



Background

During the 2023-24 application cycle, Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology programs have recently implemented the ability to send six gold and six silver signals as a part of the supplemental Electronic Residency Applicant Service (ERAS) application.

This adds a new dimension to the residency application process for medical students, for whom the only guidance around signals has been through anecdotal advice from program directors.

We hope to provide clarity for applicants in how signals are factored into the selection process.

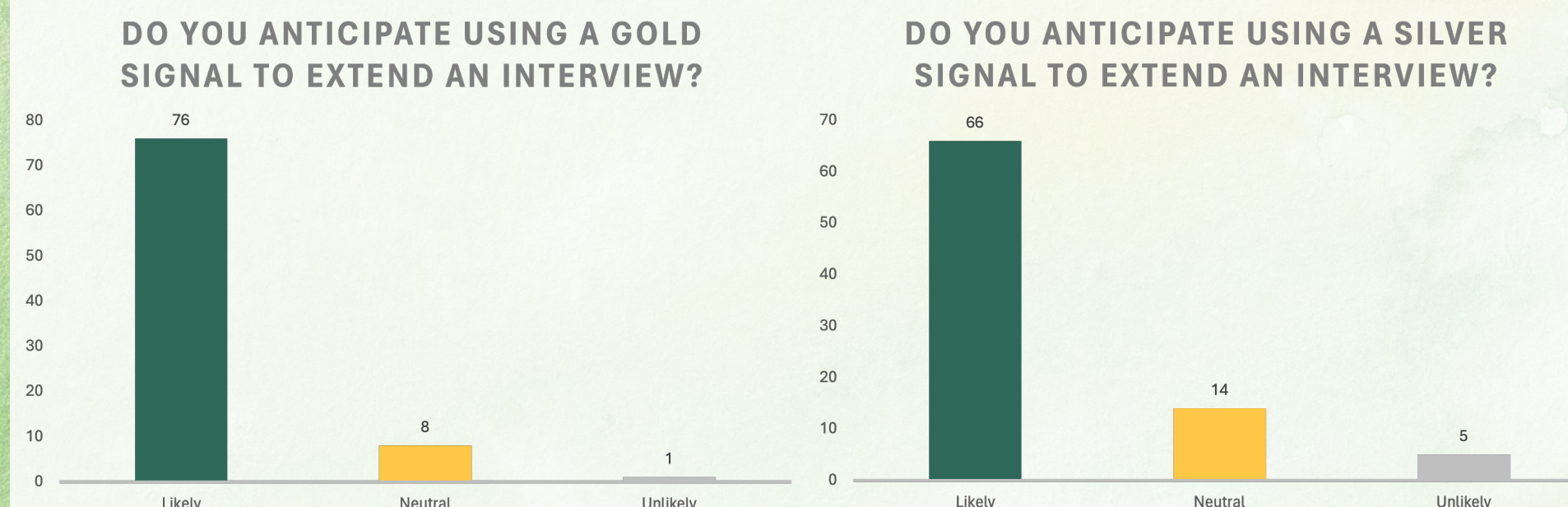
Methods

An anonymous electronic survey was sent to program directors, associate/assistant program directors, and program coordinators of ACGME accredited radiology residency programs in the United States. Individuals not involved in the application review process were excluded.

