



# **Review Integrity Training for Reviewers: Preliminary Results from CSR**

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Review Policy Committee  
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# Background

- Previous CSR review integrity online training module launched in 2019 (developed with input from CSRAC working group)
- Review integrity concerns persist
- **New** training module released for Fall 2022 meetings:
  - Offers a refresher
  - Uses scenario-based experiential approach, prompting learners to think through potential issues
  - Leverages new technology to increase learner interactivity and engagement (active learning)

# Learning Objectives

- Identify integrity as critical to the peer review process
- Identify breaches in integrity (increased awareness)
- Describe the consequences of breaches in integrity
- Describe reviewers' role/responsibilities in maintaining integrity
- Apply tools to maintain integrity

# Overview of 30-min Training Module

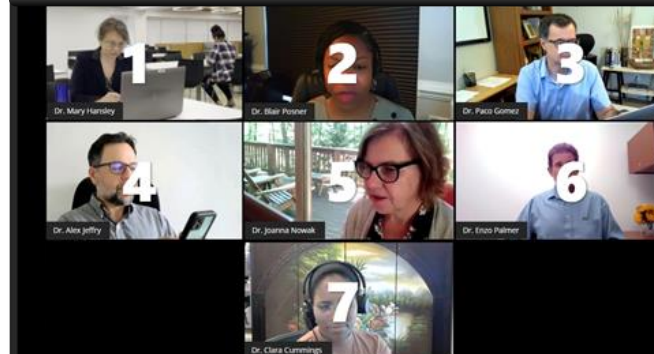
## Before the Meeting



Preventing inappropriate influence on review during a seminar visit with an applicant.

## At the Meeting

Identifying potential integrity breaches during the meeting



## After the Meeting



Protecting confidential information when interacting with an applicant.

# Training and Survey Response Rates (2023/01 Council Round)

## Training

- 9,158 reviewers asked to take training 4 weeks before meeting
- 7,072\* completed the training (\*to date)
- 77% response rate

## Post-Training Evaluation Survey

- 6,206 reviewers completed the survey
- 88% response rate

# Survey Measures

## Training-Specific Measures

- Knowledge and awareness of integrity in peer review
- Tools to prevent and report integrity breaches
- General satisfaction with the training
- Usefulness of specific training activities

## Other Measures

- Prevalence of integrity breaches in NIH review
- Frequency of reporting integrity breaches

