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Adventist Research African Continent

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The background features a central globe with vibrant, swirling energy waves in shades of purple, blue, and orange. The text is overlaid on this dynamic, futuristic-looking scene.

ADVENTIST RESEARCH

AFRICAN CONTINENT

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Prepared by Prof. Elizabeth M. Role @2013

**SPIRITUAL LIFE PATTERNS,
ATTITUDES, AND BELIEFS OF
SDA CHURCH MEMBERS IN THE
AFRICAN CONTINENT**

**Commissioned/Funded by the
General Conference of
Seventh-day Adventist**

Obtained contacts (e-mail addresses)
of Executive Secretaries

**Sampling
Procedures**

Administrative field Executive
Secretaries provided church information

Ranked churches according
to membership

Classified churches as small,
medium, or large

Shortlisted churches for
random sampling

SHORTLISTING PROCEDURES

NUMBER OF CHURCHES	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
500 or more	20	20	20
100 to 499	10	10	10
50 to 99	10	10	10

RANDOM SAMPLING

NUMBER OF CHURCHES	LARGE		MEDIUM		SMALL	
	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL	URBAN	RURAL
500 or more	2	2	2	2	2	2
100 to 499	1	1	1	1	1	1
50 to 99	1		1		1	
10 to 49	1		1		1	
less than 10	Largest church					

THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Translated in 9 languages

ØKiswahili



Spanish

ØFrench

ØPortuguese



Kirundi

ØAfan Oromo

ØAmharic

ØKinyarwanda

ØLuganda

ADVENTIST RESEARCH

Sent list of sampled churches and questionnaire to administrative field or union Executive Secretaries

Data-gathering Procedures

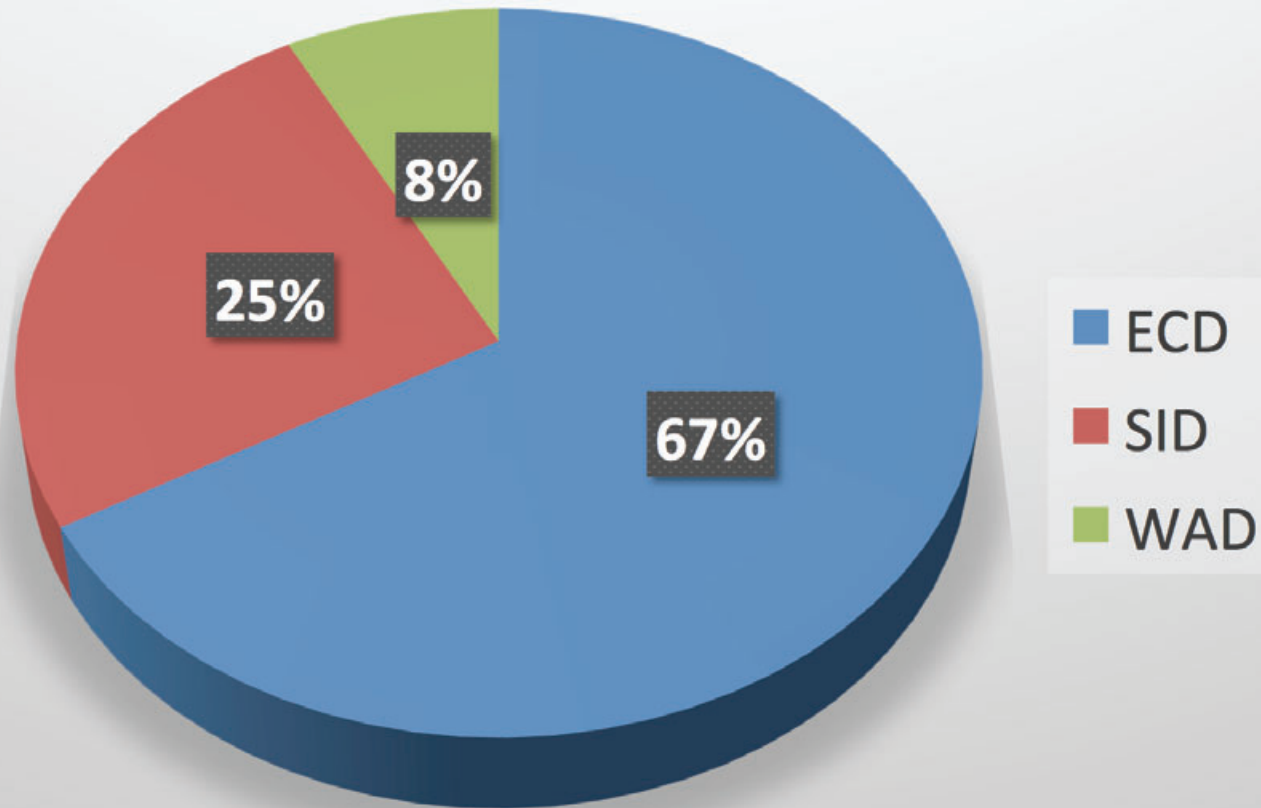
Gathered data from churches through church/district pastors

