

Responsive Management



PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARD BLACK BEAR MANAGEMENT IN MARYLAND

**Conducted for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources
by Responsive Management**

2004

PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARD BLACK BEAR MANAGEMENT IN MARYLAND

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Responsive Management National Office

Mark Damian Duda, Executive Director
Peter E. De Michele, Ph.D., Director of Research
Martin Jones, Research Associate
Carol Zurawski, Research Associate
Chad Craun, Research Associate
Angelique Allen, Research Associate
Andrea Criscione, Research Associate
William Testerman, Survey Center Manager
Jennifer Marshall, Survey Center Manager
Alison Lanier, Business Manager
Steven J. Bissell, Ph.D., Qualitative Research Associate
Ping Wang, Ph.D., Quantitative Research Associate
James B. Herrick, Ph.D., Research Associate

130 Franklin Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
Phone: 540/432-1888 Fax: 540/432-1892
E-mail: mark@responsivemanagement.com
www.responsivemanagement.com

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to determine residents’ opinions on black bear management in Maryland. Respondents were grouped by region:

Region	Counties within Region
Western	Allegany, Garrett
Mid-Western	Washington, Frederick
Central/Southern	Howard, Carroll, Montgomery, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford, Prince George’s, Calvert, St. Mary’s, Charles
Eastern Shore	Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne’s, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester

Respondents were asked questions about their contacts with black bears, attitudes toward black bears, strategies to avoid black bear nuisance behavior, and their opinion of regulated hunting of black bears.

The survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and the Maryland DNR. A pre-test of the questionnaire was conducted, and revisions were made to the questionnaire based on the pre-test. The survey was administered June 2004; the total number of completed interviews is 831.

For the survey, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the universality of telephone ownership. The data were collected using Questionnaire Programming Language 4.1, which is computer software specifically designed for survey data collection. The analysis was conducted using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences 11.5 and proprietary software developed by Responsive Management.

KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS OF BLACK BEARS IN MARYLAND

- Respondents most commonly (48%) reported that they know a little about black bears in Maryland; 2% of respondents reported that they know a great deal about black bears in Maryland.

- There is substantial regional variation, with Western Region respondents claiming the most knowledge of black bears in Maryland. Specifically, 11% of Western Region respondents, 2% each of Mid-Western Region respondents and Eastern Shore Region respondents, and 1% of Central/Southern Region respondents reported that they know a great deal about black bears in Maryland.
 - 44% of Western Region respondents said they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Maryland, a percentage that far exceeds the percentage of respondents from any other region who responded that they know a great deal or moderate amount.
 - A decline in knowledge correlated with a greater distance from the Western Region: respondents knew less about black bears in Maryland the farther they moved from the bears' range in the Western Region.
- A majority of respondents (55%) believe black bears are rare in Maryland today, 29% believe black bears are common, and 3% believe black bears are abundant.
- The exception is Western Region respondents, a majority of whom (53%) believe black bears are common in Maryland today; 24% of Western Region respondents believe black bears are abundant, and only 18% of Western Region respondents believe black bears are rare.
- The mean of respondents' estimate of the number of black bears living in Maryland is 1,661.
- Respondents most commonly (44%) believe the black bear population in Maryland is at about the right level. There is much regional variation: 47% of Western Region respondents said that the black bear population in Maryland is too high.

CONTACT WITH BLACK BEARS

- A majority (92%) of all respondents have never encountered a black bear in the wild in Maryland.

- There is substantial regional variation: 65% of Western Region respondents have encountered a black bear in the wild in Maryland, which far exceeds the percentages (ranging from 6% to 10%) from any other region.
- Of those who indicated that they have encountered a black bear in Maryland, a majority (74%) described their encounter as a very or somewhat positive experience.
 - Of those respondents who described their encounter as positive, 60% credited aesthetic reasons (e.g., black bears are beautiful).
 - Of those respondents who described their encounter as negative, 44% said the black bear was aggressive.
- An overwhelming majority (98%) of all respondents have not had problems with black bears in their neighborhoods or around their homes in the past 2 years.
 - Due to the larger black bear population in their area, Western Region respondents more commonly (24%) had problems with black bears in their neighborhoods or around their homes in the past 2 years.
- Those respondents who had problems with black bears in the past 2 years most commonly reported that black bears caused problems with birdfeeders (36%) and with garbage (29%).
 - 30% of Central/Southern Region respondents reported that black bears caused problems by threatening humans.
- Of those respondents who had problems with black bears in the past 2 years, a majority (93%) did not contact anyone as a result of the problem.

ATTITUDES TOWARD BLACK BEARS

- A majority (77%) of respondents strongly or moderately support having black bears in Maryland; 7% of all respondents moderately or strongly oppose having black bears in Maryland.
 - Mid-Western Region respondents demonstrated the greatest support, with 47% strongly supporting having black bears in Maryland.

- Western Region respondents demonstrated the most opposition, with 17% of Western Region respondents moderately or strongly opposing having black bears in Maryland.
- Overall, a majority of respondents statewide (58%) strongly or moderately oppose having black bears within 0.5 miles of their home; however, there is much regional variation, with a majority of Western Region respondents (53%) in support. Support narrowly exceeded opposition in the Mid-Western Region (46% supported, and 44% opposed); majorities opposed in the Central/Southern (59%) and the Eastern Shore (65%) Regions.
- A majority of respondents (61%) strongly or moderately support allowing the black bear population to expand naturally into other parts of Maryland, with no marked regional differences.
 - 24% of all respondents moderately or strongly oppose allowing the black bear population to expand naturally into other parts of Maryland.
- A majority (72%) of all respondents strongly or moderately support expanding black bear populations into other parts of Maryland through relocation into acceptable habitats, with little regional variation.
- Respondents were asked four questions regarding perceived problems with black bears in Maryland. A majority (91%) of all respondents agree that most problems with black bears in Maryland can be prevented by taking a few simple precautions, such as using bear-proof trash containers (this statement had the highest percentage in agreement).
 - Less than a quarter (23%) of all respondents agree that black bears will kill many livestock and pets in Maryland (this statement had the lowest percentage in agreement).
- A majority (52%) of respondents moderately or strongly disagree that black bears in Maryland are dangerous to humans.
 - 35% of all respondents strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Maryland are dangerous to humans.

- The Eastern Shore was the only region in which agreement exceeded disagreement: 45% of Eastern Shore respondents agree that black bears in Maryland are dangerous to humans, while 43% disagree.
- A majority (56%) of respondents moderately or strongly disagree that black bears will kill many livestock and pets in Maryland.
- Overall, respondents were fairly evenly divided regarding whether they agree (41%) or disagree (44%) that black bears will frequently enter into populated areas in Maryland. However, there is much regional variation, with majorities in agreement in the Western Region (67%) and the Mid-Western Region (52%).
- A majority (91%) of all respondents strongly or moderately agree that most problems with black bears in Maryland can be prevented by taking a few simple precautions, such as using bear-proof trash containers.
- Respondents were asked six questions about preserving black bears and their habitat. The statements with which the highest percentage of respondents agree are that preserving habitat on which black bears depend is important (93%), that black bears should be preserved for future generations (93%), and that black bears have an inherent right to live in Maryland (90%). Indeed, majorities agree with all statements except, “There is no need for black bears in Maryland.”

BLACK BEAR NUISANCE BEHAVIOR IN MARYLAND

- Overall, a slight majority (51%) of all respondents believe the Maryland DNR has done an excellent or good job of managing black bears in Maryland; 15% rate it as fair or poor.
 - Western Region respondents are the most likely (33%) to say the Maryland DNR has done a fair or poor job of managing black bears in Maryland.
- Respondents were asked four questions concerning strategies to avoid problems with black bears in Maryland. The strategy that the highest percentage of respondents support is

requiring people visiting or living in black bear habitat to practice good sanitation practices and trash management (92%). There was less support, although still a majority, for the other three strategies: requiring people visiting or living in black bear habitat to use bear-proof trash and food containers (64%), using electronic fencing around small area bear attractants such as beehives and aviaries (64%), and prohibiting people visiting or living in black bear habitat from using birdfeeders or participating in other wildlife feeding activities (54%).

- Respondents were asked three questions concerning their support for or opposition to having the Maryland DNR use repellents for various situations. Although respondents' support is consistently high for all three situations, having the DNR use repellents for black bears that threaten human safety in Maryland held the most support (93%)
- Respondents were asked three questions concerning their support for or opposition to depredation permits. Overall, respondents showed more support for depredation permits for black bears that cause damage to livestock or pets (57%), but less support for depredation permits for black bears that cause damage to personal property or crops (44%). Respondents had little support (20%) for allowing private citizens to kill bears that are causing damage to personal property or crops without first obtaining a depredation permit from the Maryland DNR.
- A higher percentage of respondents agree (49%) than disagree (36%) that the property owner should be compensated when black bear damage occurs to livestock in Maryland.
 - Western Region respondents are more likely (71%) to agree that the property owner should be compensated when black bear damage occurs to livestock in Maryland.
- Respondents are nearly evenly split in their agreement (46%) and disagreement (42%) that the property owner should be compensated when black bear damage occurs to private property such as fences or buildings in Maryland.
 - Western Region respondents are more likely (66%) to agree that the property owner should be compensated when black bear damage occurs to private property such as fences or buildings in Maryland.

- Respondents are nearly evenly split in their disagreement (45%) and agreement (44%) that the property owner should be compensated when black bear damage occurs to crops in Maryland.
 - Western respondents are more likely (66%) to agree that the property owner should be compensated when black bear damage occurs to crops in Maryland.

- Of those respondents who agree that property owners should be compensated for black bear damage, 35% believe the money for compensation should come from general state revenues (state tax). Other common sources include hunting licenses in general (17%) and black bear hunting licenses (9%).

REGULATING THE BLACK BEAR POPULATION IN MARYLAND

- A majority (65%) of all respondents support regulated hunting as a way to control black bear populations in Maryland, while 29% of all respondents oppose regulated hunting.
 - Western Region respondents are more likely (78%) to support regulated hunting as a way to control black bear populations in Maryland. In fact, 56% of Western Region respondents strongly support regulated hunting as a way to control black bear populations in Maryland.

- Respondents were asked seven questions concerning their support for or opposition to black bear hunting under various scenarios. The scenarios for which respondents are the most likely to support black bear hunting are if they knew the black bear population, as a whole, would not be endangered (78%) or if they knew that black bear hunting would be allowed only if the DNR determined that hunting methods were fair, sportsmanlike, and conformed to the ethics of “fair chase” (78%).
 - Although overall support was often close between regions, Western Region respondents often led in strong support, which may be an indication that they have set opinions.

- The mean of all respondents’ perceived reasonable fee for a Maryland resident to have the opportunity to hunt black bear in Maryland is \$203.

- The mean of Eastern Shore Region respondents' perceived reasonable fee for black bear hunting is \$312, the mean of Mid-Western Region respondents' perceived reasonable fee is \$279, the mean of Western Region respondents' perceived reasonable fee is \$217, and the mean of Central/Southern Region respondents' perceived reasonable fee is \$187.
- A majority (59%) of all respondents strongly or moderately support passive management of black bears, or allowing nature to take its course; 35% of all respondents oppose passive management.
 - Western Region respondents are more likely (47%) to oppose passive management of black bears.
- A majority (57%) of all respondents strongly or moderately support having Maryland DNR sharpshooters kill black bears when necessary as a way to control populations in Maryland; 39% of all respondents moderately or strongly oppose. There is no marked regional variation.

INFORMATION SOURCES ABOUT BLACK BEARS

- When asked in an open-ended question (i.e., no list is read, and respondents can give any response) to name the agency or organization that is the most credible regarding black bears, respondents most commonly named the Maryland DNR's Wildlife and Heritage Service (32%), followed by the Maryland DNR excluding the Wildlife and Heritage Service (27%). In total, a majority of respondents gave a DNR-related response (59%). There is little regional variation.
- Respondents most commonly (29%) get their information about black bears from the newspaper. Other common information sources include television (17%), word-of-mouth (16%), magazines (14%), the Internet (not including the DNR Website, 12%), and family or friends (9%).
 - Western Region respondents are more likely to get their information from the newspaper (53%), by word-of-mouth (33%), and through family or friends (24%).

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INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to determine residents' opinion on black bear management in Maryland. Respondents' were grouped by region:

Region	Counties within Region
Western	Allegany, Garrett
Mid-Western	Washington, Frederick
Central/Southern	Howard, Carroll, Montgomery, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford, Prince George's, Calvert, St. Mary's, Charles
Eastern Shore	Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester

A total of 831 respondents were asked questions about their contact with black bears, attitudes toward black bears, strategies to avoid black bear nuisance behavior, and their opinion of regulated hunting of black bears. Respondents were also asked about their knowledge of black bears in Maryland and where they obtain information about black bears.

For the survey, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the universality of telephone ownership. In addition, 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 Maryland DNR. Responsive Management conducted a pre-test of the questionnaire, and revisions were made to the questionnaire based on the pre-test.

To ensure that the telephone survey data collected were of the highest quality, 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 conducted project briefings with the interviewers prior to the administration of the 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 randomly monitored telephone workstations without the interviewers' knowledge to evaluate the performance of each interviewer. After the surveys were obtained by the interviewers, the Survey Center Managers and/or statisticians edited each completed survey to ensure clarity and completeness.

Interviews were conducted Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday noon to 6:00 p.m., and Sunday from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., all 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. The survey was conducted in June 2004. Responsive Management obtained a total of 831 completed interviews.

The software used for data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language 4.1 (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 software as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management.

The results were weighted so that the proportions of the sample among the regions matched the distribution of the population statewide. The tabulation below shows the weighting factors.

Weighting Factors

Region	Actual Sample	Proportion of Total Sample	Weighting Factor	Weighted Proportion of Sample	Population Proportion in the Region
Western	213	25.63%	0.081077	2.08%	2.08%
Mid-Western	202	24.31%	0.253075	6.15%	6.15%
Central/Southern	210	25.27%	3.329923	84.15%	84.15%
Eastern Shore	206	24.79%	0.307405	7.62%	7.62%
Total	831	100.00%		100.00%	100.00%

Note that n-values (i.e., sample sizes) may sometimes appear to have discrepancies (e.g., although a total of 831 completed interviews were obtained, some graphs have an n-value of 830). This is caused by the weighting, which in some cases led to fractional values or “partial people.” Small differences in the fractional values for those “partial people” often lead to different rounded “whole people” values when reporting n-values in graphs. On other graphs, the n-value is lower than 831 or 830 because some questions were not asked of all respondents.

Throughout this report, findings of the telephone survey are reported at a 95% confidence interval. For the entire sample, the sampling error is at most plus or minus 3.4 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 3.4 percentage points of each other. Sampling error was calculated using the formula described below, with a sample size of 831 and a population size of 3,940,314 Maryland residents over the age of 18 years.

Sampling error equation:

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

Where: B = maximum sampling error (as decimal)

N_p = population size (total number of residents)

N_s = sample size

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).

Note that some results may not sum to exactly 100% because of rounding.

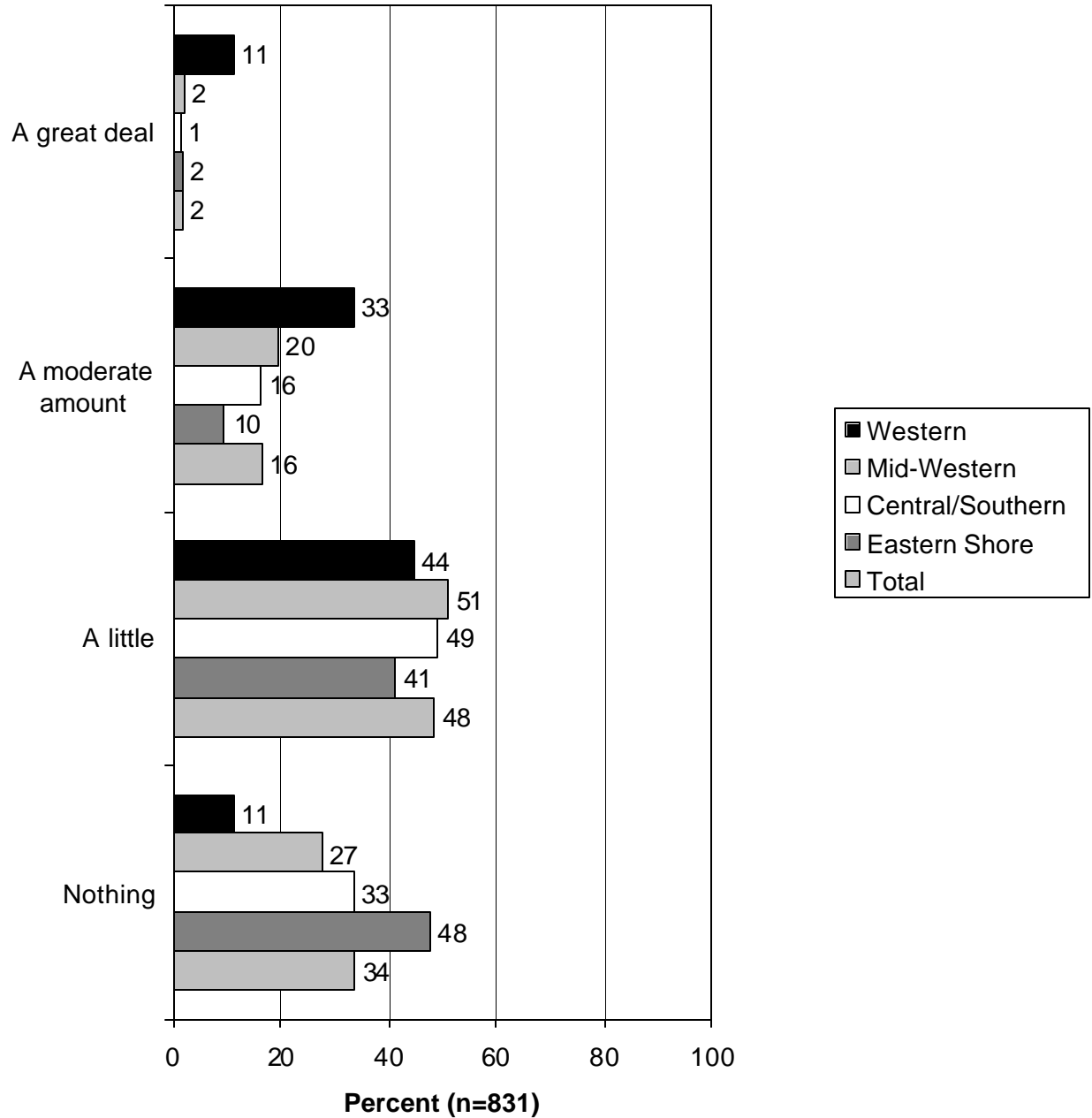
KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS OF BLACK BEARS IN MARYLAND

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

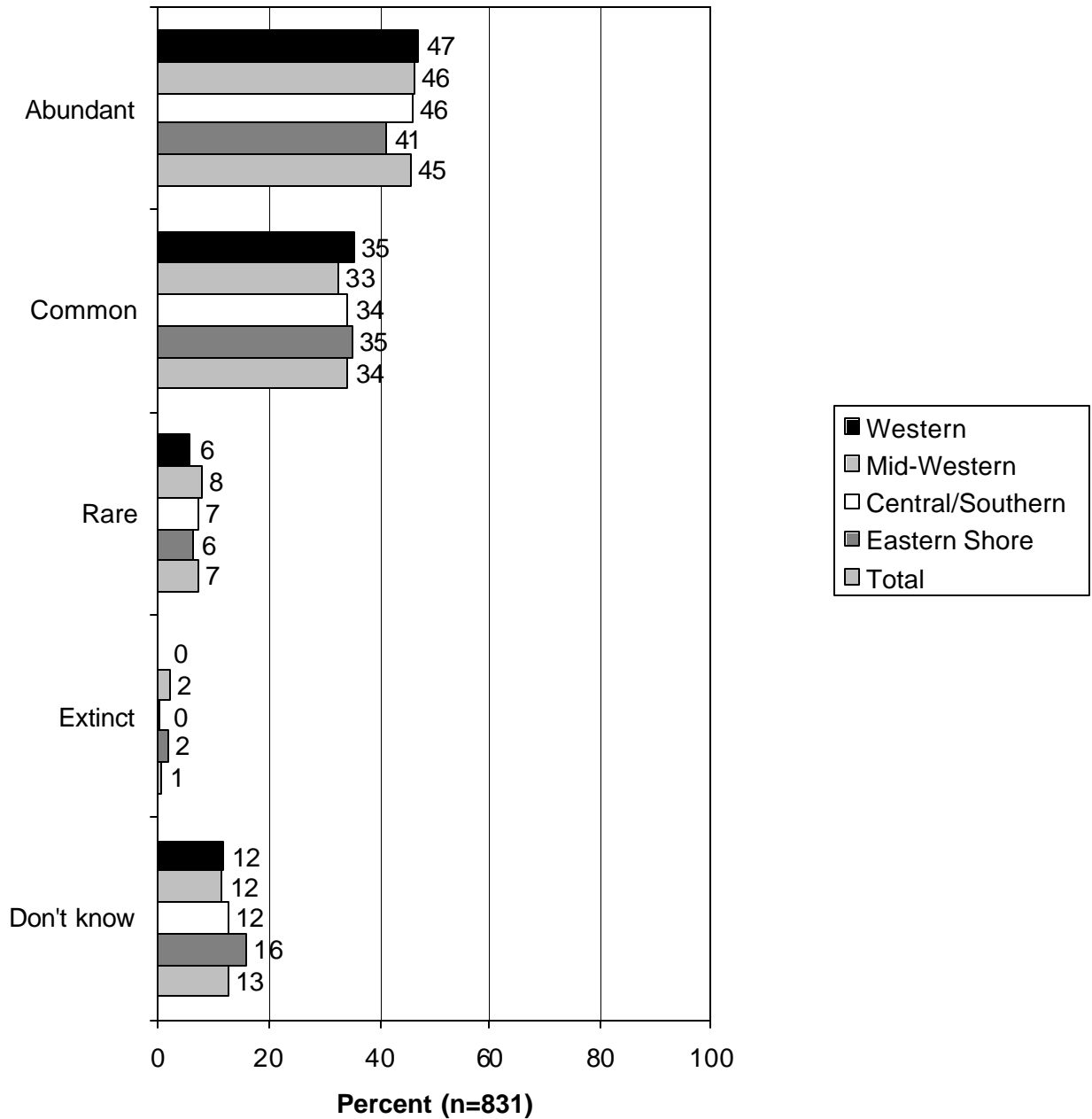
- Respondents most commonly (48%) reported that they knew a little about black bears in Maryland; 2% of respondents reported that they knew a great deal about black bears in Maryland.
 - There is substantial regional variation, with Western Region respondents claiming the most knowledge of black bears in Maryland. Specifically, 11% of Western Region respondents, 2% each of Mid-Western Region respondents and Eastern Shore Region respondents, and 1% of Central/Southern Region respondents reported that they knew a great deal about black bears in Maryland.
 - 44% of Western Region respondents said they know a great deal or moderate amount about black bears in Maryland, a percentage that far exceeds the percentage of respondents from any other region who responded that they know a great deal or moderate amount.
 - A decline in knowledge correlated with a greater distance from the Western Region: respondents knew less about black bears in Maryland the farther they moved from the bears' range in the Western Region.

- A majority of respondents (79%) believe black bears were abundant or common in Maryland before settlers came to the area in the 1600s.

Q7. Overall, how much would you say you know about black bears in Maryland?



Q8. How common do you think black bears were in Maryland before settlers came to the area in the 1600s?



POPULATIONS OF BLACK BEARS IN MARYLAND TODAY

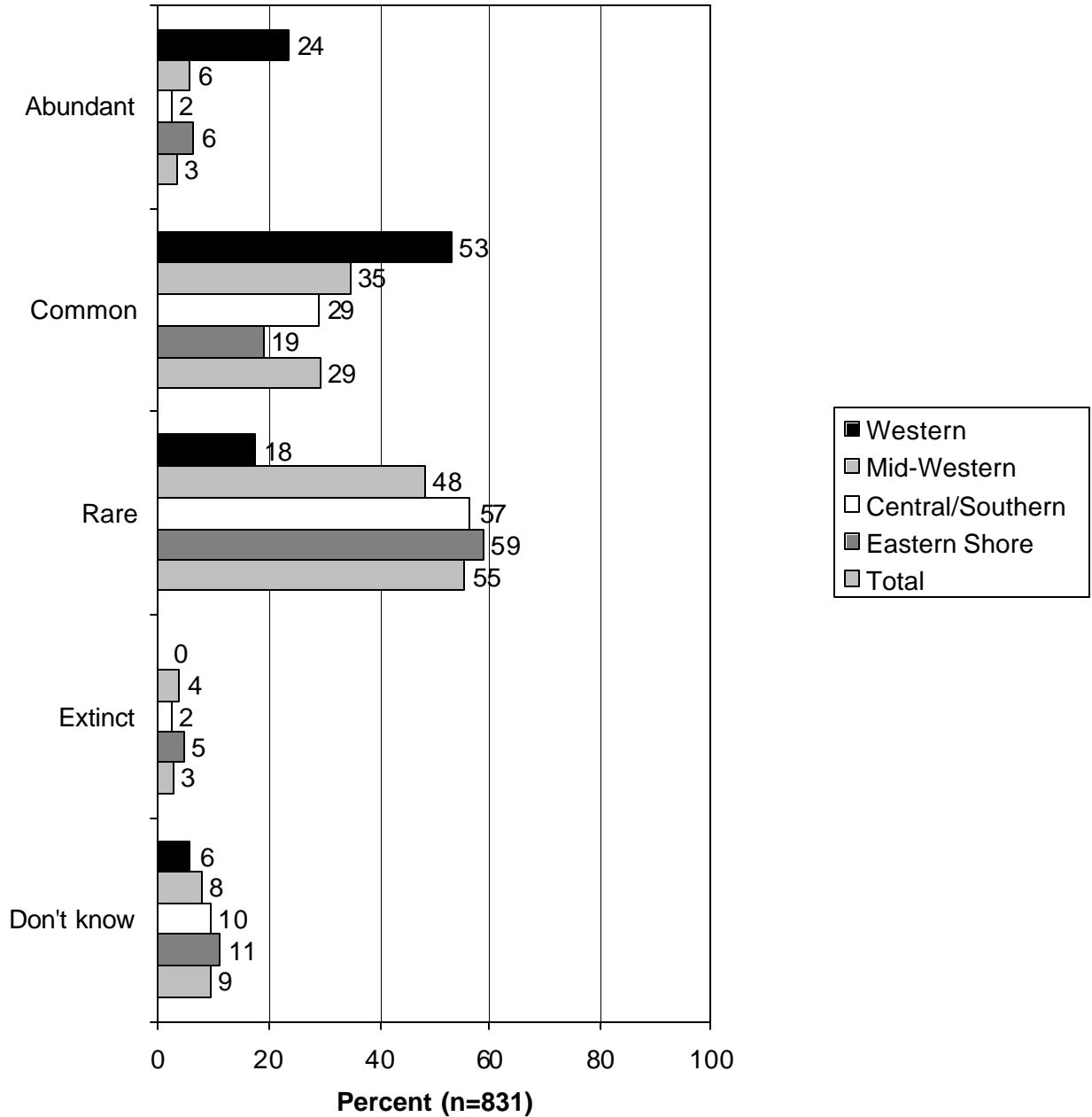
- A majority of respondents (55%) believe black bears are rare in Maryland today, 29% believe black bears are common, and 3% believe black bears are abundant.
 - The exception is Western Region respondents, a majority of whom (53%) believe black bears are common in Maryland today; 24% of Western Region respondents believe black bears are abundant, and only 18% of Western Region respondents believe black bears are rare.

- The mean of respondents' estimate of the number of black bears living in Maryland is 1,661.
 - In comparison to other respondents, Western Region respondents believe Maryland has a higher black bear population. The mean of Western Region respondents' estimate of the number of black bears living in Maryland is 2,281. The mean of Western Region respondents' estimate of the number of black bears living in their county is 574.
 - The mean of Mid-Western respondents' estimate of the number of black bears living in their county is 74.
 - The mean of Central/Southern Region respondents' estimate of the number of black bears living in their county is 29.
 - Eastern Shore Region respondents estimated the lowest number of black bears living in Maryland. The mean of Eastern Shore Region respondents' estimate of the number of black bears living in Maryland is 978; 27% said less than 250 black bears currently live in Maryland. The mean of Eastern Shore Region respondents' estimate of the number of black bears living in their county is 23; however, 70% of Eastern Shore Region respondents correctly said that no black bears currently live in their county.

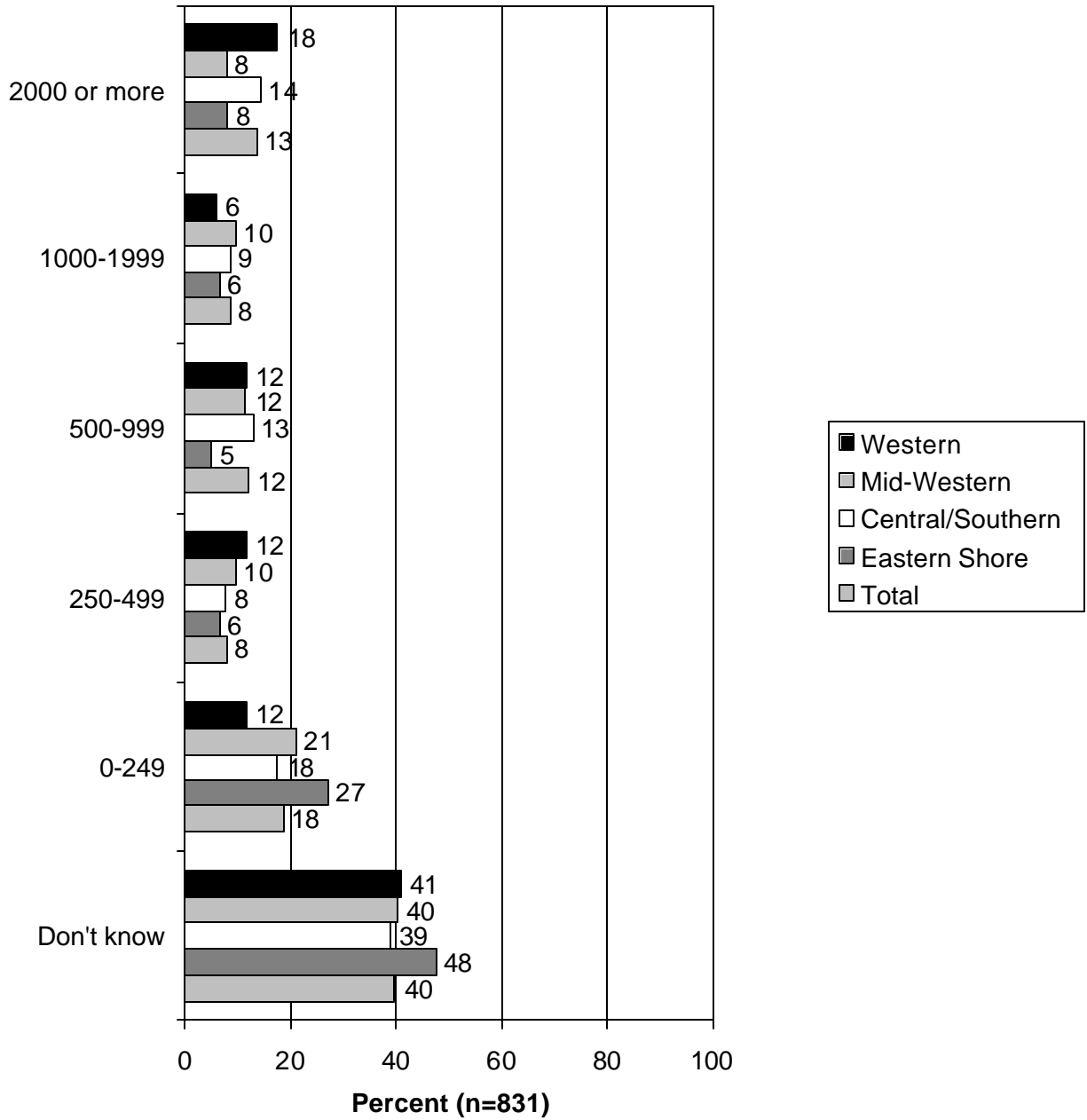
- Respondents most commonly (44%) believe the black bear population in Maryland is at about the right level. There is much regional variation: 47% of Western Region respondents said that the black bear population in Maryland is too high.
 - Half (50%) of all respondents believe the black bear population in their county is at about the right level. Western Region respondents are the exception, with 53% of them reporting the black bear population in their county as too high.

- A majority (86%) of all respondents believe black bears are found in Western Maryland. There is little regional variation.
 - Less commonly, respondents believe black bears are also found in Mid-Western Maryland (29%), in Central/Southern Maryland (11%), and at the Eastern Shore (4%); 6% believe black bears are found statewide. In actuality, black bears are found in the wild in Garrett, Allegany, Washington, and Frederick Counties of Maryland.

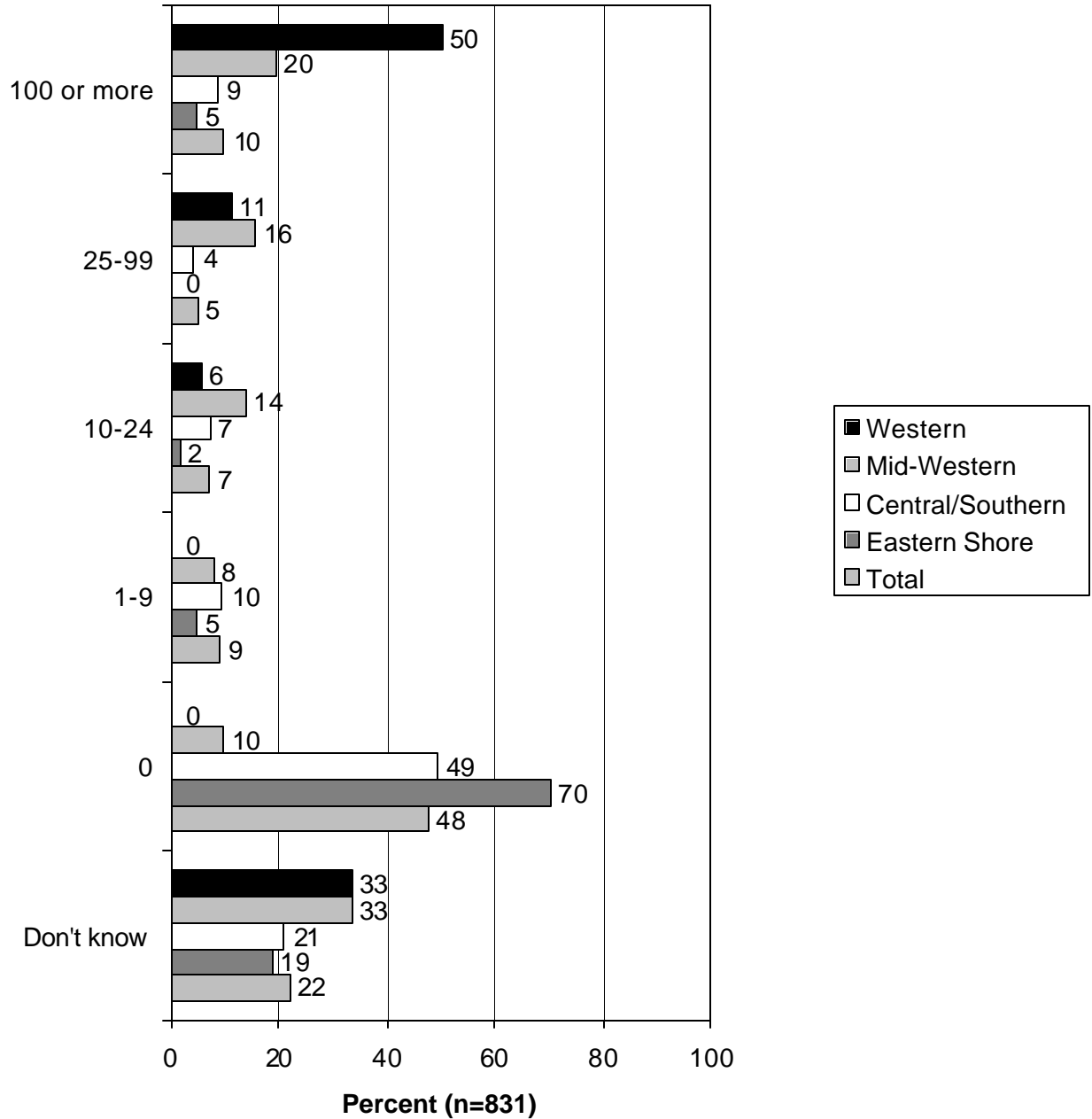
Q9. How common do you think black bears are in Maryland today?



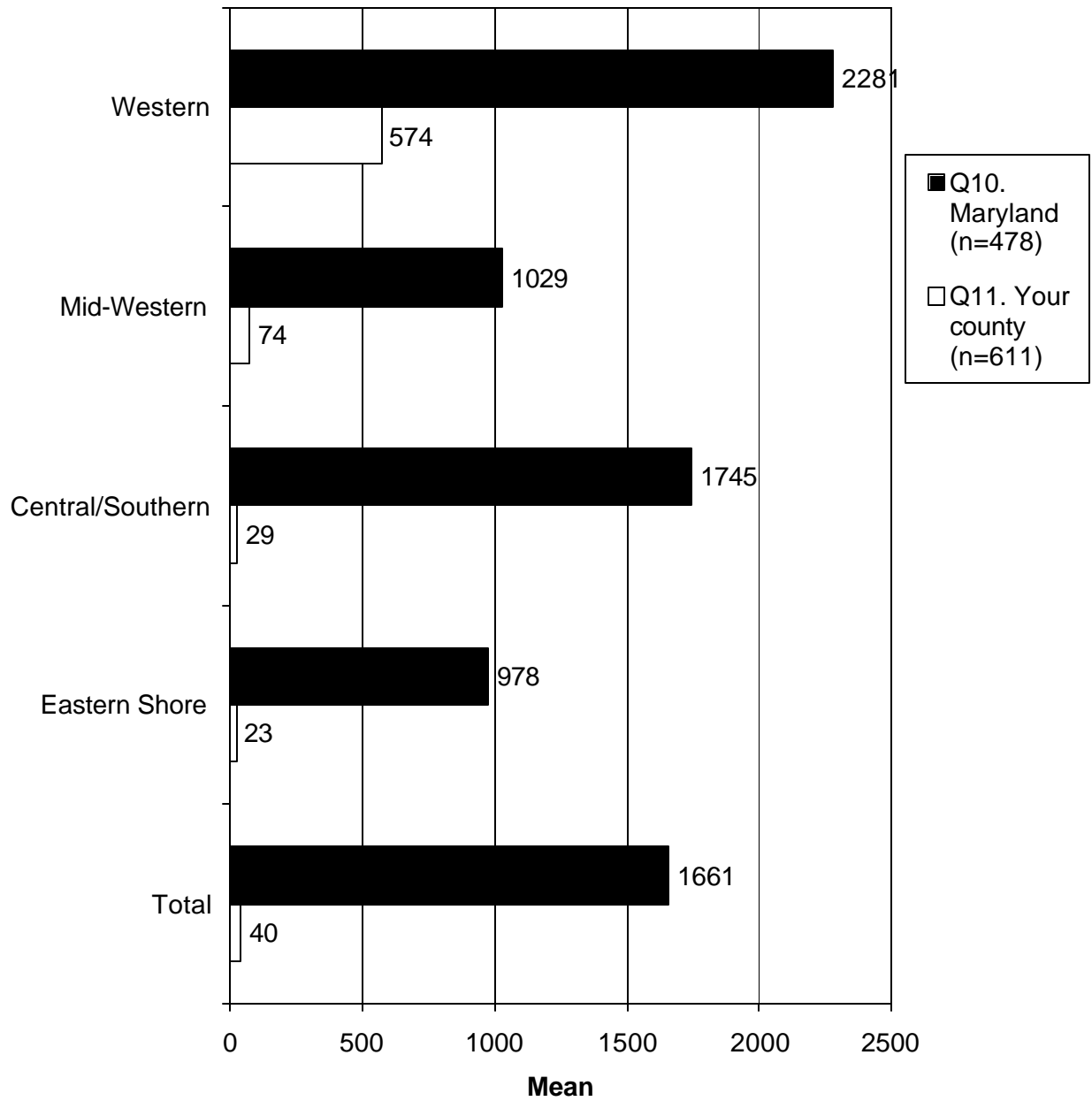
Q10. How many black bears would you estimate currently live in Maryland?



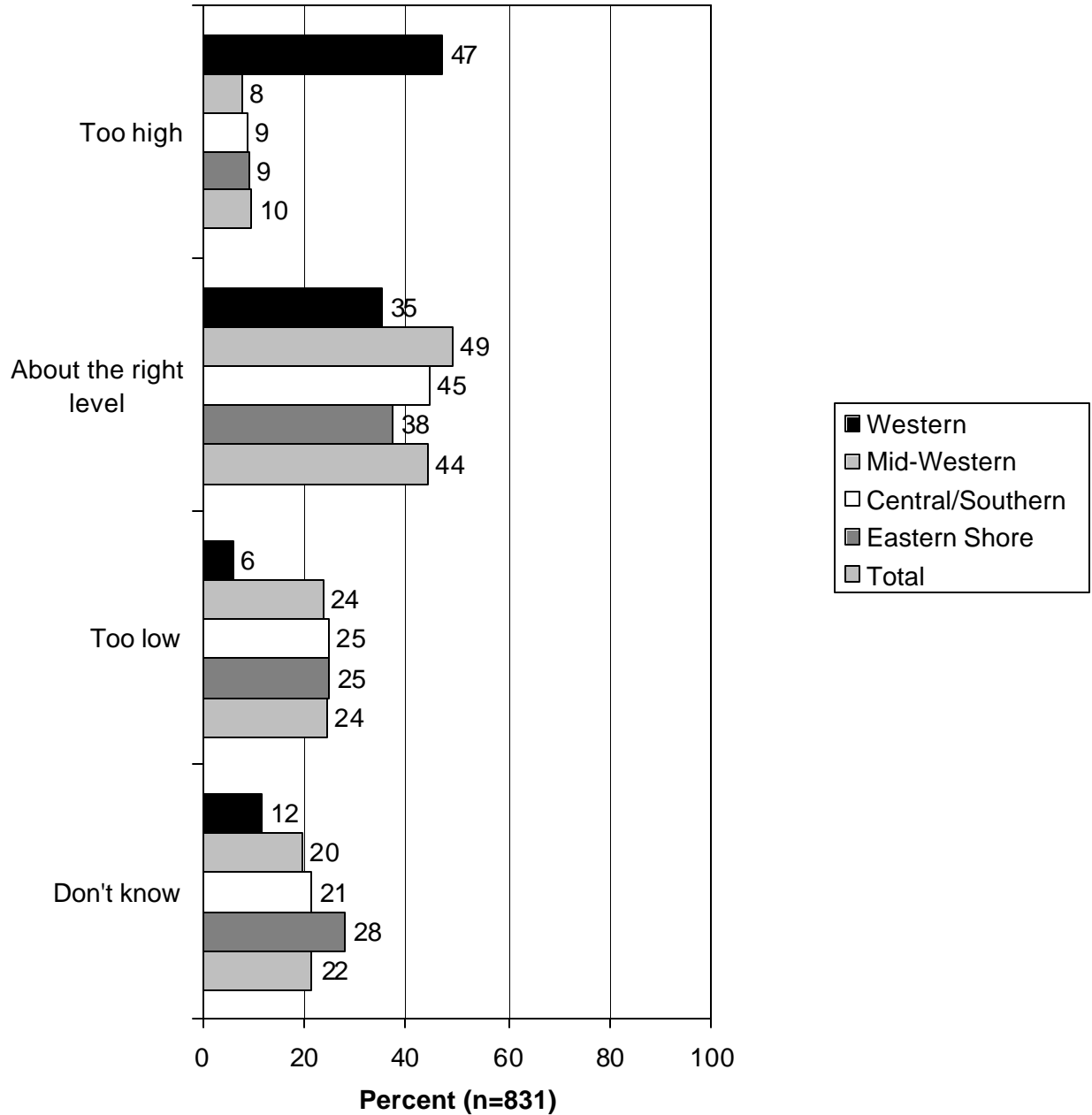
Q11. How many black bears would you estimate currently live in your county?



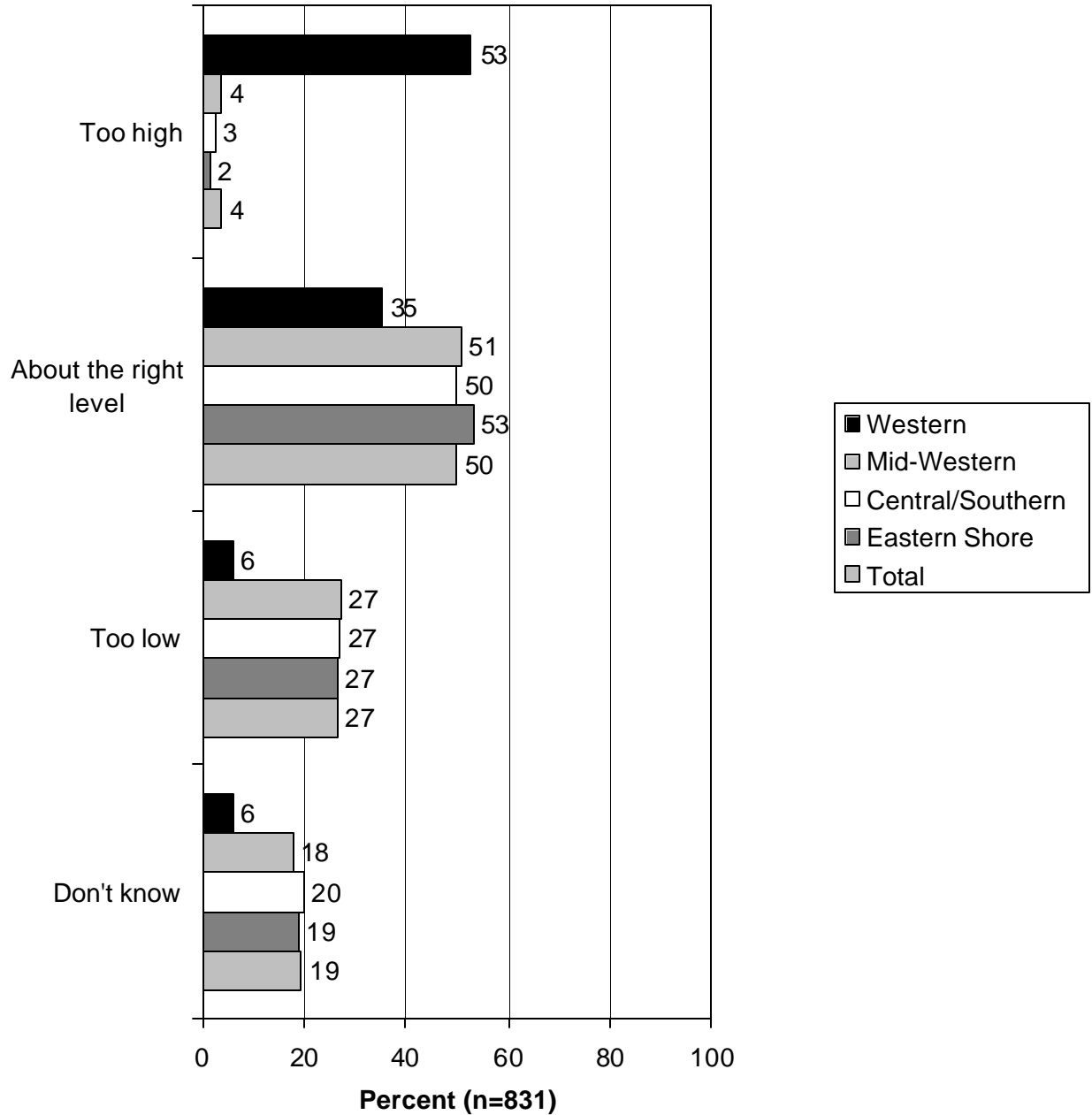
Q10, Q11. How many black bears would you estimate currently live in Maryland / your county?



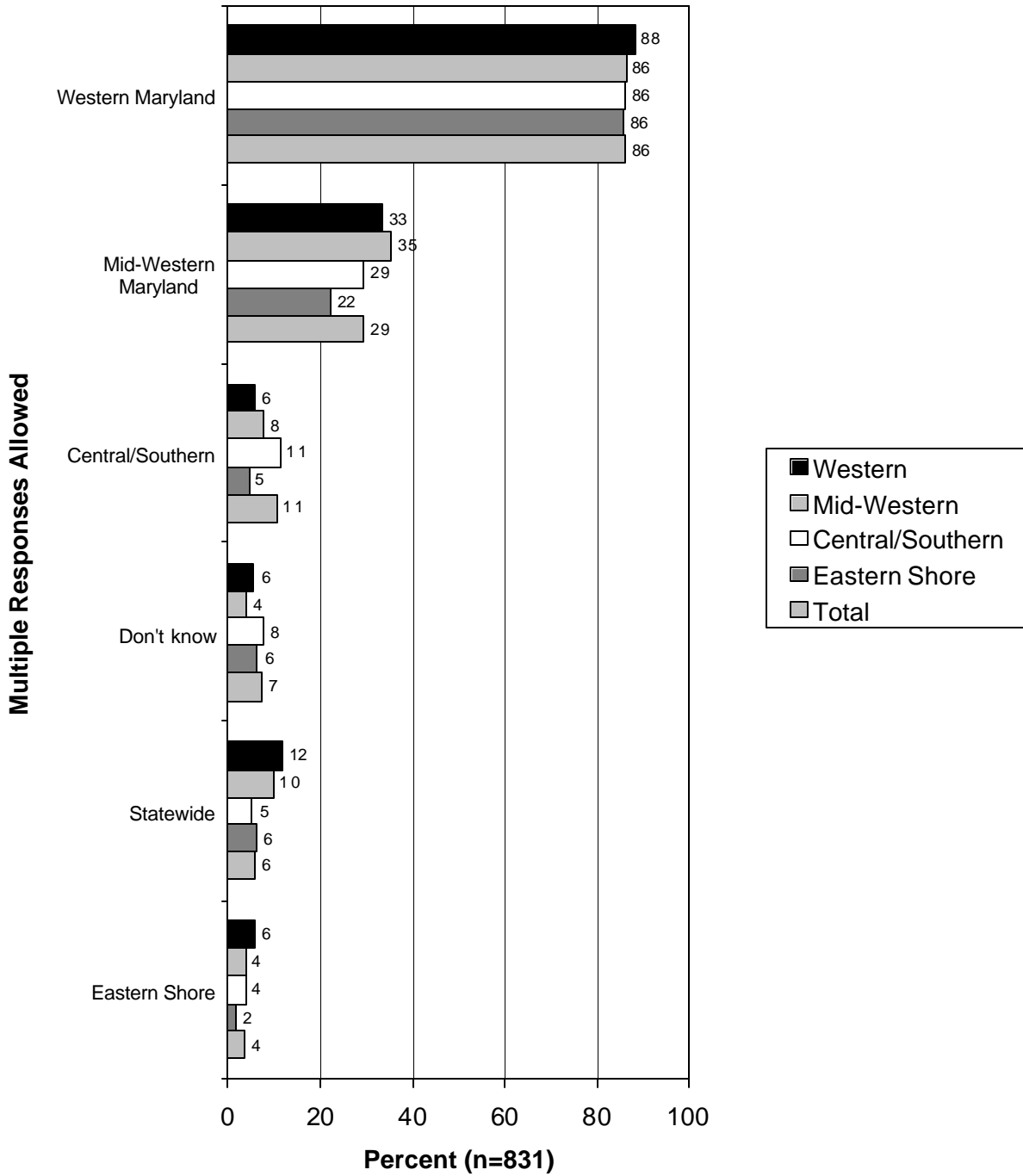
Q12. Overall, would you say the black bear population in Maryland is too high, too low, or about the right level?



Q13. Overall, would you say the black bear population in your county is too high, too low, or about the right level?



Q15. In what parts of Maryland do you think black bears are found?



CONTACT WITH BLACK BEARS

BLACK BEAR ENCOUNTERS IN MARYLAND

- A majority (85%) of respondents have never seen evidence of a black bear in Maryland.
 - There is great regional variation: 72% of Western Region respondents have seen evidence of a black bear in Maryland, which far exceeds the next highest region (25% of Mid-Western Region respondents have seen evidence of a black bear).

