2022 80,000 Hours user survey results — summary of results relevant to CEA

Summary

Impact of 80k, CEA, and other EA resources on respondents' career plans
- **EA programmes (besides 80k) that ALSO influenced people's careers:** 59% of respondents said (in addition to 80k) CEA had influenced their career plans. See the full list here.
- **EA/EA-related resources that were MOST influential on respondents' careers:** 61% said 80k was most influential, and 7% said CEA was most influential.
- **CEA programmes/resources that were influential:** 64% of respondents said the EA Forum had been influential, 44% said EAG had been influential, 37% said the EA newsletter had been influential, 35% said GWWC had been influential, and 2% said EA Funds had been influential.
- **CEA programmes/resources that were MOST influential:** 48% of respondents said the EA Global was most influential, 25% said the EA Forum was most influential, 8% said the EA newsletter was most influential, 5% said GWWC was most influential, and 8% said EA Funds had been influential. *[small sample sizes]*

Demographics
- **Gender:** 66% of respondents were men, 32% of respondents were women, 3% identified as something besides man or woman
- **Age:** 47% of respondents were between the ages of 25 and 34, 22% were between 35 and 44, 18% were between 18 and 24, 12% were between 45 and 64, and the rest were under 18 or over 65
- **Race/ethnicity:** 72% of respondents were White, 12% were Asian, 7% identified as mixed race, 3% were hispanic, and the rest were spread across other categories
- **Highest level of education:** 37% of respondents have a college degree, 34% have a Masters, 17% have a PhD, 5% have a professional degree, and 5% have only completed high school.

Learning about 80k and EA
- **Learning about 80k:** 12% heard about it from an EA-related blog or website. 8% heard about it from a local EA group. *Note that the sample size for this question ended up being very small because of a glitch with our survey software.*
- **Learning about EA:** 61% of respondents had already heard about EA when they encountered 80k. 5% learned about it through a local or university EA group, 4% learned about it through LessWrong. 14% learned about it through "Other." I've only skimmed the "Other" responses, but it looks like the most common "Other" sources were: 80k sponsorship (YouTube mention / newsletters from e.g.: Ali

Abdaal, Tim Ferriss, Tom Scott), Newspaper article (Economist, Guardian, Washington Post, BBC), Making Sense/Waking Up, Peter Singer.

Engagement with EA
- **Level of engagement with EA:** 15% of respondents have a **high** level of engagement with EA, 23% have **considerable** engagement, 34% have **moderate** Engagement, 24% have **mild** engagement, and 4% had no engagement.
- **Cause prioritisation:** 59% of respondents think AI safety and AI policy are among the world's most pressing problems. 57% said X-Risk, 49% said climate change, 47% said poverty and health, 46% said biorisk reduction, 42% said longtermism, 37% said building EA, and 36% said nuclear weapons.
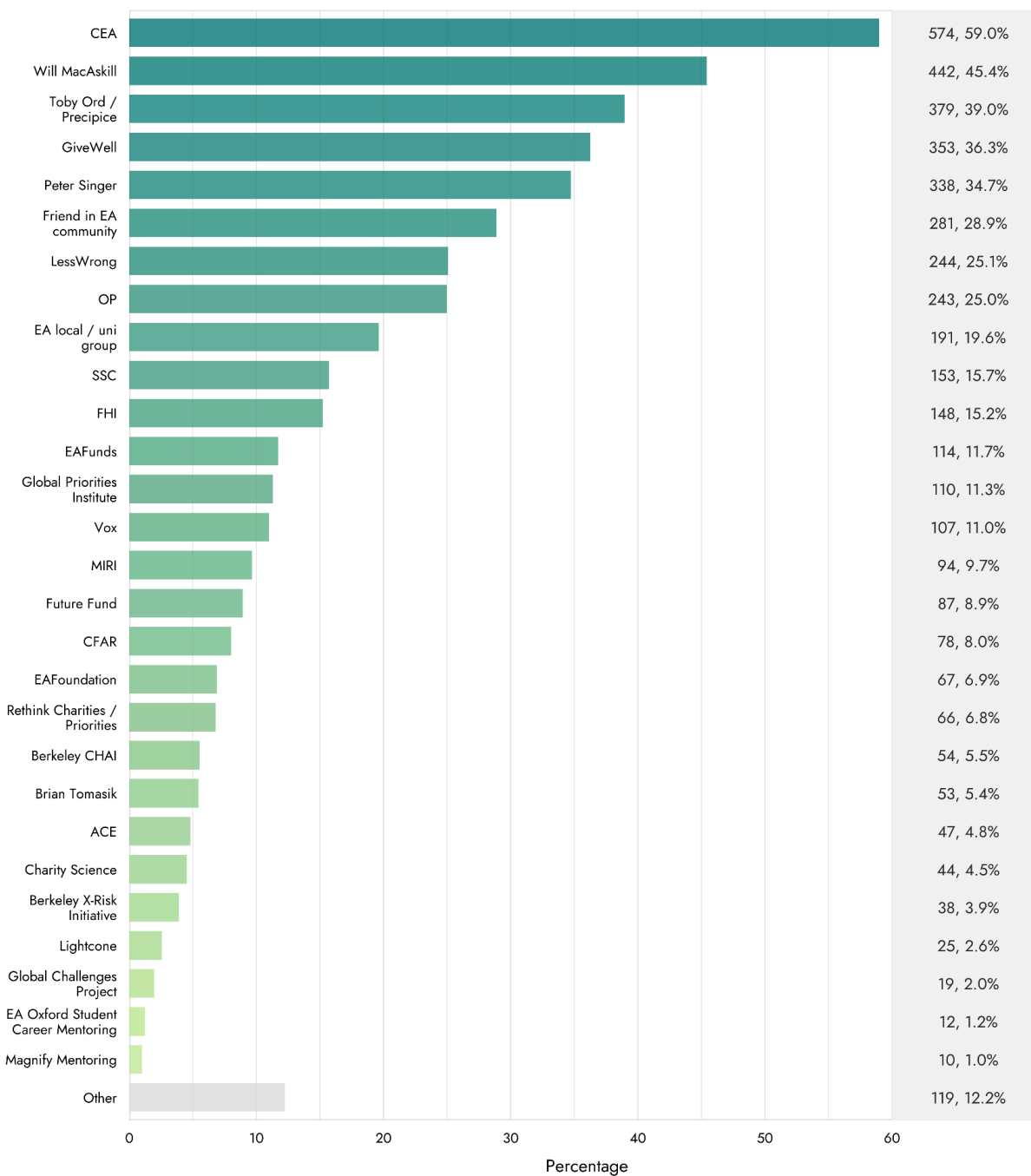
In detail

Impact of 80k, CEA, and other EA resources on respondents' career plans

EA and EA-related programs that influenced people's careers/planning

Which (if any) of these organisations, people, or books have also [in addition to 80k] influenced your career or your career plans? (Check all that apply)

