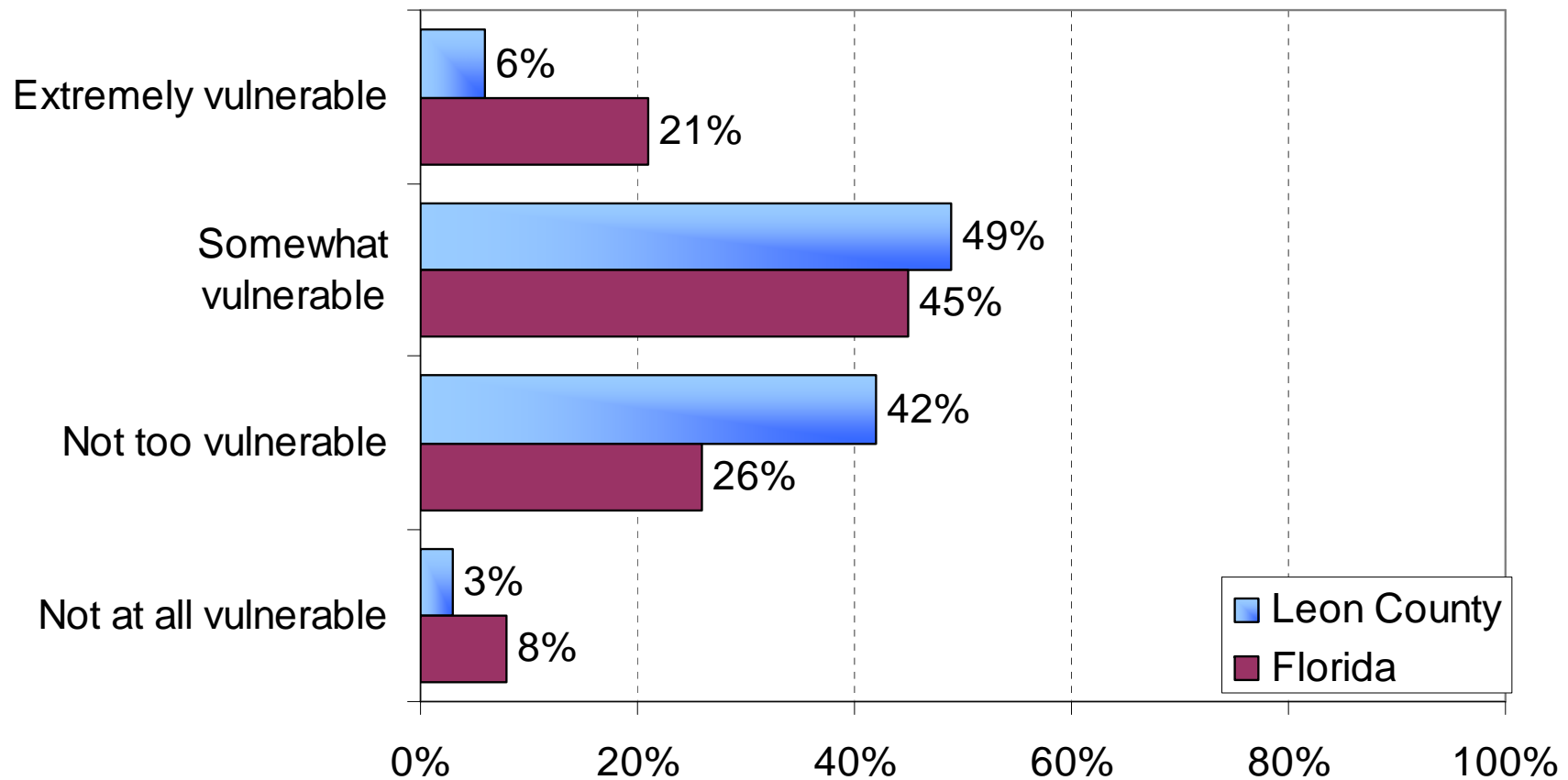
Hurricane preparedness

- Fewer than half of local residents (44%) have at least 1 gallon of water per person for 3 days
- Only 3 in 10 residents would plan to leave at least 24 hours in advance of a category 3 hurricane
- 8 in 10 local residents say they would evacuate if a category 5 storm approached, while 44% would evacuate if a category 3 storm approached
- Local residents (86%) are more likely to evacuate than Floridians (75%) if ordered to do so by authorities
- The number one reason for not evacuating is not wanting to leave pets behind

Hurricane preparedness

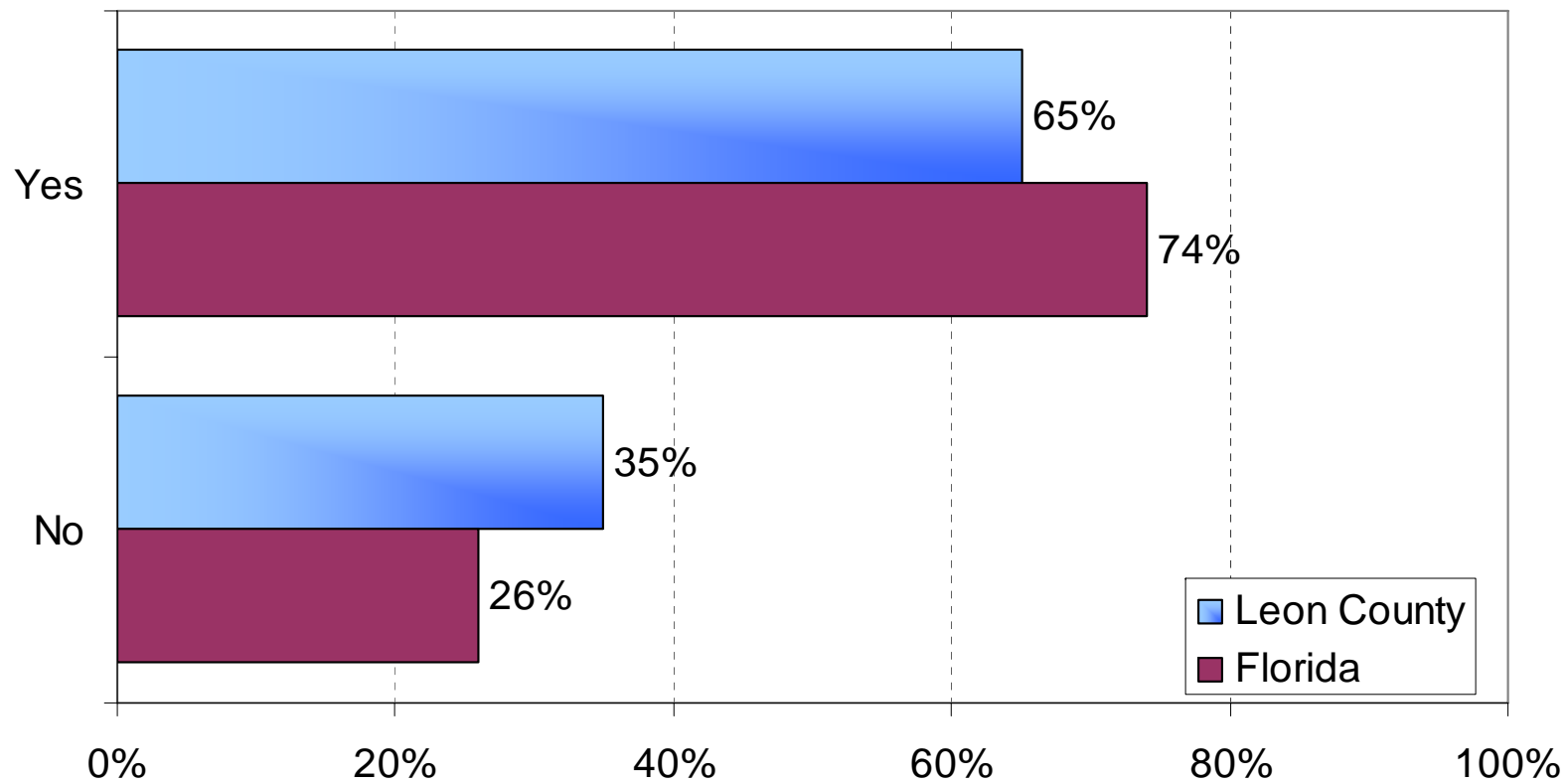
- 3 out of 4 local residents rely on the radio for information during disasters
- 9 in 10 local residents say it is their responsibility (not government's) to make certain they have enough food, water, medicine and shelter for the first few days after a hurricane
- Local residents think electricity will be out 2 to 3 days if a category 2 (100 mph winds) hurricane hits
- Local residents got fewer than half the questions correct on a hurricane quiz
 - Greatest loss comes from the storm surge
 - Most interior room in the house is the best refuge
 - Masking tape will not prevent windows from shattering
 - Candles/kerosene lamps are suggested items in the event of a hurricane

How vulnerable do you feel to damage from a hurricane or related tornado or flooding hazards?¹



