

YOUNG PORTUGUESE CATHOLICS AND DIGITAL RELIGIOUS PRACTICES DURING LOCKDOWNS

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digital religious practices and experience during lockdowns: 15 -34 years

"Internet generation"

"media generation"

"digital natives"

Moberg, Sjö and Lövheim, 2020

"religiosities, worldviews, and values are
entangled by and with the digital mediascape"

Bobkowski, 2014



religion territory | space communities

“context collapse”

the ways social media environments work to bring together different audiences such as family members, friends, and colleagues, into a single online space.

Marwick and Boyd, 2011



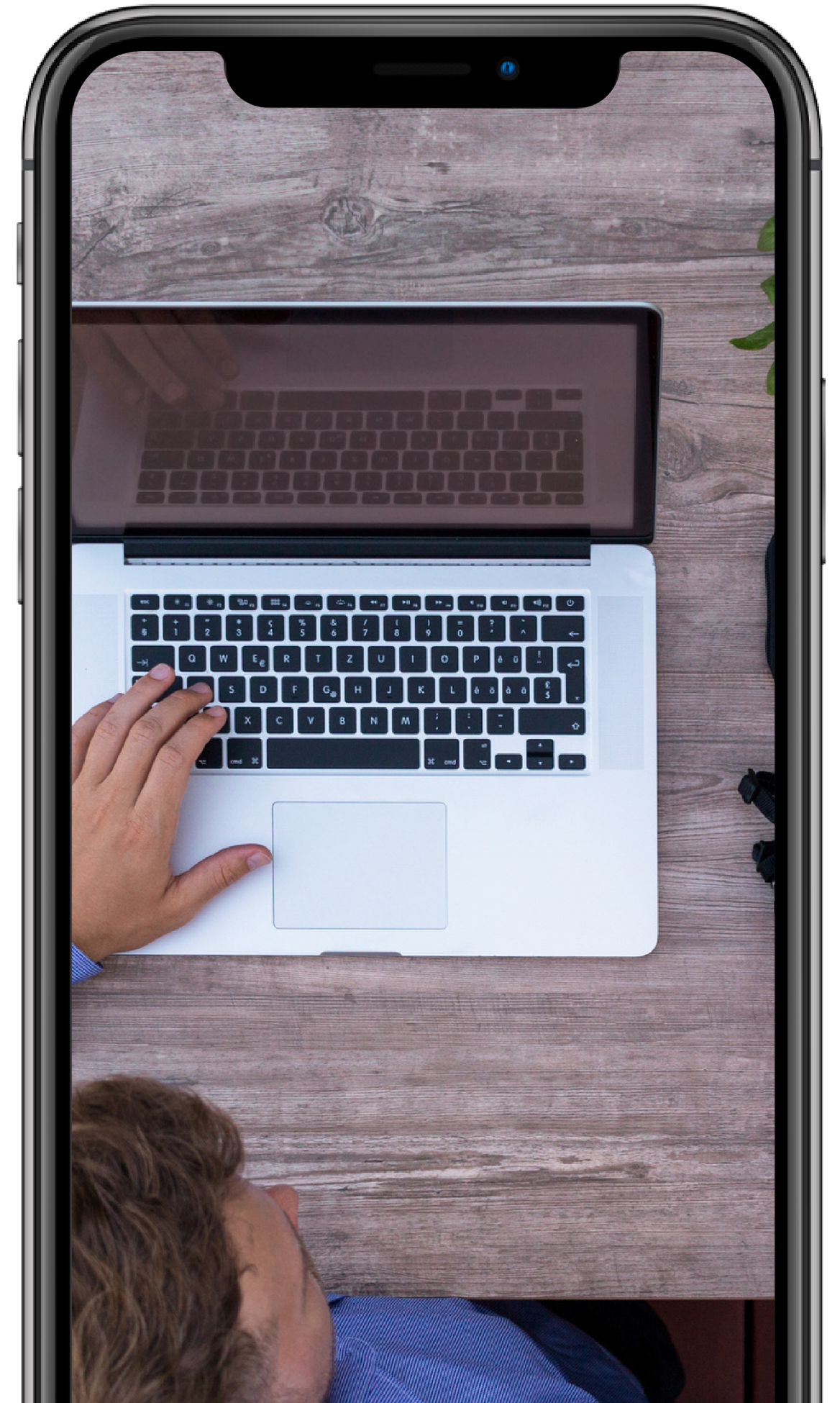
religion territory | space communities

"The pandemic use of digital tools, emulating and substituting physical practices, basically transformed all digital platforms with digital content in hypermediated religious spaces"

Evolvi, 2018

"infra-secular" spaces resulting in part of a domestication of the sacred, due to very particular circumstances.

