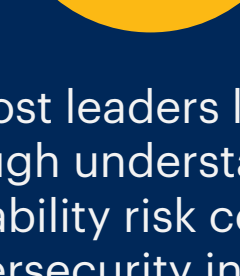
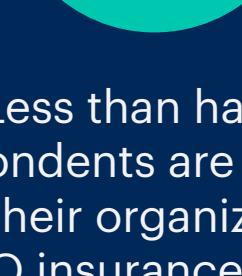


Are U.S. Organizations Insuring Against CISO Liability Risk?

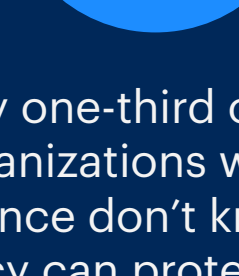
U.S. businesses are facing new regulations regarding cybersecurity that could put their CISOs at risk of liability. How many have obtained insurance coverage for these leaders?



Most leaders lack a thorough understanding of their liability risk concerning cybersecurity incidents



Less than half of respondents are covered by their organization's D&O insurance policy



Nearly one-third of leaders at organizations with cyber insurance don't know if the policy can protect them from liability

Data collection: Oct 13 - Dec 4, 2023

Respondents: 100 U.S. information security and IT leaders who own responsibility for their organization's cybersecurity program

About Gartner Peer Community One-Minute Insights:

Gartner Peer Community is for technology and business leaders to engage in discussions with peers and share knowledge in real time.

Surveys are designed by Gartner Peer Community editors and appear on the Gartner Peer Community platform. Once the respondent threshold is met, survey results are summarized in a One-Minute Insight.

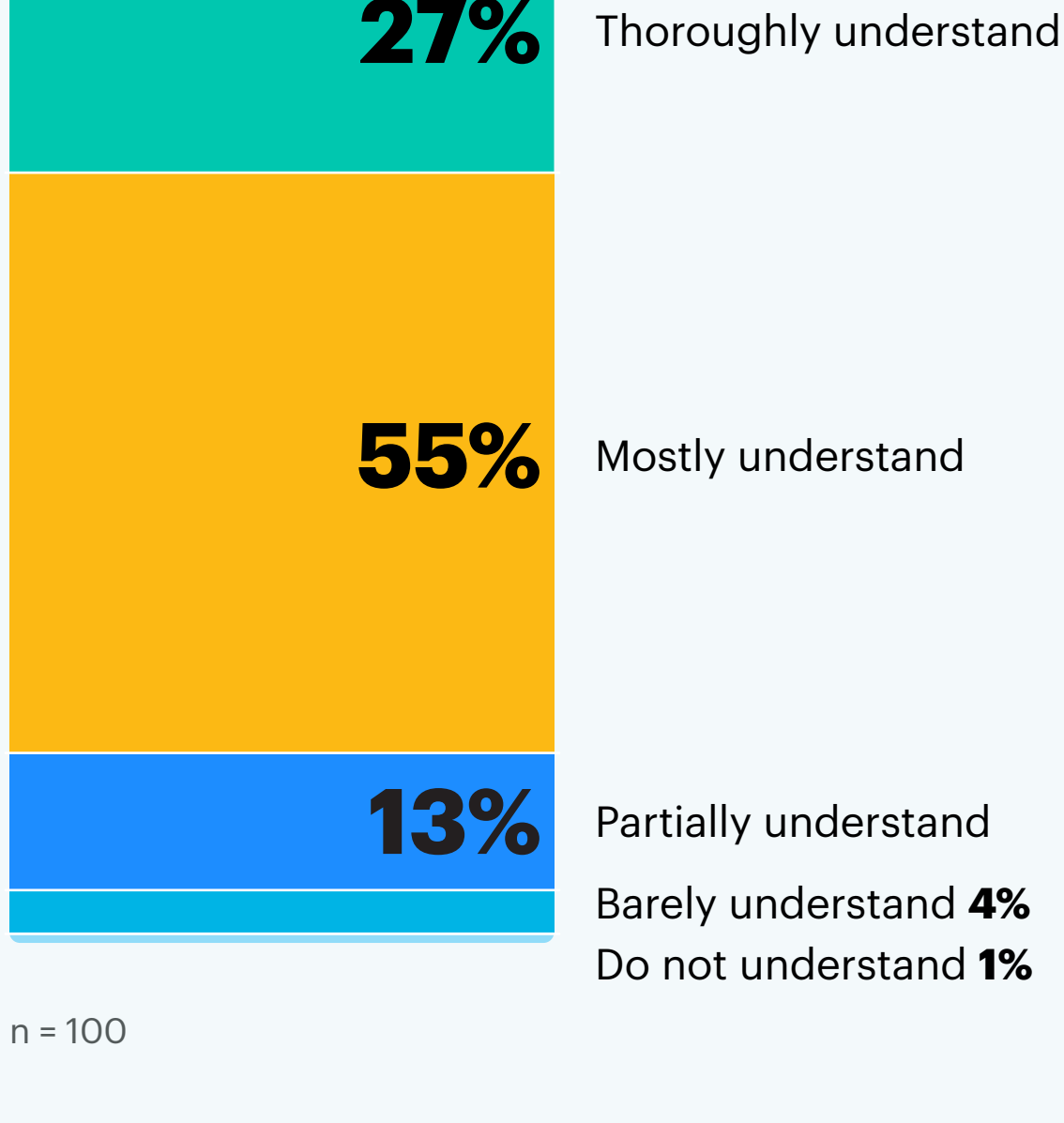
The results of this summary are representative of the respondents that participated in the survey. It is not market representative.



