



Sacred Heart
UNIVERSITY



Institute for Public Policy Statewide Poll - March 2022



Report of Findings

April 22, 2022

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Sacred Heart
UNIVERSITY



Our Story

Sacred Heart University's Institute for Public Policy and GreatBlue Research partnered to analyze salient issues facing the State of Connecticut. This collaboration combines the academic excellence of a top-rated private University and the research design, analysis and reporting expertise of GreatBlue Research.

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Areas of Investigation

The Sacred Heart University Institute for Public Policy leveraged a digital quantitative research approach to address the following areas of investigation:

- Thoughts on the quality of life in Connecticut
- Calculate insight on National Politics
- Determine movement in Connecticut Politics
- Quantify Sentiment for President Joe Biden
- Measure support of President Joe Biden's Supreme Court Nominee Ketanji Brown
- Understand CT residents' thoughts regarding taxes and mill rates in the state
- Gauge sentiments pertaining to the crisis in Ukraine
- Ascertain levels of trust placed in health & financial institutions, government and news sources
- Demographic profiles of respondents

Research Methodology Snapshot

Methodology Digital*	No. of Completes 1,000	No. of Questions 39**	Sample Procured by GreatBlue
Target Connecticut residents	Margin of Error +/- 3.02%	Confidence Level 95%	Research Dates March 24 - April 11, 2022

*Supervisory personnel, in addition to computer-aided interviewing platforms, ensure the integrity of the data is accurate.

**This represents the total possible number of questions; not all respondents will answer all questions based on skip patterns and other instrument bias.

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71.5%

would still purchase
at an increased
price point

8.9%

5.4%

2.8%

0.0%

Negative Impact

Boomers

No Impact

Positive Impact

SHU Institute for Public Policy - March 2022 Headlines

- ❖ The majority of Connecticut residents surveyed in March 2022, 73.7%, reported their quality of life in the State as being either “excellent” (18.4%) or “good” (55.3%), which marked an increase over the 68.7% who reported the same in October of 2021. Of note, an increased frequency of March 2022 respondents expressed the belief that the quality of life in Connecticut over the last year is “declining” (30.8%), compared to the rate of those who reported the same in October 2021 (16.8%).
- ❖ In March 2022, 31.8% of surveyed residents (from 40.4% in October 2021) reported it being either “very easy” (9.6%) or “somewhat easy” (30.8%) to maintain their standard of living out of their household income today, while 44.7% (from 56.6% in October 2021) reported it being “difficult” to maintain their standard of living. The frequency of respondents who indicated it is “very easy” or “somewhat easy” has decreased significantly from 40.4% in October 2021.
- ❖ 39.0% of respondents rated President Joe Biden since he took office in January 2021 as “excellent” (13.4%) or “good” (25.6%). More than four-fifths of state respondents indicated support of President Biden’s nomination of Ketanji Brown (46.5%) as a member of the Supreme Court.
- ❖ The majority of Connecticut residents surveyed in March 2022, 58.4%, believe the Supreme Court is too influenced by politics. Roughly one-half of respondents, 49.7%, support Congress keeping the United States on permanent Daylight Savings Time.

SHU Institute for Public Policy - March 2022 Headlines

- ❖ The majority of Connecticut residents surveyed in March 2022, 65.8%, reported they have not personally done anything to support Ukraine against Russia. More than one-half of respondents, 52.2%, believe the United States should do more to support Ukraine against the invasion of Russia.
- ❖ In March 2022, when respondents were asked to grade Governor Ned Lamont, Senator Richard Blumenthal and Senator Chris Murphy, more than two-fifths of respondents (46.8%) rated Governor Ned Lamont as “excellent” (14.4%) or “good” (32.4%). A similar frequency of respondents indicated “excellent” or “good” for Senator Richard Blumenthal (43.4%) and Senator Chris Murphy (43.1%).
- ❖ The majority of surveyed Connecticut residents, 78.3%, believe “the Governor and General Assembly should temporarily suspending the gas tax,” while only 58.9% of respondents agreed with “permanently eliminating the gas tax.” One-half of Connecticut respondents (50.8%) indicated agreement to a “capped statewide mill rate on vehicles.” Of note, 34.0% of Connecticut respondents indicated being “unsure” regarding a capped mill rate on vehicles.
- ❖ The significant majority of surveyed Connecticut residents (80.3%) reported they will be voting in the 2022 election in November.
- ❖ When respondents were prompted to indicate if “every student in CT be able to attend a 4-year university for free,” nearly one-half (47.2%) agreed while 39.1% do not agree.

SHU Institute for Public Policy - March 2022 Headlines

- ❖ Nearly one-half of Connecticut respondents (47.6%) indicated they would vote for Democrat Ned Lamont if the election for Governor were held today, while 29.7% would vote for Republican Bob Stefanowski. One-third of respondents (33.3%) reported Connecticut's laws regulating the purchasing of firearms is "too lenient," while a similar frequency (32.5%) reported the laws are "about right." Regarding parental influence on K-12 school curriculum, respondents were nearly evenly split among the four answer options; however, 26.9% of respondents believe the parental influence is "too little."
- ❖ In March 2022, 68.3% of surveyed Connecticut residents do not believe the CT property tax is "fair." Similarly, 61.8% of respondents do not believe the income tax is "fair," and 56.7% of respondents do not believe the sales tax in CT is "fair."
- ❖ Nearly two-fifths of Connecticut residents surveyed in March 2022 (37.7%) indicated the state should respond to young people who repeatedly commit crimes by "sentencing them for the same amount of time as an adult, to be served in an adult prison." A higher frequency of respondents (71.9%) reported "increase employment opportunities for young people" as the best use for public funding to reduce long-term crime.
- ❖ In March 2022, a significant frequency of Connecticut respondents (53.0%) reported trust in "The Center for Disease Control"; roughly one-half (52.7) of respondents indicated trust in Dr. Anthony Fauci/Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), and two-fifths of respondents "trust" the "local news" (44.8%) or their "local city/town government" (43.7%).

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Negative Impact

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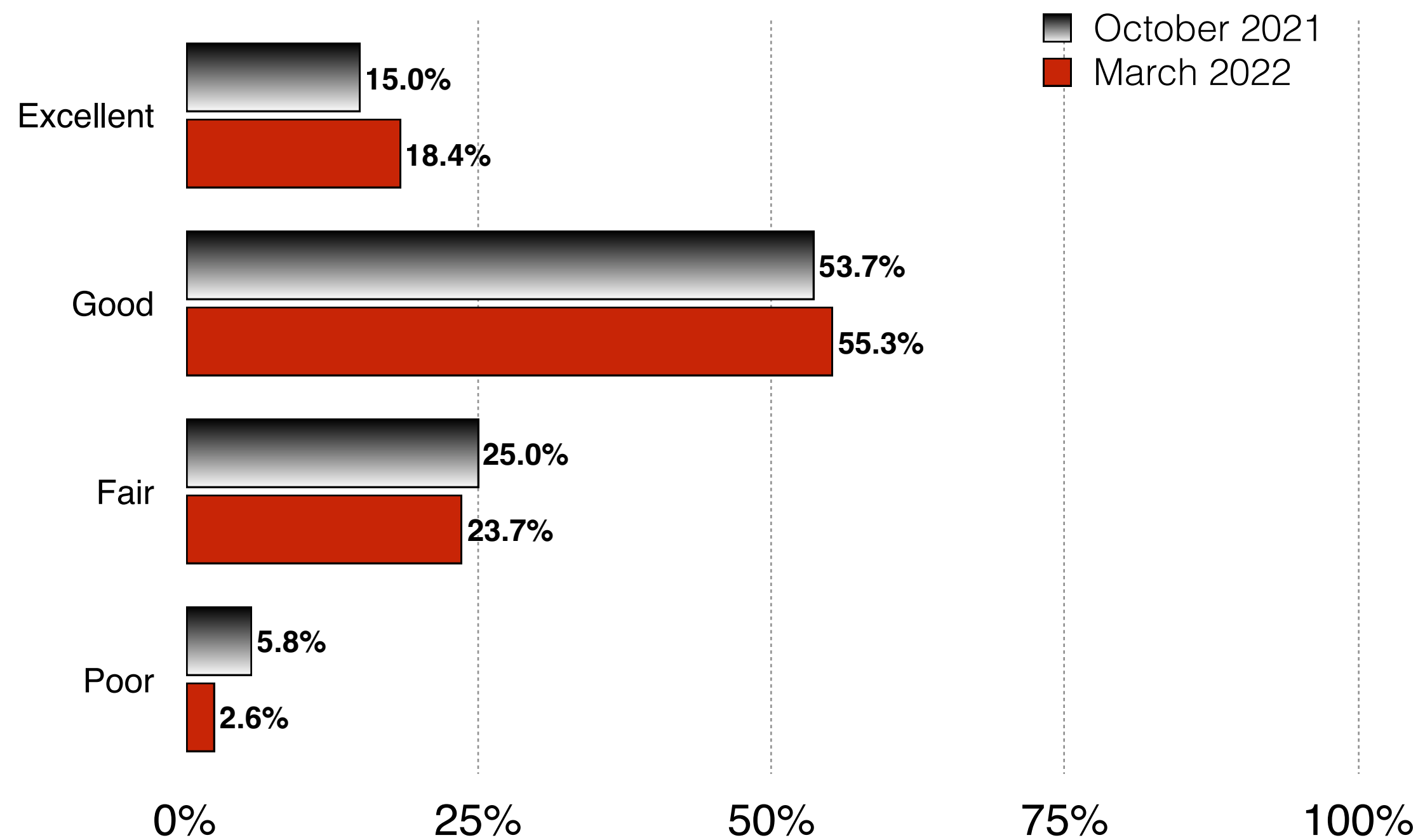
No Impact

Positive Impact

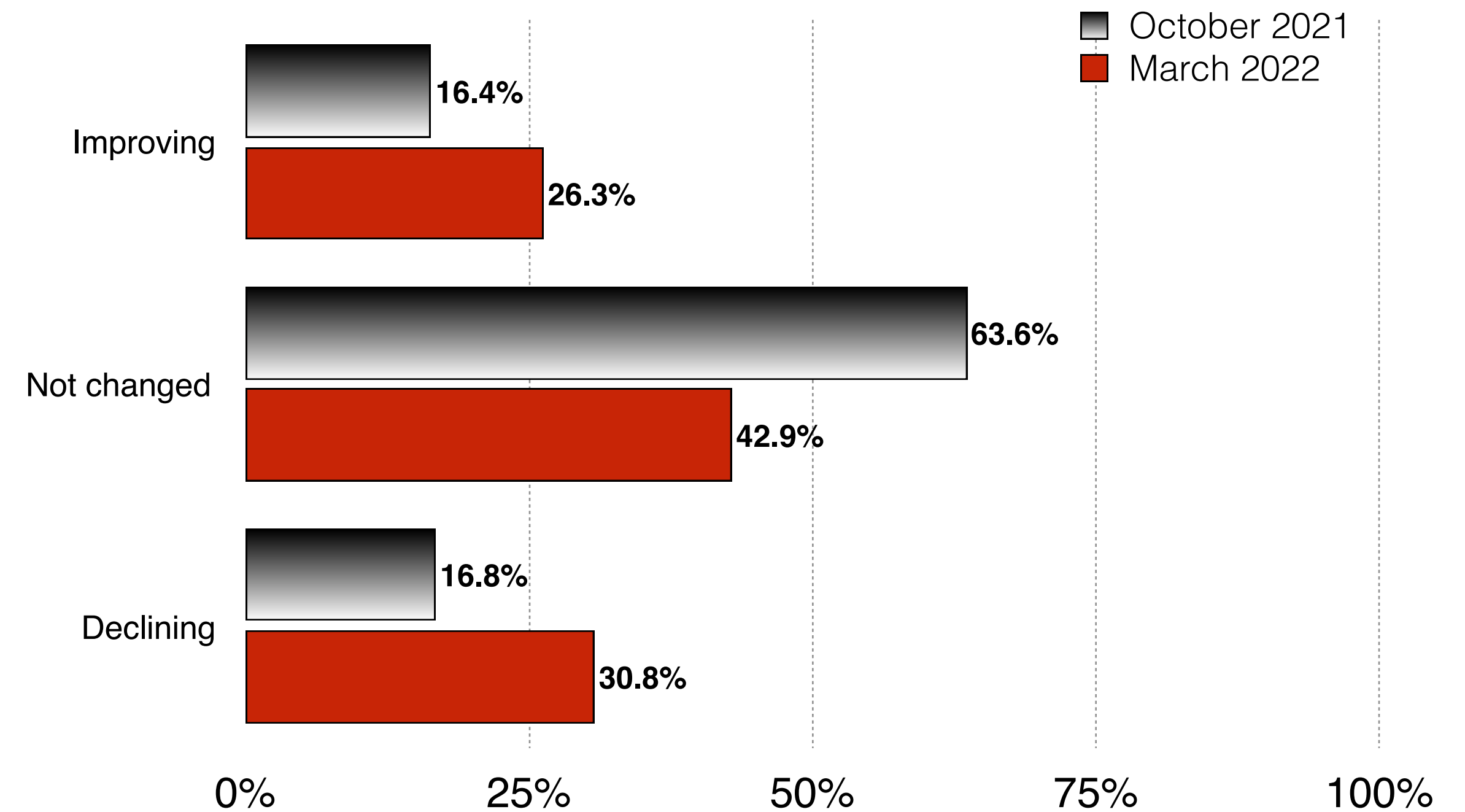
Quality of Life in Connecticut

The majority of Connecticut residents surveyed in March 2022, 73.7%, reported their quality of life in the State as being either “excellent” (18.4%) or “good” (55.3%), which marked an increase over the 68.7% who reported the same in October of 2021. Of note, an increased frequency of March 2022 respondents expressed the belief that the quality of life in Connecticut over the last year is “declining” (30.8%), compared to the rate of those who reported the same in October 2021 (16.8%).

- ❖ A lower frequency of respondents earning less than \$20,000 annually, 74.0%, reported their quality of life as either “excellent” (14.2%) or “good” (59.8%) when compared to those earning \$150,000 or more per year (83.8%).
- ❖ A higher frequency of Hartford County residents, 32.8%, reported their quality of life as “significantly improved” (5.9%) or “slightly improved” (26.9%) when compared to those in Middlesex County (15.2%).



Q How would you rate your overall quality of life in Connecticut? Would you say...

