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# High Schoolers' Opinions toward GMOs

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# Acknowledgements

- Professor Qunfeng Dong
- Cindy Xin
- National Science Foundation

# Purpose

- Gauge knowledge and preexisting notions of high school students on GMOs
- Assess the comfortability of high school students eating genetically modified foods
- Provide understanding for further applications: which areas of education to focus on, which populations most susceptible

# Procedure

- National Academies of Science Report
  - Genetically Engineered Crops: Experiences and Prospects
- Creating survey questions
- Sending out survey
- Analyzing results - trends, patterns, observations

# Errors

Efforts to minimize errors:

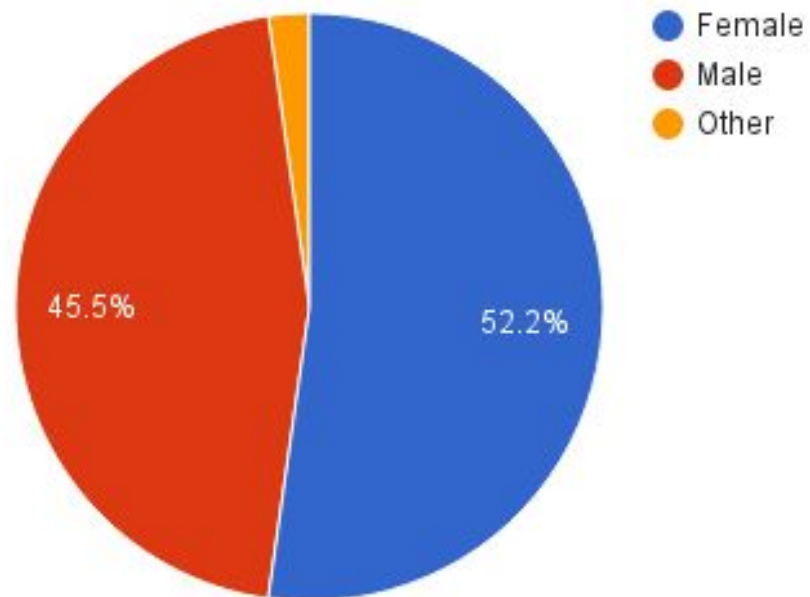
- Wording of questions
- Direct participation
- Omit inconsistent data

Possible errors remaining:

- Sampling variability
- Undercoverage of less privileged high schools
  - Overestimate of knowledge and comfortability with GMOs

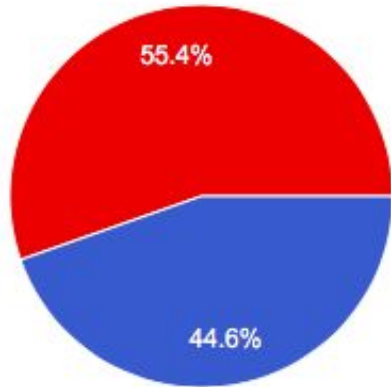
# Demographics

Count of What gender do you identify as?



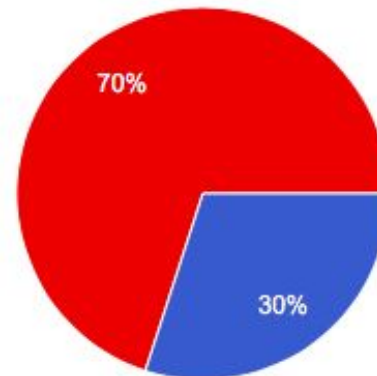
# Genetic Engineering Companies

Have you heard of companies like Monsanto? (130 responses)



● Yes  
● No

Do you think genetic engineering is a recent development?

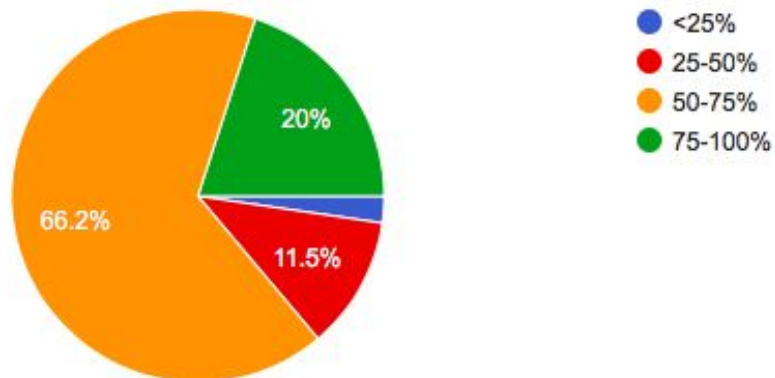


● Yes  
● No

# GMO Sales

What percentage of grocery store foods do you think are GMO-processed?