Less than one-third thoroughly understand liability risk for cyber incidents

95% of surveyed leaders at least partially understand their potential legal liability for cybersecurity incidents, but less than one-third (27%) say they understand this risk thoroughly.

In relation to your current role, to what extent do you understand your potential legal liability in the event of a cybersecurity incident (including breaches)?



"This is a very high concern given the recent SEC actions against SolarWinds' CISO."

C-suite, software industry, 5,000 - 10,000 employees



Question: Please share any final thoughts you have on legal liability for cybersecurity leaders and/or how organizations should approach prevention.

"There are more lawsuits occurring lately in our industry."

VP, finance industry, 1,000 - 5,000 employees



Many cybersecurity leaders are covered by D&O insurance

40% of respondents report they are included in their organization's directors and officers (D&O) insurance policy, while 22% are uncertain whether their organization currently has D&O coverage at all.

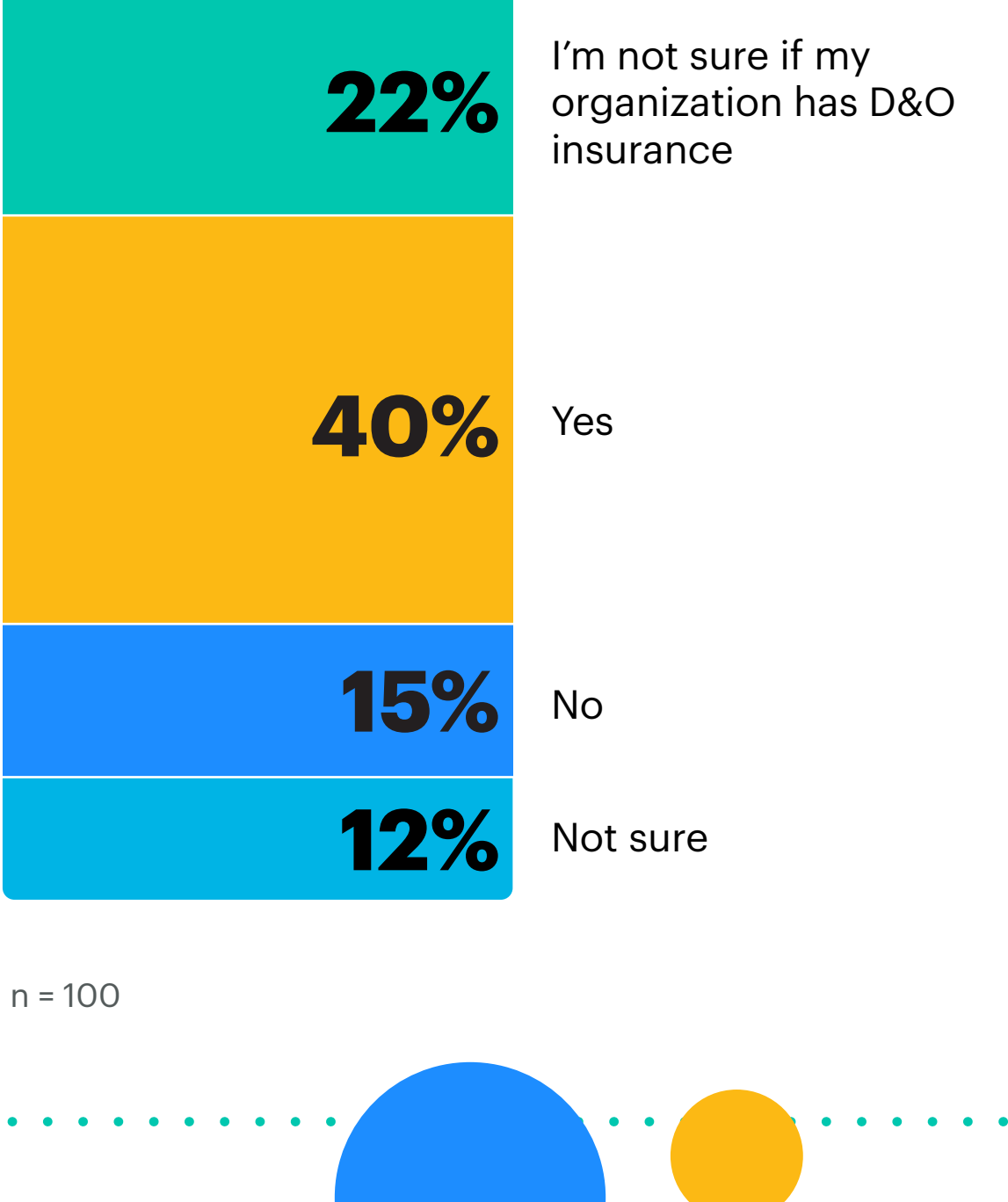
"Insurance is going to play a bigger part in cyber security positions."

Director, healthcare industry, 10,000+ employees



Question: Please share any final thoughts you have on legal liability for cybersecurity leaders and/or how organizations should approach prevention.

