

LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDERS



Dear Fireside Community,

We are deeply honored to provide you with this impact report for the first year of the Psychedelic Peer Support Line.


We conceived of Fireside Project as a key to unlocking the transformational and healing potential of psychedelics by offering every single person in the United States, and eventually, the whole world access to free, culturally attuned peer-to-peer support as they navigate their psychedelic experiences.


We're so proud to report to you that during our first year, we've made huge strides towards this goal. Since our launch on April 14, 2021, we've had 2,550 conversations with people during and after their psychedelic experiences; we've trained over 100 volunteers; and we've provided 13,000 hours of psychedelic support. Each conversation was a miracle in its own way, making a real difference in someone's life. We invite you to look at the two appendices to this report, where we share some truly heart-warming testimonials from our callers, as well detailed statistics about the first year of the first-ever national psychedelic peer support line.

Another milestone was the launch of our Equity Initiative, which will create generative pathways for diverse healers to flourish and thrive in the psychedelic field. We're now in the process of hiring our first Affinity Cohort, which will consist of 40 BIPOC, transgender, and military veteran volunteers. Starting on June 23, callers with those identities will have the choice to process past psychedelic experiences with someone sharing their identity. We'll then help those volunteers pursue careers in the psychedelic field through grants from our Equity Fund and through universities and training programs lowering or eliminating tuition.

Our hearts are aglow with gratitude for the community of beautiful souls who helped this project launch and thrive: our staff, support-line volunteers, Advisory Board, mentors, Ambassadors and Spark Team members, community partners, in-kind supporters, corporate members, donors, and countless others. Each of you keeps the fire burning, and we could not be more thankful to you.

In community,


Joshua White
Founder and Executive Director


Hanifa Nayo Washington
Co-Founder and Chief of Strategy

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR FIRST YEAR

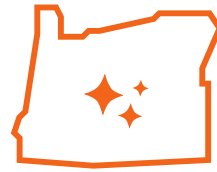
“ I felt like I was talking to a friend who made me feel safer than I've felt in years.
- Caller Testimonial ”



**2,550
conversations**

**.93% of callers
reported feeling
seen, supported
and understood^{***}**

**.95% of callers
would recommend
Fireside Project
to others^{***}**



**12% of callers
from Oregon**



**13,000
volunteer hours**

**100+
volunteers
trained**

**600+
volunteer
applications**



**7,500 mobile app
downloads**

***DATA FROM ANONYMOUS POST-CALL SURVEY CONDUCTED AS PART OF OUR STUDY WITH DR. JOE ZAMARIA (UCSF), DR. MOLLIE PLEET (UCSF), AND DR. RACHEL YEHUDA (MT. SINAI/VA)

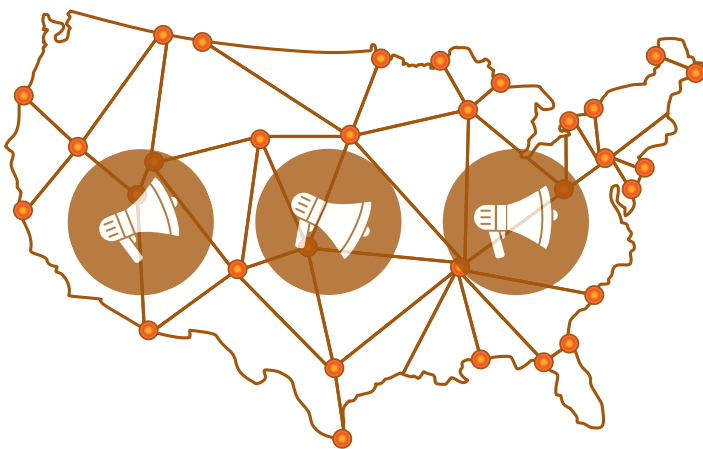
HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR FIRST YEAR

continued...



Equity Initiative Launched!

We announced the launch of our Equity Initiative! Starting on June 23, 2022, callers who are BIPOC, transgender, and/or military veterans will be able to process past psychedelic experiences with a volunteer sharing their identity. Volunteers who complete a year of service will be eligible for grants from our Equity Fund; scholarships from Naropa University, MAPS PBC, and CIIS; free courses from Psychedelic.Support and Fluence; research internships with Dr. Robin Carhart-Harris (UCSF); Dr. Monnica T. Williams (Univ. Ottawa); and Dr. Chris Stauffer (Oregon Health Sciences Univ.); and more!



Speaking Out!

We spoke at 17 conferences or panels, including Horizons in New York City, Meet Delic in Las Vegas, and Wonderland in Miami.

We appeared on nine podcasts, including Psychoactive, Plant Medicine Podcast, Psychedelic Leadership, Maya Health's Psychedelic Therapy, and Psychedelic Grad



Press Coverage

Our work was featured in Forbes, Esquire, Rolling Stone, TechCrunch, Double Blind, Lucid News, MAPS Bulletin, Free Think, The Microdose, Mashable, Chacruna Institute, Mad in America, San Francisco Chronicle, Truffle Report, Psychedelic Times, Brookings, Benzinga, and more!



OUR RESEARCH POTENTIAL

Because we speak to thousands of people during and after their experiences on a range of psychedelics, we are uniquely positioned as a research platform to produce impactful studies leading to safer, more healing psychedelic experiences. In our first year, we're proud of the strides we've made towards realizing that potential.

With Dr. Rachel Yehuda (Mt. Sinai/VA), Dr. Mollie Pleet (UCSF), and Dr. Joseph Zamaria (UCSF), we have submitted for peer review our first study exploring whether Fireside Project reduces reliance on emergency services and lowers the risks sometimes associated with the unsupervised consumption of psychedelics in non-clinical settings.

We are in the midst of two additional Institutional Review Board processes:

- A forthcoming study with Durham University Professor of Anthropology Dr. Tehseen Noorani will explore the history of peer support within and adjacent to the Western medical model, and the place of Fireside Project and psychedelic peer support within that lineage
- Anonymous, aggregated data from the Psychedelic Peer Support Line will be used in a study by University of Ottawa Professor Dr. Monnica T. Williams and Joseph de la Torre exploring the experiences of people who have experienced psychosis and consume psychedelics in non-clinical contexts

We anticipate conducting at least five more studies in the coming year:

- Four of those studies will arise out of our Equity Initiative. We will explore whether the option for our callers to speak to someone sharing their identity affects healing outcomes, risk mitigation, and the likelihood of using the support line. This series of questions will be explored for callers who are BIPOC, transgender, and military veterans. We will work with Dr. Monnica T. Williams (Univ. of Ottawa), Dr. Chris Stauffer (OHSU/VA), and others on these studies
- Another study will explore the role of peer support within the medical model as an option for patients seeking to integrate ketamine experiences.

“

This program is one of the most important developments in the psychedelic space.

- Dr. Rachel Yehuda

”

LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR SECOND YEAR

Our vision is a Beloved Psychedelic Community, where people of all identities are represented, welcomed, and celebrated. We plan to move towards that vision with great leaps and bounds during the Psychedelic Peer Support Line's second year of operation. Here are some of the milestones we plan to reach:

5,000 Conversations

We hope to double the number of conversations we have on the Psychedelic Peer Support Line. We'll do this through the development of our outreach infrastructure and community partnerships.

Offer Affinity Integration Circles

We will offer free monthly integration circles for people who are BIPOC, transgender, or military veterans.

Launch our Psychedelic Citizenship Course

Through this two-day, experiential training program, we'll empower our community with the skills needed to thrive in a psychedelic world. This includes the basics of psychedelic peer support, including how to hold space for someone during and after psychedelic experiences. We'll also explore with people the impact of the war on drugs and how to liberate ourselves from its effects.

Launch of Affinity Peer Integration Service

Starting on June 23, 2022, 100% of callers who are BIPOC, transgender, or military veteran will have the choice to process a past psychedelic experience with a volunteer sharing their identity.

Become the Standard of Care for Psychedelic Integration

We will partner with ketamine clinics to provide round-the-clock, on-demand peer support in the days and weeks after ketamine experiences. We believe this service will set a new standard of care for psychedelic integration, starting with ketamine.

A New and Improved Mobile App

We will launch an updated mobile app that will include new features and educational materials, as well as a platform for our callers to access our Affinity Peer Integration Service.

“ YOU SAVED MY LIFE. LITERALLY. ”
- Caller Testimonial

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Our hearts overflow with gratitude for our donors. Each and every one of you took a chance on a brand-new psychedelic organization with a bold vision to help create a psychedelic community that honors these beautiful medicines. Thank you for believing in us.



Founding Donor



Dr. Bronner's

\$25,000 and above



Anonymous, Michael and Lisa Cotton, Wild Gifting Project, Alan Fournier, Will Sterling, Jeffrey Walker, Saisei Foundation, Joshua Mattefy, Educational Foundation of America

\$10,000 - \$25,000



Council on Spiritual Practices, River Styx Foundation, Jeff Greenberg, Dr. Rachel Yehuda and Mitch Rothschild, Beckley Psytech, Sandy & Joe Samberg, Evolve Foundation, Kareem Kouddos, Psychedelic Spotlight, Ron Beller, Greg Kieser, Dr. Alan K. Davis, James Bailey

Corporate Members



Psychedelic Spotlight, Synthesis, Return to Nature, Gwella, JLS Fund, Behold Resorts

In-Kind Supporters



Be Serene, Holland & Knight, IHPR, Integration Communications, Kush Queen, Ozzo, Slack, Wokeface

