

May 2024

# AI Chatbots in Schools

Findings from a Poll of K-12 Teachers, Students,  
Parents, and College Undergraduates

**IMPACT**  
RESEARCH

# Methodology



Impact Research conducted an online poll of K-12 teachers, students ages 12-18, undergraduates, and parents of K-12 students.



The sample includes a total of N=1003 teachers, N=1001 K-12 students, N=1003 undergrads, and N=1000 parents. The teachers, K-12 students, and parents' samples were weighted to align with demographic estimates from the U.S. Census and undergraduates with demographic estimates from the National Center for Education Statistics.



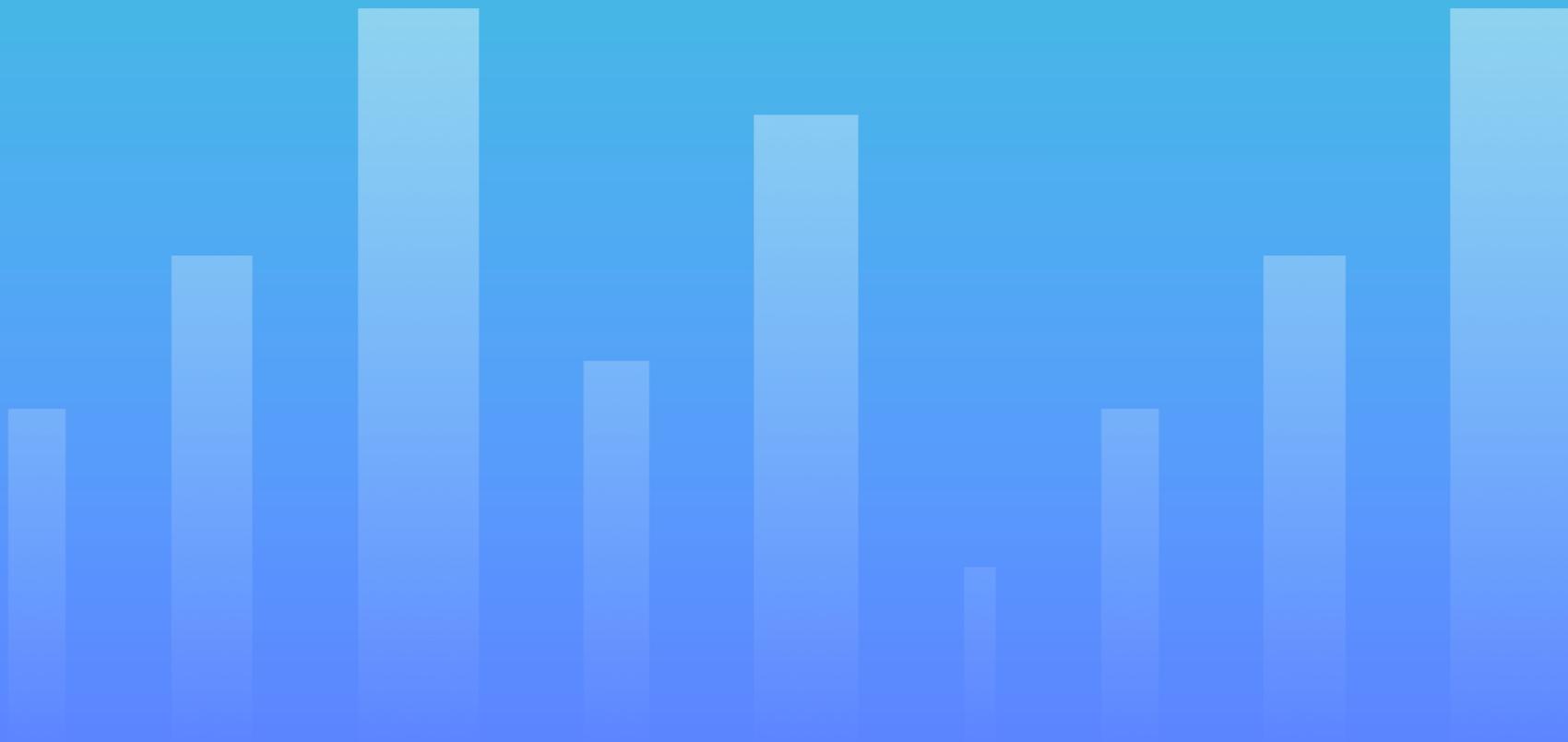
Interviews were conducted May 7-15, 2024.



The 95% confidence interval for each sample's results is  $\pm 3.1$  percentage points. The confidence interval for subgroups varies and is higher.



# KEY FINDINGS



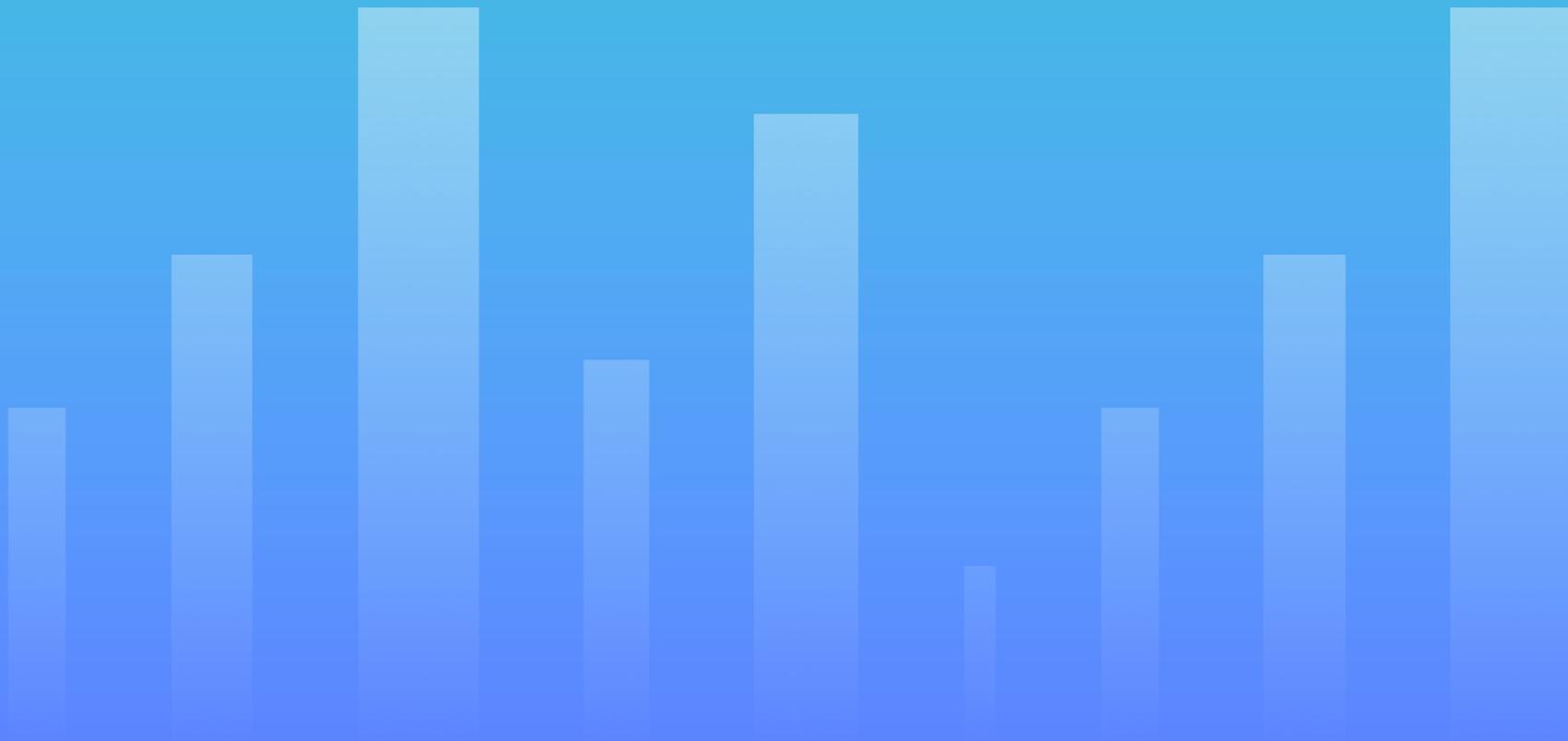
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# Key Findings

- **In the last year, AI has become even more intertwined with our education system.** More teachers, parents, and students are aware of it and have used it themselves on a regular basis. It is all over our education system today.
- **While negative views of AI have crept up over the last year, students, teachers, and parents feel very positive about it in general.** On balance they see positive uses for the technology in school, especially if they have used it themselves.
- **Most K-12 teachers, parents, and students don't think their school is doing much about AI, despite its widespread use.** Most say their school has no policy on it, is doing nothing to offer desired teacher training, and isn't meeting the demand of students who'd like a career in a job that will need AI.
- **The AI vacuum in school policy means it is currently used "unauthorized," while instead people want policies that encourage AI.** Kids, parents, and teachers are figuring it out on their own/without express permission, whereas all stakeholders would rather have a policy that explicitly encourages AI from a thoughtful foundation.



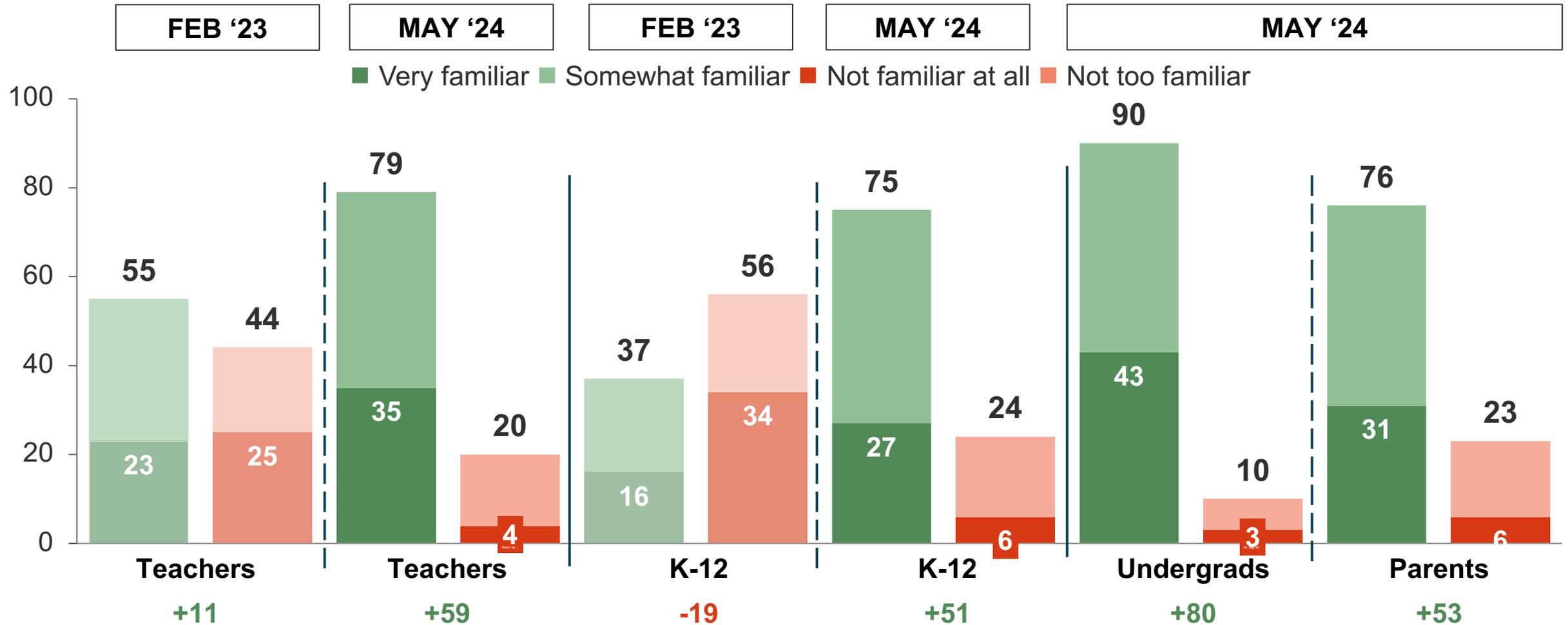
# CURRENT AI USAGE



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# Nearly everybody surveyed has heard of ChatGPT, with 3/4 saying they are at least somewhat familiar with it.

This is a big leap from just a year ago, when 25% of teachers and 34% of students had never heard of it.

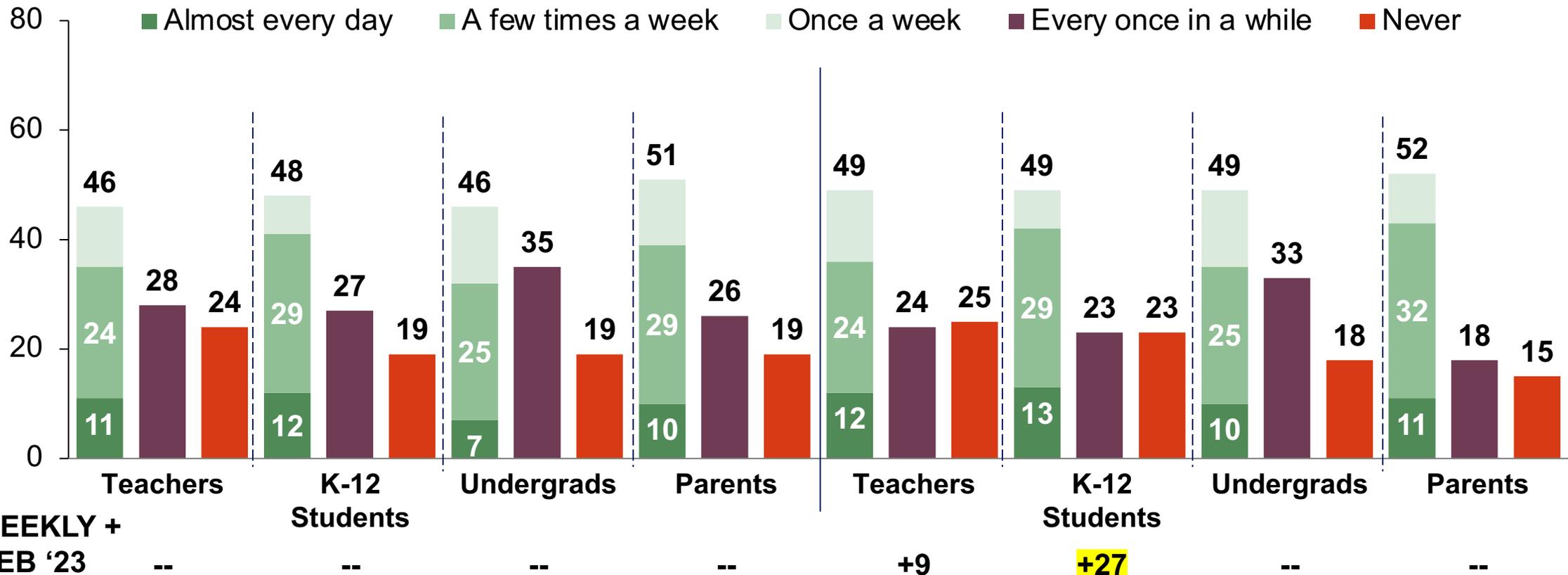


# Across the board nearly 50% are using ChatGPT at least weekly, both in and out of school.

There has been a substantial, 26-point increase in the number of K-12 students using ChatGPT weekly since last year.

*How often would you say you use AI chatbots personally, outside of work or school?*

*How much do you use ChatGPT for [your job / school / your child currently use AI chatbots for school]?*



# Male, Black, younger, and urban teachers use AI the most personally and at work.

Parents in urban areas and wealthier parents report using it the most, and that their children use it the most.

Teachers X AI Chatbot Use	Used AI Chatbots Personally	Used AI Chatbots for Work
<i>Overall</i>	74	73
White	72	71
Black	79	86
Hispanic	72	69
Women	71	71
Men	80	78
<45	78	78
45+	65	63
Urban	79	78
Suburban	72	73
Small Town	63	62
Rural	74	73
Classroom	76	76
Non-Classroom	71	67

Parents X AI Chatbot Use	Used AI Chatbots Personally	Child Uses AI Chatbots
<i>Overall</i>	77	70
White	72	68
Black	80	81
Hispanic	84	75
Women	71	64
Men	83	79
<45	77	69
45+	74	72
Urban	83	84
Suburban	79	66
Small Town	63	53
Rural	64	67
< \$50k	69	63
\$50k+	83	76

# Hispanic, AAPI, and Private School K-12 students are using chatbots at high rates, but more so personally than for school.

College students use AI chatbots at similar rates for personal and school use.

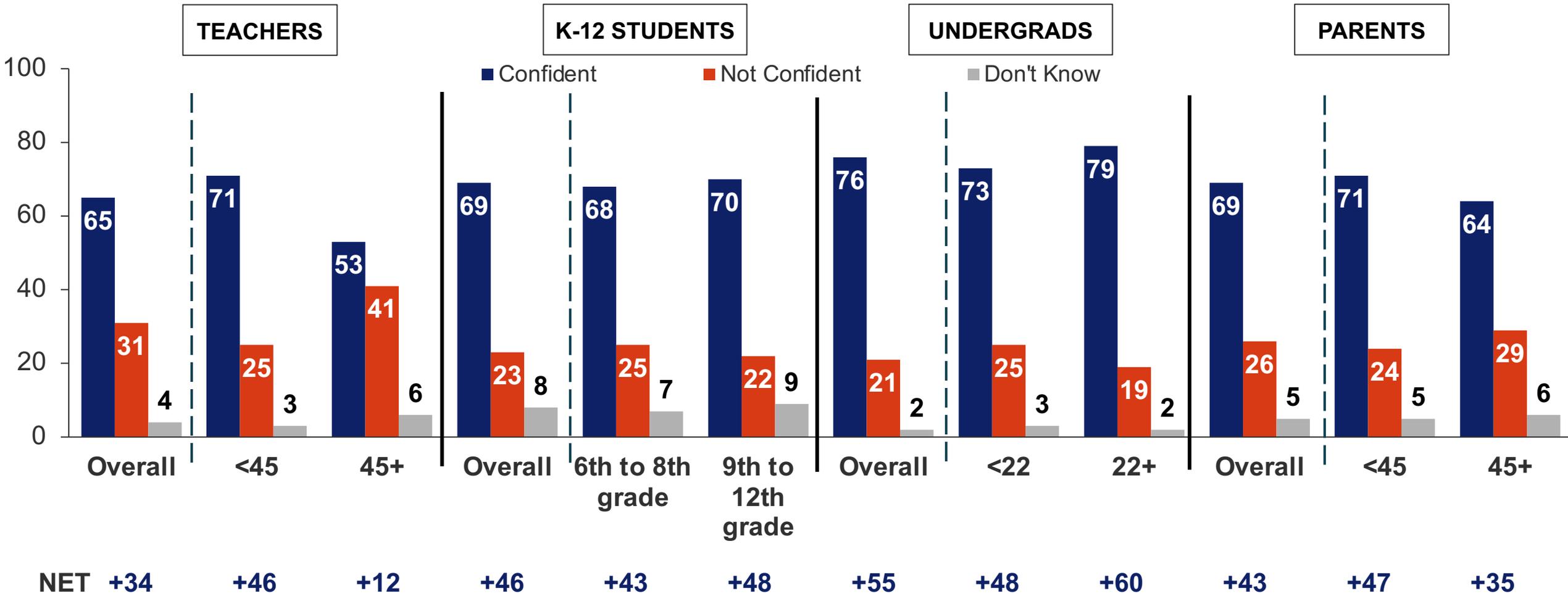
K-12 Students X AI Chatbot Use	Used AI Chatbots Personally	Used AI Chatbots for School
<b>Overall</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>72</b>
White	74	70
Black	69	72
Hispanic	<b>85</b>	<b>77</b>
AAPI	<b>84</b>	66
Women	73	66
Men	78	75
6 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> grade	76	69
9 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> grade	77	73
Urban	78	75
Suburban	79	73
Small Town	71	71
Rural	73	73
Public School	76	72
Private School	<b>81</b>	<b>76</b>

Undergrads X AI Chatbot Use	Used AI Chatbots Personally	Used AI Chatbots for School
<b>Overall</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>82</b>
White	81	78
Black	86	86
Hispanic	77	82
AAPI	<b>87</b>	<b>90</b>
Women	74	79
Men	<b>89</b>	<b>84</b>
<22	78	80
22+	82	81
Urban	86	85
Suburban	80	79
Small Town	75	73
Rural	75	79
Community or Junior College	72	74
Public 4-Year School	81	81
Private School	<b>87</b>	<b>86</b>

# A majority across samples are confident in their ability to use AI chatbots effectively, but older parents and teachers are less confident.

