RESEARCH BRIEF

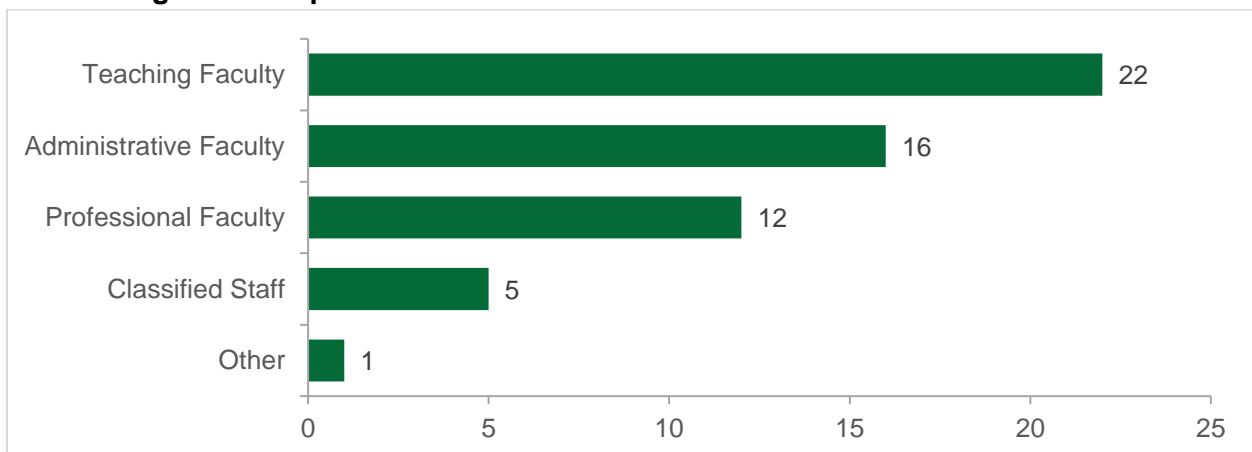# Data Close to Practice Program Feedback Survey: Fall 2021

In Fall 2020, NOVA's Office of Institutional Research (OIR) launched an institutional data literacy program called Data Close to Practice (DCTP). The program is designed to support the College's achievement of the "NOVA Five" goals: Equity, Excellence, Empathy, Evidence, and Economic and Social Mobility, as articulated in NOVA's *Strategic Plan*.[1] The program is intended to help faculty and staff use institutional data to inform NOVA's policies and practices.

In December 2021, a feedback survey about the Data Close to Practice Program was administered to Campus and Unit Data Team members, as well as to Early Adopters who were part of the Campus and Unit Data Teams. The survey had a total of 56 respondents. This report summarizes the survey results.

Figure 1 shows that most survey respondents were faculty, including teaching faculty (22 respondents, 39 percent); administrative faculty (16 respondents, 29 percent); and professional faculty (12 respondents, 21 percent). Five respondents (9 percent) were classified staff.

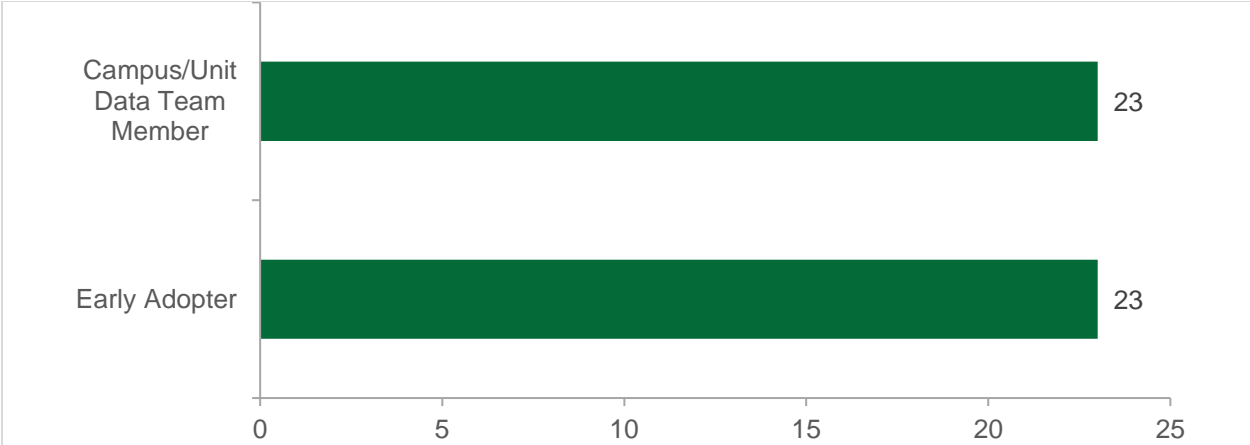**Figure 1. Responses to Question 1: What is Your Current Role at NOVA?**

