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# Institute for Public Policy National Poll - July 2021



Report of Findings

August 6, 2021

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## Our Story

Sacred Heart University's Institute for Public Policy and GreatBlue Research partner 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 quantitative research approach to address the following areas of investigation:

- Thoughts on overall quality of life
- President Joe Biden's job approval ratings
- Sentiments regarding COVID-19 and distribution of the vaccine
- Thoughts on the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Concerns around national security
- Level of trust in the media, government organizations, and corporations
- Sentiment regarding renewable energy initiatives
- Demographic profiles of respondents



# Research Methodology Snapshot

|                                   |                              |                          |                                       |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Methodology<br>Digital survey*    | No. of Completes<br>1,500    | No. of Questions<br>47** | Sample<br>Procured by<br>GreatBlue    |
| Target<br>Nationwide<br>residents | Margin of Error<br>+/- 2.53% | Confidence Level<br>95%  | Research Dates<br>July 15-16,<br>2021 |

\* 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

# SHU Institute for Public Policy - July 2021 Headlines

- ❖ The majority of nationwide residents surveyed in July 2021, 74.8%, reported the quality of life in their state of residence is either “excellent” (23.9%) or “good” (50.9%).
- ❖ Considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their quality of life, more than one-third of respondents (34.3%) indicated their “mental health declined,” while one-fourth (24.8%) reported that “increased utility costs” has impacted their quality of life.
- ❖ 52.1% of nationwide residents surveyed in July 2021 reported they “approve” of how Joe Biden is handling his job as president.
  - 88.1% approval among Democrats (7.3% unsure)
  - 20.9% approval among Republicans (6.2% unsure)
  - 34.7% approval among Unaffiliated voters (26.5% unsure)
  - 46.9% approval among Independent voters (14.7% unsure)
- ❖ Related to the COVID-19 pandemic, more than one-half of residents “approve” of how President Biden is handling “communication to the public” (56.7%), his “overall response and handling of the COVID-19 crisis” (55.8%) and “addressing a plan for residents and families” (52.7%).



# SHU Institute for Public Policy - July 2021 Headlines

- ❖ 63.6% of surveyed residents would either “strongly support” (40.5%) or “somewhat support” (23.1%) the ability for individuals to choose not to receive a vaccine based on their religious beliefs, while 61.5% would either “strongly support” (39.9%) or “somewhat support” (21.6%) the ability for individuals to choose not to receive a vaccine based on civil liberties.
- ❖ More than three-fifths of surveyed residents, 62.1%, have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
  - Among the 568 respondents that have not been vaccinated, 19.4% plan on receiving the vaccine while 58.5% do not.
  - Among the 1,168 respondents that have received the vaccine, 55.8% plan on receiving a booster shot for the COVID-19 vaccine; the existence of the Delta variant only increases this likelihood to 56.7%.
- ❖ Three-fifths of surveyed residents nationwide, 60.5%, believe that a fourth stimulus package would benefit the United States recovery efforts. Further, the strong majority of respondents believe the COVID-19 pandemic has had either a large or moderate effect on the national economy (92.0%) as well as the global economy (89.9%).
- ❖ Less than one-third of surveyed residents, 32.1%, switched to remote work during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Among the 481 respondents that switched to remote work, 57.8% have returned back to their physical work location at least part-time while 40.7% have not.
  - Among the 196 respondents that have not returned to their physical work location at least part time, 80.6% plan to continue working from home at least part-time for the foreseeable future.

# SHU Institute for Public Policy - July 2021 Headlines

- ❖ Two-thirds of surveyed residents nationwide, 67.6%, are concerned about unemployment rates due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, while 41.5% of nationwide respondents believe the extra unemployment funds are a “benefit” to the United States’ economic recovery, while 43.5% believe these extra unemployment funds “hinder” the United States’ economic recovery.
- ❖ With respect to concern over national security, respondents nationwide expressed the highest levels of agreement (“strongly agree” or “agree”) with the statements “I am concerned about economic inflation due to the COVID-19 pandemic” (85.0%) and “I am concerned about cyber-attacks, cyber-terrorism, and other cyber security issues our nation faces” (84.7%).
- ❖ Survey respondents indicated the highest levels of trust (“strongly trust” or “trust”) for “The Center for Disease Control (CDC)” (53.1%), followed by “Dr. Anthony Fauci / National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)” (50.8%). Lower levels of trust were indicated for “large tech corporations (Facebook, Google, Apple, etc.)” (27.7%).
- ❖ “Employment/jobs/unemployment rates” (23.0%) was reported to be the best indicator of overall health of the U.S. economy.
- ❖ More than three-fifths of surveyed residents nationwide, 63.0%, indicated they are aware of the United States’ renewable energy plans and initiatives.



# SHU Institute for Public Policy - July 2021 Headlines

- ❖ More respondents (62.7%) agreed with the statement “the increase in the number of electric vehicles is helpful to the environment” than agreed with the statement “the current national renewable energy initiatives will have a positive impact on the economy” (58.3%).
- ❖ With respect to the United States trying to achieve net zero carbon output, one-half of respondents (51.2%) believe that “it is important to find a balance between net zero carbon goals and the economic impact it has.”
- ❖ While more than two-fifths of respondents nationwide (44.3%) believe that the value of cryptocurrencies will increase in the next 10 years, 36.9% reported being “unsure” and one-fifth (18.7%) believe their value will decrease.
- ❖ Sentiments were consistent regarding social media policies, as roughly one-half of respondents (49.5% and 54.0%, respectively) believe social media companies have the right to censor content, as well as terminate accounts based on content written / shared by the account holder. Conversely, roughly one-third of respondents (36.9% and 34.1%, respectively) do not believe social media companies have the right to censor content or terminate accounts.

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Negative Impact

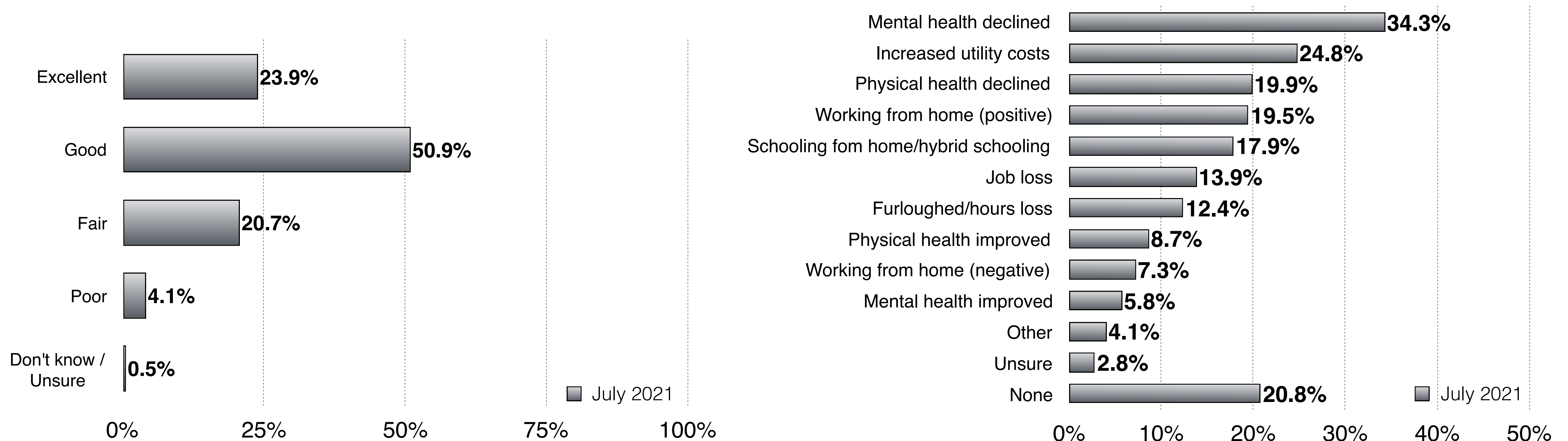
Boomers



# Quality of Life

The majority of nationwide residents surveyed in July 2021, 74.8%, reported the quality of life in their state of residence is either “excellent” (23.9%) or “good” (50.9%). Considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their quality of life, more than one-third of respondents (34.3%) indicated their “mental health declined,” while one-fourth (24.8%) reported that “increased utility costs” has impacted their quality of life.

- ❖ Those earning \$150,000 or more (47.6%) were more likely to report their overall quality of life is “excellent” compared to those earning less than \$50,000 (19.9%).
- ❖ West (27.5%) and South (26.6%) region respondents were more likely to report their overall quality of life is “excellent” compared to those living in the Northeast (17.3%).



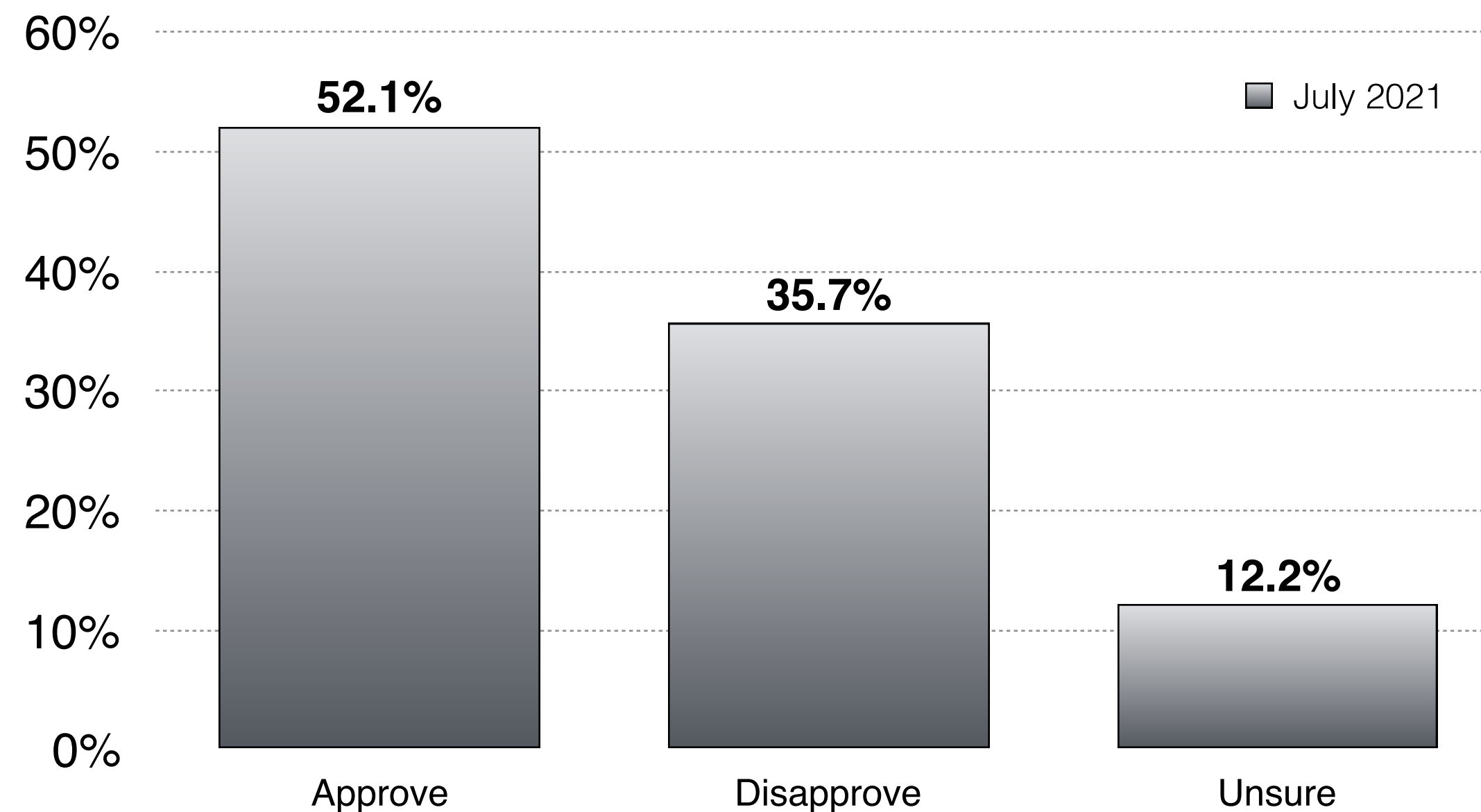
**Q** How would you rate your overall quality of life in your state?  
Would you say...

