Multicentre **P**reclinical **A**nimal **R**esearch **T**eam

Multi-PART – WP1

Project management, training, and dissemination

Task 2: Define requirements for study sites

- opinions of international experts
  - most important characteristics of study sites for a multi-centre trial
- Delphi technique
  - 3 rounds of questionnaires
  - aim: reach consensus

questionnaire 1

- 26 characteristics
  - 21 – site
  - 5 – principal investigator

characteristics

When selecting study sites for a multi-centre animal stroke trial, how important do you consider the following criterion:

Length of expertise in stroke modelling

0: not important at all … 6: extremely important

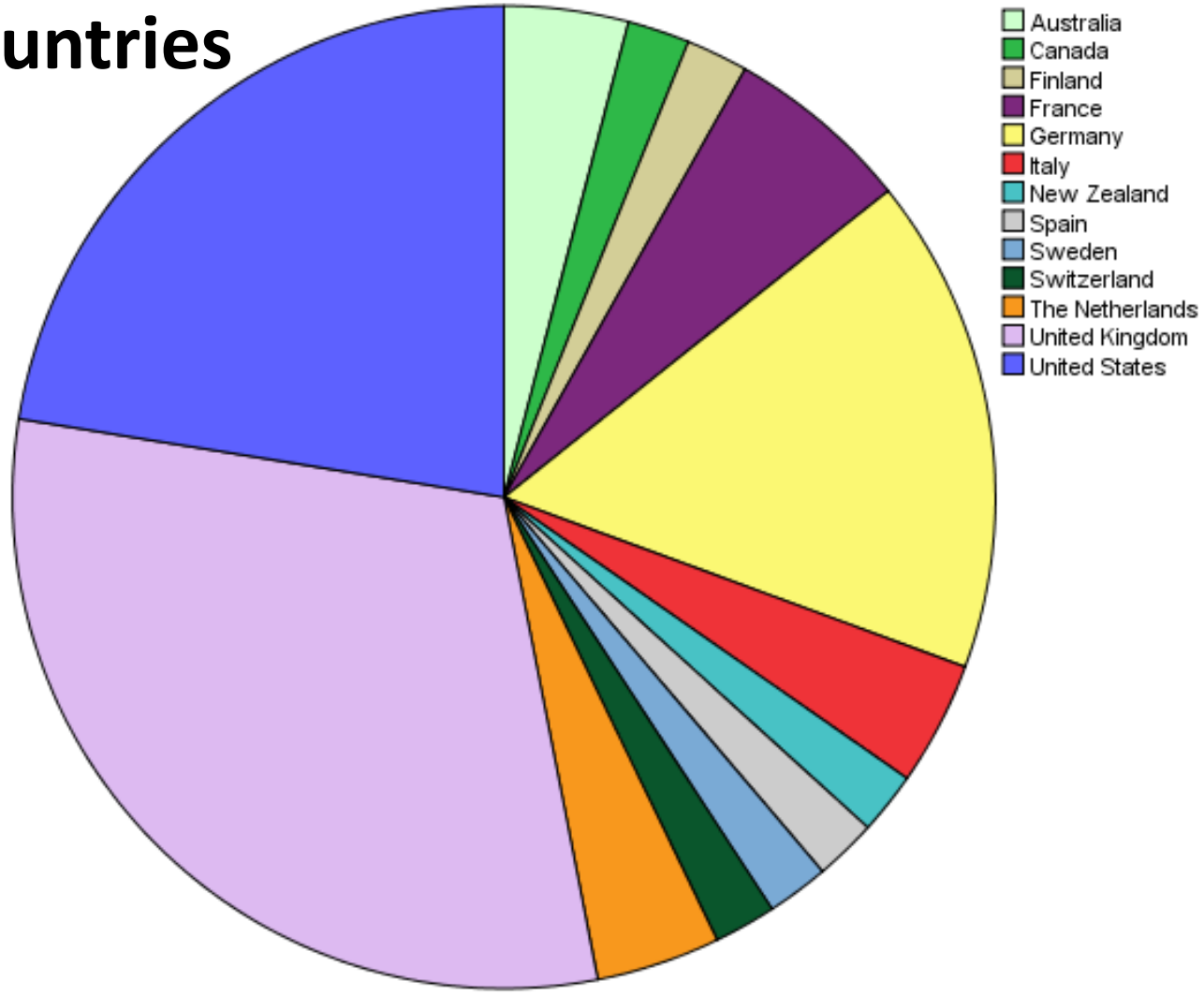
possibility to comment

questionnaire

- opened: 8 July 2014
- closed: 18 July 2014
- 85 persons invited
- 49 (58%) responded

results first round

countries

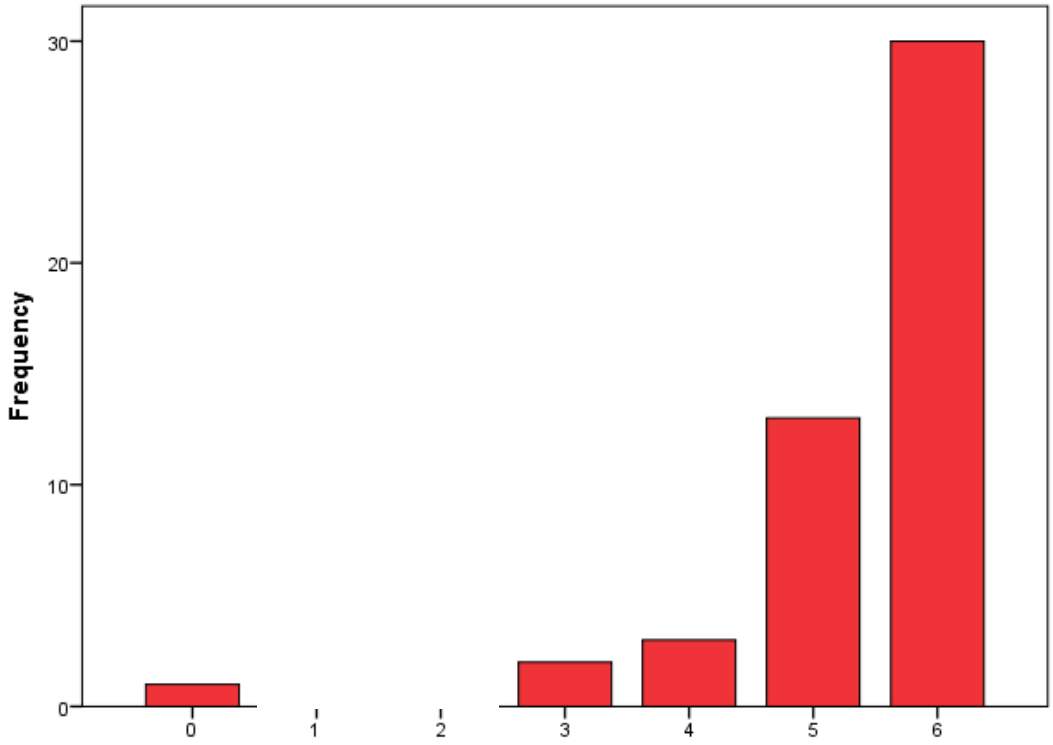

Australia
Canada
Finland
France
Germany
Italy
New Zealand
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
The Netherlands
United Kingdom
United States

median scores

median score	number characteristics
6	1
5	6
4	9
3	9

median score: 6

- evidence of adherence to ethics regulations



comments

- self-evident
- hard to judge from publications
- evidence of malpractice might be an indicator of lack of suitability, but the converse is not true. … Having the paperwork doesn't mean the welfare of the animals was actually assured

question

- How to assess ‘adherence to ethics regulations’?

