

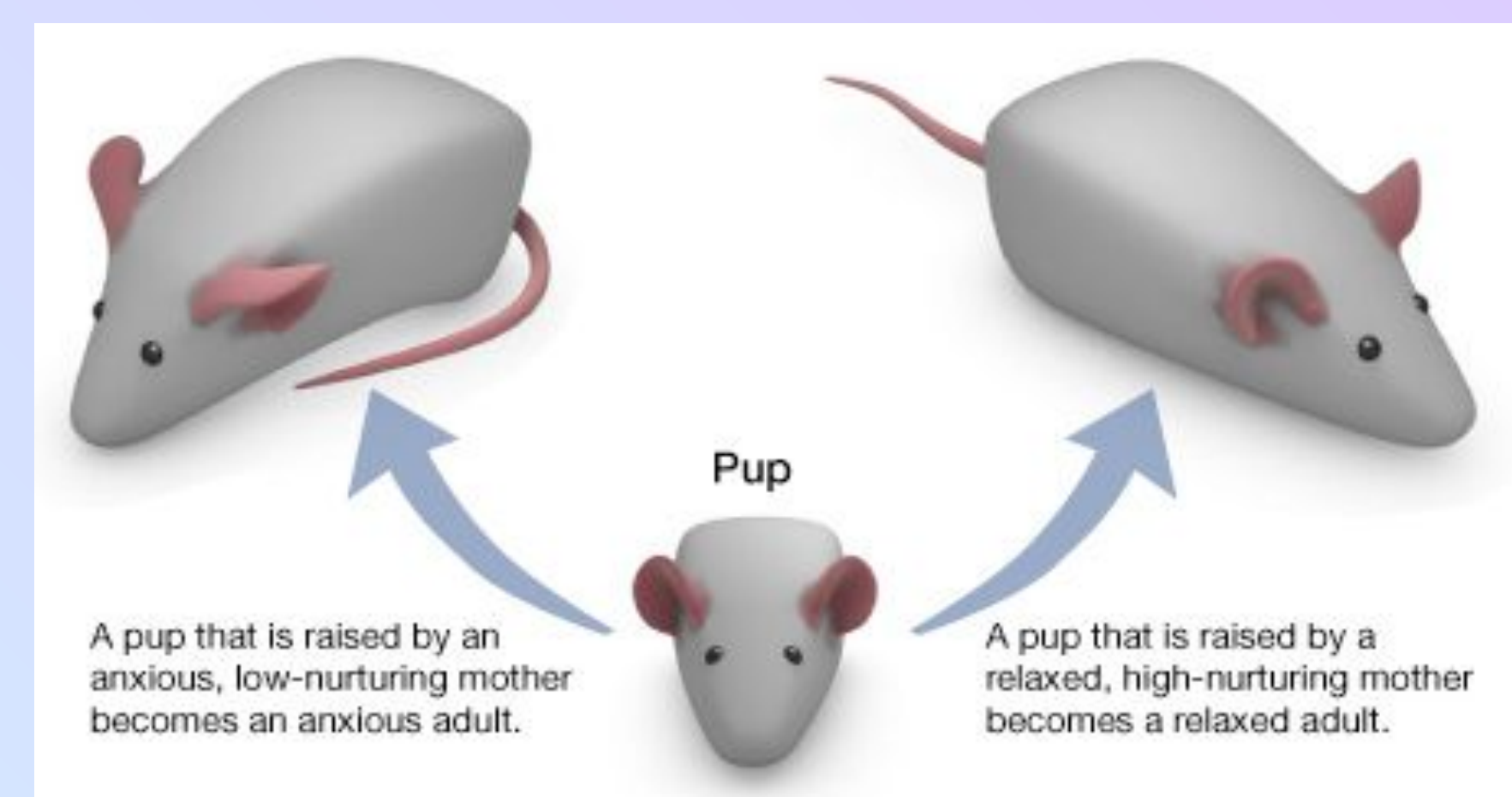
To Crèche or not to Crèche

Introduction/ Background information

The objective of our project was to contribute to the body of knowledge used by parents when tackling the issue of whether or not to send their child to crèche.

The reason we chose to do this project on crèche impacting the behavioral and emotional tendencies of children is based on a study undertaken by Dr. Moshe Szyf called 'Lick your rats'. He believed that rat pups licked a lot by their mother grew up to become independent while those who received few licks grew up to become quite anxious.

This project aimed to look at the impact of Crèche on anxiety, confidence, self-esteem, competitiveness, anger, short term memory and concentration, which we believe can be transferred to Dr. Moshe Szyf's study.



Experimental Methods

The project was carried out on 150 first and fourth year students from our mixed community school. Two identical questionnaires were created with a range of question types with the aim of assessing numerous factors in relation to anger, self-esteem, short term memory, concentration and anxiety. The survey sample was divided into two groups of 75 students – Group 1: Students who had attended Crèche and Group 2: Students who had not attended Crèche.

To support the findings of the Survey an interview was carried out with an experienced crèche owner. The majority of questions asked were based on opinionated responses, while others required factual knowledge. We varied our question types by using exploration, behavioral and exit questions to gain different answers unlike ones found online.

Conclusions

From our experiments we have gained a lot of useful information, some of which agree with and some of which differ to previous scientific papers and books on this topic. According to our survey's findings, people who attended crèche are not only more competitive than those who did not but also more socially confident and outgoing.

