



Entertainment Design & Technology Workforce Demographics

2025 Study Results | Part One: Employment & Roles

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Response Overview

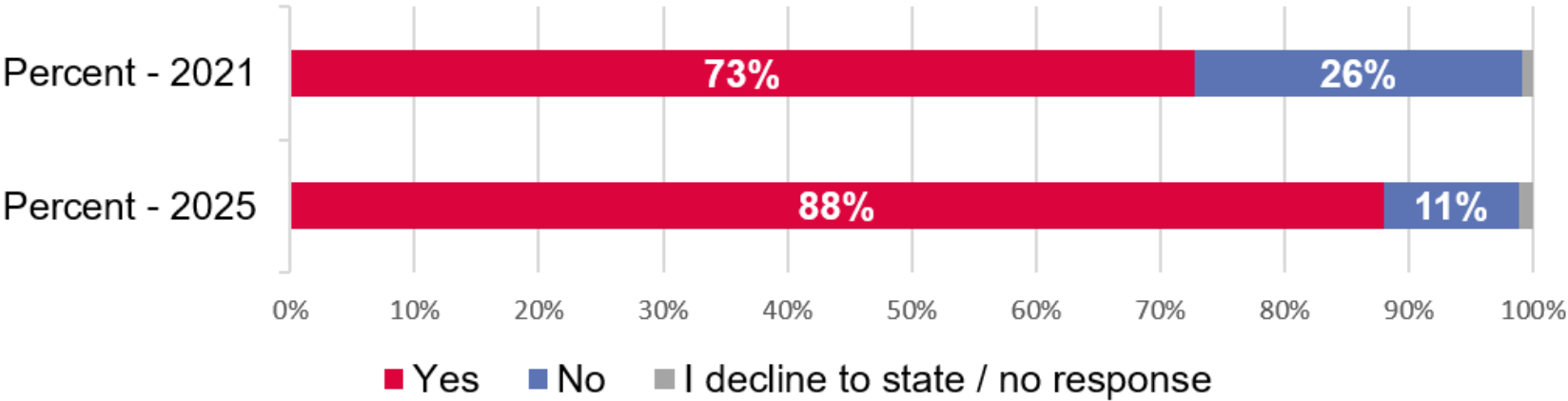
- The 2025 study was conducted from Oct. 14, 2025 - Jan. 30, 2026
- The study received responses from 1,235 individuals in the live entertainment workforce. After cleaning the data, there were 1,199 responses (*compared to 4,001 in 2021 study*)
- Approximately one-quarter of responses were received in the first 6 weeks (25.7%), another one-quarter in weeks 7–8 (26.9%), and nearly half (47.5%) during the extension beyond 8 weeks
- Compared to 2021 study, the 2025 study is largely consistent in terms of composition of the live entertainment workforce
 - *Membership representation is identical (59%)*
 - *Role distribution remains very similar across major categories, but fewer respondents work in roles related to costume/wig/makeup (10% vs. 14%) and slightly more in sound (6% vs. 5%)*
 - *Regional representation is more balanced in the 2025 study, and country of origin is similar (78% U.S.-born vs. 75% in 2021)*



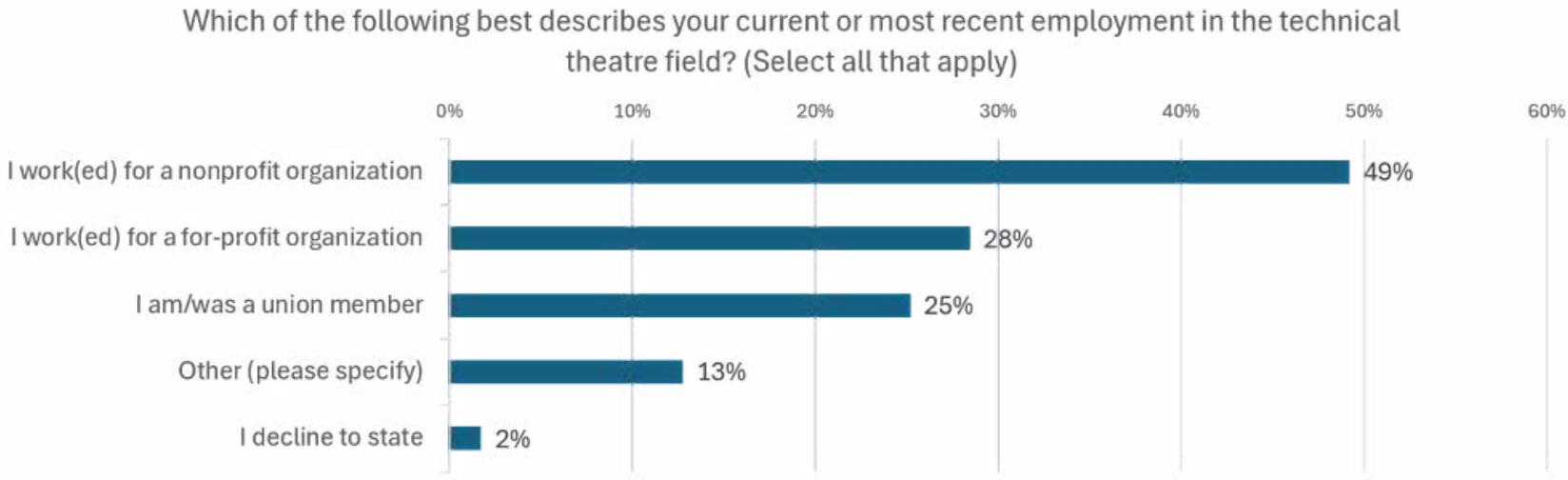


Most live entertainment workers are employed or had work lined up for 2025

Are you currently employed in the Technical Theatre Industry, or have employment lined up for this year?

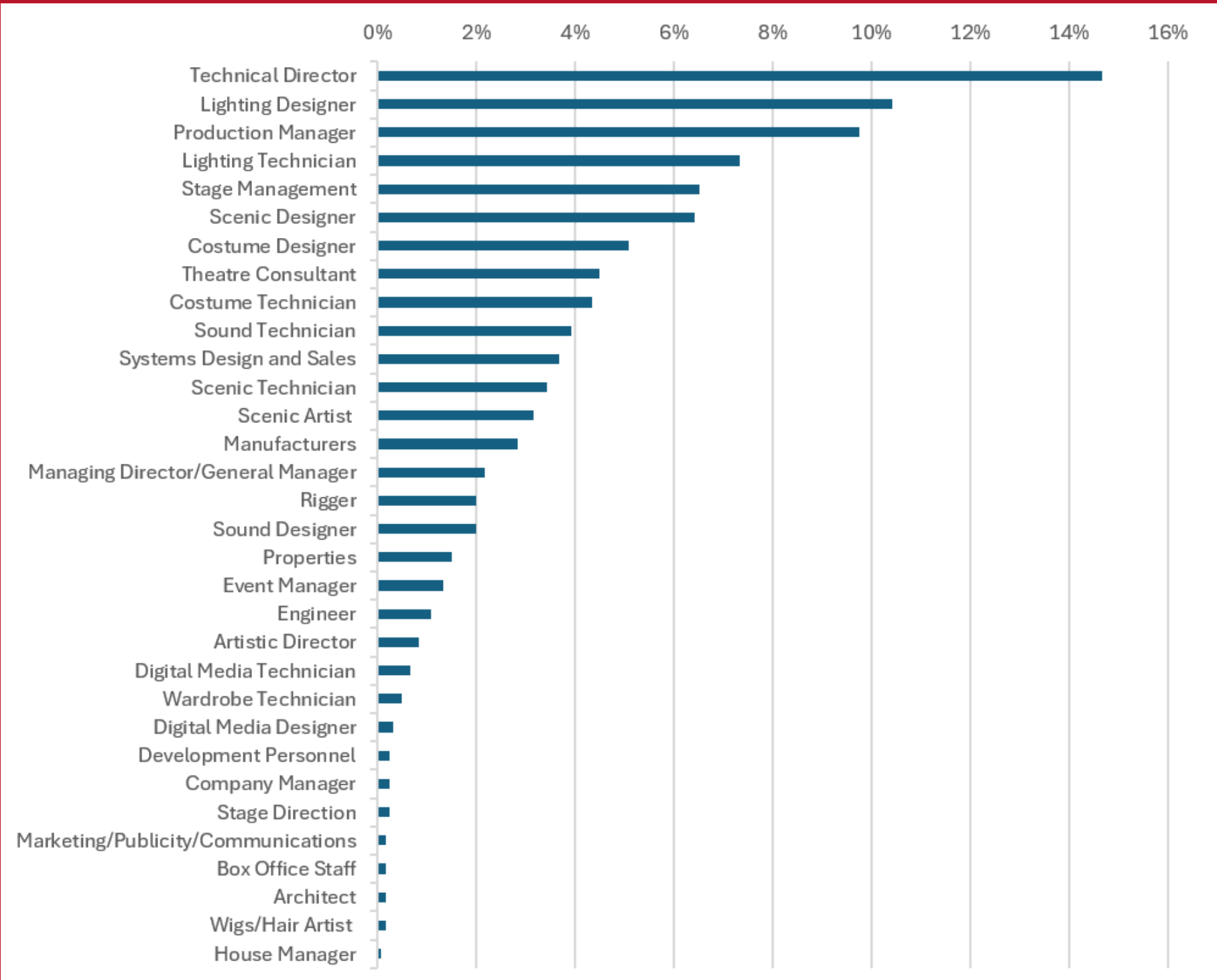


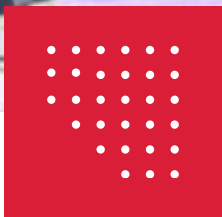
Nonprofit organizations are the most common employers among respondents