Note: Total respondents=56.

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[1] https://www.nvcc.edu/about/mission/strategic-plan.html

Figure 2 shows that, in terms of their DCTP roles, respondents were split equally between Campus/Unit Data Team members (23 respondents) and Early Adopters (23 respondents). Ten survey respondents did not answer the question, which implies that they either perceived their DCTP role differently or did not know their role in the program.
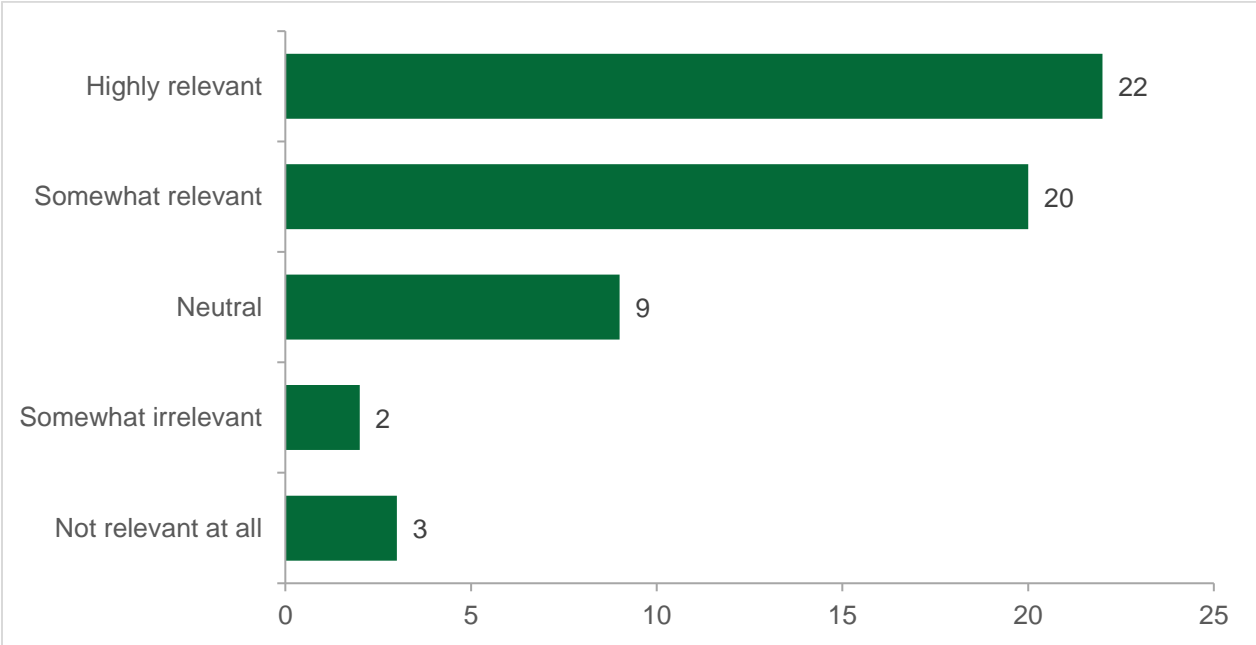
Figure 2. Responses to Question 2: What was your role in the Data Close to Practice program in Fall 2021?

Note: Total respondents=46.

