Identity, Community and Social Participation: What do these have to do with the Art and

Science of Practicing Together? A study with SciCurious Science Gallery Melbourne.

This year long Research-Creation aims to:

Examine how a successful and sustainable professional learning community of young people such as SciCurious Melbourne build creativity, curiosity and collaboration.

Demonstrate the impact of art and science practice on learning, and better understand the relationship between PLCs-based learning and creative engagement in innovative actions suchas SGM.

To explore close-to-practice research (Lewis, Brooks, Parker & Thomas, 2018) using digital ethnographic methods and research creation to explore practice through the lens of the young creative practitioners. This involves practitioner researchers working in partnership with SciCurious as practitioners.

To develop an international SciCurious global research proposal to take into consideration different cultural perspectives across young people involved in SciCurious programs within the global Science Gallery Network (SGI).

This project is driven by the following research questions:

- How do the benefits that SciCurious members experience as a result of being in the SciCurious group—such as life-wide preparedness; intellectual and creative development in STEAM; personal and professional identity formation; and socialisation in art and science communications—extend into the long-term and manifest themselves in meaningful ways?
- Do young people who participate in SciCurious as a gallery-based leadership program stay connected to arts, science, and cultural organisations later in life? Do they continue to value and participate in the arts, science, and cultural organisations in general?
- Does SciCurious make a significant and original contribution to inviting and preparing young people to pursue academic and professional careers in the arts and sciences? Given the diversity among the young people in this Melbourne-based program, to what extent is
- SciCurious contributing to diversifying gallery participation, and building an audience that practices and supports the arts and sciences?
- Do the benefits of SciCurious—such as increases in offerings for young people as audiences in art and science collaborations; greater diversity of voices in program planning and decision making; and a sense of vitality within the SGM—permeate and transform the Science Gallery Melbourne culture and have a demonstrable, meaningful impact on the University of Melbourne?

Da®ta

- Data will be co-produced with current SciCurious members and SciCurious alumni participants throughas co-researchers to investigate professional learning and career trajectories. Long term data collection includes tracking over time.
- The long term study will build on the data collection in his year-long study that includes online surveys; creative products that emerge from inquiry-based SciCurious laboratories; thematic analysis; collections of ethics approved curated social media posts that include SciCurious or Science Gallery Melbourne images; as well as shared blogs and visual digital research creation inSciCurious meetings.
- The aim of Research Creation is not to reflect on something that has passed, rather speculating, noting emergences within data production and then rework emergences as analysis (Rotas & Springgay, 2014).
- This data will be collected and supported in a data management plan with the Social and Cultural Informatics Platform (SCIP) as a sustainable longitudinal co-participatory digital study.

Phase 1 baseline survey questions 1-10

Q4 - Why did you choose to participate in SciCurious?

I chose to participate in SciCurious because I wanted to meet like-minded people who are also interested in multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary practice / study / fields and the intersection between art and science. Most of the people I know identify closely with either art or science or neither... but not many identify with both.

I have a science background from highschool but am also very creatively minded and curious. I like working in the intersection of different fields of study so that I might see what new ideas can come out of their communion. I was new to Melbourne at the time and wanted to meet people that had these similar inclinations to me, and further, I wanted to get more involved with the arts as that is something I had been quite removed from.

I chose to participate as I was keen to have greater exposure to art-science and science communication in a more creative environment.

I like art and I like science and I like finding ways to bring them together

I chose to participate in SciCurious as it was something new and interesting and different to what I have traditionally been involved in.

I loved the concept of the science gallery and initially, I was just super excited to do something related to it. Meeting like minded people was fantastic.

I have always had an interest in art and had gone to a lot of museums around Europe growing up, now studying Biomedicine I viewed involvement in the gallery as a great way to engage both my interests in one place.

I was interested in the collision of the arts and science as I was working as a chemistry lab demonstrator as well as an active theater practitioner whose works were centered around the artscience field as well.

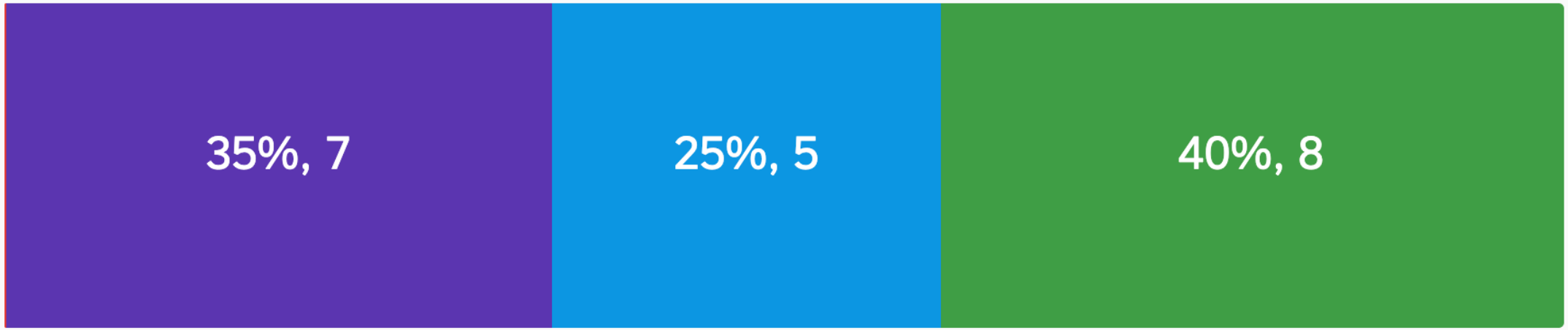
Seemed interesting

I love the idea of intertwining science and art, and so wanted to be a part of the foundations

I work as an artist and I want to move my practive toward the intersection of art and science - SciCurious seemed like a fantastic place to meet people that love and work in this intersection :)

Q5 - What five words come to mind when you think of SciCurious?

Q6 - Which of the following statements most closely describes your experience in SciCurious?



- It has not been a good learning/social/cultural experience for me.
- It has been a very good learning/social/cultural experience for me.
- It has been one of the most important learning/social/cultural experiences I've had.
- Briefly comment on your response

SciCurious has helped me to delve deeper into the world of art science - a field which I was 'curious' about before but never had the chance to engage with. It's really given me an understanding of what's happening in the art science world in Melbourne and around the world.

Knowing I was not alone in my somewhat divergent thinking was incredibly cool for me. I only wish I could spend more time with these people!

It's been great to have exposure in a field I have had very little expereince in

It’s been good but I think it could have been better

It has shown me that I can forge my own path and I don’t have to pick one path or one that in my career/life.

It has played an influential role in the decision of my career path.

I have always felt intimidated by science and technology and like they were not fields I could explore, but meeting people on sci curious with an arts background gave me the confidence to pursue that interest.

The best part about being in SciCurious for me is being part of a group of interested and interesting people. It's great to see how we all come from vary different backgrounds but share a common passion for art science.

Getting to talk about the things I am passionate about, and bringing my unique perspective on tech, philosophy and futurism to the table. + doing this with like-minded people who want to hear me speak!

The best part is being on the forefront of new art-science exhibitions across Melbourne. It's great to see how ideas coalesce and being able to shape the direction of new galleries.

Seeing other people who are excited in things, particularly younger people

the best part of being involved is meeting and interacting with like minded and extremely intelligent people who both offer me ideas and listen to mine. As previously said i have never been involved in anything like this before and at first i was very nervous given that i am younger than most, but now i feel as though my opinion is just as valid as everyone else's. i have learnt about so many new and emerging technologies, societies, discoveries etc.

