



## Can Do MS

Findings from a survey of 465 people with MS and 74 support partners

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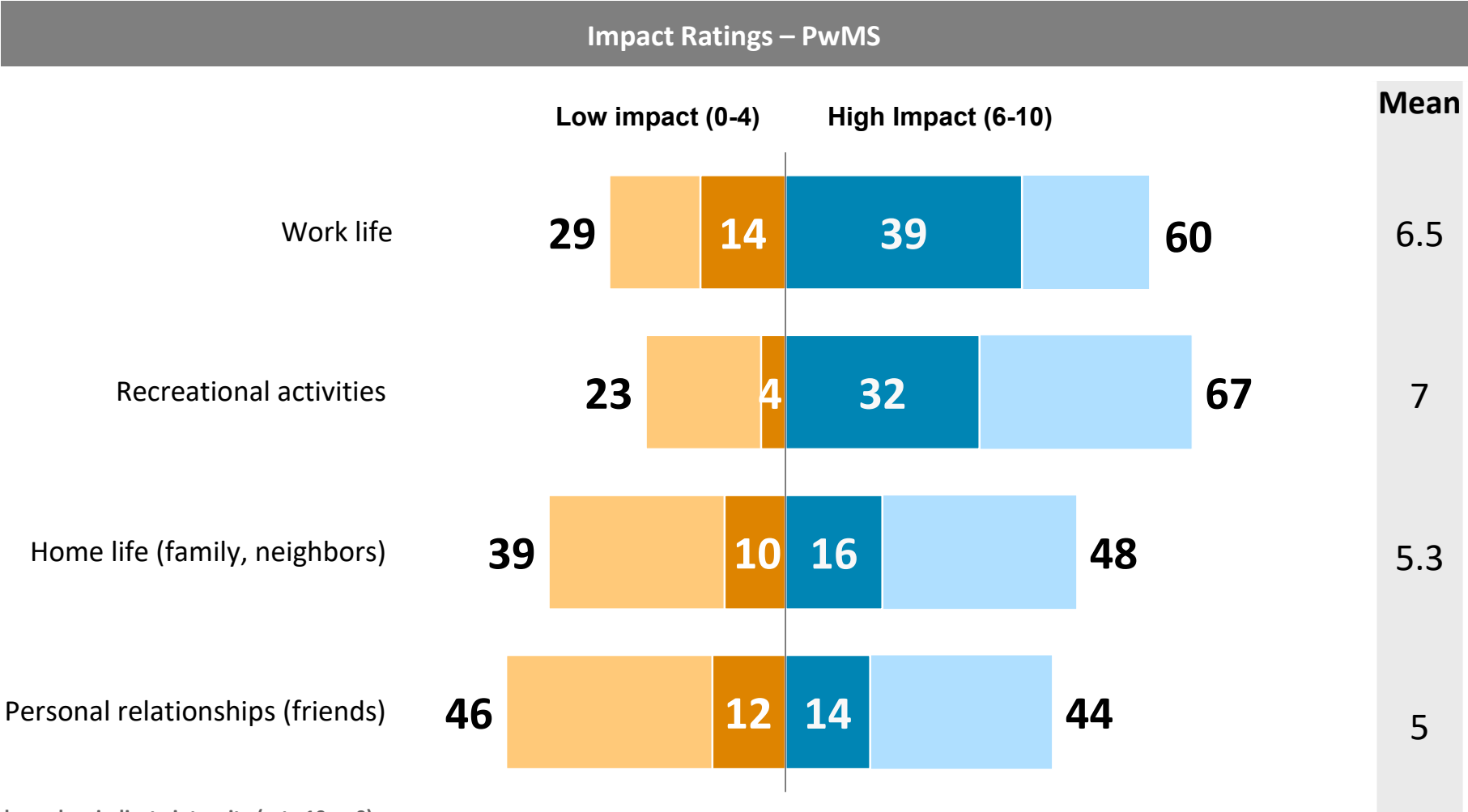
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# Key Findings

- People with MS and their support partners are concerned about how the condition affects their health, their work life, recreational activities, and their home life.
- Disease progression and activity is a top concern for people with MS, and there is a strong desire to get more information on treatments.
- Financial planning and finances are a major concern, coming up throughout the survey as they relate to employment, support partners being able to provide care, and people being able to afford treatment and medication.
- A major concern for people with MS is losing their independence and sense of identity.

People with MS say the condition has the most intense impact on their work life and their recreational activities.

