

# Account Password Sharing in Ordinary Situations and Emergencies: A Comparison Between Young and Older Adults

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## Motivation and Research Questions

In today's digital age, managing numerous online accounts requires strong passwords. However, the practice of password sharing persists [1, 2, 3], raising security and privacy concerns.

**RQ1:** How do password-sharing behaviors differ between young adults and older adults, and between ordinary / everyday situations and emergencies?

**RQ2:** What are security concerns regarding sharing account passwords in different scenarios?

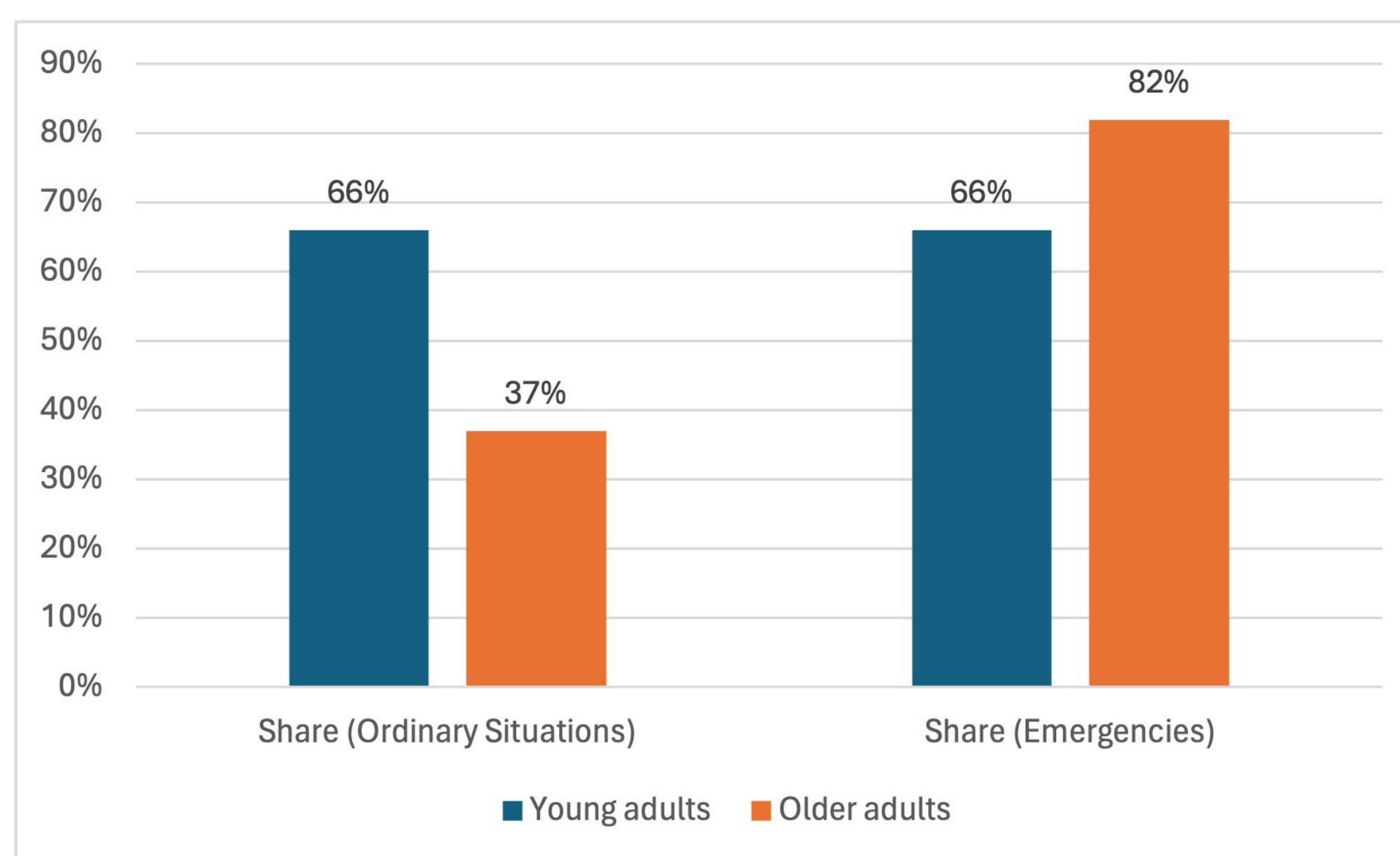
**RQ3:** How interested are people in an emergency contacts or beneficiaries feature in password managers? How willing are they to pay for the feature?

