

Responsive Management



BEHAVIORAL, ATTITUDINAL, AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF SPRING TURKEY HUNTERS IN THE UNITED STATES

Conducted for the National Wild Turkey Federation

by Responsive Management

2003

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study was conducted for the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) and the fish and wildlife agencies in nine states (California, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Texas, and Washington) to determine the behavioral, attitudinal, and demographic characteristics of spring turkey hunters, as well as to assess the impacts of spring turkey hunting on the U.S. economy and each state's economy. The study entailed a telephone survey of licensed hunters in the aforementioned states who had hunted spring turkey in the previous year, hereinafter referred to as "spring turkey hunters." This report contains the behavioral, attitudinal, and demographic results of the study across the U.S. A separate report contains the economic impact analyses.

The survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and the NWTF. Most samples were obtained from license records, with the exception of the California sample. The sample for California was obtained from the NWTF member database. A pre-test of the questionnaire was conducted, and revisions were made to the questionnaire based on the pre-test. The survey was administered from April to May 2003. The total number of completed interviews in the nine states was 1,410.

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 (QPL), which is computer software specifically designed for survey data collection. The software used for the analysis was the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), version 11.5. SPSS is software specifically designed for statistical analyses of quantitative data.

HUNTING PARTICIPATION

- The mean of responses regarding the number of days that spring turkey hunters spent hunting spring turkey last season was 7.6 days. The mean of responses regarding the number of days that spring turkey hunters spent hunting fall turkey last season was 2.1 days.

- The mean of responses regarding the number of years that spring turkey hunters had hunted spring turkey was 10.2 years.

- Respondents were quite active in their spring turkey hunting: a majority overall (58%) had hunted each of the last 5 years, while only 5% had hunted only 1 of the past 5 years.
- On the whole, spring turkey hunters' level of avidity has remained about the same (49%) or increased (36%) over the past 5 years.
- Other species most commonly hunted by spring turkey hunters were big game, which includes deer, antelope, and elk (88%), small game, which includes squirrel, rabbit, hares, etc. (38%), upland game birds, which includes grouse, pheasant, quail, chukar, etc. (37%), and waterfowl, which includes ducks, geese, etc. (22%).

MOTIVATIONS FOR SPRING TURKEY HUNTING

- A plurality of spring turkey hunters (45%) hunted spring turkey for the sport and recreation. Indeed, those giving that answer outnumbered the next most common answer (to be with friends and family—15%) by nearly three times.
- The most common reasons given for liking to hunt spring turkey were for the challenge (42%) or that the respondent feels close to nature (37%).

SEASON PREFERENCE FOR TURKEY HUNTING

- A majority of spring turkey hunters overall (65%) said that they prefer spring turkey hunting over fall turkey hunting.

INITIATION INTO HUNTING

- A strong plurality of spring turkey hunters (48%) had been initiated into hunting by their father.
 - After father, the next most common answer was that no one had initiated them (i.e., they were self-taught) (20%).
 - The next most common answer after no one was that a friend had showed them (13%).

- The results were quite different regarding the person who first showed the respondent how to hunt, in general, versus the person who first showed the respondent how to specifically *turkey* hunt. A plurality of spring turkey hunters indicated that no one had showed them how to turkey hunt (39%). Otherwise, a friend most commonly showed the respondent how to turkey hunt (26%), followed by his/her father (19%).
- For nearly all spring turkey hunters (95%), turkey was *not* the first species they had hunted.
- Most spring turkey hunters (70%) had hunted spring turkey before they hunted fall turkey (if they had hunted fall turkey at all).

SPRING TURKEY HUNTING SATISFACTION/ DISSATISFACTION AND INTERFERENCE

- Just slightly less than a majority of spring turkey hunters (47%) rated their enjoyment of spring turkey hunting the same as their enjoyment of other hunting activities. Otherwise, a higher percentage of respondents rated spring turkey hunting much or somewhat more enjoyable (39%) than rated spring turkey hunting somewhat or much less enjoyable (12%) than other hunting activities.
- Satisfaction with spring turkey hunting was high: 81% of spring turkey hunters were very or somewhat satisfied with their spring turkey hunting in the last year.
- A plurality (37%) of those who were dissatisfied with their spring turkey hunting said that not enough turkey in general was their main reason for their dissatisfaction.
- A large majority (85%) of spring turkey hunters did not experience any interference from other recreationists. Otherwise, they most commonly had conflicts with other spring turkey hunters (6%) or people using four-wheel drive or off-road vehicles (3%).

SPRING TURKEY HUNTING METHODS AND LOCATIONS

- An overwhelming majority of spring turkey hunters (89%) use a shotgun when hunting spring turkey.

- A large majority of spring turkey hunters overall (71%) hunted spring turkey mostly on private land. Spring turkey hunters from the West differed substantially from their counterparts in the other regions: 40% of spring turkey hunters from the West hunted mostly on public land (the other regions ranged from 9% to 11%), and 34% of spring turkey hunters from the West hunted mostly on private land (the other regions ranged from 71% to 76%).
 - A low percentage overall (11%) hunted spring turkey mostly on public land.

RATING OF IMPORTANCE AND PERFORMANCE OF VARIOUS AGENCY PROGRAMS AND EFFORTS

- Spring turkey hunters were asked to rate the importance of various state fish and wildlife agency programs/efforts. Those programs/efforts for which the highest percentage of respondents gave a rating of *very* important were firearm use and safety (89%), providing wild turkey hunting opportunities for youth (81%), conservation projects, such as protecting or enhancing habitat for other wildlife besides wild turkey (78%), conservation projects, such as protecting or enhancing habitat for wild turkey (75%), archery use and safety (75%), and providing wild turkey hunting opportunities for disabled hunters (73%).
- In looking at those giving a rating of *very or somewhat* important in their rating of various state fish and wildlife agency programs/efforts, the top programs/efforts were firearm use and safety (96%), providing wild turkey hunting opportunities for youth (96%), education regarding conservation and outdoor skills (94%), conservation projects, such as protecting or enhancing habitat for other wildlife besides wild turkey (93%), providing wild turkey hunting opportunities for disabled hunters (93%), and conservation projects, such as protecting or enhancing habitat for wild turkey (91%).
- The analysis also examined those giving a rating of *very or somewhat unimportant* for their rating of various state fish and wildlife agency programs/efforts. The programs/efforts that had the highest percentage of respondents who said they were *very or somewhat unimportant* were special events, such as calling contests (27%), and providing additional fall turkey hunting opportunities (23%).

- A strong majority of spring turkey hunters overall (81%) rated the job that their state fish and wildlife agency does at providing hunting opportunities in their state as excellent or good, and 19% rated it fair or poor. Spring turkey hunters from the West were less likely than others to give a positive rating: only 53% of spring turkey hunters from the West gave a rating of excellent or good, compared to 78% to 81% of spring turkey hunters from the other three regions, and 12% of spring turkey hunters from the West gave a rating of poor, compared to 2% of spring turkey hunters from the other regions.

- A strong majority of spring turkey hunters overall (80%) rated the job that their state fish and wildlife agency does in providing spring turkey hunting opportunities as excellent or good, and 15% rated it as fair or poor. Those from the West gave the least favorable ratings: 66% rated it excellent or good, compared to 76% to 86% of those from the other three regions, and 9% rated it poor, compared to 1% to 3% of those from the other three regions.
 - 30% of spring turkey hunters overall rated the job that their state fish and wildlife agency does in providing spring turkey hunting opportunities as excellent.
 - 2% rated it poor.

WAYS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT SPRING TURKEY HUNTING

- The ways that spring turkey hunters said would be best to inform them about spring turkey hunting were magazines (33%), direct mail (25%), and newspapers (15%).

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INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted for the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) and the fish and wildlife agencies in nine states (California, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Texas, and Washington) to determine the behavioral, attitudinal, and demographic characteristics of spring turkey hunters, as well as to assess the impacts of spring turkey hunting on the U.S. economy and each state's economy. The study entailed a telephone survey of licensed hunters in the aforementioned states who had hunted spring turkey in the previous year, hereinafter referred to as "spring turkey hunters." This report contains the behavioral, attitudinal, and demographic results of the study across the U.S. A separate report contains the economic impact analyses.

The survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and the NWTF. Most samples were obtained from license records, with the exception of the California sample. The sample for California was obtained from the NWTF member database. A pre-test of the questionnaire was conducted, and revisions were made to the questionnaire based on the pre-test. The survey was administered from April to May 2003. The total number of completed interviews in the nine states was 1,410.

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, which are staffed by interviewers with experience conducting computer-assisted telephone interviews on the subject of natural resources. The data were collected using Questionnaire Programming Language 4.1 (QPL), which is computer software specifically designed for survey data collection.

Responsive Management has designed a telephone interviewing facility that stresses the importance of highly trained professional telephone interviewers who work under the close supervision of Responsive Management senior staff. To ensure that the data collected are of the highest quality, Responsive Management's interviewers 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 this survey. Interviewers were instructed on the 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 statisticians edited each completed survey to check for clarity and completeness.

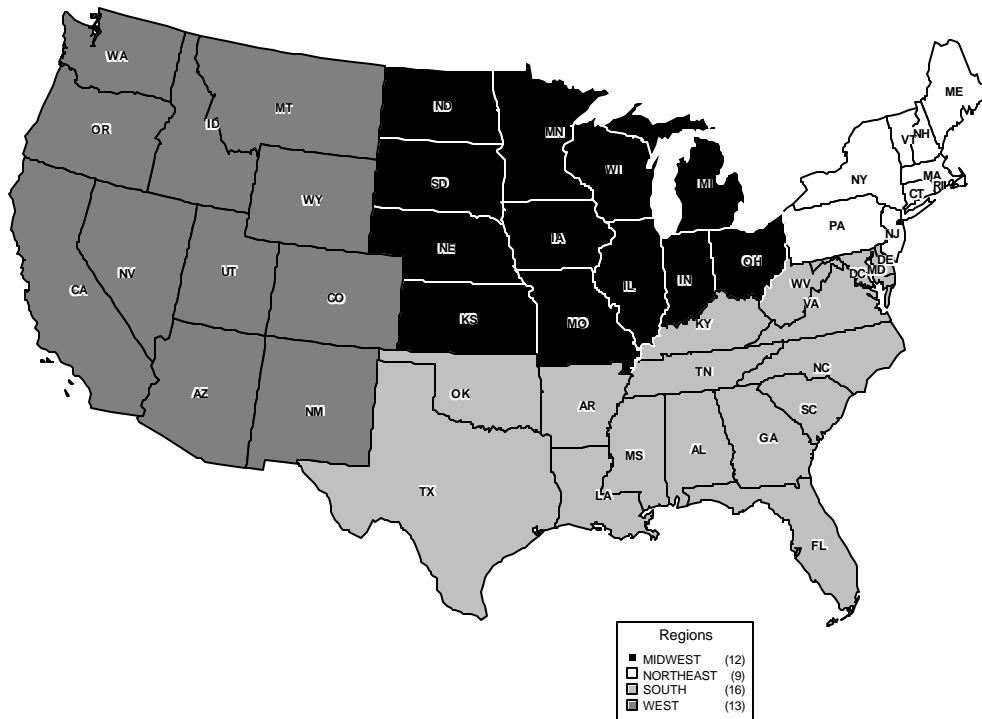
Interviews were conducted Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Sunday from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., all local time. A five-callback design was used to maintain the representativeness of the sample, to avoid bias toward people easy to reach by telephone, 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.

The software used for data collection was QPL. The survey data were entered into the computer as the 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 software used for the analysis was the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), version 11.5. SPSS is software specifically designed for statistical analyses of quantitative data.

The results were analyzed nationally as well as among four regions: the Northeast, the South, the Midwest, and the West. The regions are broken down as shown on the map that follows.

NWTF Regions



The data for the Northeast region was based on the results of the survey in New York; the data for the South was based on the results of surveys in Georgia, Mississippi, and Texas; the data for the Midwest was based on the results of surveys in Kansas and Ohio; and the data for the West was based on the results of surveys in California, Idaho, and Washington.

The following tabulation shows the numbers of spring turkey hunters in each state and each region, from data obtained from the NWTF or the 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation; the sample size for each of the nine states in which the survey was administered; the resultant sample size for each region; and the regional weighting factor.

Numbers of Turkey Hunters, Sample Sizes, and Weighting Factors

State (Bolded States Contain Imputed Data)	Number of Spring Turkey Hunters*	Region	Number of Spring Turkey Hunters in Region	State Sample for Surveys	Regional Sample for Surveys	Regional Weighting Factor
Alaska	12,583	WEST	153,503		479	0.1974
Arizona	5,486					
California	24,706			151		
Colorado	11,287					
Hawaii	2,300					
Idaho	17,700			178		
Montana	9,526					
Nevada	248					
New Mexico	17,589					
Oregon	33,498					
Utah	1,332					
Washington	15,000			150		
Wyoming	2,248					
Alabama	50,100			SOUTH		
Arkansas	37,500					
Delaware	1,315					
Florida	22,515					
Georgia	42,181	158				
Kentucky	70,000					
Louisiana	45,056					
Maryland	12,885					
Mississippi	48,000	151				
North Carolina	43,000					
Oklahoma	64,400					
South Carolina	45,154					
Tennessee	65,000					
Texas	73,528	153				
Virginia	60,834					
West Virginia	140,000					

*The average number of spring turkey hunters for 2002 and 2003, where data were available from the NWTF. States without data were imputed via the averaged ratio of spring turkey hunters to total hunters in each state from the 2001 National Survey.

Numbers of Turkey Hunters, Sample Sizes, and Weighting Factors

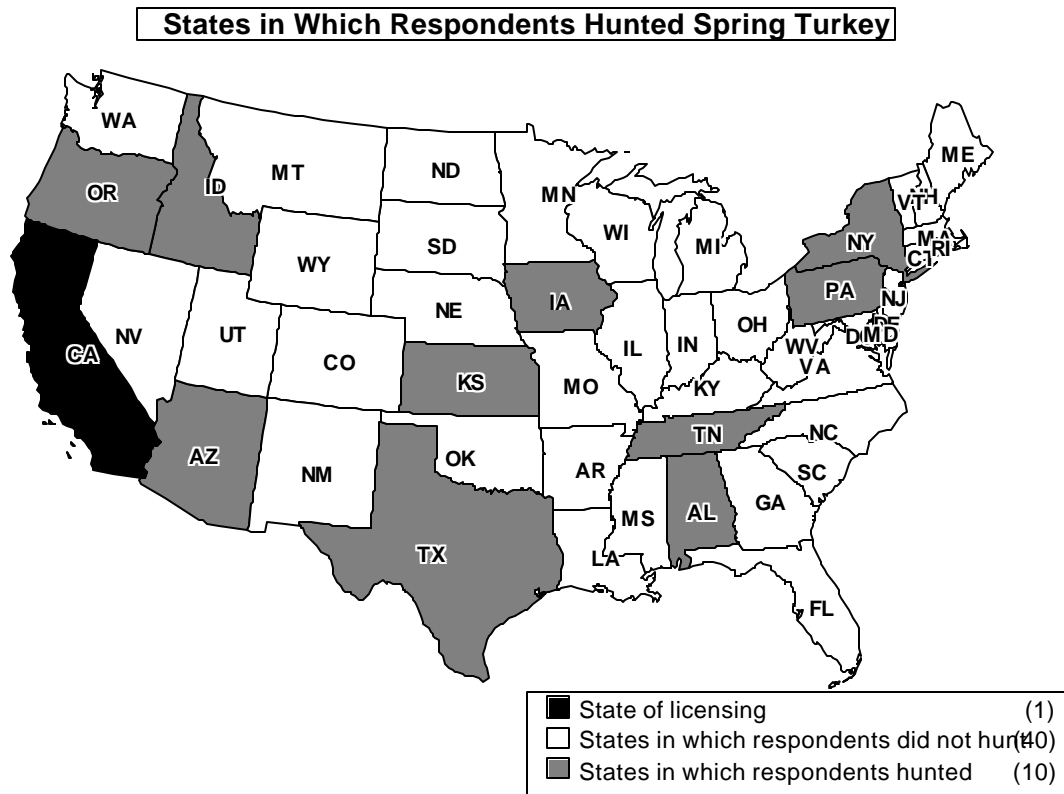
State (Bolded States Contain Imputed Data)	Number of Spring Turkey Hunters*	Region	Number of Spring Turkey Hunters in Region	State Sample for Surveys	Regional Sample for Surveys	Regional Weighting Factor				
Connecticut	1,536	NORTHEAST	579,748		151	2.3654				
Maine	10,500									
Massachusetts	14,017									
New Hampshire	14,278									
New Jersey	18,266									
New York	275,000			151						
Pennsylvania	230,115									
Rhode Island	1,456									
Vermont	14,580									
Illinois	61,991			MIDWEST			733,906		318	1.4219
Indiana	39,238									
Iowa	56,862									
Kansas	39,373	164								
Michigan	98,306									
Minnesota	23,812									
Missouri	125,157									
Nebraska	19,750									
North Dakota	2,913									
Ohio	94,774	154								
South Dakota	10,959									
Wisconsin	160,771									
NATIONAL	2,288,624	N/A	2,288,624		1,410	1,410		1.0000		

*The average number of spring turkey hunters for 2002 and 2003, where data were available from the NWTF. States without data were imputed via the averaged ratio of spring turkey hunters to total hunters in each state from the 2001 National Survey.