Dora, 2018



CASE STUDY

Survey

July 15-3 2021

1099 valid answers

148 respondents 15-34

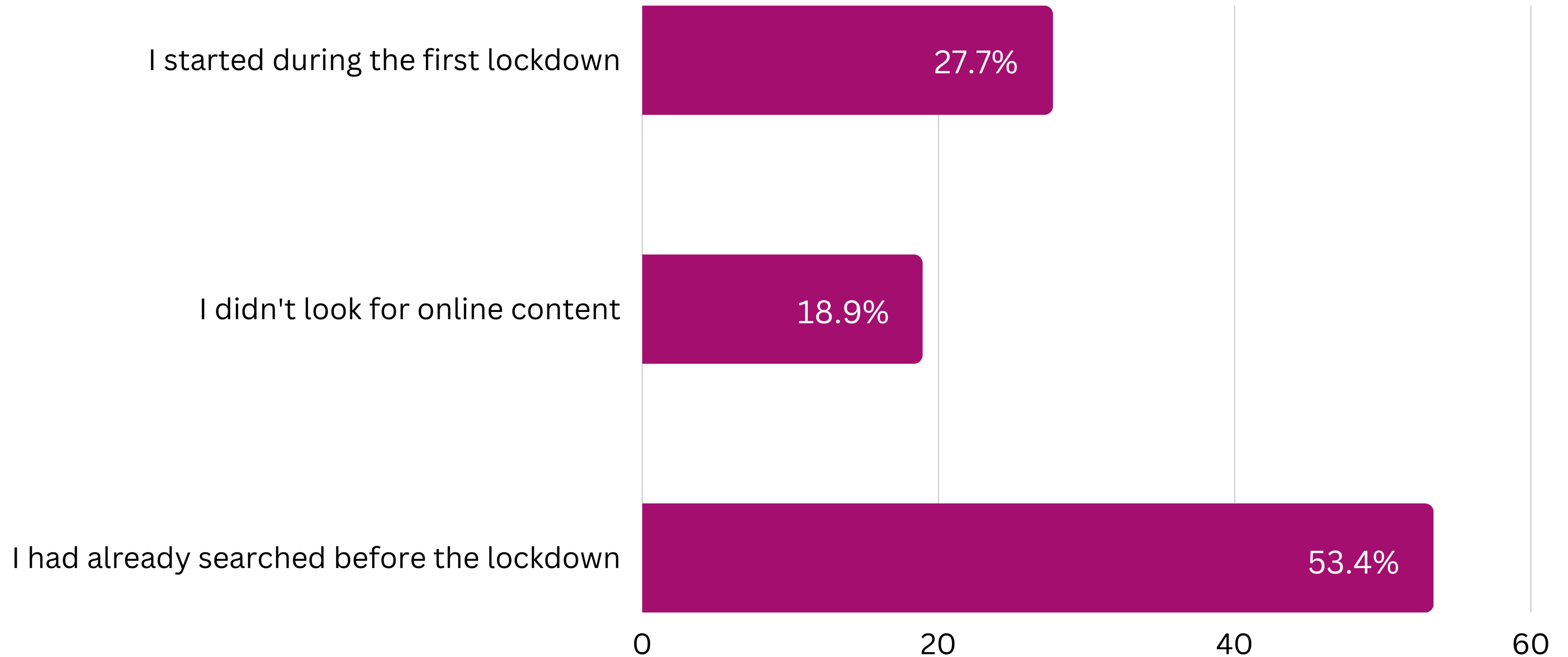
- 13.5% of total respondents
- 66.2% female (66.2%)
- 58.8% with higher academic qualifications



Celebration attendance

With whom do you "attend" online celebrations	First lockdown		Second lockdown	
	N.º	%	N.º	%
With other people	15	10.1	12	8.1
With family members	96	64.9	76	51.4
Alone	37	25.0	36	24.3
I did not attend	0	0.0	24	16.2
Total	148	100.0	148	100.0