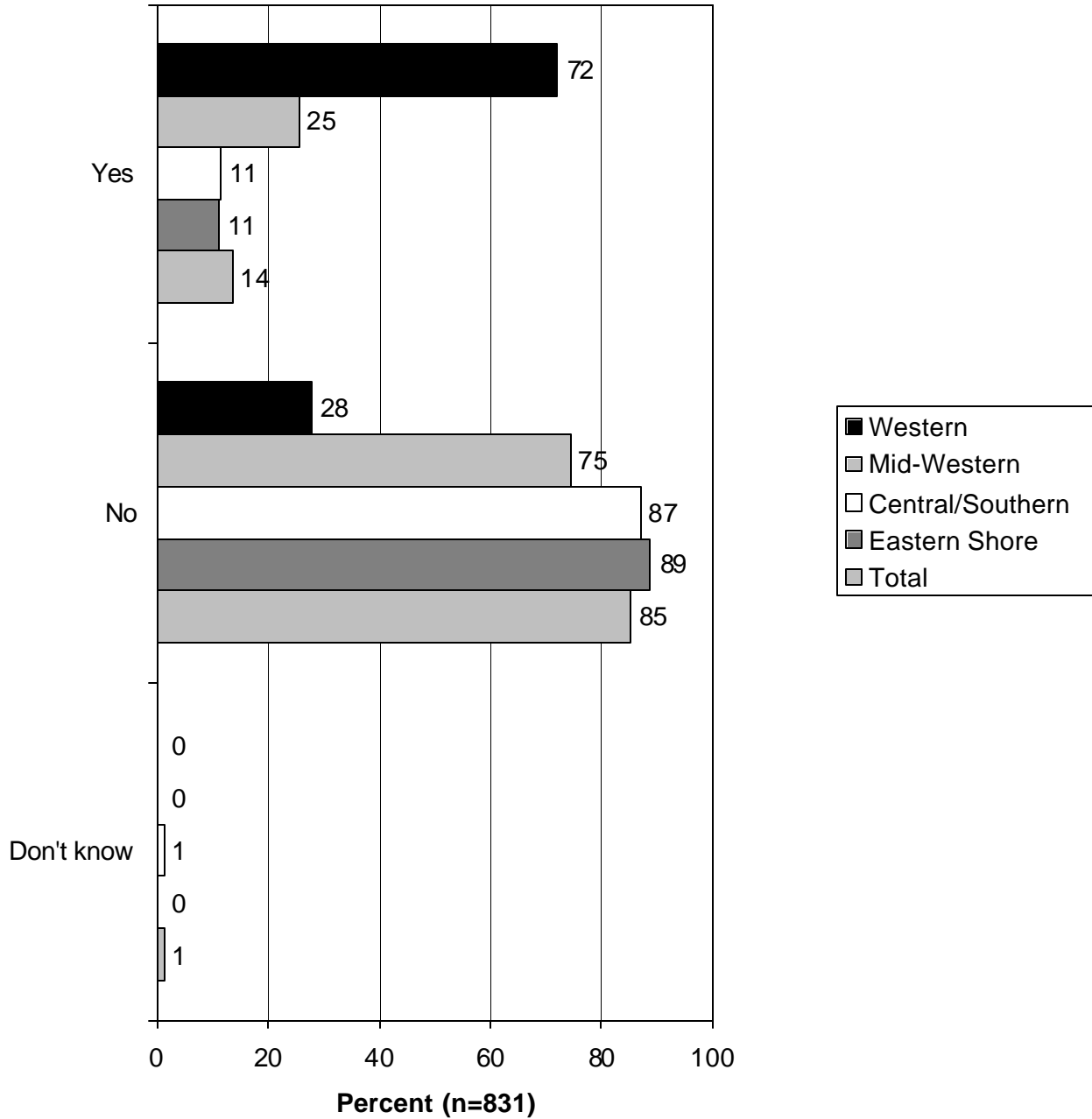
- A majority (92%) of all respondents have never encountered a black bear in the wild in Maryland.
 - Western Region respondents demonstrate substantial regional variation: 65% of Western Region respondents have encountered a black bear in the wild in Maryland, compared to 6-10% of the remaining regions' respondents.

- Of those respondents who have encountered a black bear in the wild in Maryland, 49% encountered a black bear in the wild in Maryland once during the past 2 years, but 29% have not seen a black bear in the wild in Maryland during the past 2 years.
 - Of those respondents who have encountered a black bear in the wild in Maryland, Western Region respondents reported more black bear encounters: they were the only group to have encountered a black bear five or more times during the past 2 years (36%).

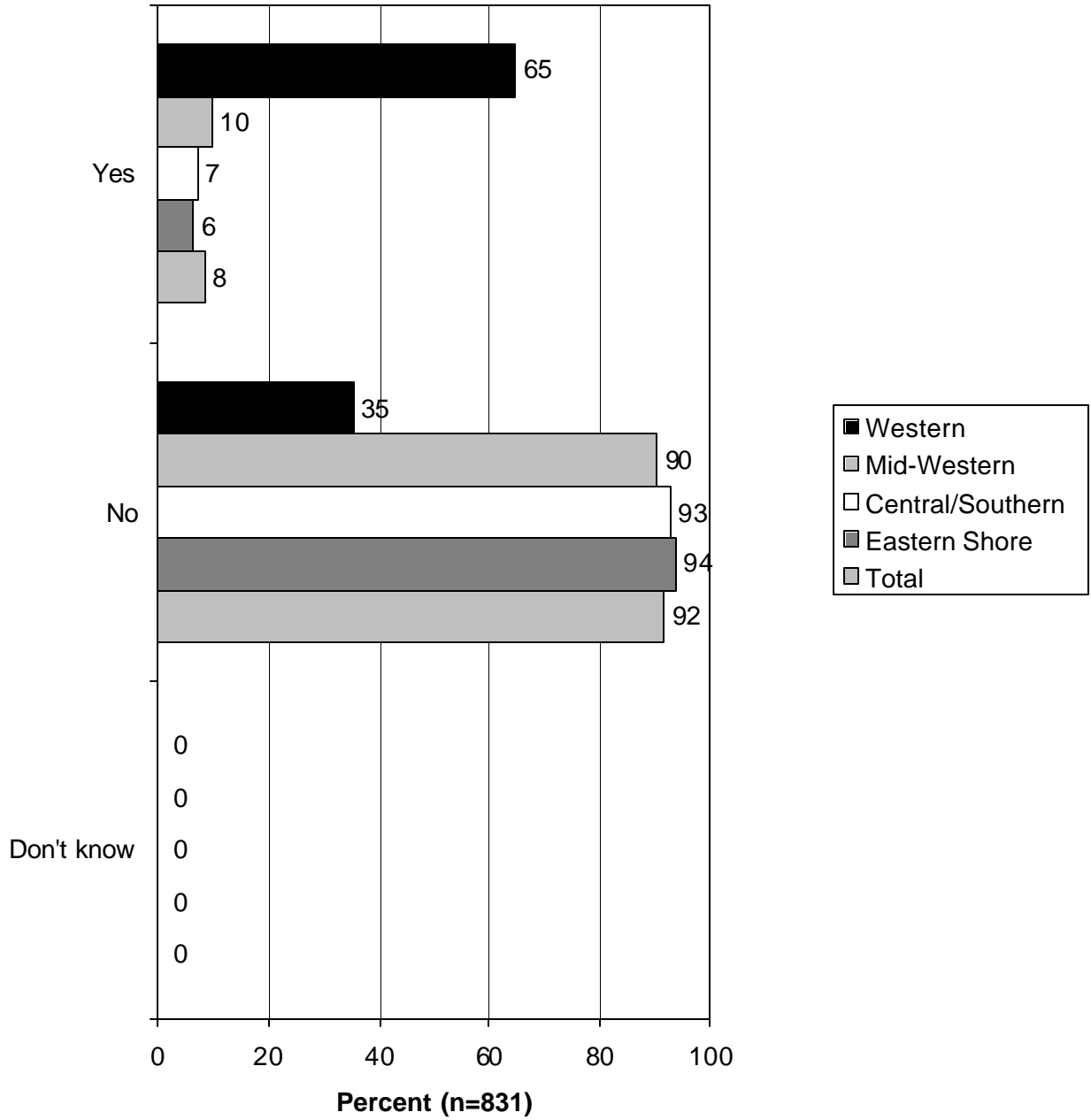
- Of those respondents who have encountered a black bear in the wild in Maryland, 24% were driving, 23% were hiking, 16% were camping, 15% were hunting, and 13% were at home/doing nothing in particular when they encountered a black bear in the wild in Maryland.
 - Of those respondents who have encountered a black bear in the wild in Maryland, Western Region respondents demonstrate substantial regional variation, with 36% being at home/doing nothing in particular when they encountered a black bear in the wild in Maryland.

- Of those who have encountered a black bear in Maryland, 74% described their encounter as a very or somewhat positive experience.
 - Of those respondents who described their encounter as positive, 60% credited aesthetic reasons (e.g., black bears are beautiful).
 - Of those respondents who described their encounter as negative, 44% said the black bear was aggressive.

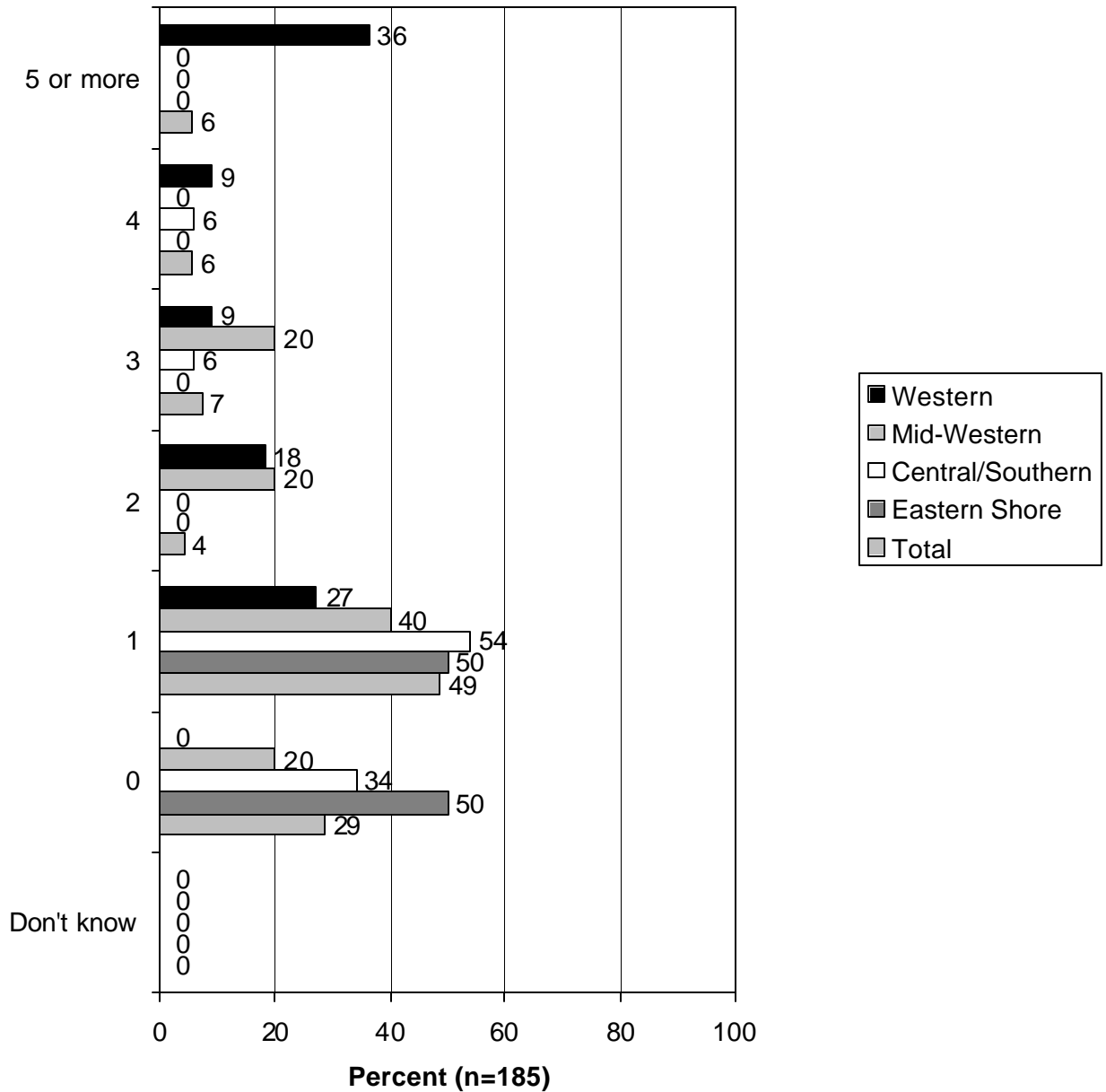
Q22. Have you ever seen evidence of a black bear in Maryland?



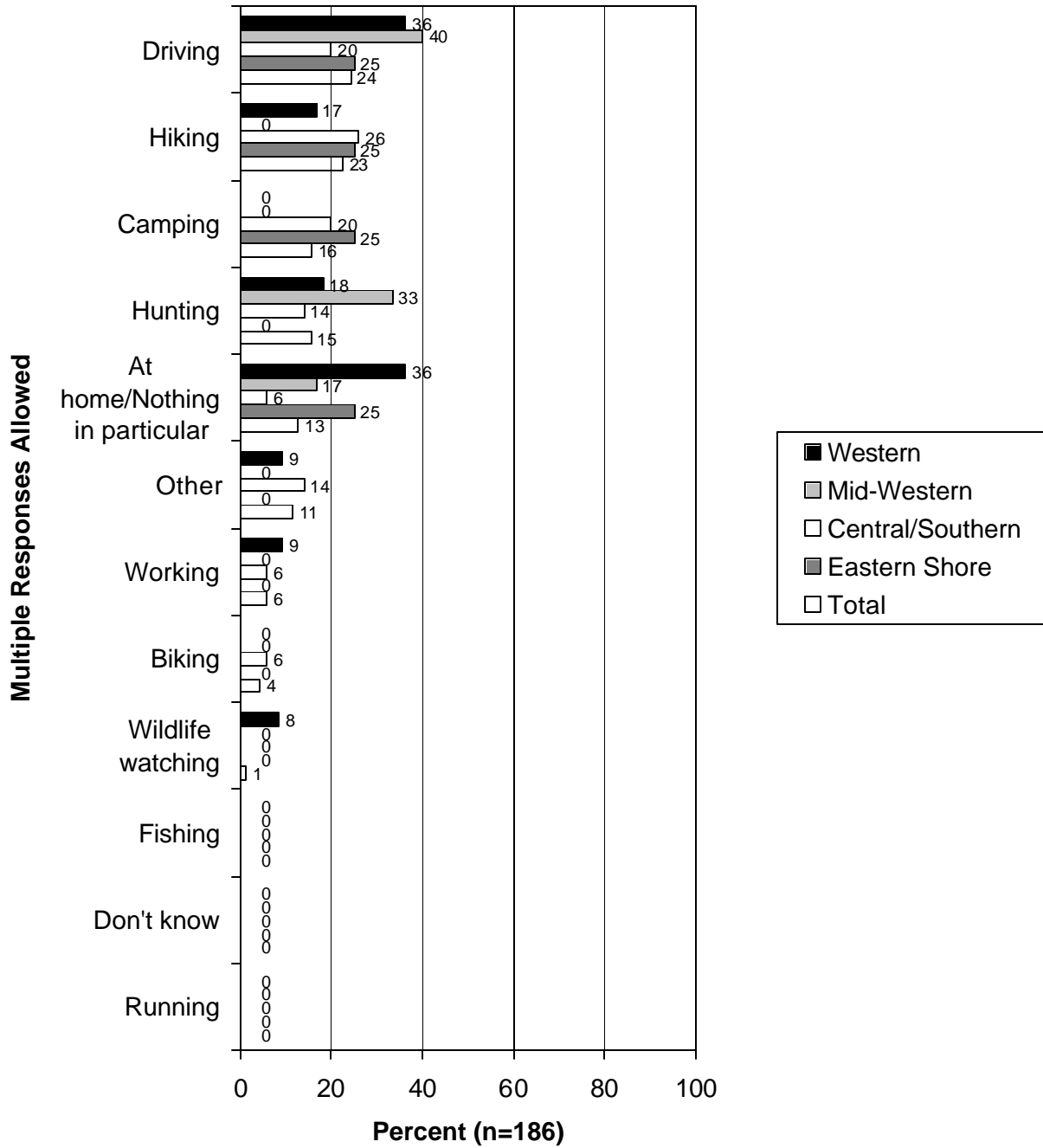
Q16. Have you ever encountered a black bear in the wild in Maryland?



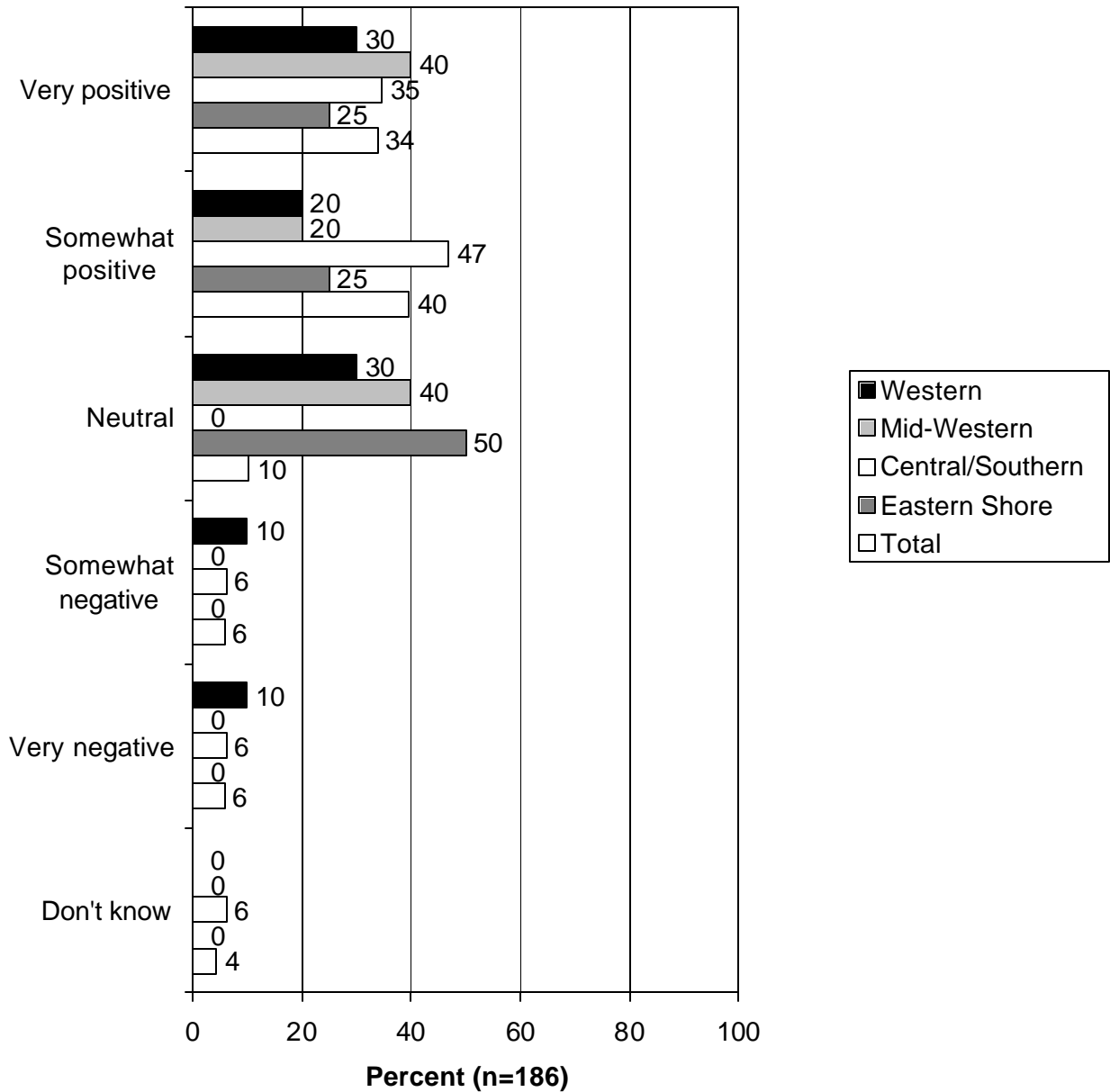
**17. How many times have you encountered a black bear in the wild in Maryland in the past 2 years?
(Asked of those who indicated they have encountered a black bear in the wild in Maryland.)**



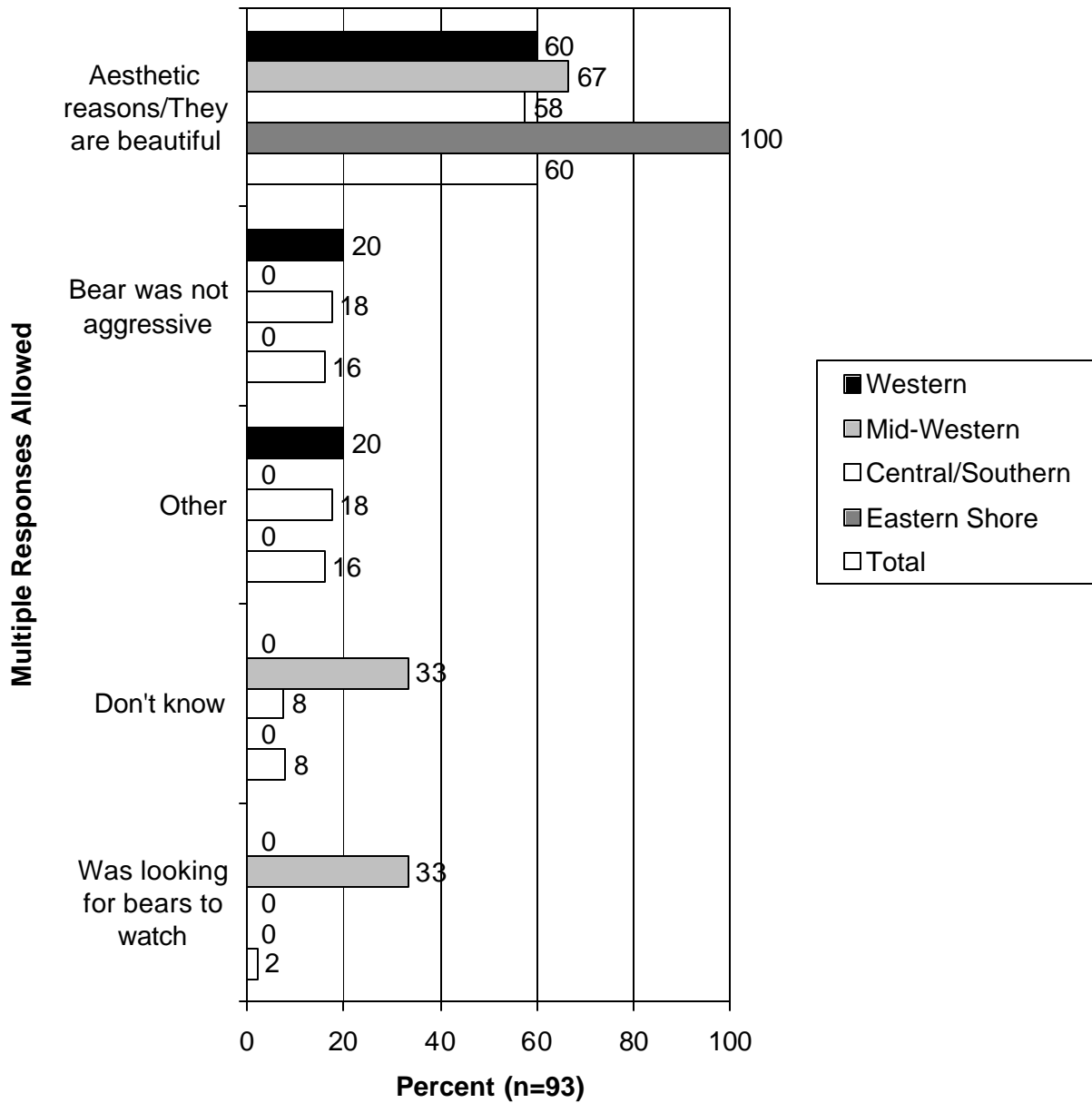
Q19. When you saw the black bear(s), what were you doing? (Asked of those who indicated they have encountered a black bear in the wild in Maryland.)



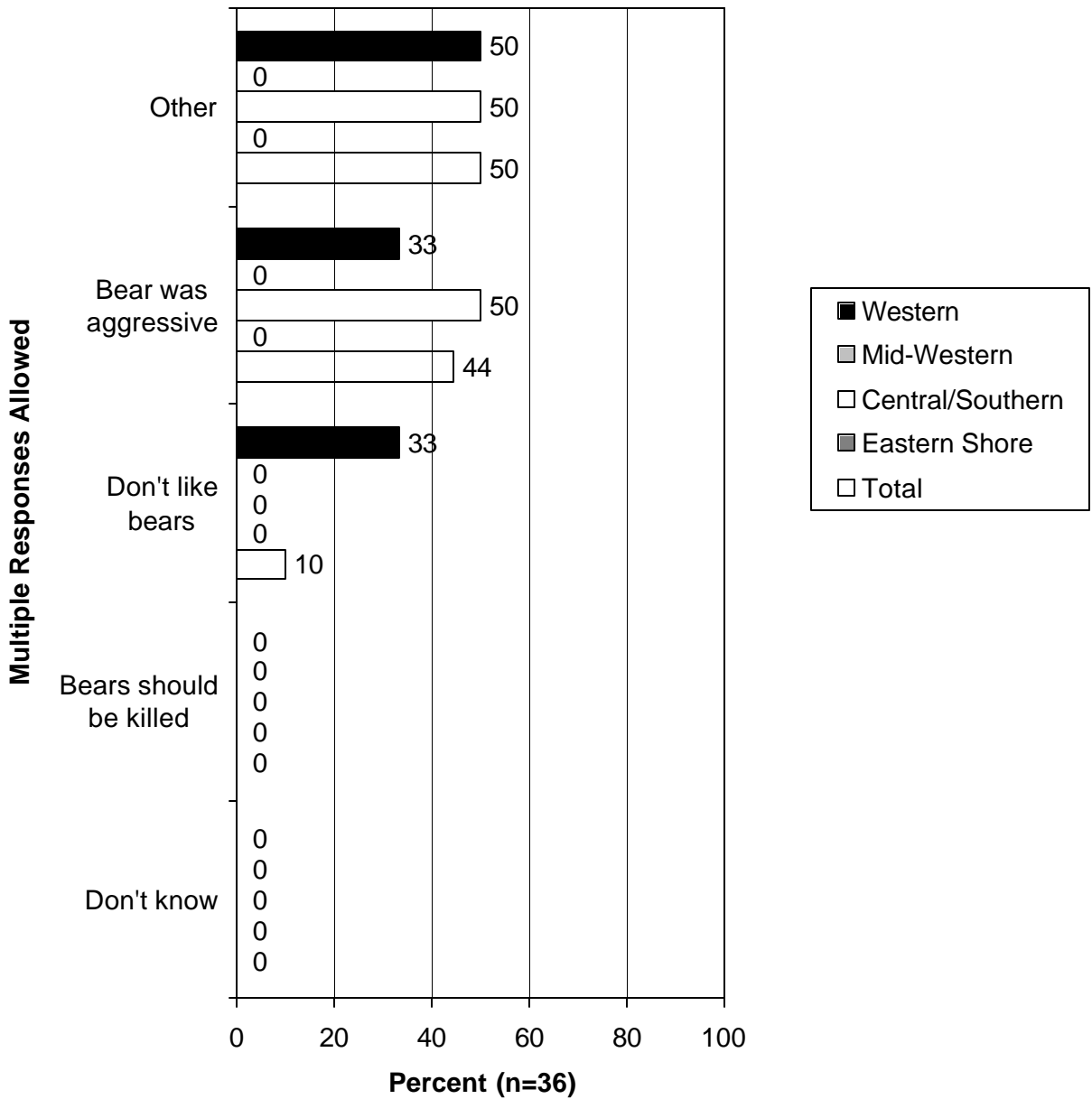
**Q24. When you encountered a black bear in Maryland, how would you describe the experience?
(Asked of those who indicated they have encountered a black bear in Maryland.)**



Q26. Why would you describe your black bear encounter as a positive experience? (Asked of those who described their black bear encounter as positive.)



Q29. Why would you describe your black bear encounter as a negative experience? (Asked of those who described their black bear encounter as negative.)

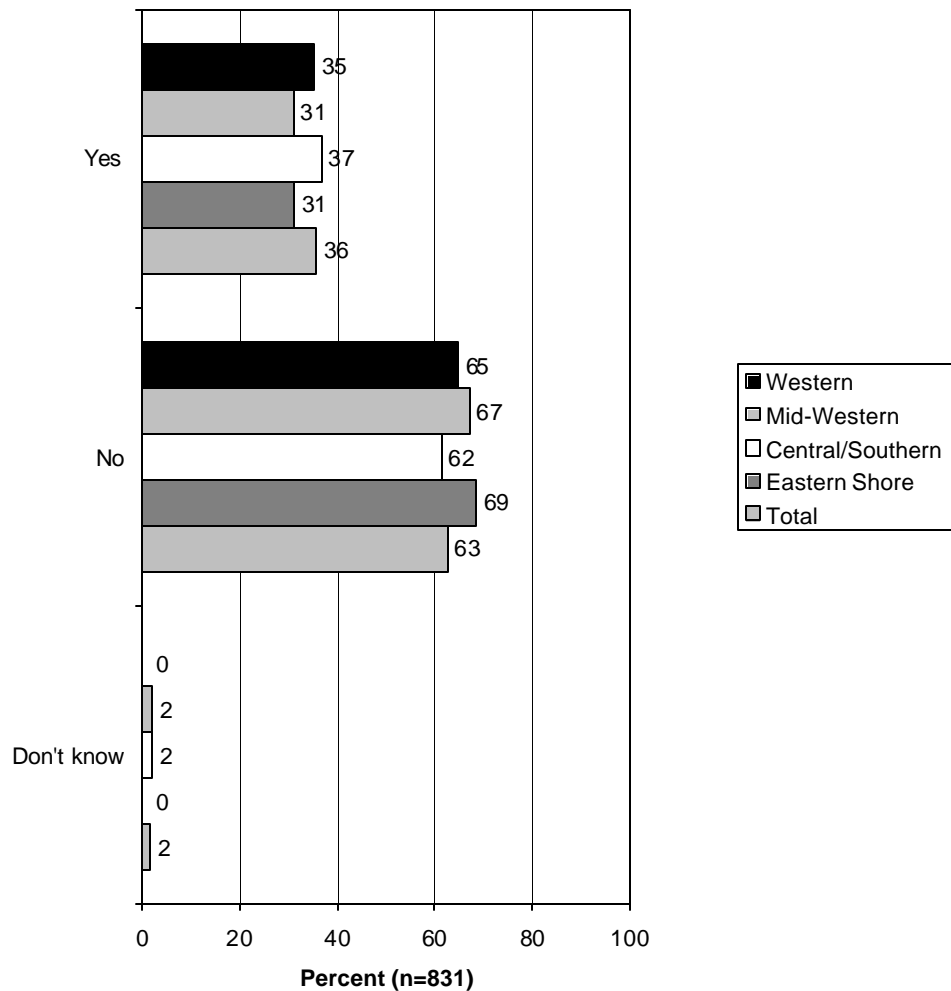


BLACK BEAR ENCOUNTERS OUTSIDE OF MARYLAND

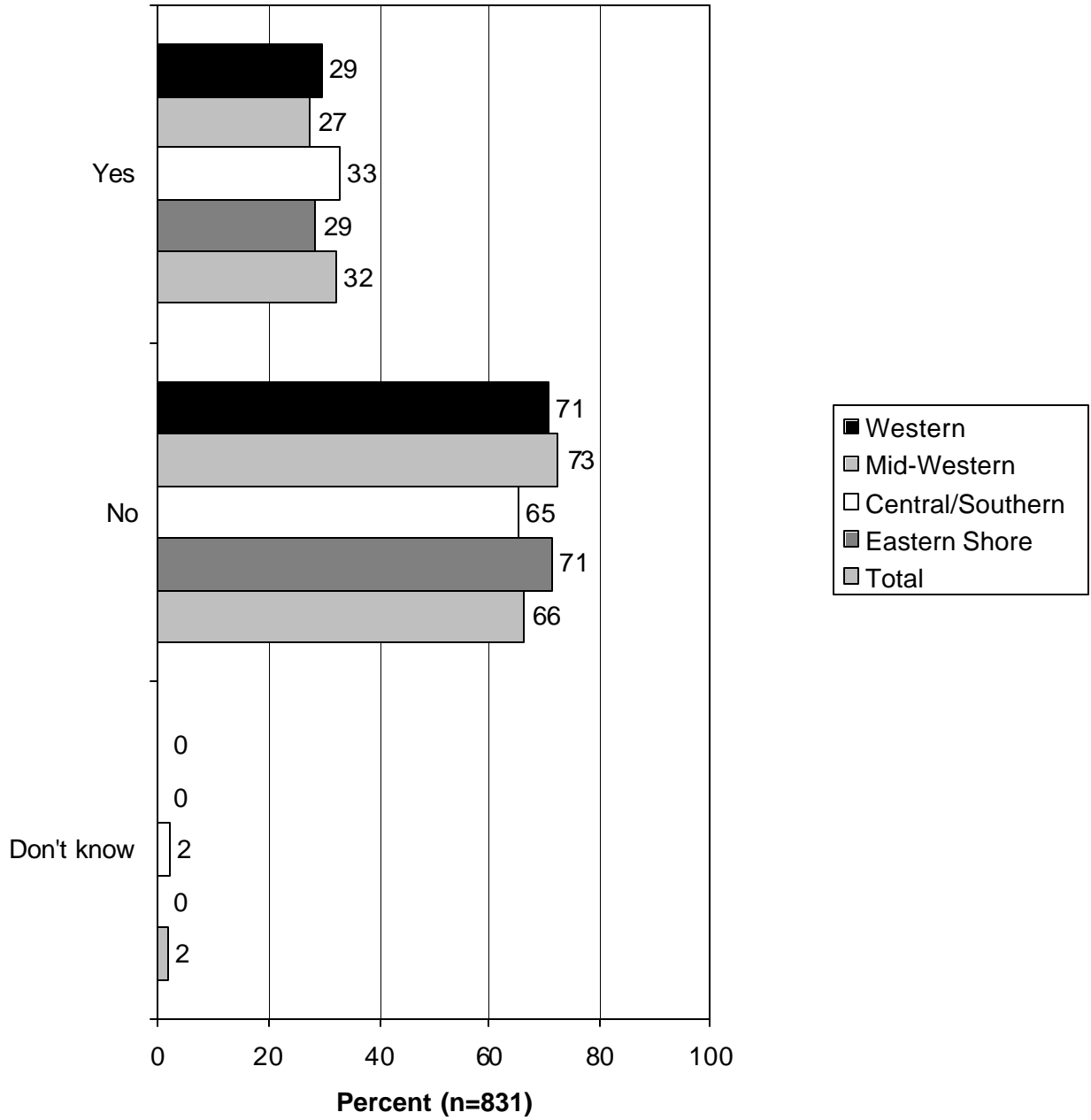
- A majority (63%) of all respondents have never seen evidence of a black bear outside of Maryland.

- A majority (66%) of all respondents have never encountered a black bear in the wild outside of Maryland.

Q23. Have you ever seen evidence of a black bear outside of Maryland?



Q21. Have you ever encountered a black bear in the wild outside of Maryland?



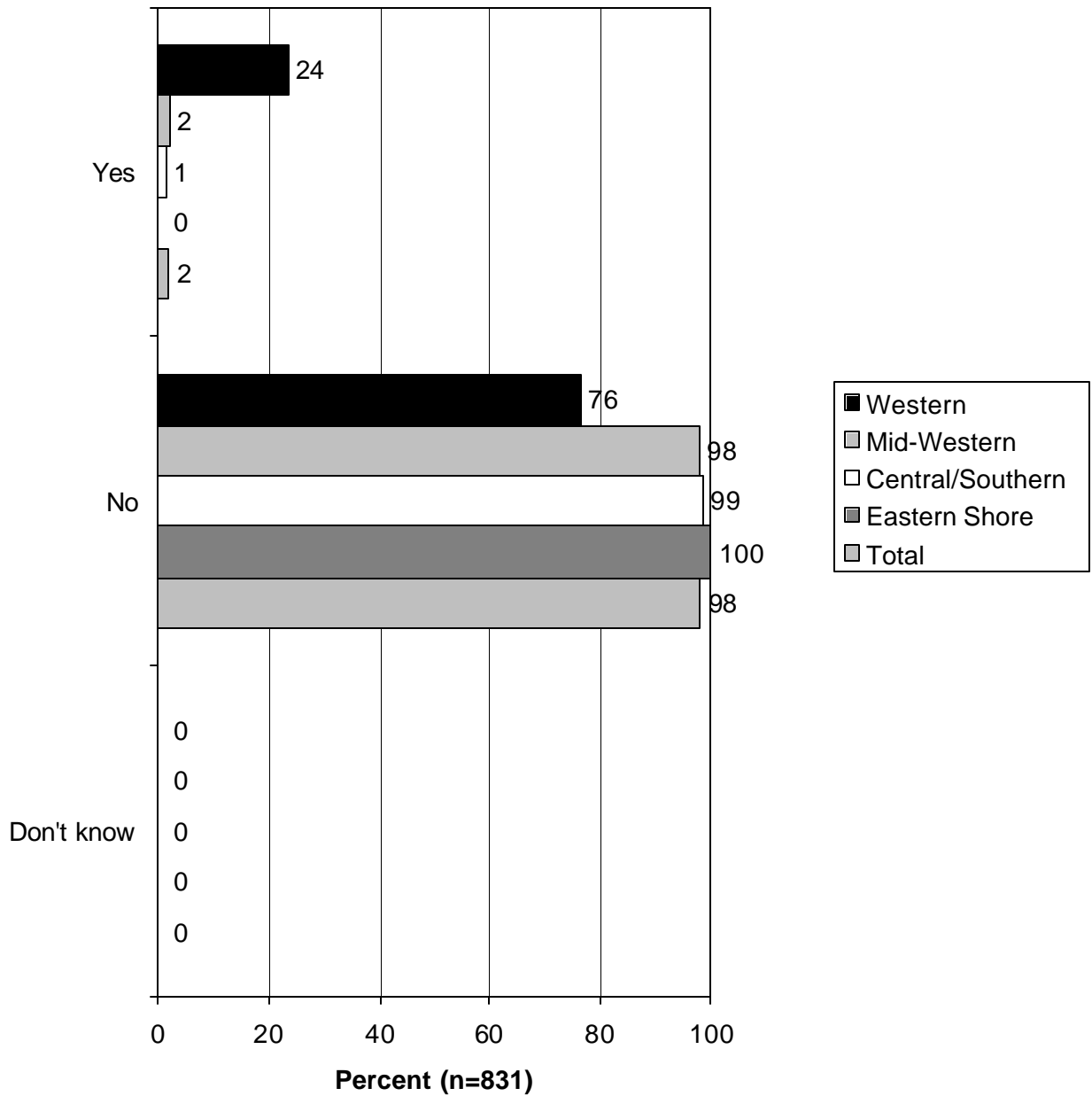
REPORTING PROBLEMS WITH BLACK BEARS

- An overwhelming majority (98%) of all respondents have not had problems with black bears in their neighborhoods or around their homes in the past 2 years.
 - Due to the larger black bear population in their area, Western Region respondents more commonly (24%) had problems with black bears in their neighborhoods or around their homes in the past 2 years; 2% of Mid-Western Region respondents and 1% of Central/Southern Region respondents had problems with black bears in their neighborhoods or around their homes in the past 2 years.

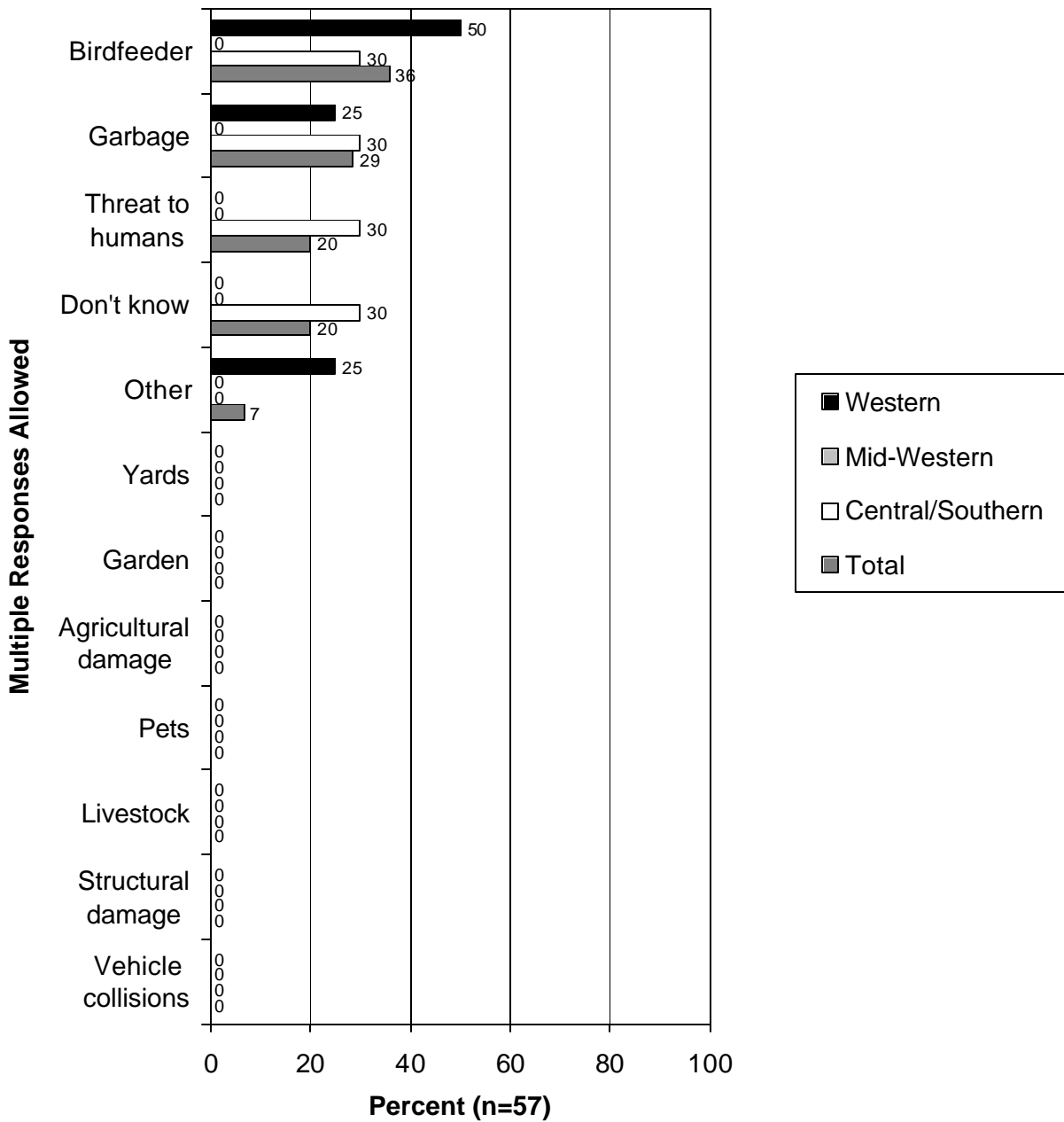
- Those respondents who had problems with black bears in the past 2 years most commonly reported that black bears caused problems with birdfeeders (36%) and with garbage (29%).
 - 50% of Western Region respondents reported that black bears caused problems with birdfeeders.
 - 30% of Central/Southern Region respondents reported that black bears caused problems by threatening humans.

- Of those respondents who had problems with black bears in the past 2 years, a majority (93%) did not contact anyone as a result of the problem.
 - 25% of Western Region respondents did contact someone (they were the only group to contact someone).

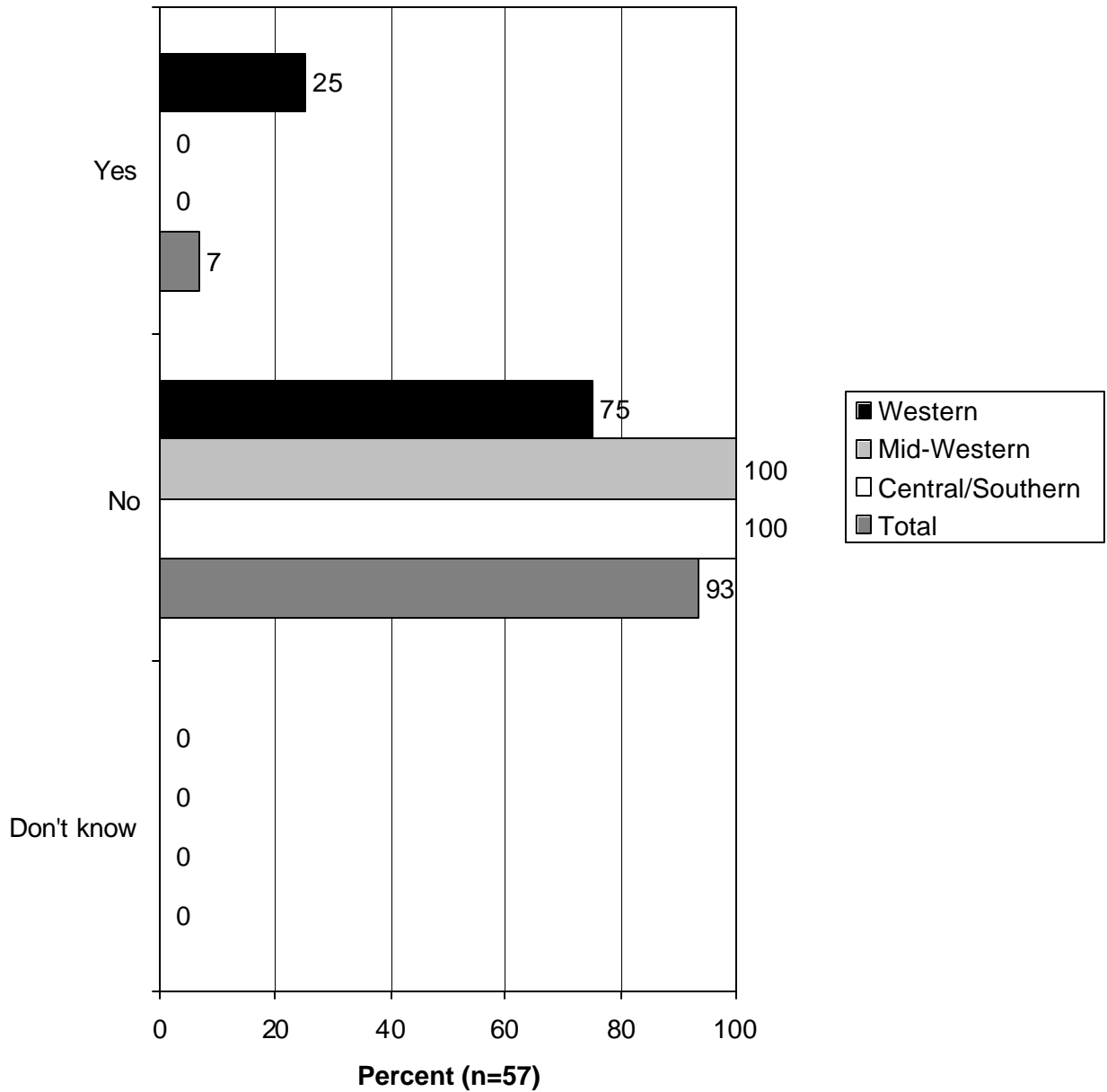
Q31. Sometimes people have problems with wildlife in their neighborhoods or around their homes. Have you had any problems with black bears within the past 2 years?



Q33. What kind of problems did the black bear(s) cause? (Asked of those who indicated they had problems with black bears within the past 2 years.)



Q35. Did you contact anyone as a result of the problem with black bear(s)? (Asked of those who indicated having problems with black bears within the past 2 years.)



ATTITUDES TOWARD BLACK BEARS

HAVING BLACK BEARS IN MARYLAND

- A majority (77%) of respondents strongly or moderately support having black bears in Maryland; 7% of all respondents moderately or strongly oppose having black bears in Maryland.
 - Mid-Western Region respondents demonstrated the greatest support, with 47% strongly supporting having black bears in Maryland.
 - Western Region respondents demonstrated the most opposition, with 17% moderately or strongly opposing having black bears in Maryland.

- A majority (52%) of all respondents strongly or moderately support having black bears in their county. Western Region respondents have the greatest support, with 75% of Western Region respondents strongly or moderately in support of having black bears in their county.

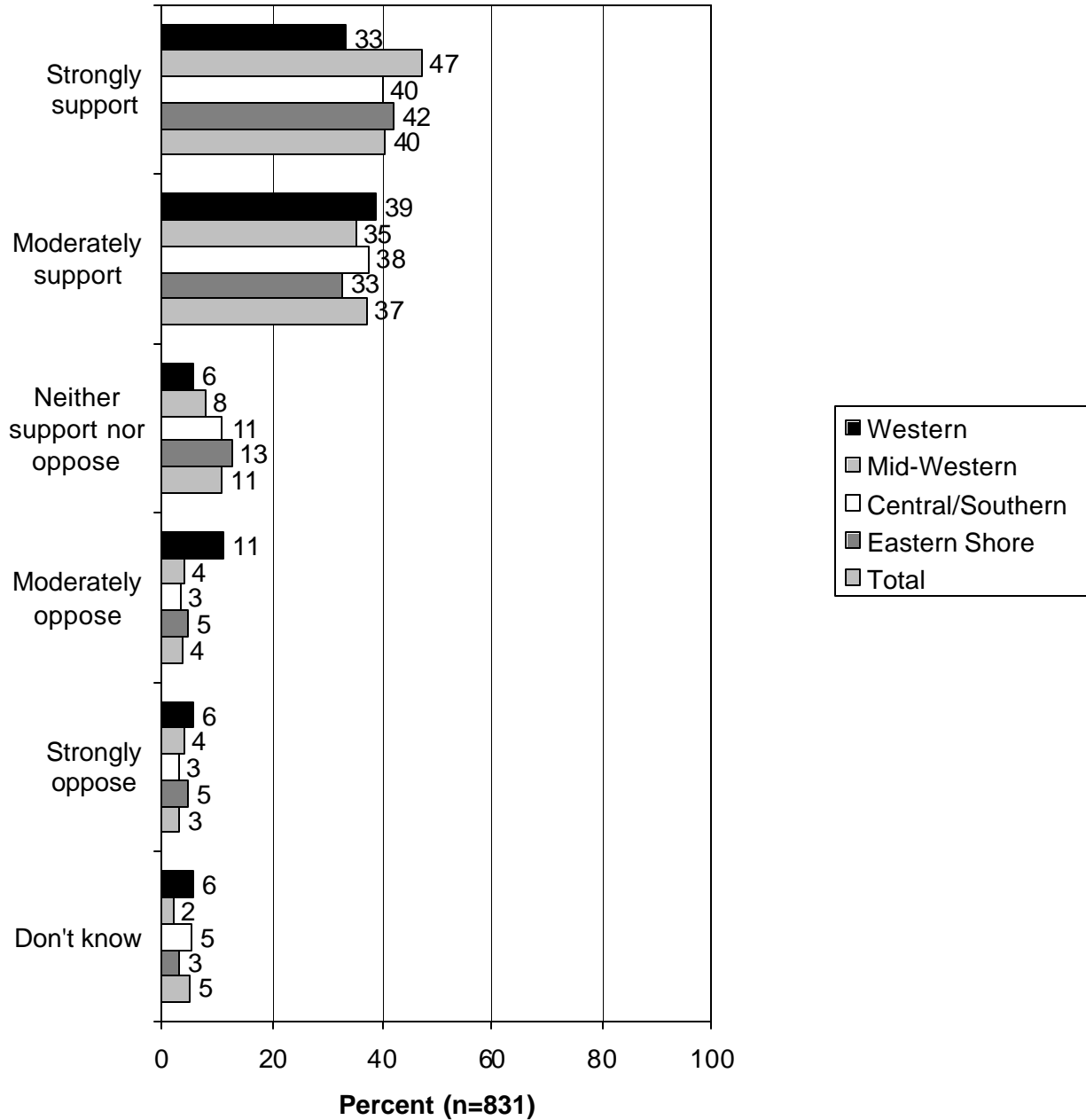
- Overall, a majority of respondents statewide (58%) strongly or moderately oppose having black bears within 0.5 miles of their home; however, there is much regional variation, with a majority of Western Region respondents (53%) in support. Support narrowly exceeded opposition in the Mid-Western Region (46% supported, and 44% opposed); majorities opposed in the Central/Southern (59%) and the Eastern Shore (65%) Regions.

- A majority of respondents (61%) strongly or moderately support allowing the black bear population to expand naturally into other parts of Maryland, with no marked regional differences.
 - 24% of all respondents moderately or strongly oppose allowing the black bear population to expand naturally into other parts of Maryland.