Although there were many positive finds, we found that people who attended crèche tended to fight with their parents more than those who did not attend which many scientific papers, such as Dr. Moshe Szyf's, believe is due to their lack of parental nurture as a baby. This is further proven by our discoveries that: if they had attended crèche when they were younger, they tended to develop anxiety in later life, people who attended crèche had difficulties with concentration and tended to be more angry than people that didn't attend crèche, as well as that we found that people who attended crèche were not independent workers.

There are limitations to our study. We found evidence to back up previous research and also evidence that contradicts it. There are many factors to consider when sending a child to crèche. The margin of error (8.4%) of our findings is relatively large given the sample proportion. If we had the opportunity to make our findings even more precise we would make the sample size larger and expand our demographic to schools in perhaps each province.

Results

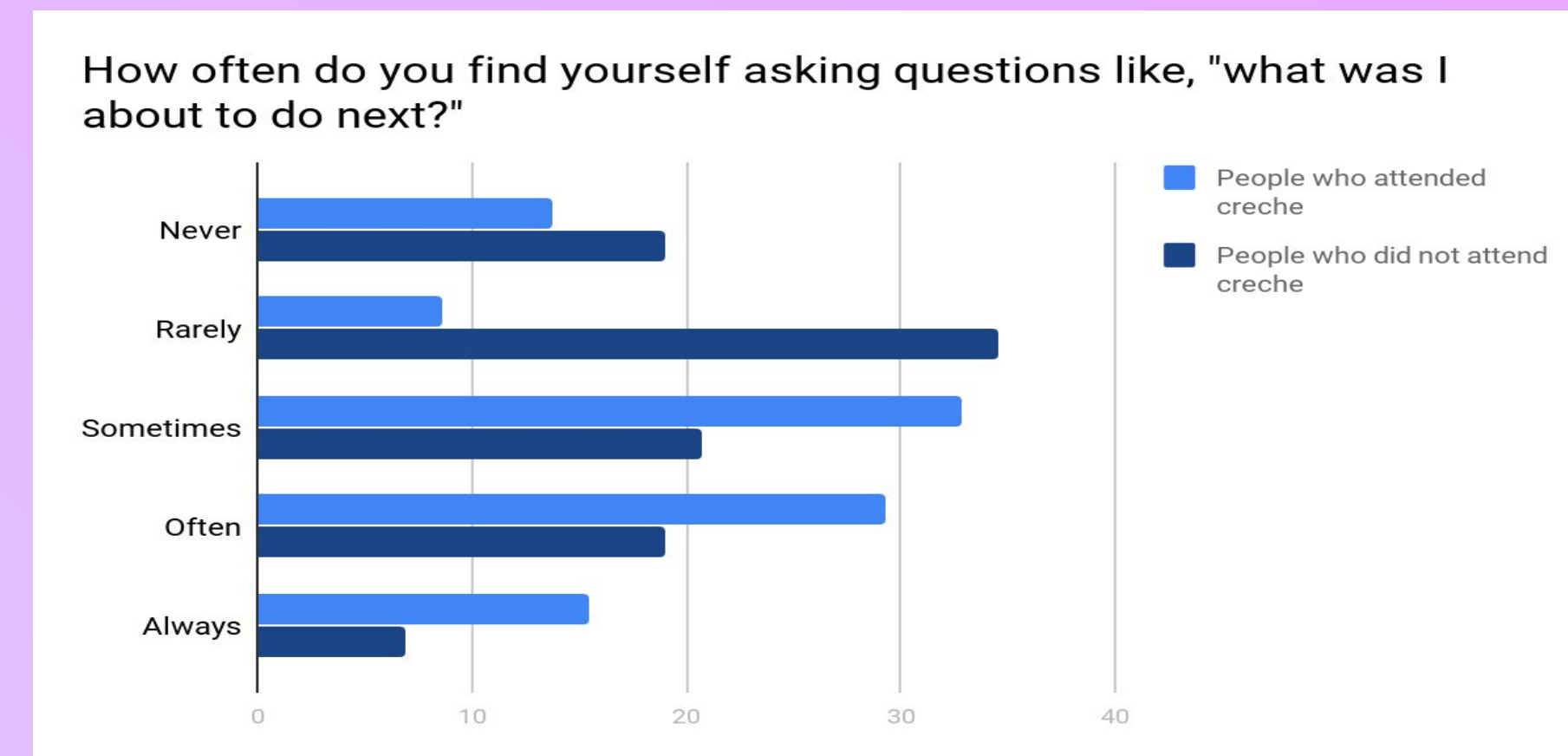


Fig 1: As we can see from the graph above, we chose this question to display whether or not attending crèche has any effects on memory. As viewed from the graph, 19% of people who did not attend crèche stated that they had good memory and answered "Never" while only 13.8% of people who had attended crèche stated the same point. Similar to this, only 6.9% of those who did not attend crèche found their short term memory to be a challenge and answered "Always" while 15.5% of those who had attended crèche stated the same.