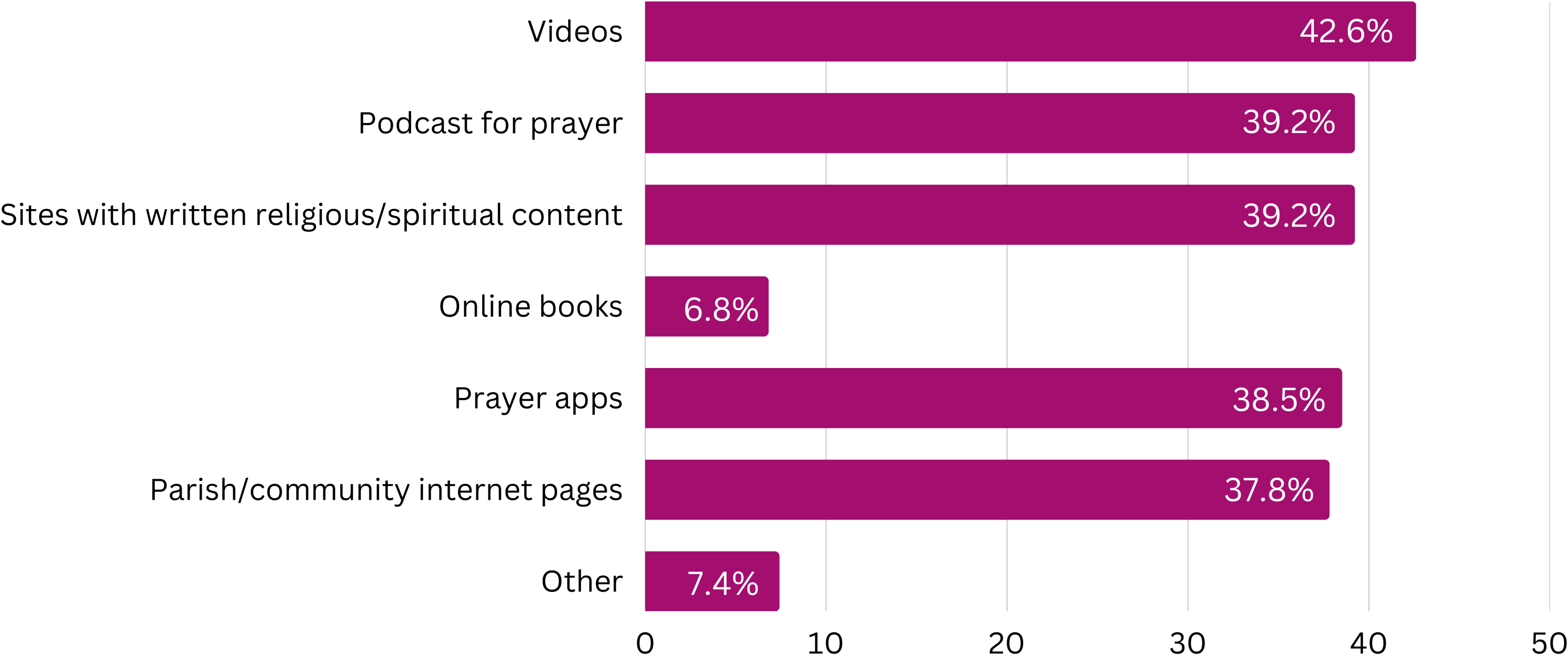
Search for online religious content: when did it start?



Frequency of seeking for religious online content

How often do you seek for religious online content	First lockdown		Second lockdown	
	N.º	%	N.º	%
More than once a week	26	17.6	23	15.5
Less than once a week	28	18.9	25	16.9
Once a week	94	63.5	76	51.4
Doesn't answer/doesn't know	0	0.0	24	16.2
Total	148	100	148	100

