

Ms. Foundation for Women

Economic Stimulus, Welfare, and Minimum Wage

Presentation on a Nationwide Survey of 800
Likely Voters

January 12-14, 2002



Methodology

- Lake Snell Perry & Associates designed and administered this survey, which was conducted by telephone using professional interviewers from January 12th to January 14th, 2002. The survey reached a total of 800 adults age 18 and older in the United States who indicated that they were registered and likely to vote.
- Telephone numbers for the survey were drawn from a random digit dial sample (RDD). The sample was stratified geographically by state based on the distribution of registered voters in each state. The data were weighted slightly by race, age, education, and gender to more accurately reflect the distribution of registered voters in the United States.
- In interpreting survey results, all sample surveys are subject to possible sampling error; that is, the results of a survey differ from those which would be obtained if the entire population were interviewed. The size of the sampling error depends upon both the total number of respondents to the survey and the percentage distribution of responses to a particular question. For example, in question 13, which all respondents answered, 49 percent said that a family of four needs an income of at least \$45,000 a year to make ends meet; we can therefore be 95 percent confident that the true percentage will fall within 3.5% of this percentage, or between 45.5% and 52.5%. The margin of sampling error for subgroups is greater than the margin of error for the entire sample.



Strategic Summary

- The economy and education dominate voters concerns. Voters clearly see the nation in a recession. They see increasing instability when they think about the economy and they are looking for ways to help people who have been most impacted by the recession.
- Despite voters belief that the country is in a recession, there should not be references made to the ability of people to find jobs. Most voters believe every person can find a job if they try hard enough. Even reminding voters of the recession does little to dim this perception.
- Given their concern for the economy voters now more than ever believe the government should be taking an active role in solving the problems facing working families. Voters, including men, are more likely to see government as being able to help families rather than being the problem.
- Voters overwhelmingly and strongly agree that the federal government should do everything possible to improve the standard of living of all Americans. Voters also feel that the federal government has a responsibility to try to do away with poverty in this country.



Strategic Summary (continued)

- Voters see consumers as the way to stimulate the economy though voters only narrowly reject enacting multi-year tax cuts that would allow some corporations to stop paying income taxes in the future. Moreover, voters narrowly favor moving up tax cuts for the wealthy.
- Voters' greatest enthusiasm is for increasing the minimum wage, helping laid off workers keep health coverage, creating jobs with ready to go projects, and increasing unemployment benefits with the federal government's help.
- Framing the welfare system as providing the skills for self-sufficiency will be more powerful than providing a safety net or moving people out of poverty -- they see these as secondary goals to self-sufficiency. This allows the debate to move to ways to provide the skills and work supports that are needed for self-sufficiency rather than focusing on the move from welfare to work.
 - o Marriage promotion at this time is a minimal priority for all voters when it comes to goals for the welfare system, even those most focused on morality.



Strategic Summary (continued)

- Specifics are needed when discussing the assistance low-income families or welfare recipients need. Voters respond better when outlining specific assistance, like childcare and transportation, rather than leaving it open-ended or general. Voters' top proposals for helping low-income families are increasing the minimum wage, education and training, and help with specifics like child care and transportation.
- Voters are sensitive about the time limits for welfare and tend to most support extending time limits for “women” who have lost jobs after getting off welfare.
- Minimum wage is a strong motivator for voters. They favor raising the minimum wage and would take it all the way to \$8/hour. They respond most to the fact that a family of four working two full-time jobs will make only \$21,424 a year – more than \$14,000 less than it takes to make ends meet for food, rent, healthcare, childcare, and transportation.
 - o Voters also see raising the minimum wage as one of the best ways to stimulate the economy and to help low income working families and those moving from welfare to work.



Strategic Summary (continued)

- Voters are more confused about unemployment benefits. Talking about the equitable distribution of unemployment benefits will meet a mixed reaction as voters split in their belief of whether the current distribution is equitable or inequitable. Voters believe that the purpose of unemployment insurance is to provide a safety net to all involuntarily unemployed workers and most would reform the system to improve that safety net, even in these times of higher rolls and deficits.



Executive Summary

- The economy and jobs is the top issue in voters' minds, followed by education. Retirement and Social Security, taxes, and terrorism and national security round out voters' concerns.
- Age affects priorities. The older the voter, the more concerned they are about retirement and the less concerned they are about education. For seniors, retirement is the top concern.
- Voters solidly believe the economy is now in a recession—seven in ten voters say it is, while only a quarter say it's not. Every demographic group solidly places the economy in recession.
- While a solid majority of every group places the economy in recession, there are some differences in magnitude by subgroups.
- Additionally, voters feel the economy is marked by increasing instability rather than increasing opportunity.
- Women are more likely than men to see increasing instability, and whites are more likely to see increasing instability than African-Americans or Hispanics. Northeast voters are also most likely to see instability.



Executive Summary (cont.)

- Voters most likely to see increasing instability are homemakers, from the East South Central and Mid-Atlantic regions, unmarried voters, 40-49 year olds, with children 6-12 years, and voters who make \$20-30 thousand a year.
- Still, voters solidly believe that it is possible for every willing and able person to find work if they try hard enough, even when they are reminded of the recession.
- Voters who are most likely to believe it is NOT possible for every willing and able person to find a job are unmarried moms, widowed, rural, with children under 6, retired women, college graduates, over 64, and who make under \$40K, but a solid majority of these groups still believe it is doable.
- Voters are open to the government having a role in helping working families. Forty percent of voters believe government CAN help people and needs to be made to work for average working families, while a third believe the government is the problem, not the solution to our problems, and one fifth say it is both.



Executive Summary (cont.)

- There are differences among subgroups in whether the government is the problem or can be helpful.
- Additionally, voters overwhelmingly believe the government should be doing even more to help working families.
- Younger voters, those under 45 years old, are much more likely to believe that the government should do MORE to help working families.
- Voters solidly support the government providing a safety net for people, as well as helping people get back to work. Sixty-six percent believe the government should help people get back to work, and 63 percent of voters believe government should provide a safety net for people.
- Again, younger voters are more likely than their older counterparts to support an active role for government.
- While men and women equally support government helping people get back to work, women are much more supportive of government providing a safety net than men.
- Interestingly, the South is even more pro-government than we have traditionally seen, while the Midwest is less likely to see a role for government.



Executive Summary (cont.)

- Voters overwhelmingly and strongly agree that the federal government should do everything possible to improve the standard of living of all Americans. Voters also feel that the federal government has a responsibility to try to do away with poverty in this country.
- Unmarried voters, who are more cynical toward the federal government being involved, are significantly more likely to agree than their married counterparts that government should improve the standard of living of all Americans. However, both see a role for the government in reducing poverty.
- Women are slightly more favorable towards the federal government improving the standard of living of all Americans, while men are more favorable toward the government doing away with poverty in this country.
- Seniors are much less intensely favorable toward government's responsibility to do away with poverty. Younger voters in general are more favorable to government having a role.



Executive Summary (cont.)

- Voters think the answer to stimulating the economy lies with consumers rather than business. Nearly half of voters believe the best way to stimulate the economy is to put money in the hands of the consumers who would bolster businesses by spending money quickly rather than to put money in the hands of corporations and wealthy individuals to spur investment and entrepreneurship.
- On a first tier of proposals to stimulate the economy, voters favor raising the minimum wage for low-wage workers, making it easier for people who get laid off to keep their health insurance coverage until they find new jobs, and extending the time people can collect unemployment benefits during the recession.
- On a second tier, voters favor investing in construction projects, increasing the amount of benefits people can receive in unemployment benefits, and providing unemployment benefits.
- On a third tier, voters place tax incentives for businesses and tax cuts for the wealthiest taxpayers, which a majority still support. Only a slight majority oppose enacting multi-year tax cuts that allow some corporations to stop paying income taxes.
- There is some variation by education, age and gender on voters' top proposals.



Executive Summary (cont.)

- Voters have diffuse perceptions of the current goals of the welfare system. Voters are torn between whether the principal goal of the welfare system is to provide a safety net for families who need it or to move people off of welfare and into work. Only 2 percent believe the goal is to promote marriage and discourage out-of-wedlock birth.
- There is a slight gender gap in the perceptions of the welfare system. Men see the principal goal as providing a safety net and moving people off of welfare, while women split in their perception of the principal goal between providing a safety net, moving people off of welfare, and moving people out of poverty.
- Younger voters see the goal of the welfare system as providing a safety net, while older voters say it is to move people off of welfare.
- While there is a diffuse agenda for what people see as the current goal of the welfare system, there is more cohesiveness surrounding the goal voters have for what the welfare system SHOULD be. There is real support for self-sufficiency as the principal goal for what the welfare system should be, while only three percent believe it should be to promote marriage.



Executive Summary (cont.)

- The best proposals to help low-income families focus on providing recipients with ongoing assistance and education and training. They also see an increase in the minimum wage as a way to help these families. Being specific in the area of assistance is better than the general statement.
- On a second tier, voters support proposals for women who have lost their jobs to continue to receive welfare benefits even if they have exhausted their time limits, creating work programs for people getting off welfare, and work programs for the unemployed in needed areas like school and road construction and increasing the minimum wage to \$6.65 per hour.
- On a third tier, but still with strong support, voters support allowing welfare recipients to continue to receive health care and child care subsidies as they move to the work force, and increasing tax credits for low-income workers.
- Men tend to make a bigger distinction than women about whether “people” or just “women” are allowed additional benefits if they leave their jobs.
- Nearly three-quarters of voters say a family of four needs to earn \$35,000 or more a year to make ends meet. Forty-nine percent of voters say a family of four needs to earn at least \$45,000 a year to make ends meet and an additional 26 percent says it takes at least \$35,000.
- Voters are supportive of raising the minimum wage. Support is even stronger for raising it to \$8 a hour than for raising it to \$6.65 an hour.



Executive Summary (cont.)

- While both men and women support raising the minimum wage, men are more supportive of raising it to \$8.00 per hour.
- Additionally, voters favor regularly increasing the minimum wage to keep up with inflation.
- Even in an engaged debate people support increasing the minimum wage. Over half of voters (53 percent) agree that we need to raise the minimum wage to allow most working families to have an income which will allow them to afford the basic needs.
- Every group solidly believes that we can raise the minimum wage by nearly two to one. However, women are slightly stronger than men on believing we can raise it.
- While all racial groups say there is a need to raise the minimum wage, Latino voters are more likely to support raising the minimum wage than whites or African-Americans.



Executive Summary (cont.)

- Our strongest arguments for raising the minimum wage are that full-time workers make \$14,000 less than they need for basic needs, and that Congress has raised its own pay without raising minimum wage.
- On a second tier, the arguments that CEOs make 770 times as much as low wage workers, and that a minimum wage worker has to work 100 hours a week to stay out of poverty, are slightly less convincing to voters.
- On a third tier, that a family of four needs to work 3.3 full-time jobs to make ends meet, and that a minimum wage is \$10,712 yearly are even less convincing to voters.
- Voters are divided over whether unemployment benefits are distributed equitably. Four out of ten voters believe they are equitable, while one third believe this is not the case. A solid majority of voters believe that most full- and part-time workers are eligible for unemployment benefits. Less than one-third believe it is for most full-time workers only.



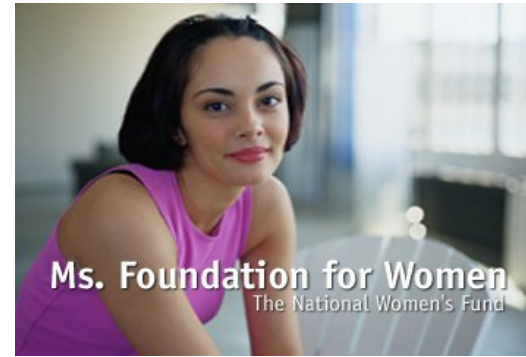
Executive Summary (cont.)

- Whites are more likely to believe it is equitable by 9 points, while Hispanics are more likely to see it as inequitable by 9 points. African-Americans are torn, leaning not equitable by 3 points.
- Hispanics are more likely to say that only full-time workers are eligible for unemployment benefits, while a majority of whites and blacks believe that both full- and part-time workers are eligible.
- Voters most likely to see unemployment benefits as not equitable are suburban voters, those with older children, separated or divorced, unmarried moms, black women, and those who make \$30-40K and \$50-75K.
- A plurality of voters see the principal purpose of unemployment insurance to be providing a safety net to involuntarily unemployed workers, followed by providing benefits only to those who have contributed, and keep unemployed workers out of poverty. While nearly all groups see the principal purpose of unemployment insurance is the provision of a safety net, Hispanics are nearly as likely to see it as a way to keep unemployed workers out of poverty.
- In a simulated debate, voters believe that all workers need a safety net that is better than the one currently in place to help unemployed workers. Voters are slightly more supportive of the argument that low-wage and the unemployed need even more help because of the economic decline after the terrorist attacks.



Executive Summary (cont.)

- Seniors is the only age cohort who does not favor changing the system—a slight plurality favor keeping the system the way it is. Voters 50-64 are the most supportive of changing the system to provide a safety net.



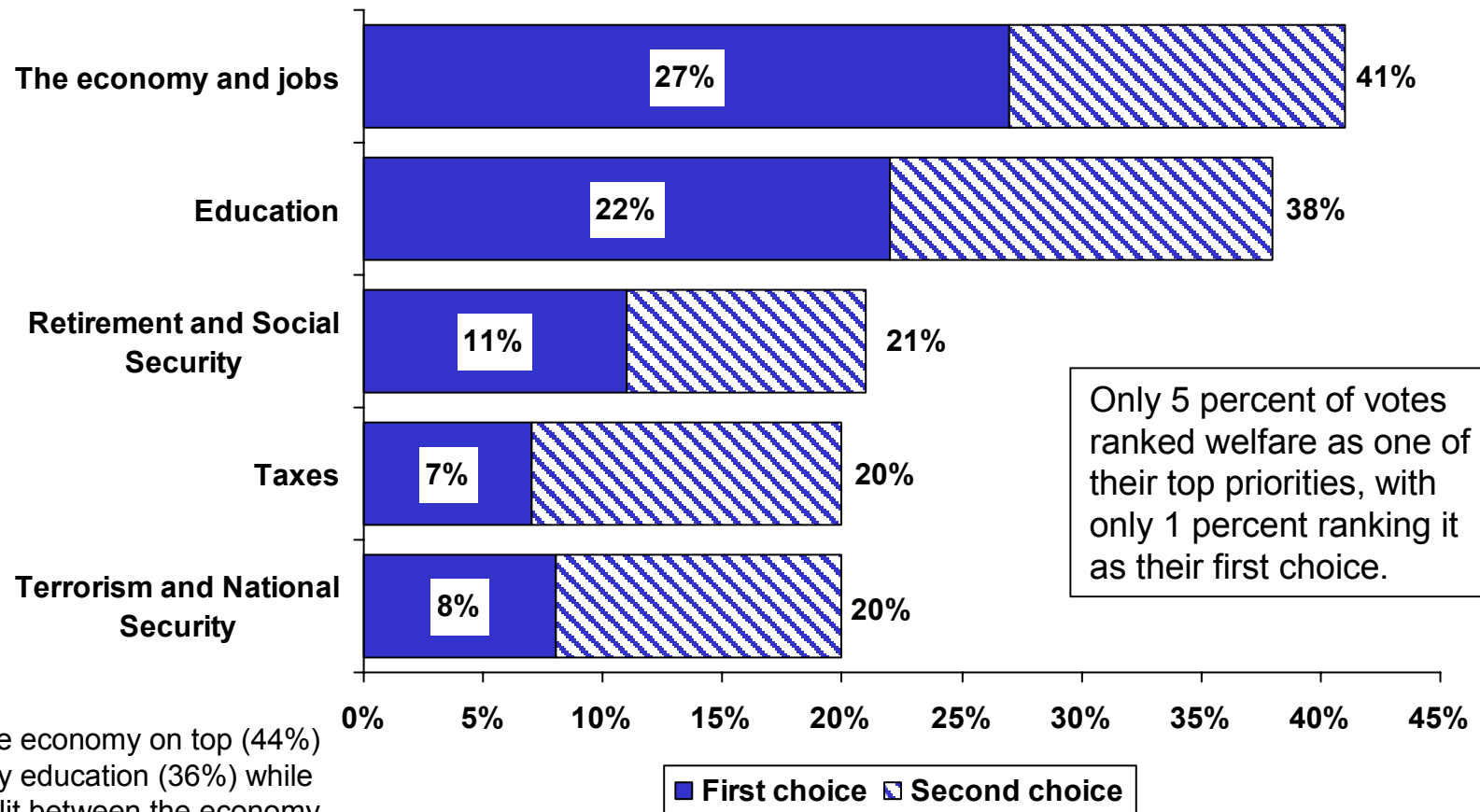
Context

The Economy Dominates



The economy and jobs is the top issue in voters' minds, followed by education. Retirement and Social Security, taxes, and terrorism and national security round out voters' concerns.

Now I am going to read you a list of concerns some people have. Please tell me which one of these you personally worry about the most: AND What would be your next choice?

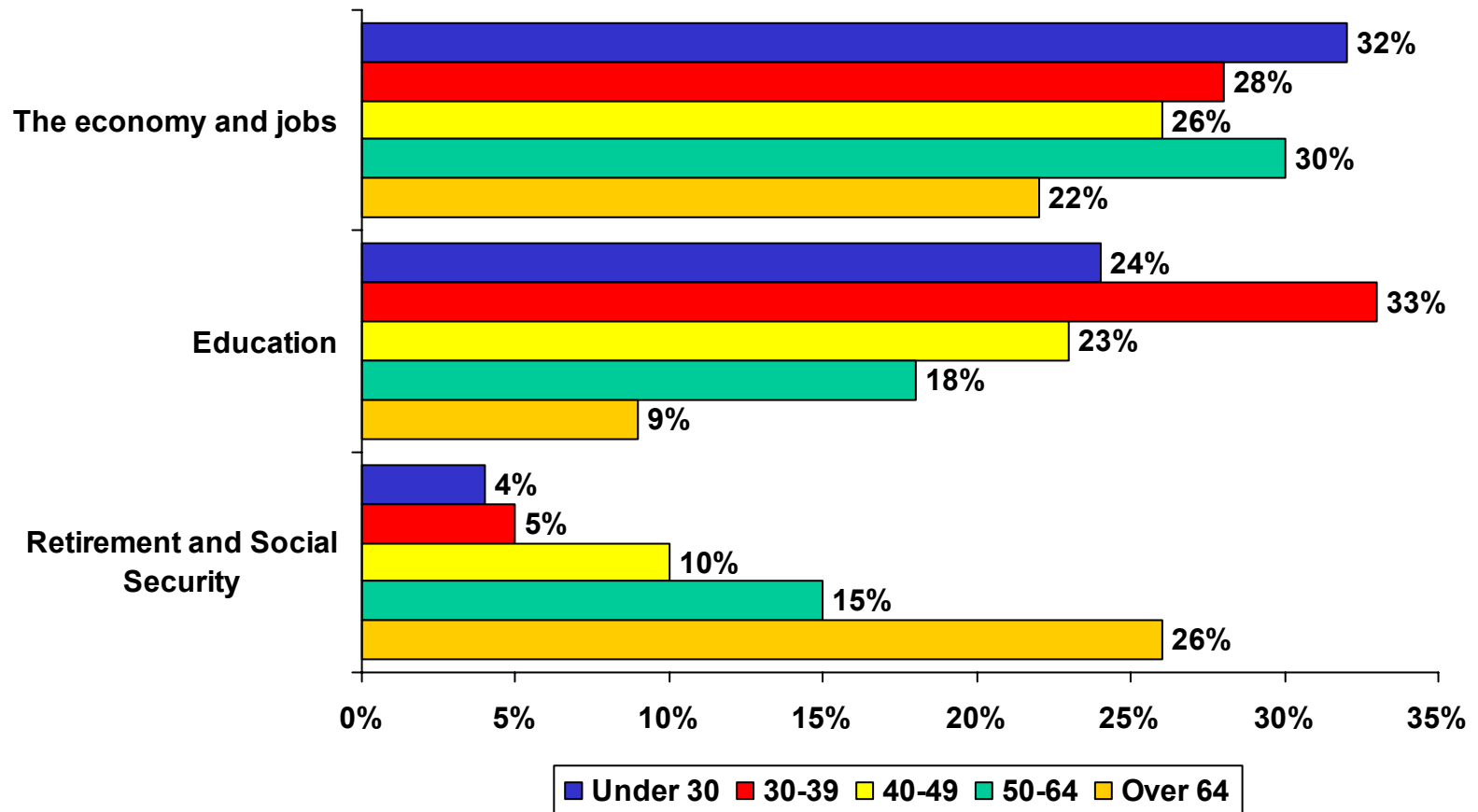


*Men place economy on top (44%) followed by education (36%) while women split between the economy and education (39% for each).



Age affects priorities. The older the voter, the more concerned they are about retirement and the less concerned they are about education. For seniors, retirement is the top concern.

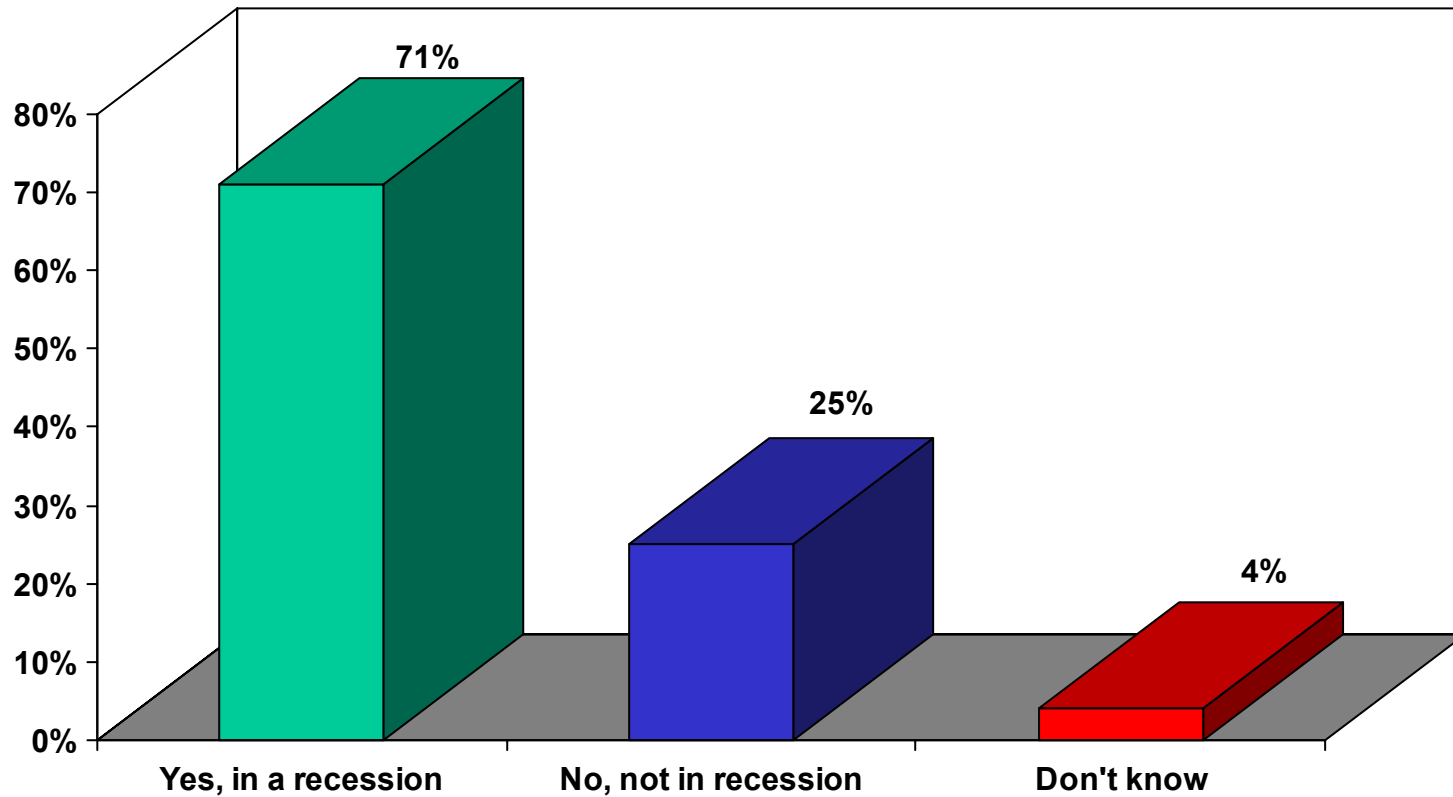
Now I am going to read you a list of concerns some people have. Please tell me which one of these you personally worry about the most: AND What would be your next choice?





Voters solidly believe the economy is now in a recession—seven in ten voters say it is, while only a quarter say it's not. Every demographic group solidly places the economy in recession.

Do you think the economy is now in a recession, or not?





While a solid majority of every group places the economy in recession, there are some differences in magnitude by subgroups.