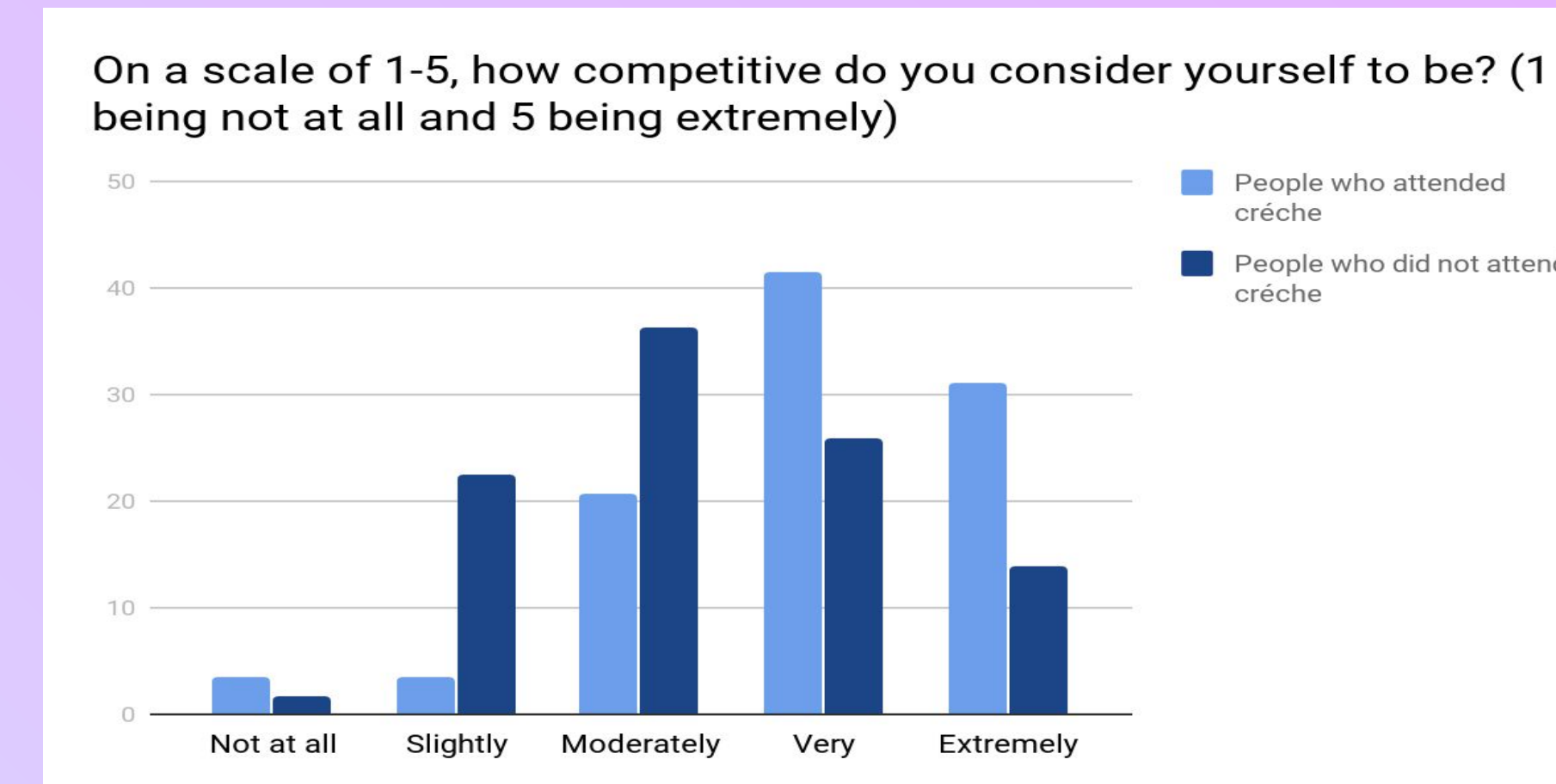


Fig 2: This demonstrates how competitive our test subjects claimed to be. Results indicate that those who attended crèche are more competitive in later life than those who did not. This finding supports Hara Estroff Marano's study where she states that people who went to crèche tended to be more competitive later in life.

