

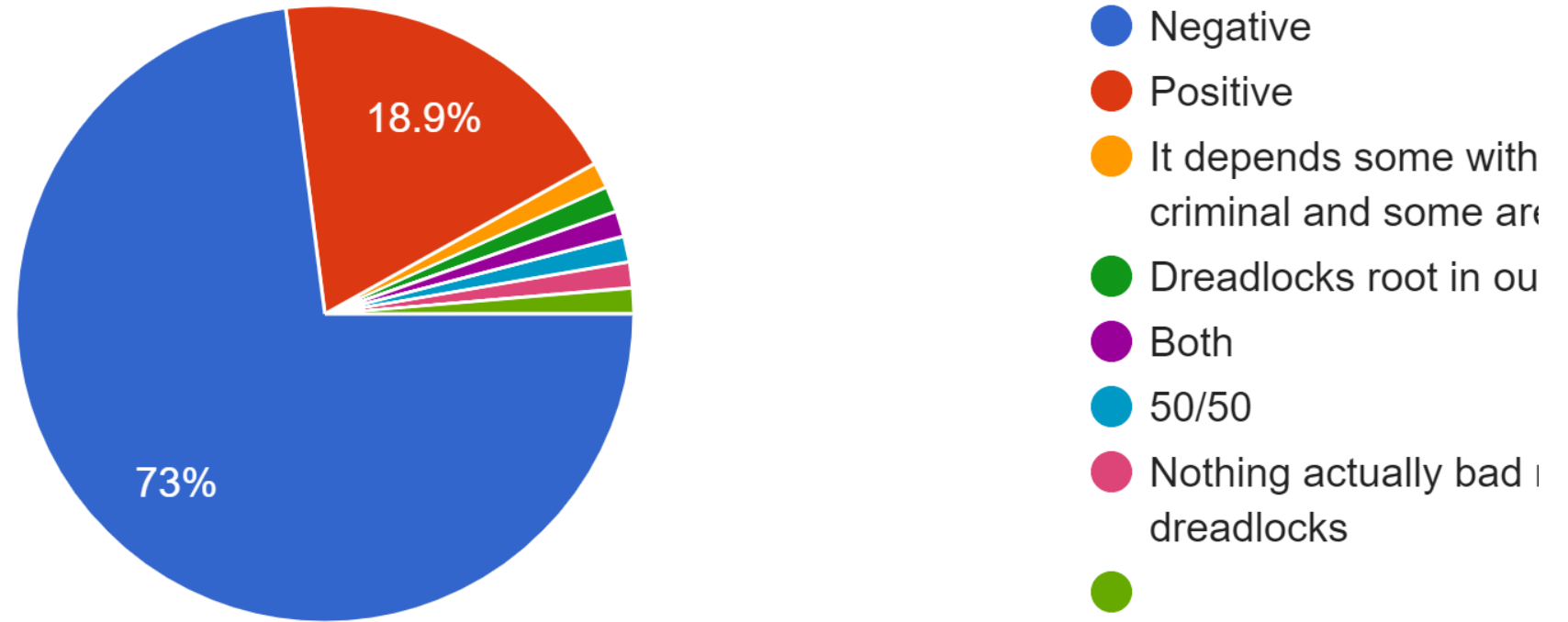
Survey on People's Experience and Perception of Dreadlock