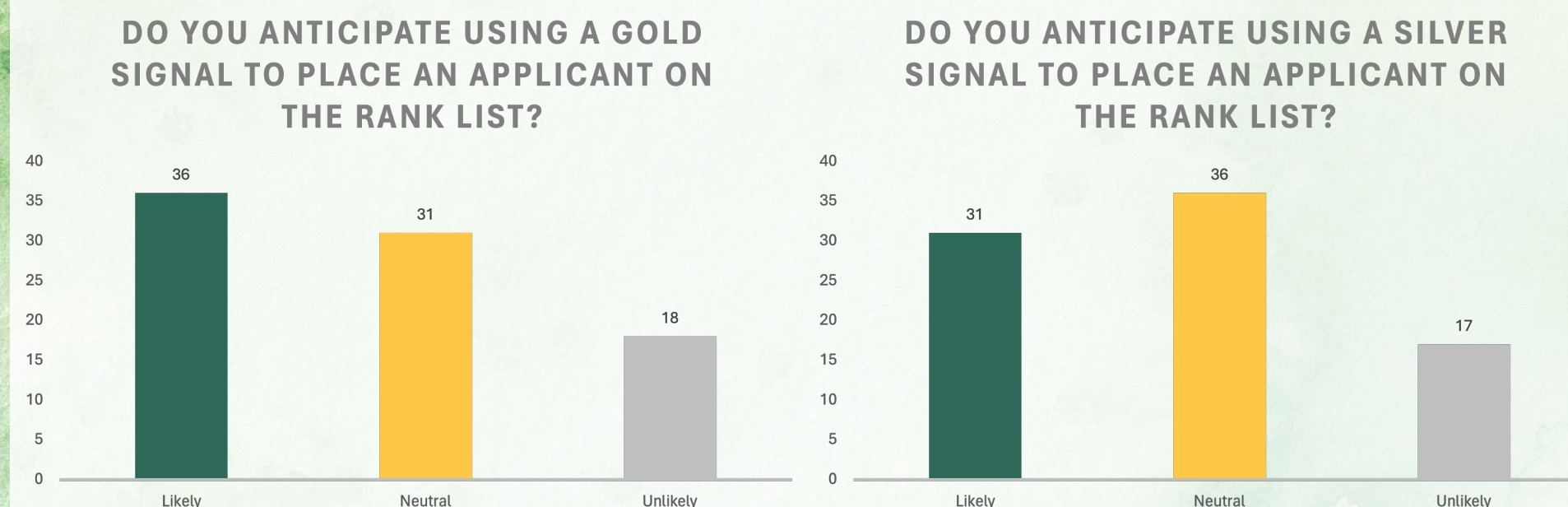
The survey included questions regarding program type and location and how gold and silver signals factor into the interview and ranking processes.

Z-tests of proportions were used to evaluate a difference in responses with a significance level of 0.05.