(130 responses)



Actual percentage:

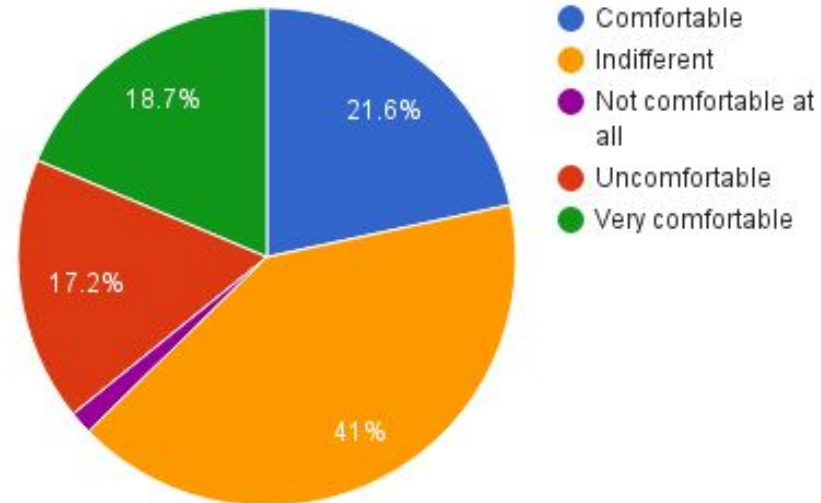
up to

85%



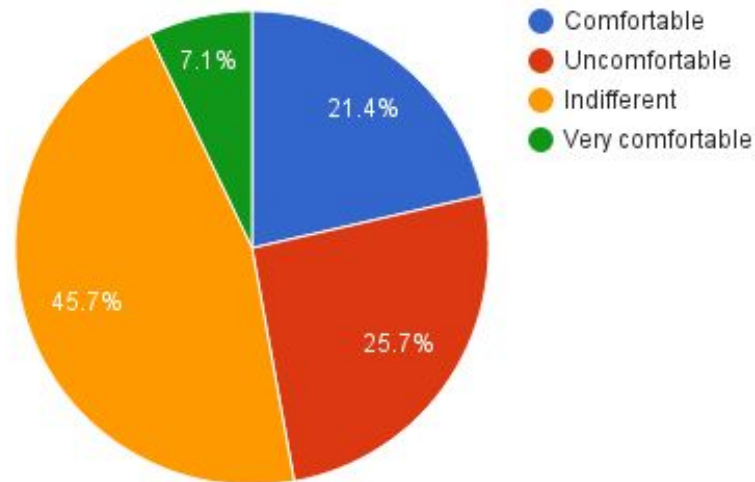
# General Opinions

How comfortable are you eating genetically modified foods?

