

Adoption of AI in the Indian Legal Landscape

Insights from Legal Professionals, Students & Institutions Across India

Full Survey Results

Executive Summary

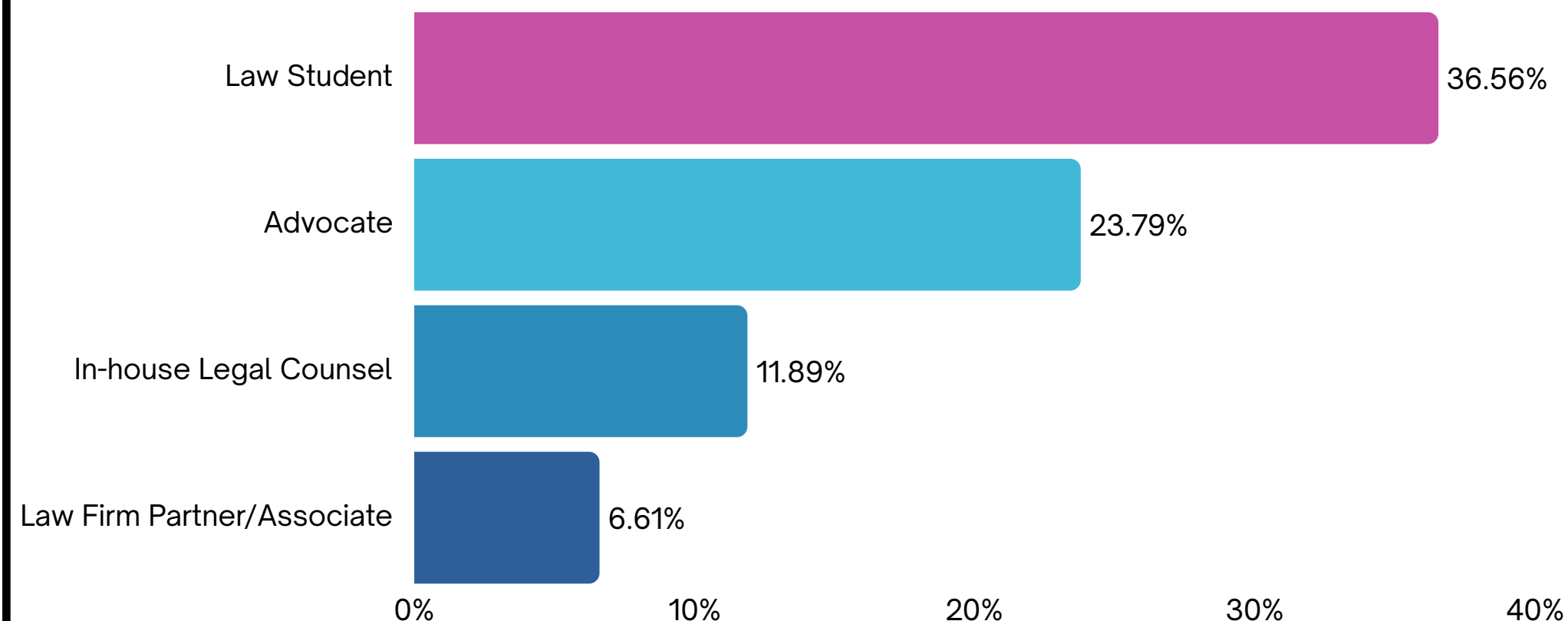
Executive Summary

A nationwide survey conducted between May 9–19, 2025, assessed AI adoption in India’s legal sector, with 227 professionals participating across roles such as advocates, in-house counsel, law firm partners, judicial officers, academics, and law students.

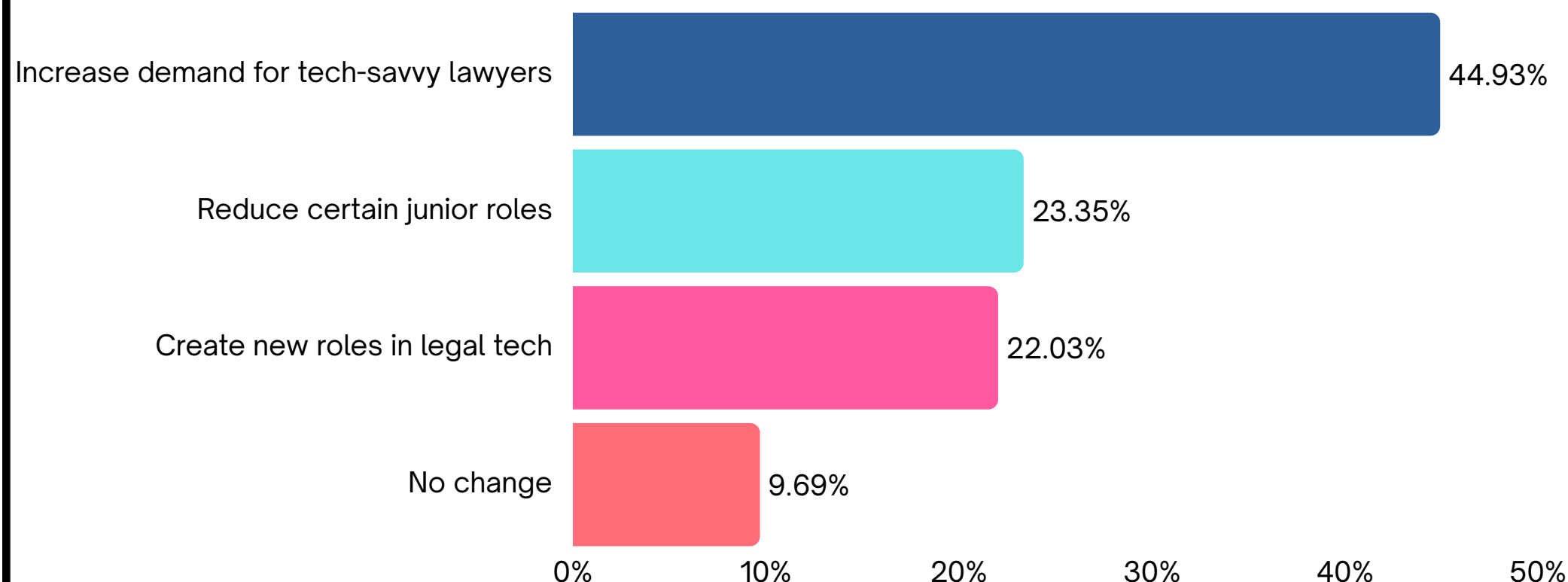
Law students made up the largest group (36.56%), followed by advocates (23.79%) and in-house legal counsel (11.89%). The survey examined AI familiarity, tool usage, perceived benefits, challenges, and future expectations.

Notably, 44.93% of respondents expect increased demand for tech-savvy lawyers, 23.35% foresee a reduction in junior roles, and 22.03% anticipate new legal-tech positions—indicating a growing belief that AI will augment, rather than replace, legal professionals.

Different roles of people who participated in the survey



Perceptions of AI’s Impact on Team and Organizational Job Roles



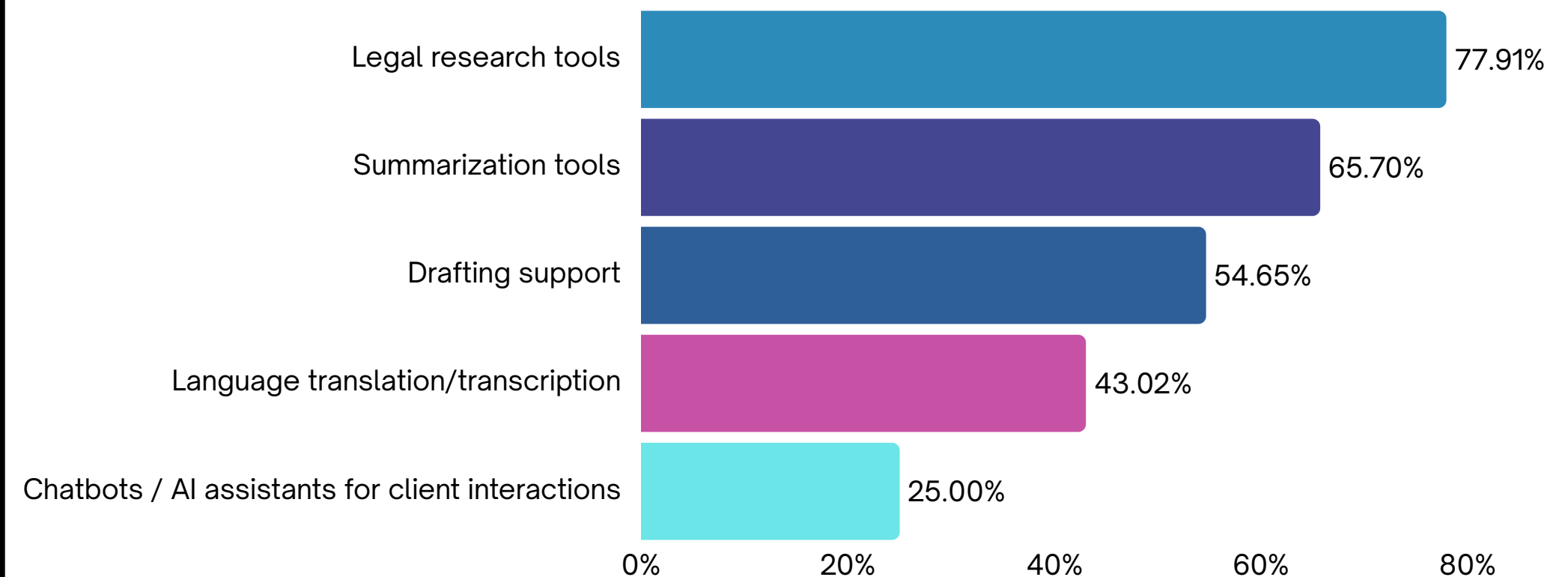
Executive Summary

In practice, AI is most commonly used for legal research (77.91%), summarization tools (65.70%), and drafting support (54.65%). Other applications include language translation (43.02%) and chatbots (25%), reflecting AI's growing role in routine, text-driven legal work.

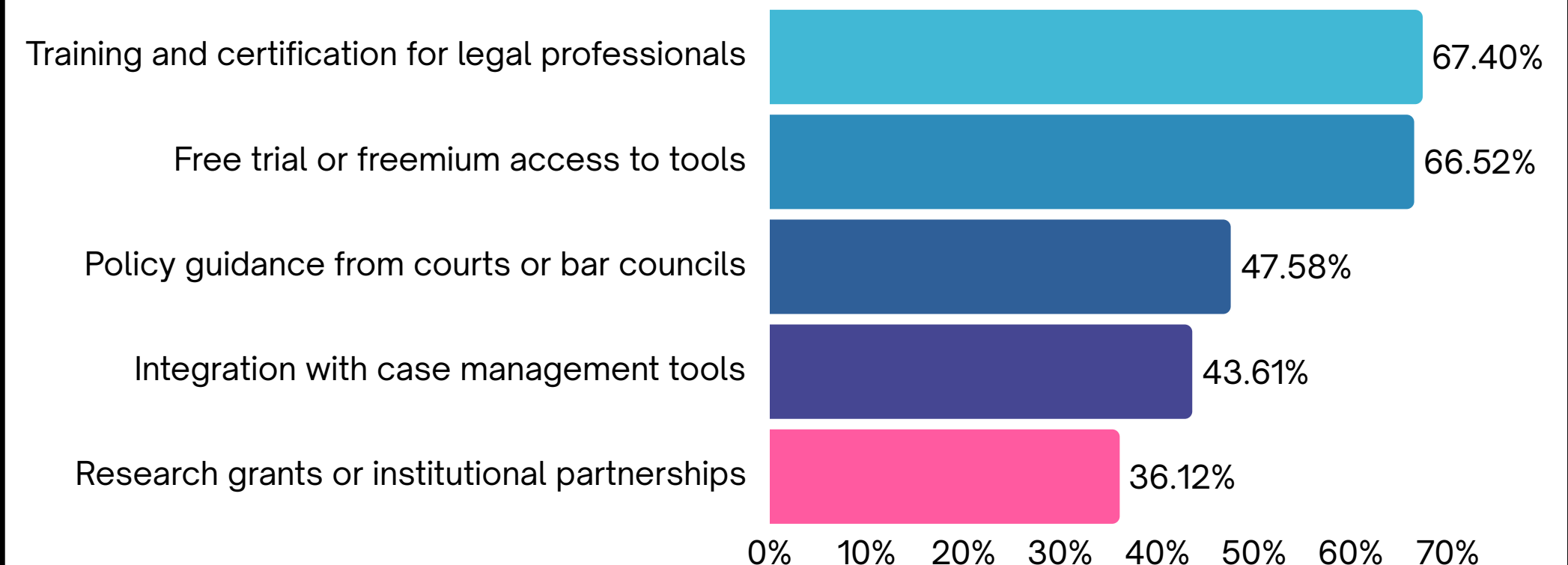
Barriers to scale include the need for training and certification (67.40%), free/freemium access (66.52%), formal policy and ethical guidance (47.58%), and integration support (43.61%).

