

Voting Accessibility Survey of Older Adults in Metro Atlanta

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Study Goals

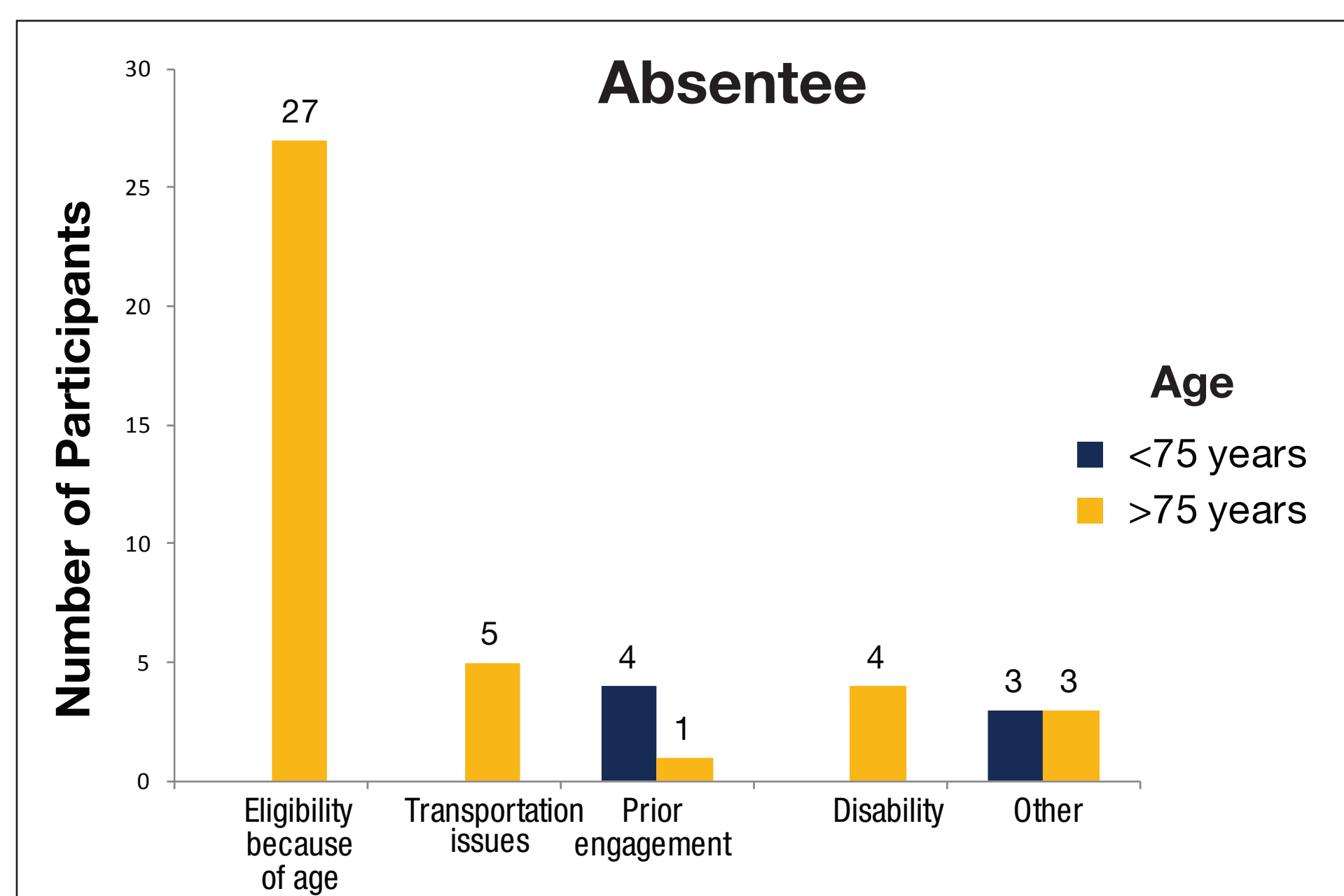
- Understand how older adults voted in November 2012
 - Absentee, Early, or Election Day
- Examine the factors driving the method of voting
- Identify challenges faced by older adults in voting process