Large church – 50 members
Medium church – 30 members
Small church – 10 members

Filled questionnaires mailed to UEAB

TOTAL RESPONDENTS - 9830

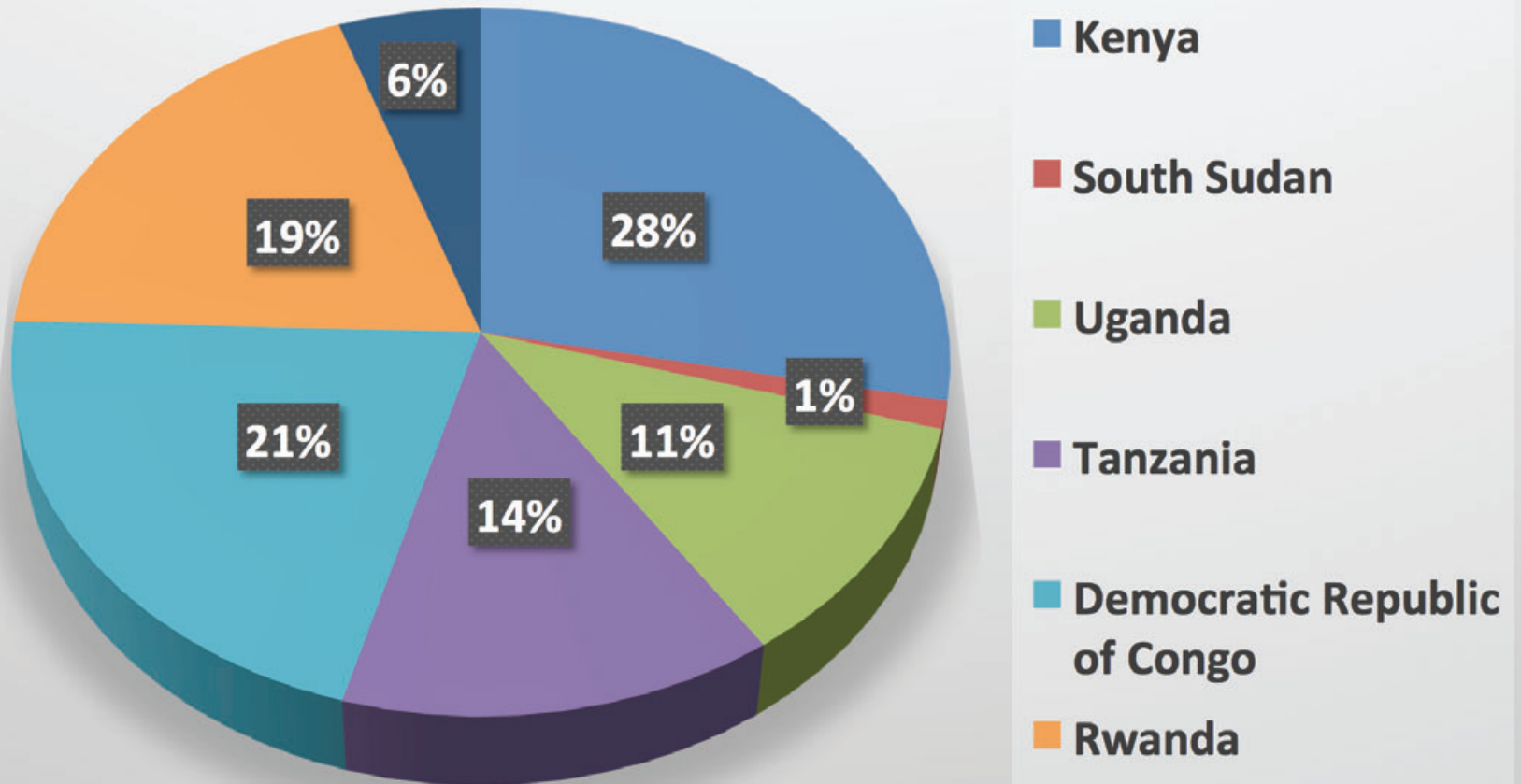
RESPONDENTS BY DIVISION



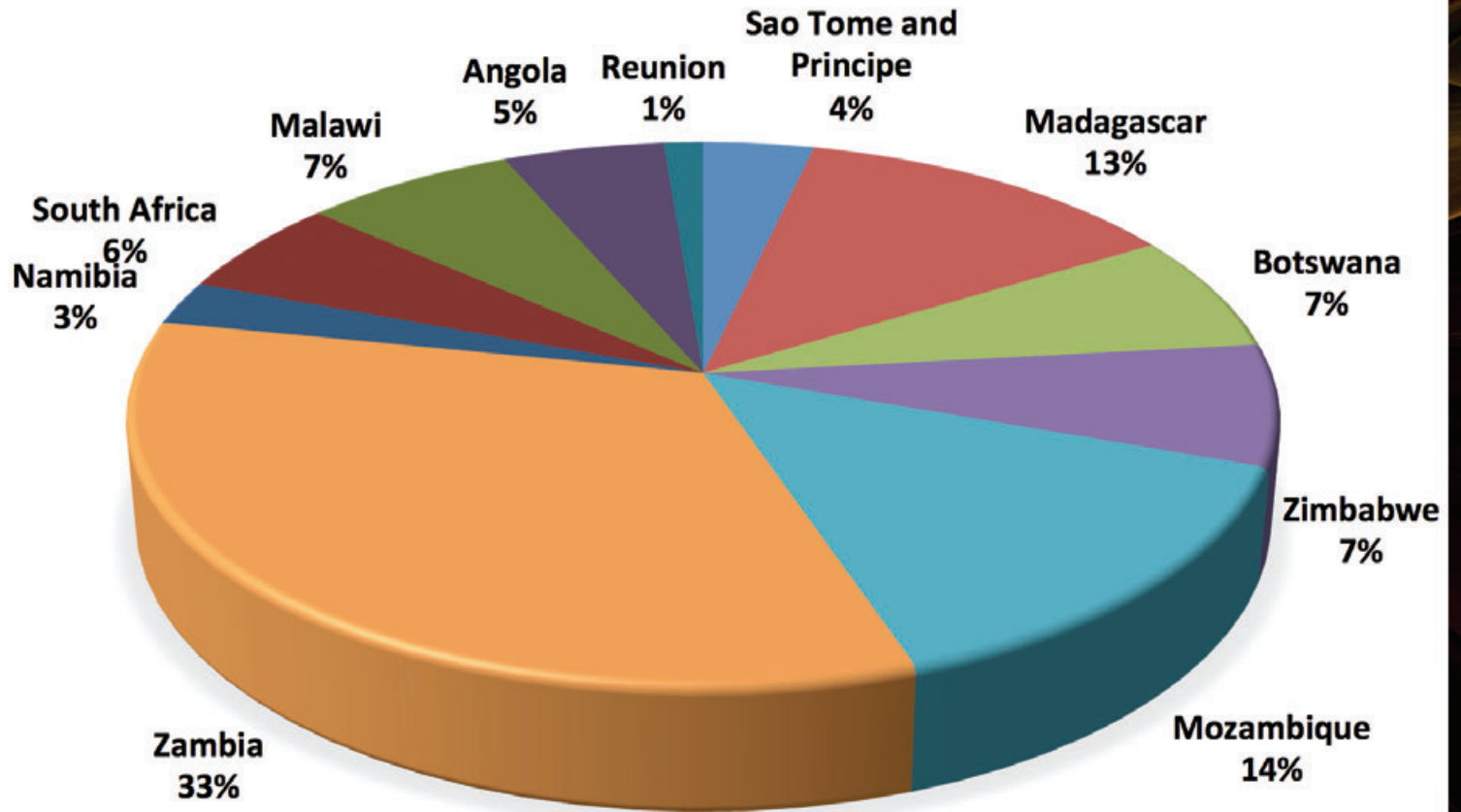
RESPONDENTS

DIVISIONS	COUNTRIES
East-Central Africa	7
Southern Africa- Indian Ocean	11
West-Central Africa	6

