

**WFHSS**

World Forum for Hospital Sterile Supply

# **Meeting the Informative Needs of a Multinational Forum**

**A Survey of Questions and Answers  
Posted on WFHSS Website**

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# **Sociology of Knowledge**



**Karl Mannheim (1883-1947)**

# Computer-Mediated Communication

- A technology
- A medium
- Engine of social relations
- A space within which the relations occur
- A tool that individuals use to enter that space



# Discussion Forum

## Benefits

- Wide geographic coverage
- Less social posturing
- Different perspectives
- Respondent in own environment
- Promote dialogue
- Asynchronous flexibility

## Challenges

- A lot of data
- Repetitions

# **Professional Discussion Forum**

- **Seeking practice guidelines**
- **Information based on research**
- **Information based on experience**
- **Expert engagement**

# Past Research

- **Education**
- **Web marketing**

# Aims

- **Assess the WFHSS Q&A pages contribution**
- **Assess the quality of contents**
- **Explore further educational needs**

# **Methods**

## **Quantitative & Qualitative Analysis**

**Search through questions, according to key words**

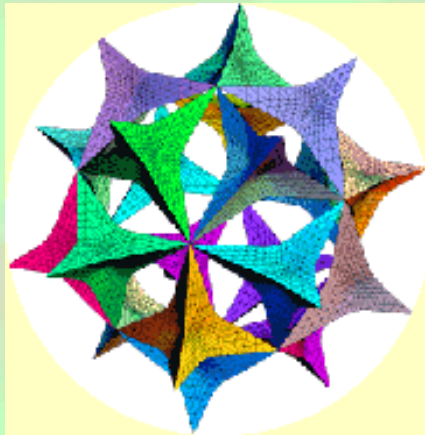
**Encoding each question according to parameters**



# **Qualitative Analysis**

**Narrative oriented**

**Uses Content analysis methods**



# Content Analysis



**Words**



**Phrases**



**Characters**



**Themes**

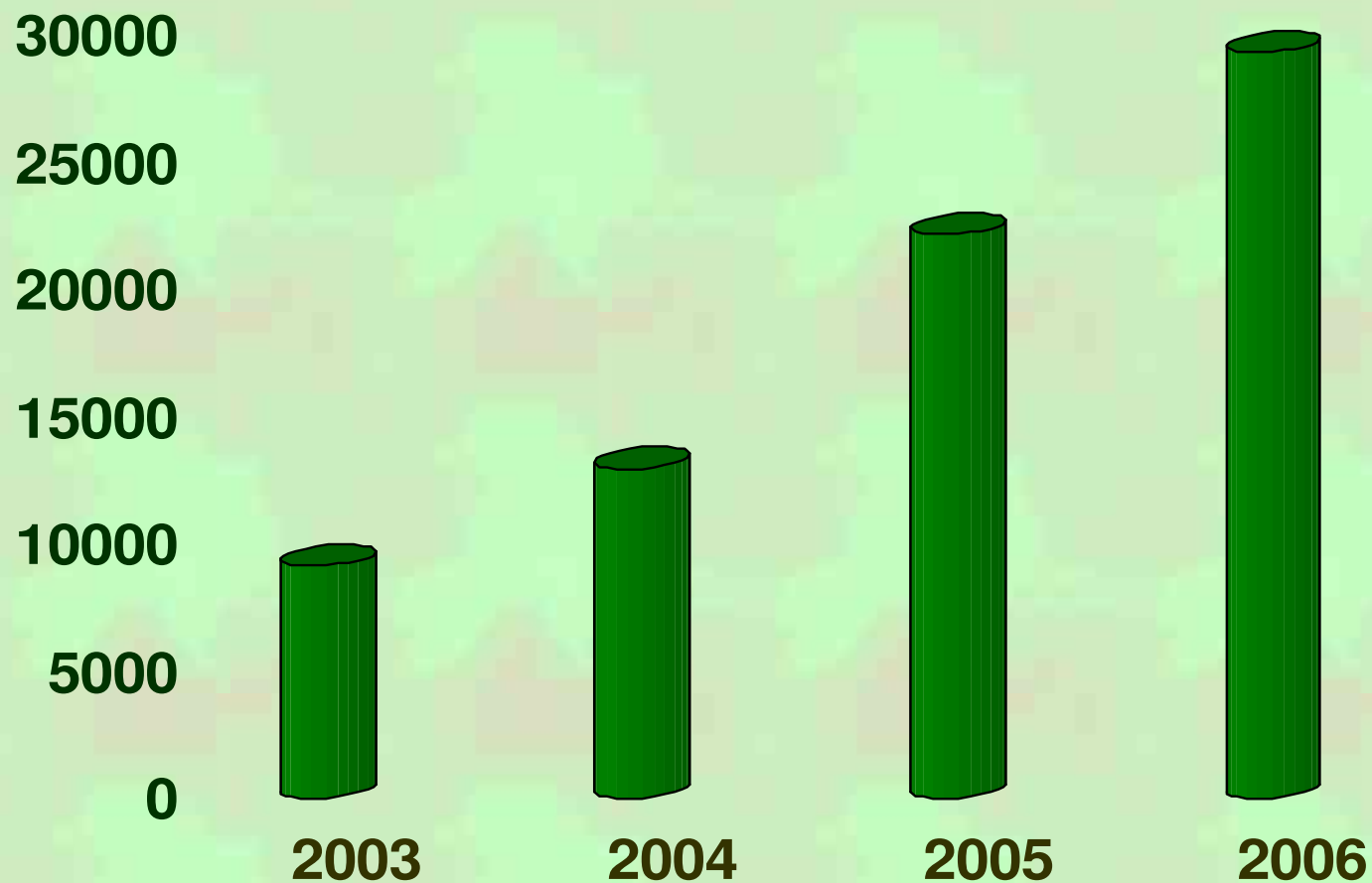


**Topics**

# Quality Indicators

- **Participation levels**
- **Relevance of postings**
- **Repetition rate**
- **Level of knowledge construction**

