

PRECEPTOR PERCEPTIONS OF PROFESSIONAL APPEARANCE

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OBJECTIVE

To examine preceptor perceptions regarding professional appearance and potential impact on education and employment.

METHODS

- Preceptors were asked to complete a voluntary online 50-item survey.
- The survey focused on their perceptions of professional appearance, including how appearance may impact first impressions of patients and healthcare professionals.
- Most questions utilized Likert-scale responses with one open-ended item asking preceptors to provide thoughts on professional appearance for pharmacy professionals.
- Responses were analyzed descriptively with frequencies and percentages.
- The open-ended question was analyzed through a thematic analysis process with four researchers utilizing individual open coding and category formation, followed by group discussion to identify themes.

RESULTS

- 286 preceptors (25%) completed at least 90% of the survey and were included in analysis.

Figure 1.

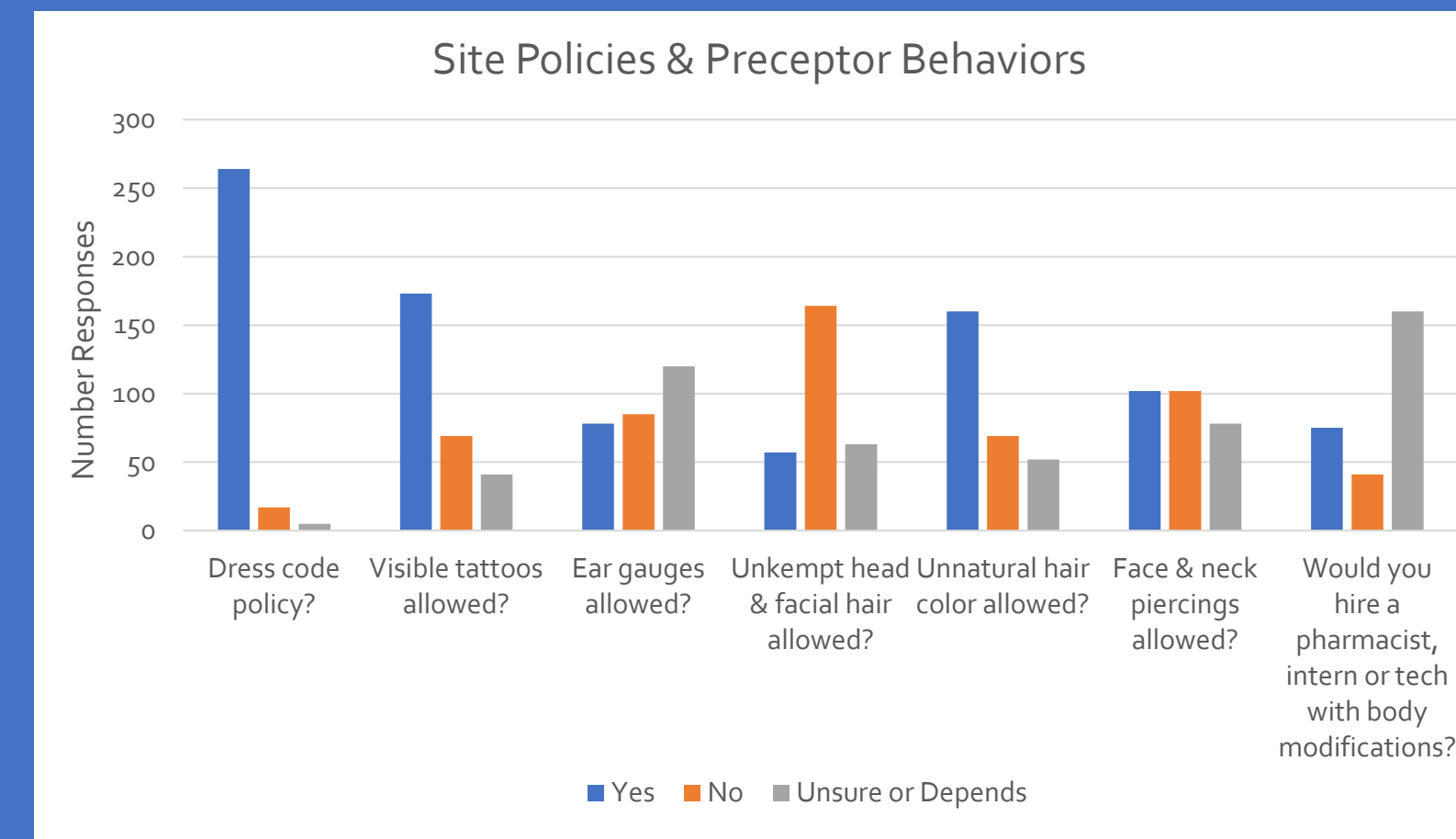


Figure 2.