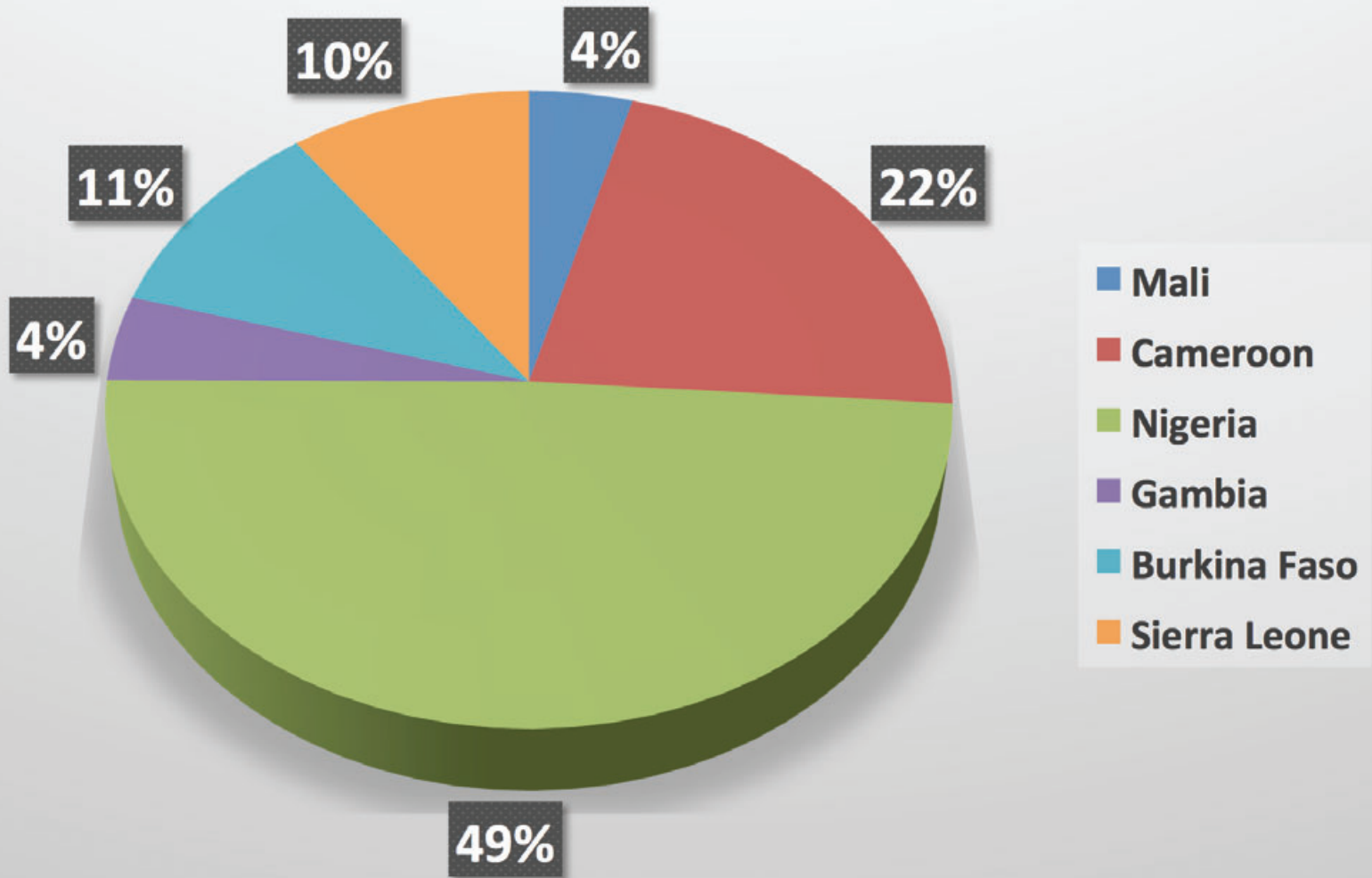
RESPONDENTS BY COUNTRY (ECD – 6,566)



RESPONDENTS BY COUNTRY (SID – 2,498)

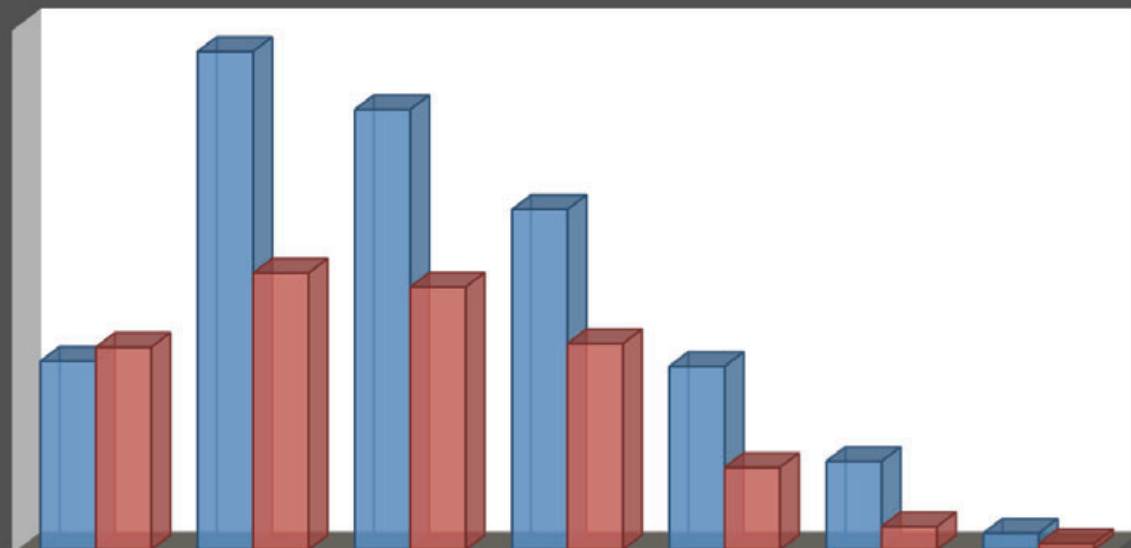


RESPONDENTS BY COUNTRY (WAD - 766)



AGE BY GENDER (ECD)