**Q** What kind of impact has the COVID-19 Pandemic had on  
your quality of life?

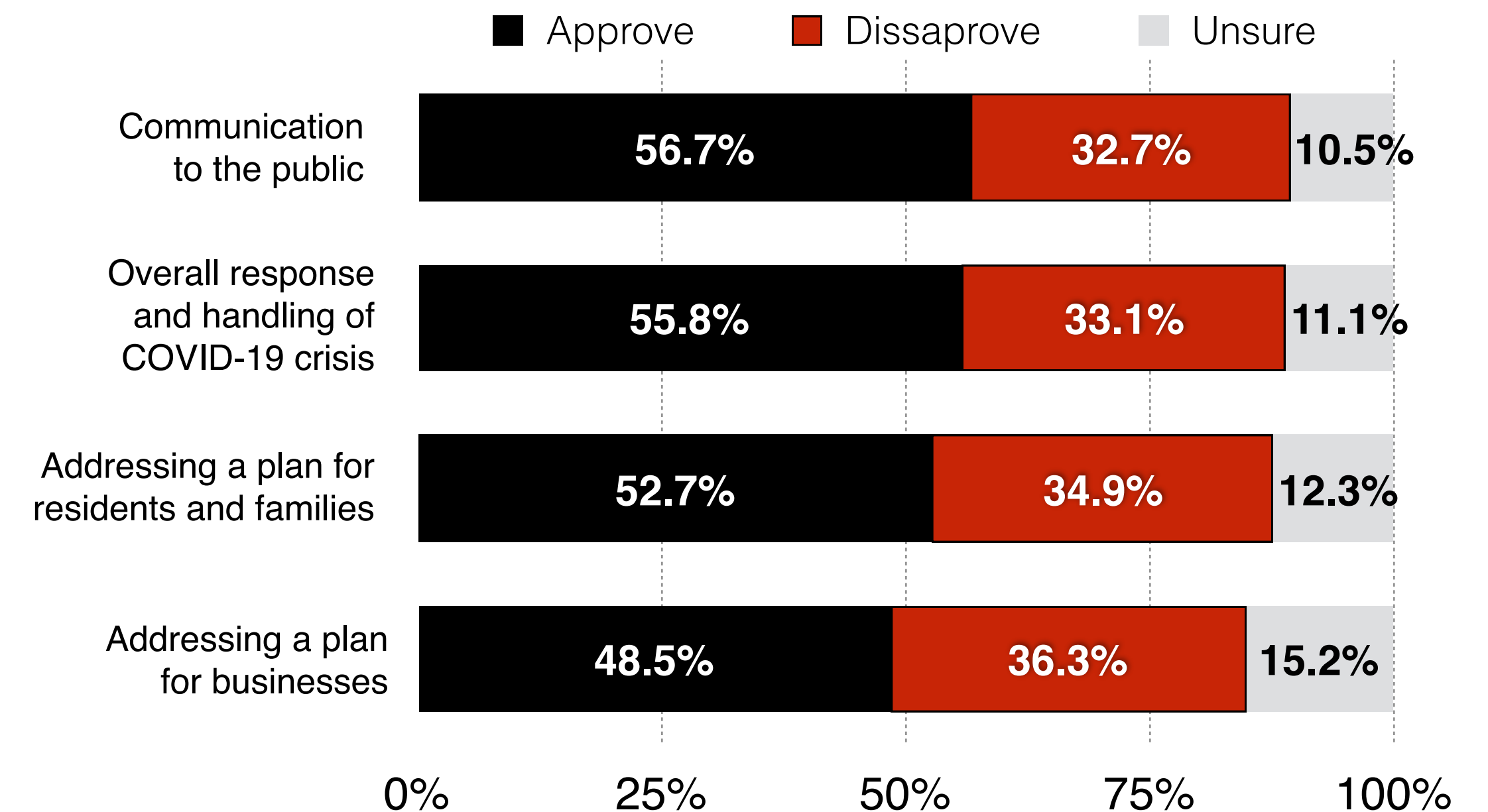
# President's Approval Rating

52.1% of nationwide residents surveyed in July 2021 reported they "approve" of how Joe Biden is handling his job as President. Related to the COVID-19 pandemic, more than one-half of residents "approve" of how President Biden is handling "communication to the public" (56.7%), his "overall response and handling of the COVID-19 crisis" (55.8%) and "addressing a plan for residents and families" (52.7%).

- ❖ 88.1% of Democrats approve how Joe Biden is handling his job as President, compared to 46.9% of Independents, 34.7% of Unaffiliated voters, and 20.9% of Republicans.
- ❖ Black (74.2%) and Hispanic respondents (71.7%) provided higher approval ratings for President Biden compared to White respondents (46.3%).
- ❖ Male respondents (56.5%) provided higher approval ratings for President Biden compared to Female respondents (48.0%).
- ❖ Younger respondents ages 35-44 (60.9%) and 18-34 (55.3%) provided higher approval ratings for President Biden compared to those ages 46-64 (46.6%) or 65 and older (43.2%).



**Q** Since he took office, overall do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as President?



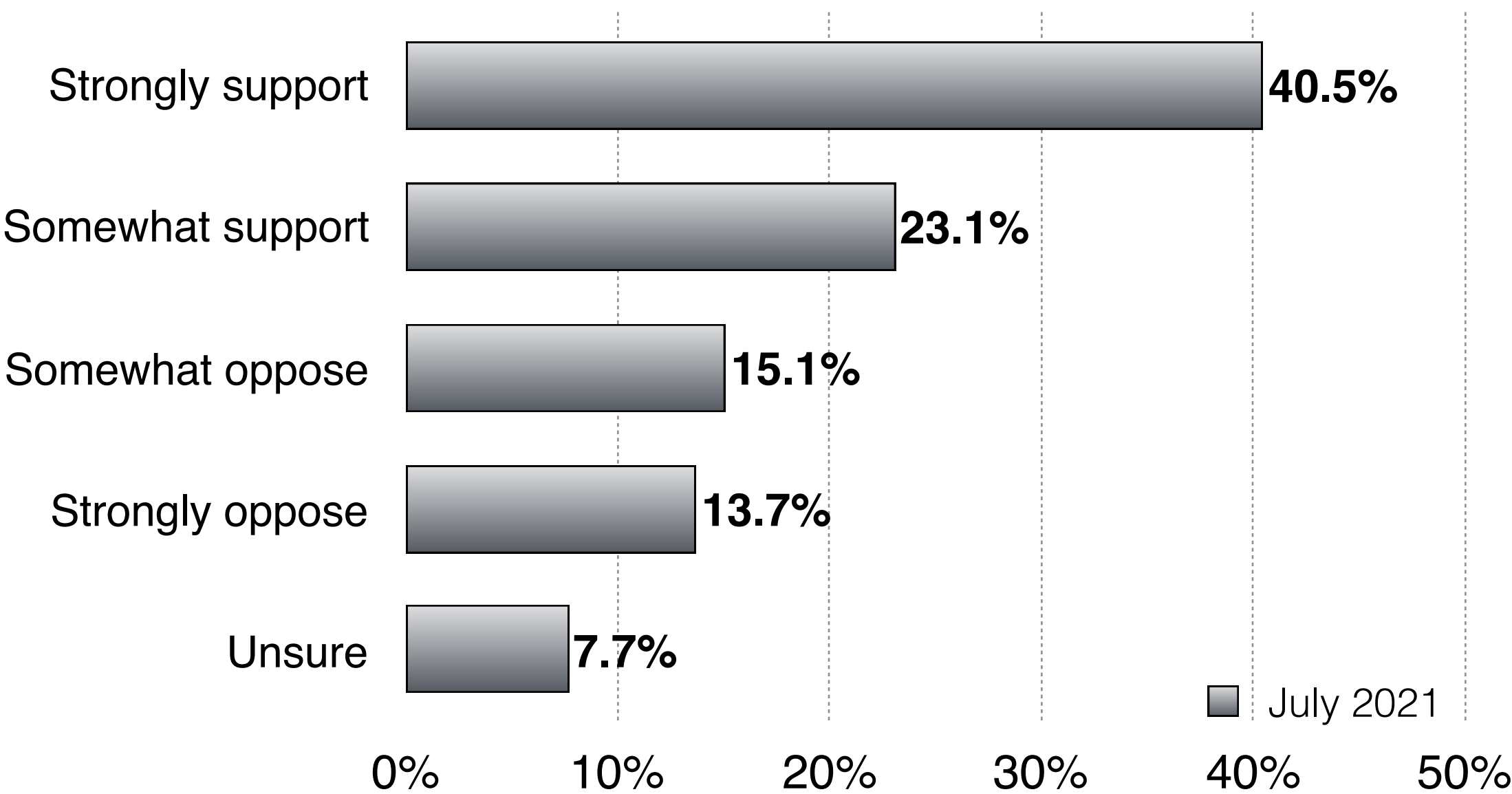
**Q** Please indicate if you approve or disapprove of the way President Biden has handled the following issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic...



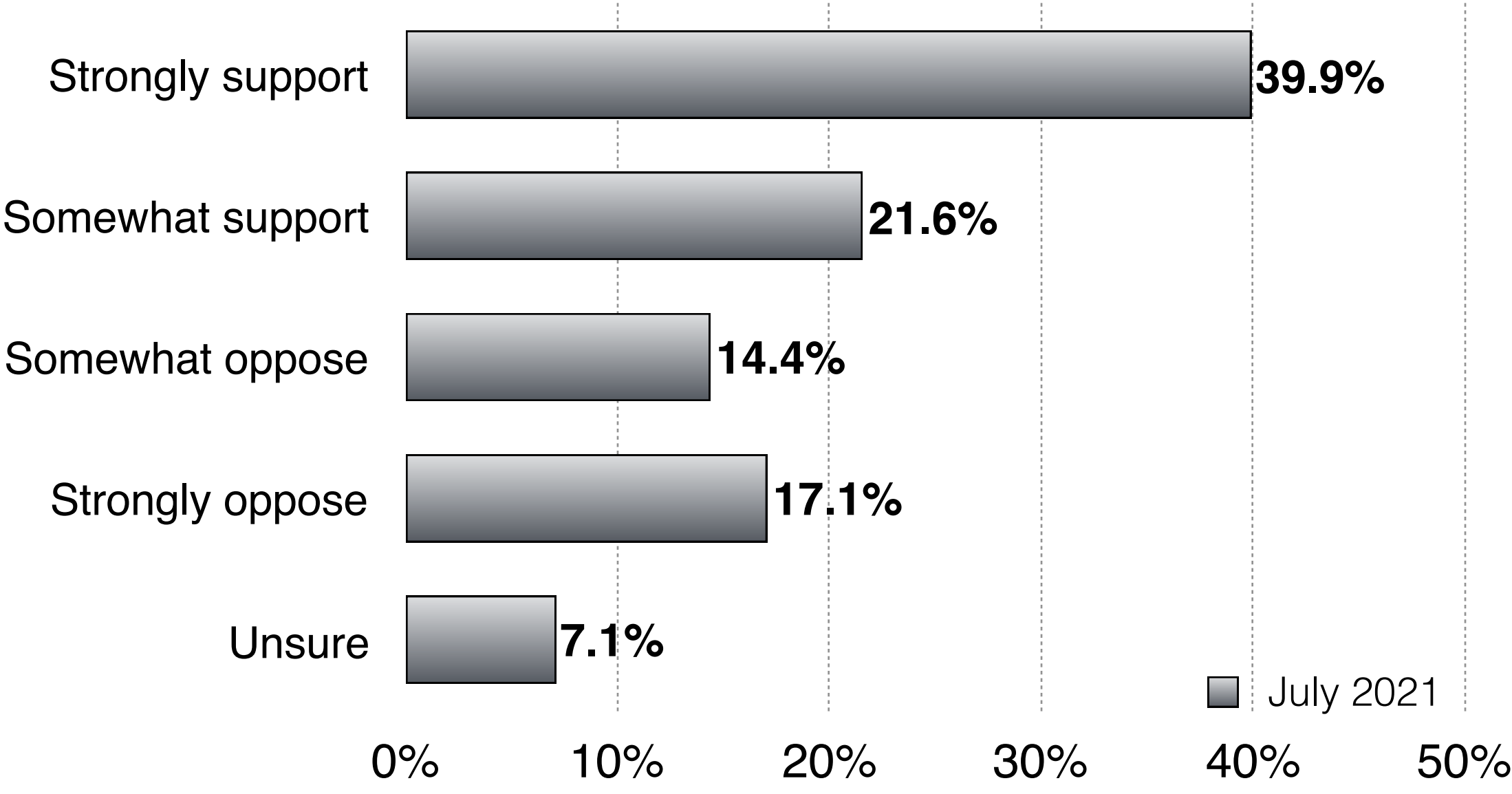
# COVID-19 Pandemic

63.6% of surveyed residents would either “strongly support” (40.5%) or “somewhat support” (23.1%) the ability for individuals to choose not to receive a vaccine based on their religious beliefs. A similar frequency of residents, 61.5%, would either “strongly support” (39.9%) or “somewhat support” (21.6%) the ability for individuals to choose not to receive a vaccine based on civil liberties.

- ❖ Republican respondents were more likely to “strongly support” the right for individuals to choose not to receive a vaccine based on their religious beliefs (54.9%) or civil liberties (53.3%) compared to Democrats (30.1% and 29.4%, respectively).
- ❖ Northeast region respondents were less likely to “strongly support” the right for individuals to choose not to receive a vaccine based on their religious beliefs (30.5%) or civil liberties (29.7%) compared to those living in the South (42.0% and 41.4%, respectively), West (43.1% and 42.5%, respectively) and Midwest (43.2% and 42.6%, respectively).



**Q** How strongly do you support the ability for individuals to choose not to receive a vaccine based on their religious beliefs?



**Q** How strongly do you support the ability for individuals to choose not to receive a vaccine based on civil liberties?

