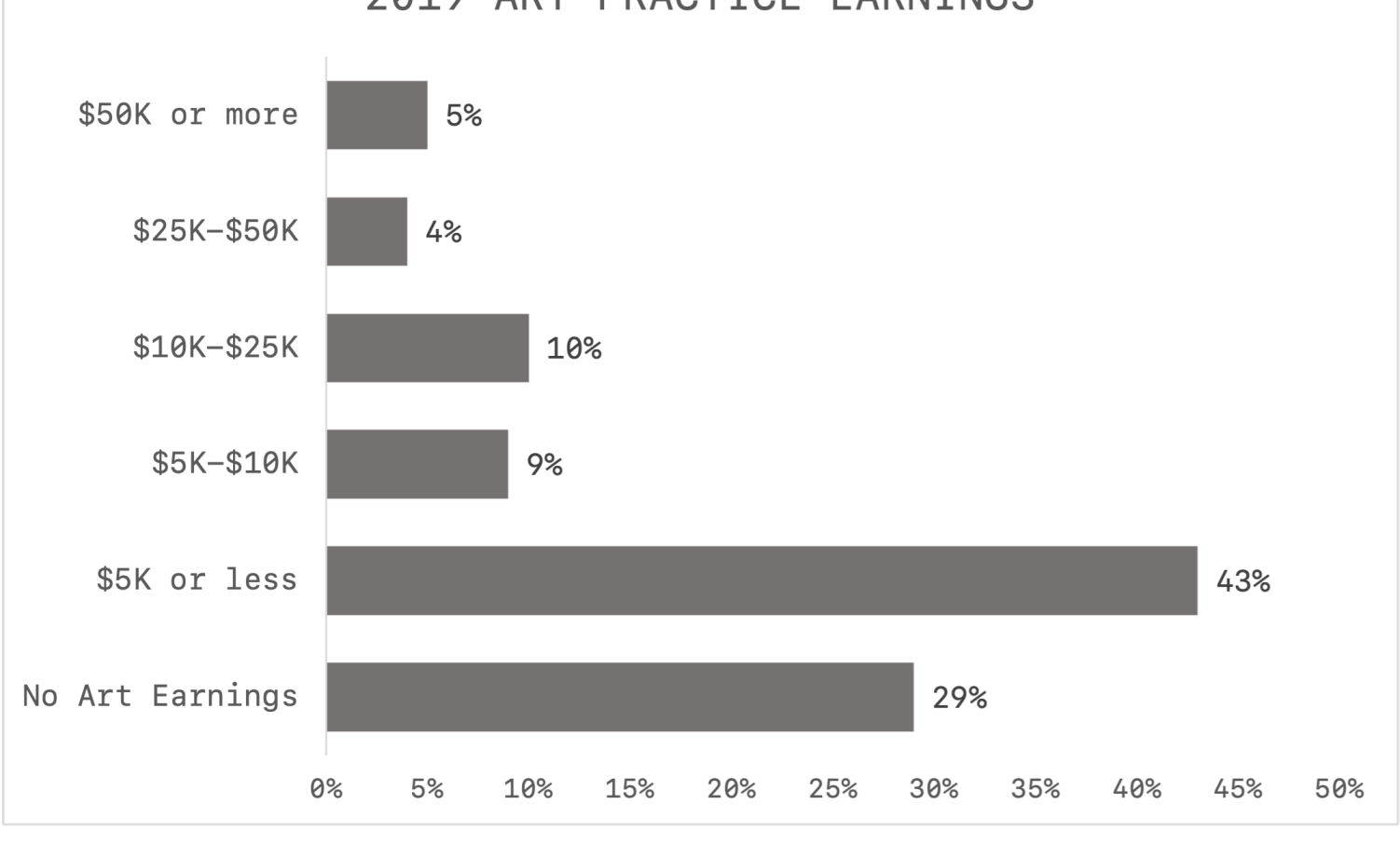


DATA DISPATCH 2: ART PRACTICE EARNINGS x EXPENSES

This Los Angeles Artist Census (LAAC) Data Dispatch finds the majority of LA County artists earned less than a living wage from their art practice. In addition to being low, art practice income is also volatile with our data showing that many artists experienced substantial changes in their earnings from 2018 to 2019. Additional findings about the relationship between art earnings and art expenses are also included.