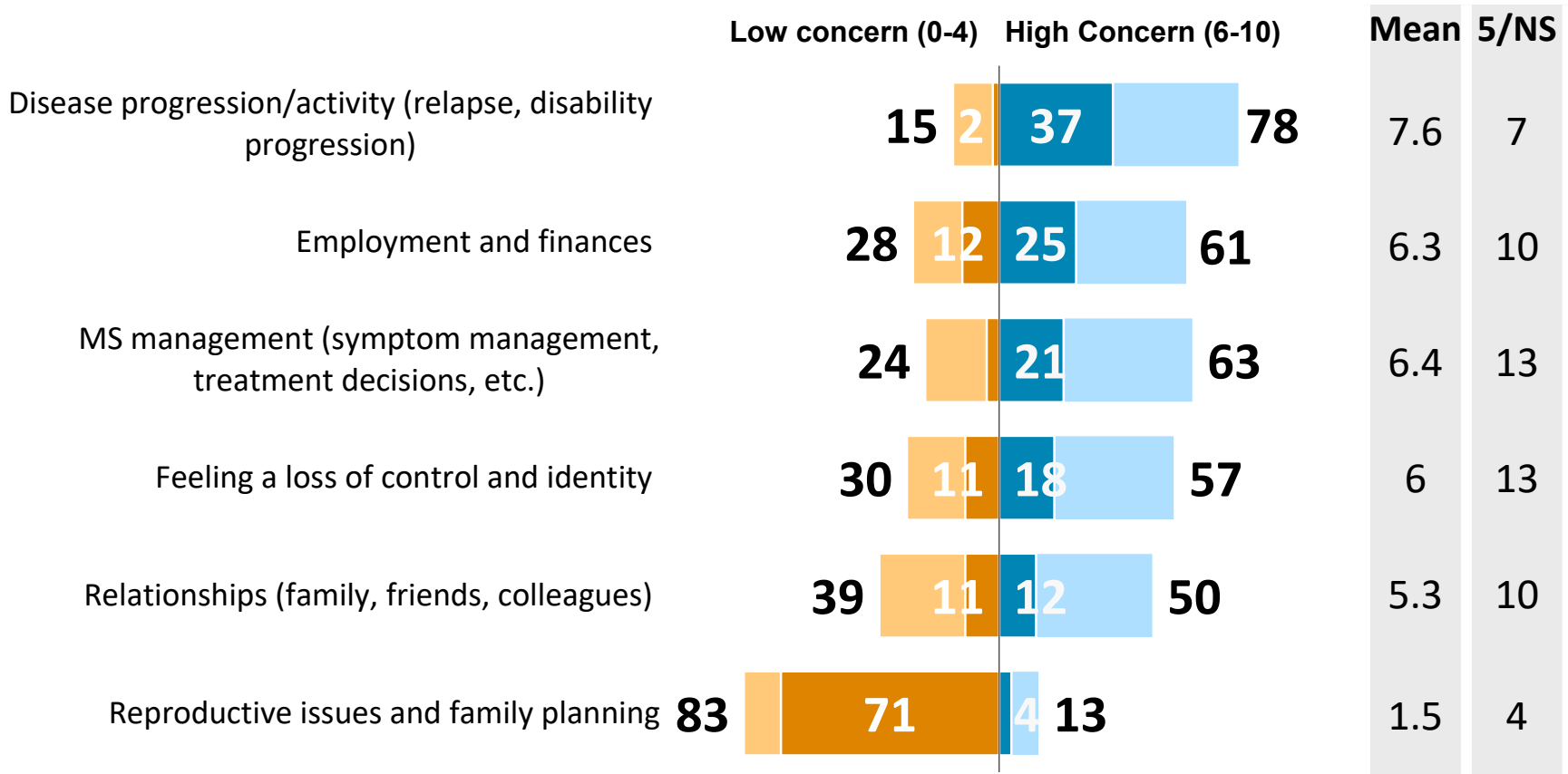


Darker colors indicate intensity (rate 10 or 0).

Q7. On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means it does not impact you at all and 10 means it impacts you greatly, please rate how much each of the following parts of your life is impacted by MS.

People with MS are most concerned about disease progression/activity, followed by employment and finances and MS management.