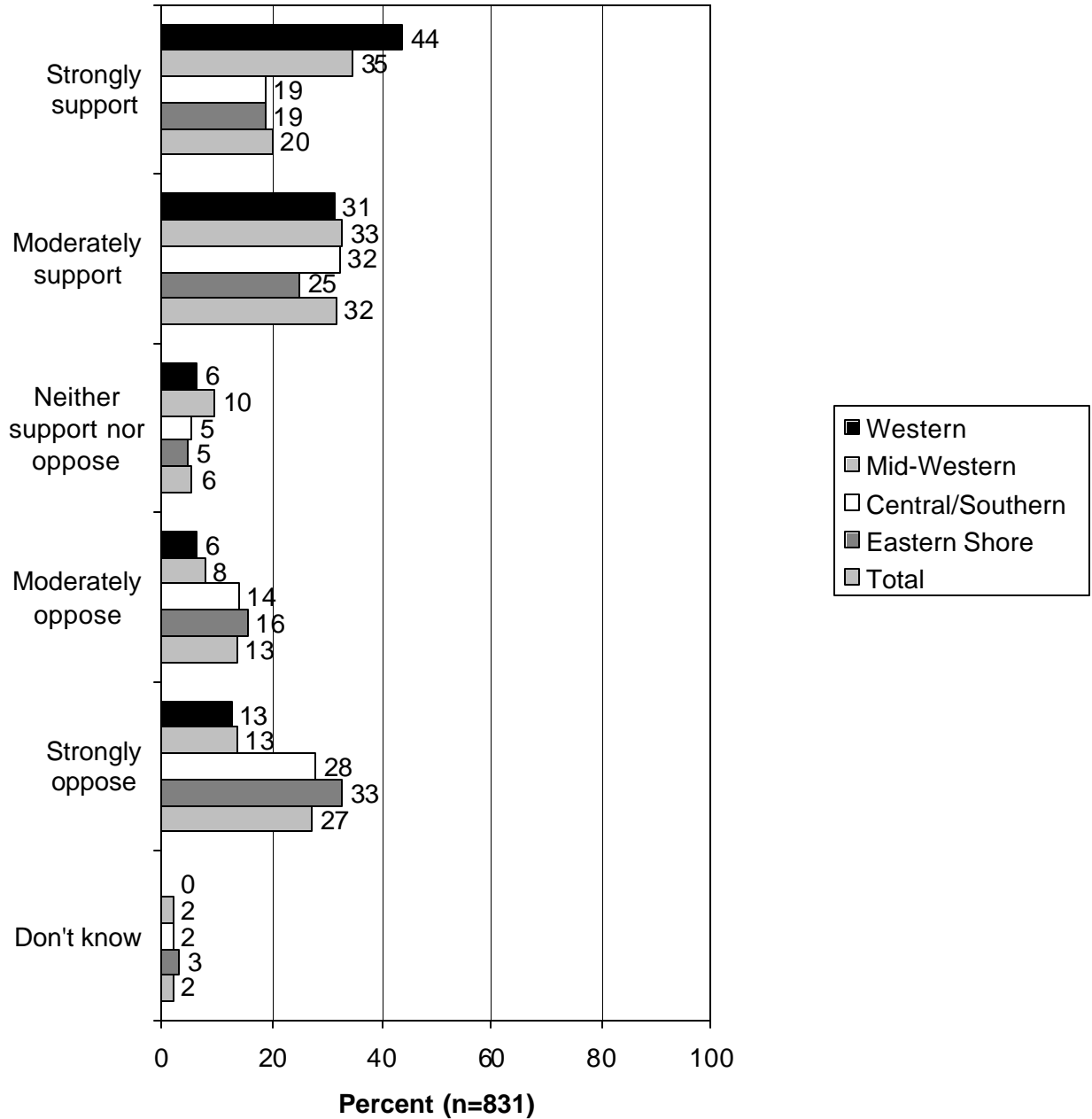
- A majority (72%) of all respondents strongly or moderately support expanding black bear populations into other parts of Maryland through relocation into acceptable habitats, with little regional variation.
 - Of those who support expanding the black bear population naturally or through relocation, respondents most commonly (42%) support the expansion of the black bear

population into Western Maryland. Western Region respondents differed markedly, with only 29% supporting the expansion of the black bear population into Western Maryland. Western Region respondents have the greatest percent who support the expansion of the black bear population into Central/Southern Maryland and into the Eastern Shore.

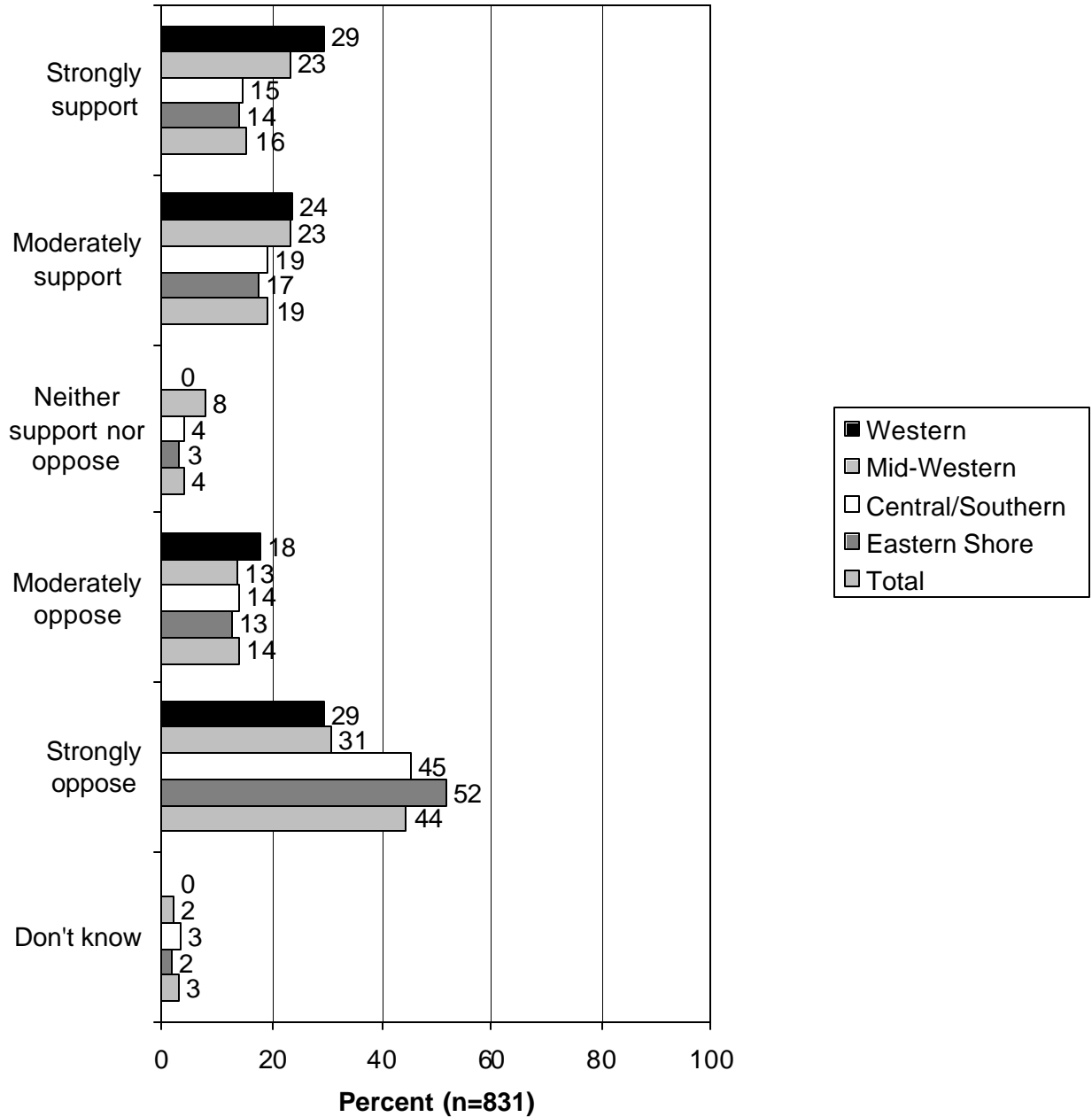
Q40. In general, do you support or oppose having black bears in Maryland?



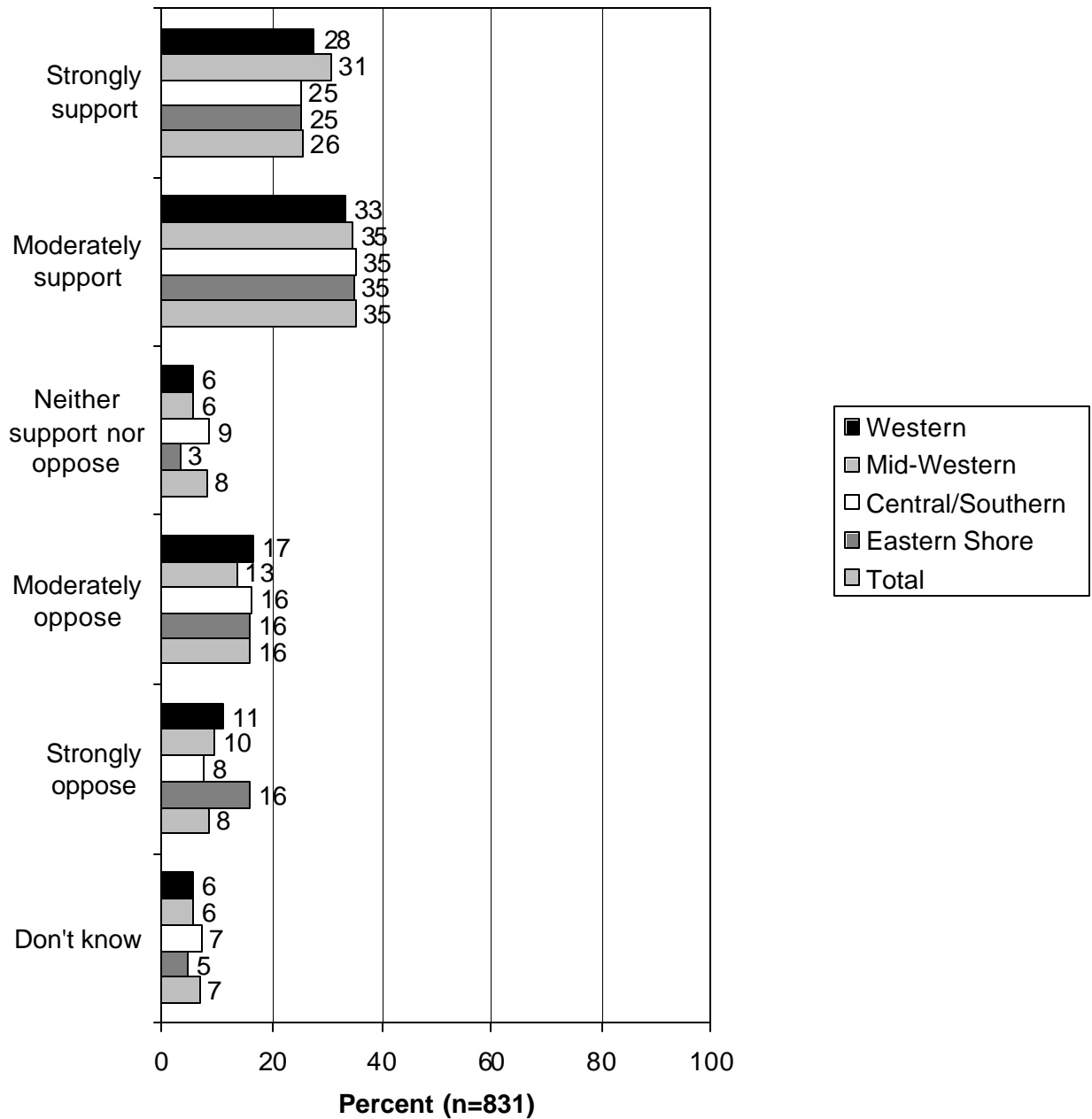
Q46. Would you support or oppose having black bears in your county?



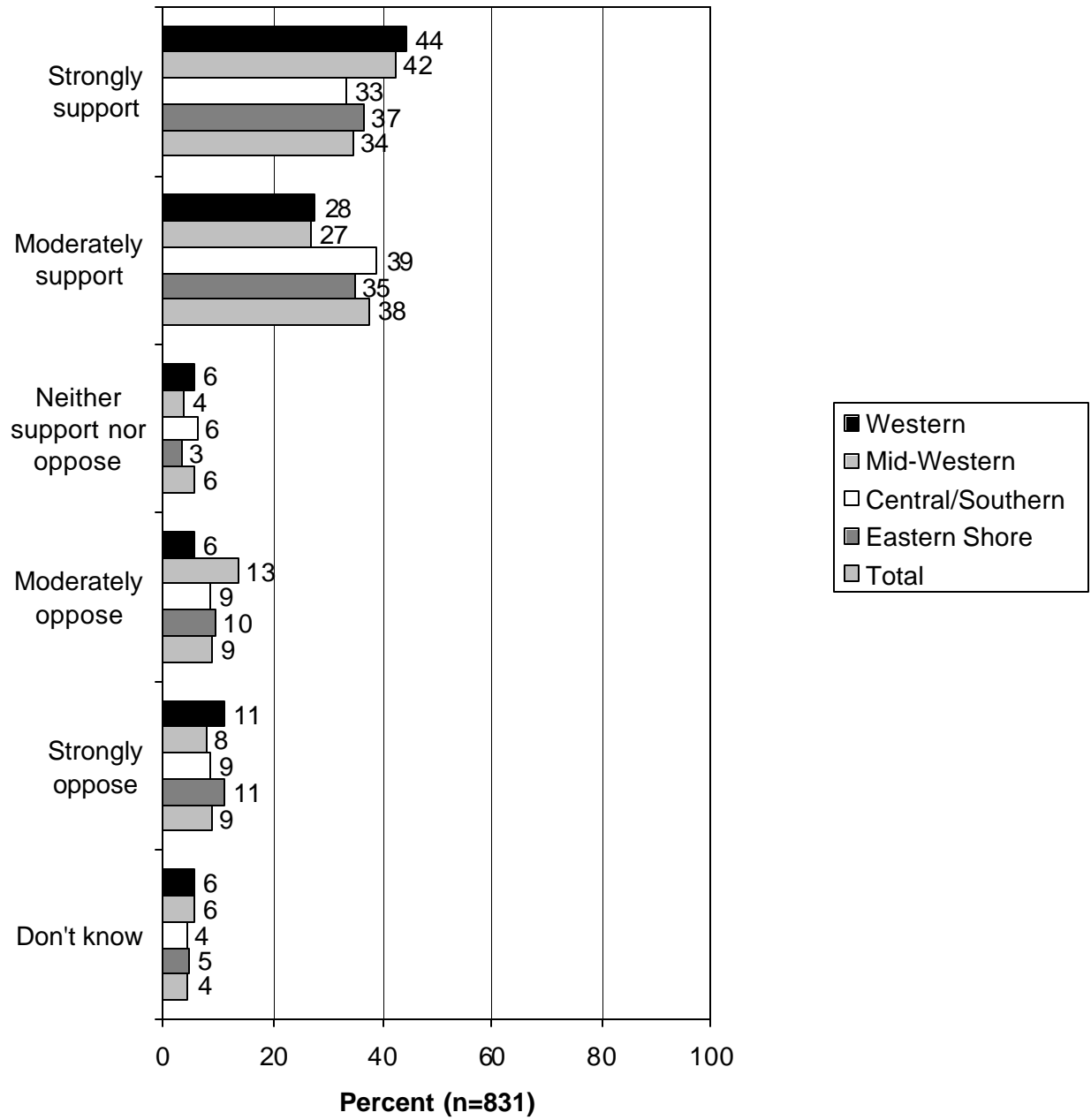
Q47. Would you support or oppose having black bears within 1/2 mile of your home?



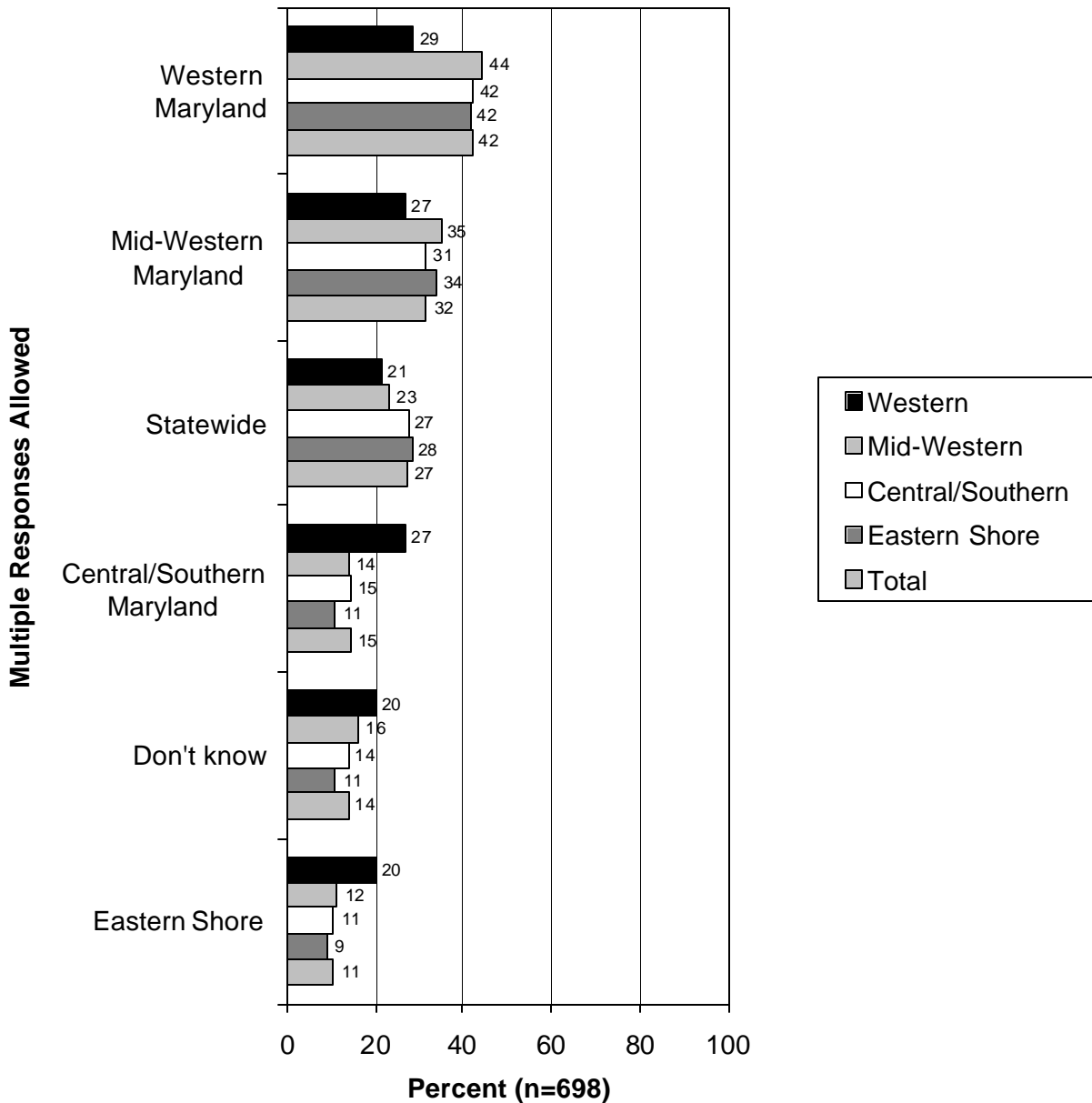
Q42. Do you support or oppose allowing the black bear population to expand naturally into other parts of Maryland?



Q43. Do you support or oppose expanding black bear populations into other parts of Maryland through relocation into acceptable habitats?



Q45. Into which other areas would you support the expansion of the black bear population? (Asked of those who support the expansion of the black bear population either naturally or through relocation.)



PERCEIVED PROBLEMS WITH BLACK BEARS IN MARYLAND

- Respondents were asked four questions regarding perceived problems with black bears in Maryland. Overall, a majority (91%) of all respondents agree that most problems with black bears in Maryland can be prevented by taking a few simple precautions, such as using bear-proof trash containers (this statement had the highest percentage in agreement).
 - Less than a quarter (23%) of all respondents agree that black bears will kill many livestock and pets in Maryland (this statement had the lowest percentage in agreement).

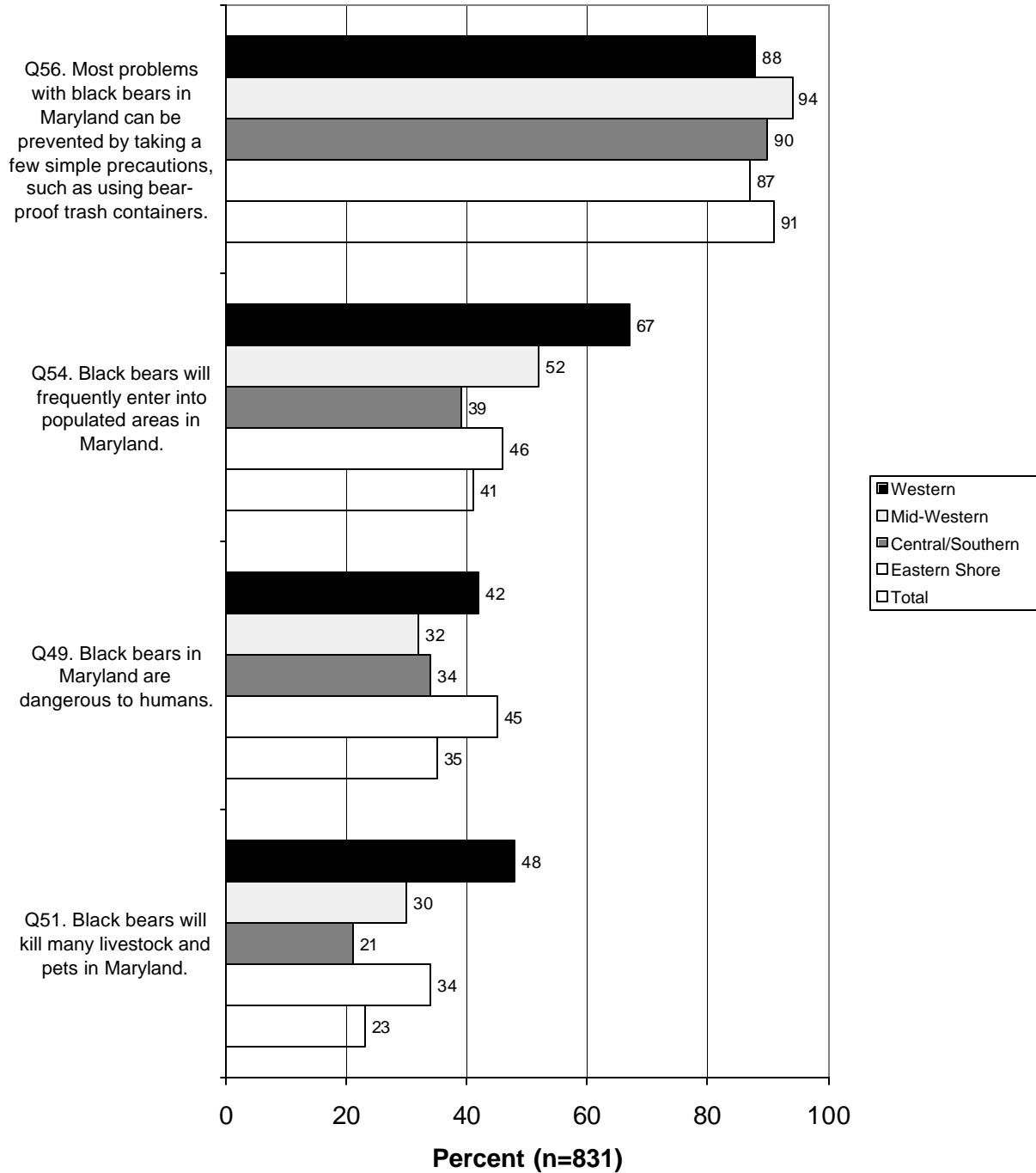
- A majority (52%) of respondents moderately or strongly disagree that black bears in Maryland are dangerous to humans.
 - 35% of all respondents strongly or moderately agree that black bears in Maryland are dangerous to humans.
 - The Eastern Shore was the only region in which agreement exceeded disagreement: 45% of Eastern Shore respondents agree that black bears in Maryland are dangerous to humans, while 43% disagree.

- A majority (56%) of respondents moderately or strongly disagree that black bears will kill many livestock and pets in Maryland.
 - 23% of all respondents agree that black bears will kill many livestock and pets in Maryland.
 - Western Region respondents were the only region in which agreement exceeded disagreement: 48% of Western Region respondents agree that black bears will kill many livestock and pets in Maryland, while 42% disagree.

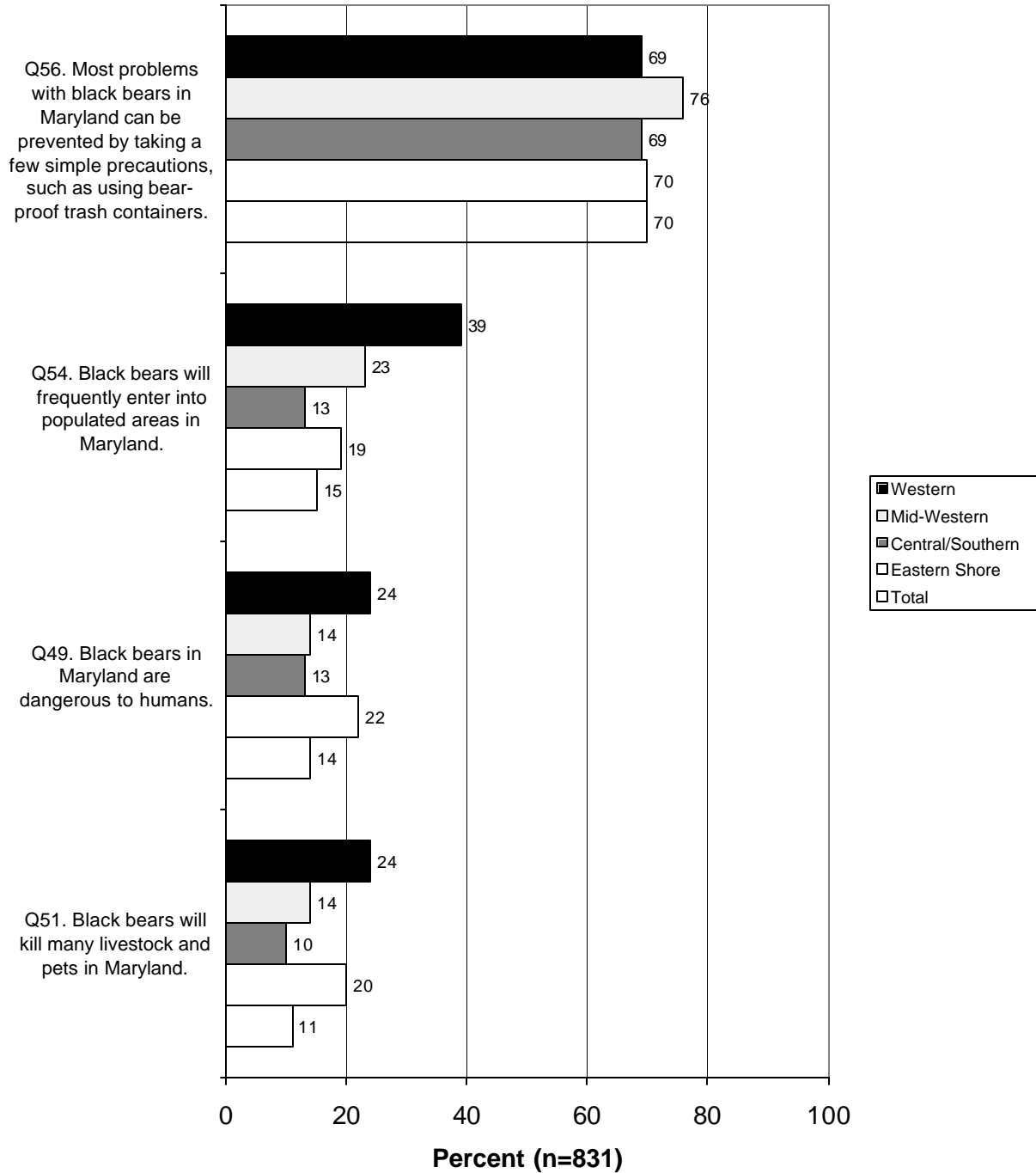
- Overall, respondents were fairly evenly divided regarding whether they agree (41%) or disagree (44%) that black bears will frequently enter into populated areas in Maryland. However, there is much regional variation, with majorities in agreement in the Western Region (67%) and the Mid-Western Region (52%).

- A majority (91%) of all respondents strongly or moderately agree that most problems with black bears in Maryland can be prevented by taking a few simple precautions, such as using bear-proof trash containers.
 - Western Region respondents were the most likely to strongly disagree: 13% of them strongly disagree that most problems with black bears in Maryland can be prevented by taking a few simple precautions, such as using bear-proof trash containers; the next highest percentage is the 6% of respondents from the Eastern Shore who strongly disagree.

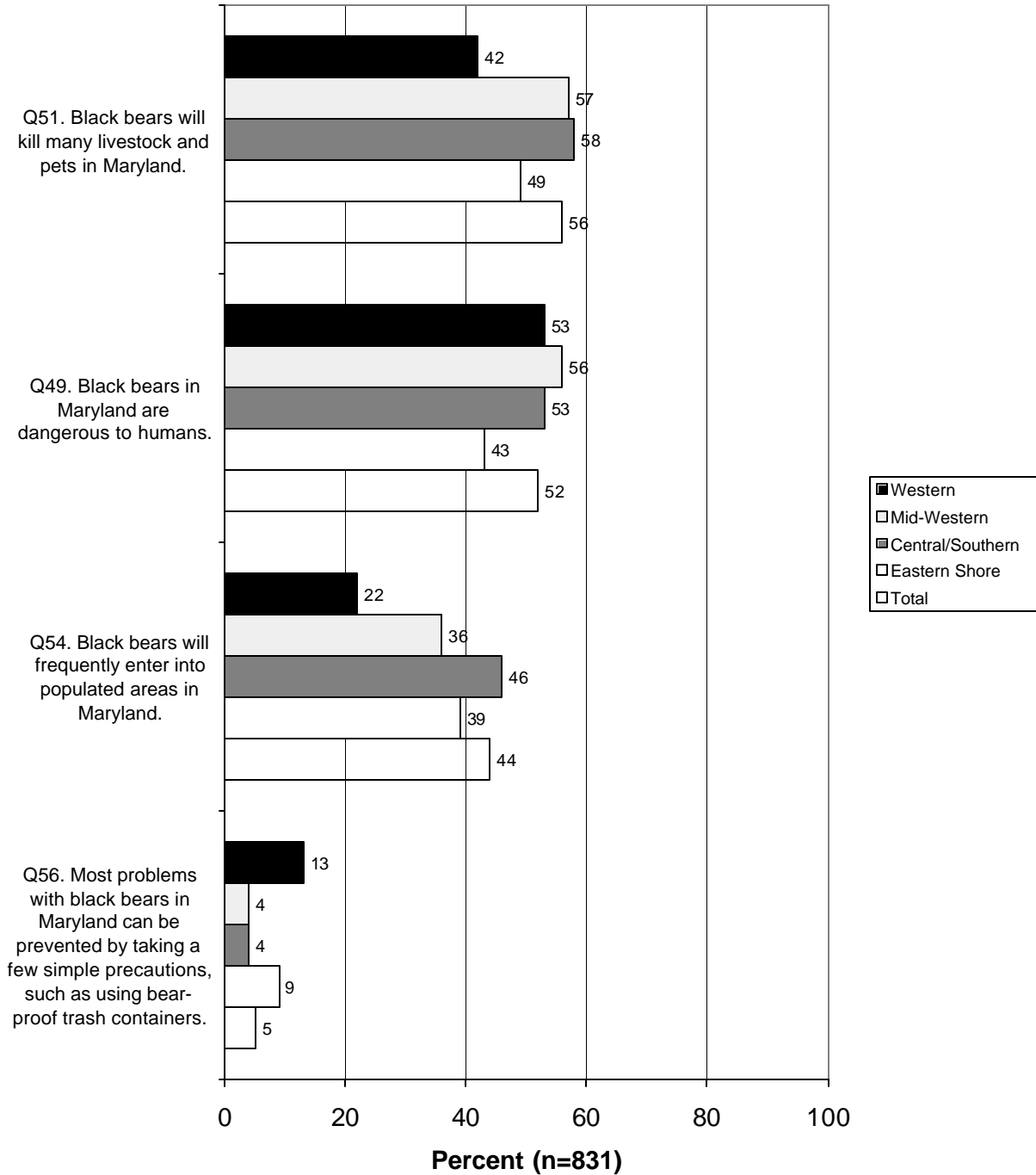
Q49, Q51, Q54, Q56. Percent who strongly or moderately agree with the following statements.



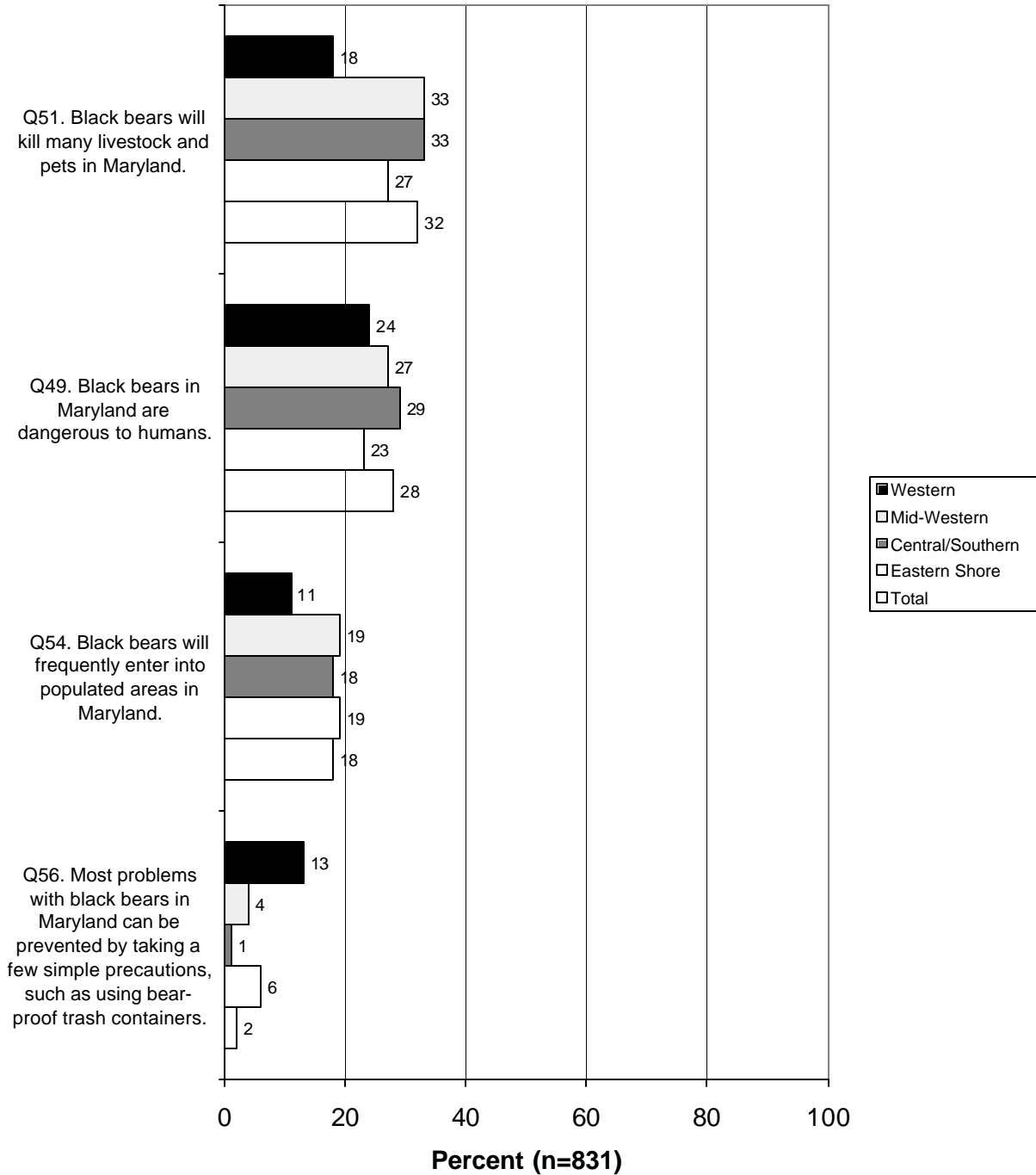
Q49, Q51, Q54, Q56. Percent who strongly agree with the following statements.



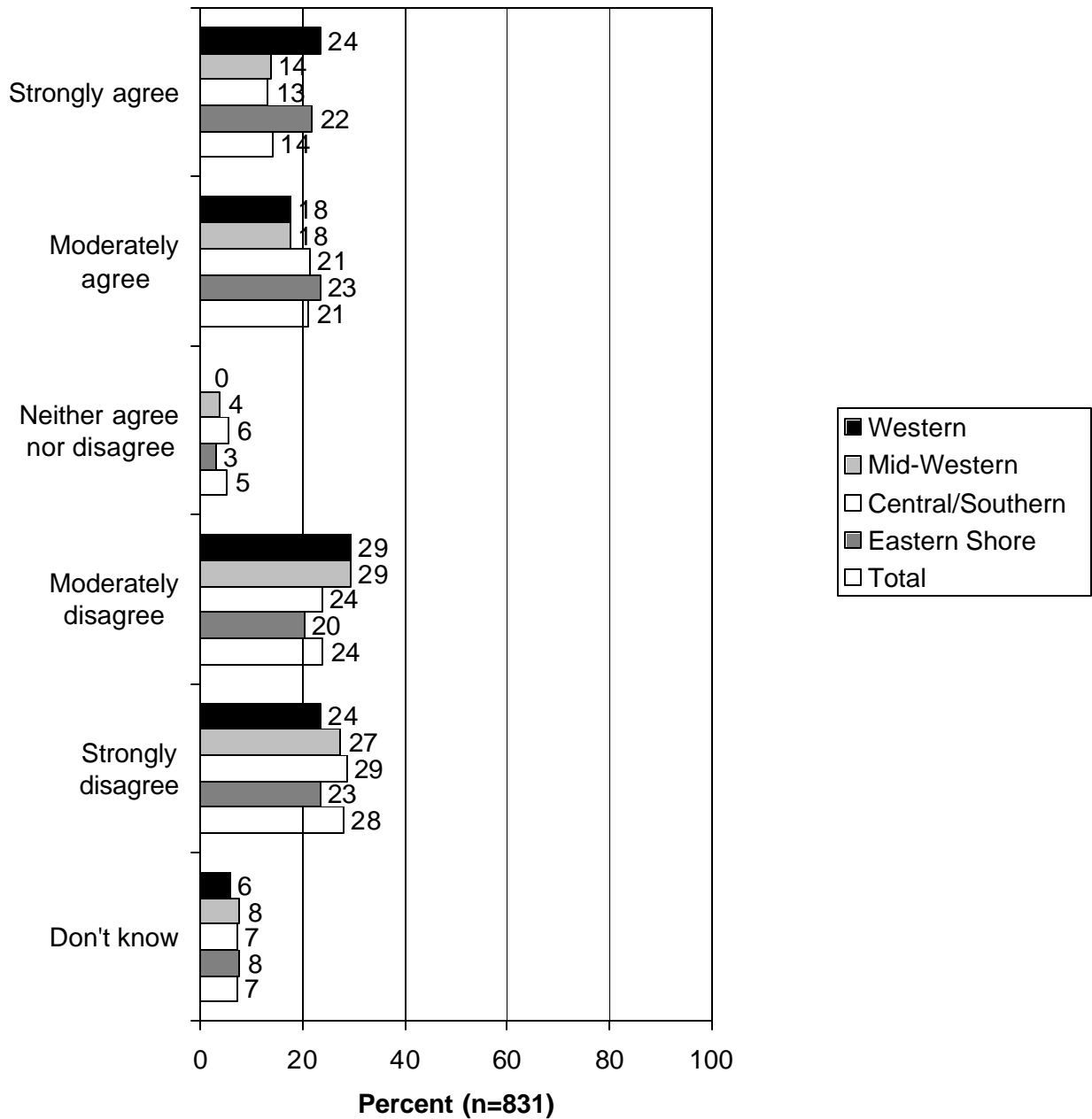
Q49, Q51, Q54, Q56. Percent who strongly or moderately disagree with the following statements.



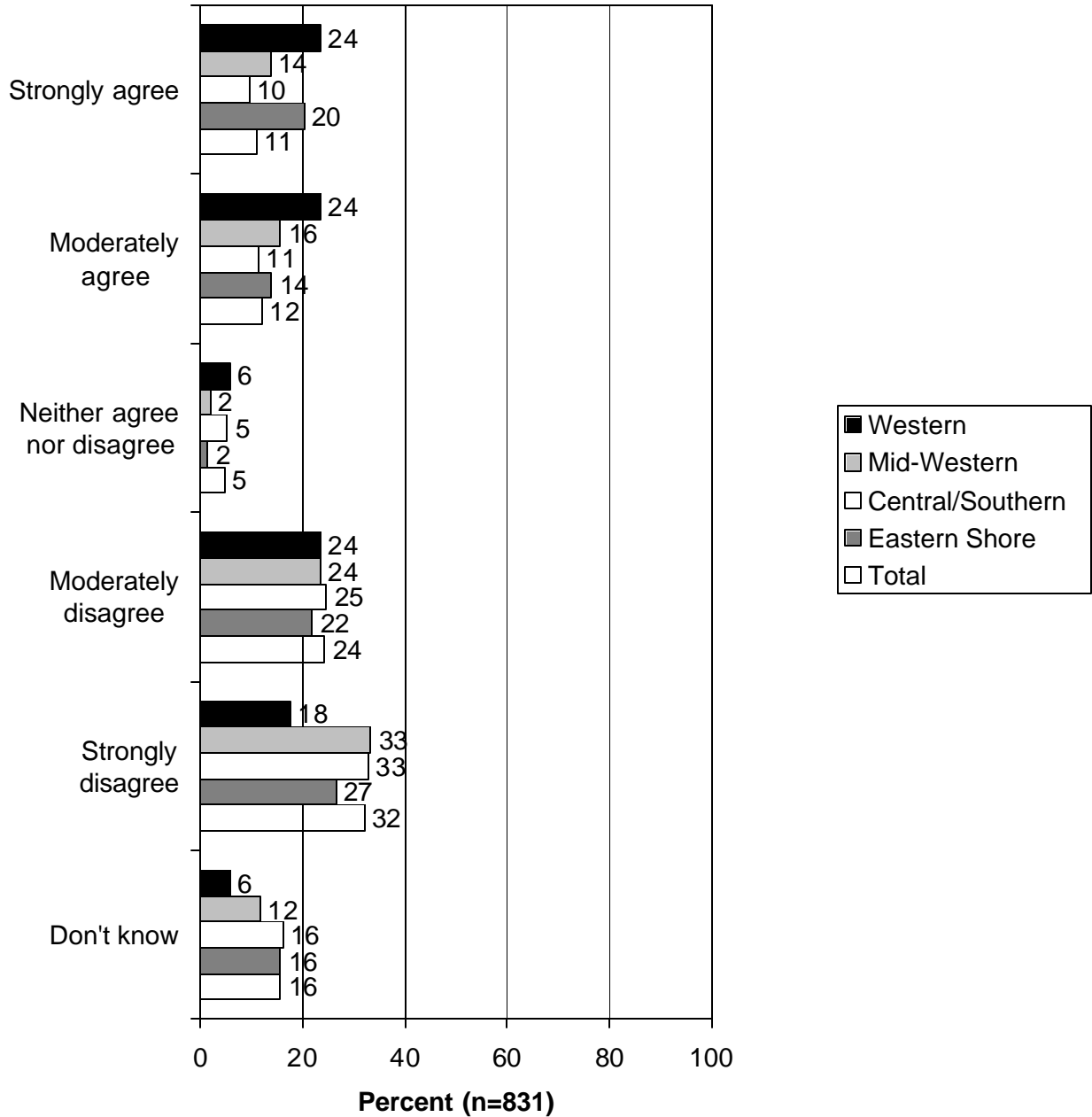
Q49, Q51, Q54, Q56. Percent who strongly disagree with the following statements.



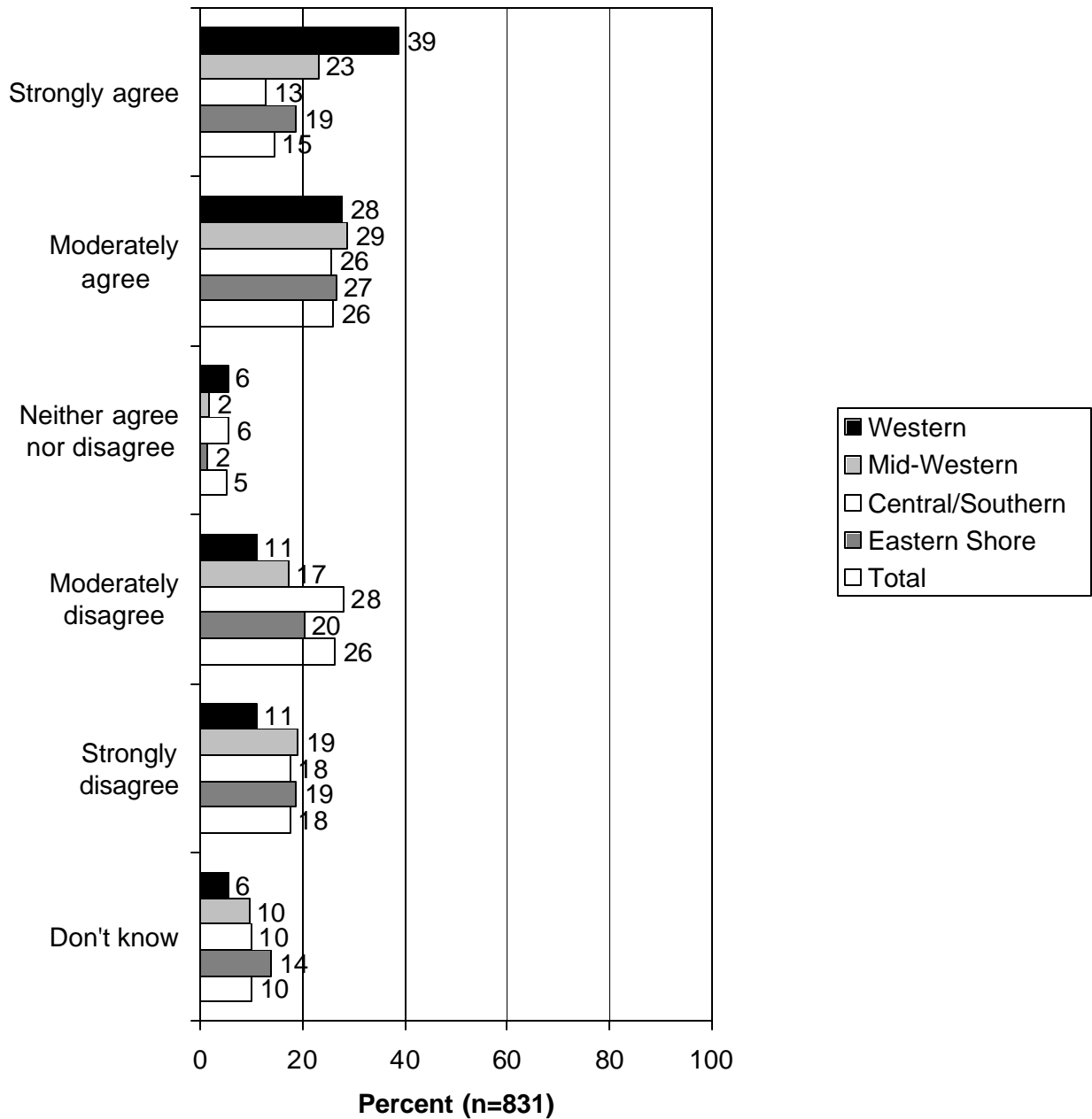
Q49. Black bears in Maryland are dangerous to humans. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?



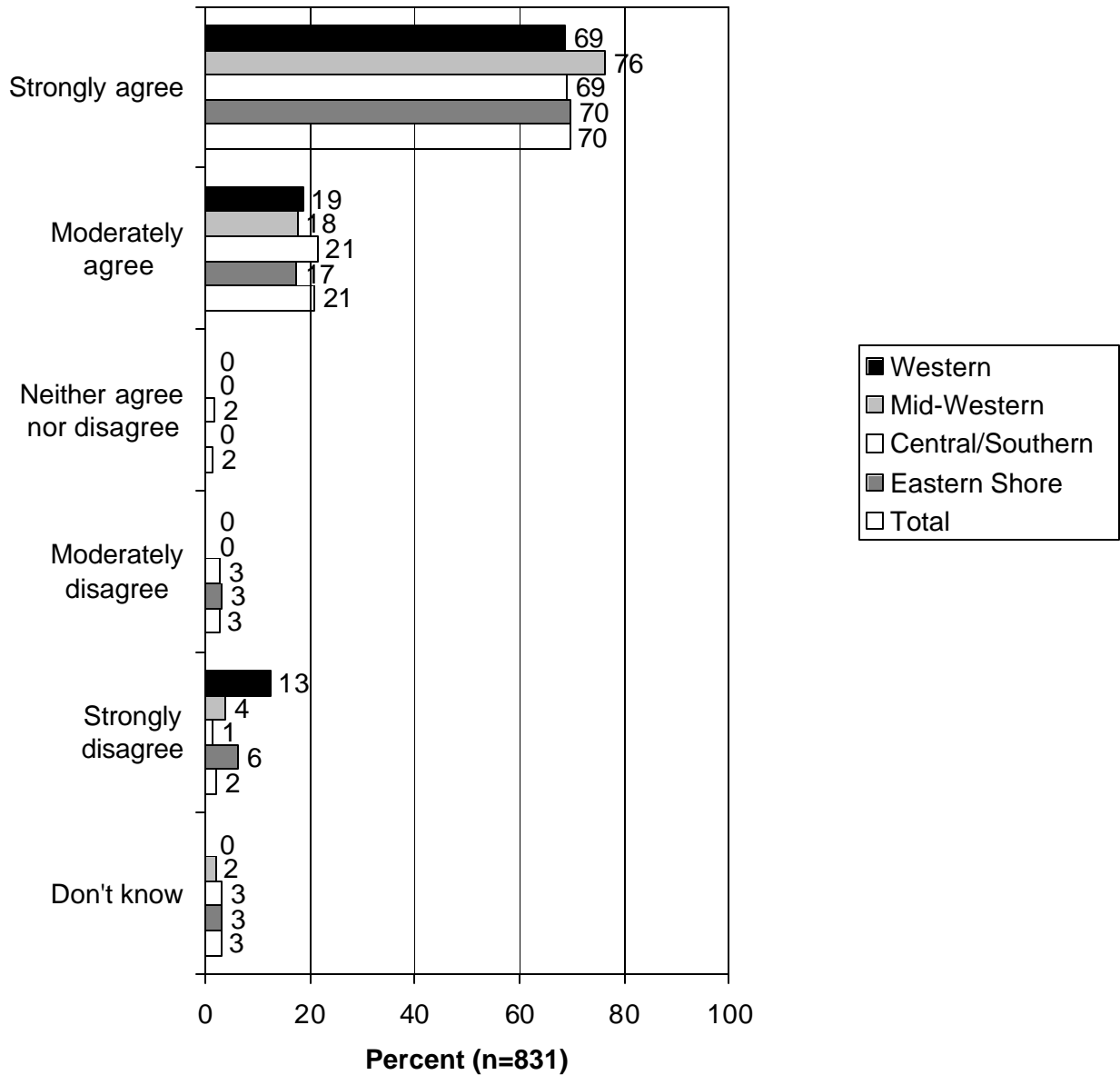
Q51. Black bears will kill many livestock and pets in Maryland. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?



Q54. Black bears will frequently enter into populated areas in Maryland. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?



Q56. Most problems with black bears in Maryland can be prevented by taking a few simple precautions, such as using bear-proof trash containers. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?



PRESERVING BLACK BEARS IN MARYLAND

- Respondents were asked six questions about preserving black bears and their habitat. The statements with which the highest percentage of respondents agree are that preserving habitat on which black bears depend is important (93%), that black bears should be preserved for future generations (93%), and that black bears have an inherent right to live in Maryland (90%). Indeed, majorities agree with all statements except, “There is no need for black bears in Maryland.”

- A majority (77%) of respondents strongly or moderately agree that black bears are an important and essential part of Maryland’s ecosystem; 9% of all respondents moderately or strongly disagree that black bears are an important and essential part of Maryland’s ecosystem.
 - Western Region respondents have markedly more disagreement, with 22% in moderate or strong disagreement that black bears are an important part of Maryland’s ecosystem.

- A majority (93%) of all respondents strongly or moderately agree that preserving habitat on which black bears depend is important; 4% of all respondents moderately or strongly disagree that preserving habitat on which black bears depend is important.
 - Western Region respondents are slightly more likely to disagree: 12% strongly or moderately disagree that preserving habitat on which black bears depend is important.