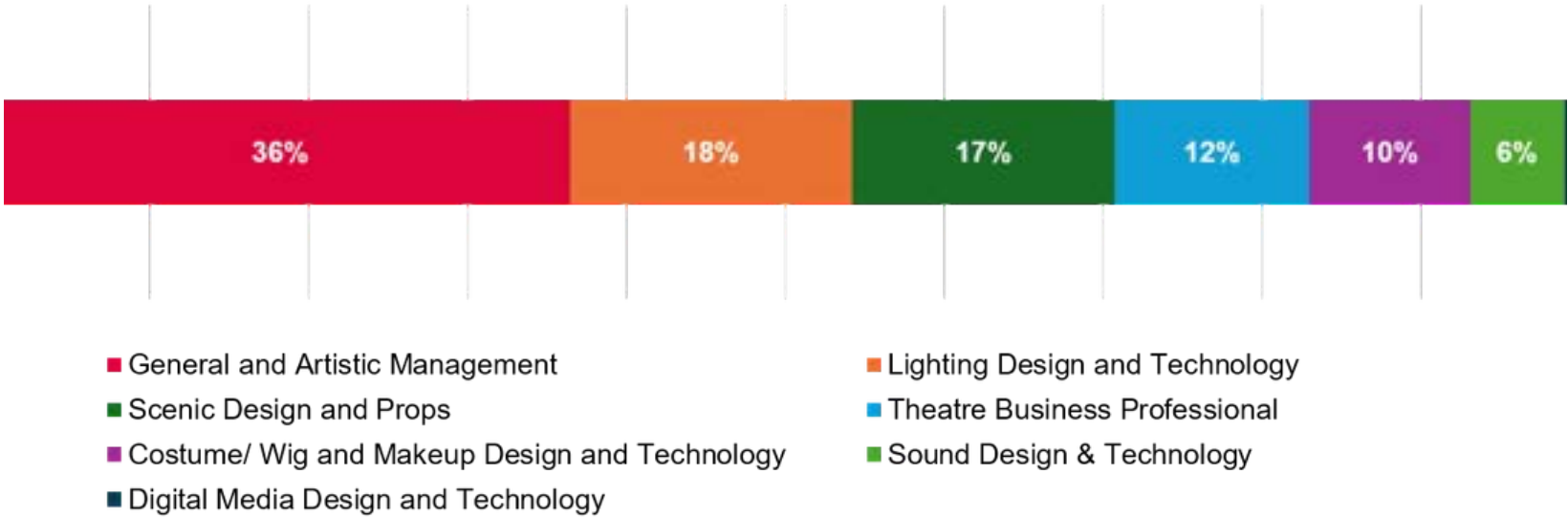
Technical Directors, Lighting Designers, and Production Managers are the most commonly reported roles among respondents



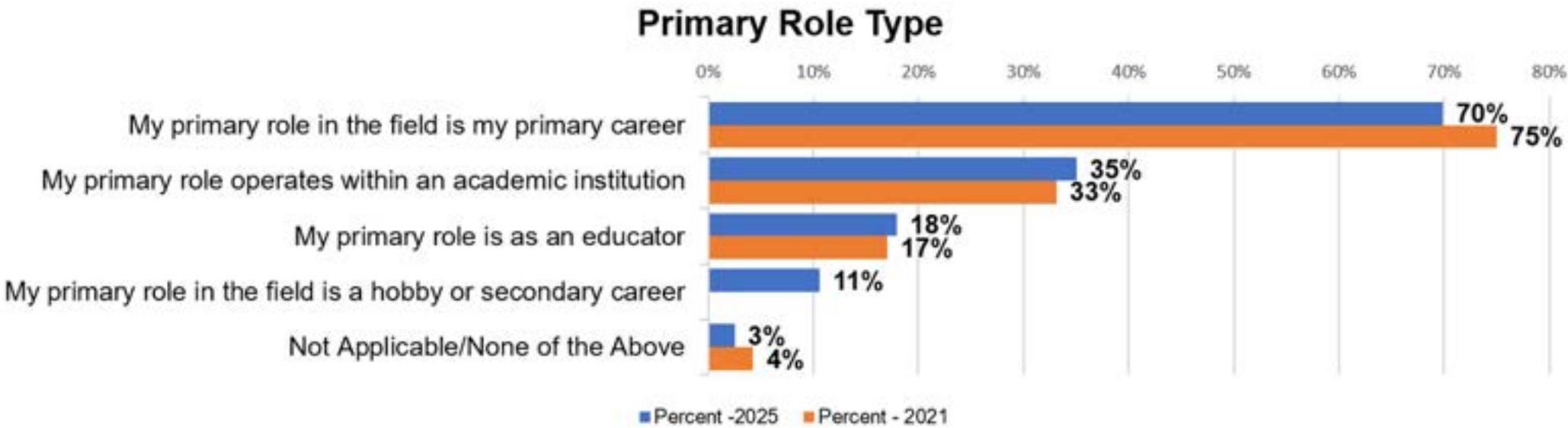


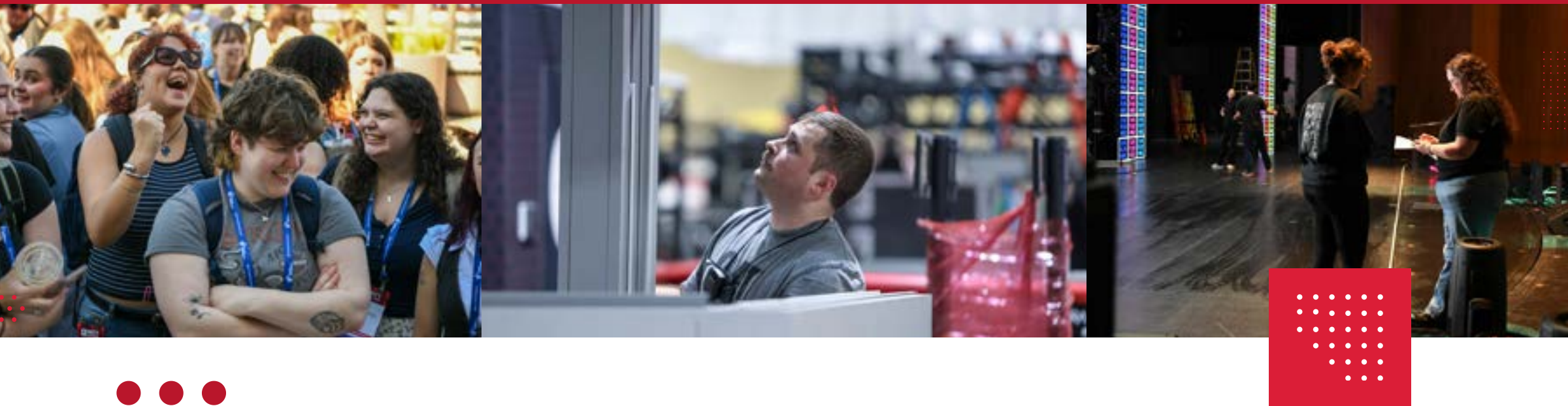
Over one-third of respondents work in General and Artistic Management roles, the largest category in the field

How would you describe your primary role within the performing arts design and technology community?

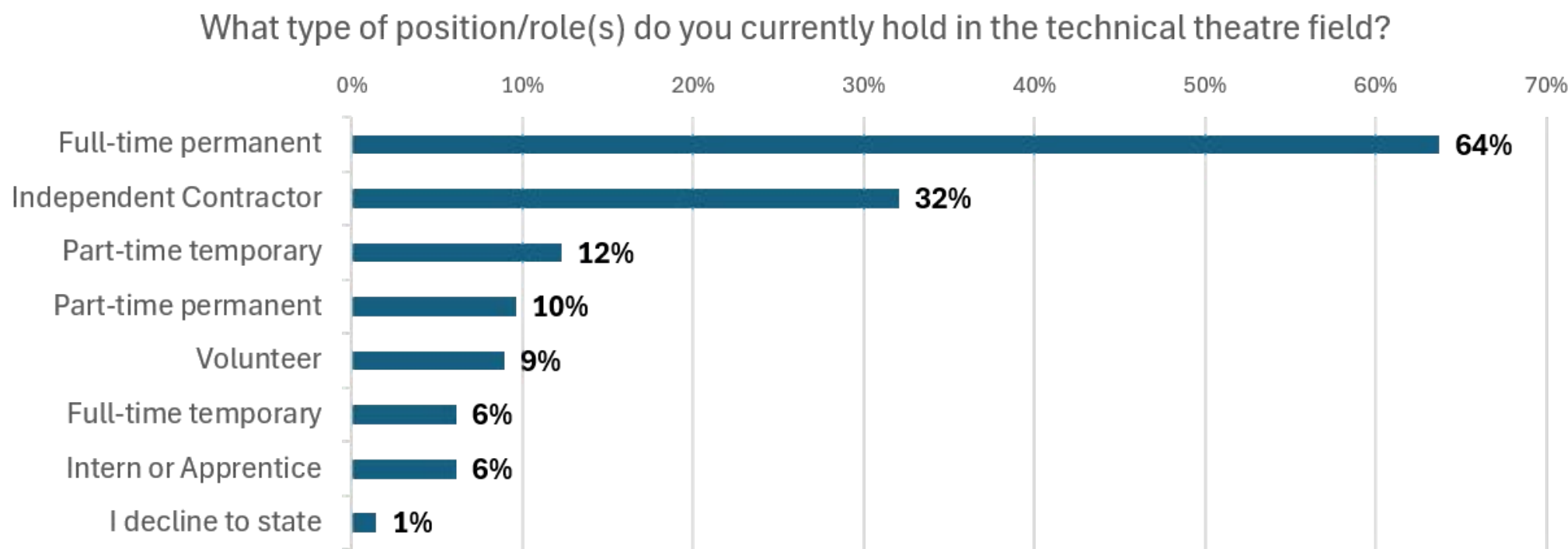


For most respondents, their primary role in the live entertainment field is their primary career





Full-time permanent roles are the most common employment type among respondents, followed by independent contracting





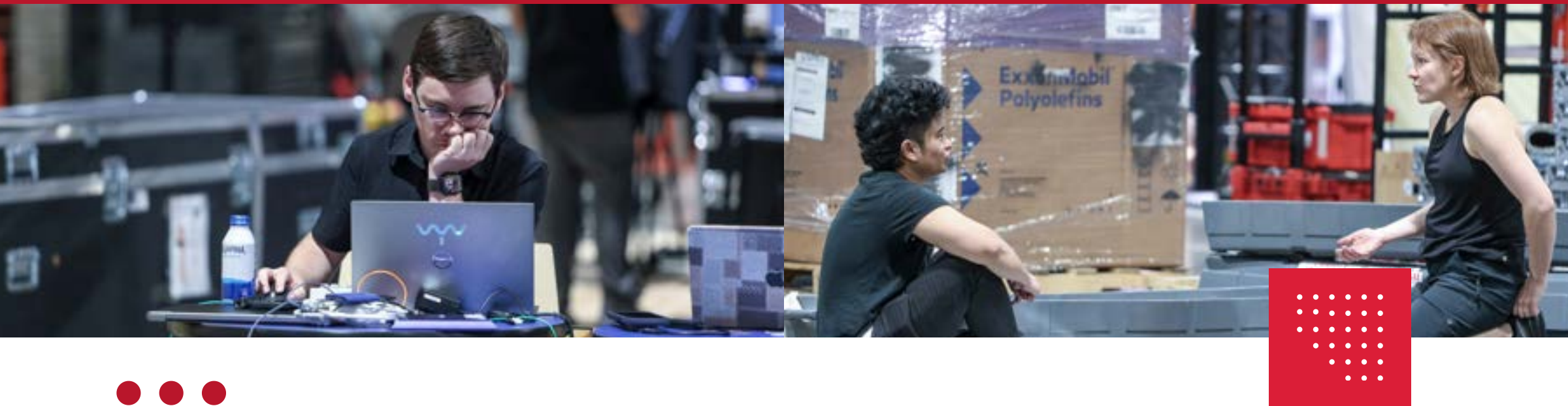
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2025 Study Results | Part Two: Compensation & Contracts