Concerns - PwMS

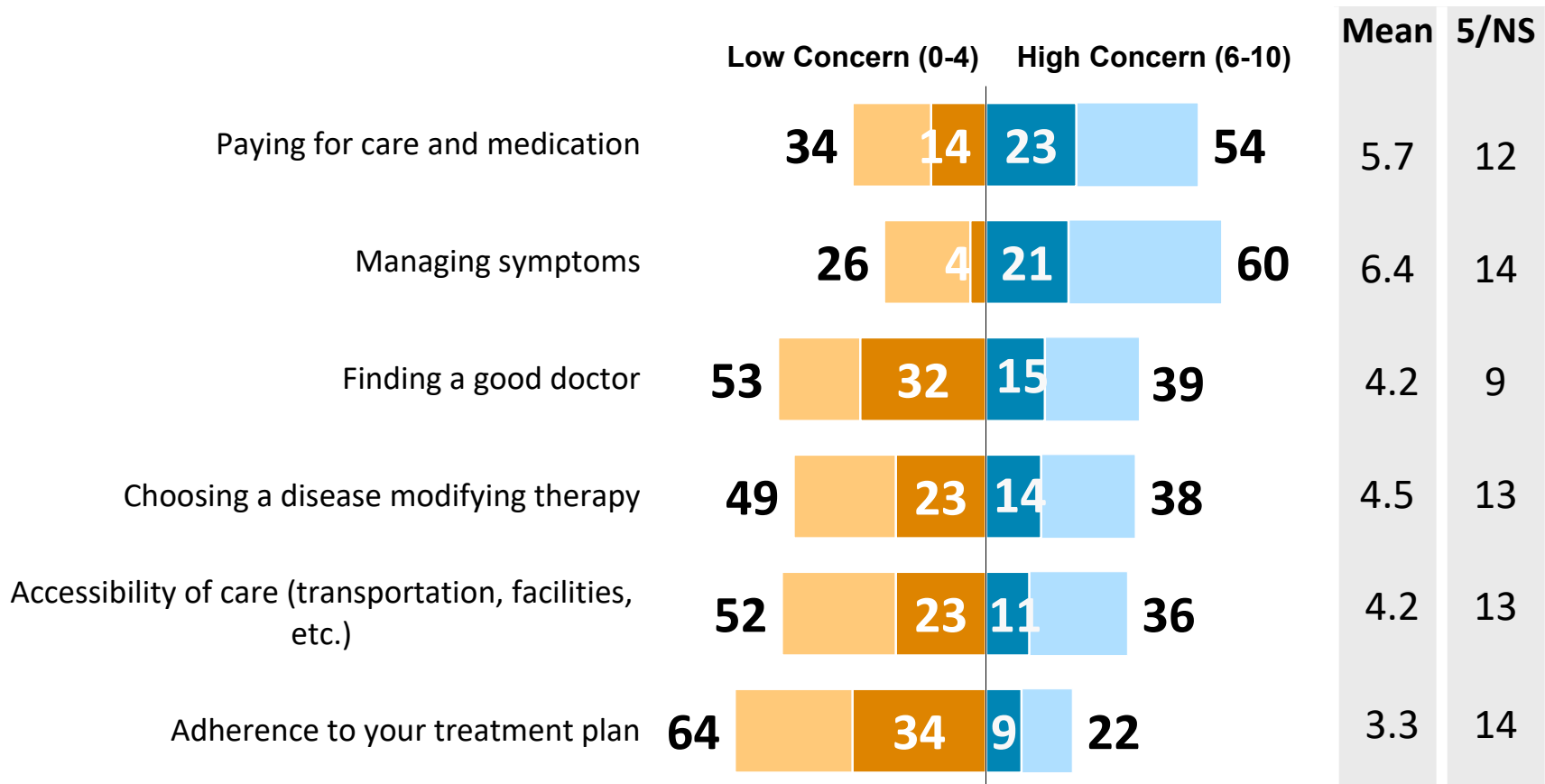


Darker colors indicate intensity (rate 10 or 0).

Q9. On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means it is not at all a source of concern for you and 10 means it is the top source of concern for you, please rate how much each of the following is a source of worry or concern for you.

In terms of medical concerns, people with MS are most concerned about paying for care and medication and managing symptoms. Far fewer are concerned about accessibility of care or adherence to treatment plans.

### Medical Concerns - PwMS



Darker colors indicate intensity (rate 10 or 0).

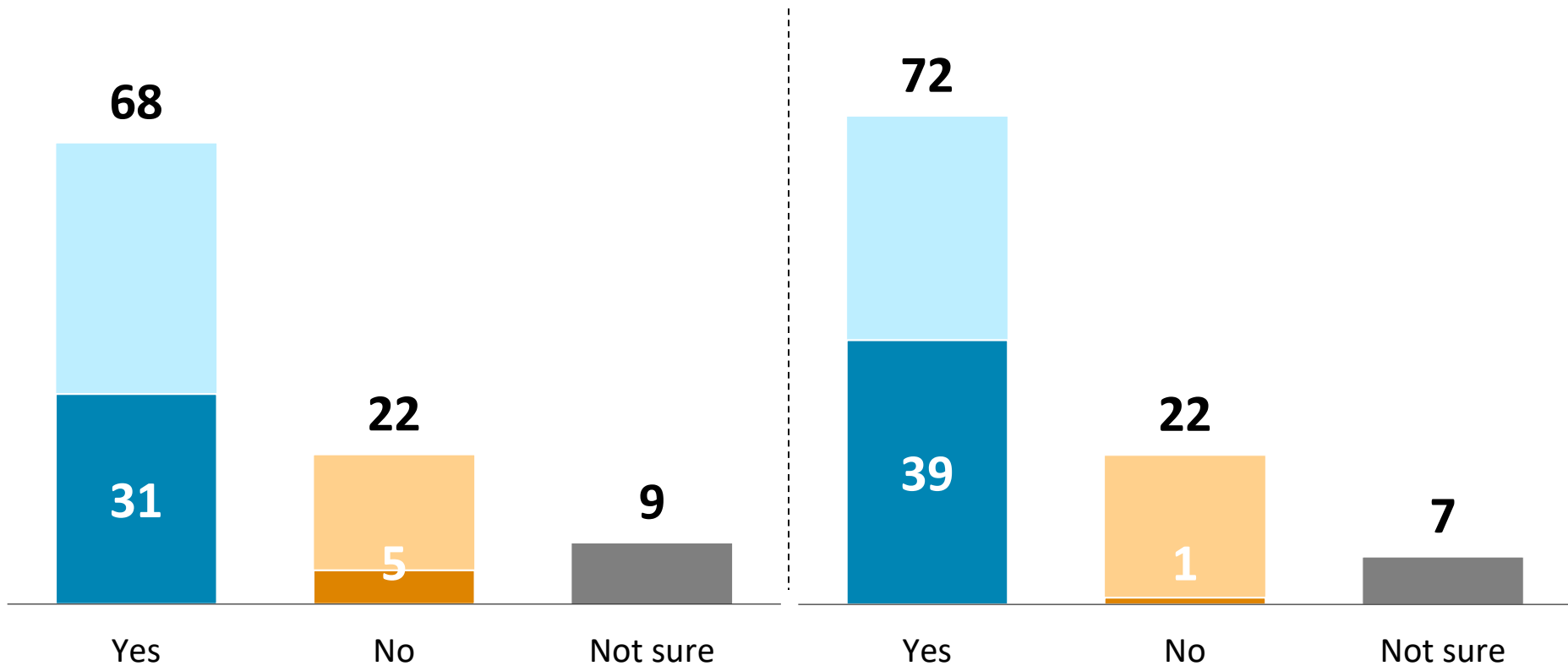
Q11. On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means it causes no concern for you at all and 10 means it causes the greatest concern for you, please rate how much each of the following causes concern for you regarding management of your MS.