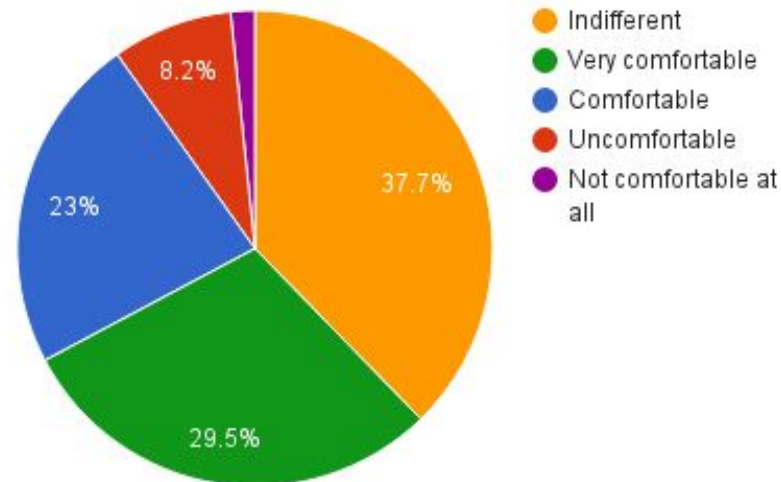


# General Opinions

**Females: Count of How comfortable are you eating genetically modified foods?**



**Males: Count of How comfortable are you eating genetically modified foods?**

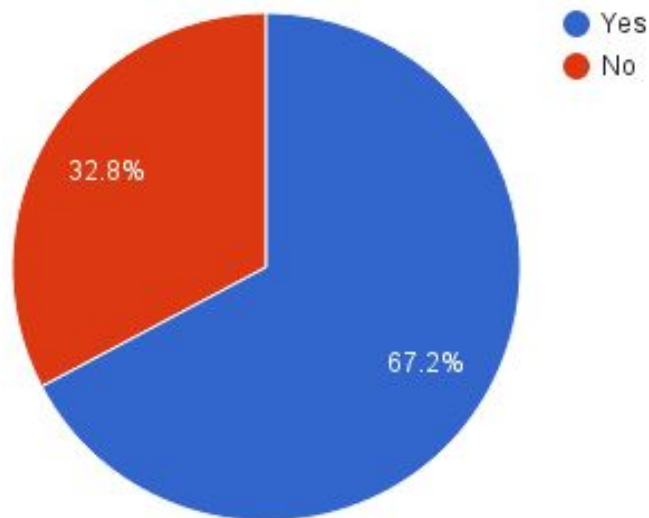


74%

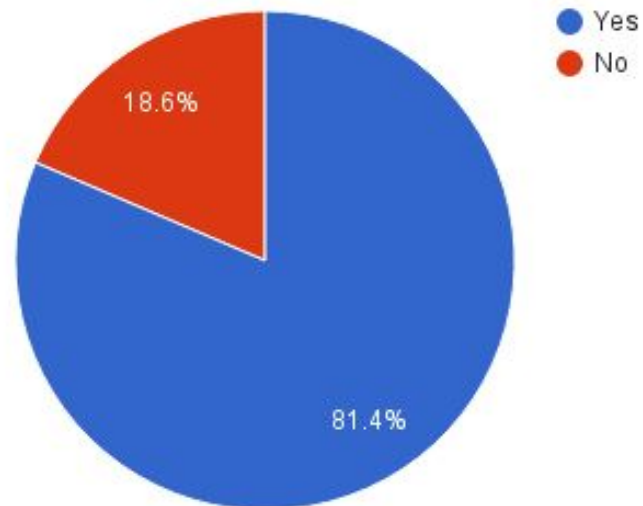
Of respondents felt more comfortable eating organic foods than GMO foods