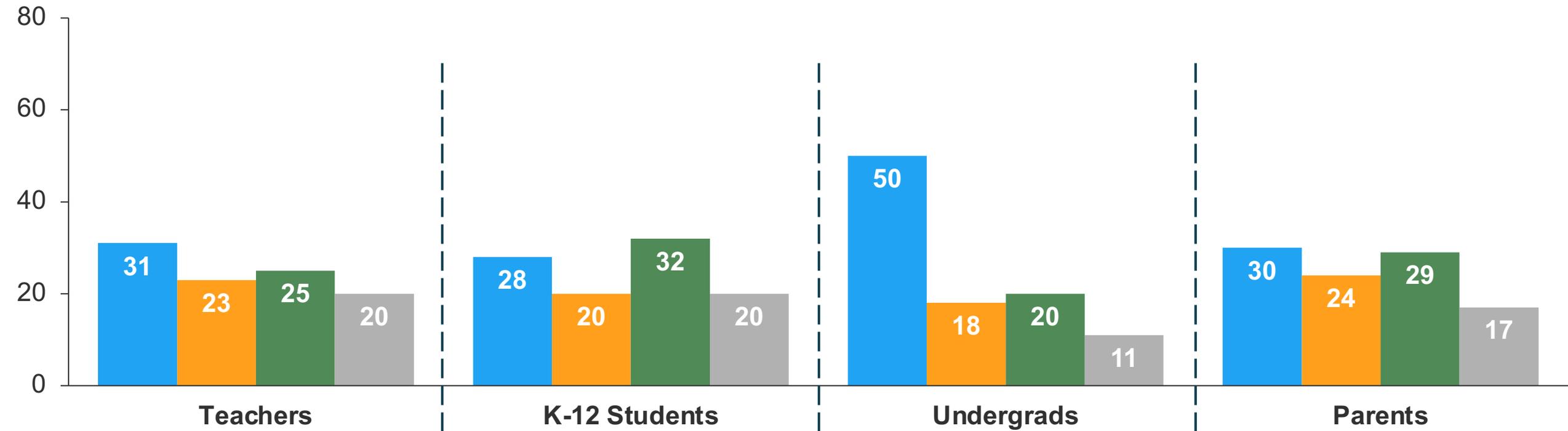
Older students, for both K-12 and undergrad, are more confident in their abilities.

## CONFIDENCE IN USING AI CHATBOTS EFFECTIVELY



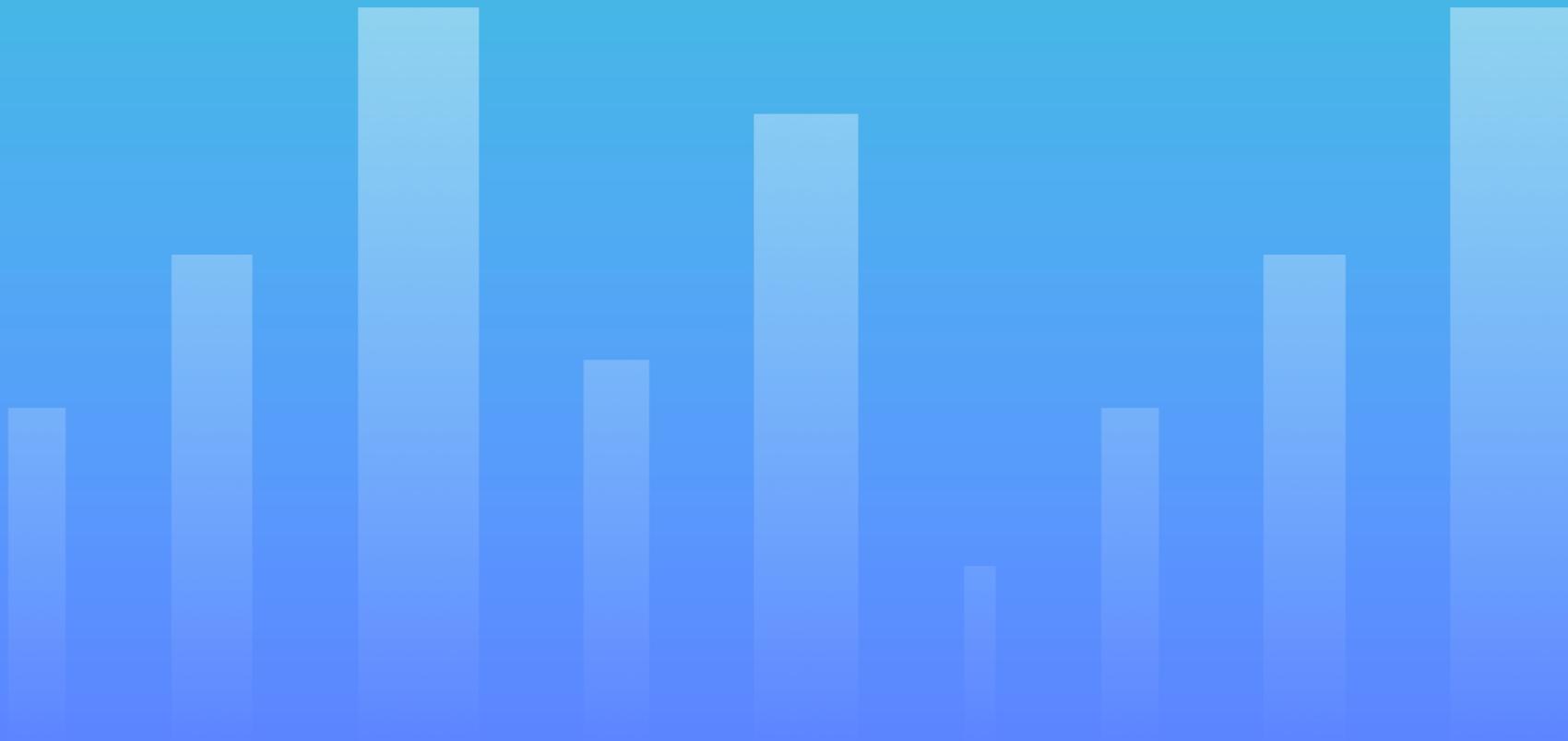
# College students are most likely to use AI via the website, while other groups are using a more even mix of third-party apps or websites.

What are the ways you regularly use AI?





# ATTITUDES TOWARD AI

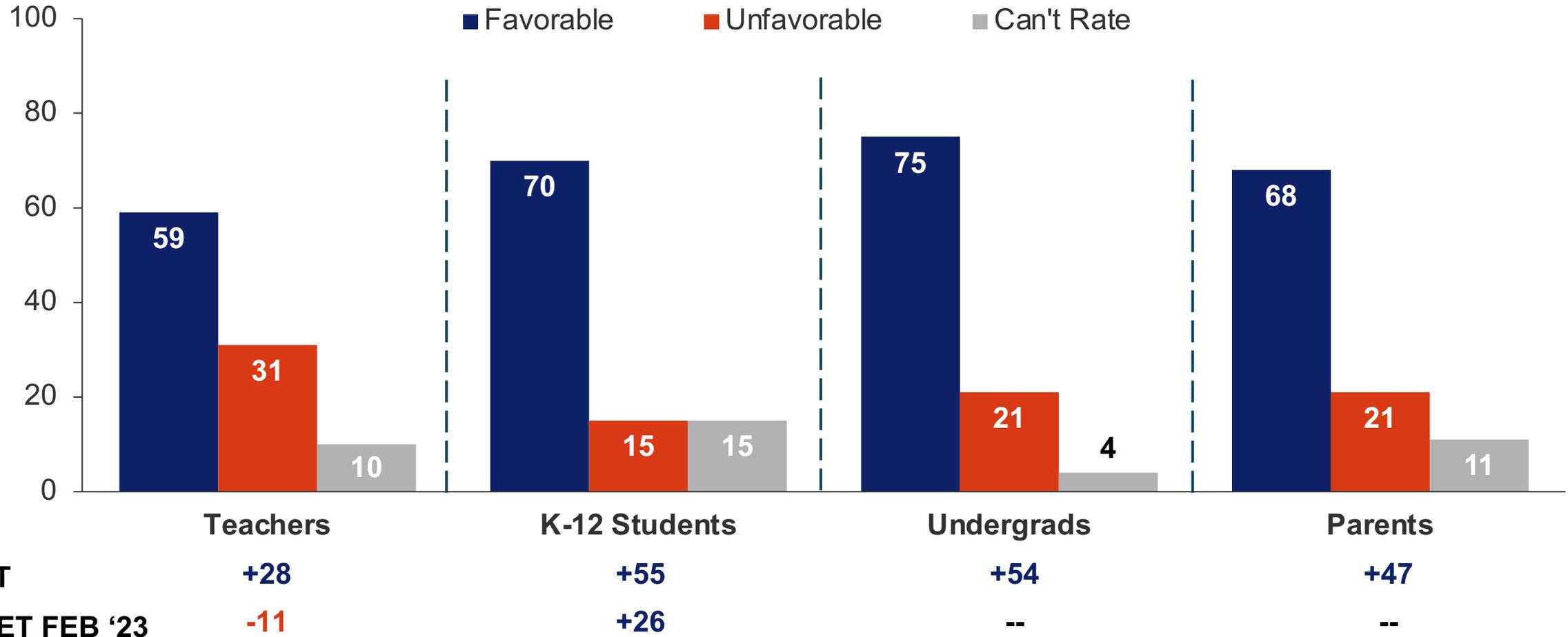


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# A majority across our samples are favorable towards AI chatbots, with teachers supportive but less so than last year.

On the other hand, K-12 students are a net 26 points *more* supportive than they were last year.

## POPULARITY – AI CHATBOTS

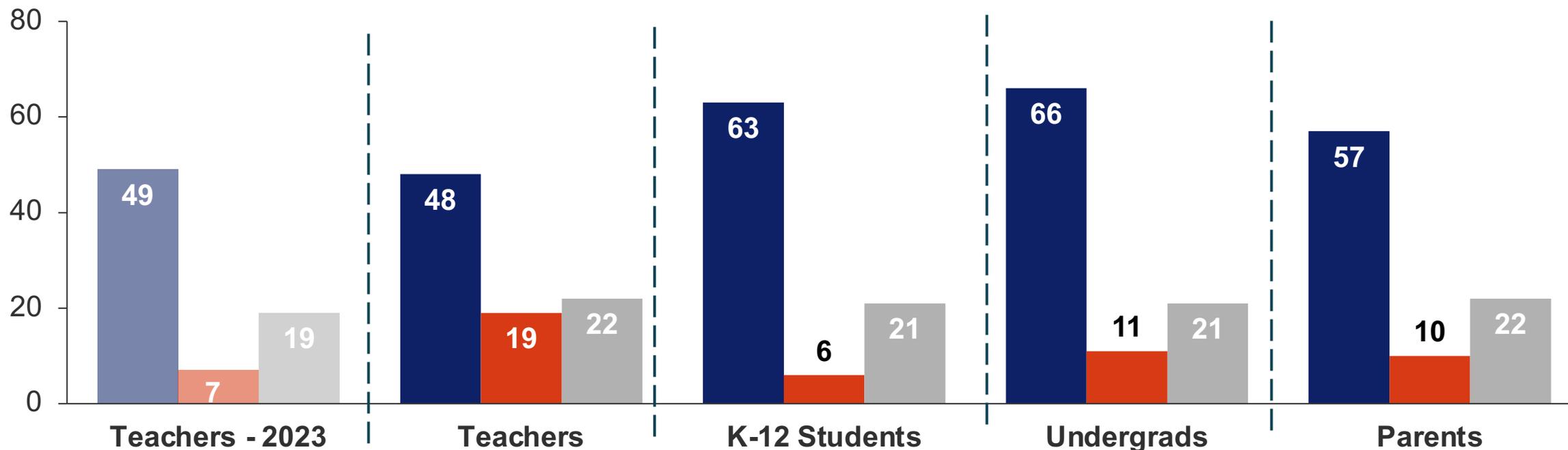


# Most think that AI chatbots have had positive impact on their users, though those who haven't used AI see more negativity, especially teachers.

Nearly 20% of teachers said ChatGPT had a negative impact, compared to only 7% last year.

*In general, what kind of impact have AI chatbots had on [your classes and students / you / your children]?*

■ Positive Impact ■ Negative Impact ■ No Impact

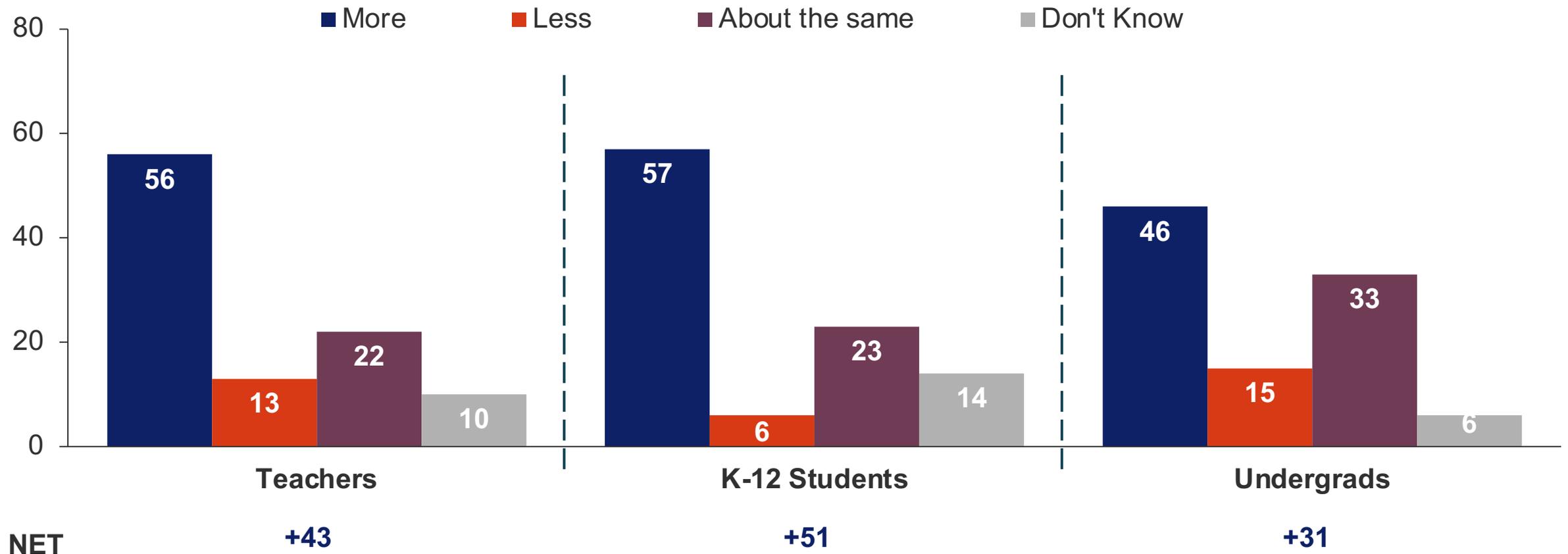


NET	+42	+29	+57	+55	+47
USED AI NET	+84	+47	+73	+88	+63
HAVENT USED NET	-2	-23	+3	+6	-7

# Almost no one expects to be using AI less in the next 5 years.

A majority of teachers, K-12 students, and a plurality of undergrads all expect to be using it more. One third of undergrads, who are already heavy users, also expect to maintain their high levels of usage.

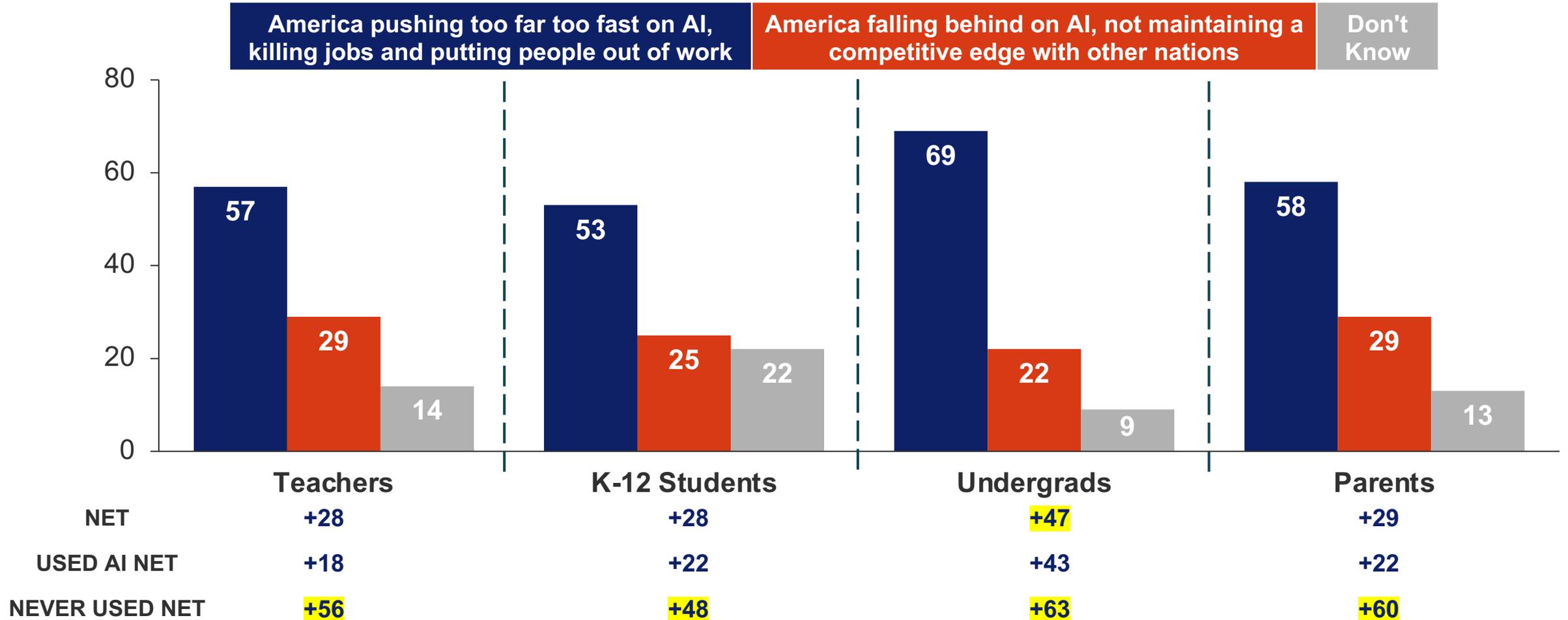
*And do you expect to use AI chatbots for [your job / school] more, less, or about the same in the next five years?*



# Majorities worry more that America is moving too quickly on AI and that it will cost jobs than they do about maintaining a competitive edge.