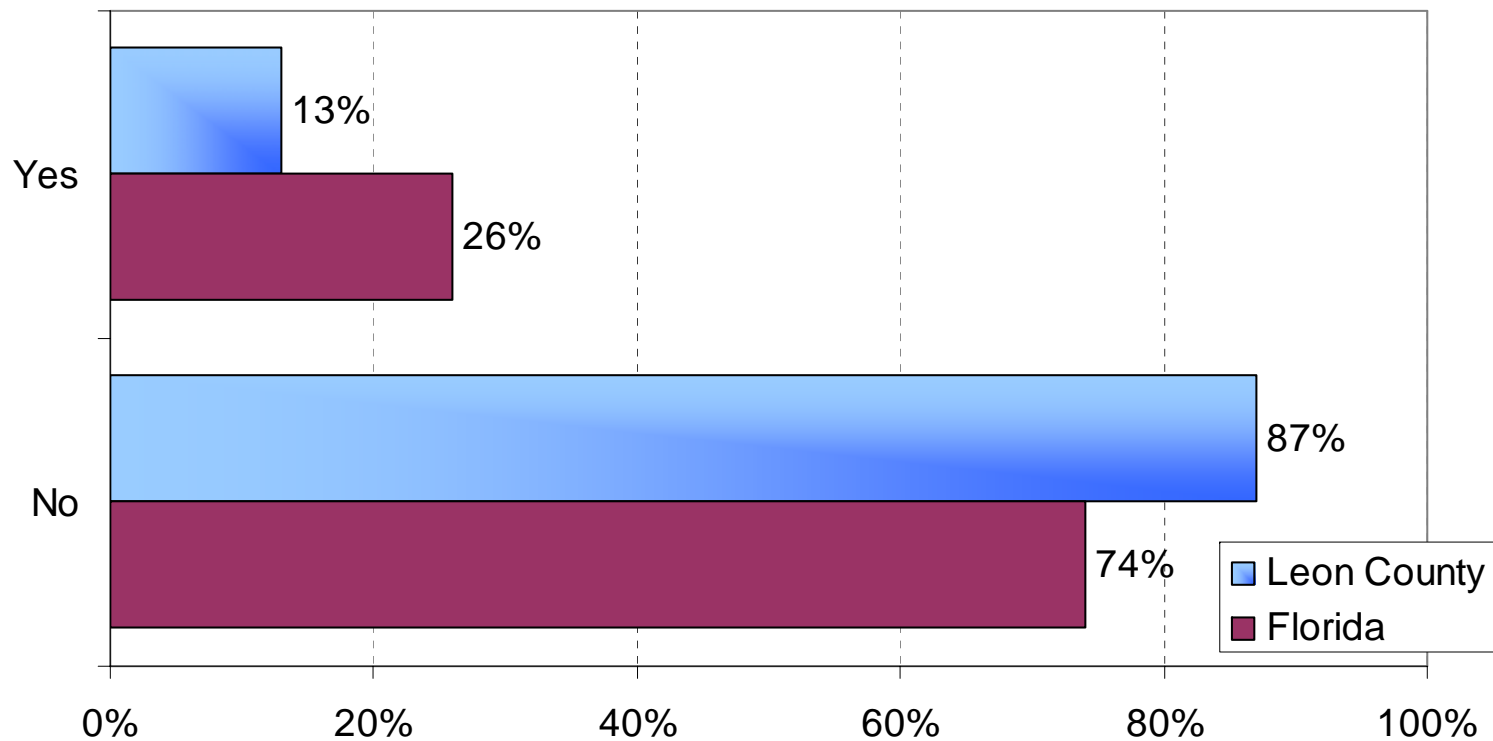
¹Florida results come from a telephone survey conducted by another firm.

Do you have a family disaster plan in the event a serious hurricane threatens your area?¹

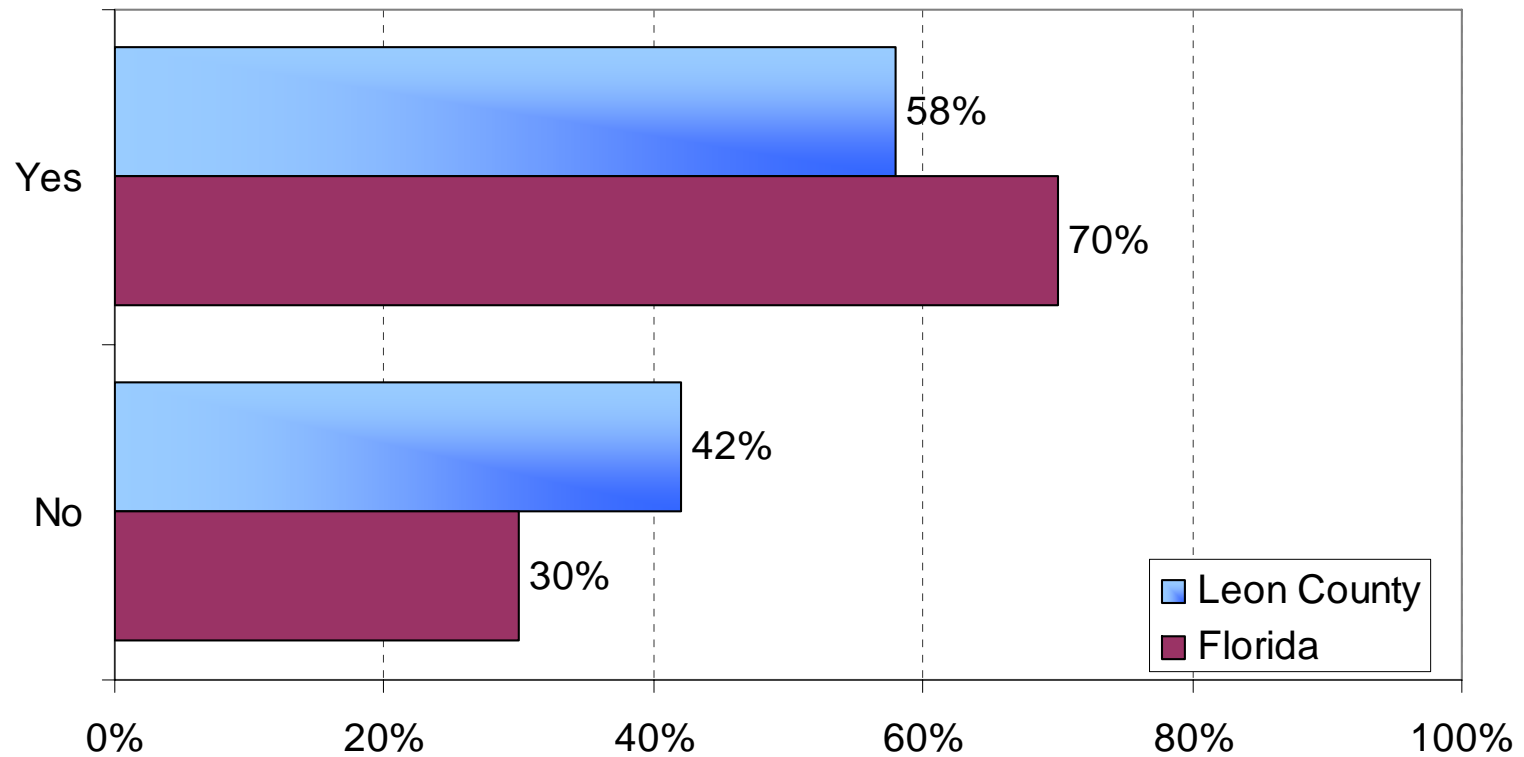


¹Florida results come from a telephone survey conducted by another firm.

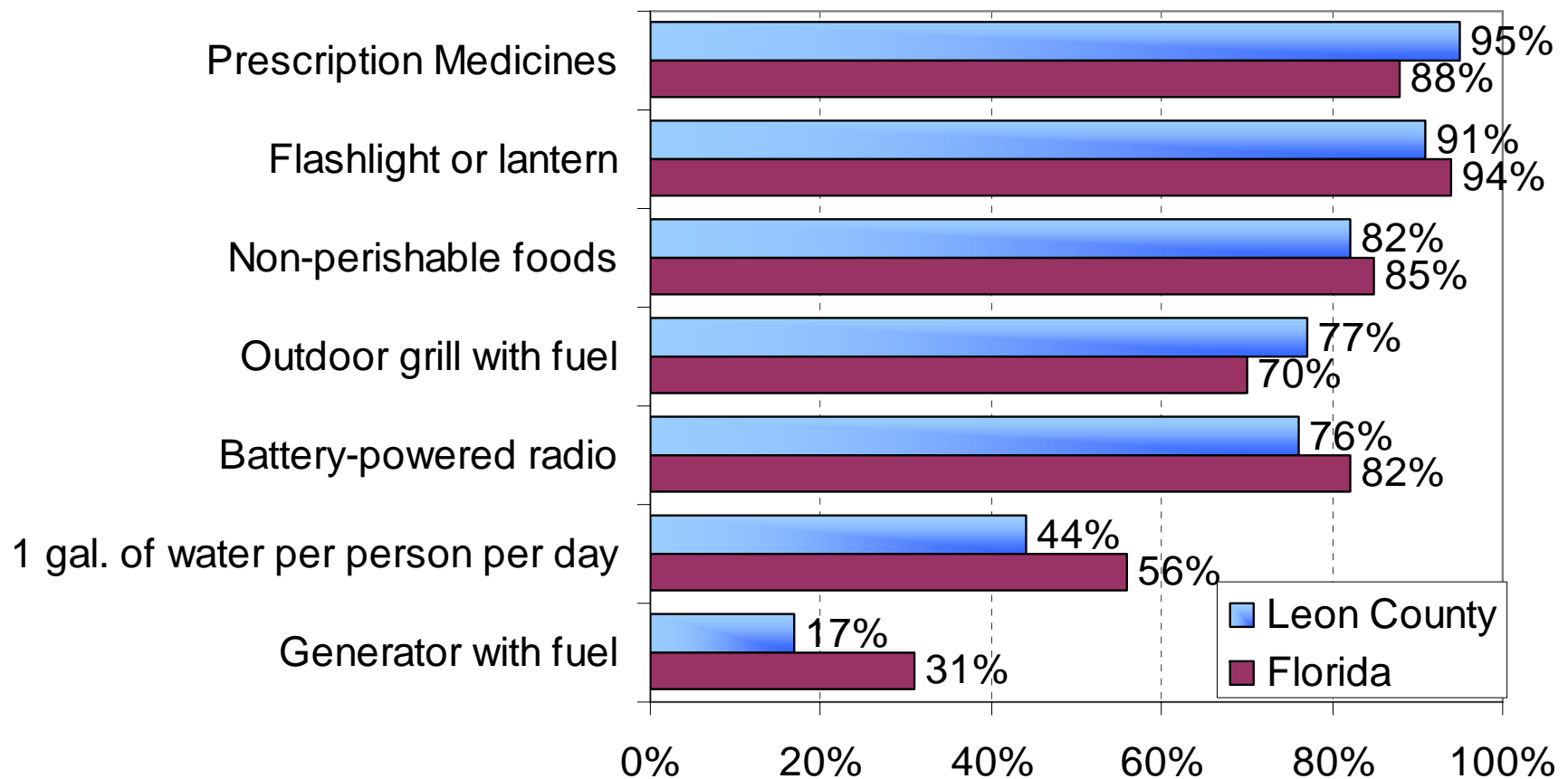
Since the last hurricane season have you taken any steps to make your home structurally stronger?