EA-related resources people report as influential on their careers/plans

Results are specifically among people who said they'd have more impact due to *80k*

Resource	Percentage	Count, %
CEA		574, 59.0%
Will MacAskill		442, 45.4%
Toby Ord / Precipice		379, 39.0%
GiveWell		353, 36.3%
Peter Singer		338, 34.7%
Friend in EA community		281, 28.9%
LessWrong		244, 25.1%
OP		243, 25.0%
EA local / uni group		191, 19.6%
SSC		153, 15.7%
FHI		148, 15.2%
EAFunds		114, 11.7%
Global Priorities Institute		110, 11.3%
Vox		107, 11.0%
MIRI		94, 9.7%
Future Fund		87, 8.9%
CFAR		78, 8.0%
EAFoundation		67, 6.9%
Rethink Charities / Priorities		66, 6.8%
Berkeley CHAI		54, 5.5%
Brian Tomasik		53, 5.4%
ACE		47, 4.8%
Charity Science		44, 4.5%
Berkeley X-Risk Initiative		38, 3.9%
Lightcone		25, 2.6%
Global Challenges Project		19, 2.0%
EA Oxford Student Career Mentoring		12, 1.2%
Magnify Mentoring		10, 1.0%
Other		119, 12.2%

Percentage

Most influential EA/EA-related resources

The bulk of respondents rated *80,000 Hours* as most influential on their careers/planning

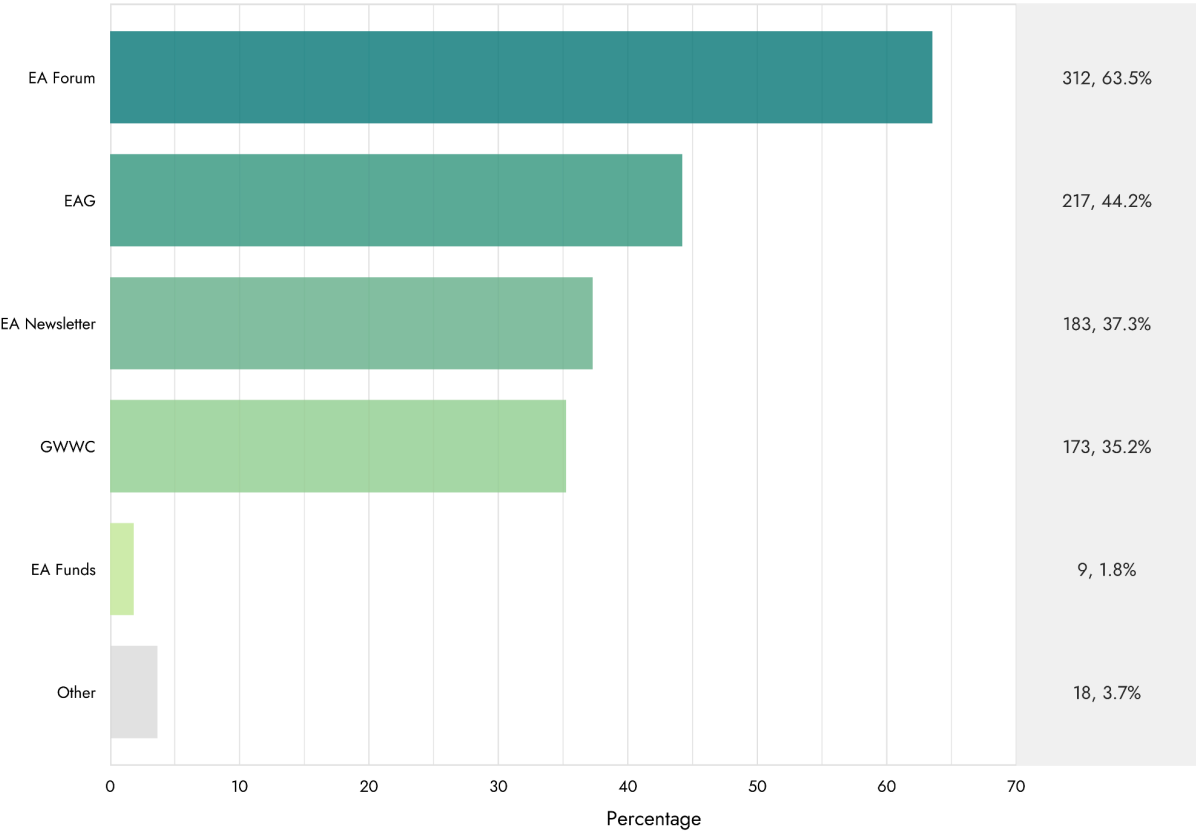Results are specifically among people who said they'd have more impact due to *80k*

Resource	Percentage	Count
80,000 Hours		560, 61.4%
CEA		61, 6.7%
Will MacAskill		44, 4.8%
Friend in EA community		33, 3.6%
Local / uni EA group		28, 3.1%
Peter Singer		26, 2.9%
LessWrong		19, 2.1%
Toby Ord / Precipice		18, 2.0%
OP		16, 1.8%
GiveWell		15, 1.6%
EA Foundation		11, 1.2%
SSC		8, .9%
FHI		7, .8%
EA Funds		6, .7%
Charity Science		6, .7%
Future Fund		4, .4%
Brian Tomasik		4, .4%
Global Priorities Institute		3, .3%
ACE		3, .3%
CFAR		2, .2%
Vox		1, .1%
Rethink Charity / Priorities		1, .1%
MIRI		1, .1%
EA Oxford Student Career Mentoring		1, .1%
Other		34, 3.7%