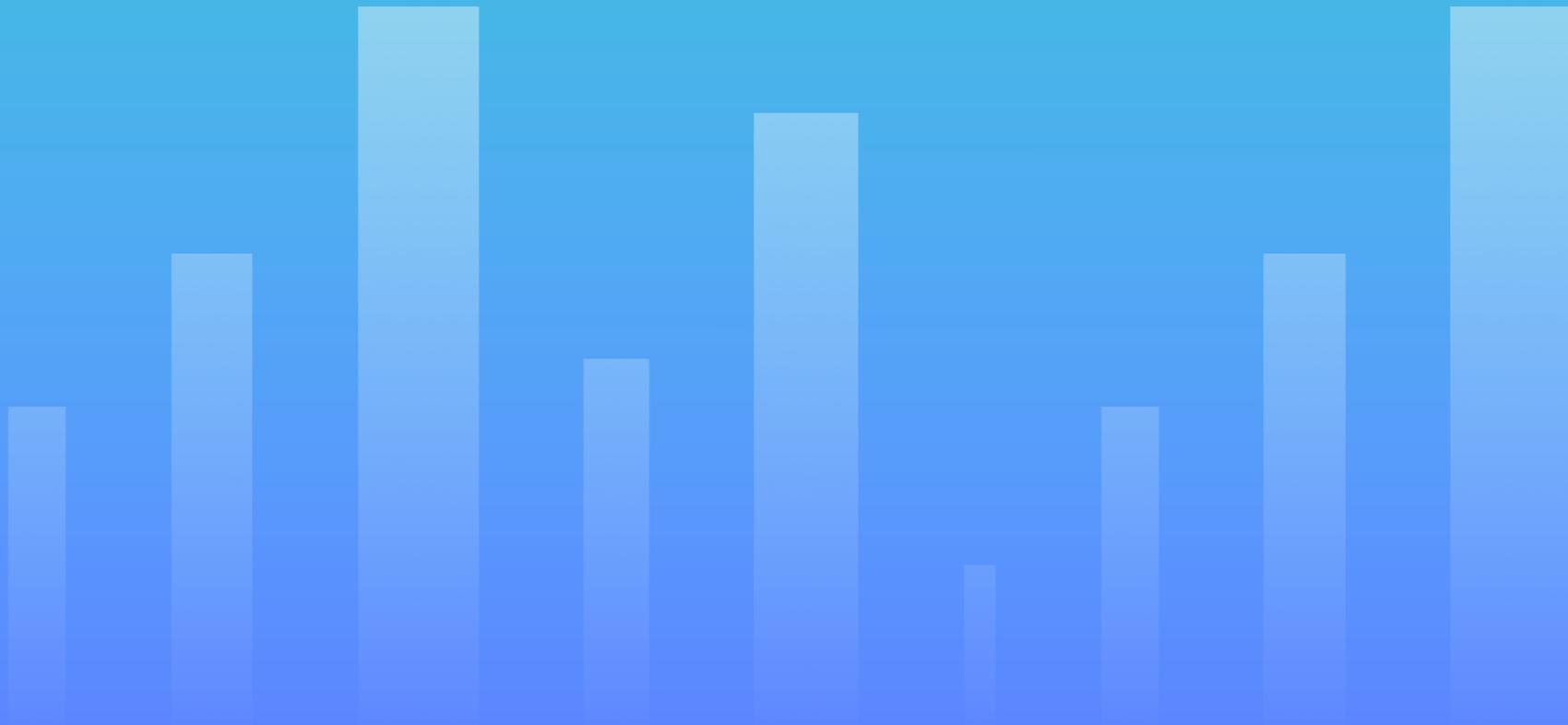
This is especially true of undergrads, many of whom are likely going to be entering the workforce soon, and those who have never used AI.

*Which of the following are you more concerned about:*





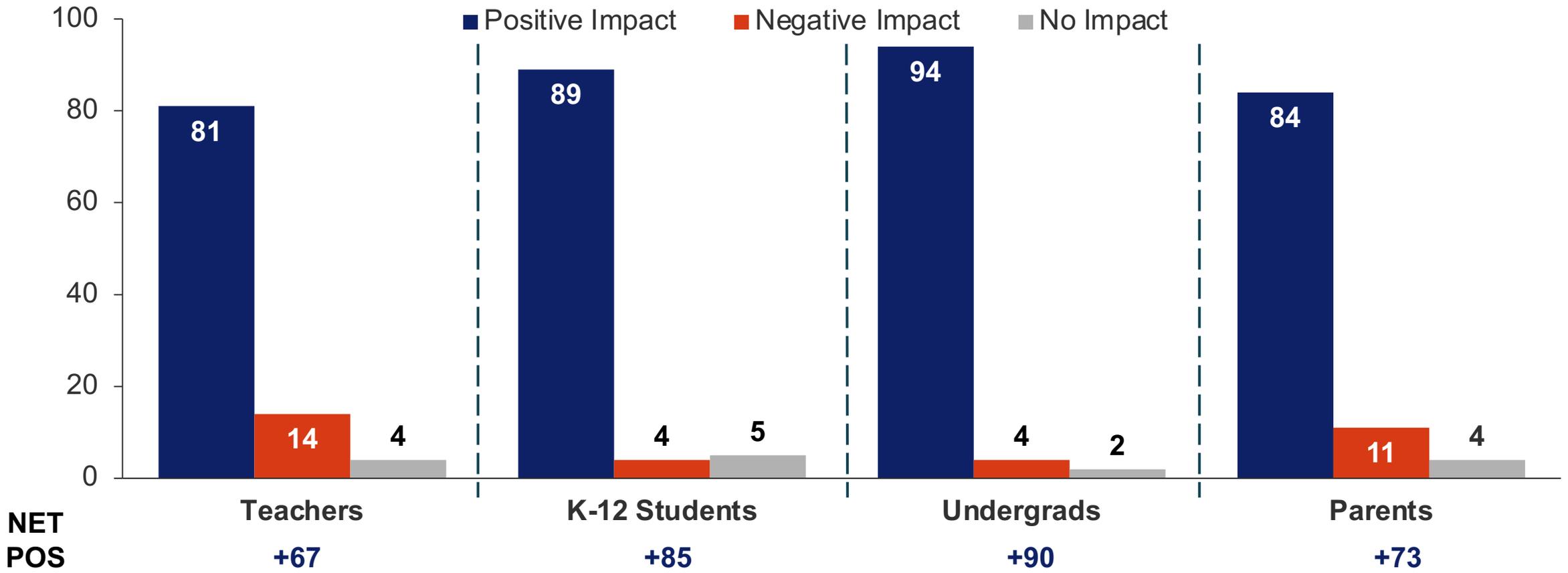
# AI IN THE CLASSROOM



**IMPACT**  
RESEARCH

# Overall, more than 8-in-10 from each sample think technology in education has had a positive impact.

*In general, what kind of impact has the use of technology in education had on [your classes and students / you / your children]?*



# By double-digit margins, teachers, K-12 students, and parents think AI chatbots have legitimate education uses, but undergrads say they'll be used to cheat.

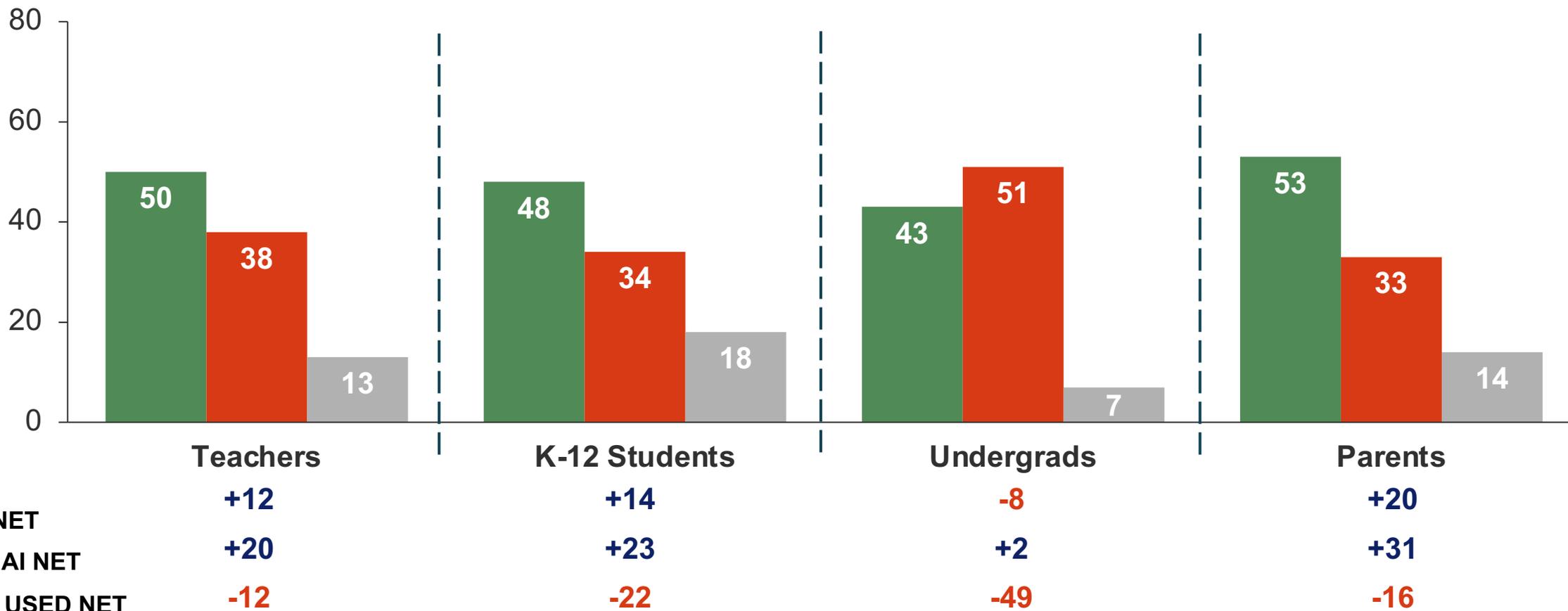
Their legitimacy is heavily informed by personal use – those who don't use AI chatbots see them as cheating tool.

Which of the following do you agree with more, even if neither is exactly right?

AI chatbots will likely have legitimate educational uses that we cannot ignore

In education, AI chatbots will likely mostly be used by students to cheat

Don't Know



# Most think students need to stay on top of AI although their opinions are soft.

There is also concern about AI chatbots using personal data.

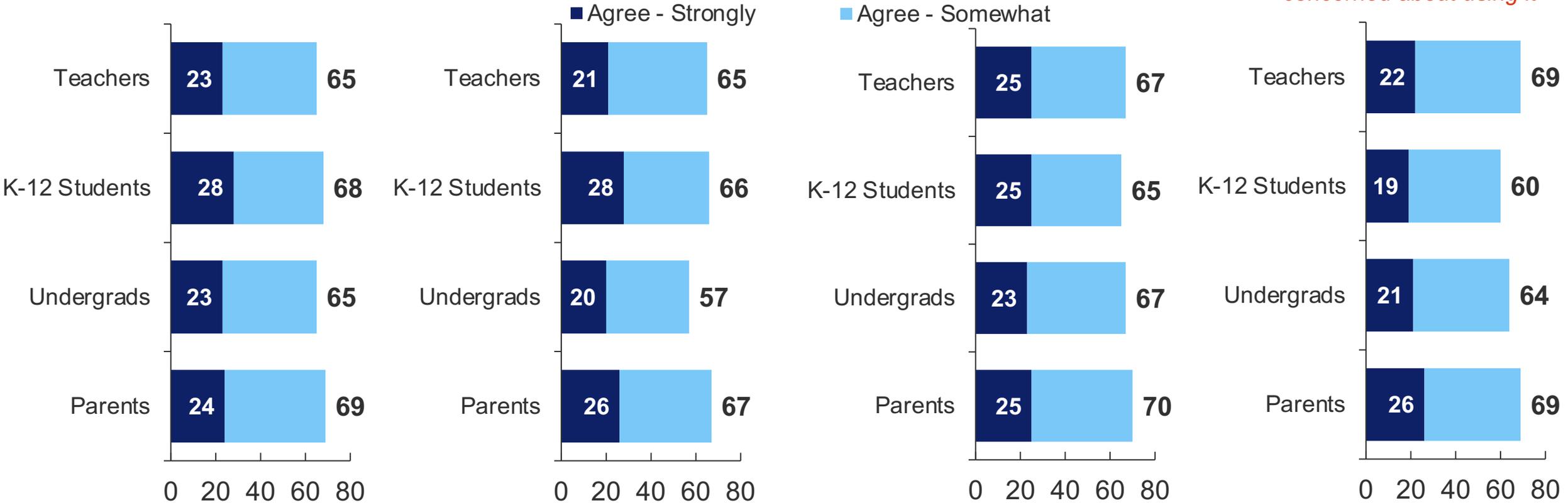
## STATEMENTS ABOUT AI CHATBOTS

*AI chatbots will be an essential tool for students' success in college and the workplace*

*If we don't teach our kids to use and develop AI, other countries will, and they'll be in a better position for the future*

*AI is just another example of why we can't keep doing things the old way for schools in the modern world*

*The fact that AI could be training itself off of information I put into it makes me more concerned about using it*

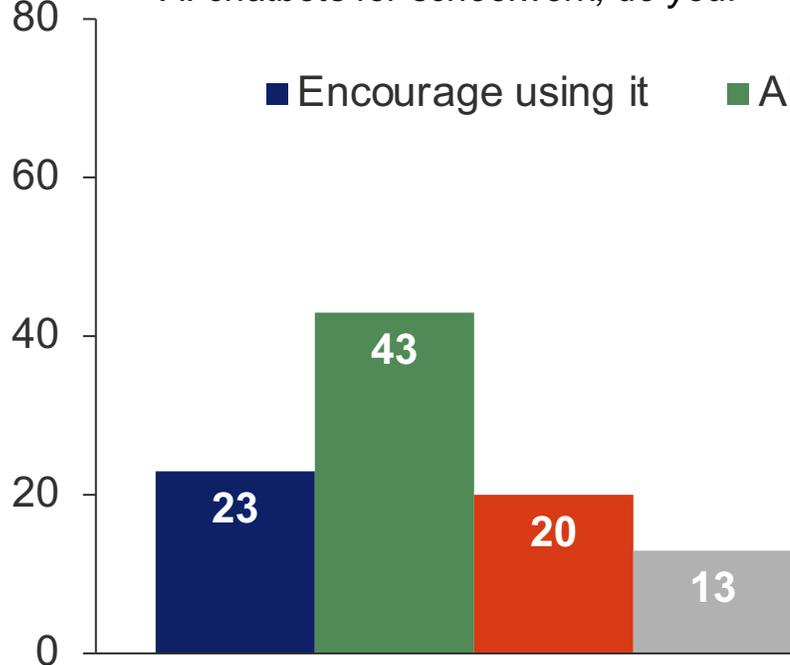


# Teachers and parents believe that AI chatbots should be allowed but not encouraged for schoolwork.

This is also true for parents even for non-school activities.

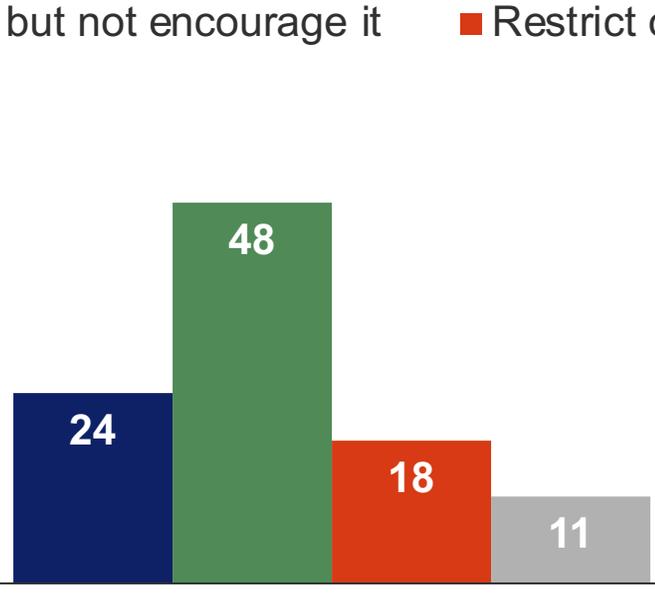
## TEACHERS

When it comes to your students using AI chatbots for schoolwork, do you:

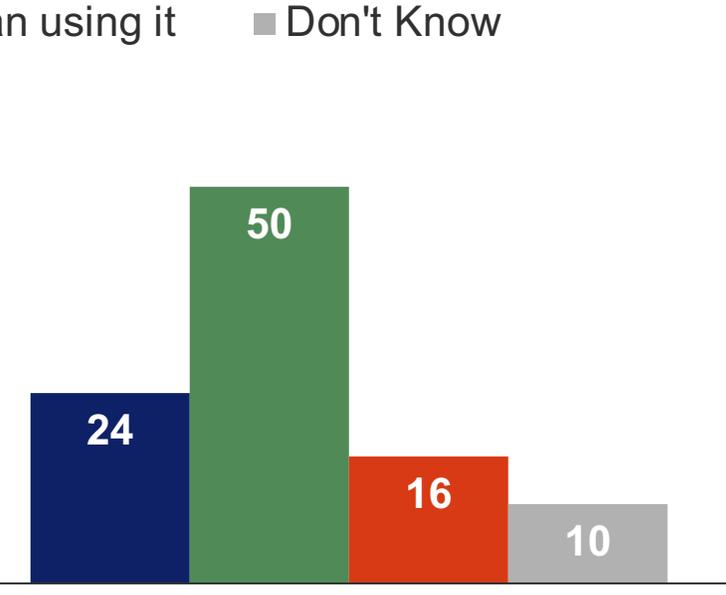


## PARENTS

When it comes to your child using AI chatbots **for schoolwork**, do you think teachers and schools should:



When it comes to your child using AI chatbots **for non-school activities**, as a parent, do you:



NET

Overall

Schoolwork

Non-School Activities

+3

+6

+8

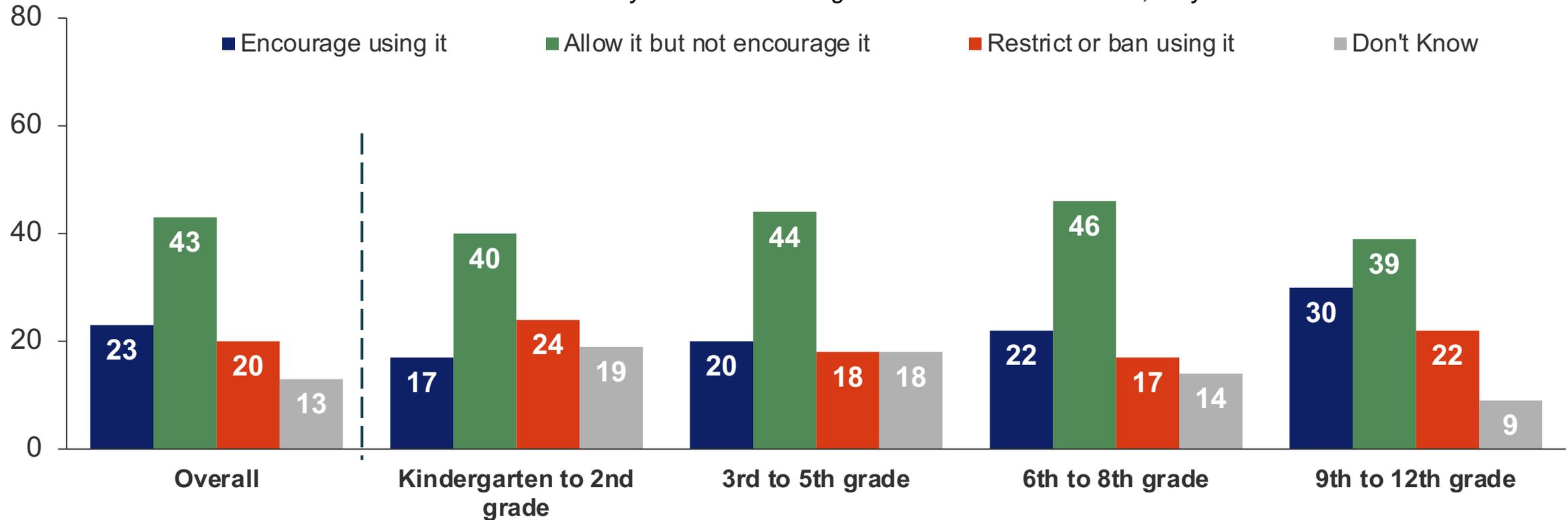
ENCOURAGE -  
RESTRICT

# The older the grades that teachers teach, the more likely that they are to encourage AI chatbot usage.

Pluralities across grade levels think it should be allowed, just not encouraged.