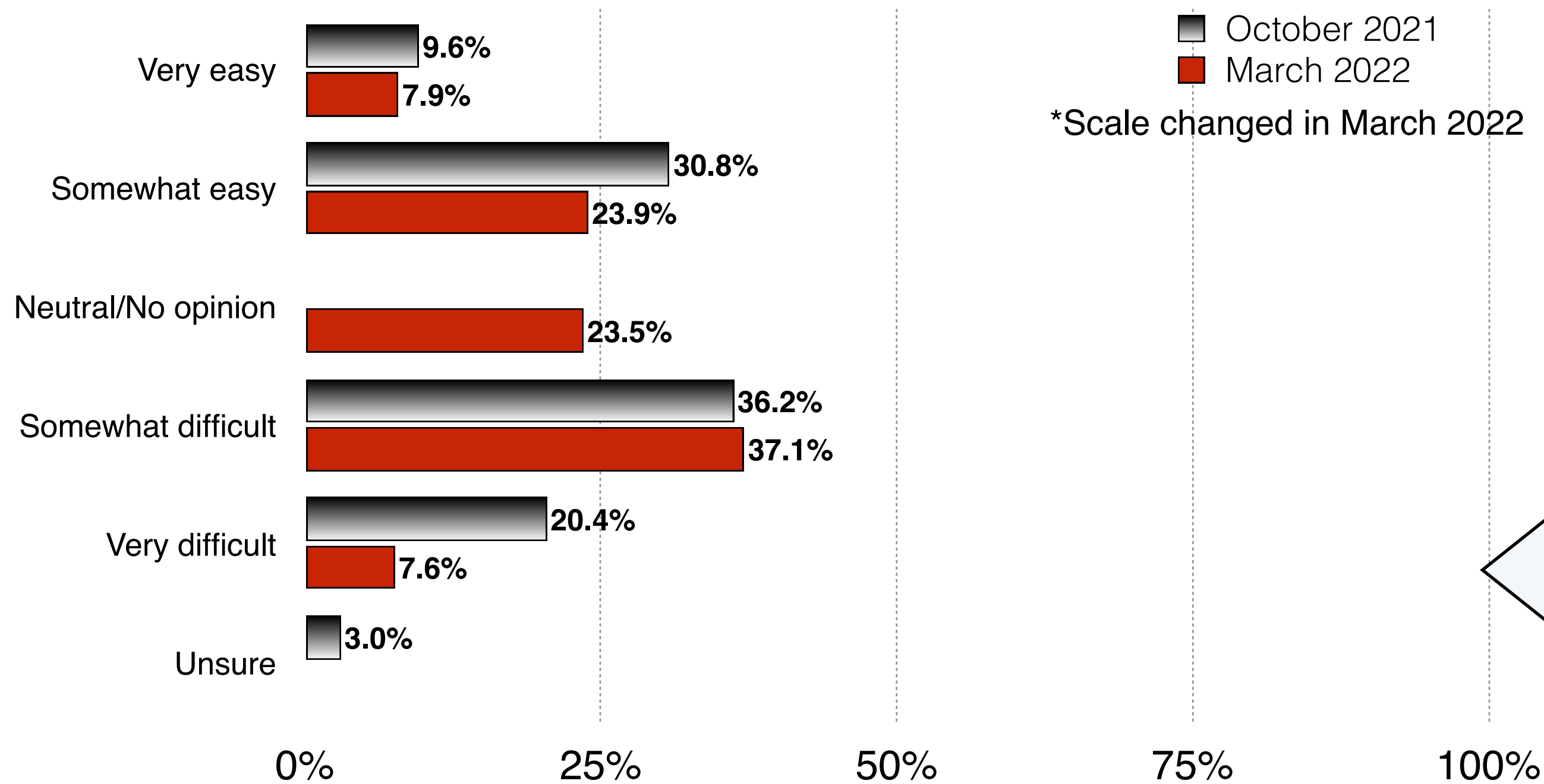


Q Would you say, overall, your quality of life in Connecticut is...

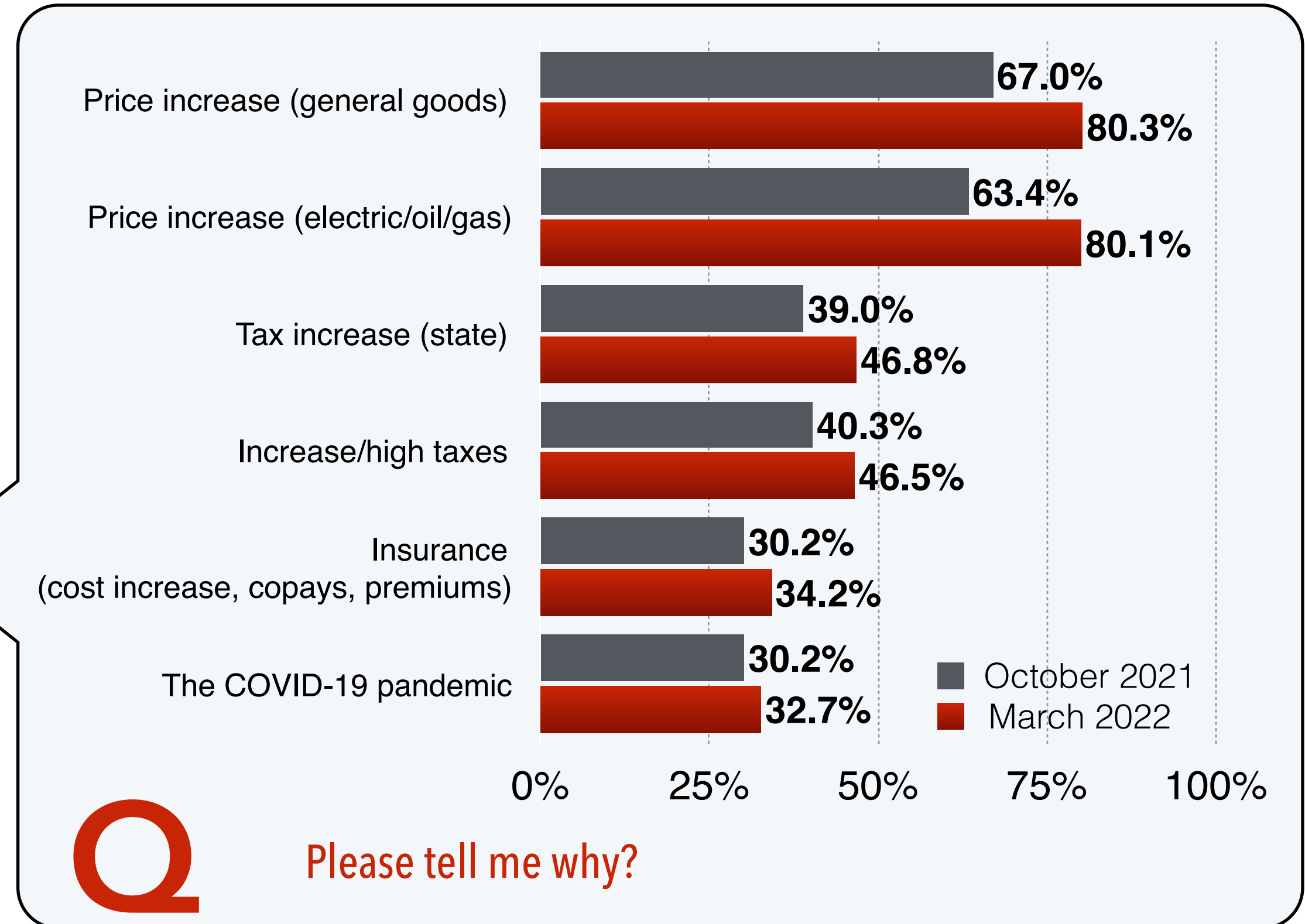
Quality of Life in Connecticut

In March 2022, 31.8% of surveyed residents (from 40.4% in October 2021) reported it being either “very easy” (9.6%) or “somewhat easy” (30.8%) to maintain their standard of living out of their household income today, while 44.7% (from 56.6% in October 2021) reported it being “difficult” to maintain their standard of living.

- ❖ 54.1% of respondents earning \$20,000 to less than \$40,000 reported maintaining their standard of living as “somewhat difficult” (37.4%) or “very difficult” (16.7%).
- ❖ Nearly two-fifths of respondents 65 or older (38.8%) reported maintaining their standard of living as “difficult,” as 32.6% indicated “somewhat difficult” while 6.2% reported “very difficult.”



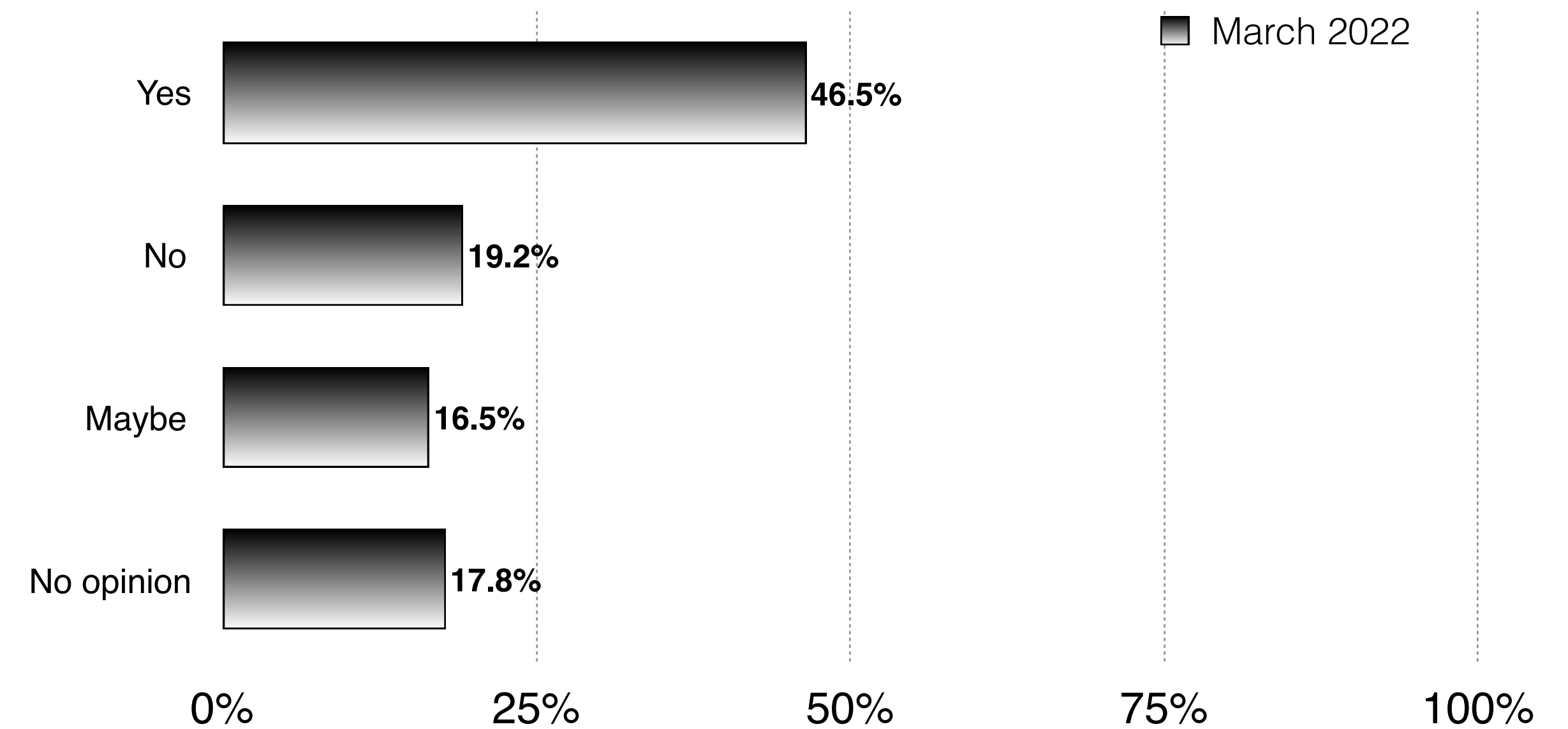
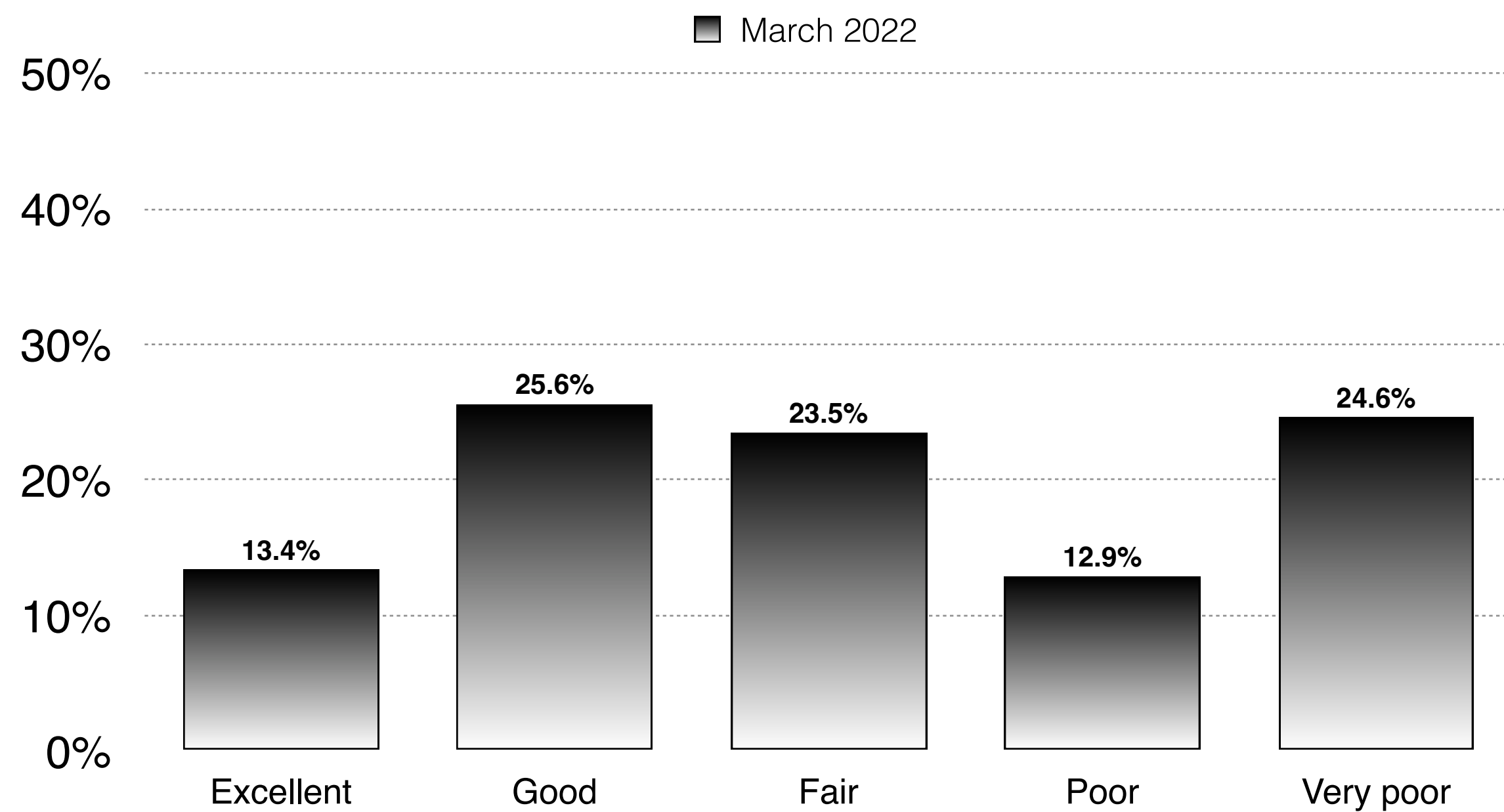
Q Overall, how easy or difficult are you finding it to maintain your standard of living out of your total household income today. Would you say...



Q Please tell me why?

39.0% of respondents rated the job done by President Joe Biden since he took office in January 2021 as “excellent” (13.4%) or “good” (25.6%). More than two-fifths of state respondents indicated support of President Biden’s nomination of Ketanji Brown (46.5%) as a member of the Supreme Court.

- ❖ A higher frequency of Democrats (25.2%) reported President Joe Biden as doing “excellent” compared to 3.9% of Republicans.
- ❖ 42.1% of respondents ages 65 or older rate President Joe Biden as “excellent” (14.3%) or “good” (27.8%).
- ❖ Respondents ages 65 or older (56.8%) were more likely to indicate support of President Biden’s nomination of Supreme Court Justice Brown than respondents ages 18-34 (35.0%).



