



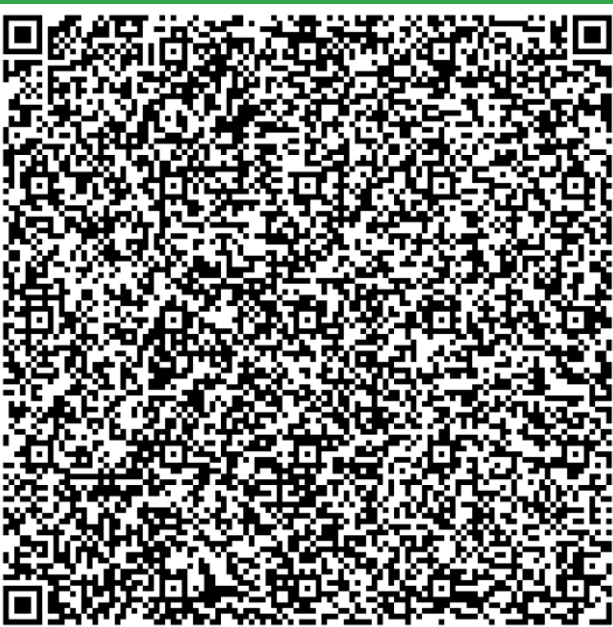
HOSPITAL PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

Education and Research Specialist Interest Group

Education Activities and Supports in Irish Hospital Pharmacy Departments: A National Service Evaluation by the Hospital Pharmacist Association of Ireland

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Introduction:

The European Statements of Hospital Pharmacy recommend “A *European-wide framework for initial post graduate education and training in hospital pharmacy with an assessment of individual competence is essential*”¹. To develop evidence-informed recommendations for improving hospital pharmacist education, national data outlining current practice are required.

Aims and Objectives:

- (i) Evaluate current standards of practice in education within hospital pharmacy.
- (ii) Outline barriers to engagement in education.

Methods:

A national online survey was developed and distributed to hospital pharmacy managers between May and August 2025 inclusive. Response results were analysed descriptively.

Staffing structures.