## TEACHERS

When it comes to your students using AI chatbots for schoolwork, do you:

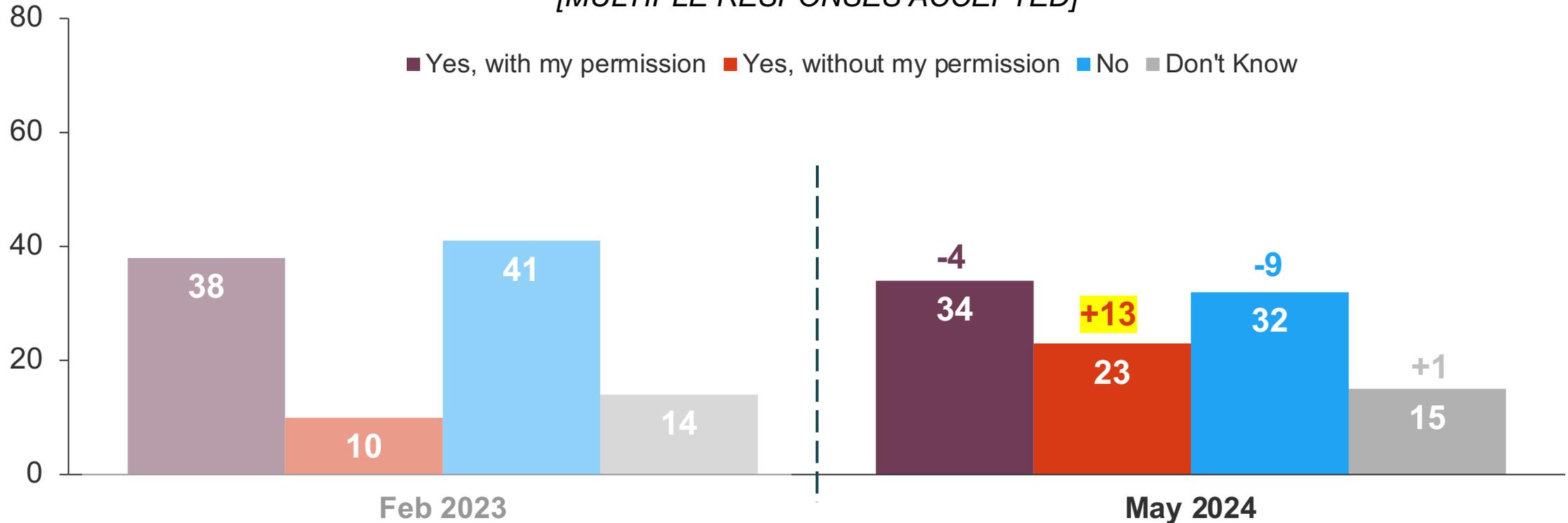


# Teachers believe that students using ChatGPT and using it without their permission is on the rise.

There has been a 13-point increase since last year.

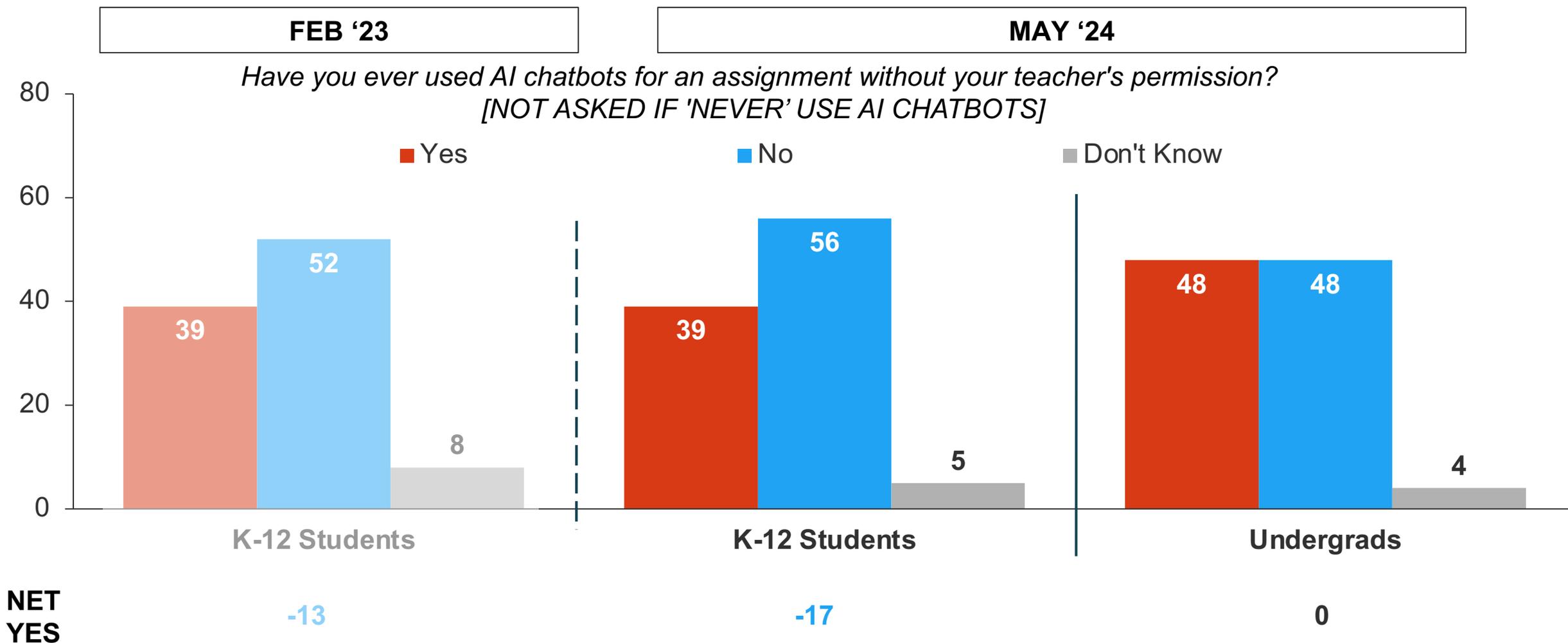
## TEACHERS

Have your students ever used AI chatbots for their schoolwork?  
[MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED]



# However, among students who have used AI chatbots, there has been very little change in whether they've used them with or without permission.

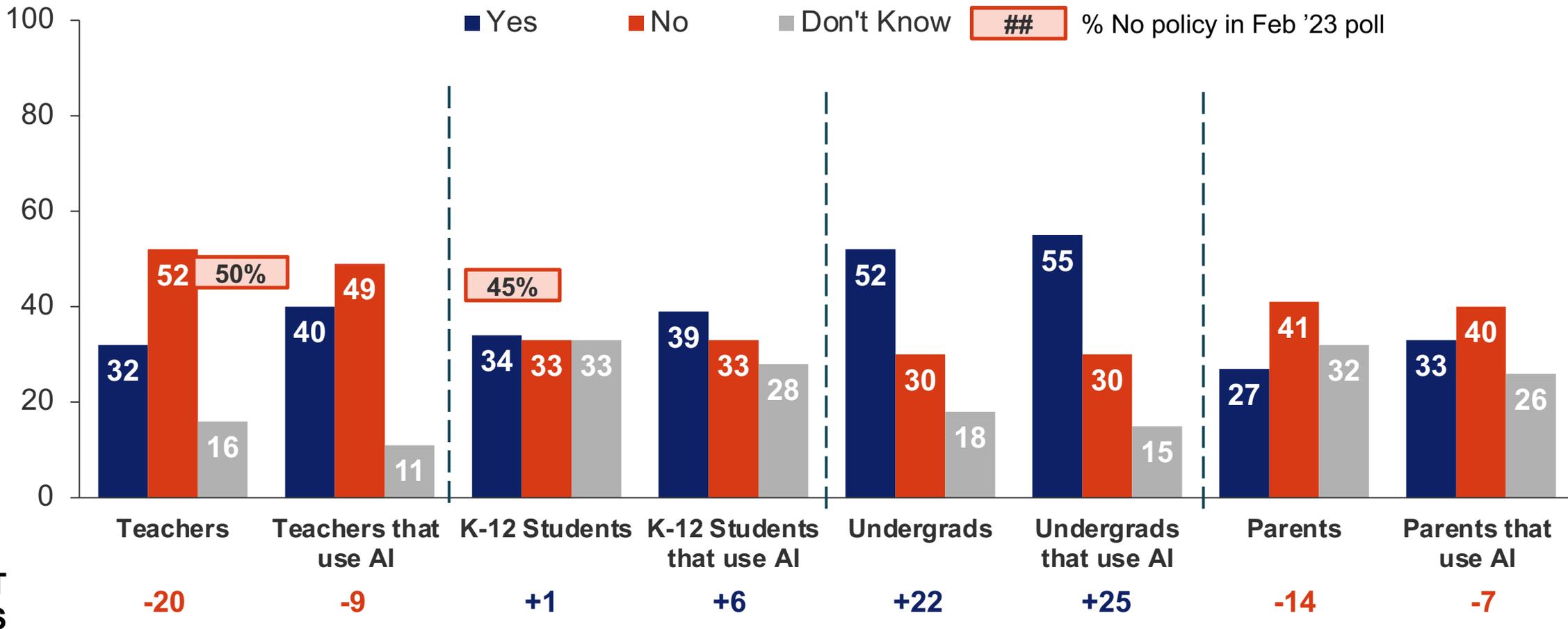
Undergrad students are equally split on using them with or without permission.



# Most teachers, K-12 students, and K-12 parents say that K-12 schools do *not* have an AI policy.

College students are nearly 2-1 likely to say their school has a policy if they can answer the question.

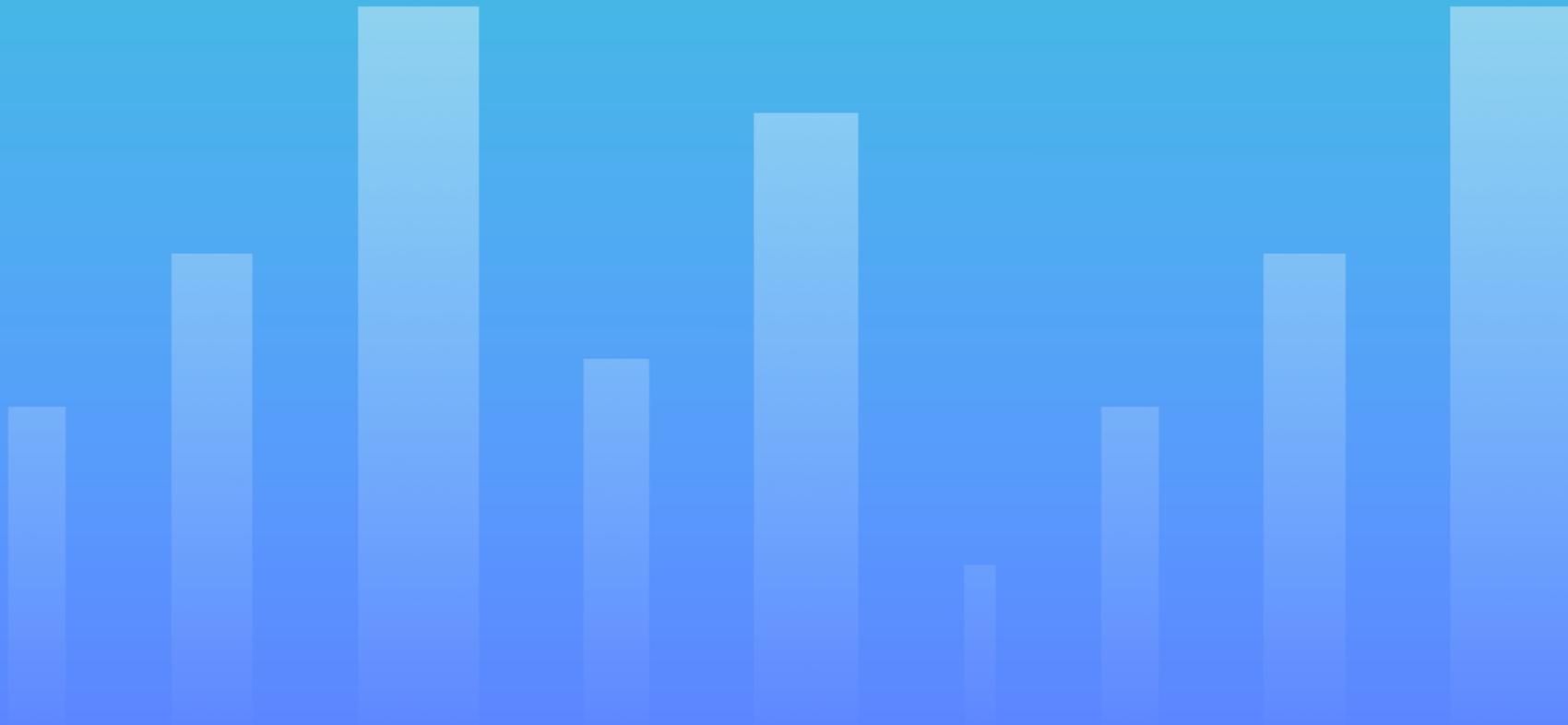
*Does [your school / your child's school] have a policy outlining how AI chatbots can be used for schoolwork?*



NET YES



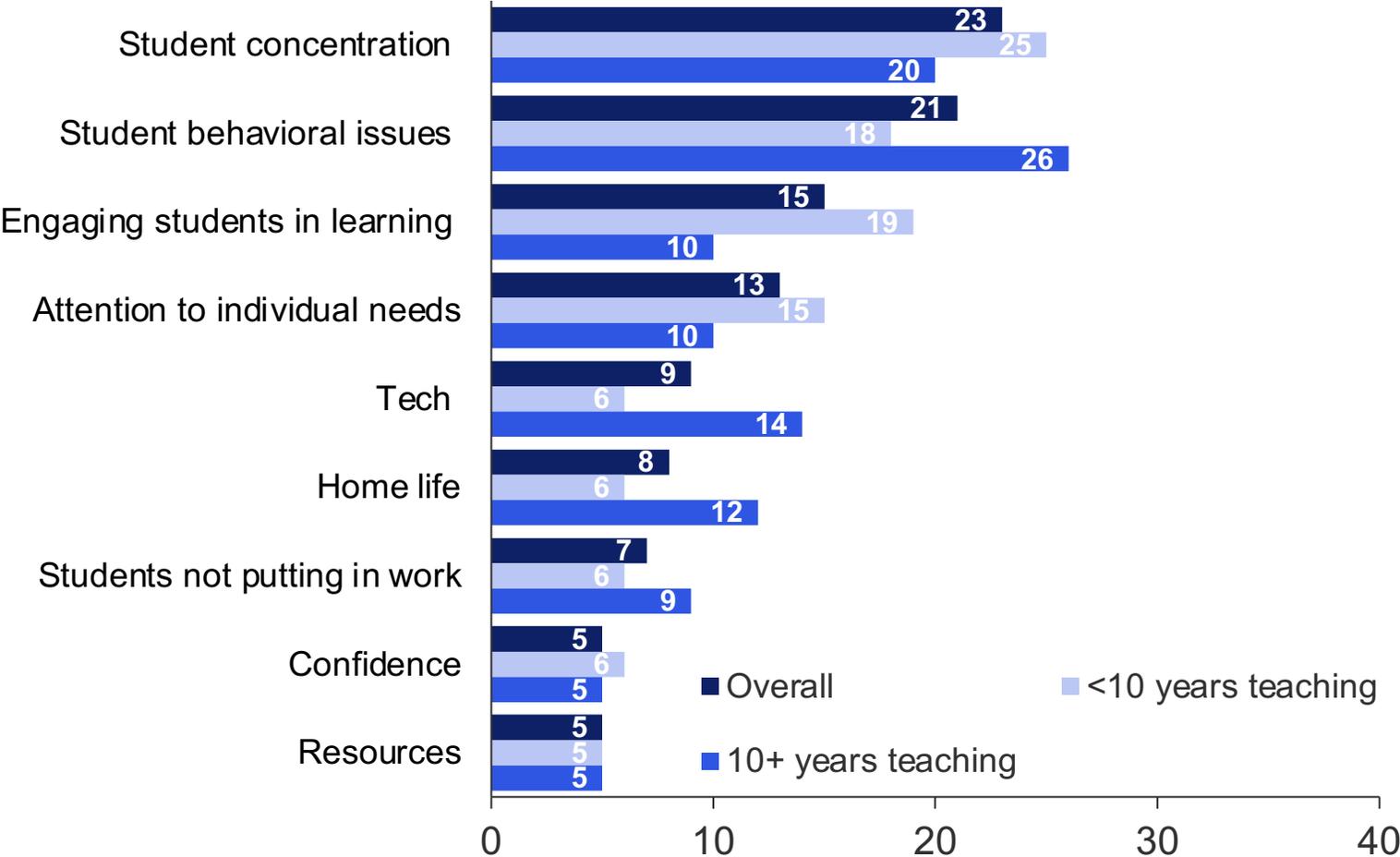
# A DEEPER LOOK: TEACHERS



**IMPACT**  
RESEARCH

# Managing student behavior and concentration are teachers' top issues in an open end.

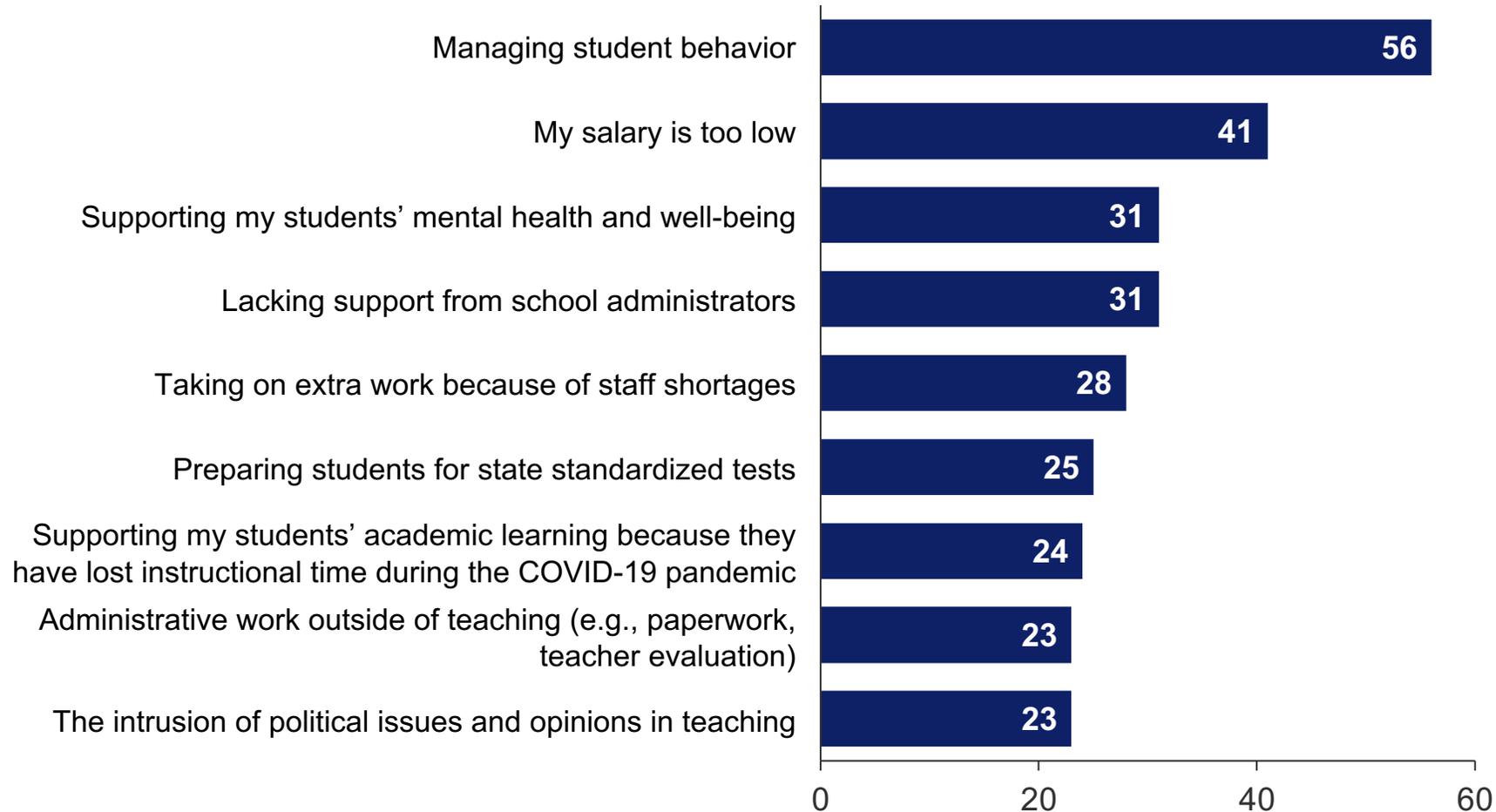
What are the biggest challenges to helping students learn and grow in the classroom?  
 [OPEN-ENDED] [MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED]



# And again in a forced choice question.

Below that, salary and engaging students emerge as top concerns.