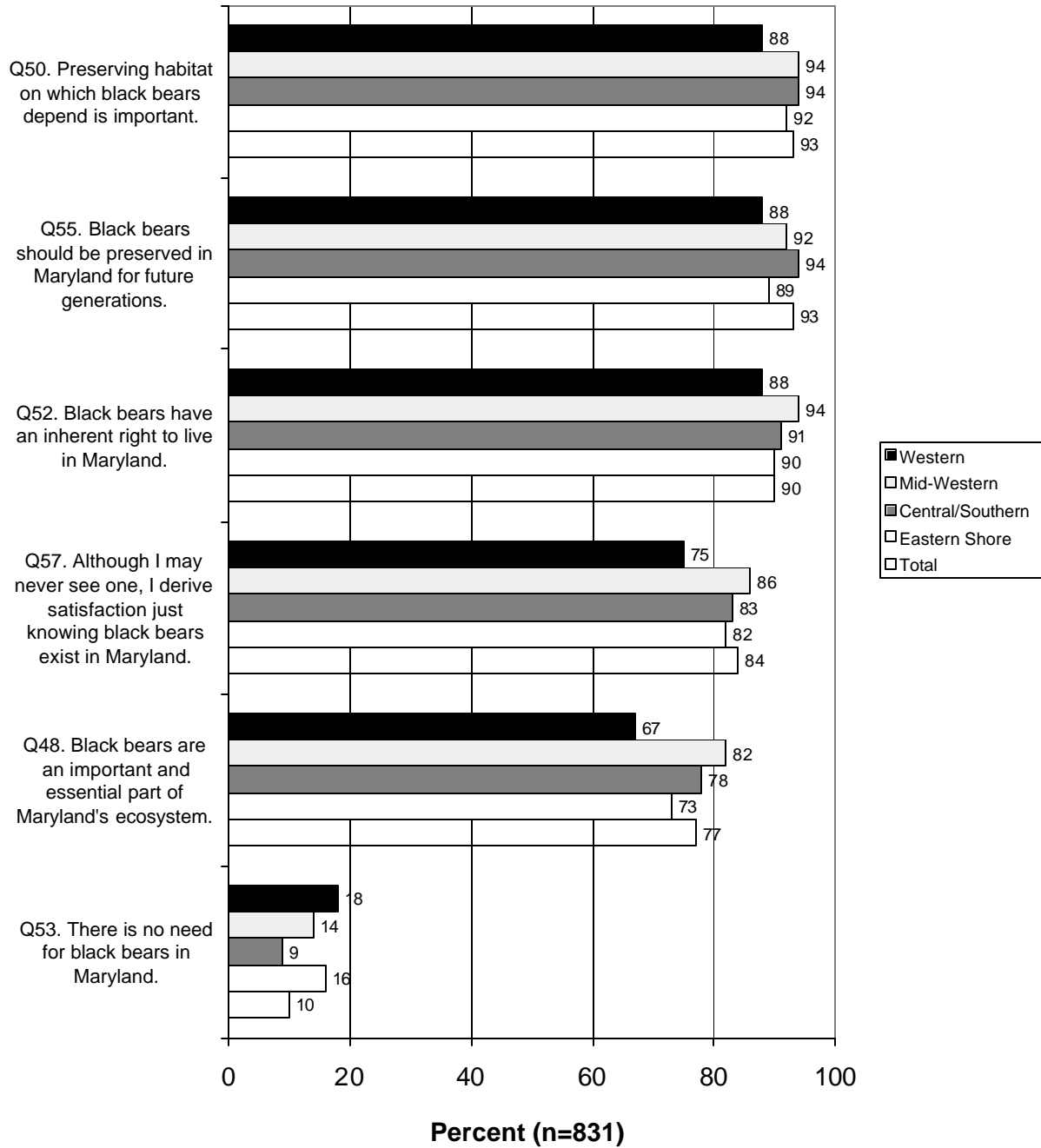
- A majority (90%) of all respondents strongly or moderately agree that black bears have an inherent right to live in Maryland; 5% of all respondents moderately or strongly disagree that black bears have an inherent right to live in Maryland.
 - Western Region respondents are slightly more likely to disagree: 12% strongly or moderately disagree that black bears have an inherent right to live in Maryland.

- A majority (82%) of all respondents moderately or strongly disagree that there is no need for black bears in Maryland; 10% of all respondents strongly or moderately agree that there is no need for black bears in Maryland.

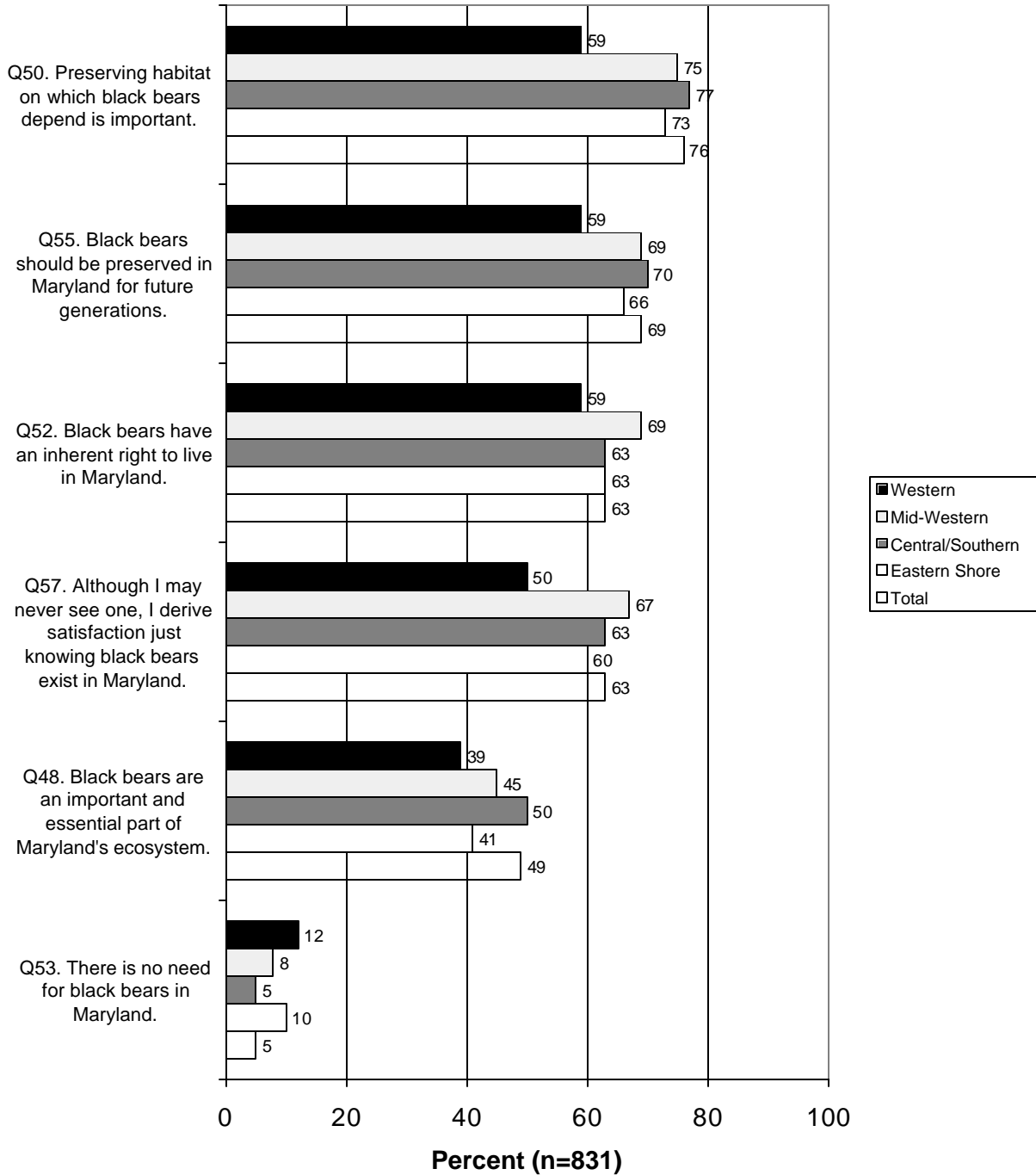
- A majority (93%) of all respondents strongly or moderately agree that black bears should be preserved in Maryland for future generations; 3% of all respondents moderately or strongly disagree that black bears should be preserved in Maryland for future generations.
 - Western Region respondents are more likely to disagree: 12% strongly or moderately disagree that black bears should be preserved in Maryland for future generations.

- A majority (84%) of all respondents strongly or moderately agree that, although they may never see one, they derive satisfaction just knowing black bears exist in Maryland.
 - Western Region respondents are more likely to disagree: 19% strongly or moderately disagree that they derive satisfaction just knowing black bears exist in Maryland.

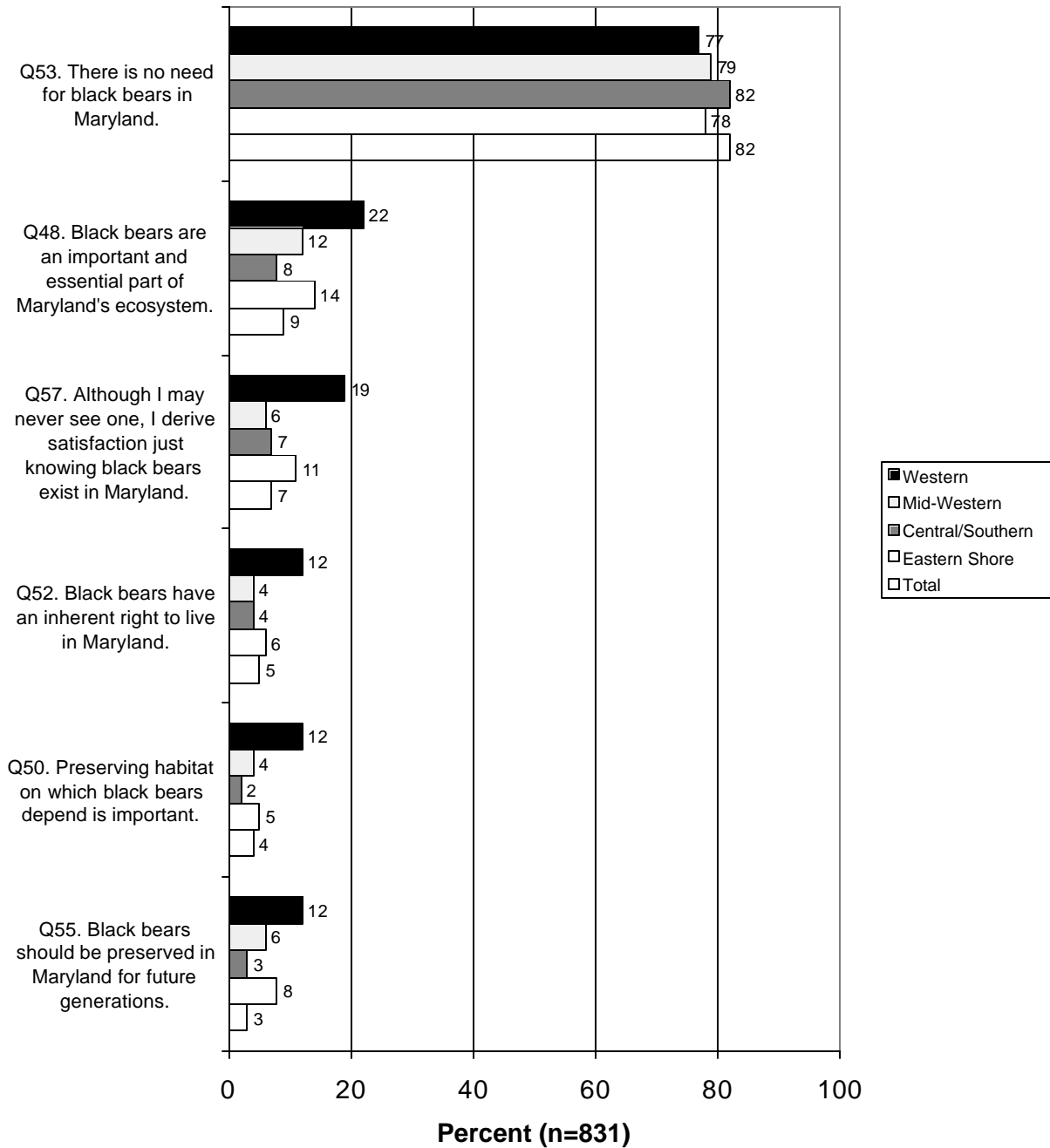
Q48, Q50, Q52, Q53, Q55, Q57. Percent who strongly or moderately agree with the following statements.



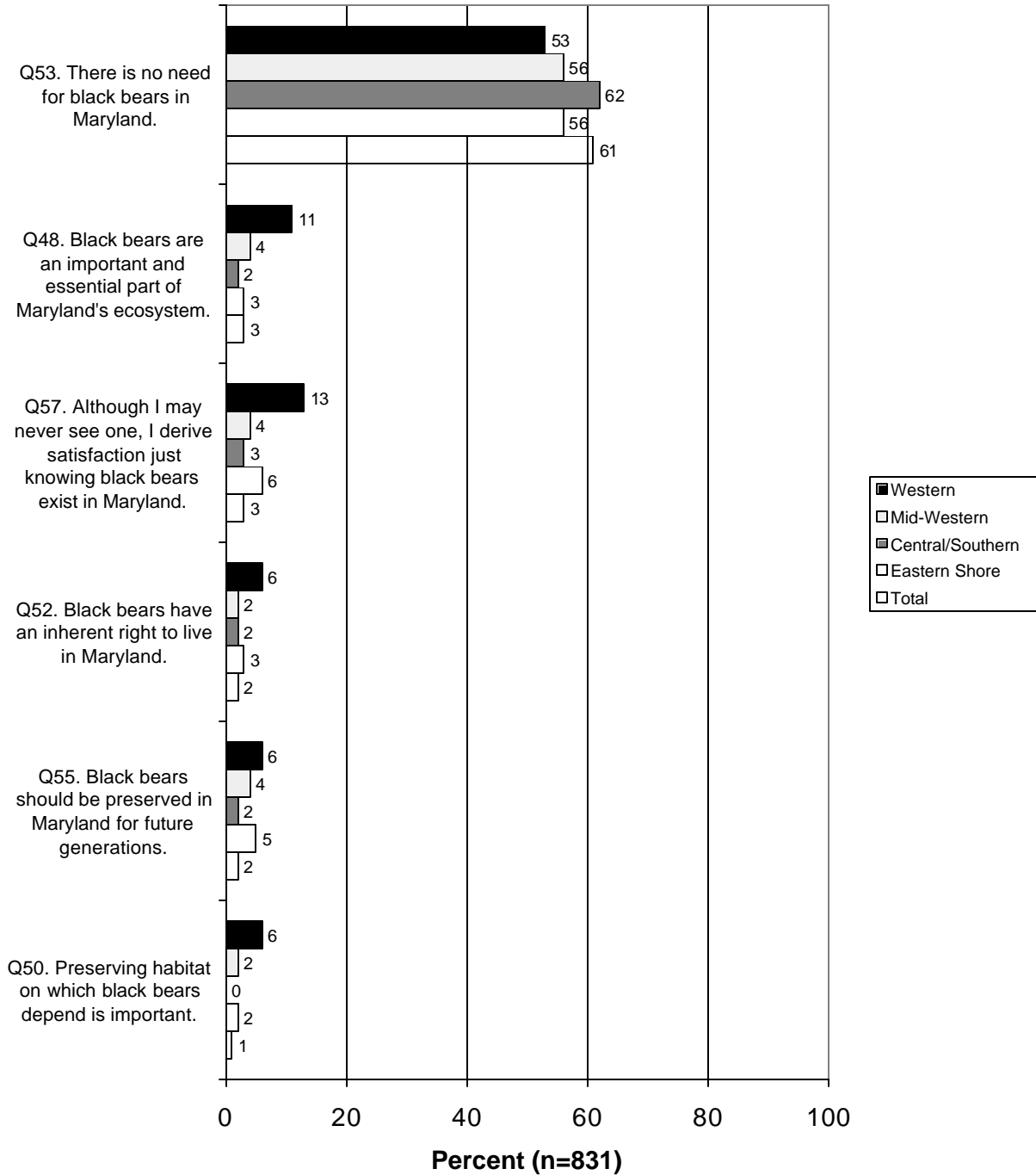
Q48, Q50, Q52, Q53, Q55, Q57. Percent who strongly agree with the following statements.



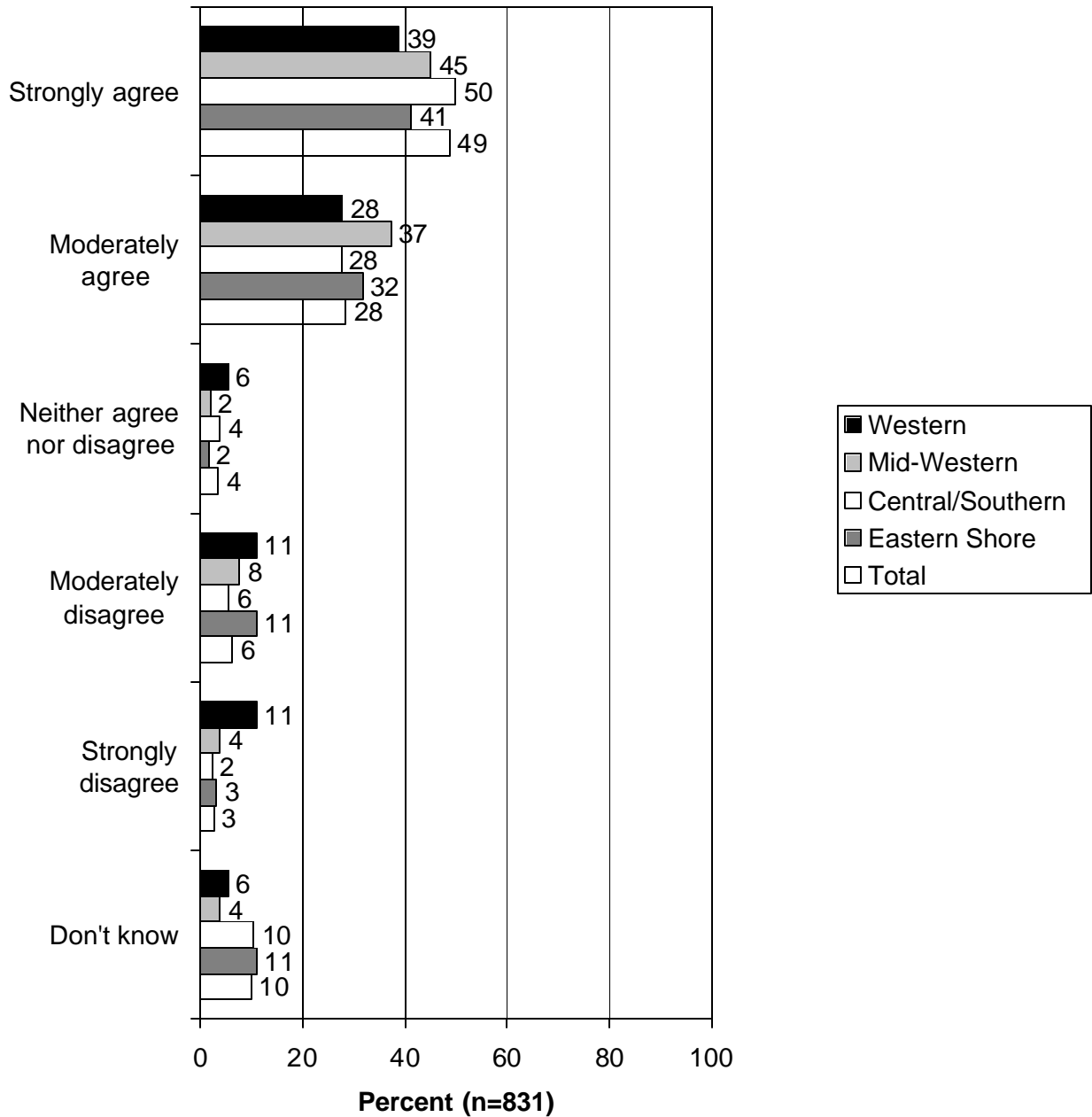
Q48, Q50, Q52, Q53, Q55, Q57. Percent who strongly or moderately disagree with the following statements.



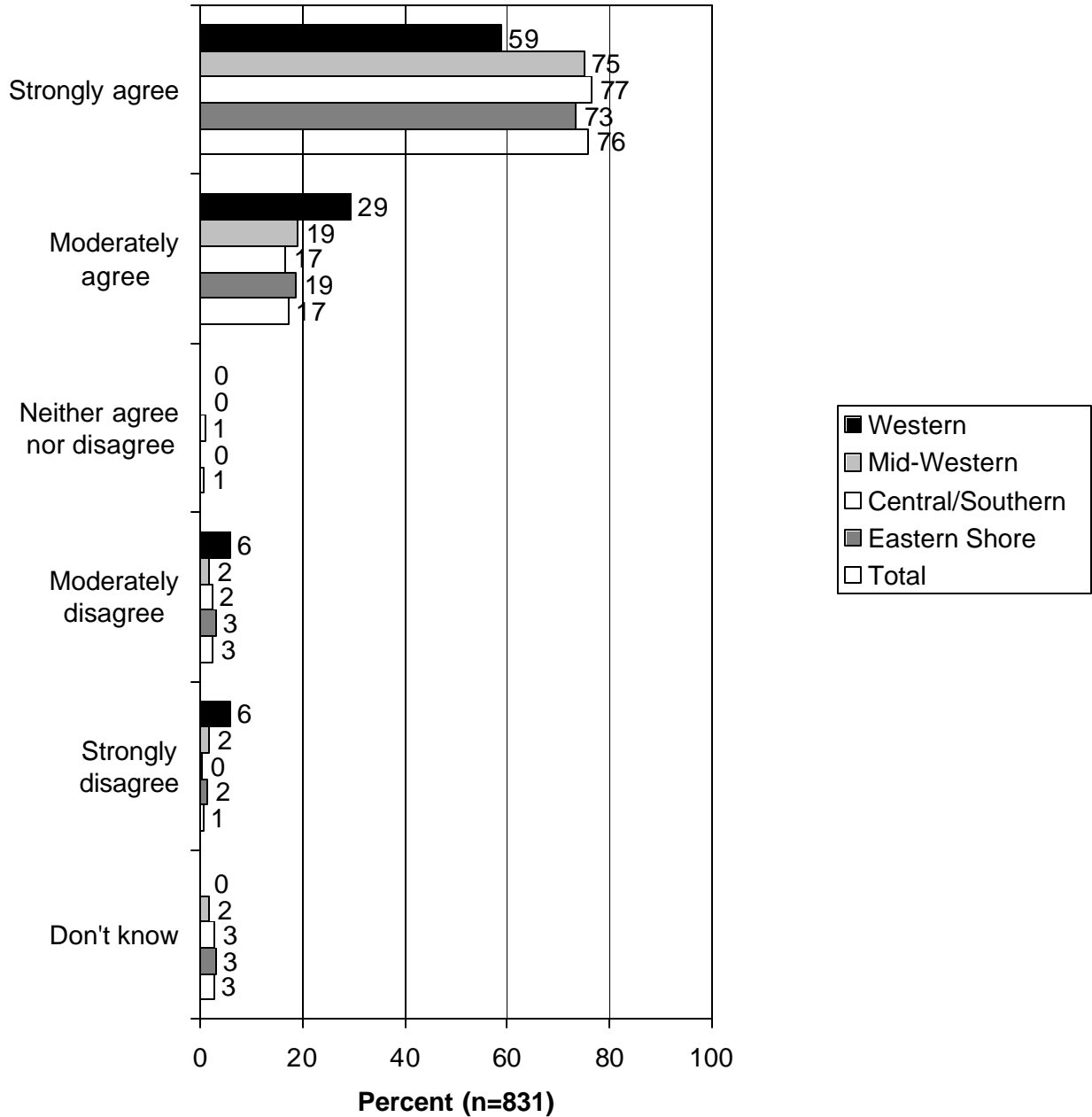
Q48, Q50, Q52, Q53, Q55, Q57. Percent who strongly disagree with the following statements.



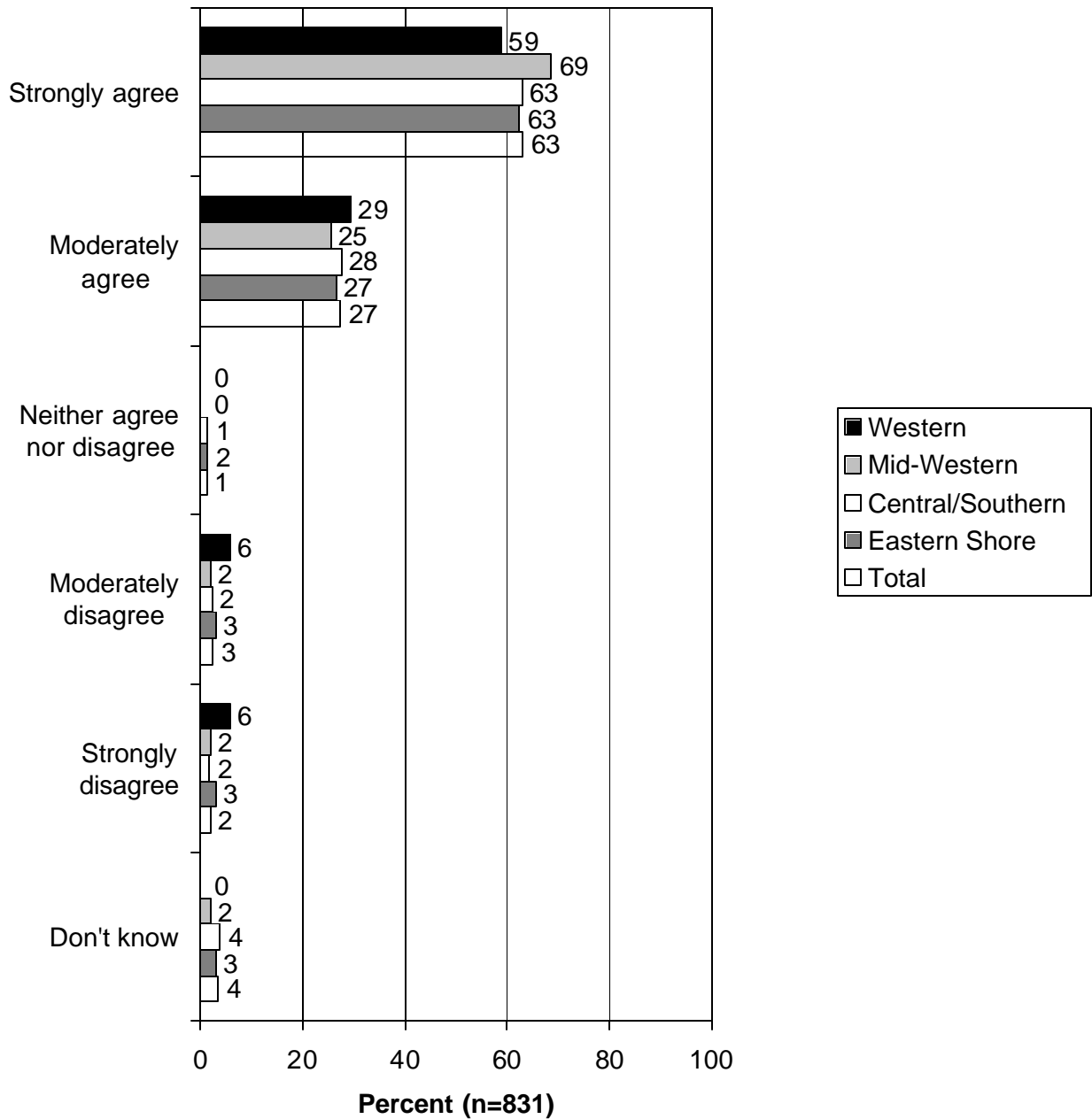
Q48. Black bears are an important and essential part of Maryland's ecosystem. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?



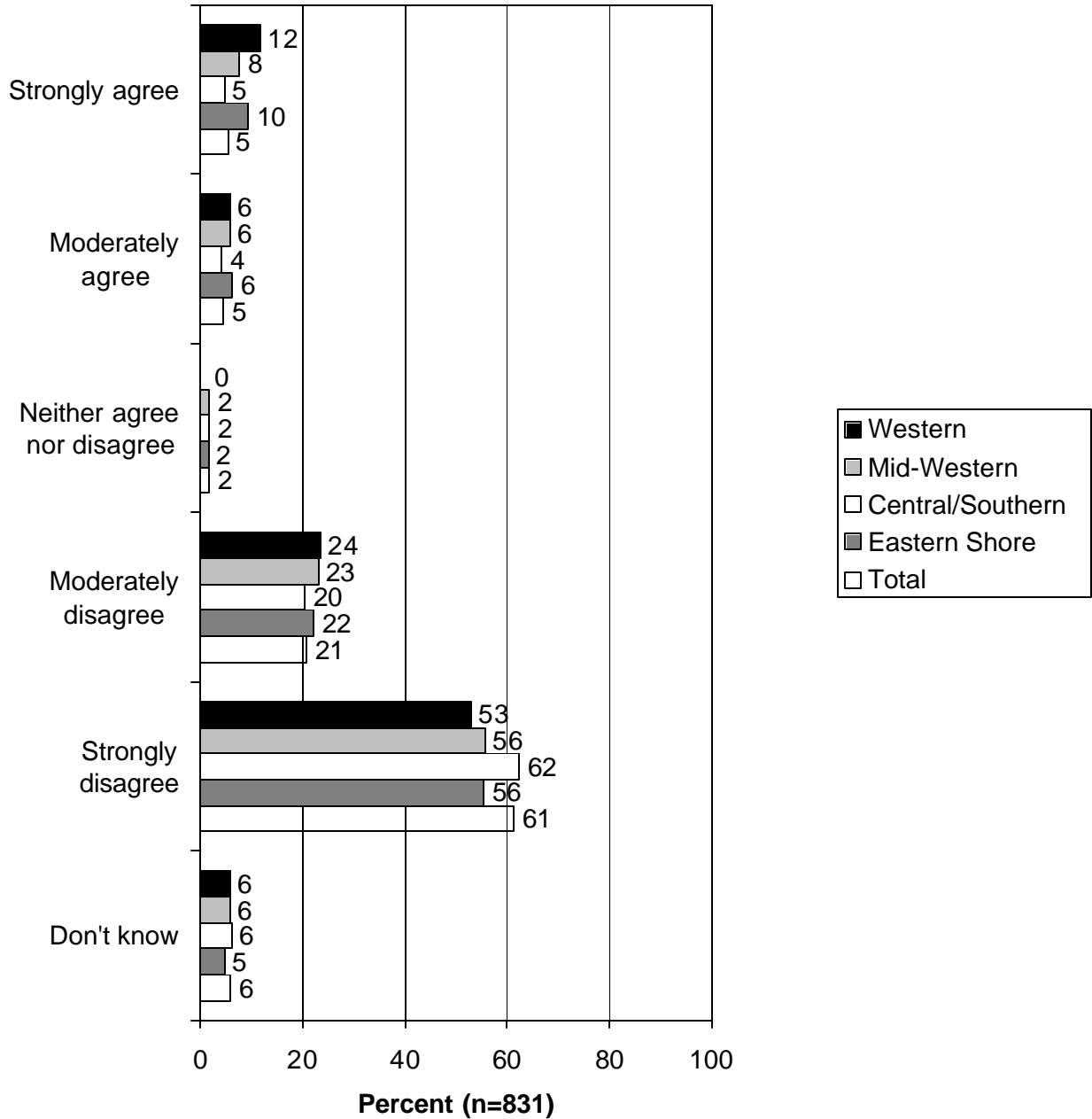
Q50. Preserving habitat on which black bears depend is important. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?



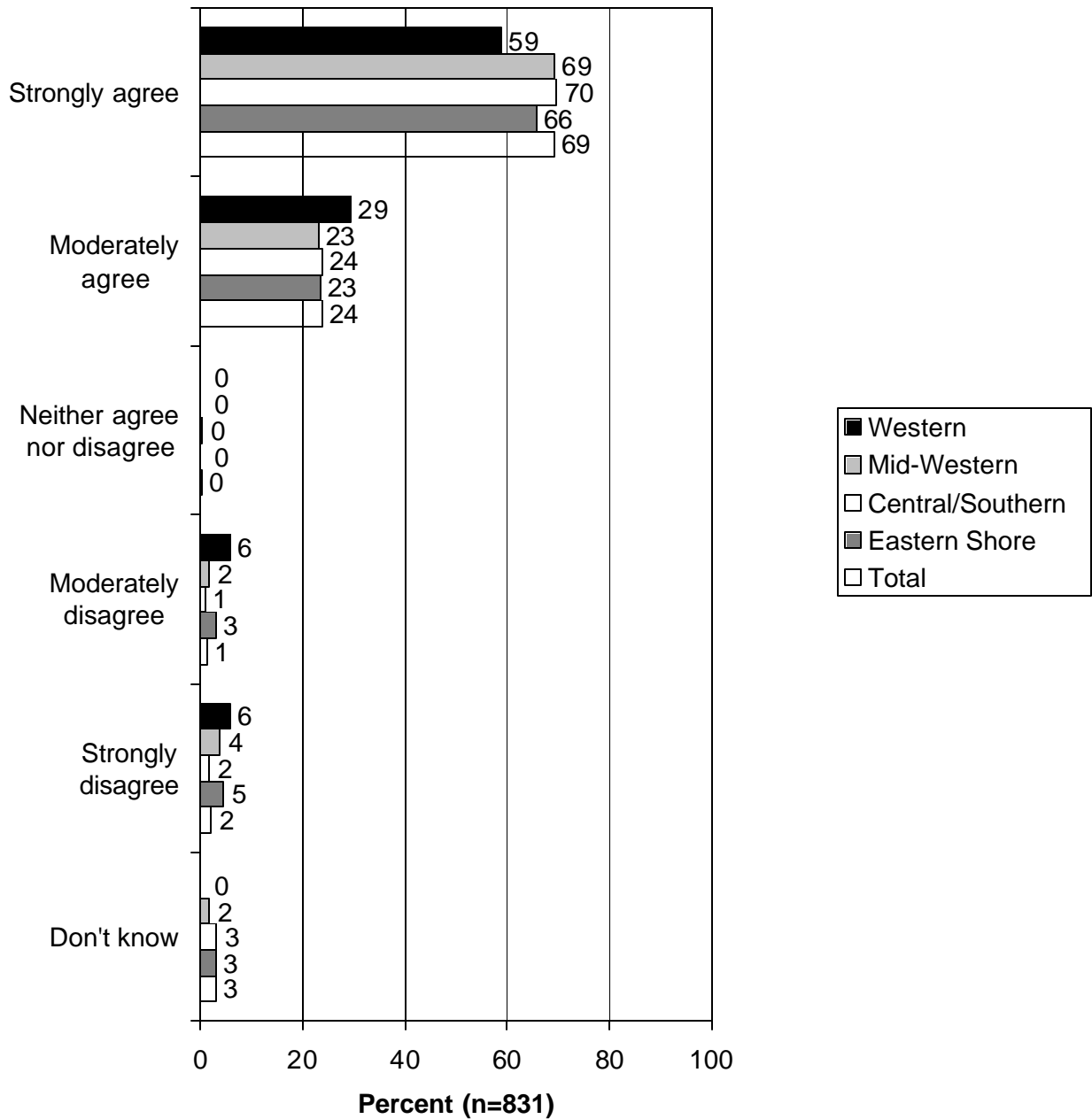
Q52. Black bears have an inherent right to live in Maryland. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?



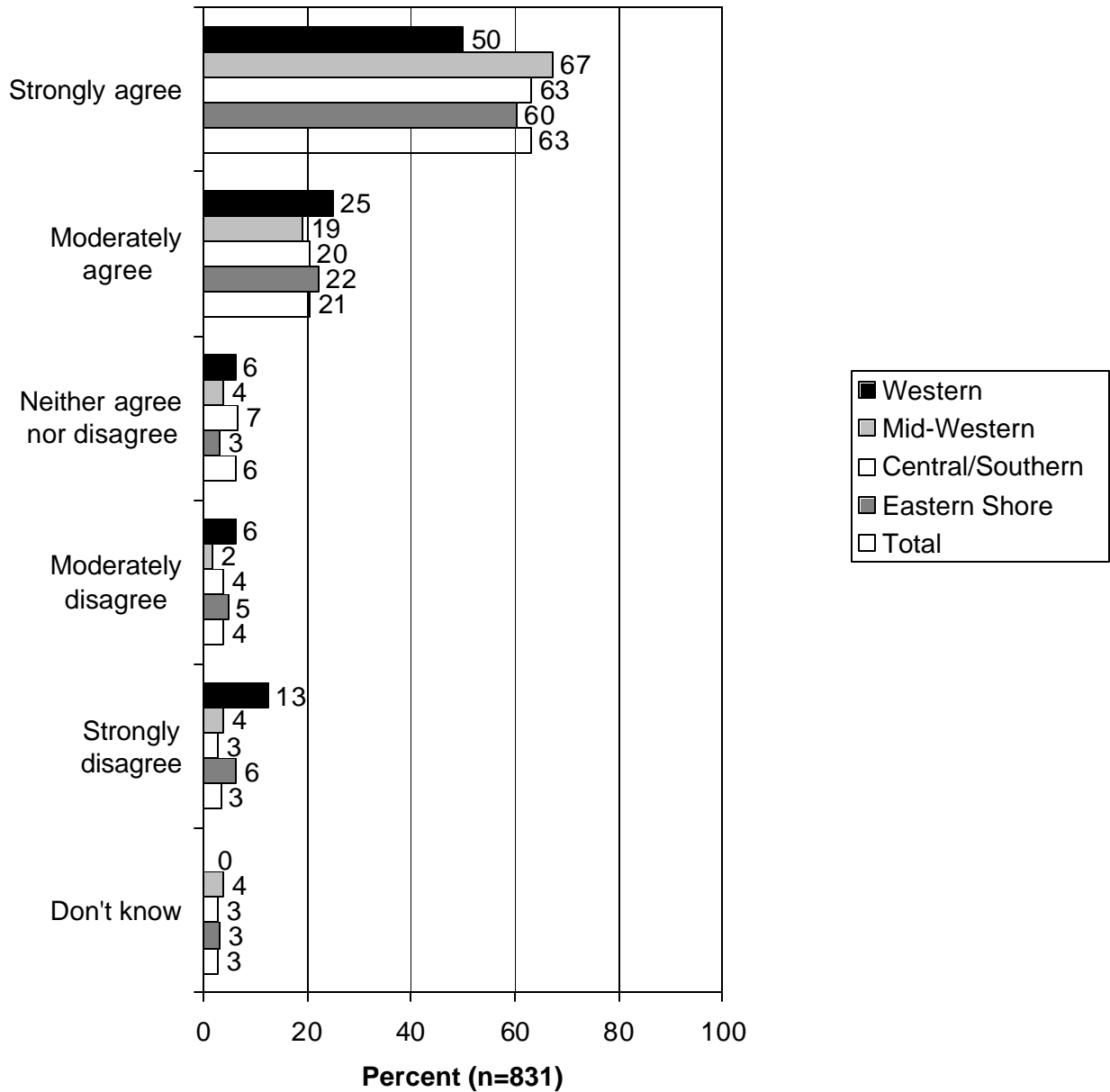
**Q53. There is no need for black bears in Maryland.
Do you agree or disagree with this statement?**



Q55. Black bears should be preserved in Maryland for future generations. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?



Q57. Although I may never see one, I derive satisfaction just knowing black bears exist in Maryland. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?



BLACK BEAR NUISANCE BEHAVIOR IN MARYLAND

STRATEGIES TO AVOID BLACK BEAR NUISANCE BEHAVIOR

- Overall, a slight majority (51%) of all respondents believe the Maryland DNR has done an excellent or good job of managing black bears in Maryland; 15% rate it as fair or poor.
 - Western Region respondents are the most likely (33%) to say the Maryland DNR has done a fair or poor job of managing black bears in Maryland.

- Respondents were asked four questions concerning strategies to avoid problems with black bears in Maryland. The strategy that the highest percentage of respondents support is requiring people visiting or living in black bear habitat to practice good sanitation practices and trash management (92%). There was less support, although still a majority, for the other three strategies: requiring people visiting or living in black bear habitat to use bear-proof trash and food containers (64%), using electronic fencing around small area bear attractants such as beehives and aviaries (64%), and prohibiting people visiting or living in black bear habitat from using birdfeeders or participating in other wildlife feeding activities (54%).

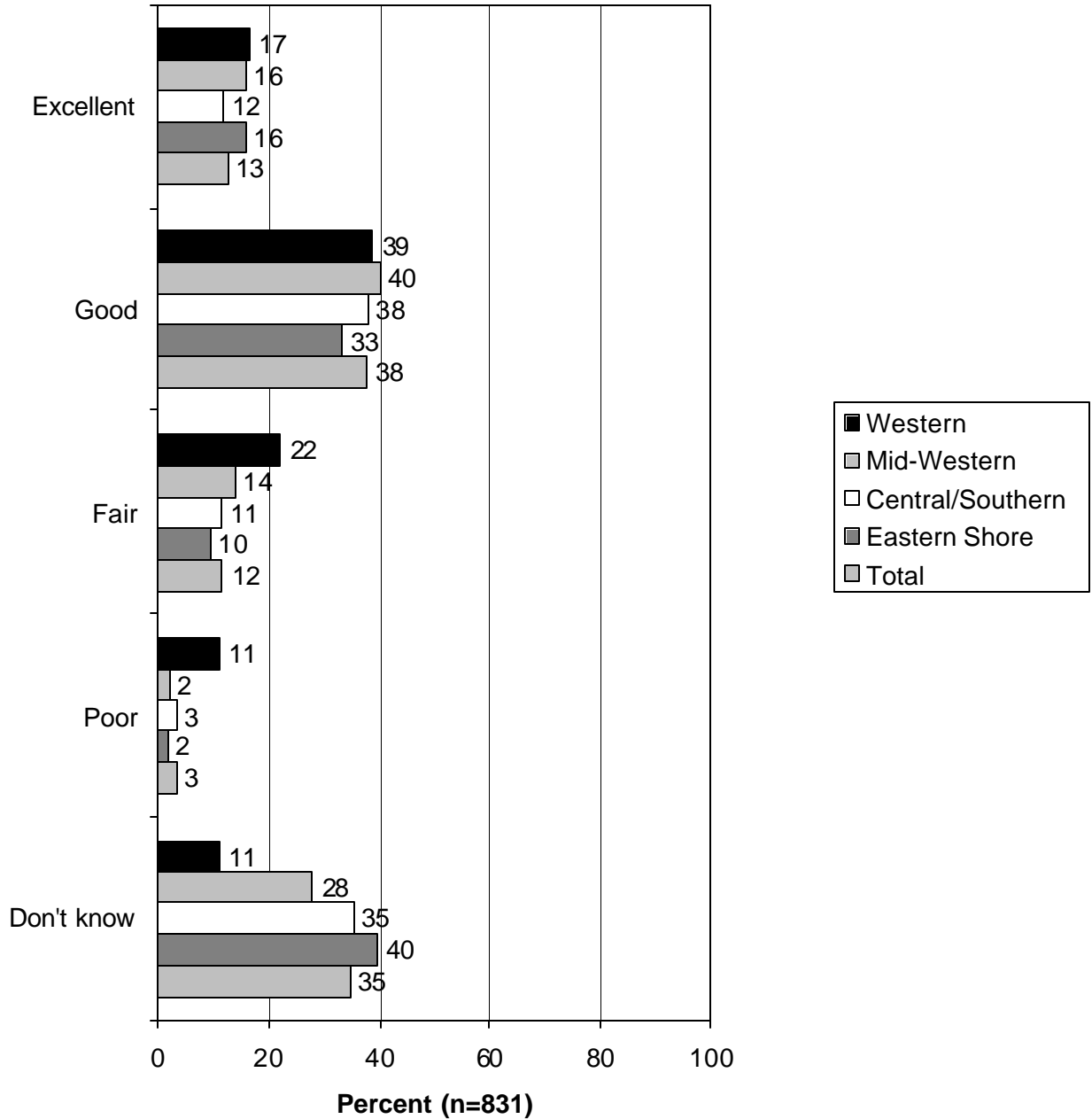
- A majority (92%) of all respondents strongly or moderately support requiring people visiting or living in black bear habitat to practice good sanitation practices and trash management to avoid problems with black bears in Maryland.
 - 4% of all respondents moderately or strongly oppose requiring people visiting or living in black bear habitat to practice good sanitation practices and trash management.

- A majority (54%) of all respondents strongly or moderately support prohibiting people visiting or living in black bear habitat from using birdfeeders or participating in other wildlife feeding activities to avoid problems with black bears in Maryland; however, a substantial percentage (37%) moderately or strongly oppose prohibiting people visiting or living in black bear habitat from using birdfeeders or participating in other wildlife feeding activities.
 - Support was lowest among Western Region respondents (42%).

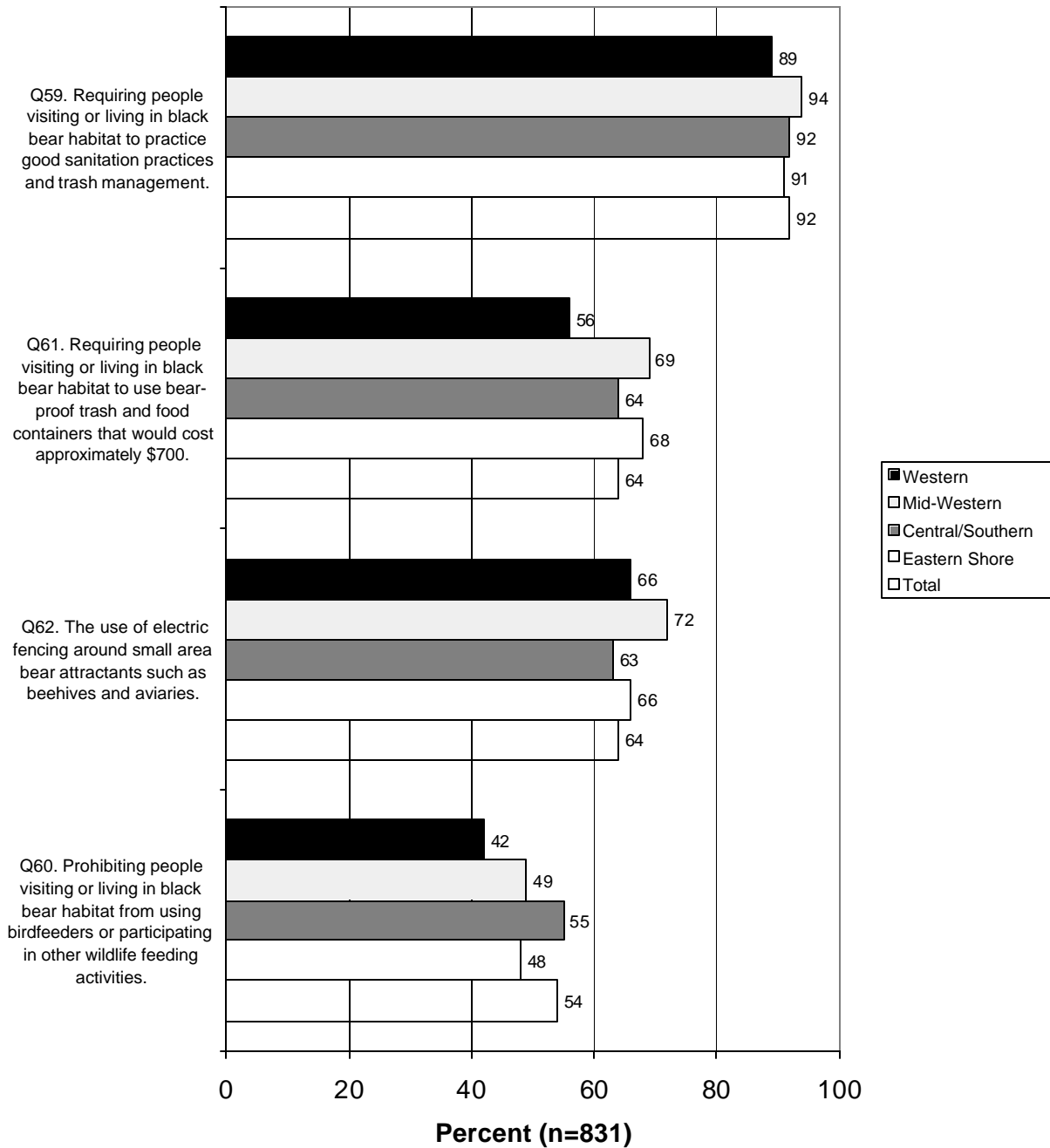
- A majority (64%) of all respondents strongly or moderately support requiring people visiting or living in black bear habitat to use bear-proof trash and food containers (an approximate \$700 expense) to avoid problems with black bears in Maryland; 28% of all respondents moderately or strongly oppose requiring people visiting or living in black bear habitat to use bear-proof trash and food containers.
 - Western Region respondents were the most likely to oppose (39%).

- A majority (64%) of all respondents strongly or moderately support the use of electronic fencing around small area bear attractants such as beehives and aviaries to avoid problems with black bears in Maryland; 25% of all respondents moderately or strongly oppose the use of electronic fencing around small area bear attractants.

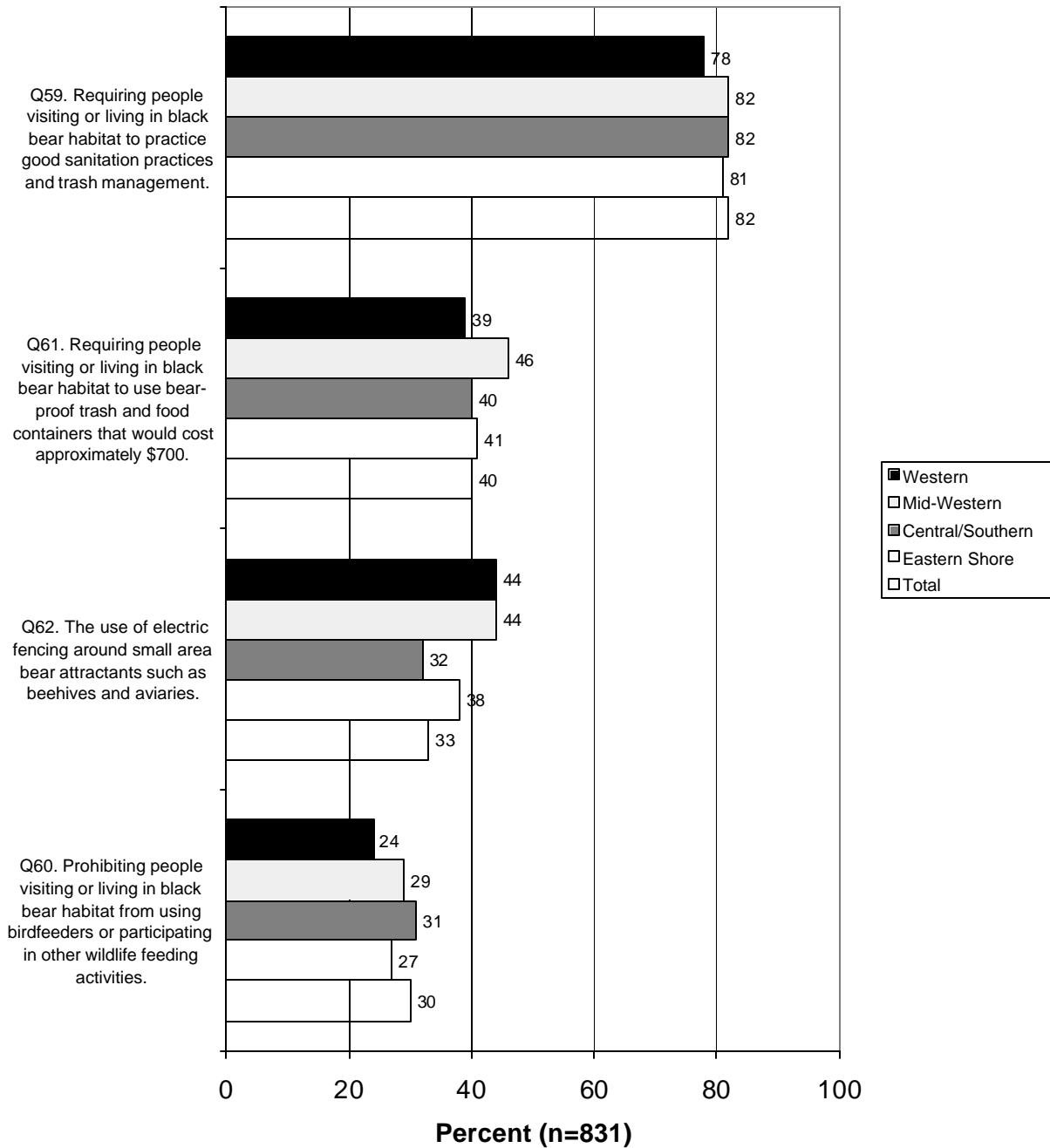
Q41. Overall, do you think the Maryland DNR has done an excellent, good, fair, or poor job of managing black bears in Maryland?