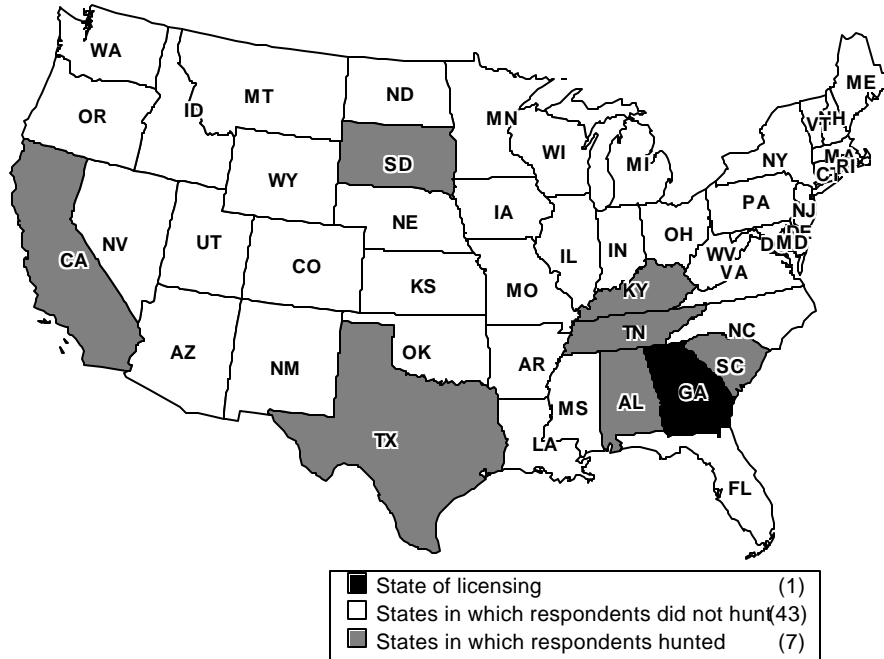
HUNTING PARTICIPATION

STATES IN WHICH SPRING TURKEY WAS HUNTED

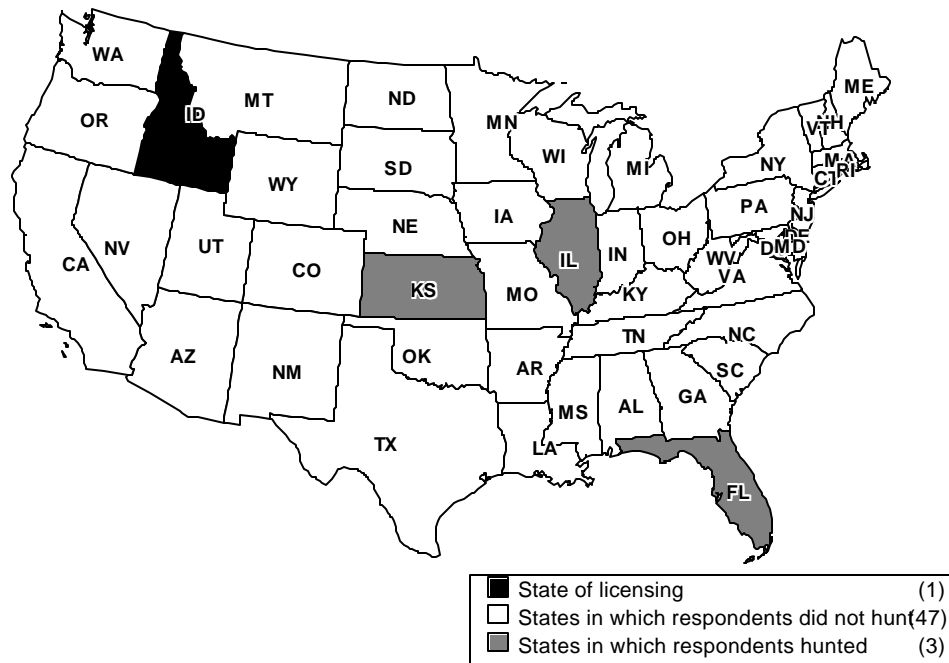
➤ Although national and regional tabulations of the results would not provide an accurate analysis of all the locations in which spring turkey hunters hunt because the samples were not among all 50 states in the U.S., it is interesting, nonetheless, to see where spring turkey hunters from the nine states in which surveys were conducted actually hunted spring turkey. The maps that follow show where spring turkey hunters hunted. On each map, the state in which the survey was conducted is shaded black; those states in which at least one spring turkey hunter from the surveyed state had hunted are shaded gray.

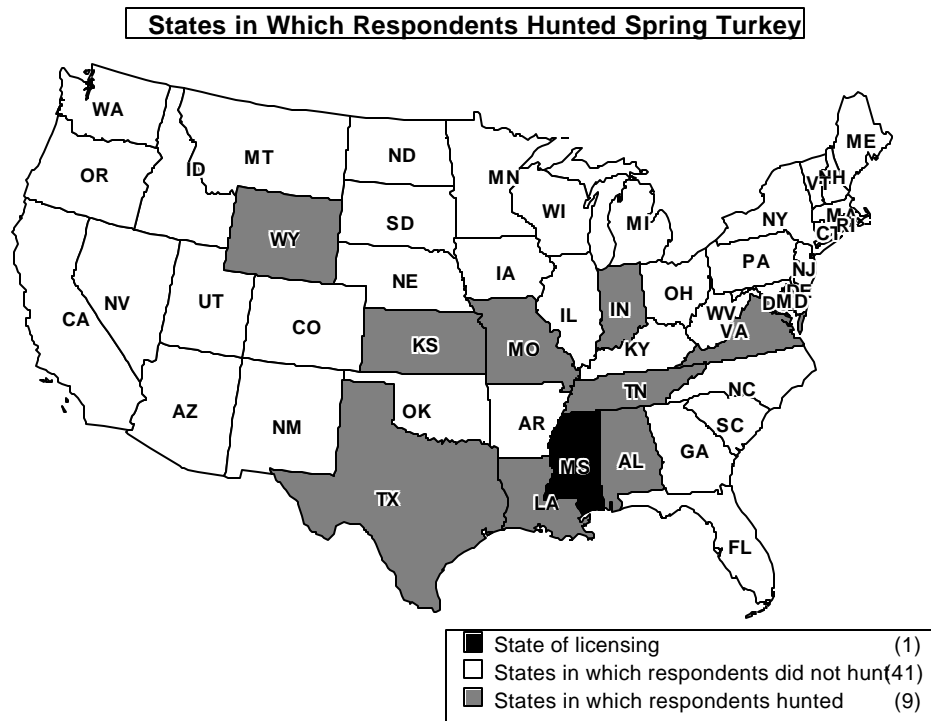
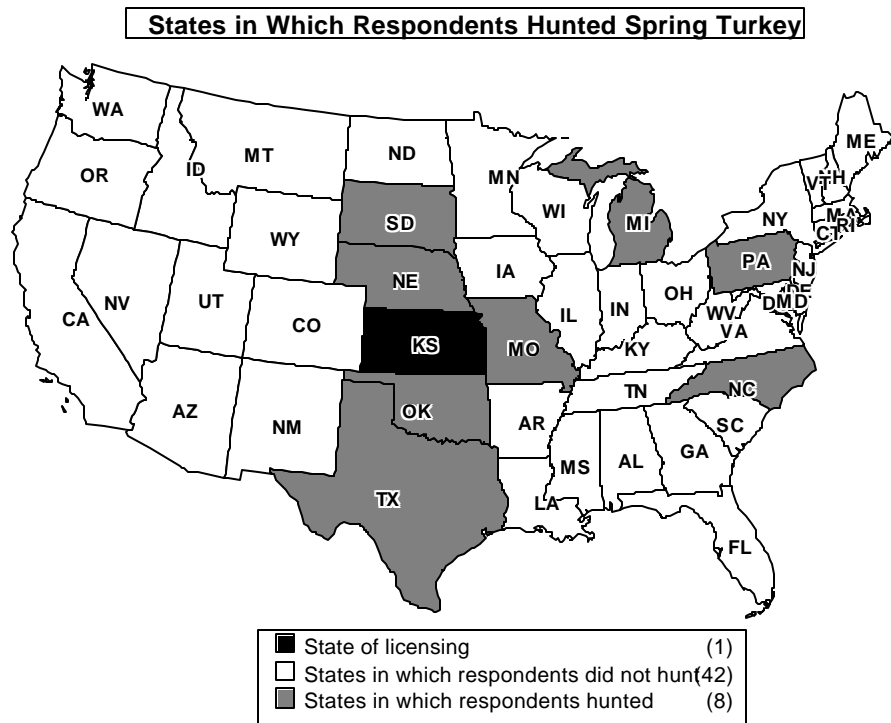


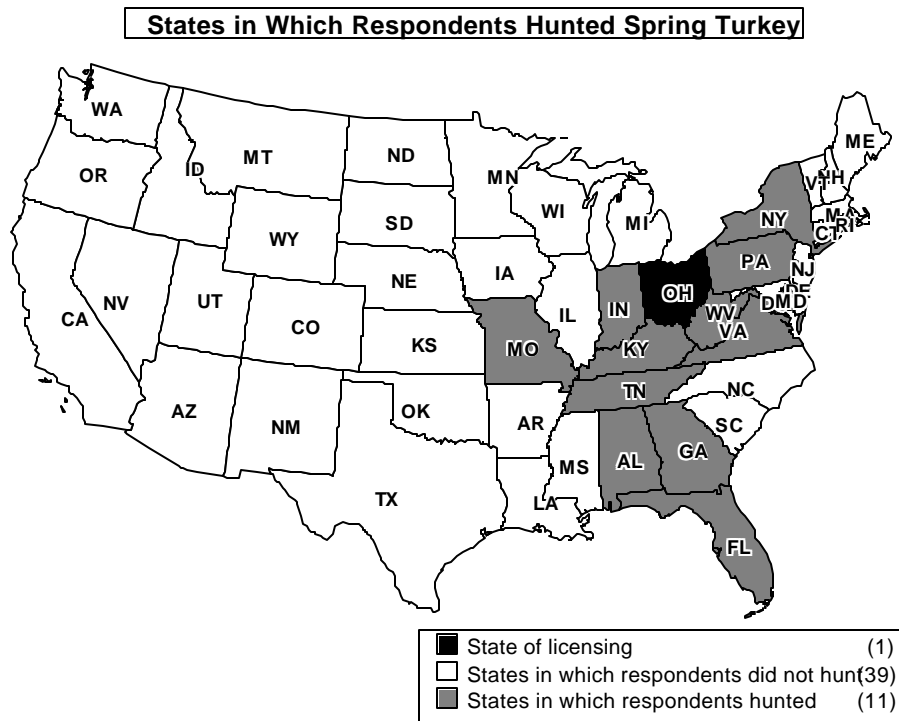
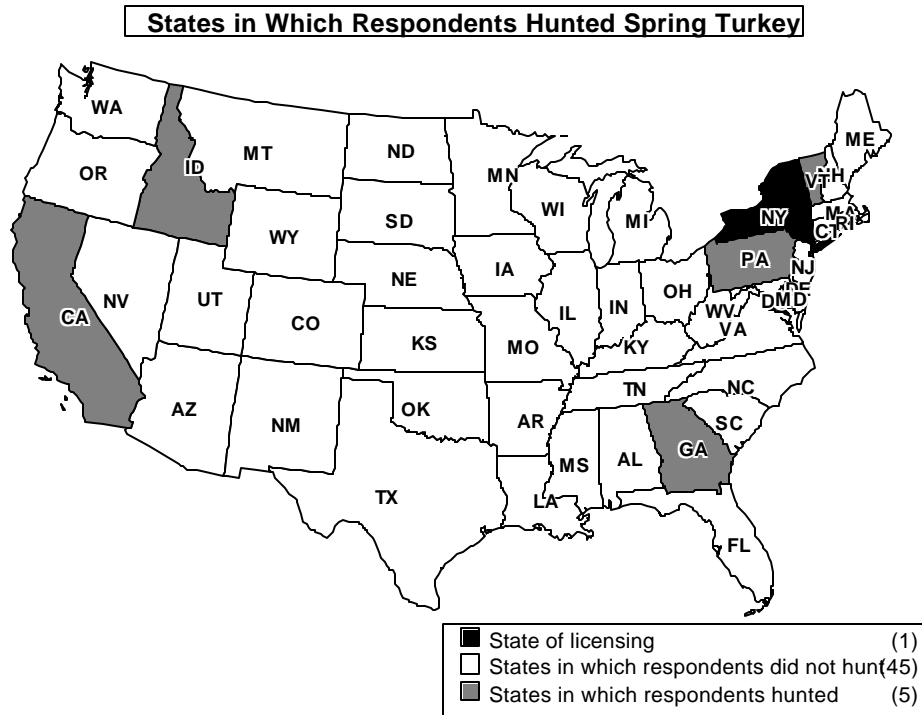
States in Which Respondents Hunted Spring Turkey

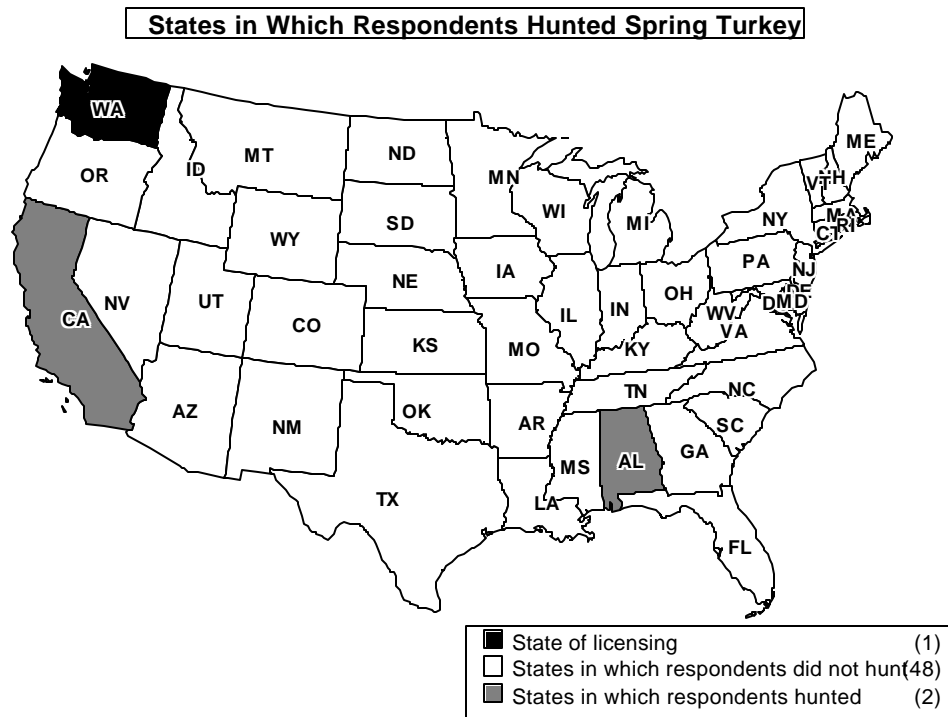
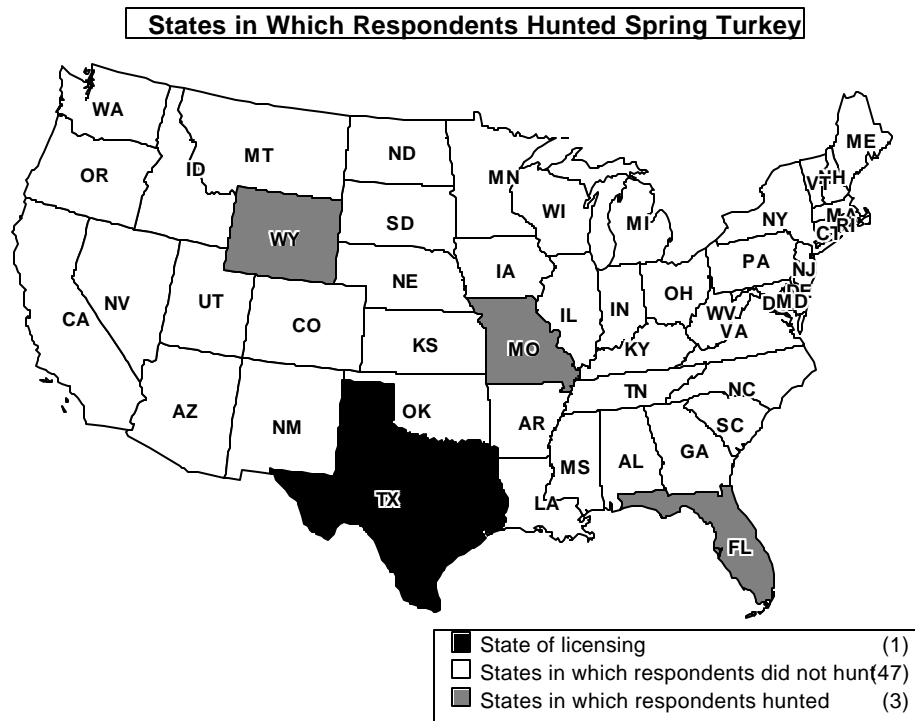


States in Which Respondents Hunted Spring Turkey





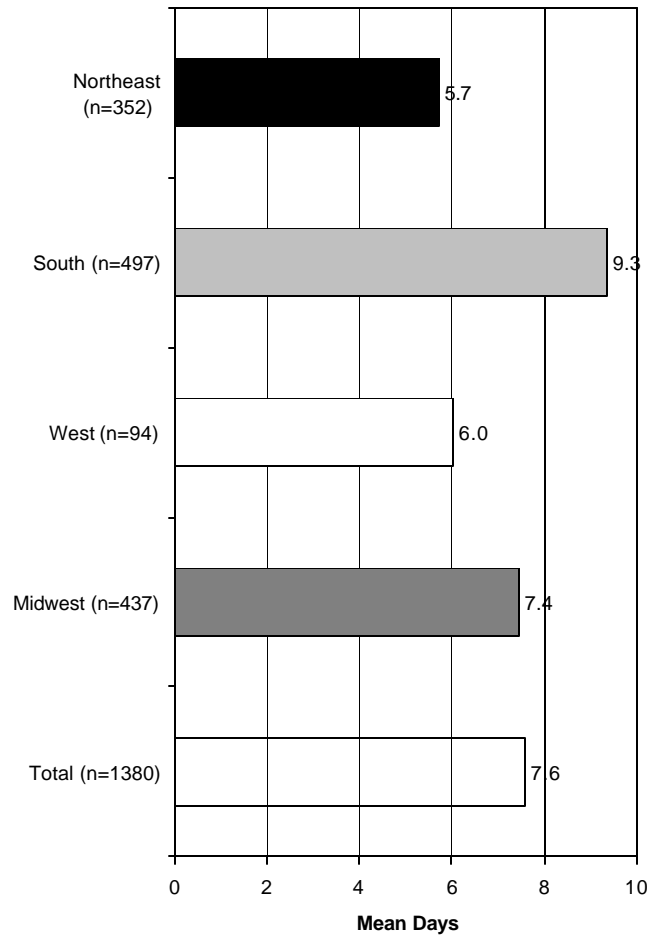




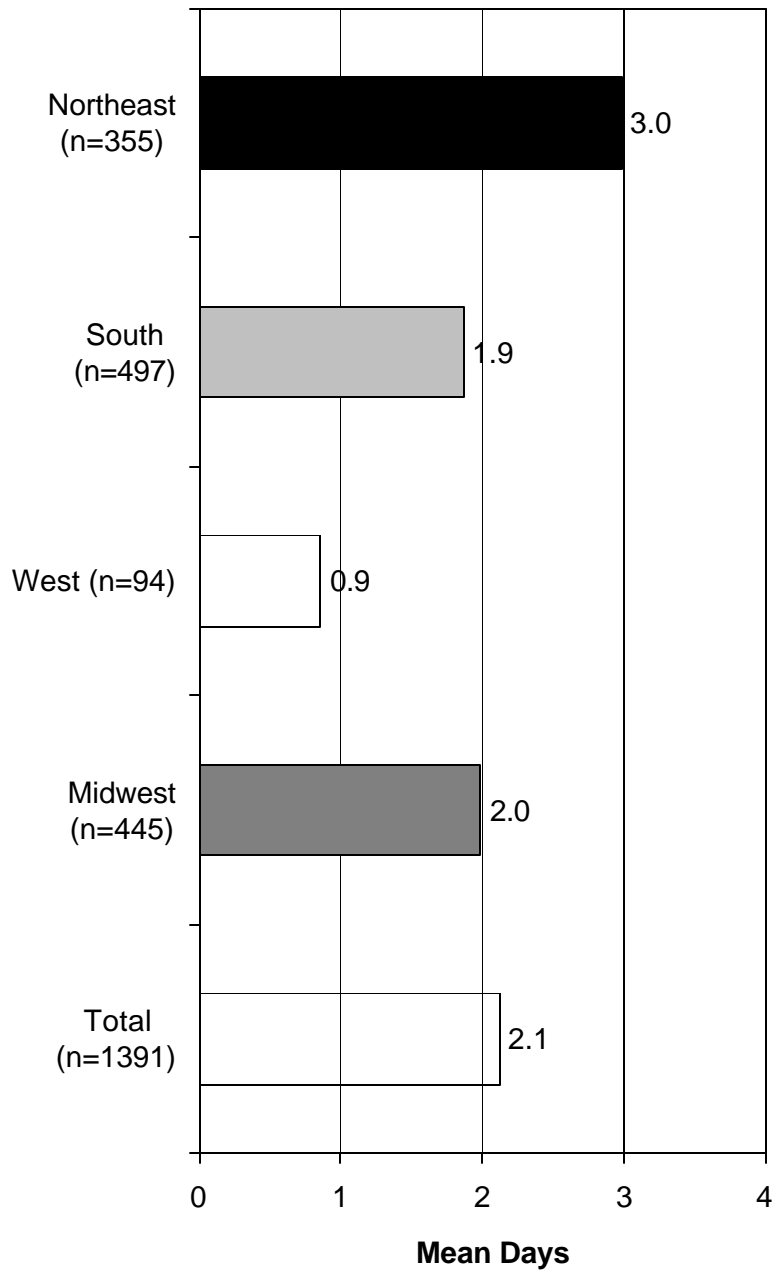
DAYS SPRING AND FALL TURKEY HUNTING

- The mean of responses regarding the number of days that spring turkey hunters spent hunting spring turkey last season was 7.6 days. Spring turkey hunters from the South had the highest mean number of days (9.3); those from the Northeast had the lowest mean number of days (5.7). Note that any portion of a day is considered 1 day, and multiple trips during the same day are considered 1 day.
- The mean of responses regarding the number of days that spring turkey hunters spent hunting fall turkey last season was 2.1 days. The responses ranged regionally from a low of 0.9 days in the West to a high of 3.0 days in the Northeast.