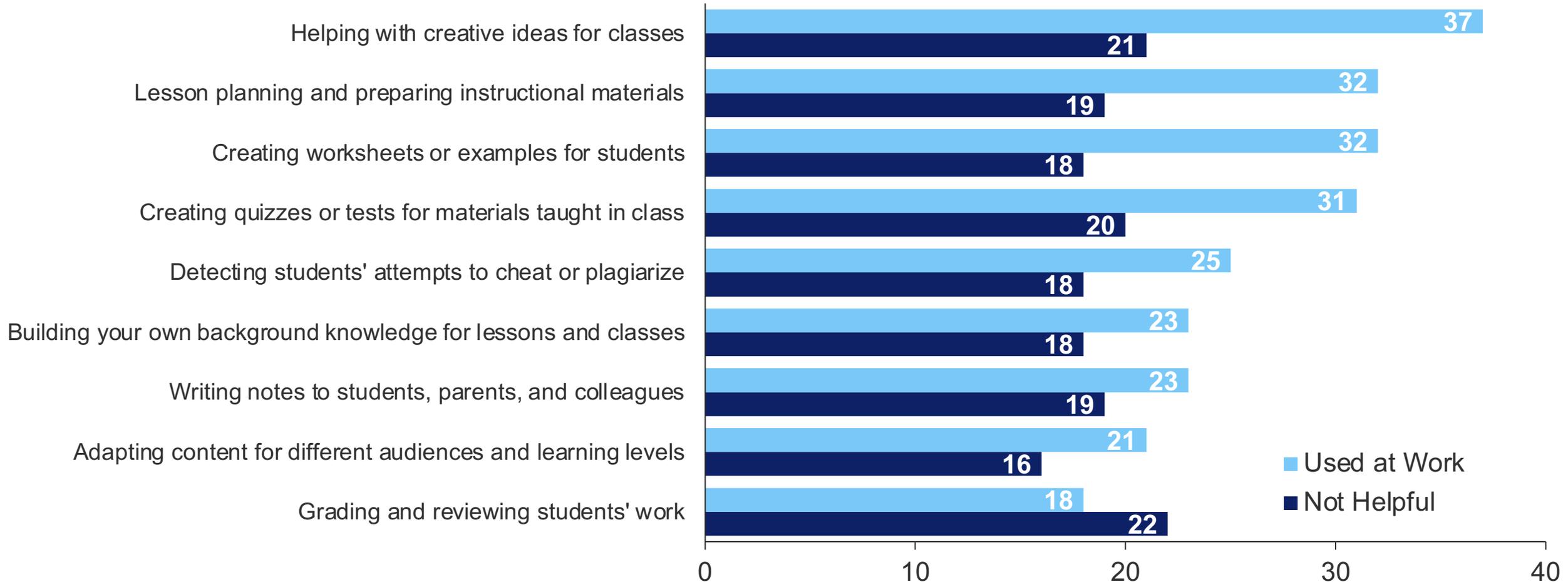
*Which of the following would you say is the most stressful part of your job?  
[MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED]*



# Teachers are most likely to use ChatGPT for creative ideas, lesson planning, and exercise/quiz/test creation.

Those who try it for grading and reviewing students' work typically do not find it helpful.

**Teachers:** Which of the following are ways you **have used AI chatbots for your job?** / What areas of your job have you tried to use AI chatbots for but **found them to not be helpful?** [MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED]

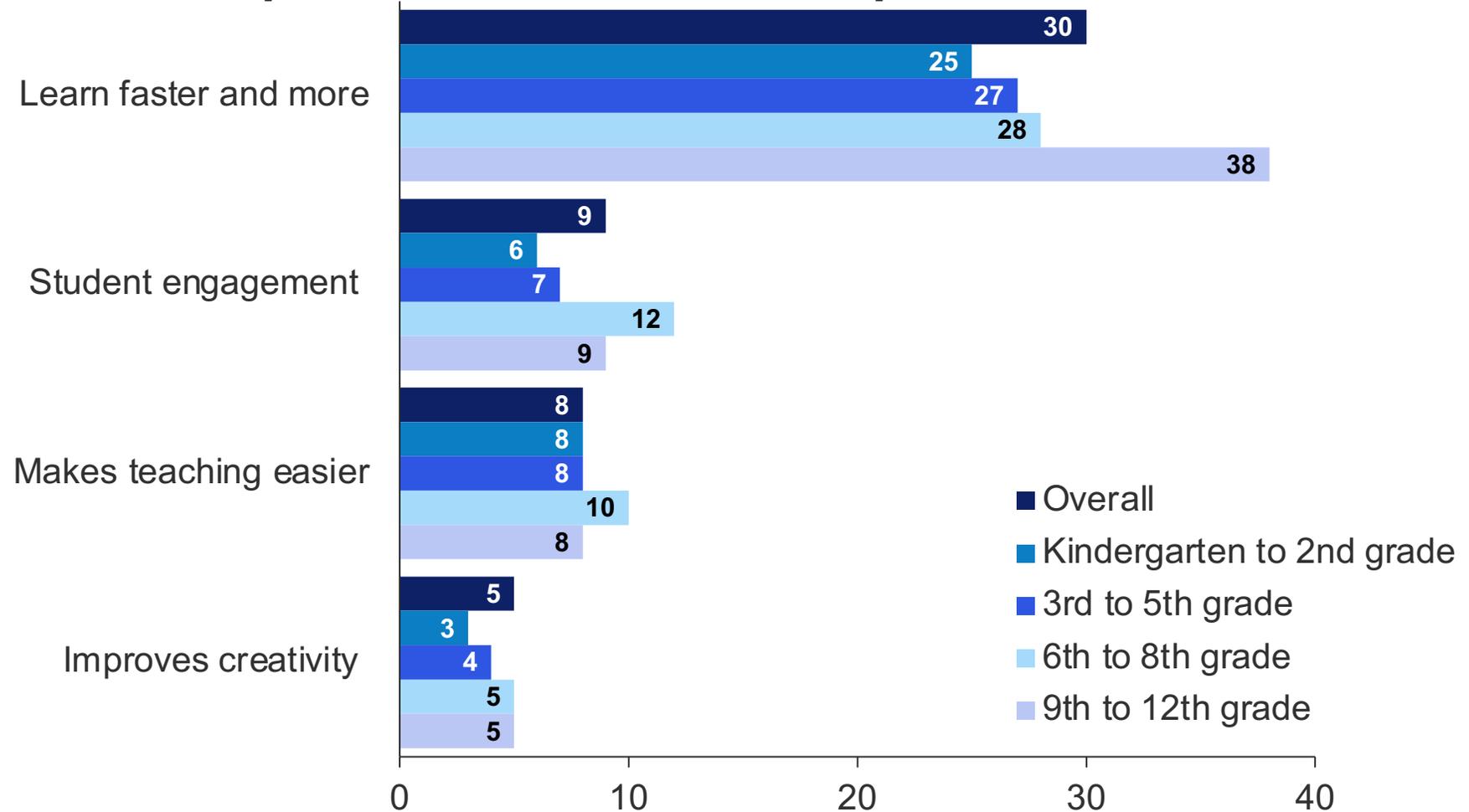


■ Used at Work  
■ Not Helpful

# Teachers say AI's most positive impact on students is efficiency and productivity, regardless of what grade they teach.

Student engagement and making their job easier are well down the list, comparatively.

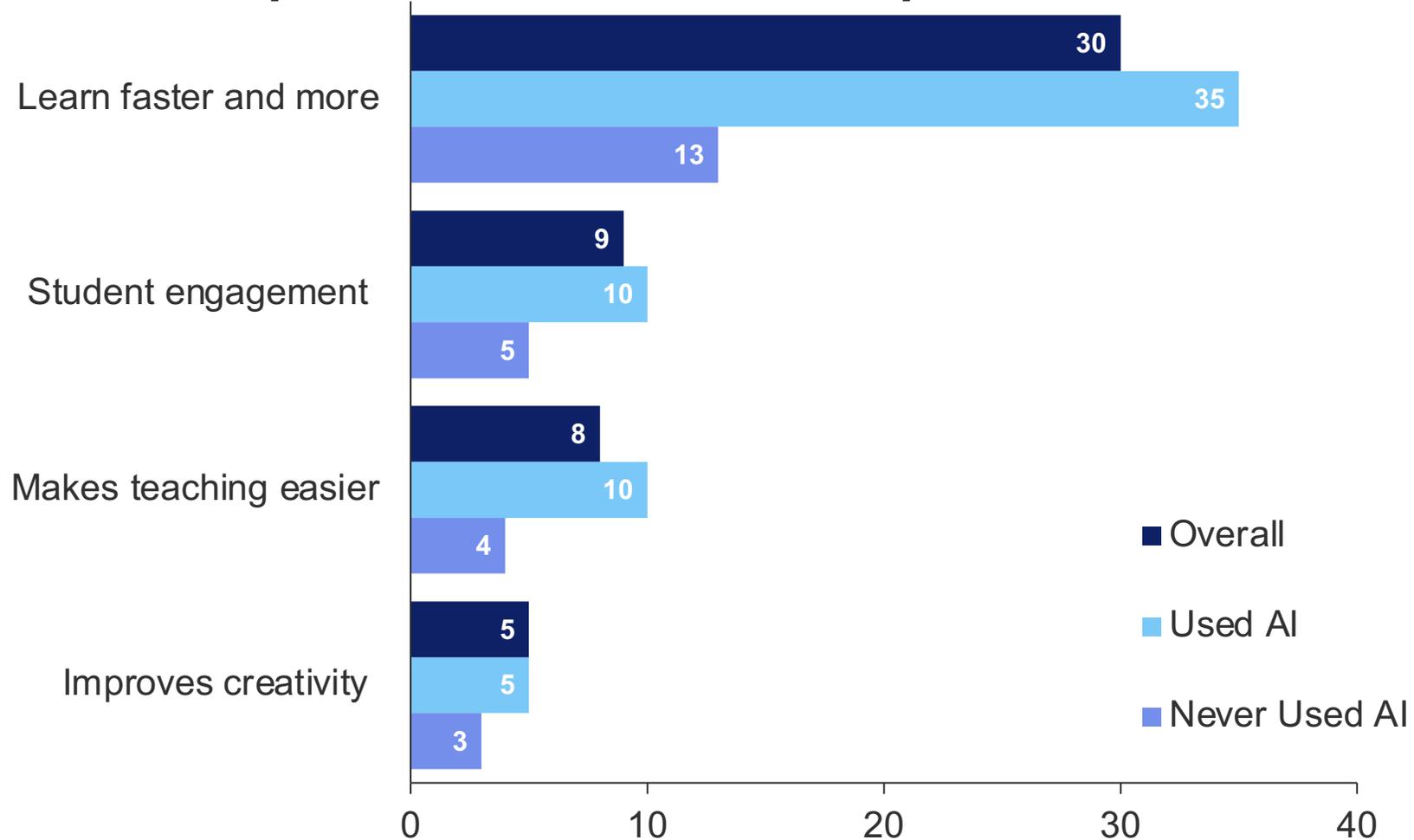
*Teachers: What positive impacts have AI chatbots had on your classes and students' learning? [OPEN-ENDED]  
[MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED]*



# Those who have used AI are much more inclined to say it helps students learn faster and more.

Those who have not used it are far less inclined to credit it with being helpful.

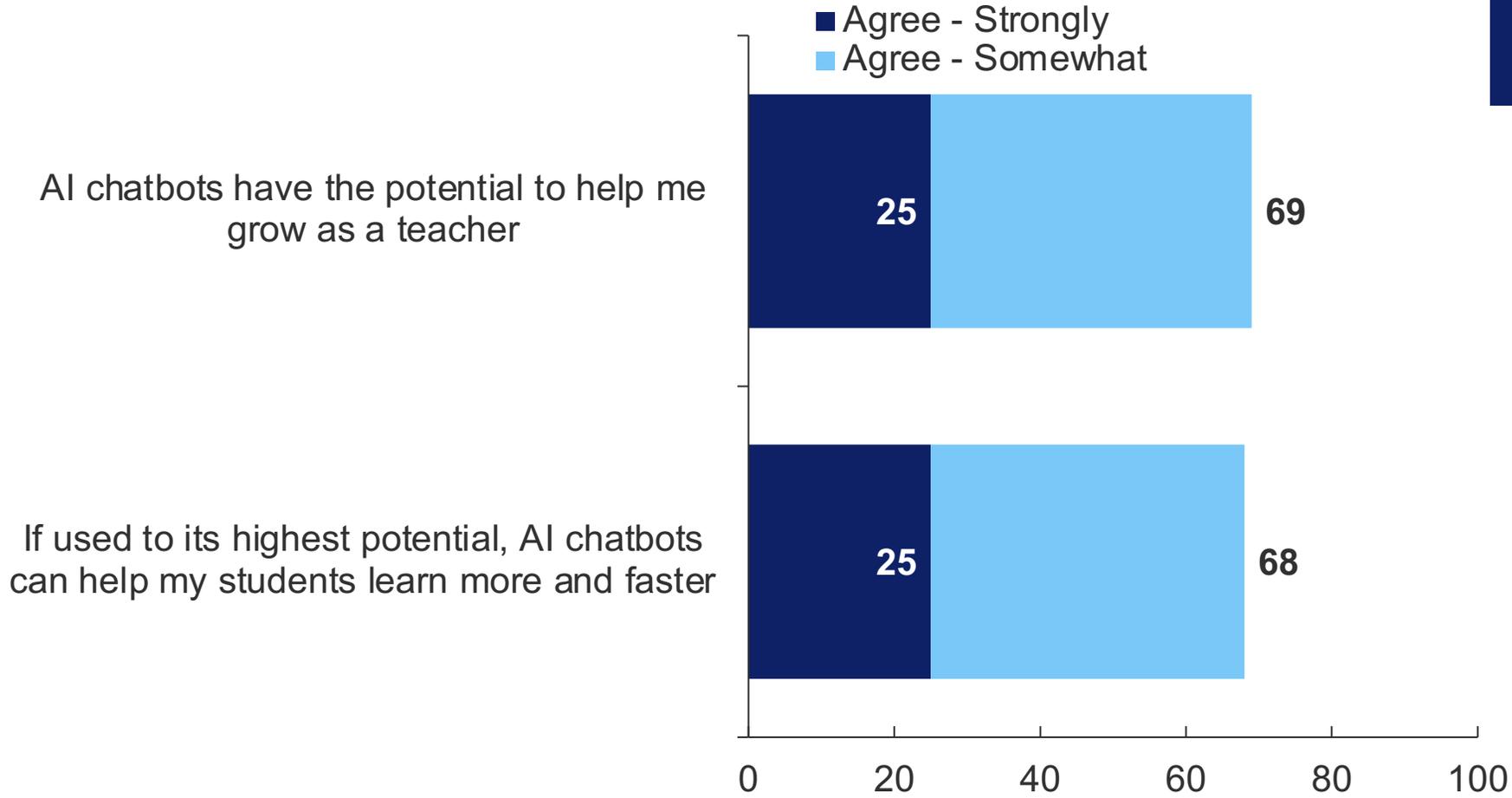
*Teachers: What positive impacts have AI chatbots had on your classes and students' learning? [OPEN-ENDED]  
[MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED]*



# Teachers think that AI has the potential to help them grow and their students learn.

Men and younger teachers are more supportive of AI's potential.

**TEACHERS: STATEMENTS ABOUT AI CHATBOTS**



**% Agree - Strongly**

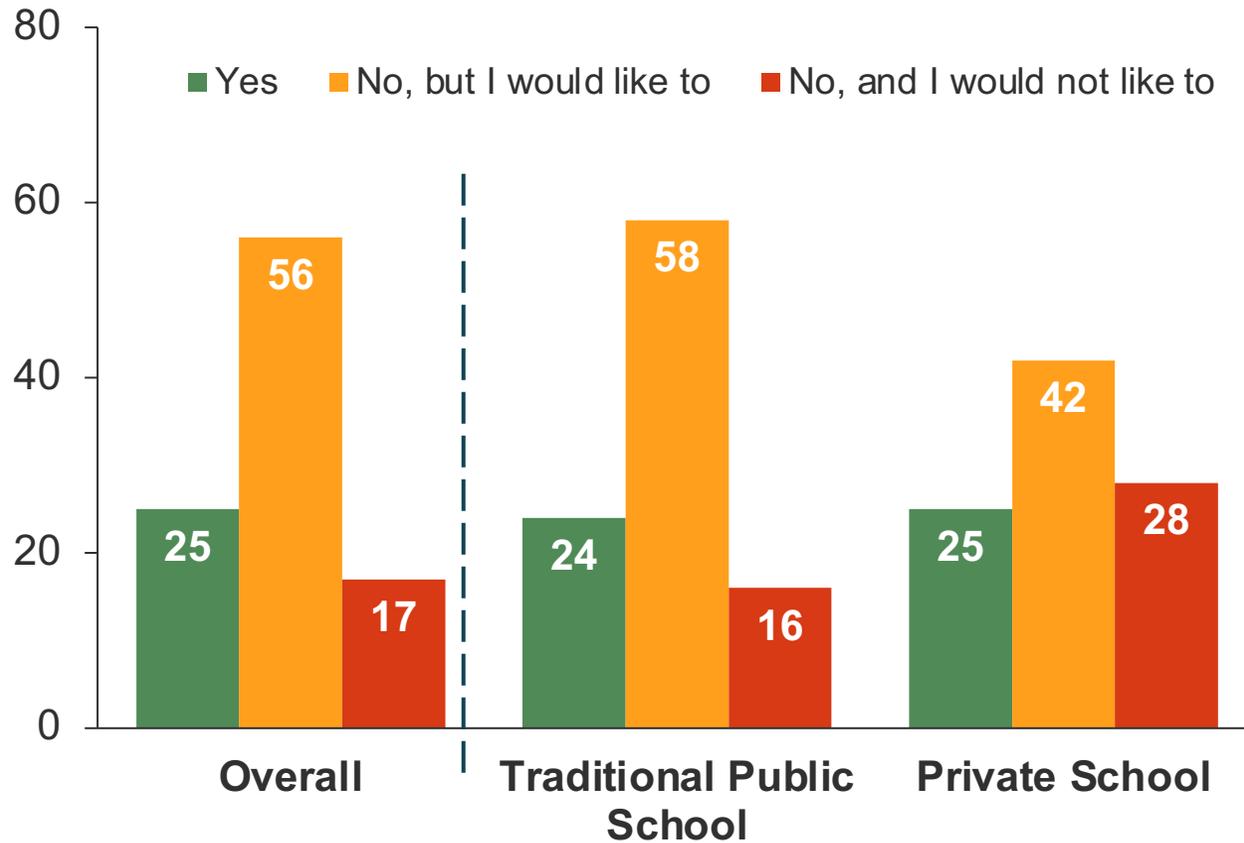
<45	45+	Women	Men	Used AI	Never Used
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29	18	23	30	32	5
28	20	23	31	31	6

