



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BIOLOGICAL  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPOSITORIES

**Connecting Repositories Globally through Best Practices**  
leading since 1999



# **Results of the ISBER/AABB Survey to Assess Biorepository Community Readiness for Standards for Biorepositories/Biobanks**

Global Biobank Week  
Stockholm Sweden  
September 14, 2017  
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# Background

ISBER is a professional society whose members share an interest in promoting consistent high quality best practices, ethical principles and innovation in biospecimen biobanking through uniting the global community of biobankers.

# Methods

ISBER, in cooperation with AABB, created a 21 question survey to determine how prepared the biobanking community is for the development of ISBER best practices-based standards and a standards-based accreditation program.

# Response Rate

- March 22- April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017
- 1,568 survey invitations sent
  - A total of 230 (14.7%) respondents opened the survey.
  - After screening respondents, 194 (12.4%) responses were qualified while 36 (2.3%) responses were disqualified.
    - Screener question: Are you employed full-time, part-time, or on a contract basis at an organization that contains or is considered to be a biorepository or biobank?
      - Yes (Qualified)
      - No (End of Survey)
  - Completeness of qualified responses
    - 165 (10.52%) were complete responses
    - 29 (1.85%) were partial responses

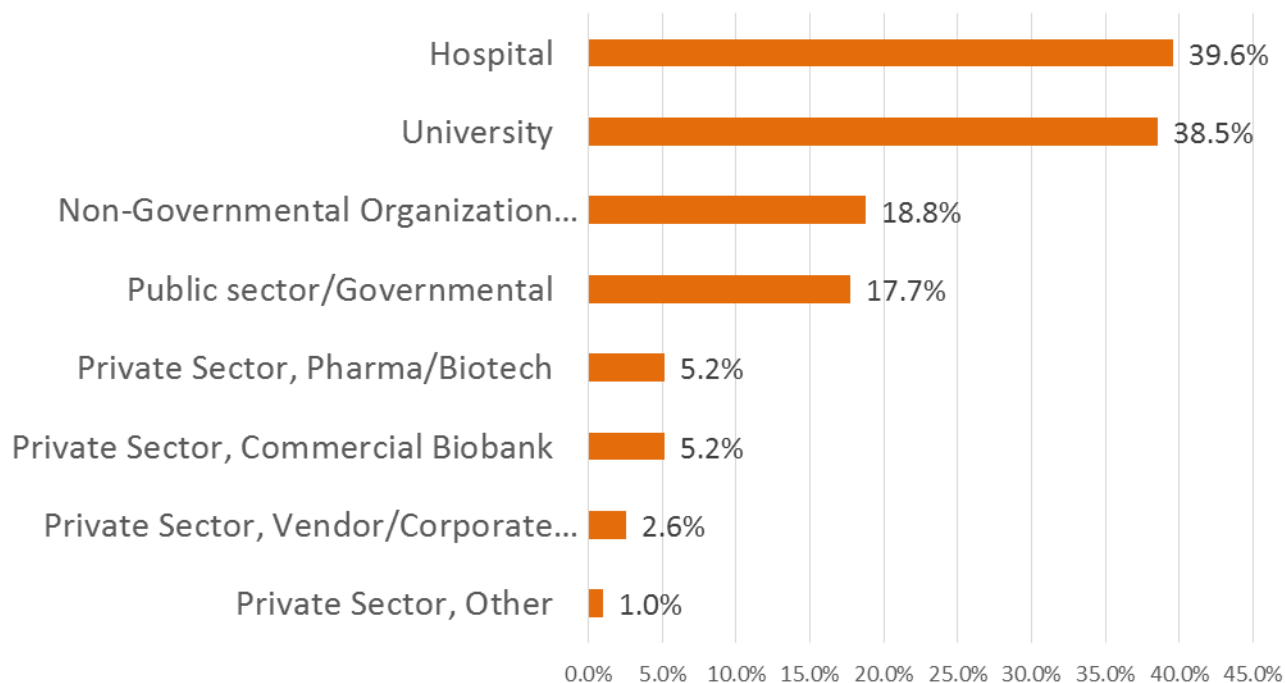
# Position at the Organization

Responsibility	Count (Select all that apply)	Percent
Biorepository Director and/or Manager	110	57%
Biorepository Program/Project Manager	53	27%
Research Scientist	18	9%
Biorepository Technician	16	8%
Quality Management/Compliance	9	5%
Consultant	9	5%
Executive or Administrative	8	4%
Pathologist	7	4%
Physician	7	4%
Informatics Specialist	6	3%
Policy Maker	5	3%
Ethicist	5	3%
IRB Administrator/Member	4	2%
Microbiologist	3	2%
Other*	8	4%
Total Respondants	194	

