



# 500 Teachers and Growing

The Community of Instructors Using We Are New York

A Survey from the First Year of We Are New York

Paul Kim and Anthony Tassi

October 2010





# Table of Contents

---

- Summary of Survey Results
- Who is Using We Are New York
- Report on Teachers' Use of WANY
- Teacher Feedback and Classroom Activities
- Resources for Teachers

# Summary of Survey Results





## Summary of Survey Results: June 2009 to May 2010

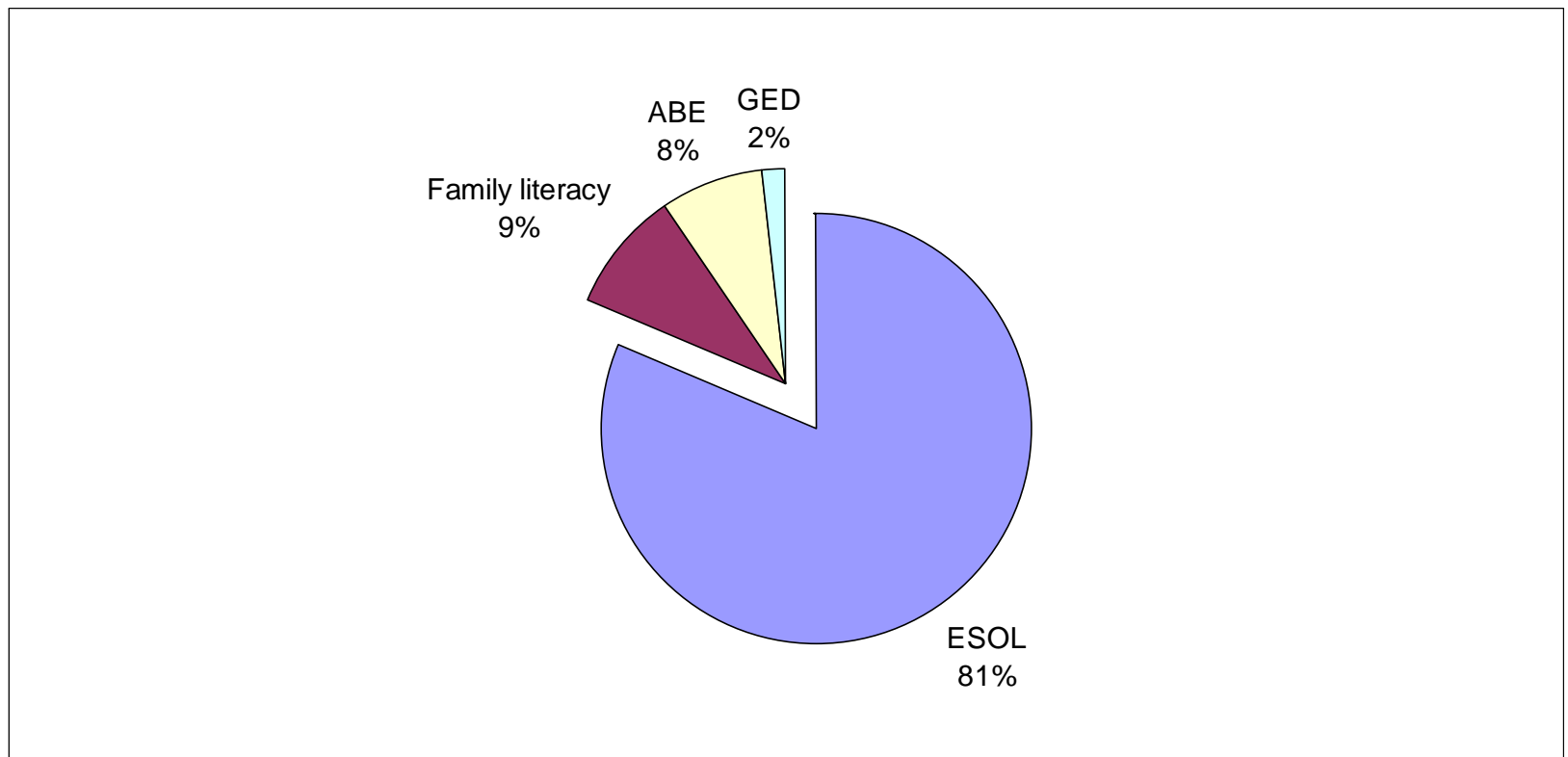
---

- 444 teachers used WANY in the classroom
- 143 more “intend to” or are “interested in” using WANY, but haven’t yet
- 12,911 students saw one or more episode
- Teachers used WANY for 6,989 hours of classroom instruction
- 97% of teachers found WANY to be effective or very effective
- 99% of teachers reported their students enjoyed or very much enjoyed WANY
- No survey respondents reported a bad experience with WANY or heard negative things from other teachers