Q10. How many days did you hunt spring turkey last spring?



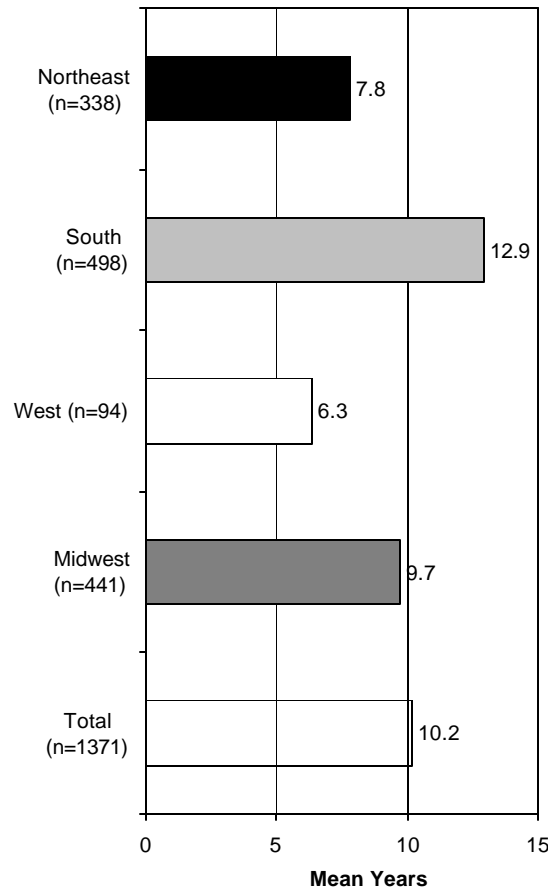
Q11. How many days did you hunt fall turkey last fall? (In states where fall turkey season runs concurrent with deer season, only include the amount of time you spent specifically fall turkey hunting.)



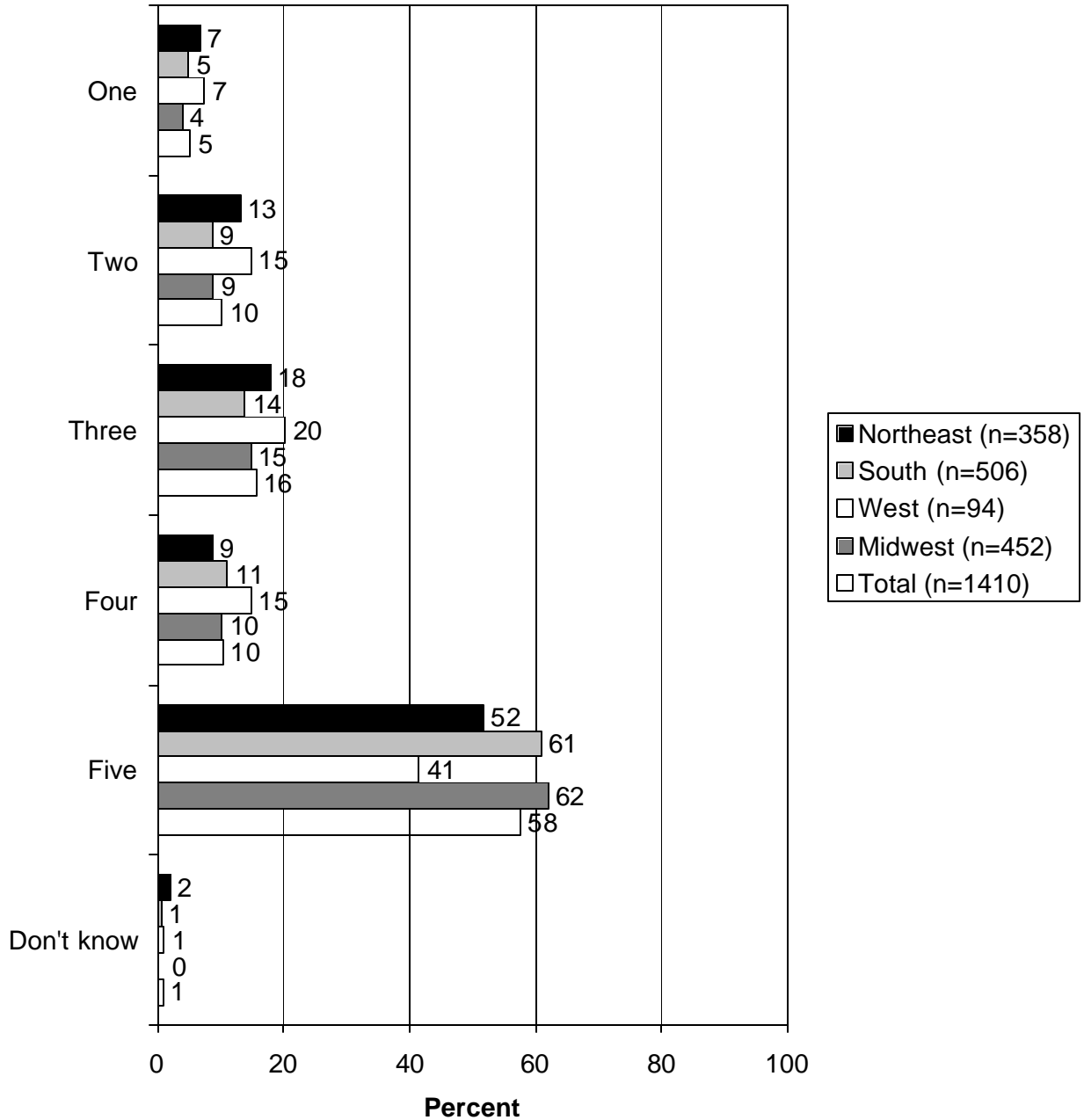
YEARS SPRING TURKEY HUNTING

- The mean of responses regarding the number of years that spring turkey hunters had hunted spring turkey was 10.2 years, ranging from a low 6.3 mean years in the West to 12.9 years in the South.
- Respondents were quite active in their spring turkey hunting: a majority overall (58%) had hunted each of the last 5 years, while only 5% had hunted only 1 of the past 5 years. Regionally, a majority in each region except the West had hunted each of the last 5 years; in the West, a plurality (41%) had hunted each of the last 5 years.

Q13. How many years have you been hunting spring turkey?



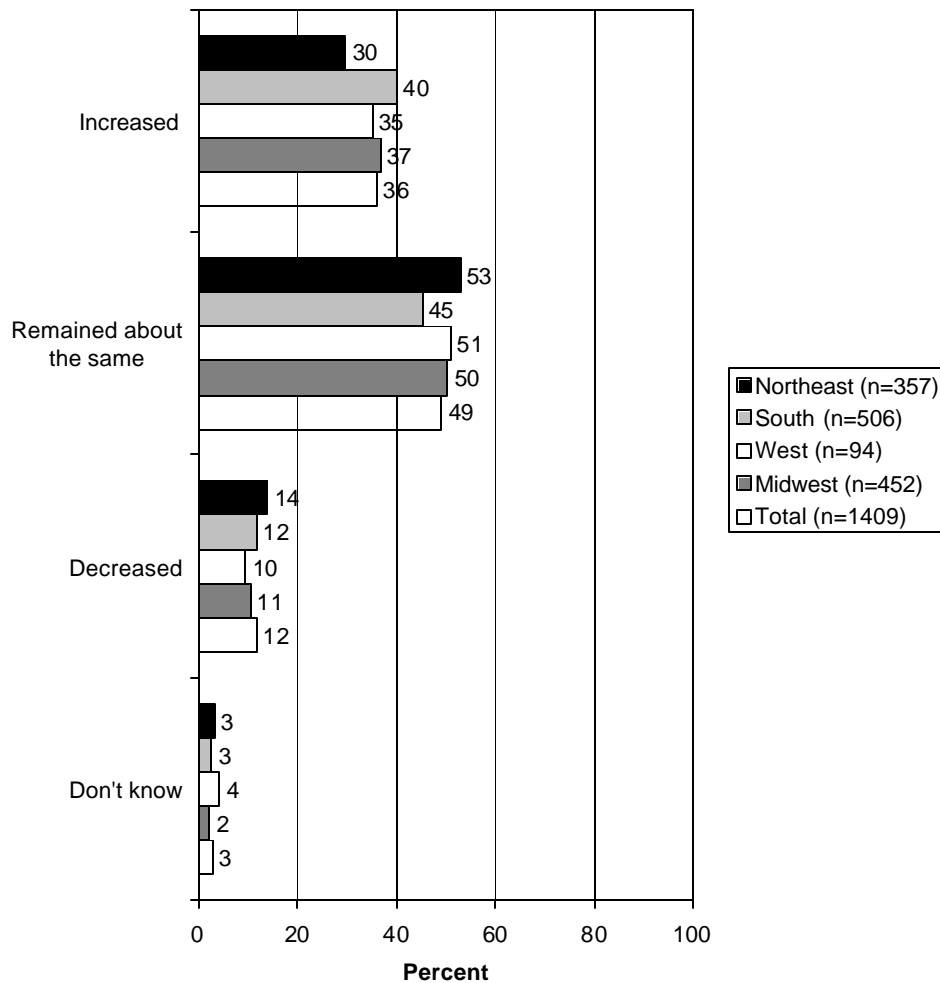
Q14. How many of the past 5 years did you go spring turkey hunting?



AVIDITY FOR SPRING TURKEY HUNTING

- On the whole, spring turkey hunters’ level of avidity has remained about the same or increased over the past 5 years.
 - A plurality of spring turkey hunters (49%) said their level of spring turkey hunting has remained about the same over the past 5 years, and 36% said it has increased. Indeed, those saying their spring turkey hunting has increased outnumber those who said it has decreased by a ratio of 3 to 1.

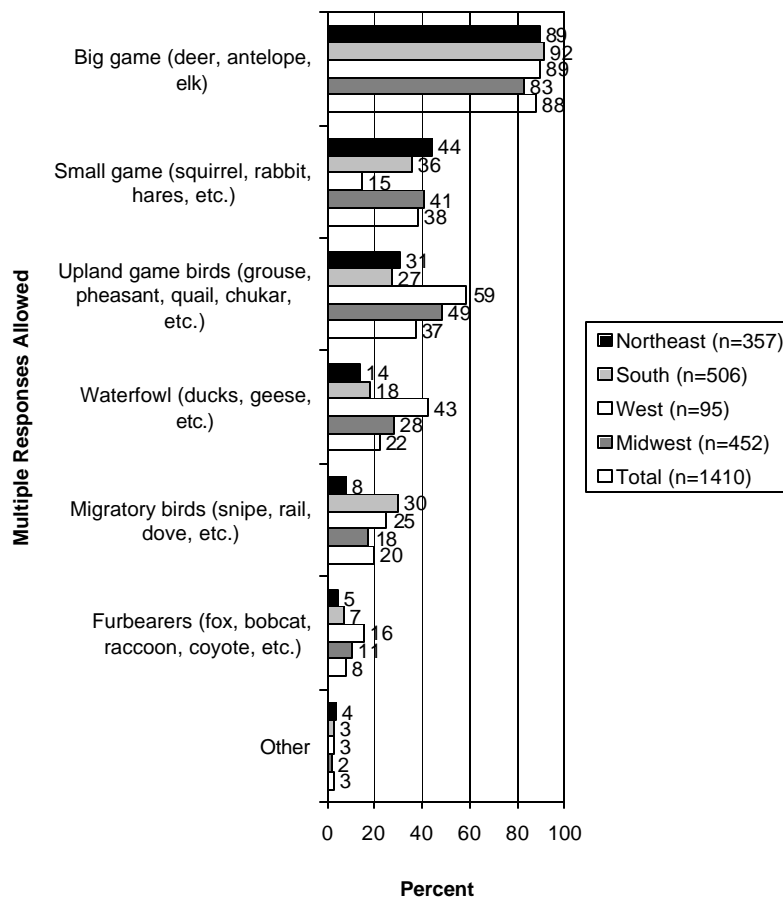
Q15. Over the past 5 years, would you say your level of spring turkey hunting has increased, decreased, or remained about the same?



OTHER SPECIES HUNTED

➤ Other species most commonly hunted by spring turkey hunters were big game, which includes deer, antelope, and elk (88%), small game, which includes squirrel, rabbit, hares, etc. (38%), upland game birds, which includes grouse, pheasant, quail, chukar, etc. (37%), and waterfowl, which includes ducks, geese, etc. (22%). While there was little variation among regions in the percent who hunted big game, there was much variation in the percentages who hunted the other species. For instance, 15% of spring turkey hunters in the West also hunted small game, whereas 44% of spring turkey hunters in the Northeast hunted small game.

Q37. For what other species do you usually hunt besides turkey?

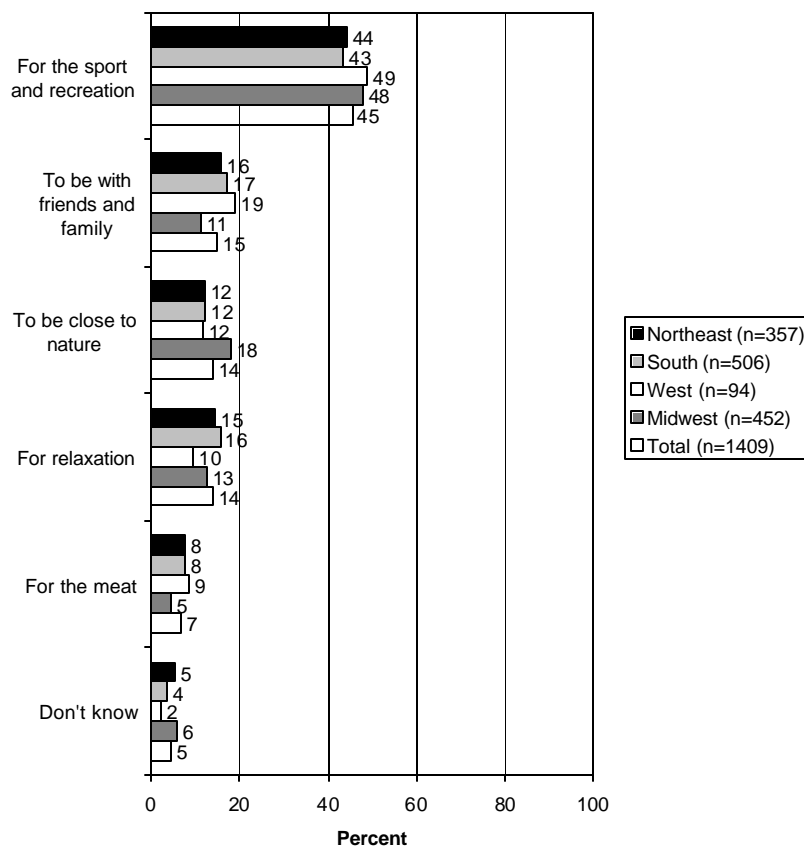


MOTIVATIONS FOR SPRING TURKEY HUNTING

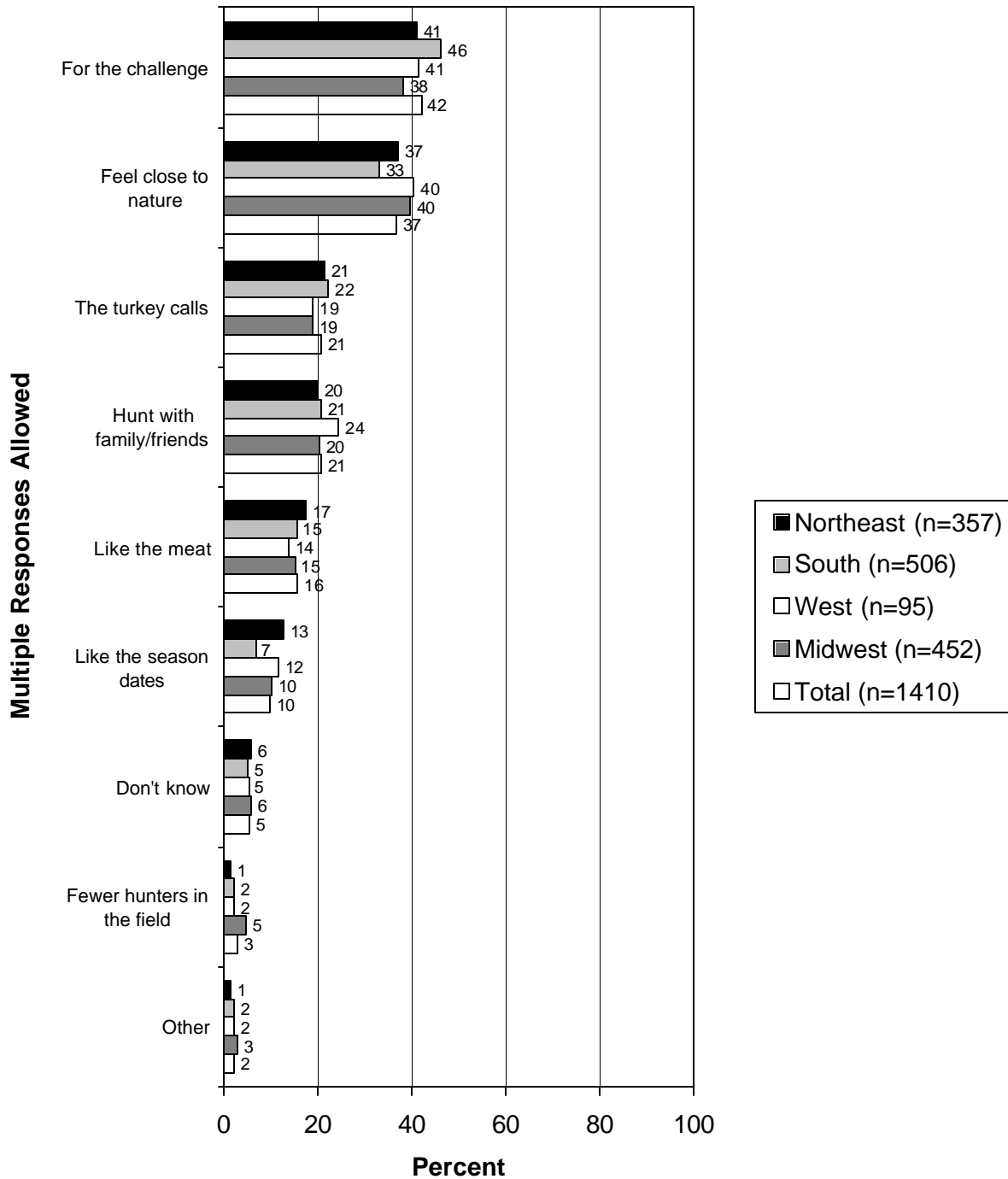
- A plurality of spring turkey hunters (45%) hunted spring turkey for the sport and recreation. Indeed, those giving that answer outnumbered the next most common answer (to be with friends and family—15%) by nearly three times.
 - Only 7% of respondents said that the most important reason that they hunted spring turkey was for the meat.

