Institute for Public Policy

Statewide Poll - Q3 2019

Full Release

greatblue
WHAT'S NEXT.

Report of Findings

October 10, 2019

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Our Story

Sacred Heart University's Institute for Public Policy and the *Hartford Courant* are collaborating in partnership with GreatBlue Research to analyze salient issues facing the State of Connecticut. This collaboration combines the academic excellence of a top-rated private University, the integrity and professionalism of a national newspaper, 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 dual-methodology quantitative research approach to address the following areas of investigation:

- Thoughts on the quality of life in Connecticut
- Governor Ned Lamont's job approval
- Opinions toward the implementation of "Medicare for All"
- Perceptions of plans to reduce or eliminate student debt
- Opinions toward Immigration in the State
- Ranking of 2020 Presidential election candidates
- Opinions regarding ban on flavored e-cigarettes
- Opinions regarding the "Fair Pay to Play Act"
- Demographic profiles of respondents

Research Methodology Snapshot

Methodology	No. of Completes	No. of Questions	Sample
Dual mode (phone and digital survey)**	1,000	34*	Connecticut residents

Target	Margin of Error	Confidence Level	Research Dates
Connecticut residents	+/- 3.02%	95%	September 17 - October 2

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

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

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SHU Institute for Public Policy - September 2019 Headlines

❖ In September 2019, 59.4% of Connecticut residents surveyed reported their quality of life in the State to be either "excellent" (16.4%) or "good" (43.0%). However, more than half of residents surveyed, 58.4%, reported it is "very difficult" (19.3%) or "somewhat difficult" (39.1%) to maintain their standard of living.

  - Top reported reasons for this difficulty included "tax increase - state" (61.1%), "price increase - general goods" (50.9%), and "increase/high taxes (overall)" (50.0%).

❖ Over two-fifths of Connecticut residents surveyed, 46.9%, reported they "disapprove" of the way Ned Lamont is handling his job as governor.

  - 74.2% disapproval among Republicans (15.5% unsure)

  - 53.1% disapproval among unaffiliated residents (29.8% unsure)

  - 26.5% disapproval among Democrats (33.4% unsure)

❖ The highest percentage of respondents reported they "approve" of the way Ned Lamont handles "public primary education" (27.8%), while the lowest number reported they "approve" of the way he is handling "taxes" (16.0%).

  - 24.8% reported they "approve" of the way Lamont is handling "healthcare."

  - 23.1% reported they "approve" of the way Lamont is handling "tolls."

SHU Institute for Public Policy - September 2019 Headlines

❖ 46.7% of respondents noted they "strongly" or "somewhat" oppose "Medicare for All" if it meant all Americans would be enrolled in a public Medicare program and all private health insurance would eventually be eliminated.

- 73.8% of respondents reported to be "very" or "somewhat" aware of the term "Medicare for All."

❖ 60.9% of residents surveyed claimed they "strongly" or "somewhat" support a plan to eliminate up to $50,000 in student debt for middle and lower income Americans. Another 58.0% reported they "strongly" or "somewhat" support a plan to raise taxes on the wealthy in order to fund a plan that would result in all public colleges becoming "debt free" for students.

❖ 56.2% of respondents ages 18-34 did not think illegal immigration is a serious problem in Connecticut.

❖ 56.2% of respondents earning $150,000 or more annually reported believing Joe Biden would win the Democratic primary in Connecticut, compared to only 28.4% of respondents earning less than $50,000 annually.

❖ Over one-half, 52.8%, of respondents reported they "strongly" or "somewhat" support the "Fair Pay to Play Act," which allows college athletes to earn money from endorsements.

❖ 60.5% of residents surveyed ages 18-34 expressed they "strongly" (40.7%) or "somewhat" (19.8%) support the ban on flavored e-cigarettes.

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Quality of Life in Connecticut

The majority of Connecticut residents surveyed in September 2019, 59.4%, reported their quality of life in the State as being either "excellent" (16.4%) or "good" (43.0%), which remains consistent with the 60.4% who reported the same in May of 2019. Additionally, a higher rate of September 2019 respondents expressed belief that the quality of life in Connecticut is "declining" (27.8%), compared to the rate of those who expressed belief that the quality of life is "improving" (14.9%).