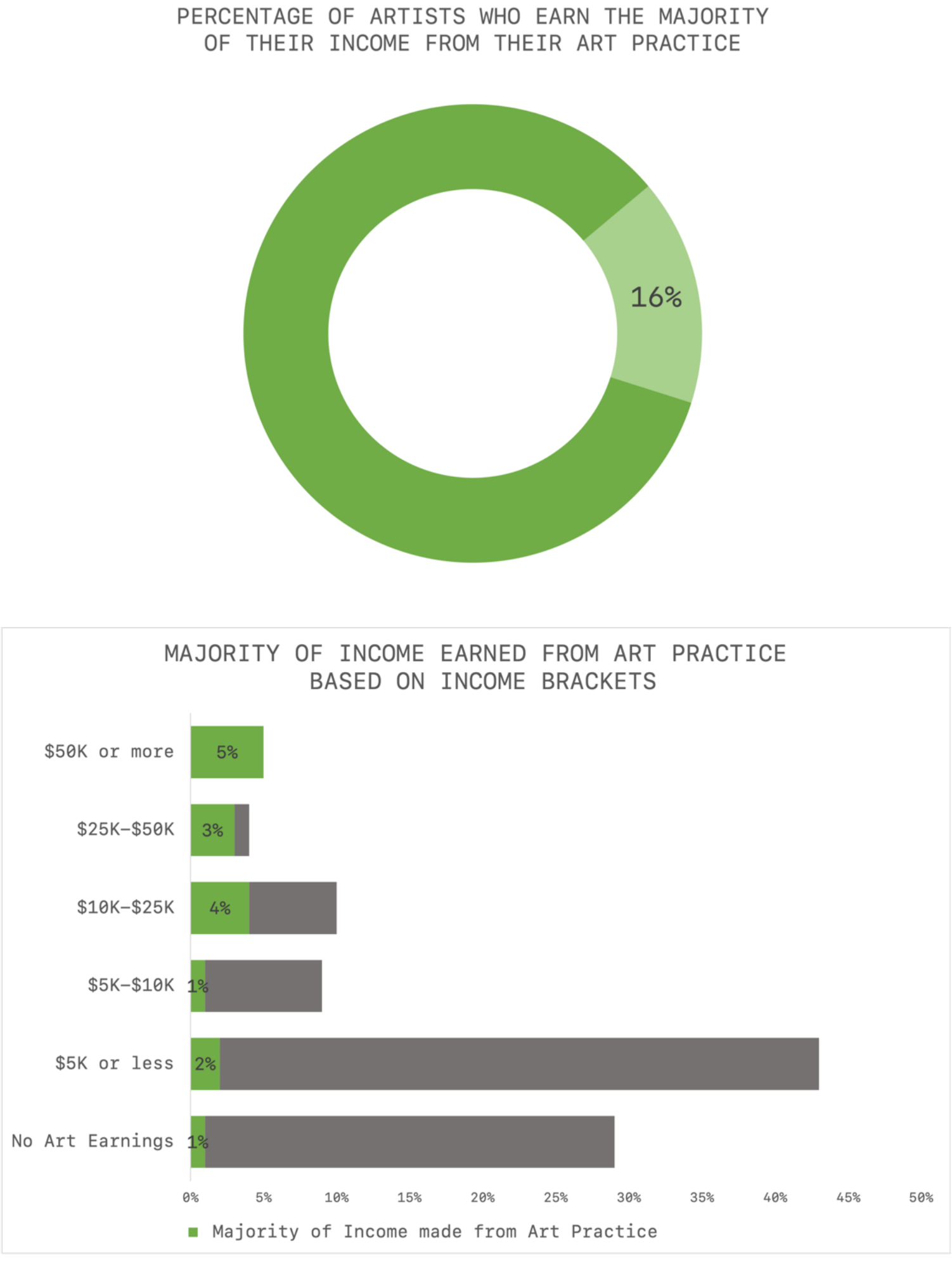


ART PRACTICE EARNINGS

According to the 2020 LAAC, in 2019 roughly 95% of respondents earned less than an LA County living wage through their art practice.* This suggests that earning a living wage from an art practice in Los Angeles is uncommon and raises questions about how artists earn additional income to cover their living.

This data along with our findings about [LA artists going without basic necessities](#), are both **evidence of economic barriers that exist for those who attempt to pursue an art practice**, and the economic risks that are commonly associated with having such a practice.

*The living wage in LA County for a single adult with no children is \$19.35 per hour or \$40,248 annually, as determined by the [MIT Living Wage Calculator](#).