CONDUCTED ONLINE EYE RADIO
BETWEEN NOV 1ST -DEC 12, 2023



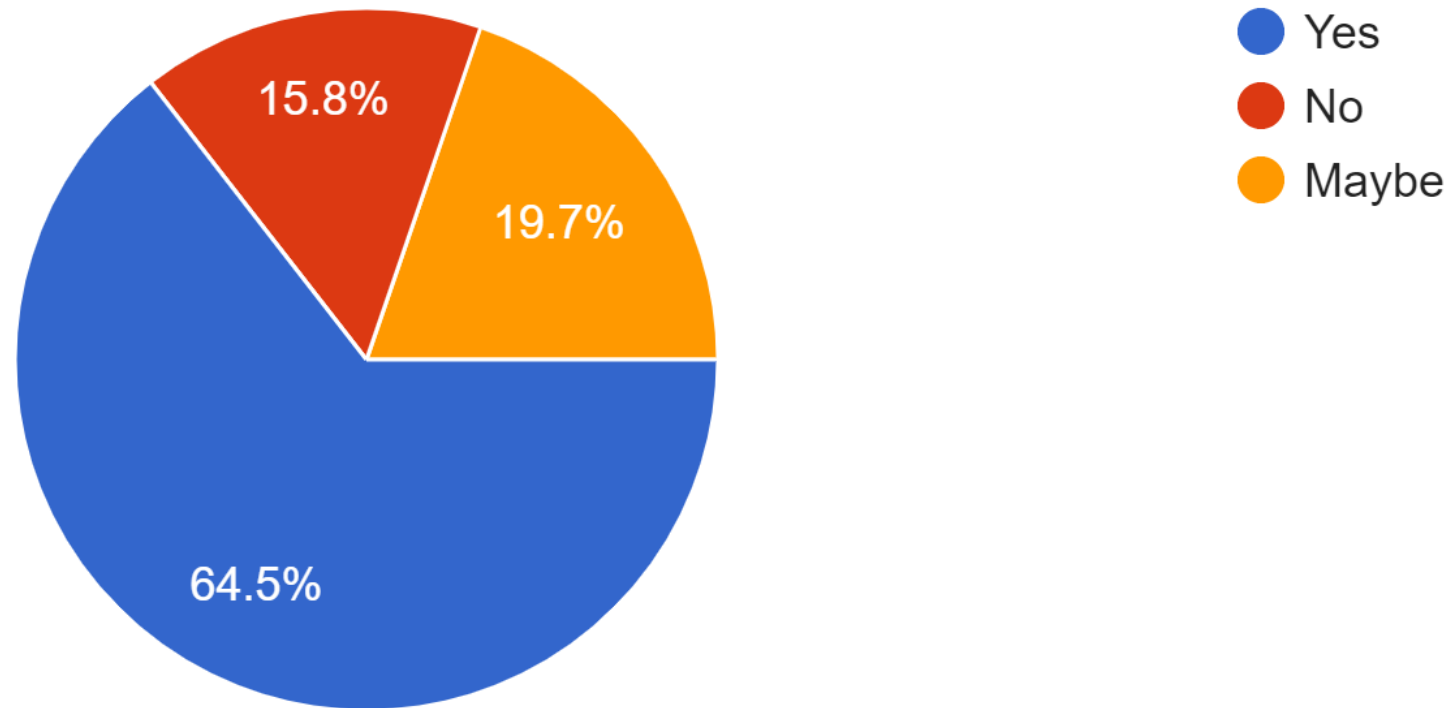
Qn2. Are these perceptions generally positive or negative?

74 responses



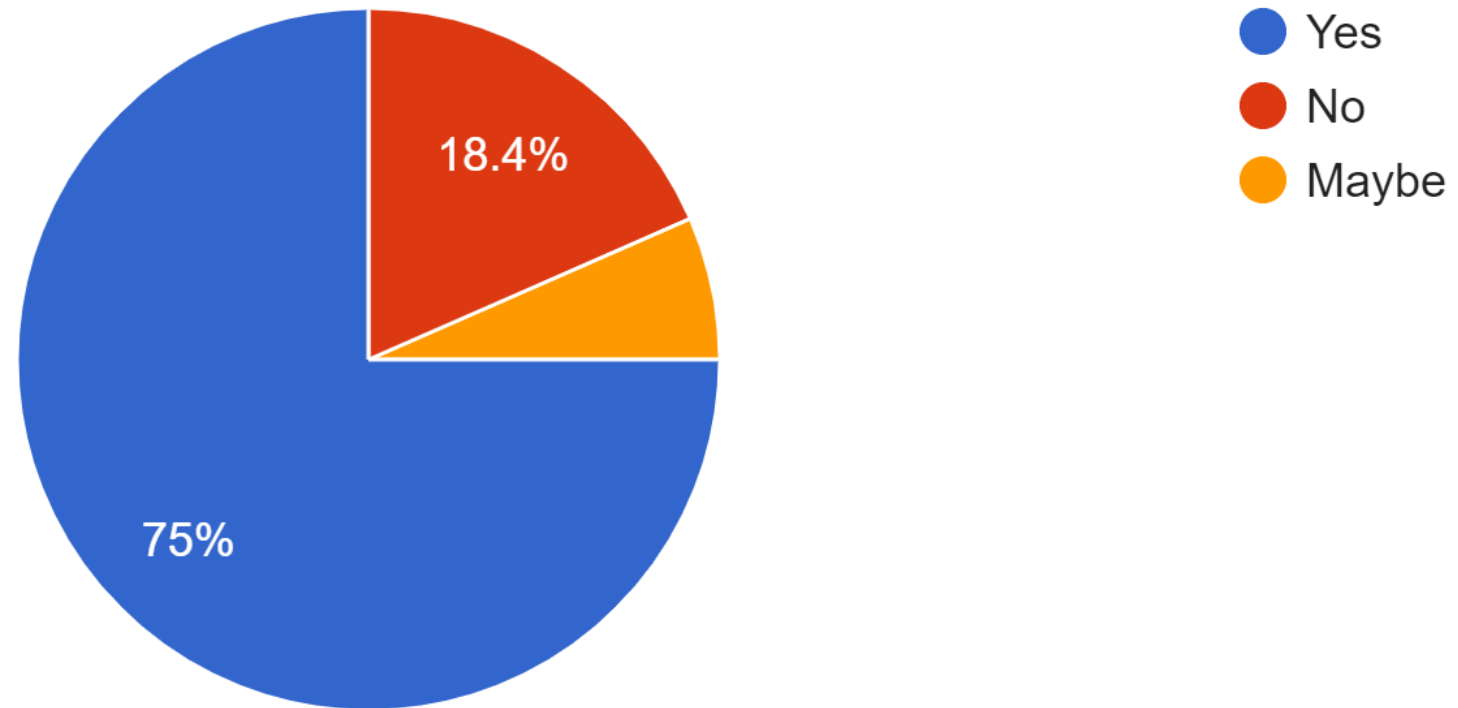
Qn 3. Do you believe that individuals with dreadlocks may be more likely to face scrutiny by law enforcement?