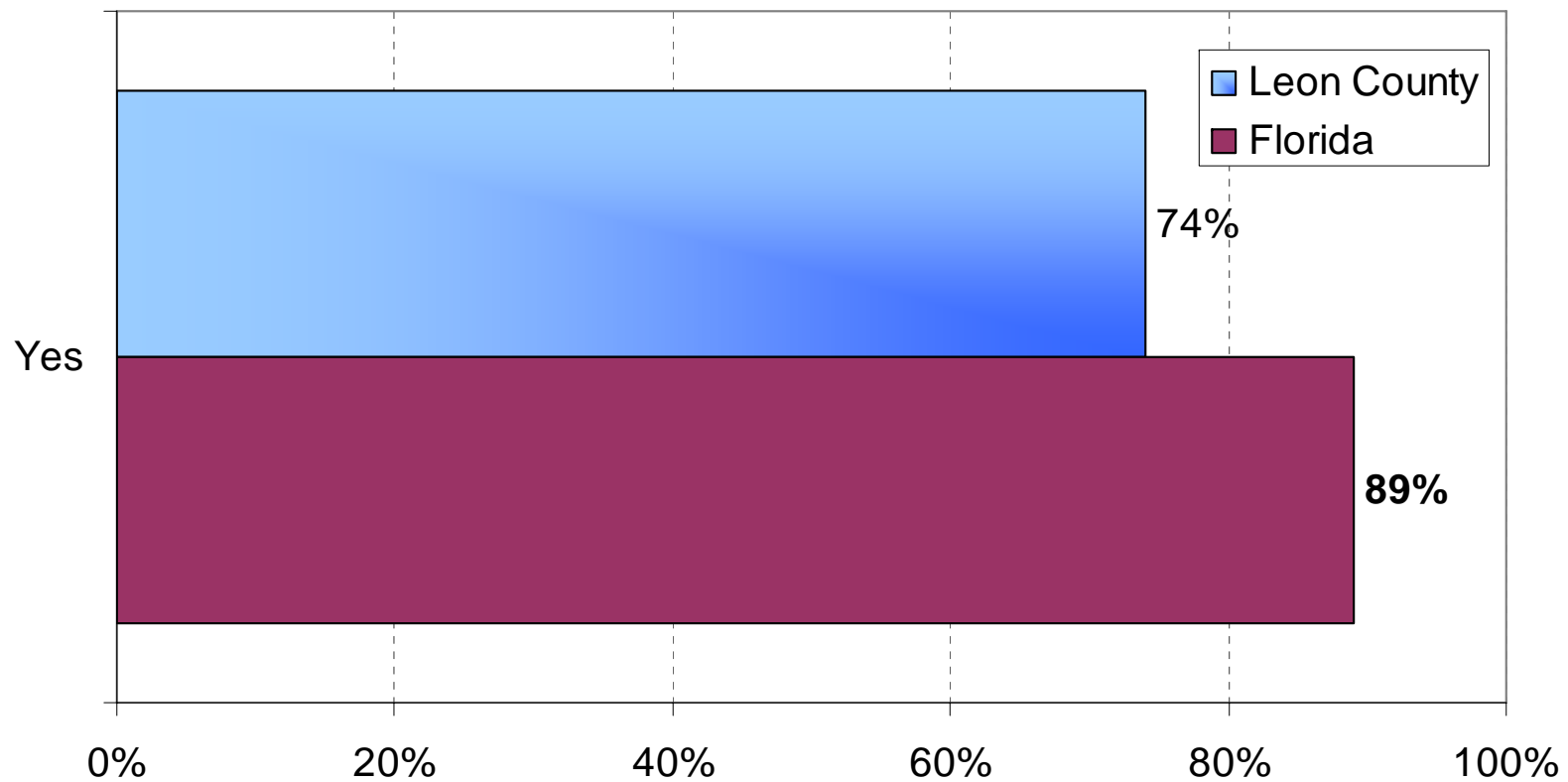
Do you have a hurricane survival kit?



If a disaster struck TODAY would you have a 3 day supply of the following items?

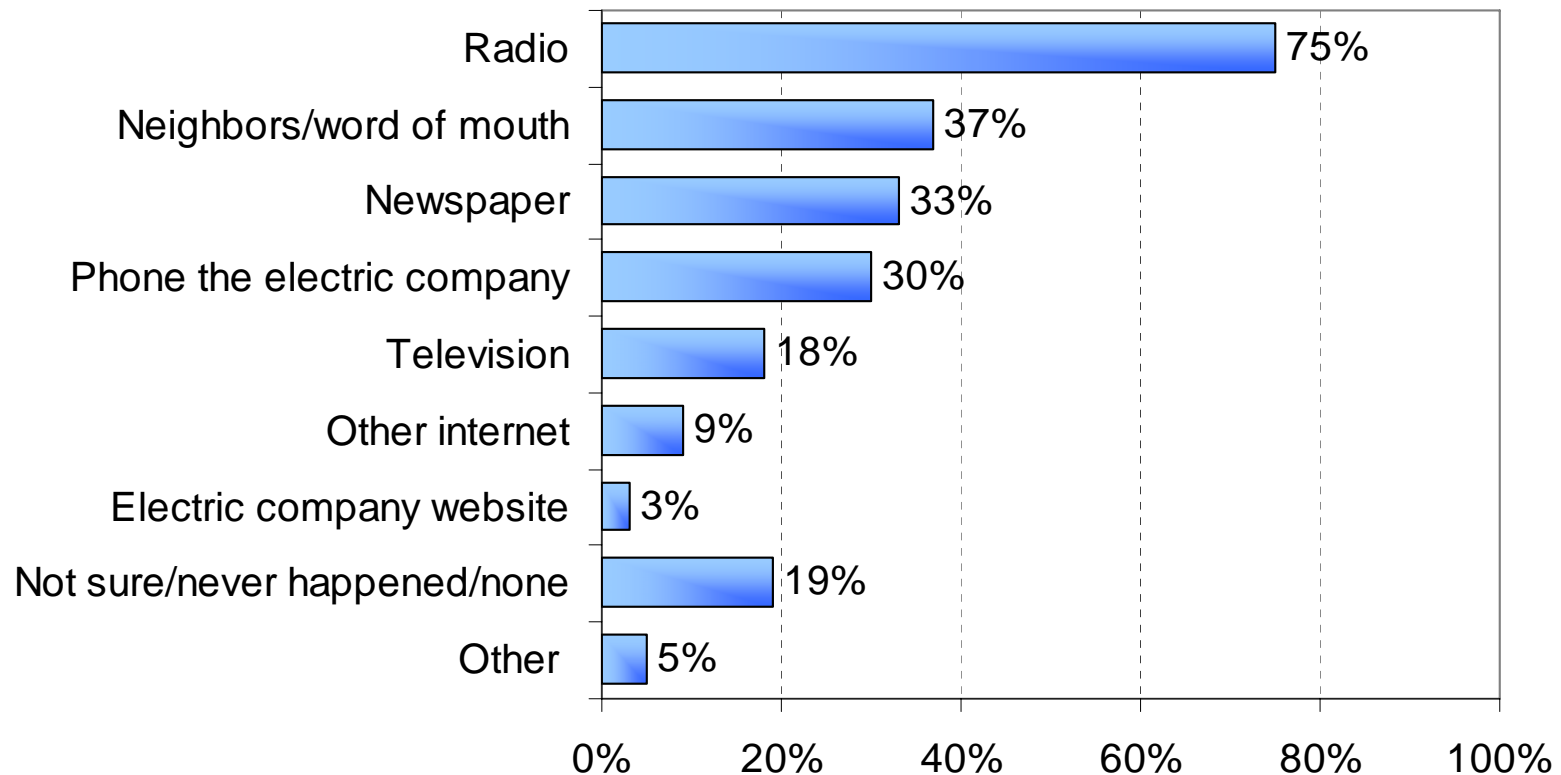


Do you have important papers* in a place where you could get it quickly in case of evacuation?



*such as insurance policies, wills, bank account information and family records

What source(s) have you relied on for power restoration and safety information?*



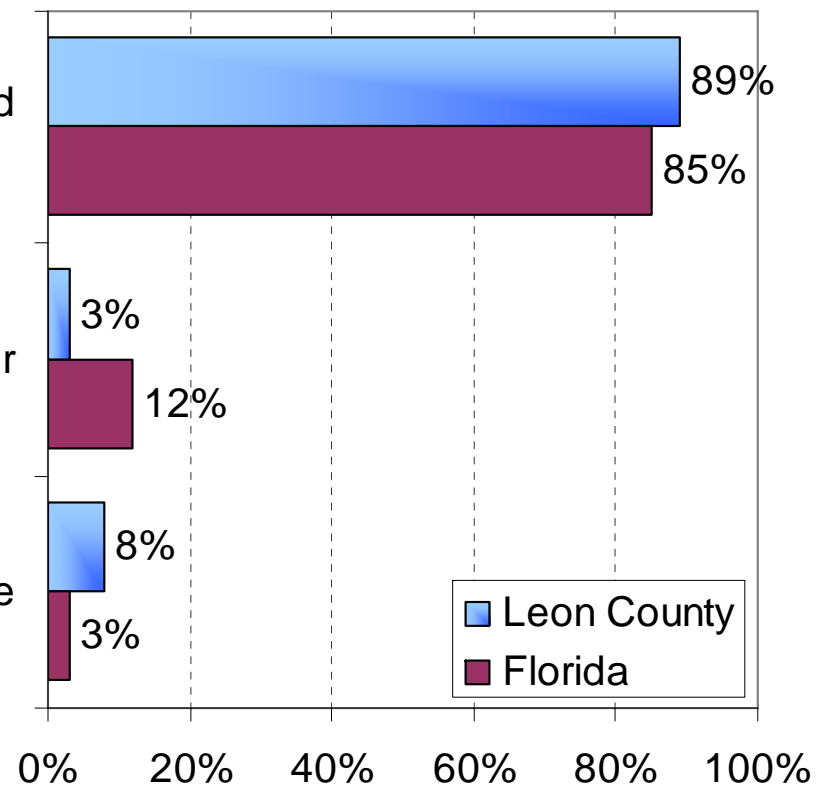
*Actual question read: When your electricity is out for several days because of a hurricane or major storm, what source have you relied on most for power restoration and safety information? This could include battery-powered devices in your home or in a public place.