\*Other include biorefinery scientist (team leader biospecimen processing), biostatistician, coordinator, intra-network manager, laboratory practice leader, staff member and veterinarian.

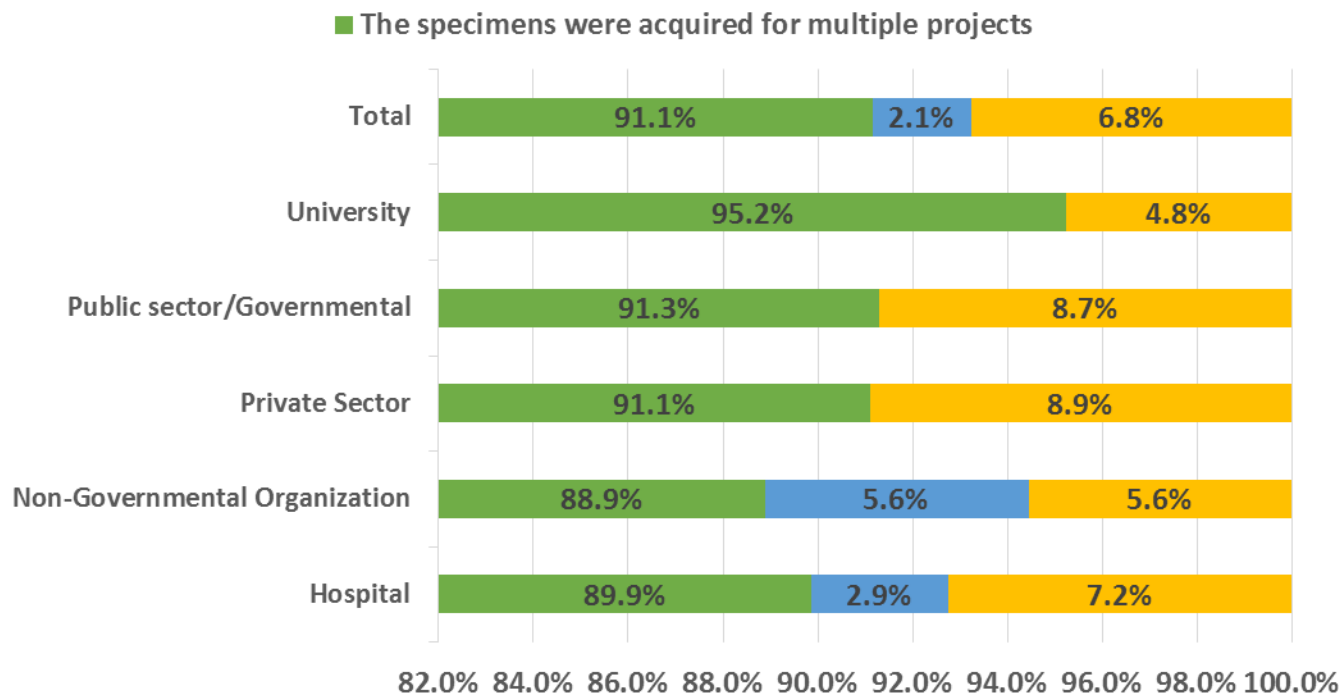
# Organization

Q.3 The sector in which your organization is best categorized (Primary Choice)