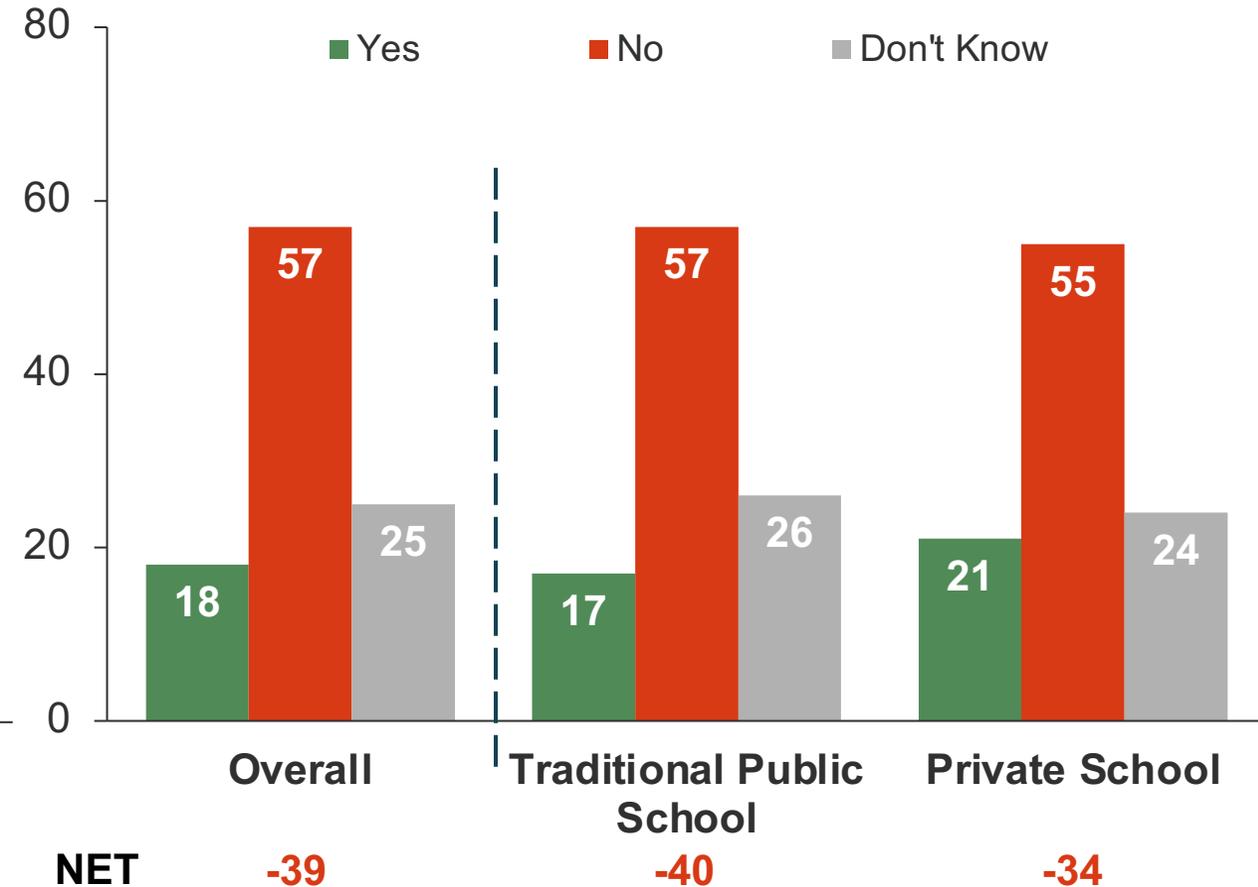
# A majority of teachers have not received training on AI chatbots but would like to.

And they say their school district does not pay to license AI chatbots.

Have you received training or professional development on how to use AI chatbots in the classroom?

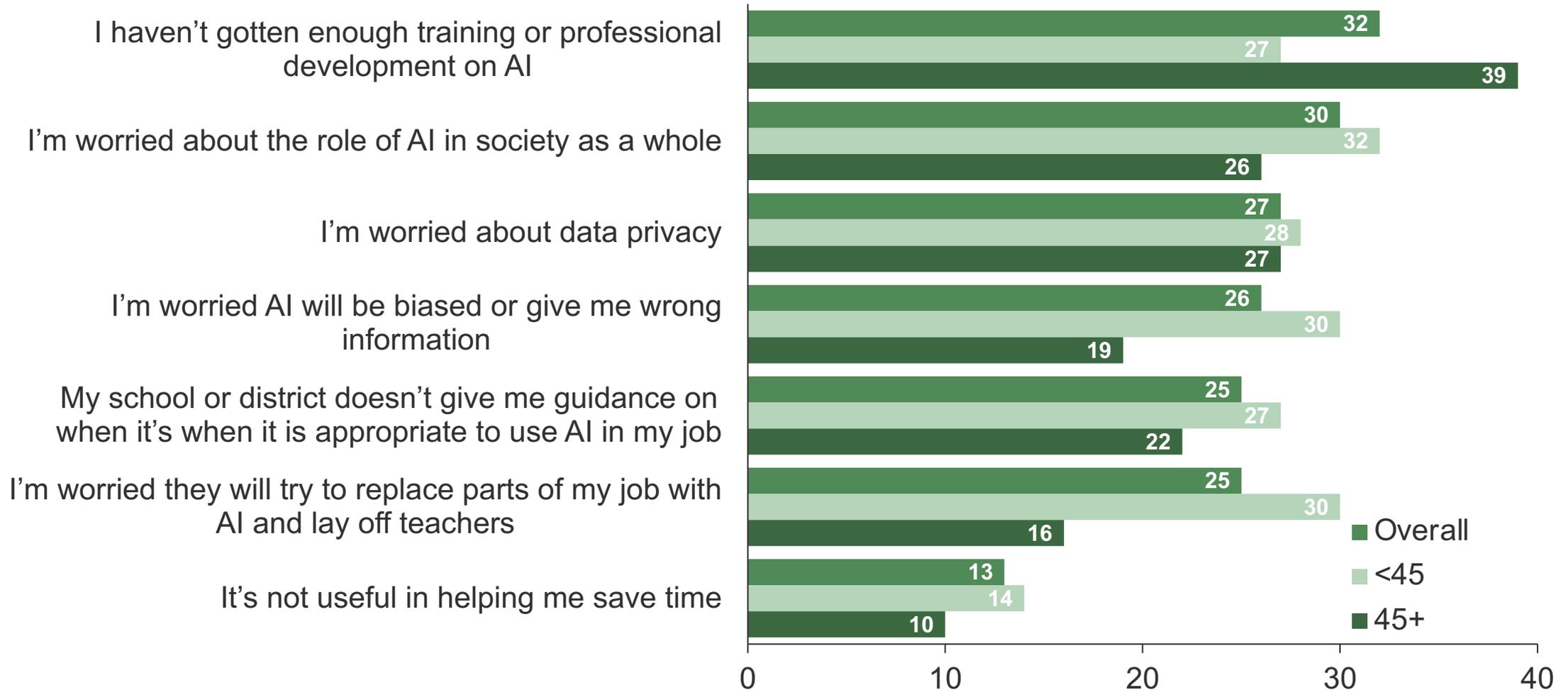


Does your school district pay to license any AI chatbots?



# When it comes to what prevents teachers from using AI in teaching, older teachers are concerned with lack of professional development while younger teachers are worried about the role of AI in society.

What prevents you from using AI more often in your teaching? [MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED]

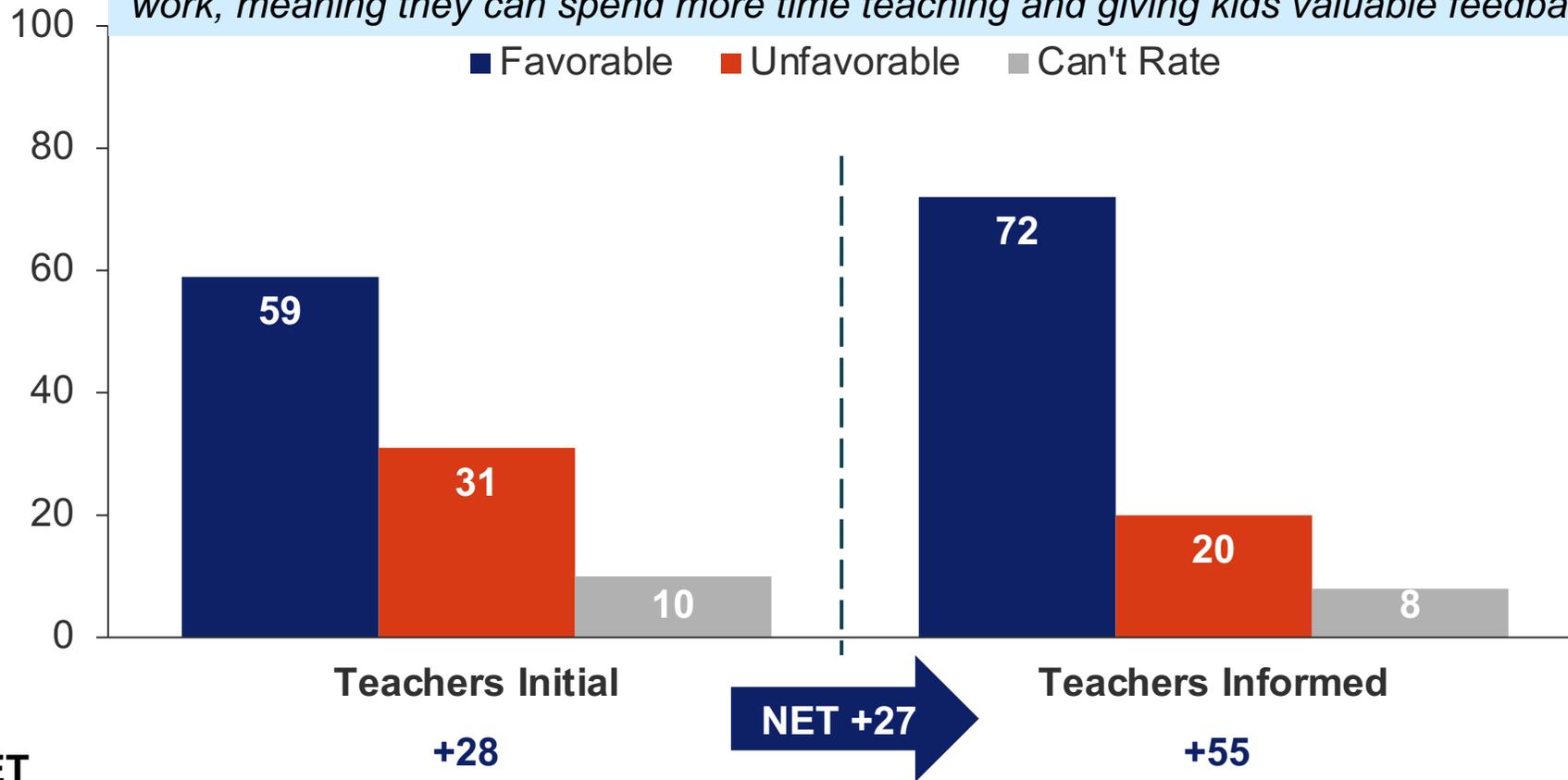


# Teachers move sharply in support of AI after they learn how it can save them time to focus on doing their best teaching.

Those that aren't familiar with AI and Special Education teachers move the most to favor AI.

## INFORMED POPULARITY – AI CHATBOTS

Studies show that the average teacher who uses AI saves 13 hours a week on routine work, meaning they can spend more time teaching and giving kids valuable feedback.

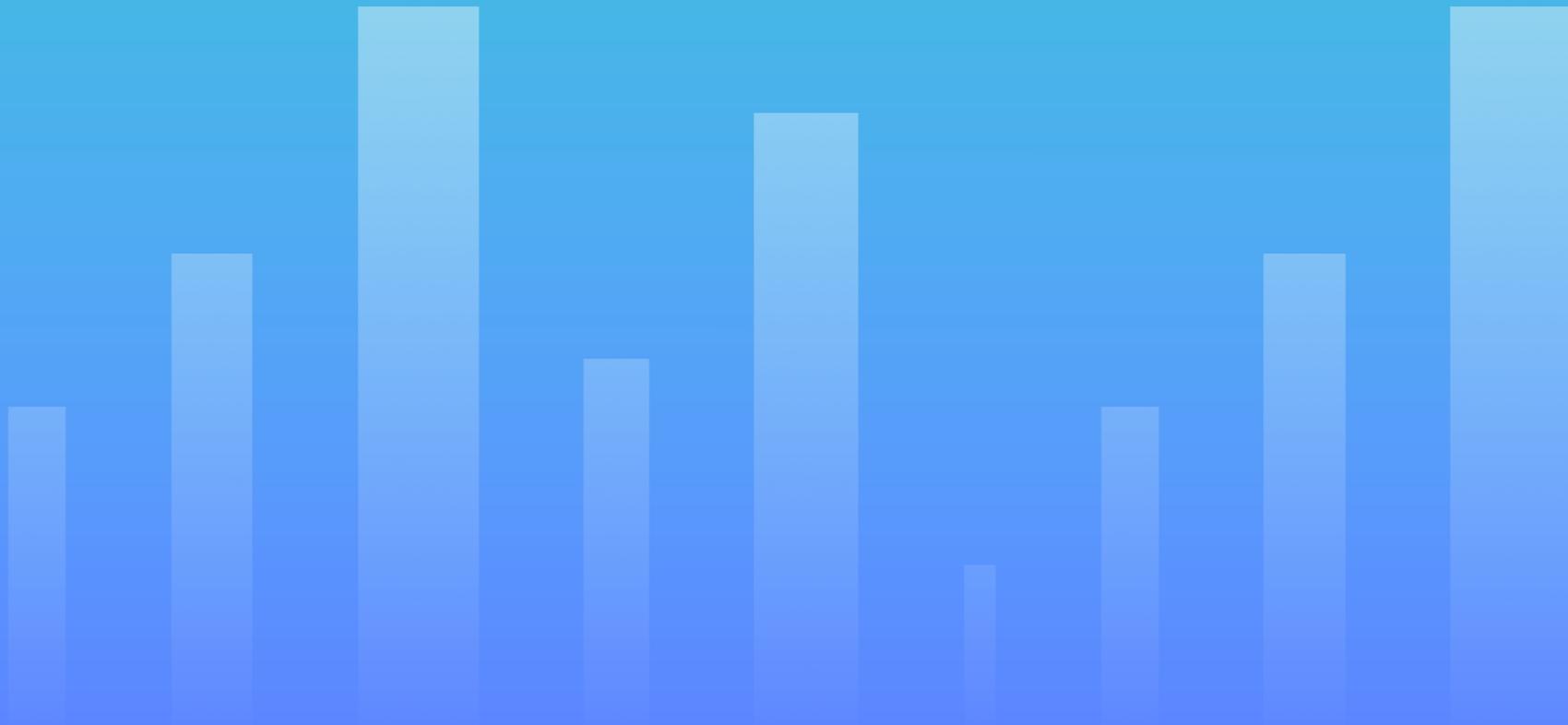


Biggest Difference in % Favorable	
Overall	13
Not Familiar with AI	+25
Special Education Teacher	+22
Women 45+	+21
White Northeast	+19
White 45+	+19
10+ years teaching	+19

NET



# A DEEPER LOOK: PARENTS

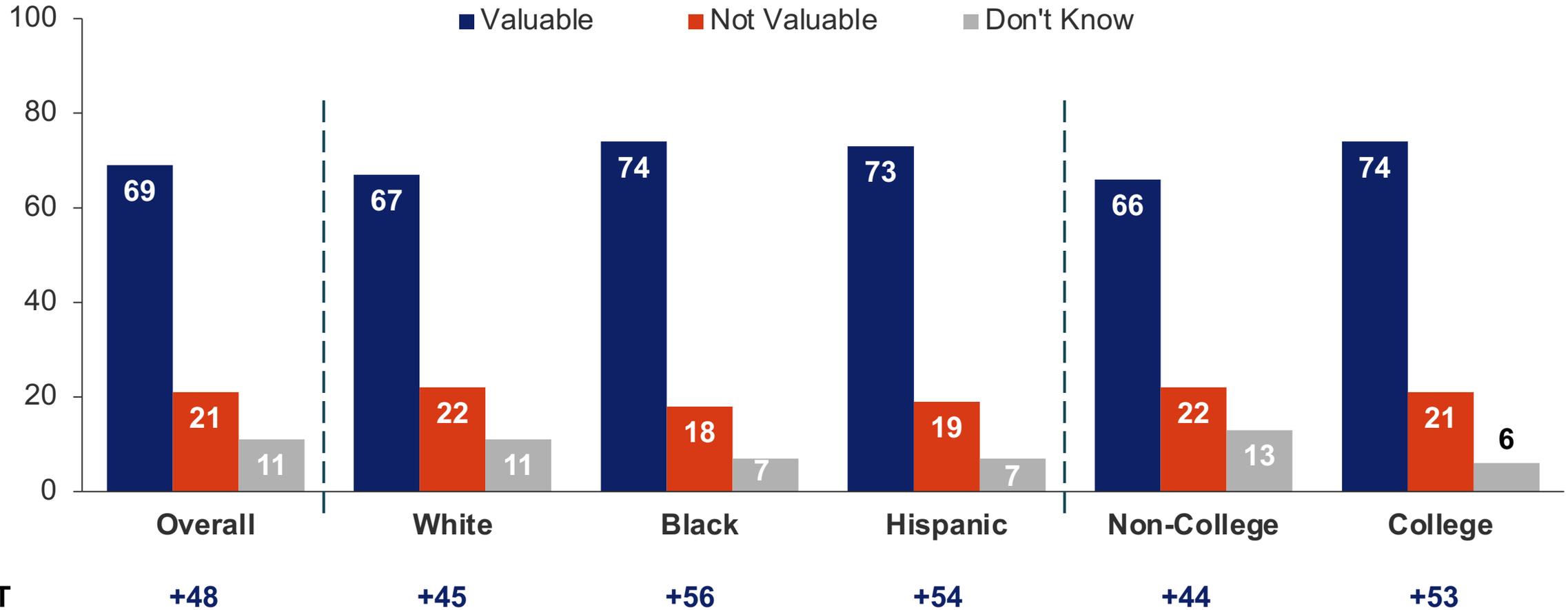


**IMPACT**  
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# A majority of parents think that AI chatbots are a valuable tool for children to learn more, faster.

