



Sacred Heart
UNIVERSITY

Institute for Public Policy
Statewide Poll - Q2 2020



Report of Findings

April 10, 2020

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Sacred Heart
UNIVERSITY



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 ratings
- Sentiments around COVID-19 with respect to the State's response, economic impact, nationwide response, and media coverage
- Ranking of 2020 Presidential election candidates
- Opinions regarding Connecticut's exclusive gaming rights with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe and the Mohegan Tribe
- Demographic profiles of respondents

Research Methodology Snapshot

Methodology	No. of Completes	No. of Questions	Sample
Dual mode (phone and digital survey)**	1,000	40*	Connecticut residents
Target	Margin of Error	Confidence Level	Research Dates
Connecticut residents	+/- 3.02%	95%	March 24 - April 3, 2020

* 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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71.5%
would still purchase
at an increased
price point

8.9%

5.4%

2.8%

0.0%

Negative Impact

Boomers

SHU Institute for Public Policy - April 2020 Headlines

- ❖ In April 2020, 64.2% reported their quality of life in the State as being either “excellent” (15.9%) or “good” (48.3%), which is consistent with the 64.3% who reported the same in March of 2020.
 - An increased frequency of April 2020 respondents expressed belief that the quality of life in Connecticut is “declining” (22.9%), compared to the rate of those who reported the same in March 2020 (21.3%).
- ❖ A higher rate of Connecticut residents surveyed in April 2020 (41.4%) reported to “approve” of how Ned Lamont is handling his job as governor, which marks an increase over the 31.0% of respondents who reported the same in March 2020, 28.1% in December 2019, and 24.1% in September 2019.
 - 25.7% approval among Republicans (18.7% unsure)
 - 34.5% approval among unaffiliated residents (33.3% unsure)
 - 60.9% approval among Democrats (26.1% unsure)
- ❖ During the COVID-19 pandemic, high frequencies of respondents reported to “approve” of the way Ned Lamont is handling “communication to the public” (67.2%) and his “overall response and handling of the COVID-19 crisis” (65.0%).
 - 53.5% reported they “approve” of the way Lamont is “instilling confidence in state leadership”
 - 51.6% reported they “approve” of the way Lamont is “addressing a plan for Connecticut residents and families”
 - 45.0% reported they “approve” of the way Lamont is “addressing a plan for businesses in the state”

SHU Institute for Public Policy - April 2020 Headlines

- ❖ More than two-thirds of respondents (67.4%) believe the timing of closings schools was “about right,” while more than one-fourth believe bars /restaurants (29.7%) and theaters (29.0%) were closed “too late.”
 - Further, the majority of surveyed residents (82.7%) agree with Governor Lamont’s decision to close non-essential businesses.
- ❖ Only one in five surveyed residents (21.8%) believe Connecticut was “prepared” to handle the COVID-19 pandemic, while nearly two-fifths (38.1%) believe Connecticut was “not prepared.”
- ❖ The strong majority of surveyed residents, 91.8%, reported to be either “very concerned” (66.2%) or “somewhat concerned” (25.6%) with the financial impact of COVID-19 on Connecticut’s economy.
- ❖ More than two-thirds of respondents (69.2%) reported COVID-19 has impacted their daily life, with one-third indicating their “work” life (32.1%) has been most affected by the pandemic.
- ❖ Two-fifths of surveyed residents in April 2020 (39.9%) “approve” of President Trump’s overall handling of the COVID-19 crisis.
- ❖ More than one-half of surveyed residents rated the quality of media coverage regarding COVID-19 as “excellent” or “good” (54.8%), and have either a “great deal of trust” or “some trust” (50.1%) in the media coverage they have seen.

SHU Institute for Public Policy - April 2020 Headlines

- ❖ The highest frequency of respondents chose Bernie Sanders (47.8%) over Donald Trump (36.7%), while a slightly lower frequency reported they would chose Joe Biden (47.3%) over Trump (34.1%).
 - 81.3% of surveyed Democratic residents, 39.9% of unaffiliated voters, and 13.3% of Republicans reported they would vote for Joe Biden if the race were between him and Donald Trump.
 - 78.7% of surveyed Democratic residents, 41.4% of unaffiliated voters, and 13.7% of Republicans reported they would vote for Bernie Sanders if the race were between him and Donald Trump.
 - However, 52.0% of registered Democrats would vote for Joe Biden compared to 32.5% for Bernie Sanders.
- ❖ Nearly three-fifths of surveyed residents (57.3%) believe the state of Connecticut should maintain exclusive gaming rights with the with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe and the Mohegan Tribe.
- ❖ While more than one-third of respondents (34.9%) do not support the legalization of online casino gambling, 29.8% support online gambling if “licensed by the state to private businesses with the state receiving a portion of revenues.”
- ❖ More than one-fourth of respondents (26.4%) indicated they “oppose” the building of a casino in Bridgeport, while slightly fewer surveyed residents (24.2%) would “support the building of a casino in Bridgeport as a joint venture between MGM and the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribes.”

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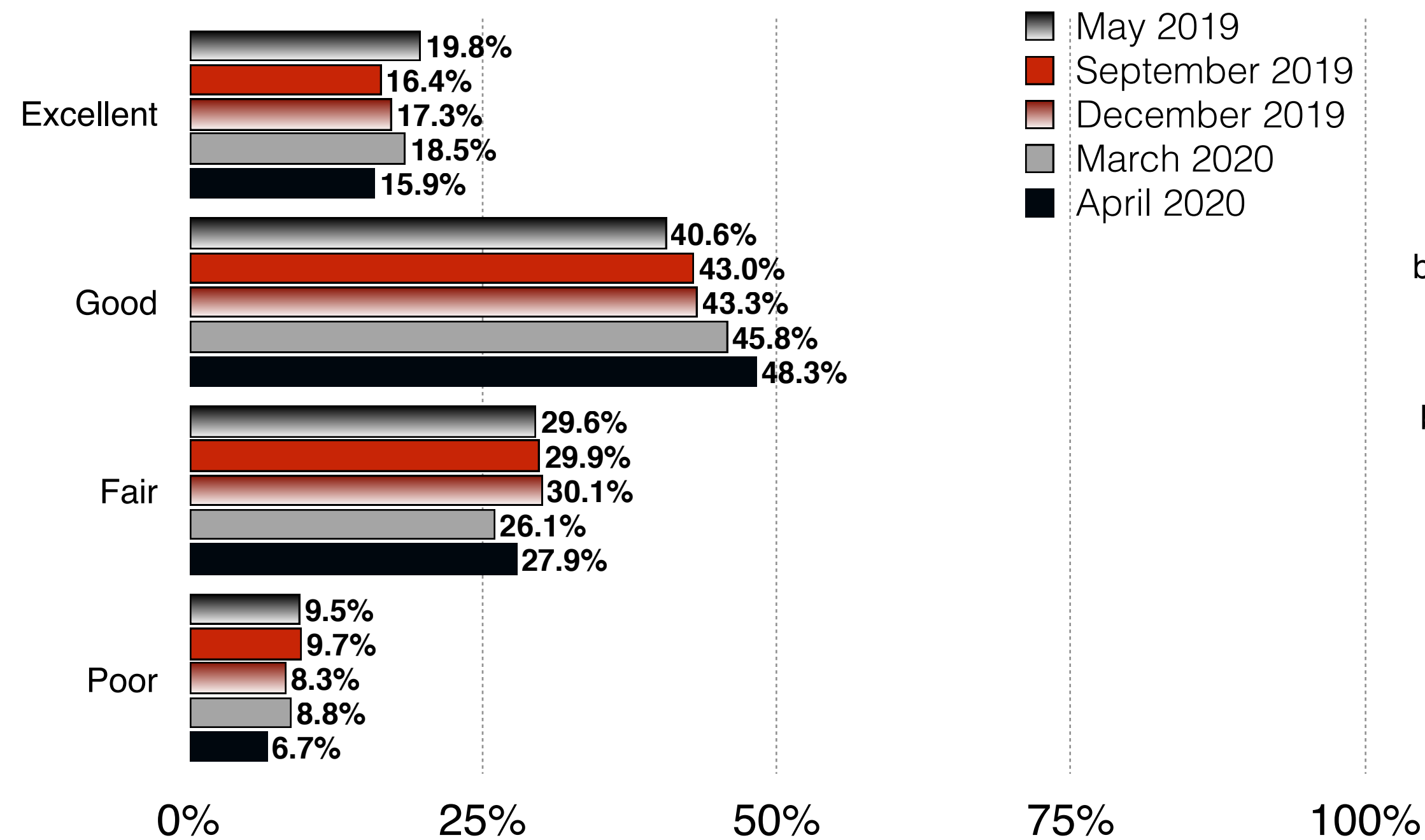
Negative Impact

Boomers

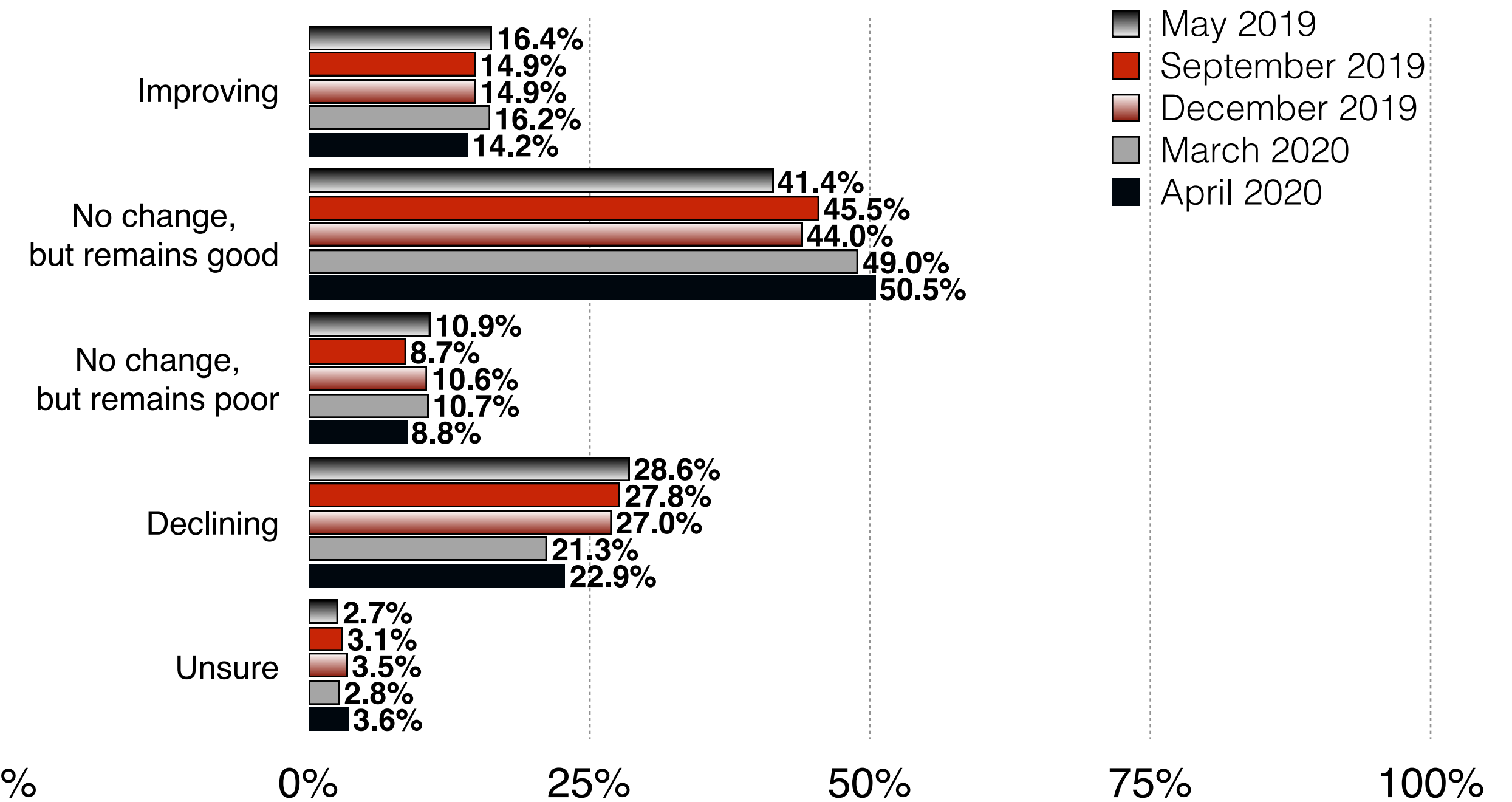
Quality of Life in Connecticut


The majority of Connecticut residents surveyed in April 2020, 64.2%, reported their quality of life in the State as being either “excellent” (15.9%) or “good” (48.3%), which is consistent with the 64.3% who reported the same in March of 2020. However, an increased frequency of April 2020 respondents expressed belief that the quality of life in Connecticut is “declining” (22.9%), compared to the rate of those who reported the same in March 2020 (21.3%).

- ❖ A lower frequency of respondents earning less than \$50,000 annually, 50.4%, reported their quality of life as either “excellent” (12.8%) or “good” (37.6%) when compared to those earning \$100,000 to less than \$150,000 per year (75.0%).
- ❖ A higher frequency of respondents ages 45-64 (31.1%) or ages 65 or older (26.3%) reported their quality of life as “declining” when compared to those ages 18-34 (13.7%).