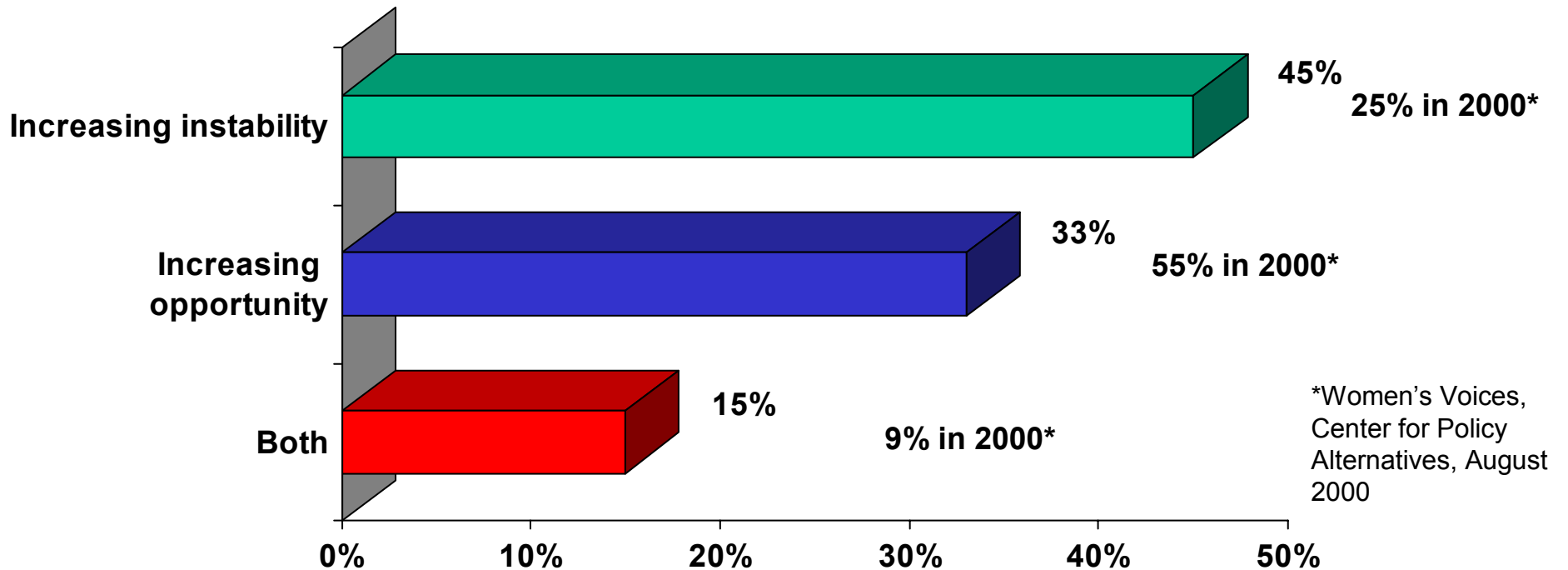
Do you think the economy is now in a recession, or not?

- 73 percent of working women say the economy is in recession (23 percent not), 68 percent of retired women say it is (22 percent not), and 66 percent of homemakers say it is (32 percent not).
- 78 percent of college-educated voters say the economy is in recession (22 percent not), while 68 percent of non-college voters say it is (27 percent not).
- 63 percent of voters under 30 say the economy is in recession (31 percent not), 72 percent of voters 30-39 (24 percent not), 70 percent of voters 40-49 (28 percent not), 75 percent of voters 50-64 (23 percent not), and 72 percent of voters over 64 (21 percent not).
- 73 percent of white voters say it is in recession (24 percent not), while 66 percent of black voters say it is (27 percent not), and only 58 percent of Hispanic voters say it is (35 percent not).



Additionally, voters feel the economy is marked by increasing instability rather than increasing opportunity.

When you think about the economy today, do you see increasing instability or increasing opportunity?



Almost every demographic group sees increasing instability by a substantial margin (-12), except for African-Americans (+8), college-educated men (+6), and residents in the Mountain states (+5).



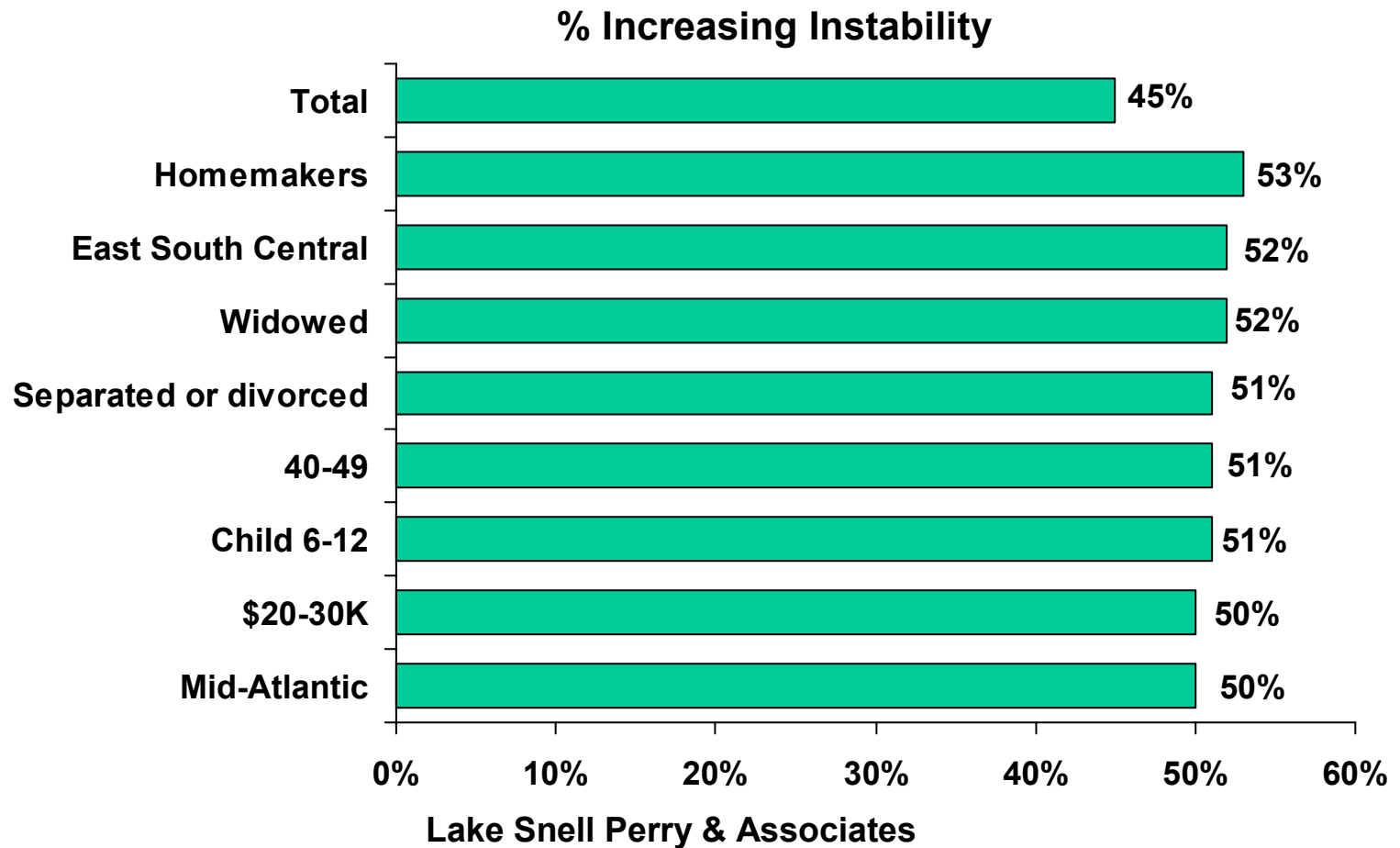
Women are more likely than men to see increasing instability, and whites are more likely to see increasing instability than African-Americans or Hispanics. Northeast voters are also most likely to see instability.

- While 48 percent of women see increasing instability and 29 percent increasing opportunity, men are more divided—42 percent of men see increasing instability and 37 percent increasing opportunity.
- 47 percent of voters under 30 see increasing instability and 36 percent increasing opportunity; 41 percent of 30-39 see instability and 31 percent opportunity; 51 percent of 40-49 see instability, 27 percent opportunity; 46 percent of 50-64 see instability, 35 percent opportunity; and 41 percent of over 64 see instability, and 36 percent opportunity.
- 45 percent of non-college see increasing instability, 32 percent opportunity; and 44 percent of college-see increasing instability, 36 percent opportunity.
- 47 percent of whites see increasing instability, 32 percent opportunity; 44 percent of Hispanics see increasing instability, 39 percent increasing opportunity; and 33 percent of blacks see increasing instability, 39 percent increasing opportunity.
- 48 percent of Northeast see instability, 30 percent opportunity; 45 percent of Midwest see instability, 33 percent opportunity; and 44 percent of both the South and the West see instability (35 percent and 33 percent opportunity, respectively).



Voters most likely to see increasing instability are homemakers, from the East South Central and Mid-Atlantic regions, unmarried voters, 40-49 year olds, with children 6-12 years, and voters who make \$20-30 thousand a year.

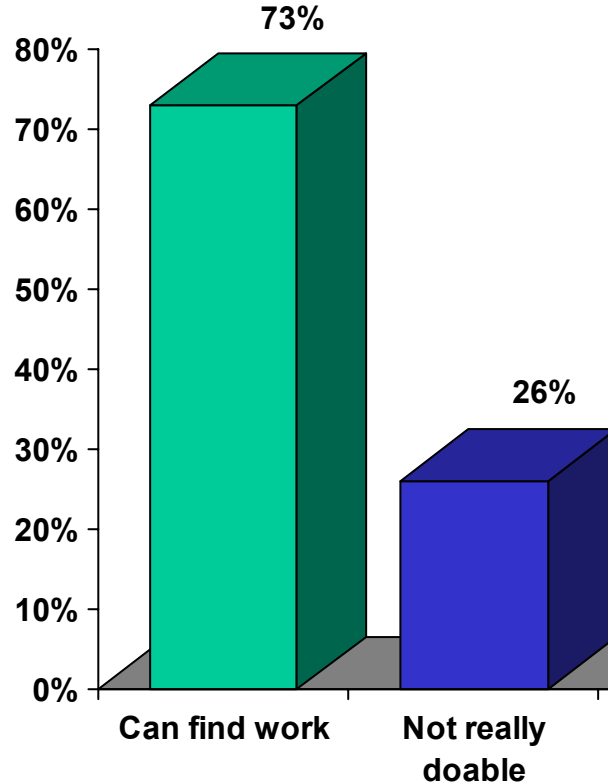
When you think about the economy today, do you see increasing instability or increasing opportunity?



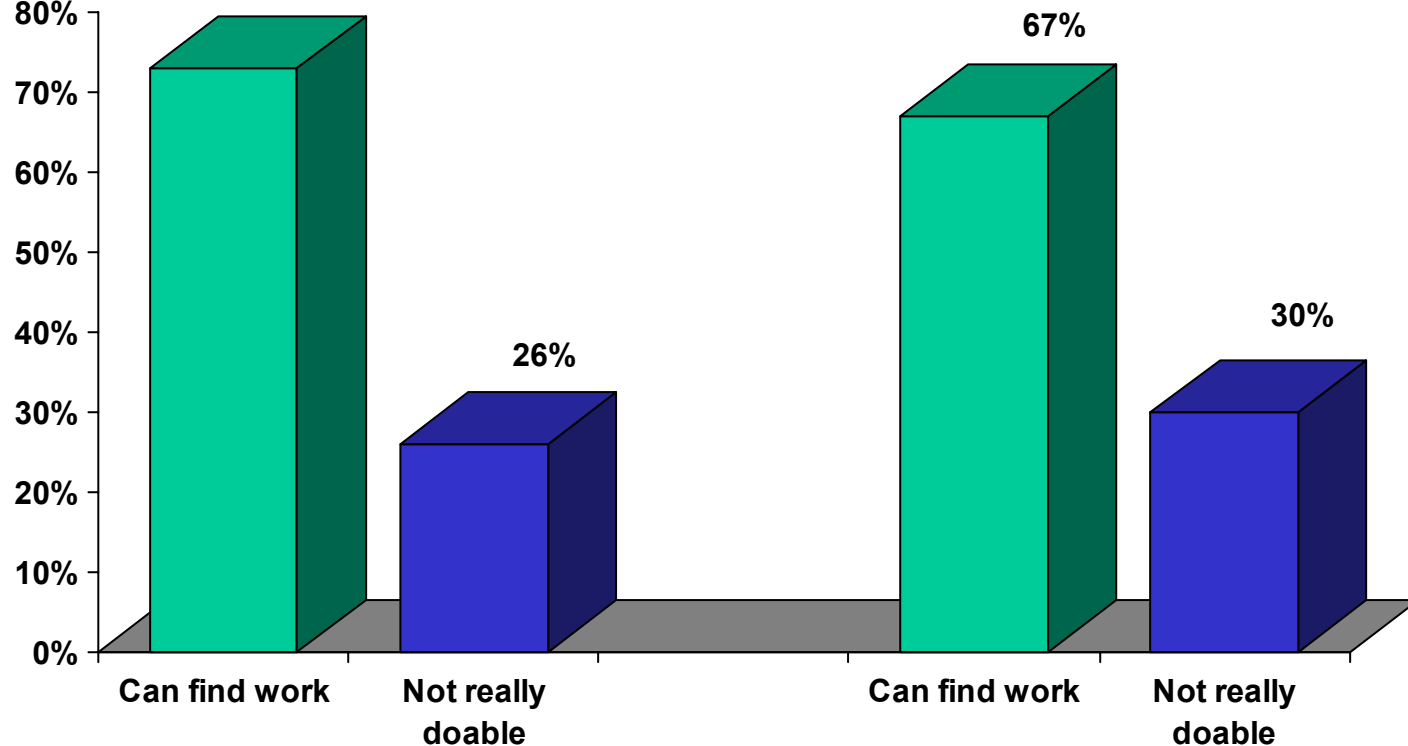


Still, voters solidly believe that it is possible for every willing and able person to find work if they try hard enough, even when they are reminded of the recession.

Do you think that every willing and able person can find work if they try hard enough or is this not really doable right now?*



During this recession, do you think that every willing and able person can find work if they try hard enough or is this not really doable right now?*



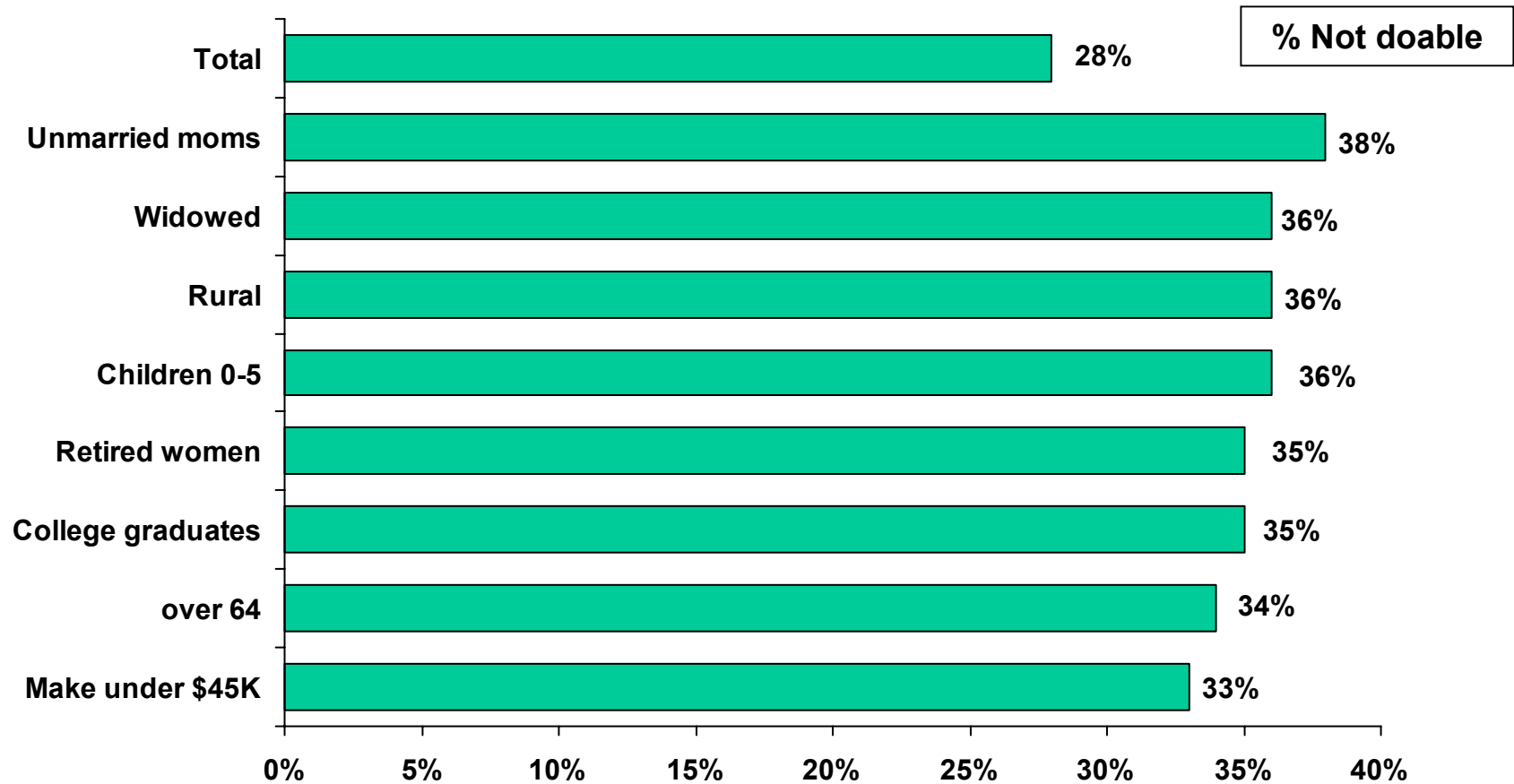
*Split-sampled questions—each asked of half of respondents

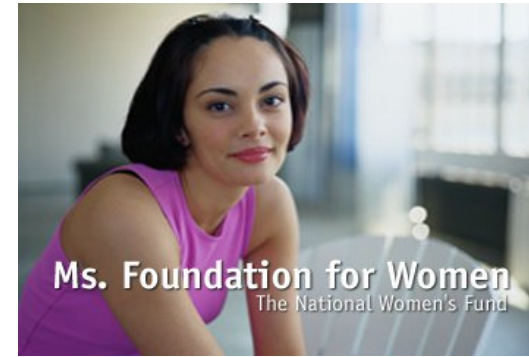
*Every demographic group solidly believes people can find work even when reminded of the recession.



Voters who are most likely to believe it is NOT possible for every willing and able person to find a job are unmarried moms, widowed, rural, with children under 6, retired women, college graduates, over 64, and who make under \$40K, but a solid majority of these groups still believe it is doable.

Do you think that every willing and able person can find work if they try hard enough or is this not really doable right now? AND During this recession, do you think that every willing and able person can find work if they try hard enough or is not really doable right now? (Combined question)





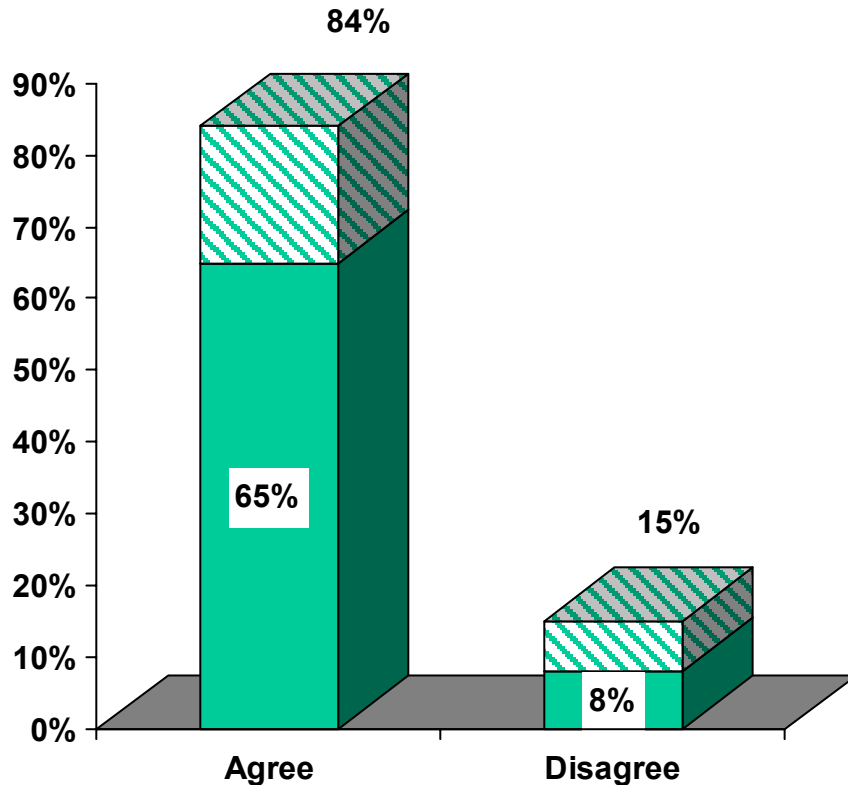
Economic Stimulus and the Government's Role

Voters support an active role for government

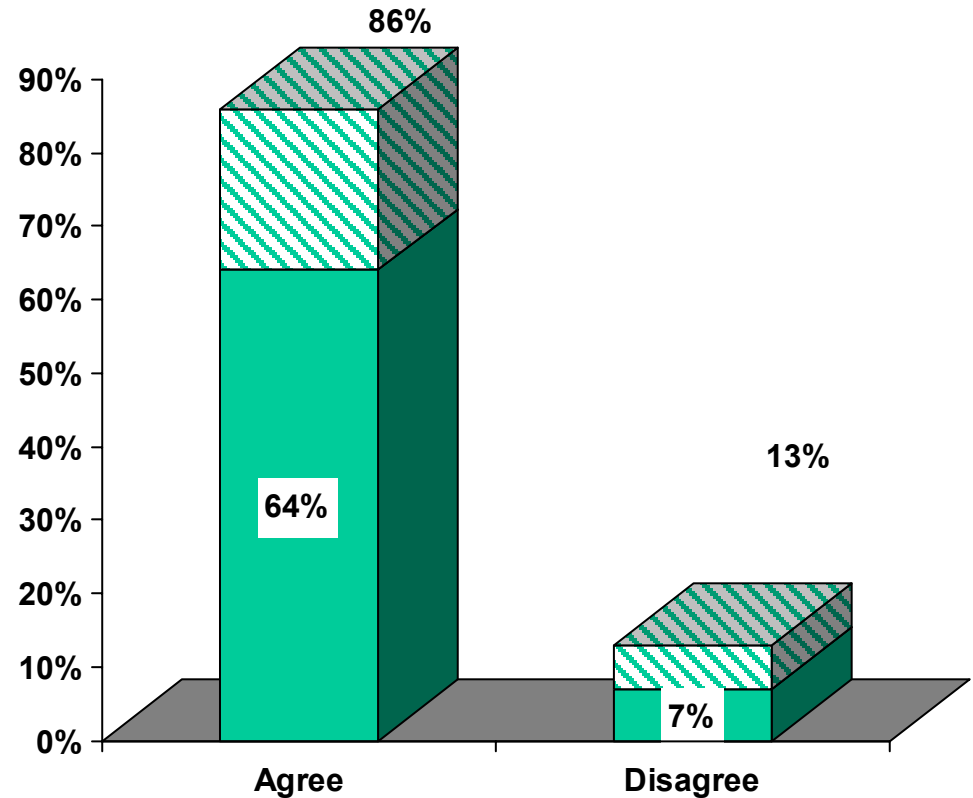


Voters overwhelmingly and strongly agree that the federal government should do everything possible to improve the standard of living of all Americans. Voters also feel that the federal government has a responsibility to try to do away with poverty in this country.

Do you agree or disagree that the federal government should do everything possible to improve the standard of living of all Americans? (Split-sampled questions—asked of half of respondents)



Do you agree or disagree that the federal government has a responsibility to try to do away with poverty in this country? (Split-sampled question—asked of half of respondents)



Majorities of voters across all demographic groups strongly agree with both statements.

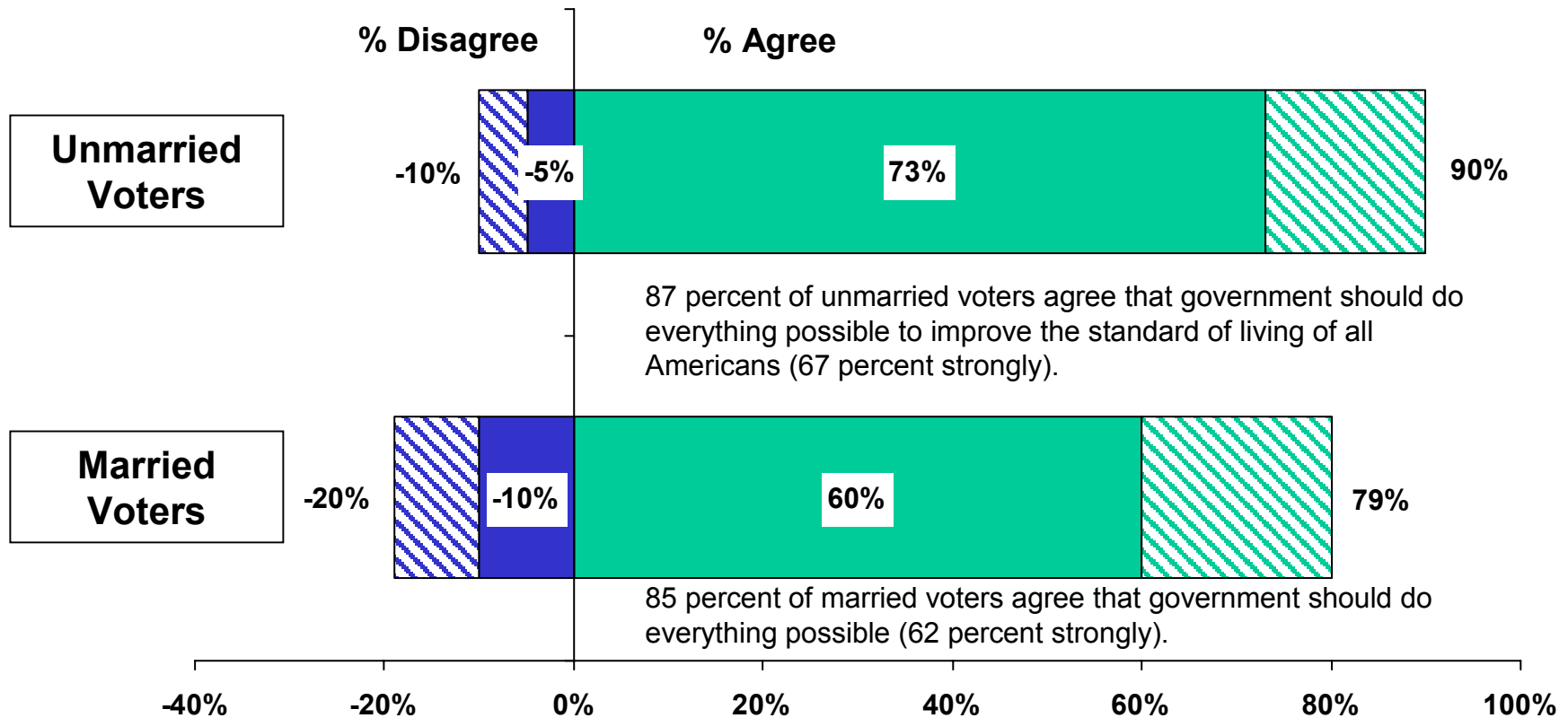
Lake Snell Perry & Associates

Intensity of color reflects intensity of response



Unmarried voters, who are more cynical toward the federal government being involved, are significantly more likely to agree than their married counterparts that government should improve the standard of living of all Americans. However, both see a role for the government in reducing poverty.