Percentage

CEA programs/resources that have been influential

CEA resources people report as influential on their careers/plans

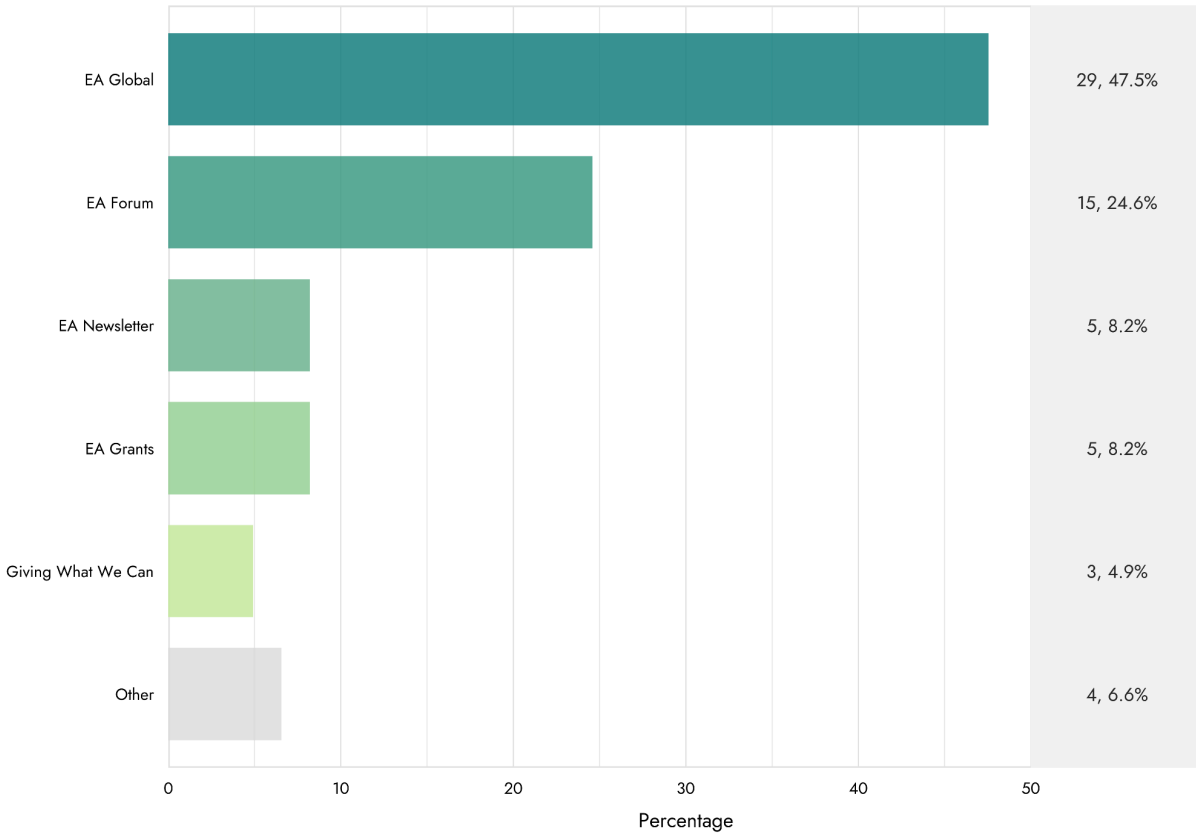Results are specifically among people who said they'd have more impact due to *80k*

Resource	Percentage	Value
EA Forum		312, 63.5%
EAG		217, 44.2%
EA Newsletter		183, 37.3%
GWWC		173, 35.2%
EA Funds		9, 1.8%
Other		18, 3.7%

Percentage

Most influential CEA program

Most important CEA resource/program

Results are specifically among people who said they'd have more impact due to *80k*

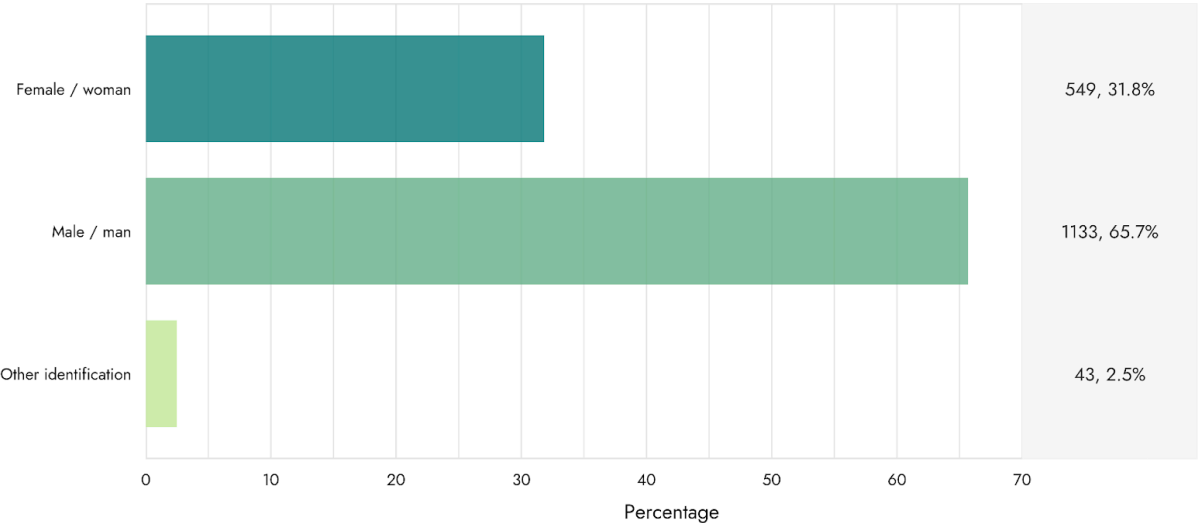# Distribution strategy

Distribution strategy

- Mass promotion, including:
  - 80k newsletter (featured 3x)
  - 80k podcast (featured 2x)
  - EA Forum post
  - 80k Twitter account (2-3x)
  - EA related Facebook groups
  - Facebook and instagram ads
  - Reddit audiences on r/effectivealtruism, r/slatestarcodex and /samharris
- Targeted emails to special groups
  - All Advisees in our CRM
  - All "tier 2", rejected advising applicants in our CRM

- List of people we'd posted in #wins (slack channel we use to post about people who've told us we helped them get a specific job)
- List of people we'd posted in #user-feedback s (slack channel we use to share positive and negative feedback we've gotten on our programs)
- Rated 1-10 plan changes
- Potential 10s who were rated 0 or 0.1
- Team leads sent personal messages to people their programme impacted
- A banner on the website linking to the survey to the homepage, /job-board/, /key-ideas/ and /podcast/

Respondent demographics

Gender

Gender of respondents

Category	Value
Female / woman	549, 31.8%
Male / man	1133, 65.7%
Other identification	43, 2.5%

Percentage

Missing = 414

Age

Age of respondents

Category	Value
65+	24, 1.4%
45-64	220, 12.4%
35-44	383, 21.6%
25-34	827, 46.7%
18-24	311, 17.6%
Under 18	6, 0.3%