- ❖ 78.7% of respondents earning $150,000 or more per year reported their quality of life as either "excellent" (41.6%) or "good" (37.1%), compared to only 45.4% of respondents earning less than $50,000 annually.
- ❖ 46.9% of respondents ages 18-34 reported their quality of life as being either "fair" (32.6%) or "poor" (14.3%) when compared to only 29.5% of respondents age 65 or older.
- ❖ 30.0% of residents earning $100,000 to less than $150,000 per year reported their quality of life in Connecticut as "declining."
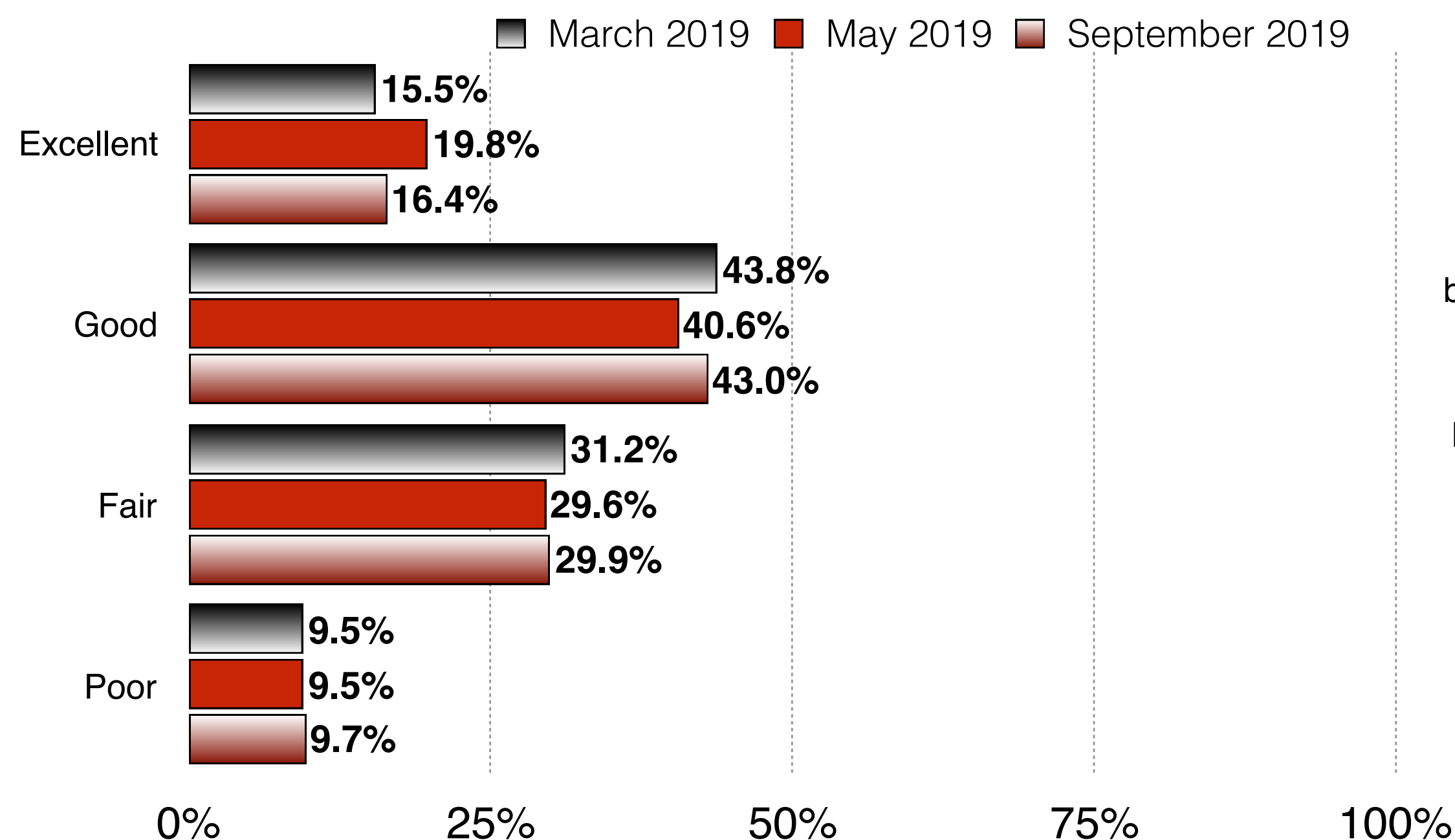
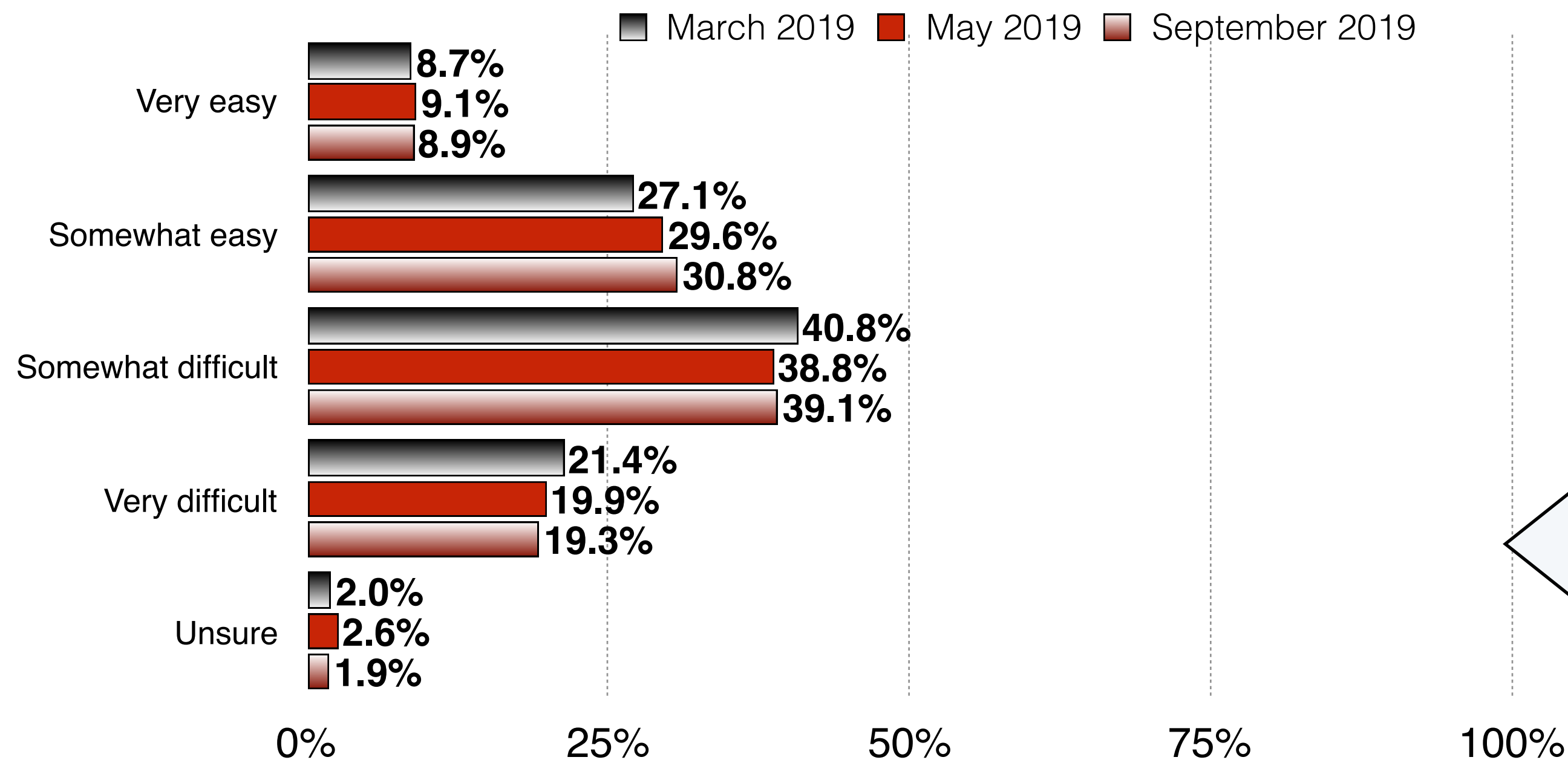Q How would you rate your overall quality of life in Connecticut? Would you say…
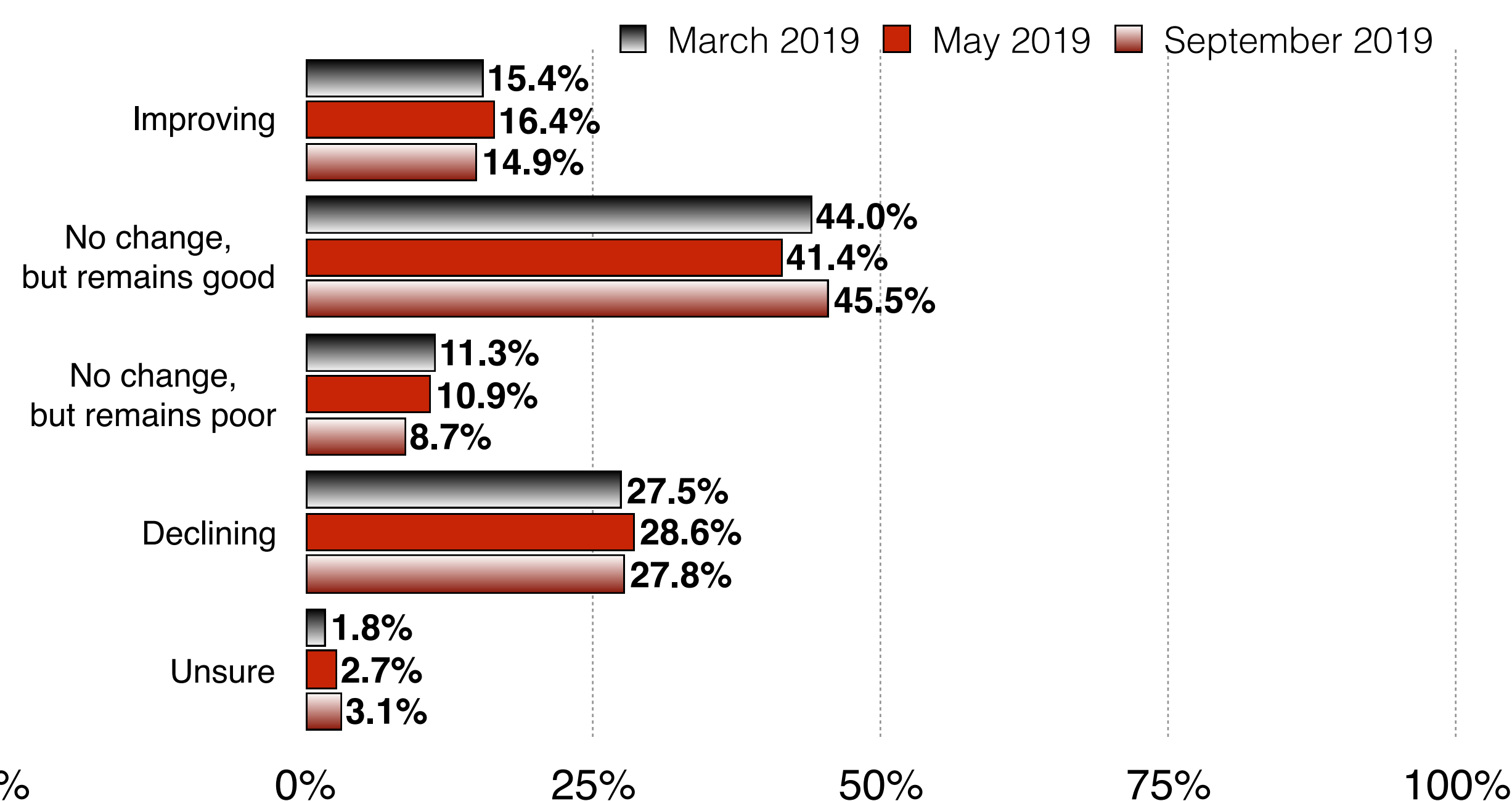
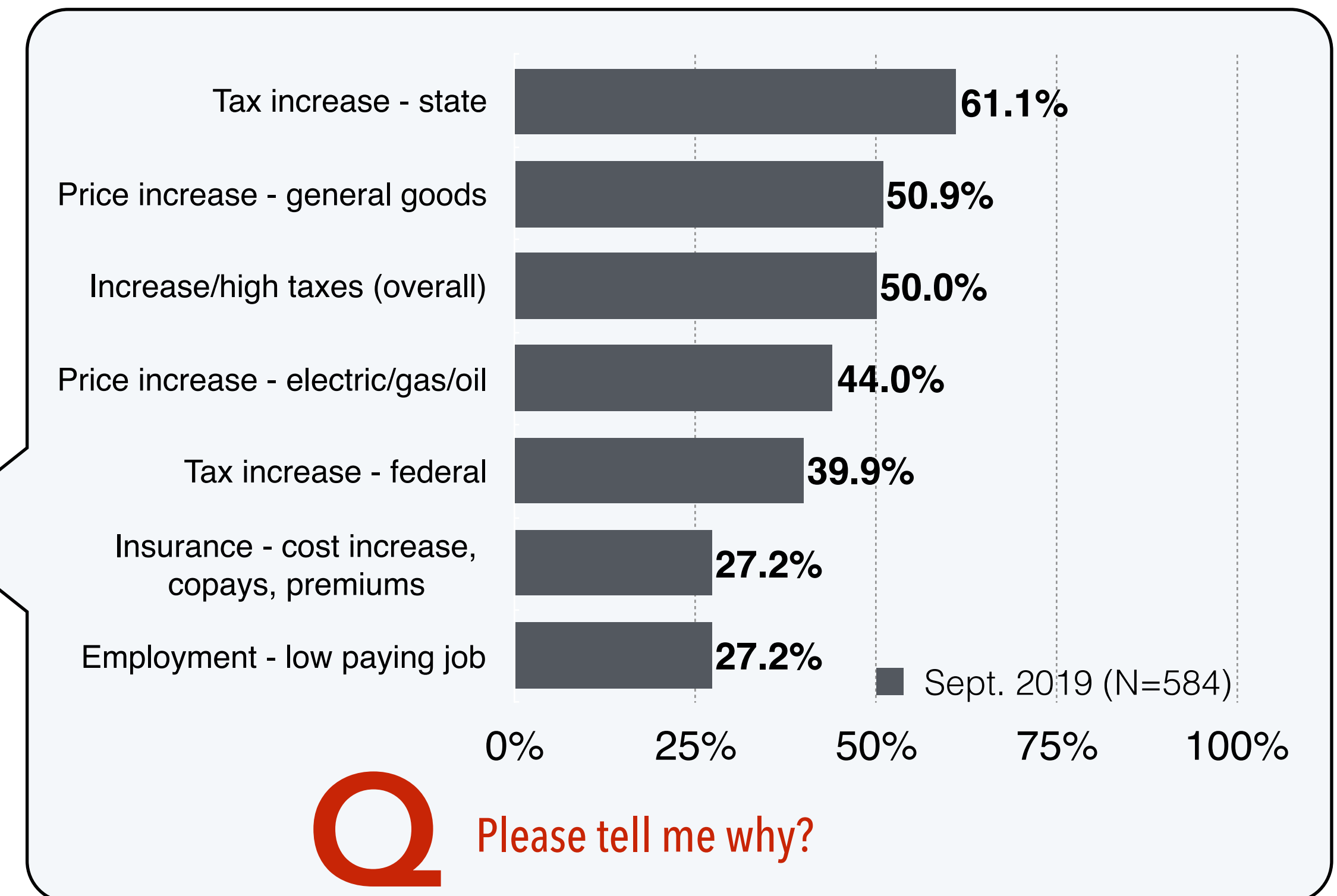Q Would you say, overall, your quality of life in Connecticut is…

Quality of Life in Connecticut

39.7% of CT residents surveyed reported it being either "very easy" (8.9%) or "somewhat easy" (30.8%) to maintain their standard of living out of their household income today, while 58.4% reported it being "difficult" to maintain their standard of living. Further, top reasons for one's difficulty in maintaining their standard of living included: "tax increase - state" (61.1%), "price increase - general goods" (50.9%), and "increase/high taxes (overall)" (50.0%).

❖ 63.0% of residents surveyed ages 45-64 reported it being "somewhat" (41.5%) or "very" (21.5%) difficult to maintain their standard of living, compared to only 49.7% of residents surveyed age 65 or older.

❖ Of those surveyed, 68.7% of residents earning less than $50,000 per year, 62.8% of residents earning $50,000 to less than $100,000 per year, and 57.3% of residents earning $100,000 to less than $150,000 per year reported it being "difficult" to maintain their standard of living, compared to only 28.1% of residents earning $150,000 or more per year.

Legend: March 2019 | May 2019 | September 2019

Category	March 2019	May 2019	September 2019
Very easy	8.7%	9.1%	8.9%
Somewhat easy	27.1%	29.6%	30.8%
Somewhat difficult	40.8%	38.8%	39.1%
Very difficult	21.4%	19.9%	19.3%
Unsure	2.0%	2.6%	1.9%

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…

| Reason	Sept. 2019 (N=584)
Tax increase - state	61.1%
Price increase - general goods	50.9%
Increase/high taxes (overall)	50.0%
Price increase - electric/gas/oil	44.0%
Tax increase - federal	39.9%
Insurance - cost increase, copays, premiums	27.2%
Employment - low paying job	27.2%

Q Please tell me why?

Governor's Approval Rating

46.9% of Connecticut residents surveyed in September 2019 reported to "disapprove" of how Ned Lamont is handling his job as governor, which is higher than the 40.0% of residents who reported the same in May 2019. Further, 24.1% of September 2019 respondents reported to "approve" of his job performance since taking office in January.

❖ 40.1% of Democrats surveyed currently "approve" of the way Ned Lamont is handling his job as governor, compared to only 10.3% of Republicans and 17.2% of unaffiliated voters surveyed.

❖ On specific issues, the highest rates of respondents reported to "disapprove" of how Ned Lamont is handling "taxes" (65.7%) and "tolls" (57.8%) in the State as of September 2019.