As shown in Figure 3, most respondents felt that DCTP is either highly or somewhat relevant to their work at NOVA (42 respondents, 75 percent). However, three respondents (5 percent) felt that the program is not relevant at all.
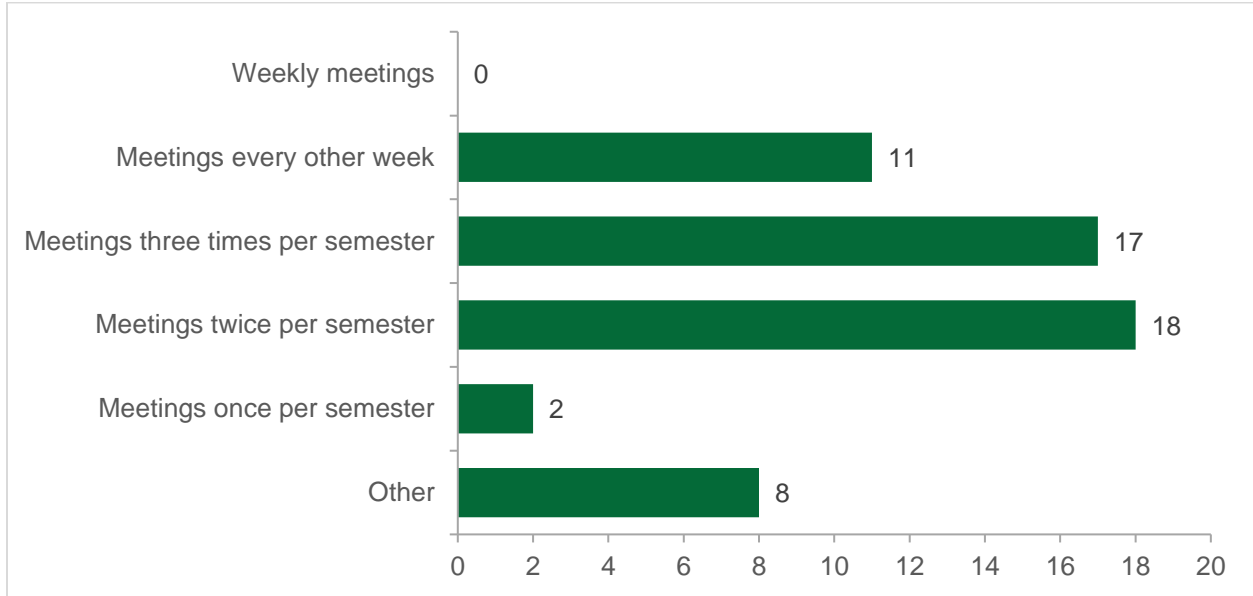
Figure 3. Responses to Question 3. How Relevant is the Data Close to Practice Program to Your Work at NOVA?

Note: Total respondents=56.

Figure 4 shows that most respondents would prefer DCTP meetings either two or three times per semester (35 respondents, 63 percent).

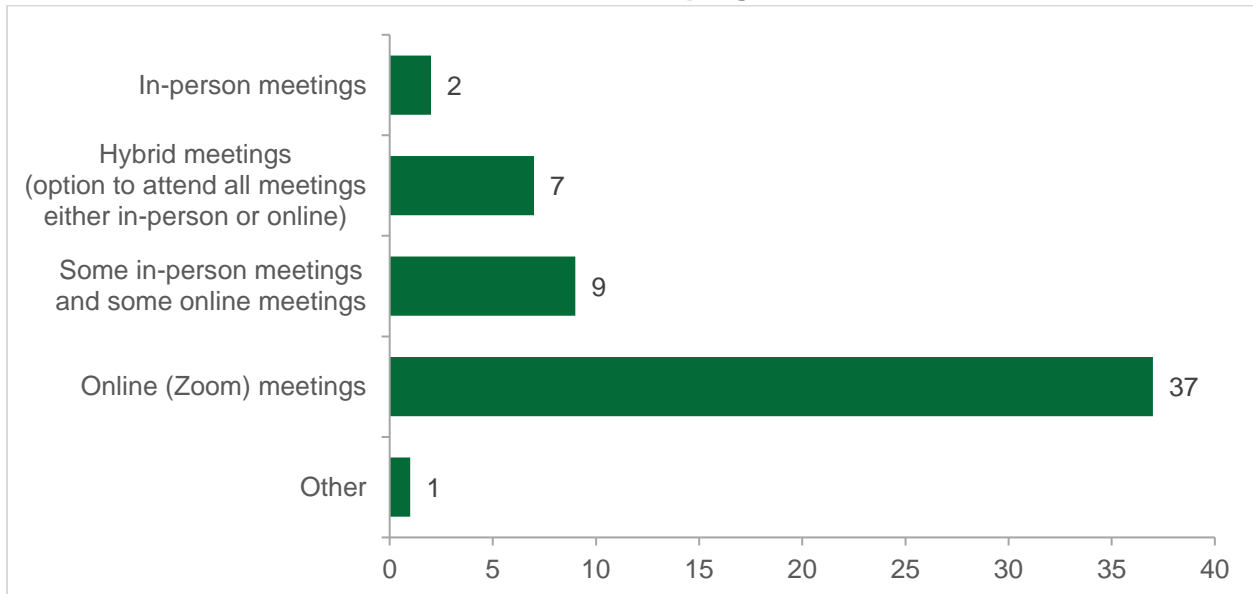**Figure 4. Responses to Question 4. Which meeting frequency do you prefer for the Data Close to Practice program?**