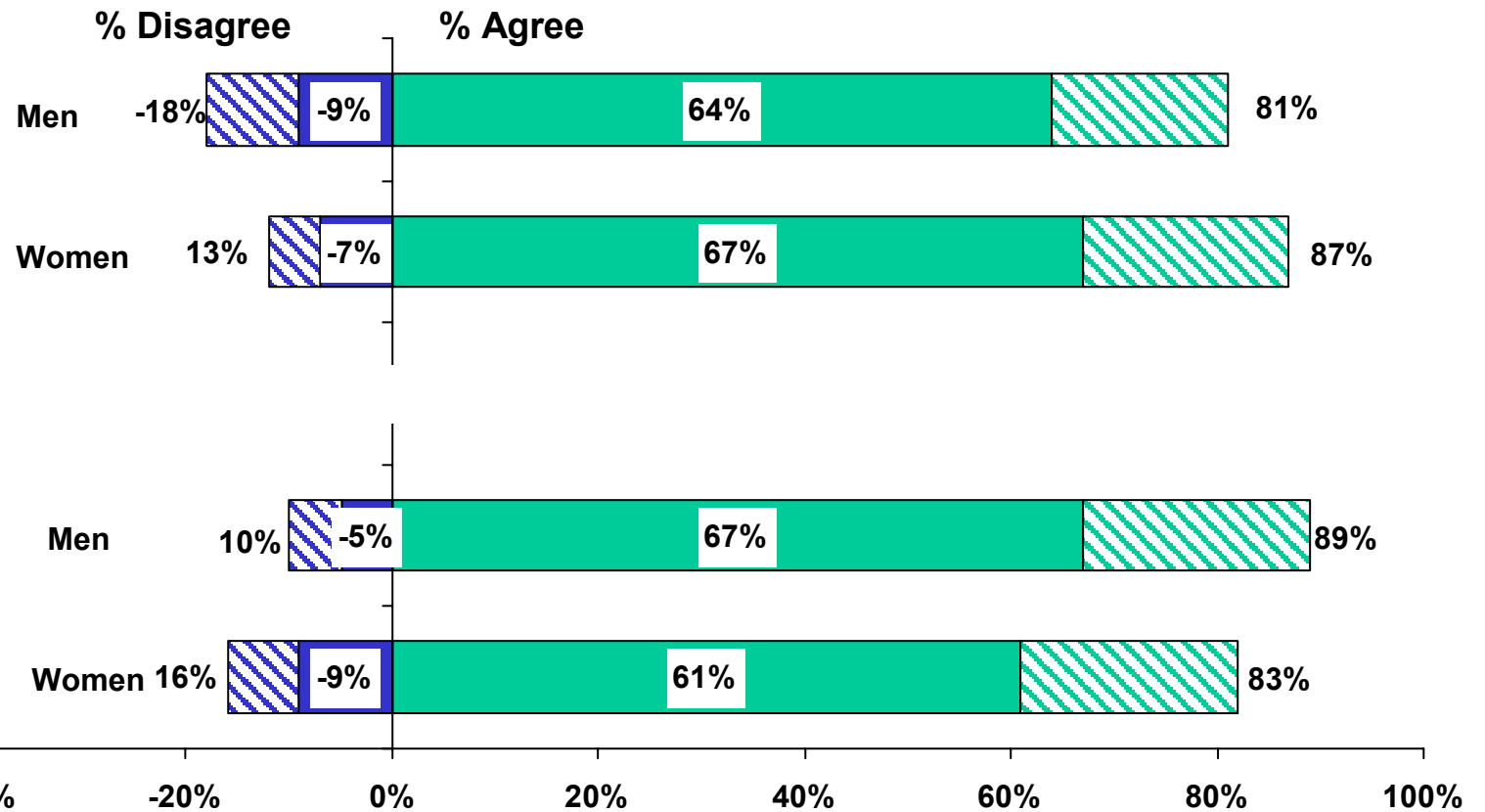
Do you agree or disagree that the federal government should do everything possible to improve the standard of living of all Americans? (Split-sampled questions—asked of half of respondents)





Women are slightly more favorable towards the federal government improving the standard of living of all Americans, while men are more favorable toward the government doing away with poverty in this country.

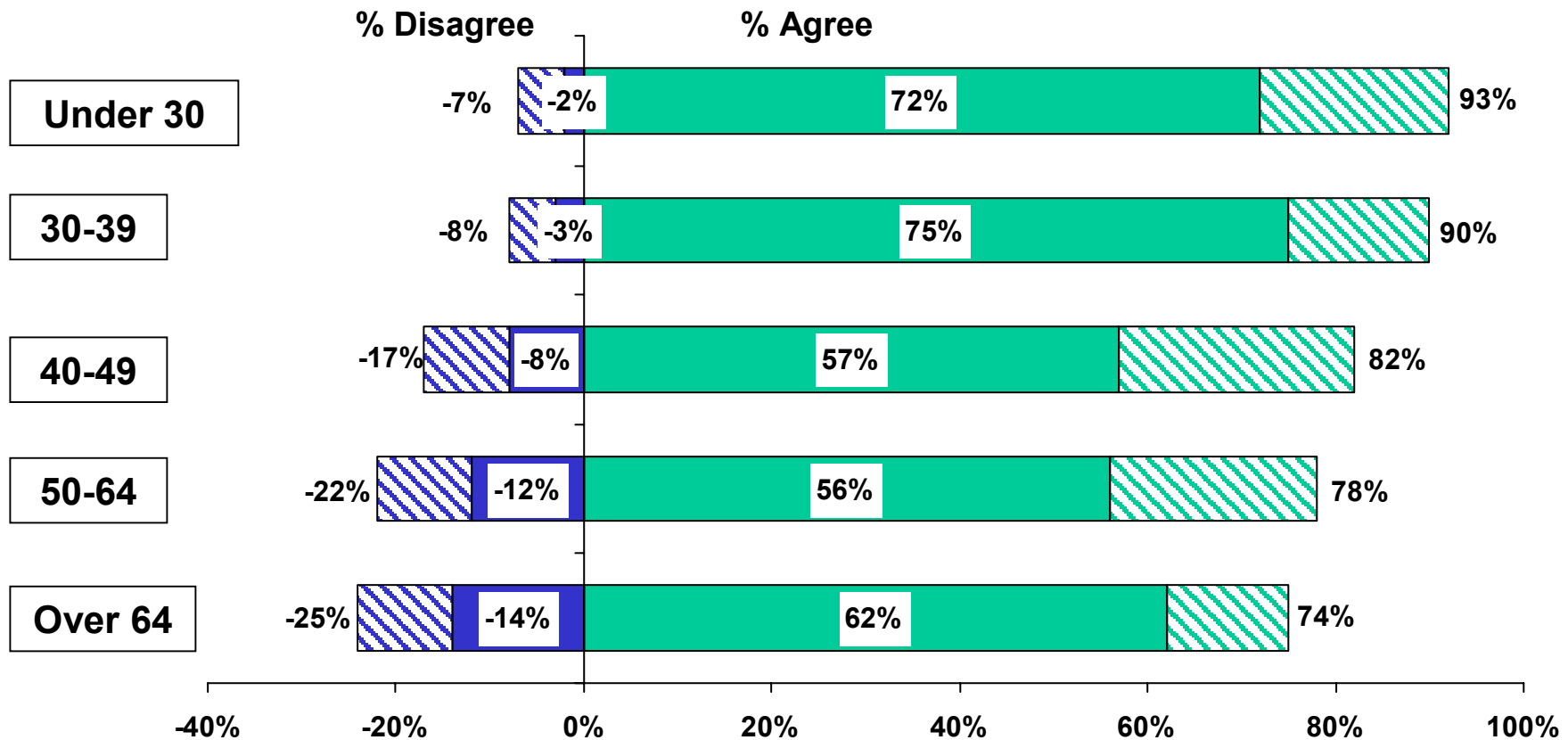
Do you agree or disagree that the federal government should do everything possible to improve the standard of living of all Americans?





Seniors are much less intensely favorable toward government's trying to do away with poverty. Younger voters in general are more favorable to government having a role.

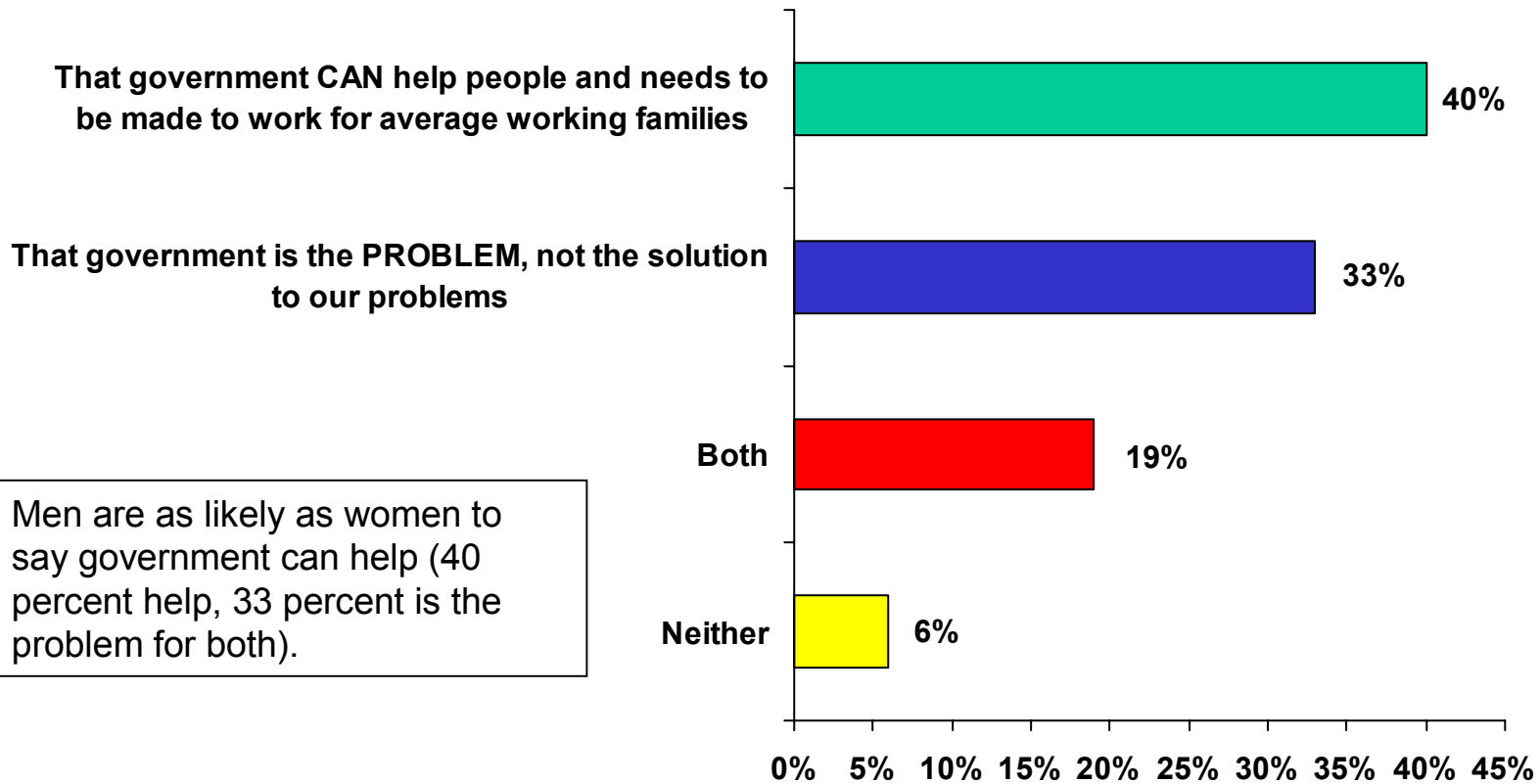
Do you agree or disagree that the federal government should do everything possible to improve the standard of living of all Americans? (Split-sampled questions—asked of half of respondents)





Voters are open to the government having a role in helping working families. Forty percent of voters believe government CAN help people and needs to be made to work for average working families, while a third believe the government is the problem, not the solution to our problems, and one fifth say it is both.

Which of the following statements comes closer to your own view?



Men are as likely as women to say government can help (40 percent help, 33 percent is the problem for both).



There are differences among subgroups in whether the government is the problem or can be helpful.

Voters most likely to see the government as helpful are:

retired women (+25)
voters with young children (+18)
voters who make more than \$75K (+14)
Dads (+15)
especially married dads (+14)
suburban voters (+14)

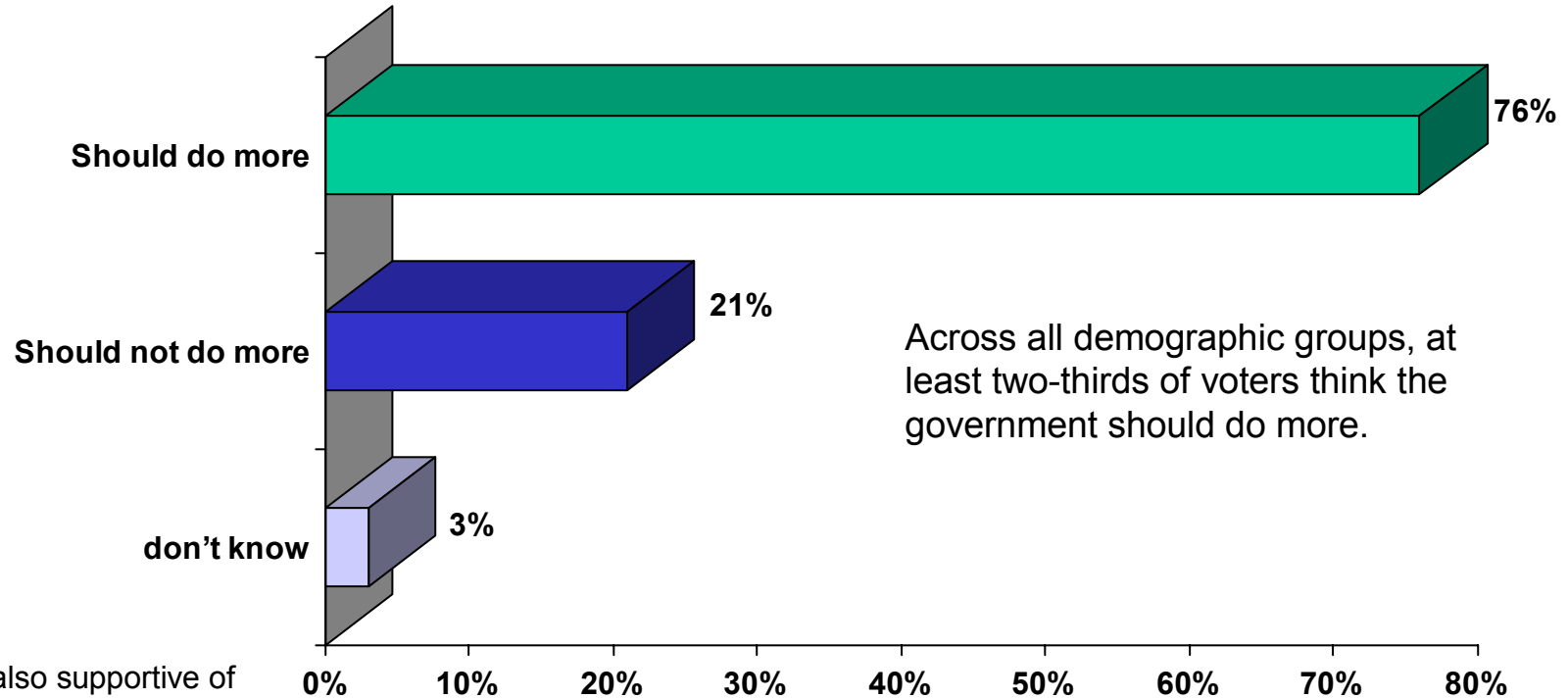
Groups who are more likely to see government as the problem are:

unmarried moms (-22)
Mountain region (-16)
black women (-13)
West North Central region (-8)
separated and divorced voters (-8)
voters with older children (-6)
Voters who make \$50-75K (-5)



Additionally, voters overwhelmingly believe the government should be doing even more to help working families.

Should the government do MORE to help working families, or should the government NOT do more?

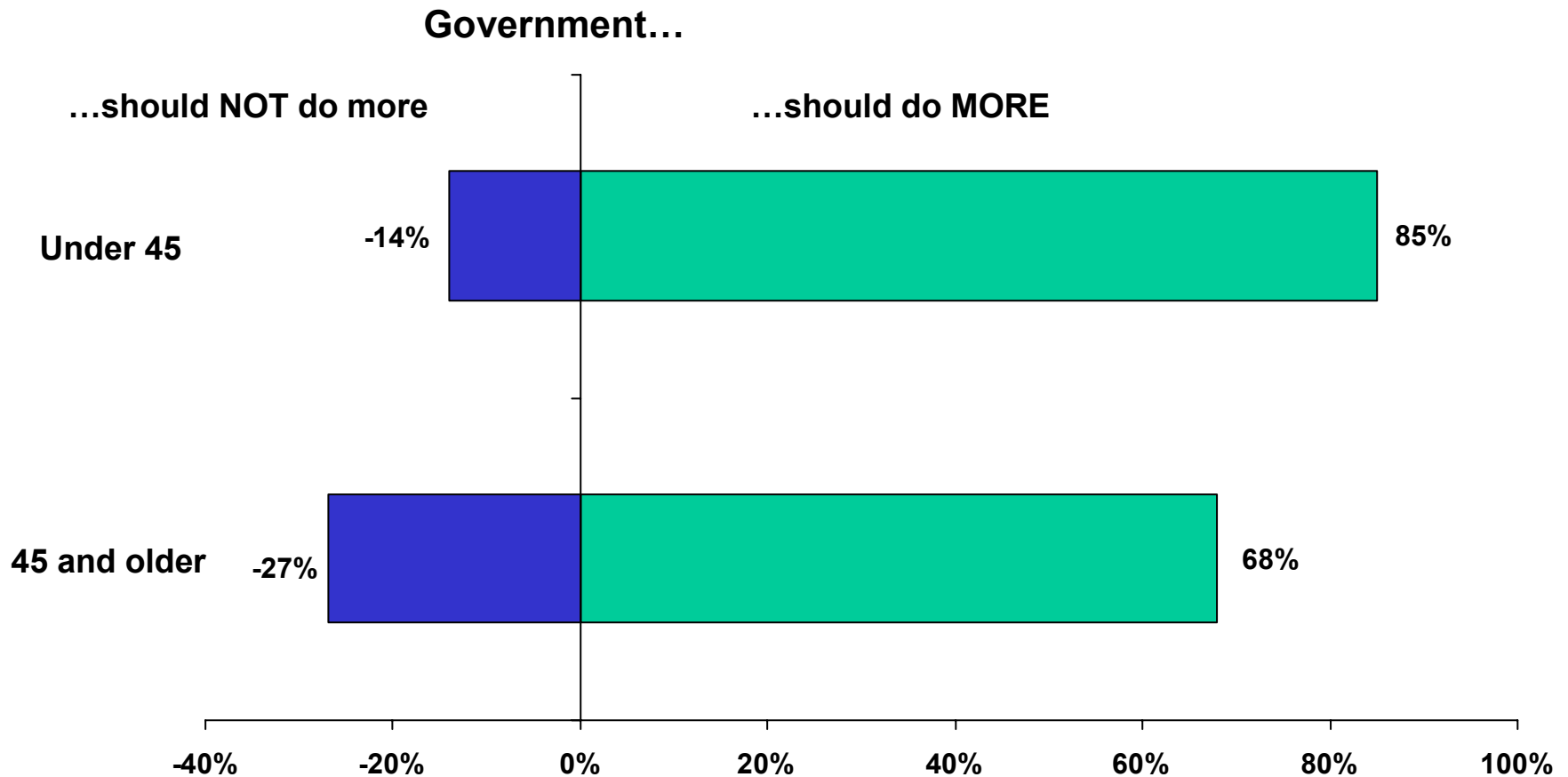


*Men are also supportive of government doing more (74 percent more, 22 percent no for men; 73 percent more, 19 percent no for women)



Younger voters, those under 45 years old, are much more likely to believe that the government should do MORE to help working families.

Should the government do MORE to help working families, or should the government NOT do more?

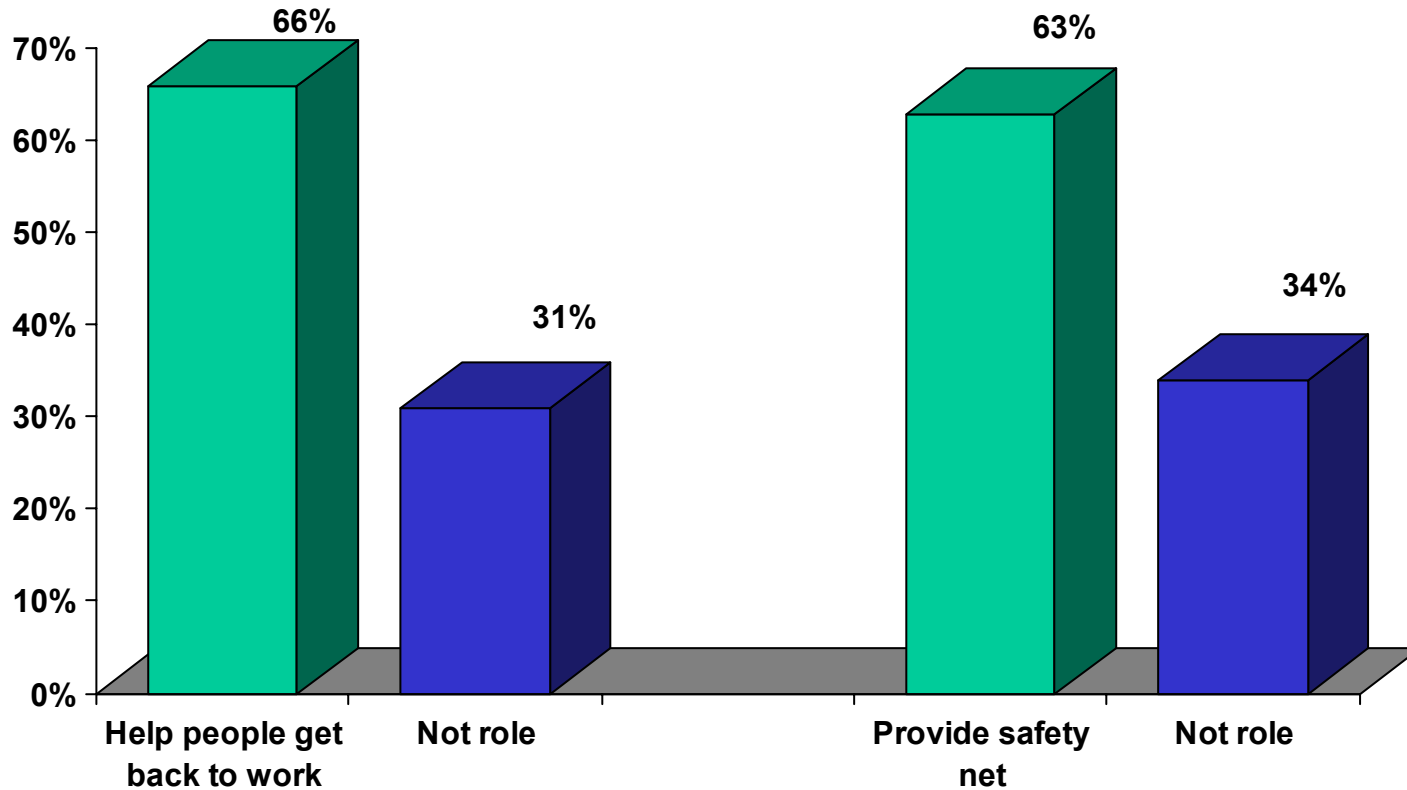




Voters solidly support the government providing a safety net for people, as well as helping people get back to work. Sixty-six percent believe the government should help people get back to work, and 63 percent of voters believe government should provide a safety net for people.