# COVID-19 Pandemic, cont.



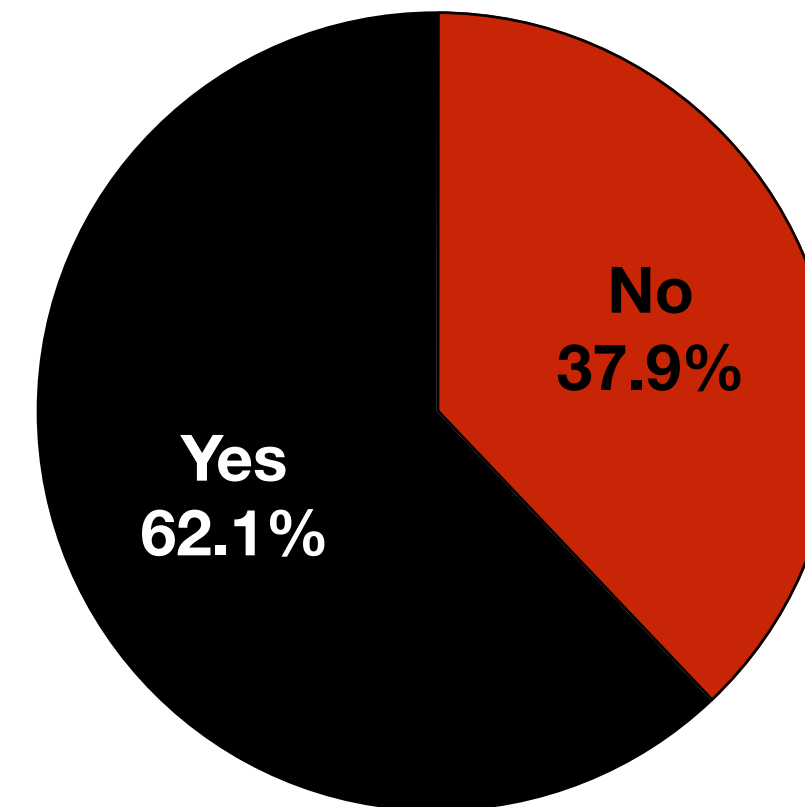
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More than three-fifths of surveyed residents nationwide, 62.1%, have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Among the 568 respondents that have not been vaccinated, 19.4% plan on receiving the vaccine while 58.4% do not. Among the 1168 respondents that have received the vaccine, 55.8% plan on receiving a booster shot for the COVID-19 vaccine; the existence of the Delta variant only increases this likelihood to 56.7%.

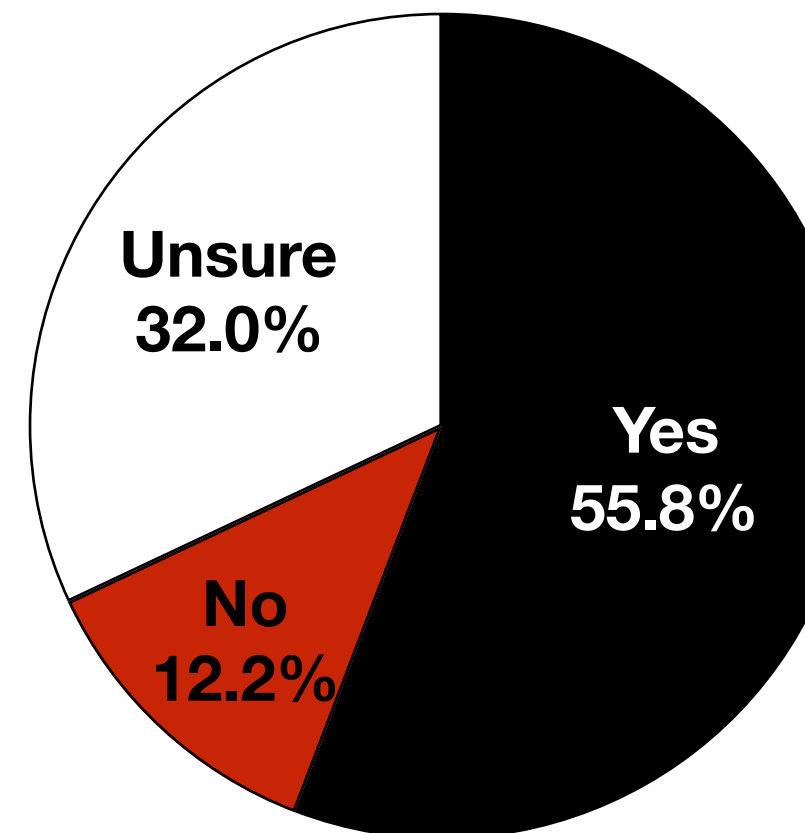
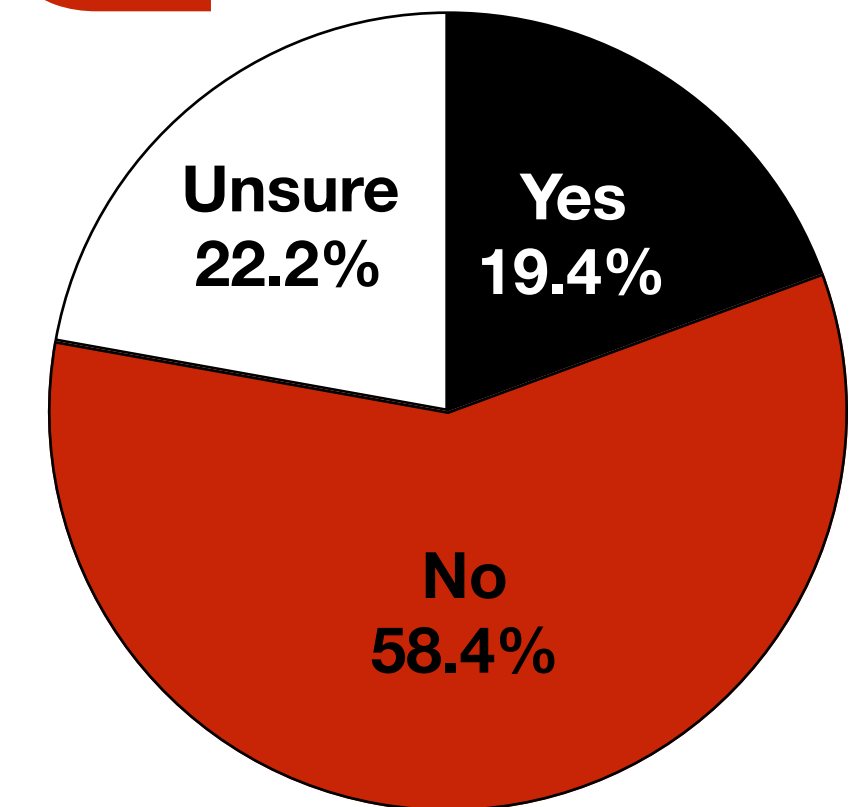
Differences were noted in current vaccination status among:

- ❖ Men (67.9%) compared to women (56.7%).
- ❖ Older respondents (79.7% among those ages 65 or older) compared to younger respondents (49.6% among those ages 18-34).
- ❖ West (72.2%) and Northeast (68.0%) region respondents compared to those living in the Midwest (57.9%) or South (56.1%).
- ❖ White (64.8%) or Hispanic (64.5%) respondents compared to Black (45.4%) respondents.
- ❖ Democrats (74.6%) compared to Republicans (53.8%).
- ❖ Those earning more than \$150,000 (86.4%) compared to those earning less than \$50,000 (53.5%).

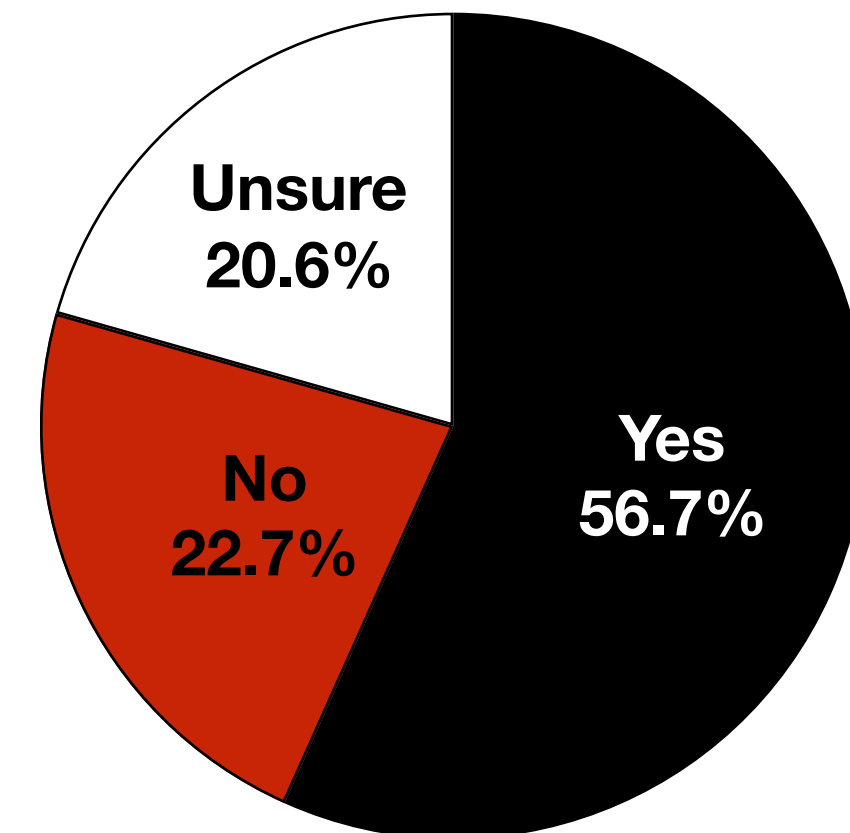
**Q** Have you received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine?



**Q** Do you plan to? (n=568)



**Q** Do you plan to get a booster shot for the COVID-19 vaccine? (n=1168)



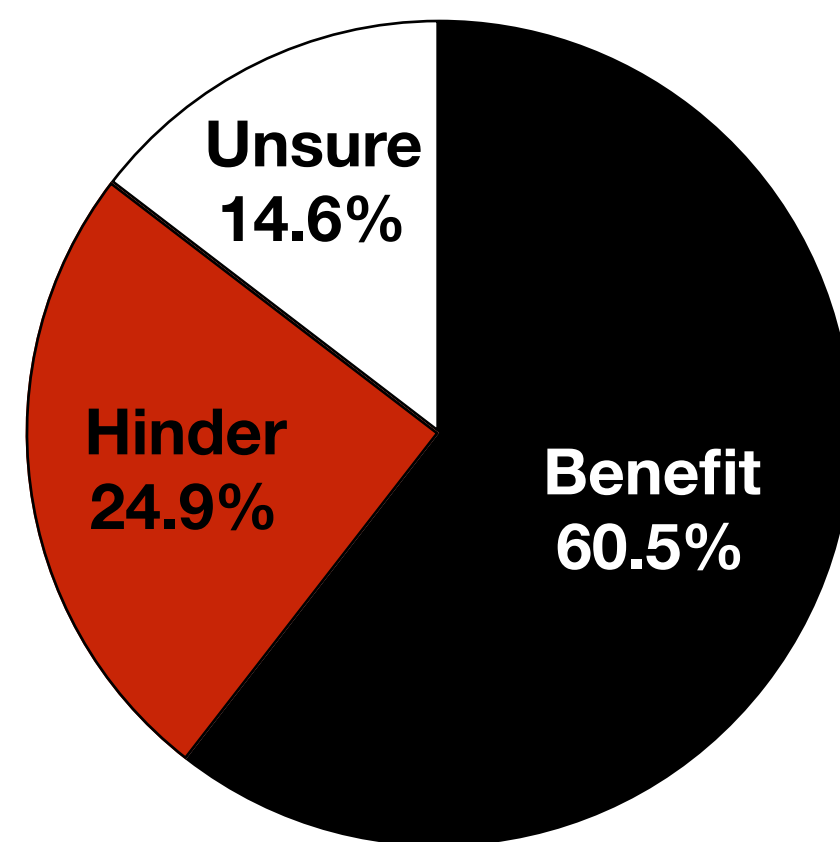
**Q** Does the Delta variant of COVID-19 make you more likely to get a booster shot? (n=1168)



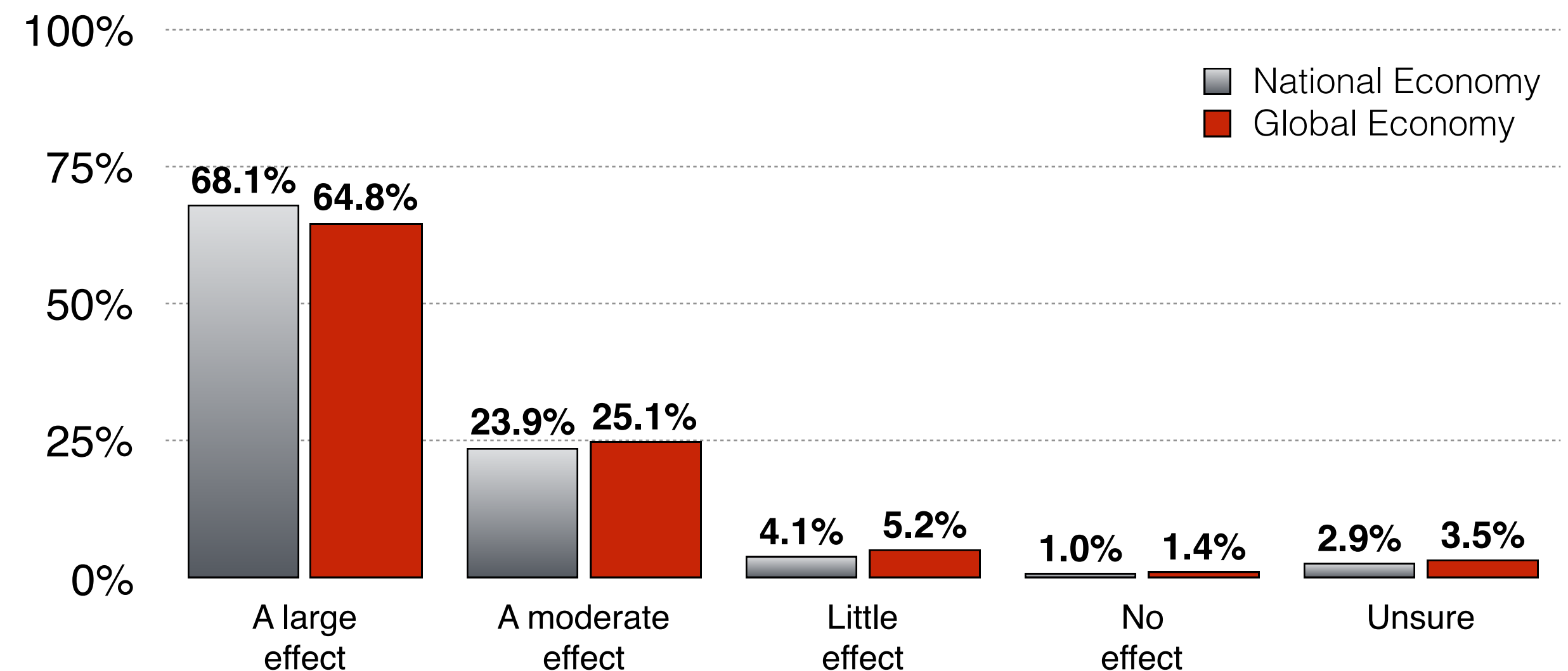
# COVID-19 Pandemic, cont.