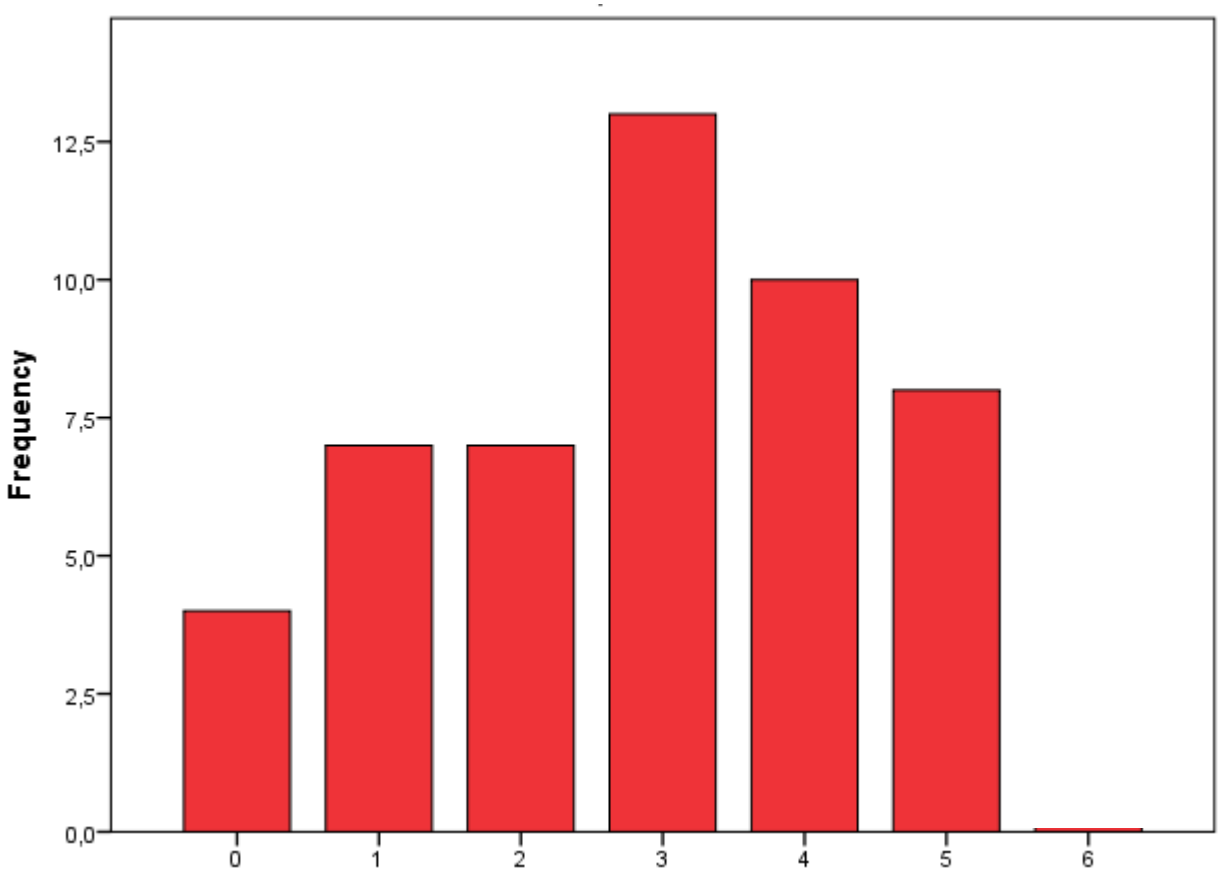
median score: 3

- median impact factor of journals in which the site's original articles were published
- possibility to work with both mice and rats
- experience with
  - photothrombotic models
  - external MCA occlusion
  - thrombo-embolic models

median score: 3

- possibility to perform
  - MRI
  - TTC staining
- H-index PI
- median IF of journals in which PI's original articles were published

median impact factor of journals in which original articles were published



proposal:

- Consider all characteristics with a median score of 3 as irrelevant to future study sites

agree?

median score: 5

- length of expertise in stroke modelling
- evidence of appropriate methodological quality
- possibility to control all physiological parameters
- possibility to perform histology
- experience with behavioural testing
- length of PI's expertise in stroke modelling

median score: 5

- length of expertise in stroke modelling
- evidence of appropriate methodological quality
- possibility to control all physiological parameters
- possibility to perform histology
- experience with behavioral testing
- PI: length of expertise in stroke modelling

comments – length of expertise

- the more experience you have the better
- at least 2-3 years expertise in stroke modelling
- even after 15 years of using animal models, I learn constantly
- quality is more important - you may have been doing it badly for many years!
- this might exclude me from participating (!)

questions

- important indeed?
- minimum duration of expertise?

median score: 5

- length of expertise in stroke modelling
- evidence of appropriate methodological quality
- possibility to control all physiological parameters
- possibility to perform histology
- experience with behavioural testing
- PI: length of expertise in stroke modelling

comments – experience behavioural testing

- A large percentage of behavioral studies are conducted poorly. I also know a number of people analyzing and expressing their data incorrectly, and reporting false positives.
- Behavior is really the crux of the issue. If the intervention doesn't improve outcome, nothing else really matters.
- People assume they can do this, but interrater testing and reliability should be required.

questions

- Which tests?
- Test interobserver variation?
- How can this be done?

median score: 5

- length of expertise in stroke modelling
- evidence of appropriate methodological quality
- possibility to control all physiological parameters
- possibility to perform histology
- experience with behavioral testing
- PI: length of expertise in stroke modelling

comments – possibility to perform histology

- if an MR is available, histology may not be mandatory
- as long as tissue preps can be properly done, then others could do this.

question

- important indeed?

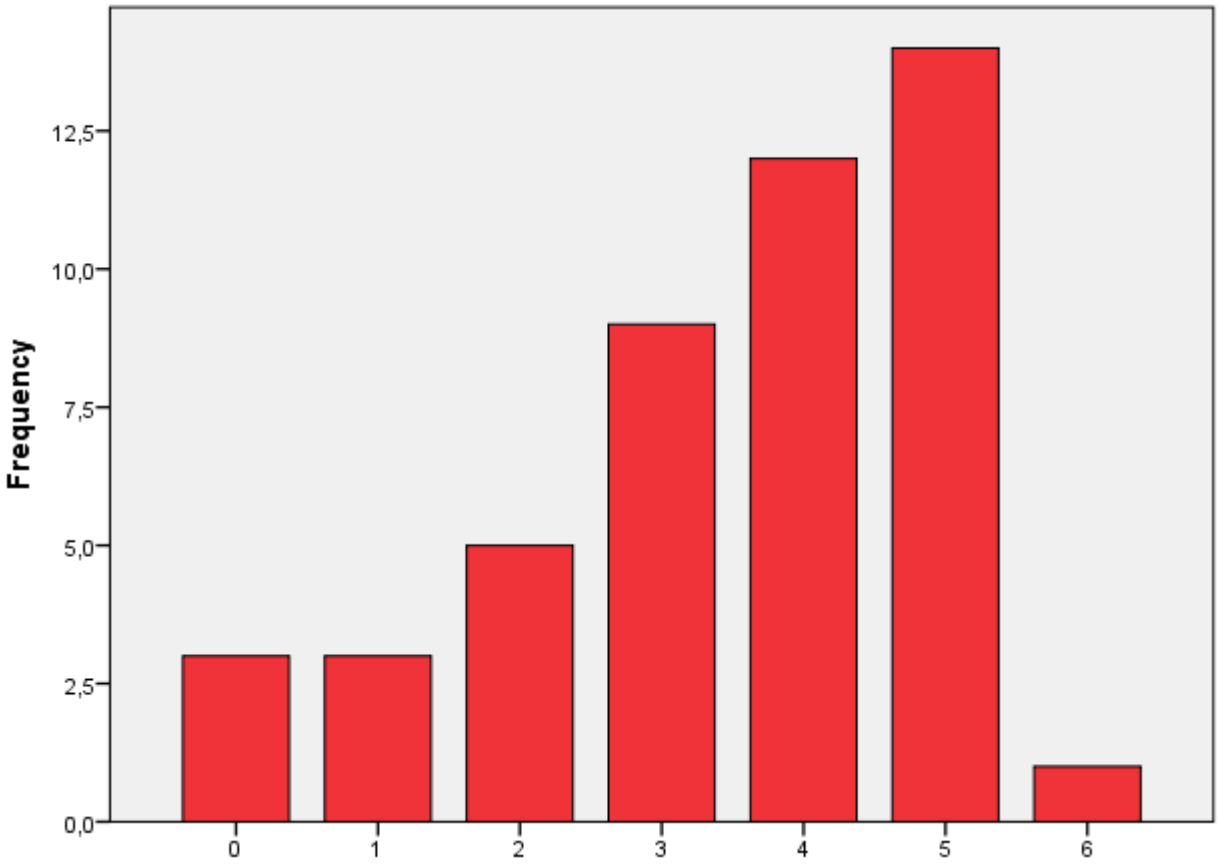
median score: 4

- number of original articles in previous 5 years
- number of citations of these articles
- evidence of a small variation in infarct size
- evidence of ongoing funding and institutional support
- current fte of scientific staff
- current fte of technicians