# GMO vs. Organic

**Males: Count of Would you feel more comfortable eating organic foods than GMO foods?**

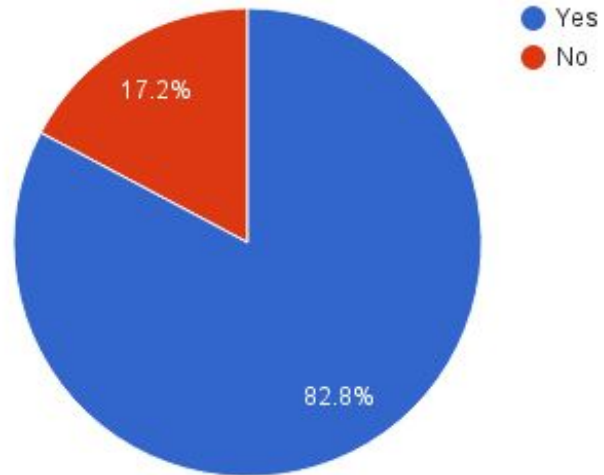


**Females: Count of Would you feel more comfortable eating organic foods than GMO foods?**



# GMO vs. Organic

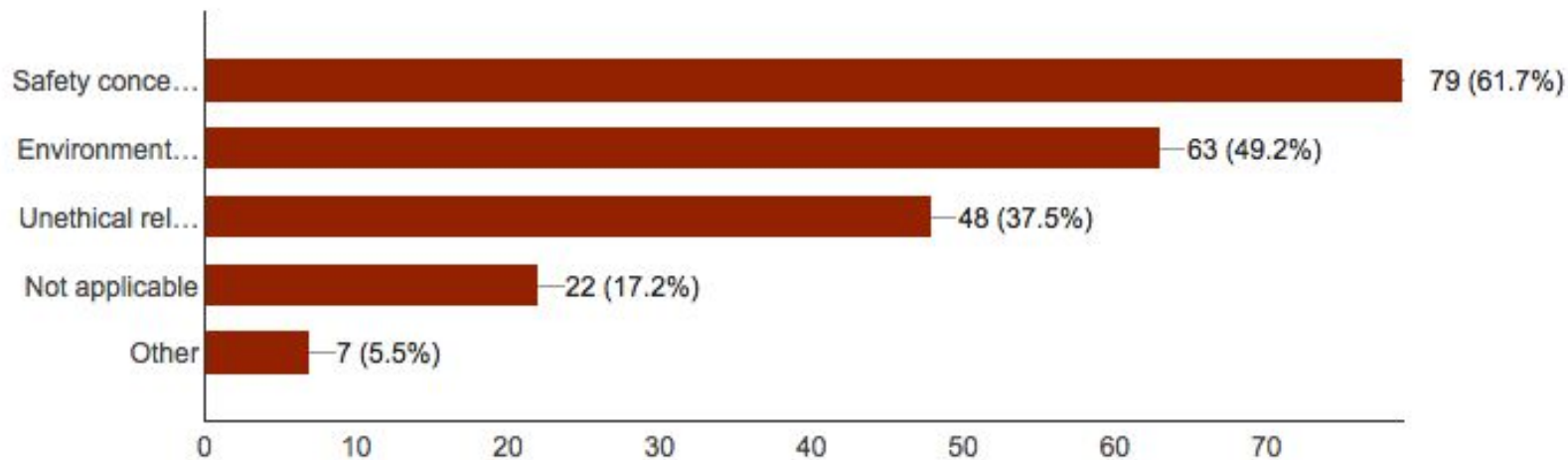
**COMFORTABLE PEOPLE:** Would you feel more comfortable eating organic foods than GMO foods?



# Concerns

What concerns, if any, do you have about consuming GMO foods? Check all that apply:

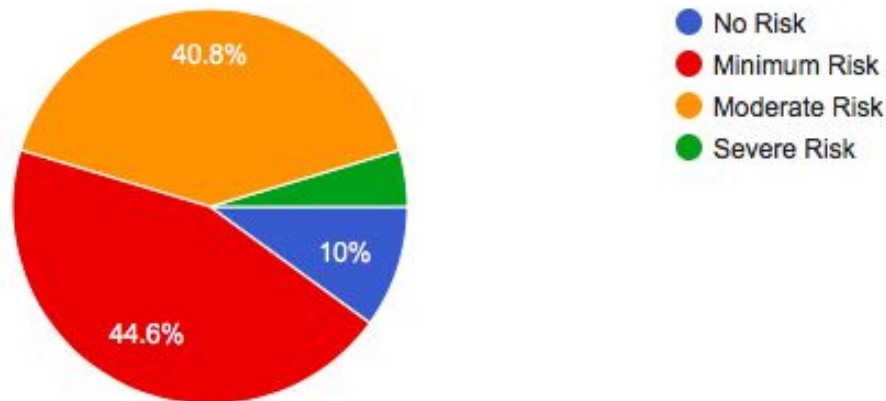
(128 responses)



# Health Risk

How much health risk do you think is associated with eating genetically modified foods?

(130 responses)



Yet

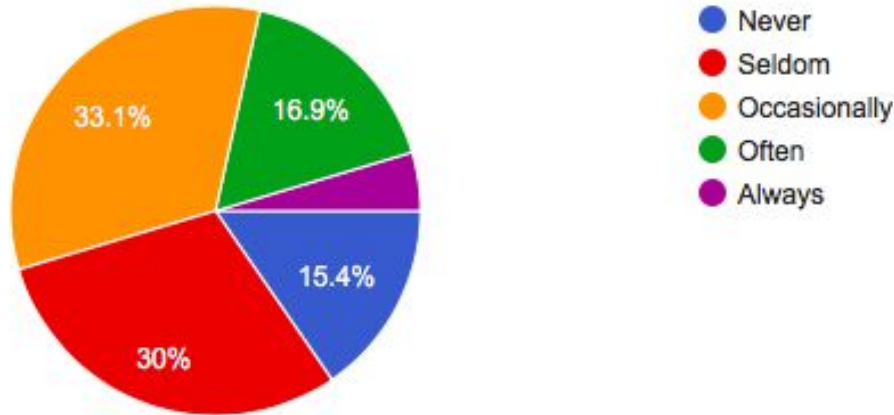
39.2%

of the respondents believe eating GMOs can cause cancer.