In summary, while optimism around AI is strong, wider adoption is slowed by gaps in training, regulatory clarity, and India-specific solutions. Bridging these enablers can accelerate AI's meaningful integration into legal practice nationwide.

Types of AI Applications Used or Encountered



Key Enablers for Broader Adoption of AI Tools



Demographics

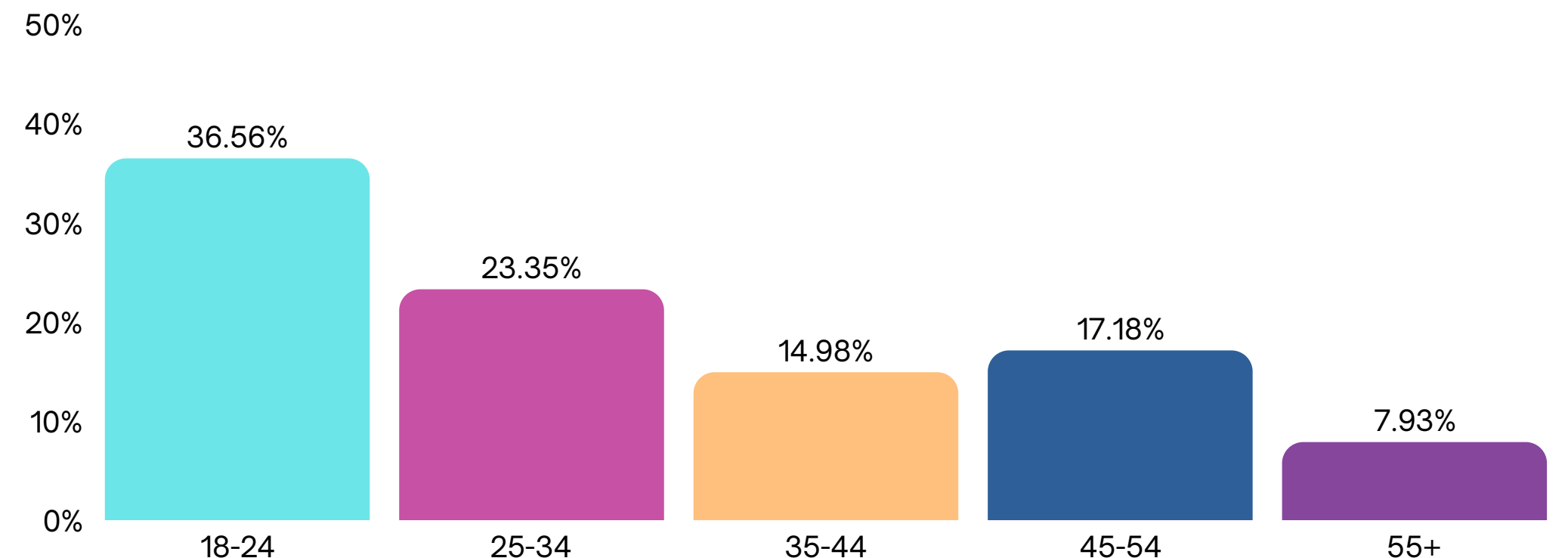
Demographics

- Largest age group: 18–24 (36.56%) and 25–34 (23.35%)
- Diverse representation from advocates, judiciary, in-house counsel, academics, students, and government legal officers

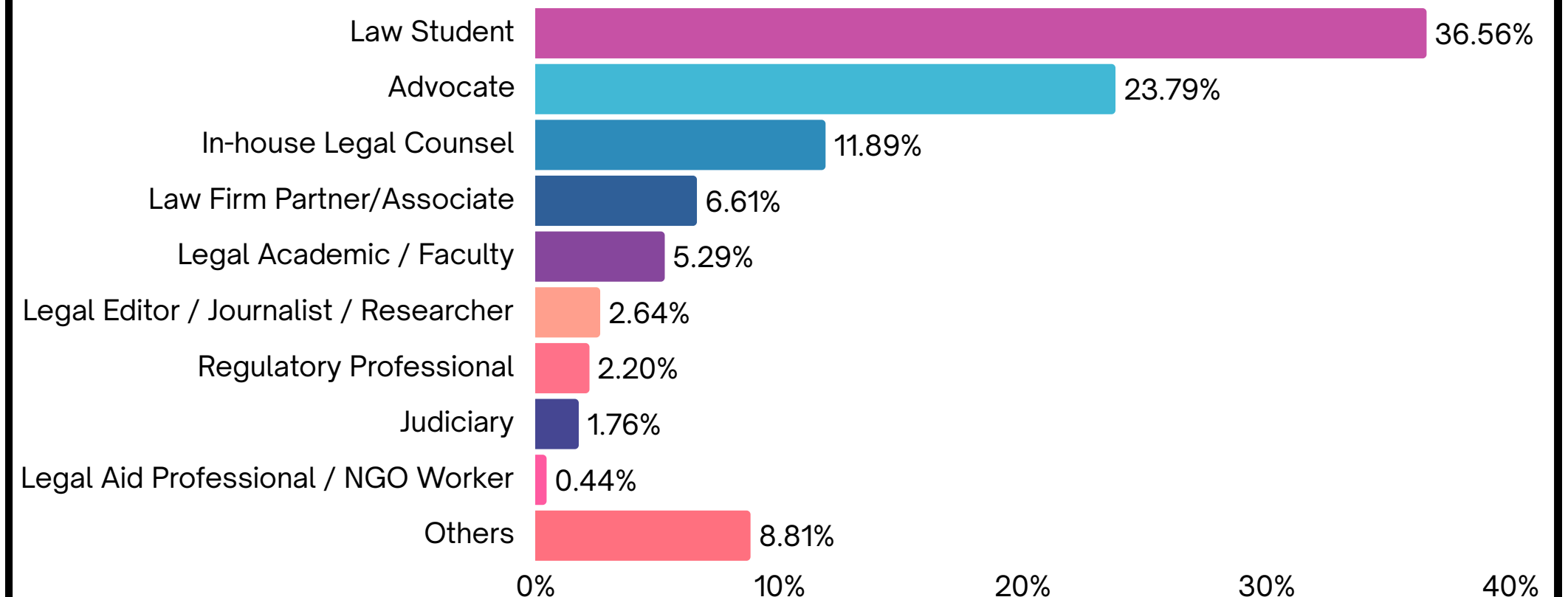
Young, tech-exposed legal professionals form the majority—an ideal cohort for AI exploration.

This demographic signals strong potential for AI adoption in the near term. With a sizable portion of respondents in the 18–34 age range, the profession is gradually being led by digital natives. Their familiarity with tools like ChatGPT, Gemini, and Copilot can drive grassroots innovation if institutional training and policies catch up.

Age group of people who participated in the survey



Different roles of people who participated in the survey



Findings

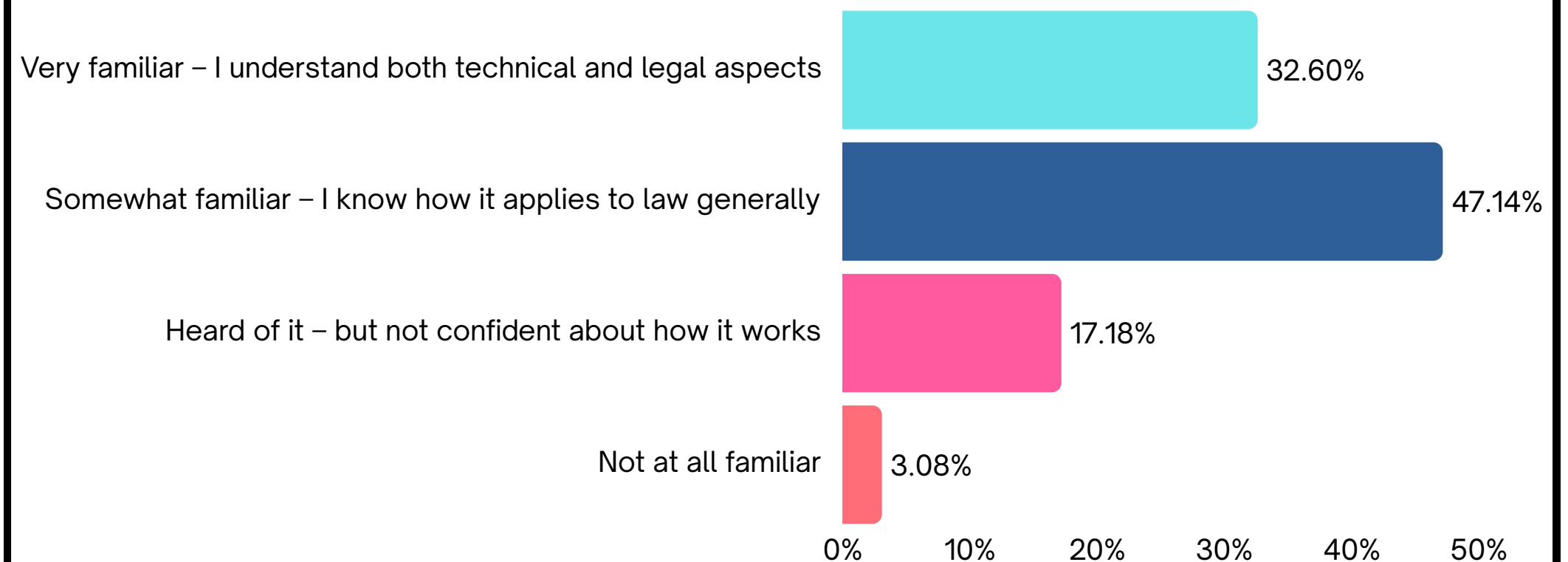
AI Familiarity & Workforce Impact

- 80% are at least “somewhat familiar” with AI in legal context
- 44.93% expect AI will increase demand for tech-savvy lawyers
- 23.35% believe junior roles may be reduced; 22.03% foresee new legal-tech roles

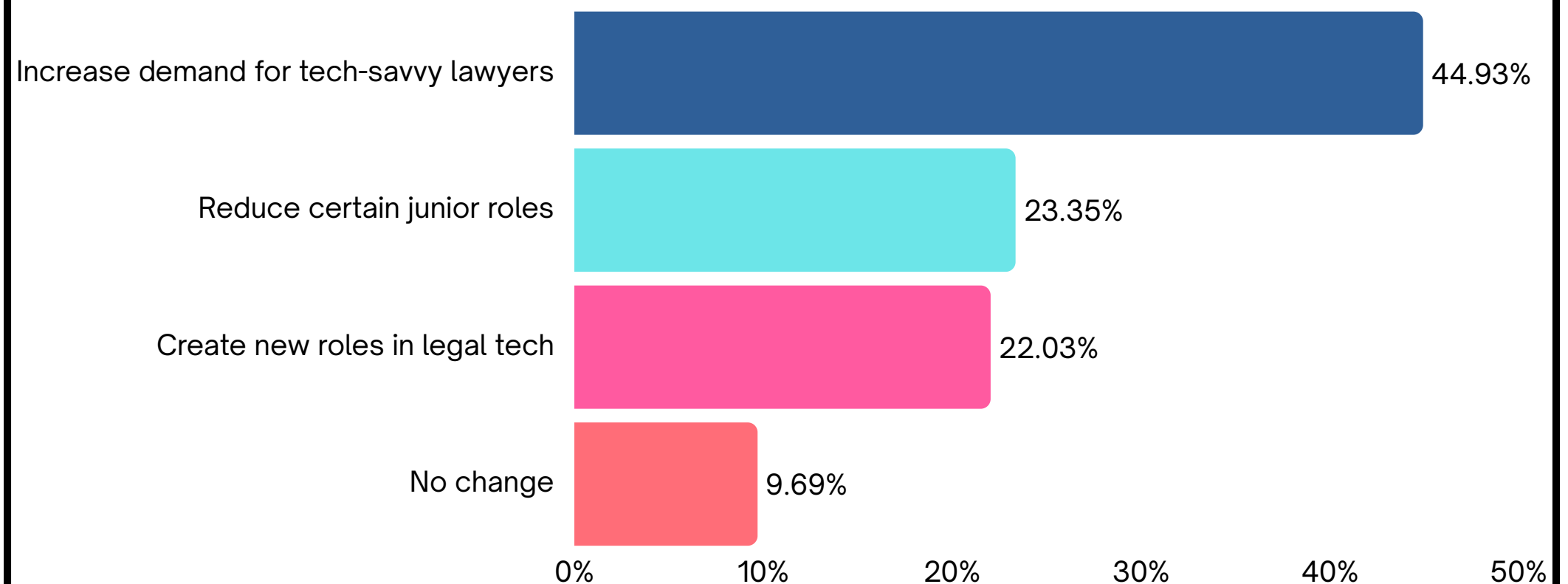
AI is expected to shift skill priorities rather than replace lawyers entirely.

The profession anticipates augmentation over automation. Rather than job loss, respondents expect a shift in required skill sets. Law firms and legal departments should begin integrating legal tech modules into training, emphasizing research augmentation, AI verification skills, and collaboration with technologists.