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

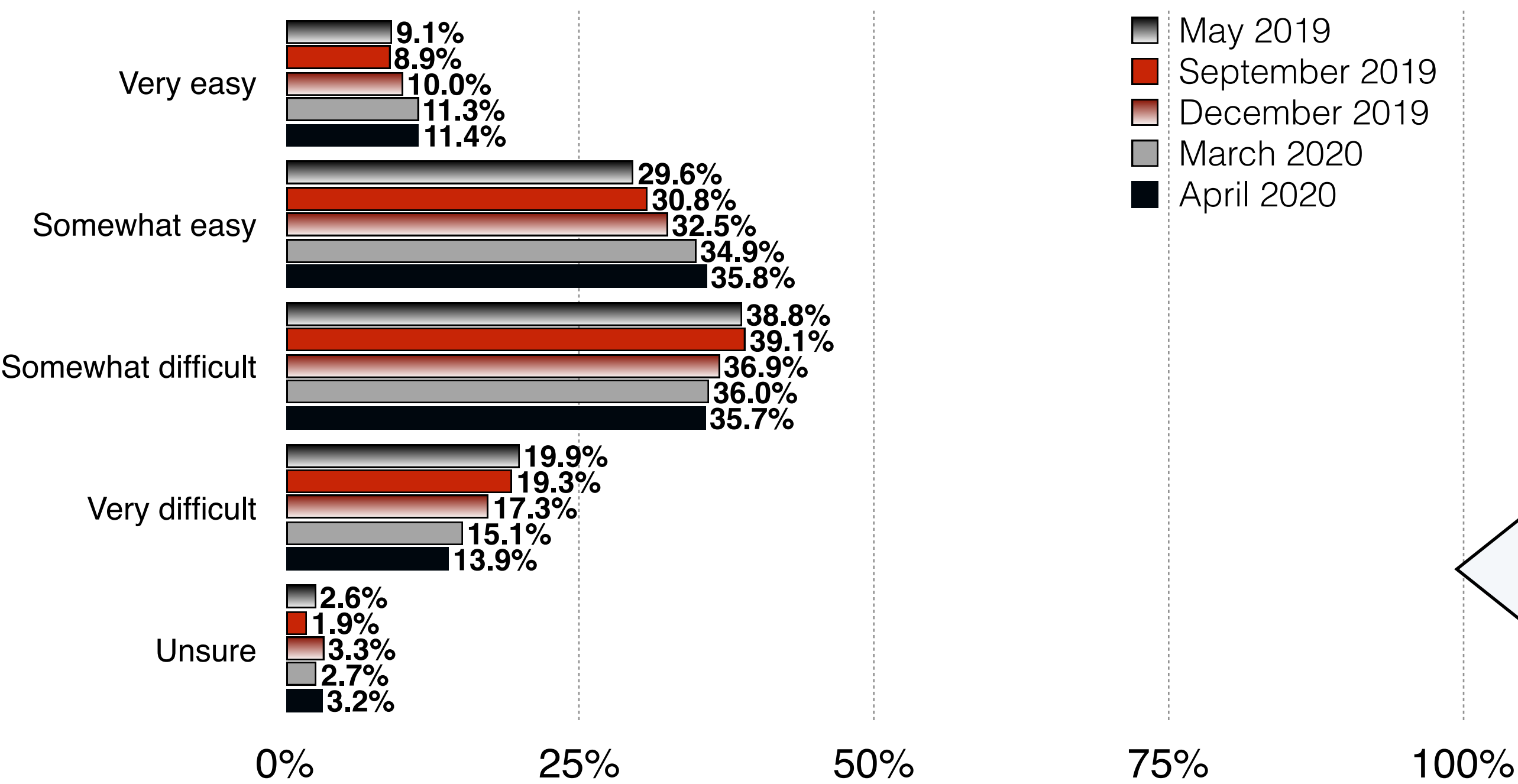


 Would you say, overall, your quality of life in Connecticut is...

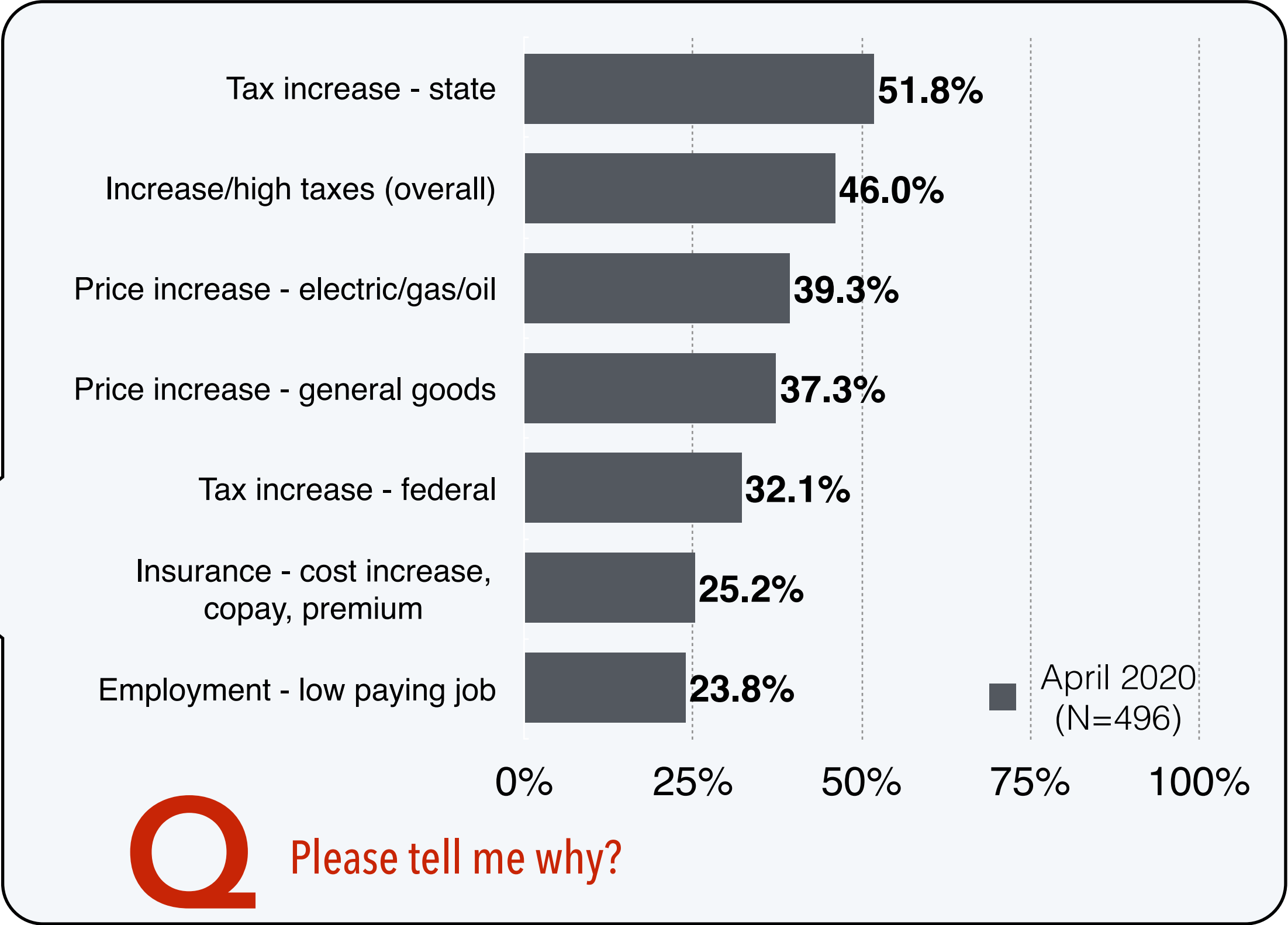
Quality of Life in Connecticut

In April 2020, 47.2% of surveyed residents (over 46.2% in March 2020) reported it being either “very easy” (11.4%) or “somewhat easy” (35.8%) to maintain their standard of living out of their household income today, while 49.6% (from 51.1% in March 2020) reported it being “difficult” to maintain their standard of living.

- ❖ Over one-half of respondents earning less than \$50,000 annually (61.0%) or \$50,000 to less than \$100,000 per year (52.6%) reported it being “difficult” to maintain their standard of living.
- ❖ The majority of respondents ages 35-44 (54.4%) or ages 45-64 (58.4%) reported it being “difficult” to maintain their standard of living.



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...

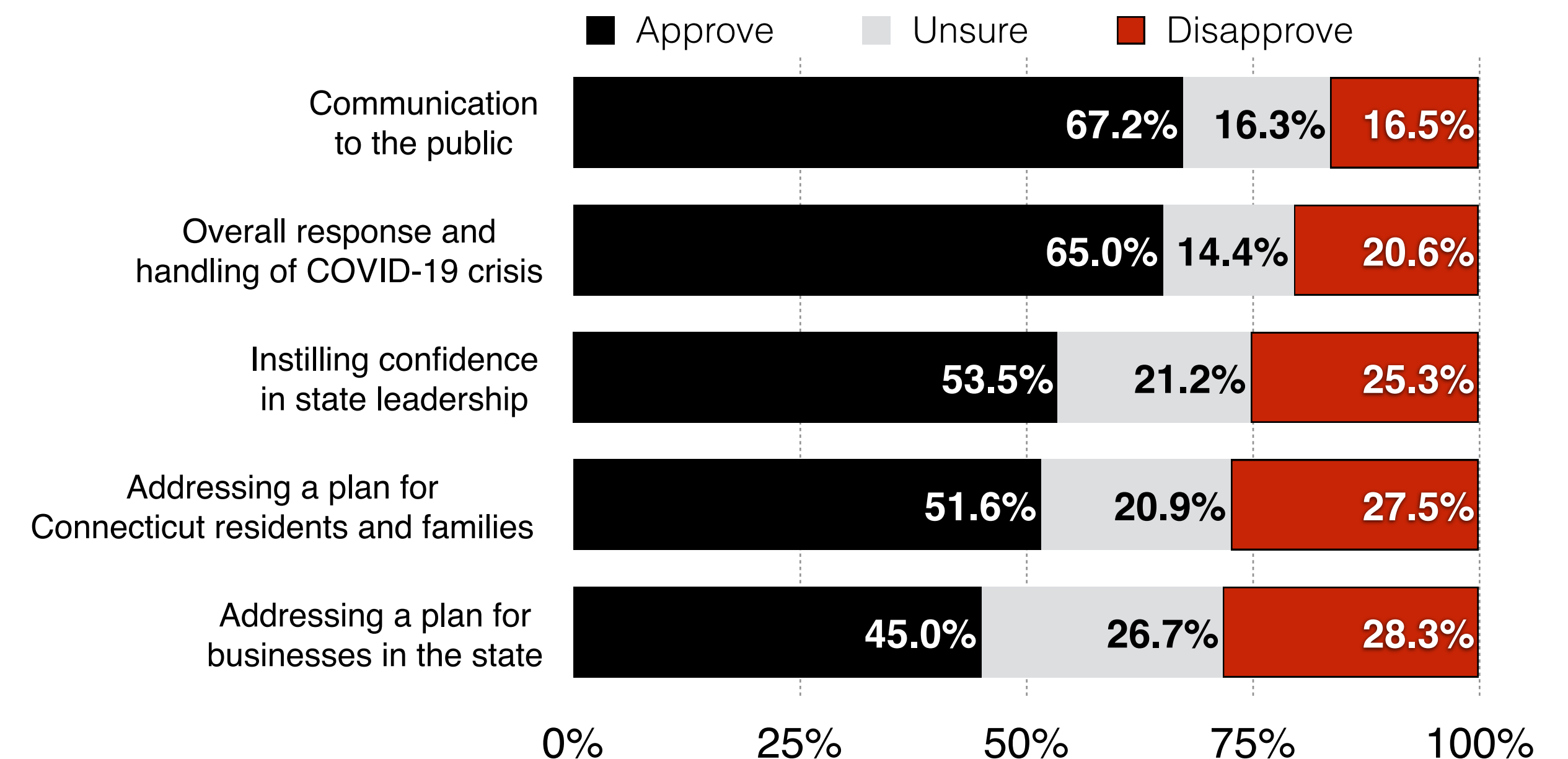
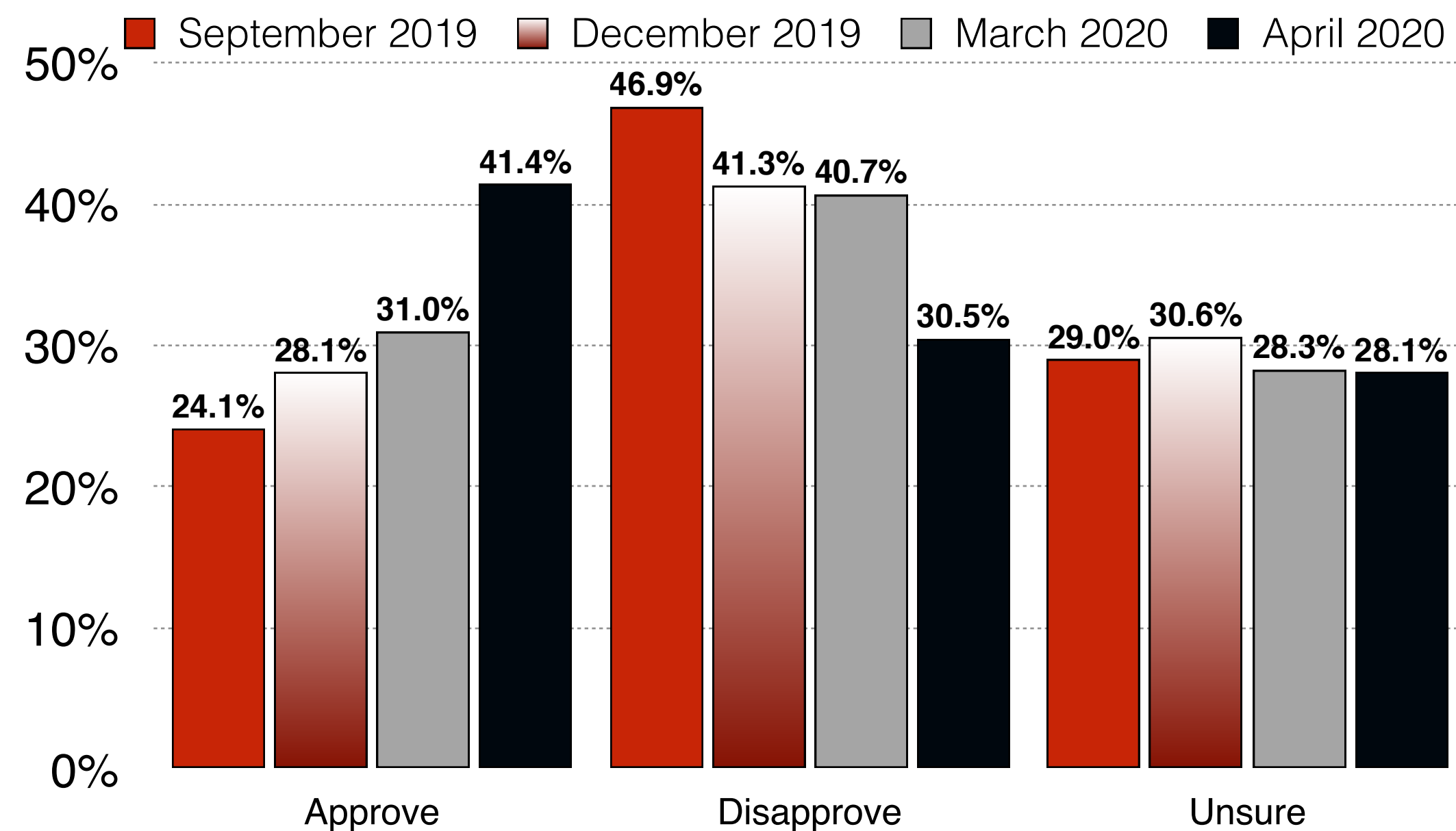