Having discussions with people who have very different backgrounds and situations to me. We might discuss topics that are important to us, but find that we have very different views that help open our eyes to new ideas and possibilities we wouldn't otherwise consider

Meeting people that think art and science are both equally valuable and can contribute to each other.

My performance in school

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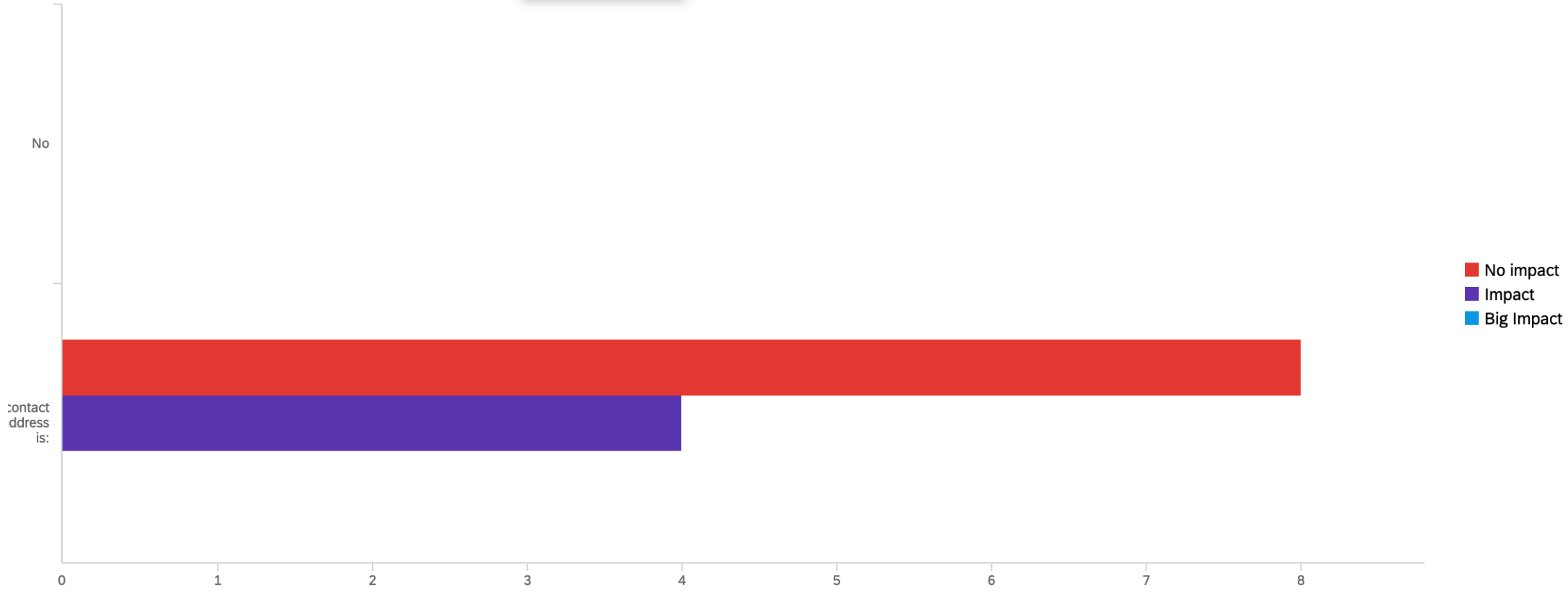

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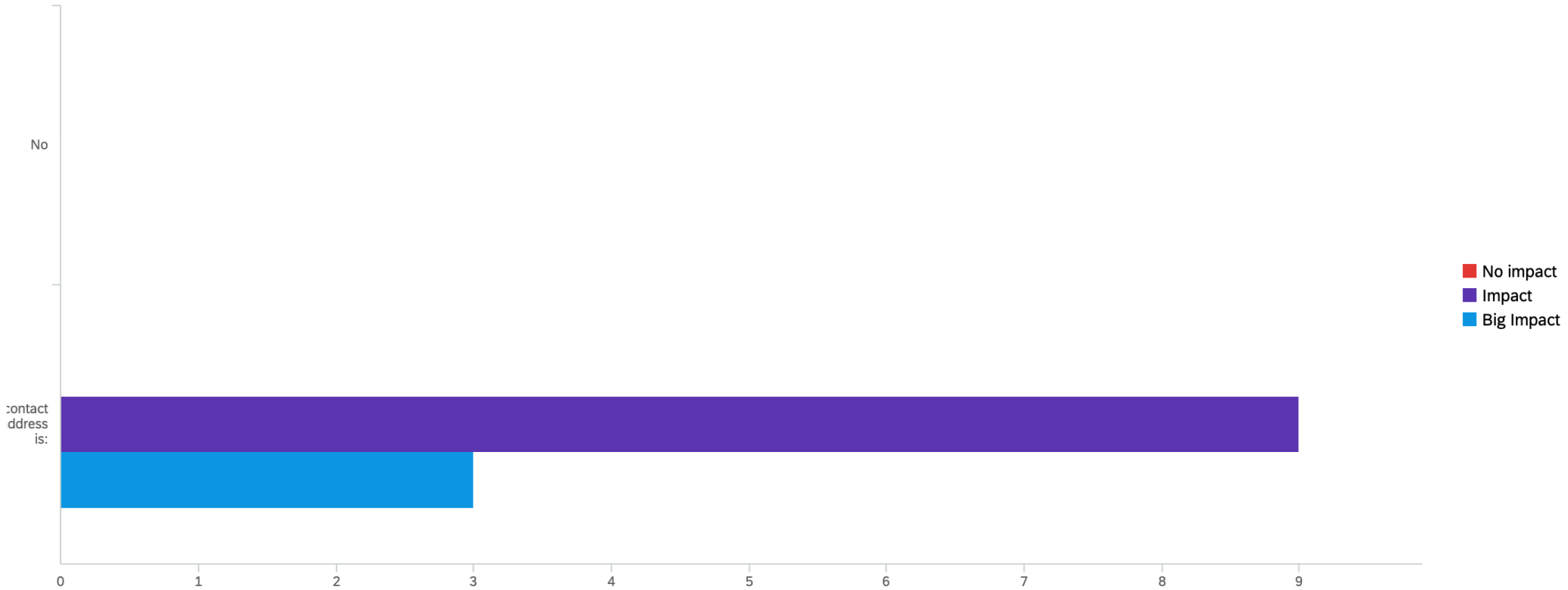
My job/career choices