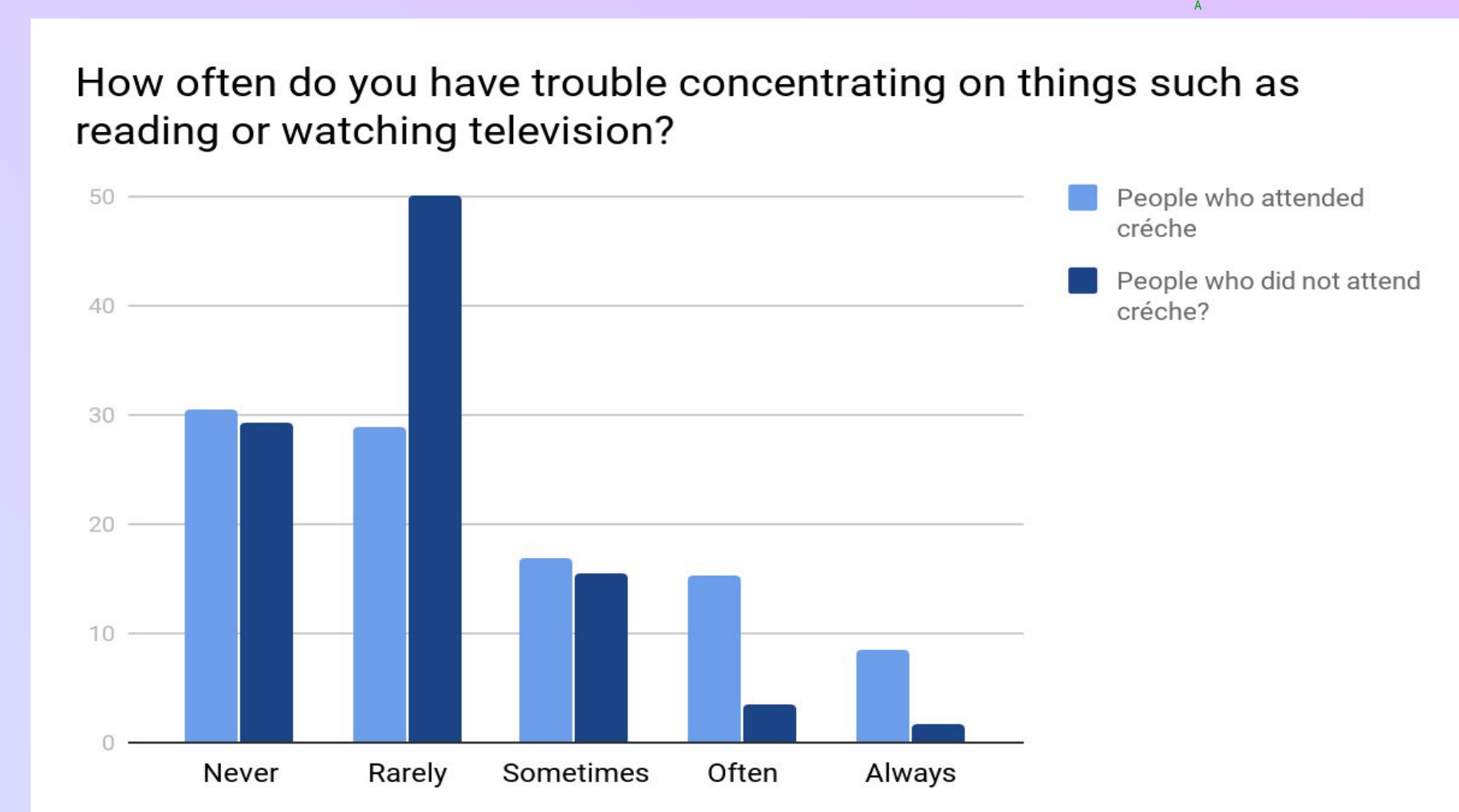


Fig 3: As is obvious from the graph above, a majority of our test subjects find concentrating on certain tasks such as watching television an easy objective. Although 8.5% of those who had attended crèche stated they find it difficult to concentrate and stated "Always" as their answer while only 1.7% of those who did not attend crèche stated the same.