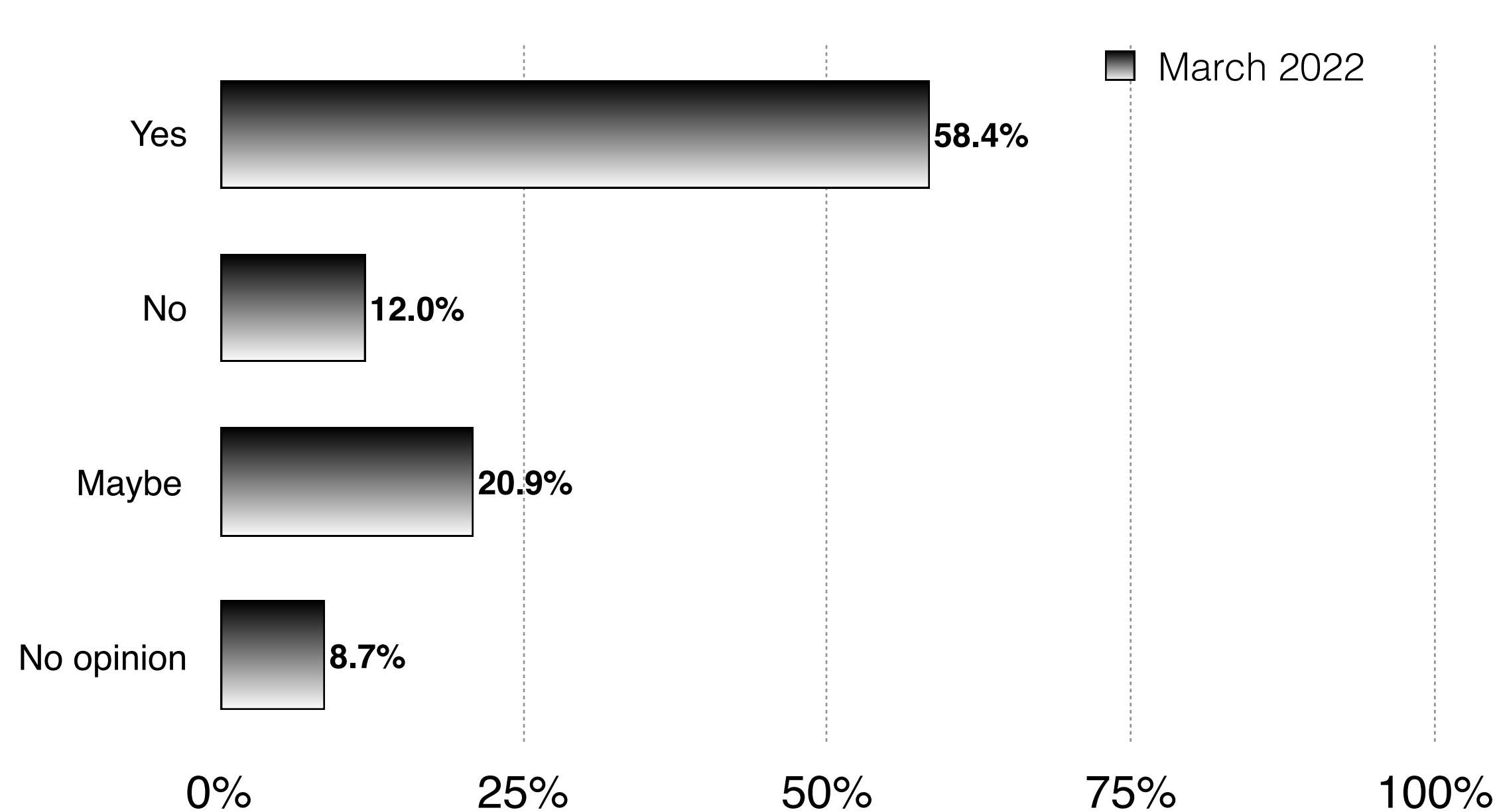
How would you grade President Joe Biden since he took office in January 2021?



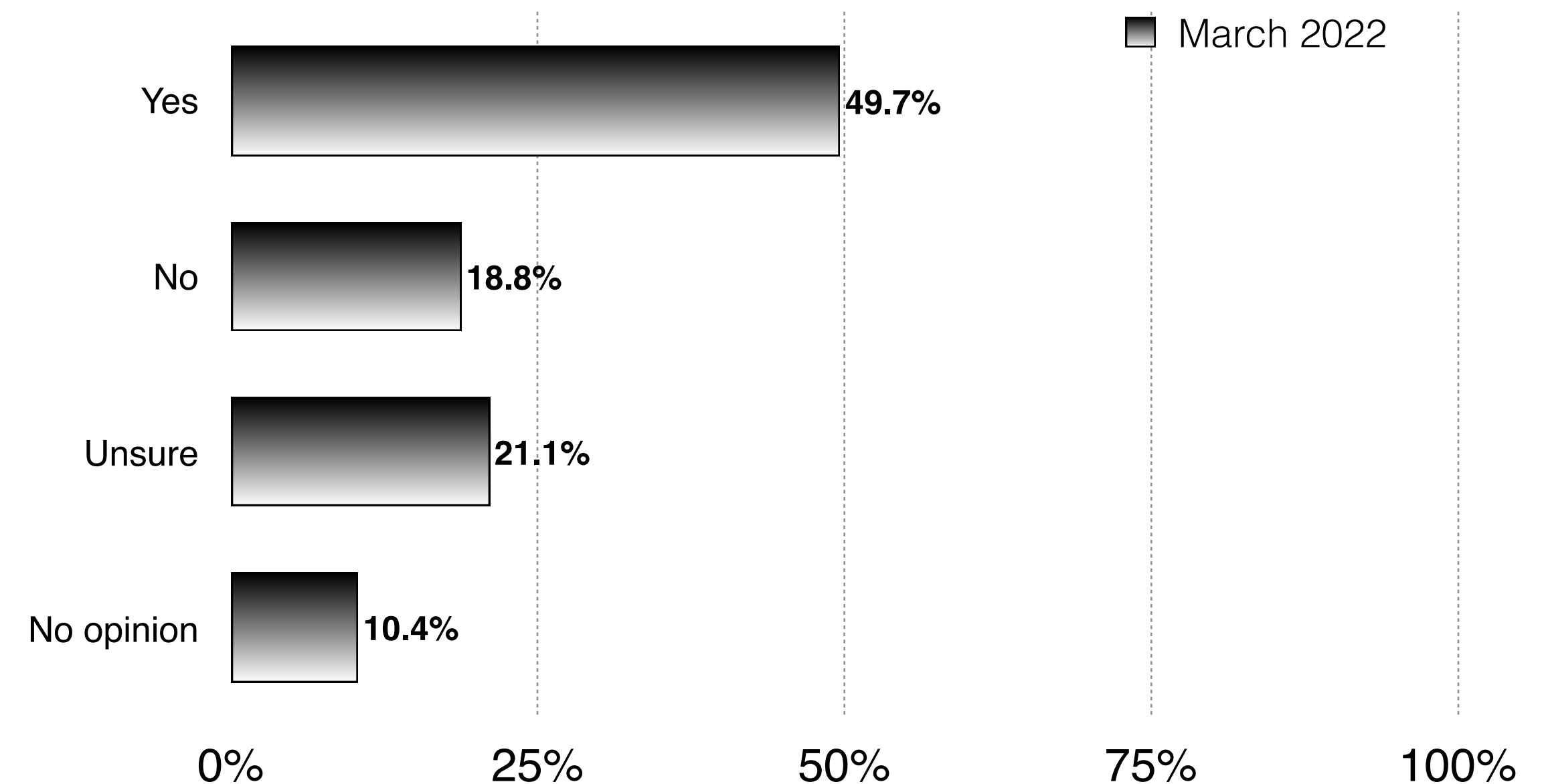
Do you agree with President Biden’s nomination of Ketanji Brown to be a member of the Supreme Court?

The majority of Connecticut residents surveyed in March 2022, 58.4%, believe the Supreme Court is too influenced by politics. Roughly one-half of respondents, 49.7%, support Congress keeping the United States on permanent Daylight Savings Time.

- ❖ 63.8% of Republicans reported the Supreme Court is too influenced by politics compared to 14.7% of Democrats.
- ❖ A higher frequency of Tolland County residents (61.5%) indicated the Supreme Court is too influenced by politics compared to Windham County residents (35.3%).
- ❖ 53.9% of respondents ages 35-44 support Congress keeping the United States on permanent Daylight Savings Time.



Q Do you believe the Supreme Court is too influenced by politics?

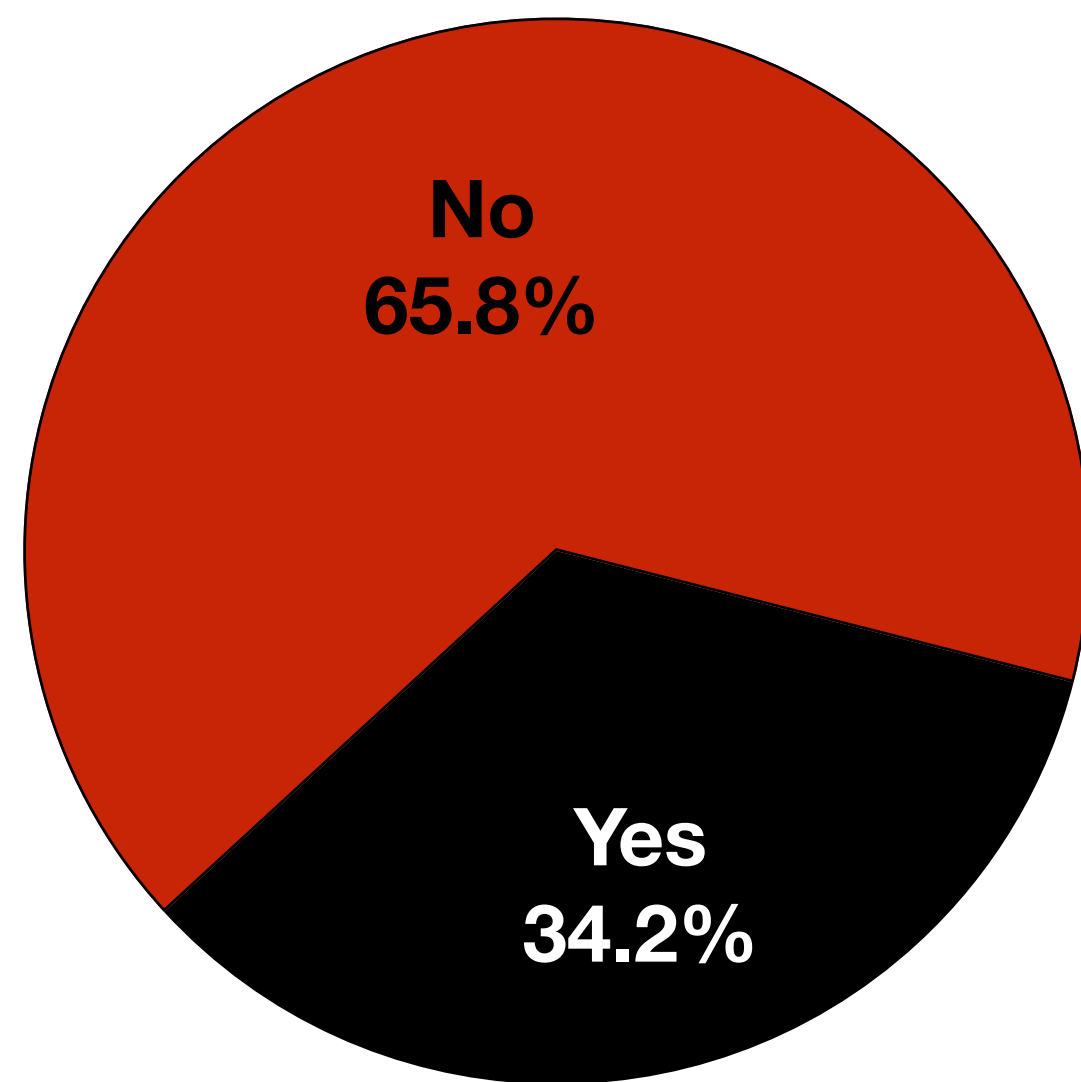


Q Do you support Congress keeping the United States on permanent Daylight Savings Time?

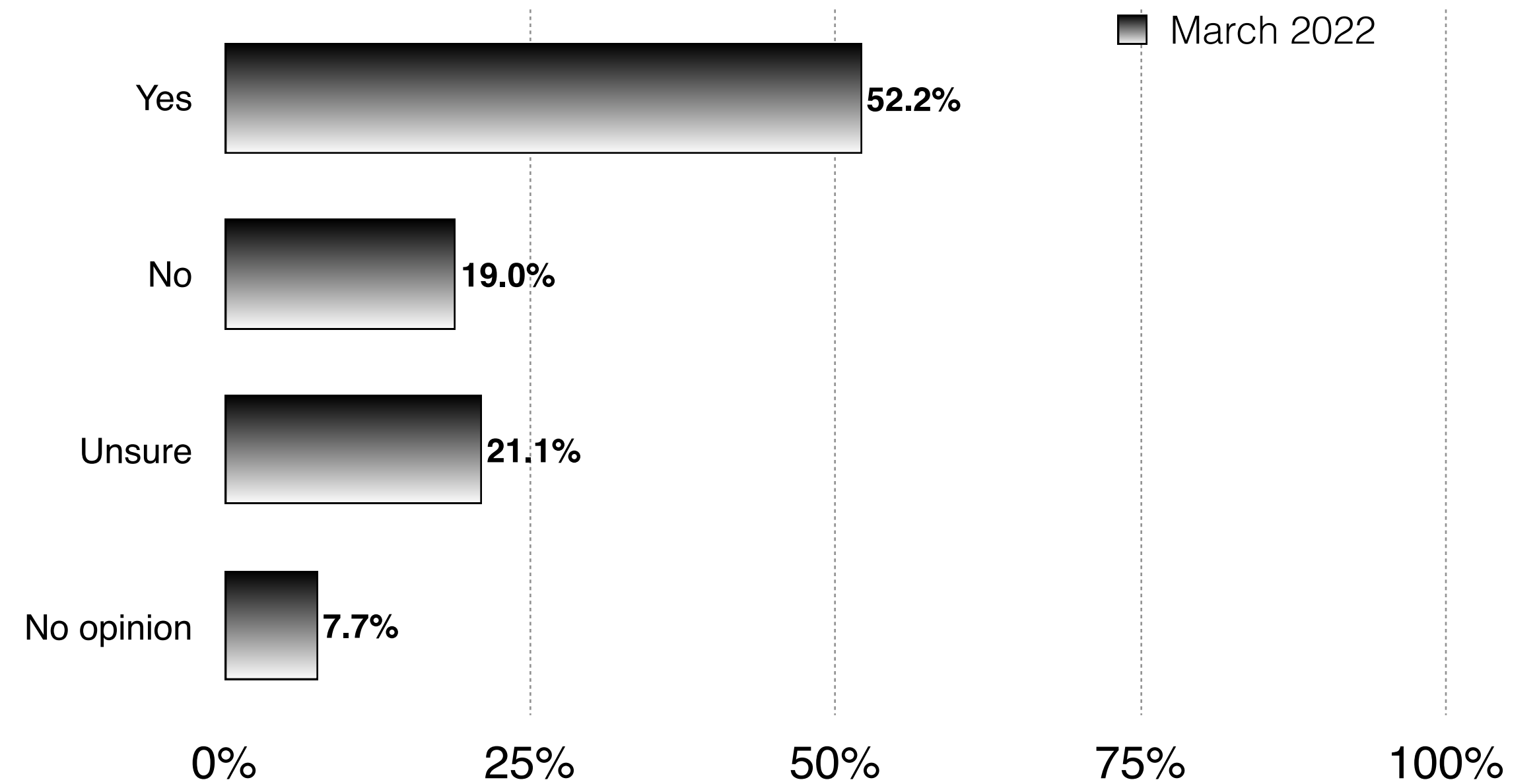
National Politics - Continued

The majority of Connecticut residents surveyed in March 2022, 65.8%, reported they have not personally done anything to support Ukraine against Russia. More than one-half of respondents, 52.2%, believe the United States should do more to support Ukraine against the invasion of Russia.