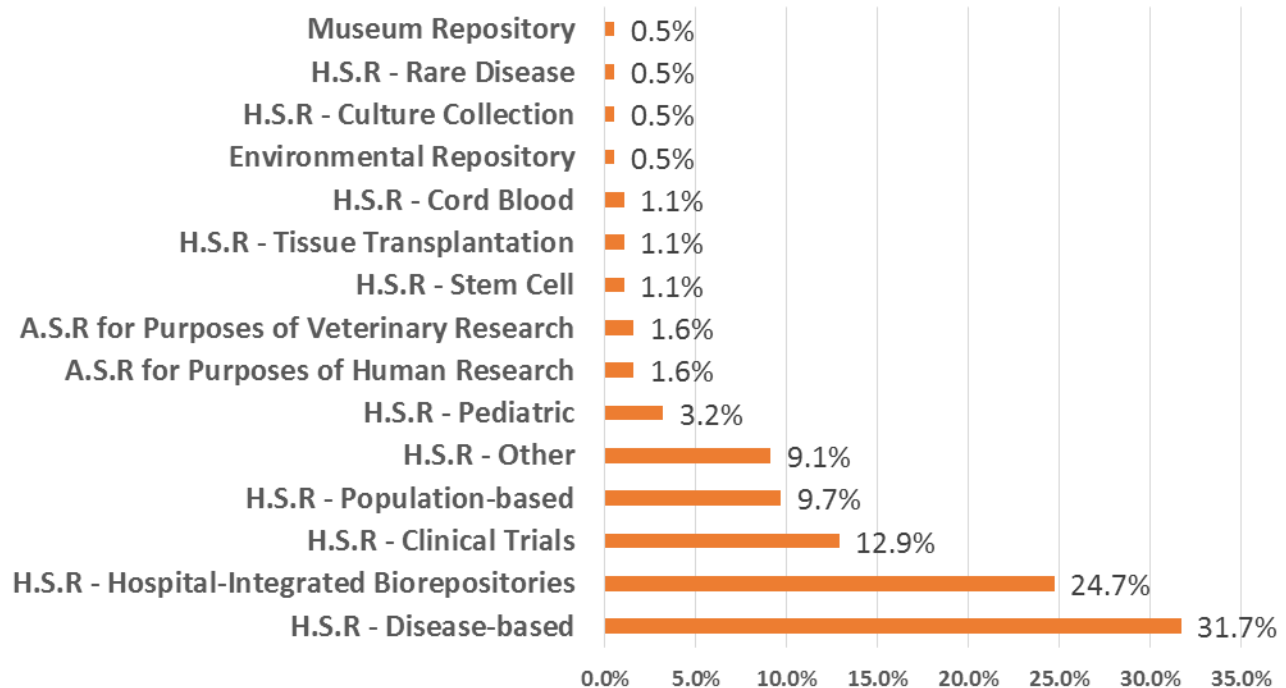
# Organization

Q4. Does your organization's biorepository/biobank contain specimens acquired for one project or for multiple projects?



# Organization

Q5. What is your organization's primary biorepository/biobank category?