❖ 83.7% of Republican residents surveyed currently "disapprove" of how Ned Lamont is handling "taxes" and 44.0% of Democrats surveyed currently "disapprove" of how Ned Lamont is handling "tolls" in Connecticut.
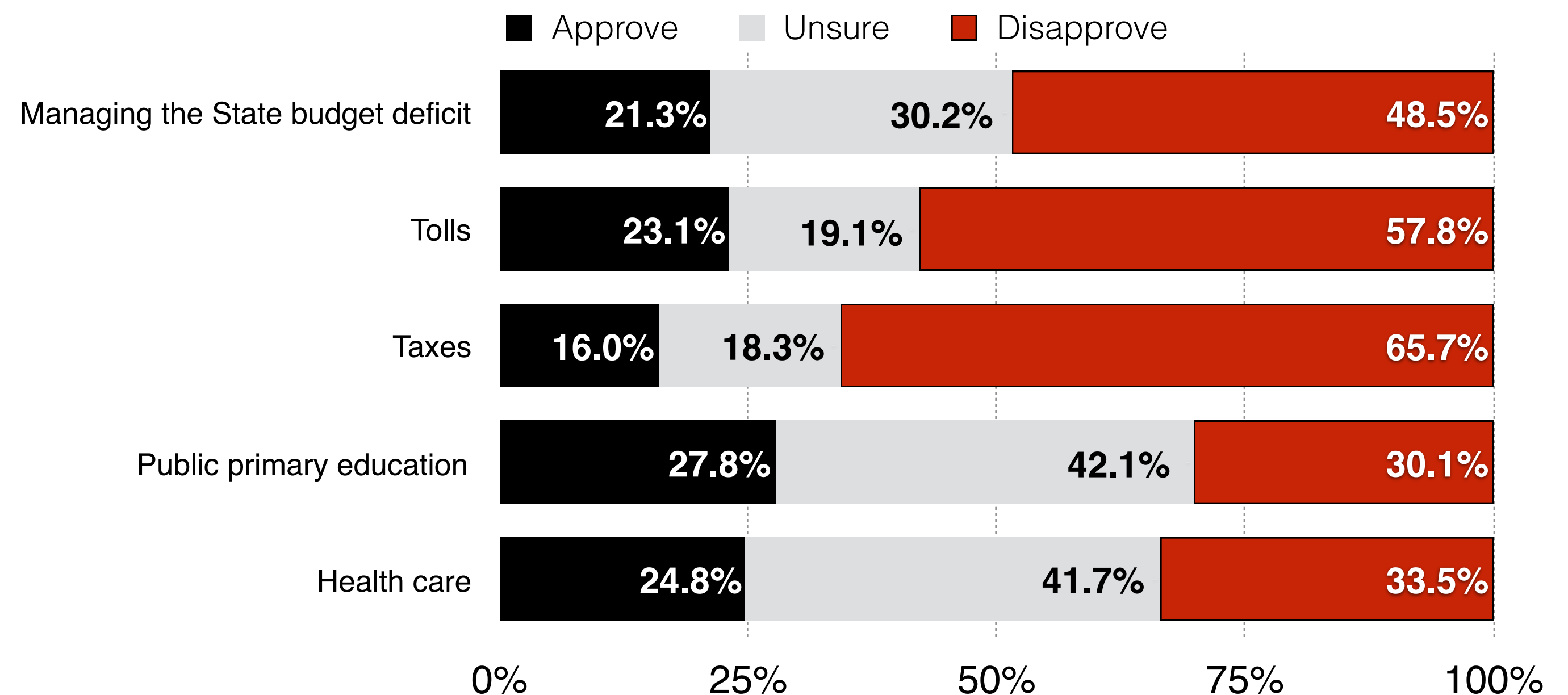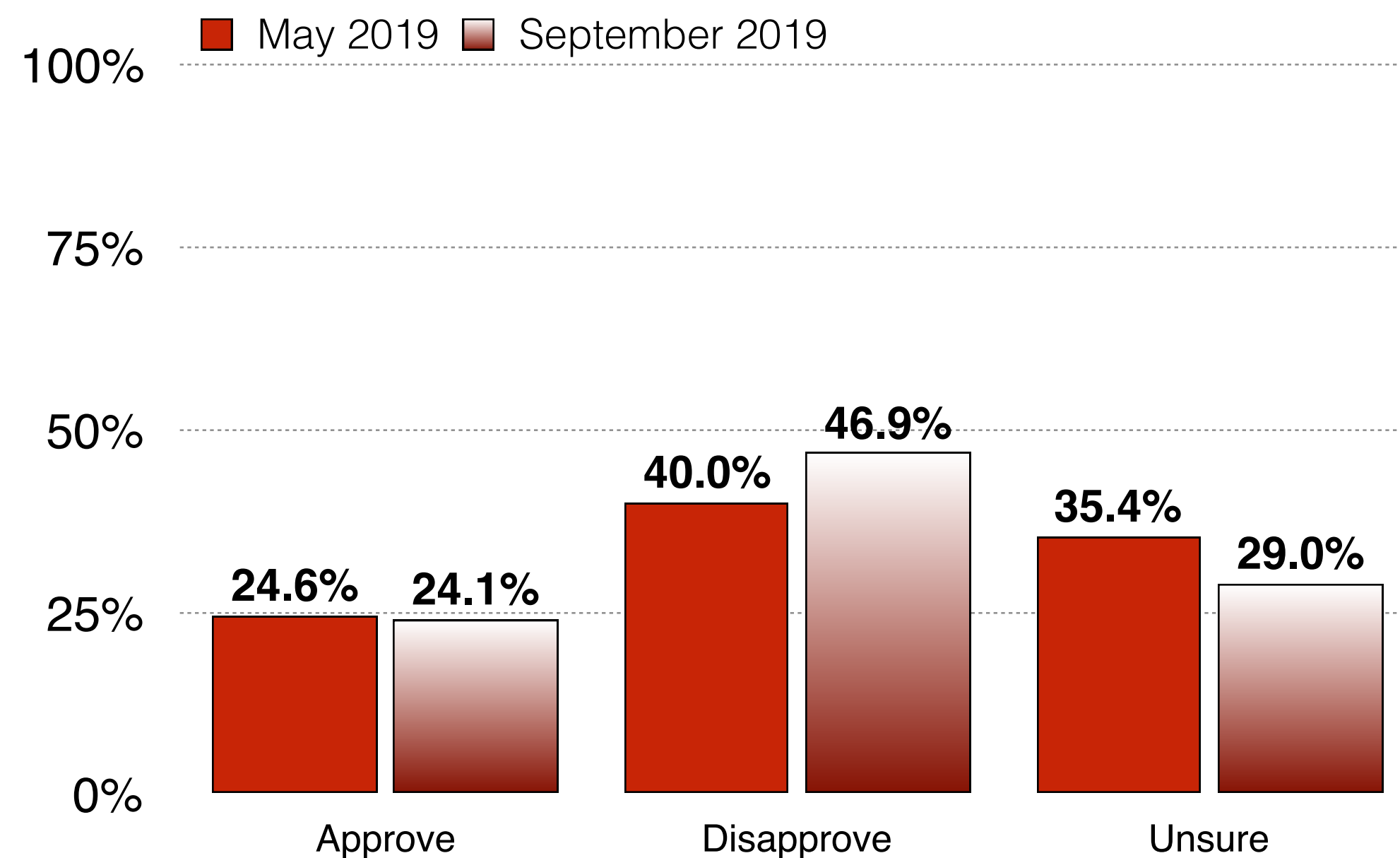
Q Since he took office in January, overall do you approve or disapprove of the way Ned Lamont is handling his job as governor?
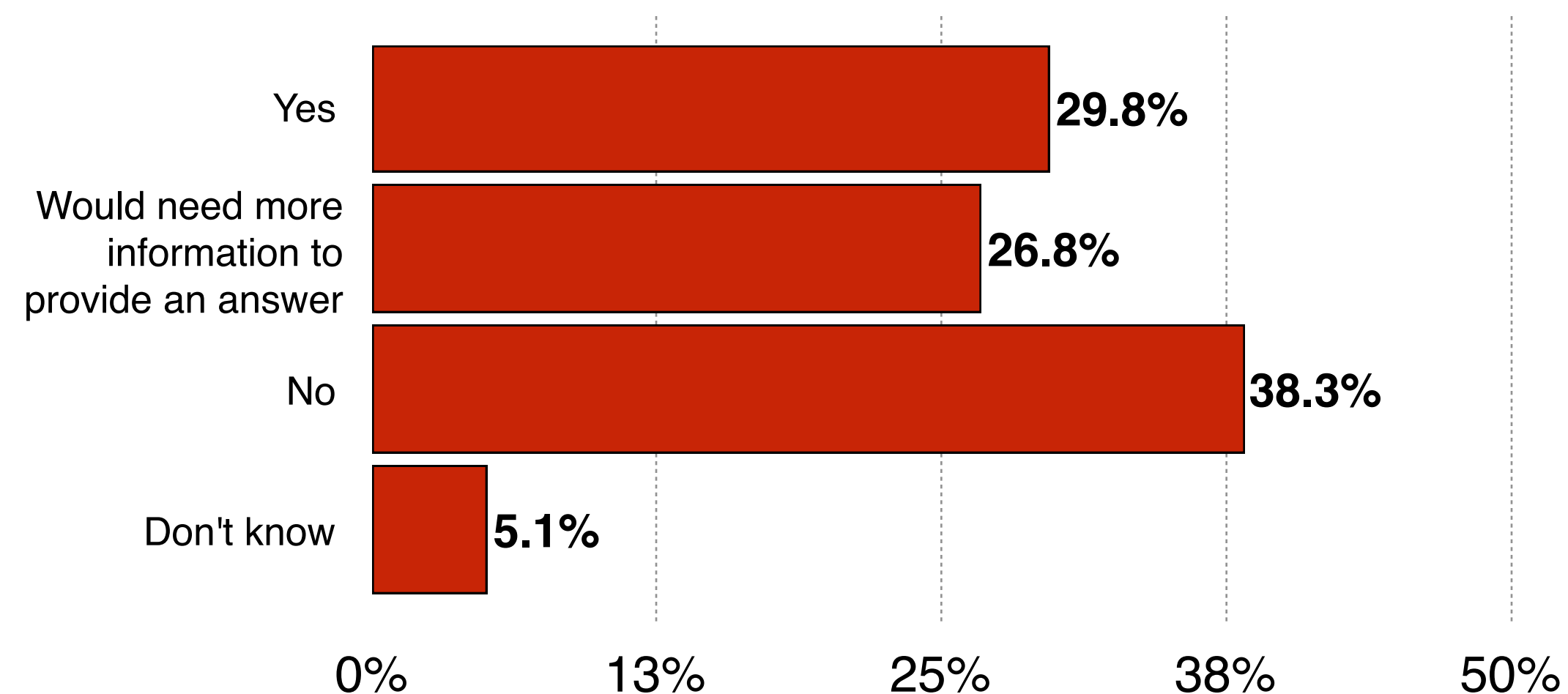
Q And, would you say you approve or disapprove of Ned Lamont's handling of the following issues…
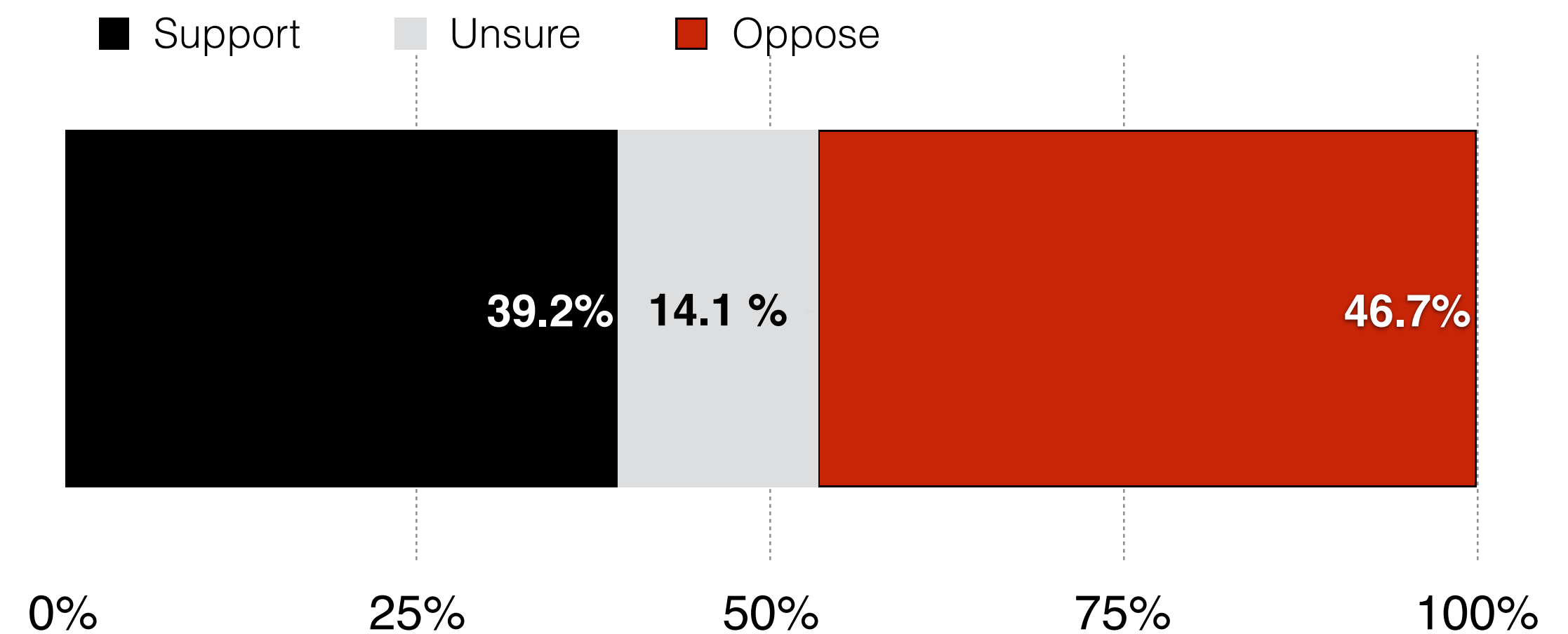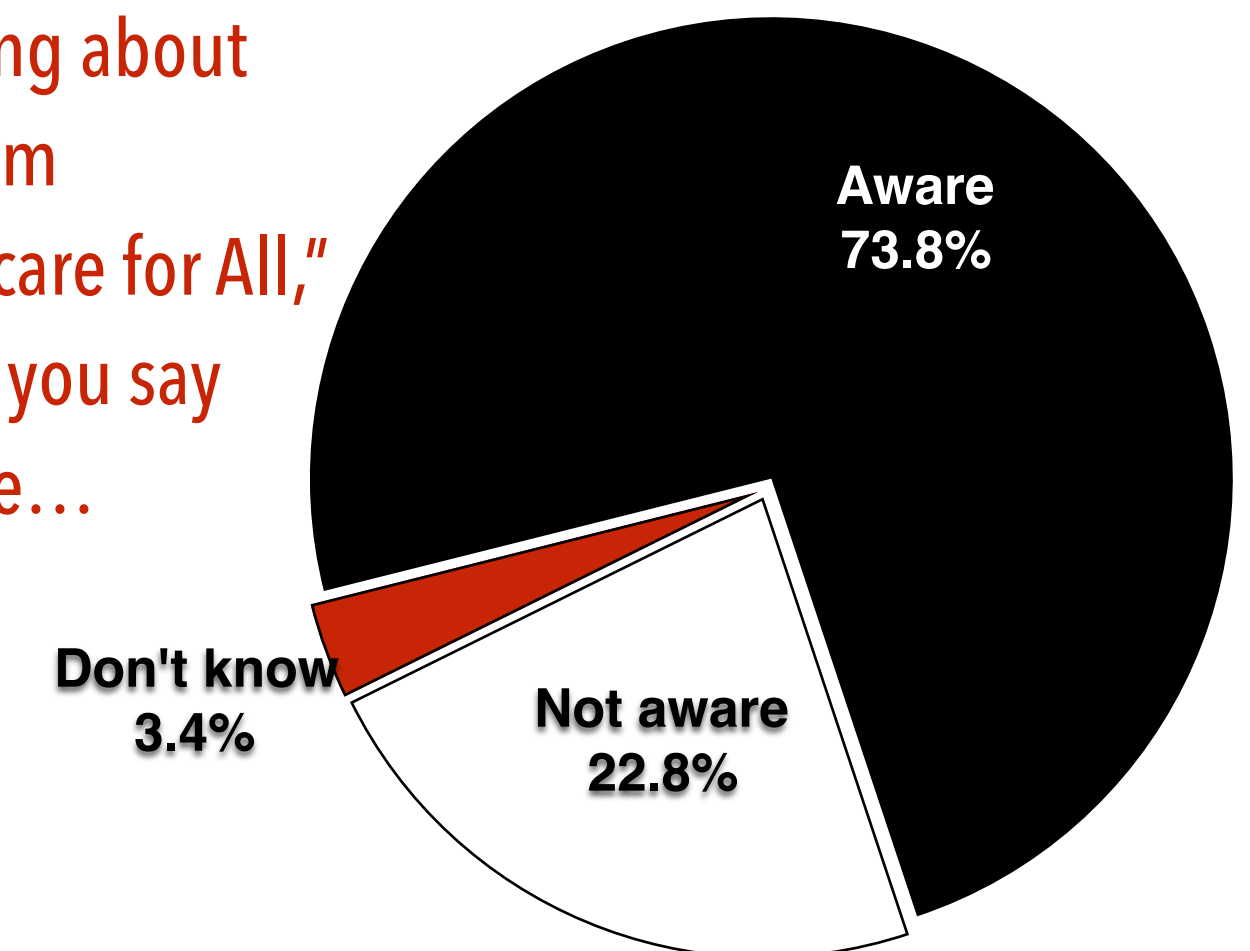
"Medicare for All"