Participants

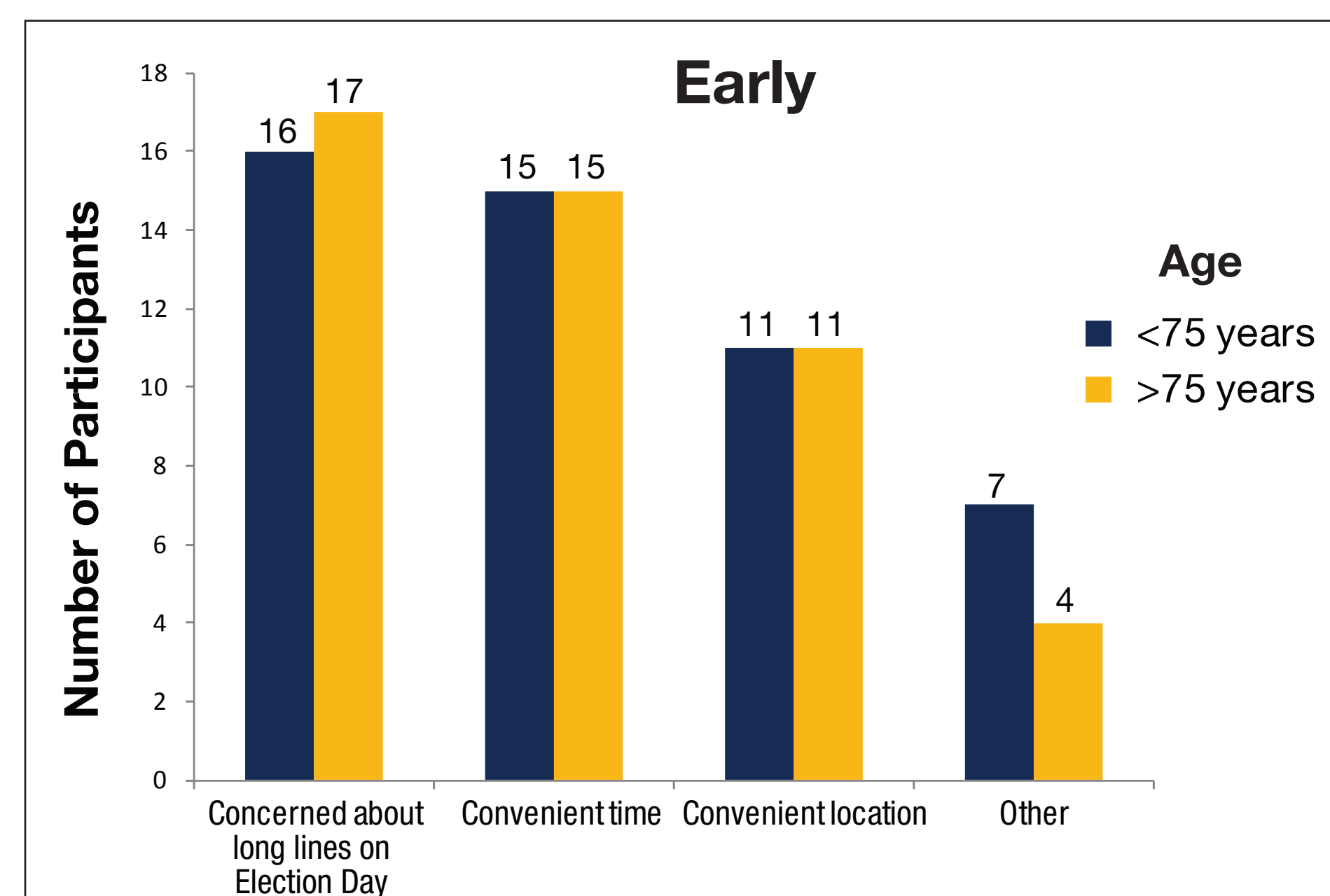
- Recruited from Georgia Tech HomeLab
 - Adults 50 and older living in the Atlanta metro area
- 188 respondents ($M_{age} = 73$ years, $SD = 10.4$, range = 51-99)
- 67% of respondents were female