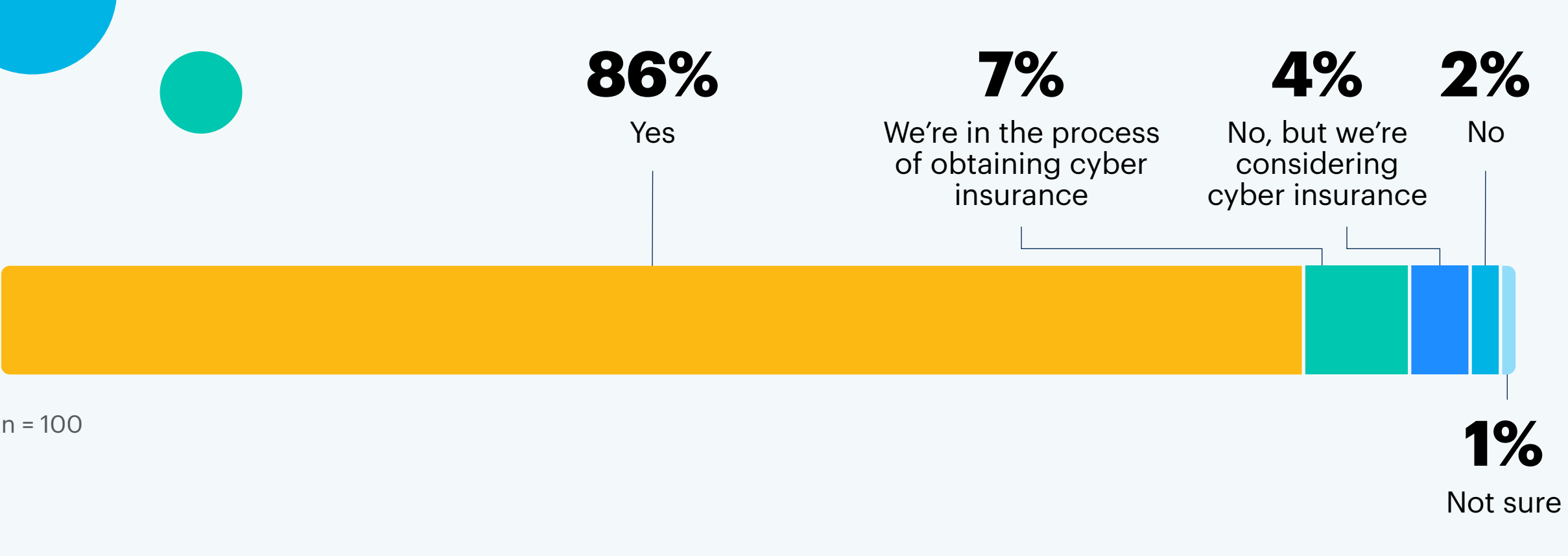
Are you covered by your organization's directors and officers (D&O) insurance policy for liability in the event of a cybersecurity incident (regardless of whether you are officially deemed an officer in the corporate charter)?