median score: 4

- experience with endovascular MCAo
- possibility to perfom immunohistochemistry
- number of PI's original articles ≤ 5 years
- evidence of continuing professional development

small variation in infarct size



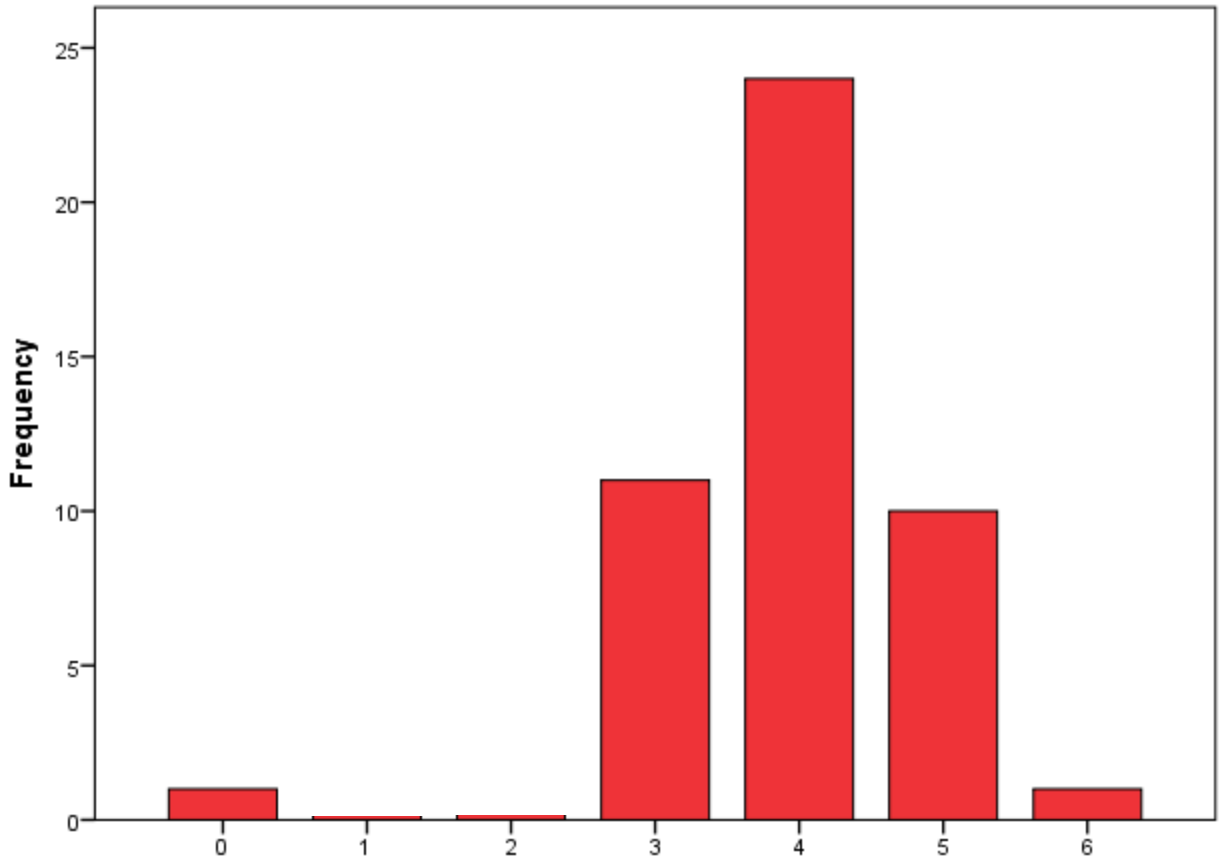
comments – small variation in infarct size

- depends on the model
- evidence of low variation (if unconfounded) is a good thing
- if there is small variation, I am suspicious..

questions

- important indeed?
- if yes, what should be the requirements?

number of articles by PI ≤ 5 years

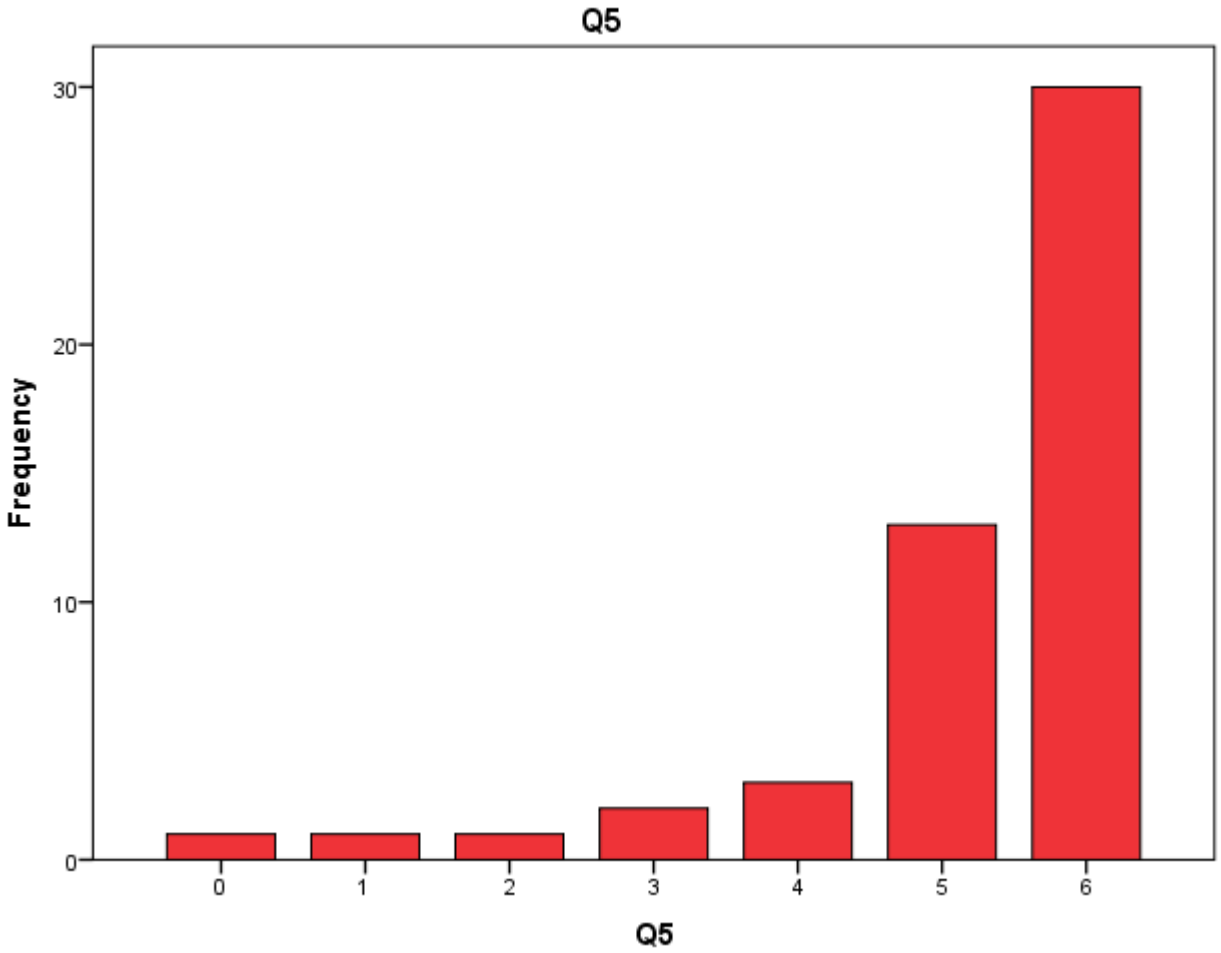


comments – number of articles by PI ≤ 5 years

- didn't you ask this already?
- quality and not quantity is important
- good indicator of research productivity.
- at least 3 in the last five years

questions

- important indeed?
- if yes, what should be the minimum?