76 responses



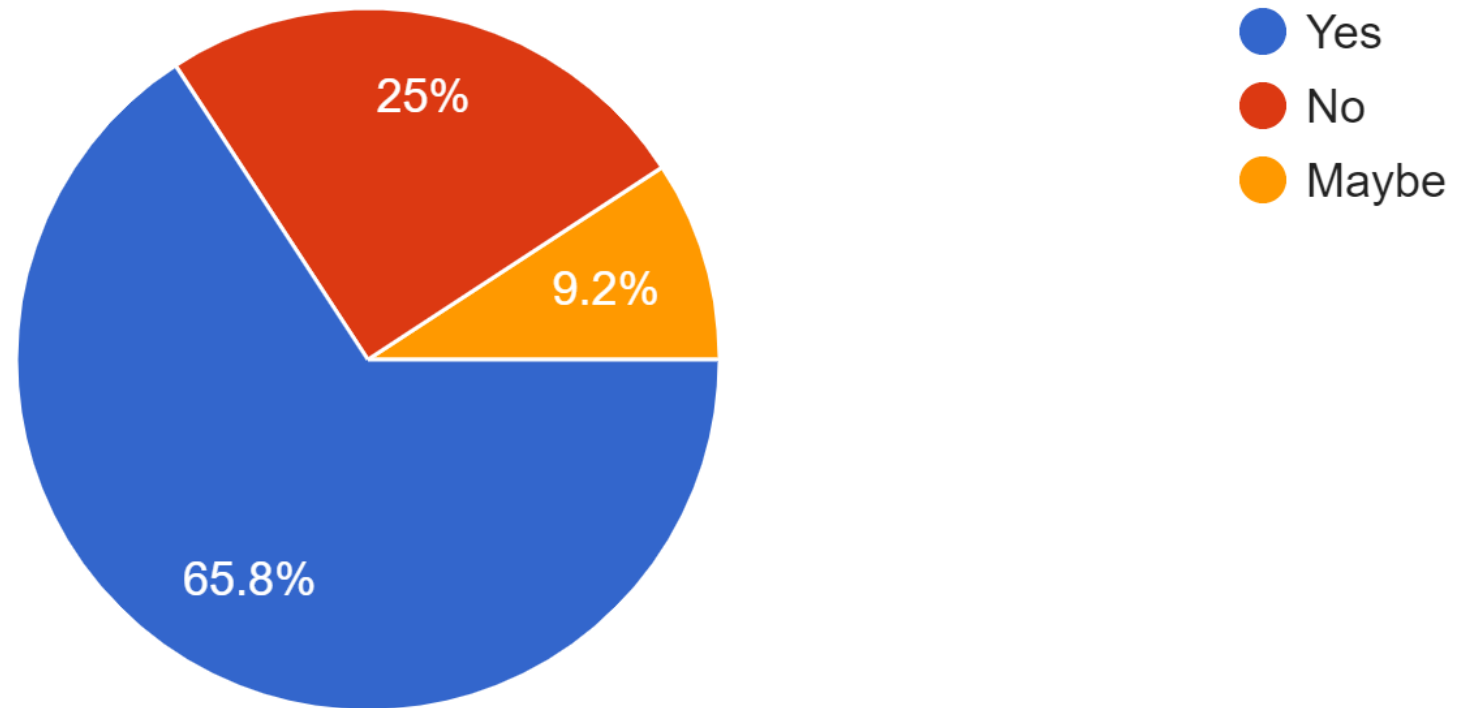
Qn 4. Have you heard of or experienced instances where someone with dread unfairly by authorities in relation to criminal suspicions?