# WFHSS Website Average Visits Per Month



# **WFHSS Website**

**Aimed to promote knowledge and support  
healthcare professionals interested in  
reprocessing of medical devices**



# **Data Base**

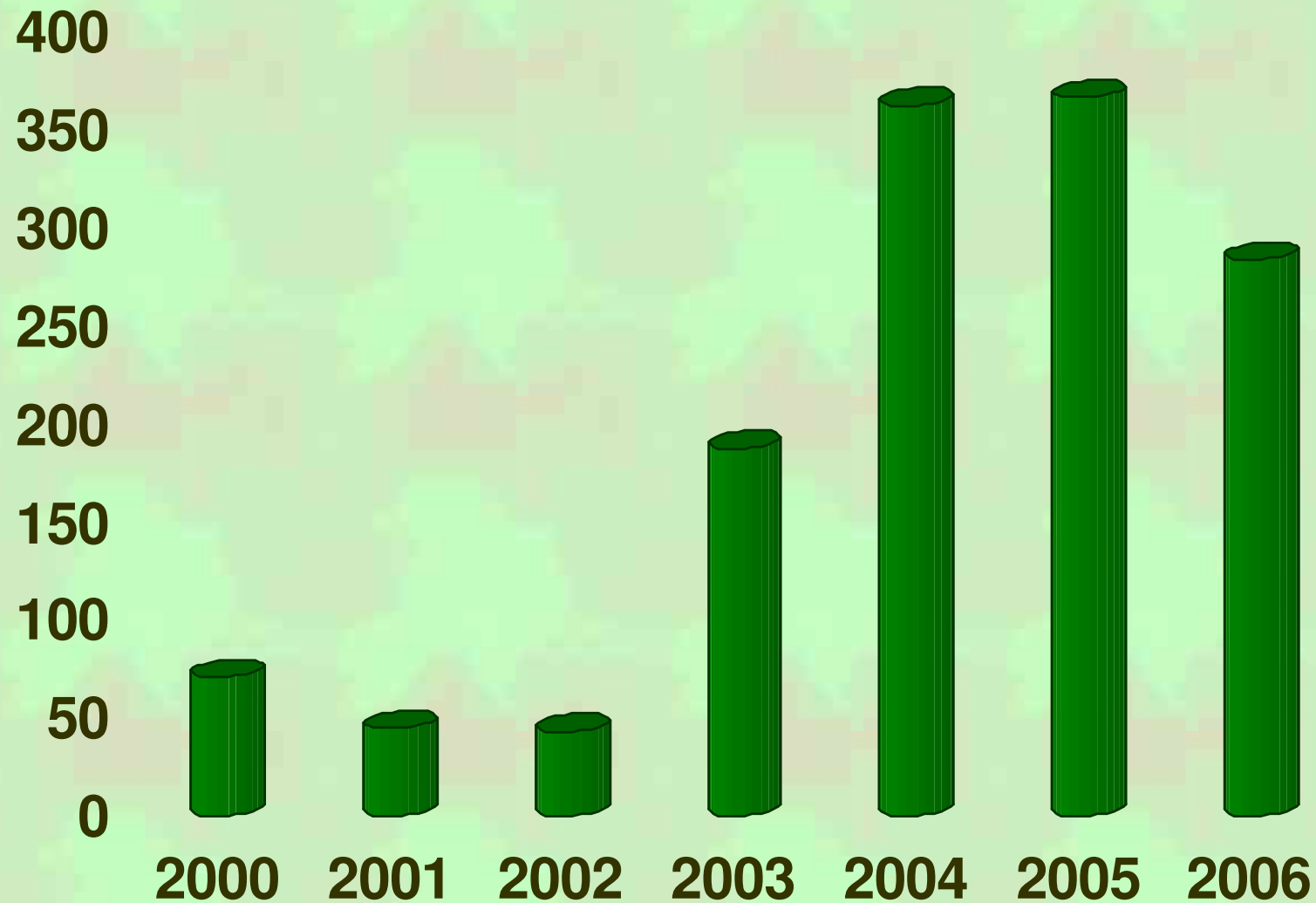
**2000- June 2006**

**1221 threads (questions)**

**3011 postings (Q & A)**



# Questions per Year



# **Worldwide Participation**

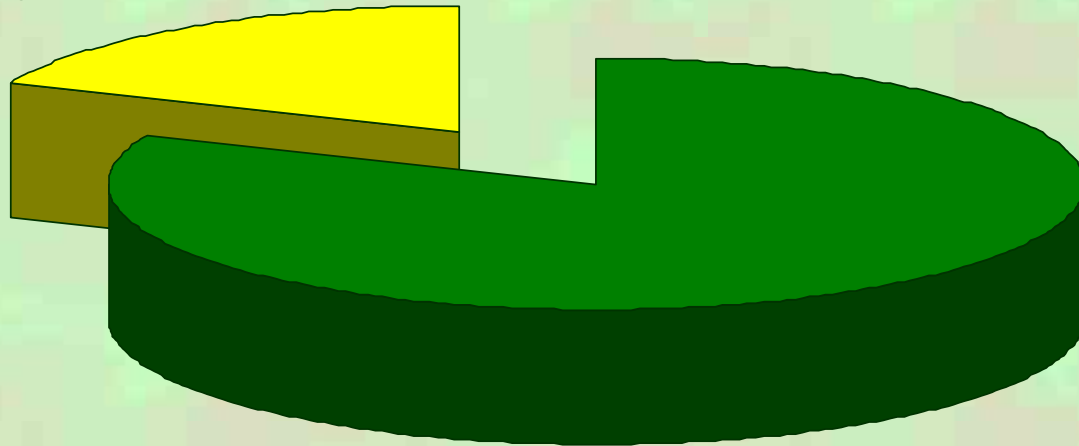
**Questions were posted by healthcare professionals from 76 countries**