Over one-third of residents surveyed (38.3%) did not believe there should be one national health care system that is run by the federal government and financed, in part, by taxpayers. Additionally, 46.7% said they would "somewhat" (14.1%) or "strongly" (32.6%) oppose "Medicare for All" if it meant all Americans would be enrolled in a public Medicare program and all private health insurance would eventually be eliminated.

❖ 39.1% of respondents ages 18-34 reported believing there should be one national health care system that is run by the federal government and financed, in part, by taxpayers, compared to only 18.1% of respondents age 65 or older.

❖ 54.4% of Democratic residents surveyed reported to "strongly" (30.5%) or "somewhat" (23.9%) support "Medicare for All," compared to only 38.0% of unaffiliated voters and 18.0% of Republicans.

Q Thinking about the term "Medicare for All," would you say you are…

Aware 73.8%
Don't know 3.4%
Not aware 22.8%

Yes **29.8%**
Would need more information to provide an answer **26.8%**
No **38.3%**
Don't know **5.1%**

0% 13% 25% 38% 50%

■ Support ■ Unsure ■ Oppose

39.2% **14.1 %** **46.7%**

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

Q In thinking about the term "Medicare for All," do you think there should be one national health care system that is run by the federal government and financed, in part, by taxpayers?

Q Would you support or oppose "Medicare for All" if it meant all Americans would be enrolled in a public Medicare program and all private health insurance would eventually be eliminated?

Student Loans

When asked how strongly they support or oppose a plan to eliminate up to $50,000 in student debt for middle and lower income Americans, 60.9% of residents surveyed "strongly" (39.3%) or "somewhat" (21.6%) supported the plan. Further, 58.0% of residents surveyed "strongly" (38.0%) or "somewhat" (20.0%) supported a plan to raise taxes on the wealthy in order to fund a plan that would result in all public colleges becoming "debt free" for students.

- ❖ 70.6% of respondents ages 18-34 "strongly" (53.9%) or "somewhat" (16.7%) supported a plan to eliminate up to $50,000 in student debt for middle and lower income Americans, compared to only 53.9% of respondents age 65 or older.
- ❖ 67.1% of residents surveyed earning less than $50,000 per year, 66.6% earning $50,000 to less than $100,000 per year, 54.5% earning $100,000 to less than $150,000 per year, and 49.4% earning $150,000 or more per year "strongly" or "somewhat" supported a plan to eliminate up to $50,000 in student debt.
- ❖ 63.5% of Republican residents surveyed "strongly" (45.5%) or "somewhat" (18.0%) opposed a plan to raise taxes on the wealthy in order to fund a plan that would result in all public colleges becoming "debt free" for students.

Q Do you currently have any student loans for college or any other secondary education, did you previously have student loans that are now paid off, or have you never had any student loans?

51.7%
24.4%
20.2%
3.7%
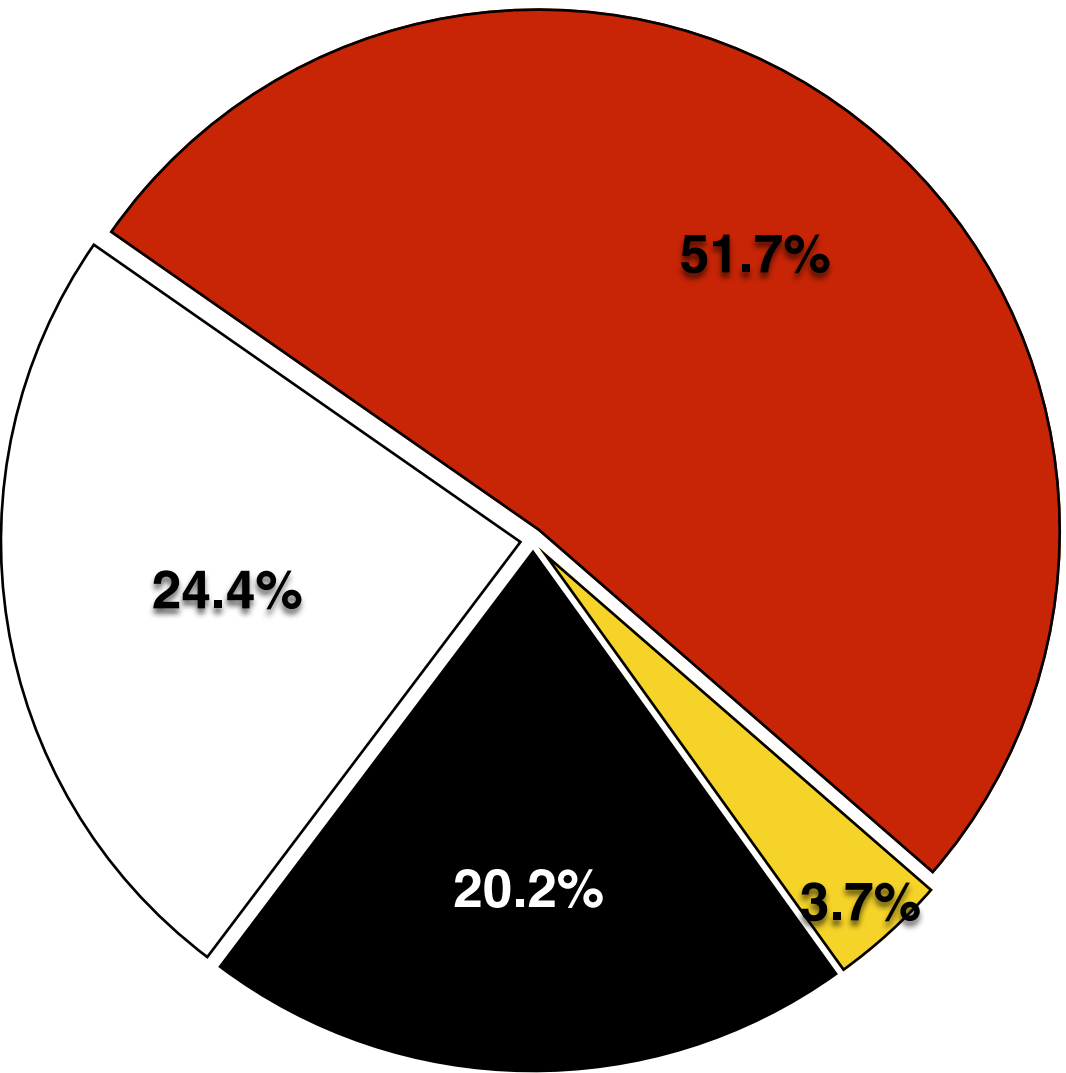
- ● Currently have student loans
- ○ Previously had student loans, but paid them off
- ● Never had student loans
- ● Unsure

■ Support ■ Unsure ■ Oppose

Plan to eliminate up to $50,000 in student debt for middle and lower income Americans
60.9% 9.8% 29.3%