76 responses



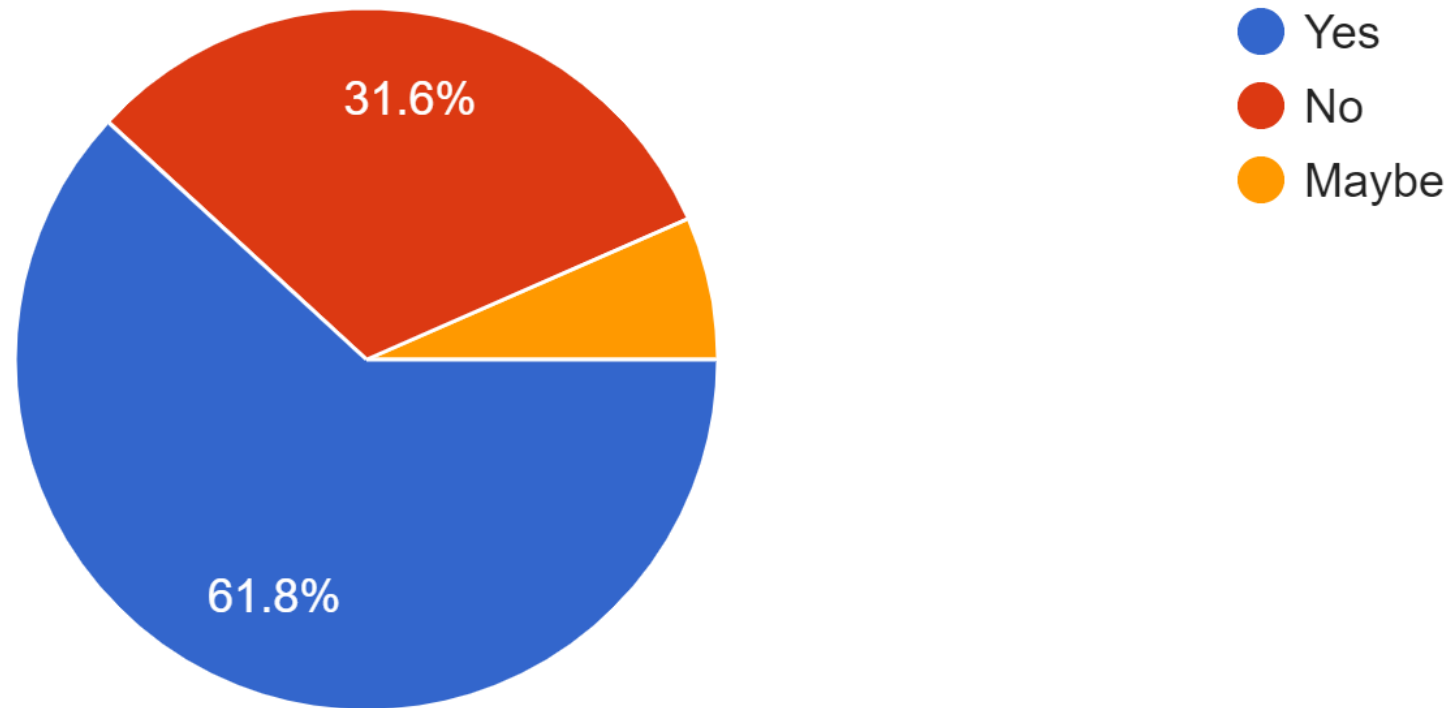
Qn 5. Do you think the perception of people with dreadlocks as potentially involved in criminal activities affects their opportunities in education or employment?

76 responses



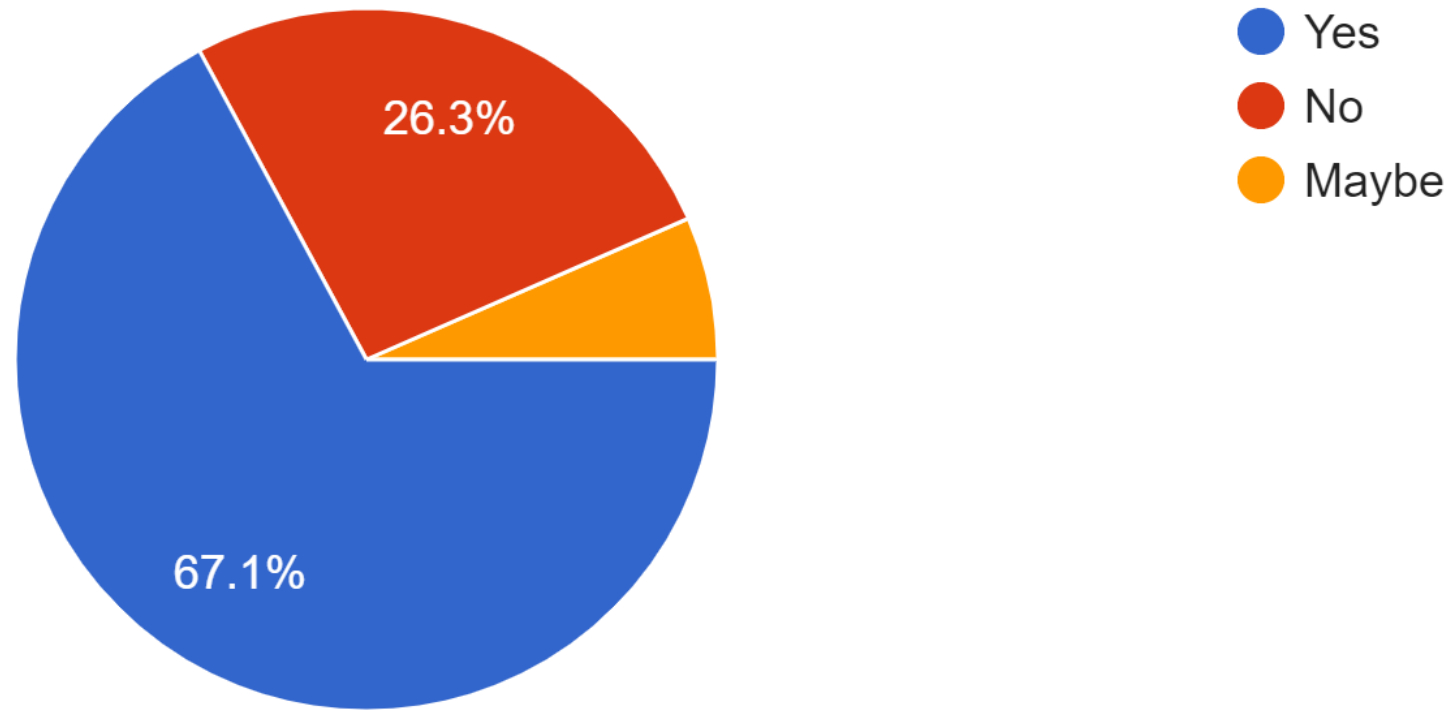
Qn 6. Have you ever witnessed or been aware of instances where individuals with dre discrimination in professional or academic settings?