Levels of Familiarity with AI in the Legal Field



Perceptions of AI's Impact on Team and Organizational Job Roles

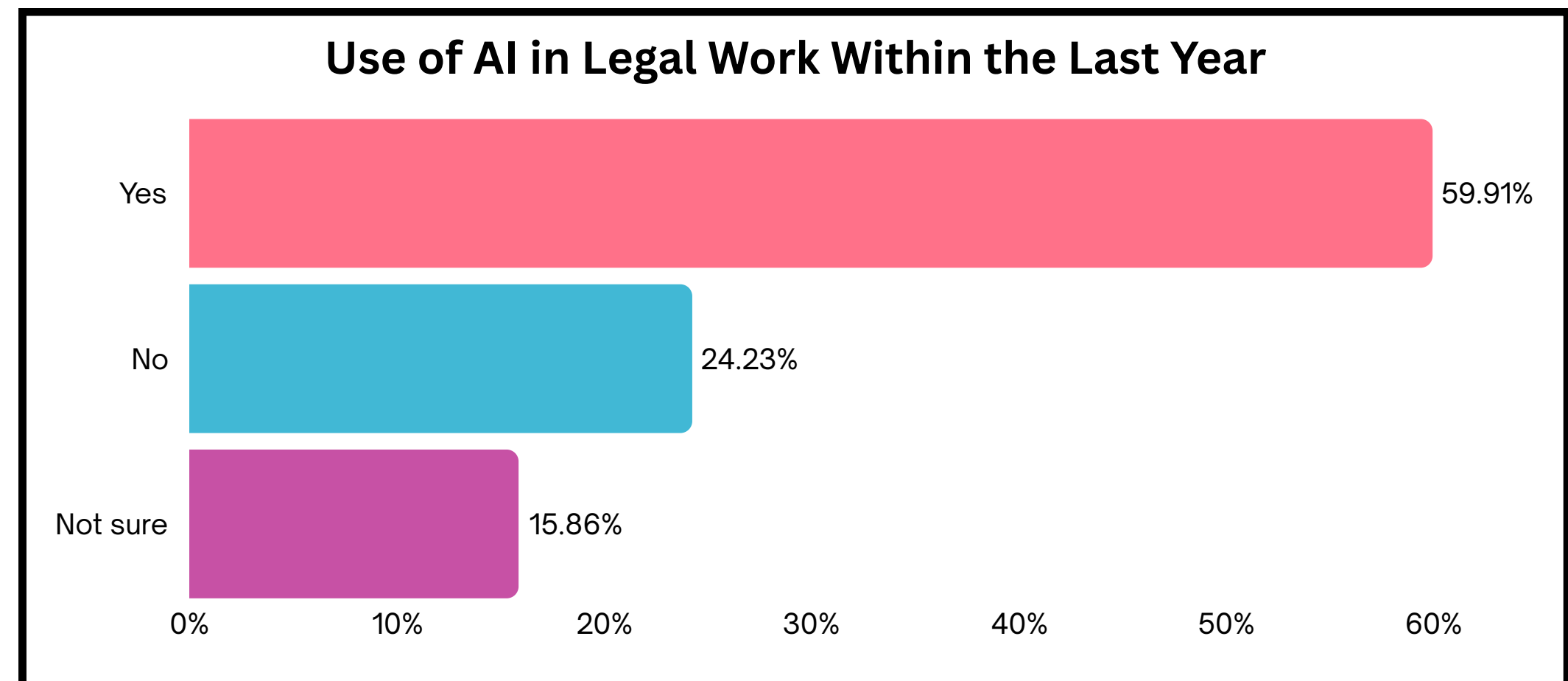
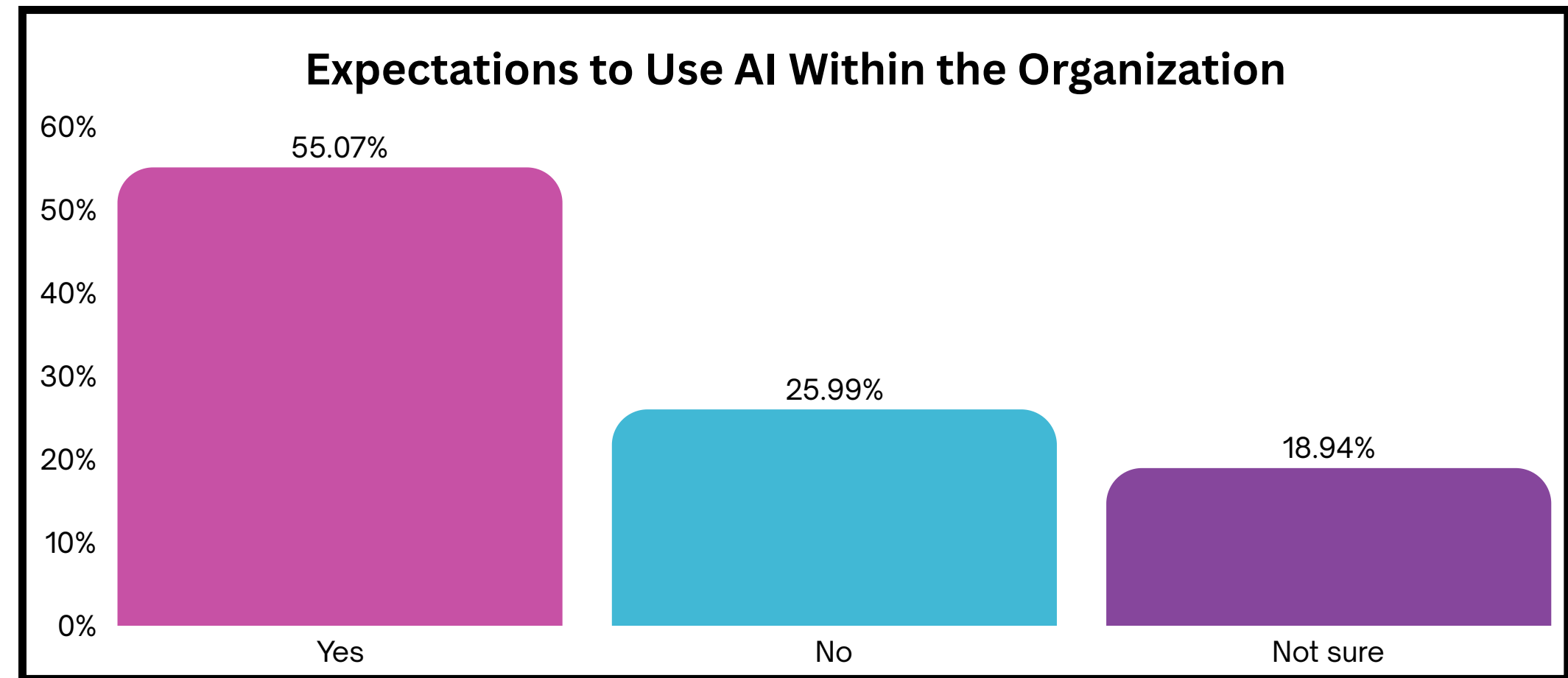


Formal vs Informal AI Adoption

- 55.07% are expected to use AI at work
- 59.91% have used AI in legal work in the past year
- 25.99% report no expectation to use AI
- 24.23% haven't used AI at all
- 18.94% unsure about expectations
- 15.86% unsure about usage

AI is entering mainstream legal workflows, with expectations and usage both around 55–60%. Yet a notable minority remains uncertain, pointing to gaps in communication or access.

To scale adoption, organizations must provide clear guidelines, structured training, and consistent policies.

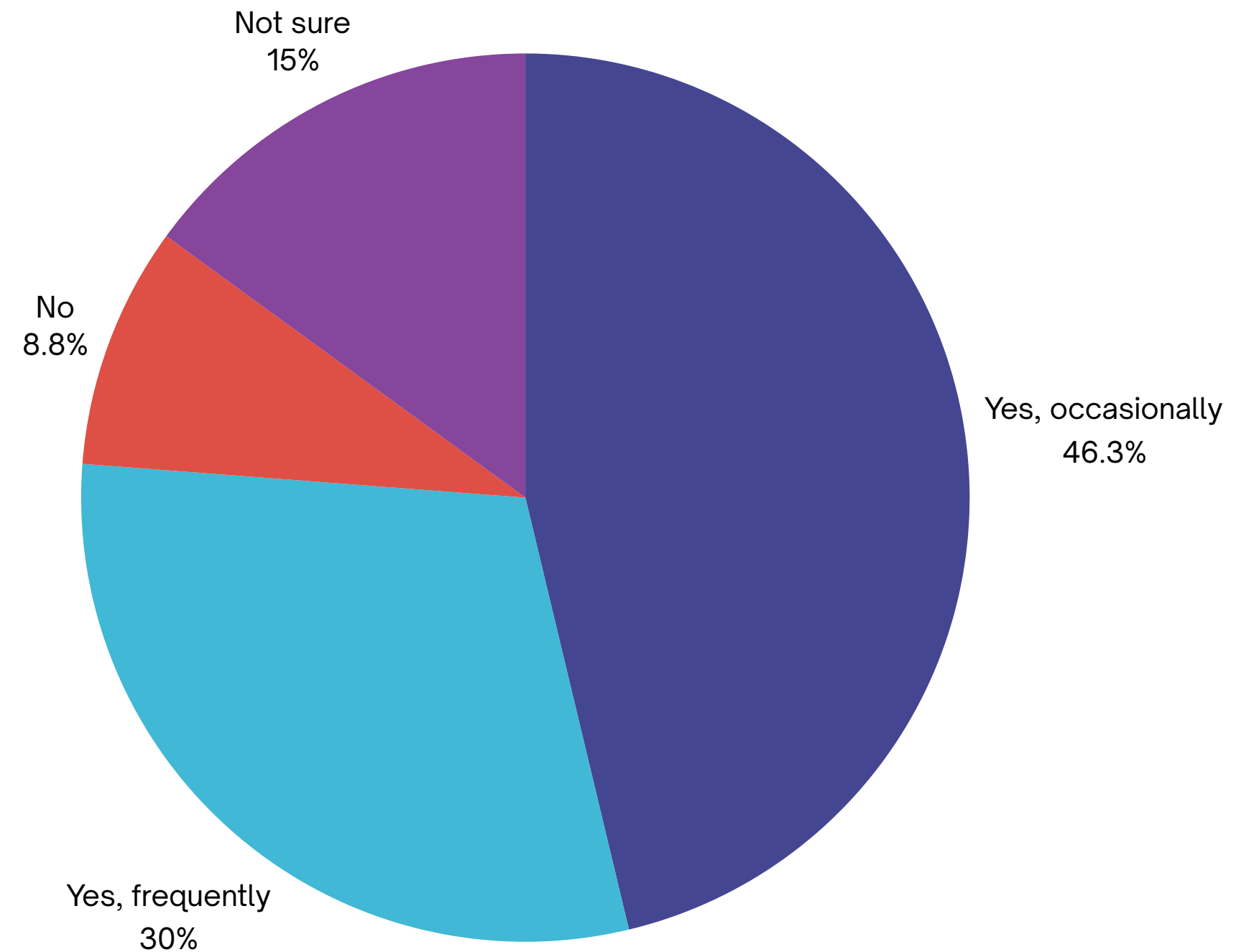


Formal vs Informal AI Adoption

- 46.26% say AI is used occasionally without formal policy
- 29.96% report frequent informal use
- 8.81% say AI isn't used at all
- 14.98% are unsure

Informal AI use is widespread despite the lack of clear organizational policies. This ad-hoc adoption highlights the need for governance frameworks, usage protocols, and training to manage risks and standardize practice.