Under \$10,000



Stefany Nieto	Shlomi Raz	Casey Brown	Jason Eftink
Jessie Kasper	Sarah Hashkes	Amanda Khan	Katrina Briddell
Alex Blunk	John Roedel	Helen Morris	David Bunce
Rachel Entwistle	Brian Davidson	Sarah O'Connell	Oliver Hack
John Komp	Brandon Pennington	Amy Dabner	Jimmy Nguyen
Michael Dodge	Daniel Goldberg	Gabrielle Cyr	Shelby Strait
Lord Doa	Will Garner	Jacob Wilson	Alice Casella
Sophie Jacobs	Lydia Lee	Nathan Maingard	John Lamarre
Rebecca Kimball	Eric Van Arsdell	Benjamin Culver	Fiona Klaassen
Esmeralda Lopez	Viraj Sinha	Sherri Margolin	Al Faustino
Vicoool Patel	Neelofer Hilal	Terry Turner	Adam Phillips
Lori Cookston	Kim Ferizi	Marjorie Sturm	Monty Flinsch
Laura George	Ethan Houston	Erin McClure	Steev Terry
Meredith Thomas	Wes Harrison	Adam Schindler	Moshe Jacobson
Chris Cook	Claus Conrad	Nathan Leavitt	Yicela Alvarado
Garrett Krahn	Bryce Gardner	Zachary Rappaport	Adam R. Kretz
Joshua Sheikh	Brady Anderson	Marie Schoppen	Lindsay Veenstra
Shaunta Washington	Haje Kamps	Alyssa Bec	Daniel Sapoznick
Krisu Capa	Erin Sheridan	Dezne Frasier	Robin Divine
Eli Ekstein	David Flores	Kathy Altman	Theresa Svoboda
Angela Hartley	Ahmad Elsayed	Heather Jorissen	Molly Hart
Andrea Silverman	Catalina Robles	Daniel Shkolnik	Luke Pustejovsky
Melinda Hubbard	Jeremy Tunnell	Kenneth Jønck	Miranda Dunlop
Aaron Wilcox	Brian Phillips	Micah Bernat	Ellen Shapiro &
Dan Schwartz	John Lamarre	Stephanie Forrand	Meriel Lindley
Aaron Ketzenberger	John Moos	Ralph Mylvey	Jonathan Kenerson
Caroline Lilley	Stephanie Roberts	John Lovejoy	Katy Redfield-Marino
Kyle Stark	Robert Roesler	Nathan Owens	David Lowry Whitt
Joyce Lin-Conrad & Mark Conrad	Jason Sisson	Rachel Garst	Sandra Dreisbach
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Alan Cummings	Kurt Bocker	Katie Walker	Lori Cookston
Seth Kaufman	Tom Ebert	David Flores	Ken Gordon
Michael-Ann Matticoli	Jennifer Bullock	James Acer	Rachel Scriven
Elizabeth Peters	Rachael Gomez	Briana Torres	Lora Sasiela
	Justin Roy	Tyler Norris	Alex Woodhurst
	Anthony Rogers	Jonathan Arnold	

“ My conversation with Fireside Project changed the course of my night...and quite possibly my LIFE. The volunteer was very understanding, patient, and compassionate. You could tell she had been where I was before, and let me know that what I was experiencing was a normal part of the healing process. ”

- Caller Testimonial



MISSION

Our mission is to help people minimize the risks and fulfill the potential of their psychedelic experiences in ways such as providing compassionate, accessible, and culturally responsive peer support, educating the public, and furthering psychedelic research, while embracing practices that increase equity, power sharing, and belonging within the psychedelic movement.

VISION

Our vision, our true north is a Beloved Psychedelic Community where people of all identities are represented, welcomed, and celebrated. They have the skills to keep each other safe and support each other as they navigate their psychedelic experiences. In this Beloved Psychedelic Community, people can fulfill the potential of their psychedelic experiences, leading to healthier, more interconnected, more joyous lives.

OUR NAME

The name "Fireside Project" was inspired by the feeling of sitting around a fire, experiencing a sense of community, connection, and openness. As long as people have been people, we've gathered together around the flames. Warming our hands and hearts, we've celebrated, mourned, feasted, danced, shared stories, and of course, journeyed. At Fireside Project, we look to our shared ancestry beside the fire as a way to light our path forward to a more loving, interconnected world.

www.firesideproject.org 

info@firesideproject.org 

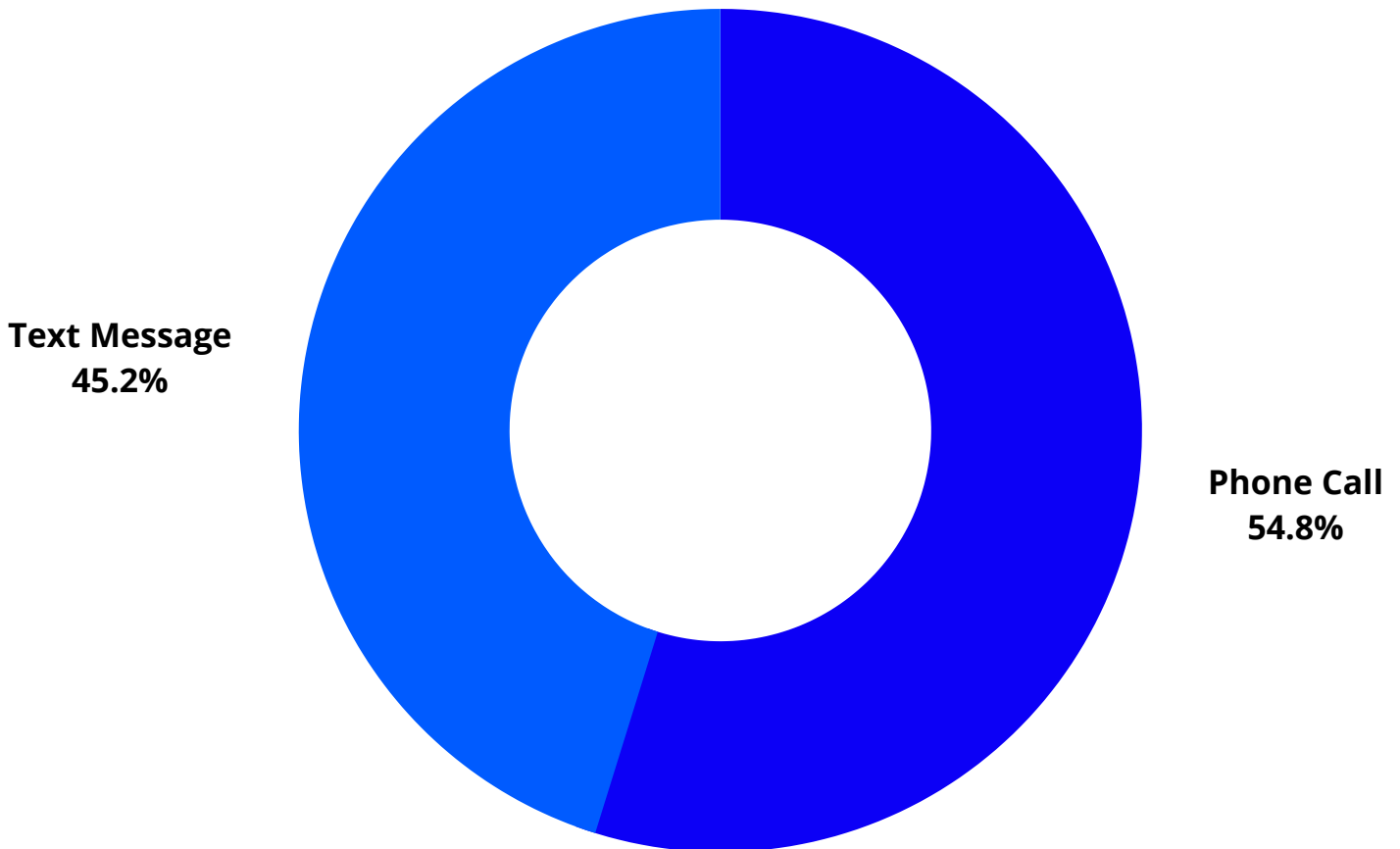
[@firesideproject](https://www.instagram.com/firesideproject) 

APPENDIX A

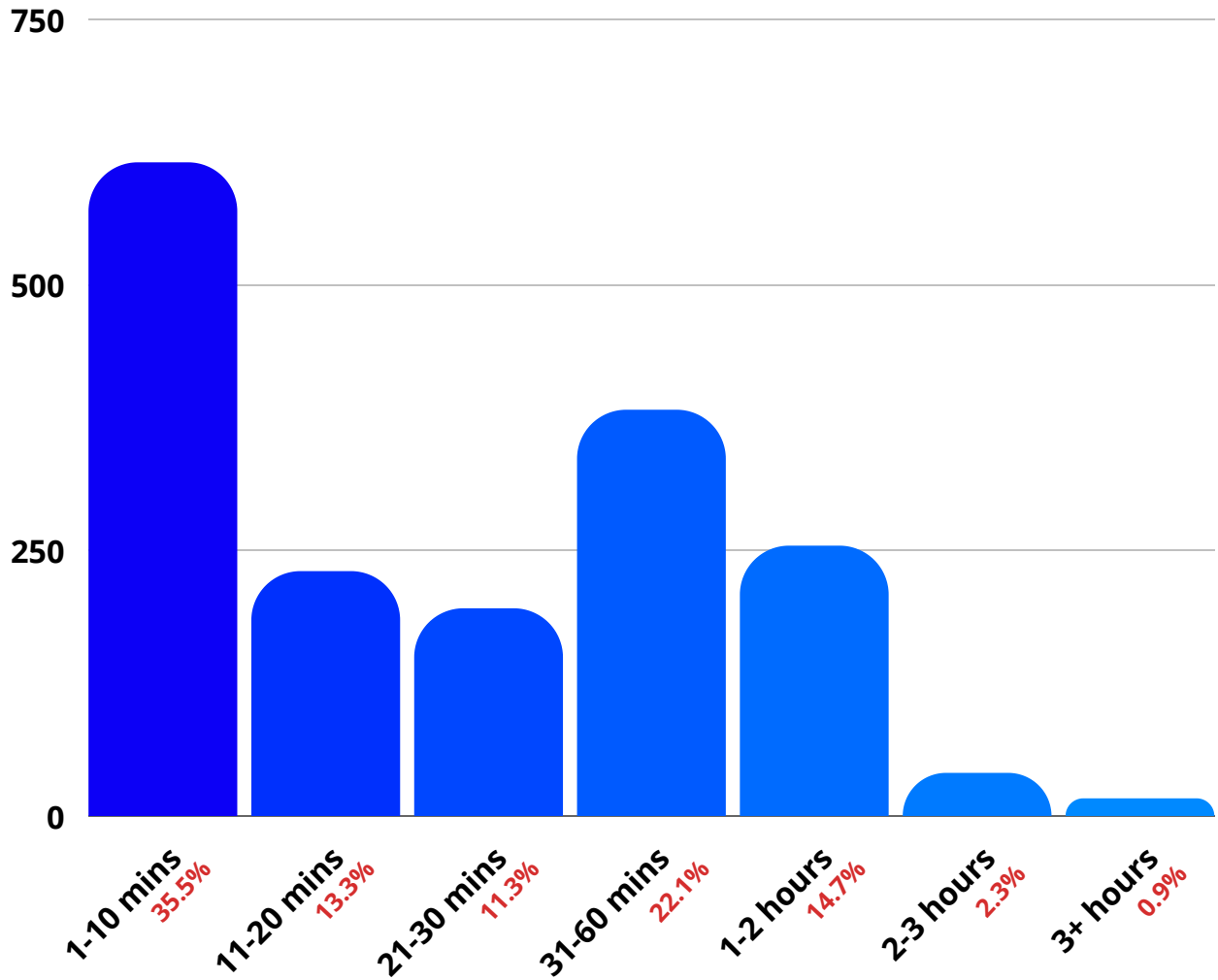
PSYCHEDELIC PEER SUPPORT LINE APRIL 14, 2021 - APRIL 12, 2022