Three-fifths of survey respondents, 60.5%, believe that a fourth stimulus package would benefit the United States recovery efforts. The strong majority believe the COVID-19 pandemic has had either a large or moderate effect on the national economy (92.0%), as well as the global economy (89.9%).

- ❖ Democrats (76.1%) were more likely to believe a fourth stimulus package would benefit the United States recovery efforts than Republicans (48.9%).
- ❖ More Hispanic (75.0%) and Black (74.2%) respondents believe the stimulus package would benefit recovery efforts to White respondents (57.0%).
- ❖ Younger respondents ages 35-44 (71.7%) or 18-34 (65.1%) believe the stimulus would benefit recovery efforts compared to those ages 45-64 (57.6%) or those ages 65 and older (40.7%).



**Q** Do you believe that a fourth stimulus package would benefit or hinder the United States recovery efforts?

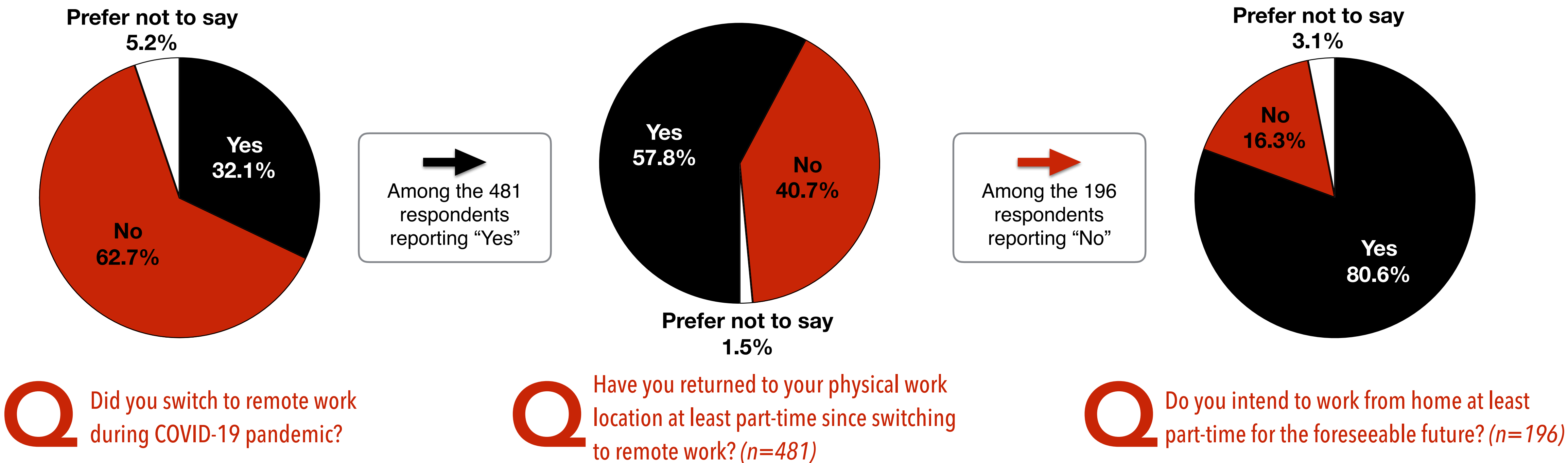


**Q** How much of an effect do you believe the pandemic has had on the...

# COVID-19 Pandemic, cont.

Less than one-third of surveyed residents, 32.1%, switched to remote work during the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the 481 respondents that switched to remote work, 57.8% have returned back to their physical work location at least part-time while 40.7% have not. Among the 196 respondents that have not returned to their physical work location at least part time, 80.6% plan to continue working from home at least part-time for the foreseeable future.

- ❖ Those earning more than \$150,000 (63.1%) were more likely to have switched to working remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic compared to those earning less than \$50,000 (22.8%).
- ❖ Men (35.4%) were more likely to have switched to working remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic compared to Women (28.6%).

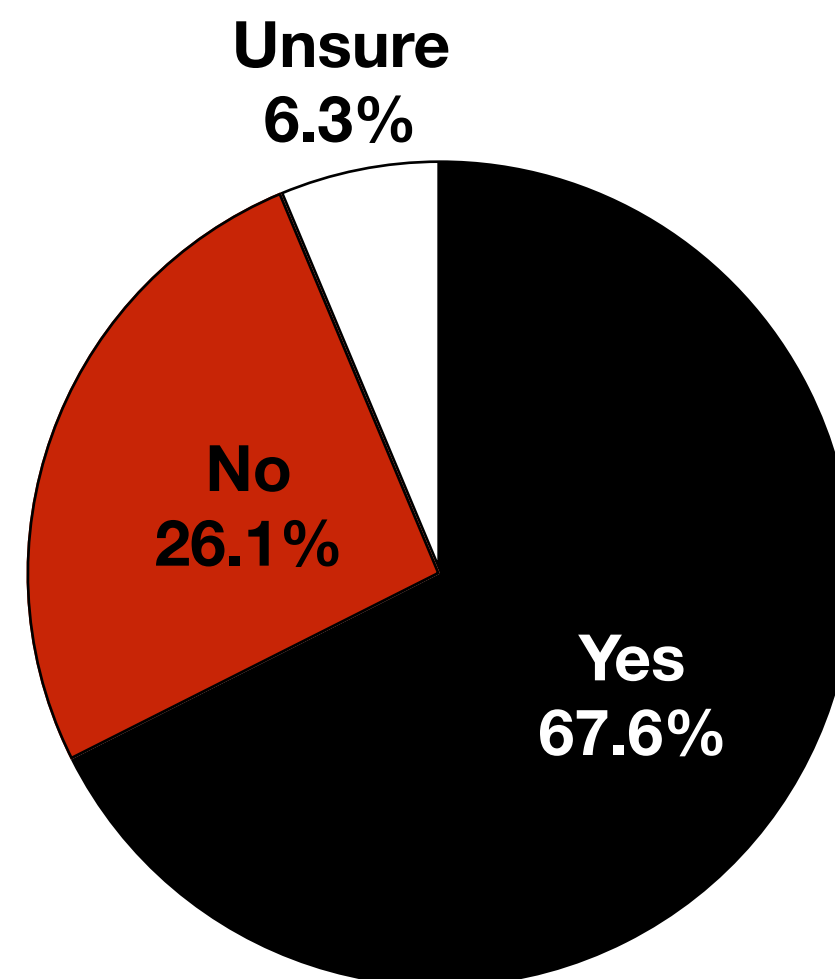




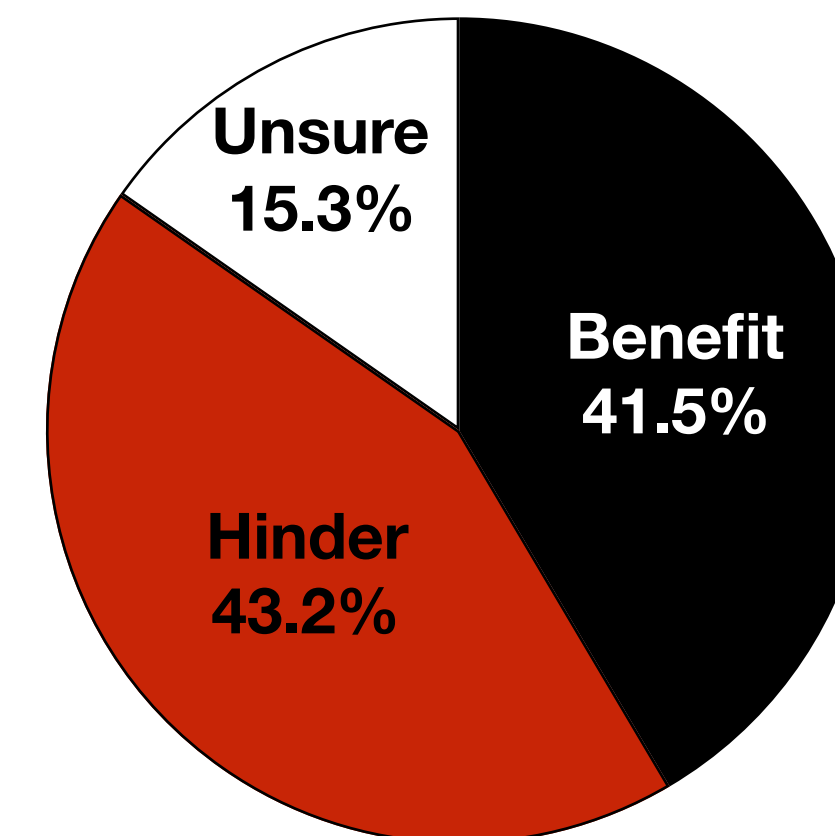
# COVID-19 Pandemic, cont.

Two-thirds of surveyed residents nationwide, 67.6%, are concerned about unemployment rates due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, while 41.5% of nationwide respondents believe the extra unemployment funds are a “benefit” to the United States’ economic recovery, while 43.5% believe these extra unemployment funds “hinder” the United States’ economic recovery.

- ❖ Hispanic (77.6%) and White (69.3%) respondents are more concerned about unemployment rates due to the COVID-19 pandemic compared to Black respondents (52.8%).
- ❖ Men (45.6%) were more likely to believe extra unemployment funds are a benefit to the United States’ economic recovery compared to Women (37.8%).
- ❖ Increased levels of perceived benefit of extra unemployment funds were recorded among:
  - ❖ Democrats (55.1%) compared to Republicans (29.8%).
  - ❖ Black (64.4%) and Hispanic (52.0%) respondents compared to White respondents (36.9%).
  - ❖ Those ages 35-44 (52.8%) or 18-34 (47.4%) compared to those ages 45-64 (36.5%) or those ages 65 or older (23.2%).



**Q** Are you concerned about the unemployment rates due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

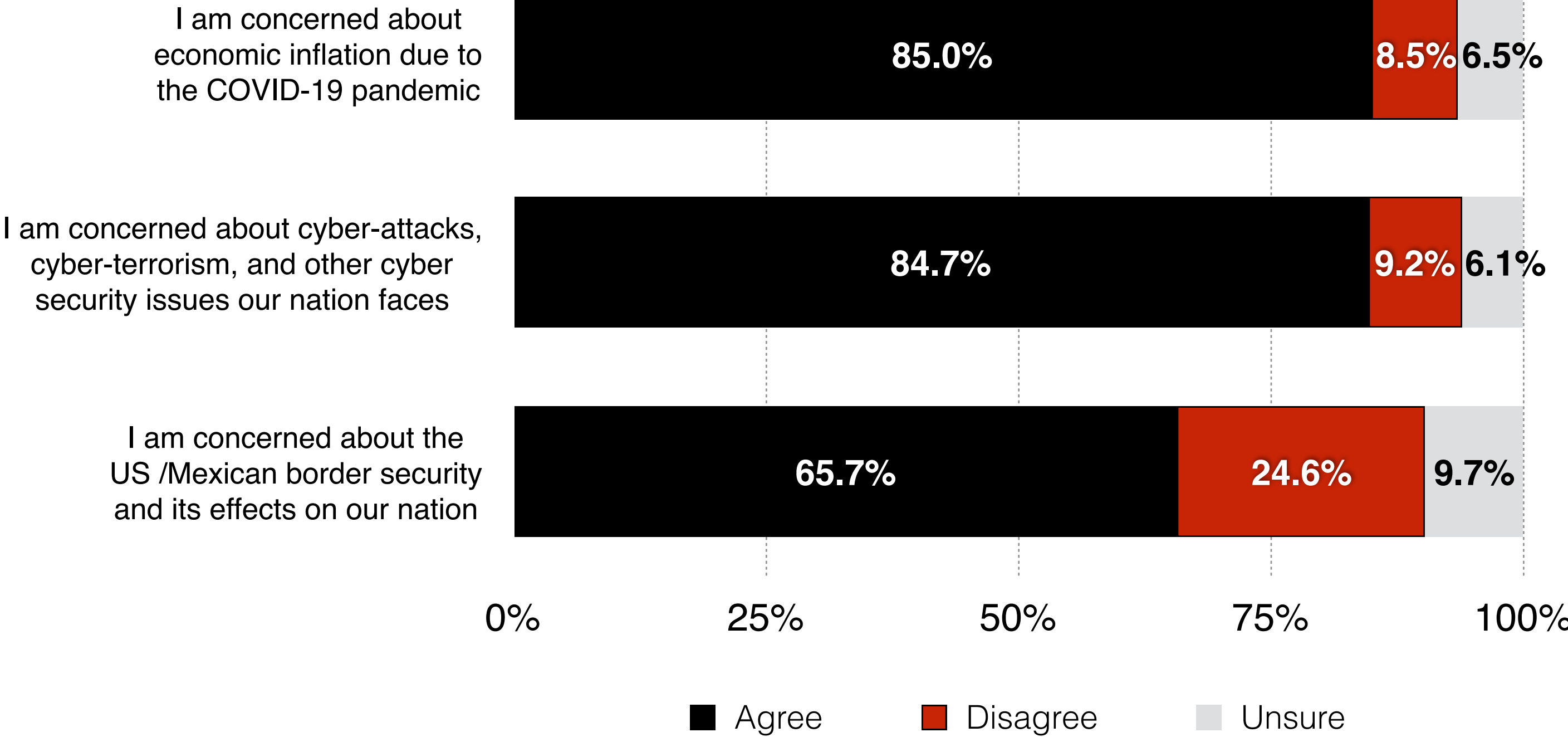


**Q** Do you believe the extra unemployment funds are benefiting or hindering the United States’ economic recovery?

With respect to concern over national security, respondents nationwide expressed the highest levels of agreement ("strongly agree" or "agree") with the statements "I am concerned about economic inflation due to the COVID-19 pandemic" (85.0%) and "I am concerned about cyber-attacks, cyber-terrorism, and other cyber security issues our nation faces" (84.7%). Roughly two-thirds of respondents, 65.7%, agreed with the statement "I am concerned about the US /Mexican border security and its effects on our nation."

