

Responsive Management™



VIRGINIA RESIDENTS' OPINIONS ON BLACK BEARS AND BLACK BEAR MANAGEMENT

Conducted for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

by Responsive Management

2010

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) to determine Virginia residents' knowledge levels regarding black bears and their opinions on and attitudes toward black bears and black bear management. The study entailed a telephone survey of Virginia residents.

For the survey, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the almost universal ownership of telephones (note that the sample included both landlines and cell phones in their proper proportions) among Virginia residents. Additionally, telephone surveys, relative to mail or Internet surveys, allow for more scientific sampling and data collection, provide higher quality data, obtain higher response rates, are more timely, and are more cost-effective. Telephone surveys also have fewer negative effects on the environment than do mail surveys because of reduced use of paper and reduced energy consumption for delivering and returning the questionnaires. A central polling site at the Responsive Management office allowed for rigorous quality control over the interviews and data collection.

The telephone survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and the VDGIF. Responsive Management conducted a pre-test of the questionnaire to ensure proper wording, flow, and logic in the survey. Interviews were conducted Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday from noon to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., local time. The survey was conducted in March 2010. Responsive Management obtained a total of 1,546 completed interviews. The software used for data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language.

The sampling methodology entailed Random Digit Dialing (RDD), which ensures that all households with telephones have an equal chance of being called to participate in the survey. RDD is the best methodology for maintaining a representative random sample of households, taking into account such issues as those without landlines, those unlisted by choice, new numbers, and those numbers that have been disconnected due to a move or change in residence.

The RDD sample was supplemented by cell phones in the proportion that matched the proportion of households that have cell phones only (i.e., households with a cell phone but no landline).

The sampling plan called for at least 300 interviews in each of five regions in Virginia to ensure enough sample for results to be valid within each region. Because cell phones can have area codes and exchanges that are not for the geographic region in which the cell phone owner lives, respondents were assigned into regions based on the county in which they said they lived rather than by the area code and exchange of their telephone number. For statewide results, the regions were then properly proportioned within the overall sample to be representative of the state as a whole regarding region of residence, demographic makeup, and hunting participation. The tabulation below shows how the regions were proportioned in the actual sample and in the statewide data. A map in the main body of the report shows the regional boundaries.

Region	Number of Interviews	Proportion of Sample	Proportion in Final Statewide Data to Match Virginia's Population in Region
Region 1	305	19.7%	60.9%
Region 2A	308	19.9%	9.8%
Region 2B	305	19.7%	6.3%
Region 3A	313	20.2%	11.5%
Region 3B	315	20.4%	11.6%
Total	1546	NA	NA

The analysis of data was performed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management. Throughout this report, findings of the telephone survey are reported at a 95% confidence interval (or higher). For the entire sample of Virginia residents, the sampling error is at most plus or minus 2.49 percentage points. Sampling error was calculated based on a sample size of 1,546 and a population size of 5,879,113 Virginia residents ages 18 years and older.

KNOWLEDGE OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- Self-professed knowledge levels about managing wildlife and natural resources are somewhat low among Virginia residents: only 9% of Virginia residents indicate that they know *a great deal* about managing wildlife and natural resources, and 41% say that they

know *a great deal* or *a moderate amount*. Meanwhile, a majority of residents (59%) say that they know *a little* or *nothing*.

- There is slightly higher self-professed knowledge regarding how much Virginia residents know about *wildlife* in Virginia, compared to the previous question. While, again, 9% say that they know *a great deal*, nearly half (47%) say that they know *a great deal* or *a moderate amount*, with the remainder saying that they know *a little* (at 41%, the most common answer) or *nothing* (11%).
 - The overall self-professed knowledge level specifically about black bears in Virginia is lower than the knowledge levels about managing wildlife and natural resources and about wildlife in Virginia: only 2% of Virginia residents say that they know *a great deal* about black bears in Virginia, and only 22% say that they know either *a great deal* or *a moderate amount*. Meanwhile, 78% say that they know *a little* or *nothing*.
- Several questions in the survey probed residents' knowledge about black bears.
- One of those knowledge questions asked Virginia residents if bears live in Virginia: 85% correctly answered that they do, while 15% gave an incorrect answer.
 - Regardless of their answer to the above, residents were informed by the interviewer that there are bear populations in Virginia. Residents were then asked to name the types of bears that live in Virginia. While 60% named black bear as a bear species living in Virginia, only 58% named black bear *without incorrectly also naming brown/grizzly bear* as living in Virginia.
 - Another knowledge question asked residents about black bears' diet: 43% correctly answered that black bears eat mostly plants; 57% gave an incorrect answer or answered that they do not know.
 - A knowledge question asked residents to indicate how often black bears give birth: 30% correctly answered that they do so every other year; meanwhile, 70% incorrectly answered the question.
 - The majority of Virginians have been misinformed about the danger of a black bear with cubs: 74% of Virginia residents agreed with the statement, "Encountering a female black bear with cubs is always dangerous to humans"; meanwhile, 20% disagreed. Biologists consider this statement to be *false*.

- Misinformation is rampant regarding black bears and their posture prior to attacking. More than 2 in 5 Virginia residents (42%) incorrectly agreed with the statement, “A black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack.” Meanwhile, 41% disagreed. Biologists consider the statement to be *false*.
 - The most misinformation appears to be regarding fatal black bear attacks in Virginia. When asked to indicate the number of people that they think have been killed by black bears in Virginia in the last 100 years, only 12% of Virginia residents correctly answered that no people have been documented as being killed by black bears in that time. Meanwhile, 48% gave an incorrect answer, and 40% answered that they do not know.
- The survey asked Virginia residents if they think that black bear populations in Virginia in the past 10 years have increased, stayed about the same, or decreased. Most commonly, residents correctly answered that black bear populations in Virginia have *increased* (39%) over the past 10 years.
- Most commonly, Virginia residents, when presented with four statements about the status of the black bear population in Virginia, say that it is *stable and healthy* (31%). Additionally, 21% say it is *increasing* (the consensus of VDGIF biologists is that the black bear population is *increasing*). Meanwhile, 48% gave an indisputably incorrect answer (*declining, endangered, or don't know*).
- Residents were asked if black bears currently live in their county of residence. The analysis shows a breakdown according to whether black bears are considered to be living in the county. Among those who live in a county in which bears are considered to be living, 72% of them answered that black bears are living in their county of residence; among those from counties (and all the independent cities) in which bears have only been occasionally or never sighted, 66% answered that black bears do *not* live in their county (or city) of residence.

RESIDENTS' WILDLIFE VALUES AND ATTITUDES TOWARD WILDLIFE, OUTDOOR RECREATION, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND BLACK BEARS

- Half of Virginia residents (50%) say it is *very* important to them to know that wildlife species native to the state exist in Virginia, and another 43% say it is *somewhat* important (for a sum of 93% saying it is important). The importance that residents attach to black bears is slightly lower (although still positive): 38% of residents say that it is *very* important for them to know that black bears exist in Virginia, and another 43% say it is *somewhat* important (for a sum of 81% saying it is important).
 - Virginia residents who had viewed wildlife were asked to rate the importance of having the opportunity to see a black bear to their wildlife viewing experience: 29% give a rating of *very* important, and another 39% say it is *somewhat* important (for a sum of 68% rating it important).

- Several additional questions probed residents' values as they relate specifically to black bears.
 - An overwhelming majority of Virginians (82%) support having black bears in Virginia, about evenly divided between *strong* and *moderate* support, while only 7% oppose.
 - An even larger majority (85%) agree with the statement, "Black bears are an important and essential part of Virginia's ecosystem"; meanwhile, 7% disagree.
 - A yet larger majority (93%) agree with the statement, "Preserving habitat on which black bears depend is important"; only 3% disagree.

- Residents were presented with four choices in a scale regarding their comfort level about having bears around, from complete comfort (I want to see and have black bears in my yard) to complete discomfort (I feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in my county). The majority of Virginia residents fall in the discomfort side of the scale: 49% say that they want to see and have black bears in their county but not in their neighborhood, and 31% say that they feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county (a sum of 80% in the lower half of the scale). Meanwhile, only 8% say that they want to see and have black

bears in their yard, and 9% say that they want to see and have black bears in their neighborhood but not in their yard (a sum of 17% in the higher end of the comfort scale).

- A related question asked residents if they agree or disagree with the statement, “The presence of black bears near my home improves my overall quality of life.”

Disagreement (53%) far exceeds agreement (27%).

- Another question probed residents’ comfort level with black bears. Residents were asked if they agree or disagree with the statement, “Black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans.” Disagreement (54%) exceeded agreement (36%), with the remainder giving a neutral answer.

- Agreement (68%) far exceeded disagreement (25%) with the statement, “People and black bears can live in the same area without conflict.”

- The large majority of Virginia residents (81%) support legal, regulated hunting in general; only 12% oppose.

- Support for hunting *black bears* is less than for hunting overall: 51% support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia, while 36% oppose.

- Among those who had seen a non-captive black bear in Virginia at some time in their lives, the majority (64%) describe the encounter(s) as positive, mostly *very* positive (45%). Meanwhile, only 4% describe the encounter(s) as negative.

OPINIONS ON WILDLIFE AND BLACK BEAR MANAGEMENT

- Ratings of the VDGIF’s management of black bears is positive. The majority of Virginia residents (61%) give a rating of excellent or good, which far exceeds the 10% who give a fair or poor rating (note that 29% answered that they do not know).

- The majority of Virginia residents (61%) think that the black bear population in Virginia should remain the same rather than be increased (22%) or decreased (9%).

- Residents were also asked about the black bear population in their county/city of residence. A large majority (68%) think that the black bear population in their

county/city should remain the same. Otherwise, 9% think it should be increased, and 15% think it should be decreased.

- Several questions were asked regarding support for or opposition to destroying black bears in various situations.
 - The majority of Virginia residents (71%) oppose destroying a black bear that causes property damage to a home or building in a residential area; meanwhile, 21% support doing so.
 - The majority of Virginia residents (61%) oppose destroying a black bear that causes agricultural damage to crops or livestock; 29% support.
 - Residents are more protective of their pets: only 53% oppose, and 37% support, destroying a black bear that harms a pet.
 - The large majority of residents (76%) support destroying a black bear that VDGIF biologists have determined is aggressive toward humans; 18% oppose.
 - Finally, the large majority of residents (79%) support destroying a black bear that attacks a human unprovoked; 15% oppose.

- The majority of Virginia residents (55%) *never* see or hear about black bears in their neighborhood. Additionally, 27% say that they *rarely* see or hear about them. On the other end of the scale, 6% *frequently* see or hear about them, and 12% *sometimes* do.
 - Regarding *ever* seeing a black bear in Virginia (with no time frame—i.e., the respondent's entire life), 43% have seen a non-captive black bear in Virginia, while 56% have not.

- Given the scenario where the black bear population needs to be reduced in areas with high human populations or frequent human use, residents were asked to indicate their preferred methods for doing so (from a list that was read to respondents), and they could choose more than one method. Capture and relocate (chosen by 88%) is the top-named method, distantly followed by regulated hunting (31%), kill permits (16%), sharpshooters (7%), and capture and destroy (5%).

- Residents were asked to indicate the acceptability of various methods for destroying black bears, for those bears that are causing problems and that need to be destroyed. In those situations, a large majority say it is acceptable to have the VDGIF capture and destroy the bear (66% say this method is acceptable). Otherwise, the other three methods are about equal in acceptability: 36% say use of VDGIF sharpshooters is acceptable, 33% say special hunting programs are acceptable, and 31% say having the VDGIF issue kill permits is acceptable.

OPINIONS ON HUNTING BLACK BEARS

- Recall that previously it was reported that support for hunting *black bears* is less than for hunting overall: 51% support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia, while 36% oppose. Compare this to hunting in general: 81% support legal, regulated hunting in general, while 12% oppose.
- The survey had four questions about support for or opposition to types of hunting and hunting-related activities: regulated black bear hunting with a firearm without the use of dogs; regulated black bear hunting with a firearm with the use of dogs; a regulated dog-training season, which allows people to chase black bears with dogs but not harvest any bears; and regulated black bear hunting with a bow or crossbow.
 - The most support is for regulated black bear hunting with a firearm *without* the use of dogs (57% support) and for regulated black bear hunting with a bow or crossbow (46% support). Just less than a quarter support either of the other types of hunting activities.

BLACK BEARS AND NUISANCE COMPLAINTS

- When residents were asked to rate the level of problems that they are having with black bears in their neighborhood or on their property, only 4% say black bears are a *major* problem, with another 7% saying that they are a *minor* problem (11% in total); meanwhile, 89% say that black bears are *not* a problem at all.
 - Residents were also asked to rate the problem level of having neighbors attracting bears (whether intentionally or not) to their neighborhood with birdfeeders, garbage, and other

food sources: only 2% say it is a *major* problem, and another 9% say it is a *minor* problem (11% in total). Fully 86% say it is *not* a problem at all.

- A follow-up question asked residents to indicate who they think should have the primary responsibility for addressing the situation where a bear has been attracted to a neighborhood by a birdfeeder, garbage, or some other food source. The majority of residents think that the VDGIF should be responsible in that situation (58% named the VDGIF). Meanwhile, 30% say that the landowner who attracted the bear should be responsible.
- Also in follow-up to the question about attracting bears, the survey asked about support for or opposition to fines for people who attract bears, whether intentionally or unintentionally. The majority of Virginia residents (57%) support such fines, while 33% oppose. Most of those who support such fines, however, think that people should be given at least one warning prior to being fined.
- Another question pertaining to this topic asked residents whether they support or oppose prohibiting people visiting or living in areas frequented by black bears from using birdfeeders or participating in other wildlife feeding activities to avoid problems with black bears. Residents are split: 42% support such a prohibition, while 48% oppose.
 - Another question about birdfeeders asked residents whether they support or oppose requiring people whose birdfeeder is attracting black bears to take down or electrify the birdfeeder. Support (57%) exceeds opposition (31%).
- Support (85%) is overwhelming for requiring people to use bear-proof garbage containers in areas frequented by black bears; only 9% oppose.
 - Another question about bear-proof garbage containers found that 66% of Virginia residents say that they would be willing to pay about \$10 more per month for 12 months for their trash service to defray the cost of bear-proof containers for their garbage.
- Support (84%) among residents is overwhelming for requiring counties that are frequented by bears and that use open dumpsters to use bear-proof dumpsters instead; only 7% of residents oppose such a requirement being placed on counties.

- When asked if they had personally had any problems with black bears in the past 2 years, only 2% of Virginia residents indicated that they had experienced a problem; the overwhelming majority (98%) had not had a problem.
 - The most common problems were getting into garbage, damaging birdfeeders, getting into the garden, and attacking/scaring livestock.
 - Those who had experienced a problem were asked in follow-up if they had contacted anyone as a result of the problem; only 18% of those respondents contacted someone. Most commonly, they contacted a VDGIF Conservation Officer or Game Warden. Local police were also commonly contacted.

- When asked whether they think that black bears cause more problems, about the same amount, or fewer problems in their area compared to other areas of Virginia, nearly half of Virginia residents answer “about the same” (48%), and another 32% say “less.”

- The majority of Virginia residents disagree (53%) that, when black bear damage occurs to property in Virginia, the property owner should be compensated for the damage; meanwhile, 34% agree.
 - There is slightly more support for compensating farmers for agricultural damage: 47% agree that property owners should be compensated for agricultural damage from black bears, and 41% disagree.
 - Finally, there is yet more support for compensating property owners for damage to livestock: 53% agree, compared to 37% who disagree, that a property owner should be compensated for damage to livestock.

PARTICIPATION IN OUTDOOR RECREATION

- The survey data show a hunting participation rate of 6% in the 2009-2010 season.
 - A substantial percentage of Virginia residents (12%) consider themselves to be a hunter.
 - Those who had hunted were asked to indicate the number of days that they had hunted (thus far) during the 2009-2010 hunting season. The answers range quite widely among those who have hunted, from only 1 day up to more than 40 days.

- The survey also asked about days of fishing participation: 27% of residents had participated in fishing in the 2009-2010 season.

- The survey asked about participation in seven non-consumptive outdoor activities in the past 2 years. The large majority of Virginia residents (73%) have watched wildlife around or within 1 mile of home, and a large majority (57%) have fed birds around their home. Three more activities are in a middle, tier with more than 40% participation: running/jogging for physical fitness (48%), taking a trip of at least 1 mile to view wildlife (42%), and hiking (41%). Rounding out the list of activities are biking (35%) and camping (26%).

- In a question related to wildlife viewing, 13% of residents said that they had taken a trip hoping to see a black bear in Virginia in the past 2 years. Mirroring these results, 12% of Virginia residents say that it is *very* likely that they will take a trip in which they hope to see a black bear in the next 2 years.

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INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) to determine Virginia residents' knowledge levels regarding black bears and their opinions on and attitudes toward black bears and black bear management. The study entailed a telephone survey of Virginia residents. Specific aspects of the research methodology are discussed below.

For the survey, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the almost universal ownership of telephones (note that the sample included both landlines and cell phones in their proper proportions) among Virginia residents. Additionally, telephone surveys, relative to mail or Internet surveys, allow for more scientific sampling and data collection, provide higher quality data, obtain higher response rates, are more timely, and are more cost-effective. Telephone surveys also have fewer negative effects on the environment than do mail surveys because of reduced use of paper and reduced energy consumption for delivering and returning the questionnaires.

A central polling site at the Responsive Management office allowed for rigorous quality control over the interviews and data collection. Responsive Management maintains its own in-house telephone interviewing facilities. These facilities are staffed by interviewers with experience conducting computer-assisted telephone interviews on the subjects of natural resources and outdoor recreation. The telephone survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and the VDGIF. Responsive Management conducted a pre-test of the questionnaire to ensure proper wording, flow, and logic in the survey.

To ensure the integrity of the telephone survey data, Responsive Management has interviewers who have been trained according to the standards established by the Council of American Survey Research Organizations. Methods of instruction included lecture and role-playing. The Survey Center Managers and other professional staff conducted project briefings with the interviewers prior to the administration of this survey. Interviewers were instructed on type of study, study goals and objectives, handling of survey questions, interview length, termination points and qualifiers for participation, interviewer instructions within the survey instrument, reading of the survey instrument, skip patterns, and probing and clarifying techniques necessary for specific questions on the survey instrument. The Survey Center Managers and statisticians monitored the data collection, including monitoring of the actual telephone interviews without the interviewers'

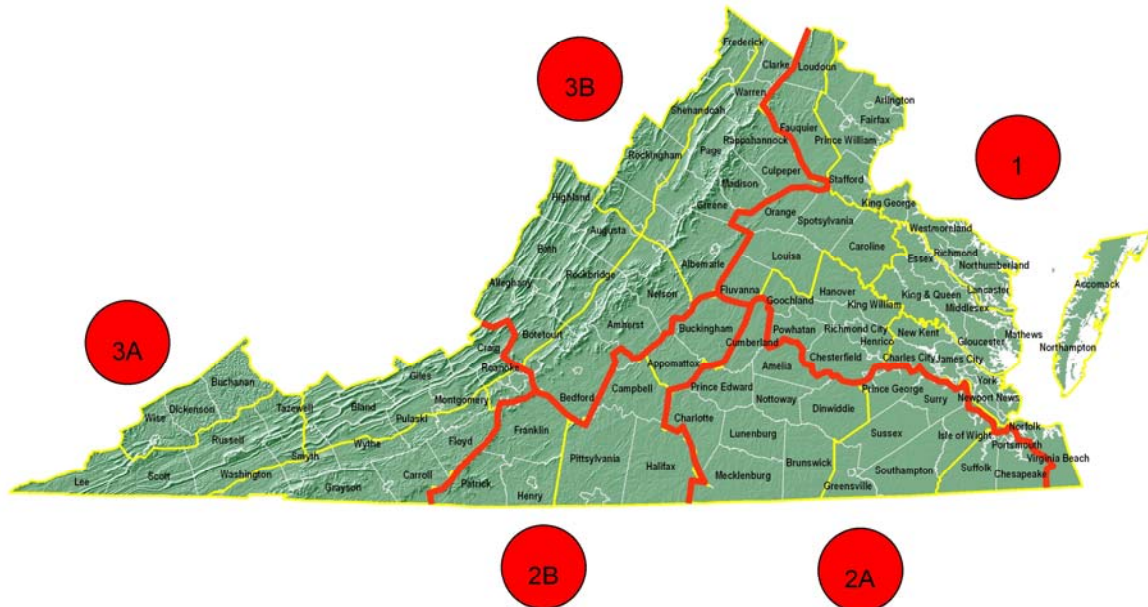
knowledge, to evaluate the performance of each interviewer and ensure the integrity of the data. After the surveys were obtained by the interviewers, the Survey Center Managers and/or statisticians checked each completed survey to ensure clarity and completeness.

The sampling methodology entailed Random Digit Dialing (RDD), which ensures that all households with telephones have an equal chance of being called to participate in the survey. RDD is the best methodology for maintaining a representative random sample of households, taking into account such issues as those without landlines, those unlisted by choice, new numbers, and those numbers that have been disconnected due to a move or change in residence. In this sense, RDD sampling helps to produce representative, scientifically defensible survey data, unlike samples drawn from telephone directories or other lists, which tend to under-represent unlisted households. The RDD sample was supplemented by cell phones in the proportion that matched the proportion of households that have cell phones only (i.e., households with a cell phone but no landline). The sample was purchased from Survey Sampling International (www.surveysampling.com), a company specializing in providing scientific telephone samples.

The sampling plan called for at least 300 interviews in each of five regions in Virginia to ensure enough sample for results to be valid within each region. Because cell phones can have area codes and exchanges that are not for the geographic region in which the cell phone owner lives, respondents were assigned into regions based on the county in which they said they lived rather than by the area code and exchange of their telephone number. For statewide results, the regions were then properly proportioned within the overall sample to be representative of the state as a whole regarding region of residence and demographic makeup. The tabulation that follows shows how the regions were proportioned in the actual sample and in the statewide data. The map that follows shows the regions.

Region	Number of Interviews	Proportion of Sample	Proportion in Final Statewide Data to Match Virginia's Population in Region
Region 1	305	19.7%	60.9%
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Region 3A	313	20.2%	11.5%
Region 3B	315	20.4%	11.6%
Total	1546	NA	NA

Virginia Regions for the Black Bear Survey



Interviews were conducted Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday from noon to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., local time. A five-callback design was used to maintain the representativeness of the sample, to avoid bias toward people easy to reach by telephone, and to provide an equal opportunity for all to participate. When a respondent could not be reached on the first call, subsequent calls were placed on different days of the week and at different times of the day. As indicated previously, both landlines and cell phones were called. The survey was conducted in March 2010. Responsive Management obtained a total of 1,546 completed interviews with Virginia residents.

The software used for data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language (QPL). The survey data were entered into the computer as each interview was being conducted, eliminating

manual data entry after the completion of the survey and the concomitant data entry errors that may occur with manual data entry. The survey instrument was programmed so that QPL branched, coded, and substituted phrases in the survey based on previous responses to ensure the integrity and consistency of the data collection.

The analysis of data was performed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management. The sample was weighted by region of residence, demographic makeup, and hunting participation to be proportional to the population of Virginia residents 18 years old and older as a whole in the data analyses.

Weighting was necessary because the sampling plan ensured that there would be at least 300 respondents in each of the five regions so that regional results would have enough sample to be valid. However, because the actual populations of the regions vary, weighting ensured that each region was properly represented in the statewide results. Additionally, hunting participants were weighted down from 9% of the sample to 6% of the sample to match the hunting rate reported in the *National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation* published by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Crosstabulations were run by the region of residency on all questions; these graphs are included in the text after each of the graphs for the statewide results. Crosstabulations were also run by hunting status (hunter vs. non-hunter) on all questions, as this is a group within the overall Virginia population of particular interest to the VDGIF. These graphs follow the regional crosstabulation graphs in the report. In general, crosstabulations are not discussed in the text, but the graphs are provided for those who may be interested.

For this report, a nonparametric analysis examined how the various responses related to behavioral, participatory, and demographic characteristics. Responses for selected questions were tested by means of z-scores for relationships to behavioral, participatory, and demographic characteristics. A positive z-score means that the response and characteristic are positively related; a negative z-score means that the response and characteristic are negatively related.

The z-score shows the strength of the relationship between the characteristic and the response to the question. Those z-scores that have an absolute value of 3.30 or greater indicate a relationship that is so strong that it would happen by chance only 1 out of 1,000 times ($p \leq 0.001$). Those z-scores that have an absolute value of 2.58 to 3.29 indicate a relationship that is so strong that it would happen by chance only 1 out of 100 times ($p \leq 0.01$). Finally, those z-scores that have an absolute value of 1.96 to 2.57 indicate a relationship that is so strong that it would happen by chance only 5 out of 100 times ($p \leq 0.05$).

The z-scores were calculated as shown in the formula below.

$$z = \frac{(p_1 - p_2)}{\sqrt{p(1-p) \left[\frac{1}{n_1} + \frac{1}{n_2} \right]}}$$

where:

n_1 represents the number of observations in Group 1.

n_2 represents the number of observations in Group 2.

$p_1 = a/(a + b) = a/n_1$ and represents the proportion of observations in Group 1 that falls in Cell a . It is employed to estimate the population proportion Π_1 (% of Group 1 who had specific characteristic).

$p_2 = c/(c + d) = c/n_2$ and represents the proportion of observations in Group 2 that falls in Cell c . It is employed to estimate the population proportion Π_2 (% of Group 2 who had specific characteristic).

$p = (a + c)/(n_1 + n_2) = (a + c)/n$ and is a pooled estimate of the proportion of respondents who had specific characteristic in the underlying population.

(Equation from *Handbook of Parametric and Nonparametric Statistical Procedures, 2nd Edition* by David J. Sheskin. © 2000, Chapman & Hall/CRC, Boca Raton, FL.)

The characteristics examined are shown in the tabulation below.

Variables Examined in the Nonparametric Analysis
Lives in Region 1
Lives in Region 2A
Lives in Region 2B
Lives in Region 3A
Lives in Region 3B
Has hunted in current 2009-2010 season
Has purchased a license for the 2009-2010 season
Considers himself/herself to be a hunter
Has gone running or jogging
Has gone biking

Variables Examined in the Nonparametric Analysis
Has gone hiking
Has gone camping
Has fed birds around his/her home
Has watched wildlife within 1 mile of home
Has watched wildlife over 1 mile from home
Says he/she knows a great deal or a moderate amount about managing wildlife and natural resources
Says he/she knows a little or nothing about managing wildlife and natural resources
Believes it is very or somewhat important that native species exist in Virginia
Believes it is not at all important that native species exist in Virginia
Believes bears live in Virginia
Believes bears do not live in Virginia
Says he/she knows a great deal or a moderate amount about black bears in Virginia
Says he/she knows a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia
Thinks the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years
Thinks the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years
Thinks the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable
Thinks the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining
Thinks the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same
Thinks the black bear population in Virginia should decrease
Believes black bears live in his/her county of residence
Does not believe black bears live in his/her county of residence
Thinks it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia
Thinks it is not at all important to know black bears exist in Virginia
On the comfort scale, responded with "I want to see and have black bears in my yard."
On the comfort scale, responded with "I want to see and have black bears in my neighborhood but not in my yard."
On the comfort scale, responded with "I want to see and have black bears in my county or city but not in my neighborhood."
On the comfort scale, responded with "I feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in my county."
Strongly or moderately supports having black bear in Virginia
Strongly or moderately opposes having black bear in Virginia
Strongly or moderately agrees with the statement "Black bears are an important and essential part of Virginia's ecosystem."
Strongly or moderately disagrees with the statement "Black bears are an important and essential part of Virginia's ecosystem."
Strongly or moderately agrees with the statement "Black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans."
Strongly or moderately disagrees with the statement "Black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans."
Strongly or moderately agrees with the statement "Preserving habitat on which black bears depend is important."
Strongly or moderately disagrees with the statement "Preserving habitat on which black bears depend is important."
Strongly or moderately agrees with the statement "Encountering a female black bear with cubs is always dangerous to humans."
Strongly or moderately disagrees with the statement "Encountering a female black bear with cubs is always dangerous to humans."
Strongly or moderately agrees with the statement "People and black bears can live in the same area without conflict."
Strongly or moderately disagrees with the statement "People and black bears can live in the same area without conflict."
Strongly or moderately agrees with the statement "A black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack."
Strongly or moderately disagrees with the statement "A black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack."

Variables Examined in the Nonparametric Analysis
Strongly or moderately agrees with the statement "The presence of black bears near my home improves my overall quality of life."
Strongly or moderately disagrees with the statement "The presence of black bears near my home improves my overall quality of life."
Strongly or moderately supports legal, regulated hunting of black bear in Virginia
Strongly or moderately opposes legal, regulated hunting of black bear in Virginia
Prefers the following management option if the black bear population needs to be reduced: Capture and relocate
Prefers the following management option if the black bear population needs to be reduced: Capture and destroy
Prefers the following management option if the black bear population needs to be reduced: Sharpshooters
Prefers the following management option if the black bear population needs to be reduced: Regulated hunting
Prefers the following management option if the black bear population needs to be reduced: Kill permits
Believes the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears
Believes the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears
Frequently or sometimes sees or hears about black bears in his/her neighborhood
Rarely or never sees or hears about black bears in his/her neighborhood
Has personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia
Has not personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia
Says black bears are a major or minor problem for him/her in his/her neighborhood or on his/her property
Says black bears are not a problem at all for him/her in his/her neighborhood or on his/her property
Has personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years
Has never personally had a problem with black bears within the past 2 years
Strongly or moderately supports fines for people who attract black bears, either intentionally or unintentionally
Strongly or moderately opposes fines for people who attract black bears, either intentionally or unintentionally
Strongly or moderately supports prohibiting people visiting or living in areas frequented by black bears from using birdfeeders or participating in other wildlife feeding activities
Strongly or moderately opposes prohibiting people visiting or living in areas frequented by black bears from using birdfeeders or participating in other wildlife feeding activities
Strongly or moderately supports requiring people whose birdfeeders are attracting black bears to take down or electrify the birdfeeder
Strongly or moderately opposes requiring people whose birdfeeders are attracting black bears to take down or electrify the birdfeeder
Strongly or moderately supports requiring people to use bear-proof garbage containers in areas frequented by bears
Strongly or moderately opposes requiring people to use bear-proof garbage containers in areas frequented by bears
Would be willing to pay about \$10 more per month for trash service for 12 months only for bear-proof trash containers
Would not be willing to pay about \$10 more per month for trash service for 12 months only for bear-proof trash containers
Strongly or moderately supports requiring counties that are frequented by bears and that use open dumpsters to use bear-proof dumpsters
Strongly or moderately opposes requiring counties that are frequented by bears and that use open dumpsters to use bear-proof dumpsters
Strongly or moderately agrees that the property owner should be compensated for the damages when a black bear damages property
Strongly or moderately disagrees that the property owner should be compensated for the damages when a black bear damages property
Strongly or moderately agrees that the property owner should be compensated for the damages when black bear damage occurs to agricultural crops
Strongly or moderately disagrees that the property owner should be compensated for the damages when black bear damage occurs to agricultural crops

Variables Examined in the Nonparametric Analysis
Strongly or moderately agrees that the property owner should be compensated for the damages when black bear damage occurs to livestock
Strongly or moderately disagrees that the property owner should be compensated for the damages when black bear damage occurs to livestock
Thinks this method of destroying a black bear is acceptable: Kill permits issued by the Department
Thinks this method of destroying a black bear is acceptable: Department sharpshooters
Thinks this method of destroying a black bear is acceptable: Special hunting programs
Thinks this method of destroying a black bear is acceptable: The Department captures bears and destroys them
Considers his/her place of residence to be a large city or urban area
Considers his/her place of residence to be a suburban area
Considers his/her place of residence to be a small city or town
Considers his/her place of residence to be a semi-rural area
Considers his/her place of residence to be a rural area on a farm or ranch
Considers his/her place of residence to be a rural area not on a farm or ranch
Education level is up to a high school graduate or equivalent
Has some college or trade school experience, but no degree
Has associate's or trade school degree
Has bachelor's degree
Has post-graduate or professional degree
Has a household income of under \$20,000
Has a household income of \$20,000-\$39,999
Has a household income of \$40,000-\$59,999
Has a household income of \$60,000-\$79,999
Has a household income of \$80,000-\$99,999
Has a household income of \$100,000-\$119,999
Has a household income of \$120,000 or more
Is white or Caucasian
Is black or African-American
Is Hispanic or Latino
Did not fish during the current fishing season
Has fished 1-5 days in the current fishing season
Has fished over 5 days in the current fishing season
Did not hunt during the current hunting season
Has hunted 1-5 days in the current hunting season
Has hunted over 5 days in the current hunting season
Believes no one has been killed by a black bear in Virginia in the past 100 years
Believes 1-5 people have been killed by a black bear in Virginia in the past 100 years
Believes six or more people been killed by a black bear in Virginia in the past 100 years
Has lived in Virginia up to the median number of years of 25
Has lived in Virginia above the median number of years of 25
Has lived in his/her place of residence up to the median number of years of 7
Has lived in his/her place of residence above the median number of years of 7
Respondent's place of residence is up to the median age of 25 years
Respondent's place of residence is above the median age of 25 years
Is 18-34 years old
Is 35-64 years old
Is 65 years old or older
Is male
Is female

In interpreting the nonparametric analysis results, keep in mind that a response being correlated with a certain characteristic does not mean that *all* those who give that response have that characteristic. Rather, the correlation simply indicates that the response is more often given by people with the characteristic than by people without the characteristic. For example, the nonparametric analysis found that strongly or moderately supporting having black bears in Virginia is positively correlated with being male ($p \leq 0.001$). This does *not* mean that *all* males strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia, as some males oppose this. Likewise, it does not mean that all females *oppose* having black bears in Virginia, as some support having them. It simply means that males are *more likely* to support having them than are females.

Throughout this report, findings of the telephone survey are reported at a 95% confidence interval (or higher). For the entire sample of Virginia residents, the sampling error is at most plus or minus 2.49 percentage points. This means that if the survey were conducted 100 times on different samples that were selected in the same way, the findings of 95 out of the 100 surveys would fall within plus or minus 2.49 percentage points of each other. Sampling error was calculated using the formula described below, with a sample size of 1,546 and a population size of 5,879,113 Virginia residents ages 18 years and older, according to U.S. Census data.

Sampling Error Equation

$$B = \left(\sqrt{\frac{N_p(.25) - .25}{N_s}} \right) (1.96)$$

Where: B = maximum sampling error (as decimal)
 N_p = population size (i.e., total number who could be surveyed)
 N_s = sample size (i.e., total number of respondents surveyed)

Derived from formula: p. 206 in Dillman, D. A. 2000. *Mail and Internet Surveys*. John Wiley & Sons, NY.

Note: This is a simplified version of the formula that calculates the maximum sampling error using a 50:50 split (the most conservative calculation because a 50:50 split would give maximum variation).

In examining the results, it is important to be aware that the questionnaire included several types of questions:

- Open-ended questions are those in which no answer set is read to the respondents; rather, they can respond with anything that comes to mind from the question.
- Closed-ended questions have an answer set from which to choose.
- Some questions allow only a single response, while other questions allow respondents to give more than one response or choose all that apply. Those that allow more than a single response are indicated on the graphs with the label, “Multiple Responses Allowed.”
- Many closed-ended questions (but not all) are in a scale, such as excellent-good-fair-poor.
- Many questions are part of a series, and the results are primarily intended to be examined relative to the other questions in that series (although results of the questions individually can also be valuable). Typically, results of all the questions in a series are shown on a single graph.

Some results as shown on the graphs may not sum to exactly 100% because of rounding.

Additionally, rounding on the graphs may cause apparent discrepancies of 1 percentage point between the graphs and the reported results of combined responses (e.g., when “strongly support” and “moderately support” are summed to determine the total percentage in support).

A note about the layout of the report: some graphs pertain to more than one section, so these graphs are discussed in more than one section of the report. In these instances when the graph is discussed in more than one section, the graph is only shown in one section with a call-out in the other section indicating where the graph is located.

KNOWLEDGE OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- Self-professed knowledge levels about managing wildlife and natural resources are somewhat low among Virginia residents: only 9% of Virginia residents indicate that they know *a great deal* about managing wildlife and natural resources, and 41% say that they know *a great deal* or *a moderate amount*. Meanwhile, a majority of residents (59%) say that they know *a little* or *nothing*. Note that these are self-ratings, and respondents were asked to rate their knowledge prior to getting any of the knowledge questions.
 - There is slightly higher self-professed knowledge regarding how much Virginia residents know about *wildlife* in Virginia, compared to the previous question. While, again, 9% say that they know *a great deal*, nearly half (47%) say that they know *a great deal* or *a moderate amount*, with the remainder saying that they know *a little* (at 41%, the most common answer) or *nothing* (11%).
 - The overall self-professed knowledge level specifically about black bears in Virginia is lower than the knowledge levels about managing wildlife and natural resources and about wildlife in Virginia: only 2% of Virginia residents say that they know *a great deal* about black bears in Virginia, and only 22% say that they know *a great deal* or *a moderate amount*. Meanwhile, 78% say that they know *a little* or *nothing*.

The nonparametric analysis found that the following responses are correlated with **claiming to know a great deal or a moderate amount about black bears in Virginia**:

- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to say that they know a great deal or a moderate amount about managing wildlife and natural resources ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years ($p \leq 0.001$), and is currently increasing or remaining stable ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to believe black bears live in their county of residence ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to answer correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*

- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to answer correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to answer correctly by believing that no one has been killed by a black bear in Virginia in 100 years ($p \leq 0.001$), or answer incorrectly by believing that 1-5 people have been killed by a black bear in Virginia in 100 years ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to answer correctly by disagreeing with the statement that encountering a female black bear with cubs is always dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to support and encourage the existence of black bears in Virginia (e.g., think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia, strongly or moderately agree that the presence of black bears near their home improves their overall quality of life, strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia) (all at $p \leq 0.001$ or greater significance).*
- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to have personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to frequently or sometimes see or hear about black bears in their neighborhood ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to having personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to want to see and have black bears in their yard ($p \leq 0.001$), or want to see and have black bears in their neighborhood but not in their yard ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to strongly or moderately agree that people and black bears can live in the same area without conflict ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in*

Virginia to strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).

- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to strongly or moderately oppose most fines or restrictions related to areas where black bears may exist (e.g., oppose fines for people who attract black bears, either intentionally or unintentionally, oppose requiring people to use bear-proof garbage containers in areas frequented by bears) (all at $p \leq 0.01$ or greater significance).*
- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to prefer using the following management options for reducing the black bear population in areas with high human populations or frequent human use: capture and destroy ($p \leq 0.001$), kill permits ($p \leq 0.001$), and regulated hunting ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to think the following methods of destroying black bears that are causing problems are acceptable: special hunting programs ($p \leq 0.001$) and kill permits issued by the Department ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to consider themselves to be a hunter ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to have recently participated in the following hunting and fishing activities in Virginia: fished over 5 days in the current fishing season ($p \leq 0.001$), purchased a hunting license for the 2009-2010 season ($p \leq 0.001$), hunted over 5 days in the current hunting season ($p \leq 0.001$), hunted in the current 2009-2010 season ($p \leq 0.001$), and fished 1-5 days in the current fishing season ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to have participated in the following outdoor recreational activities in Virginia in the past 2 years: gone hiking ($p \leq 0.001$), watched wildlife over 1 mile from home ($p \leq 0.001$), watched wildlife within 1 mile of home ($p \leq 0.001$), fed birds around their home ($p \leq 0.001$), gone camping ($p \leq 0.001$), and gone biking ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to be male ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to be white or Caucasian ($p \leq 0.001$).*

- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to live in Region 3B ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to consider their place of residence to be a rural area on a farm or ranch ($p \leq 0.001$), a rural area not on a farm or ranch ($p \leq 0.01$), or a semi-rural area ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to have a post-graduate or professional degree ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to consider their place of residence to be more than the median age of 25 years ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia to be 65 years old or older ($p \leq 0.05$).*

The nonparametric analysis found that the following responses are correlated with **claiming to know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia:**

- *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia to say that they know a little or nothing about managing wildlife and natural resources ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia to think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years ($p \leq 0.001$), and is currently declining ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia to answer incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia to answer incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia to not support or encourage the existence of black bears in Virginia (e.g., think it is not at all important to know black bears exist in Virginia, strongly or moderately disagree that the presence of black bears near their home improves their overall quality of life, strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia) (all at $p \leq 0.001$ or greater significance).*
- *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia to have not personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*

- *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia to rarely or never see or hear about black bears in their neighborhood ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia to feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia to have never personally had a problem with black bears within the past 2 years ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia to strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia to strongly or moderately disagree that people and black bears can live in the same area without conflict ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia to strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia to strongly or moderately support fines for people who attract black bears, either intentionally or unintentionally ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia to strongly or moderately agree that the property owner should be compensated for the damages when a black bear damages property ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia to prefer using the following management option for reducing the black bear population in areas with high human populations or frequent human use: capture and relocate ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia to think the following method of destroying black bears that are causing problems is acceptable: The Department captures bears and destroys them ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia to believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in*

- Virginia* to not have fished ($p \leq 0.001$) or hunted ($p \leq 0.001$) during the current fishing and hunting seasons in Virginia.
- *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia to have gone running or jogging in Virginia the past 2 years ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia to be female ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia to be African-American ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia to live in Region 1 ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia to be 18-34 years old ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia to consider their place of residence to be the median age of 25 years or less ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia to have an income of under \$20,000 ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia to consider their place of residence to be a suburban area ($p \leq 0.05$) or a small city or town ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who say they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who say they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Virginia to have some college or trade school, but no degree ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- Several questions in the survey probed residents' knowledge about black bears.
- One of those knowledge questions asked Virginia residents if bears live in Virginia: 85% correctly answered that they do, while 15% gave an incorrect answer.
 - Regardless of their answer to the above, residents were informed by the interviewer that there are bear populations in Virginia. Residents were then asked to name the types of bears that live in Virginia. While 60% named black bear as a bear species living in Virginia, only 58% named black bear *without incorrectly also naming brown/grizzly bear* as living in Virginia.

- Another knowledge question asked residents about black bears' diet: 43% correctly answered that black bears eat mostly plants; 57% gave an incorrect answer or answered that they do not know.
- A knowledge question asked residents to indicate how often black bears give birth: 30% correctly answered that they do so every other year; meanwhile, 70% incorrectly answered the question.
- The majority of Virginians have been misinformed about the danger of a black bear with cubs: 74% of Virginia residents agreed with the statement, "Encountering a female black bear with cubs is always dangerous to humans"; meanwhile, 20% disagreed. Biologists consider this statement to be *false* for several reasons, primary among those reasons being that, because black bears can tree their cubs, it is rare for them to injure a person in that situation. Also, protective attacks (i.e., an attack to protect cubs or to protect territory) are generally less dangerous than are predatory attacks (i.e., an attack to obtain food), the latter being the most dangerous attack—when the bear is hungry and is attacking to obtain food.
- Misinformation is rampant regarding black bears and their posture prior to attacking. More than 2 in 5 Virginia residents (42%) incorrectly agreed with the statement, "A black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack." Meanwhile, 41% disagreed. Biologists consider the statement to be false. A bear stands to better view and smell what is around him; it is *not* considered an aggressive posture.
- The most misinformation appears to be regarding fatal black bear attacks in Virginia. When asked to indicate the number of people that they think have been killed by black bears in Virginia in the last 100 years, only 12% of Virginia residents correctly answered that no people have been documented as being killed by black bears in that time. Meanwhile, 48% gave an incorrect answer, and 40% answered that they do not know.

The nonparametric analysis found that the following responses are correlated with **answering incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia:**

- *Those who answered incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia are more likely than are those who answered correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia to say that they know a little or nothing about managing wildlife and natural resources ($p \leq 0.001$).*

- *Those who answered incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia are more likely than are those who answered correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia to believe it is very or somewhat important to have native species exist in Virginia ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia are more likely than are those who answered correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia to say that they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia are more likely than are those who answered correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia to think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia are more likely than are those who answered correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia to answer correctly by disagreeing with the statement that encountering a female black bear with cubs is always dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia are more likely than are those who answered correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia to not support or encourage the existence of black bears in Virginia (e.g., strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia, think it is not at all important to know black bears exist in Virginia, strongly or moderately disagree that black bears are an important and essential part of Virginia's ecosystem) (all at $p \leq 0.01$ or greater significance).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia are more likely than are those who answered correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia to have not personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia are more likely than are those who answered correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia to rarely or never see or hear about black bears in their neighborhood ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia are more likely than are those who answered correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia to feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia are more likely than are those who answered correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia to strongly or moderately disagree that people and black bears can live in the same area without conflict ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia are more likely than are those who answered correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia to strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia are more likely than are those who answered correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia to strongly or moderately support prohibiting people visiting or living in areas frequented by black bears from using birdfeeders or participating in other wildlife feeding activities ($p \leq 0.001$), but strongly or moderately oppose requiring people whose birdfeeders are attracting black bears to take down or electrify the birdfeeder ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia are more likely than are those who answered correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia to*

not be willing to pay about \$10 more per month for trash service for only 12 months to pay for the cost of bear-proof garbage containers ($p \leq 0.001$).

- *Those who answered incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia are more likely than are those who answered correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia to strongly or moderately agree that the property owner should be compensated for the damages when a black bear damages property ($p \leq 0.001$), damage occurs to agricultural crops ($p \leq 0.001$), or damage occurs to livestock ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia are more likely than are those who answered correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia to not have fished during the current fishing season in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia are more likely than are those who answered correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia to be African-American ($p \leq 0.001$) or Hispanic or Latino ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia are more likely than are those who answered correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia to be 18-34 years old ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia are more likely than are those who answered correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia to live in Region 1 ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia are more likely than are those who answered correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia to have lived in Virginia the median number of 25 years or less ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia are more likely than are those who answered correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia to have an income of \$100,000-\$119,999 ($p \leq 0.001$) or \$80,000-\$99,999 ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia are more likely than are those who answered correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia to consider their place of residence to be a small city or town ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia are more likely than are those who answered correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia to have some college or trade school, but no degree ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia are more likely than are those who answered correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia to be female ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia are more likely than are those who answered correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia to consider their place of residence to be the median age of 25 years or less ($p \leq 0.05$).*

The nonparametric analysis found that the following responses are correlated with **answering correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack**:

- *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to say that they know a great deal or a moderate amount about managing wildlife and natural resources ($p \leq 0.001$).*

- *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to say that they know a great deal or a moderate amount about black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable ($p \leq 0.001$) and has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to believe black bears live in their county of residence ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to answer correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to answer correctly by disagreeing with the statement that encountering a female black bear with cubs is always dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to answer incorrectly by believing that 1-5 people have been killed by a black bear in Virginia in 100 years ($p \leq 0.001$), or answer correctly by believing that no one has been killed by a black bear in Virginia in 100 years ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to support and encourage the existence of black bears in Virginia (e.g., strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia, strongly or moderately agrees that black bears are an important and essential part of Virginia's ecosystem, strongly or moderately agree that preserving habitat on which black bears depend is important) (all at $p \leq 0.01$ or greater significance).*
- *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about*

- to attack to have personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to want to see and have black bears in their yard ($p \leq 0.001$) or want to see and have black bears in their neighborhood but not in their yard ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to strongly or moderately agree that people and black bears can live in the same area without conflict ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to strongly or moderately oppose requiring people whose birdfeeders are attracting black bears to take down or electrify the birdfeeder ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to prefer using the following management options for reducing the black bear population in areas with high human populations or frequent human use: regulated hunting ($p \leq 0.01$), kill permits ($p \leq 0.01$), and sharpshooters ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to think the following methods of destroying black bears that are causing problems are acceptable: kill permits issued by the Department ($p \leq 0.001$), Department sharpshooters ($p \leq 0.001$), and special hunting programs ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered*

incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears ($p \leq 0.01$).

- *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to consider themselves to be a hunter ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to have recently participated in the following hunting and fishing activities in Virginia: purchased a hunting license for the 2009-2010 season ($p \leq 0.001$), hunted in the current 2009-2010 season ($p \leq 0.001$), fished 1-5 days in the current fishing season ($p \leq 0.001$), hunted over 5 days in the current hunting season ($p \leq 0.001$), fished over 5 days in the current fishing season ($p \leq 0.05$), and hunted 1-5 days in the current hunting season ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to have participated in the following outdoor recreational activities in Virginia in the past 2 years: gone hiking ($p \leq 0.001$) and biking ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to be male ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to be white or Caucasian ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to have a post-graduate or professional degree ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to be 35-64 years old ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to have an income of \$100,000-\$119,999 ($p \leq 0.01$) or \$120,000 or more ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to live in Region 3B ($p \leq 0.05$).*

- *Those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to consider their place of residence to be a rural area not on a farm or ranch ($p \leq 0.05$) or a rural area on a farm or ranch ($p \leq 0.05$).*

The nonparametric analysis found that the following responses are correlated with **answering incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack**:

- *Those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to say that they know a little or nothing about managing wildlife and natural resources ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to say that they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to answer incorrectly by agreeing with the statement that encountering a female black bear with cubs is always dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to have not personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to strongly or moderately disagree that people and black bears can live in the same area without conflict ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to want to see and have black bears in their county or city but not in their neighborhood*

- ($p \leq 0.01$), or feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county ($p \leq 0.01$).
- *Those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to strongly or moderately support fines for people who attract black bears, either intentionally or unintentionally ($p \leq 0.001$), and strongly or moderately support requiring people whose birdfeeders are attracting black bears to take down or electrify the birdfeeder ($p \leq 0.01$), but strongly or moderately oppose prohibiting people visiting or living in areas frequented by black bears from using birdfeeders or participating in other wildlife feeding activities ($p \leq 0.001$) and strongly or moderately oppose requiring counties that are frequented by bears and that use open dumpsters to use bear-proof dumpsters ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to not be willing to pay about \$10 more per month for trash service for only 12 months to pay for the cost of bear-proof garbage containers ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to not have fished ($p \leq 0.001$) or hunted ($p \leq 0.05$) during the current fishing and hunting seasons in Virginia.*
 - *Those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to be African-American ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to consider their place of residence to be a small city or town ($p \leq 0.001$) or a semi-rural area ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to be female ($p \leq 0.001$).*

- *Those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to be no more than a high school graduate or equivalent ($p \leq 0.01$) or have some college or trade school, but no degree ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who answered incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack are more likely than are those who answered correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack to have an income of under \$20,000 ($p \leq 0.01$) or \$80,000-\$99,999 ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- The survey asked Virginia residents if they think that black bear populations in Virginia in the past 10 years have increased, stayed about the same, or decreased. Most commonly, residents correctly answered that black bear populations in Virginia have *increased* (39%) over the past 10 years.

The nonparametric analysis found that the following responses are correlated with **thinking the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years**:

- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to say that they know a great deal or a moderate amount about managing wildlife and natural resources ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to believe black bears live in their county of residence ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to say that they know a great deal or a moderate amount about black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to answer correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear*

population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to answer correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack ($p \leq 0.001$).

- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to answer incorrectly by believing that 1-5 people ($p \leq 0.05$) or six or more people ($p \leq 0.05$) have been killed by a black bear in Virginia in 100 years, or answer correctly by believing that no one has been killed by a black bear in Virginia in 100 years ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to support and encourage the existence of black bears in Virginia (e.g., strongly or moderately agree that black bears are an important and essential part of Virginia's ecosystem, strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia, think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia) (all at $p \leq 0.001$ or greater significance).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to have personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to frequently or sometimes see or hear about black bears in their neighborhood ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to want to see and have black bears in their neighborhood but not in their yard ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to strongly or moderately agree with that people and black bears can live in the same area without conflict ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to say black bears are a major or minor problem for them in their neighborhood or on their property ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear*

- population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to strongly or moderately oppose requiring people to use bear-proof garbage containers in areas frequented by bears ($p \leq 0.01$) and strongly or moderately oppose fines for people who attract black bears, either intentionally or unintentionally ($p \leq 0.01$), but strongly or moderately support requiring people whose birdfeeders are attracting black bears to take down or electrify the birdfeeder ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to prefer using the following management options for reducing the black bear population in areas with high human populations or frequent human use: sharpshooters ($p \leq 0.001$), kill permits ($p \leq 0.001$), regulated hunting ($p \leq 0.001$), and capture and destroy ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to think the following methods of destroying black bears that are causing problems are acceptable: kill permits issued by the Department ($p \leq 0.001$) and special hunting programs ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to consider themselves to be a hunter ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to have recently participated in the following hunting and fishing activities in Virginia: fished over 5 days in the current fishing season ($p \leq 0.001$), purchased a hunting license for the 2009-2010 season ($p \leq 0.001$), hunted over 5 days in the current hunting season ($p \leq 0.001$), and hunted in the current 2009-2010 season ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to have participated in the following outdoor recreational activities in Virginia in the past 2 years: watched wildlife over 1 mile from home ($p \leq 0.001$), gone hiking ($p \leq 0.001$), watched wildlife within 1 mile of home ($p \leq 0.001$), and fed birds around their home ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear*

- population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to have lived in Virginia more than the median number of 25 years ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to be white or Caucasian ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to be male ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to live in Region 3A ($p \leq 0.001$), Region 2B ($p \leq 0.001$), or Region 3B ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to have lived in their place of residence more than the median number of 7 years ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to be no more than a high school graduate or equivalent ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to have an income of \$60,000-\$79,999 ($p \leq 0.001$) or \$20,000-\$39,999 ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to consider their place of residence to be a rural area on a farm or ranch ($p \leq 0.001$) or a rural area not on a farm or ranch ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to be 65 years old or older ($p \leq 0.01$) or 35-64 years old ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years to consider their place of residence more than the median age of 25 years ($p \leq 0.05$).*

The nonparametric analysis found that the following responses are correlated with **thinking the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years**:

- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to say that they know a little or nothing about managing wildlife and natural resources ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to believe it is very or somewhat important to have native species exist in Virginia ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to say that they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to answer incorrectly by believing bears do not live in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to answer incorrectly by believing that six or more people have been killed by a black bear in Virginia in 100 years ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to answer incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to have not personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to rarely or never see or hear about black bears in their neighborhood ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has*

increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to want to see and have black bears in their county or city but not in their neighborhood ($p \leq 0.001$).

- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to say black bears are not a problem at all for them in their neighborhood or on their property ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to strongly or moderately oppose requiring people whose birdfeeders are attracting black bears to take down or electrify the birdfeeder ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to be willing to pay about \$10 more per month for trash service for only 12 months to pay for the cost of bear-proof garbage containers ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to strongly or moderately oppose that the property owner should be compensated for the damages when black bear damage occurs to agricultural crops ($p \leq 0.001$) or to livestock ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to prefer using the following management option for reducing the black bear population in areas with high human populations or frequent human use: capture and relocate ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to have participated in the following outdoor recreational activities in Virginia in the past 2 years: gone running or jogging ($p \leq 0.001$), biking ($p \leq 0.001$), and camping ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to not have hunted during the current hunting season ($p \leq 0.001$), but have fished 1-5 days in the current fishing season ($p \leq 0.001$) in Virginia.*

- Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to be 18-34 years old ($p \leq 0.001$).
 - Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to have lived in their place of residence the median number of 7 years or less ($p \leq 0.001$).
 - Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to live in Region 1 ($p \leq 0.001$).
 - Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to have lived in Virginia the median number of 25 years or less ($p \leq 0.001$).
 - Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to have some college or trade school, but no degree ($p \leq 0.001$).
 - Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to consider their place of residence to be a suburban area ($p \leq 0.001$).
 - Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to have an income of \$120,000 or more ($p \leq 0.01$).
 - Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to consider their place of residence to be the median age of 25 years or less ($p \leq 0.01$).
 - Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to be African-American ($p \leq 0.05$).
 - Those who think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years to be female ($p \leq 0.05$).
- Most commonly, Virginia residents, when presented with four statements about the status of the black bear population in Virginia, say that it is *stable and healthy* (31%). Additionally, 21% say it is *increasing* (the consensus of VDGIF biologists is that the black bear population is *increasing*). Meanwhile, 48% gave an indisputably incorrect answer (*declining, endangered, or don't know*).

The nonparametric analysis found that the following responses are correlated with **thinking the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable**:

- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to say that they know a great deal or a moderate amount about managing wildlife and natural resources ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to believe black bears live in their county of residence ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to say that they know a great deal or a moderate amount about black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to answer correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to answer correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to answer correctly by believing that no one has been killed by a black bear in Virginia in 100 years ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to support and encourage the existence of black bears in Virginia (e.g., strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia, strongly or moderately agree that black bears are an important and essential part of Virginia's ecosystem, think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia) (all at $p \leq 0.05$ or greater significance).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to have personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*

- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to frequently or sometimes see or hear about black bears in their neighborhood ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to want to see and have black bears in their neighborhood but not in their yard ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to strongly or moderately agree that people and black bears can live in the same area without conflict ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to say black bears are a major or minor problem for them in their neighborhood or on their property ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to strongly or moderately support most fines or restrictions related to areas where black bears may exist (e.g., support requiring people whose birdfeeders are attracting black bears to take down or electrify the birdfeeder, support requiring counties that are frequented by bears and that use open dumpsters to use bear-proof dumpsters, supports requiring people to use bear-proof garbage containers in areas frequented by bears) (all at $p \leq 0.05$ or greater significance).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to not be willing to pay about \$10 more per month for trash service for only 12 months to pay for the cost of bear-proof garbage containers ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to strongly or moderately oppose that the property owner should be compensated for the damages when a black bear damages property ($p \leq 0.01$).*

- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to prefer using the following management options for reducing the black bear population in areas with high human populations or frequent human use: regulated hunting, kill permits, sharpshooters, and capture and destroy (all at $p \leq 0.001$ or greater significance).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to think the following methods of destroying black bears that are causing problems are acceptable: kill permits issued by the Department ($p \leq 0.001$), special hunting programs ($p \leq 0.001$), and Department sharpshooters ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently decreasing to consider themselves to be a hunter ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to have recently participated in the following hunting and fishing activities in Virginia: hunted over 5 days in the current hunting season, purchased a hunting license for the 2009-2010 season, hunted in the current 2009-2010 season, and fished over 5 days in the current fishing season (all at $p \leq 0.001$ or greater significance).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to have participated in the following outdoor recreational activities in Virginia in the past 2 years: gone hiking ($p \leq 0.001$), watched wildlife within 1 mile of home ($p \leq 0.001$), watched wildlife over 1 mile from home ($p \leq 0.01$), and gone camping ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently decreasing to be male ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to have lived in their place of residence more than the median number of 7 years ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently decreasing to be white or Caucasian ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to live in Region 3A ($p \leq 0.001$), Region 3B ($p \leq 0.01$), or Region 2B ($p \leq 0.01$).*

- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to have lived in Virginia more than the median number of 25 years ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to consider their place of residence to be a rural area on a farm or ranch ($p \leq 0.001$) or a semi-rural area ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently decreasing to have an income of \$20,000-\$39,999 ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to consider their place of residence to be more than the median age of 25 years ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining to be 65 years old or older ($p \leq 0.05$).*

The nonparametric analysis found that the following responses are correlated with **thinking the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining**:

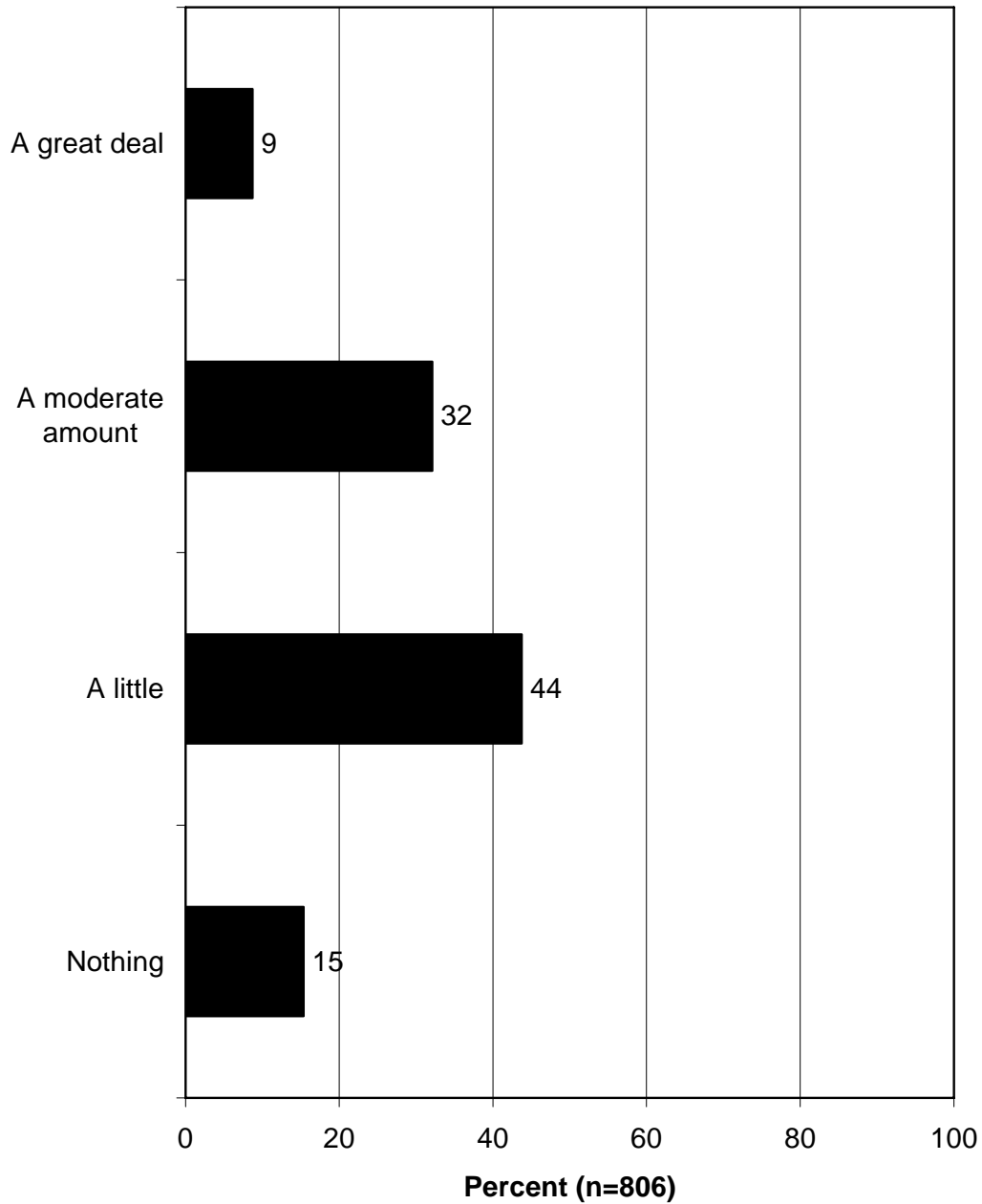
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable to believe it is very or somewhat important to have native species exist in Virginia ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable to think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable to say that they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable to answer incorrectly by believing that six or more people have been killed by a black bear in Virginia in 100 years ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable to answer correctly by disagreeing with the statement that encountering a female black bear with cubs is always dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable to think it is not at all important to know black bears exist in Virginia ($p \leq 0.01$), and strongly or moderately disagree that the presence of black bears near their home improves their overall quality of life ($p \leq 0.05$).*

- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable to rarely or never see or hear about black bears in their neighborhood ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable to have not personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable to strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable to strongly or moderately oppose requiring people whose birdfeeders are attracting black bears to take down or electrify the birdfeeder ($p \leq 0.001$), but strongly or moderately support fines for people who attract black bears, either intentionally or unintentionally ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable to be willing to pay about \$10 more per month for trash service for only 12 months to pay for the cost of bear-proof garbage containers ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable to strongly or moderately oppose that the property owner should be compensated for the damages when a black bear damages property ($p \leq 0.01$) or damage occurs to agricultural crops ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable to prefer using the following management option for reducing the black bear population in areas with high human populations or frequent human use: capture and relocate ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable to believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable to have participated in the following outdoor recreational activities in Virginia in the past 2 years: gone biking ($p \leq 0.001$), running or jogging ($p \leq 0.001$), and camping ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable to have fished 1-5 days in the current fishing season ($p \leq 0.01$), but have not hunted during the current hunting season ($p \leq 0.01$) in Virginia.*

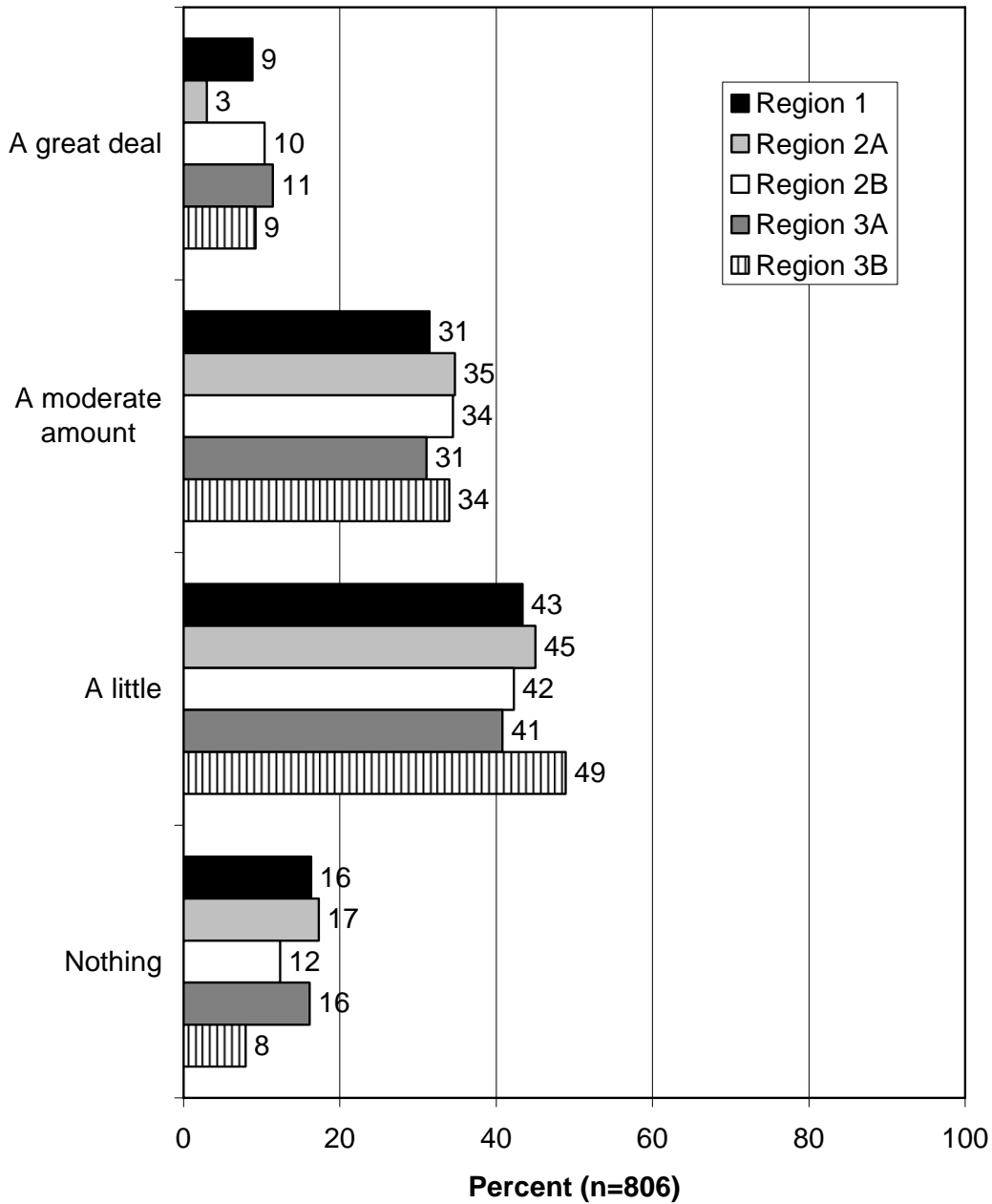
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable to live in Region 1 ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable to have lived in their place of residence the median number of 7 years or less ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable to be 18-34 years old ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable to consider their place of residence to be a large city or urban area ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable to have lived in Virginia the median number of 25 years or less ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable to have an income of \$120,000 or more ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable to be female ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable to have some college or trade school, but no degree ($p \leq 0.01$), or a post-graduate or professional degree ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- The survey gauged residents' perceptions of the relative abundance or scarcity of black bears in Virginia's three primary geographical regions (the Tidewater and Coastal Plain Region, the Piedmont Region, and the Mountain and Valley Region). Residents were asked if they think that black bears are abundant, common, rare, or absent in each region. The Mountain and Valley Region is perceived to have the most black bears; the Tidewater/Coastal Plain Region is perceived to have the fewest bears.

- Residents were asked if black bears currently live in their county of residence. The analysis shows a breakdown according to whether black bears are considered to be living in the county. Among those who live in a county in which bears are considered to be living, 72% of them answered that black bears are living in their county of residence; among those from counties (and all the independent cities) in which bears have only been occasionally or never sighted, 66% answered that black bears do *not* live in their county (or city) of residence.

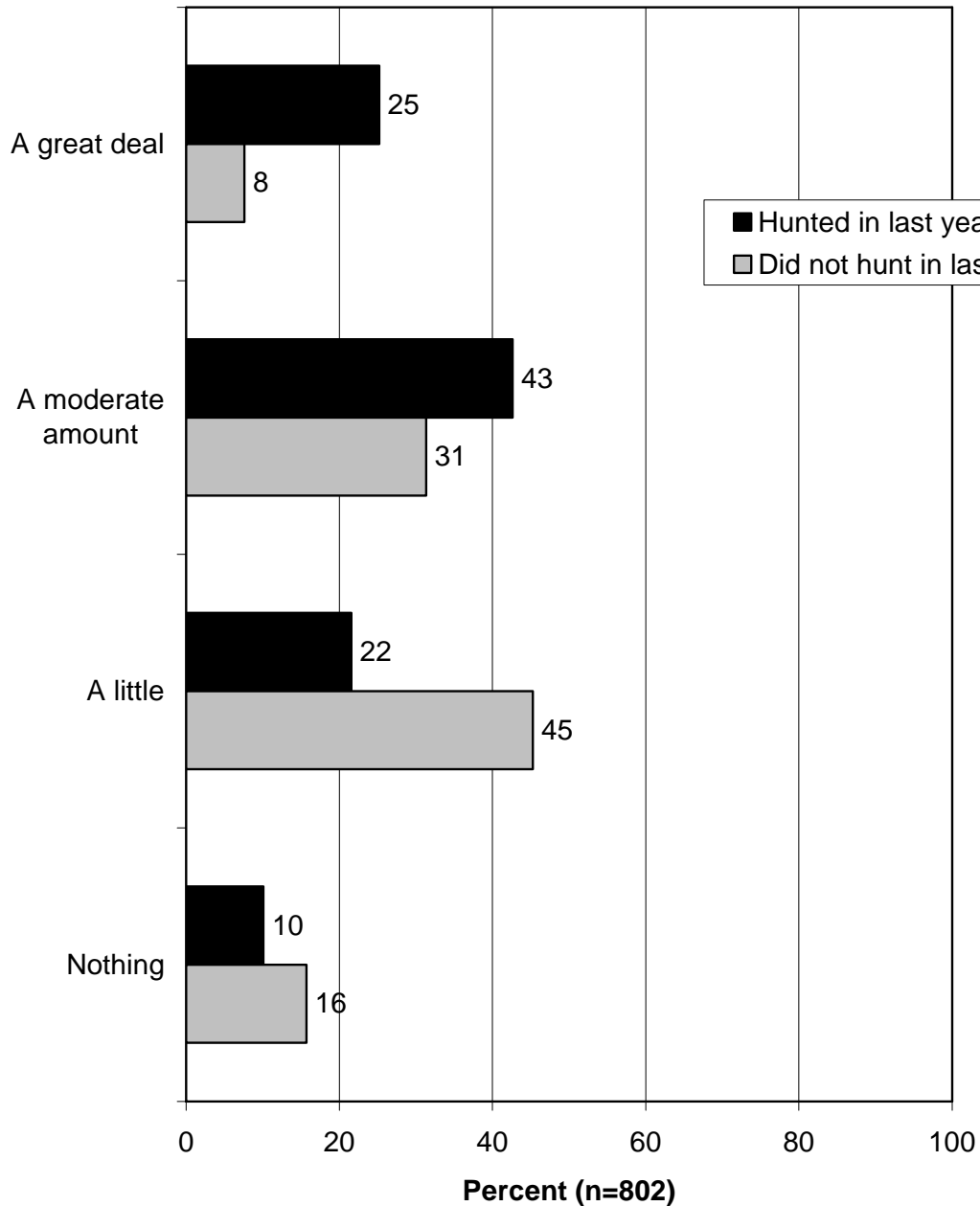
Q29. Overall, how much would you say you know about managing wildlife and natural resources? Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing?



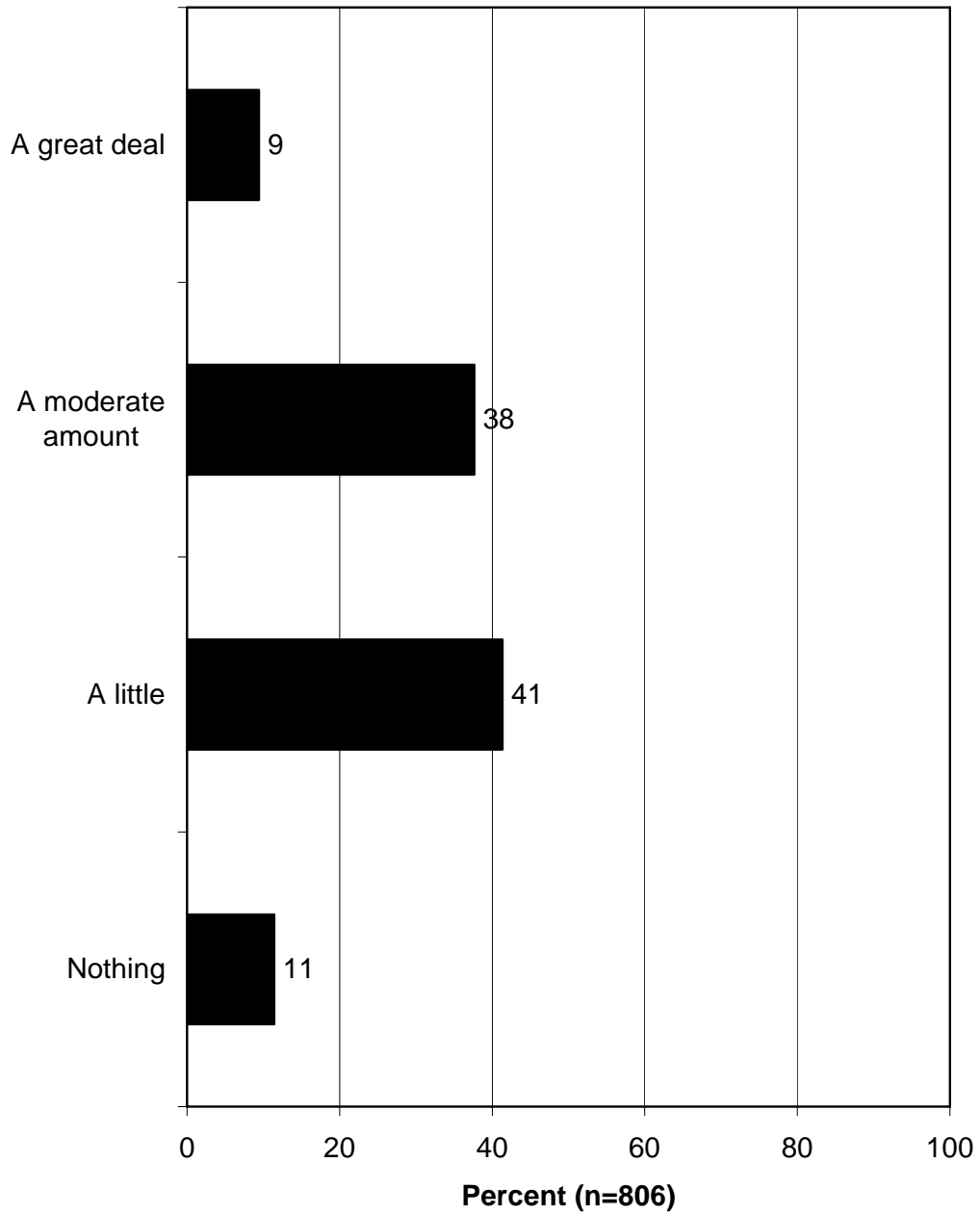
**Q29. Overall, how much would you say you know about managing wildlife and natural resources?
Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing?**



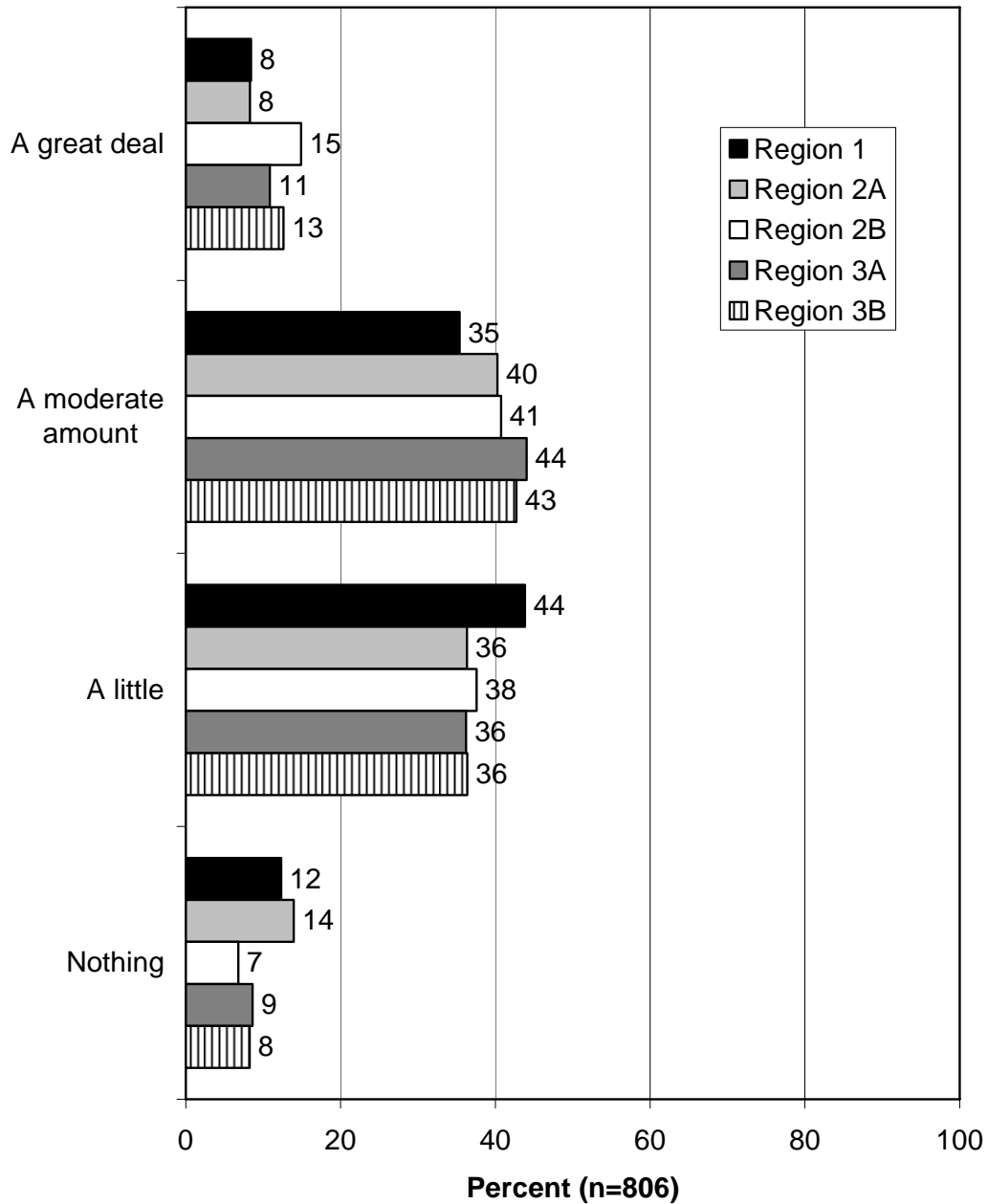
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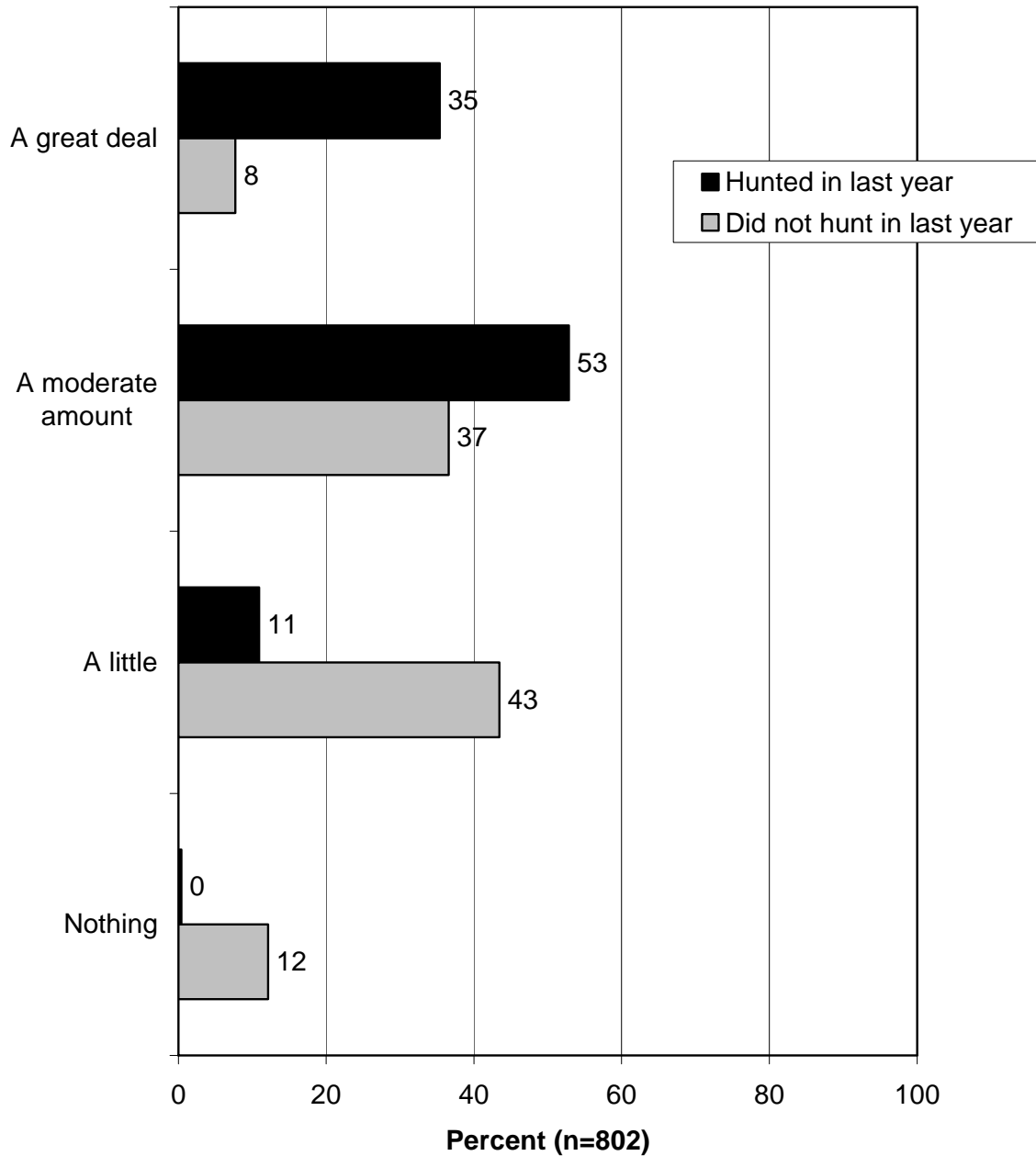
Q30. How much would you say you know about wildlife in Virginia? Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing?



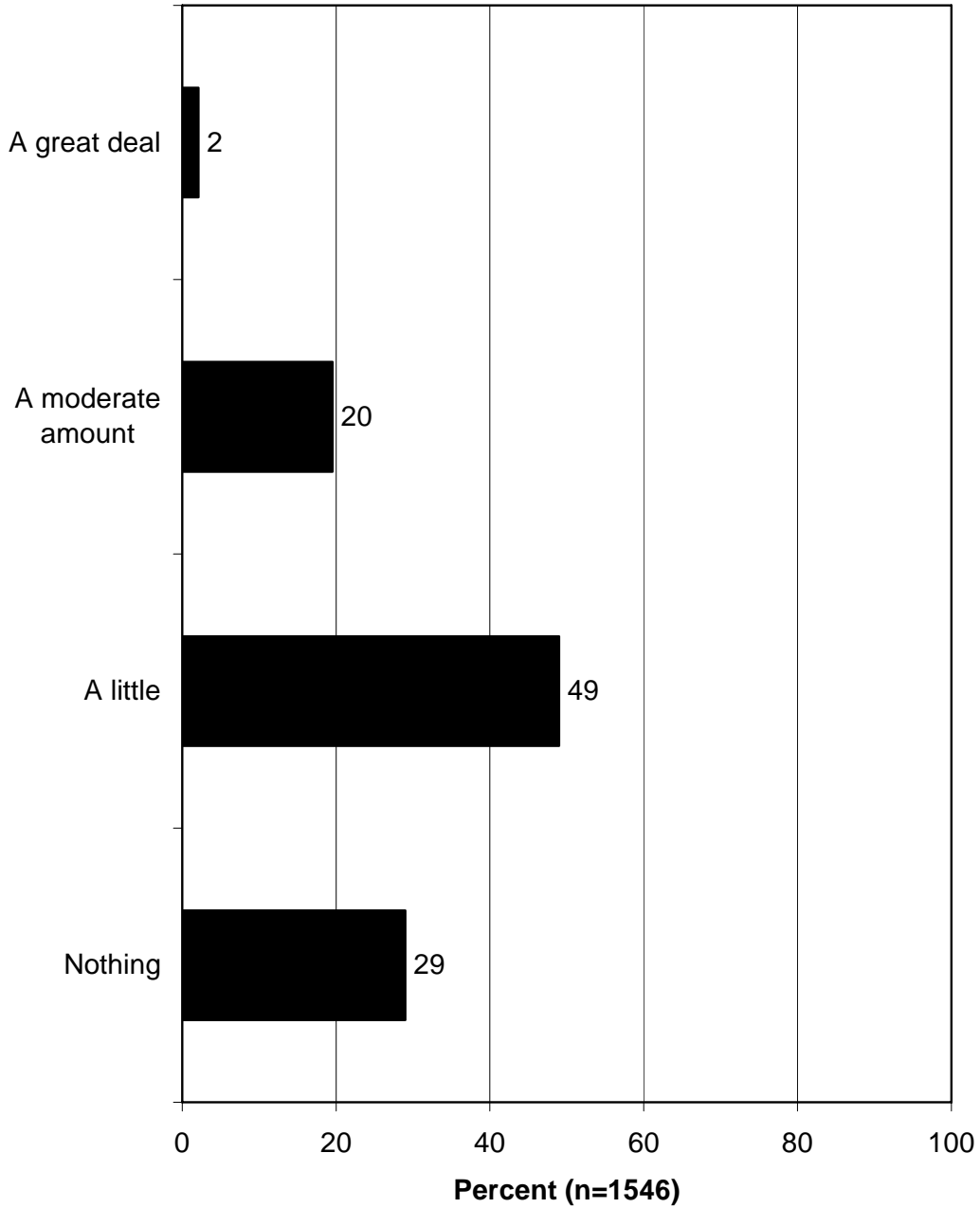
Q30. How much would you say you know about wildlife in Virginia? Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing?



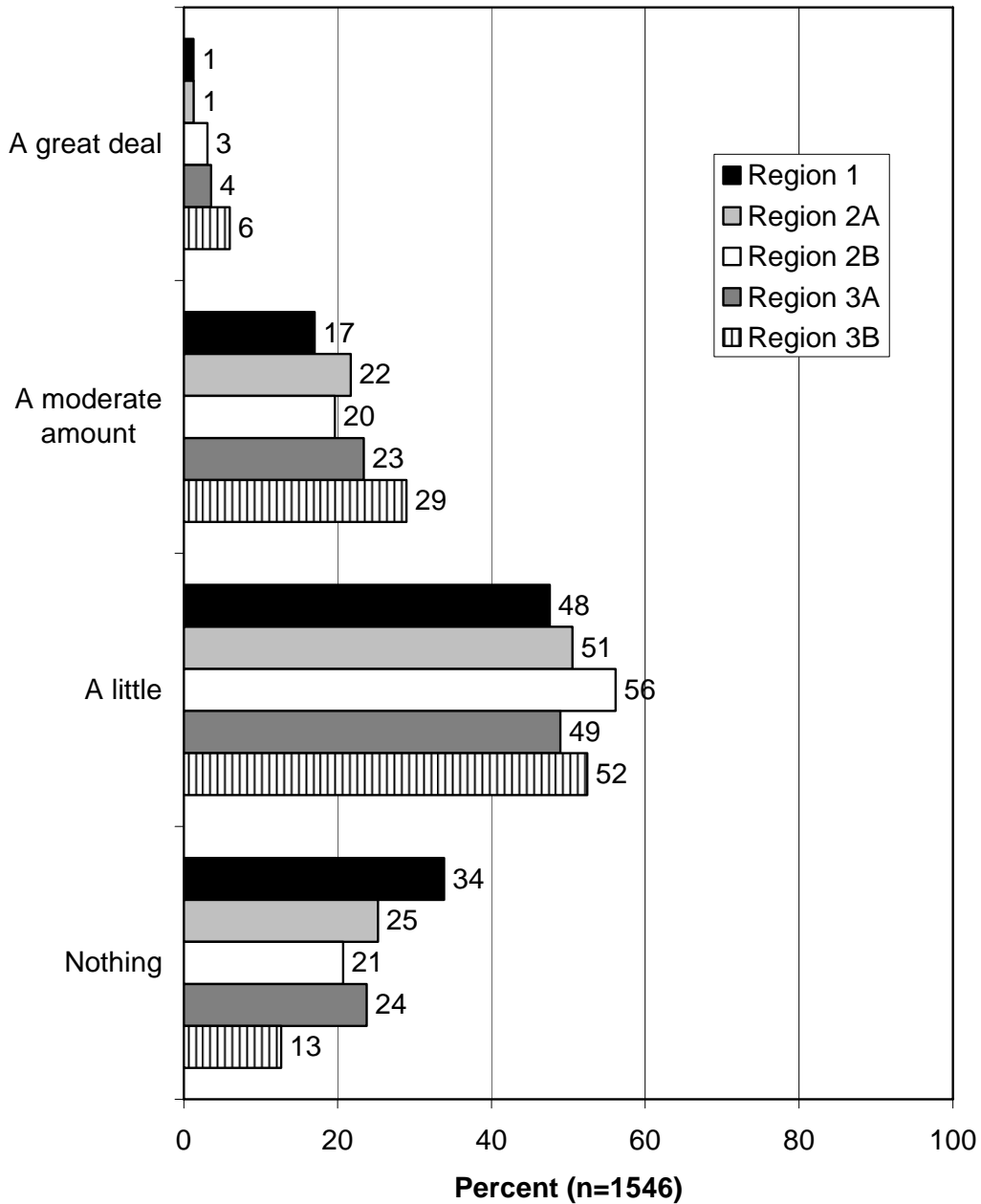
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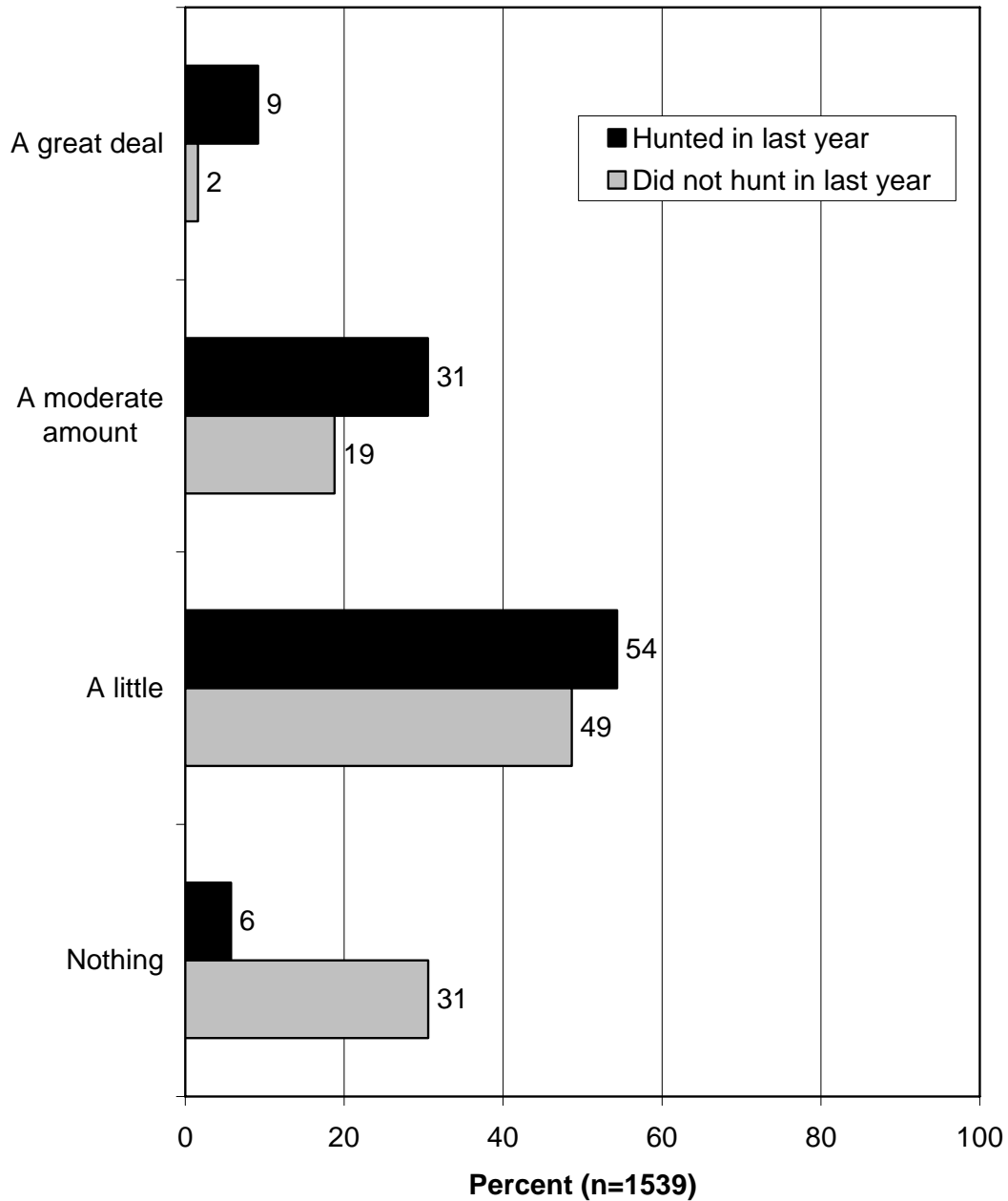
Q37. How much would you say you know about black bears in Virginia? Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing?



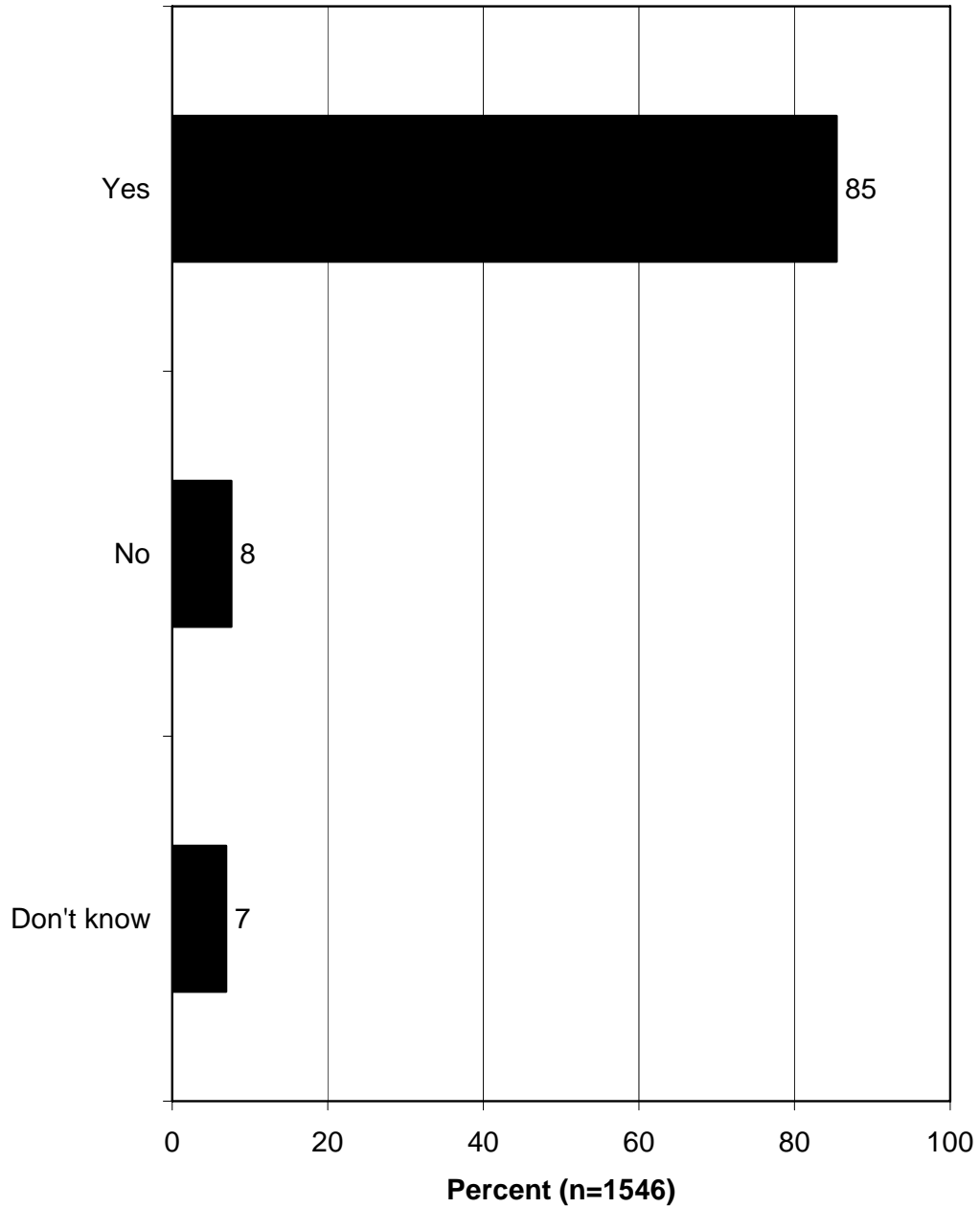
Q37. How much would you say you know about black bears in Virginia? Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing?



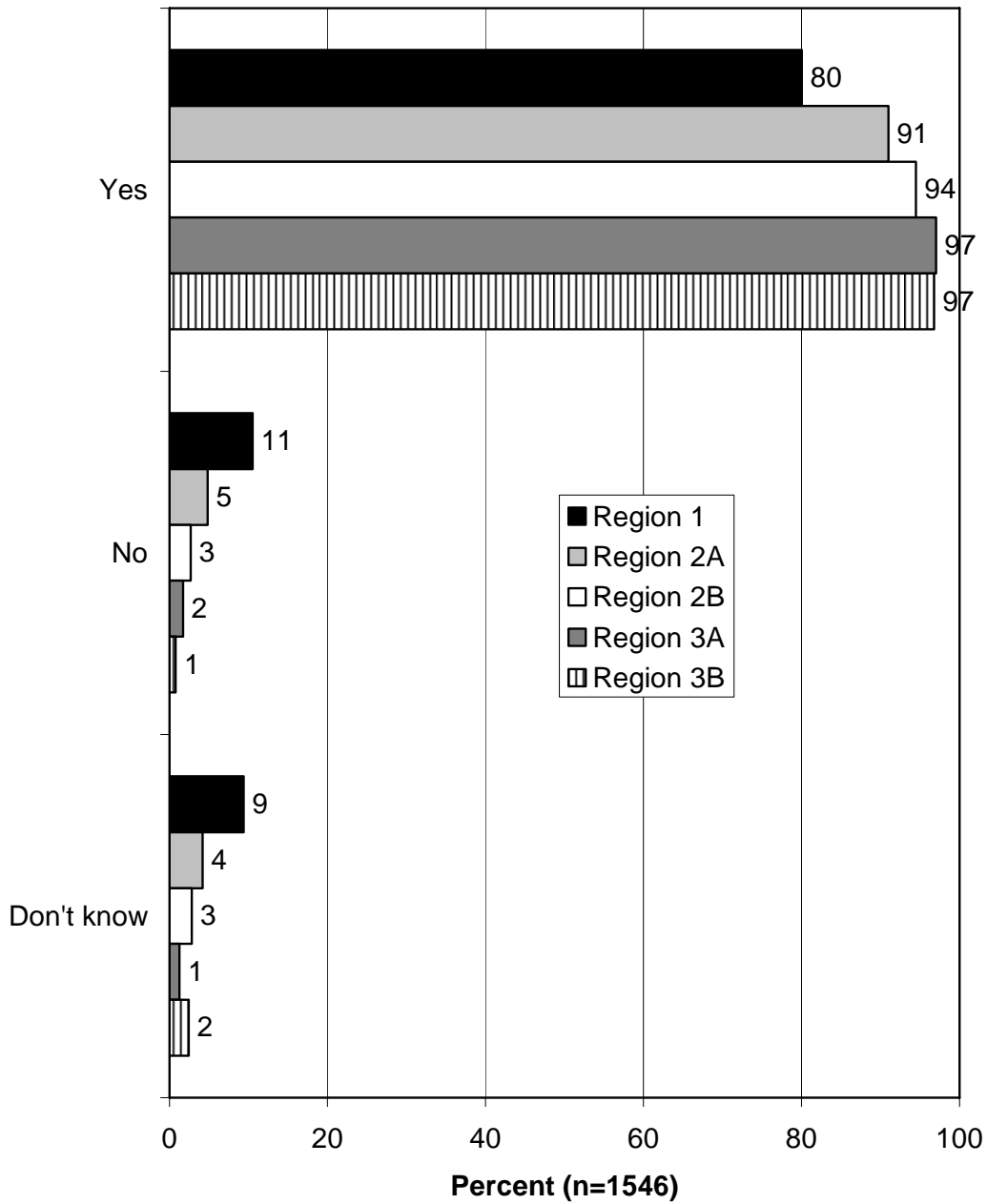
Q37. How much would you say you know about black bears in Virginia? Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing?



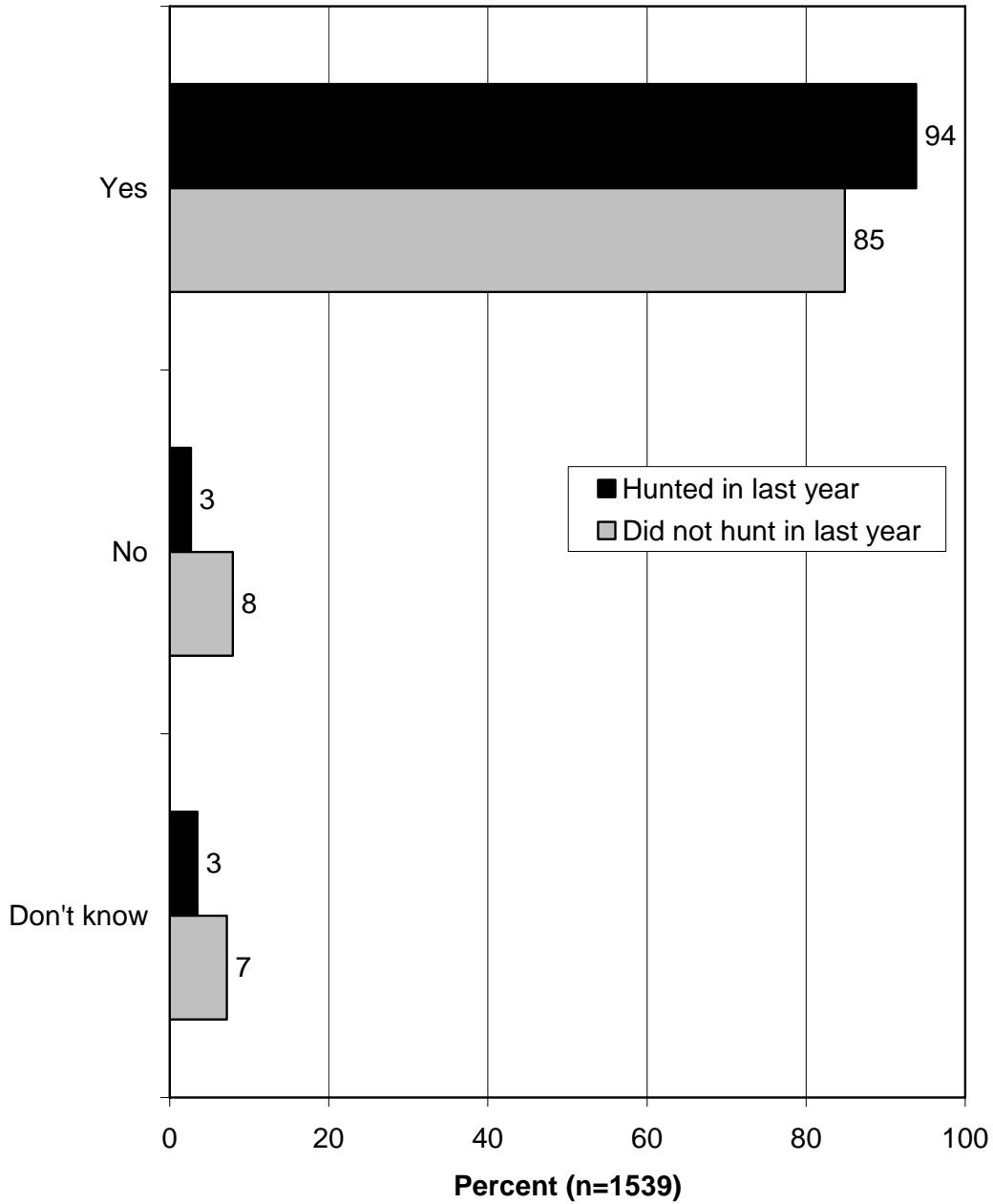
Q32. Based on what you know, do bears currently live in Virginia?



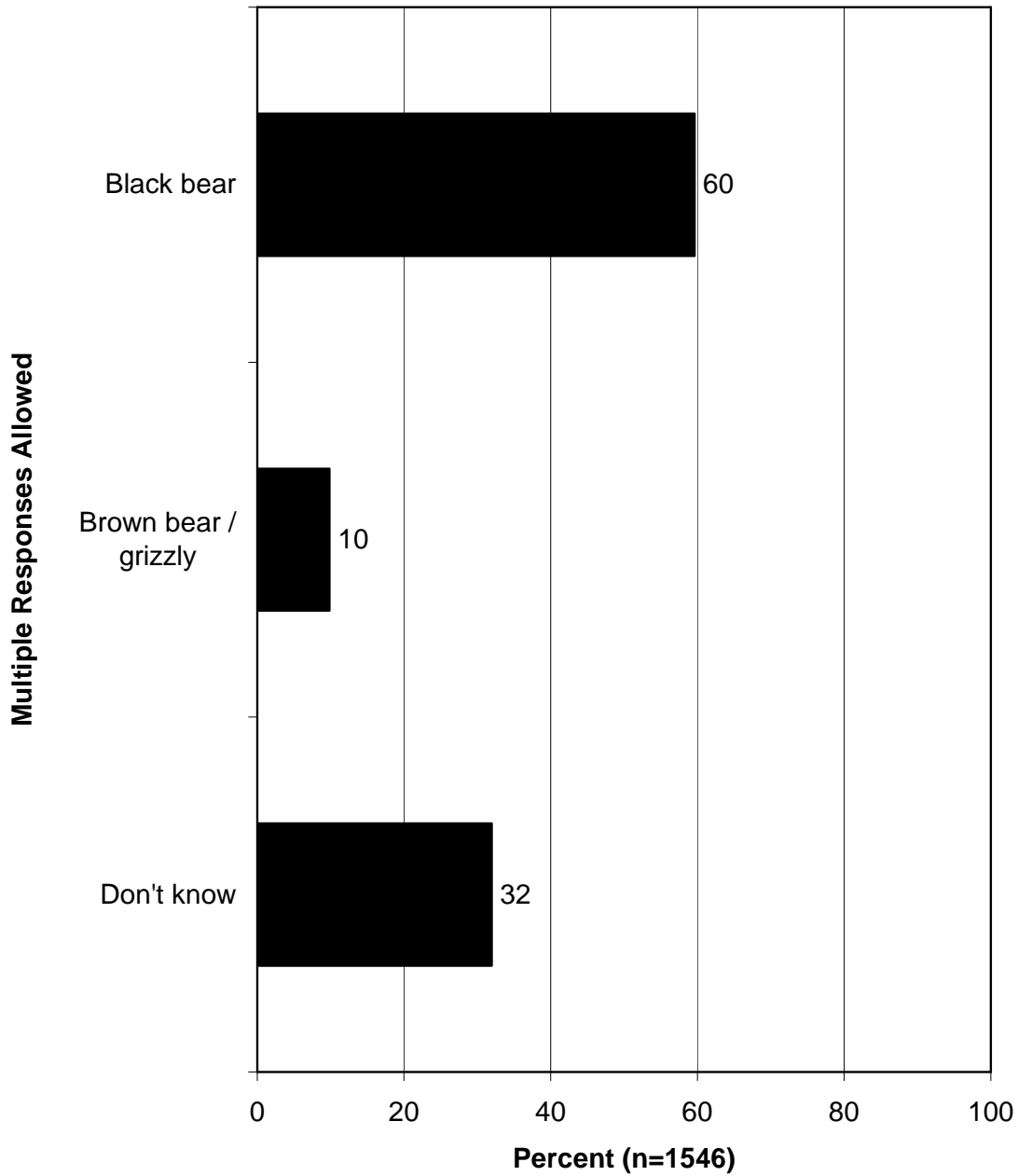
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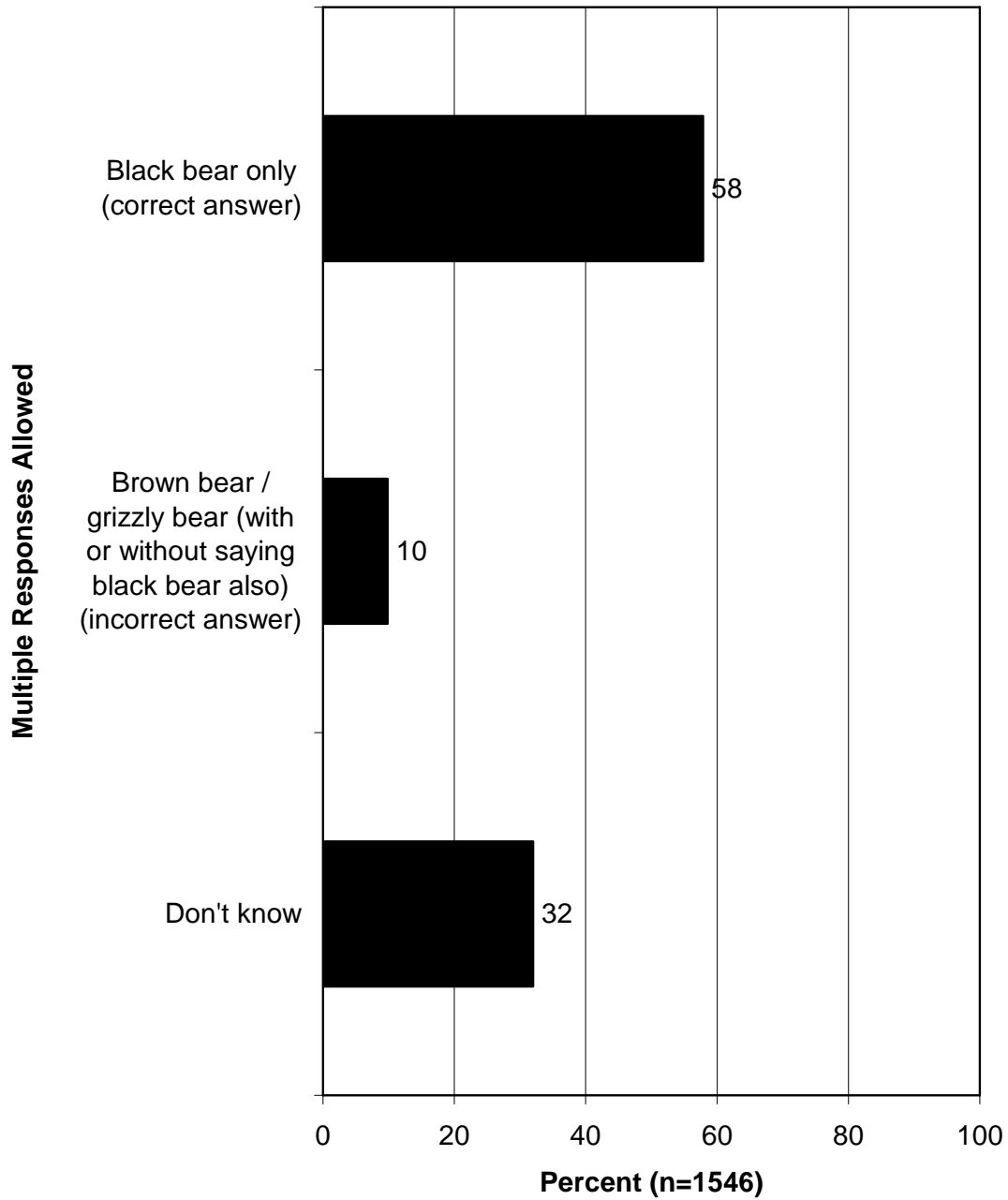
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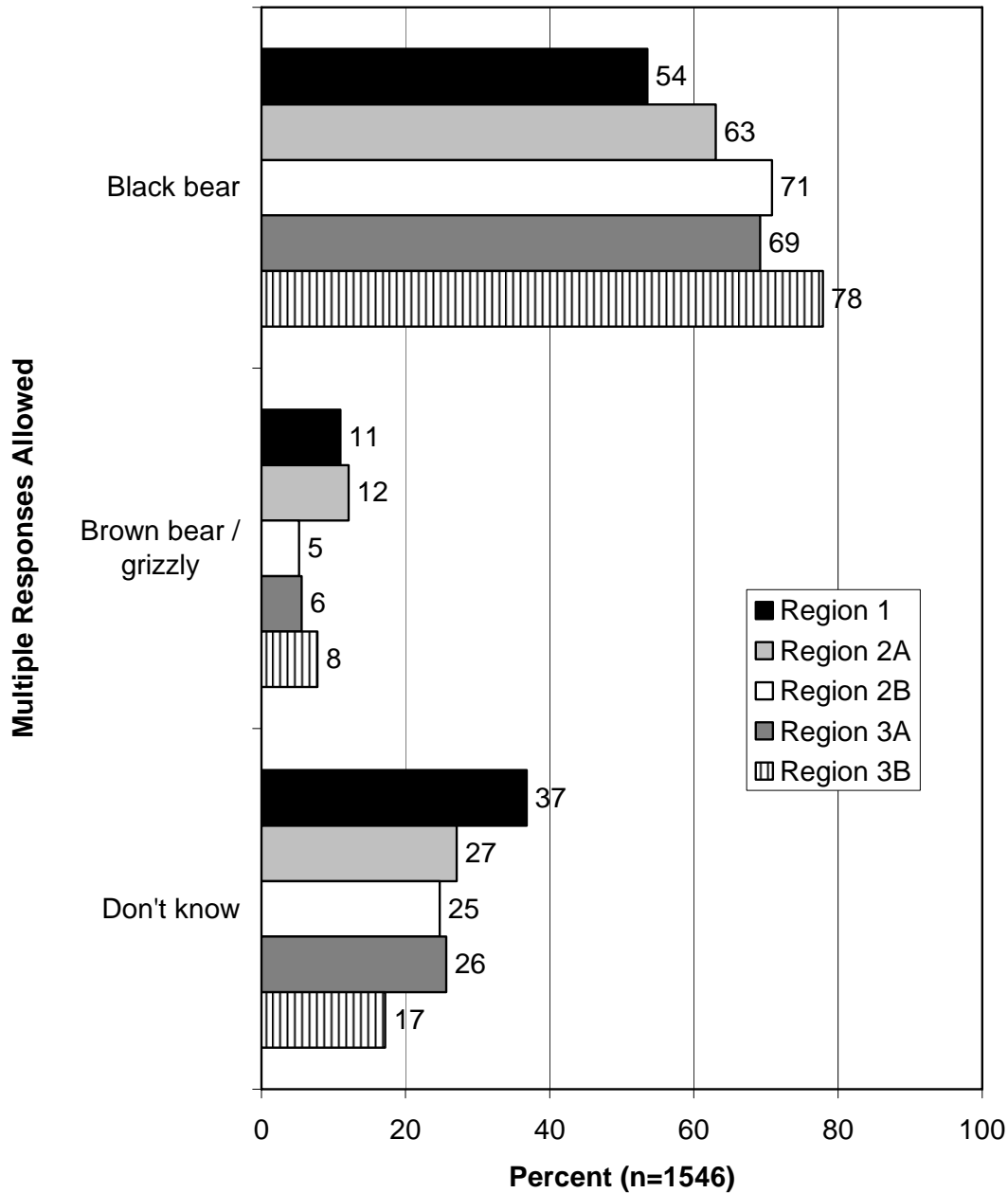
Q35. Currently, there are bear populations in Virginia. Do you know which species of bear currently live in Virginia?



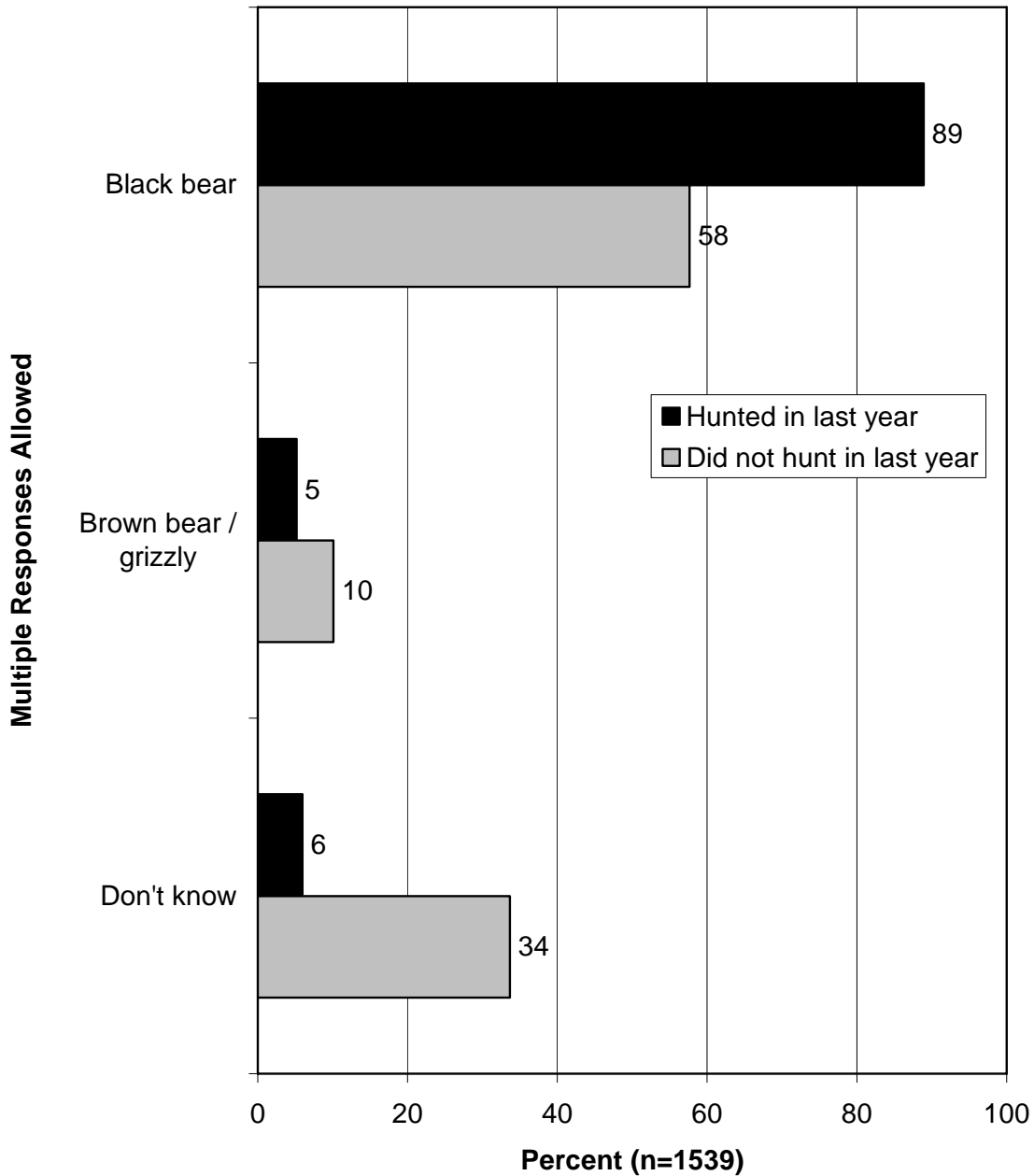
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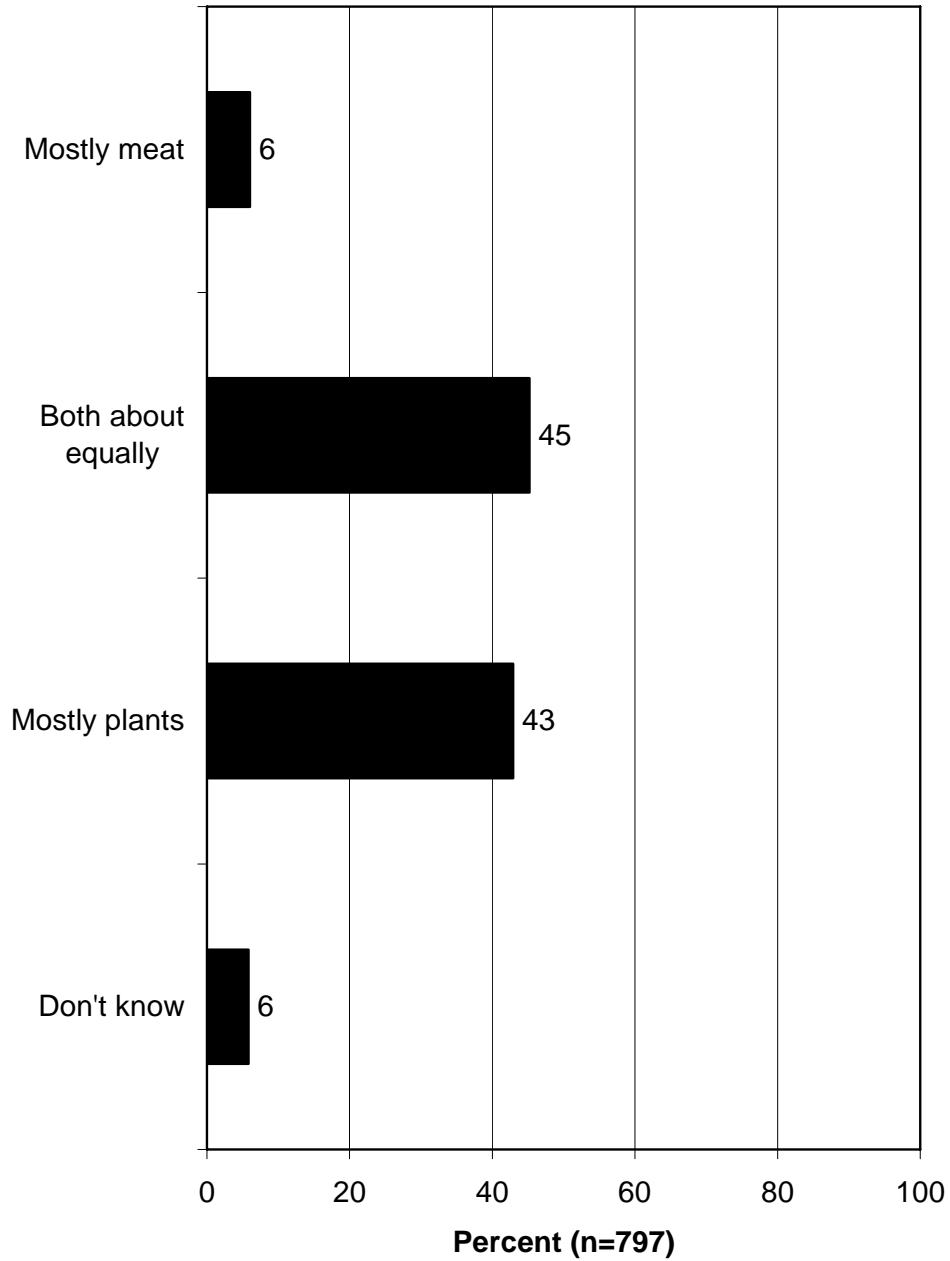
Q35. Currently, there are bear populations in Virginia. Do you know which species of bear currently live in Virginia?



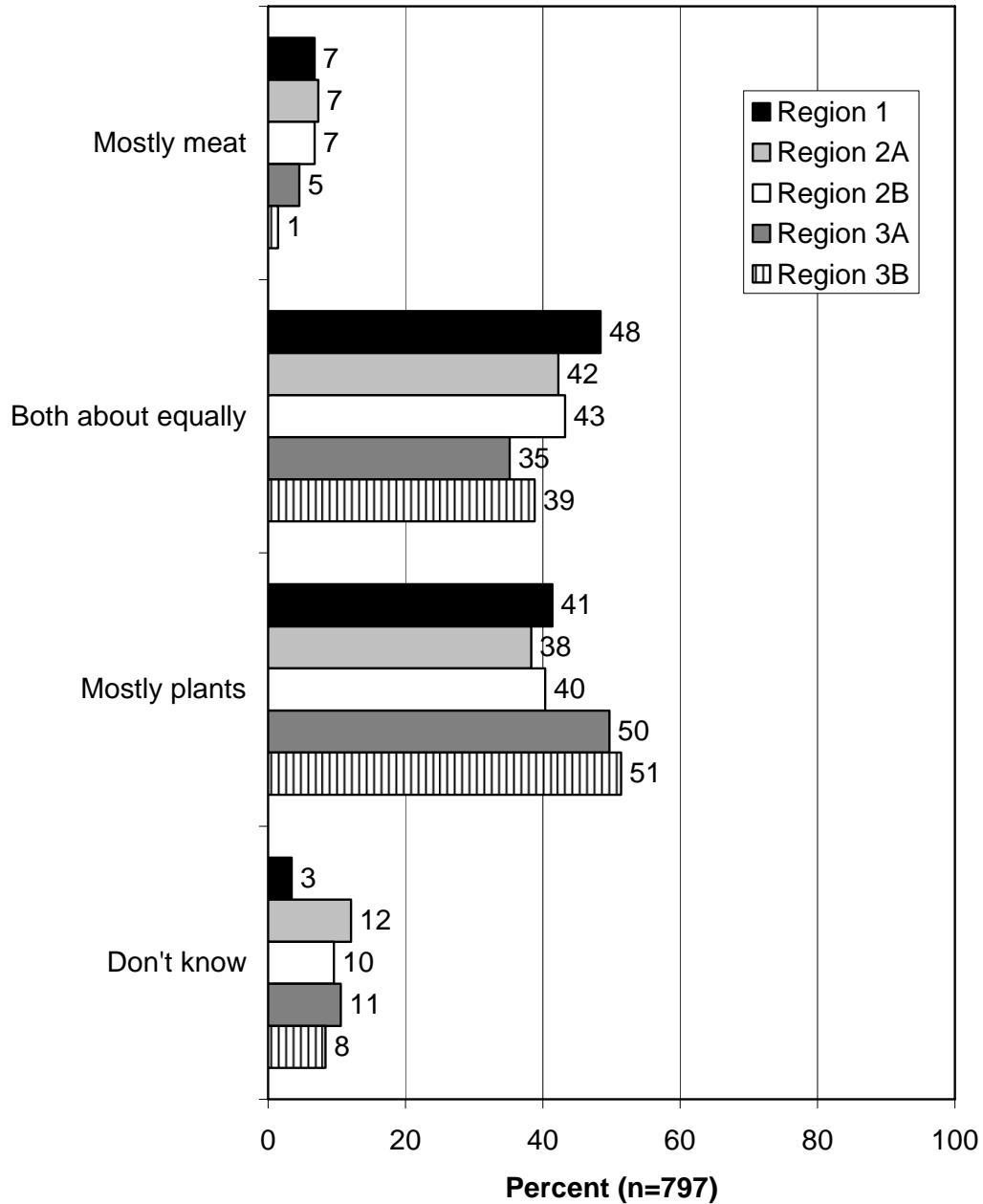
Q35. Currently, there are bear populations in Virginia. Do you know which species of bear currently live in Virginia?



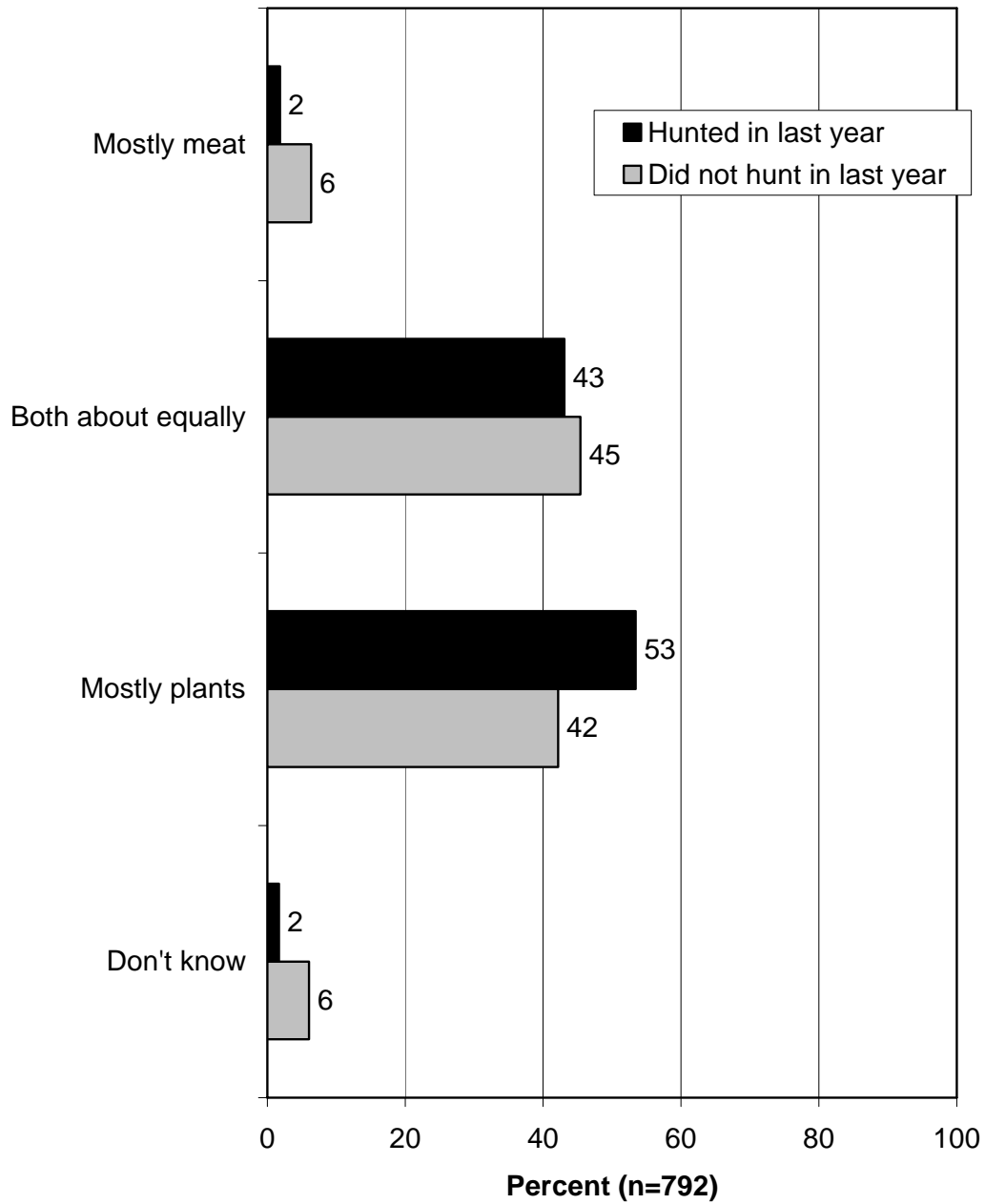
Q39. Do you think black bears living in Virginia eat mostly meat, mostly plants, or both about equally?