# Who is Using We Are New York

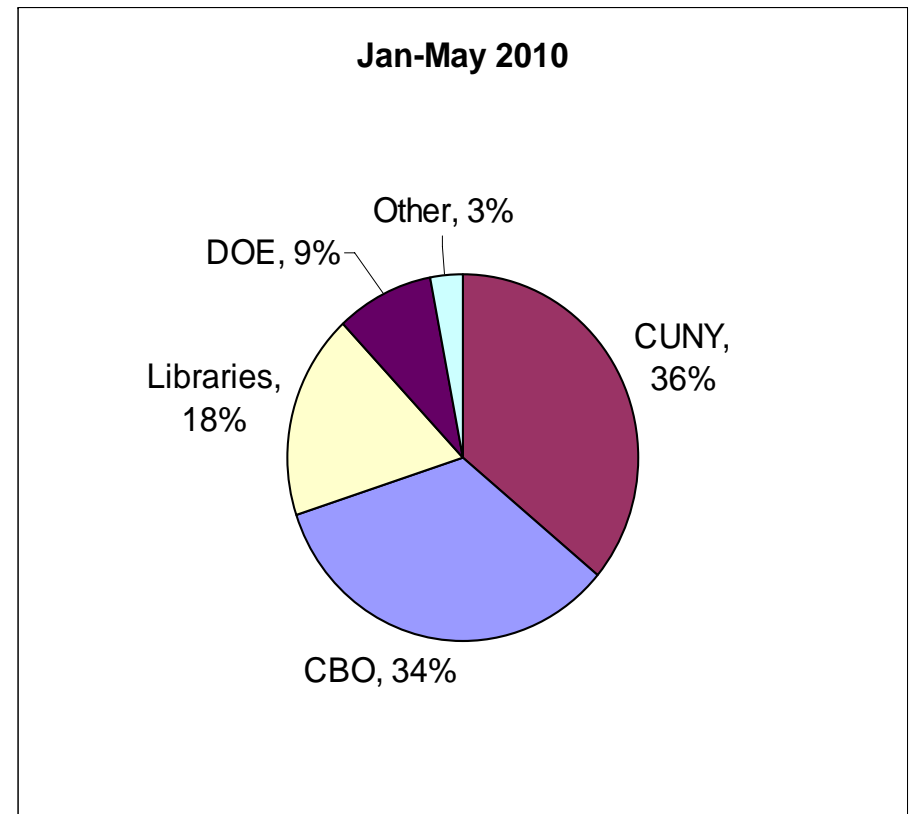
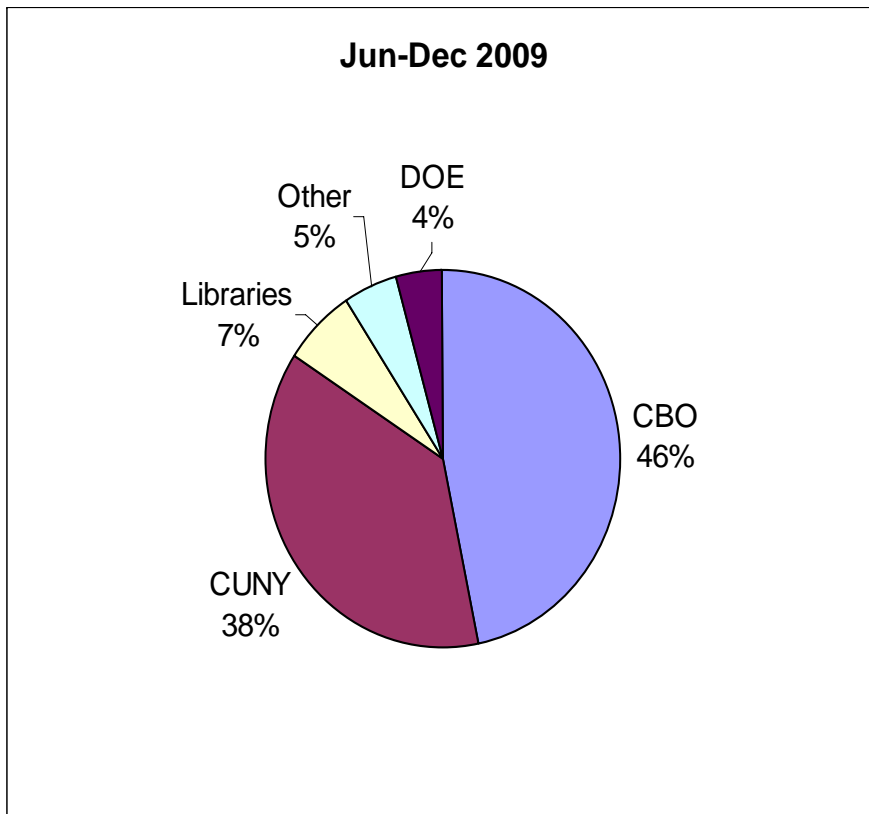