Majorities of both people with MS and support partners would like more information and resources to help with management of MS, including 31% of PwMS and 39% of SPs who strongly want more information.

Would you like more information and resources to help you with management of your MS?

PwMS

SP

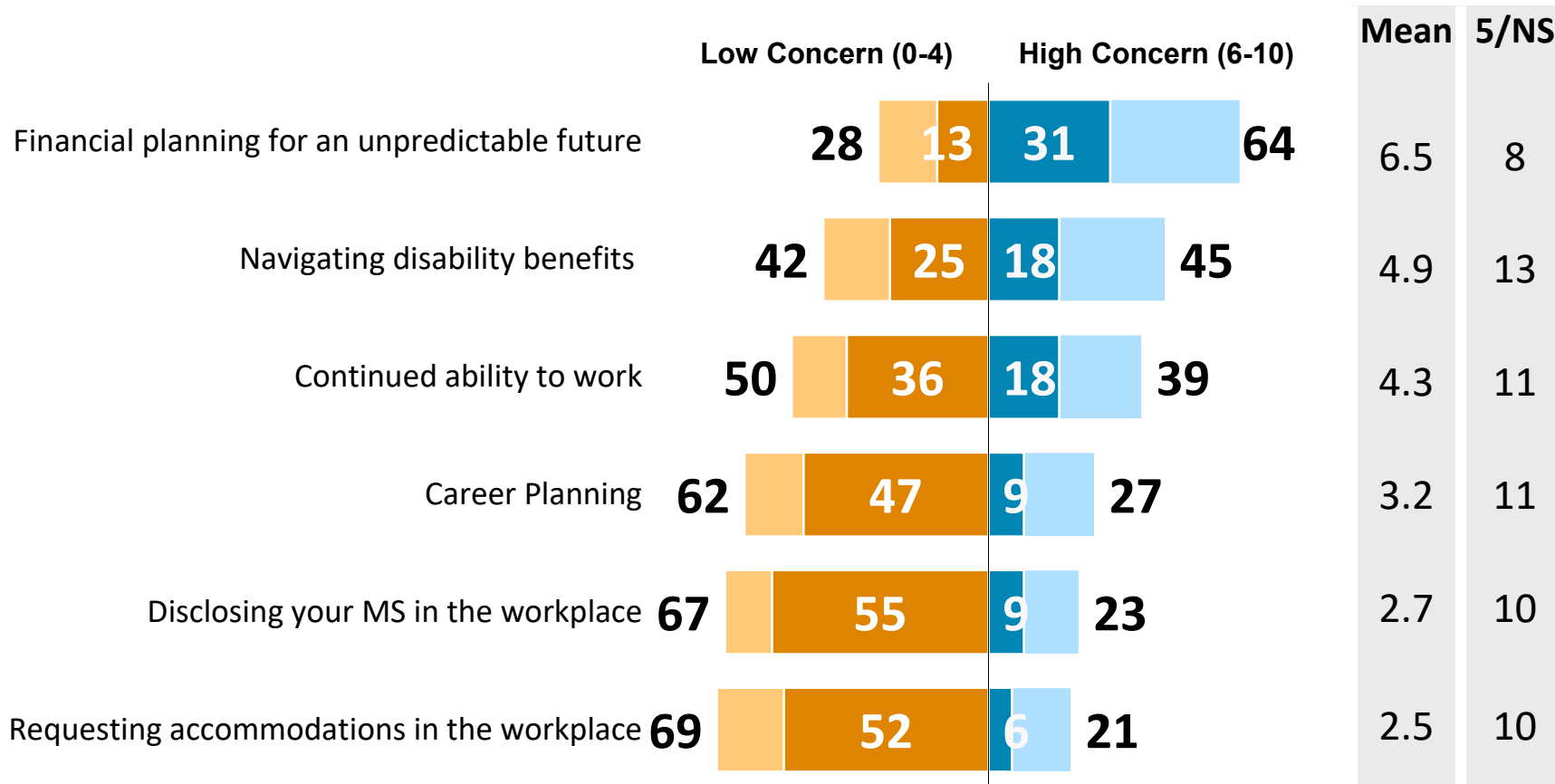


Darker colors indicate intensity.

Q12. Would you like more information and resources to help you with management of your MS?

Overall, people with MS are more concerned about the financial impacts of MS than any difficulty receiving workplace accommodations or disclosing the condition.

### Workplace Concerns - PwMS



Darker colors indicate intensity (rate 10 or 0).

Q13. On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means it causes no concern for you at all and 10 means it causes the greatest concern for you, please rate how much each of the following causes concern for you regarding your employment and finances.

