



Activities and Conversations about Synthetic Biology

Pilot Event Evaluation Findings

Elizabeth Kunz Kollmann

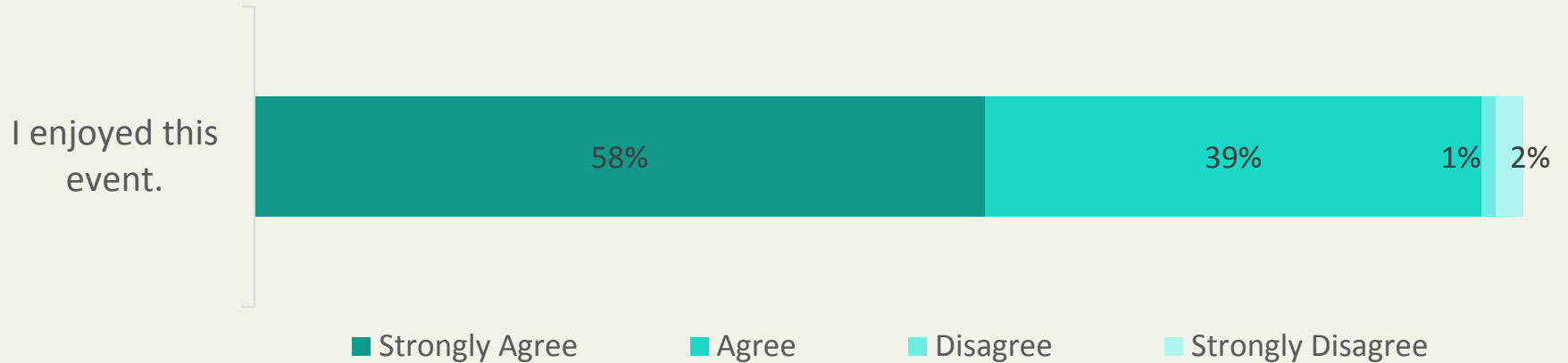
ekollmann@mos.org



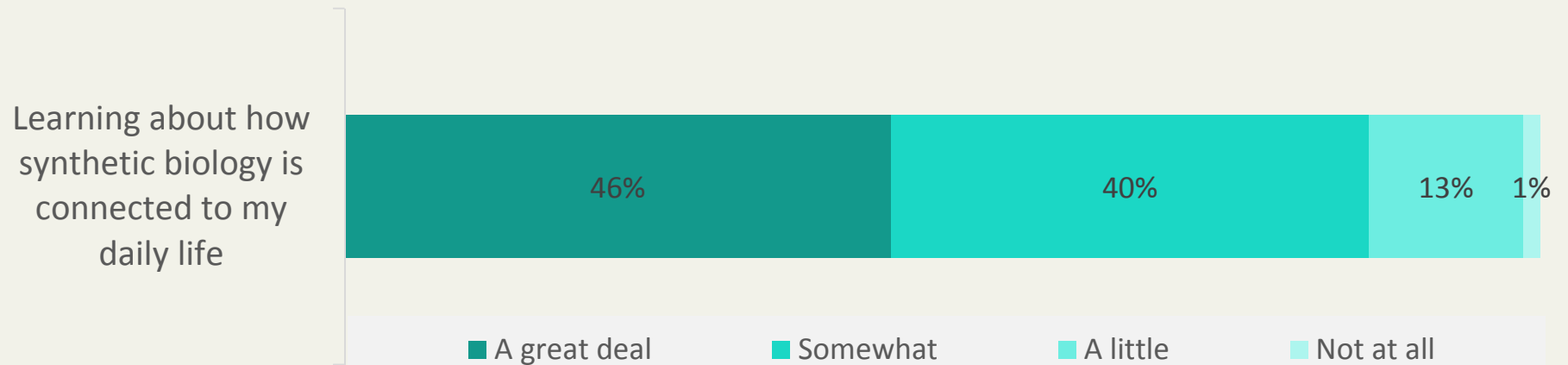
Evaluation Findings: Impacts on Visitors

Visitor Interest and Engagement

Please rate your agreement with the following statement (n=92):