Preferred Method of Voting

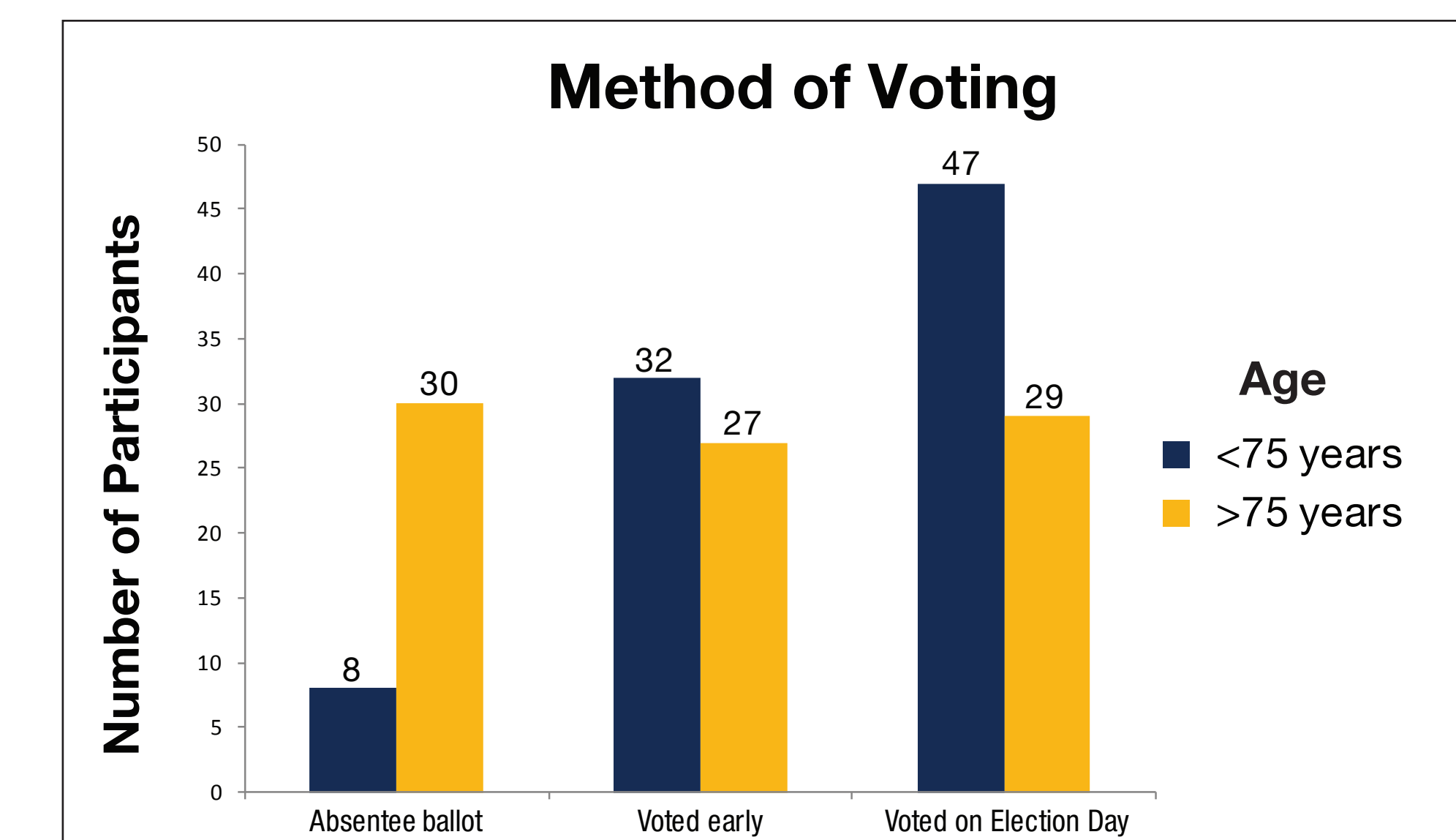
*Participants were able to choose more than one response for why they decided to vote absentee, early or on Election Day.