Q Please tell me why?

Governor's Approval Rating

41.4% of Connecticut residents surveyed in April 2020 reported to “approve” of how Ned Lamont is handling his job as governor, which is higher than the 31.0% of respondents who reported the same in March 2020, 28.1% in December 2019, and 24.1% in September 2019.

- ❖ While 60.9% of Democrats surveyed currently “approve” of the way Lamont is handling his job as governor, only 25.7% of Republicans and 34.5% of unaffiliated voters surveyed reported the same.
- ❖ 31.5% of Republicans surveyed currently “disapprove” of Lamont’s overall handling of COVID-19, compared to only 13.5% of Democrats.
- ❖ 25.6% of respondents ages 18-34 currently “disapprove” of the way Lamont is handling COVID-19, compared to 15.8% of those ages 65 or older.



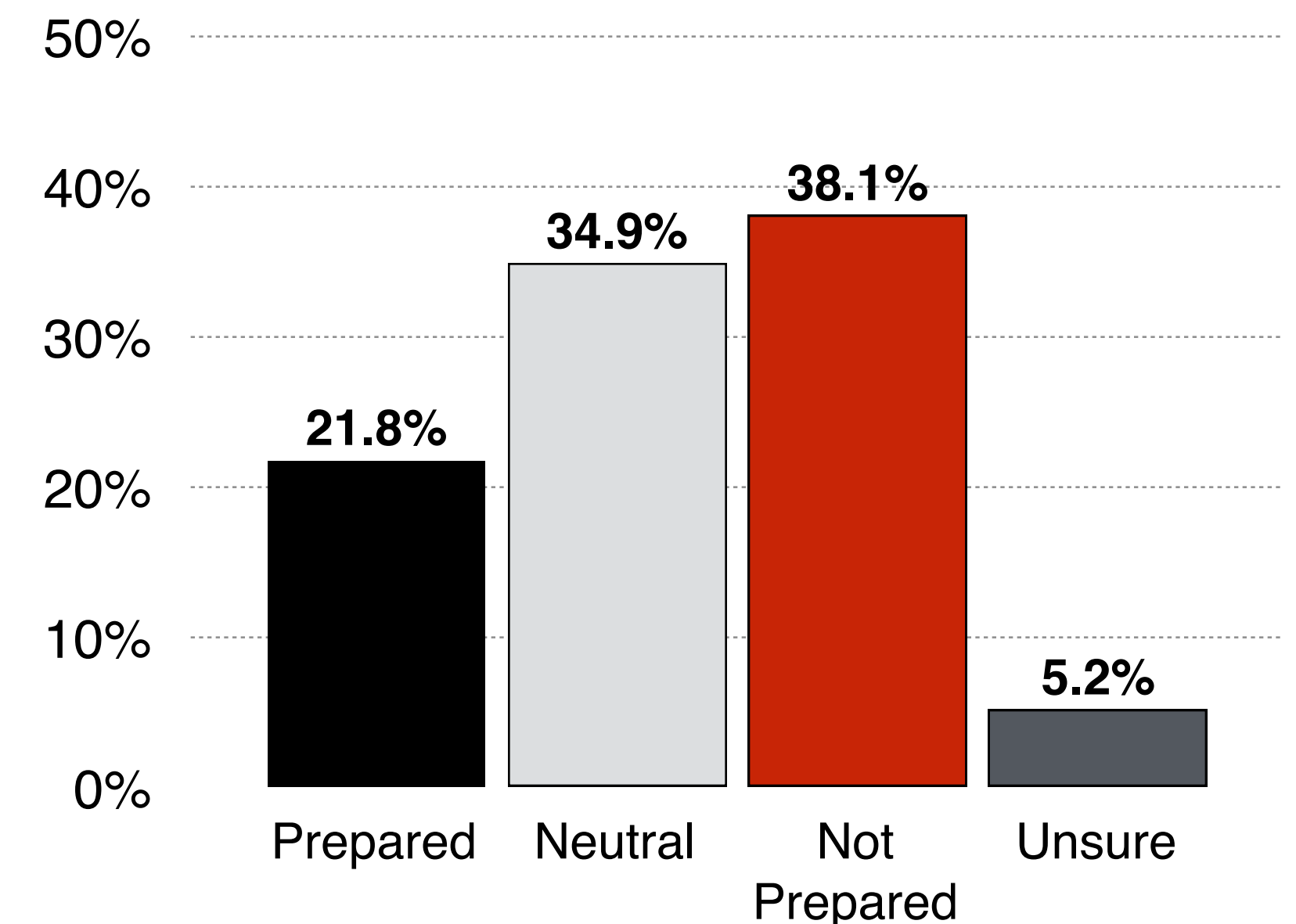
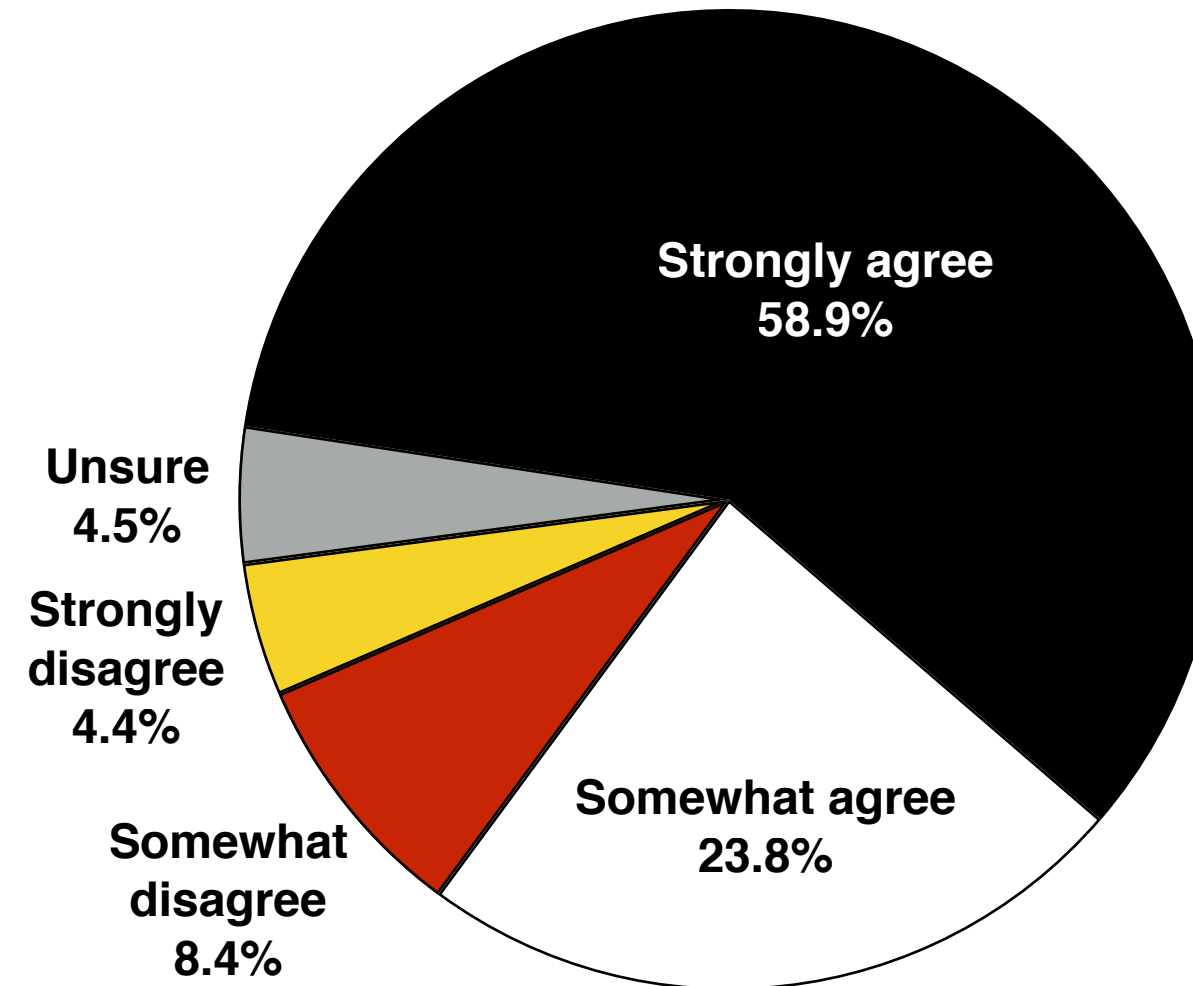
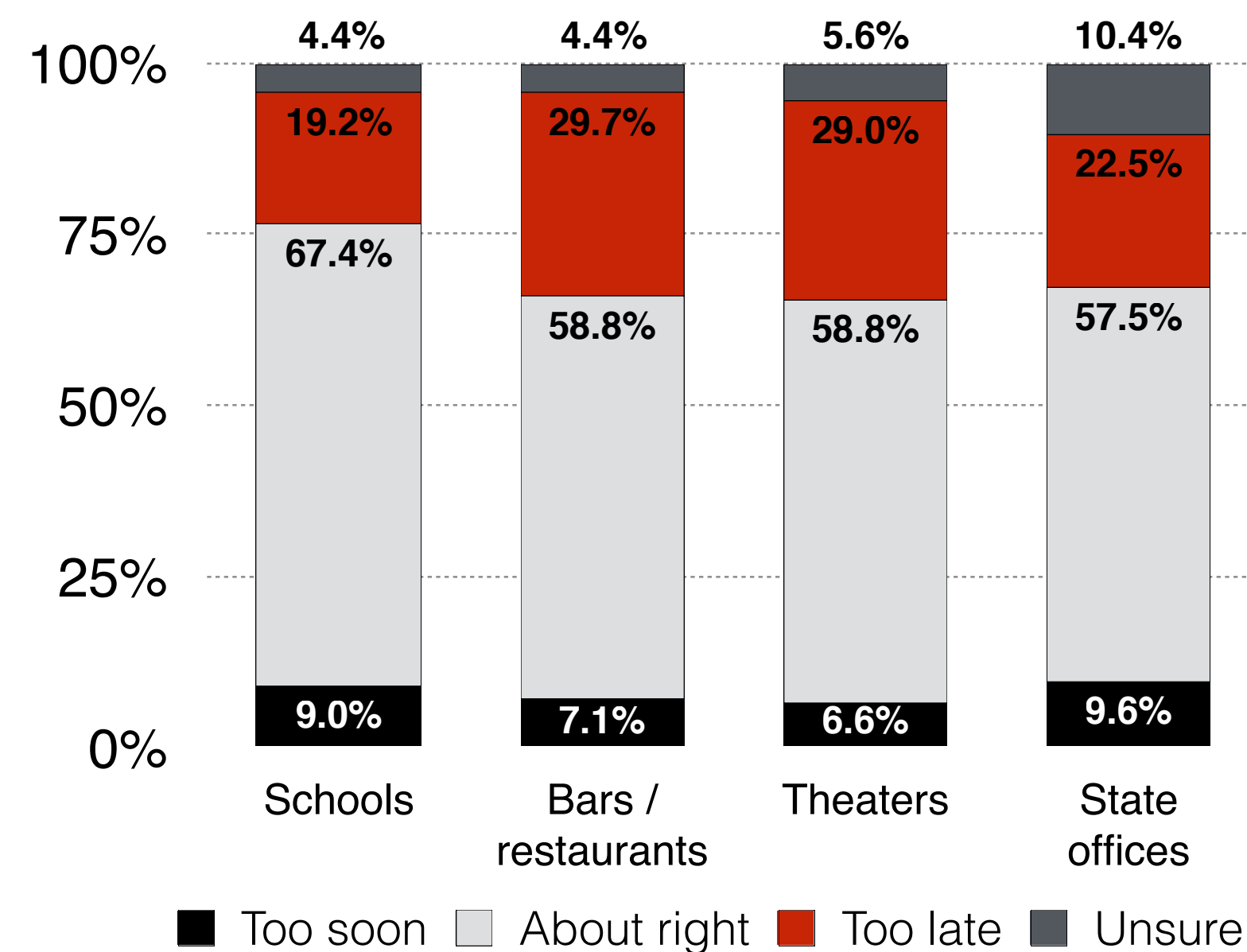
Q Since he took office in January, overall do you approve or disapprove of the way Ned Lamont is handling his job as governor?