■ MALE ■ FEMALE

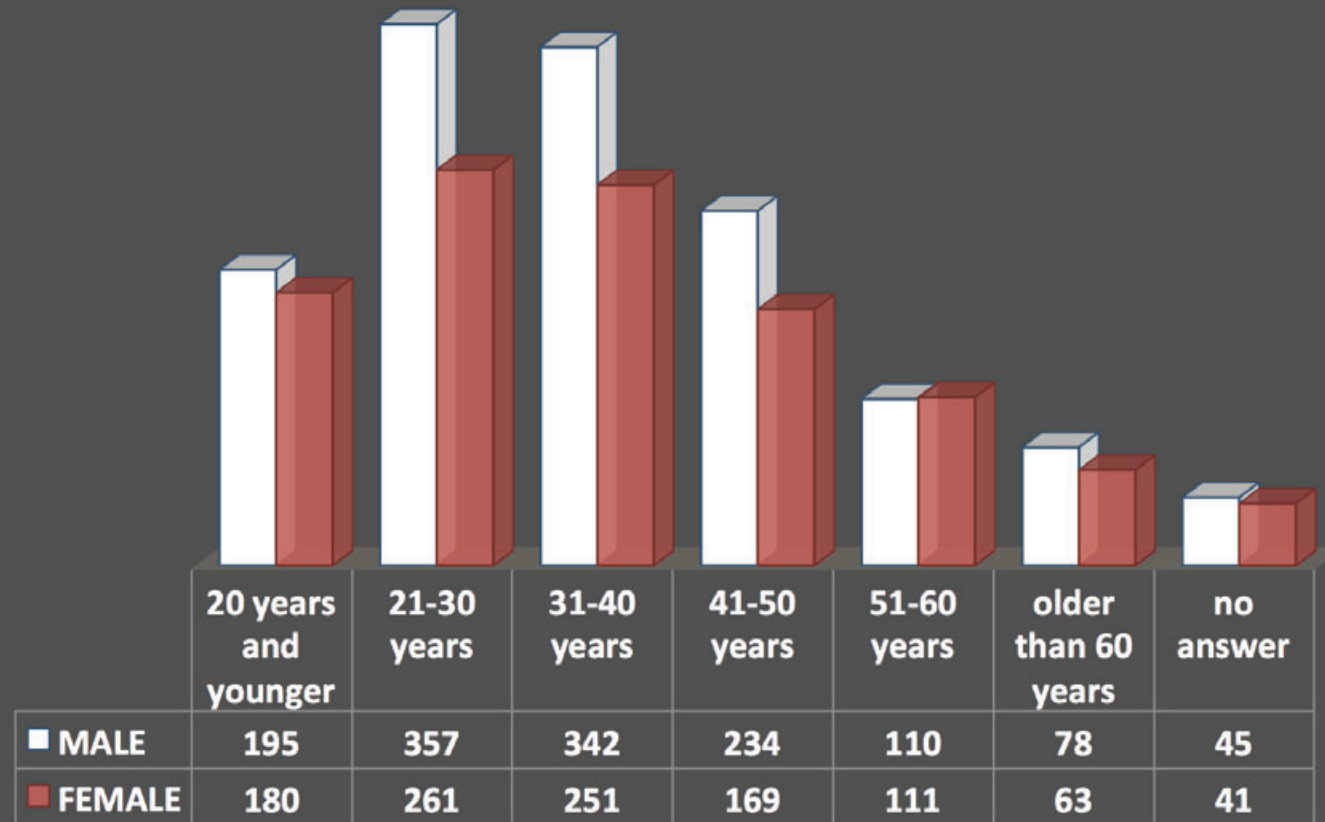


	20 years and younger	21-30 years	31-40 years	41-50 years	51-60 years	older than 60 years	no answer
■ MALE	433	1143	1010	781	421	203	38
■ FEMALE	465	635	603	473	189	53	14

Male – 61% Female – 37%

AGE BY GENDER (SID)

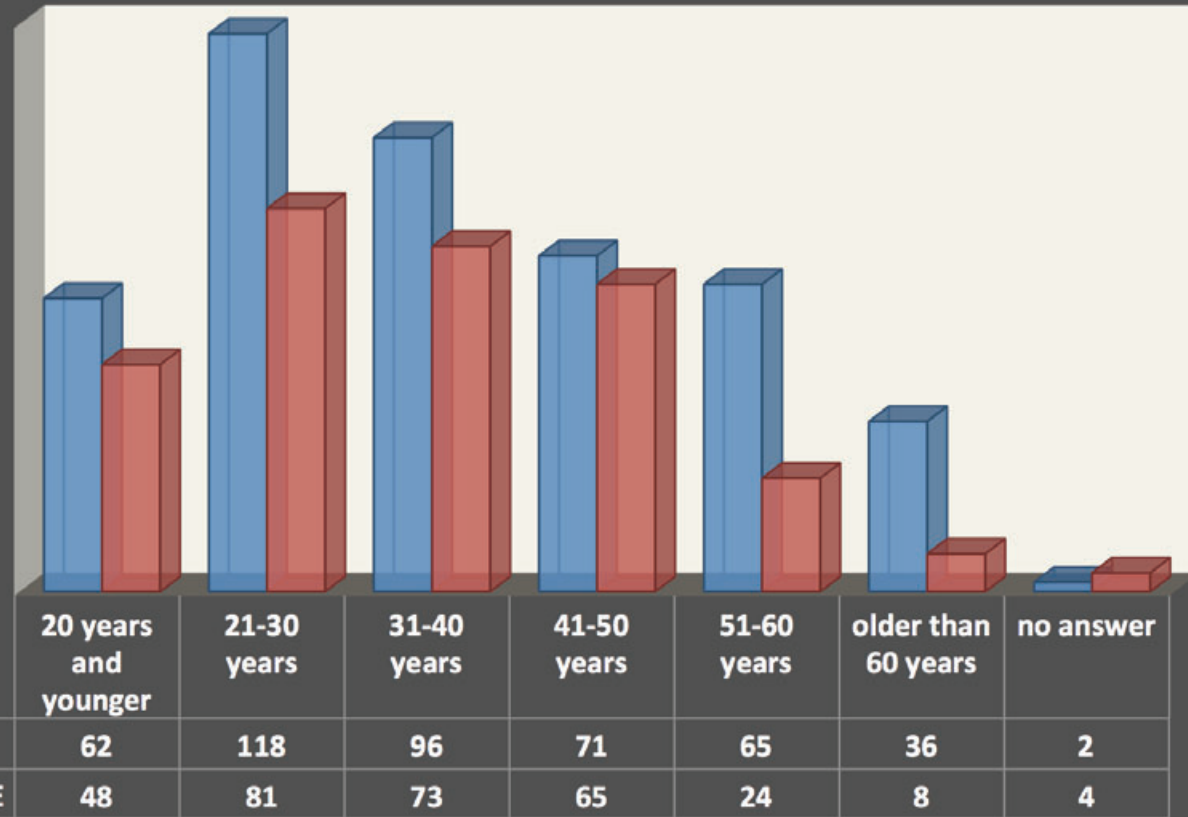
■ MALE ■ FEMALE



Male – 55% Female – 43%

AGE BY GENDER (WAD)