- ❖ A higher frequency of male respondents (59.1%) reported the United States should do more to support Ukraine than female respondents (45.9%).
- ❖ Respondents from Windham County (2.9%) were the least likely to report having personally done anything to support Ukraine against the invasion of Russia.



Q Have you personally done anything to support Ukraine against the invasion from Russia?



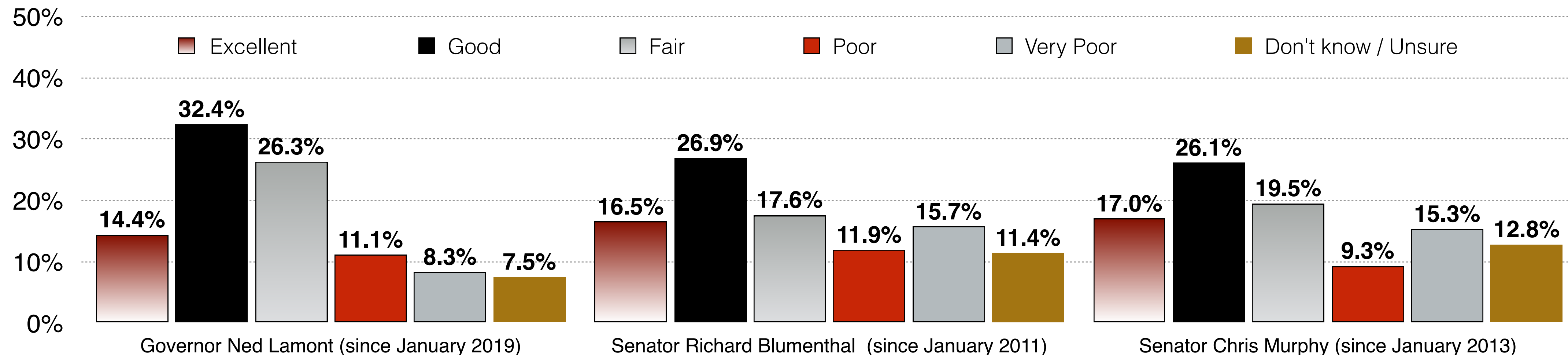
Q Do you believe the United States should do more to support Ukraine against the invasion of Russia?

In March 2022, when respondents were asked to grade Governor Ned Lamont, Senator Richard Blumenthal and Senator Chris Murphy, more than two-fifths of respondents (46.8%) rated Governor Ned Lamont as “excellent” (14.4%) or “good” (32.4%). A similar frequency of respondents indicated “excellent” or “good” for Senator Richard Blumenthal (43.4%) and Senator Chris Murphy (43.1%).

- ❖ 39.3% of respondents earning \$100,000 or more graded Governor Ned Lamont as “good,” while those earning \$20,000 to \$39,999 annually reported “good” at 22.4% frequency.
- ❖ When compared to Middlesex County, a higher frequency of Fairfield County respondents reported “good” for Senator Richard Blumenthal (19.5% over 9.1%).
- ❖ 34.6% of Democrats graded Senator Chris Murphy as “good,” while Republicans indicated the same at a 10.5% frequency.

Q

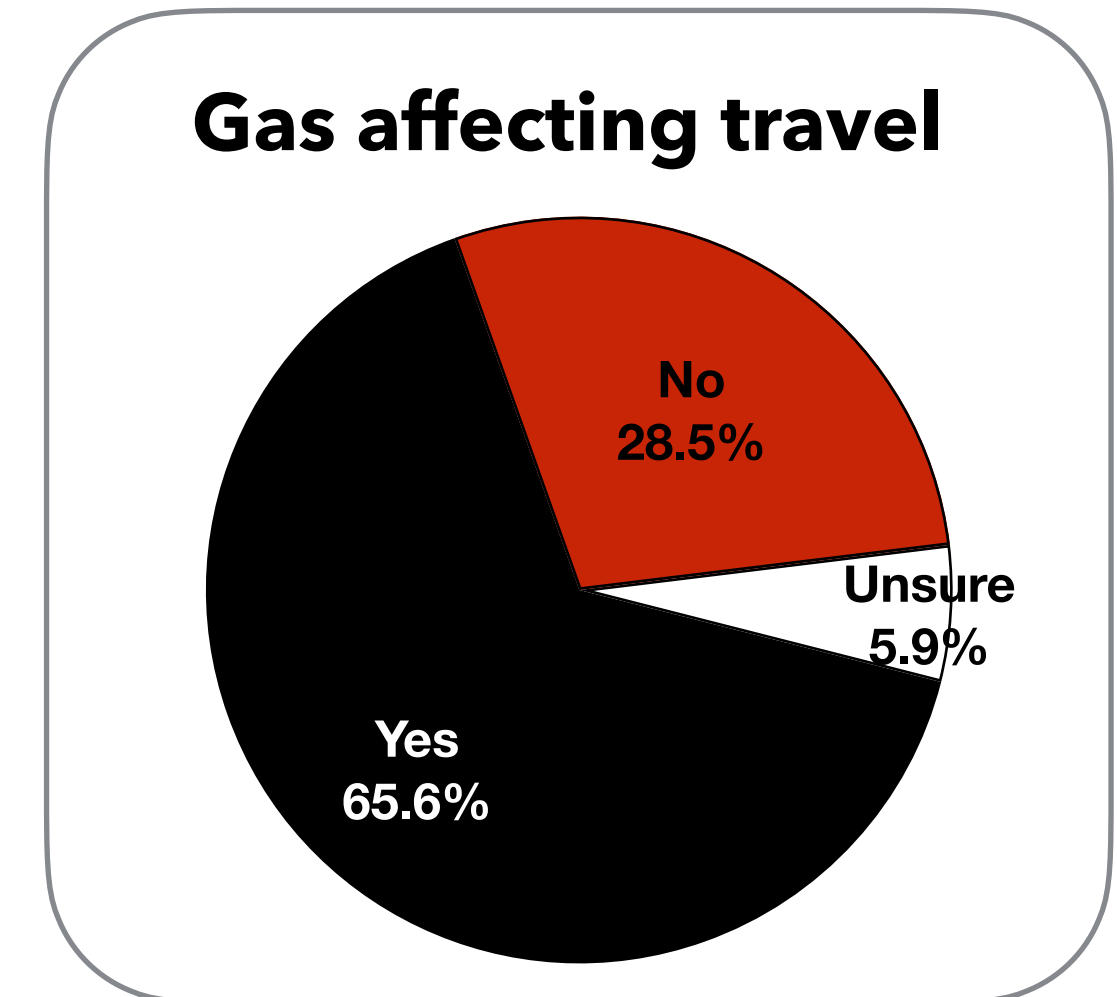
How would you grade...



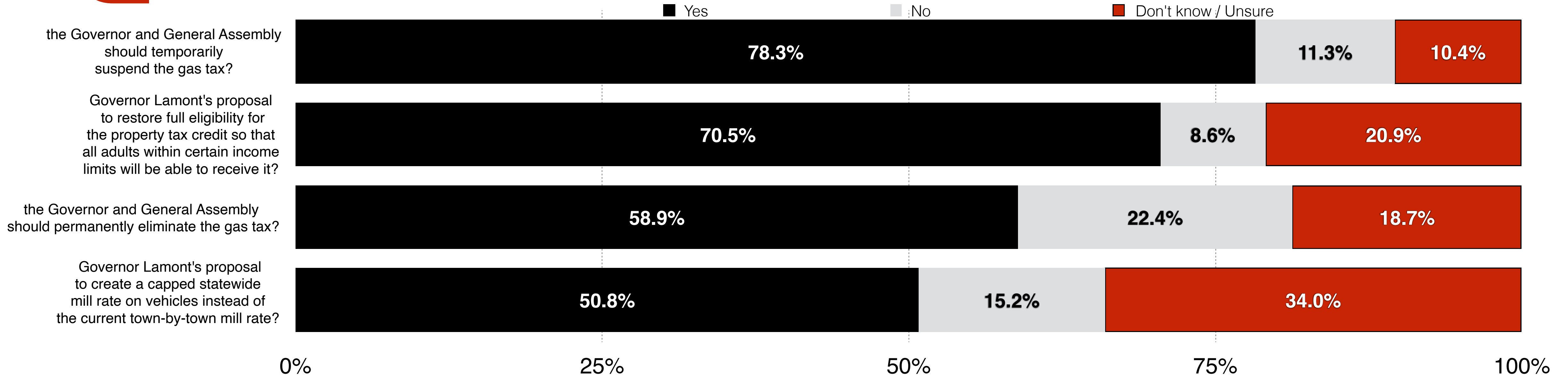
Connecticut Politics - Continued

The majority of surveyed Connecticut residents, 78.3%, believe “the Governor and General Assembly should temporarily suspending the gas tax,” while only 58.9% of respondents agreed with “permanently eliminating the gas tax.” One-half of Connecticut respondents (50.8%) indicated agreement to a “capped statewide mill rate on vehicles.” Of note, 34.0% of Connecticut respondents indicated being “unsure” regarding a capped mill rate on vehicles.

- ❖ 85.0% of respondents of ages 65 or older reported agreement to “temporarily suspending the gas tax,” while only 68.0% of respondents of ages 18 to 34 indicated the same.
- ❖ Respondents whose earnings are \$20,000 to \$39,999 reported agreement to “permanently suspend the gas tax” at a higher frequency than those whose earnings are over \$100,000 (70.1% over 50.4%).



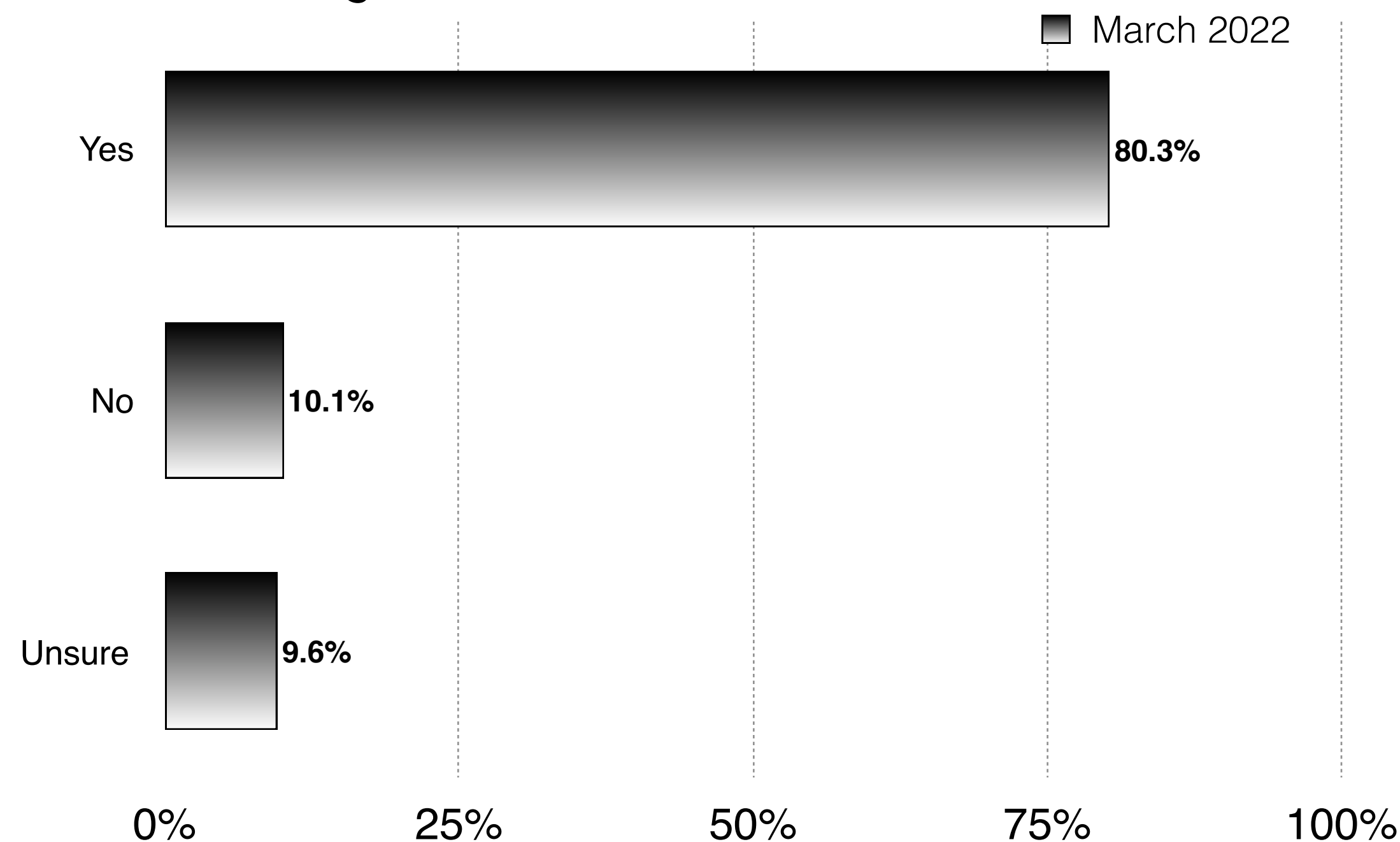
Do you believe / support...