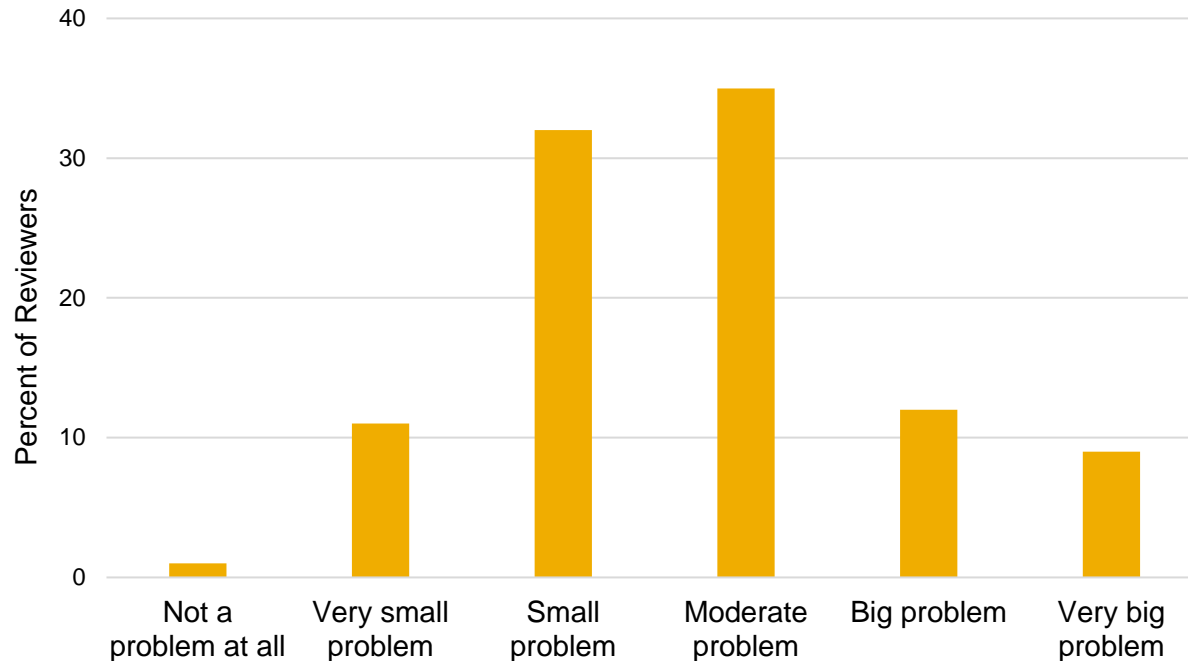
## Qualitative Feedback

- General comments about review integrity and recommendations for improving the training
- Request to be contacted

