Why We Should Incorporate R Into Undergraduate Methods Courses in Psychology

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Why R is the Perfect Software for Use in Teaching

- **FREE!**
  - Students can load the software on their own computers
  - No labs required! Use your own classroom as a lab

Why R is the Perfect Software for Use in Teaching

- **Infinite resources** online for supporting student learning
  - *learnr*, youtube, etc.

Why R is the Perfect Software for Use in Teaching

- **R is the future**
  - R programming skills desired by employers

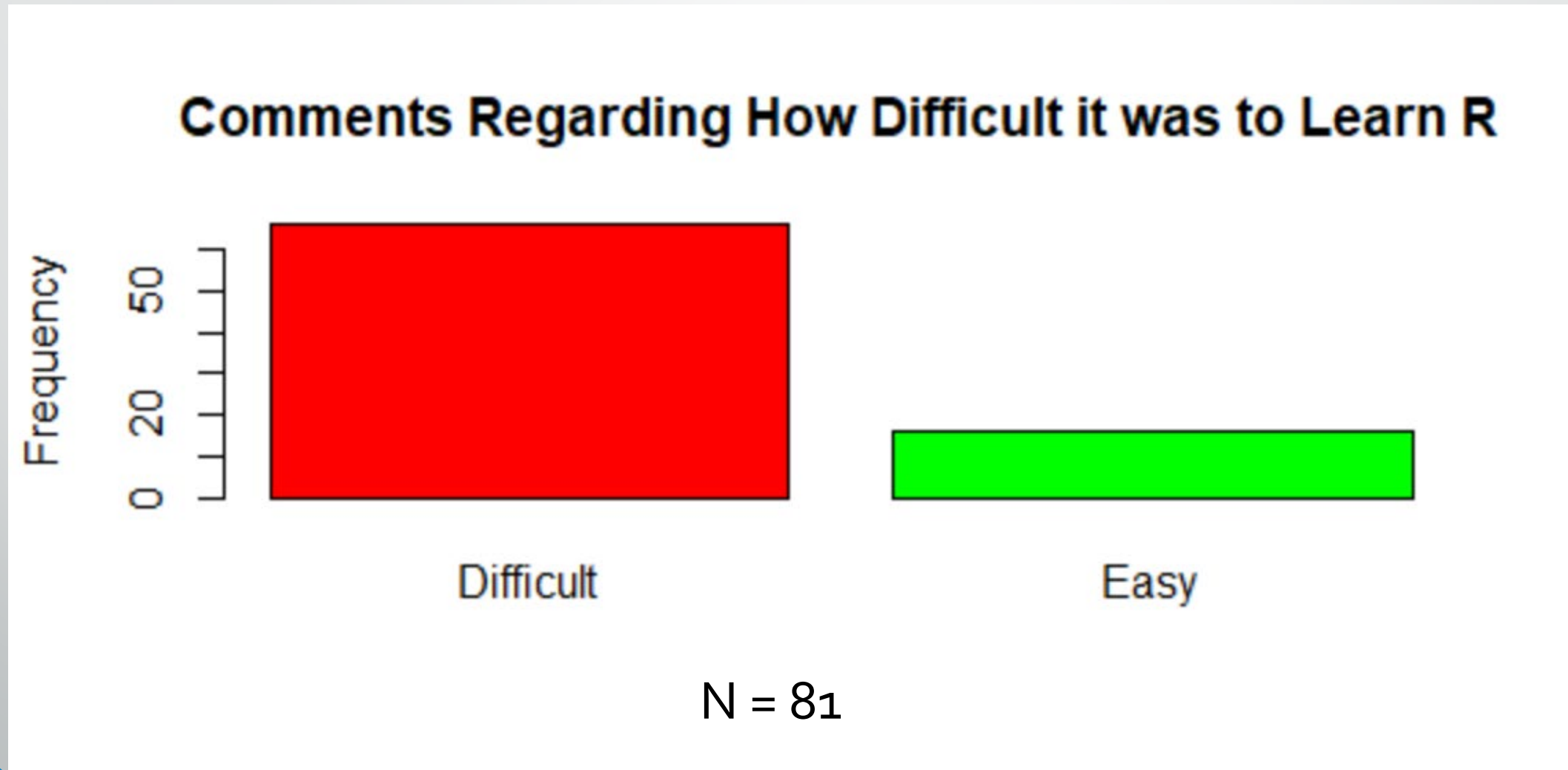|	**2010 Citations**	**2020 Citations**	**Change**
SPSS	514000	75000	-84%
R	263	35000	+13000%