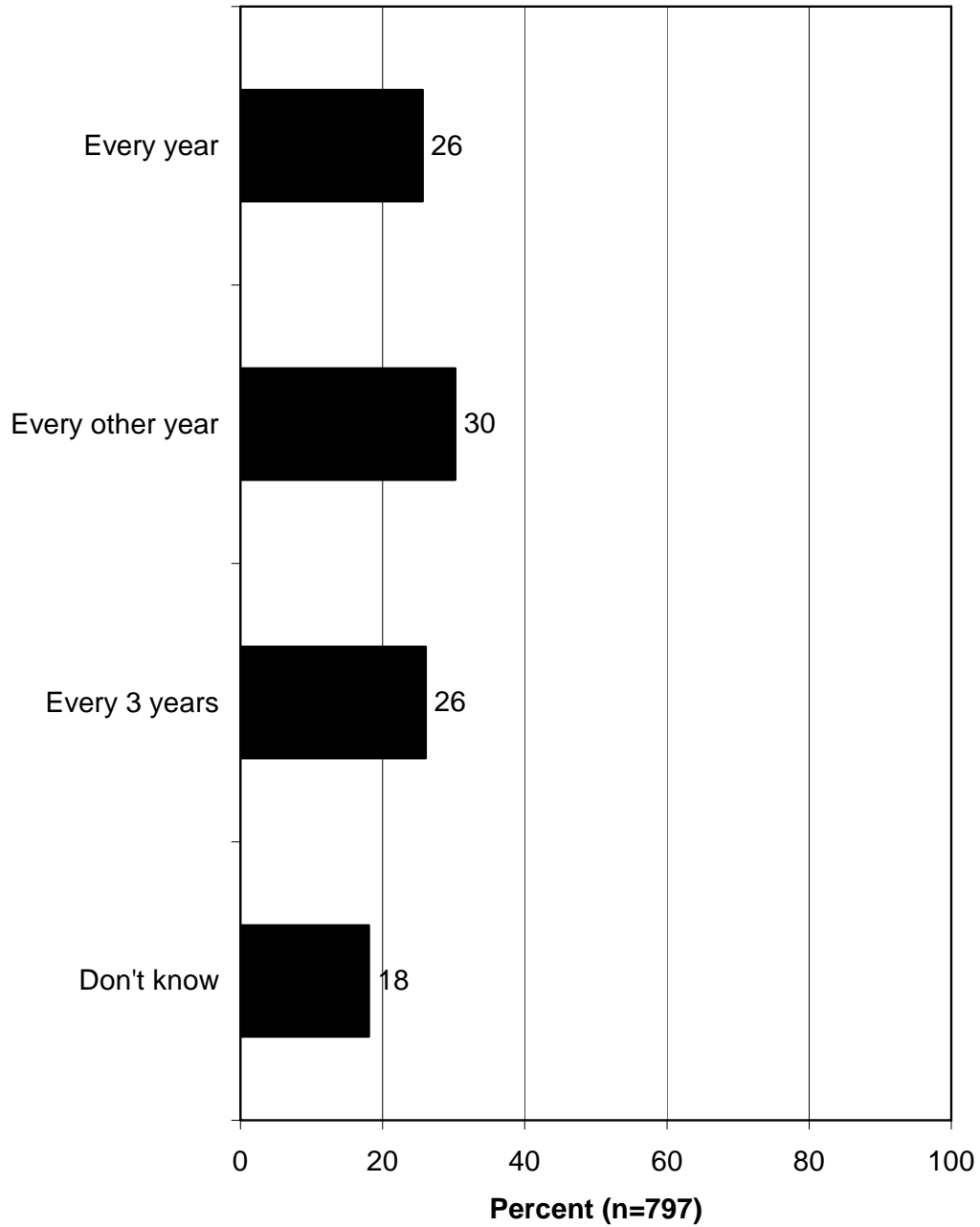
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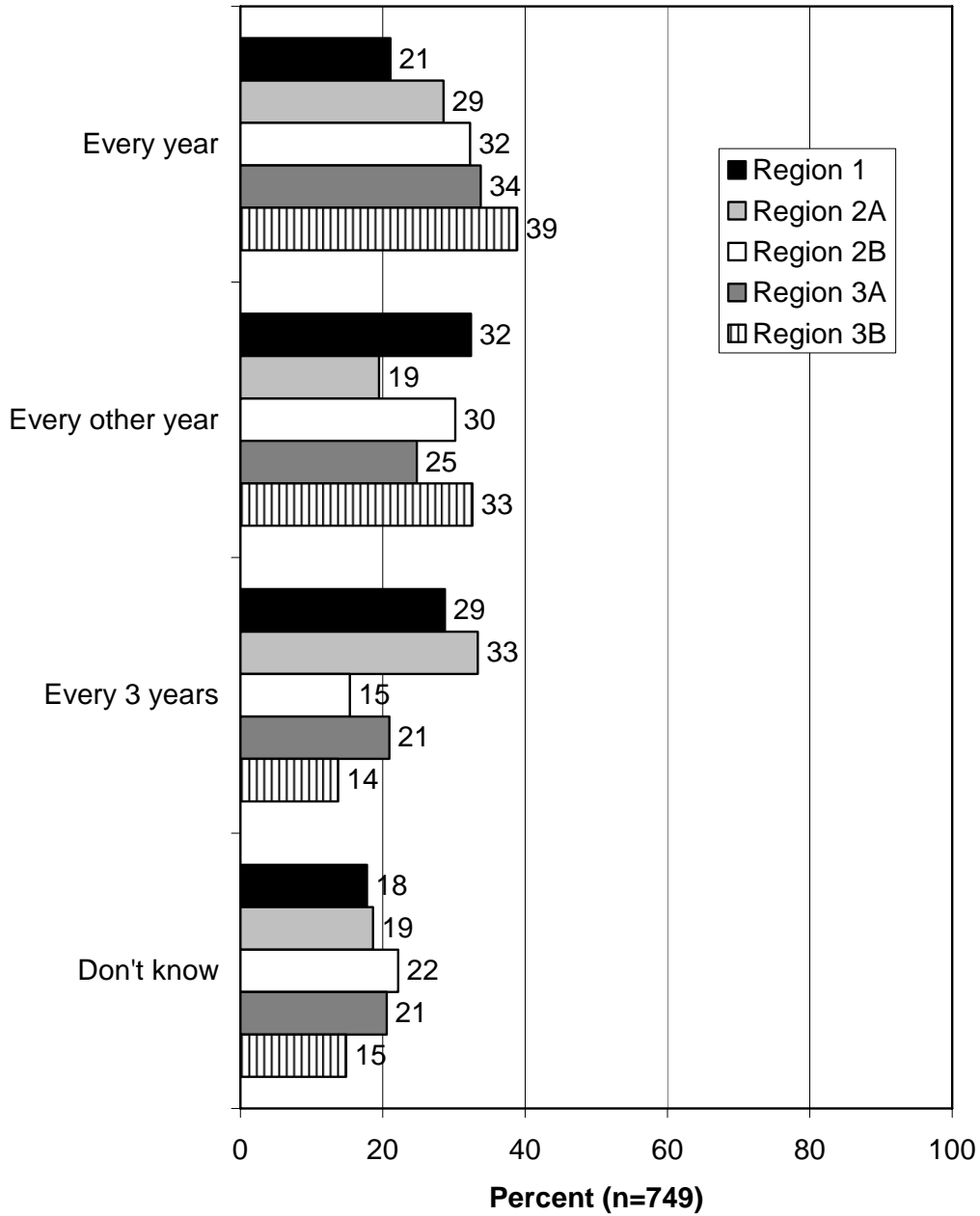
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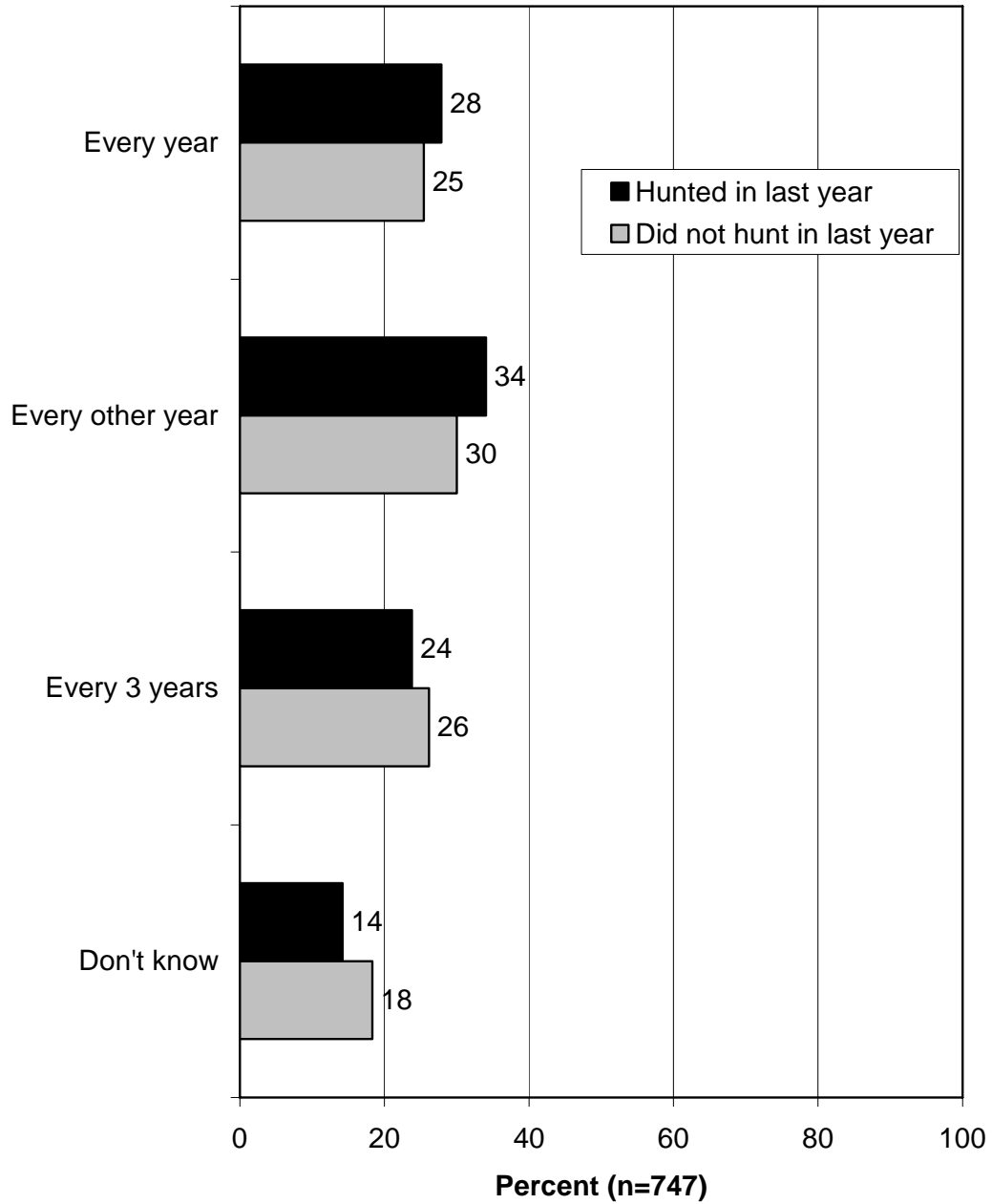
Q40. How frequently do you think female black bears give birth?



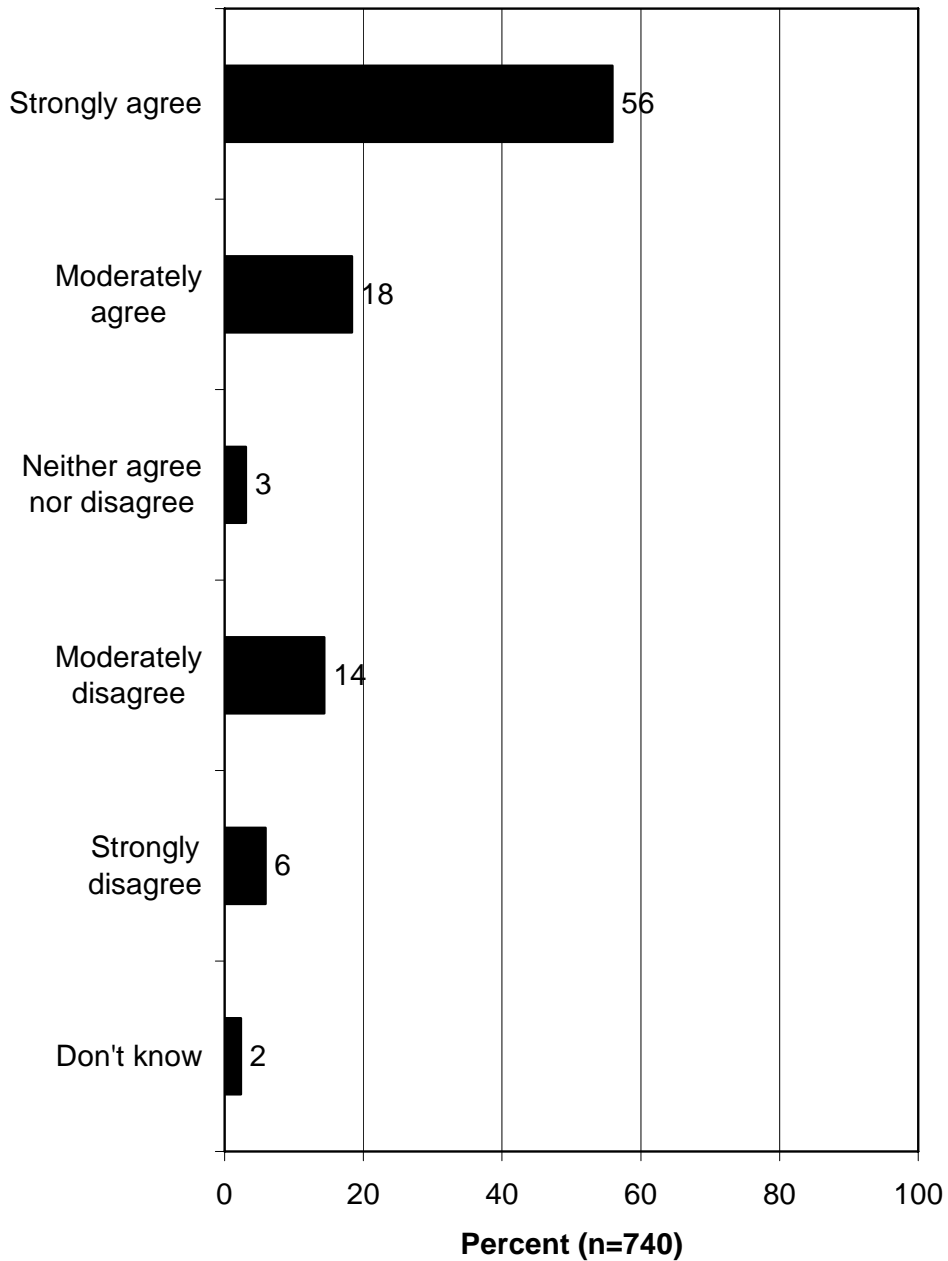
Q40. How frequently do you think female black bears give birth?



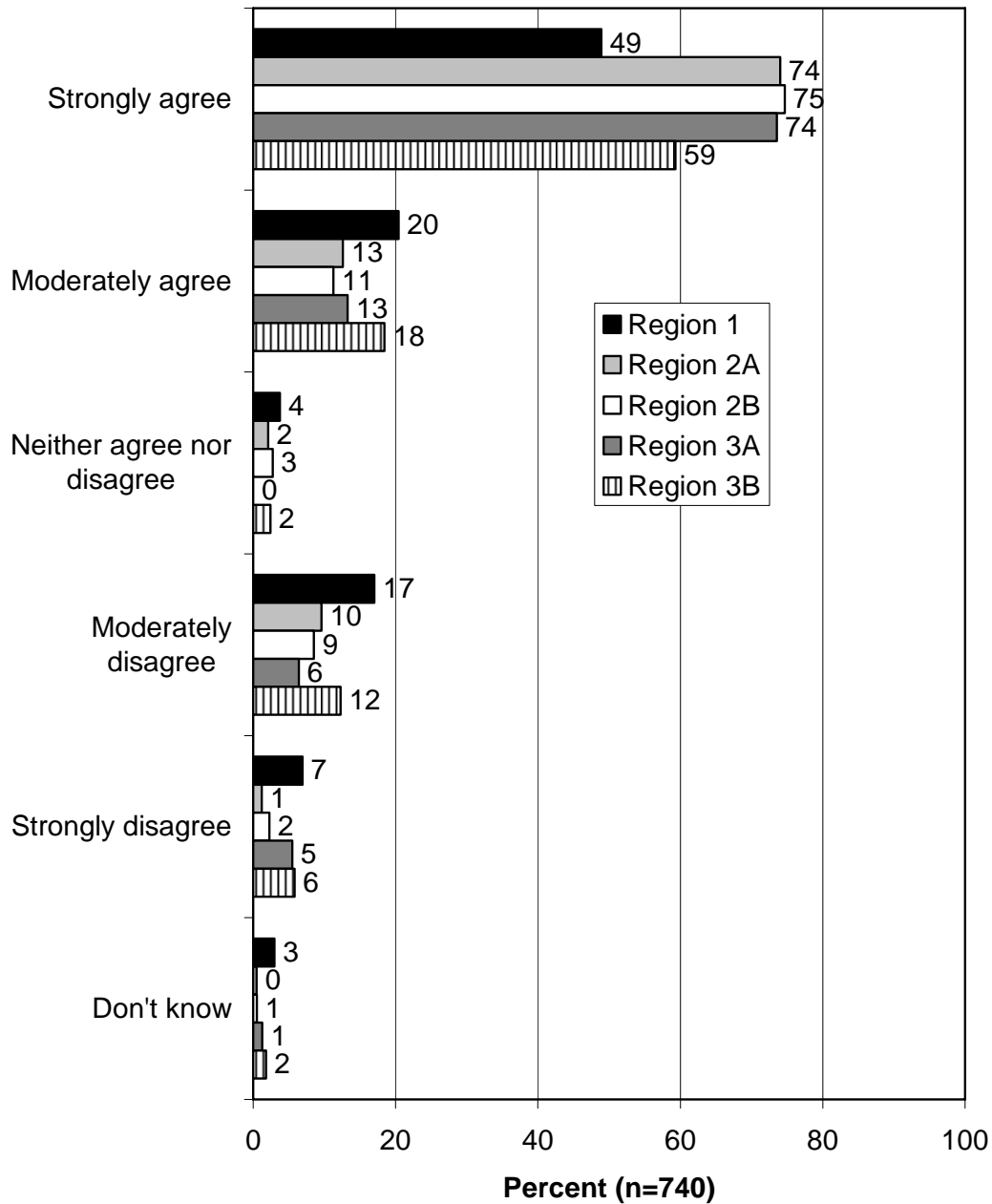
Q40. How frequently do you think female black bears give birth?



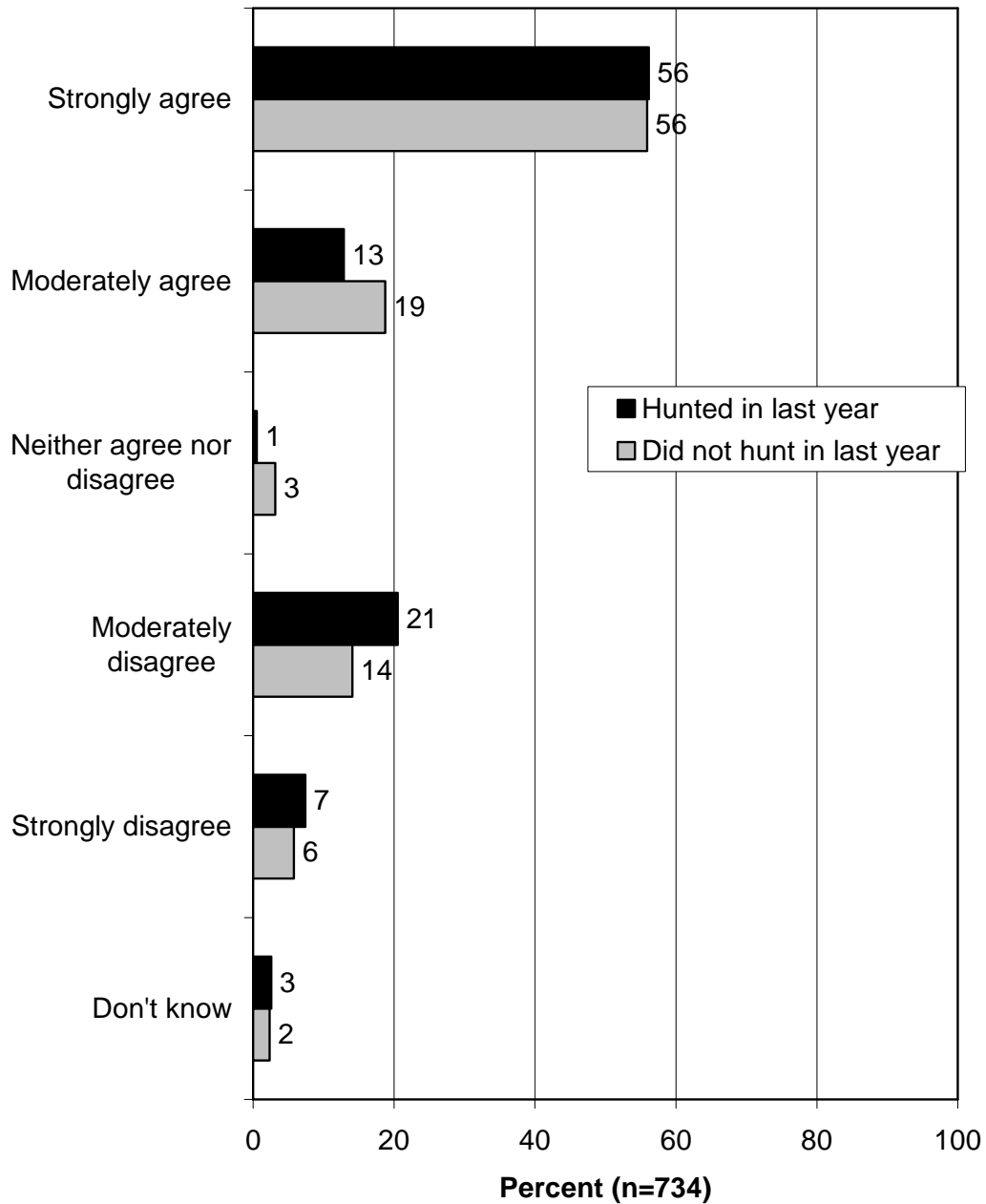
**Q63. Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
Encountering a female black bear with cubs is
always dangerous to humans.**



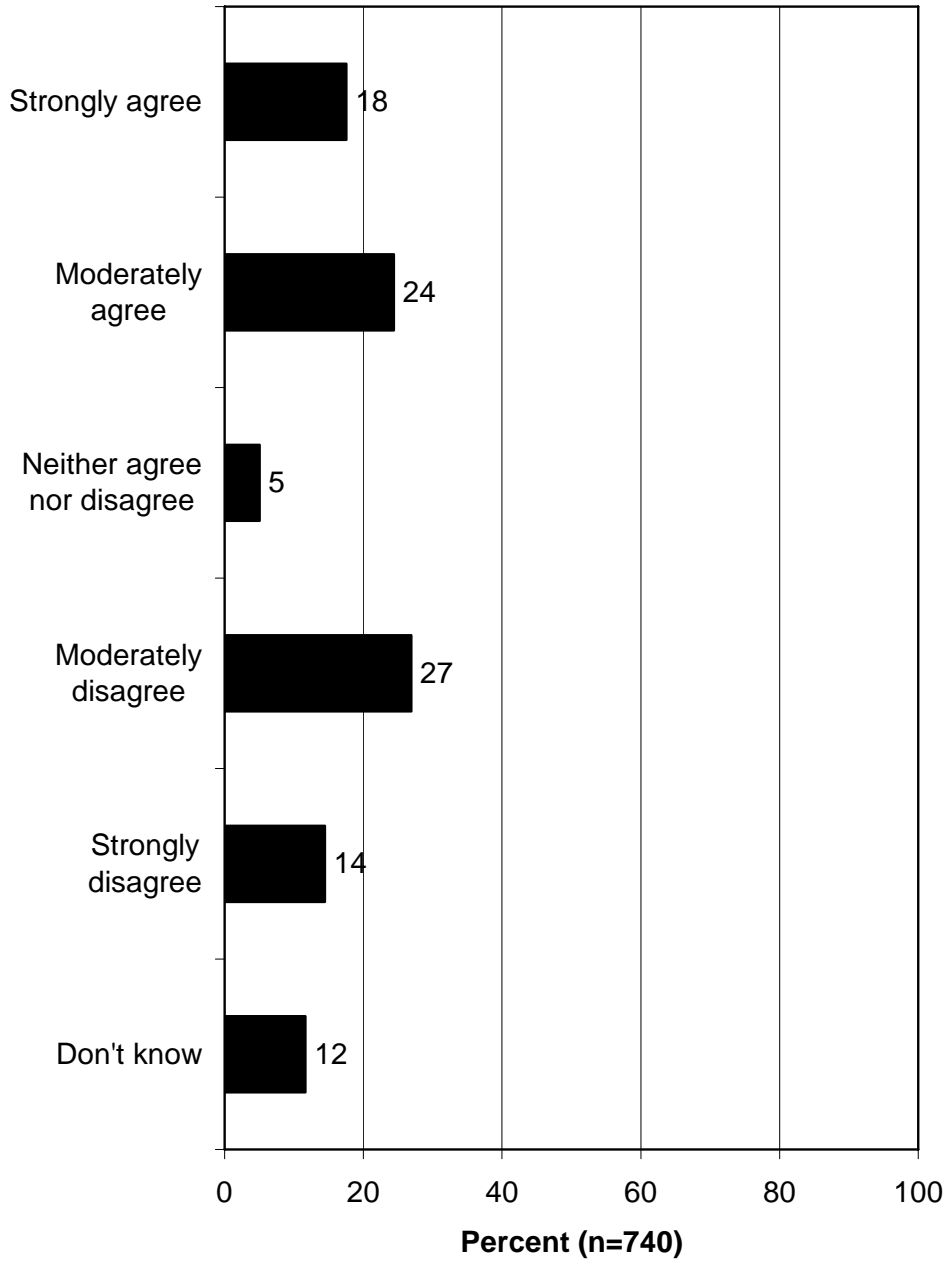
**Q63. Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
Encountering a female black bear with cubs is
always dangerous to humans.**



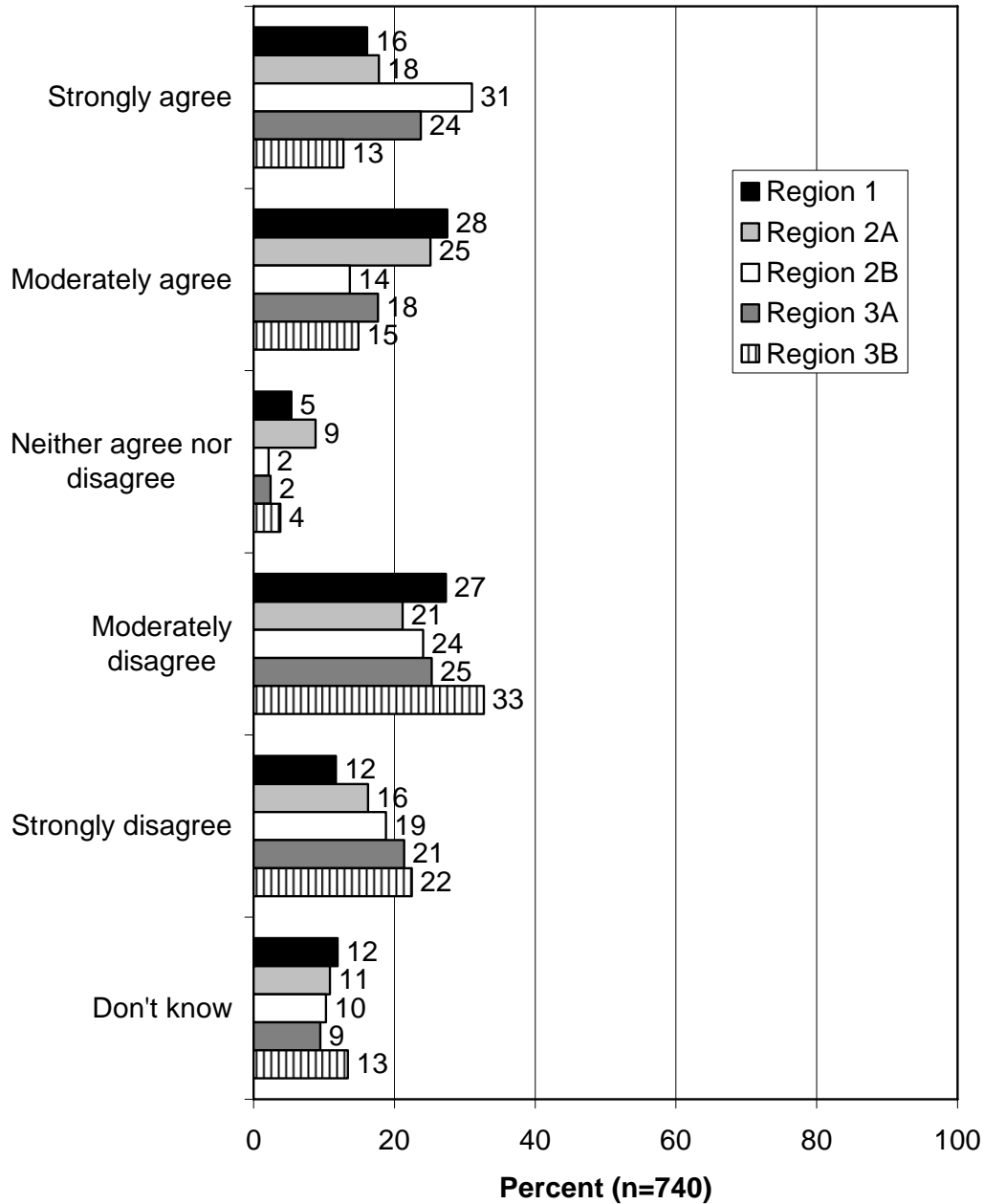
**Q63. Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
Encountering a female black bear with cubs is
always dangerous to humans.**



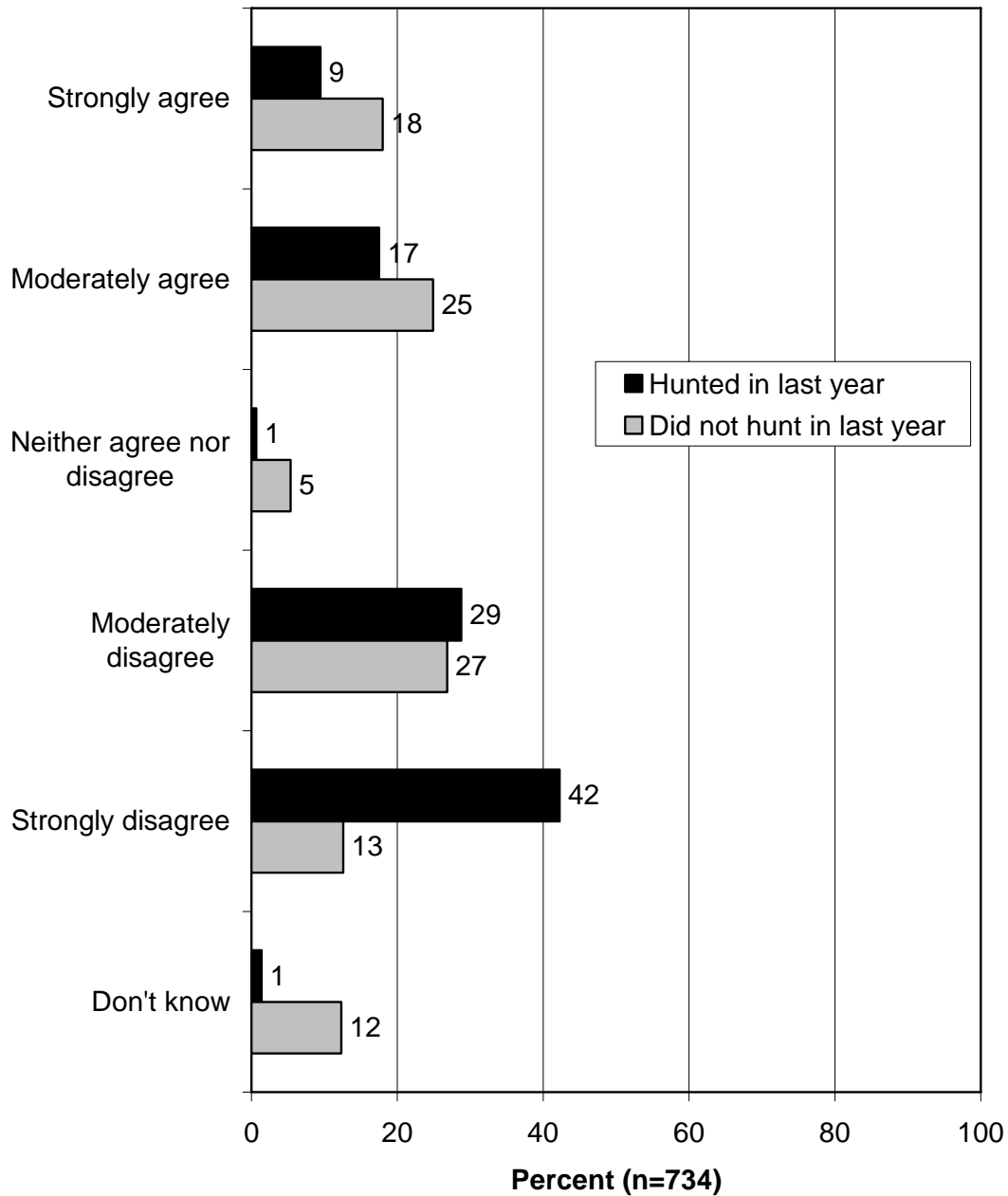
**Q65. Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
A black bear standing on hind legs means the bear
is about to attack.**



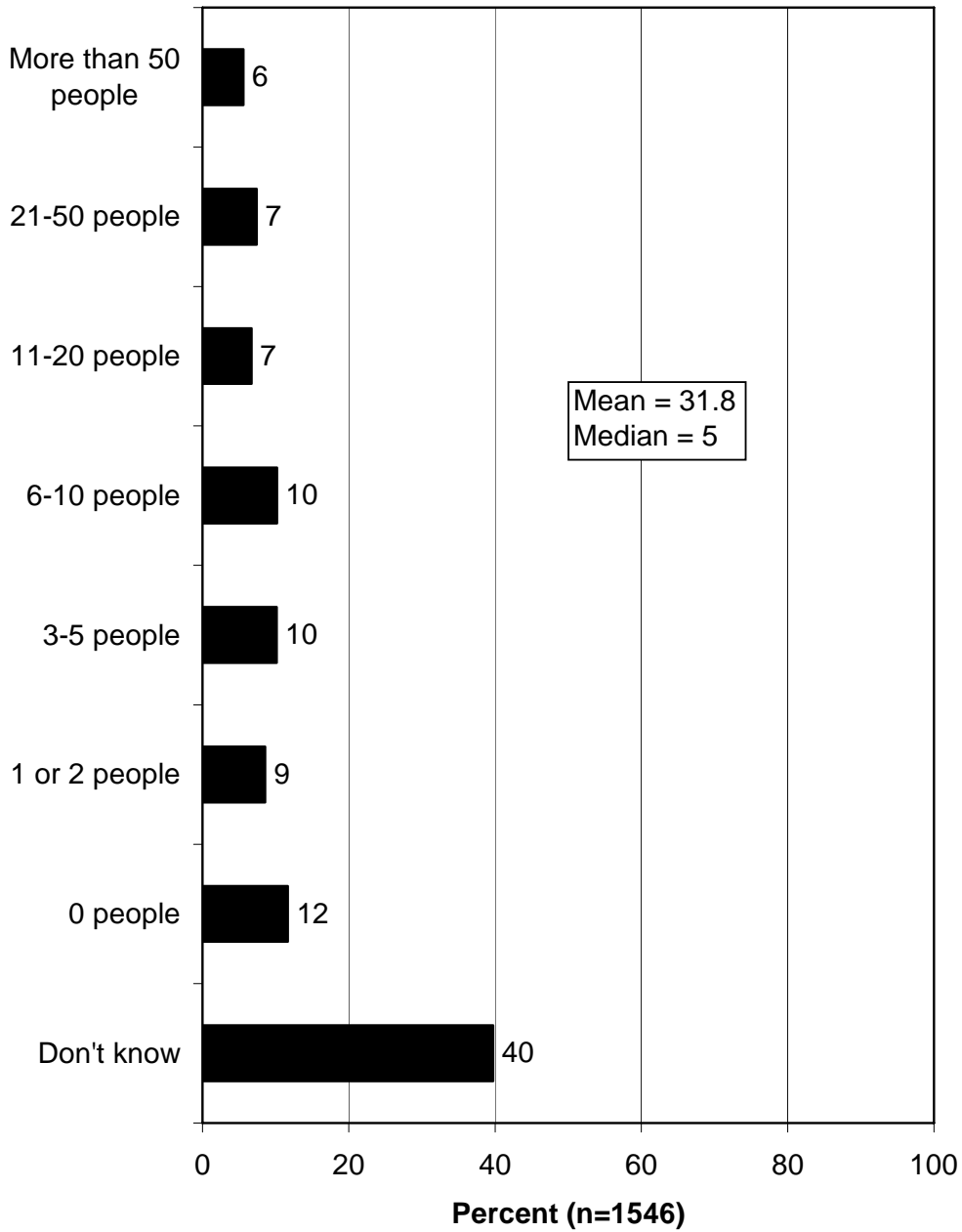
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is about to attack.**



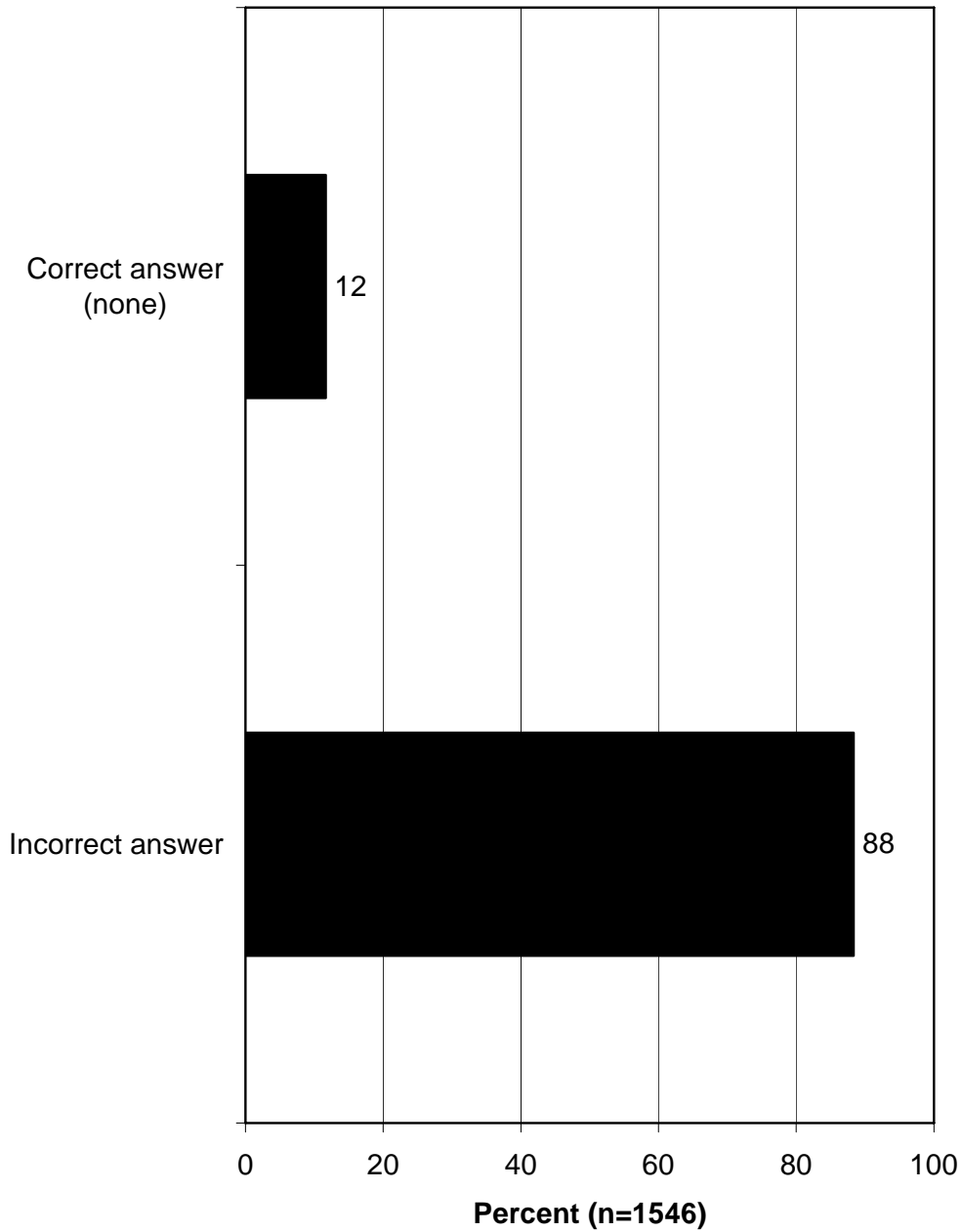
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is about to attack.**



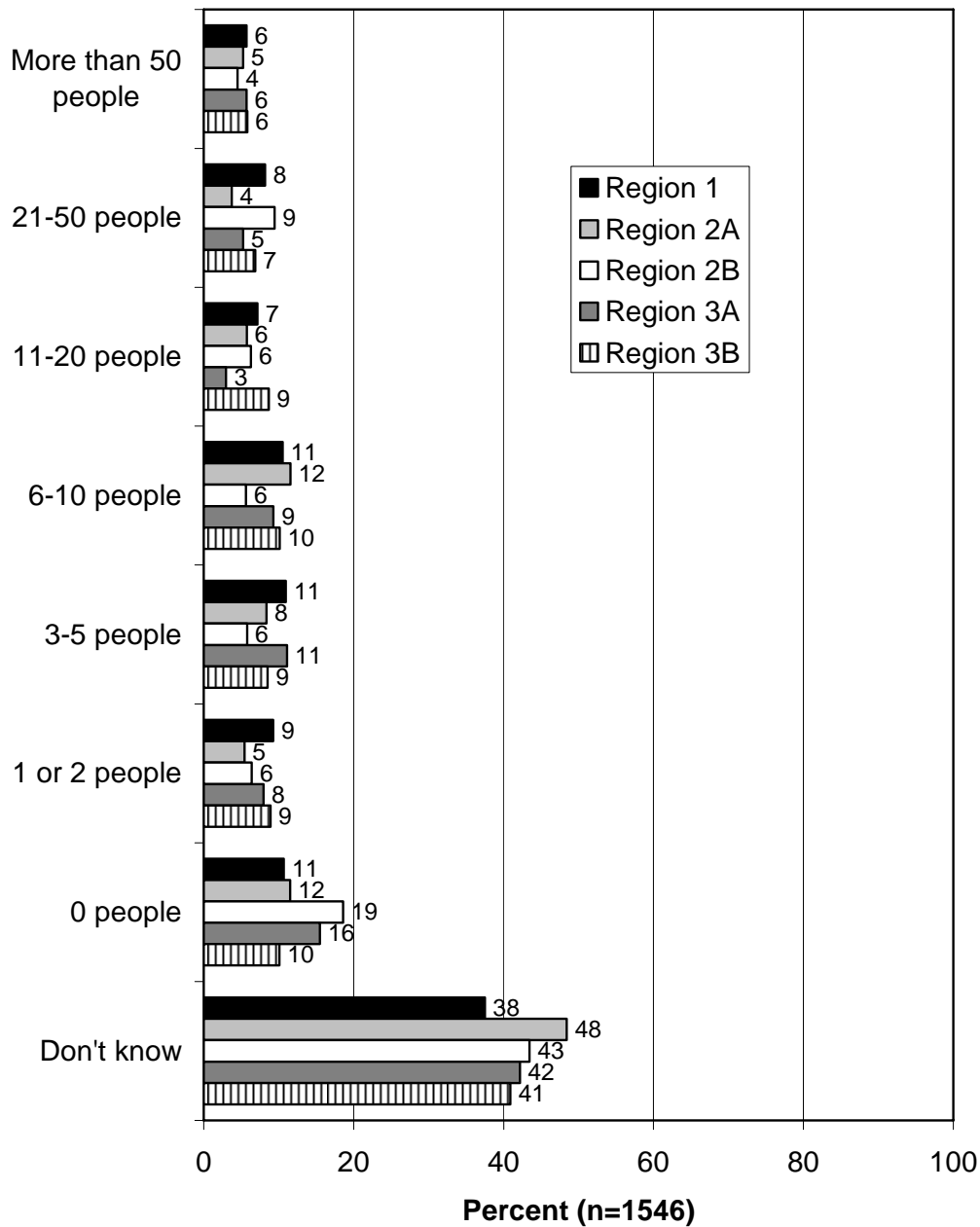
Q87. How many people would you say have been killed by black bears in Virginia in the last 100 years?



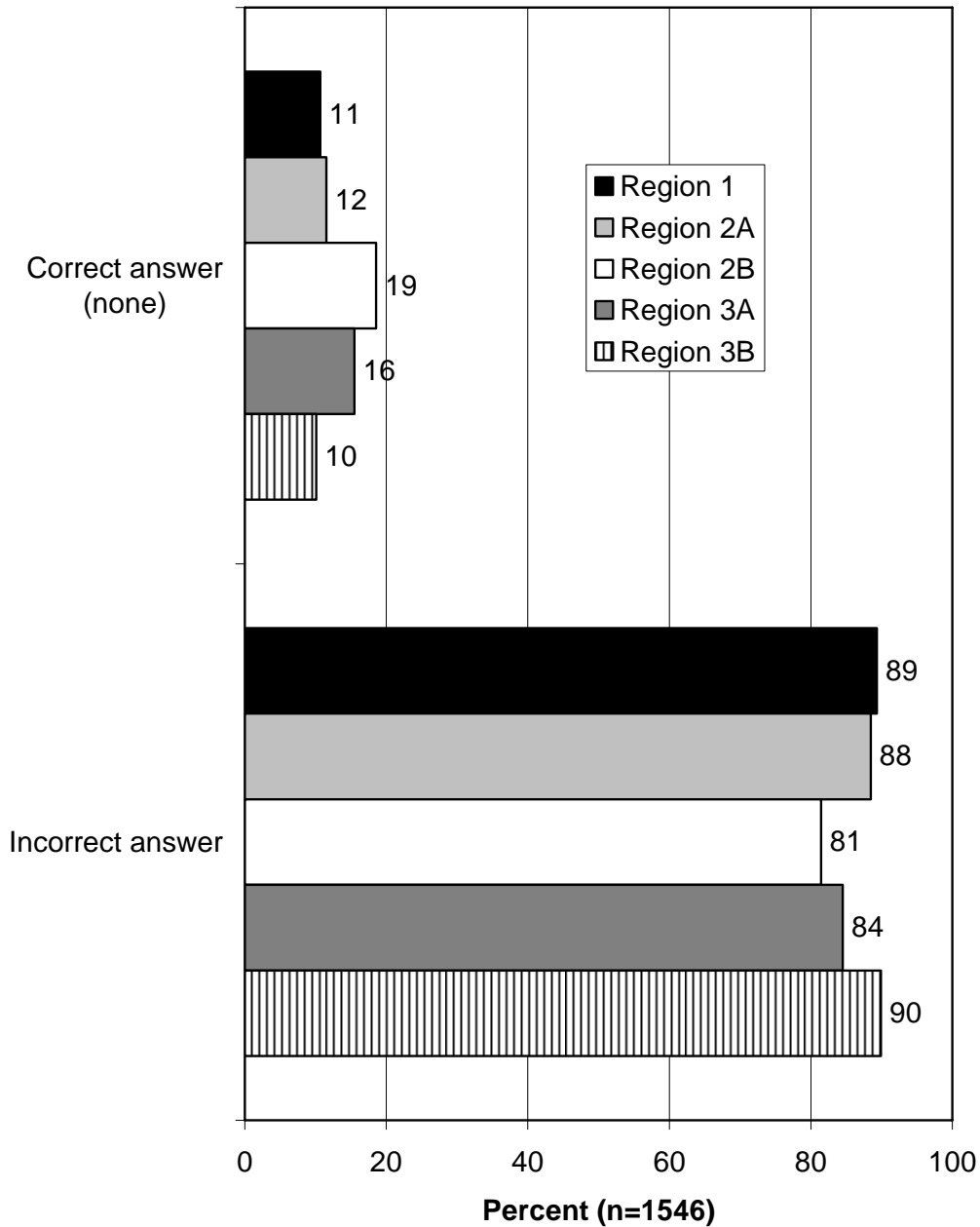
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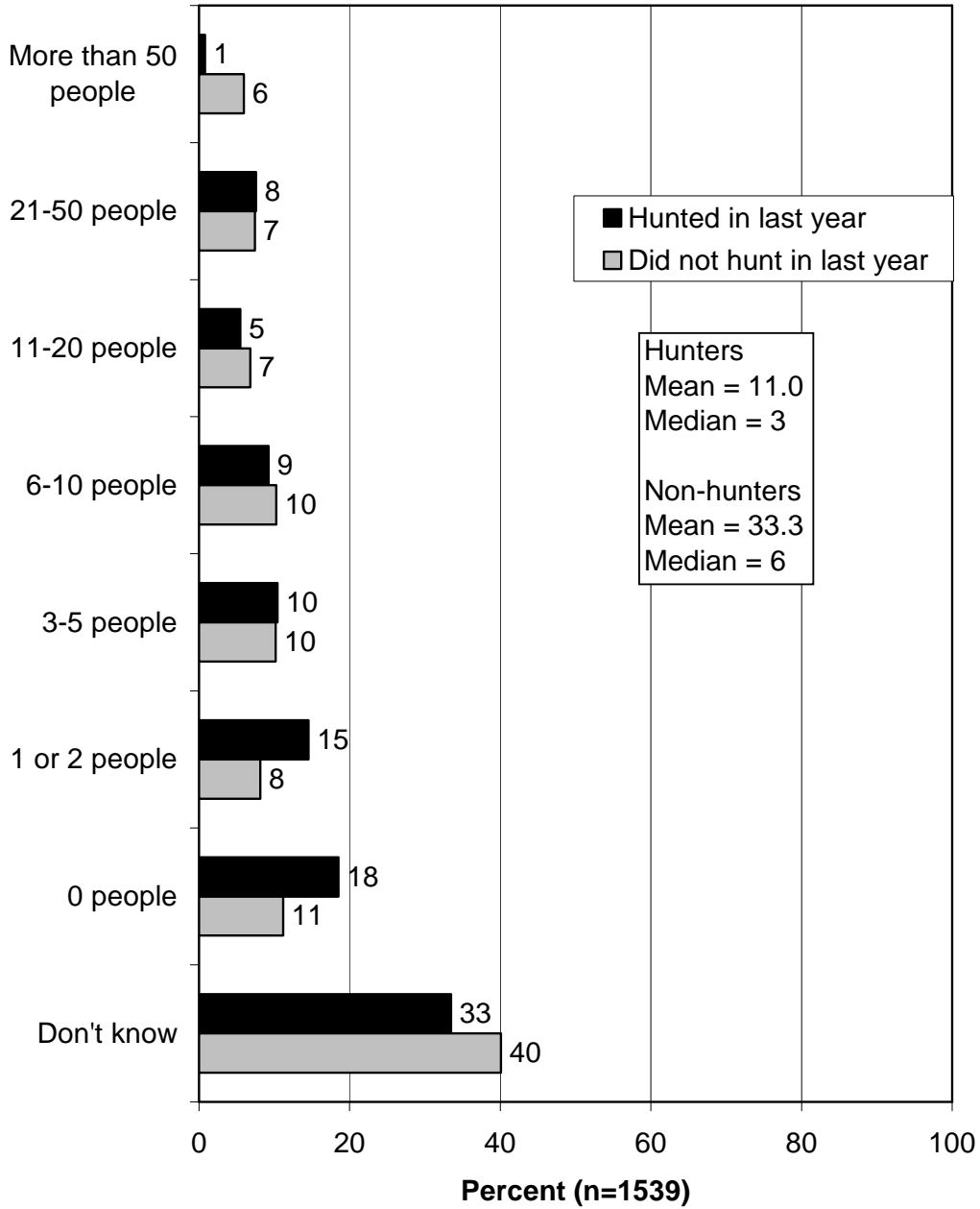
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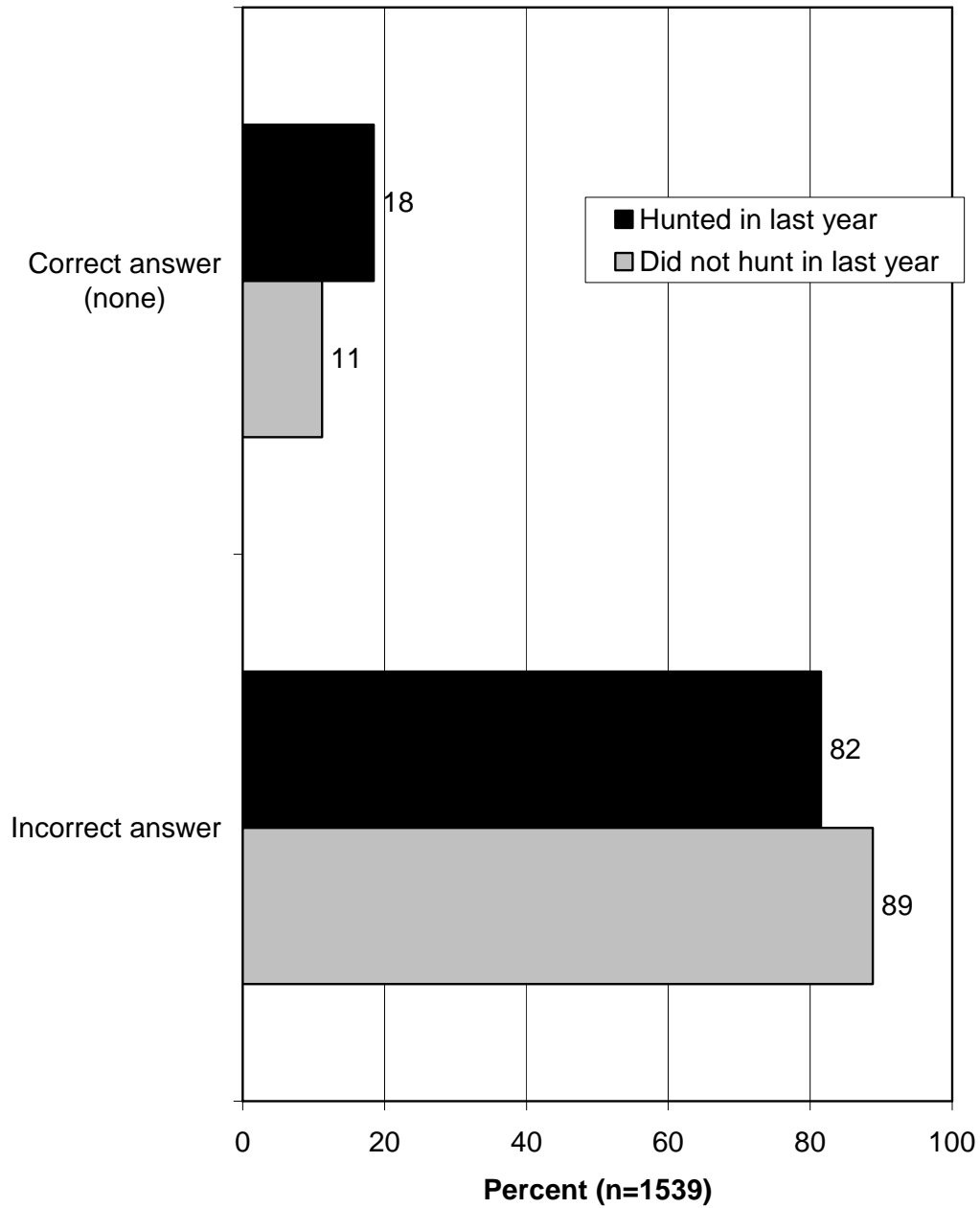
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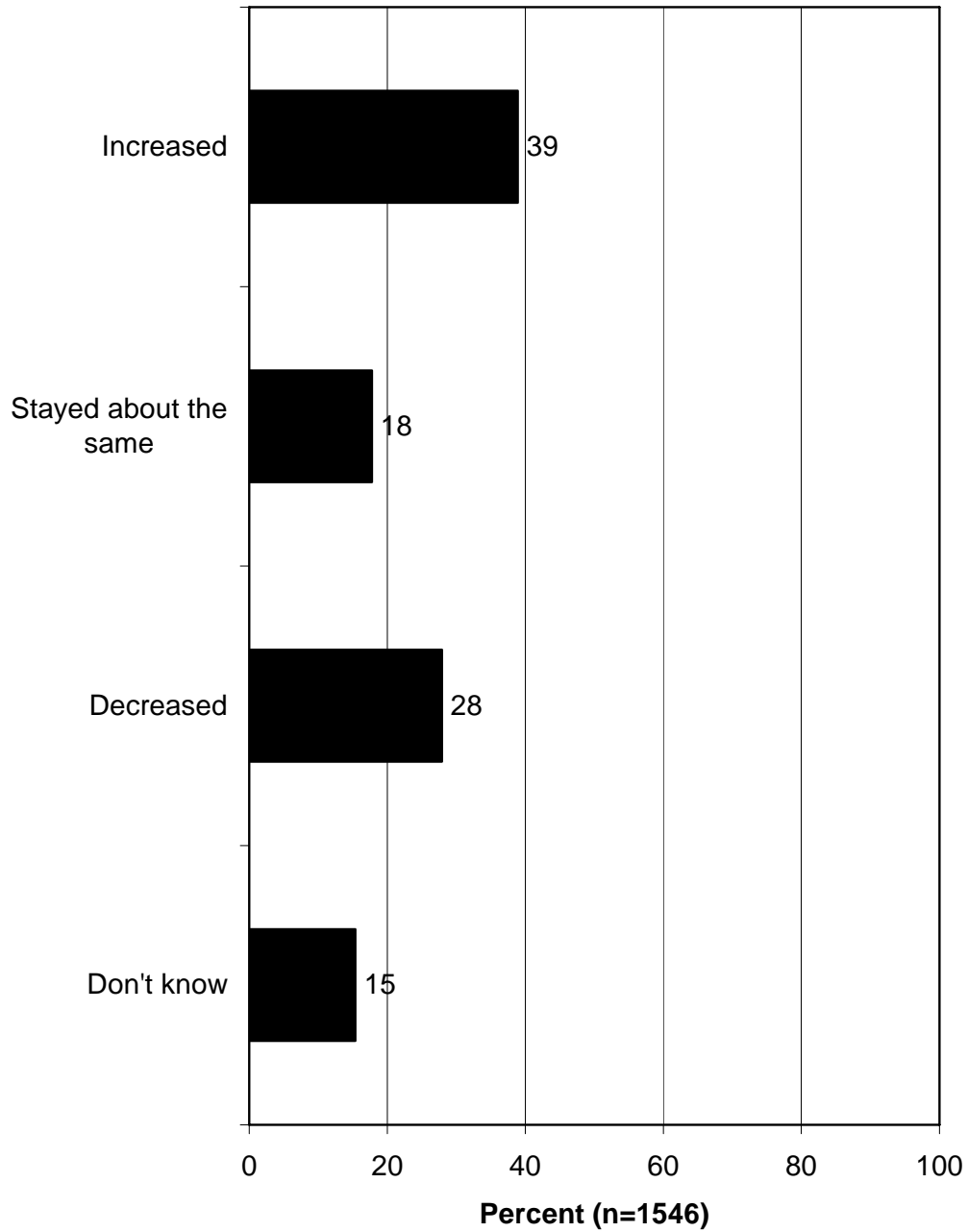
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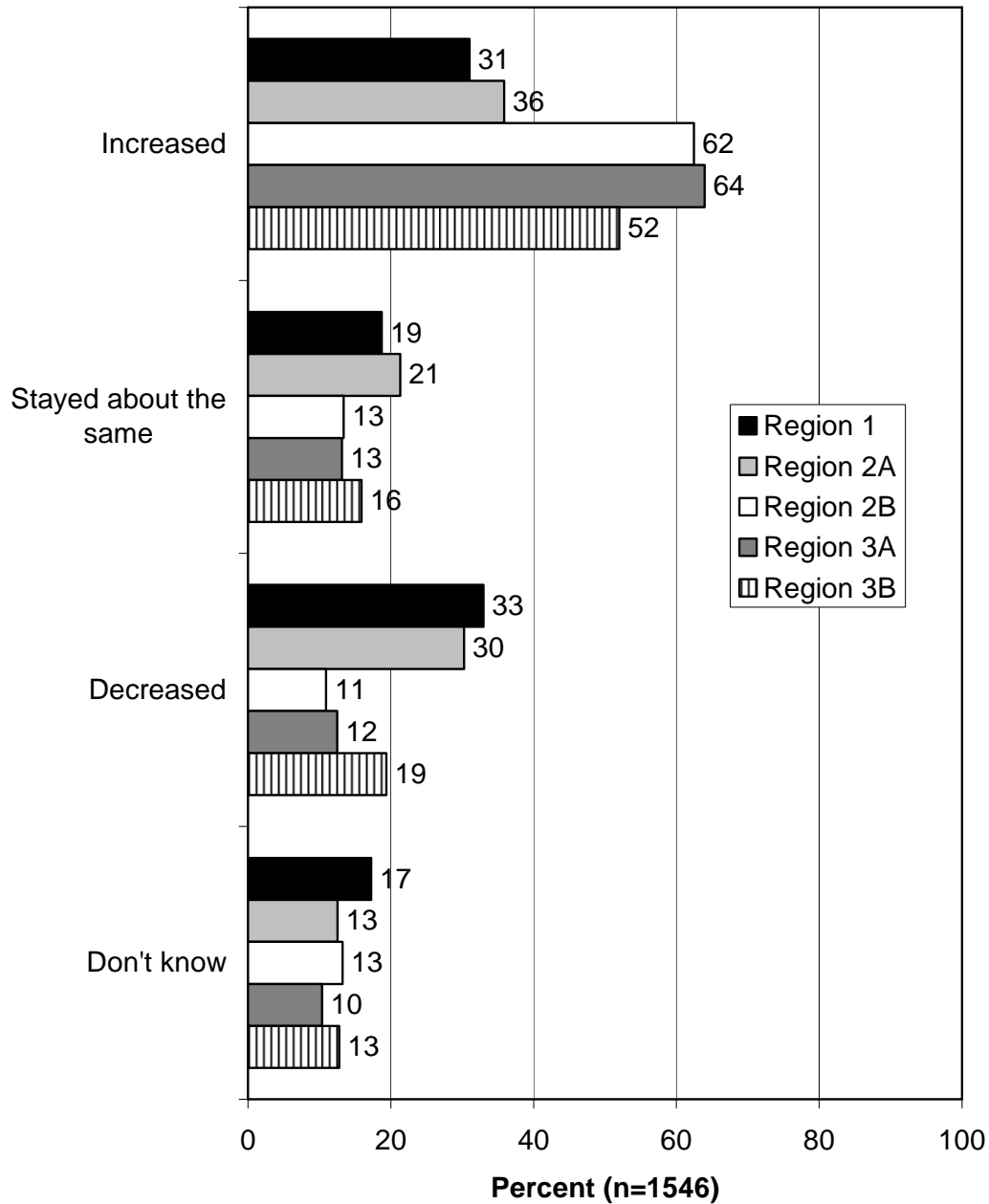
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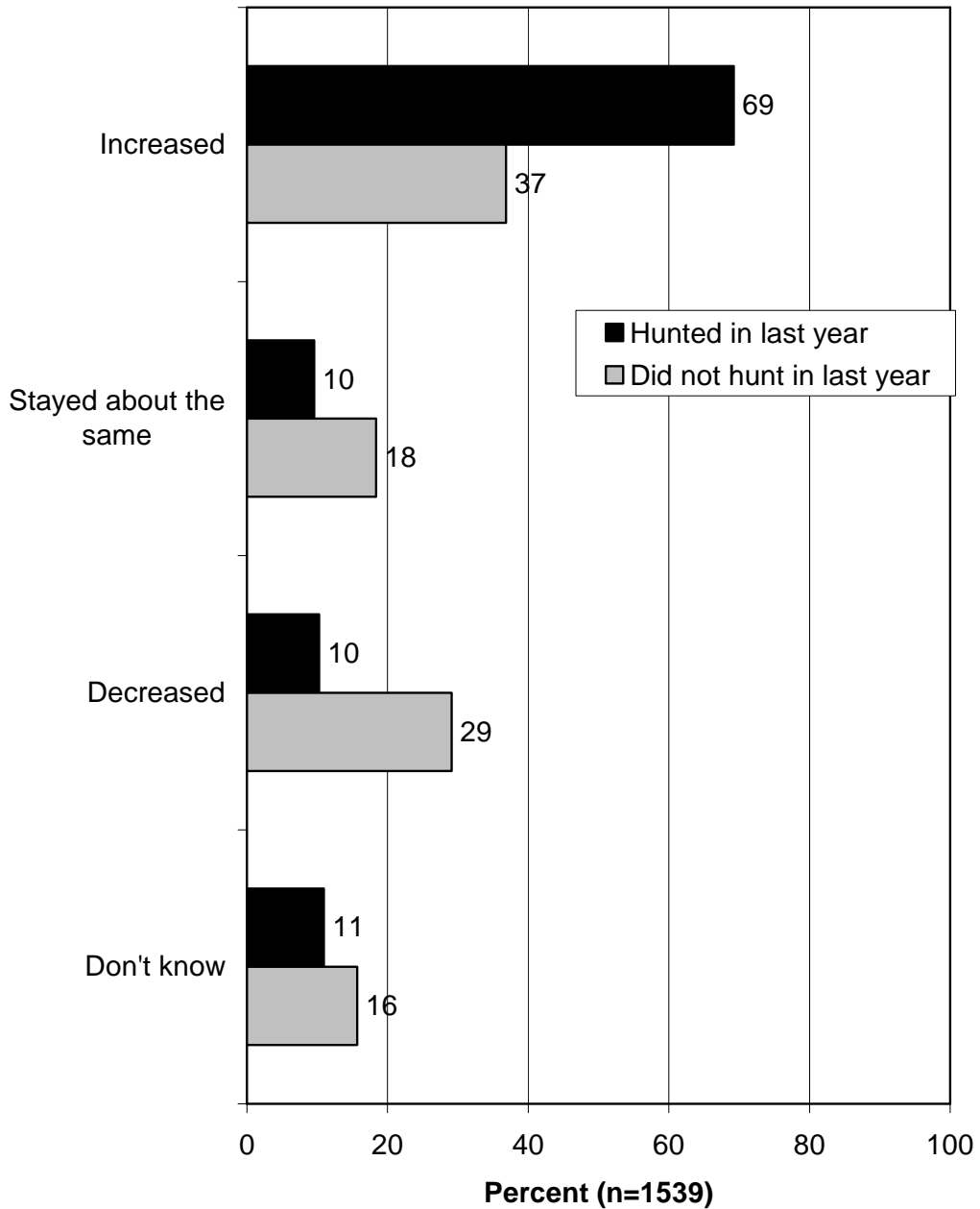
Q41. Do you think black bear populations in Virginia have increased, stayed about the same, or decreased over the past 10 years?



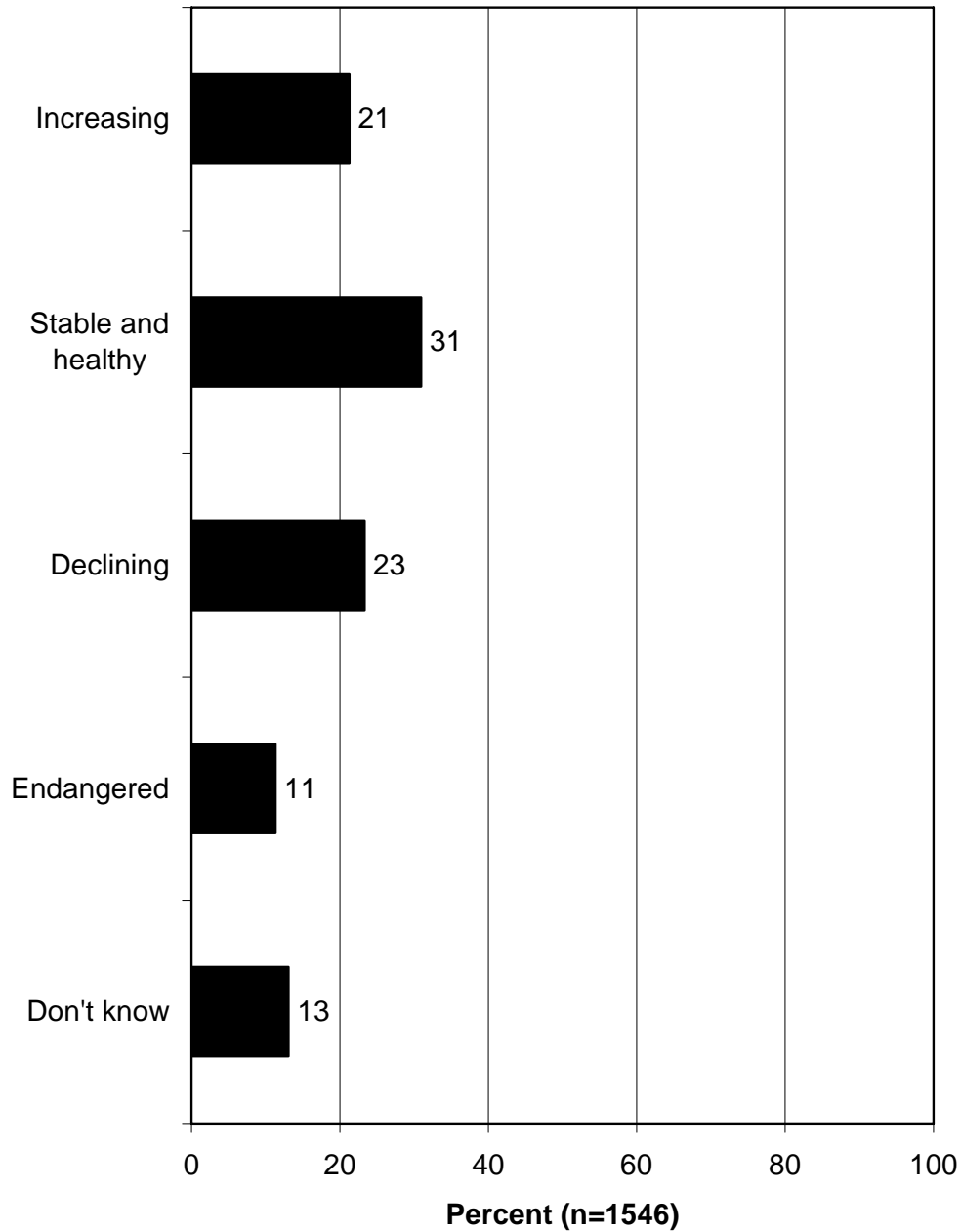
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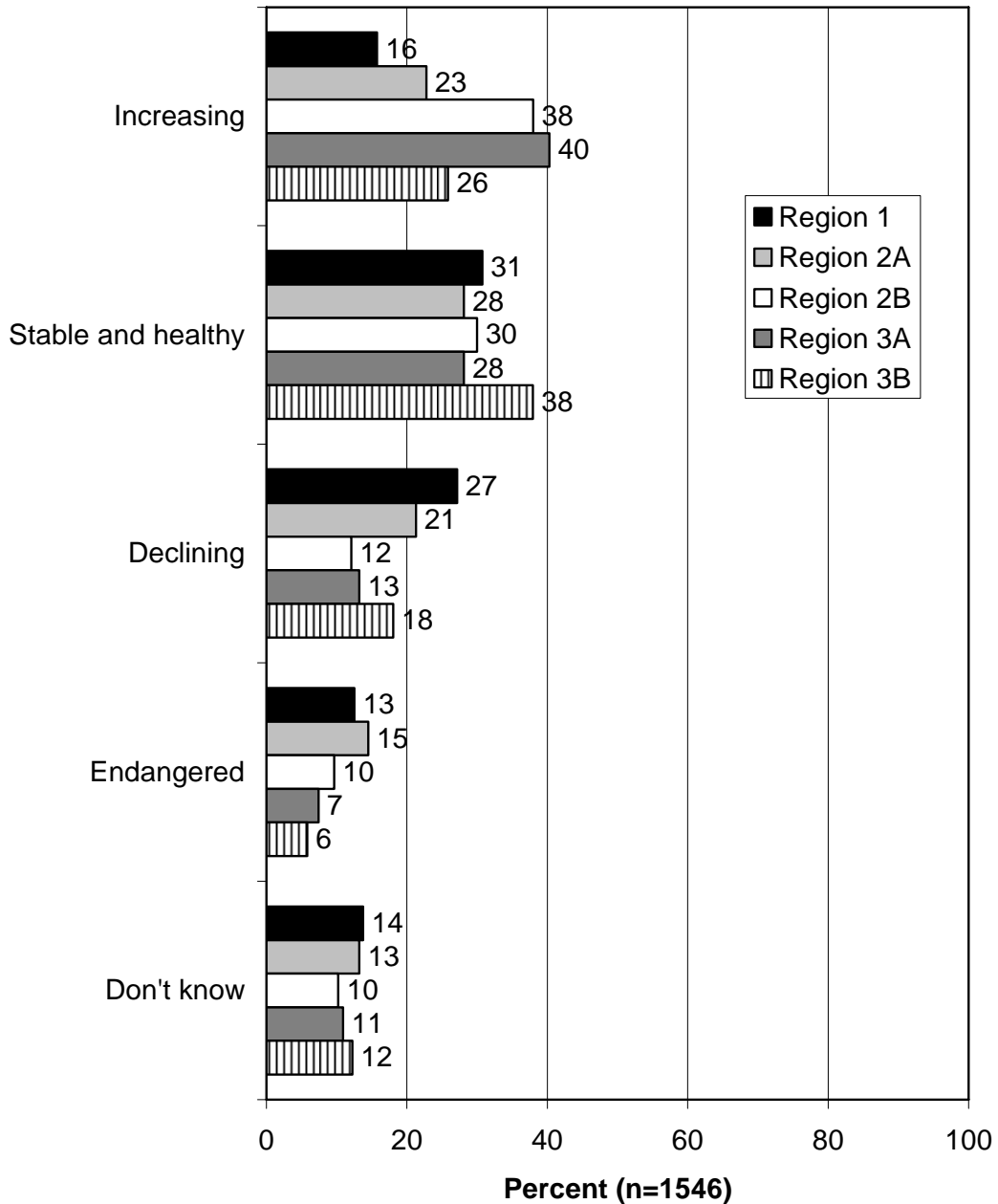
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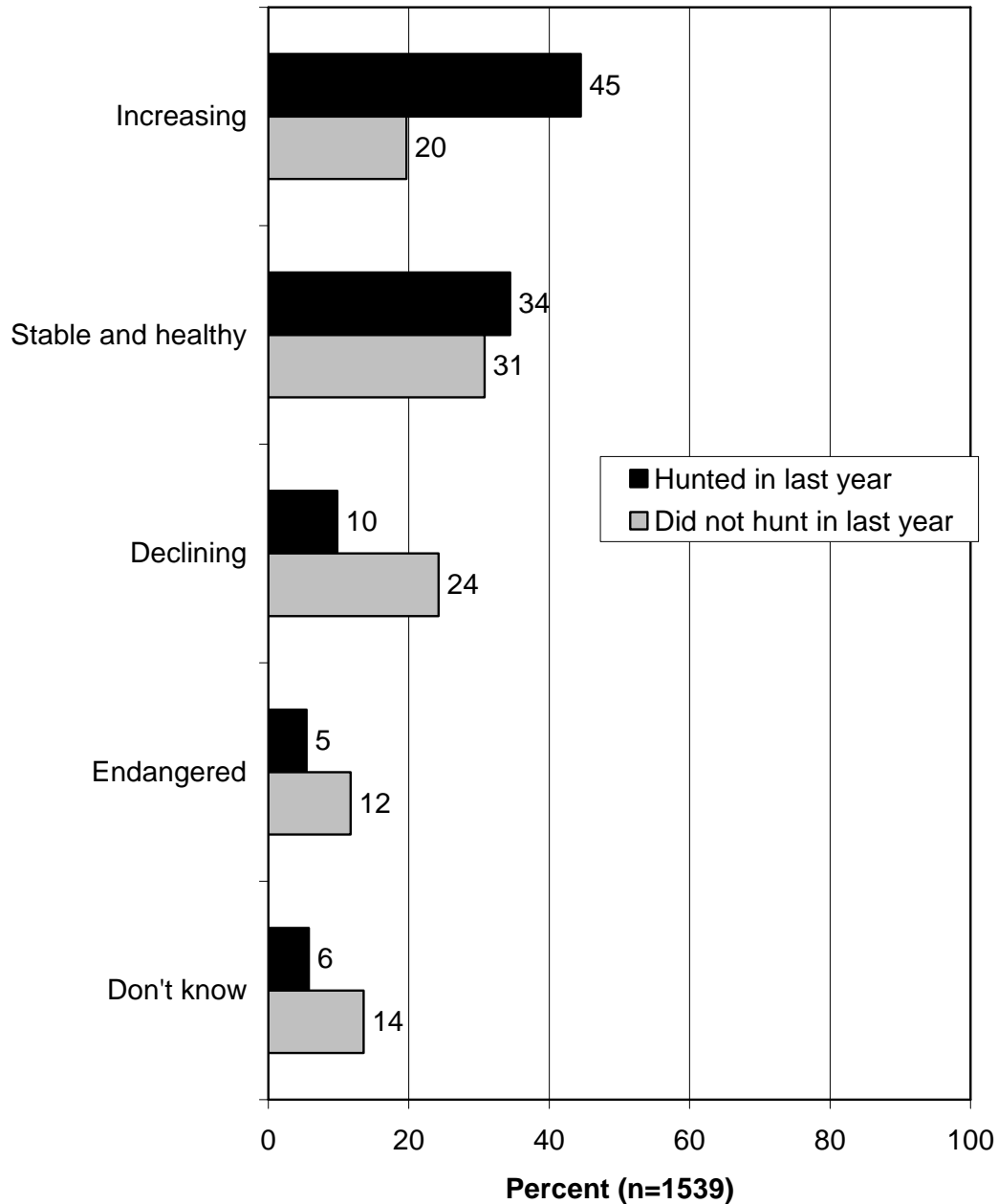
Q42. Overall, what do you think the status of the current black bear population is in Virginia? Would you say it is increasing, stable and healthy, declining, or endangered?



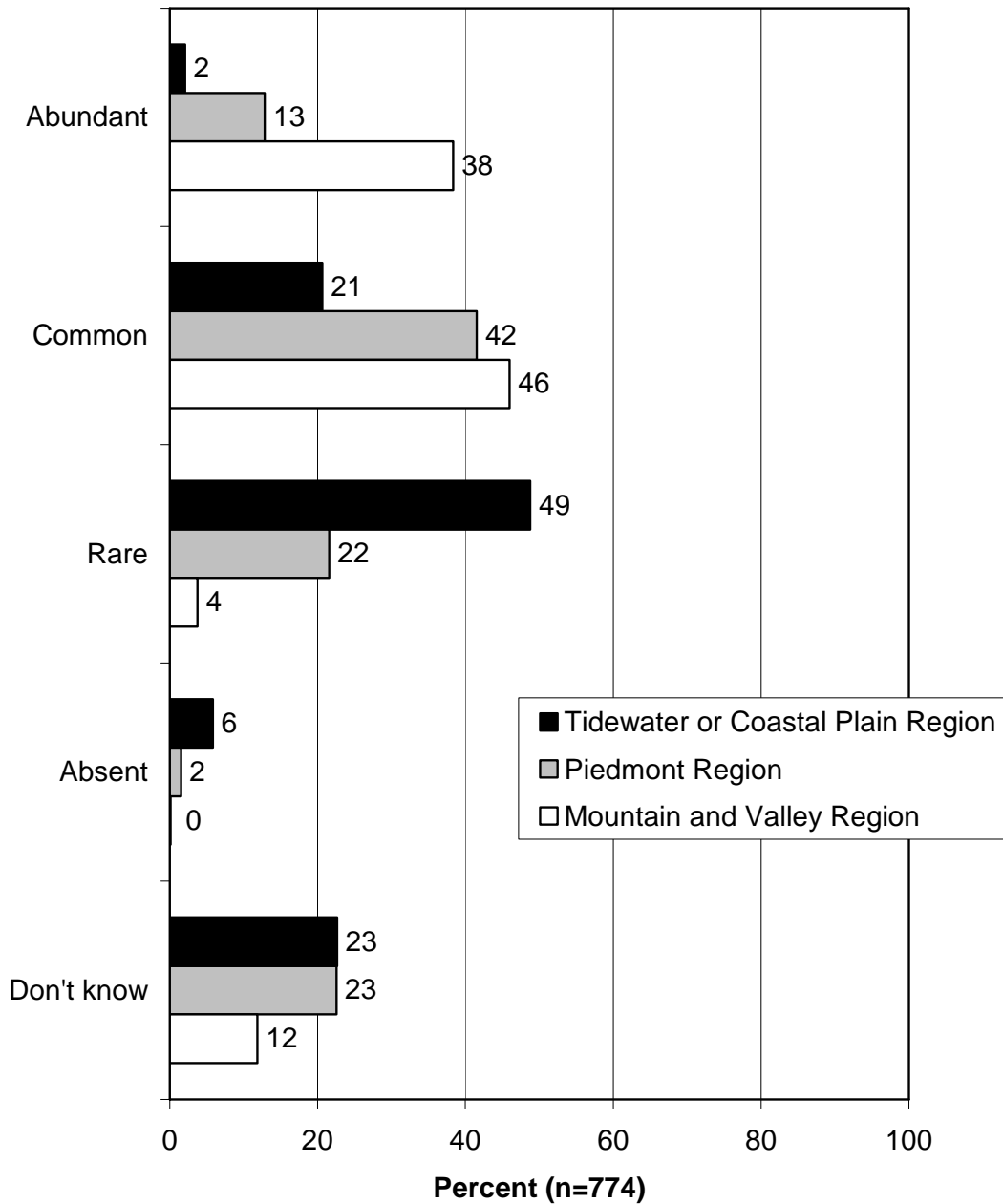
Q42. Overall, what do you think the status of the current black bear population is in Virginia? Would you say it is increasing, stable and healthy, declining, or endangered?



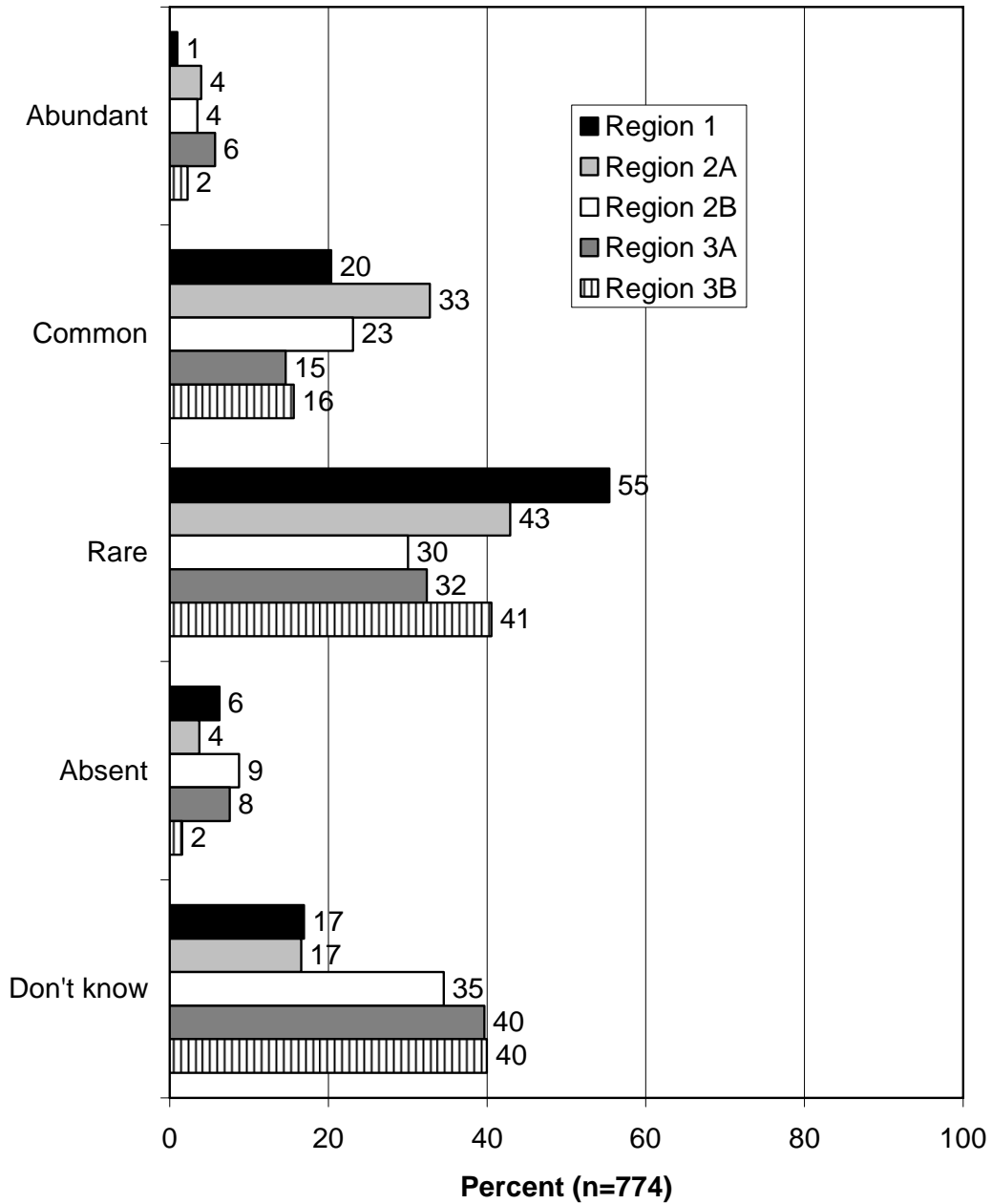
Q42. Overall, what do you think the status of the current black bear population is in Virginia? Would you say it is increasing, stable and healthy, declining, or endangered?



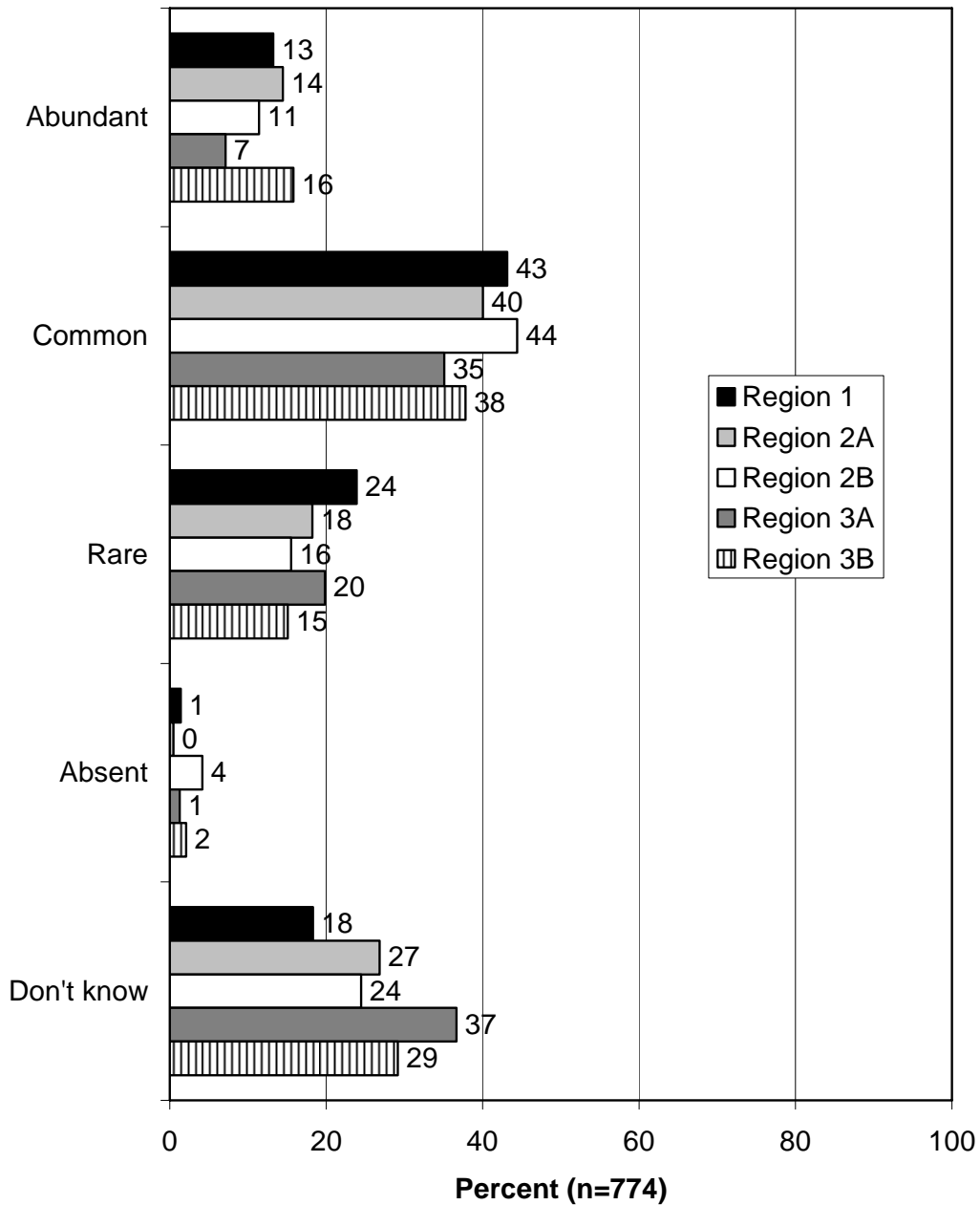
Q44-Q46. How common would you say black bears are in the [Region] of Virginia?



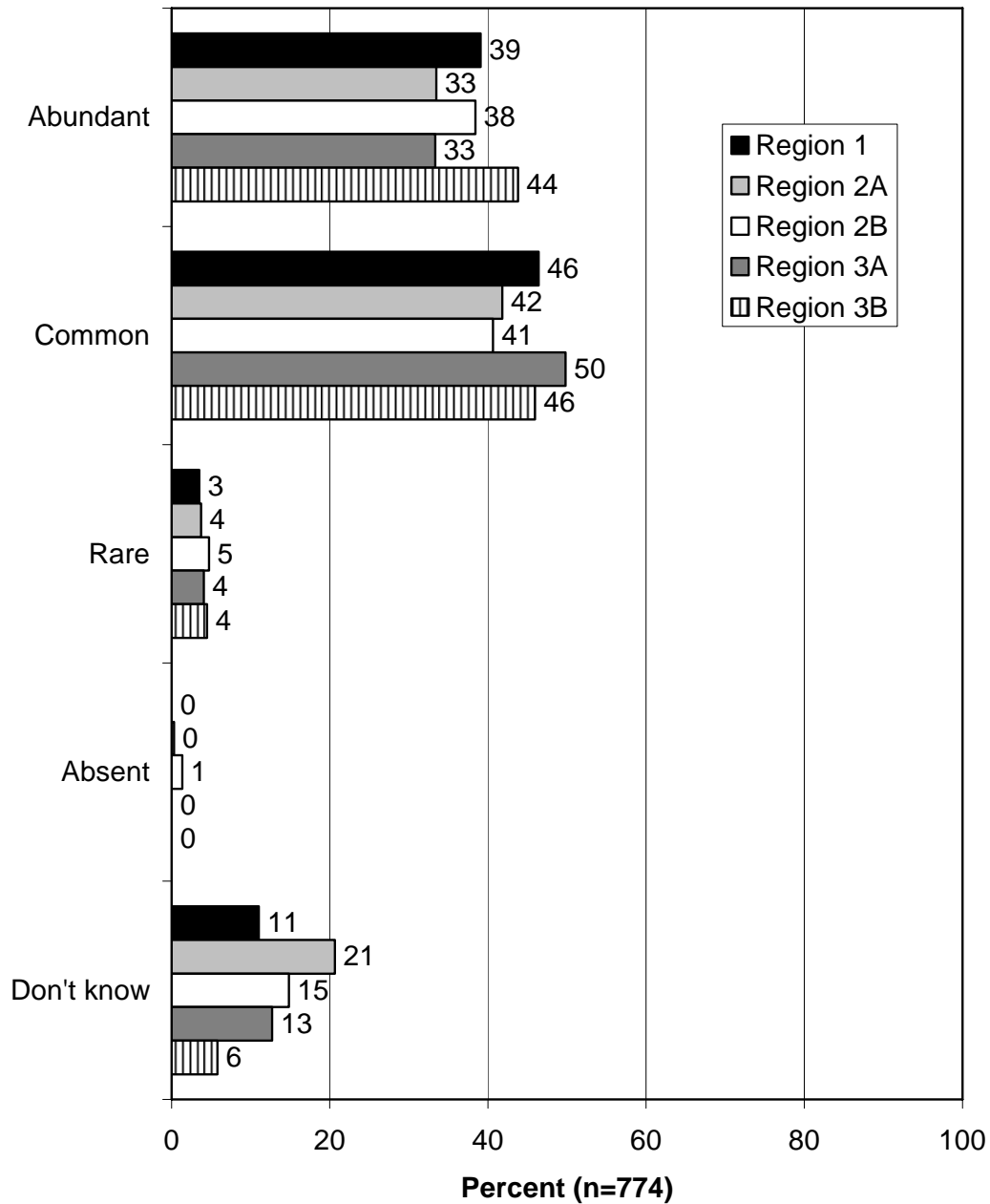
Q44. How common would you say black bears are in the Tidewater or Coastal Plain Region of Virginia?



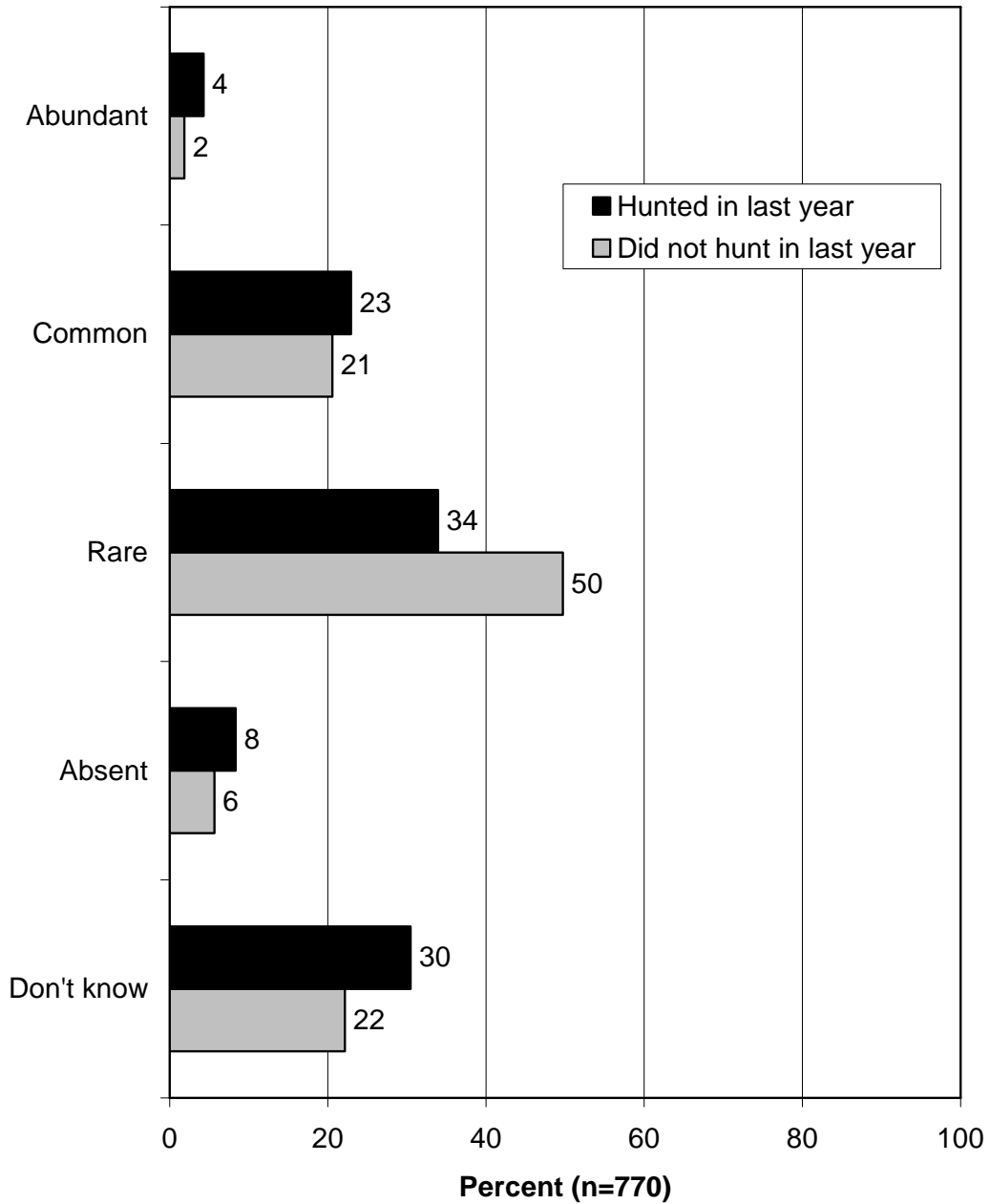
Q45. How common would you say black bears are the Piedmont Region of Virginia?



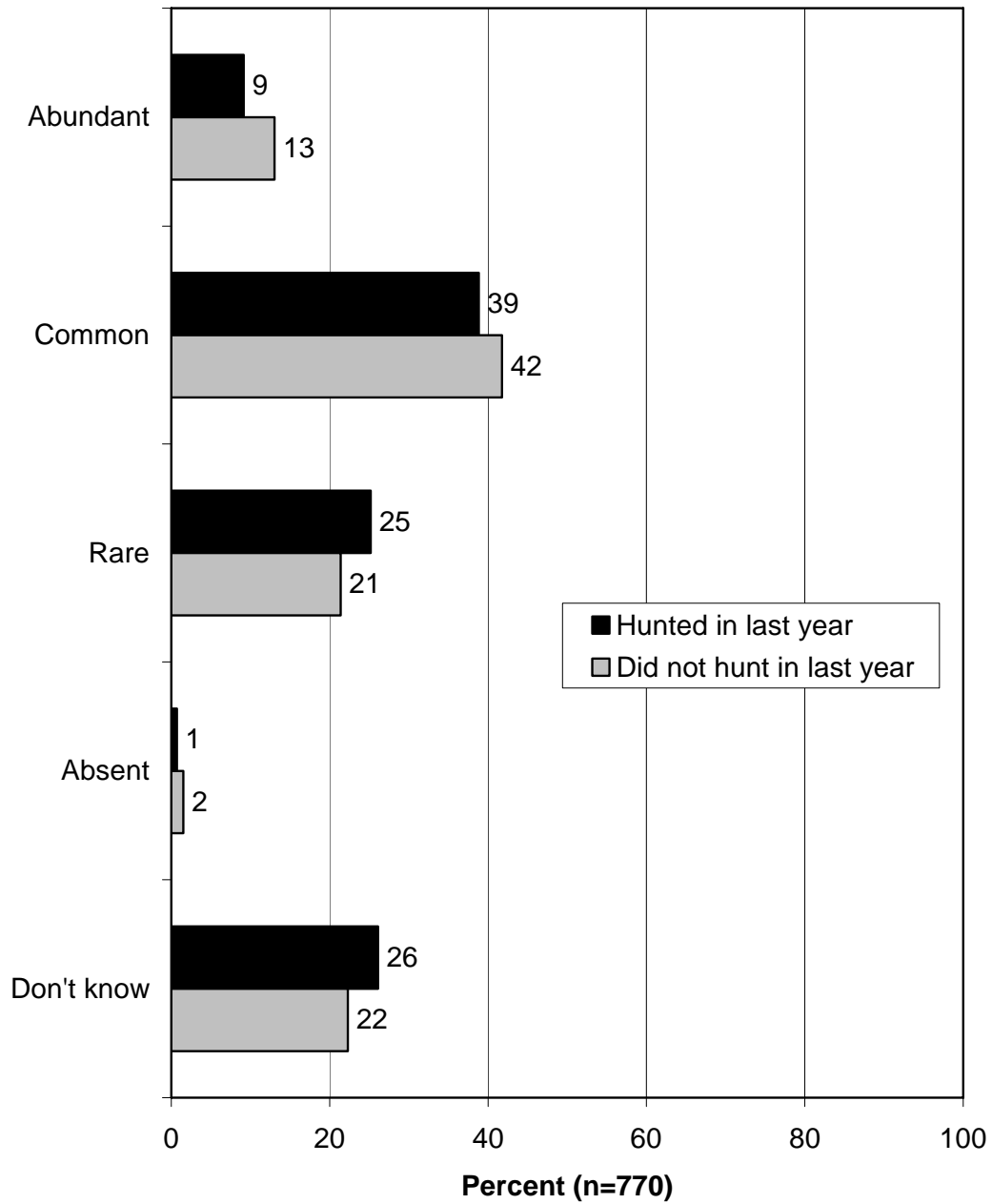
Q46. How common would you say black bears are the Mountain and Valley Region of Virginia?



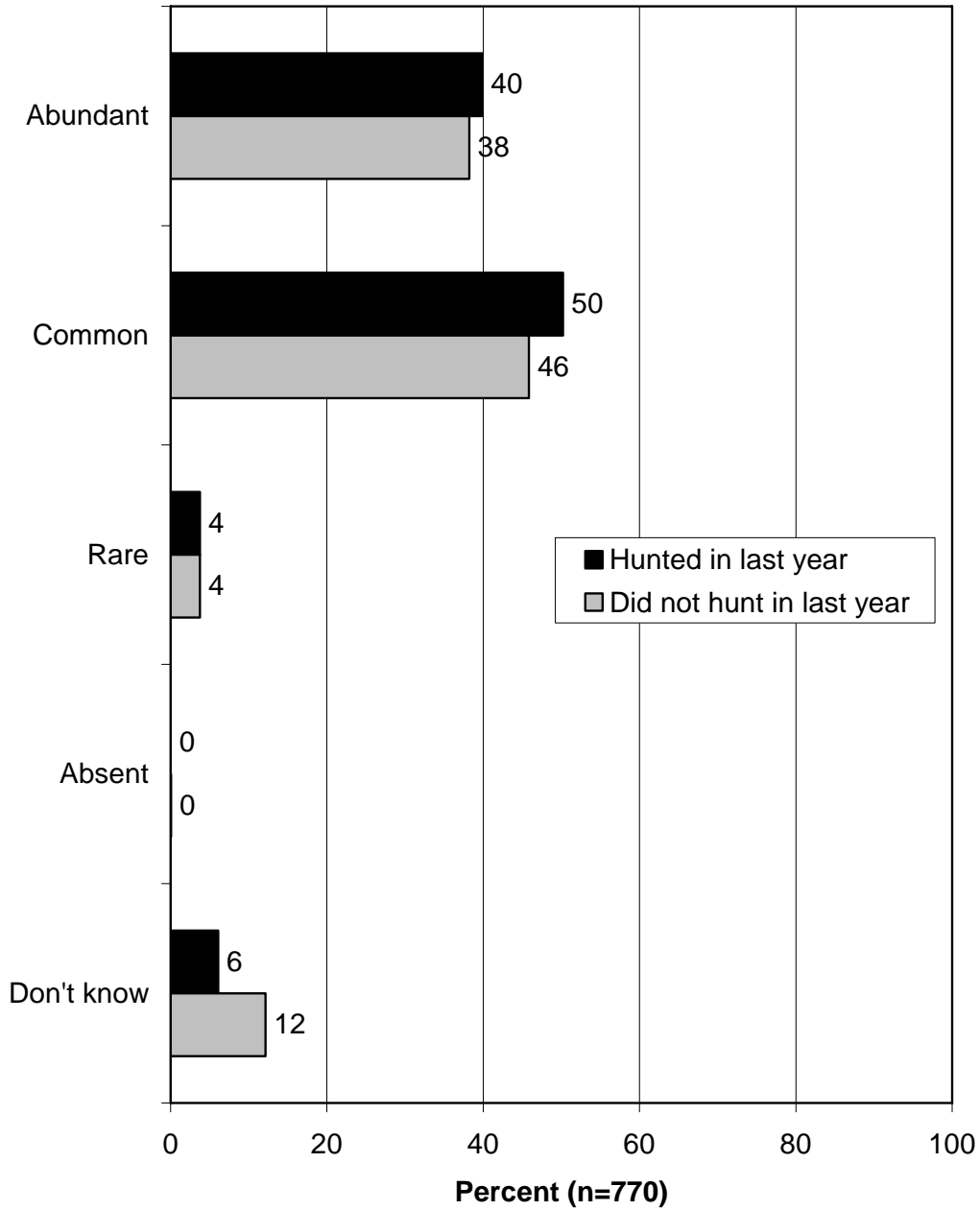
Q44. How common would you say black bears are in the Tidewater or Coastal Plain Region of Virginia?



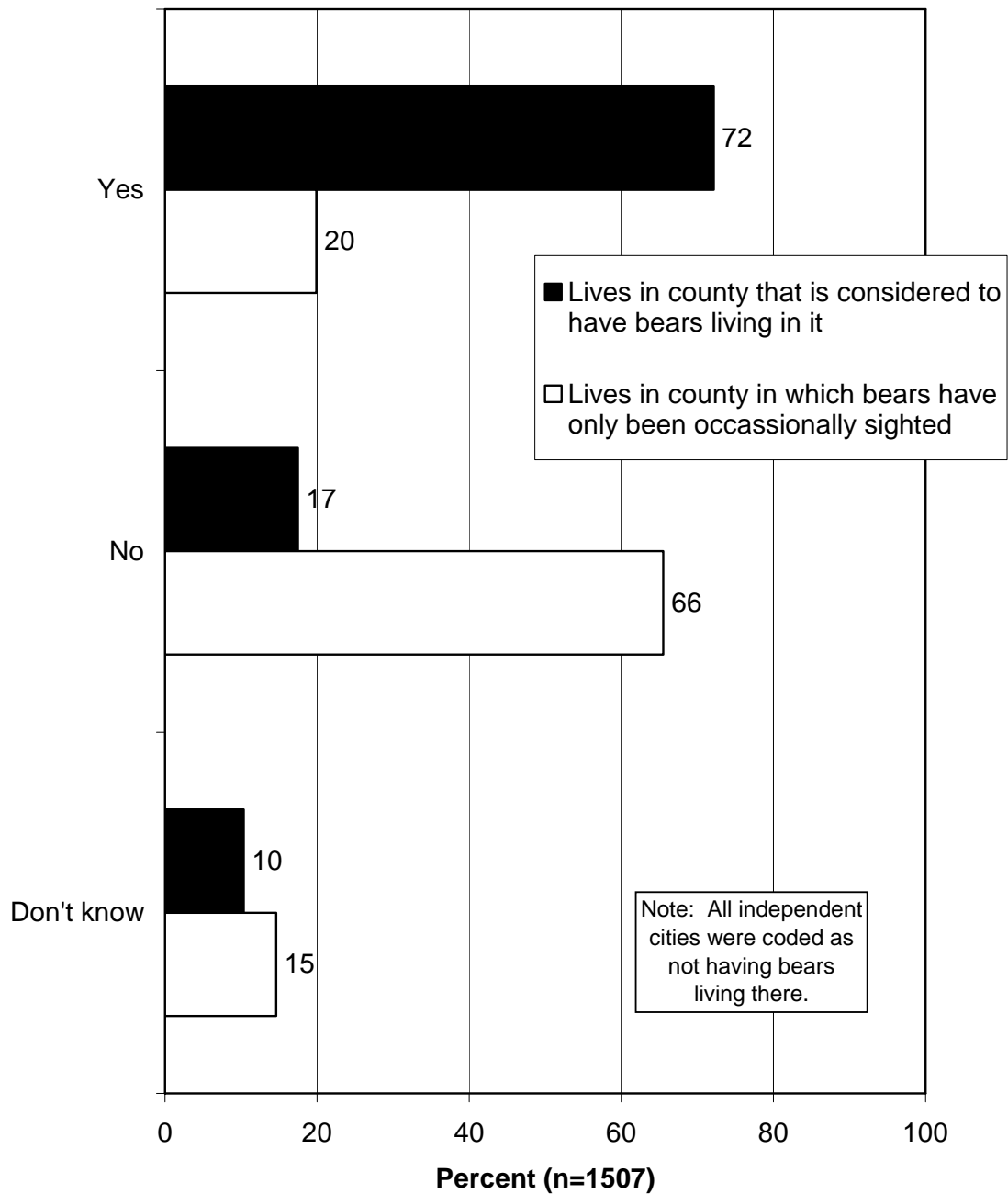
Q45. How common would you say black bears are the Piedmont Region of Virginia?



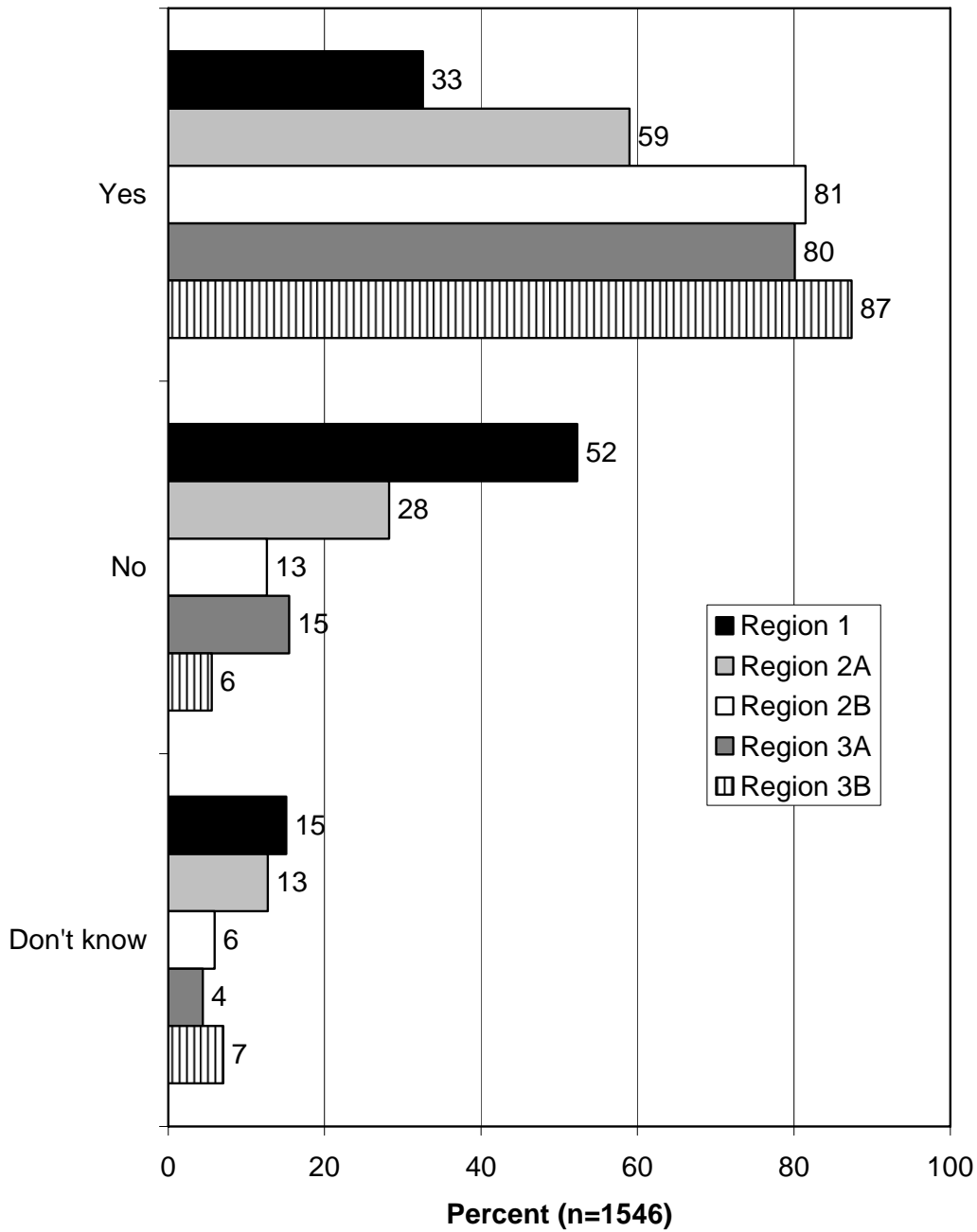
Q46. How common would you say black bears are the Mountain and Valley Region of Virginia?



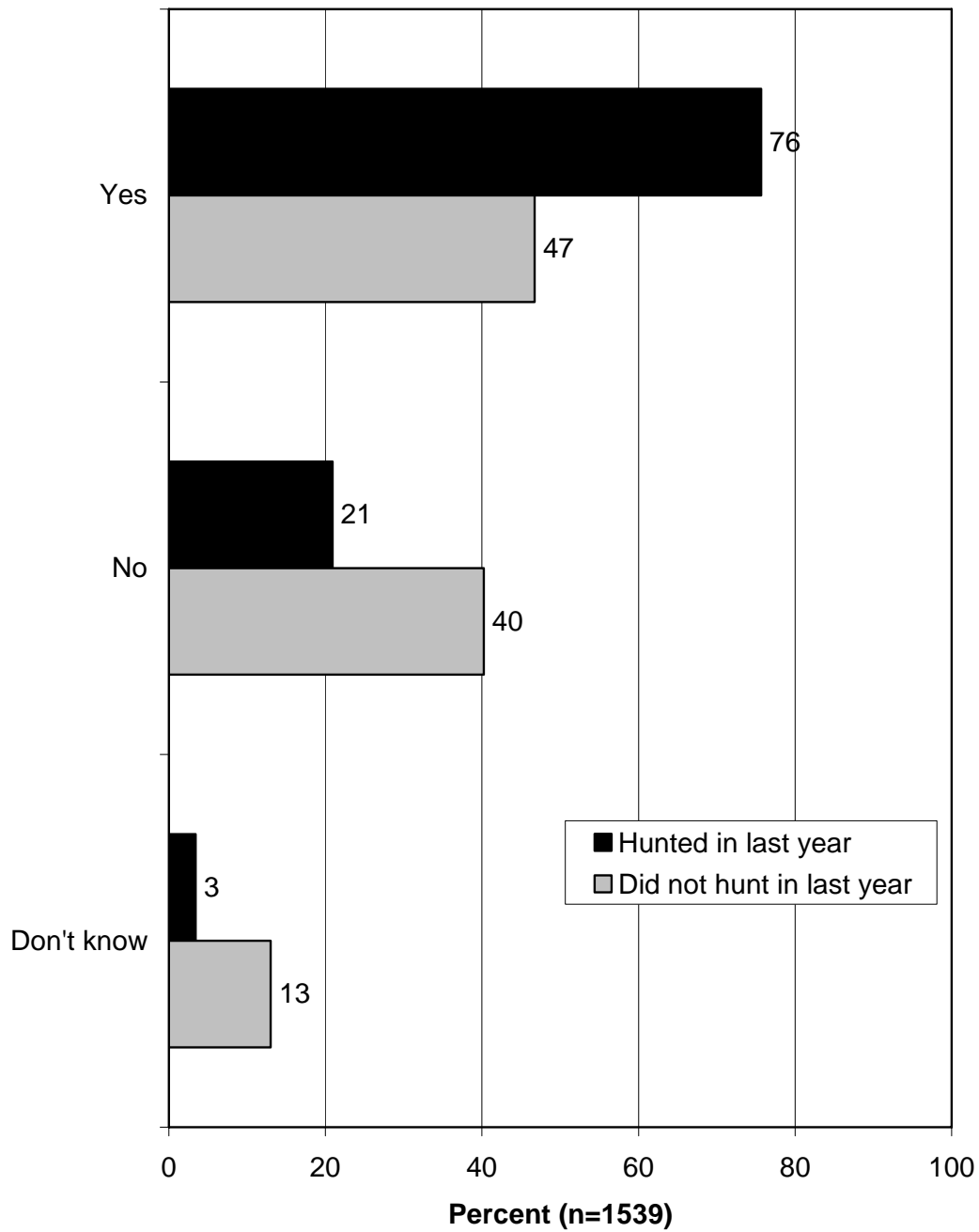
Q48. Do black bears currently live in your county of residence?



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RESIDENTS' WILDLIFE VALUES AND ATTITUDES TOWARD WILDLIFE, OUTDOOR RECREATION, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND BLACK BEARS

- Half of Virginia residents (50%) say it is *very* important to them to know that wildlife species native to the state exist in Virginia, and another 43% say it is *somewhat* important (for a sum of 93% saying it is important). The importance that residents attach to black bears is slightly lower (although still positive): 38% of residents say that it is *very* important for them to know that black bears exist in Virginia, and another 43% say it is *somewhat* important (for a sum of 81% saying it is important).
- Virginia residents who had viewed wildlife were asked to rate the importance of having the opportunity to see a black bear to their wildlife viewing experience: 29% give a rating of *very* important, and another 39% say it is *somewhat* important (for a sum of 68% rating it important).

The nonparametric analysis found that the following responses are correlated with **thinking it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia:**

- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to believe it is very or somewhat important to have native species exist in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to say that they know a great deal or a moderate amount about managing wildlife and natural resources ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to say that they know a great deal or a moderate amount about black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to believe black bears live in their county of residence ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the*

same in the past 10 years ($p \leq 0.001$) and is currently increasing or remaining stable ($p \leq 0.01$).

- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to answer correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to answer incorrectly by believing that six or more people have been killed by a black bear in Virginia in 100 years ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to answer correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to answer correctly by disagreeing with the statement that encountering a female black bear with cubs is always dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to support and encourage the existence of black bears in Virginia (e.g., strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia, strongly or moderately agree that black bears are an important and essential part of Virginia's ecosystem, strongly or moderately agree that preserving habitat on which black bears depend is important) (all at $p \leq 0.001$ or greater significance).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to strongly or moderately agree that people and black bears can live in the same area without conflict ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to want to see and have black bears in their county or city but not in their neighborhood ($p \leq 0.001$), want to see and have black bears in their neighborhood but not in their yard ($p \leq 0.001$), or want to see and have black bears in their yard ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to have personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to say black bears are not a problem at all for them in their neighborhood or on their property ($p \leq 0.01$).*

- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to frequently or sometimes see or hear about black bears in their neighborhood ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to be willing to pay about \$10 more per month for trash service for only 12 months to pay for the cost of bear-proof garbage containers ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to strongly or moderately support most fines or restrictions related to areas where black bears may exist (e.g., strongly or moderately support requiring people to use bear-proof garbage containers in areas frequented by bears, strongly or moderately support requiring counties that are frequented by bears and that use open dumpsters to use bear-proof dumpsters, strongly or moderately support requiring people whose birdfeeders are attracting black bears to take down or electrify the birdfeeder) (all at $p \leq 0.01$ or greater significance).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to strongly or moderately oppose that the property owner should be compensated for the damages when a black bear damages property ($p \leq 0.001$) or damage occurs to livestock ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to have participated in the following outdoor recreational activities in Virginia in the past 2 years: watched wildlife within 1 mile of home ($p \leq 0.001$), gone hiking ($p \leq 0.001$), watched wildlife over 1 mile from home ($p \leq 0.001$), fed birds around their home ($p \leq 0.001$), gone camping ($p \leq 0.01$), and gone biking ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to have recently participated in the following hunting and fishing activities in Virginia: fished over 5 days in the current fishing season ($p \leq 0.01$), purchased a hunting license for the 2009-2010 season ($p \leq 0.01$), hunted in the current 2009-2010 season ($p \leq 0.01$), and hunted over 5 days in the current hunting season ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to consider themselves to be a hunter ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to be white or Caucasian ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist*

in Virginia to have an income of \$100,000-\$119,999 ($p \leq 0.001$) or \$40,000-\$59,999 ($p \leq 0.05$).

- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to be 35-64 years old ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to be male ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to have a post-graduate or professional degree ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to consider their place of residence to be a semi-rural area ($p \leq 0.01$) or a large city or urban area ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to live in Region 3B ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia to have lived in Virginia more than the median number of 25 years ($p \leq 0.05$).*

The nonparametric analysis found that the following responses are correlated with **thinking it is not at all important to know black bears exist in Virginia**:

- *Those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia to say that they know a little or nothing about managing wildlife and natural resources ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia to believe it is not at all important to have native species exist in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia to say that they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia to think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia to think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia to answer incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*

- *Those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia to not support or encourage the existence of black bears in Virginia (e.g., strongly or moderately disagree that the presence of black bears near their home improves their overall quality of life, strongly or moderately oppose having black bear in Virginia, strongly or moderately disagree that preserving habitat on which black bears depend is important) (all at $p \leq 0.001$ or greater significance).*
- *Those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia to feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia to strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia to strongly or moderately disagree that people and black bears can live in the same area without conflict ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia to have not personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia to rarely or never see or hear about black bears in their neighborhood ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia to say black bears are a major or minor problem for them in their neighborhood or on their property ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia to not be willing to pay about \$10 more per month for trash service for only 12 months to pay for the cost of bear-proof garbage containers ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia to strongly or moderately support prohibiting people visiting or living in areas frequented by black bears from using birdfeeders or participating in other wildlife feeding activities ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia to have fished 1-5 days in the current fishing season ($p \leq 0.001$), but have not hunted during the current hunting season ($p \leq 0.01$) in Virginia.*

- *Those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia to live in Region 1 ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia to be African-American ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia to be female ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia to consider their place of residence to be a small city or town ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia to have an income of \$60,000-\$79,999 ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who think it is not all important to know black bears exist in Virginia are more likely than are those who think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia to have lived in Virginia the median number of 25 years or less ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- Several additional questions probed residents' values as they relate specifically to black bears.
- An overwhelming majority of Virginians (82%) support having black bears in Virginia, about evenly divided between *strong* and *moderate* support, while only 7% oppose.
 - An even larger majority (85%) agree with the statement, "Black bears are an important and essential part of Virginia's ecosystem"; meanwhile, 7% disagree.
 - A yet larger majority (93%) agree with the statement, "Preserving habitat on which black bears depend is important"; only 3% disagree. Note that most agreement is *strong* agreement (66%).

The nonparametric analysis found that the following responses are correlated with **strongly or moderately supporting having black bears in Virginia**:

- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to believe it is very or somewhat important to have native species exist in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to say that they know a great deal or a moderate amount about managing wildlife and natural resources ($p \leq 0.001$).*

- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable ($p \leq 0.001$) and has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to say that they know a great deal or a moderate amount about black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to believe black bears live in their county of residence ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to answer correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to answer incorrectly by believing that six or more people ($p \leq 0.001$) or 1-5 people ($p \leq 0.001$) have been killed by a black bear in Virginia in 100 years.*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to answer correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to answer correctly by disagreeing with the statement that encountering a female black bear with cubs is always dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to support and encourage the existence of black bears in Virginia (e.g., think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia, strongly or moderately agree that black bears are an important and essential part of Virginia's ecosystem, strongly or moderately agree that the presence of black bears near their home improves their overall quality of life) (all at $p \leq 0.001$ or greater significance).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to want to see and have black bears in their county or city but not in their neighborhood, want to see and have black bears in their neighborhood but not in their yard, or want to see and have black bears in their yard (all at $p \leq 0.001$ or greater significance).*

- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to strongly or moderately agree that people and black bears can live in the same area without conflict ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to have personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to say black bears are not a problem at all for them in their neighborhood or on their property ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to be willing to pay about \$10 more per month for trash service for only 12 months to pay for the cost of bear-proof garbage containers ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to strongly or moderately support requiring counties that are frequented by bears and that use open dumpsters to use bear-proof dumpsters ($p \leq 0.001$), strongly or moderately support requiring people to use bear-proof garbage containers in areas frequented by bears ($p \leq 0.001$), and strongly or moderately support prohibiting people visiting or living in areas frequented by black bears from using birdfeeders or participating in other wildlife feeding activities ($p \leq 0.05$), but strongly or moderately oppose fines for people who attract black bears, either intentionally or unintentionally ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to strongly or moderately oppose that the property owner should be compensated for the damages when a black bear damages property, damage occurs to livestock, or damage occurs to agricultural crops (all at $p \leq 0.001$ or greater significance).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to prefer using the following management options for reducing the black bear population in areas with high human populations or frequent human use: regulated hunting ($p \leq 0.001$) and kill permits ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to think the following method of destroying black bears that are causing problems is acceptable: Department sharpshooters ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears ($p \leq 0.001$).*

- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to have participated in the following outdoor recreational activities in Virginia in the past 2 years: gone hiking, fed birds around their home, watched wildlife within 1 mile of home, watched wildlife over 1 mile from home, gone biking, gone camping, and gone running or jogging (all at $p \leq 0.001$ or greater significance).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to consider themselves to be a hunter ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to have recently participated in the following hunting and fishing activities in Virginia: fished over 5 days in the current fishing season ($p \leq 0.001$), fished 1-5 days in the current fishing season ($p \leq 0.001$), purchased a hunting license for the 2009-2010 season ($p \leq 0.01$), and hunted over 5 days in the current hunting season ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to be white or Caucasian ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to be male ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to have an income of \$100,000-\$119,999 ($p \leq 0.001$), \$40,000-\$59,999 ($p \leq 0.01$) or \$80,000-\$99,999 ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to have a post-graduate or professional degree ($p \leq 0.001$) or a Bachelor's degree ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to be 35-64 years old ($p \leq 0.001$) or 18-34 years old ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to consider their place of residence to be a suburban area ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to live in Region 3B ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia to have lived in Virginia the median number of 25 years or less ($p \leq 0.05$).*

The nonparametric analysis found that the following responses are correlated with **strongly or moderately opposing having black bears in Virginia**:

- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia to believe it is not at all important to have native species exist in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*

- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia to say that they know a little or nothing about managing wildlife and natural resources ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia to think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia to say that they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia to answer incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia to not support or encourage the existence of black bears in Virginia (e.g., strongly or moderately disagree that black bears are an important and essential part of Virginia's ecosystem, think it is not at all important to know black bears exist in Virginia, strongly or moderately disagree that the presence of black bears near their home improves their overall quality of life) (all at $p \leq 0.001$ or greater significance).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia to feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia to strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia to strongly or moderately disagree that people and black bears can live in the same area without conflict ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia to say black bears are a major or minor problem for them in their neighborhood or on their property ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia to have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia to not be willing to pay about \$10 more per month for trash service for only 12 months to pay for the cost of bear-proof garbage containers ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia to strongly or moderately support fines for people who attract black bears, either intentionally or unintentionally ($p \leq 0.05$), and strongly or moderately support requiring*

- people whose birdfeeders are attracting black bears to take down or electrify the birdfeeder ($p \leq 0.05$).
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia to strongly or moderately agree that the property owner should be compensated for the damages when black bear damage occurs to livestock ($p \leq 0.001$), damages property ($p \leq 0.05$), or damage occurs to agricultural crops ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia to not have fished during the current fishing season in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia to be African-American ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia to be female ($p \leq 0.001$),*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia to have lived in Virginia more than the median number of 25 years ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia to consider their place of residence to be a rural area not on a farm or ranch ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia to be no more than a high school graduate or equivalent ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia to have an income of \$60,000-\$79,999 ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia to have lived in their place of residence more the median number of 7 years ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- Residents were presented with four choices in a scale regarding their comfort level about having bears around, from complete comfort (I want to see and have black bears in my yard) to complete discomfort (I feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in my county). The majority of Virginia residents fall in the discomfort side of the scale: 49% say that they want to see and have black bears in their county but not in their neighborhood, and 31% say that they feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county (a sum of 80% in the lower half of the scale). Meanwhile, only 8% say that they want to see and have black

bears in their yard, and 9% say that they want to see and have black bears in their neighborhood but not in their yard (a sum of 17% in the higher end of the comfort scale).

- A related question asked residents if they agree or disagree with the statement, “The presence of black bears near my home improves my overall quality of life.” Disagreement (53%) far exceeds agreement (27%).

The nonparametric analysis found that the following responses are correlated with **feeling uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county**:

- *Those who feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county are more likely than are those who do not indicate feeling uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county to say that they know a little or nothing about managing wildlife and natural resources ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county are more likely than are those who do not indicate feeling uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county to believe it is not at all important to have native species exist in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county are more likely than are those who do not indicate feeling uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county to think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county are more likely than are those who do not indicate feeling uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county to say that they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county are more likely than are those who do not indicate feeling uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county to answer incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county are more likely than are those who do not indicate feeling uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county to answer incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county are more likely than are those who do not indicate feeling uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county to not support or encourage the existence of black bears in Virginia (e.g., strongly or moderately disagree that the presence of black bears near their home improves their overall quality of life, strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia, think it is not at all important to know black bears exist in Virginia) (all at $p \leq 0.001$ or greater significance).*
- *Those who feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county are more likely than are those who do not indicate feeling uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county to strongly or moderately disagree that people and black bears can live in the same area without conflict ($p \leq 0.001$).*

- *Those who feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county are more likely than are those who do not indicate feeling uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county to have not personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county are more likely than are those who do not indicate feeling uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county to strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county are more likely than are those who do not indicate feeling uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county to rarely or never see or hear about black bears in their neighborhood ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county are more likely than are those who do not indicate feeling uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county to say black bears are a major or minor problem for them in their neighborhood or on their property ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county are more likely than are those who do not indicate feeling uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county to strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county are more likely than are those who do not indicate feeling uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county to not be willing to pay about \$10 more per month for trash service for only 12 months to pay for the cost of bear-proof garbage containers ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county are more likely than are those who do not indicate feeling uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county to strongly or moderately support requiring people to use bear-proof garbage containers in areas frequented by bears ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county are more likely than are those who do not indicate feeling uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county to strongly or moderately agree that the property owner should be compensated for the damages when a black bear damages property ($p \leq 0.001$) or damage occurs to livestock ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county are more likely than are those who do not indicate feeling uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county to think the following method of destroying black bears that are causing problems is acceptable: the Department captures bears and destroys them ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county are more likely than are those who do not indicate feeling uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county to not have fished ($p \leq 0.001$) or hunted ($p \leq 0.001$) during the current fishing and hunting seasons in Virginia.*
- *Those who feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county are more likely than are those who do not indicate feeling uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county to live in Region 1 ($p \leq 0.001$).*

- *Those who feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county are more likely than are those who do not indicate feeling uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county to be female ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county are more likely than are those who do not indicate feeling uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county to be African-American ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county are more likely than are those who do not indicate feeling uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county to consider their place of residence to be a large city or urban area ($p \leq 0.001$) or a suburban area ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county are more likely than are those who do not indicate feeling uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county to have a Bachelor's degree ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county are more likely than are those who do not indicate feeling uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county to consider their place of residence to be more than the median age of 25 years ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- Another question probed residents' comfort level with black bears. Residents were asked if they agree or disagree with the statement, "Black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans." Disagreement (54%) exceeded agreement (36%), with the remainder giving a neutral answer.
- Agreement (68%) far exceeded disagreement (25%) with the statement, "People and black bears can live in the same area without conflict."
 - It is worth recalling that, in a knowledge question previously reported, 74% of Virginia residents agree with the statement, "Encountering a female black bear with cubs is always dangerous to humans"; meanwhile, 20% disagree. (This graph is shown in the section of this report titled "Knowledge of Wildlife Management and Natural Resources.") Note that biologists consider this statement to be *false* for several reasons, primary among those reasons being that, because black bears can tree their cubs, it is rare for them to injure a person in that situation, as the bear considers the treed cubs to be safe. After sending the cubs up a tree, the bear will attempt to entice the threat away from the cubs. Also, protective attacks (i.e., to protect cubs or to protect territory) are generally less dangerous than are predatory attacks (i.e., to kill for eating), the latter being the most dangerous attack—when the bear is hungry and is attacking to obtain food.
 - Again, recall in the section of this report titled, "Knowledge of Wildlife Management and Natural Resources," that 42% of Virginia residents incorrectly agree with the statement,

“A black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack.” Meanwhile, 41% disagree. Biologists consider the statement to be false. A bear stands to better view and smell what is around him; it is *not* considered an aggressive posture.

The nonparametric analysis found that the following responses are correlated with **strongly or moderately agreeing that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans**:

- *Those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to say that they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to answer incorrectly by agreeing with the statement that encountering a female black bear with cubs is always dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to answer incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to not support or encourage the existence of black bears in Virginia (e.g., strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia, think it is not at all important to know black bears exist in Virginia, strongly or moderately disagree that the presence of black bears near their home improves their overall quality of life) (all at $p \leq 0.001$ or greater significance).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to strongly or moderately disagree that people and black bears can live in the same area without conflict ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to rarely or never see or hear about black bears in their neighborhood ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately disagree that black*

bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to have not personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia ($p \leq 0.05$).