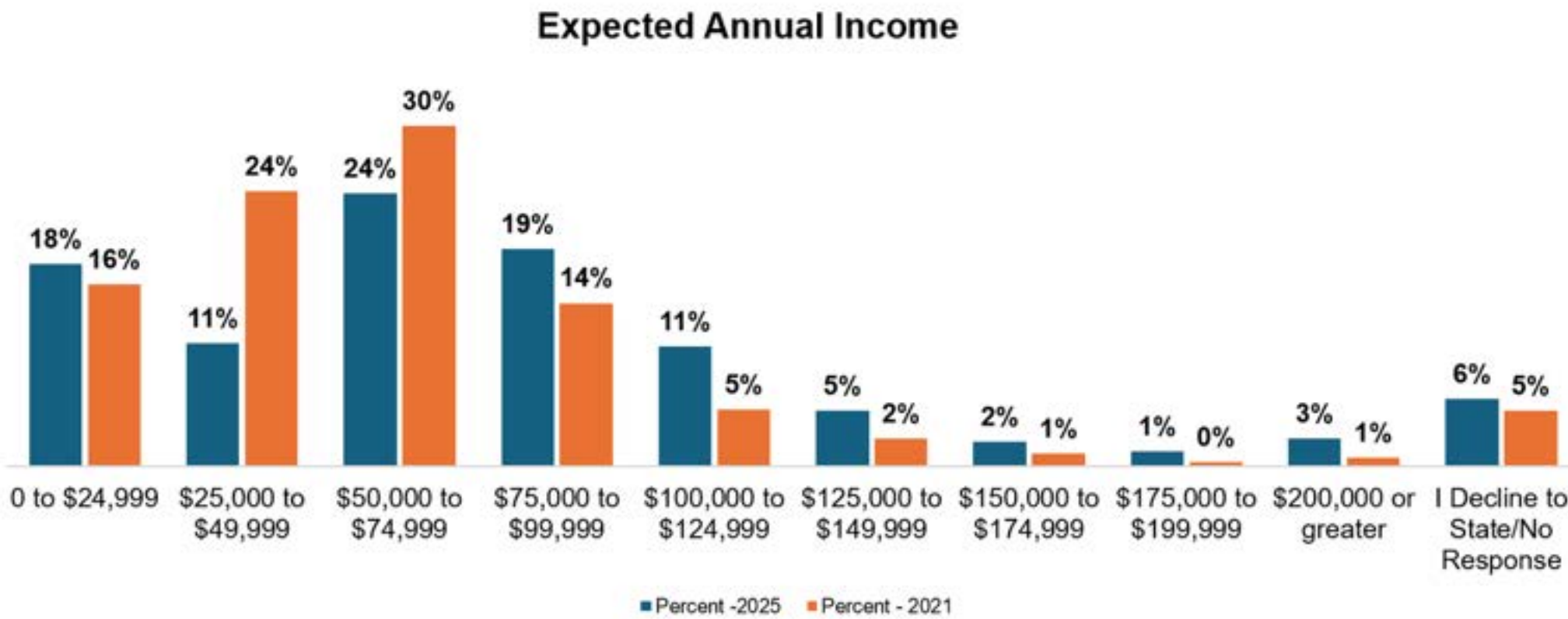
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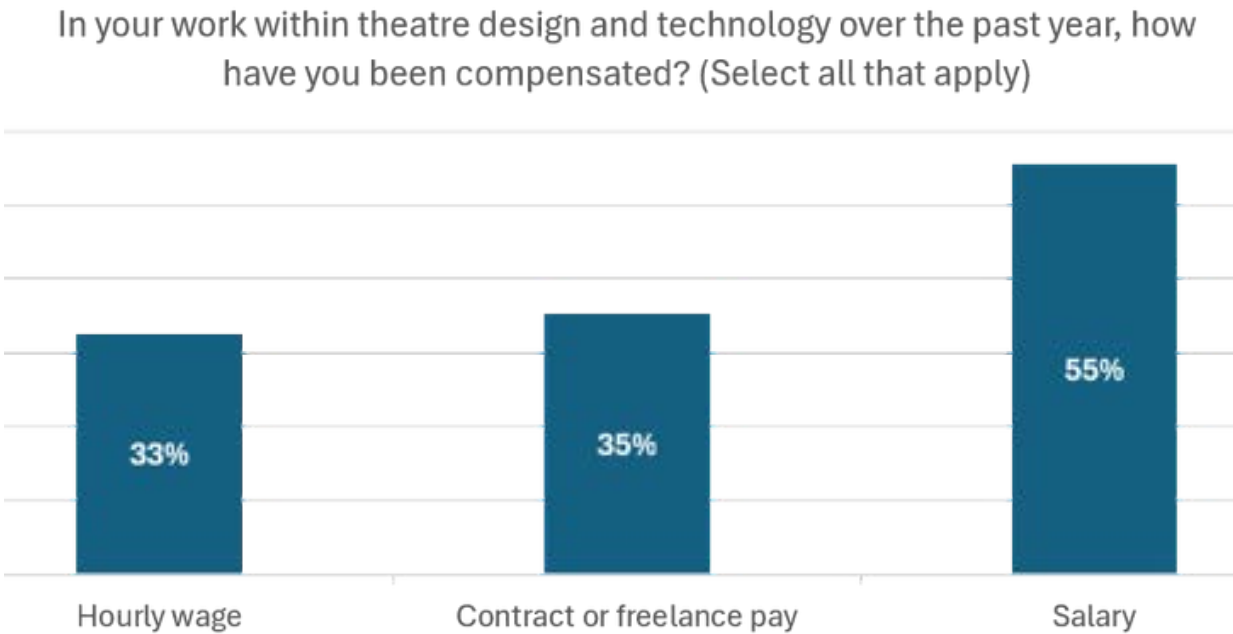




Expected annual income is concentrated in the middle range, with the largest shares between \$50,000 and \$99,999



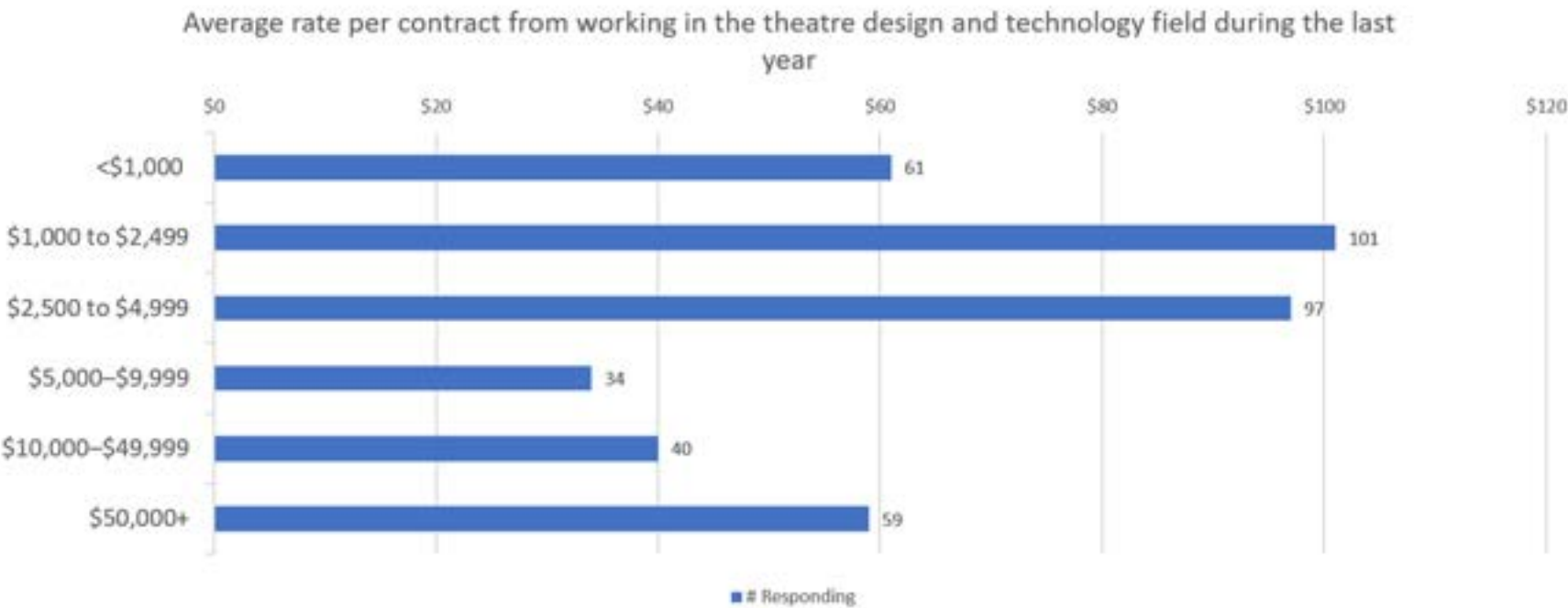
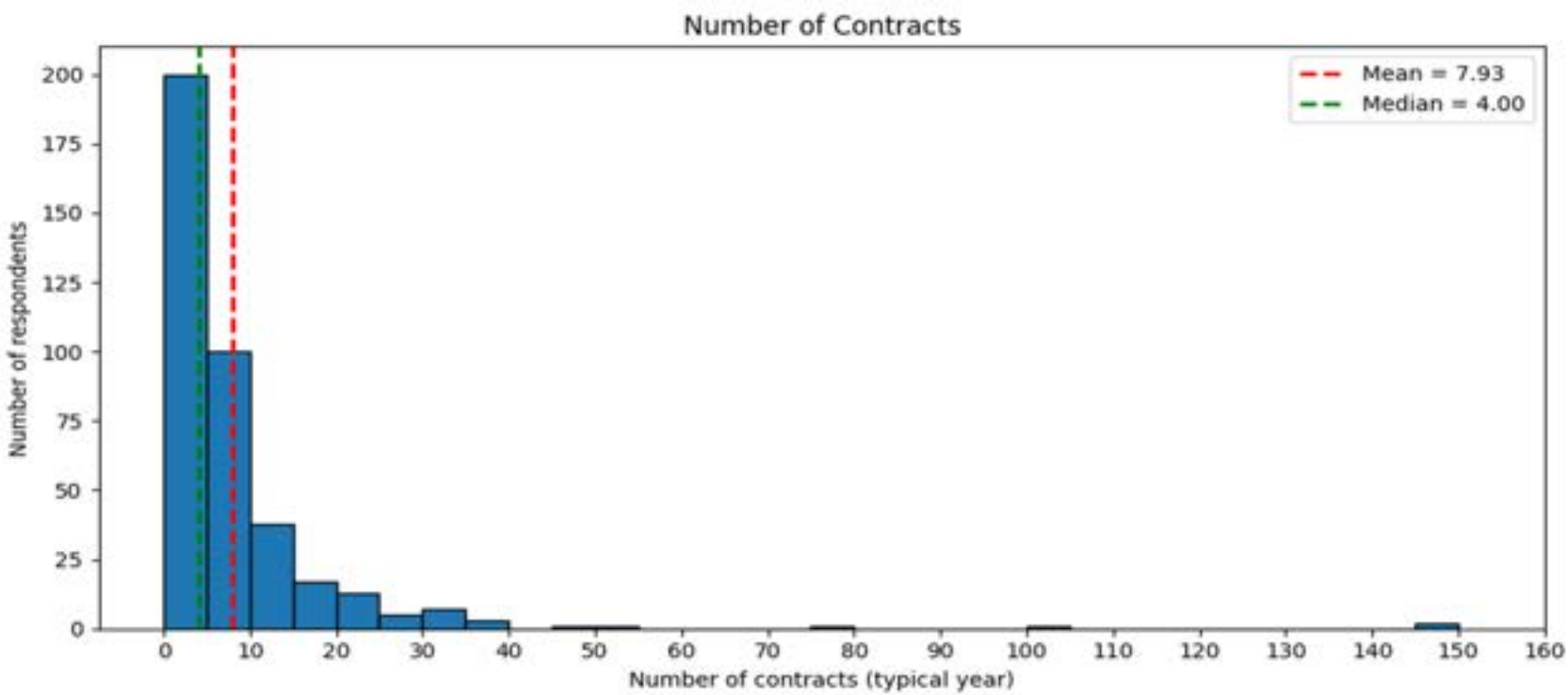
Most respondents report salary-based compensation, with notable contract and hourly work