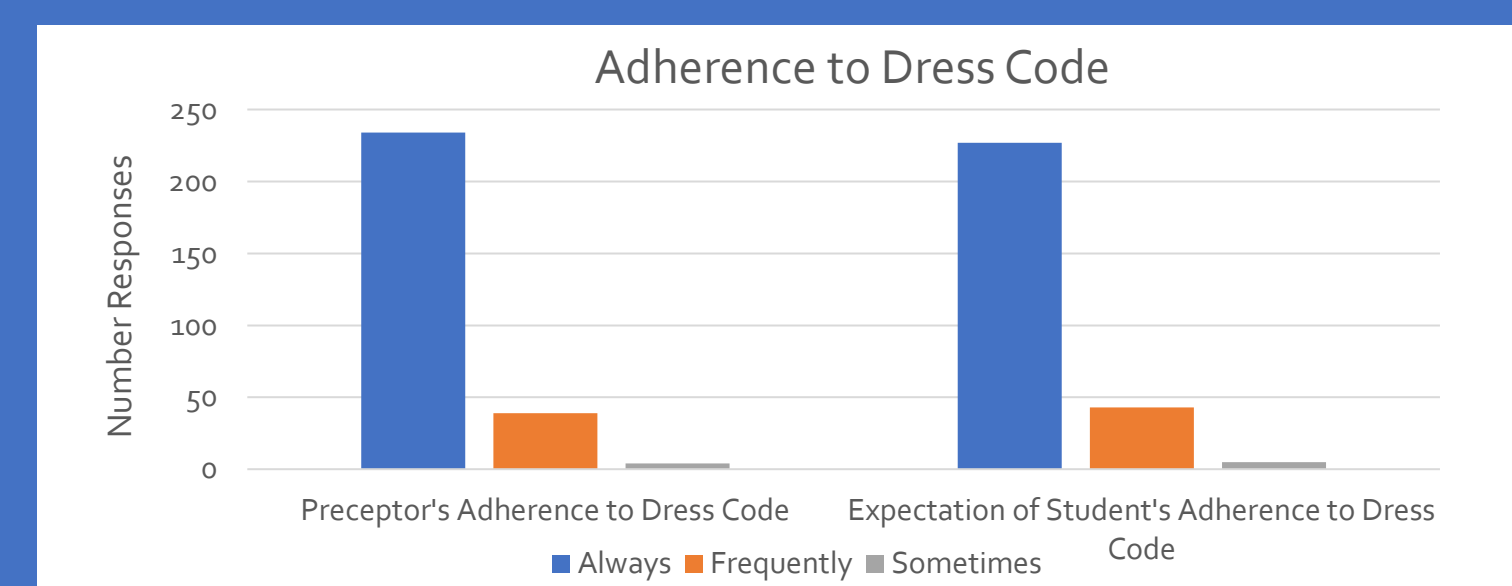
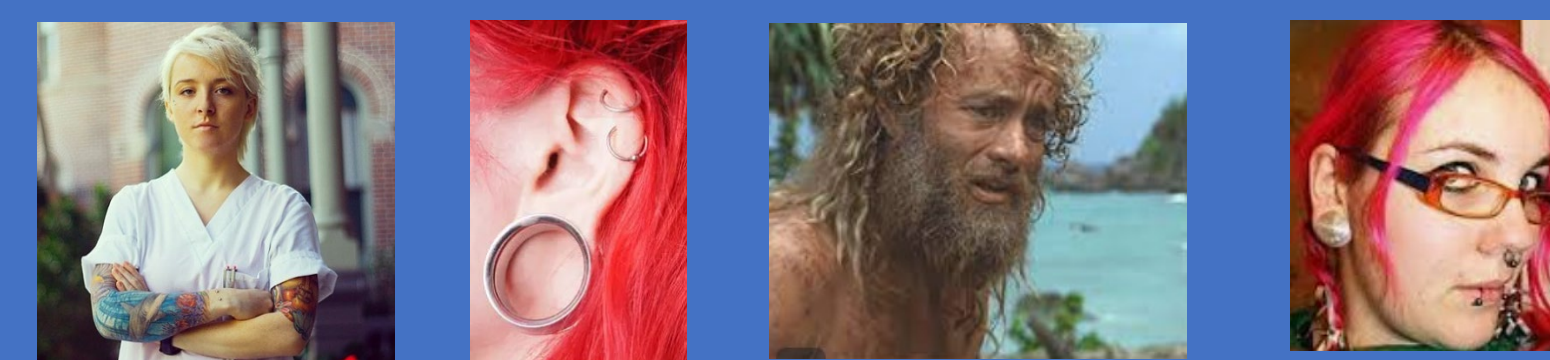