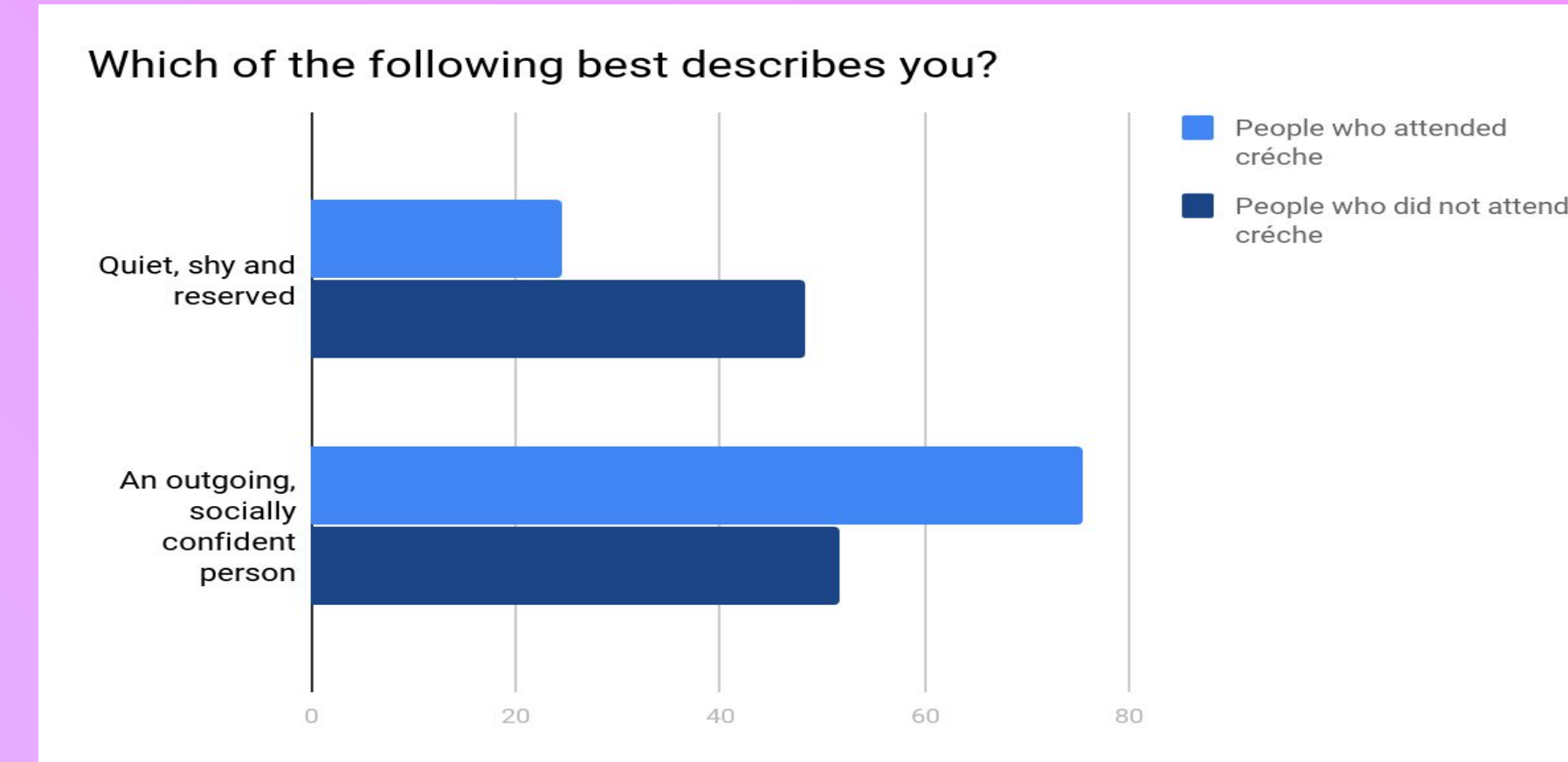


Fig 4: On average, people who attended crèche, 75.4% seemed to be more confident and socially outgoing than the 51.7% of those who did not attend crèche. Most people that did not attend crèche, 48.3% seemed to answer that they were more shy and reserved than the 24.6% of people who did attend. This implies that people who went to crèche were more outgoing in later life.

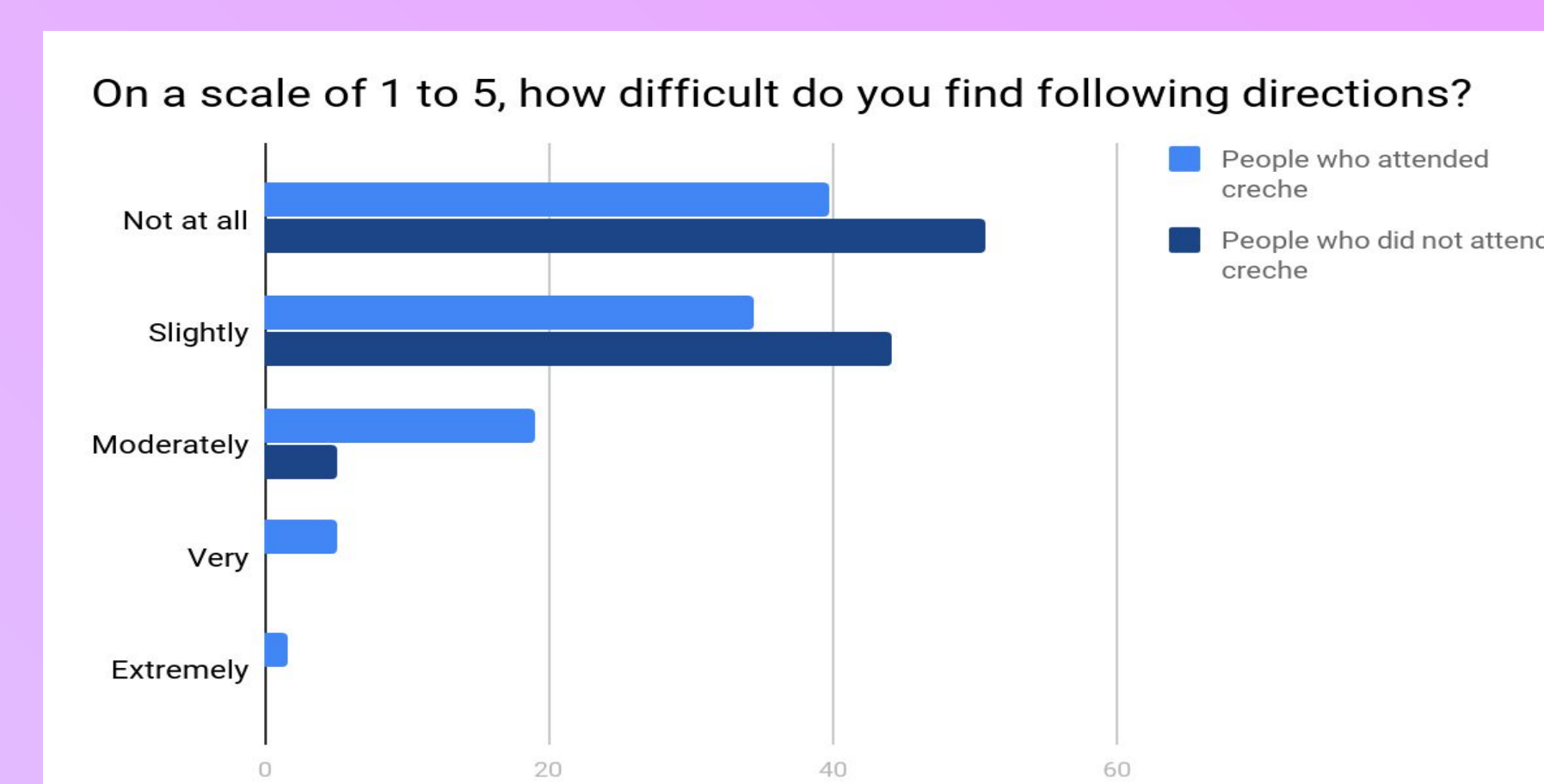


Fig 5: From the visual provided by the graph, we can see that out of the people who attended crèche, 5.2% said they answered "Extremely" following directions than the 0% people who did not attend crèche. From the graph we can also see that while 50.8% of those who did not attend crèche find it easy to follow directions, only 39.7% of those who attended crèche found it easy.