- *Those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to not be willing to pay about \$10 more per month for trash service for only 12 months to pay for the cost of bear-proof garbage containers ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to strongly or moderately support most fines or restrictions related to areas where black bears may exist (e.g., strongly or moderately support requiring people whose birdfeeders are attracting black bears to take down or electrify the birdfeeder, strongly or moderately support fines for people who attract black bears, either intentionally or unintentionally, strongly or moderately support prohibiting people visiting or living in areas frequented by black bears from using birdfeeders or participating in other wildlife feeding activities) (all at $p \leq 0.05$ or greater significance).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to strongly or moderately agree that the property owner should be compensated for the damages when black bear damage occurs to agricultural crops ($p \leq 0.001$) or damage occurs to livestock ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to prefer using the following management option for reducing the black bear population in areas with high human populations or frequent human use: capture and relocate ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to think the following method of destroying black bears that are causing problems is acceptable: the Department captures bears and destroys them ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to not have fished ($p \leq 0.001$) or hunted ($p \leq 0.05$) during the current fishing and hunting seasons in Virginia.*
- *Those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to be African-American ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to have an income of under \$20,000 ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to be female ($p \leq 0.001$).*

- *Those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to consider their place of residence to be a small city or town ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to have lived in Virginia more than the median number of 25 years ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to be 65 years old or older ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to be no more than a high school graduate or equivalent ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to consider their place of residence to be more than the median age of 25 years ($p \leq 0.01$).*

The nonparametric analysis found that the following responses are correlated with **strongly or moderately disagreeing that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans**:

- *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to say that they know a great deal or a moderate amount about managing wildlife and natural resources ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to say that they know a great deal or a moderate amount about black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable ($p \leq 0.01$) and has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to believe black bears live in their county of residence ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears*

- in Virginia are dangerous to humans to answer correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to answer correctly by disagreeing with the statement that encountering a female black bear with cubs is always dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to answer incorrectly by believing that 1-5 people have been killed by a black bear in Virginia in 100 years ($p \leq 0.001$), or answer correctly by believing that no one has been killed by a black bear in Virginia in 100 years ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to answer correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to support and encourage the existence of black bears in Virginia (e.g., think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia, strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia, strongly or moderately agree that preserving habitat on which black bears depend is important) (all at $p \leq 0.01$ or greater significance).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to strongly or moderately agree that people and black bears can live in the same area without conflict ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to want to see and have black bears in their yard, want to see and have black bears in their neighborhood but not in their yard, or want to see and have black bears in their county or city but not in their neighborhood (all at $p \leq 0.001$ or greater significance).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to have personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to frequently or sometimes see or hear about black bears in their neighborhood ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*

- *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to be willing to pay about \$10 more per month for trash service for only 12 months to pay for the cost of bear-proof garbage containers ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to strongly or moderately support requiring people to use bear-proof garbage containers in areas frequented by bears ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to strongly or moderately oppose that the property owner should be compensated for the damages when black bear damage occurs to agricultural crops, damage occurs to livestock, or damages property (all at $p \leq 0.001$ or greater significance).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to prefer using the following management options for reducing the black bear population in areas with high human populations or frequent human use: regulated hunting ($p \leq 0.001$) and kill permits ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to think the following methods of destroying black bears that are causing problems are acceptable: special hunting programs ($p \leq 0.001$), kill permits issued by the Department ($p \leq 0.01$), and Department sharpshooters ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to have participated in the following outdoor recreational activities in Virginia in the past 2 years: gone hiking ($p \leq 0.001$), watched wildlife over 1 mile from home ($p \leq 0.001$), gone biking ($p \leq 0.001$), and gone camping ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to have recently participated in the following hunting and fishing activities in Virginia: purchased a hunting license for the 2009-2010 season ($p \leq 0.001$), hunted in the current 2009-2010 season ($p \leq 0.001$), hunted over 5 days in the current hunting season ($p \leq 0.01$), and fished over 5 days in the current fishing season ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to consider themselves to be a hunter ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to have a post-graduate or professional degree ($p \leq 0.001$).*

- *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to have an income of \$120,000 or more ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to be male ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to be white or Caucasian ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to consider their place of residence to be a semi-rural area ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to be 35-64 years old ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans to have lived in Virginia the median number of 25 years or less ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- The large majority of Virginia residents (81%) support legal, regulated hunting in general; only 12% oppose.
- Support for hunting *black bears* is less than for hunting overall: 51% support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia, while 36% oppose.
 - In follow-up, those who oppose the legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia were asked why they oppose. Most commonly, it is because they are opposed to all hunting in general. Other common reasons include thinking that the black bear population is too low/believing that hunting would reduce the population, thinking that killing bears is cruel/inhumane, being opposed to trophy hunting, and thinking that black bears do not cause problems.

The nonparametric analysis found that the following responses are correlated with **strongly or moderately supporting legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia**:

- *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to say that they know a great deal or a moderate amount about managing wildlife and natural resources ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal,*

- regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to believe it is very or somewhat important to have native species exist in Virginia ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable ($p \leq 0.001$) and has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to believe black bears live in his/her county of residence ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to say that they know a great deal or a moderate amount about black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to answer correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to answer incorrectly by believing that 1-5 people have been killed by a black bear in Virginia in 100 years ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to answer correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to support and encourage the existence of black bears in Virginia (e.g., strongly or moderately agree that black bears are an important and essential part of Virginia's ecosystem, strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia, strongly or moderately agree that preserving habitat on which black bears depend is important) (all at $p \leq 0.05$ or greater significance).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to have personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to frequently or sometimes see or hear about black bears in their neighborhood ($p \leq 0.001$).*

- *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to want to see and have black bears in their county or city but not in their neighborhood ($p \leq 0.001$), or want to see and have black bears in their neighborhood but not in their yard ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to strongly or moderately agree that people and black bears can live in the same area without conflict ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to strongly or moderately oppose most fines or restrictions related to areas where black bears may exist (e.g., oppose prohibiting people visiting or living in areas frequented by black bears from using birdfeeders or participating in other wildlife feeding activities, oppose requiring people to use bear-proof garbage containers in areas frequented by bears, oppose fines for people who attract black bears, either intentionally or unintentionally) (all at $p \leq 0.05$ or greater significance), but strongly or moderately support requiring people whose birdfeeders are attracting black bears to take down or electrify the birdfeeder ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to strongly or moderately oppose that the property owner should be compensated for the damages when a black bear damages property ($p \leq 0.001$), damage occurs to agricultural crops ($p \leq 0.01$), or damage occurs to livestock ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to prefer using the following management options for reducing the black bear population in areas with high human populations or frequent human use: regulated hunting, kill permits, sharpshooters, and capture and destroy (all at $p \leq 0.001$ or greater significance).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to think the following methods of destroying black bears that are causing problems are acceptable: kill permits issued by the Department, special hunting programs, and Department sharpshooters (all at $p \leq 0.001$ or greater significance).*

- *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to consider themselves to be a hunter ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to have recently participated in the following hunting and fishing activities in Virginia: hunted in the current 2009-2010 season ($p \leq 0.001$), fished over 5 days in the current fishing season ($p \leq 0.001$), purchased a hunting license for the 2009-2010 season ($p \leq 0.001$), hunted over 5 days in the current hunting season ($p \leq 0.001$), and hunted 1-5 days in the current hunting season ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to have participated in the following outdoor recreational activities in Virginia in the past 2 years: gone hiking ($p \leq 0.001$), watched wildlife within 1 mile of home ($p \leq 0.001$), watched wildlife over 1 mile from home ($p \leq 0.01$), gone camping ($p \leq 0.01$), and gone biking ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to be male ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to be white or Caucasian ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to consider their place of residence to be a rural area on a farm or ranch ($p \leq 0.001$), a rural area not on a farm or ranch ($p \leq 0.01$), or a semi-rural area ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to live in Region 3A ($p \leq 0.001$) or Region 3B ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to have an income of \$100,000-\$119,999 ($p \leq 0.001$) or \$60,000-\$79,999 ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to be 35-64 years old ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately oppose legal,*

regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to have lived in Virginia more the median number of 25 years ($p \leq 0.01$).

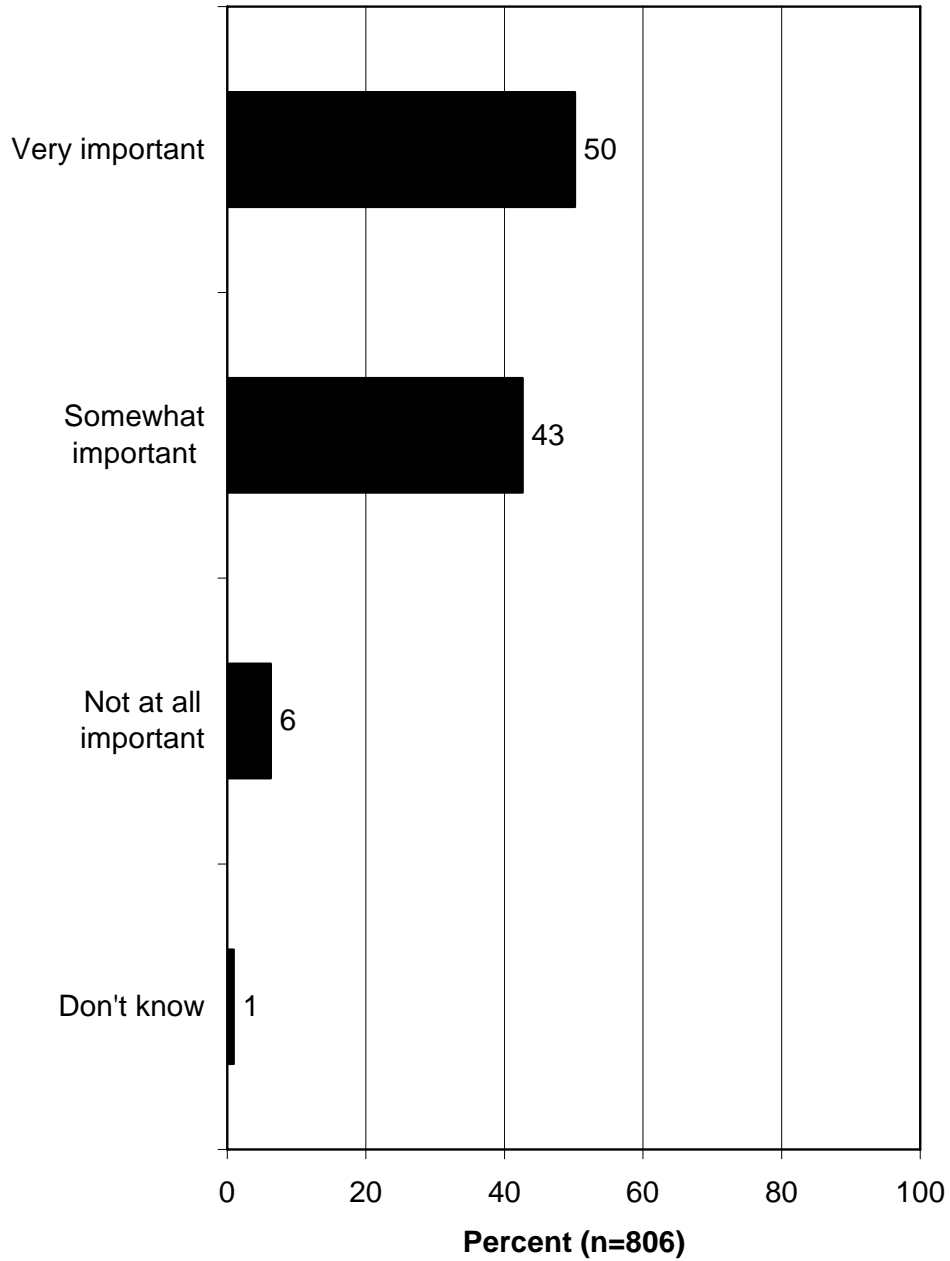
The nonparametric analysis found that the following responses are correlated with **strongly or moderately opposing legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia**:

- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to say that they know a little or nothing about managing wildlife and natural resources ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years ($p \leq 0.001$) and is currently declining ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to say that they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to answer incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to answer incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to strongly or moderately disagree that the presence of black bears near their home improves their overall quality of life ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to have not personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to rarely or never see or hear about black bears in their neighborhood ($p \leq 0.001$).*

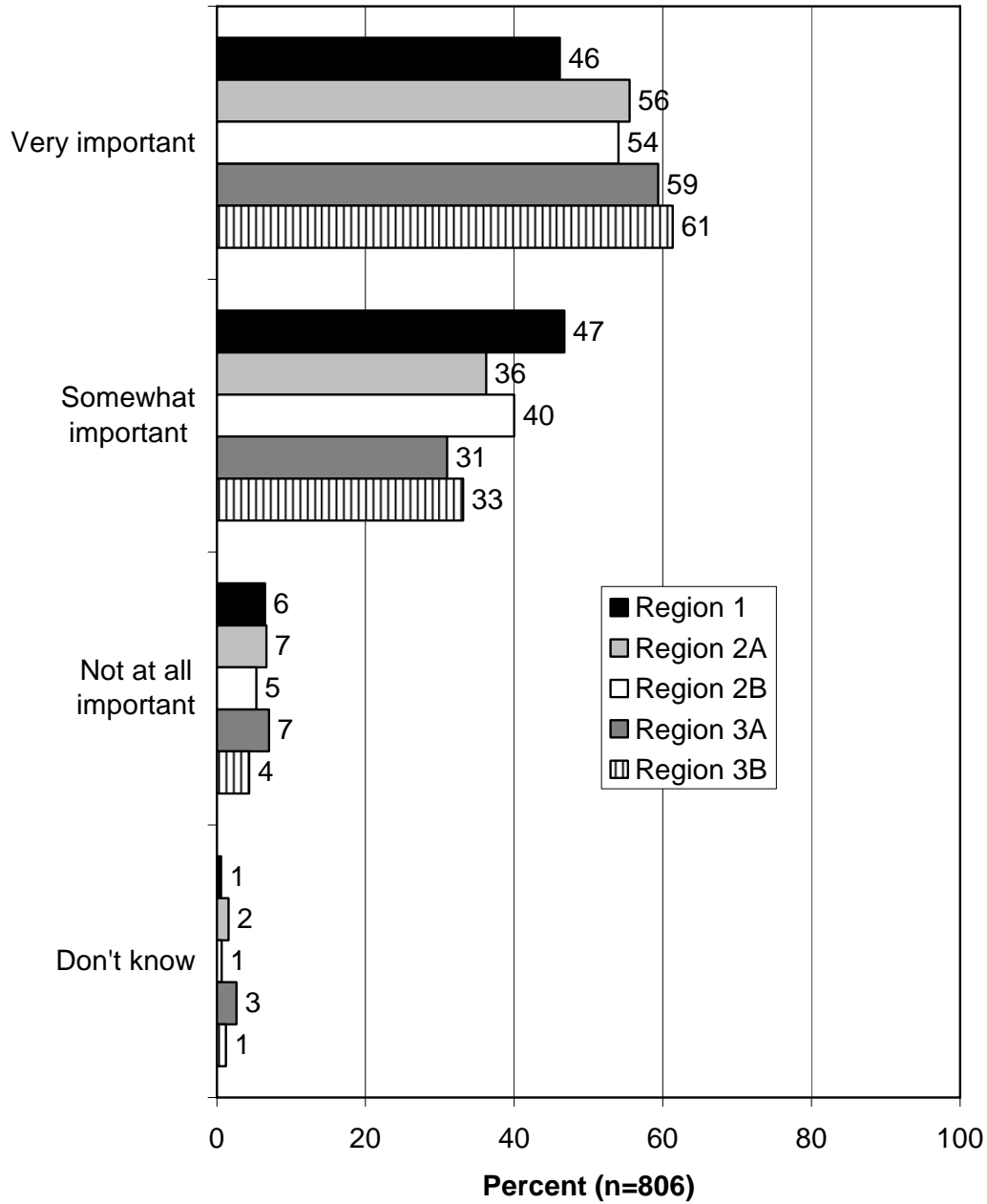
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to have never personally had a problem with black bears within the past 2 years ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to strongly or moderately disagree that people and black bears can live in the same area without conflict ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to say black bears are not a problem at all for them in their neighborhood or on their property ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to strongly or moderately oppose requiring people whose birdfeeders are attracting black bears to take down or electrify the birdfeeder ($p \leq 0.001$), but strongly or moderately support prohibiting people visiting or living in areas frequented by black bears from using birdfeeders or participating in other wildlife feeding activities ($p \leq 0.01$), and strongly or moderately support fines for people who attract black bears, either intentionally or unintentionally ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to strongly or moderately agree that the property owner should be compensated for the damages when a black bear damages property ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to not have hunted ($p \leq 0.001$) or fished ($p \leq 0.001$) during the current fishing and hunting seasons in Virginia.*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to have gone running or jogging ($p \leq 0.05$) in Virginia in the past 2 years.*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to be female ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to be African-American ($p \leq 0.001$) or Hispanic or Latino ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to have an income of \$80,000-\$99,999 ($p \leq 0.001$).*

- *Those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to live in Region 1 ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia are more likely than are those who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia to be 18-34 years old ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- Among those who had seen a non-captive black bear in Virginia at some time in their lives, the majority (64%) describe the encounter(s) as positive, mostly *very* positive (45%). Meanwhile, only 4% describe the encounter(s) as negative. (The remainder give a neutral answer.)

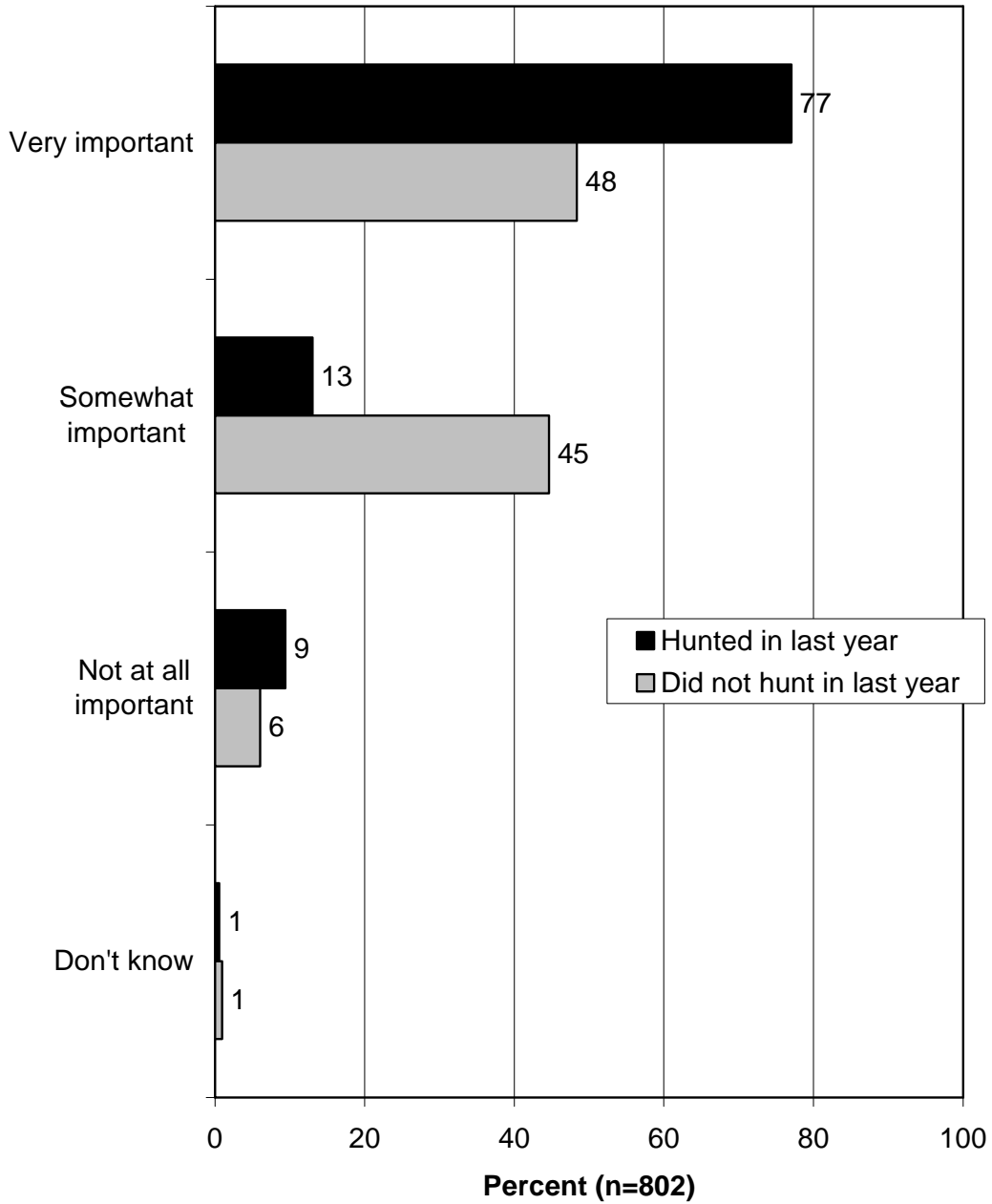
Q31. How important is it to you to know that wildlife species native to the state exist in Virginia?



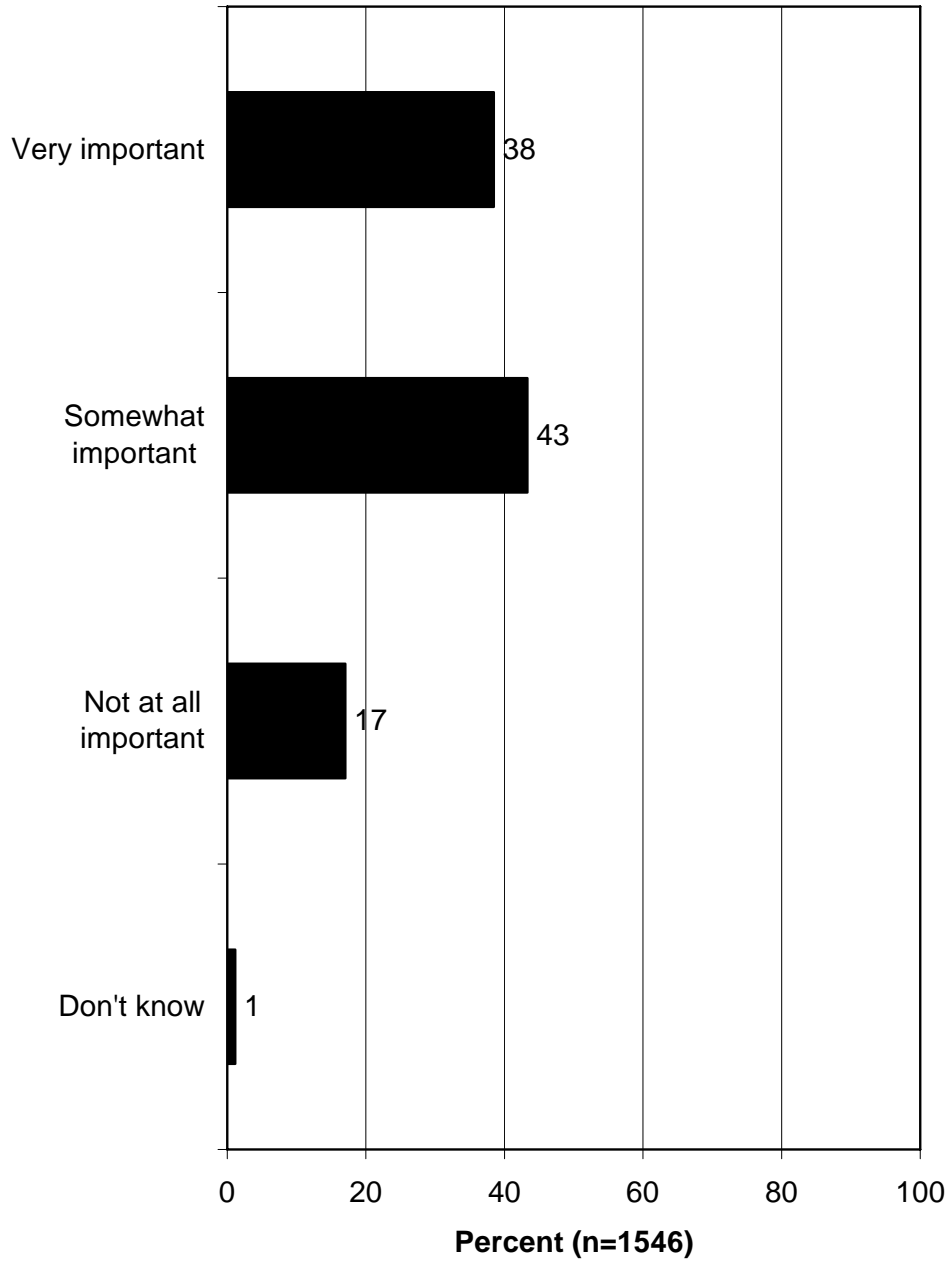
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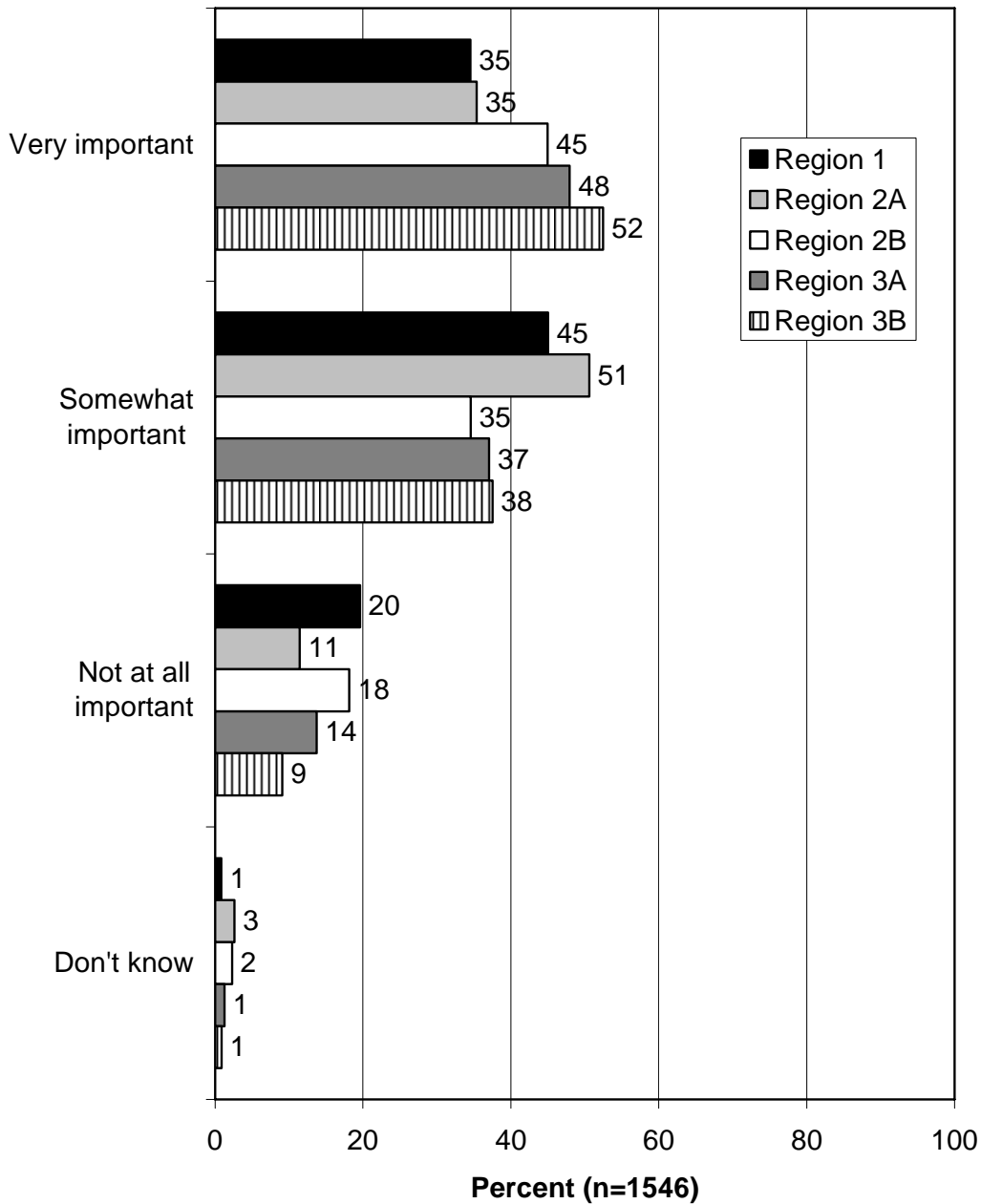
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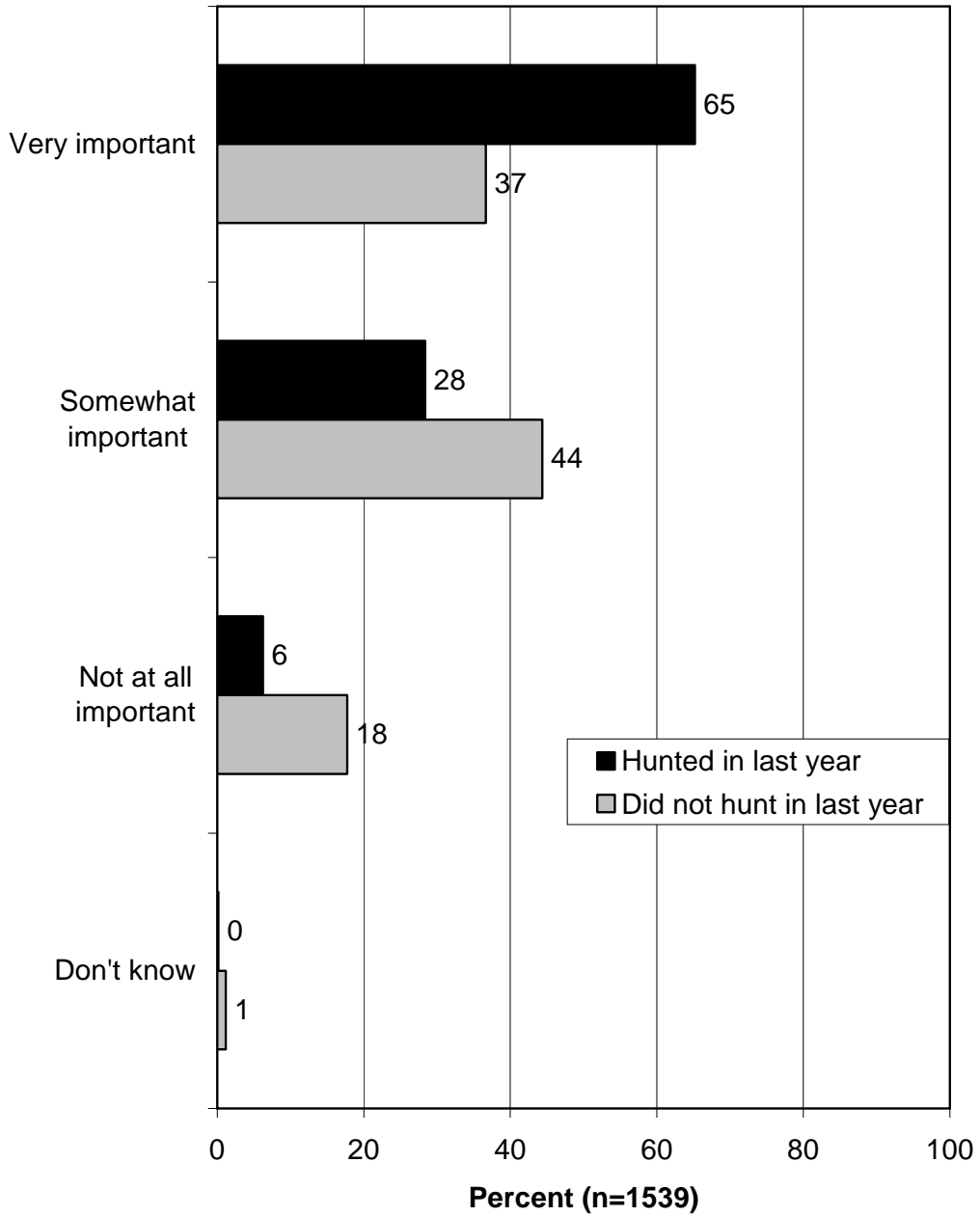
Q50. How important is it to you to know that black bears exist in Virginia?



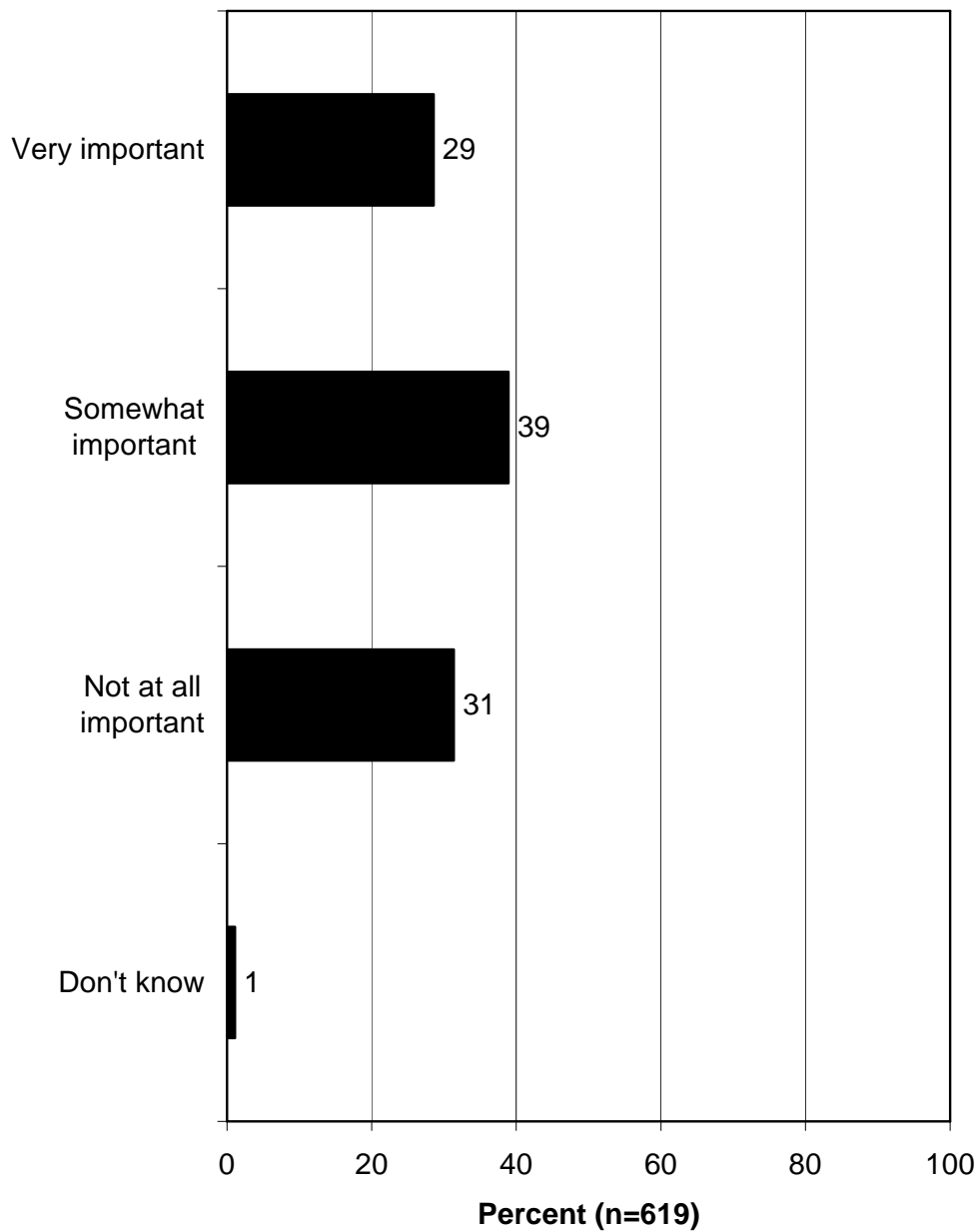
Q50. How important is it to you to know that black bears exist in Virginia?



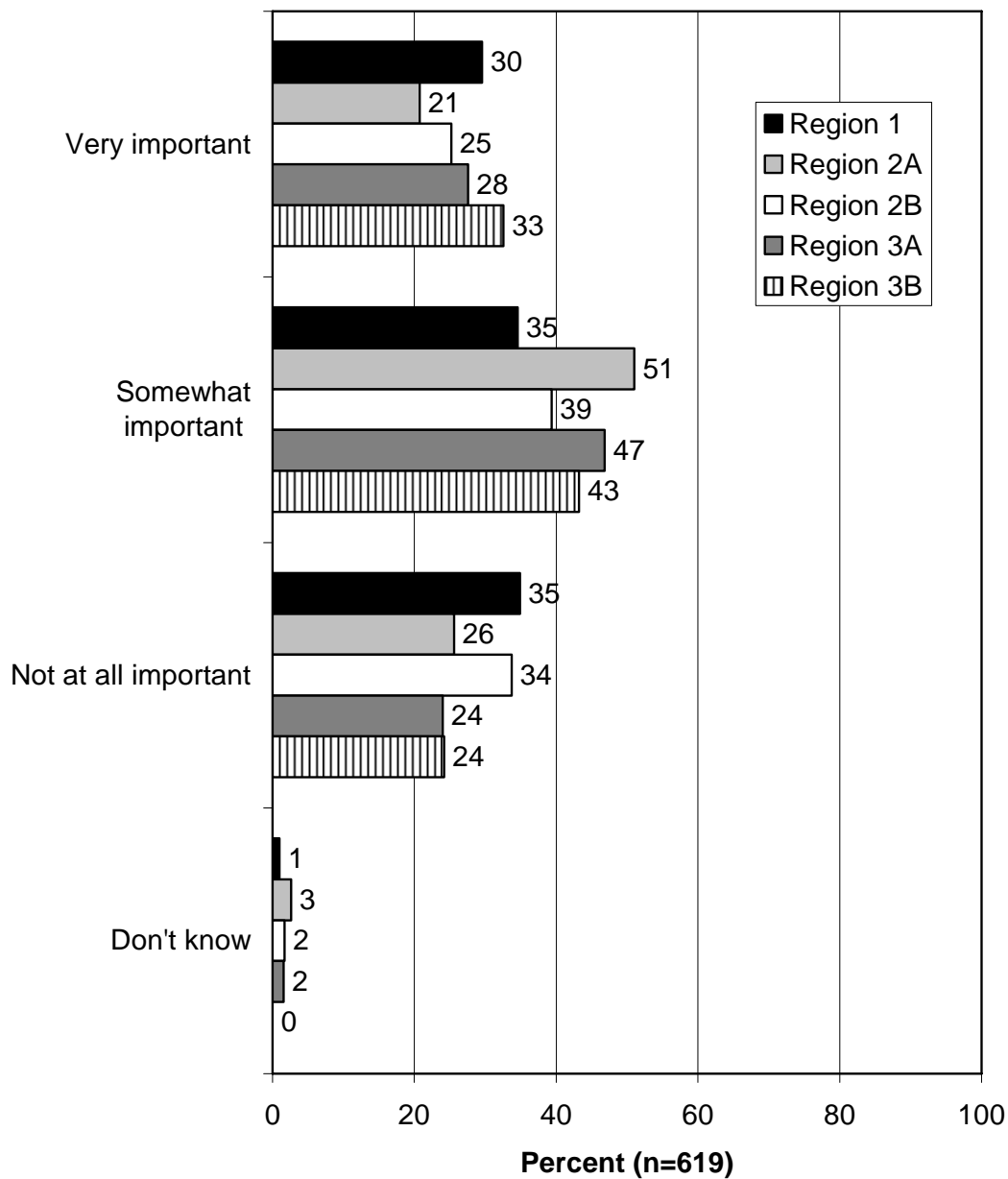
Q50. How important is it to you to know that black bears exist in Virginia?



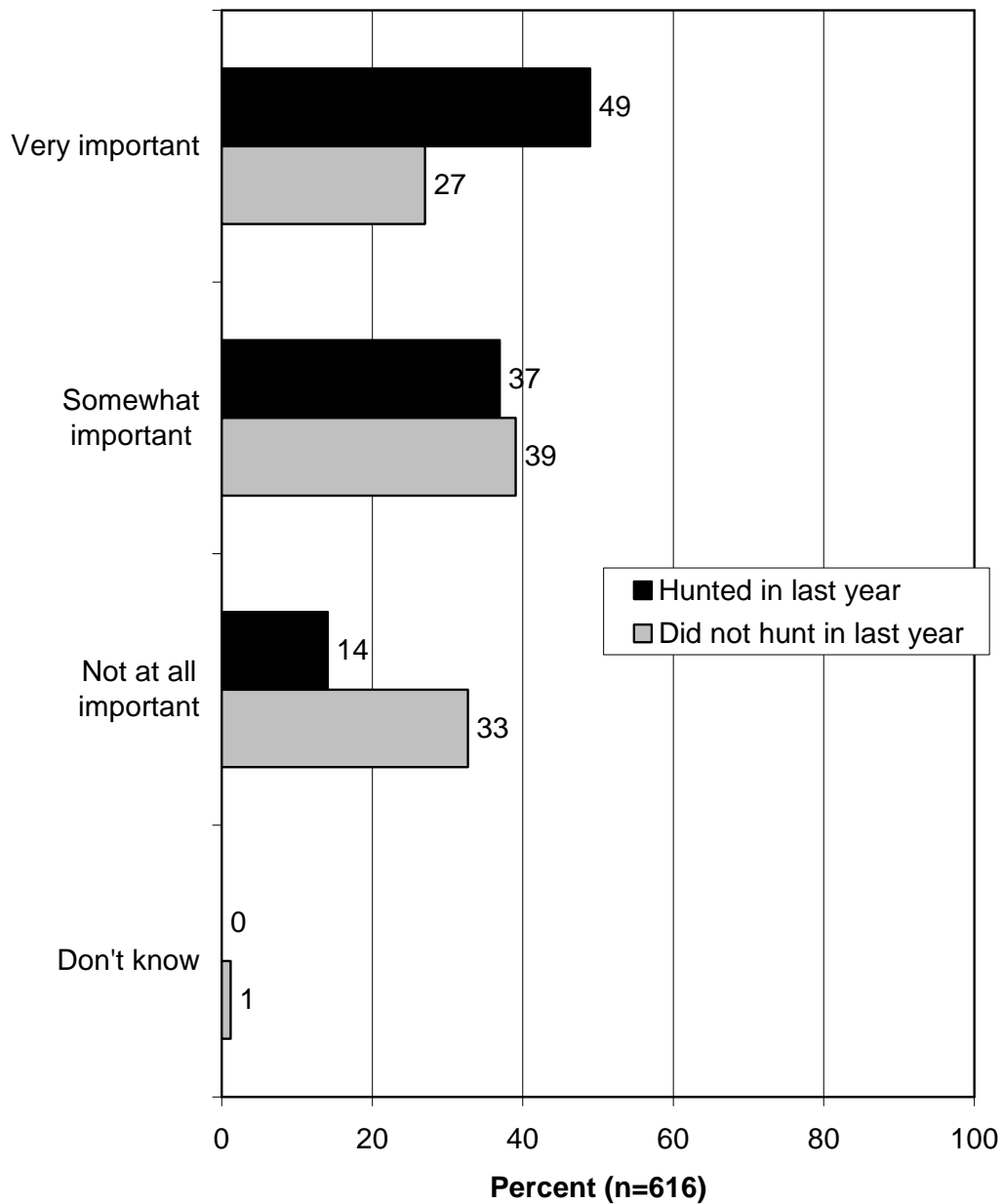
Q53. How important is the opportunity to see a black bear to your wildlife viewing experience in Virginia? (Asked of those who indicated that they participated in wildlife viewing in Virginia in the past 2 years.)



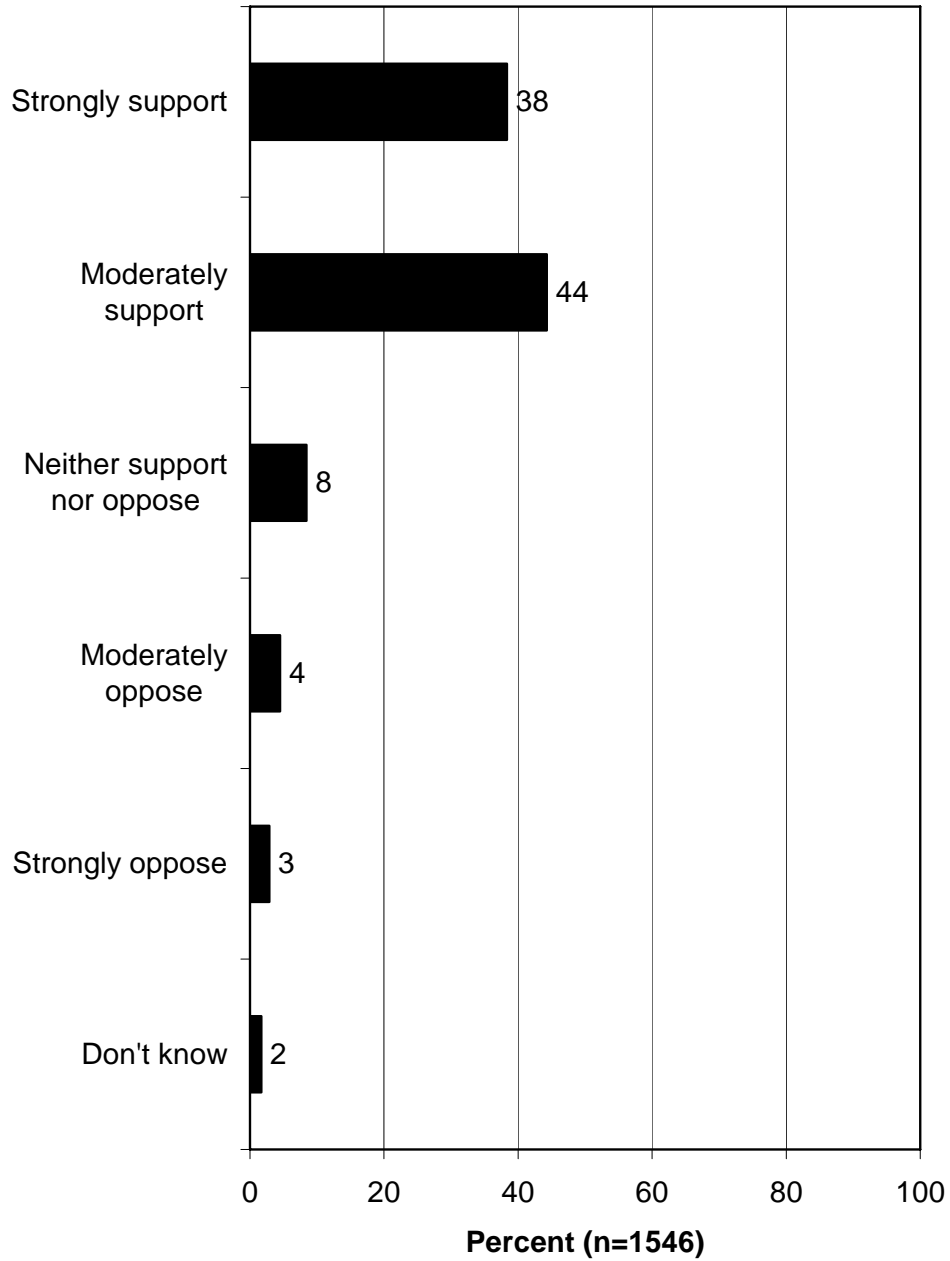
Q53. How important is the opportunity to see a black bear to your wildlife viewing experience in Virginia? (Asked of those who indicated that they participated in wildlife viewing in Virginia in the past 2 years.)



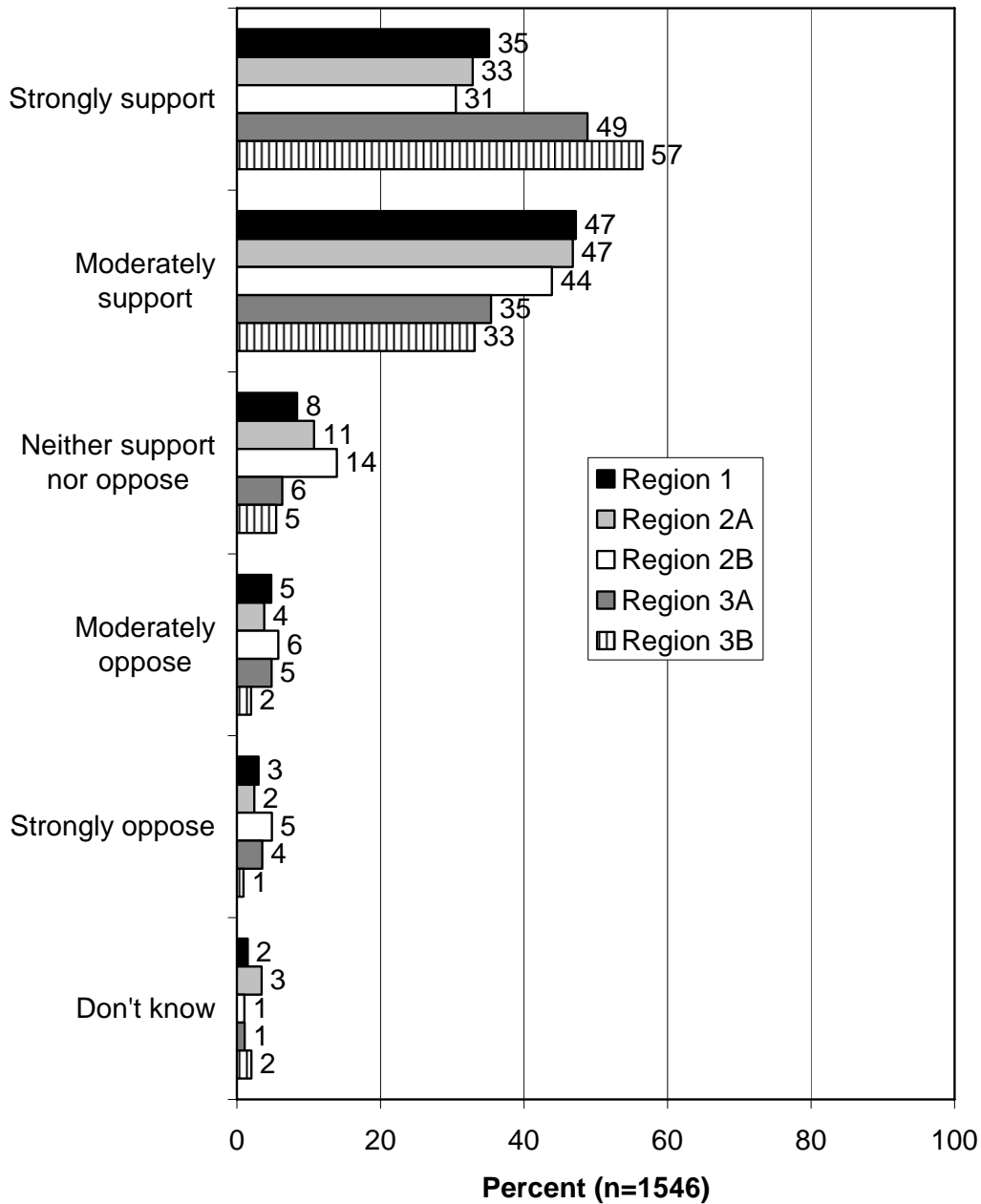
Q53. How important is the opportunity to see a black bear to your wildlife viewing experience in Virginia? (Asked of those who indicated that they participated in wildlife viewing in Virginia in the past 2 years.)



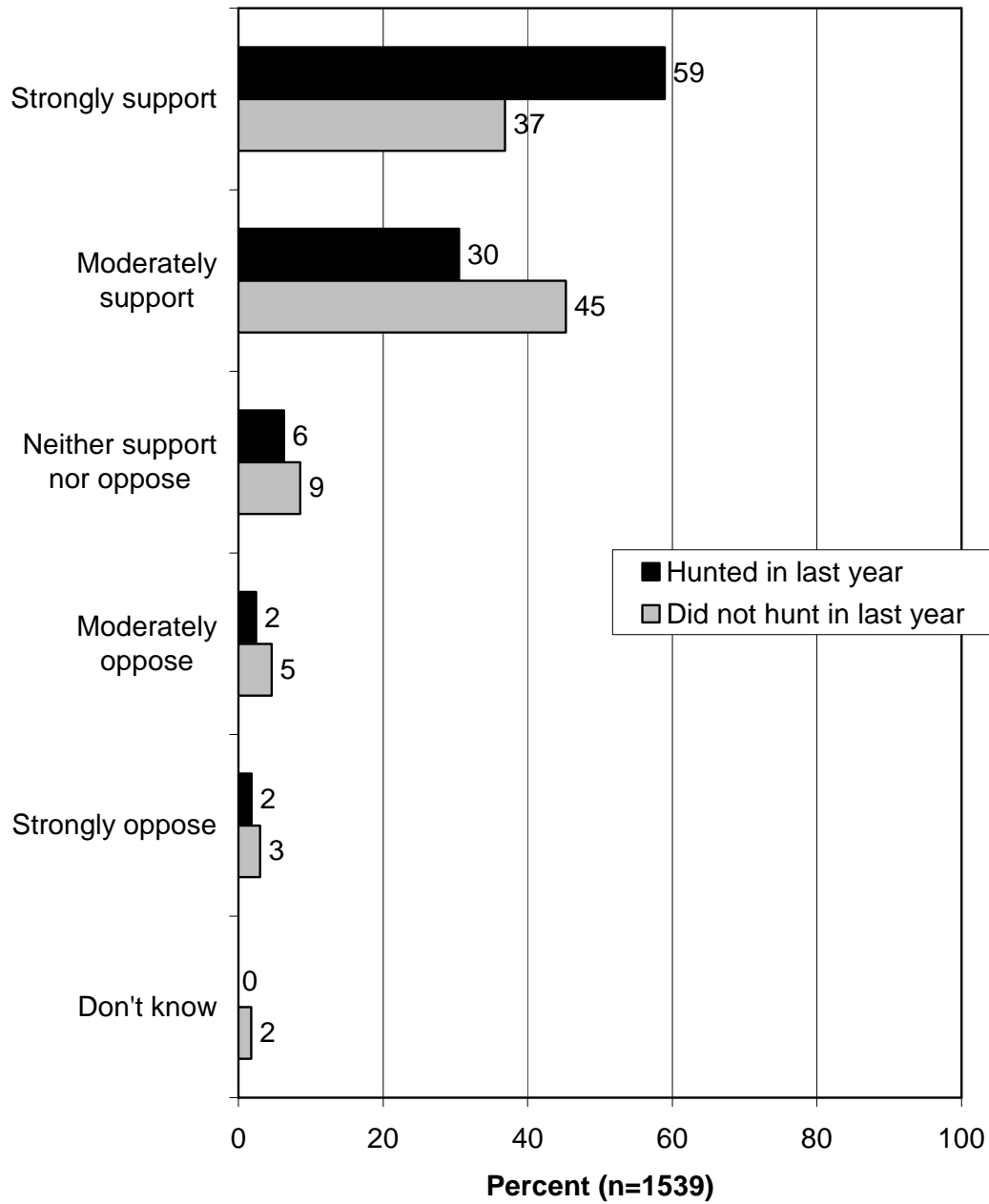
Q56. In general, do you support or oppose having black bears in Virginia?



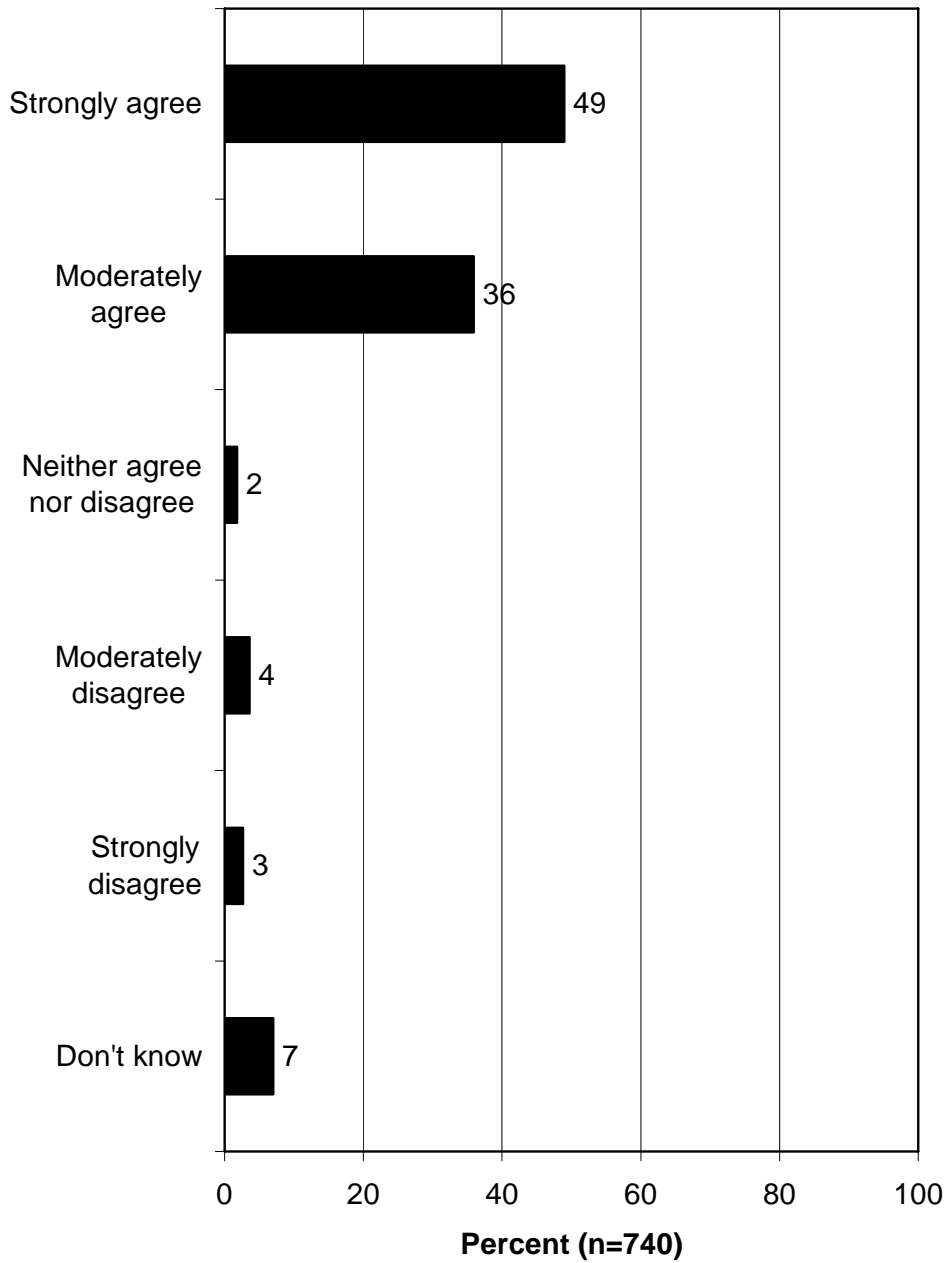
Q56. In general, do you support or oppose having black bears in Virginia?



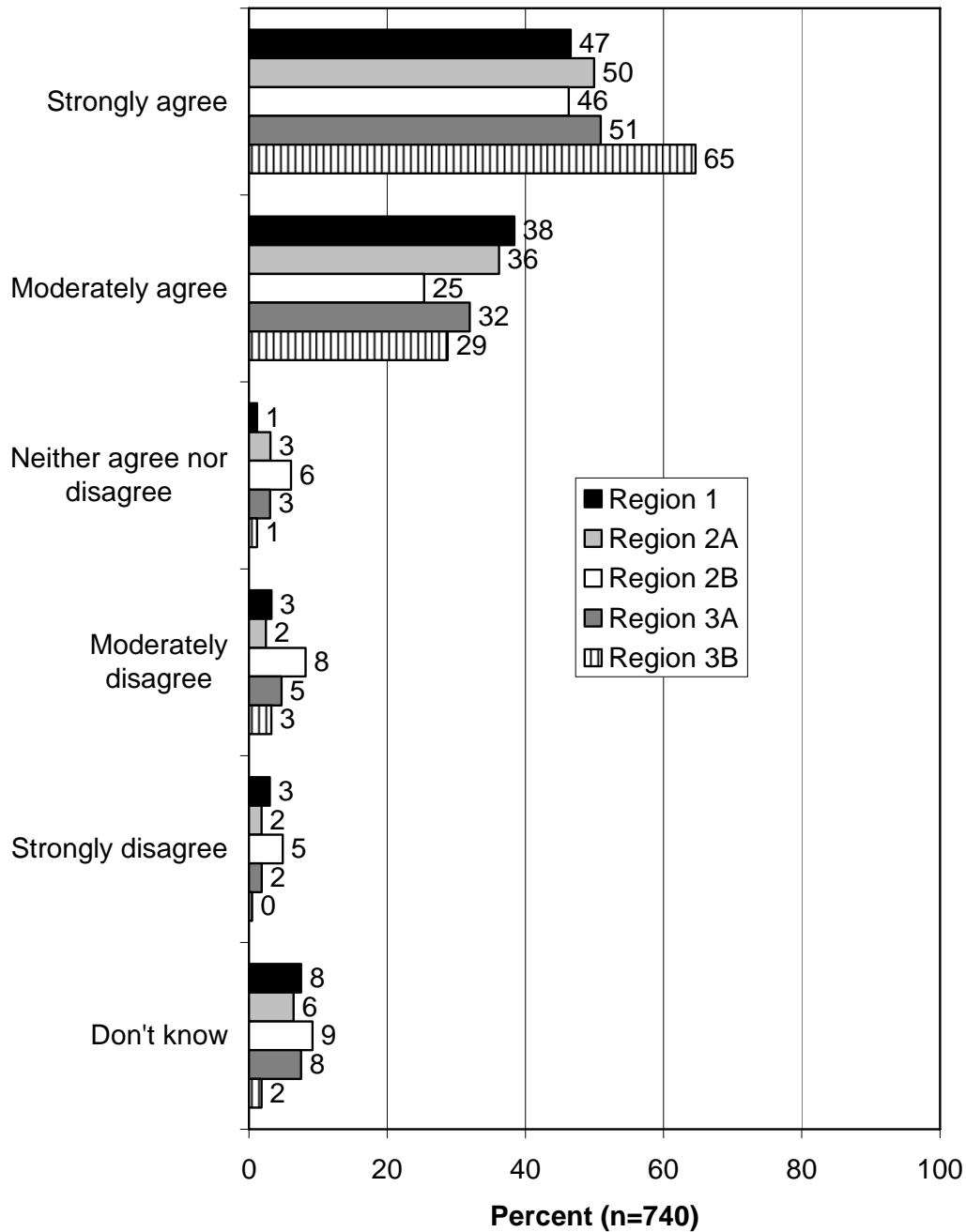
Q56. In general, do you support or oppose having black bears in Virginia?



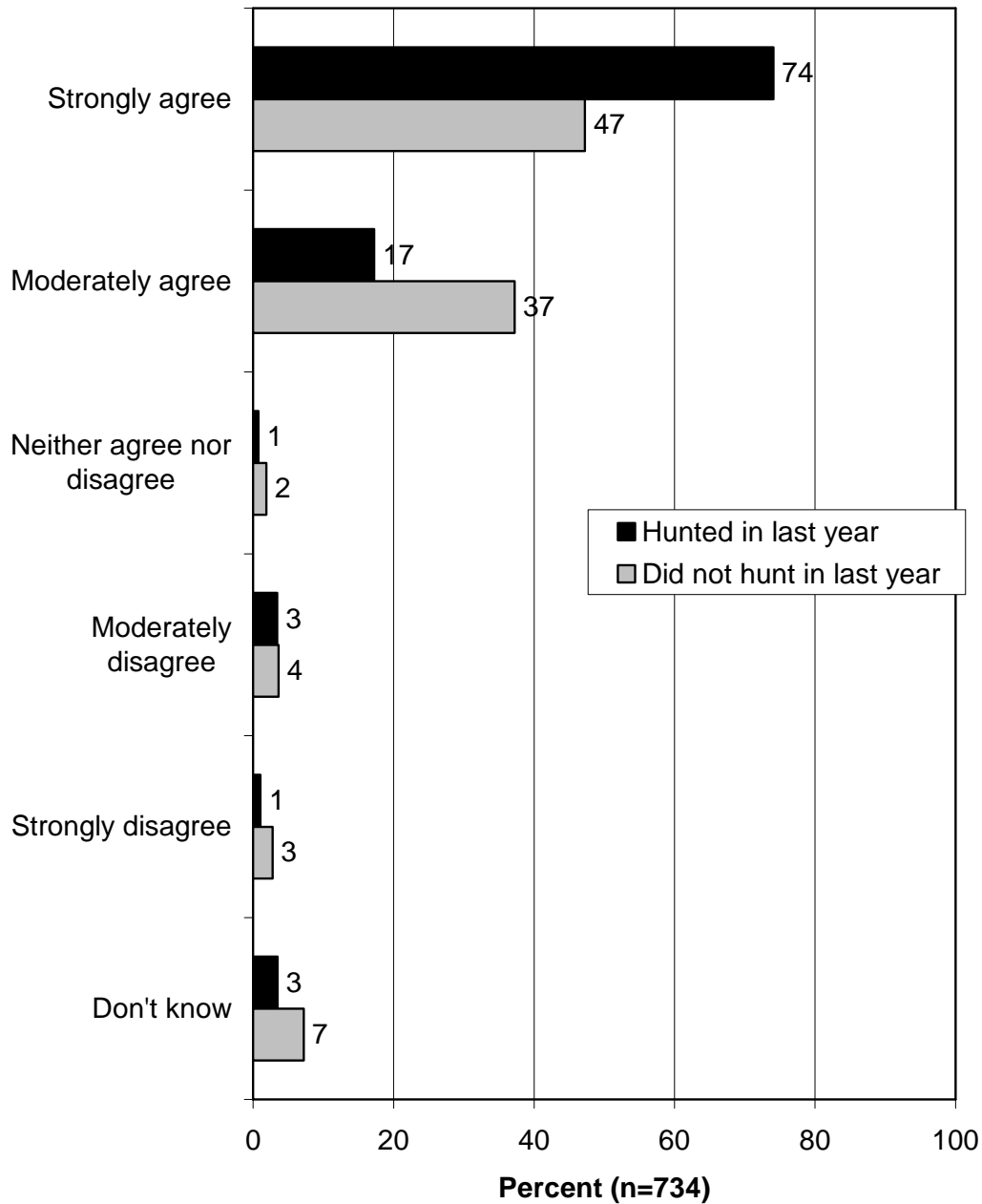
**Q60. Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
Black bears are an important and essential part of
Virginia's ecosystem.**



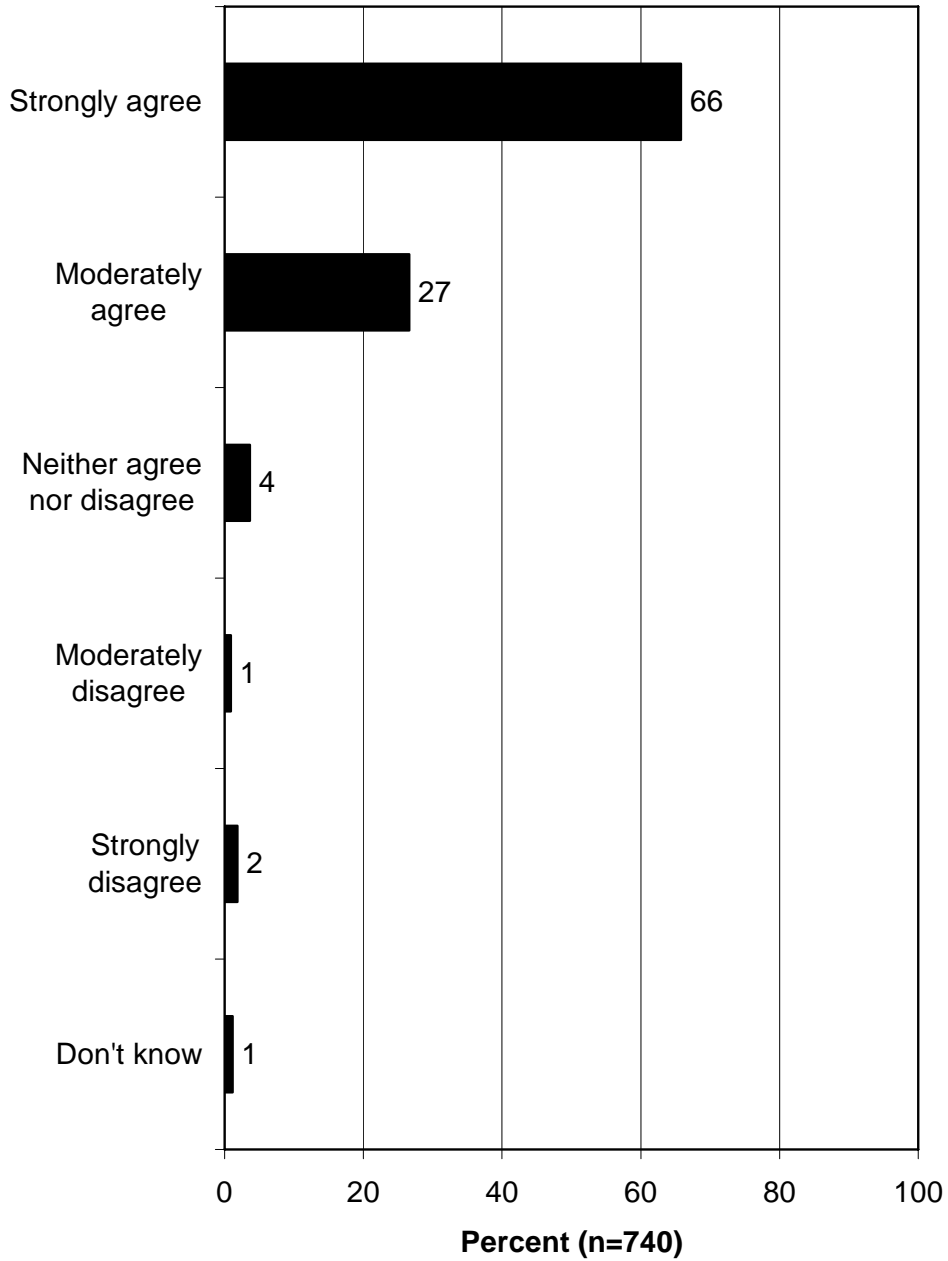
**Q60. Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
Black bears are an important and essential part of
Virginia's ecosystem.**



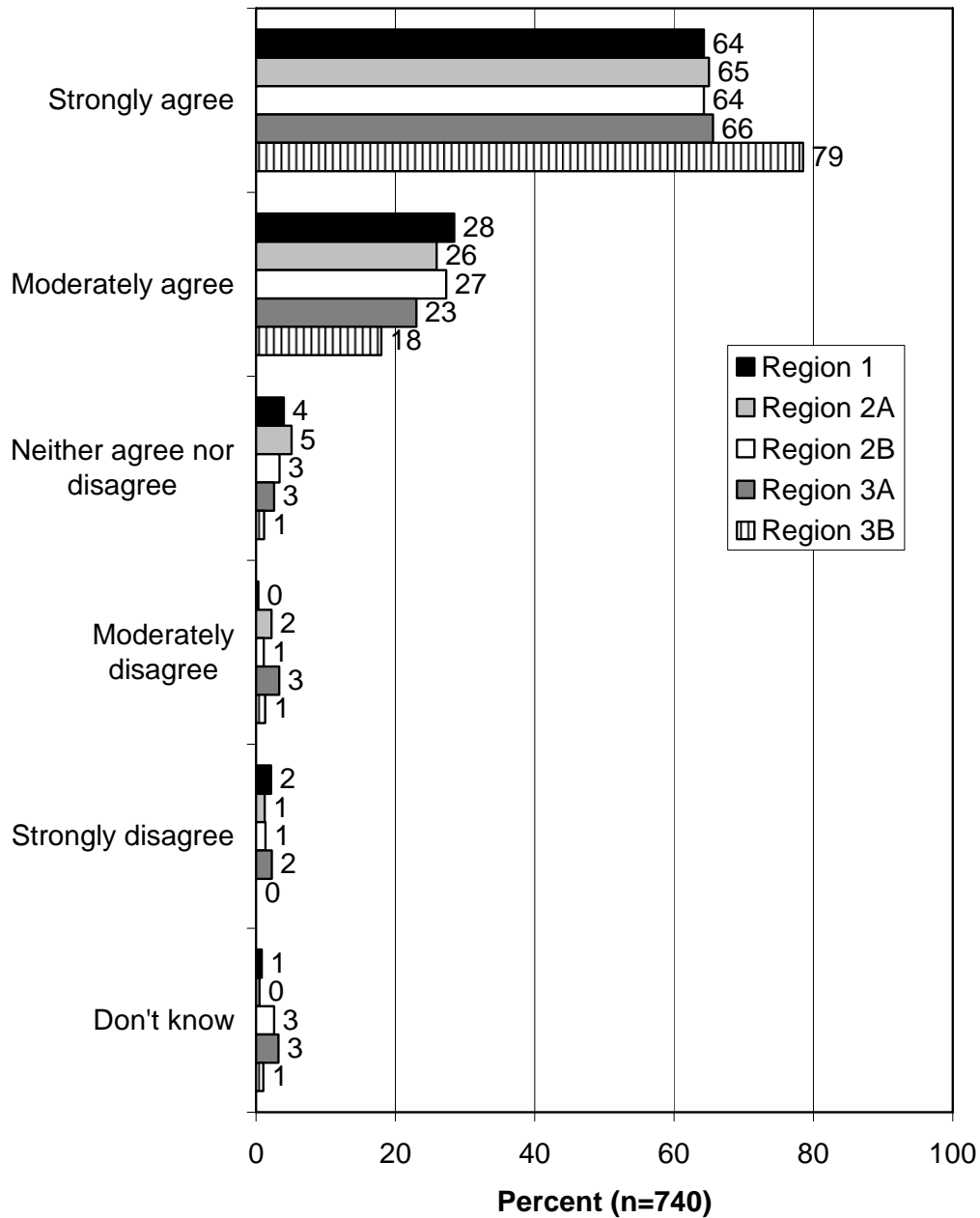
**Q60. Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
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Virginia's ecosystem.**



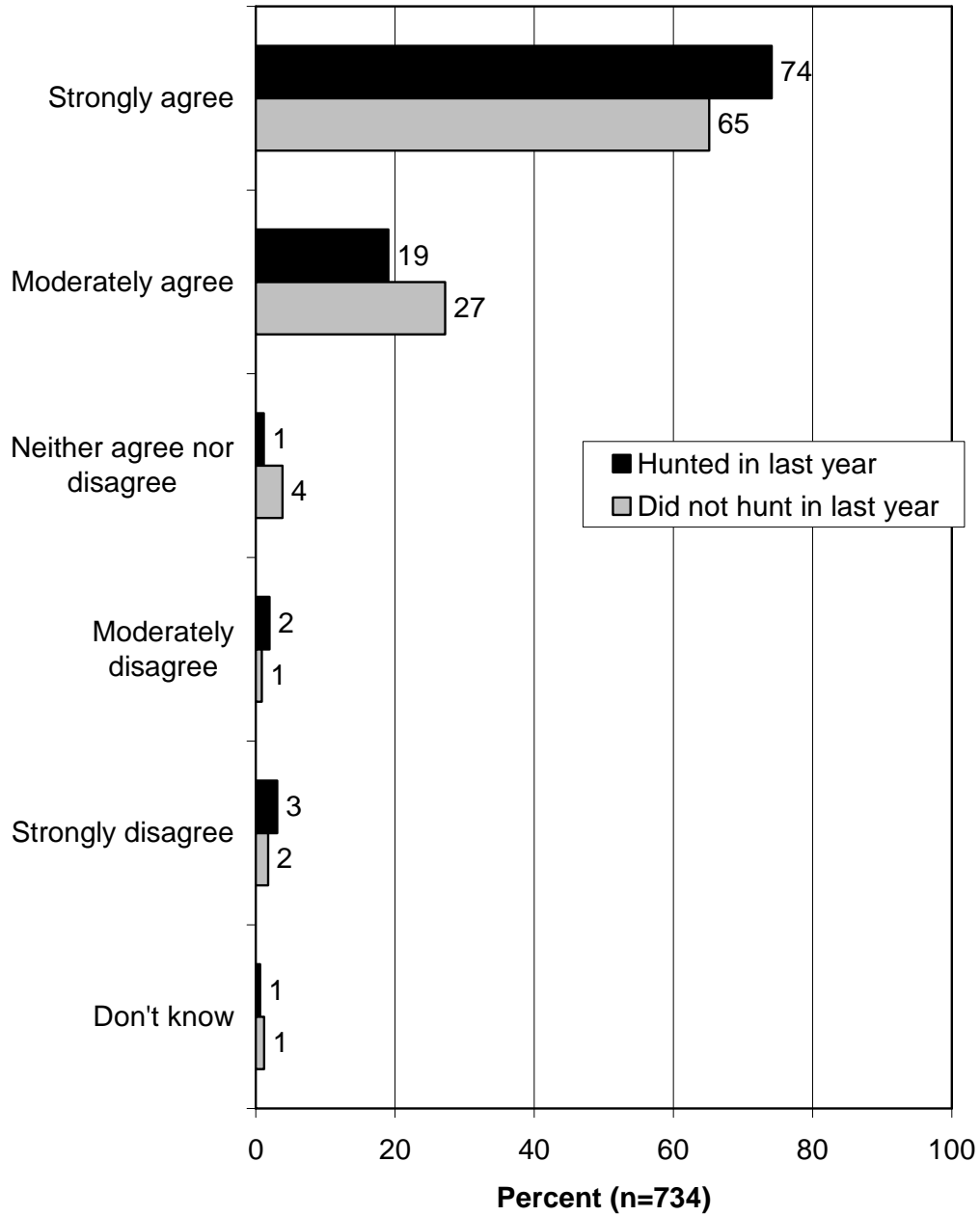
**Q62. Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
Preserving habitat on which black bears depend is
important.**



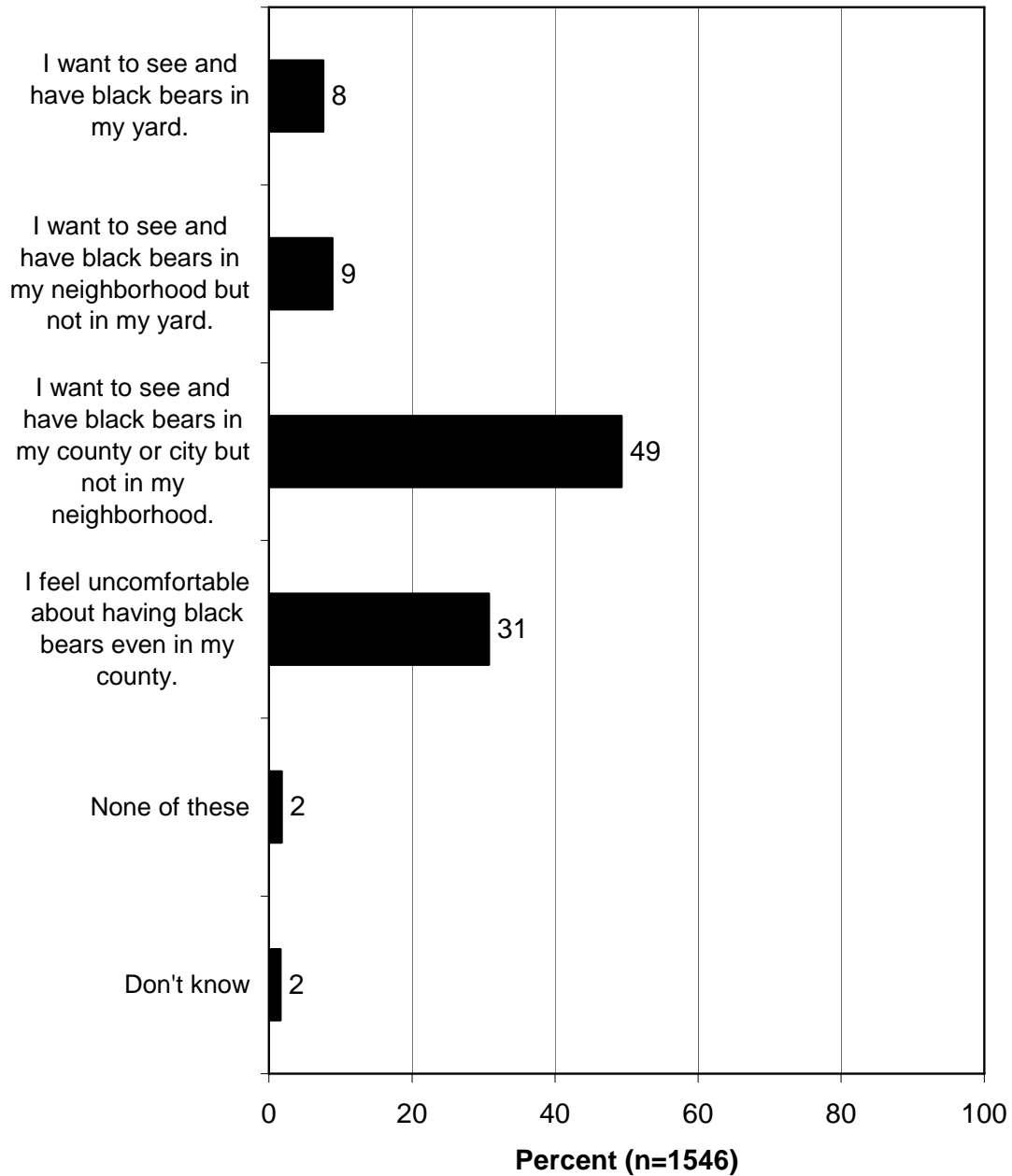
**Q62. Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
Preserving habitat on which black bears depend is
important.**



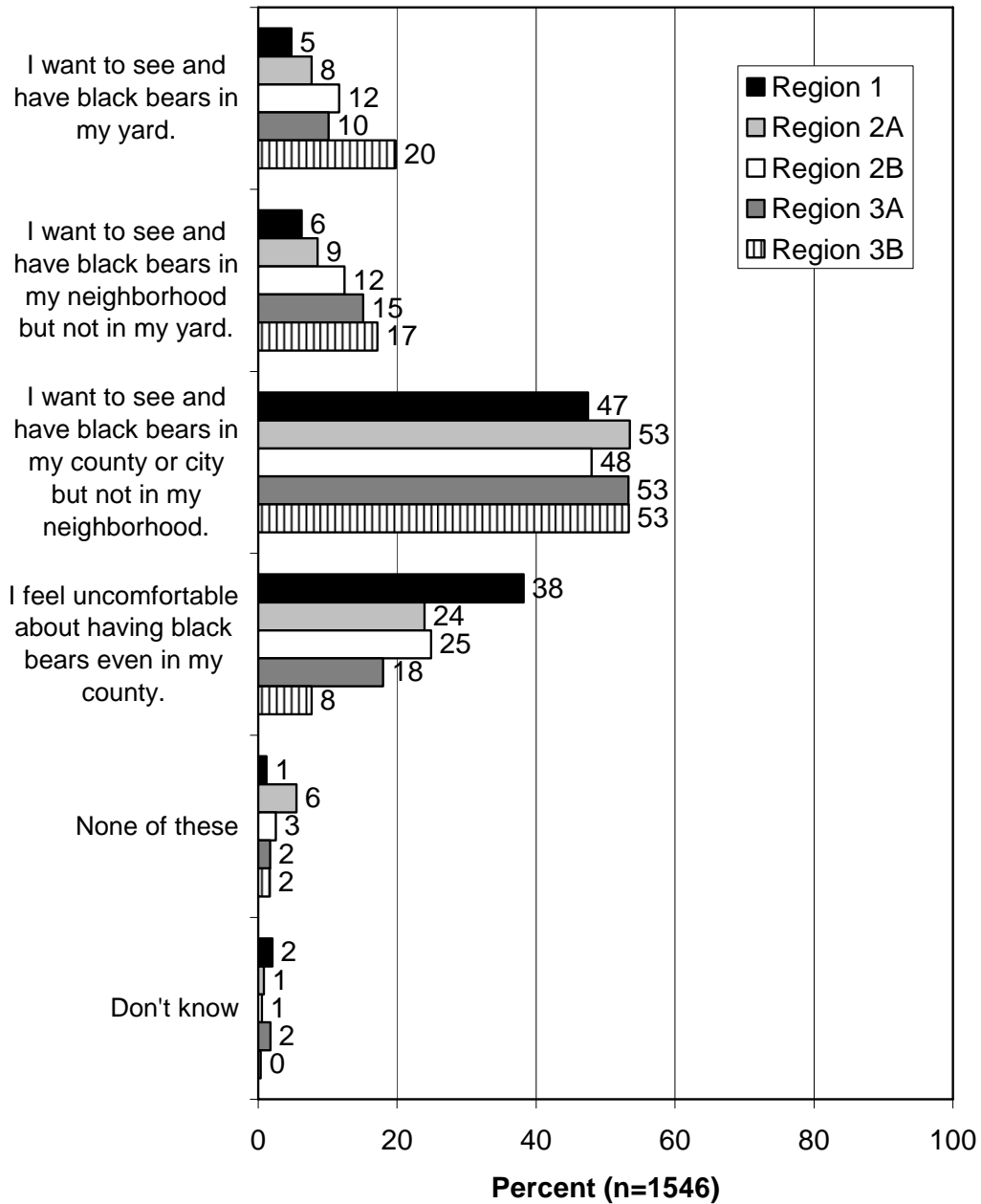
**Q62. Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
Preserving habitat on which black bears depend is
important.**



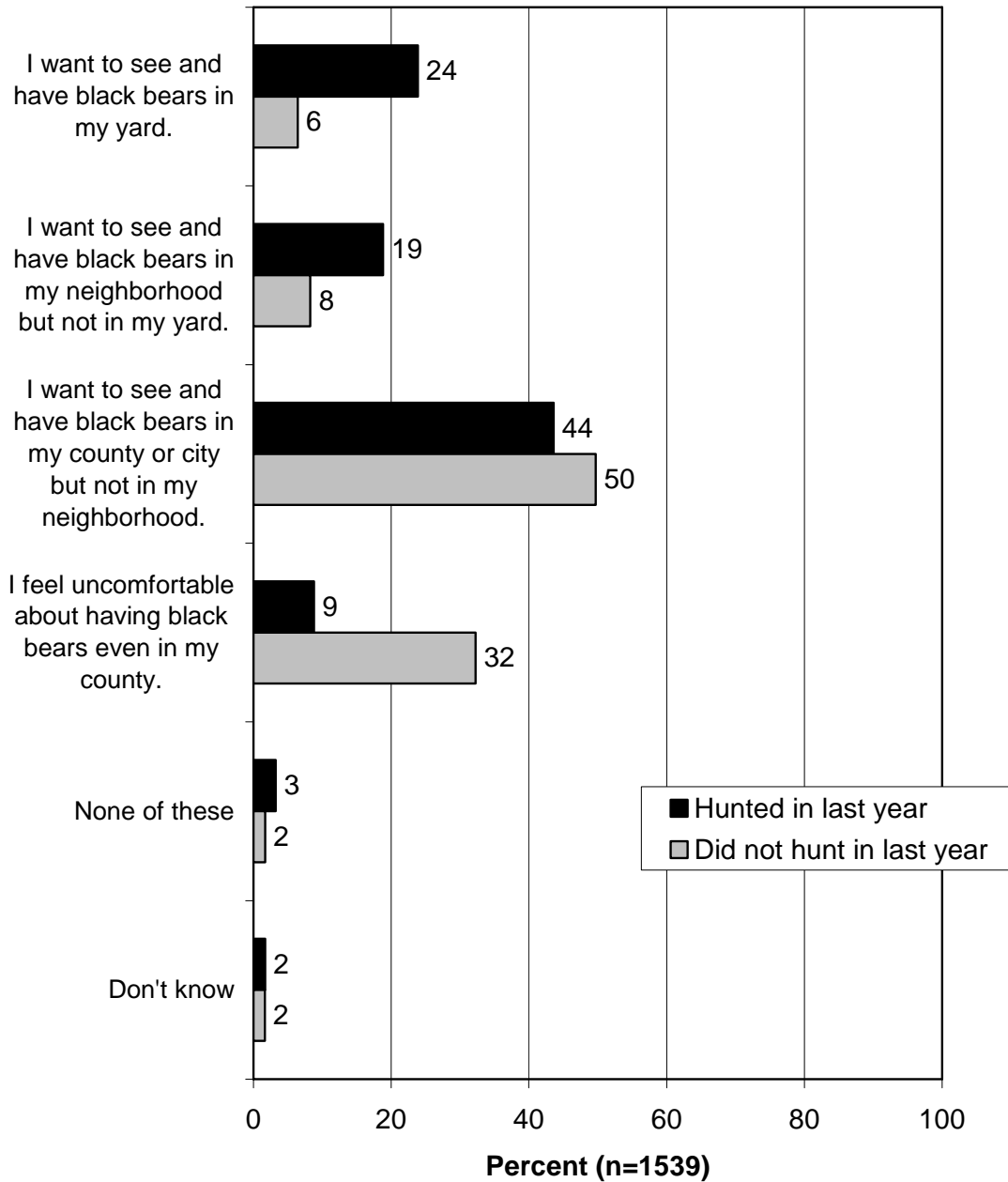
Q51. Which of the following statements best describes your feelings about black bears around your primary home and in your area?



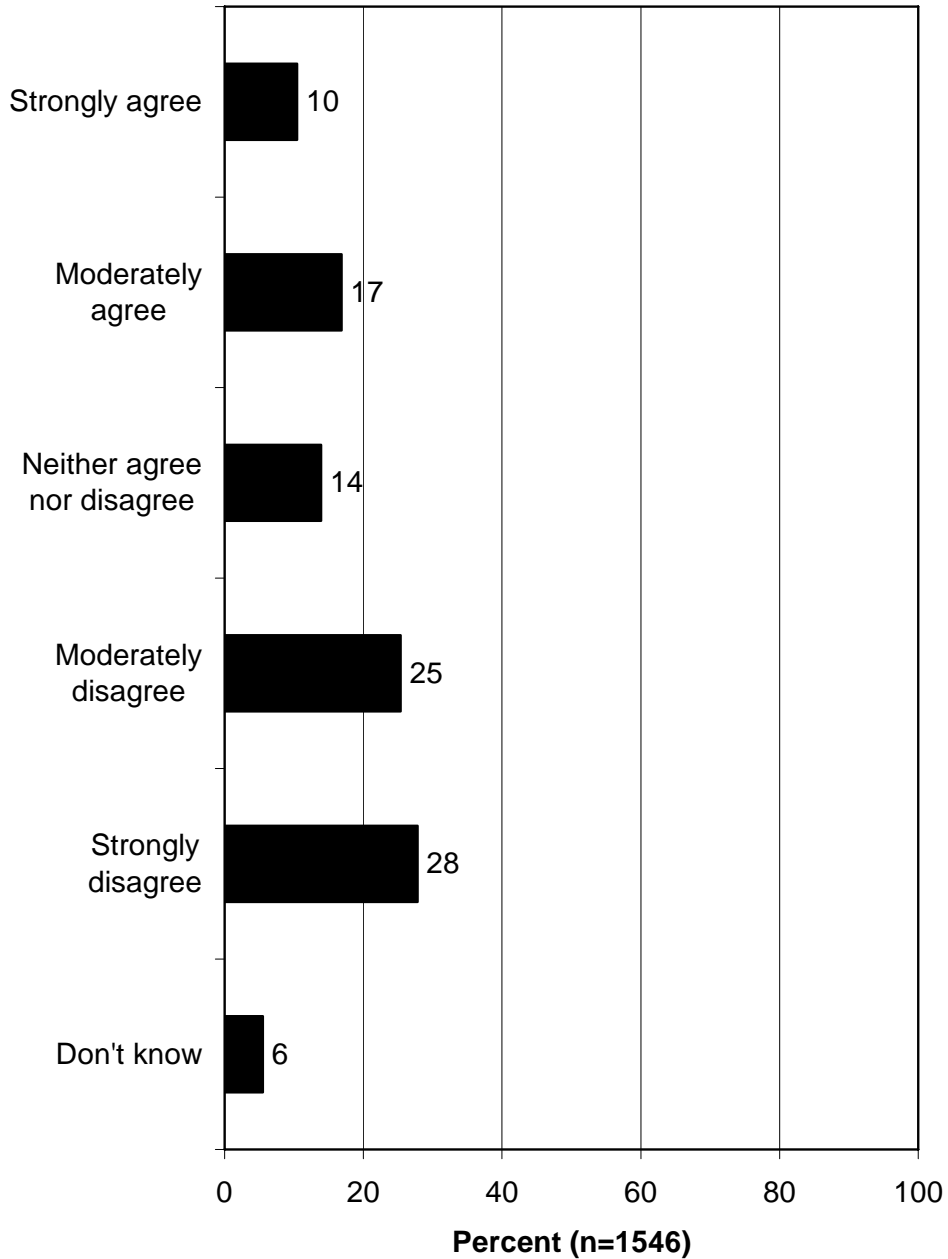
Q51. Which of the following statements best describes your feelings about black bears around your primary home and in your area?



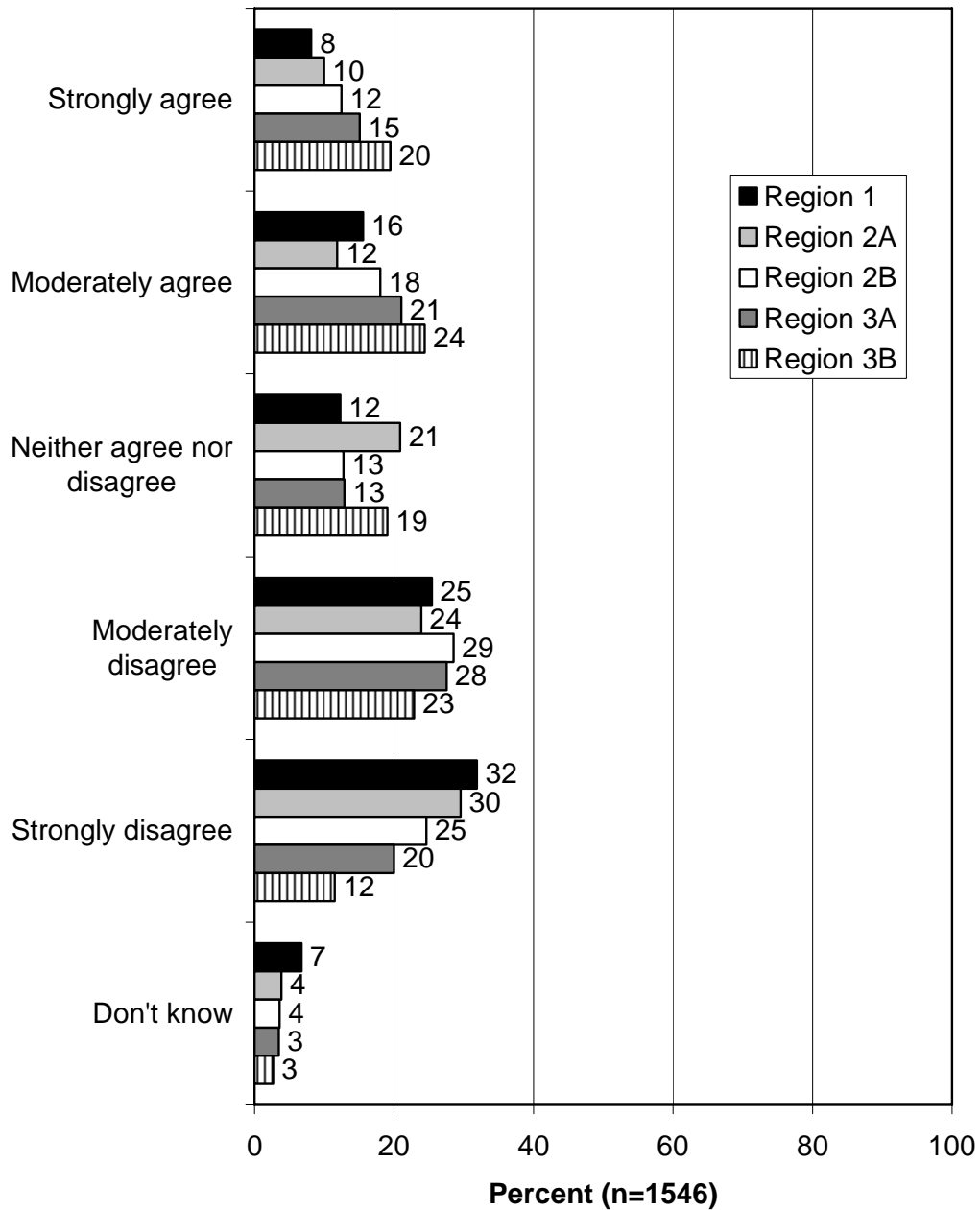
Q51. Which of the following statements best describes your feelings about black bears around your primary home and in your area?



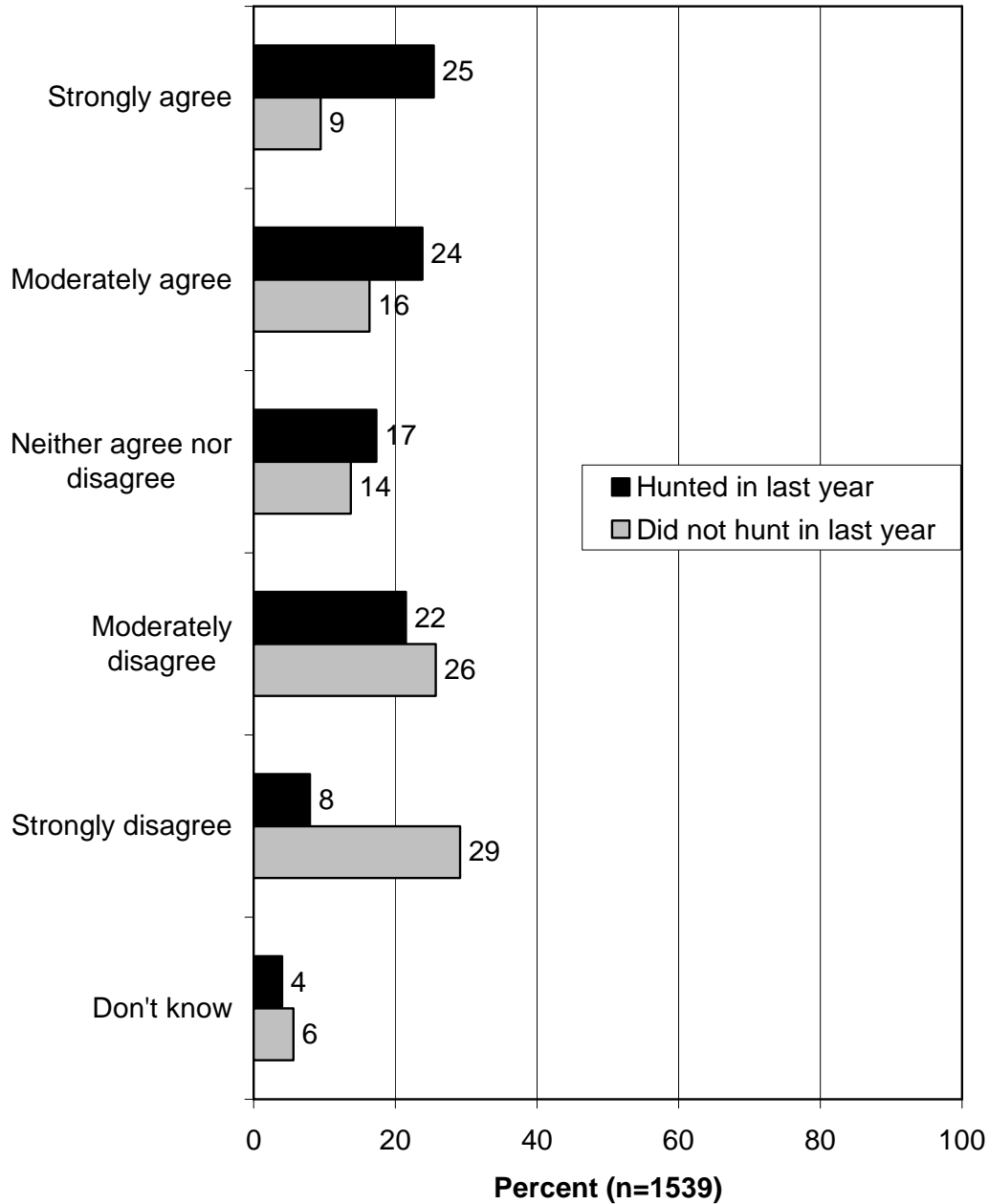
**Q67. Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
The presence of black bears near my home
improves my overall quality of life.**



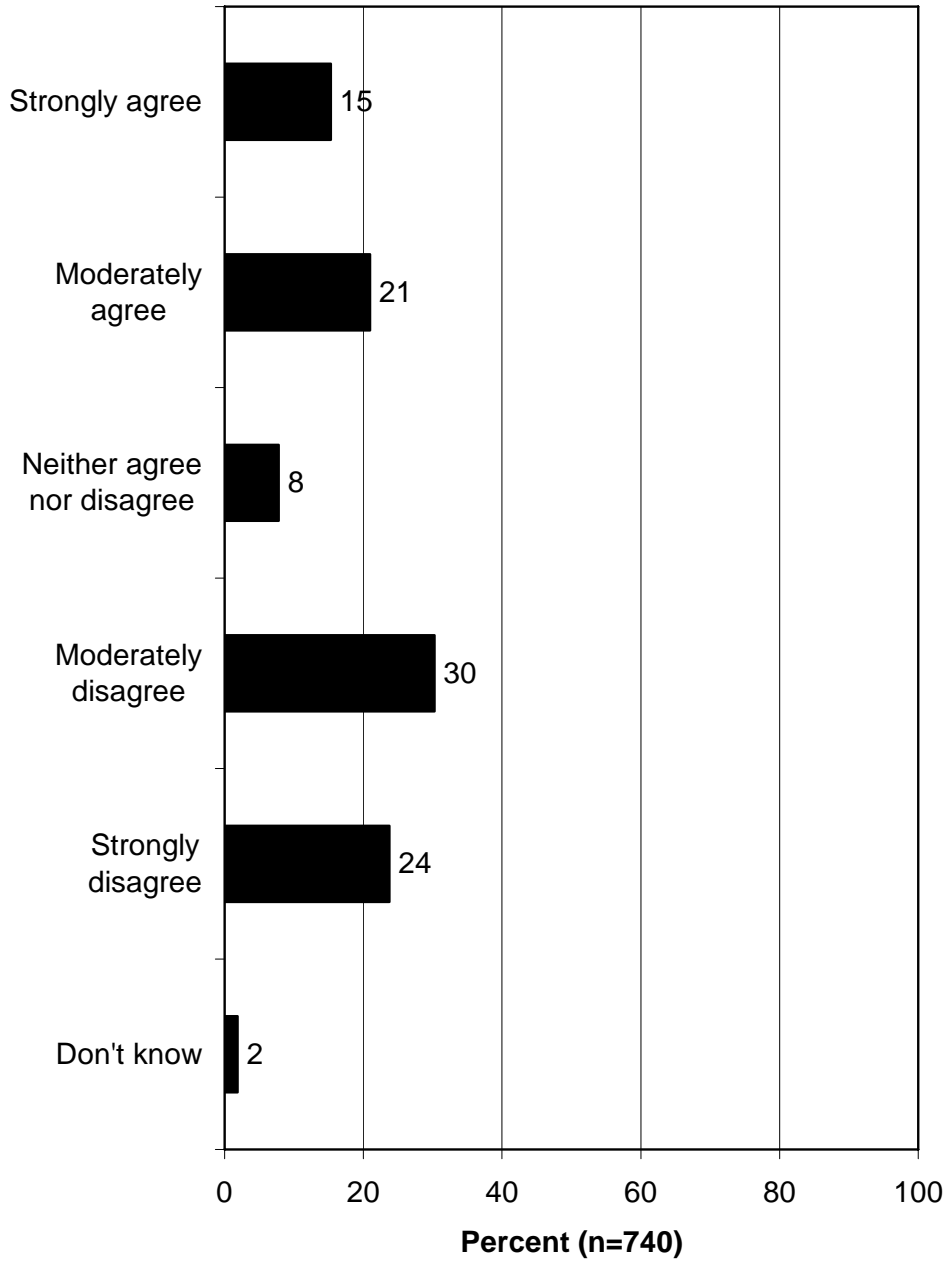
**Q67. Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
The presence of black bears near my home
improves my overall quality of life.**



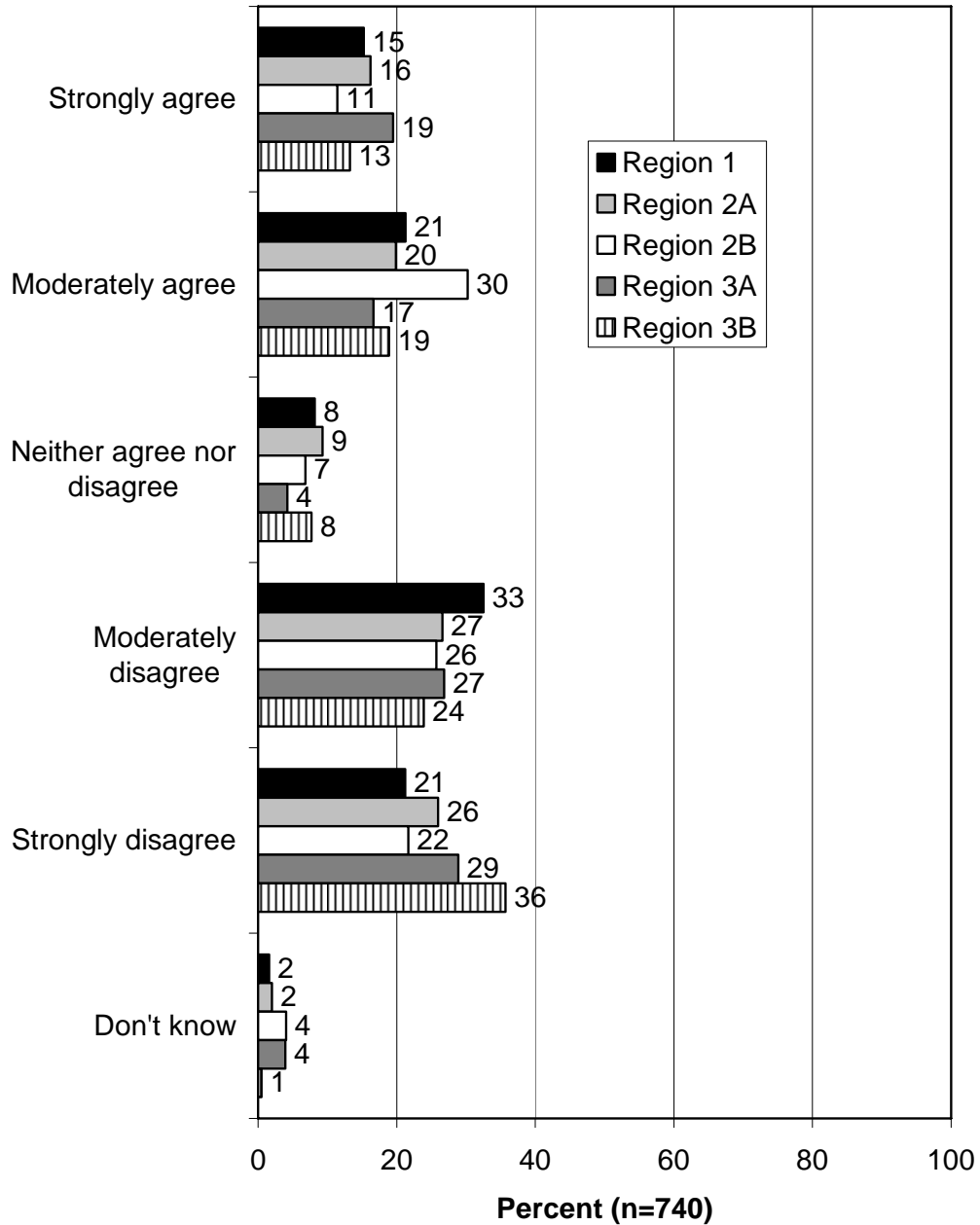
**Q67. Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
The presence of black bears near my home
improves my overall quality of life.**



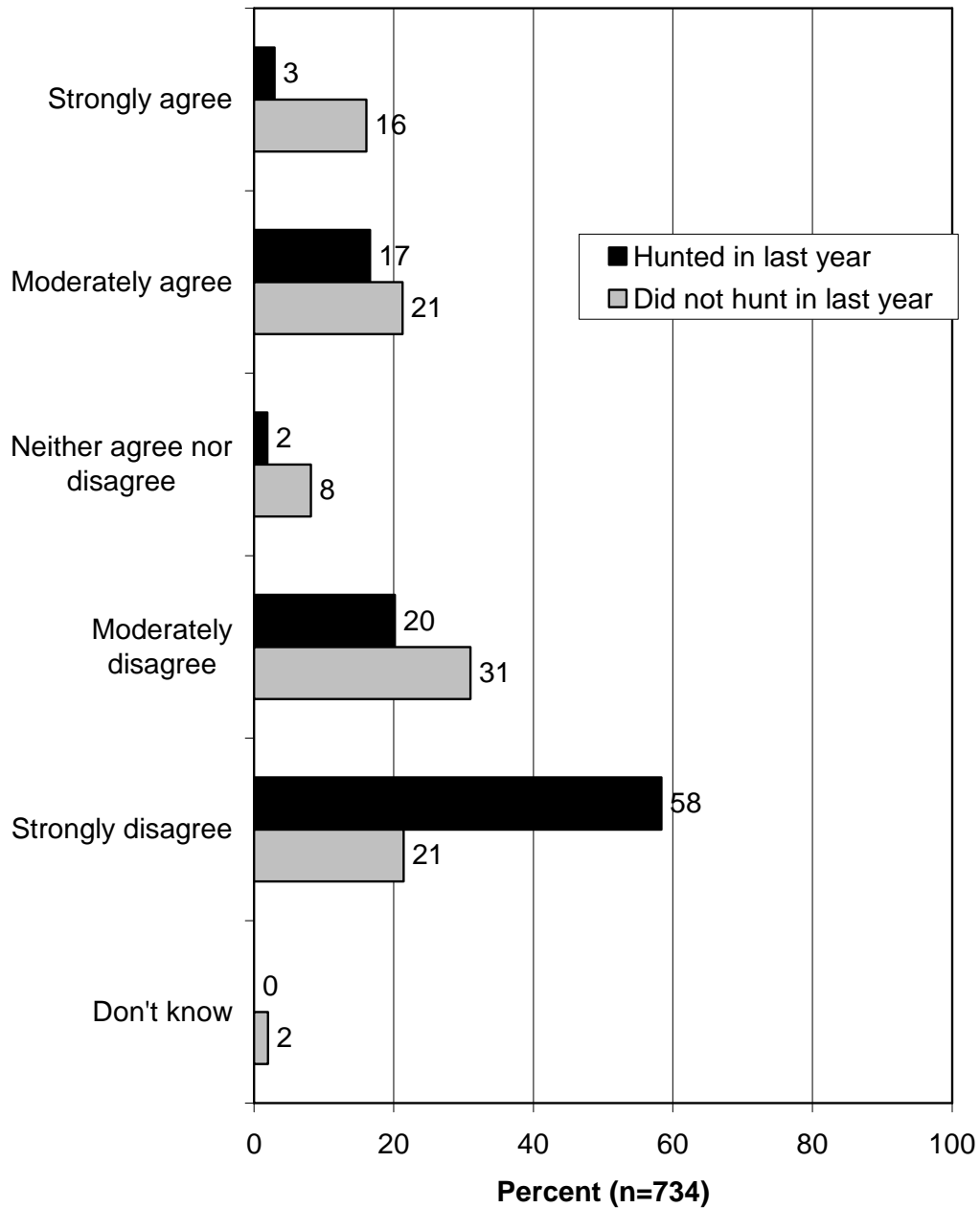
**Q61. Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
Black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans.**



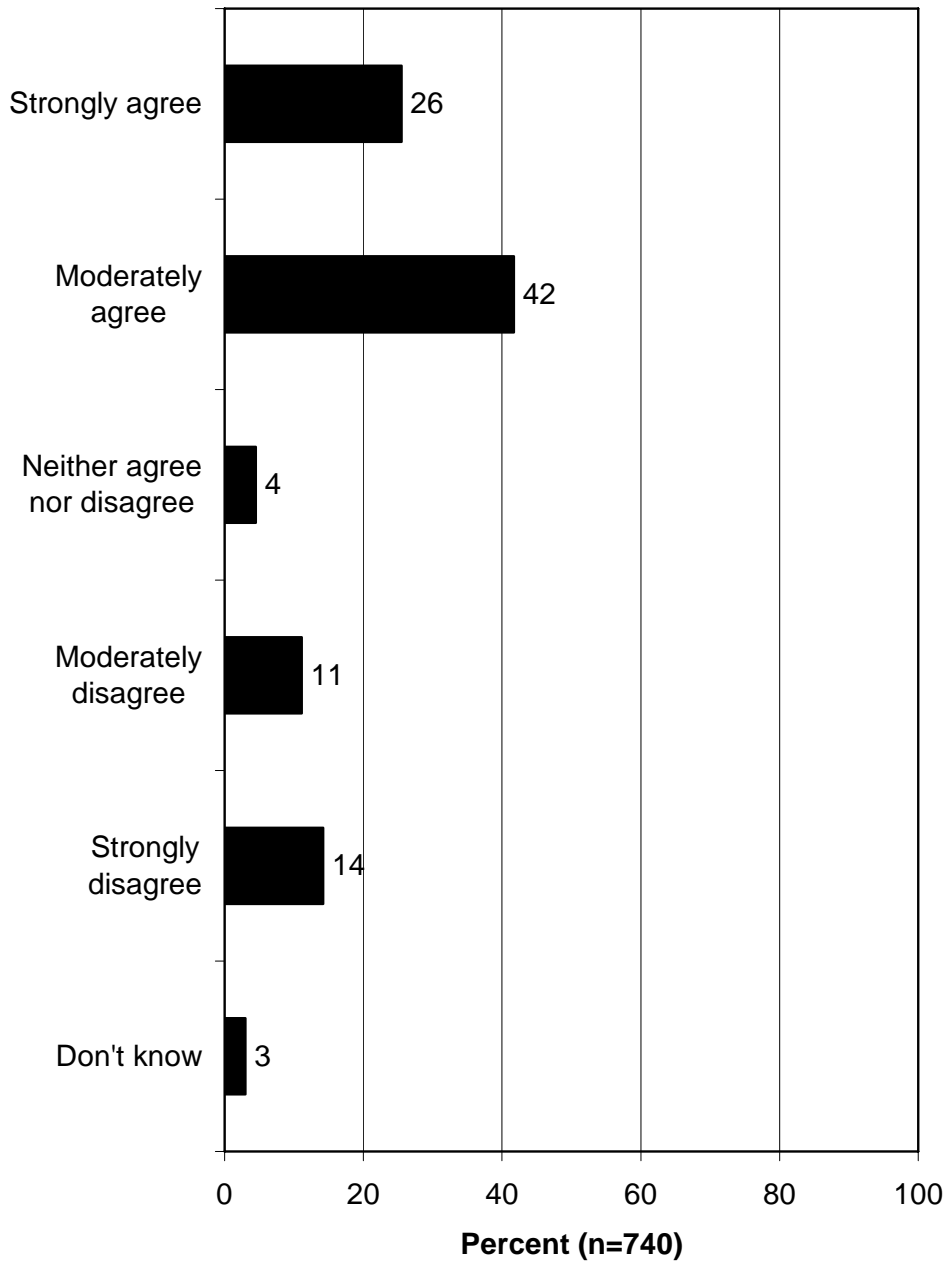
**Q61. Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
Black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans.**



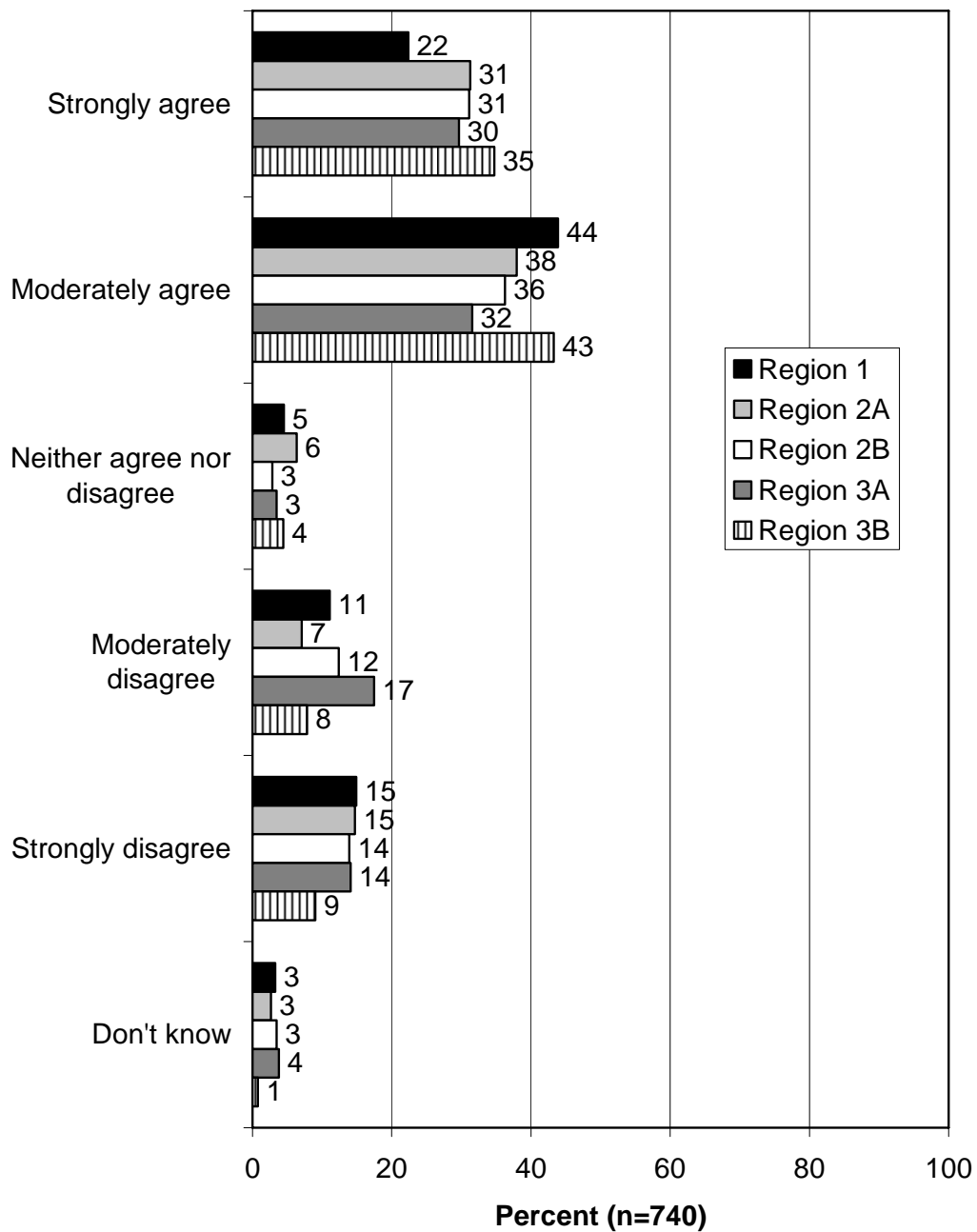
**Q61. Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
Black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans.**



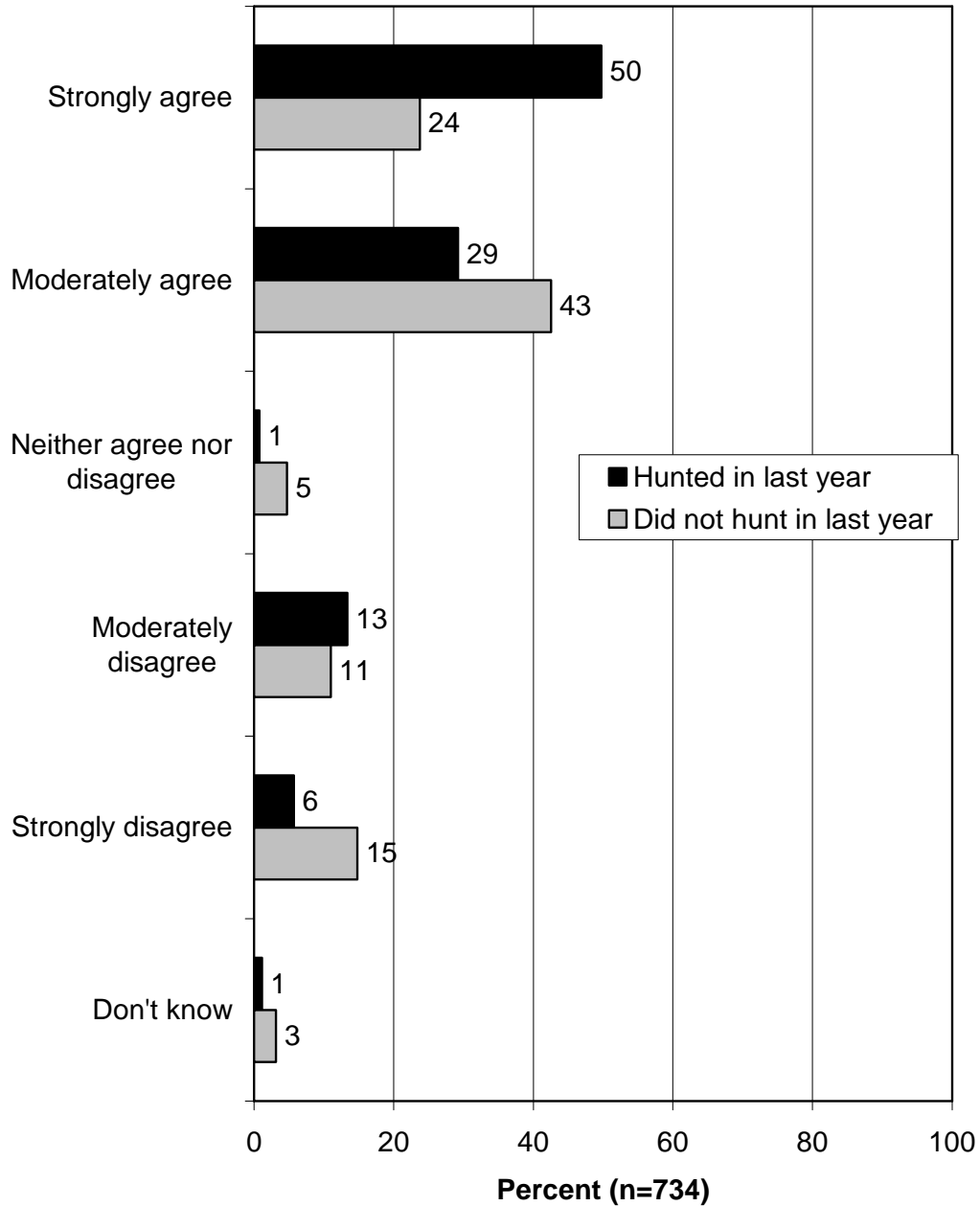
**Q64. Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
People and black bears can live in the same area
without conflict.**



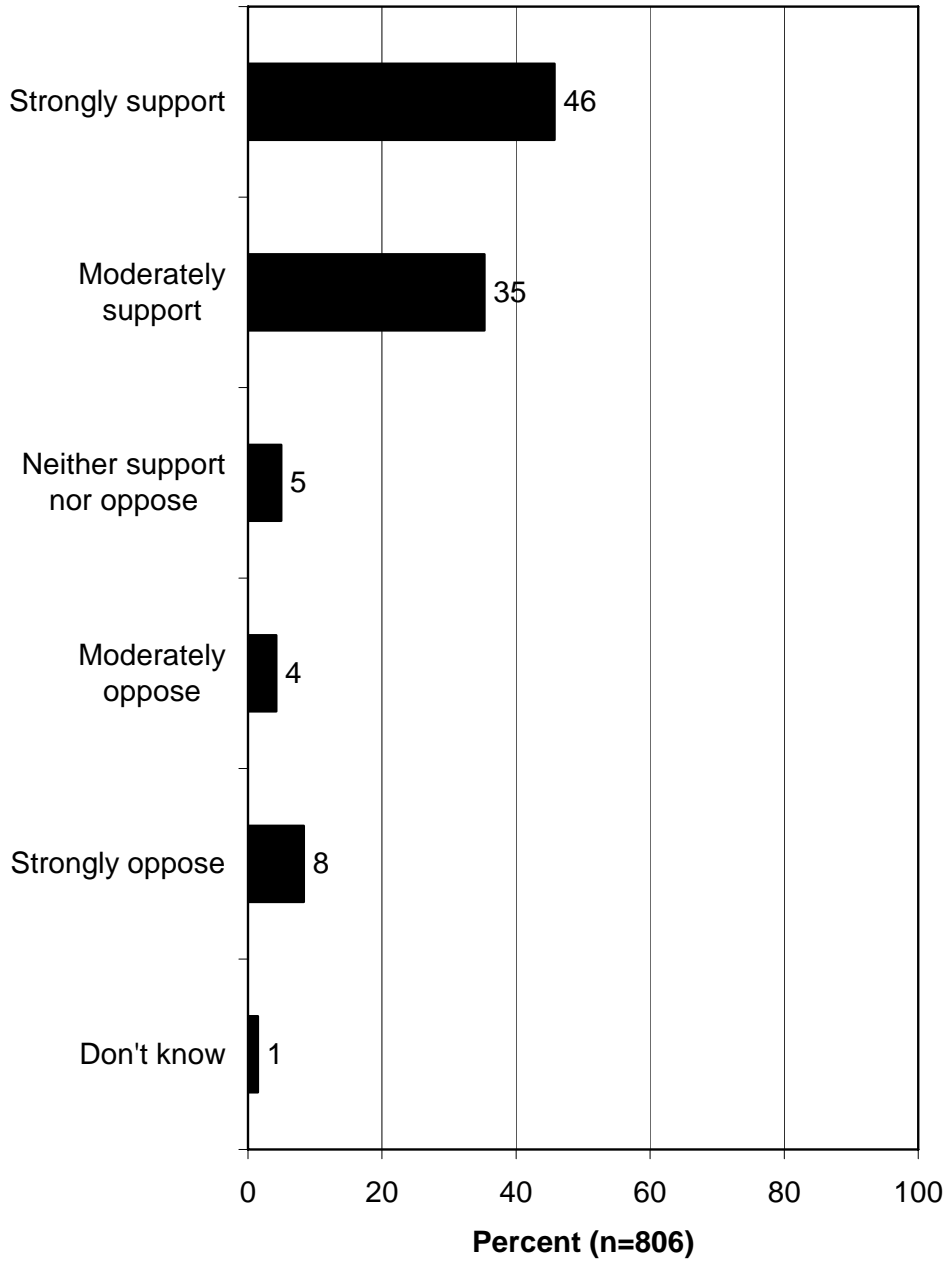
**Q64. Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
People and black bears can live in the same area
without conflict.**



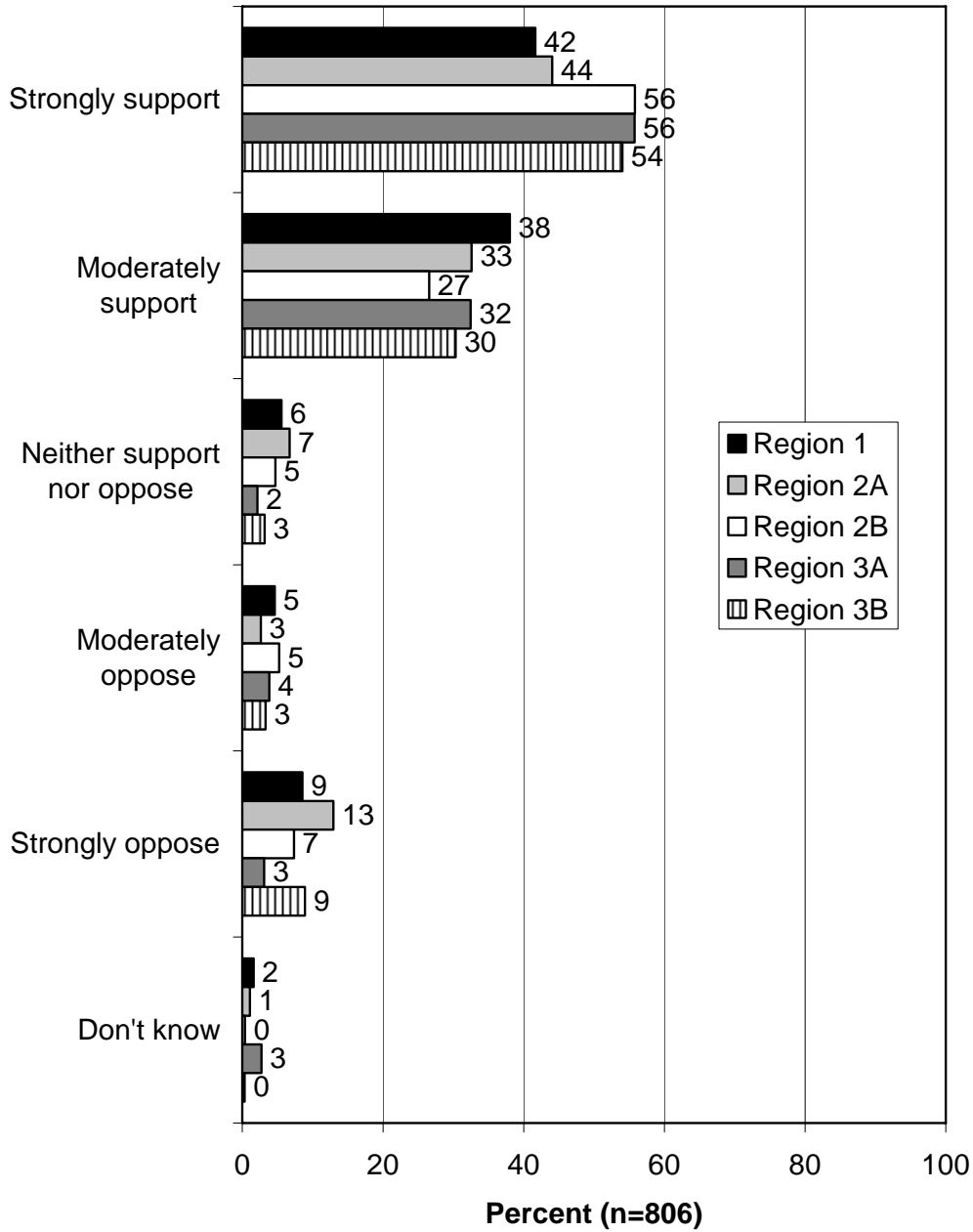
**Q64. Do you agree or disagree with this statement:
People and black bears can live in the same area
without conflict.**



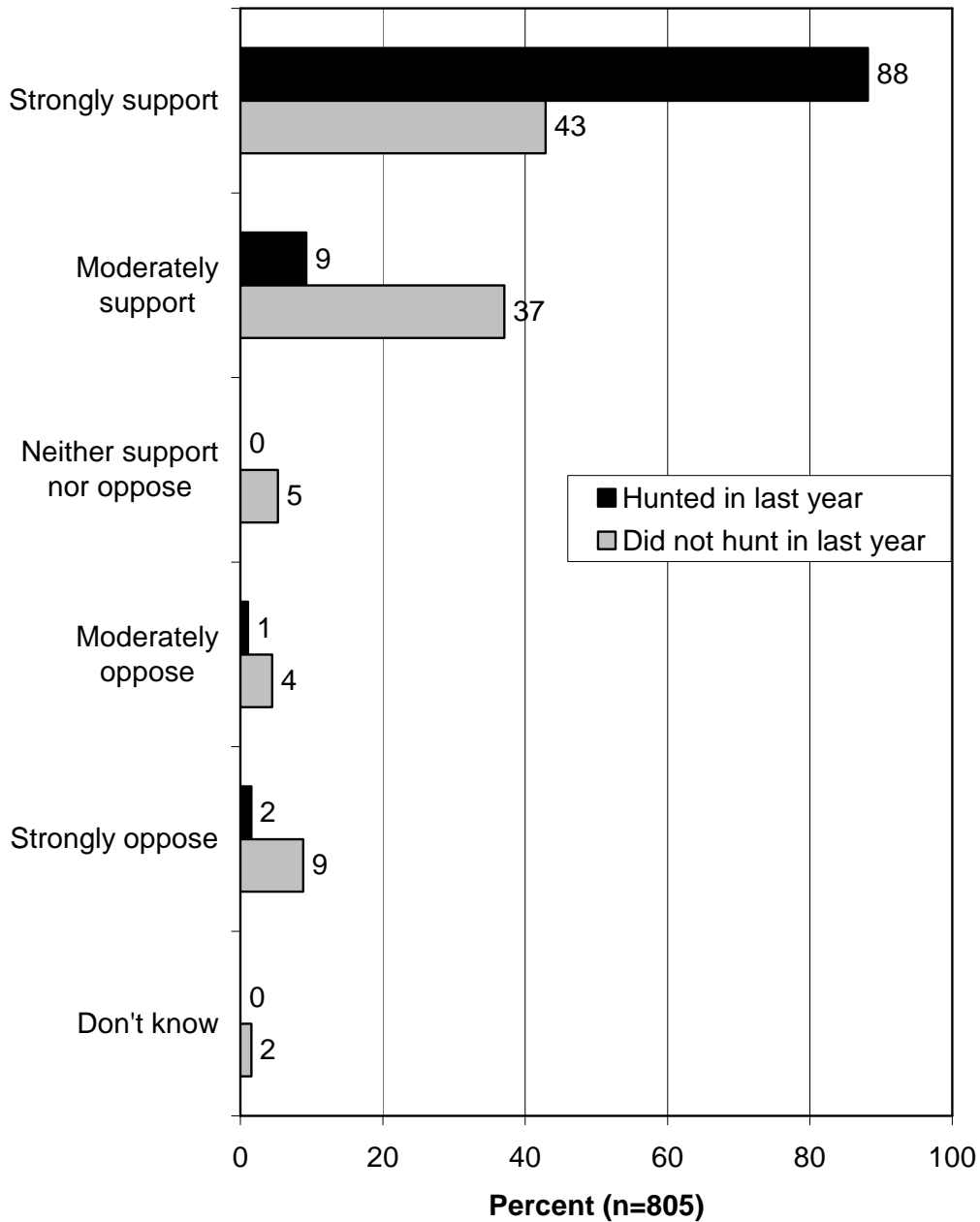
Q70. Do you support or oppose legal, regulated hunting in general?