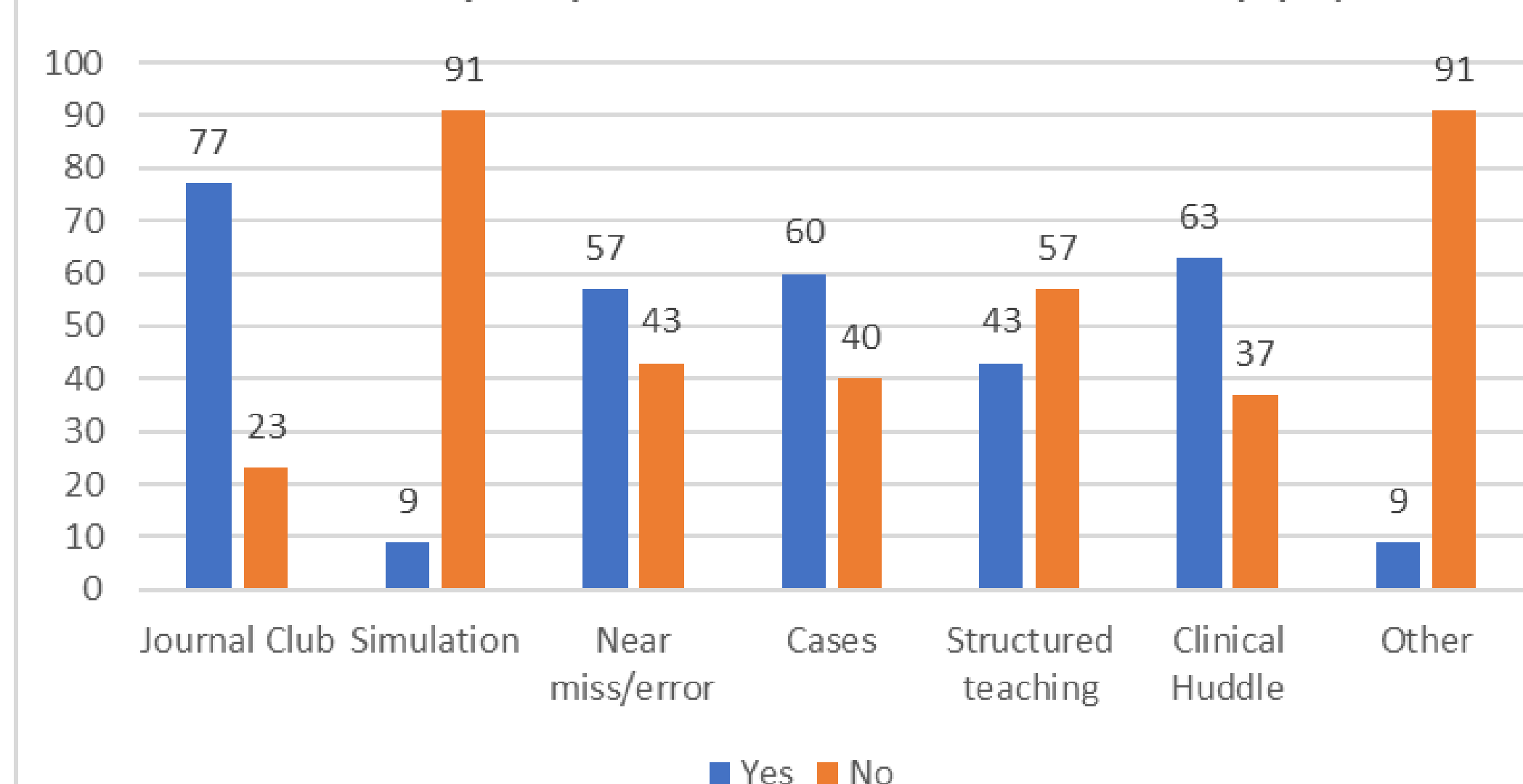
Current education provided.

Types of educational activities conducted.