# Results: Prevalence of Integrity Breaches in Review Process

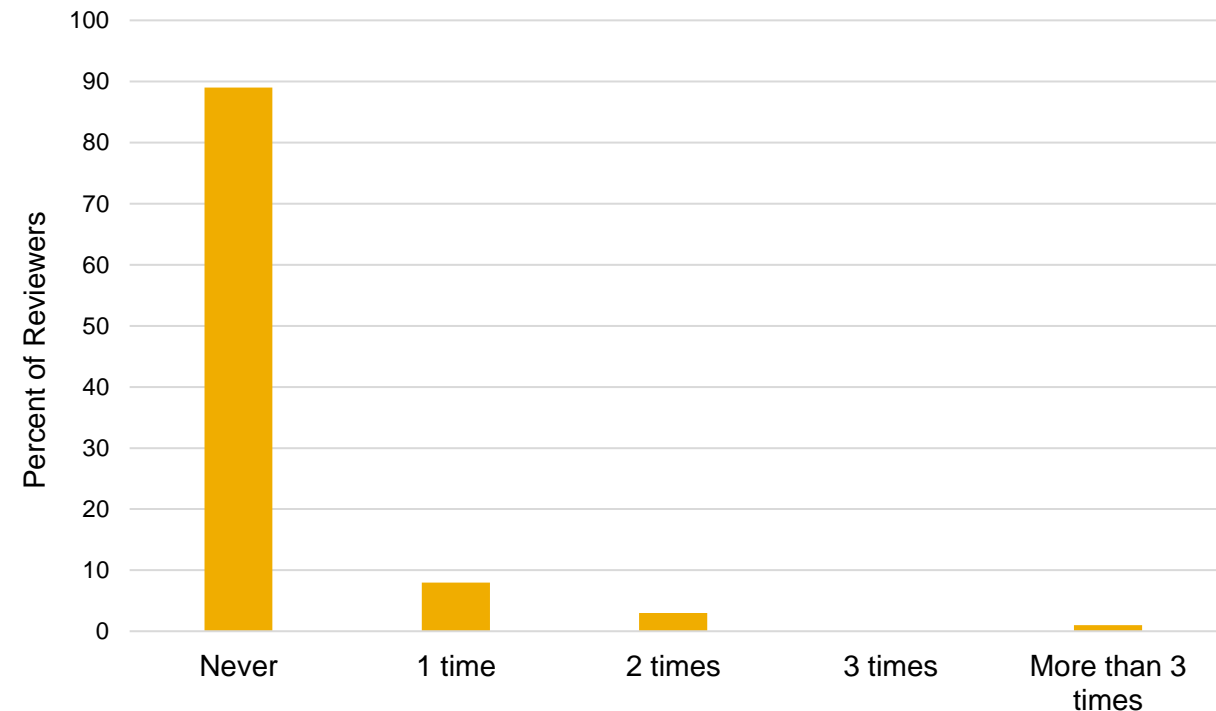
## Problem with integrity breaches

- Moderate problem = 35%
- Big or very big problem = 21%



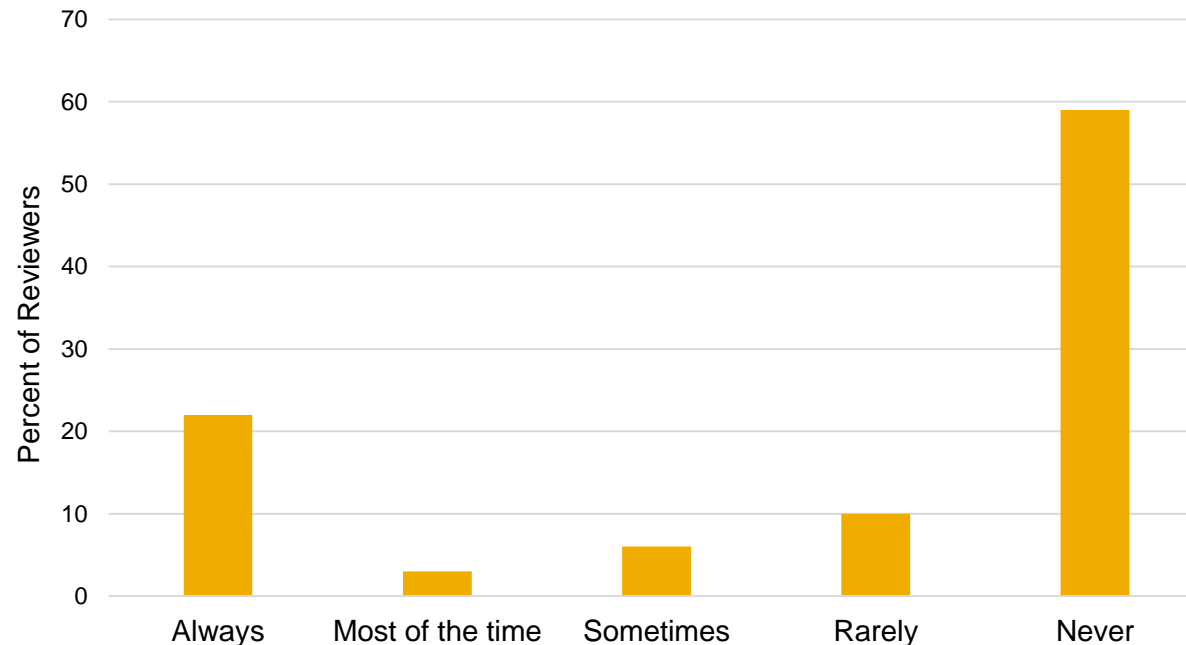
## Encountered/suspected integrity breaches in the last year

- At least once = 11%



# Results: Frequency of Reporting Integrity Breaches

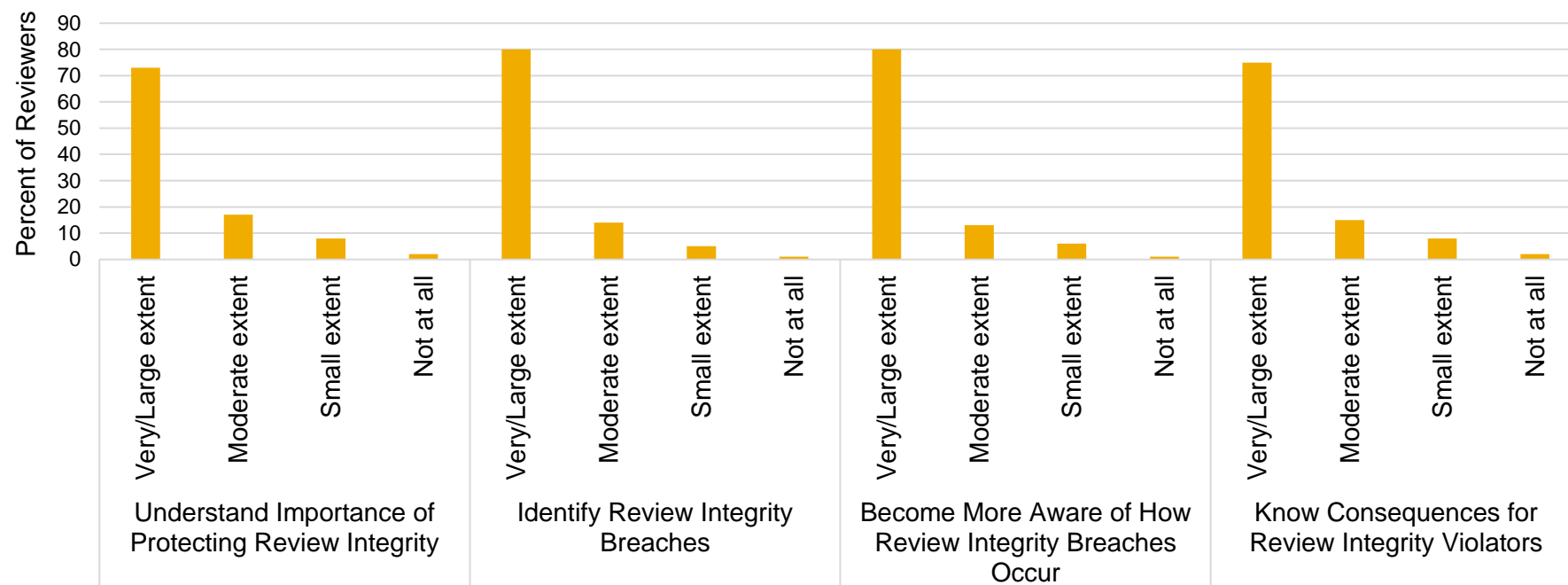
**69%** of reviewers **never or rarely reached out** to an NIH official when they thought a breach in review integrity was present or possible (in the last year).