Should the government help people get back to work or is this not really government's role? (Split-sampled question—asked of only half of respondents)

Should the government provide a safety net for people or is this not really government's role? (Split-sampled question—asked of only half of respondents)

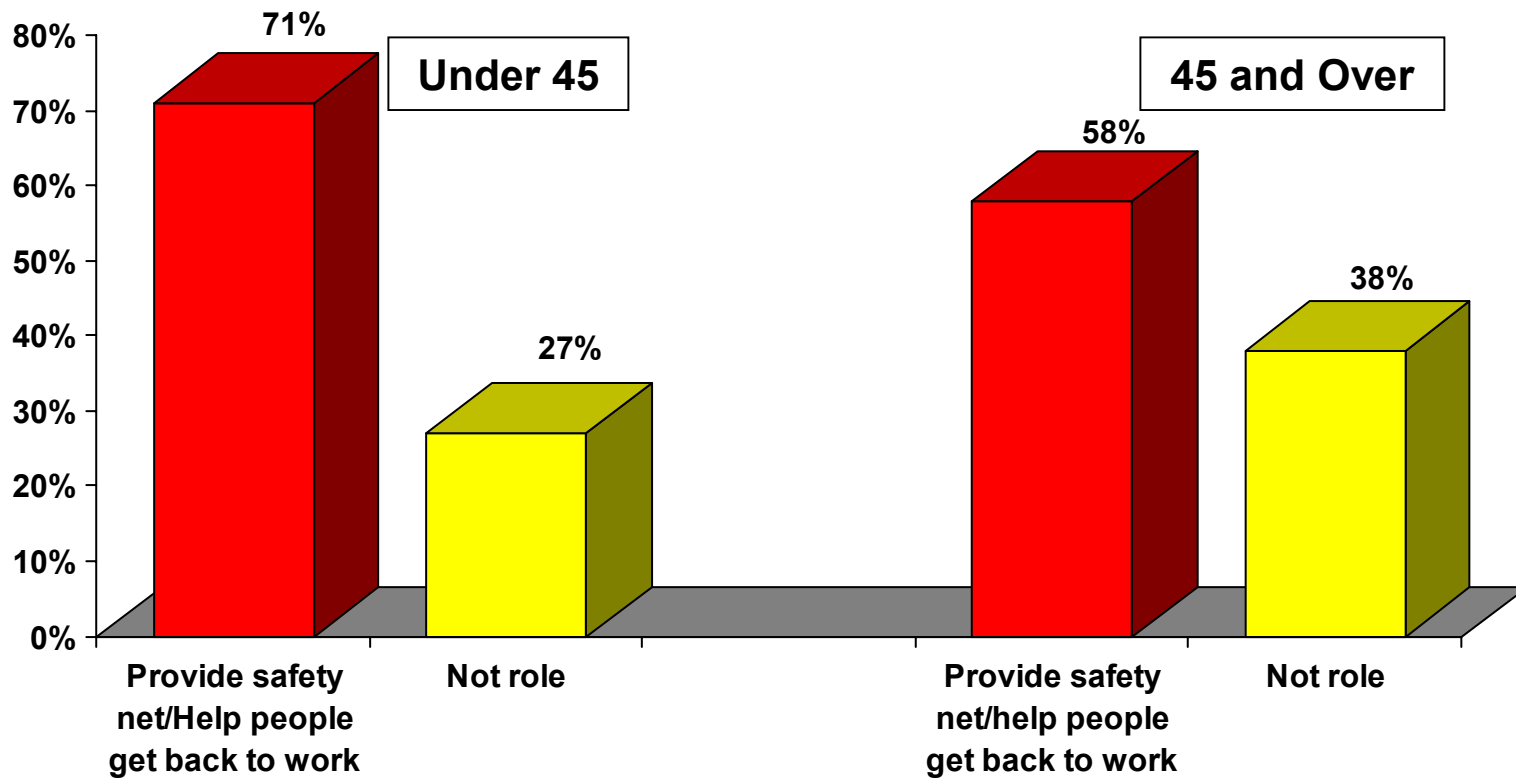


Only voters with incomes over \$75,000 do not have a majority in favor of government role in providing a safety net, but these do believe government should help people get back to work.



Again, younger voters are more likely than their older counterparts to support an active role for government.

Should the government help people get back to work or is this not really government's role?
AND should the government provide a safety net for people or is this not really government's role? (Combined questions)

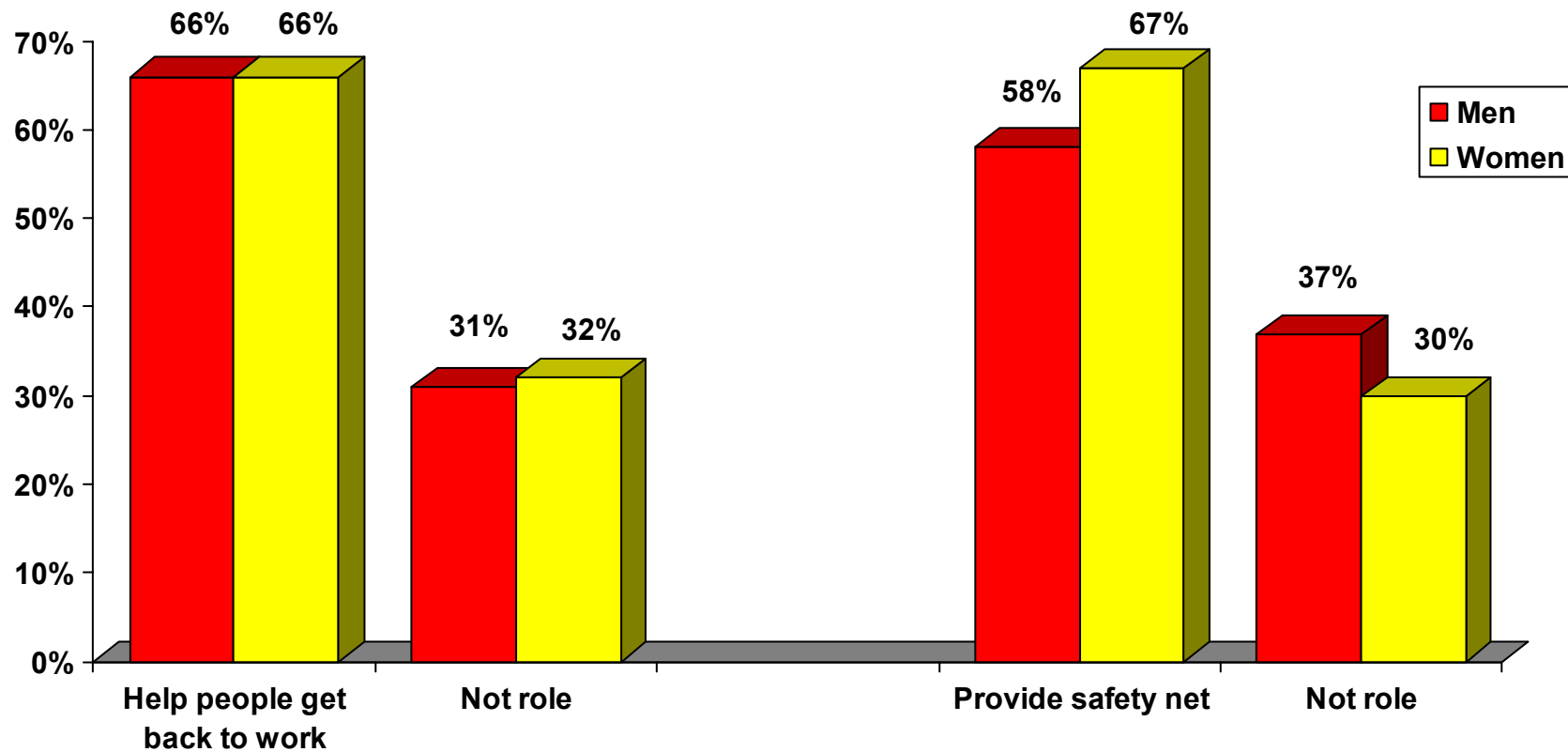


*Younger voters are slightly more likely to see role for getting people back to work (+48) than being a safety net (+40).



While men and women equally support government helping people get back to work, women are much more supportive of government providing a safety net than men.

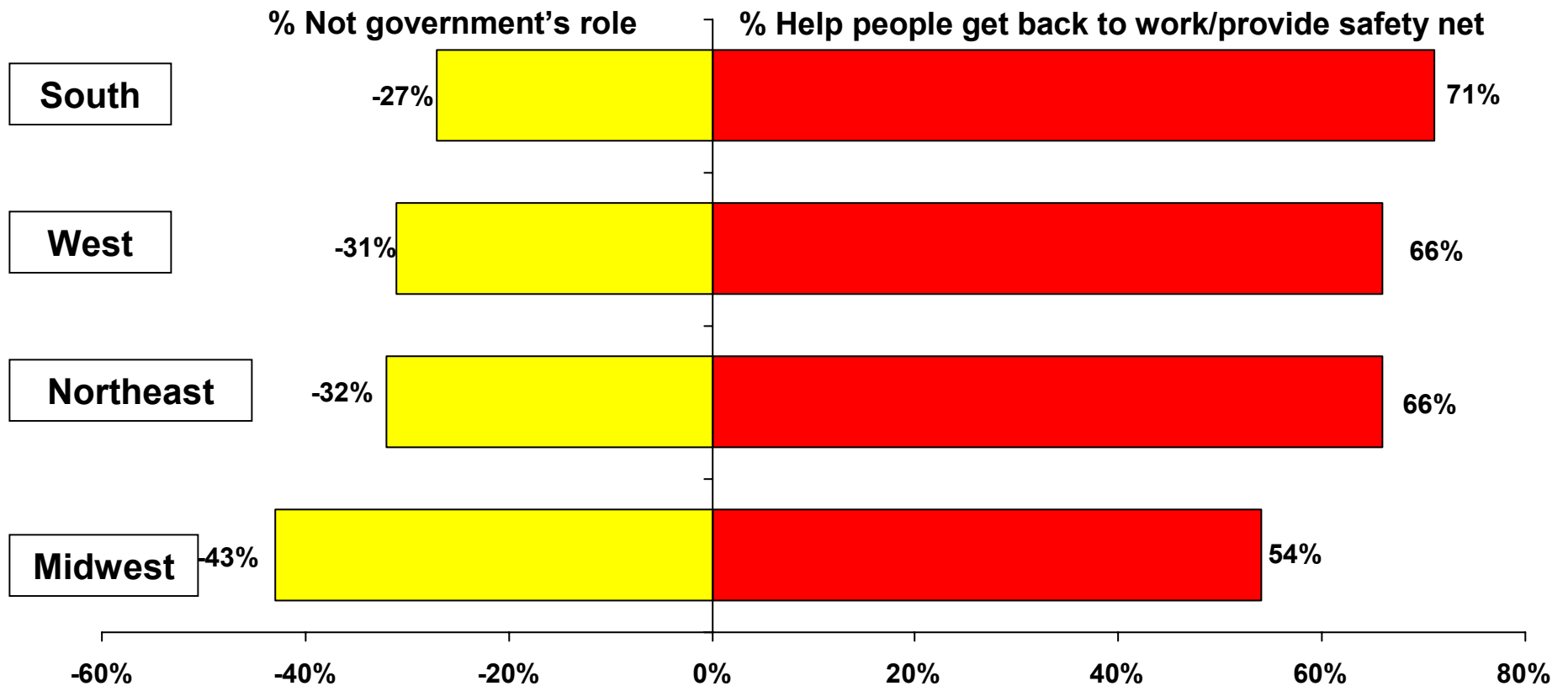
Should the government help people get back to work or is this not really government's role?
AND should the government provide a safety net for people or is this not really government's role? (Combined questions)





Interestingly, the South is even more pro-government than we have traditionally seen, while the Midwest is less likely to see a role for government.

Should the government help people get back to work or is this not really government's role? AND should the government provide a safety net for people or is this not really government's role? (Combined questions)

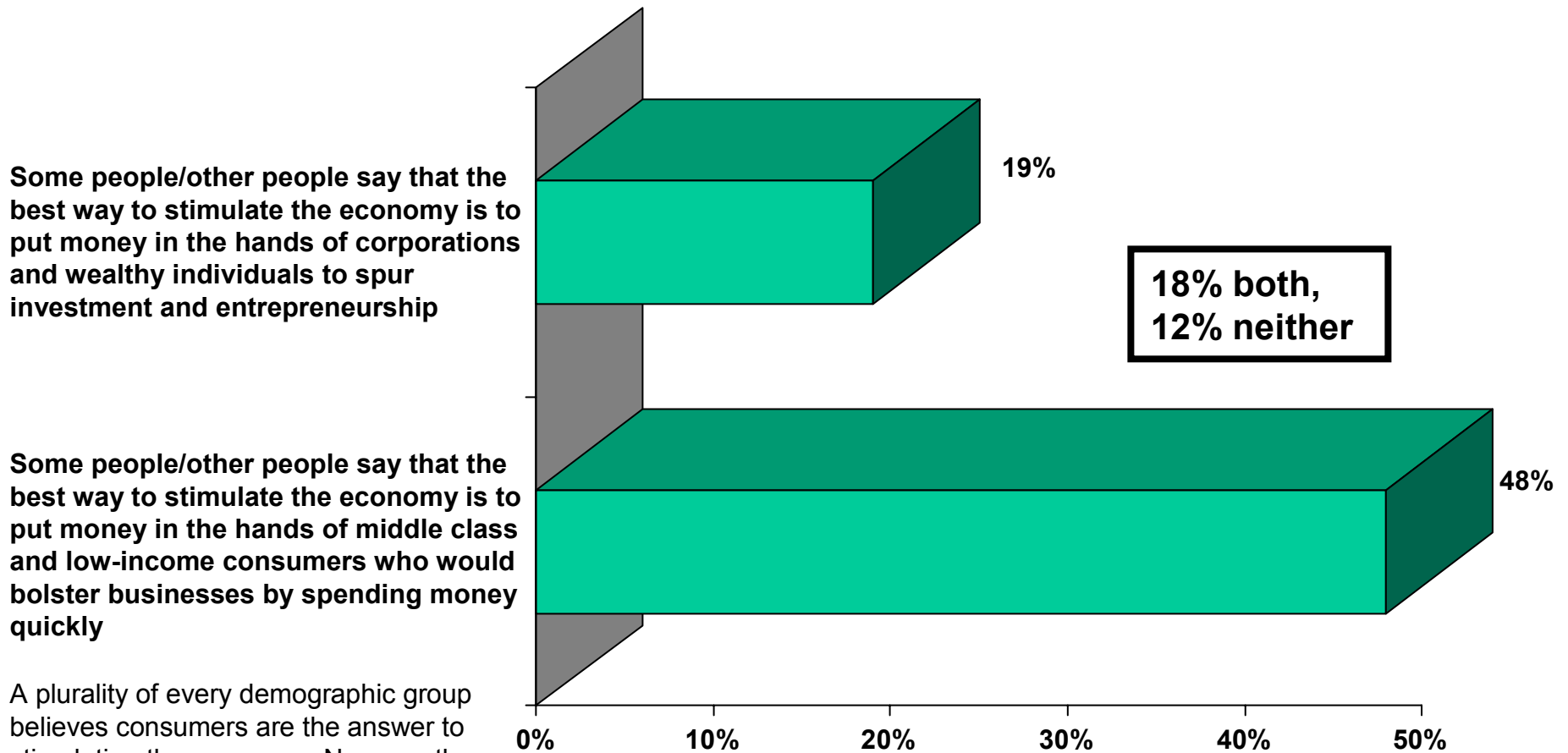


*The South and West see more of a role in getting people back to work (+51 and +44, respectively), than providing a safety net (+38 and +27 respectively). The Northeast is more likely to see a role for a safety net (+41) than back to work (+27), while the Midwest is less likely to see a government role for either (+10 safety net, and +12 get back to work).



Voters think the answer to stimulating the economy lies with consumers rather than business. Nearly half of voters believe the best way to stimulate the economy is to put money in the hands of the consumers who would bolster businesses by spending money quickly rather than to put money in the hands of corporations and wealthy individuals to spur investment and entrepreneurship.

Please tell me which statement comes closer to your own point of view.

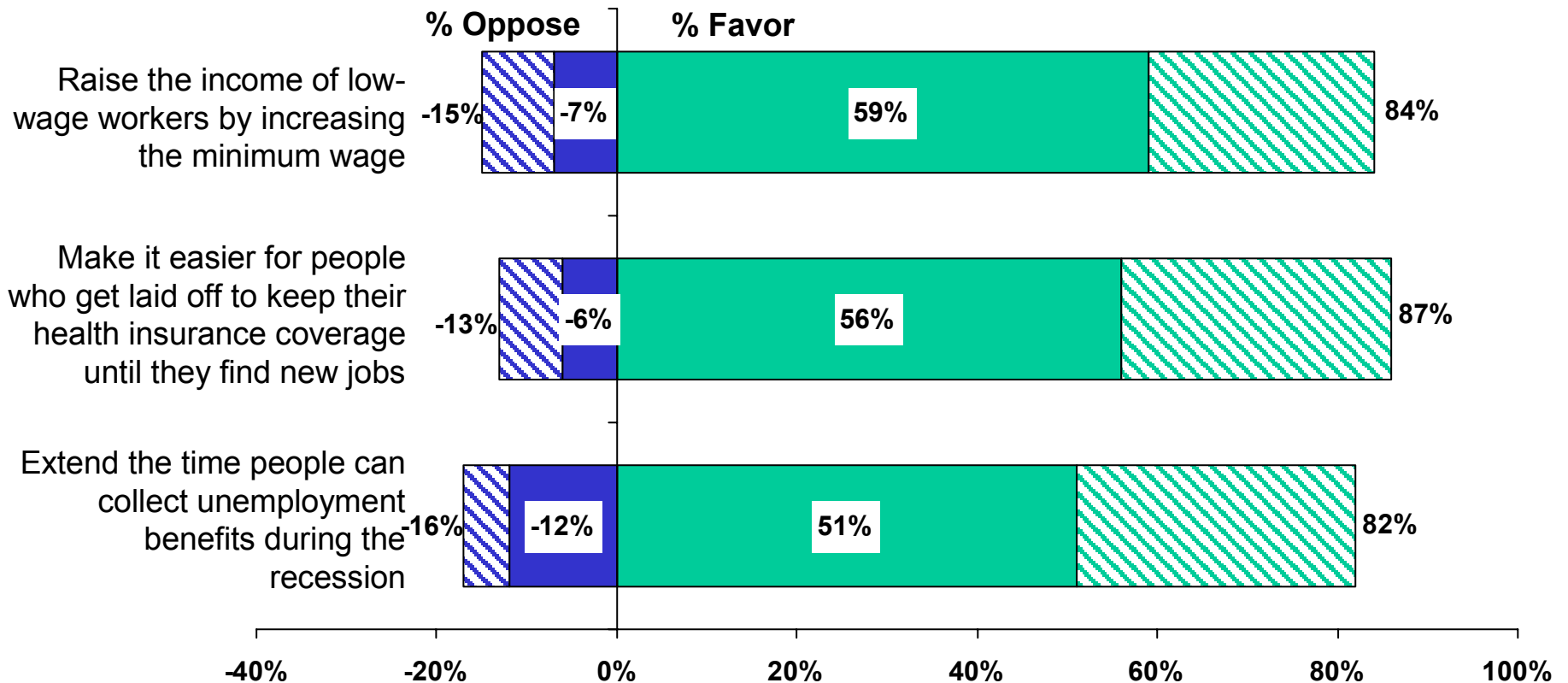


A plurality of every demographic group believes consumers are the answer to stimulating the economy. No more than a quarter of any group favors businesses and the wealthy to stimulate the economy.



On a first tier of proposals to stimulate the economy, voters favor raising the minimum wage for low-wage workers, making it easier for people who get laid off to keep their health insurance coverage until they find new jobs, and extending the time people can collect unemployment benefits during the recession.

Now let me read you some proposals that have been suggested to stimulate the economy. Please tell me if you favor or oppose each proposal. (Split-sampled questions—each asked of half of respondents)

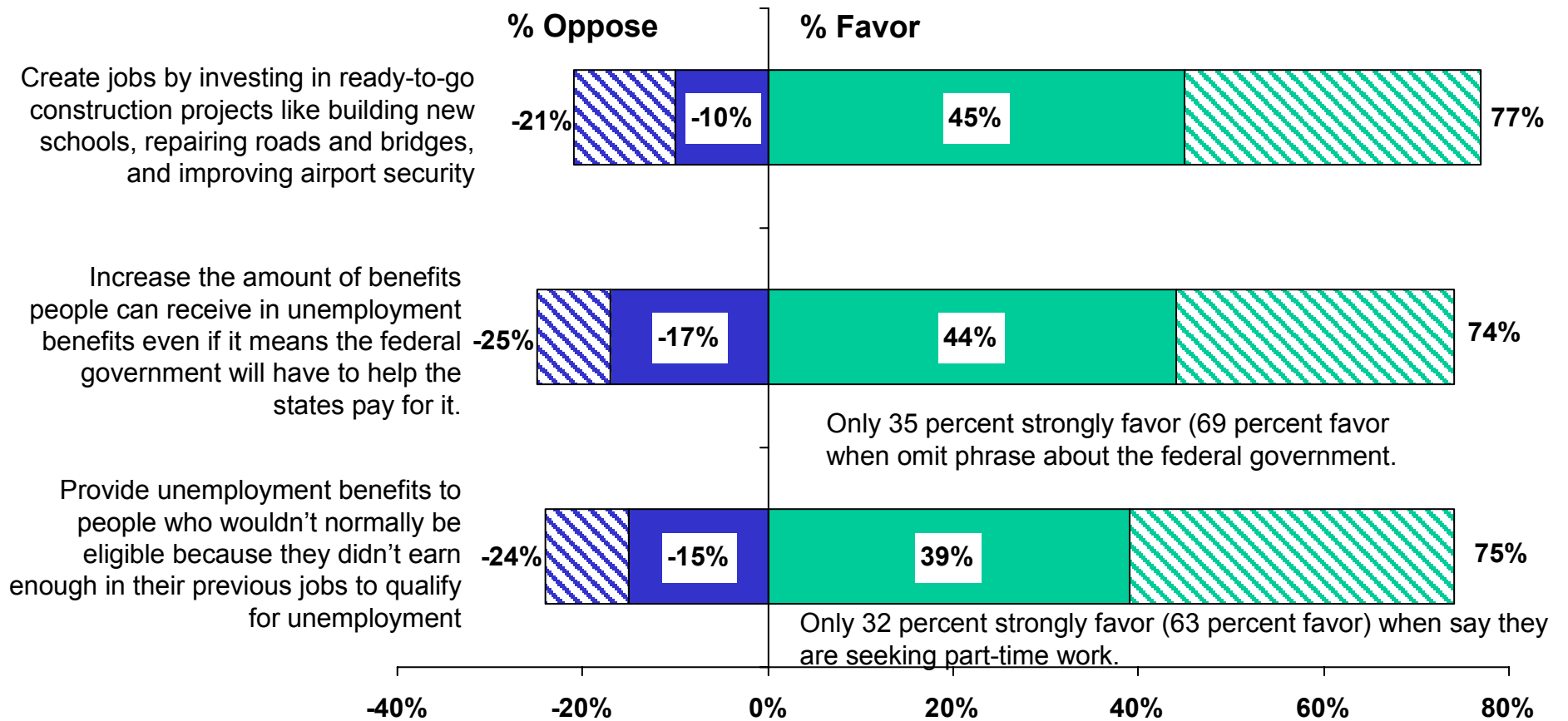


Only 38 percent strongly favor (73 percent favor) this proposal without the phrase “during the recession.”



On a second tier, voters favor investing in construction projects, increasing the amount of benefits people can receive in unemployment benefits, and providing unemployment benefits to people not currently eligible.

Now let me read you some proposals that have been suggested to stimulate the economy. Please tell me if you favor or oppose each proposal. (Split-sampled questions—each asked of half of respondents)



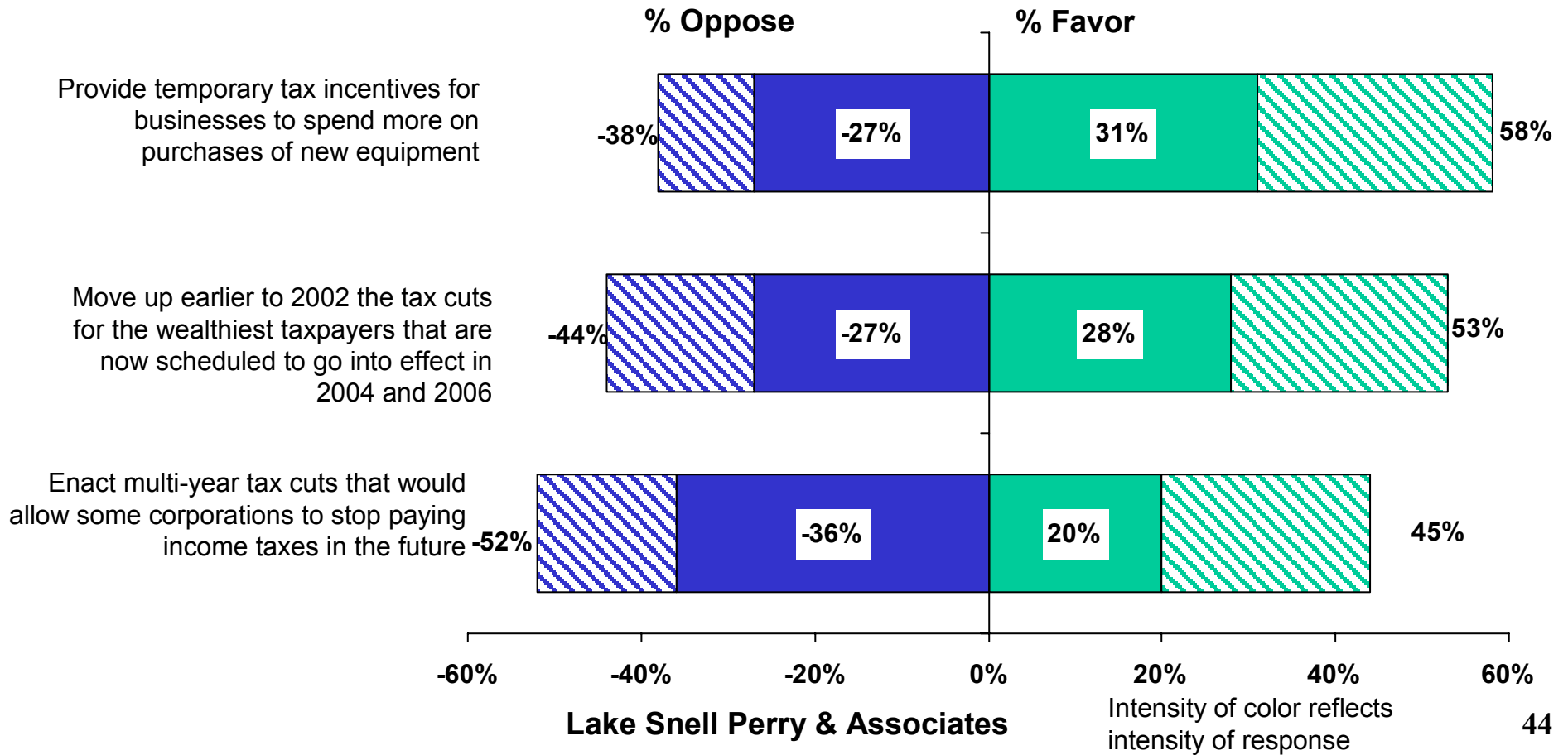
Lake Snell Perry & Associates

Intensity of color reflects intensity of response



On a third tier, voters place tax incentives for businesses and tax cuts for the wealthiest taxpayers, which a majority still support. Only a slight majority oppose enacting multi-year tax cuts that allow some corporations to stop paying income taxes.