Percentage
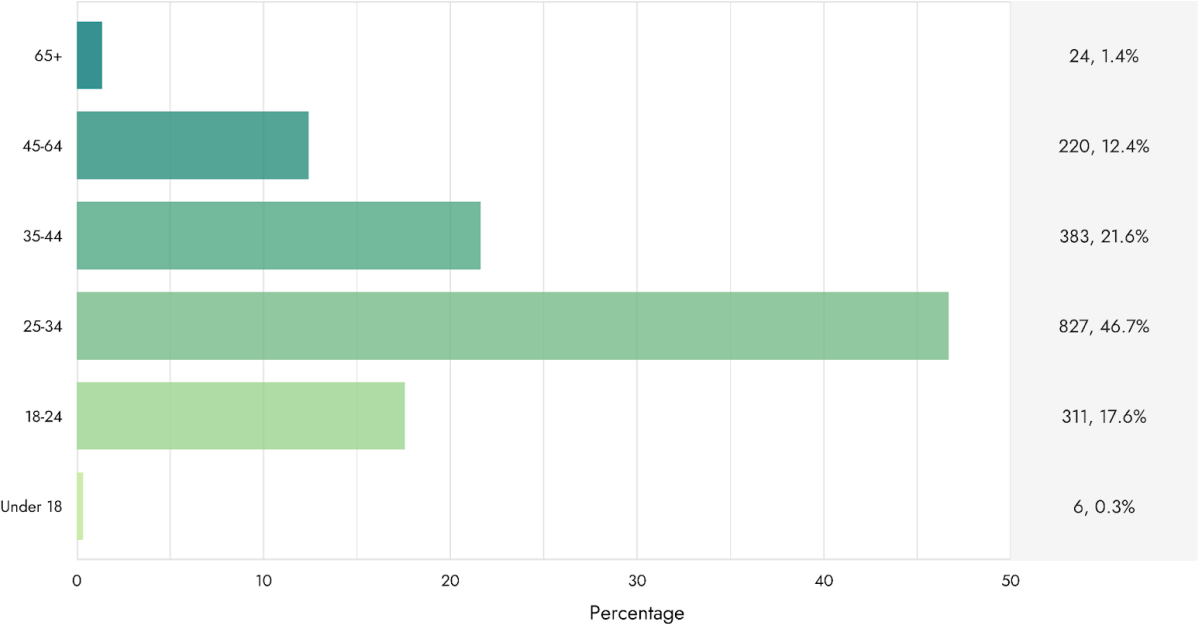
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Race/ethnicity

Racial/ethnic identification of respondents

Category	Value
White	1289, 71.6%
Asian	216, 12.0%
More than one race	134, 7.4%
Hispanic	60, 3.3%
Black	47, 2.6%
Middle Eastern/North African/Arab origin	17, 0.9%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	3, 0.2%
American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous origin	3, 0.2%
Other race	31, 1.7%

Percentage
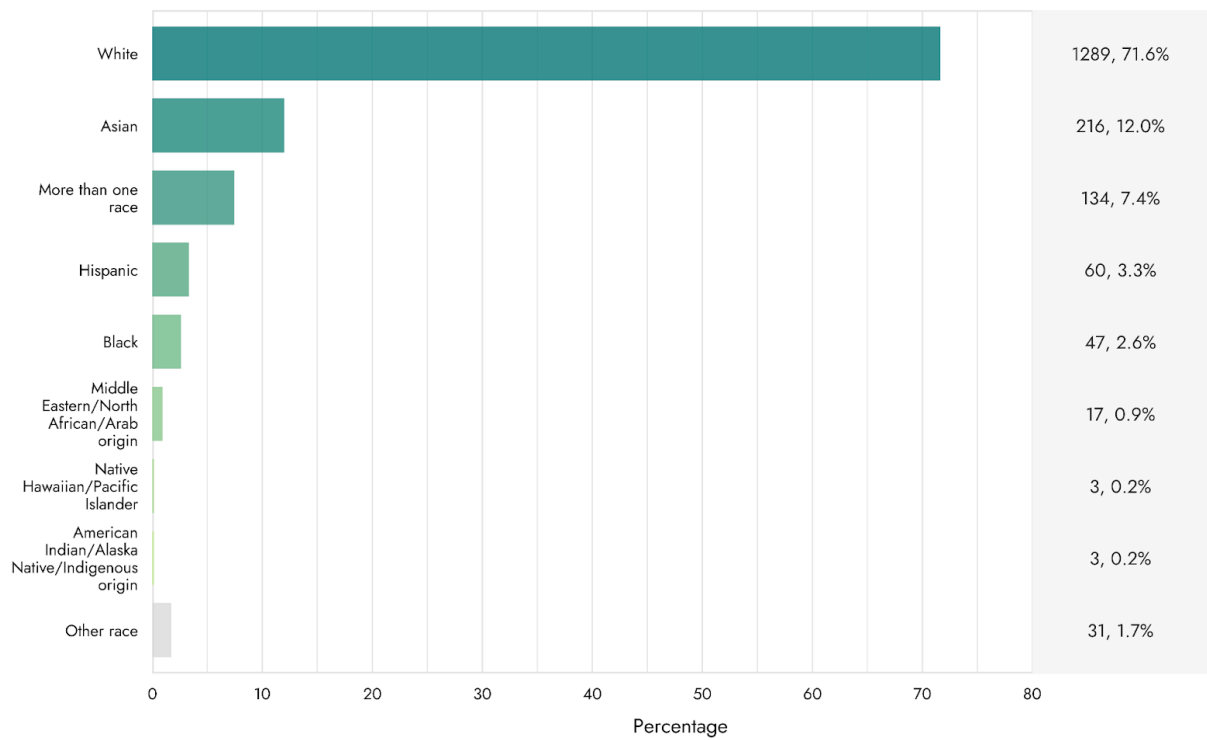
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Highest level of education

What is the highest level of education you have completed or are in the process of completing?

Highest completed education of respondents

Education level	Percentage	Count, %
Doctoral degree		276, 16.5%
Professional degree		80, 4.8%
Master's degree		575, 34.4%
Undergraduate degree		629, 37.6%
High school		82, 4.9%
Less than high school		7, 0.4%
Other		22, 1.3%

Percentage
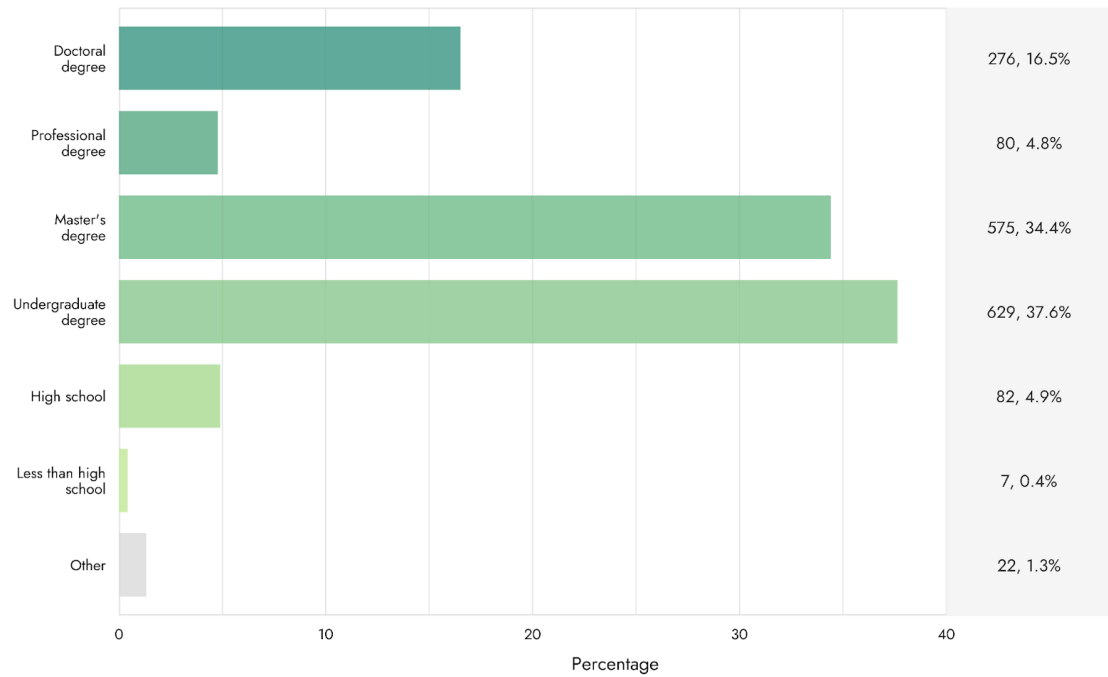
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Learning about 80k