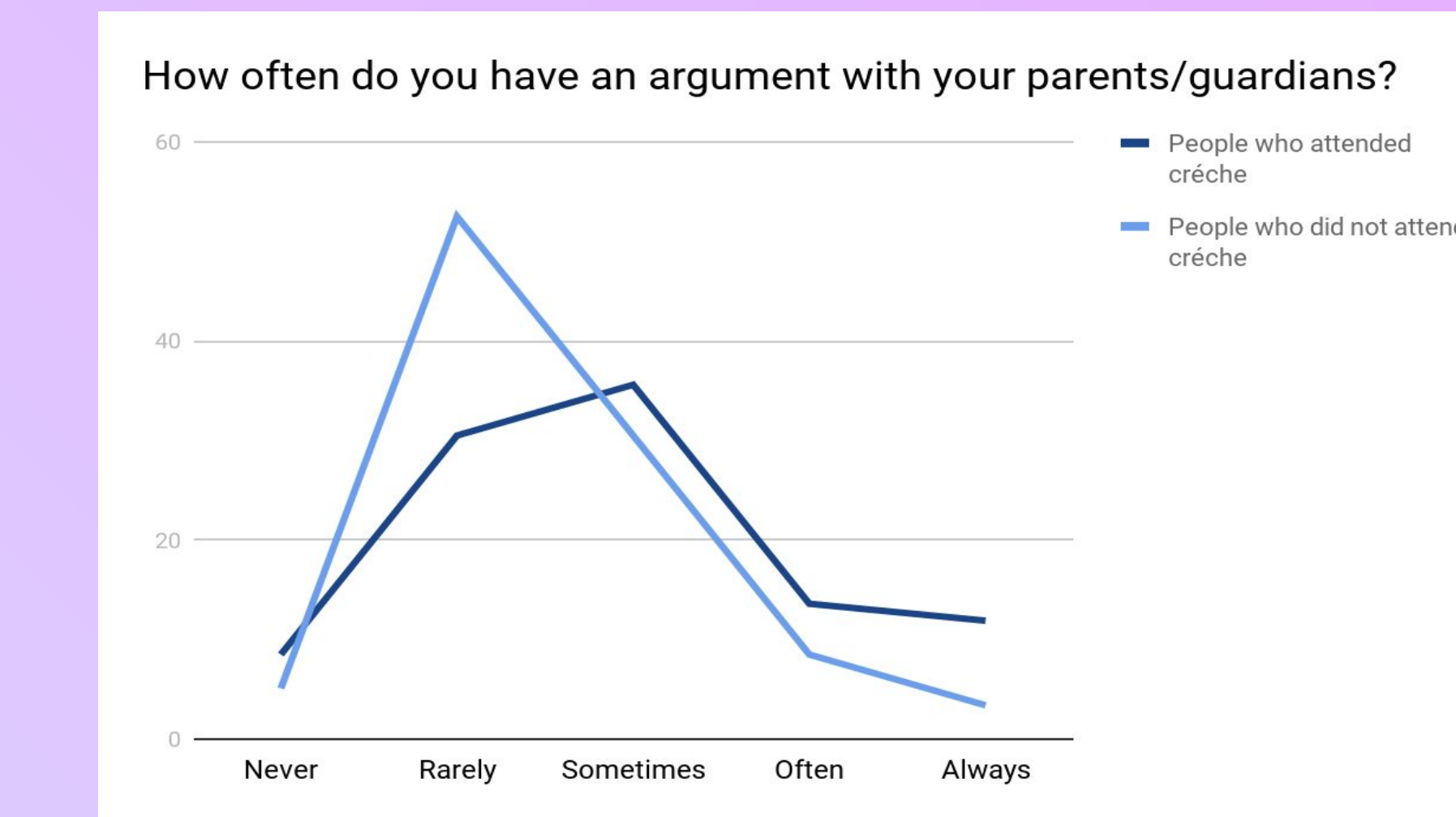


Fig 6: As is noticeable from the graph above, people who did not attend crèche seem to have less arguments with their parents than those who did attend. From this graph we can gather that while 11.9% of those who had attended crèche found they "Always" argued with their parents, only 3.4% said the same who had not attended crèche.