- The most common reasons given for liking to hunt spring turkey were for the challenge (42%) or that the respondent feels close to nature (37%).
 - 21% said they like to hunt spring turkey because they hunt with family and/or friends.

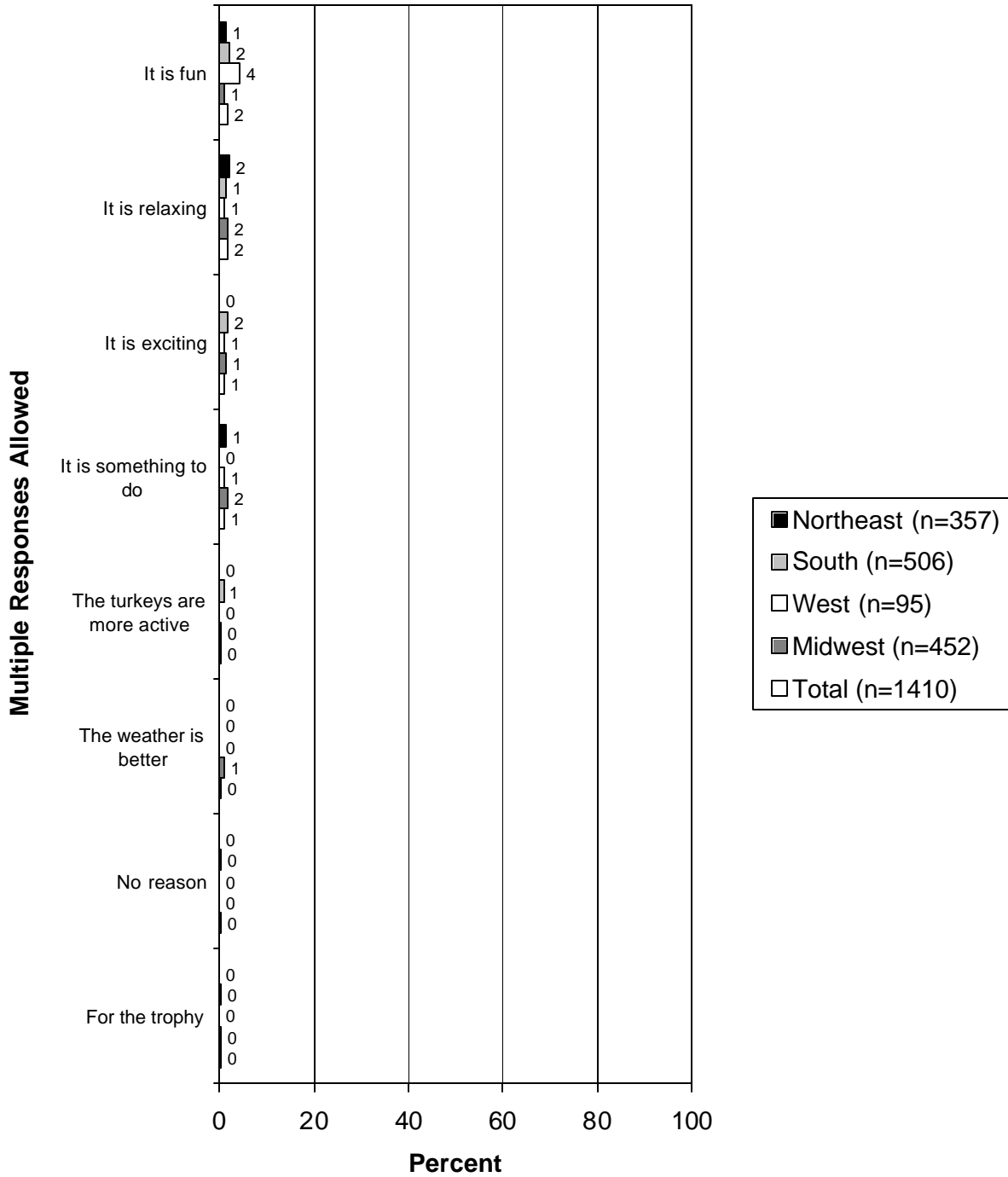
Q16. What was your most important reason for hunting spring turkey in the past 5 years?



Q18. What would you say are the reasons you like to hunt spring turkey? (Part 1)



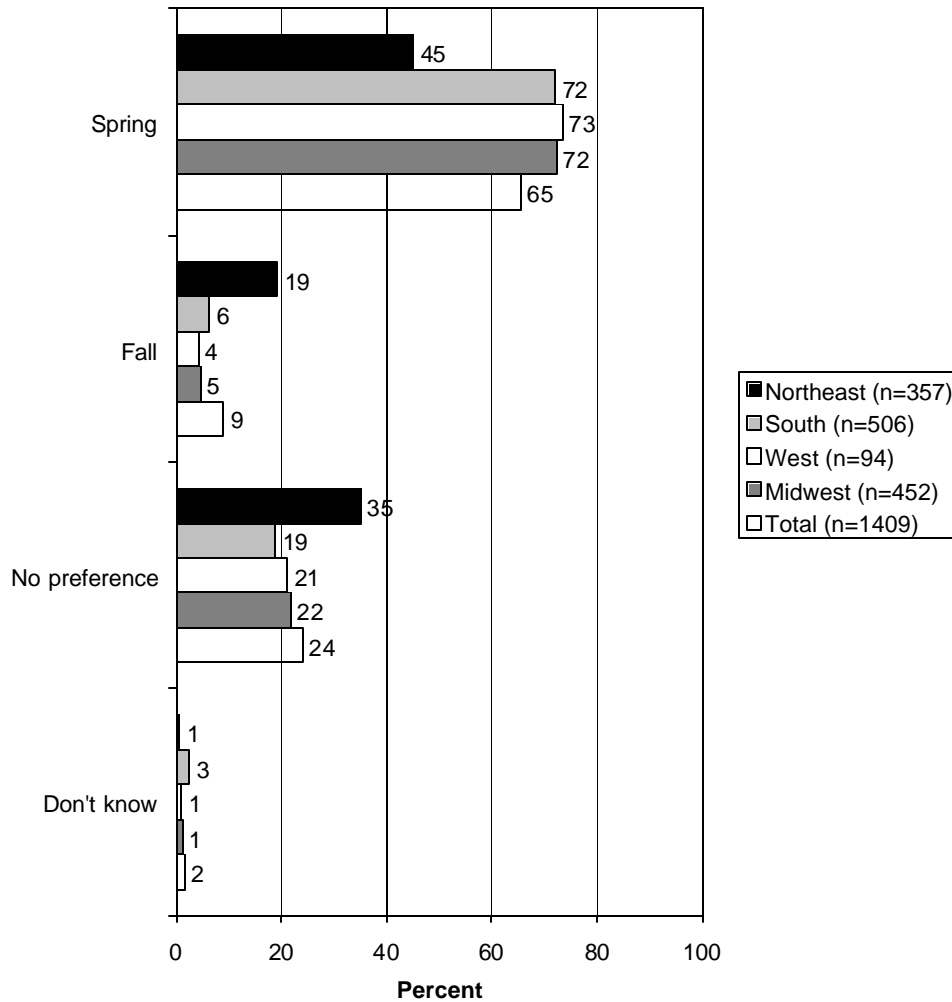
Q18. What would you say are the reasons you like to hunt spring turkey? (Part 2)



SEASON PREFERENCE FOR TURKEY HUNTING

- A majority of spring turkey hunters overall (65%) said that they prefer spring turkey hunting over fall turkey hunting. Hunters in the Northeast differed substantially from other hunters, with only 45% of spring turkey hunters from the Northeast having said that they prefer spring turkey hunting.
 - Only 9% of spring turkey hunters overall prefer fall turkey hunting.

Q12. Do you prefer to hunt turkey in the spring or in the fall, or do you have no preference?



INITIATION INTO HUNTING

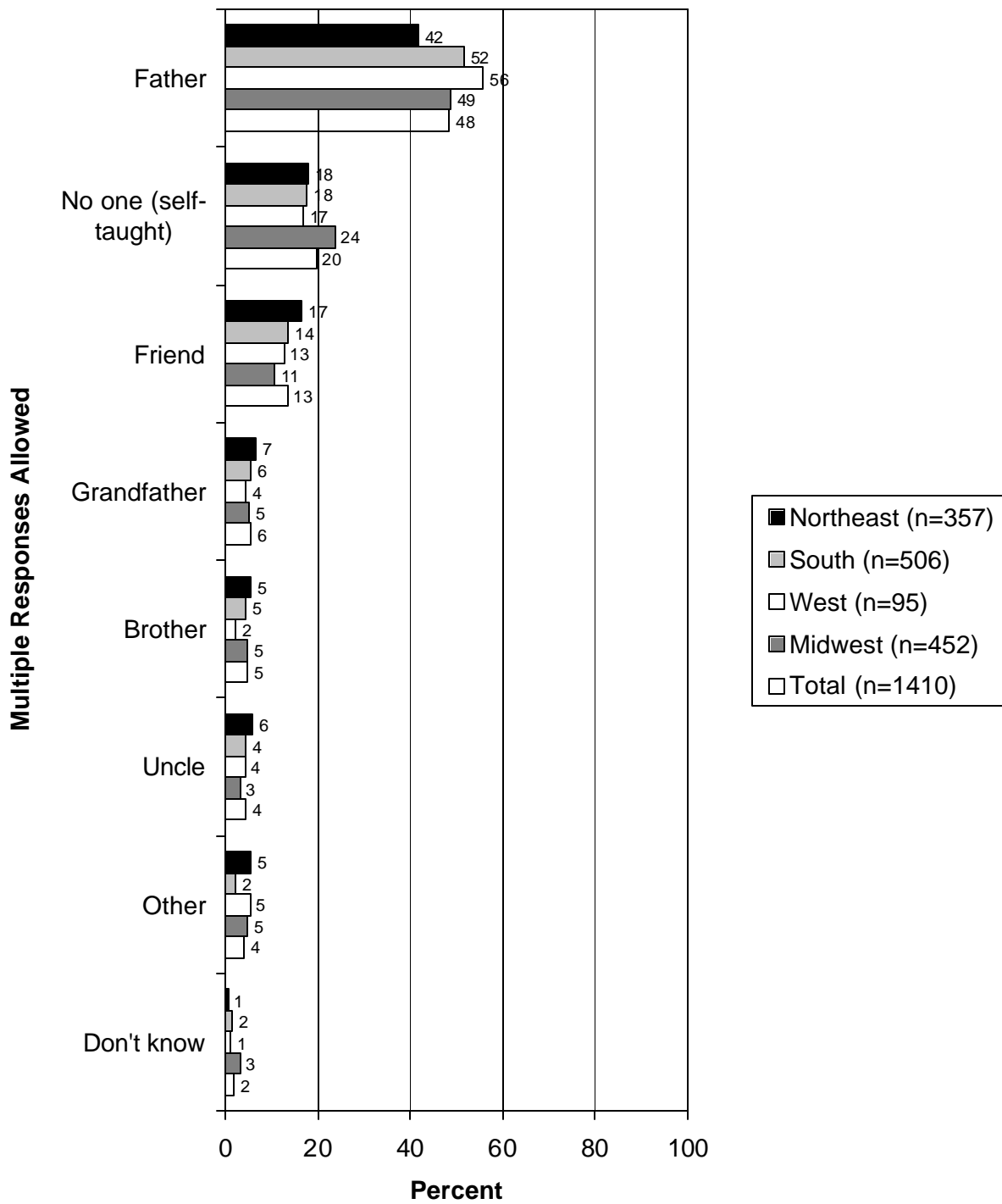
- A strong plurality of spring turkey hunters (48%) had been initiated into hunting by their father.
 - After father, the next most common answer was that no one had initiated them (i.e., they were self-taught) (20%).
 - The next most common answer after no one was that a friend had showed them (13%).
 - The most common *female* individual (other than friend, for which the gender is not specified) was mother (1%).

- The results were quite different regarding the person who first showed the respondent how to hunt, in general, versus the person who first showed the respondent how to specifically *turkey* hunt. A plurality of spring turkey hunters indicated that no one had showed them how to turkey hunt (39%). Otherwise, a friend most commonly showed the respondent how to turkey hunt (26%), followed by his/her father (19%).

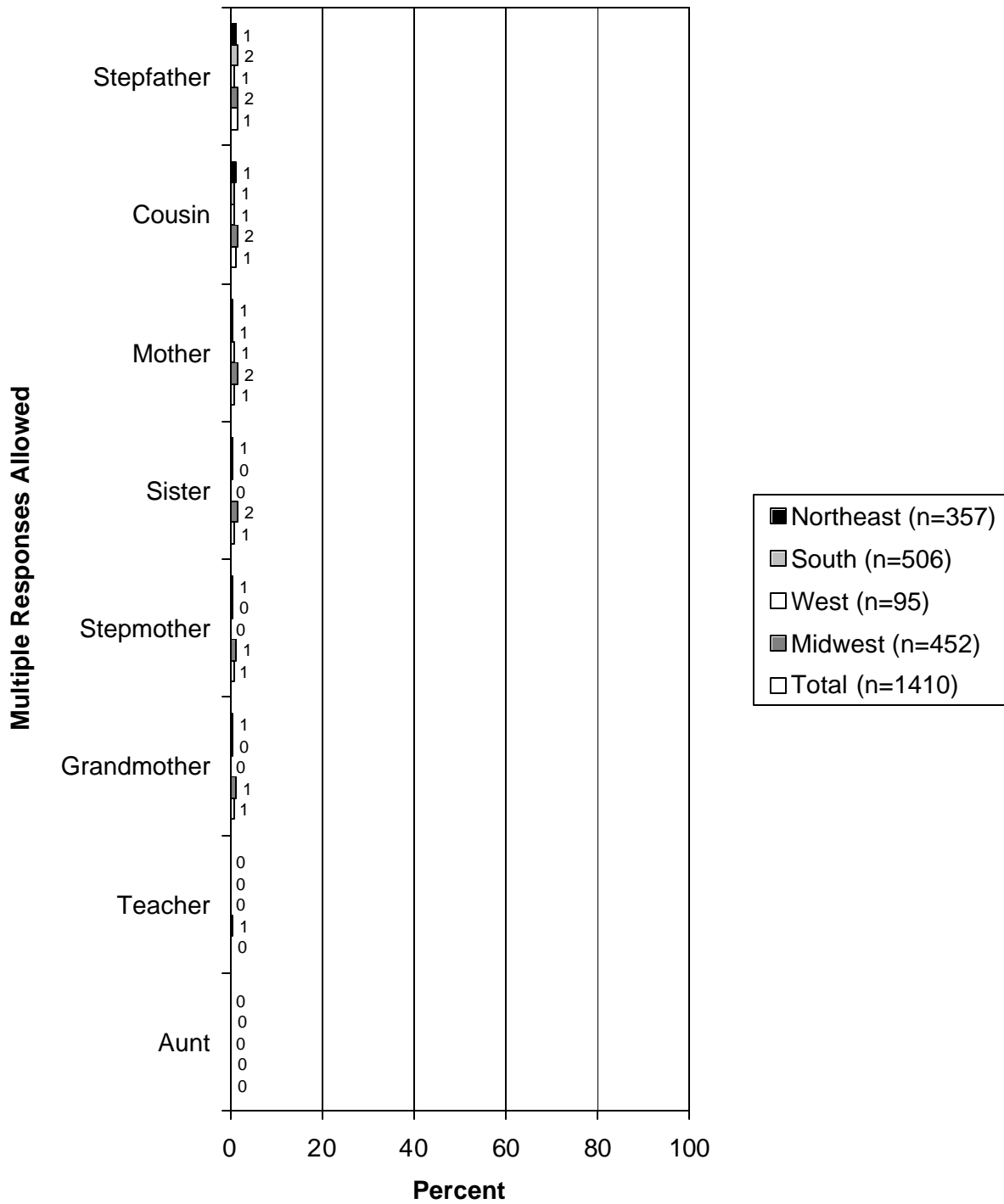
- For nearly all spring turkey hunters (95%), turkey was *not* the first species they had hunted.

- Most spring turkey hunters (70%) had hunted spring turkey before they hunted fall turkey (if they had hunted fall turkey at all). The range of percentages was quite large for this question, with 85% of spring turkey hunters from the West having hunted spring turkey before fall turkey and only 49% of spring turkey hunters from the Northeast having hunted spring turkey before fall turkey. Northeast spring turkey hunters had the highest percentage of those having hunted fall turkey before spring turkey (28%).