## Methods: Survey

- 5-minute survey about account password sharing behaviors in ordinary situations and emergencies, and related questions about password managers
- 208 participants recruited via Prolific, paid \$1: 108 young adults aged 18–24, 100 older adults aged 65+

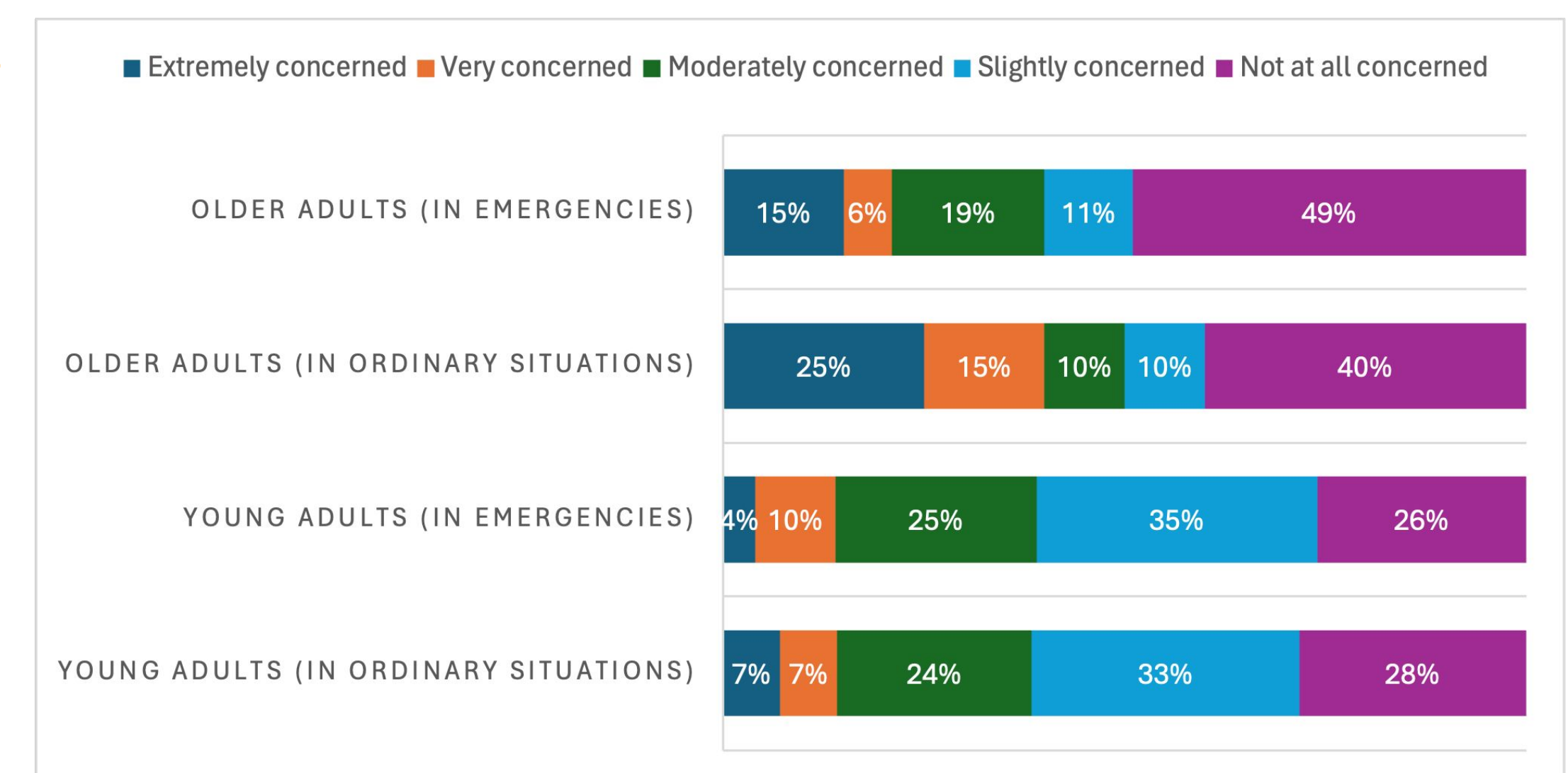
## RQ1 Result: Sharing Gap Between Age Groups

- Ordinary situations: young adults more likely to share than older adults ( $p < 0.001$ )
- Emergencies: older adults more likely to share than young adults ( $p = 0.012$ )