# Most WANY Users Were ESOL Teachers, But 19% Taught Family Literacy, ABE, or GED



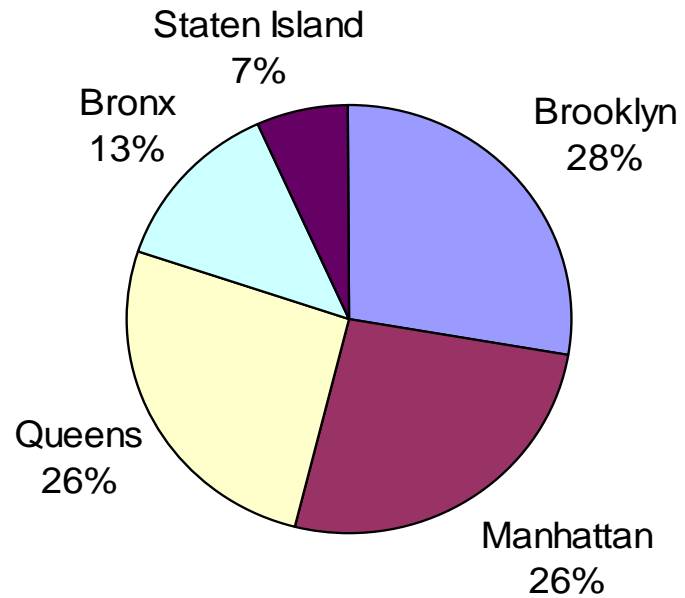
Data from January to May 2010 survey

# Teachers From All Sectors of the City's Adult Education System Used WANY



"Other" includes CWE and HRA

# Teachers Used WANY in All Five Boroughs

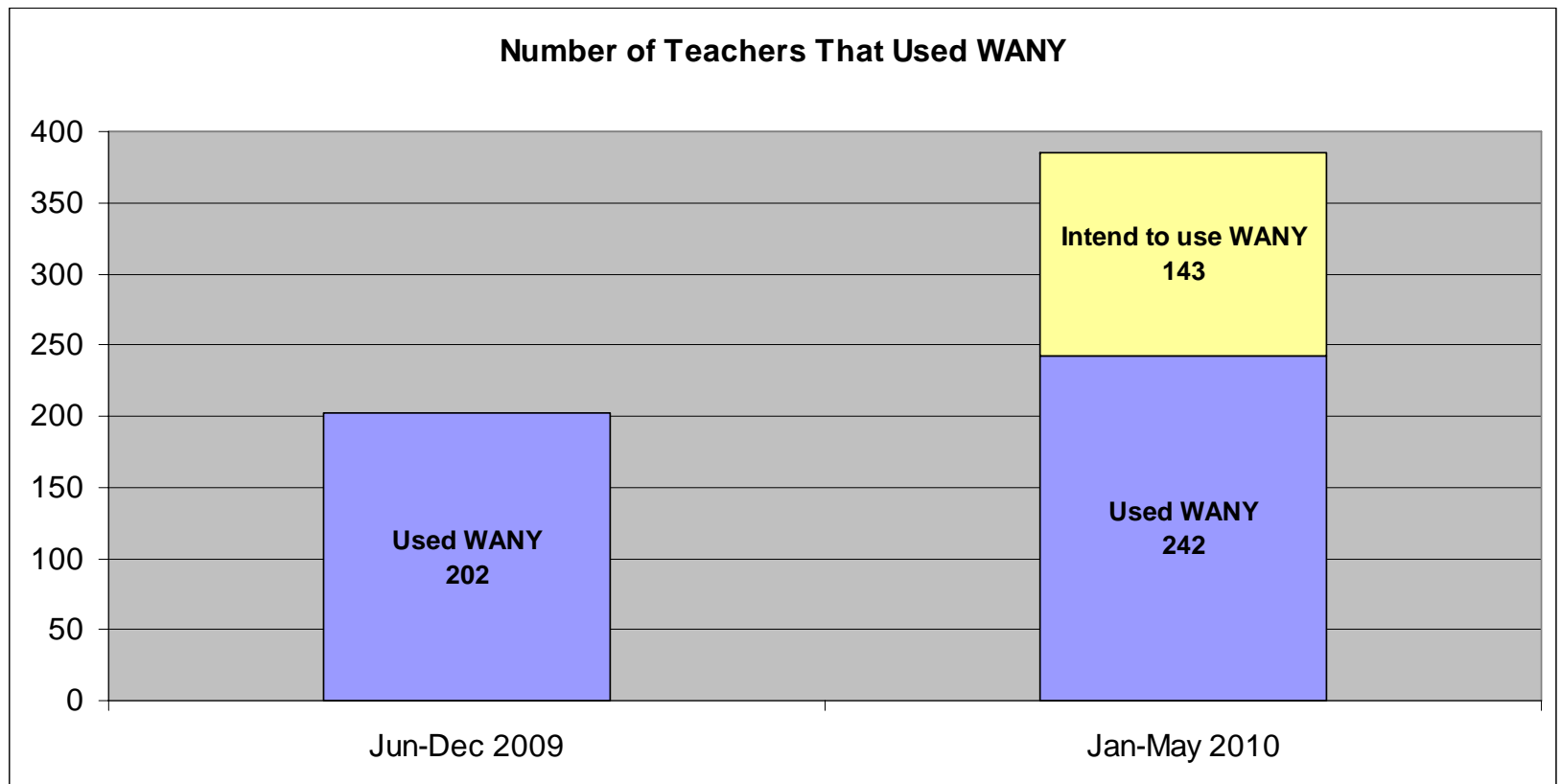