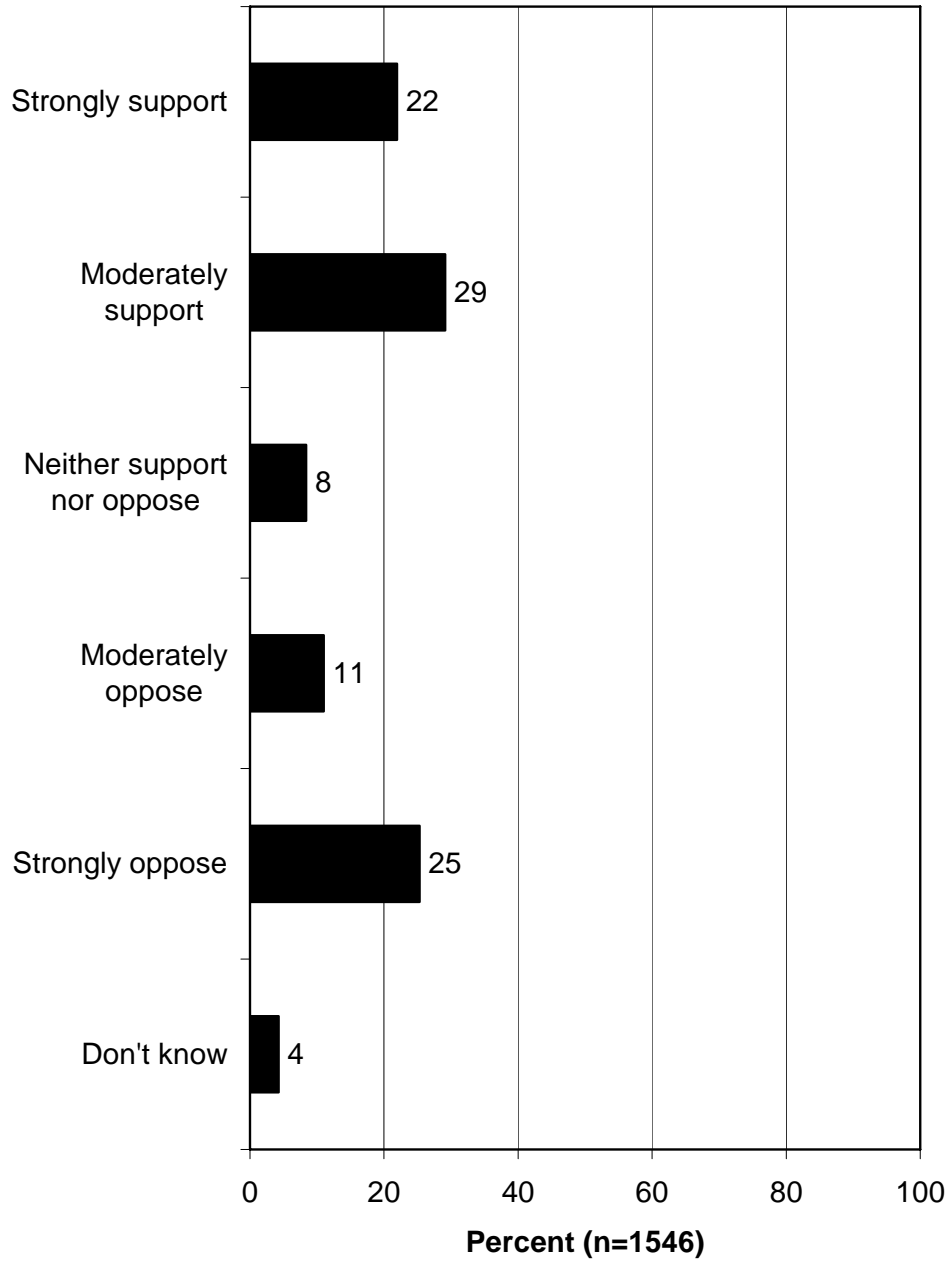
Q70. Do you support or oppose legal, regulated hunting in general?



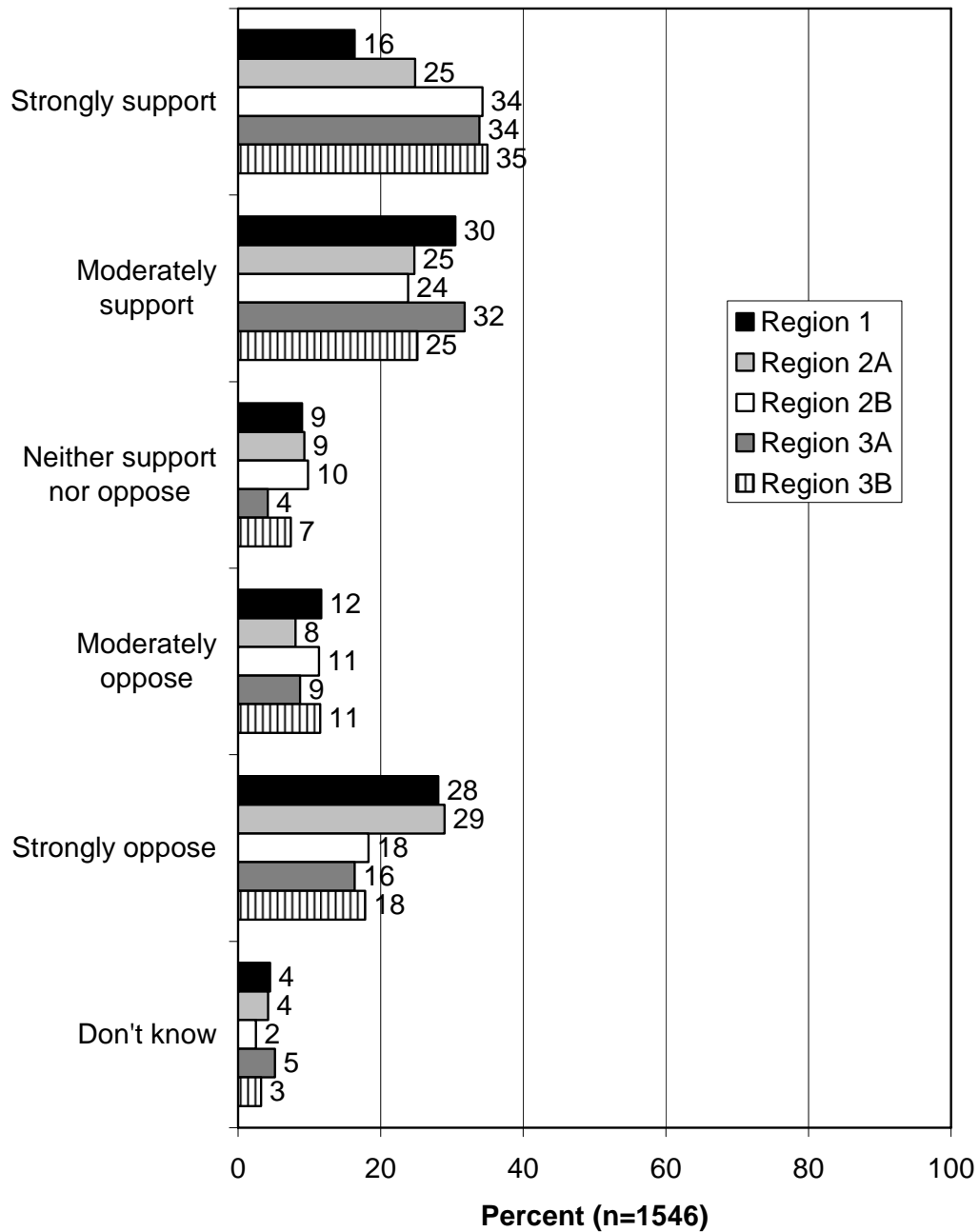
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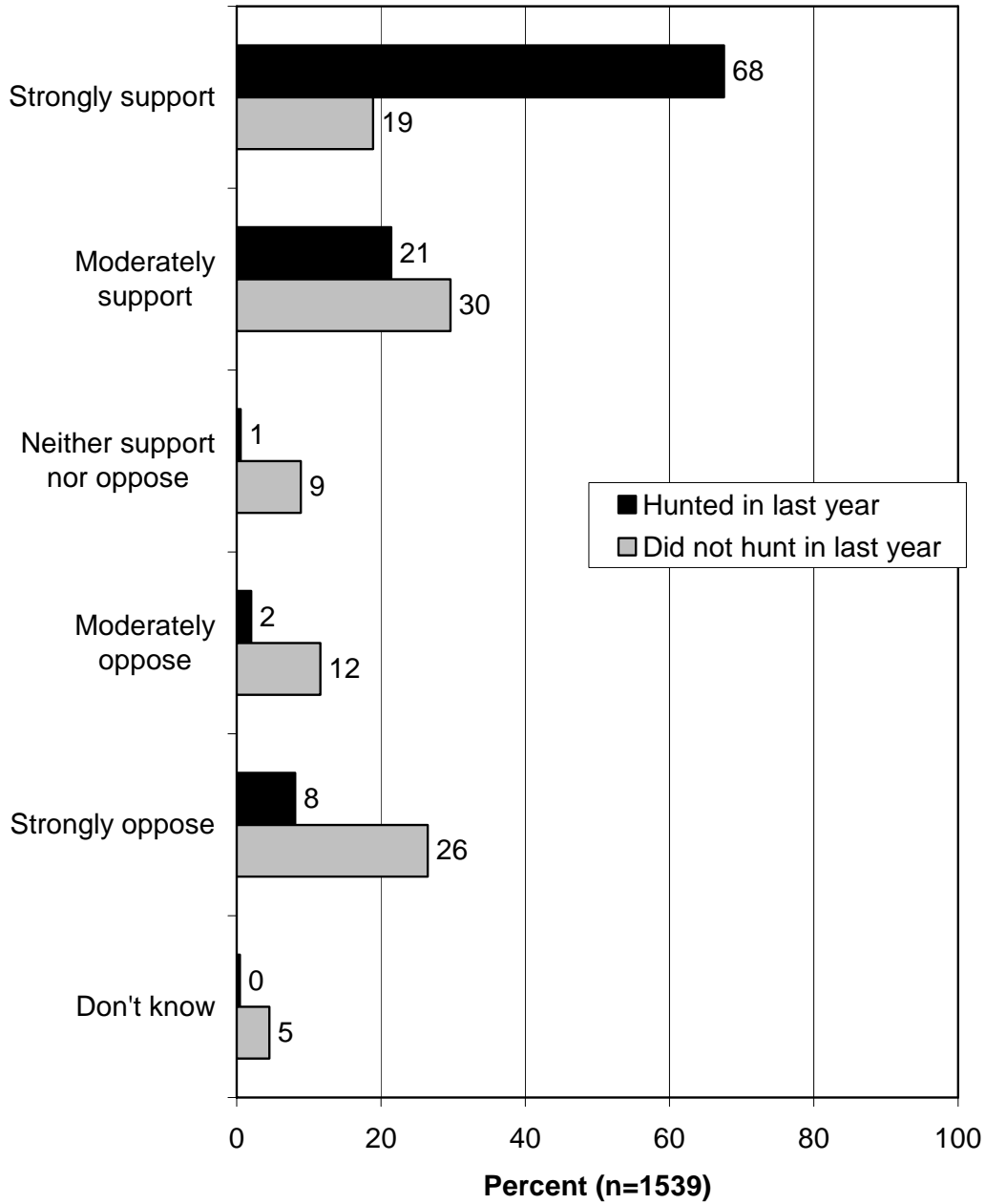
Q71. Do you support or oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia?



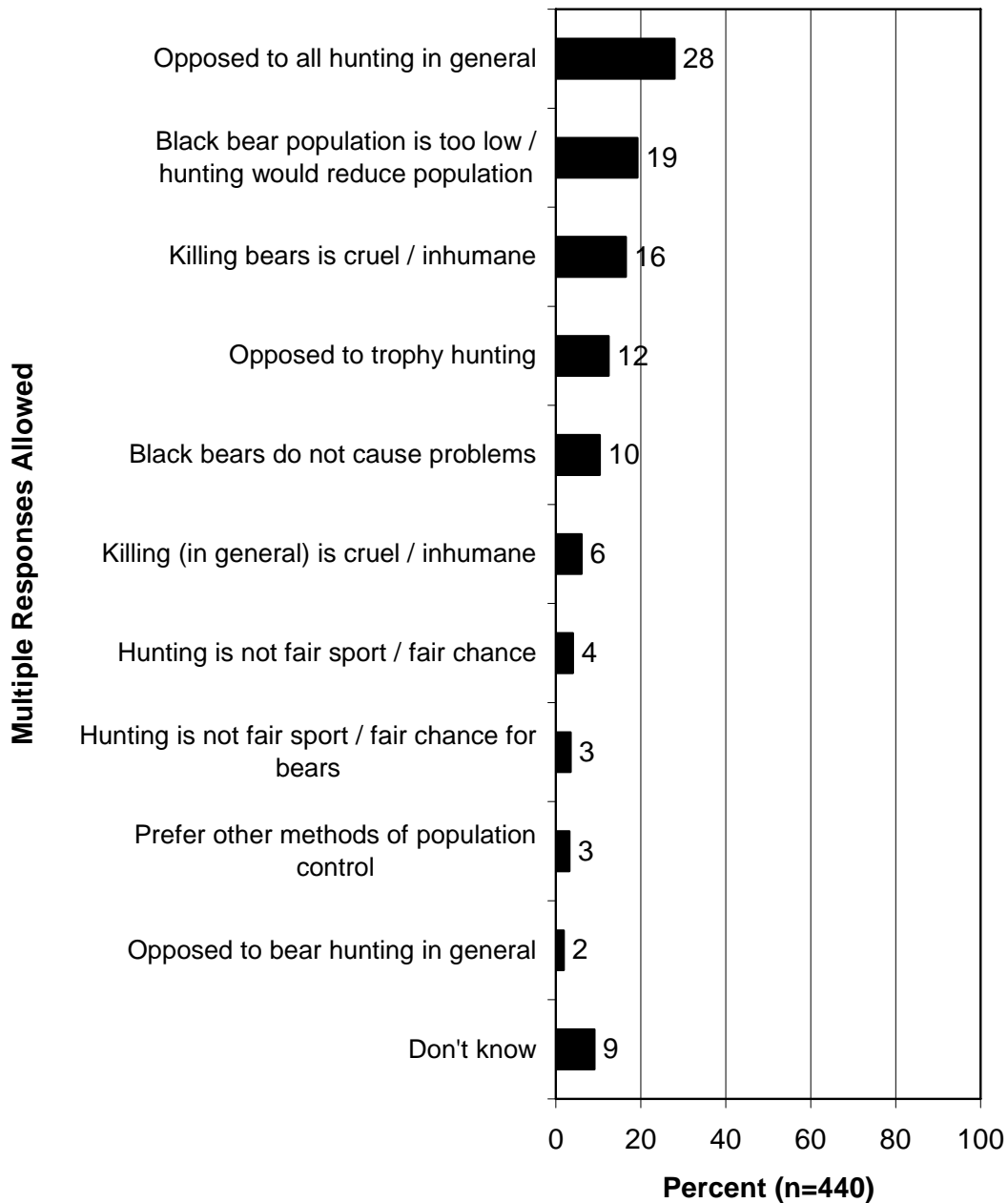
Q71. Do you support or oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia?



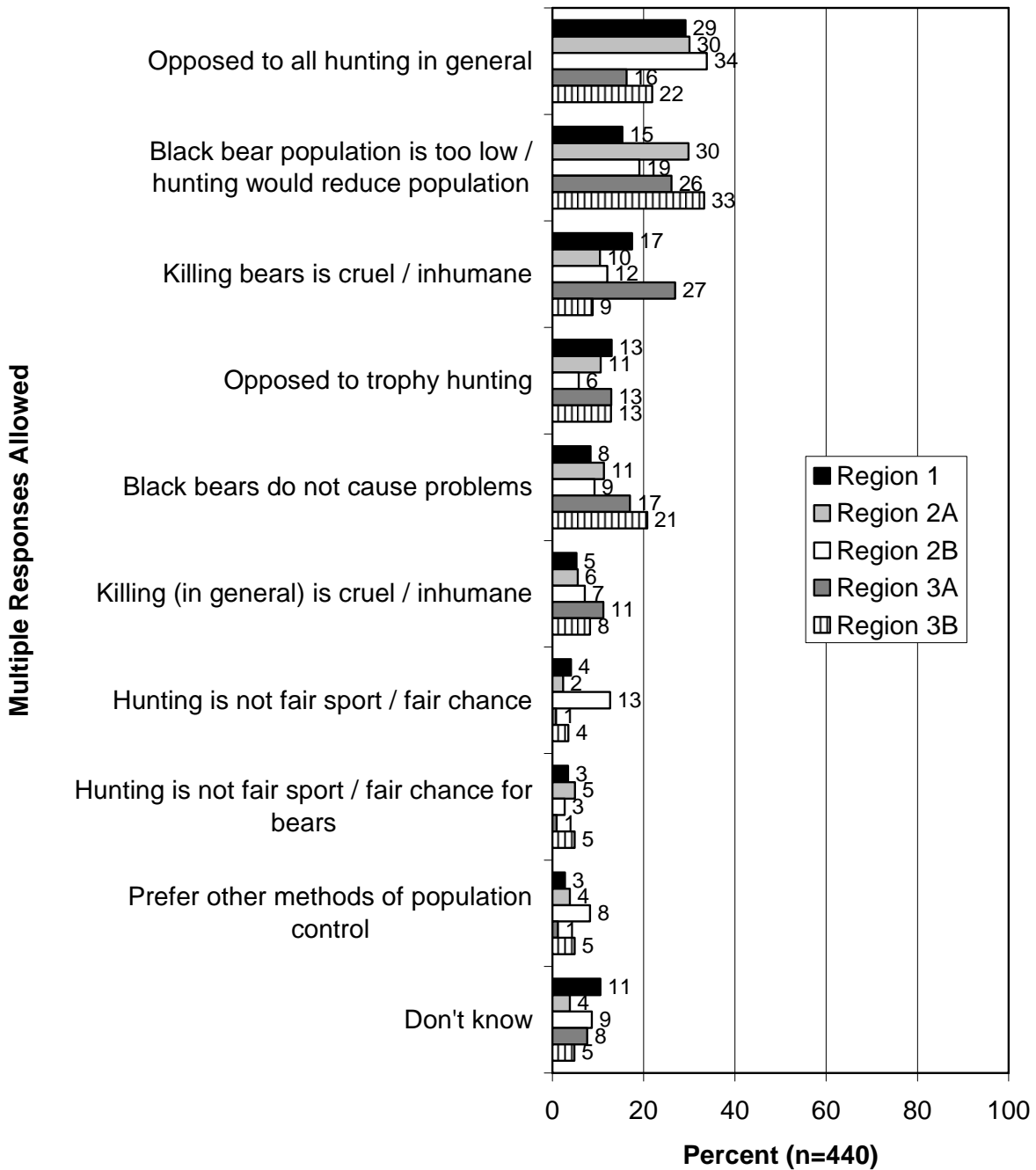
Q71. Do you support or oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia?



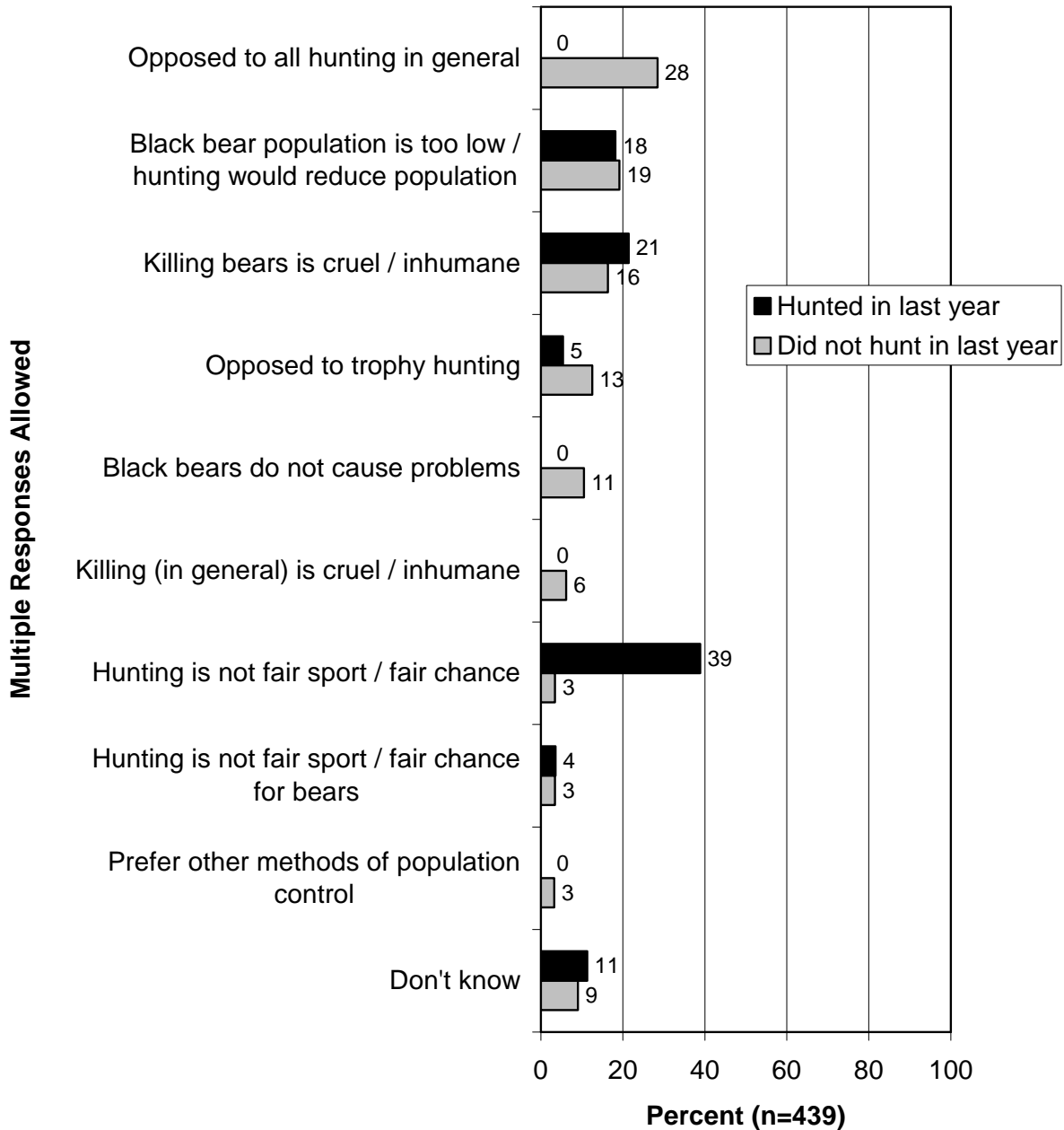
Q74. Why do you oppose the legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia? (Asked of respondents who indicated that they are opposed to hunting black bear.)



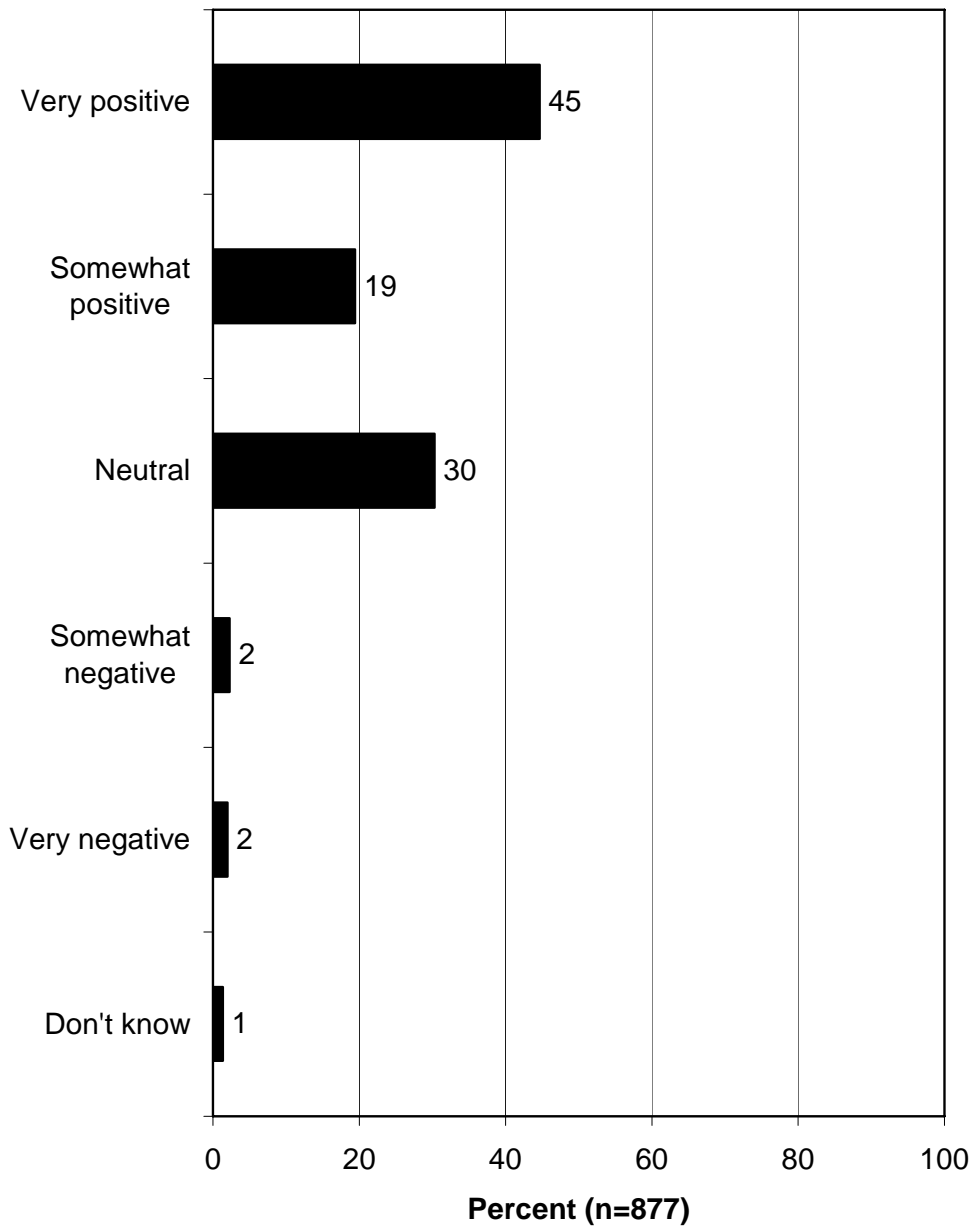
Q74. Why do you oppose the legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia? (Asked of respondents who indicated that they are opposed to hunting black bear.)



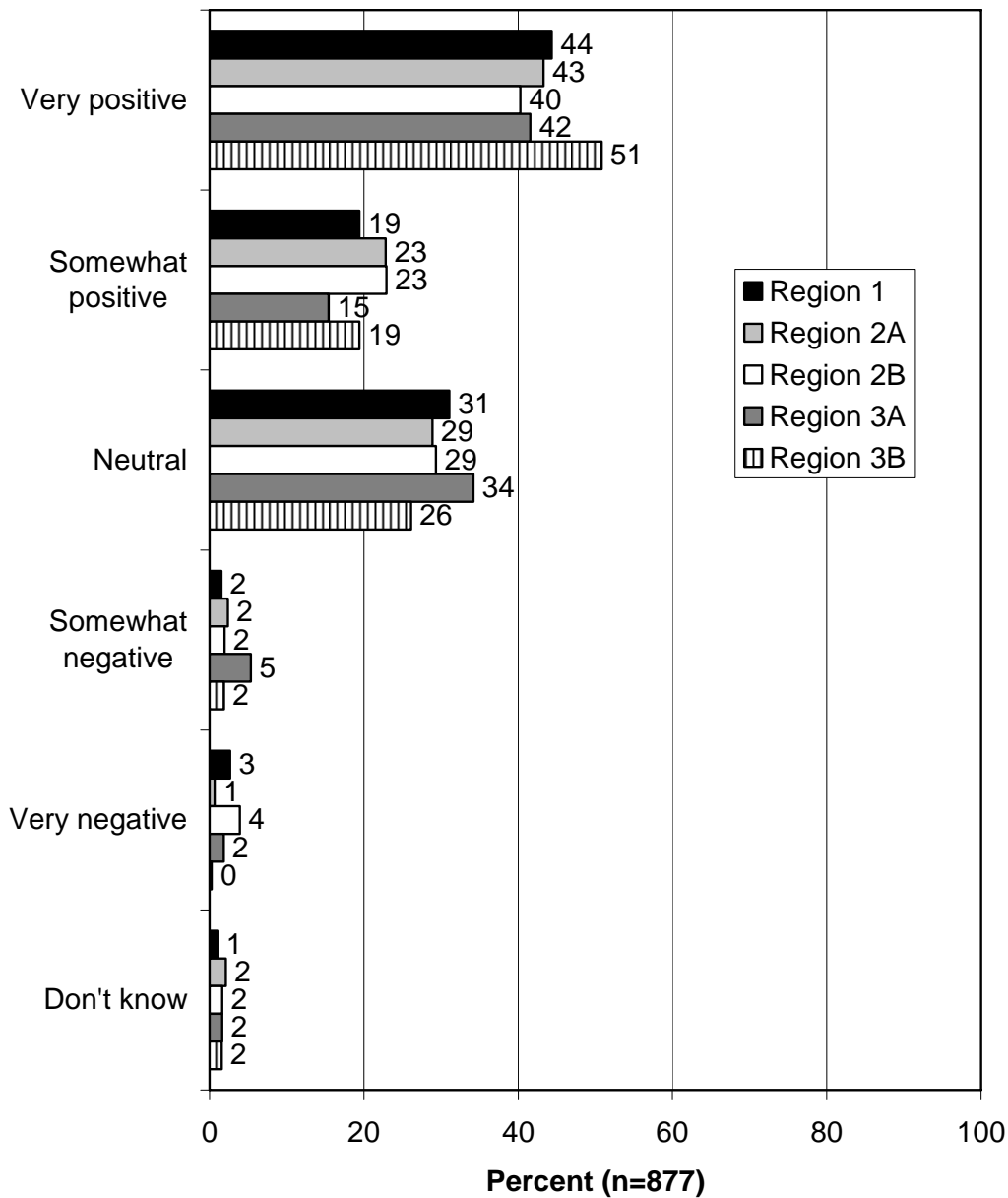
Q74. Why do you oppose the legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia? (Asked of respondents who indicated that they are opposed to hunting black bear.)



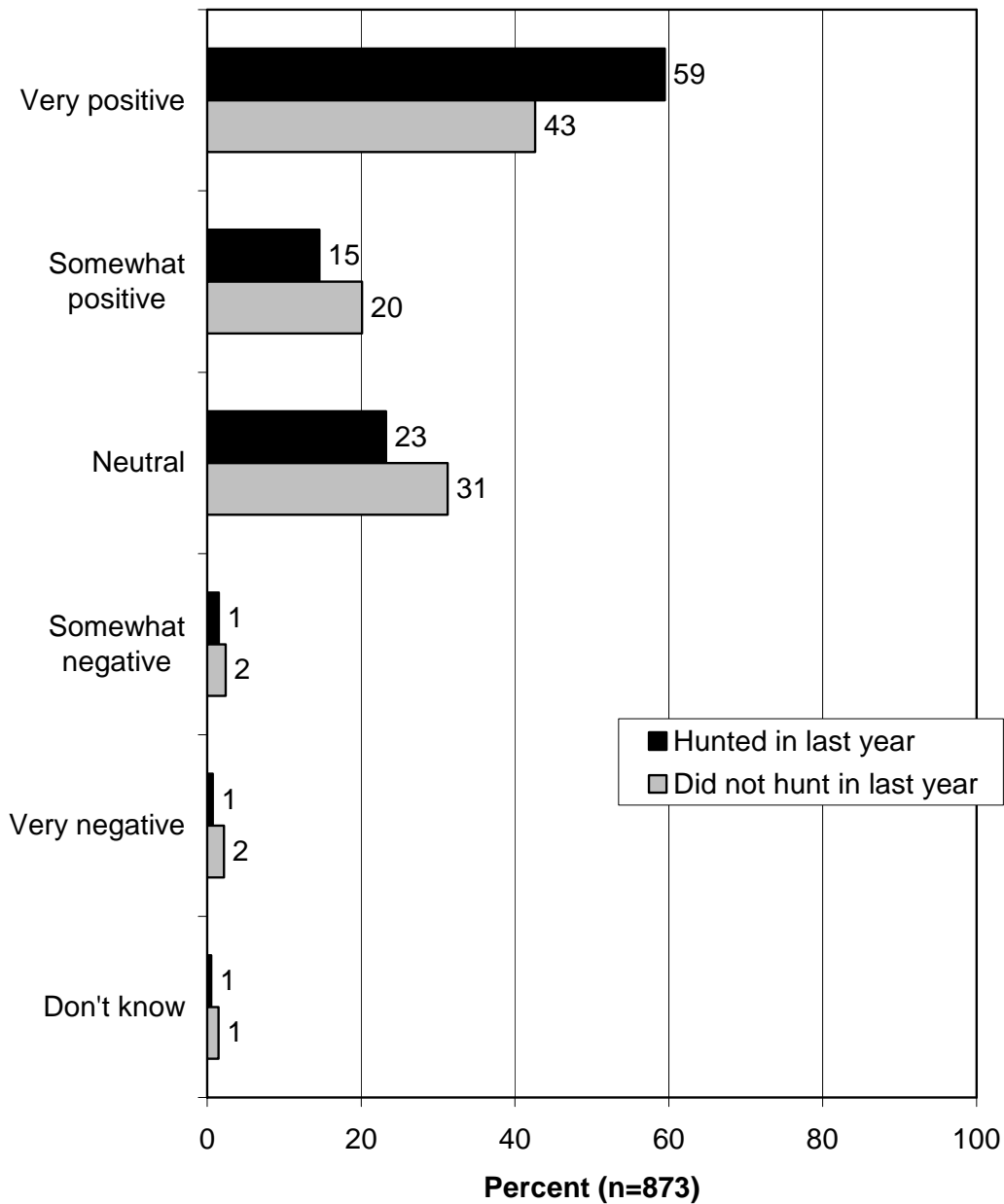
Q101/Q102. When you encountered a black bear in Virginia, would you describe the [experience / experiences overall] as positive, neutral, or negative? (Asked of respondents who indicated that they had seen a black bear in Virginia.)



Q101/Q102. When you encountered a black bear in Virginia, would you describe the [experience / experiences overall] as positive, neutral, or negative? (Asked of respondents who indicated that they had seen a black bear in Virginia.)



Q101/Q102. When you encountered a black bear in Virginia, would you describe the [experience / experiences overall] as positive, neutral, or negative? (Asked of respondents who indicated that they had seen a black bear in Virginia.)



OPINIONS ON WILDLIFE AND BLACK BEAR MANAGEMENT

- Ratings of the VDGIF's management of black bears is positive. The majority of Virginia residents (61%) give a rating of excellent or good, which far exceeds the 10% who give a fair or poor rating (note that 29% answered that they do not know).

The nonparametric analysis found that the following responses are correlated with **believing the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears**:

- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to say that they know a great deal or a moderate amount about managing wildlife and natural resources ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to believe it is very or somewhat important to have native species exist in Virginia ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable ($p \leq 0.001$) and has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to believe black bears live in their county of residence ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to say that they know a great deal or a moderate amount about black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to answer correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*

- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to answer correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to answer incorrectly by believing that six or more people have been killed by a black bear in Virginia in 100 years ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to support and encourage the existence of black bears in Virginia (e.g., strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia, think it is very or somewhat important to know black bears exist in Virginia, strongly or moderately agree that the presence of black bears near their home improves their overall quality of life) (all at $p \leq 0.01$ or greater significance).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to have personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to frequently or sometimes see or hear about black bears in their neighborhood ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to want to see and have black bears in their county or city but not in their neighborhood ($p \leq 0.001$), or want to see and have black bears in their neighborhood but not in their yard ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to have never personally had a problem with black bears within the past 2 years ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those*

who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to be willing to pay about \$10 more per month for trash service for only 12 months to pay for the cost of bear-proof garbage containers ($p \leq 0.01$).

- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to prefer using the following management options for reducing the black bear population in areas with high human populations or frequent human use: regulated hunting ($p \leq 0.001$), kill permits ($p \leq 0.001$), sharpshooters ($p \leq 0.05$), and capture and destroy ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to think the following methods of destroying black bears that are causing problems are acceptable: kill permits issued by the Department ($p \leq 0.001$), special hunting programs ($p \leq 0.001$), and Department sharpshooters ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to have recently participated in the following hunting and fishing activities in Virginia: fished over 5 days in the current fishing season ($p \leq 0.001$), hunted in the current 2009-2010 season ($p \leq 0.001$), hunted over 5 days in the current hunting season ($p \leq 0.001$), and hunted 1-5 days in the current hunting season ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to consider themselves to be a hunter ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to have participated in the following outdoor recreational activities in Virginia in the past 2 years: gone camping ($p \leq 0.001$), watched wildlife over 1 mile from home ($p \leq 0.001$), gone hiking ($p \leq 0.001$), and watched wildlife within 1 mile of home ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to be white or Caucasian ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or*

- poor job managing Virginia's black bears to live in Region 3A ($p \leq 0.001$) or Region 3B ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to be male ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to have lived in their place of residence more than the median number of 7 years ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to have an income of \$20,000-\$39,999 ($p \leq 0.01$) or \$100,000-\$119,999 ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to have lived in Virginia more than the median number of 25 years ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to be no more than a high school graduate or equivalent ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears to consider their place of residence to be a semi-rural area ($p \leq 0.05$).*

The nonparametric analysis found that the following responses are correlated with **believing the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears**:

- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears to think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years ($p \leq 0.001$) and is currently declining ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears to say that they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.05$).*

- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears to think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears to answer incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears to answer incorrectly by believing that 1-5 people have been killed by a black bear in Virginia in 100 years ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears to answer correctly by disagreeing with the statement that encountering a female black bear with cubs is always dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears to want to see and have black bears in their county or city but not in their neighborhood ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears to say black bears are a major or minor problem for them in their neighborhood or on their property ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears to strongly or moderately oppose requiring counties that are frequented by bears and that use open dumpsters to use bear-proof dumpsters ($p \leq 0.001$), and strongly or moderately oppose prohibiting people visiting or living in areas frequented by black bears from using birdfeeders or participating in other wildlife feeding activities ($p \leq 0.01$), but strongly or moderately support fines for people who attract black bears, either intentionally or unintentionally ($p \leq 0.05$), and strongly or moderately support requiring people whose birdfeeders are attracting black bears to take down or electrify the birdfeeder ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears to not be willing to pay about \$10 more per month for*

trash service for only 12 months to pay for the cost of bear-proof garbage containers ($p \leq 0.01$).

- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears to strongly or moderately oppose that the property owner should be compensated for the damages when black bear damage occurs to agricultural crops ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears to prefer using the following management option for reducing the black bear population in areas with high human populations or frequent human use: regulated hunting ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears to think the following method of destroying black bears that are causing problems is acceptable: special hunting programs ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears to be African-American ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears to be 18-34 years old ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears to consider their place of residence to be a small city or town ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears to be no more than a high school graduate or equivalent ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears are more likely than are those who believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears to have an income of \$20,000-\$39,999 ($p \leq 0.01$) or \$120,000 or more ($p \leq 0.05$).*

- The majority of Virginia residents (61%) think that the black bear population in Virginia should remain the same rather than be increased (22%) or decreased (9%).
 - Residents were also asked about the black bear population in their county/city of residence. A large majority (68%) think that the black bear population in their county/city should remain the same. Otherwise, 9% think it should be increased, and 15% think it should be decreased.

The nonparametric analysis found that the following responses are correlated with **thinking the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same**:

- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease to say that they know a great deal or a moderate amount about managing wildlife and natural resources ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease to believe it is very or somewhat important to have native species exist in Virginia ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease to think the black bear population in Virginia has decreased in the past 10 years ($p \leq 0.001$), but is currently increasing or remaining stable ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease to answer correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease to answer correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease to answer incorrectly by agreeing with the statement that encountering a female black bear with cubs is always dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.05$), and answer correctly by disagreeing with the statement that encountering a female black bear with cubs is always dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease to support and encourage the existence of black bears in Virginia (e.g., strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia, strongly or moderately agree that black bears are an important and essential part of Virginia's ecosystem, strongly or moderately agree that preserving habitat on which black bears depend is important (all at $p \leq 0.001$ or greater significance).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia*

- should decrease to strongly or moderately agree that people and black bears can live in the same area without conflict ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease to strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease to want to see and have black bears in their county or city but not in their neighborhood ($p \leq 0.001$), want to see and have black bears in their yard ($p \leq 0.001$), or want to see and have black bears in their neighborhood but not in their yard ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease to say black bears are not a problem at all for them in their neighborhood or on their property ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease to strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease to be willing to pay about \$10 more per month for trash service for only 12 months to pay for the cost of bear-proof garbage containers ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease to strongly or moderately oppose requiring people whose birdfeeders are attracting black bears to take down or electrify the birdfeeder ($p \leq 0.01$), but strongly or moderately support requiring people to use bear-proof garbage containers in areas frequented by bears ($p \leq 0.05$) and strongly or moderately support requiring counties that are frequented by bears and that use open dumpsters to use bear-proof dumpsters ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease to strongly or moderately oppose that the property owner should be compensated for the damages when a black bear damages property ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease to prefer using the following management options for reducing the black bear population in areas with high human populations or frequent human use: regulated hunting ($p \leq 0.001$) and capture and relocate ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease to think the following methods of destroying black bears that are causing problems are acceptable: Department sharpshooters ($p \leq 0.001$) and special hunting programs ($p \leq 0.01$).*

- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease to believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease to have participated in the following outdoor recreational activities in Virginia in the past 2 years: gone hiking ($p \leq 0.001$), fed birds around their home ($p \leq 0.001$), watched wildlife within 1 mile of home ($p \leq 0.001$), gone biking ($p \leq 0.001$), watched wildlife over 1 mile from home ($p \leq 0.001$), and gone camping ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease to have fished over 5 days in the current fishing season in Virginia ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease to be male ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease to be white or Caucasian ($p \leq 0.01$) or Hispanic or Latino ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease to have an income of \$20,000-\$39,999 ($p \leq 0.05$).*

The nonparametric analysis found that the following responses are correlated with **thinking the black bear population in Virginia should decrease**:

- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same to say that they know a little or nothing about managing wildlife and natural resources ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same to believe it is not at all important to have native species exist in Virginia ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same to think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same to believe black bears live in their county of residence ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same to not support or encourage the existence of black bears in Virginia (e.g., strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia, strongly or moderately disagree that black bears are an important and essential part of Virginia's ecosystem,*

strongly or moderately disagree that the presence of black bears near their home improves their overall quality of life) (all at $p \leq 0.01$ or greater significance).

- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same to feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same to say black bears are a major or minor problem for them in their neighborhood or on their property ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same to strongly or moderately disagree that people and black bears can live in the same area without conflict ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same to strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same to frequently or sometimes see or hear about black bears in their neighborhood ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same to have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same to strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same to not be willing to pay about \$10 more per month for trash service for only 12 months to pay for the cost of bear-proof garbage containers ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same to strongly or moderately oppose prohibiting people visiting or living in areas frequented by black bears from using birdfeeders or participating in other wildlife feeding activities ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same to strongly or moderately agree that the property owner should be compensated for the damages when a black bear damages property ($p \leq 0.05$) or damage occurs to livestock ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same to prefer using the following management option for reducing the black bear*

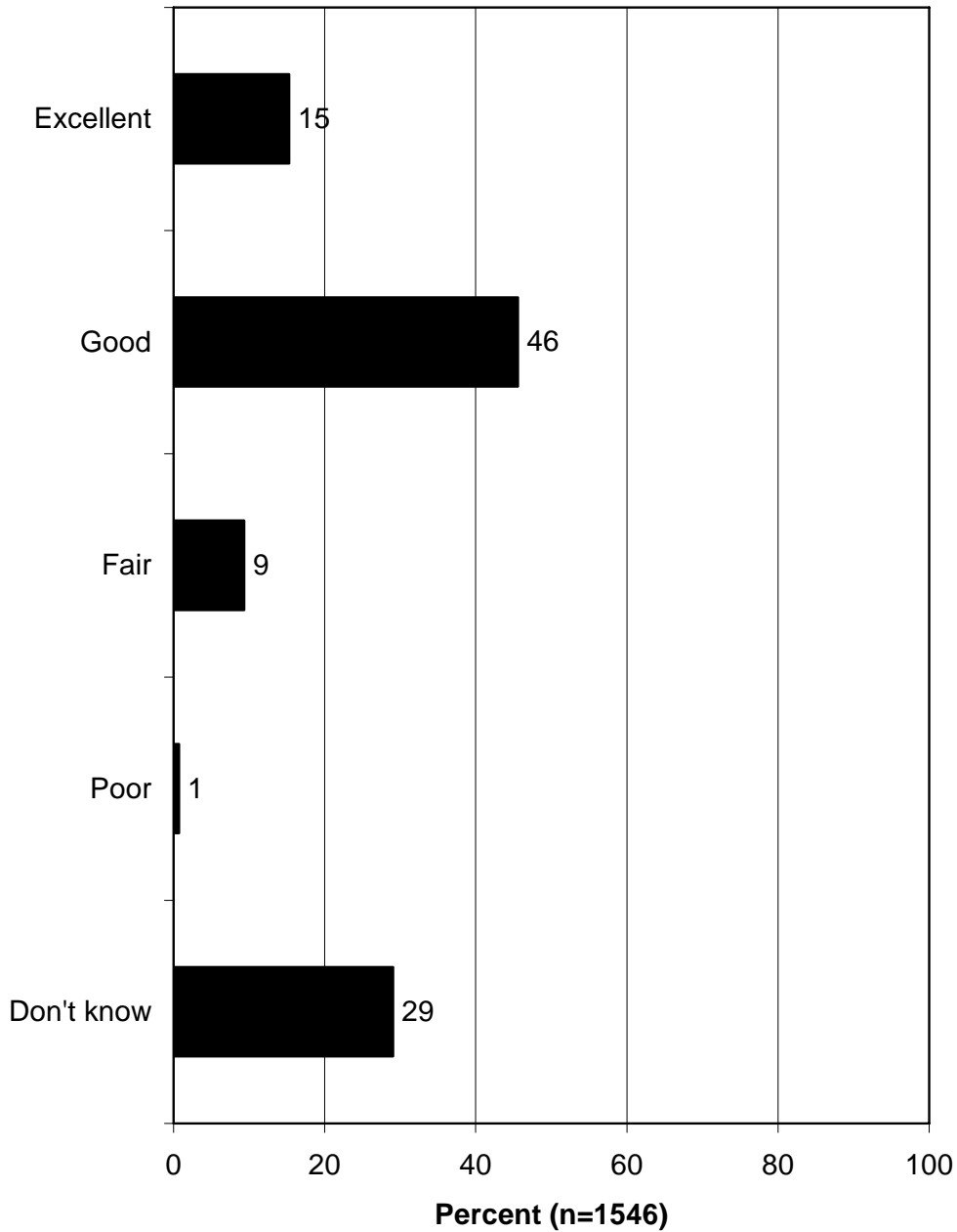
- population in areas with high human populations or frequent human use: capture and destroy ($p \leq 0.01$).
- *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same to have purchased a hunting license for the 2009-2010 season in Virginia ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same to be female ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same to live in Region 3A ($p \leq 0.01$) or Region 2B ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same to be no more than a high school graduate or equivalent ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same to have an income of under \$20,000 ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease are more likely than are those who think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same to consider their place of residence to be a rural area on a farm or ranch ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- Several questions asked about support for or opposition to destroying black bears in various situations.
- The majority of Virginia residents (71%) oppose destroying a black bear that causes property damage to a home or building in a residential area; meanwhile, 21% support doing so.
 - The majority of Virginia residents (61%) oppose destroying a black bear that causes agricultural damage to crops or livestock; 29% support.
 - Residents are more protective of their pets: only 53% oppose, and 37% support, destroying a black bear that harms a pet.
 - The large majority of residents (76%) support destroying a black bear that VDGIF biologists have determined is aggressive toward humans; 18% oppose.
 - Finally, the large majority of residents (79%) support destroying a black bear that attacks a human unprovoked; 15% oppose.
 - For the reader's convenience, the results of all five of these questions are shown in one set of graphs, as well.

- The majority of Virginia residents (55%) *never* see or hear about black bears in their neighborhood. Additionally, 27% say that they *rarely* see or hear about them. On the other end of the scale, 6% *frequently* see or hear about them, and 12% *sometimes* do.
 - Regarding *ever* seeing a black bear in Virginia (with no timeframe—i.e., the respondent's entire life), 43% have seen a non-captive black bear in Virginia, while 56% have not. A follow-up question asked those who have seen a black bear in Virginia to indicate how many times they have seen a non-captive black bear in Virginia *in the past 2 years*: 73% of those who had ever seen a bear had seen a bear in the past 2 years.
 - Residents who had seen a bear in Virginia in the past 2 years were asked to describe the location. Most commonly, they saw black bears on state public lands, federal public lands, on the side of or near the road, in their yard, or on other private property.

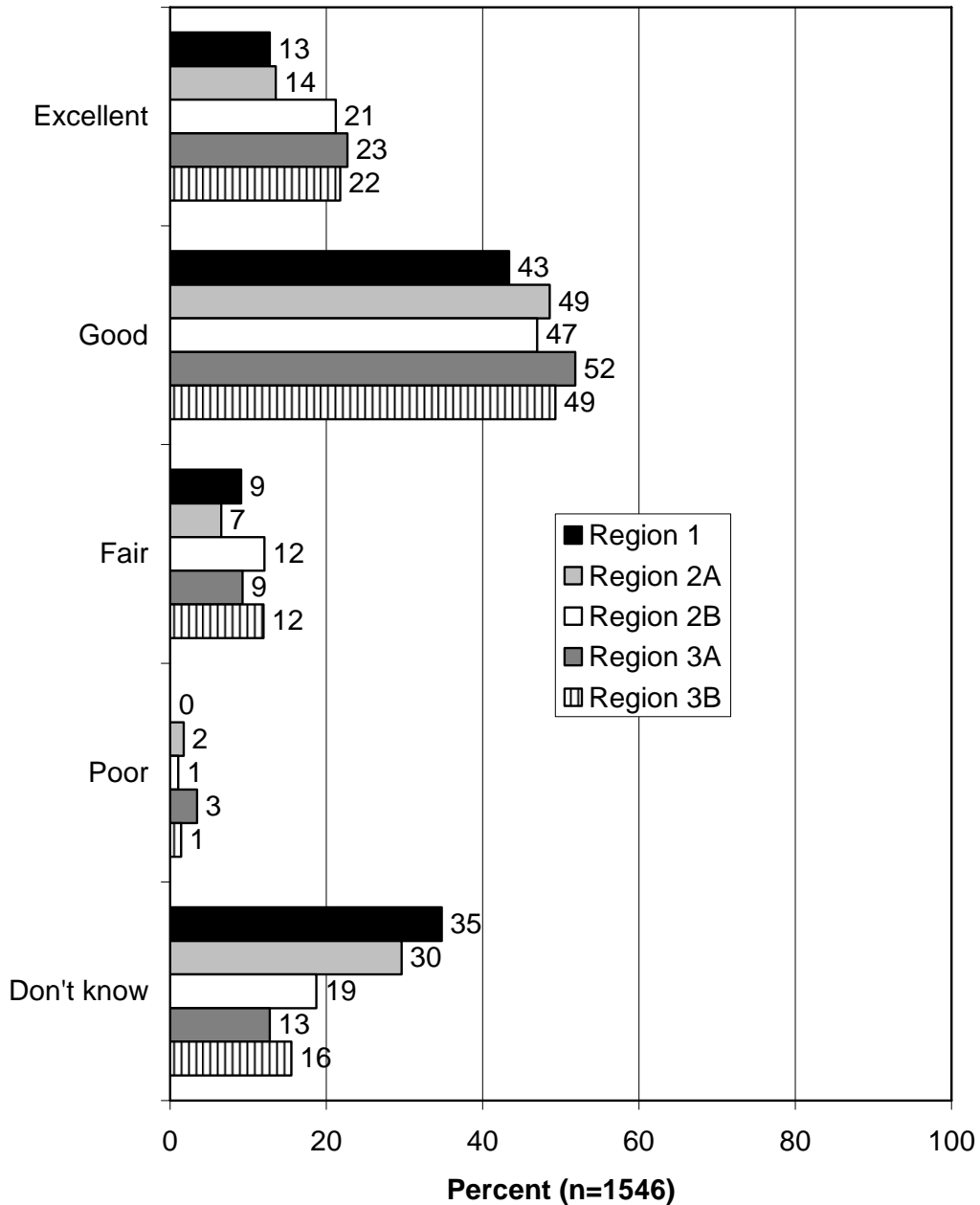
- Given the scenario where the black bear population needs to be reduced in areas with high human populations or frequent human use, residents were asked to indicate their preferred methods for doing so (from a list that was read to respondents), and they could choose more than one method. Capture and relocate (chosen by 88%) is the top-named method, distantly followed by regulated hunting (31%), kill permits (16%), sharpshooters (7%), and capture and destroy (5%).

- Residents were asked to indicate the acceptability of various methods for destroying black bears, for those bears that are causing problems and need to be destroyed. In those situations, a large majority say it is acceptable to have the VDGIF capture and destroy the bear (66% say this method is acceptable). Otherwise, the other three methods are about equal in acceptability: 36% say use of VDGIF sharpshooters is acceptable, 33% say special hunting programs are acceptable, and 31% say having the VDGIF issue kill permits is acceptable.

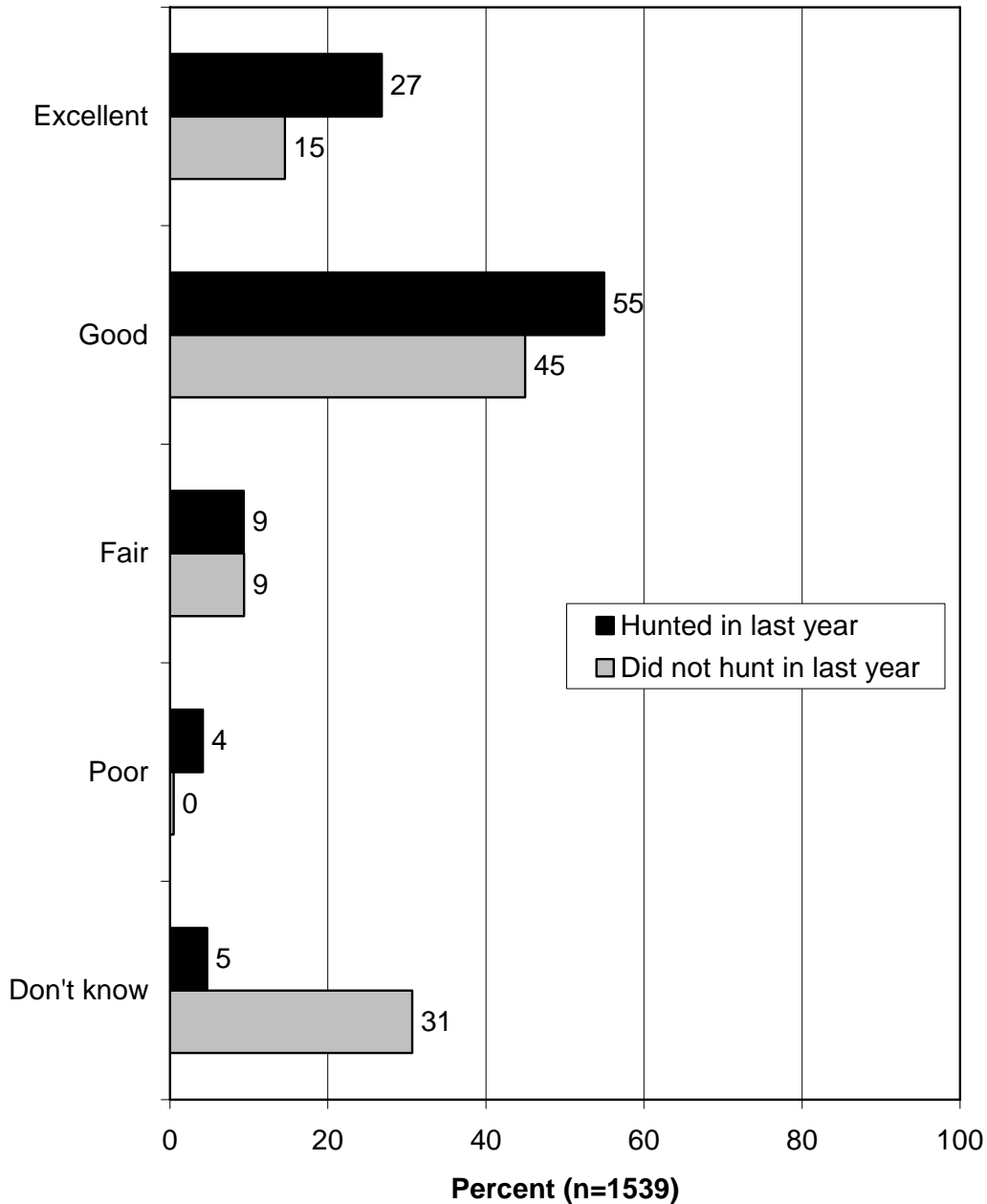
Q86. Overall, do you believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent, good, fair, or poor job managing Virginia's black bears?



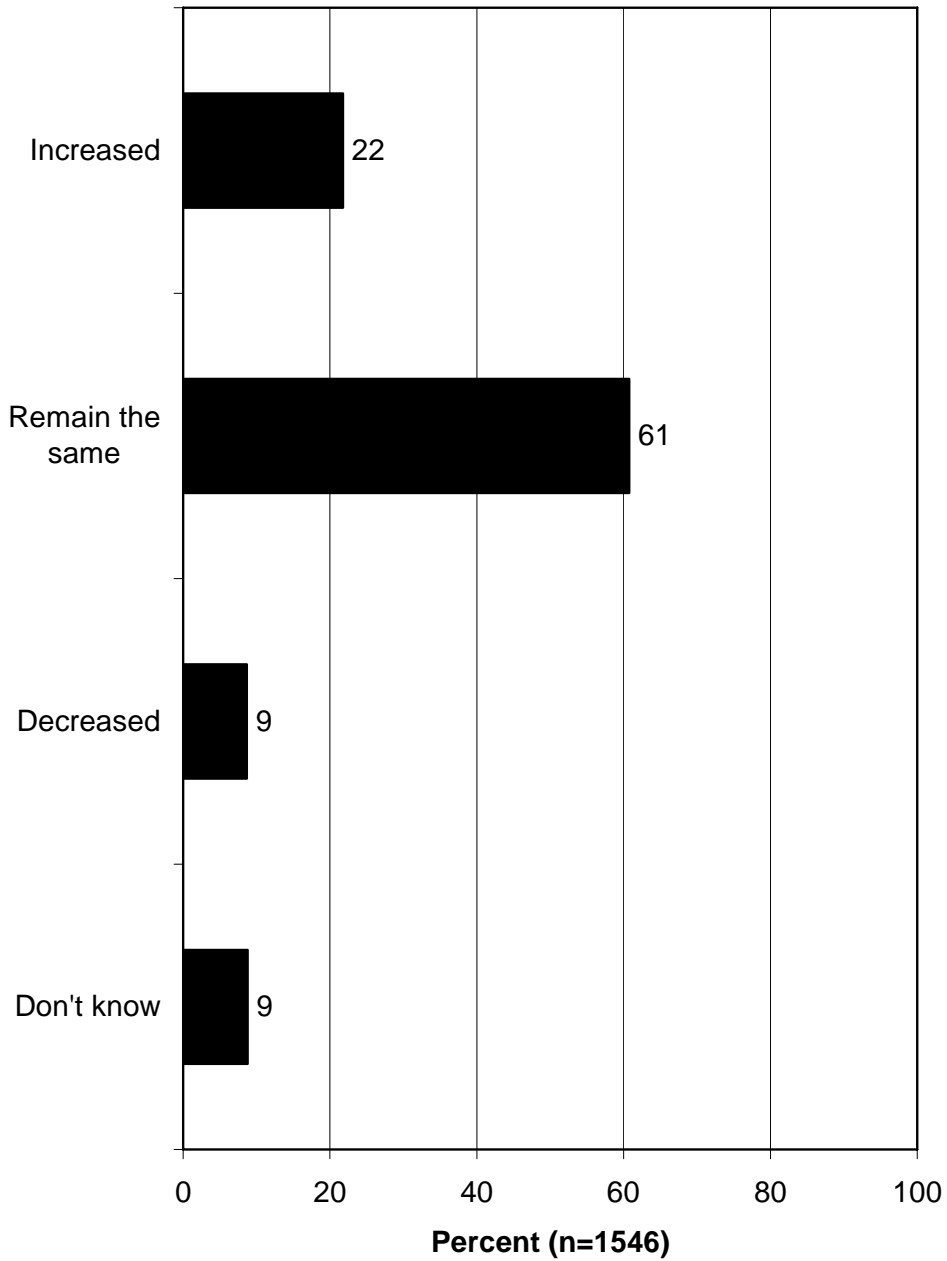
Q86. Overall, do you believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent, good, fair, or poor job managing Virginia's black bears?



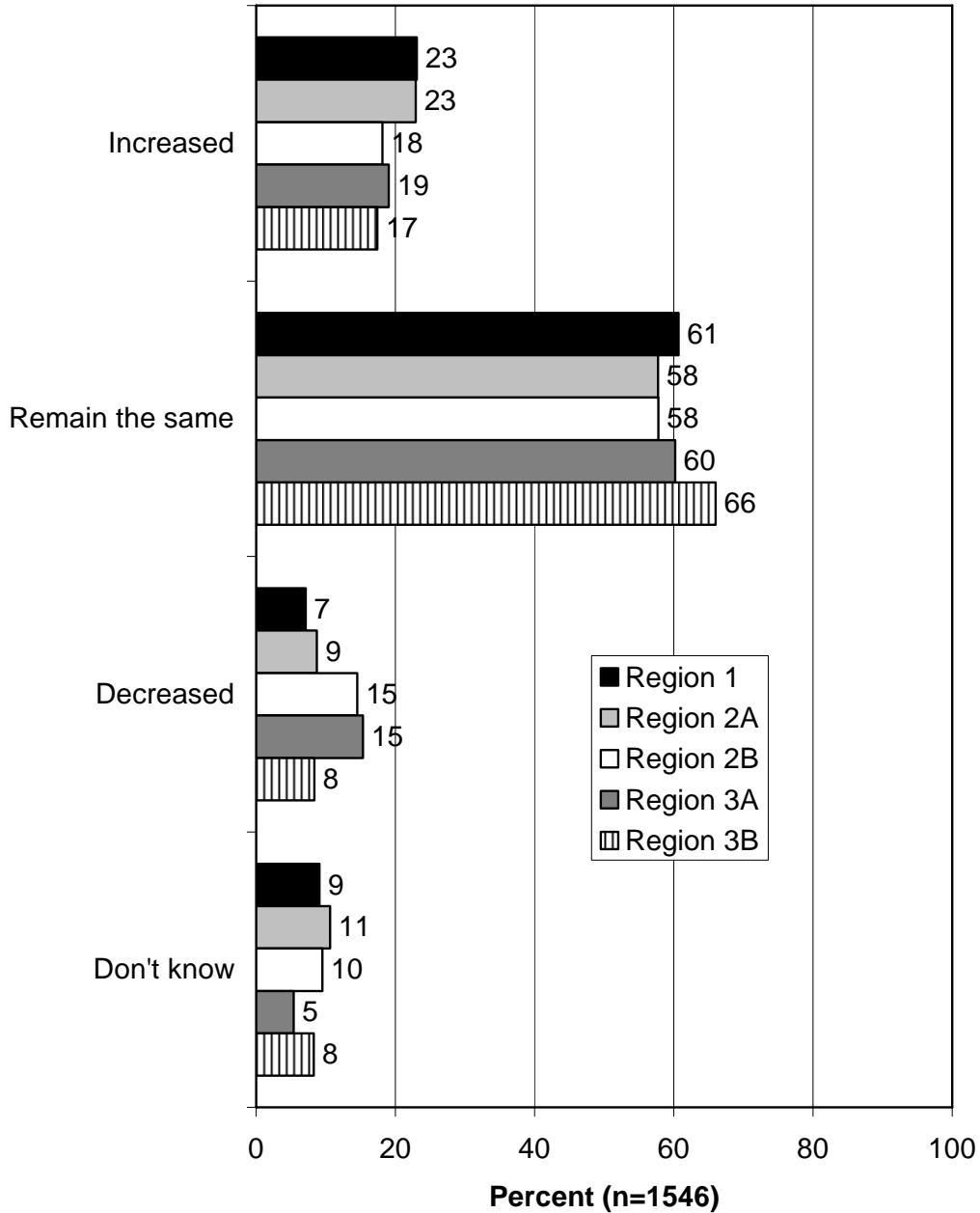
Q86. Overall, do you believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent, good, fair, or poor job managing Virginia's black bears?



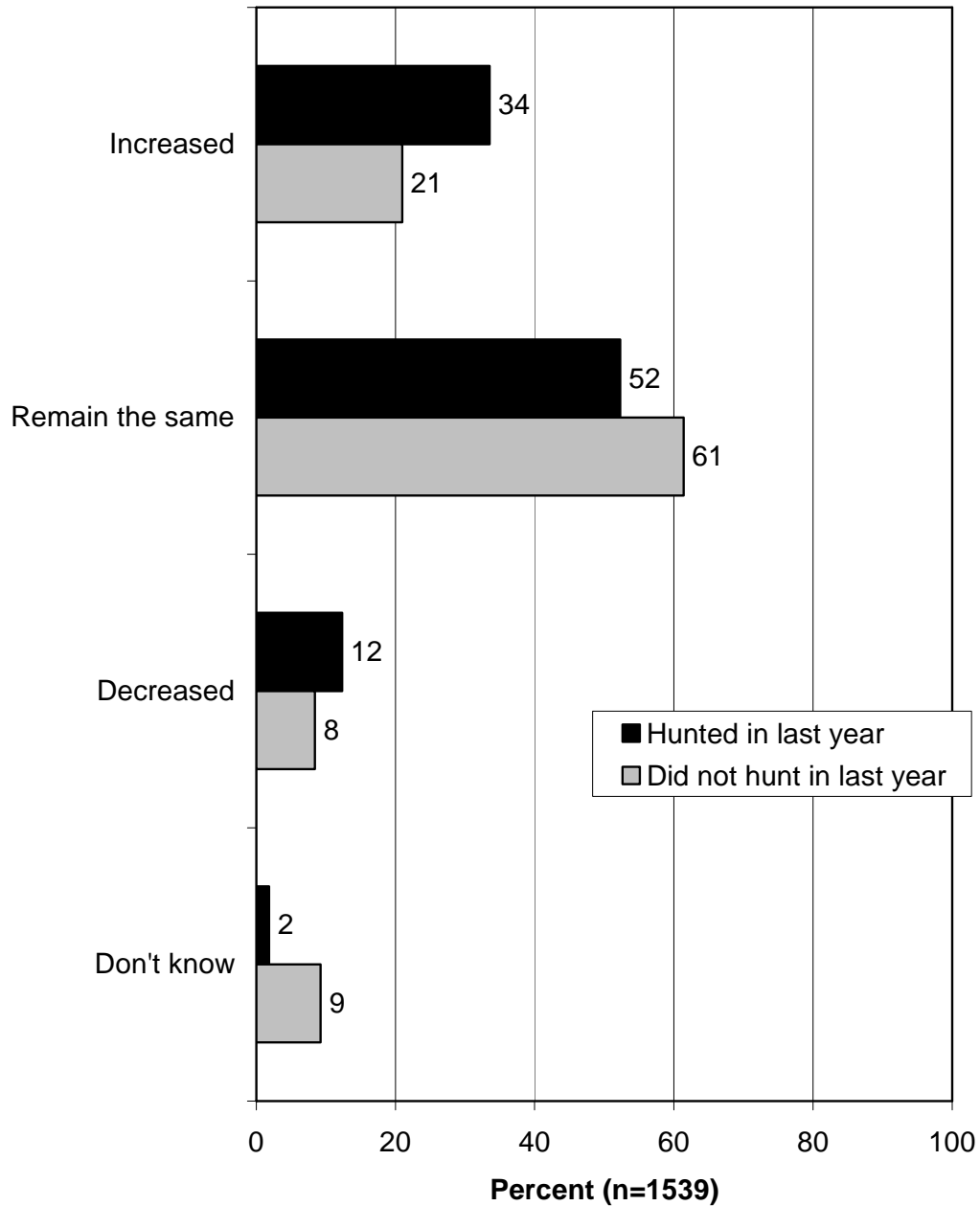
Q47. In your opinion, should the current black bear population in Virginia be increased, remain the same, or be decreased?



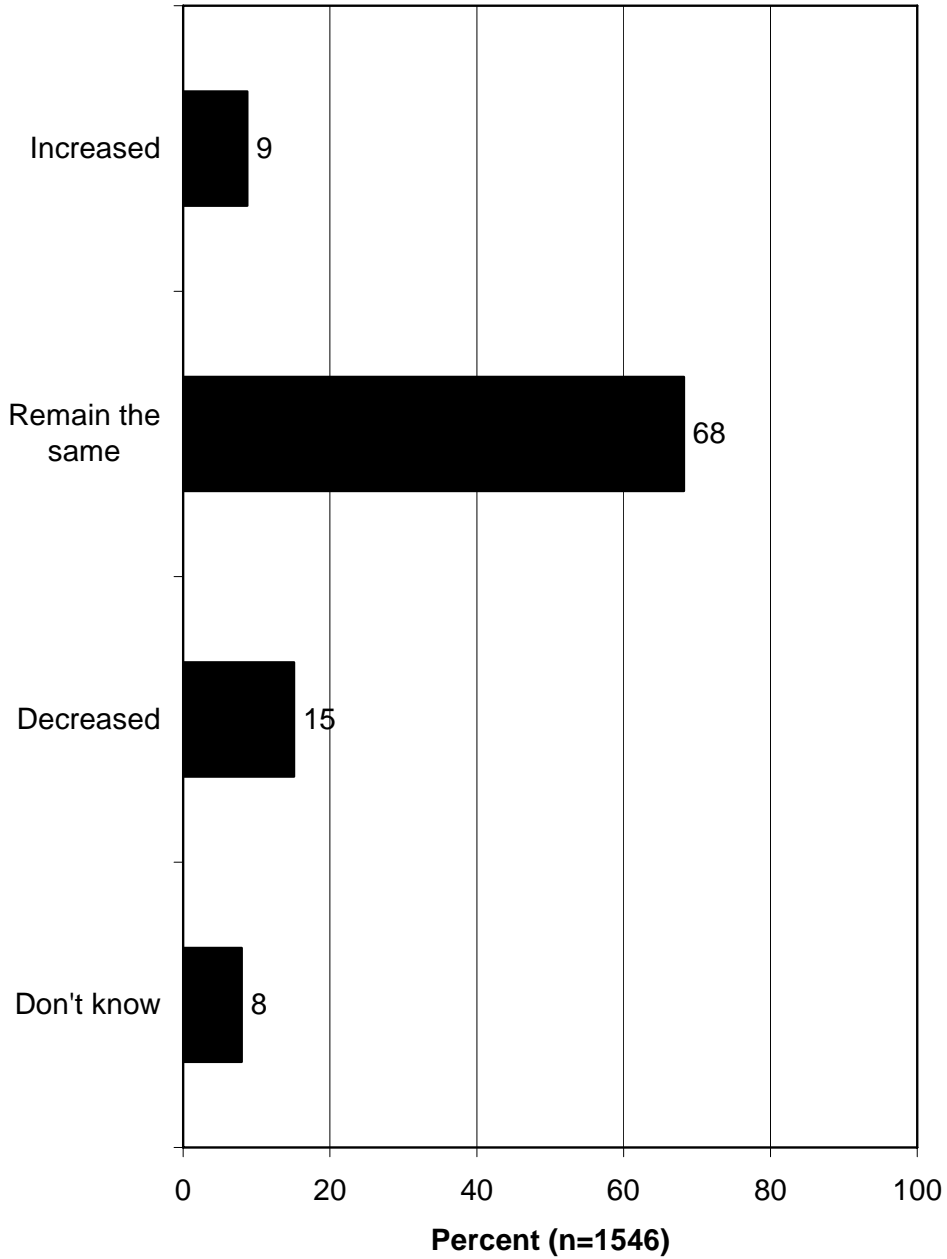
Q47. In your opinion, should the current black bear population in Virginia be increased, remain the same, or be decreased?



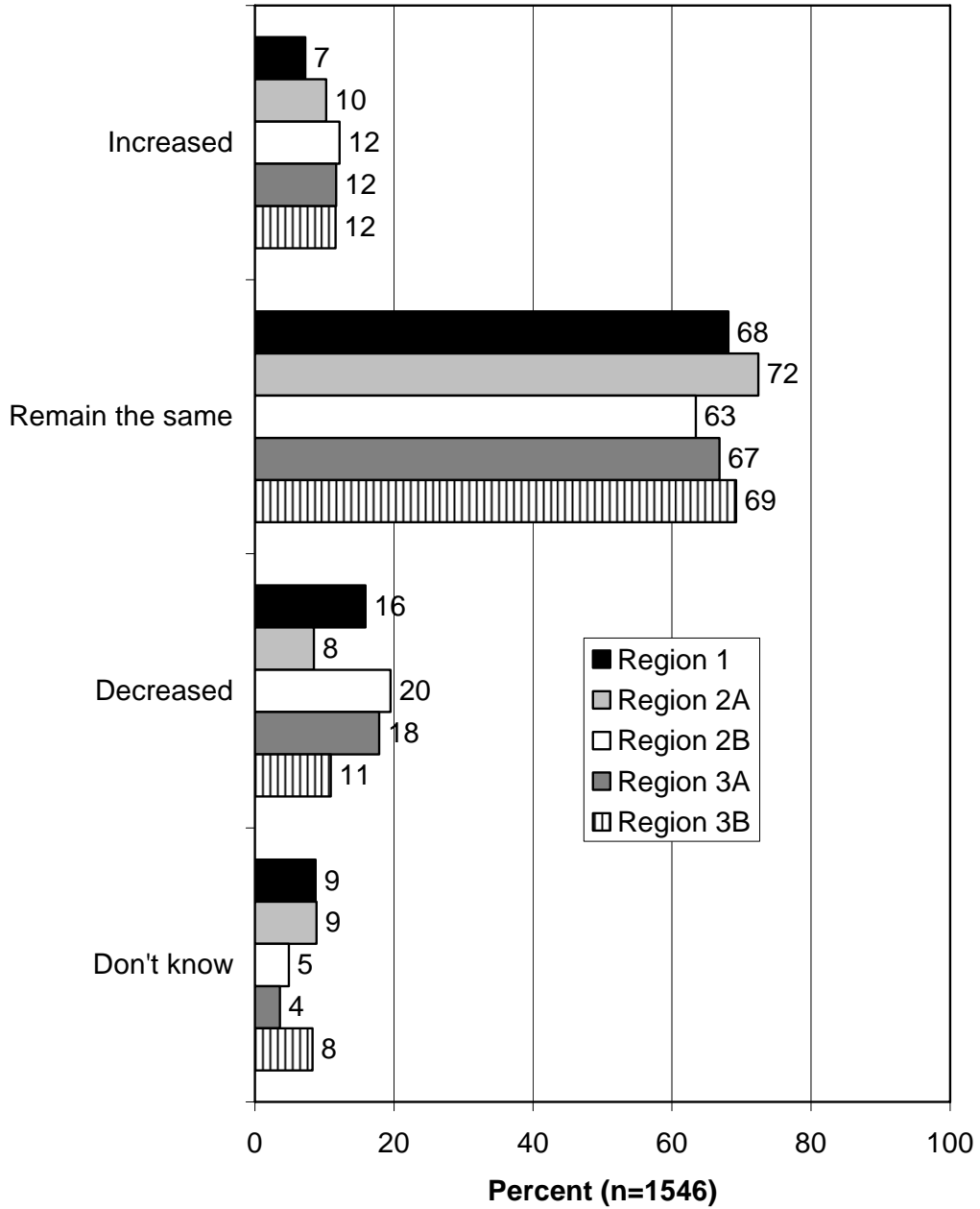
Q47. In your opinion, should the current black bear population in Virginia be increased, remain the same, or be decreased?



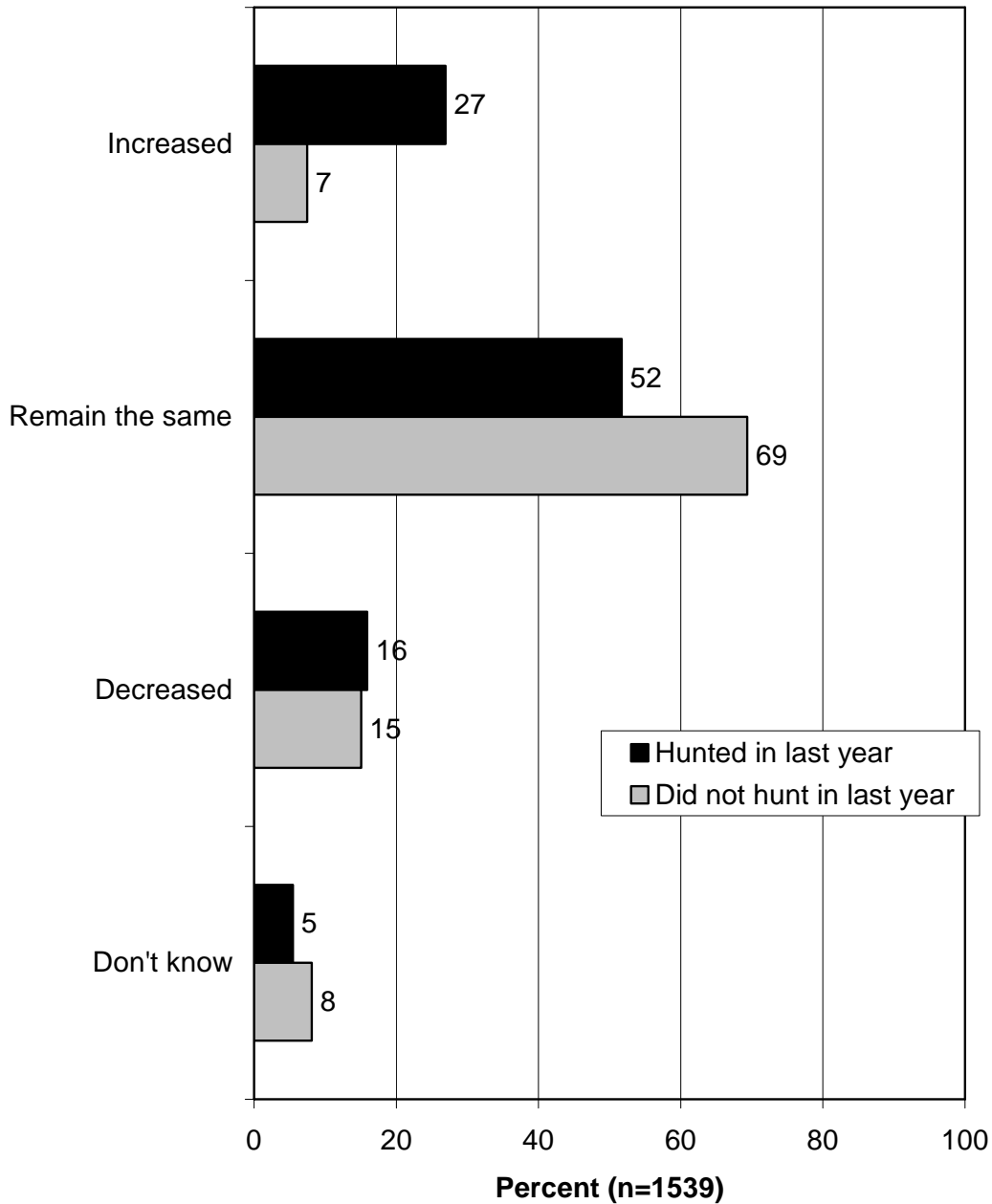
Q49. In your opinion, should the black bear population in your county be increased, remain the same, or be decreased?



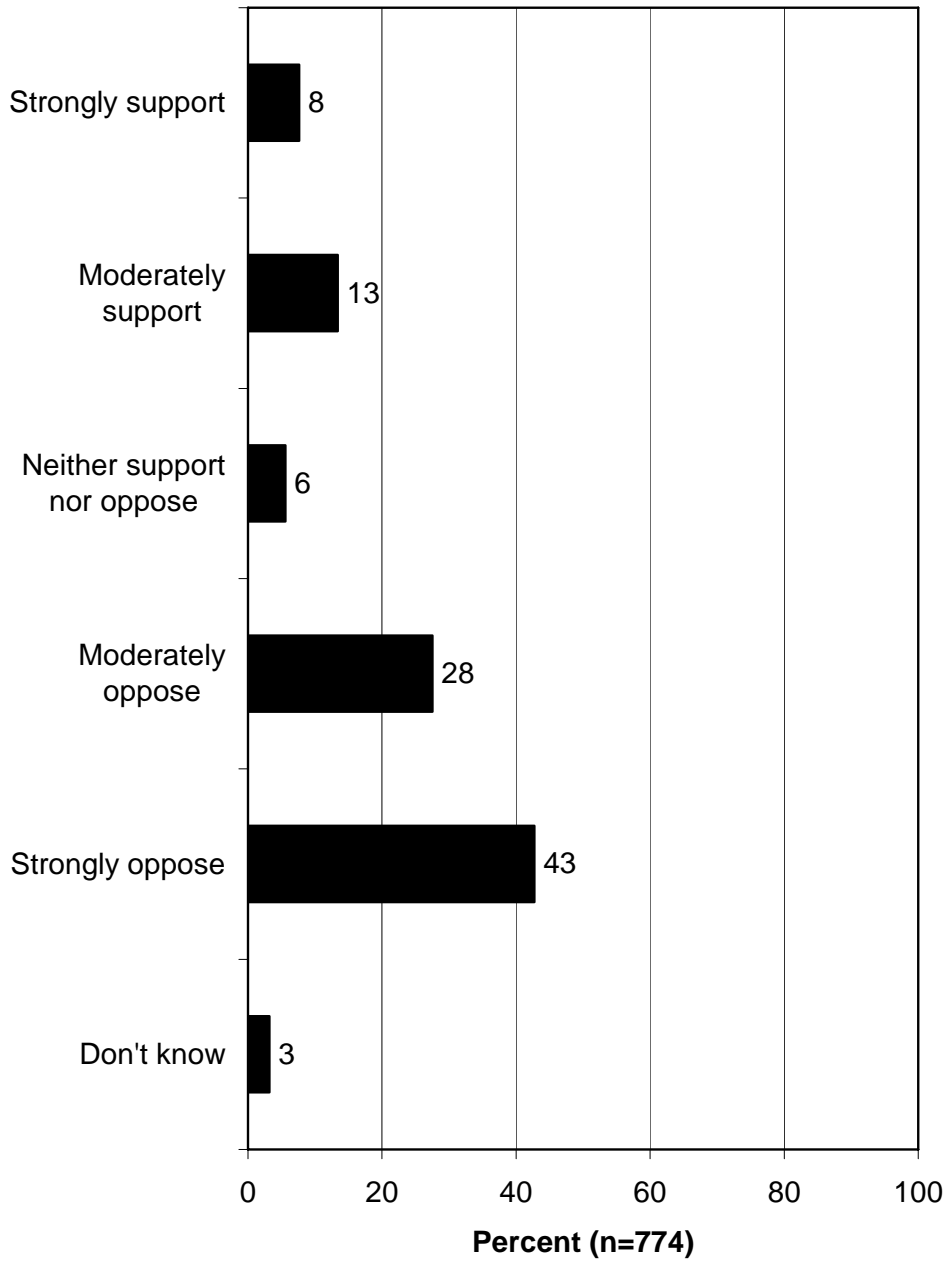
Q49. In your opinion, should the black bear population in your county be increased, remain the same, or be decreased?



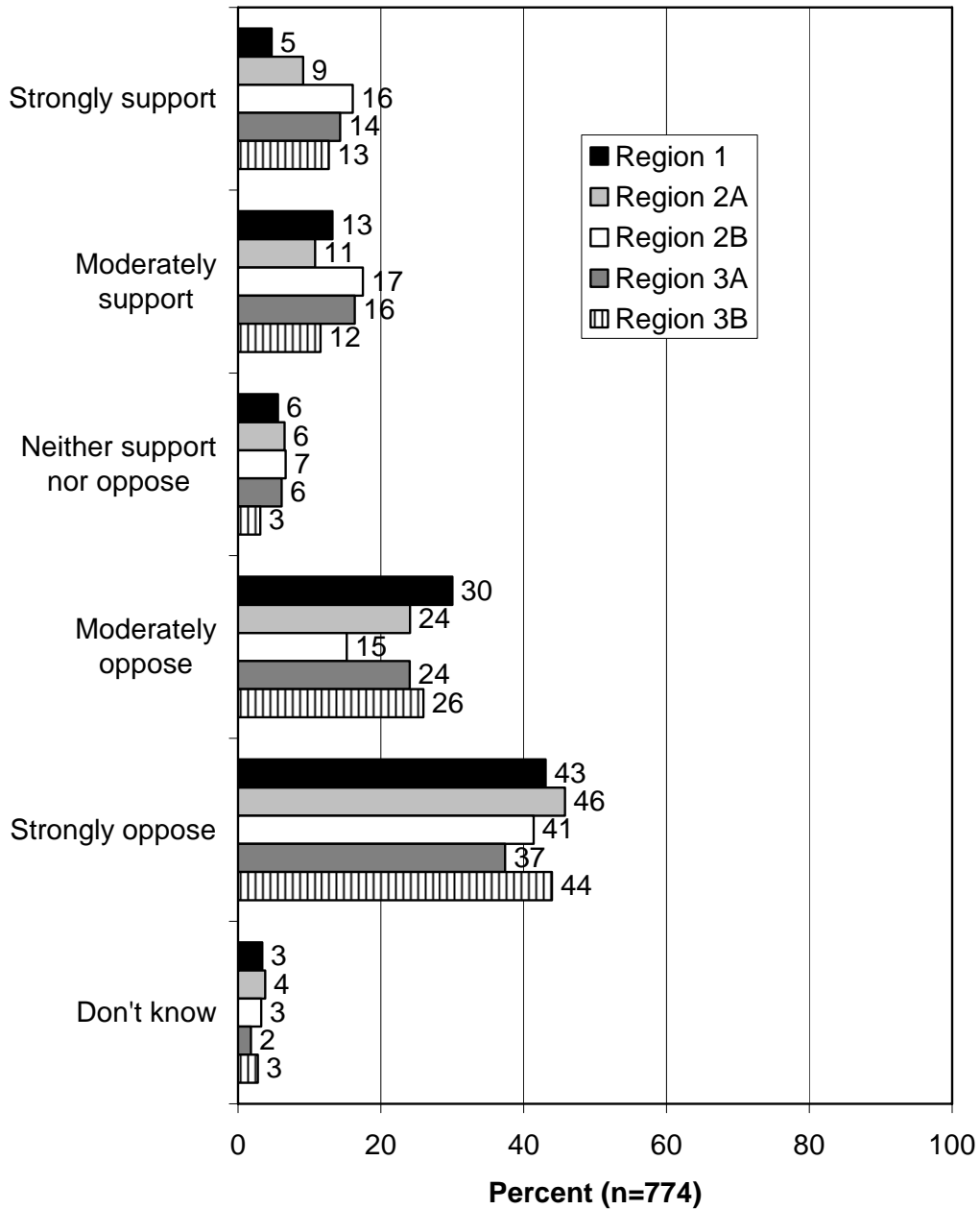
Q49. In your opinion, should the black bear population in your county be increased, remain the same, or be decreased?



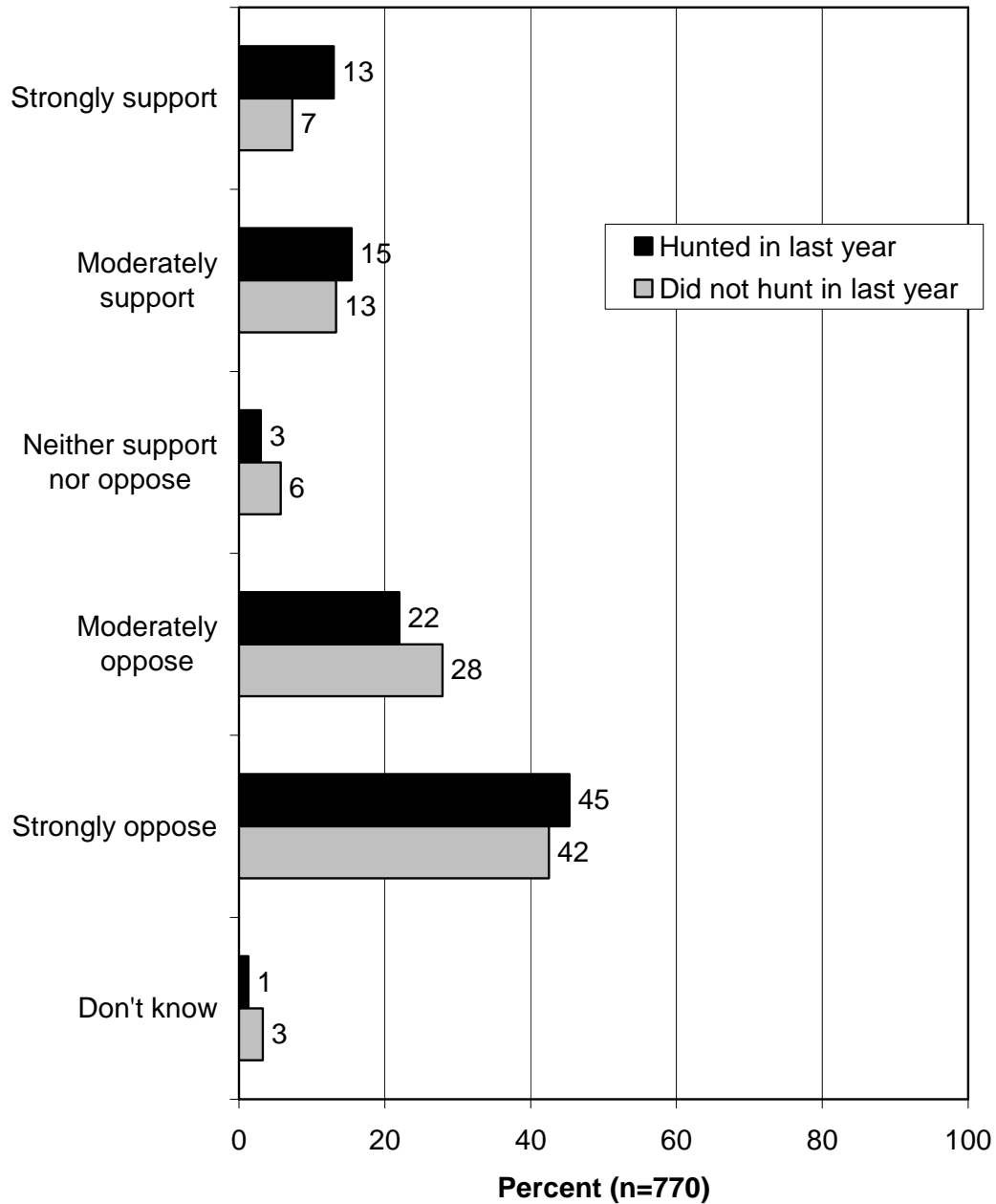
Q138. Do you support or oppose destroying a black bear that causes property damage to a home or building in a residential area?



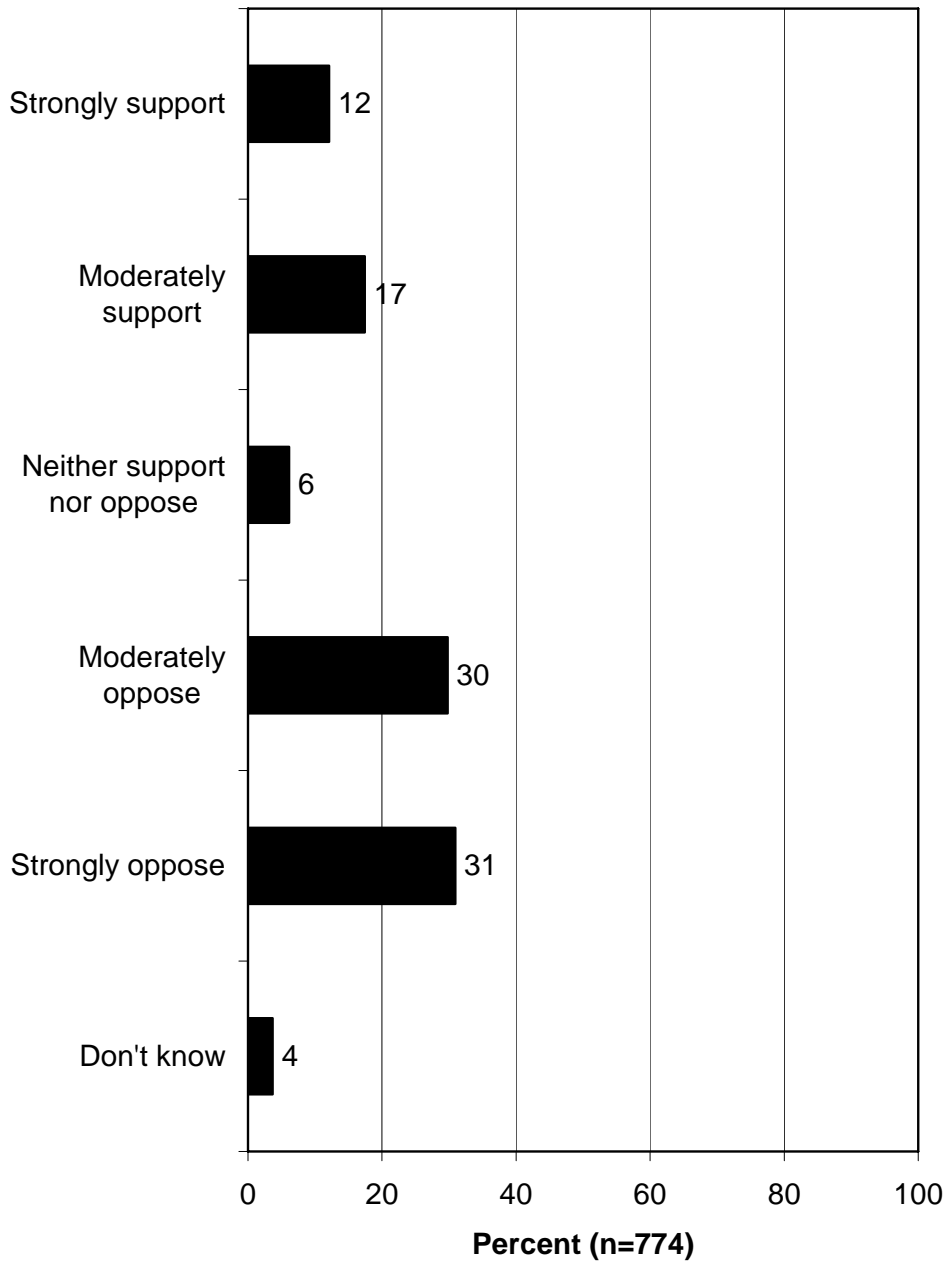
Q138. Do you support or oppose destroying a black bear that causes property damage to a home or building in a residential area?



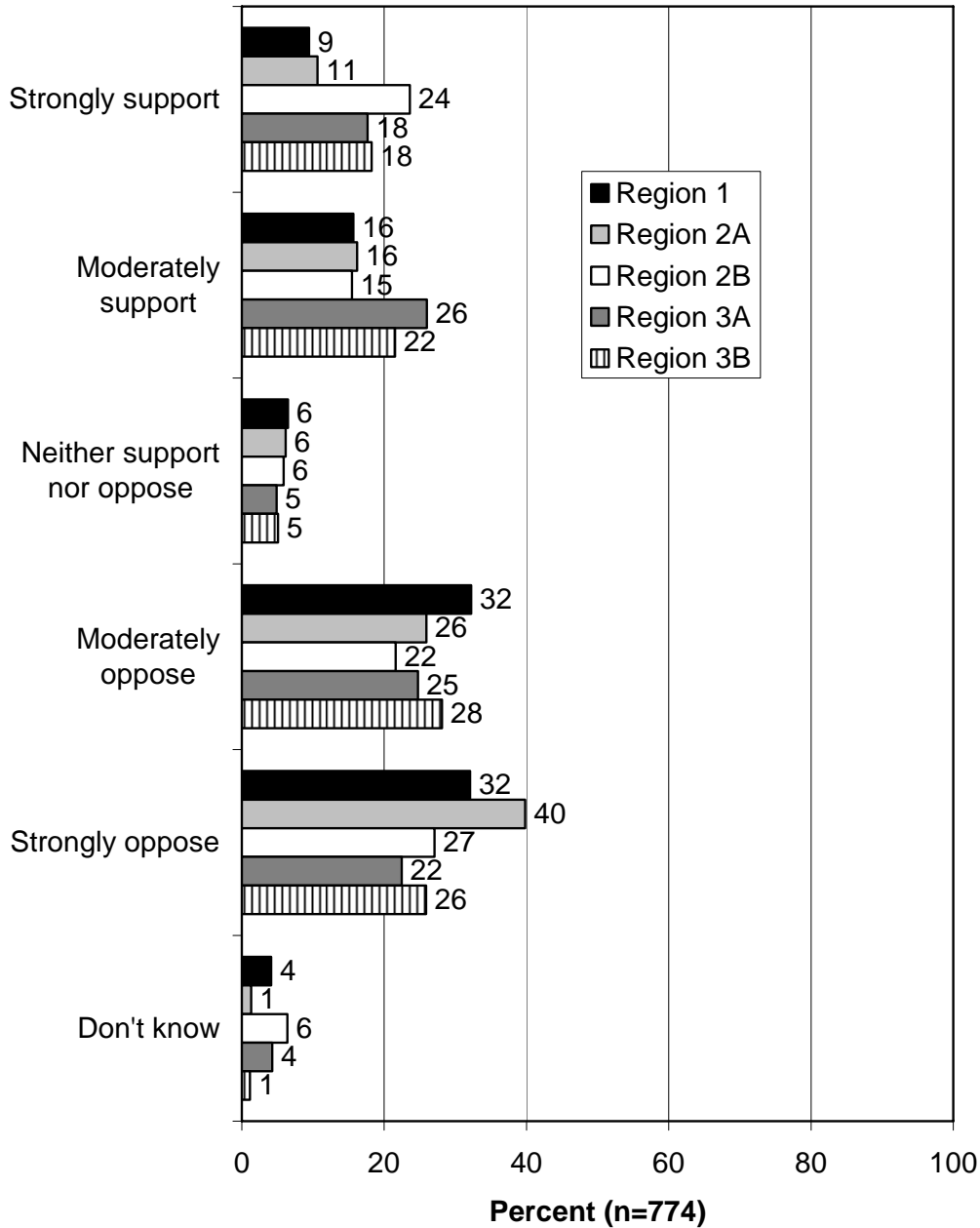
Q138. Do you support or oppose destroying a black bear that causes property damage to a home or building in a residential area?



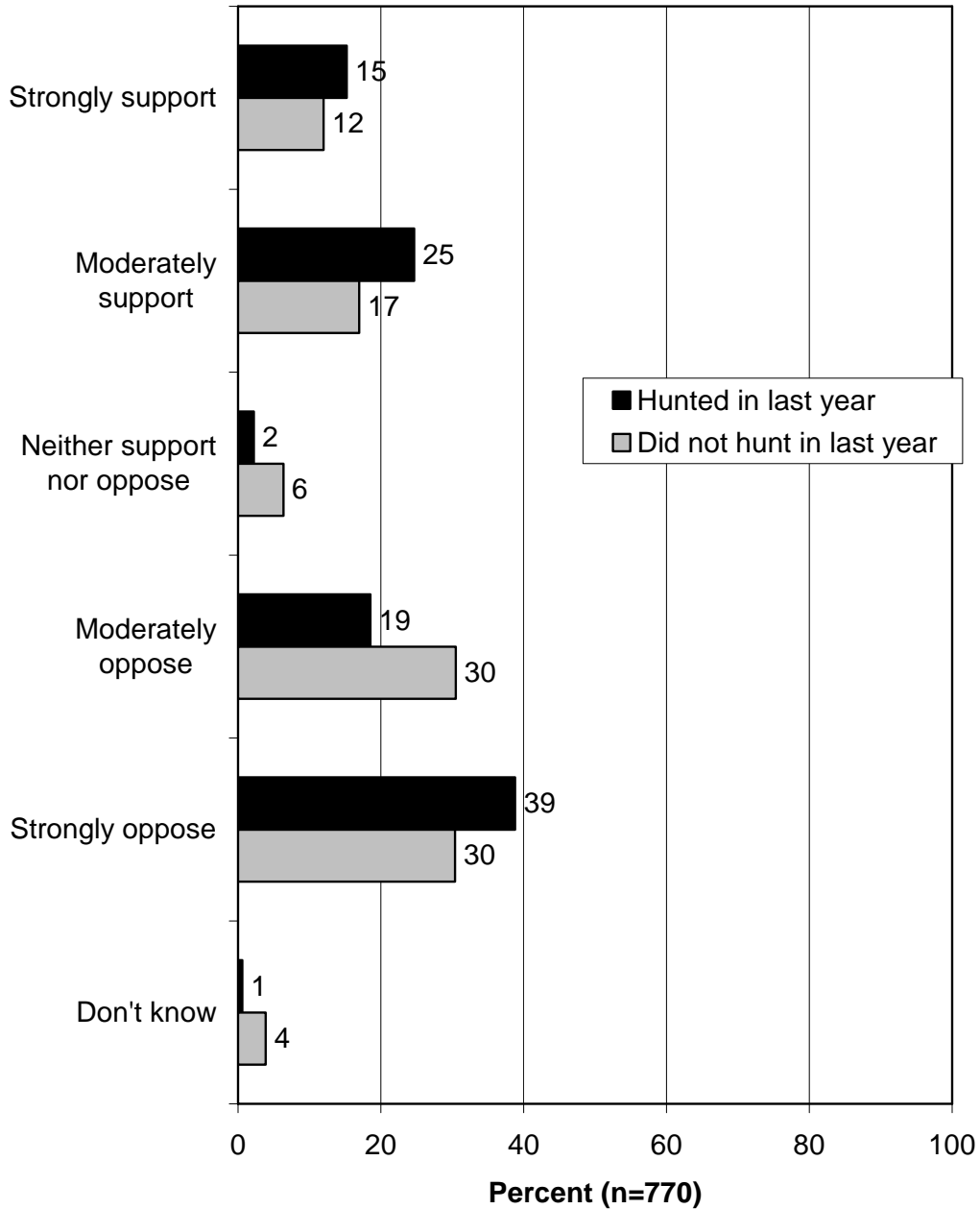
Q140. Do you support or oppose destroying a black bear that causes agricultural damage to crops or livestock?



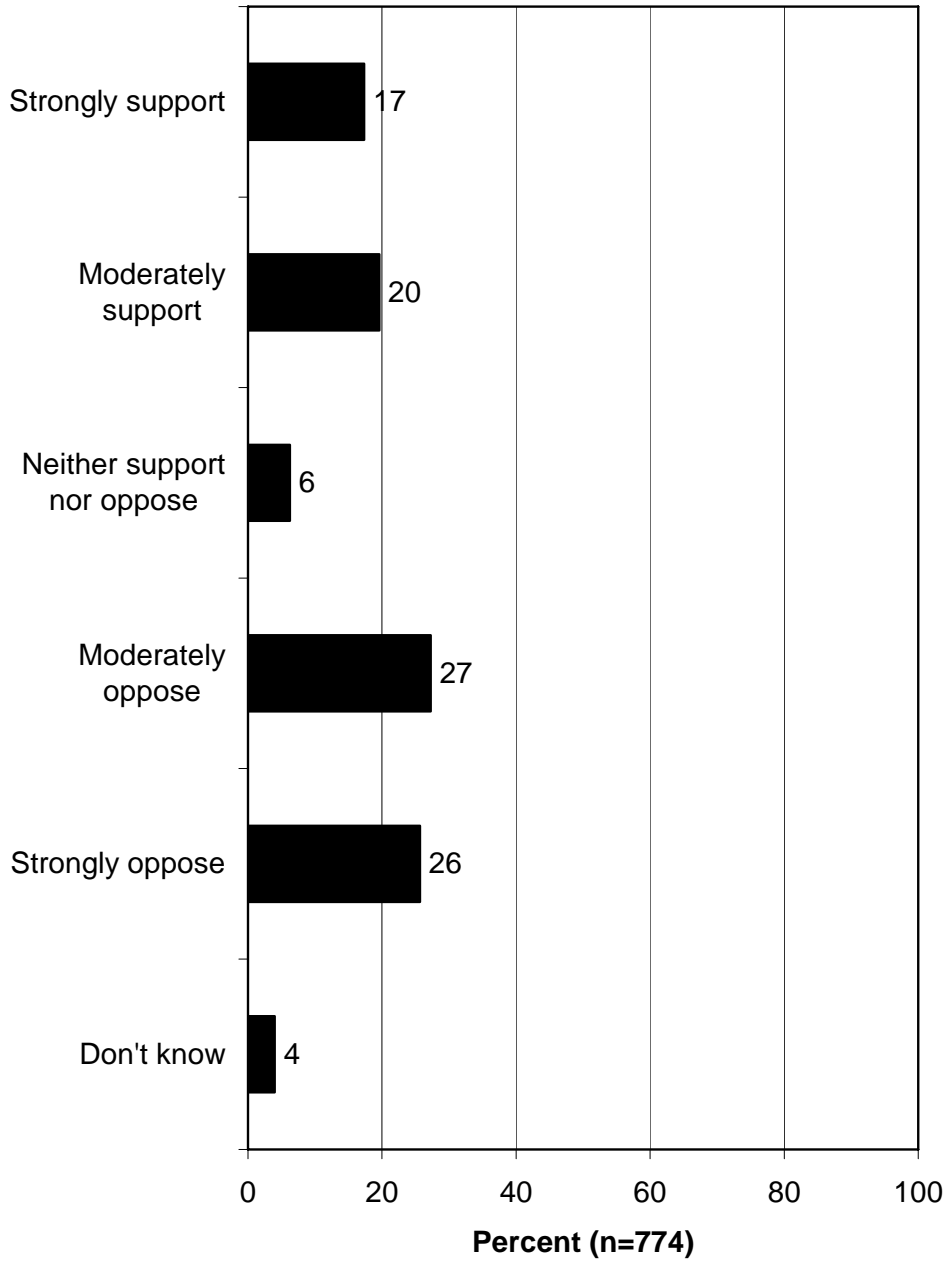
Q140. Do you support or oppose destroying a black bear that causes agricultural damage to crops or livestock?



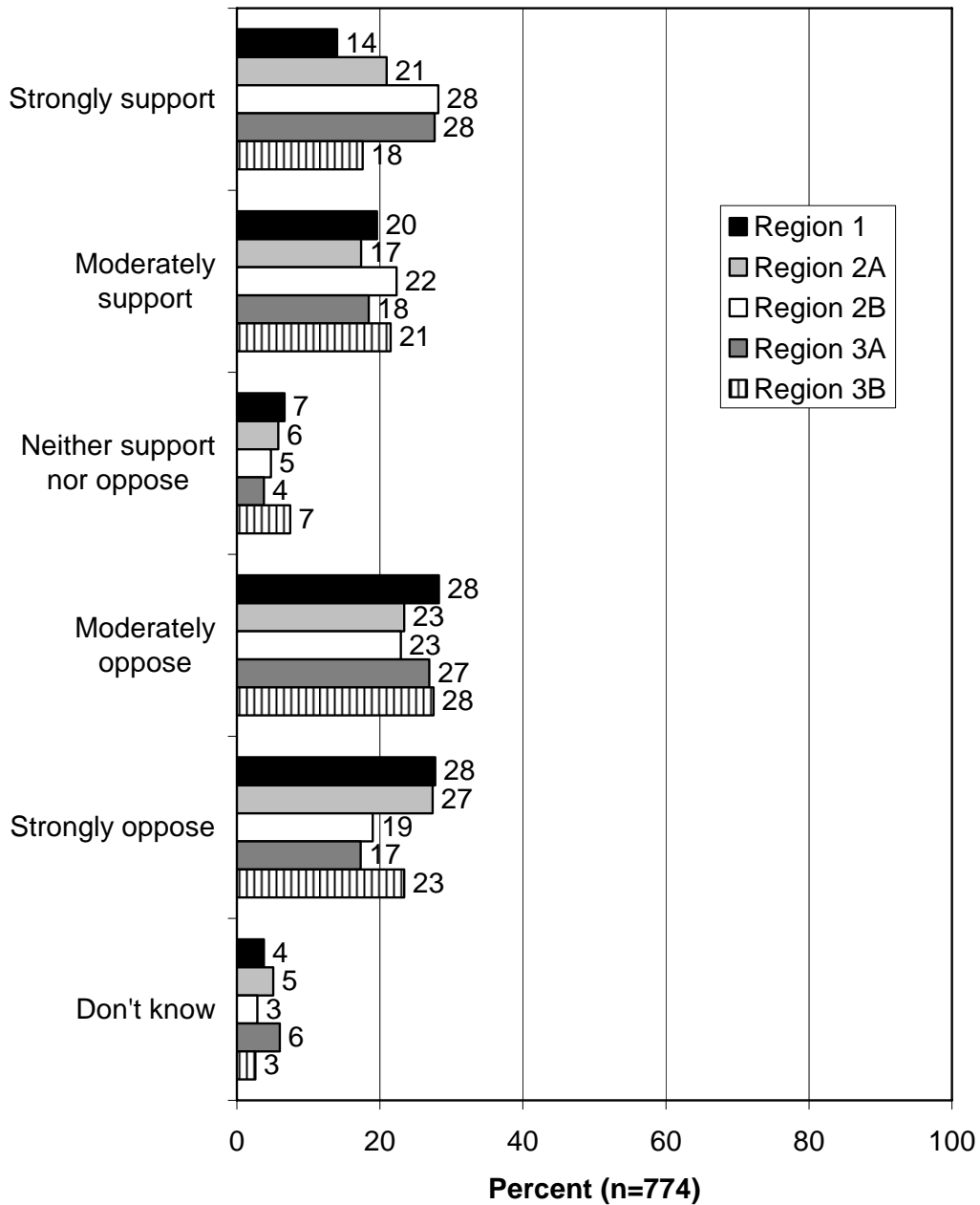
Q140. Do you support or oppose destroying a black bear that causes agricultural damage to crops or livestock?



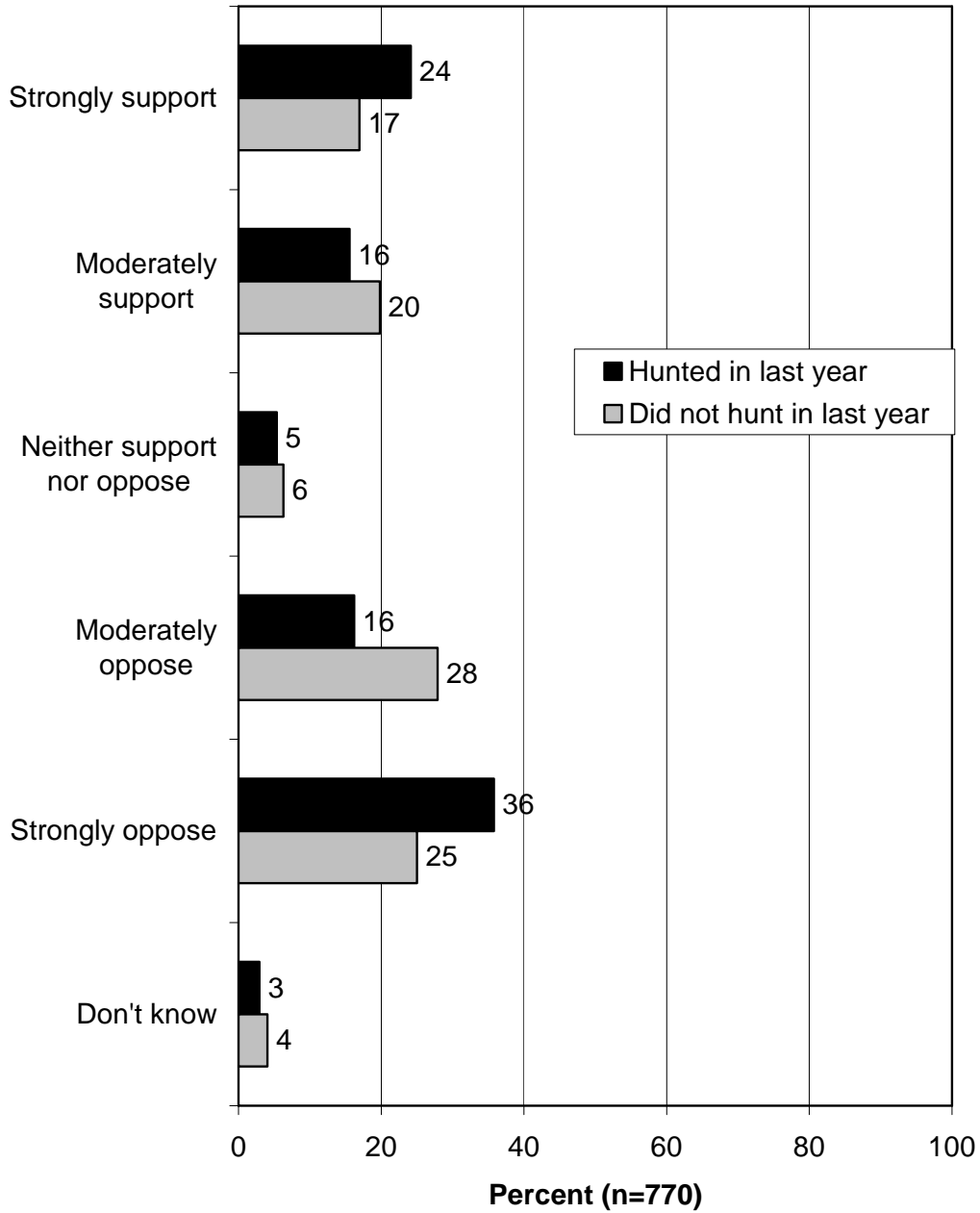
Q139. Do you support or oppose destroying a black bear that harms a pet?



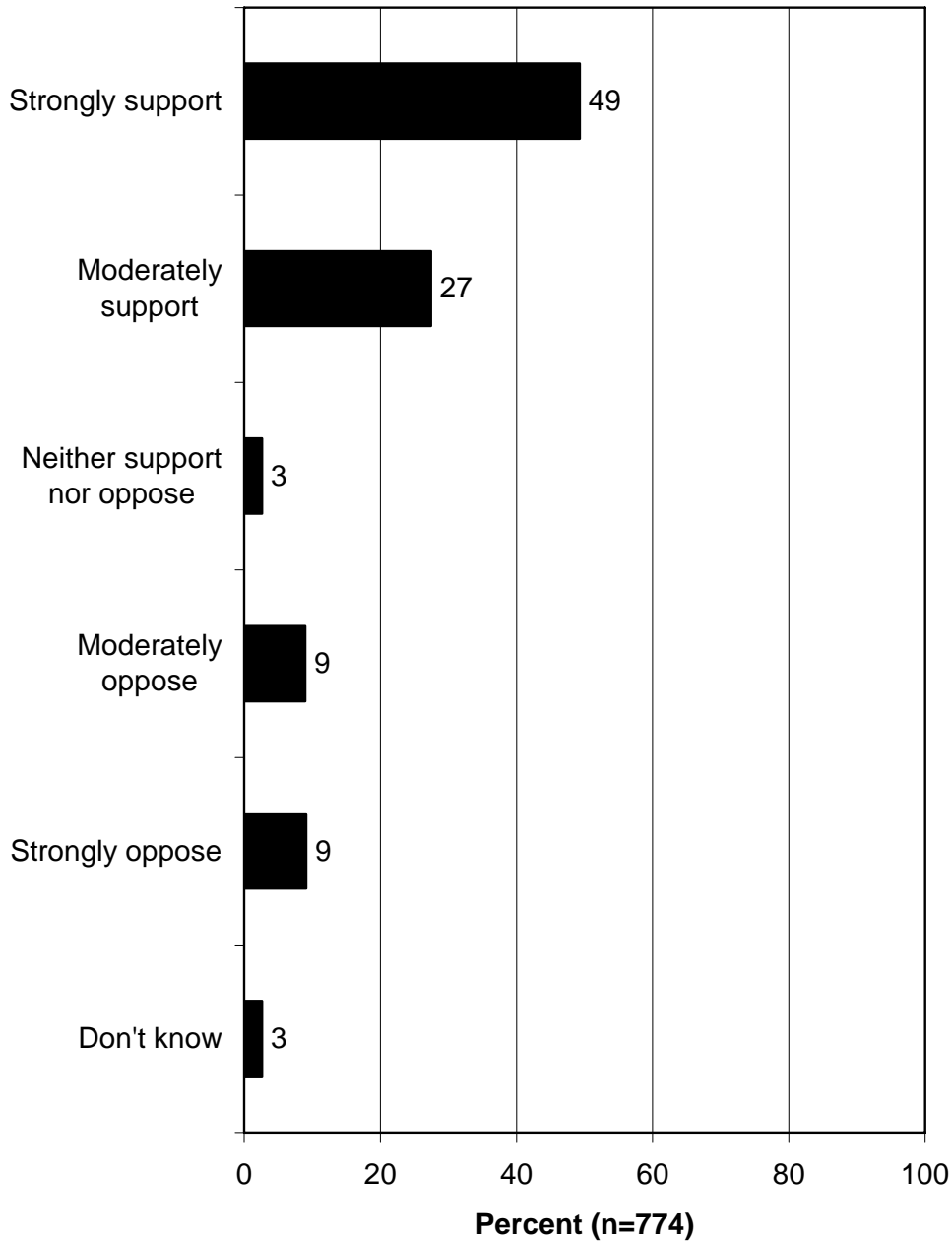
Q139. Do you support or oppose destroying a black bear that harms a pet?



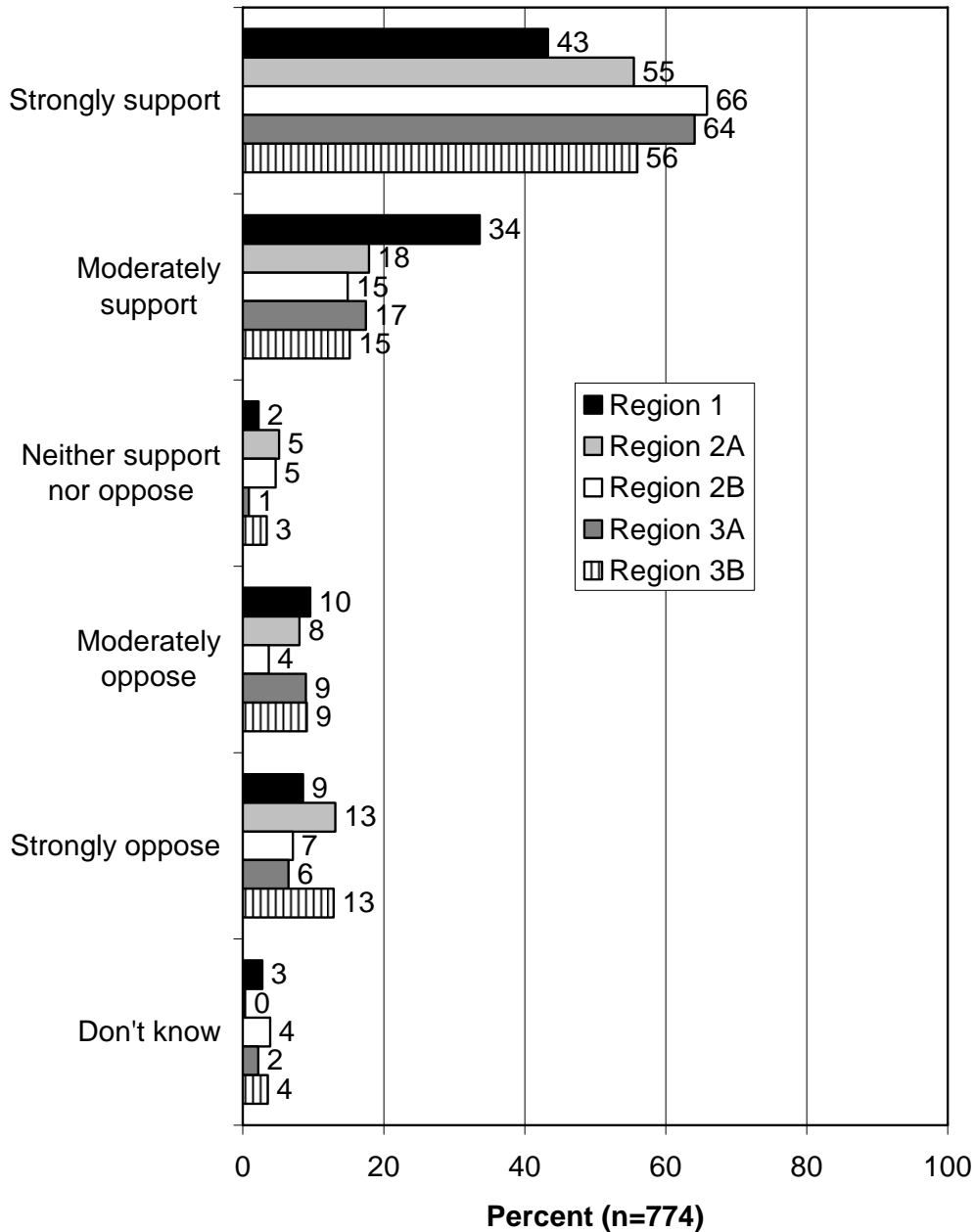
Q139. Do you support or oppose destroying a black bear that harms a pet?



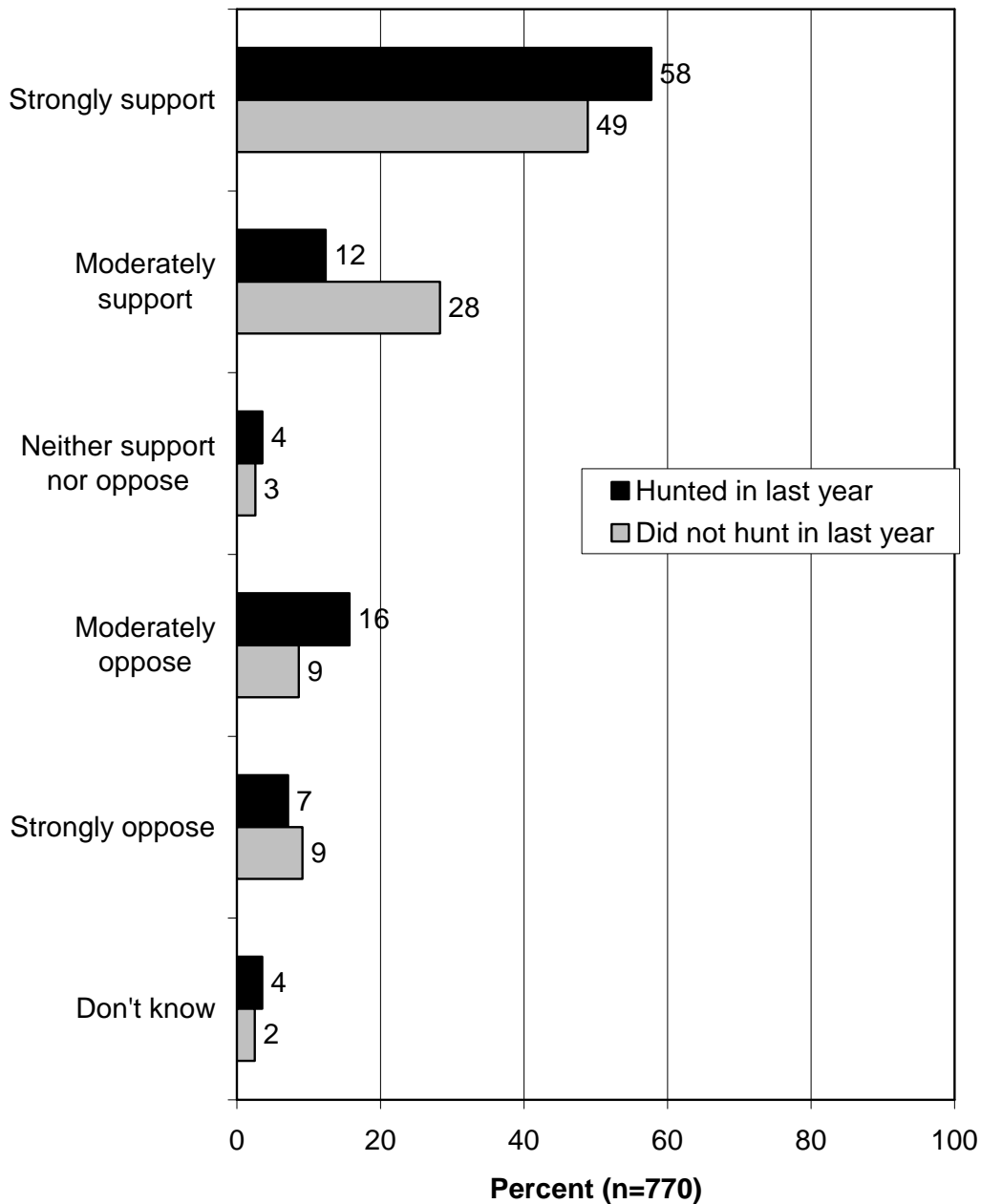
Q141. Do you support or oppose destroying a black bear that Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries biologists have determined is aggressive toward humans?



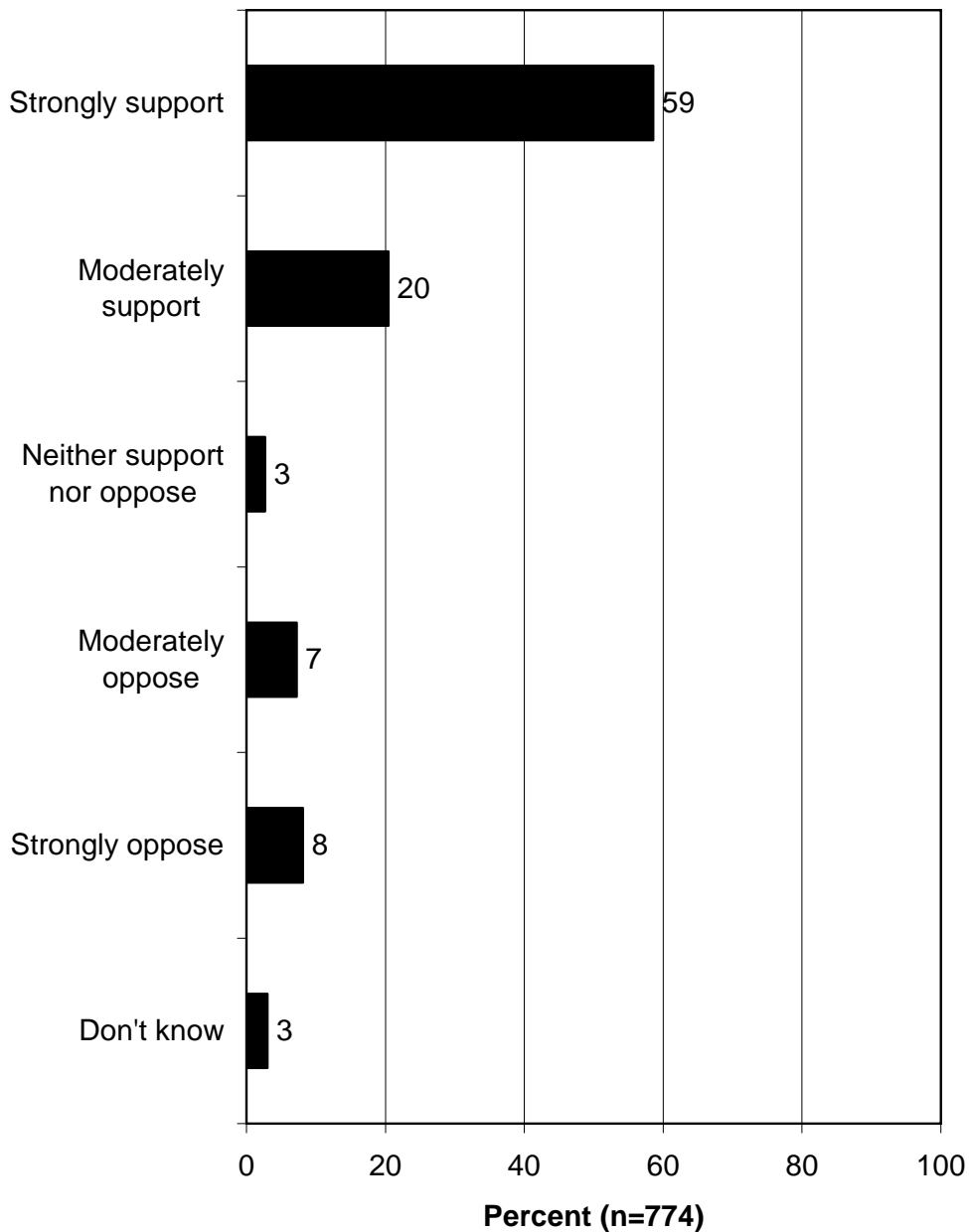
Q141. Do you support or oppose destroying a black bear that Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries biologists have determined is aggressive toward humans?



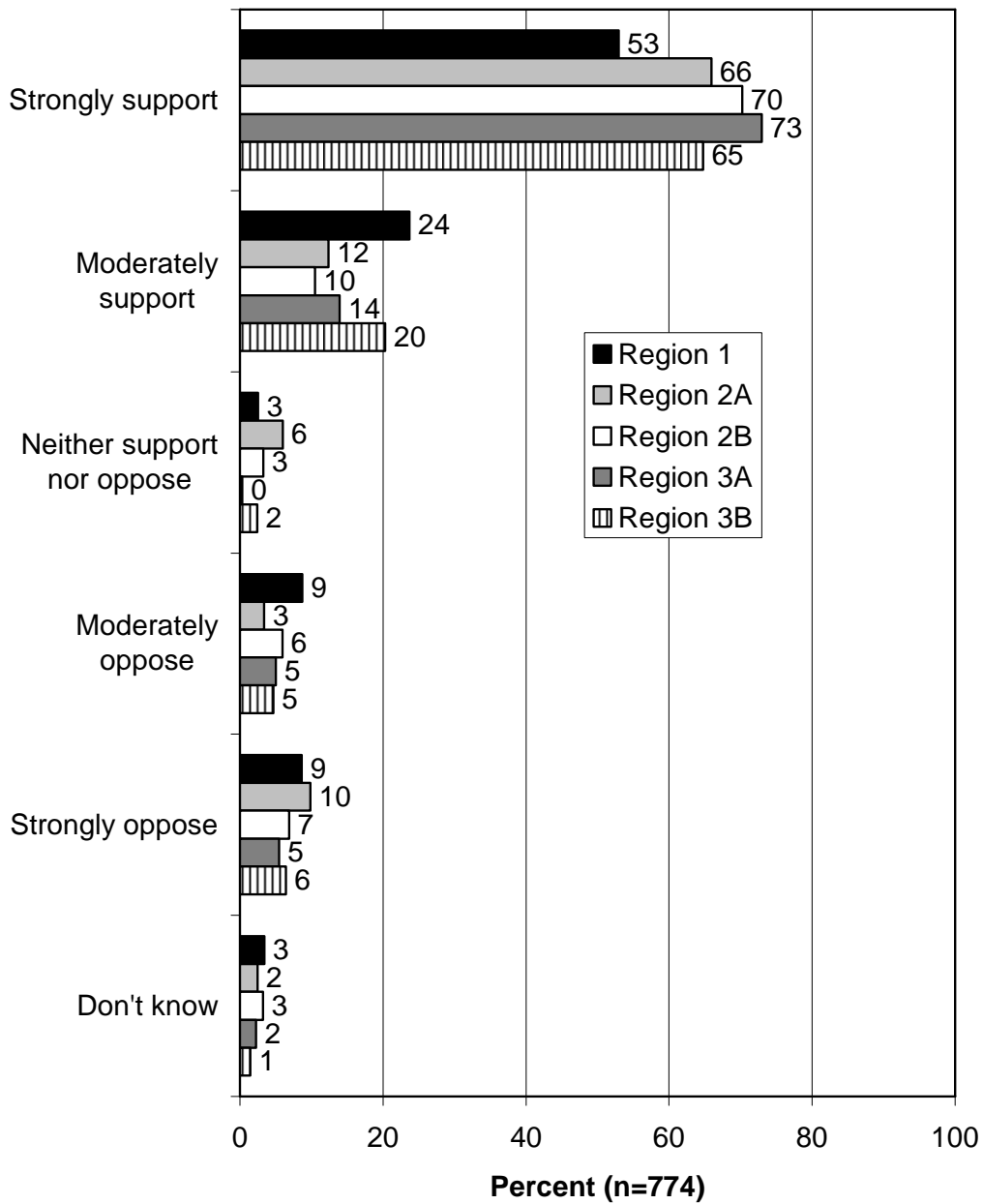
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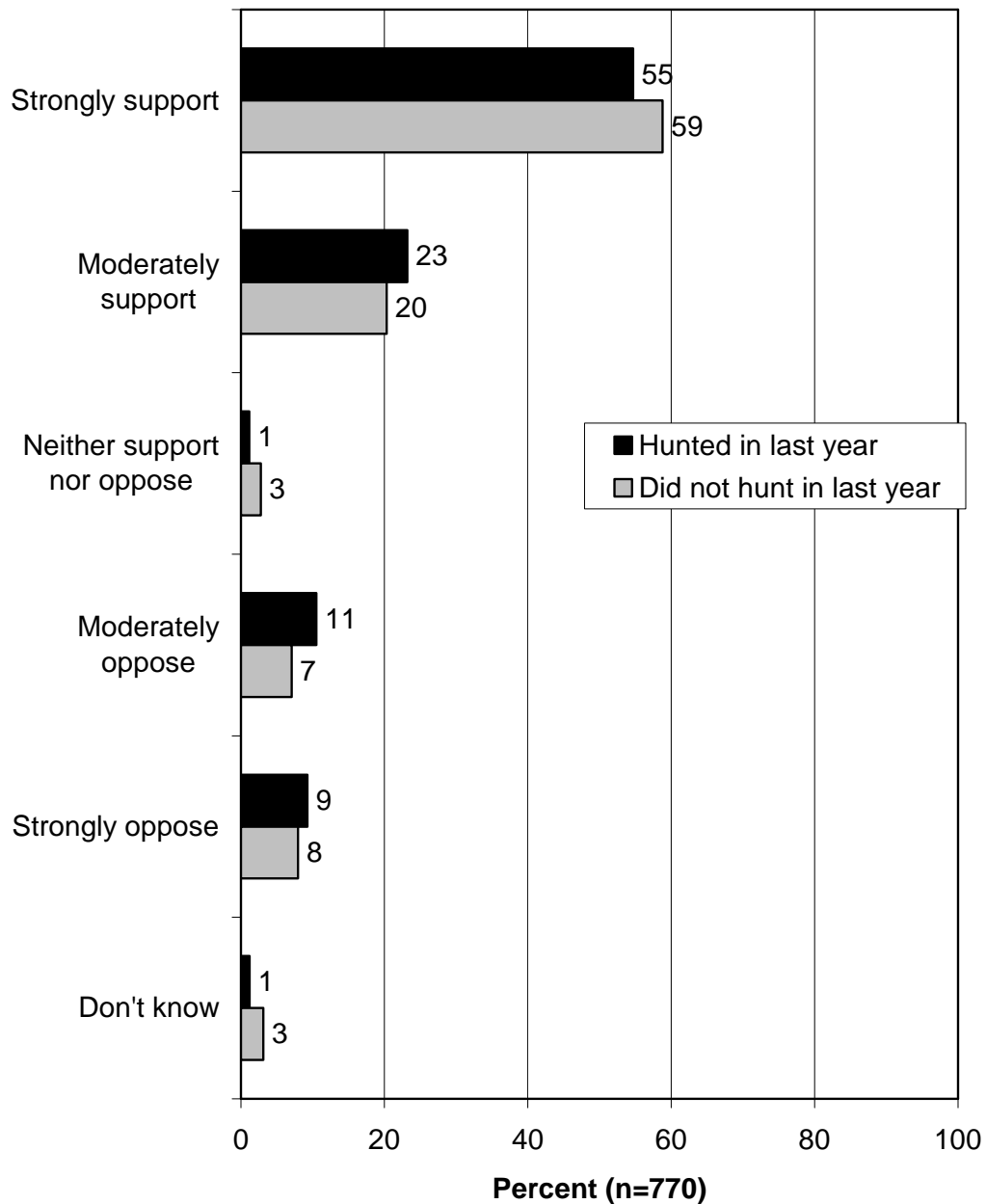
Q142. Do you support or oppose destroying a black bear that attacks a human unprovoked, meaning the bear attacks without a human intentionally scaring, threatening, or irritating the bear?