- ❖ More Republicans (87.2%) agree they are concerned about US/Mexican border security and its effects on the nation compared to Democrats (55.1%).
- ❖ Men (69.8%) were more likely to express concern over border security as compared to Women (62.1%).
- ❖ Respondents ages 65 and older (77.1%) were more likely to express concern over border security as compared to those ages 18-34 (56.2%)

**Q** Please rate your level of agreement for each statement...





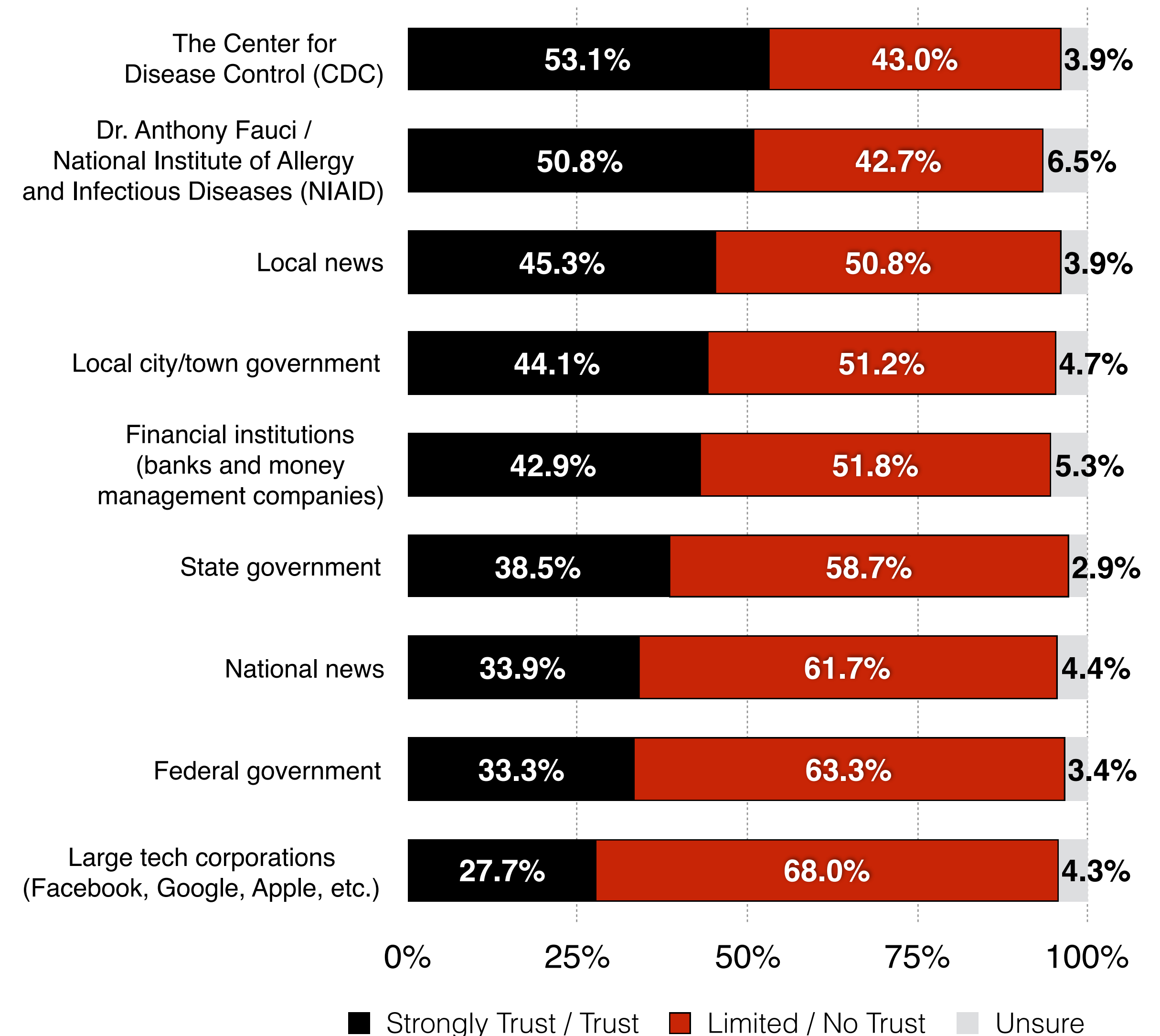
# Trust in Media, Government Agencies and Corporations



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Survey respondents indicated the highest levels of trust ("strongly trust" or "trust") for "The Center for Disease Control (CDC)" (53.1%), followed by "Dr. Anthony Fauci / National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)" (50.8%). The lowest levels of trust were indicated for "large tech corporations (Facebook, Google, Apple, etc.)" (27.7%).

- ❖ "Local news" (45.3%) was more trusted by survey respondents compared to "national news" (33.9%).
- ❖ "Local city / town government" (44.1%) was more trusted compared to "State government" (38.5%) or the "Federal government" (33.3%).
- ❖ "Financial institutions" such as banks and money management companies were trusted by 42.9% of respondents nationwide.



Nearly one-quarter of respondents, 23.0%, indicated they believe “employment/jobs/unemployment rates” to be the best indicator of overall health of the U.S. economy, while one-in-twenty respondents (5.0%) indicated “human health - physical, social and mental well-being.”

Similar frequencies of survey respondents nationwide believe that the “inflation rate” (3.9%), “stock market performance” (3.7%), “prices (increasing, decreasing)” (3.5%), or “Gross Domestic Product (GDP)” (3.0%) as the best indicator of overall health of the U.S. economy.

| Indicator of Economic Health...<br>(top-12 responses)  | %    |
|--|------|
| Employment/jobs/unemployment rates                     | 23.0 |
| Human health - physical, social and mental well-being  | 5.0  |
| Inflation rate   | 3.9  |
| Stock market performance                               | 3.7  |
| Prices (increasing, decreasing)                        | 3.5  |
| Gross Domestic Product (GDP)                           | 3.0  |
| Consumer spending / confidence                         | 2.7  |
| Vaccination rate                                       | 2.6  |
| COVID-19 (cases, recovery, deaths, restrictions, etc.) | 2.5  |
| Business success                                       | 2.3  |
| Wealth / wage inequality / income                      | 2.1  |
| Political environment                                  | 2.1  |

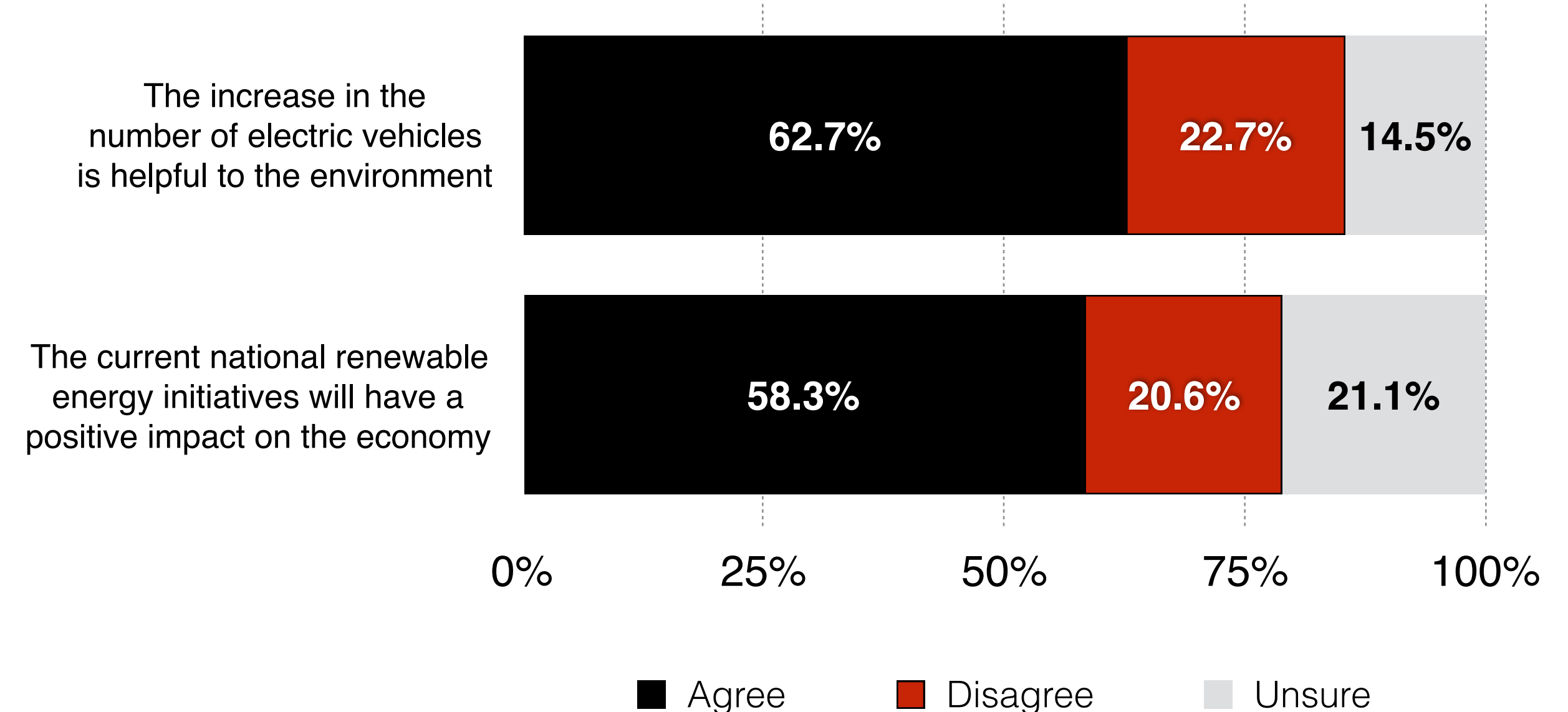
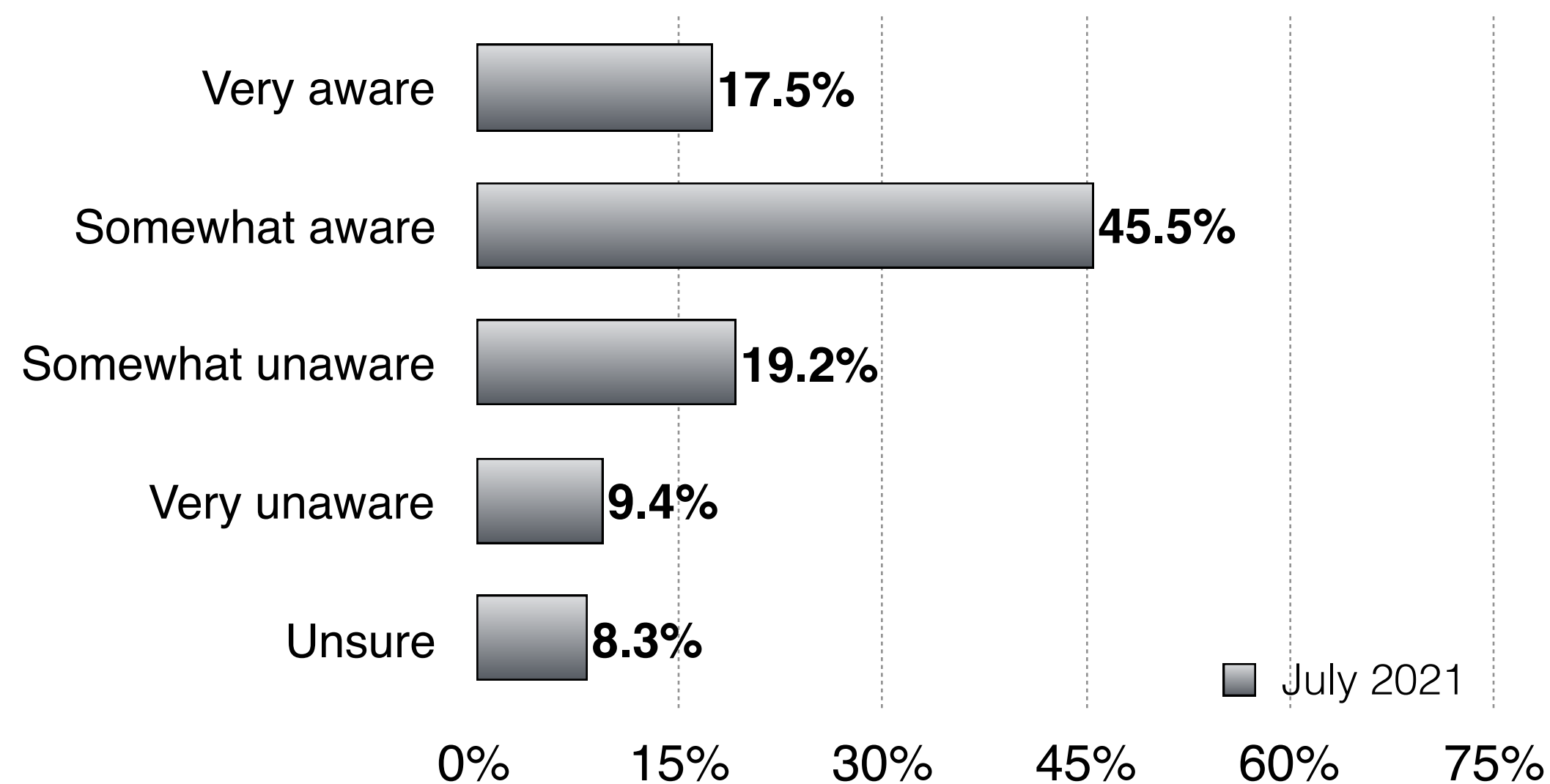
**Q** What one thing do you believe is the best indicator of the overall health of the U.S. economy?