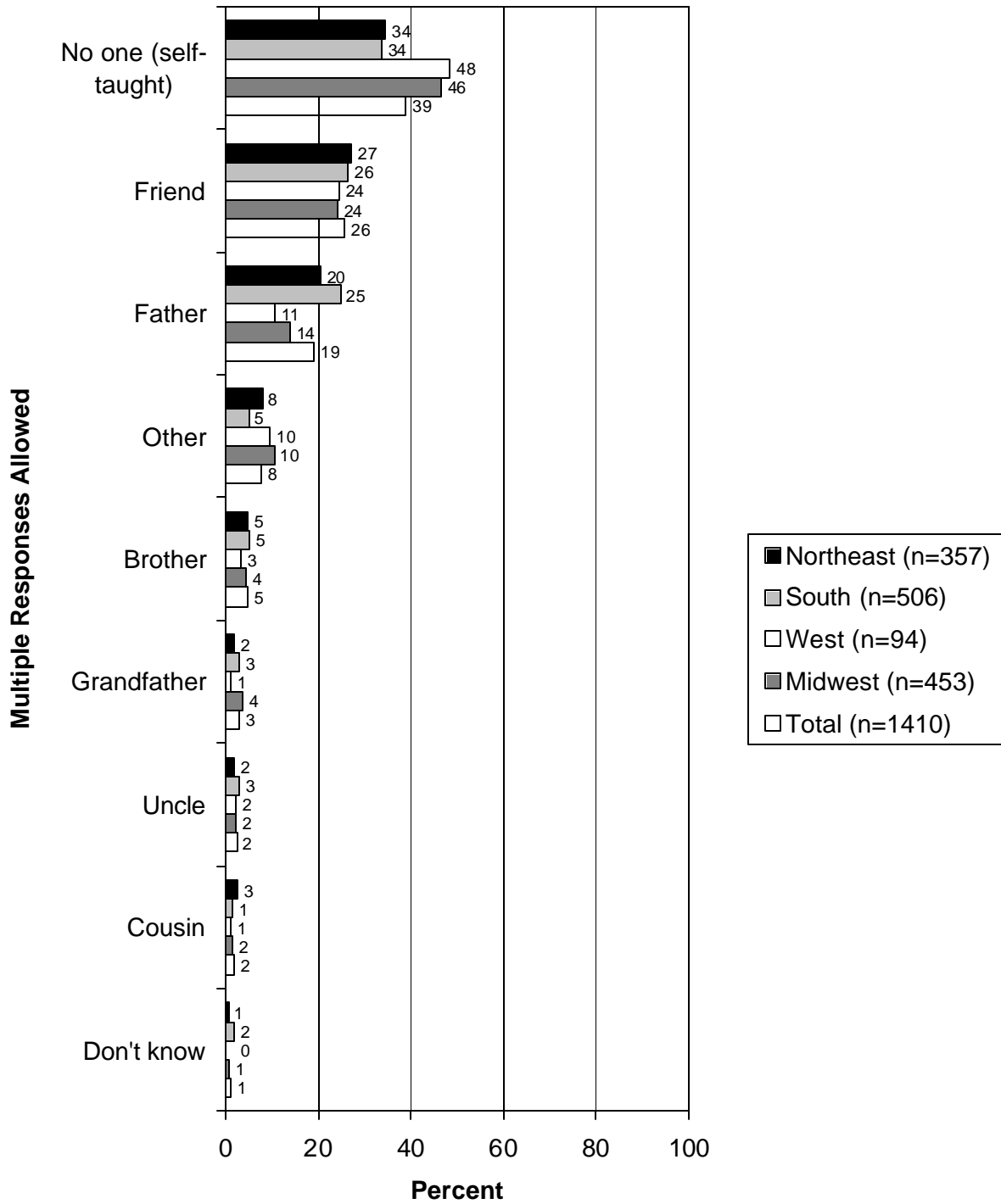
Q21. Who first showed you how to hunt? (Part 1)



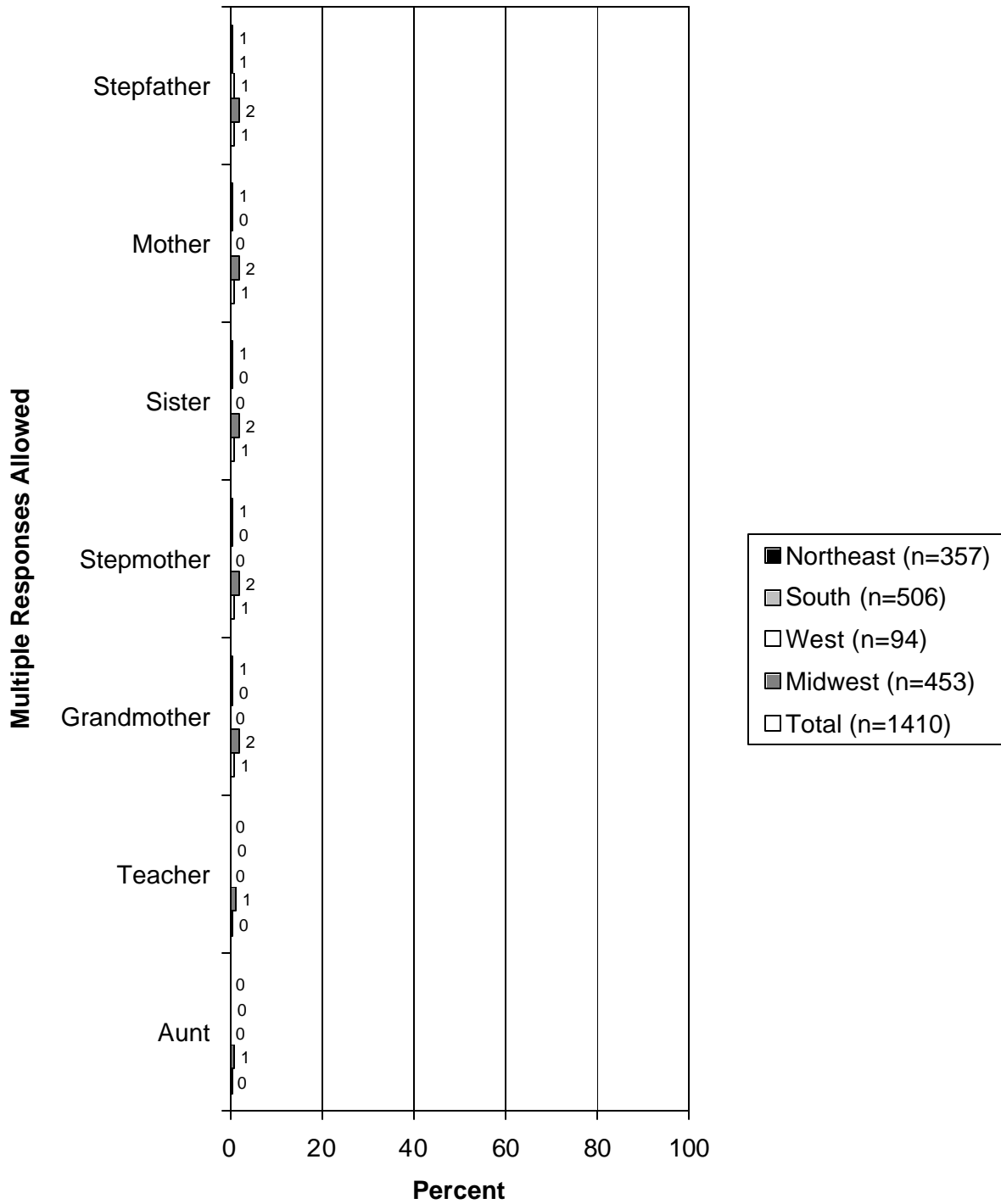
Q21. Who first showed you how to hunt? (Part 2)



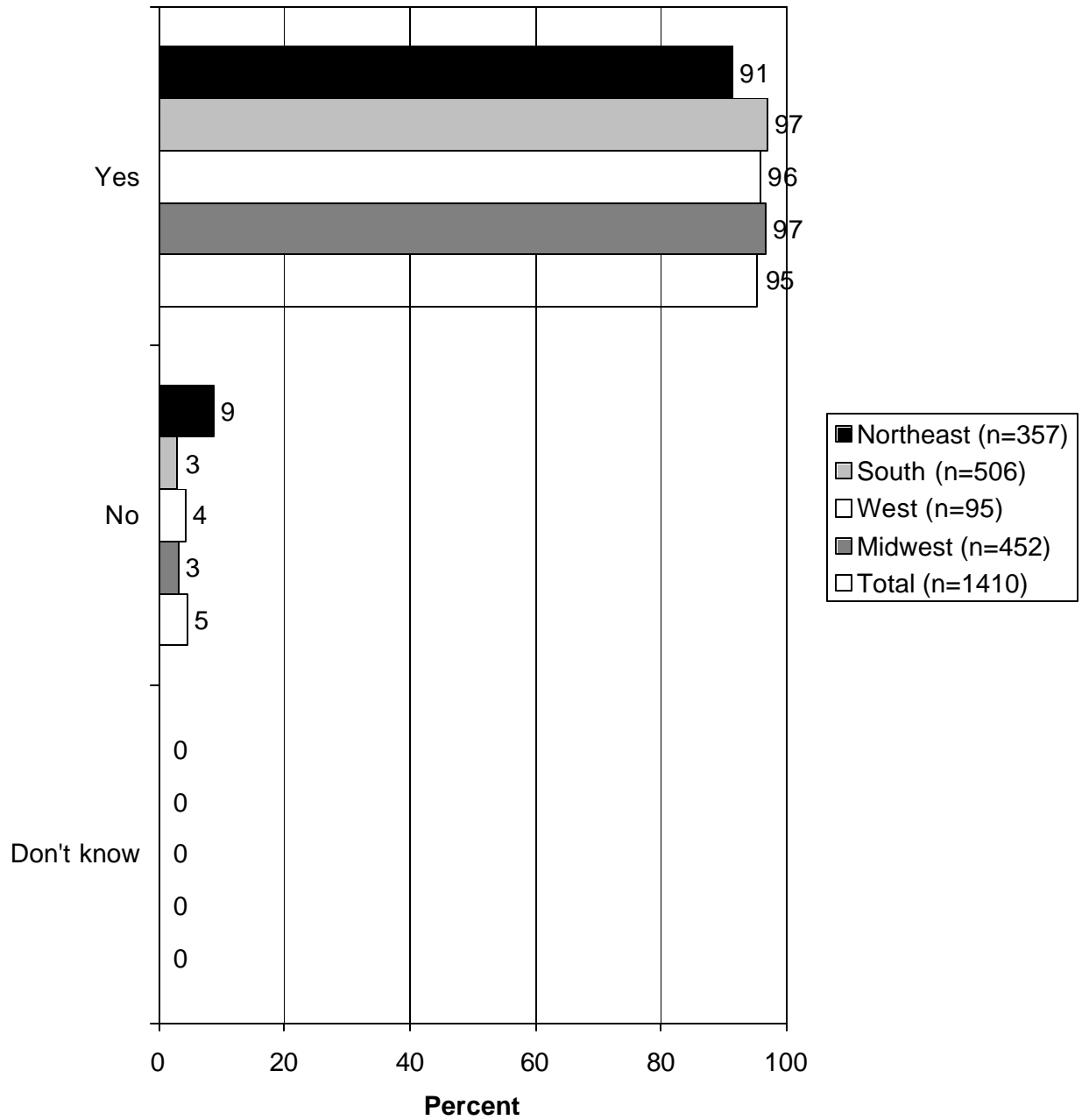
**Q24. Who first showed you how to turkey hunt?
(Part 1)**



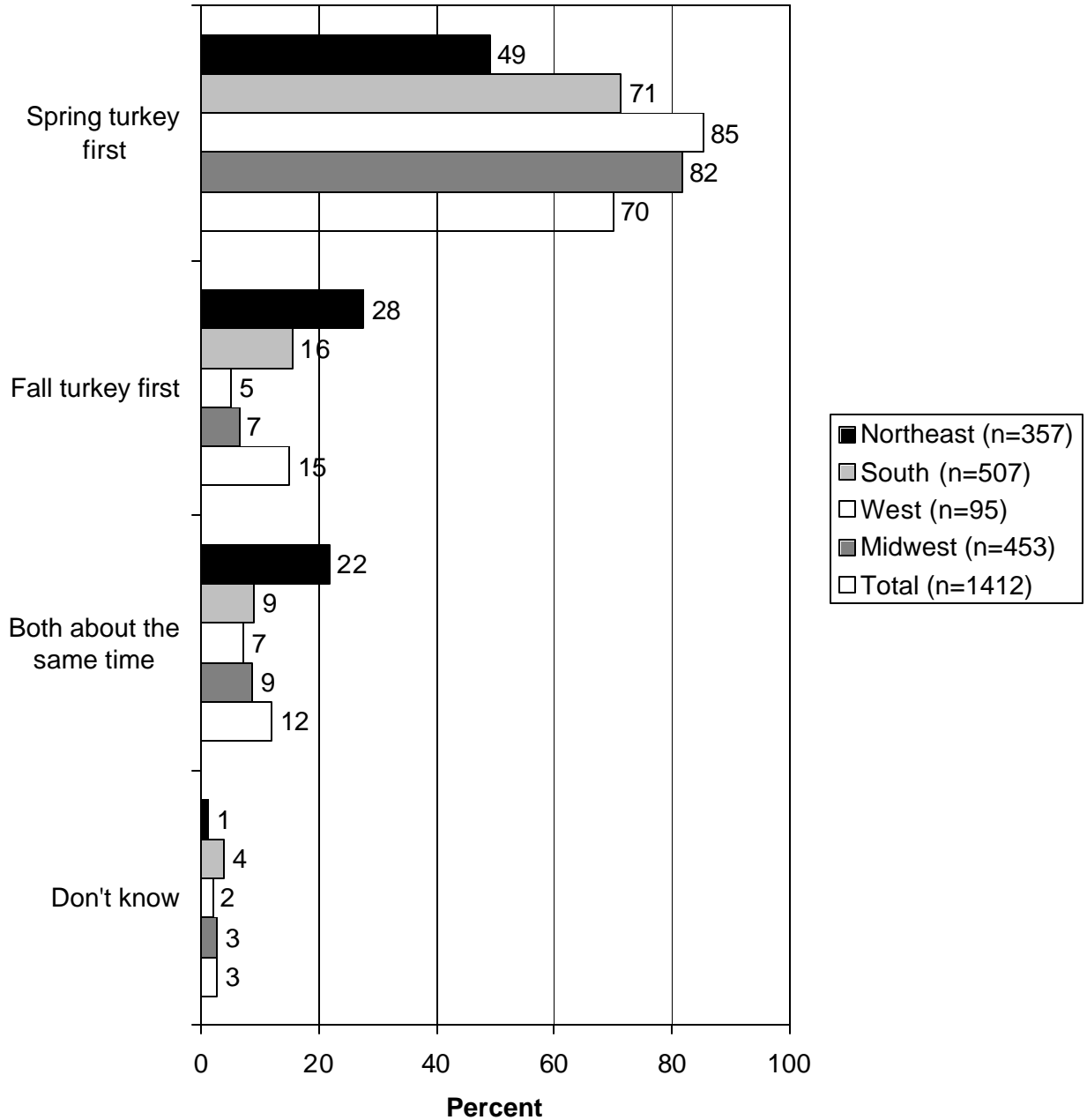
**Q24. Who first showed you how to turkey hunt?
(Part 2)**



Q26. Before hunting turkey, did you hunt other species?



Q27. Which did you hunt first?



SPRING TURKEY HUNTING SATISFACTION/ DISSATISFACTION AND INTERFERENCE

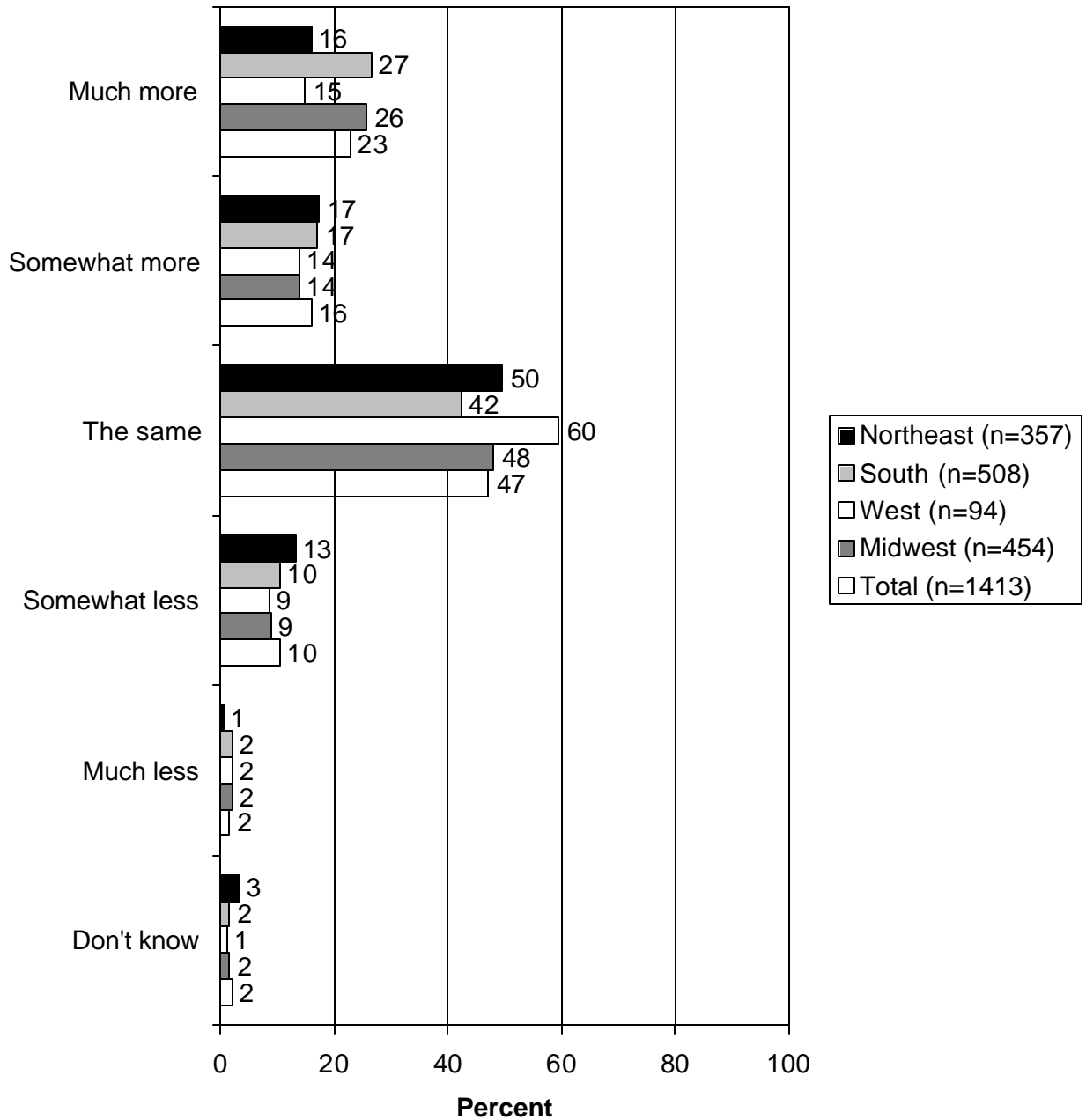
- Just slightly less than a majority of spring turkey hunters (47%) rated their enjoyment of spring turkey hunting the same as their enjoyment of other hunting activities. Otherwise, a higher percentage of respondents rated spring turkey hunting more enjoyable than rated spring turkey hunting less enjoyable than other hunting activities.
 - 39% of spring turkey hunters rated spring turkey hunting much or somewhat more enjoyable than other hunting activities, while 12% rated it somewhat or much less enjoyable.

- Satisfaction with spring turkey hunting was high: 81% of spring turkey hunters were very or somewhat satisfied with their spring turkey hunting in the last year.
 - 14% were somewhat or very dissatisfied.