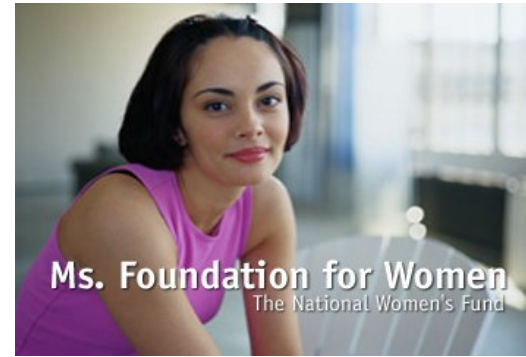
Now let me read you some proposals that have been suggested to stimulate the economy. Please tell me if you favor or oppose each proposal. (Split-sampled questions—each asked of half of respondents)





There is some variation by education, age and gender on voters' top proposals.

- Though the top proposals for women and men are the same, women are more favorable toward them— increasing the minimum wage (61 percent strongly favor for women, 57 percent for men), and making it easier for laid-off workers to keep health care (59 percent strongly favor for women, 54 percent for men).
- The top proposal for non-college voters is making it easier for laid-off workers to keep healthcare (58 percent strongly favor), while the top proposal for college-educated voters is increasing the minimum wage (64 percent strongly favor).
- Younger and older voters are equally supportive of their top proposals—increasing the minimum wage (61 percent strongly favor for younger voters, 60 percent for older), and making it easier for laid-off workers to keep healthcare (57 percent strongly favor for each). However, older voters add as a close third and fourth proposal extending the time people can collect unemployment benefits during the recession (56 percent strongly favor) and increasing the amount of benefits even if government has to pay (51 percent strongly favor), which are less intensely supported by younger voters (47 percent and 37 percent strongly favor, respectively).



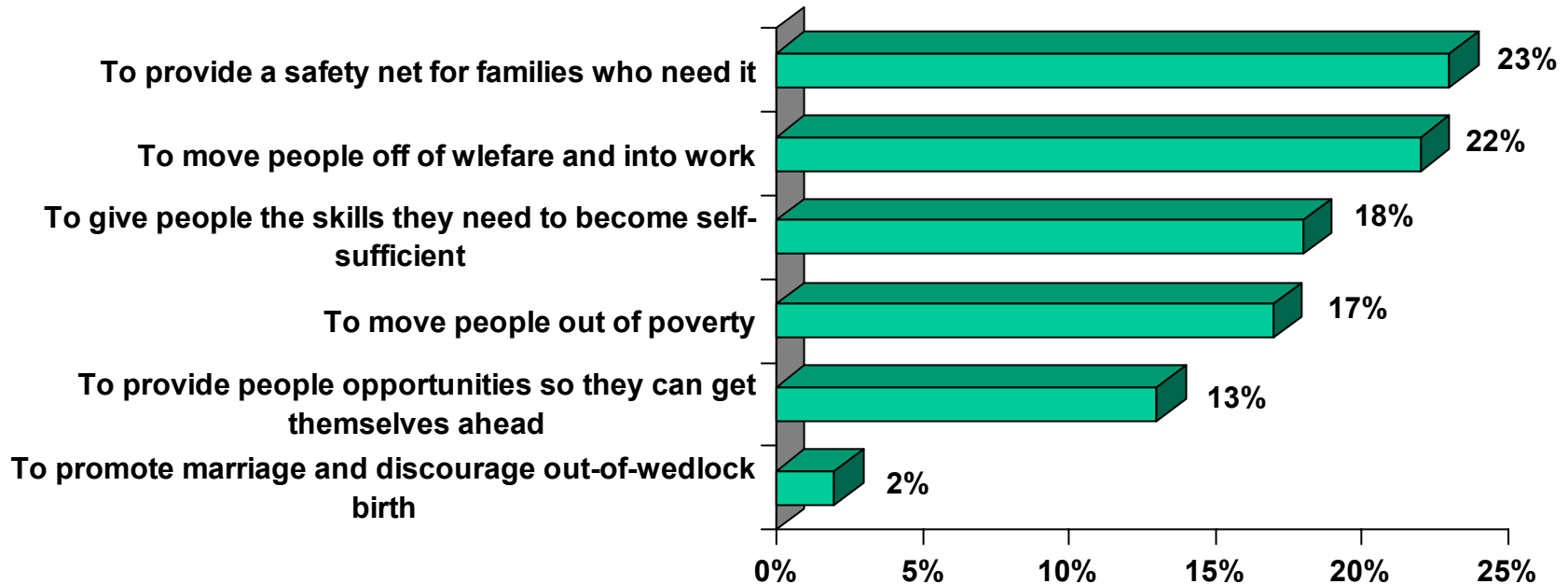
Welfare

Strive for Self-Sufficiency



Voters have diffuse perceptions of the current goals of the welfare system. Voters are torn between whether the principal goal of the welfare system is to provide a safety net for families who need it or to move people off of welfare and into work. Only 2 percent believe the goal is to promote marriage and discourage out-of-wedlock birth.

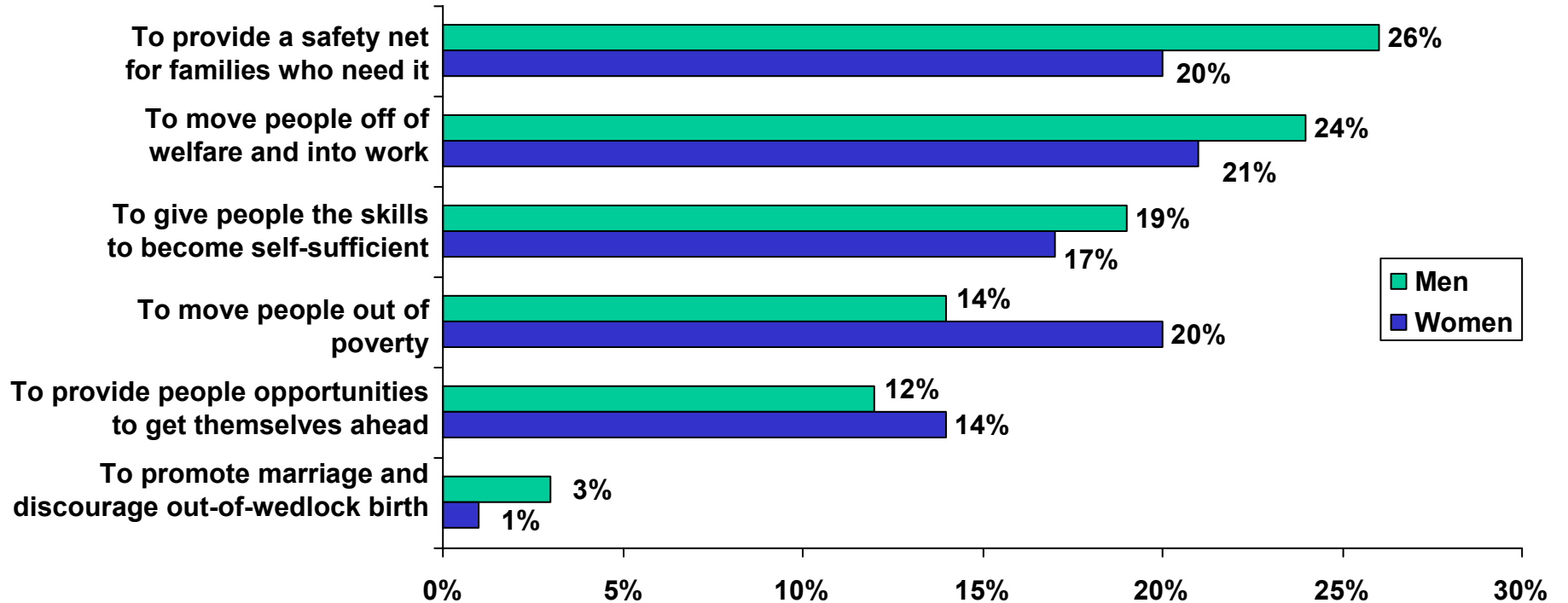
Of the following, what do you think is the PRINCIPAL goal of the welfare system today in this country?





There is a slight gender gap in the perceptions of welfare. Men see the principal goal as providing a safety net and moving people off of welfare, while women split in their vision of the principal goal between providing a safety net, moving people off of welfare, and moving people out of poverty.

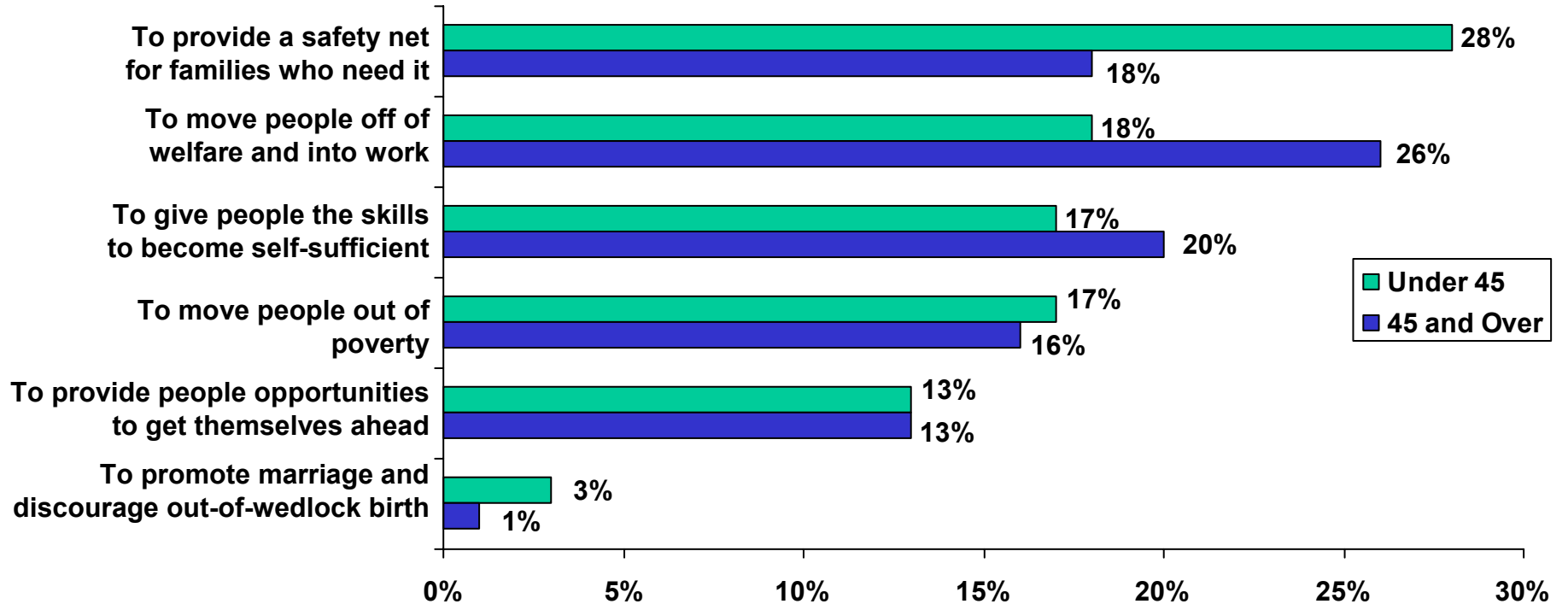
Of the following, what do you think is the PRINCIPAL goal of the welfare system today in this country?





Younger voters see the goal of the welfare system as providing a safety net, while older voters say it is to move people off of welfare.

Of the following, what do you think is the PRINCIPAL goal of the welfare system today in this country?

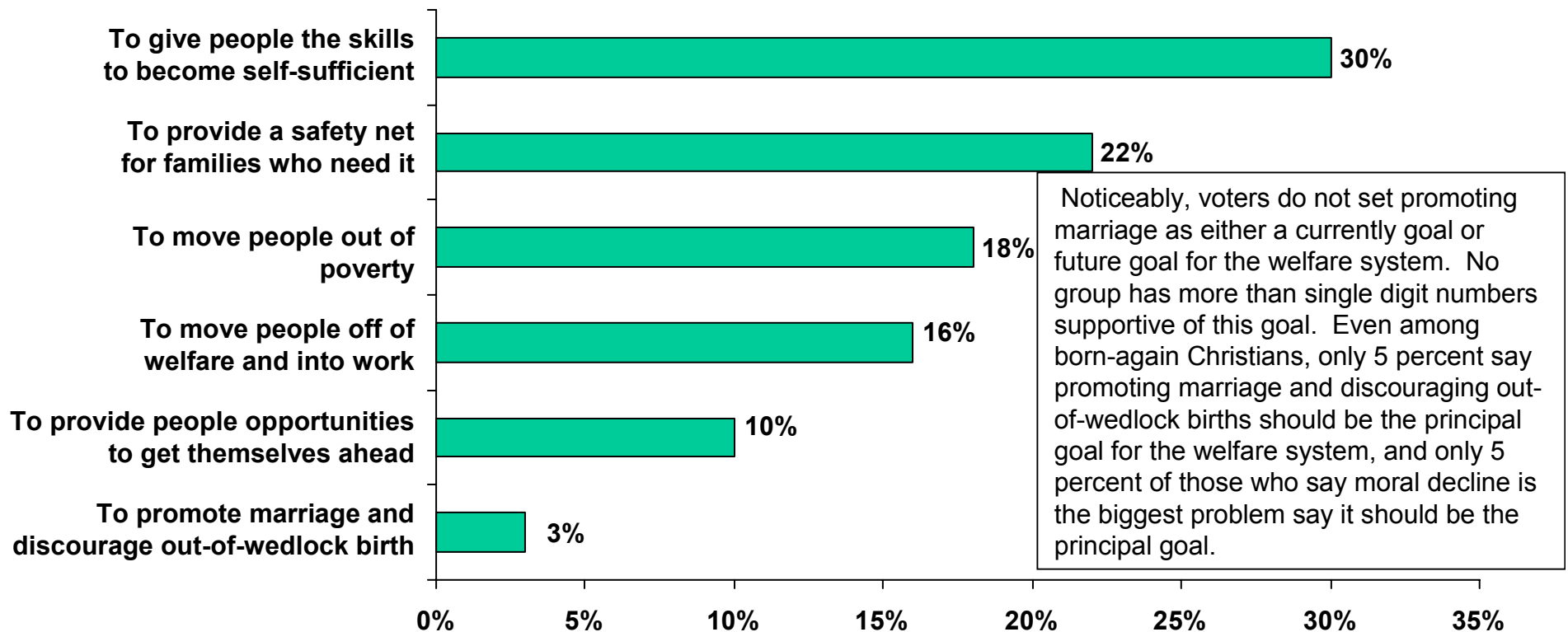


Seniors are much less likely to see the goal as providing a safety net (5 percent) and are much more likely to see the goal as moving people off of welfare and into work (32 percent).



While there is a diffuse agenda for what people see as the current goal of the welfare system, there is more cohesiveness surrounding the goal voters have for what the welfare system SHOULD be. There is real support for self-sufficiency as the principal goal for what the welfare system should be, while only three percent believe it should be to promote marriage.

Of the following, what do you think the principal goal of the welfare system SHOULD be in this country?

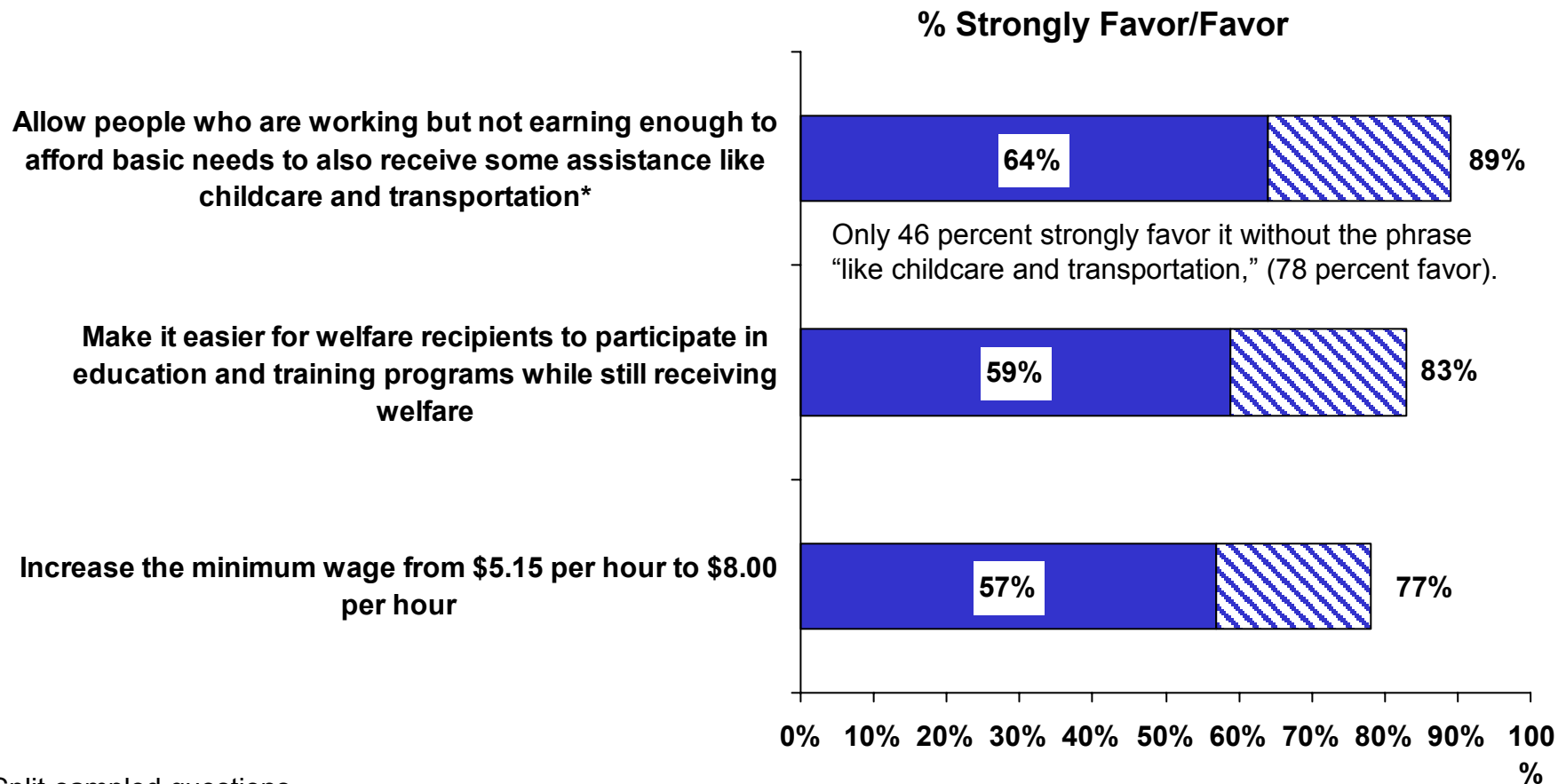


Nearly every demographic subgroup places giving people the skills they need to become self-sufficient and providing a safety net as what the top goals of the welfare system should be. Only married fathers, born again Christians and suburban voters make moving people out of poverty as one of their top two goals.



The best proposals to help low-income families focus on providing recipients with ongoing assistance and education and training. They also see an increase in the minimum wage as a way to help these families. Being specific in the area of assistance is better than the general statement.

Now let me read you some proposals that other people have said would help low-income working families. Please tell me if you favor or oppose each proposal.

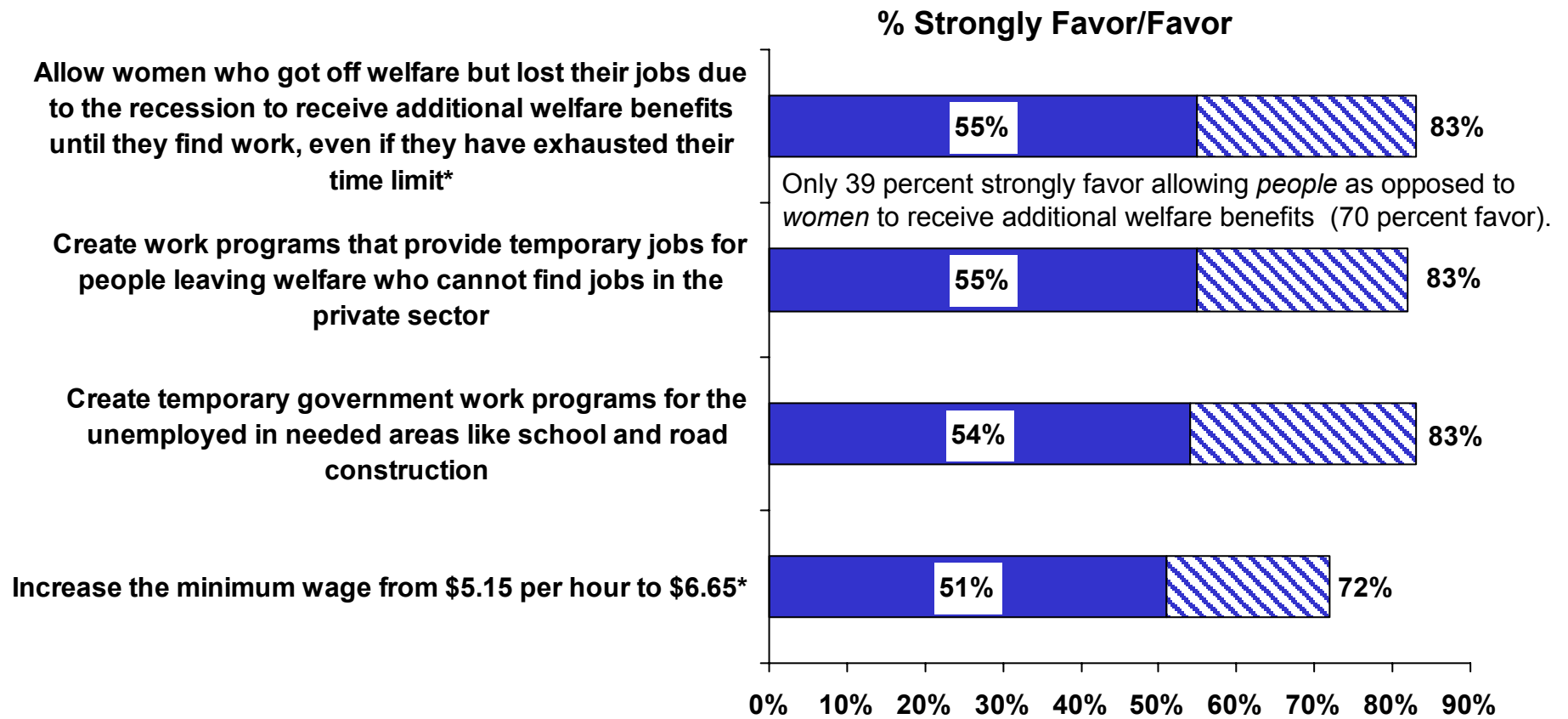


*Split-sampled questions—asked of half of respondents



On a second tier, voters support proposals for women who have lost their jobs to receive welfare benefits even if they have exhausted their time limits, creating work programs for people getting off welfare, and work programs for the unemployed in needed areas like school and road construction and increasing the minimum wage to \$6.65 per hour.

Now let me read you some proposals that other people have said would help low-income working families. Please tell me if you favor or oppose each proposal.

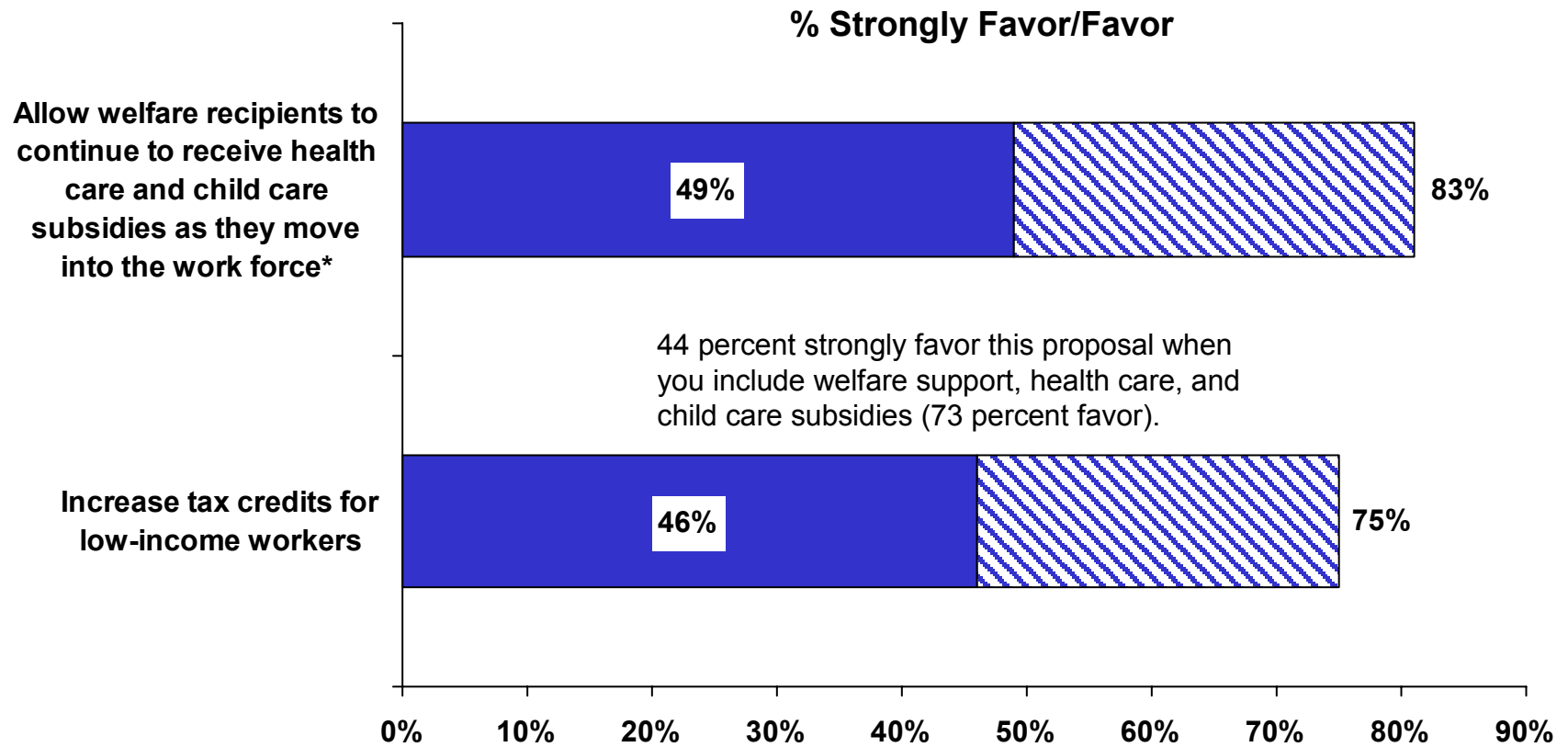


*Split-sampled questions—asked of half of respondents



On a third tier, but still with strong support, voters support allowing welfare recipients to continue to receive health care and child care subsidies as they move to the work force, and increasing tax credits for low-income workers.