# Renewable Energy

More than three-fifths of surveyed residents nationwide, 63.0%, indicated they are aware of the United States' renewable energy plans and initiatives. More respondents (62.7%) agreed with the statement "the increase in the number of electric vehicles is helpful to the environment" than agreed with the statement "the current national renewable energy initiatives will have a positive impact on the economy" (58.3%).

- ❖ Democrats provided higher levels of agreement that the increase in electric vehicles is helping the environment (80.5%) and that current national renewable energy initiatives will have a positive economic impact (79.5%) as compared to Republicans (48.3% and 43.5%, respectively).
- ❖ Men provided higher levels of agreement that the increase in electric vehicles is helping the environment (68.1%) and that current national renewable energy initiatives will have a positive economic impact (65.2%) as compared to Women (57.6 and 51.7, respectively).



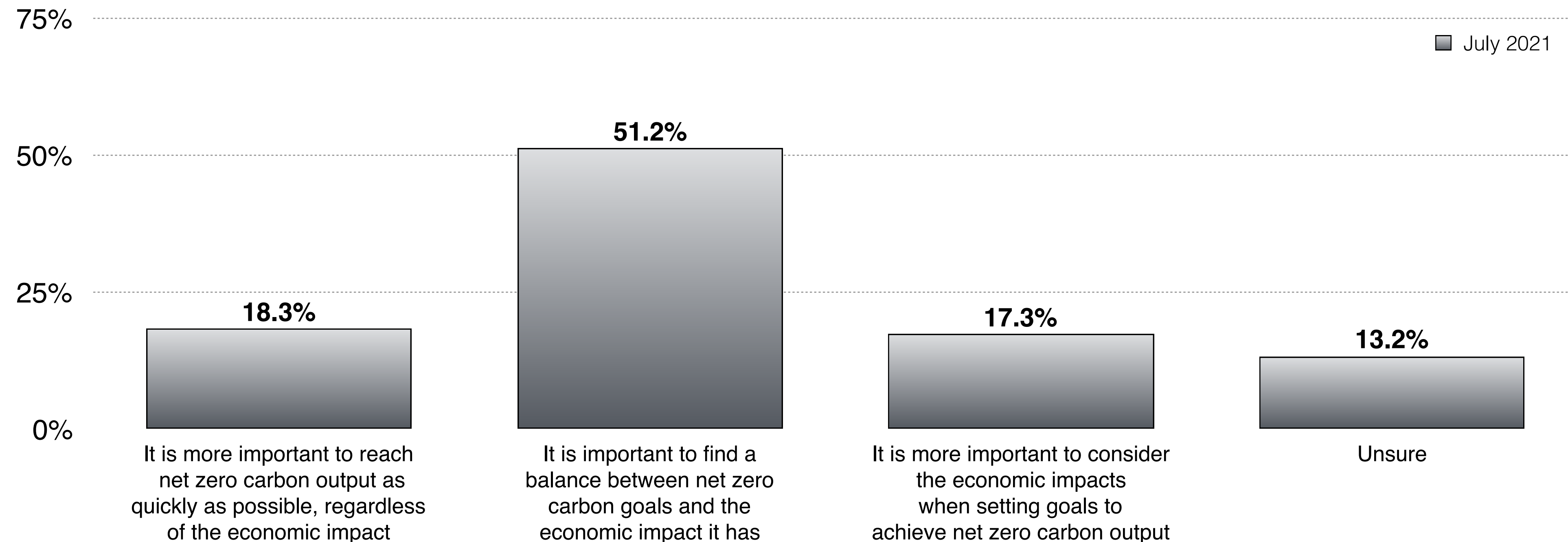
**Q** How aware are you of our Country's renewable energy plans and initiatives?

**Q** Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements...

# Renewable Energy, cont.

With respect to the United States trying to achieve net zero carbon output, one-half of respondents (51.2%) believe that “it is important to find a balance between net zero carbon goals and the economic impact it has.”

- ❖ Democrats (28.3%), those earning \$150,000 or more (36.9%), and Men (23.5%) were more likely to believe the United States should reach net zero carbon output as quickly as possible, regardless of the economic impact.
- ❖ Republicans (31.8%) and those ages 65 or older (34.4%) were more likely to believe the United States should primarily consider the economic impacts when setting goals to achieve net zero carbon output.

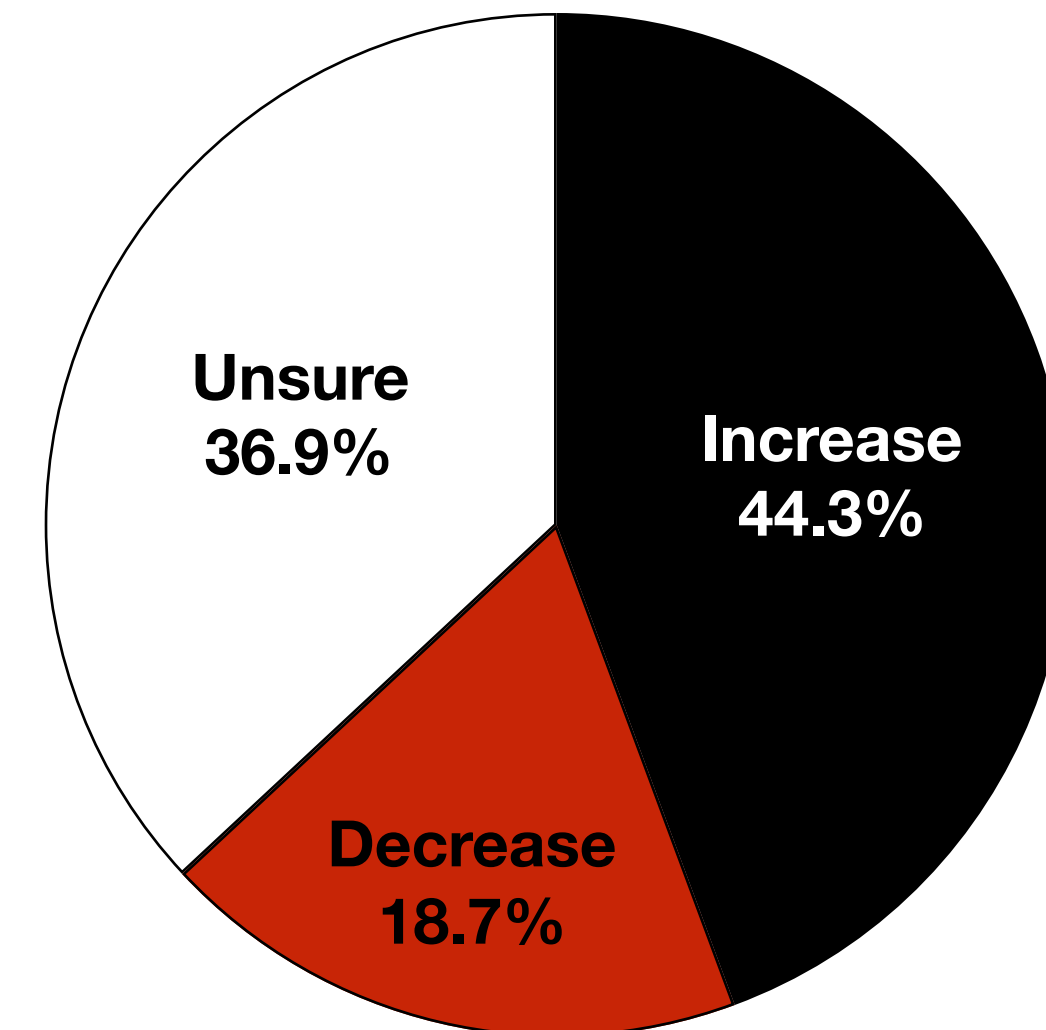


Which of the following most accurately represents your opinions on achieving a net zero carbon output as a country?

While more than two-fifths of respondents nationwide (44.3%) believe that the value of cryptocurrencies will increase in the next 10 years, 36.9% reported being “unsure” and one-fifth (18.7%) believe their value will decrease.

Respondents most likely to believe the value of cryptocurrency will increase over the next 10 years include:

- ❖ Respondents earning \$150,000 or more (62.1%)
- ❖ Respondents ages 18-34 (54.0%) or 35-44 (51.0%)
- ❖ West region respondents (52.9%)
- ❖ Men (50.6%)
- ❖ Democrats (50.2%)