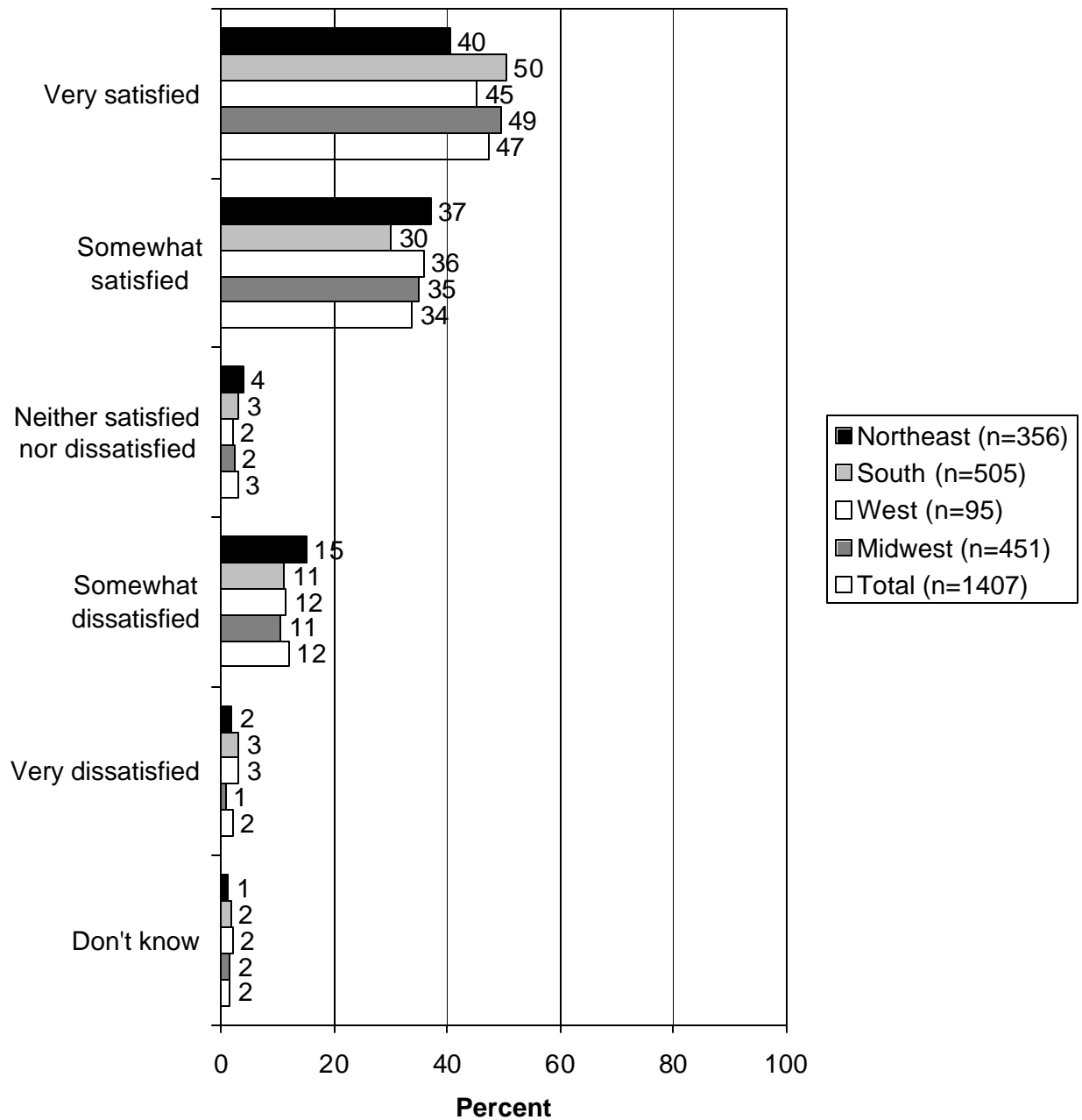
- A plurality (37%) of those who were dissatisfied with their spring turkey hunting said that not enough turkey in general was their main reason for their dissatisfaction. The most marked variation among regions was that a high percentage of Northeast spring turkey hunters, relative to spring turkey hunters from the other regions, were dissatisfied because they did not harvest a turkey.

- A large majority (85%) of spring turkey hunters did not experience any interference from other recreationists. Otherwise, they most commonly had conflicts with other spring turkey hunters (6%) or people using four-wheel drive or off-road vehicles (3%).

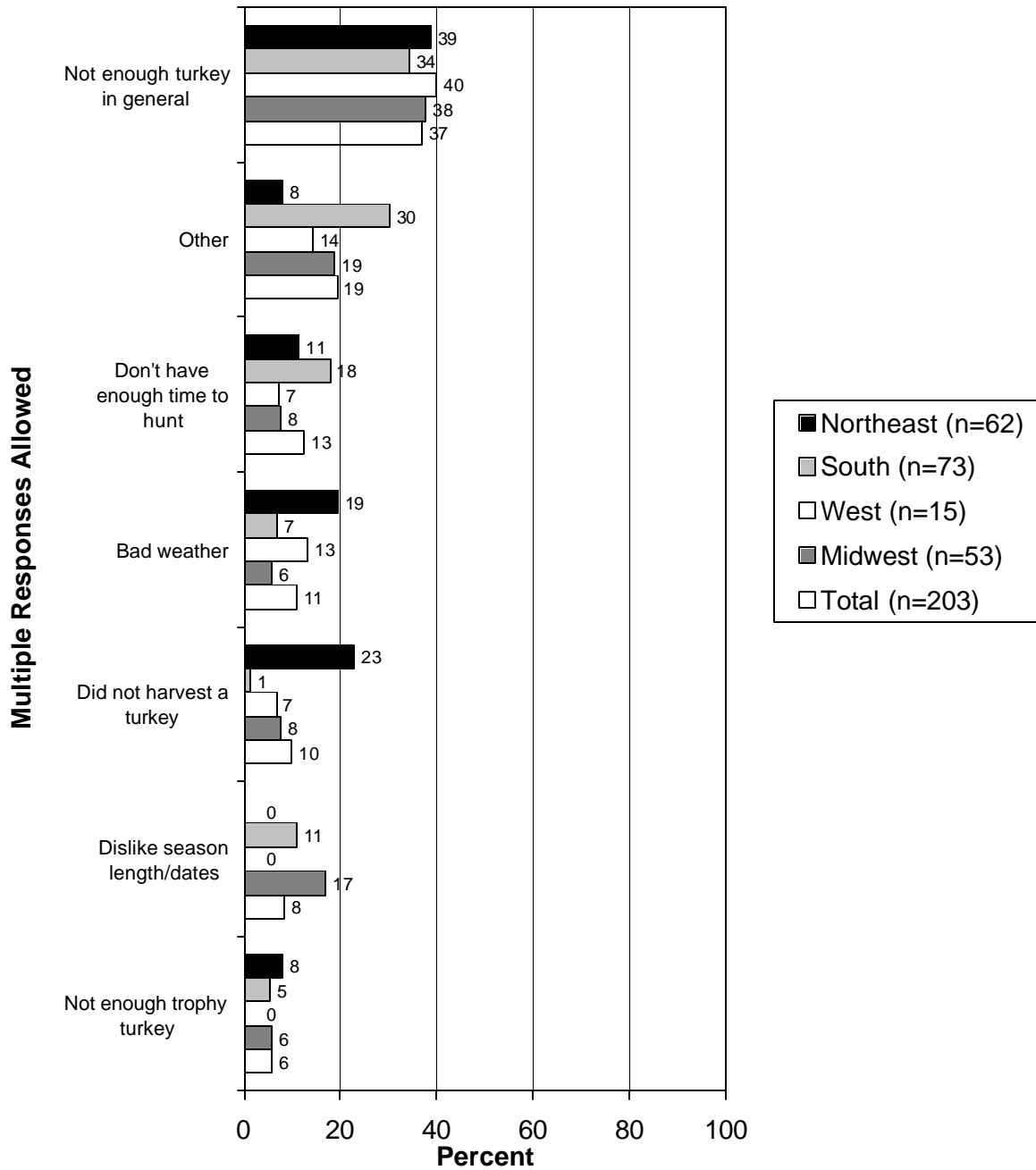
Q28. Overall, how would you rate your enjoyment of spring turkey hunting compared to other hunting activities?



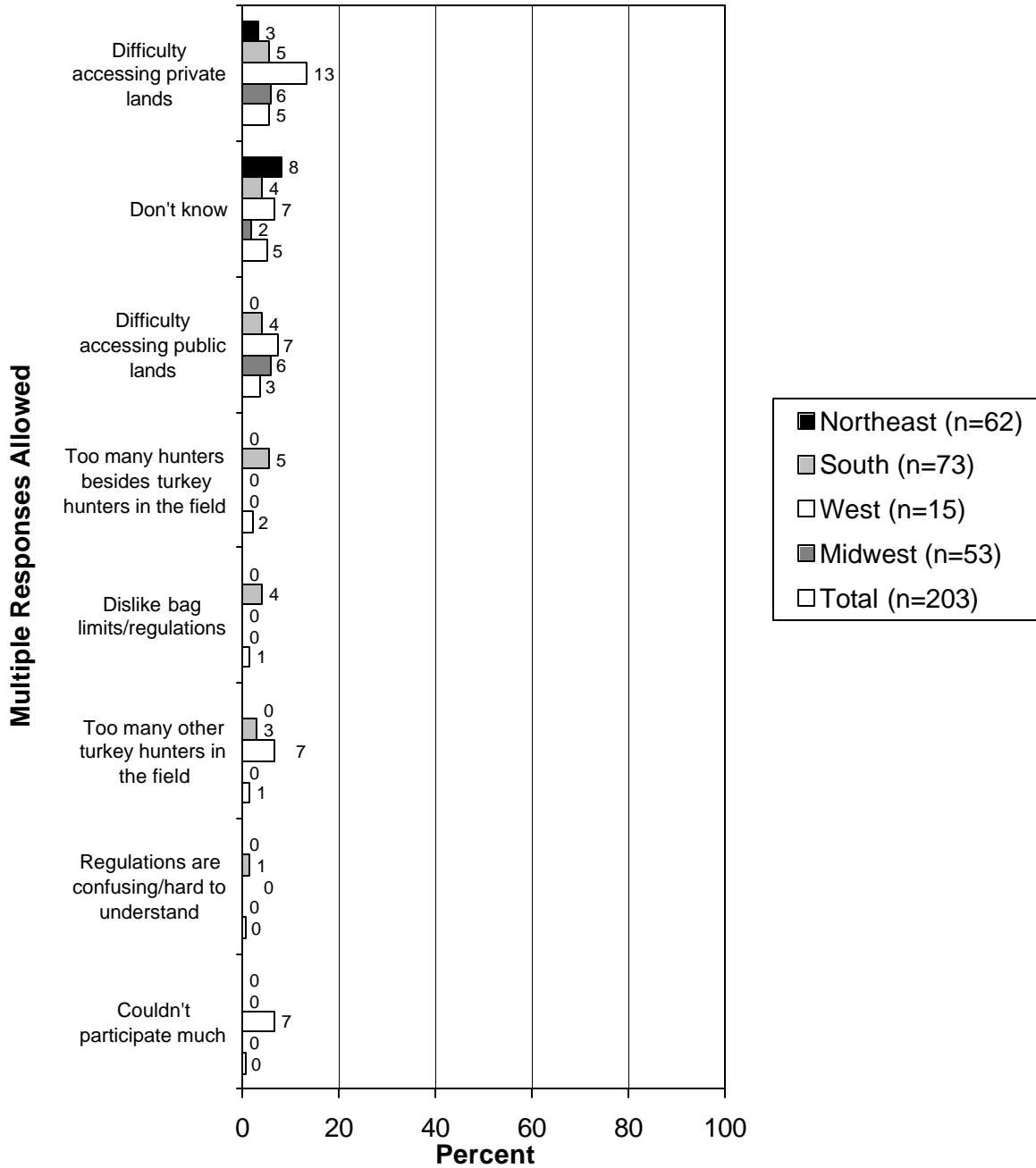
Q29. Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with your spring turkey hunting in the last year?



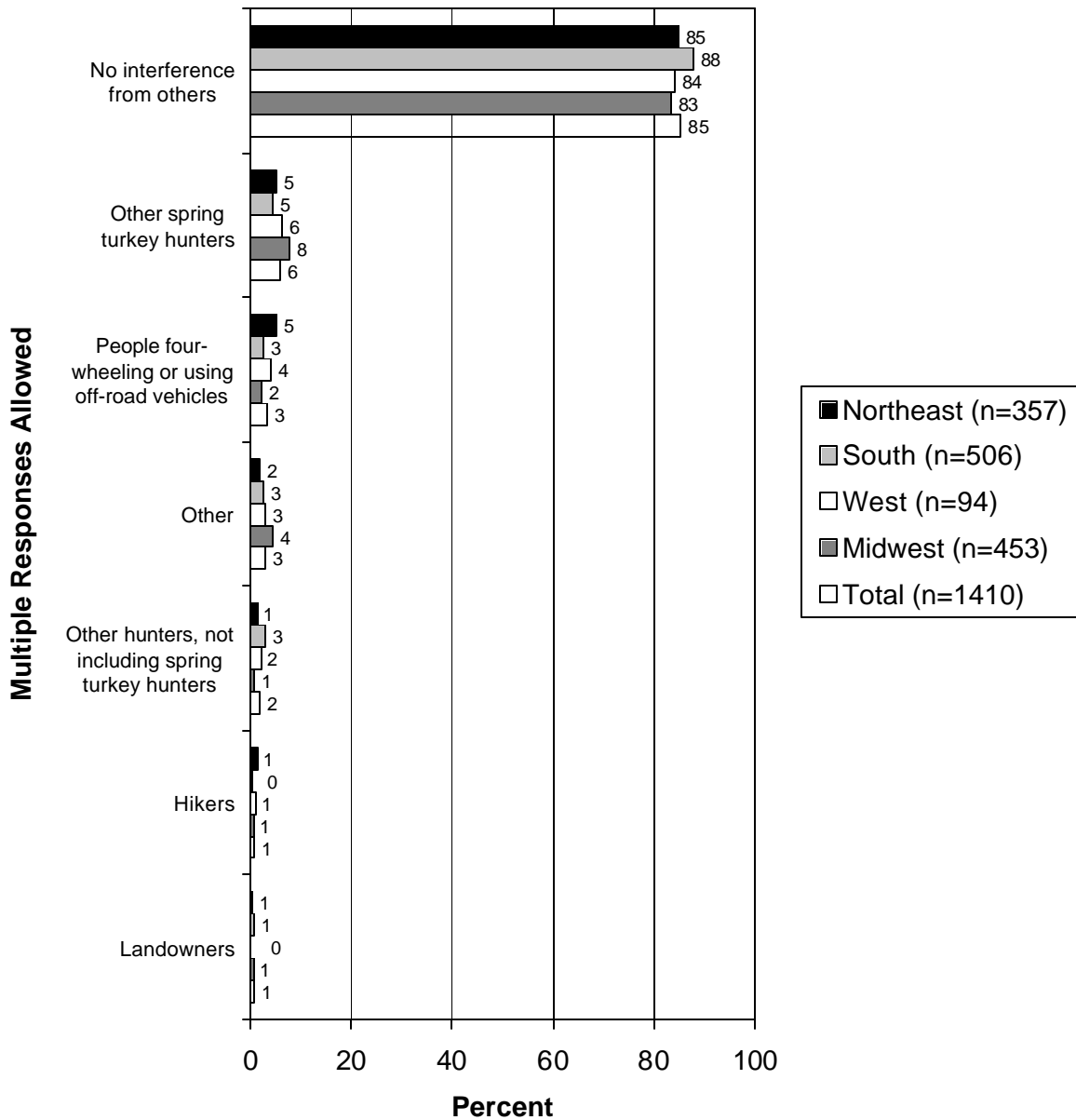
**Q31. What are your main reasons for being dissatisfied with your spring turkey hunting?
(Asked of those who are dissatisfied with their spring turkey hunting in the last year.) (Part 1)**



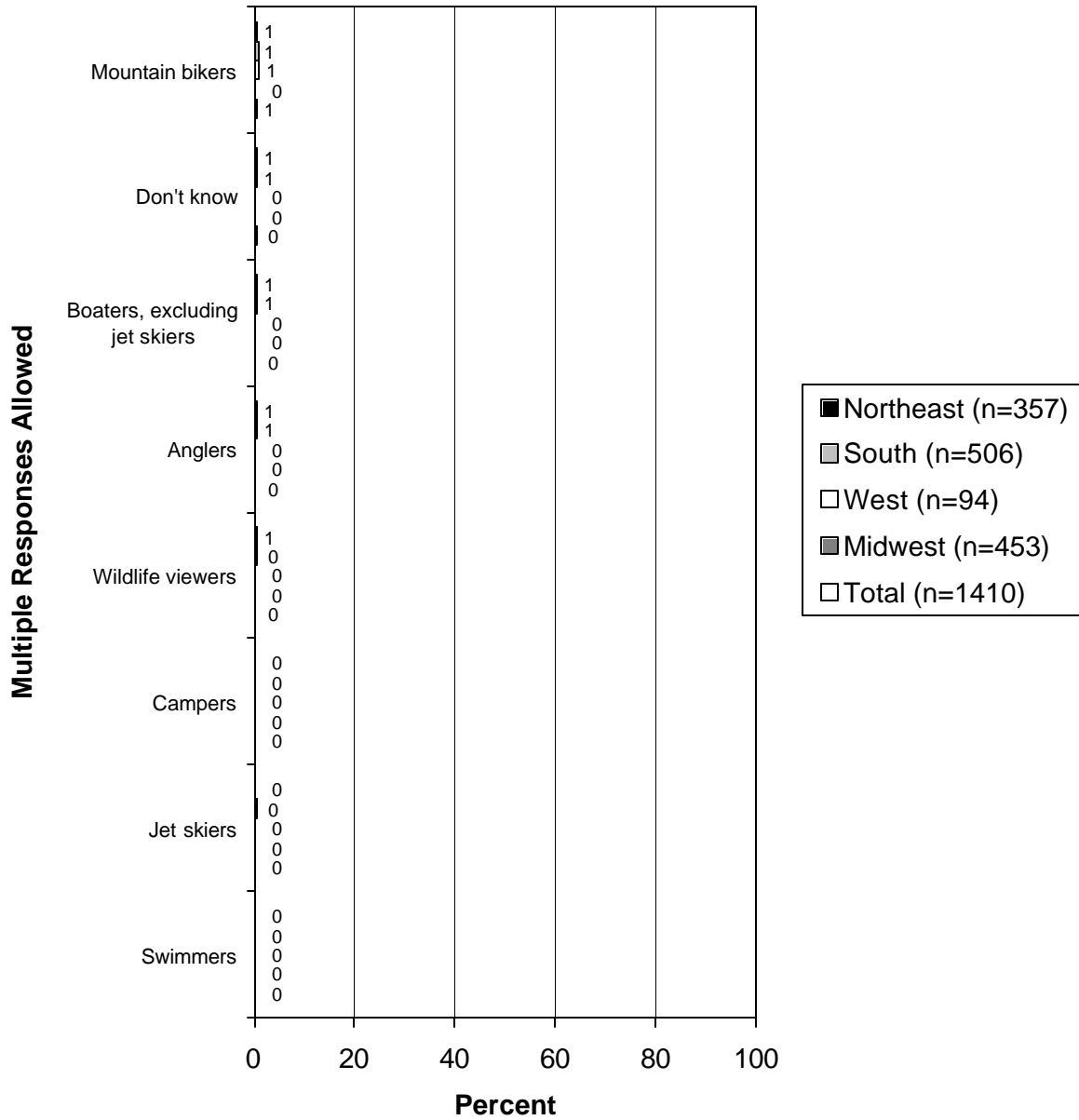
**Q31. What are your main reasons for being dissatisfied with your spring turkey hunting?
(Asked of those who are dissatisfied with their spring turkey hunting in the last year.) (Part 2)**



Q40. While you were spring turkey hunting during the past license year, did you experience any interference from other recreationists that took away from your enjoyment? (If yes: What types of recreationists were they?) (Part 1)



Q40. While you were spring turkey hunting during the past license year, did you experience any interference from other recreationists that took away from your enjoyment? (If yes: What types of recreationists were they?) (Part 2)