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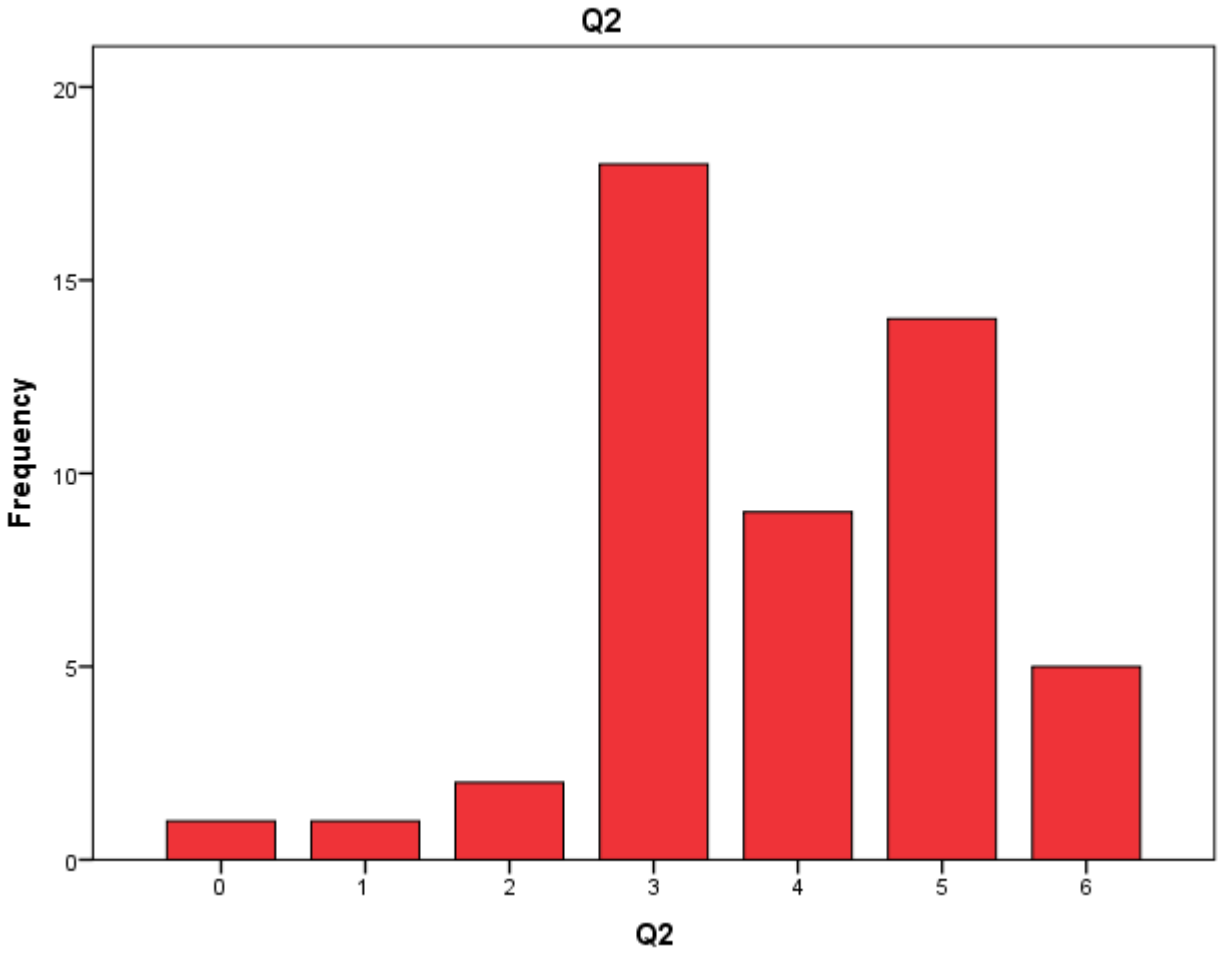
Delete 6



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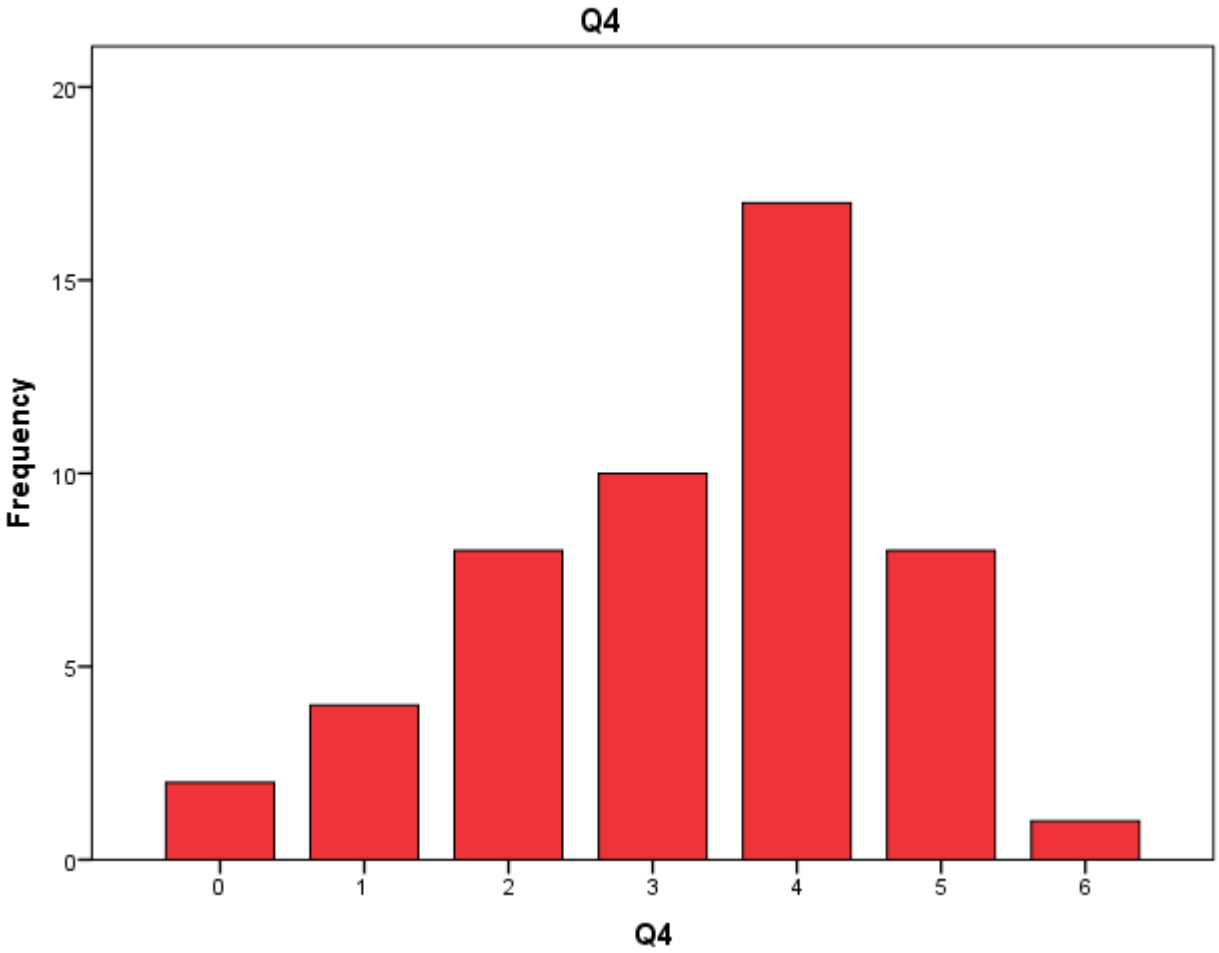