2,550 CONVERSATIONS

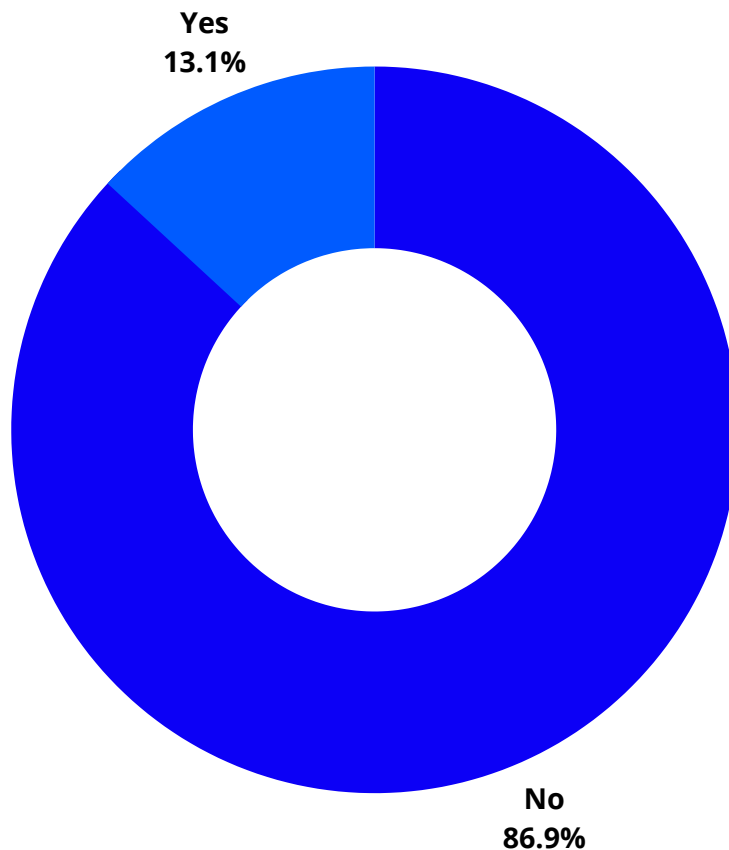
Did the conversation occur by phone or text message?



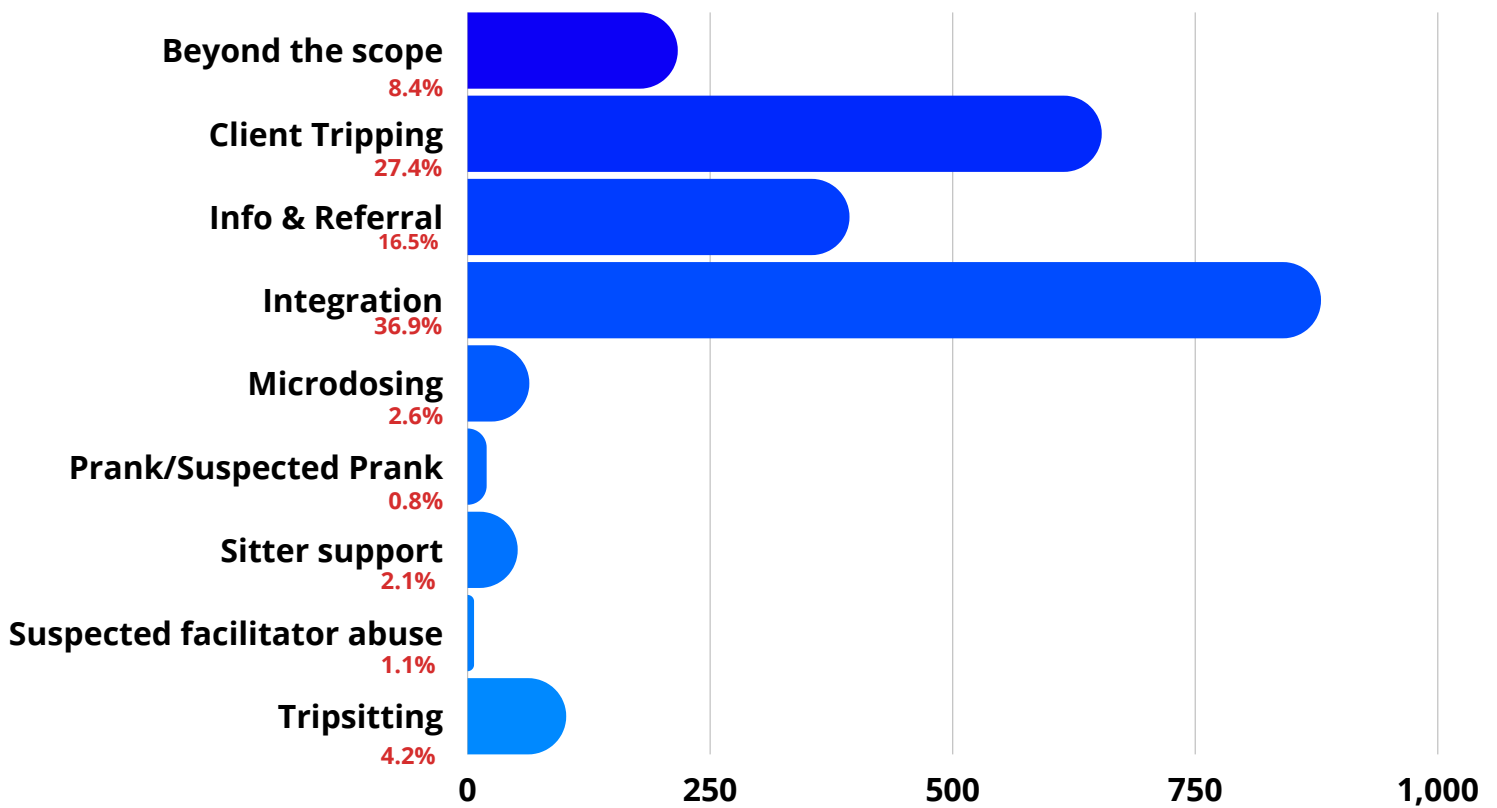
Duration of conversation



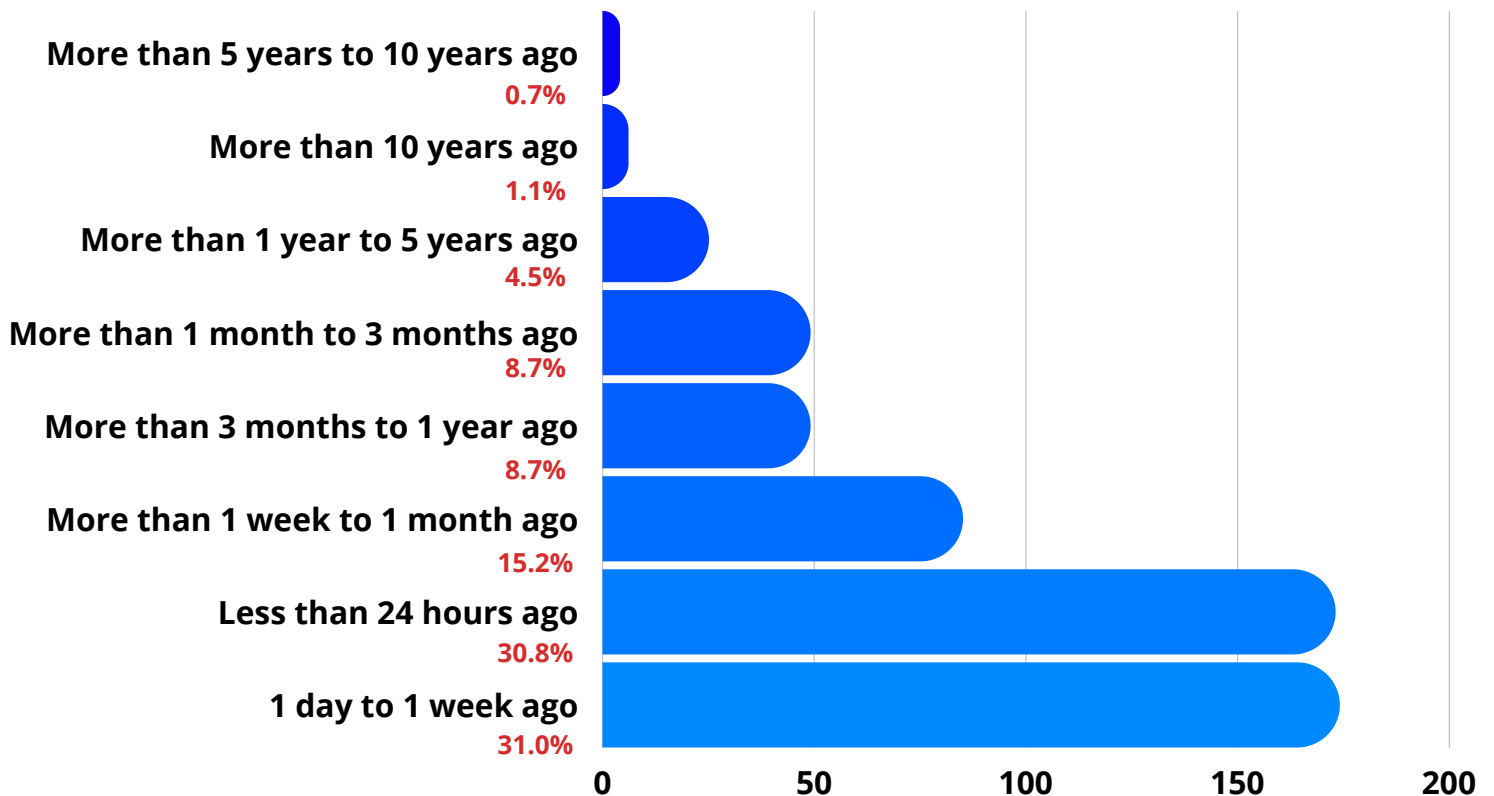
Was this the callers first time trying psychedelics?