Informal Use of AI Tools Without a Formal Policy

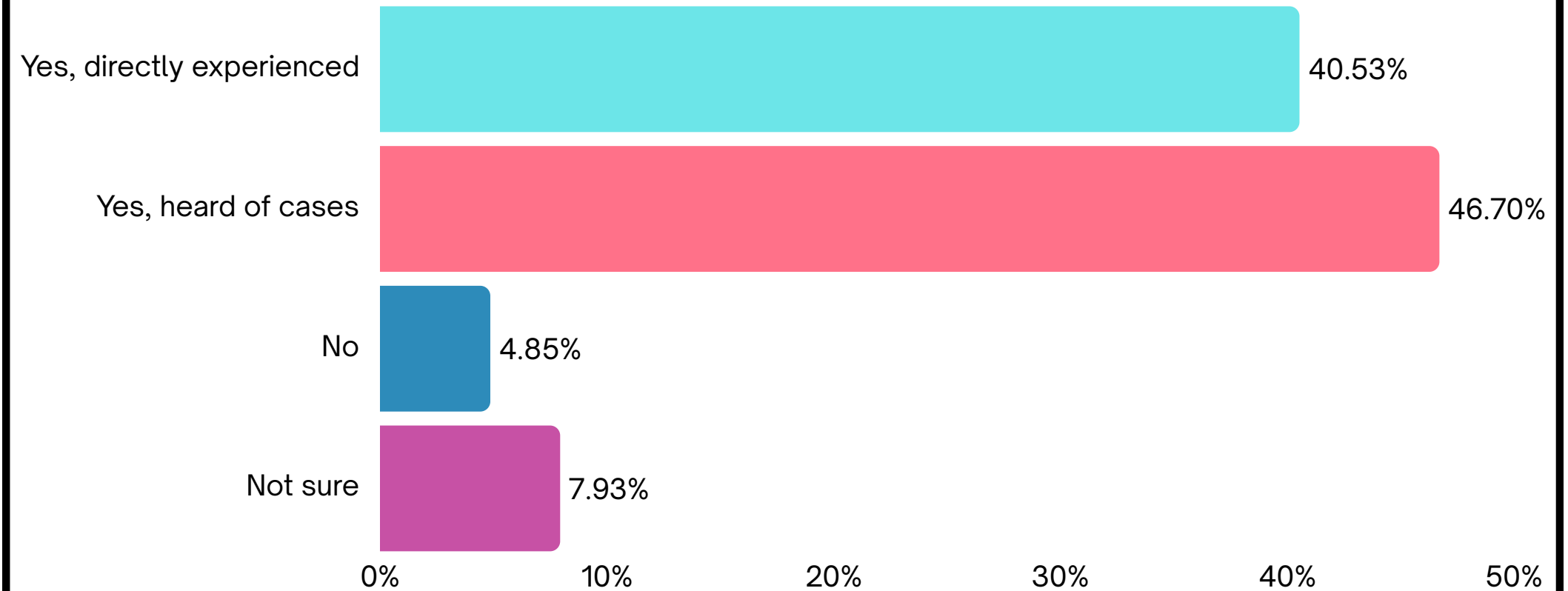


Trust & Accuracy Concerns

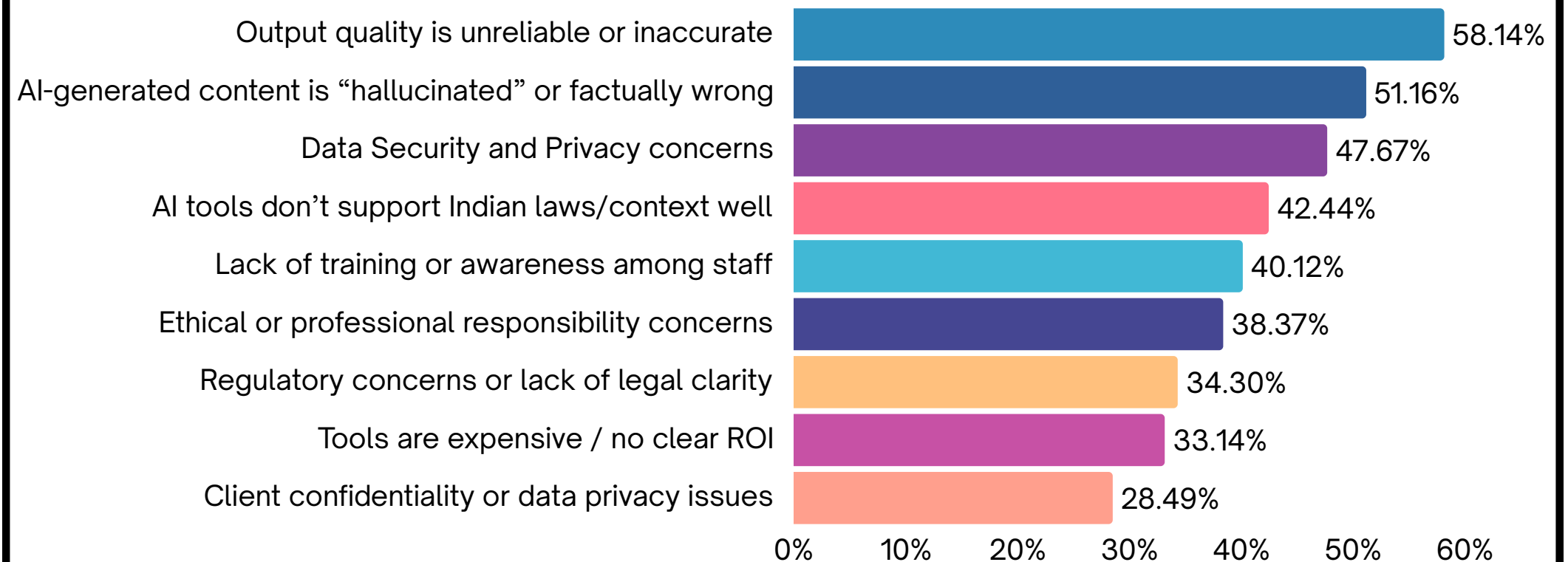
- 87.63% of respondents have either directly experienced or heard of AI-related errors in legal matters.
- 58.14% cite unreliable or inaccurate output quality as a top challenge.
- 51.16% specifically reported hallucinated or factually incorrect AI content.
- 42.44% say current AI tools do not adequately support Indian laws or context.

Inherent errors in AI tools, especially hallucinations and fictitious citations, pose serious credibility issues. These are worsened by poor local legal context, unreliable outputs, and training gaps. Until better data curation and contextual accuracy are ensured, AI will remain an experimental aid rather than a trusted tool in legal practice.

Incidents of AI-Related Errors in Legal Practice



Challenges Faced While Using AI Tools

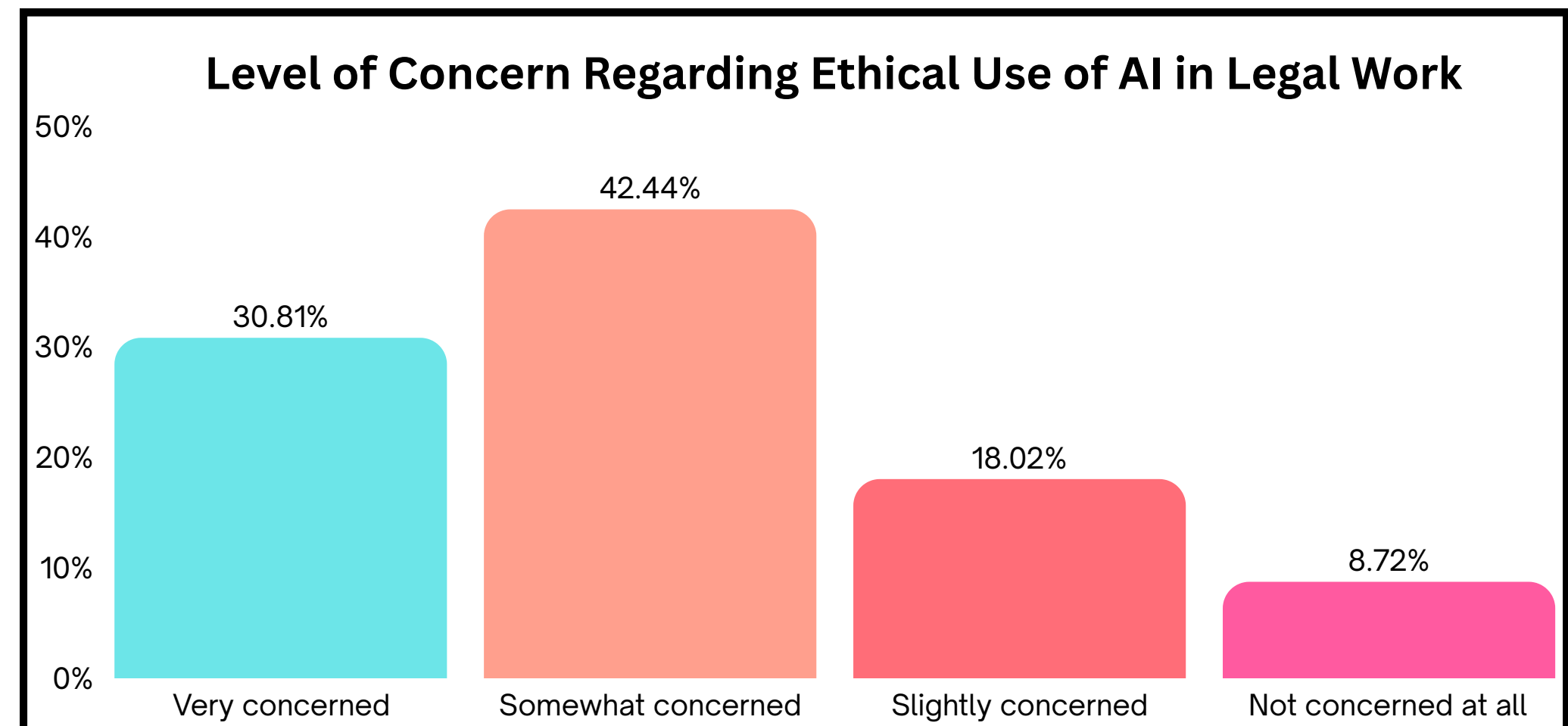
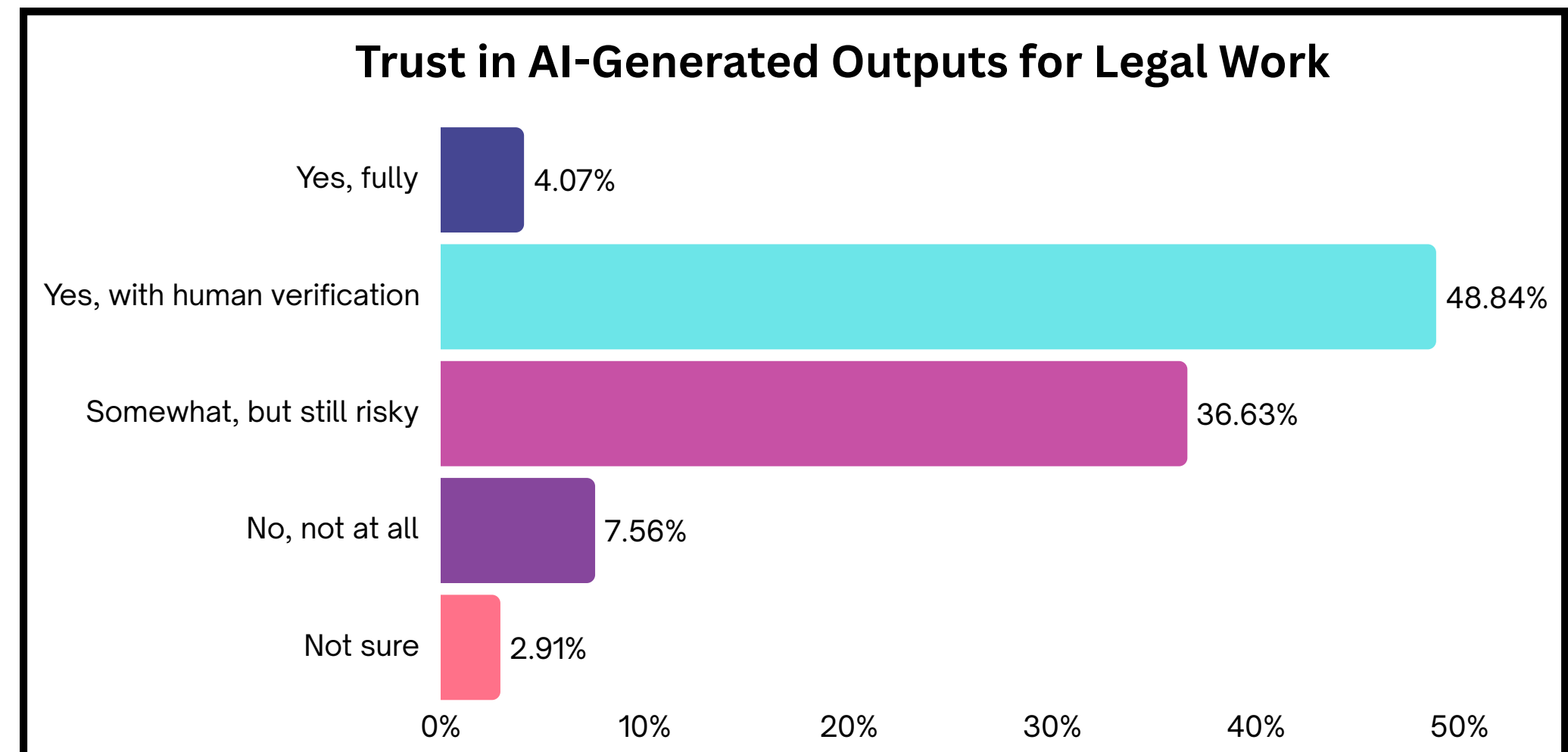


Trust & Accuracy Concerns

- Only 4.07% fully trust AI outputs; 48.84% say they trust them only with human verification.
- 36.63% consider AI still risky, and 7.56% do not trust it at all.
- 73.25% are moderately to very concerned about ethical implications of AI in legal work.

Trust is the key barrier to AI adoption in legal work. Most users rely on manual oversight, and ethical ambiguity adds to the hesitation.

Without better explainability, safeguards, and AI literacy, the profession may stall at experimentation, never reaching meaningful adoption.