Plan to raise taxes on the wealthy in order to fund a plan that would result in all public colleges becoming "debt free" for students
58.0% 8.4% 33.6%

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%
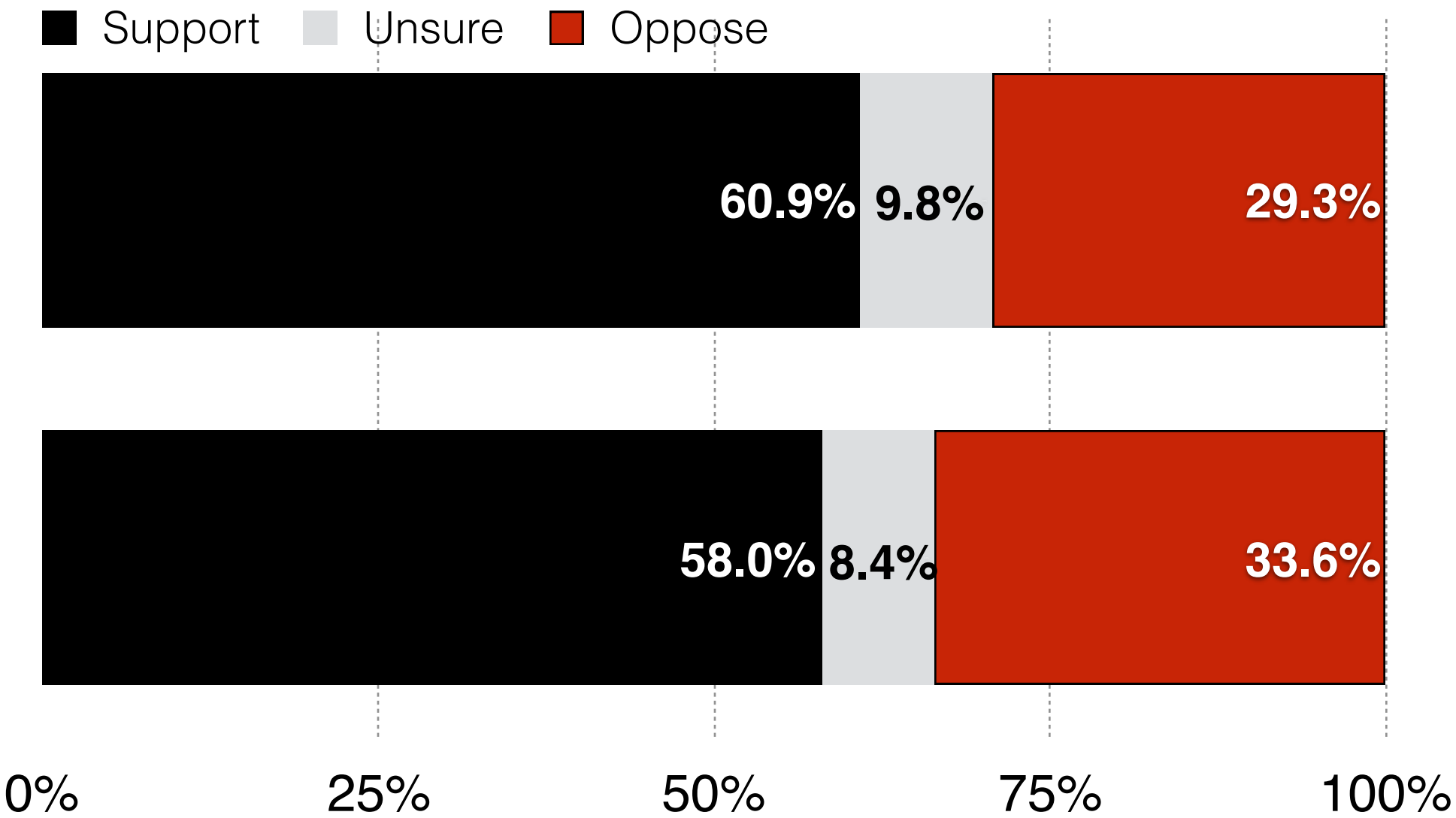
**Q** How strongly do you support or oppose a…

Immigration

A higher rate of residents surveyed reported not believing illegal immigration is a serious problem in the State of Connecticut (47.6%) when compared to those who do believe it is a serious problem (37.3%). However, the majority of respondents (61.0%) thought local law enforcement in Connecticut should assist federal authorities with deportation of illegal immigrants who were convicted of crimes.

❖ 65.2% of Republicans surveyed reported believing illegal immigration is a serious problem in the State of Connecticut, compared to only 39.3% of unaffiliated and 19.4% of Democrats.

❖ 56.2% of respondents ages 18-34 reported they did not think illegal immigration is a serious problem in Connecticut.

No
47.6%

Yes
37.3%

Unsure
15.1%

No
23.6%

Yes
61.0%

Unsure
15.4%
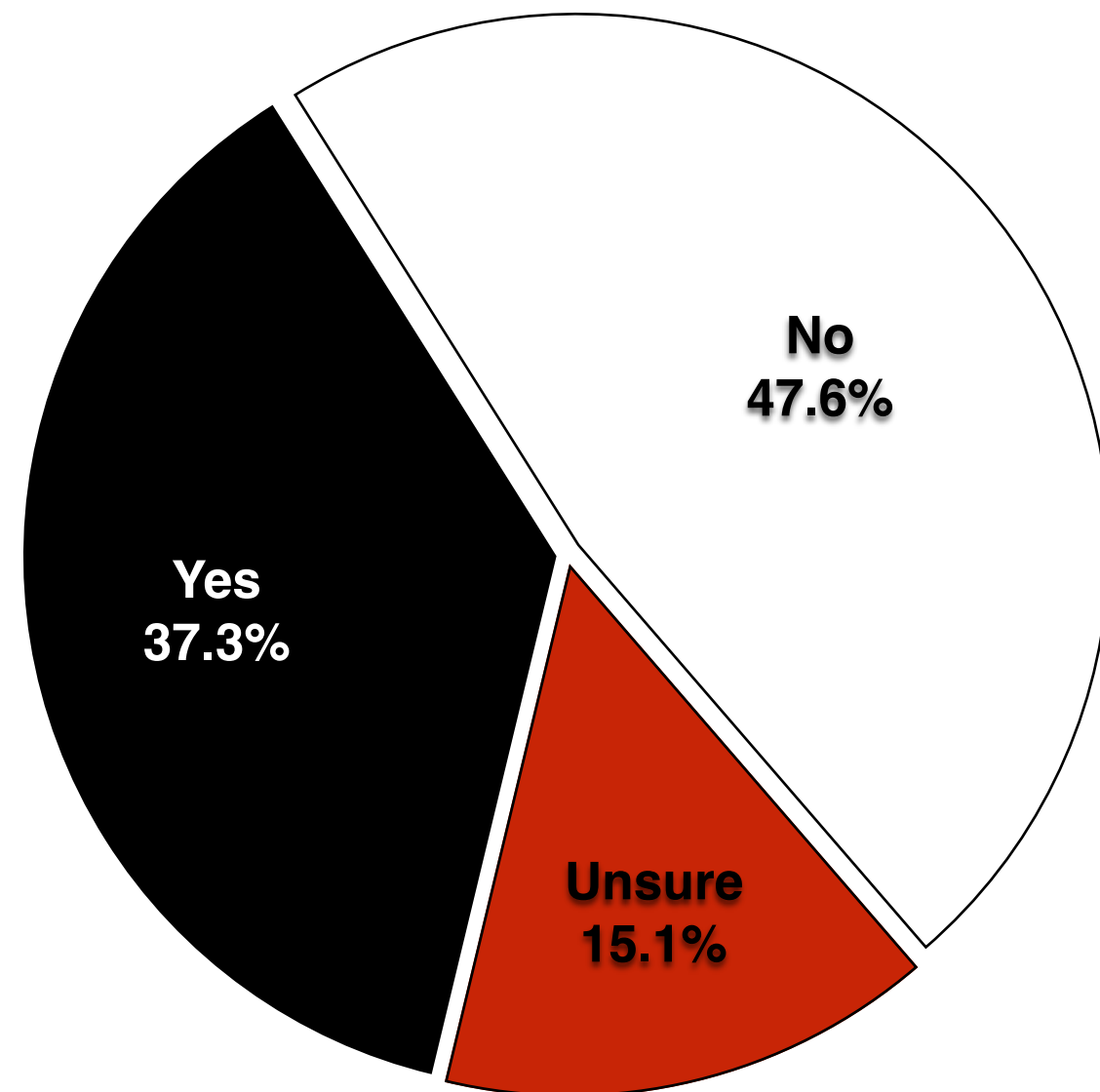
Q In your opinion, do you think illegal immigration is a serious problem in the State of Connecticut?
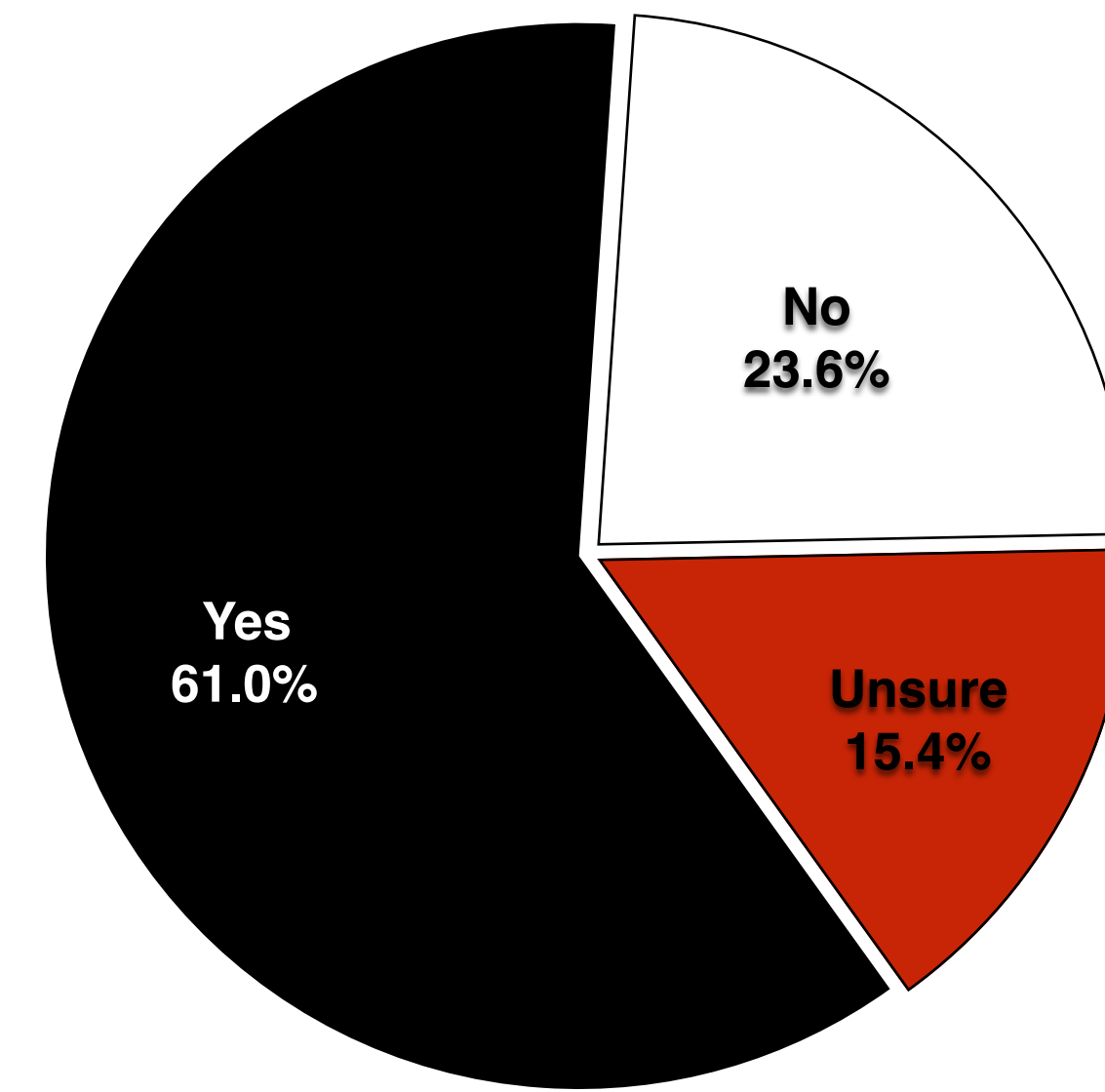
Q When illegal immigrants are identified in the State, do you think local law enforcement in Connecticut should assist federal authorities with deportation of those illegal immigrants who were convicted of crimes?