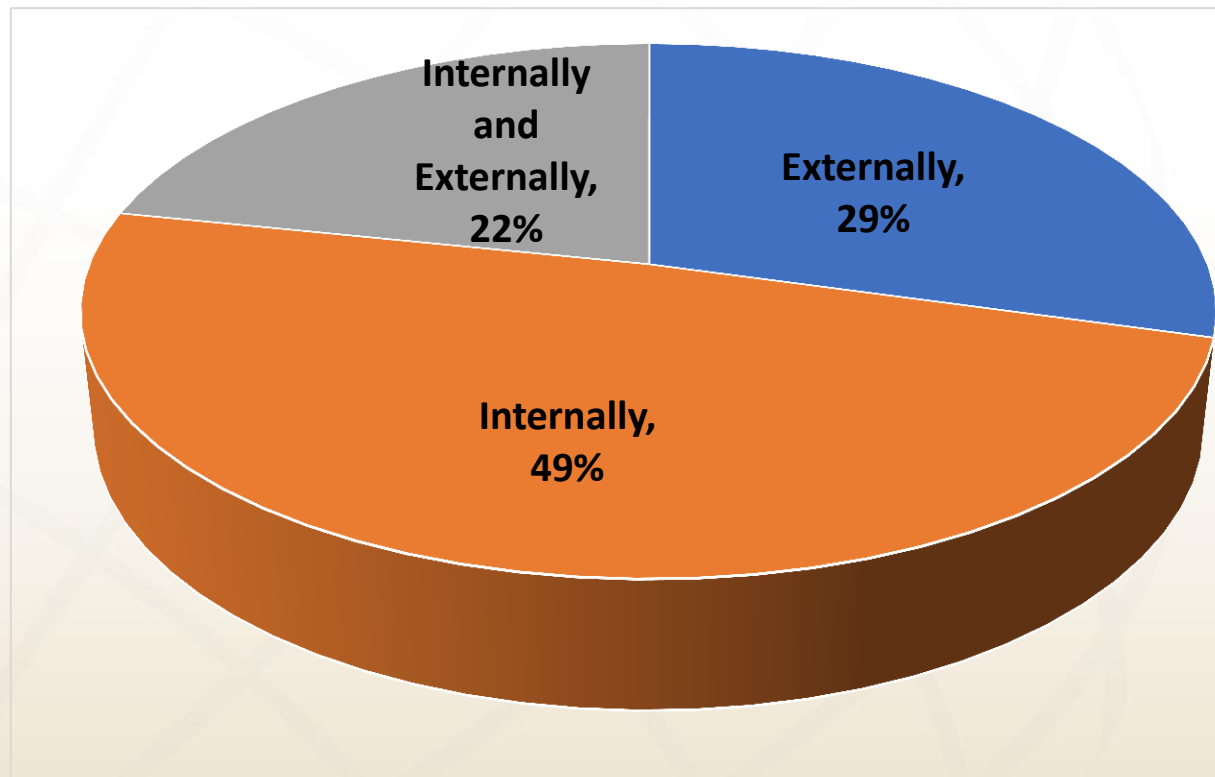


H.S.R. Human Specimen Repository  
A.S.R. Animal Specimen Repository



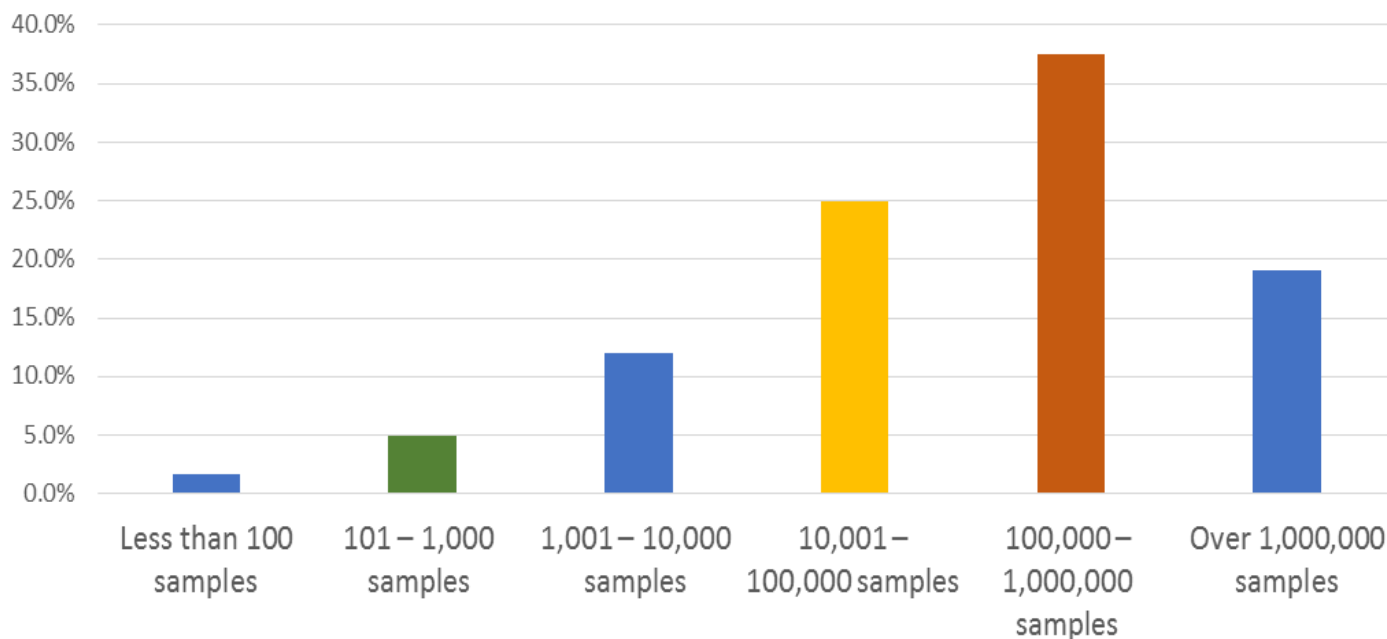
# Organization

Q7. How are your organization's biological samples collected?