Q Please indicate if you approve or disapprove of the way Ned Lamont has handled the following issues related to COVID-19...

COVID-19 - State of CT Response

More than two-thirds of surveyed residents (67.4%) believe the timing of closings schools was "about right," while more than one-fourth believe bars / restaurants (29.7%) and theaters (29.0%) were closed "too late." Further, more than four-fifths, 82.7%, either "strongly agree" (58.9%) or "somewhat agree" (23.8%) with Governor Lamont's decision to close non-essential businesses. However, only one in five surveyed residents (21.8%) believe Connecticut was "prepared" to handle the COVID-19 pandemic, while nearly two-fifths (38.1%) believe Connecticut was "not prepared."

- ❖ Nearly one-fifth of respondents ages 18-34 (19.0%) disagree with Governor Lamont's decision to close all non-essential businesses in the state, compared to only 7.0% among those ages 65 or older.
- ❖ 21.6% of Republicans disagree with the decision to close non-essential businesses, compared to 8.9% of Democrats and 9.6% of Unaffiliated voters.



Q As the COVID-19 situation changes daily, many schools and businesses such as bars and restaurants, gyms, theaters, etc. have been closed. In your opinion, was the timing of these closings appropriate?

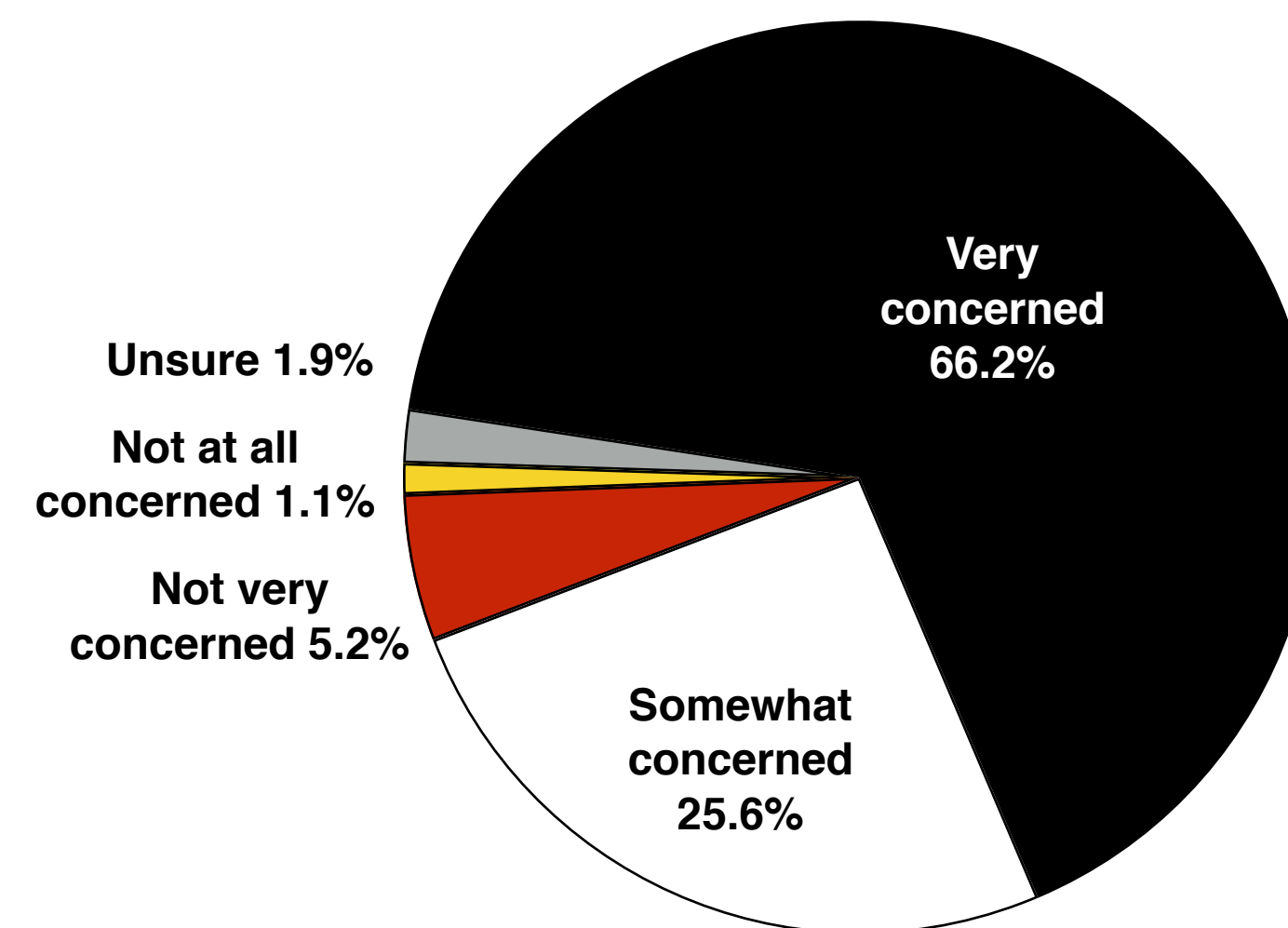
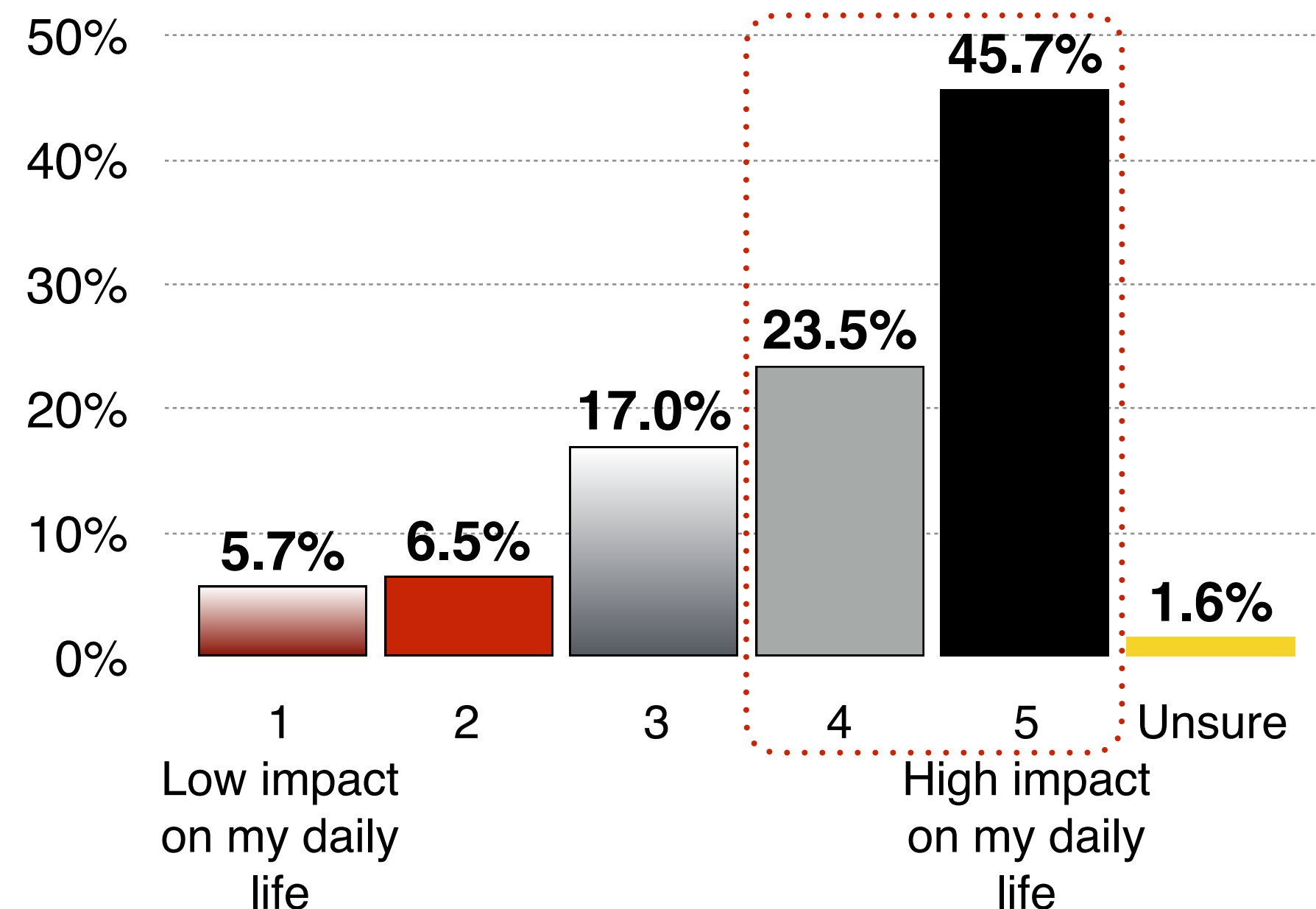
Q Please tell me how strongly you agree or disagree with Governor Lamont's decision to close all non-essential businesses in the state?

Q In your opinion, how prepared was the state of Connecticut to handle the COVID-19 pandemic?

COVID-19 - Economic Impact

More than two-thirds of respondents (69.2%) reported COVID-19 has impacted their daily life. The strong majority of surveyed residents, 91.8%, are either "very concerned" (66.2%) or "somewhat concerned" (25.6%) with the financial impact of COVID-19 on Connecticut's economy. The most frequently reported COVID-19 related need state government could offer assistance with was "money / financial assistance" (16.6%).

- ❖ 10.2% of surveyed respondents ages 18-34 were not concerned with the financial impact of COVID-19 on Connecticut's economy, compared to 3.2% among those ages 45-64 and 3.0% among those ages 65 or older.
- ❖ Those making less than \$50,000 (9.6%) are less concerned with the financial impact as opposed to those with a household income of \$150,000 or more (4.6%).



Areas of need...	April 2020
Don't know / unsure	44.2%
Money / financial assistance	16.6%
Help with resources / availability of essentials	5.8%
Support for healthcare / medical service	5.3%
None / nothing	3.7%
Keep everyone home / enforce full lockdown	2.9%
Testing (accurate / available)	2.7%
Jobs / work	2.1%

Q On a scale of one (1) to five (5) where one (1) is lowest impact and five (5) is highest impact, please rate to what extent COVID-19 has impacted your daily life?

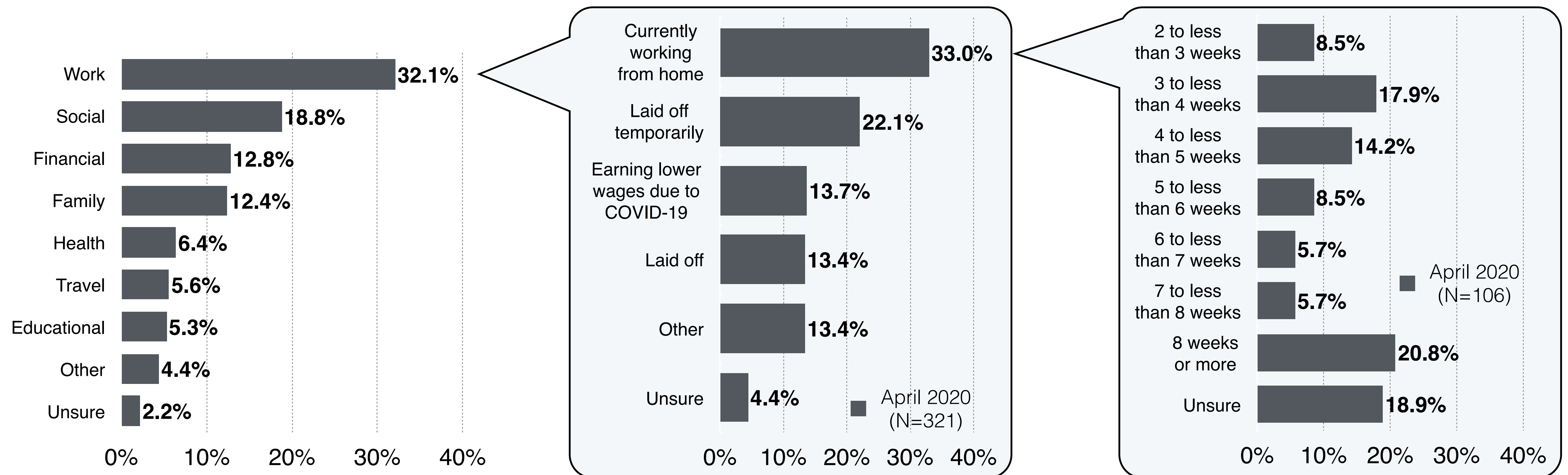
Q Please rate your level of concern of the financial impact of COVID-19 on Connecticut's economy?