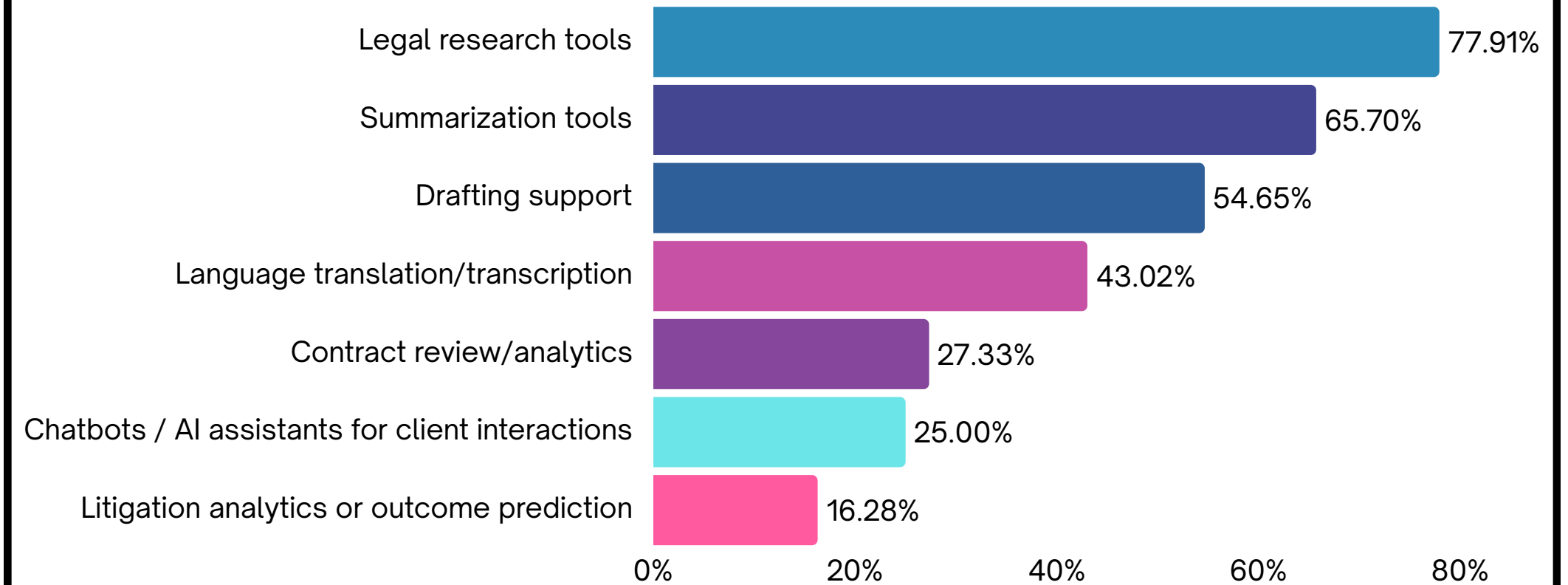


Tool Use & Applications

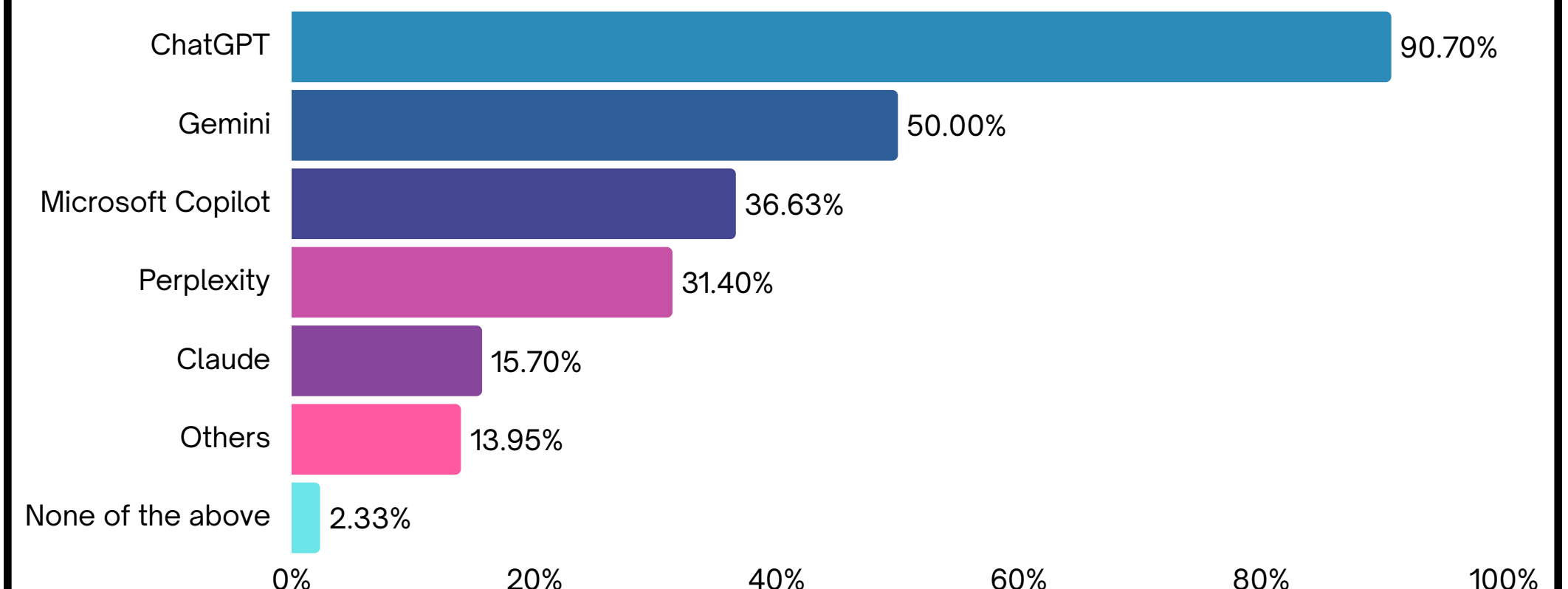
- Top Use Cases:
 - Legal research: 77.91%
 - Summarization tools: 65.70%
 - Drafting support: 54.65%
- Top Tools:
 - ChatGPT: 90.70%
 - Gemini, Copilot, Perplexity, Claude follow

High reliance on general-purpose LLMs shows a gap in Indian law-specific tools. Legal professionals are customizing general AI for niche use-cases—but this is not sustainable. Tools not trained on Indian judgments, statutes, and precedent are bound to produce flawed output. There's a growing need for India-specific legal LLMs that can match jurisdictional demands.

Types of AI Applications Used or Encountered



Tools Previously Used by Respondents or Their Organizations



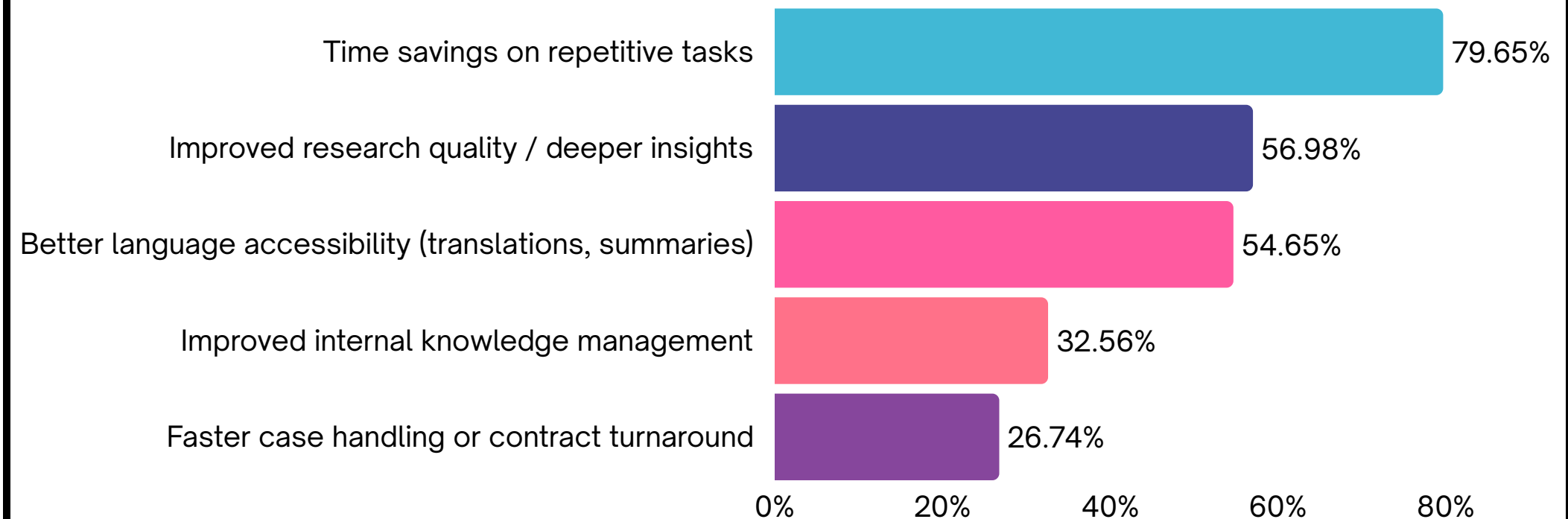
Benefits & Productivity Gains

- 79.65% report time savings on repetitive tasks
- 56.98% cited better research insights
- 26.74% noted faster document turnaround
- 75% reported moderate to significant productivity gains

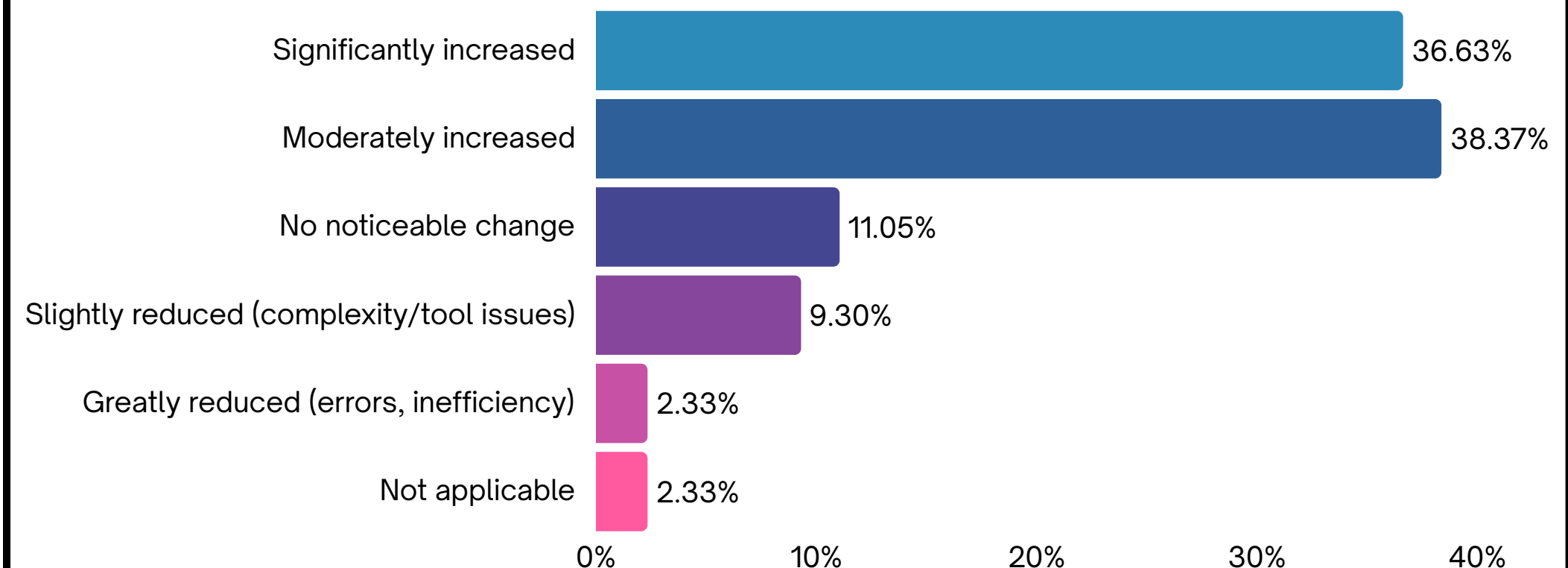
Strong user validation signals that scaling AI could enhance firm-level efficiency.

Early adopters are already realizing tangible productivity improvements. AI is clearly relieving bottlenecks in research, drafting, and analysis workflows. Firms that integrate AI now can reposition junior legal talent toward more strategic or client-facing work.