Which one of the following statements most closely reflects your view?

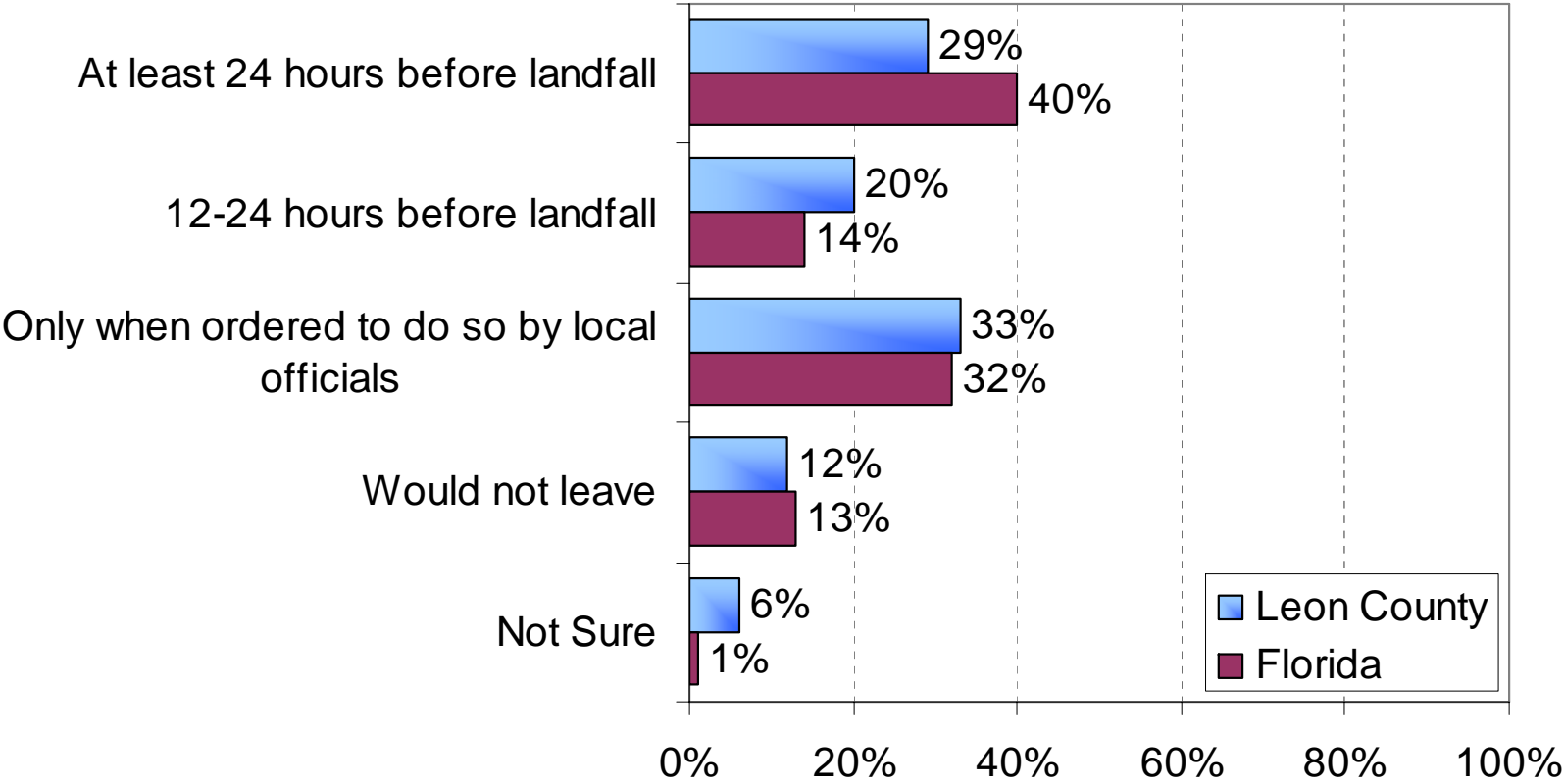
It's an individual's responsibility to make sure they have food, water, medicine, and shelter in the first few days after a hurricane.

It's the government's responsibility to provide food, water, medicine, and shelter in the first few days after a hurricane.