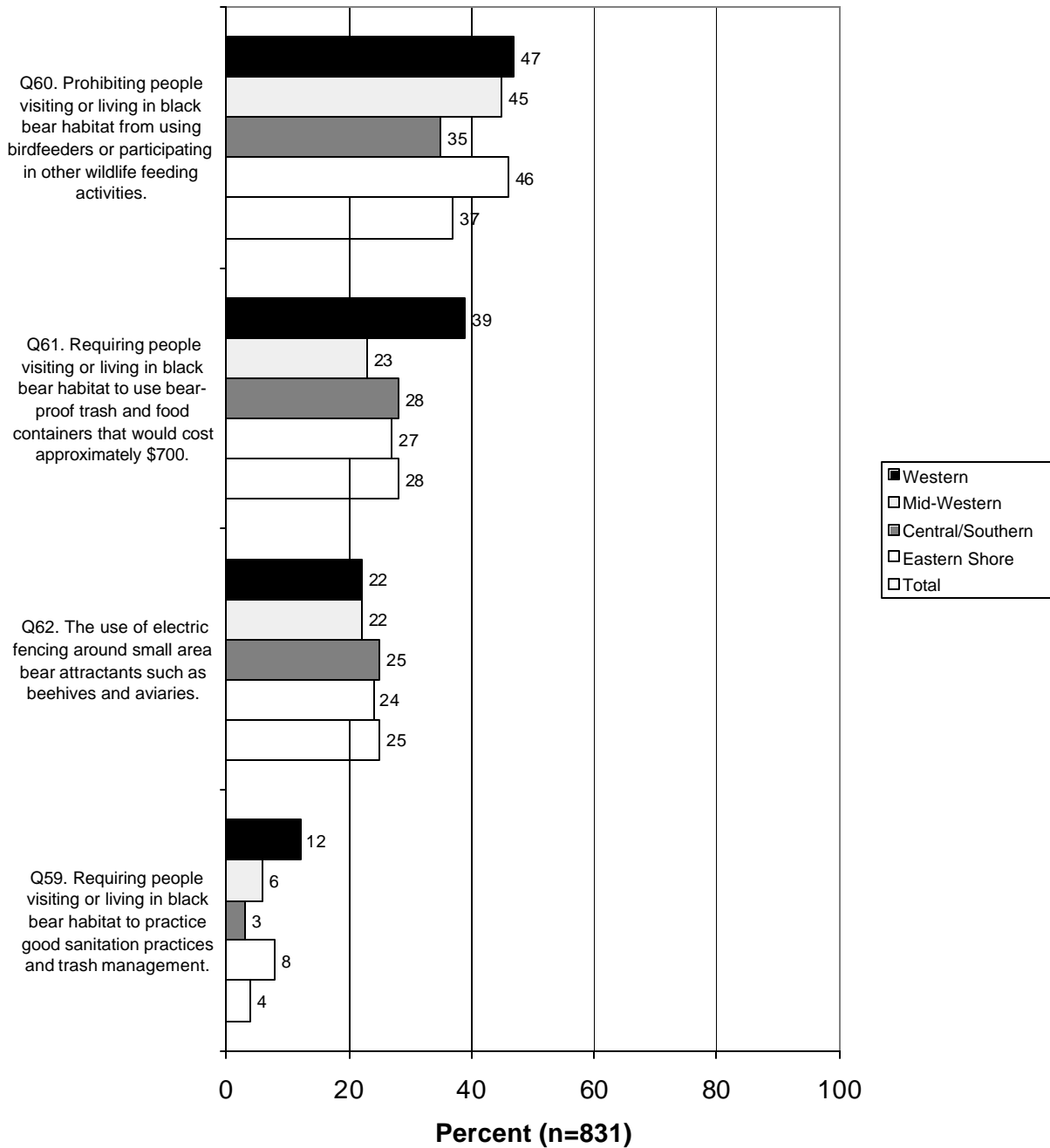
Q59-Q62. Percent who strongly or moderately support the following to avoid problems with black bears in Maryland.



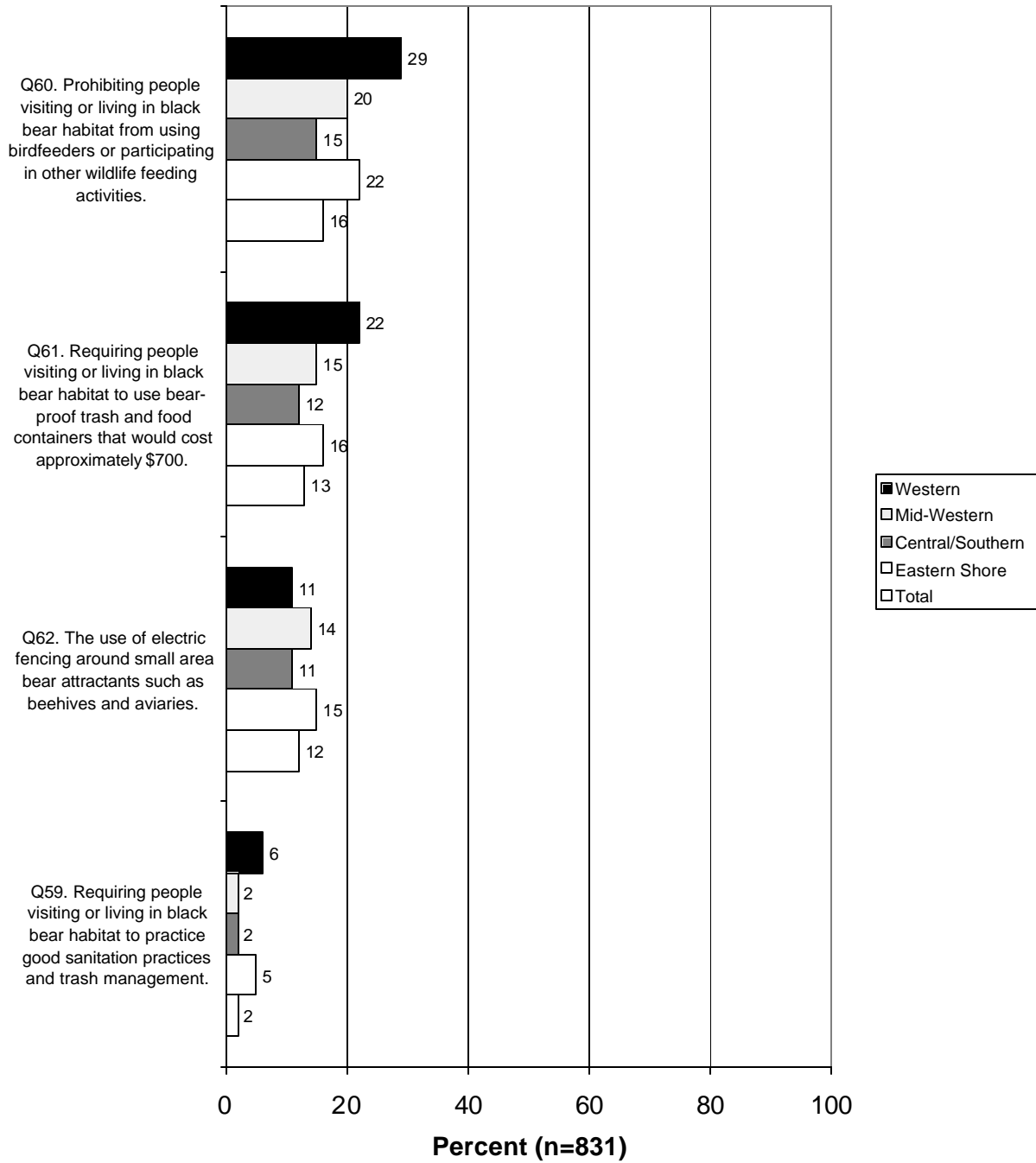
Q59-Q62. Percent who strongly support the following to avoid problems with black bears in Maryland.



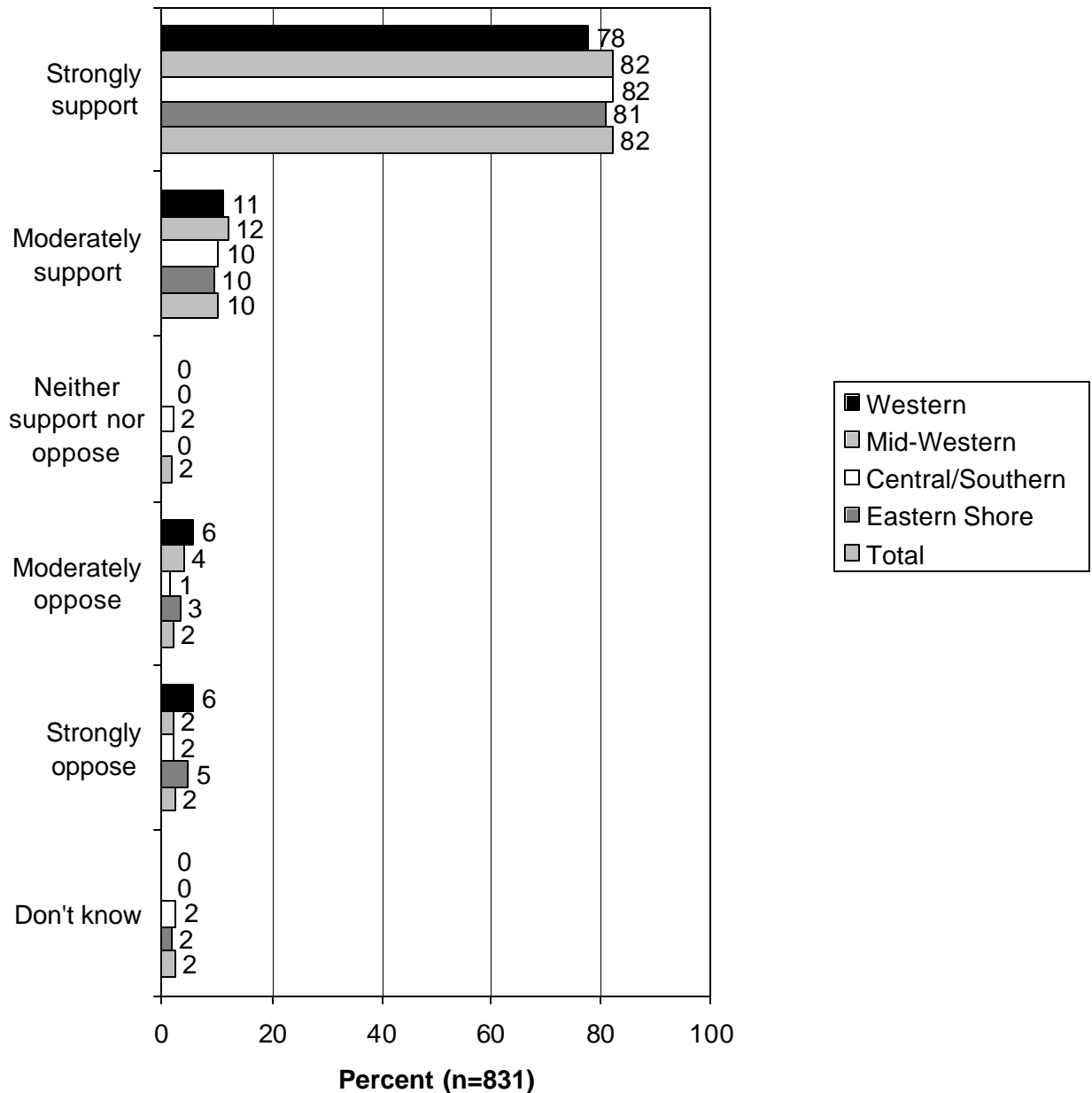
Q59-Q62. Percent who strongly or moderately oppose the following to avoid problems with black bears in Maryland.



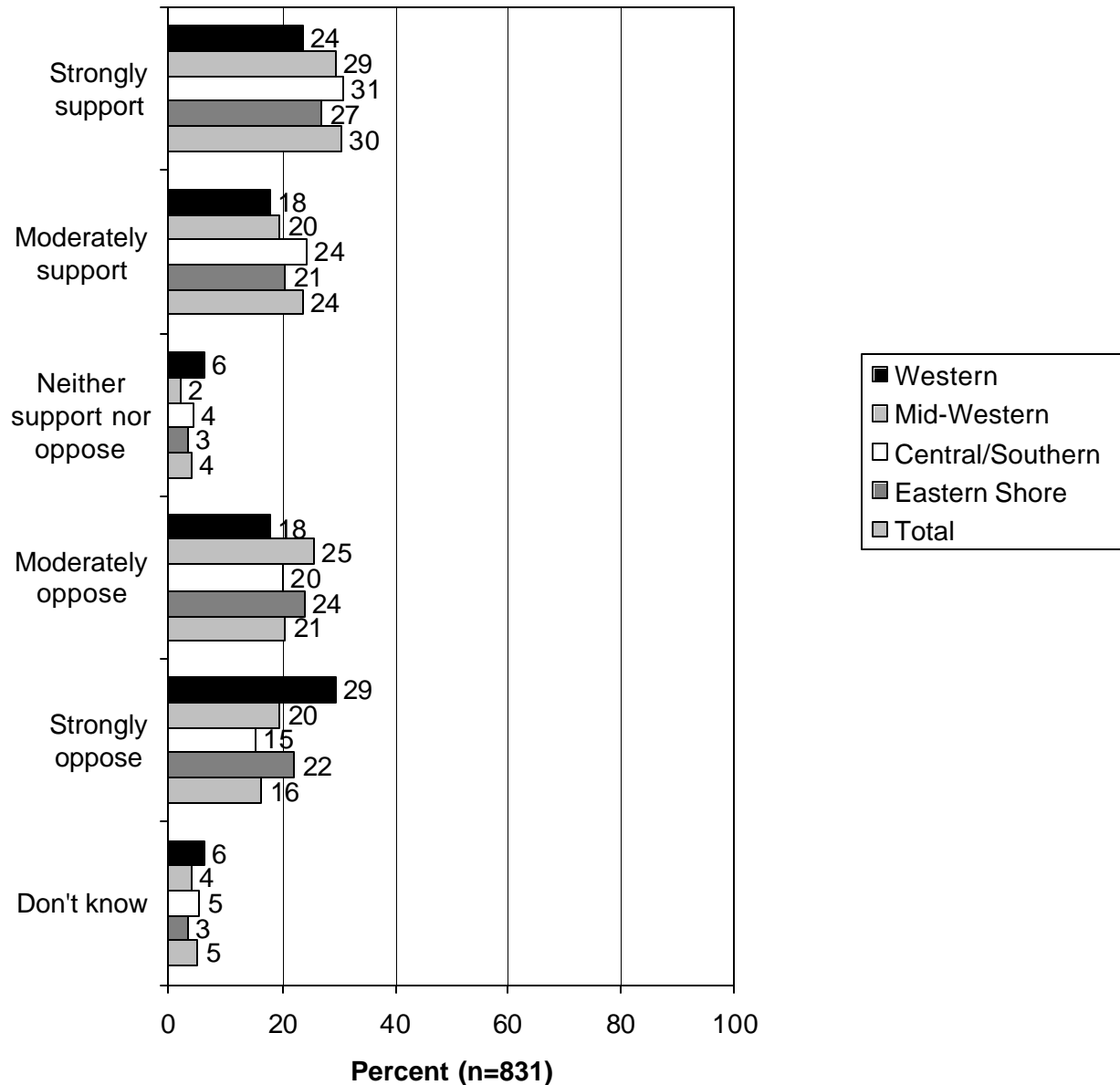
Q59-Q62. Percent who strongly oppose the following to avoid problems with black bears in Maryland.



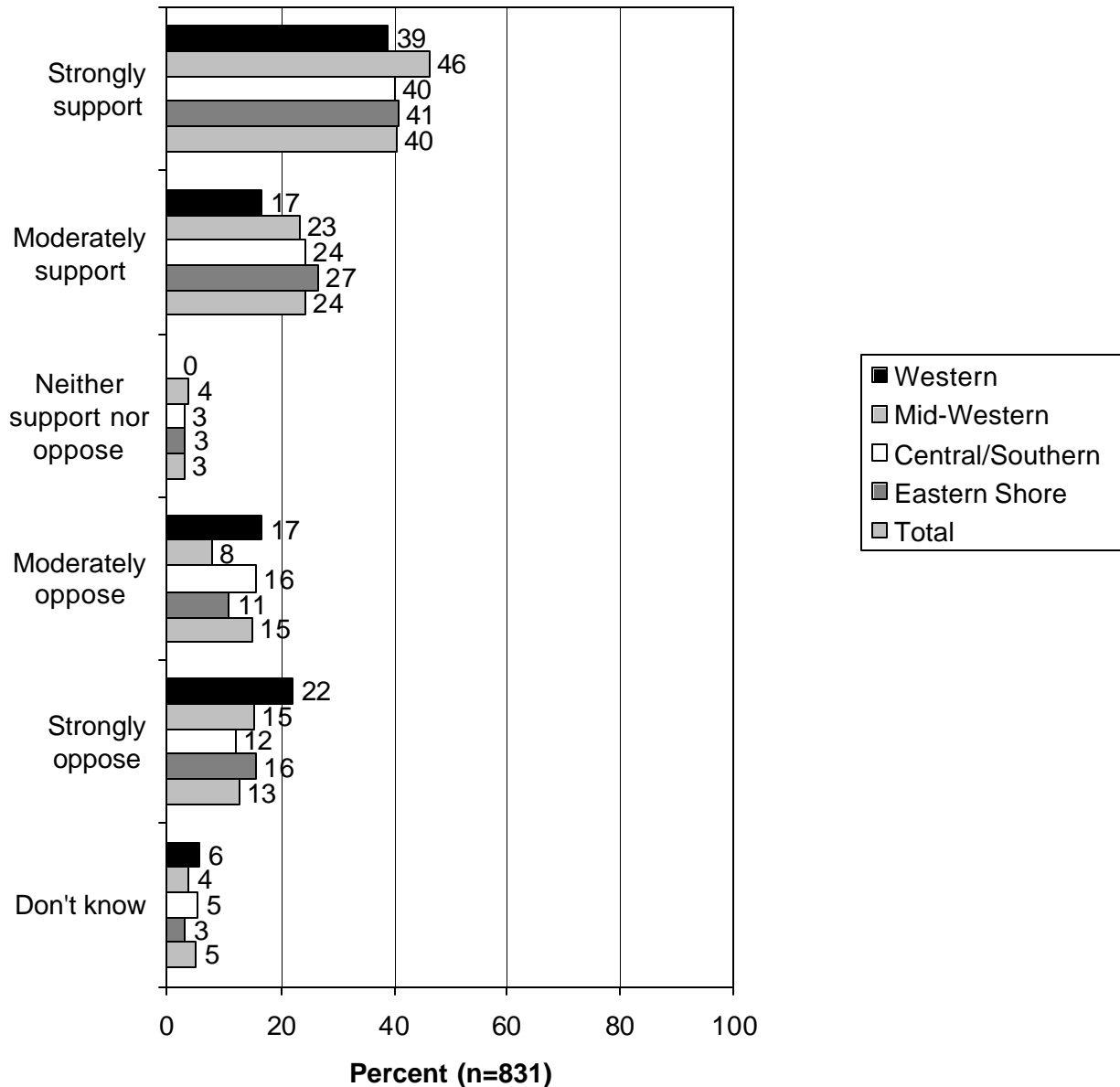
Q59. Would you support or oppose requiring people visiting or living in black bear habitat to practice good sanitation practices and trash management, to avoid problems with black bears in Maryland?



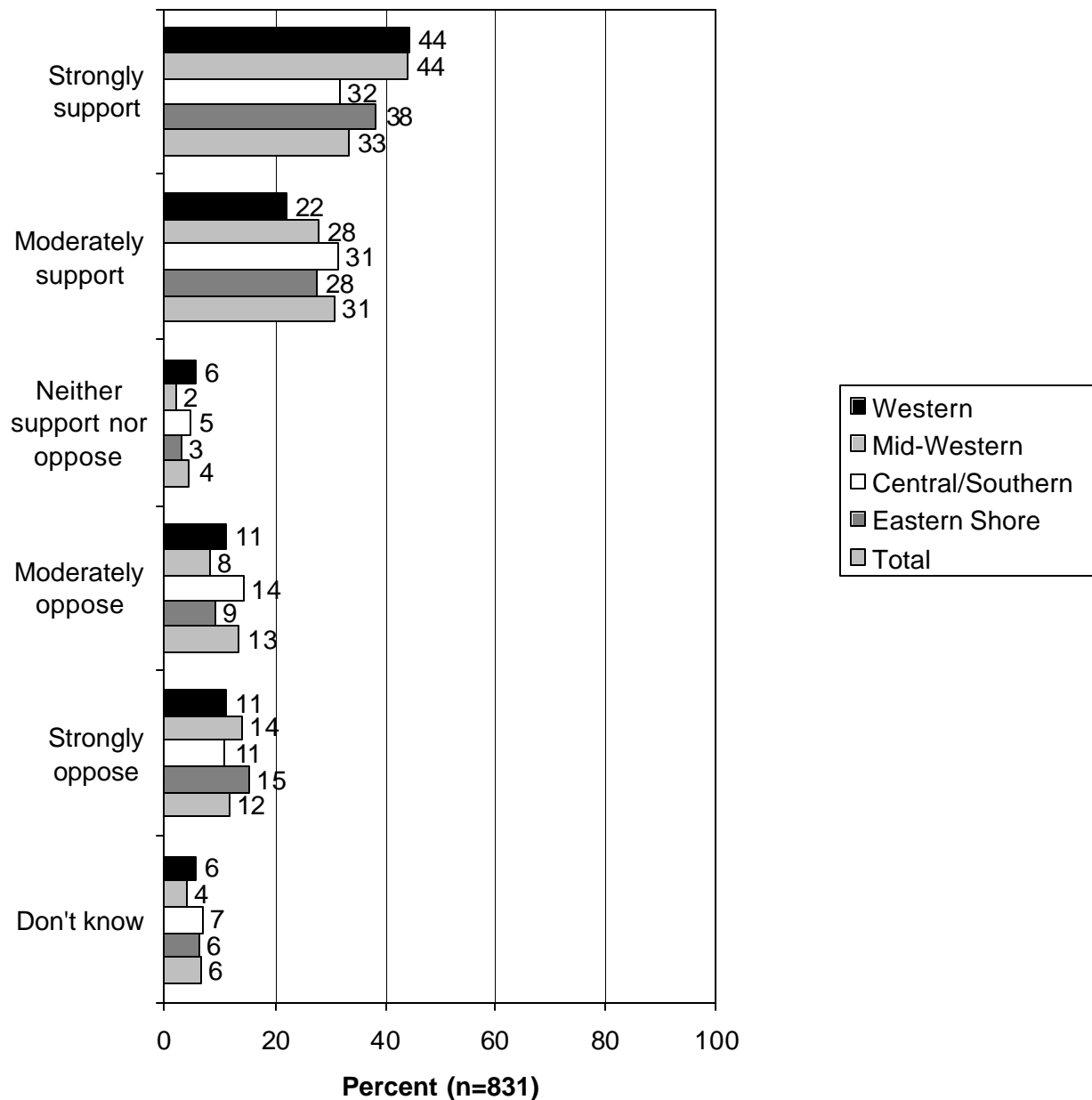
Q60. Would you support or oppose prohibiting people visiting or living in black bear habitat from using birdfeeders or participating in other wildlife feeding activities, to avoid problems with black bears in Maryland?



Q61. Would you support or oppose requiring people visiting or living in black bear habitat to use bear-proof trash and food containers that would cost approximately \$700, to avoid problems with black bears in Maryland?



Q62. Would you support or oppose the use of electric fencing around small area bear attractants such as beehives and aviaries, to avoid problems with black bears in Maryland?



USING REPELLENTS

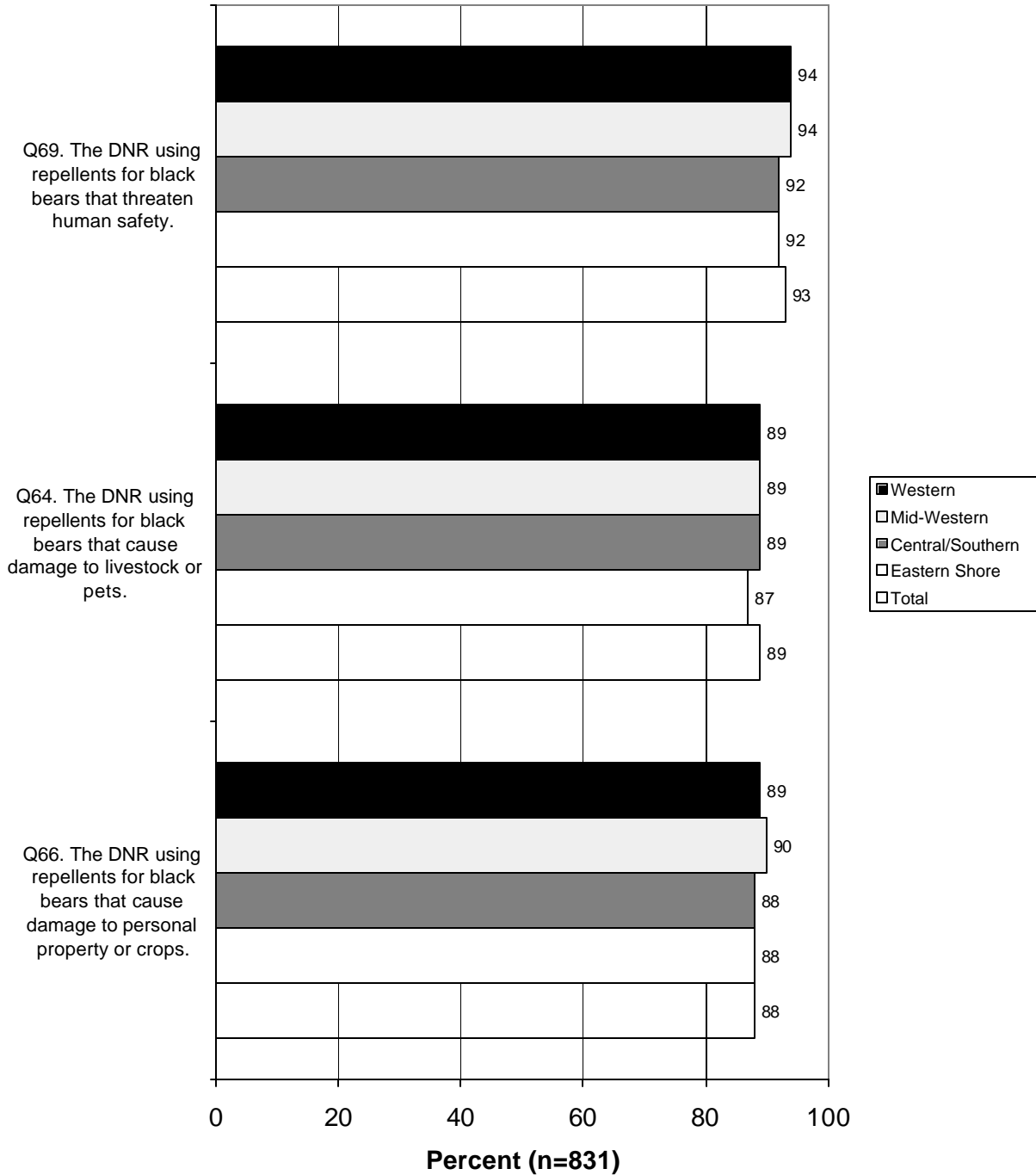
- Respondents were asked three questions concerning their support for or opposition to having the Maryland DNR use repellents for various situations. Although respondents' support is consistently high for all three situations, having the DNR use repellents such as bear pepper spray, loud noises, or non-lethal shotgun ammunition for black bears that threaten human safety in Maryland held the most support (93%).

- A majority (89%) of all respondents strongly or moderately support having the DNR use repellents for black bears that cause damage to livestock or pets in Maryland, with little regional variation.
 - 7% of all respondents moderately or strongly oppose having the DNR use repellents for black bears that cause damage to livestock or pets in Maryland.

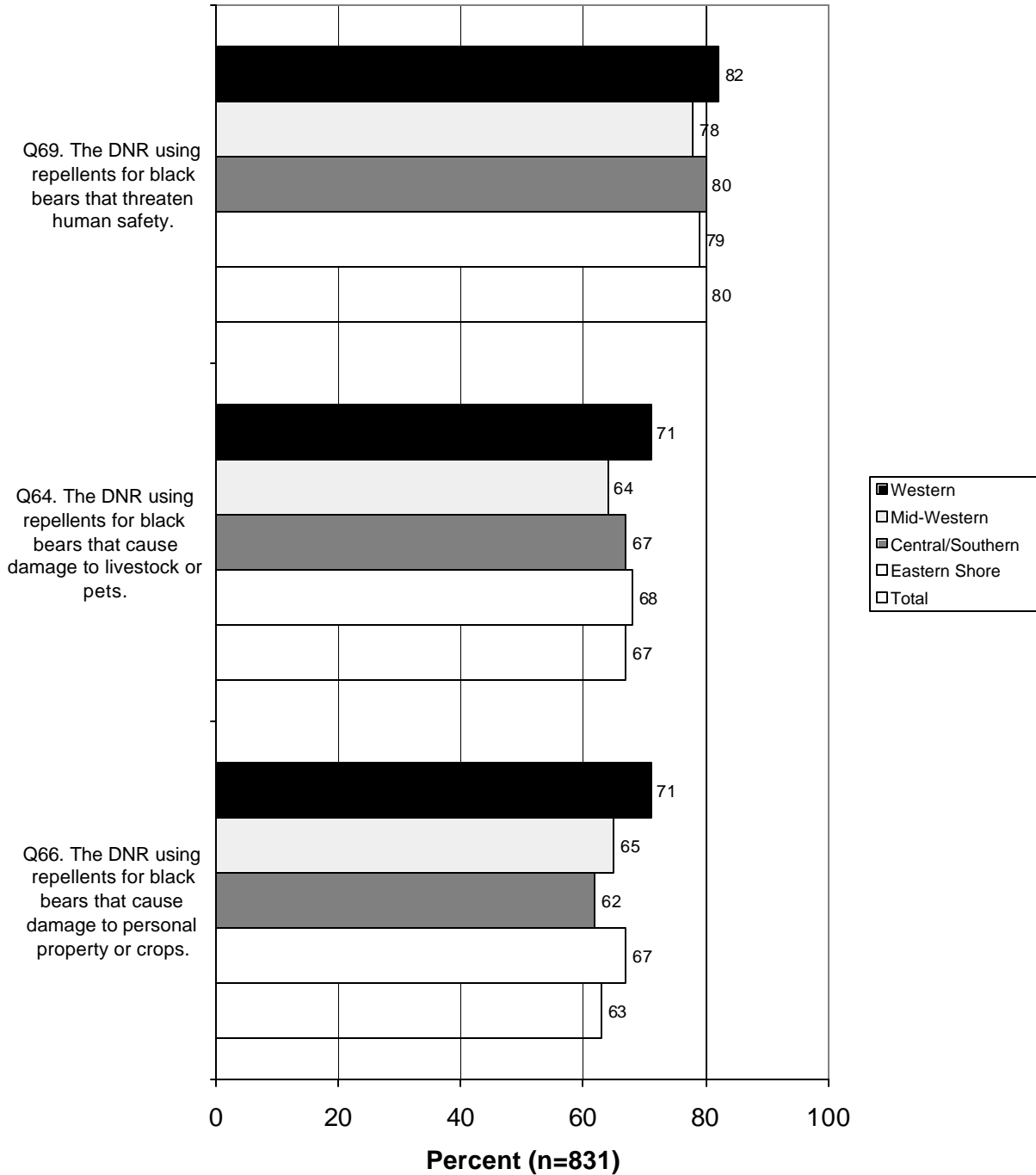
- A majority (88%) of all respondents strongly or moderately support having the DNR use repellents for black bears that cause damage to personal property or crops in Maryland, with little regional variation.
 - 7% of all respondents moderately or strongly oppose having the DNR use repellents for black bears that cause damage to personal property or crops in Maryland.

- A majority (93%) of all respondents strongly or moderately support having the DNR use repellents for black bears that threaten human safety in Maryland, with little regional variation.
 - 5% of all respondents moderately or strongly oppose having the DNR use repellents for black bears that threaten human safety in Maryland, with little regional variation.

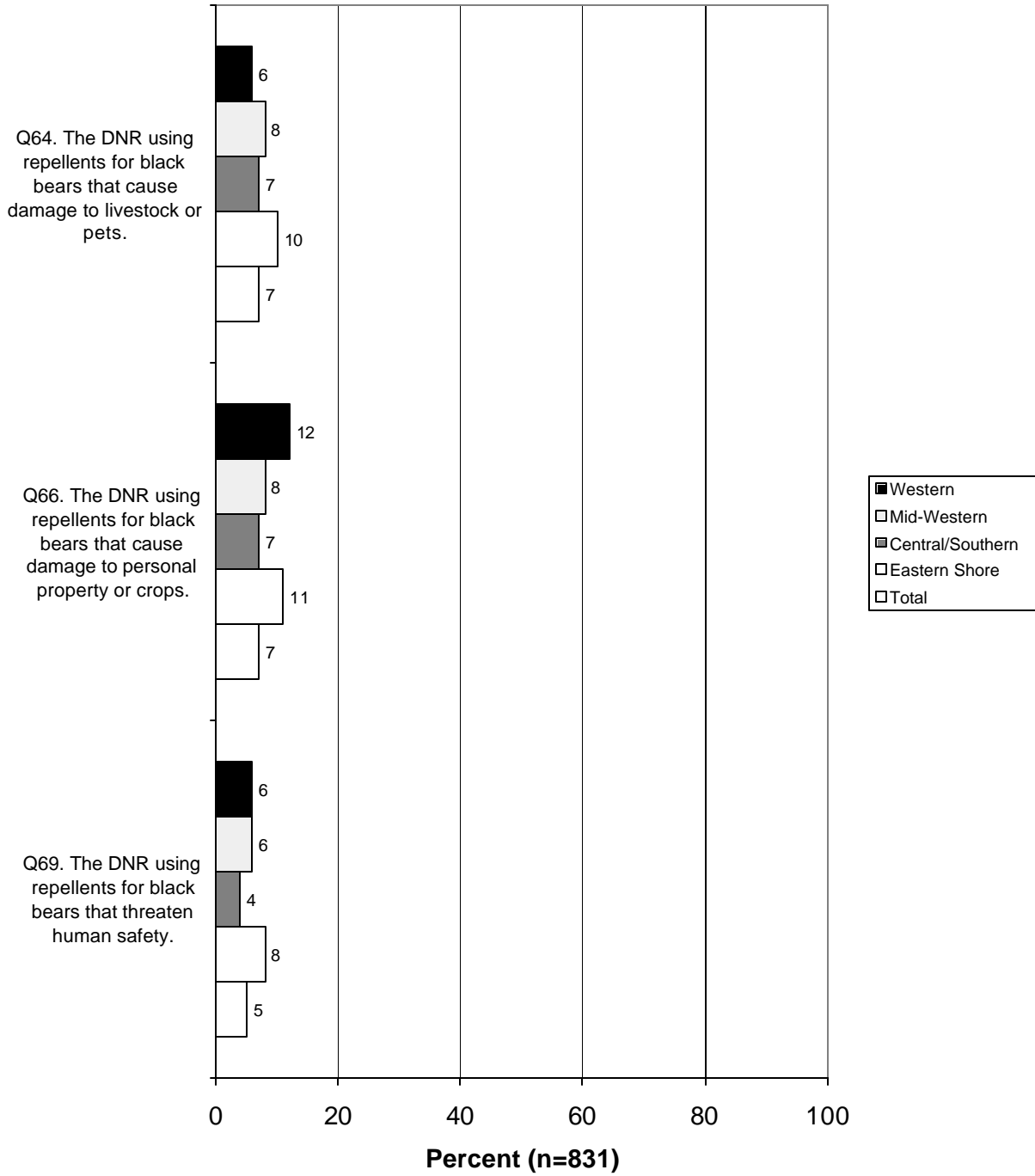
Q64, Q66, Q69. Percent who strongly or moderately support the following methods.



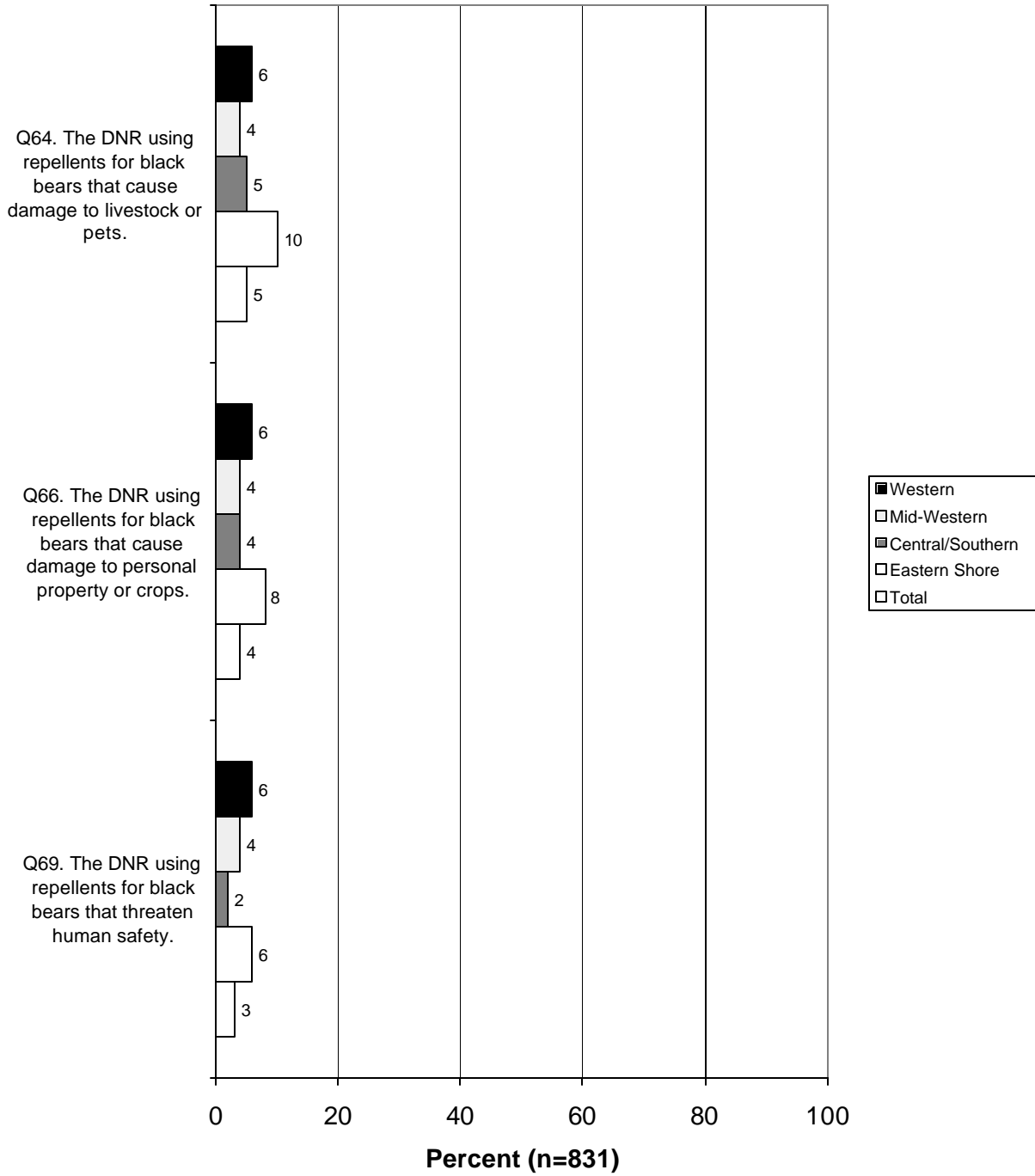
Q64, Q66, Q69. Percent who strongly support the following methods.



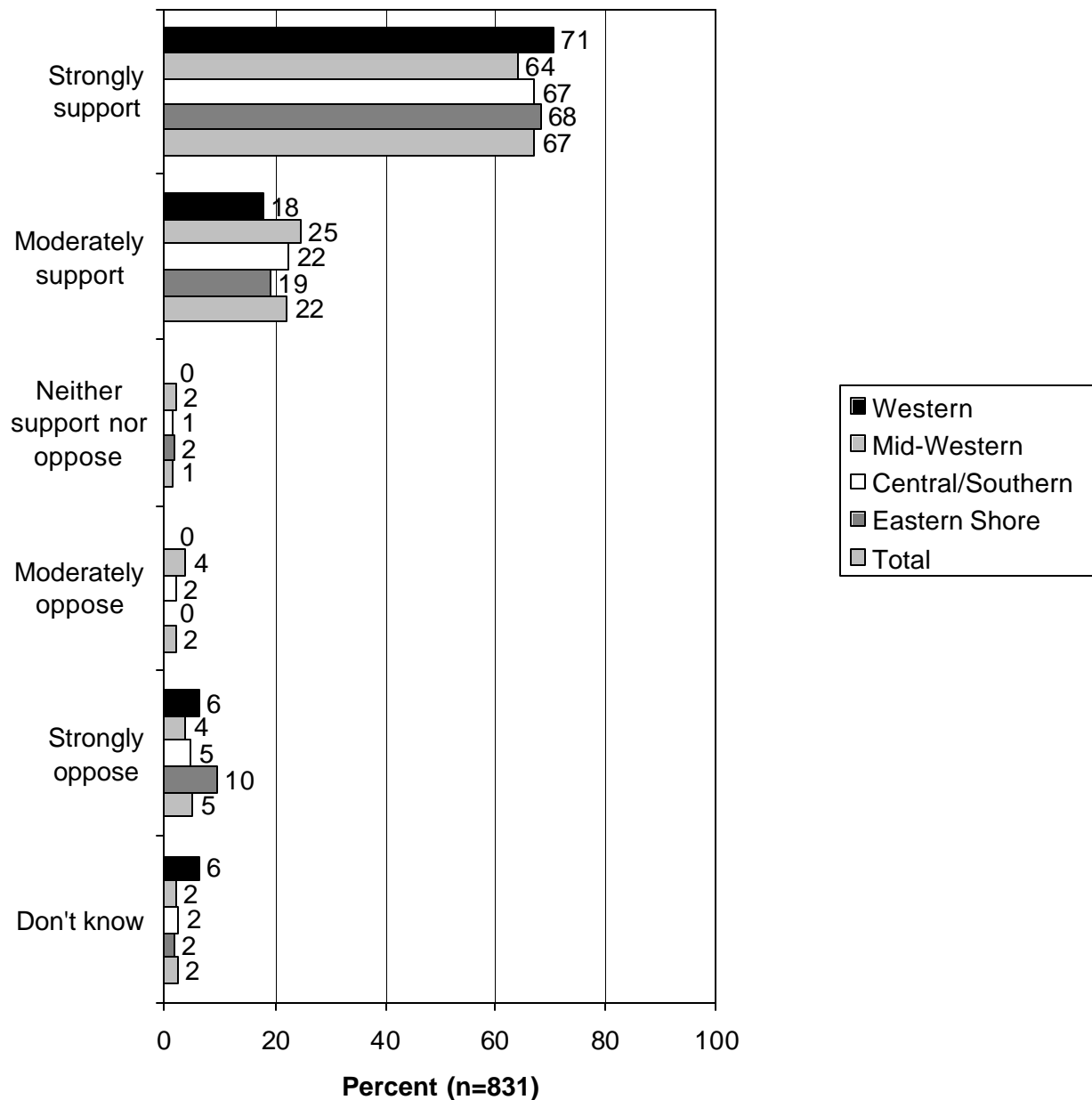
Q64, Q66, Q69. Percent who strongly or moderately oppose the following methods.



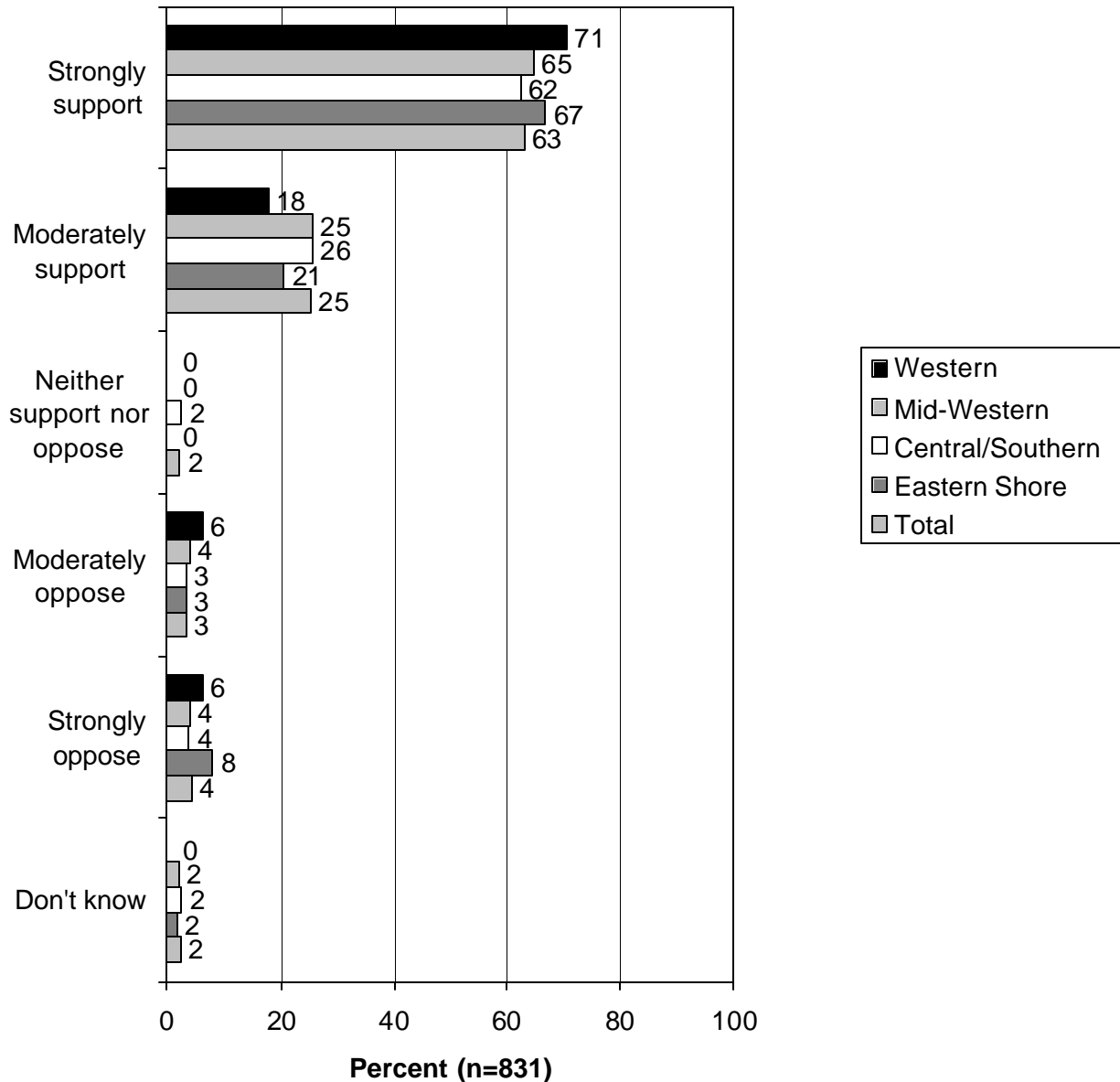
Q64, Q66, Q69. Percent who strongly oppose the following methods.



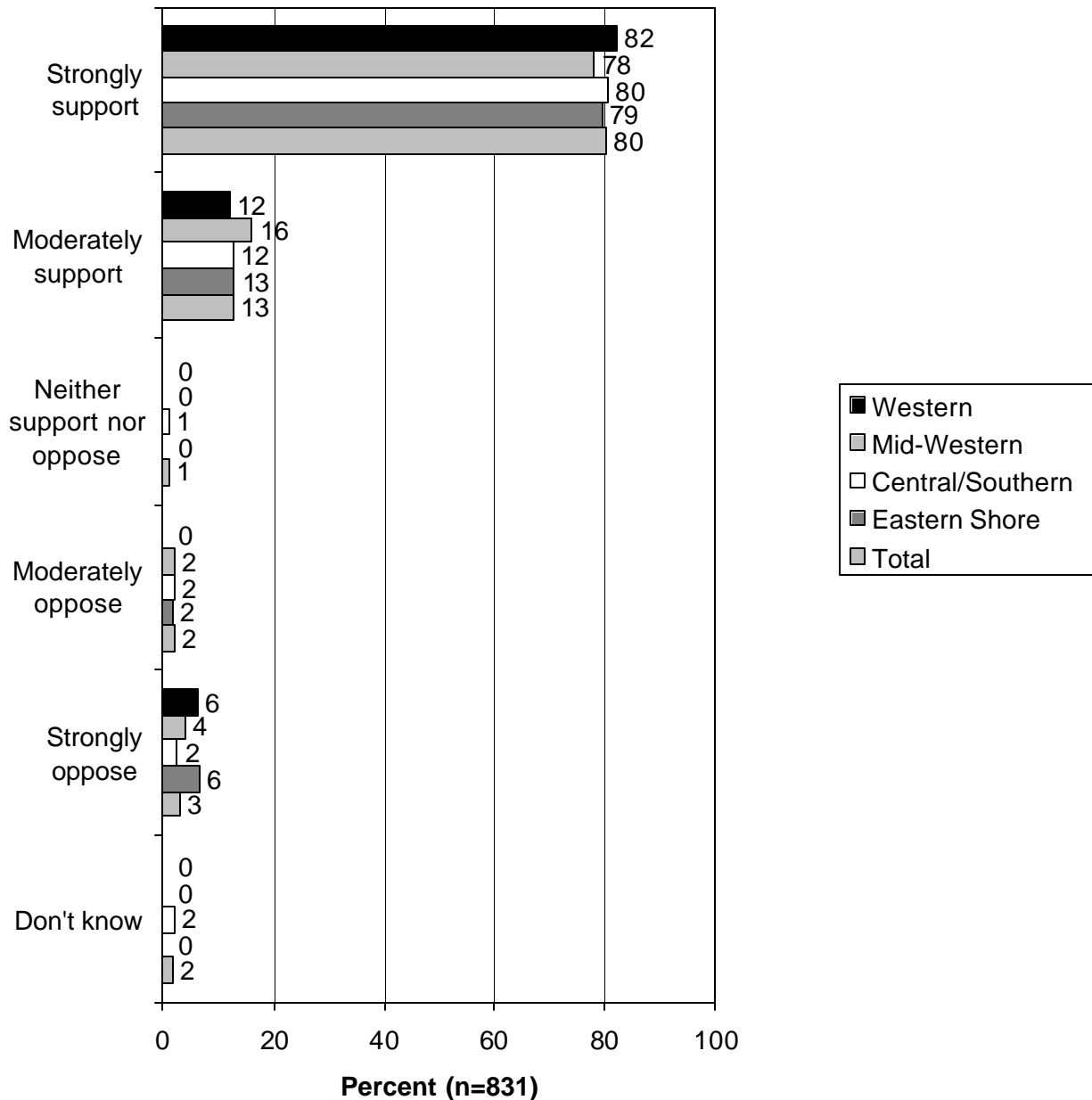
Q64. Do you support or oppose the DNR using repellents such as bear pepper spray, loud noises, or non-lethal shotgun ammunition for black bears that cause damage to livestock or pets in Maryland?



Q66. Do you support or oppose the DNR using repellents such as bear pepper spray, loud noises, or non-lethal shotgun ammunition for black bears that cause damage to personal property or crops in Maryland?



Q69. Do you support or oppose the DNR using repellents such as bear pepper spray, loud noises, or non-lethal shotgun ammunition for black bears that threaten human safety in Maryland?



DEPREDATION PERMITS

- Respondents were asked three questions concerning their support for or opposition to depredation permits. Overall, respondents showed more support for depredation permits for black bears that cause damage to livestock or pets (57%), but less support for depredation permits for black bears that cause damage to personal property or crops (44%). Respondents had little support (20%) for allowing private citizens to kill bears that are causing damage to personal property or crops without first obtaining a depredation permit from the Maryland DNR.