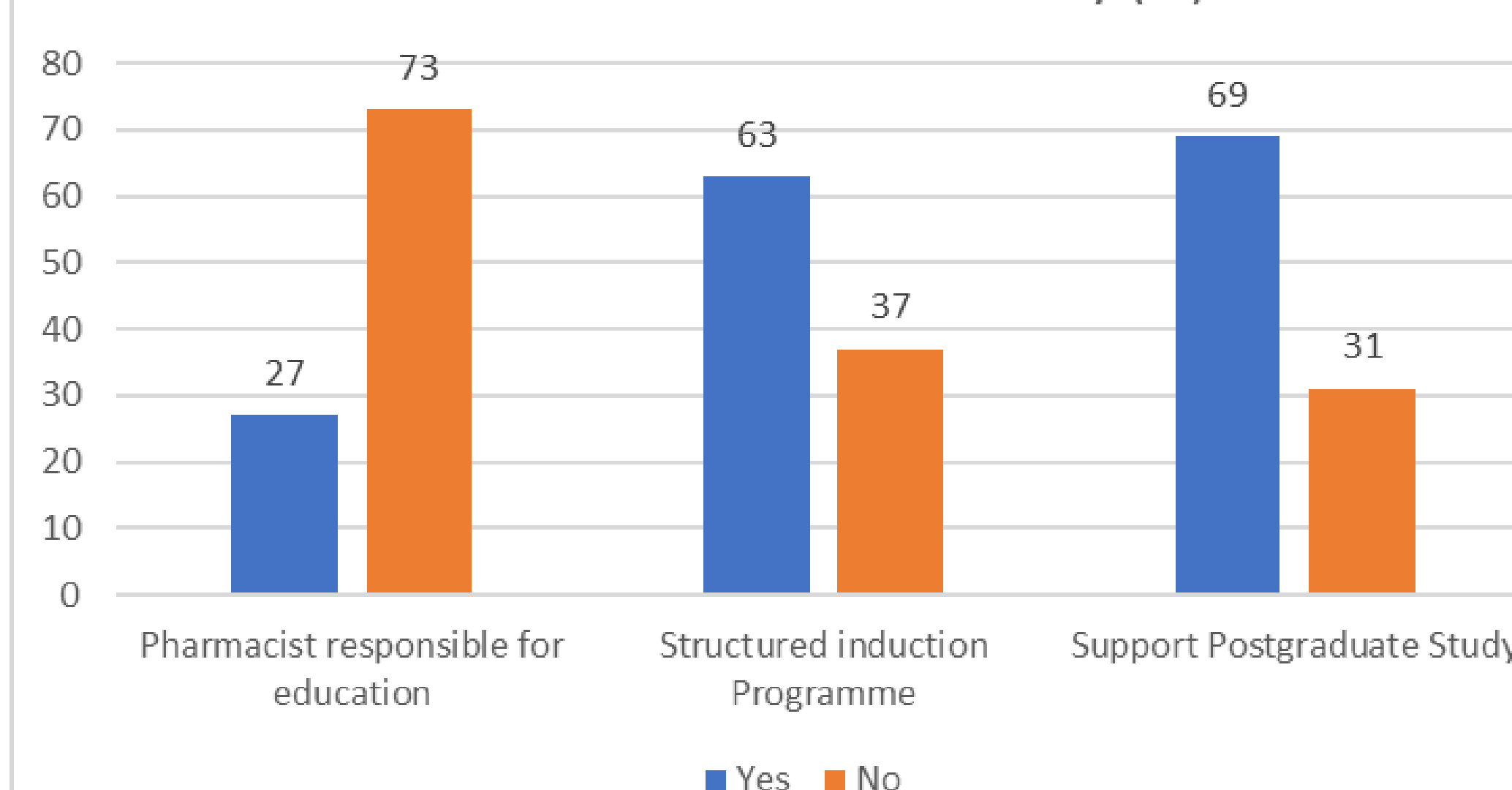
Perceived gaps in education.

Barriers to engagement in education.