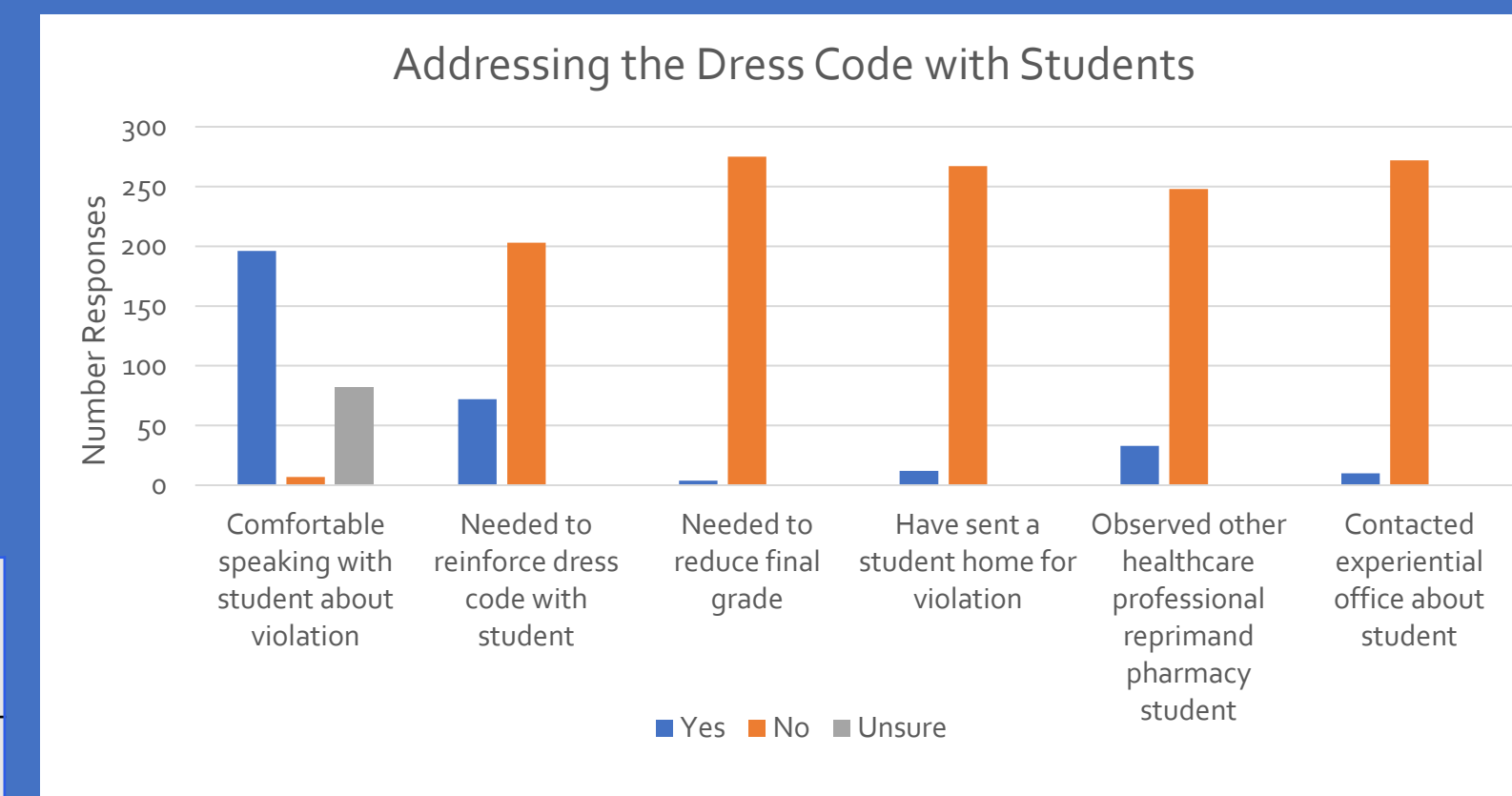