People with MS who are employed have more intense concerns about workplace issues, particularly financial planning and continued ability to work.

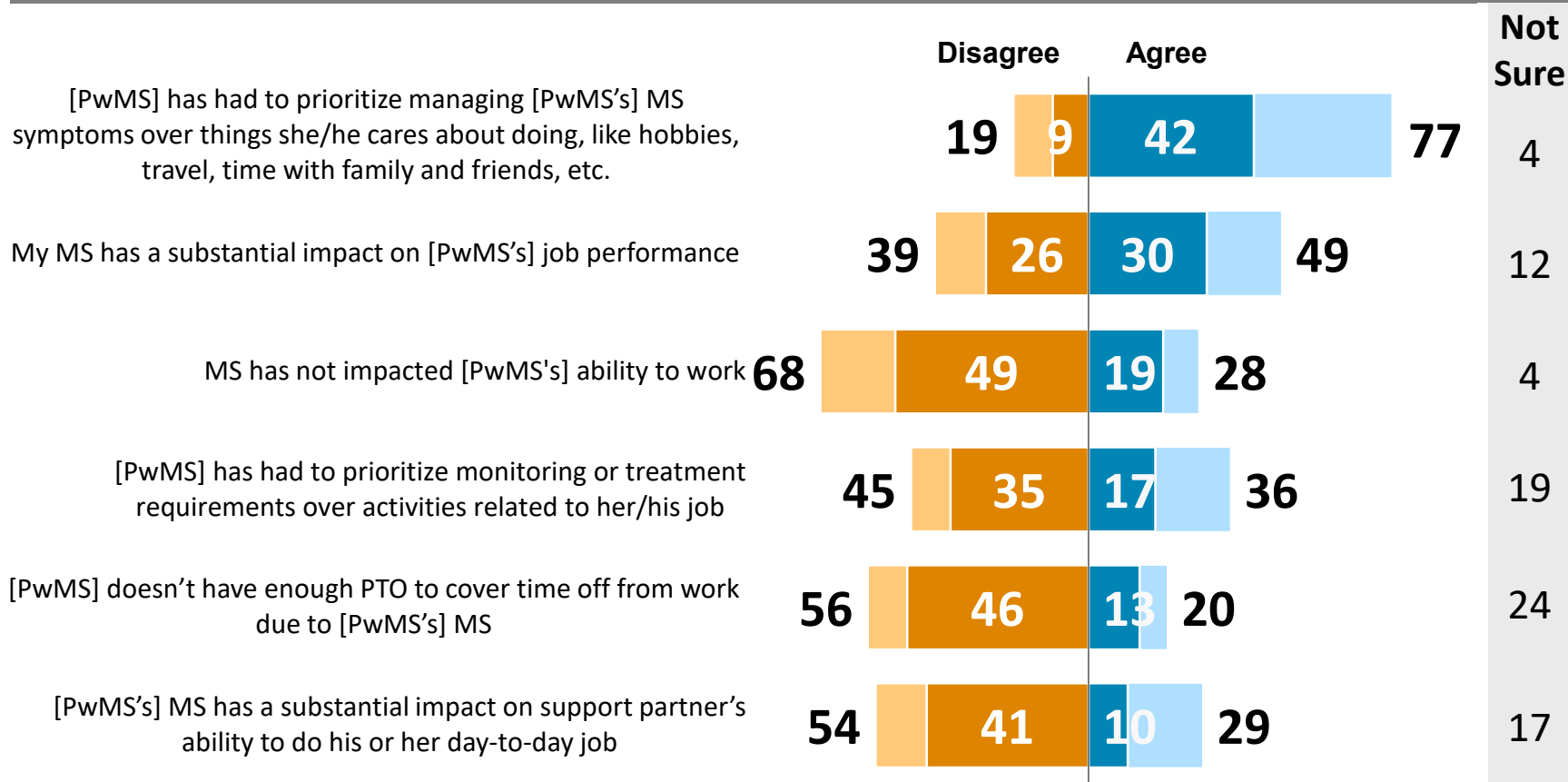
<b>% Top Source of Concern (10)</b>	<b>Total PwMS</b>	<b>Employed</b>	<b>Not Employed</b>
<b>Financial planning for an unpredictable future</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Navigating disability benefits</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Continued ability to work</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Career Planning</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Disclosing your MS in the workplace</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Requesting accommodations in the workplace</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>

**Q13.** On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means it causes no concern for you at all and 10 means it causes the greatest concern for you, please rate how much each of the following causes concern for you regarding your employment and finances.



Over 2 in 5 (42%) people with MS strongly agree that they have had to prioritize managing their MS symptoms over things they care about doing, and nearly half (49%) say MS has a substantial impact on their job performance.