# Report on Teachers' Use of We Are New York

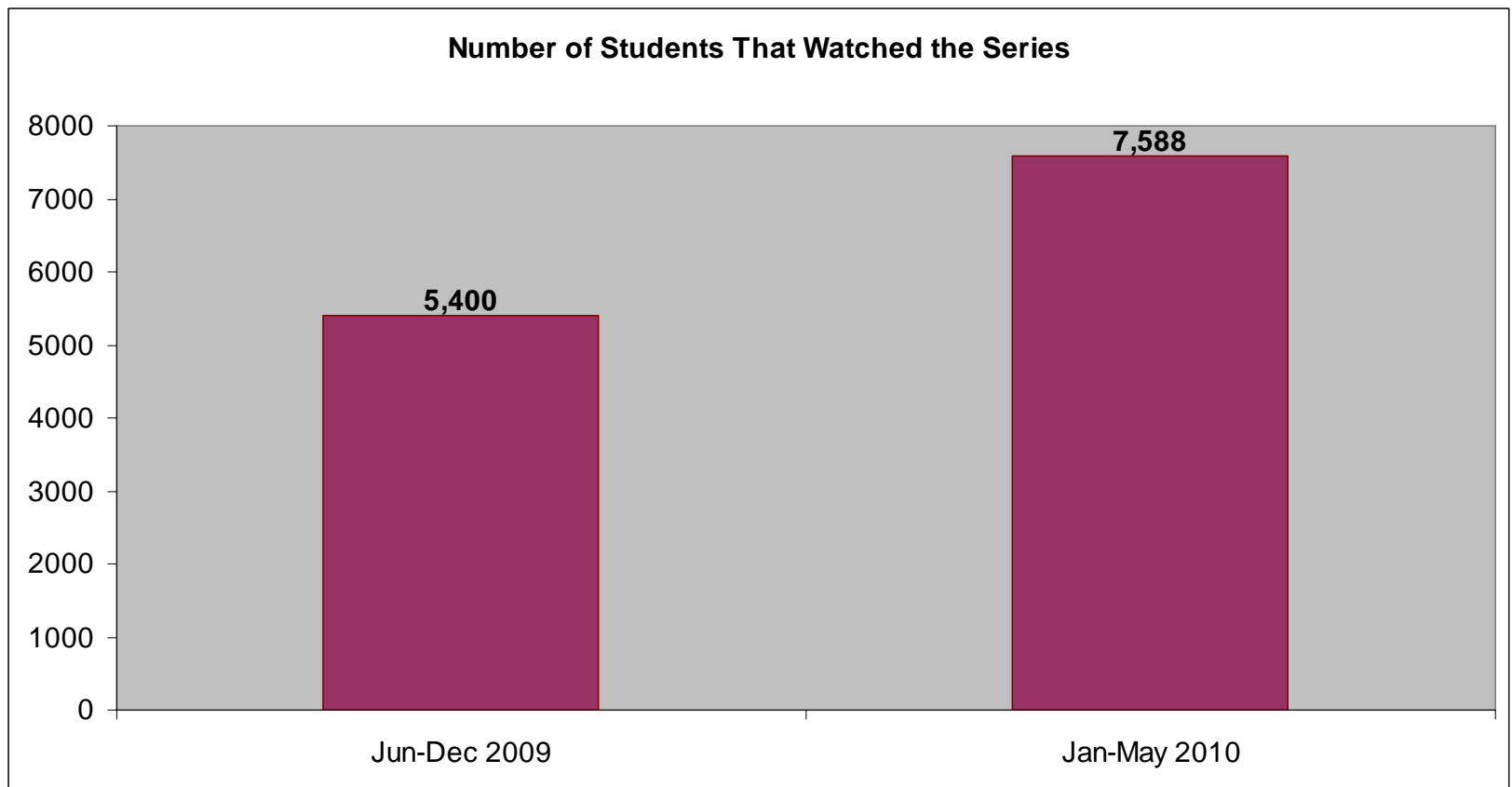


# A Total of 444 Teachers Used WANY from June 2009 to May 2010, and 143 More Intend To



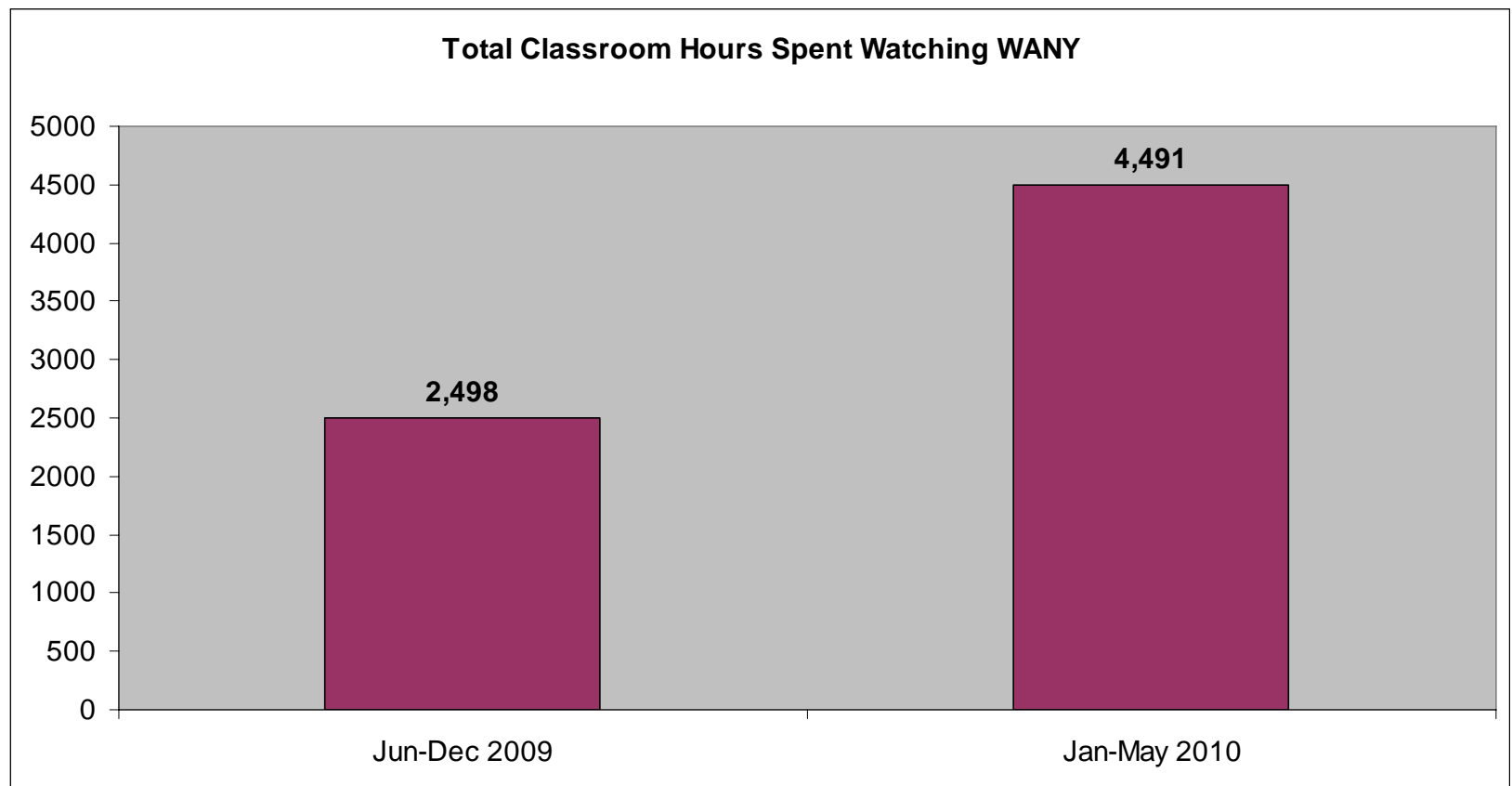
The number of teachers that used WANY increased 20% in Jan-May 2010