Note: Total respondents=56.

Figure 5 shows that most respondents would prefer online (Zoom) DCTP meetings (37 respondents, 66 percent).
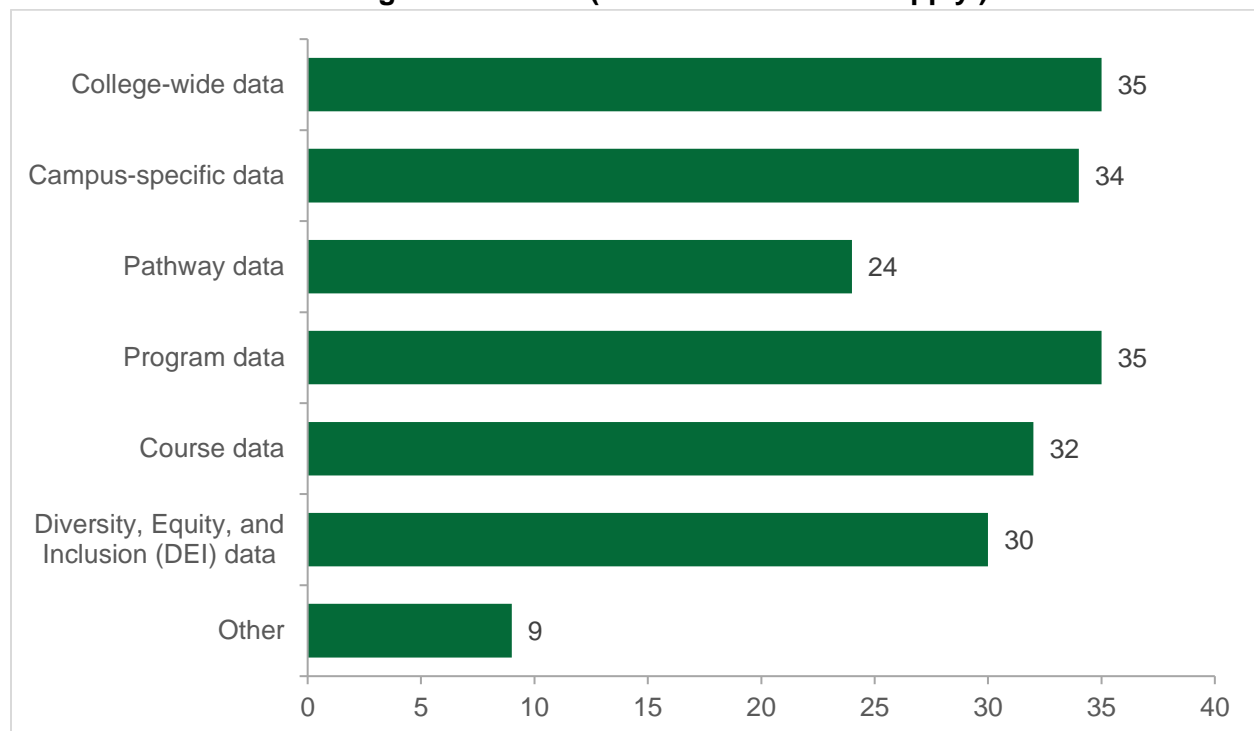
Figure 5. Responses to Question 5. Which meeting format do you prefer for the Data Close to Practice program?