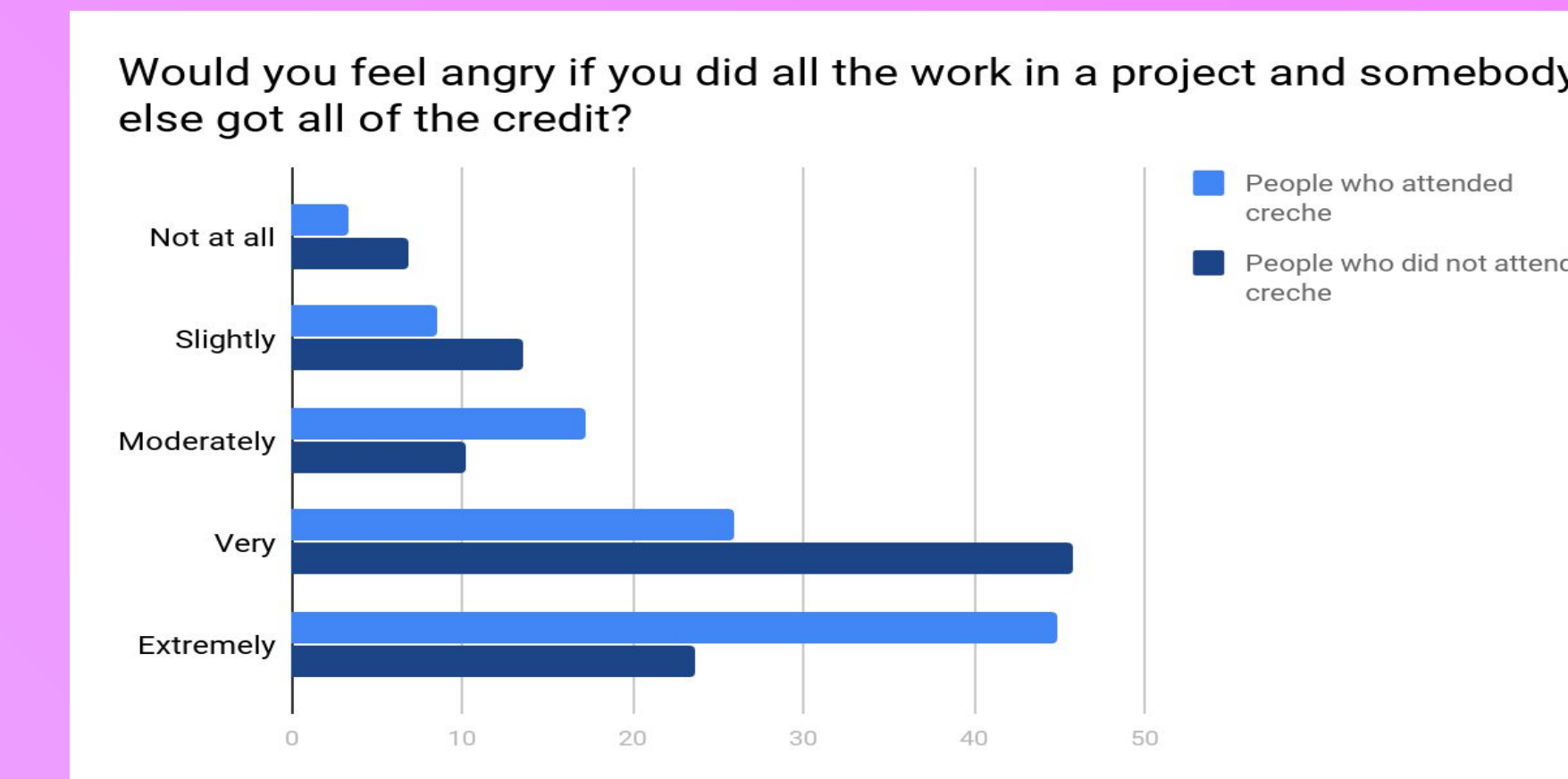


Fig 7: As we can see from the graph, while only 23.7% of people who did not attend crèche said they would be "Extremely" angry, 44.8% of those who had attended crèche said the same. This coincides with Hara Estroff Marano's study which found that teachers have said that the children who had attended crèche "gets in many fights," are "disobedient at school," and "argues a lot" in the early stages of primary school.