Now let me read you some proposals that other people have said would help low-income working families. Please tell me if you favor or oppose each proposal.



*Split-sampled questions—asked of half of respondents

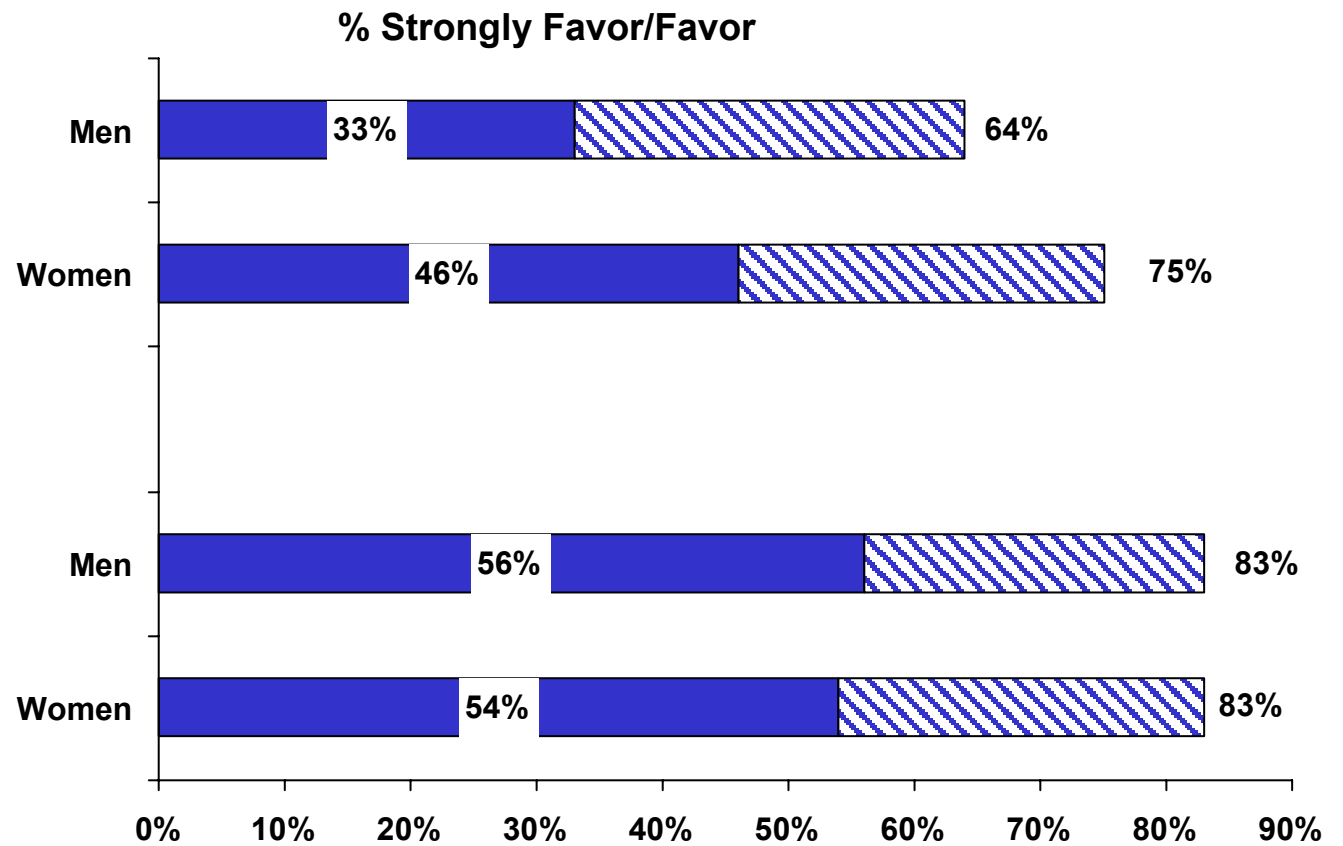


Men tend to make a bigger distinction than women about whether “people” or just “women” are allowed additional benefits if they lose their jobs, even if they have exhausted their time limits.

Now let me read you some proposals that other people have said would help low-income working families. Please tell me if you favor or oppose each proposal.

Allow PEOPLE who got off welfare but lost their jobs due to the recession to receive additional welfare benefits until they find work, even if they have exhausted their limits.

Allow WOMEN who got off welfare but lost their jobs due to the recession to receive additional welfare benefits until they find work, even if they have exhausted their limits.



*Split-sampled questions—asked of half of respondents



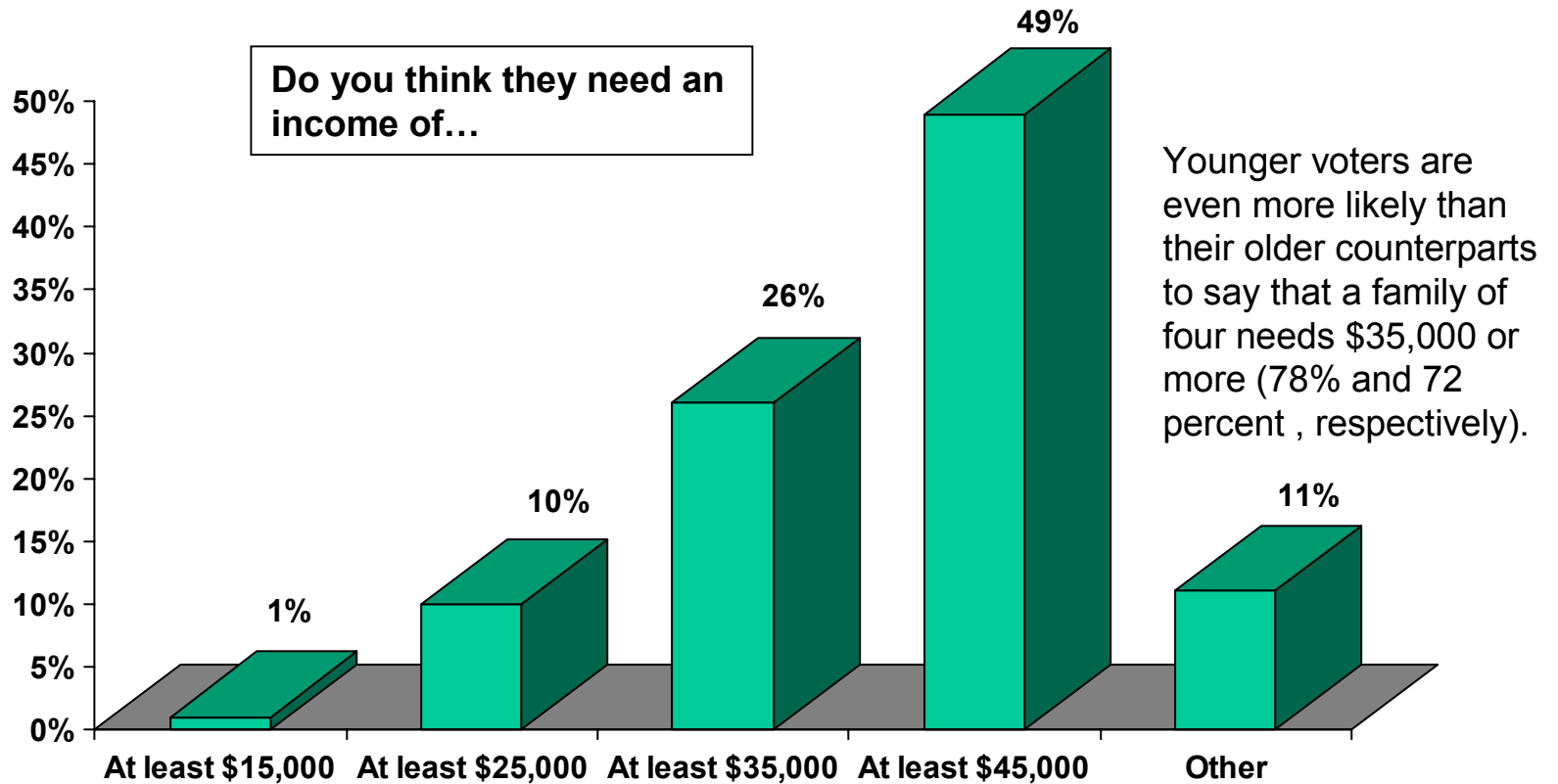
Working Families and the Minimum Wage

Strong Support for Raising the
Minimum Wage



Nearly three-quarters of voters say a family of four needs to earn \$35,000 or more a year to make ends meet. Forty-nine percent of voters say a family of four needs to earn at least \$45,000 a year to make ends meet and an additional 26 percent says it takes at least \$35,000.

How much income would you say a family of four needs to earn in a year in order to make ends meet?



Additionally, a three-quarters of voters in all income levels agree that a family of four needs \$35,000 or more a year, though voters who make less than \$40,000 are slightly more likely to think they need less than those who make over \$40,000.

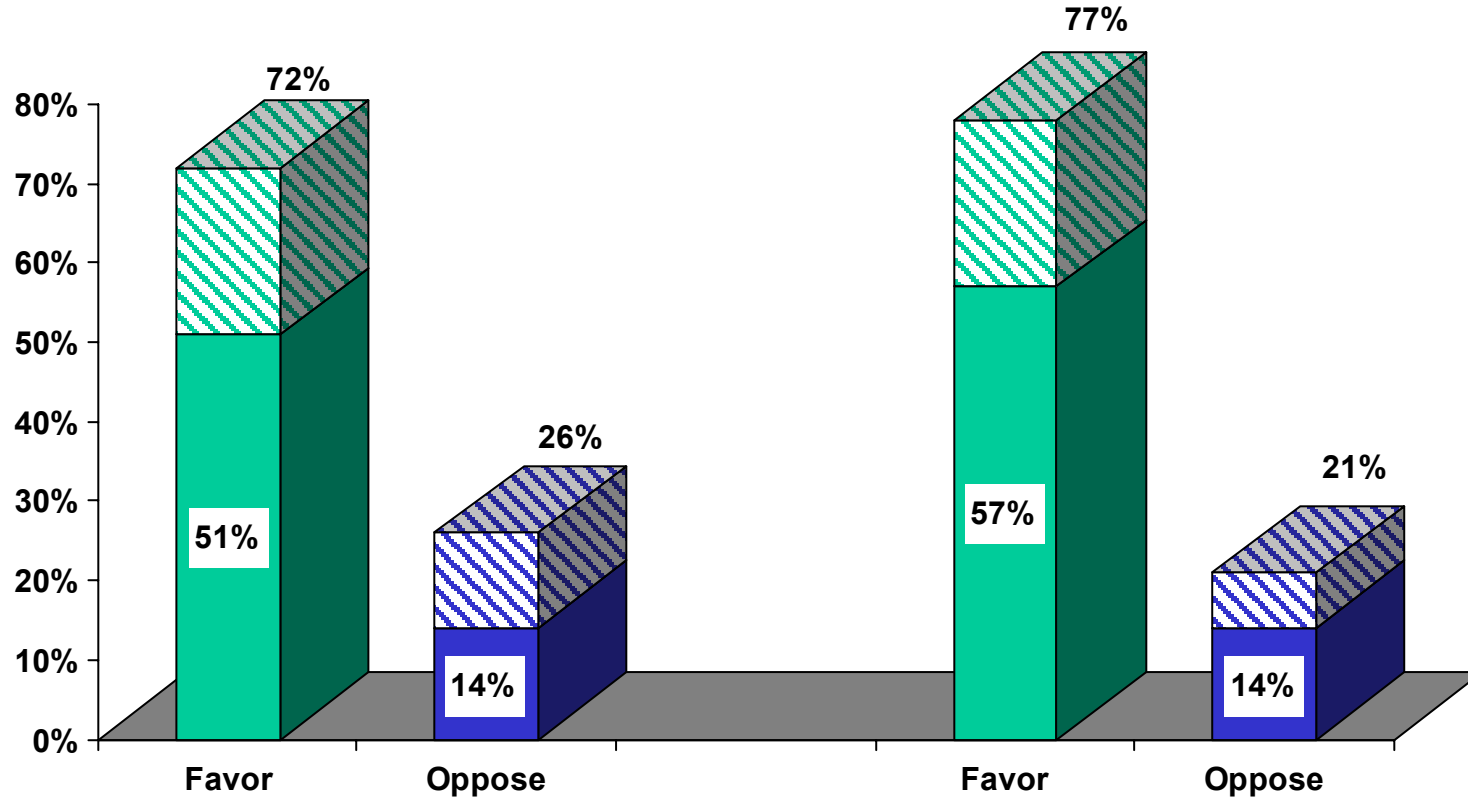


Voters are supportive of raising the minimum wage. Support is even stronger for raising it to \$8 a hour than for raising it to \$6.65 an hour.

Now let me read you some proposals that other people have said would help low-income working families. Please tell me if you favor or oppose each proposal.

Increase the minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$6.65 per hour*

Increase the minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$8.00 per hour*

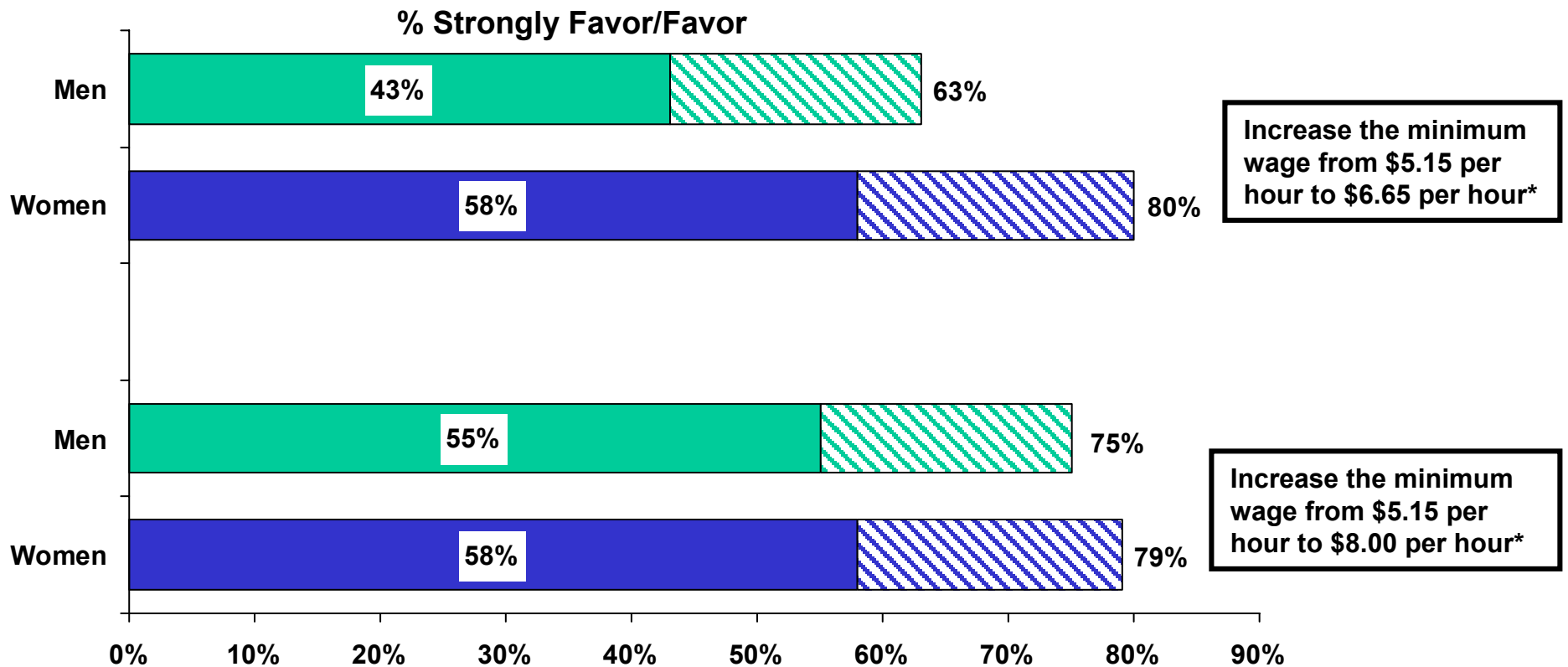


*Split-sampled questions—each asked of half of respondents



While both men and women support raising the minimum wage, men are more supportive of raising it to \$8.00 per hour.

Now let me read you some proposals that other people have said would help low-income working families. Please tell me if you favor or oppose each proposal.



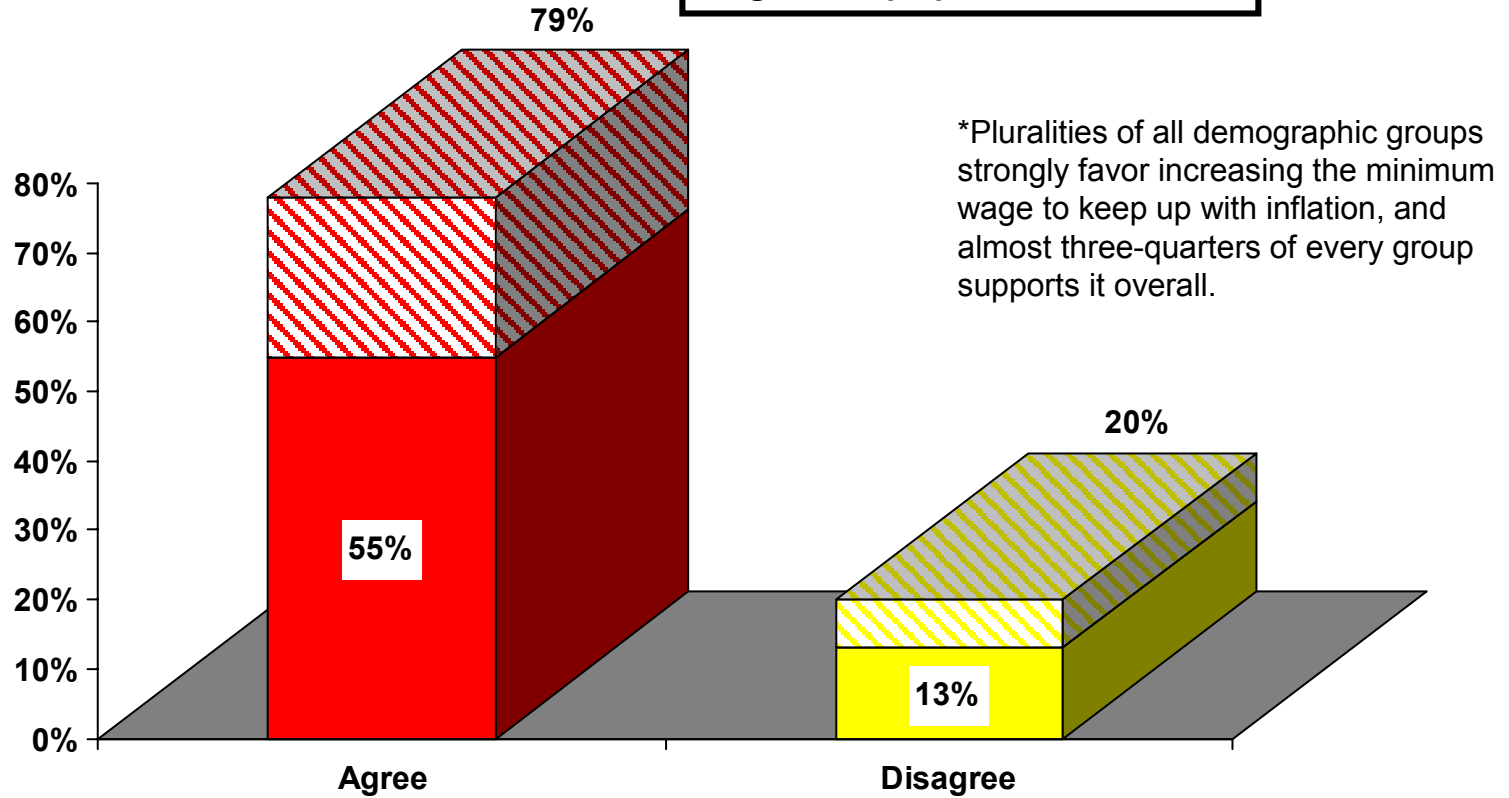
*Split-sampled questions—each asked of half of respondents



Additionally, voters favor regularly increasing the minimum wage to keep up with inflation.

Now let me read you some proposals that other people have said would help low-income working families. Please tell me if you favor or oppose each proposal.

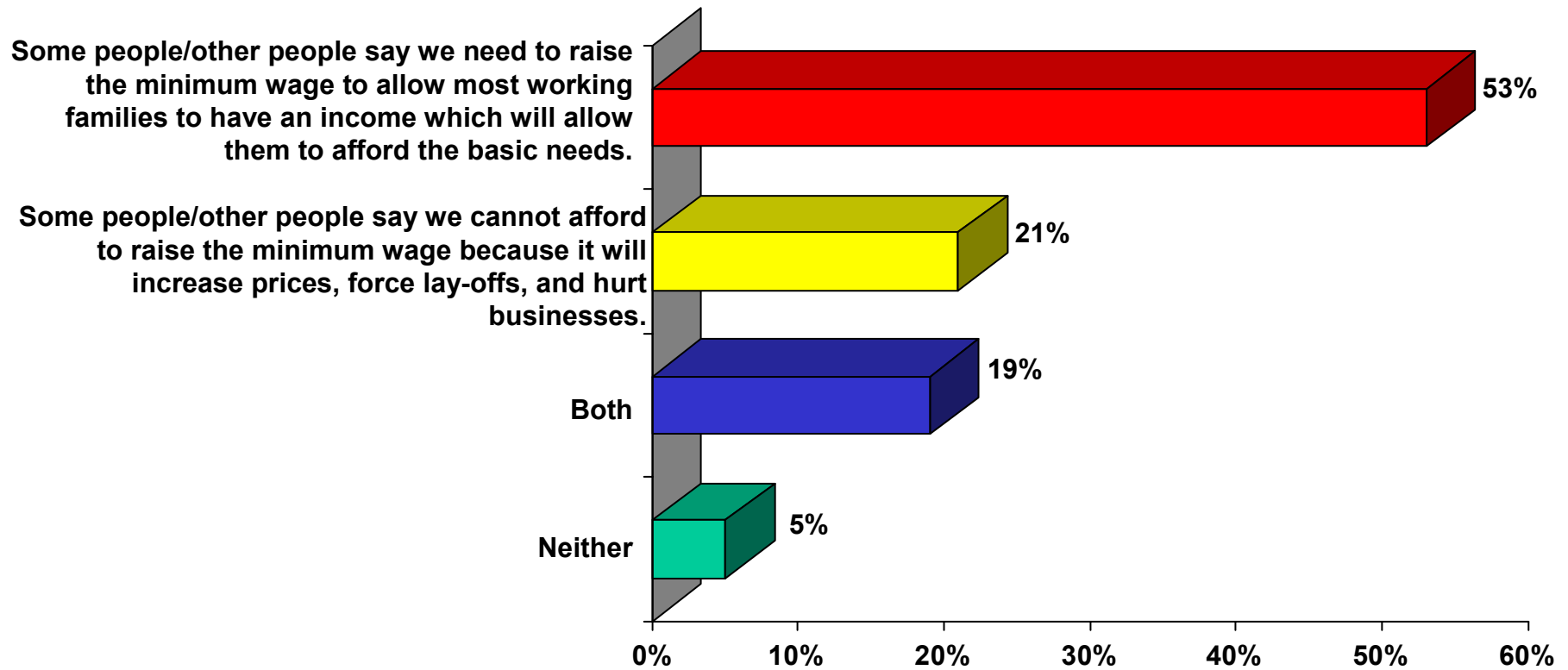
Regularly increase the minimum wage to keep up with inflation.





Even in an engaged debate people support increasing the minimum wage. Over half of voters (53 percent) agree that we need to raise the minimum wage to allow most working families to have an income which will allow them to afford the basic needs.