Figure 3.



Images from Google®

Figure 4.

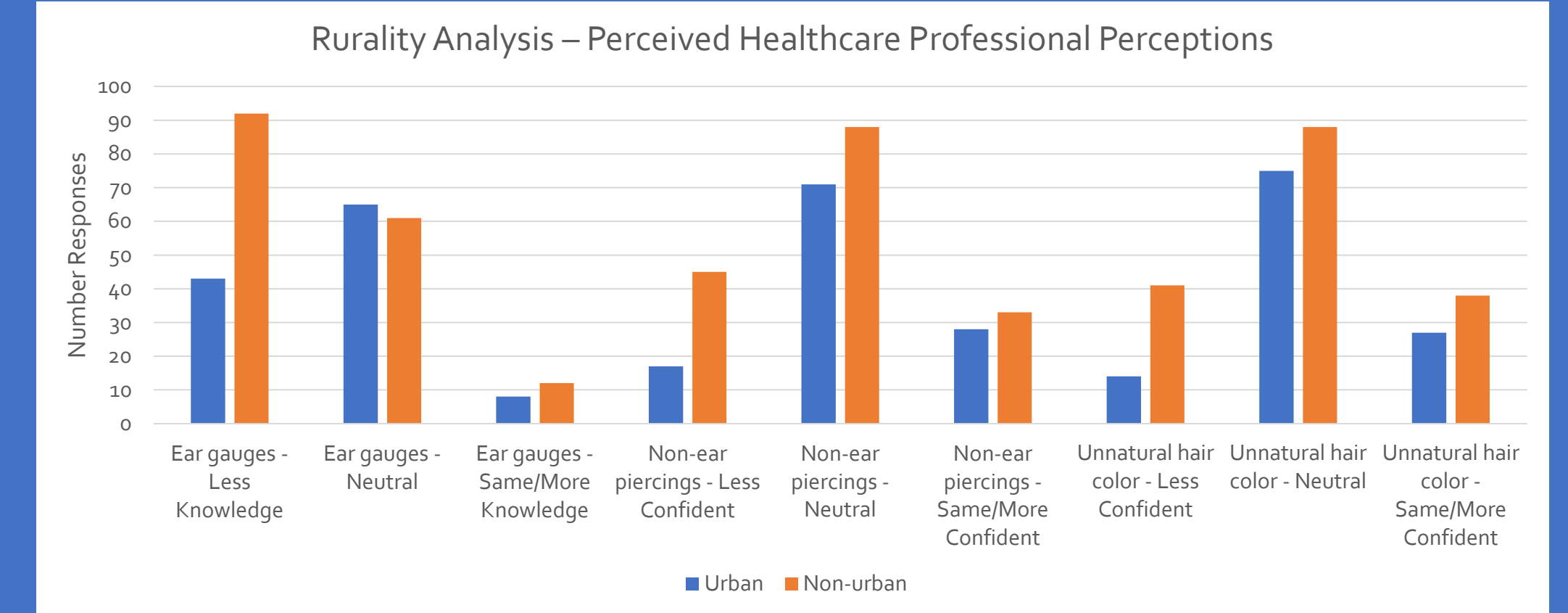


Figure 5.