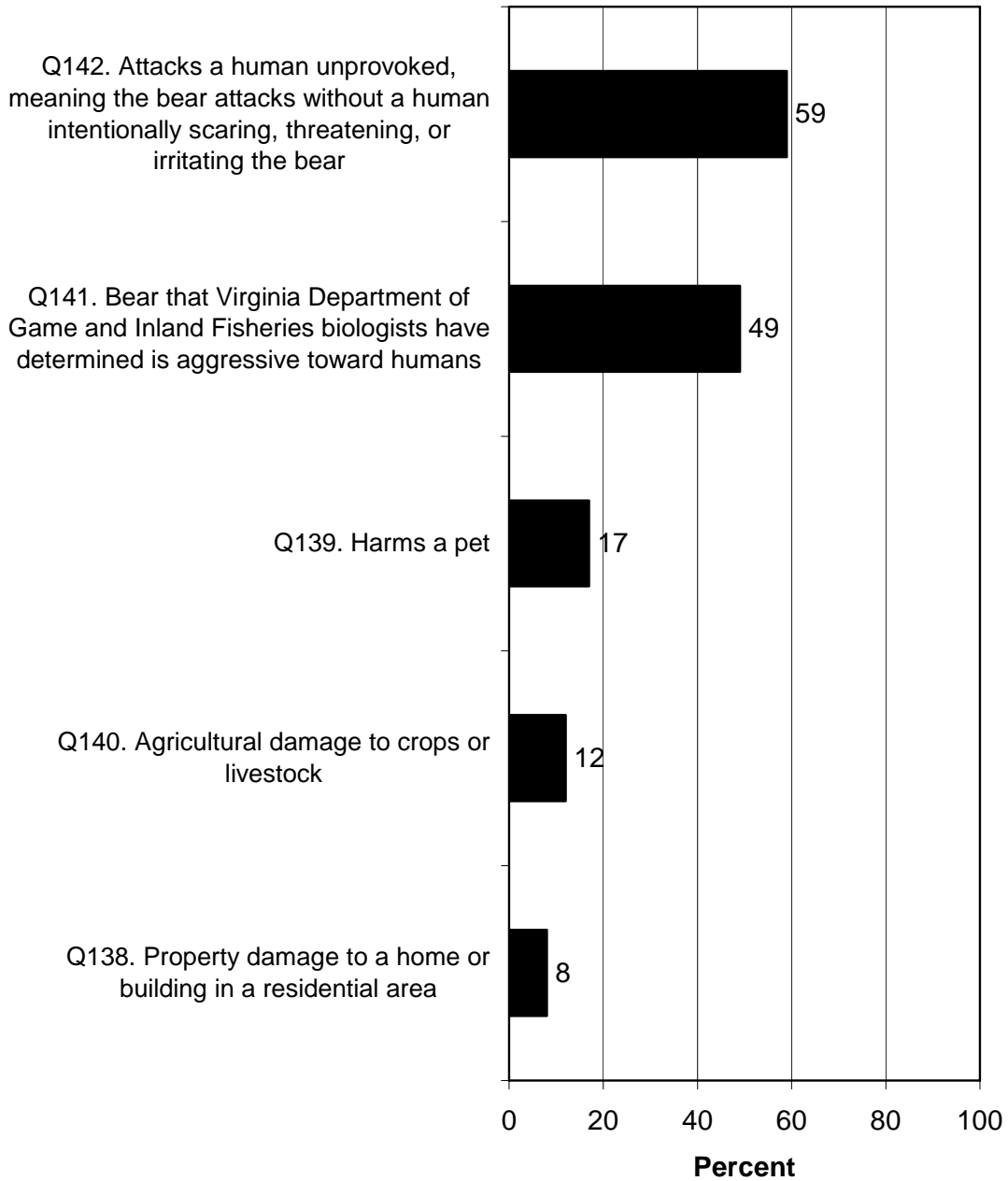
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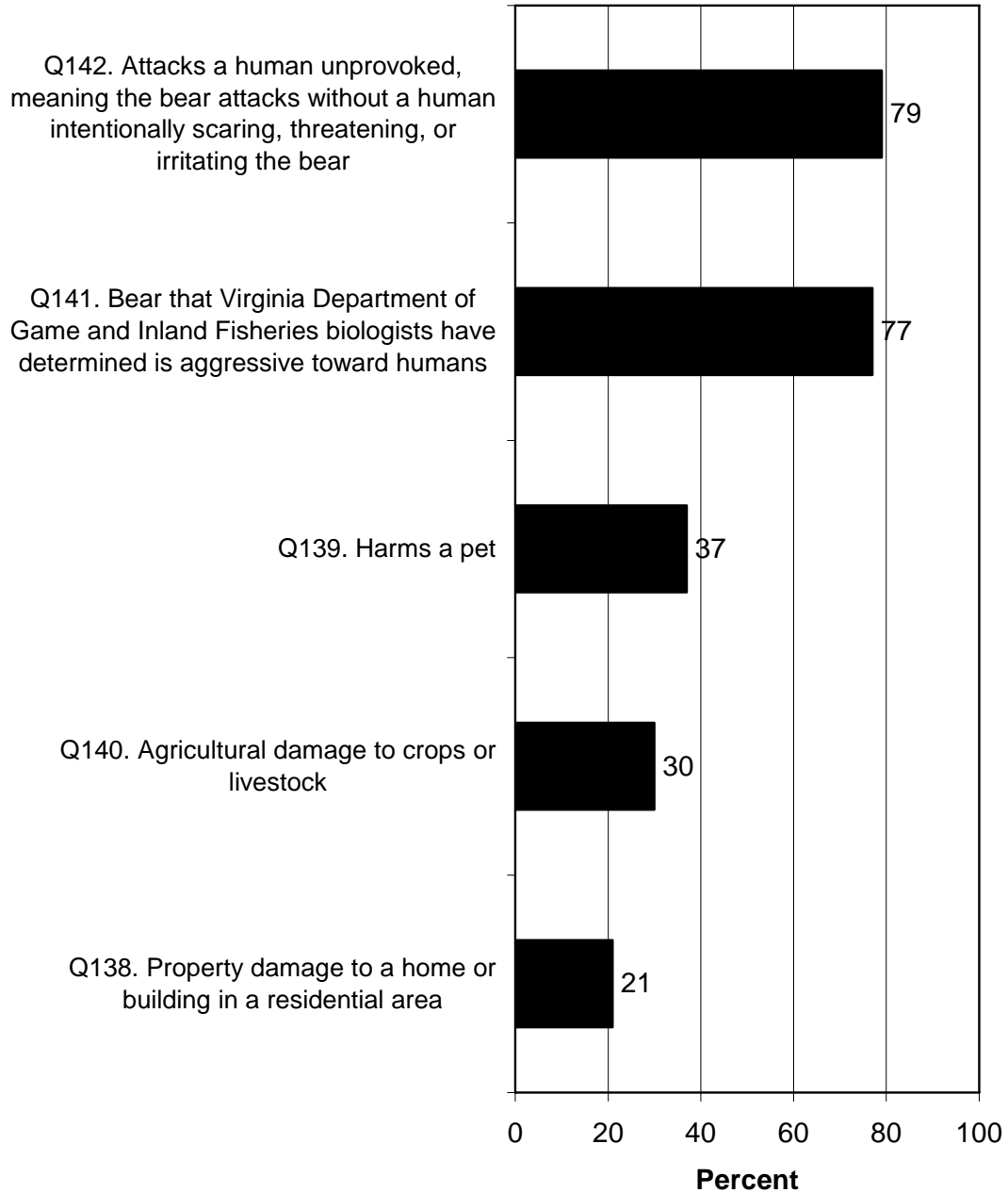
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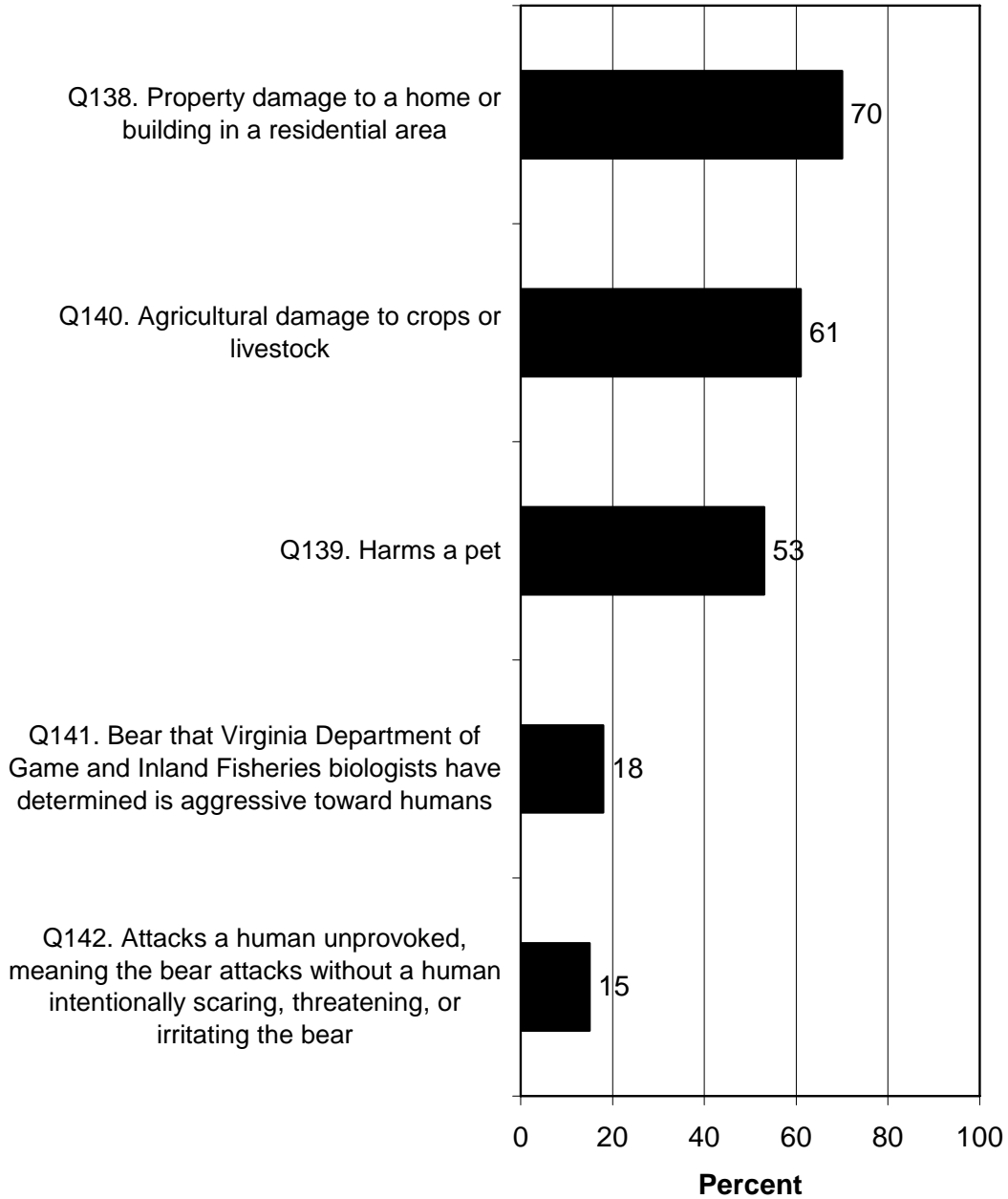
Percent who strongly support destroying a black bear in each of the following situations.



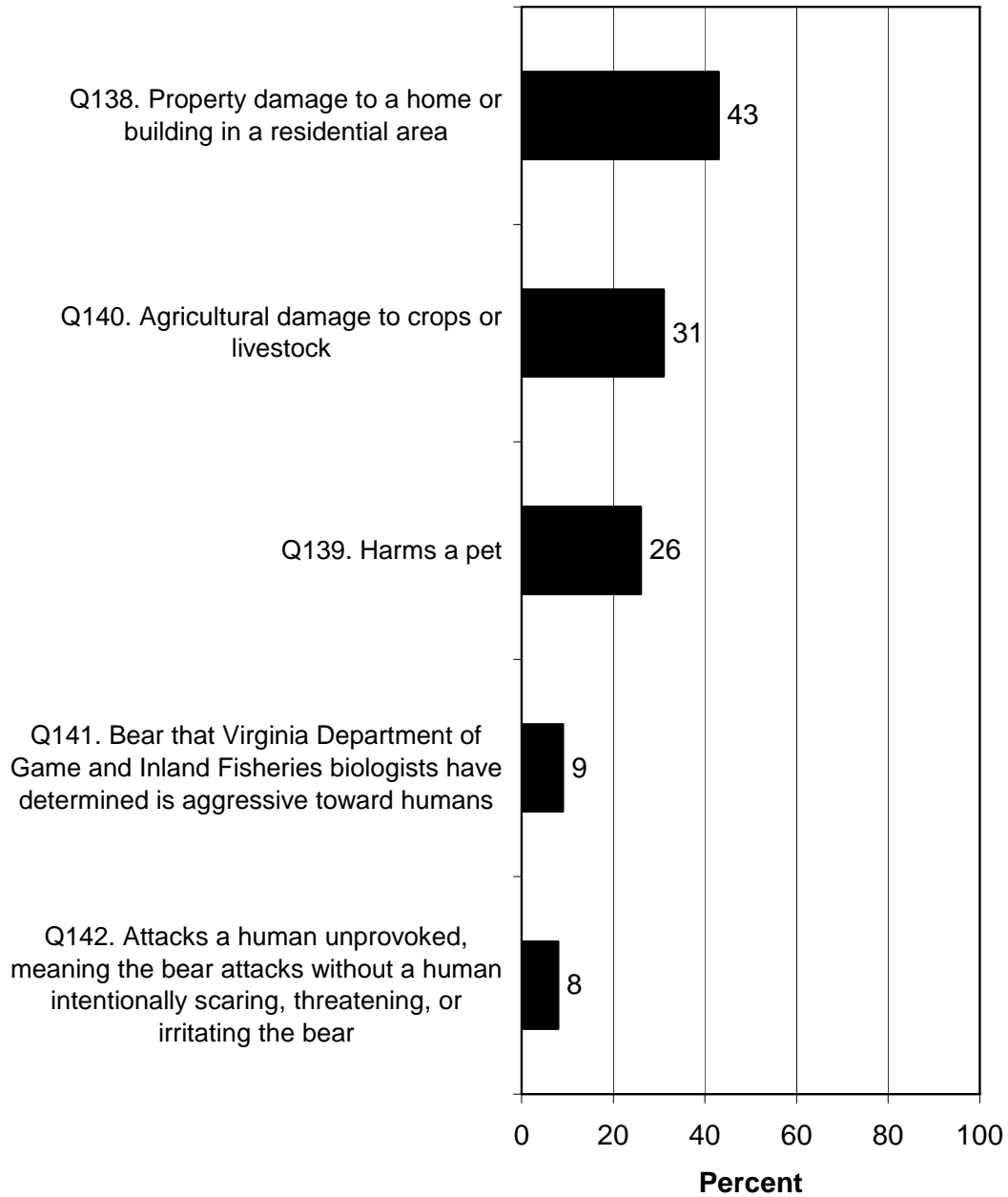
**Percent who strongly or moderately support
destroying a black bear in each of the following
situations.**



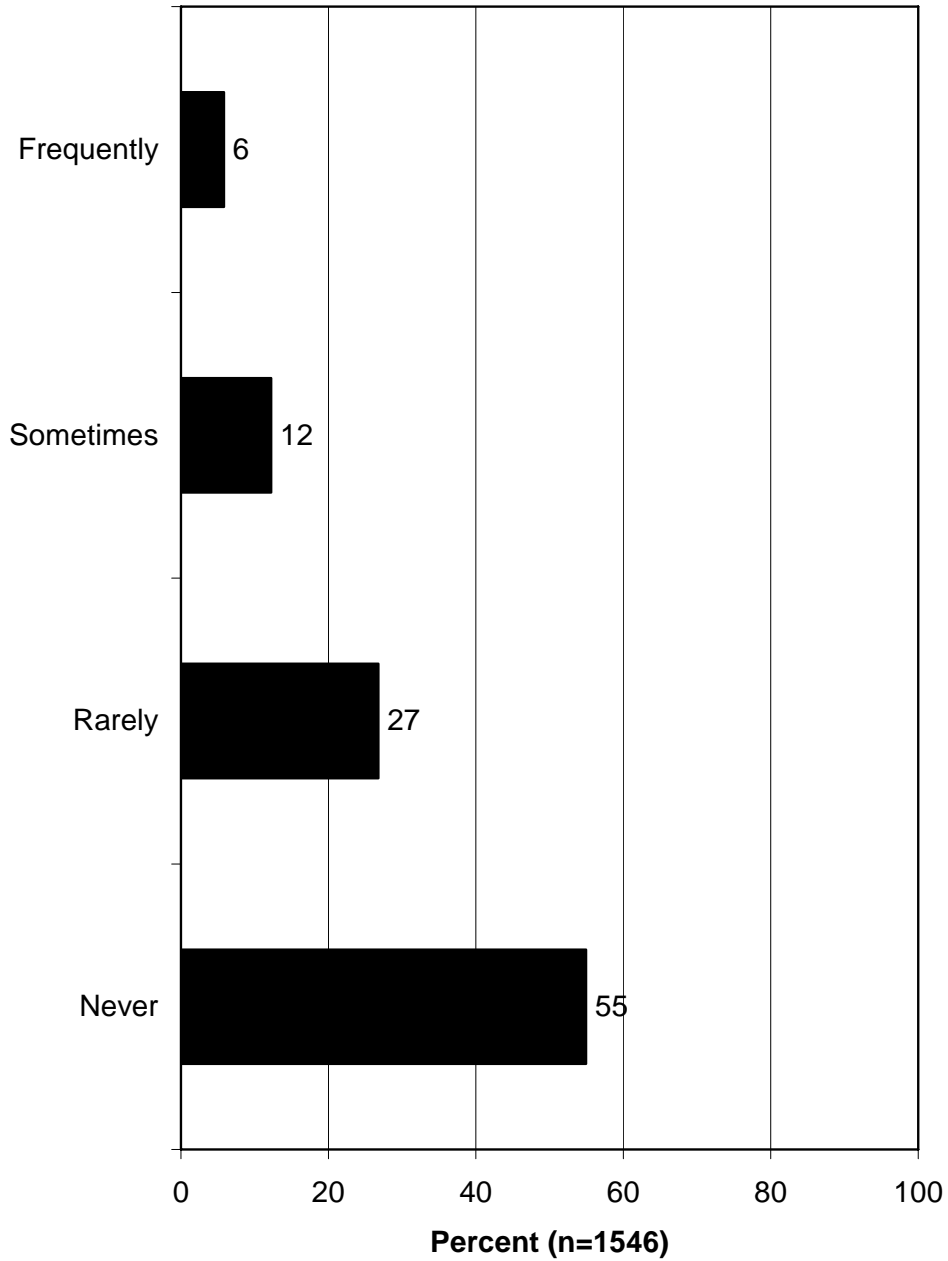
Percent who strongly or moderately oppose destroying a black bear in each of the following situations.



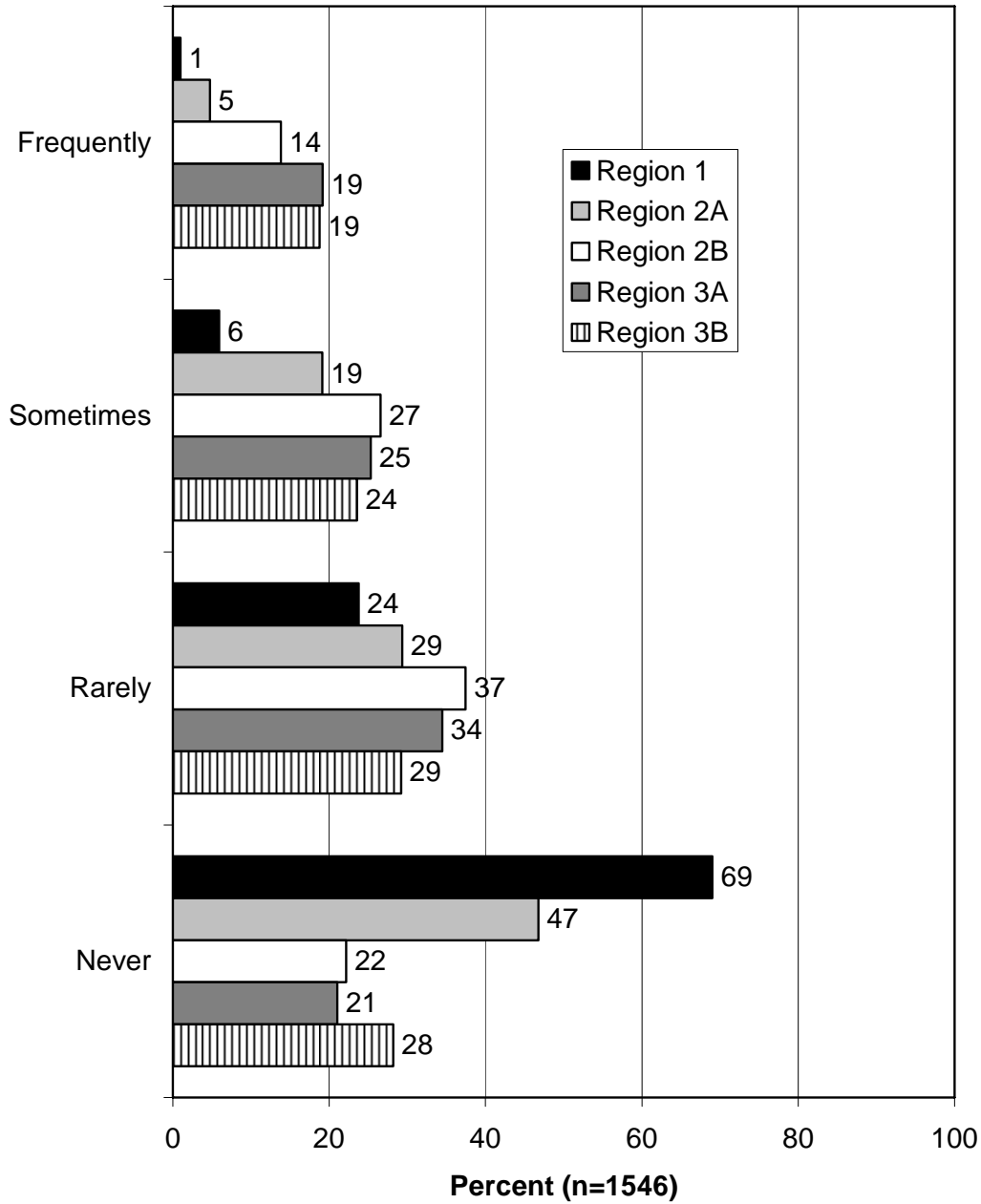
Percent who strongly oppose destroying a black bear in each of the following situations.



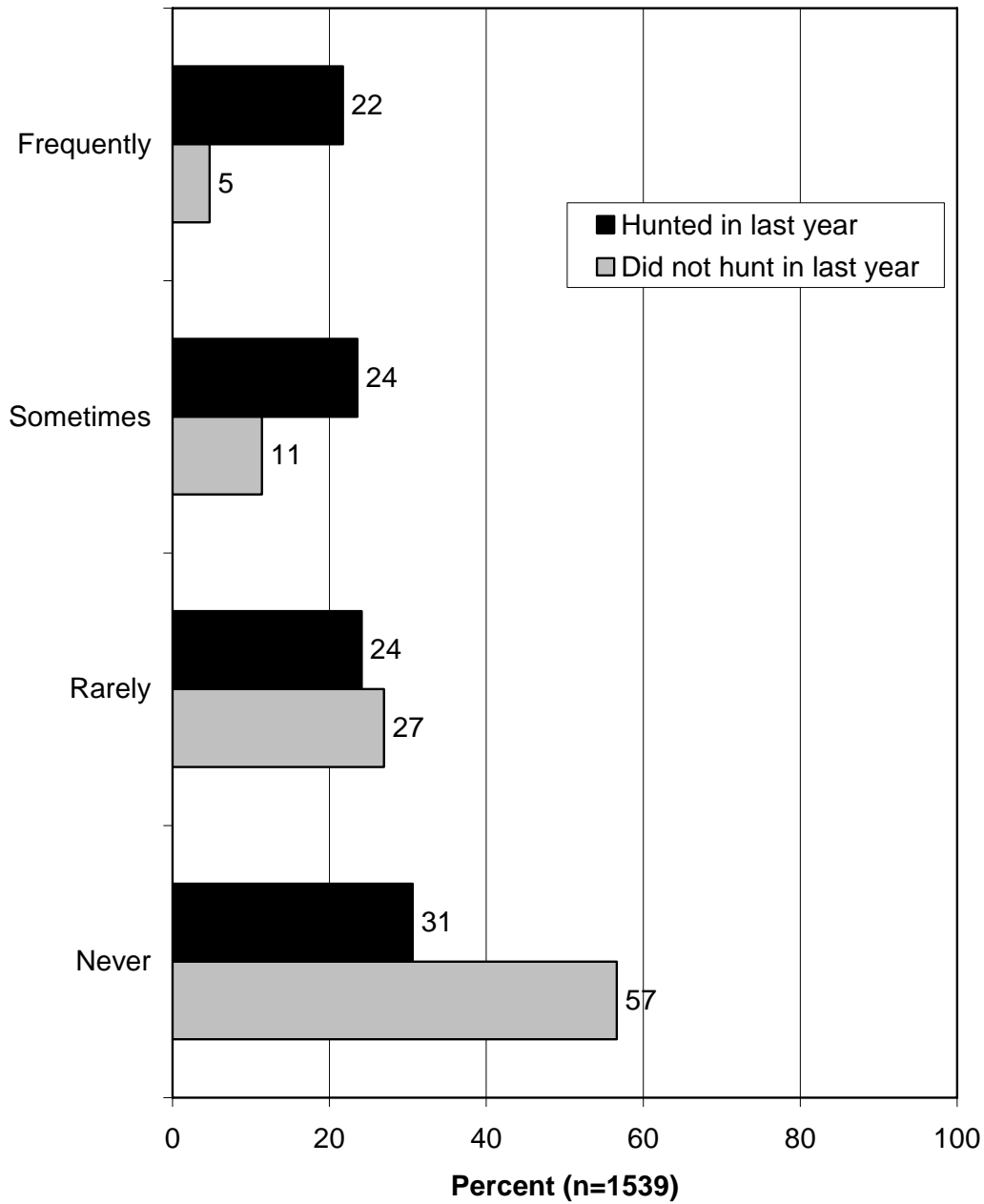
Q90. How often do you see or hear about black bears in your neighborhood?



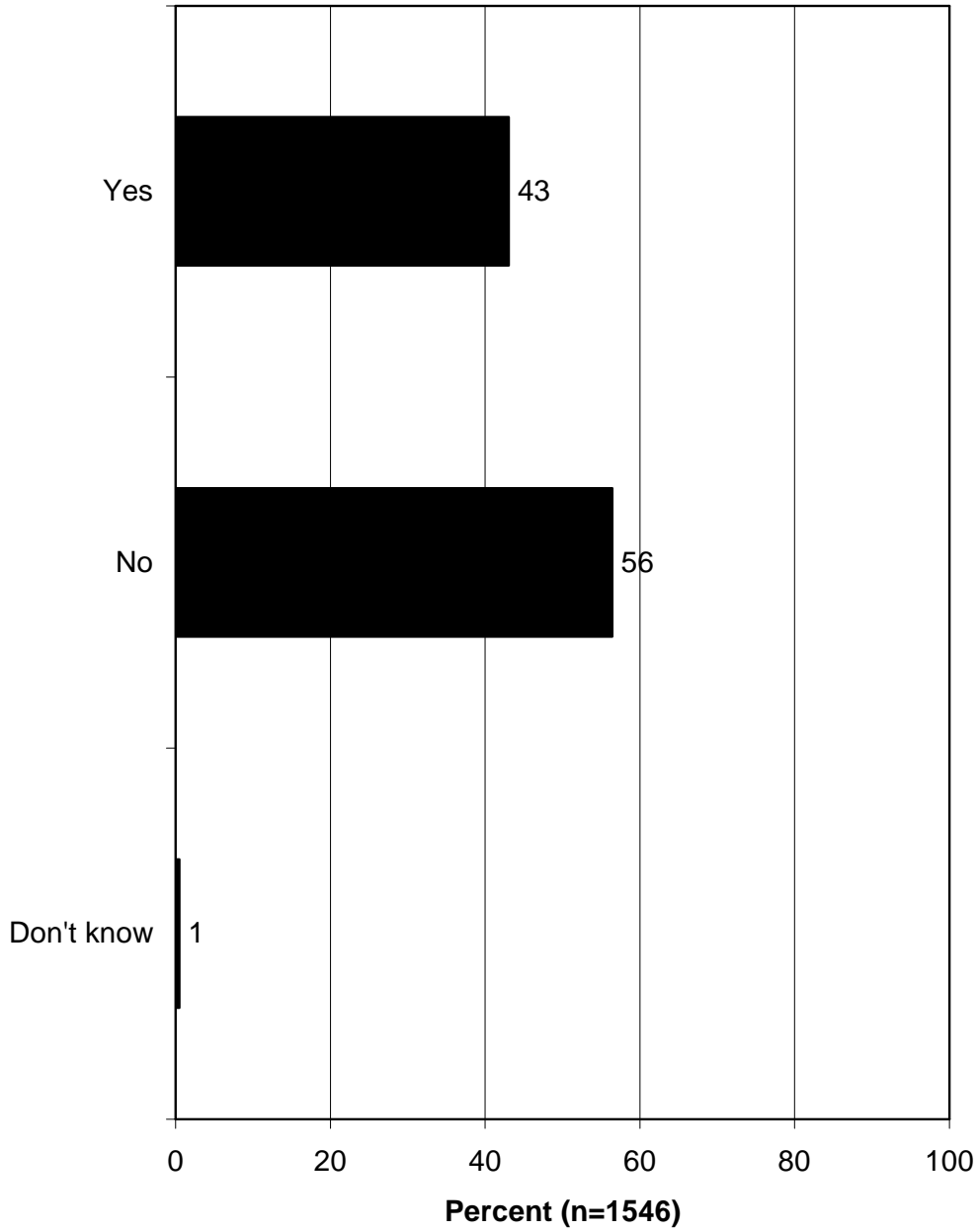
Q90. How often do you see or hear about black bears in your neighborhood?



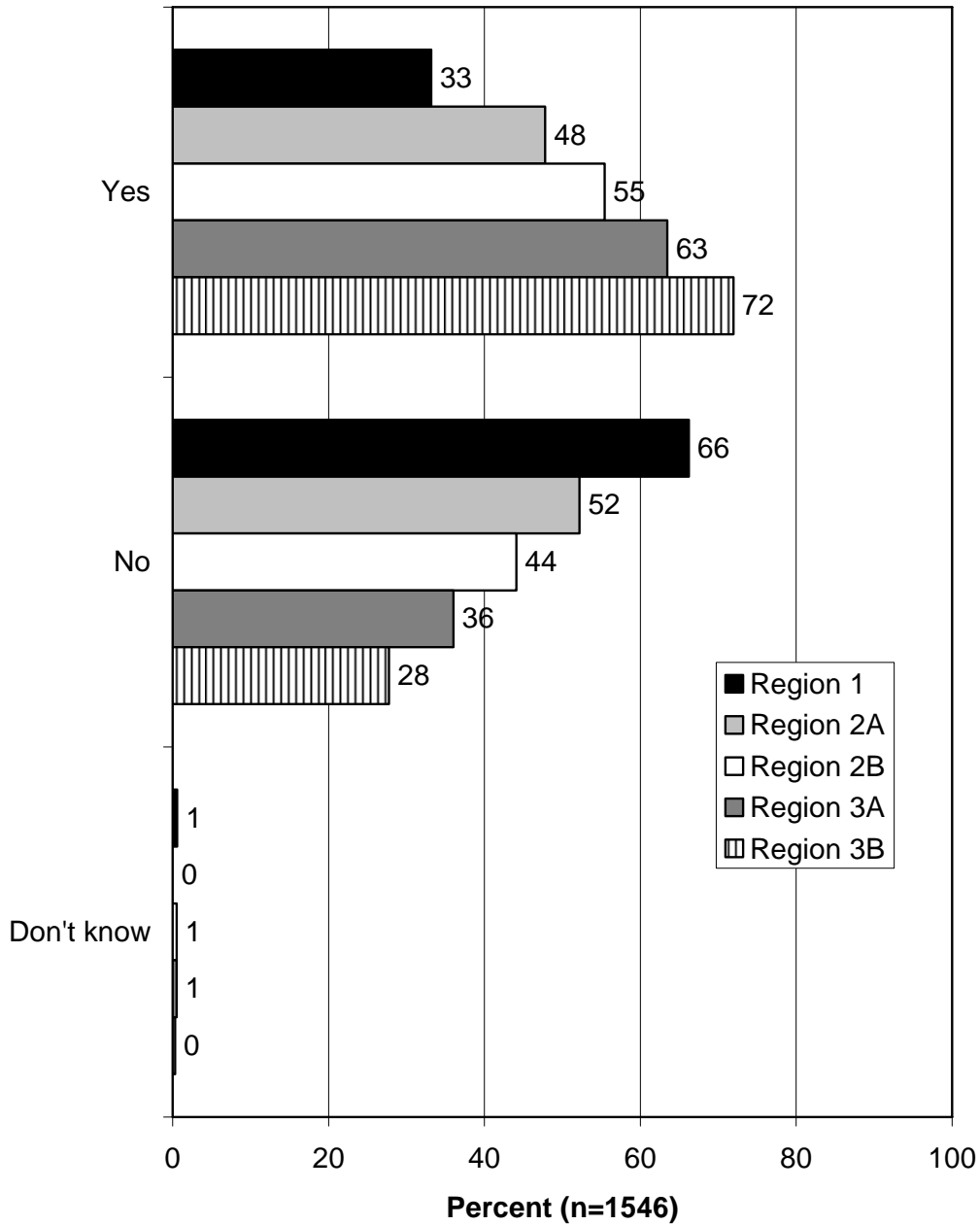
Q90. How often do you see or hear about black bears in your neighborhood?



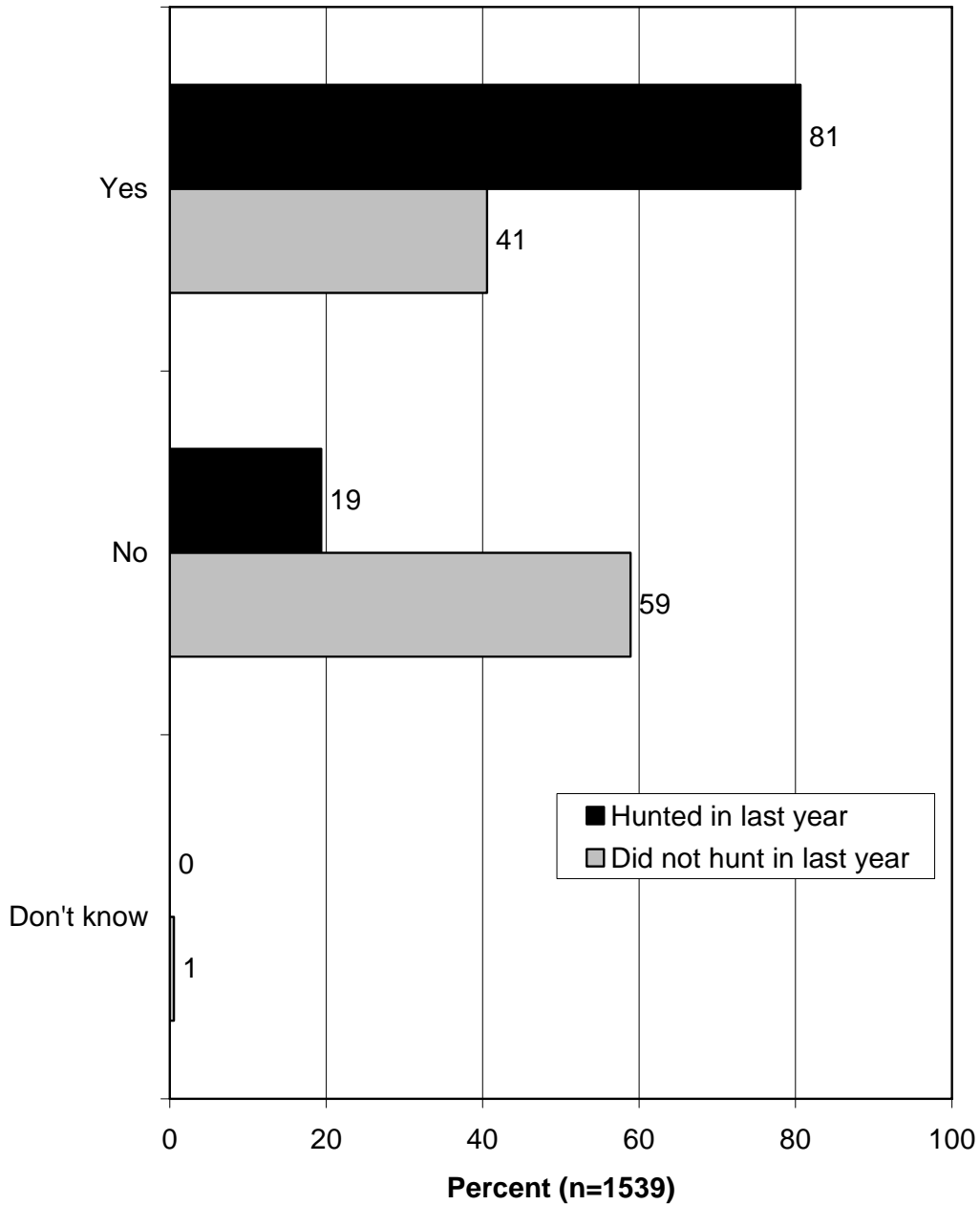
Q92. Have you personally ever seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia?



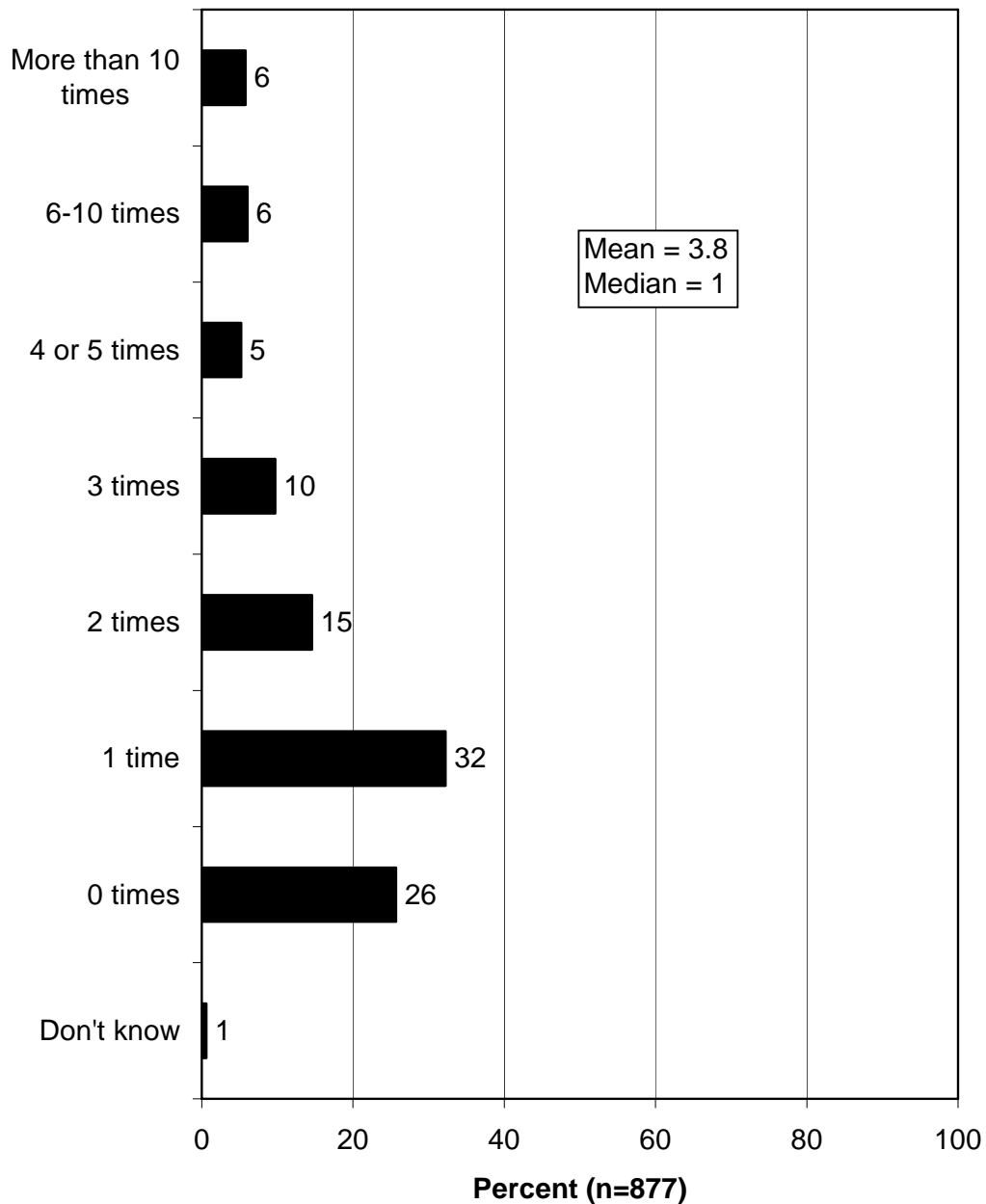
Q92. Have you personally ever seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia?



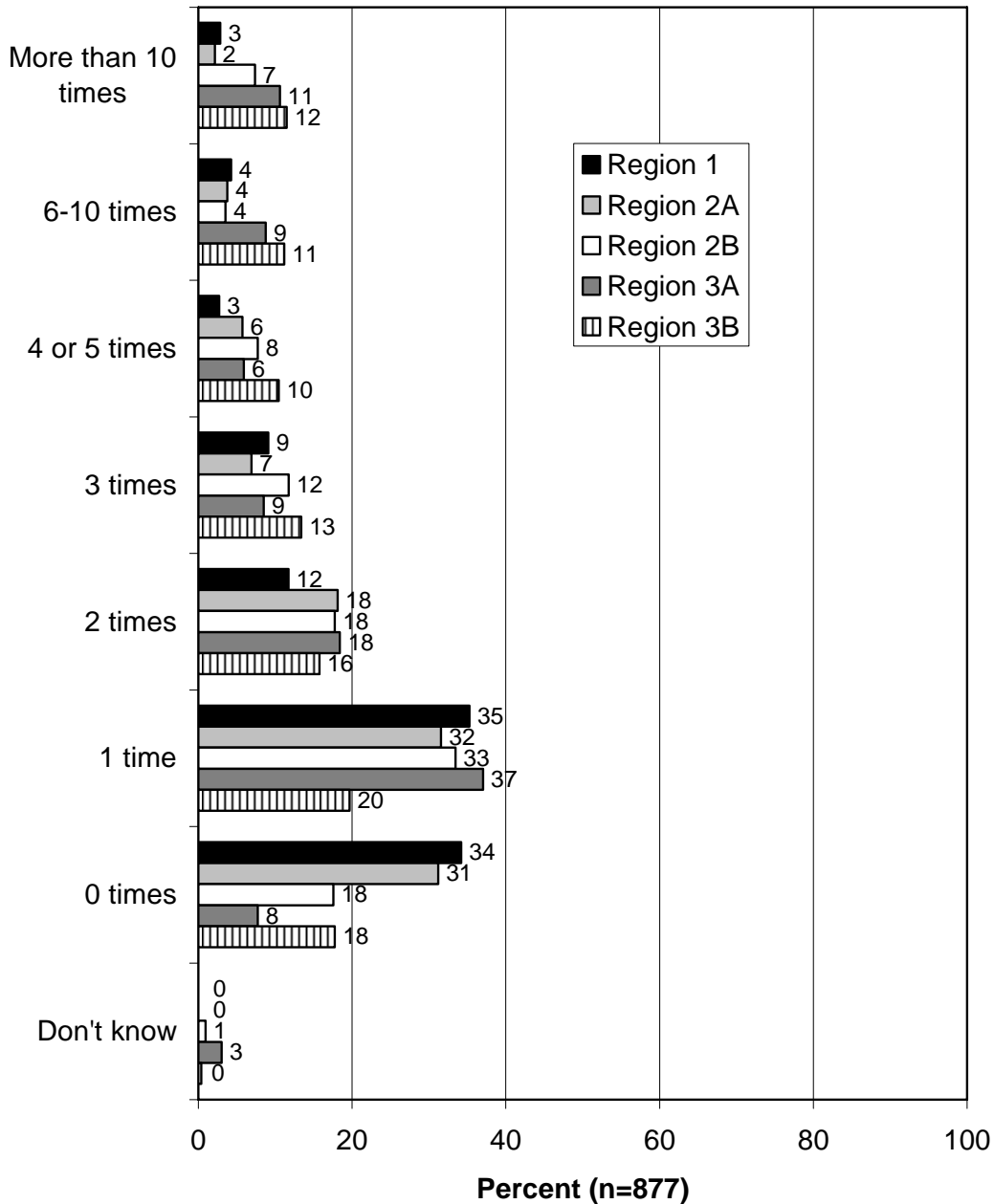
Q92. Have you personally ever seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia?



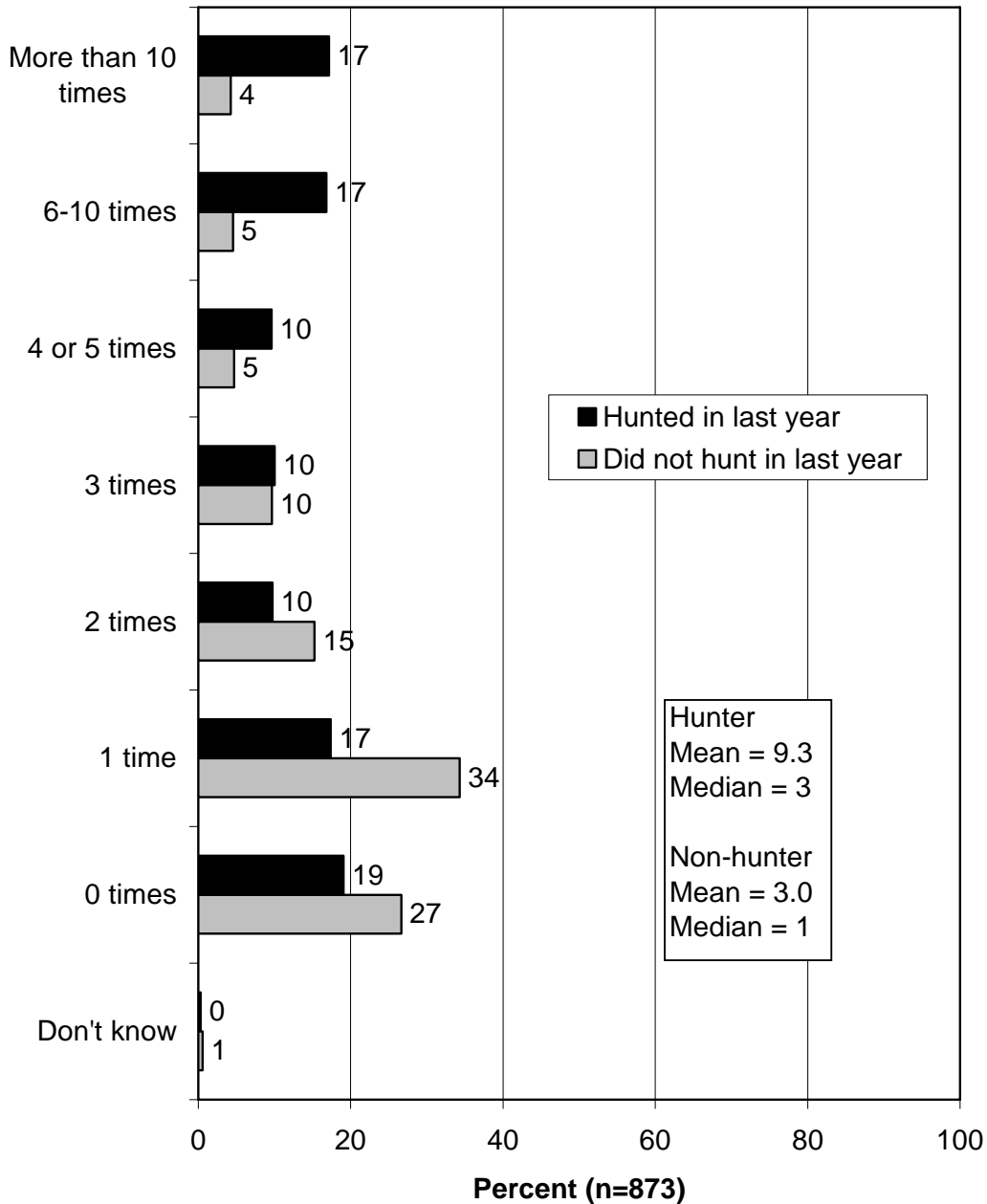
Q93. How many times have you personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia in the past 2 years? (Asked of respondents who indicated that they had seen a black bear in Virginia.)



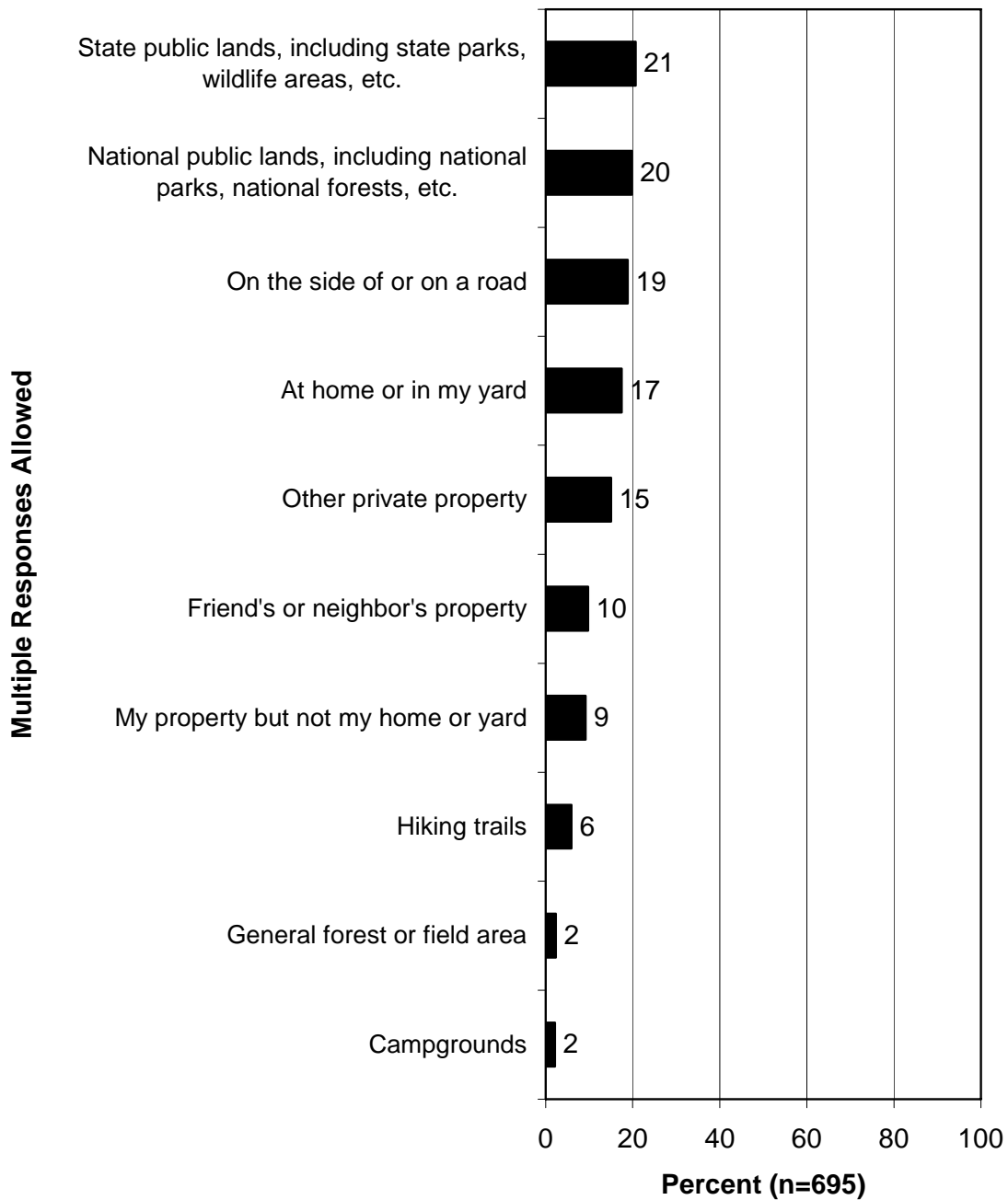
Q93. How many times have you personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia in the past 2 years? (Asked of respondents who indicated that they had seen a black bear in Virginia.)



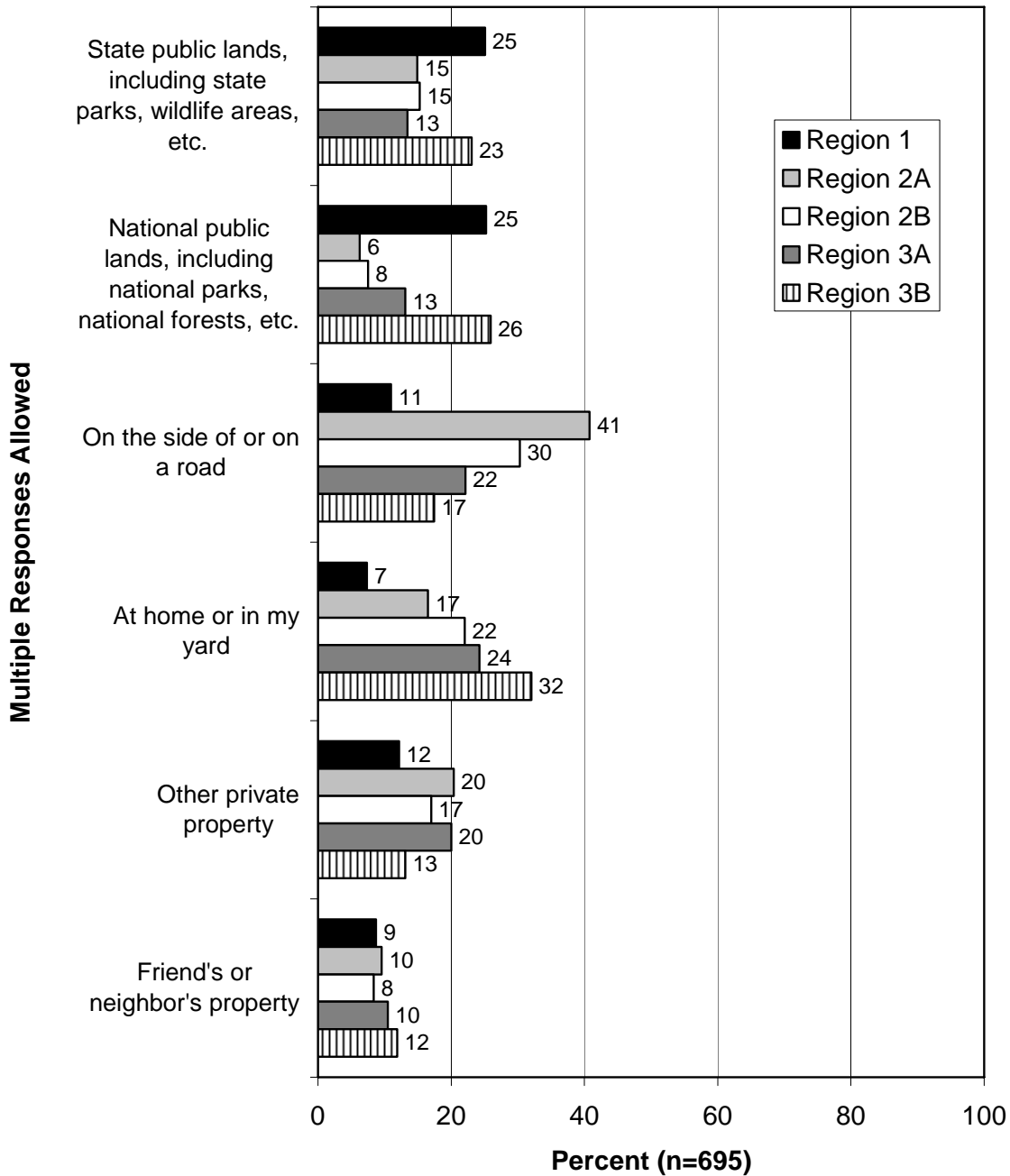
Q93. How many times have you personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia in the past 2 years? (Asked of respondents who indicated that they had seen a black bear in Virginia.)



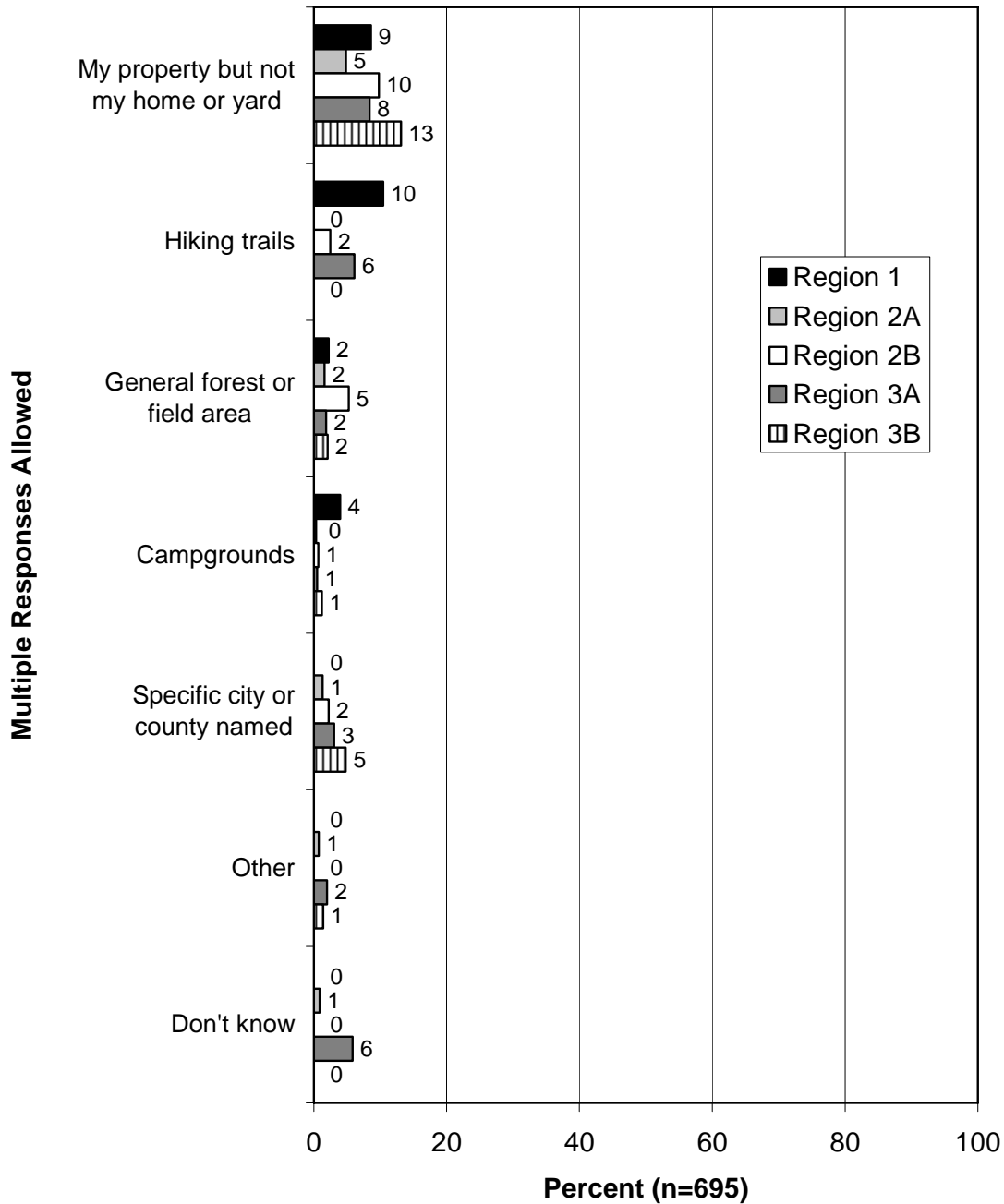
Q98. Where did you personally see a black bear in Virginia in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who saw a black bear.)



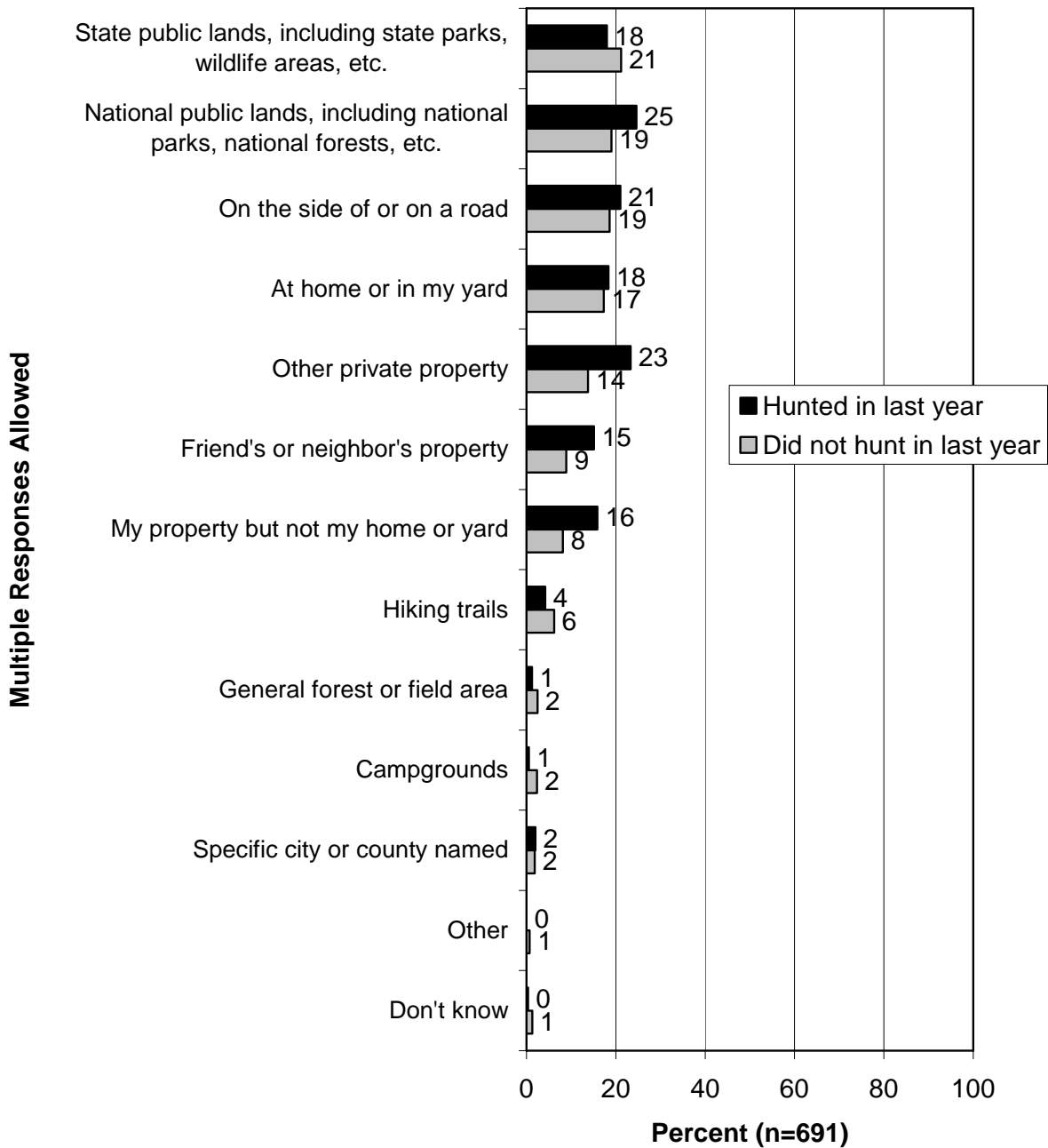
Q98. Where did you personally see a black bear in Virginia in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who saw a black bear.)
(Part 1)



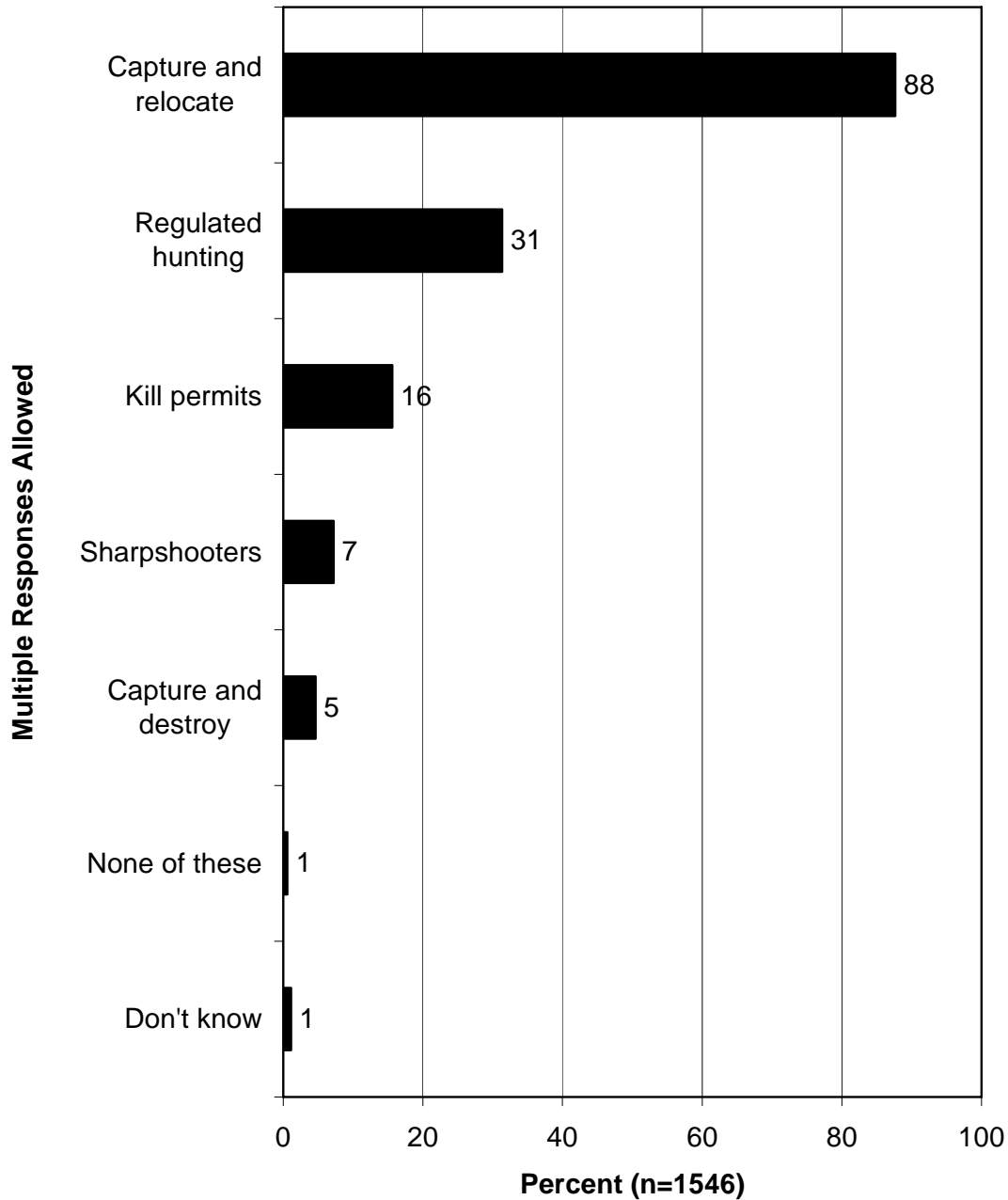
**Q98. Where did you personally see a black bear in Virginia in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who saw a black bear.)
(Part 2)**



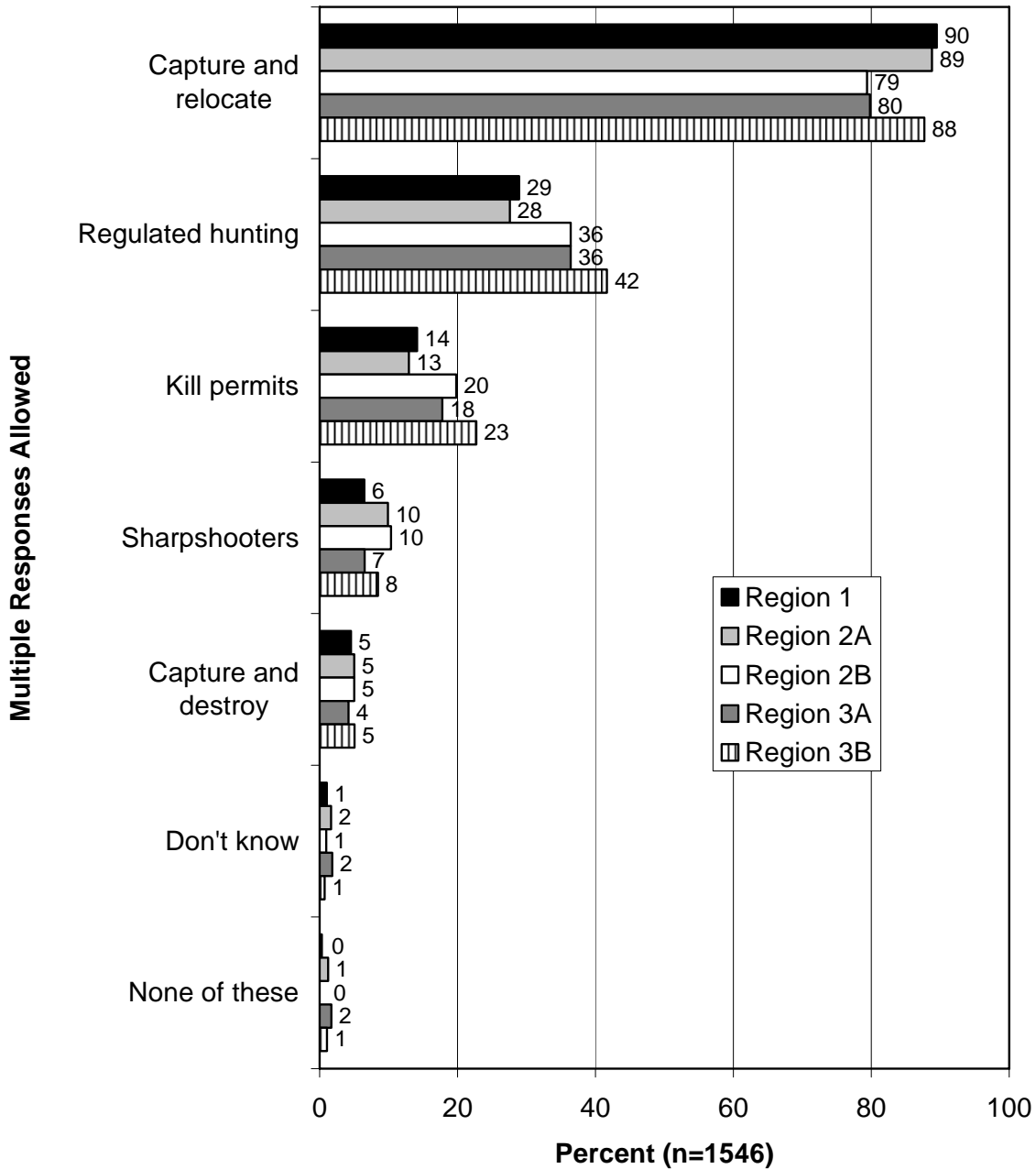
Q98. Where did you personally see a black bear in Virginia in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who saw a black bear.)



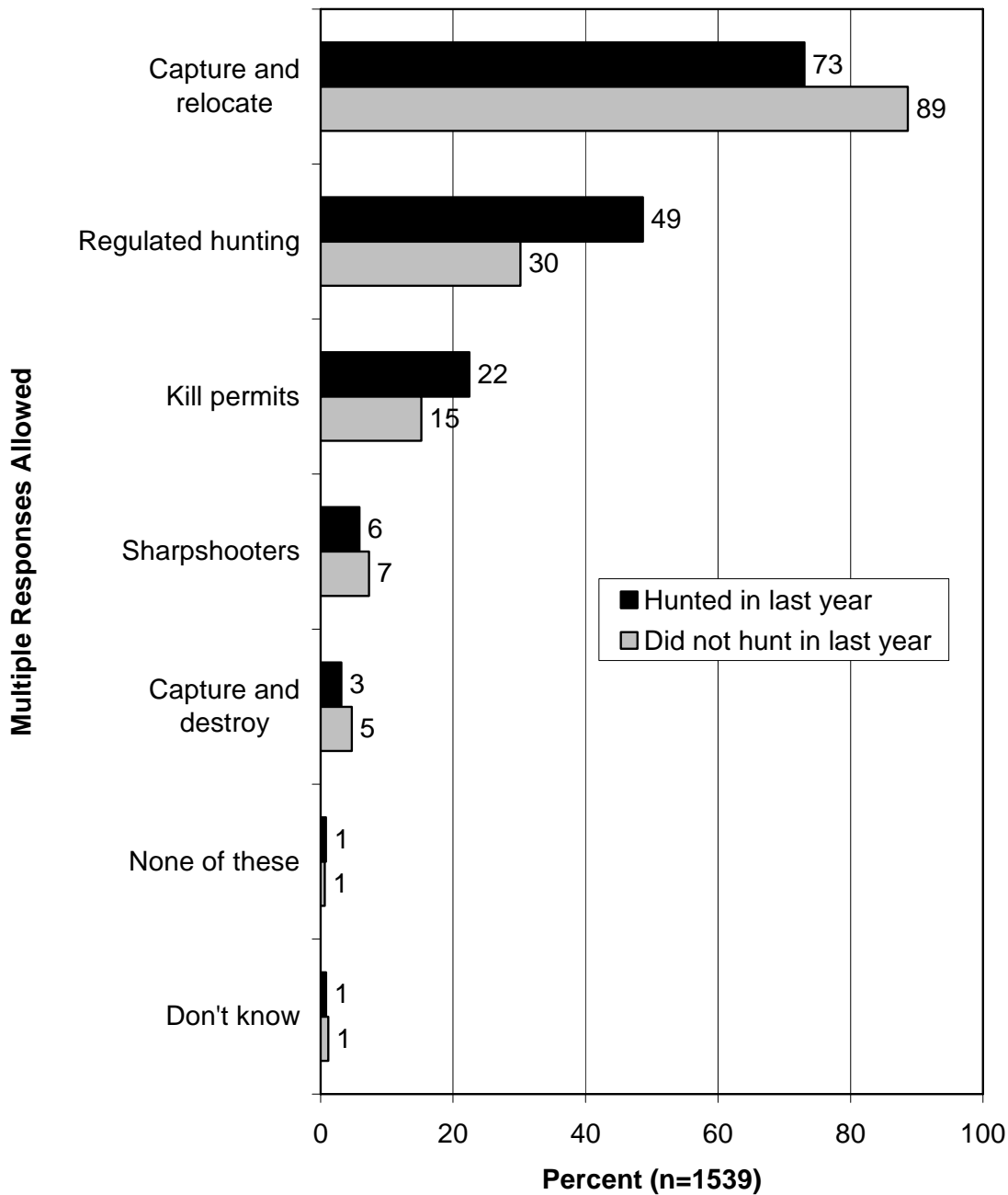
Q85. Please tell me which of the following strategies you prefer for reducing the black bear population in areas with high human populations or frequent human use, such as urban areas and highways.



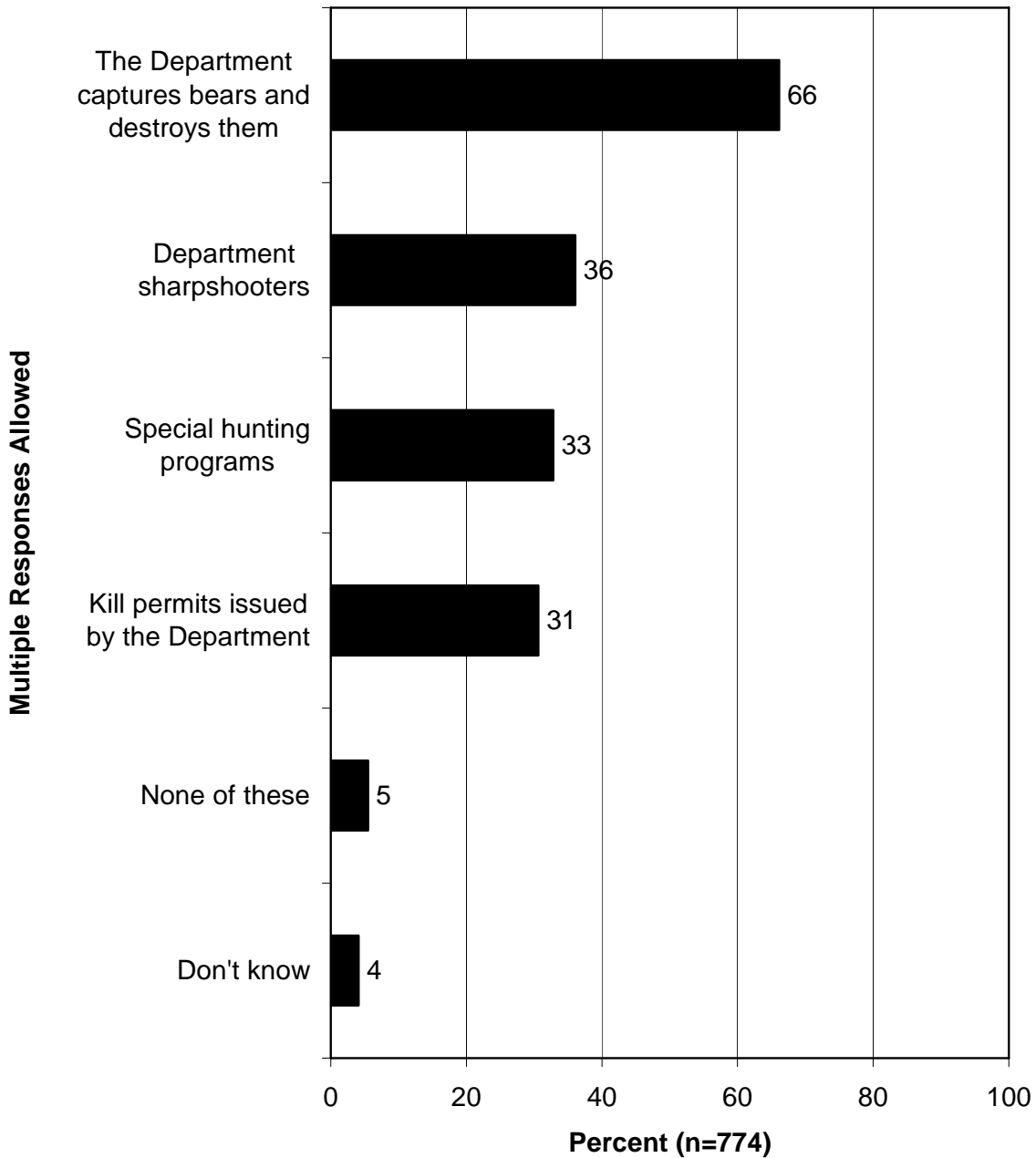
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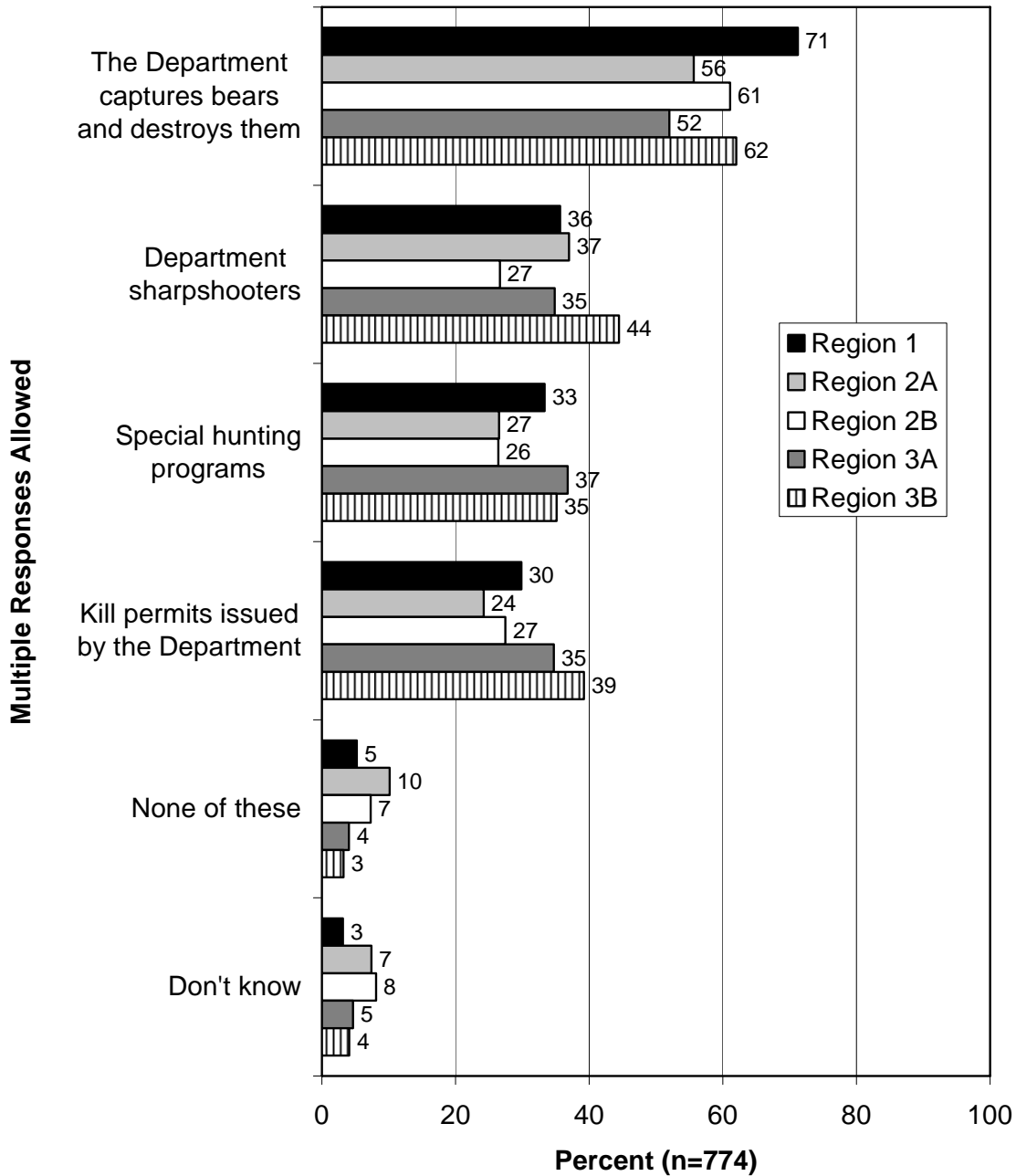
Q85. Please tell me which of the following strategies you prefer for reducing the black bear population in areas with high human populations or frequent human use, such as urban areas and highways.



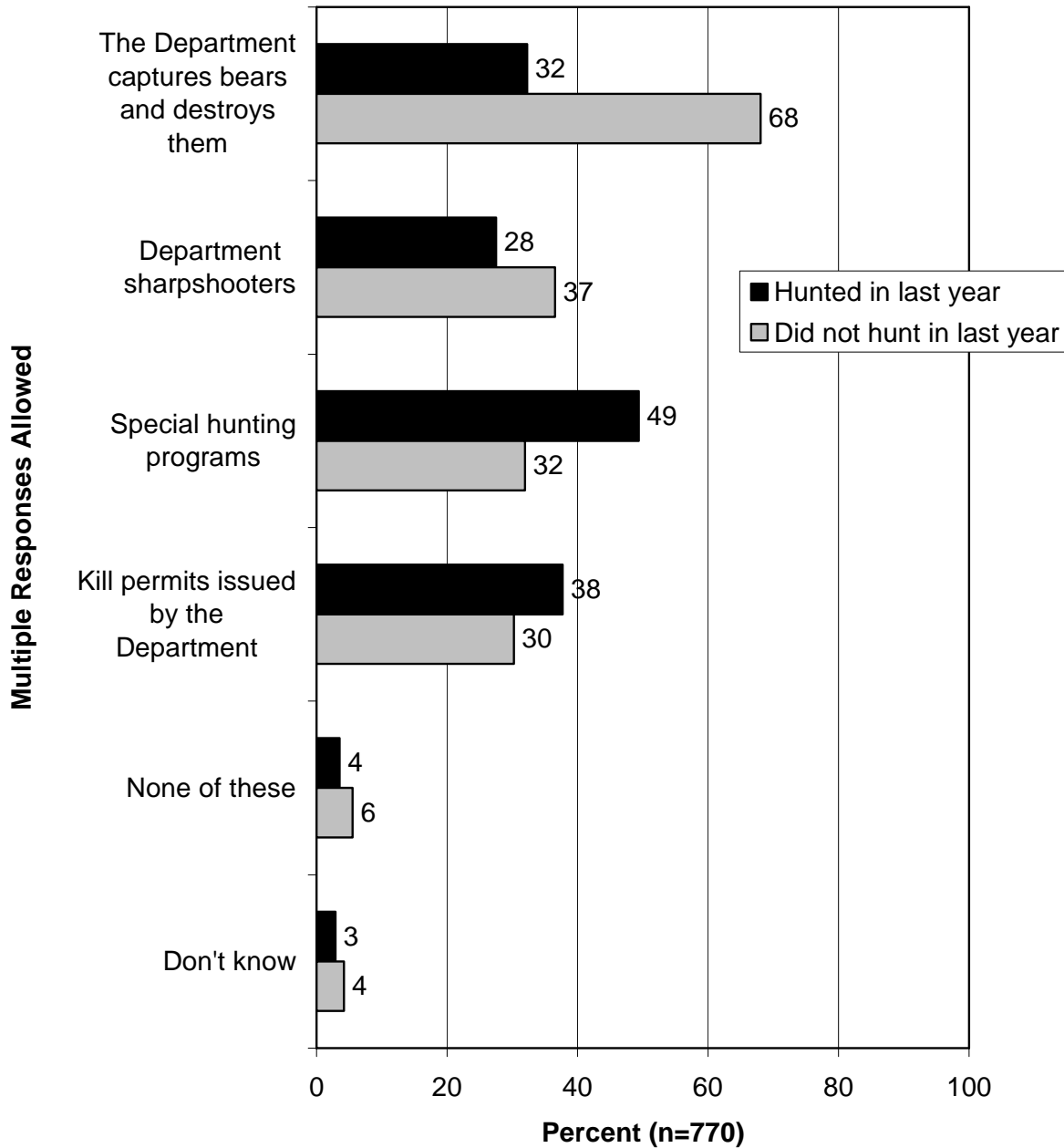
Q145. If black bears that are causing problems need to be destroyed, which of the following methods are acceptable to you?



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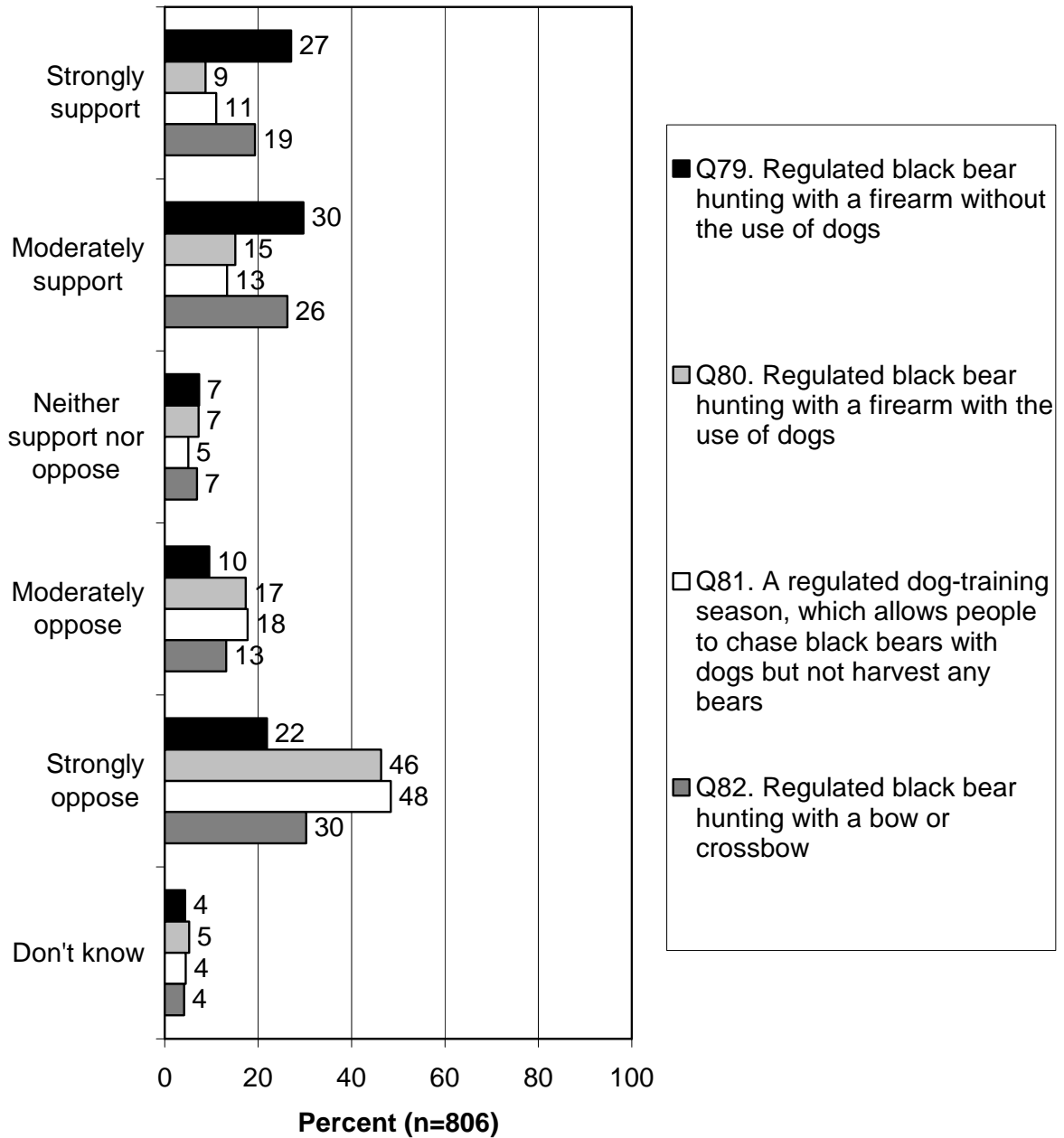


OPINIONS ON HUNTING BLACK BEARS

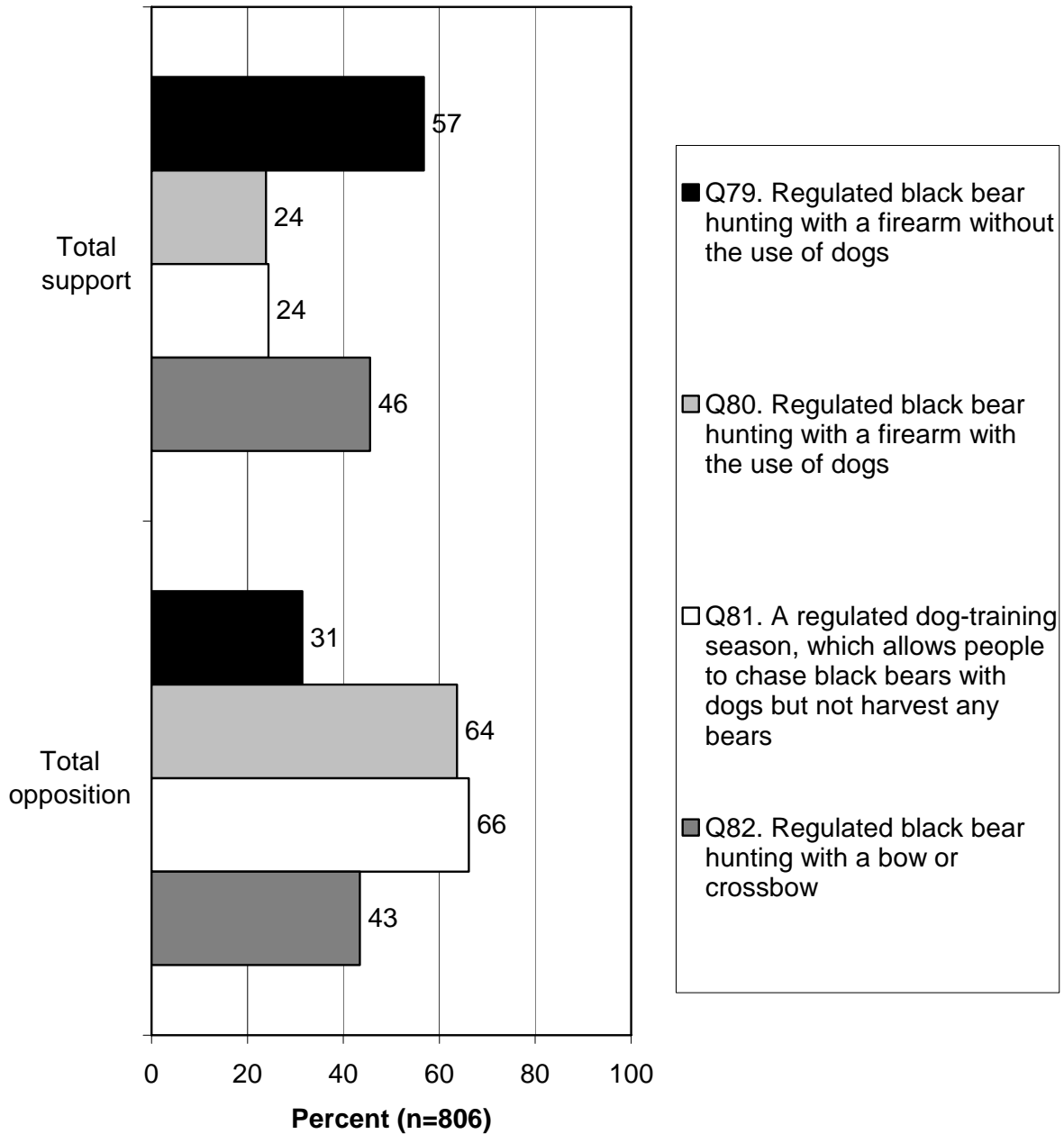
- Recall that previously it was reported that support for hunting *black bears* is less than for hunting overall: 51% support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia, while 36% oppose. Compare this to hunting in general: 81% support legal, regulated hunting in general, while 12% oppose. (These graphs are shown in the section of this report titled, “Residents’ Wildlife Values and Attitudes Toward Wildlife, Outdoor Recreation, Natural Resources, and Black Bears.”)
 - In follow-up, those who oppose the legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia were asked why they oppose. Most commonly, it is because they are opposed to all hunting in general. Other common reasons include thinking that the black bear population is too low/believing that hunting would reduce the population, thinking that killing bears is cruel/inhumane, being opposed to trophy hunting, and thinking that black bears do not cause problems. (This graph is shown in the section of this report titled, “Residents’ Wildlife Values and Attitudes Toward Wildlife, Outdoor Recreation, Natural Resources, and Black Bears.”)

- The survey had four questions about support for or opposition to types of hunting and hunting-related activities: regulated black bear hunting with a firearm without the use of dogs; regulated black bear hunting with a firearm with the use of dogs; a regulated dog-training season, which allows people to chase black bears with dogs but not harvest any bears; and regulated black bear hunting with a bow or crossbow.
 - The most support is for regulated black bear hunting with a firearm *without* the use of dogs (57% support) and for regulated black bear hunting with a bow or crossbow (46% support). Just less than a quarter support either of the other types of hunting activities.

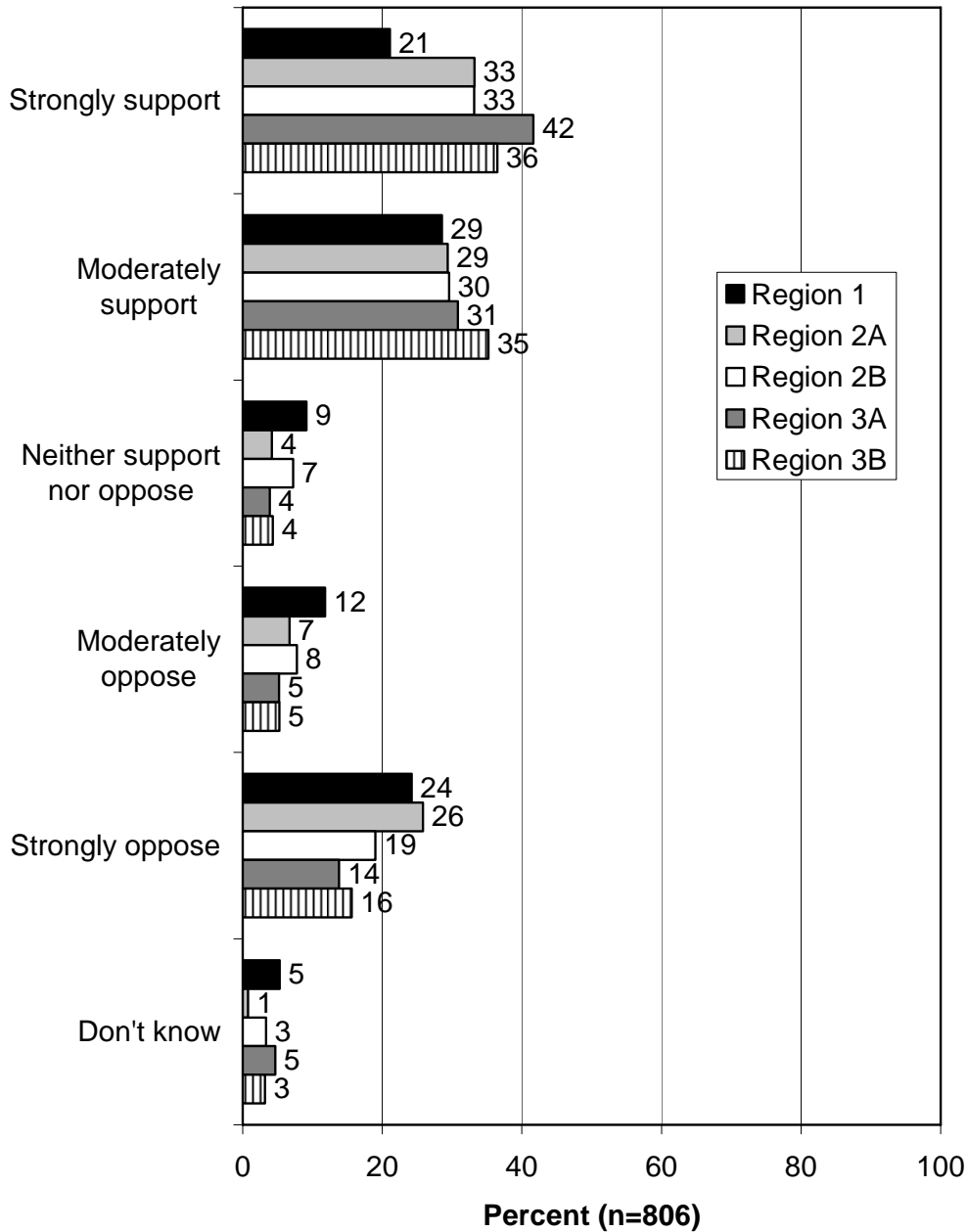
Q79-Q82. Do you support or oppose...?



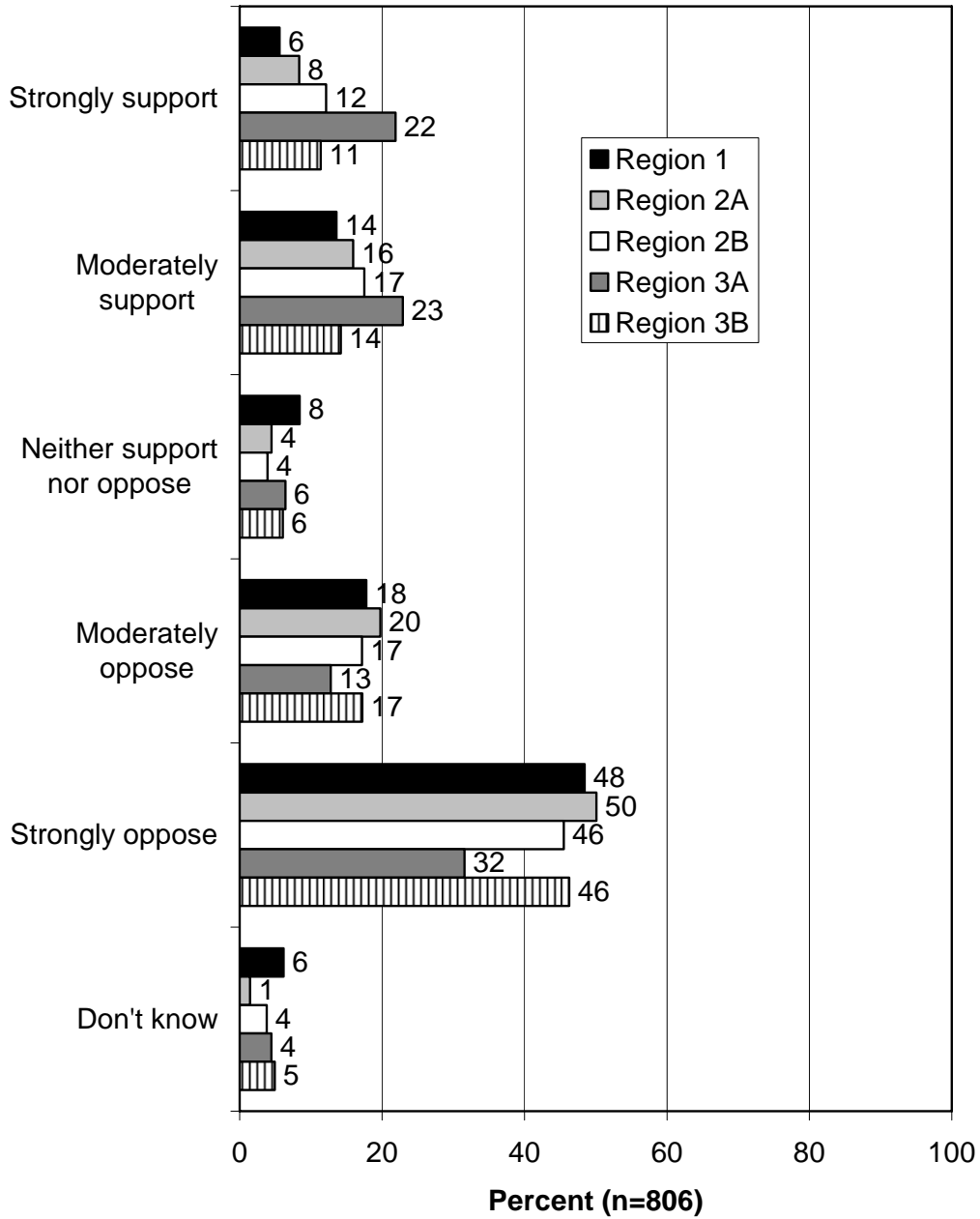
Q79-Q82. Do you support or oppose...?



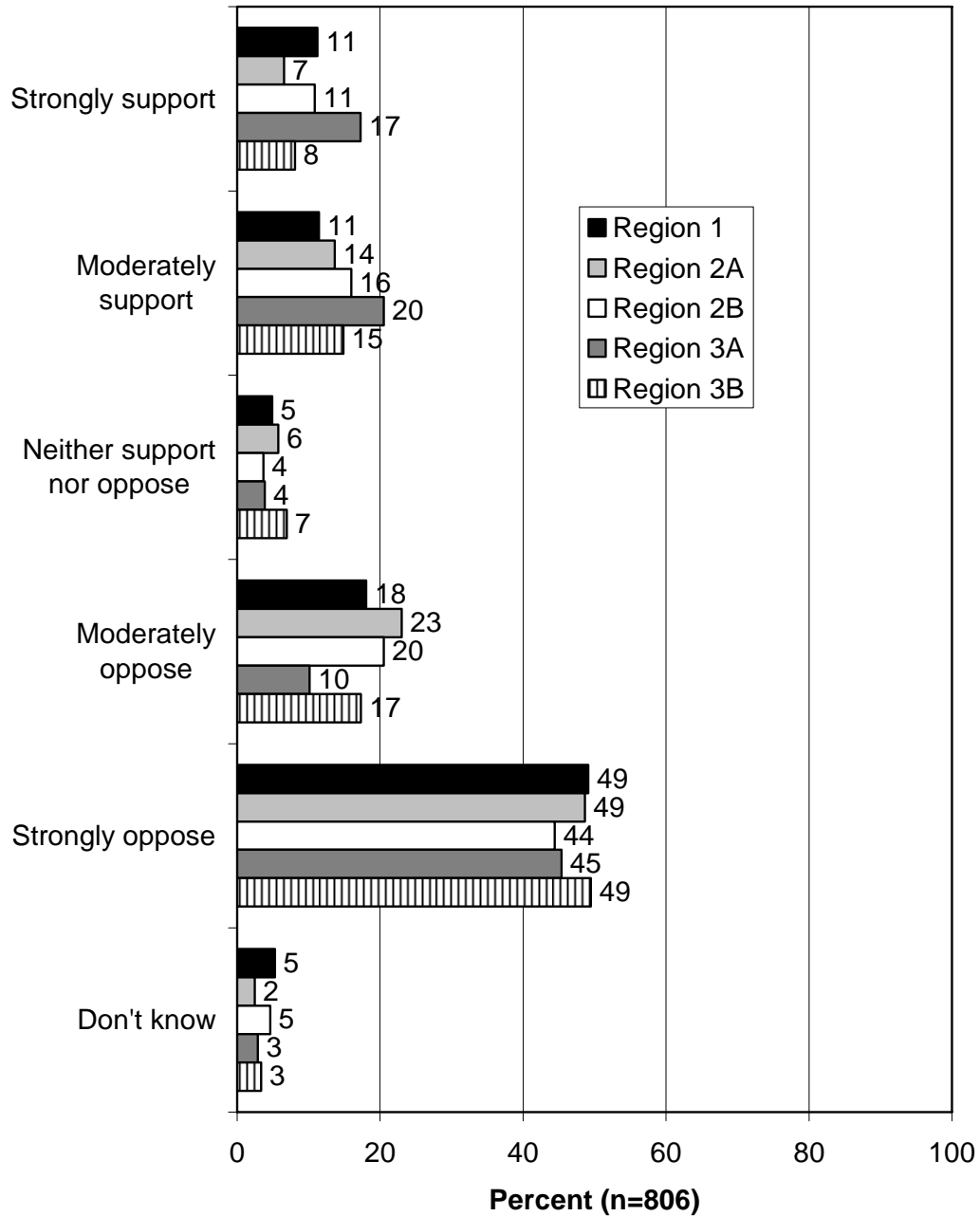
Q79. Do you support or oppose regulated black bear hunting with a firearm without the use of dogs?



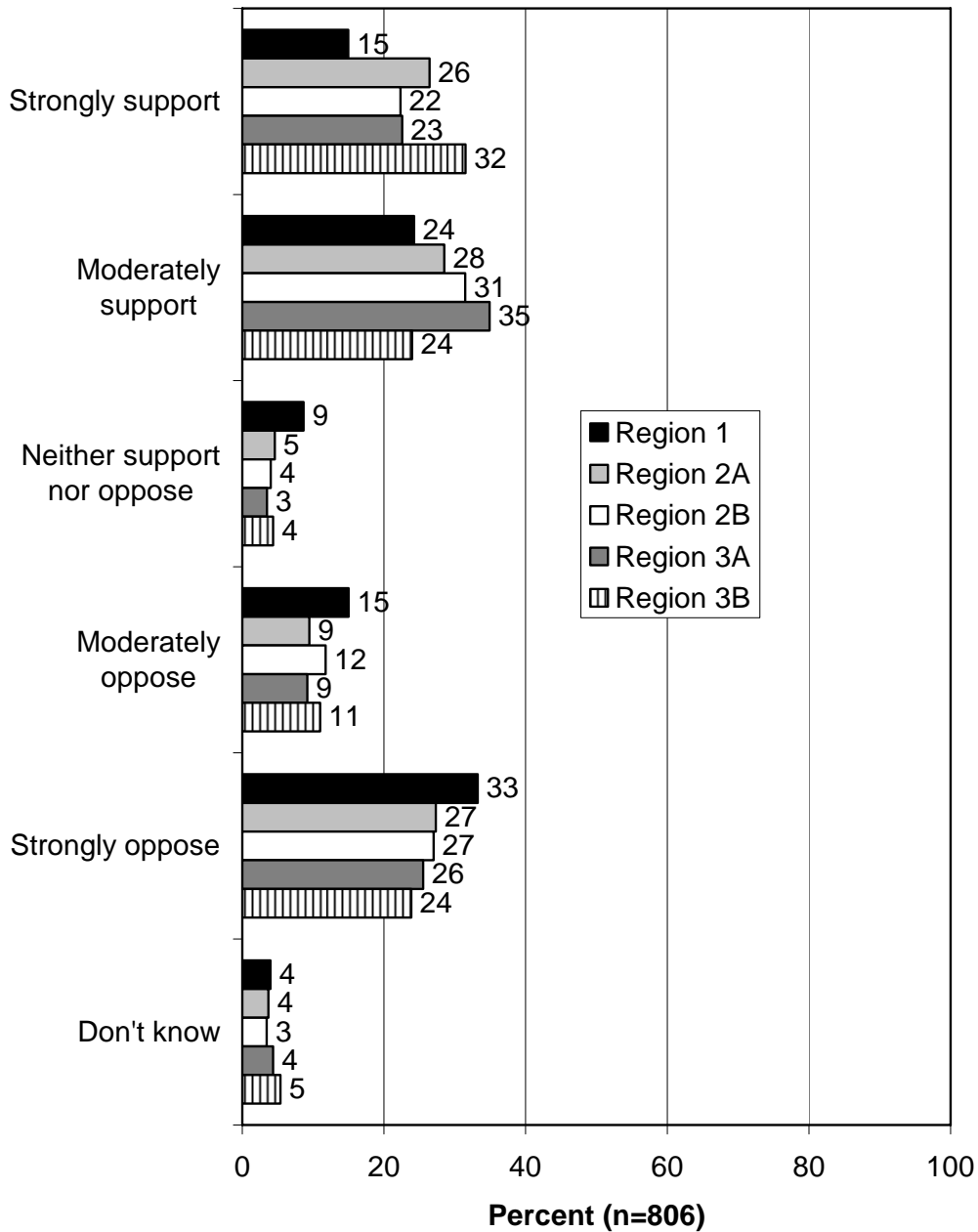
Q80. Do you support or oppose regulated black bear hunting with a firearm with the use of dogs?



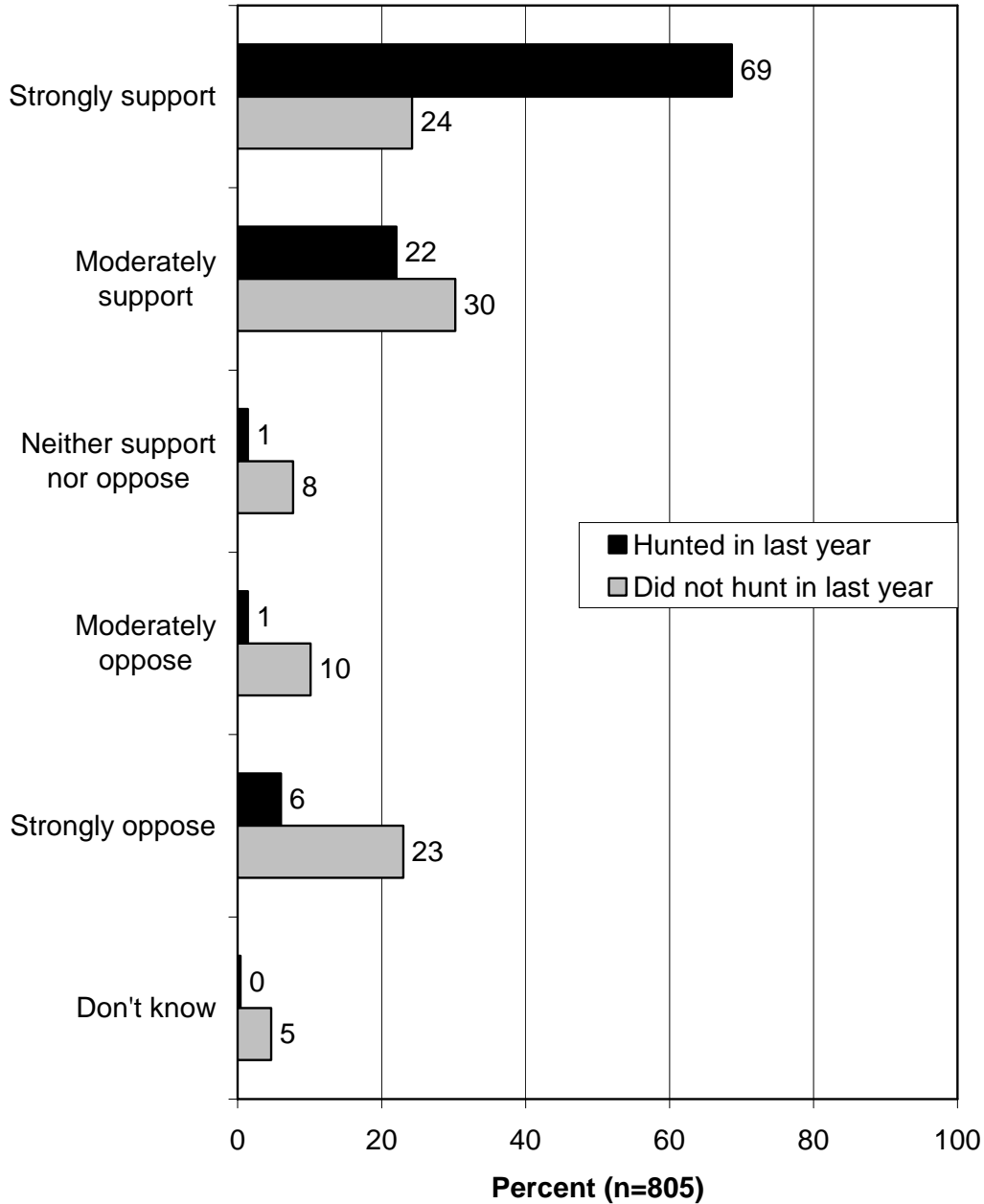
Q81. Do you support or oppose a regulated dog-training season, which allows people to chase black bears with dogs but not harvest any bears?



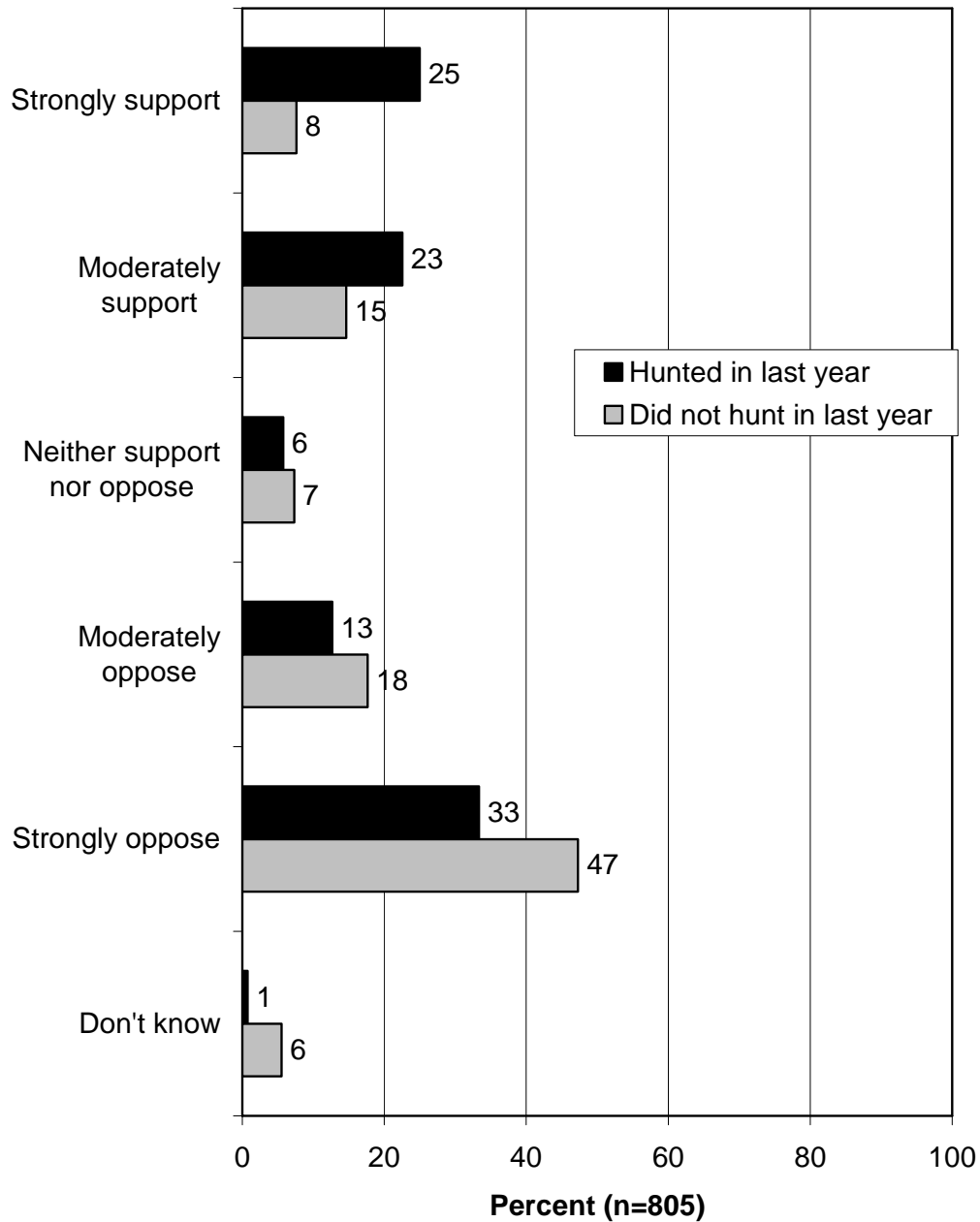
Q82. Do you support or oppose regulated black bear hunting with a bow or crossbow?



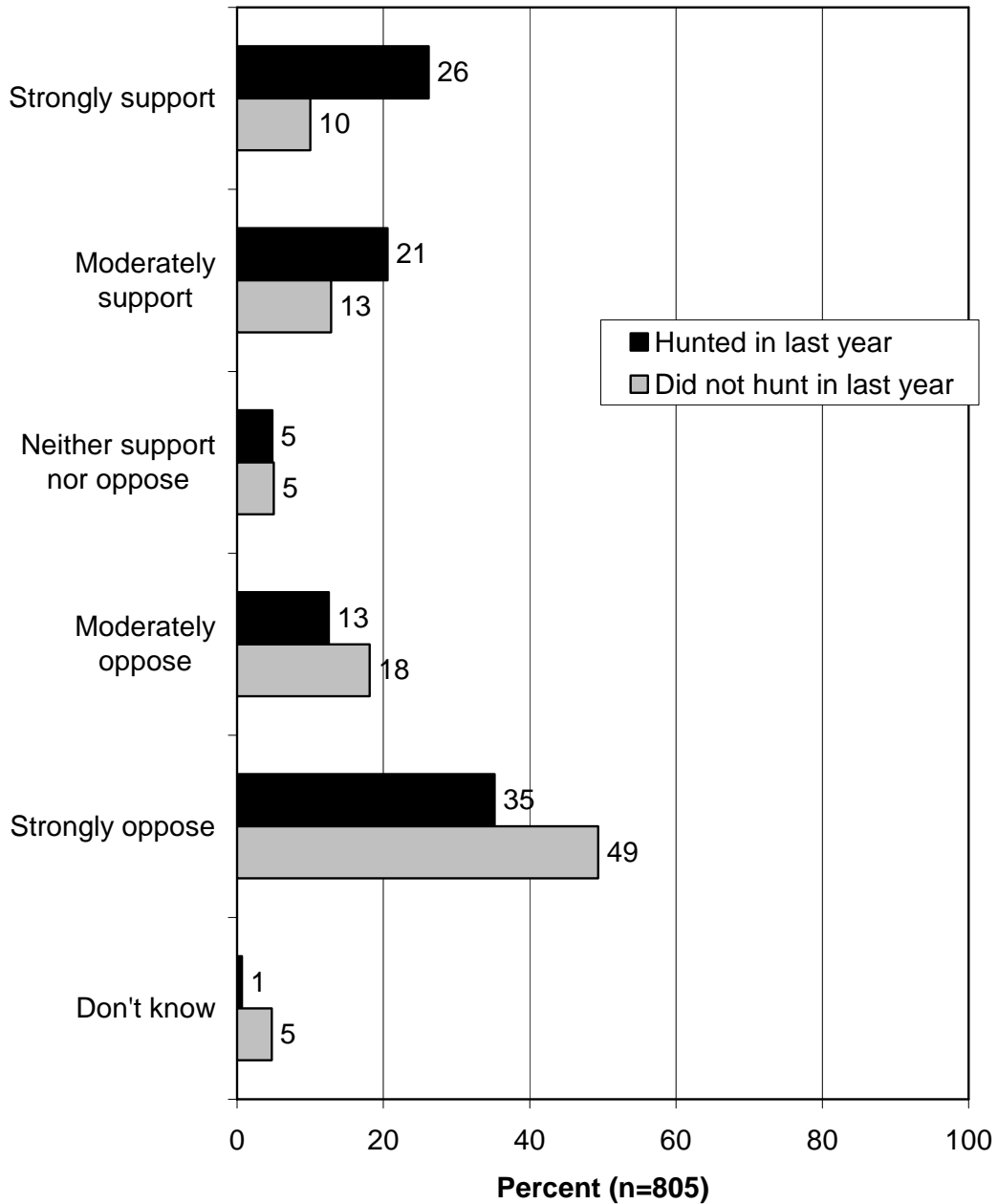
Q79. Do you support or oppose regulated black bear hunting with a firearm without the use of dogs?



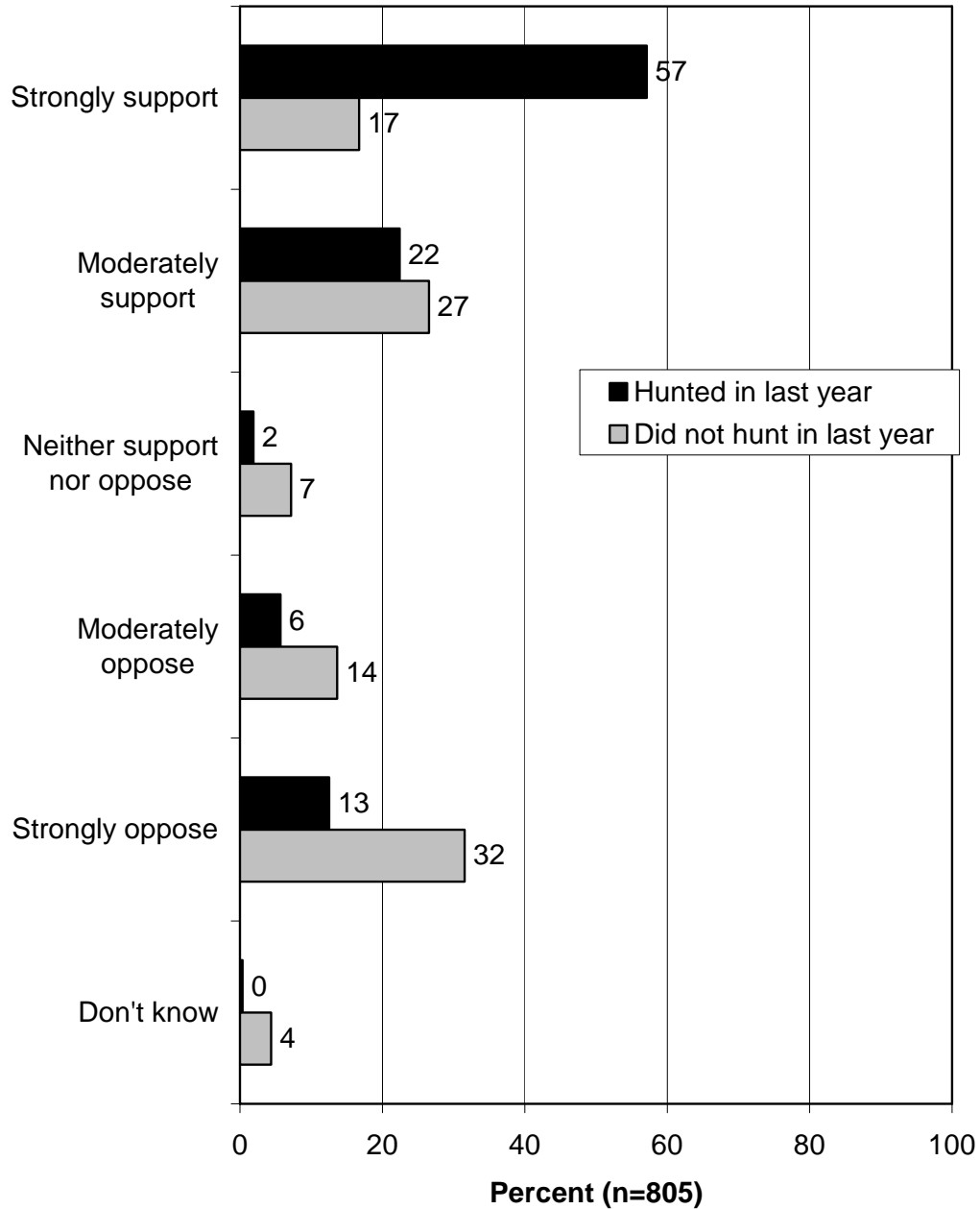
Q80. Do you support or oppose regulated black bear hunting with a firearm with the use of dogs?



Q81. Do you support or oppose a regulated dog-training season, which allows people to chase black bears with dogs but not harvest any bears?



Q82. Do you support or oppose regulated black bear hunting with a bow or crossbow?



BLACK BEARS AND NUISANCE COMPLAINTS

- When residents were asked to rate the level of problems that they are having with black bears in their neighborhood or on their property, only 4% say black bears are a *major* problem, with another 7% saying that they are a *minor* problem (11% in total); meanwhile, 89% say that black bears are *not* a problem at all.
 - Residents were also asked to rate the problem level of having neighbors attracting bears (whether intentionally or not) to their neighborhood with birdfeeders, garbage, and other food sources: only 2% say it is a *major* problem, and another 9% say it is a *minor* problem (11% in total). Fully 86% say it is *not* a problem at all.
 - A follow-up question asked residents to indicate who they think should have the primary responsibility for addressing the situation where a bear has been attracted to a neighborhood by a birdfeeder, garbage, or some other food source. The majority of residents think that the VDGIF should be responsible in that situation (58% named the VDGIF). Meanwhile, 30% say that the landowner who attracted the bear should be responsible.
 - Also in follow-up to the question about attracting bears, the survey asked about support for or opposition to fines for people who attract bears, whether intentionally or unintentionally. The majority of Virginia residents (57%) support such fines, while 33% oppose. Most of those who support such fines, however, think that people should be given at least one warning prior to being fined.
 - Another question pertaining to this topic asked residents whether they support or oppose prohibiting people visiting or living in areas frequented by black bears from using birdfeeders or participating in other wildlife feeding activities to avoid problems with black bears. Residents are split: 42% support such a prohibition, while 48% oppose.
 - Another question about birdfeeders asked residents whether they support or oppose requiring people whose birdfeeder is attracting black bears to take down or electrify the birdfeeder. Support (57%) exceeds opposition (31%).
 - Support (85%) is overwhelming for requiring people to use bear-proof garbage containers in areas frequented by black bears; only 9% oppose. Note that most of the support is *strong* support.

- Another question about bear-proof garbage containers found that 66% of Virginia residents say that they would be willing to pay about \$10 more per month for 12 months for their trash service to defray the cost of bear-proof containers for their garbage.
- Support (84%) among residents is overwhelming for requiring counties that are frequented by bears and that use open dumpsters to use bear-proof dumpsters instead; only 7% of residents oppose such a requirement being placed on counties.

The nonparametric analysis found that the following responses are correlated with **saying black bears are a major or minor problem for them in their neighborhood or on their property**:

- *Those who say black bears are a major or minor problem for them in their neighborhood or on their property are more likely than are those who say black bears are not a problem at all for them in their neighborhood or on their property to think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say black bears are a major or minor problem for them in their neighborhood or on their property are more likely than are those who say black bears are not a problem at all for them in their neighborhood or on their property to believe black bears live in their county of residence ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say black bears are a major or minor problem for them in their neighborhood or on their property are more likely than are those who say black bears are not a problem at all for them in their neighborhood or on their property to think the black bear population in Virginia has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years ($p \leq 0.01$) and is currently increasing or remaining stable ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who say black bears are a major or minor problem for them in their neighborhood or on their property are more likely than are those who say black bears are not a problem at all for them in their neighborhood or on their property to not support or encourage the existence of black bears in Virginia (e.g., strongly or moderately disagree that black bears are an important and essential part of Virginia's ecosystem, strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia, strongly or moderately disagree that preserving habitat on which black bears depend is important) (all at $p \leq 0.05$ or greater significance).*
- *Those who say black bears are a major or minor problem for them in their neighborhood or on their property are more likely than are those who say black bears are not a problem at all for them in their neighborhood or on their property to have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say black bears are a major or minor problem for them in their neighborhood or on their property are more likely than are those who say black bears are not a problem at all for them in their neighborhood or on their property to frequently or sometimes see or hear about black bears in their neighborhood ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say black bears are a major or minor problem for them in their neighborhood or on their property are more likely than are those who say black bears are not a problem at all for them in their neighborhood or on their property to strongly or*

moderately disagree that people and black bears can live in the same area without conflict ($p \leq 0.001$).