Organizations include CISO liability protection in cyber insurance policies

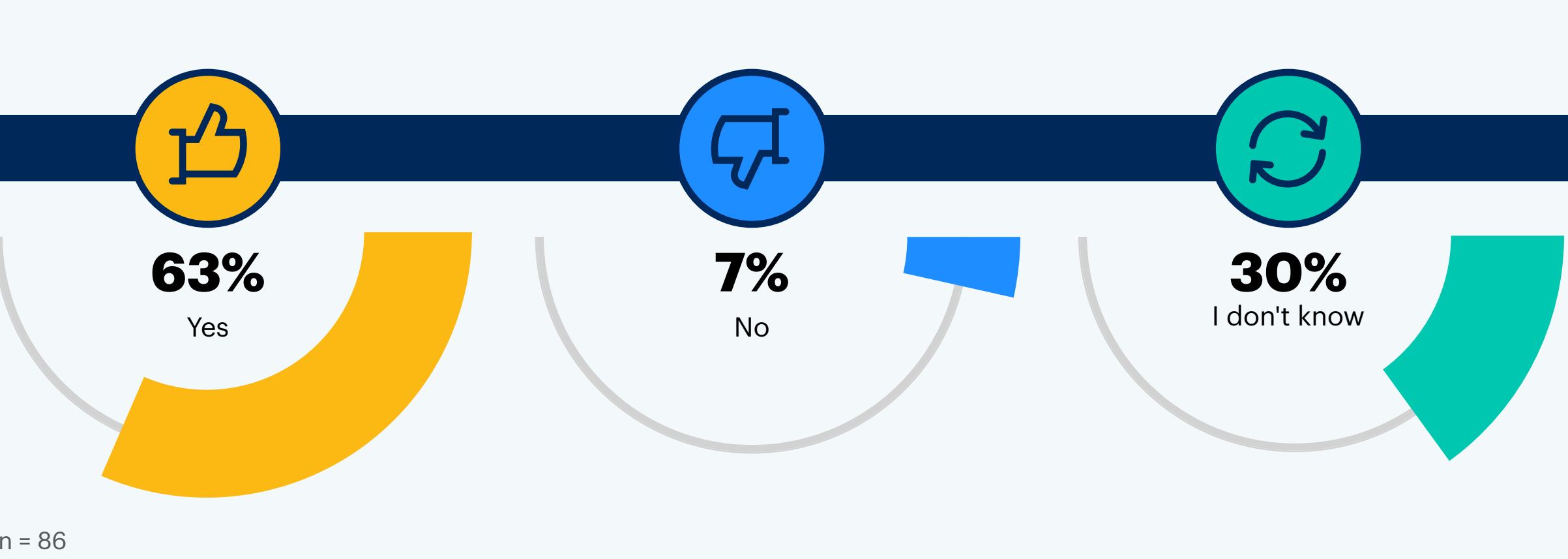
86% of all respondents (n = 100) note their organization currently has a cyber insurance policy in place.