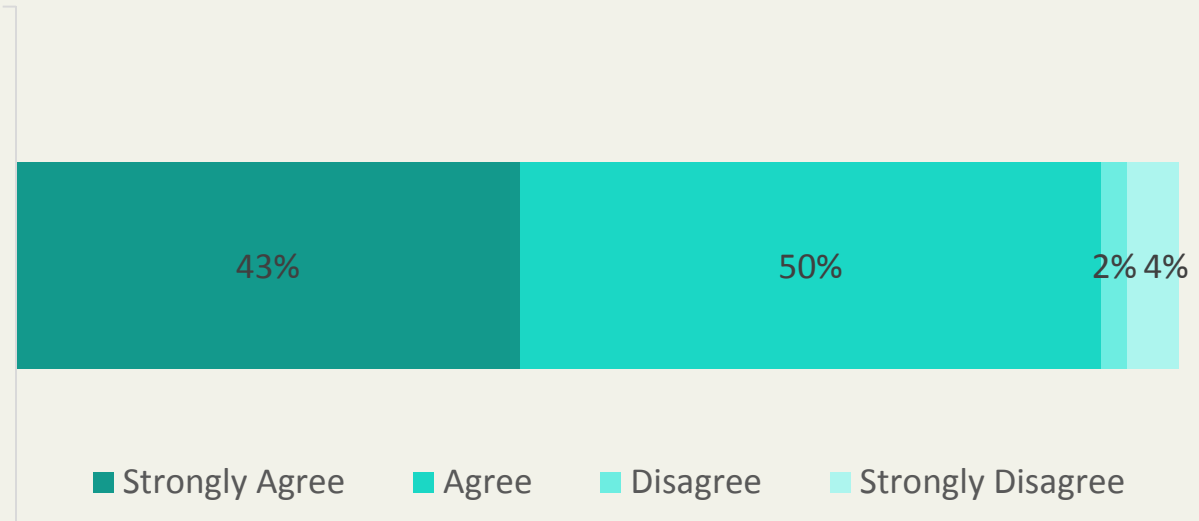
How much did this event increase your interest in the following activity? (n=70)



Visitor Learning

Please rate your agreement with the following statement (n=90):

I am more informed about synthetic biology now than I was before the event.



“[I learned] biology affects our lives every day. For good or bad.”

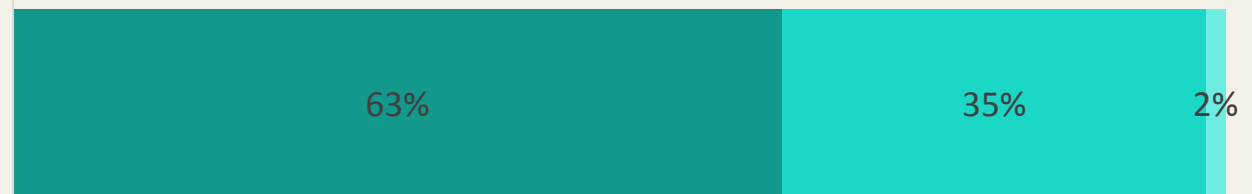
“[I learned] the definition of synthetic biology and its application in our daily lives”

Evaluation Findings: Impacts on Volunteers/Scientists

Volunteer Interest and Engagement

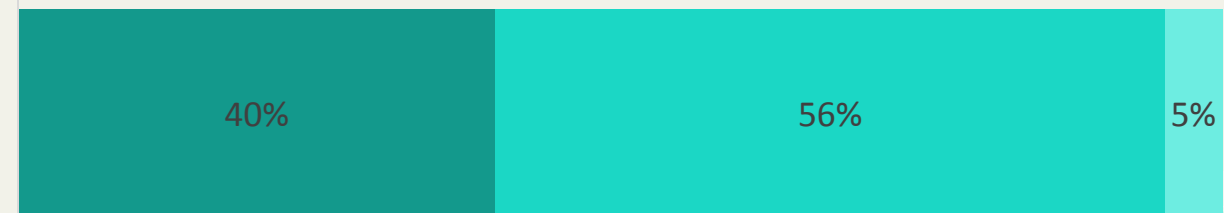
Please rate your agreement with the following statements (n=63):

I would participate in a future event during which I would interact with the public by leading hands-on activities.