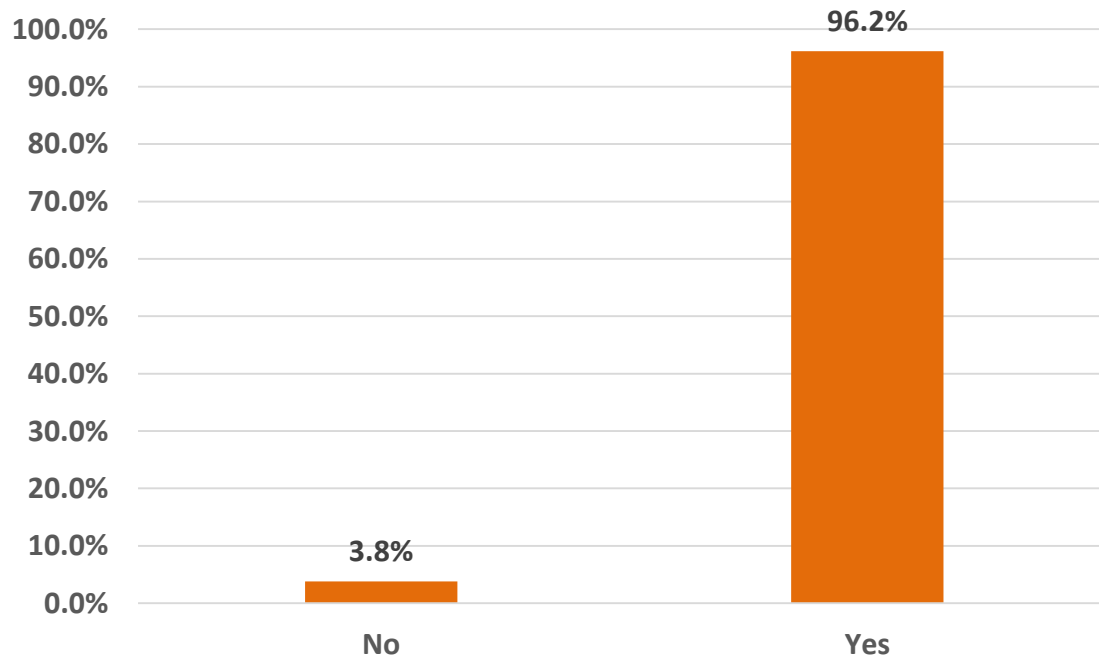
# Organization

**Q8. Approximately how many biological samples are currently stored at your organization's biorepository/biobank?**



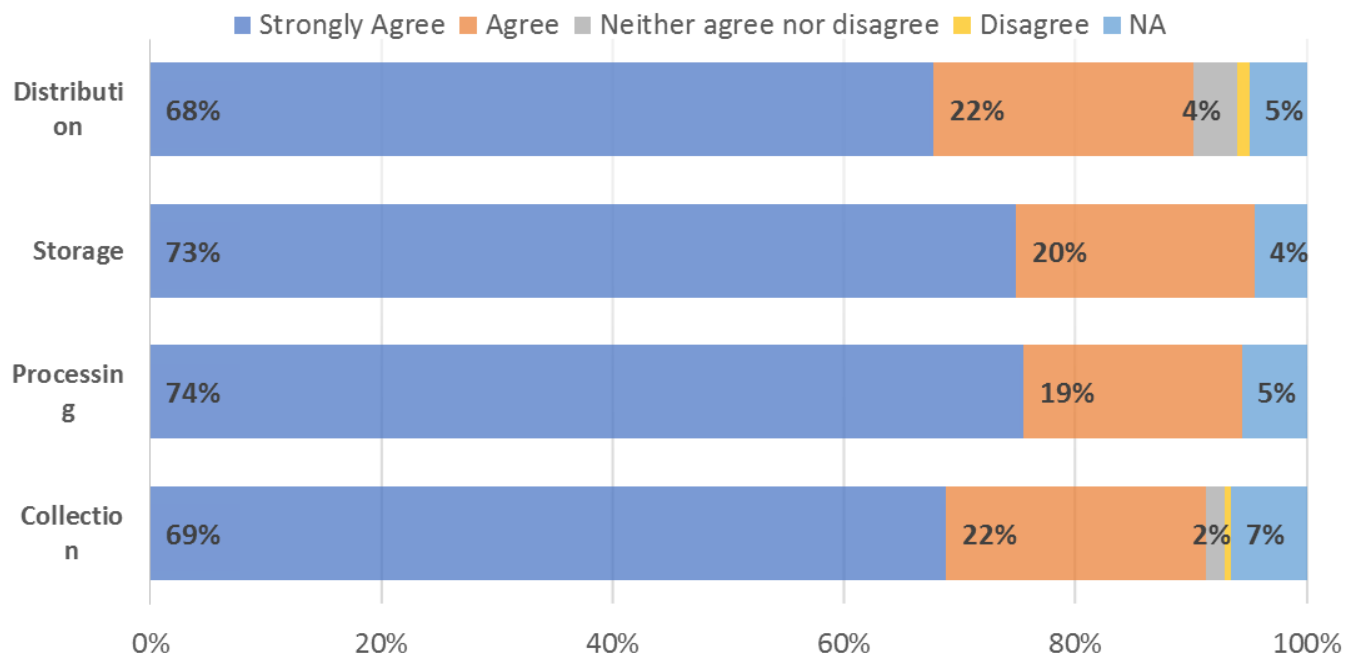
# Organization

**Q9. Are you a member of