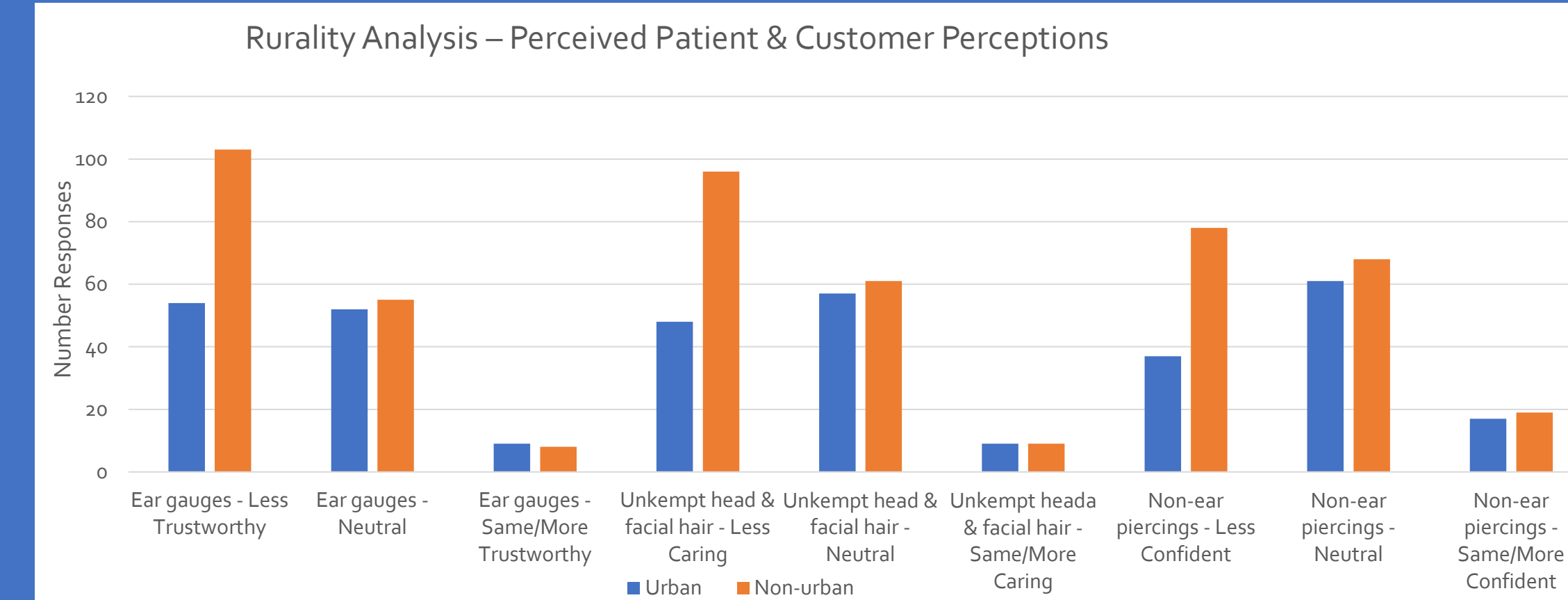
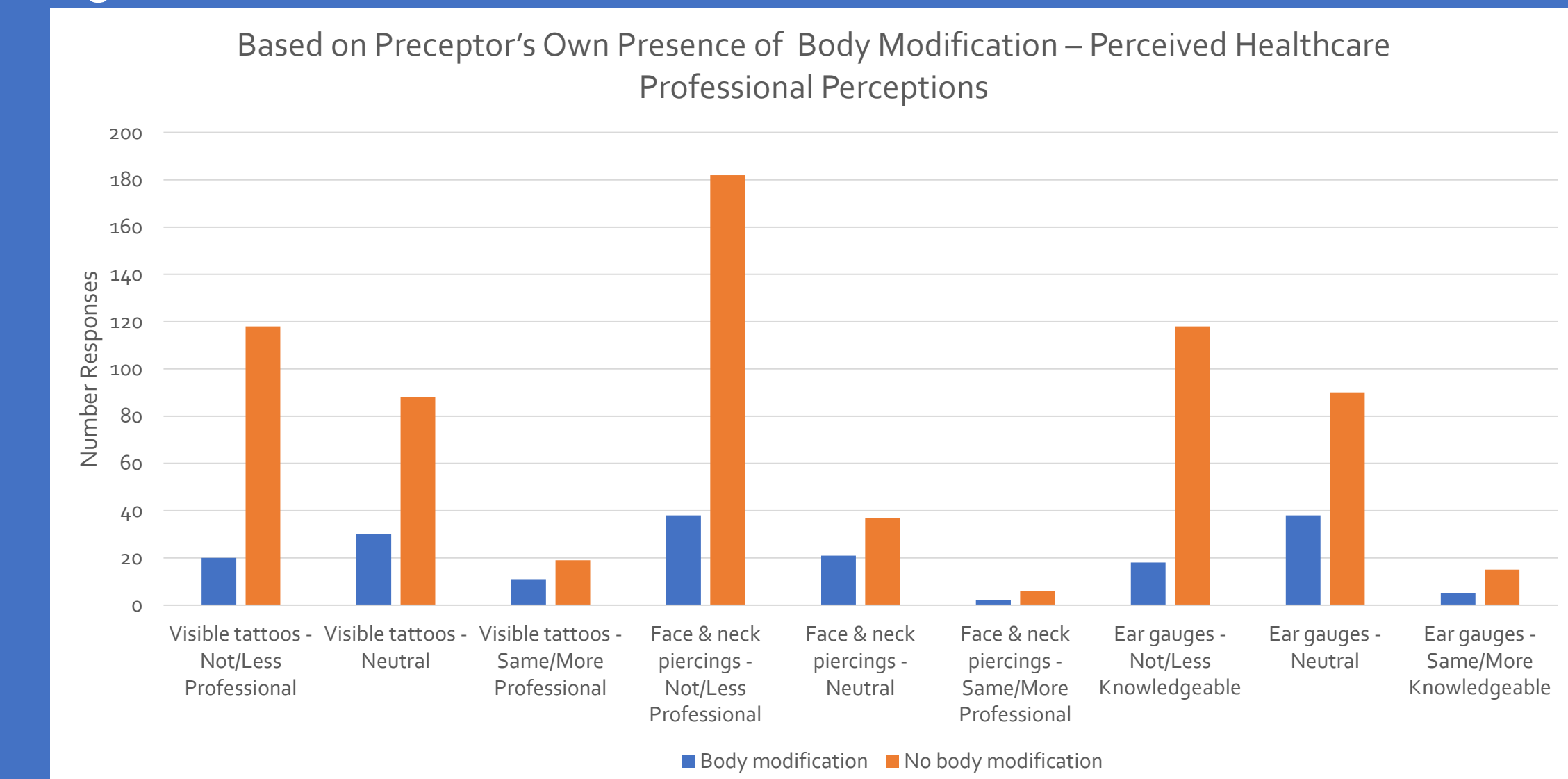