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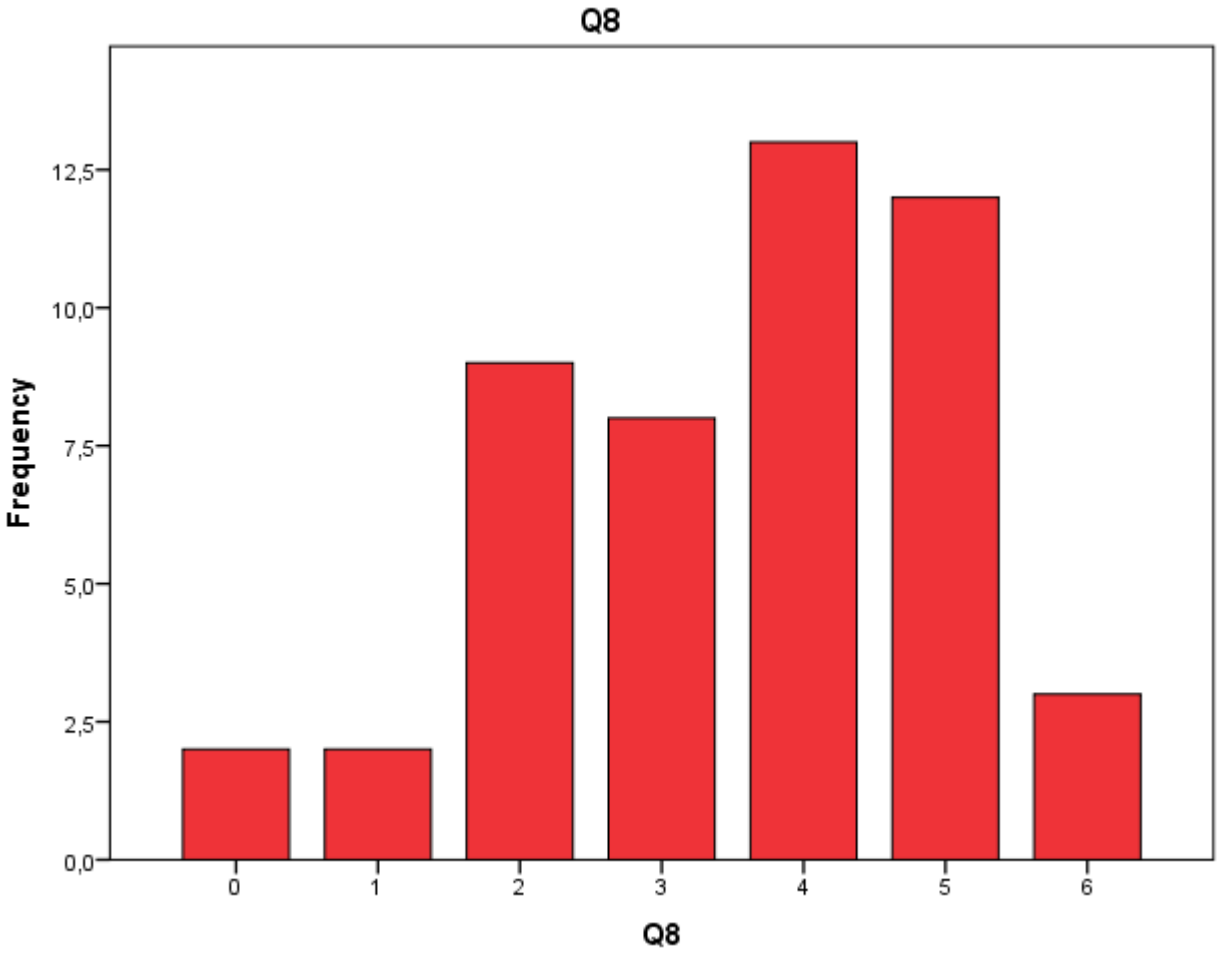
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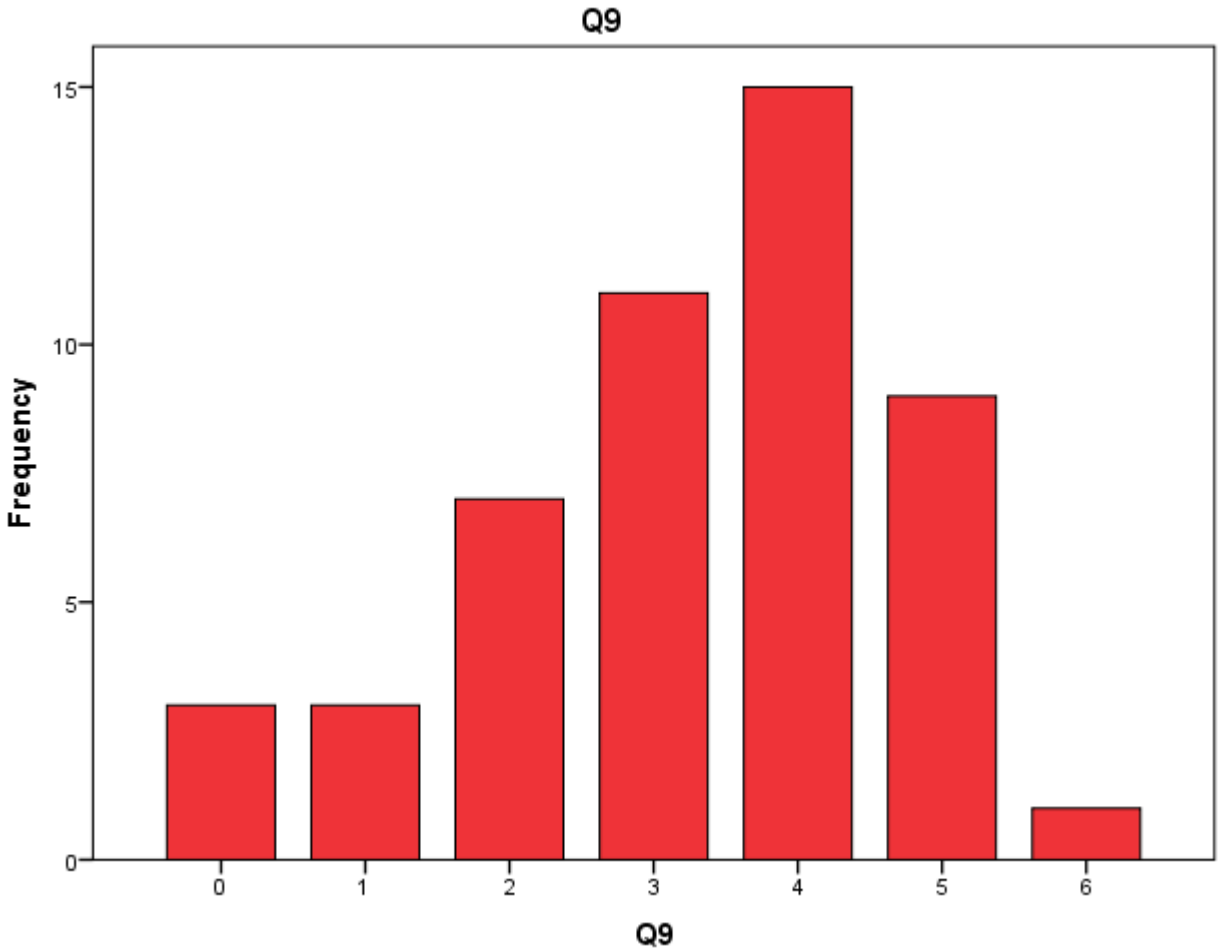
Q8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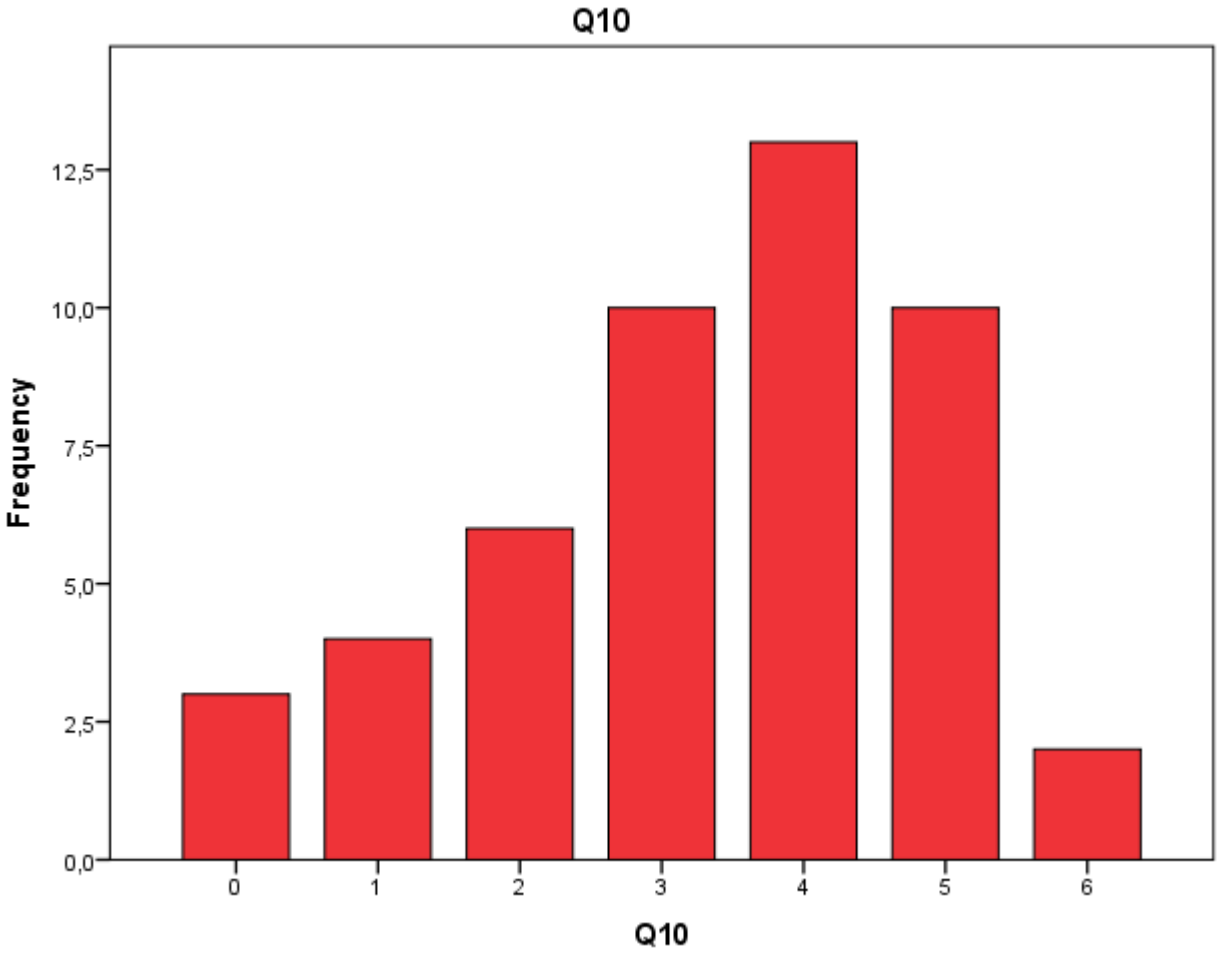
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Frequency
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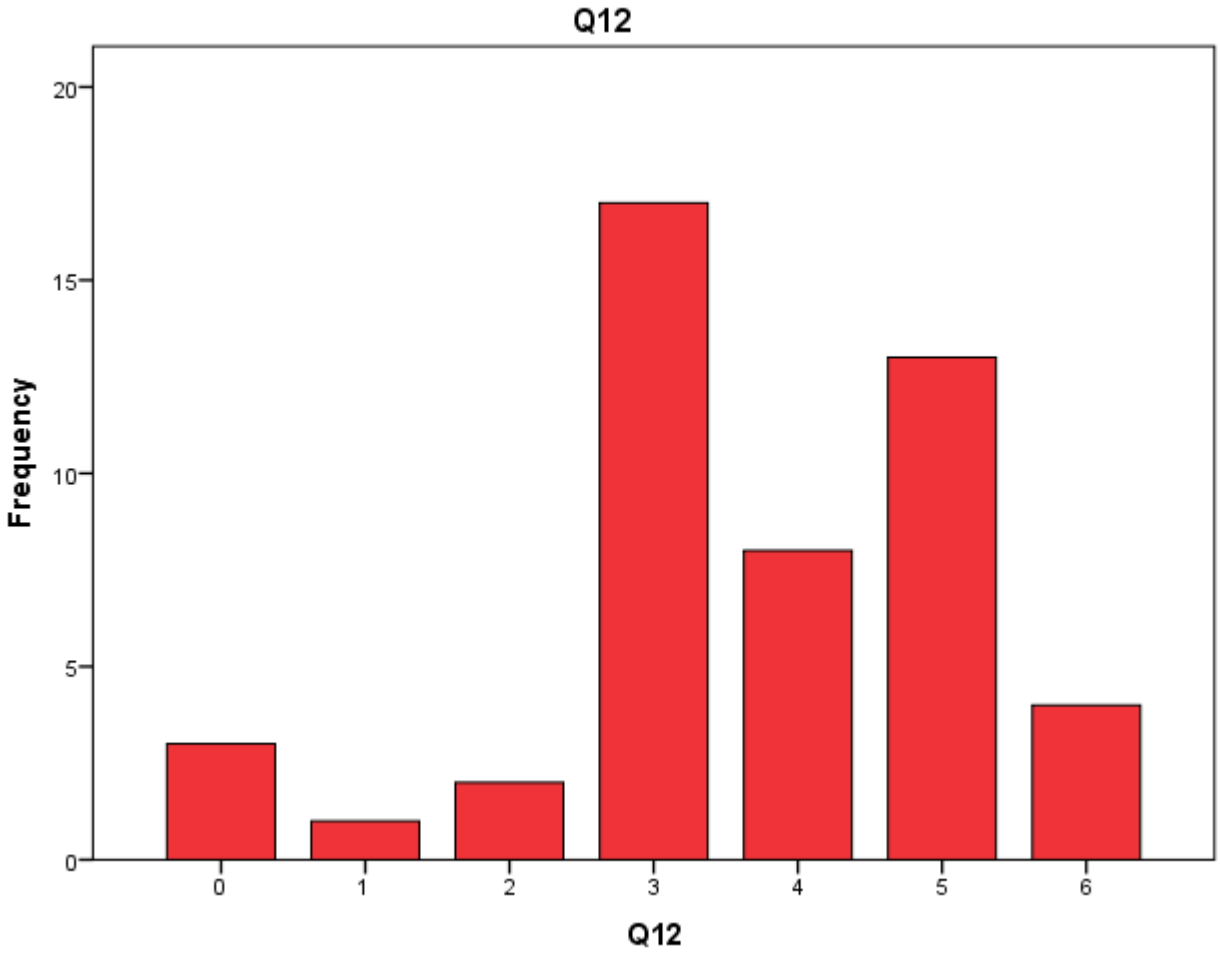