the International Society for Biological and Environmental Repositories (ISBER)?**



# Organization's Best Practices and Standards

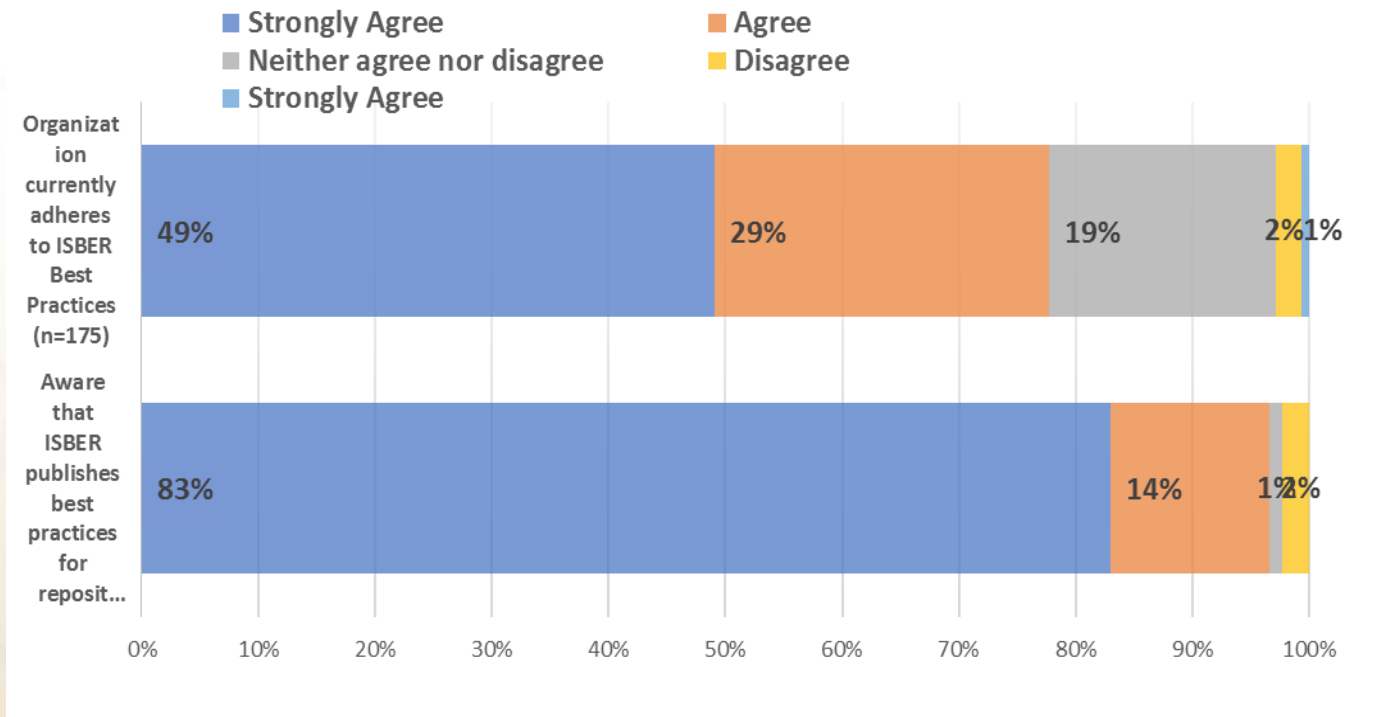
**Q10\*. My organization has standard operating procedures in place for Specimen:**