Note: Total respondents=56.

Figure 6 shows the types of institutional data in which the respondents were most interested. The data types with the most responses were College-wide data and Program data (35 responses each), followed closely by Campus-specific data (34 responses) and Course data (32 responses). Respondents could make multiple selections, so the responses received do not equal the number of respondents.

Figure 6. Responses to Question 6. Which kinds of institutional data are you interested in learning more about? (Please select all that apply.)
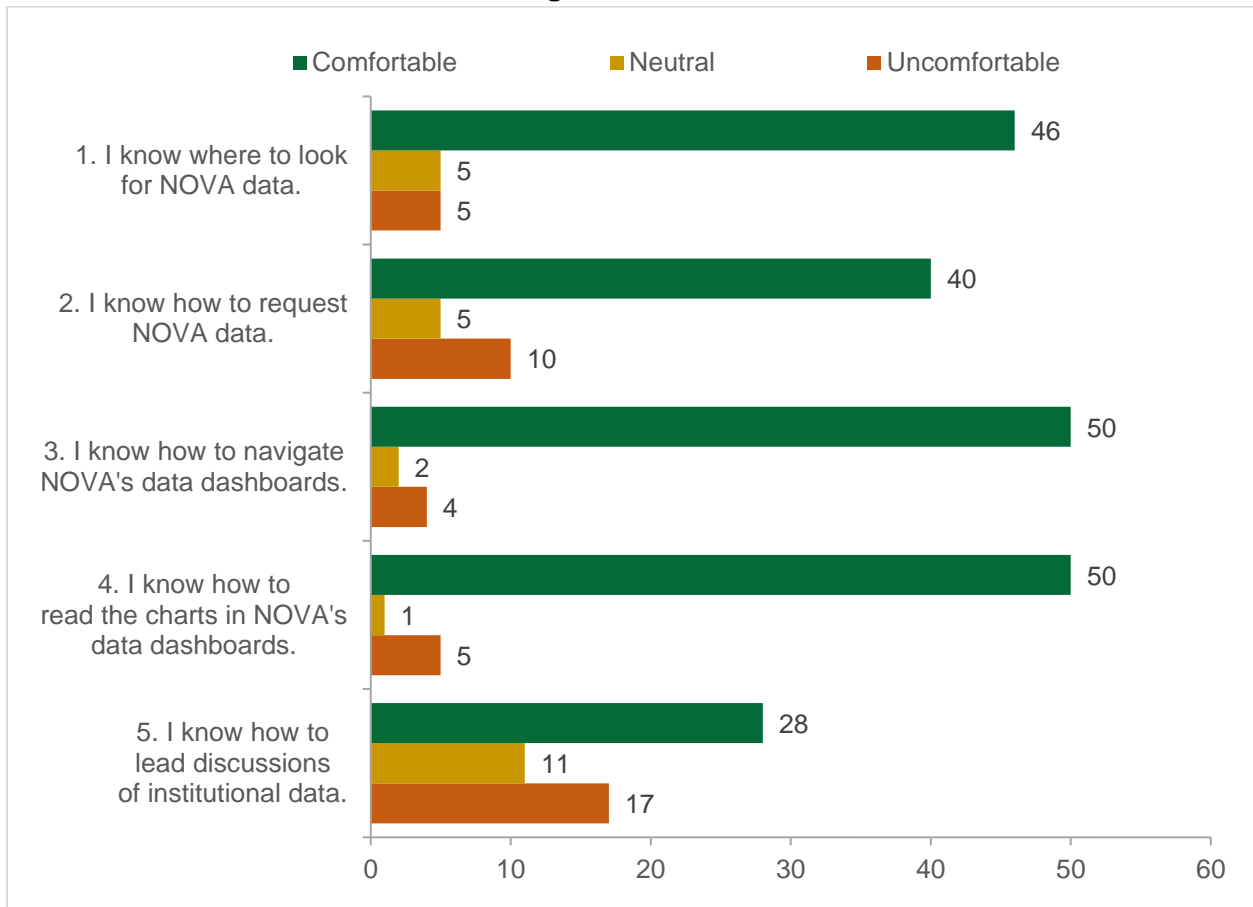

Note: Total respondents=56.