Q What is your most pressing need due to COVID-19 right now that the state government may be able to help with?

COVID-19 - Economic Impact

Surveyed residents indicated their daily “work” life (32.1%) has been most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Among those reporting their “work” life has been impacted the most by COVID-19, one-third (33.0%) reported they are “currently working from home” while 22.1% are “laid off temporarily.” Among those working from home, one-fifth (20.8%) anticipate they will be working from home for “8 weeks or more.”

- ❖ Daily “work” life has been most affected among respondents ages 18-34 (36.1%), 35-44 (39.8%) or 45-64 (35.9%), while those ages 65 or older reported their “social” life (34.5%) most affected.



Q Please select which of the following aspect of your daily life has been most affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

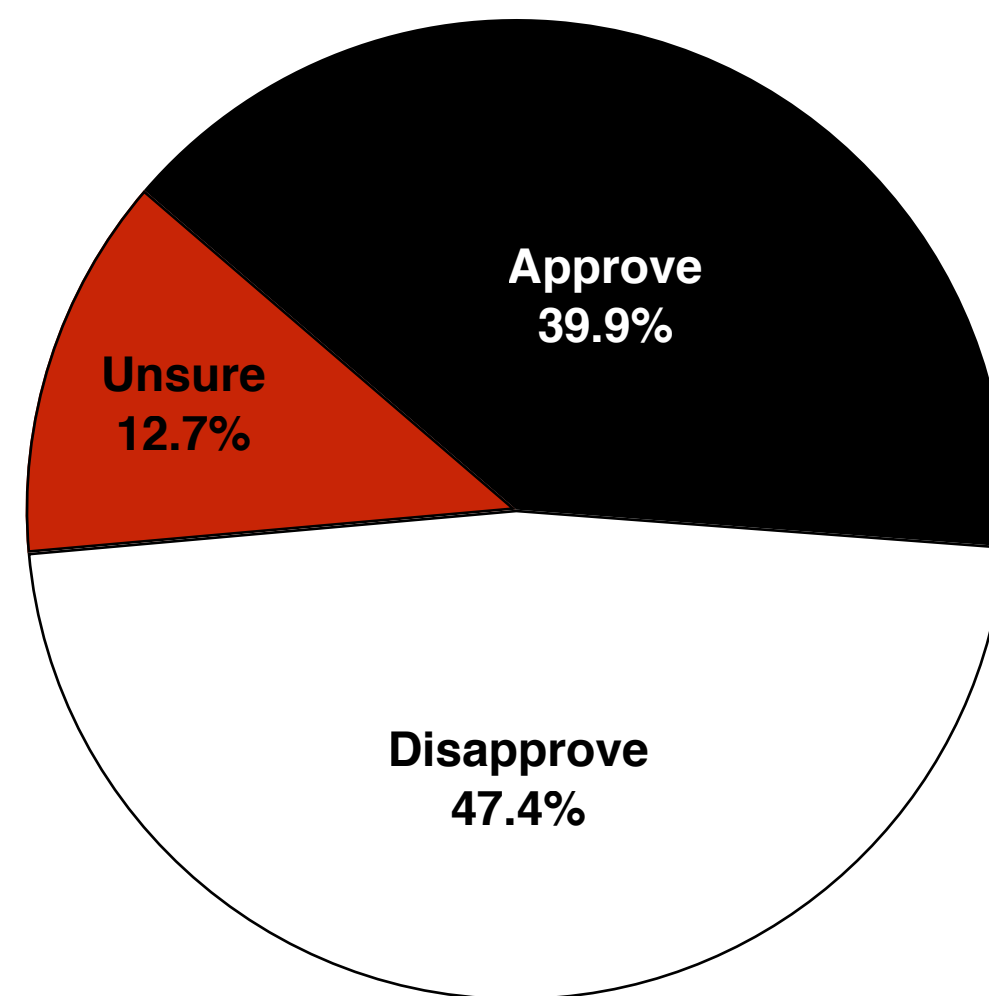
Q Please select which of the following ways COVID-19 has impacted your work life...

Q How long do you anticipate you will be working from home?

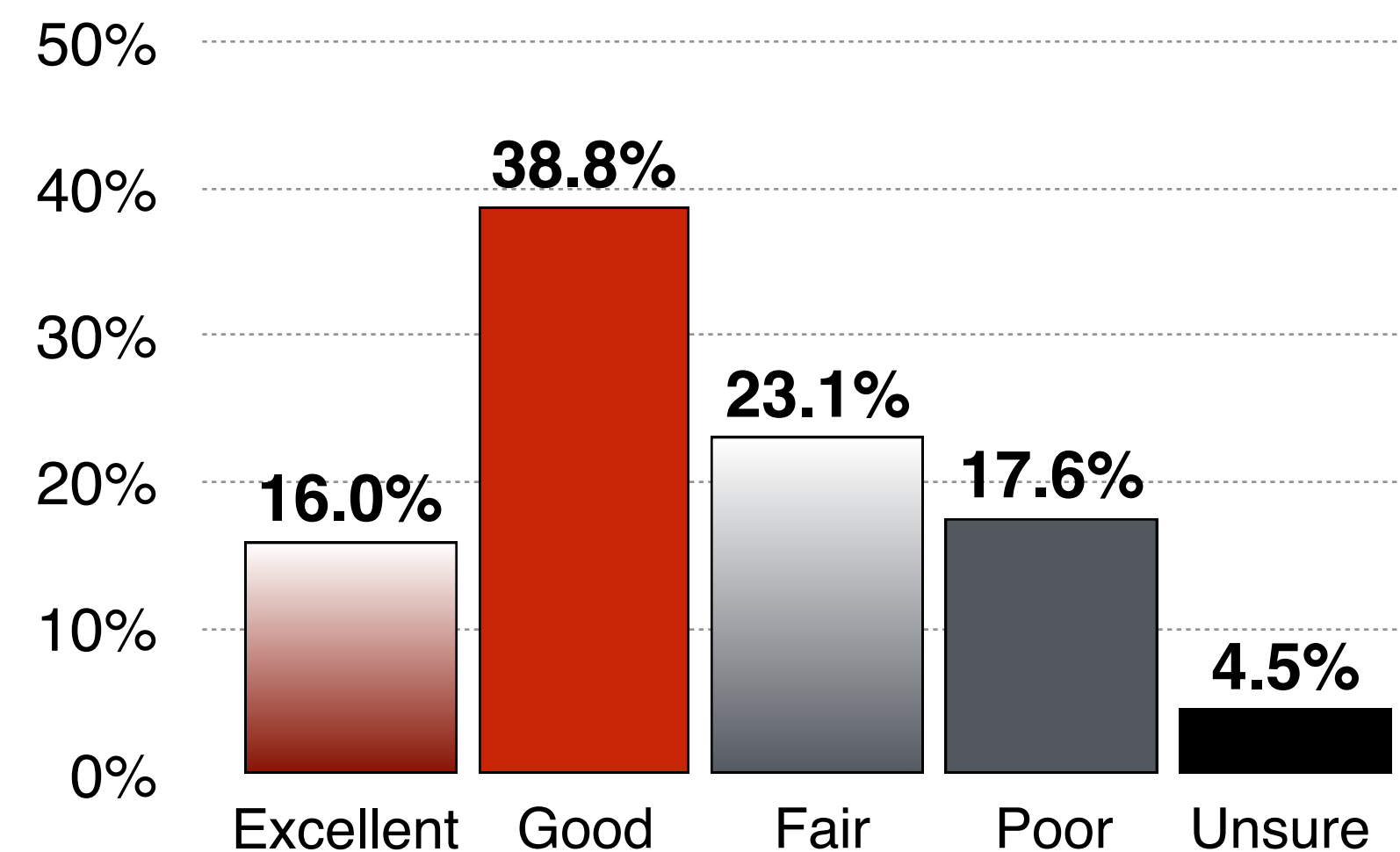
COVID-19 - National Response & Media Coverage

Nearly one-half of surveyed residents in April 2020 (47.4%) “disapprove” of President Trump’s overall handling of the COVID-19 crisis, compared to 39.9% that “approve.” Overall, 54.8% of respondents indicated the quality of media coverage they have seen regarding COVID-19 has been “excellent” (16.0%) or “good” (38.8%), resulting in one-half, 50.1%, reporting either a “great deal of trust” (15.0%) or “some trust” (35.1%) in the media coverage they have seen regarding COVID-19.

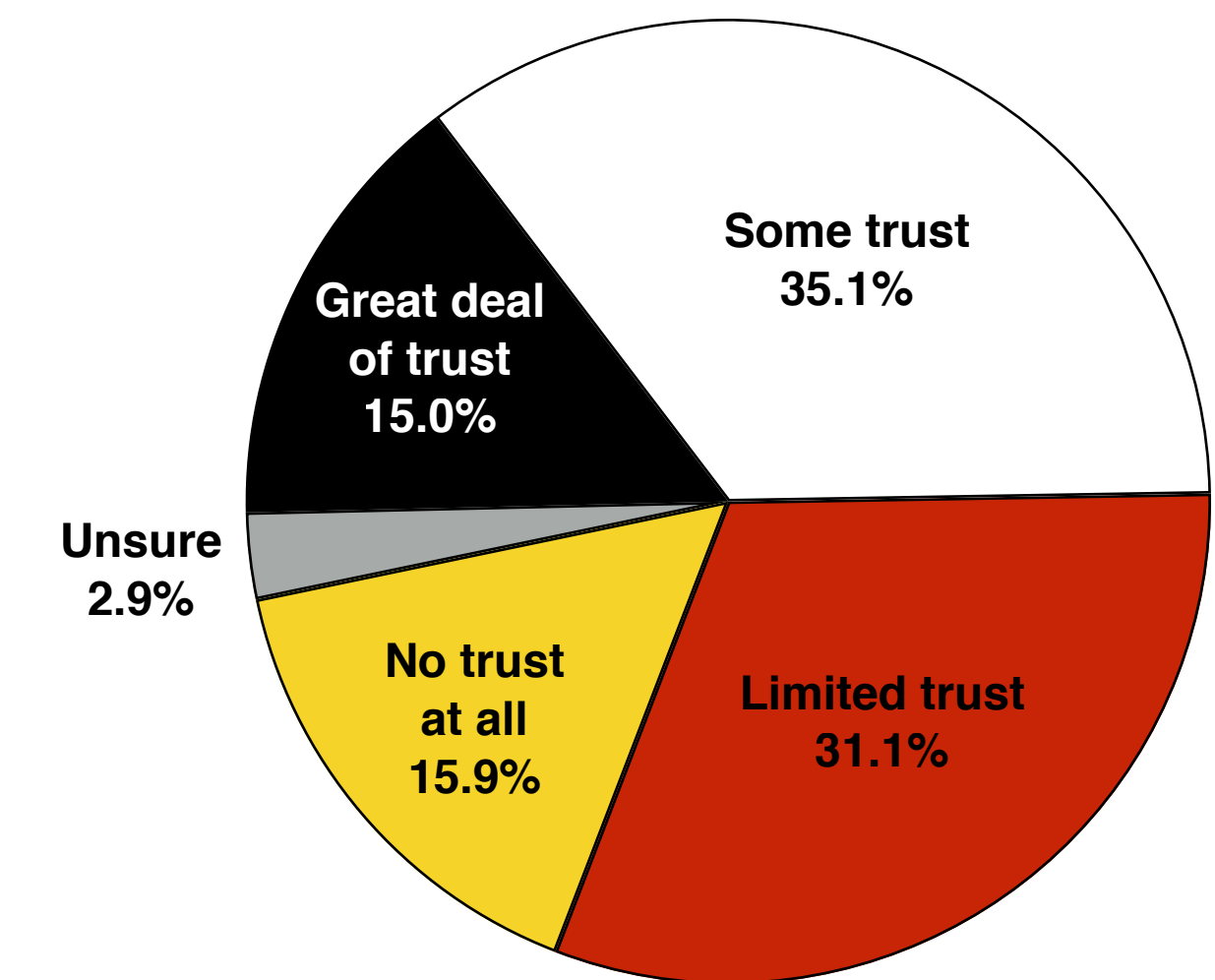
- ❖ More than two-thirds of Republicans (71.0%) approve of President Trump’s handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, compared to only 21.8% of Democrats.
- ❖ 45.7% of men approve of President Trump’s handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, compared to 34.6% of women.
- ❖ More than three-fifths of Democrats (62.3%) rate the quality of media coverage around COVID-19 as excellent or good, versus 51.9% of Republicans.
- ❖ Similarly, more than three-fifths of Democrats (61.5%) trust the media coverage around COVID-19, while only 39.4% of Republicans reported the same.



Q Please indicate if you approve or disapprove of President Trump’s handling of the COVID-19 crisis overall?



Q How would you overall rate the quality of media coverage you have seen regarding COVID-19?