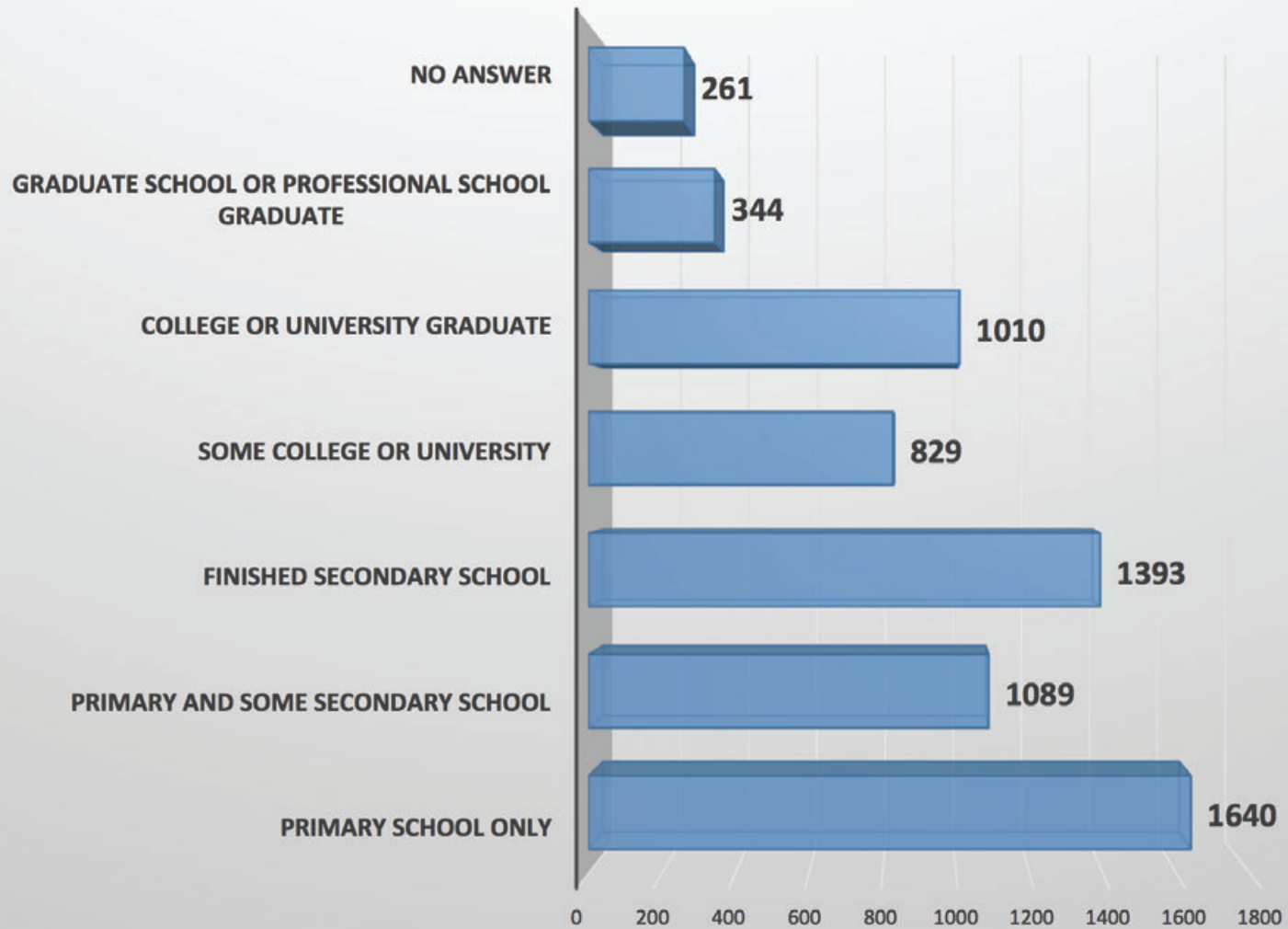
MALE FEMALE



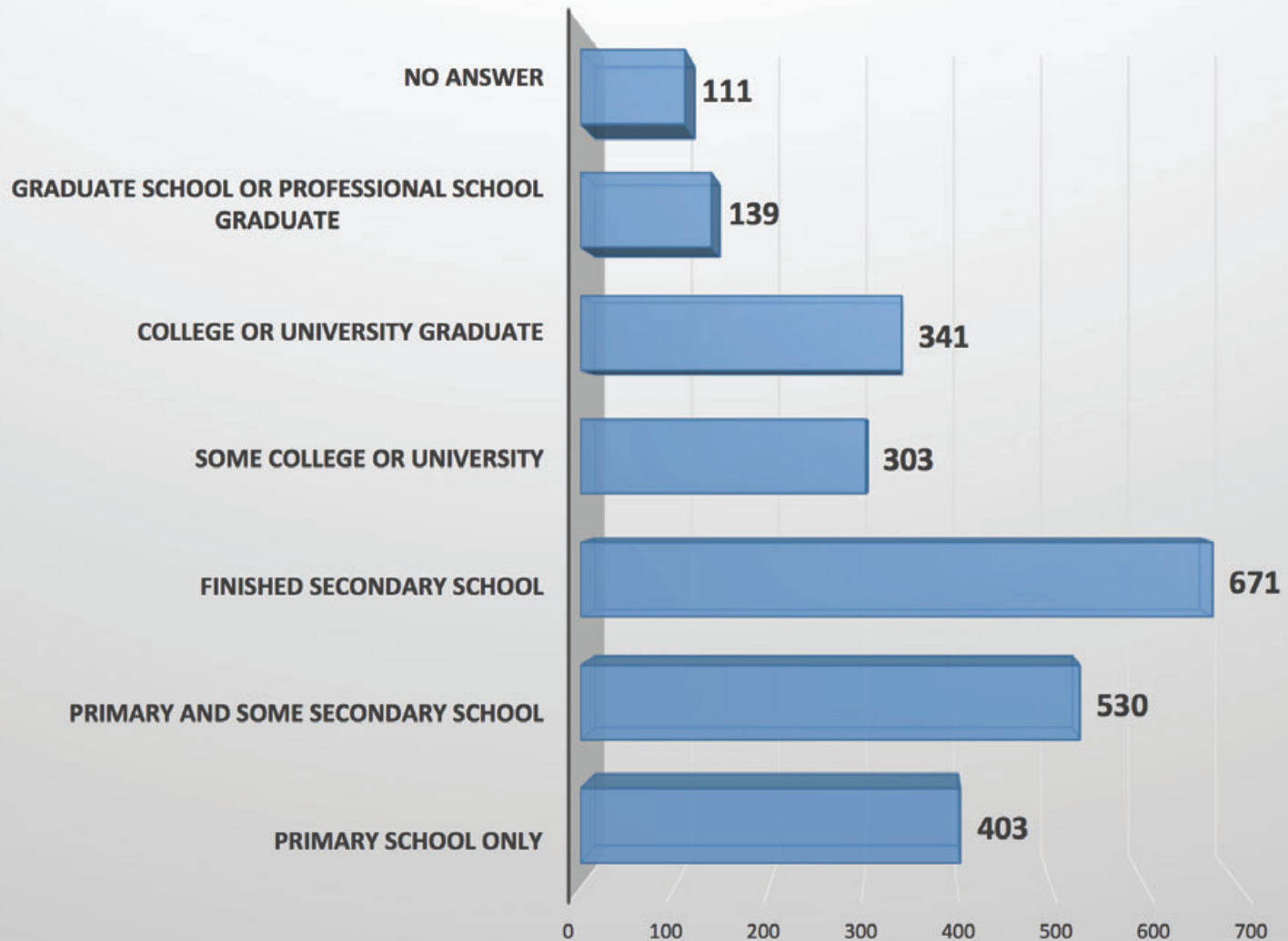
Male – 59%

Female – 40%