### Impact on Job - PwMS

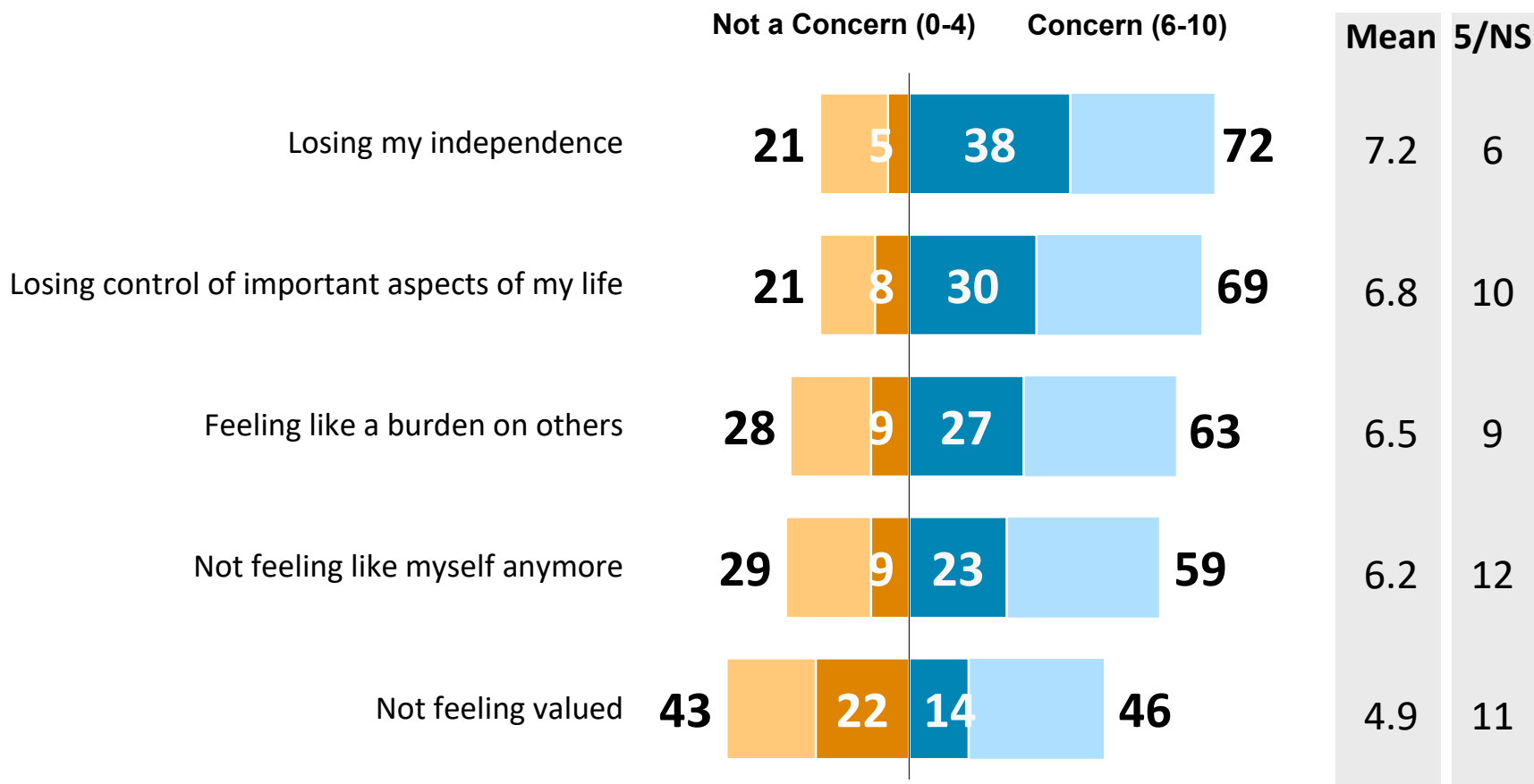


Darker colors indicate intensity.

Q15. Please read and indicate if you agree or disagree with each statement.

People with MS are most concerned about losing their independence, followed by losing control of important aspects of their life.

Identity Concerns (asked of PwMS only)