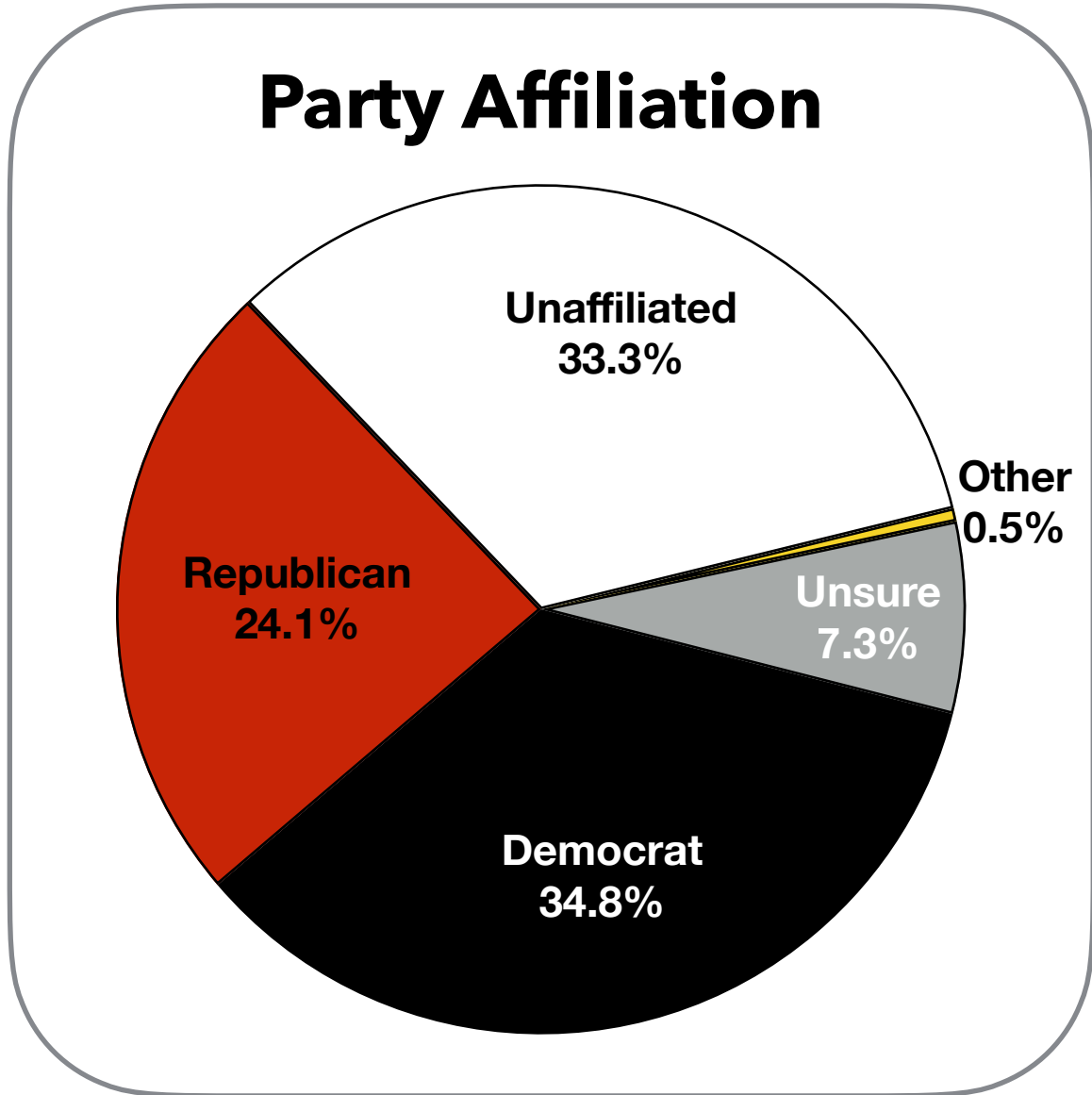


Q How would you rate your level of trust in the media coverage you have seen regarding COVID-19?

Election 2020

In April 2020, when registered Democratic respondents were given the names of the candidates of the Democratic Party, the highest rate of respondents reported they would vote for Joe Biden (52.0%), compared to 32.5% who reported they would vote for Bernie Sanders. When all respondents were asked who they would vote for if the presidential race in 2020 was between each of those candidates and Donald Trump, 47.3% chose Joe Biden over Donald Trump (34.1%), while a slightly higher frequency of respondents reported they would chose Bernie Sanders (47.8%) over Donald Trump (36.7%).

- ❖ When compared to female respondents, a higher frequency of male respondents reported they would vote for Donald Trump if the race were between him and Joe Biden (42.8% over 26.1%) or if it were between Trump and Bernie Sanders (45.7% over 28.4%).
- ❖ 81.3% of surveyed Democratic residents, 39.9% of unaffiliated voters, and 13.3% of Republicans reported they would vote for Joe Biden if the race were between him and Donald Trump.
- ❖ 78.7% of surveyed Democratic residents, 41.4% of unaffiliated voters, and 13.7% of Republicans reported they would vote for Bernie Sanders if the race were between him and Donald Trump.



Q Right now, the candidates for the democratic presidential nomination are Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders. If the democratic primary in Connecticut were held tomorrow who do you plan to vote for?

Horse Race		April 2020
(Asked to registered Democrats only)		
Joe Biden		52.0%
Bernie Sanders		32.5%
Unsure		14.1%
Other		1.4%

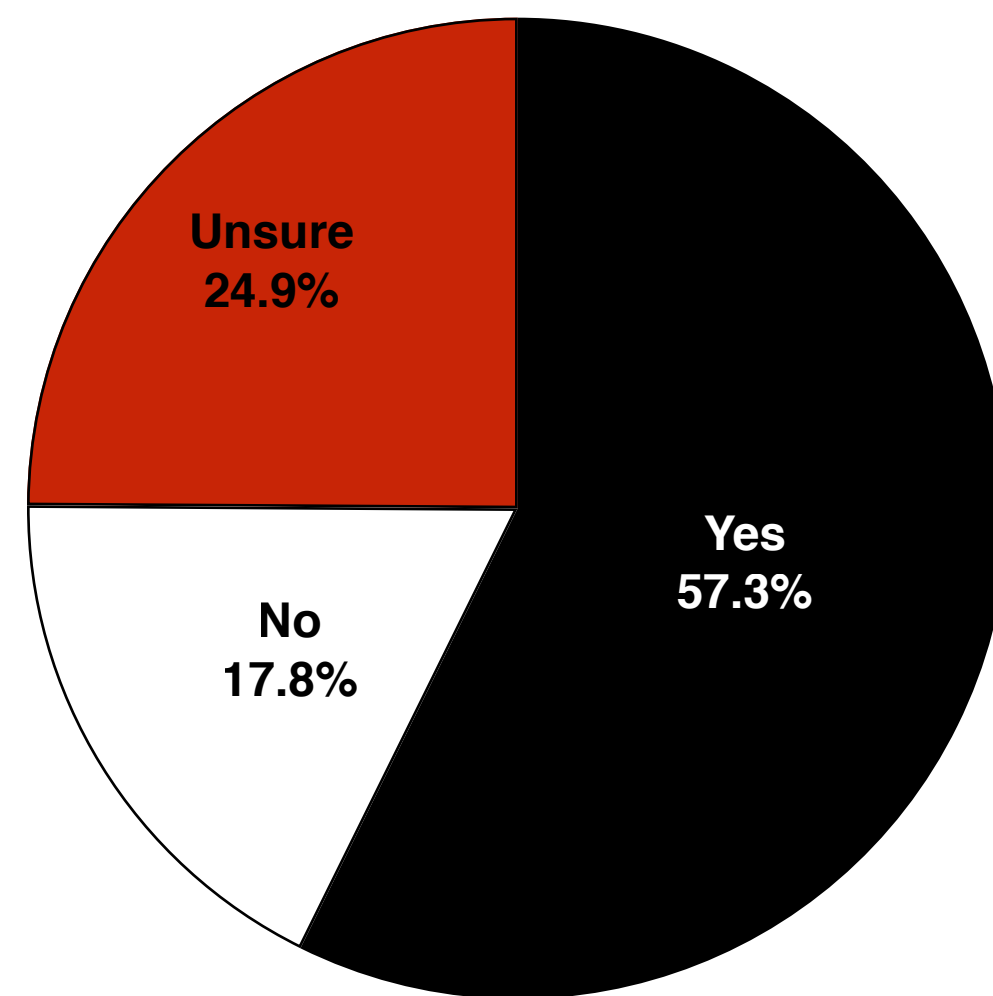
Head-to-head	vs...	Donald Trump
Joe Biden	47.3%	34.1%
Bernie Sanders	47.8%	36.7%

Gambling / Gaming

Nearly three-fifths of surveyed residents (57.3%) believe the state of Connecticut should maintain exclusive gaming rights with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe and the Mohegan Tribe. Further, while more than one-third of respondents (34.9%) do not support the legalization of online casino gambling, 29.8% support online gambling if "licensed by the state to private businesses with the state receiving a portion of revenues."

- ❖ More than three-fourths of surveyed residents living in New London county (78.3%) believe the State should maintain exclusive gaming rights with these tribes, compared to less than half of respondents living in Fairfield county (48.3%).
- ❖ A higher frequency of women (40.7%) than men (28.9%) oppose the legalization of online casino gambling.

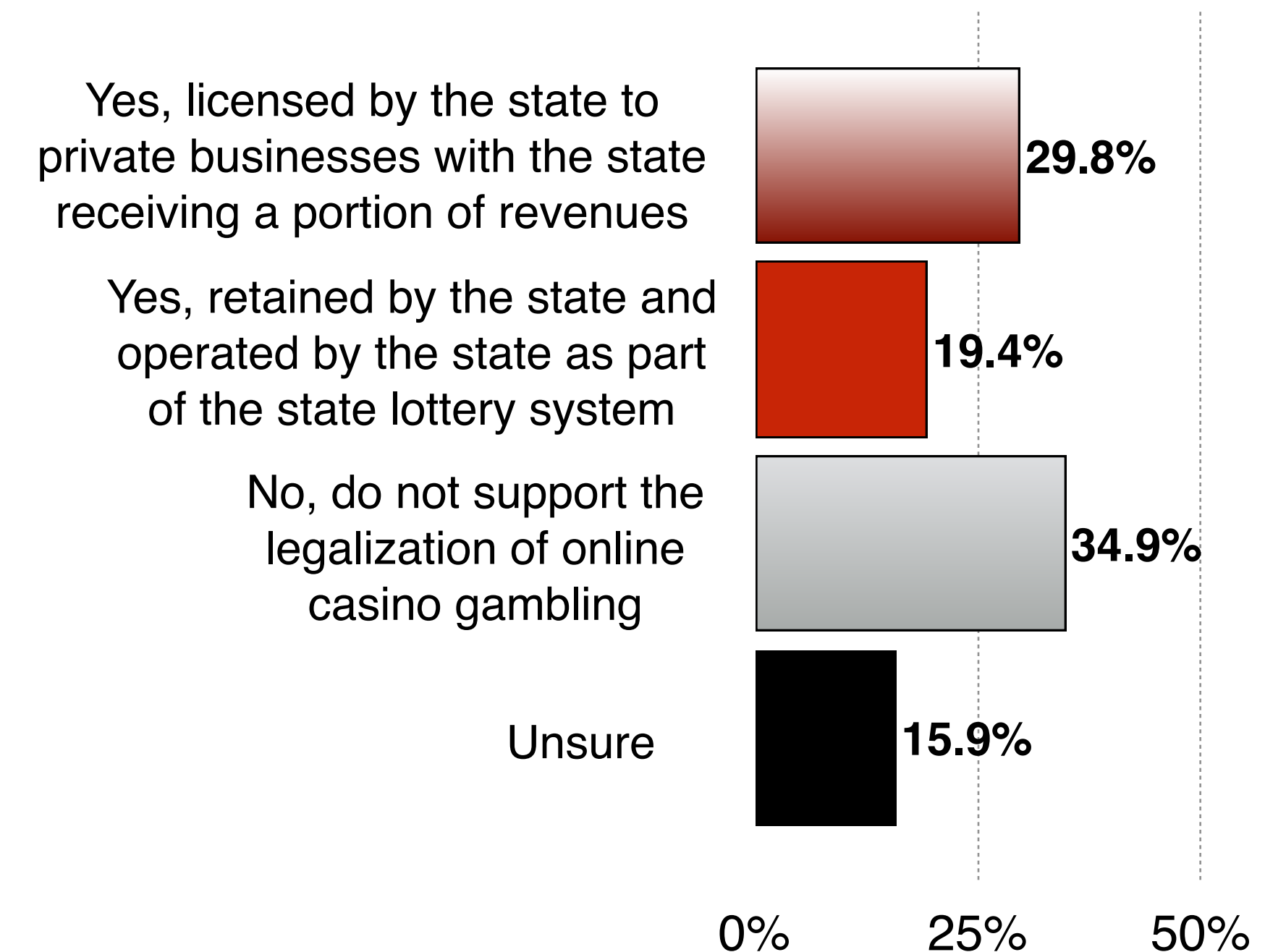
In the early 1990's the state of Connecticut signed a gaming compact with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe and the Mohegan Tribe, granting exclusive gaming rights in the state in exchange for contributions of 25% of their gross gaming revenues. In your opinion, should the state of Connecticut maintain these exclusive gaming rights with the two tribes.



Q In your opinion, should the state of Connecticut maintain these exclusive gaming rights with the two tribes?

Currently, just three states offer legal online casino gaming in the US: New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. Connecticut is also considering allowing online gaming.