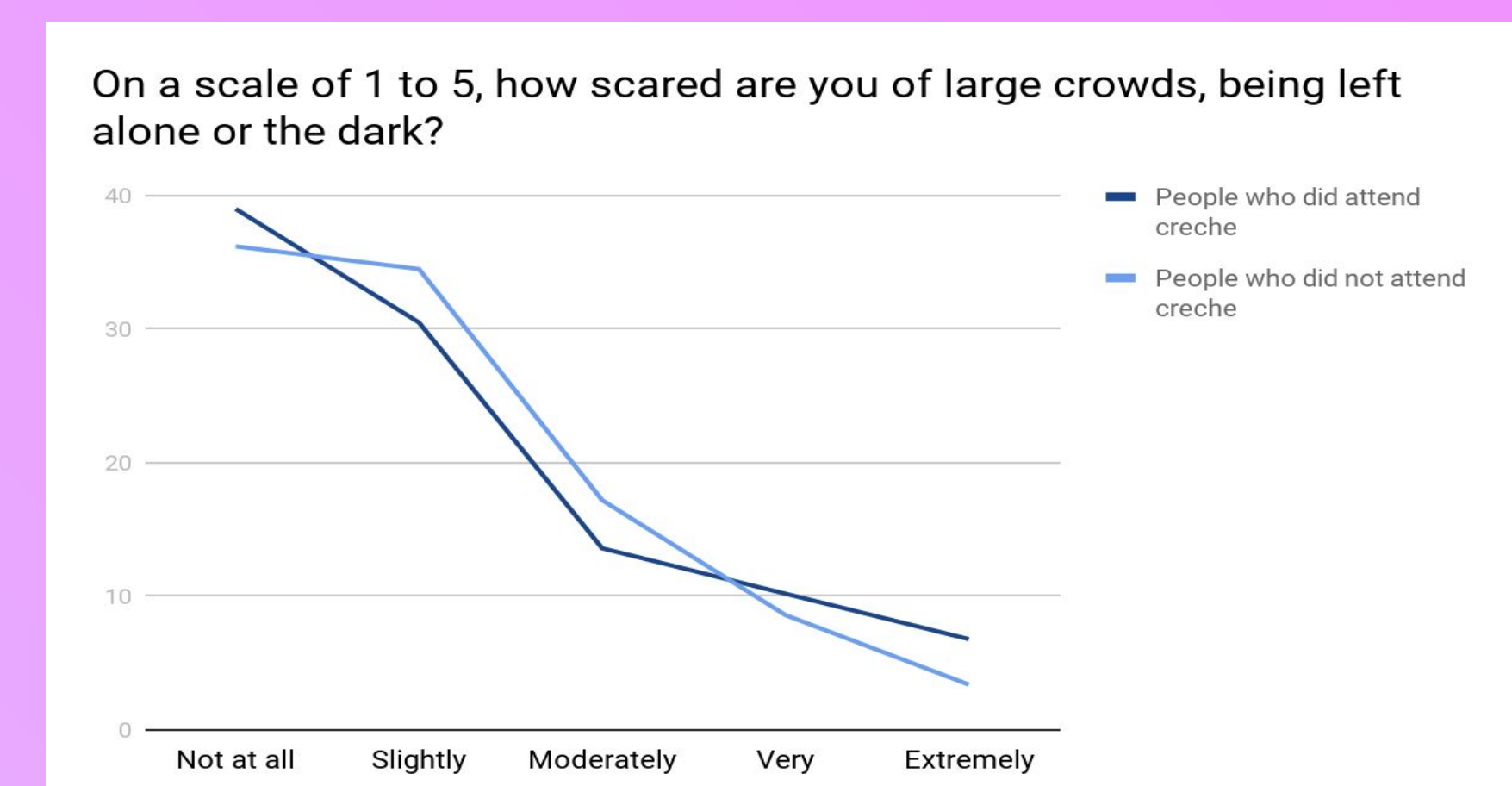


Fig 8: As we can see from this chart, there is a difference between our two groups results. 3.4% of people who had not attended crèche were classified as being "Extremely" frightened while 6.8% of people who had attended crèche said the same. As well as that we see that 36.2% of those who did not attend crèche said that they were "Not at all" frightened while 39% of those who did said the same. This was a very notable finding as it supports Dr. Moshe Szyf's study named 'Lick Your Rats'.

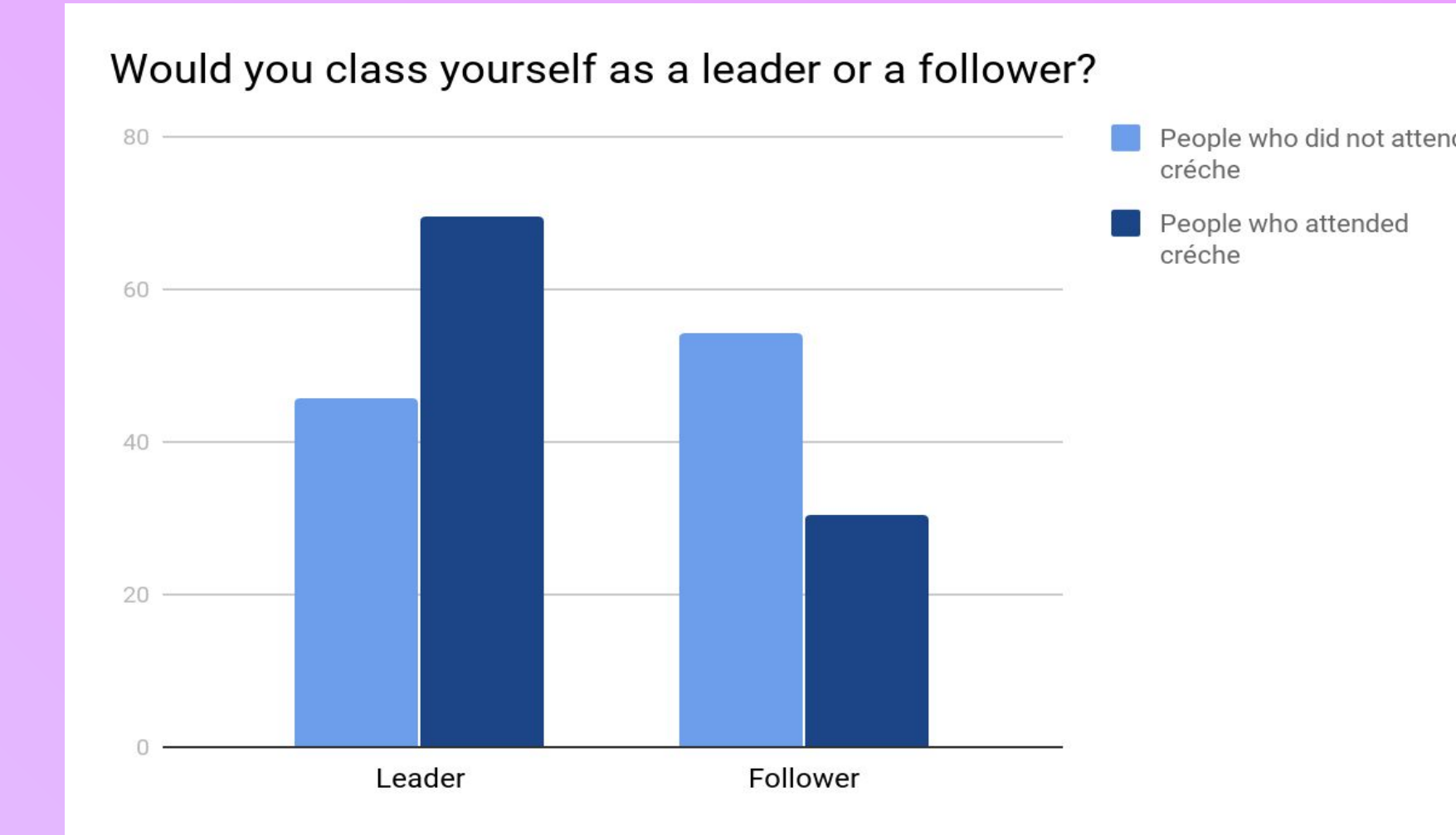


Fig 9: As we can view from the graph above, there is a noticeable difference in our two results. 69.5% of people who attended crèche answered "Leader" while only 45.8% of people who did not attend crèche thought the same. This is further proven by 54.2% of people who did not attend crèche which stated that they were "Followers" while only 30.5% of those who had attended crèche stated this.