76 responses



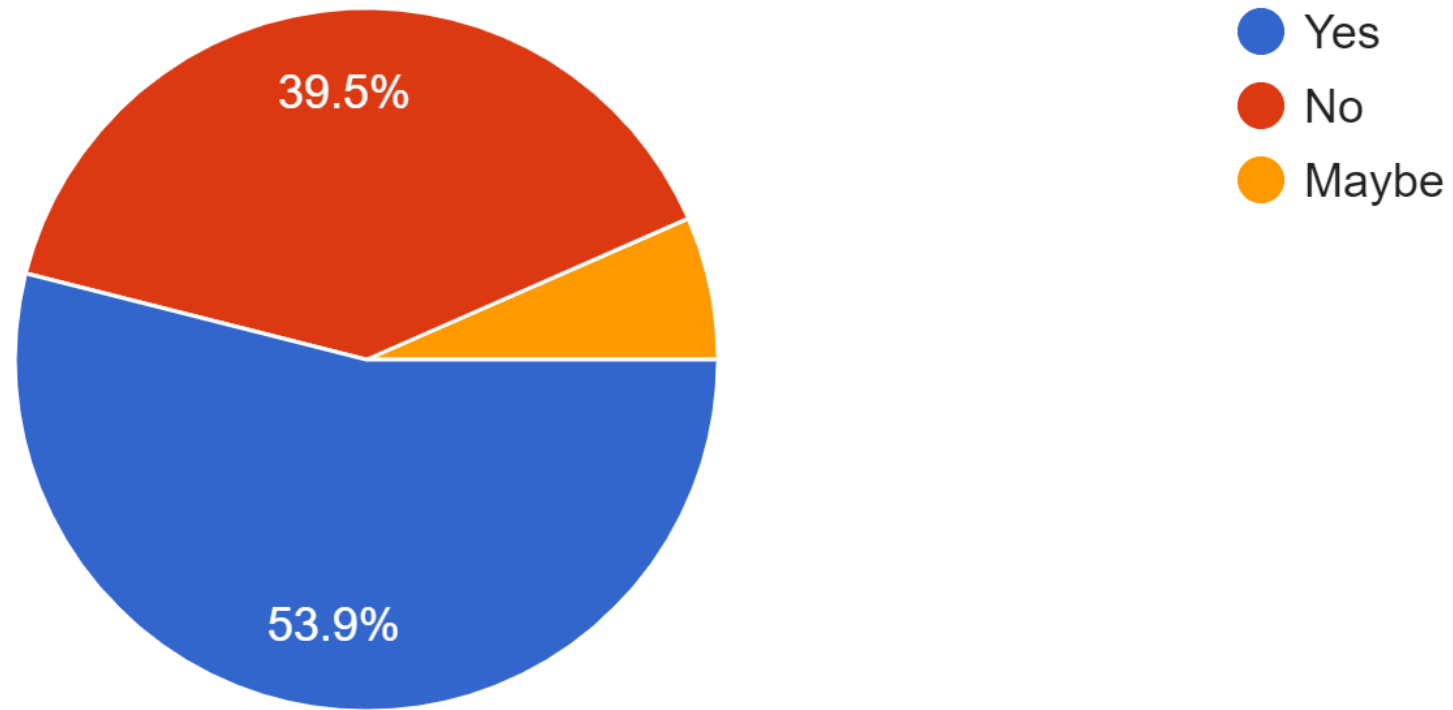
Qn 8. Have you ever heard or encountered stereotypes linking individuals with dreadlock activities?