\*Q10 Please choose the category that best matches for each of the following statements.  
(n=183)

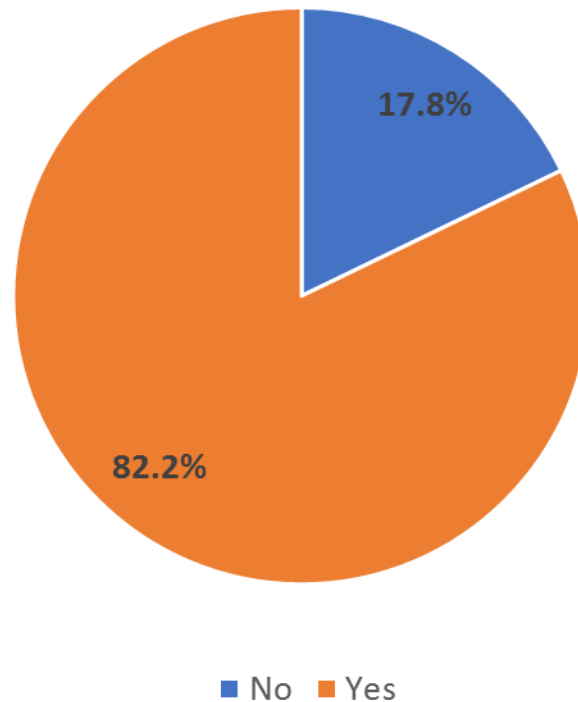
# Organization's Best Practices and Standards

Q11. Please choose the category that best matches for each of the following statements.



# Organization's Best Practices and Standards

**Q12. Other than human subjects research regulations regarding informed consent and other relevant ethical issues, my organization is subject to national, regional, or local regulatory law regarding specimen management.**