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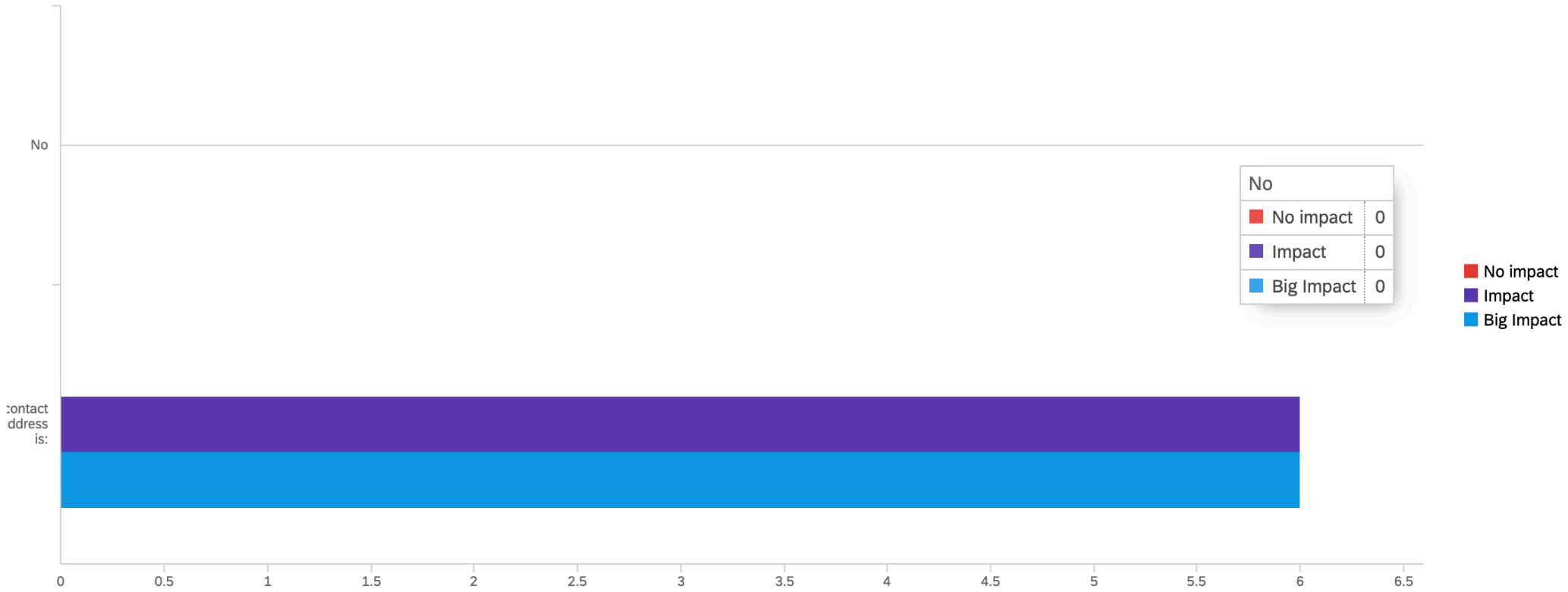
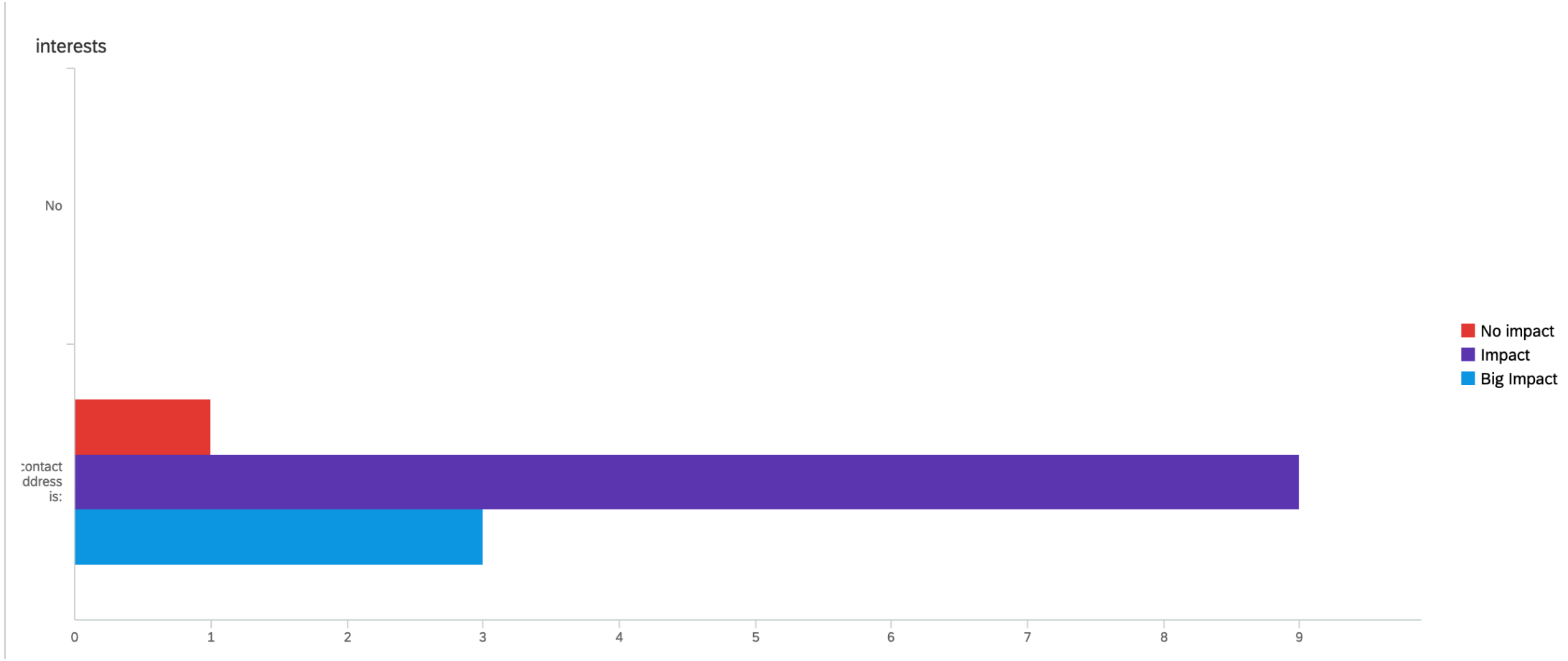
My awareness of my strengths, weaknesses and interests