How they first heard of 80k

How did you first hear of 80,000 Hours?[1]

How did people hear of 80k?

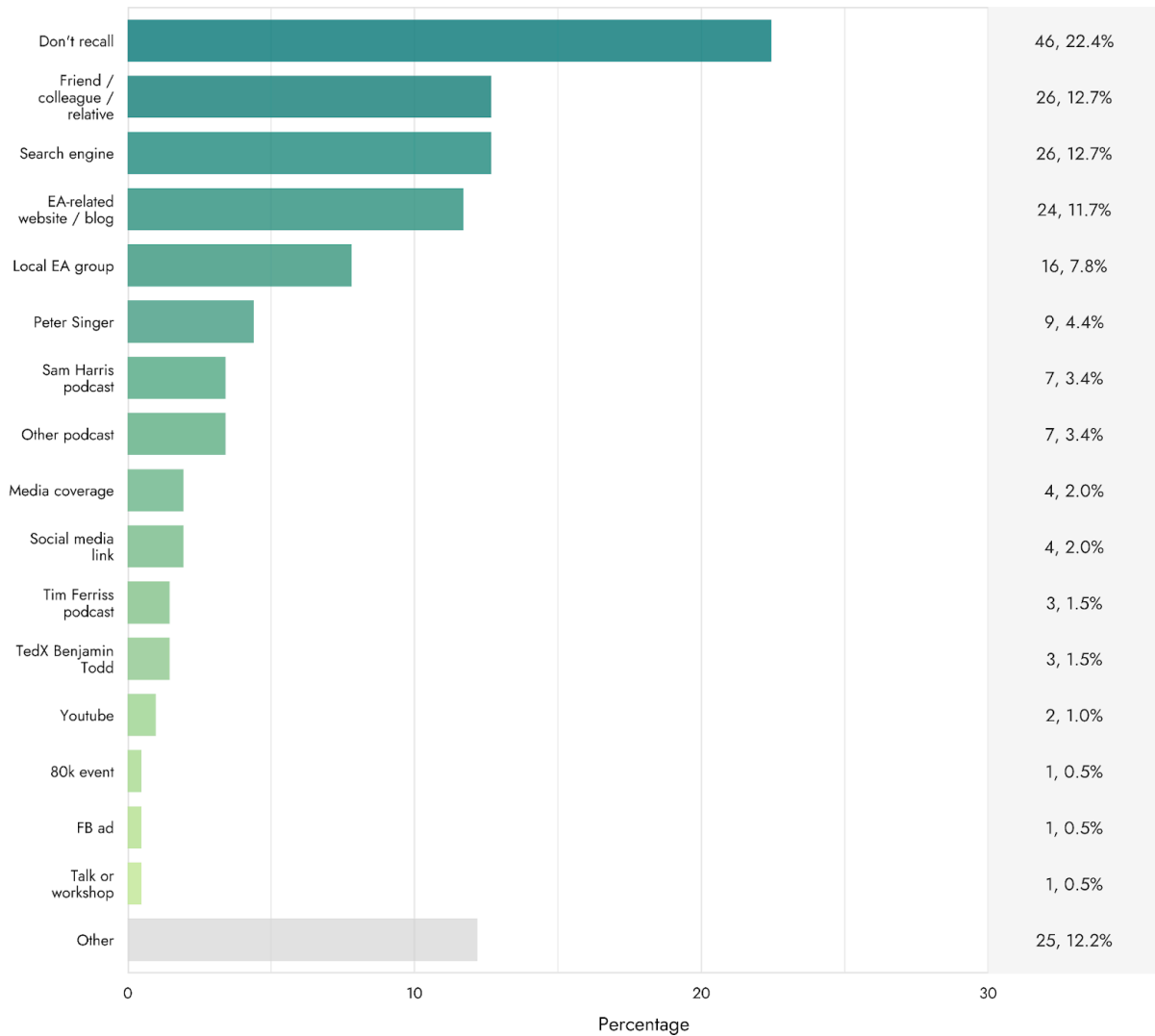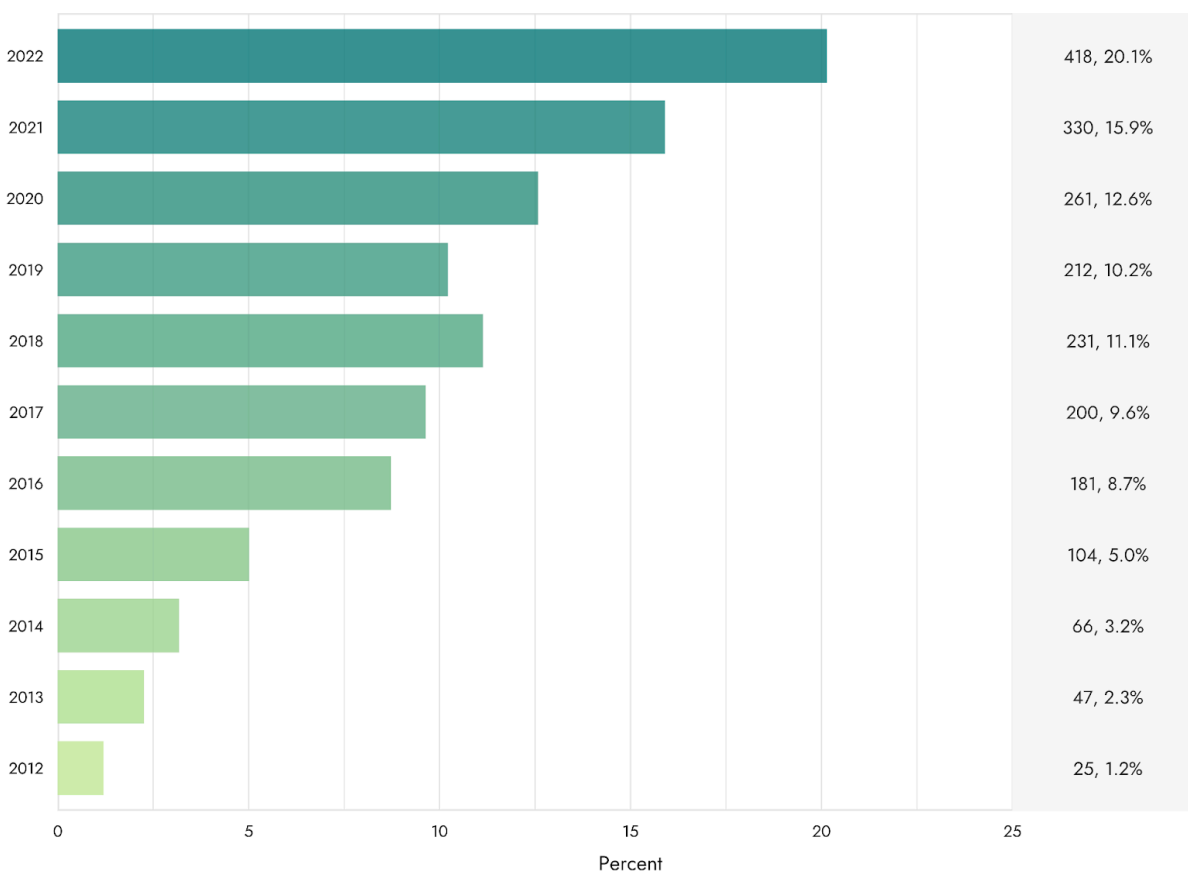|	Percentage	Count
Don't recall		46, 22.4%
Friend / colleague / relative		26, 12.7%
Search engine		26, 12.7%
EA-related website / blog		24, 11.7%
Local EA group		16, 7.8%
Peter Singer		9, 4.4%
Sam Harris podcast		7, 3.4%
Other podcast		7, 3.4%
Media coverage		4, 2.0%
Social media link		4, 2.0%
Tim Ferriss podcast		3, 1.5%
TedX Benjamin Todd		3, 1.5%
Youtube		2, 1.0%
80k event		1, 0.5%
FB ad		1, 0.5%
Talk or workshop		1, 0.5%
Other		25, 12.2%