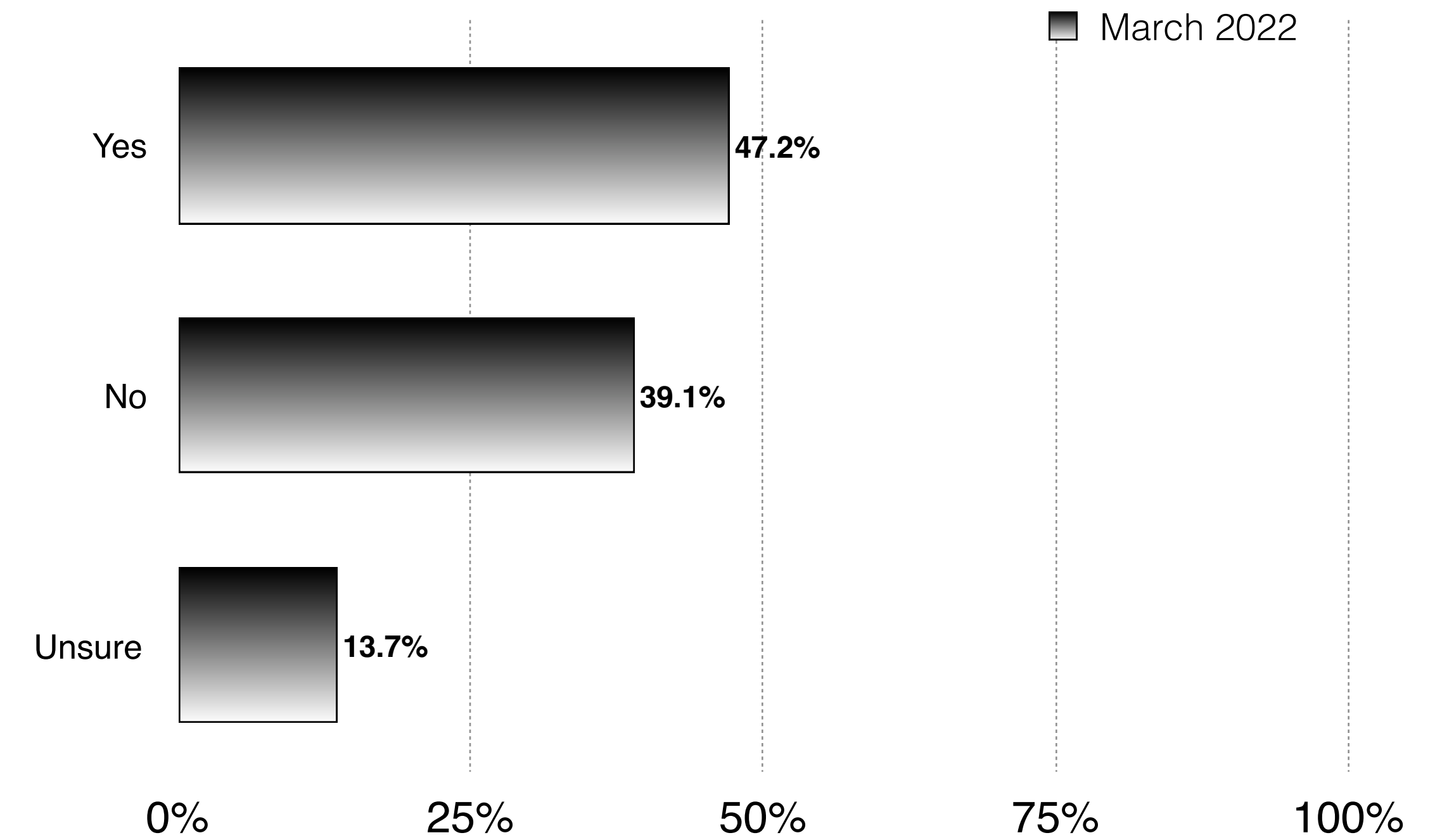
Connecticut Politics - Continued

In March 2022, the significant majority of surveyed Connecticut residents (80.3%) reported they will be voting in the 2022 election in November. When respondents were prompted to indicate if “every student in CT be able to attend a 4-year university for free,” nearly one-half (47.2%) agreed while 39.1% do not agree.

- ❖ Connecticut respondents residing in Tolland County (89.7%) were more likely to indicate they will be voting in November 2022 election than residents in Windham County (67.6%).
- ❖ A higher frequency of respondents whose income earnings are over \$100,000 (87.2%) indicated they will be voting in the November 2022 election compared to those whose income earnings are under \$20,000 (66.1%).
- ❖ 88.7% of Democrats reported agreement to every student in CT attending a 4-year university for free, while 31.0% of Republicans indicated agreement.



Q Do you plan on voting in the 2022 election in November?

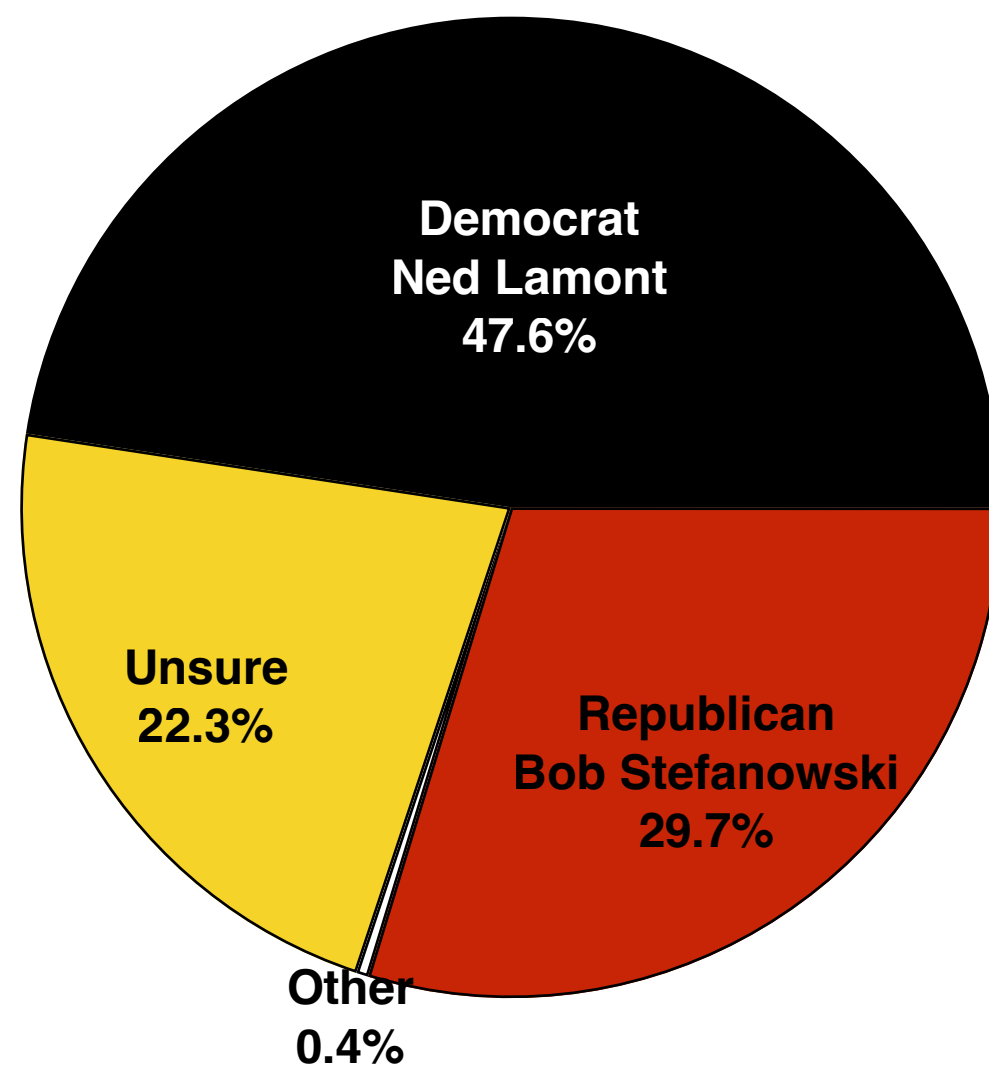


Q Should every student in CT be able to attend a 4-year university for free?

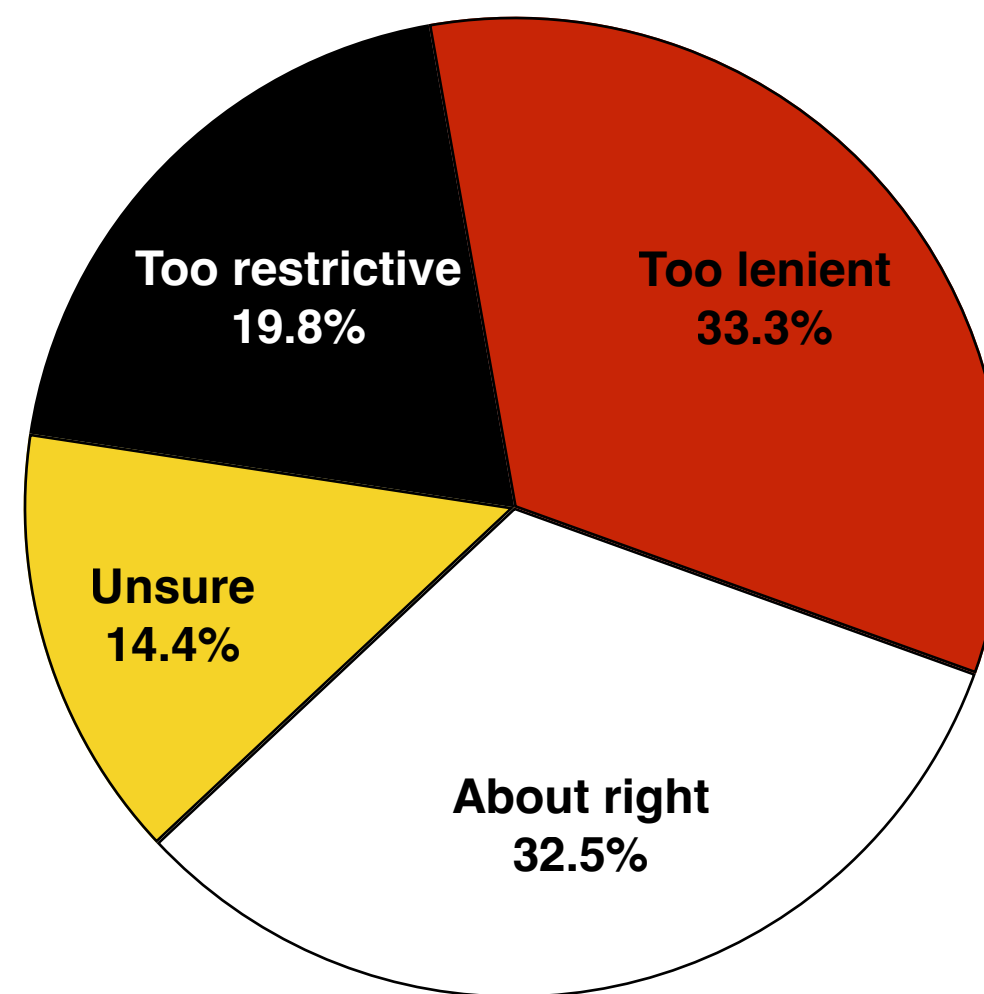
Connecticut Politics - Continued

In March 2022, nearly one-half of Connecticut respondents (47.6%) indicated they would vote for Democrat Ned Lamont if the election for Governor were held today, while 29.7% would vote for Republican Bob Stefanowski. One-third of respondents (33.3%) reported Connecticut's laws regulating the purchasing of firearms are "too lenient," while a similar frequency (32.5%) reported the laws are "about right." Regarding parental influence on K-12 school curriculum, over one-quarter (26.9%) indicated the amount of parental influence is "too little," while a similar frequency, 26.6% indicated it is "about right."

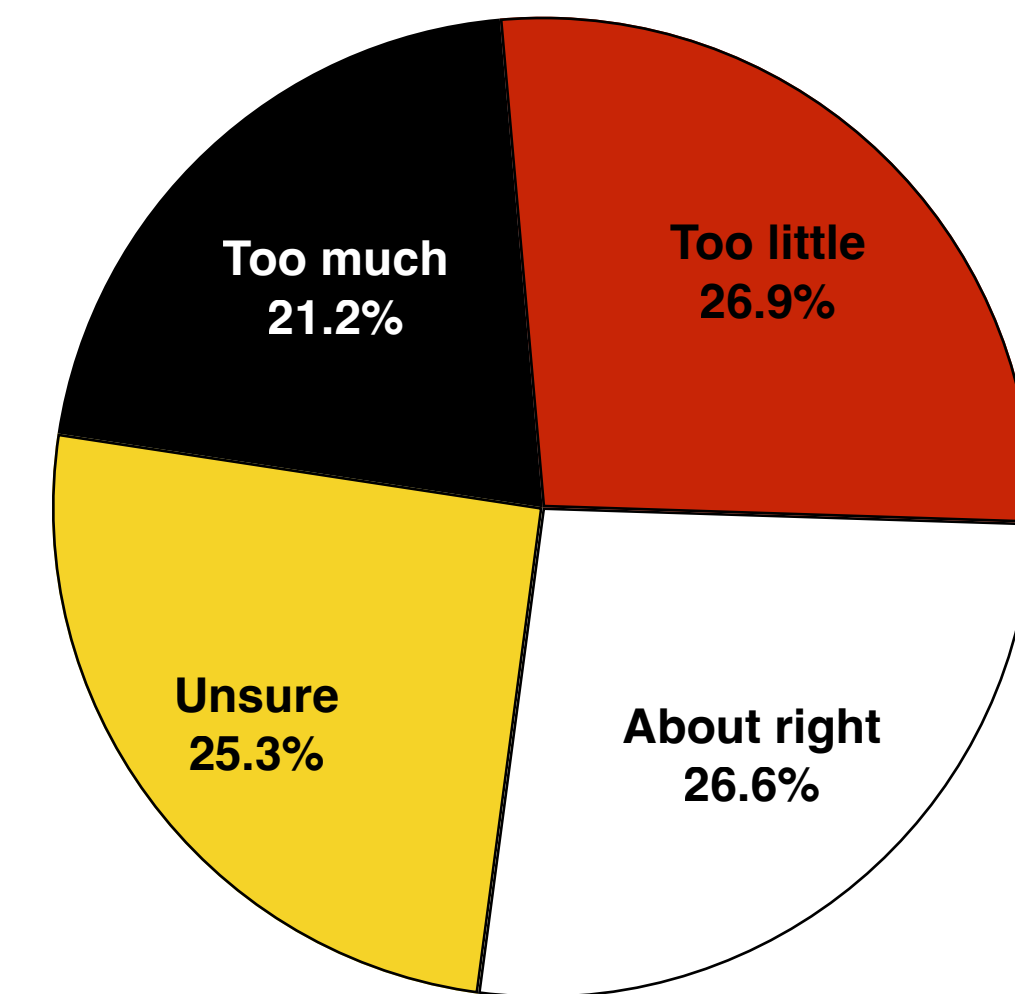
- ❖ 83.1% of Democrats indicated they would vote for Democrat Ned Lamont, while only 11.8% of Republican respondents reported they would vote for the incumbent.
- ❖ Connecticut respondents residing in Windham County (41.2%) were more likely to report "Connecticut laws regulating purchases of firearms" as "too restrictive" than respondents residing in Fairfield County (14.9%).
- ❖ A higher frequency of Republican respondents (42.8%) indicated parental influence on K-12 school as "too little" compared to Democrat respondents (15.5%).



Q If the election for Governor were held today, for whom would you vote?



Q Are Connecticut's laws regulating the purchases of firearms too restrictive or too lenient?



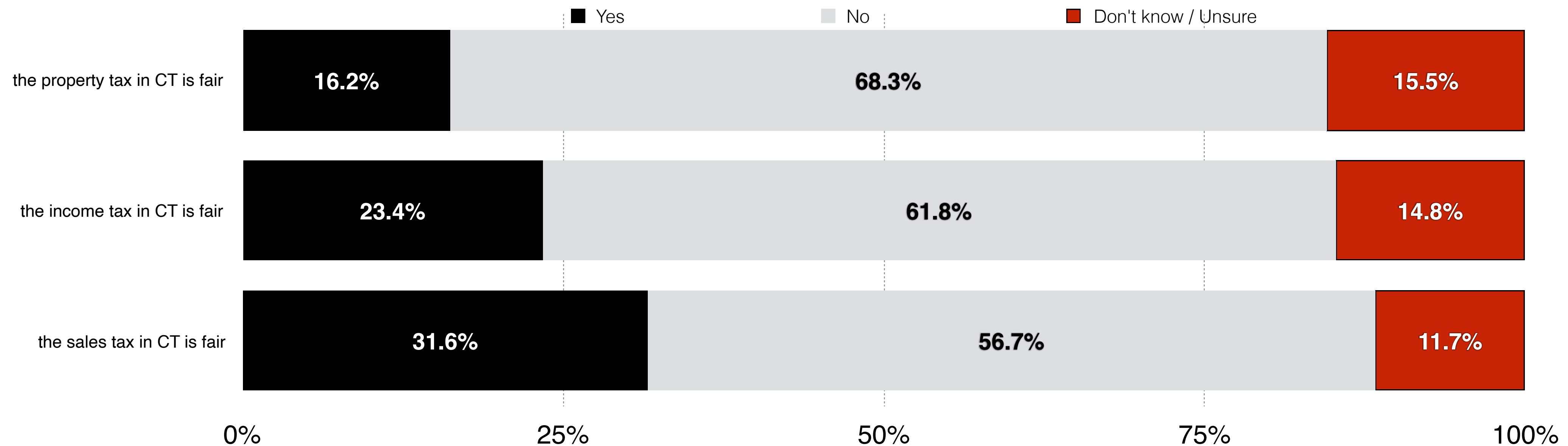
Q Is parental influence on K-12 school curriculum too much, too little or about right?