# Influence on Purchase

How often do you consider whether or not a product is organic before purchasing it?

(130 responses)



Yet

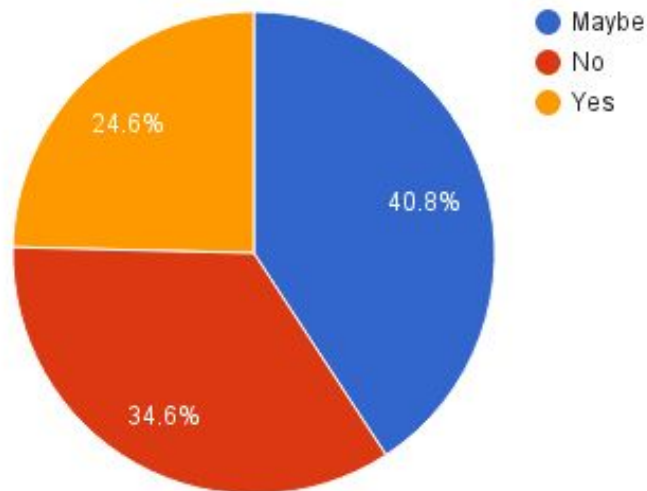
# 86.9%

of the respondents think companies should label whether or not food has genetically modified ingredients.

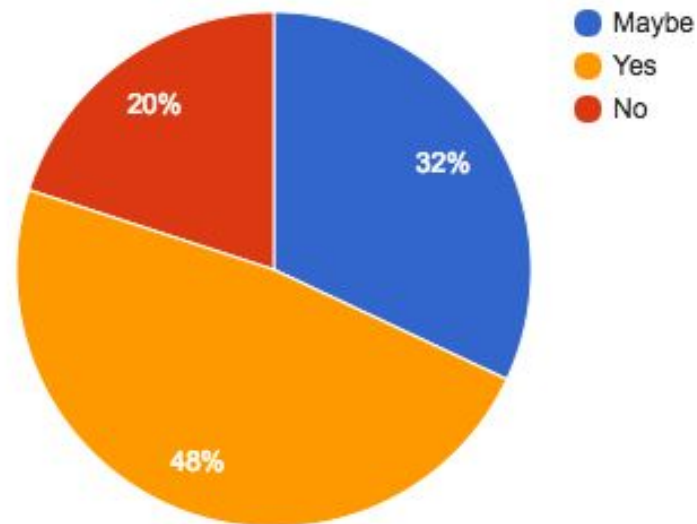


# Payment

Count of Would you be willing to pay more for non-GMO foods?



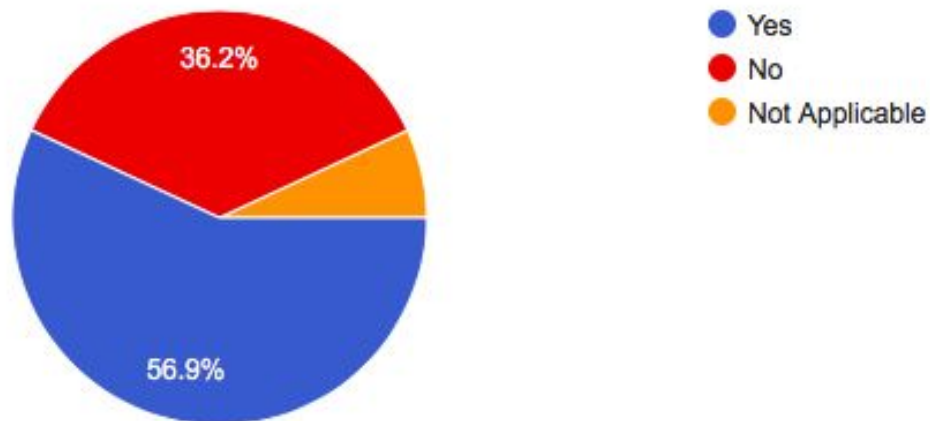
UNCOMFORTABLE PEOPLE: Are you willing to pay more for non-gmo foods?



# Restrictions

Do you believe that there should be more restrictions on the buying and selling of genetically modified foods?

(130 responses)



# Conclusion

- Disparities in answers between similar questions
  - Overall slightly negative perception of genetically modified foods
- Females vs Males
- Need more effort to educate the impacts of genetically modified foods