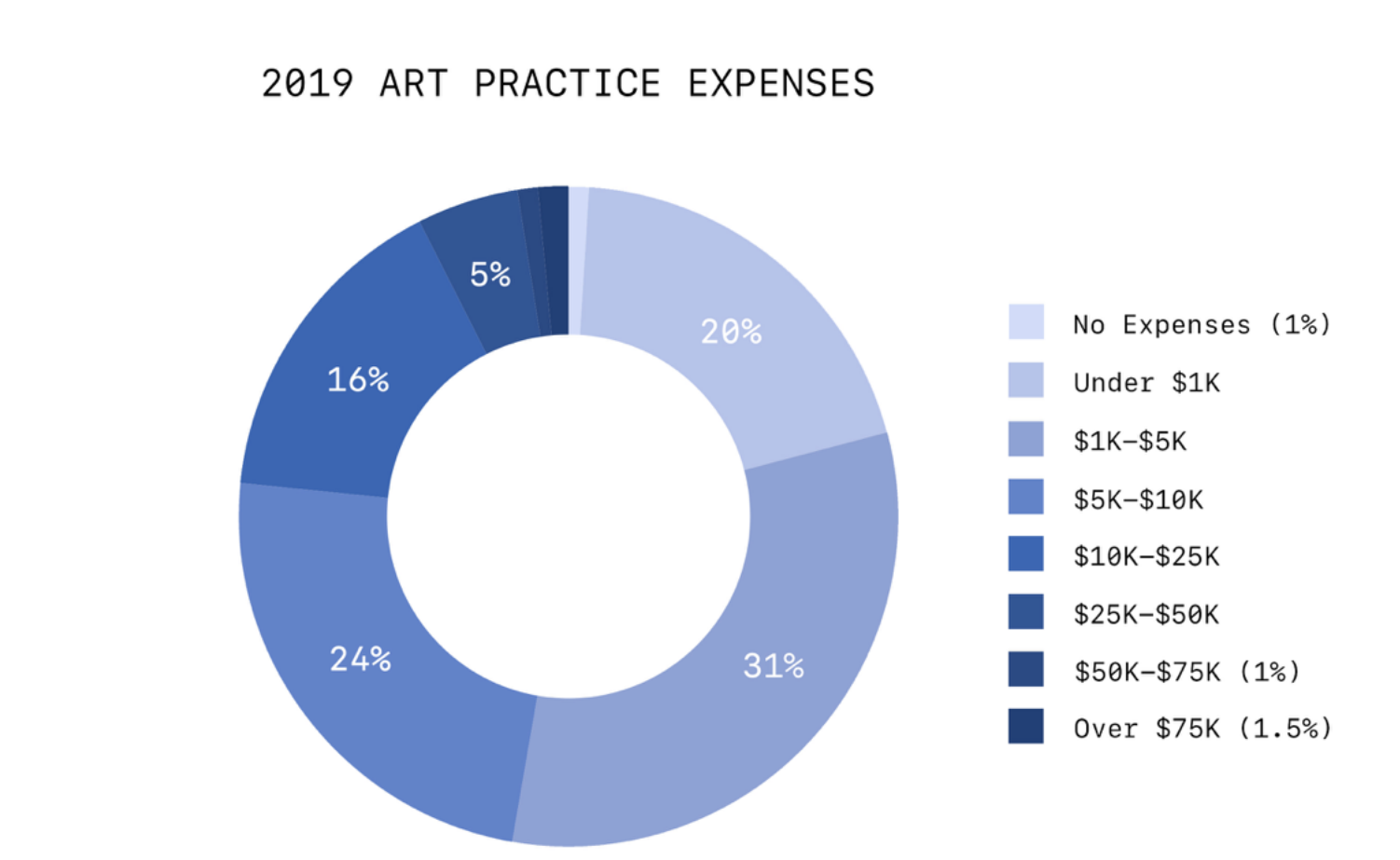


ART INCOME MAJORITY

16% of respondents reported that the majority of their income comes from their art practice.

Not surprisingly, the ratio of respondents who made the majority of their income from their art practice was higher for those who earned \$50,000 and up.

However, similarly high ratios were reported by respondents who earned \$10,001-\$25,000 and \$25,001-\$50,000. These earnings are mostly below the LA County living wage, which suggests that respondents who earned less than a living wage did not have significant alternative sources of income.