Does your organization have a cyber insurance policy?



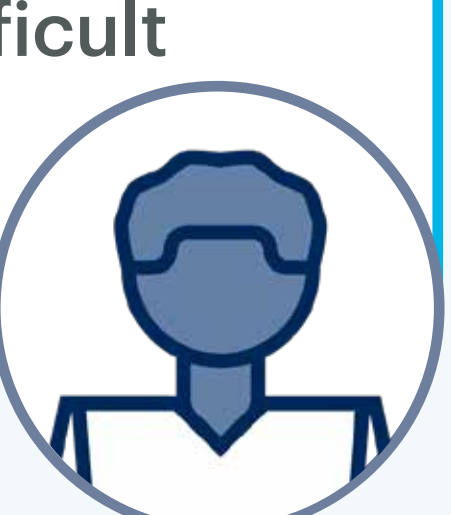
Among those at organizations with cyber insurance (n = 86), nearly two-thirds (63%) indicate that their policy includes liability protection for their role in case of cybersecurity incidents.

To your knowledge, does your organization's cyber insurance policy include liability protection (e.g., legal action coverage) for your role in the event of a cybersecurity incident (including a breach)?¹



"Liability has become more important with recent events. Cyber security insurance underwriting has been difficult but is necessary."

Director, healthcare industry, 10,000+ employees



Question: Please share any final thoughts you have on legal liability for cybersecurity leaders and/or how organizations should approach prevention.

In their own words...

"Companies should have documented policy and awareness for coverage and roles."

- C-suite, software industry, 10,000+ employees

"CISOs have the shortest tenure of any of the 'C Suite' [roles] and that needs to change. Liability does not reside with just the CISO, it's a shared responsibility."

- C-suite, other services industry, <1,000 employees

"Cyber insurance continues to be our best bet for legal protection as of today and we continue to update our policies and [add] vendor risk management solutions to improve our security posture."