Sacred Heart UNIVERSITY

When given the names of the front runners for the Democratic Party, the highest rate of residents (36.9%) believed Joe Biden would win, followed by Bernie Sanders (10.8%), and Elizabeth Warren (14.0%). When asked who they would vote for if the presidential race in 2020 was between each of those candidates and Donald Trump, the highest rate of respondents chose Joe Biden (52.2%) over Donald Trump (33.3%), followed by Bernie Sanders (51.1% over 35.0% Donald Trump) and Elizabeth Warren (48.8% over 35.0% Donald Trump).

❖ 56.2% of respondents annually earning $150,000 or more believed Joe Biden would win the Democratic primary in Connecticut, compared to only 28.4% of respondents earning less than $50,000 annually.

Q Right now, the front runners for the Democratic Party are believed to be by many Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Kamala Harris, and Pete Buttigieg. If the Democratic primary in Connecticut were held tomorrow, which candidate do you think would win?

Horse Race	
Joe Biden	36.9%
Elizabeth Warren	14.0%
Bernie Sanders	10.8%
Kamala Harris	2.1%
Pete Buttigieg	2.1%

| Head-to-head	vs…	Donald Trump
Joe Biden	52.2%	33.3%
Bernie Sanders	51.1%	35.0%
Elizabeth Warren	48.8%	35.0%
Kamala Harris	46.9%	34.4%
Pete Buttigieg	45.8%	34.2%

"Fair Pay to Play Act"

The majority of respondents (52.8%) "strongly" or "somewhat" supported the "Fair Pay to Play Act," compared to 25.3% who "somewhat" or "strongly" opposed. It is important to note, however, that slightly over one-fifth of respondents (21.9%) were "unsure."

❖ 55.9% of respondents earning less than $50,000 per year, 59.3% of respondents earning $50,000 to less than $100,000 per year, 58.2% earning $100,000 to less than $150,000 per year, and 48.3% earning $150,000 or more per year "strongly" or "somewhat" supported the "Fair Pay to Play Act."

❖ 61.0% of Democratic residents surveyed "strongly" (29.2%) or "somewhat" (31.8%) supported the "Fair Pay to Play Act," compared to 53.7% of unaffiliated respondents and 45.9% of Republican respondents.

Q Recently, the California state legislature passed the "Fair Pay to Play Act," which allows college athletes to earn money from endorsements. Based on the short description I have just read, or what you may have previously heard about the topic, please tell me if you…
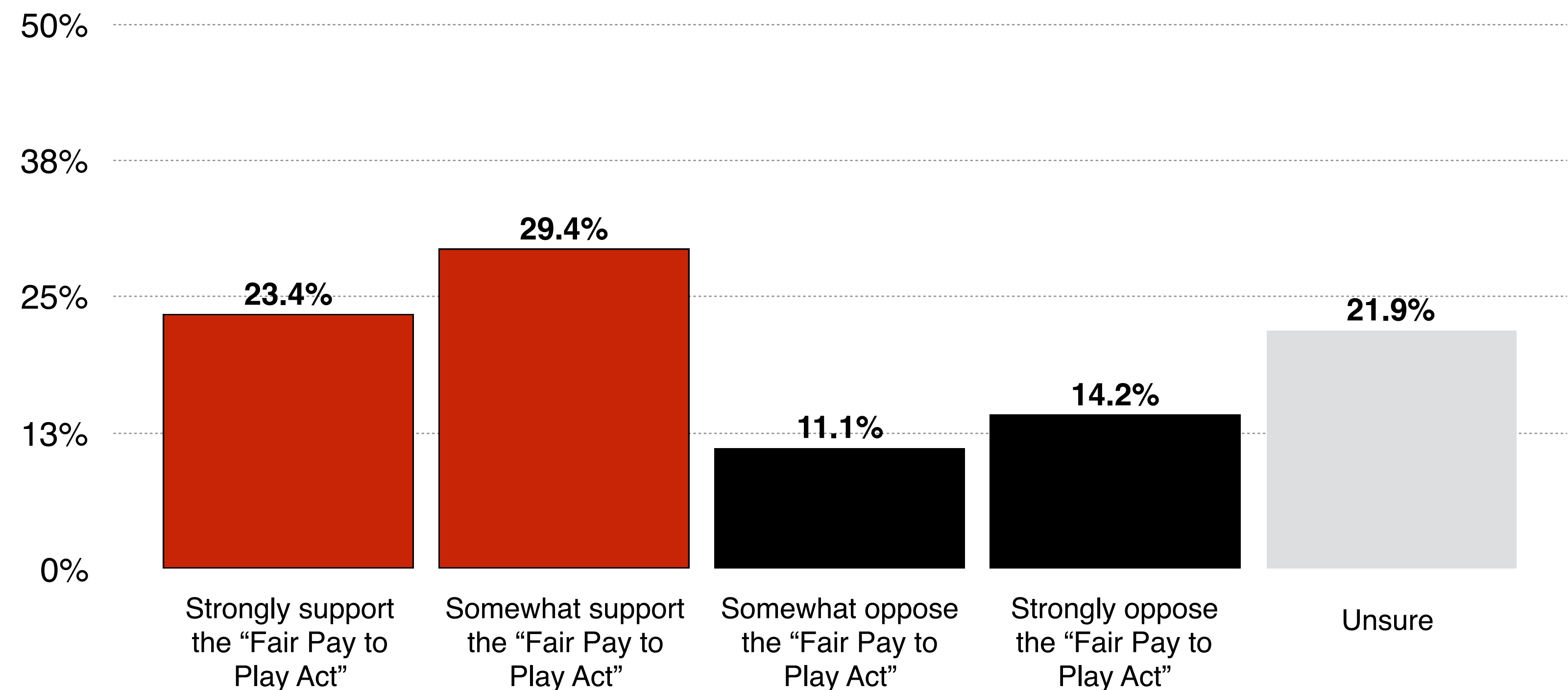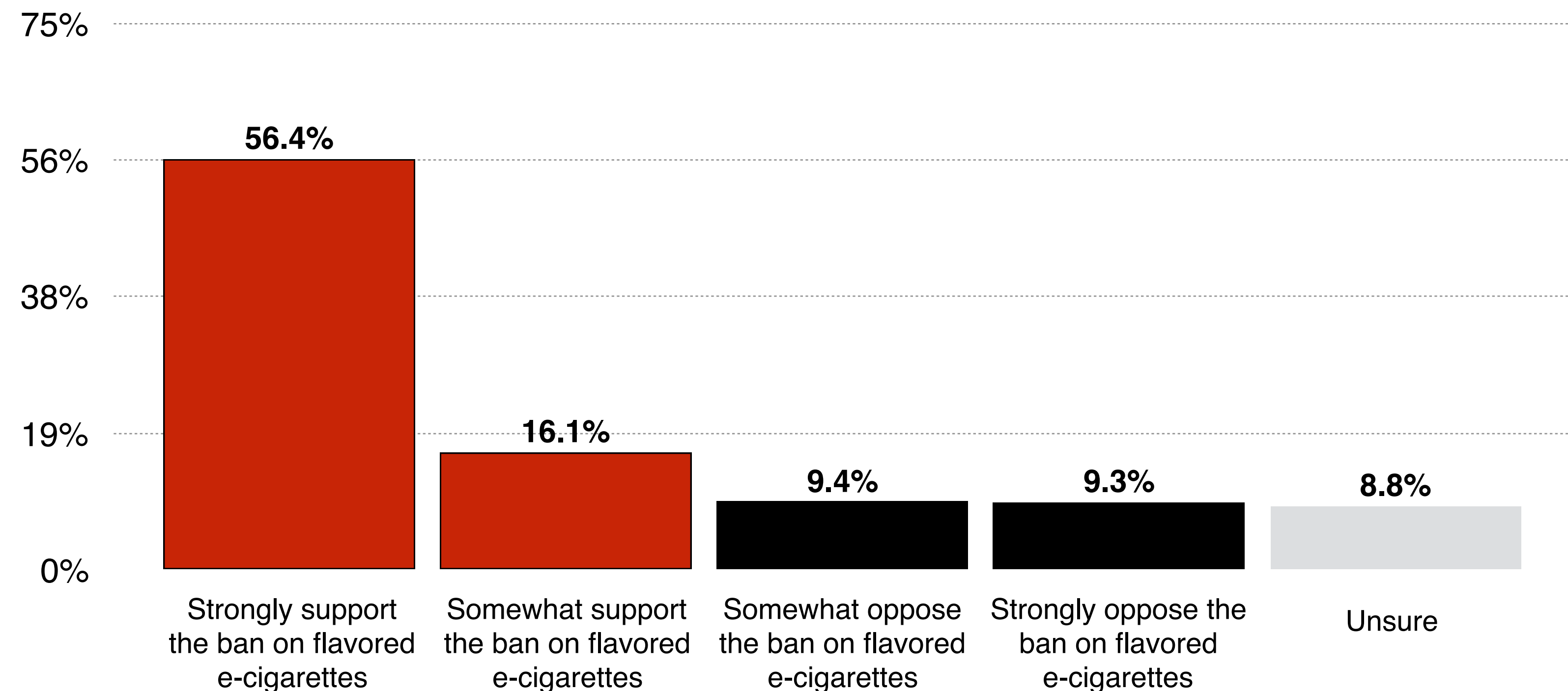
E-Cigarette Ban

Over two-thirds (72.5%) of Connecticut residents surveyed reported to "strongly" (56.4%) or "somewhat" (16.1%) supported the ban on flavored e-cigarettes. Less than one-fifth of respondents (18.7%) "somewhat" (9.4%) or "strongly" (9.3%) opposed the ban and another 8.8% were "unsure."
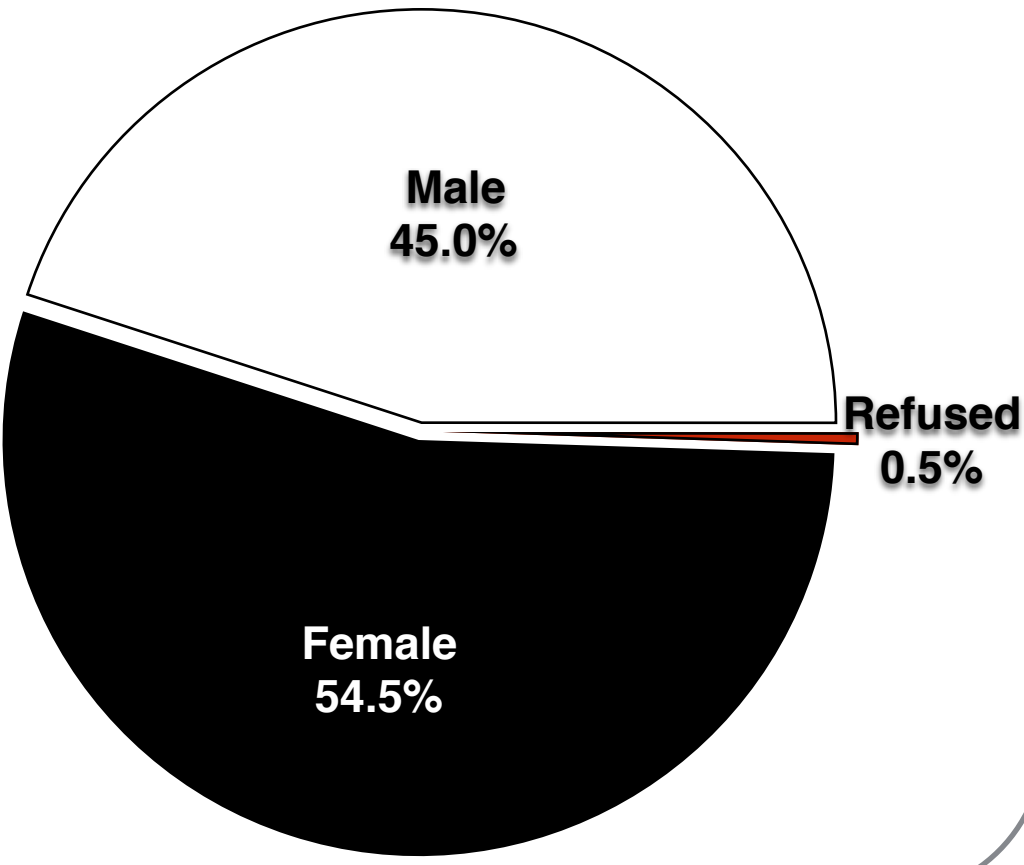
❖ 60.5% of residents surveyed ages 18-34 "strongly" (40.7%) or "somewhat" (19.8%) supported the ban on flavored e-cigarettes.