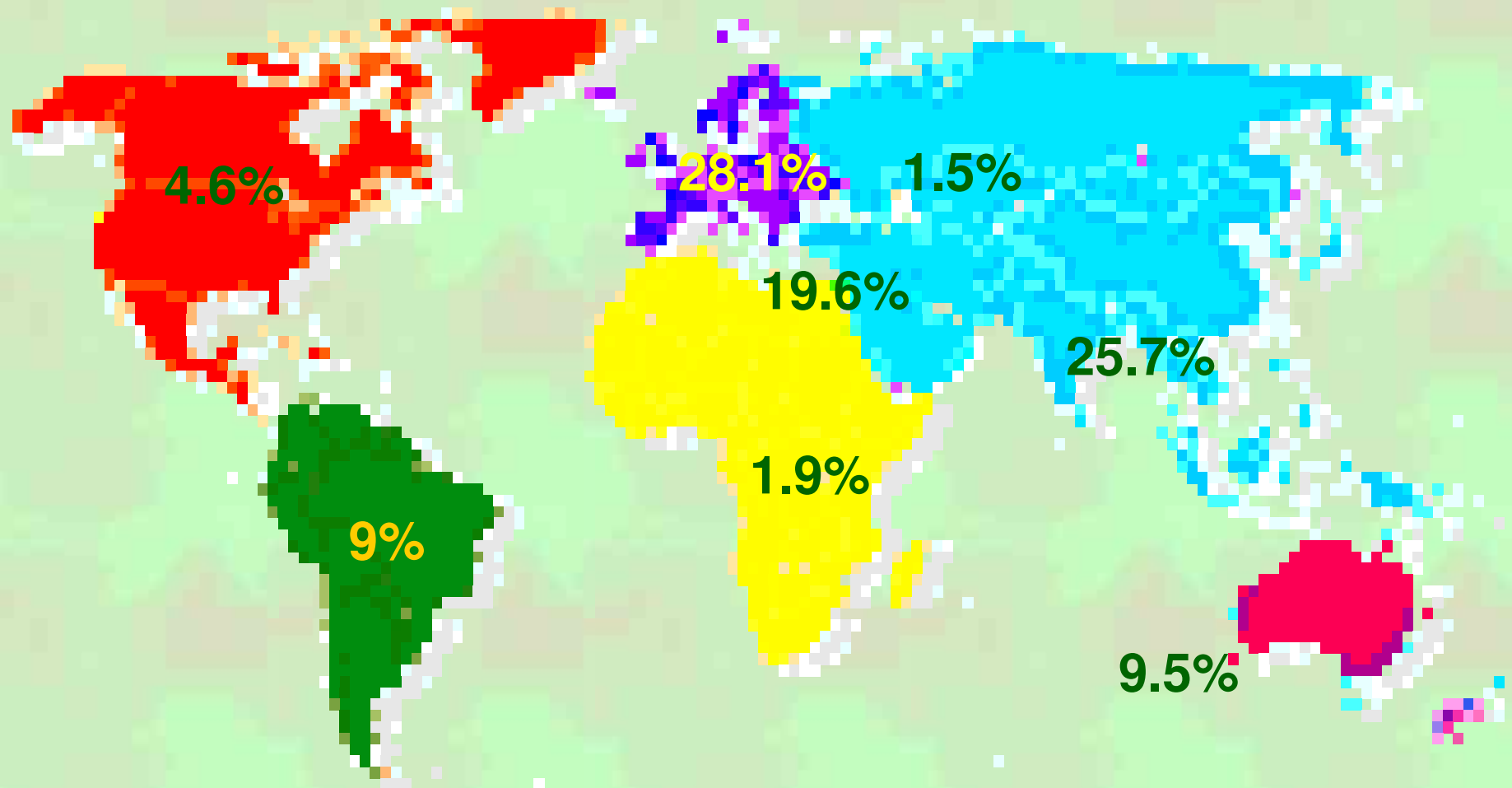
# Identifies vs. Anonymous Questioners

**Anonymous**  
**19%**

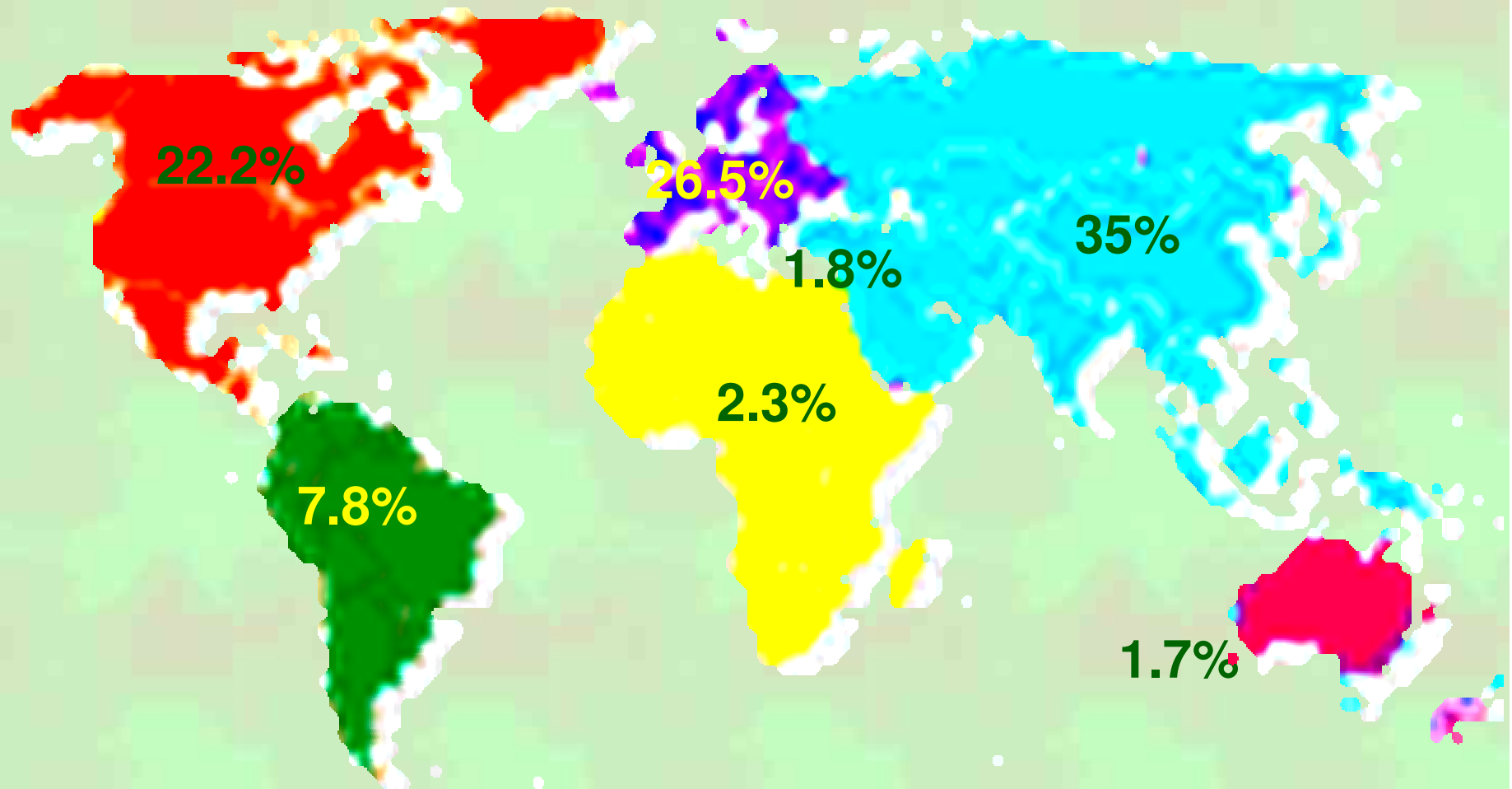


**Identified**  
**81%**

# Distribution of Questions



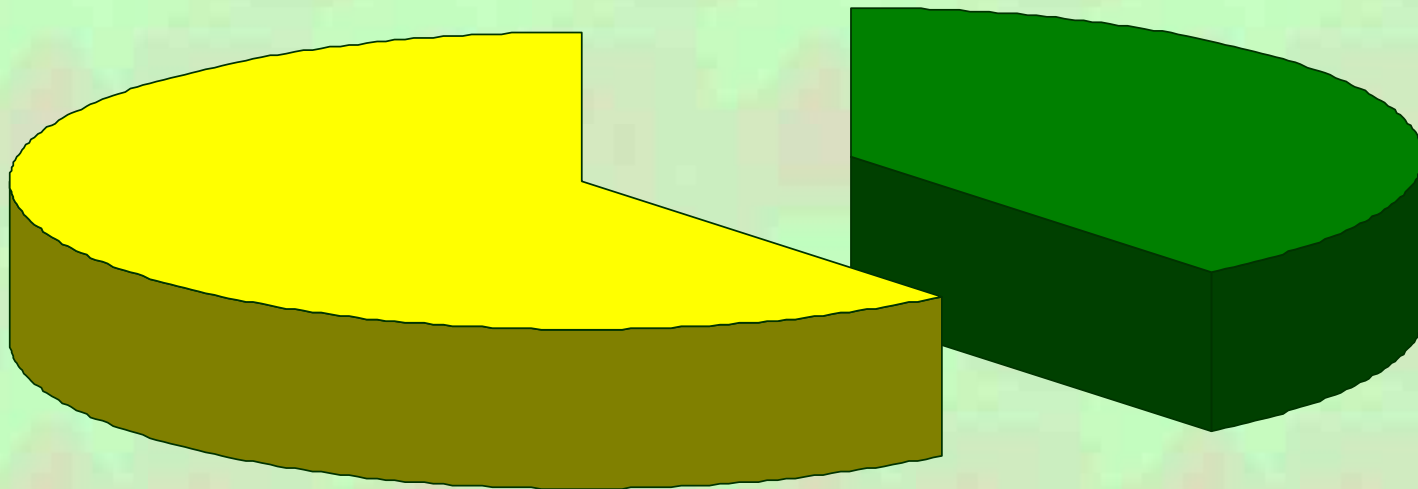
# Worldwide Internet Use (2005)



| <b>Region</b>        | <b>Population<br/>% of the<br/>world</b> | <b>Internet use<br/>% of the<br/>world</b> | <b>Questions<br/>% of WFHSS<br/>Q&amp;A</b> |
|----------------------|--|--|---|
| <b>Asia</b>          | <b>56.4%</b>                             | <b>35.6%</b>                               | <b>25.7%</b>                                |
| <b>Africa</b>        | <b>14.1%</b>                             | <b>2.3%</b>                                | <b>1.9%</b>                                 |
| <b>Europe</b>        | <b>12.4%</b>                             | <b>28.5%</b>                               | <b>28.1%</b>                                |
| <b>Middle East</b>   | <b>2.9%</b>                              | <b>1.8%</b>                                | <b>19.6%</b>                                |
| <b>North America</b> | <b>5.1%</b>                              | <b>22.2%</b>                               | <b>4.6%</b>                                 |
| <b>Latin America</b> | <b>8.5%</b>                              | <b>7.8%</b>                                | <b>9%</b>                                   |
| <b>Australia</b>     | <b>0.5%</b>                              | <b>1.7%</b>                                | <b>9.5%</b>                                 |