Why NOT to Use R for Teaching

- **Too difficult** for students

- **No time** for learning software amongst all the theory

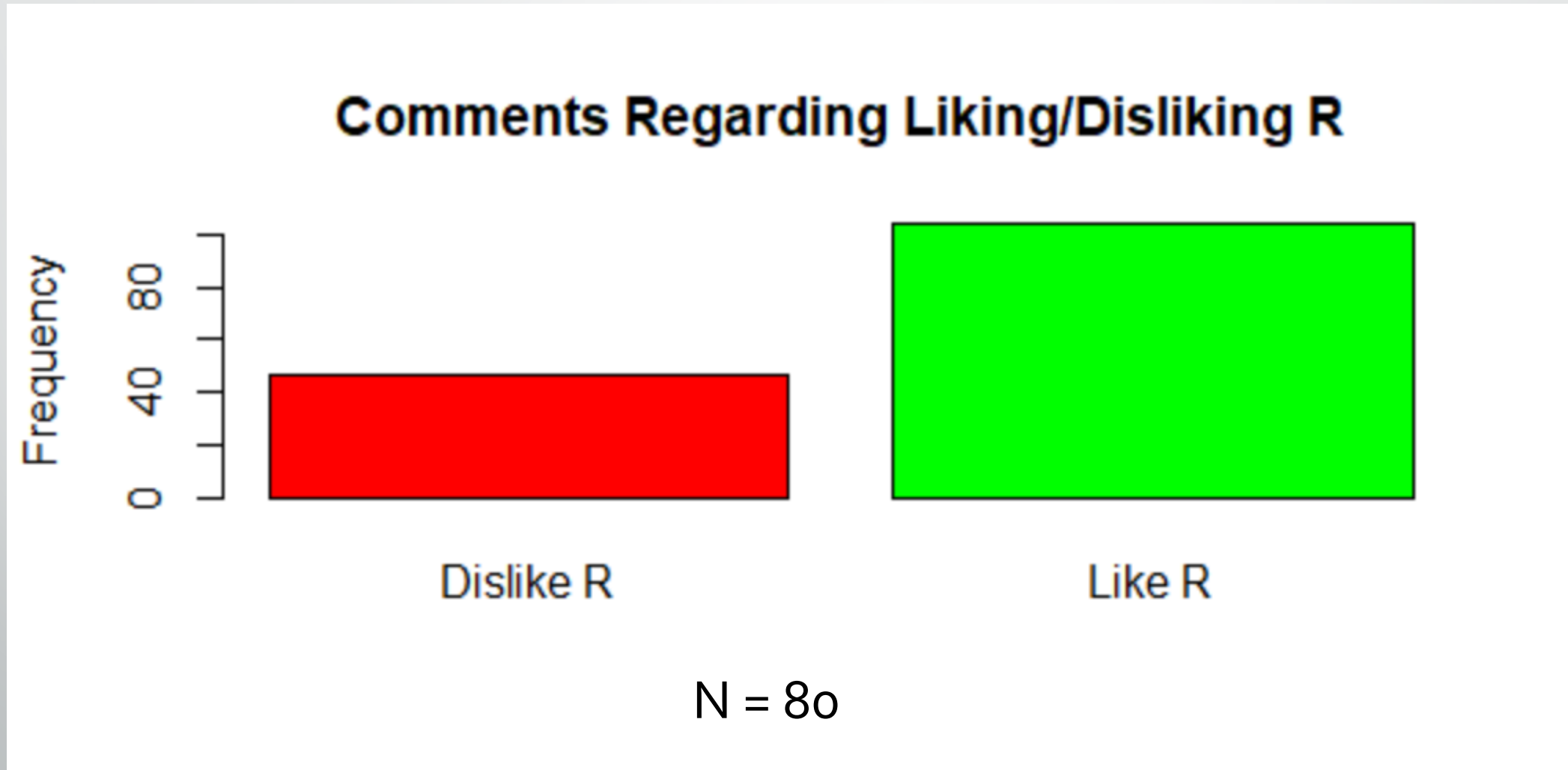# Can **Course Evaluations** Help Us Determine Whether or Not To Teach R in Undergraduate Methods Courses?