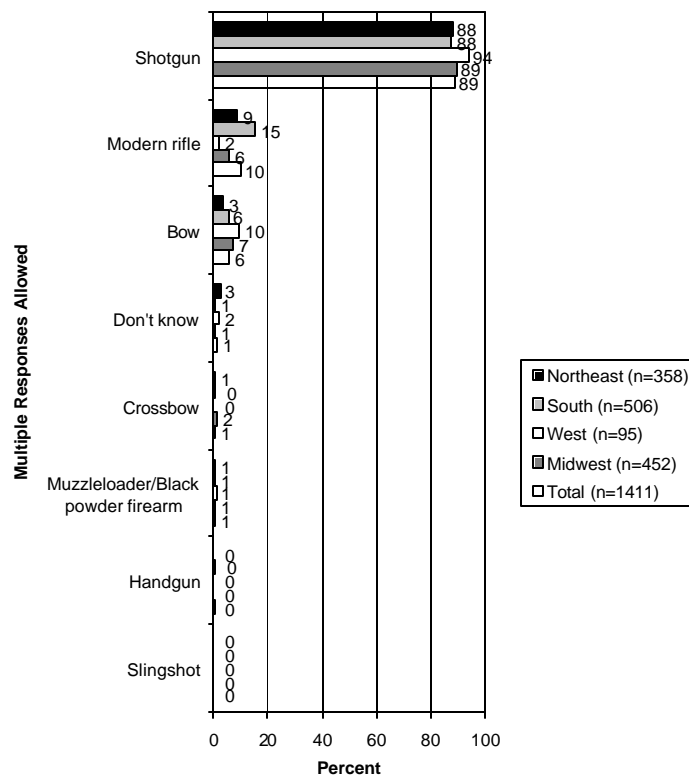


SPRING TURKEY HUNTING METHODS AND LOCATIONS

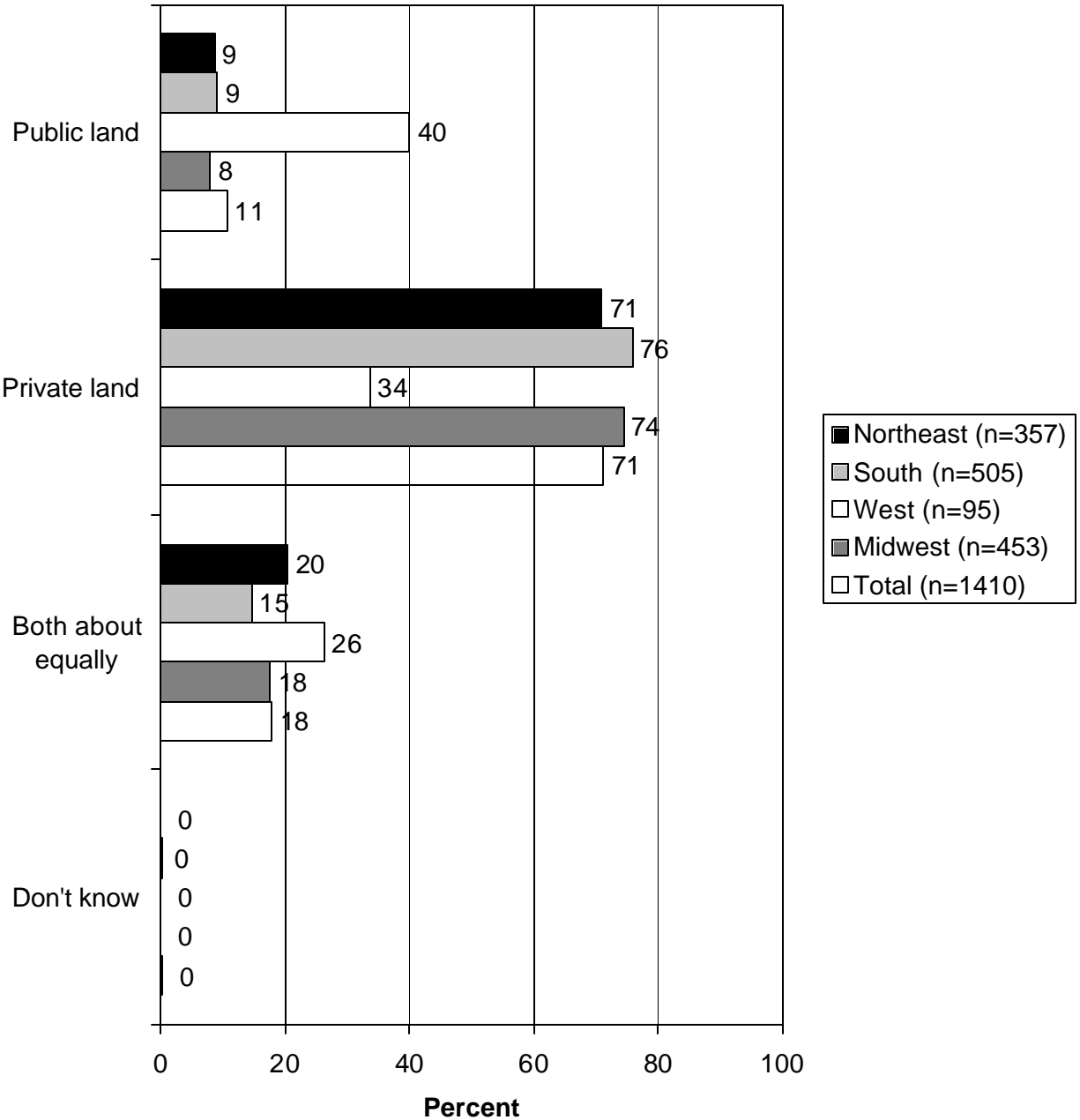
- An overwhelming majority of spring turkey hunters (89%) use a shotgun when hunting spring turkey.
 - 10% use a modern rifle.
 - 6% use a bow.

- A large majority of spring turkey hunters overall (71%) hunted spring turkey mostly on private land. Spring turkey hunters from the West differed substantially from their counterparts in the other regions: 40% of spring turkey hunters from the West hunted mostly on public land (the other regions ranged from 9% to 11%), and 34% of spring turkey hunters from the West hunted mostly on private land (the other regions ranged from 71% to 76%).
 - A low percentage overall (11%) hunted spring turkey mostly on public land.

Q34. What hunting methods do you use to hunt spring turkey?



Q35. When hunting spring turkey, would you say you hunt mostly on public land, mostly on private land, or both about equally?



RATING OF IMPORTANCE AND PERFORMANCE OF VARIOUS AGENCY PROGRAMS AND EFFORTS

- Spring turkey hunters were asked to rate the importance of various state fish and wildlife agency programs/efforts. Those programs/efforts for which the highest percentage of respondents gave a rating of *very* important were firearm use and safety (89%), providing wild turkey hunting opportunities for youth (81%), conservation projects, such as protecting or enhancing habitat for other wildlife besides wild turkey (78%), conservation projects, such as protecting or enhancing habitat for wild turkey (75%), archery use and safety (75%), and providing wild turkey hunting opportunities for disabled hunters (73%).
 - The program/effort with the lowest percentage rating it *very* important was special events, such as calling contests (20%).

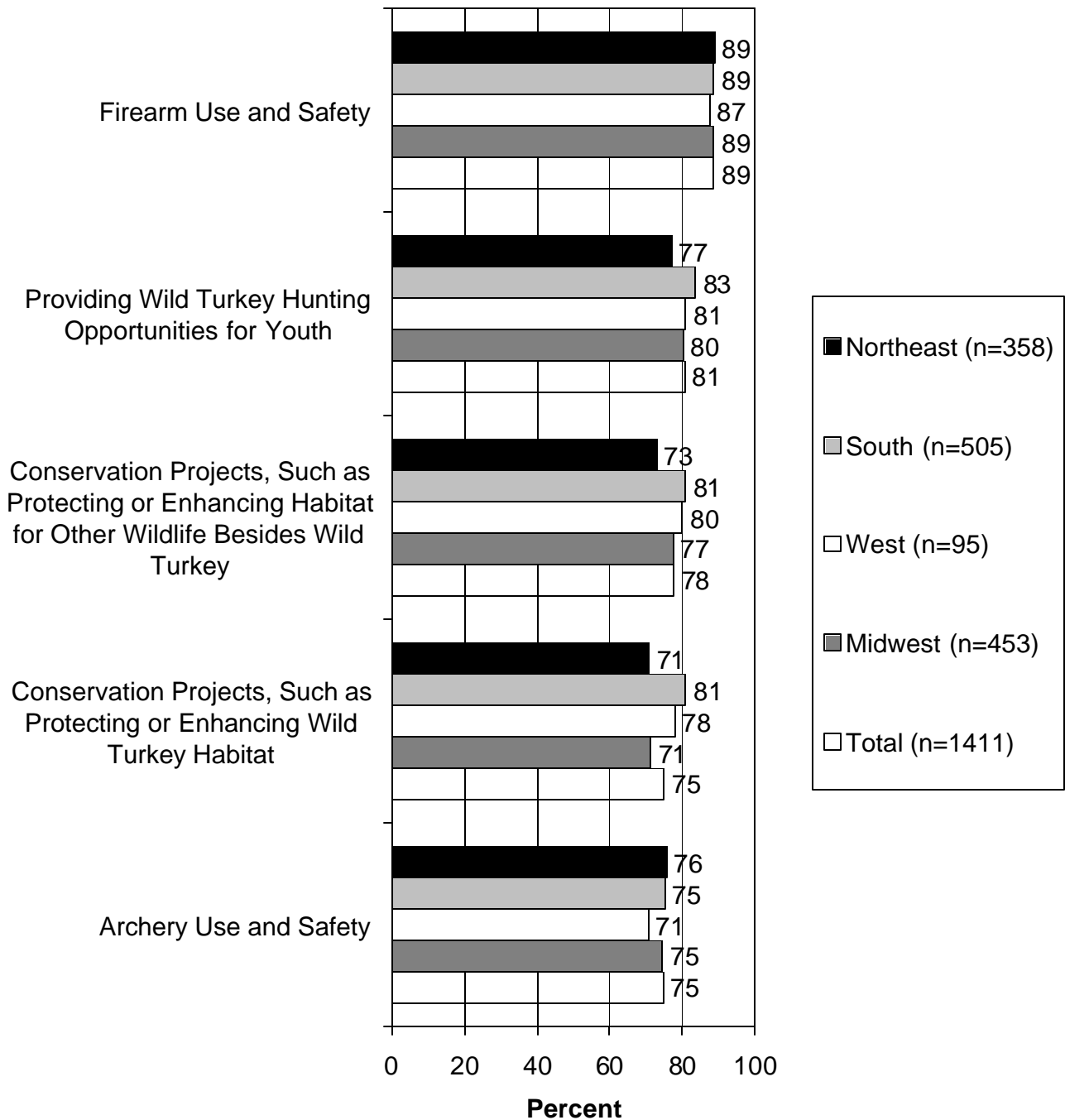
- In looking at those giving a rating of *very or somewhat* important in their rating of various state fish and wildlife agency programs/efforts, the top programs/efforts were firearm use and safety (96%), providing wild turkey hunting opportunities for youth (96%), education regarding conservation and outdoor skills (94%), conservation projects, such as protecting or enhancing habitat for other wildlife besides wild turkey (93%), providing wild turkey hunting opportunities for disabled hunters (93%), and conservation projects, such as protecting or enhancing habitat for wild turkey (91%).
 - The program/effort with the lowest percentage rating it *very or somewhat* important was special events, such as calling contests (59%).

- The analysis also examined those giving a rating of *very or somewhat unimportant* for their rating of various state fish and wildlife agency programs/efforts. The programs/efforts that had the highest percentage of respondents who said they were *very or somewhat unimportant* were special events, such as calling contests (27%), and providing additional fall turkey hunting opportunities (23%).

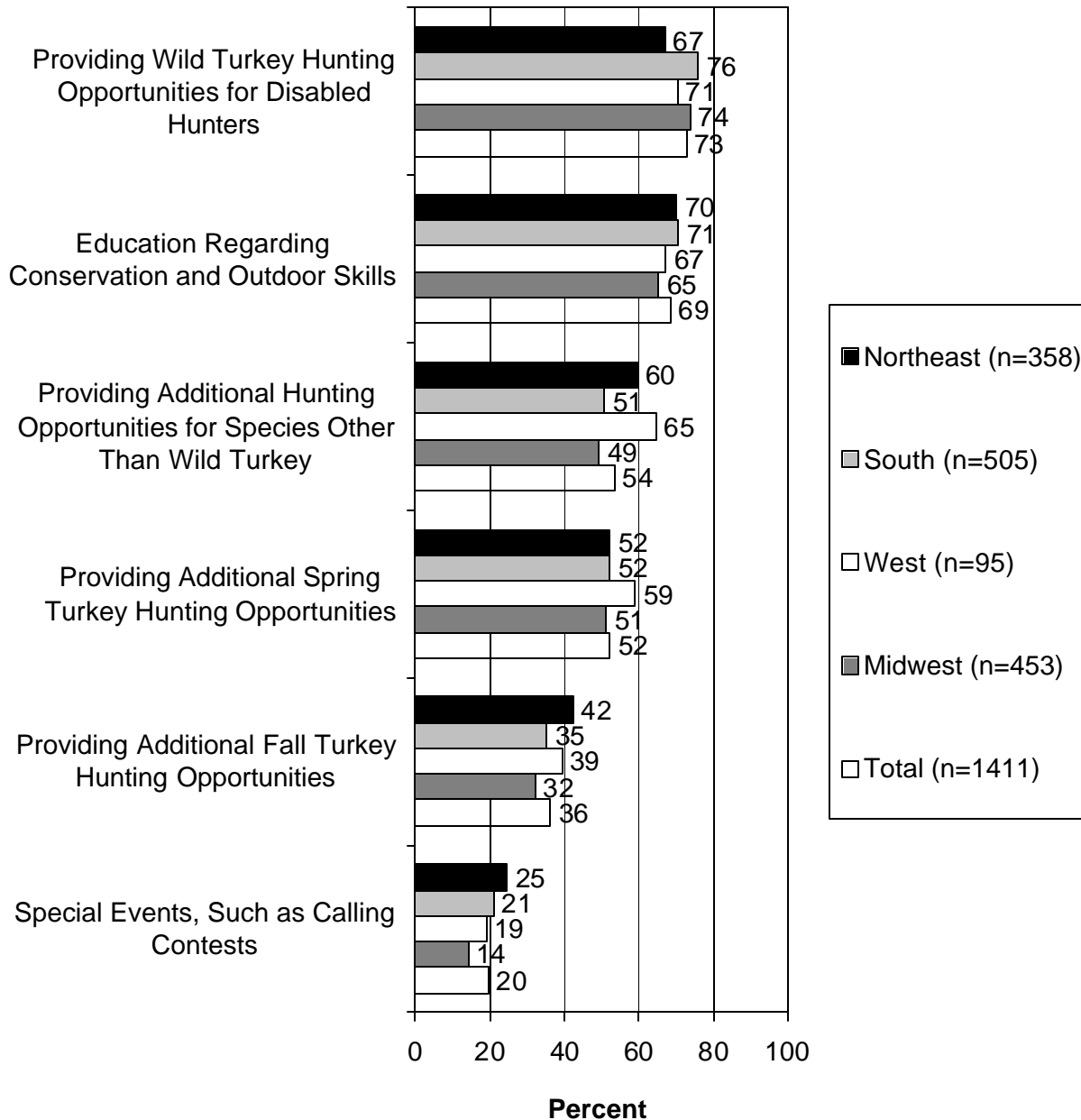
- A strong majority of spring turkey hunters overall (81%) rated the job that their state fish and wildlife agency does at providing hunting opportunities in their state as excellent or good, and 19% rated it fair or poor. Spring turkey hunters from the West were less likely than others to give a positive rating: only 53% of spring turkey hunters from the West gave a rating of excellent or good, compared to 78% to 81% of spring turkey hunters from the other three regions, and 12% of spring turkey hunters from the West gave a rating of poor, compared to 2% of spring turkey hunters from the other regions.
 - 28% overall rated the job that their state fish and wildlife agency does at providing hunting opportunities in their state as excellent.
 - 3% overall rated it poor.

- A strong majority of spring turkey hunters overall (80%) rated the job that their state fish and wildlife agency does in providing spring turkey hunting opportunities as excellent or good, and 15% rated it as fair or poor. Those from the West gave the least favorable ratings: 66% rated it excellent or good, compared to 76% to 86% of those from the other three regions, and 9% rated it poor, compared to 1% to 3% of those from the other three regions.
 - 30% of spring turkey hunters overall rated the job that their state fish and wildlife agency does in providing spring turkey hunting opportunities as excellent.
 - 2% rated it poor.

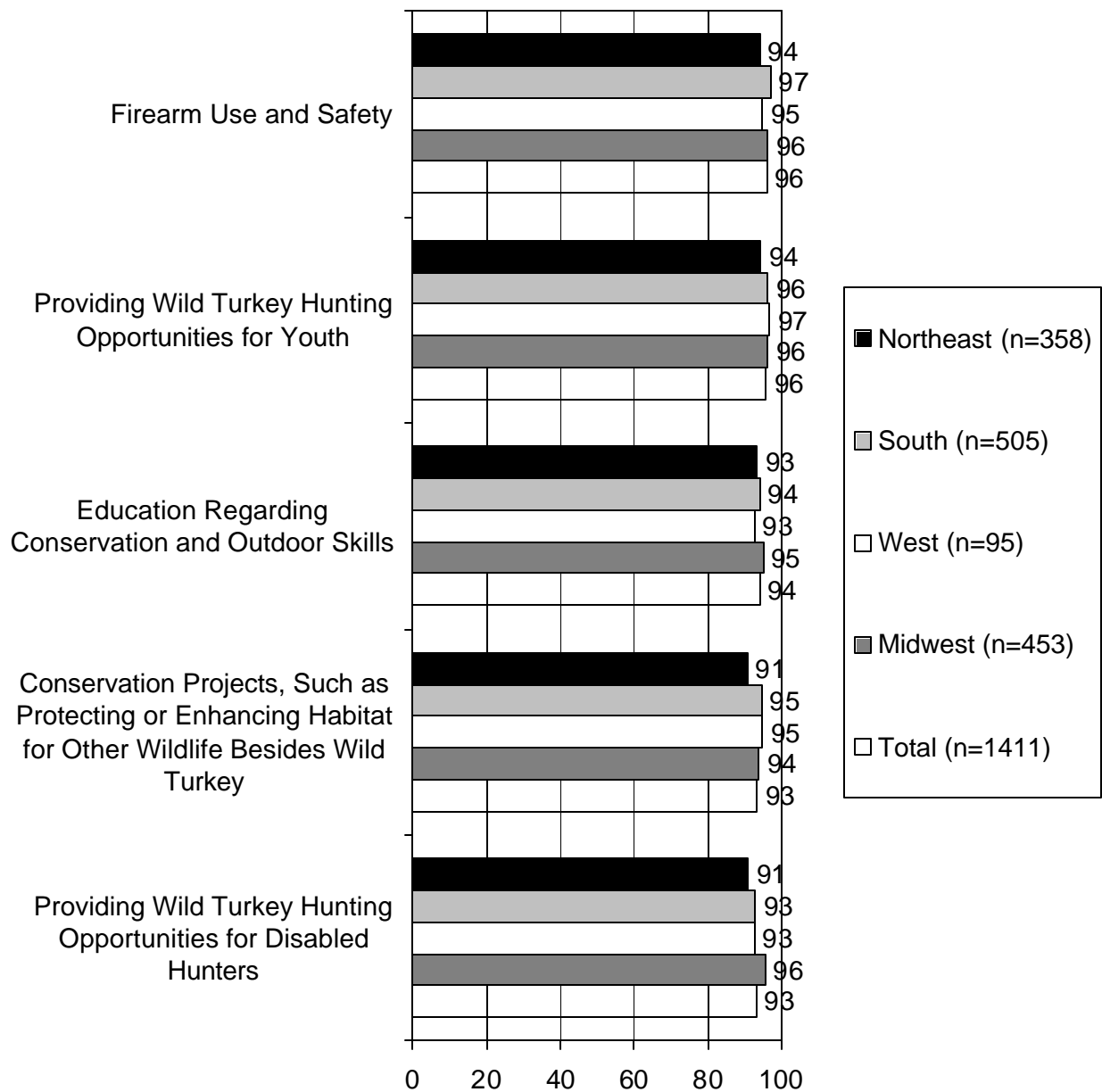
Q153-Q163. Programs considered very important for the state fish and wildlife agency.
Part 1