# Developed vs. Developing Countries

Developing  
39%

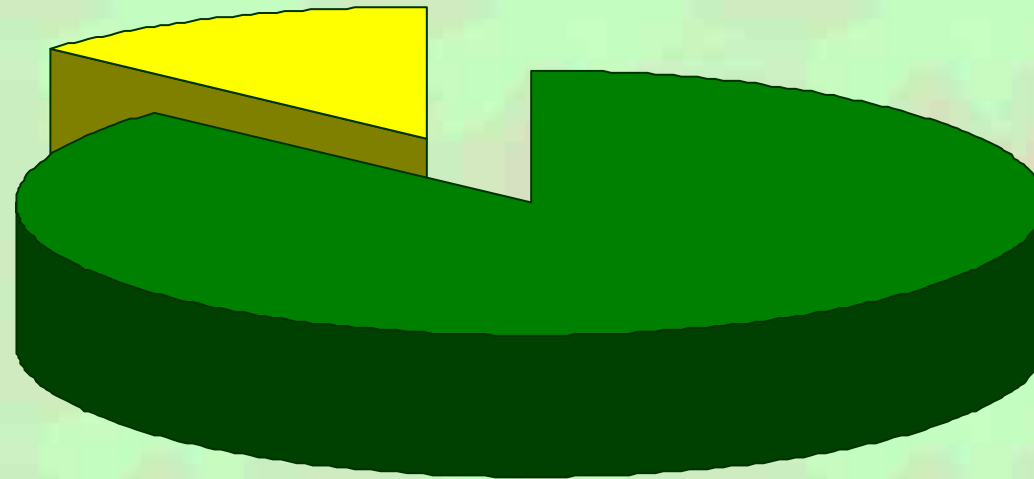


Developed  
61%

# Healthcare vs. Industrial Related

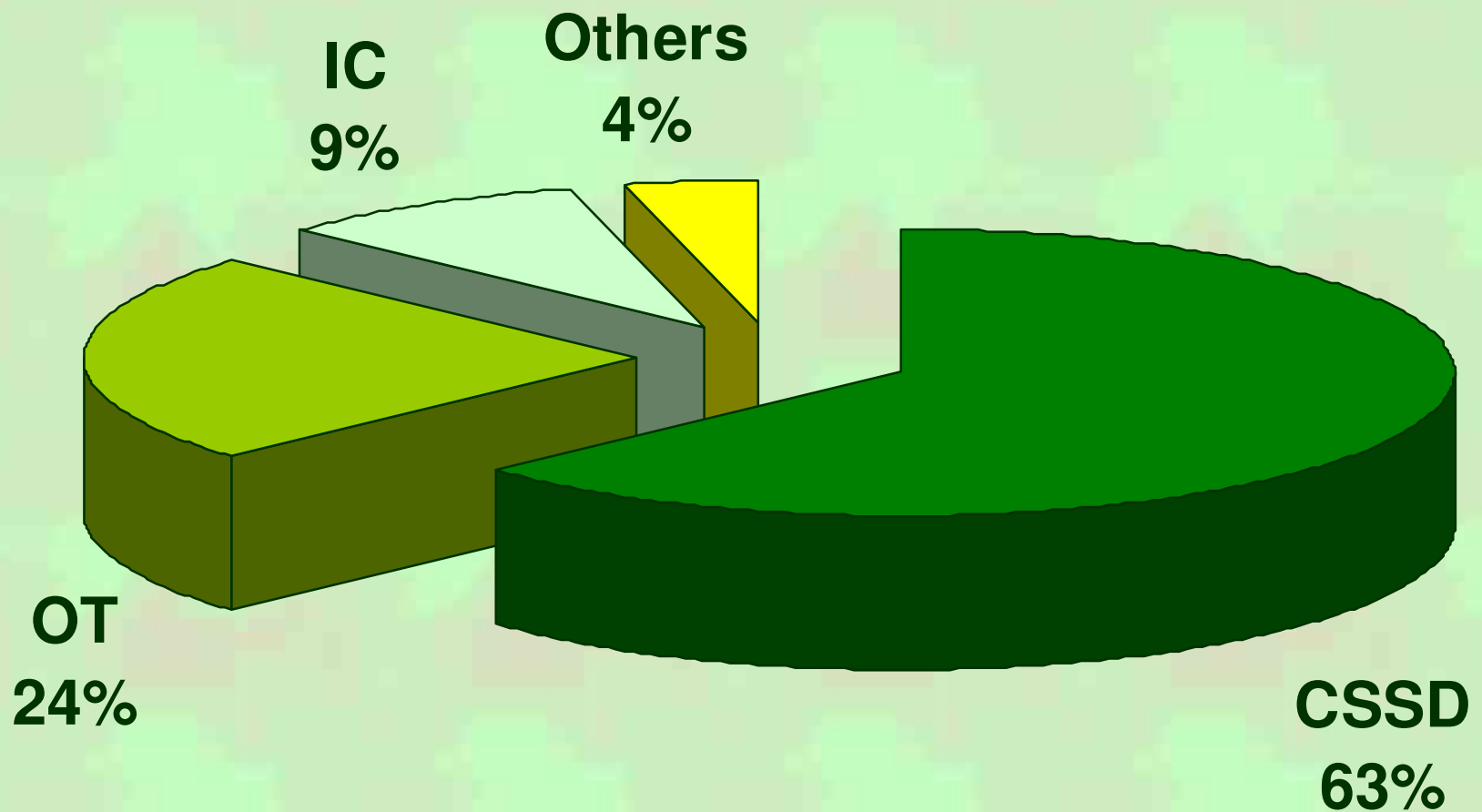
Pharmaceutical,  
food, medical  
devices

Industry  
13%



Healthcare  
87%

# CSSD vs. Others



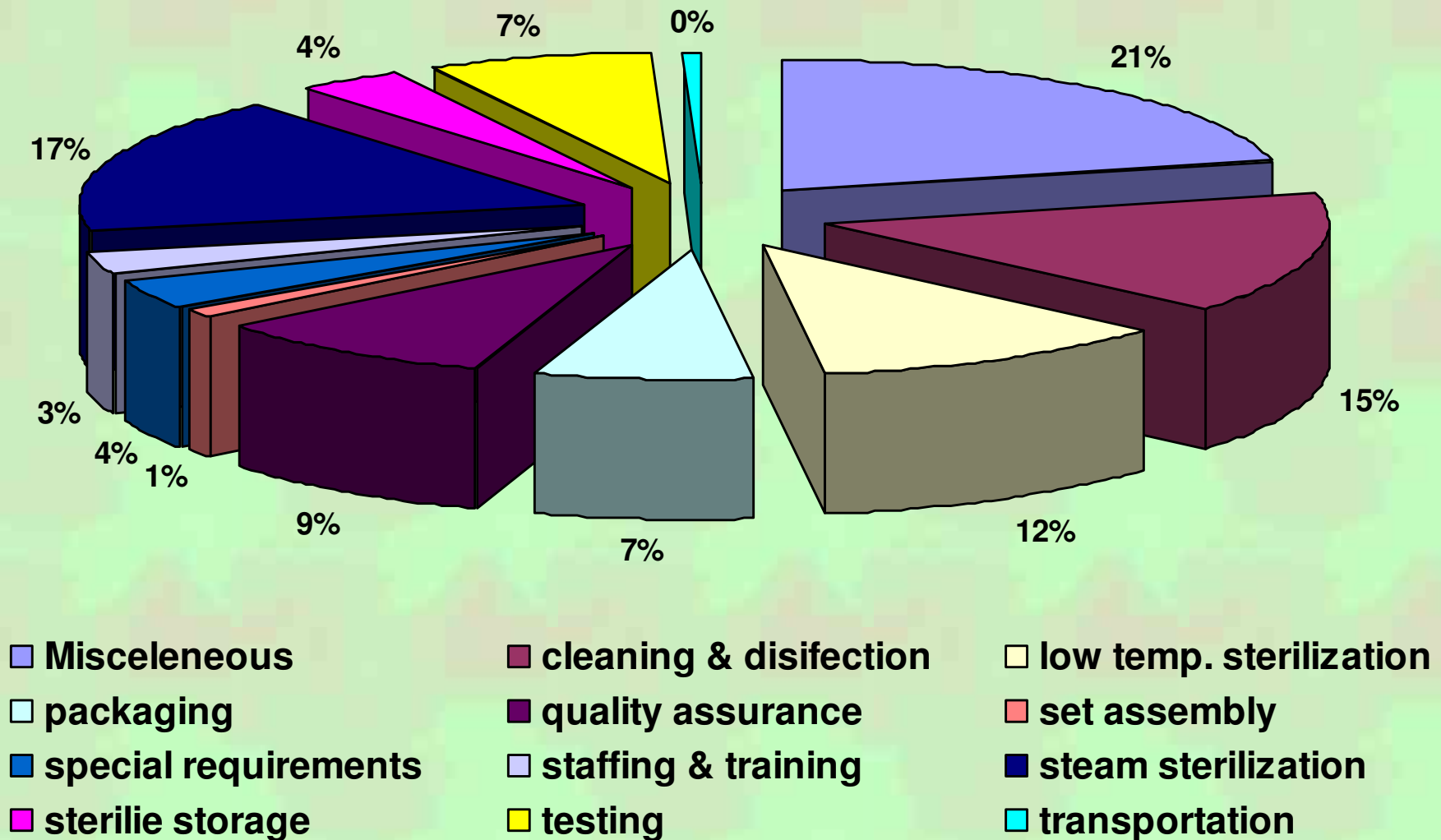
# Relevancy

- **>10% of the threads are non healthcare related (industry)**
- **<10% of healthcare related threads are not related to decontamination of medical devices (surface/skin disinfections, OT aseptic technique, etc.)**