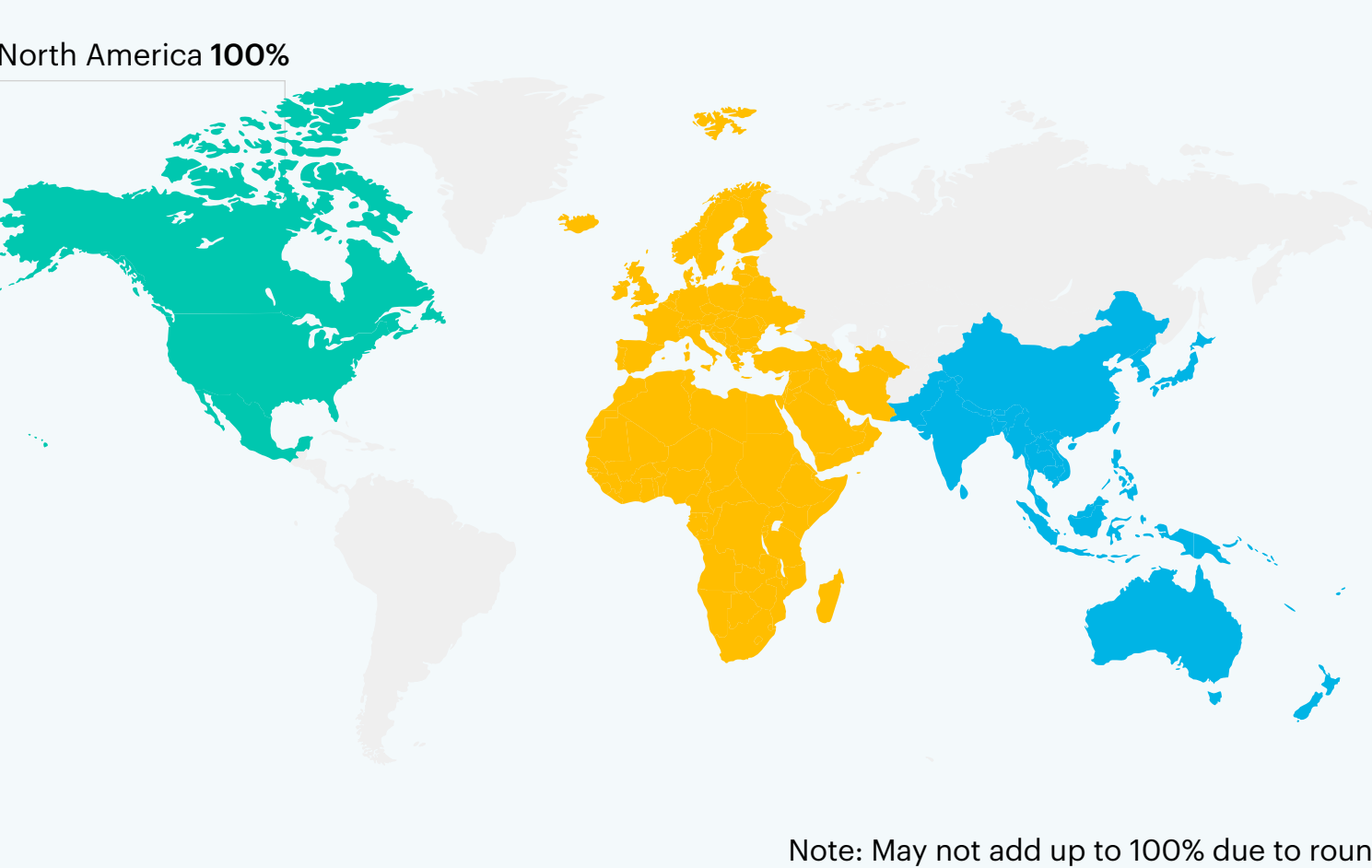
- Director, hardware industry, 10,000+ employees

Question: Please share any final thoughts you have on legal liability for cybersecurity leaders and/or how organizations should approach prevention.

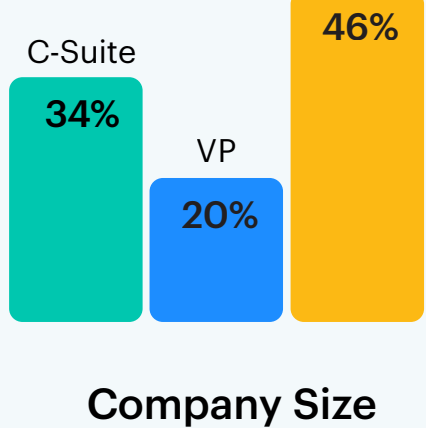


Respondent Breakdown

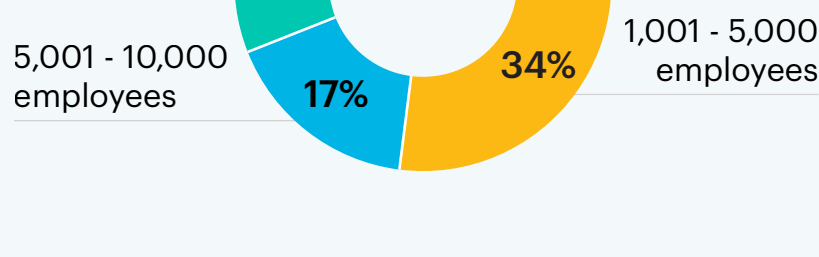
Region



Job Level



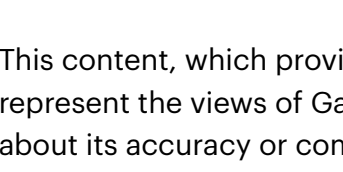
Company Size



Note: May not add up to 100% due to rounding
Respondents: 100 U.S. information security and IT leaders who own responsibility for their organization's cybersecurity program

Want more insights like this from leaders like yourself?