Tax Situation

In March 2022, 68.3% of surveyed Connecticut residents do not believe the CT property tax is "fair." Similarly, 61.8% of respondents do not believe the income tax is "fair," and 56.7% of respondents do not believe the sales tax in CT is "fair."

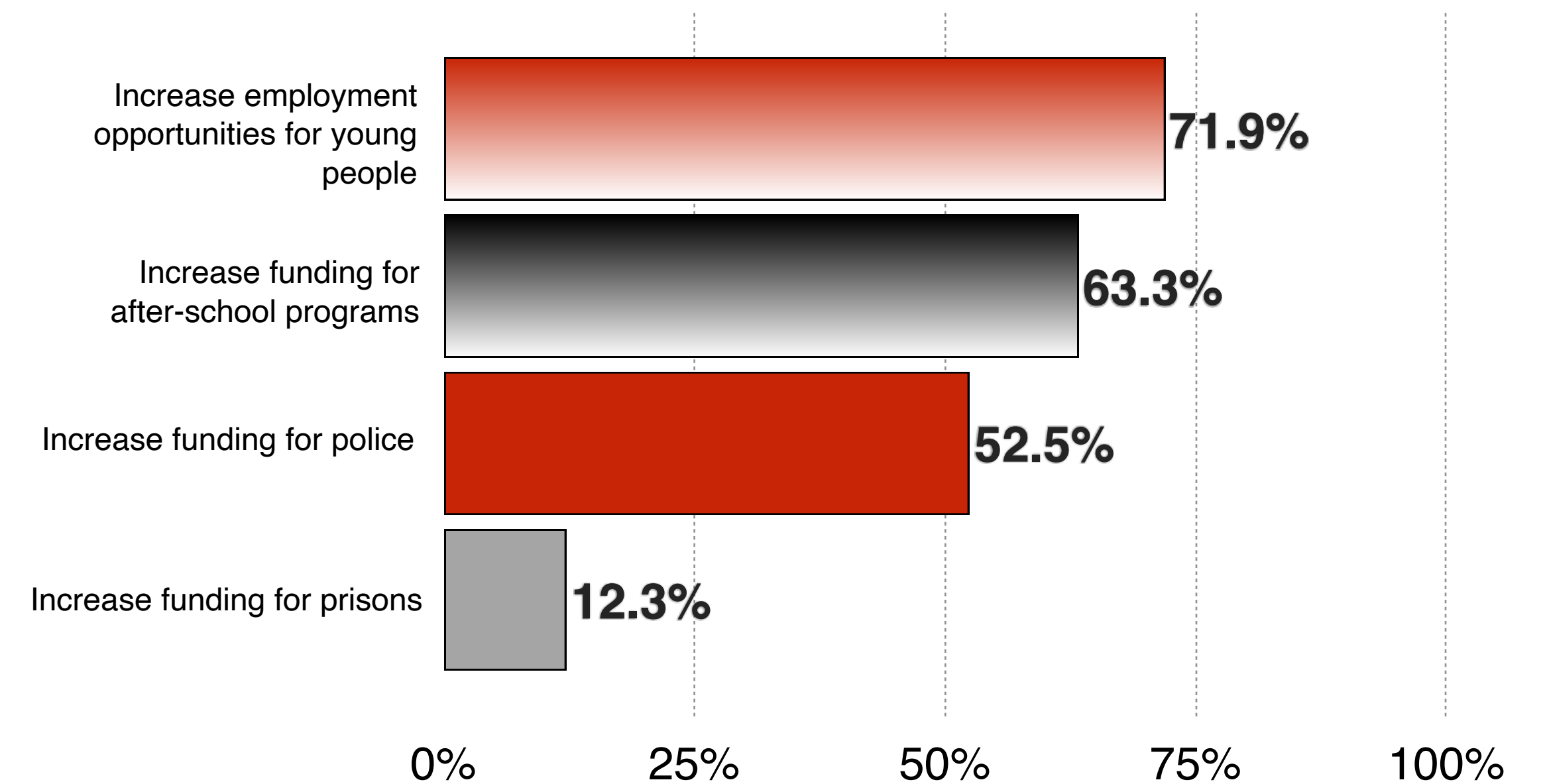
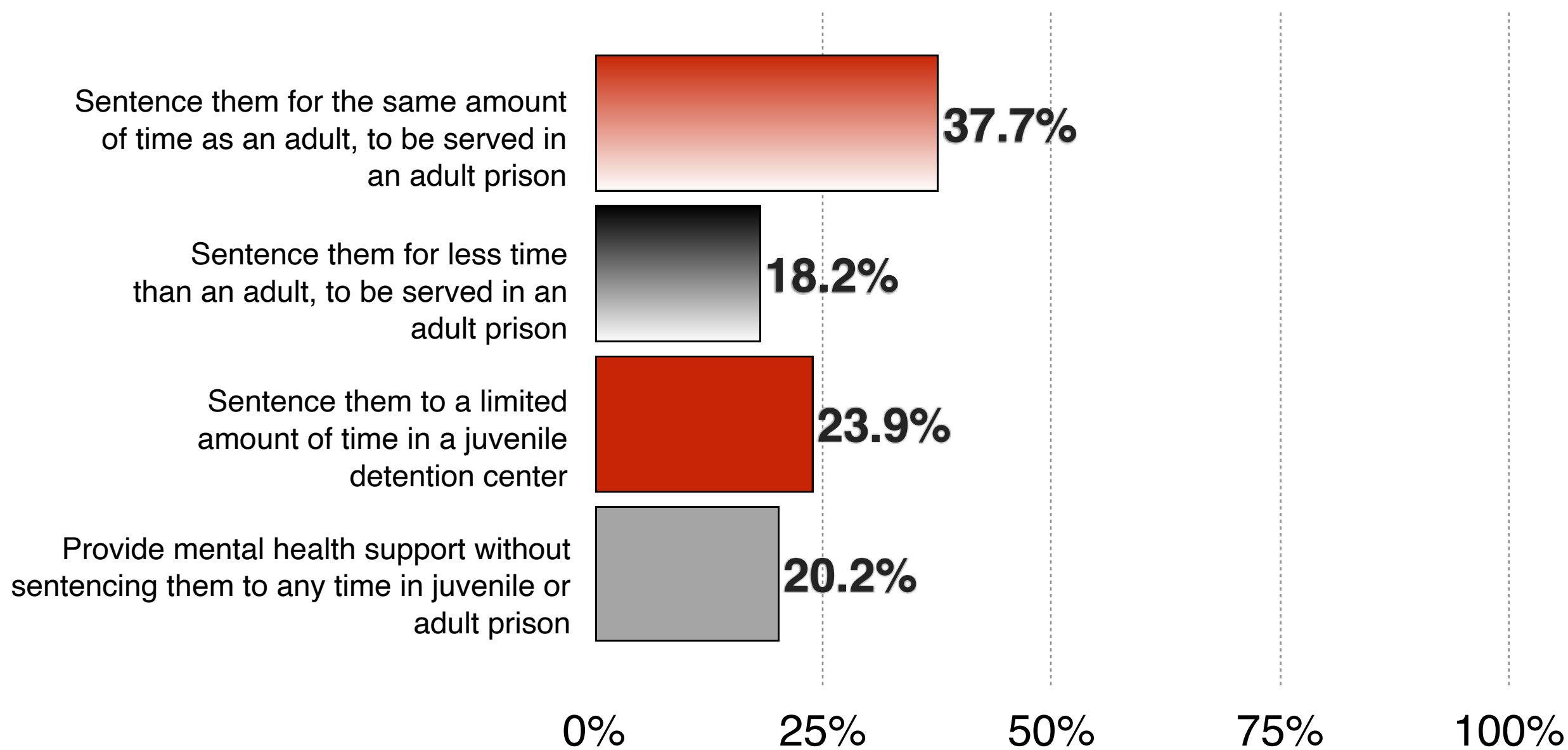
- ❖ A higher frequency of male respondents (36.0%) reported the sales tax as "fair" when compared to female respondents (27.3%).
- ❖ When compared to Fairfield County residents, Windham County residents were more likely to indicate the CT property tax is "not fair" (79.4% over 63.1%).
- ❖ A higher frequency of Republicans (72.9%) indicated the income tax is "not fair" when compared to Democrat respondents (51.2%).

Q Do you believe ...



Nearly two-fifths of Connecticut residents surveyed in March 2022 (37.7%) indicated the state should respond to young people who repeatedly commit crimes by “sentencing them for the same amount of time as an adult, to be served in an adult prison.” A higher frequency of respondents (71.9%) reported “increase employment opportunities for young people” as the best use for public funding to reduce long-term crime.

- ❖ A higher frequency of male respondents (43.2%) reported “sentence them for the same amount of time as an adult, to be served in an adult prison” compared to female respondents (32.4%).
- ❖ 29.1% of respondents between the ages of 18 and 34 indicated “provide mental health support without sentencing them to any time in juvenile or adult prison.”
- ❖ Republican respondents were more likely to report “sentence them for the same amount of time as an adult, to be served in an adult prison” than Democrat respondents (46.7% over 28.7%).



Q How should the state respond to young people who repeatedly commit crimes?

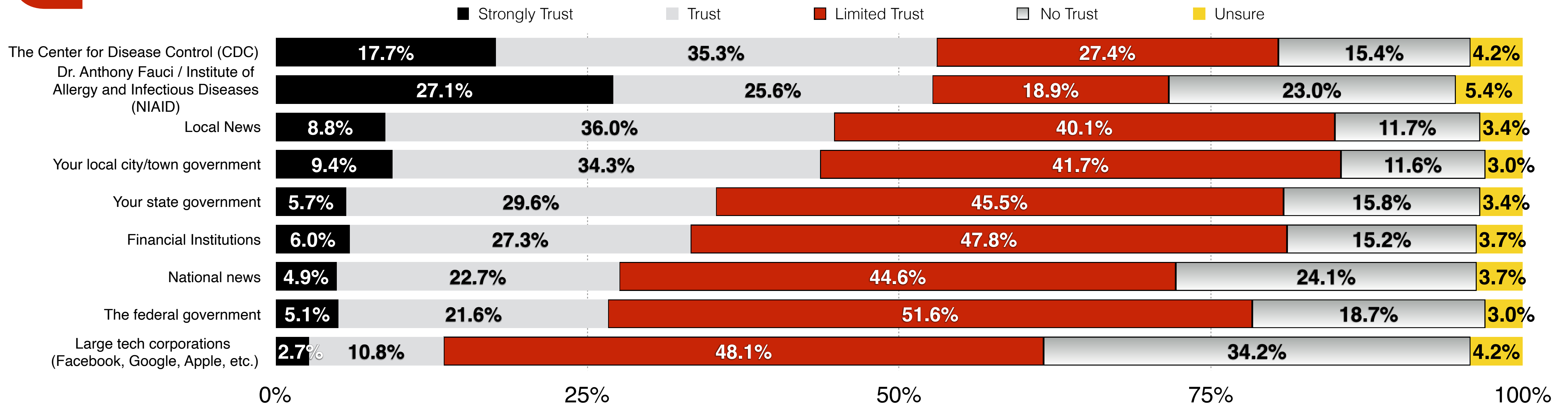
Q Which of the following are the best uses of public funding for reducing long-term crime?

Level of Trust

In March 2022, a significant frequency of Connecticut respondents (53.0%) reported trust in “The Center for Disease Control” roughly one-half (52.7) of respondents indicated trust in Dr. Anthony Fauci/Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), and more than two-fifths of respondents “trust” the “local news” (44.8%) or their “local city/town government” (43.7%).

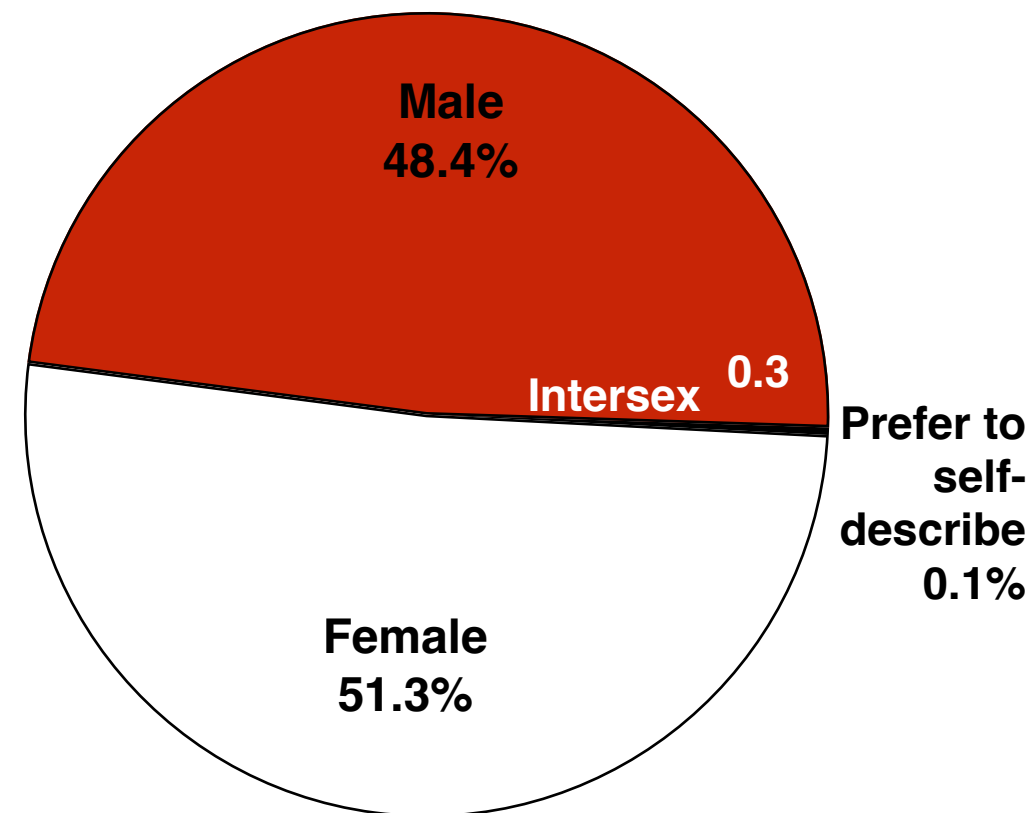
- ❖ A higher frequency of Democrat respondents indicated they “strongly trust” Dr. Fauci/NIAID when compared to Republican respondents (41.6% over 6.1%).
- ❖ Respondents in Hartford County were more likely to “trust” their “local city/town government” than respondents in Windham County (42.3% over 11.8%).
- ❖ Male respondents were more likely to indicate having “no trust” for “large tech corporations” when compared to female respondents (36.0% over 32.6%).

Q Below you will see a list of various entities. Please indicate your overall level of trust for each.