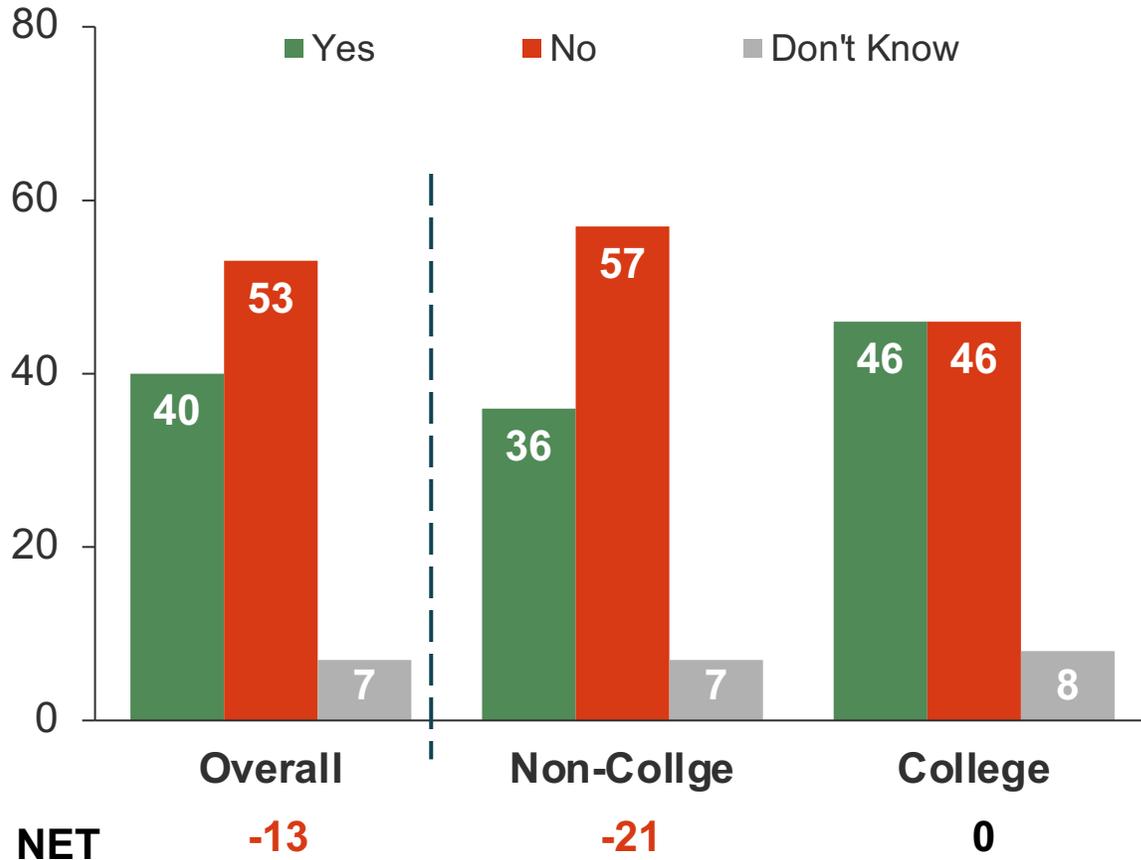
Black and Hispanic parents are more likely to see chatbots as a valuable tool than white parents.

*Do you think that AI chatbots are a valuable tool to help your child learn more, faster?*

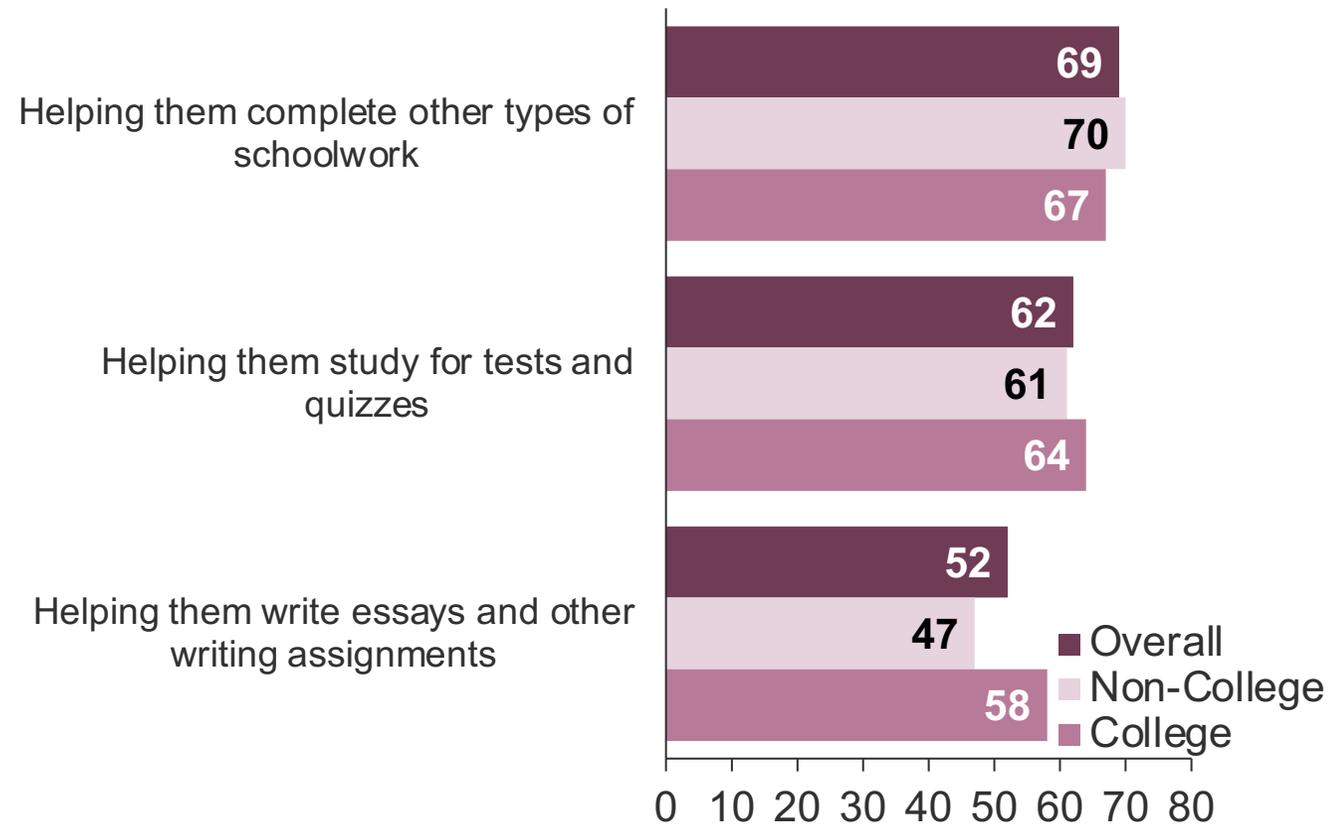


# College educated parents are much more likely to use AI for purposes related to their child's education than their non-college counterparts.

Have you ever used AI chatbots for purposes related to your child's education?



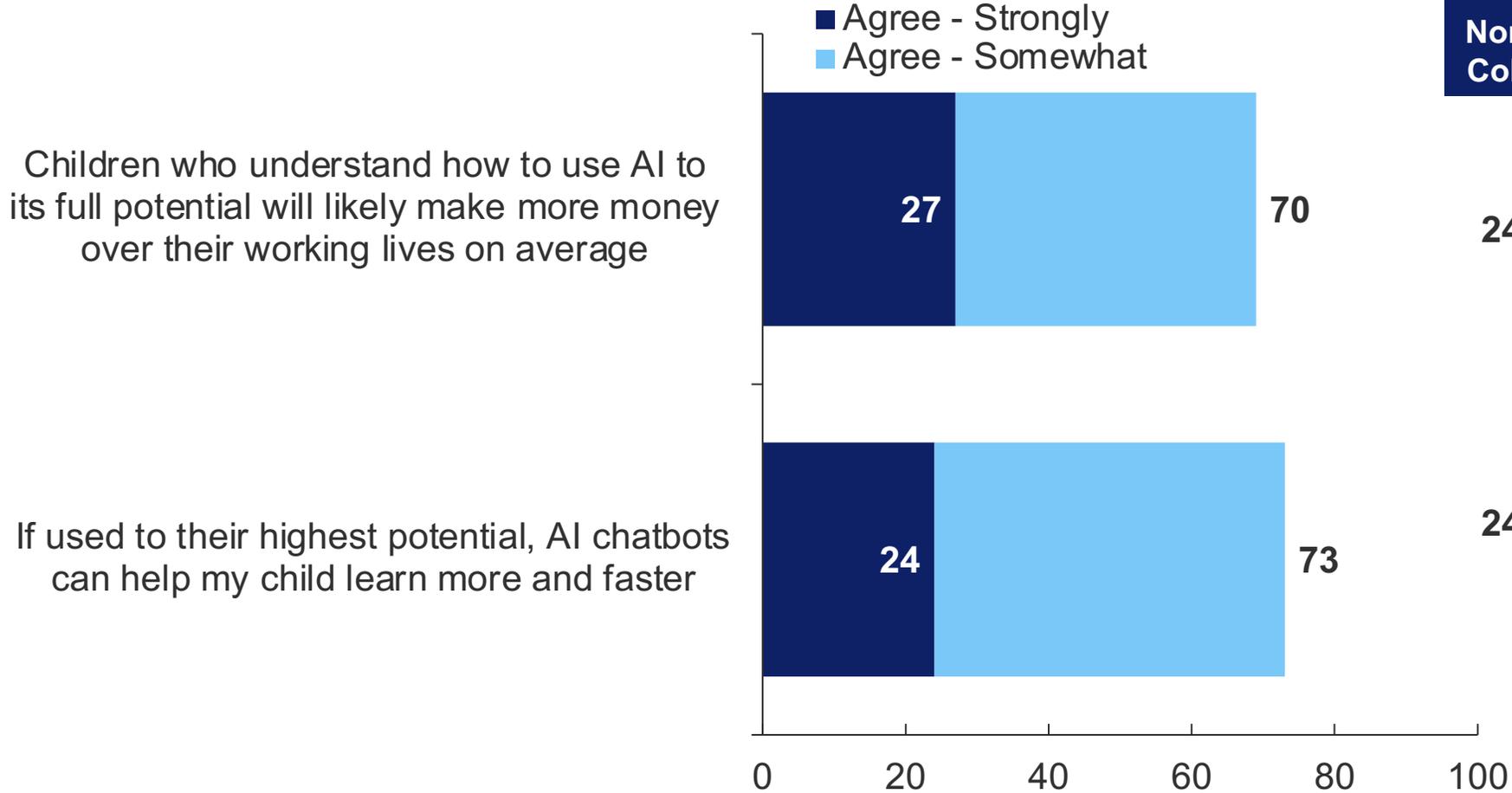
Which of the following are ways you have used AI chatbots in relation to your child's education? [ASKED IF 'YES'] [PARENTS ONLY] [MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED]



# Parents think that AI chatbots will be helpful for their child's future and learning.

Dads are more strongly supportive of the potential of AI than moms.

## PARENTS: STATEMENTS ABOUT AI CHATBOTS



## % Agree - Strongly

Non-Coll.	Coll.	Women	Men	Used AI	Never Used
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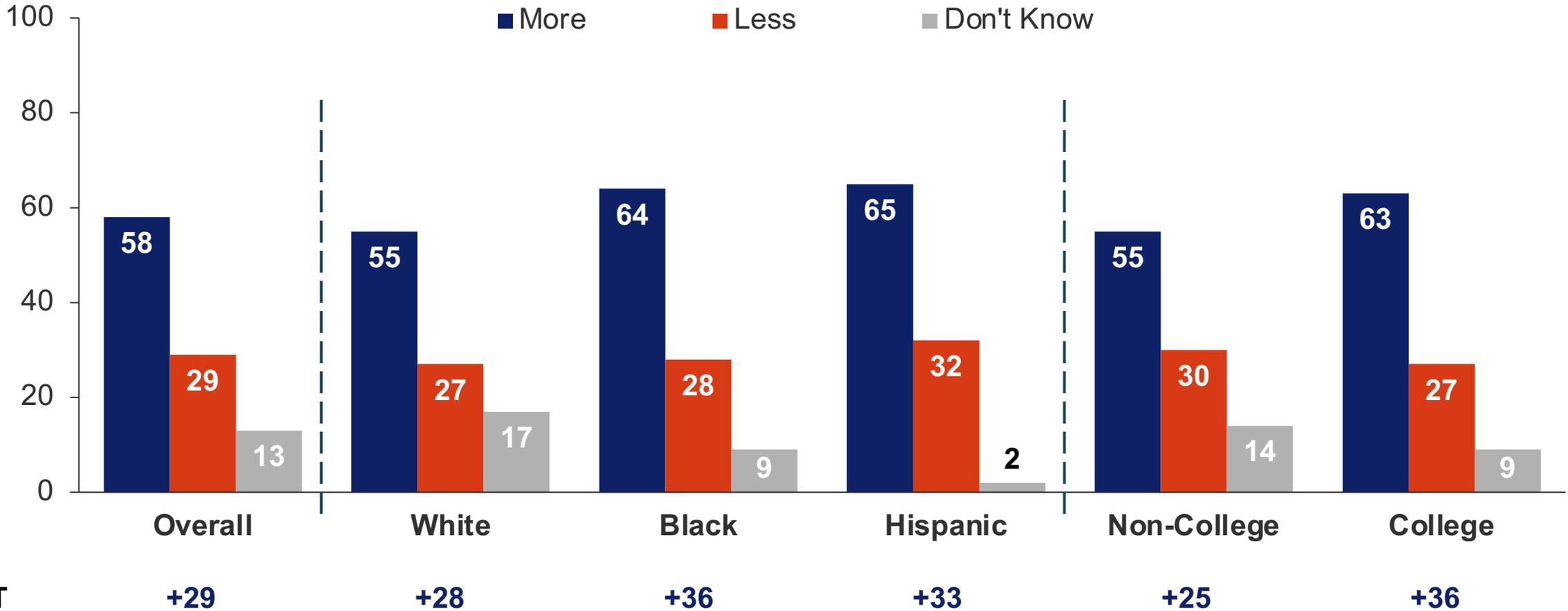
24	34	23	32	33	11
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24	24	21	28	29	6
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# A majority of parents across groups would like to see AI chatbots used more in the child's education.

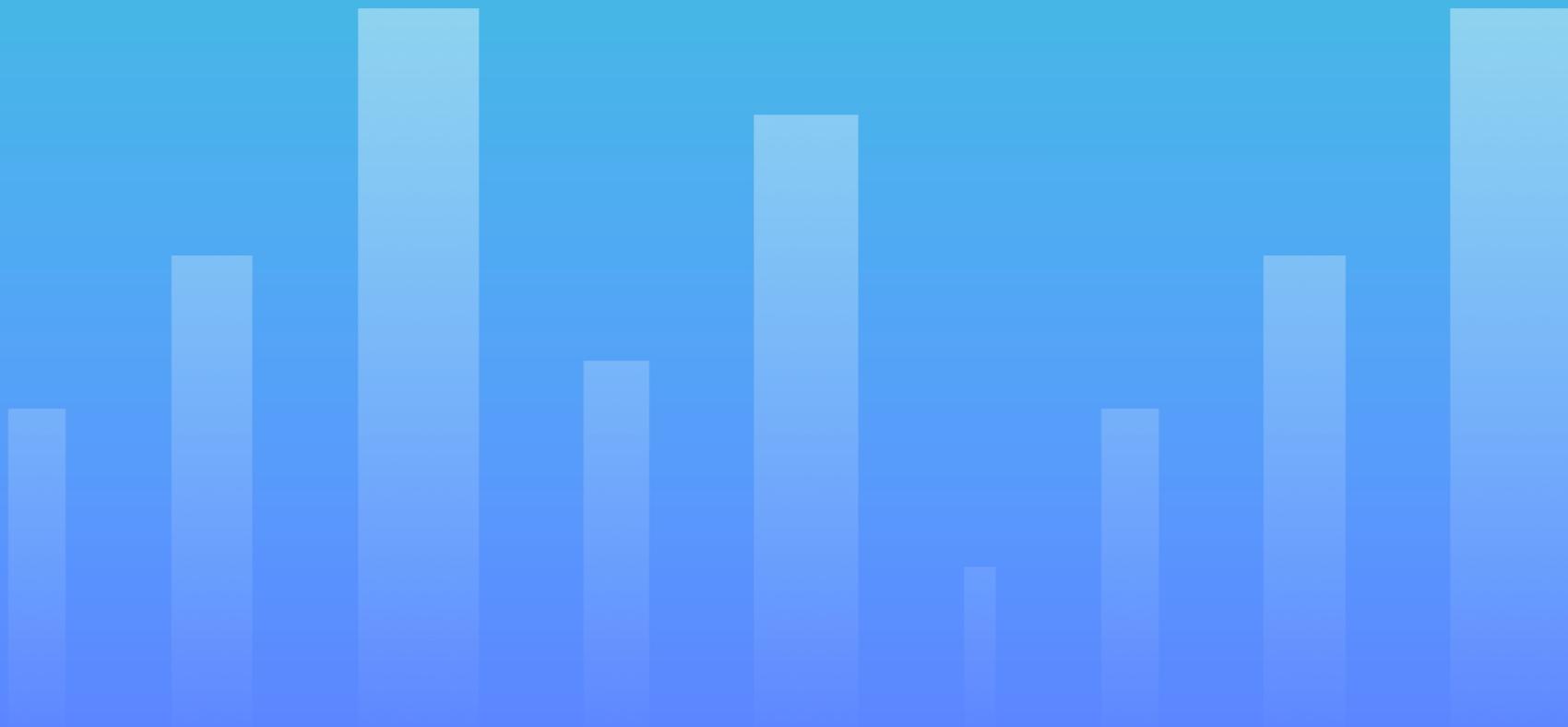
Parents of color and college educated parents are more likely to want to see these tools used more.

*Would you like AI chatbots to be used more or less in your child's school knowing that they may save teachers time, freeing up more time to personalize learning experiences for each individual?*