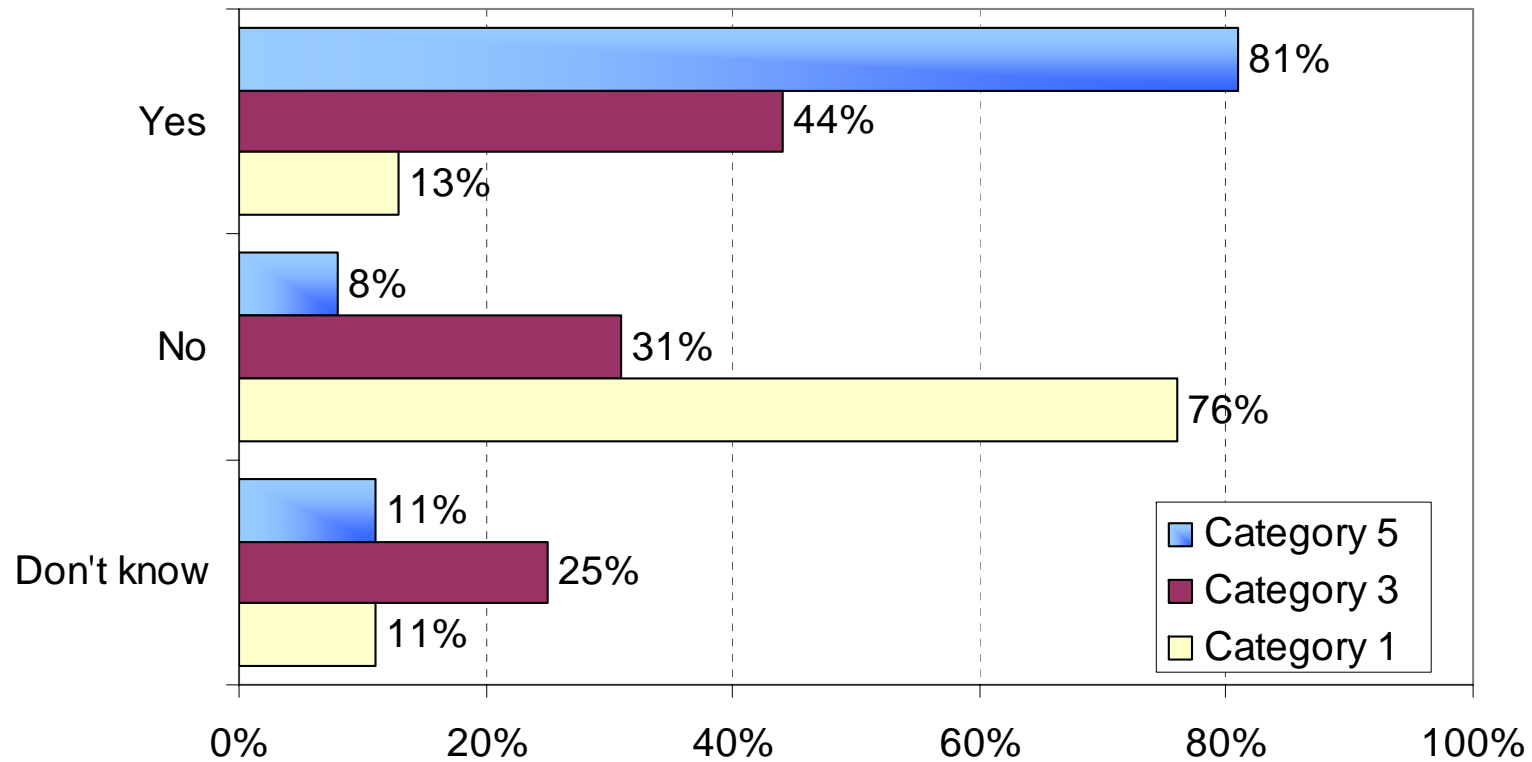
Not sure



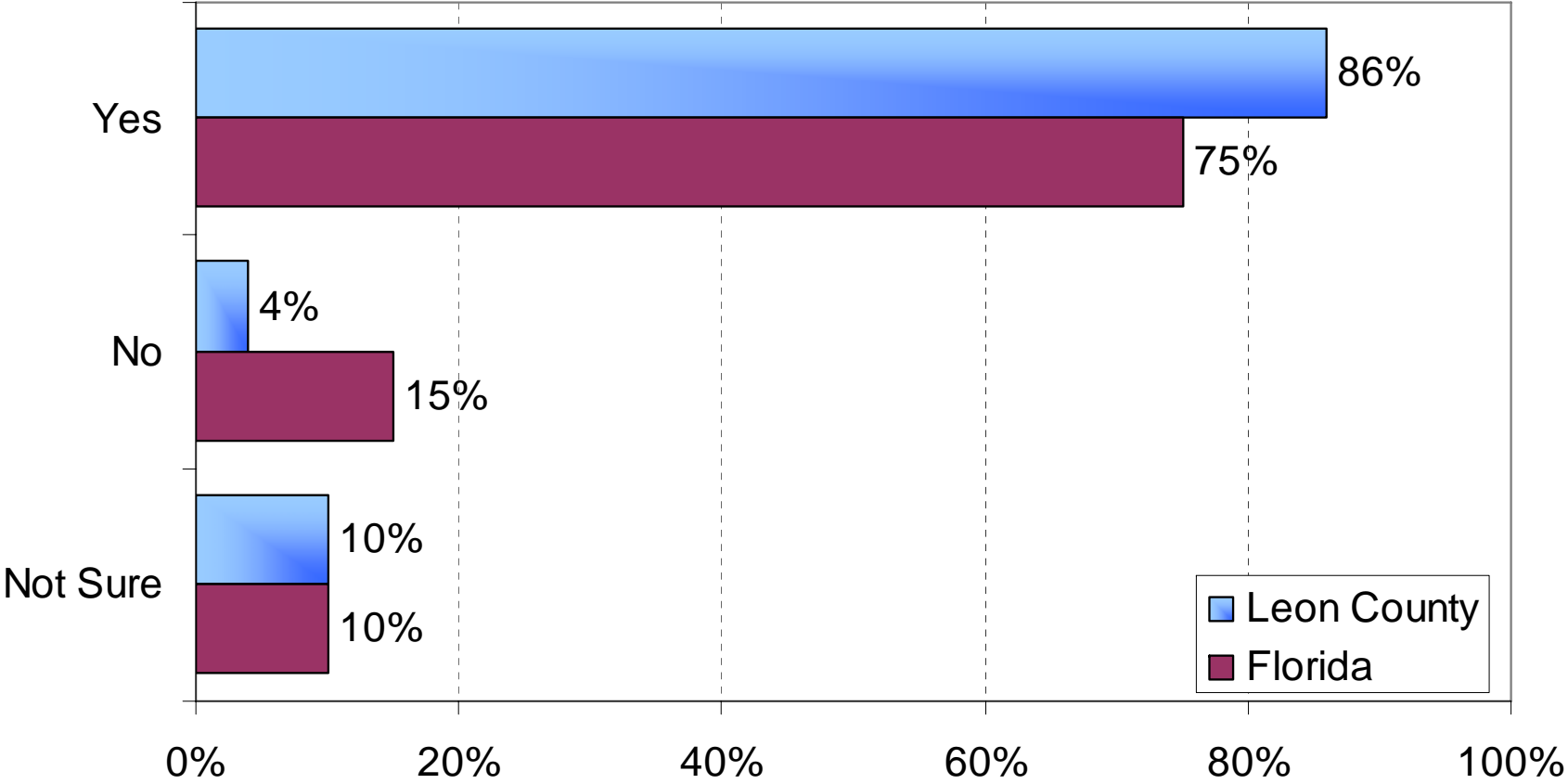
If a major storm, category 3 or higher, approached your area when would you plan to leave?



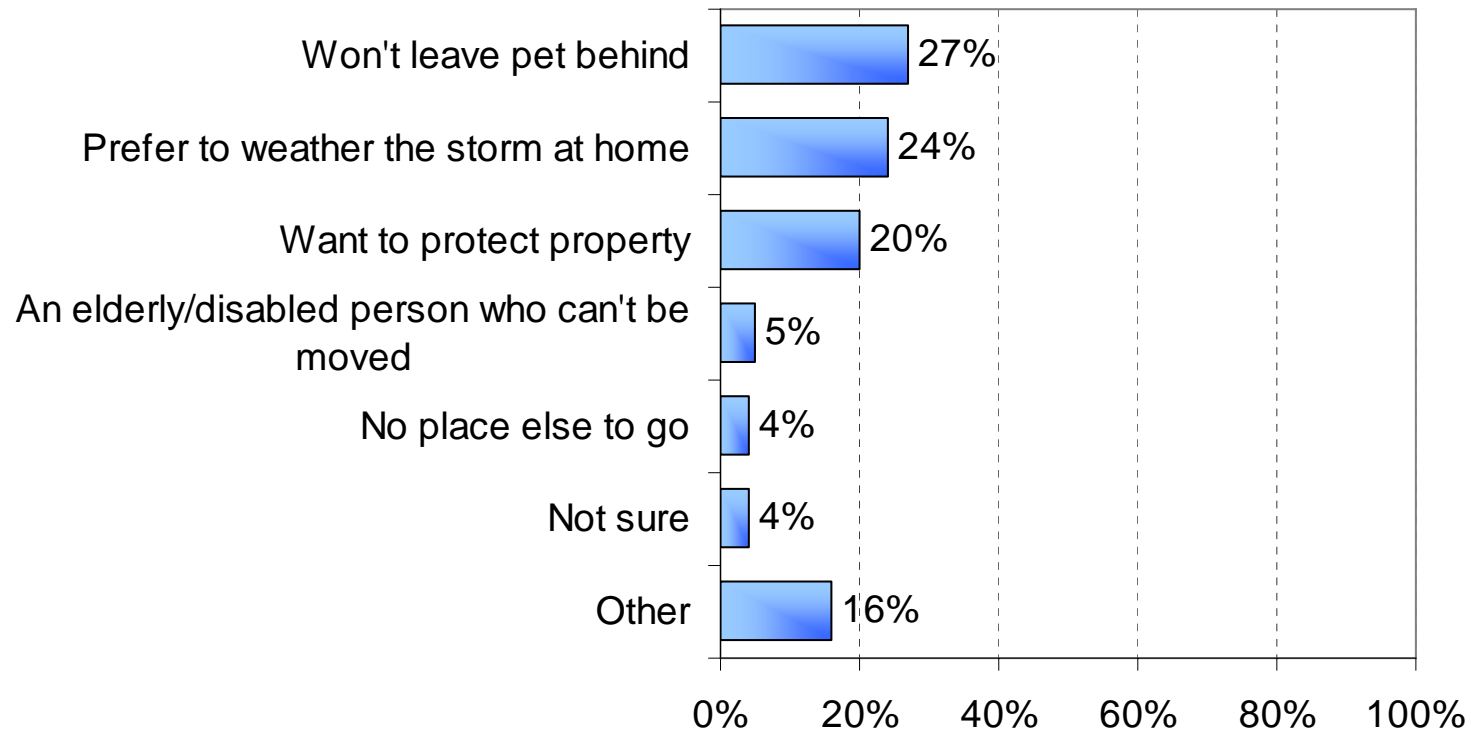
Depending on the category of the hurricane would you evacuate your home in Tallahassee to go someplace safer?



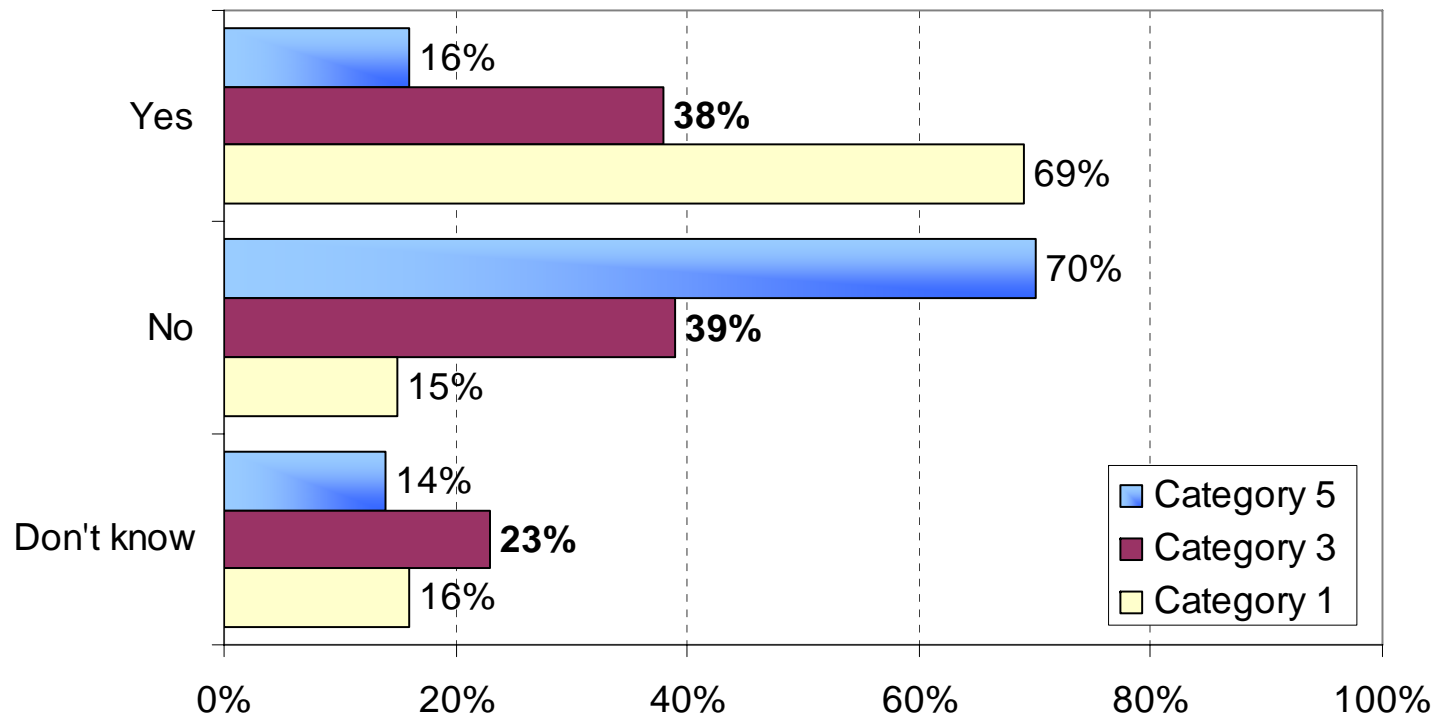
Would you evacuate if you were ordered to do so by emergency officials?



If you chose not to leave after emergency officials ordered you to do so, what would prevent you from evacuating?