# An Estimated 12,988 Students Watched WANY in the Classroom from June 2009-May 2010



**The number of students that watched the series increased 41% in Jan-May 2010**

# Teachers Spent a Total of 6,989 Hours Using WANY in Their Classrooms



**Total classroom hours spent watching WANY increased 80% in Jan-May 2010**

## Teachers Used Some Episodes More Than Others

<b>Episodes</b>	<b>Number of Teachers Who Screened the Episode</b>	<b>Total Classroom Hours</b>	<b>Number of Students Who Viewed the Episode</b>
Love and Money	310	1,098	7,407
New Life Café	274	1,114	6,843
Welcome Parents	264	1,019	6,631
The Wedding	239	833	6,345
Stay in School	223	807	5,537
Asthma: The Soap Opera	219	796	5,219
No Smoking	206	821	4,725
The Hospital	190	655	4,470
Stop Domestic Violence	154	466	3,787

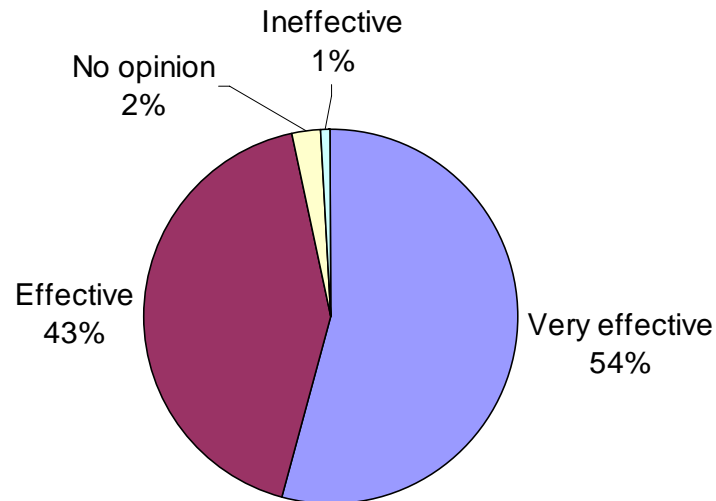
Total classroom hours and total number of students are best estimates for unduplicated counts based on survey responses

# Teacher Feedback and Classroom Activities



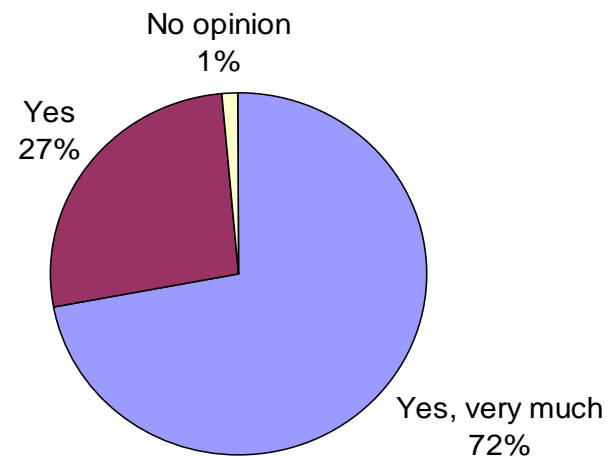
# 97% of Teachers Rated WANY as "Very Effective" or "Effective" in Helping Students Improve Their English

How effective were the WANY episodes in helping your students?



# 99% of Teachers Reported That Students Enjoyed Using WANY

Overall, did your students enjoy the show?







## Teachers Are Using Many Classroom Activities with the Videos

---

- Playing word games (e.g., rearranging sentences in the correct order)
- Students writing their own dialogues (“missing scenes”)
- Students writing letters to the main characters
- Reading the scripts out loud
- Previewing activities to predict the story
- Comparing and contrasting the characters to the lives of the learners
- Role plays