❖ 77.7% of Democratic residents surveyed, 74.3% of Republican residents surveyed, and 70.6% of unaffiliated residents surveyed "strongly" or "somewhat" supported the ban on flavored e-cigarettes.

Q Recent CDC reports of death and injuries possibly linked to the use of e-cigarettes has prompted President Trump and the FDC to ban flavored e-cigarettes to address the rising use of e-cigarettes among youths. Based on the short description I have just read, or what you may have previously heard about the topic, please tell me if you…
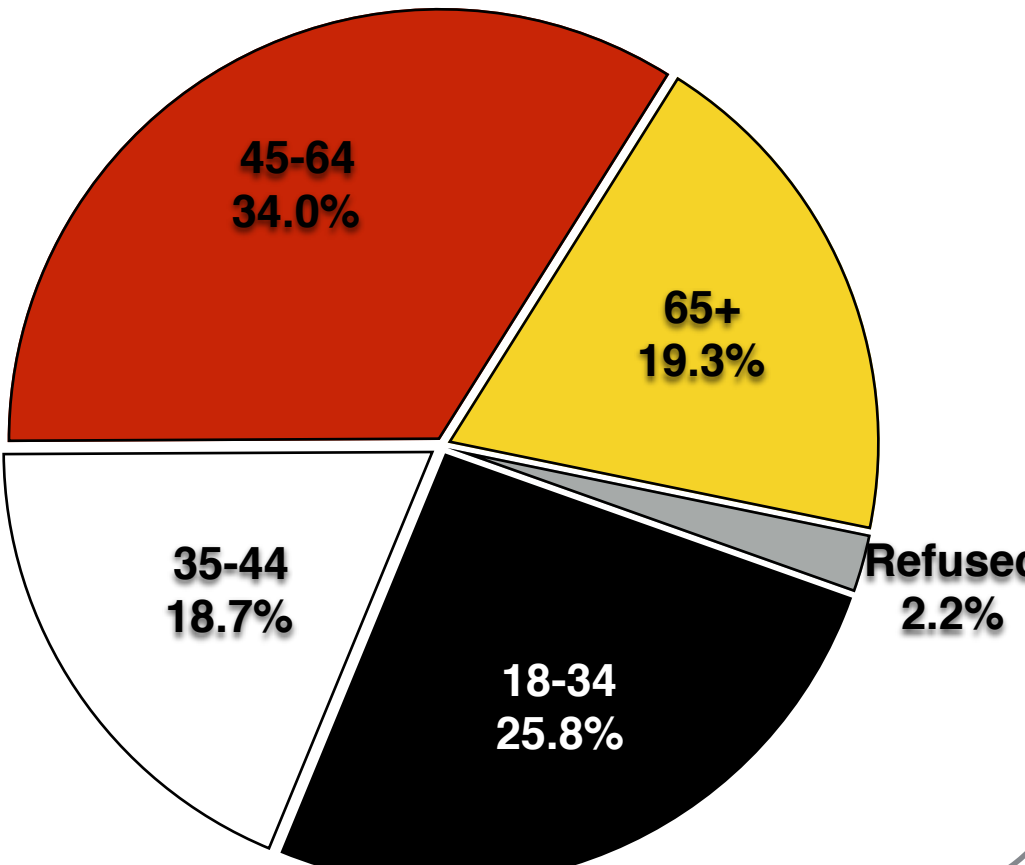

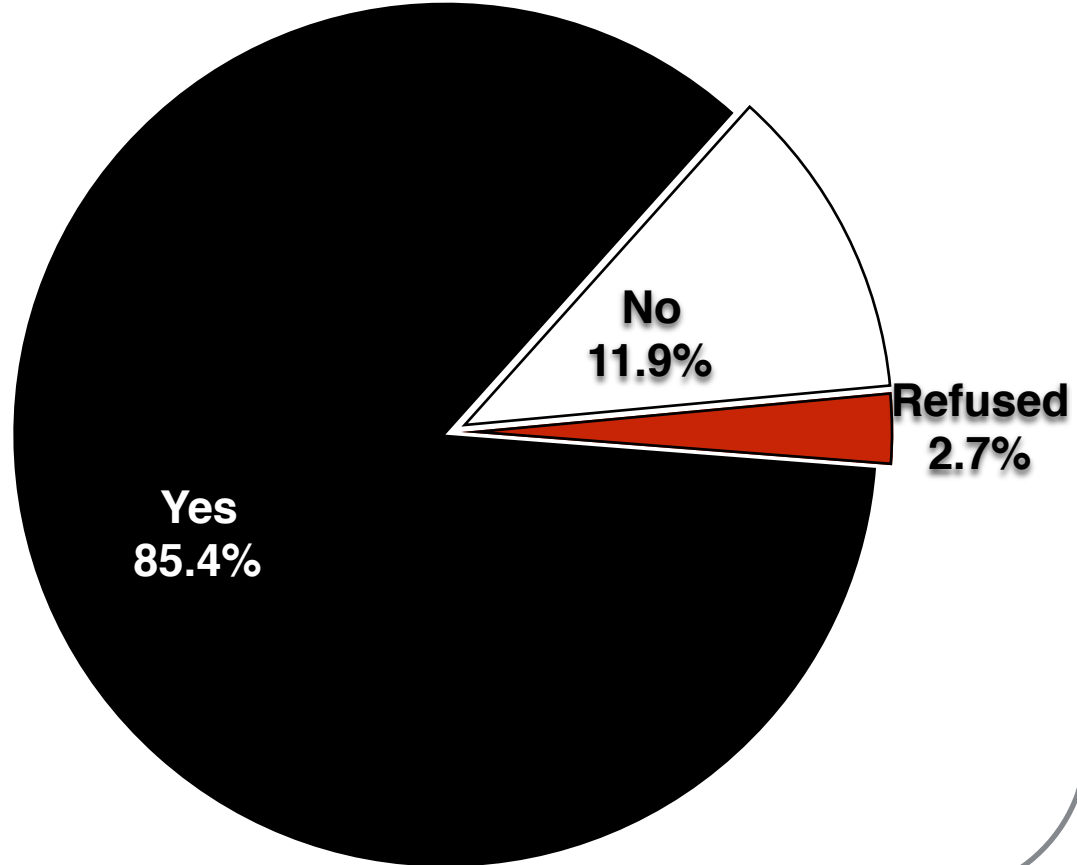|				
56.4%	16.1%	9.4%	9.3%	8.8%
Strongly support the ban on flavored e-cigarettes	Somewhat support the ban on flavored e-cigarettes	Somewhat oppose the ban on flavored e-cigarettes	Strongly oppose the ban on flavored e-cigarettes	Unsure

Demographic Profile - September 2019

Gender
- Male 45.0%
- Female 54.5%
- Refused 0.5%

Age
- 45-64 34.0%
- 65+ 19.3%
- Refused 2.2%
- 18-34 25.8%
- 35-44 18.7%

Registered to vote?
- No 11.9%
- Refused 2.7%
- Yes 85.4%

Hispanic/Latin Origin?
- Refused 2.9%
- Yes 10.4%
- No 86.7%

Income
- Less than $50,000 — 31.3%
- $50,000 to < $100,000 — 23.1%
- $100,000 to < $150,000 — 11.0%
- $150,000 or more — 8.9%
- Refused — 25.7%

County of Residence
- Fairfield — 22.3%
- Hartford — 25.8%
- Litchfield — 4.9%
- Middlesex — 3.8%
- New Haven — 27.8%
- New London — 8.1%
- Tolland — 3.6%
- Windham — 3.7%