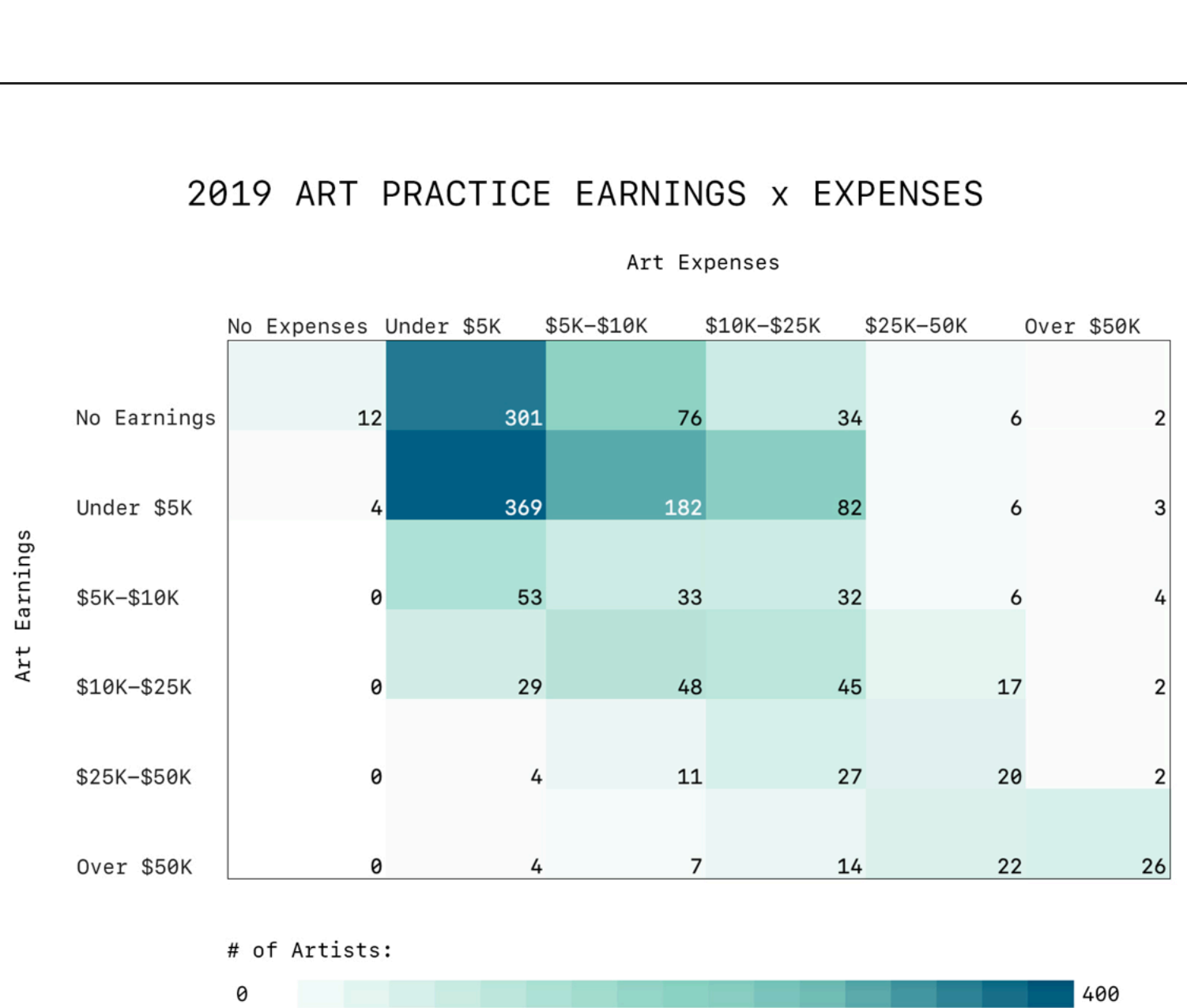


ART PRACTICE EXPENSES

To help us better understand LA visual artists' earnings, we looked at artists' ART PRACTICE EXPENSES as well. This is what we found:

- 1% of the survey respondents did not have any art expenses during 2019.
- For the 99% of respondents that had expenses related to their art practice during 2019:
 - 51% spent \$5,000 or less
 - 24% spent between \$5,001 and \$10,000
 - 16% spent between \$10,001 and \$25,000
 - 5% spent between \$25,001 and \$50,000
 - and 3% spent more than \$50,001

Below we compare 2019 ART PRACTICE EARNINGS to these ART PRACTICE EXPENSES.