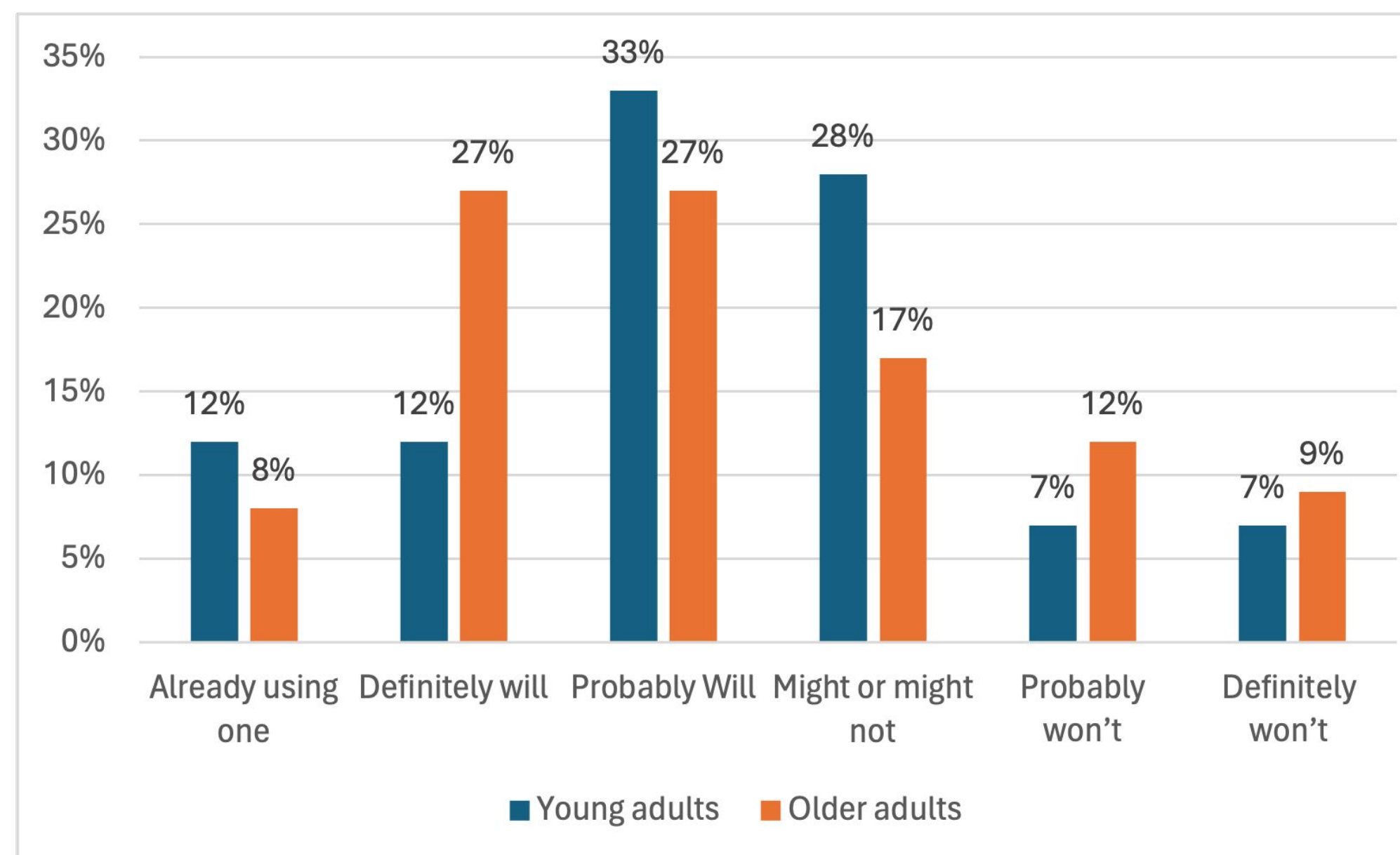
## RQ2 Result: Password Sharing Security Concerns

- In ordinary situations, both age groups have moderate security concerns, e.g., unauthorized access, potential for misuse...
- Older adults have less security concern regarding password sharing in emergency situations compared to ordinary situations ( $p < 0.001$ )



## RQ3 Result: Significant Interest in Emergency Sharing Features

How likely are you to use a password manager if it allows you to set up emergency contacts or beneficiaries?