Year first engaged with 80k

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[1] A lot of people seem to have missed this question — possibly because of a Formstack glitch.

In what year did you first engage with 80,000 Hours (e.g. visit the website, listen to the podcast, etc.)? [2]

In which years did people first hear of 80k?

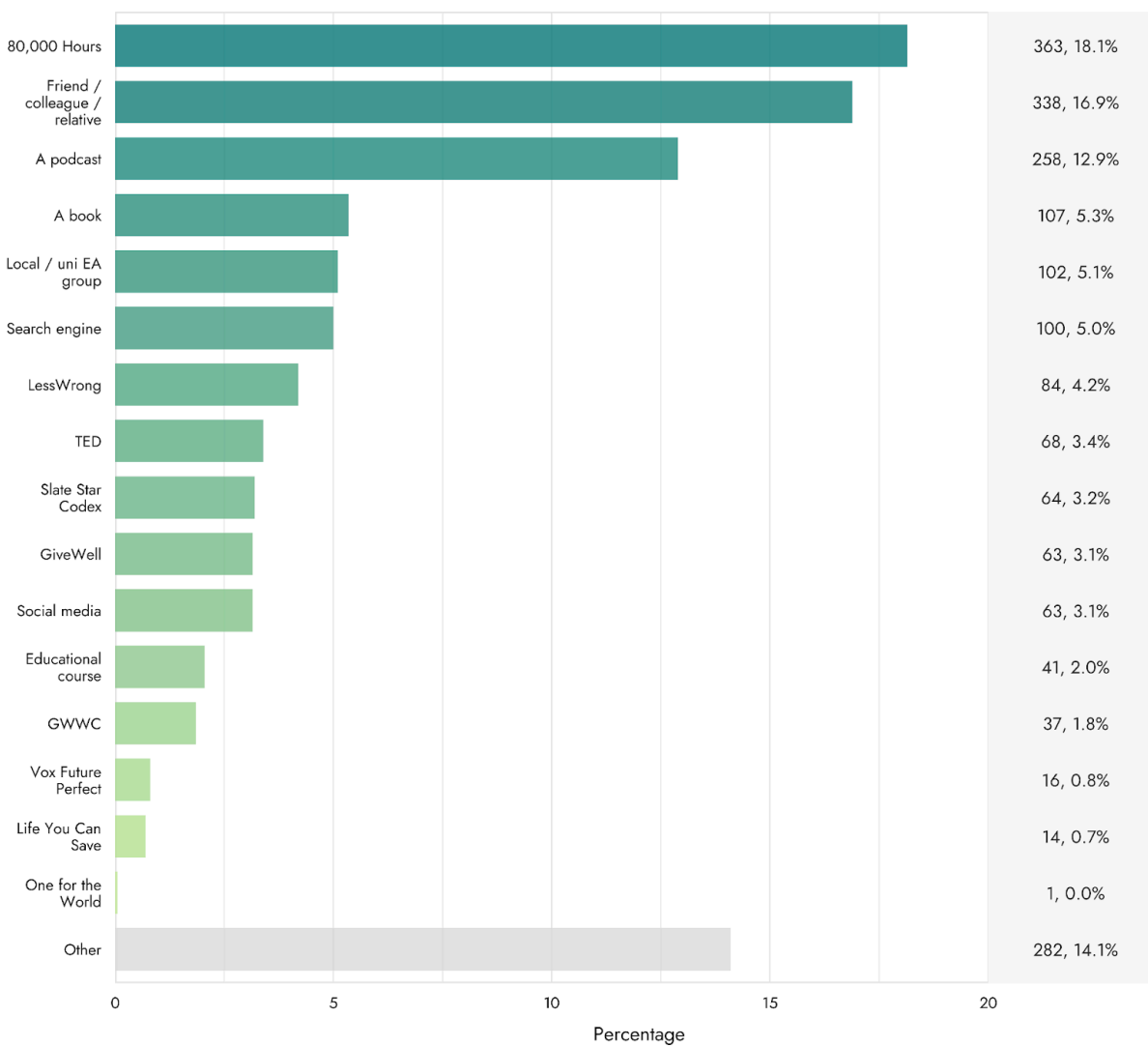| Year	Count, Percent
2022	418, 20.1%
2021	330, 15.9%
2020	261, 12.6%
2019	212, 10.2%
2018	231, 11.1%
2017	200, 9.6%
2016	181, 8.7%
2015	104, 5.0%
2014	66, 3.2%
2013	47, 2.3%
2012	25, 1.2%

Percent

Learning about EA

How first heard of EA

How did you first hear about effective altruism?