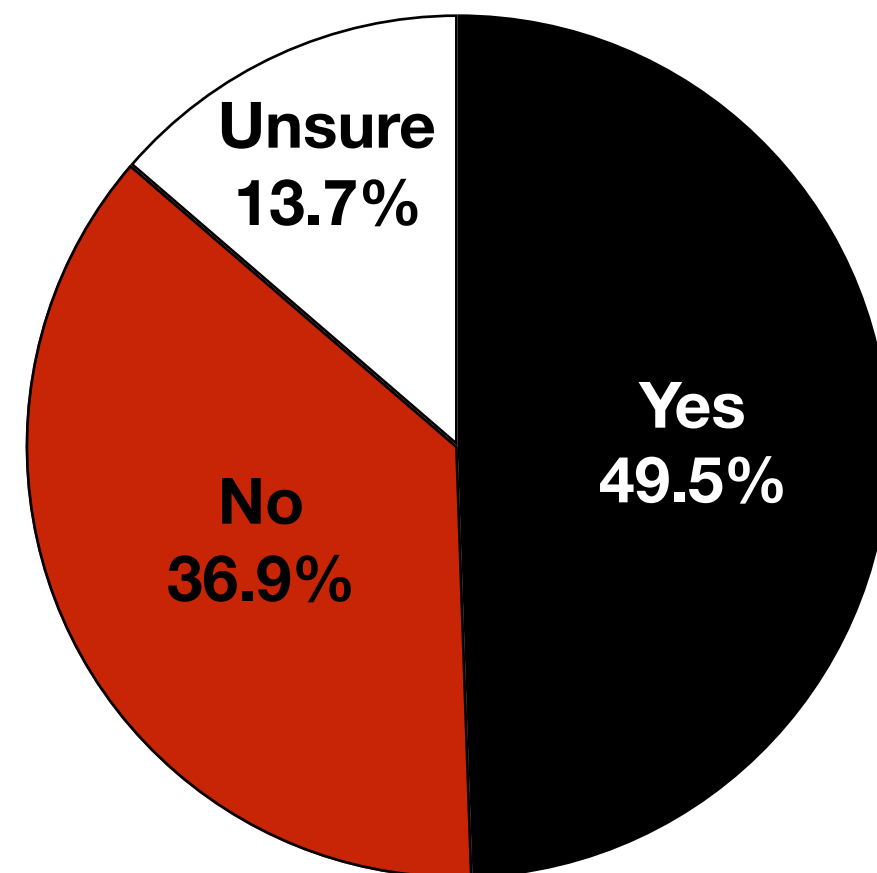


**Q** Do you believe that, overall, the value of cryptocurrencies will increase or decrease in the next 10 years?

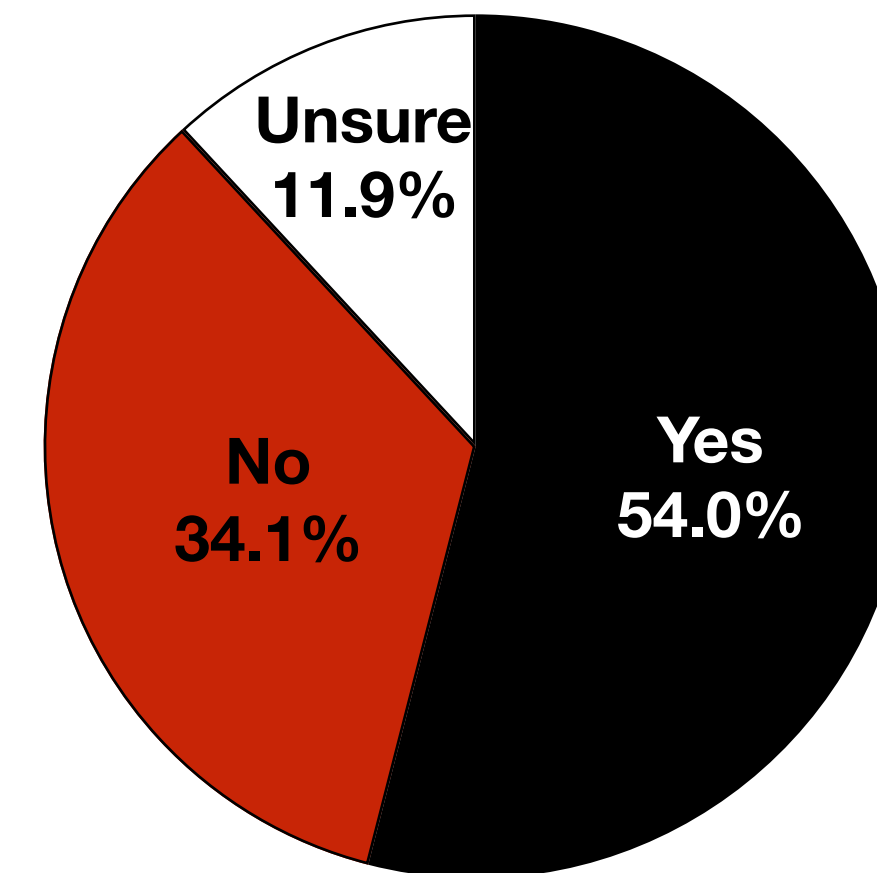


Sentiments were consistent regarding social media policies, as roughly one-half of respondents (49.5% and 54.0%, respectively) believe social media companies have the right to censor content, as well as terminate accounts based on content written / shared by the account holder. Conversely, roughly one-third of respondents (36.9% and 34.1%, respectively) do not believe social media companies have the right to censor content or terminate accounts.

- ❖ Democrats were more likely to believe social media companies have the right to censor content (67.9%) as well as terminate accounts based on content written / shared by the account holder (74.6%) as compared to Republicans (33.1% and 34.9%, respectively).
- ❖ Those earning \$150,000 or more were more likely to believe social media companies have the right to censor content (60.2%) as well as terminate accounts based on content written / shared by the account holder (68.9%) as compared to those earning less than \$50,000 (46.8% and 51.8%, respectively).



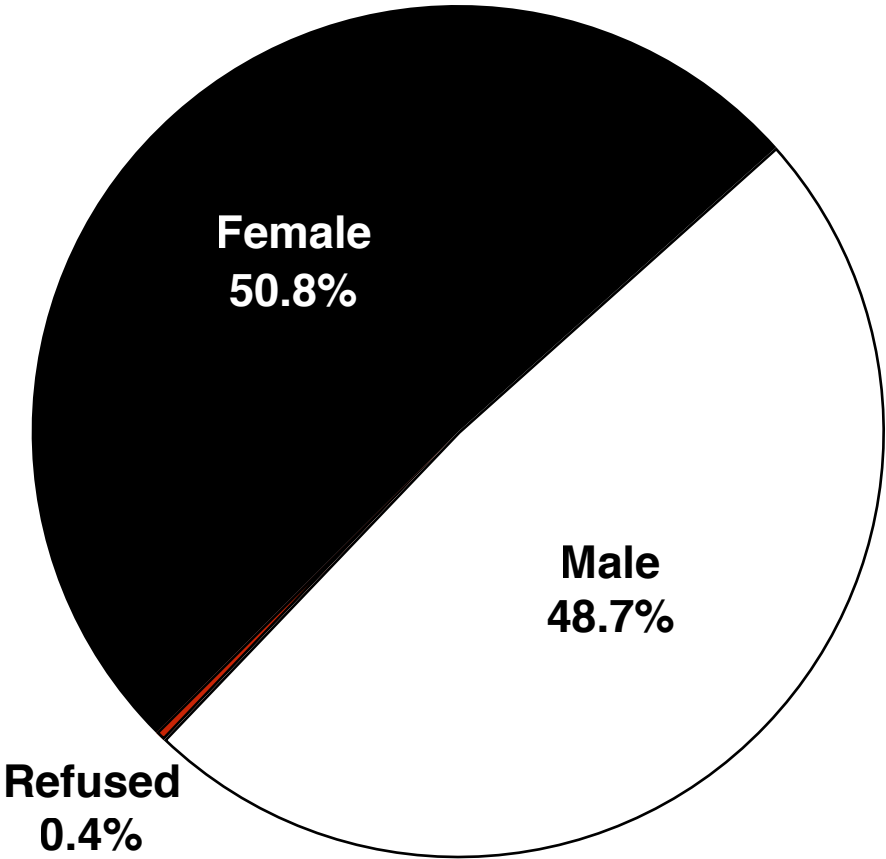
**Q** Do you believe social media companies have the right to censor content?



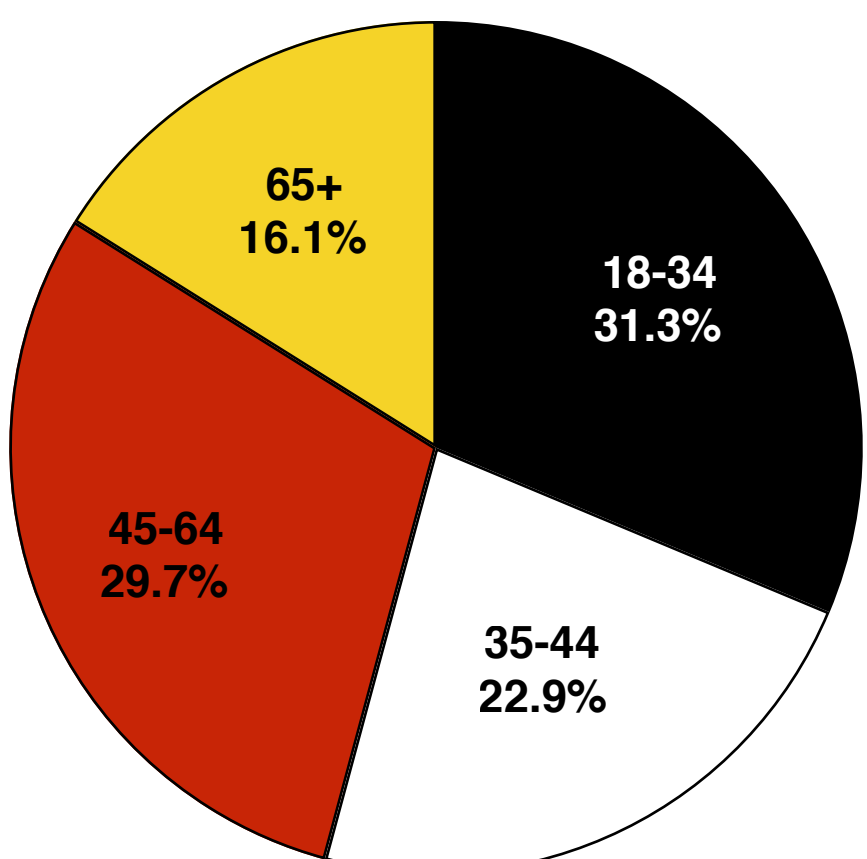
**Q** Do you believe social media companies have the right to terminate accounts based on content written / shared by the account holder?