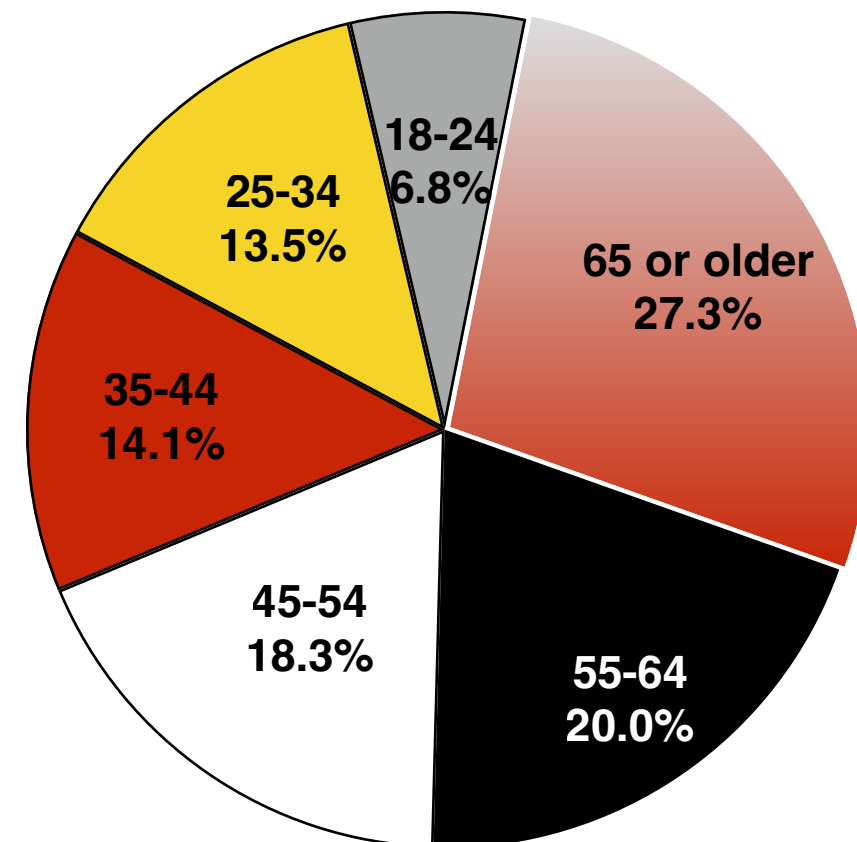


Demographic Profile - March 2022

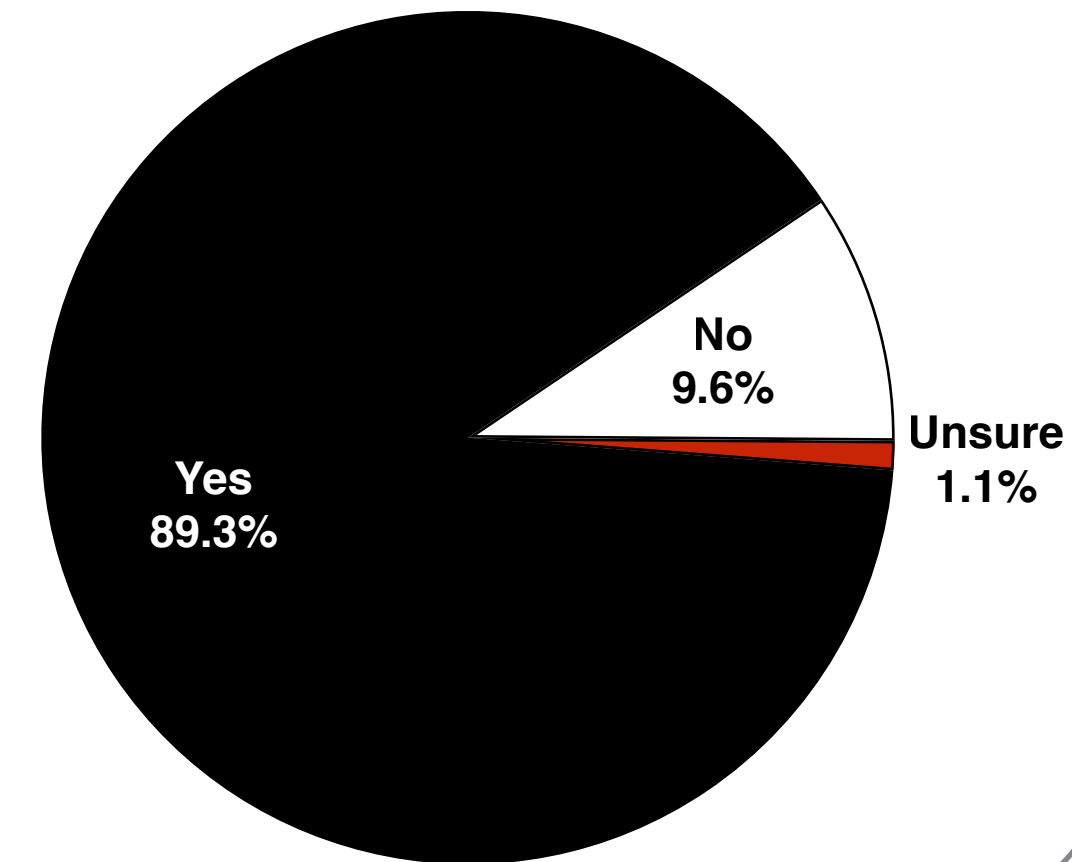
Gender



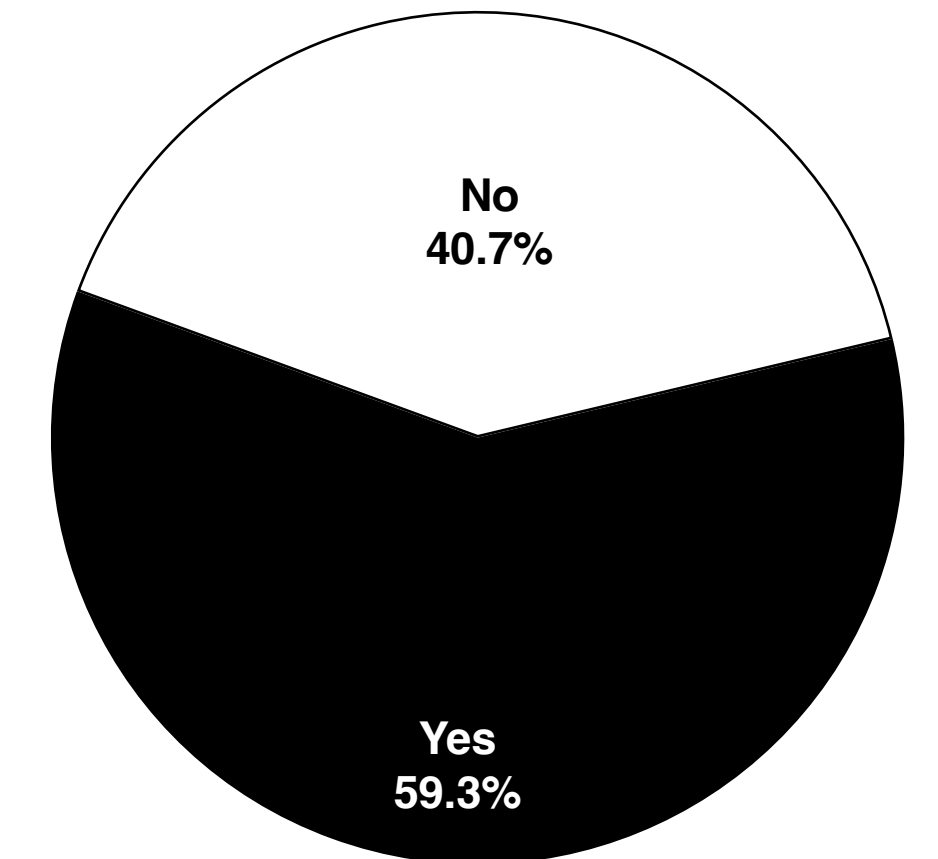
Age



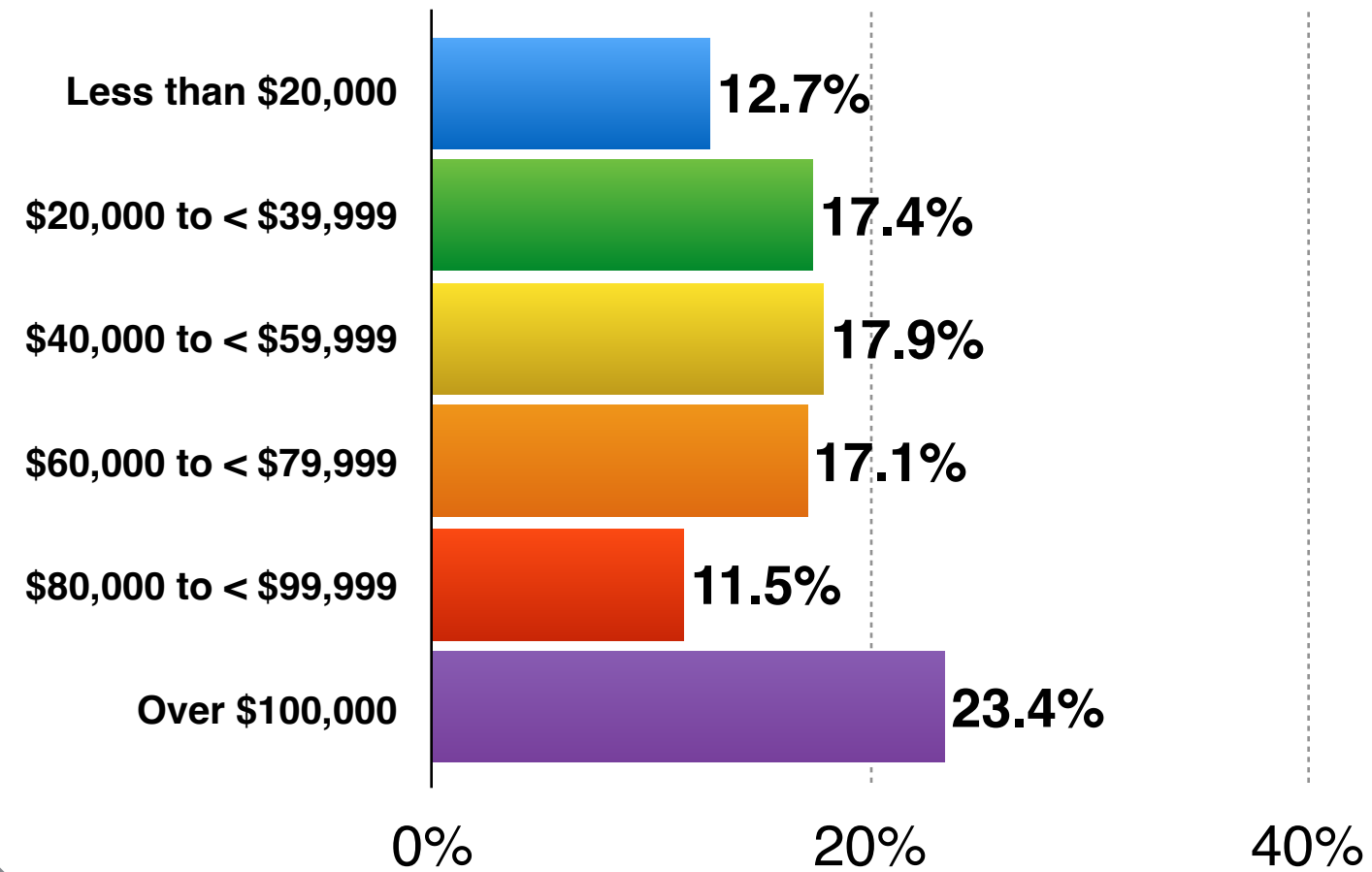
Registered to vote?



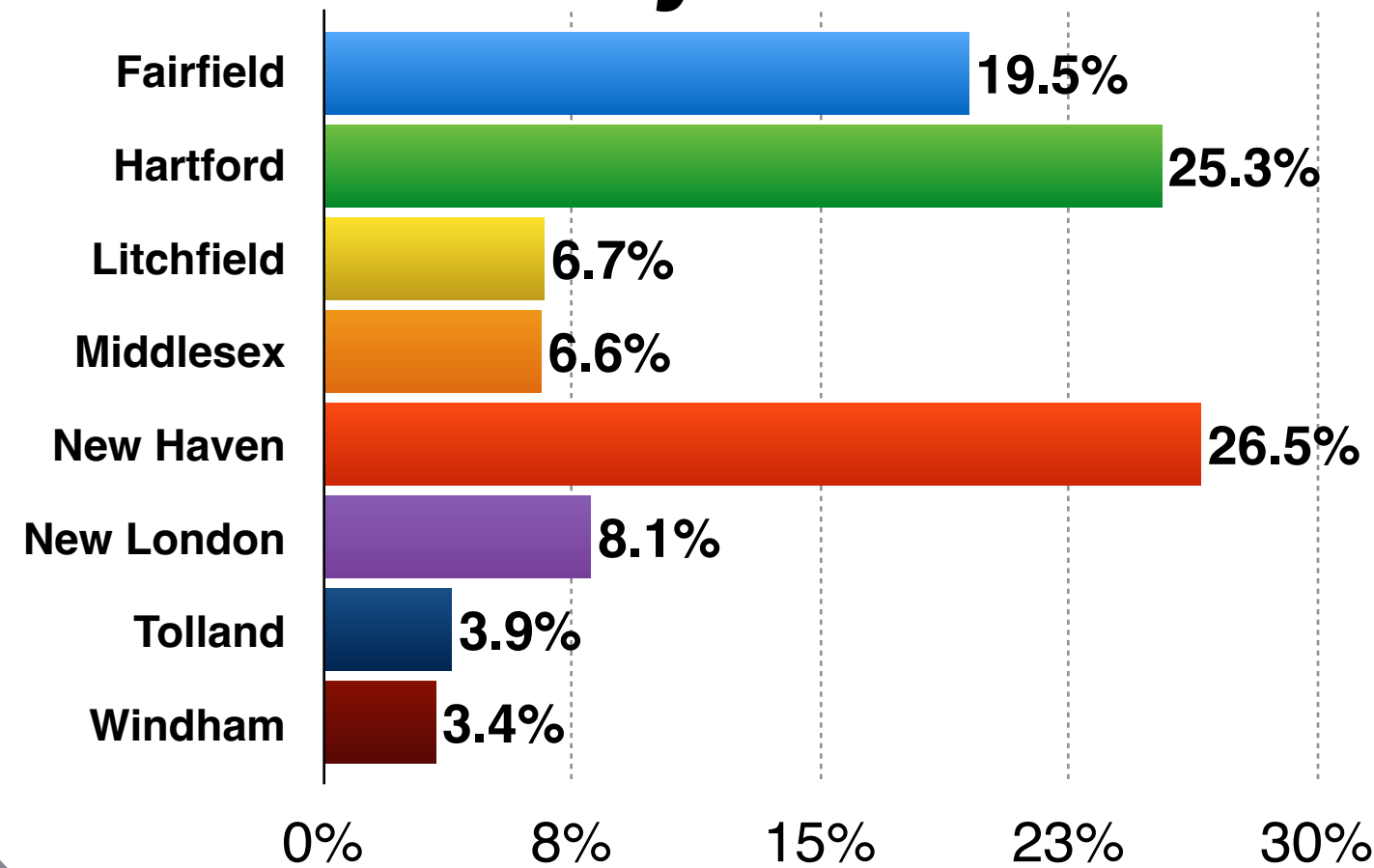
Children?