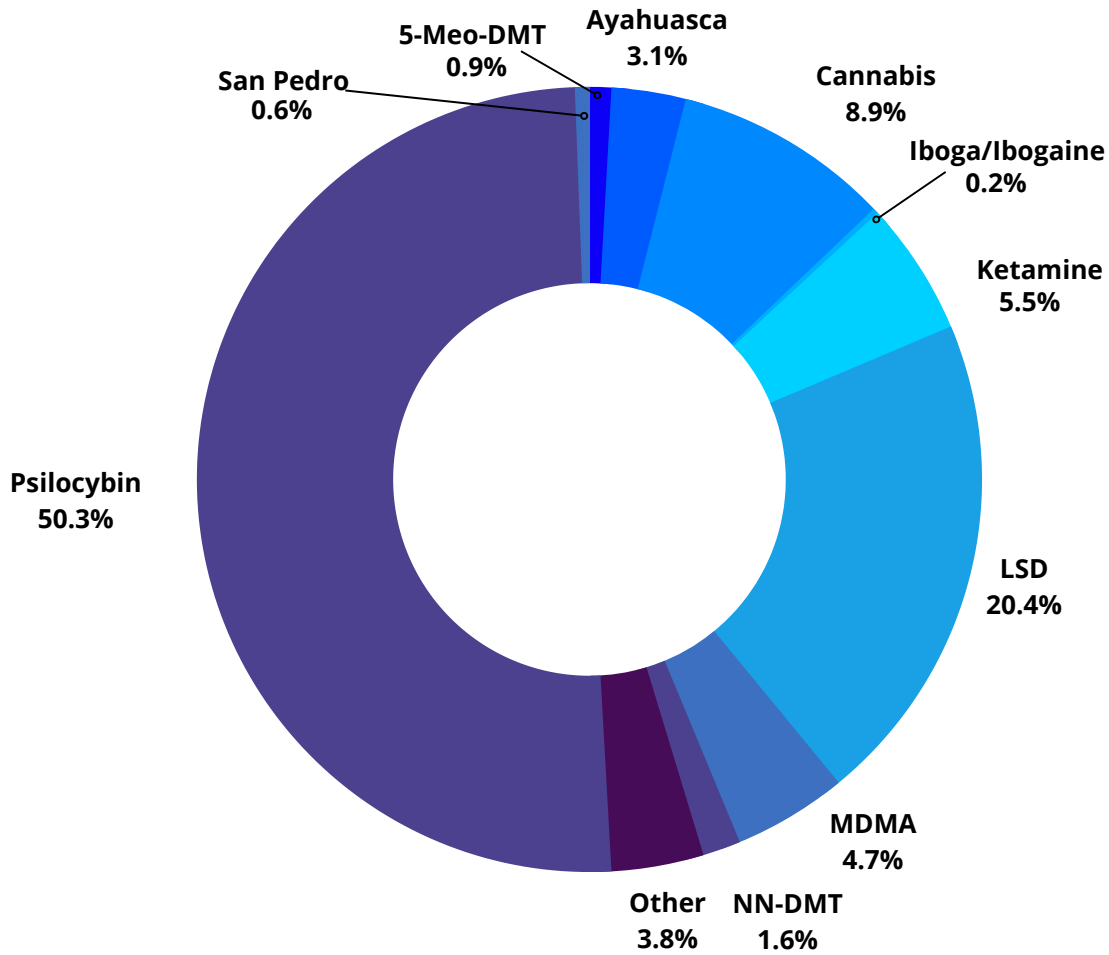
Type of conversation?



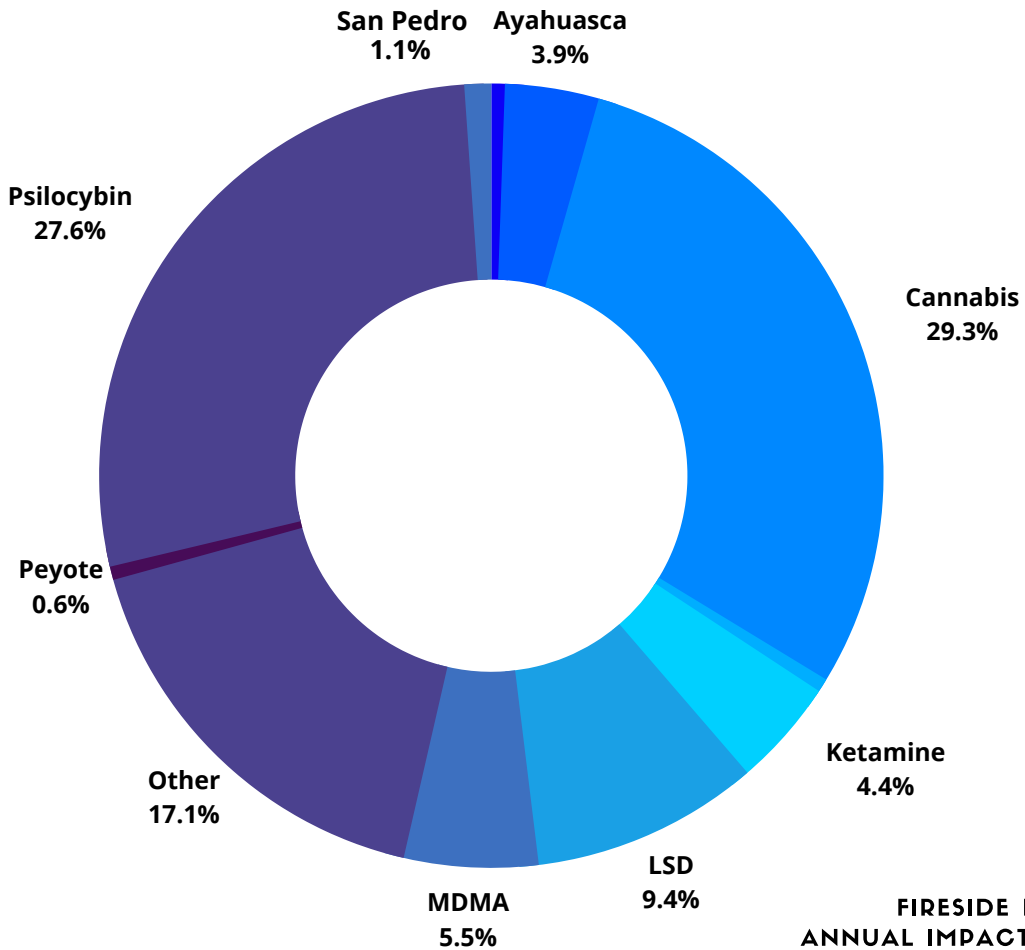
For integration calls, how long ago was the trip?