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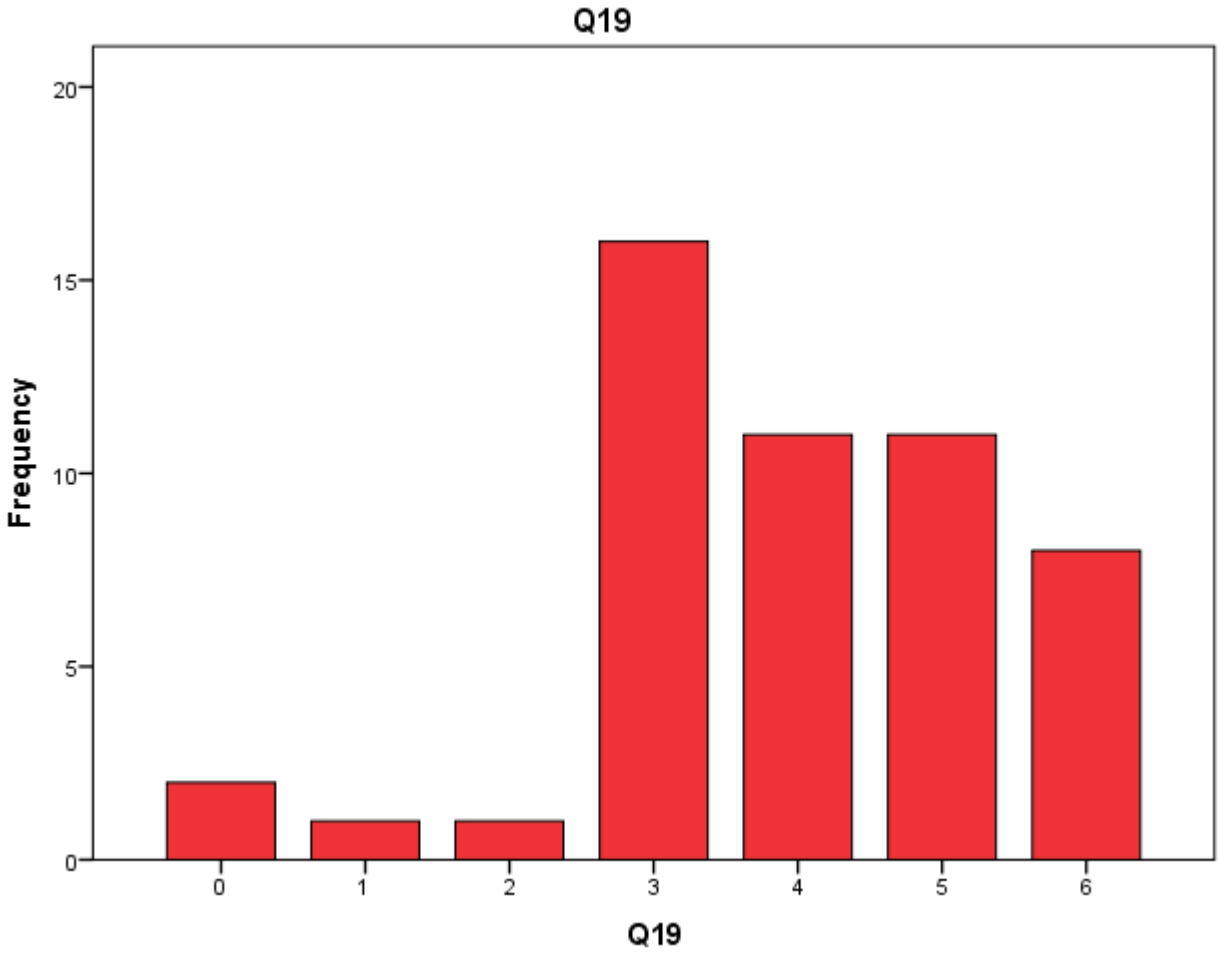