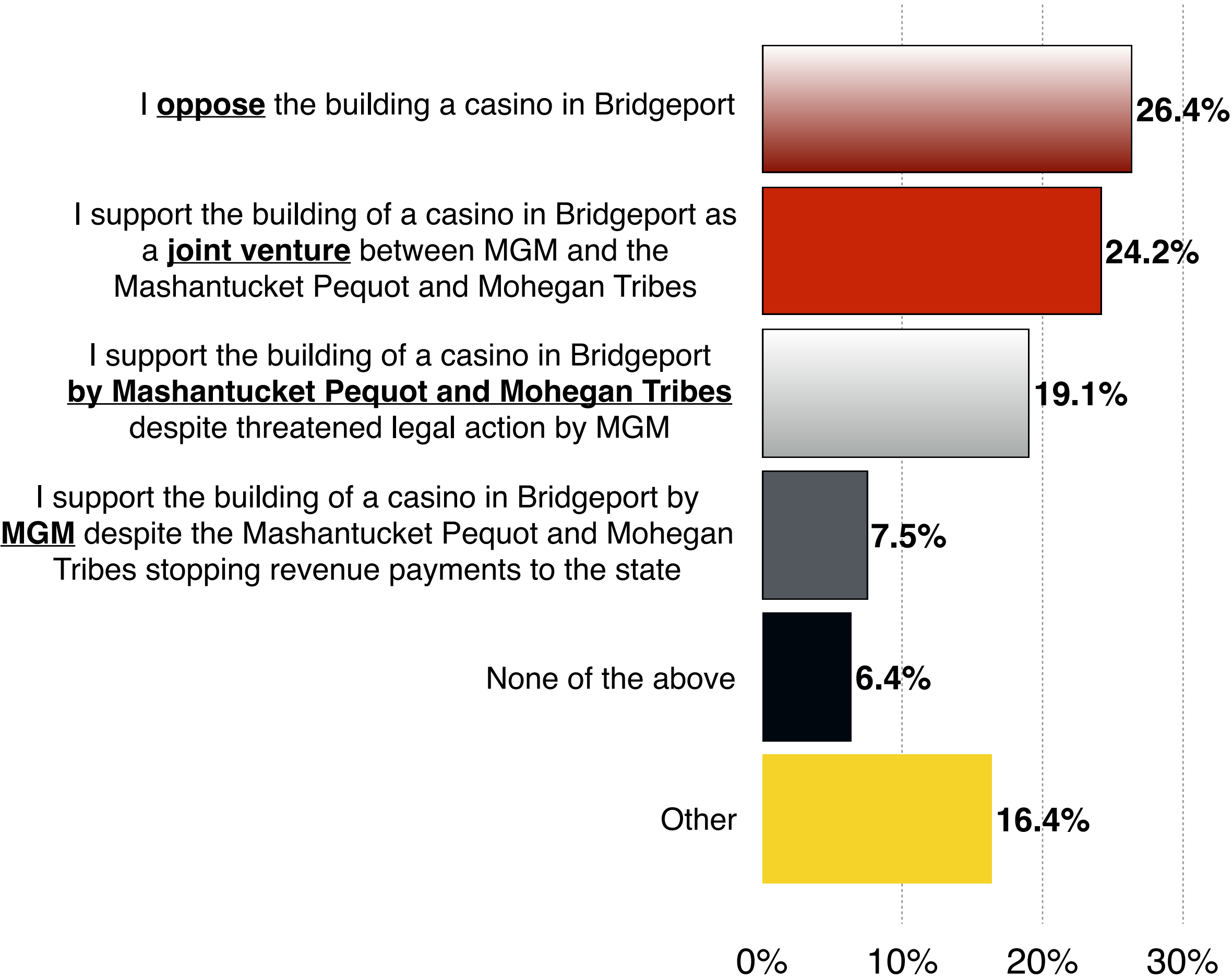
Q Do you support the state of CT legalizing online casino gambling as a new source of revenue and, if so, do you think it should be licensed by the state to private businesses with the state receiving a portion of revenues, or entirely operated by the state?



Gambling / Gaming

When presented with three (3) different scenarios for the proposed waterfront casino in Bridgeport, more than one-fourth of respondents (26.4%) indicated they “oppose” building a casino in Bridgeport, while slightly fewer surveyed residents (24.2%) would “support the building of a casino in Bridgeport as a joint venture between MGM and the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribes.”

- ❖ Roughly one-third of respondents ages 45-64 (31.1%) or ages 65 and older (36.8%) oppose the building of a casino in Bridgeport, compared to only 16.5% among surveyed residents ages 18-34.
- ❖ Women (22.4%) reported a greater degree of uncertainty around their support for a Bridgeport casino as compared to men (10.0%).
- ❖ 30.0% of Caucasian respondents oppose the building of a Bridgeport casino, compared to 17.9% of African American respondents and 15.0% of Hispanic respondents.

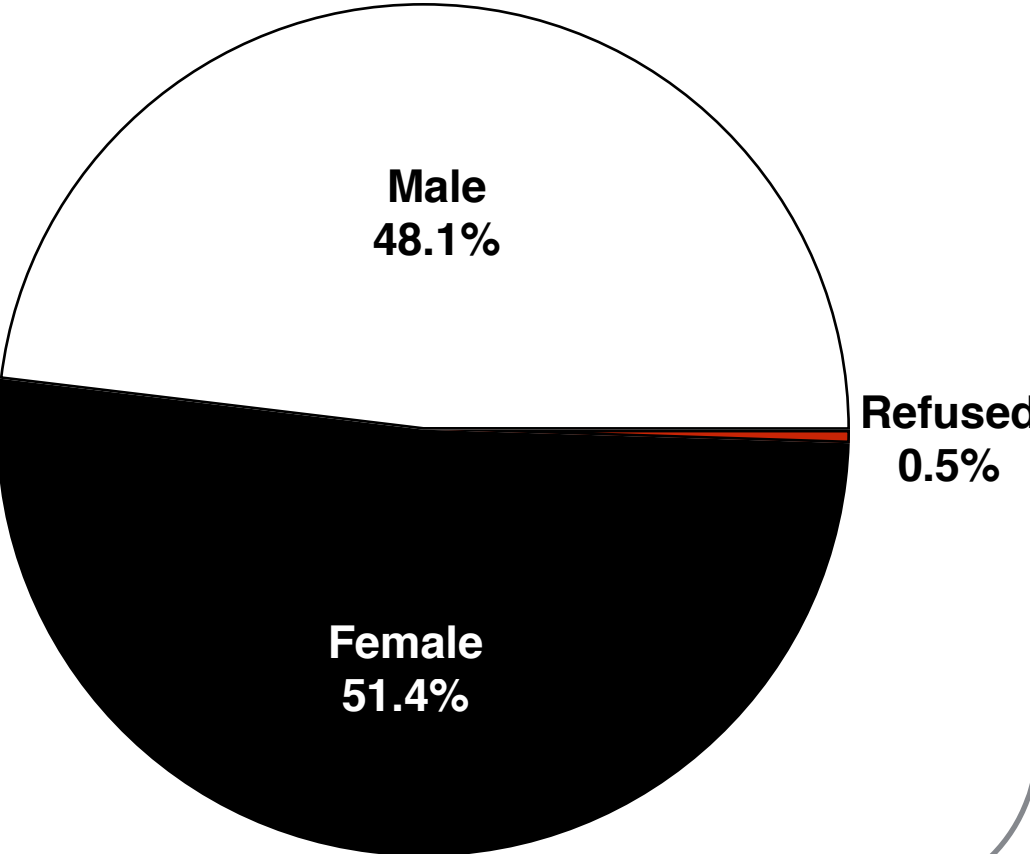


The city of Bridgeport consistently ranks as one of the poorest communities in CT, and is among the top 10 in unemployment at 10.51%. As a means of economic development and job creation, a casino has been proposed on waterfront land in Bridgeport. Both MGM and the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribes have proposals.

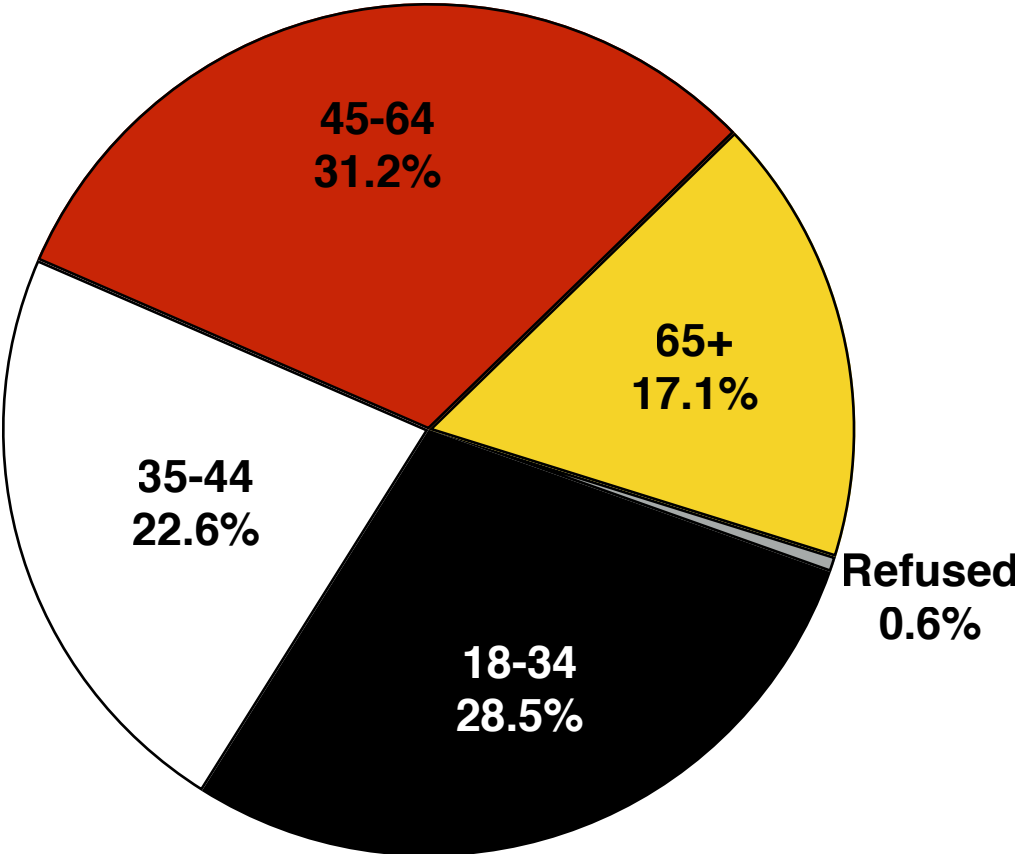
Q Please chose which of the following statements best describes your level of support for the building of a casino in Bridgeport?