- *Emily Panzarella* analyzed recent teaching evaluations from my 2021 courses

- The "unit" of analysis is *each statement from the evaluations regarding the use R*
  - In total, there were 521 statements regarding the use of R from the evaluations

- I will focus on statements regarding the difficulty of R, liking of R, interest in learning R, and the value of R
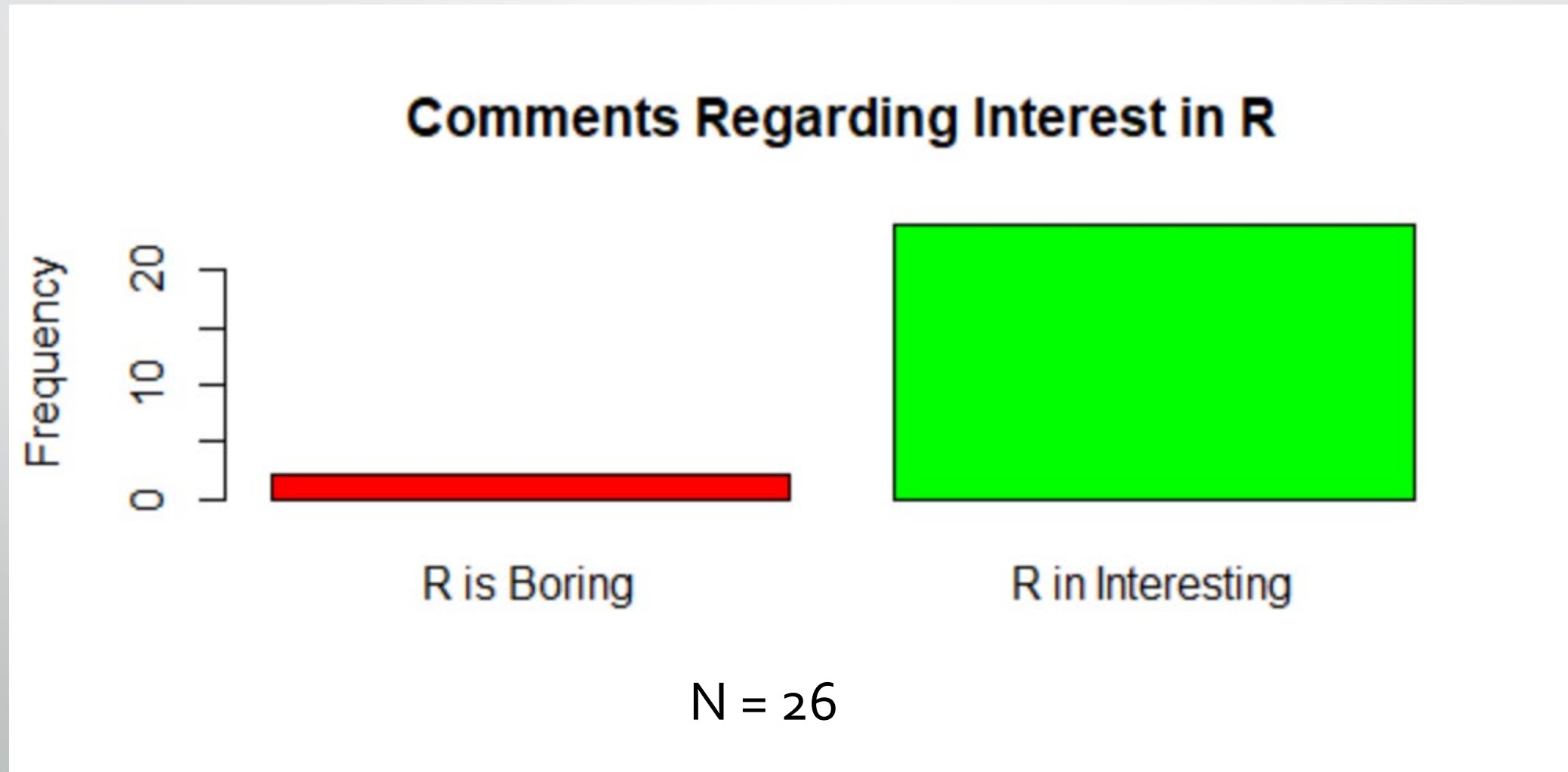
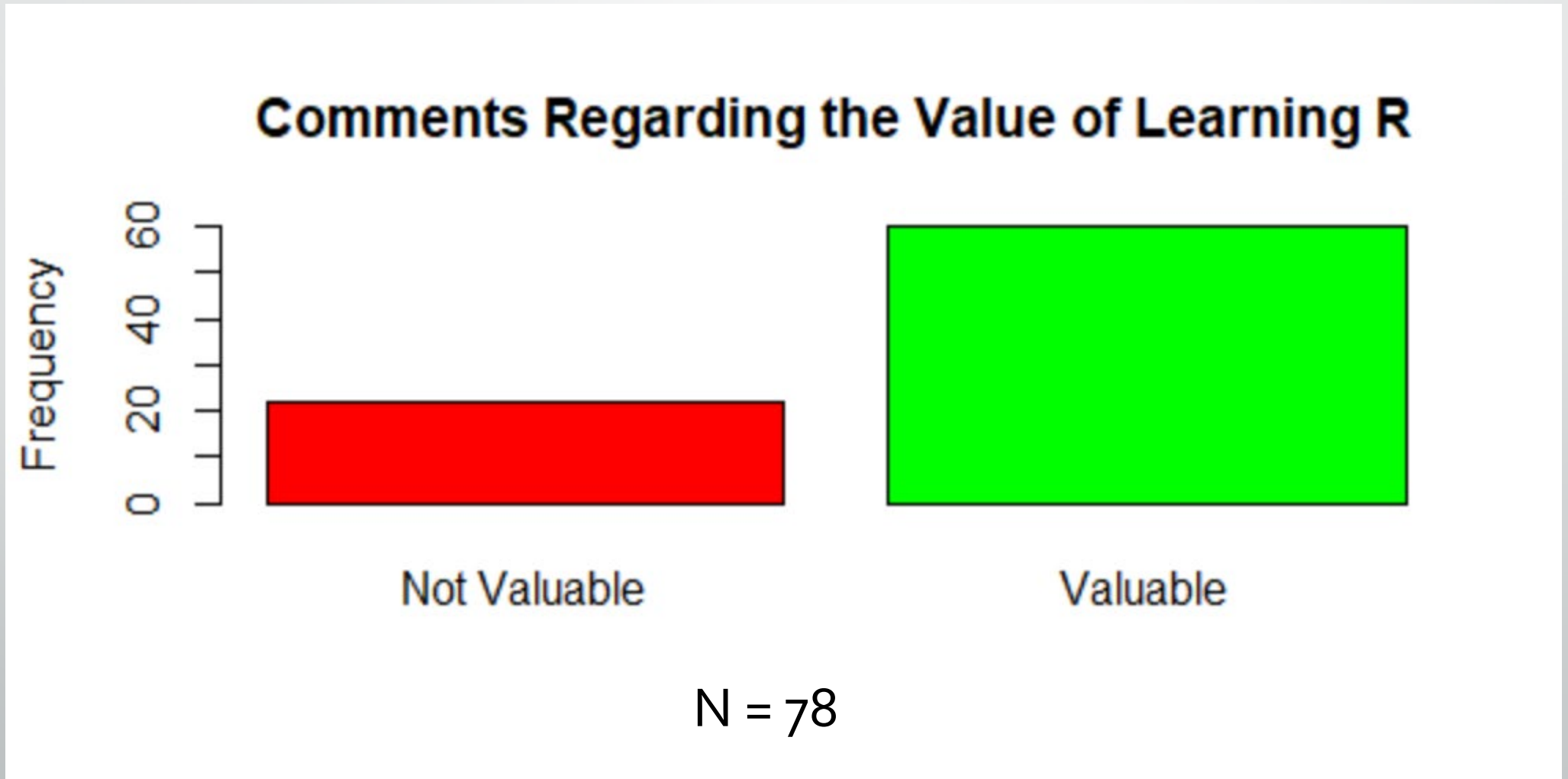# Is Learning R Difficult?

No Big Surprise!

Comments Regarding How Difficult it was to Learn R

Frequency — Difficult, Easy

N = 81

Do Students Like Learning R?

Comments Regarding Liking/Disliking R

N = 8o

Do Students Find Learning R Interesting?

N = 26

Do Students Find Learning R Valuable?

Comments Regarding the Value of Learning R

Frequency axis: 0, 20, 40, 60

Bars: Not Valuable (red), Valuable (green)

N = 78

Summary

- Although R is difficult, students like learning R and find value in learning R

- Further, we introduce them to skills that are valuable in later methods courses, the workforce, for completing their thesis, etc.

- We also show them the *real way* that data analysis occurs in Psychology