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[2] We had to exclude data for the year 2011 because of a Formstack coding issue. Because we didn't set a default response of [blank], the default answer was 2011 (the earliest/top year in the list of options). Unfortunately, that meant that if people didn't answer the question, 2011 was recorded for them. And there's no way to distinguish people who deliberately answered 2011 from people who intended to leave the question blank.

How did people hear of Effective Altruism?

Source	Count, Percentage
80,000 Hours	363, 18.1%
Friend / colleague / relative	338, 16.9%
A podcast	258, 12.9%
A book	107, 5.3%
Local / uni EA group	102, 5.1%
Search engine	100, 5.0%
LessWrong	84, 4.2%
TED	68, 3.4%
Slate Star Codex	64, 3.2%
GiveWell	63, 3.1%
Social media	63, 3.1%
Educational course	41, 2.0%
GWWC	37, 1.8%
Vox Future Perfect	16, 0.8%
Life You Can Save	14, 0.7%
One for the World	1, 0.0%
Other	282, 14.1%

I've only skimmed the "Other" responses, but it looks like the most common "Other" sources were: 80k sponsorship (YouTube mention / newsletters from e.g.: Ali Abdaal, Tim Ferriss, Tom Scott), Newspaper article (Economist, Guardian, Washington Post, BBC), Making Sense/Waking Up, Peter Singer.

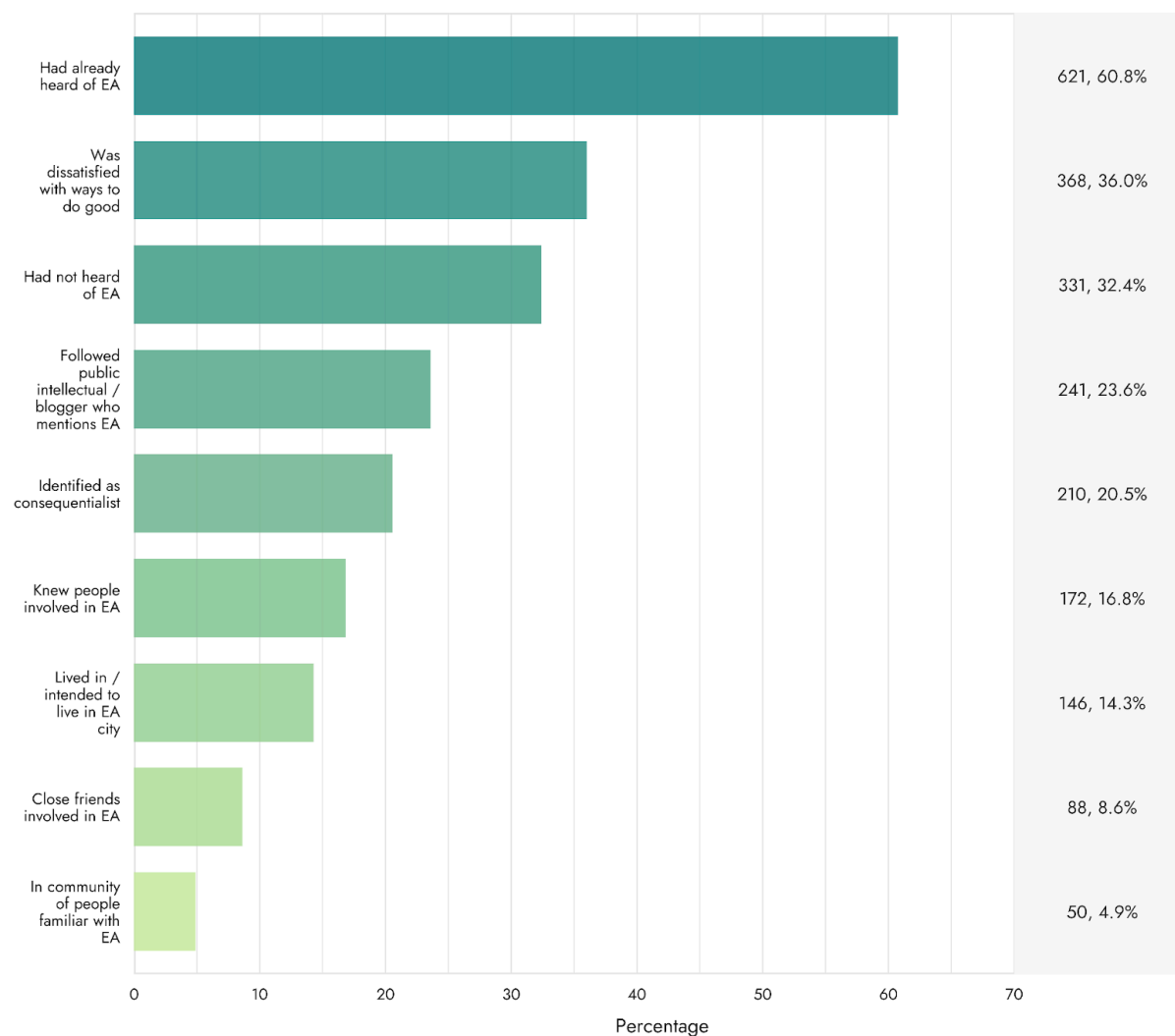## How did people hear of EA depending on *Engagement*?

One for the World removed as only a single, 'No engagement' respondent

Did 80k play a counterfactual role in getting into EA?

At the point when 80,000 Hours played its role in your involvement in effective altruism, which of the following applied to you? (Check all that apply)

What situation were people in regarding EA when they encountered 80k?

Situation	Percentage
Had already heard of EA	621, 60.8%
Was dissatisfied with ways to do good	368, 36.0%
Had not heard of EA	331, 32.4%
Followed public intellectual / blogger who mentions EA	241, 23.6%
Identified as consequentialist	210, 20.5%
Knew people involved in EA	172, 16.8%
Lived in / intended to live in EA city	146, 14.3%
Close friends involved in EA	88, 8.6%
In community of people familiar with EA	50, 4.9%

Percentage

Agree with EA?

Do you broadly agree with the basic ideas behind effective altruism?