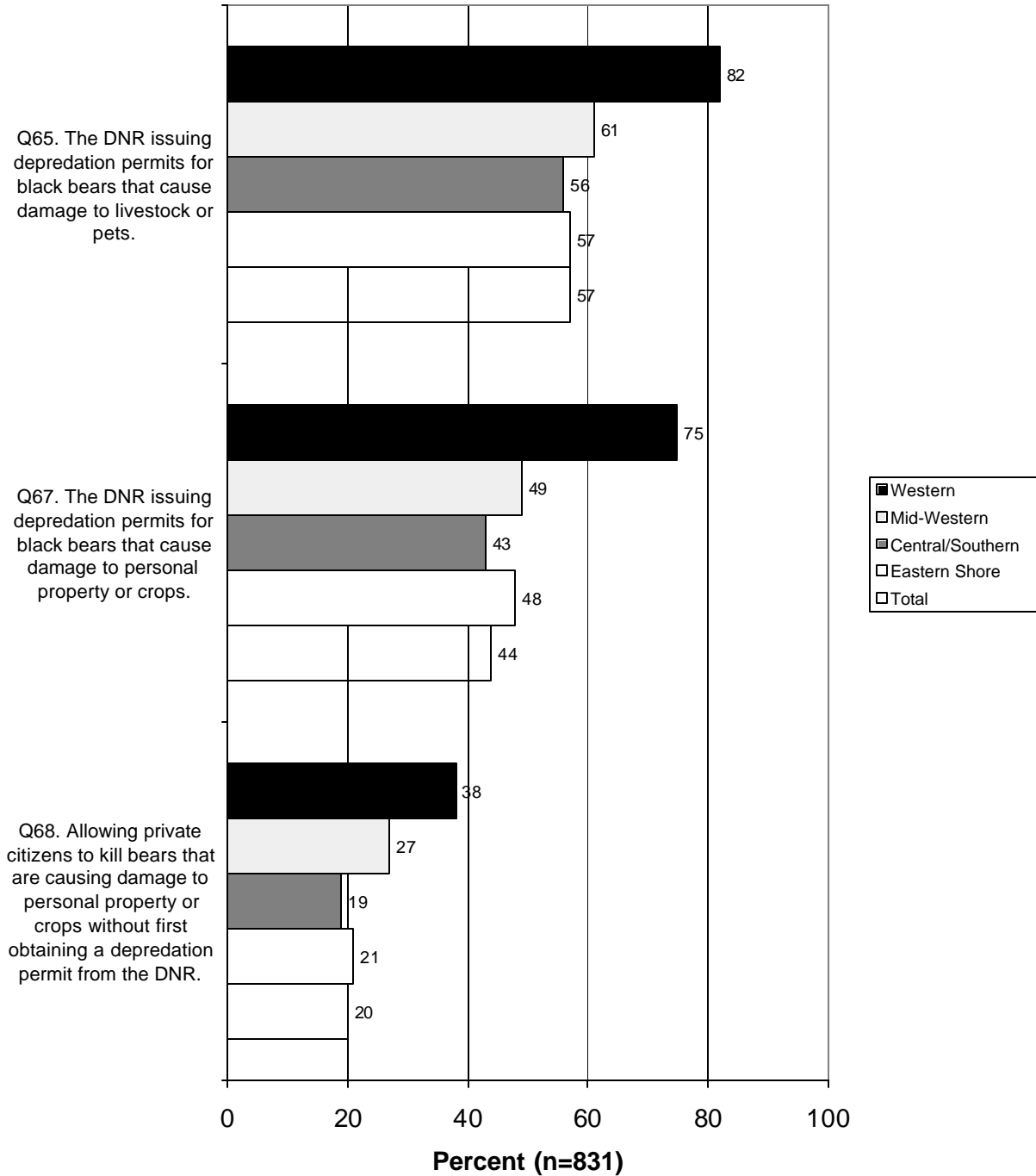
- A majority (57%) of all respondents strongly or moderately support having the DNR issue depredation permits for black bears that cause damage to livestock or pets in Maryland; 38% of all respondents oppose having the DNR issue depredation permits for black bears that cause damage to livestock or pets in Maryland.
 - Western Region respondents are markedly different in that many more (82%) support having the DNR issue depredation permits for black bears that cause damage to livestock or pets in Maryland.

- Respondents were nearly evenly split in their support (44%) and opposition (46%) of having the DNR issue depredation permits for black bears that cause damage to personal property or crops in Maryland.
 - Western Region respondents are more likely (75%) to support having the DNR issue depredation permits for black bears that cause damage to personal property or crops in Maryland.

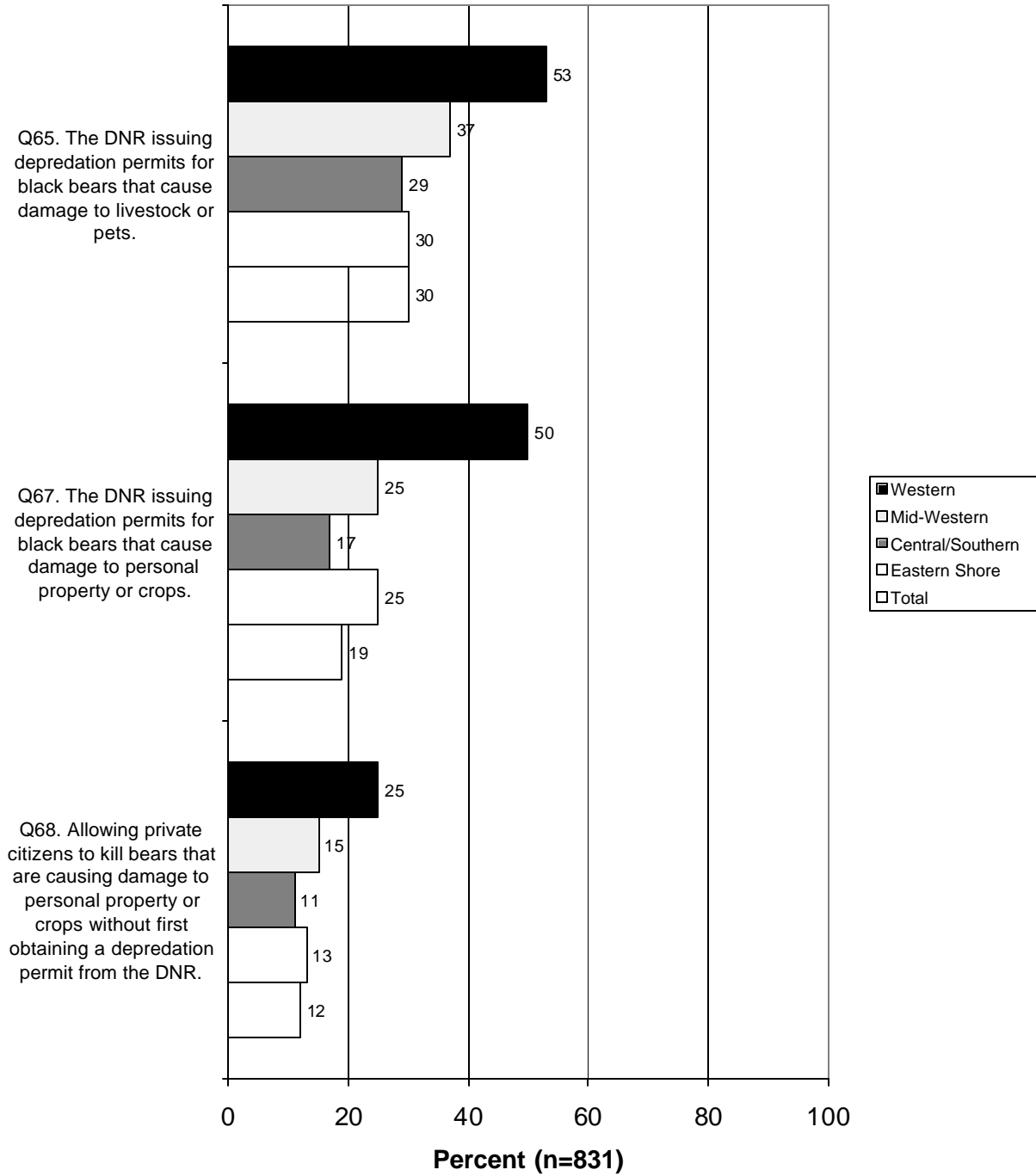
- A majority (74%) of all respondents oppose allowing private citizens to kill bears that are causing damage to personal property or crops without first obtaining a depredation permit from the Maryland DNR; 20% of all respondents support allowing private citizens to kill bears that are causing damage to personal property or crops without first obtaining a depredation permit from the Maryland DNR.

- Western Region respondents are more likely (38%) to support allowing private citizens to kill bears that are causing damage to personal property or crops without first obtaining a depredation permit from the Maryland DNR.

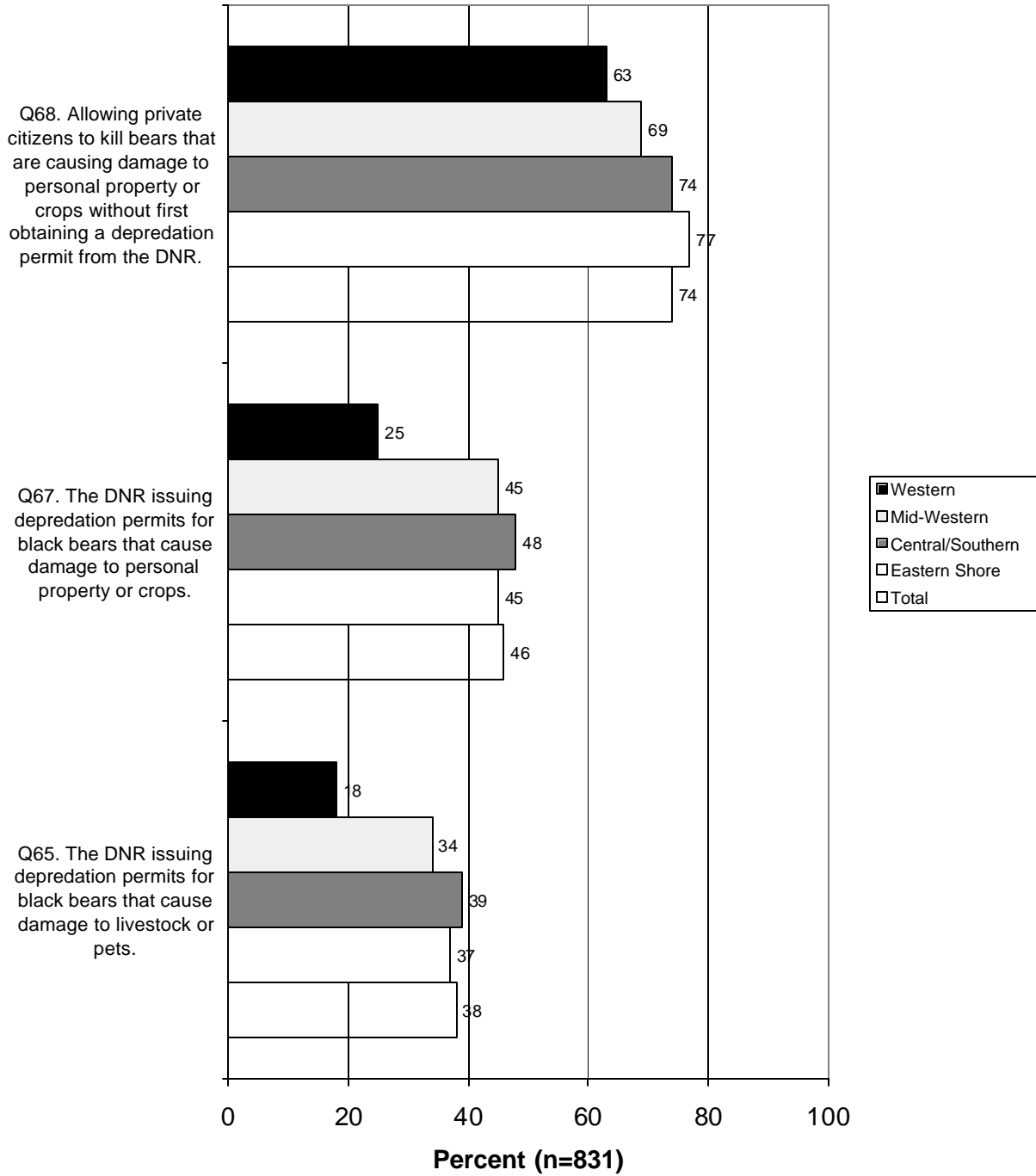
Q65, Q67, Q68. Percent who strongly or moderately support the following methods.



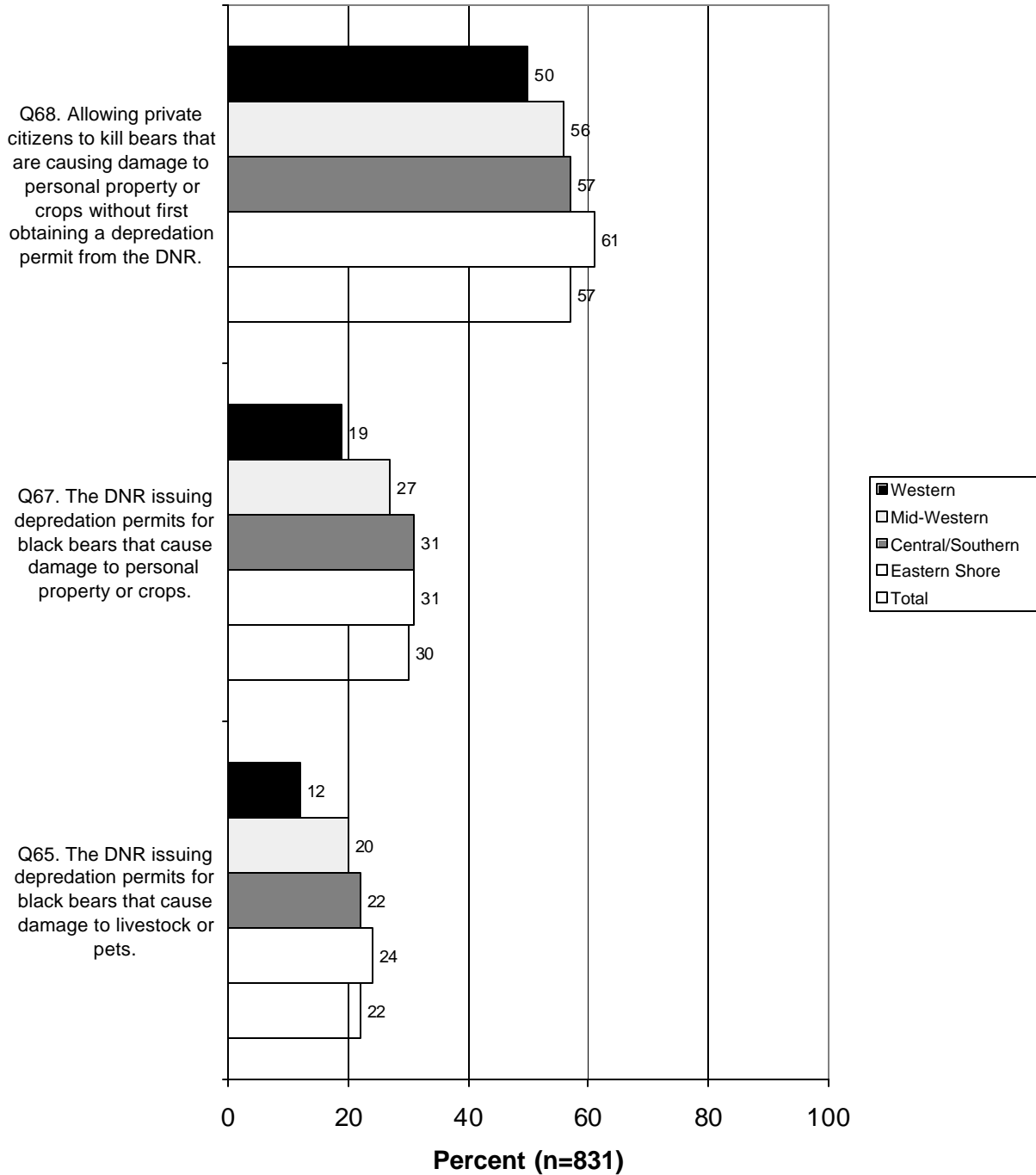
Q65, Q67, Q68. Percent who strongly support the following methods.



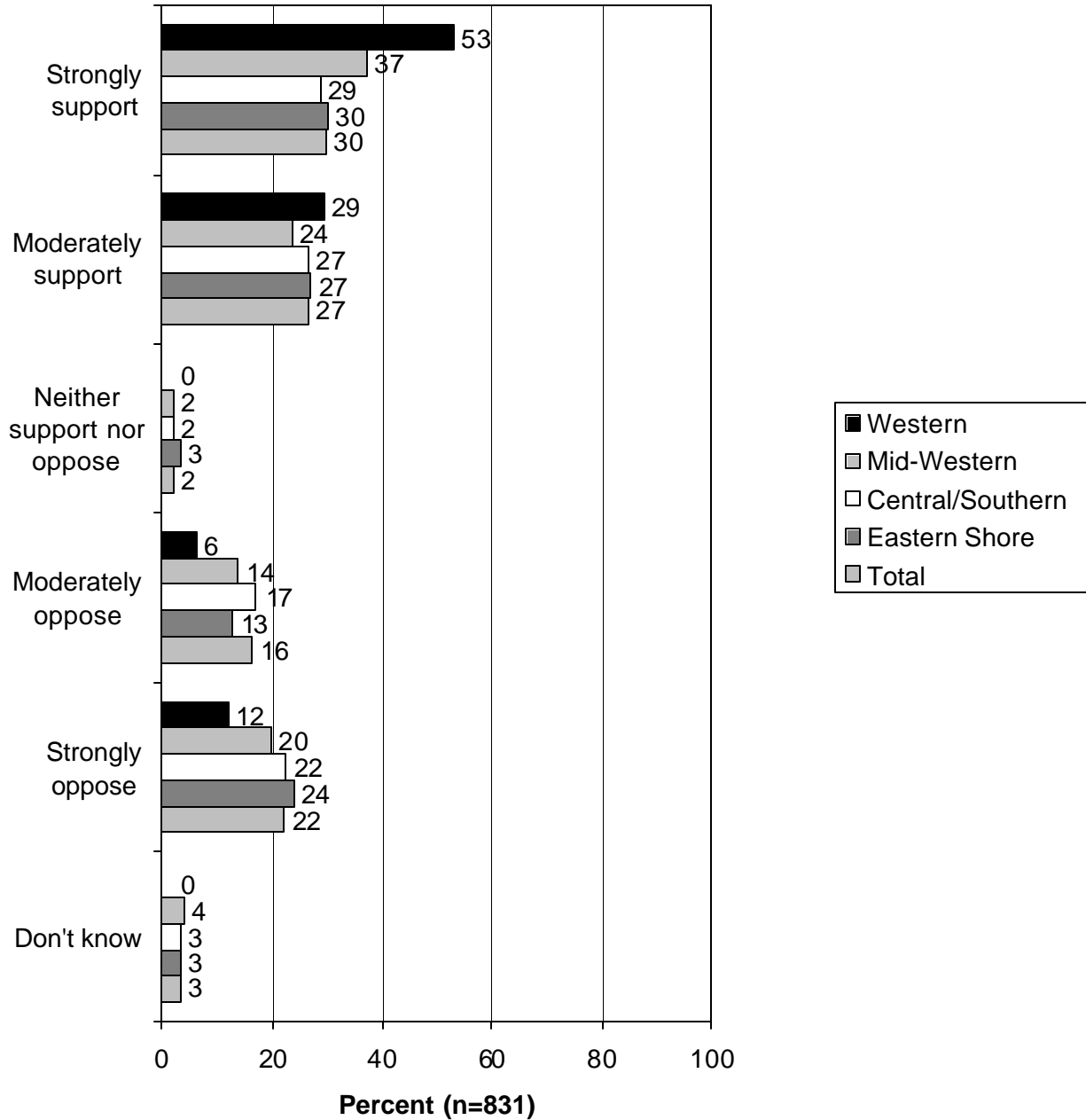
Q65, Q67, Q68. Percent who strongly or moderately oppose the following methods.



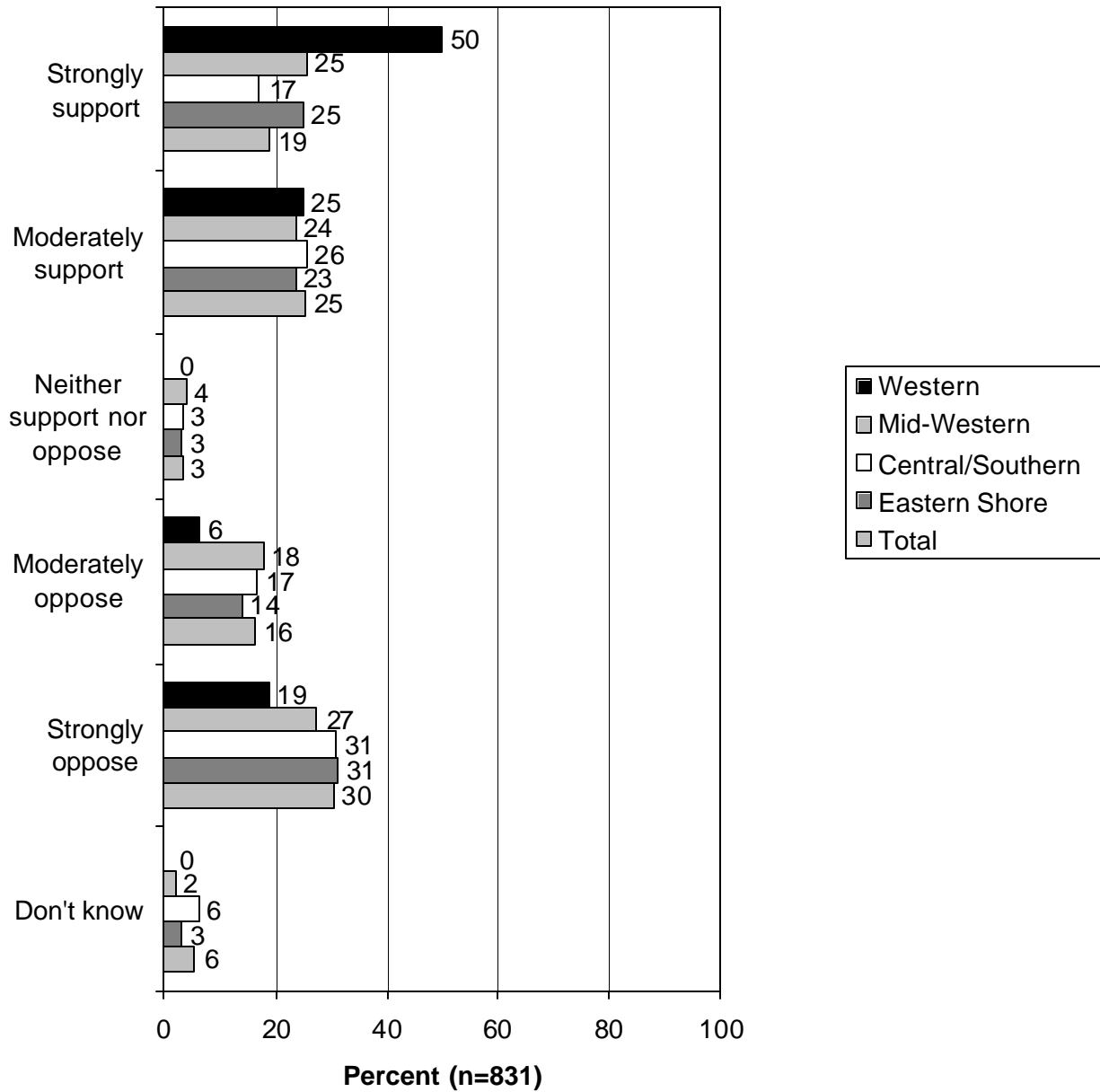
Q65, Q67, Q68. Percent who strongly oppose the following methods.



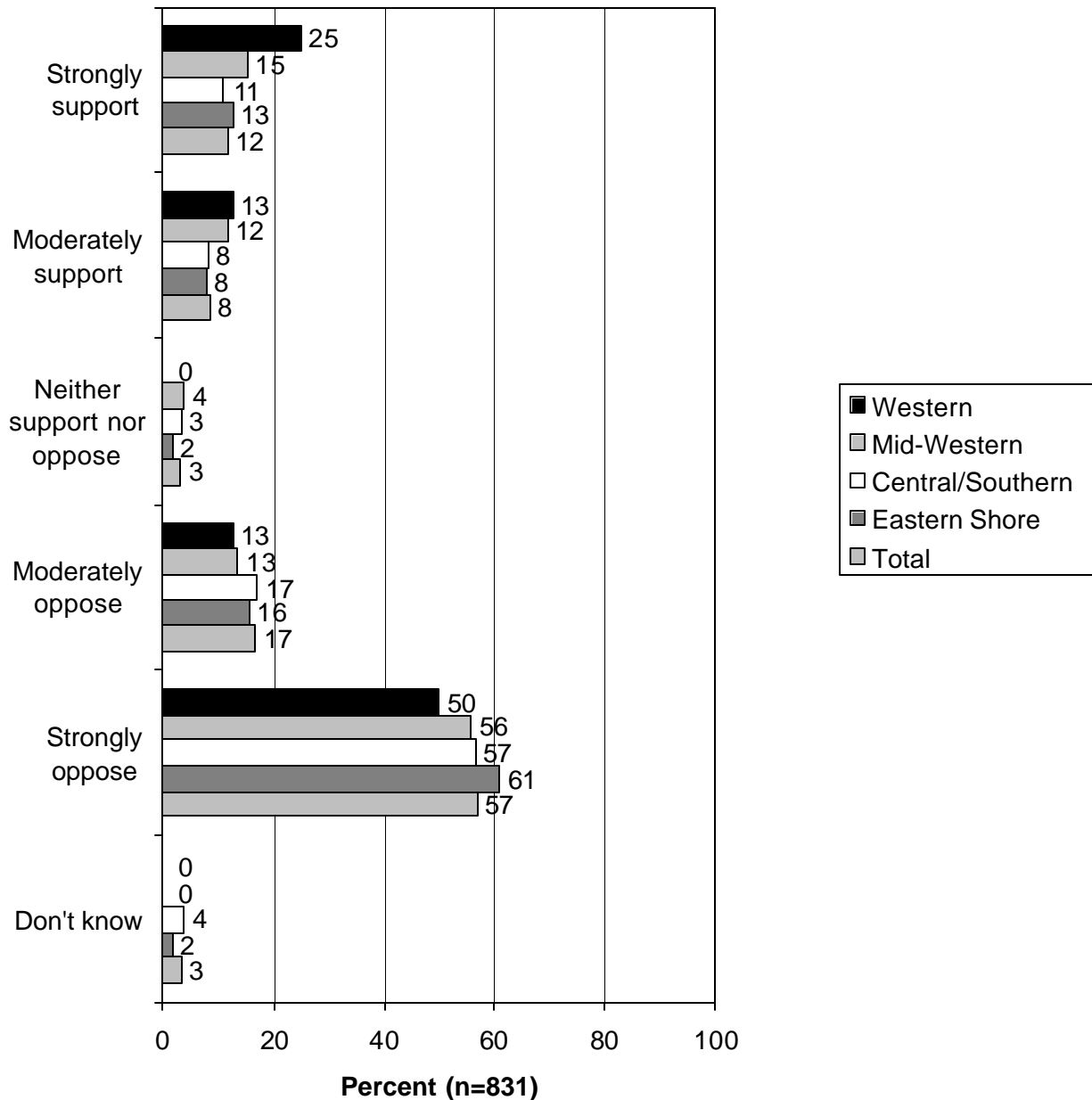
Q65. Do you support or oppose the DNR issuing depredation (kill) permits for black bears that cause damage to livestock or pets in Maryland?



Q67. Do you support or oppose the DNR issuing depredation (kill) permits for black bears that cause damage to personal property or crops in Maryland?



Q68. Do you support or oppose allowing private citizens to kill bears that are causing damage to personal property or crops without first obtaining a depredation (kill) permit from the DNR?



COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGES

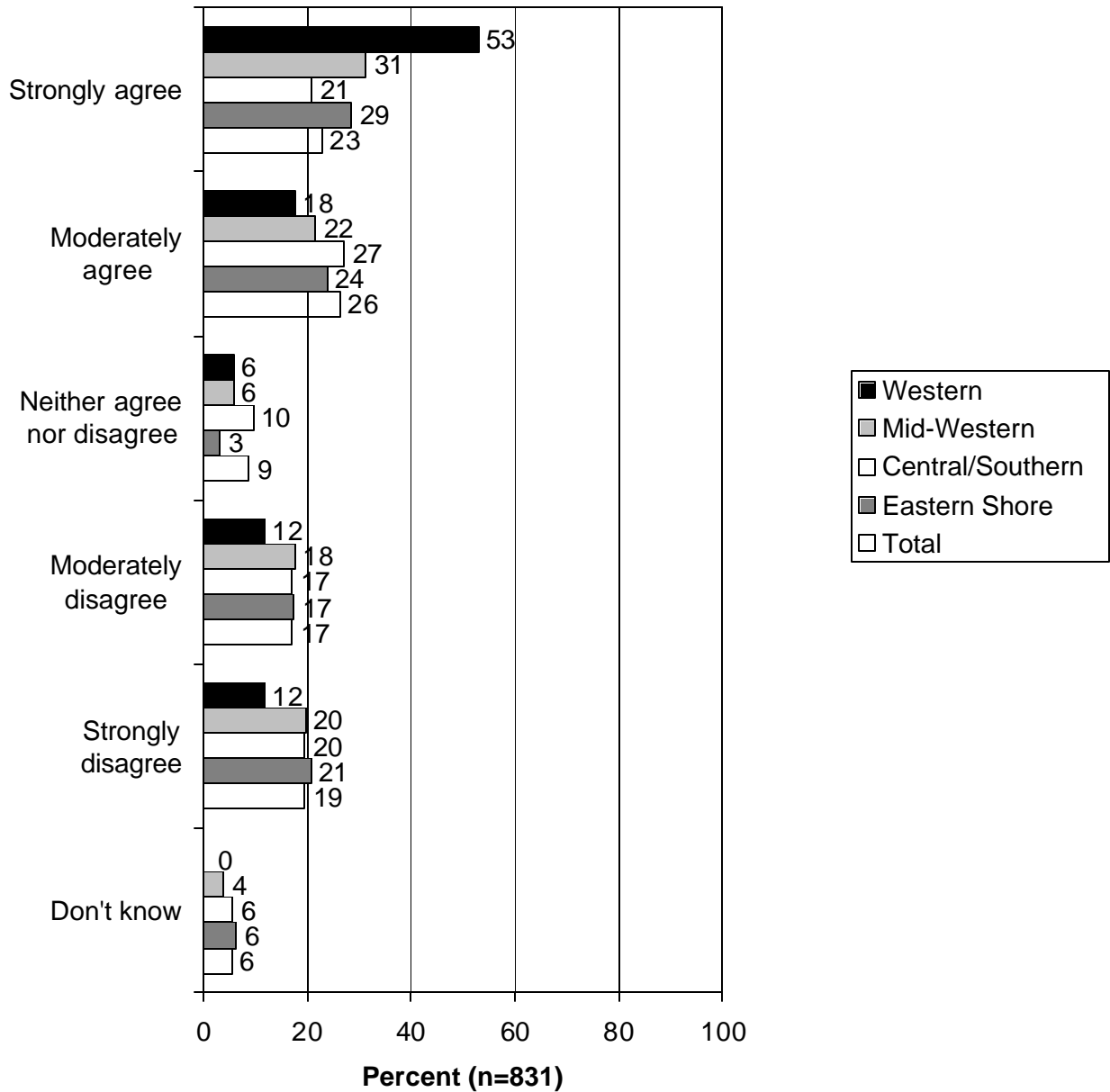
- A higher percentage of respondents agree (49%) than disagree (36%) that the property owner should be compensated when black bear damage occurs to livestock in Maryland.
 - Western Region respondents are more likely (71%) to agree (53% strongly agree) that the property owner should be compensated when black bear damage occurs to livestock in Maryland.

- Respondents are nearly evenly split in their agreement (46%) and disagreement (42%) that the property owner should be compensated when black bear damage occurs to private property such as fences or buildings in Maryland.
 - Western Region respondents are more likely (66%) to agree that the property owner should be compensated when black bear damage occurs to private property such as fences or buildings in Maryland.

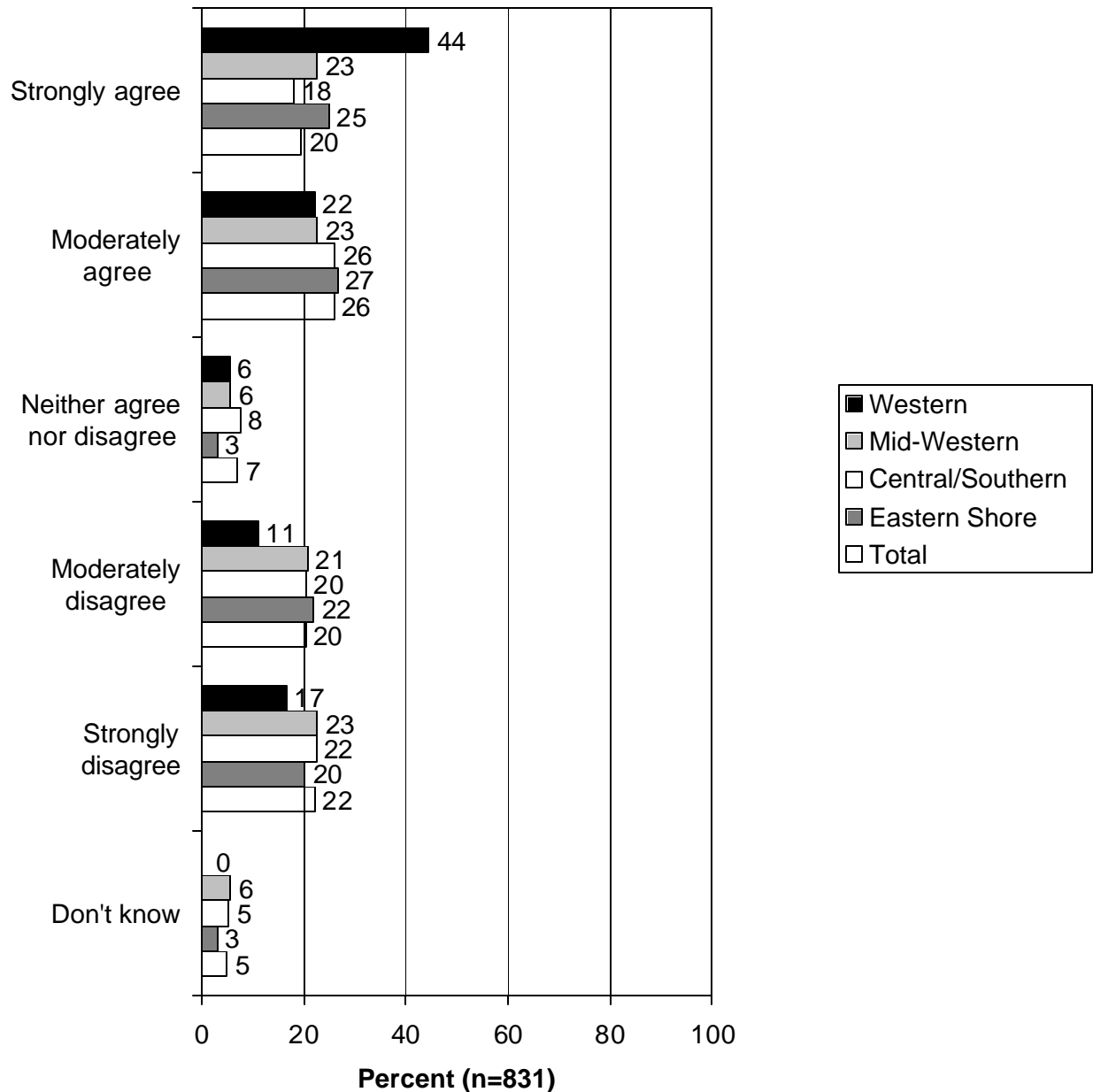
- Respondents are nearly evenly split in their disagreement (45%) and agreement (44%) that the property owner should be compensated when black bear damage occurs to crops in Maryland.
 - Western respondents are more likely (66%) to agree that the property owner should be compensated when black bear damage occurs to crops in Maryland.

- Of those respondents who agree that property owners should be compensated for black bear damage, 35% believe the money for compensation should come from general state revenues (state tax). Other common sources include hunting licenses in general (17%) and black bear hunting licenses (9%).

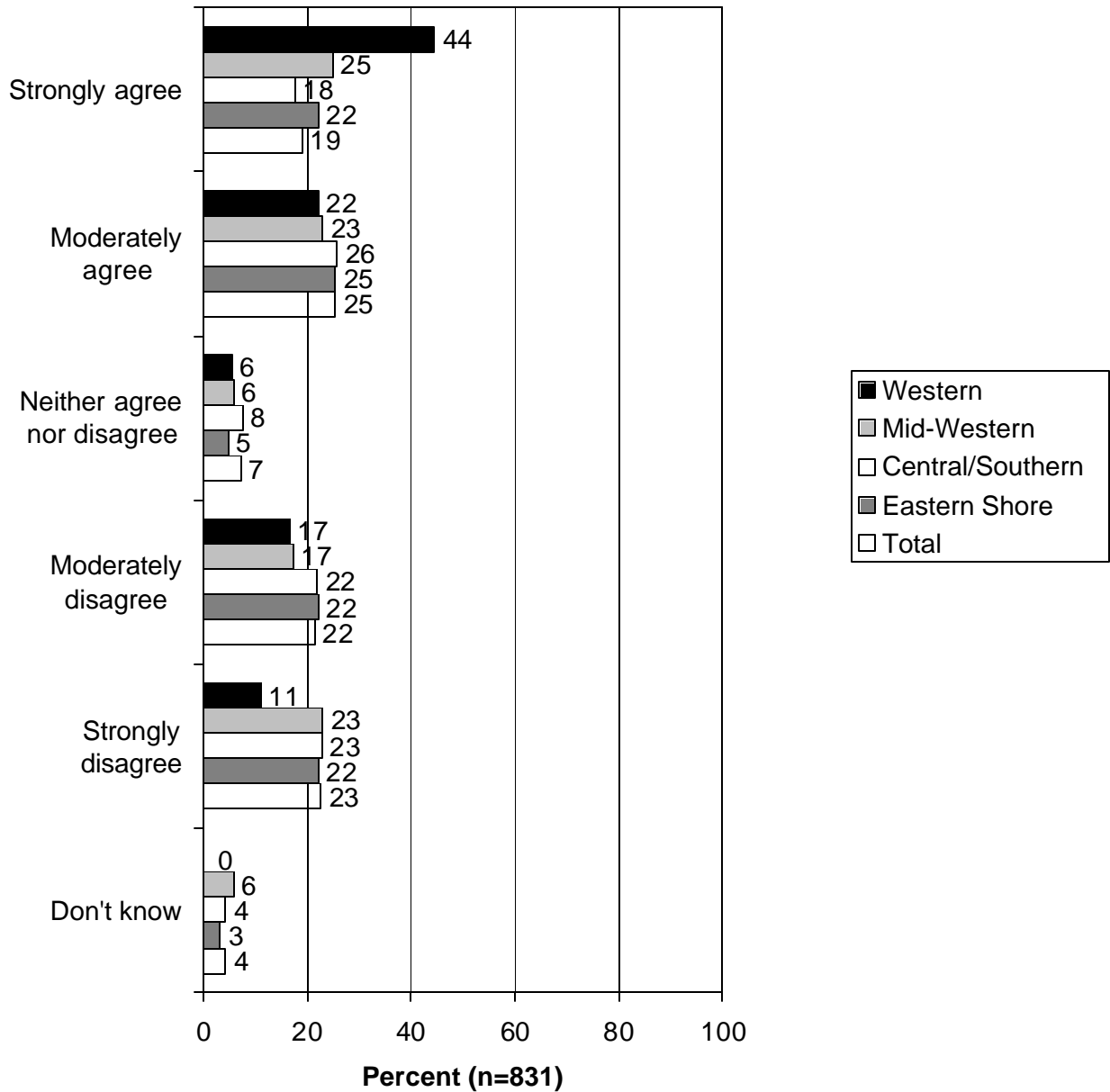
Q70. When black bear damage occurs to livestock in Maryland, do you agree or disagree that the property owner should be compensated for the damages?



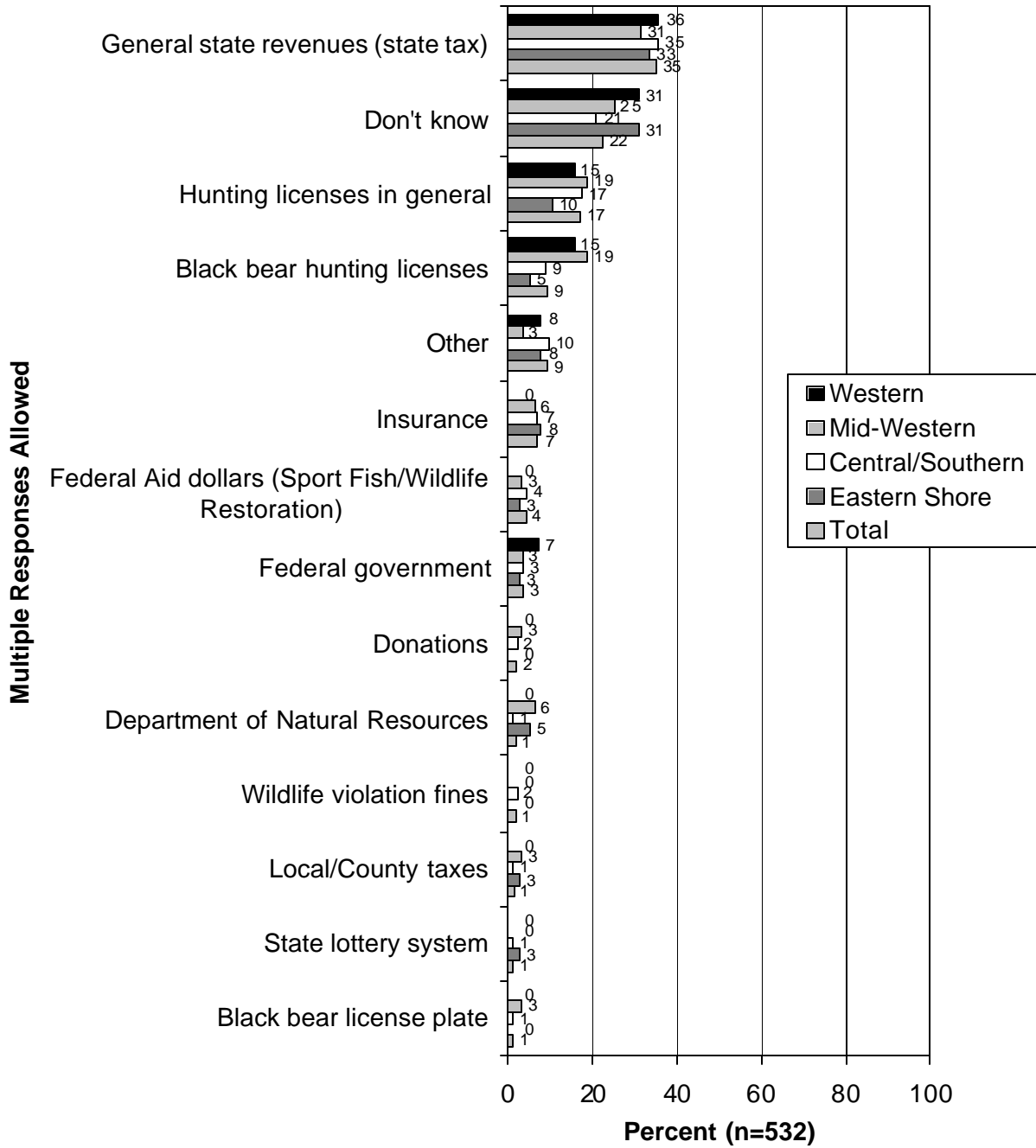
Q71. When black bear damage occurs to private property such as fences or buildings in Maryland, do you agree or disagree that the property owner should be compensated for the damages?



Q72. When black bear damage occurs to crops in Maryland, do you agree or disagree that the property owner should be compensated for the damages?



Q74. Where do you think the money for compensation for black bear damage should come from? (Asked of those who agree that property owners should be compensated for damage.)



REGULATING THE BLACK BEAR POPULATION IN MARYLAND

REGULATED HUNTING

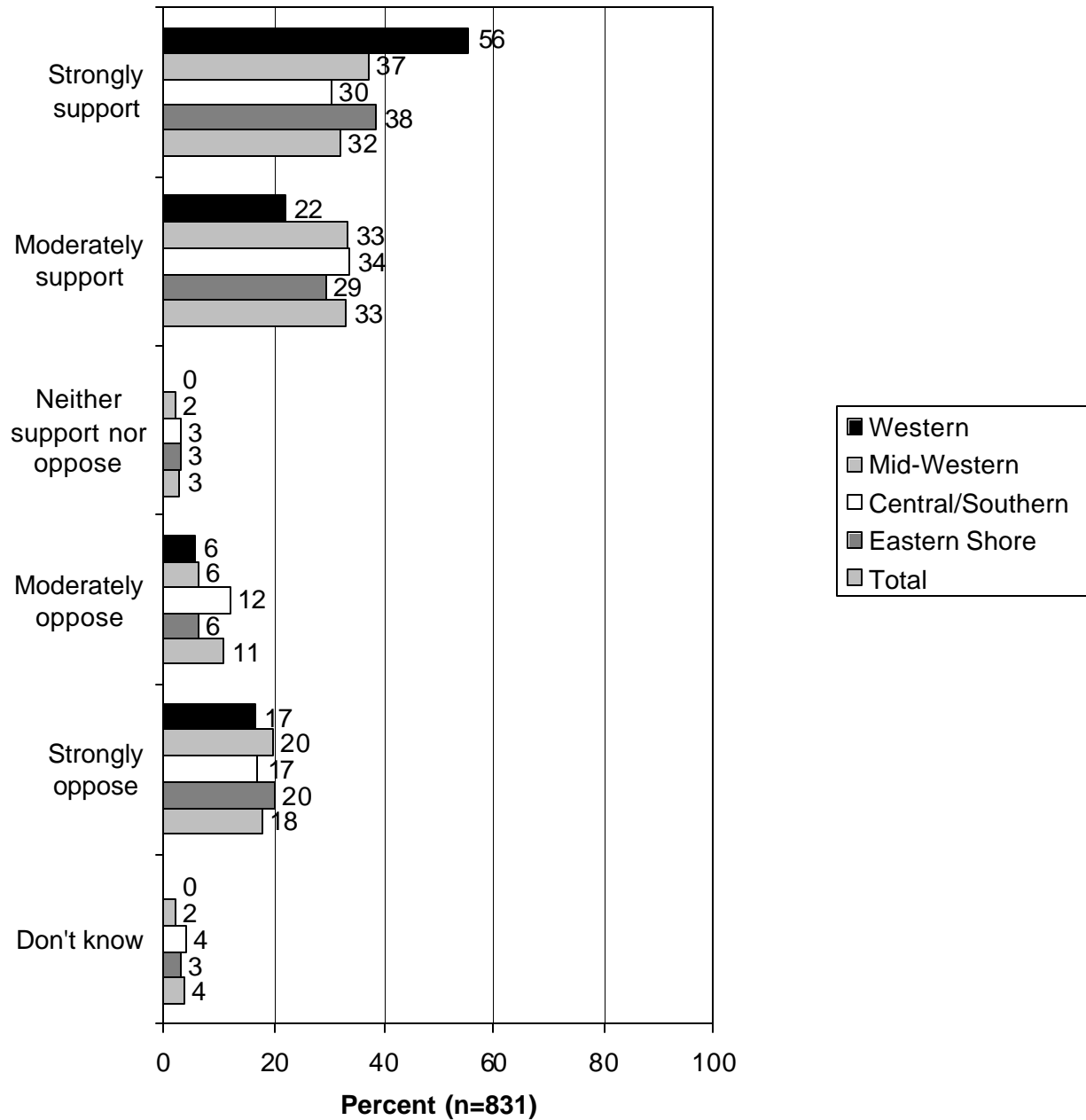
Opinion of Regulated Hunting

- A majority (65%) of all respondents support regulated hunting as a way to control black bear populations in Maryland, while 29% of all respondents oppose regulated hunting.
 - Western Region respondents are more likely (78%) to support regulated hunting as a way to control black bear populations in Maryland. In fact, 56% of Western Region respondents strongly support regulated hunting as a way to control black bear populations in Maryland.

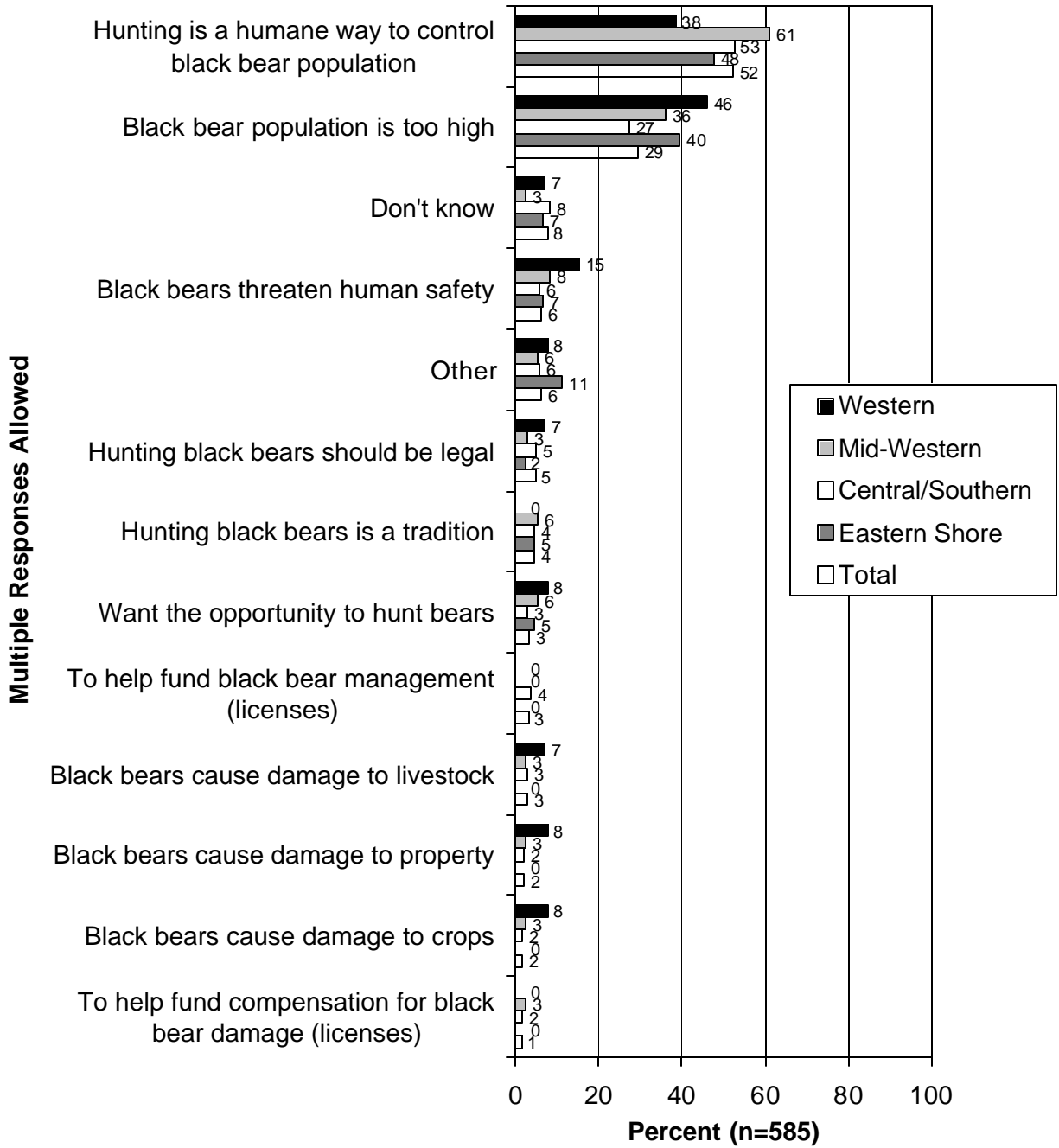
- Of those respondents who support regulated hunting of black bears in Maryland, a majority (52%) believe hunting is a humane way to control the black bear population: Mid-Western Region respondents are more likely (61%) to support regulated hunting for this reason.
 - 29% of all respondents support regulated hunting of black bears in Maryland because they believe the black bear population is too high: Western Region respondents are more likely (46%) to support regulated hunting for this reason.

- Those respondents who oppose regulated hunting of black bears in Maryland most commonly (37%) were opposed to all hunting due to animal rights beliefs: Mid-Western Region respondents most commonly (54%) opposed regulated hunting for this reason.
 - Other common reasons for being opposed to regulated hunting of black bears include that the respondent prefers other ways to control population (23%) or believes the black bear population to be too low (18%); 33% of Western Region respondents who oppose regulated hunting oppose it because they believe the black bear population is too low.