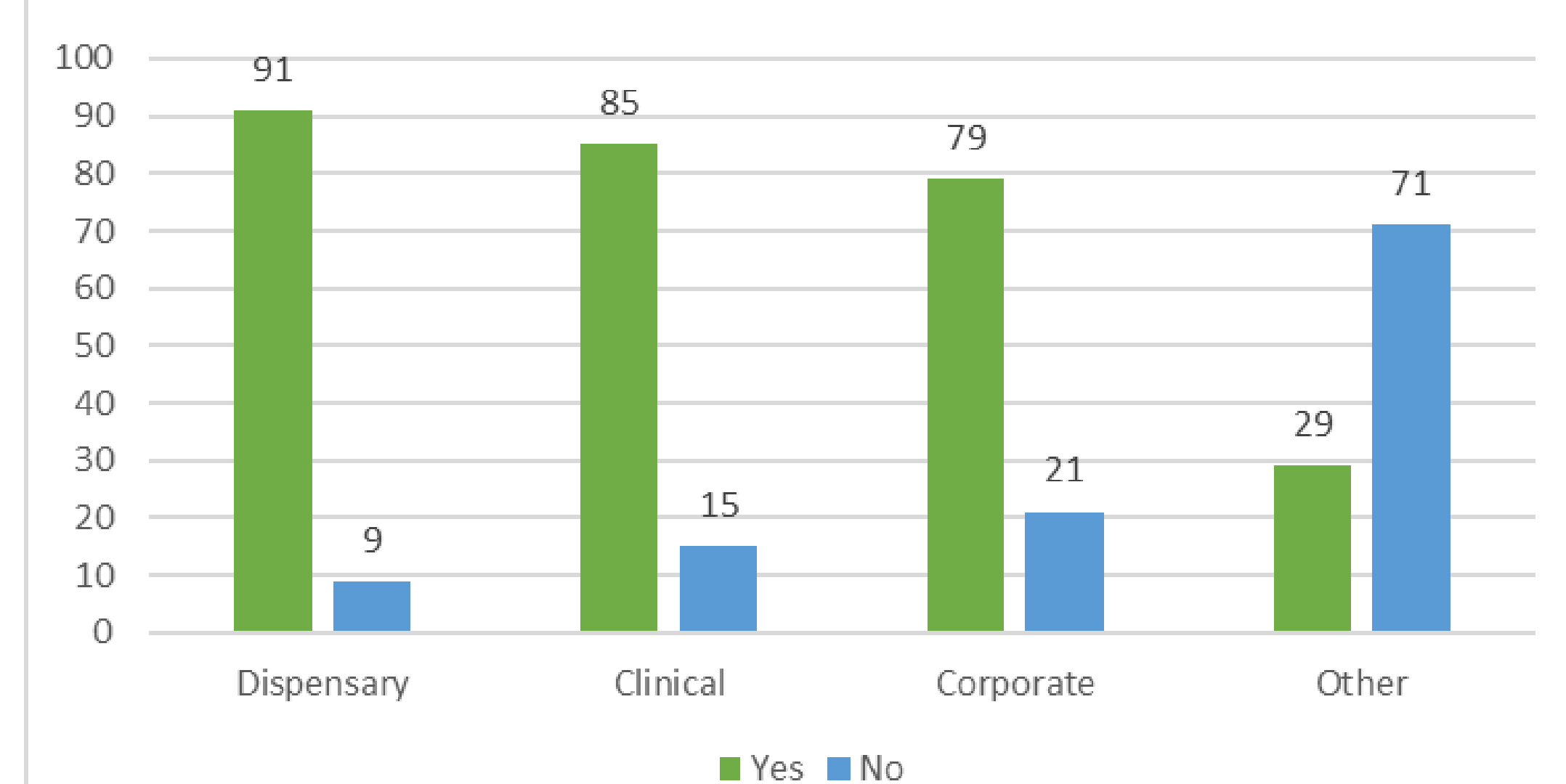
Pharmacy Department Education Activity (%)



Pharmacist Education Activity (%)



Pharmacy Department Induction (%)



Results:

Fifty-five (65%) pharmacy managers responded.