Ethnicity
- White/ Caucasian — 77.8%
- Black/ African American — 9.5%
- Asian — 1.9%
- Native American Indian/ Alaska Native — 0.9%
- Other — 5.1%
- Refused — 4.8%
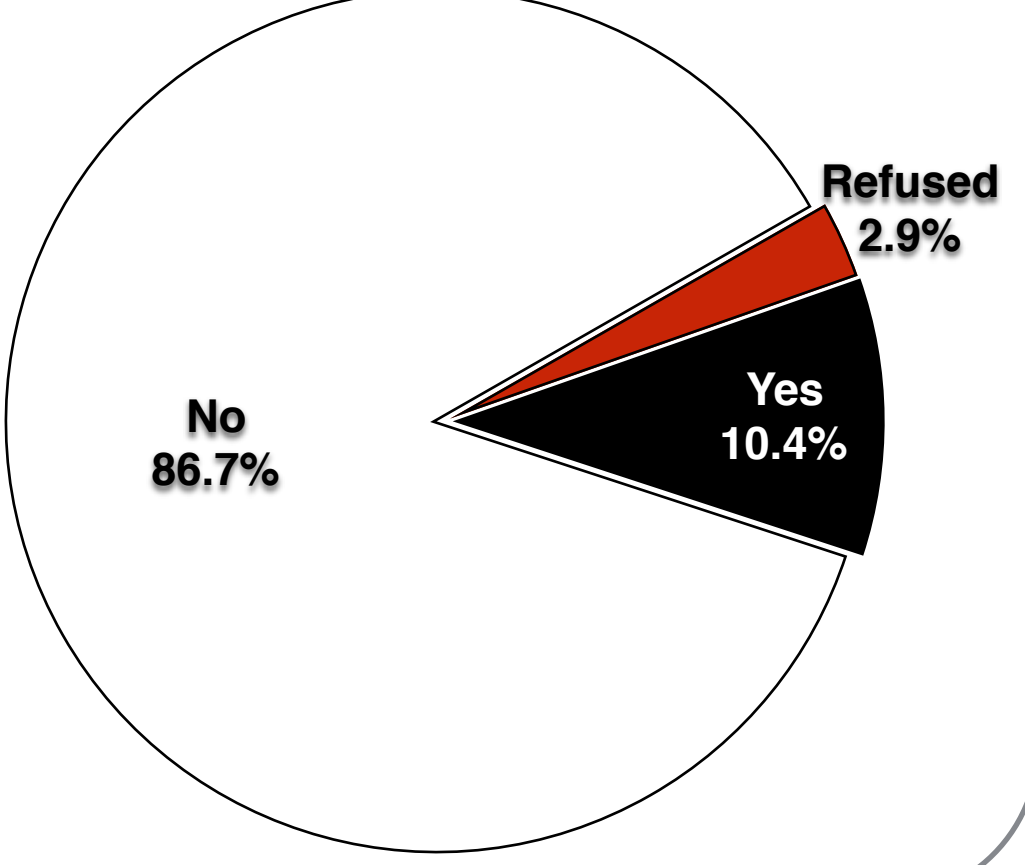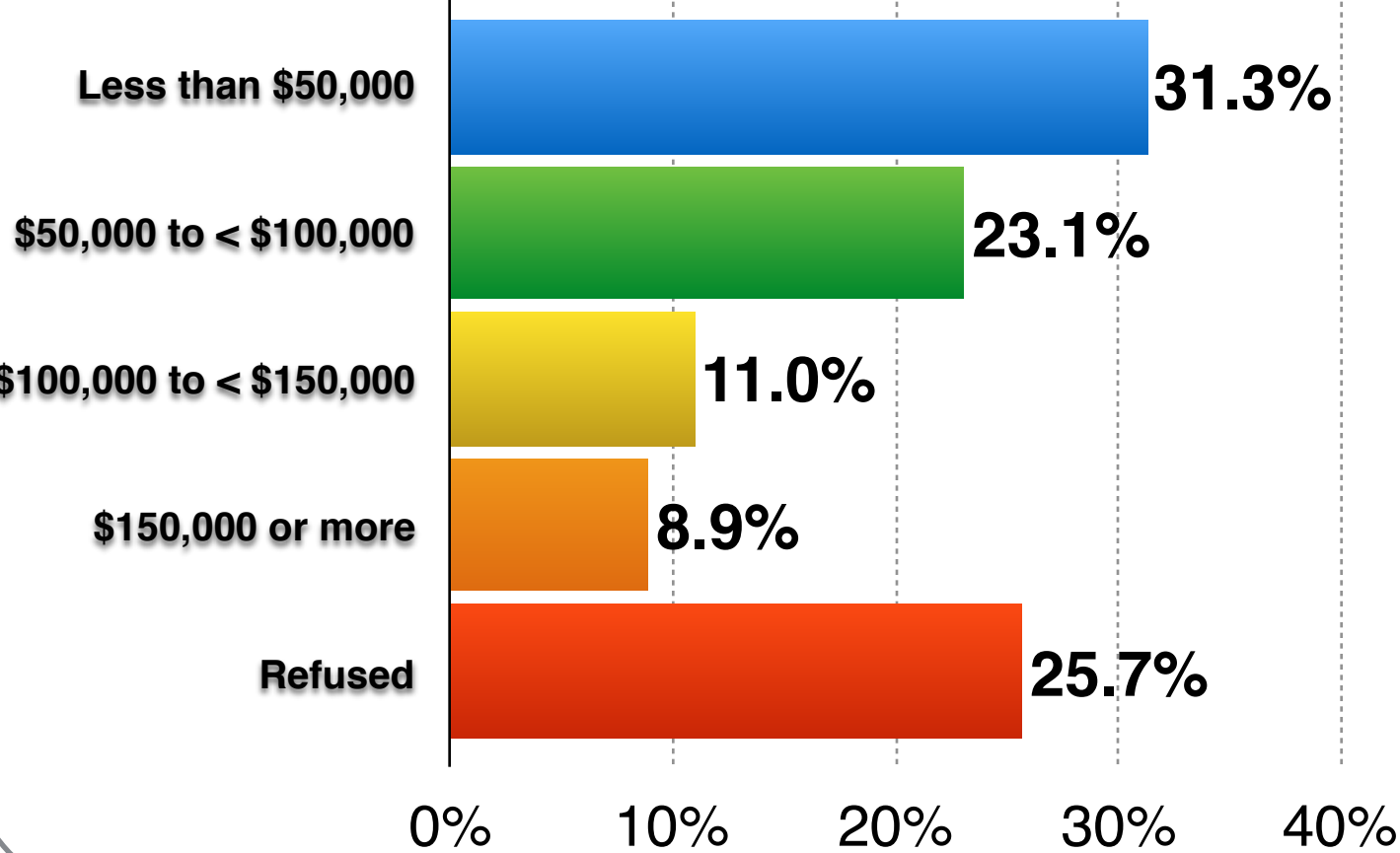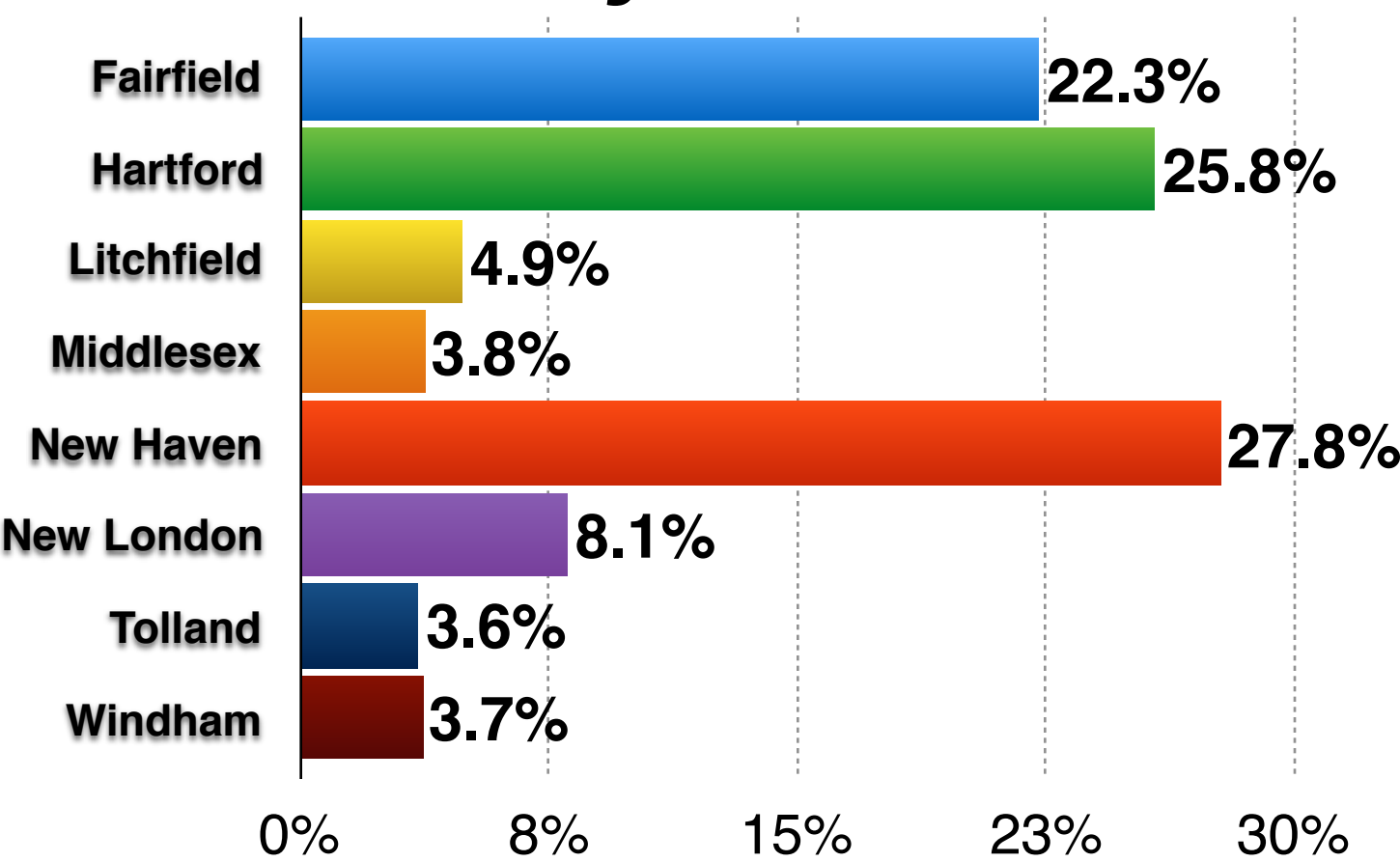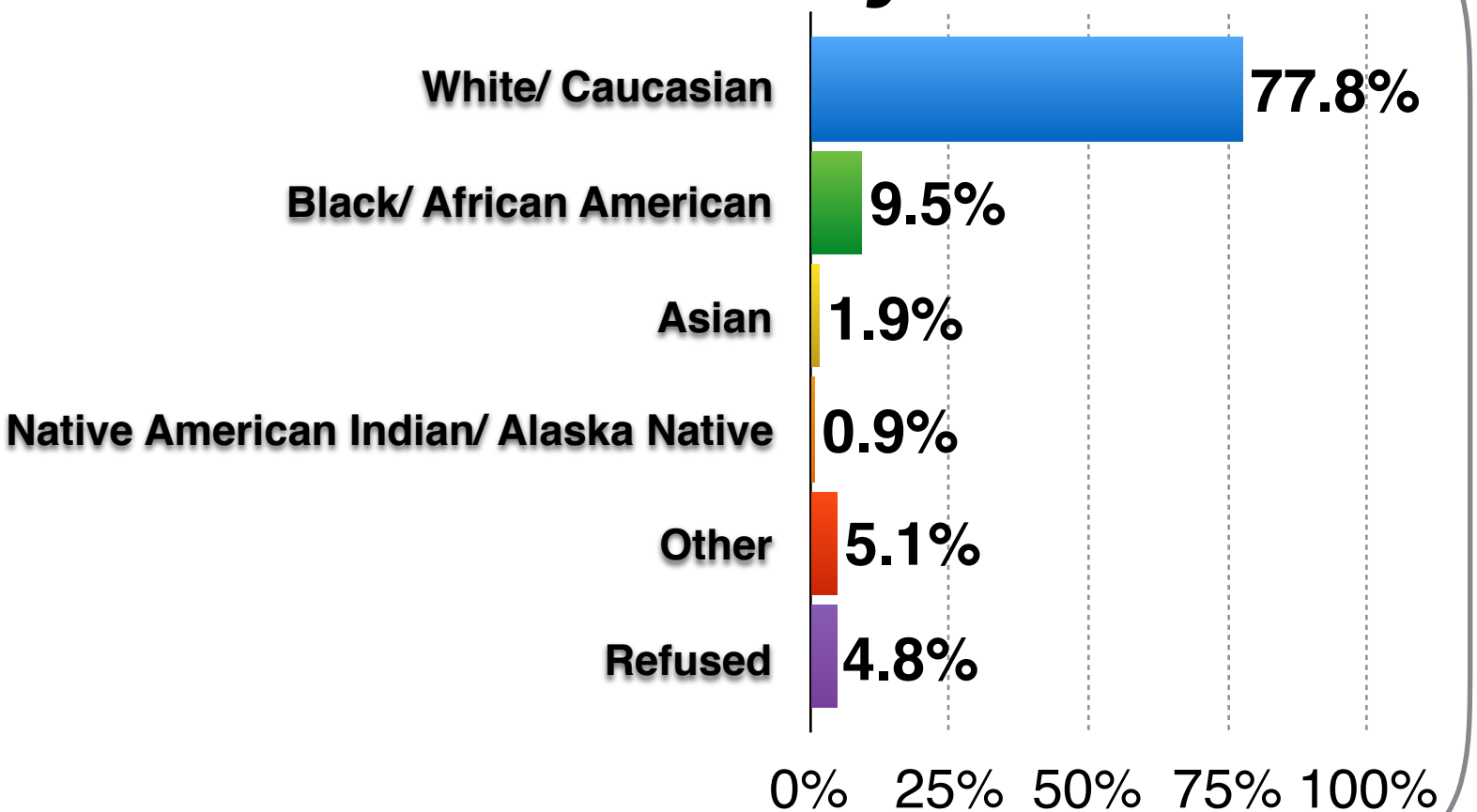
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