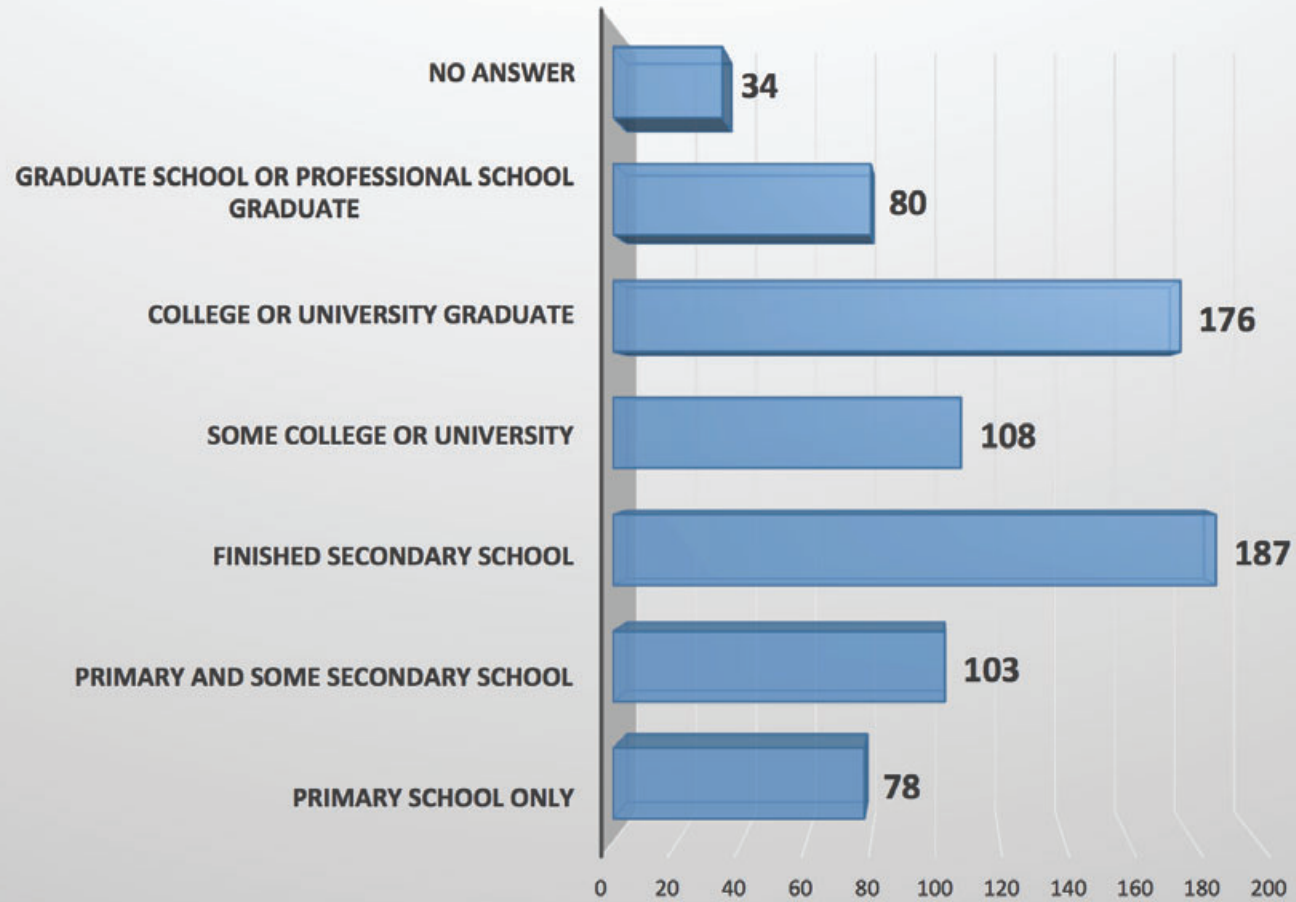
LEVEL OF EDUCATION (ECD)



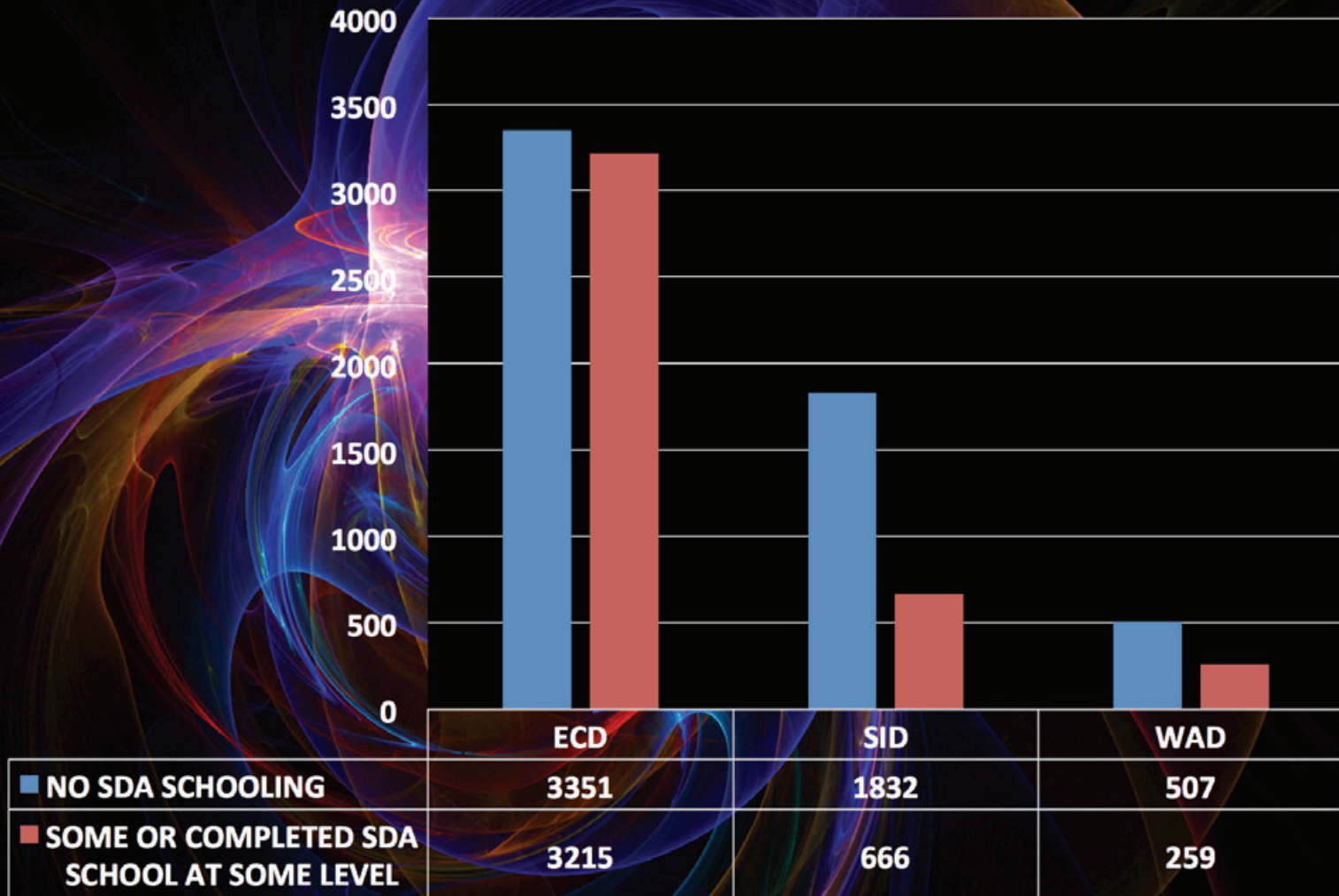
LEVEL OF EDUCATION (SID)