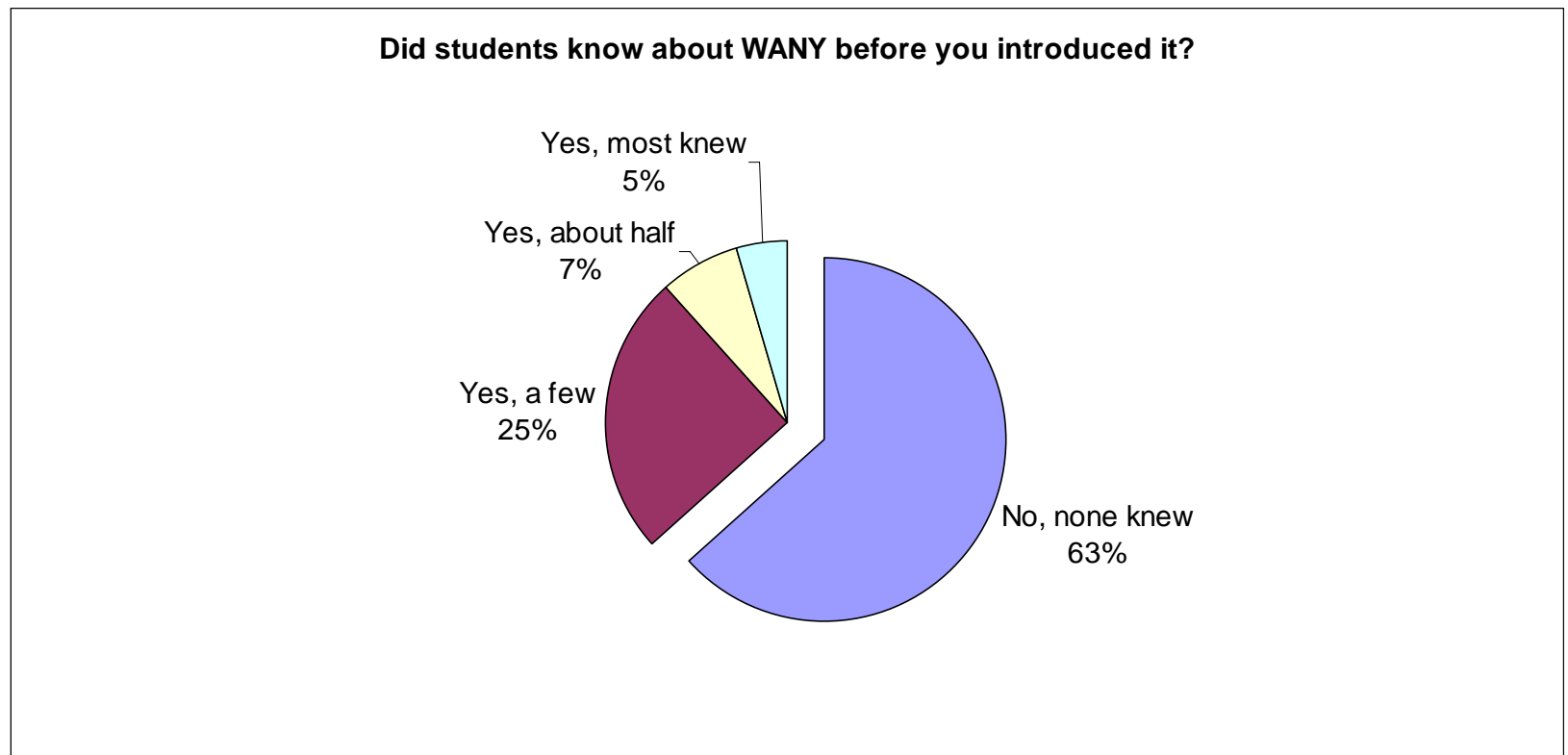


## Teachers Are Also Using Project-Based Learning

---

- Students created a handbook for other parents to use in preparing for parent teacher conferences based on Welcome Parents
- Students took field trips based on episodes (e.g., art museum after watching the Hospital; green market after watching New Life Cafe)
- Students created their own videos (and sometimes screened them publicly)
- Students taught lessons to peers in other classes
- Students led conversation groups at a community center for adults not in ESL classes

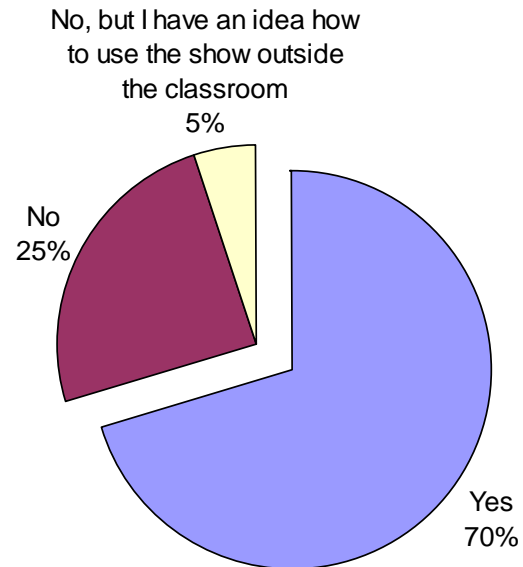
## 37% of Teachers Reported That Students Were Already Familiar With WANY When First Introduced



Data from January to May 2010 survey; excludes "I don't know" responses (n = 8)

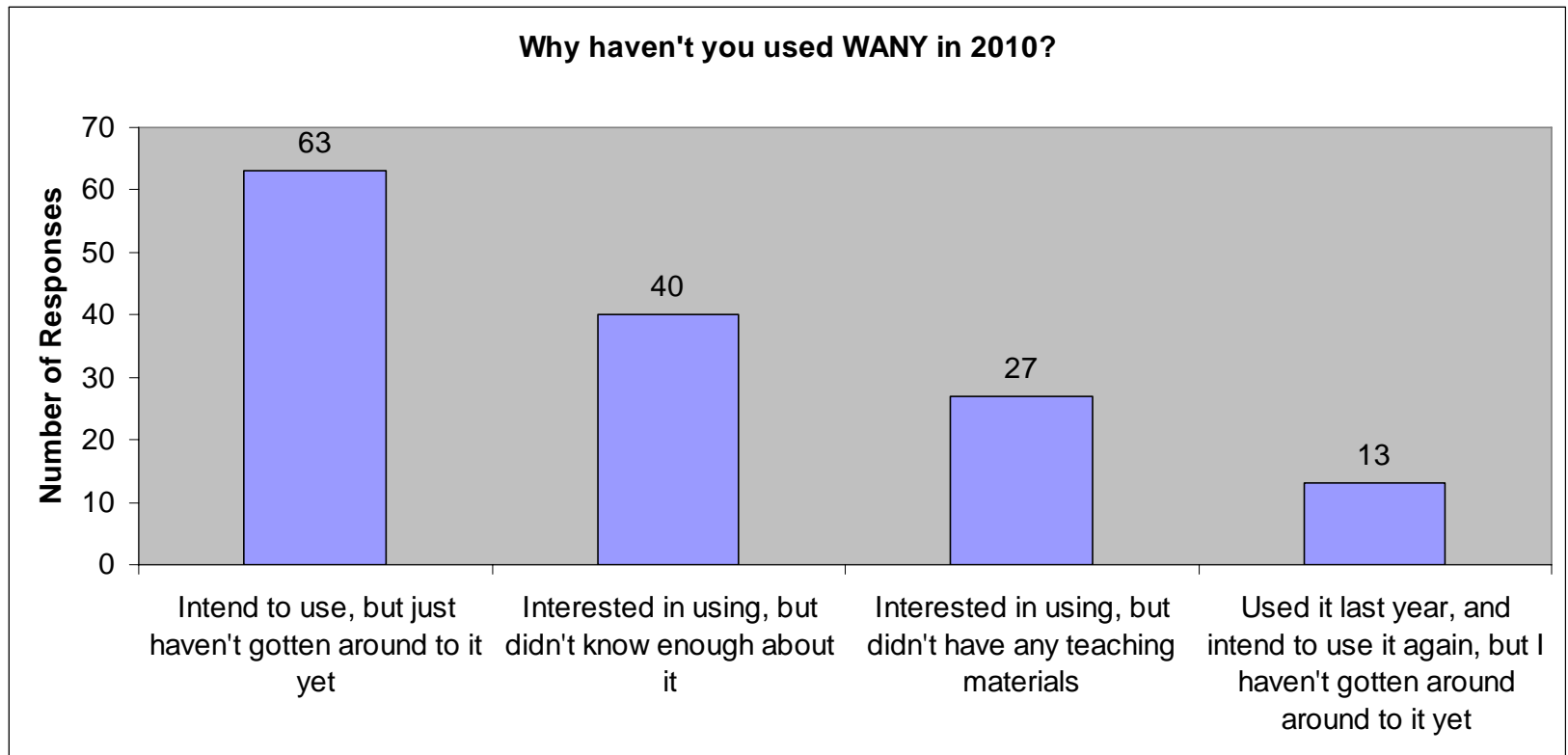
## Most Teachers Encouraged Students to Use the Show to Continue Learning Outside of the Classroom