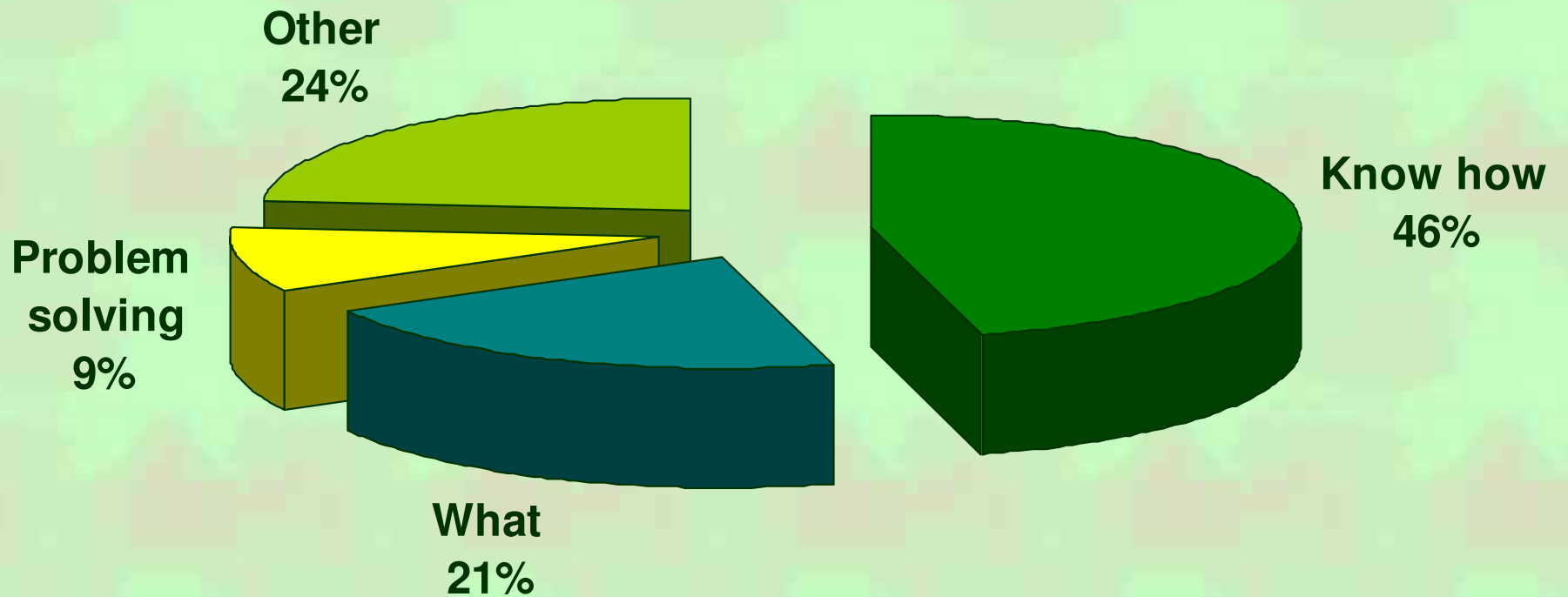
**Moderate – high relevancy**



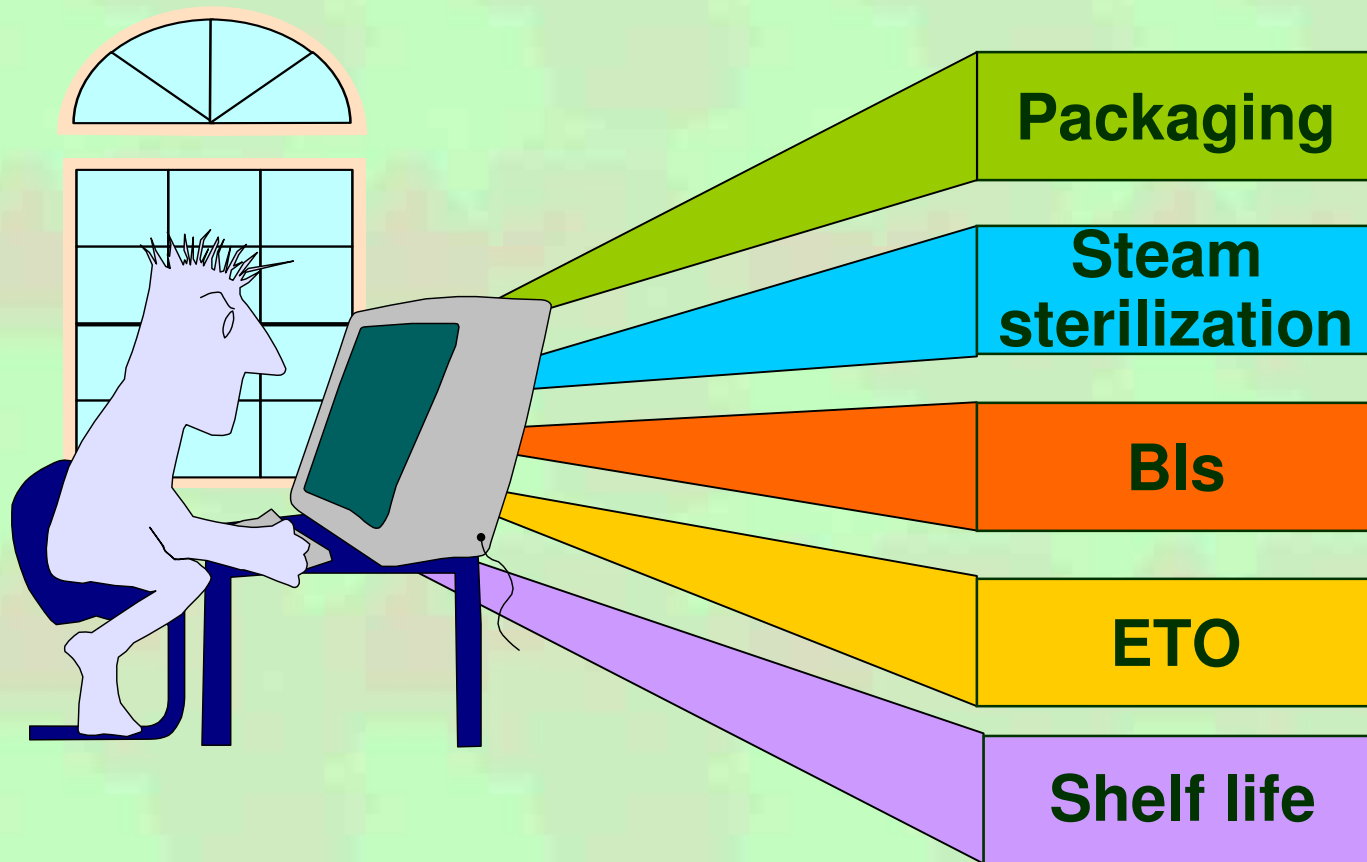
# Subjects According to WFHSS Categories