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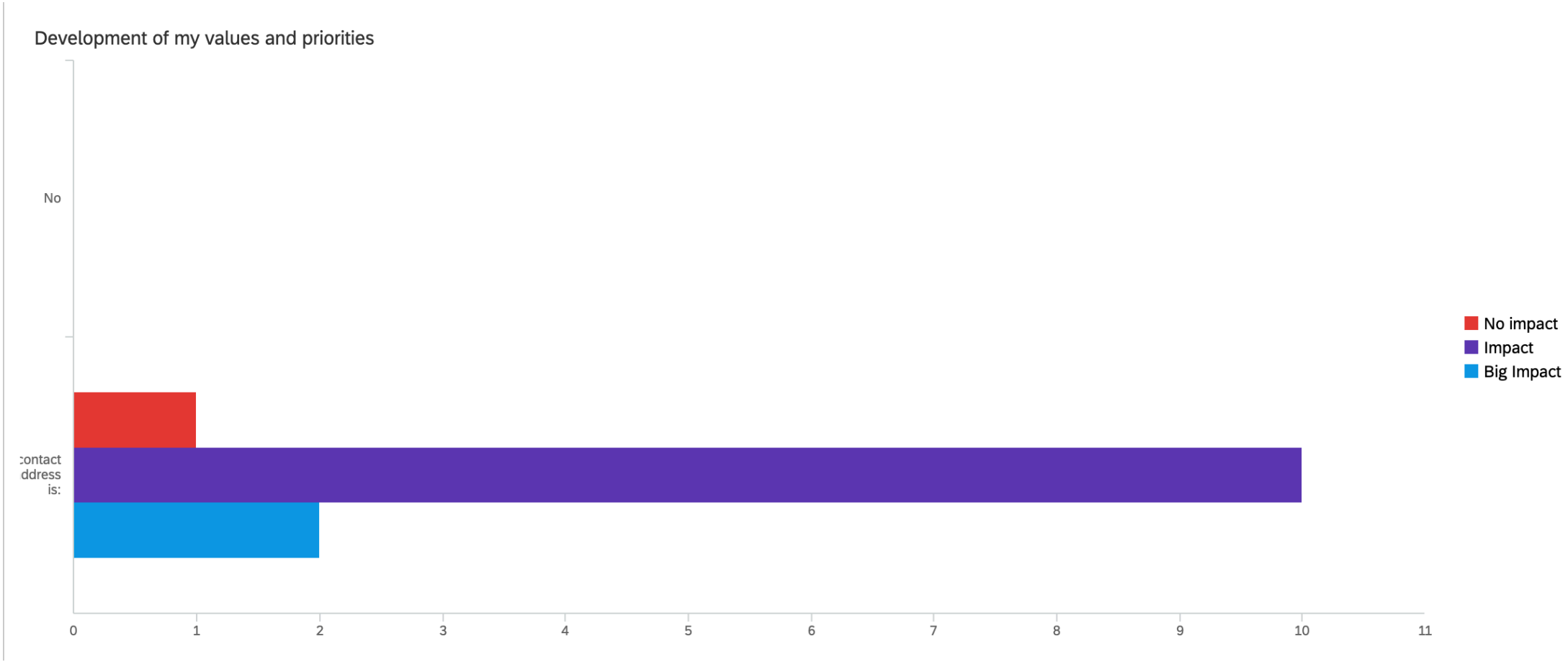
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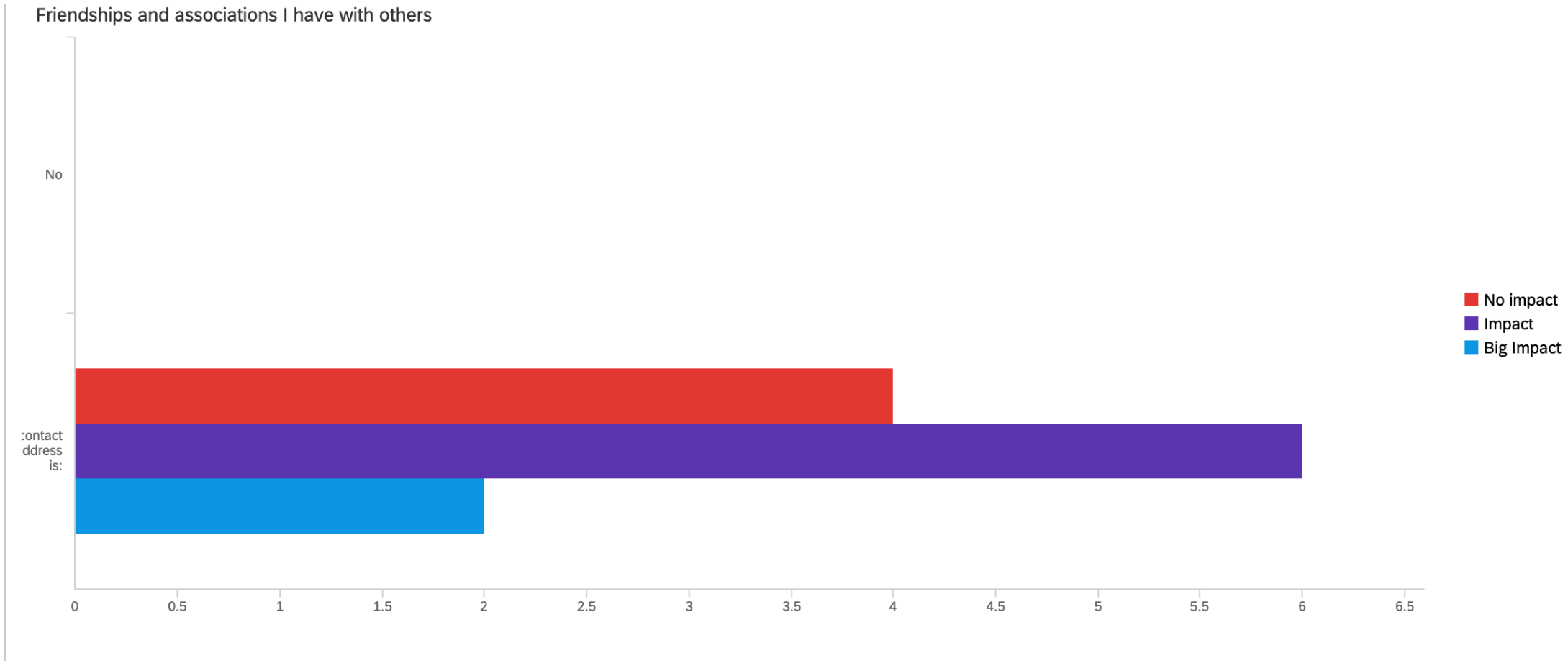
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