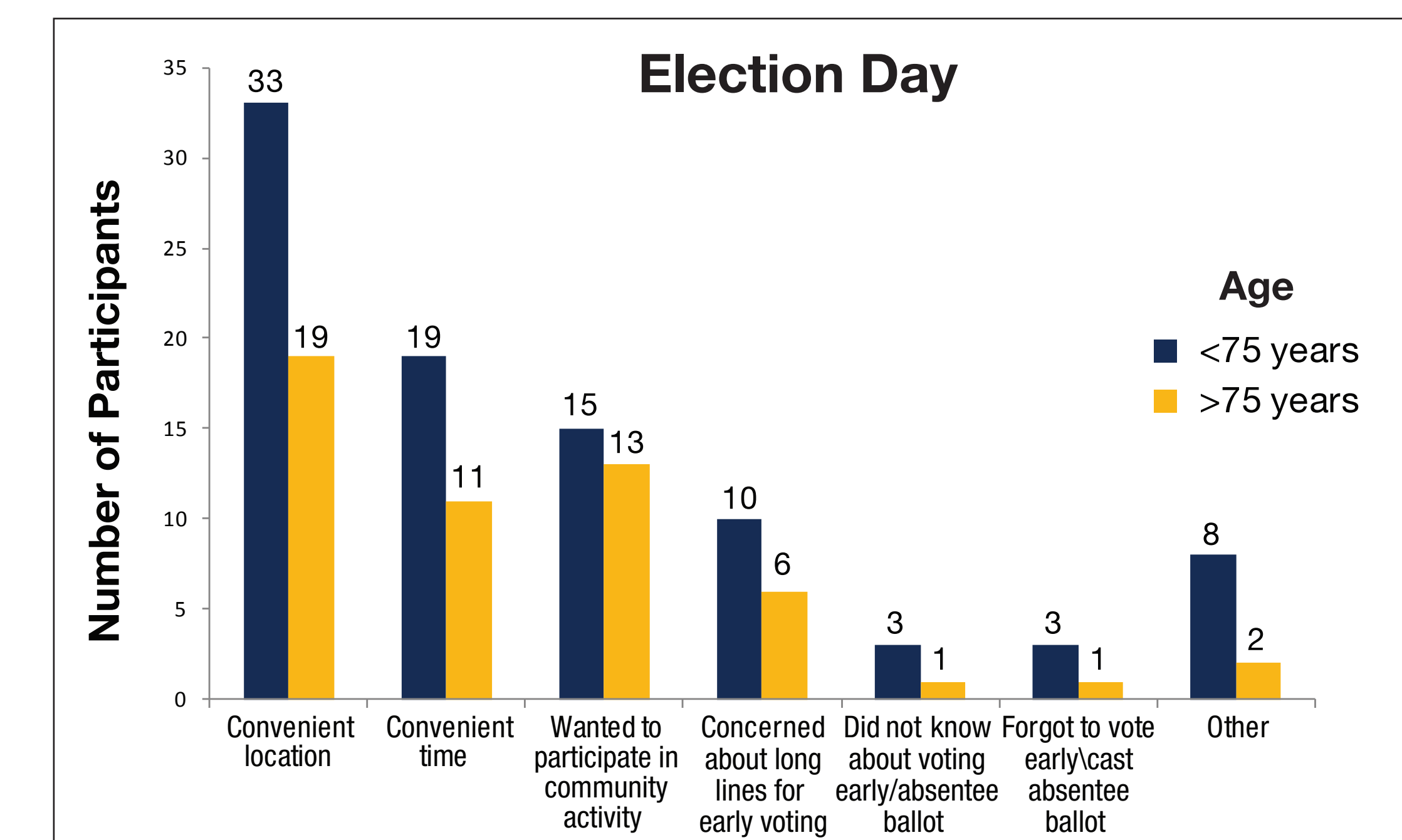
- 22% of participants voted via an absentee ballot, the majority of whom were 75 or older
- Most frequently cited reason was eligibility to cast an absentee ballot due to age (in Georgia, individuals aged 75 years and up may cast an absentee ballot)



- 34% of participants voted early at a polling location
- Most frequently chosen reason for voting early was concern about long lines on Election Day



- Participants age 50-74 years (n=87) cited most frequent method was voting on Election Day.
- Participants age 75+ years (n=86) cited most common method of voting was absentee ballot.