Have you encouraged students to use WANY in any way outside of the classroom?



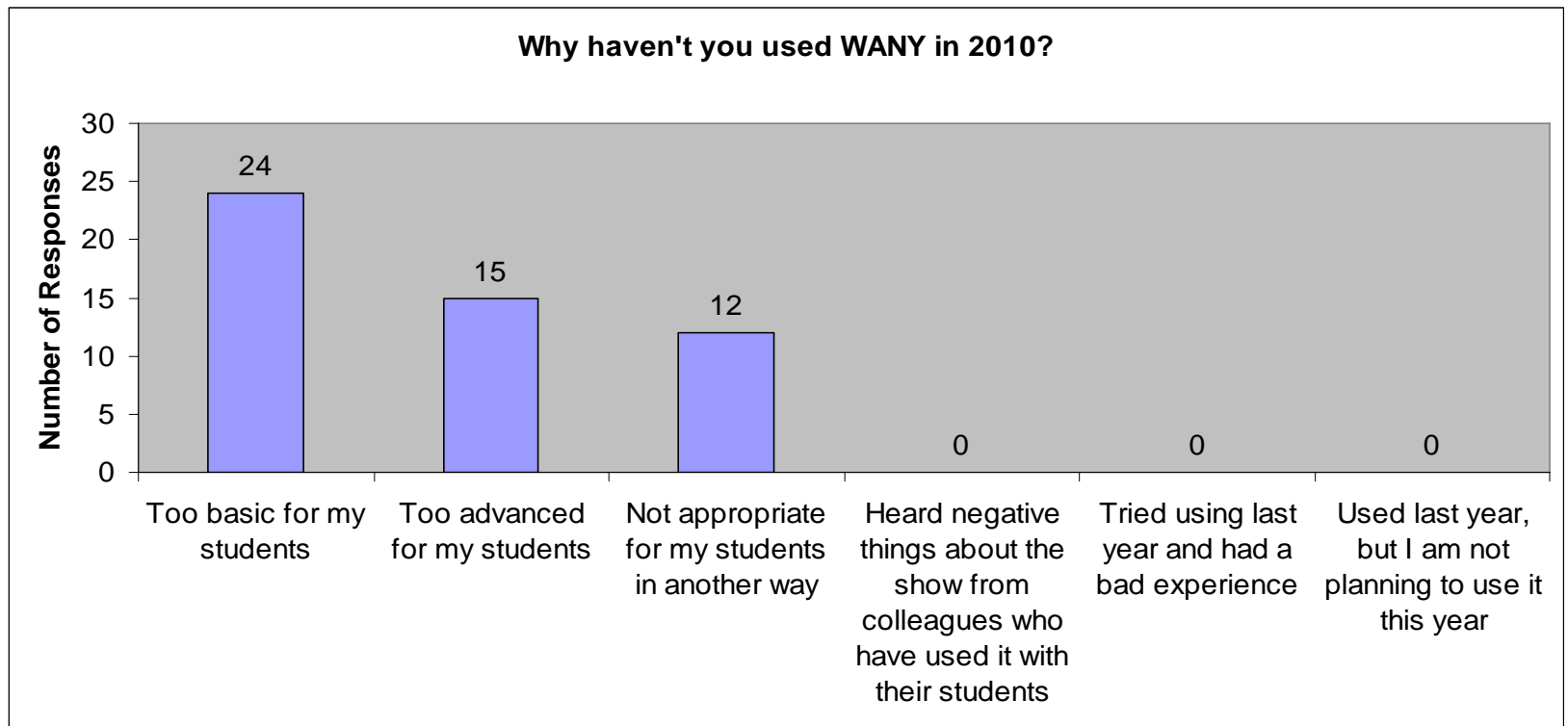
Data from January to May 2010 survey. Most common examples cited were encouragement to watch the show online or on TV with family, and to share information with others in their communities