Do respondents broadly agree with EA?

|	
Broadly agree	2013, 95.6%
Don't agree	26, 1.2%
Not heard of EA	67, 3.2%

Percentage
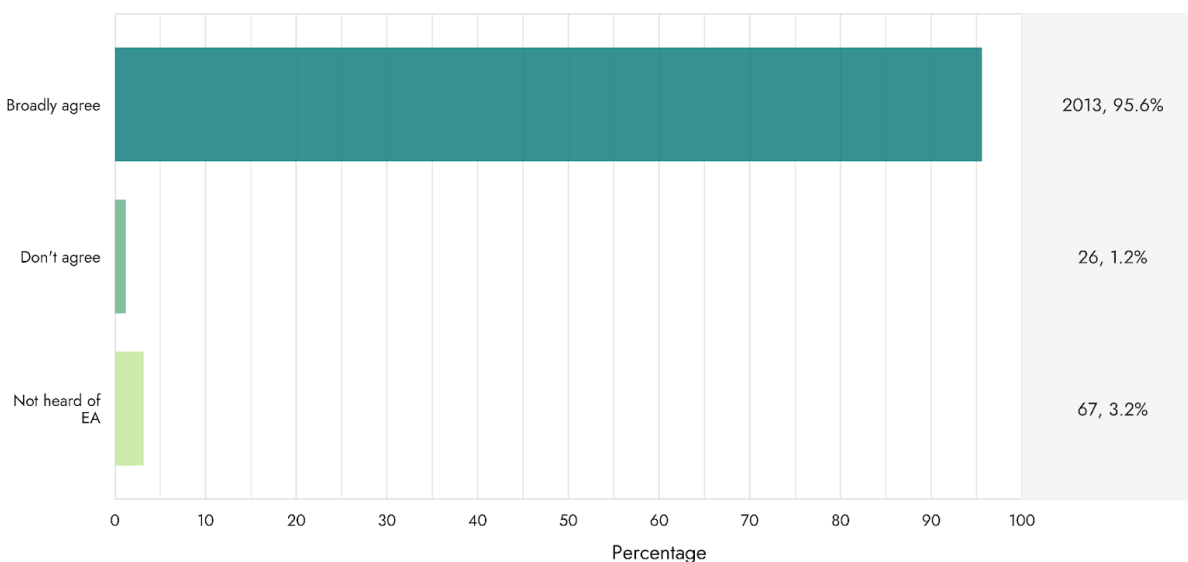
Level of engagement with EA

Which of these categories best describes your relationship with effective altruism?

- **No engagement:** *I've heard of effective altruism, but do not engage with effective altruism content or ideas.*
- **Mild engagement:** *I've engaged with a few articles, videos, podcasts, discussions, or events on effective altruism (e.g. reading Doing Good Better or spending ~5 hours on the 80,000 Hours website).*
- **Moderate engagement:** *I've engaged with multiple articles, videos, podcasts, discussions, or events on effective altruism (e.g. subscribing to The 80,000 Hours Podcast or attending regular events at a local group). I sometimes consider principles of effective altruism when I make decisions about my career or charitable donations.*
- **Considerable engagement:** *I've engaged extensively with effective altruism content (e.g. attending an EA Global conference, applying for career coaching, or organising an EA meetup). I often consider the principles of effective altruism when I make decisions about my career or charitable donations.*
- **High engagement:** *I am heavily involved in the effective altruism community, perhaps helping to lead an EA group or working at an EA-aligned organisation. I make heavy use of the principles of effective altruism when I make decisions about my career or charitable donations.*

Level of Engagement with EA

High	308, 15.4%
Considerable	457, 22.8%
Moderate	685, 34.2%
Mild	474, 23.6%
None	81, 4.0%
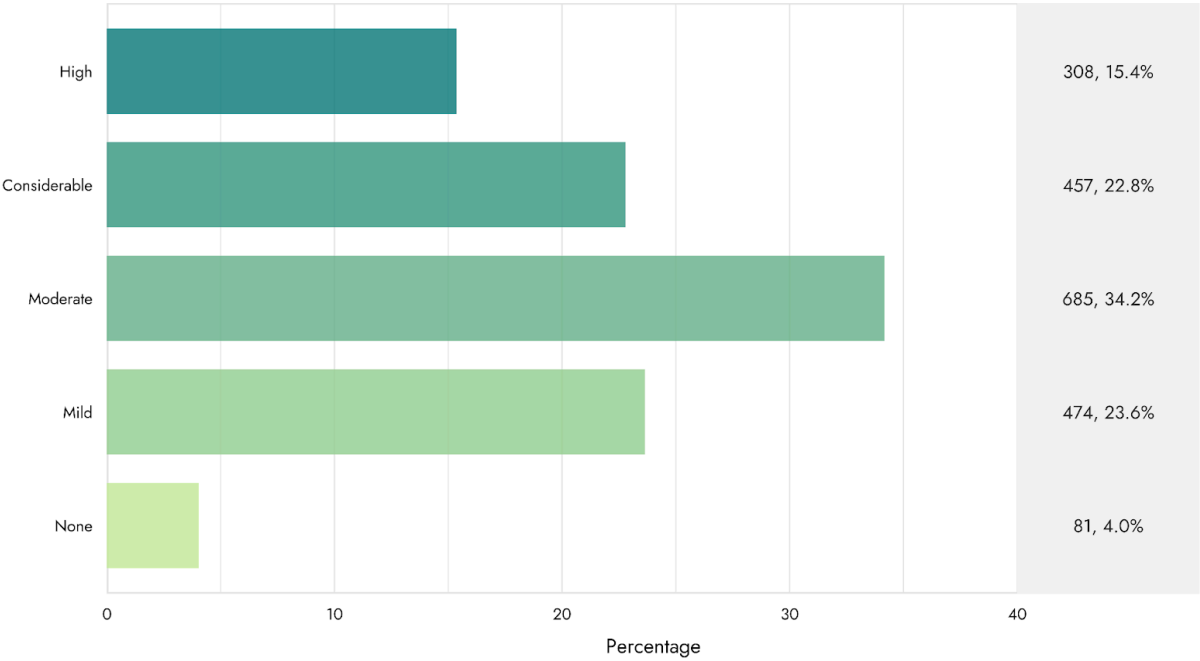
Respondents' cause prioritisation

Which of these problem areas do you currently think are most pressing? (Check all that apply)

What things did people note as the most pressing problems?

Problem	Count, Percentage
AI (technical)	540, 58.8%
AI (policy)	537, 58.5%
X-Risk	520, 56.6%
Climate change	450, 49.0%
Poverty & health (low / middle income)	430, 46.8%
Biorisk reduction	424, 46.2%
Longtermism	390, 42.5%
Building EA	339, 36.9%
Nuclear weapons	334, 36.4%
Global priorities research	331, 36.1%
Institutional decision making	319, 34.7%
Animal welfare	290, 31.6%
Great power conflict	289, 31.5%
Environment / sustainability	274, 29.8%
Peace and international security	264, 28.8%
Civilisational resilience	264, 28.8%
Authoritarianism / corruption	254, 27.7%
Mental health	240, 26.1%
Economic equality	208, 22.7%
Human rights	155, 16.9%
Refugees and immigration	146, 15.9%
Equality (gender, race, LGBTQ)	121, 13.2%
Poverty & health (high income)	89, 9.7%
Space governance	78, 8.5%
Other	57, 6.2%

Percentage