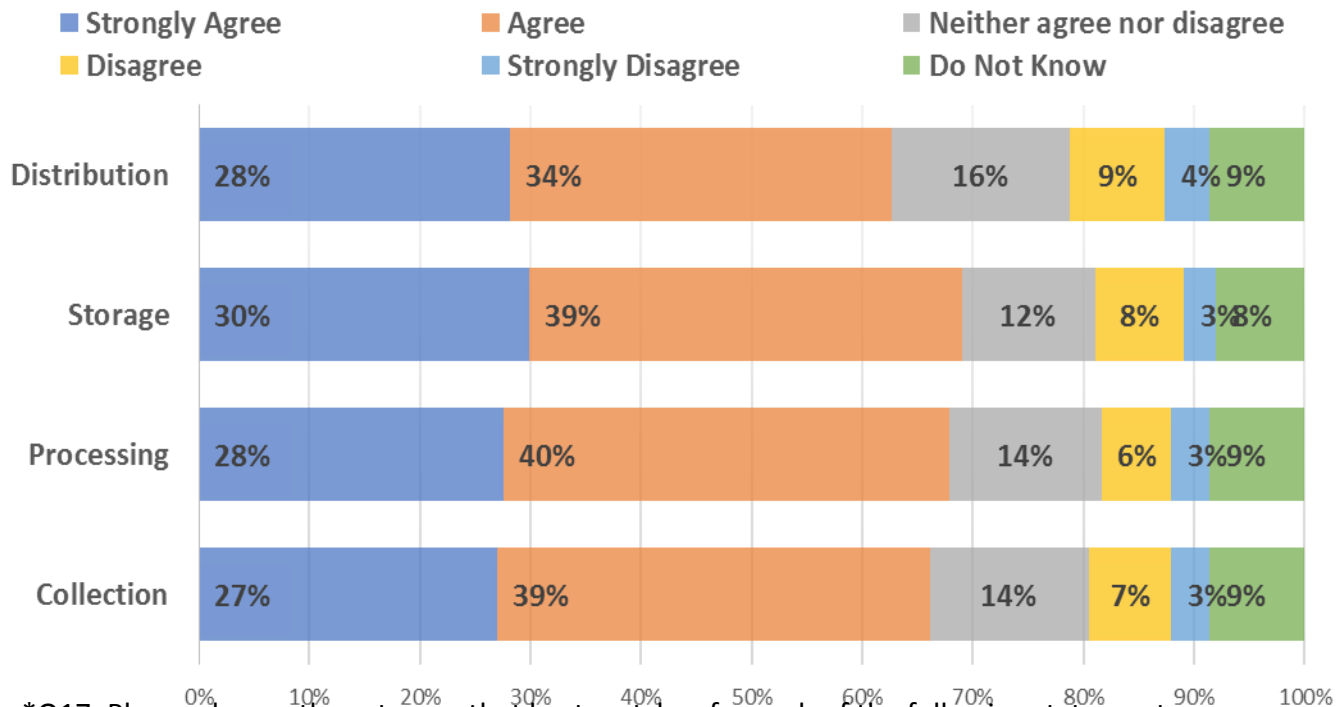


# Organization's Best Practices, Standards, and Accreditation

Question	Response	%
<b>Q13. Does your organization operate under a Quality Management System?</b>	Yes	82.3%
	No	17.7%
<b>Q14. Is your organization ISO certified?</b>	No	60.3%
	Yes	20.1%
	In the process of seeking ISO certification	11.5%
	Don't Know	8.0%
<b>Q15. Is your organization CTRNet certified?</b>	No	73.0%
	Don't Know	15.5%
	In the process of seeking CTRNet certification	4.6%
	Yes	4.6%
	Other	2.3%
<b>Q16. Is your organization CAP accredited?</b>	No	53.4%
	Yes	17.2%
	In the process of seeking CAP accreditation	16.7%
	Other	4.0%
	Don't Know	5.2%

# Organization's Best Practices and Standards

**Q17\* The Biorepository field is ready to adopt ISBER standards for Specimen:**



\*Q17. Please choose the category that best matches for each of the following statements.  
(n=174)



# Conclusions

- The majority of survey respondents characterized themselves as representing academic (40%) or healthcare institutions (38.5%), stored human specimens (>90%) and stored samples for multiple projects (>85-90%), and stored > 10,000 samples (80%).
- Almost 90% of respondents currently have SOP's in place for specimen collection, processing, storage, and distribution and >80% operate under a QMS.
- >95% of respondents are aware of and about 80% adhere to ISBER best practices for biorepositories.
- The number of respondents who are already accredited or seeking accreditation:
  - CAP (33.9%); ISO (31.6%); CTRNet (9.2%)
- 60-70% of respondents are ready to adopt ISBER standards, if offered, for specimen collection, processing, storage, and distribution.
- The results of this survey will help shape future ISBER policy regarding an accreditation program

# Acknowledgements

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