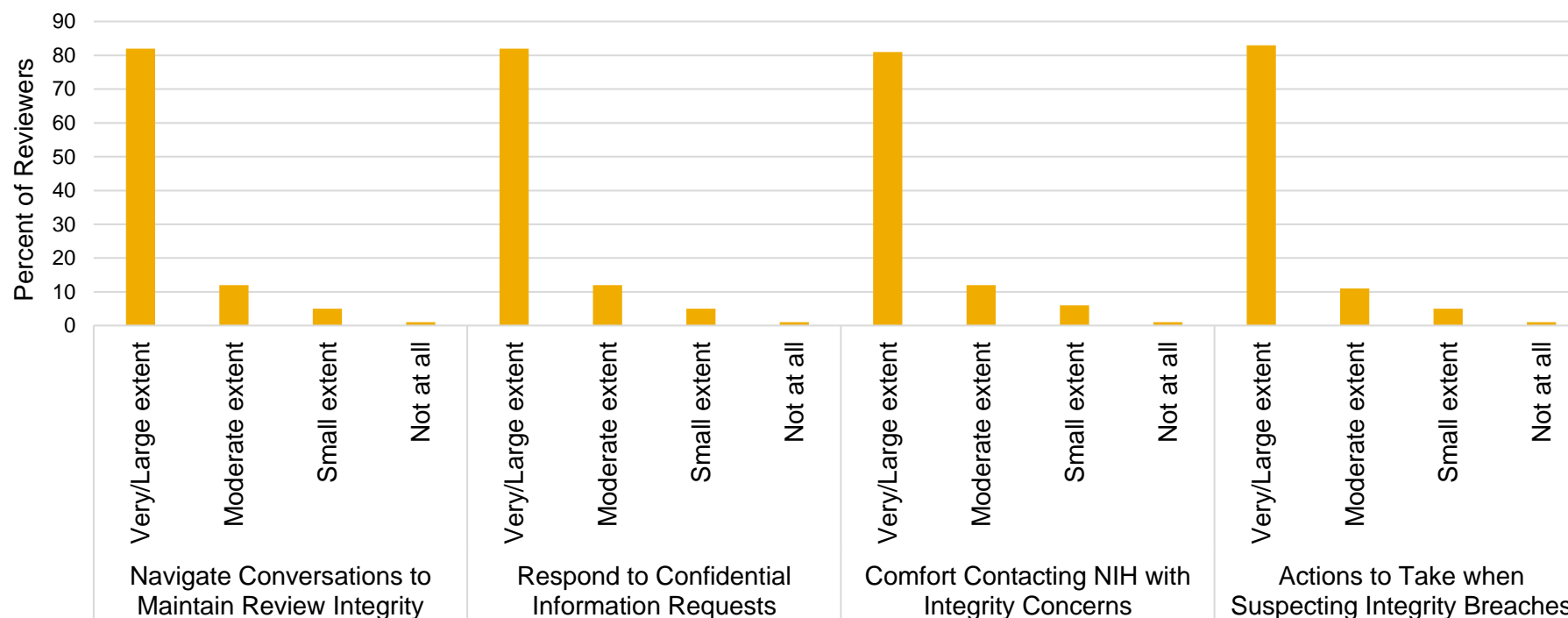
# Results: Knowledge and Awareness of Review Integrity

~ **90%** of reviewers reported that the training **substantially increased** their knowledge and awareness of review integrity.