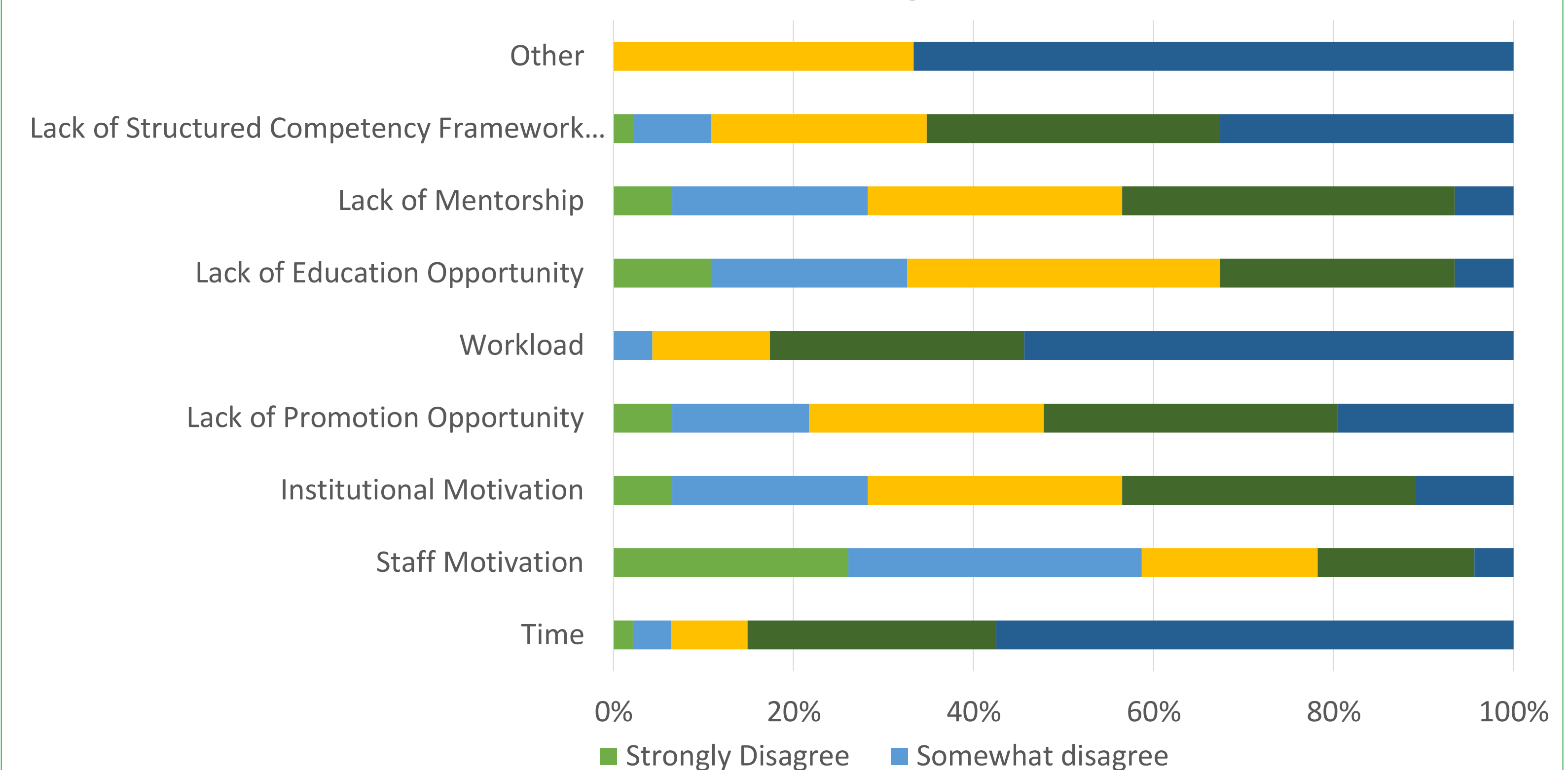
Key findings included:

- (i) Only 27% reported having a pharmacist responsible for education.
- (ii) Almost two-thirds (63%) had a structured induction programme.
- (iii) Induction included: dispensary training (91%), clinical training (85%), and corporate induction (79%).
- (iv) Over three-quarters (79%) of inductions lasted <6 weeks.
- (v) Seventy percent provided ongoing departmental education, most through journal clubs (77%), case presentations (60%), and near-miss/error meetings (57%).
- (vi) Over two thirds (69%) of institutions currently support postgraduate studies, mostly in clinical pharmacy (86%)
- (vii) Formal education was provided to nursing (88%), medical (76%) and allied health professionals (33%), as well as undergraduate (47%) and postgraduate (27%) pharmacy students.
- (viii) Perceived gaps in education included advanced practice, inpatient and outpatient reviews, and clinical skills.
- (ix) Reported barriers to education include lack of funding, time constraints, workload and lack of a structured competency framework.