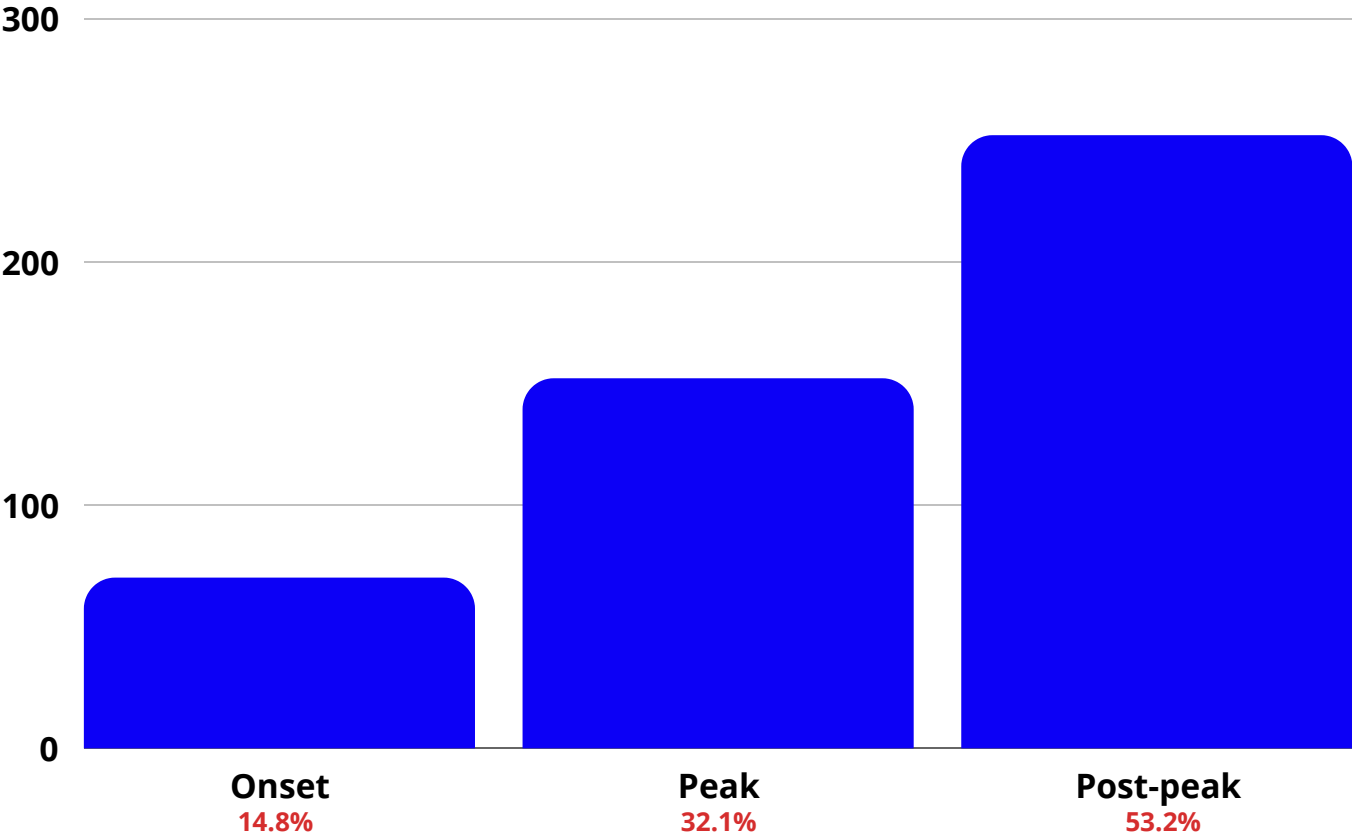
First substance consumed



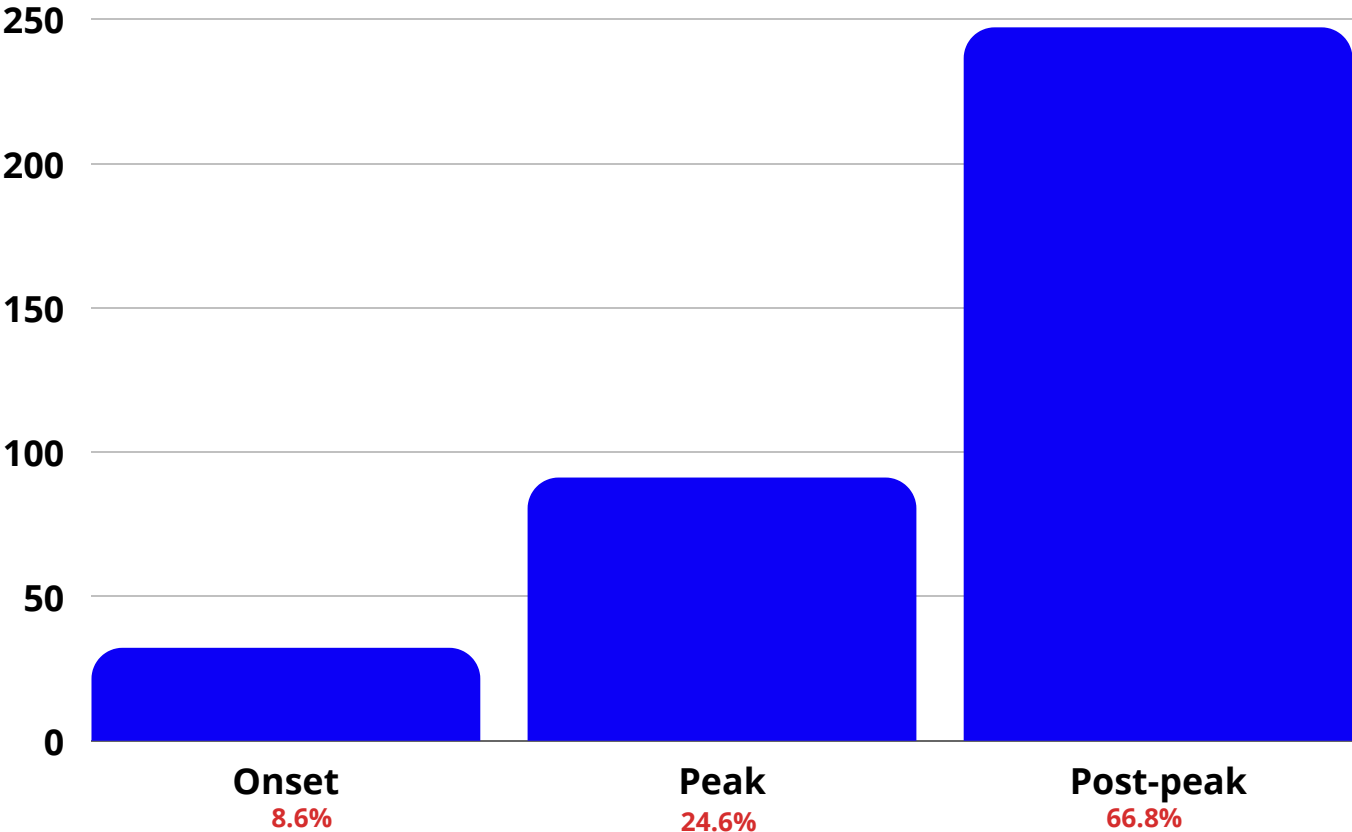
Second substance consumed



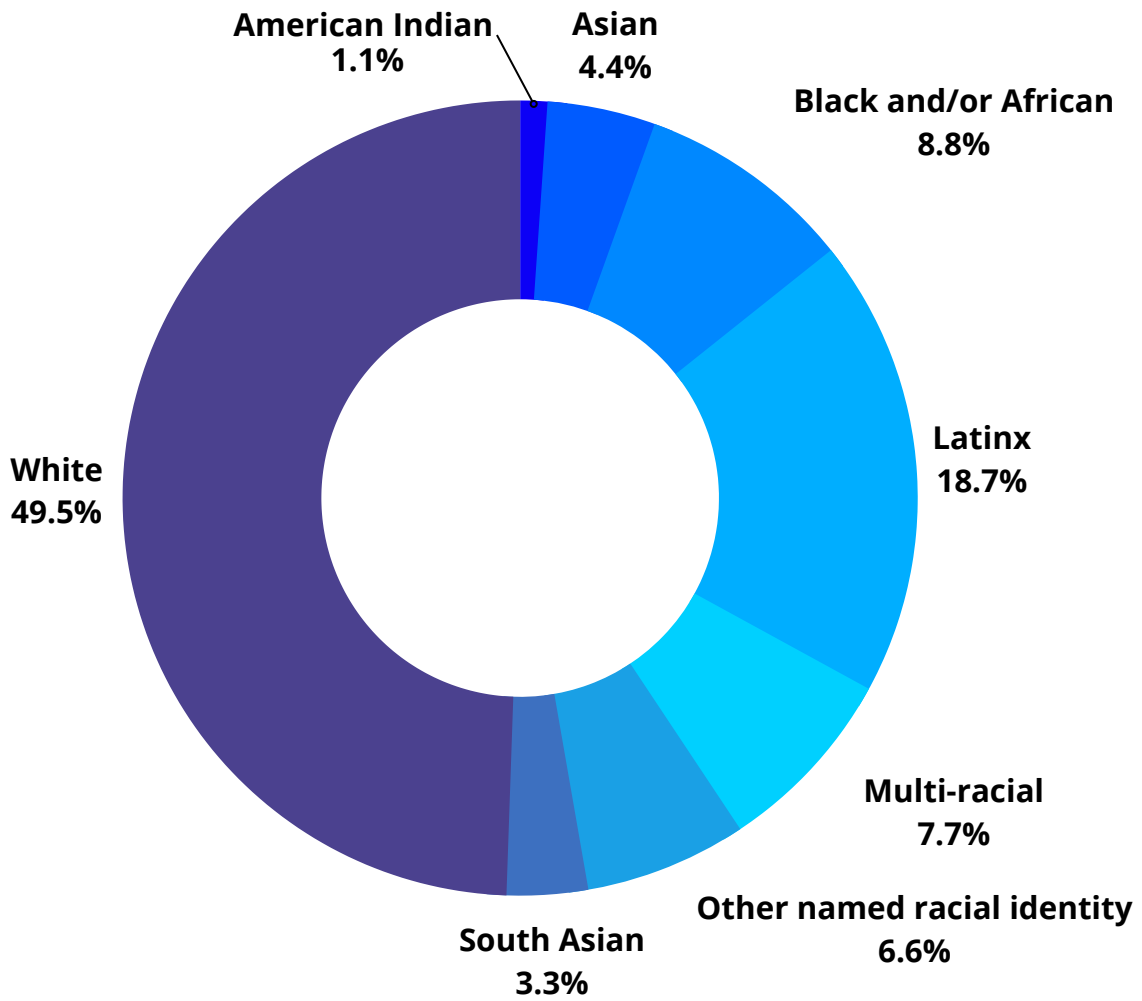
Where in the trip was the caller at the **start** of the call?



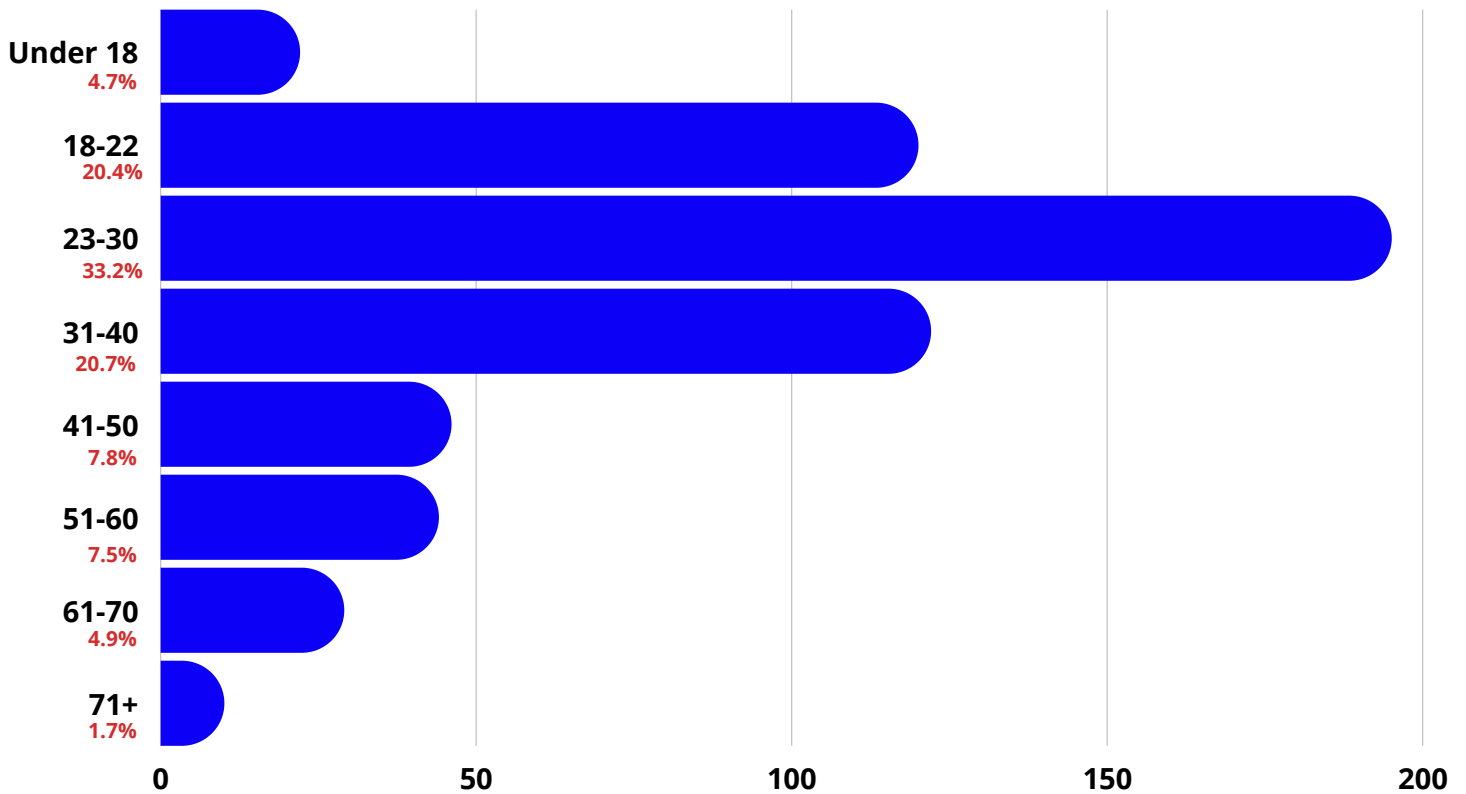
Where in the trip was the caller at the **end** of the call?