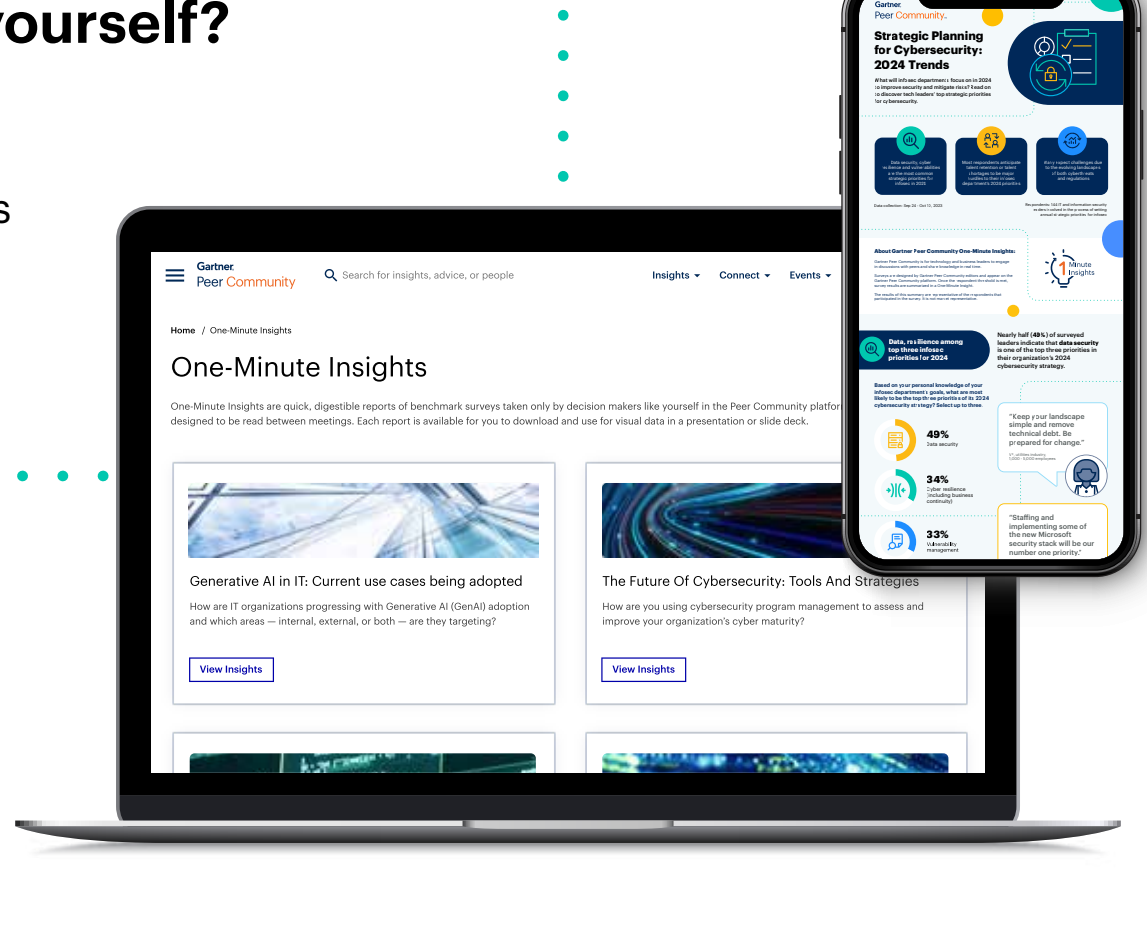
Click [here](#) to explore the revamped, retooled and reimagined Gartner Peer Community. You'll get access to synthesized insights and engaging discussions from a community of your peers.



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Source: Gartner Peer Community, Cybersecurity liability risks: Protecting the CISO survey

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¹ Question shown only to respondents who answered "Yes" to "Does your organization have a cyber insurance policy?"