# Demographic Profile - July 2021

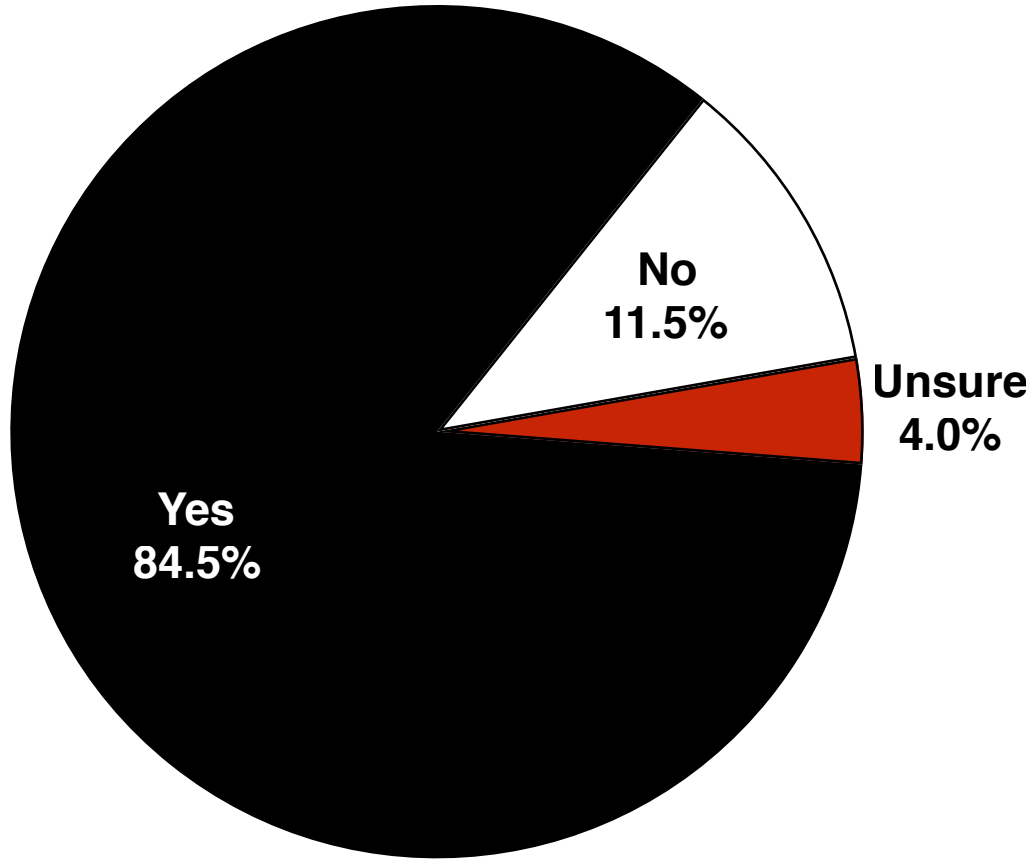
**Gender**



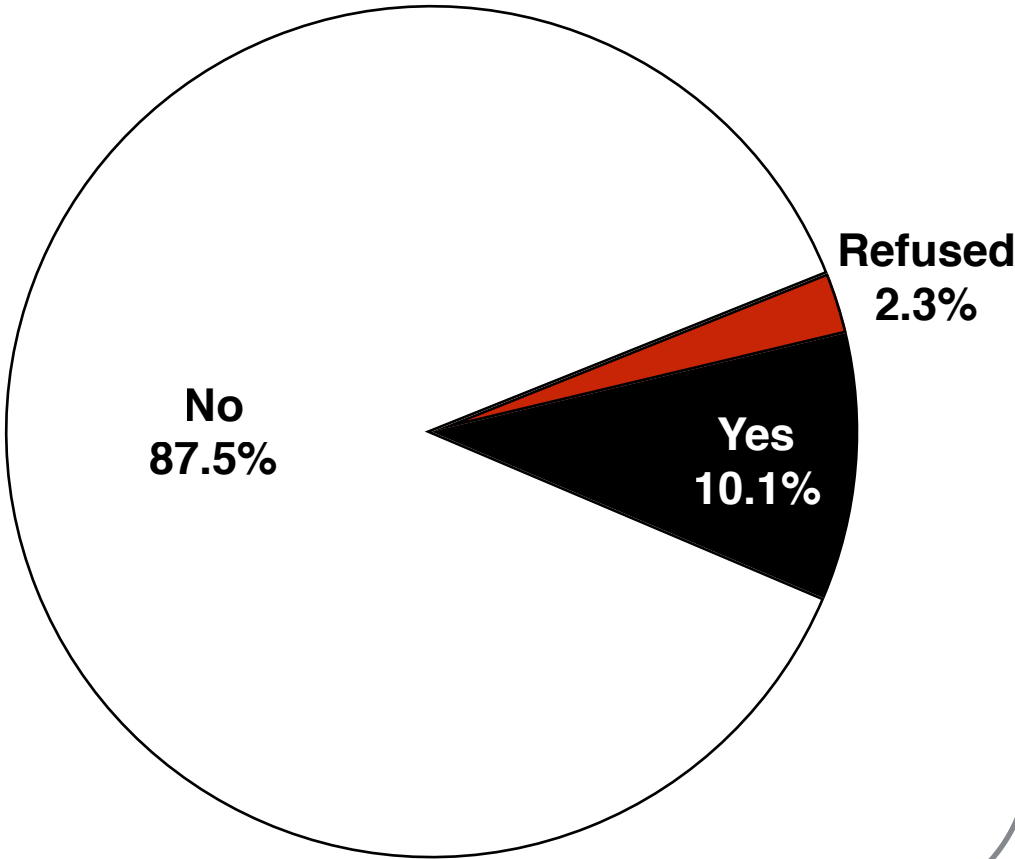
**Age**



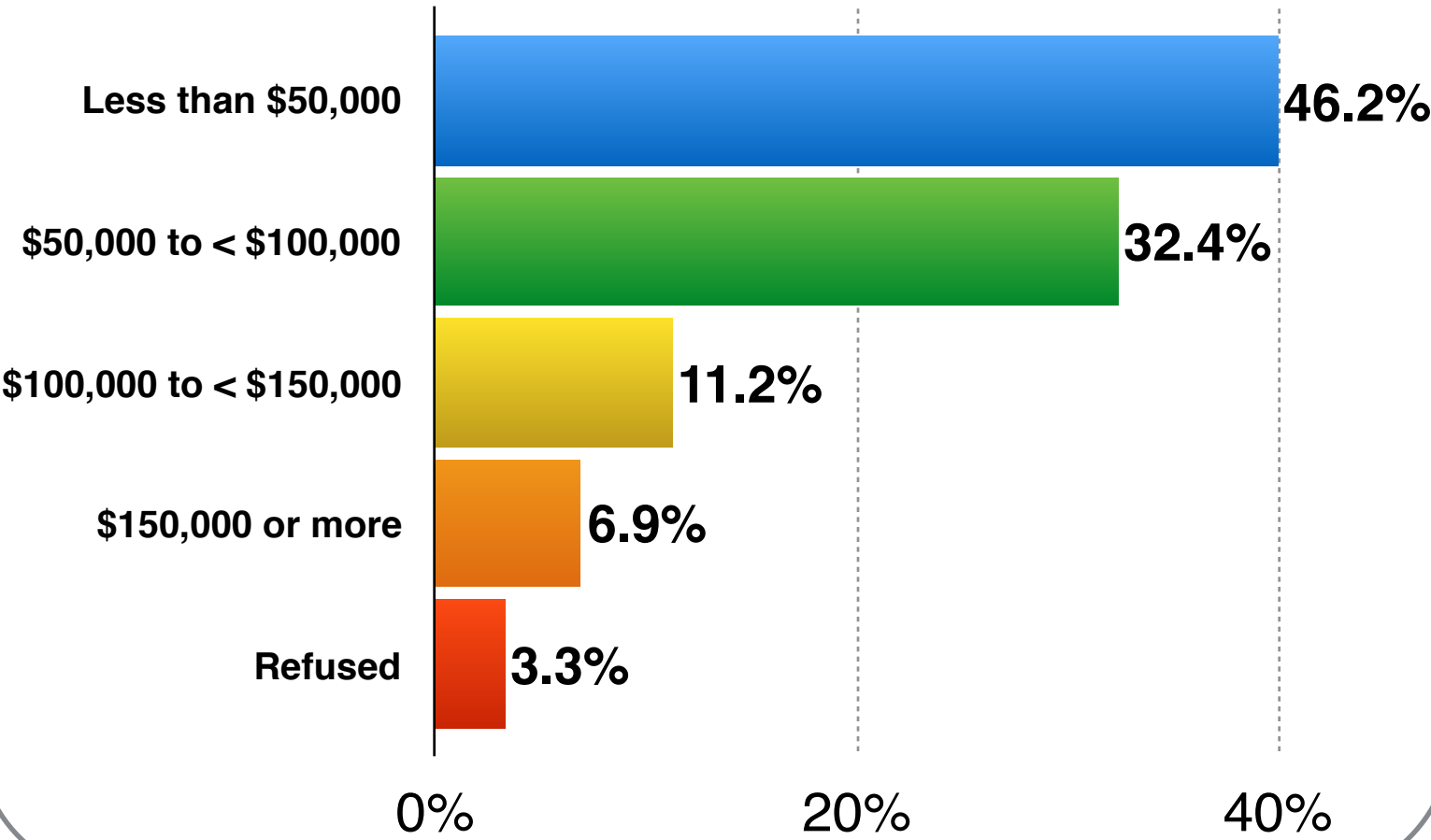
**Registered to vote?**



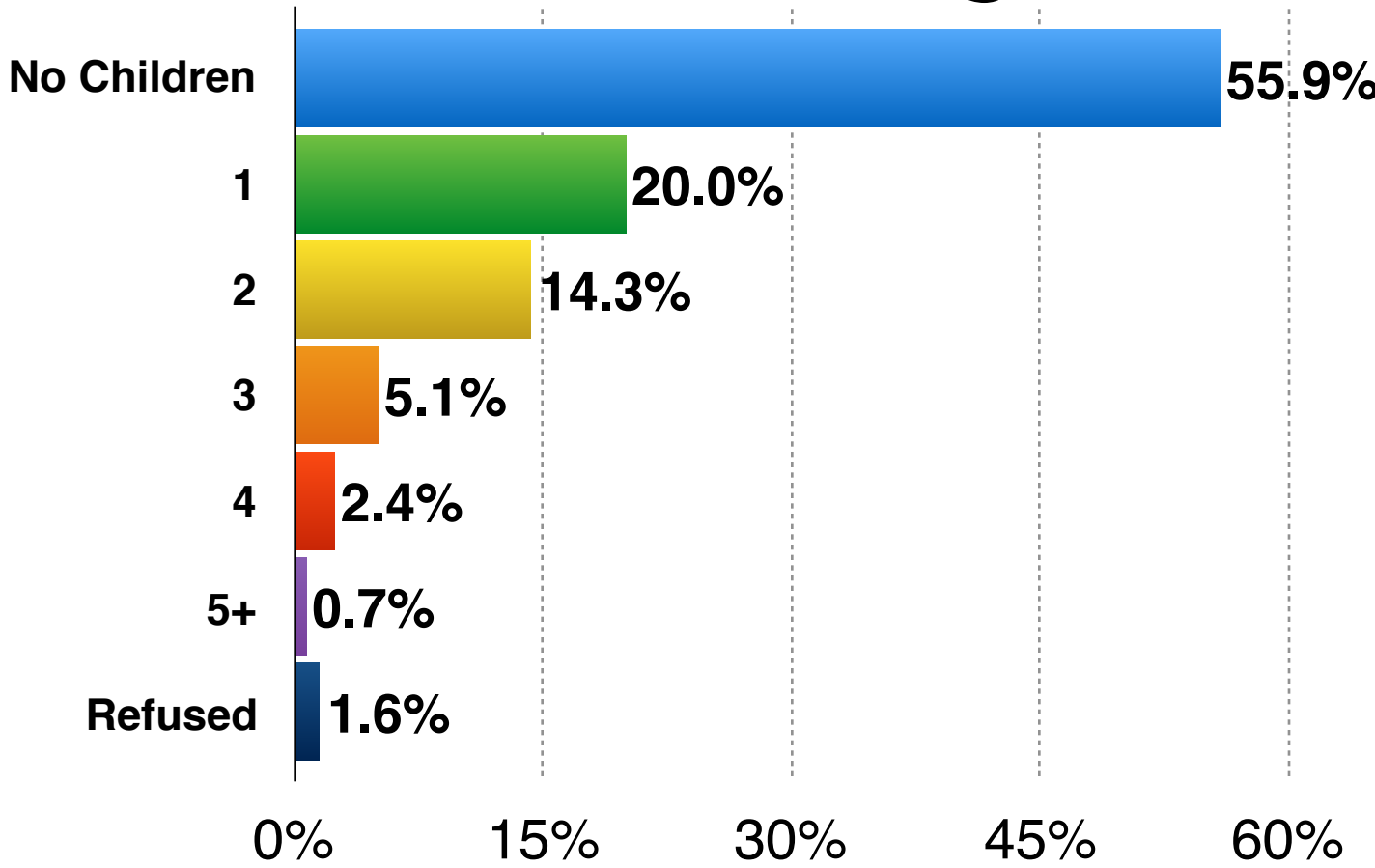
**Hispanic/Latin Origin?**



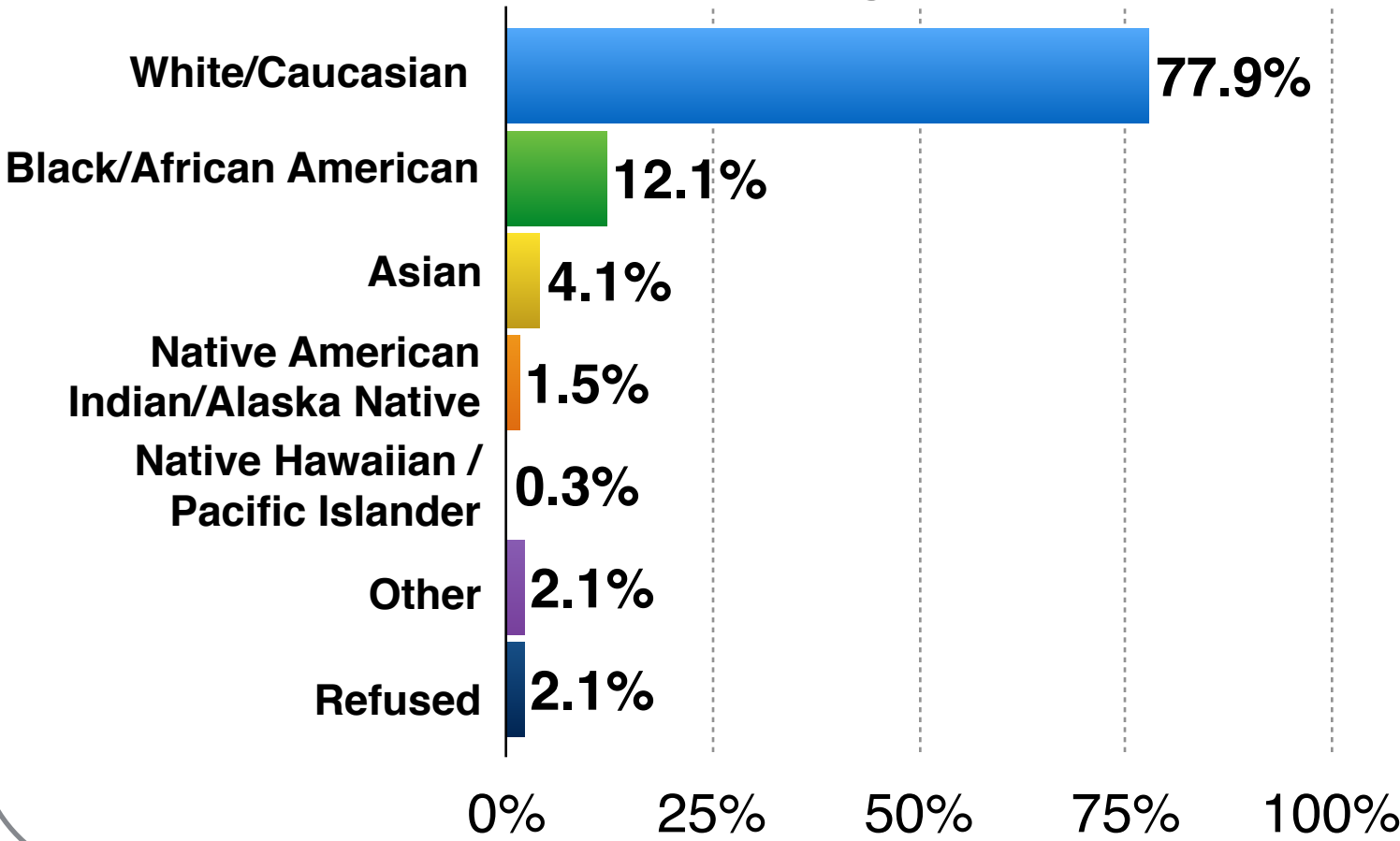
**Income**



**Children Under Age 18**



**Ethnicity**



# Demographic Profile - July 2021

| State of Residence | %   |
|--------------------|-----|
| Alabama            | 1.9 |
| Alaska             | 0.2 |
| Arizona            | 3.1 |
| Arkansas           | 1.3 |
| California         | 8.6 |
| Colorado           | 2.1 |
| Connecticut        | 1.3 |
| Delaware           | 0.5 |
| Florida            | 8.9 |
| Georgia            | 3.2 |
| Hawaii             | 0.5 |
| Idaho              | 0.7 |
| Illinois           | 3.9 |
| Indiana            | 2.3 |
| Iowa               | 1.4 |
| Kansas             | 0.9 |
| Kentucky           | 1.5 |

| State of Residence | %   |
|--------------------|-----|
| Louisiana          | 1.1 |
| Maine              | 0.4 |
| Maryland           | 1.3 |
| Massachusetts      | 1.5 |
| Michigan           | 2.5 |
| Minnesota          | 1.5 |
| Mississippi        | 0.7 |
| Missouri           | 2.6 |
| Montana            | 0.5 |
| Nebraska           | 0.6 |
| Nevada             | 1.5 |
| New Hampshire      | 0.3 |
| New Jersey         | 2.7 |
| New Mexico         | 0.7 |
| New York           | 6.7 |
| North Carolina     | 3.9 |
| North Dakota       | 0.2 |

| State of Residence | %   |
|--------------------|-----|
| Ohio               | 4.7 |
| Oklahoma           | 1.3 |
| Oregon             | 1.2 |
| Pennsylvania       | 4.2 |
| Rhode Island       | 0.3 |
| South Carolina     | 1.8 |
| South Dakota       | 0.2 |
| Tennessee          | 1.3 |
| Texas              | 5.4 |
| Utah               | 0.5 |
| Vermont            | 0.3 |
| Virginia           | 2.7 |
| Washington         | 2.0 |
| Washington, D C    | 0.1 |
| West Virginia      | 0.8 |
| Wisconsin          | 1.8 |
| Wyoming            | 0.1 |





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