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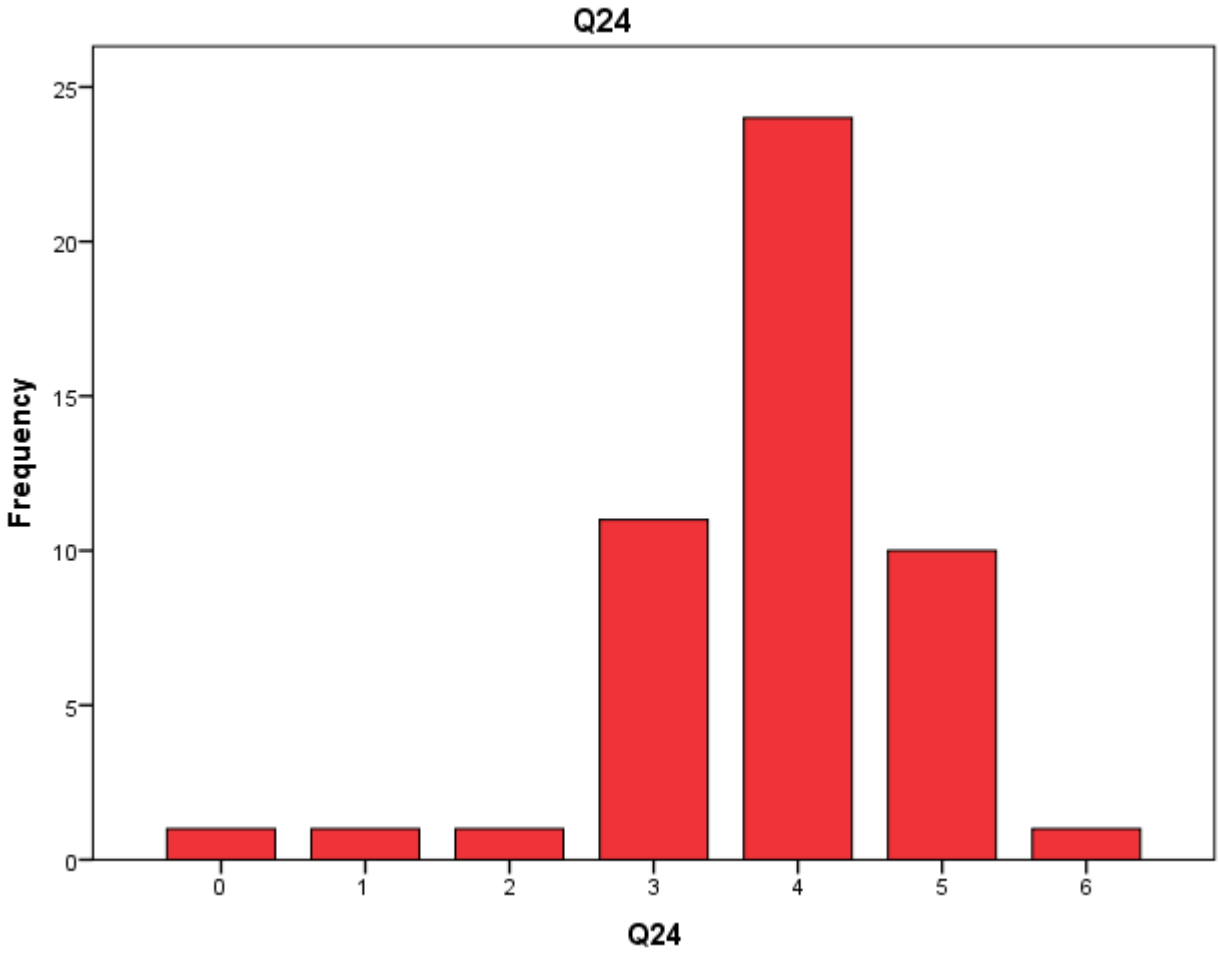