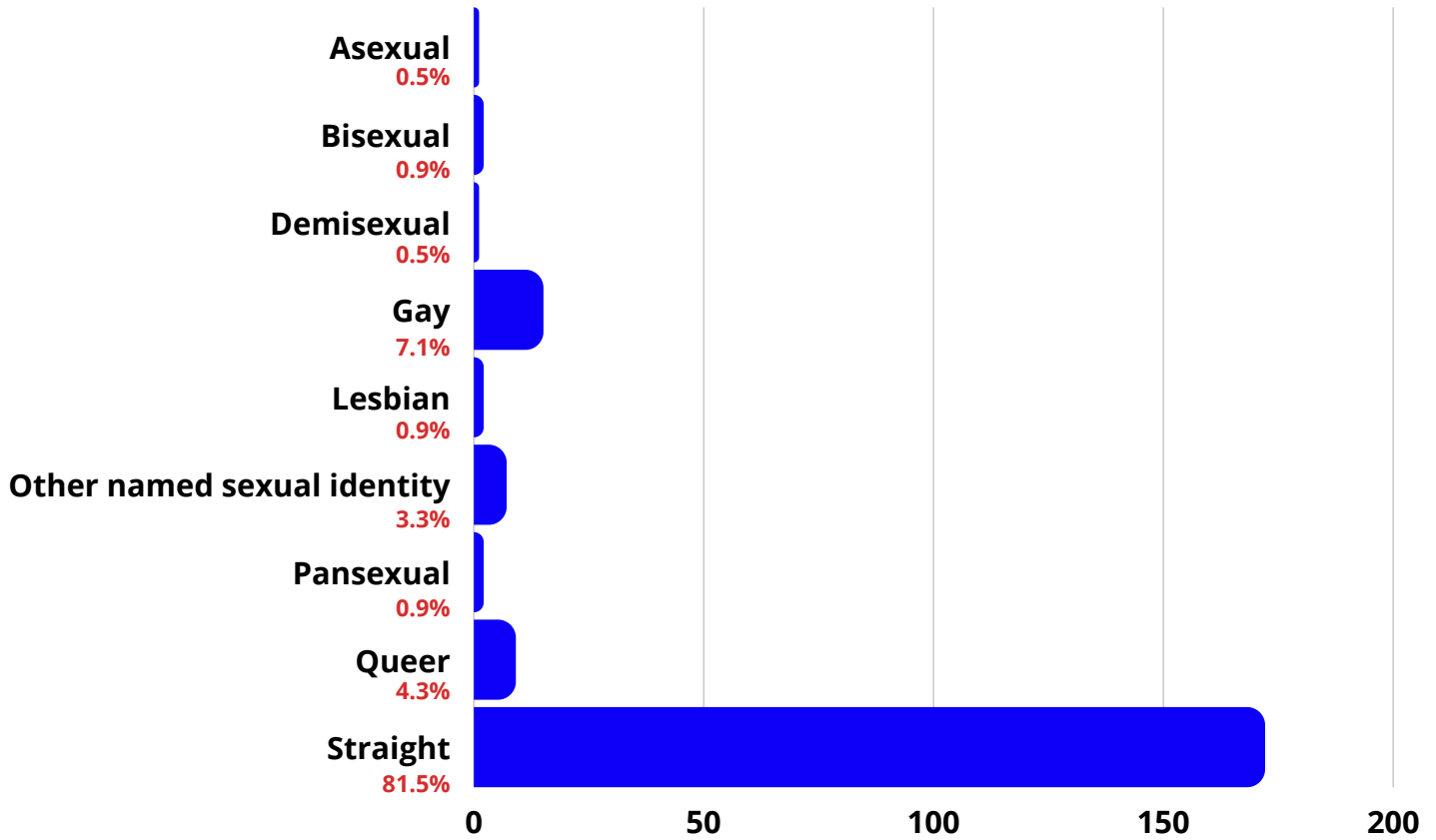
Caller's Race/Ethnicity



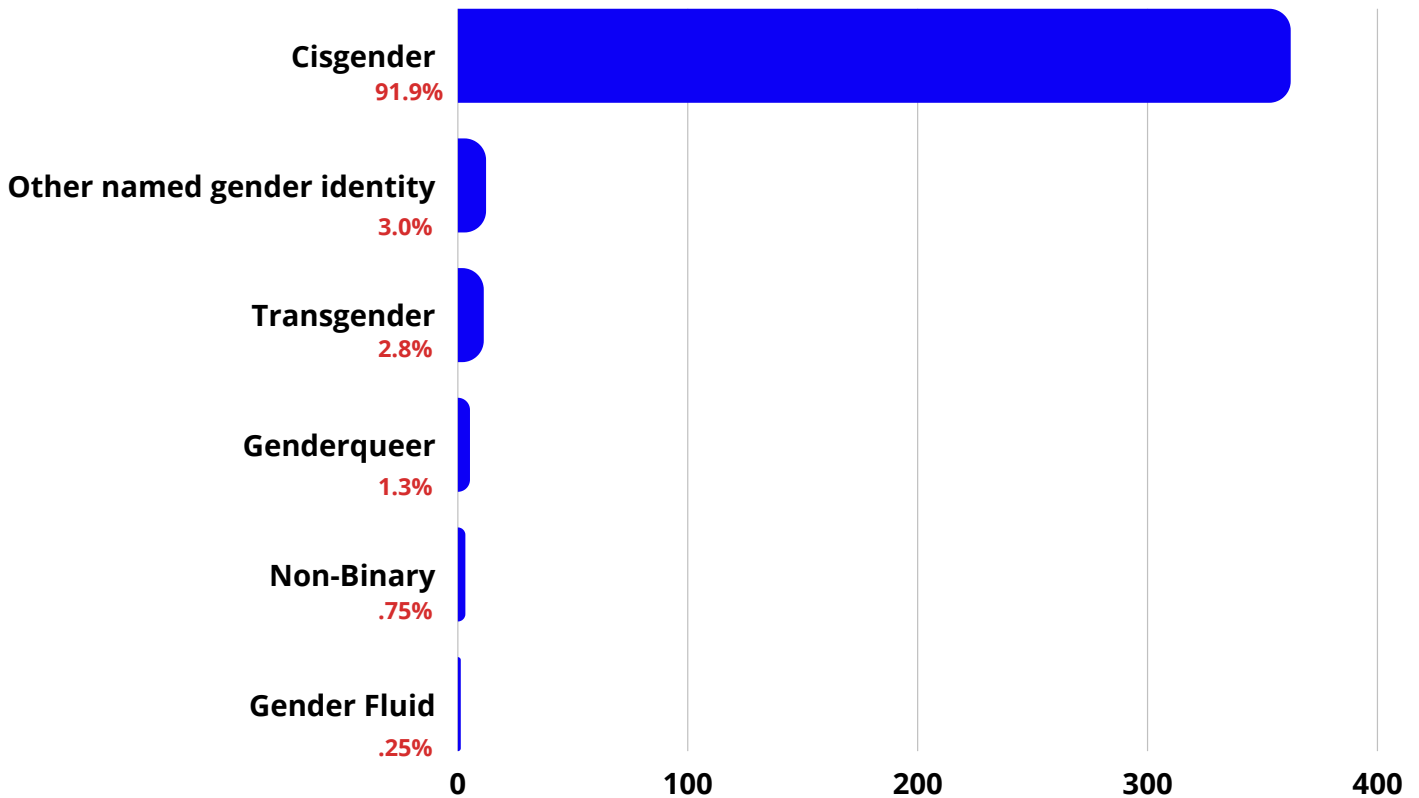
Caller's age



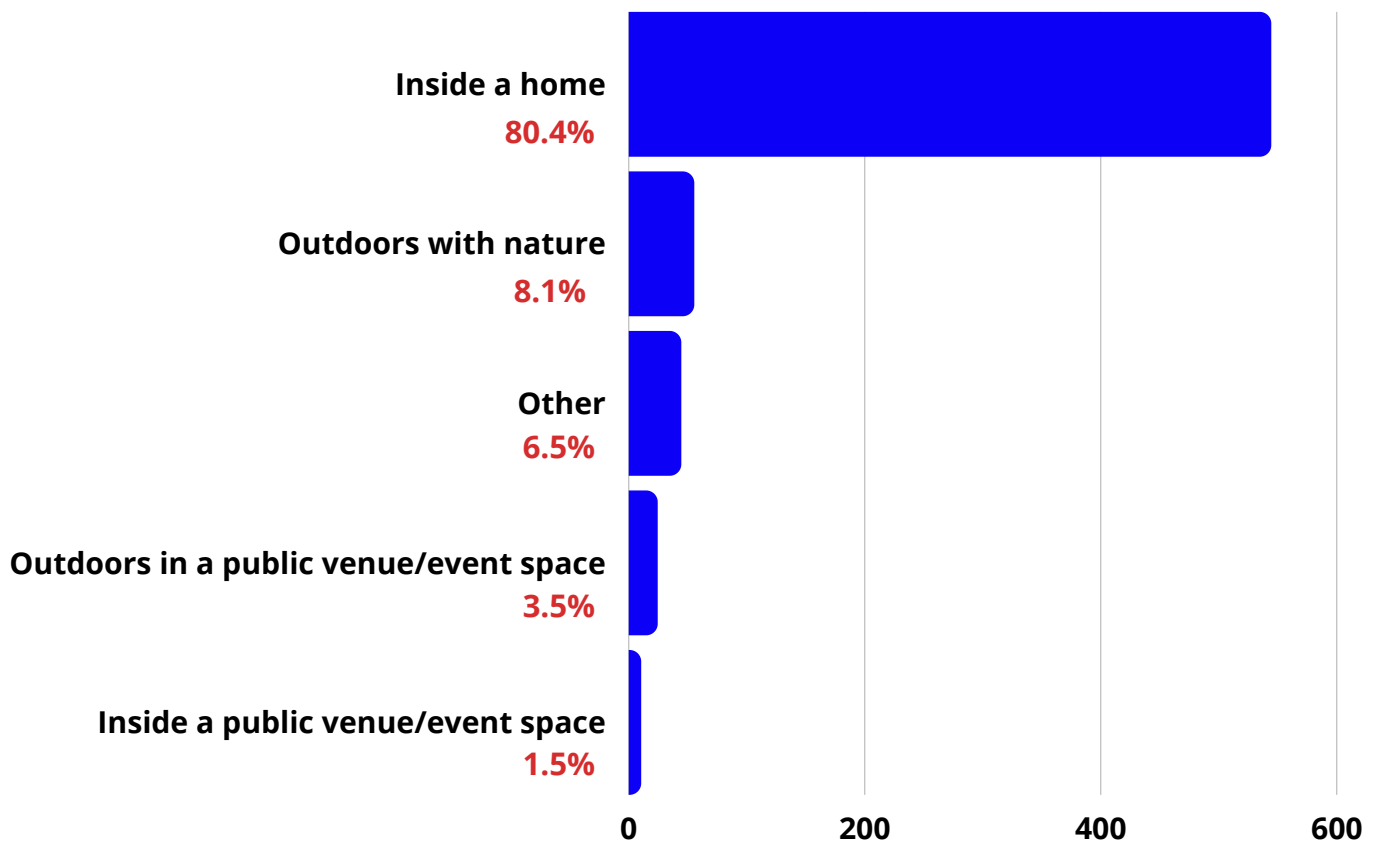
Caller's Sexual Orientation



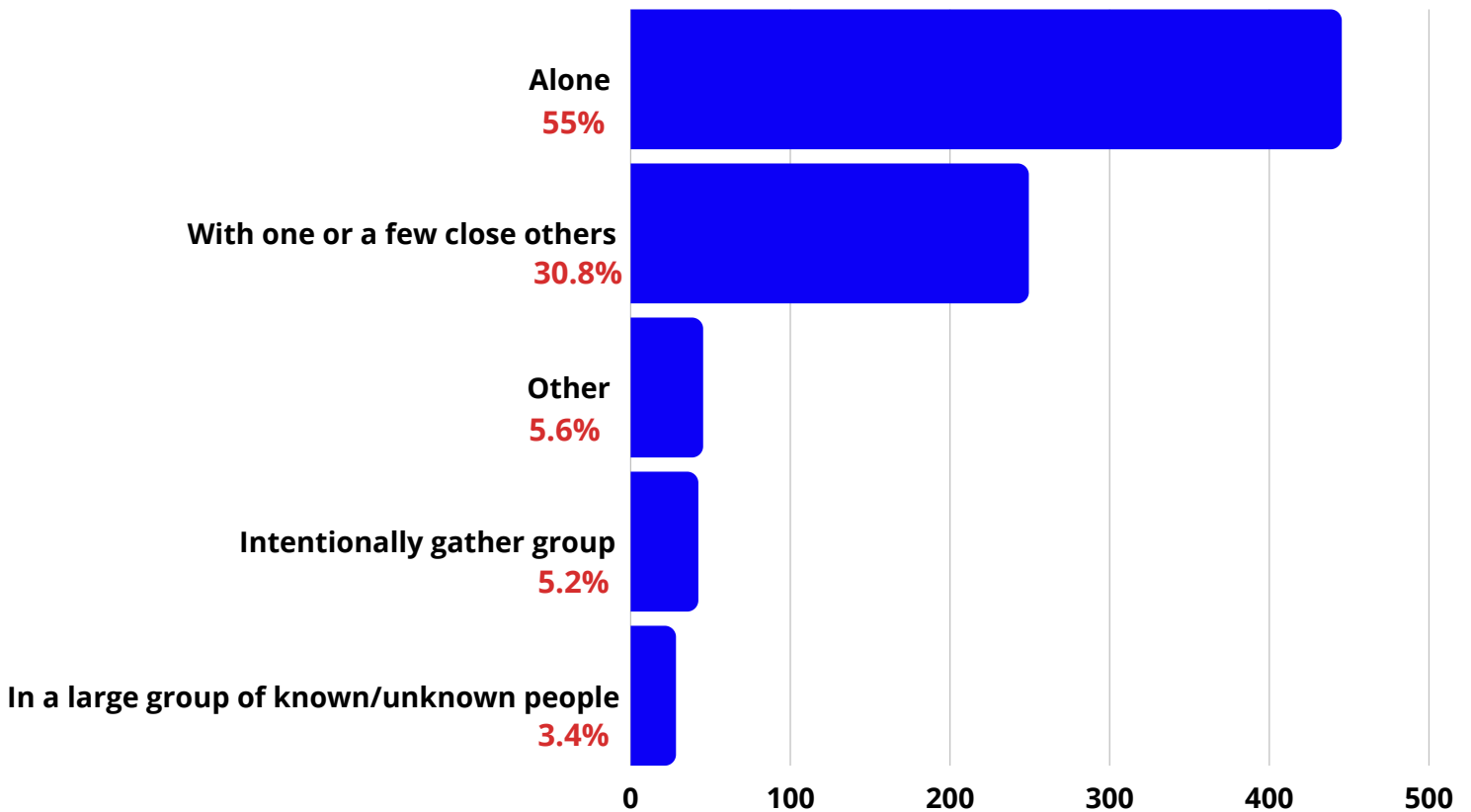
Caller's gender



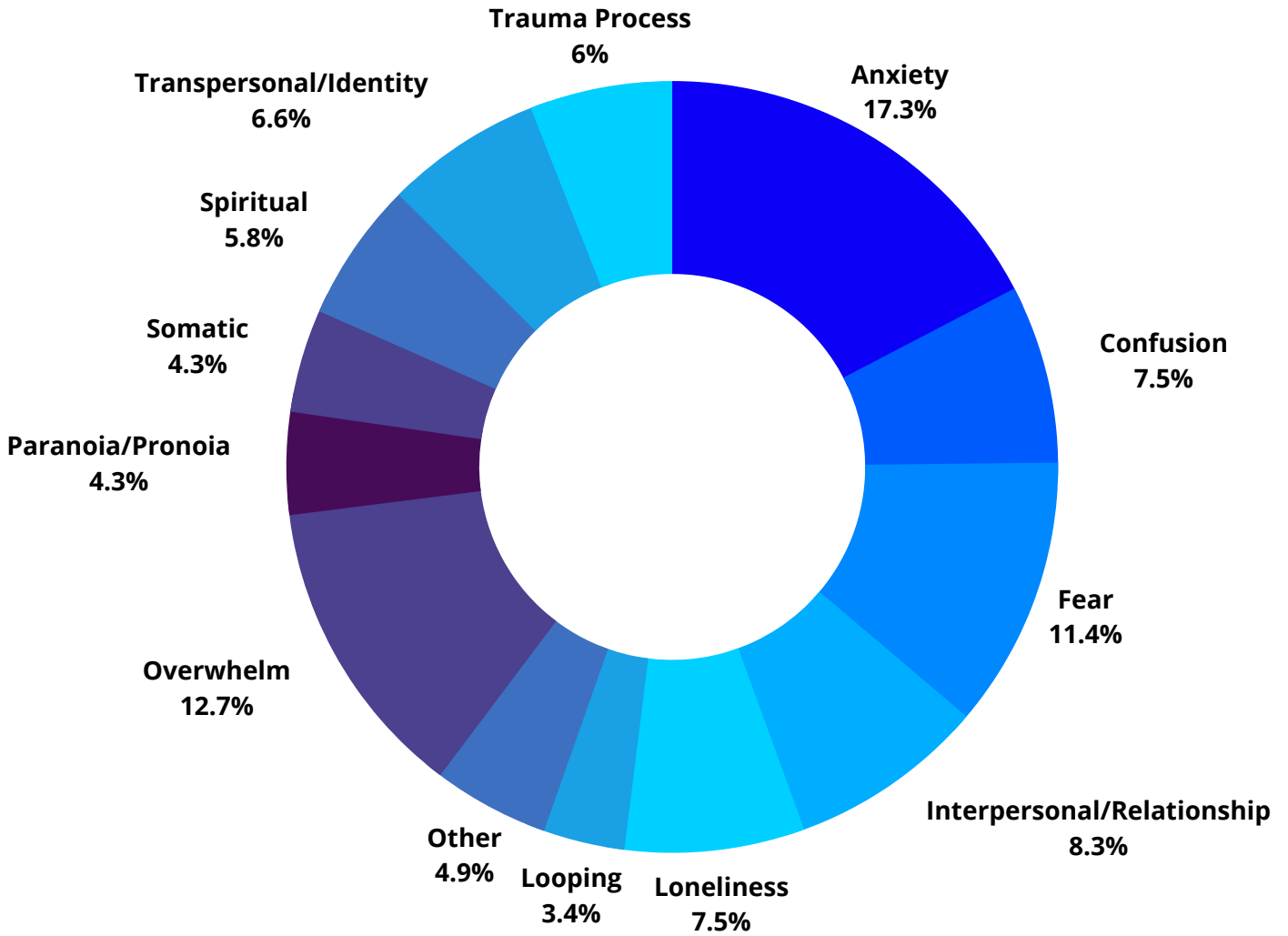
Environment



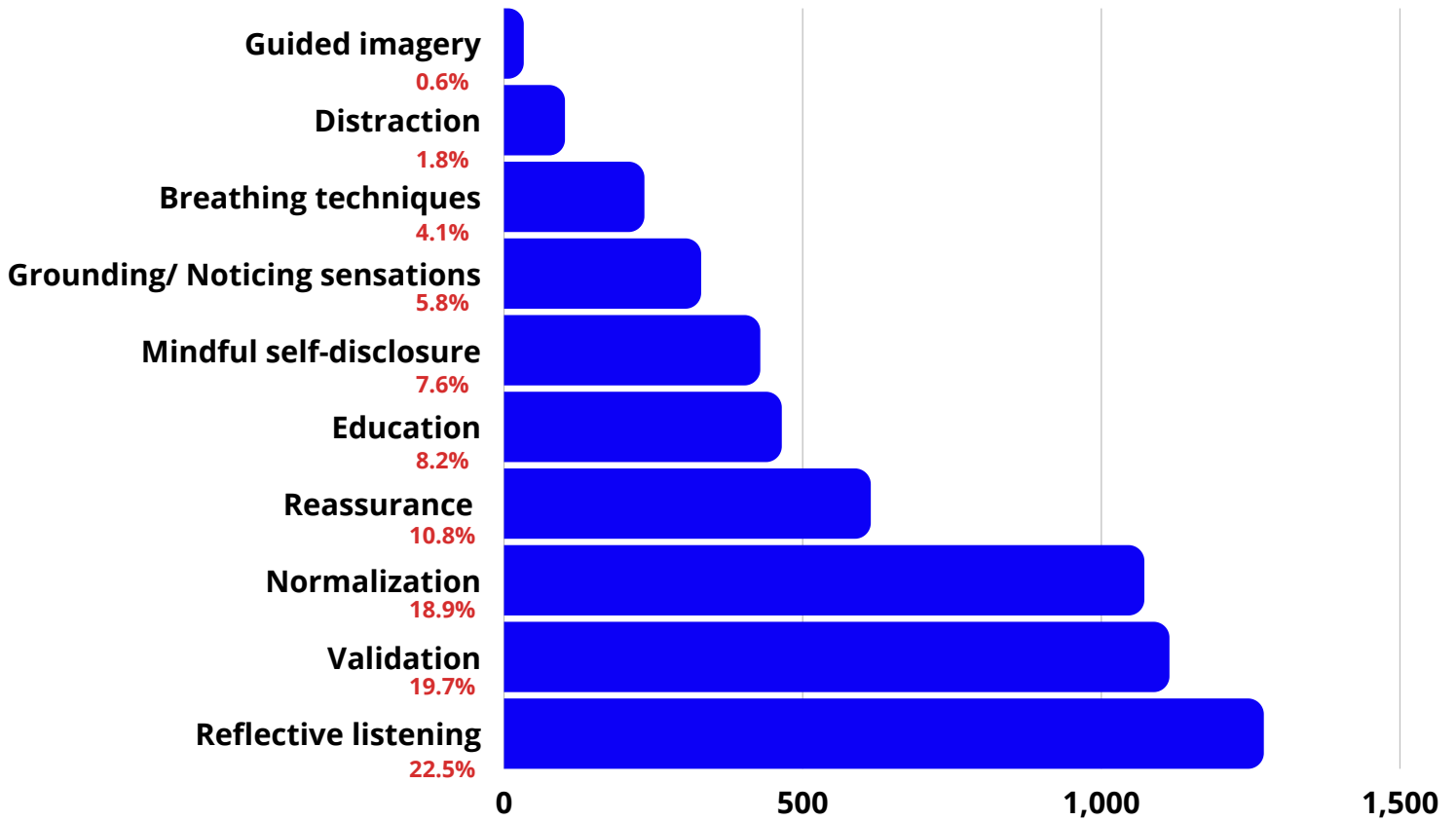
Social Context



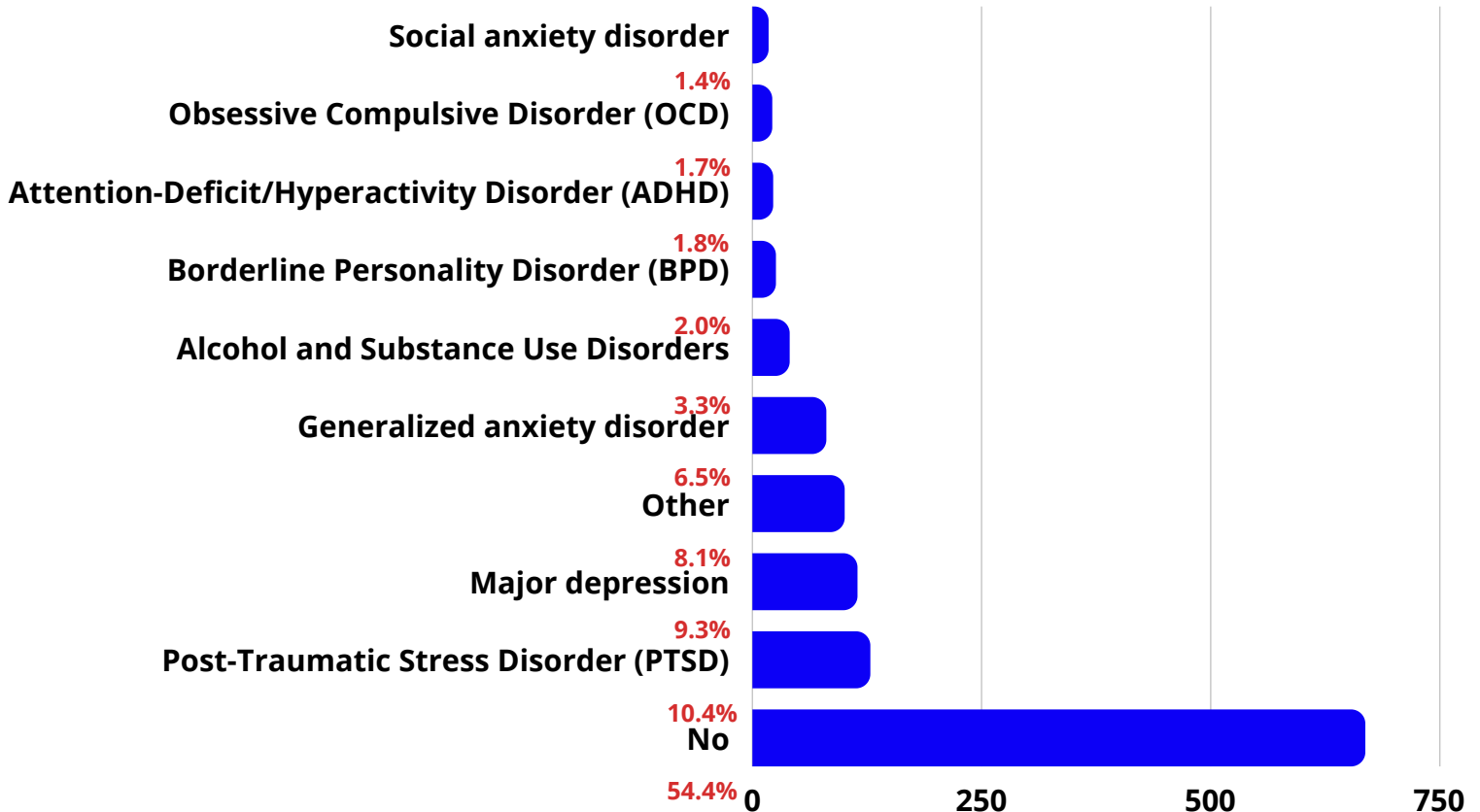
Trip Content



Type of support provided



Did the caller mention any disorders they may have?



APPENDIX B

A SAMPLING OF TESTIMONIALS PROVIDED BY CALLERS IN RESPONSE TO OUR ANONYMOUS POST-CALL SURVEY.

“The volunteer’s reassurance was all I needed to turn an uncomfortable experience into something much better. I normally have a level of anxiety talking to strangers when I’m sober but they were like a friend I’d already made and was confiding in.”

“Fireside Project was the only place I could turn after a jarring and profound ego death experience. The volunteer made it abundantly clear that I could pour out all my thoughts, however nonsensical and strange they may be. But in that confounded state in which the very bedrock or our sense of cognitive ‘normality’ has been warped and destroyed and totally reformed, I felt like I was doing more than simply venting my thoughts. I was heard and accepted by a fellow psychonaut, and instant friend.”

“I feel that Fireside is indispensable for anyone on psychedelics struggling and afraid.”

“I felt like I could just talk. The volunteer listened mostly, and then, at just the right time provided words of understanding and empathy. I don’t know how I would have landed without Fireside. In these times, we can’t just go it alone all the time.”