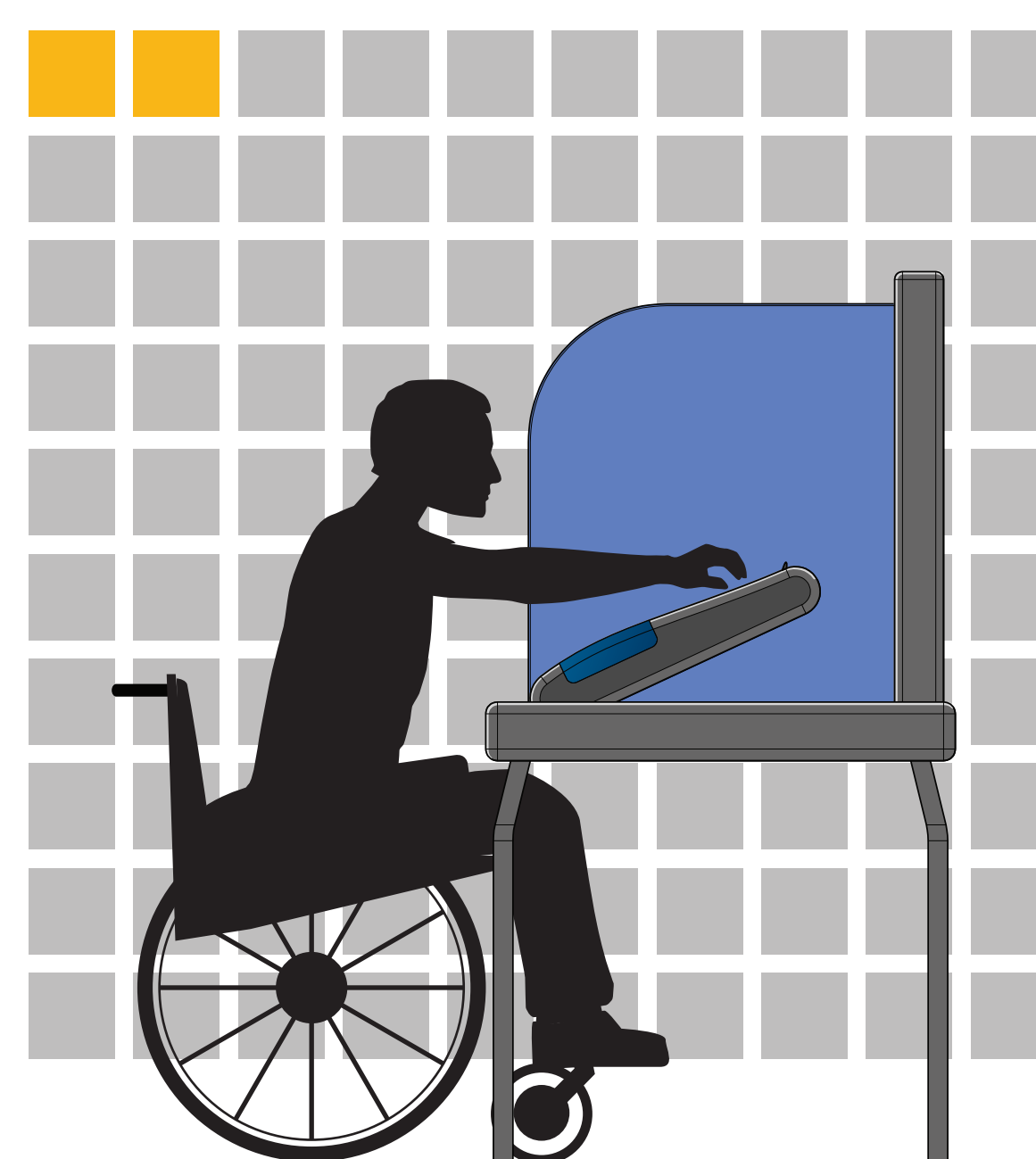


- 44% of participants voted at their polling location on Election Day
- Most frequently chosen reason was convenient location of the polling place (36%), followed by the desire to participate in the community activity (19%)

Voting Statistics



- Voters over the age of 75 are eligible to vote immediately without waiting in line (GA state policy)
- Only 53% of participants who were 75+ were escorted to the front of the line



- 78% of the sample voted at a polling place
- Less than 2% used an accessible voting machine



- Only 30% of voters received some form of voter education
- With increased voter education options, older adults' voting experiences could be improved (read ahead materials, sample ballots, voting system tutorials, etc.)