Figure 7 and Table 1, both on the next page, present the respondents' ratings of their data-related skills. Most respondents indicated that they were either very comfortable or somewhat comfortable with the following items: *1. Knowing Where to Look for Data* (46 responses, 82 percent), *3. Knowing How to Navigate Dashboards* (50 responses, 89 percent), and *4. Knowing How to Read Charts in Dashboards* (50 responses, 89 percent).

Relatively fewer respondents indicated feeling either very comfortable or somewhat comfortable with the following items: *2. Knowing How to Request NOVA Data* (40 responses, 71 percent), and *5. Knowing How to Lead Data Discussions* (28 responses, 50 percent).

Seventeen respondents (30 percent) indicated feeling either somewhat uncomfortable or very uncomfortable with item *5. Knowing How to Lead Data Discussions*. Ten respondents (18 percent) indicated feeling either somewhat uncomfortable or very uncomfortable with item *2. Knowing How to Request NOVA Data*.

Figure 7. Responses to Question 7. Please Indicate Your Level of Comfort with the Following Data-Related Skills
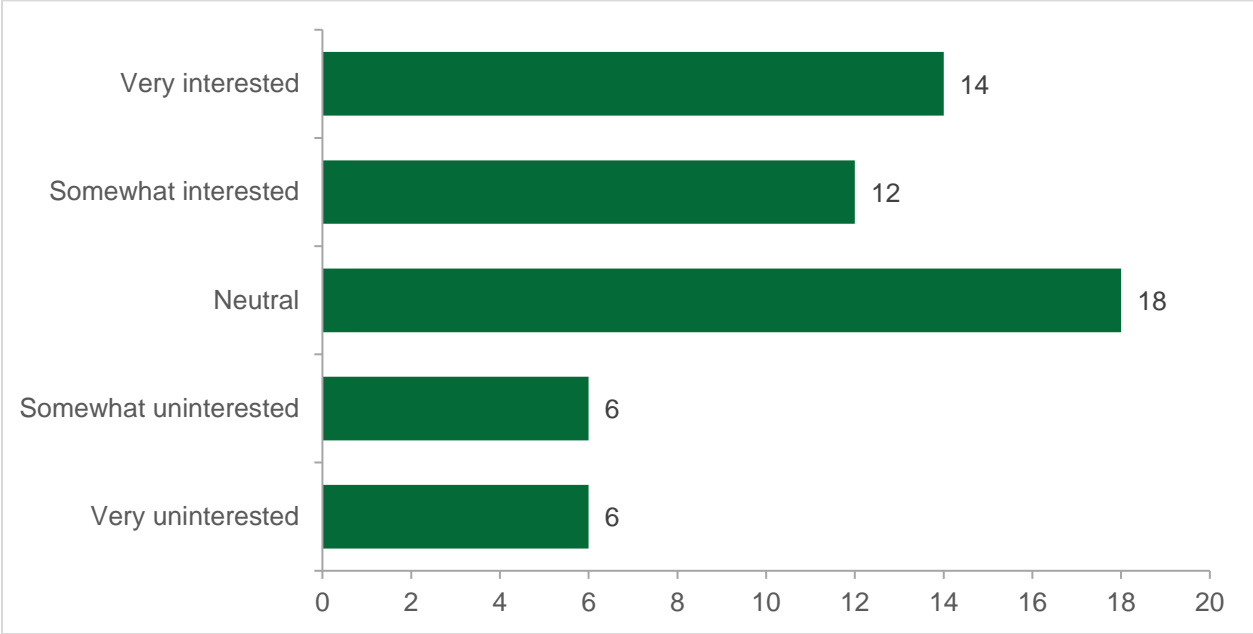

Note: Total respondents=56.