Diversity of religious online content for respondents that went digital

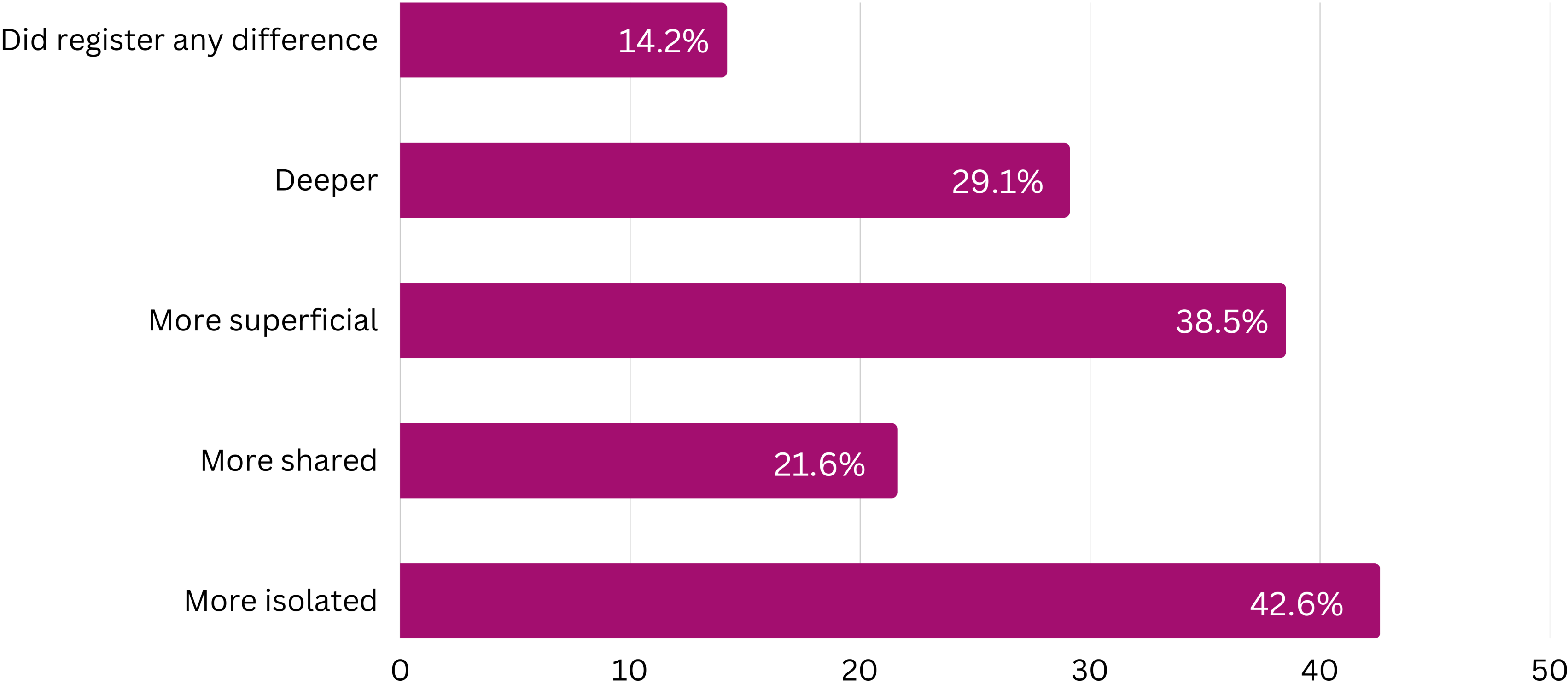


Sharing online content

If you accessed online content, did you share it with anyone?	1st lockdown		2nd lockdown	
	N.º	%	N.º	%
Yes	83	56.1	79	53.4
No	38	25.7	42	28.4
Doesn't answer/ Doesn't know	27	18.2	27	18.2

With whom did you share online religious content with?				
Friends	41	27.7	25	16.9
Family members	26	17.6	21	14.2
People from my religious community	10	6.8	9	6.1
People from different groups	13	8.8	24	16.2
Doesn't answer/ Doesn't know	58	39.2	69	46.6

How did you perceive your own religious experience during the pandemic?



Previous access and intention to keep using digital tools for religious purposes

Did you access for the first time digital religious content during the pandemic?	Do you intend to keep using digital tools after the pandemic?							
	Yes		No		Doesn't know/Doesn't answer		Total	
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
Started during the lockdown	19	22.1	10	55.6	12	27.3	41	27.7
Didn't look for online content	3	3.5	0	0.0	25	56.8	28	18.9
I had searched before the pandemic	64	74.4	8	44.4	7	25.9	79	53.4
Total	86	100.0	18	100.0	44	100.0	148	100.0

some takeaways

- 81.1% of the respondents attended online celebrations more than once a week.
- more than 50% of the youngsters inquired had already searched for digital religious contents prior to the pandemic.
- there is significant diversity of digital content accessed.
- there is a deep rooting in the community of belonging.
- 29.1% perceived the spiritual experience during lockdowns as more profound and 42.6% as more isolated.
- 58.1% intend to maintain digital religious practices (48.6% of the sample had already used before Covid-19).





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