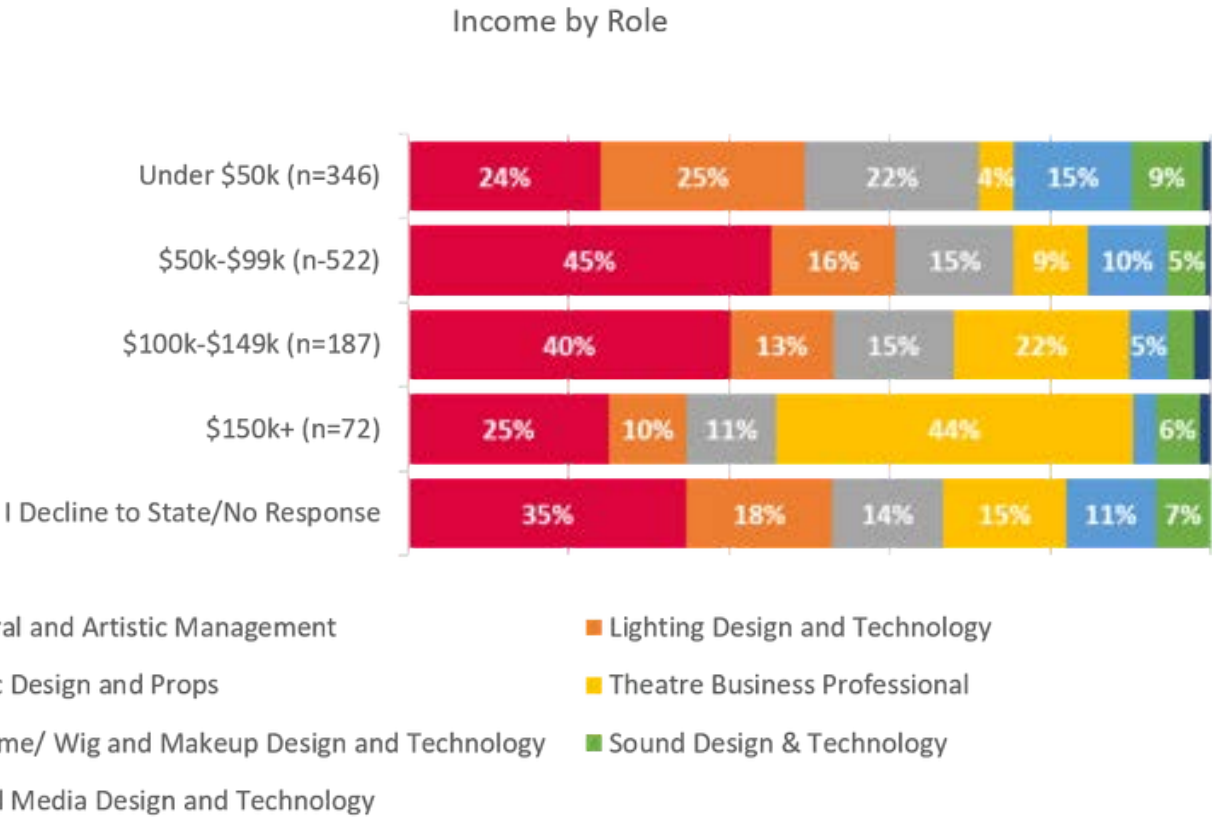
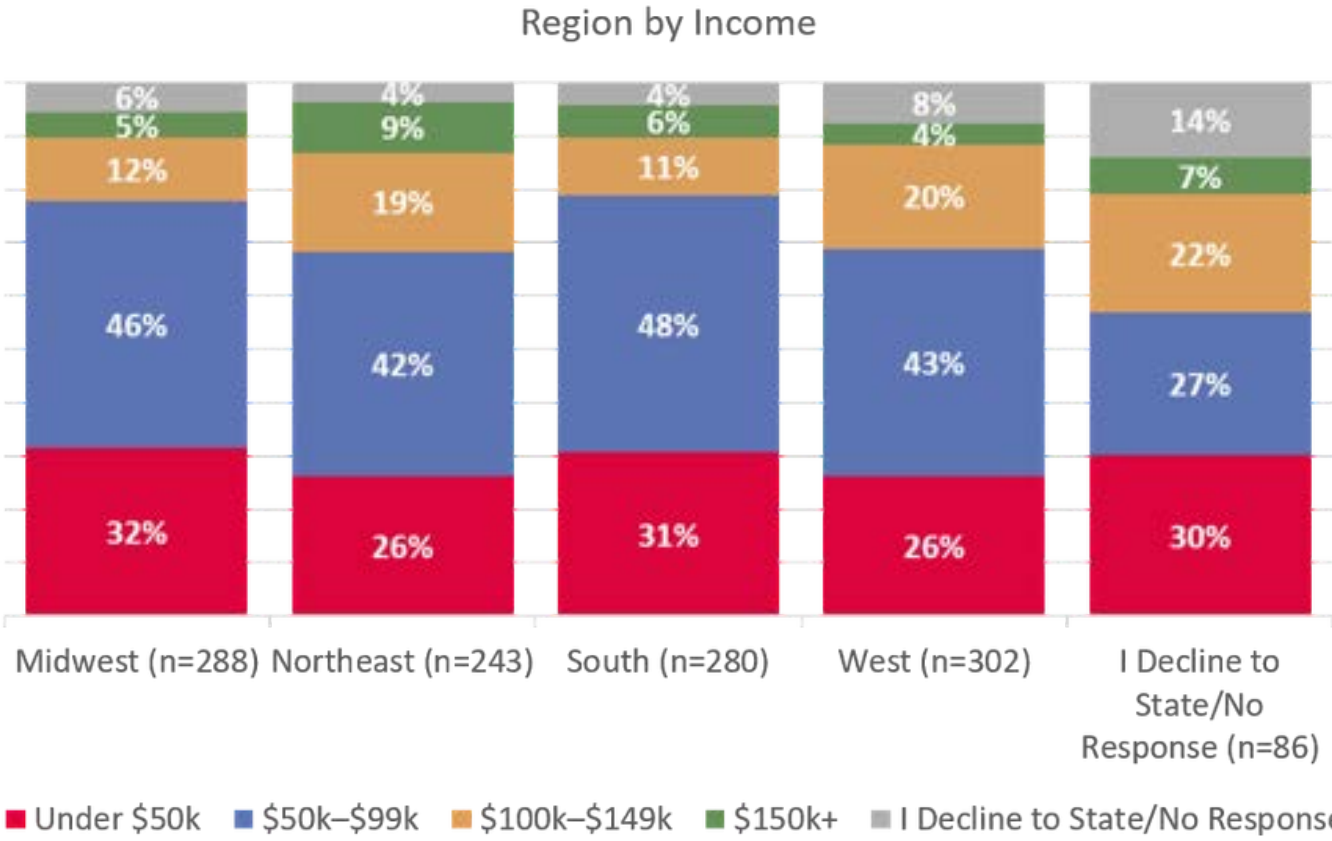
Contract workers average about 8 contracts per year

Contract rates are primarily mid-range, clustering between \$1,000 and \$4,999 per engagement





Income distributions are similar across regions, though the Northeast has a larger share of higher earners