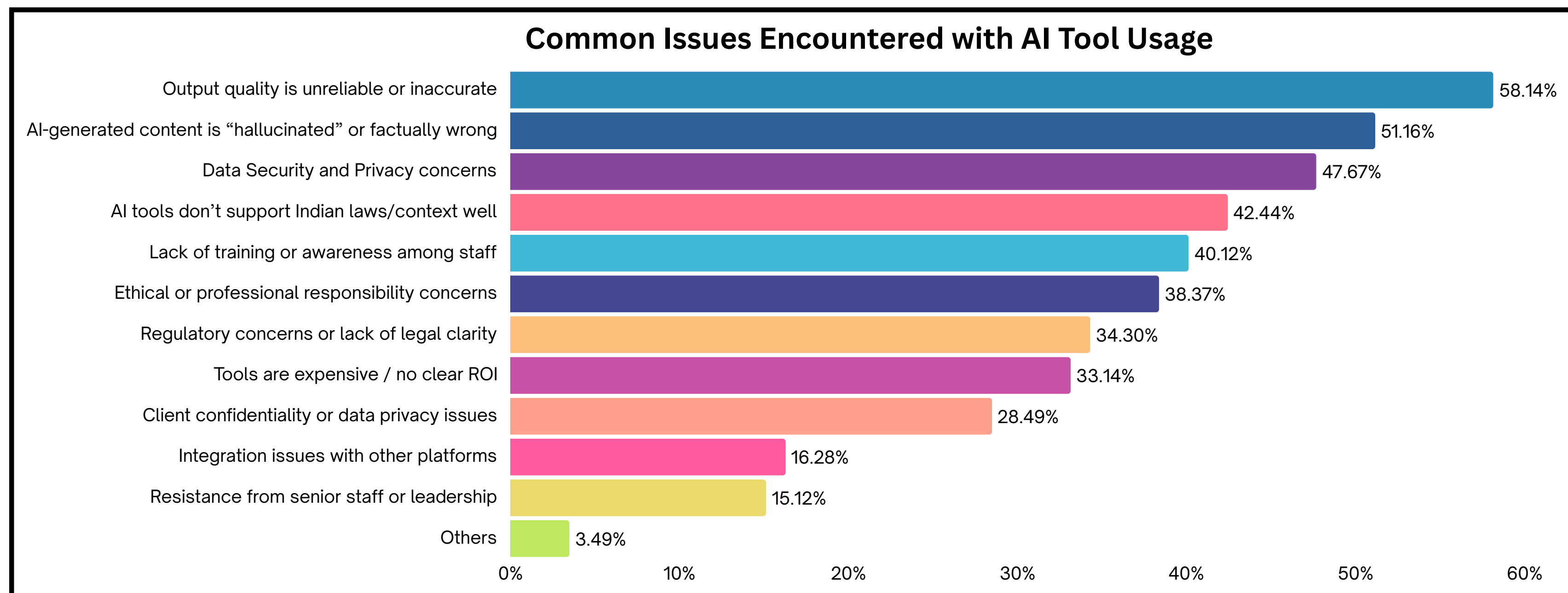
Advantages Reported from AI Use in Legal Practice



Perceived Impact of AI on Legal Productivity



Key Challenges to Adoption



Top pain points among users:

- Output quality: 58.14%
- Hallucinated or wrong content: 51.16%
- Data privacy/security: 47.67%
- Lack of Indian law support: 42.44%
- Ethics/professional responsibility: 38.37%

These issues are consistent with global AI concerns, compounded by India-specific gaps.

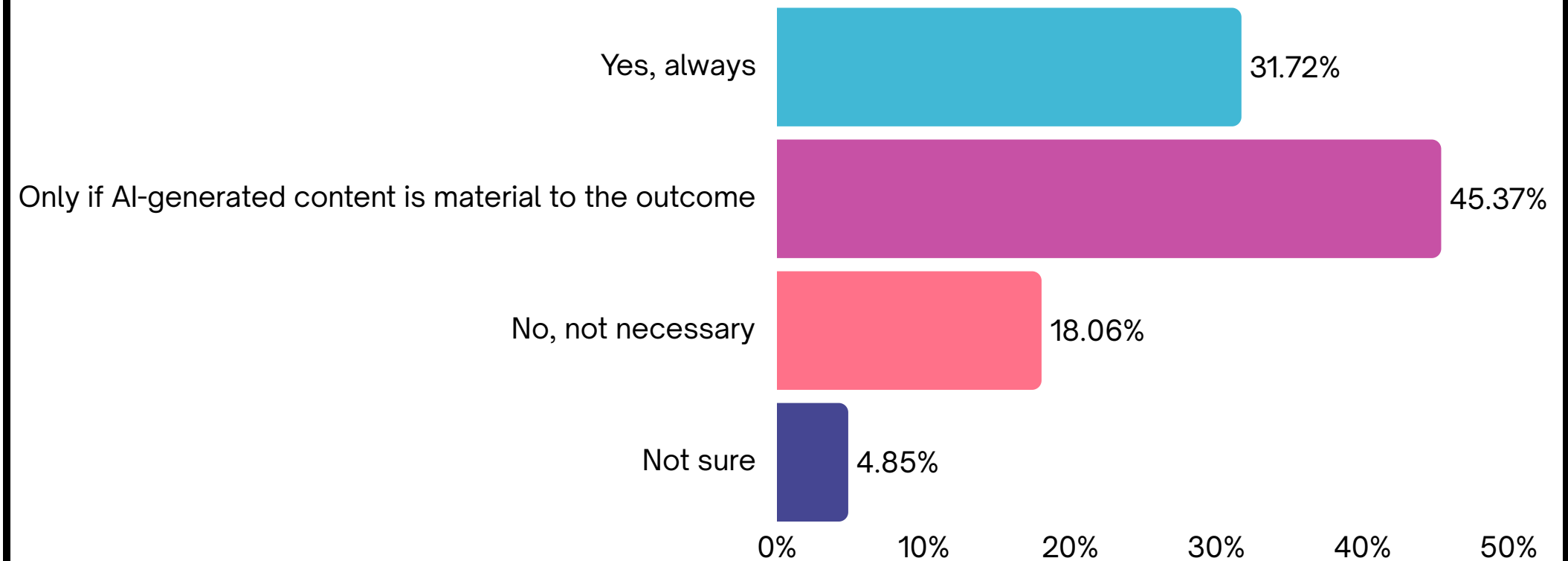
India’s challenges are both universal and local. While hallucinations and data security are global AI hurdles, the lack of Indian legal domain training data is a region-specific issue. Localization—not just translation—is critical for trust and adoption.

Organizational Readiness & Policy

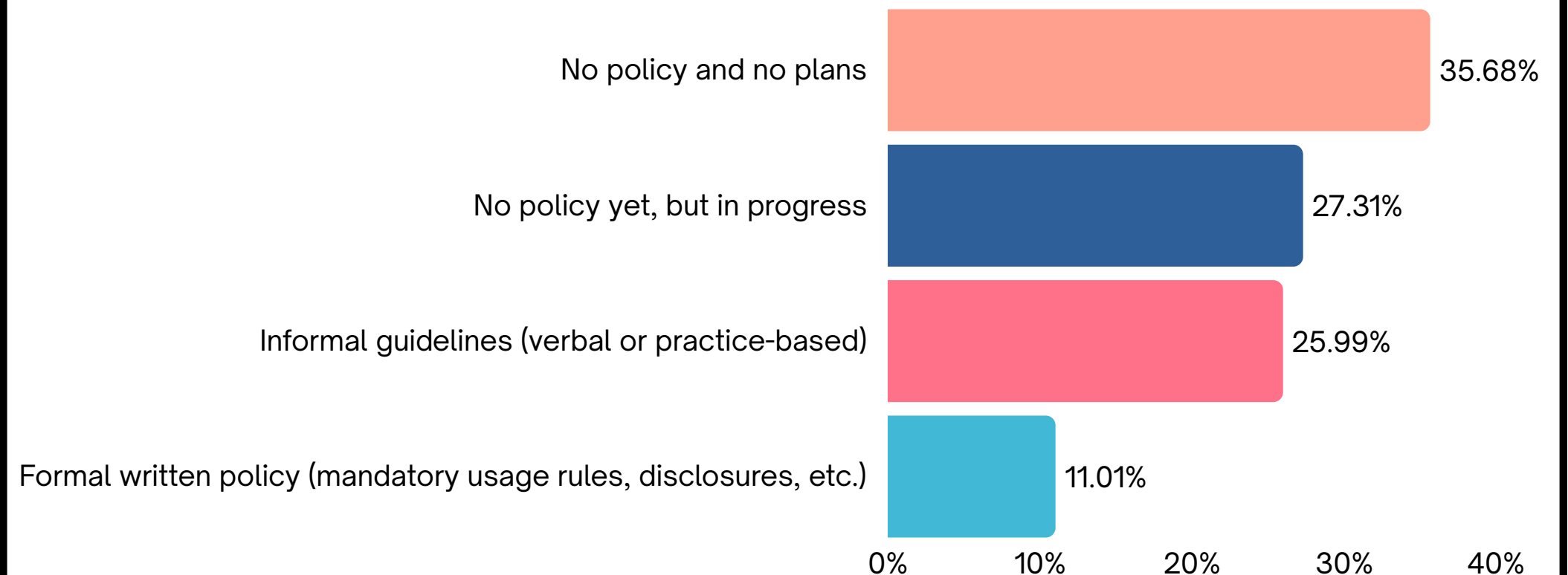
- 77.09% believe law firms should disclose AI use—either always or when it materially affects outcomes.
- Yet, only 11.01% of organizations have a formal written AI policy.
- 25.99% follow informal guidelines, and 27.31% are still developing one.
- Around 35.68% have no AI policy or plans in place.

While there is strong professional consensus on the ethical need for AI transparency, internal policy adoption lags significantly. Bridging this gap will require clear regulatory direction, standardized disclosure norms, and proactive policy development within firms.

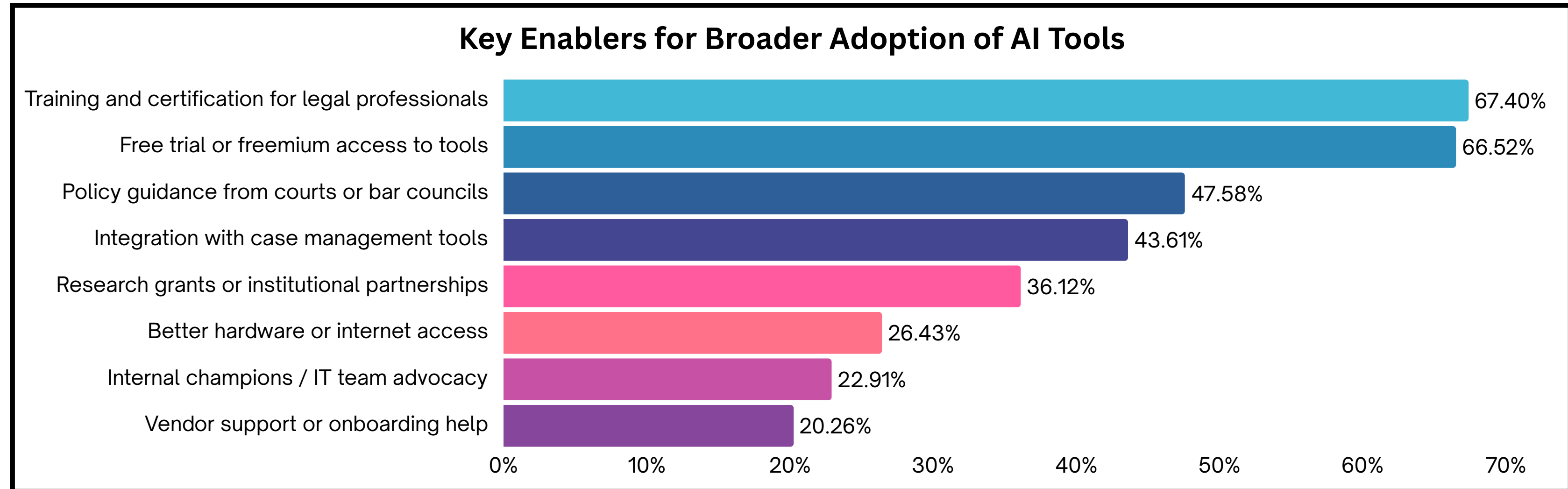
Should Law Firms Disclose AI Use in Legal Advice or Court Documents?



Current Internal AI Policies in Organizations



Organizational Readiness & Policy



- 67.40% want training and certification
- 66.52% seek free trials or freemium tools
- 47.58% need policy guidance from courts or bar councils
- 43.61% want AI to integrate with case management systems

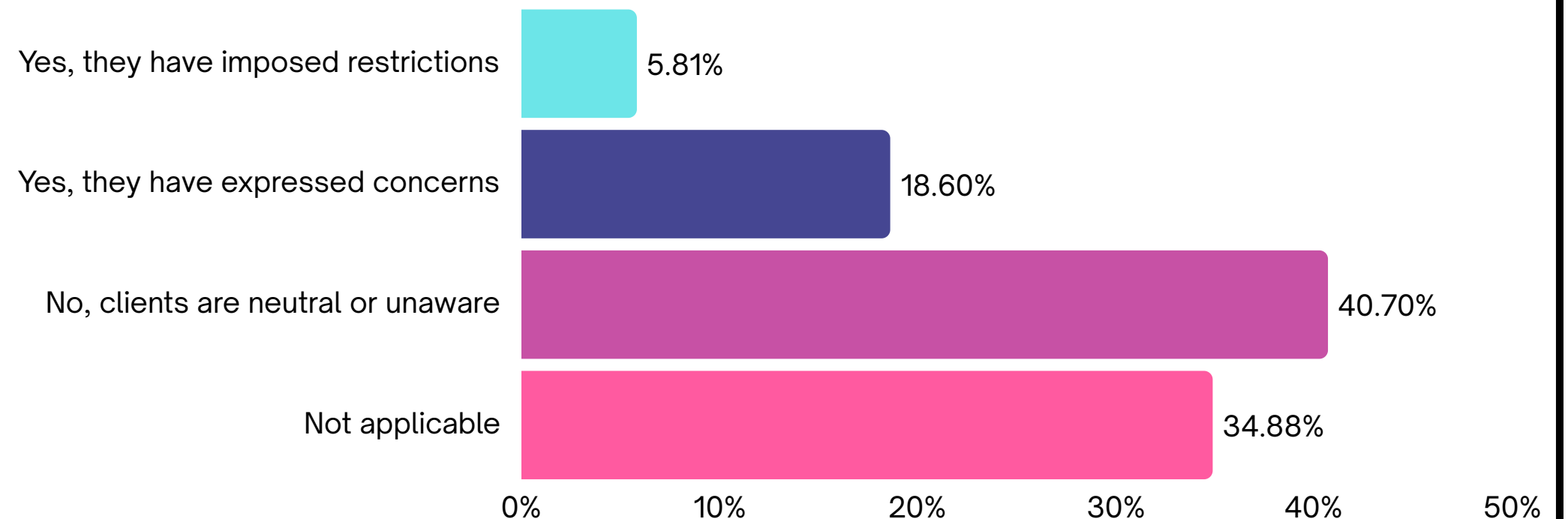
Skill development and affordable access are critical to accelerating AI adoption in legal practice. Institutional support—through clear guidelines, tech integration, and structured onboarding—can help shift AI from isolated use cases to mainstream workflows.