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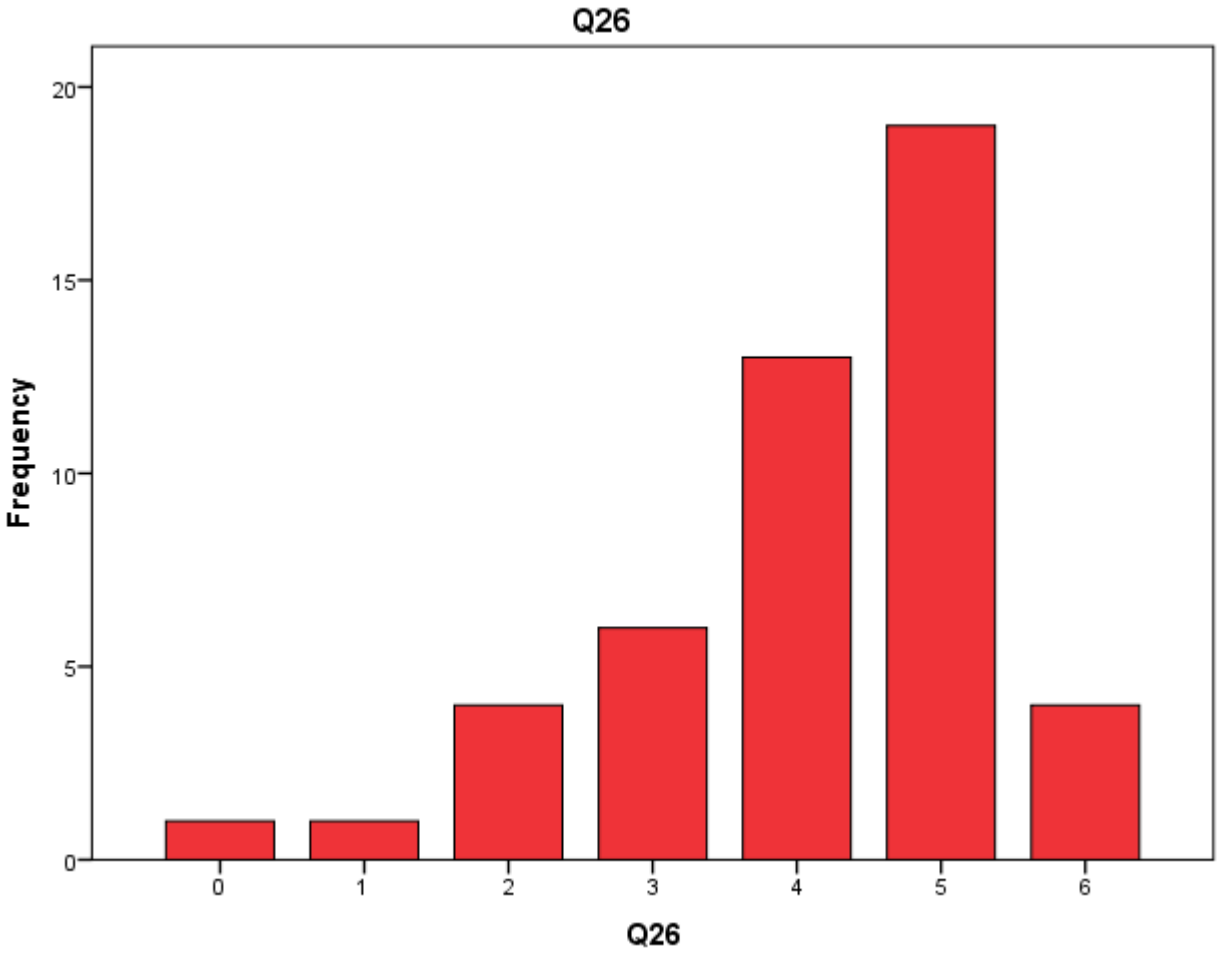

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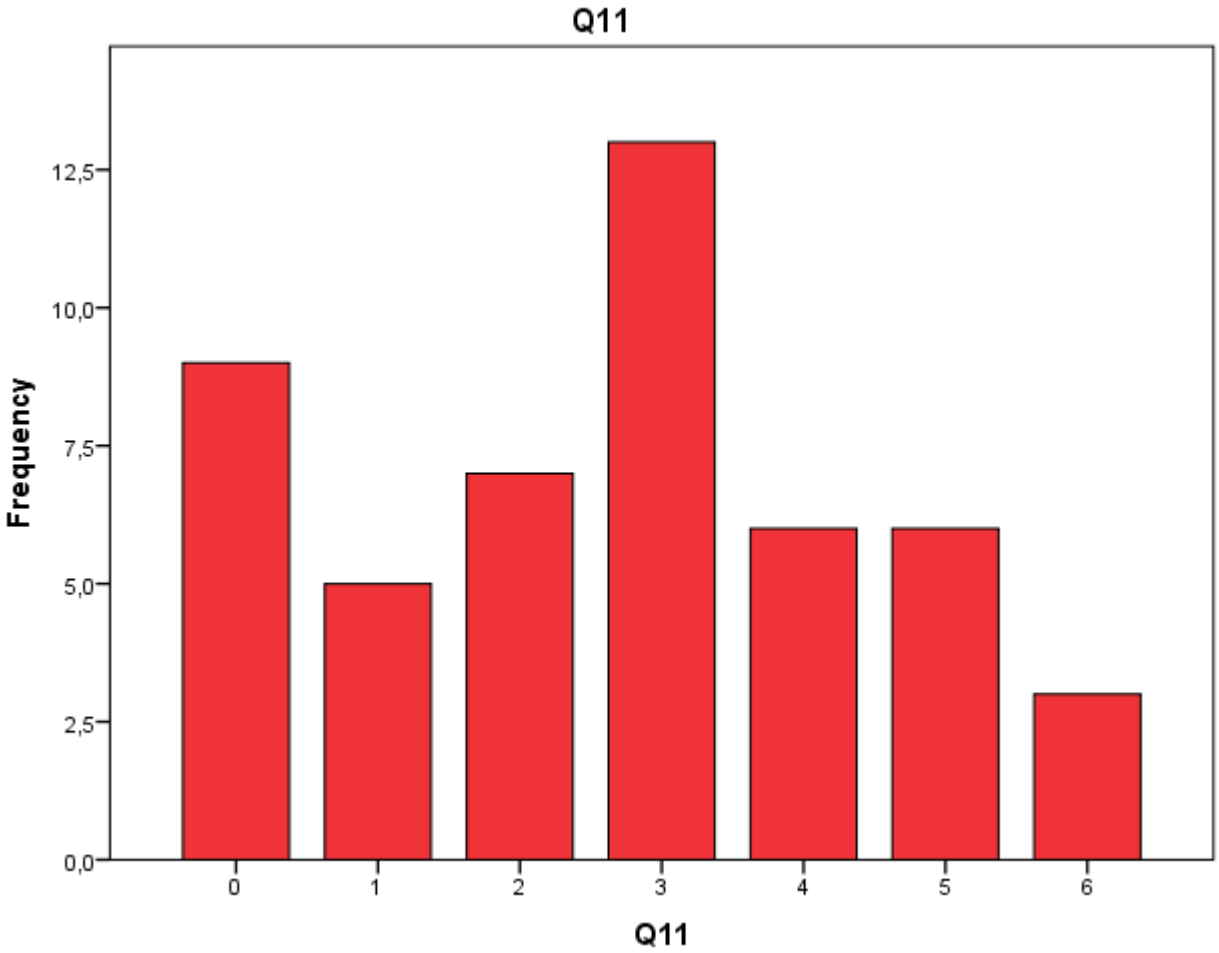
Q11
Frequency
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Q11