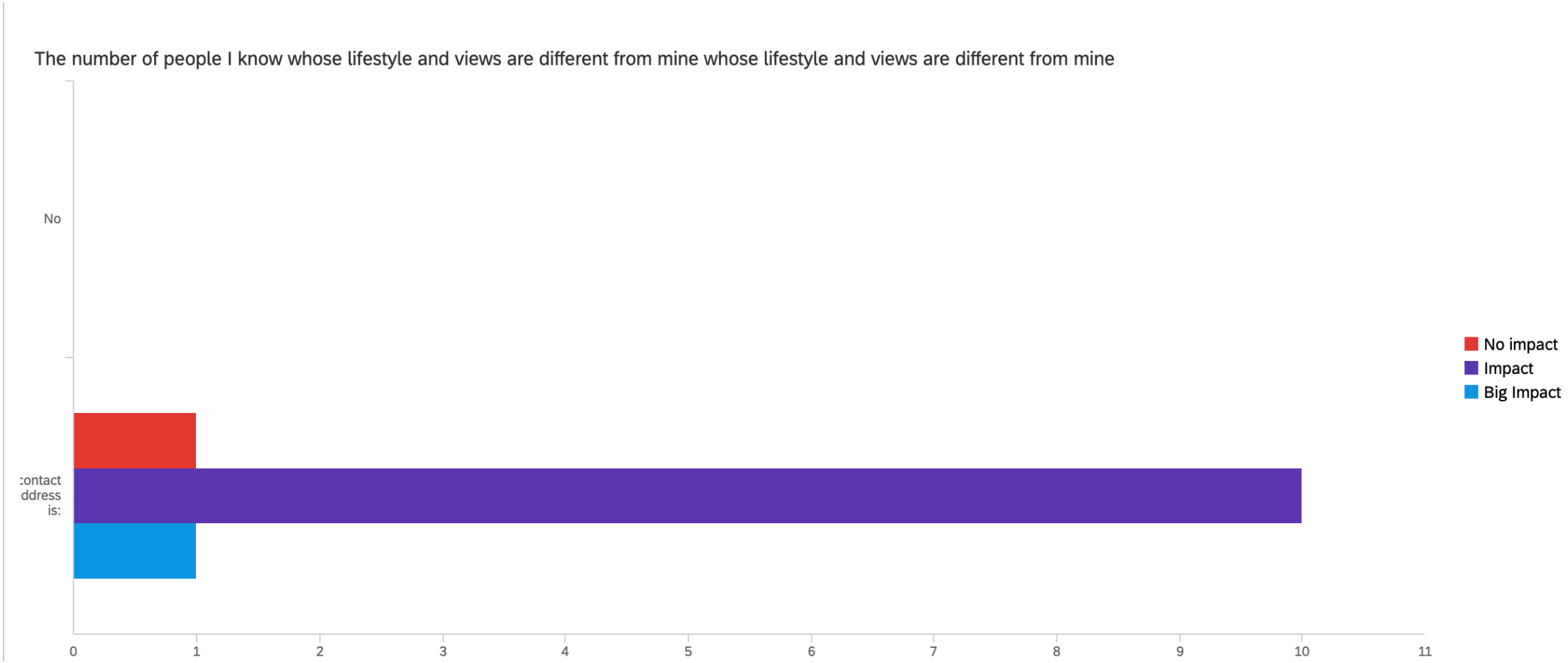
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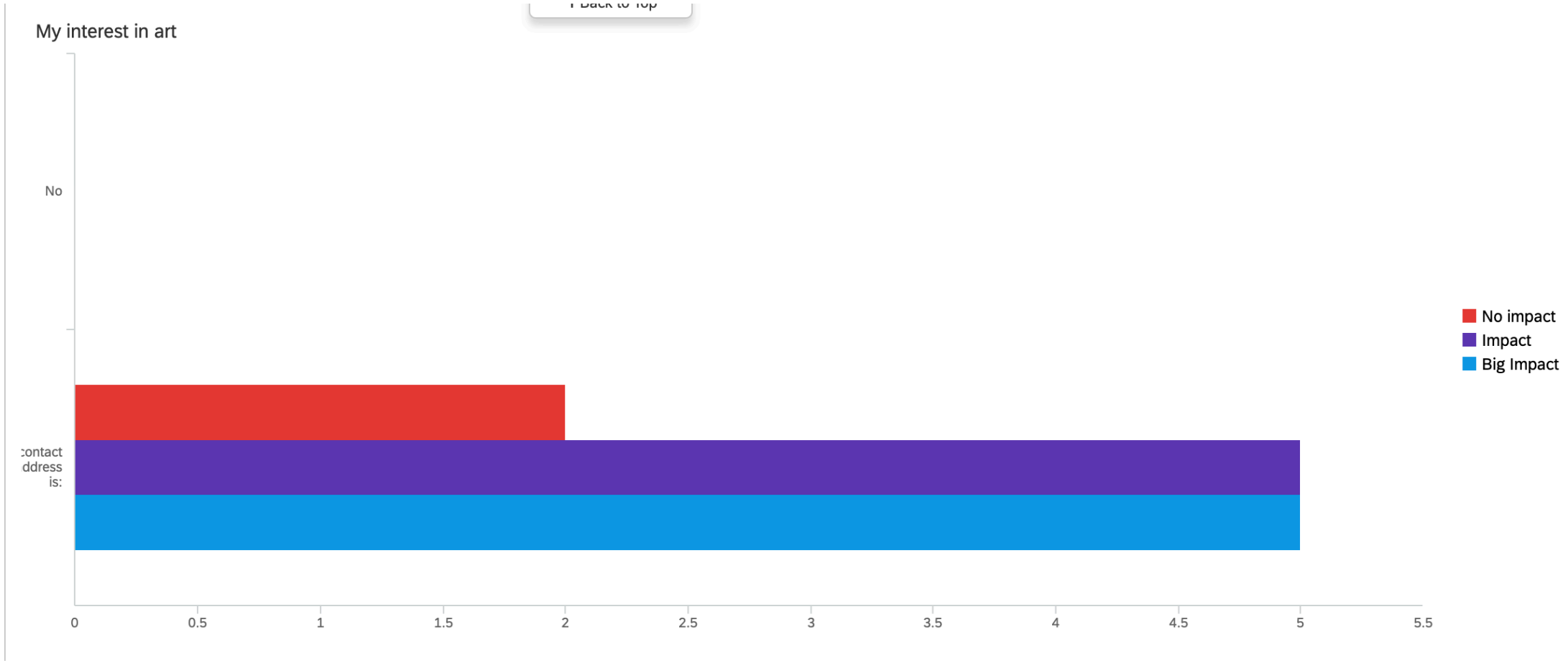
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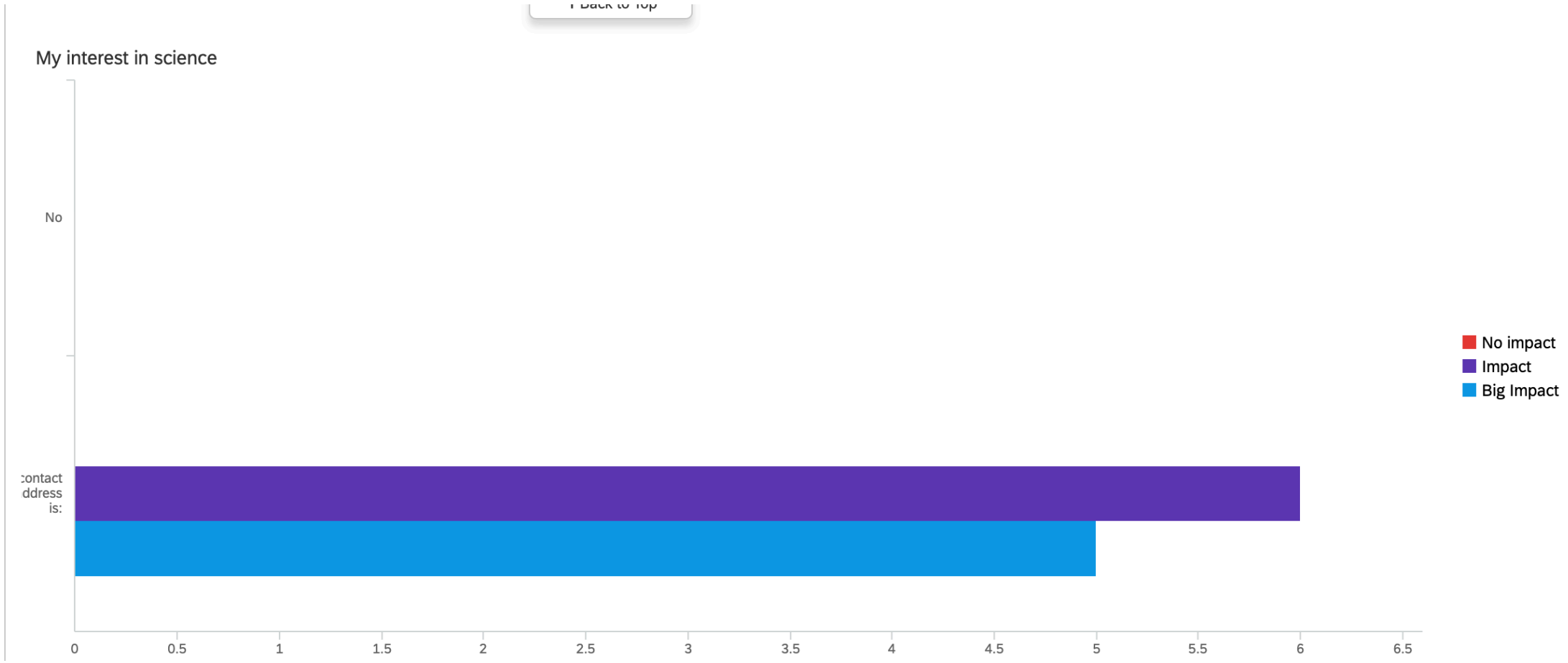