- *Those who say black bears are a major or minor problem for them in their neighborhood or on their property are more likely than are those who say black bears are not a problem at all for them in their neighborhood or on their property to feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who say black bears are a major or minor problem for them in their neighborhood or on their property are more likely than are those who say black bears are not a problem at all for them in their neighborhood or on their property to have personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who say black bears are a major or minor problem for them in their neighborhood or on their property are more likely than are those who say black bears are not a problem at all for them in their neighborhood or on their property to not be willing to pay about \$10 more per month for trash service for only 12 months to pay for the cost of bear-proof garbage containers ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say black bears are a major or minor problem for them in their neighborhood or on their property are more likely than are those who say black bears are not a problem at all for them in their neighborhood or on their property to strongly or moderately oppose requiring people whose birdfeeders are attracting black bears to take down or electrify the birdfeeder ($p \leq 0.001$), and strongly or moderately oppose requiring counties that are frequented by bears and that use open dumpsters to use bear-proof dumpsters ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who say black bears are a major or minor problem for them in their neighborhood or on their property are more likely than are those who say black bears are not a problem at all for them in their neighborhood or on their property to strongly or moderately agree that the property owner should be compensated for the damages when black bear damage occurs to livestock ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who say black bears are a major or minor problem for them in their neighborhood or on their property are more likely than are those who say black bears are not a problem at all for them in their neighborhood or on their property to think the following methods of destroying black bears that are causing problems are acceptable: Department sharpshooters ($p \leq 0.01$), the Department captures bears and destroys them ($p \leq 0.05$), and kill permits issued by the Department ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who say black bears are a major or minor problem for them in their neighborhood or on their property are more likely than are those who say black bears are not a problem at all for them in their neighborhood or on their property to believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing a fair or poor job managing Virginia's black bears ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who say black bears are a major or minor problem for them in their neighborhood or on their property are more likely than are those who say black bears are not a problem at all for them in their neighborhood or on their property to not have fish during the current fishing season in Virginia ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who say black bears are a major or minor problem for them in their neighborhood or on their property are more likely than are those who say black bears are not a problem at all for them in their neighborhood or on their property to live in Region 3A ($p \leq 0.001$), Region 2B ($p \leq 0.01$), or Region 3B ($p \leq 0.05$).*

- *Those who say black bears are a major or minor problem for them in their neighborhood or on their property are more likely than are those who say black bears are not a problem at all for them in their neighborhood or on their property to consider their place of residence to be a rural area not on a farm or ranch ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- When asked if they had personally had any problems with black bears in the past 2 years, only 2% of Virginia residents indicated that they had experienced a problem; the overwhelming majority (98%) had not had a problem.
 - The most common problems were getting into garbage, damaging birdfeeders, getting into the garden, and attacking/scaring livestock.
 - Those who had experienced a problem were asked in follow-up if they had contacted anyone as a result of the problem; only 18% of those respondents contacted someone. Most commonly, they contacted a VDGIF Conservation Officer or Game Warden. Local police were also commonly contacted. The types of services they received upon contacting an agency are shown. (The crosstabulations by region and hunter/non-hunter are not shown regarding whom they contacted and the types of services received because the sample size was low, as so few respondents met the criteria for the question—i.e., had experienced a problem *and* had contacted someone.)
 - The small portion of the entire sample that had experienced a problem with black bears *and* had contacted an agency about the problem were asked to rate their satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the services they received. They are mostly positive: 66% report being satisfied, while 15% report being dissatisfied. (Note that very few respondents met the criteria to receive this question. Additionally, no crosstabulations are shown because of the small sample size.)

The nonparametric analysis found that the following responses are correlated with **having personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years:**

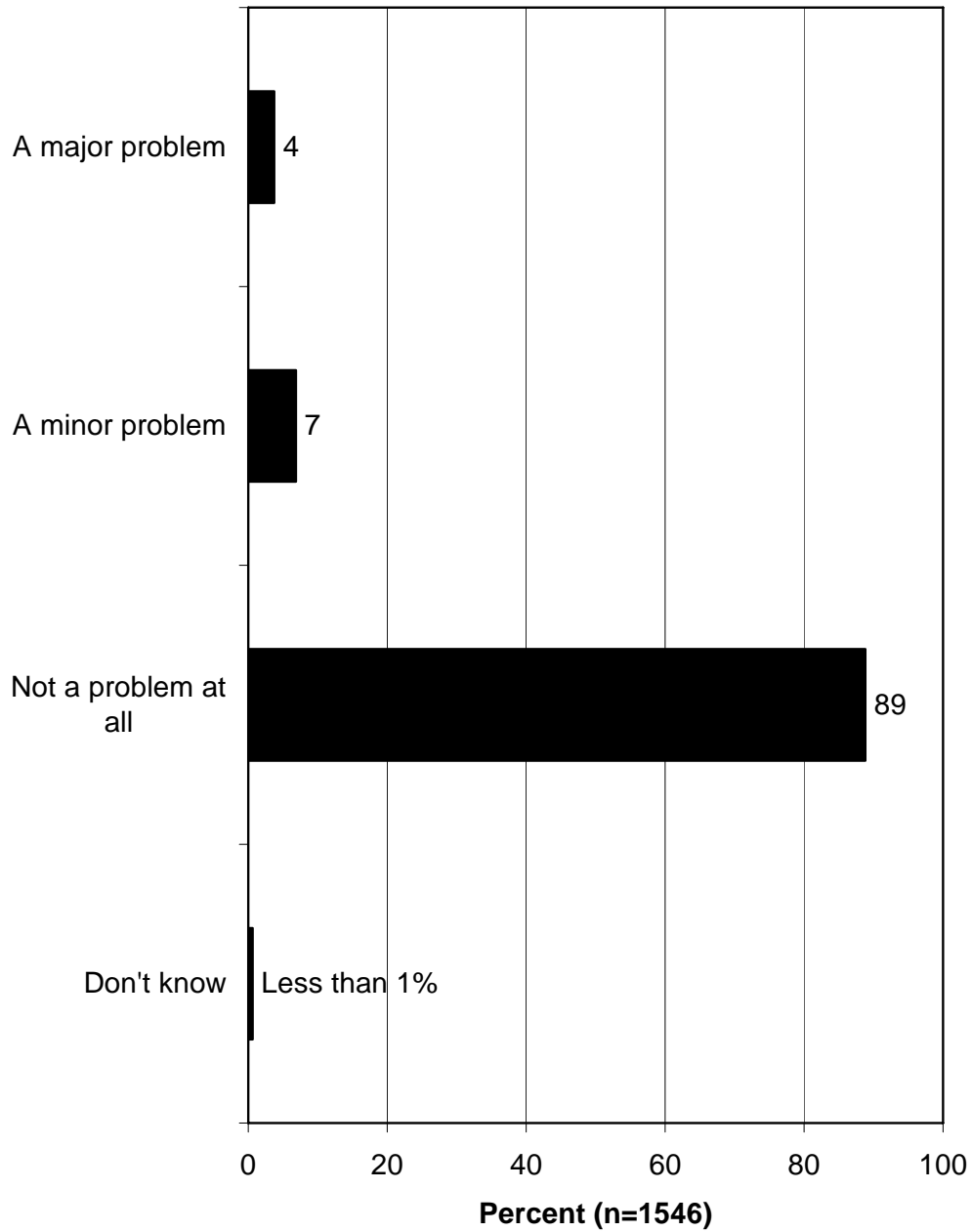
- *Those who have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years are more likely than are those who have never personally had a problem with black bears within the past 2 years to say that they know a great deal or a moderate amount about managing wildlife and natural resources ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years are more likely than are those who have never personally had a problem with black bears within the past 2 years to say that they know a great deal or a moderate amount about black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*

- *Those who have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years are more likely than are those who have never personally had a problem with black bears within the past 2 years to believe black bears live in their county of residence ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years are more likely than are those who have never personally had a problem with black bears within the past 2 years to think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years are more likely than are those who have never personally had a problem with black bears within the past 2 years to think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable ($p \leq 0.01$), and has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years are more likely than are those who have never personally had a problem with black bears within the past 2 years to answer correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years are more likely than are those who have never personally had a problem with black bears within the past 2 years to answer correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years are more likely than are those who have never personally had a problem with black bears within the past 2 years to strongly or moderately disagree that black bears are an important and essential part of Virginia's ecosystem ($p \leq 0.001$), and strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.05$), but strongly or moderately agree that the presence of black bears near their home improves their overall quality of life ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years are more likely than are those who have never personally had a problem with black bears within the past 2 years to say black bears are a major or minor problem for them in their neighborhood or on their property ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years are more likely than are those who have never personally had a problem with black bears within the past 2 years to frequently or sometimes see or hear about black bears in their neighborhood ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years are more likely than are those who have never personally had a problem with black bears within the past 2 years to have personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Those who have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years are more likely than are those who have never personally had a problem with black bears within the past 2 years to strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Those who have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years are more likely than are those who have never personally had a problem with black*

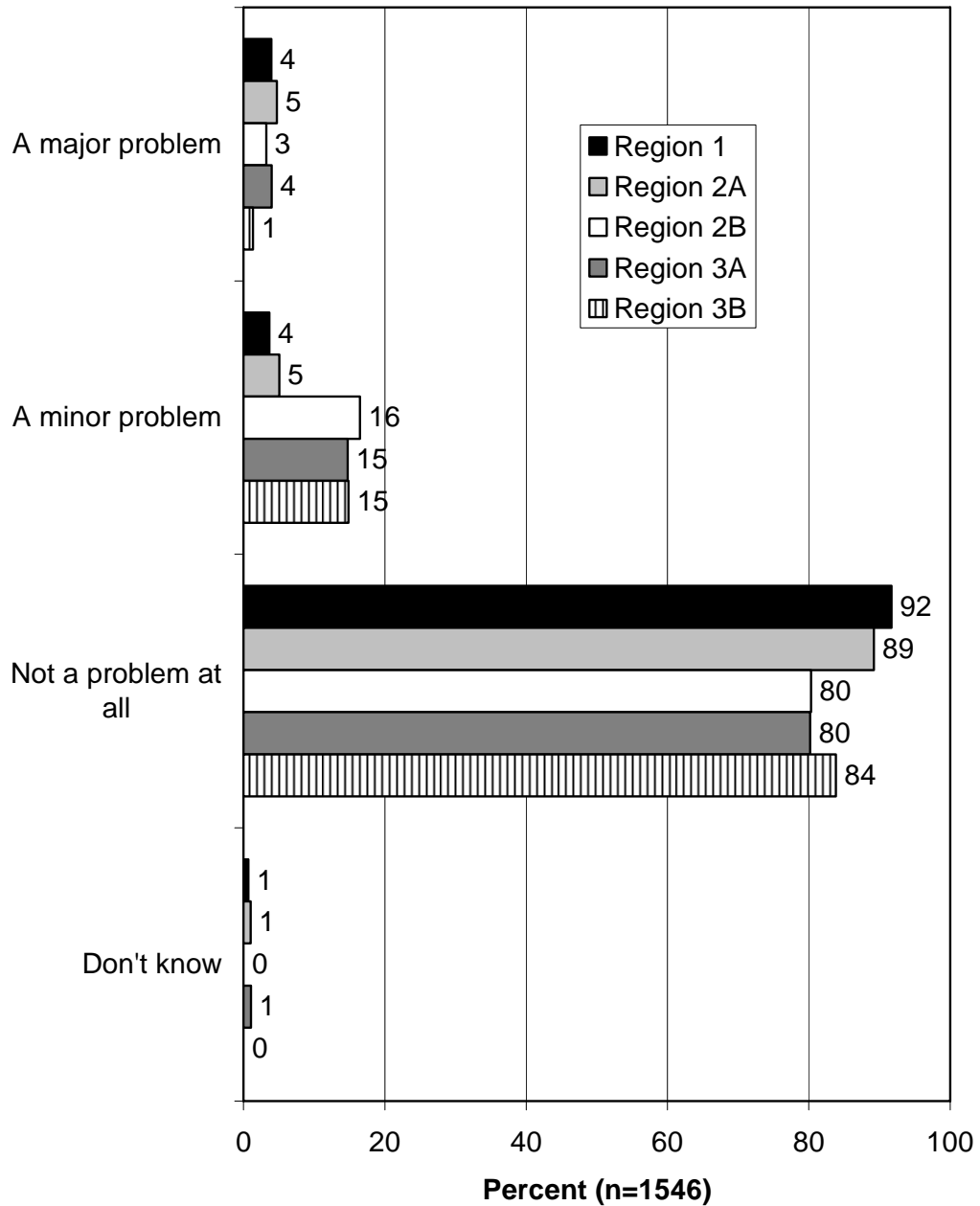
- bears within the past 2 years to strongly or moderately oppose requiring counties that are frequented by bears and that use open dumpsters to use bear-proof dumpsters ($p \leq 0.05$), and strongly or moderately oppose requiring people whose birdfeeders are attracting black bears to take down or electrify the birdfeeder ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Those who have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years are more likely than are those who have never personally had a problem with black bears within the past 2 years to prefer using the following management option for reducing the black bear population in areas with high human populations or frequent human use: regulated hunting ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years are more likely than are those who have never personally had a problem with black bears within the past 2 years to think the following methods of destroying black bears that are causing problems are acceptable: kill permits issued by the Department ($p \leq 0.01$) and Department sharpshooters ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years are more likely than are those who have never personally had a problem with black bears within the past 2 years to have participated in the following outdoor recreational activities in Virginia in the past 2 years: watched wildlife within 1 mile of home ($p \leq 0.01$) and gone hiking ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years are more likely than are those who have never personally had a problem with black bears within the past 2 years to have recently participated in the following hunting and fishing activities in Virginia: hunted over 5 days in the current hunting season ($p \leq 0.05$) and hunted in the current 2009-2010 season ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Those who have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years are more likely than are those who have never personally had a problem with black bears within the past 2 years to live in Region 3B ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Those who have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years are more likely than are those who have never personally had a problem with black bears within the past 2 years to consider their place of residence to be a rural area on a farm or ranch ($p \leq 0.001$) or a rural area not on a farm or ranch ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Those who have personally had at least one problem with black bears within the past 2 years are more likely than are those who have never personally had a problem with black bears within the past 2 years to have lived in their place of residence more than the median number of 7 years ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- When asked whether they think that black bears cause more problems, about the same amount, or fewer problems in their area compared to other areas of Virginia, nearly half of Virginia residents answer “about the same” (48%), and another 32% say “less.”

- The majority of Virginia residents disagree (53%) that, when black bear damage occurs to property in Virginia, the property owner should be compensated for the damage; meanwhile, 34% agree.
 - There is slightly more support, compared to the previous question, for compensating farmers for agricultural damage: 47% agree that property owners should be compensated for agricultural damage from black bears, and 41% disagree.
 - Finally, there is yet more support for compensating property owners for damage to livestock: 53% agree, compared to 37% who disagree, that a property owner should be compensated for damage to livestock.
 - As previously reported, the majority of Virginia residents (61%) oppose destroying a black bear that causes agricultural damage to crops or livestock; 29% support. (This graph is shown in the section of this report titled, “Opinions on Wildlife and Black Bear Management.”)

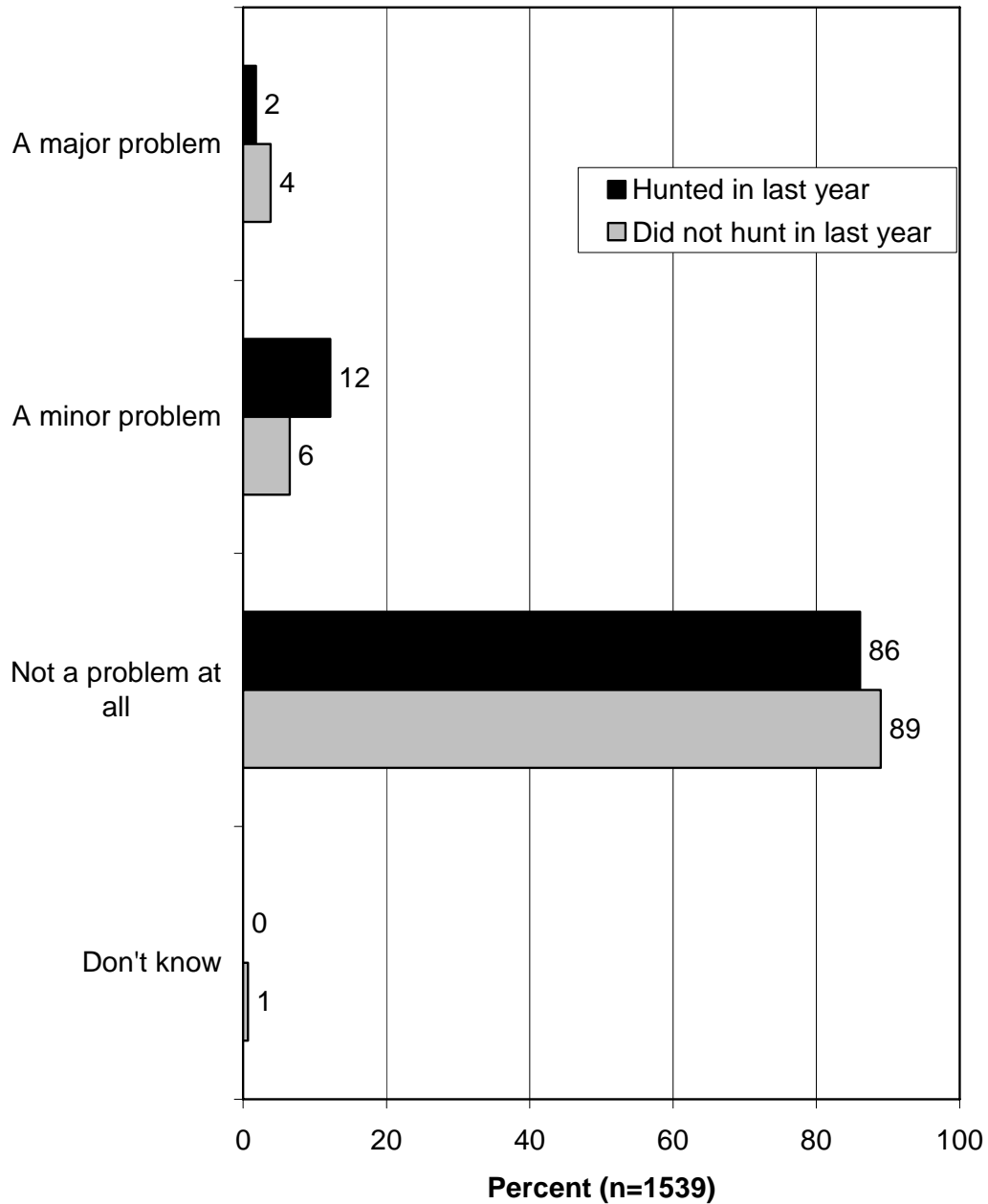
Q103. How much of a problem would you say black bears are for you in your neighborhood or on your property?



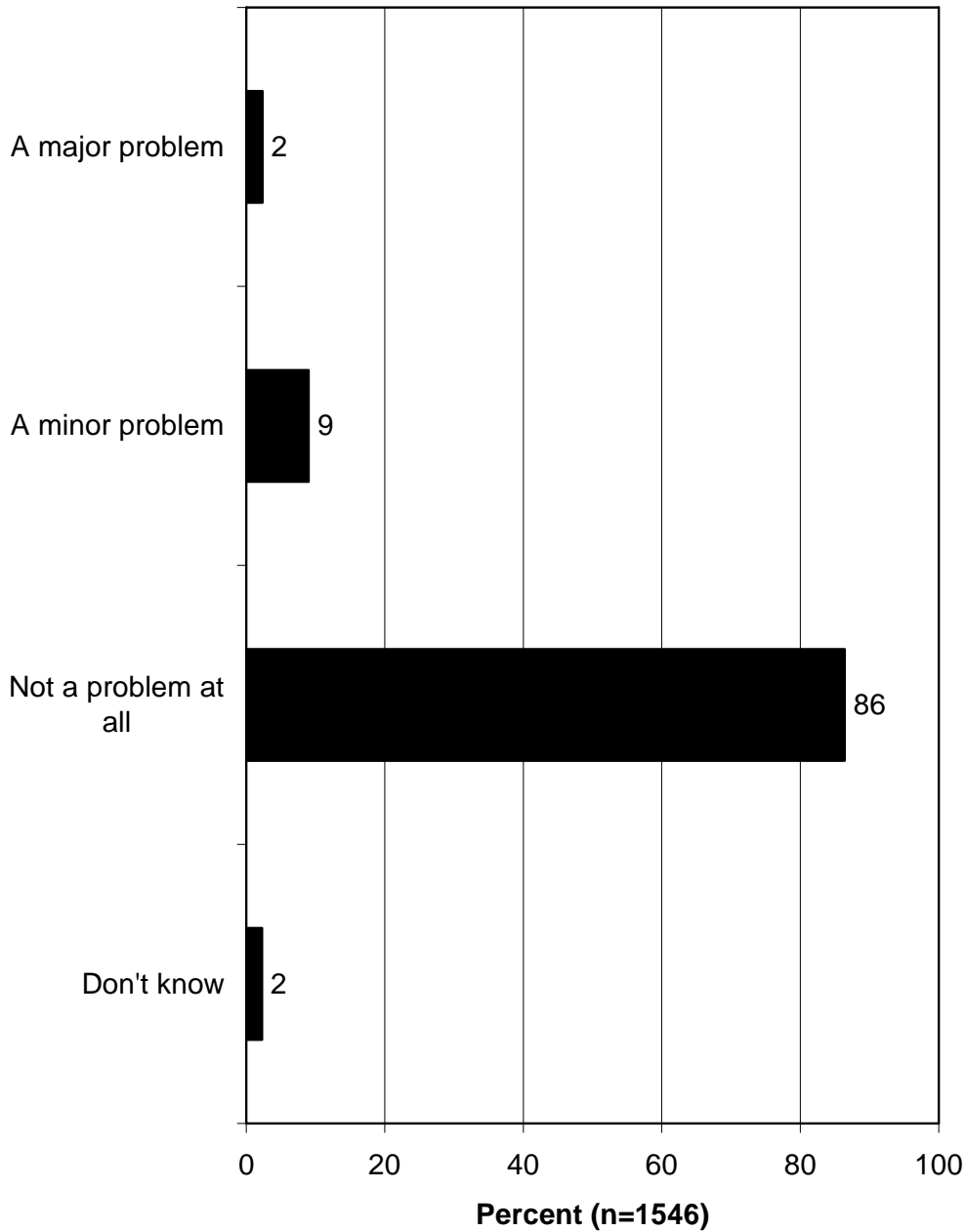
Q103. How much of a problem would you say black bears are for you in your neighborhood or on your property?



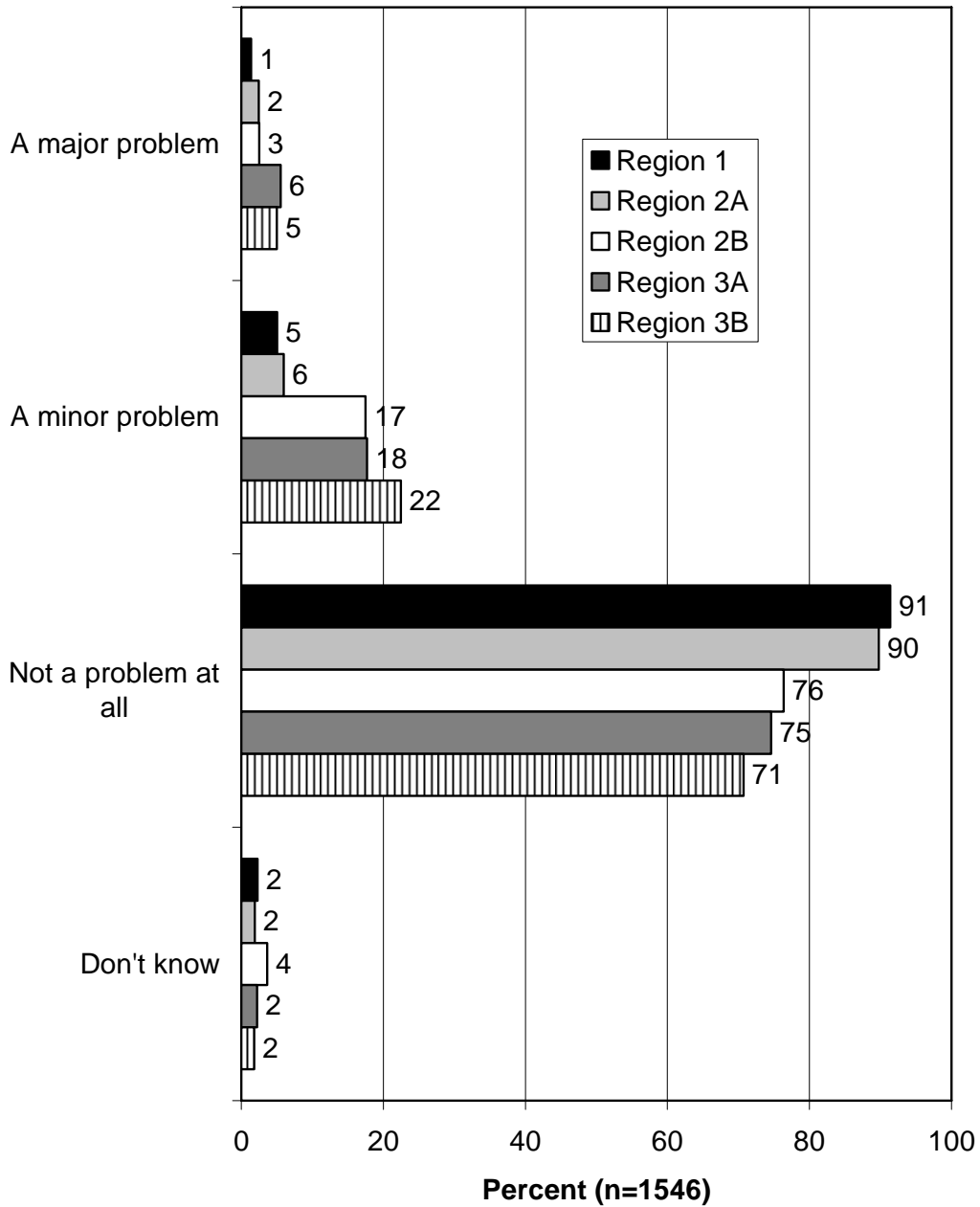
Q103. How much of a problem would you say black bears are for you in your neighborhood or on your property?



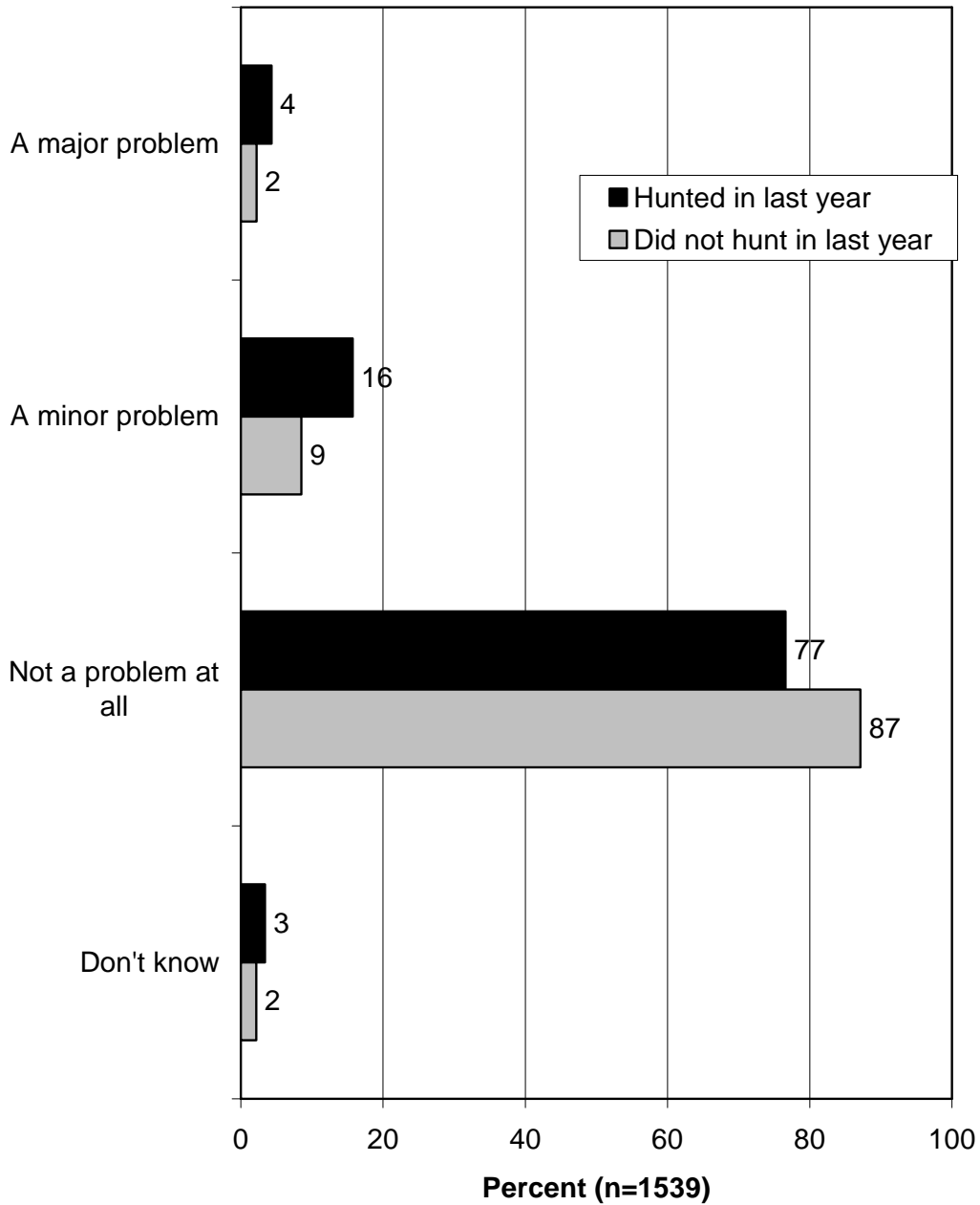
Q120. How much of a problem would you say neighbors attracting black bears with birdfeeders, garbage, or other food sources is in your neighborhood?



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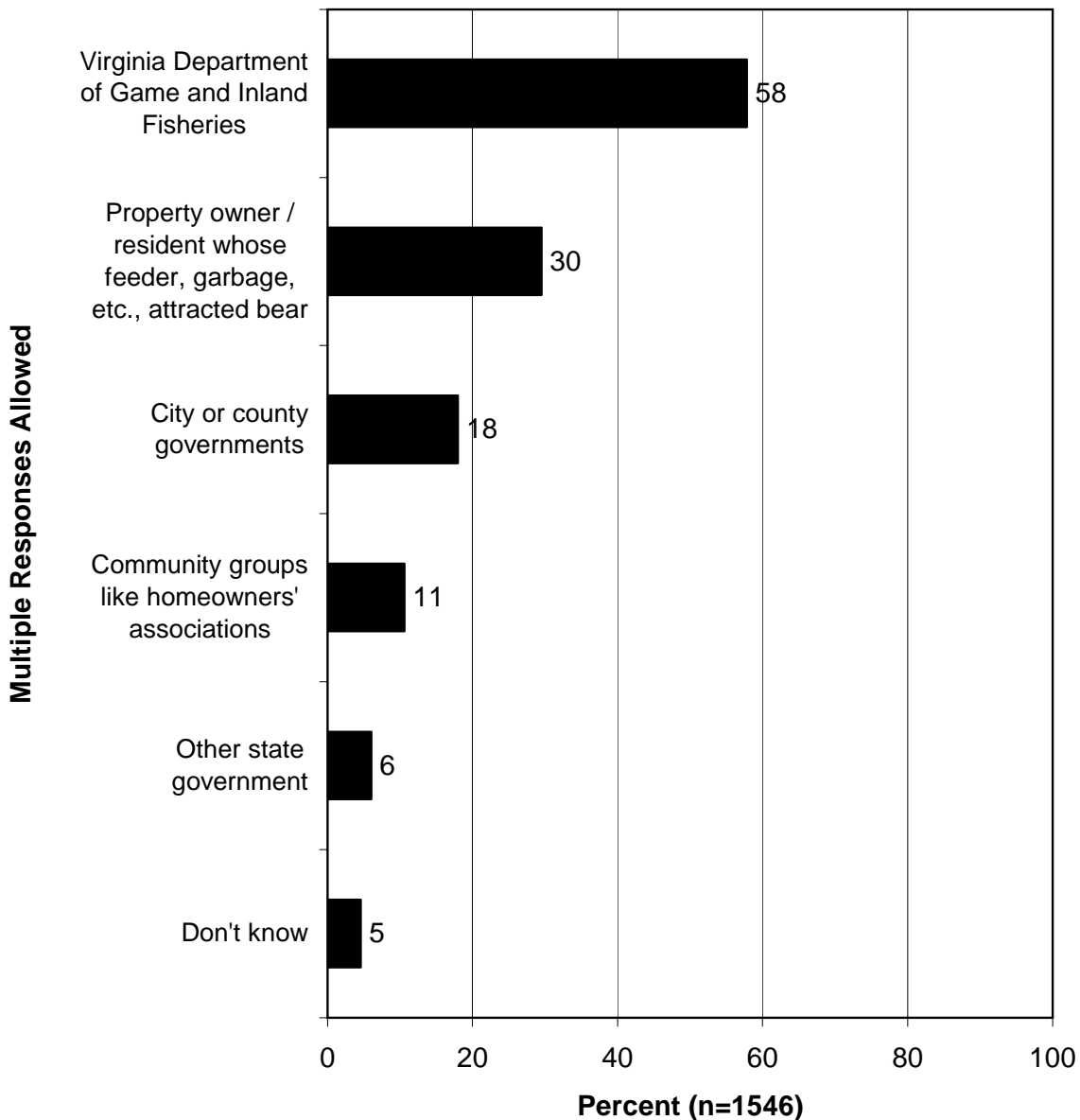
Q120. How much of a problem would you say neighbors attracting black bears with birdfeeders, garbage, or other food sources is in your neighborhood?



Prior to this question, respondents were asked:

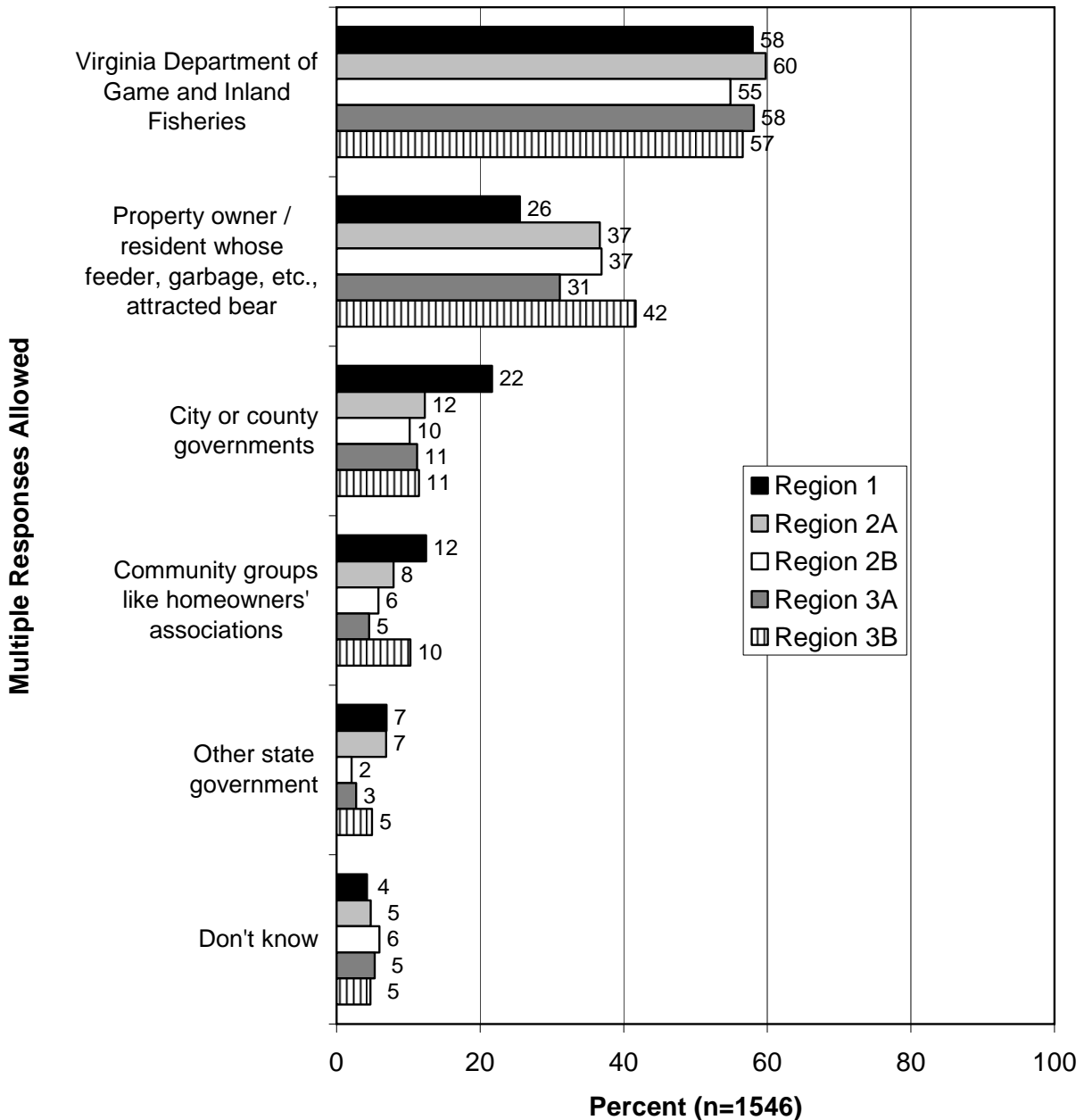
Q120. How much of a problem would you say neighbors attracting black bears with birdfeeders, garbage, or other food sources is in your neighborhood?

Q123. If and when this happens, who should have the primary responsibility for addressing the situation?



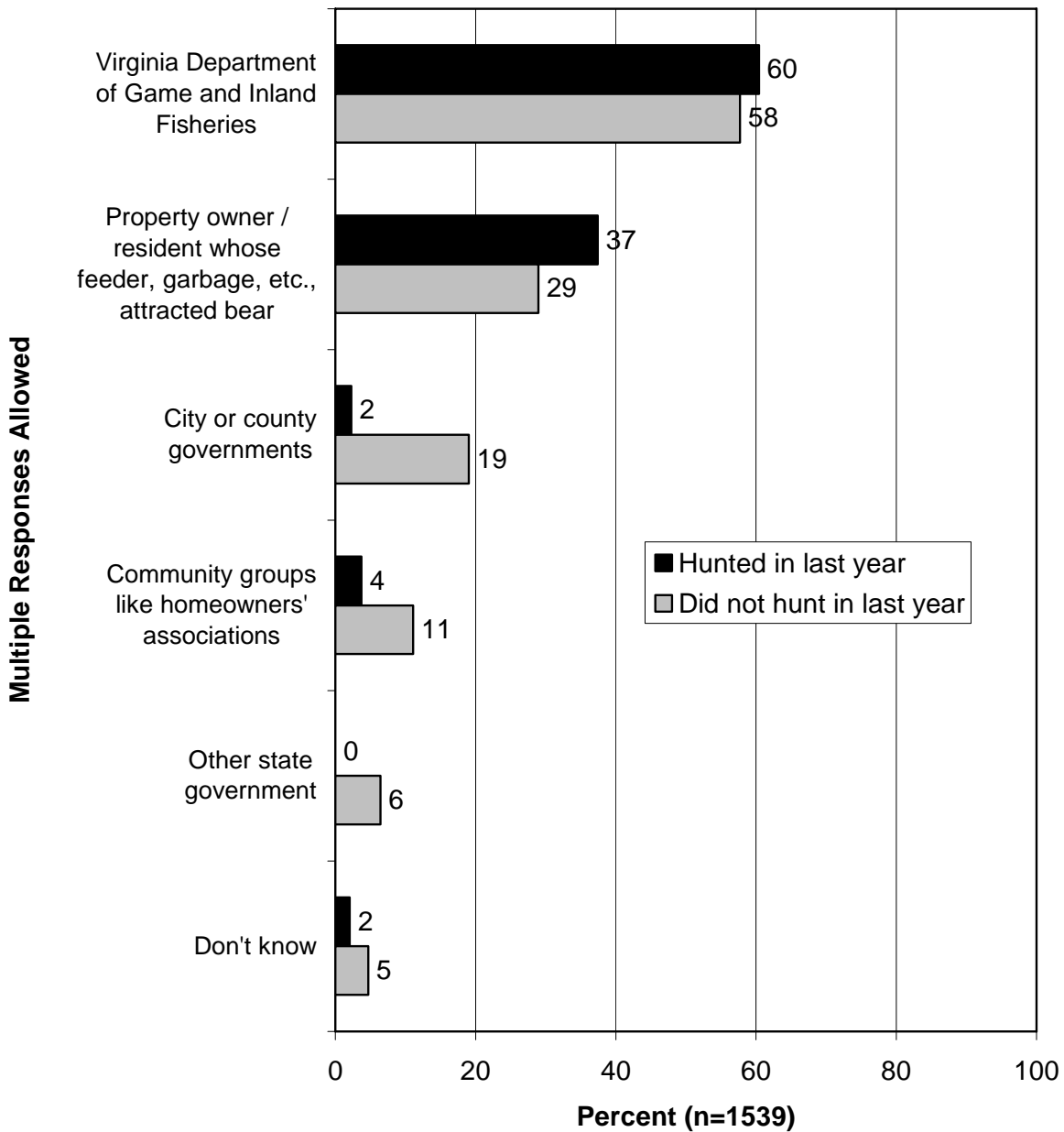
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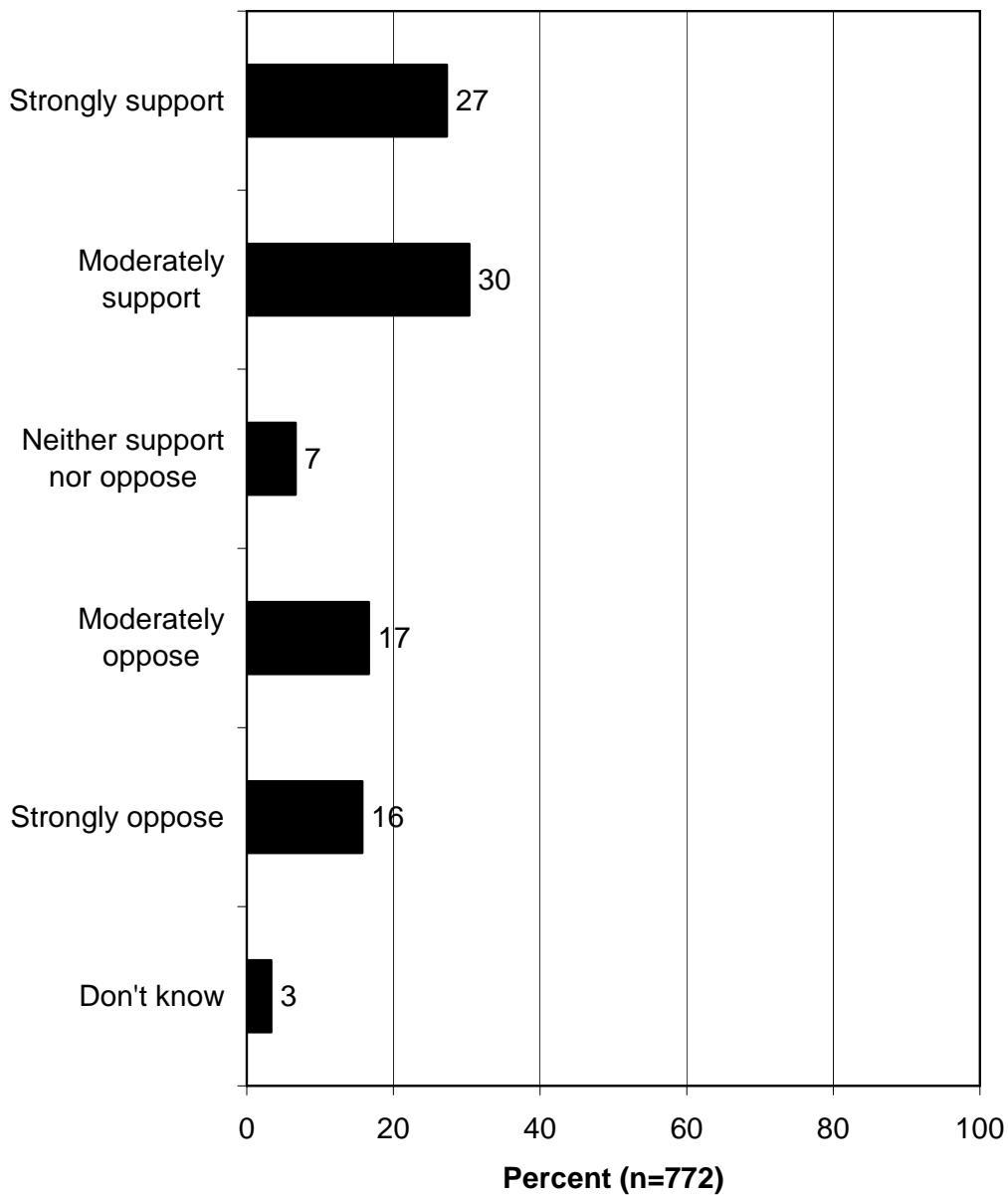


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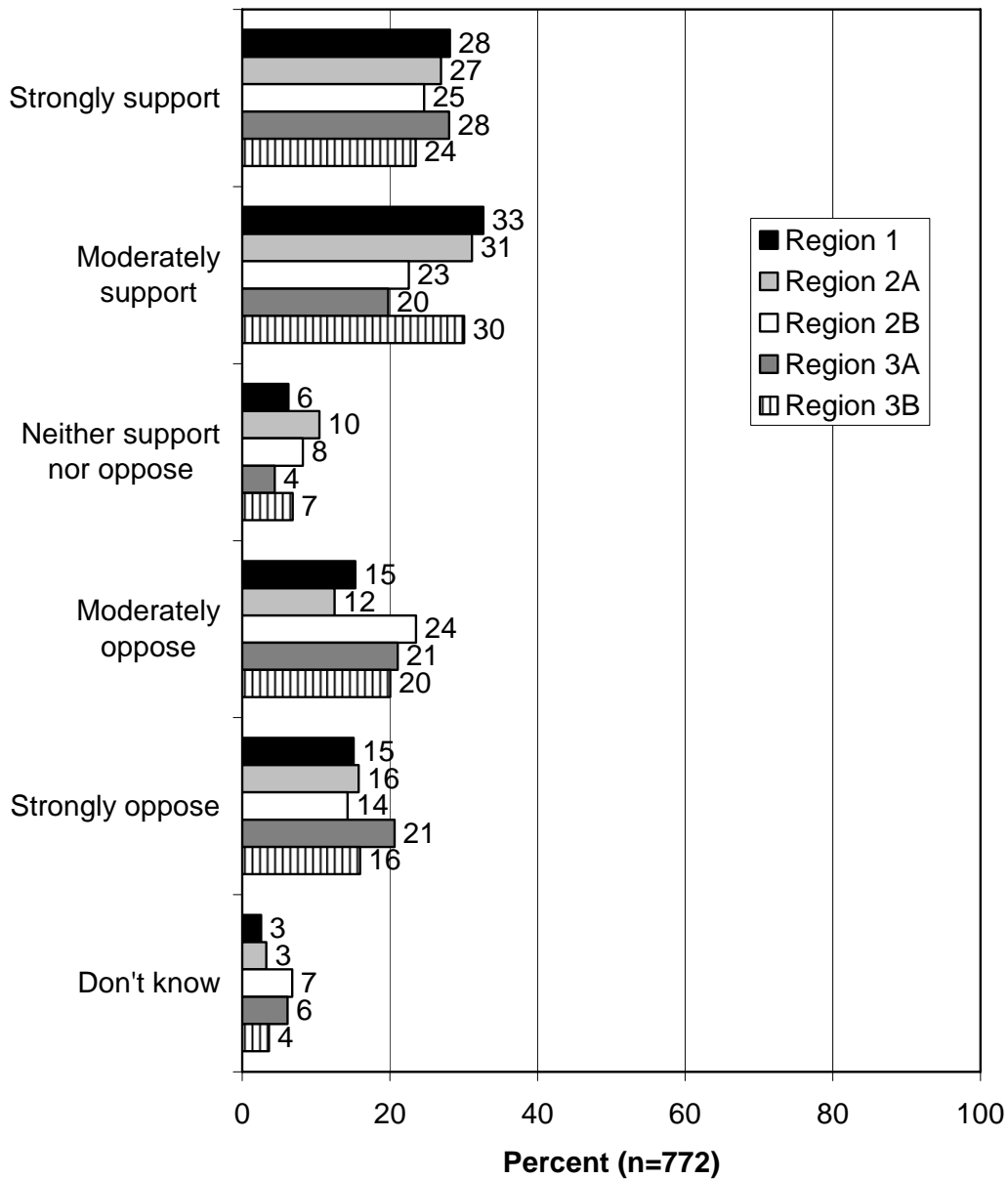
Q123. If and when this happens, who should have the primary responsibility for addressing the situation?



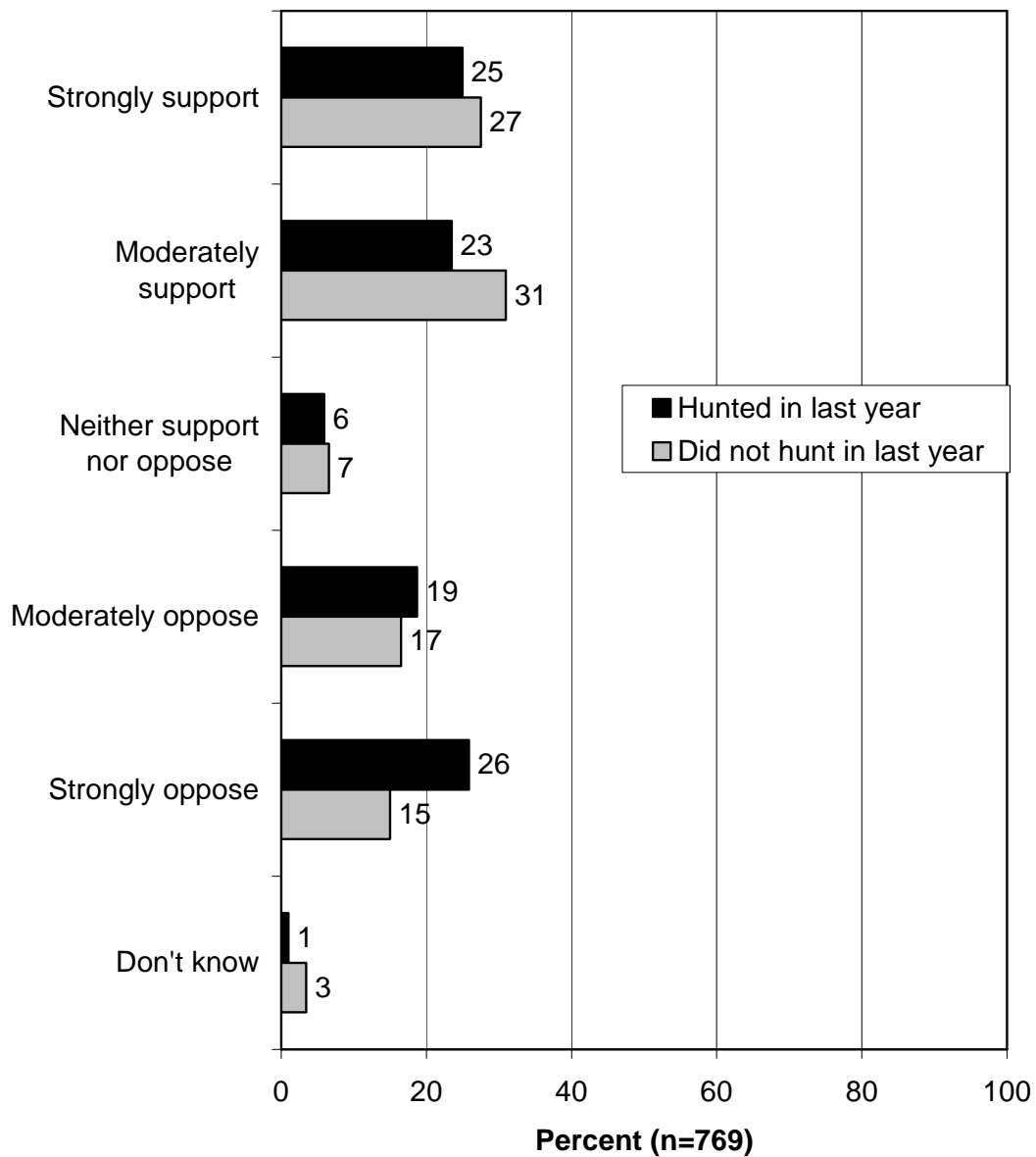
Q127. If a bear is causing a problem, do you support or oppose fines for people who attract black bears, either intentionally or unintentionally, to the area by feeding birds, not taking the proper precautions with their garbage, or participating in wildlife feeding activities that attract bears?



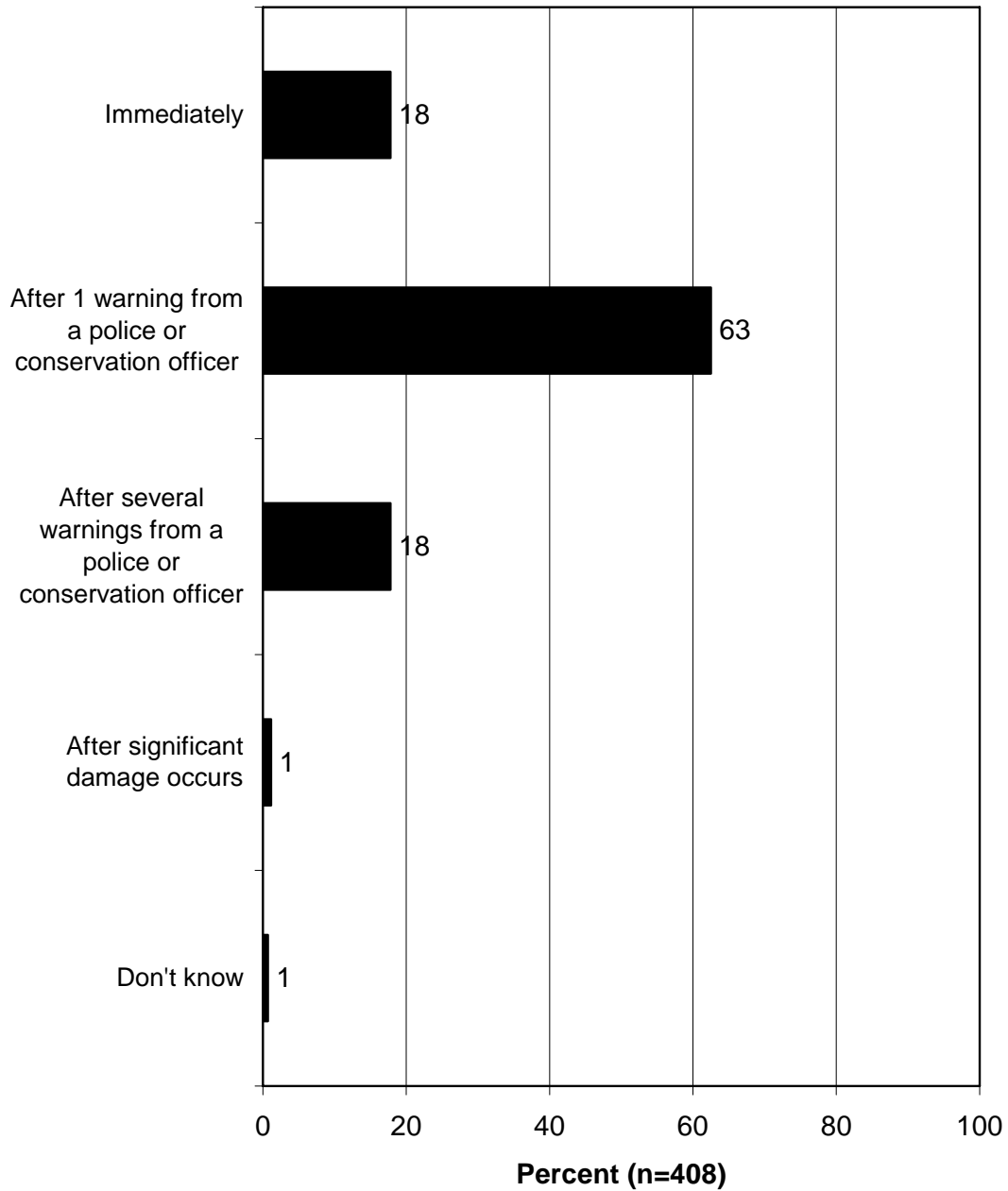
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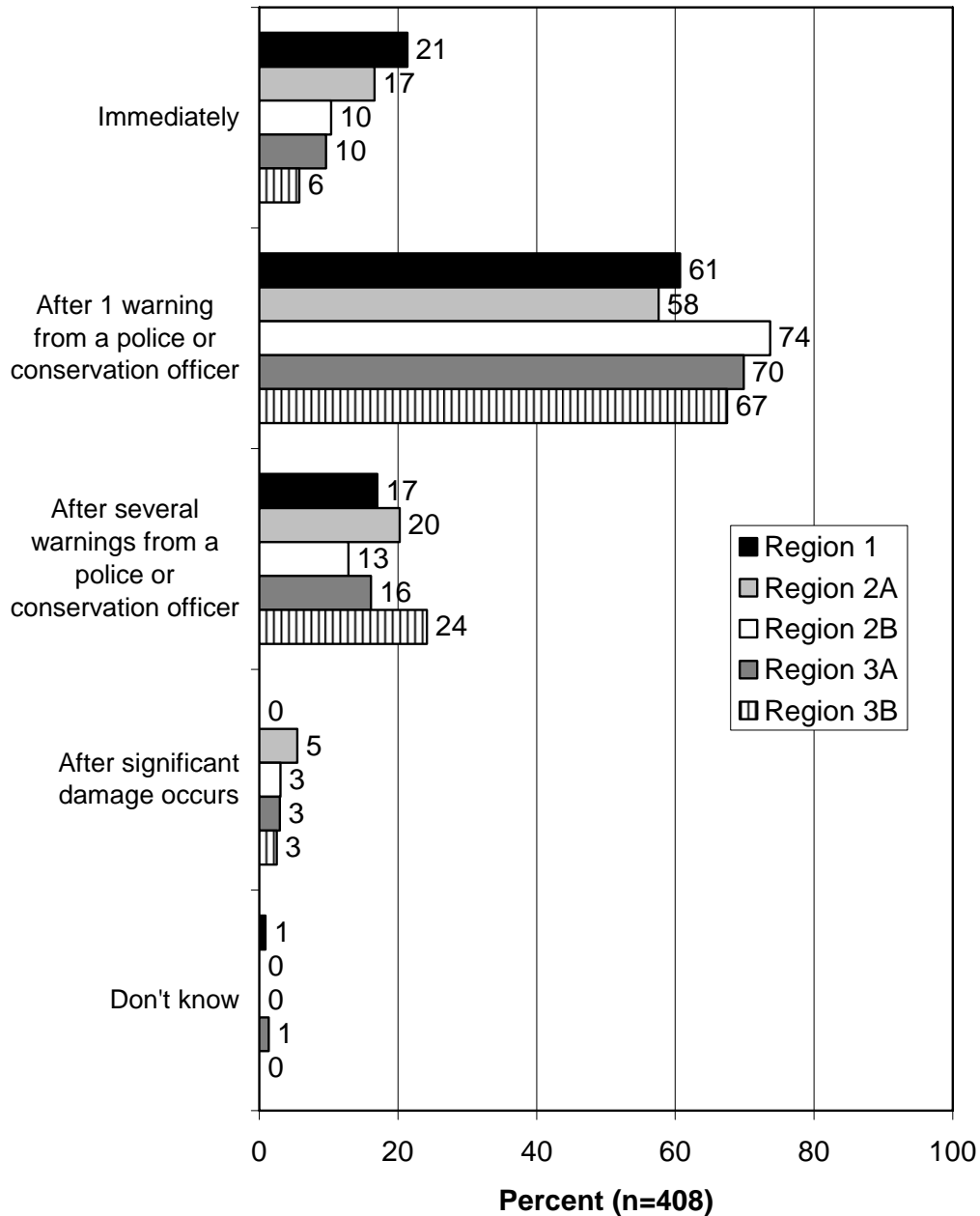
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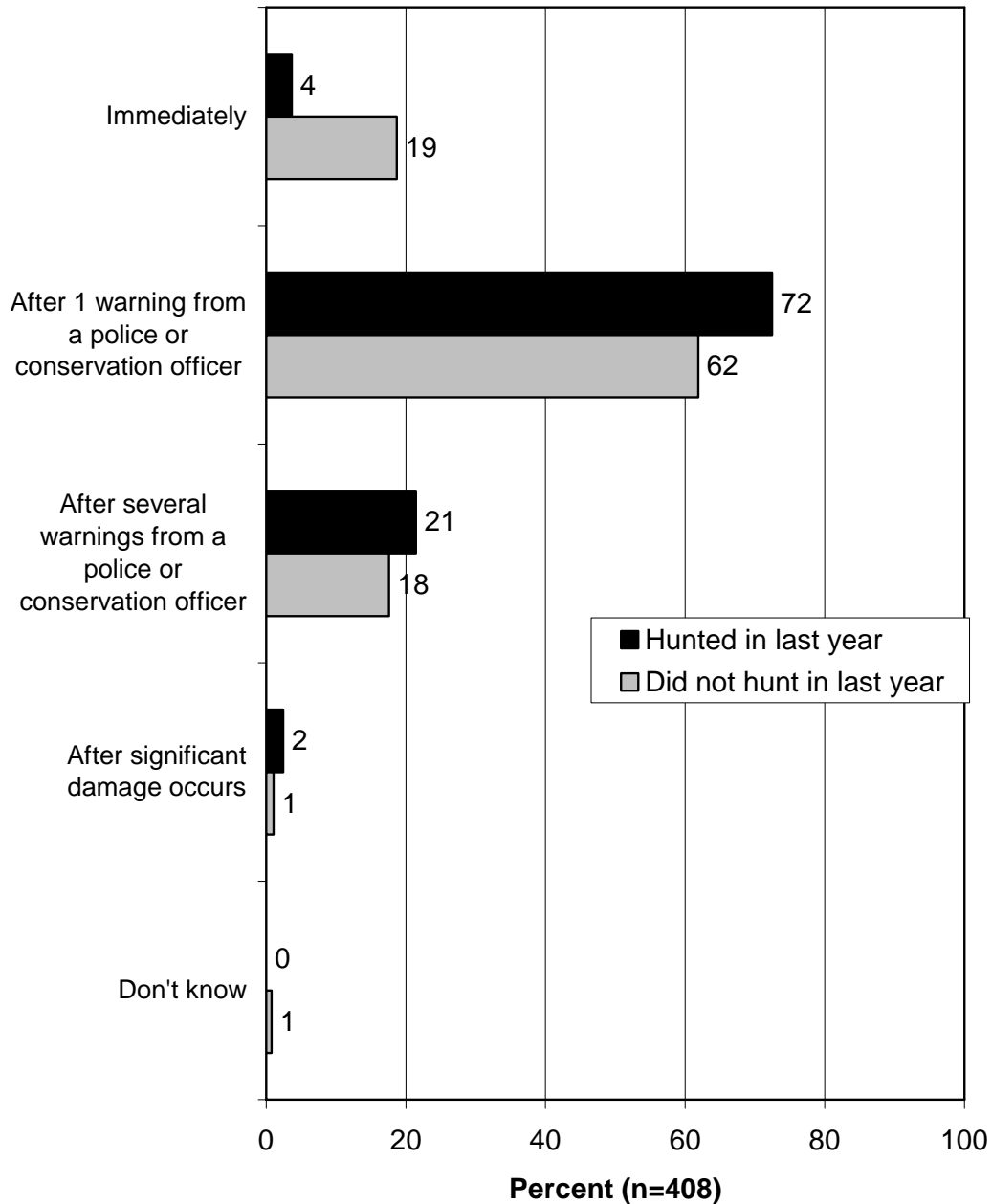
Q128. Do you think they should be fined...? (Asked of respondents who support fines for people who attract black bears, either intentionally or unintentionally.)



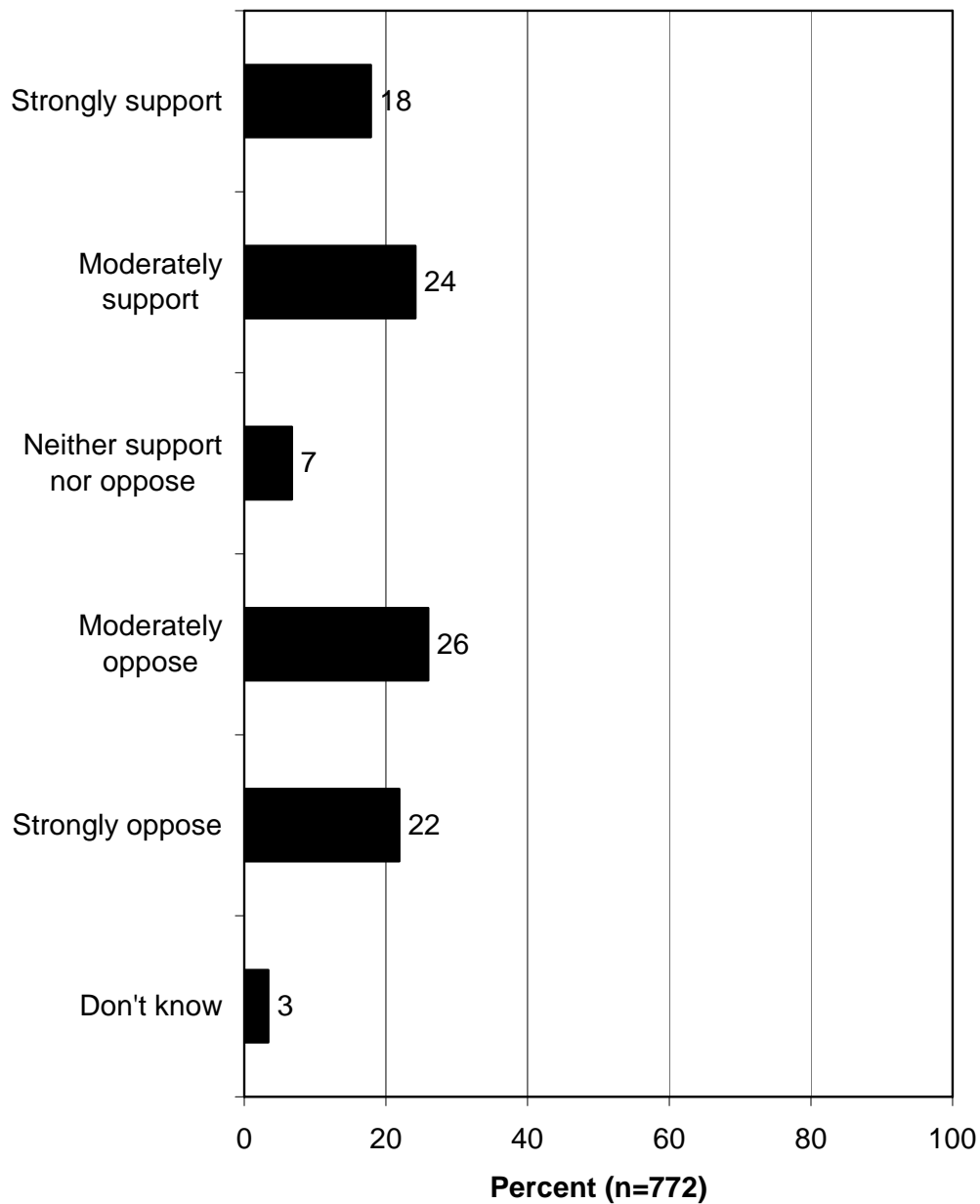
Q128. Do you think they should be fined...? (Asked of respondents who support fines for people who attract black bears, either intentionally or unintentionally.)



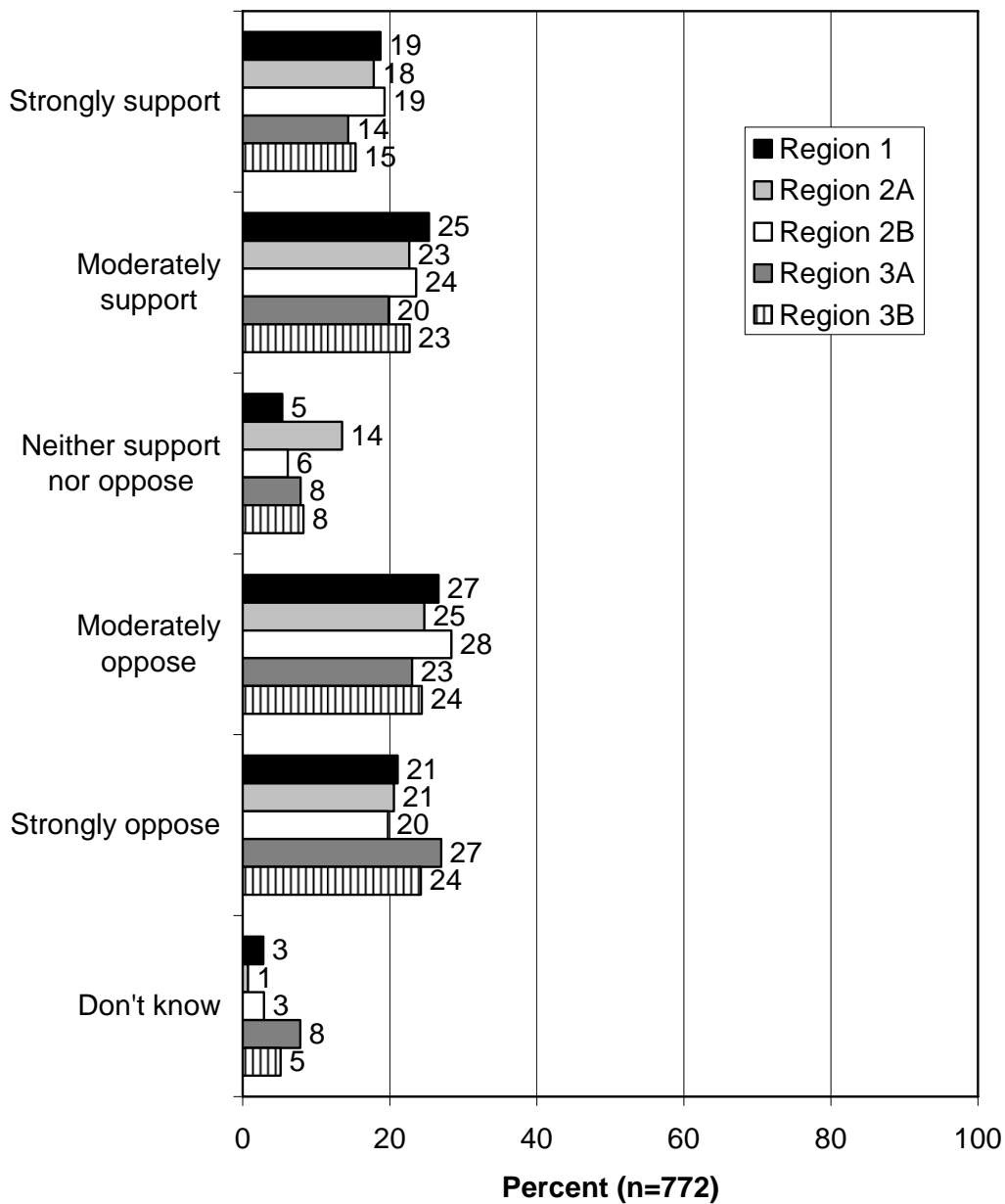
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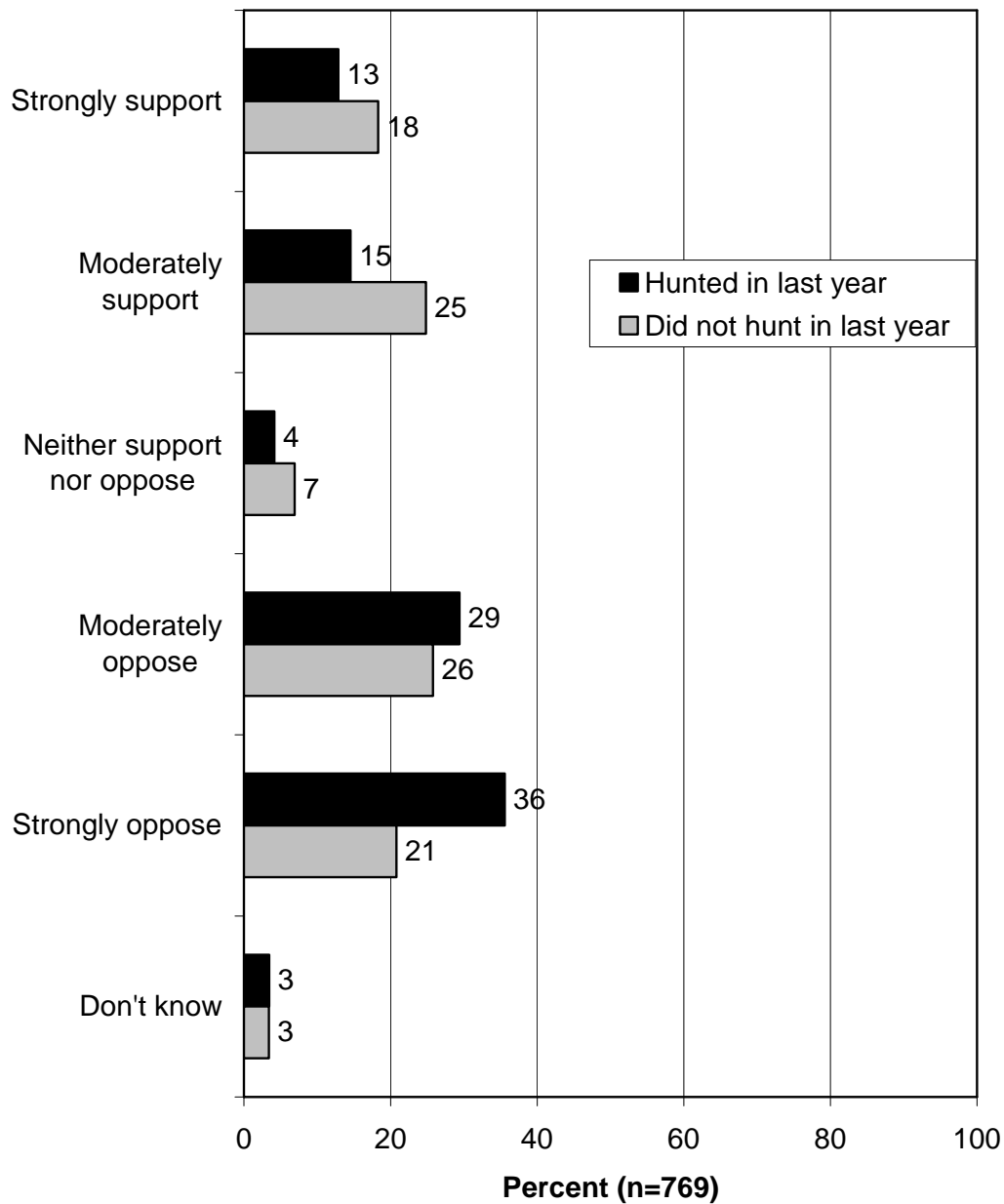
Q129. Do you support or oppose prohibiting people visiting or living in areas frequented by black bears from using birdfeeders or participating in other wildlife feeding activities to avoid problems with black bears in Virginia?



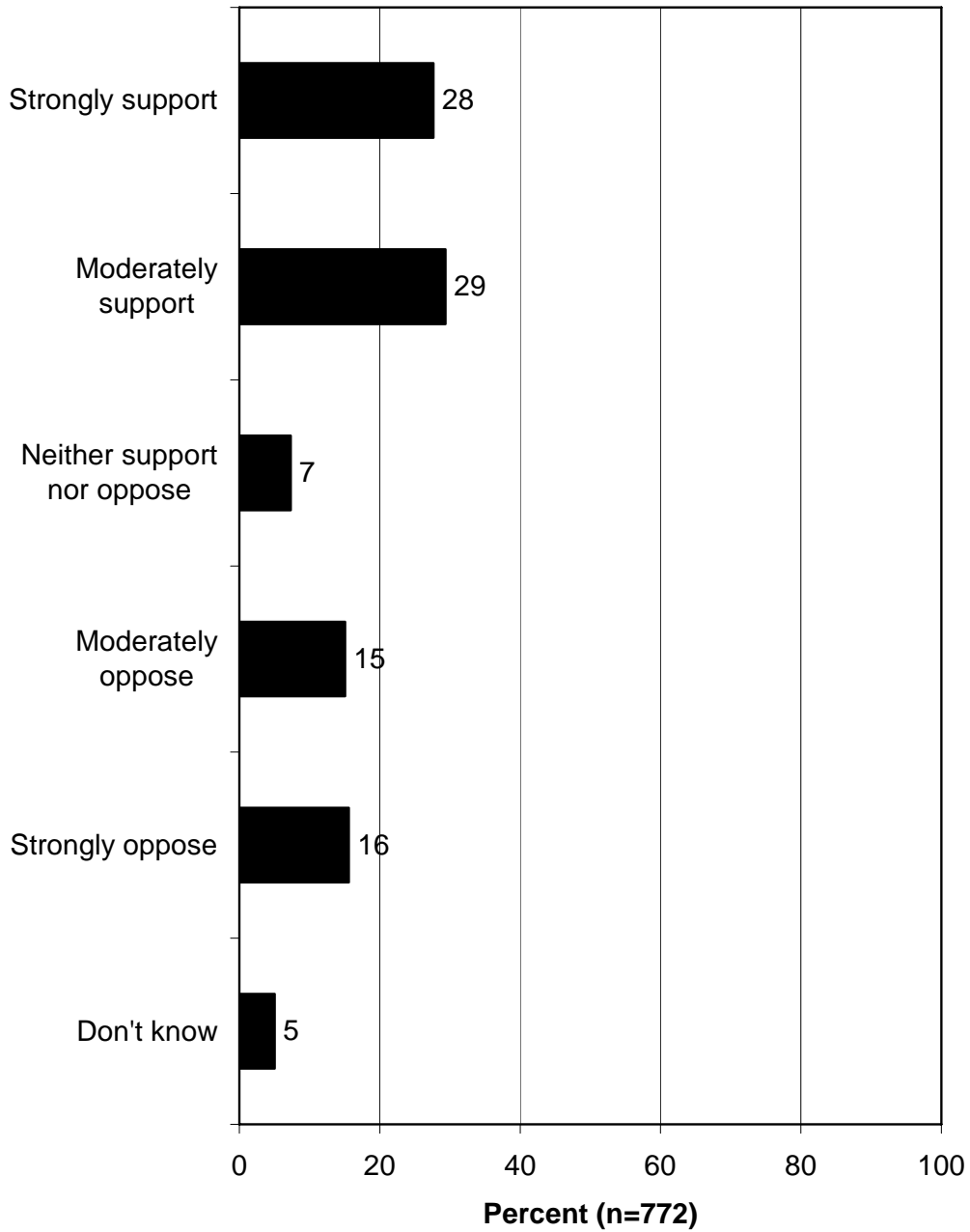
Q129. Do you support or oppose prohibiting people visiting or living in areas frequented by black bears from using birdfeeders or participating in other wildlife feeding activities to avoid problems with black bears in Virginia?



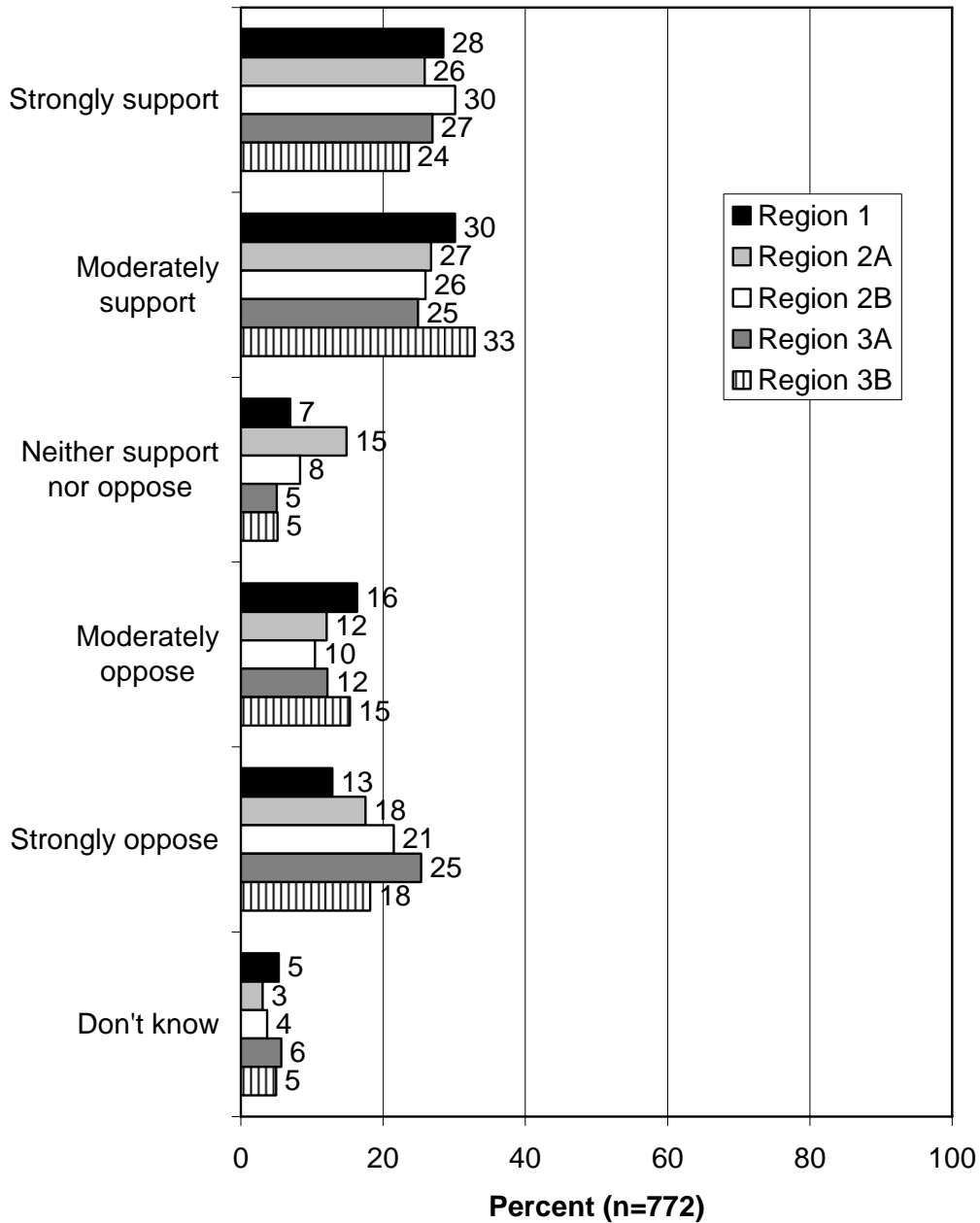
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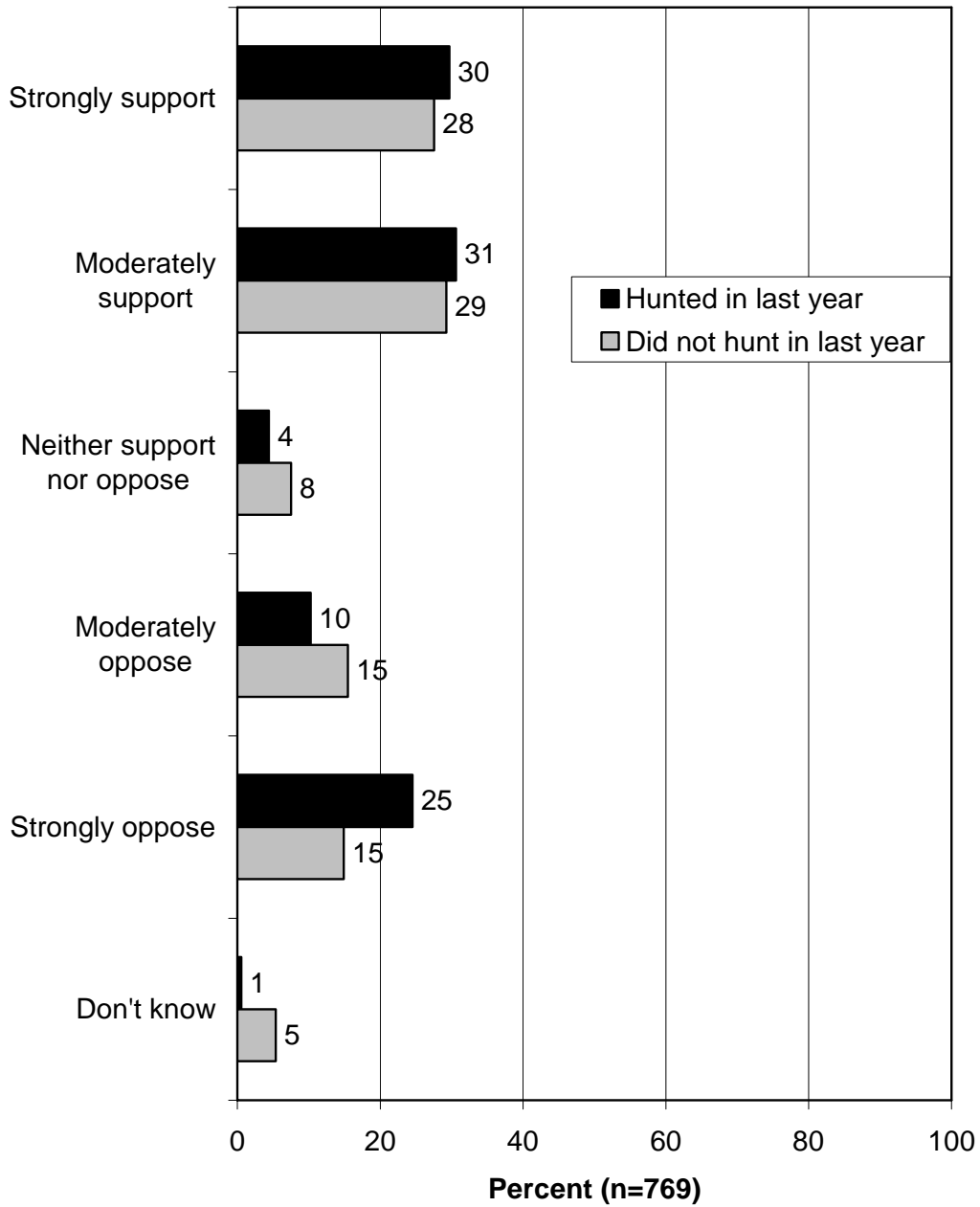
Q130. Do you support or oppose requiring people whose birdfeeders are attracting black bears to take down or electrify the birdfeeder?



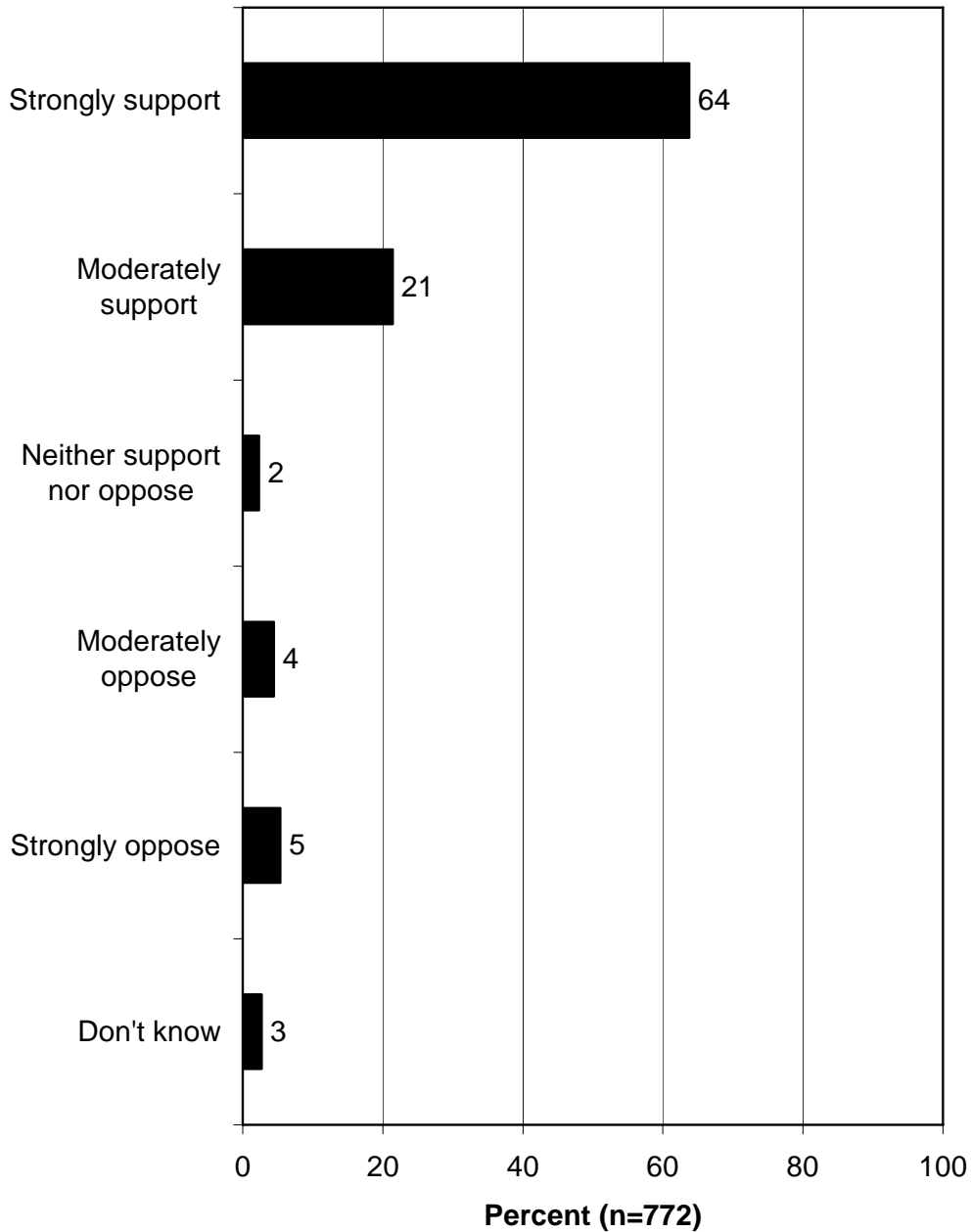
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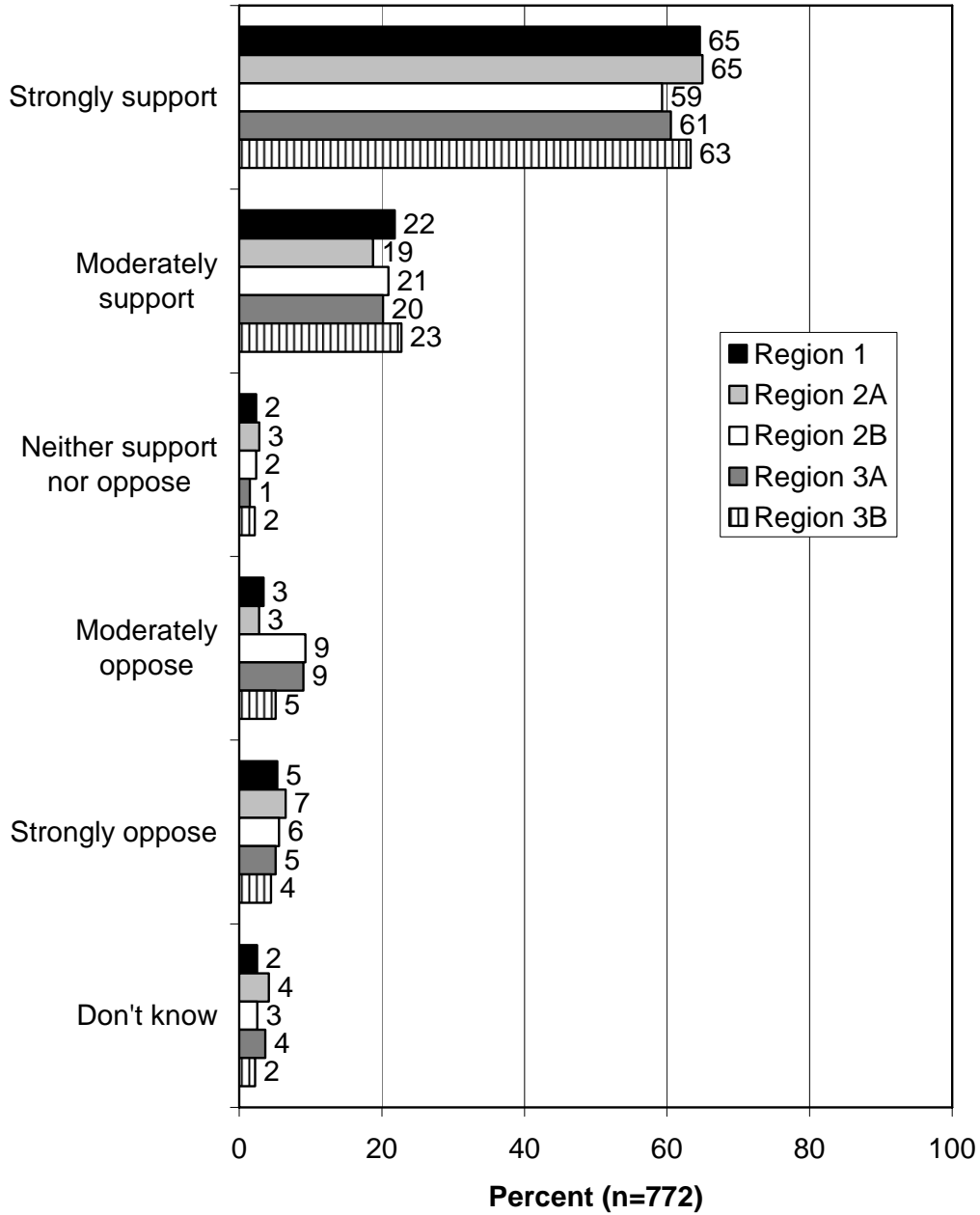
Q130. Do you support or oppose requiring people whose birdfeeders are attracting black bears to take down or electrify the birdfeeder?



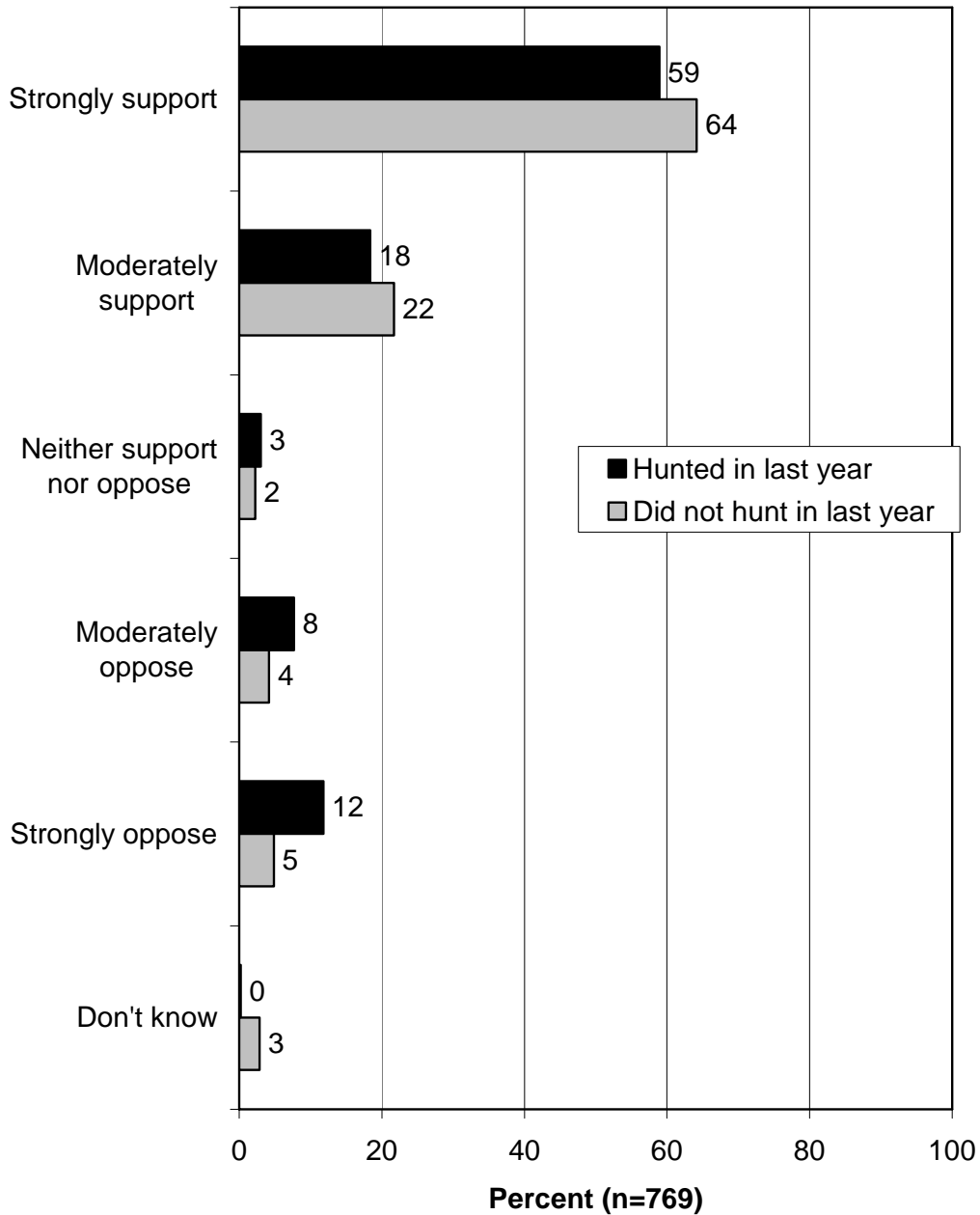
Q131. Do you support or oppose requiring people to use bear-proof garbage containers in areas frequented by bears?



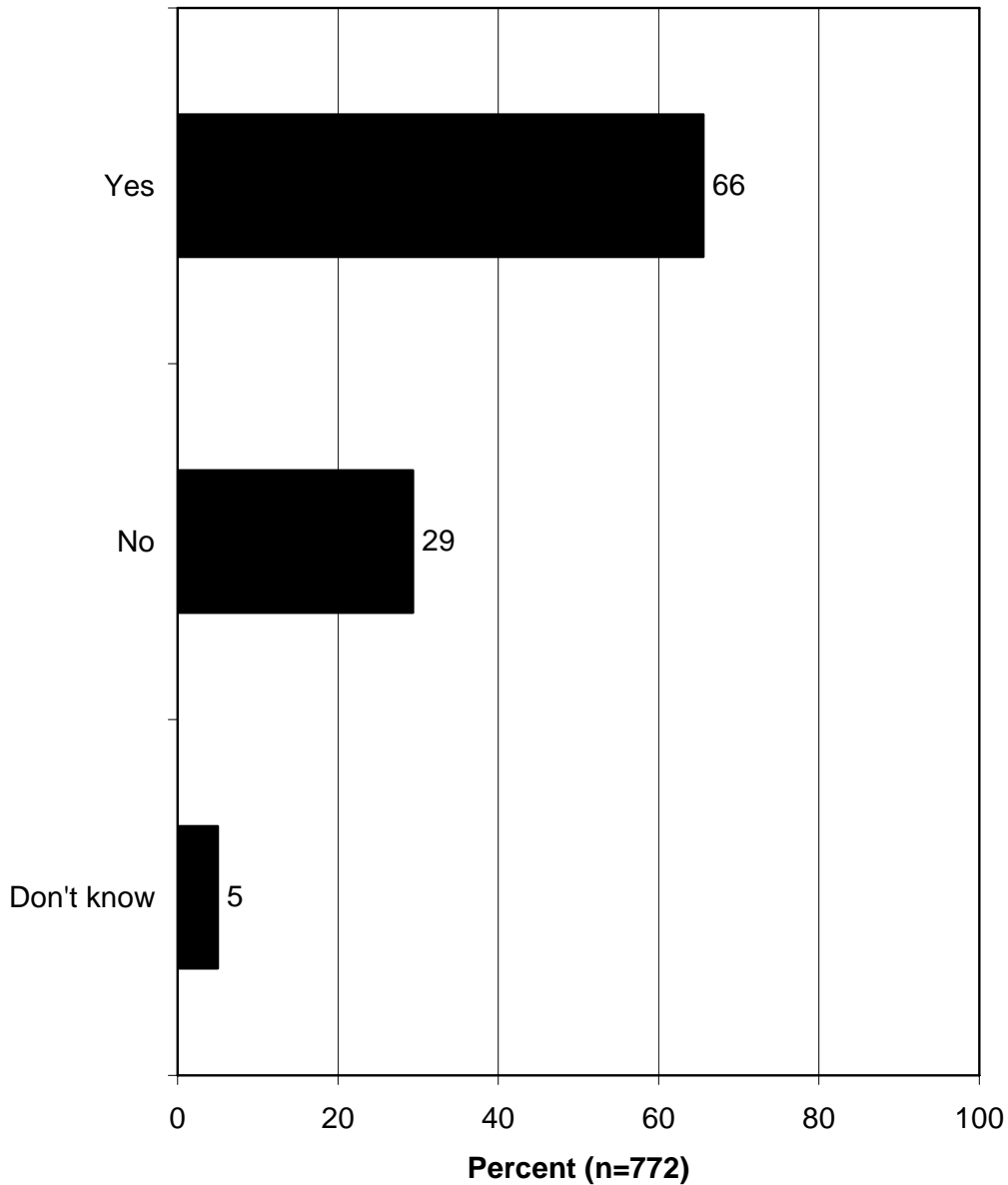
Q131. Do you support or oppose requiring people to use bear-proof garbage containers in areas frequented by bears?



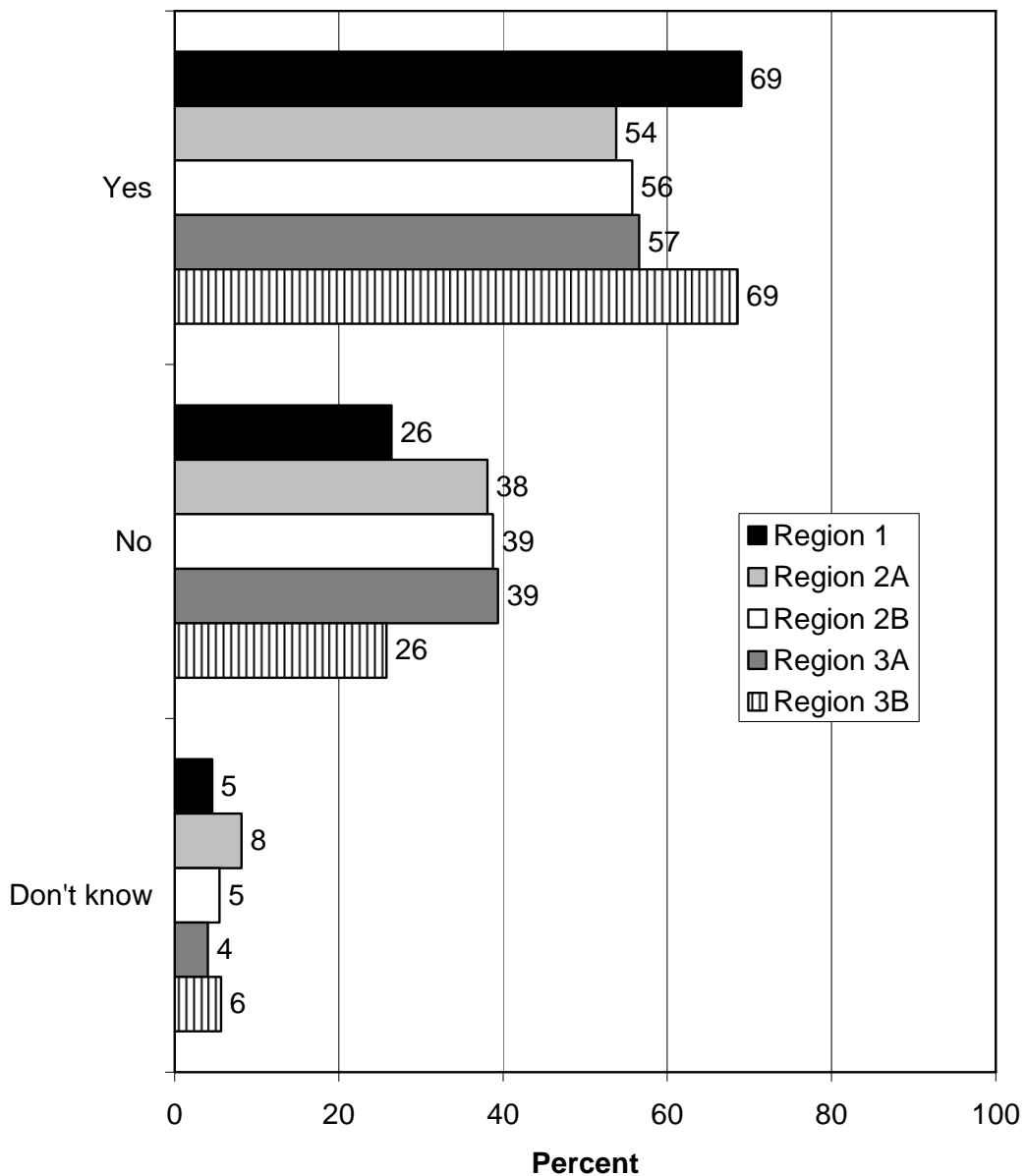
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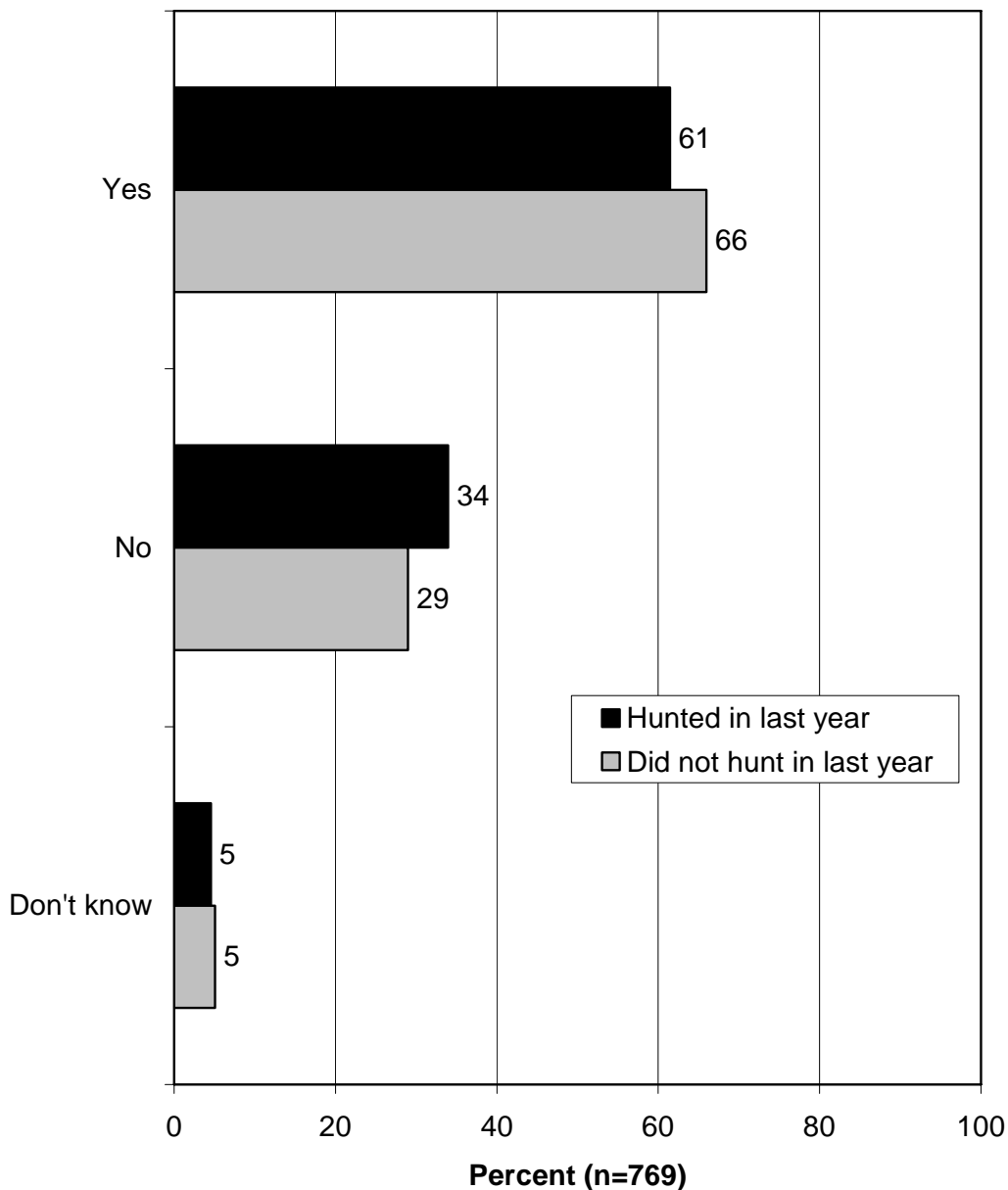
Q132. If the county or city provided bear-proof garbage containers where there is roadside trash pick up, would you be willing to pay about \$10 more per month for your trash service for 12 months only? The additional \$10 per month for 12 months would pay for the cost of the bear-proof container.



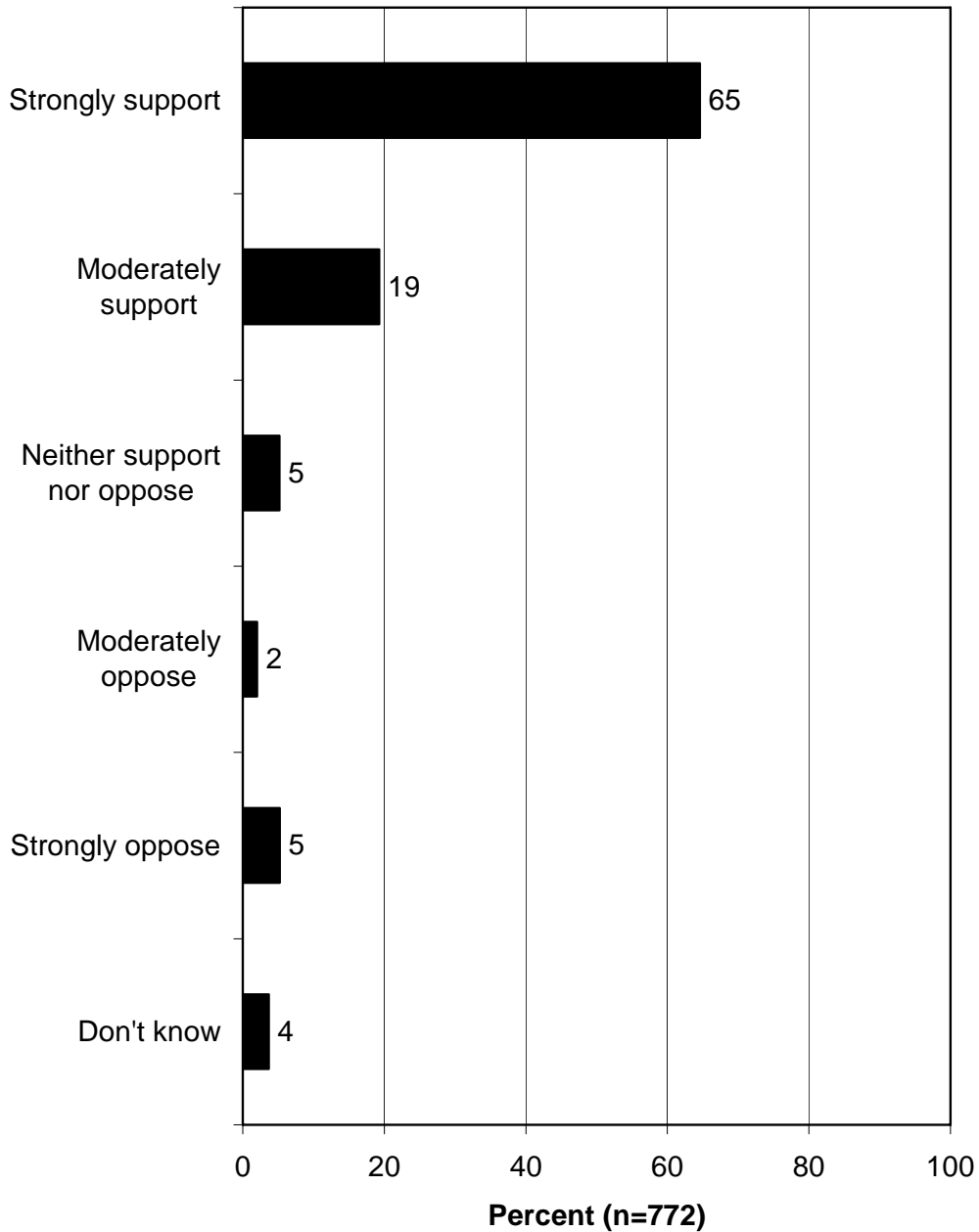
Q132. If the county or city provided bear-proof garbage containers where there is roadside trash pick up, would you be willing to pay about \$10 more per month for your trash service for 12 months only? The additional \$10 per month for 12 months would pay for the cost of the bear-proof container.



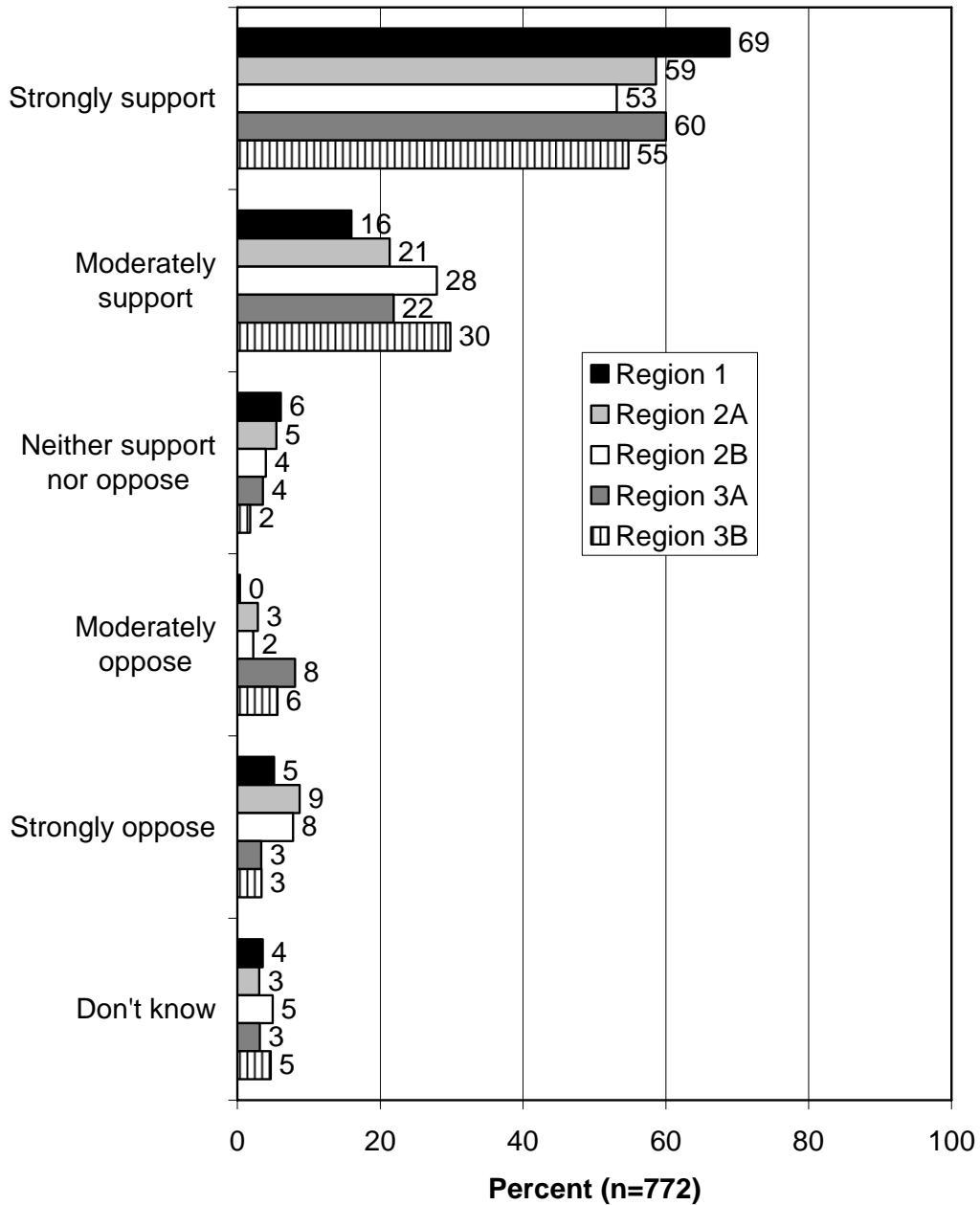
Q132. If the county or city provided bear-proof garbage containers where there is roadside trash pick up, would you be willing to pay about \$10 more per month for your trash service for 12 months only? The additional \$10 per month for 12 months would pay for the cost of the bear-proof container.



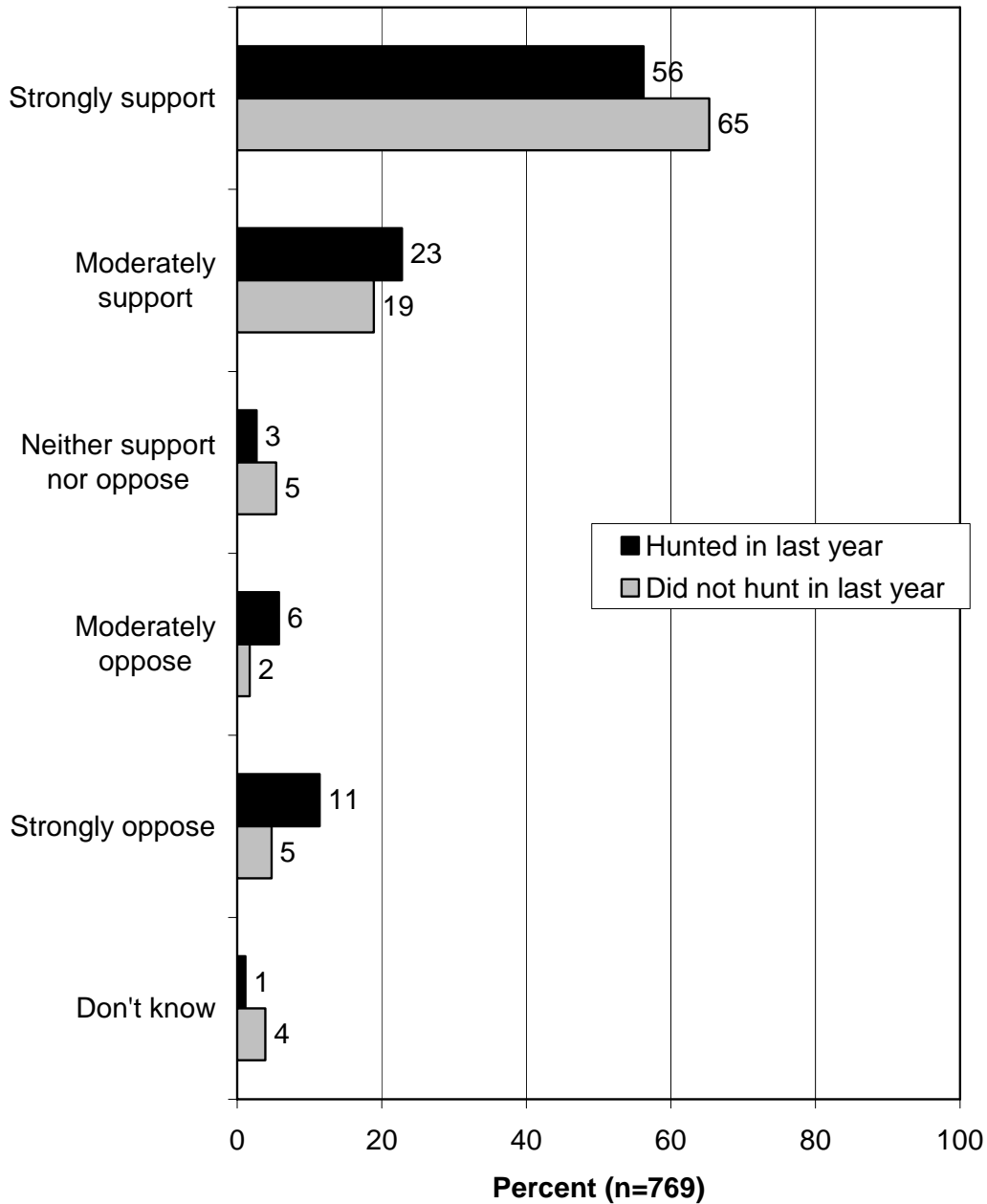
Q133. Do you support or oppose requiring counties that are frequented by bears and that use open dumpsters to use bear-proof dumpsters?



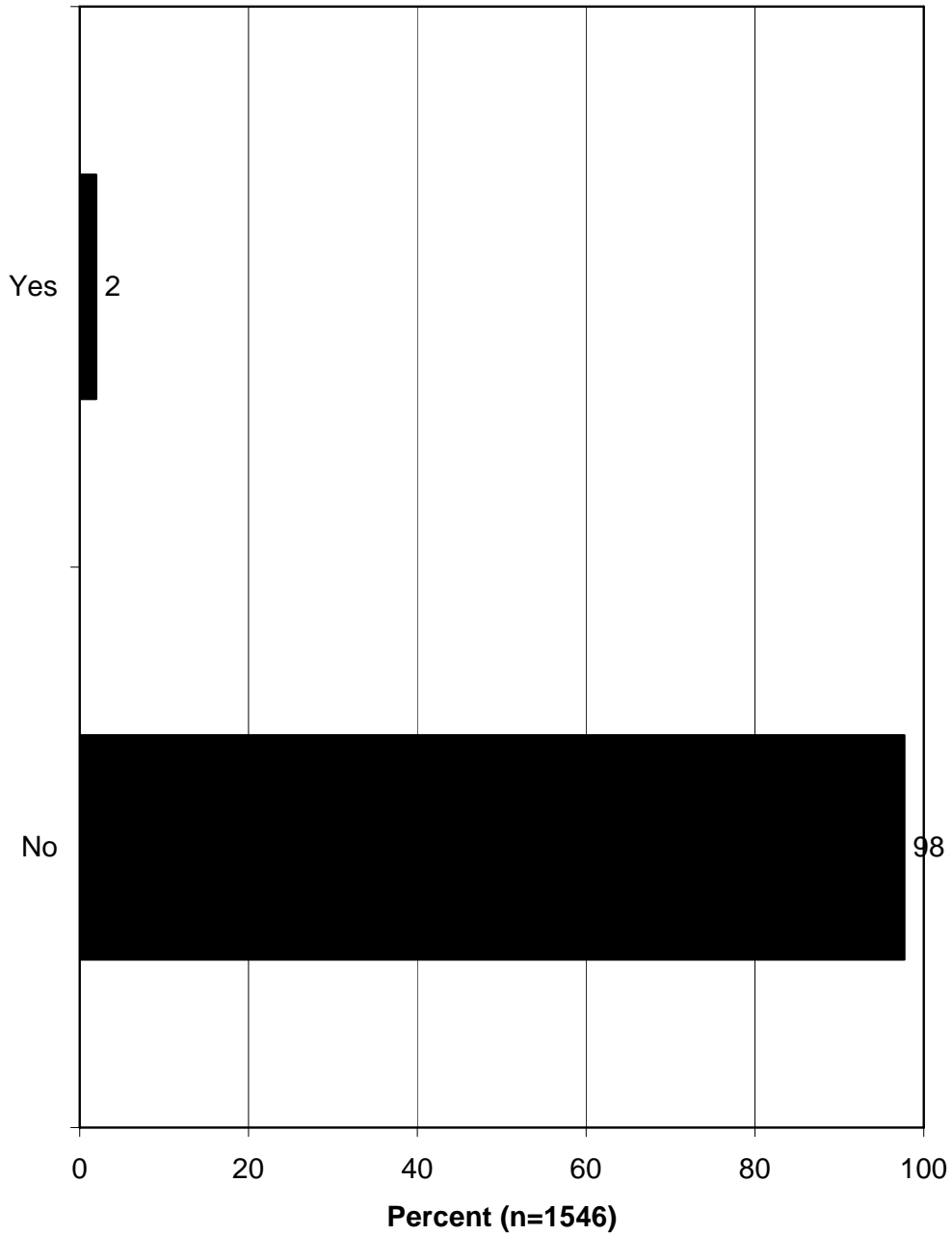
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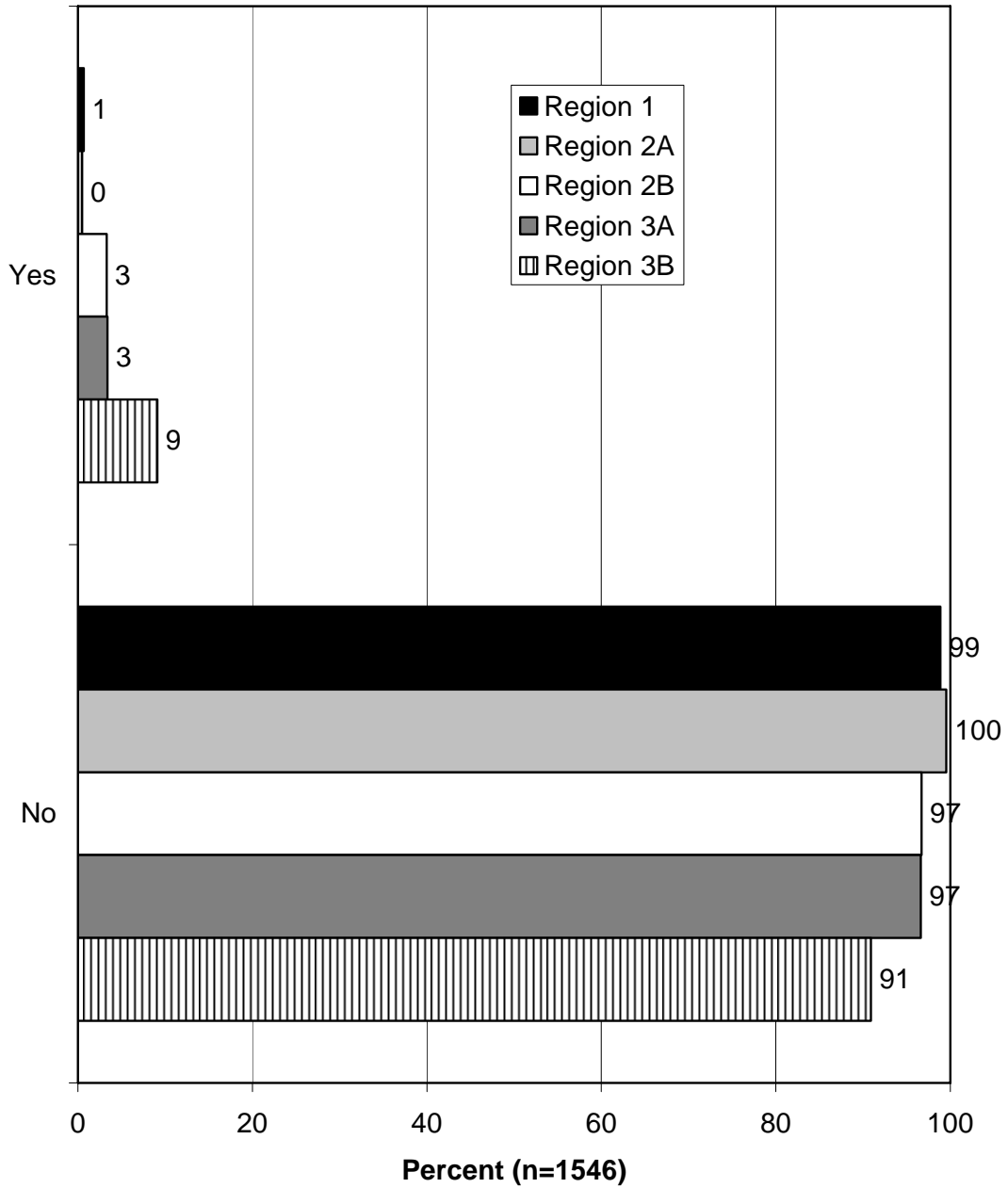
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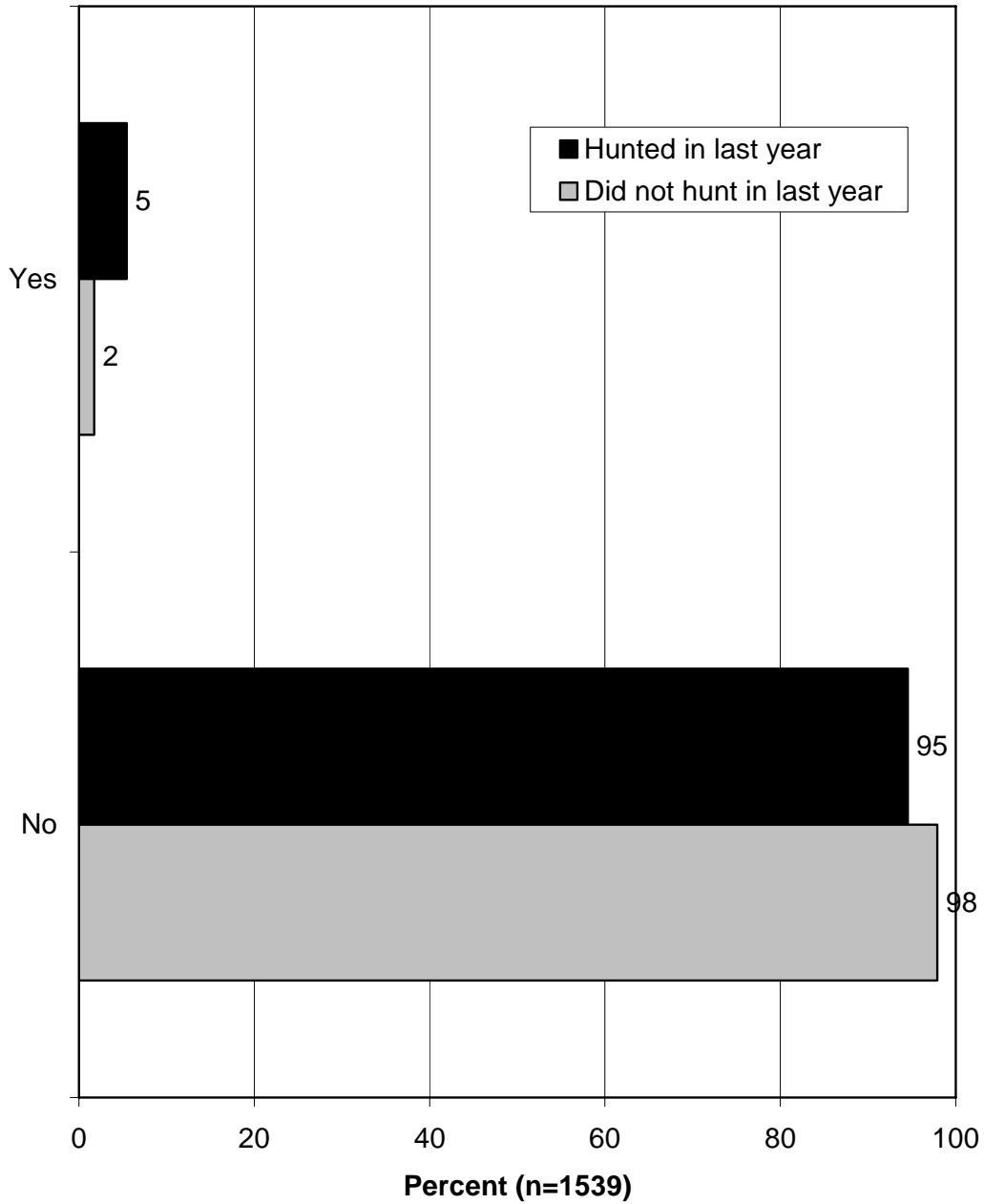
Q105. Have you personally had any problems with black bears within the past 2 years?



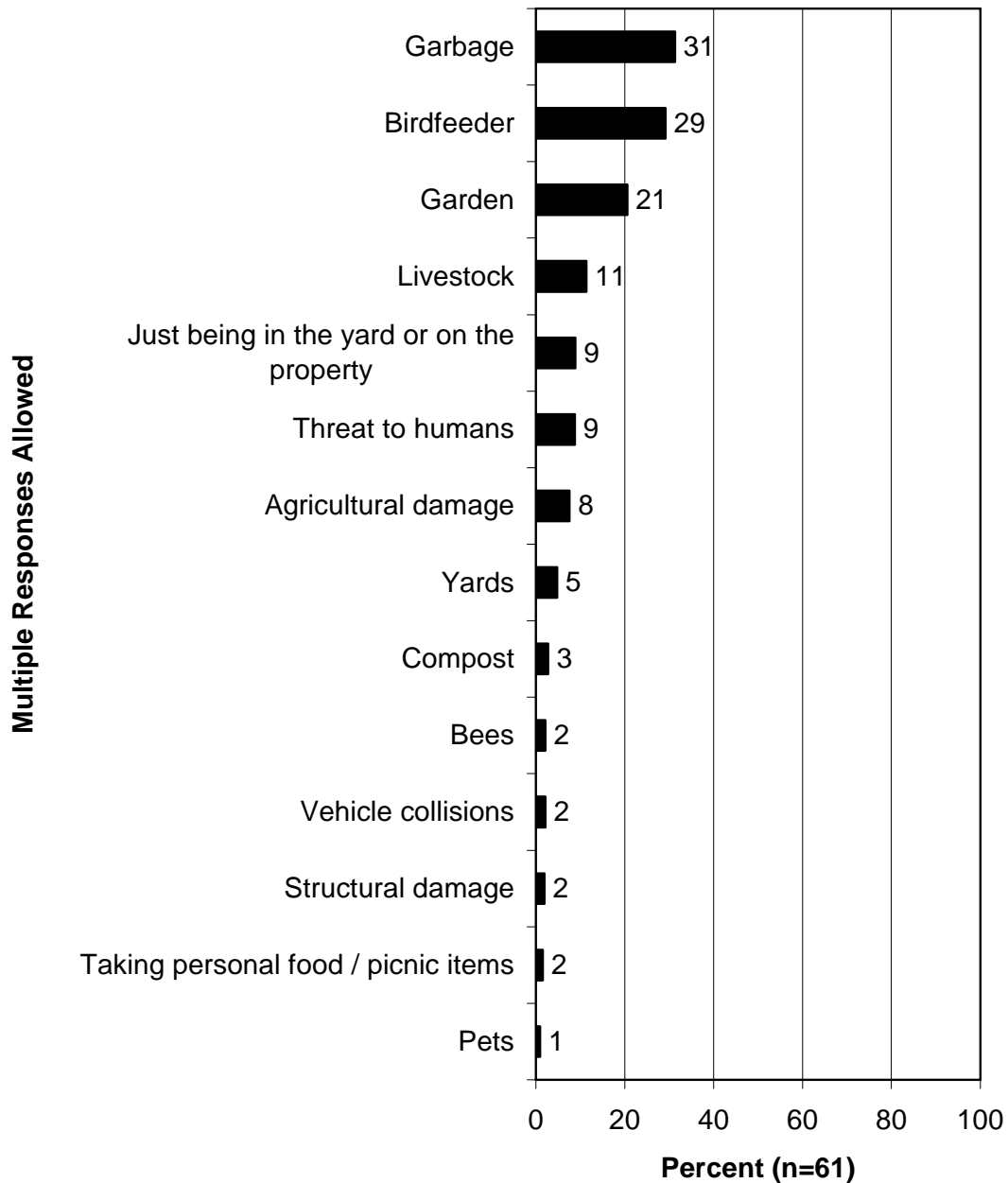
Q105. Have you personally had any problems with black bears within the past 2 years?