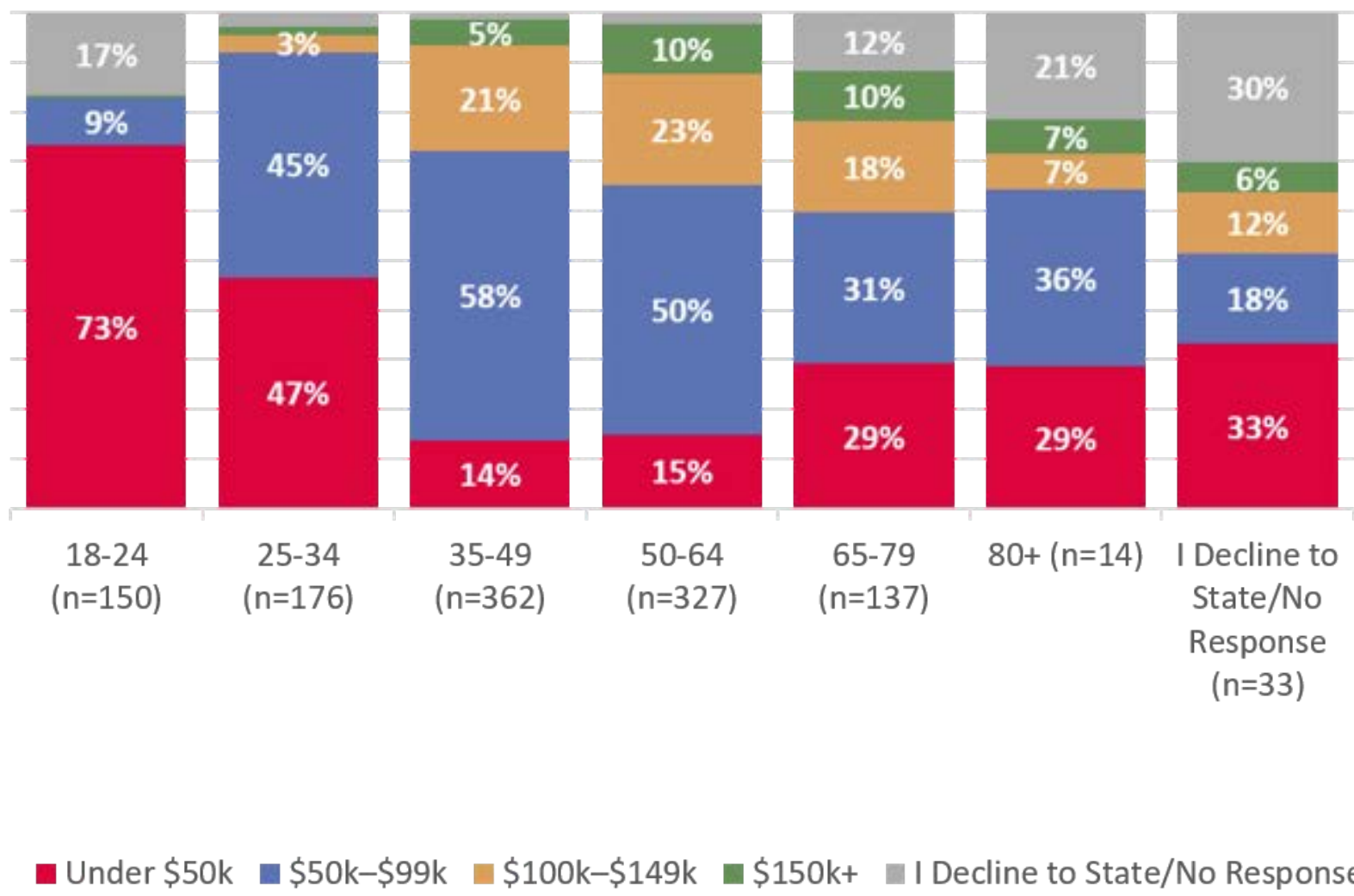


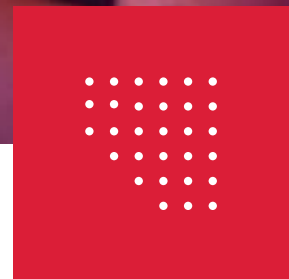
Management and business roles report the highest incomes



Compensation trends higher with age

Age by Income





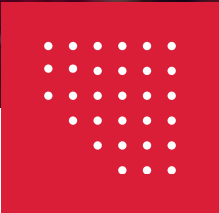
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2025 Study Results | Part Three: Demographics

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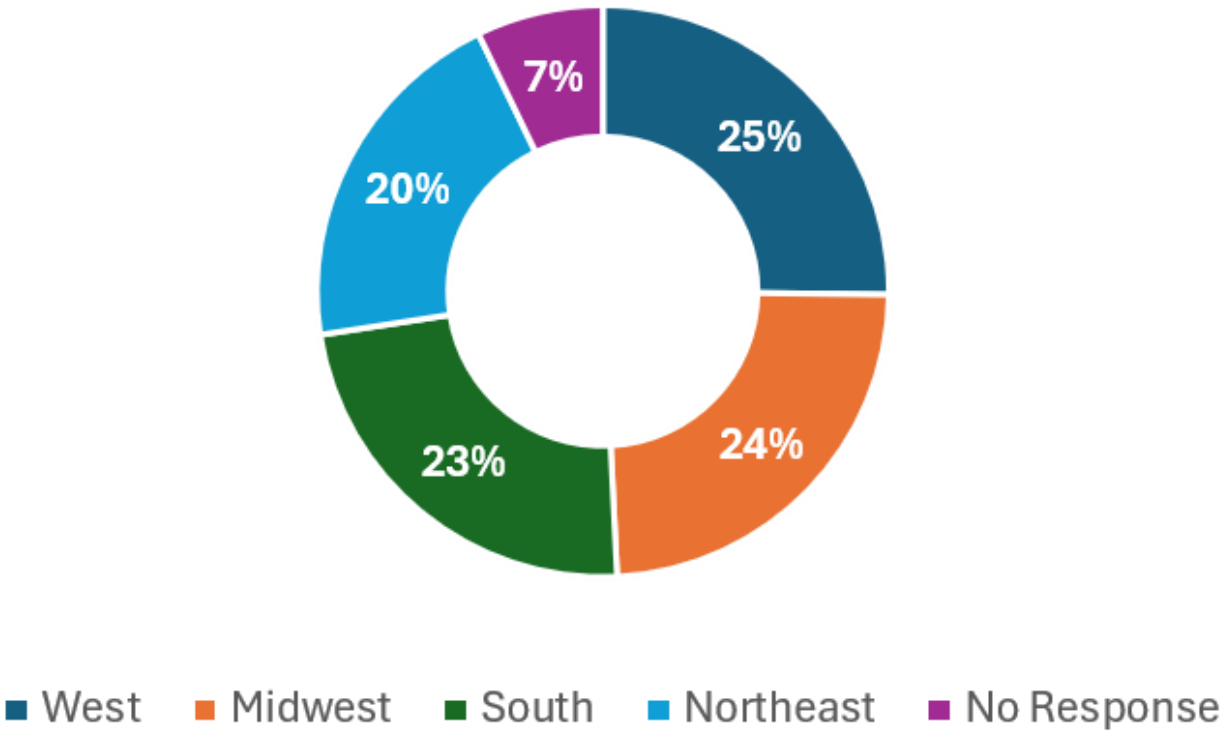
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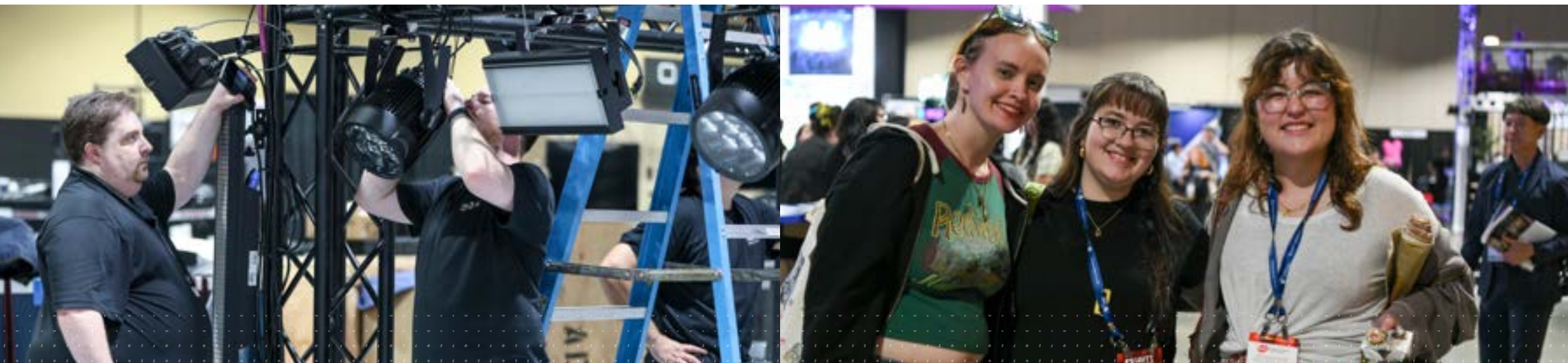
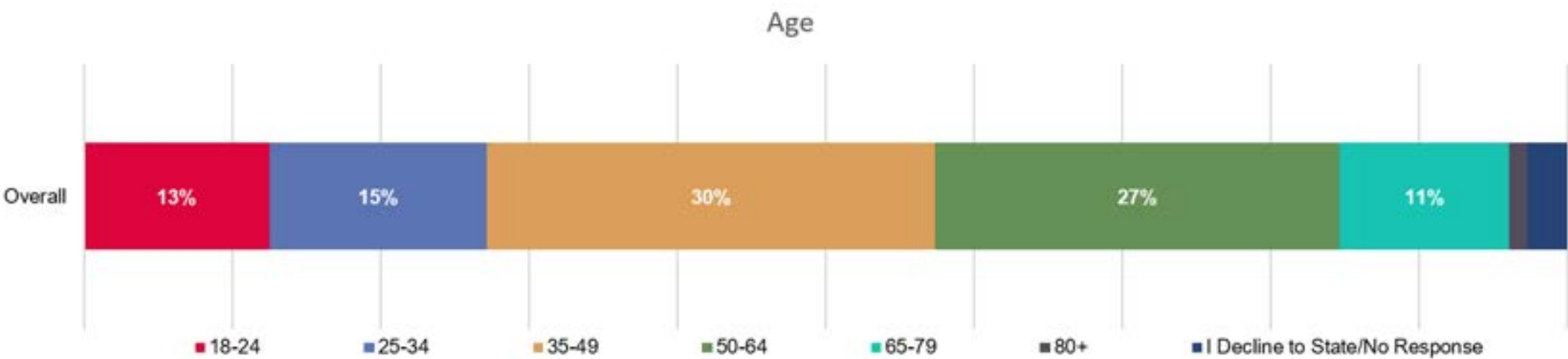
Respondents are distributed fairly evenly across U.S. regions