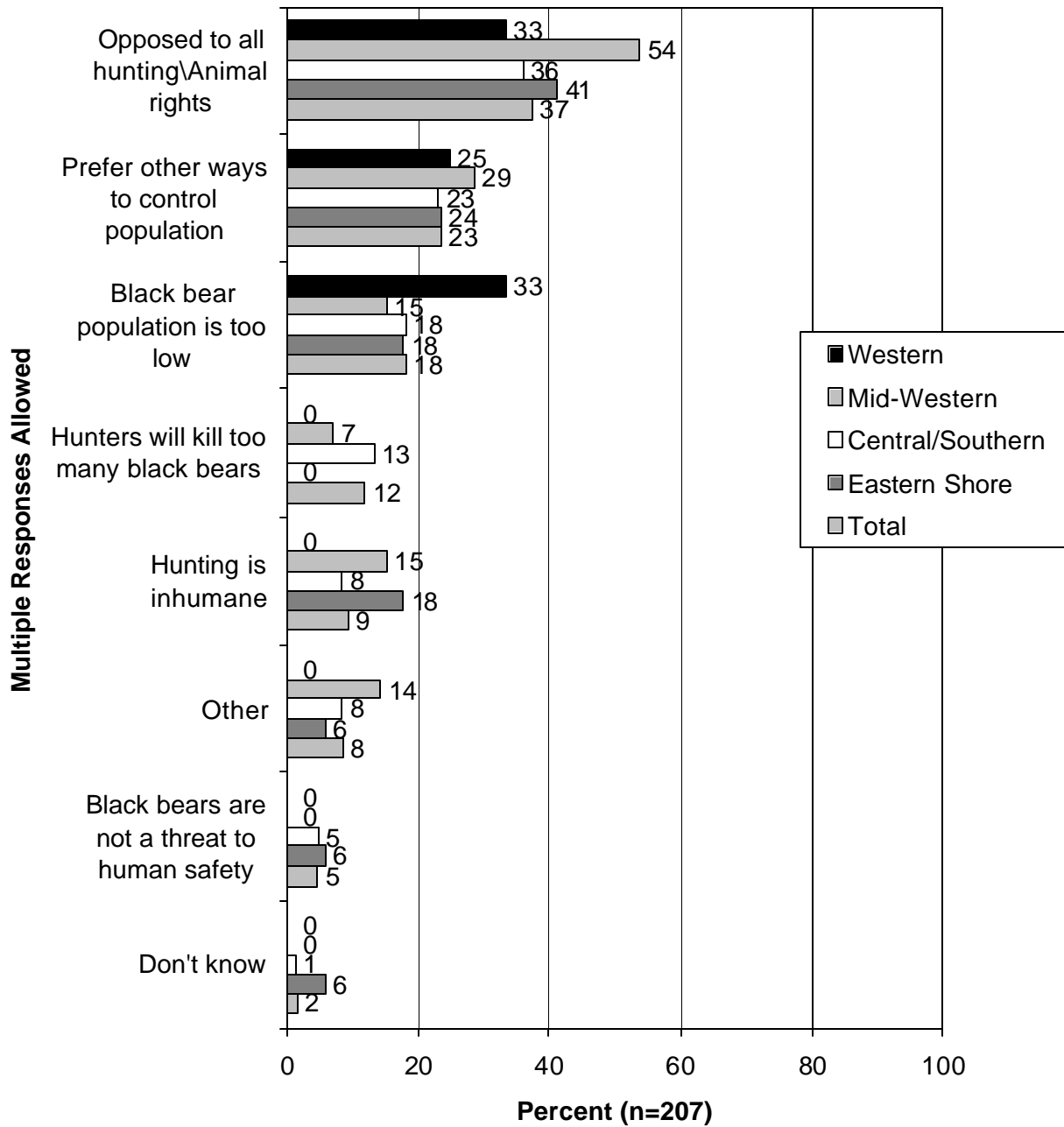
Q78. Do you support or oppose regulated hunting as a way to control black bear populations in Maryland?



Q80. Why do you support regulated hunting of black bears in Maryland? (Asked of those who support regulated hunting of black bears in Maryland.)



Q83. Why do you oppose regulated hunting of black bears in Maryland? (Asked of those who oppose regulated hunting of black bears in Maryland.)



Support for or Opposition to Black Bear Hunting Under Various Scenarios

- Respondents were asked seven questions concerning their support for or opposition to black bear hunting under various scenarios. Majorities support hunting for every scenario, with little regional variation. The scenarios for which respondents are most likely to support black bear hunting are if they knew the black bear population, as a whole, would not be endangered (78%) or if they knew that black bear hunting would be allowed only if the DNR determined that hunting methods were fair, sportsmanlike, and conformed to the ethics of “fair chase” (78%).
 - Although overall support was often close between regions, Western Region respondents often led in strong support, which may be an indication that they have set opinions.

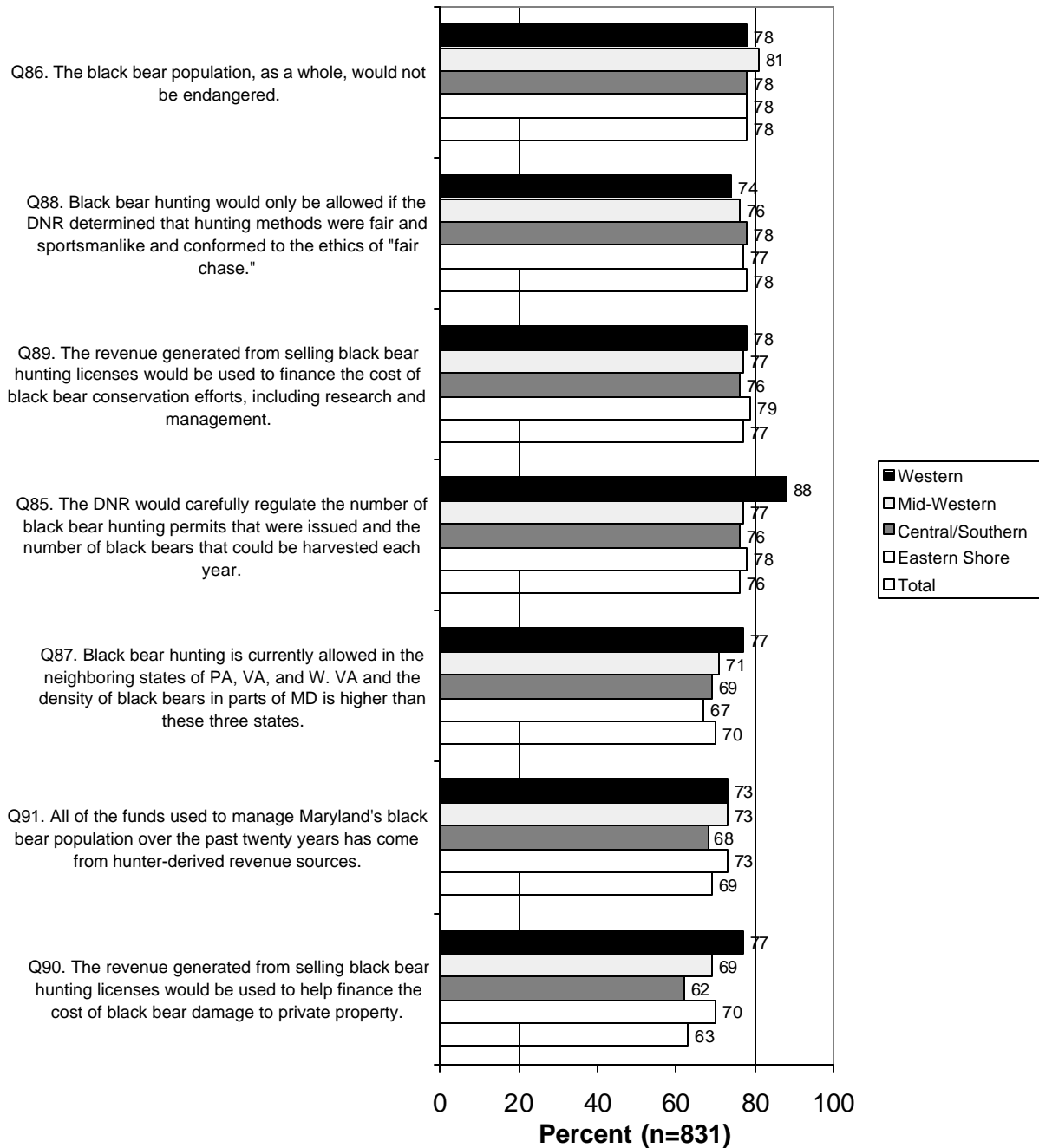
- A majority (76%) of respondents would strongly or moderately support black bear hunting in Maryland if they knew the DNR would carefully regulate the number of black bear hunting permits issued and the number of black bears harvested each year; 17% would oppose.
 - Western Region (69%) and Mid-Western Region (57%) respondents are the most likely to strongly support black bear hunting if they knew the DNR would carefully regulate the number of black bear hunting permits issued and the number of black bears harvested each year include .

- A majority (78%) of respondents would strongly or moderately support black bear hunting in Maryland if they knew the black bear population, as a whole, would not be endangered; 16% would oppose.
 - Western Region respondents are more likely (61%) to strongly support black bear hunting in Maryland if they knew the black bear population, as a whole, would not be endangered.

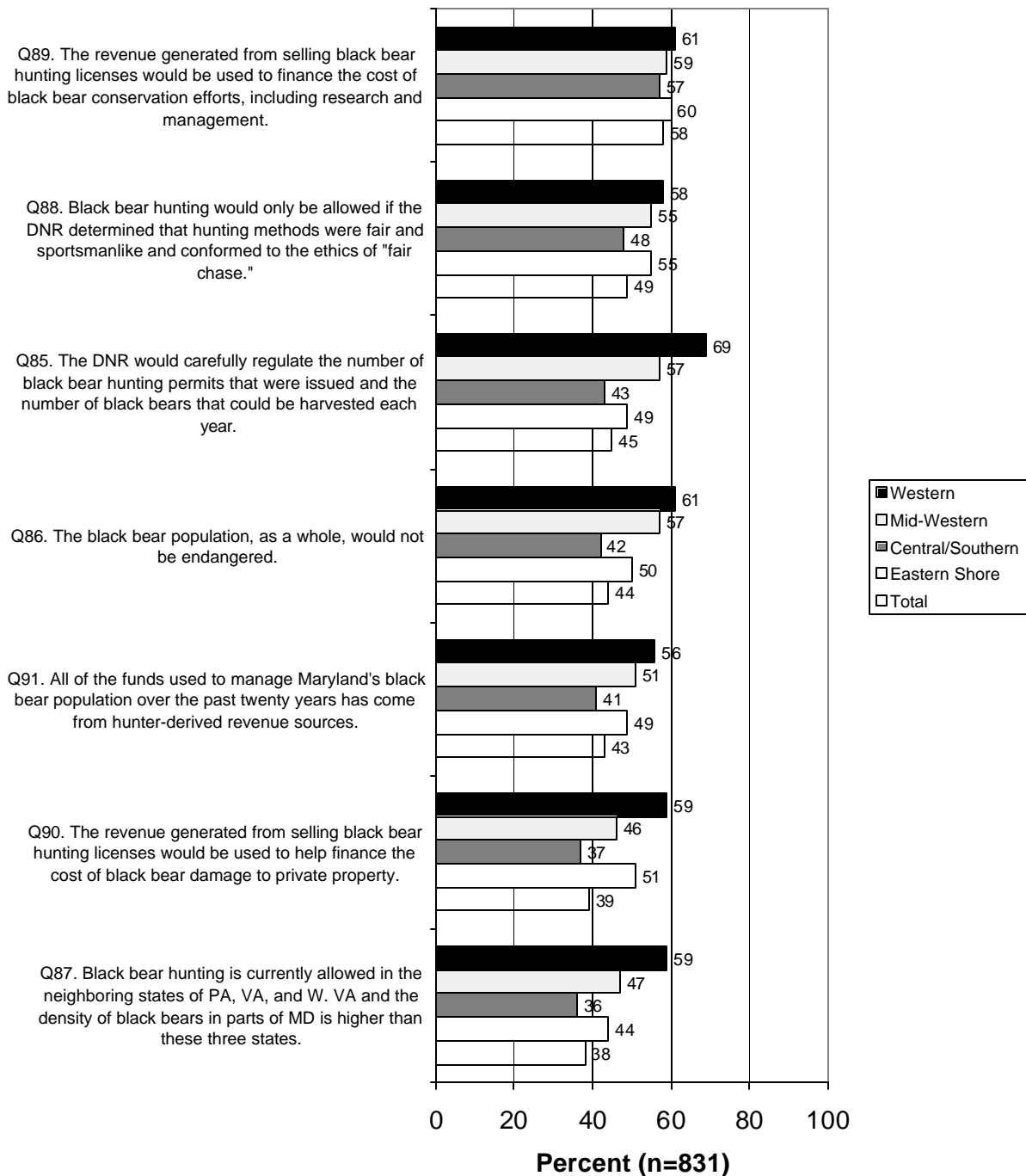
- A majority (70%) of all respondents would strongly or moderately support black bear hunting in Maryland if they knew that black bear hunting is currently allowed in neighboring states and the density of black bears in parts of Maryland is higher than these neighboring states; 20% would oppose.

- Western Region respondents would be more likely (59%) to strongly support black bear hunting in Maryland if they knew that black bear hunting is currently allowed in neighboring states and the density of black bears in parts of Maryland is higher than these neighboring states.
- A majority (78%) of all respondents would strongly or moderately support black bear hunting in Maryland if they knew hunting would be allowed only if the DNR determined that hunting methods were fair, sportsmanlike, and conformed to the ethics of “fair chase”; 15% would oppose. There is little regional variation.
- A majority (77%) of all respondents would strongly or moderately support black bear hunting in Maryland if they knew the revenue generated from selling black bear hunting licenses would be used to help finance black bear conservation efforts, including research and management; 17% would oppose. There is little regional variation.
- A majority (63%) of all respondents would strongly or moderately support black bear hunting in Maryland if they knew the revenue generated from selling black bear hunting licenses would be used to help finance the cost of black bear damage to private property; 28% would oppose.
 - Central/Southern Region respondents would be less likely (37%) to strongly support black bear hunting in Maryland if they knew the revenue generated from selling black bear hunting licenses would be used to help finance the cost of black bear damage to private property.
- A majority (69%) of all respondents would strongly or moderately support black bear hunting in Maryland if they knew all the funds used to manage Maryland’s black bear population over the past 20 years has come from hunter-derived revenue sources; 20% would oppose. There is little regional variation.

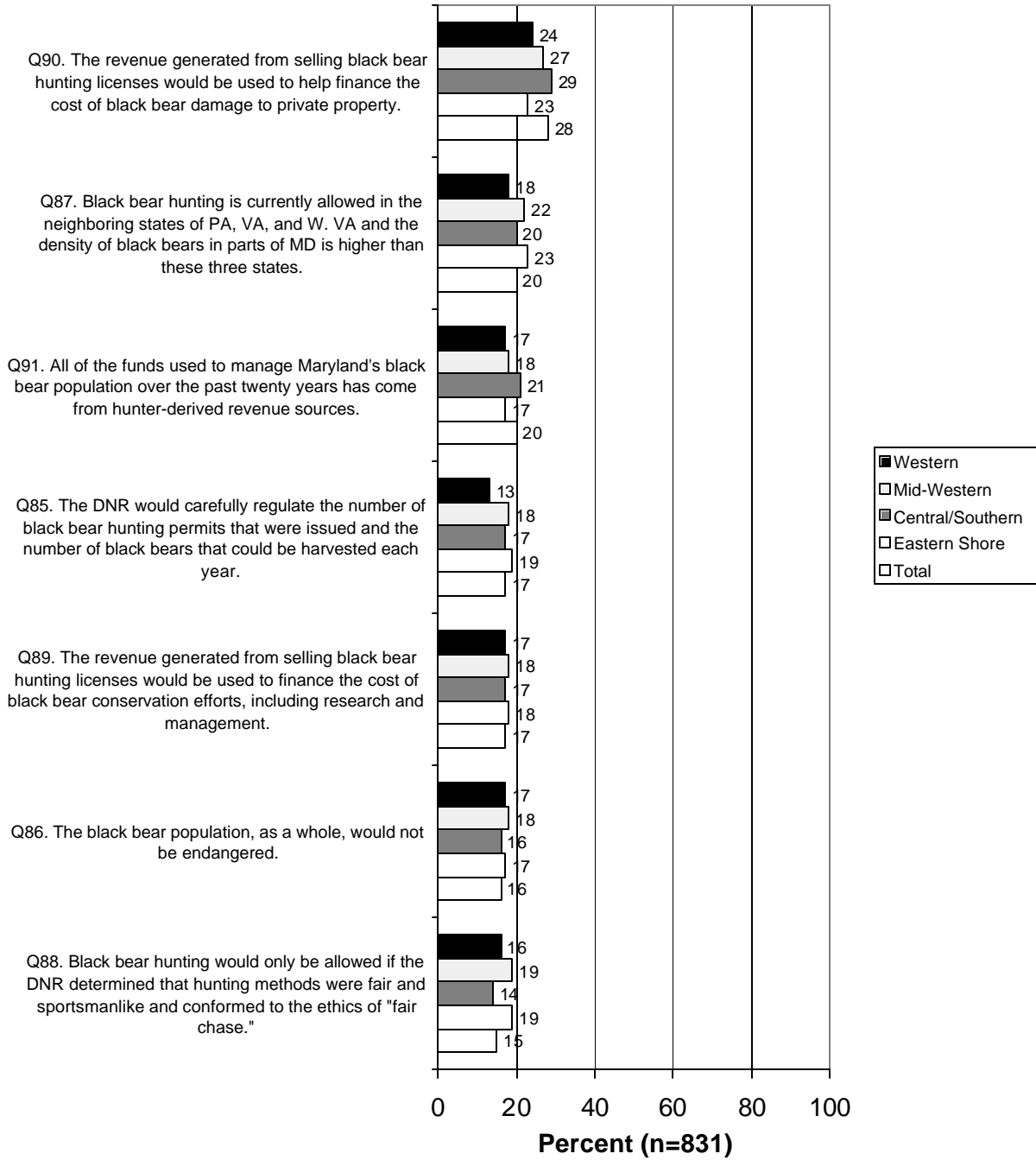
Q85-Q91. Percent who would strongly or moderately support black bear hunting in Maryland if they knew:



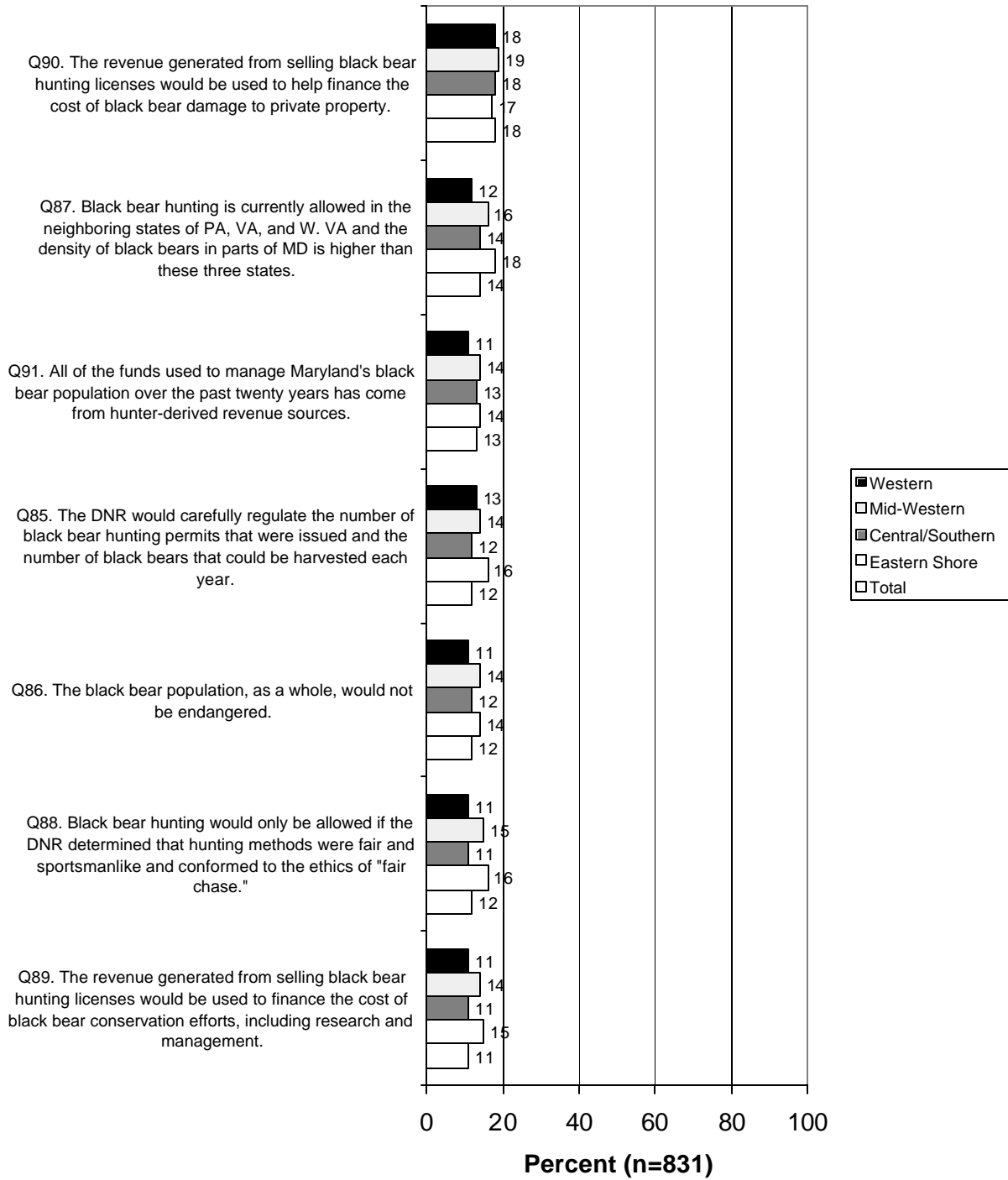
Q85-Q91. Percent who would strongly support black bear hunting in Maryland if they knew:



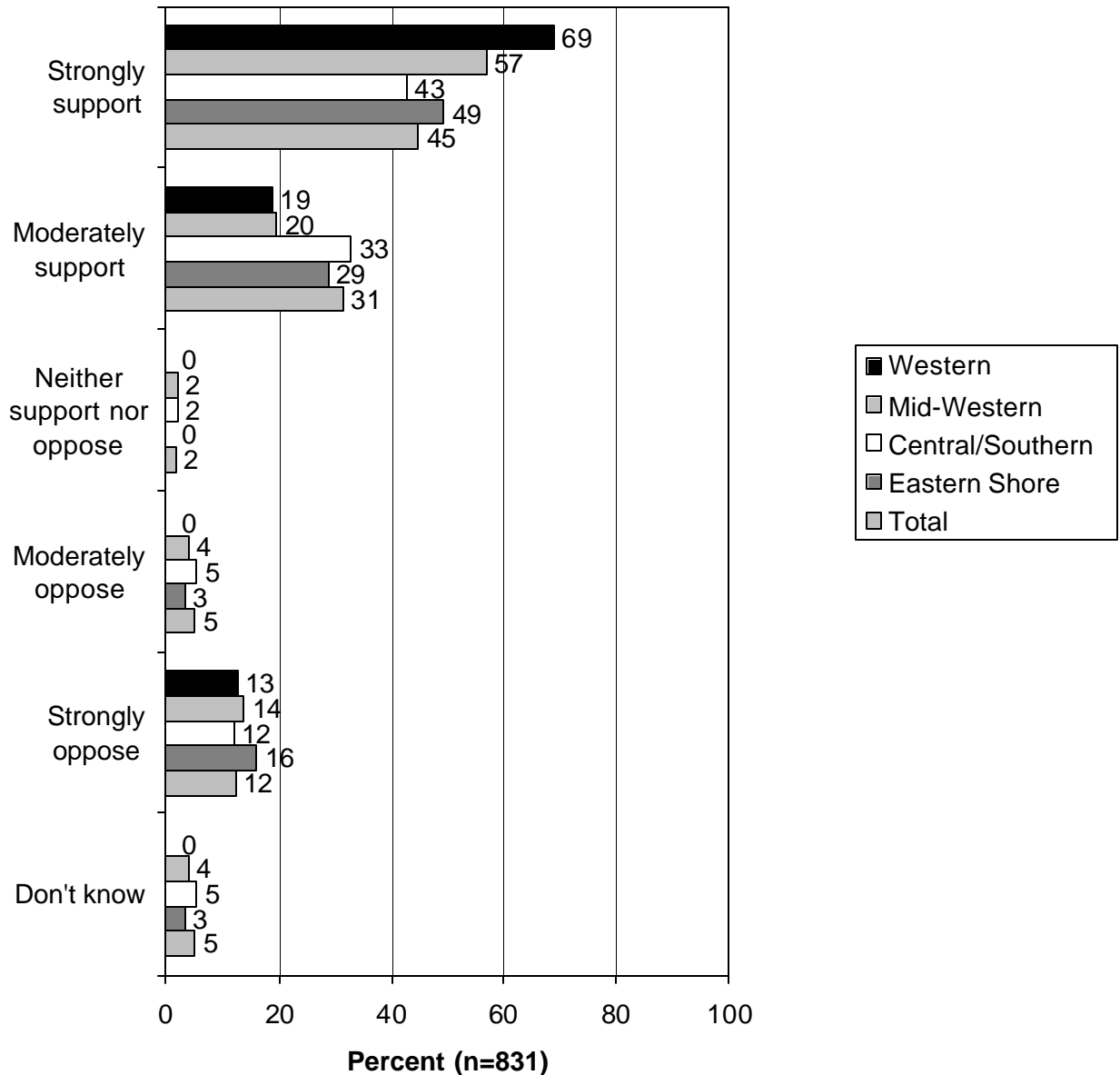
Q85-Q91. Percent who would strongly or moderately oppose black bear hunting in Maryland if they knew:



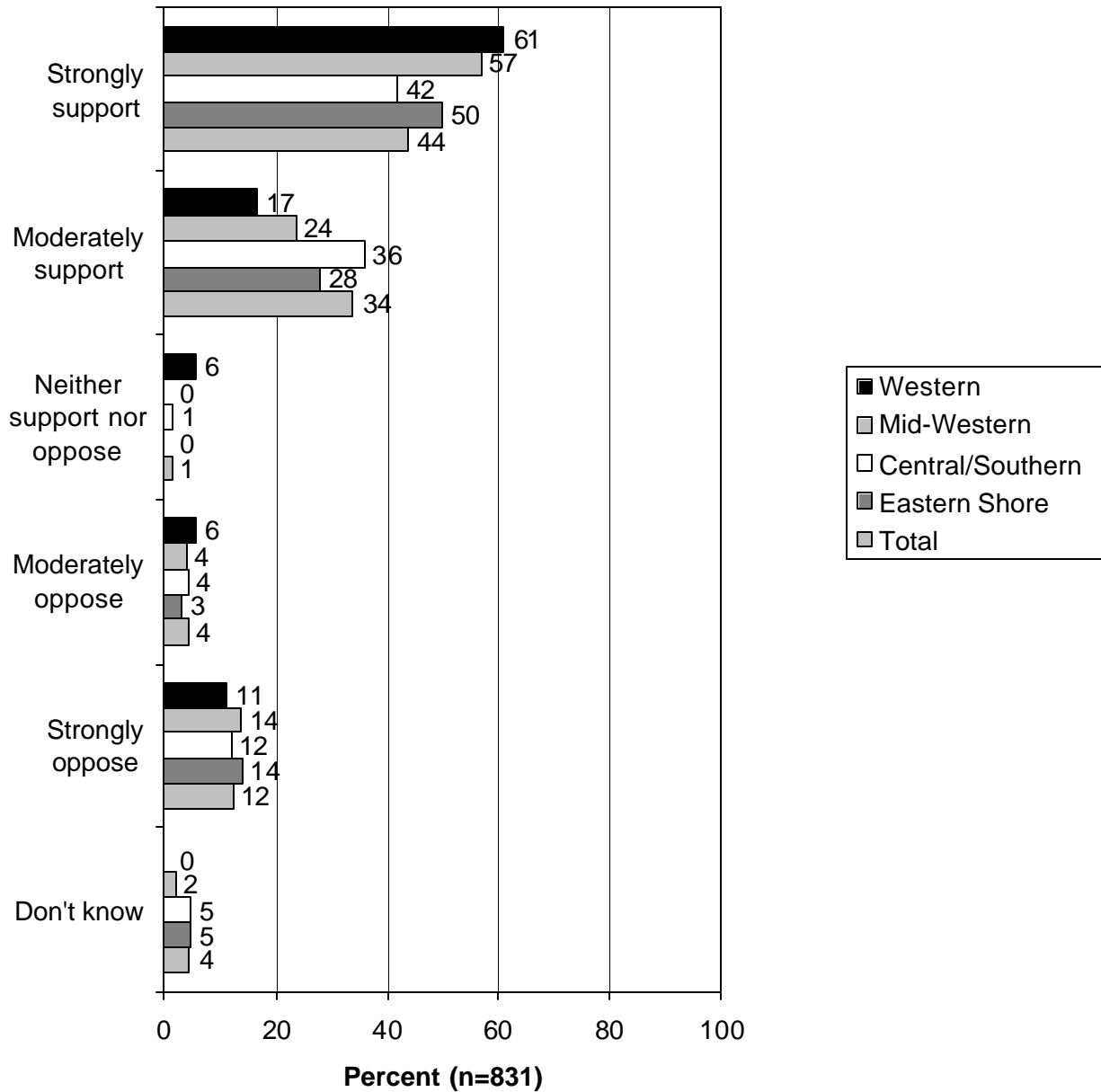
Q85-Q91. Percent who would strongly oppose black bear hunting in Maryland if they knew:



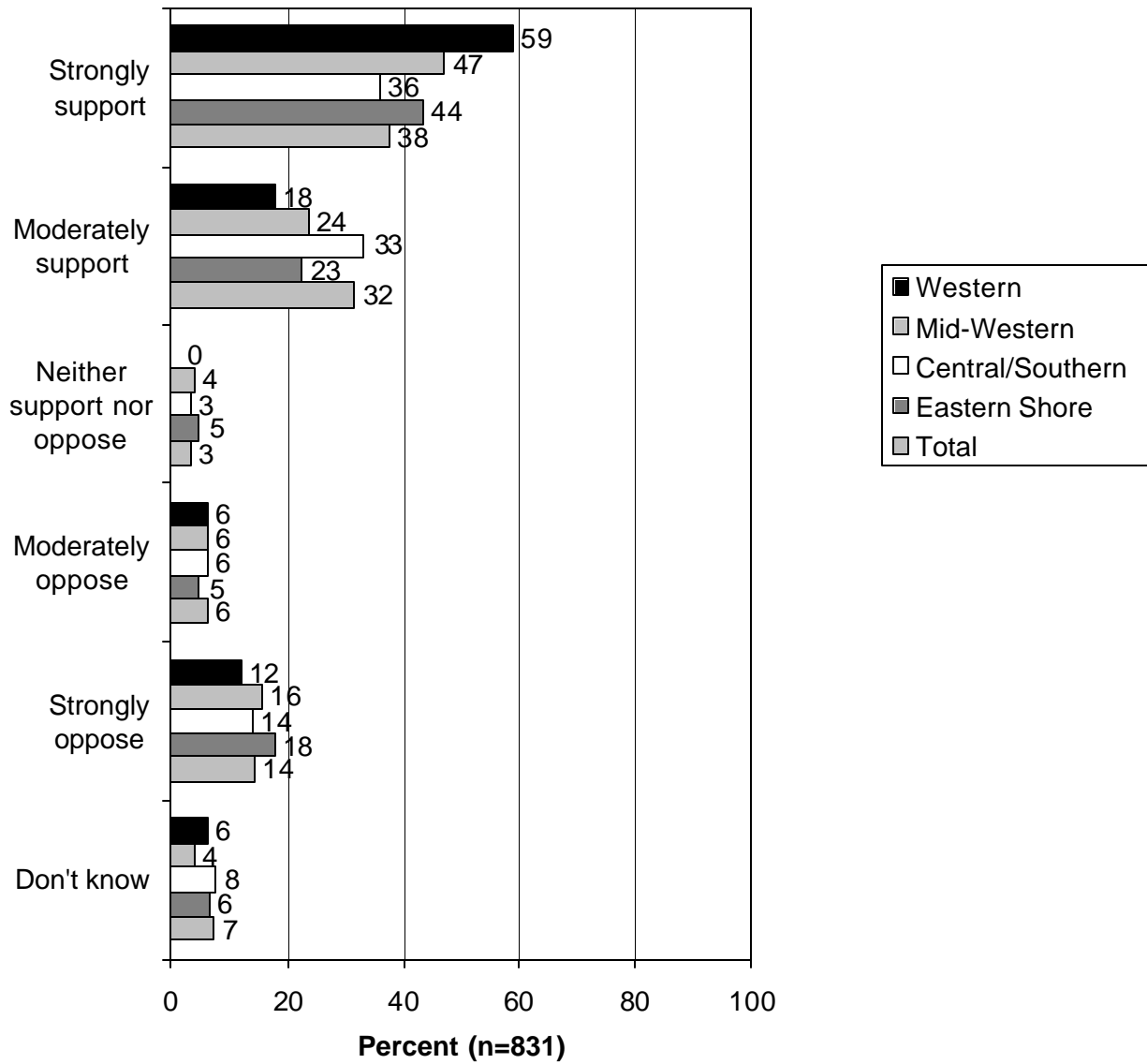
Q85. Would you support or oppose black bear hunting in Maryland if you knew that the DNR would carefully regulate the number of black bear hunting permits that were issued and the number of black bears that could be harvested each year?



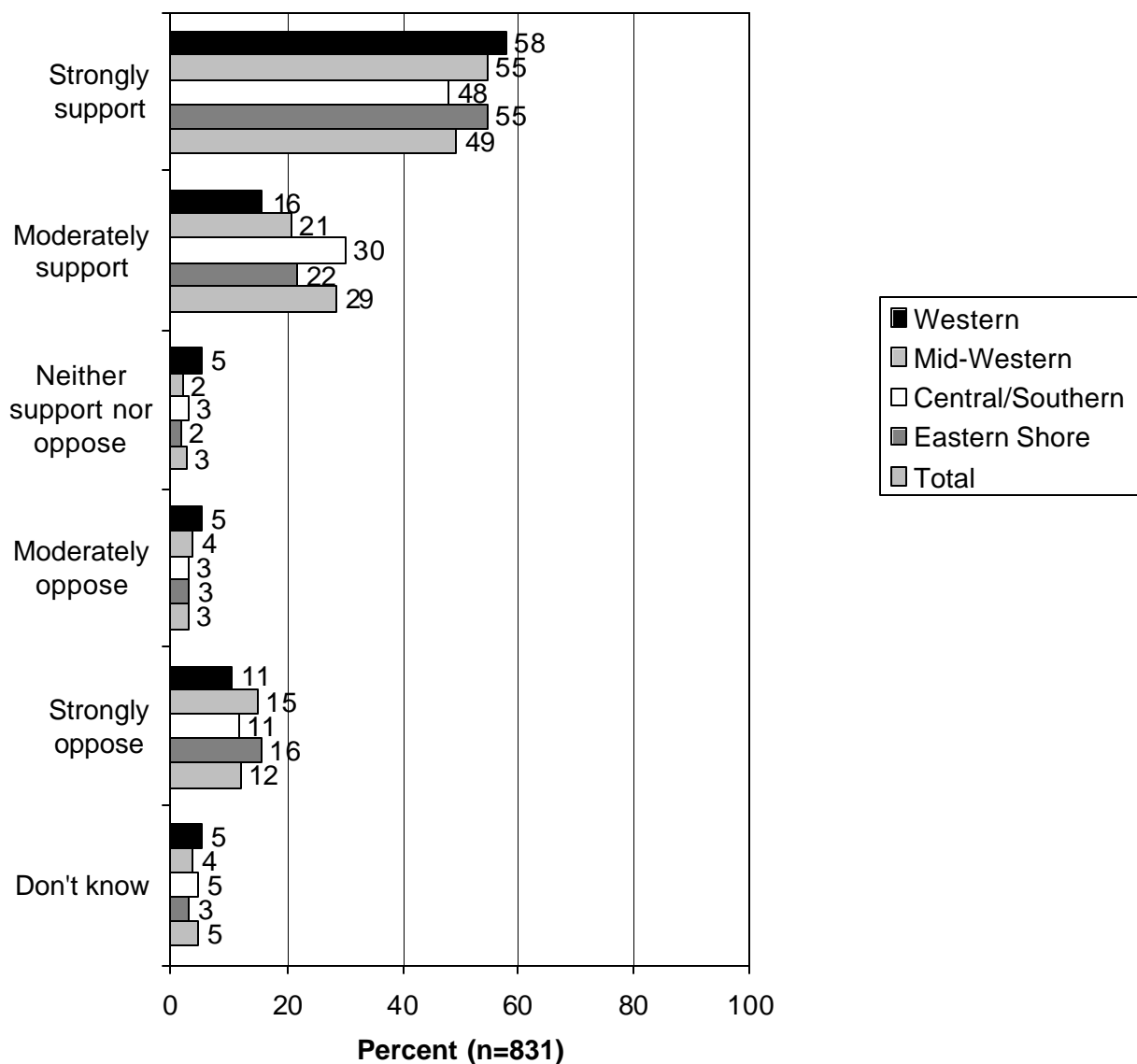
Q86. Would you support or oppose black bear hunting in Maryland if you knew that the black bear population, as a whole, would not be endangered?



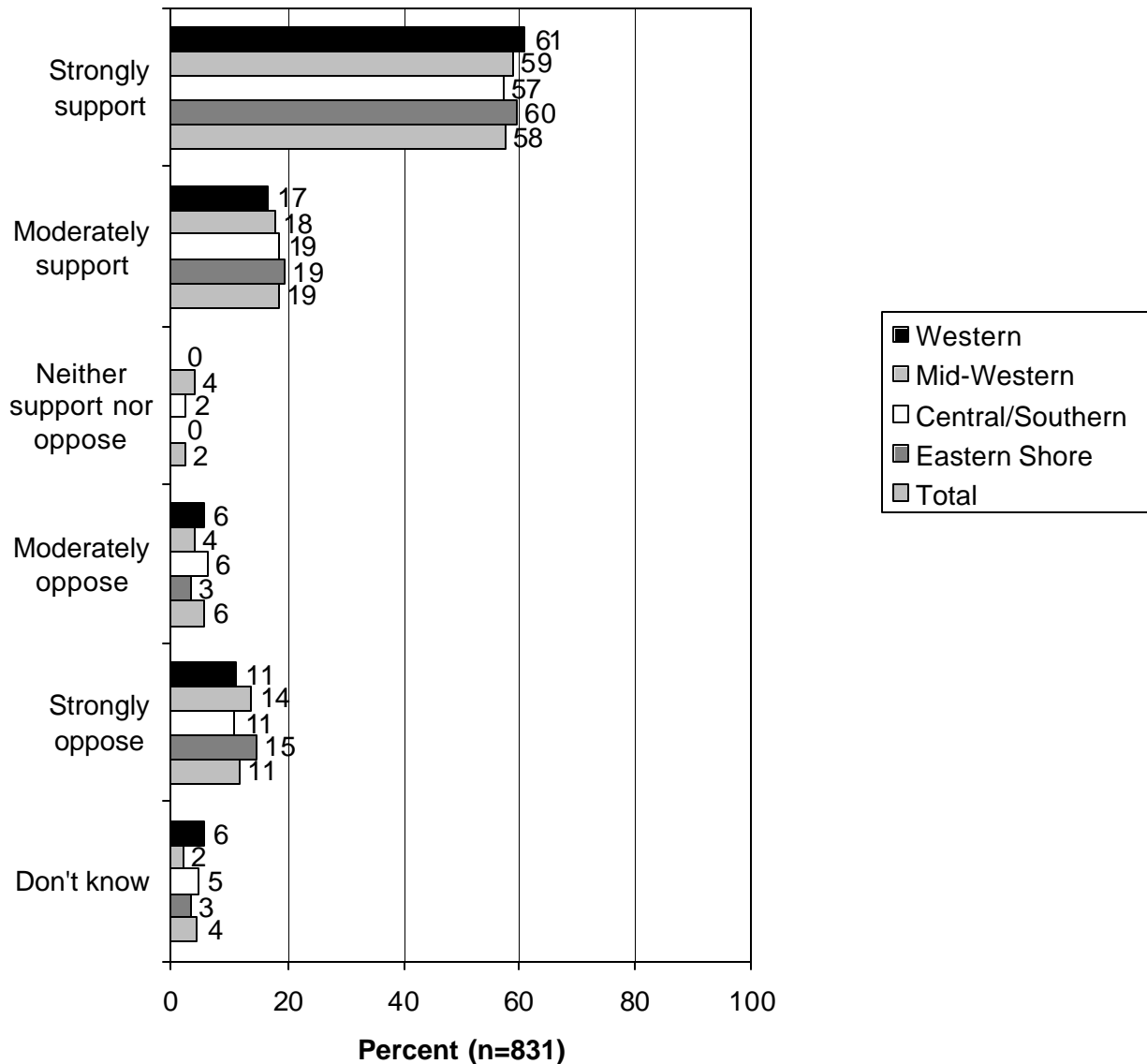
Q87. Would you support or oppose black bear hunting in Maryland if you knew that black bear hunting is currently allowed in the neighboring states of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia and that the density of black bears in parts of Maryland is higher than these three neighboring states?



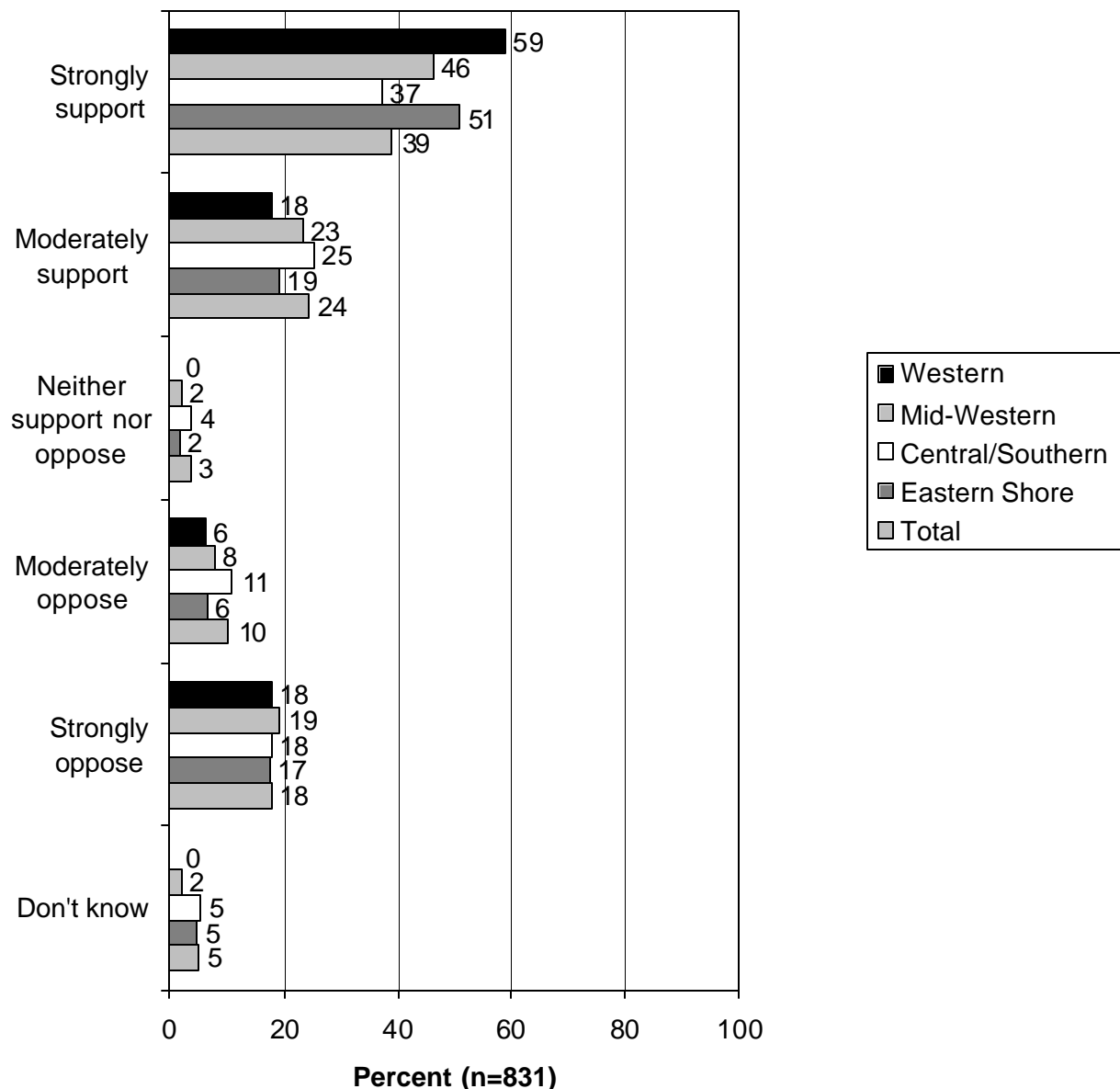
88. Would you support or oppose black bear hunting in Maryland if you knew that black bear hunting would only be allowed if the DNR determined that hunting methods were fair and sportsmanlike and conformed to the ethics of "fair chase?"



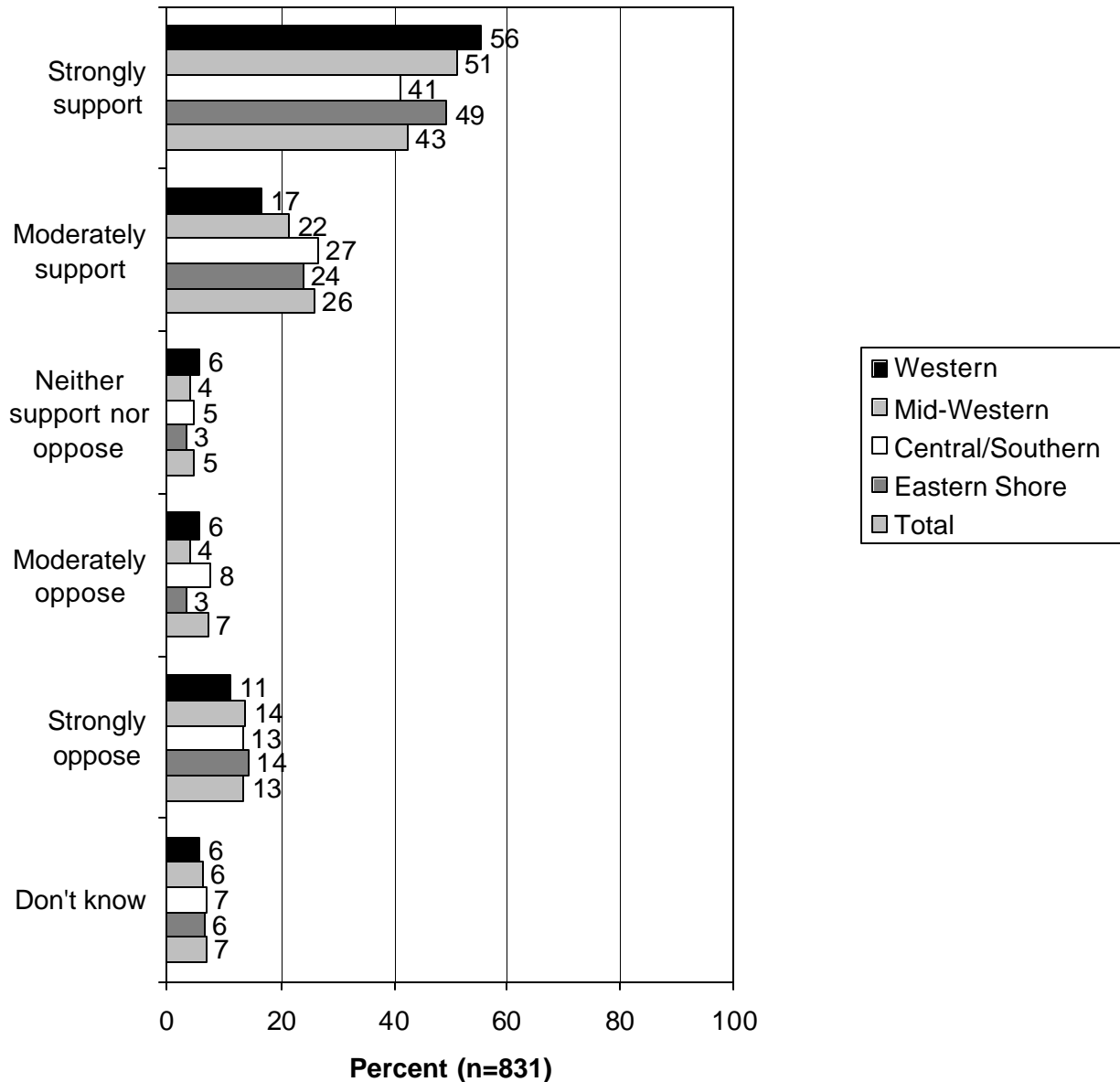
Q89. Would you support or oppose black bear hunting in Maryland if you knew that the revenue generated from selling black bear hunting licenses would be used to finance the cost of black bear conservation efforts, including research and management?



Q90. Would you support or oppose black bear hunting in Maryland if you knew that the revenue generated from selling black bear hunting licenses would be used to help finance the cost of black bear damage to private property?



Q91. Would you support or oppose black bear hunting in Maryland if you knew that all of the funds used to manage Maryland's black bear population over the past twenty years has come from hunter-derived revenue sources?

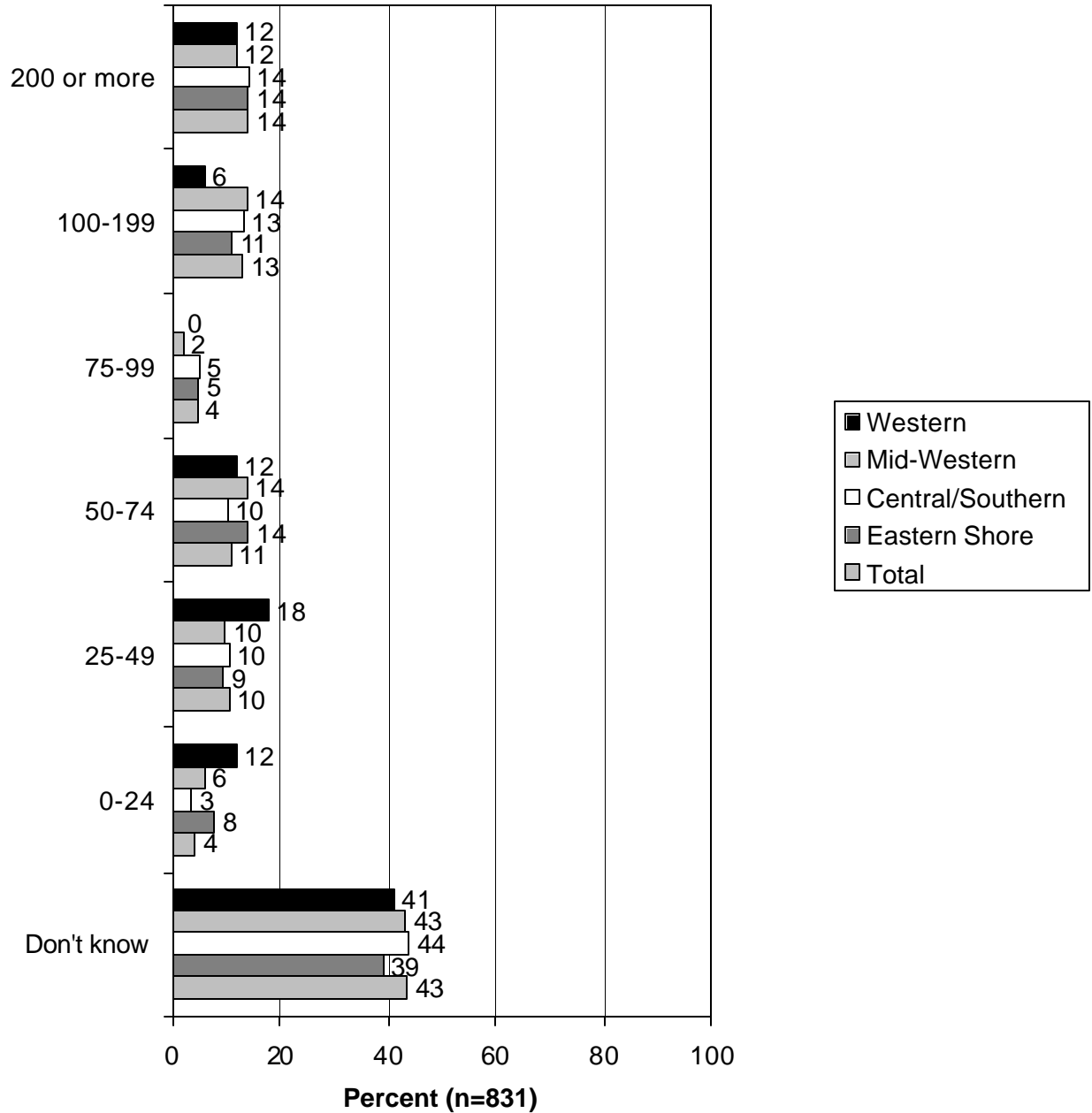


Perceived Reasonable Fee for Regulated Hunting

- Respondents were asked what they perceive as a reasonable fee for a Maryland resident to have the opportunity to hunt black bear in Maryland. Respondents' answers are fairly evenly spread among four monetary categories: \$0-49, \$50-99, \$100-199, and \$200 or more.
- The mean of all respondents' perceived reasonable fee for a Maryland resident to have the opportunity to hunt black bear in Maryland is \$203.
 - The mean of Eastern Shore Region respondents' perceived reasonable fee for black bear hunting is \$312, the mean of Mid-Western Region respondents' perceived reasonable fee is \$279, the mean of Western Region respondents' perceived reasonable fee is \$217, and the mean of Central/Southern Region respondents' perceived reasonable fee is \$187.