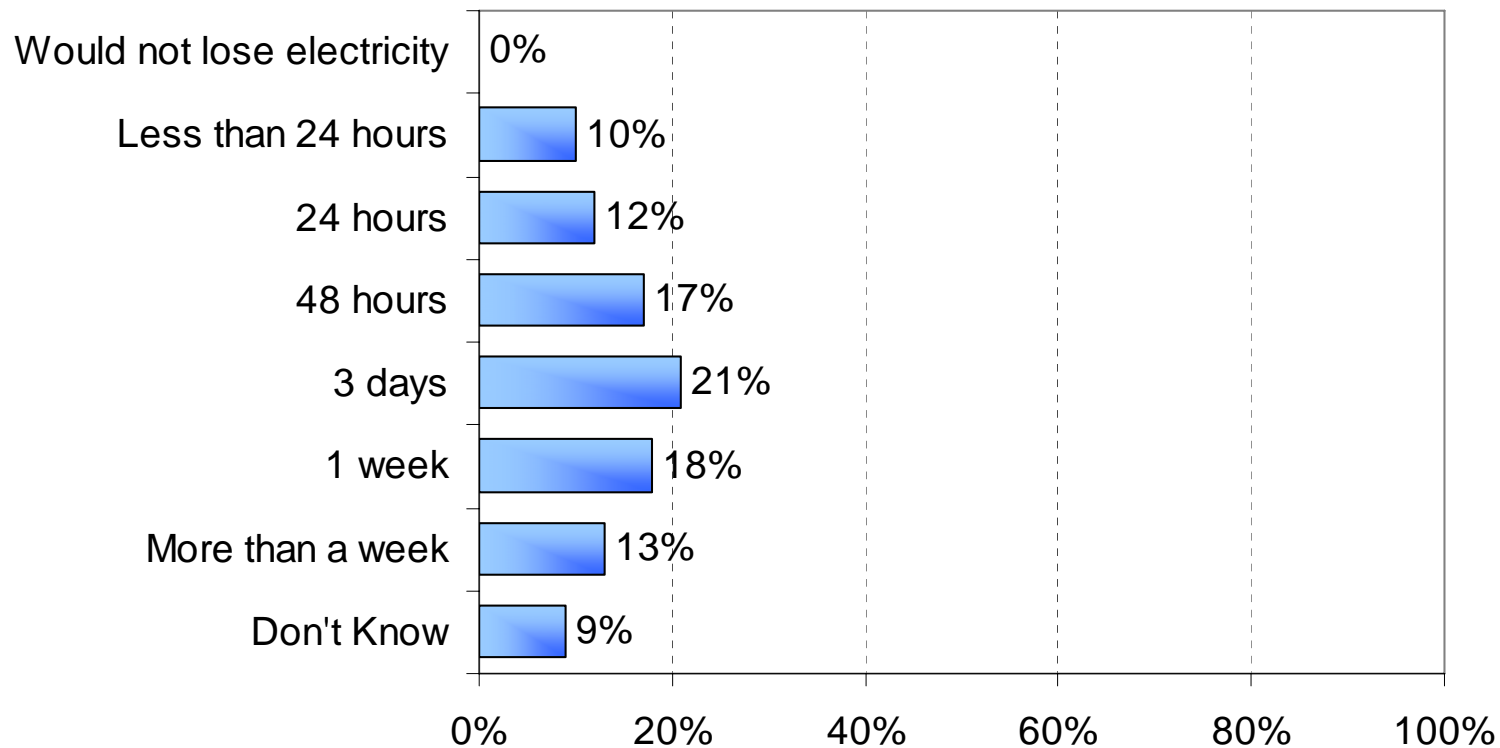


Depending on the category of hurricane, do you think it would be safe to stay in your home in Tallahassee?

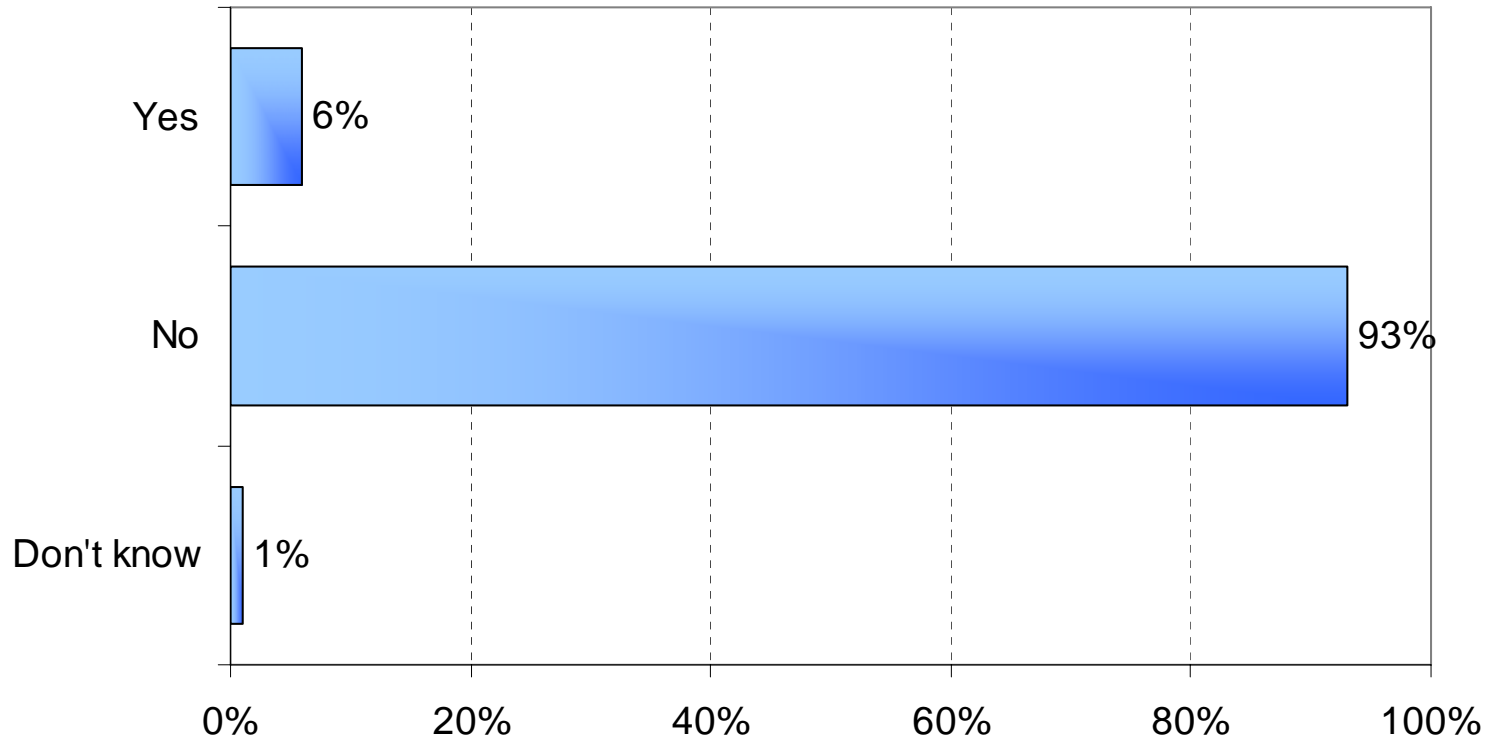


*Actual question read: Considering both wind and water, do you think it would be safe to stay in your home if a category 5,3, or 1 hurricane struck Tallahassee?

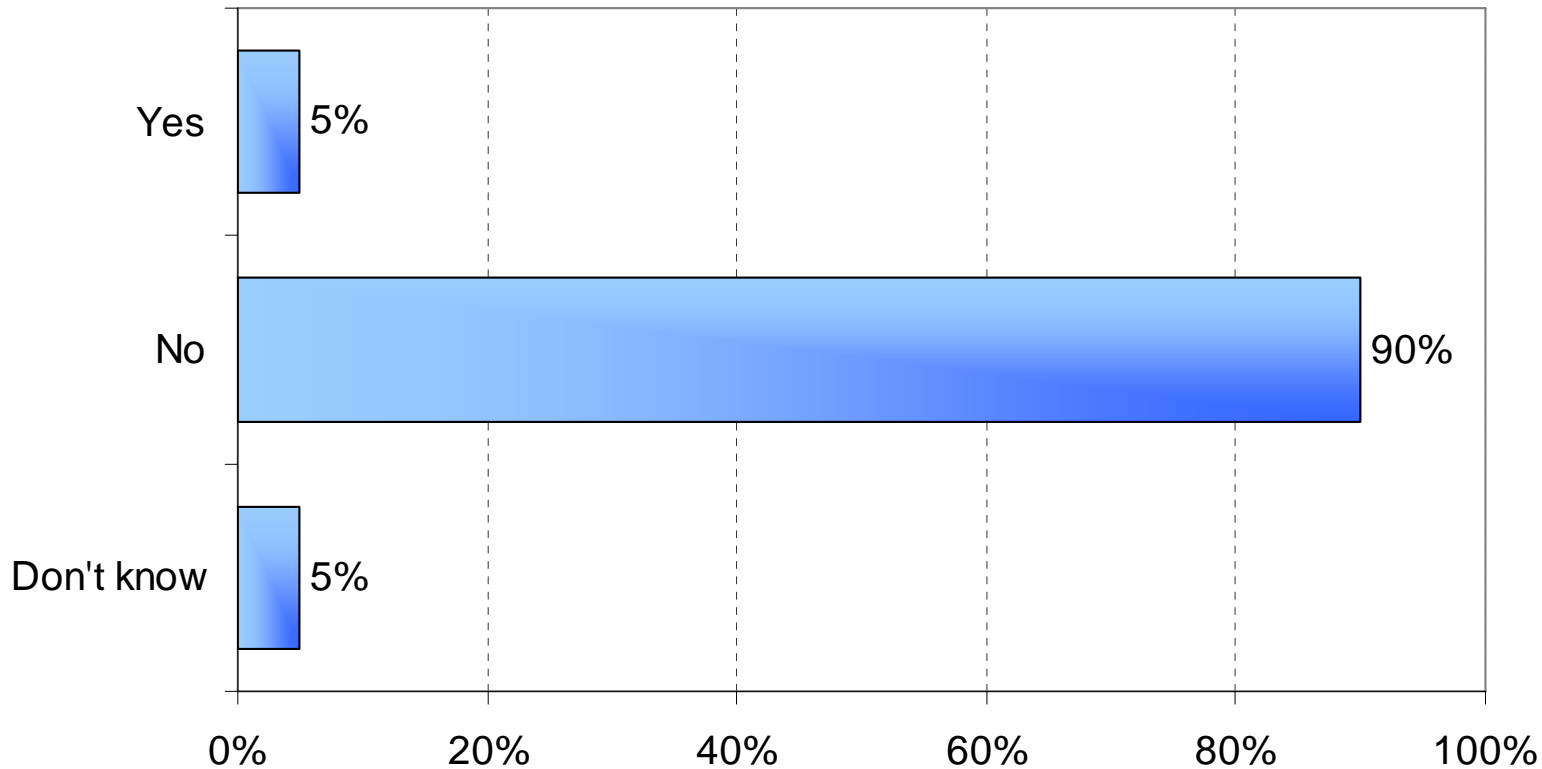
If a category 2 hurricane with winds of 100 MPH struck Tallahassee, how long do you think the electricity would be out at your home?