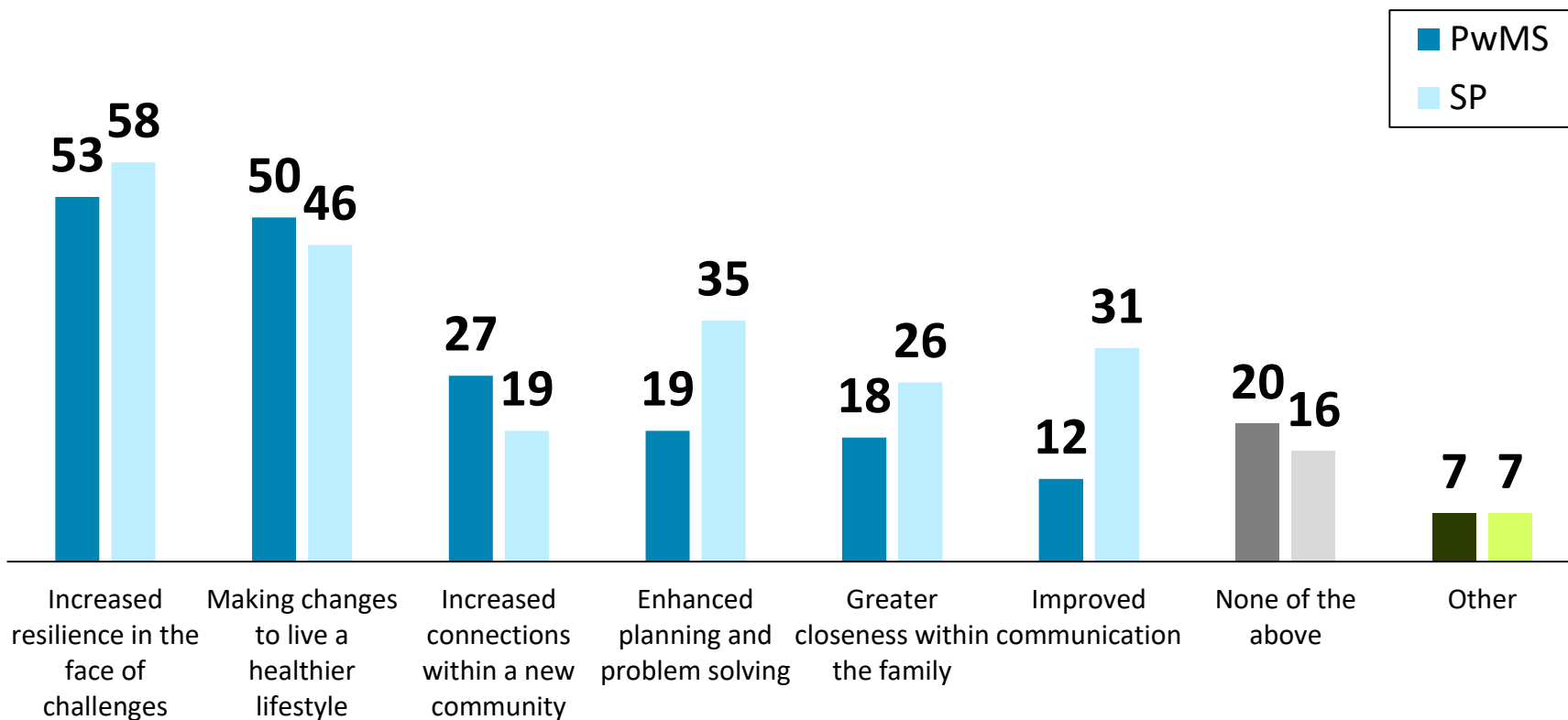


Darker colors indicate intensity (rate 10 or 0).

**Q20.** On a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 means it causes no concern for you at all and 10 means it causes the greatest concern for you, please rate how much each of the following causes concern for you regarding your identity.

The most common positive impact of MS is the increased resilience in the face of challenges, followed by making changes to live a healthier lifestyle. In most areas, support partners are more likely to identify positive impacts than people with MS.

Positive Impacts of MS



Q29. In which of the following ways, if any, has MS positively impacted your life?



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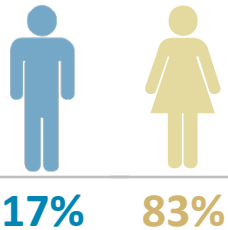
# Appendix: Methodology

- Lake Research Partners designed and administered this survey that was conducted between January 15 and February 15, 2019 online. The survey reached 465 people with MS and 74 support partners. Participants were recruited via email from Can Do MS's membership database.
- The sample was stratified by gender, region, and age to reflect the demographic composition of Can Do MS's membership.
- The margin of error for the PwMS sample is +/- 4.5% and the margin of error for the SP sample is +/- 11.4%.

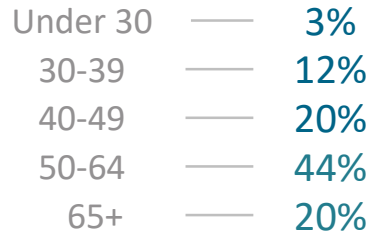
# Appendix: Profile of People with MS

Can Do MS's membership of people with MS is comprised mostly of women (83%) and older adults, with nearly 2 in 3 (65%) over age 50.

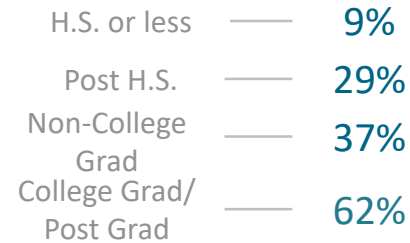
## GENDER



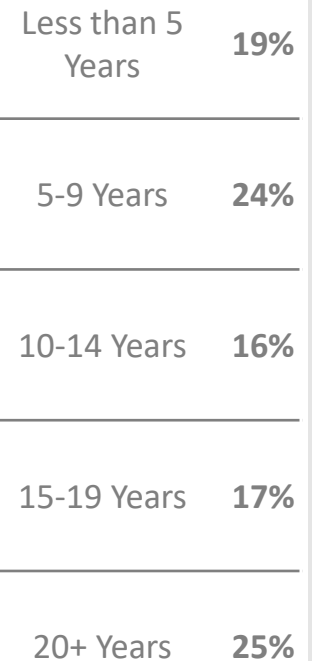
## AGE



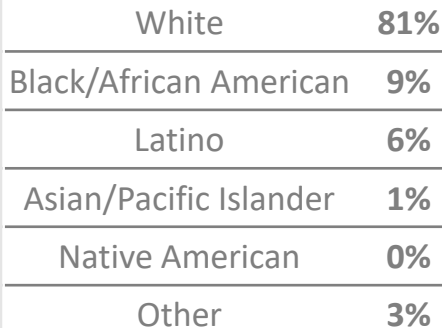
## EDUCATION



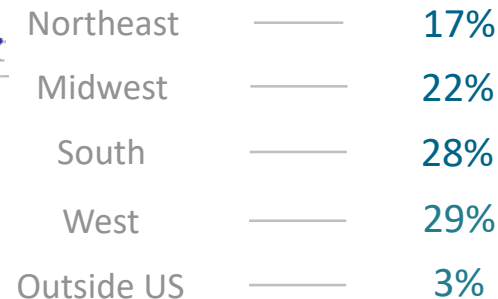
## YEARS SINCE DIAGNOSIS



## RACE



## REGION



## Appendix: Profile of People with MS (cont.)

About 4 in 10 (40%) people with MS in the sample are employed and most do not have children under 18 living in the household.

### HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Below \$50,000	<b>40%</b>
Above \$50,000	<b>45%</b>
Refused	<b>16%</b>

### CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLD

Yes	<b>15%</b>
No	<b>84%</b>

### MARITAL STATUS

Married	<b>60%</b>
Unmarried w Partner	<b>6%</b>
Single	<b>16%</b>
Separated	<b>1%</b>
Divorced	<b>11%</b>
Widowed	<b>3%</b>

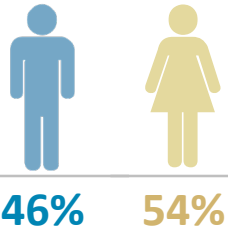
### EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Employed full-time	<b>29%</b>
Employed part-time	<b>11%</b>
Unemployed	<b>18%</b>
Homemaker	<b>5%</b>
Student	<b>0%</b>
Retired	<b>36%</b>

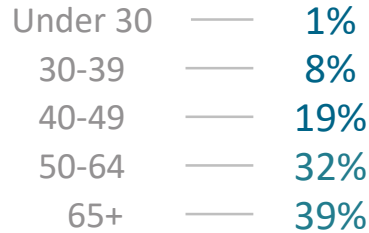
# Appendix: Profile of Support Partners

Over 2 in 3 (68%) support partners are spouses of the person they support.

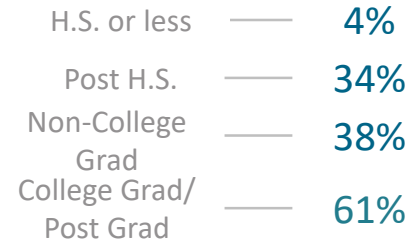
## GENDER



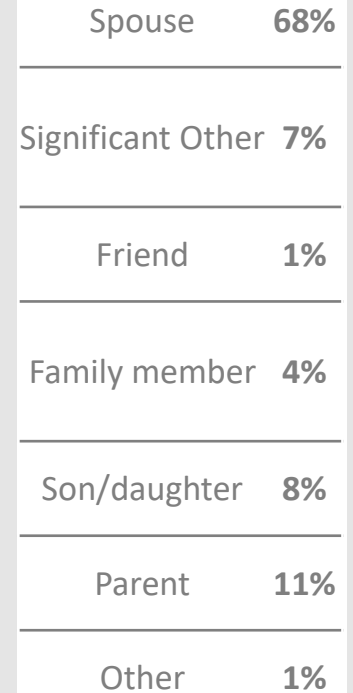
## AGE



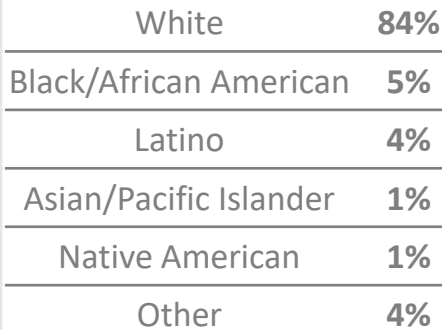
## EDUCATION



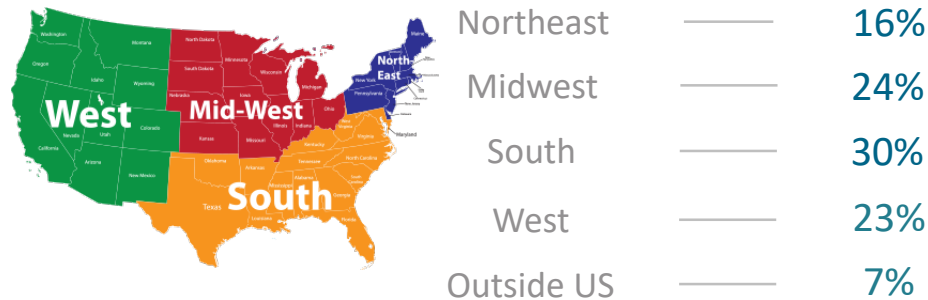
## RELATIONSHIP TO PERSON



## RACE



## REGION





## Appendix: Profile of Support Partners (cont.)

The sample of support partners has a higher household income than the sample of people with MS. About 6 in 10 (61%) are employed.

### HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Below \$50,000	19%
Above \$50,000	72%
Refused	9%

### CHILDREN IN HOUSEHOLD

Yes	18%
No	82%

### MARITAL STATUS

Married	80%
Unmarried w Partner	8%
Single	5%
Separated	1%
Divorced	3%
Widowed	1%

### EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Employed full-time	42%
Employed part-time	19%
Unemployed	1%
Homemaker	1%
Student	0%
Retired	36%