“My volunteer was very supportive and validating of my experience. I am a stronger person because of it.”

“I was stuck in my head and not sure whether I was seeing and feeling was really happening. I became afraid of my thoughts and did not trust myself. The person messaging me was able to get me to calm down and center several times. Every time I tried resisting the experience, the more afraid I would become. Fireside brought me back again and again. I feel that Fireside is indispensable for anyone on psychedelics.”

“This is a beautiful project that I wish was around so much sooner. Having somewhere to reach out without being stigmatized and shamed is so necessary with the current psychedelic wave under way.”

“I was possibly going to go have my stomach pumped but they helped me get through it without emergency service. The lady I spoke with calmed me down and helped me process my feelings.”

“My body felt like it was dying due to the bad trip. But when the volunteer picked up, they helped me come down and realize I was thinking too much. After I calmed down and got the thoughts out of my head, I felt better. The volunteer was AWESOME.”

“I was having a really hard time expressing exactly what I was feeling during my trip, and communicating was hard for me, but the person I talked to was very positive and grounded. Fireside really helped me make my trip into a positive experience.”

“They provide a great outlet for thoughts about psychedelic experiences and provide a soundboard to unpack an idea in a judgment-free setting.”

“I spoke to a beautiful soul at Fireside who asked me to elaborate on details about what I was feeling and any previous medicine experiences I had. This person gave me so much incredible advice full of engaging wisdom & clear knowledge.”