76 responses



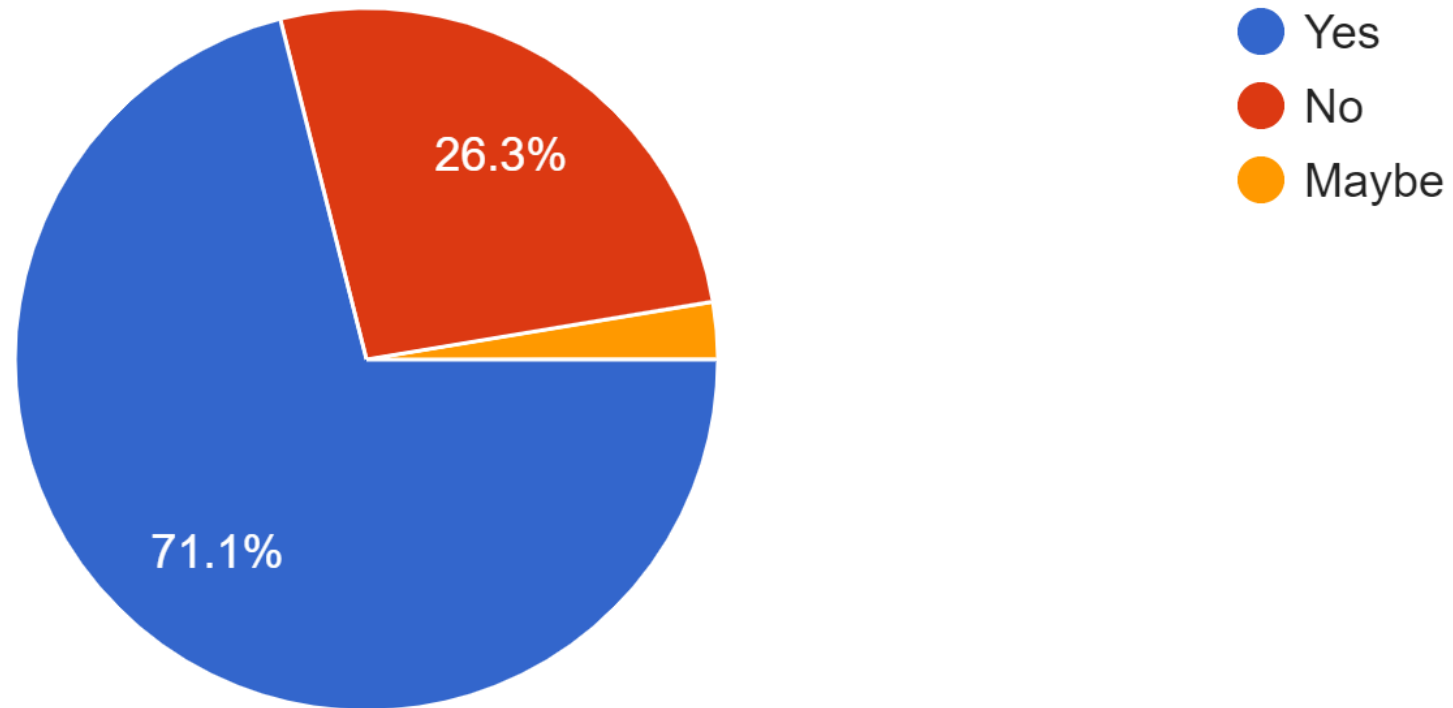
Qn 7. Do you believe there is a common association between people with dreadlocks and behavior in society

76 responses



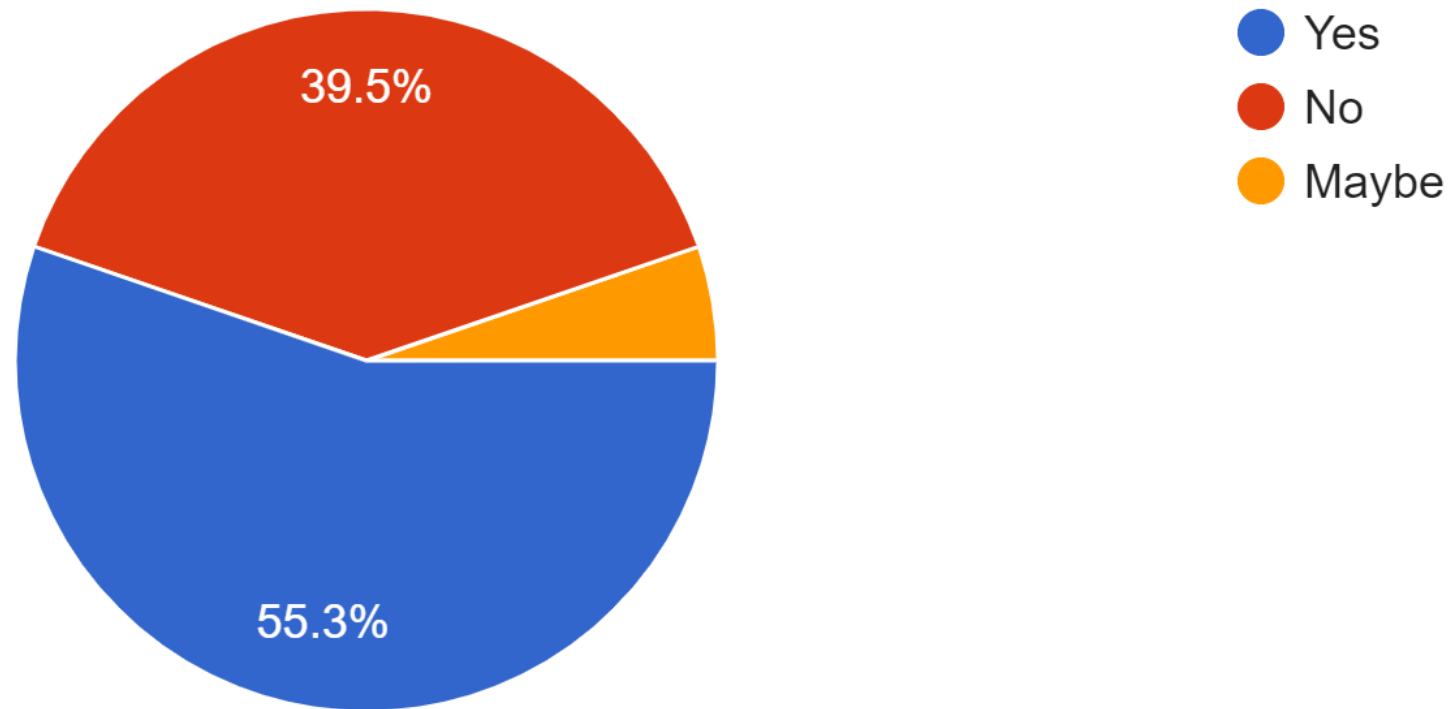
Qn 9. Have you or someone you know ever faced assumptions or bias related to crime based on having dreadlocks?