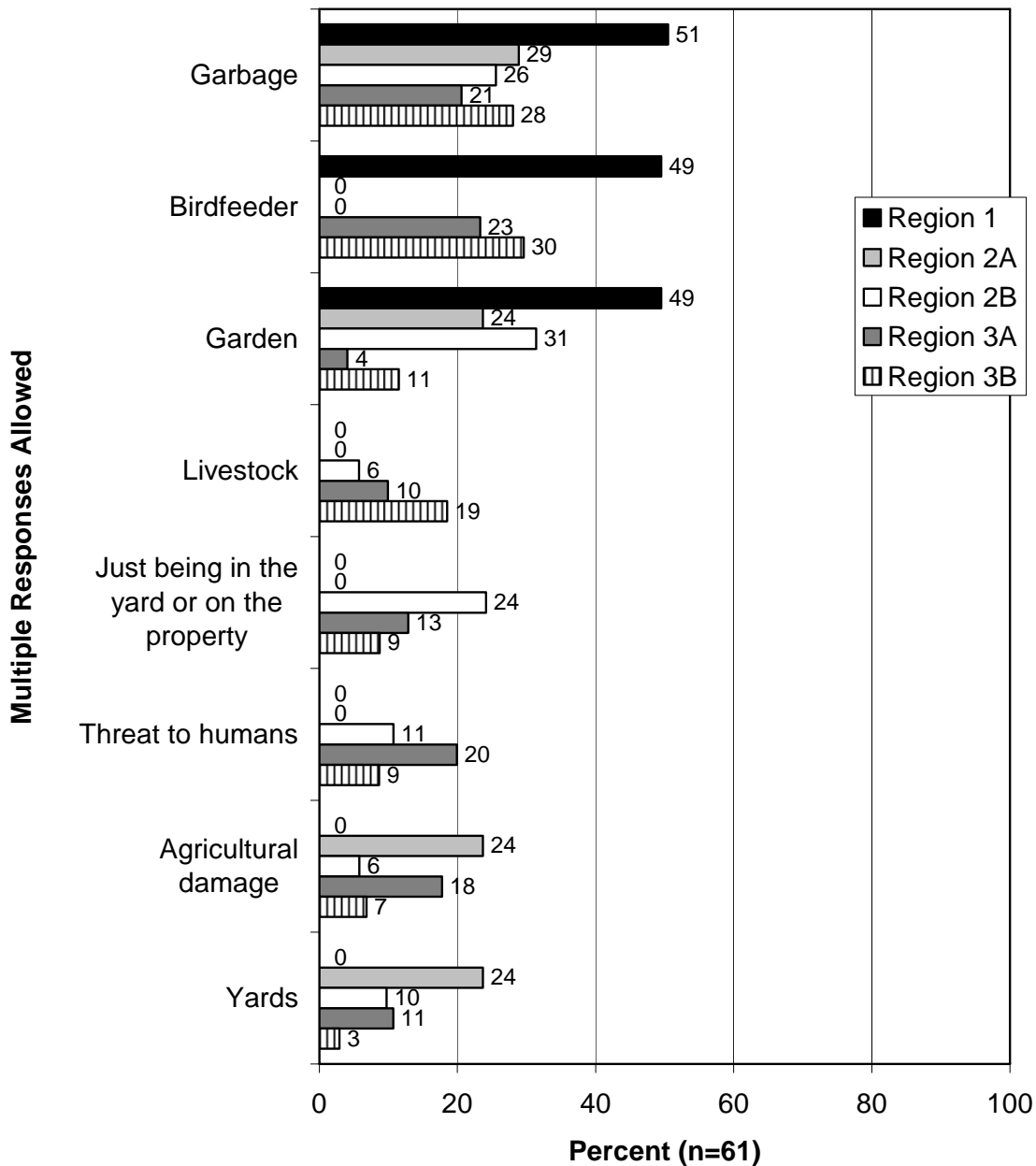
Q105. Have you personally had any problems with black bears within the past 2 years?



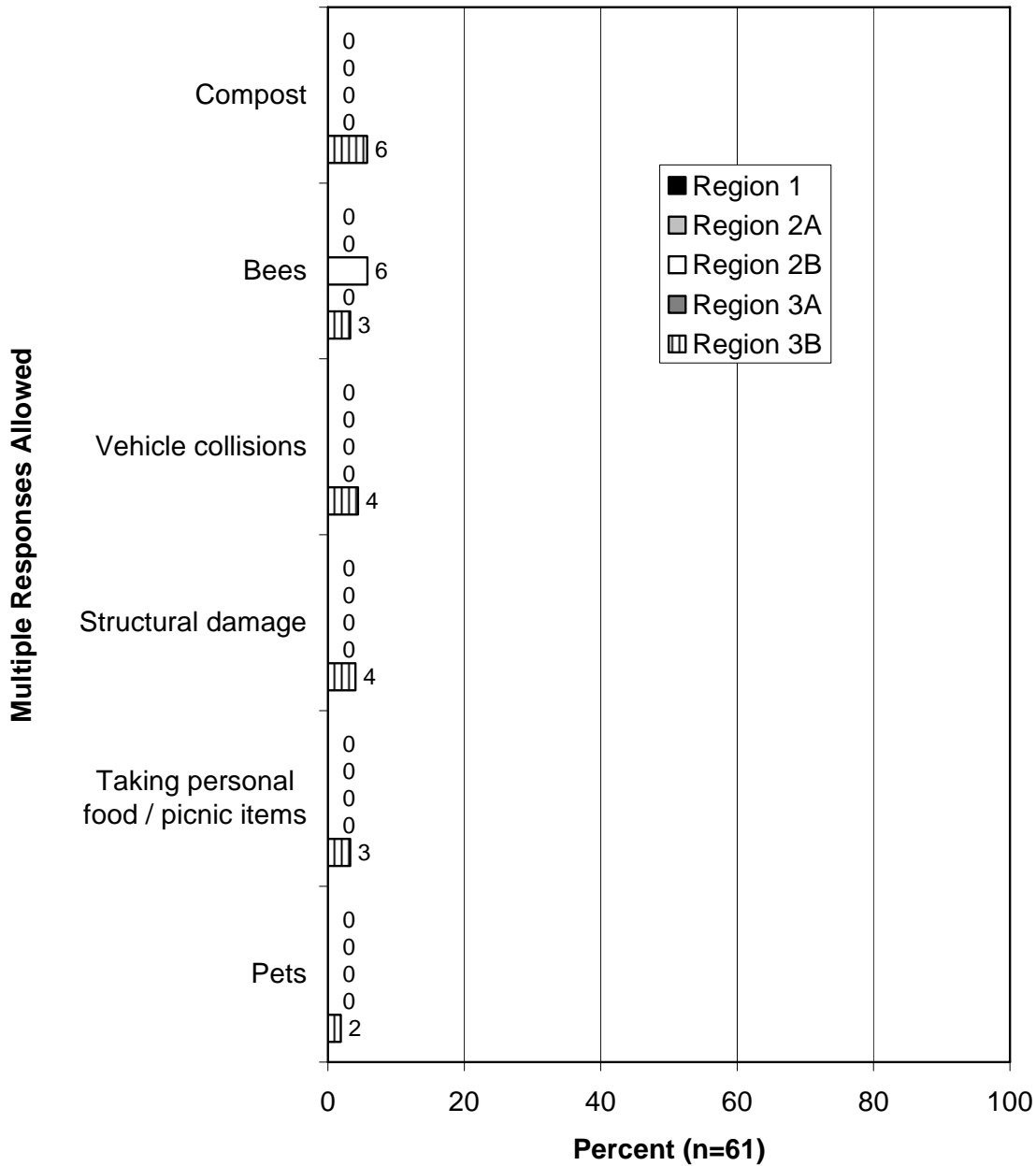
Q108. What kind of problems did the black bear cause? (Asked of respondents who indicated that they had personally had a problem with a black bear in the past 2 years.)



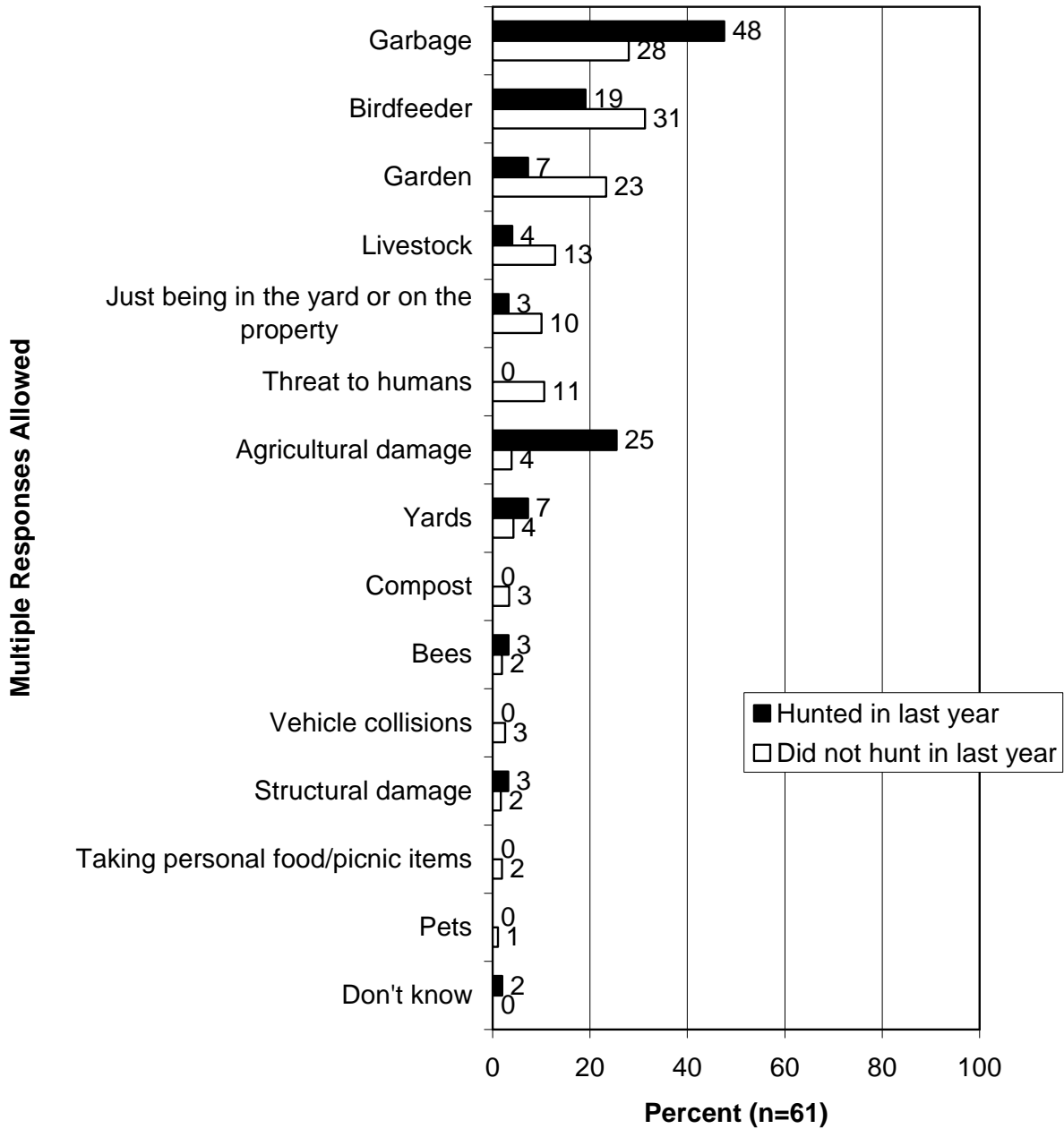
Q108. What kind of problems did the black bear cause? (Asked of respondents who indicated that they had personally had a problem with a black bear in the past 2 years.)
(Part 1)



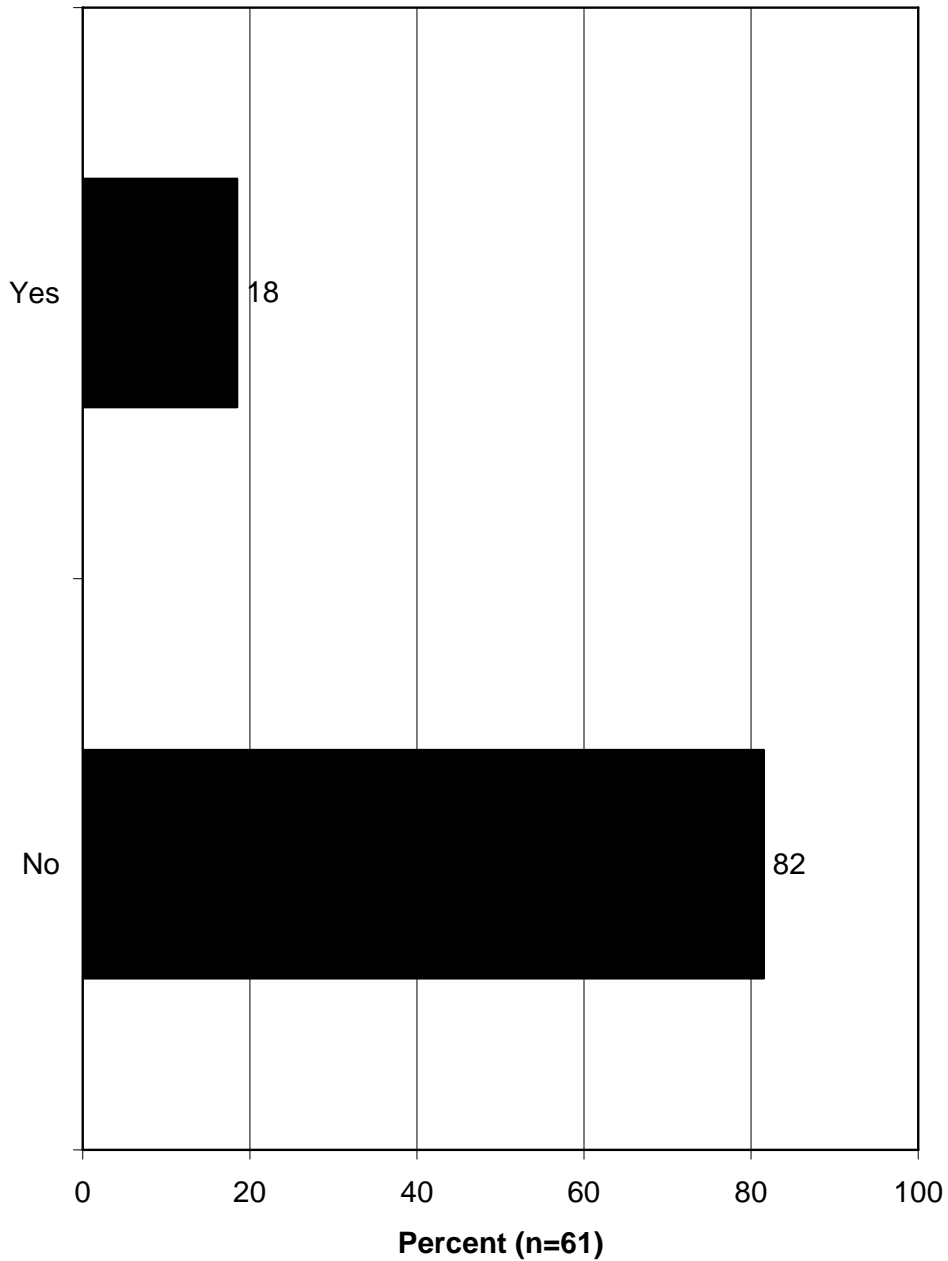
Q108. What kind of problems did the black bear cause? (Asked of respondents who indicated that they had personally had a problem with a black bear in the past 2 years.)
(Part 2)



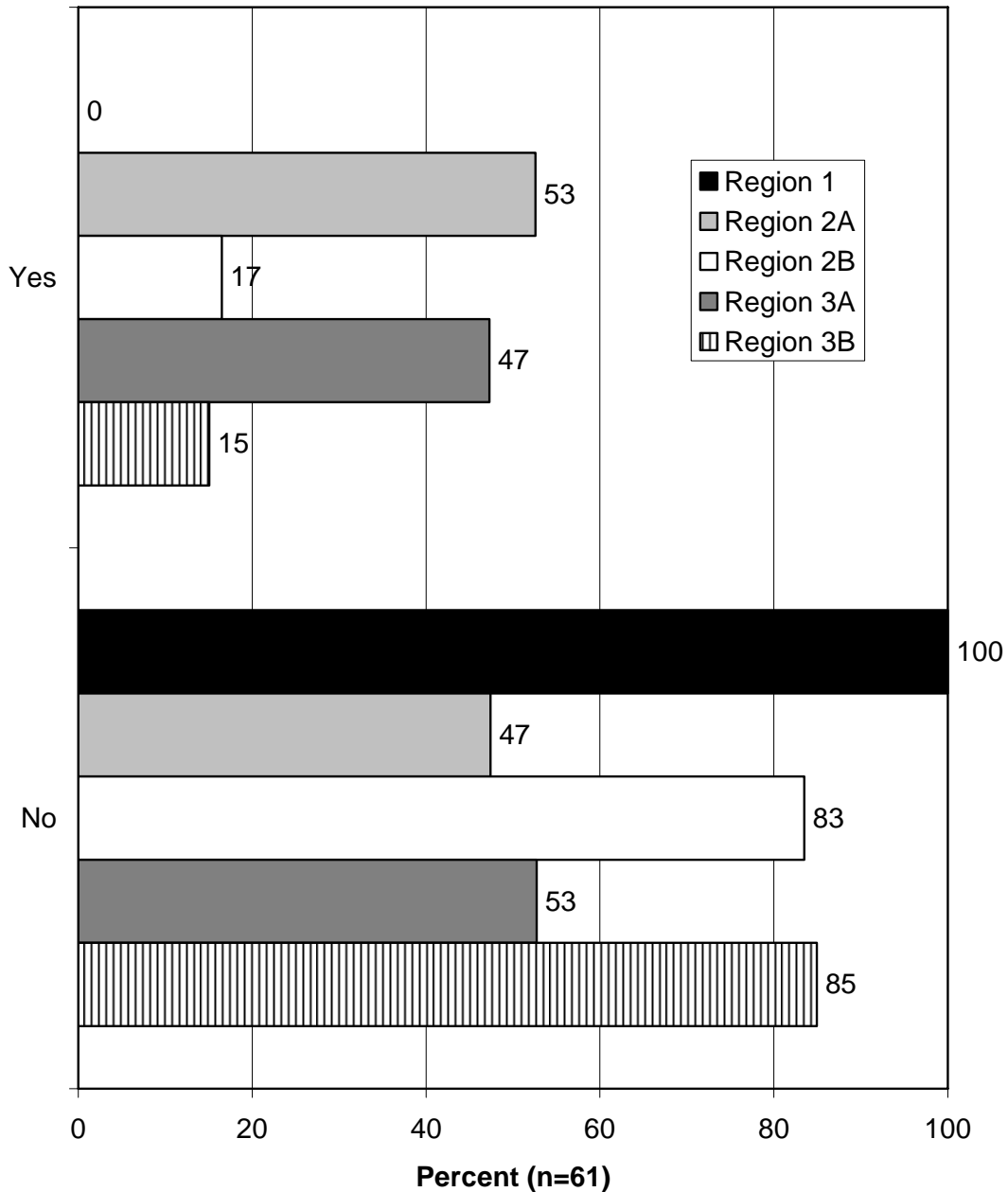
Q108. What kind of problems did the black bear cause? (Asked of respondents who indicated that they had personally had a problem with a black bear in the past 2 years.)



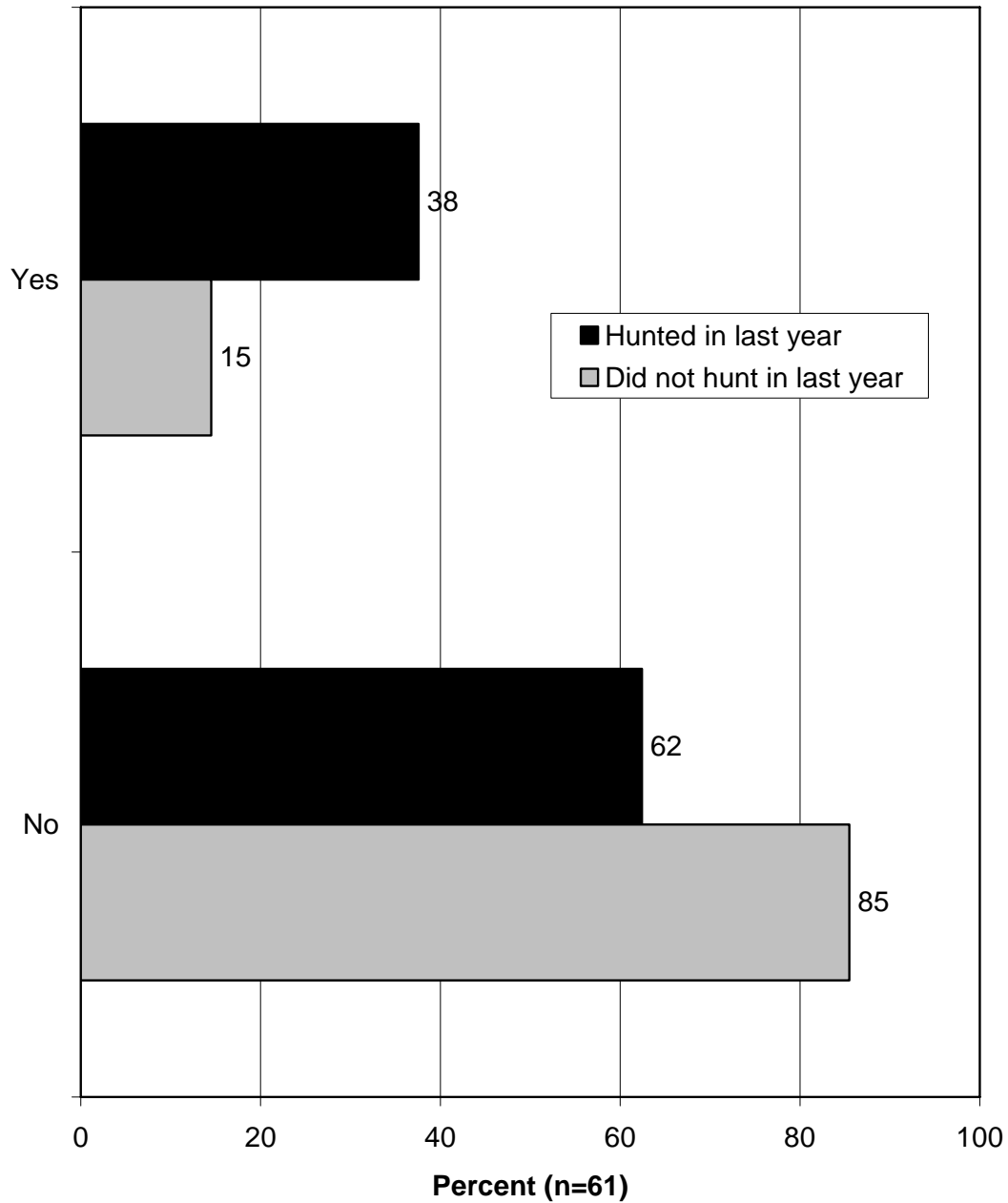
Q110. Did you contact anyone as a result of the problem with the black bear? (Asked of respondents who indicated that they had personally had a problem with a black bear in the past 2 years.)



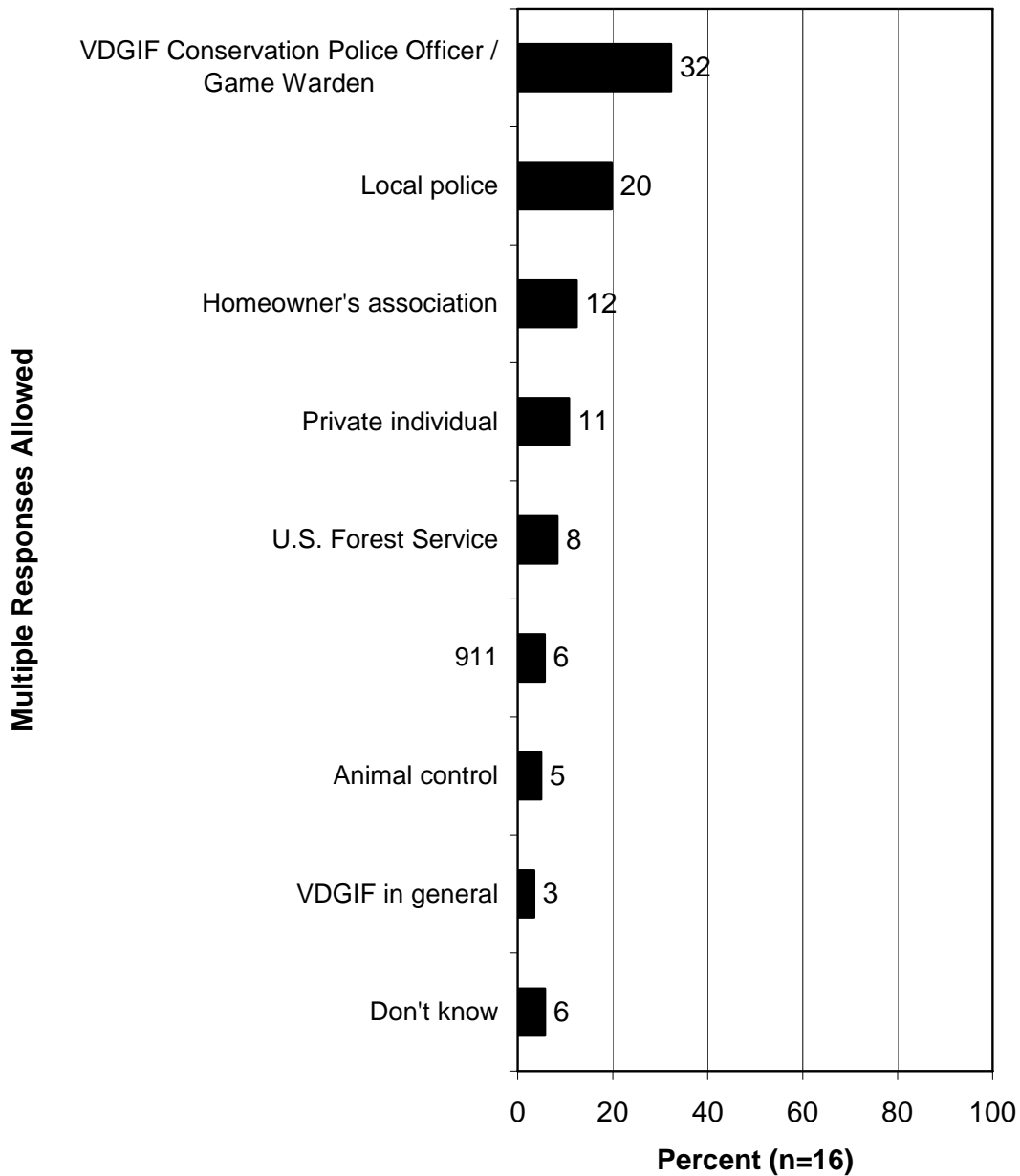
Q110. Did you contact anyone as a result of the problem with the black bear? (Asked of respondents who indicated that they had personally had a problem with a black bear in the past 2 years.)



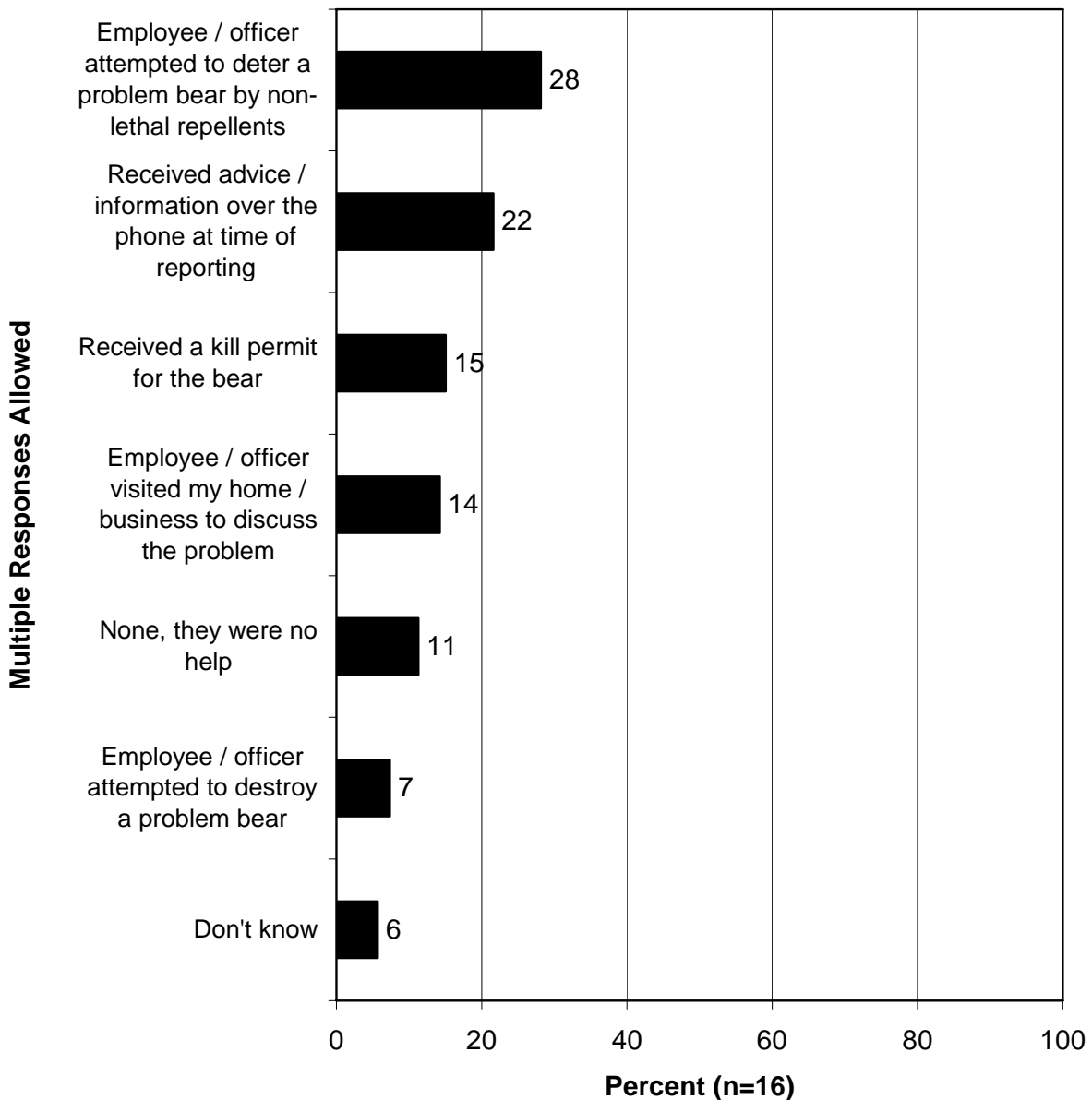
Q110. Did you contact anyone as a result of the problem with the black bear? (Asked of respondents who indicated that they had personally had a problem with a black bear in the past 2 years.)



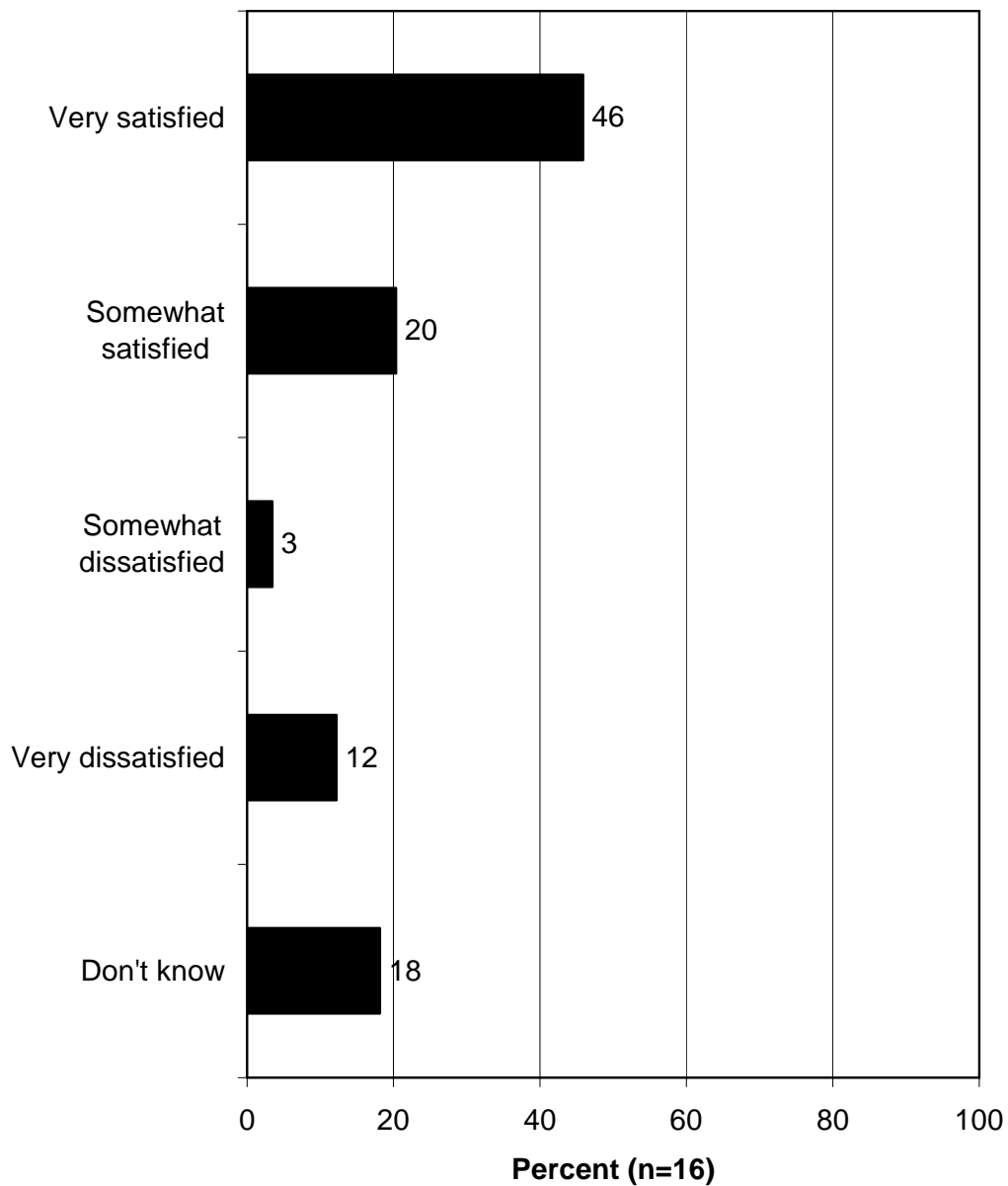
Q113. Who did you contact about the problem with the black bear? (Asked of respondents who indicated that they had personally had a problem with a black bear in the last 2 years and contacted someone regarding the problem.)



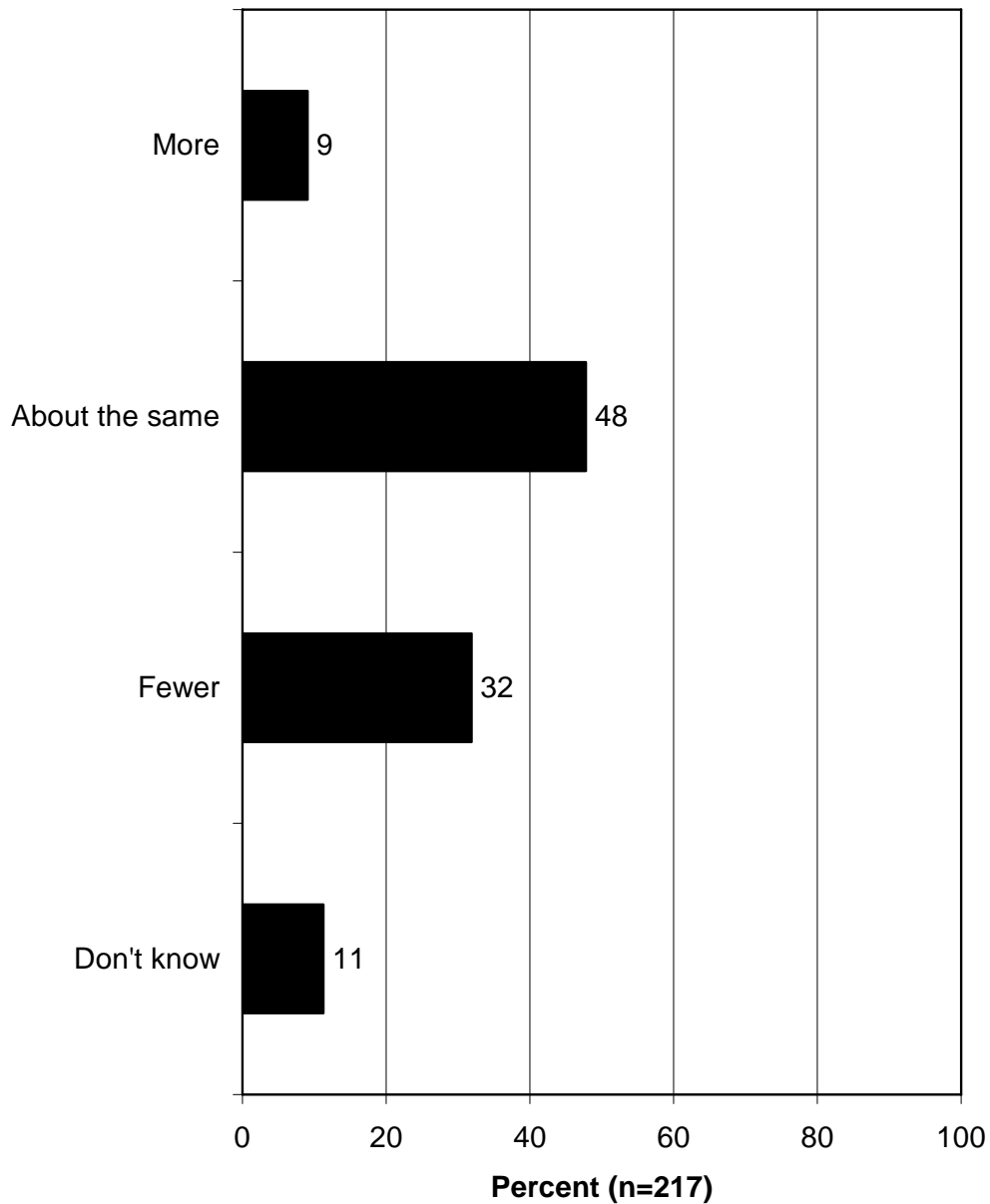
Q117. What response or services did you receive from the agency you contacted to resolve the problem? (Asked of respondents who had personally had a problem with a black bear in the past 2 years and contacted someone regarding the problem.)



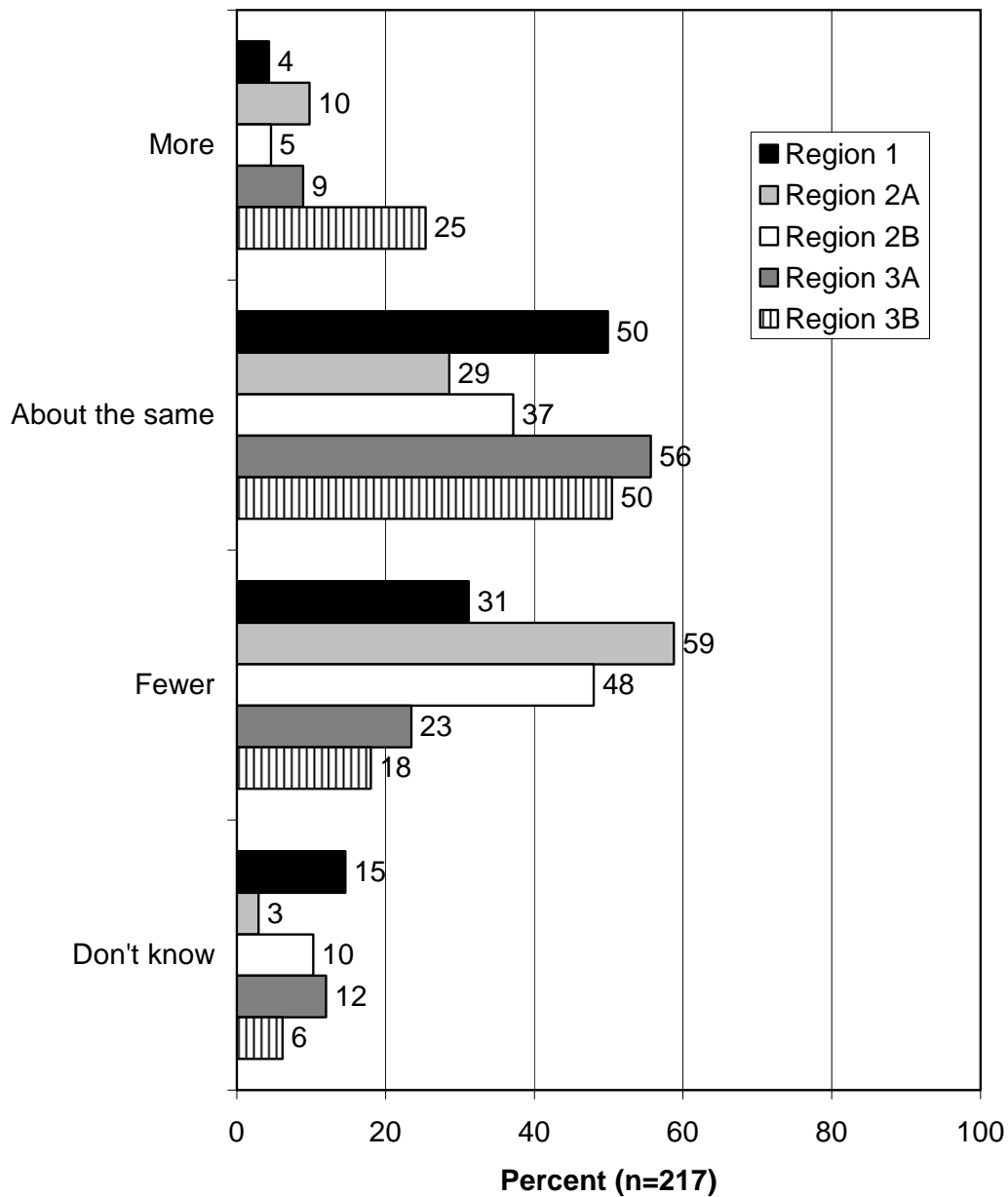
Q119. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the service you received from the agency you contacted regarding the problem with the black bear? (Asked of respondents who indicated that they had personally had a problem with a black bear in the past 2 years and had contacted someone regarding the problem.)



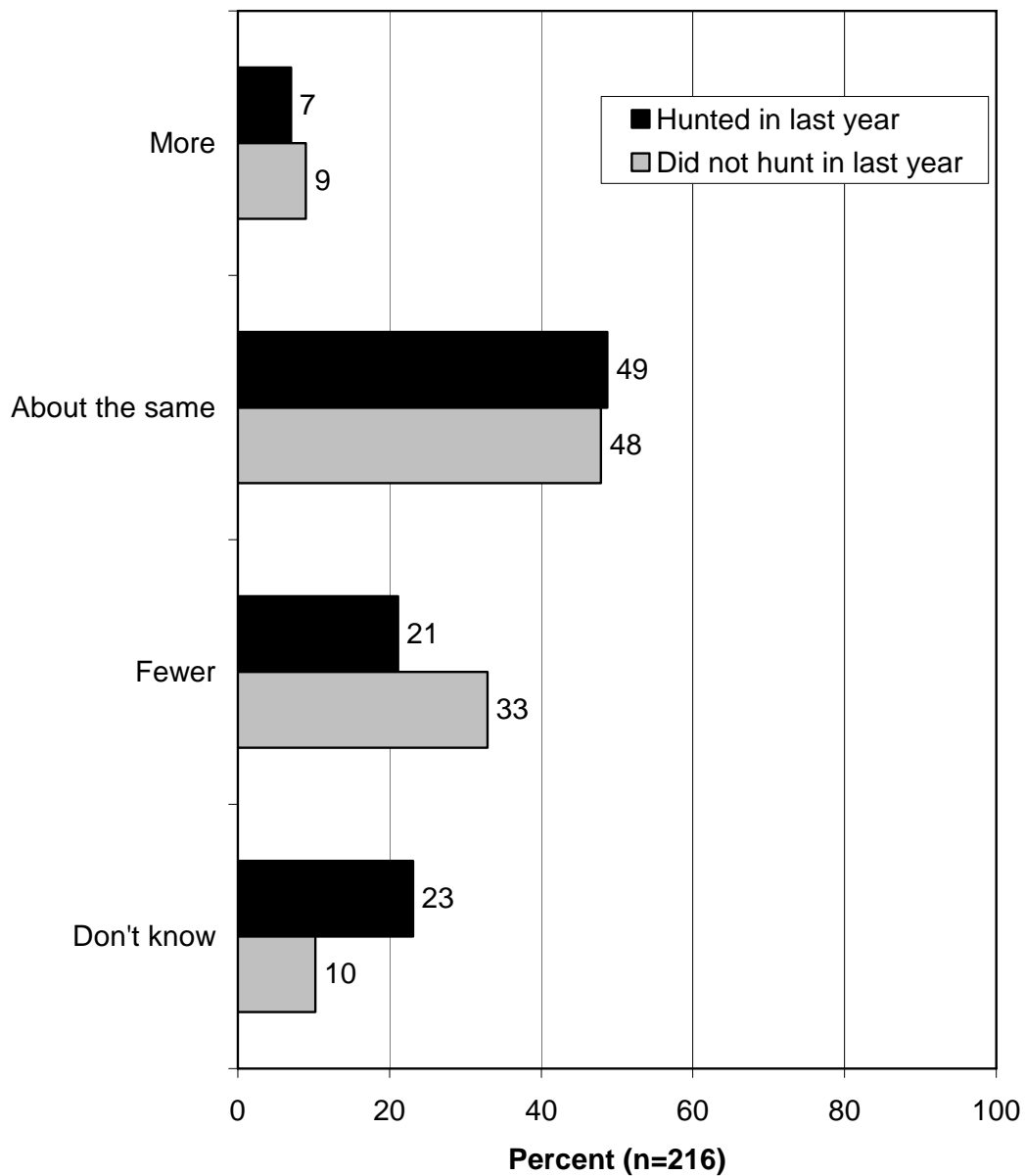
Q104. Do you think black bears cause more problems, about the same amount, or fewer problems in your area than in most other areas in Virginia? (Asked of respondents who indicated that black bears are a major or minor problem in their neighborhood or on their property.)



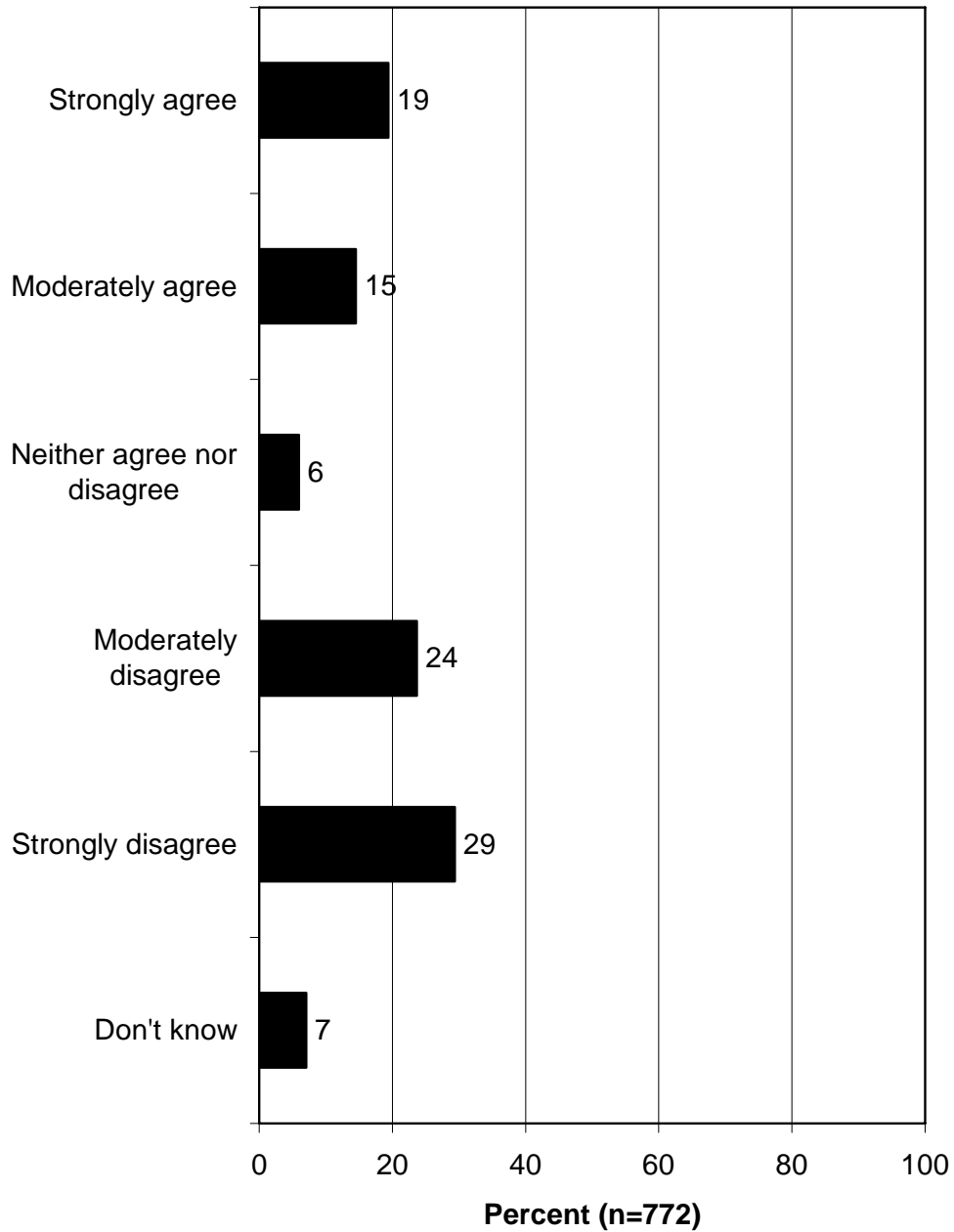
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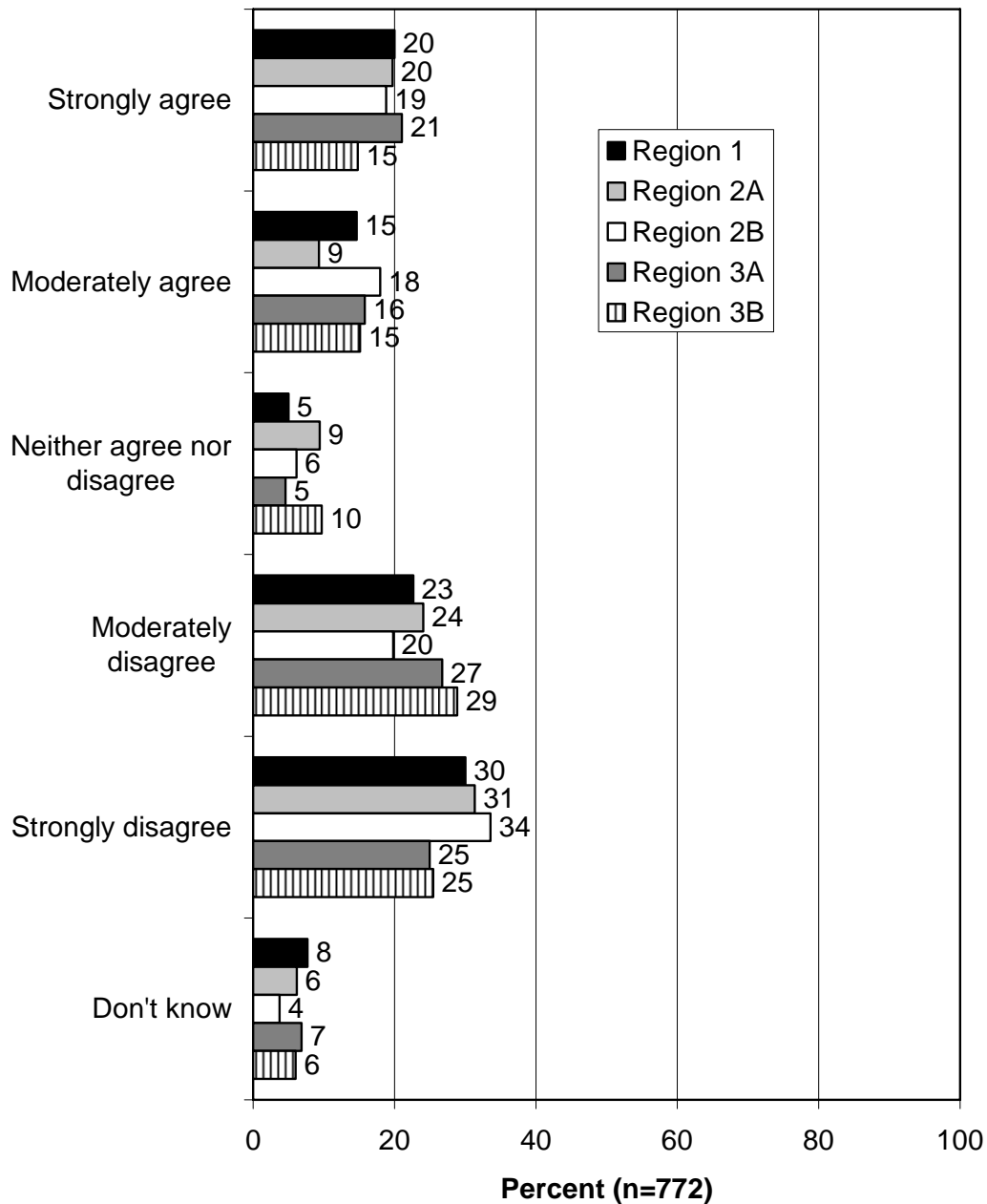
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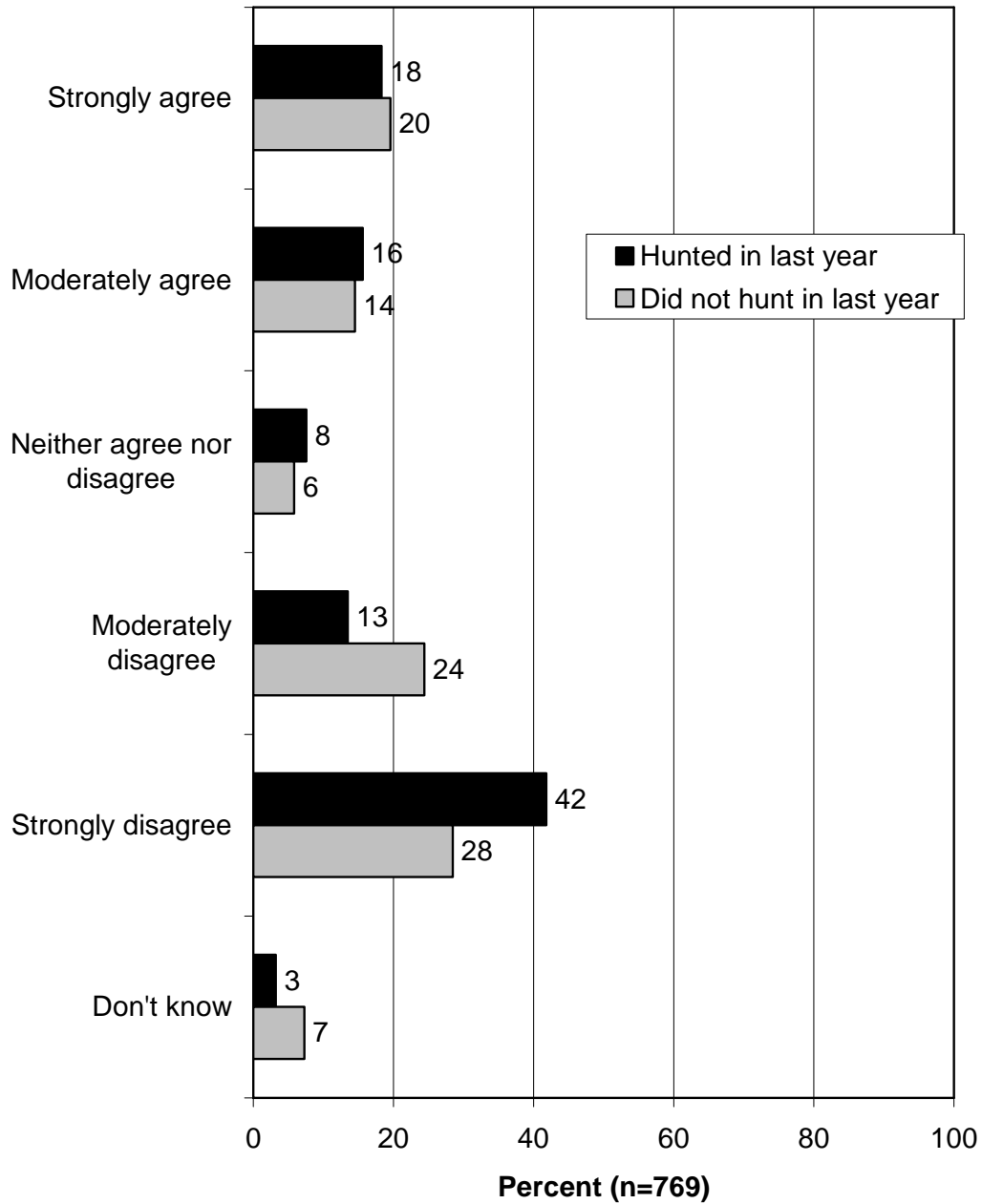
Q134. When black bear damage occurs to property in Virginia, do you agree or disagree that the property owner should be compensated for the damage?



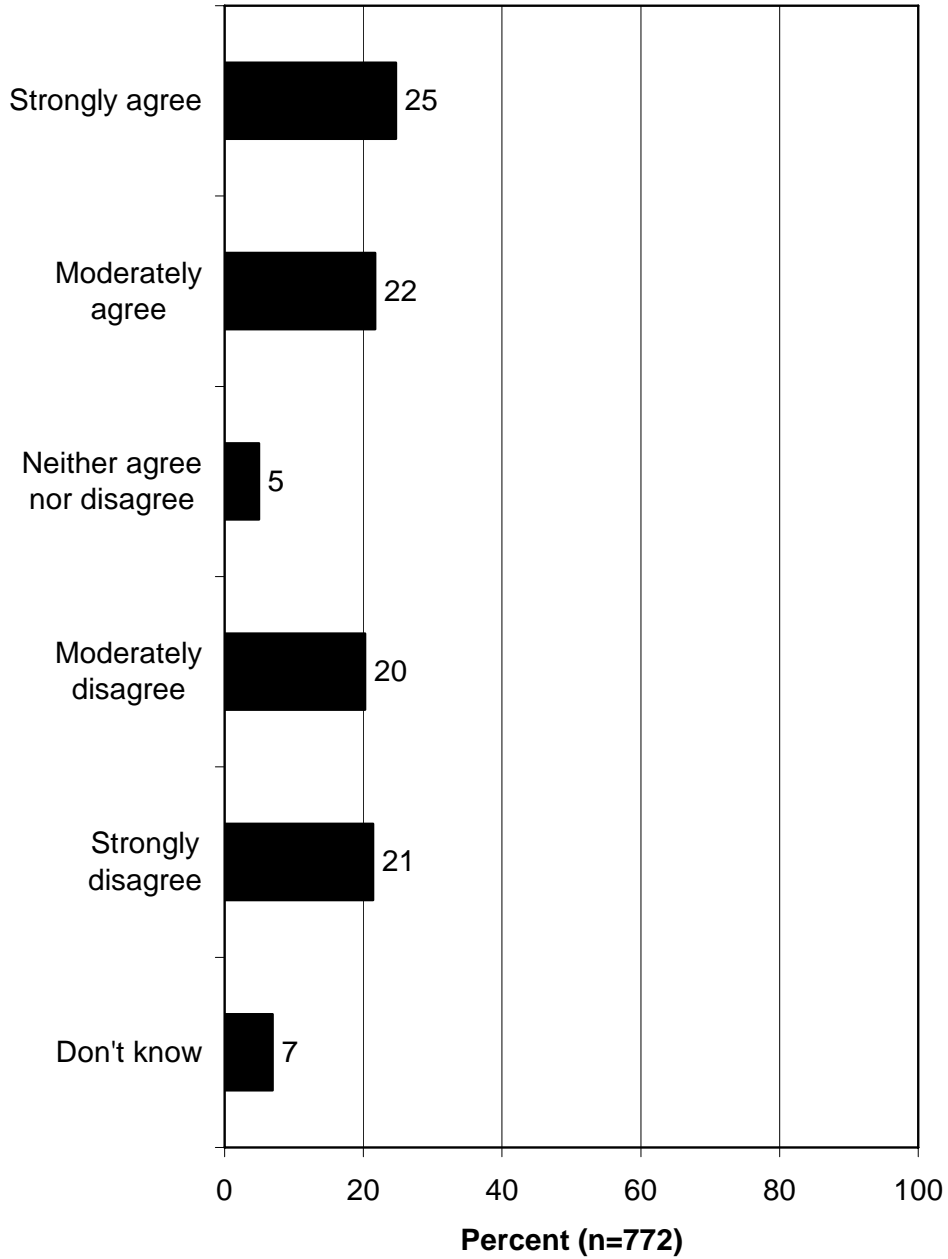
Q134. When black bear damage occurs to property in Virginia, do you agree or disagree that the property owner should be compensated for the damages?



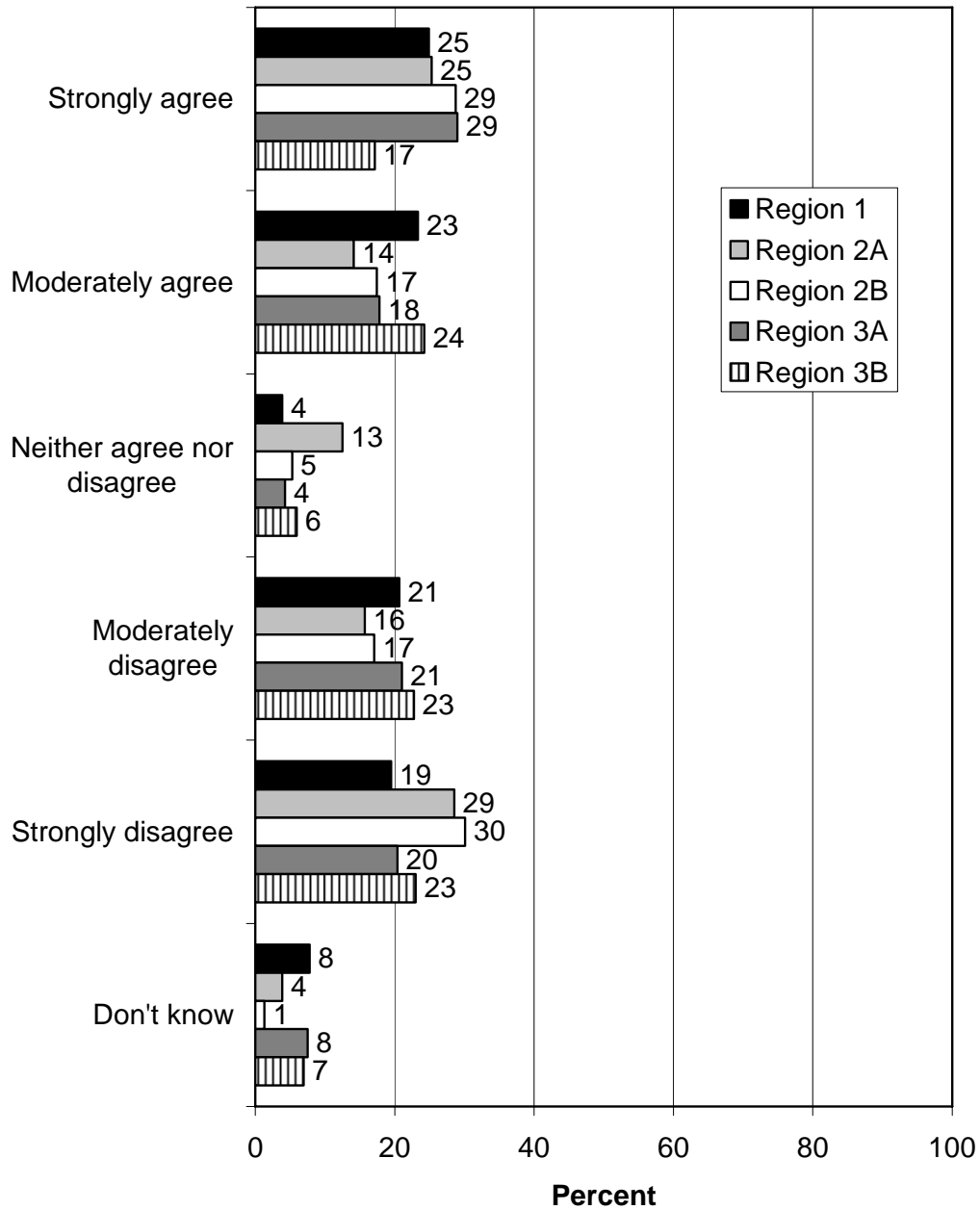
Q134. When black bear damage occurs to property in Virginia, do you agree or disagree that the property owner should be compensated for the damage?



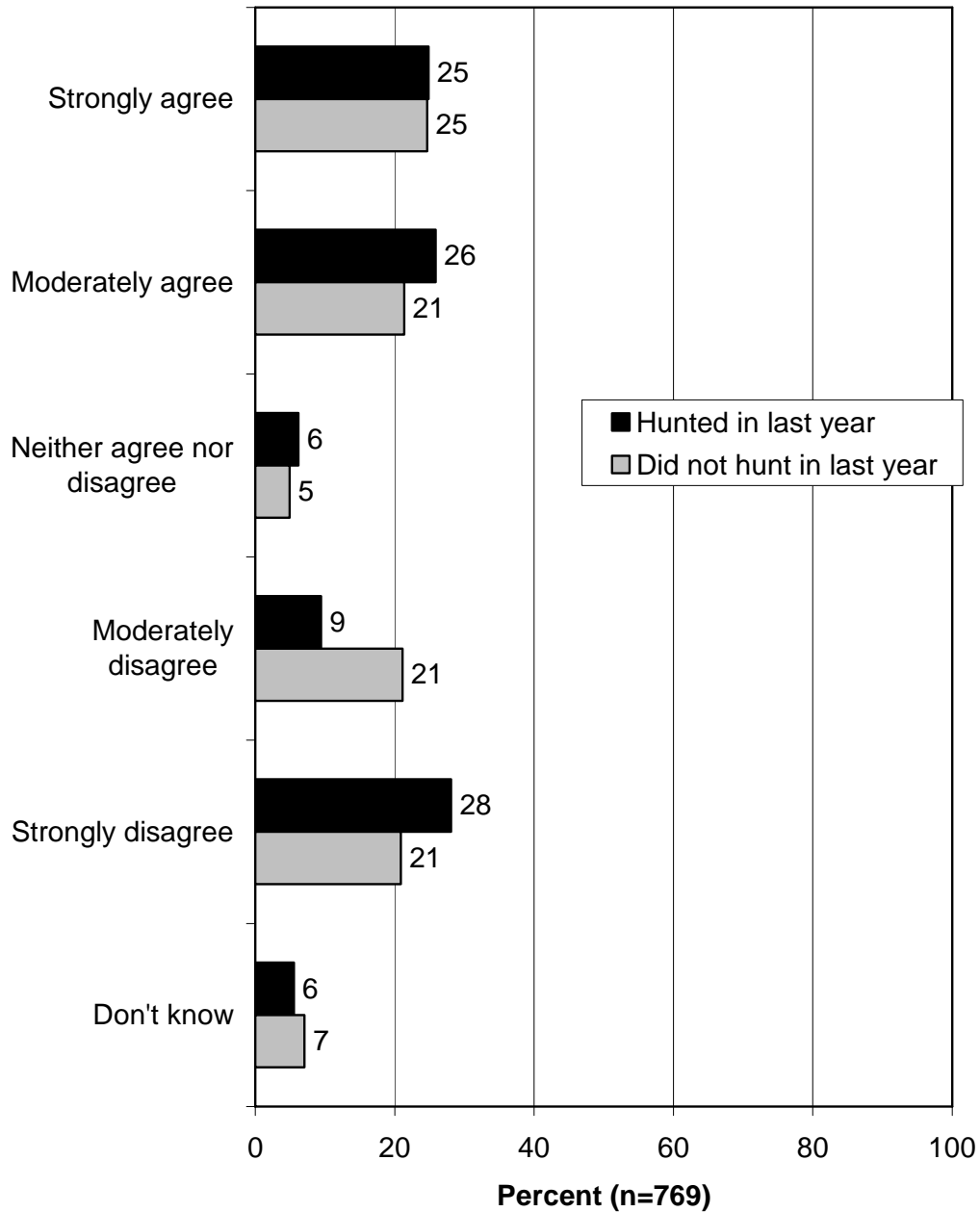
Q135. Should a property owner be compensated when black bear damage occurs to agricultural crops?



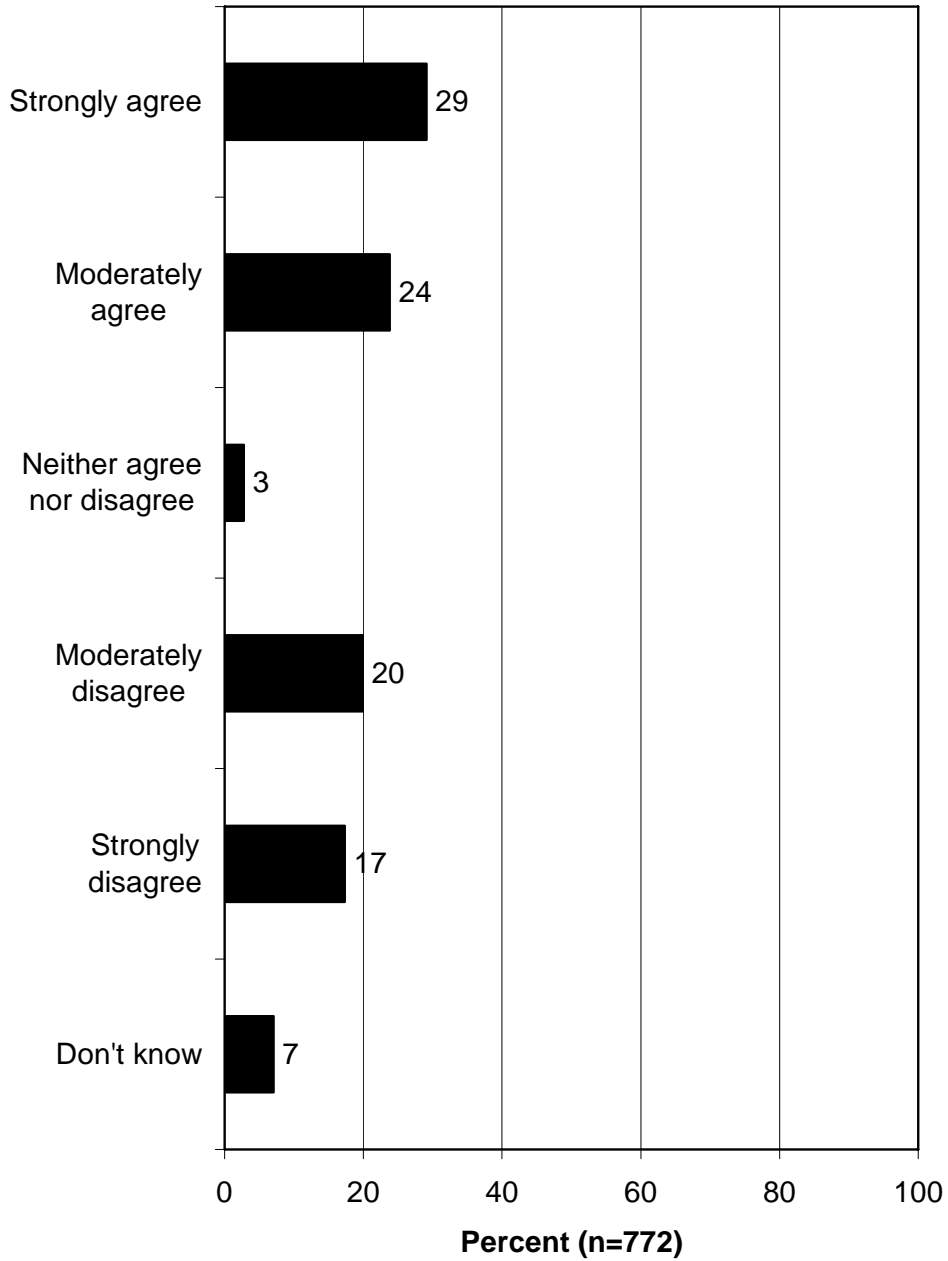
Q135. Should a property owner be compensated when black bear damage occurs to agricultural crops?



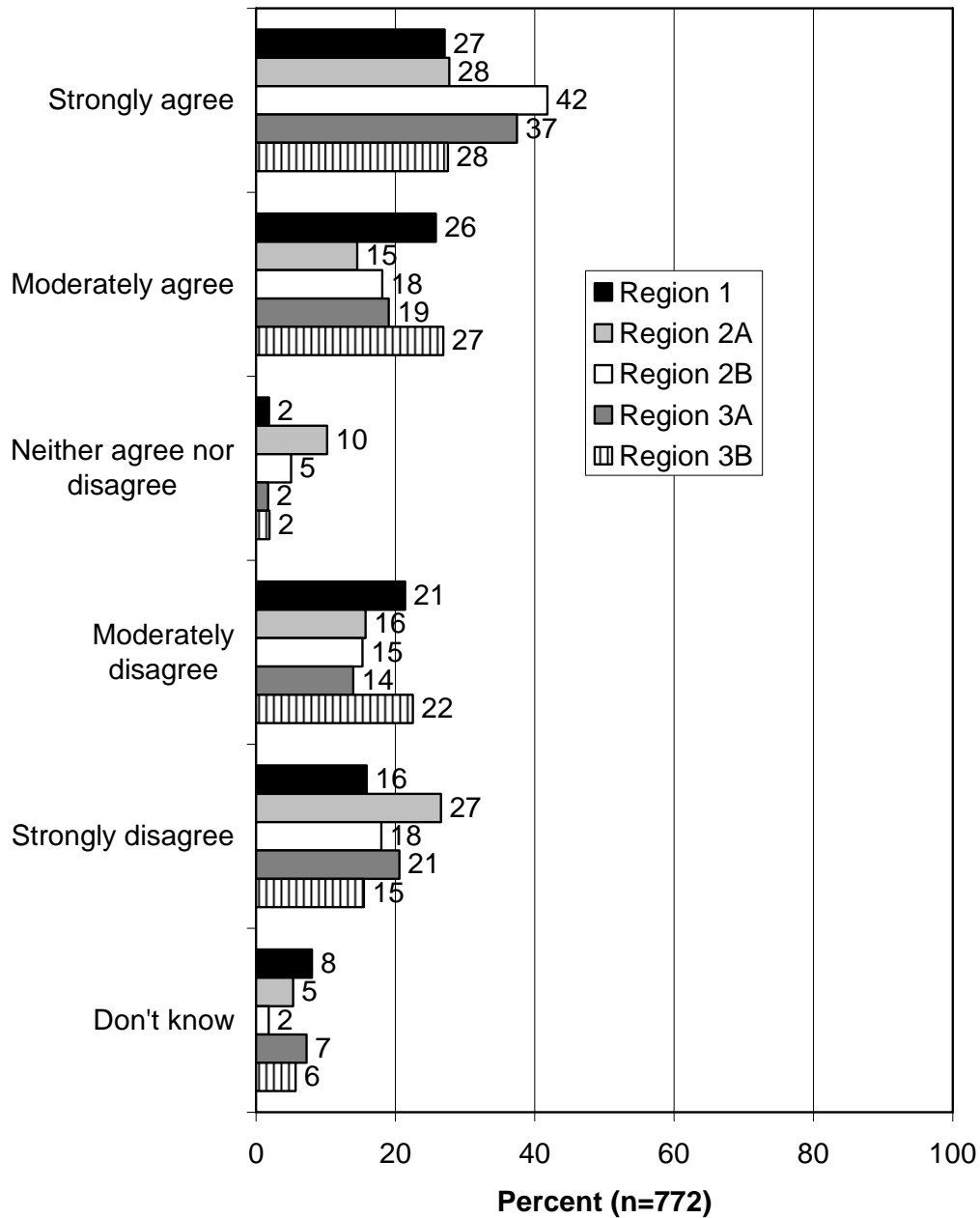
Q135. Should a property owner be compensated when black bear damage occurs to agricultural crops?



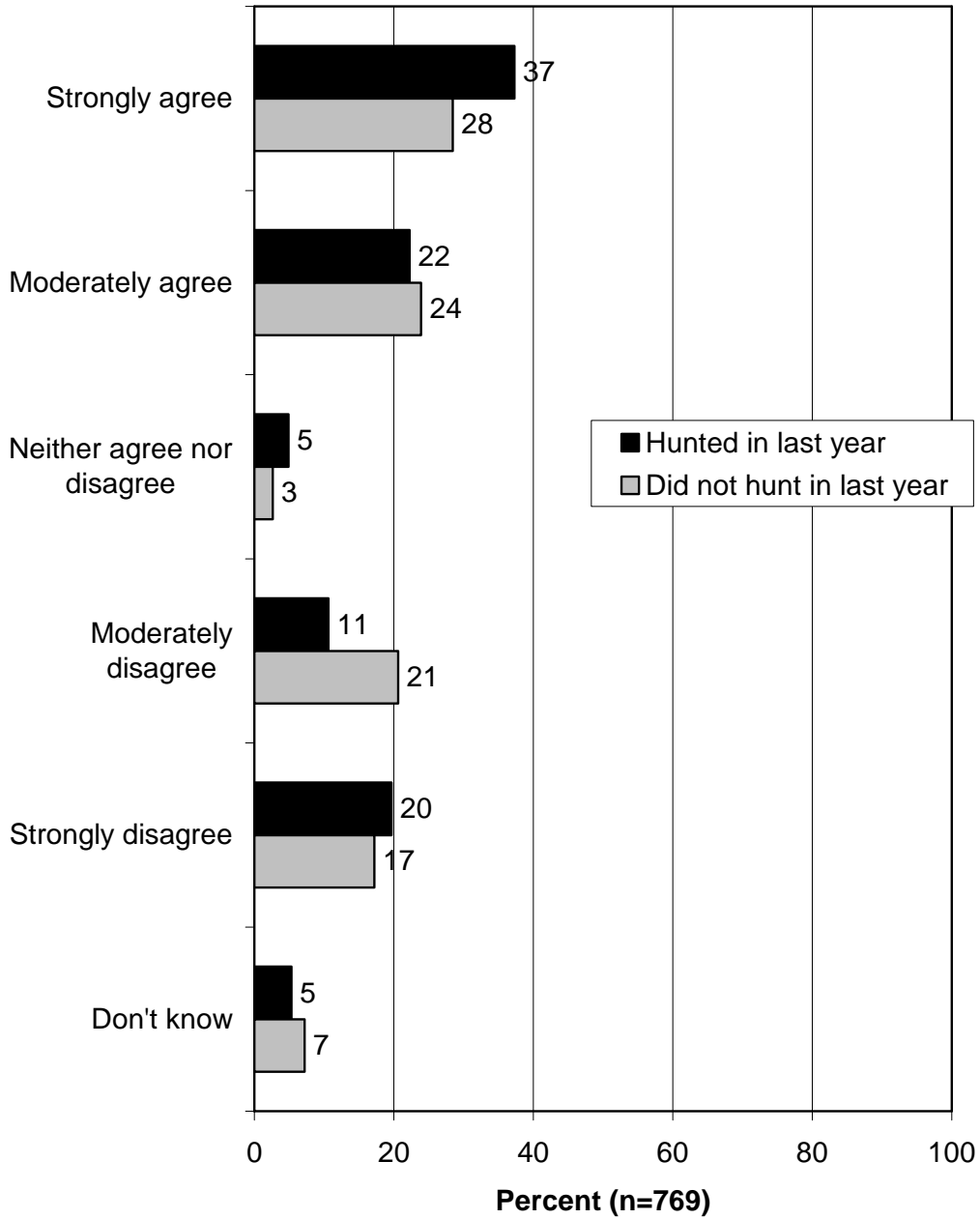
Q136. Should a property owner be compensated when black bear damage occurs to livestock?



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PARTICIPATION IN HUNTING AND OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION

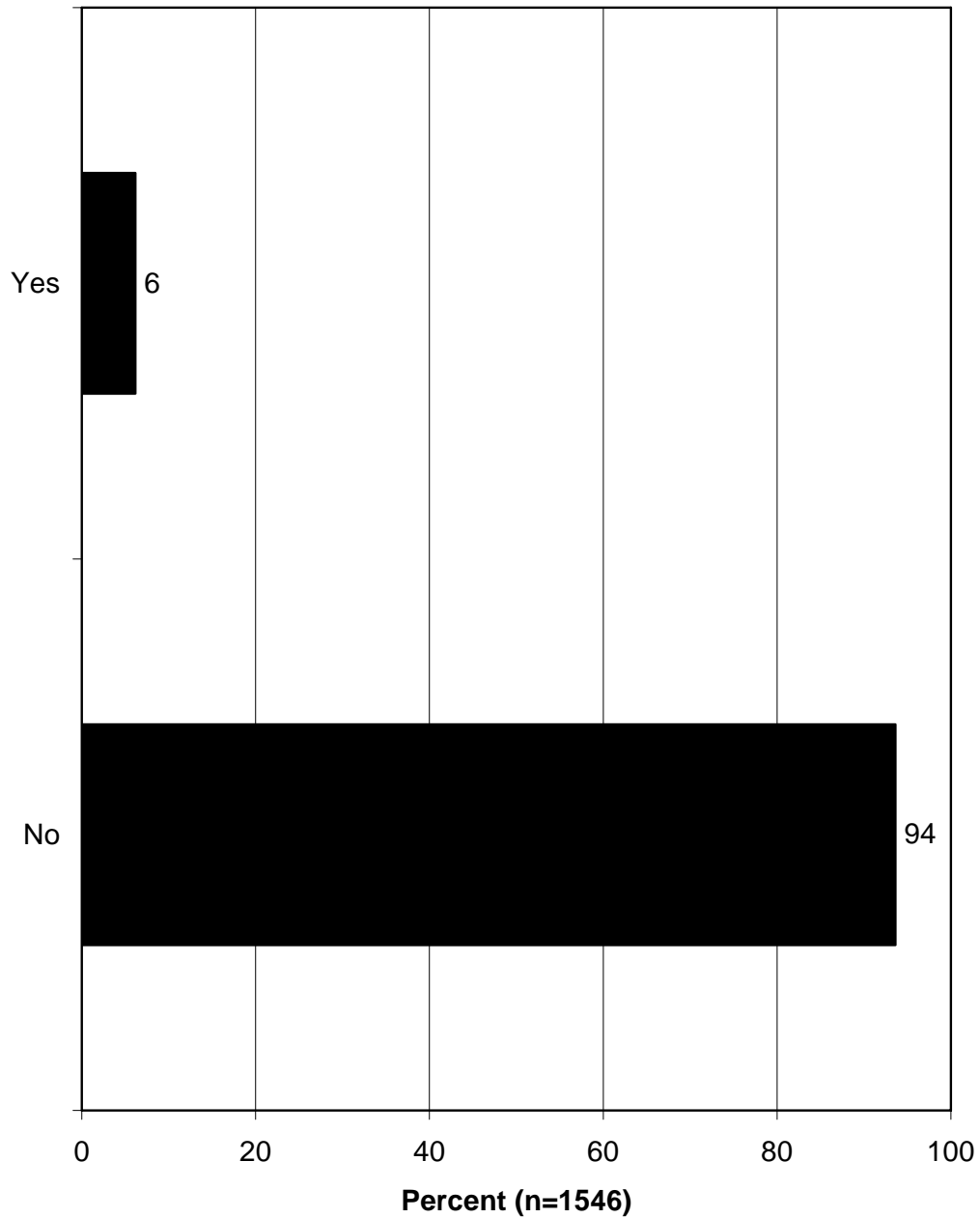
- The survey data show a hunting participation rate of 6% in the 2009-2010 season.
 - A substantial percentage of Virginia residents (12%) consider themselves to be a hunter.
 - Those who had hunted were asked to indicate the number of days that they had hunted (thus far) during the 2009-2010 hunting season. Two graphs are shown: The first graph shows the results with those who had *not* hunted (and who, therefore, were not asked the question) coded as having hunted 0 days. The second graph shows only those who have hunted in the current season. The answers range quite widely among those who have hunted, from only 1 day up to more than 40 days.
 - The regional crosstabulation for days hunted is shown. The crosstabulation by hunter/non-hunter is *not* shown, as all non-hunters hunted 0 days, and the results among hunters are the same as the results overall.

- The survey also asked about days of fishing participation, and a graph shows the number of days of fishing participation; 27% of residents had participated in fishing in the 2009-2010 season.

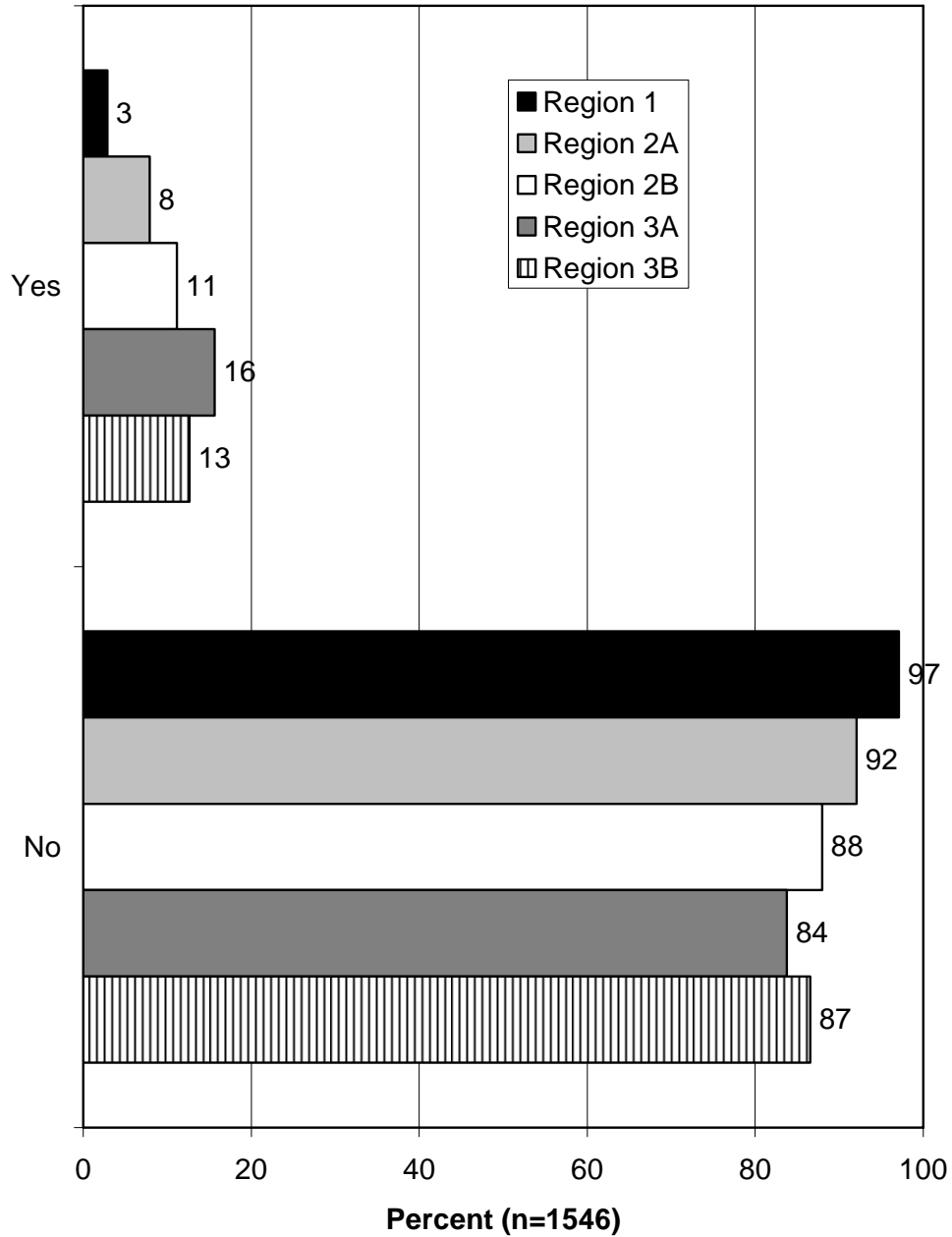
- The survey asked about participation in seven non-consumptive outdoor activities in the past 2 years. The large majority of Virginia residents (73%) have watched wildlife around or within 1 mile of home, and a large majority (57%) have fed birds around their home. Three more activities are in a middle, tier with more than 40% participation: running/jogging for physical fitness (48%), taking a trip of at least 1 mile to view wildlife (42%), and hiking (41%). Rounding out the list of activities are biking (35%) and camping (26%).

- In a question related to wildlife viewing, 13% of residents said that they had taken a trip hoping to see a black bear in Virginia in the past 2 years. Mirroring these results, 12% of Virginia residents say that it is *very* likely that they will take a trip in which they hope to see a black bear in the next 2 years.

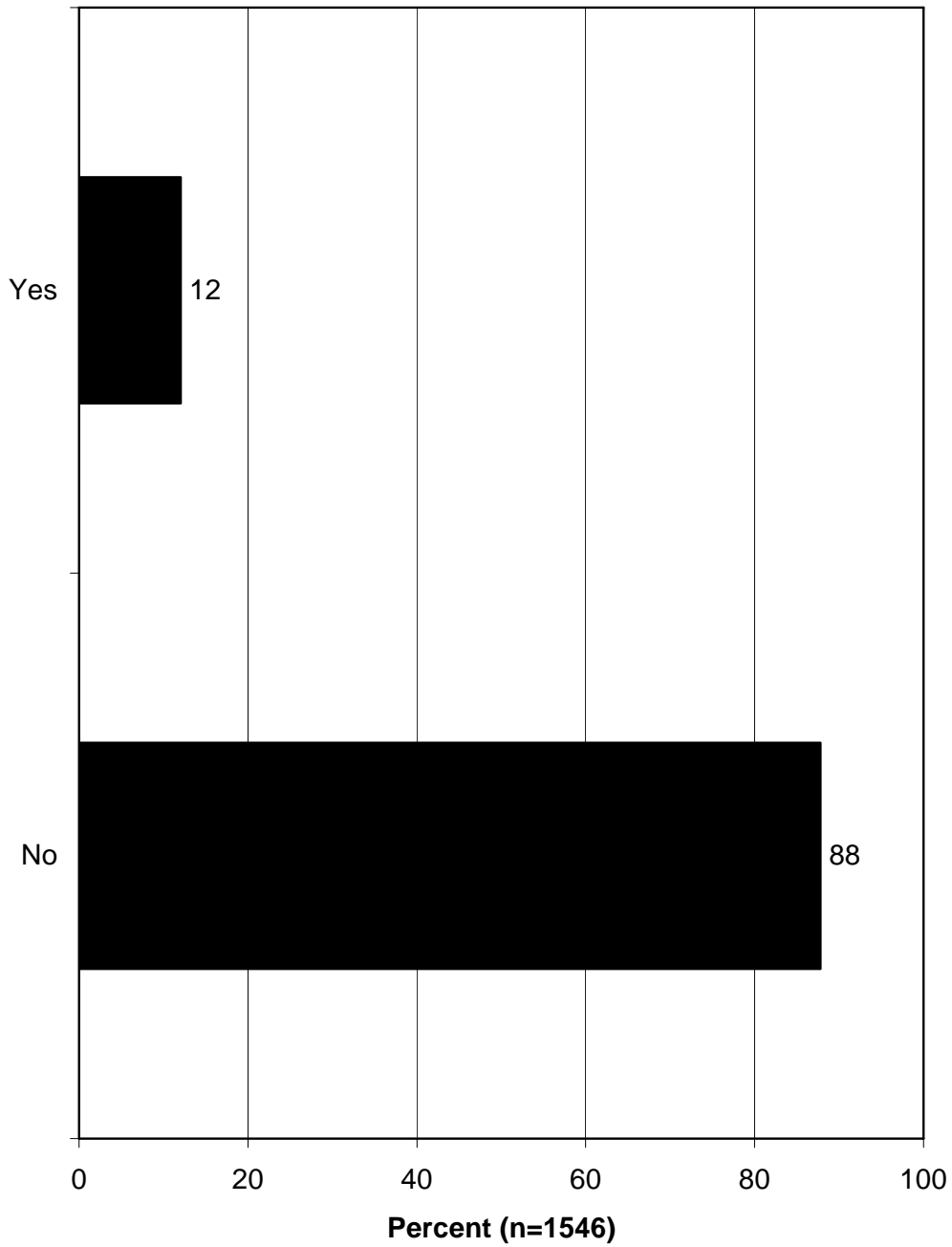
Q13. Have you hunted in Virginia during the current 2009-2010 hunting season, that is, from July 1, 2009, to today?



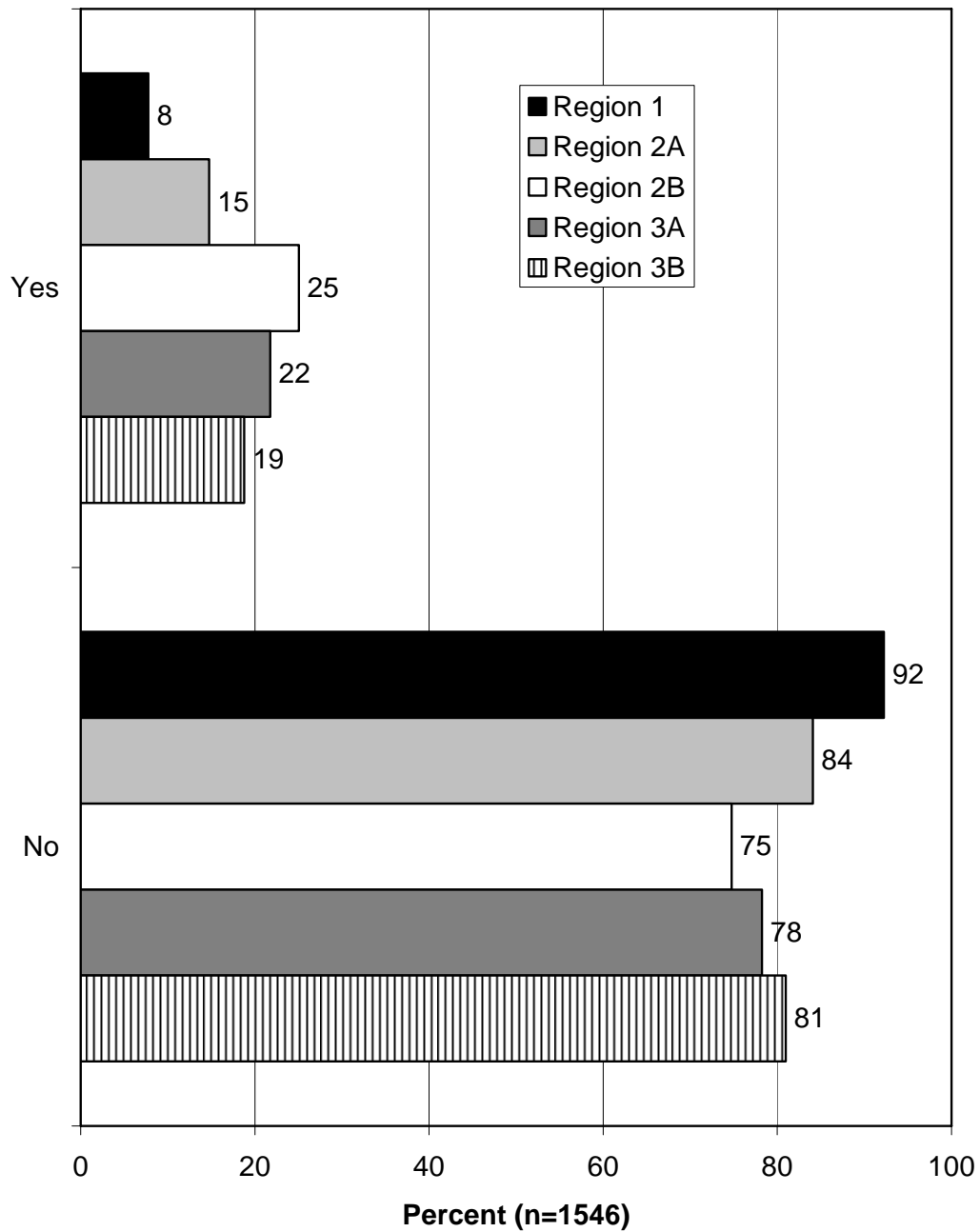
Q13. Have you hunted in Virginia during the current 2009-2010 hunting season, that is, from July 1, 2009, to today?



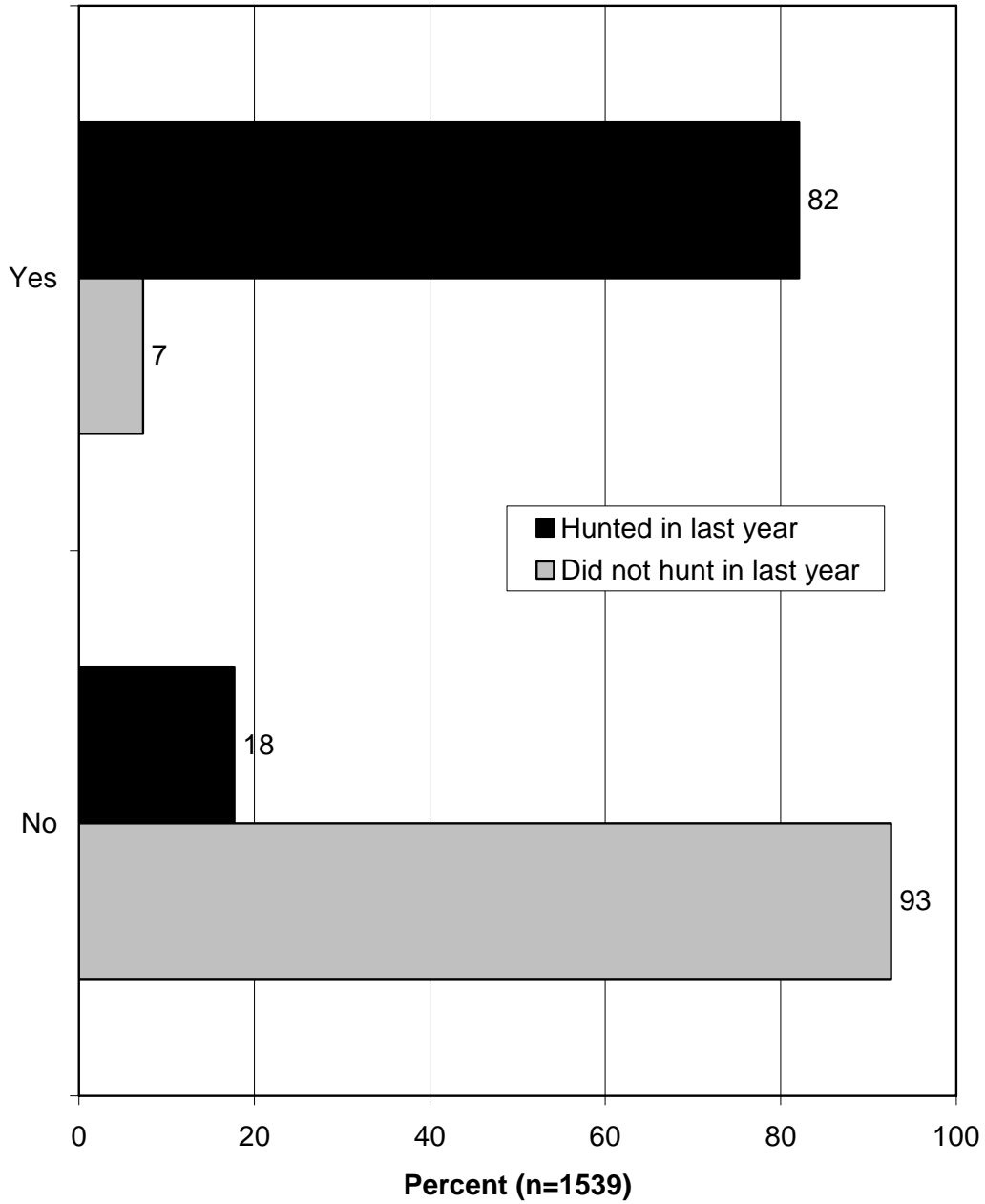
Q20. Do you consider yourself a hunter?



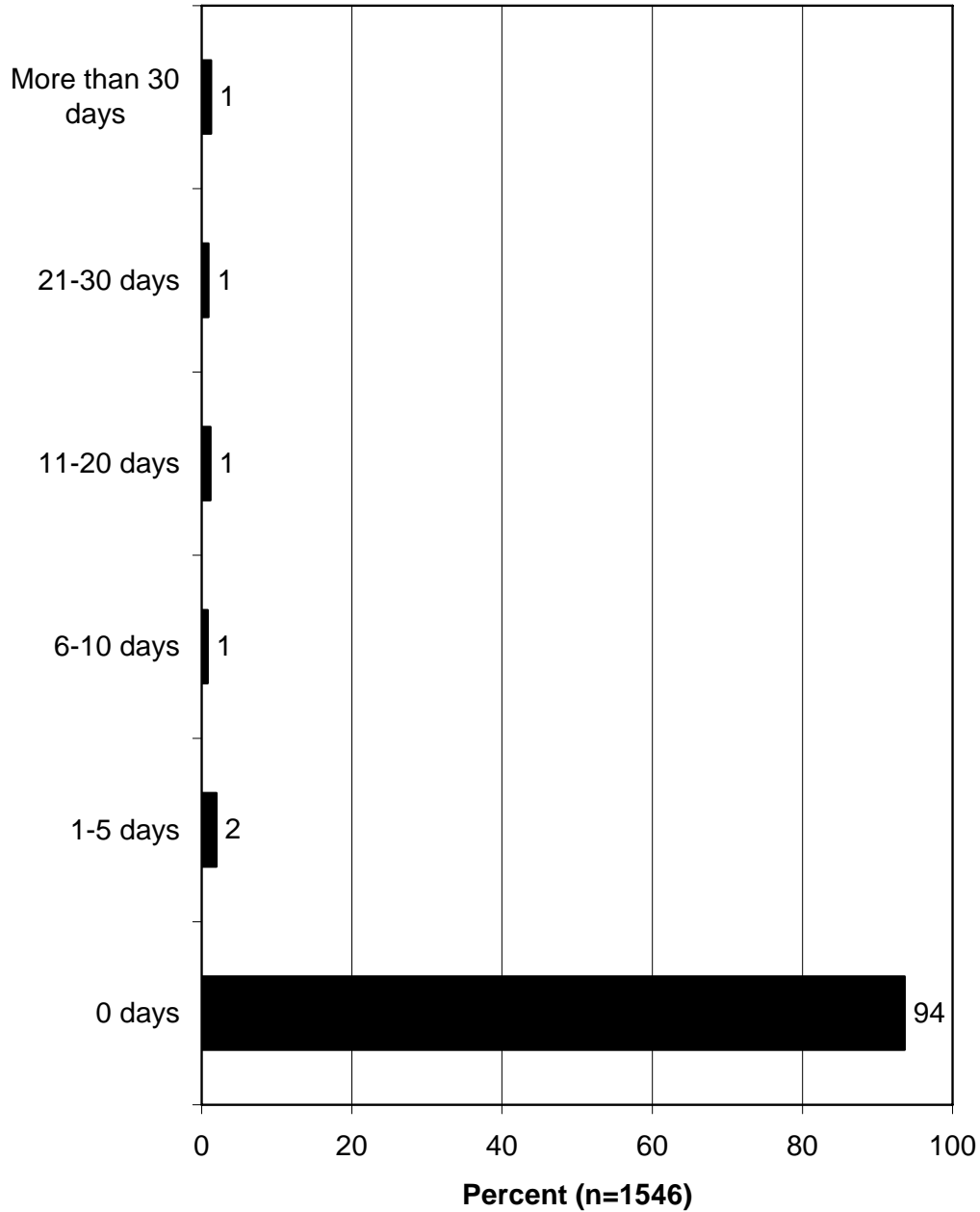
Q20. Do you consider yourself a hunter?



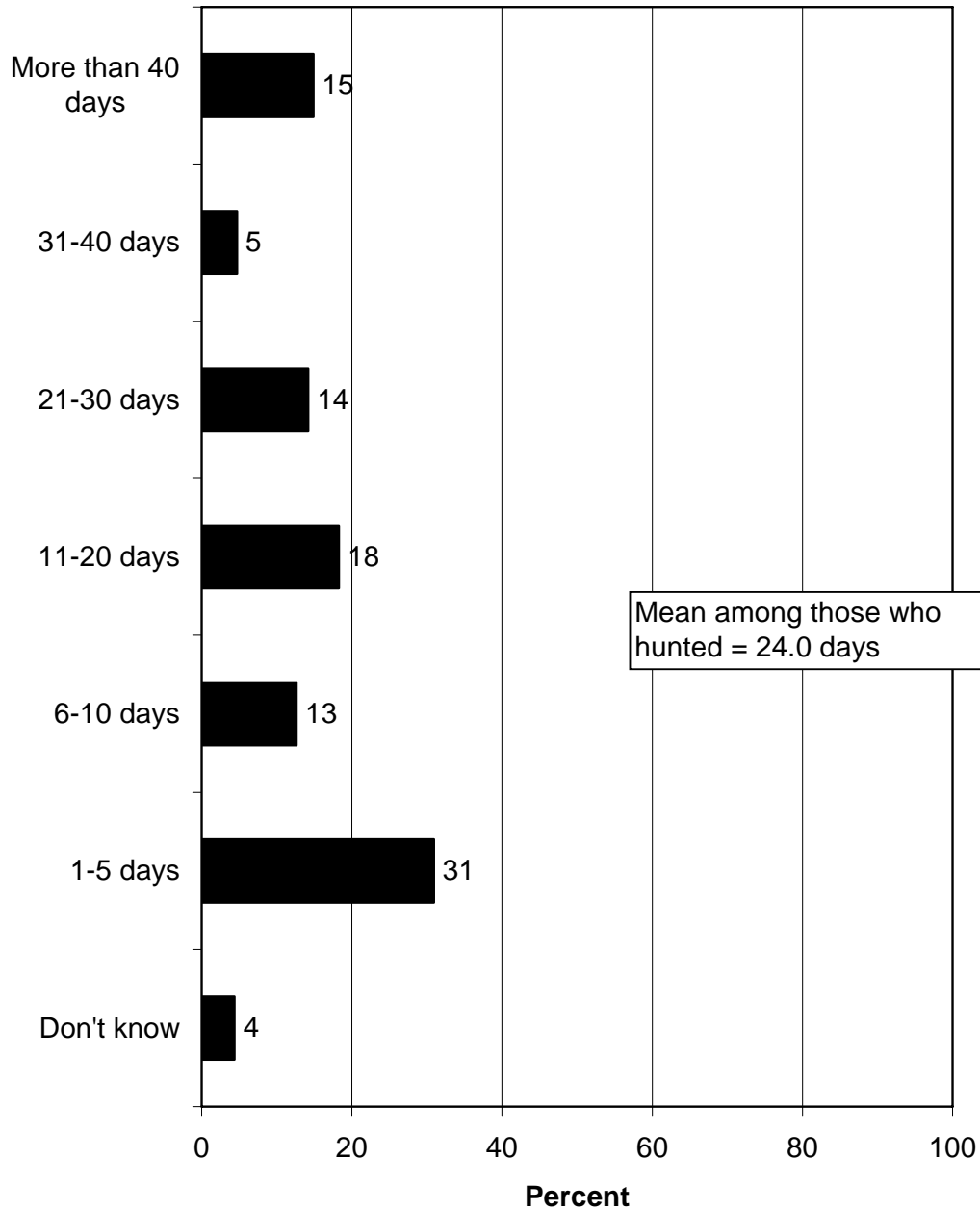
Q20. Do you consider yourself a hunter?



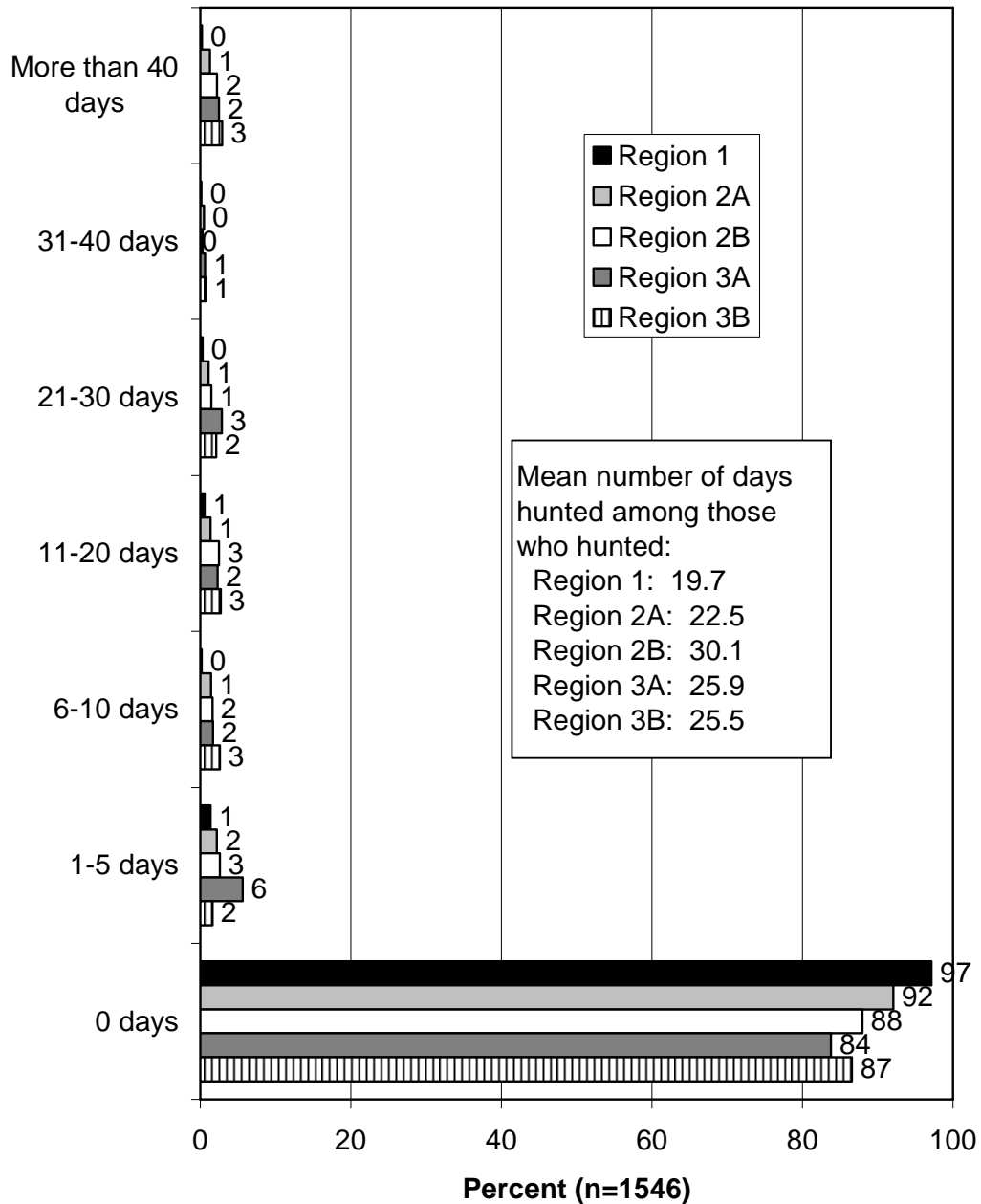
Q16. How many days have you personally hunted during the current hunting season, that is from July 1, 2009, to today?



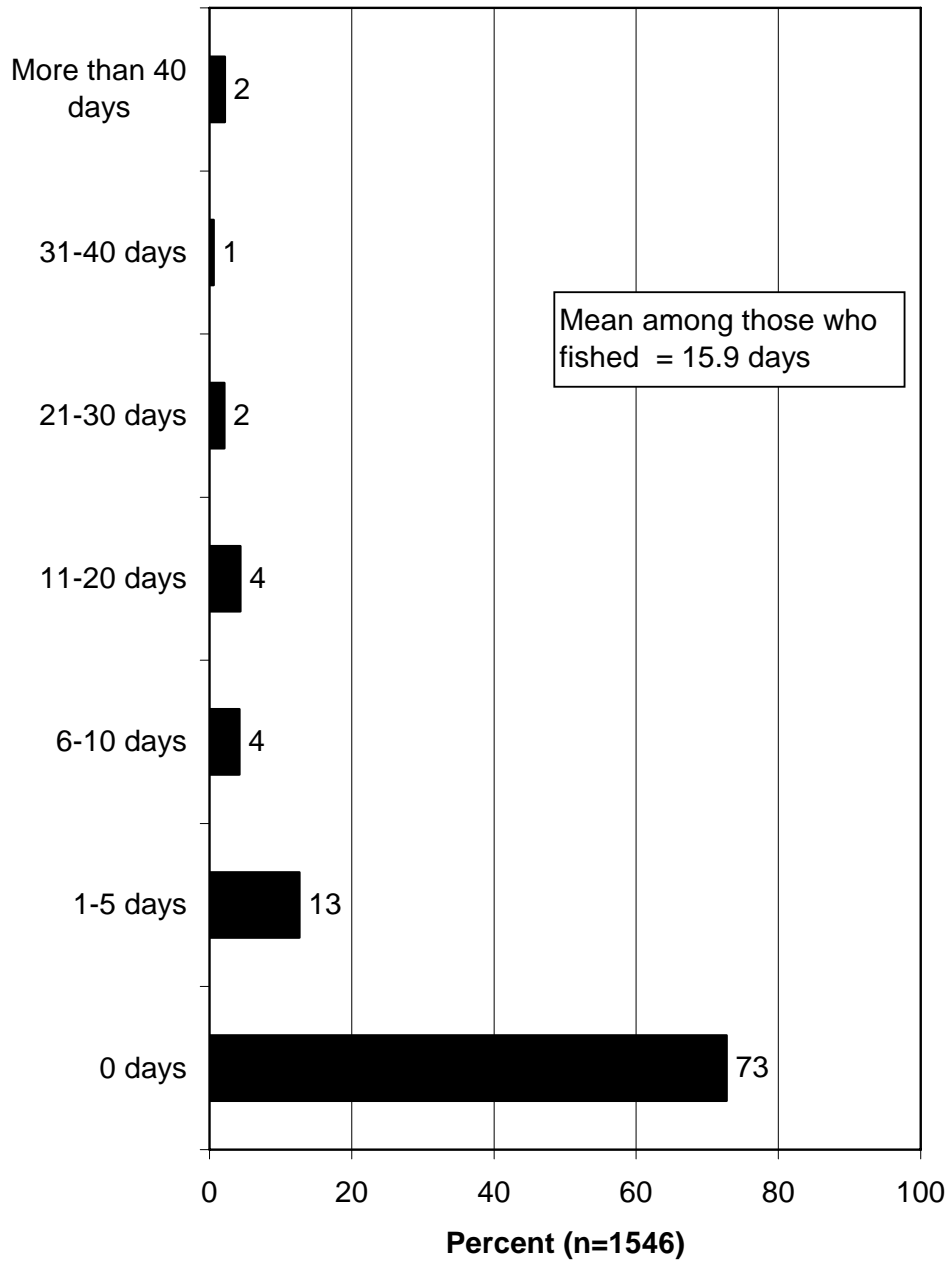
Q16. How many days have you personally hunted during the current hunting season, that is from July 1, 2009, to today? (Among those who had hunted.)



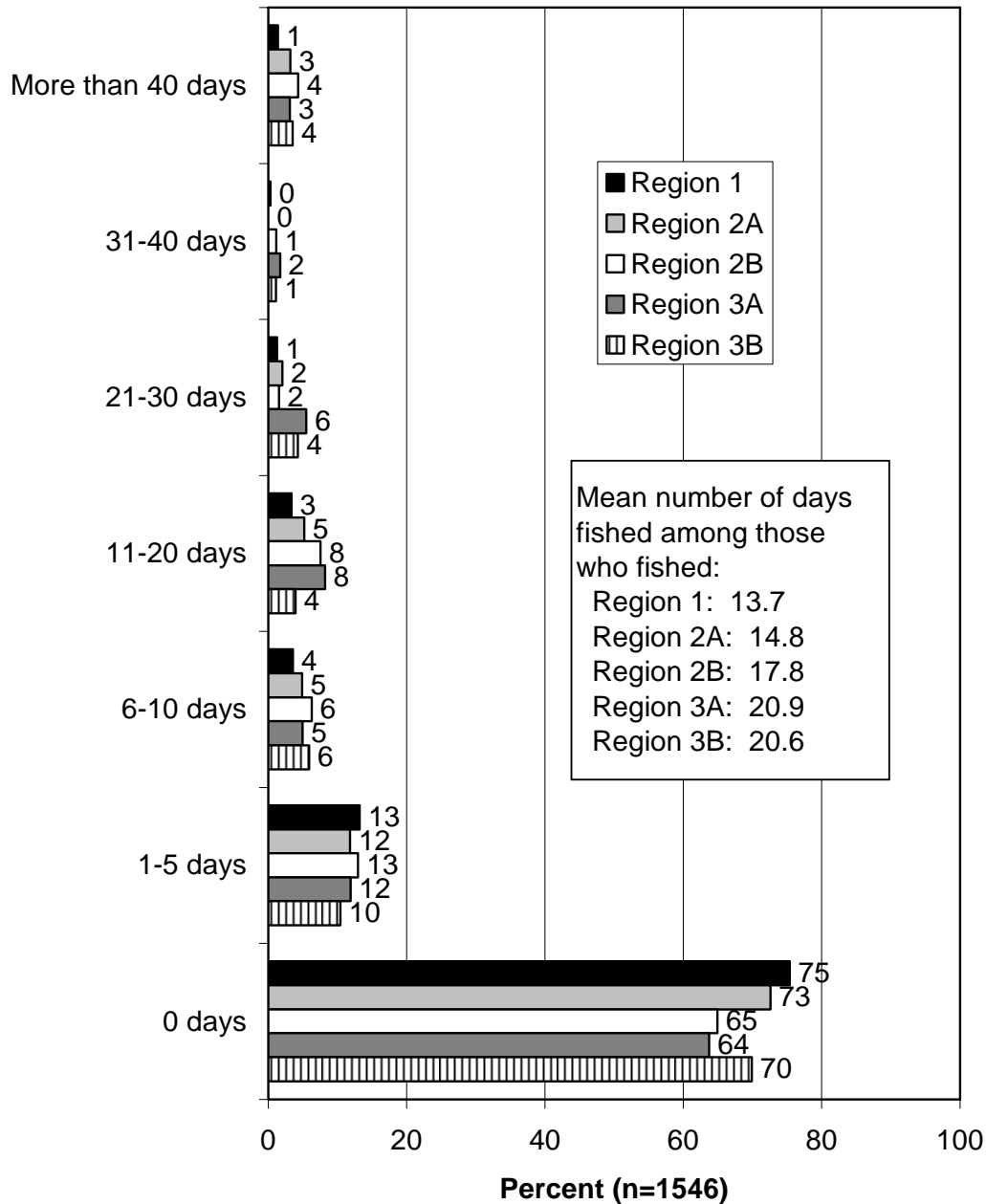
Q16. How many days have you personally hunted during the current hunting season, that is from July 1, 2009, to today?



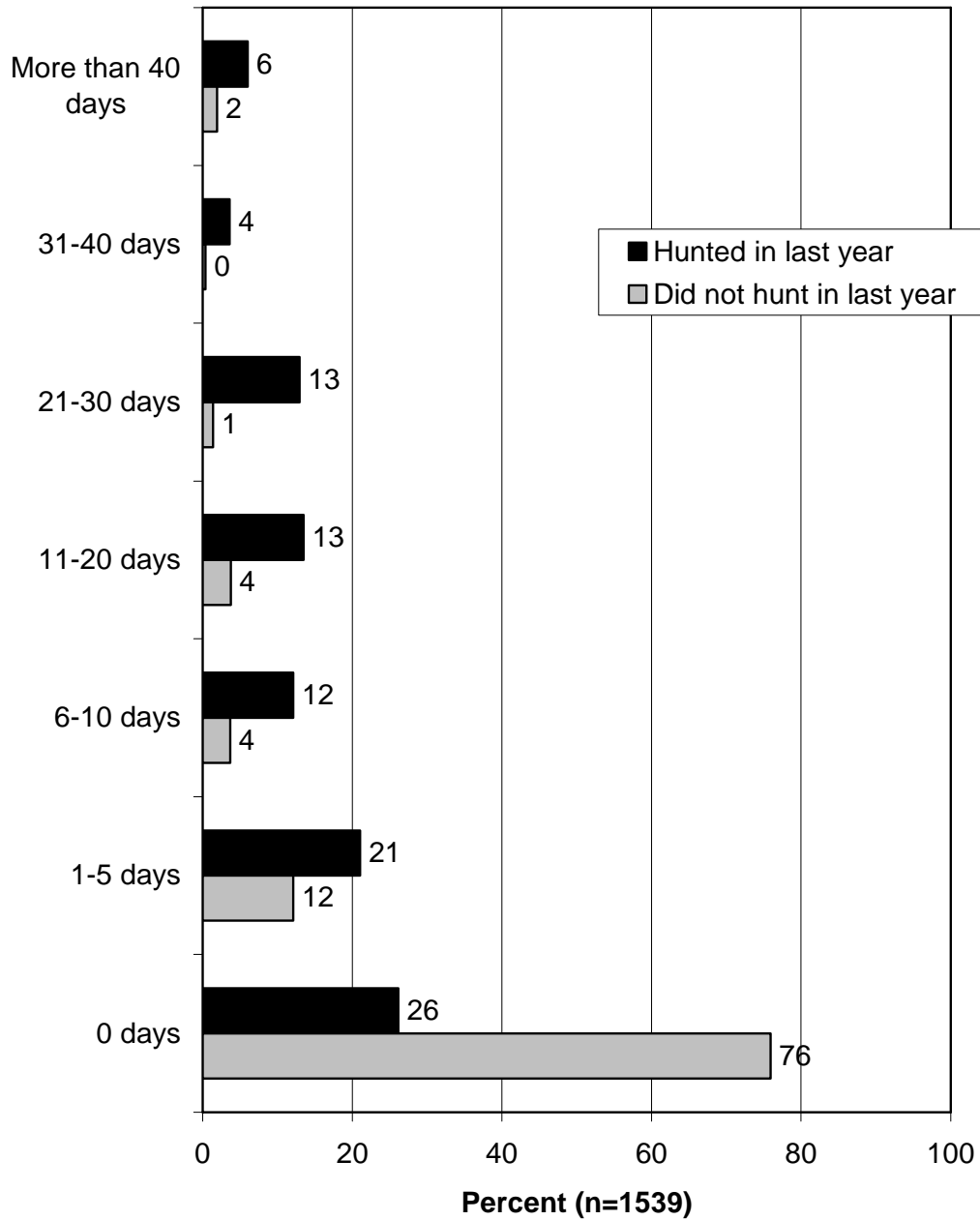
Q21. How many days have you personally fished during the current fishing season, that is from July 1, 2009, to today?



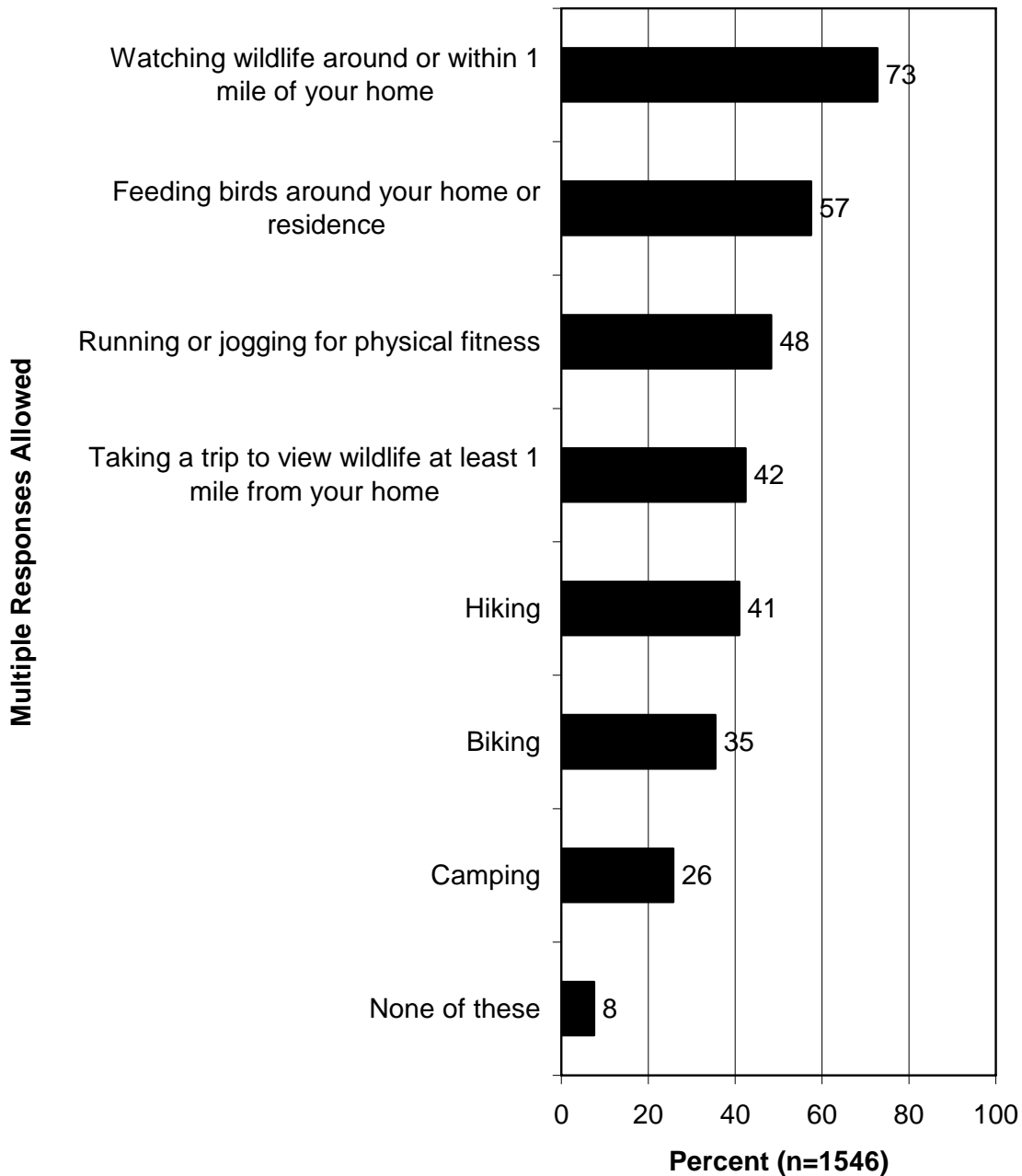
Q21. How many days have you personally fished during the current fishing season, that is from July 1, 2009, to today?



Q21. How many days have you personally fished during the current fishing season, that is from July 1, 2009, to today?

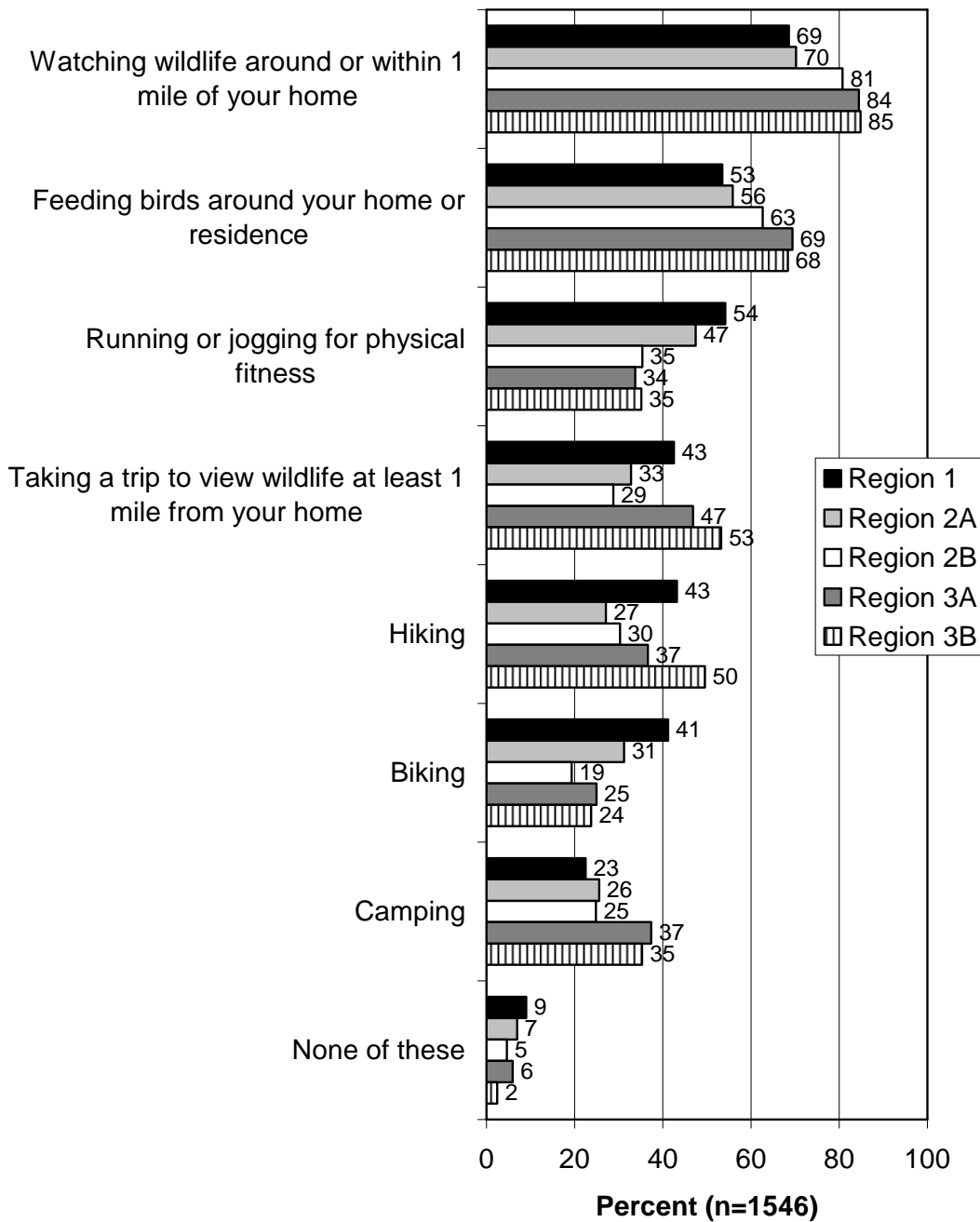


Q26. First, I am going to read a list of activities, and I would like to know if you have participated in each in Virginia the past 2 years. How about...?