Figure 6.



DISCUSSION & IMPLICATIONS

- A variety of reasons were given to support their opinions, such as the changing times for acceptance, degree of body modifications, and appearance shouldn't matter if other qualifications met.
- In society, there is a trend toward less conservative appearances. Healthcare professionals have traditionally remained conservative, but in recent years it has been tested by the desire for personal expression. Preceptor perceptions regarding what is considered professional varies and is important for pharmacy schools to understand as we guide students and their professional development.

Table 1.

Preceptor Respondent Demographics (N = 286)							
n (%)							
Gender	Female: 180 (62.9)	Male: 103 (36)	Prefer not to answer: 3 (1)				
Age (years)	Mean: 45.2 ±10.5	Range: 27-71					
Race	White: 222 (77.6)	Asian: 28 (9.8)	Hispanic: 13 (4.5)	Black: 9 (3.1)	Prefer not answer: 7 (2.4)	Other: 3 (1)	Native Am or AK: 3 (1)
Population Area	Urban: 116 (40.6)	Large town: 69 (24.1)	Small town: 60 (21)	Isolated rural: 38 (13.3)	International: 3 (1)		
Own Body Modification	Yes: 61 (21.3)	Nonvisible tattoo(s): 43 (15)	Visible tattoo(s): 16 (5.6)	Unkempt head/facial hair: 13 (4.5)	Visible face/neck piercings: 9 (3.1)	Unnatural hair color: 3 (1)	
Employment Setting	Hospital: 119 (41.6)	Outpatient clinic: 38 (13.3)	Community (indpt): 33 (11.5)	Multiple settings: 32 (11.2)	Community (chain): 26 (9.1)	Others: 19 (6.6)	LTC: 9 (3.1) Academia: 6 (2.1) Managed Care: 4 (1.4)