Responses by Region



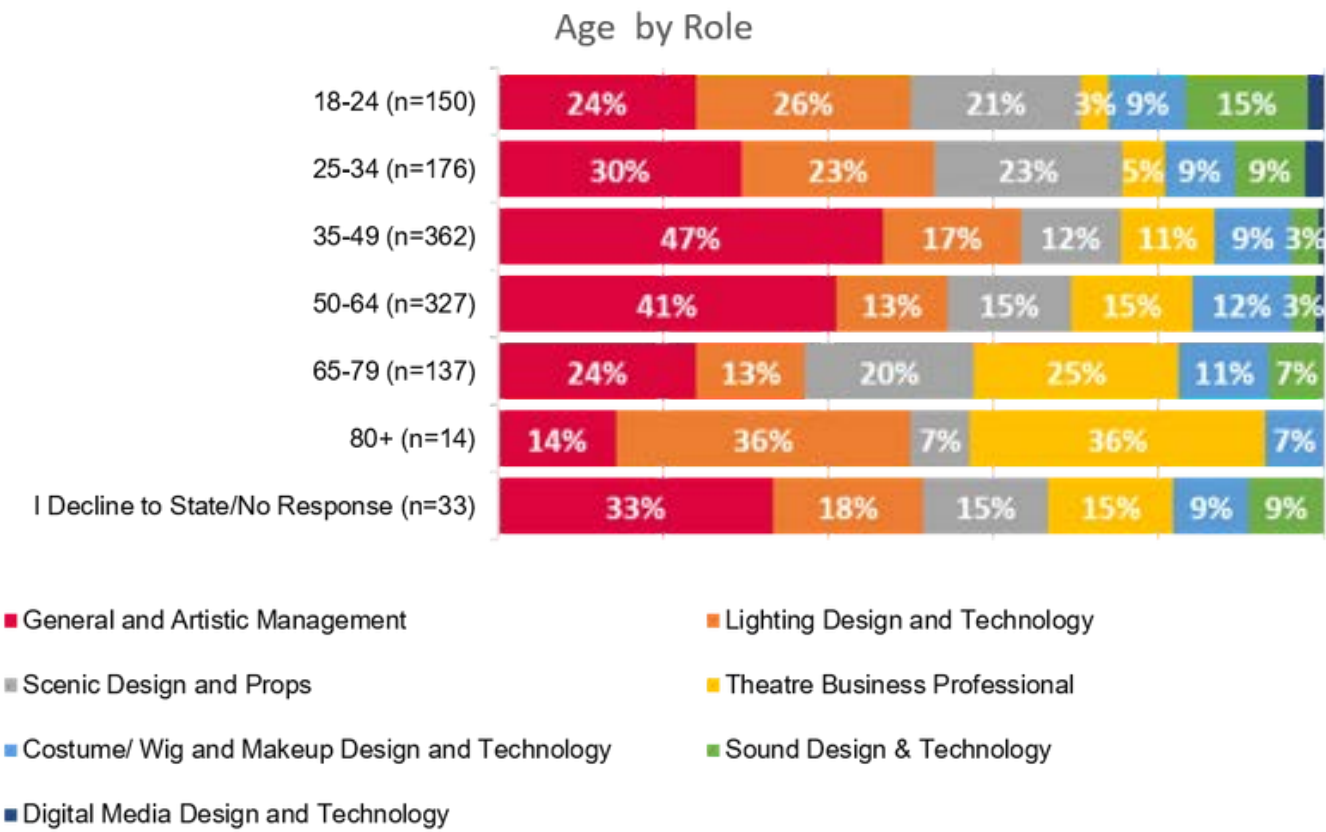


Most respondents are in mid-career age ranges (35–64), with balanced representation from younger and older professionals





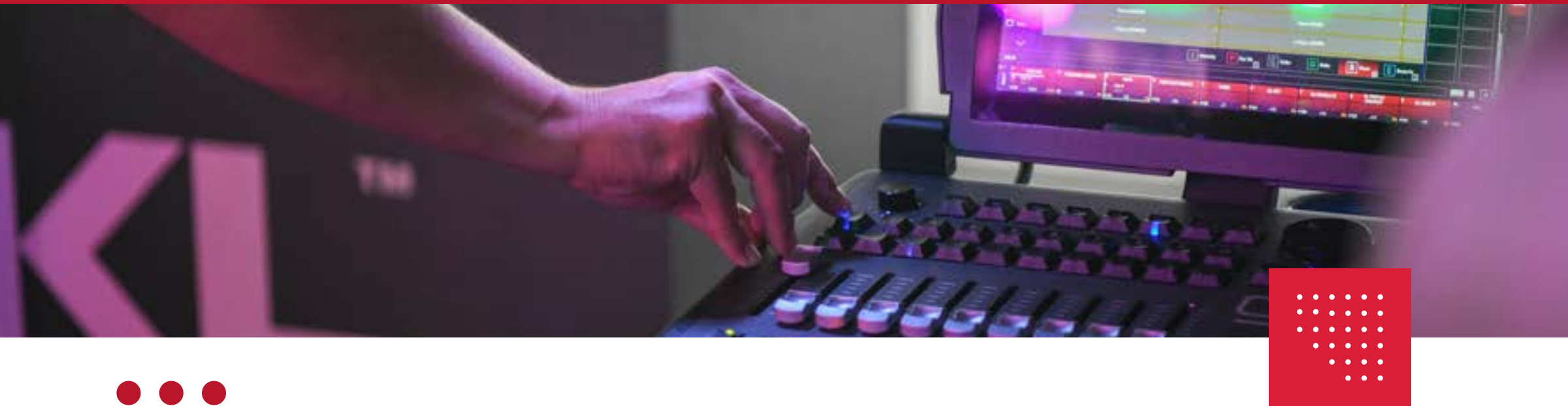
Older respondents are more likely to hold management roles



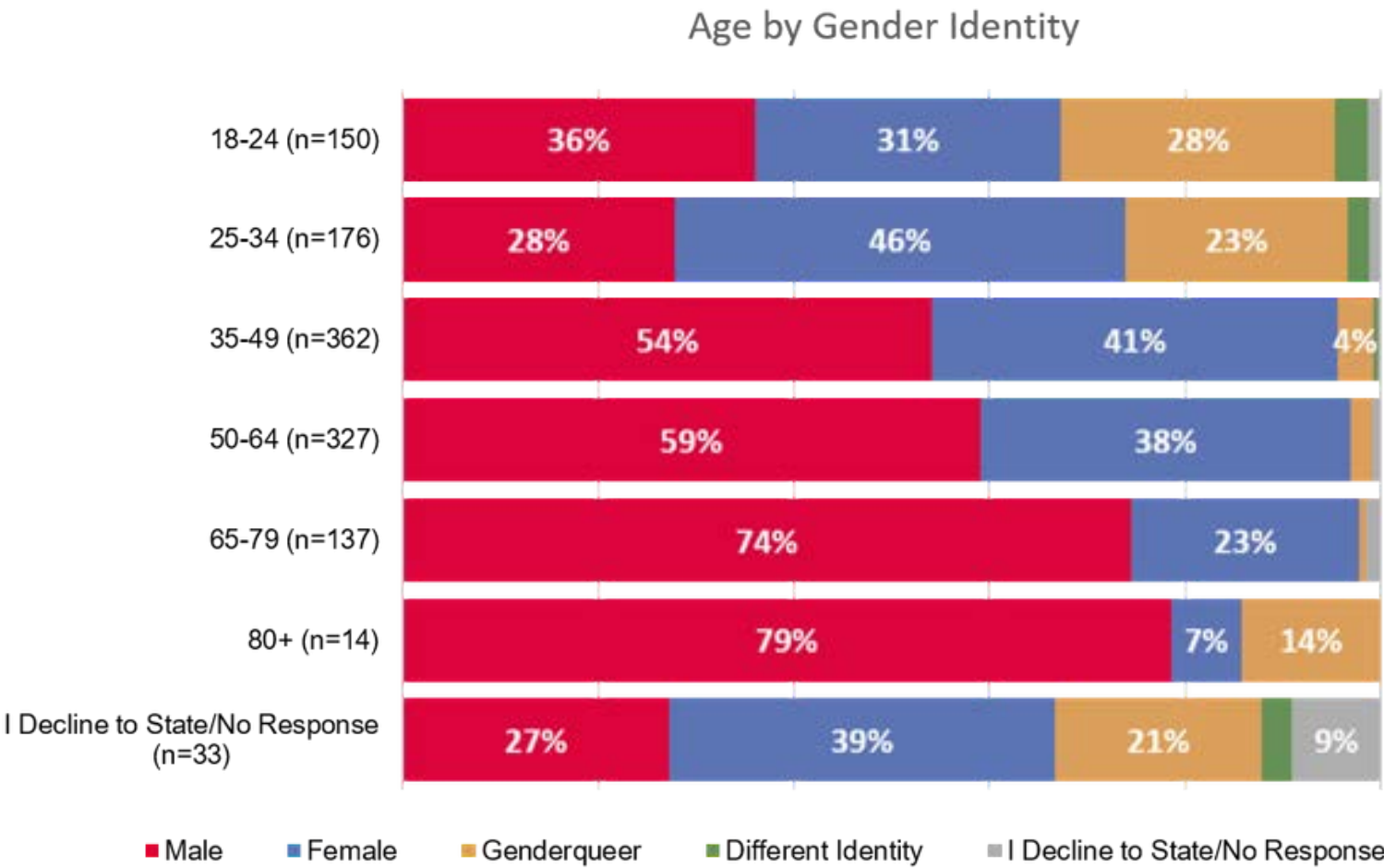
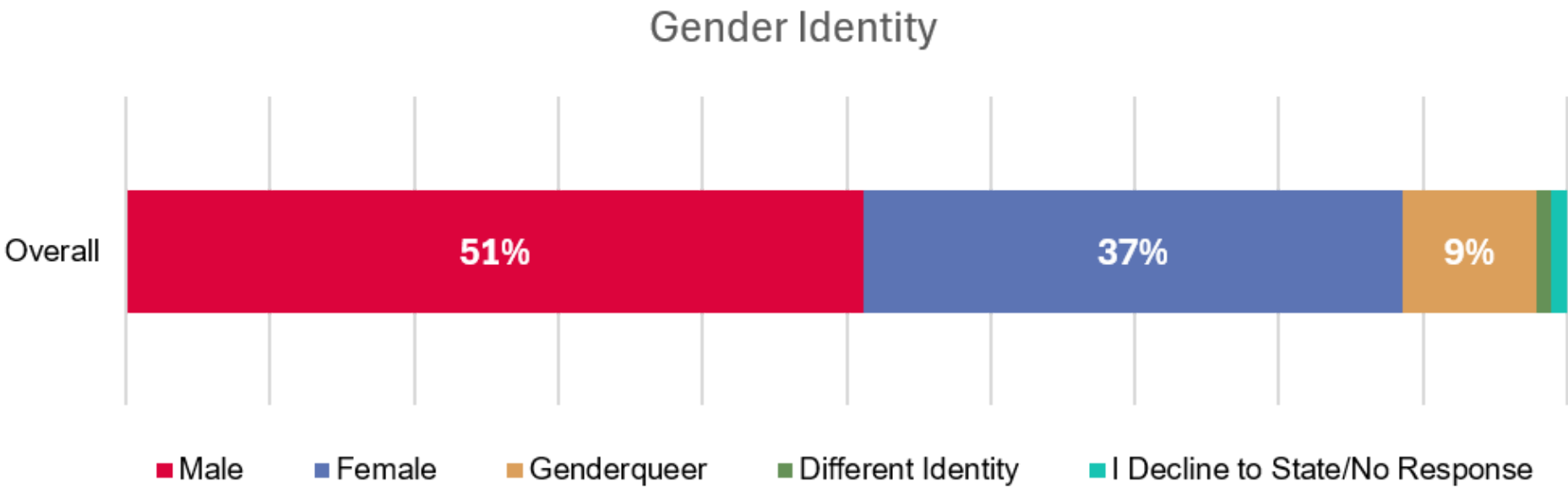
Technical roles such as Lighting/Sound Design and Technology are concentrated among younger respondents