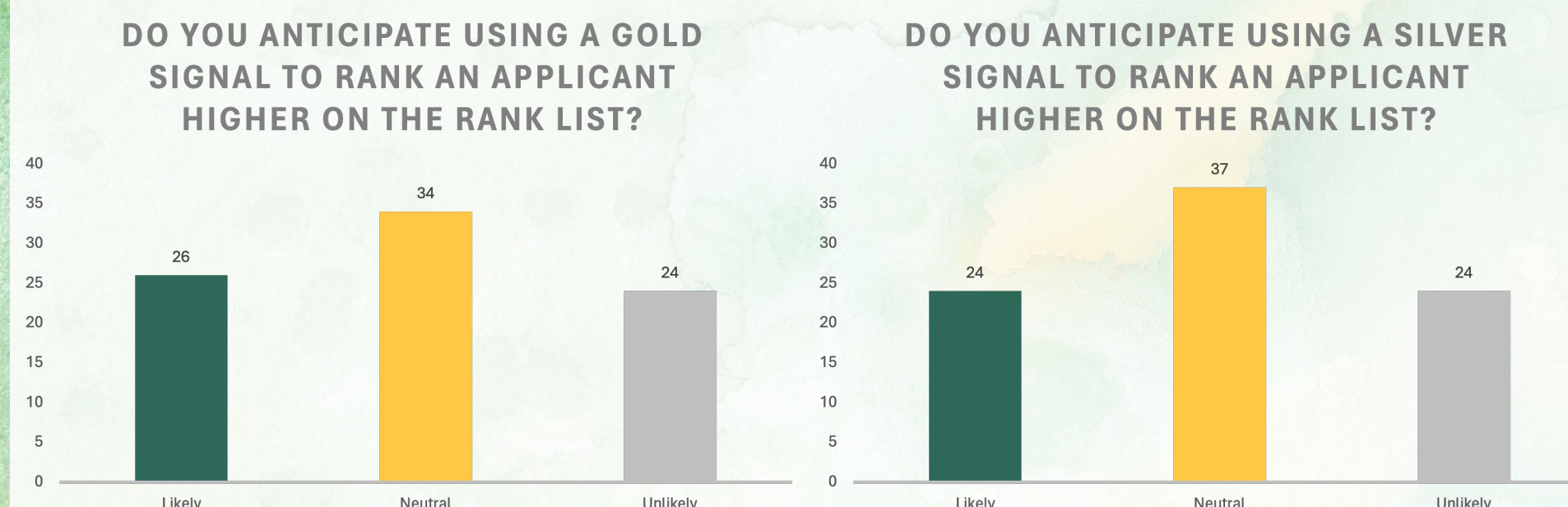
Results



Gold vs. Silver | 89.41% vs. 77.65% | z = 2.07; p = 0.039

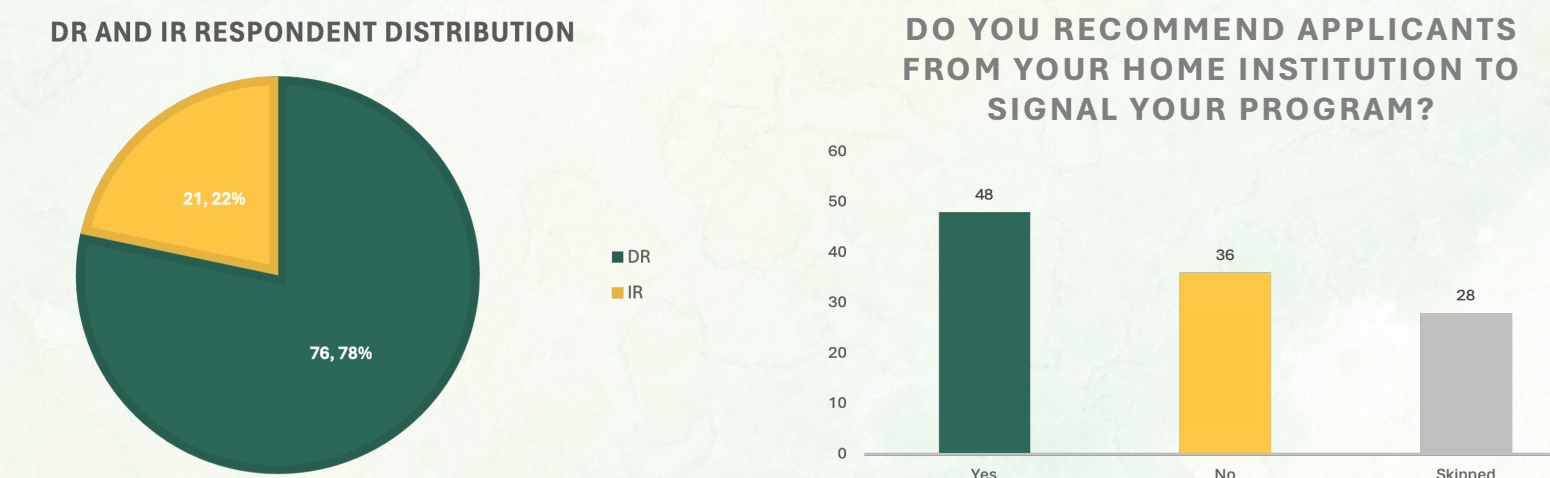


Gold vs. Silver | 42.35% vs. 36.90% | z = 0.72; p = 0.469



Gold vs. Silver | 30.95% vs. 28.24% | z = 0.39; p = 0.699

Results (cont.)



Discussion

Although the majority of both DR and IR residency program respondents were likely to use gold and silver signals to extend interviews, we found that they are considered significantly differently when deciding to invite applicants.

However, no such difference was found in the use of gold versus silver signals in deciding to rank applicants or place them higher on the rank list.

Due to the value of signals for programs, applicants are advised to think carefully about how to distribute their signals particularly when it comes to getting an interview from a program.

Acknowledgements

Sincere thanks to all the program directors, associate/assistant program directors, and program coordinators who took the time to complete the survey and provide future applicants valuable insight into how signals are used.