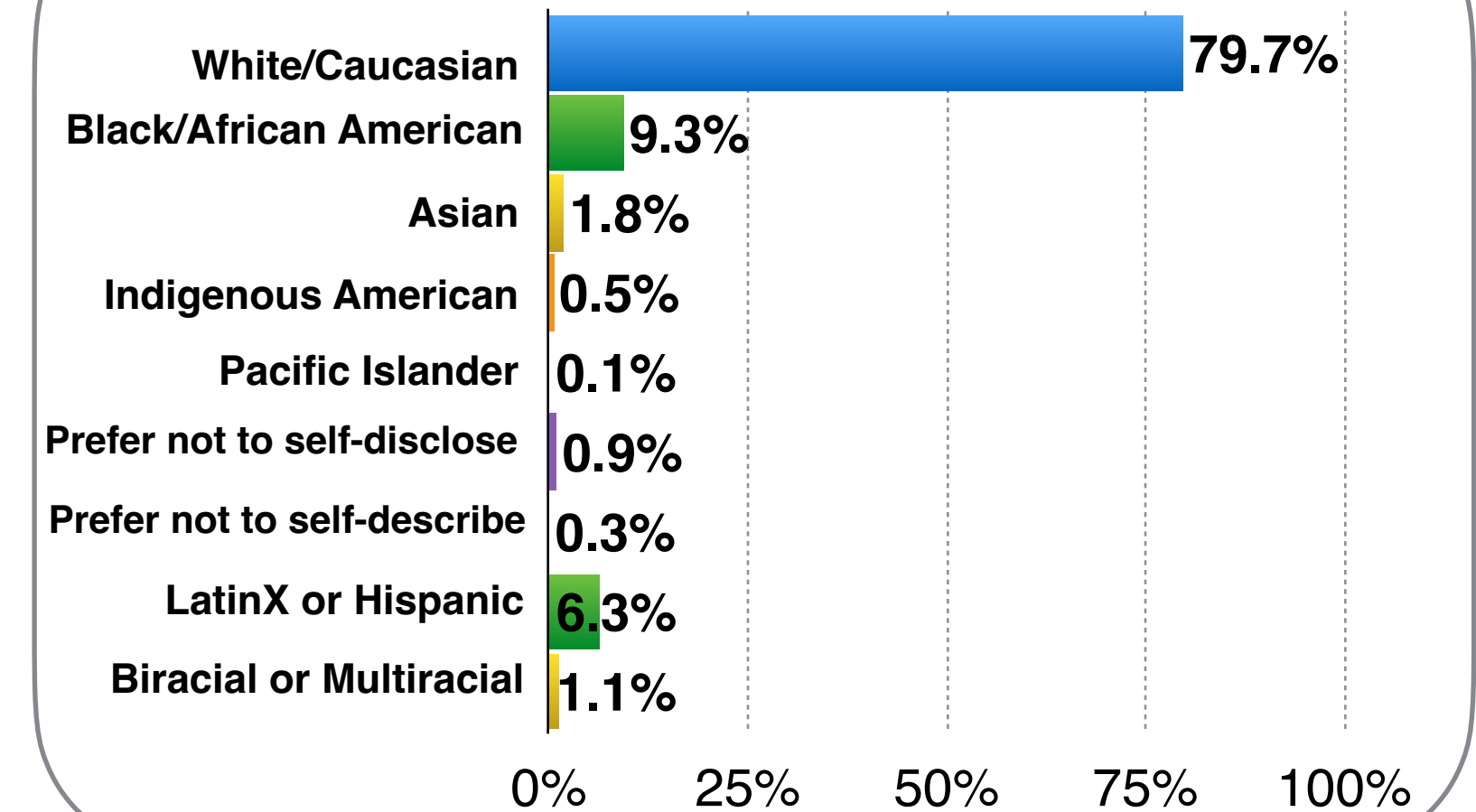
Income



County of Residence

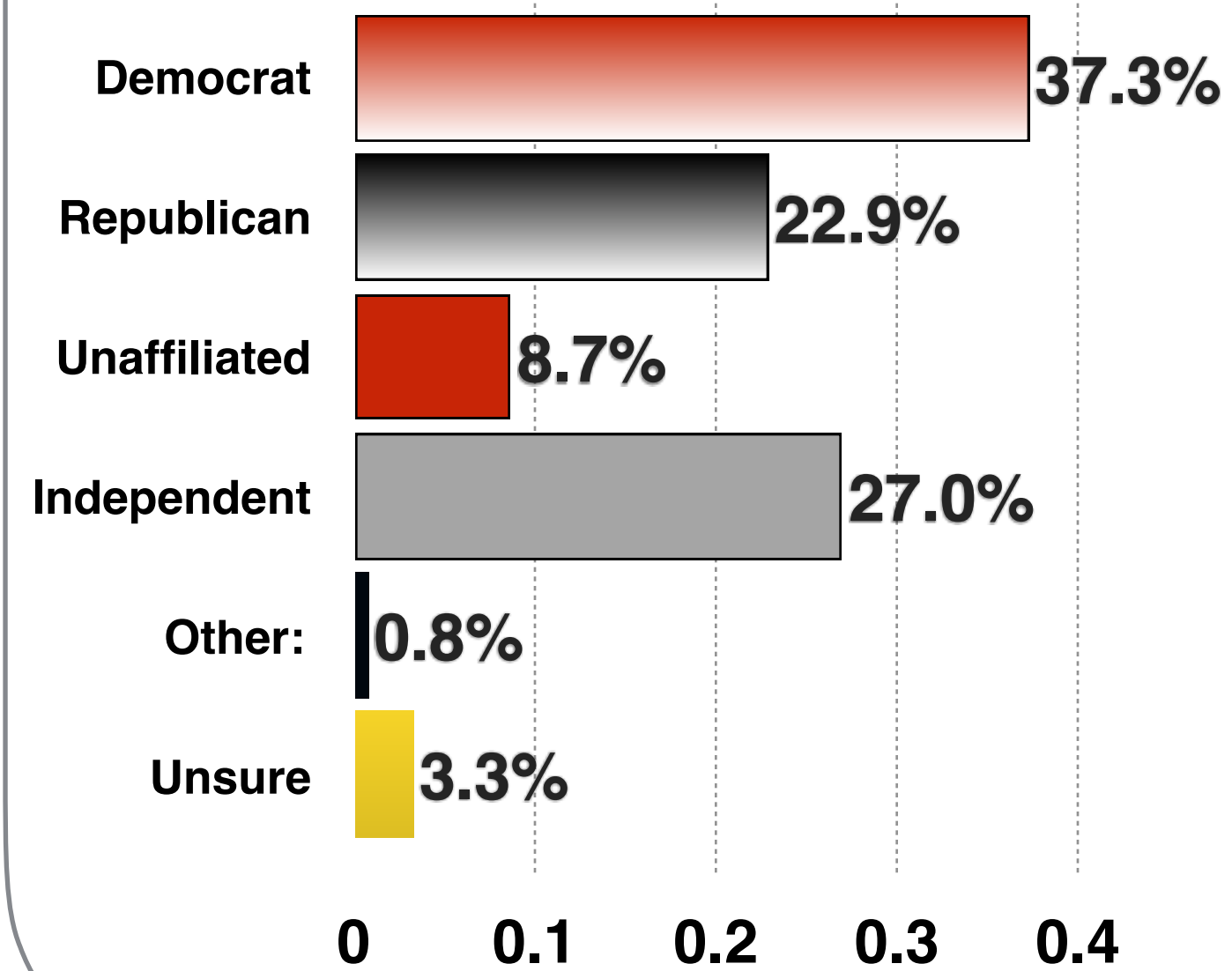


Ethnicity

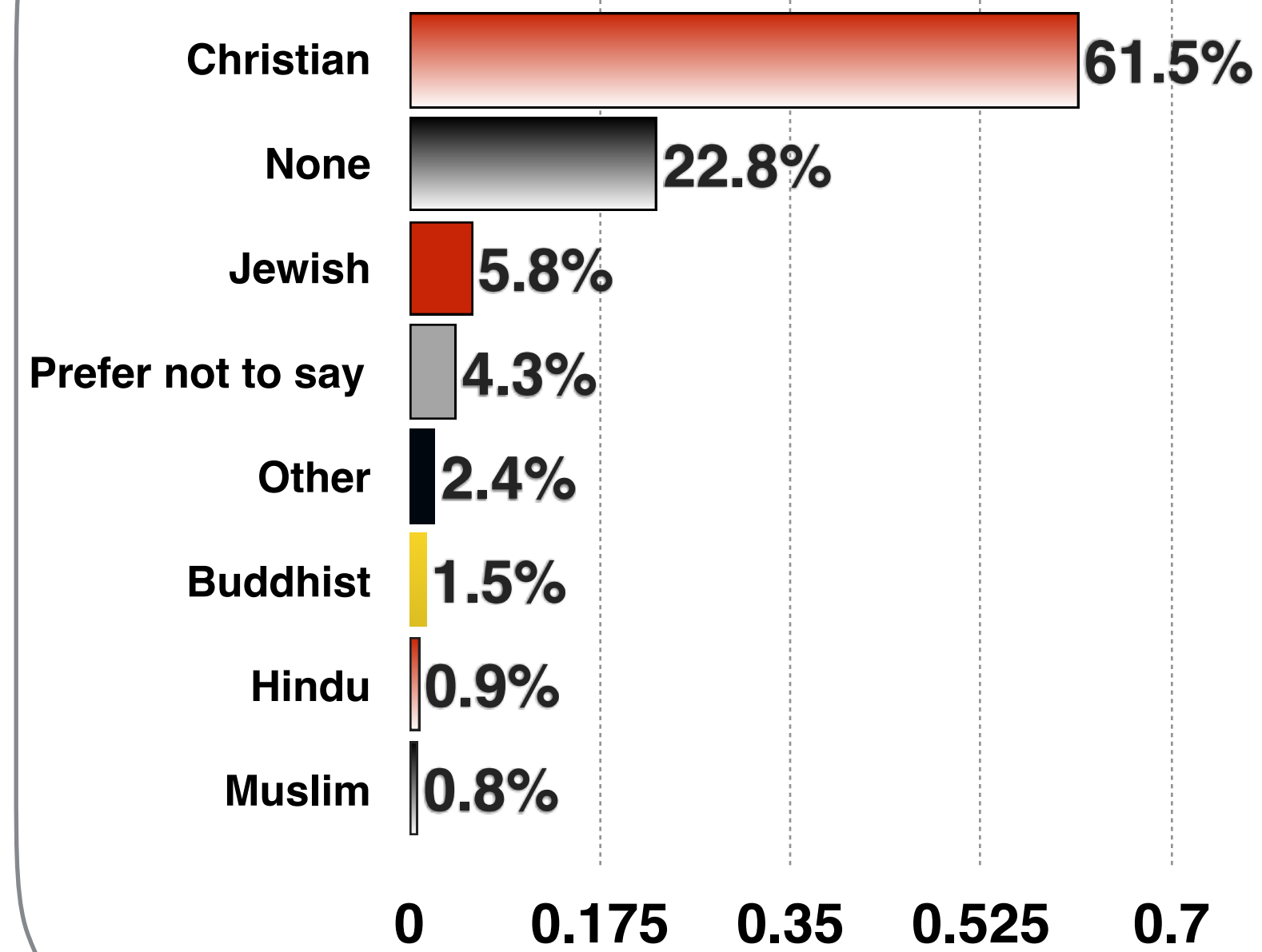


Demographic Profile - March 2022

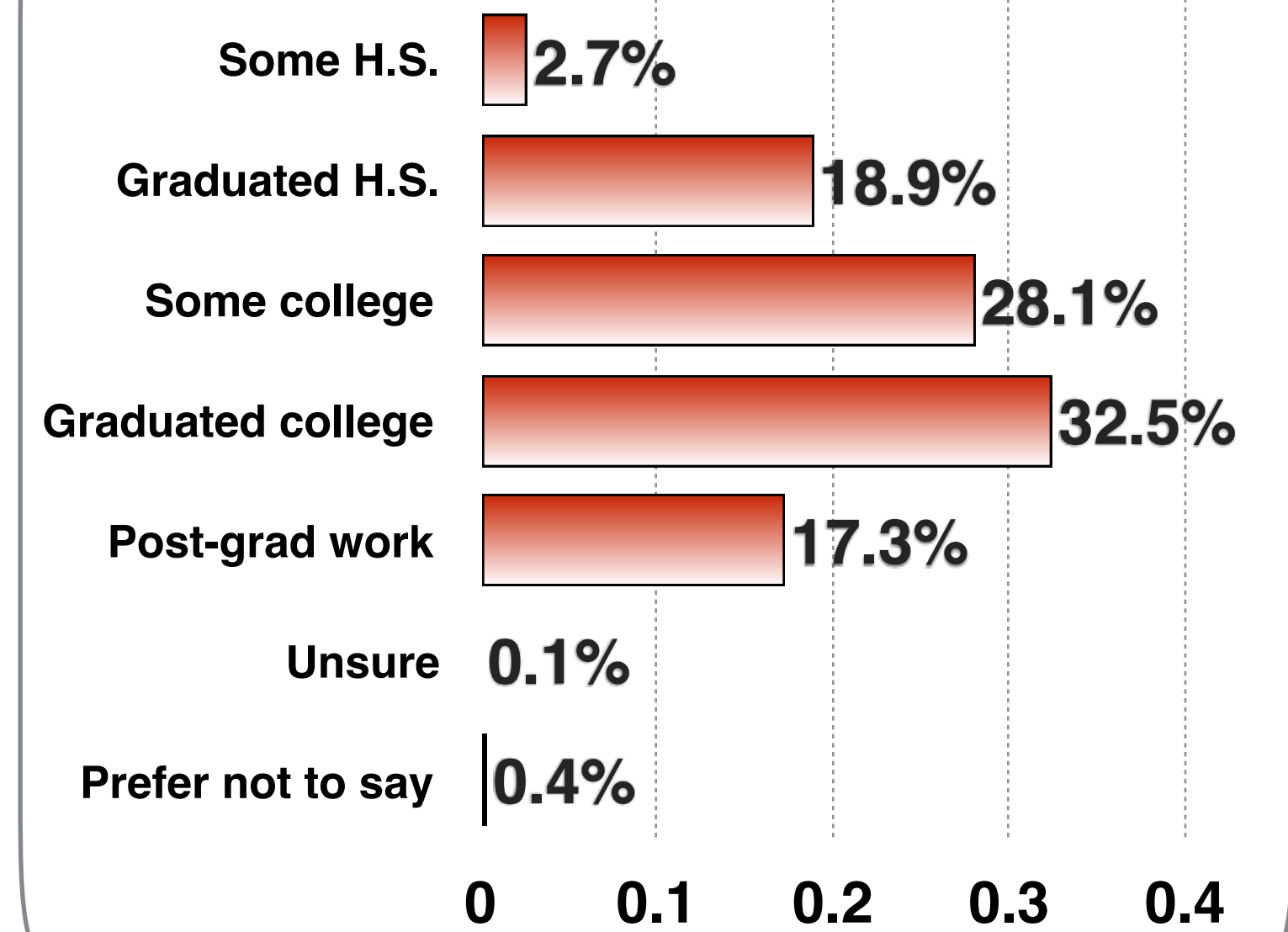
Political Party



Religion



Education



The background image shows a university campus scene. On the left, a grey utility pole holds a large, round basket of pink flowers and a red banner with the Sacred Heart University logo. In the center and right, a modern brick building with large glass windows is visible. The sky is overcast, and a few people are walking on a path in the foreground.

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