Roles related to scenic design/props and costume/wig/makeup design are represented across all career stages rather than concentrated in one age group





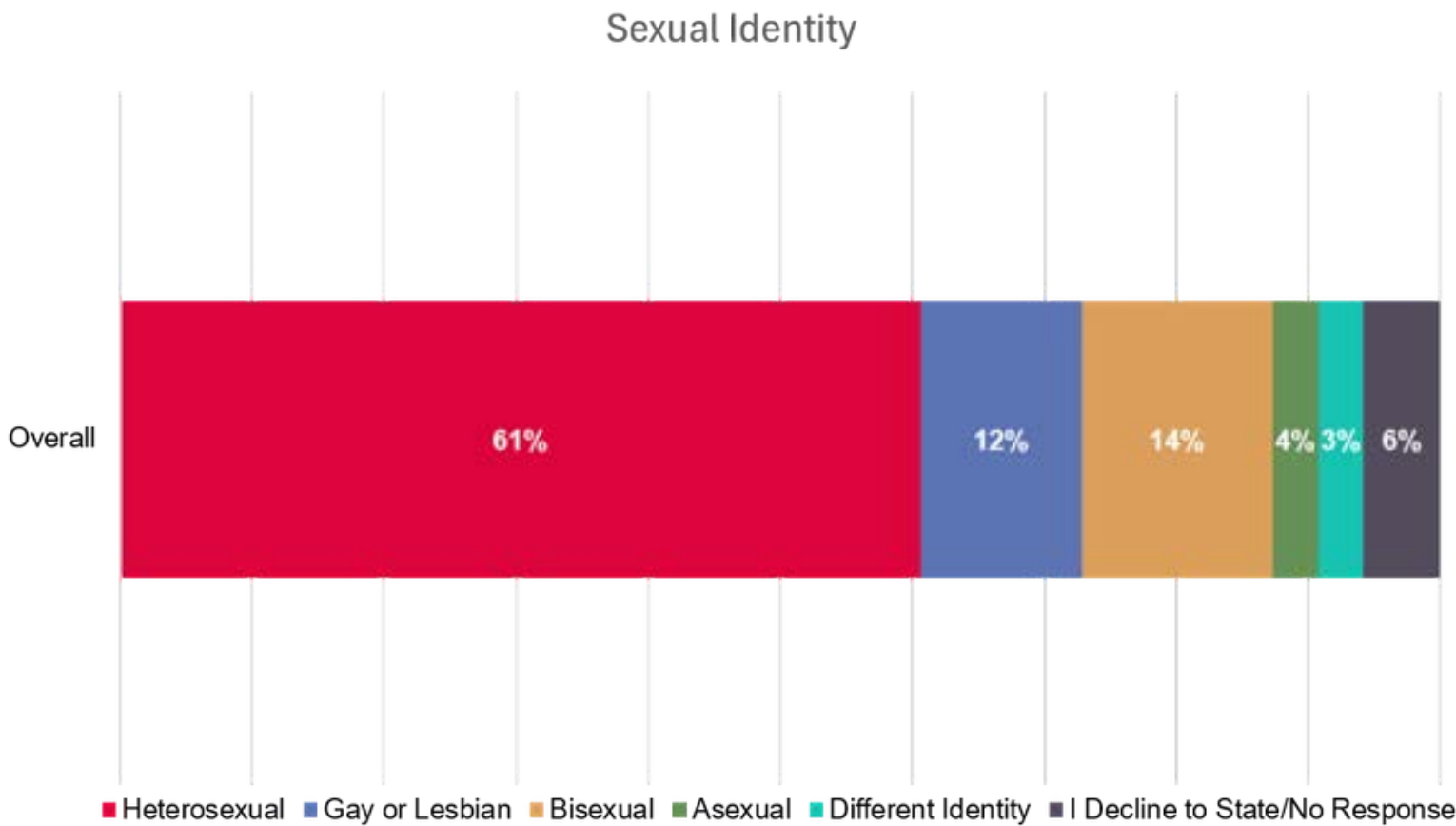
About half of respondents identify as male



Younger respondents report more diverse gender identities, while older age groups are increasingly male

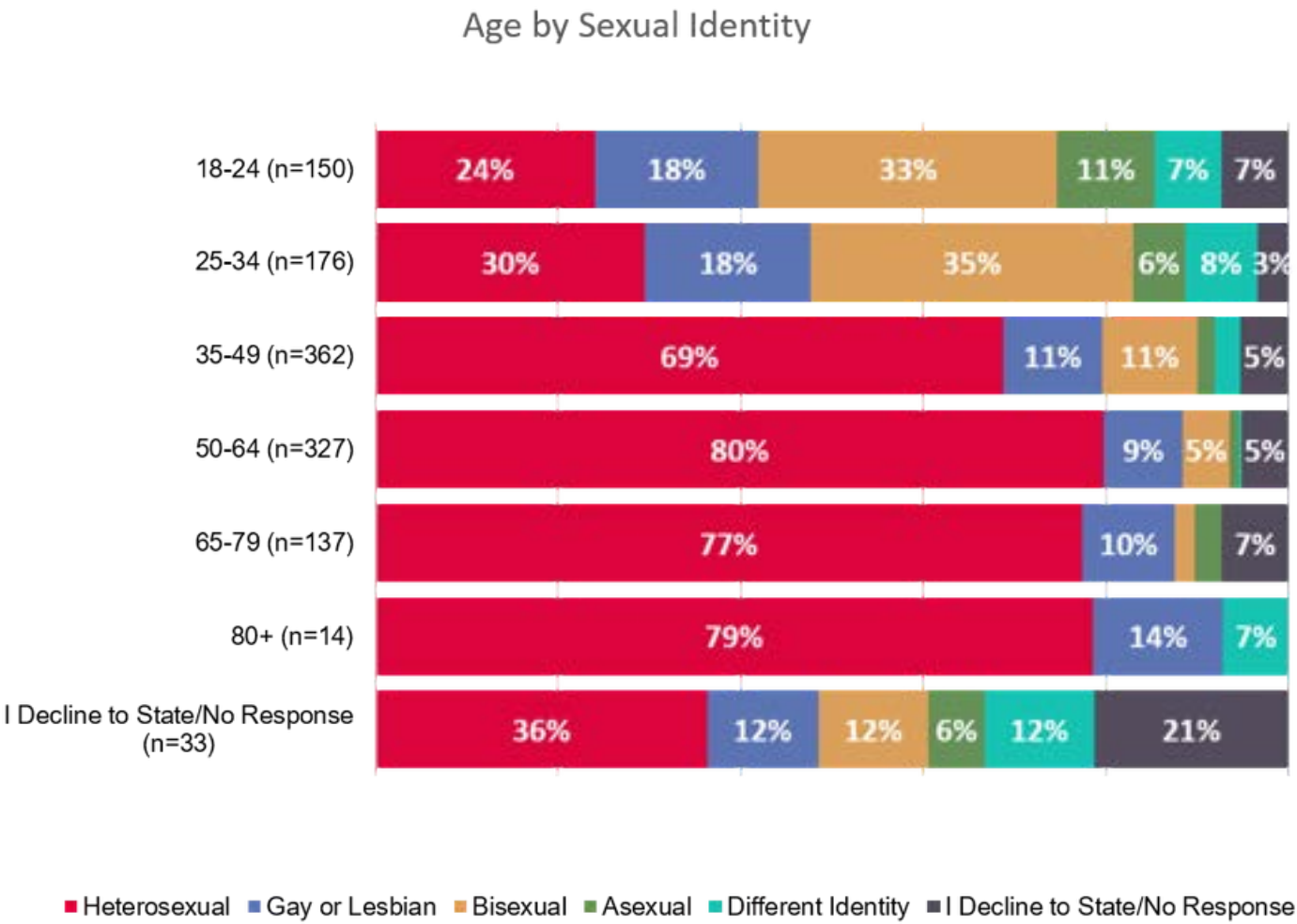


One-third of respondents identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, asexual, or another sexual orientation