Q92. What do you think would be a reasonable fee for a Maryland resident to have the opportunity to hunt black bear in Maryland?	
Region	Mean Dollars
Western	\$216.50
Mid- Western	\$278.71
Central/Southern	\$186.78
Eastern Shore	\$311.87
Total	\$203.32

Q92. What do you think would be a reasonable fee for a Maryland resident to have the opportunity to hunt black bear in Maryland?

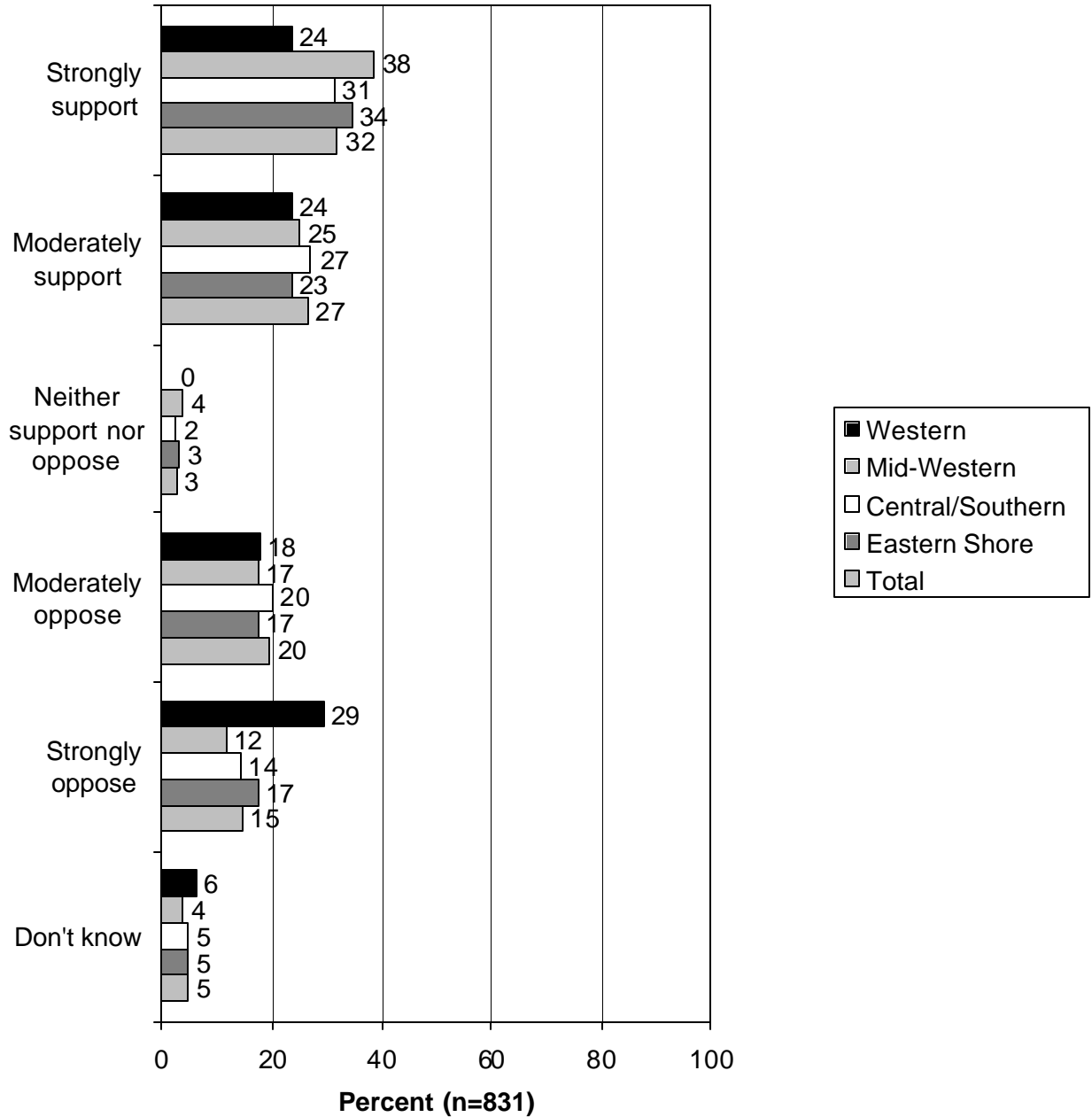


ALTERNATE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

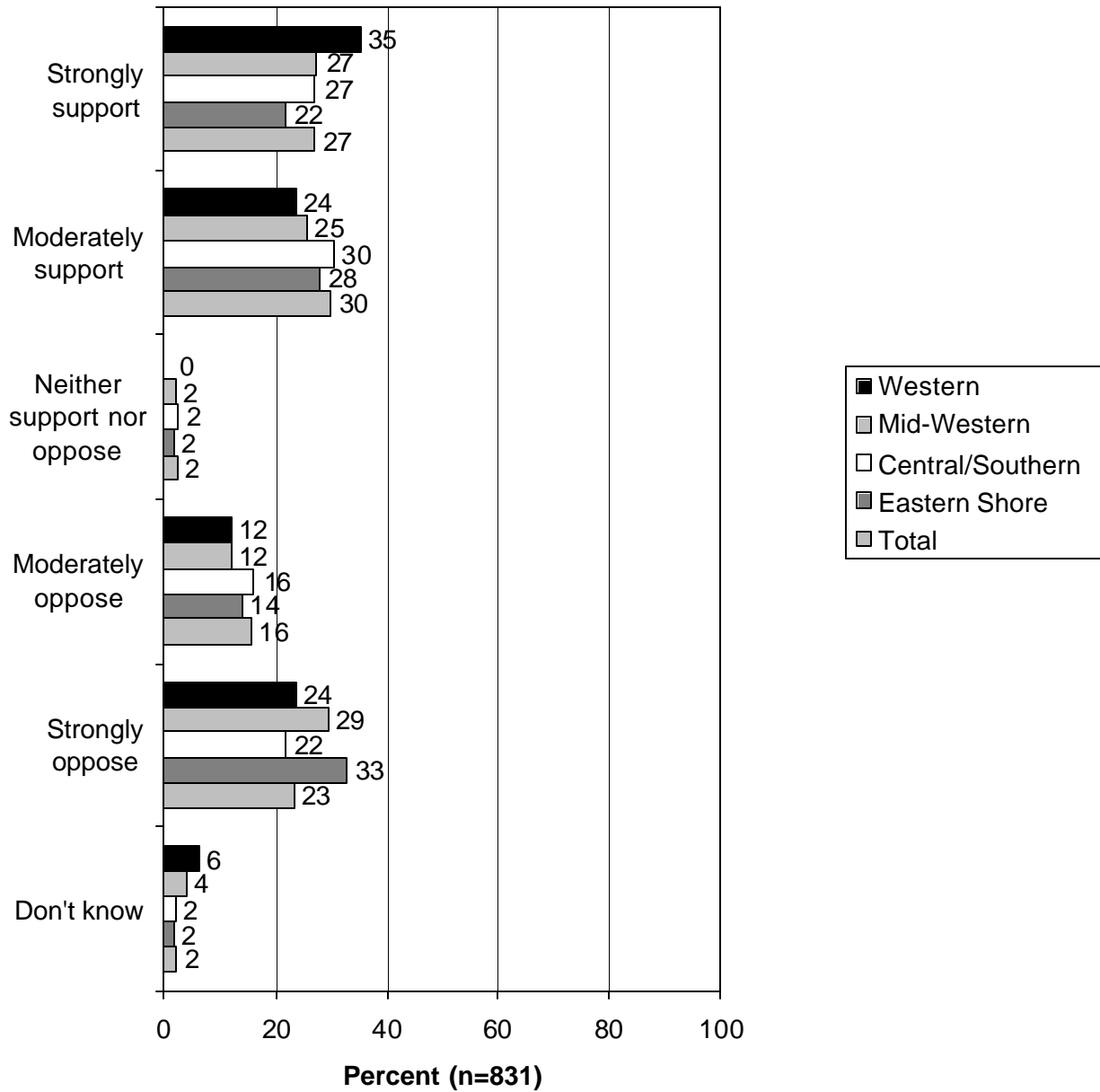
- A majority (59%) of all respondents strongly or moderately support passive management of black bears, or allowing nature to take its course; 35% of all respondents oppose passive management.
 - Western Region respondents are more likely (47%) to oppose passive management of black bears.

- A majority (57%) of all respondents strongly or moderately support having Maryland DNR sharpshooters kill black bears when necessary as a way to control populations in Maryland; 39% of all respondent moderately or strongly oppose. There is no marked regional variation.

Q76. Do you support or oppose passive management, or allowing nature to take its course?



Q77. Do you support or oppose Maryland DNR sharpshooters killing black bears when necessary as a way to control populations in Maryland?



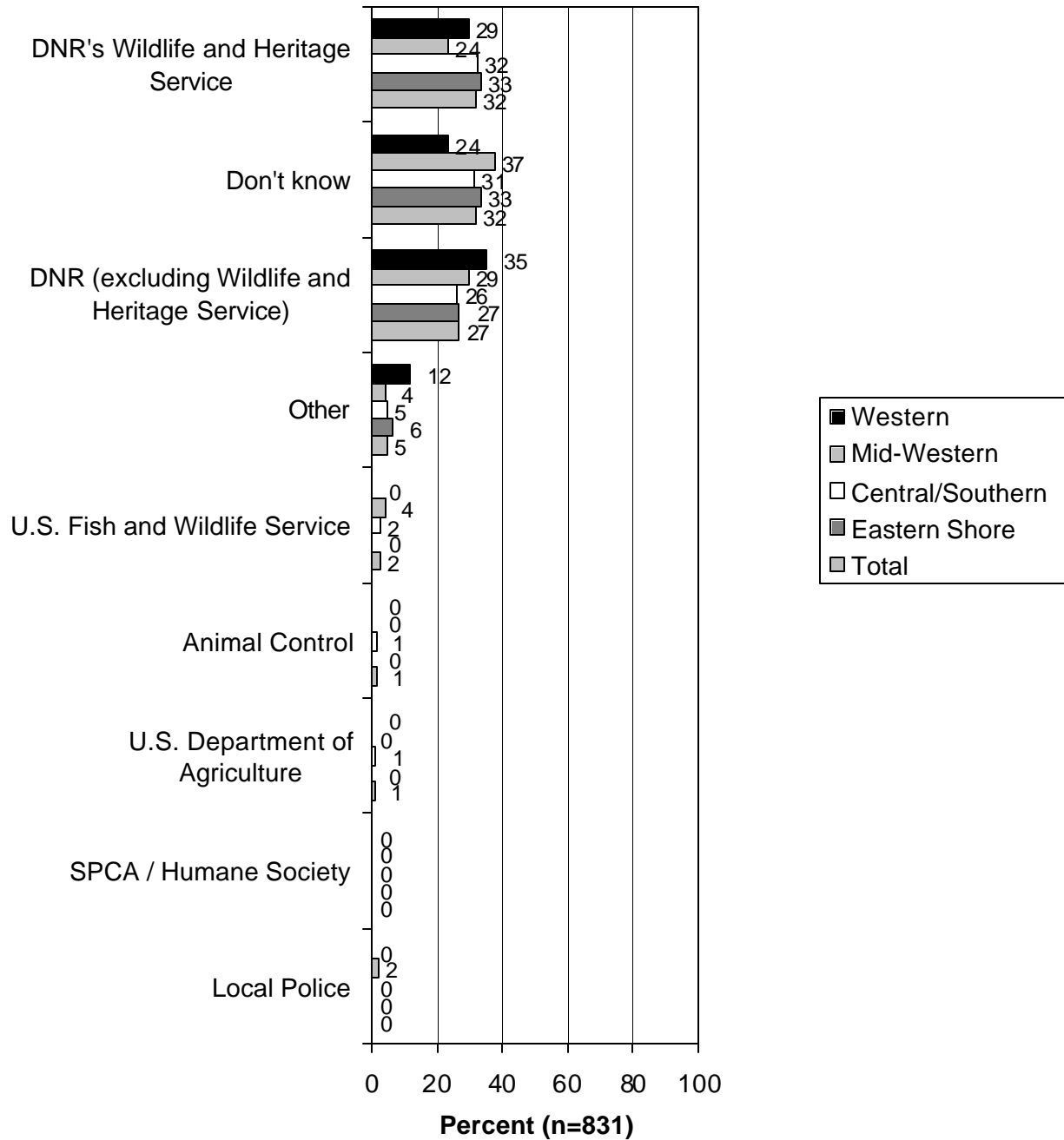
INFORMATION SOURCES ABOUT BLACK BEARS

- When asked in an open-ended question (i.e., no list is read, and respondents can give any response) to name the agency or organization that is the most credible regarding black bears, respondents most commonly named the Maryland DNR's Wildlife and Heritage Service (32%), followed by the Maryland DNR excluding the Wildlife and Heritage Service (27%). In total, a majority of respondents gave a DNR-related response (59%). There is little regional variation.

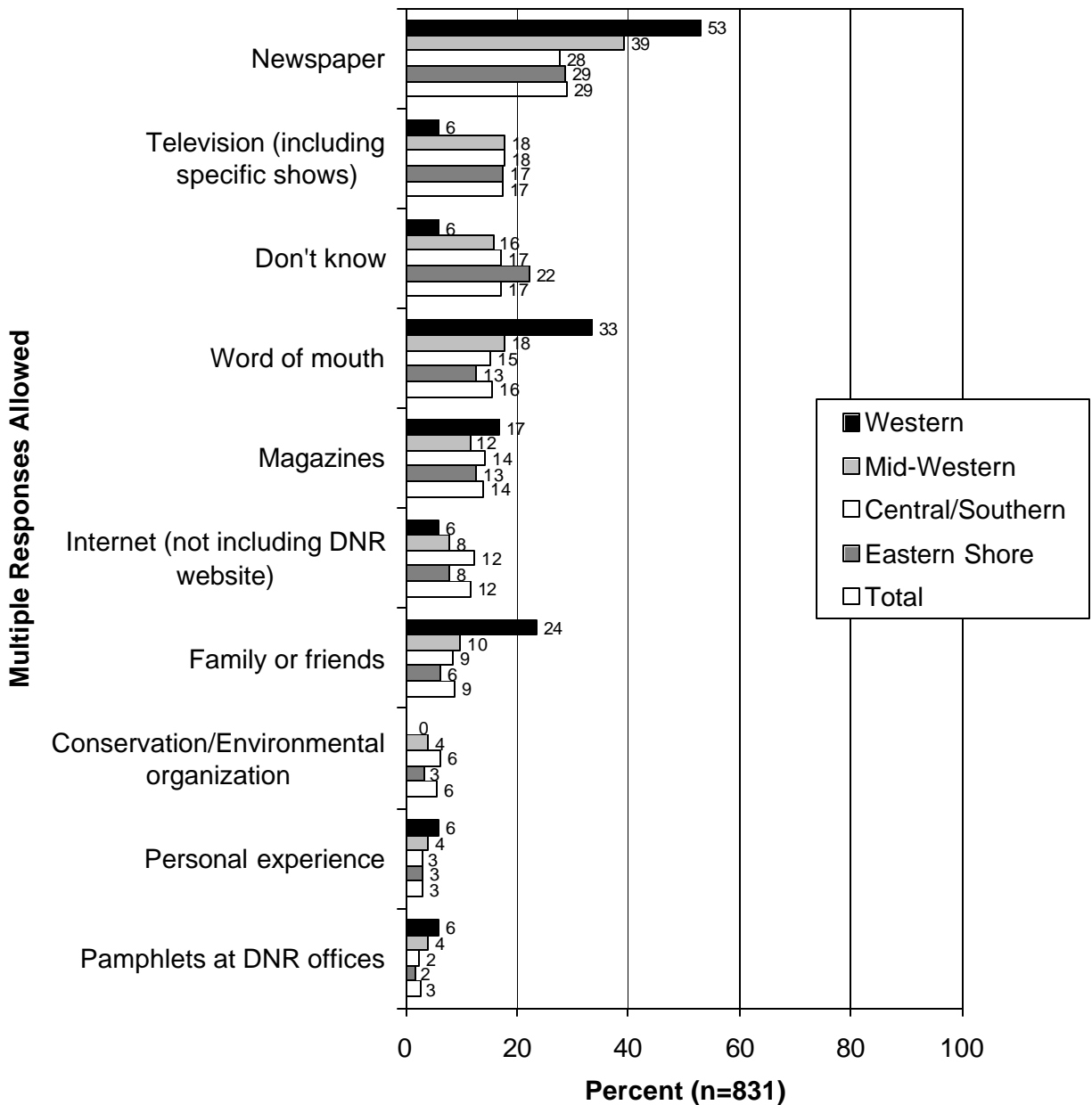
- Respondents most commonly (29%) get their information about black bears from the newspaper. Other common information sources include television (17%), word-of-mouth (16%), magazines (14%), the Internet (not including the DNR Website, 12%), and family or friends (9%).
 - Western Region respondents are more likely to get their information from the newspaper (53%), by word-of-mouth (33%), and through family or friends (24%).

- A majority (59%) of respondents are not interested in receiving more information about black bears in Maryland, but 40% of all respondents are interested in receiving more information about black bears in Maryland.
 - Of those interested in receiving more information about black bears in Maryland, several topics were indicated as areas of interest: 80% would like information about what to do when encountering a black bear, 76% would like information about how to minimize human/black bear conflicts, 75% would like information about the State of Maryland's bear management plan, 73% would like information about black bear biology, life cycle, and behavior, 71% would like information about whom to contact if they see a black bear, 64% would like information about how to identify black bears, and 53% would like information about black bear hunting.

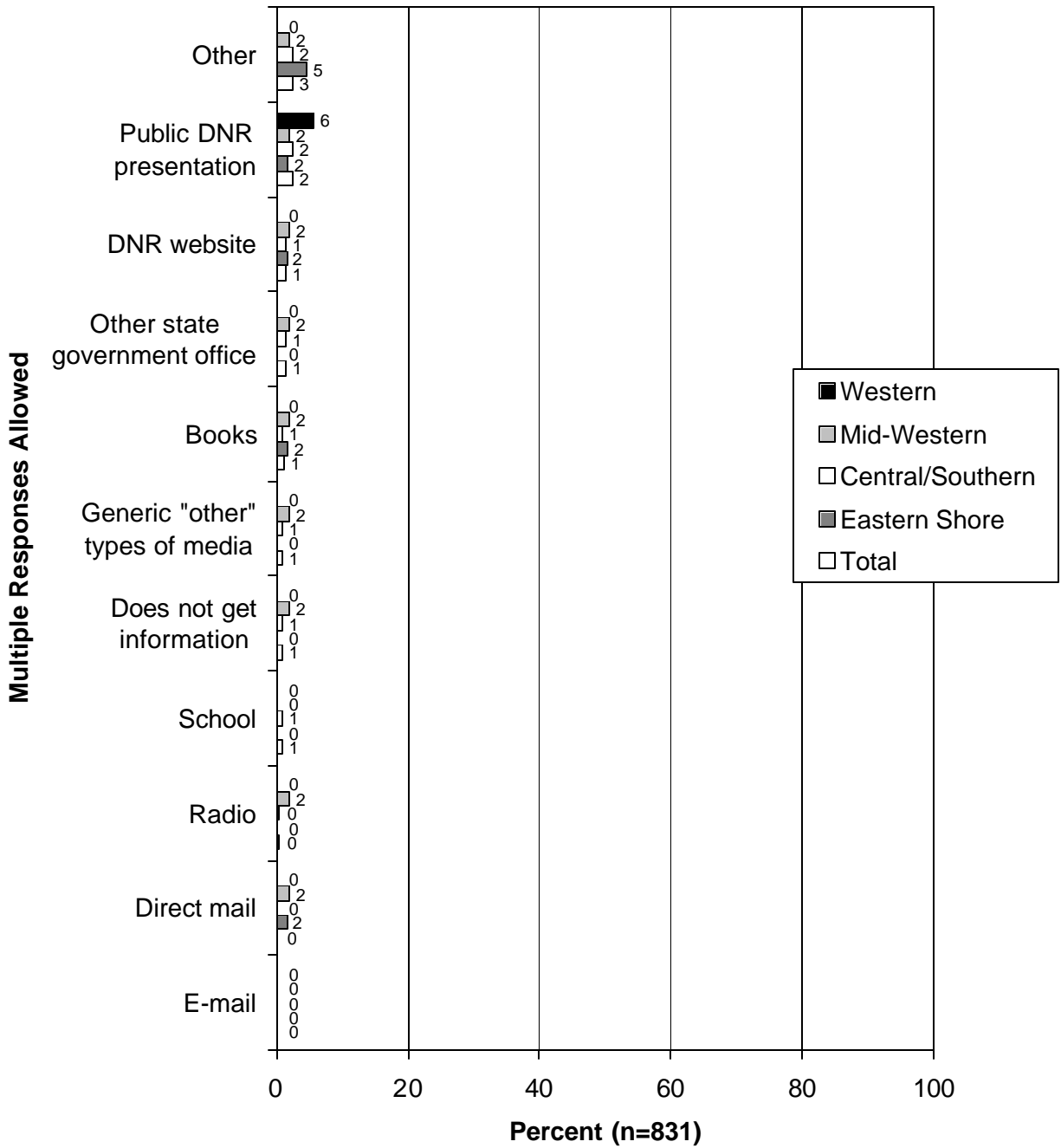
Q96. What agency or organization do you think is the most credible source of information on black bears in Maryland?



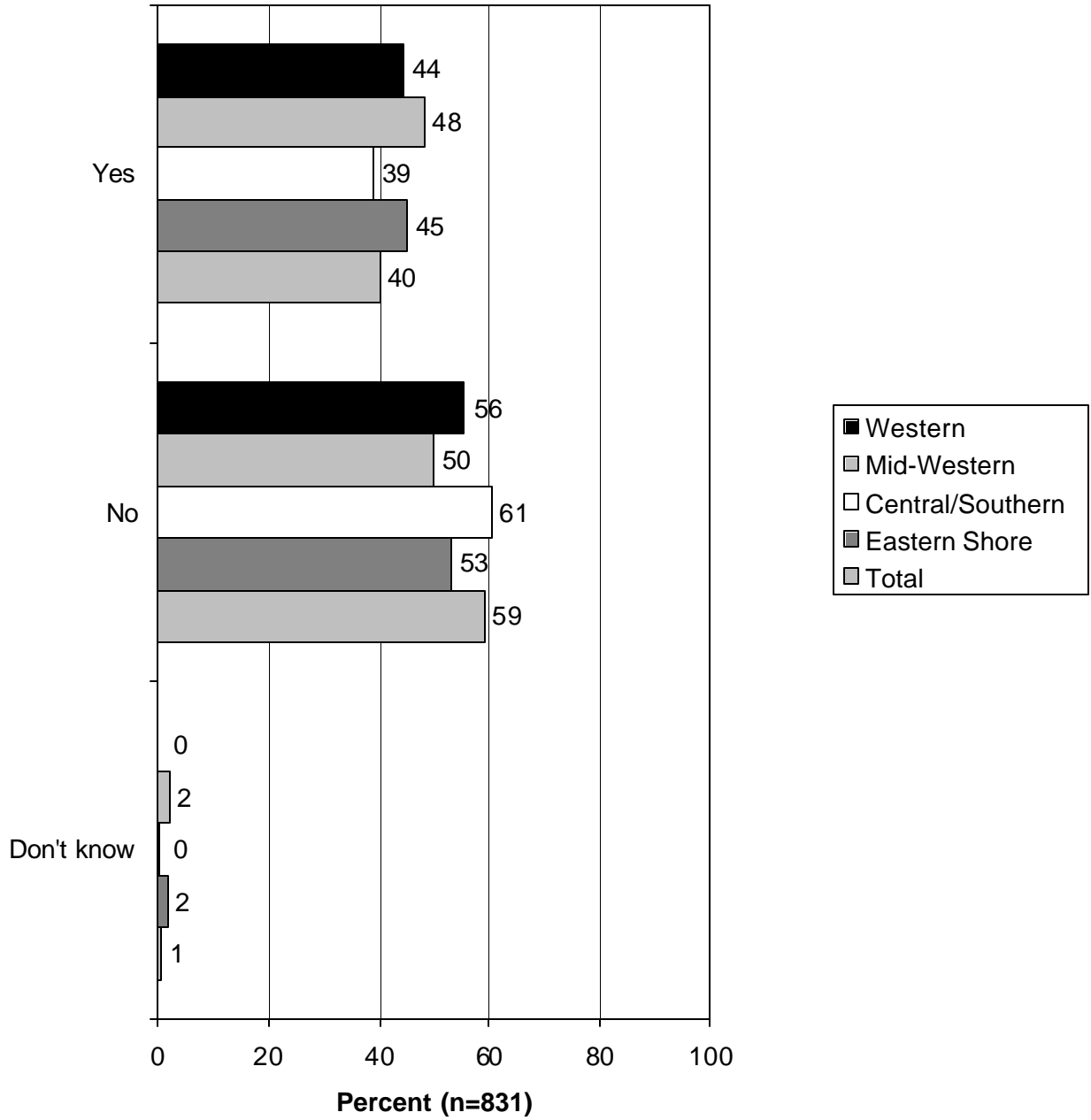
Q94. Where do you get your information about black bears? (Part 1)



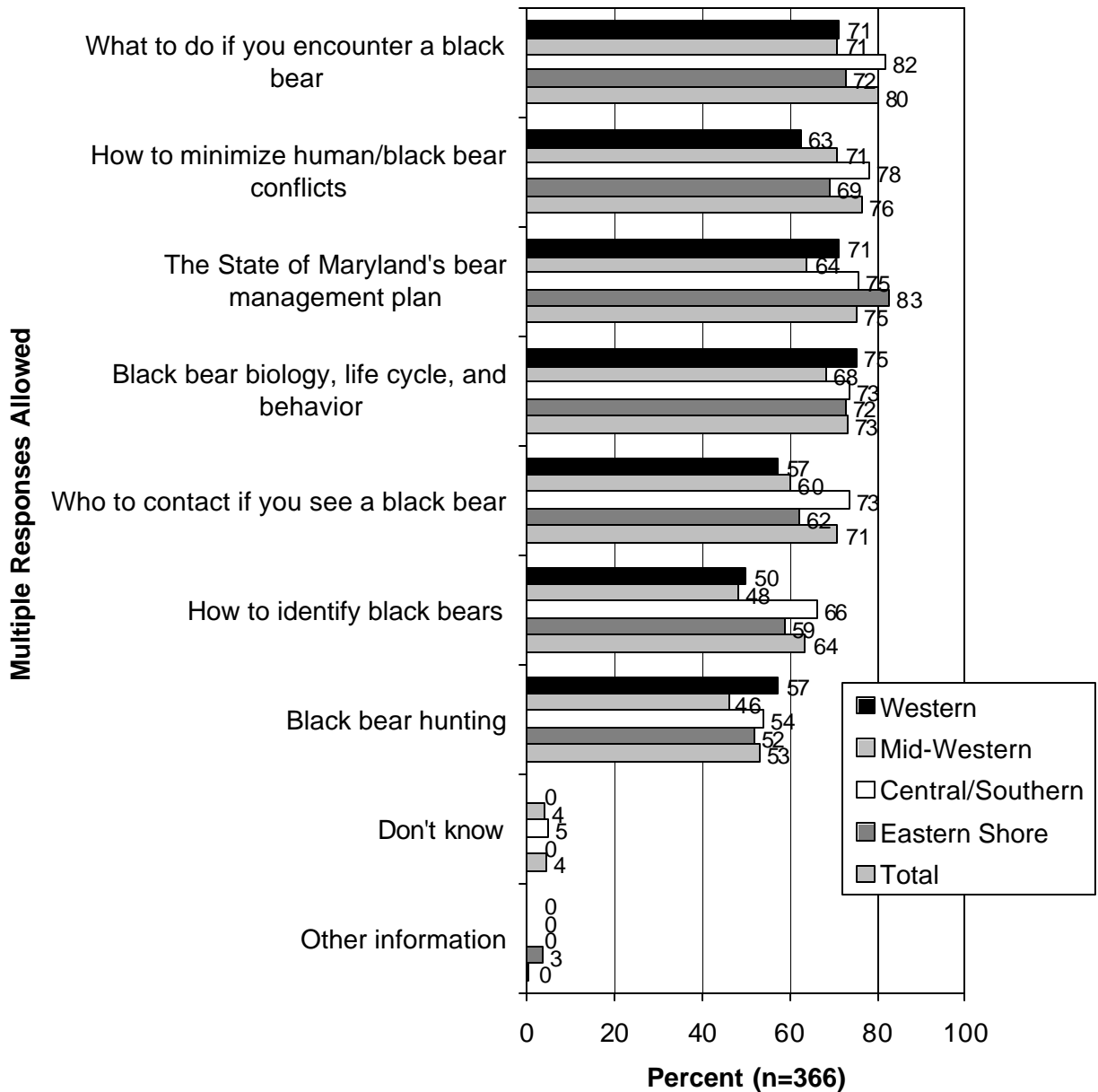
Q94. Where do you get your information about black bears? (Part 2)



Q98. Are you interested in receiving more information about black bears?



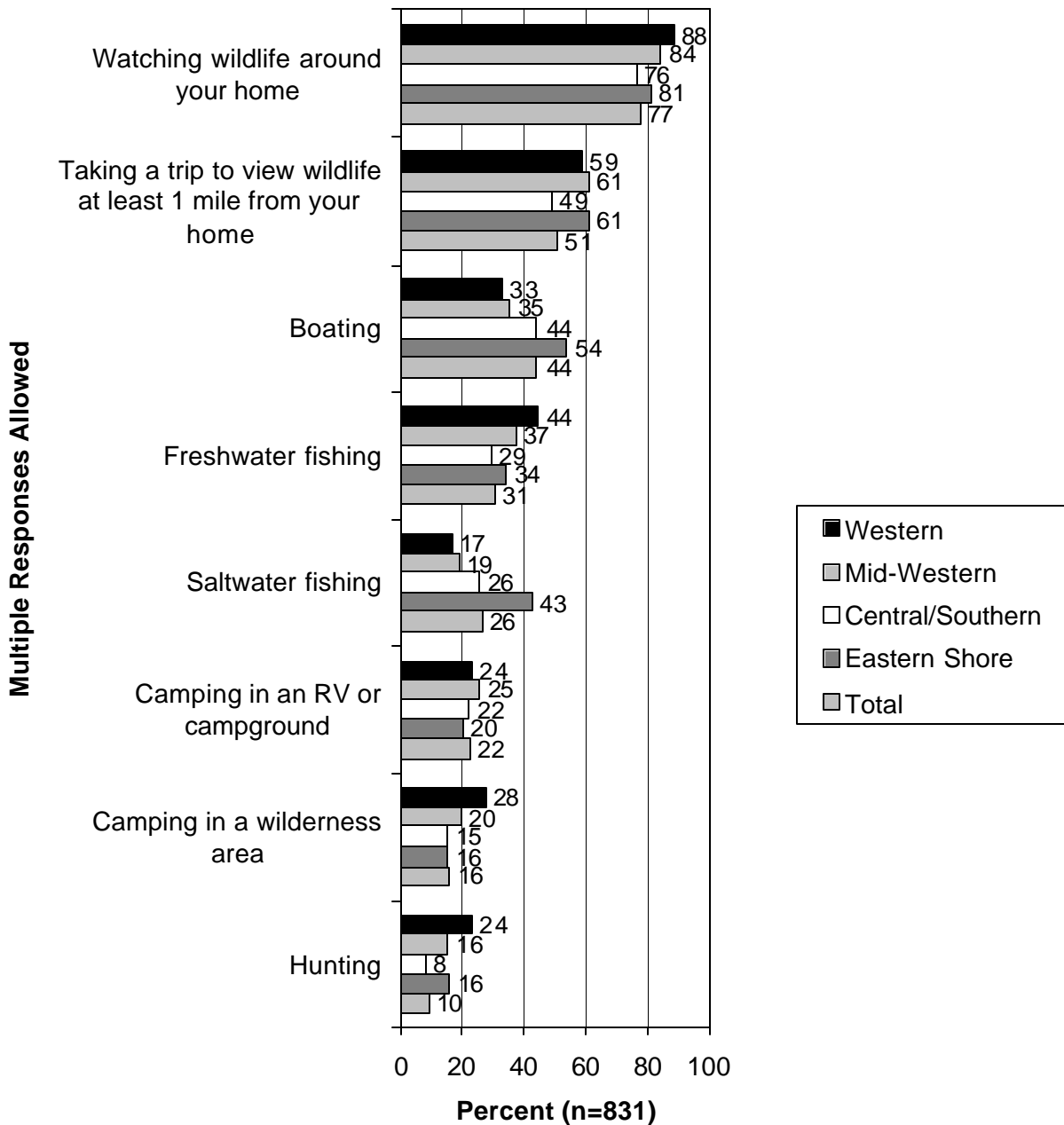
Q100. In which of the following topics regarding black bears are you interested? (Asked of those who indicated interest in receiving more information about black bears.)



PARTICIPATION IN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

- In the past 2 years, 77% of respondents have watched wildlife around their home, and 51% have taken a trip at least 1 mile from their home to view wildlife. Other popular outdoor activities include boating (44%), freshwater fishing (31%), and saltwater fishing (26%).
 - Less popular outdoor activities include camping in an RV or campground (22%), camping in a wilderness area (16%), and hunting (10%).
 - Central/Southern Region respondents are the least likely (8%) to have hunted.

Q104. In which of the following outdoor activities have you participated in Maryland in the past 2 years?



DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

- The graph for Question 105 shows respondents' perception of the area in which they live. The Western Region is the most rural; the Central/Southern Region is the most urban.

- A majority of respondents (60%) attended college, with or without obtaining a degree, while 36% of respondents went no further than high school, with or without obtaining a degree.

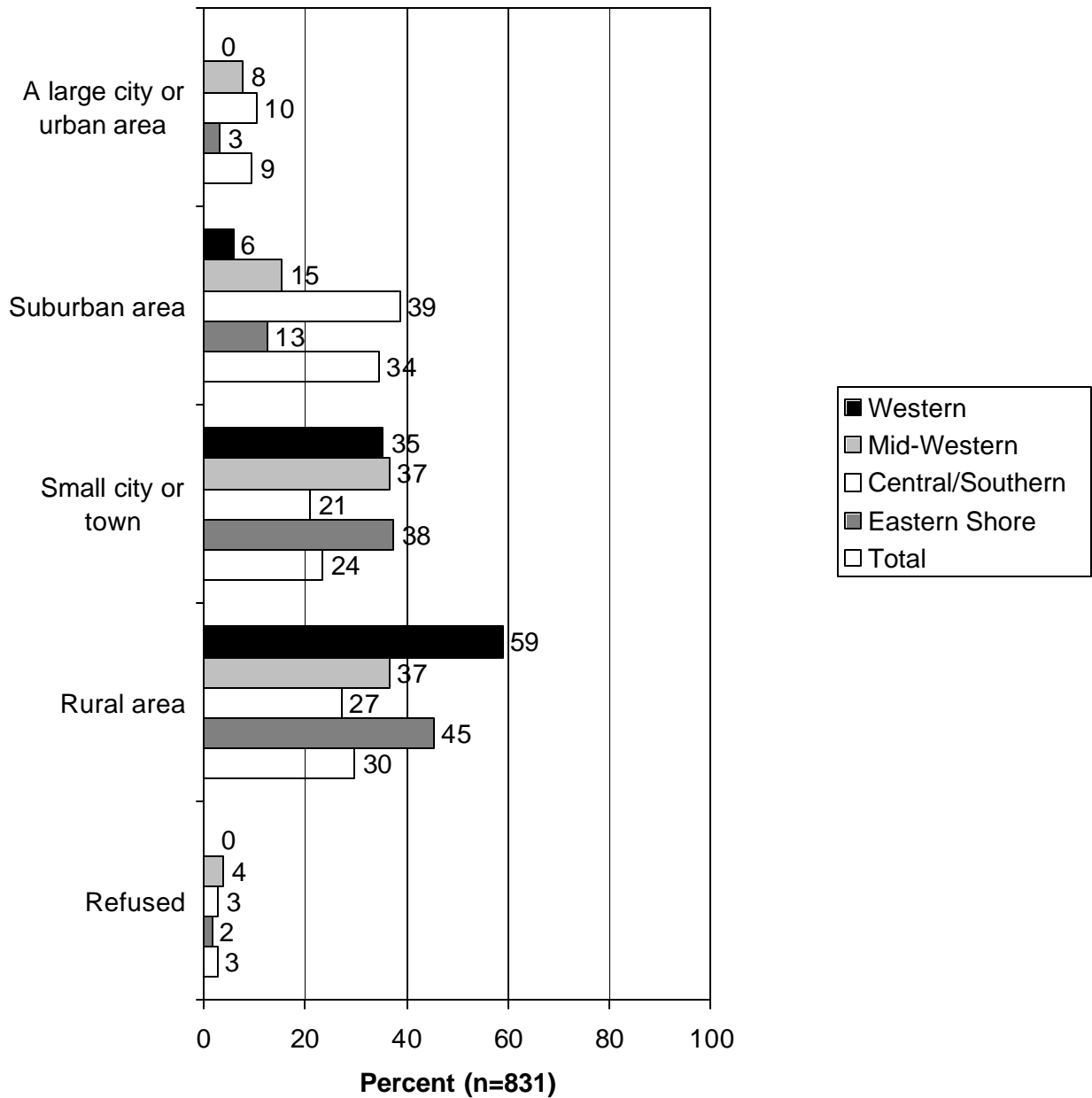
- The total household incomes before taxes of all respondents are shown. Western Region respondents disproportionately fall in the lower income categories; Central/Southern Region respondents disproportionately fall in the upper income categories.

- The majority (83%) of all respondents are white; 8% are black or African-American.

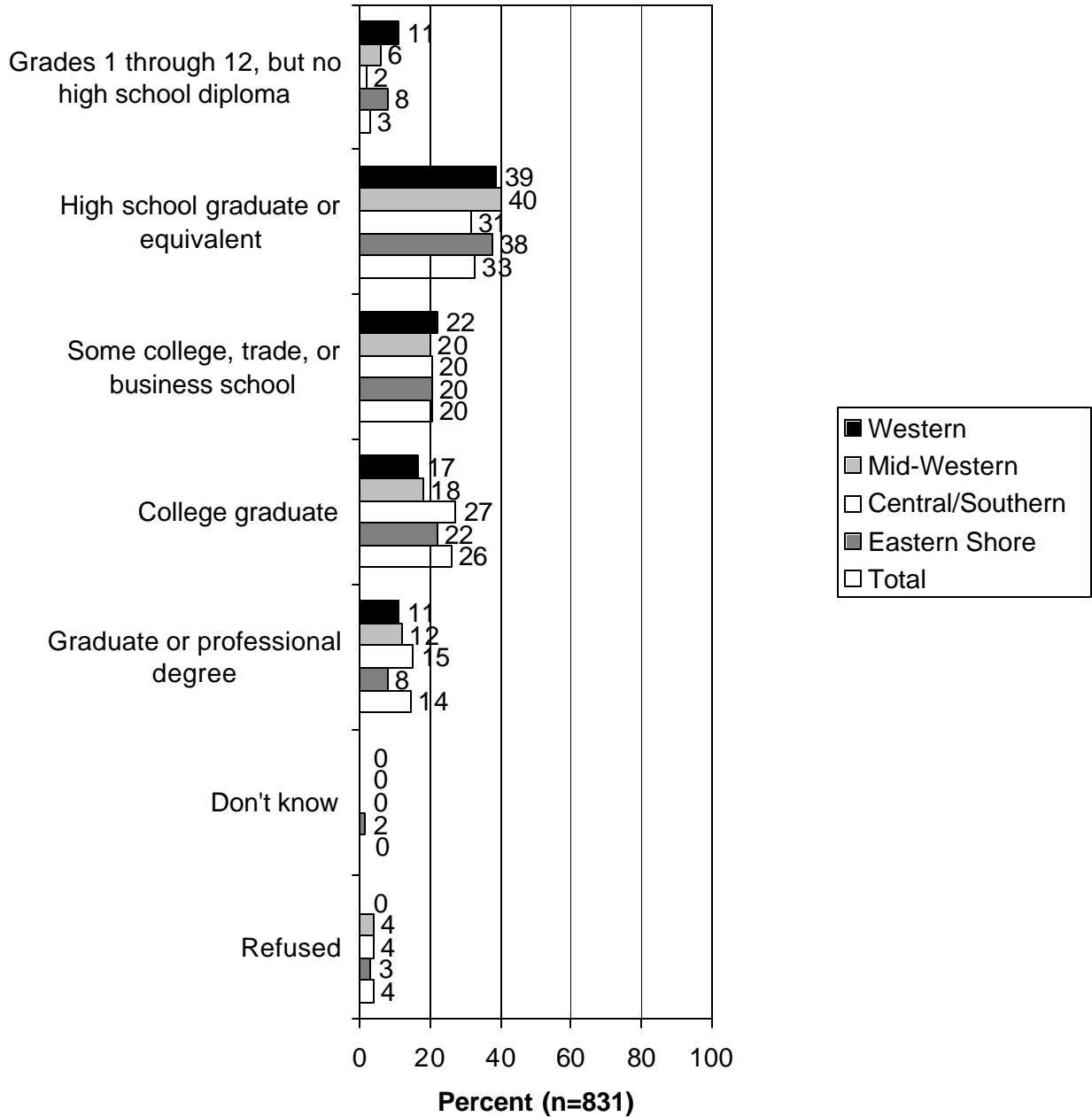
- Most commonly, respondents fell into two age categories: 35-44 years old (24%) and 45-54 years old (23%). The mean of all respondents ages is 47 years old.

- The majority (56%) of respondents are female; 44% of all respondents are male.

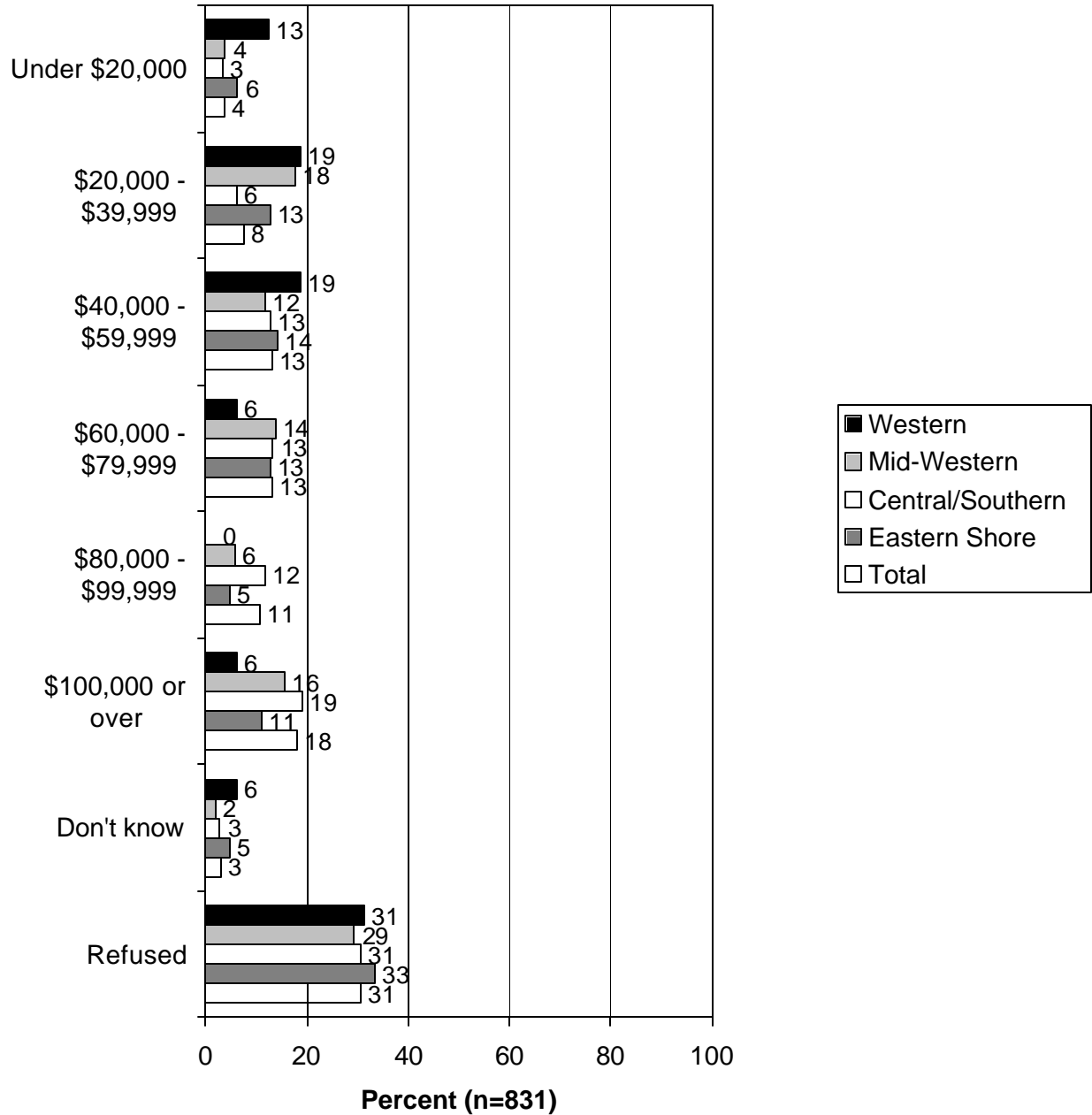
Q105. Do you consider your place of residence to be in a large city or urban area, a suburban area, a small city or town, or a rural area?



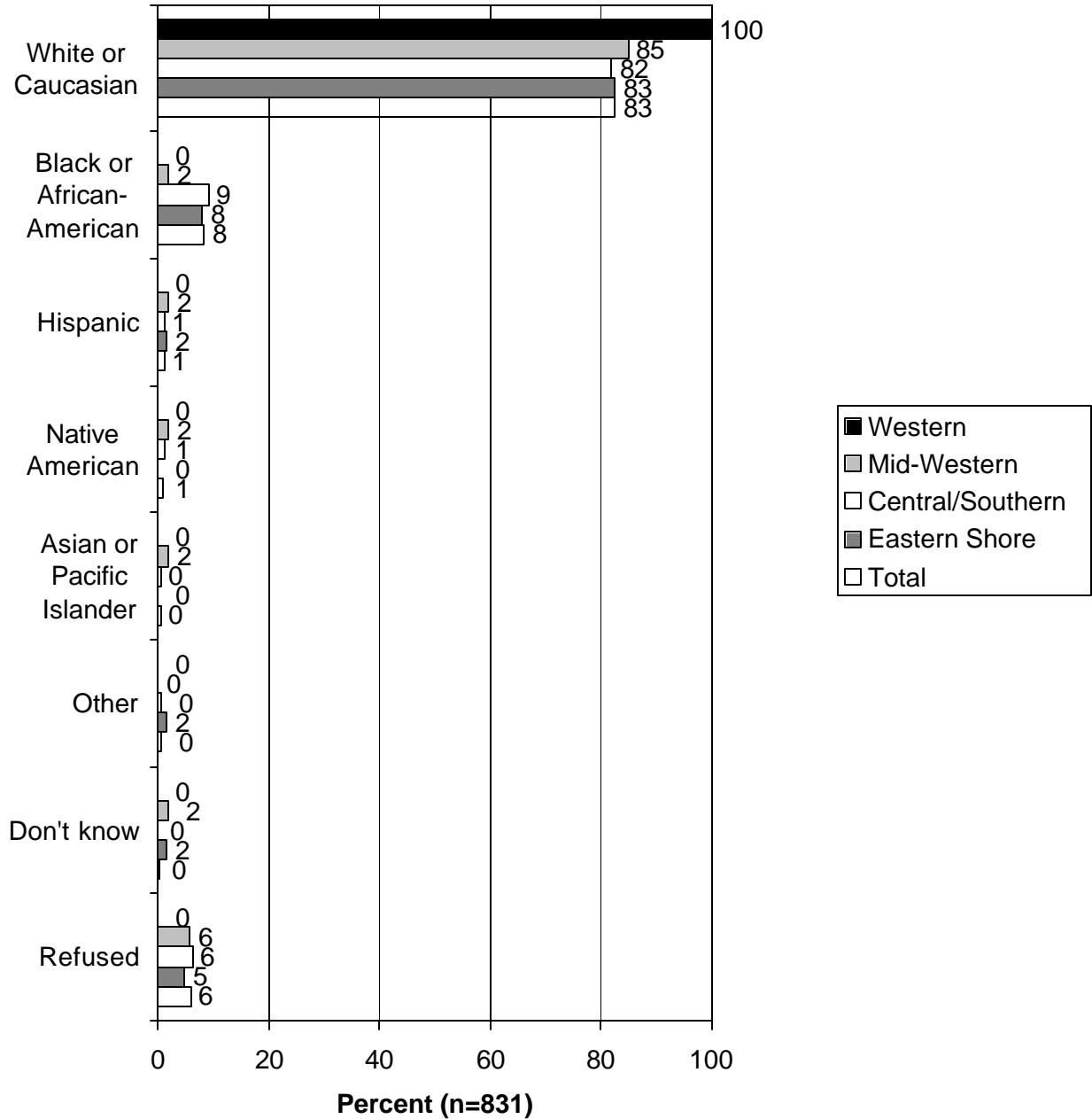
Q108. What is the highest grade level you have completed?

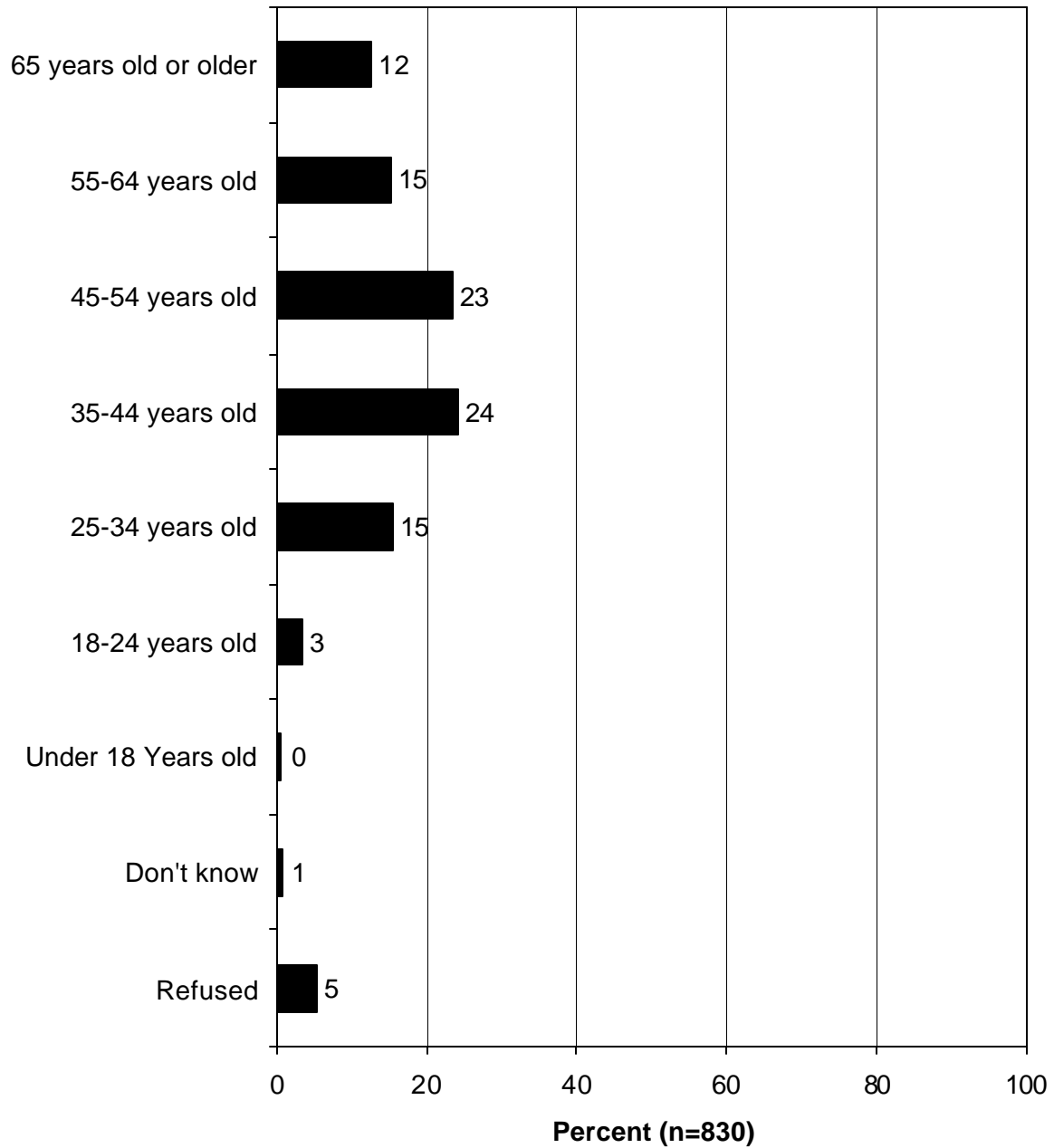


Q109. Which of these categories best describes your total household income before taxes last year?



Q106. What is your race or ethnic background?



Q110. May I ask your age?

Q113. Observe and record respondent's gender.