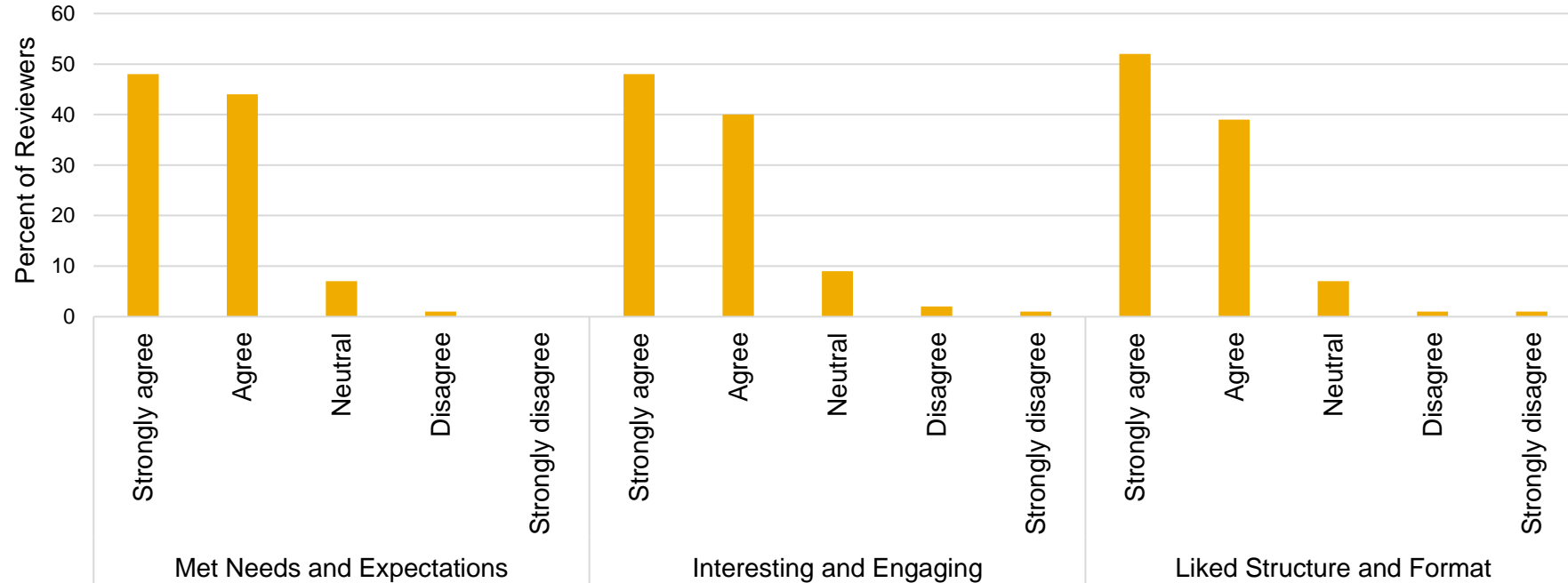
# Results: Tools to Prevent and Report Integrity Breaches

**Over 90%** of reviewers reported that the training **substantially increased** their knowledge of tools to prevent and report integrity breaches, and comfort contacting NIH with concerns.