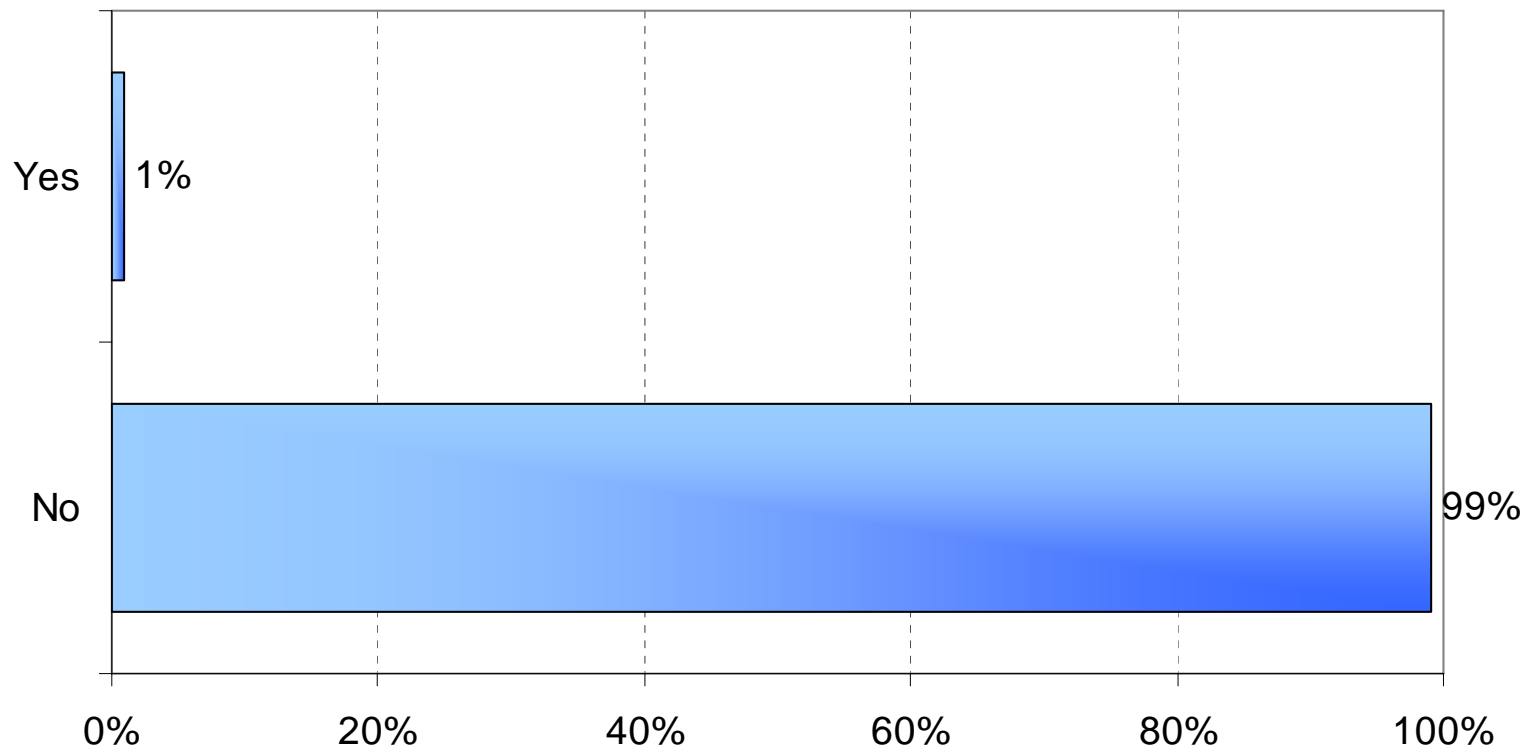
Does anyone in your household have a medical condition that requires electricity for their daily care?



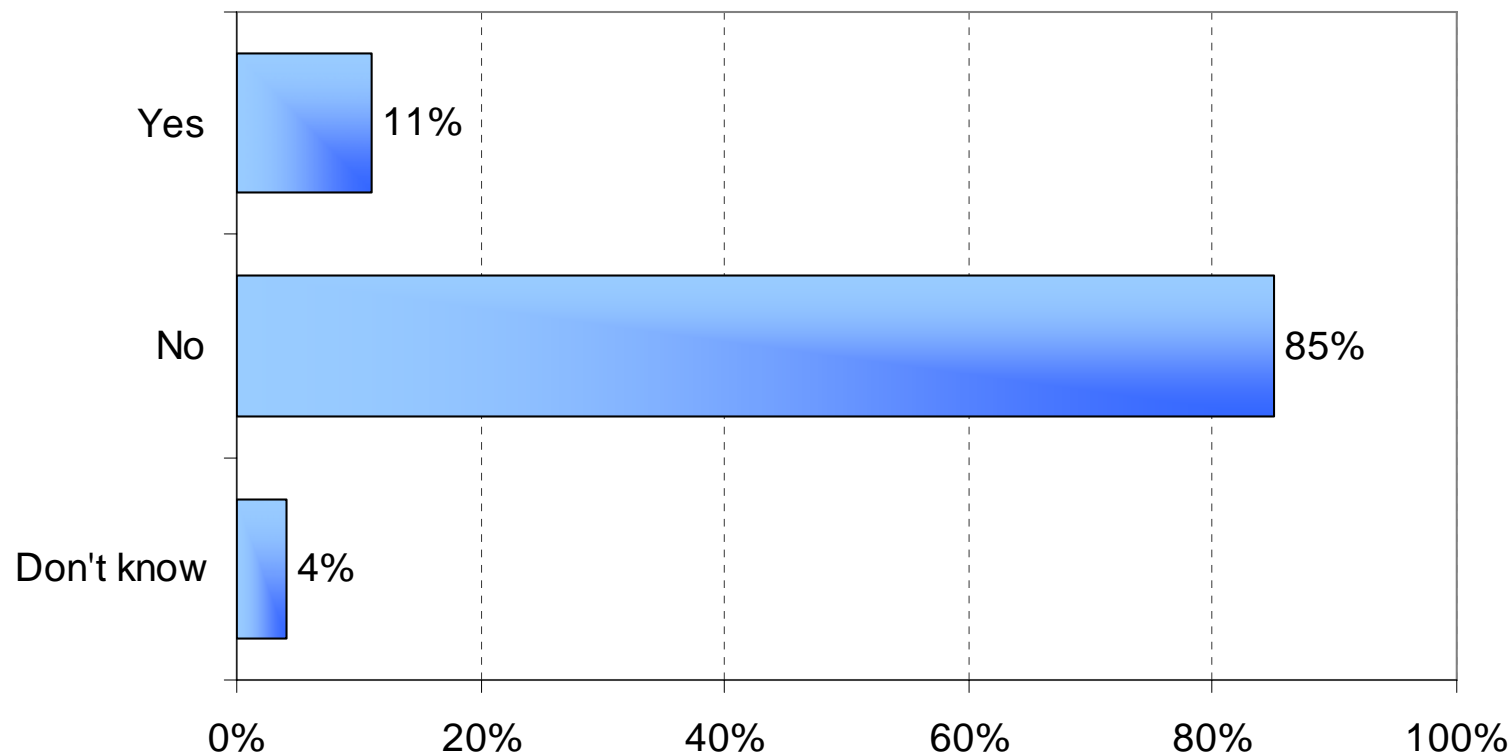
Is the person that requires electricity for their daily care on Leon County's "Special Needs" registry in case of disaster?



Does anyone in your household have a medical condition that requires an external oxygen supply for their daily care?