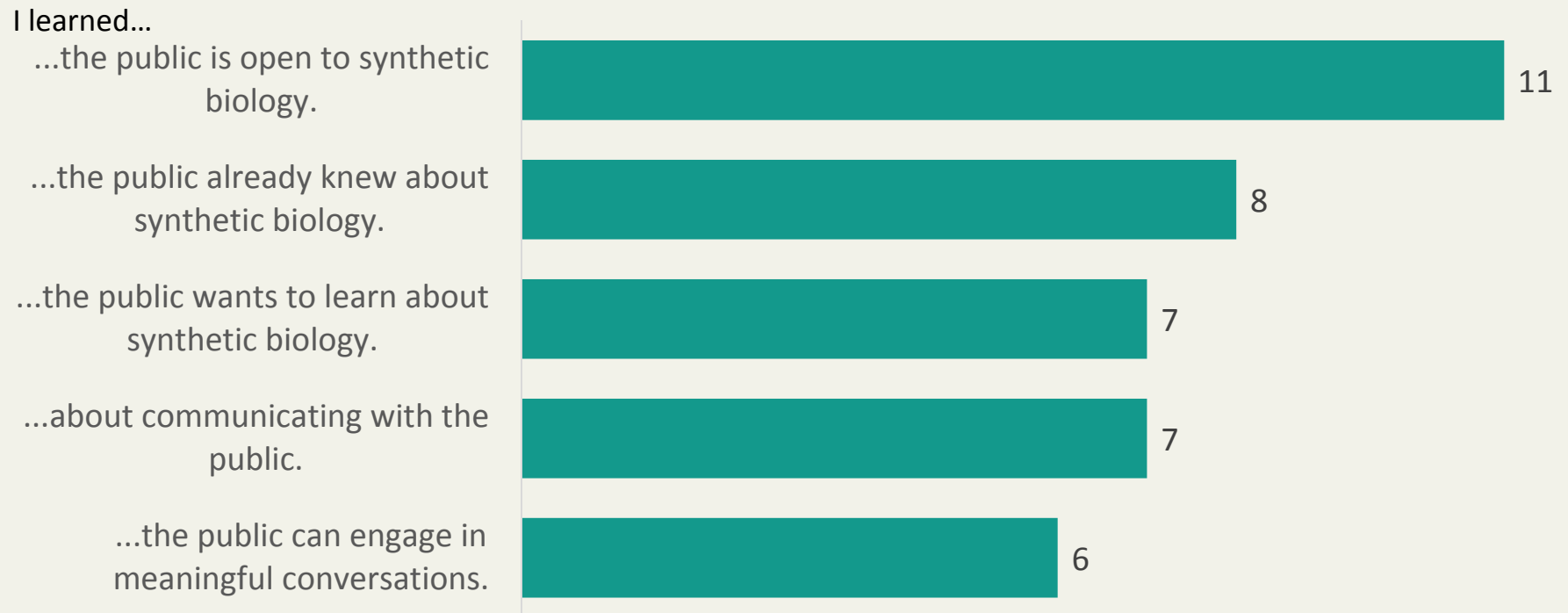
■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree

My participation increased my interest in engaging the public in science.



Volunteer Learning

What, if anything, did you learn from public participants at this event? (n=49)



“They were very open to listening and interacting about a topic I thought would be very controversial.”

“Public participants knew more general knowledge about the subject than I had expected.”

Evaluation Findings: Information from the Hosts

Host Thoughts...

- "...We were impressed by how well the activities worked. The activities that had consumables were pretty easy to refresh when needed..."
- "The event was exciting and it was a great experience watching the scientists engage directly with the general public."

...And Advice

- "Be aware of necessary prep, get your scientists onboard early, offer a training at their location as well as yours, arm your volunteers with language to deal with any insistent questioning from visitors with contrary ideas..."
- "...Orientation is really important - try not to have volunteers who haven't gone through orientation. The scientists really prepared for the event after going through orientation, and they wouldn't be able to do as good a job without it..."
- "Pick activities that are suitable for the audience you not only hope to reach but that is likely to walk through your door..."