Table 1. Responses to Question 7. Please Indicate Your Level of Comfort with the Following Data-Related Skills

Question	Very comfortable		Somewhat comfortable		Neutral		Somewhat uncomfortable		Very uncomfortable		Total
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	
I know where to look for NOVA data	28	50.0	18	32.1	5	8.9	4	7.1	1	1.8	56
I know how to request NOVA data	14	25.5	26	47.3	5	9.1	6	10.9	4	7.3	55
I know how to navigate NOVA's data dashboards	28	50.0	22	39.3	2	3.6	3	5.4	1	1.8	56
I know how to read the charts in NOVA's data dashboards	28	50.0	22	39.3	1	1.8	3	5.4	2	3.6	56
I know how to lead discussions of institutional data	9	16.1	19	33.9	11	19.6	11	19.6	6	10.7	56

Figure 8 reveals that most survey participants gave a response of Neutral (18 respondents, 32 percent) regarding their interest in leading data discussions.

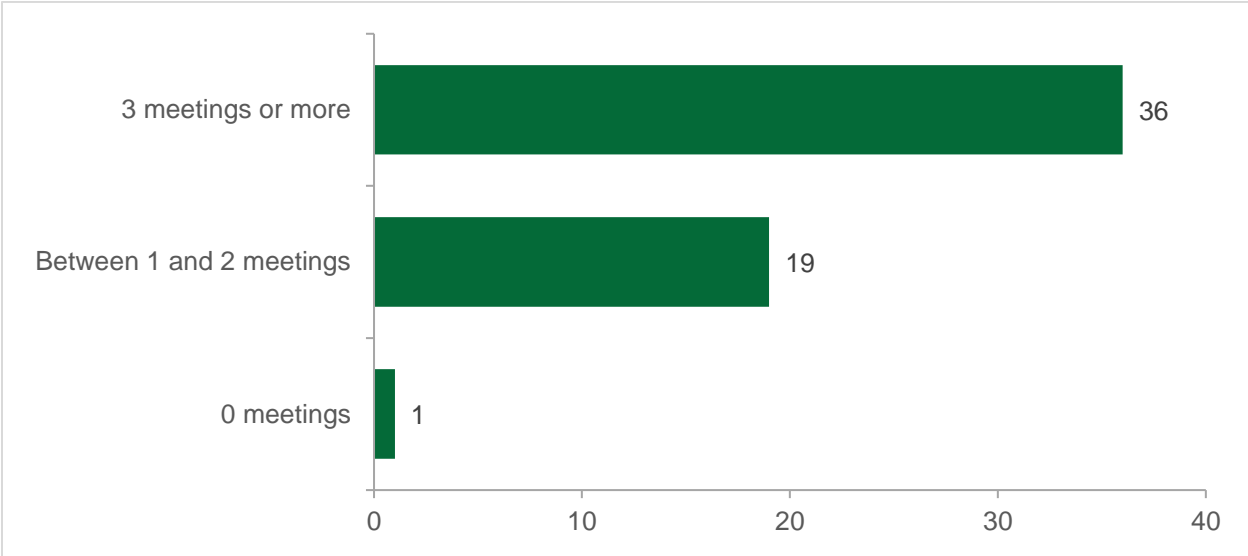**Figure 8. Responses to Question 8. I Am Interested in Leading Data Discussions on my Campus / in my Unit**

Note: Total respondents=56.

Figure 9 reveals that most respondents reported attending three or more program meetings in Fall 2021 (36 respondents, 64 percent).

Figure 9. Responses to Question 9. Approximately how many Data Close to Practice program meetings did you attend in Fall 2021?

Note: Total respondents=56.

Responses to the survey's open-ended questions were examined inductively. Thematic categories emerged from analysis of the responses to each question, and the responses were grouped accordingly. The categories presented in Tables 2 through 6, below, resulted from this process.

Table 2. Responses to Open-Ended Question 10: What Do You Like about the Data Close to Practice Program?