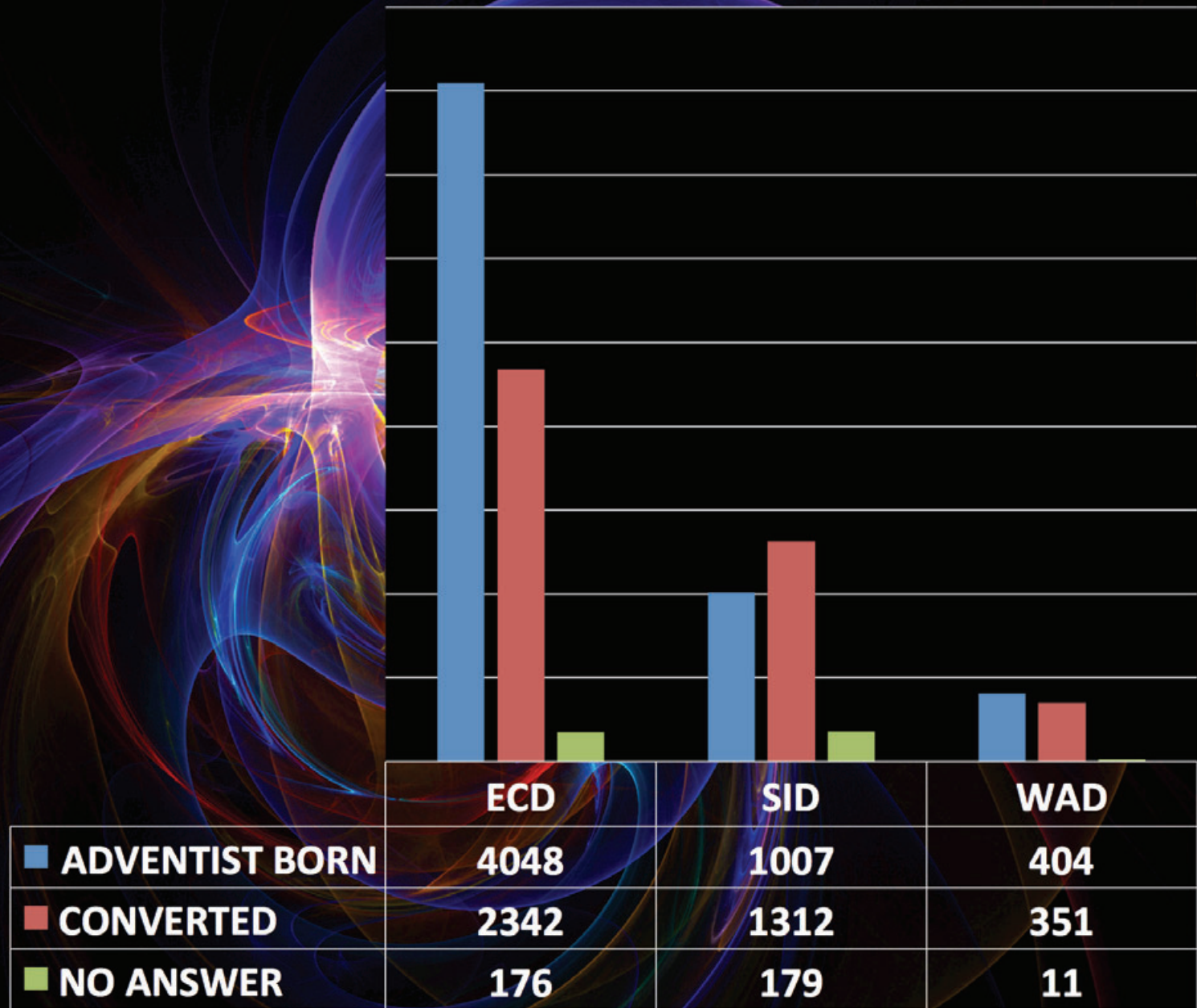
LEVEL OF EDUCATION (WAD)



EXPERIENCE WITH SDA EDUCATION



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FREQUENCY OF CHURCH ATTENDANCE ACTUAL / PREFERENCE

More than once a week	ECD	SID	WAD
ATTENDANCE	55%	51%	61%
PREFERENCE	75%	75%	75%

ADVENTIST RESEARCH

OUTREACH
CARING
NURTURE
RETENTION

PERCEPTIONS ON NEED TO INCREASE/ IMPROVE EFFORTS

	ECD	SID	WAD
OUTREACH	80%	74%	81%
CARING & NURTURE	80%	74%	83%

Older church members in ECD and SID perceive the need for the church to improve on caring and nurture more than the younger church members.

WILLINGNESS TO GET INVOLVED IN OUTREACH

	ECD	SID	WAD
To a moderate extent	20%	21%	31%
To a great extent	63%	55%	52%

Church members who attend church regularly and who prefer to go to church more often tend to be willing to get involved in outreach to a great extent.

What originally attracted church members to attend and to remain part of their congregation?

	ECD		SID		WAD	
	ATTRACT	REMAIN	ATTRACT	REMAIN	ATTRACT	REMAIN
Doctrines of the church	54%	57%	56%	61%	61%	61%
Worship style	36%	38%	37%	41%	40%	41%
Evangelism program	28%	29%	29%	29%	27%	25%
Music program	29%	24%	28%	25%	18%	20%
Child and youth program			24%	22%		
Church reputation					20%	21%

COMPARISON BY AGE

What originally attracted church members to attend and to remain part of their congregation?

ECD

Younger members

- Ø *Friends*
- Ø *Music program*
- Ø *Child and youth program*
- Ø *Self-help groups*
- Ø *Evangelism program*

Older members

- Ø *Doctrines of the church*
- Ø *Denominational ties*

What originally attracted younger church members to attend and to remain part of their congregation?

SID

Younger members

Ø *Music program*

Ø *Child and youth program*

What originally attracted older church members to attend their congregation?

SID

- Ø *Proximity*
- Ø *Denominational ties*

Foremost reasons for remaining part of the congregation (older church members)

- Ø *Church reputation*
- Ø *Community outreach*
- Ø *Denominational ties*

What originally attracted younger church members to attend their congregation?

WAD

- The minister*
- Adult education program*
- Child and youth program*
- Self-help groups*
- Community outreach*

Except for the minister, the last four are the foremost reasons for remaining part of the congregation.

The doctrines of the church attracted older church members to attend and to remain part of their congregation.

CONSIDER LEAVING LOCAL SDA CHURCH

	ECD	SID	WAD
To different faith	75%	72%	88%
To another SDA church	79%	75%	90%
To worship at home	74%	71%	86%

WHAT WILL MAKE THEM LEAVE?