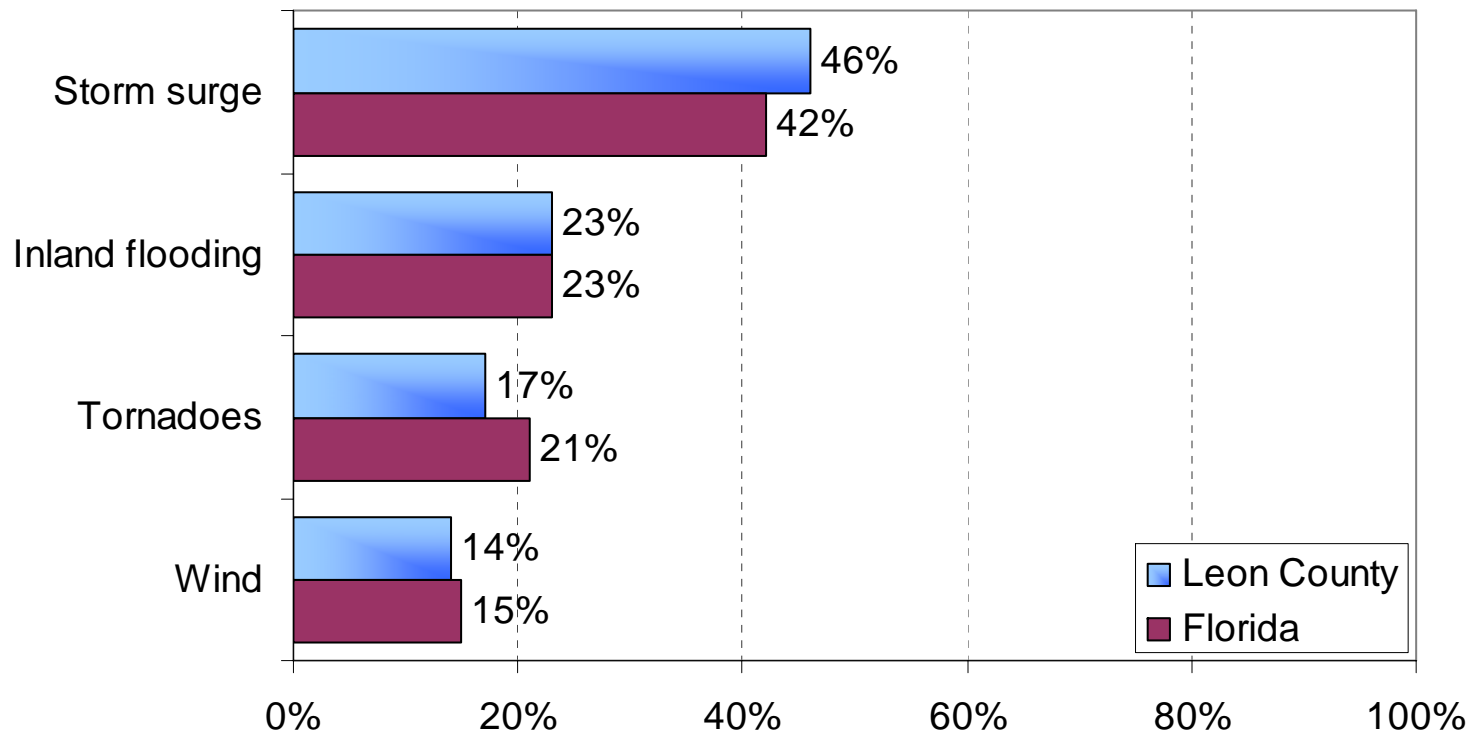


Is the person that requires external oxygen supply for their daily care on Leon County's "Special Needs" registry in case of disaster?



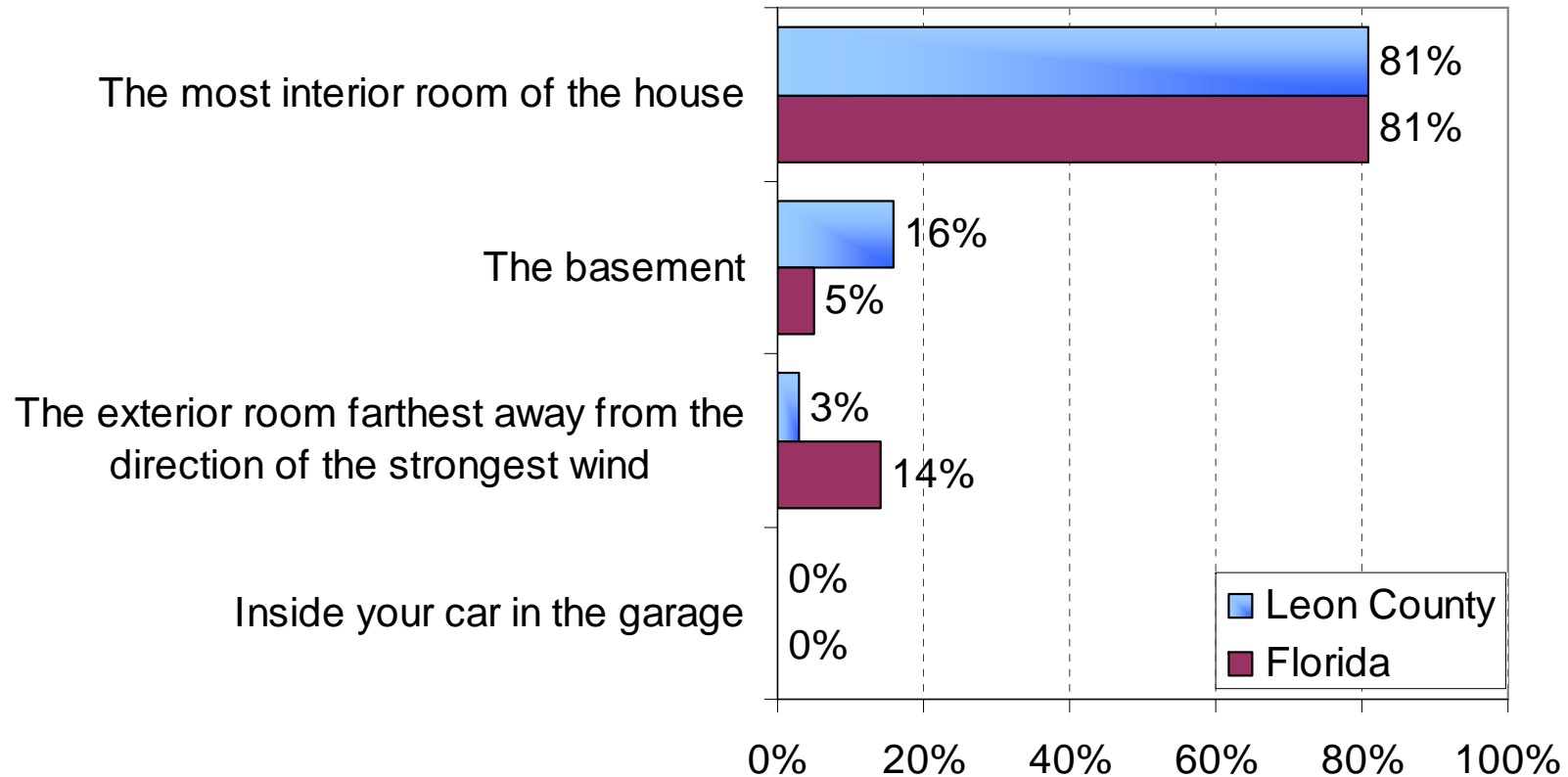
What do you think the greatest potential for a large loss of life from a hurricane hitting the U.S. comes from?

Correct Answer: Storm Surge



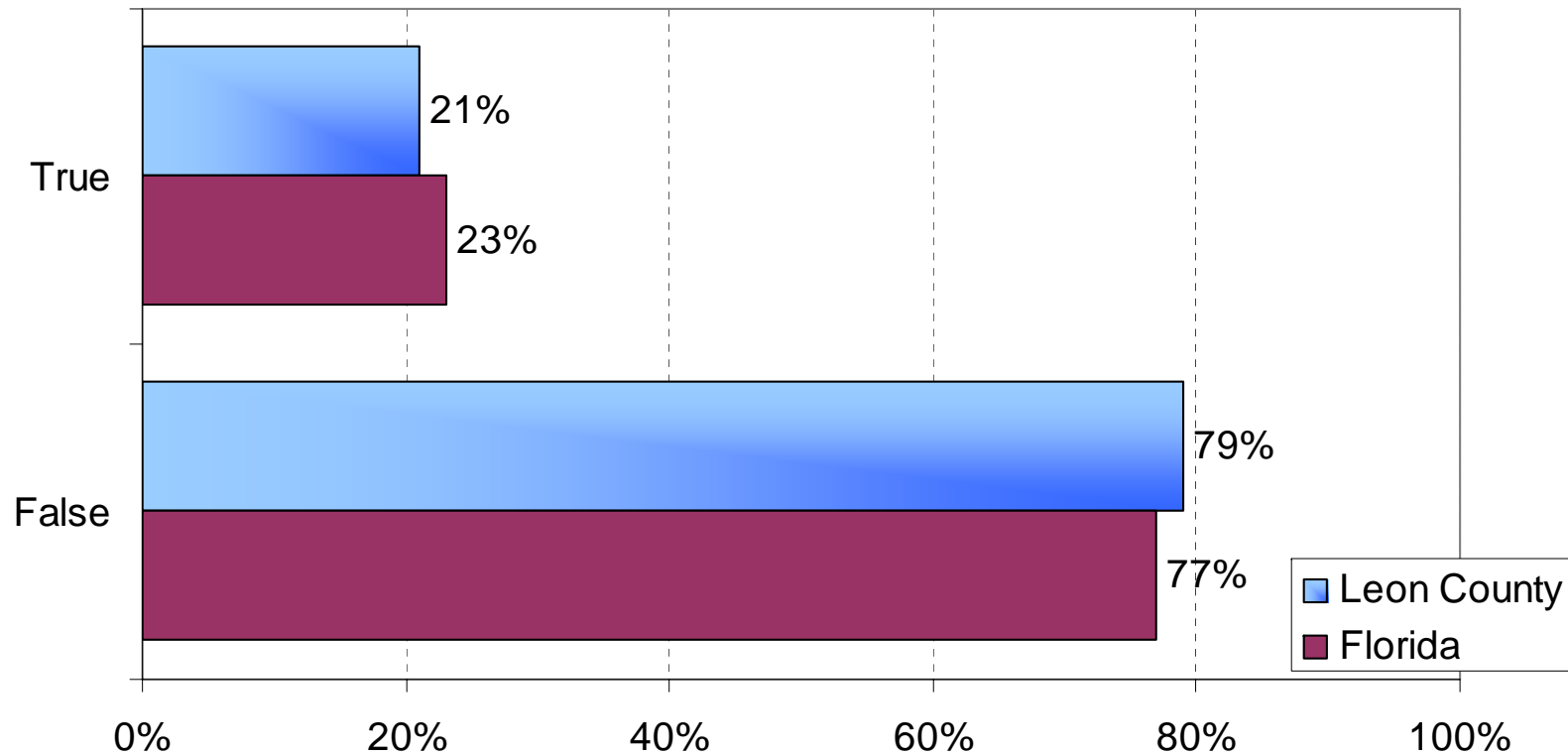
If you are not ordered to evacuate, what do you think the safest place in a home to ride out a hurricane is?

Correct Answer: Most interior room of house.



Masking tape will help prevent windows from shattering.

Correct Answer: False.



Candles or kerosene lamps are suggested items for your disaster supply kit in the event of a power failure.

Correct Answer: False.