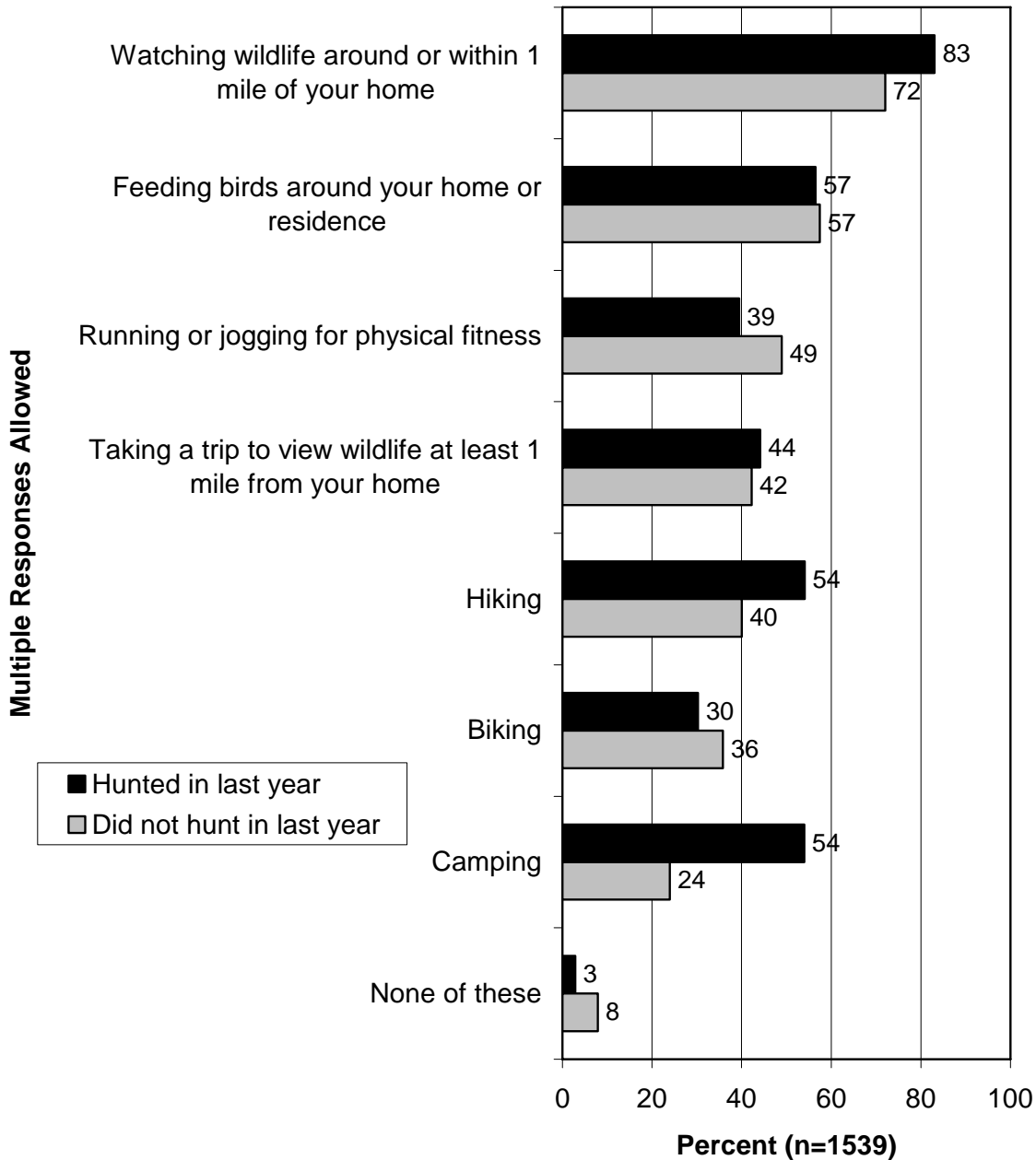


Q26. First, I am going to read a list of activities, and I would like to know if you have participated in each in Virginia the past 2 years. How about...?

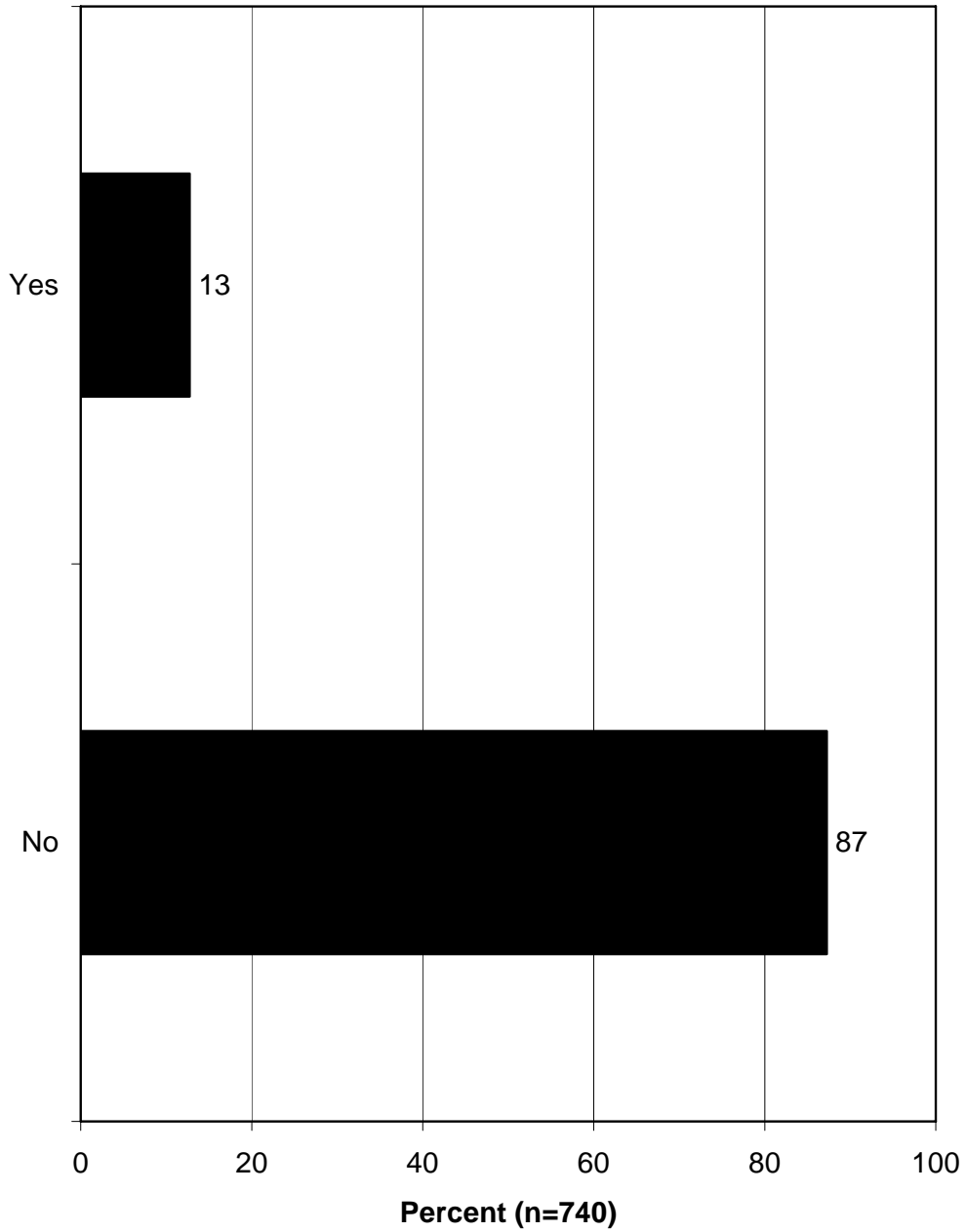
Multiple Responses Allowed



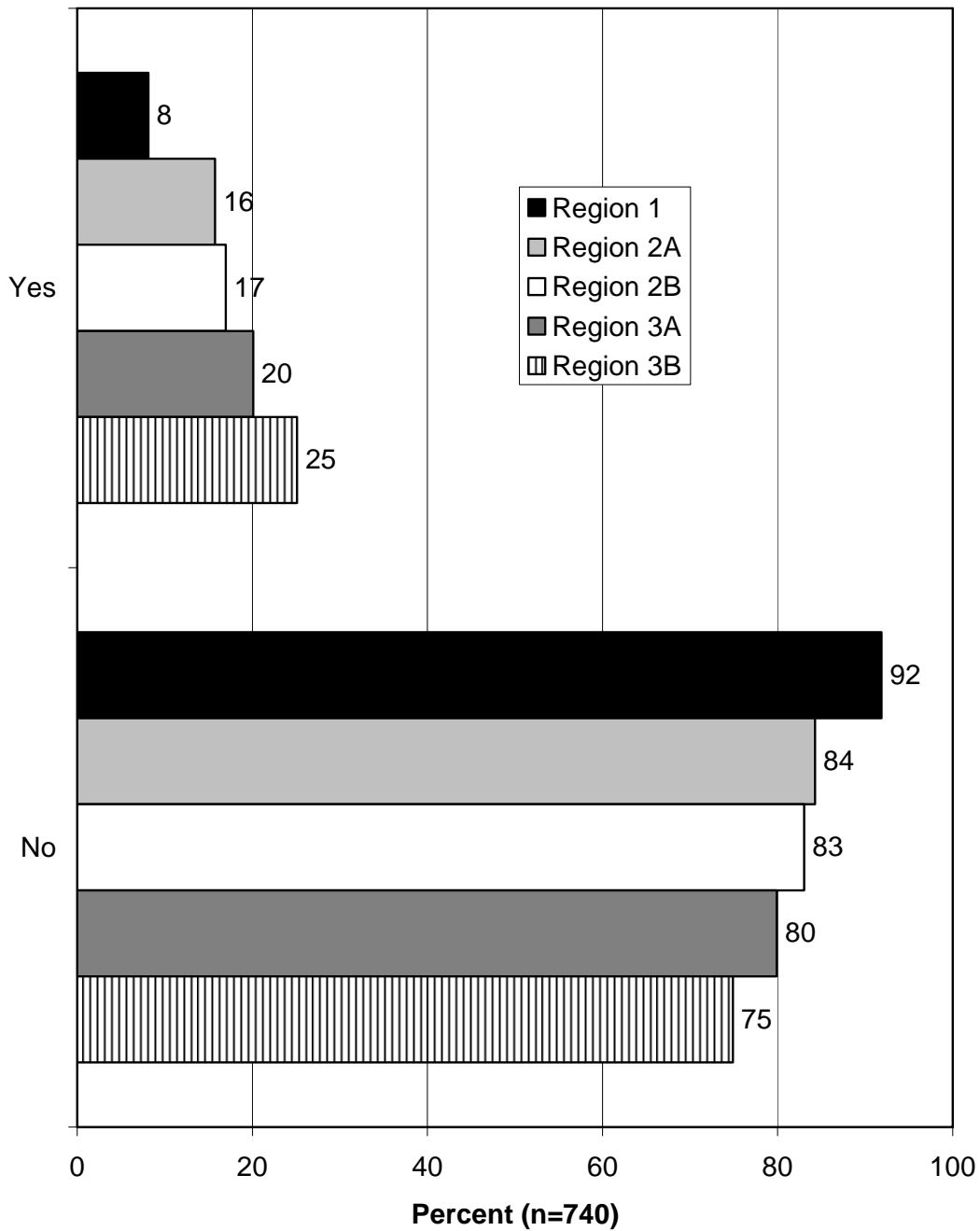
Q26. First, I am going to read a list of activities, and I would like to know if you have participated in each in Virginia the past 2 years. How about...?



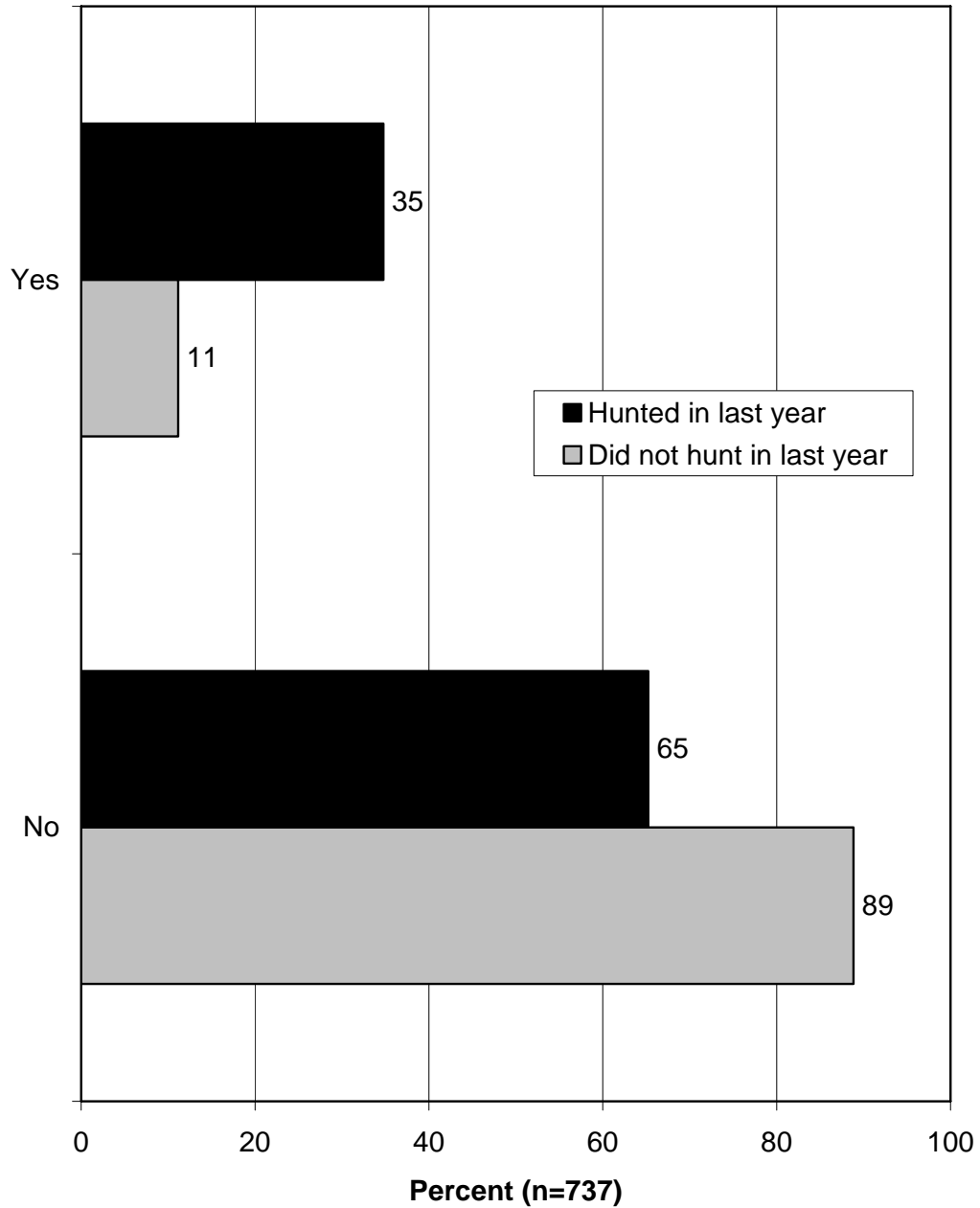
Q54. Have you taken a trip hoping to see a black bear in Virginia in the past 2 years?



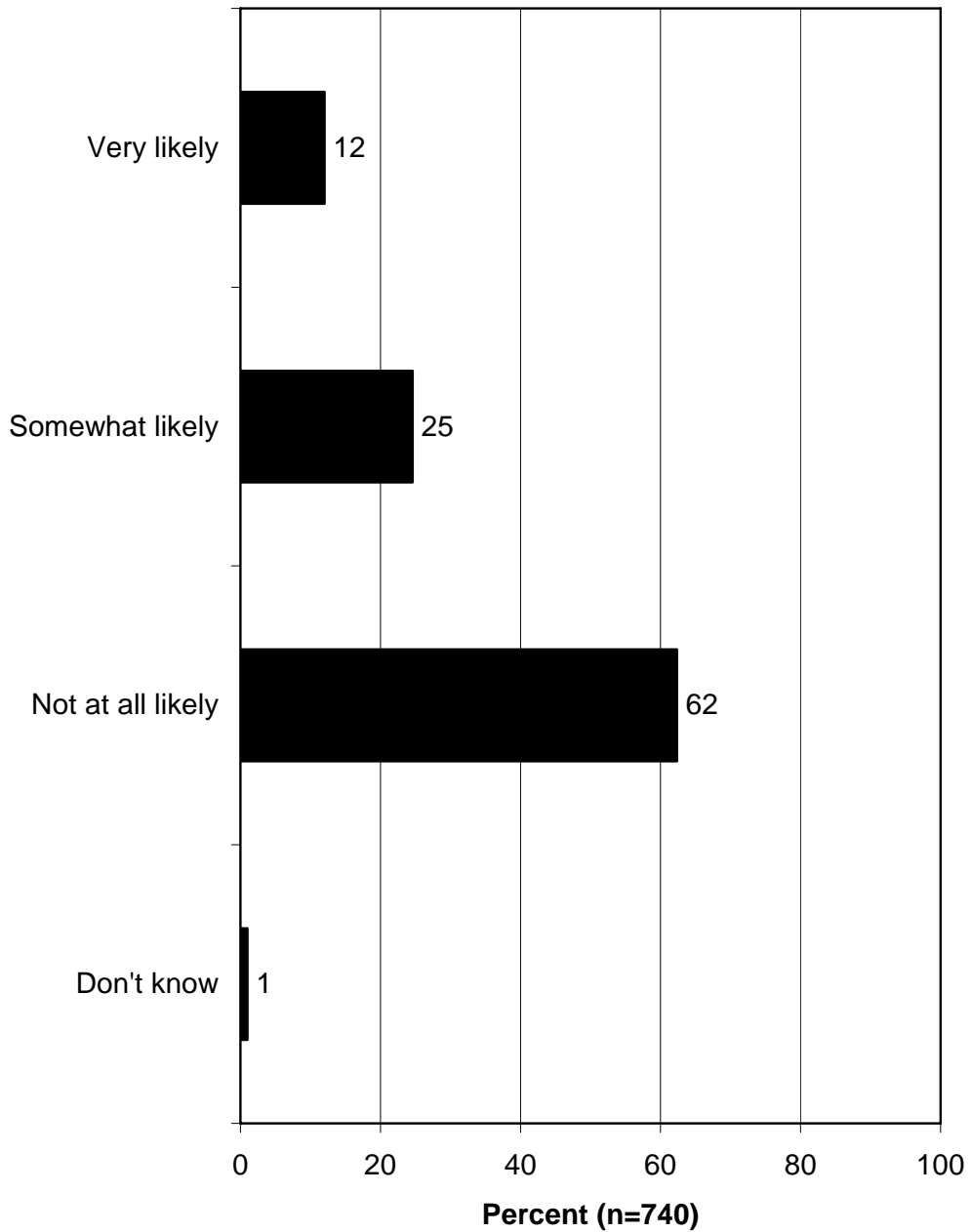
Q54. Have you taken a trip hoping to see a black bear in Virginia in the past 2 years?



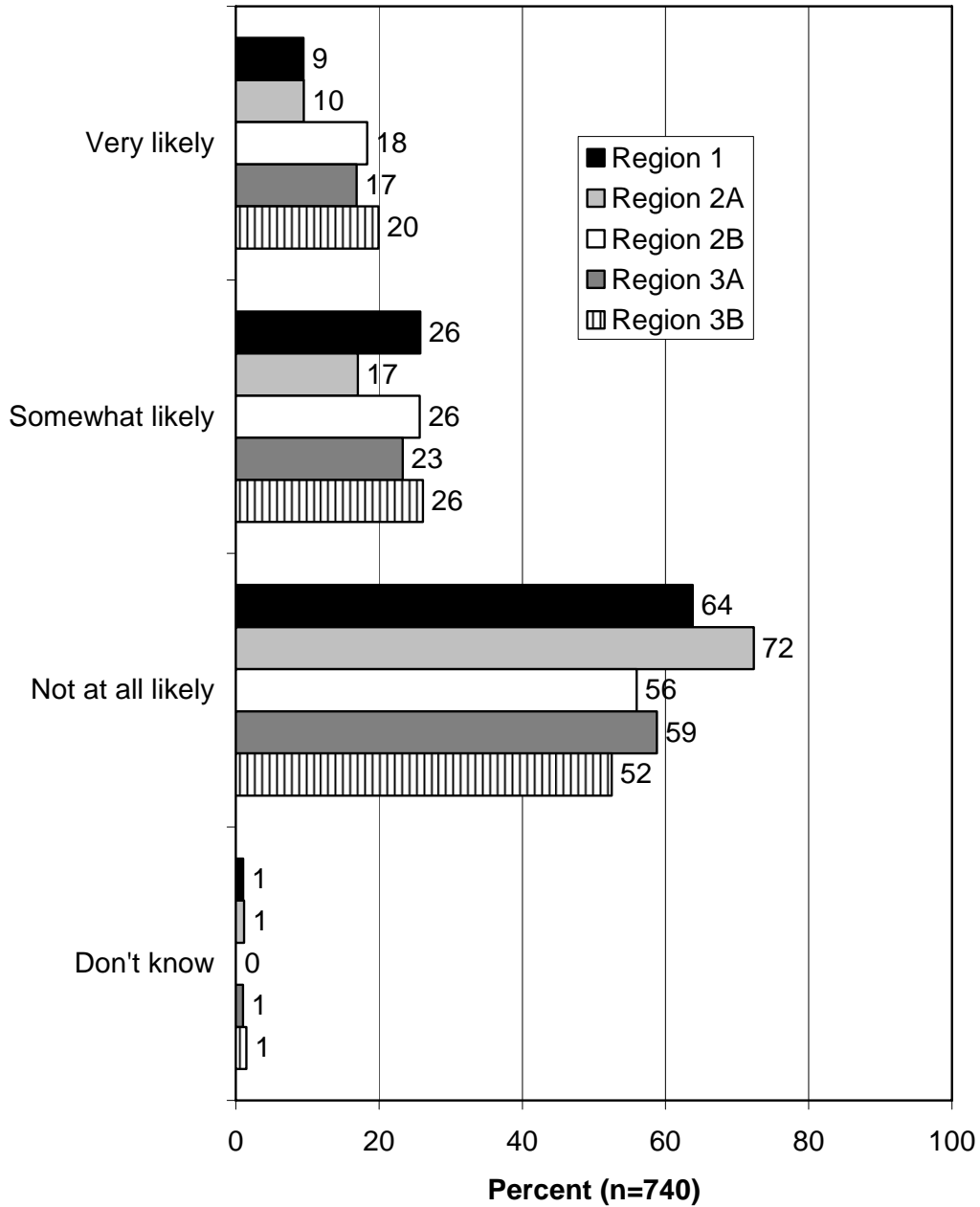
Q54. Have you taken a trip hoping to see a black bear in Virginia in the past 2 years?



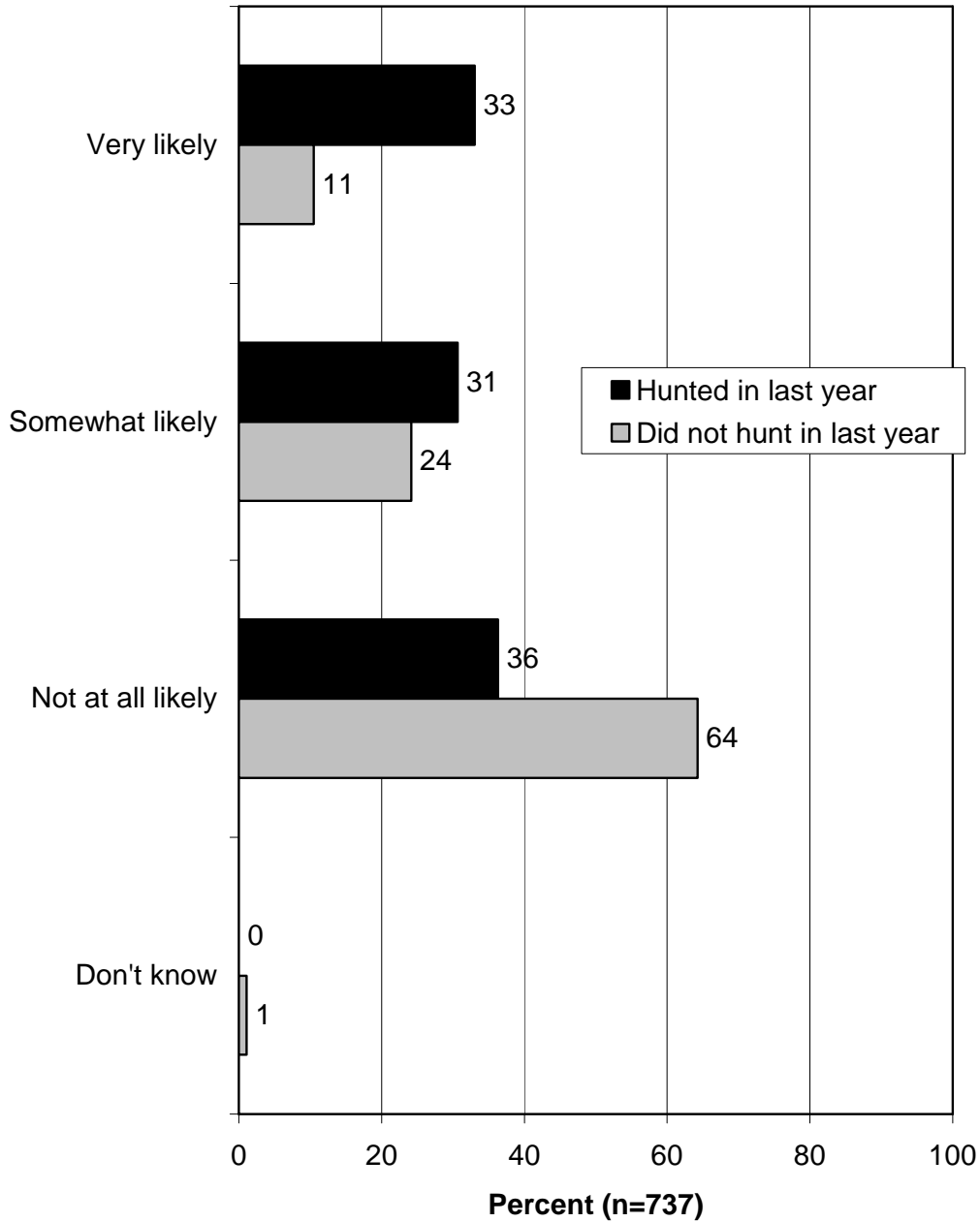
Q55. How likely are you to take a trip hoping to see a black bear in Virginia in the next 2 years?



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DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

- A graph shows the gender split of the sample after weighting to make it proportional to Virginia's population as a whole.

The nonparametric analysis found that the following responses are correlated with **being male**:

- *Males are more likely than are females to say that they know a great deal or a moderate amount about managing wildlife and natural resources ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Males are more likely than are females to believe it is very or somewhat important to have native species exist in Virginia ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Males are more likely than are females to say that they know a great deal or a moderate amount about black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Males are more likely than are females to think the black bear population in Virginia should increase or remain the same ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Males are more likely than are females to think the black bear population in Virginia is currently increasing or remaining stable ($p \leq 0.001$) and has increased or remained the same in the past 10 years ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Males are more likely than are females to believe black bears live in their county of residence ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Males are more likely than are females to answer correctly by disagreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Males are more likely than are females to answer incorrectly by believing that 1-5 people have been killed by a black bear in Virginia in 100 years ($p \leq 0.001$), or answer correctly by believing that no one has been killed by a black bear in Virginia in 100 years ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Males are more likely than are females to answer incorrectly by agreeing with the statement that encountering a female black bear with cubs is always dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Males are more likely than are females to answer correctly by believing that bears live in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Males are more likely than are females to support and encourage the existence of black bears in Virginia (e.g., strongly or moderately support having black bears in Virginia, strongly or moderately agree that black bears are an important and essential part of Virginia's ecosystem, strongly or moderately agree that preserving habitat on which black bears depend is important) (all at $p \leq 0.05$ or greater significance).*
- *Males are more likely than are females to have personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Males are more likely than are females to want to see and have black bears in their yard ($p \leq 0.001$) or want to see and have black bears in their neighborhood but not in their yard ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Males are more likely than are females to strongly or moderately disagree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Males are more likely than are females to strongly or moderately agree that people and black bears can live in the same area without conflict ($p \leq 0.001$).*

- *Males are more likely than are females to strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Males are more likely than are females to strongly or moderately oppose to any fines or restrictions related to areas where black bears may exist (e.g., oppose fines for people who attract black bears, either intentionally or unintentionally, oppose requiring people to use bear-proof garbage containers in areas frequented by bears, oppose requiring counties that are frequented by bears and that use open dumpsters to use bear-proof dumpsters) (all at $p \leq 0.01$ or greater significance).*
- *Males are more likely than are females to not be willing to pay about \$10 more per month for trash service for only 12 months to pay for the cost of bear-proof garbage containers ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Males are more likely than are females to strongly or moderately oppose that the property owner should be compensated for the damages when black bear damage occurs to agricultural crops ($p \leq 0.001$) or damage occurs to livestock ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Males are more likely than are females to prefer using the following management options for reducing the black bear population in areas with high human populations or frequent human use: kill permits ($p \leq 0.001$), regulated hunting ($p \leq 0.001$), sharpshooters ($p \leq 0.001$), and capture and destroy ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Males are more likely than are females to think the following methods of destroying black bears that are causing problems are acceptable: special hunting programs, Department sharpshooters, and kill permits issued by the Department (all at $p \leq 0.001$ or greater significance).*
- *Males are more likely than are females to believe the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries is doing an excellent or good job managing Virginia's black bears ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Males are more likely than are females to consider themselves to be a hunter ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Males are more likely than are females to have recently participated in the following hunting and fishing activities in Virginia: fished over 5 days in the current fishing season, hunted in the current 2009-2010 season, hunted over 5 days in the current hunting season, purchased a hunting license for the 2009-2010 season, and fished 1-5 days in the current fishing season (all at $p \leq 0.001$ or greater significance).*
- *Males are more likely than are females to have participated in the following outdoor recreational activities in Virginia in the past 2 years: gone hiking ($p \leq 0.001$), watched wildlife over 1 mile from home ($p \leq 0.01$), gone biking ($p \leq 0.05$), and gone camping ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Males are more likely than are females to have an income of \$100,000-\$119,999 ($p \leq 0.001$) or \$20,000-\$39,999 ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Males are more likely than are females to have lived in their place of residence the median number of 7 years or less ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Males are more likely than are females to be Hispanic or Latino ($p \leq 0.05$) or white or Caucasian ($p \leq 0.05$).*

The nonparametric analysis found that the following responses are correlated with **being female**:

- *Females are more likely than are males to say that they know a little or nothing about managing wildlife and natural resources ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Females are more likely than are males to believe it is not at all important to have native species exist in Virginia ($p \leq 0.01$).*
- *Females are more likely than are males to say that they know a little or nothing about black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Females are more likely than are males to think the black bear population in Virginia should decrease ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Females are more likely than are males to think the black bear population in Virginia is currently declining ($p \leq 0.01$) and has decreased in the past 10 years ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Females are more likely than are males to answer incorrectly by agreeing that a black bear standing on hind legs means the bear is about to attack ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Females are more likely than are males to answer incorrectly by believing that bears do not live in Virginia ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Females are more likely than are males to answer incorrectly by believing that six or more people have been killed by a black bear in Virginia in 100 years ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Females are more likely than are males to not support or encourage the existence of black bears in Virginia (e.g., strongly or moderately oppose having black bears in Virginia, think it is not at all important to know black bears exist in Virginia, strongly or moderately disagree that black bears are an important and essential part of Virginia's ecosystem) (all at $p \leq 0.01$ or greater significance).*
- *Females are more likely than are males to have not personally seen a black bear that was not in captivity in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Females are more likely than are males to feel uncomfortable about having black bears even in their county ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Females are more likely than are males to strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Virginia are dangerous to humans ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Females are more likely than are males to strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting of black bears in Virginia ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Females are more likely than are males to strongly or moderately support any fines or restrictions related to areas where black bears may exist (e.g., support fines for people who attract black bears, either intentionally or unintentionally, support requiring counties that are frequented by bears and that use open dumpsters to use bear-proof dumpsters, support prohibiting people visiting or living in areas frequented by black bears from using birdfeeders or participating in other wildlife feeding activities) (all at $p \leq 0.05$ or greater significance).*
- *Females are more likely than are males to be willing to pay about \$10 more per month for trash service for only 12 months to pay for the cost of bear-proof garbage containers ($p \leq 0.05$).*
- *Females are more likely than are males to strongly or moderately agree that the property owner should be compensated for the damages when black bear damage occurs to agricultural crops ($p \leq 0.001$).*
- *Females are more likely than are males to prefer using the following management option for reducing the black bear population in areas with high human populations or frequent human use: capture and relocate ($p \leq 0.001$).*

- *Females are more likely than are males to not have fished ($p \leq 0.001$) or hunted ($p \leq 0.001$) during the current fishing and hunting seasons in Virginia.*
 - *Females are more likely than are males to have participated in the following outdoor recreational activities in Virginia in the past 2 years: fed birds around their home ($p \leq 0.05$) and watched wildlife within 1 mile of home ($p \leq 0.05$).*
 - *Females are more likely than are males to have an income of under \$20,000 ($p \leq 0.001$).*
 - *Females are more likely than are males to have a Bachelor's degree ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Females are more likely than are males to have lived in their place of residence more than the median number of 7 years ($p \leq 0.01$).*
 - *Females are more likely than are males to consider their place of residence to be a rural area not on a farm or ranch ($p \leq 0.05$).*
-
- The ethnic background of respondents is shown: 73% describe themselves as white/Caucasian, and 14% describe themselves as black/African-American.

 - A graph shows the education levels of Virginia residents: just over half (52%) have at least an associate's or trade school degree.

 - A graph shows pre-tax household incomes of residents. They generally follow a bell curve with the peak in the \$40,000 to \$59,999 range.

 - A graph shows the breakdown of the sample by age cohort. (Note that the sample was weighted by age to make it proportional to Virginia as a whole.)
 - A graph showing the years of residency in Virginia is included; answers range from less than a year to more than 60 years. The median is 25 years.
 - A similar question asked about years of residency in their current residence. The majority of residents (55%) have lived in their current place of residence for less than 10 years. The median is 7 years.

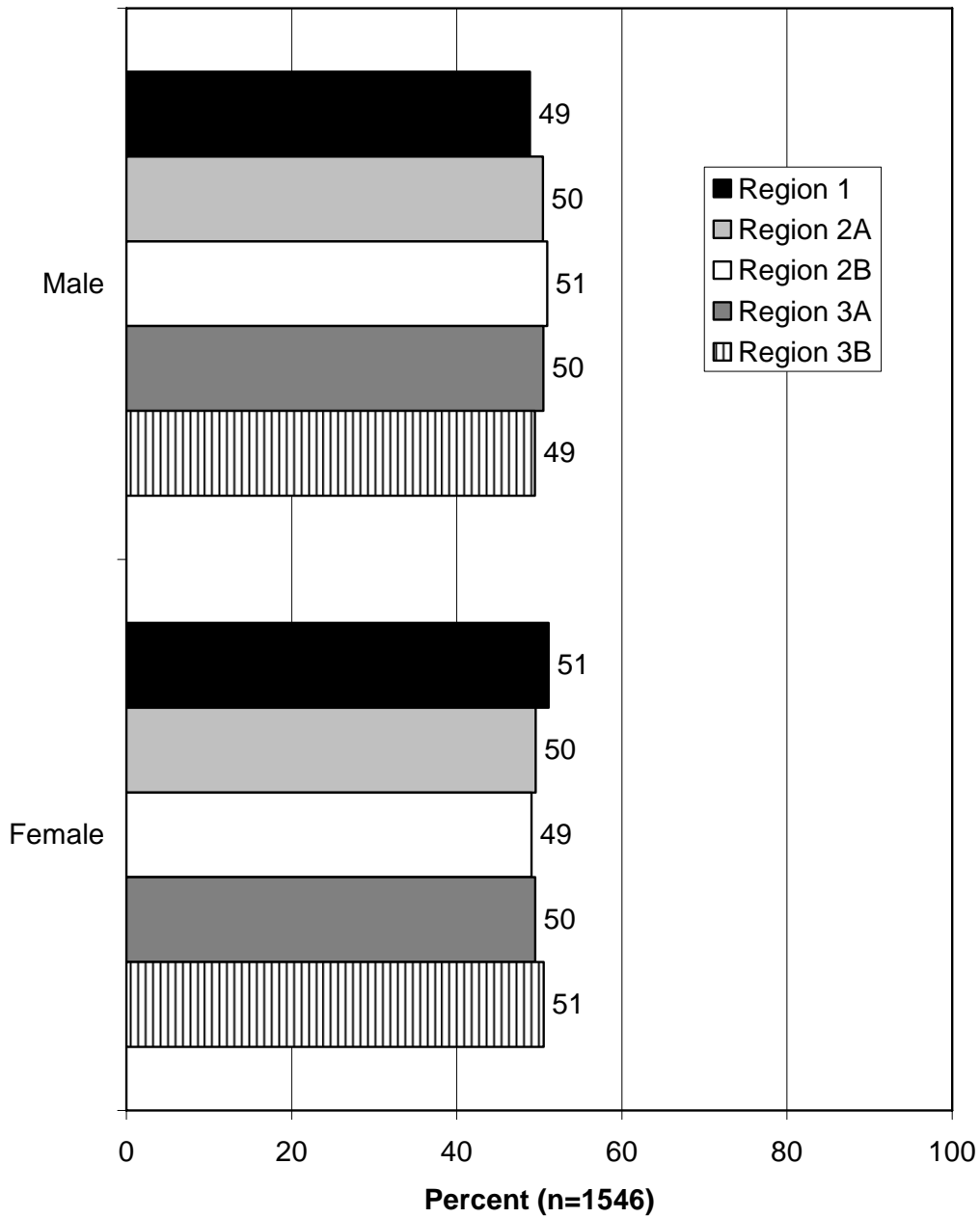
 - A third of Virginia residents (33%) describe their residence as being in a semi-rural or rural area. On the other end, 46% describe it as being in a large city/urban area or a suburban area.

 - Respondents were asked about the age of their residence: the graph shows a wide range of answers; the median is 25 years.

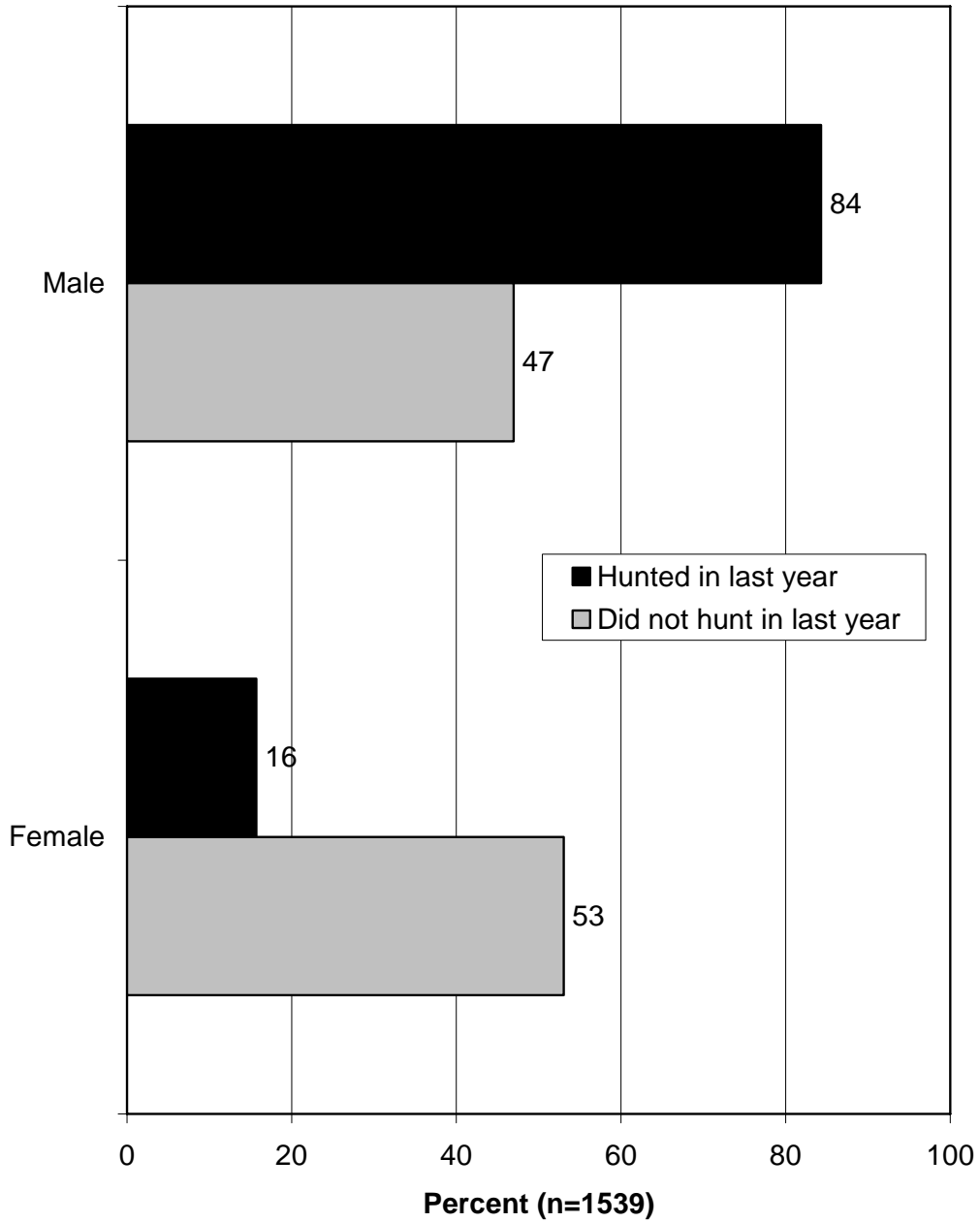
Q175. Respondent's gender (not asked; observed by interviewer).



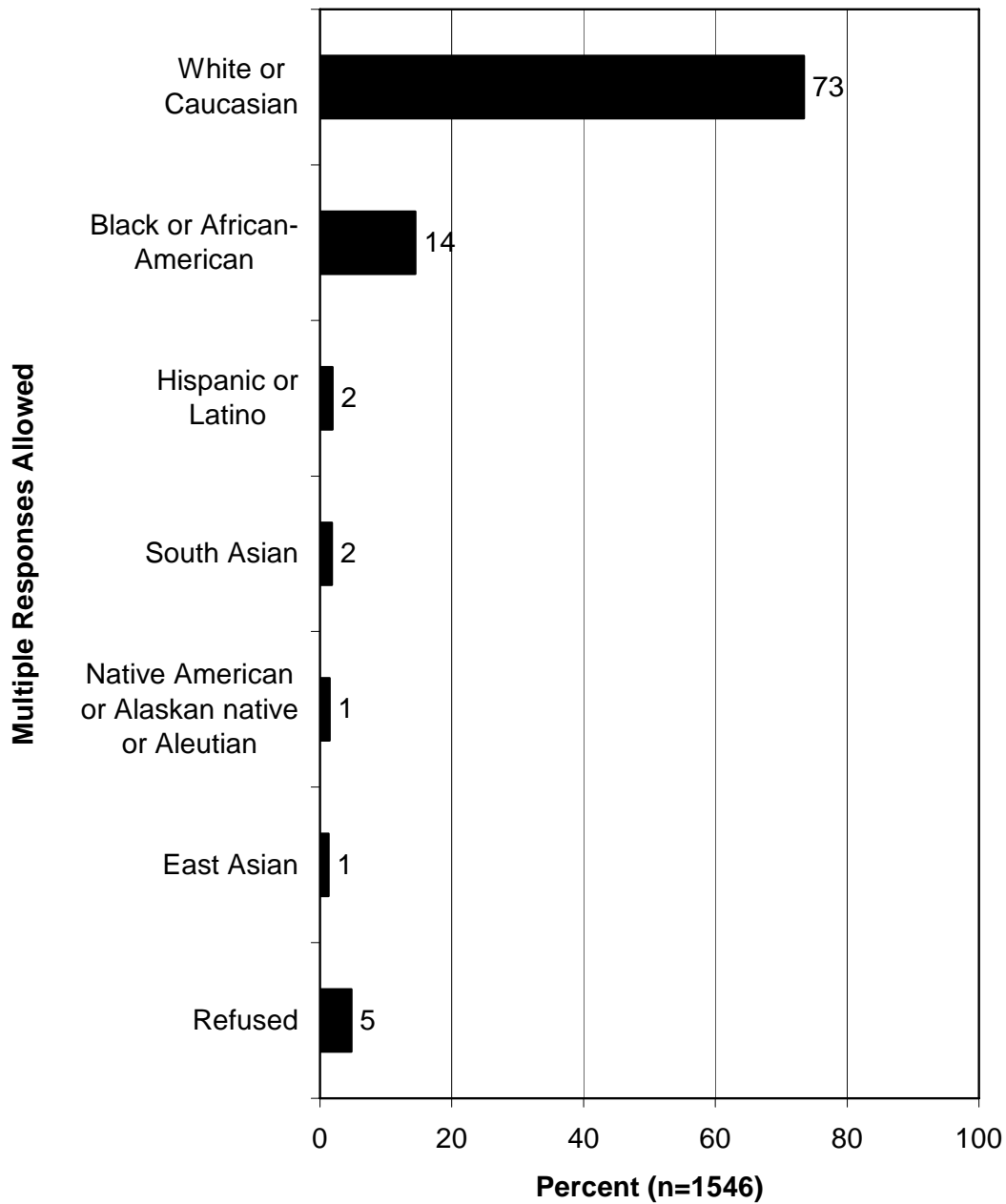
Q175. Respondent's gender (not asked; observed by interviewer).



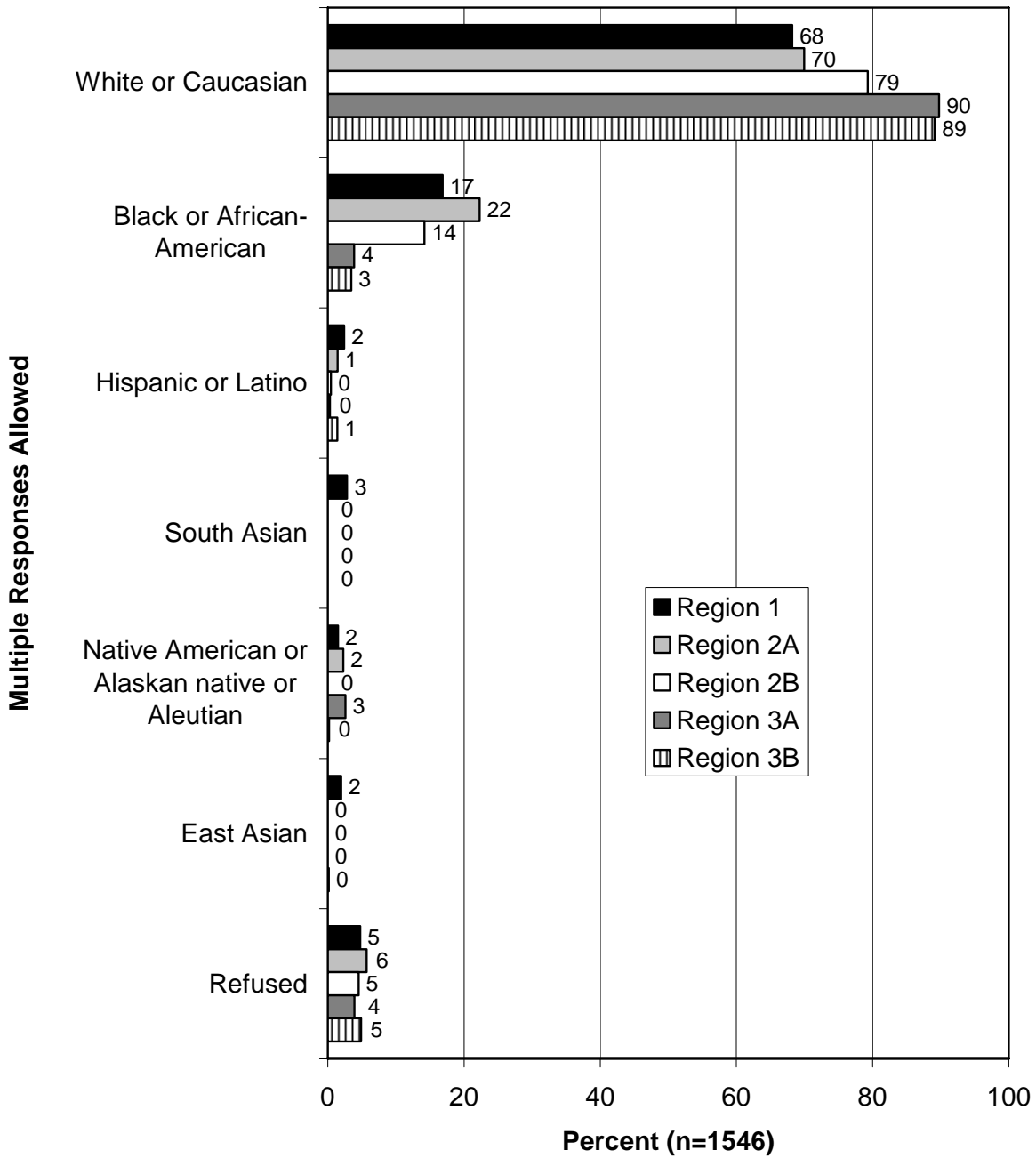
Q175. Respondent's gender (not asked; observed by interviewer).



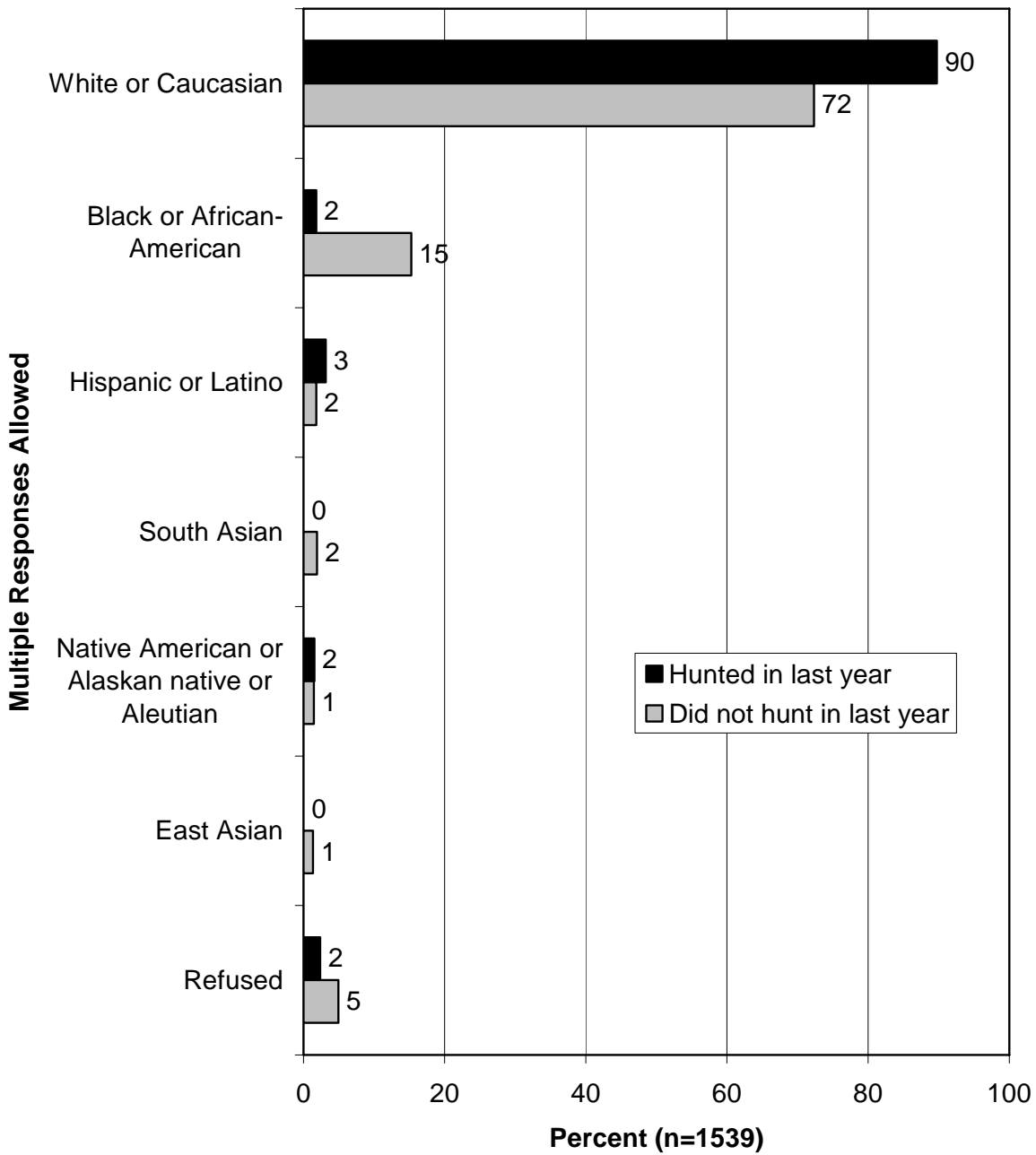
Q167. What races or ethnic backgrounds do you consider yourself, and please mention all that apply?



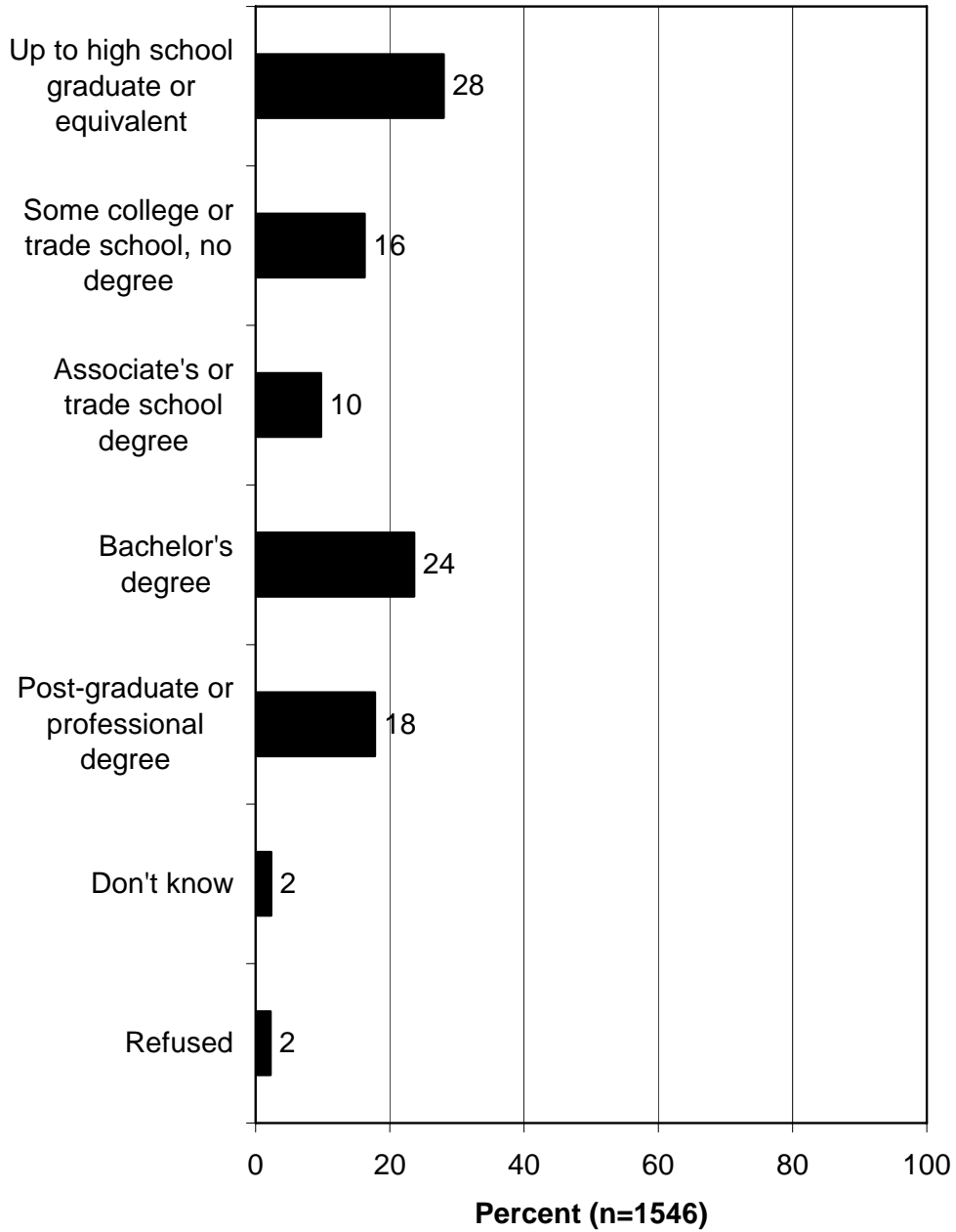
Q167. What races or ethnic backgrounds do you consider yourself, and please mention all that apply?



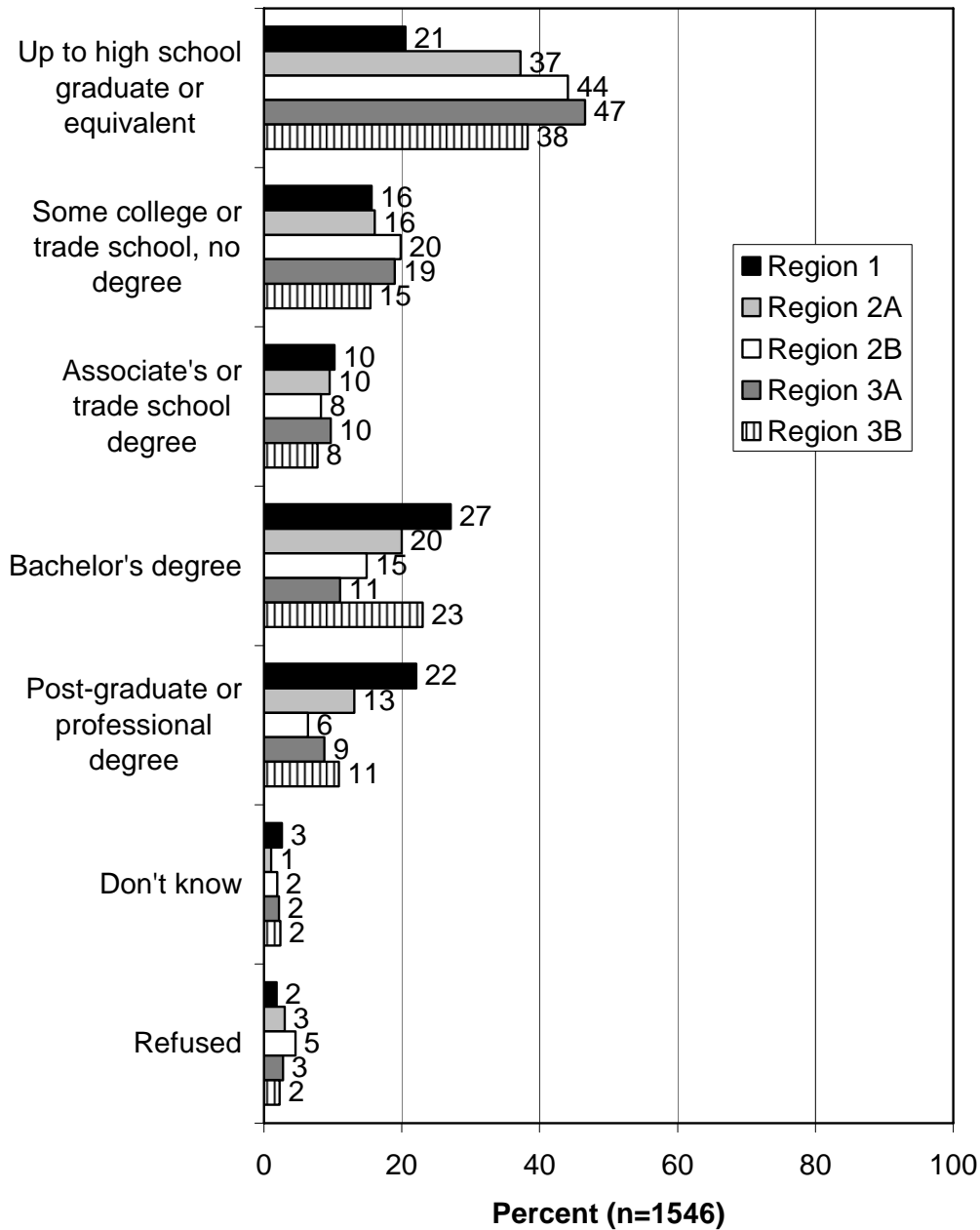
Q167. What races or ethnic backgrounds do you consider yourself, and please mention all that apply?



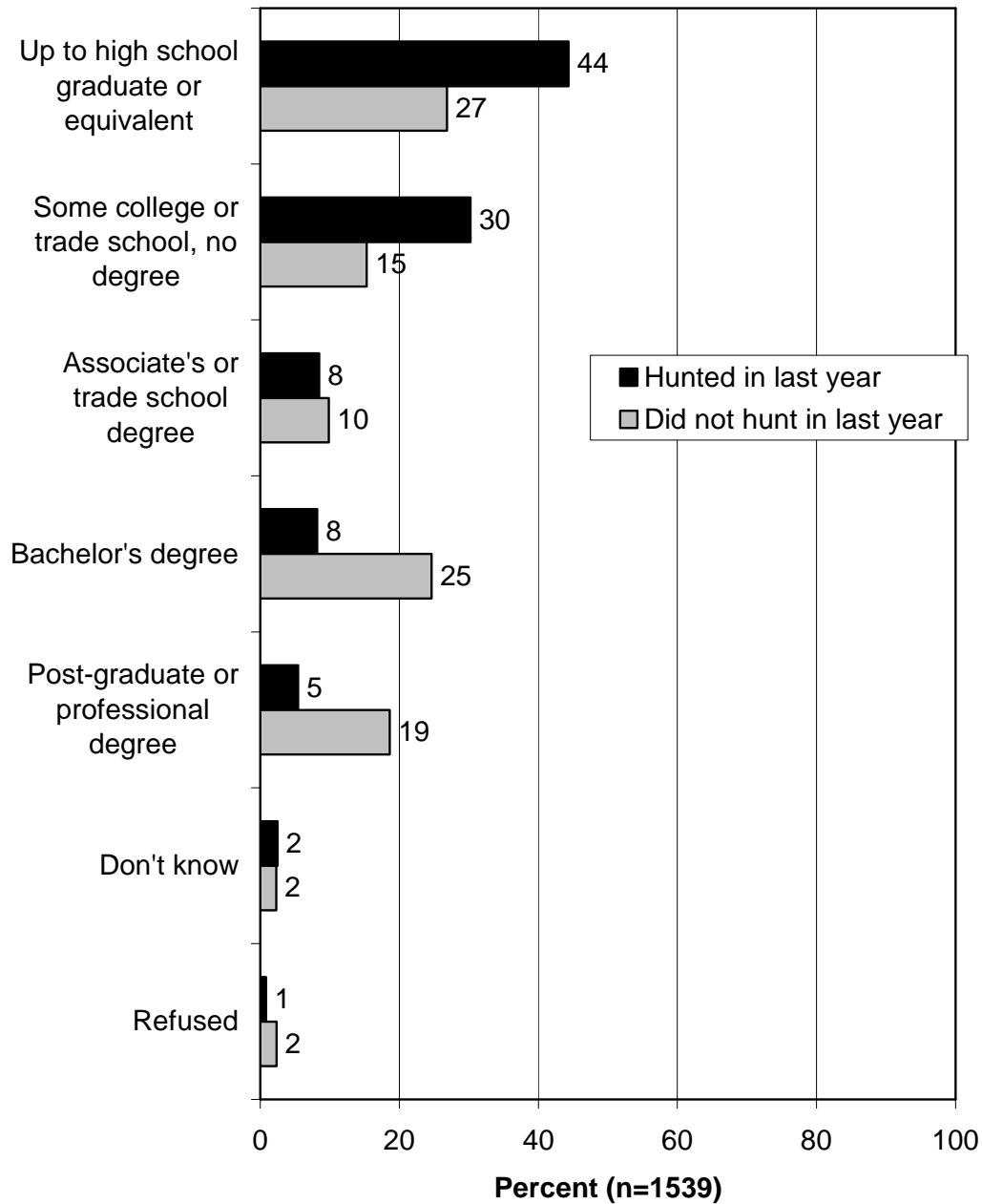
Q163. What is the highest level of education you have completed?



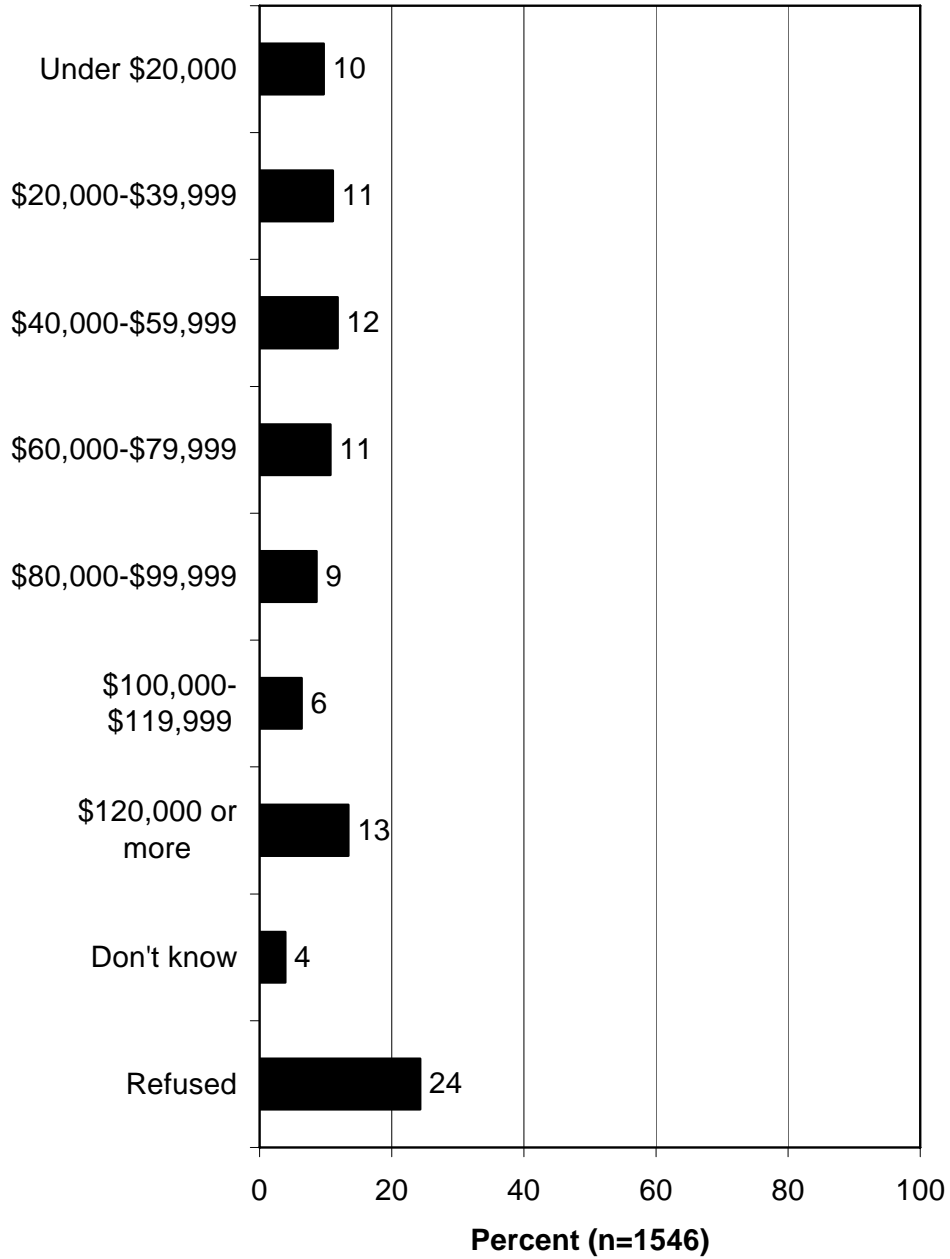
Q163. What is the highest level of education you have completed?



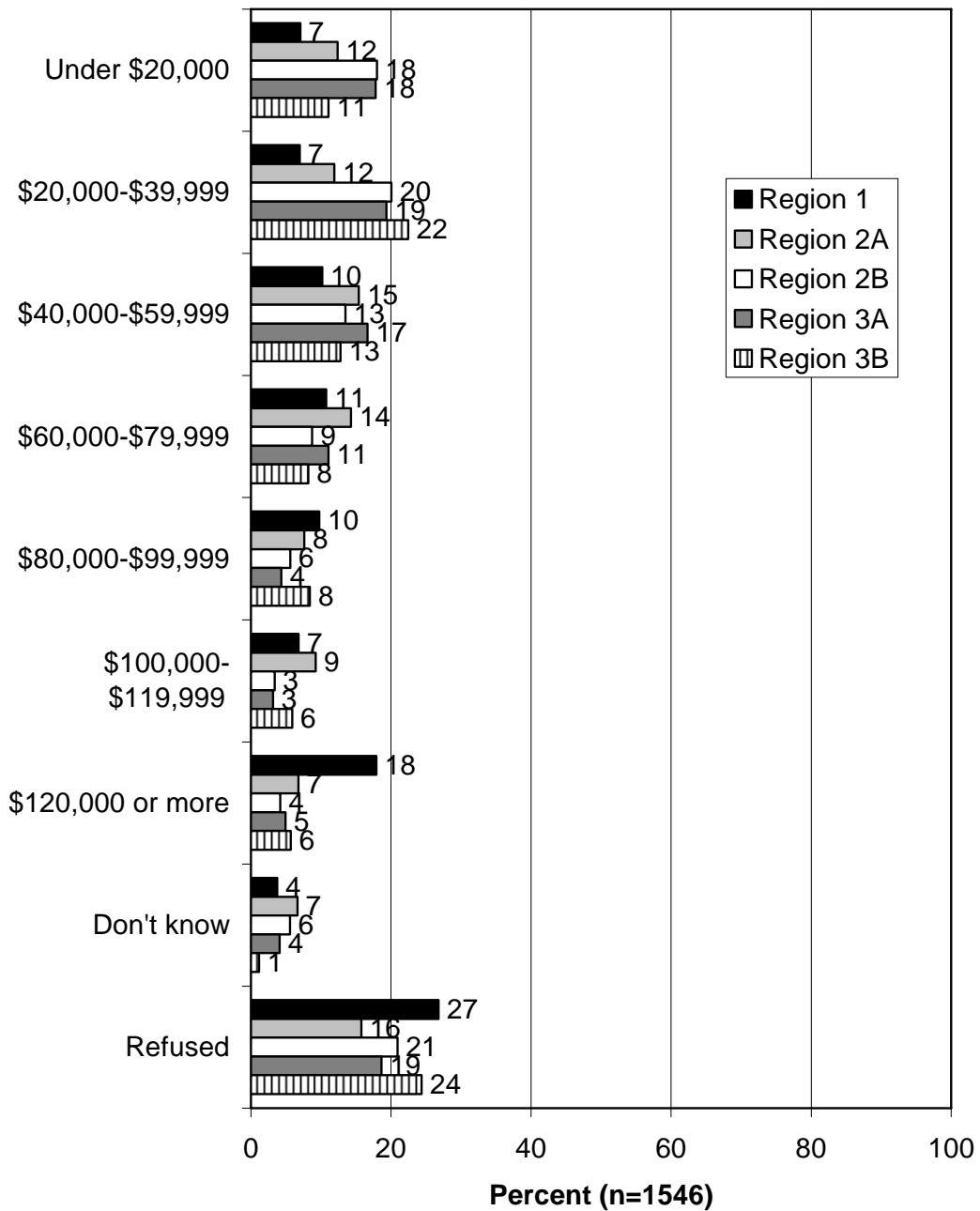
Q163. What is the highest level of education you have completed?



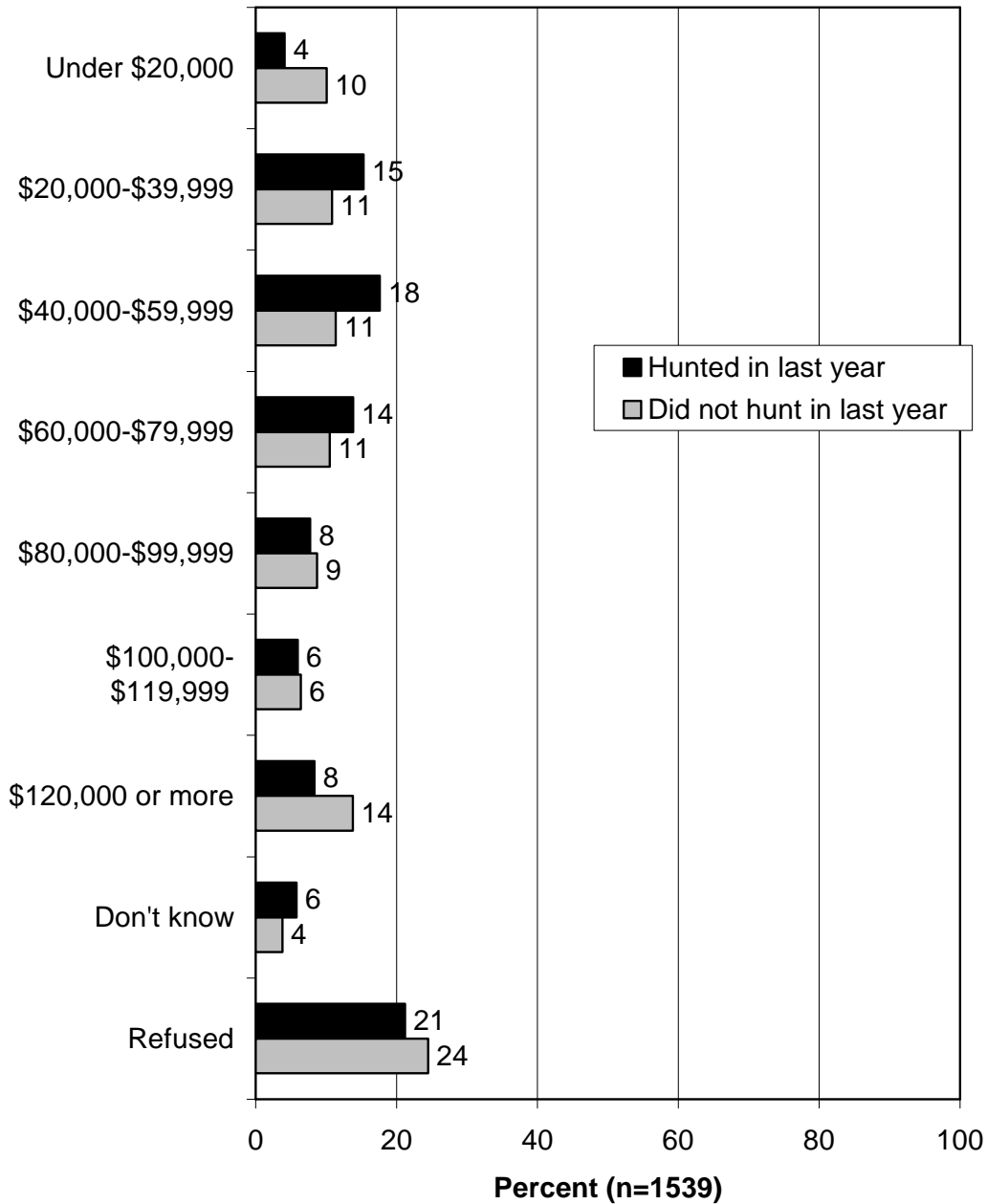
Q164. Which of these categories best describes your total household income before taxes last year?

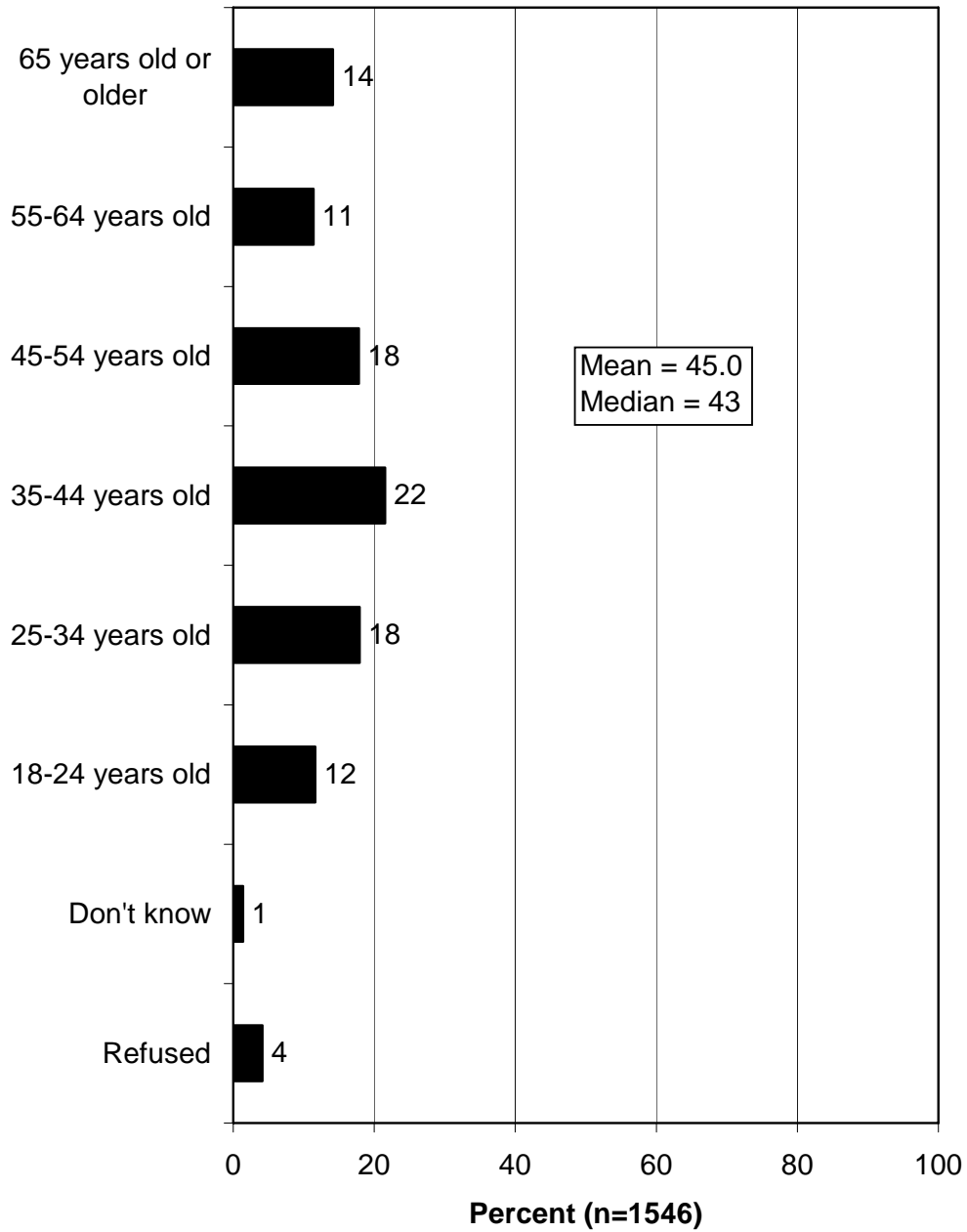


Q164. Which of these categories best describes your total household income before taxes last year?

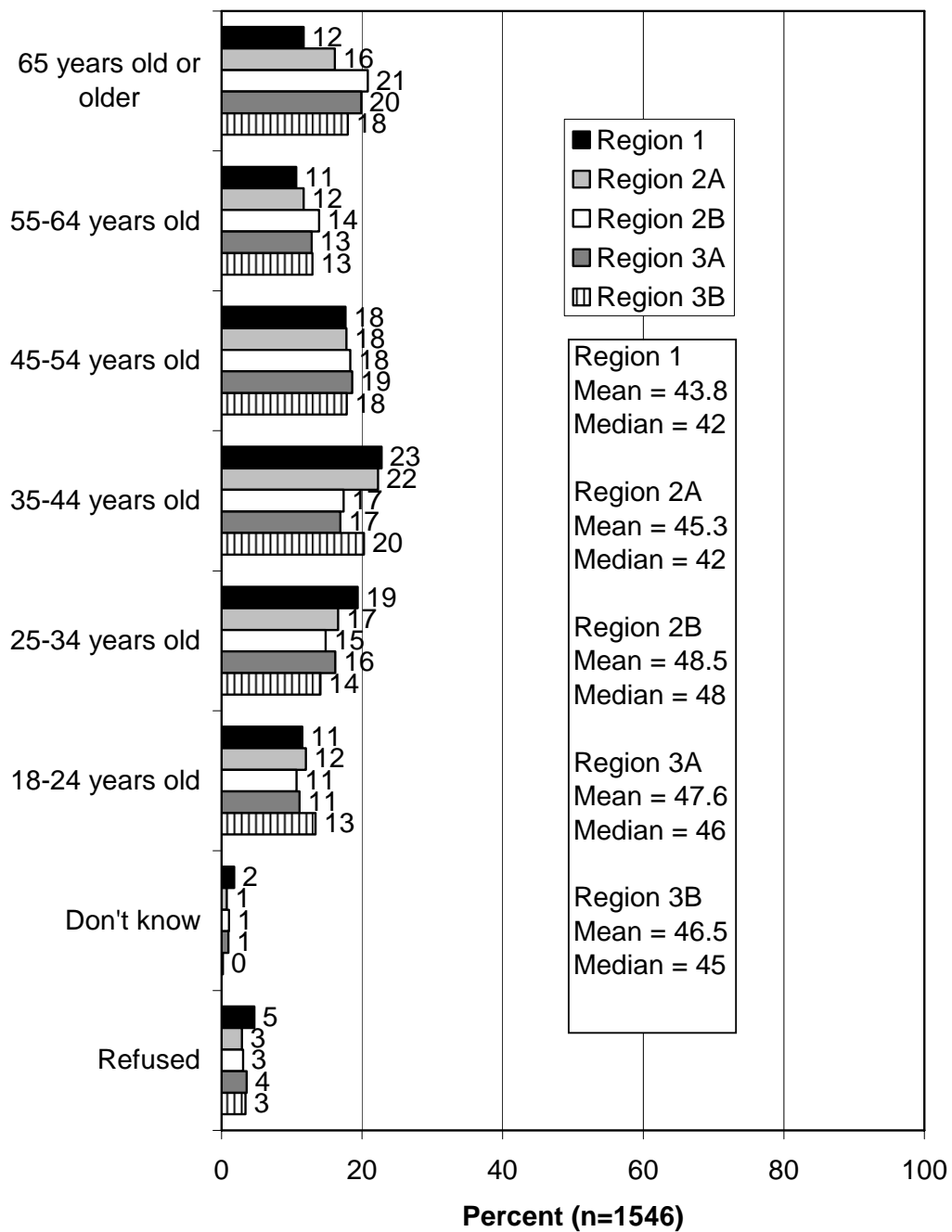


Q164. Which of these categories best describes your total household income before taxes last year?

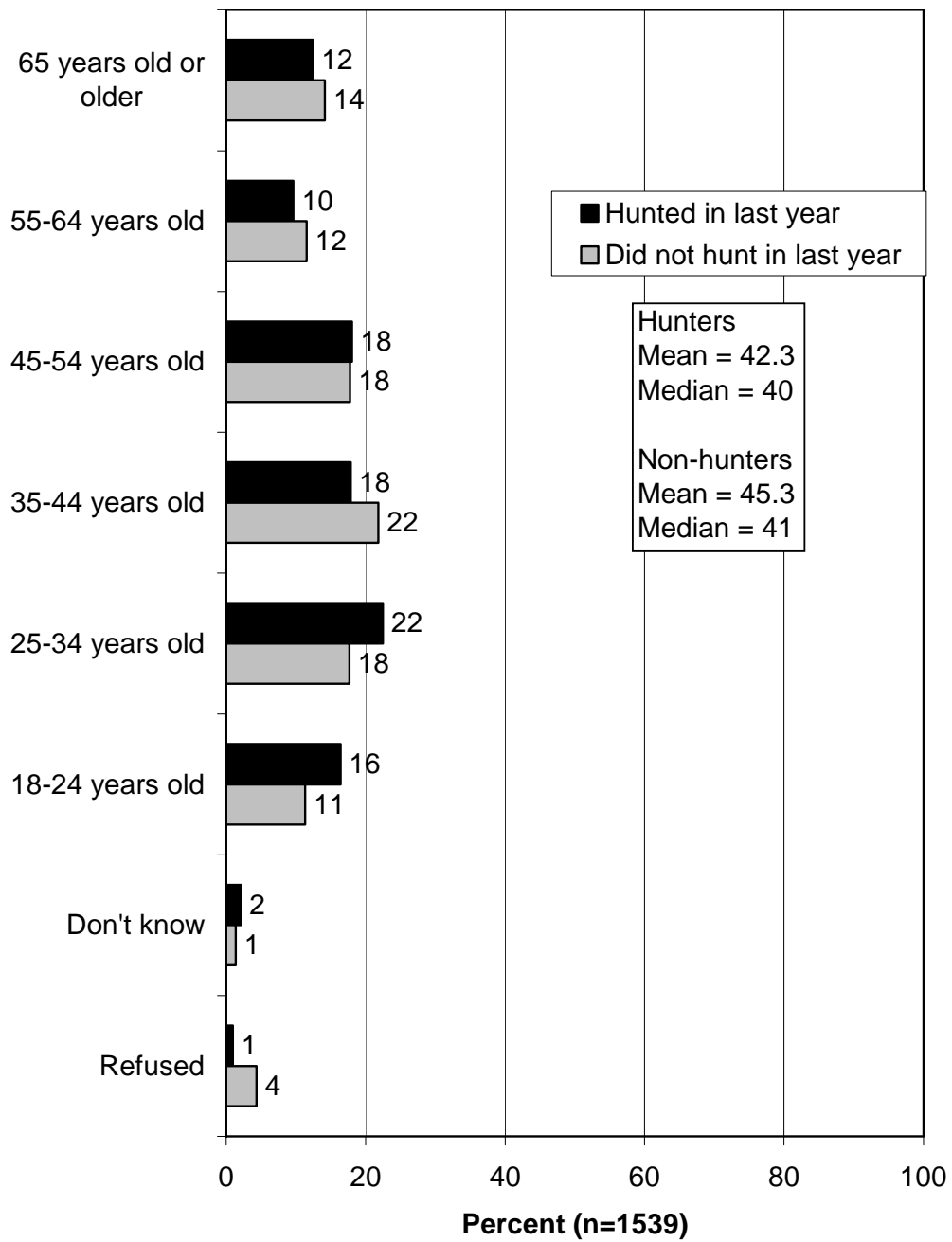


Q169. Respondent's age.

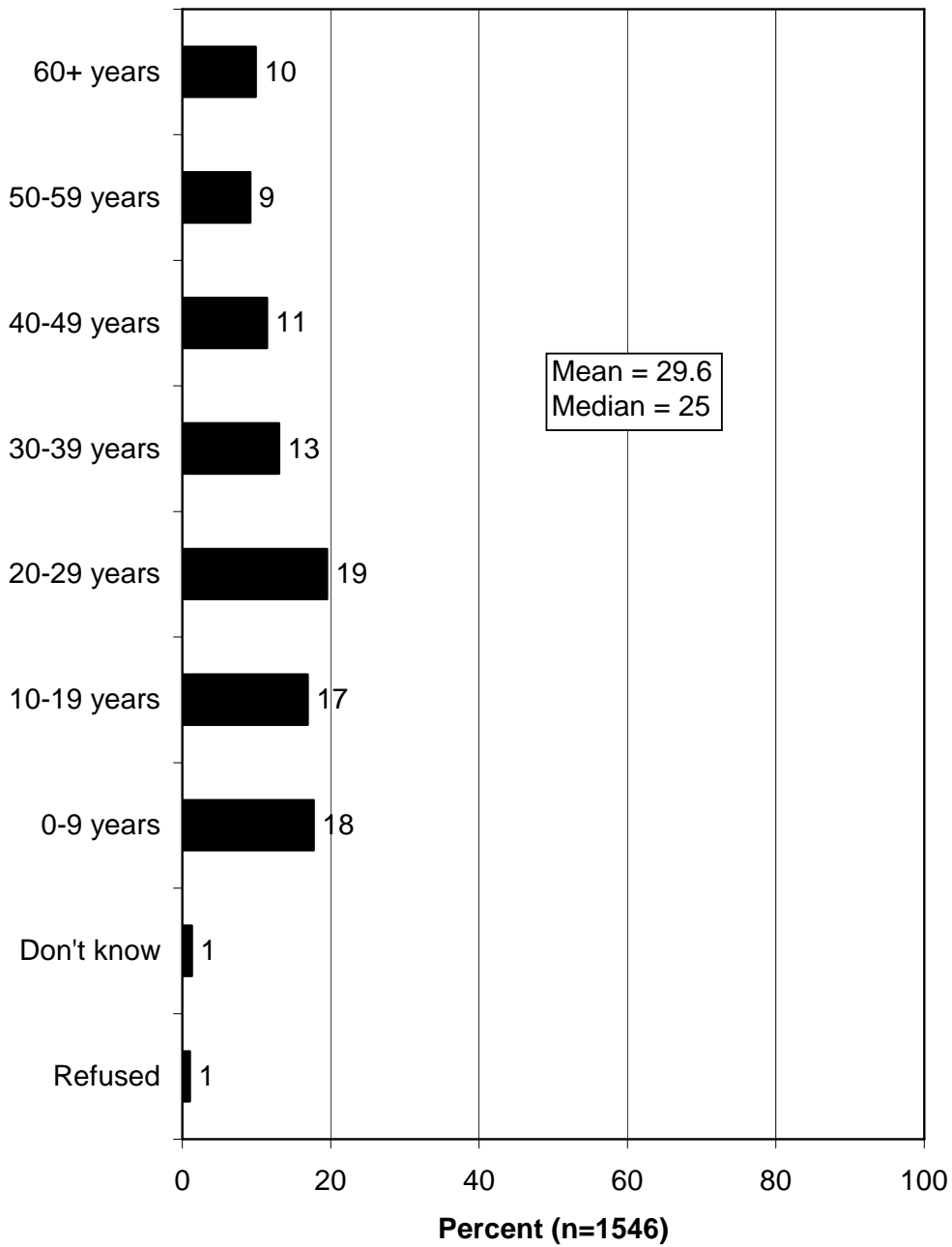
Q169. Respondent's age.



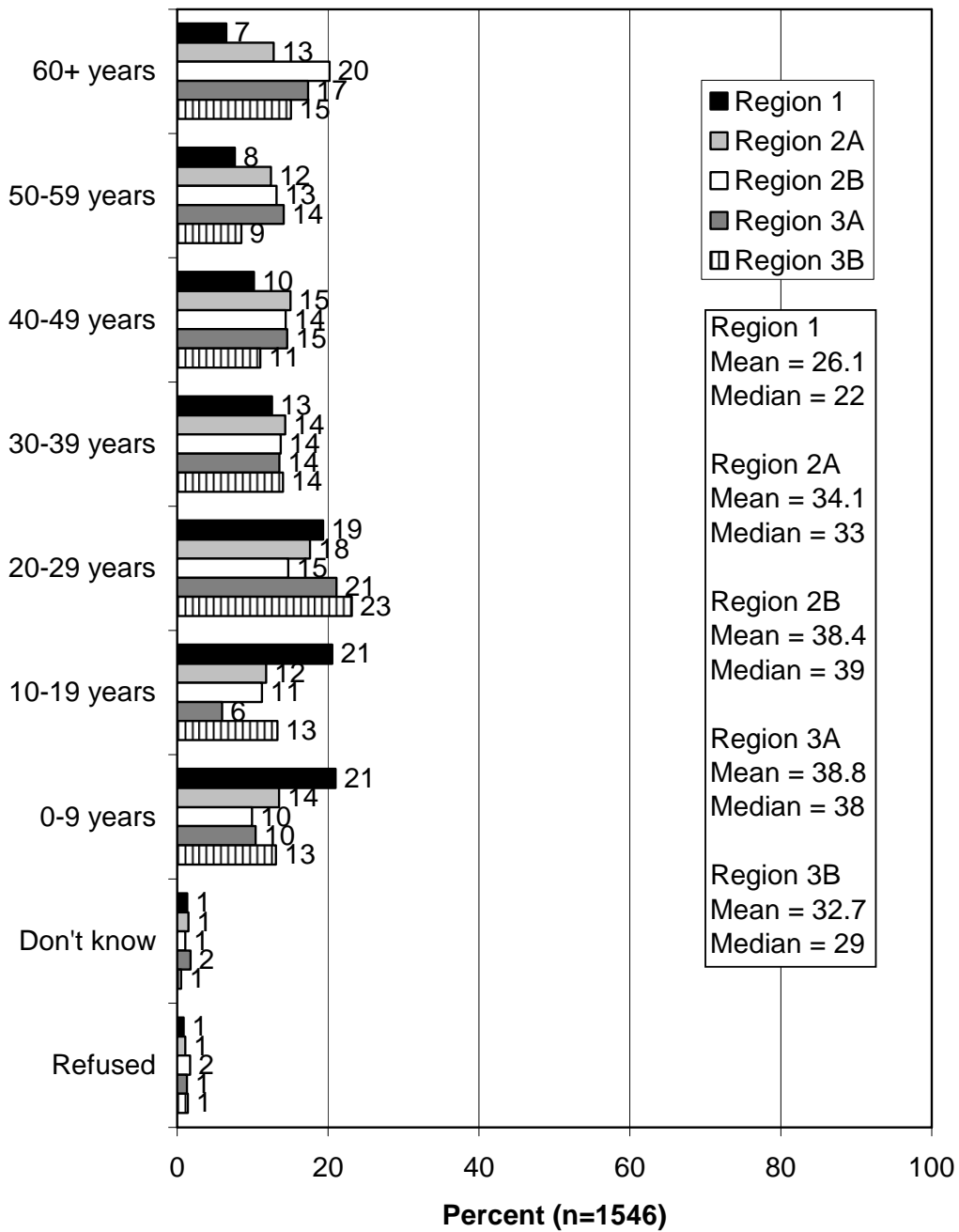
Q169. Respondent's age.



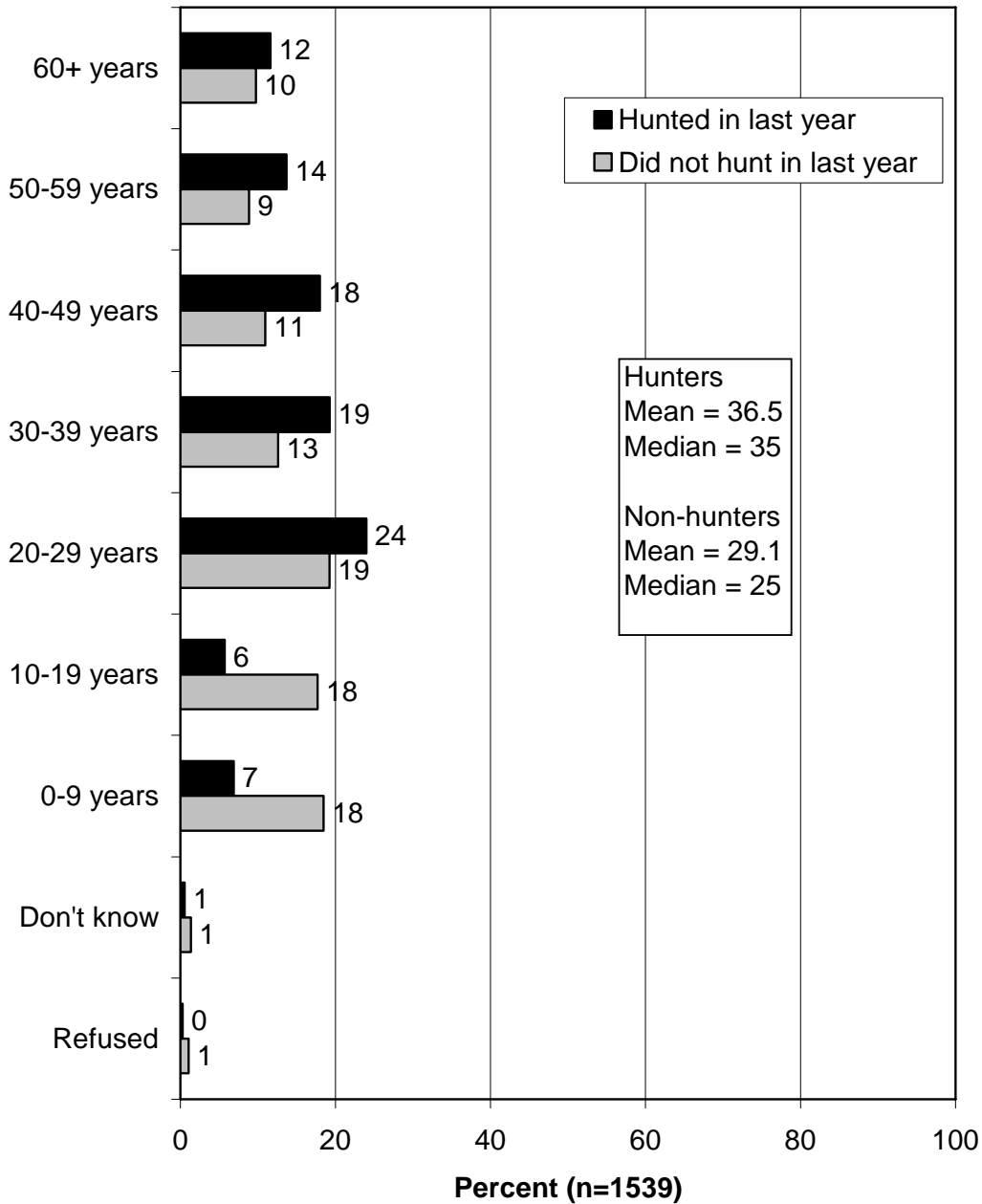
Q147. How many years have you lived in Virginia?



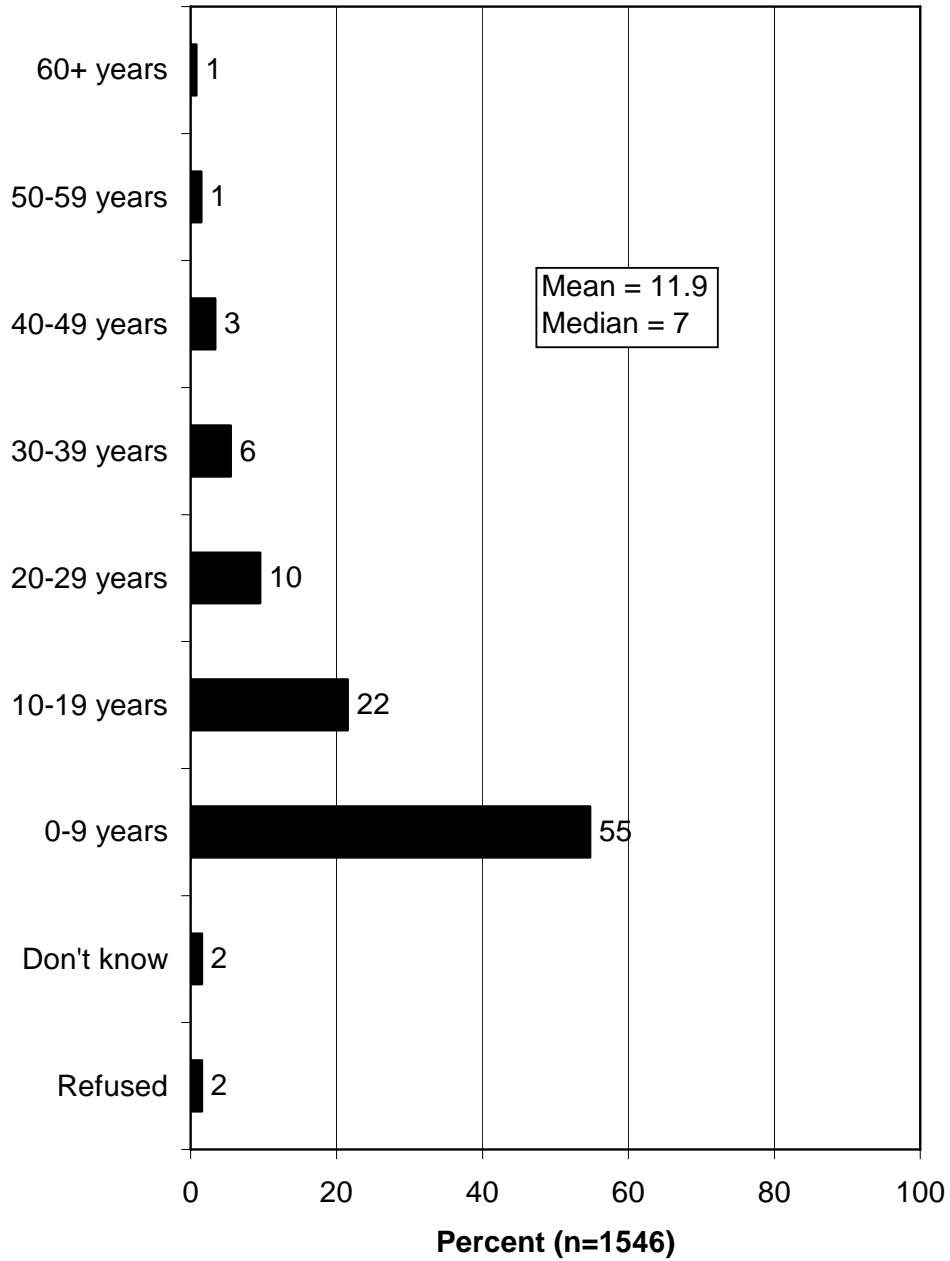
Q147. How many years have you lived in Virginia?



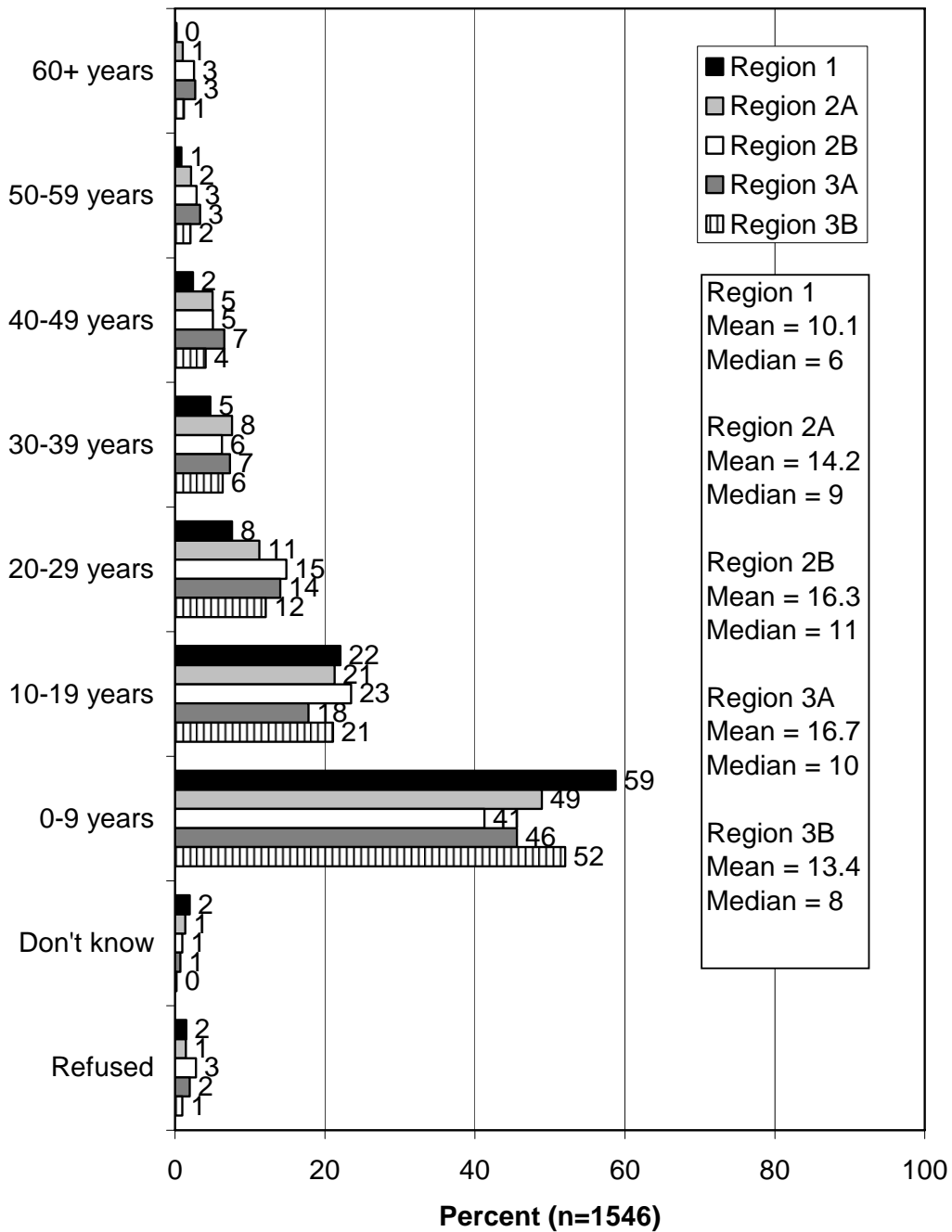
Q147. How many years have you lived in Virginia?



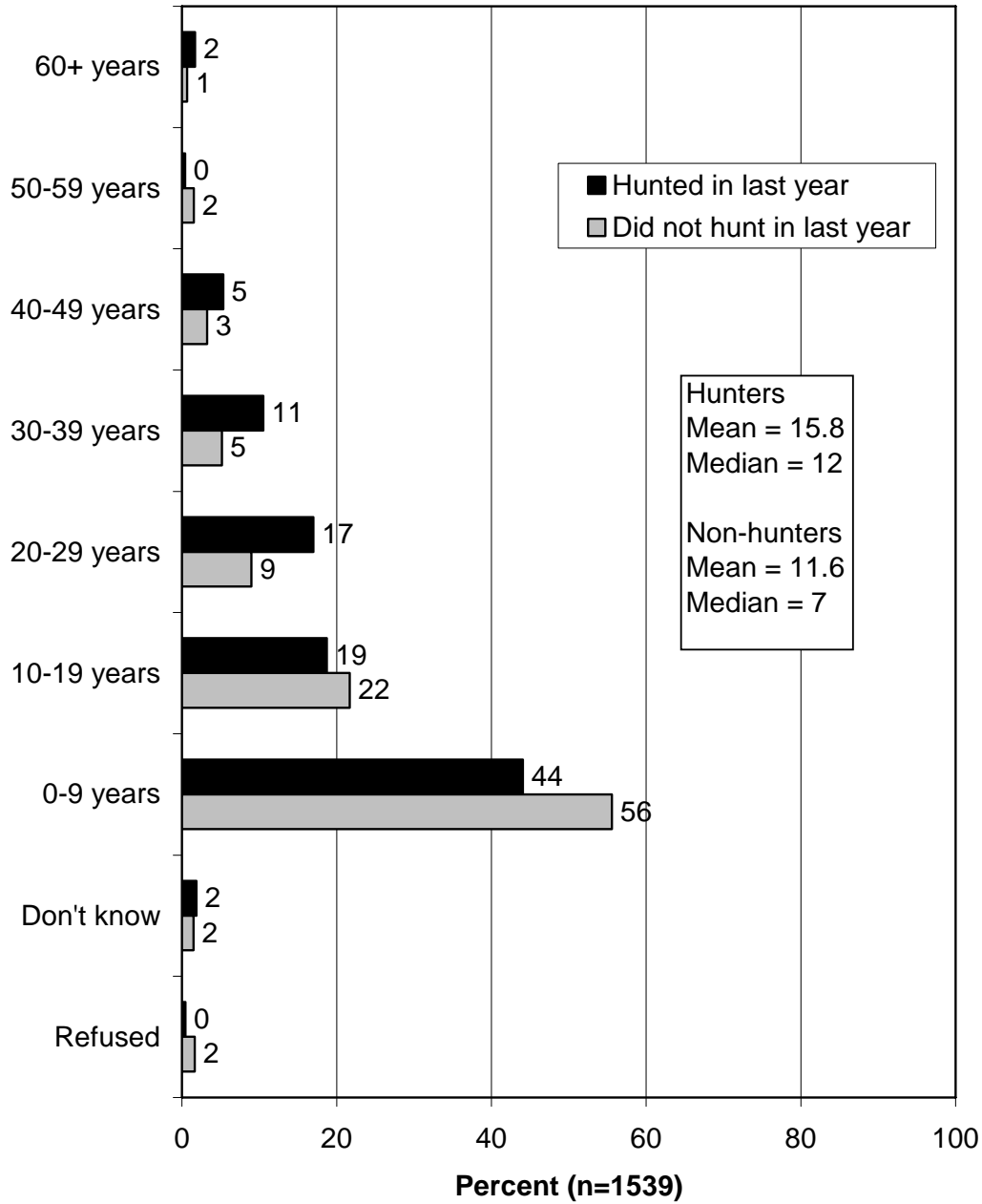
Q157. How many years have you lived at your current residence?



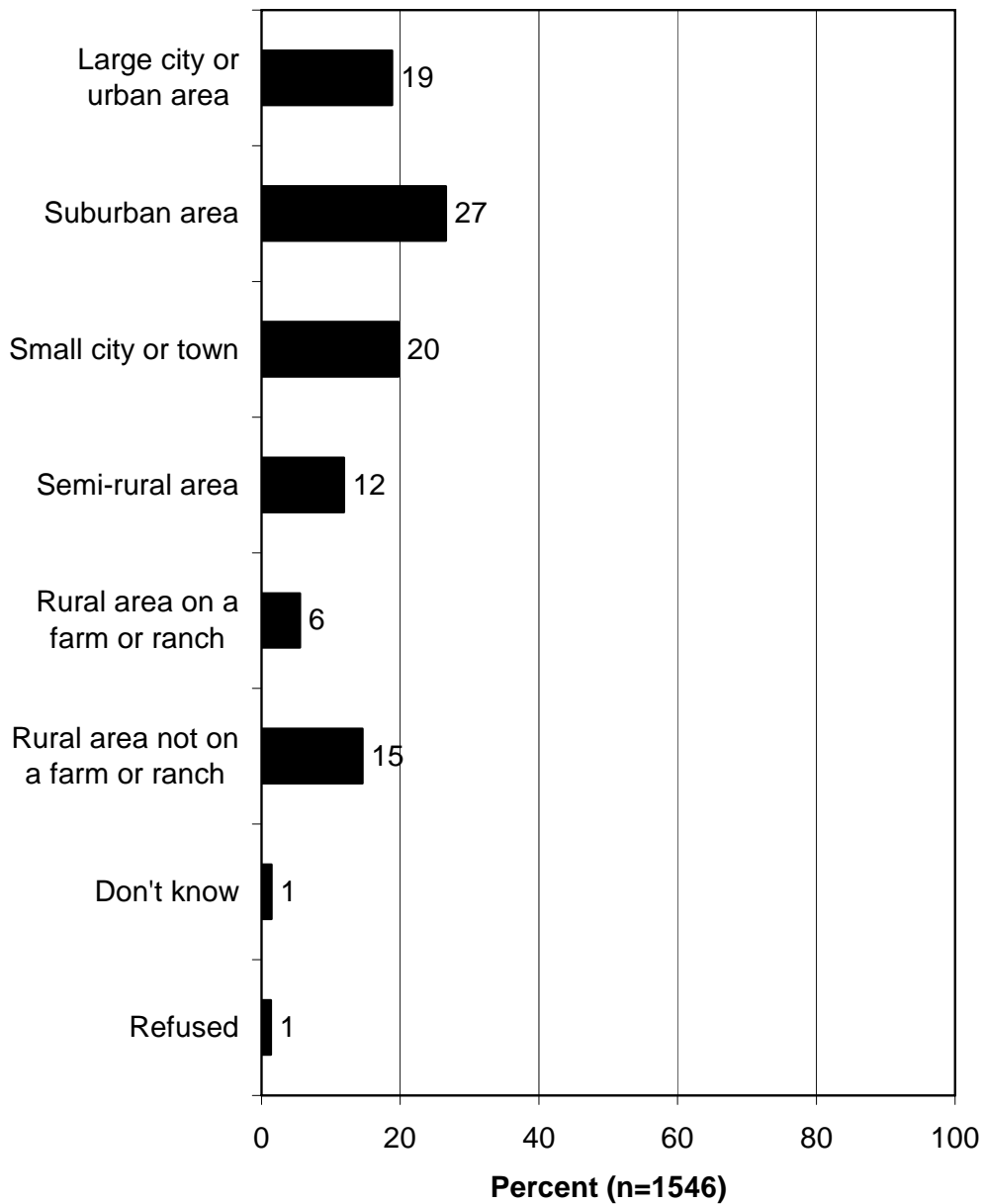
Q157. How many years have you lived at your current residence?



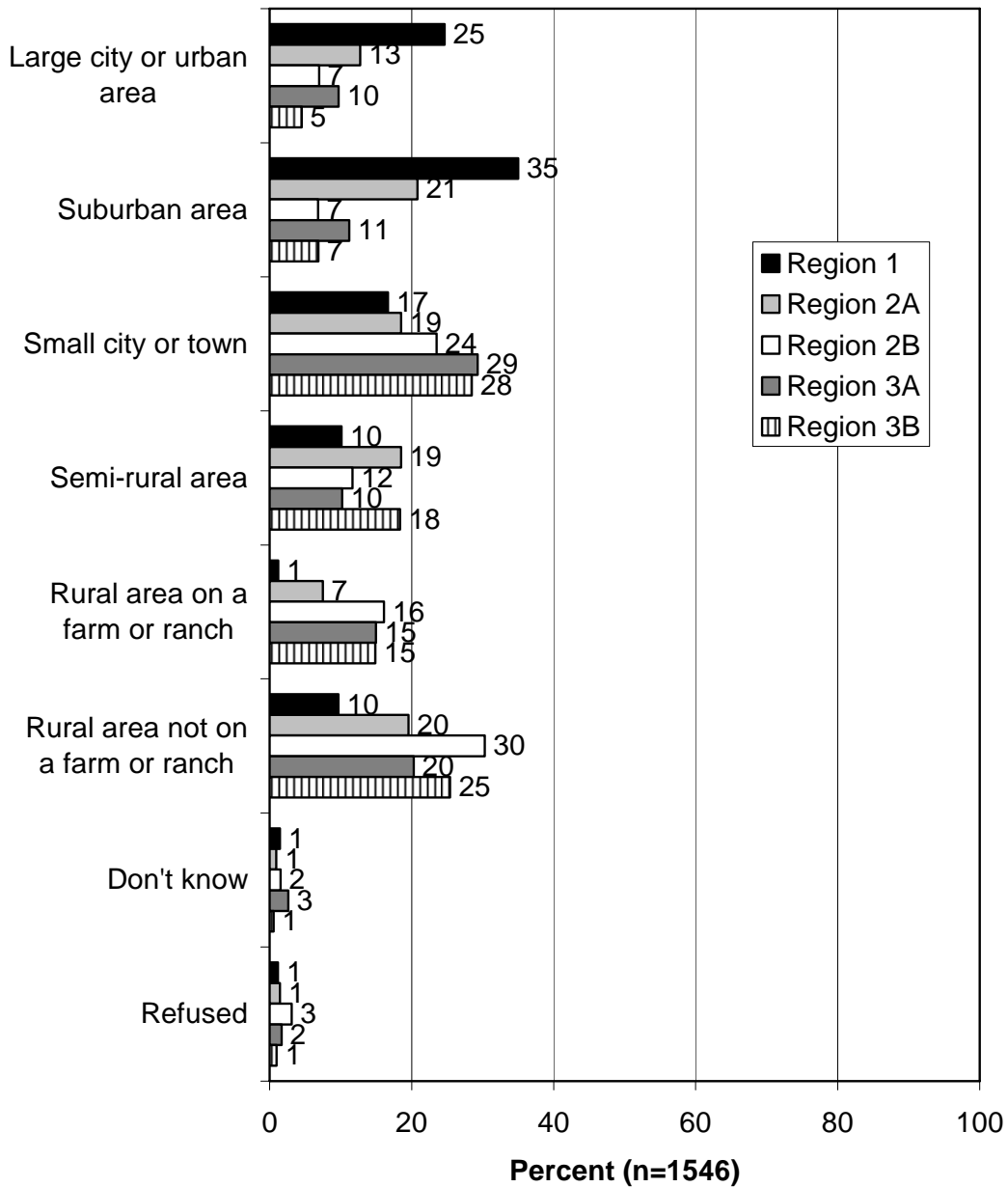
Q157. How many years have you lived at your current residence?



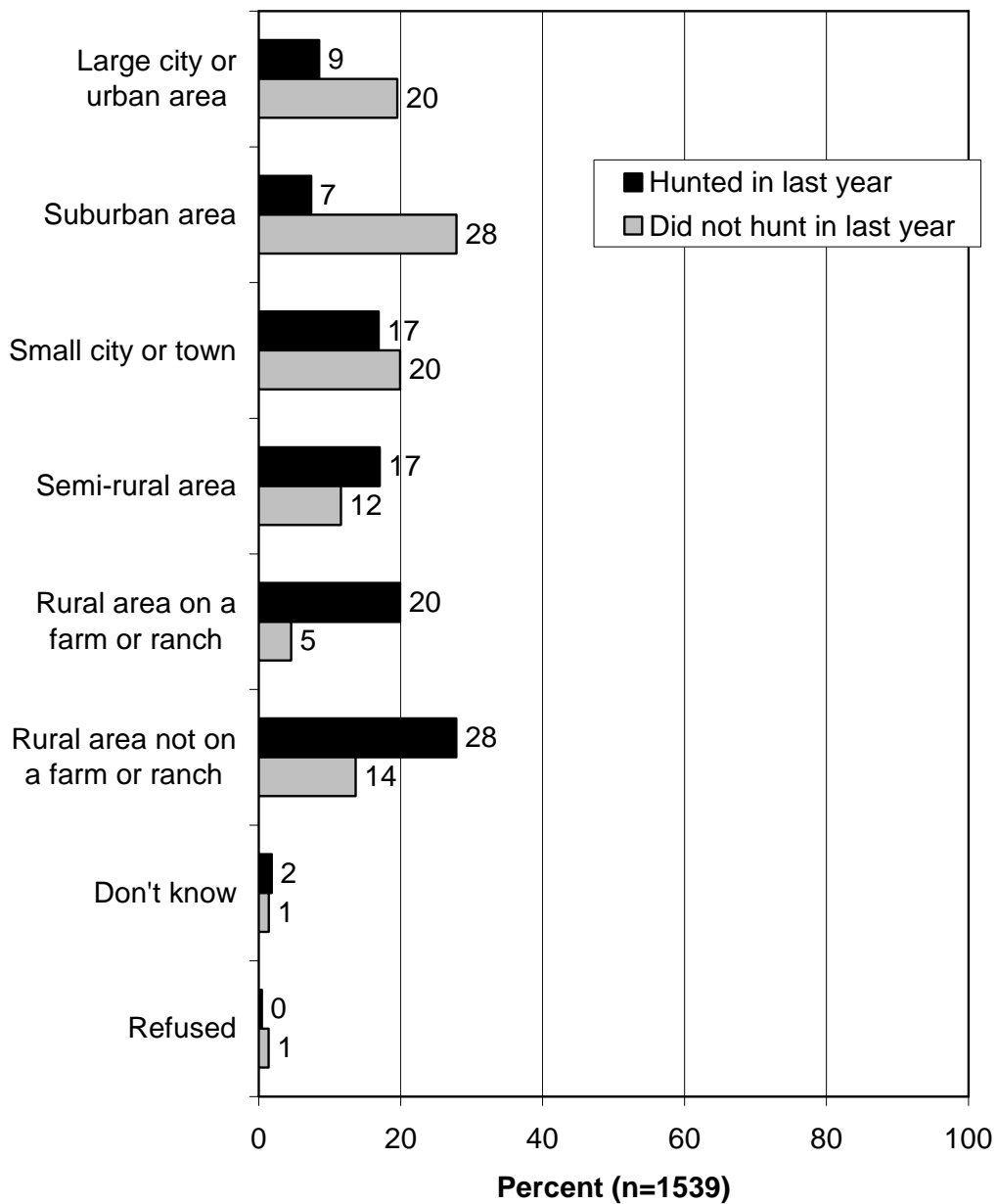
Q156. Do you consider your place of residence to be a large city or urban area, a suburban area, a small city or town, a semi-rural area, a rural area on a farm or ranch, or a rural area not on a farm or ranch?



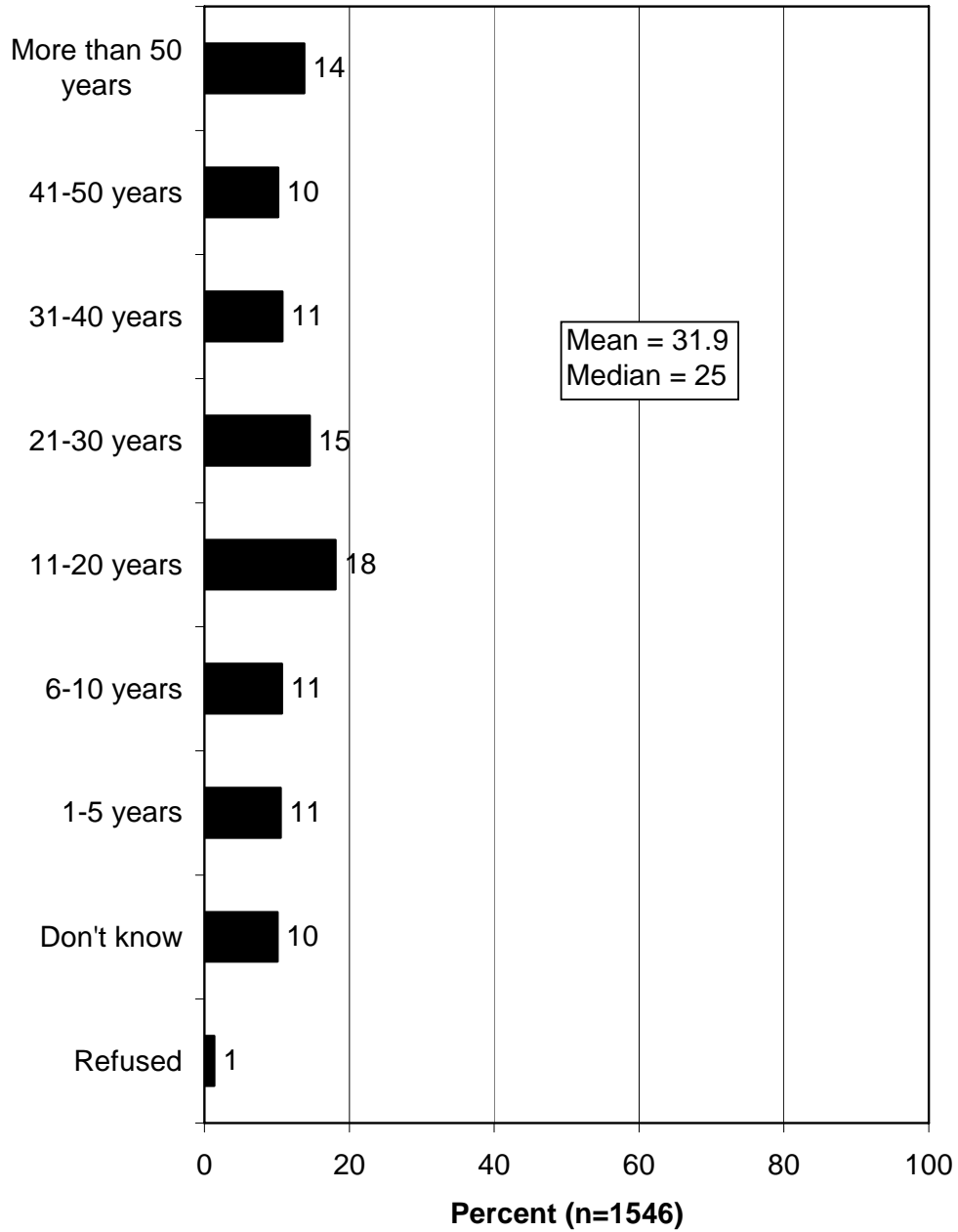
Q156. Do you consider your place of residence to be a large city or urban area, a suburban area, a small city or town, a semi-rural area, a rural area on a farm or ranch, or a rural area not on a farm or ranch?



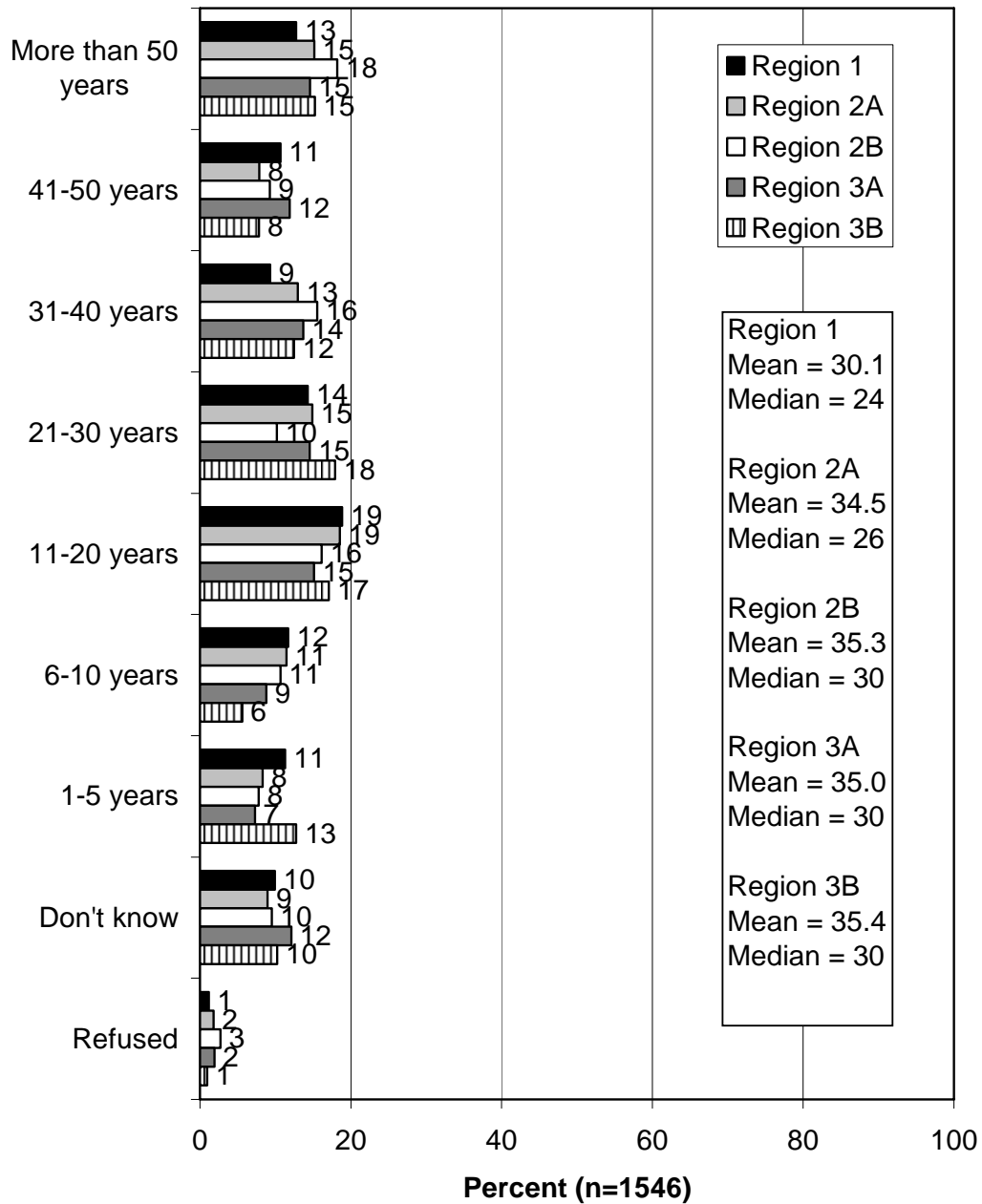
Q156. Do you consider your place of residence to be a large city or urban area, a suburban area, a small city or town, a semi-rural area, a rural area on a farm or ranch, or a rural area not on a farm or ranch?



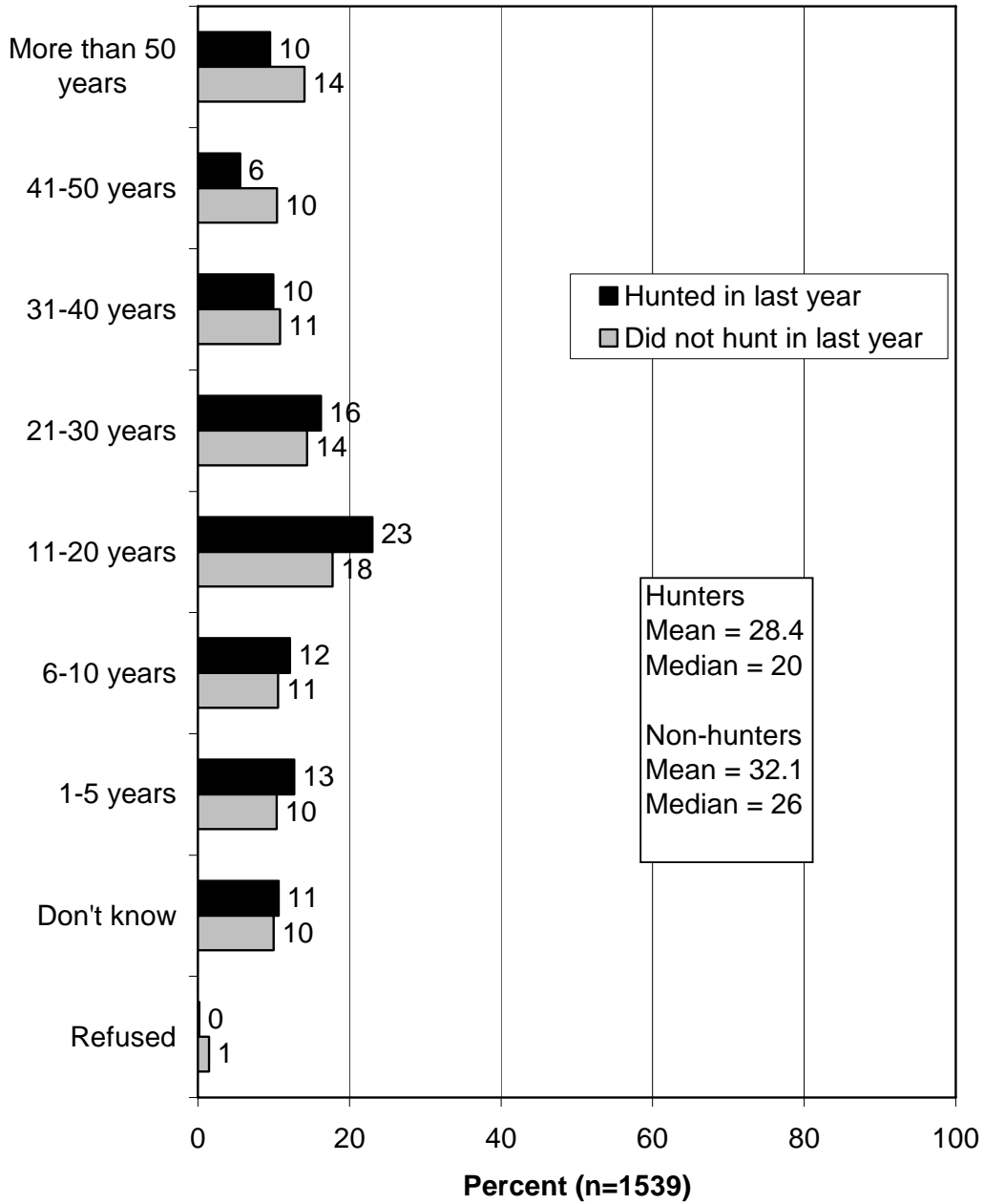
Q160. About how old in years is your current place of residence?



Q160. About how old in years is your current place of residence?



Q160. About how old in years is your current place of residence?



ABOUT RESPONSIVE MANAGEMENT

Responsive Management is a nationally recognized public opinion and attitude survey research firm specializing in natural resource and outdoor recreation issues. Its mission is to help natural resource and outdoor recreation agencies and organizations better understand and work with their constituents, customers, and the public.

Utilizing its in-house, full-service, computer-assisted telephone and mail survey center with 45 professional interviewers, Responsive Management has conducted more than 1,000 telephone surveys, mail surveys, personal interviews, and focus groups, as well as numerous marketing and communications plans, need assessments, and program evaluations on natural resource and outdoor recreation issues.

Clients include most of the federal and state natural resource, outdoor recreation, and environmental agencies, and most of the top conservation organizations. Responsive Management also collects attitude and opinion data for many of the nation's top universities, including the University of Southern California, Virginia Tech, Colorado State University, Auburn, Texas Tech, the University of California—Davis, Michigan State University, the University of Florida, North Carolina State University, Penn State, West Virginia University, and others.

Among the wide range of work Responsive Management has completed during the past 20 years are studies on how the general population values natural resources and outdoor recreation, and their opinions on and attitudes toward an array of natural resource-related issues. Responsive Management has conducted dozens of studies of selected groups of outdoor recreationists, including anglers, boaters, hunters, wildlife watchers, birdwatchers, park visitors, historic site visitors, hikers, and campers, as well as selected groups within the general population, such as landowners, farmers, urban and rural residents, women, senior citizens, children, Hispanics, Asians, and African-Americans. Responsive Management has conducted studies on environmental education, endangered species, waterfowl, wetlands, water quality, and the reintroduction of numerous species such as wolves, grizzly bears, the California condor, and the Florida panther.

Responsive Management has conducted research on numerous natural resource ballot initiatives and referenda and helped agencies and organizations find alternative funding and increase their memberships and donations. Responsive Management has conducted major agency and organizational program needs assessments and helped develop more effective programs based upon a solid foundation of fact. Responsive Management has developed websites for natural resource organizations, conducted training workshops on the human dimensions of natural resources, and presented numerous studies each year in presentations and as keynote speakers at major natural resource, outdoor recreation, conservation, and environmental conferences and meetings.

Responsive Management has conducted research on public attitudes toward natural resources and outdoor recreation in almost every state in the United States, as well as in Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Japan. Responsive Management routinely conducts surveys in Spanish and has also conducted surveys and focus groups in Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and Vietnamese.

Responsive Management's research has been featured in most of the nation's major media, including CNN, ESPN, *The Washington Times*, *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and on the front pages of *The Washington Post* and *USA Today*.

Visit the Responsive Management website at:

www.responsivemanagement.com