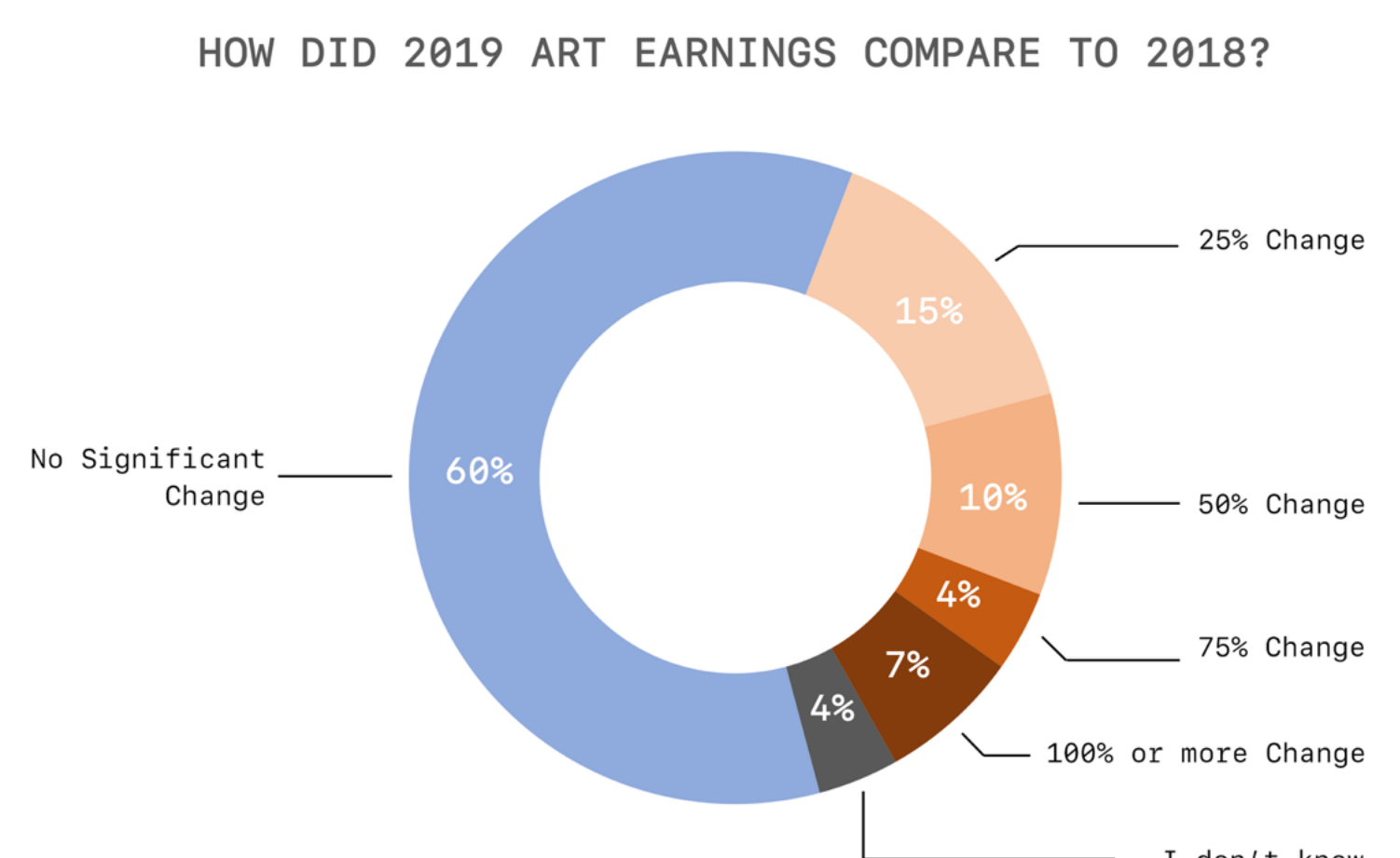


ART PRACTICE EARNINGS x EXPENSES

When plotting 2019 ART PRACTICE EARNINGS and EXPENSES together, we're able to observe the following:

- Respondents who do not earn any income from their art practice still have expenses related to it, the majority of them spending \$5,000 or less (301 respondents).
- The majority of respondents spend close-to or slightly the same amount on their art practice, as they earn from it.

By looking at ART PRACTICE EARNINGS with EXPENSES, we see that low art earnings are further reduced, and that many earn very little, nothing at all, or spend money on their art practice.



VOLATILITY

According to the 2020 LAAC, respondents reported substantial changes in their art practice earnings suggesting that income **volatility is not uncommon**.

36% of respondents reported a change of 25% or more in their art earnings from 2018 to 2019. [According to Pew](#), "an income change of 25 percent or more is considered volatile." Pew also finds that people who "experience income volatility—whether a gain or loss—report lower financial well-being and less savings than those with stable income."