“I would have absolutely called 911 but found Fireside instead!”

“Fireside Project validated my experience and my feelings and I felt like they actually understood. They went above and beyond and sent me resources for support groups in my area. I felt powerless and defeated when I reached out to Fireside but felt empowered by the end of our talks.”

“I seriously believed it wasn’t going to end and I was on the verge of seeking medical intervention for help. I felt like I needed a sedative; every time I closed my eyes I became ever more afraid. The volunteer at Fireside Project shared that she had had a “challenging trip”, and reassured me over and over without issue that it would end and that I would be alright. Fireside provided an on demand SAFE and NONJUDGMENTAL area for me.”

“I would have been stuck in a dark and fragile space for hours longer had I not called. I pretty quickly felt more grounded after talking to someone. I had a hard time using words because my brain was mushy. I appreciated that [the volunteer] offered to just sit with me quietly over the phone.”

“You changed my life.”

“After having an absolutely magical high dose psilocybin trip, I just needed to share with someone the depth of the wonders I experienced. Most of my friends are not into psychedelics, so talking about this with them just didn't register. The wonderful person I spoke to at Fireside just "got it" and understood the gravity of my experience. A compassionate and empathetic listener was just what I needed to help me process this extraordinary trip. Fireside is an amazing resource, and I'm grateful that it exists!”

“It's so hard thinking I'm alone, and I feel a lot better knowing I'm not.”

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