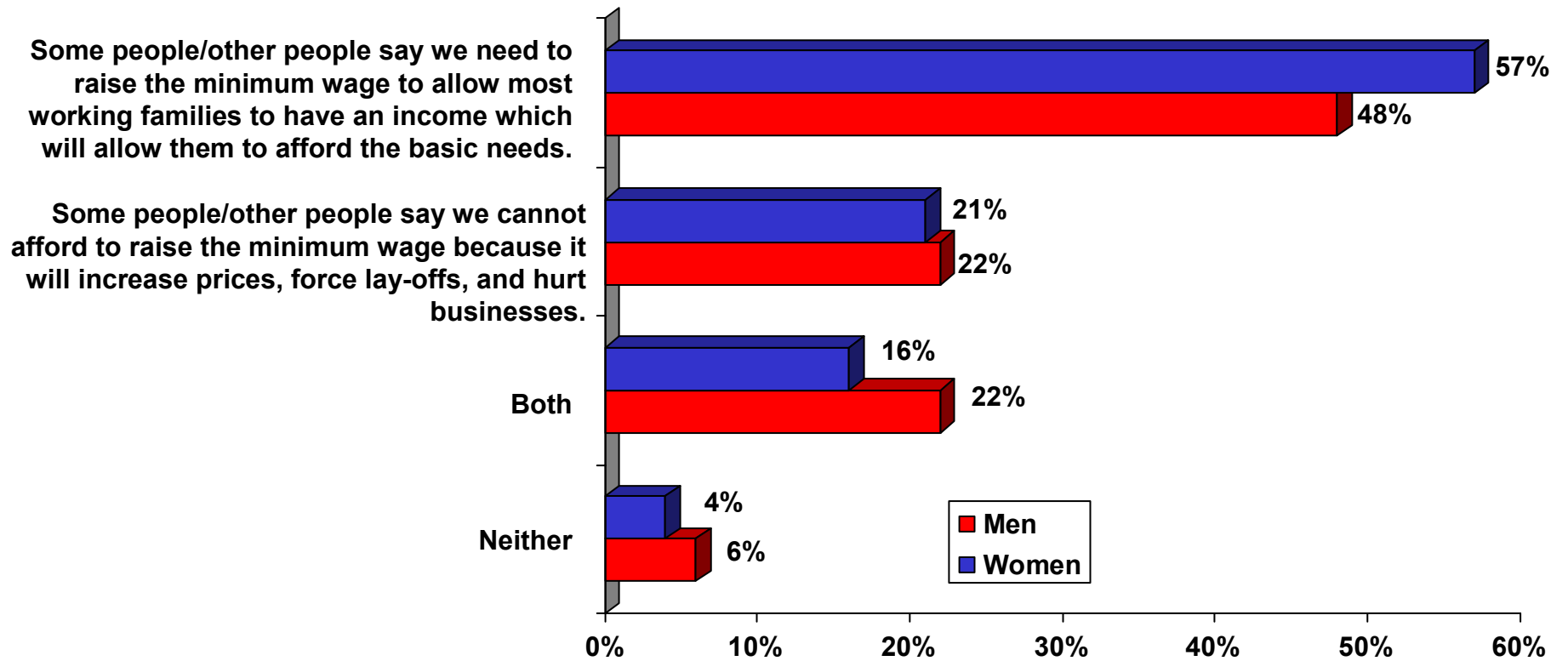
Now let me read you two statements that have been made surrounding minimum wage. Please tell me which one comes closer to your own point of view.





Every group solidly believes that we can raise the minimum wage by nearly two to one. However, women are slightly stronger than men on believing we can raise it.

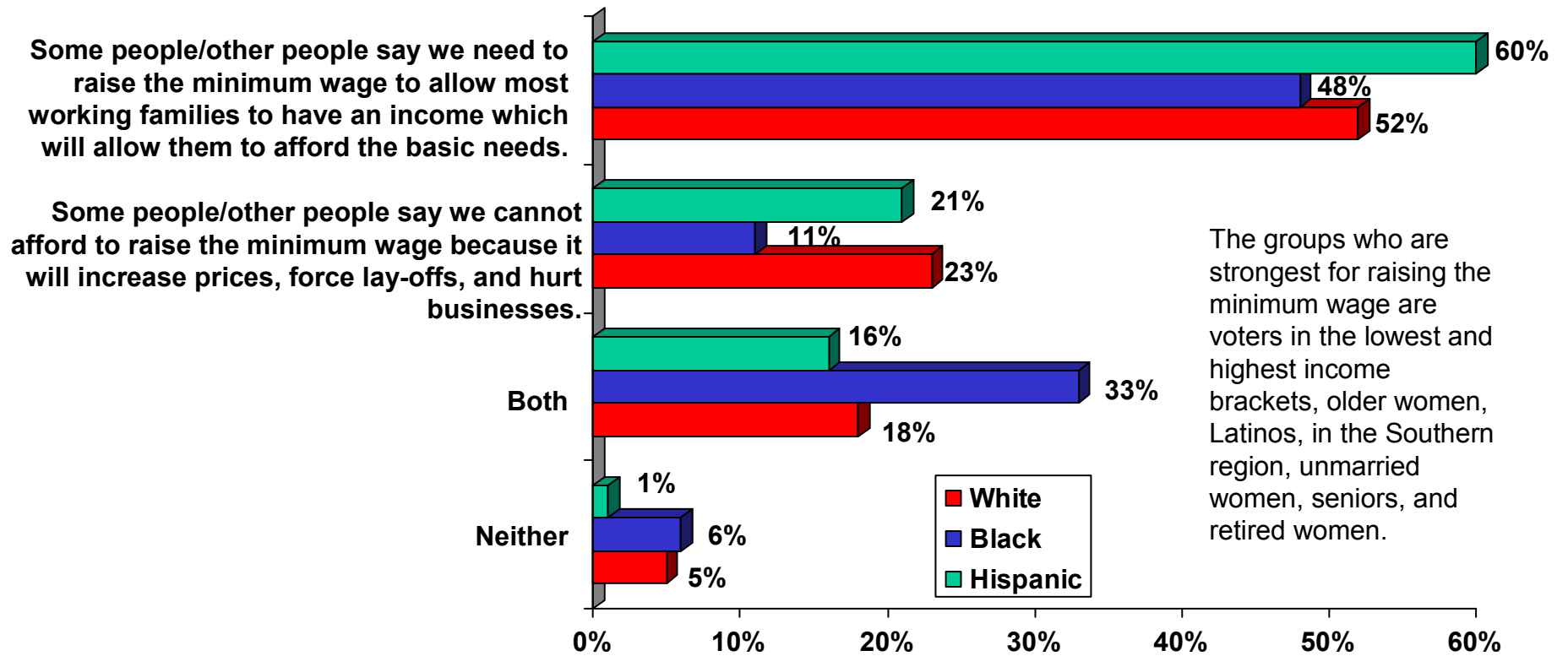
Now let me read you two statements that have been made surrounding minimum wage. Please tell me which one comes closer to your own point of view.





While all racial groups say there is a need to raise the minimum wage, Latino voters are more likely to support raising the minimum wage than whites or African-Americans.

Now let me read you two statements that have been made surrounding minimum wage. Please tell me which one comes closer to your own point of view.



The groups who are strongest for raising the minimum wage are voters in the lowest and highest income brackets, older women, Latinos, in the Southern region, unmarried women, seniors, and retired women.

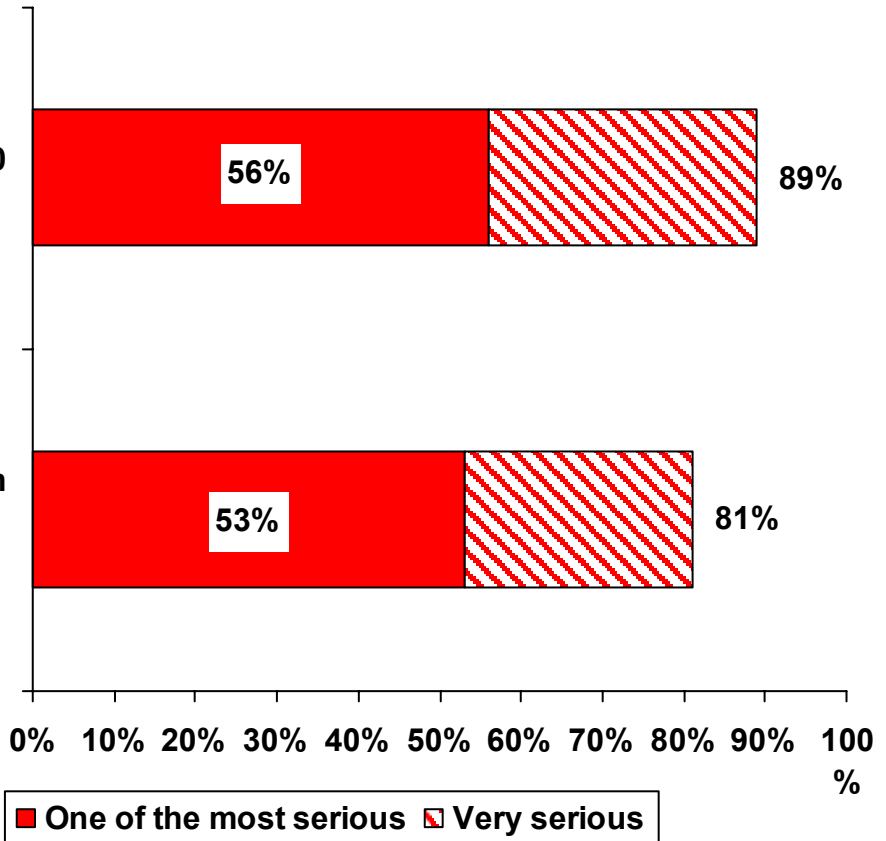


Our strongest arguments for raising the minimum wage are that full-time workers make \$14,000 less than they need for basic needs, and that Congress has raised its own pay without raising minimum wage.

Now thinking about the current economic conditions, I want you to tell me how serious of a problem each of the following is—is it one of the most serious, is it very serious, is it somewhat serious, is it not too serious, or is it not serious at all? (Split-sampled questions—each asked of half of respondents)

A family of four working two full-time minimum wage jobs will make only \$21,424 a year - more than \$14,000 less than it takes to make ends meet for food, rent, healthcare, childcare, transportation, etc.

Congress has raised its own pay in four of the last five years without increasing the minimum wage for American workers once. Members of Congress now make more than \$145,000 per year, while minimum wage workers make under \$11,000 per year.



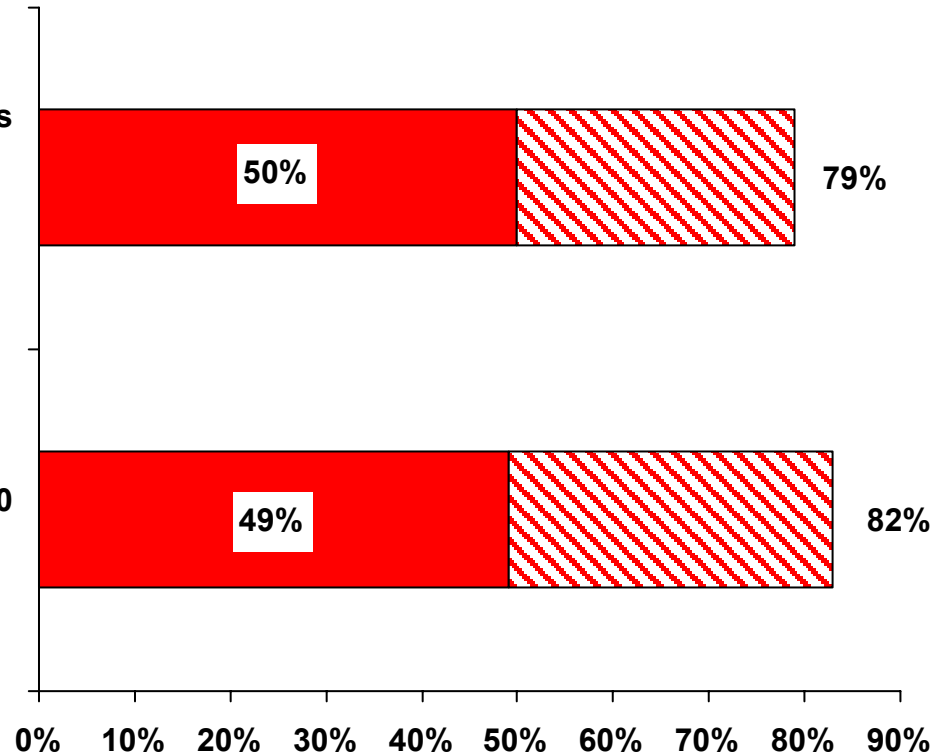


On a second tier, the arguments that CEOs make 770 times as much as low wage workers, and that a minimum wage worker has to work 100 hours a week to stay out of poverty, are slightly less convincing to voters.

Now thinking about the current economic conditions, I want you to tell me how serious of a problem each of the following is—is it one of the most serious, is it very serious, is it somewhat serious, is it not too serious, or is it not serious at all? (Split-sampled questions—each asked of half of respondents)

The wage gap between CEOs and low-wage workers has increased more than ten-fold. In 1980, CEOs made 74 times as much as low wage workers and today CEOs make 770 times as much as low wage workers

Right now, a minimum wage worker has to work 100 hours a week to keep their family out of poverty



For men over 45, the CEO argument beat out the Congressional pay raise argument, while for women, and younger men, the Congressional argument is more salient.

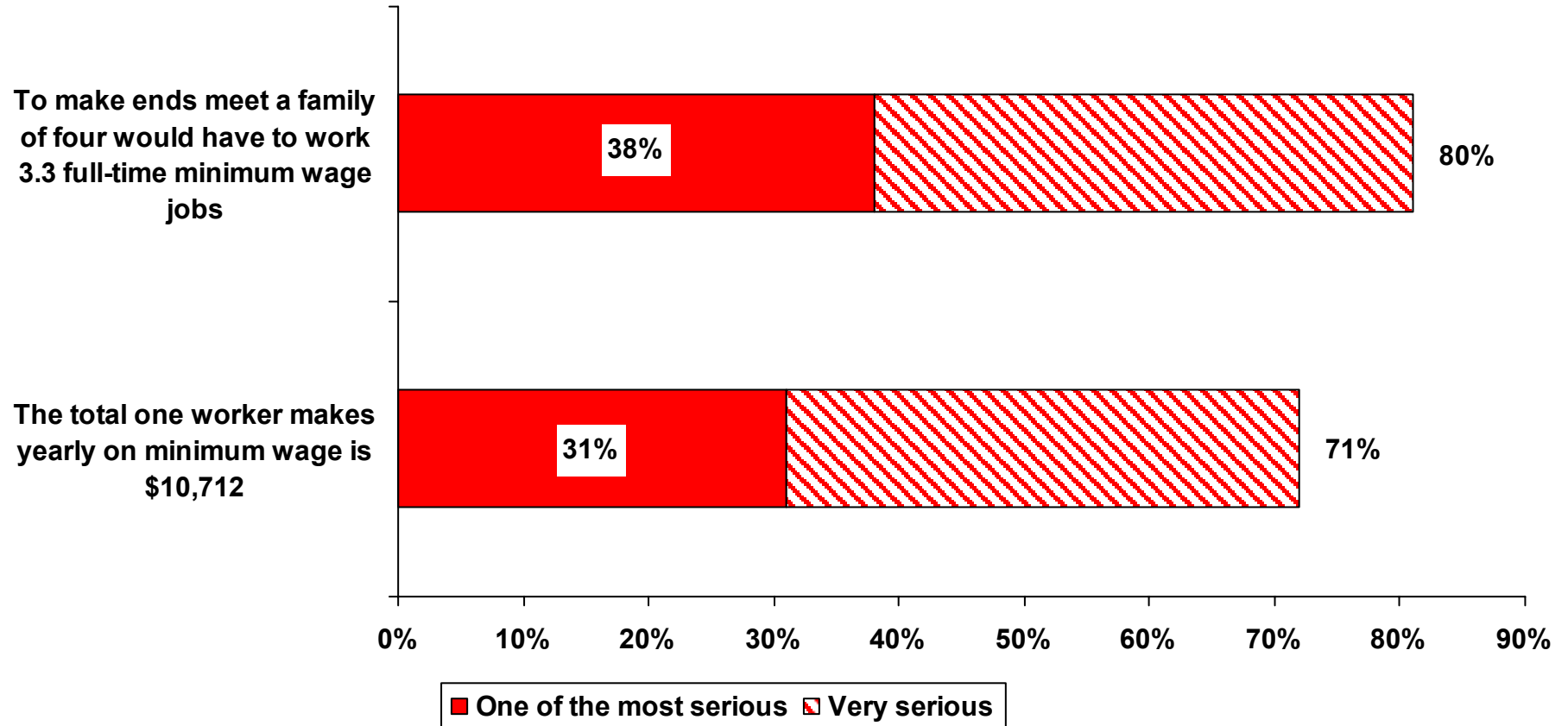
■ One of the most serious ■ Very serious

Lake Snell Perry & Associates

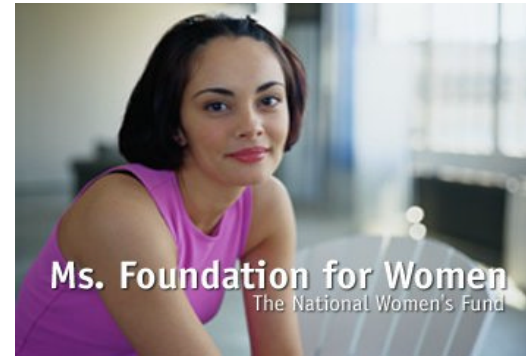


On a third tier, that a family of of four needs to work 3.3 full-time jobs to make ends meet, and that a minimum wage is \$10,712 yearly are even less convincing to voters.

Now thinking about the current economic conditions, I want you to tell me how serious of a problem each of the following is—is it one of the most serious, is it very serious, is it somewhat serious, is it not too serious, or is it not serious at all? (Split-sampled questions—each asked of half of respondents)



Lake Snell Perry & Associates



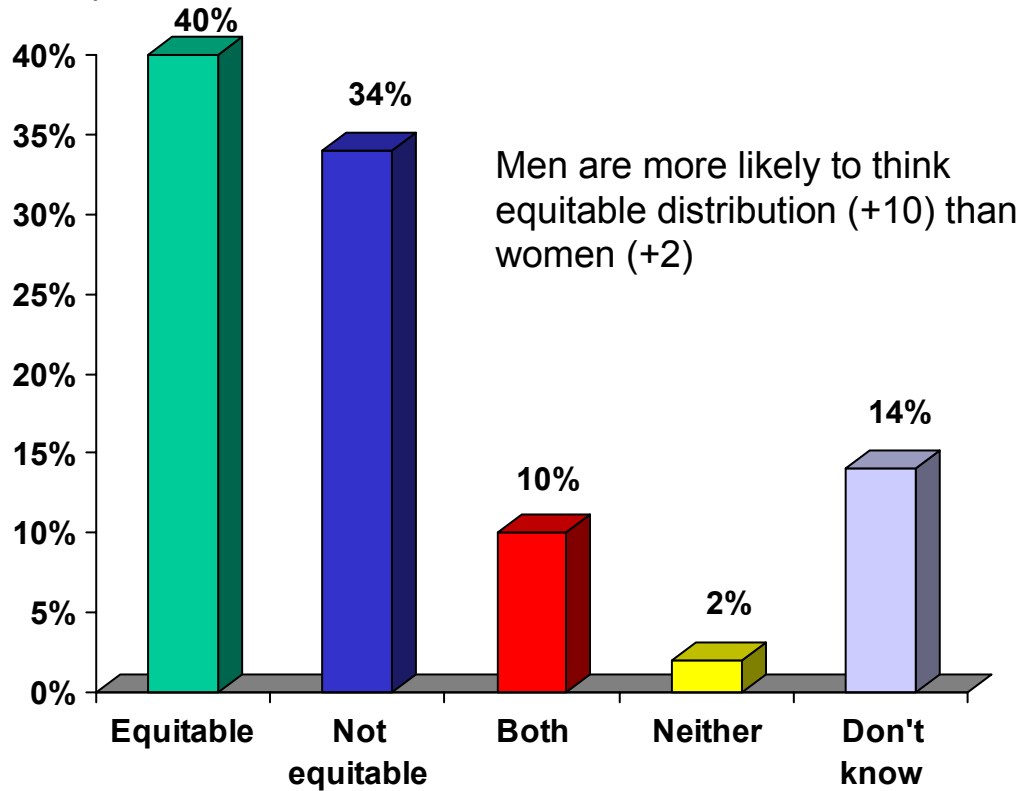
Unemployment Insurance

Not a Clear Concept

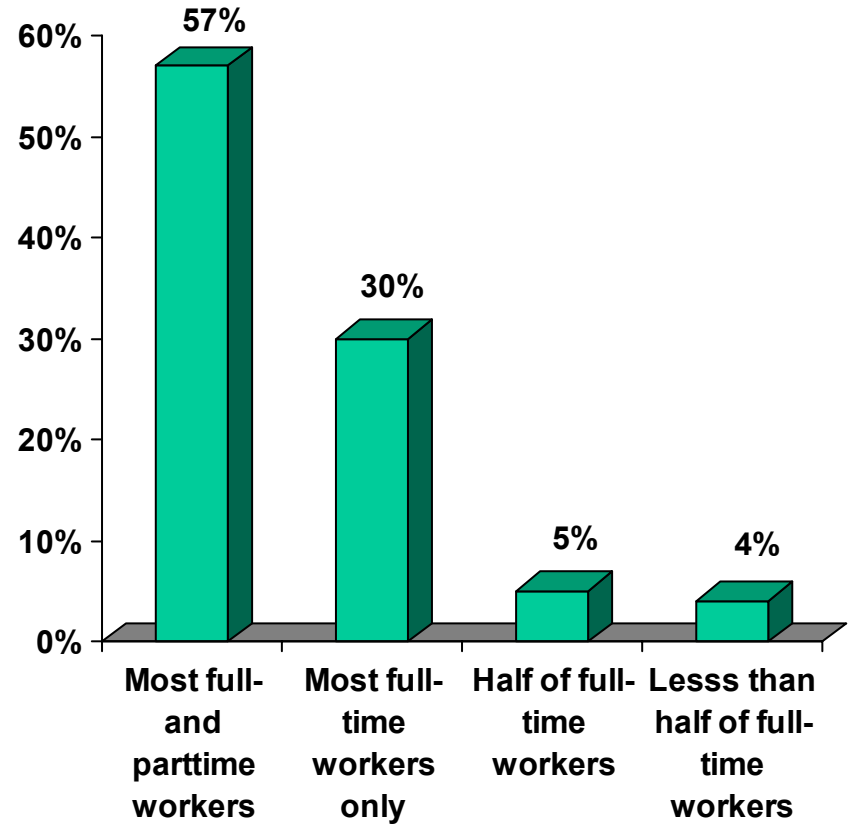


Voters are divided over whether unemployment benefits are distributed equitably. Four out of ten voters believe they are equitable, while one third believe this is not the case. A solid majority of voters believe that most full- and part-time workers are eligible for unemployment benefits. Less than one-third believe it is for most full-time workers only.

Is it your sense that the way unemployment benefits are distributed is equitable or not equitable?



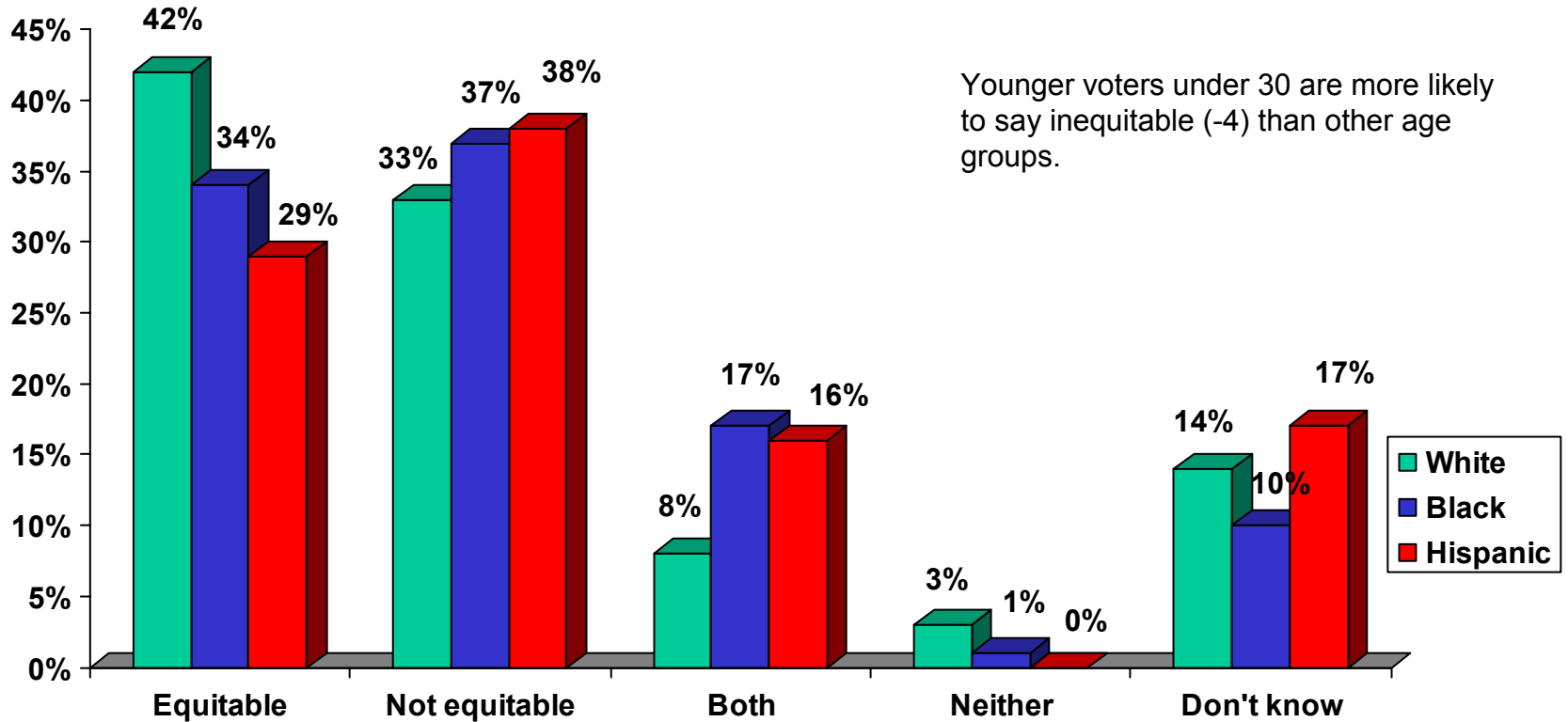
Who do you think is eligible for unemployment benefits?





Whites are more likely to believe it is equitable by 9 points, while Hispanics are more likely to see it as inequitable by 9 points. African-Americans are torn, leaning not equitable by 3 points.