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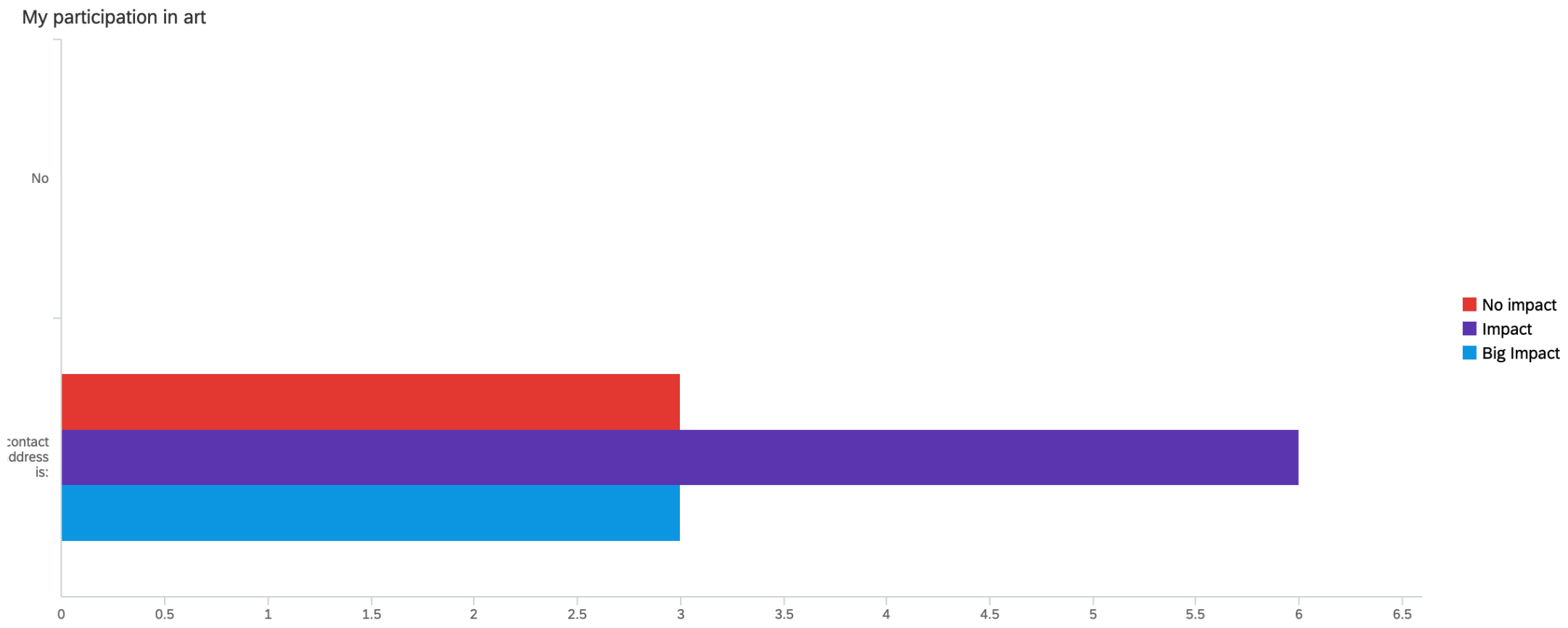
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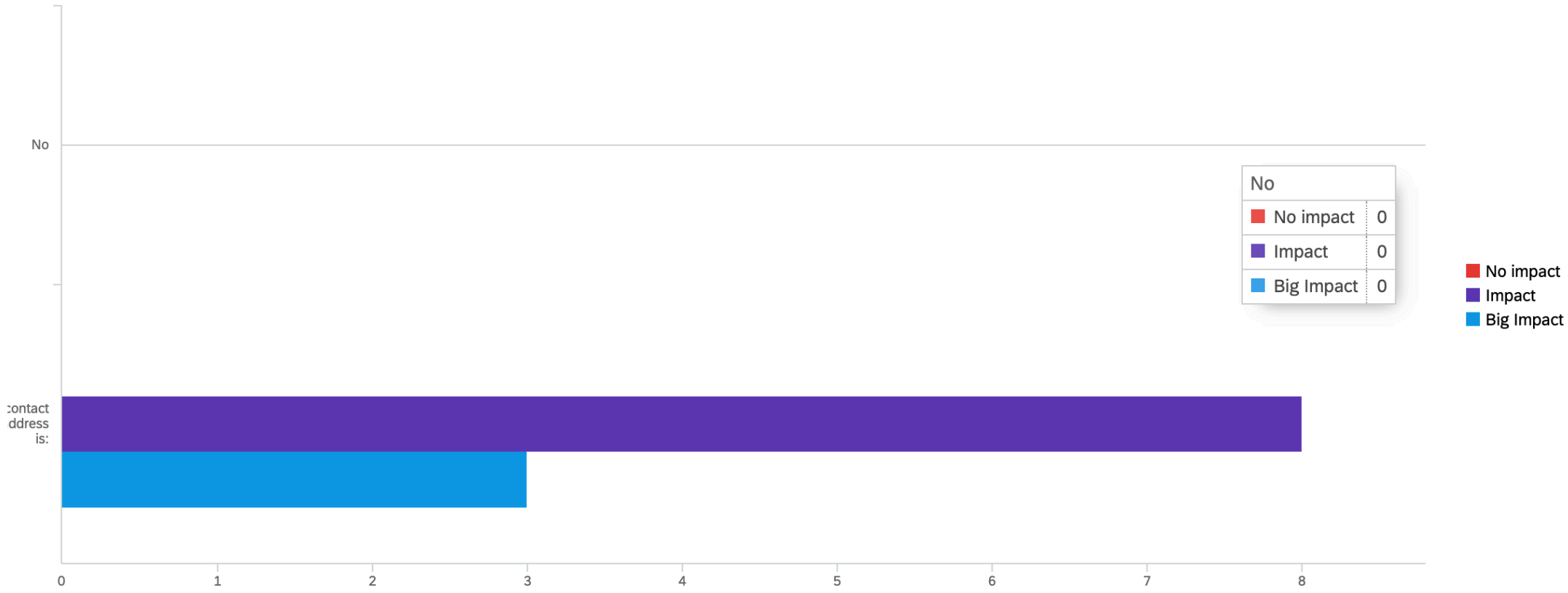
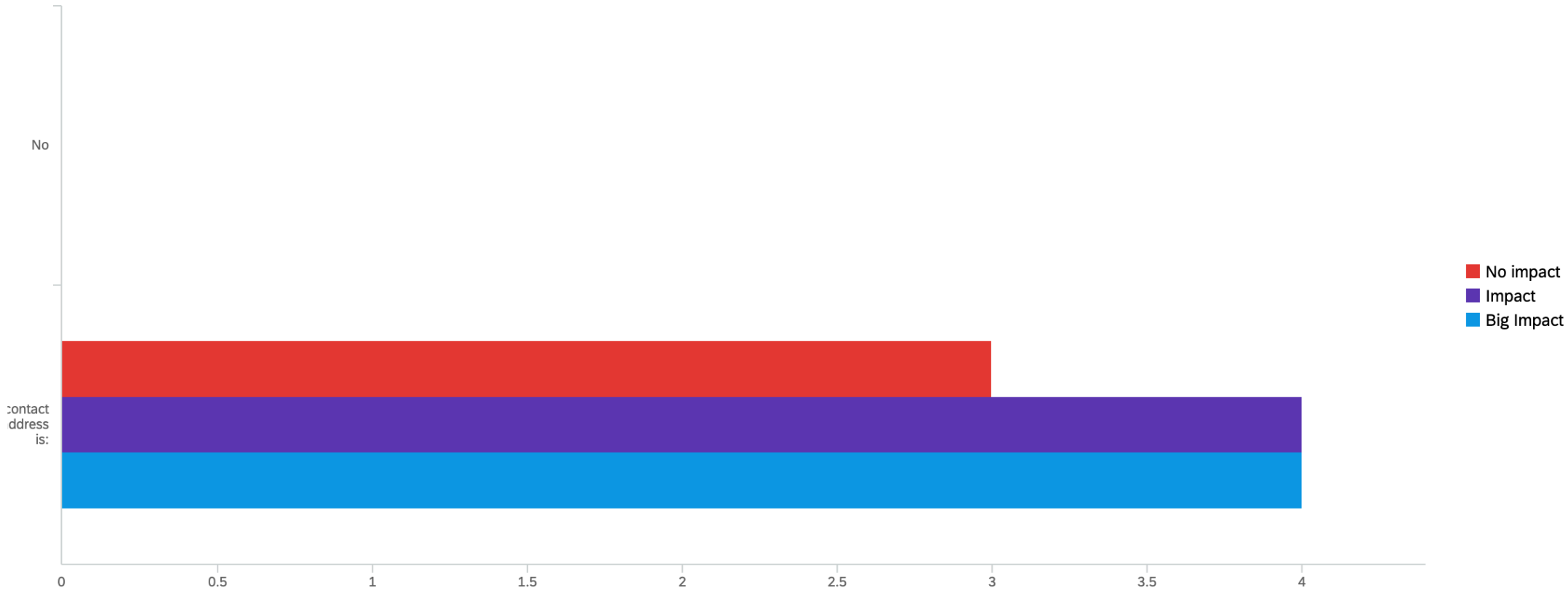