Client Perception & Incidents

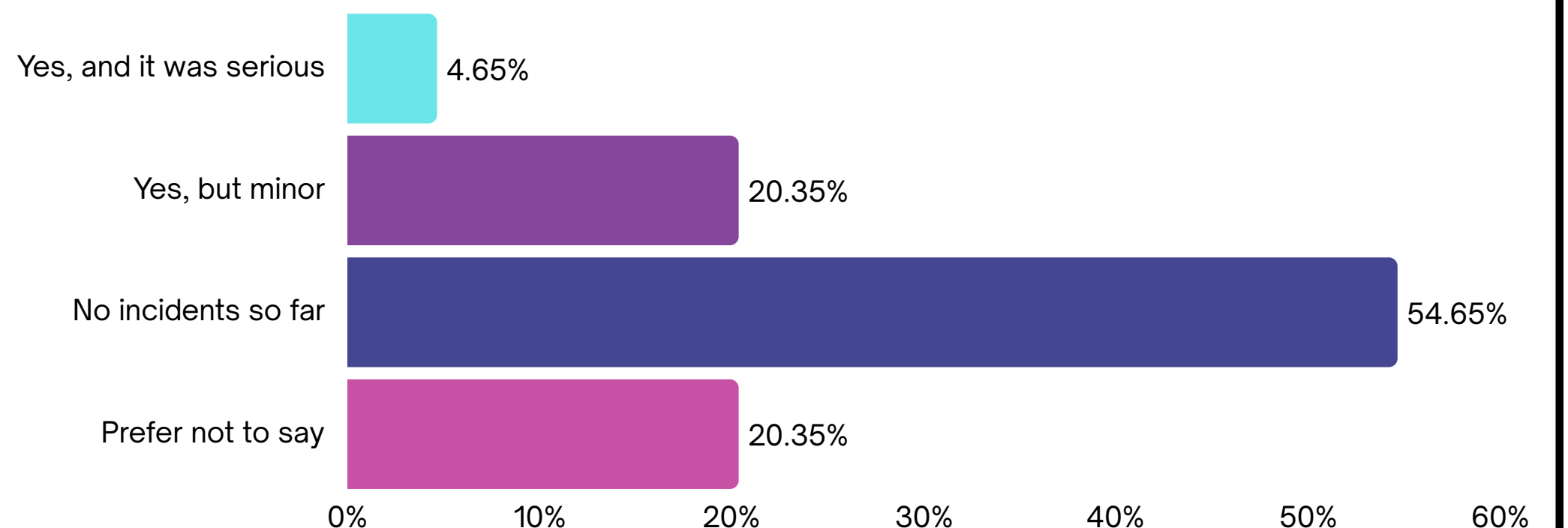
- 24.41% said clients expressed concern or imposed restrictions
- 54.65% reported no incidents related to improper AI use
- 20.35% encountered minor incidents
- 4.65% encountered serious incidents

Clients are slowly catching on; firms must prepare for increased scrutiny. Client trust will soon become a market differentiator. As awareness rises, clients may start demanding transparency on AI usage. Firms that can demonstrate robust vetting, human oversight, and ethical use of AI will gain a competitive edge.

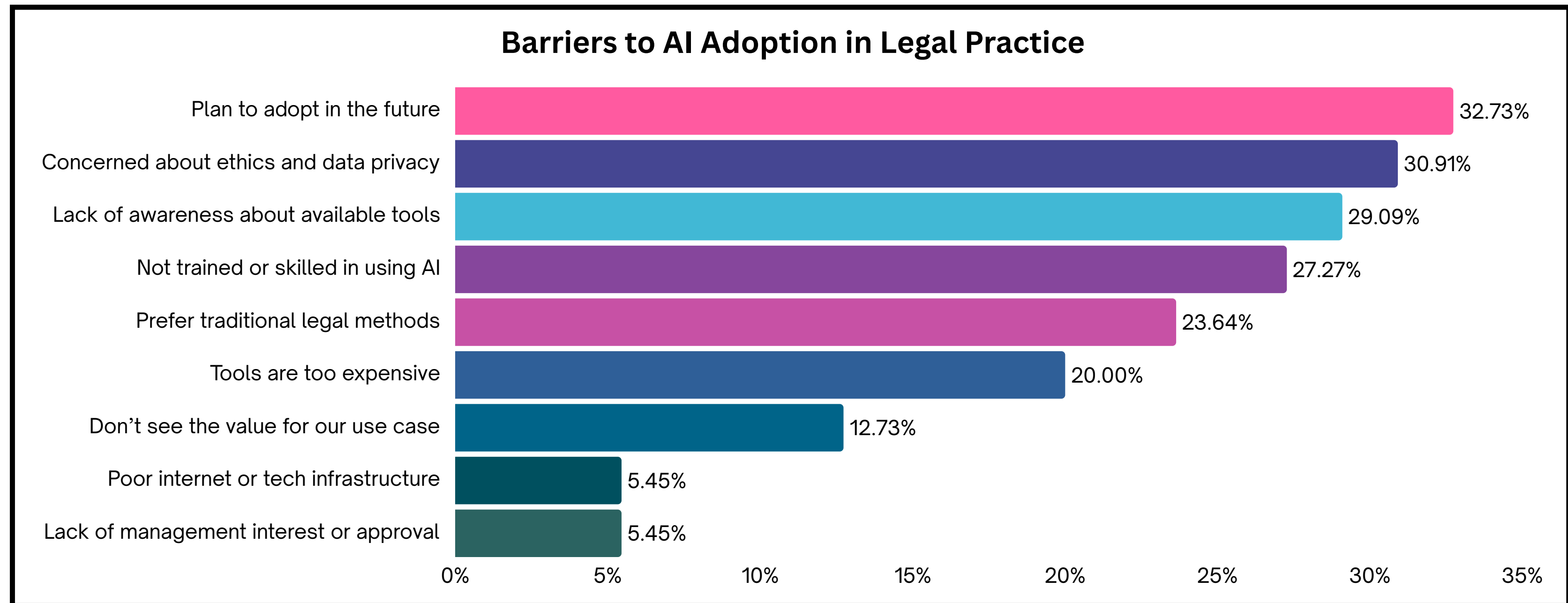
Client-Imposed Limitations or Concerns Regarding AI in Legal Practice



Occurrences of Improper AI Use Within Organizations



Barriers & Non-User Views



- Top reasons for non-use include ethical/privacy concerns (30.91%), lack of awareness (29.09%), and lack of training (27.27%).
- 23.64% prefer traditional methods, and 20% find tools too expensive.
- Still, 32.73% say they plan to adopt AI in the future.

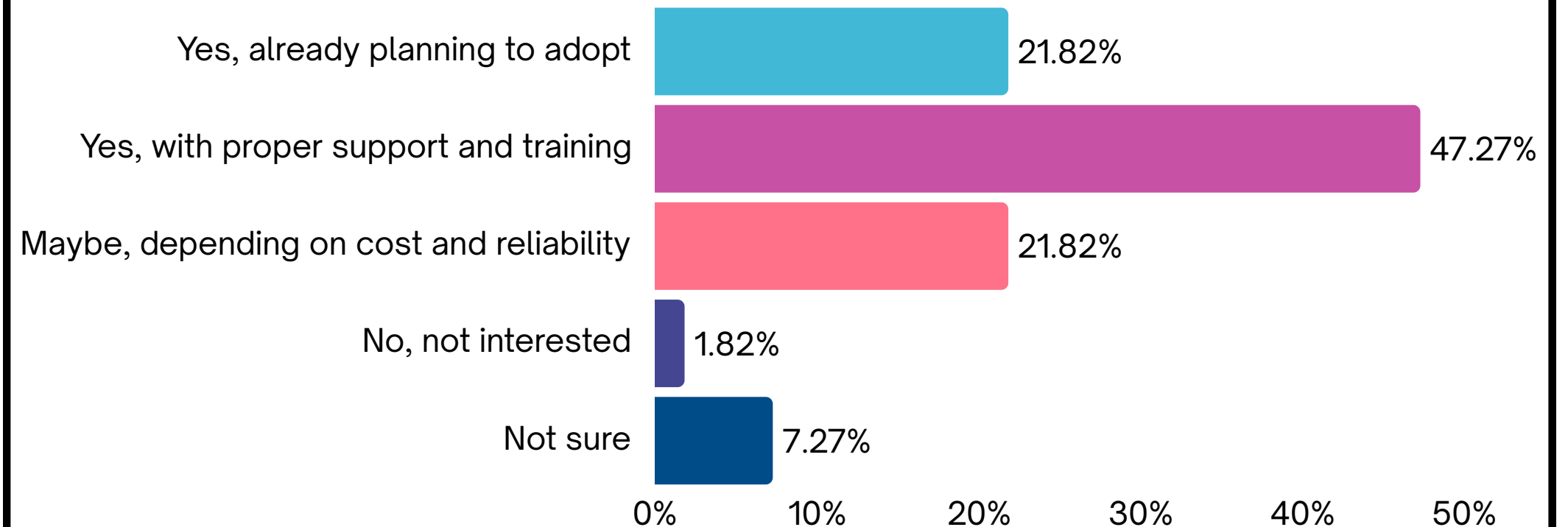
Hesitation is driven more by caution and capability gaps than outright resistance. With targeted training, affordable access, and clear ethical guardrails, many current non-users could convert to adopters over time.

Barriers & Non-User Views

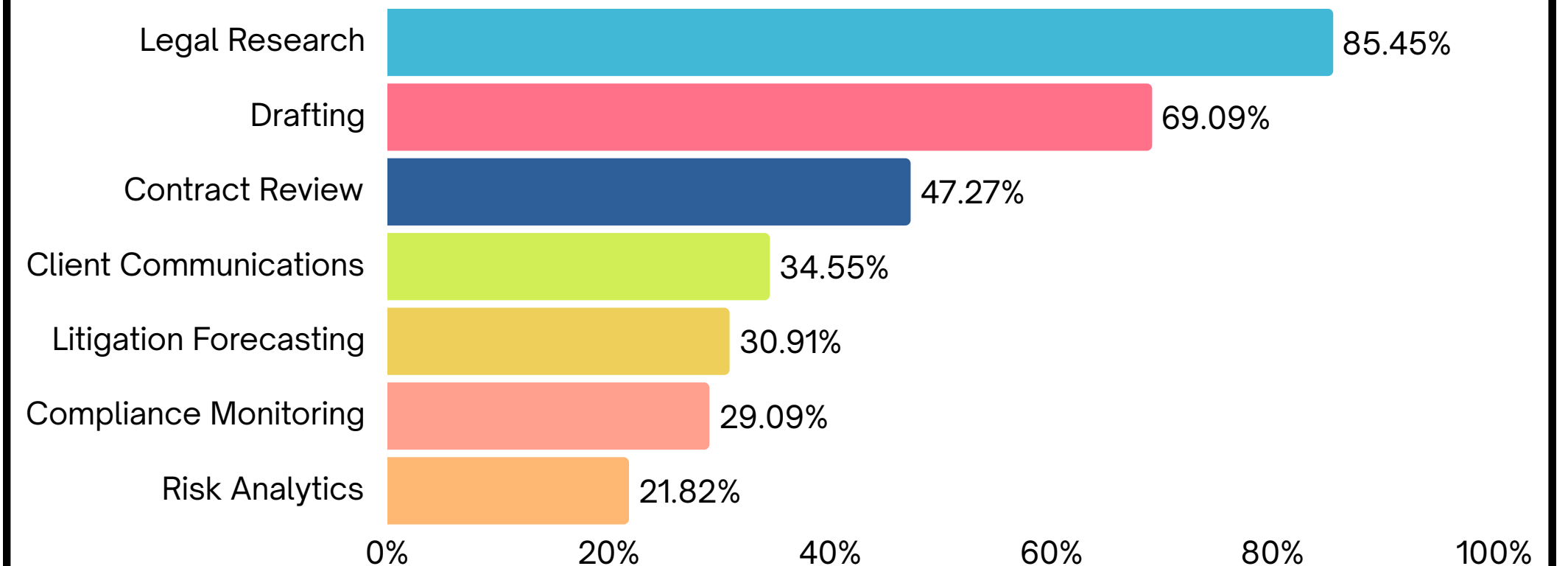
- 90.91% are open to using AI, with 47.27% willing if proper training and support is provided.
- Only 1.82% say they are not interested.
- Most relevant use cases are Legal Research (85.45%), Drafting (69.09%), and Contract Review (47.27%).
- Others include Litigation Forecasting (30.91%), Client Communication (34.55%), and Compliance Monitoring (29.09%).