Response Category	Responses	
	#	**%**
The program is informative, helpful, useful	22	42.3
Seeing data presented in dashboards, having data visualized	8	15.4
The program aids in decision making	10	19.2
Group discussions were valuable within the data team	14	26.9
Having access to data	14	26.9
Having the opportunity to give input as stakeholders	3	5.8
Other	4	7.7
None	1	1.9
Total Respondents to Question 10		*52*

Note: Respondents answered in an open-ended format. For each response, tallies were marked for one or more of the categories presented above. The total number of counts in each category was divided by the number of respondents to that question to calculate the percentage of respondents who addressed that topic. Therefore, the percentages given do not total 100 percent.

Table 3. Responses to Open-Ended Question 11. Which aspects of the Data Close to Practice program could be improved?

Response Category	Responses	
	#	**%**
Clarity about the program, what to do with information	11	22.4
More flexible and relevant lessons, better use of time in meetings	9	18.4
Additional data, Qualitative data, Comparison/National data	8	16.3
More recent data, clearer data definitions	8	16.3
More interactive exercises, relevant and tangible projects	5	10.2
Include more stakeholders, better meeting times, post videos of presentations	5	10.2
Clarity on DEI goals, examples of positive outcomes, how data has been used	4	8.2
Other	2	4.1
None (e.g., It is going well, no suggestions at this time, I don't know, etc.)	7	14.3
Total Respondents to Question 11		*49*

Note: Respondents answered in an open-ended format. For each response, tallies were marked for one or more of the categories presented above. The total number of counts in each category was divided by the number of respondents to that question to calculate the percentage of respondents who addressed that topic. Therefore, the percentages given do not total 100 percent.

Table 4. Responses to Open-Ended Question 12. What is one key data challenge that you encounter in your work at NOVA?

Response Category	Responses	
	#	**%**
Need additional data, different disaggregation, access to qualitative data	21	43.8
Knowing what to do with data, how to apply findings, and need support doing so	11	22.9
Knowing where to find data, whom to reach out to for help, understanding different data sources at NOVA	9	18.8
Need more recent/current data	6	12.5
Access to student- or course-level data	5	10.4
Need help collecting survey/qualitative data	3	6.3
Other	4	8.3
None	1	2.1
Total Respondents to Question 12		*48*

Note: Respondents answered in an open-ended format. For each response, tallies were marked for one or more of the categories presented above. The total number of counts in each category was divided by the number of respondents to that question to calculate the percentage of respondents who addressed that topic. Therefore, the percentages given do not total 100 percent.

Table 5. Responses to Open-Ended Question 13. What additional skills do you need to improve your use of institutional data in your current role at NOVA?

Response Category	Responses	
	#	**%**
More Practice, further instruction, more resources for using data	11	33.3
Familiarity with available data at NOVA and elsewhere	4	12.1
More ways to collect data, access to different types of data	4	12.1
More training on how to analyze and apply data, additional support in applying data	3	9.1
Detailed data definitions	2	6.1
Other	3	9.1
None	9	27.3
Total Respondents to Question 13		*33*

Note: Respondents answered in an open-ended format. For each response, tallies were marked for one or more of the categories presented above. The total number of counts in each category was divided by the number of respondents to that question to calculate the percentage of respondents who addressed that topic. Therefore, the percentages given do not total 100 percent.

Table 6. Responses to Open-Ended Question 14. Please provide any additional comments that you may have about the Data Close to Practice program.

Response Category	Responses	
	#	**%**
No complaints, doing a great job	12	40.0
Offer program to more stakeholders, add more time and date options for meetings	6	20.0
Need additional disaggregation, qualitative data, student-level data	5	16.7
Need more clarity about program, expectations, recommendations and best practices	5	16.7
Need more recent/current data	4	13.3
Other	3	10.0
None	3	10.0
Total Respondents to Question 14		*30*

Note: Respondents answered in an open-ended format. For each response, tallies were marked for one or more of the categories presented above. The total number of counts in each category was divided by the number of respondents to that question to calculate the percentage of respondents who addressed that topic. Therefore, the percentages given do not total 100 percent.