My knowledge about art



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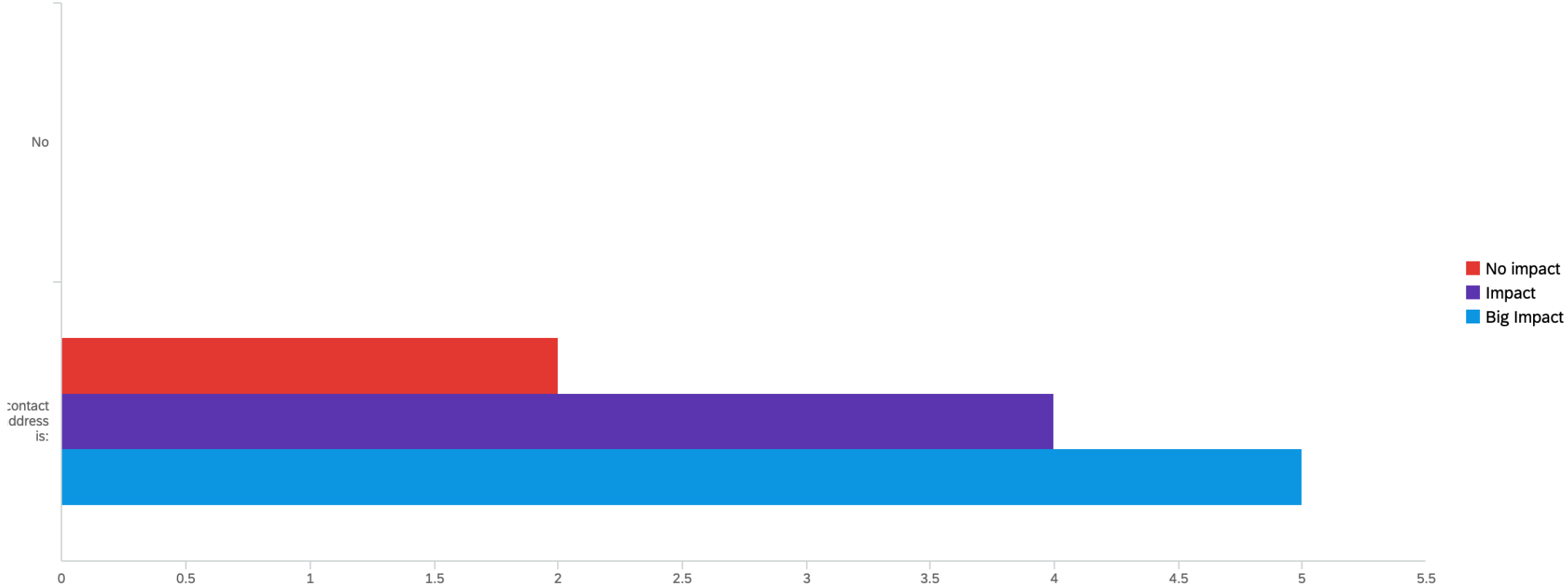
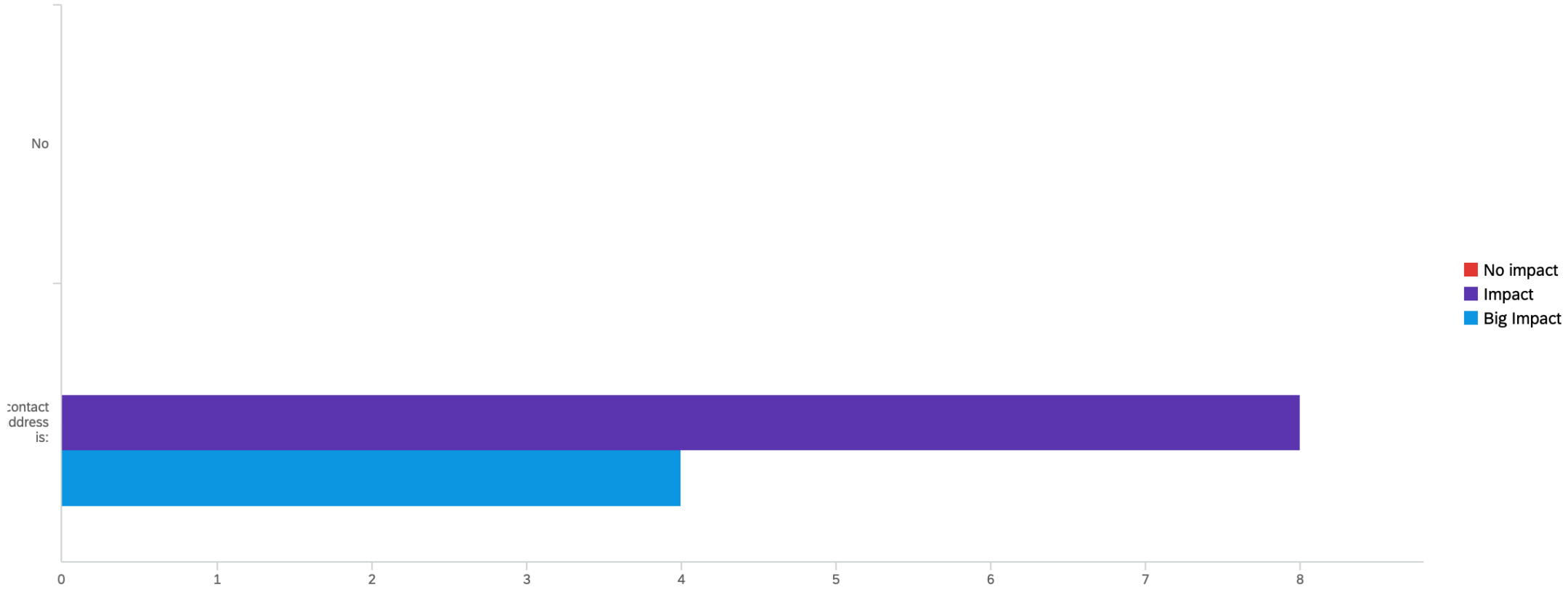
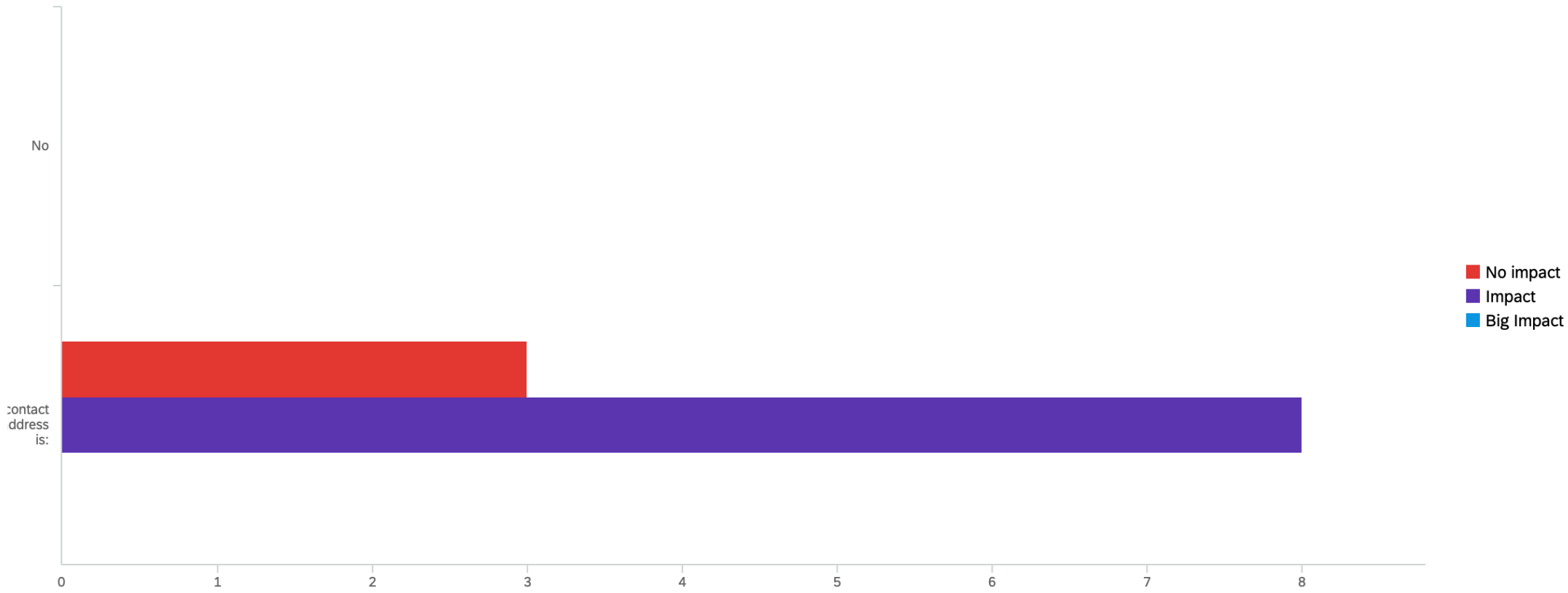