Legal professionals show strong future readiness for AI, especially if backed by skill-building and cost-effective tools. Early adoption will likely cluster around research, drafting, and review—core tasks that are repetitive, time-consuming, and AI-compatible.

Willingness to Adopt AI Tools Moving Forward

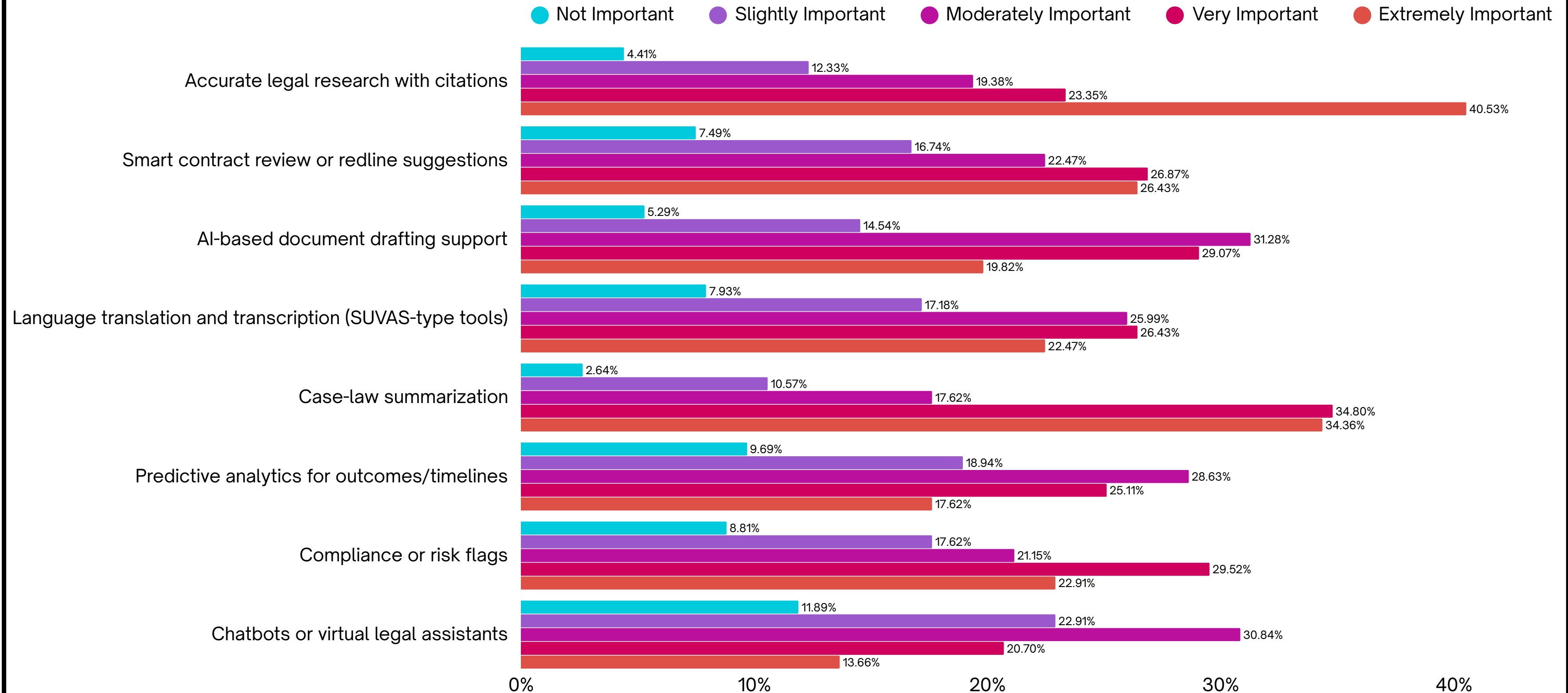


Potential AI Applications Most Relevant to Non AI Users' Work



Feature Importance & Desired Functionality

Rated Importance of Specific AI Features in Legal Practice

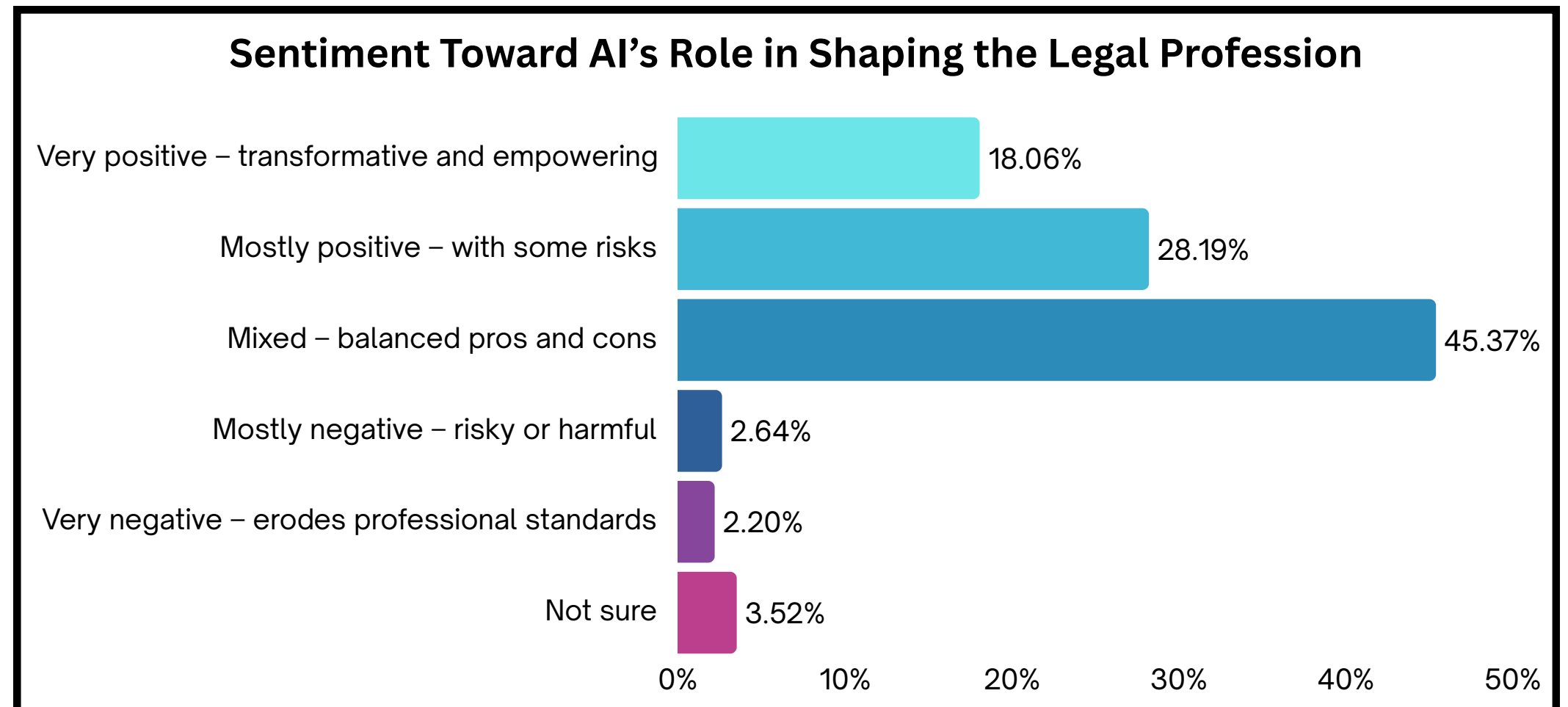
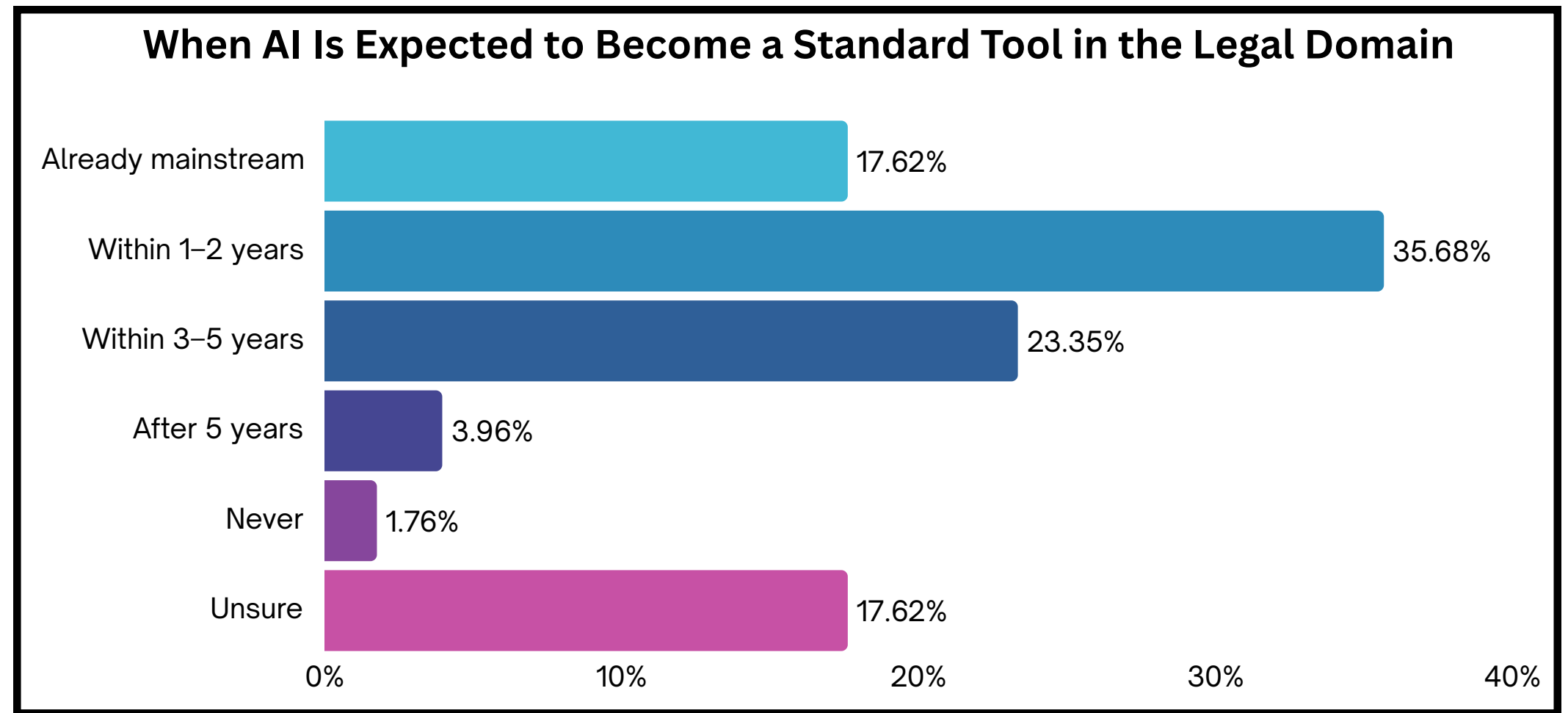


Future Outlook & Sentiment

- 35.68% expect AI to go mainstream in 1–2 years
- 46.25% have a positive view of AI's legal impact
- 18.06% believe it will be transformative

The optimism is tempered with caution—professionals want AI, but on their terms.

The mood is cautiously bullish. Respondents want AI that complements—not replaces—the legal mind. They envision AI as a powerful junior associate, not an unaccountable partner. That clarity of expectation is a foundation for ethical, purposeful adoption.



Sentiments & Expectations Around AI in the Legal Sector

Optimism & Enthusiasm for AI Adoption

Many respondents expressed strong support and optimism about AI's potential to revolutionize legal practice, particularly for:

- Efficiency gains: faster research, contract review, and document drafting.
- Access to justice: quicker dispute resolution and backlog reduction.
- Improved accuracy and support: as a legal assistant, not a replacement.

Readiness & Training Needs

Many felt positive but unprepared, highlighting the need for:

- Training and capacity-building for professionals and students.
- Better, India-specific tools that understand legal context and judgment tone.
- Hands-on access and trial periods for meaningful adoption.

Concerns Over Reliability, Accuracy & Overdependence

However, significant caution was voiced about:

- Hallucinated outputs or factual inaccuracies.
- Overreliance on AI tools, risking erosion of human legal judgment and skills.
- Lack of trust in AI-generated content unless human-verified.

Ethical & Regulatory Worries

There is a strong demand for:

- Clear policies, including data privacy and ethical AI use.
- Licensing and IP protections for AI training datasets.
- Standardization across tools, especially for Indian legal contexts.

Balanced Integration, Not Replacement

The most common recommendation was to use AI as a supportive tool, not a substitute:

- Co-pilot for legal research and drafting.
- Final decisions must involve human oversight and critical thinking.

Credits & Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the participants of the survey for their valuable insights and feedback, which formed the basis of this report.

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