Cold and unfriendly church	23%	19%	17%
	28%	28%	23%
	22%	19%	18%
Worship services not meaningful	17%	22%	24%
	18%	24%	26%
	20%	25%	25%

**Personal traits of pastoral
leadership considered important
by
YOUNGER CHURCH MEMBERS**

ECD

- Ø *Emphasis on spiritual development and growth*
- Ø *Comforting and reassuring*
- Ø *Biblical preaching and teaching*
- Ø *Preaching and teaching on contemporary issues*
- Ø *Works hard to accomplish tasks*
- Ø *Advises people what to do*
- Ø *Gives whole self to the church*
- Ø *Outgoing and socially engaging*
- Ø *Reflective and reserved*

WAD

- Ø *Does things as they have always been done*
- Ø *Outgoing and socially engaging*
- Ø *Reflective and reserved*

**Personal traits of pastoral
leadership considered important
by
OLDER CHURCH MEMBERS**

SID

- Ø *Expertise in biblical and theological matters*
- Ø *Thought-provoking and challenging*
- Ø *Strong and decisive decision-maker*
- Ø *Comforting and reassuring*
- Ø *Encourages lay decision-making*
- Ø *Relaxed interpersonal style*
- Ø *Works hard to accomplish tasks*

CHURCH INVOLVEMENT

	ECD	SID	WAD
No participation	3%	4%	5%
Observer	2%	4%	2%
Casual participant	17%	10%	9%
Active participant	42%	46%	44%
Church leader	32%	29%	38%

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHURCH INVOLVEMENT OF MEMBERS AND CARE OF LEADERS

	Church Leaders	Sabbath School Teachers or Leaders	Pastor
ECD	.150**	.231**	.271**
SID	.170**	.248**	.267**
WAD	.138**	.214**	.193**

****significant at 0.01 level**

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FREQUENCY OF WORSHIP SERVICES ATTENDANCE AND EXPERIENCE WITH CHURCH LEADERS

	Church leaders are warm and friendly	Sabbath School Teachers or Leaders know me	Pastor knows me	Church leaders care
ECD	.086**	.156**	.143**	.132**
SID	.062**	.127**	.110**	.055*
WA D	.126**	.200**	.149**	.151**

*significant at 0.05 level

There is a significant direct relationship between frequency of attendance in worship services and

- Ø *Attitude toward church*
- Ø *Experience with and attitude toward church programs*

**Characteristics of church pastor
that have significant relationship
with frequency of attendance in
worship services**

ECD

- Ø *Enthusiastic about ministry*
- Ø *Helpful in times of need*
- Ø *Inspiring*
- Ø *Occasionally visits church members of the church in their home*
- Ø *Sensitive to the needs of others*
- Ø *A good preacher*
- Ø *Shows true spiritual leadership in our church community*
- Ø *Receptive of new ideas*
- Ø *Thorough in pastoral duties*

SID

- Ø *Occasionally visits church members of the church in their home*
- Ø *Receptive of new ideas*
- Ø *Thorough in pastoral duties*

WAD

- Ø *Enthusiastic about ministry*

Characteristics of the local church that have significant relationship with frequency of attendance in worship services

ECD, SID, AND WAD

- Ø *It feels warm*
- Ø *I learn a lot*
- Ø *It is friendly*
- Ø *It challenges my thinking*
- Ø *It provides fellowship*

ECD AND SID

- Ø *It accepts people who are different*
- Ø *Most members want to be challenged to think about religious issues and ideas*
- Ø *Strangers feel welcome*

ECD AND WAD

- Ø *It encourages me to ask questions*
- Ø *It expects people to learn and think*
- Ø *It stretches me in worship*

ADVENTIST RESEARCH

RELIGIOUS LIFE

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ECD

Frequency	Read the Bible	Personal Devotion	Read EGW Writings	Have Family Worship*
never	2.3%	4.1%	16.8%	11.6%
less than once a month	4.4%	6.3%	17.5%	8.4%
about once a week	17.8%	14.9%	17.0%	11.9%
more than once a week	33.2%	26.7%	20.5%	19.3%
daily or more than once a day	34.0%	38.0%	16.9%	39.0%

* Prayers or religious devotions together as a family away from church

SID

Frequency	Read the Bible	Personal Devotion	Read EGW Writings	Have Family Worship*
never	2.4%	7.2%	17.8%	14.9%
less than once a month	4.1%	7.8%	17.9%	10.3%
about once a week	16.5%	16.9%	18.1%	12.4%
more than once a week	29.5%	24.6%	15.7%	19.2%
daily or more than once a day	36.1%	27.6%	14.9%	29.2%

* Prayers or religious devotions together as a family away from church

WAD

Frequency	Read the Bible	Personal Devotion	Read EGW Writings	Have Family Worship*
never	2.6%	3.4%	16.4%	9.8%
less than once a month	2.7%	3.7%	25.2%	6.7%
about once a week	11.4%	14.0%	18.3%	7.7%
more than once a week	33.3%	23.2%	12.8%	19.1%
daily or more than once a day	39.8%	43.5%	14.0%	45.2%

* Prayers or religious devotions together as a family away from church

RELIGIOUS LIFE AND AGE

In the 3 divisions:

Older church members tend to

ü *read the Bible*

ü *engage in personal devotion*

ü *have family worship*

more often than the younger church members.

RELIGIOUS LIFE AND AGE

In the 3 divisions:

- Younger church members tend to*
 - ü disregard their religious beliefs because of what people think of them.*
 - ü go to church because they enjoy seeing people they know.*

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND AGE

In the 3 divisions, younger church members ...

- Ø *Expect that the world will end within the next 20 years*
- Ø *Believe that SDA beliefs might change over time*
- Ø *Believe that God approves polygamy because some men of God in the Bible were polygamists*

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND AGE

In ECD and SID...

- Ø *Older church members believe that they need to be baptized in the SDA church if they were to be saved.*
- Ø *Younger church members believe that because of the reality of witchcraft, Christians can go to witchdoctors for protection.*

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND AGE

In the 3 divisions, older church members tend to embrace wholeheartedly...

Ø *That the investigative judgment began in 1844*

Ø *The Adventist standards regarding healthful living*

ADVENTIST RESEARCH

CHURCH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

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Who support the church financially?

- Ø *Older church members*
- Ø *Those who are more involved in church activities*
- Ø *Those who have positive experiences with church*
- Ø *Those who had been converted to Adventism for a longer period of time*

AFRICAN CONTINENT

Frequency	Tithes	SS Offerings	Church Building	Mission Program
Never	4.1%	4.1%	5.8%	6.7%
Seldom	6.4%	6.2%	7.1%	8.5%
Sometimes	21.6%	20.9%	22.1%	22.2%
Often	23.3%	23.0%	20.9%	20.7%
Always	30.2%	28.3%	25.5%	22.0%

SUPPORT OF MISSION/ EVANGELISM

Ø *Support of mission programs and evangelistic projects of the church is significantly related to regular attendance in worship services.*

Ø *Members of churches which help them grow closer to Christ tend to support mission and evangelism.*

SUPPORT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Ø *Church members who received SDA schooling and those employed by an institution owned by or affiliated with the SDA church tend to support Christian education and local church school.*

VOTE OF THANKS

- Ø *GC Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research*
- Ø *GC Secretariat and Treasury*
- Ø *ECD, SID, and WAD Secretariat and Treasury*
- Ø *Union/Administrative field executive and administrative secretaries*
- Ø *District/Church pastors*
- Ø *Church members*
- Ø *UEAB Administration, Research Team, Mailman, Messengers, Encoders*

ADVENTIST RESEARCH

NAME OF ADMINISTRATIVE FIELD			
NAME OF CHURCH	LOCATION (URBAN OR RURAL)	DISTRICT	MEMBERS (Number)



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ADVENTIST RESEARCH



FILLED QUESTIONNAIRES

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**UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN AFRICA, BARATON
DATA ENCODERS**

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