76 responses



Qn 10. Are you aware of any legal cases where individuals with dreadlocks were unfairly targeted due to assumptions about criminality?

76 responses

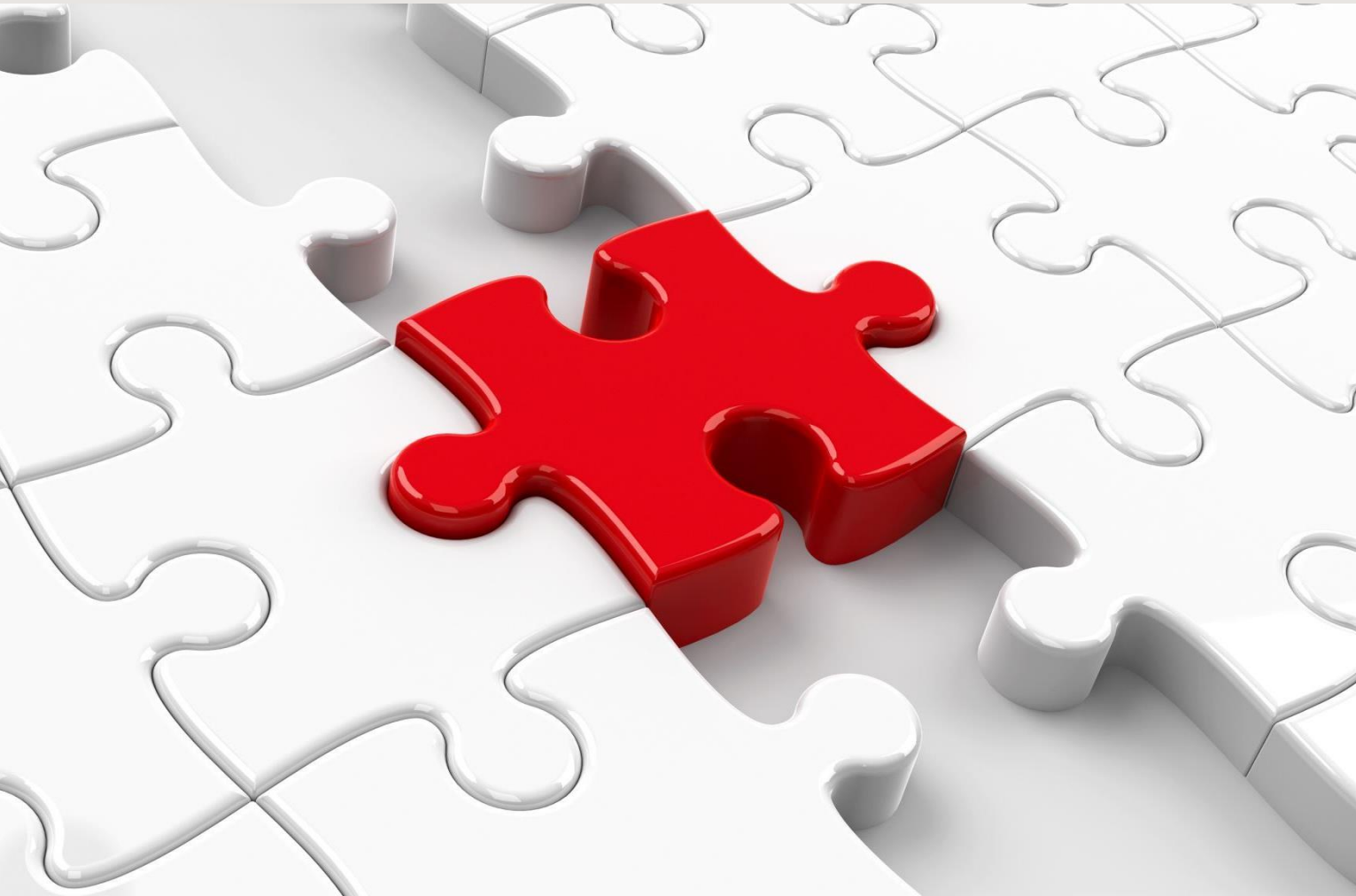




Key Findings:

- **Association with Criminality:** There is a pervasive perception that young people with dreadlocks are often associated with criminal activities, including theft, gang violence, drug use, and other antisocial behavior. This stereotype is consistently mentioned in respondents' comments.
- **Negative Stereotypes and Prejudices:** Individuals with dreadlocks face negative stereotypes and prejudices, including assumptions about their morality, professionalism, and character. These stereotypes contribute to unfair judgments and discrimination.
- **Association with Countercultural Movements:** Dreadlocks are perceived as a form of nonconformity or countercultural expression. Respondents mention associations with unconventional lifestyles, rebellion, and a rejection of mainstream societal norms.
- **Rastafarianism and Cultural Appropriation:** Dreadlocks are strongly associated with Rastafarianism, leading to the perception that individuals with dreadlocks may be embracing Rastafarian beliefs. There is also a mention of concerns about cultural appropriation when individuals from different backgrounds adopt dreadlocks without understanding their cultural significance.
- **Social Fitness and Recognition:** On a positive note, some respondents perceive dreadlocks as a sign of recognition, particularly among musicians.
- **Geographical Variations:** Geographical location plays a role in shaping perceptions. For example, in Juba, South Sudan, young people with dreadlocks are associated with unhealthy lifestyles, alcohol consumption, and involvement in gang activities.

Recommendations



- **Promote Understanding and Education:** There is a need to educate the public about the diverse reasons individuals choose to have dreadlocks, emphasizing that it is not indicative of criminal behavior. Promote cultural understanding and awareness to reduce stereotypes.
- **Challenge Stereotypes:** Work towards challenging and dispelling negative stereotypes associated with dreadlocks. Highlight positive aspects such as individuality, personal expression, and creativity.
- **Encourage Positive Representation:** Showcase positive examples of individuals with dreadlocks who contribute positively to society, whether as professionals, artists, or community members. This can help reshape public perceptions.

Recommendations

- **Address Cultural Appropriation Concerns:** Encourage discussions about cultural appropriation and foster respectful understanding of the cultural significance of dreadlocks, especially when adopted by individuals from different backgrounds.