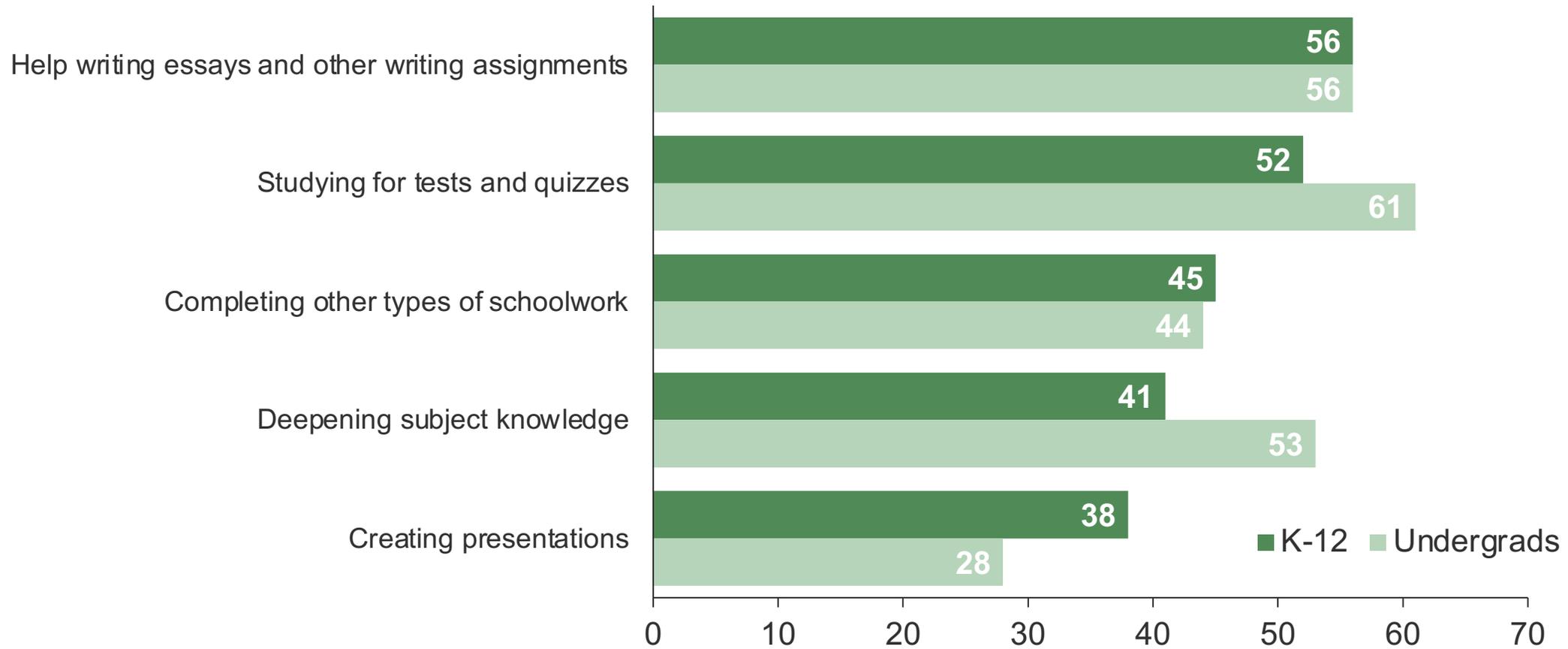
# A DEEPER LOOK: STUDENTS



**IMPACT**  
RESEARCH

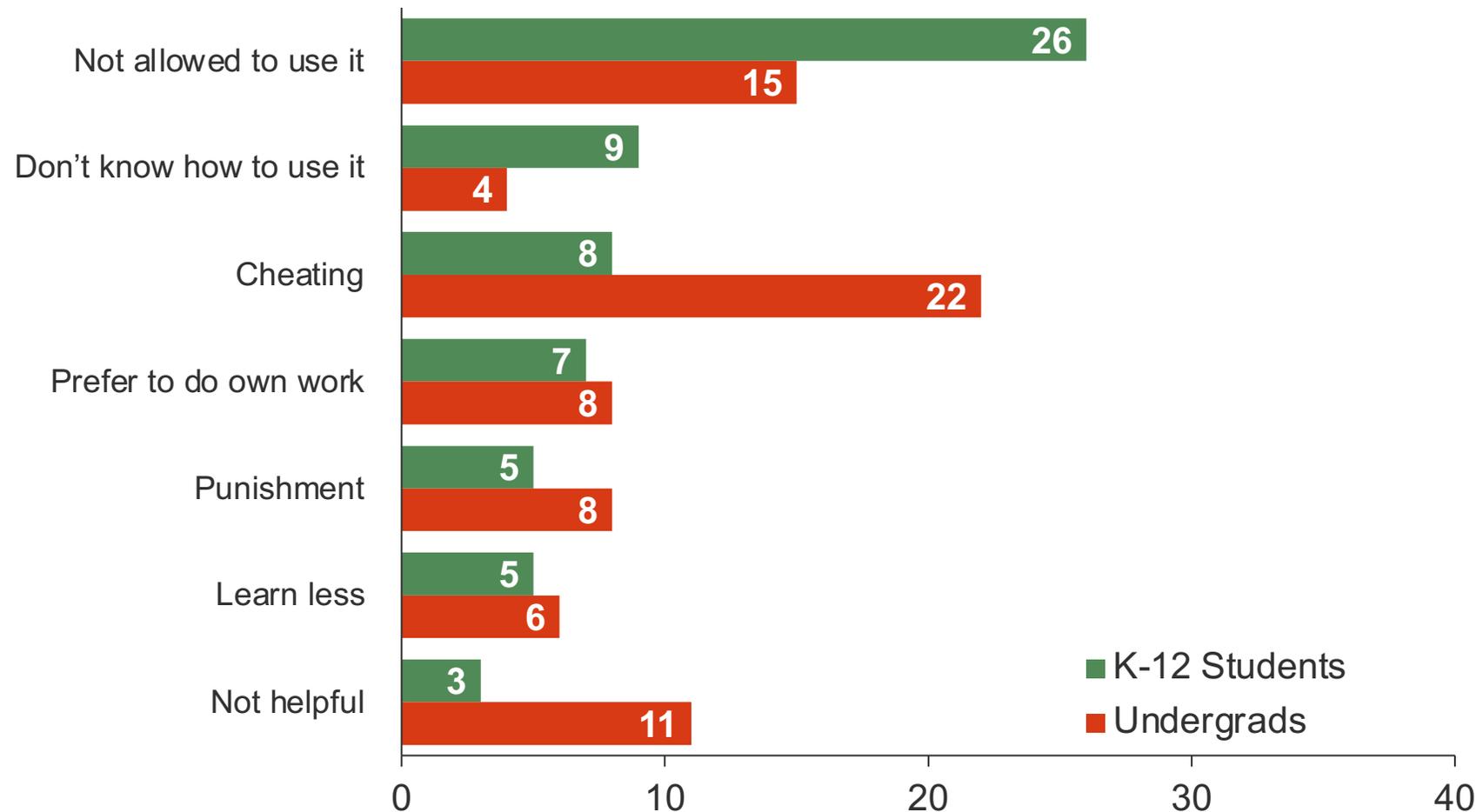
# K-12 students are using AI chatbots the most for help with assignment and undergrads are using it the most for studying for tests and quizzes.

*Students: Which of the following are ways you have used AI chatbots for school? [NOT ASKED IF 'NEVER' USE AI CHATBOTS] [MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED]*



# K-12 students are less likely to use AI because they are not allowed to or its not helpful, while undergrads more say it feels like cheating.

*Students: What, if anything, prevents you from using AI more often in your education?  
[K-12/COLLEGE STUDENTS] [OPEN-ENDED] [MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED]*

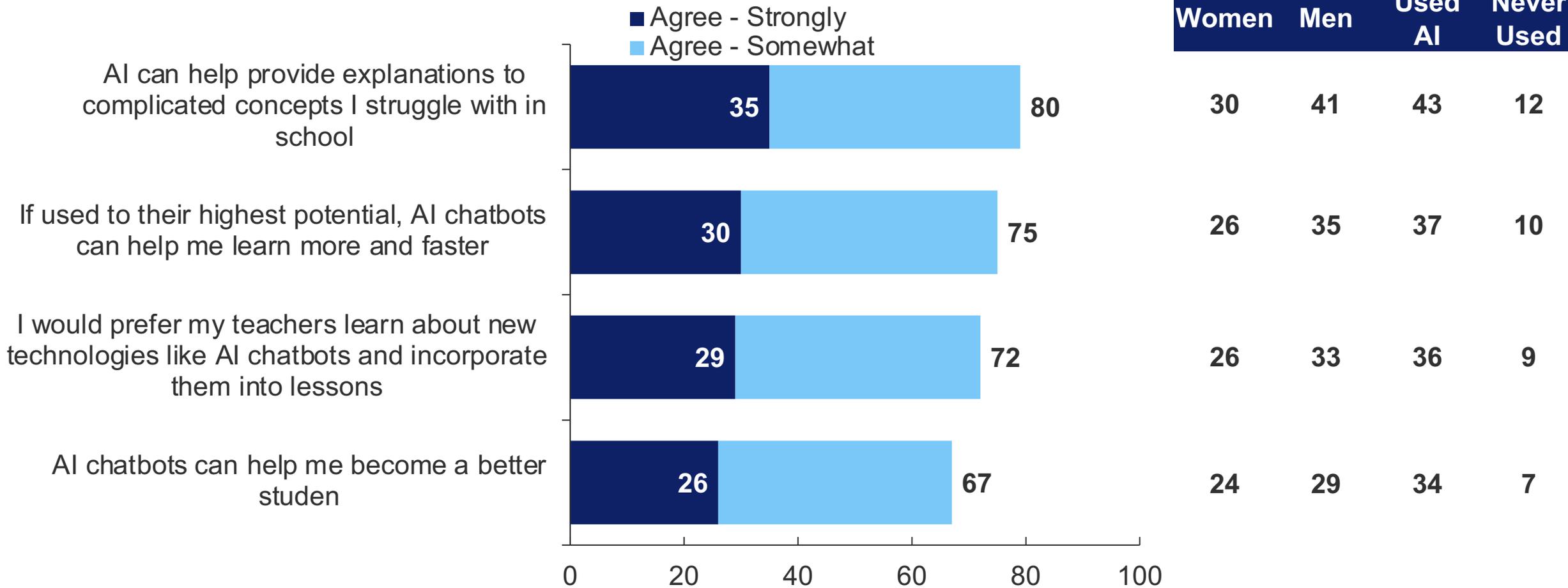


■ K-12 Students  
■ Undergrads

# K-12 Students are particularly excited about AI's potential to help them with concepts they struggle with.

Female students and those who have not used AI are much more skeptical of AI than their counterparts.

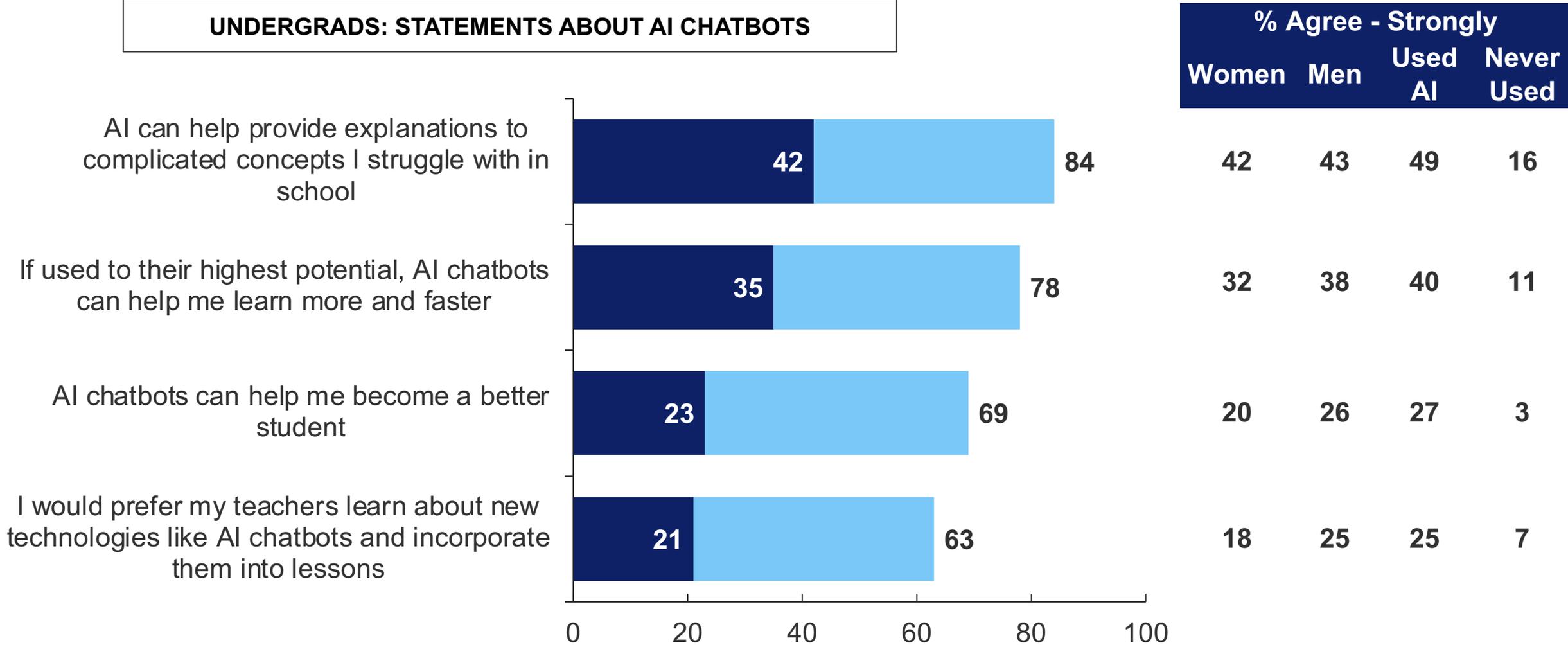
## K-12 STUDENTS: STATEMENTS ABOUT AI CHATBOTS



# College students, similar to K-12 Students, heavily agree that AI can help them with concepts they struggle with.

They also see the potential of AI chatbots to help them learn more, faster.

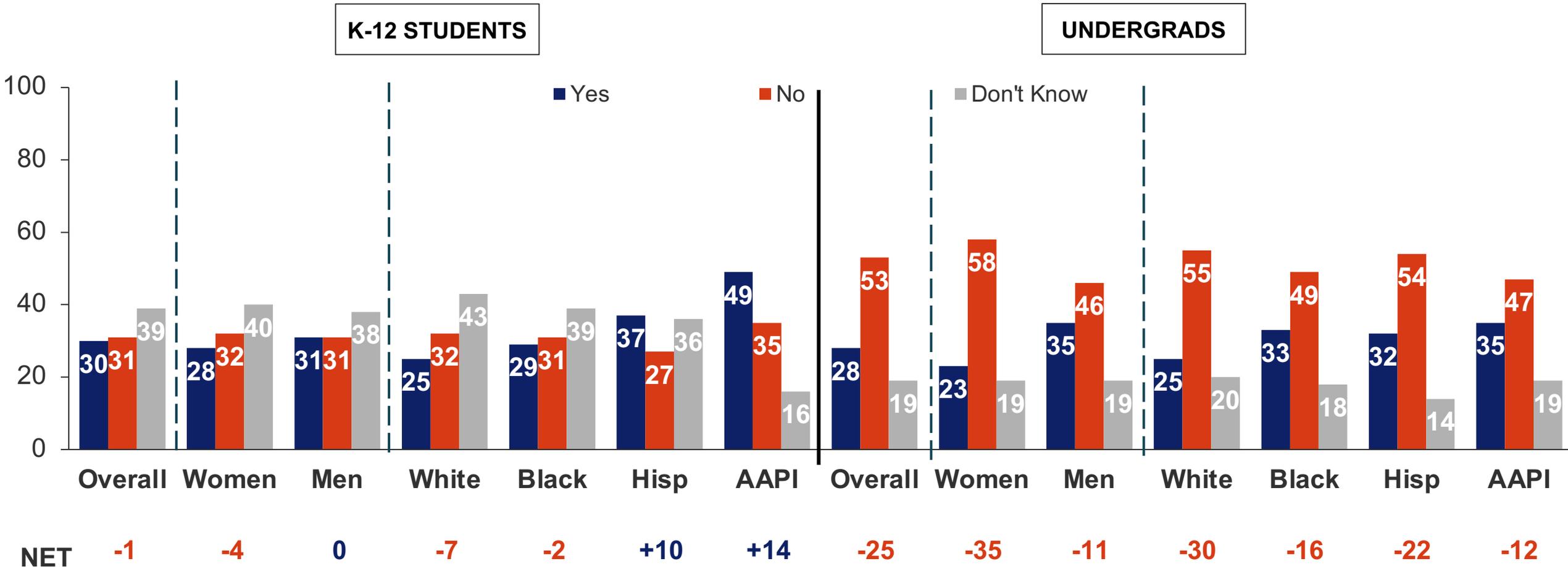
## UNDERGRADS: STATEMENTS ABOUT AI CHATBOTS



# Most K-12 students are not sure if they are interested in a future career that requires deep knowledge of AI while undergrads are not.

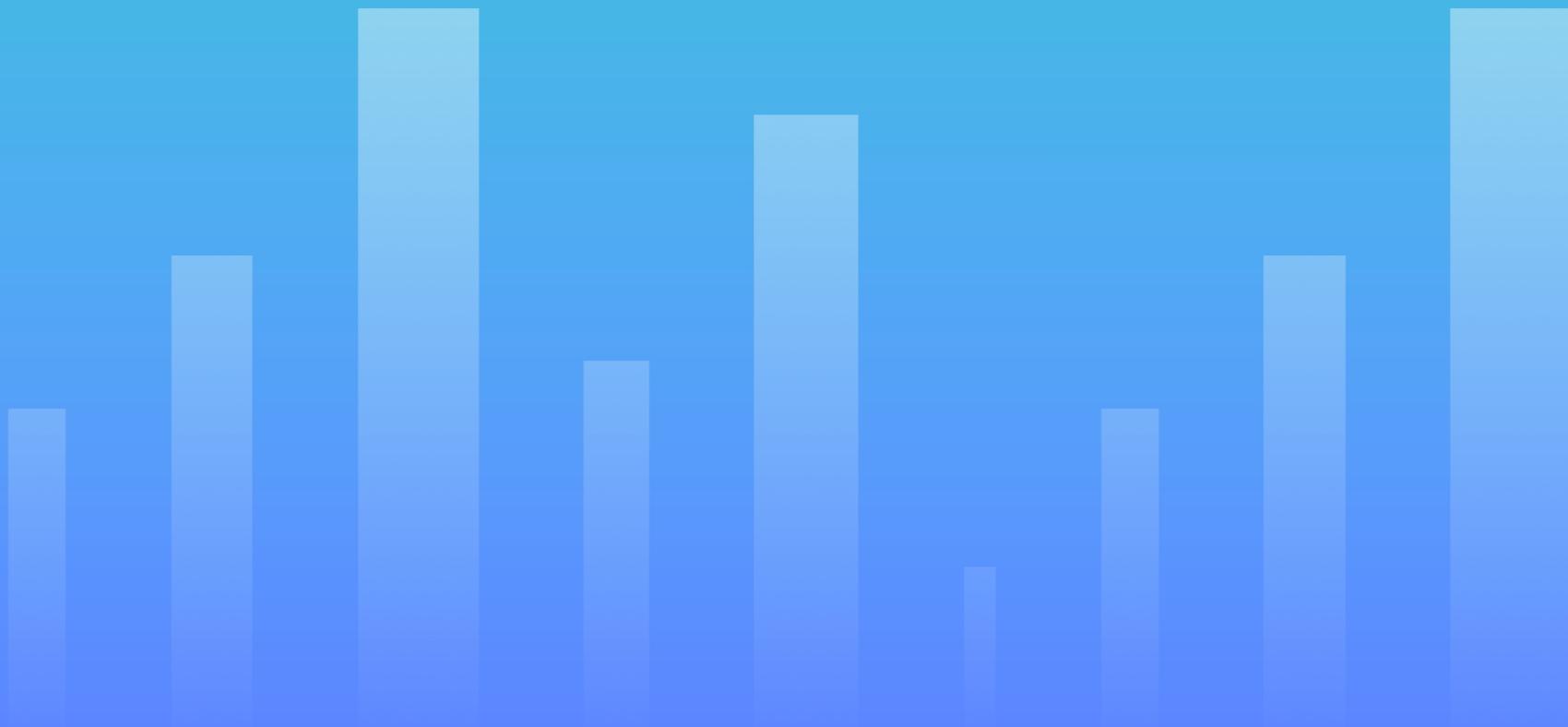
Undergrad Men and AAPI students are most interested in AI-based careers.

*Do the jobs that you are interested in for your future career require deep knowledge of AI?*





# APPENDIX: DEMOGRAPHICS



**IMPACT**  
RESEARCH

# Teacher: Demographics

	% of Sample
White	68
Black	12
Hispanic	13
AAPI	4
Women	72
Men	28
18-34	36
35-49	36
50+	27
Urban	31
Suburban	43
Small Town	11
Rural	14
Northeast	20
Midwest	20
South	40
West	20

	% of Sample
K – 2 <sup>nd</sup>	27
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	32
6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	29
9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	28
Classroom	79
Non-Classroom	31
Traditional Public	81
Charter	7
Private, non-religious	4
Private, religious	5
Home school	3
<10 years teaching	59
10+ years teaching	41
Magnet school	15
Honors program	36
Gifted and talented program	22

# K-12: Demographics

	% of Sample
White	55
Black	15
Hispanic	20
AAPI	7
Women	53
Men	47
12-13	19
14-15	35
16+	46
Urban	25
Suburban	40
Small Town	13
Rural	18
Northeast	16
Midwest	21
South	40
West	23

	% of Sample
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	2
6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	37
9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	62
Traditional Public	80
Charter	5
Private, non-religious	4
Private, religious	3
Home school	5
Magnet school	12
Honors program	41
Gifted and talented program	16

# Undergrad: Demographics

	% of Sample
White	56
Black	15
Hispanic	18
AAPI	8
Women	58
Men	42
18-19	15
20-22	40
23-24	21
25+	25
Urban	33
Suburban	43
Small Town	12
Rural	10
Northeast	19
Midwest	21
South	44
West	16

	% of Sample
Associate degree	19
Bachelor's degree	60
Professional certificate or credential	5
Master's degree	10
Doctorate degree	6
Two-year community or junior college	18
Public four year	59
Private - non-liberal arts / non-religious	9
Private - liberal arts college	8
Private -religious	4

# Parent: Demographics

	% of Sample
White	60
Black	13
Hispanic	20
AAPI	4
Women	55
Men	45
18-34	31
35-49	53
50+	16
Urban	30
Suburban	44
Small Town	10
Rural	15
Northwest	20
Midwest	20
South	40
West	20

	% of Sample
Non-College	66
College	34
<\$50k	43
\$50k+	56
K – 2 <sup>nd</sup>	44
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	34
6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	30
9 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	32
Traditional Public	77
Charter	8
Private, non-religious	7
Private, religious	9
Home school	5
Magnet school	13
Honors program	34
Gifted and talented program	21