"I haven't really thought of sharing my passwords in emergencies, but now that I am aware I would be open to having a secure way to allow friends and family access to my passwords." (Y21)

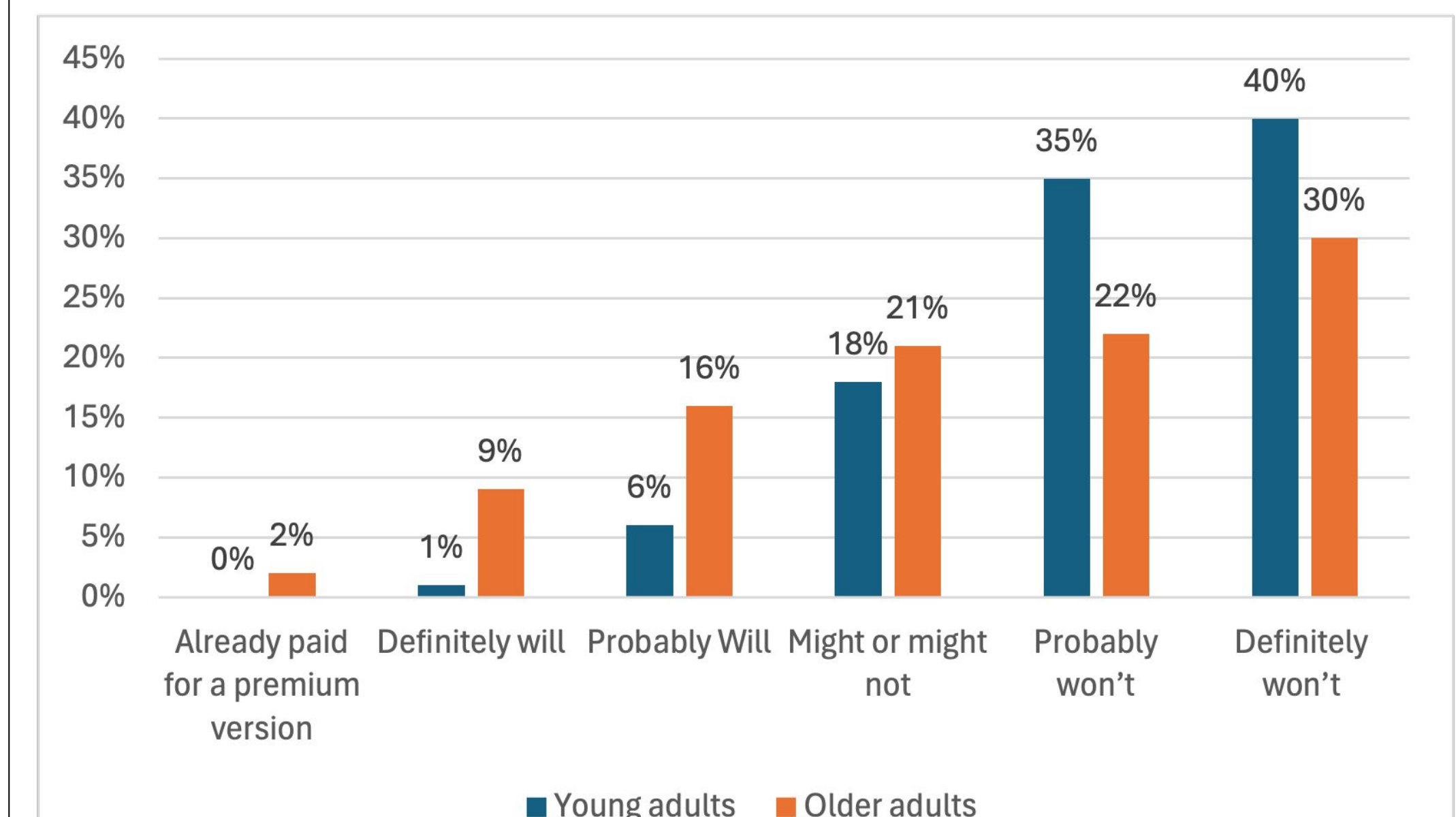
"Just for my music distribution platform. If I die, the music must live." (Y52)

"really want to but I might put it off because the concept is stressful to me." (Y28)

"I very much want my sister, my executor of my estate, to be able to access everything so that she can take care of the business part of things if I am unable to" (O11)

## RQ3 Result: Little interest in paying for beneficiaries feature

How likely are you to pay for premium versions of password managers that allow you to set up beneficiaries?



"I would not pay for a premium password manager for the same reason I don't use the basic ones in Chrome - I don't trust them." (O1)

"Young enough that death doesn't seem a serious concern yet." (Y13)

"I can leave the appropriate parties the information in written form and update it when I change passwords....all at no charge." (O9)

## References

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