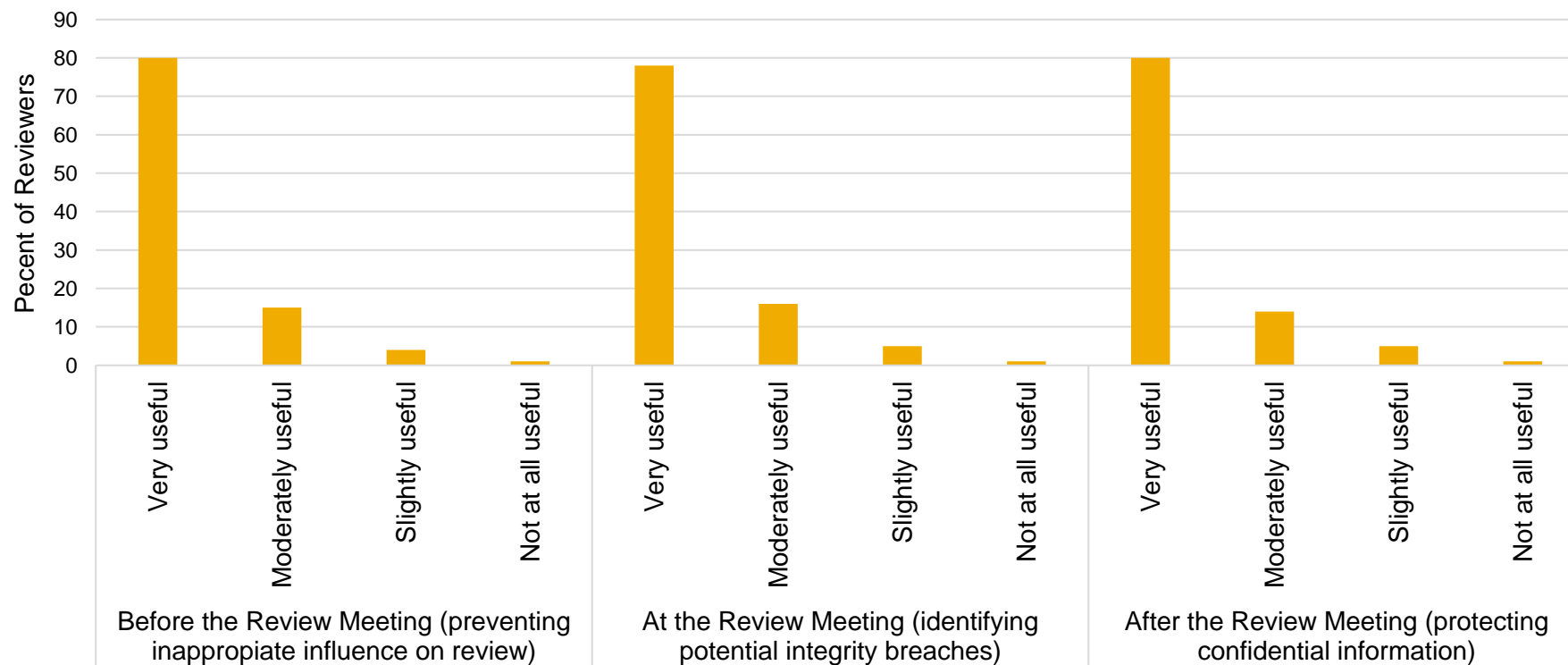
# Results: General Satisfaction with the Training

~ **90%** of reviewers were **satisfied (strongly agree or agree)** with the training.



# Results: Usefulness of Specific Training Activities

Over 90% of reviewers found the training activities to be **moderately to extremely useful**.



# Qualitative Feedback

## General comments and recommendations for improving the training

- Currently being analyzed for common and salient themes

## Request to be Contacted

- Had general comments or concerns about review integrity: N = 16
- Reported specific integrity concerns to RIO after the training: N = 4

# Summary

- Reviewers report a significant problem with review integrity in NIH review.
- Many reviewers do not reach out to NIH about concerns (pre-training).
- Reviewers were highly satisfied with the training and scenario-based format.
- The training succeeded in increasing reviewers':
  - Understanding of the importance of protecting integrity
  - Awareness of integrity breaches, how they occur and the consequences
  - Knowledge of tools to prevent and report integrity breaches
  - Comfort contacting NIH with concerns

# Next steps

- **2023/05 Council Round:** CSR reviewers who haven't yet completed the training will be asked to complete it.
- **Expected Fall 2023:** Review Integrity and CSR's Bias Awareness and Mitigation training modules will be integrated into Commons and made mandatory for all NIH reviewers (OIG mandate for Review Integrity).
- Reviewers will only be asked to complete each module once.
- Plan to develop new version/update of each training every three years.
- Plan to require reviewers to take each training every three years.

# Thanks to...

## Reviewer Training Coordinator

Tanya Cohen

## Reviewer Training Committee

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Eleni Liapi

Nicholas Moore

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Ali Sharma

Joanna Szczepanik

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# Questions?