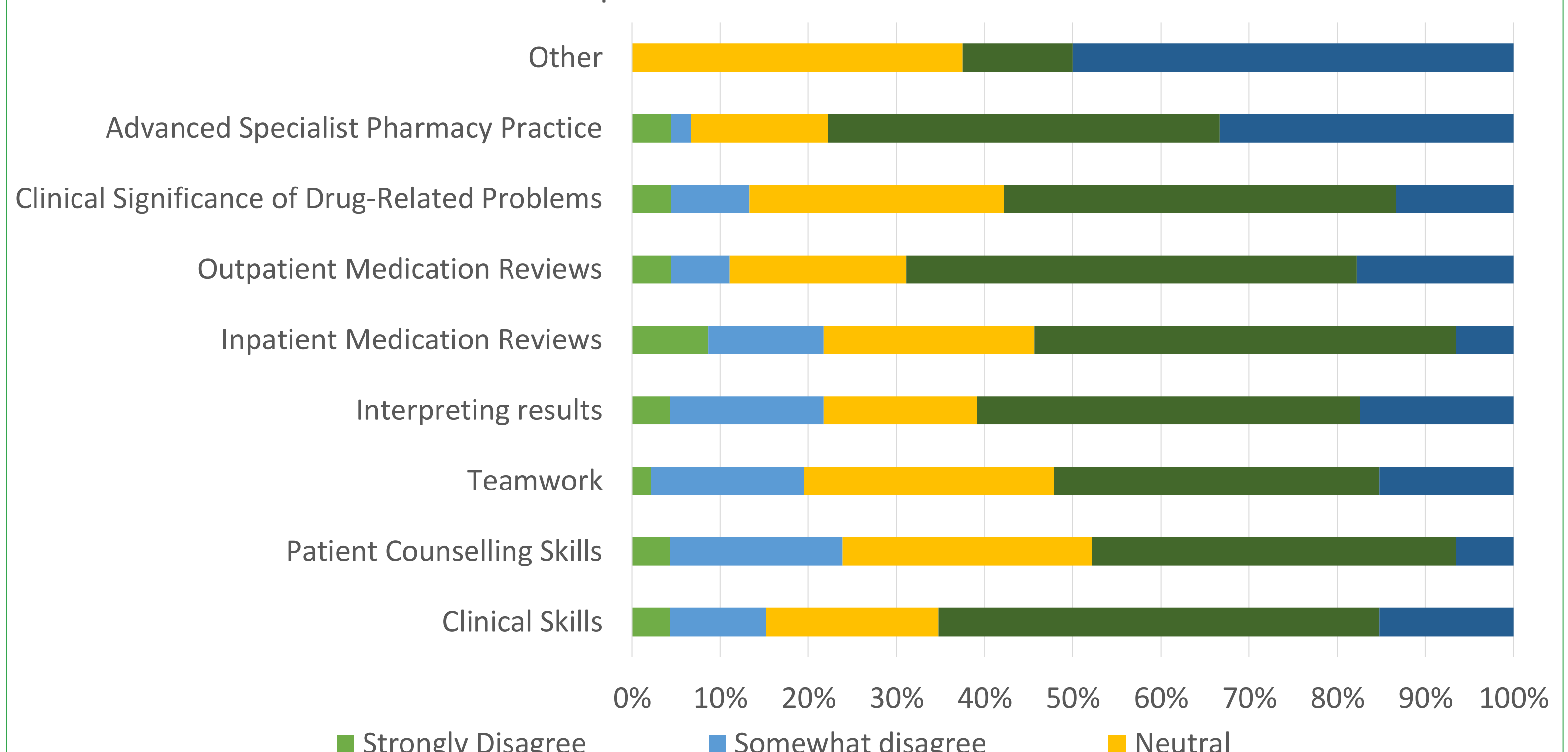
Conclusion:

Hospital pharmacy departments display significant commitment to, and engagement with, education activities. Efforts to introduce a standardised hospital-specific competency framework for new-to-hospital pharmacists, and validated accreditation for advanced practice will help further facilitate this.

Perceived Barriers to Research Providing Pharmacist Education



Gaps in Pharmacist Education



References:

1. The European Statements of Hospital Pharmacy. *European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy* 2014;21:256-258.



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