# Main Categories

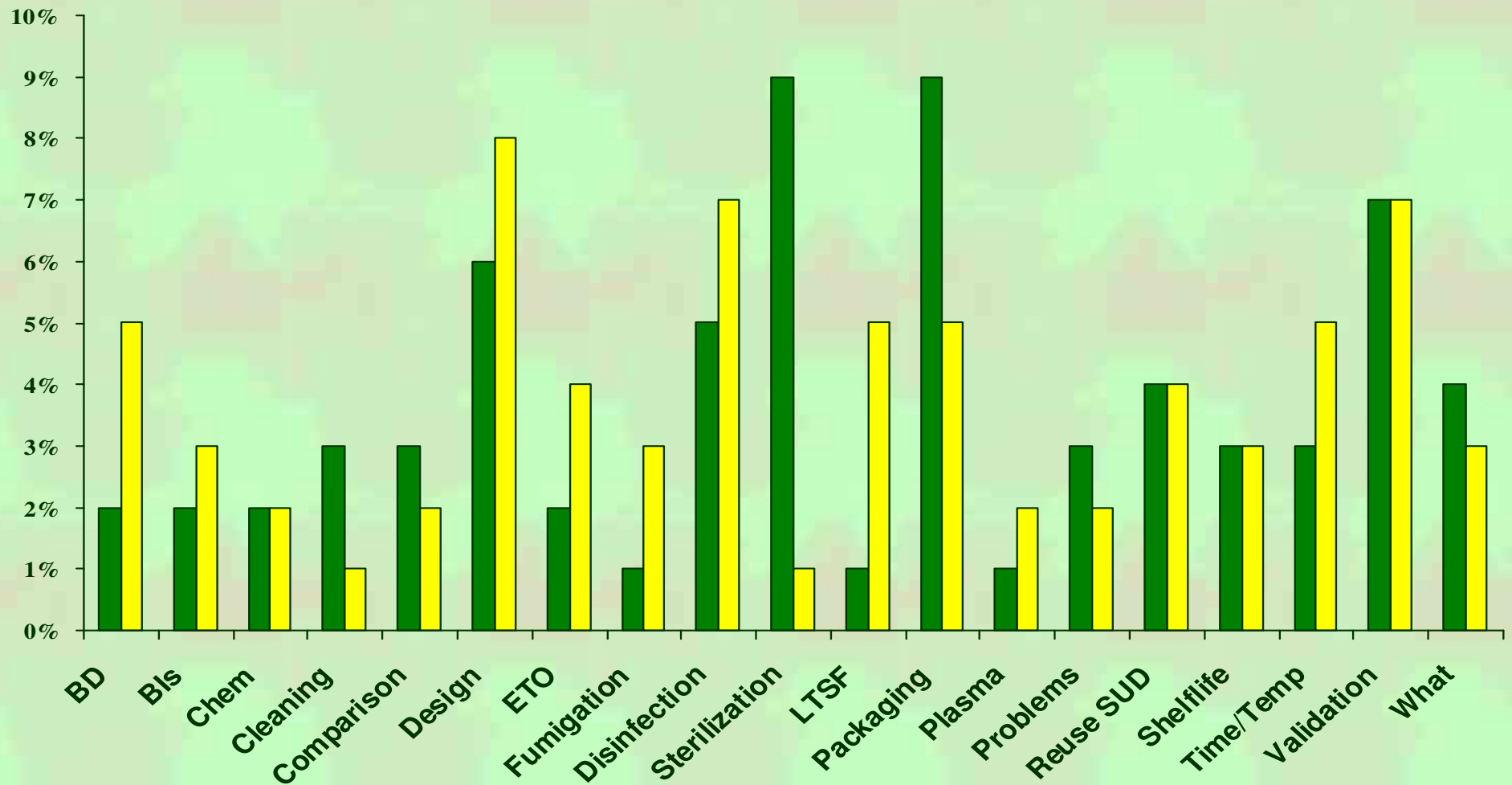


# FAQ According to Analysis

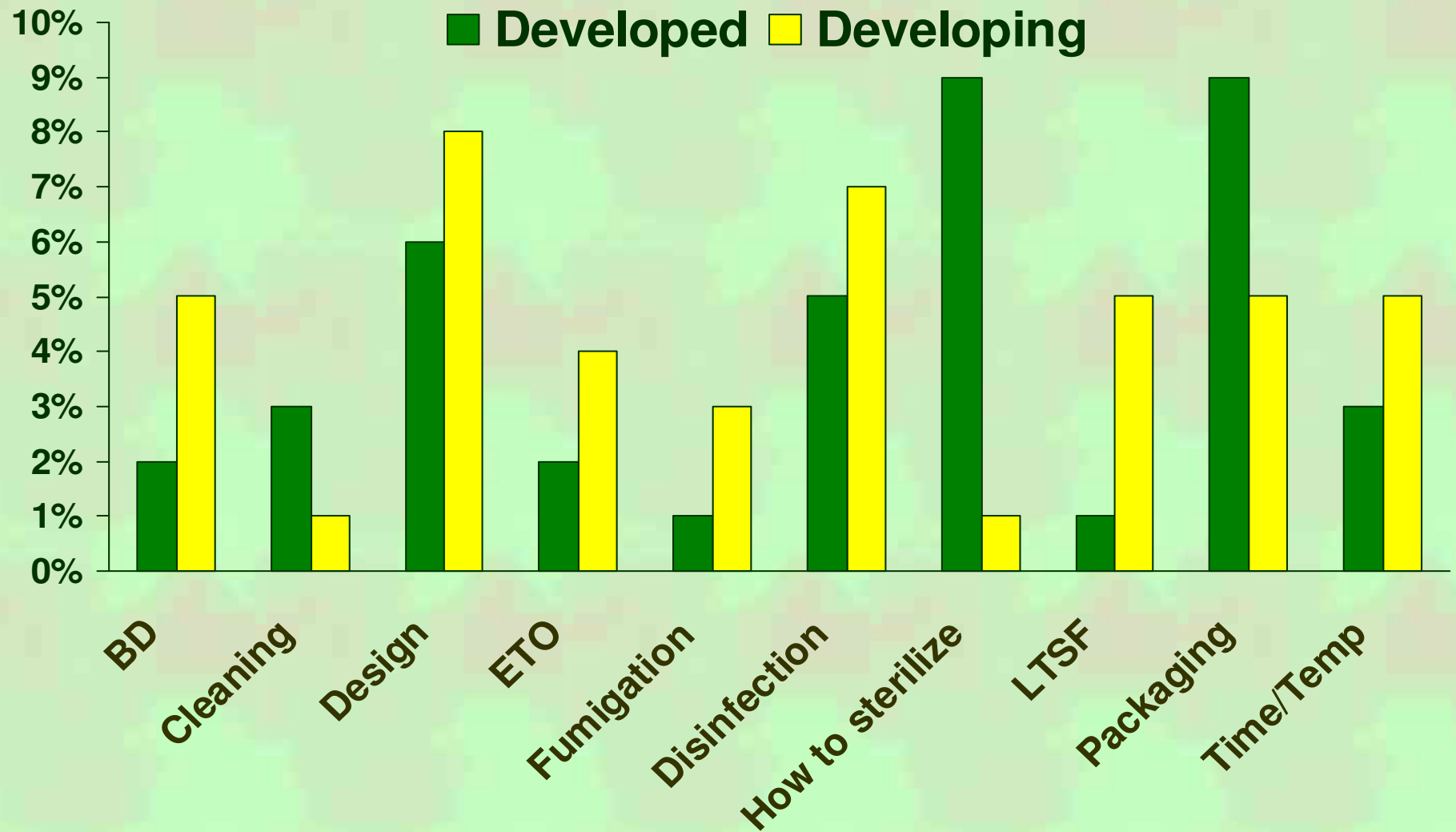


# Developed vs. Developing Countries

■ Developed ■ Developing



# Difference in Categories



# **Main Issues**

## **Developed vs. Developing Countries**

### **Developed**

- **Packaging**
- **How to disinfect**
- **How to clean**
- **How to sterilize**

### **Developing**

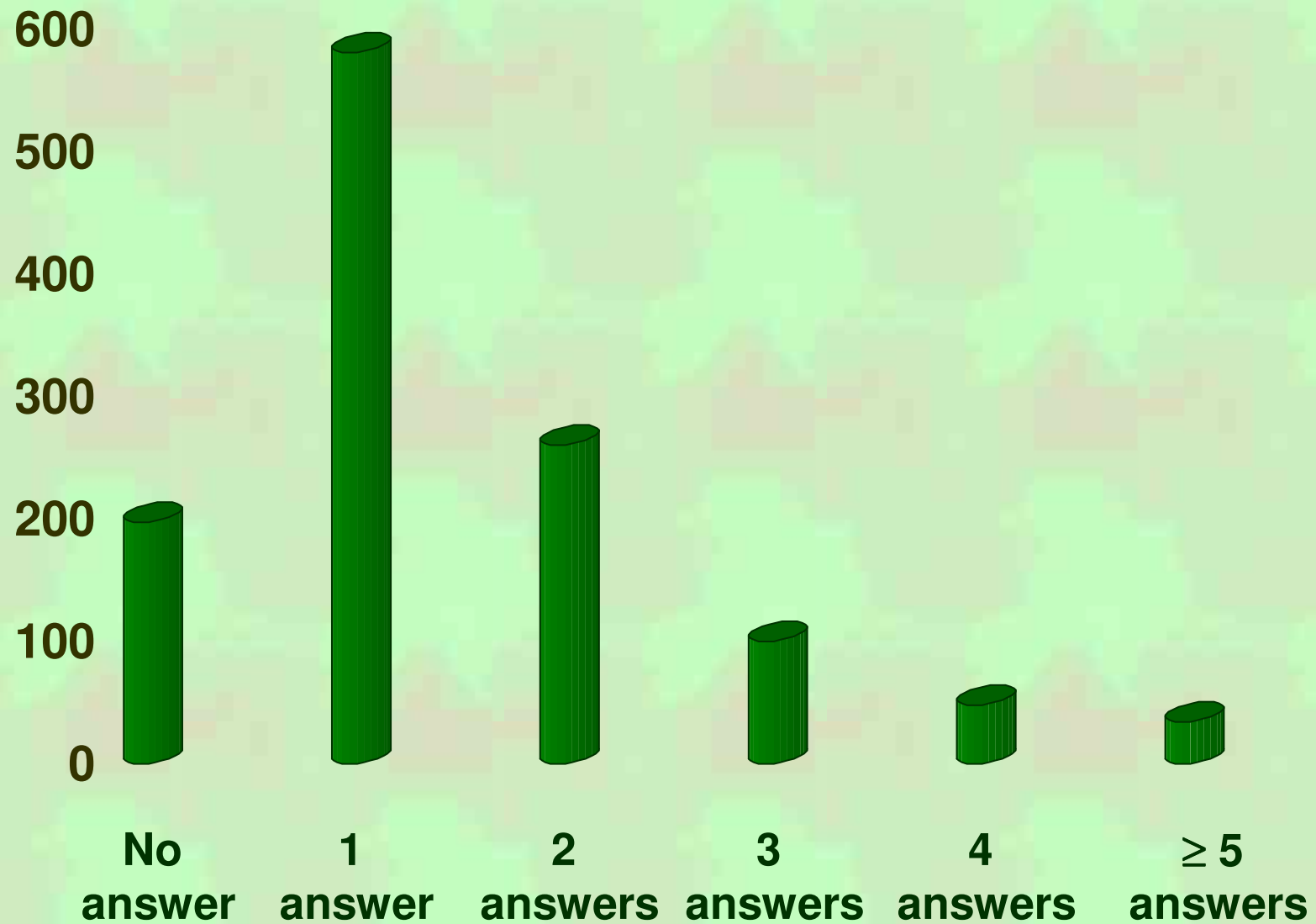
- **B-D test**
- **Design considerations**
- **ETO**
- **Fumigation**
- **LTSF**
- **Time/Temperature relationships**

# Repetitions

**21% of the questions are repetitions**



# Answers per Question





# Level of Knowledge Construction

## Medium

**Application**

0 (0%)

**Testing  
hypotheses**

42 (1%)

**New ideas**

423 (14%)

**Dissonance**

534 (18%)

**Clarification**

2012 (67%)

# Conclusions

- **There is a constant growth in WFHSS website visits and Q&A forum use**
- **The geographical spread shows worldwide interest**

# **Conclusions (cont.)**

- **Moderate-high relevancy**
- **Knowledge gap between developing and developed countries**

## **Conclusions (cont.)**

- **21% of questions are repetitive**
- **Level of knowledge construction is medium**

# Summary

- **WFHSS questions and answers section is a relevant useful resource for healthcare professionals who are engaged in sterile supply related topics**
- **The worldwide use of the website is a proof to an ongoing need to facilitate education programs**

A large, stylized graphic in shades of blue and cyan, resembling a hand or a wing, positioned on the left side of the slide. It has a thick, brush-like texture.

**Thank You**