Demographic Profile - April 2020

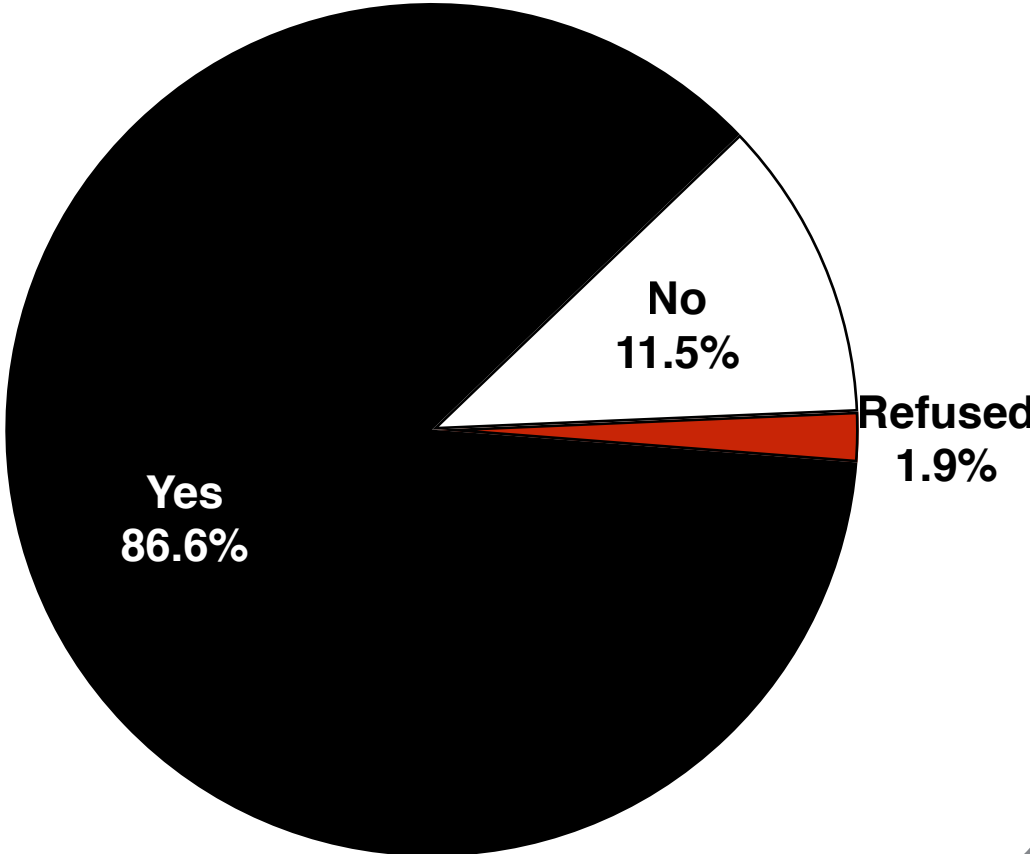
Gender



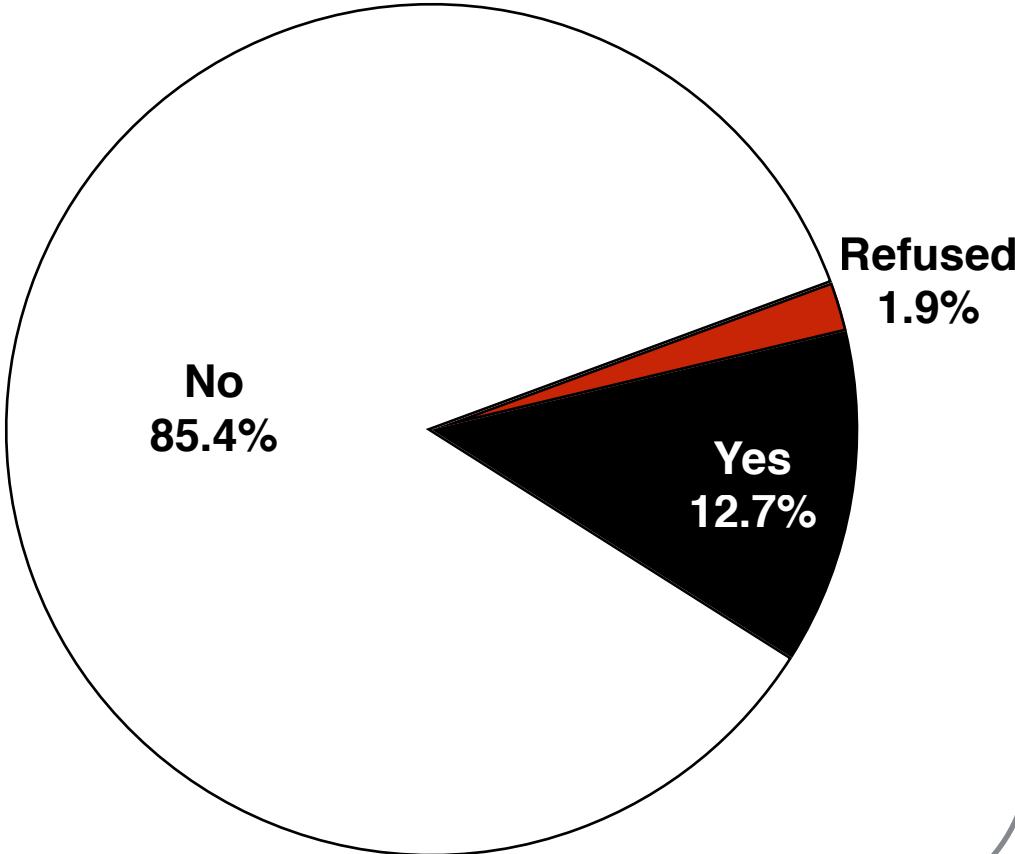
Age



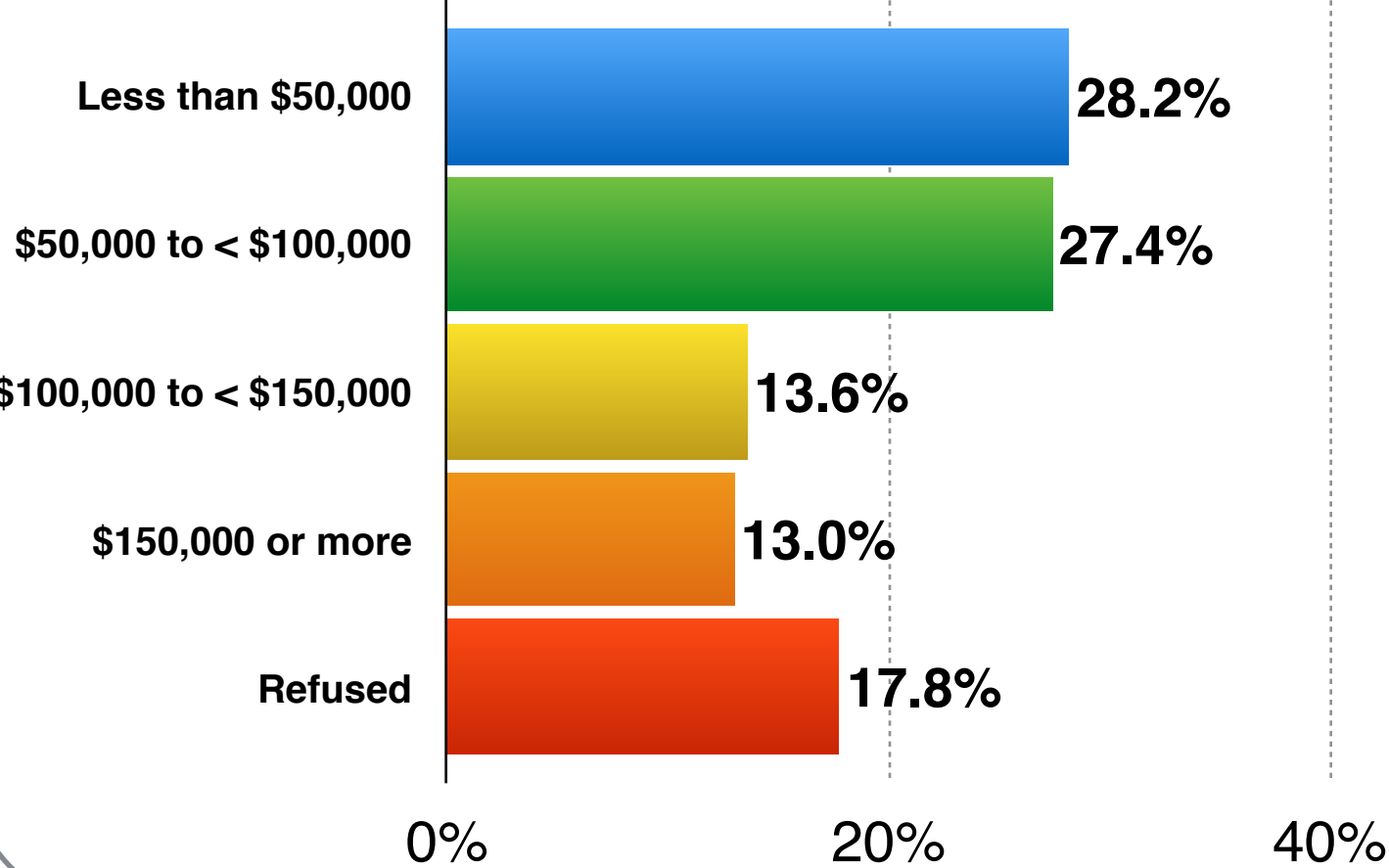
Registered to vote?



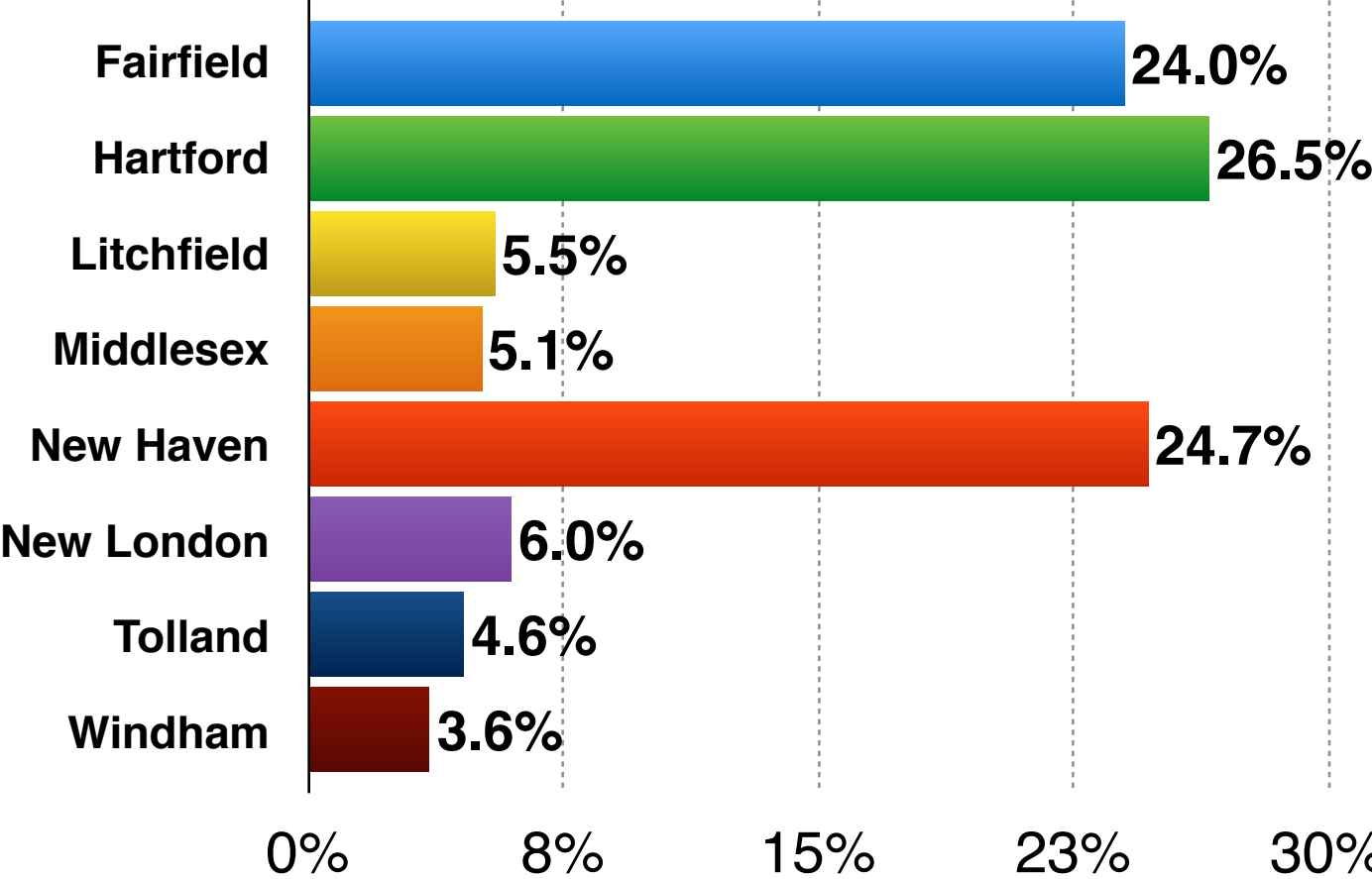
Hispanic/Latin Origin?



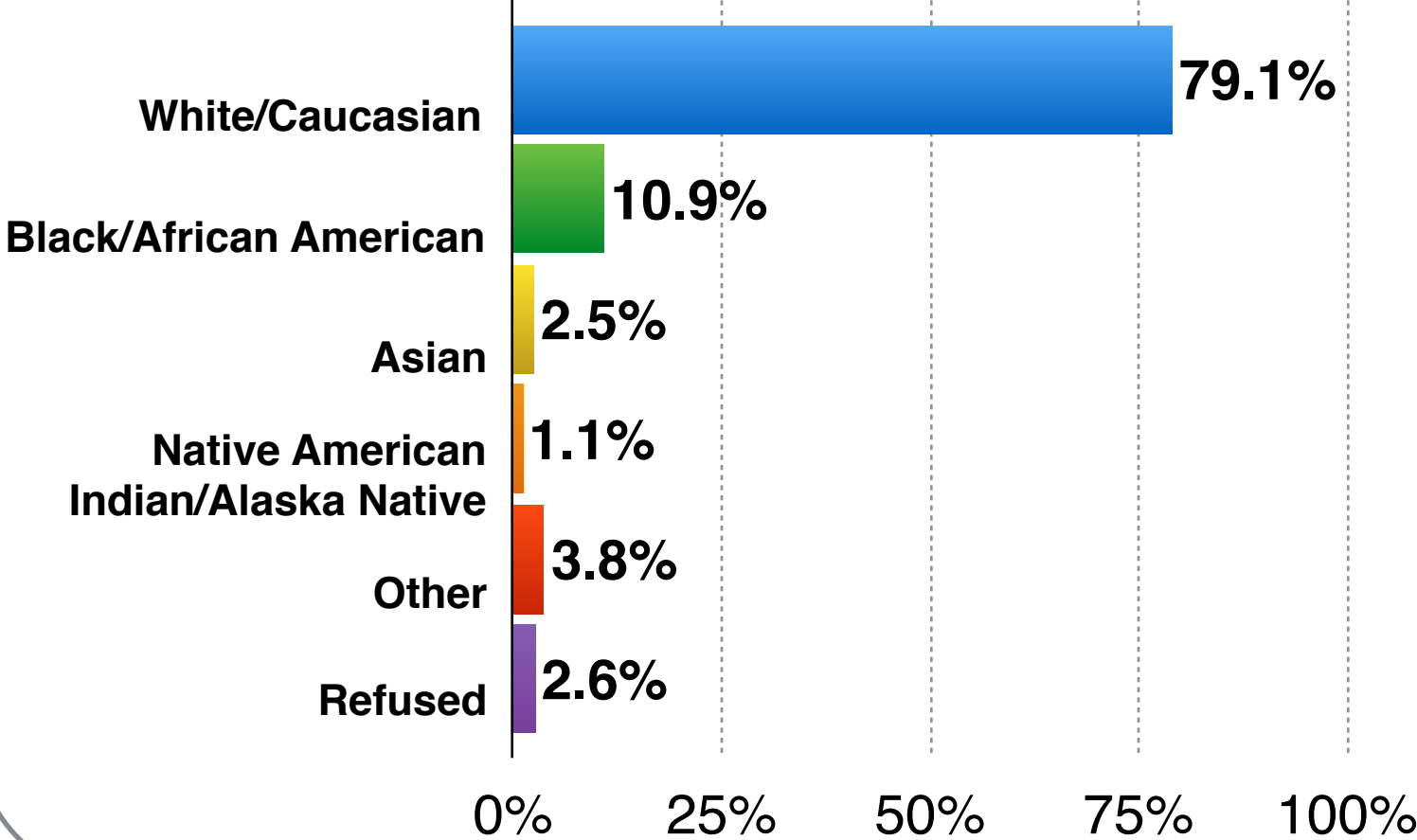
Income



County of Residence



Ethnicity





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