## Three-Quarters of Teachers Who Didn't Use WANY at Time of Survey "Intend To" or Are "Interested In" Using It



Data from January to May 2010 survey. 192 respondents indicated they didn't use WANY; 186 responded to the survey question asking why

While Some Teachers Found WANY Too Basic or Too Advanced For Their Students, None Reported Hearing Negative Things About WANY From Colleagues or Had Bad Experiences Using It



Almost all responses that WANY was not appropriate were from teachers of specialized classes (e.g., vocational education, CTE, academic writing, U.S. government, or test prep)



# What Teachers Are Saying About WANY

---

## Quotes from Teachers Responding to the Survey

- "Looking at it from the students' perspective, they were able to see themselves in at least one of the characters. It gave them a good feeling overall, as if to say this is New York and we are a part of the City."
- "I think students enjoyed watching the films in class, together, rather than just giving them out to watch at home."
- "Overall, watching and understanding the episodes gave students a feeling of confidence in their English ability."



## What Teachers Are Saying About WANY (2)

---

### Quotes from Teachers Responding to the Survey

- “The episodes can be very useful to ABE as well as ESOL students. I highly recommend them even for children.”
- “Very effective in teaching idioms—living English!”
- “It allowed me to use role play and drama for vocabulary development and pronunciation practice.”
- “I think they are a great springboard into a variety of themes and activities.”





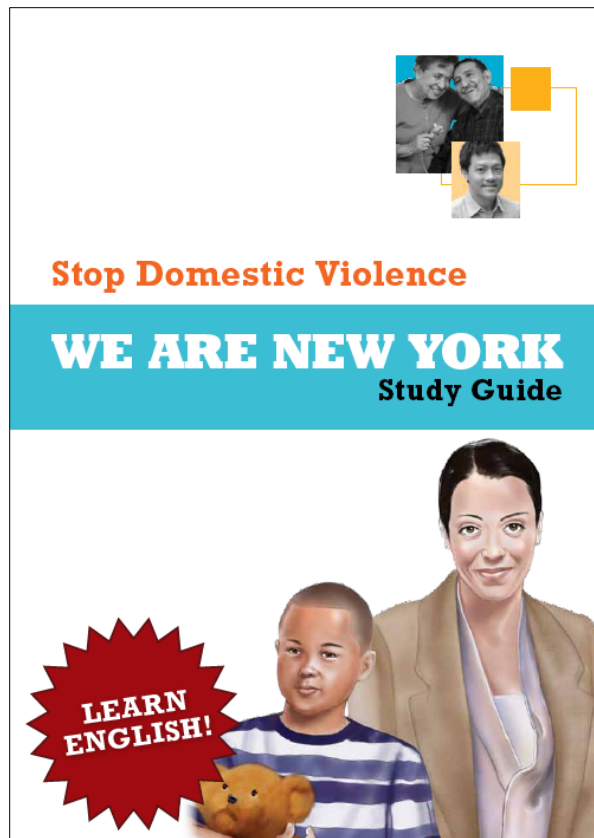
## What Teachers Are Saying About WANY (3)

---

### Quotes from Teachers Responding to Survey

- “They are great with wonderful production values. I like the humor, and the storytelling is well-done.”
- “These episodes are truly a remarkable achievement. They are valuable English learning tools as well as entertaining (at multiple levels of comprehension). Many English videos come off as phony and bland; however, it is evident that whoever produced these videos was truly sensitive to the needs and viewpoints of the local immigrant communities who would be using these. I'm truly impressed and thankful.”

# Teacher Resources





# Resources for Teachers

---

- **Images** – three photos from each episode that are good for pre- and post-viewing activities [http://www.nyc.gov/html/weareny/downloads/pdf/we\\_are\\_new\\_york\\_images.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/weareny/downloads/pdf/we_are_new_york_images.pdf)
- **Lesson Plans** – teacher-created resources to help adult learners improve their English using WANY  
[http://www.nyc.gov/html/weareny/html/teachers/classroom\\_materials\\_for\\_teachers.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/weareny/html/teachers/classroom_materials_for_teachers.shtml)
- **Magazines** – read the stories, learn more about the characters, and learn useful English phrases. Available in English, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Russian, and Spanish  
[http://www.nyc.gov/html/weareny/html/magazines/magazines\\_splash.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/weareny/html/magazines/magazines_splash.shtml)
- **Study Guides** – read the stories, practice exercises to help improve your English, and find helpful information about City services  
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/weareny/html/videos/videos.shtml>
- **Scripts** – read lines from the videos along with the actors (English available now; bi-lingual coming soon) [http://www.nyc.gov/html/weareny/html/videos/videos\\_splash.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/weareny/html/videos/videos_splash.shtml)
- **Low Level Readers** – easy-to-read short stories based on WANY for low-level learners coming soon on [www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish](http://www.nyc.gov/LearnEnglish)



# Resources for Teachers

---

- **Quick Links** – internet links to government services and other helpful information for topics addressed in each video  
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/weareny/html/videos/links.shtml>
- **Videos** – watch online or download the full videos  
[http://www.nyc.gov/html/weareny/html/videos/videos\\_splash.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/weareny/html/videos/videos_splash.shtml)
- **Volunteer Videos** – watch volunteers and instructors use WANY in communities across the city <http://www.nyc.gov/html/weareny/html/volunteer/volunteer.shtml>
- **Newsletter** – read about current events, new resources, and of the people and organizations growing WANY  
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/weareny/html/news/newsletter.shtml>
- **Facebook Page** – visit the WANY Facebook page to get up-to-the minute news about the program  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/New-York-NY/WE-ARE-NEW-YORK/174438697072?ref=ts>



# Comments and Questions

---

Comments and questions about this survey  
(and about We Are New York in general)  
can be sent to [WANY@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:WANY@cityhall.nyc.gov)