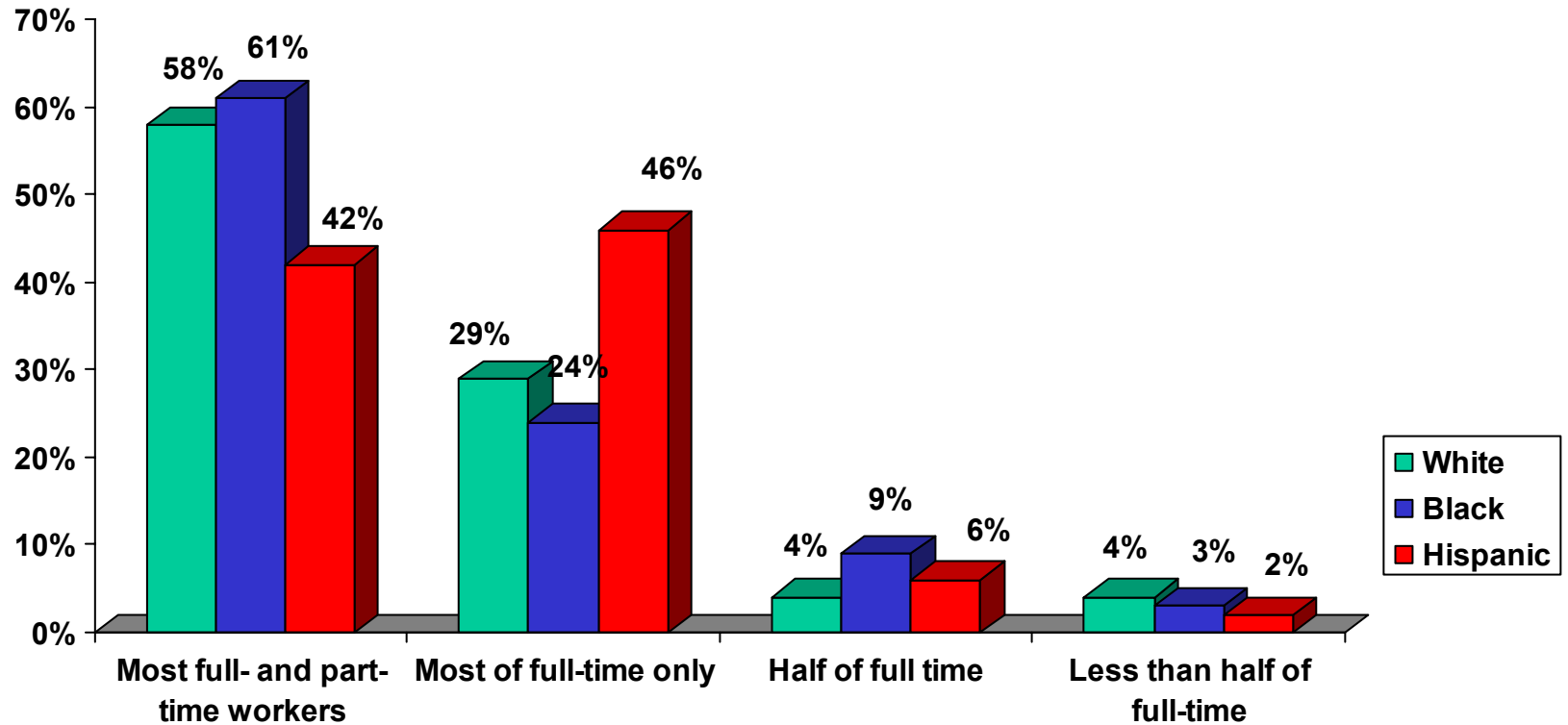
Is it your sense that the way unemployment benefits are distributed is equitable or not equitable?





Hispanics are more likely to say that only full-time workers are eligible for unemployment benefits, while a majority of whites and blacks believe that both full- and part-time workers are eligible.

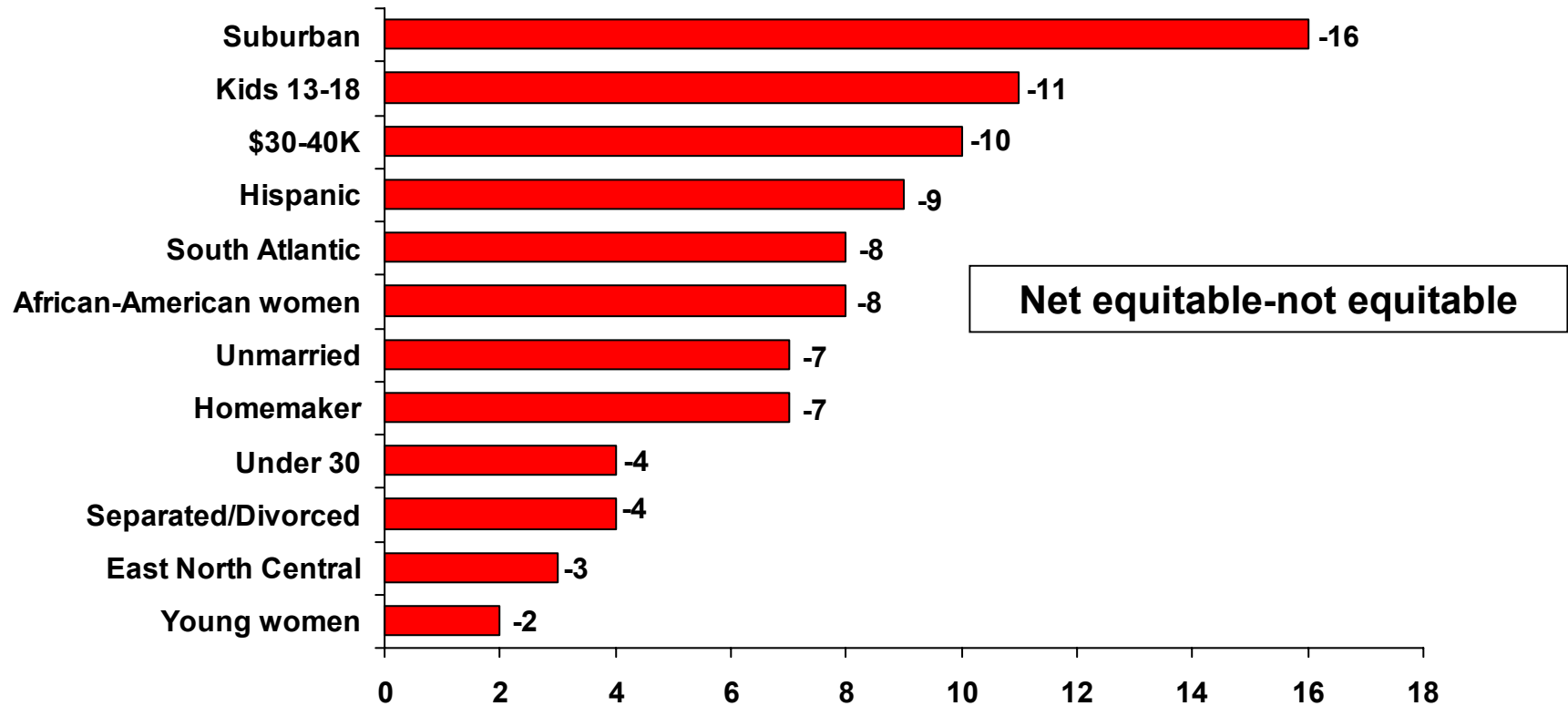
Is it your sense that the way unemployment benefits are distributed is equitable or not equitable?





Voters most likely to see unemployment benefits as not equitable are suburban voters, those with older children, separated or divorced, unmarried moms, black women, and those who make \$30-40K and \$50-75K.

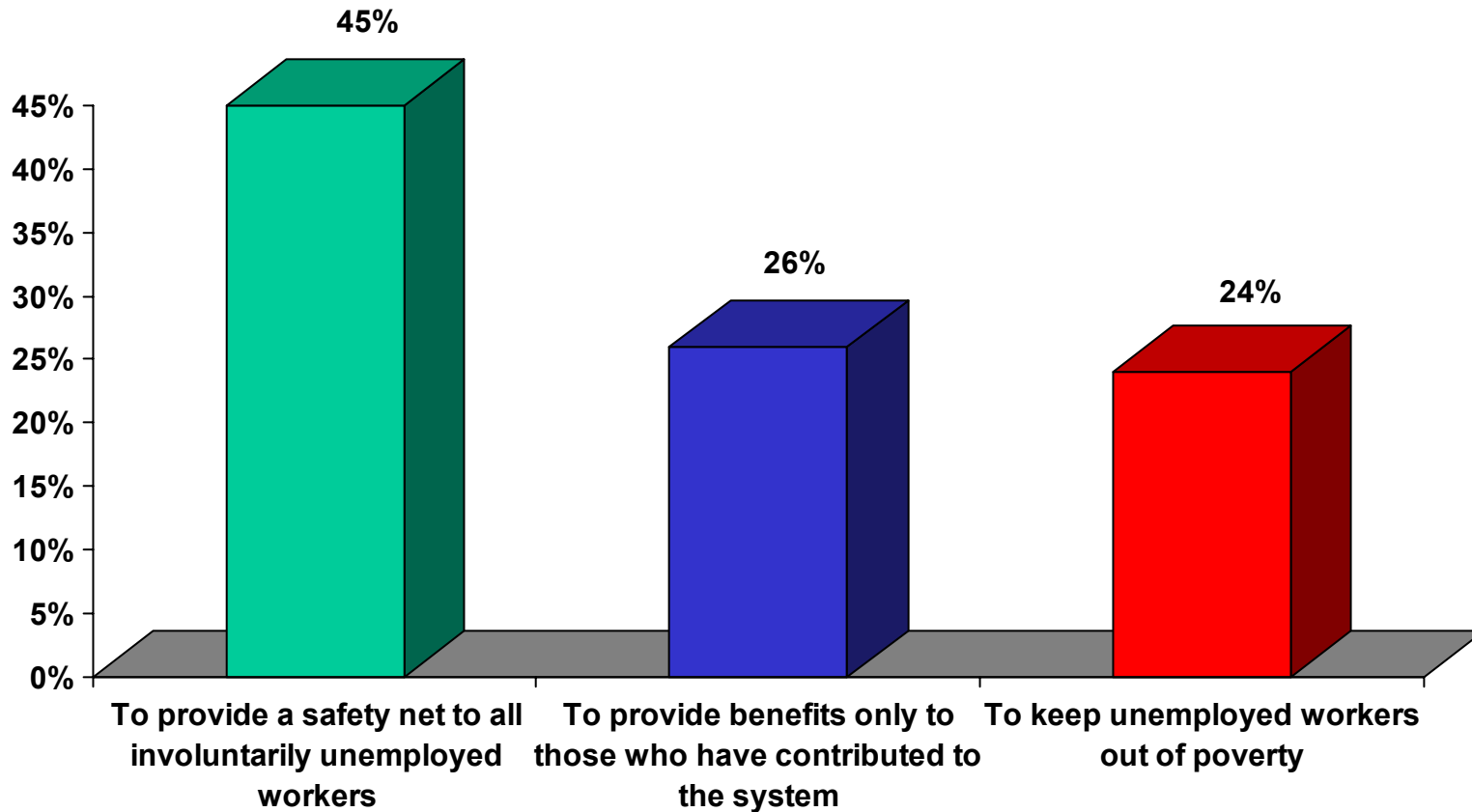
Is it your sense that the way unemployment benefits are distributed is equitable or not equitable?





A plurality of voters see the principal purpose of unemployment insurance to be providing a safety net to involuntarily unemployed workers, followed by providing benefits only to those who have contributed, and keep unemployed workers out of poverty.

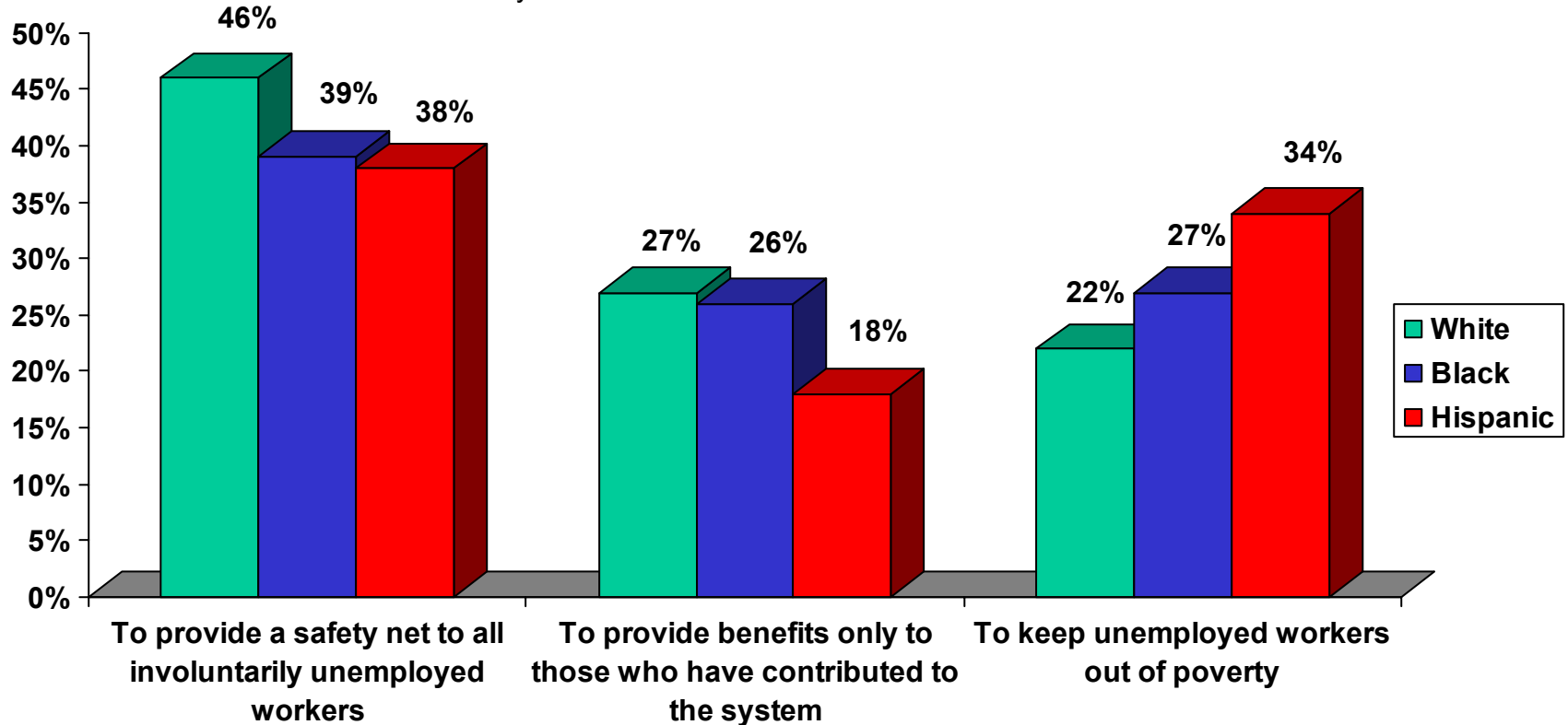
Of the following , what do you see as the PRINCIPAL purpose of unemployment insurance in this country?





While nearly all groups see the principal purpose of unemployment insurance is the provision of a safety net, Hispanics are nearly as likely to see it as a way to keep unemployed workers out of poverty.

Of the following, what do you see as the PRINCIPAL purpose of unemployment insurance in this country?

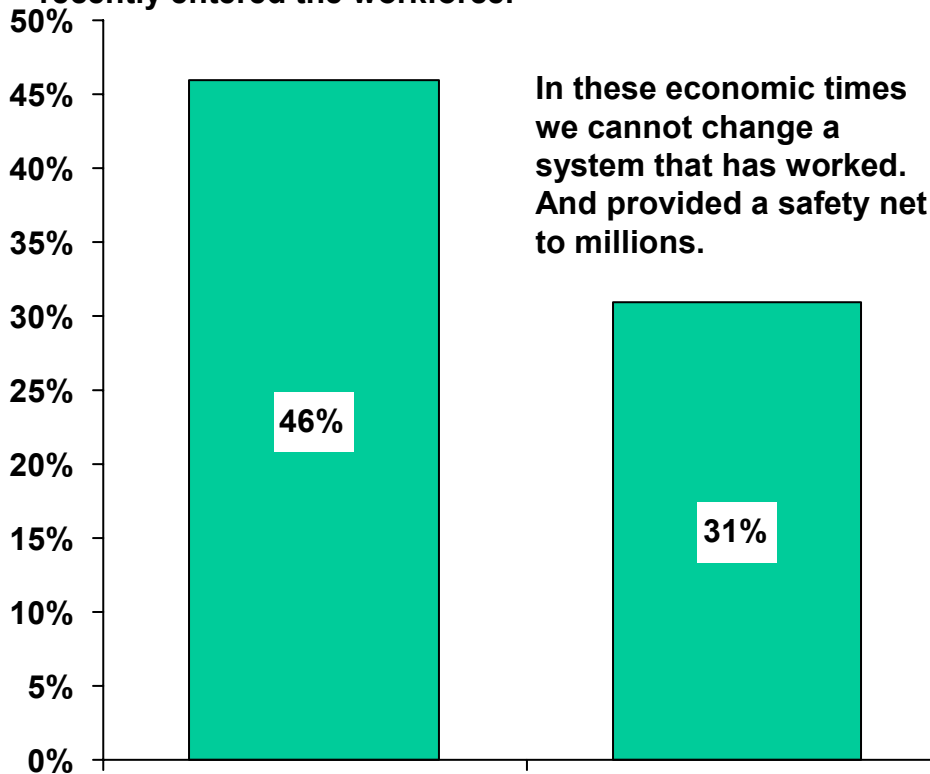


Voters in the Mid-Atlantic region are the only group who places providing benefits only to those who have contributed above the provision of a safety net (34 percent and 32 percent respectively).

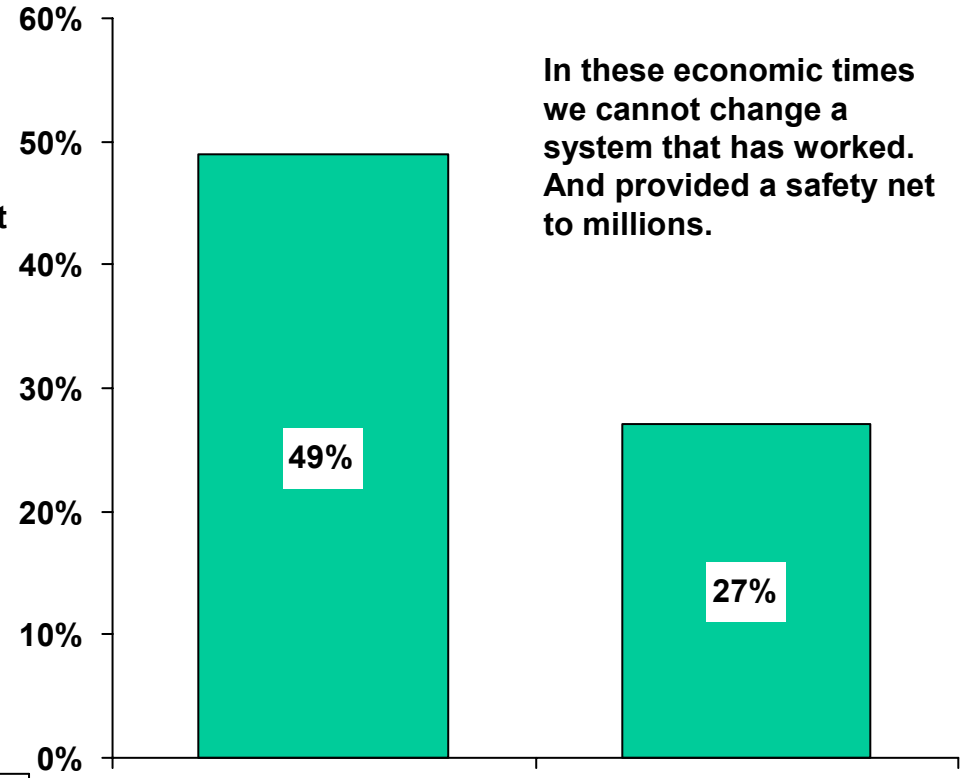


In a simulated debate, voters believe that all workers need a safety net that is better than the one currently in place to help unemployed workers. Voters are slightly more supportive of the argument that low-wage and the unemployed need even more help because of the economic decline after the terrorist attacks.

We should update the system to address changes in America's 21st Century workforce. That means increasing benefits, and covering part-time and low-wage workers and people who have recently entered the workforce.



We should update the system and deal with the problems of many low wage and part-time workers laid off because of the recession and the economic decline after the terrorist attacks.



Referring to 9/11 picks up support especially among men, seniors, suburban and Southern voters. It diminishes support among Westerners.

Lake Snell Perry & Associates

Split sampled questions—each asked of half of respondents

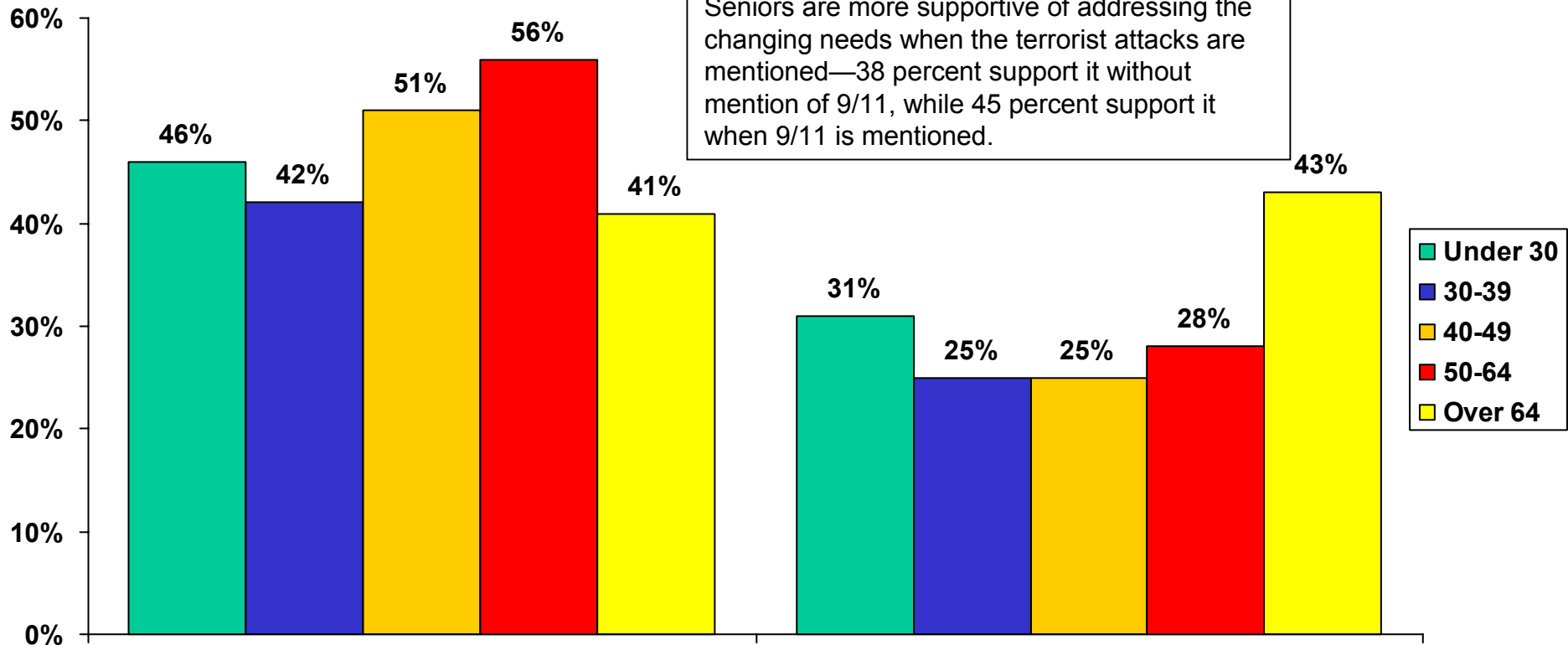


Seniors is the only age cohort who does not favor changing the system—a slight plurality favor keeping the system the way it is. Voters 50-64 are the most supportive of changing the system to provide a safety net.

We should update the system to address changes in America's 21st Century workforce. That means increasing benefits, and covering part-time and low-wage workers and people who have recently entered the workforce. AND We should update the system and deal with the problems of many low wage and part-time workers laid off because of the recession and the economic decline after the terrorist attacks.

In these economic times we cannot change a system that has worked. And provided a safety net to millions.

Seniors are more supportive of addressing the changing needs when the terrorist attacks are mentioned—38 percent support it without mention of 9/11, while 45 percent support it when 9/11 is mentioned.





Language

Now let me read you two statements that have been made surrounding unemployment insurance. Please tell me which one comes closer to your own point of view. (Split-sampled questions—each asked of half of respondents.)

- Some people/other people say the workforce has changed dramatically since the unemployment system was designed—when most workers were men who worked full-time. Today’s workforce is different—there are more full-time workers and more low-wage earners who don’t qualify for unemployment benefits under the current system, many of whom are women. In 1999, only 34 percent of unemployed women and 41 percent of unemployed men received benefits. This isn’t fair and we should update the system to address changes in America’s 21st century workforce. That means increasing benefits, and covering part-time and low-wage workers and people who have recently entered the workforce. **46 Percent**
- Some people/other people say during these bad economic times we cannot change a system that has worked and provided a safety net to millions. Workers who have put money into the system should be the first ones to reap the benefits, not people who have not been contributing to the system all along. The system may need some changes, but now is not the time to begin adding even more people onto already overextended rolls. In this time of budget crises and economic downturn, the government and corporations cannot afford to cover more people. **31 percent**
- **17 percent both, 4 percent neither**
- Some people/other people say the workforce has changed dramatically since the unemployment system was designed—when most workers were men who worked full-time. Today’s workforce is different—there are more full-time workers and more low-wage earners who don’t qualify for unemployment benefits under the current system, many of whom are women. In 1999, only 34 percent of unemployed women and 41 percent of unemployed men received benefits. This isn’t fair and we should update the system and deal with the problems of many low wage and part-time workers laid off because of the recession and the economic decline after the terrorist attacks. **49 Percent**
- Some people/other people say during these bad economic times we cannot change a system that has worked and provided a safety net to millions. Workers who have put money into the system should be the first ones to reap the benefits, not people who have not been contributing to the system all along. The system may need some changes, but now is not the time to begin adding even more people onto already overextended rolls. In this time of budget crises and economic downturn, the government and corporations cannot afford to cover more people. **27 percent**
- **16 percent both, 4 percent neither**