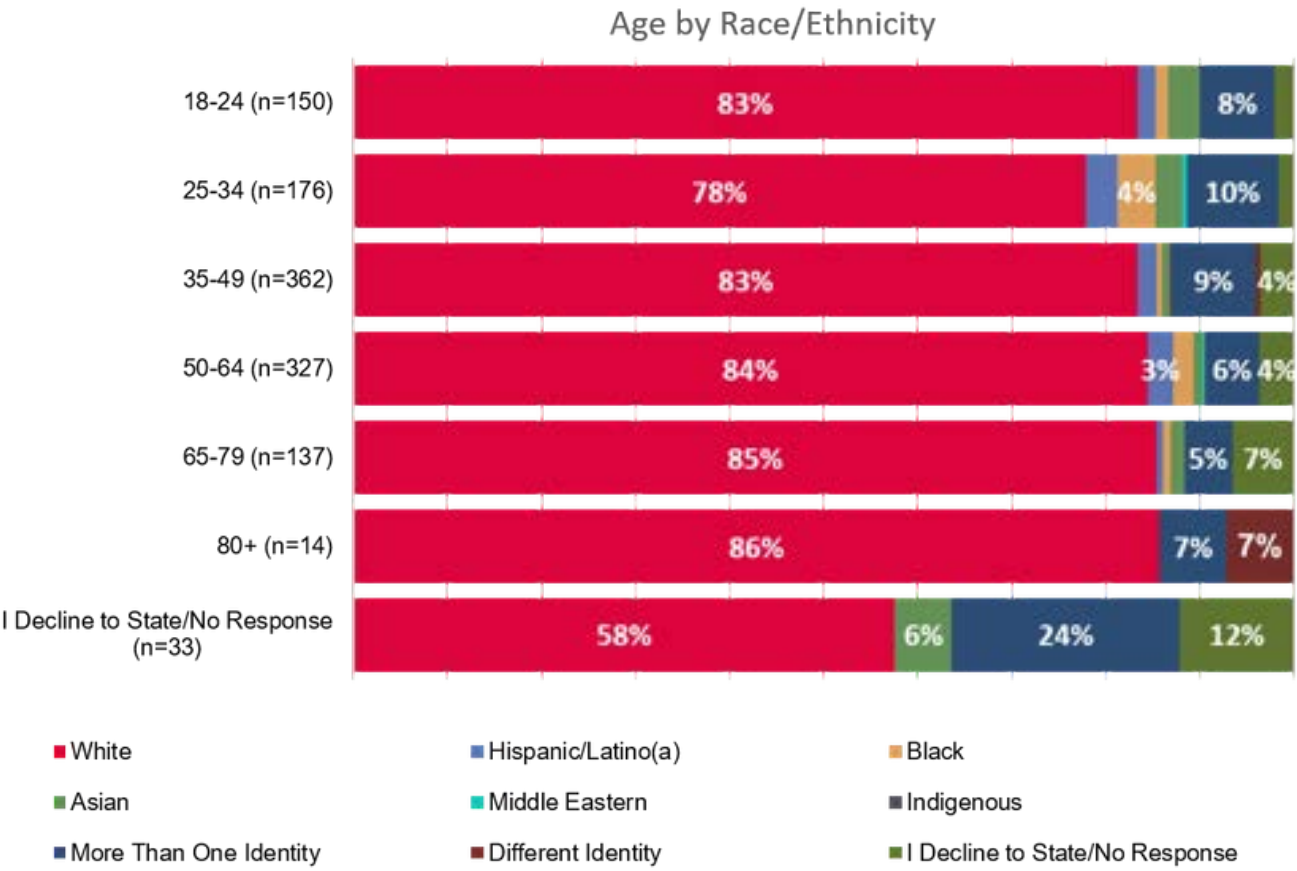
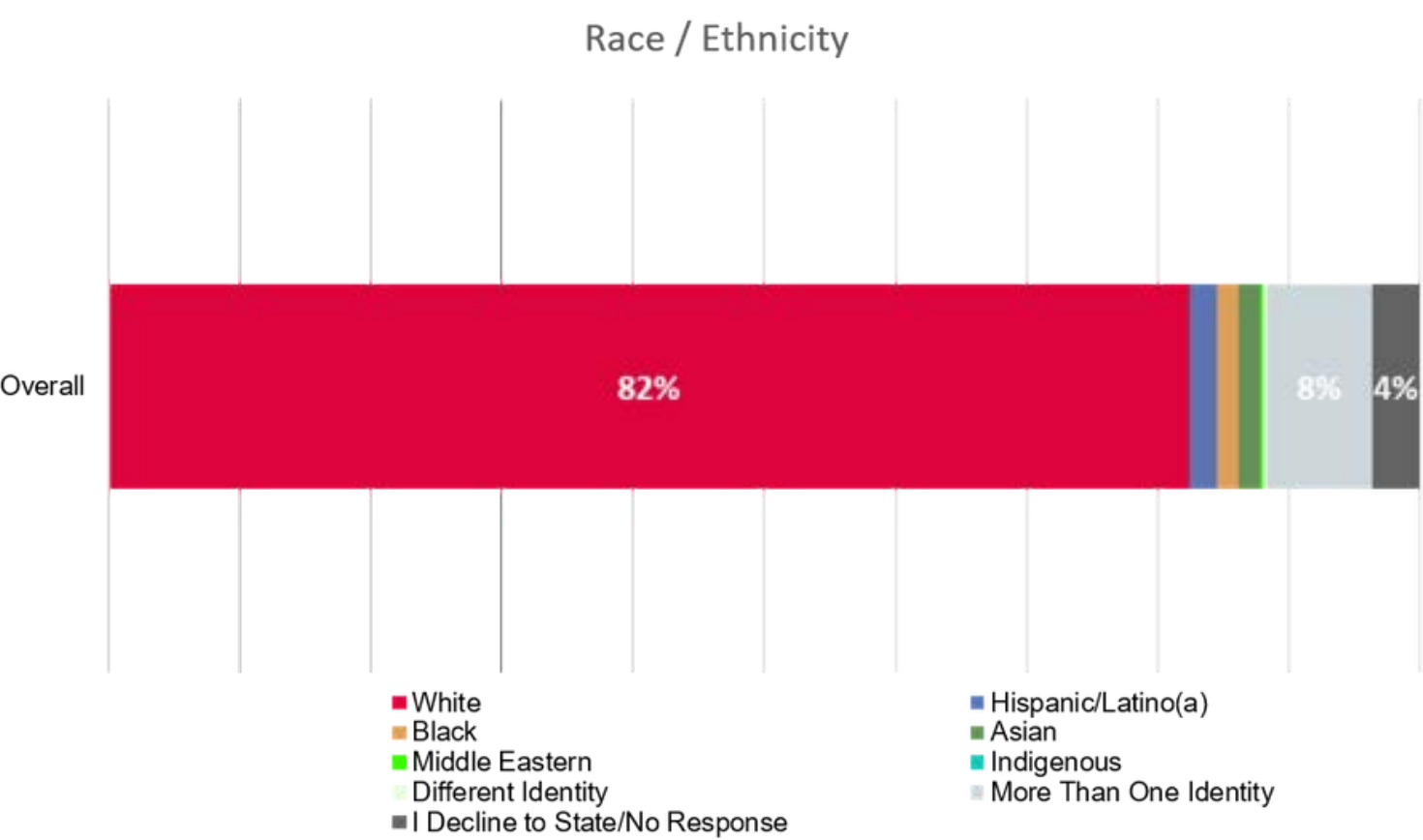


Younger age groups include a greater diversity of sexual orientations than older groups





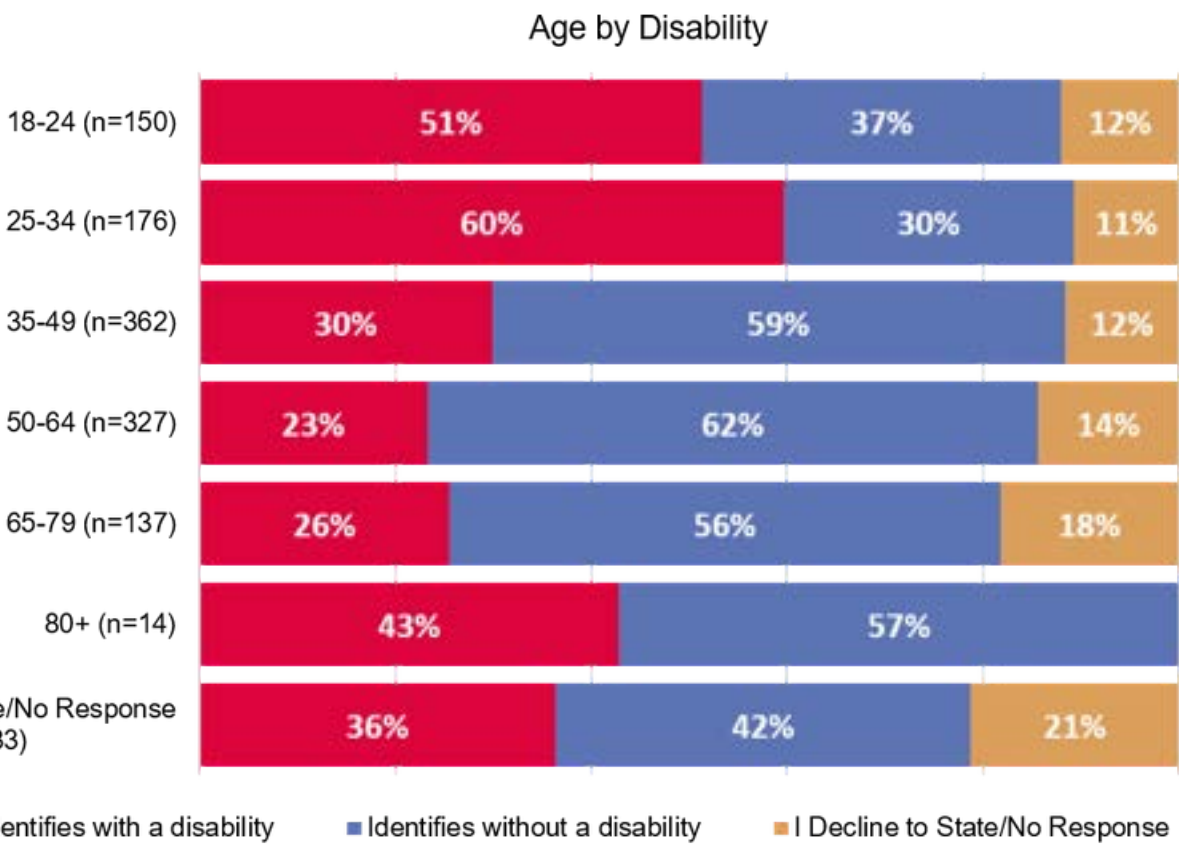
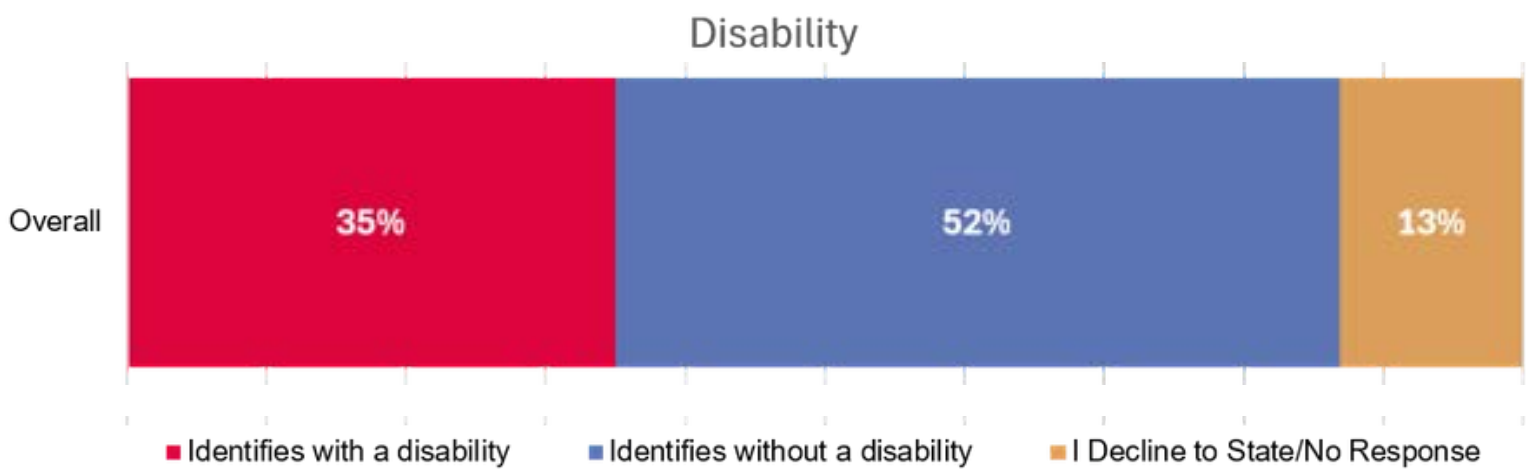
Most respondents identify as White, while nearly one in ten identify with more than one race or ethnicity



Race/Ethnicity Composition is Similar Across Age Groups



One-third of respondents identify as a person with a disability



Disability representation is higher among younger groups

Respondents under 35 are more likely to identify with a disability than not, whereas among respondents 35 and older, the opposite is true