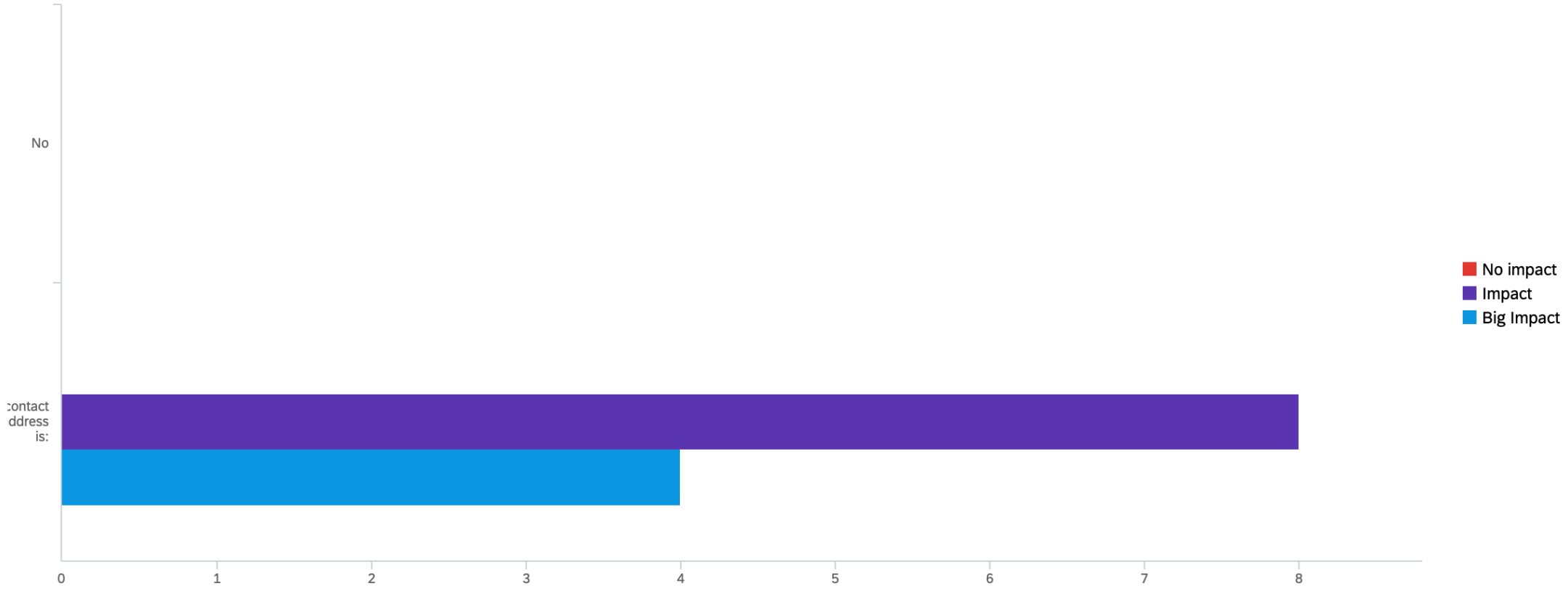
My ability to bring broad cultural knowledge to situations



My ability to set goals, solve problems and make decisions



My ability to motivate and engage others' opinions and ideas in a group



Q9 - What is the best part of being involved in SciCurious for you?

Q10 - Have you ever faced a situation in which your SciCurious experience influenced what you thought or how you acted?

Over the years, I've dragged a lot of my friends to Science Gallery lectures and events (especially during Perfection), which I probably wouldn't have done had I not been involved in SciCurious. The events have allowed me to share my interests in art science with my friends and they've given us really provocative and engaging experiences.

I think very broadly SciCurious has increased my engagement with the arts, and I have since seen my life pivot to a direction where I am constantly seeking new ways of trying to engage my creative muscle. I now believe that being a maker is integral to my personal development & overall life satisfaction, as well as an important method of change-making & science communication.

My experience from SciCurious has helped me within my science communication and video communication endeavours at my institute.

Unsure

Often at school i recall on SciCurious experiences to my advantage to benefit both the learning of myself and others. I have also advised peers to try get involved/follow the journey of SGM and even attend past exhibitions.

I would say all of the time. It broadened my horizons so much and gave me the confidence to pursue multiple passions at once. I can now see how they fit together and I can argue for the value of interdisciplinary practice.

The way in which I was able to see the gallery valued the ideas and contributions of the youth advisory team was a different experience to previous committees I had been on. For such a large organisation, their interest and receptiveness to our ideas was great. Being able to brainstorm and really work with others from diverse backgrounds (both culturally and in the ideas and experiences everyone brings) has helped me become a much more effective team member, leader and contributor to discussions.

During our meetings, I would sometimes be convinced otherwise regarding my thoughts on a particular subject. For example, if i thought inserting a myki microchip into your body for convenience wasn't such a good idea, I would have a different view to that matter after listening to opinions from different individuals during our meetings.

I don't think so

My involvement with SciCurious has made me more open to the idea of using different media or ways of expressing myself and messages that I want to convey

Definitely, I have changed careers and pursued a new job and a new field of study partially because of SciCurious