- **Community Engagement:** Engage with communities to understand and address specific concerns and perceptions, particularly in regions where negative associations with dreadlocks are prevalent.
- **Legal and Institutional Support:** Advocate for anti-discrimination measures and policies that protect individuals from discrimination based on their appearance, including hairstyles like dreadlocks.
- **Highlight Diversity:** Emphasize the diversity of individuals with dreadlocks, including their varied professions, interests, and lifestyles. This can help break down monolithic perceptions.
- **Personal Responsibility:** Encourage individuals with dreadlocks to represent themselves positively in their communities, challenging negative stereotypes through their actions and contributions.



Recommendations and Observations:



- **Address Unequal Treatment:** Respondents emphasize the need to address unequal treatment resulting from assumptions and biases in law enforcement. This includes profiling, increased surveillance, and unwarranted stops based on appearance.
- **Combat Discrimination and Stereotypes:** There is a strong call to combat discrimination and stereotypes associated with dreadlocks. Recommendations include creating awareness, educating the public, and challenging pre-existing biases that link this hairstyle to criminality.
- **Presumption of Innocence:** Many express concerns about individuals being perceived as criminals solely based on their hairstyle. Emphasizing the presumption of innocence until proven guilty is crucial to avoid wrongful arrests and convictions.

Recommendations and observations



- **Human Rights and Freedom:** The violation of human rights is highlighted, with an emphasis on individuals being entitled to enjoy their freedoms, including the freedom to choose their hairstyle without facing discrimination or mistreatment.
- **Legal Reforms and Regulations:** Recommendations suggest the need for legal reforms and regulations that prevent arbitrary arrests and mistreatment based on assumptions. Calls for a fact-based approach in law enforcement and the justice system are prevalent.
- **Trust Building:** A significant concern is the erosion of trust in the justice system due to unfair treatment. Building trust involves ensuring that legal proceedings are based on evidence and fairness, which will, in turn, encourage cooperation with law enforcement.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Respondents stress the importance of cultural sensitivity in discussions about dreadlocks. Understanding the cultural context and diversity is crucial to avoiding unfair generalizations and assumptions.