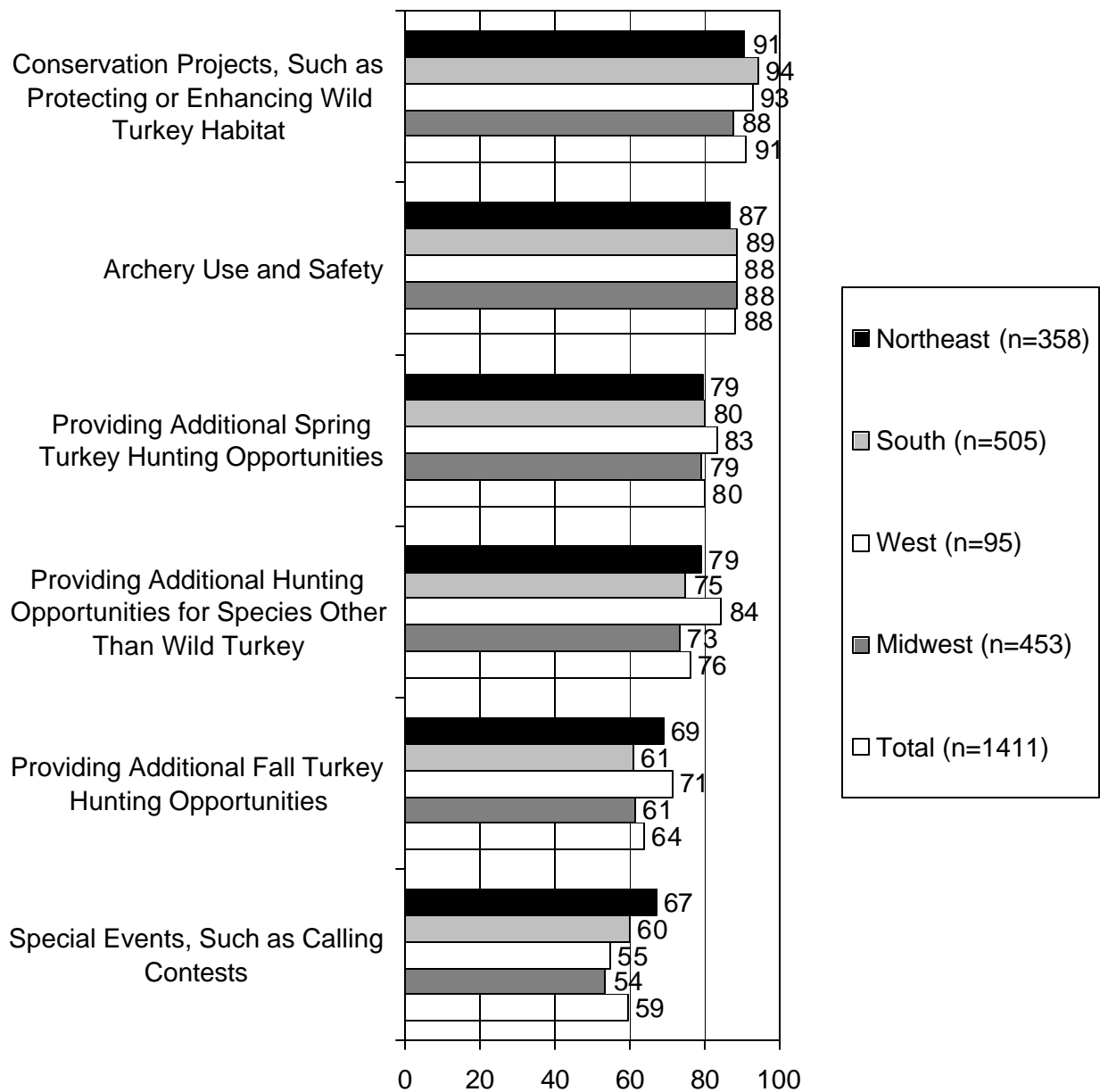
Q153-Q163. Programs considered very important for the state fish and wildlife agency.
Part 2



**Q153-Q163. Programs considered very or somewhat important for the state fish and wildlife agency.
Part 1**

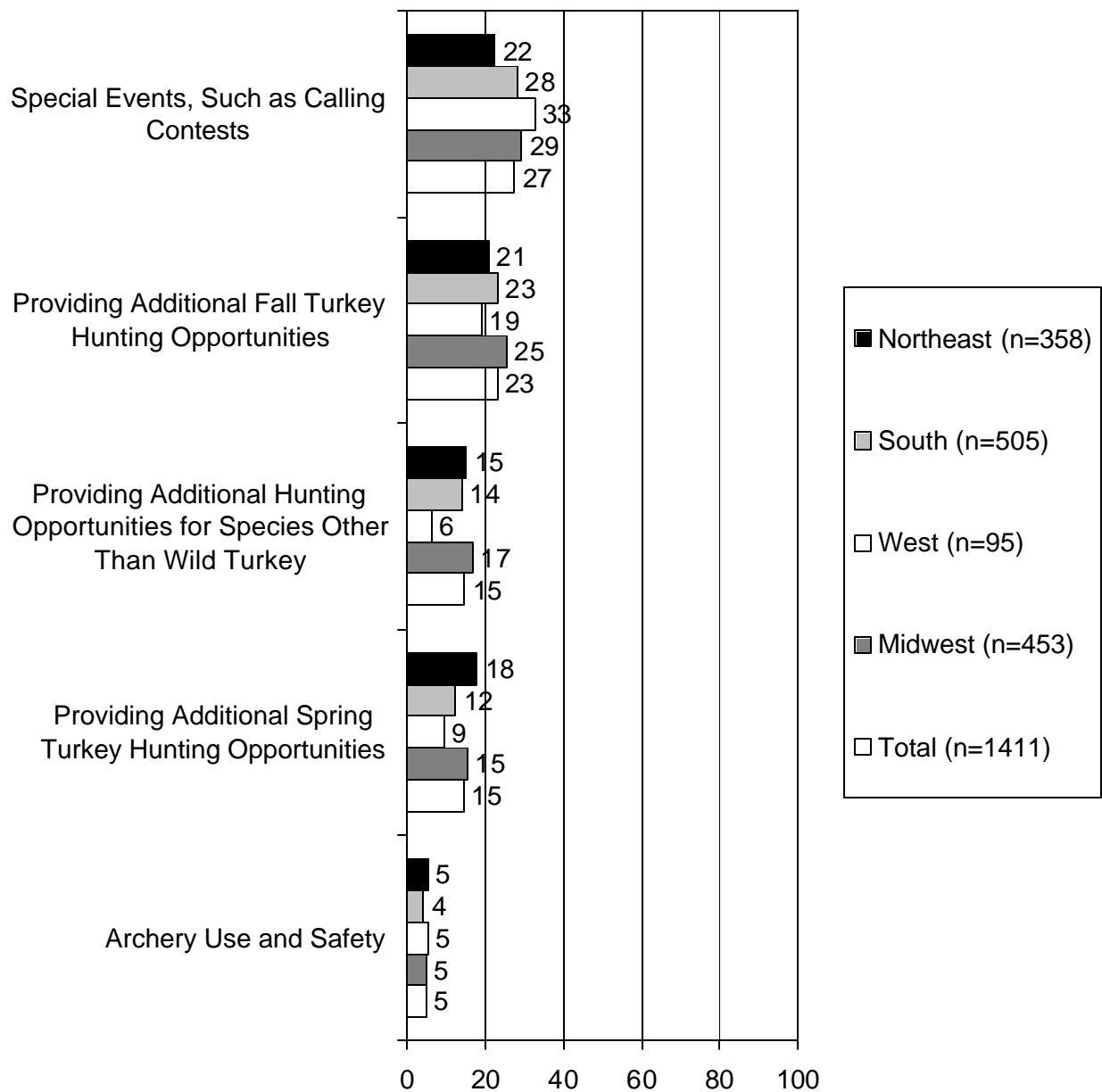


Q153-Q163. Programs considered very or somewhat important for the state fish and wildlife agency.
Part 2



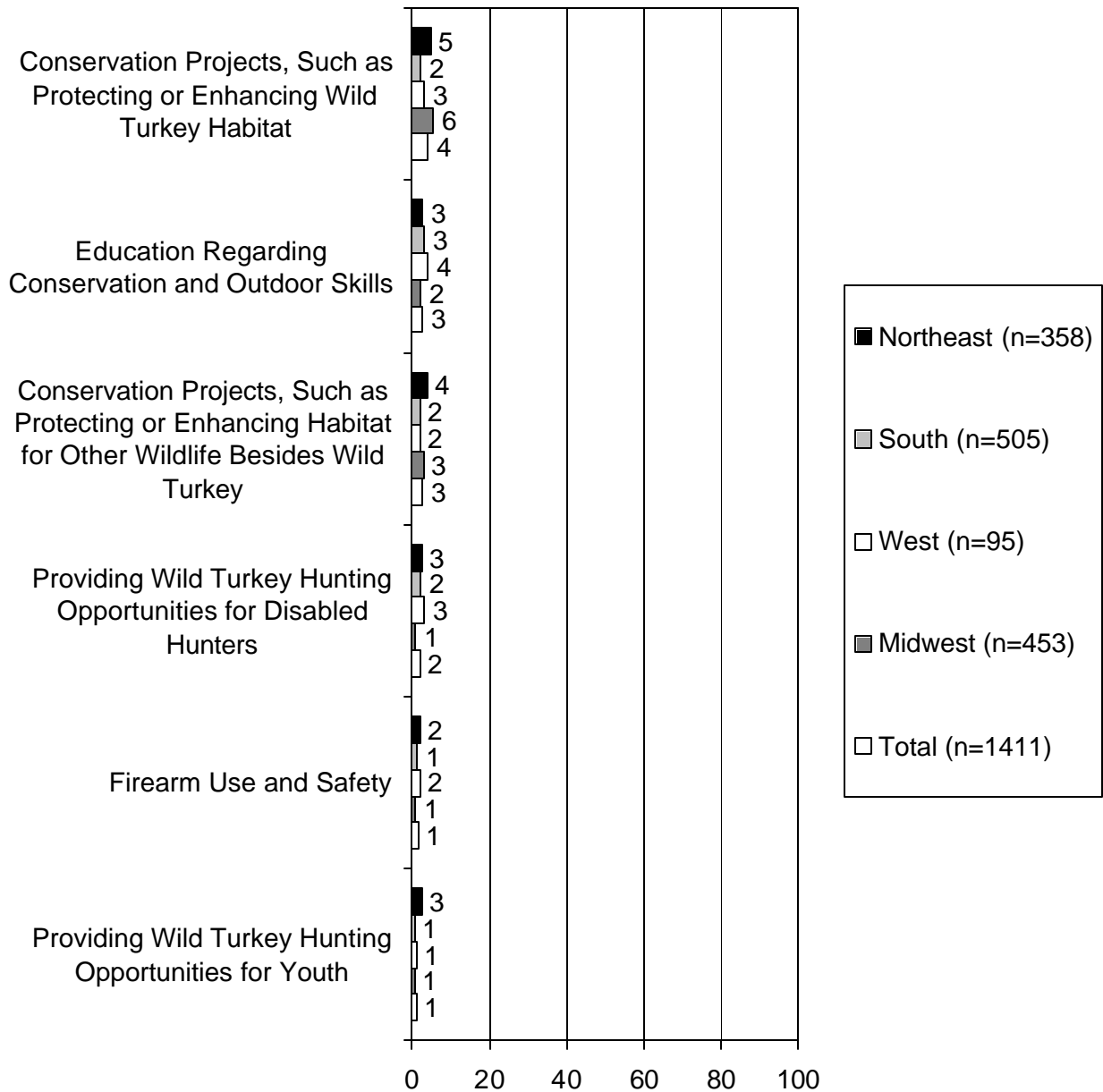
Q153-Q163. Programs considered very or somewhat unimportant for the state fish and wildlife agency.

Part 1

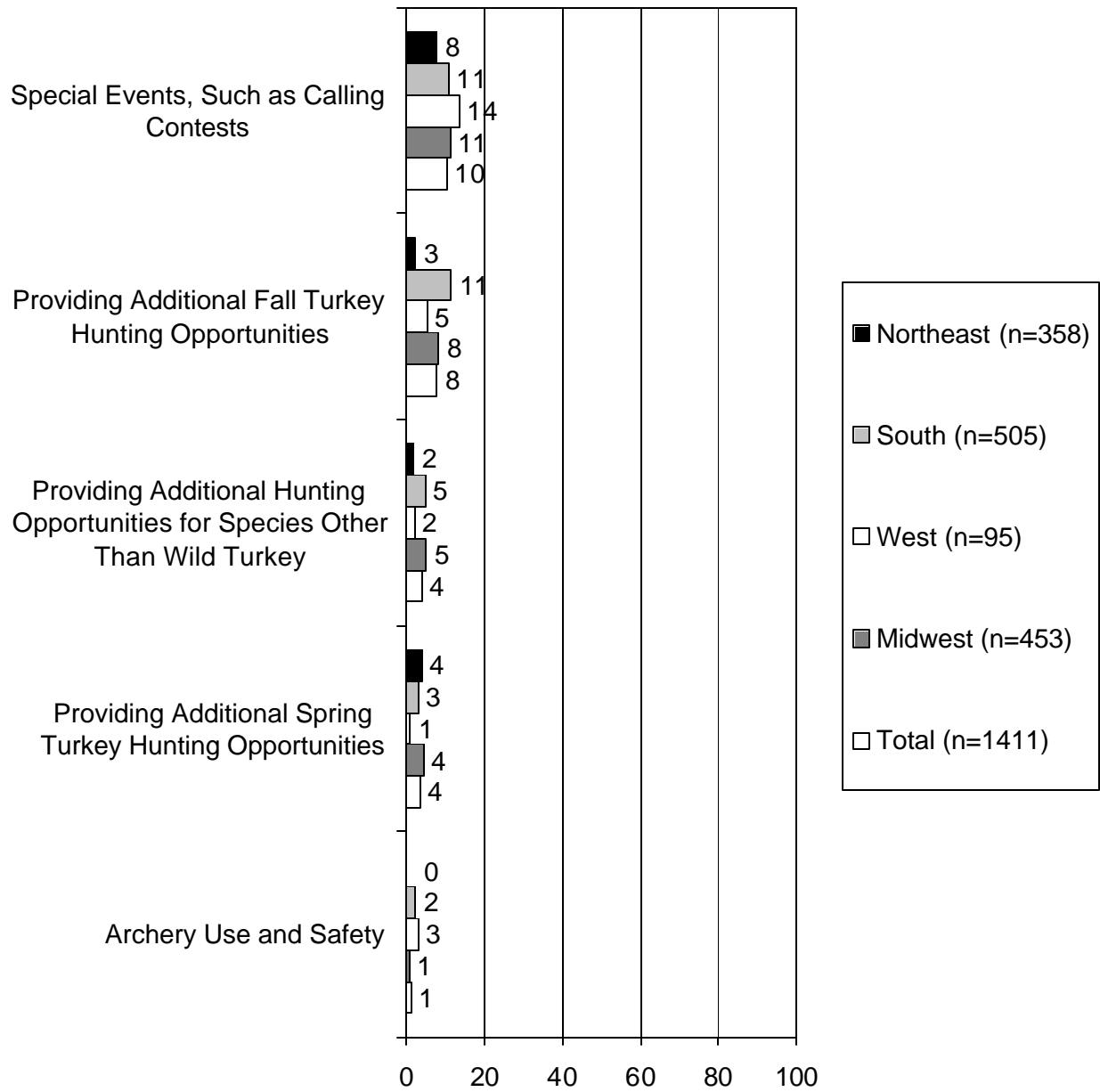


Q153-Q163. Programs considered very or somewhat unimportant for the state fish and wildlife agency.

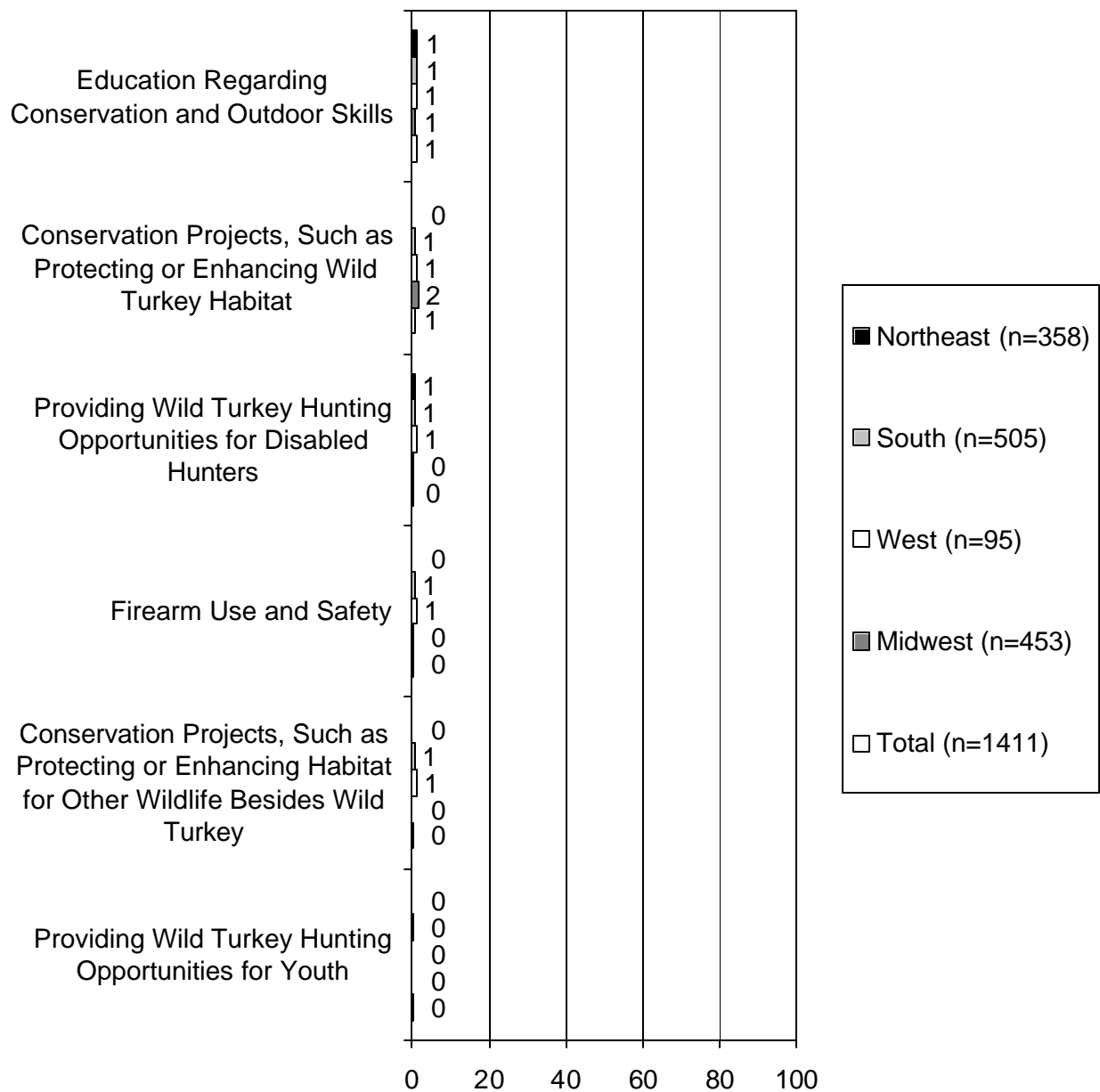
Part 2



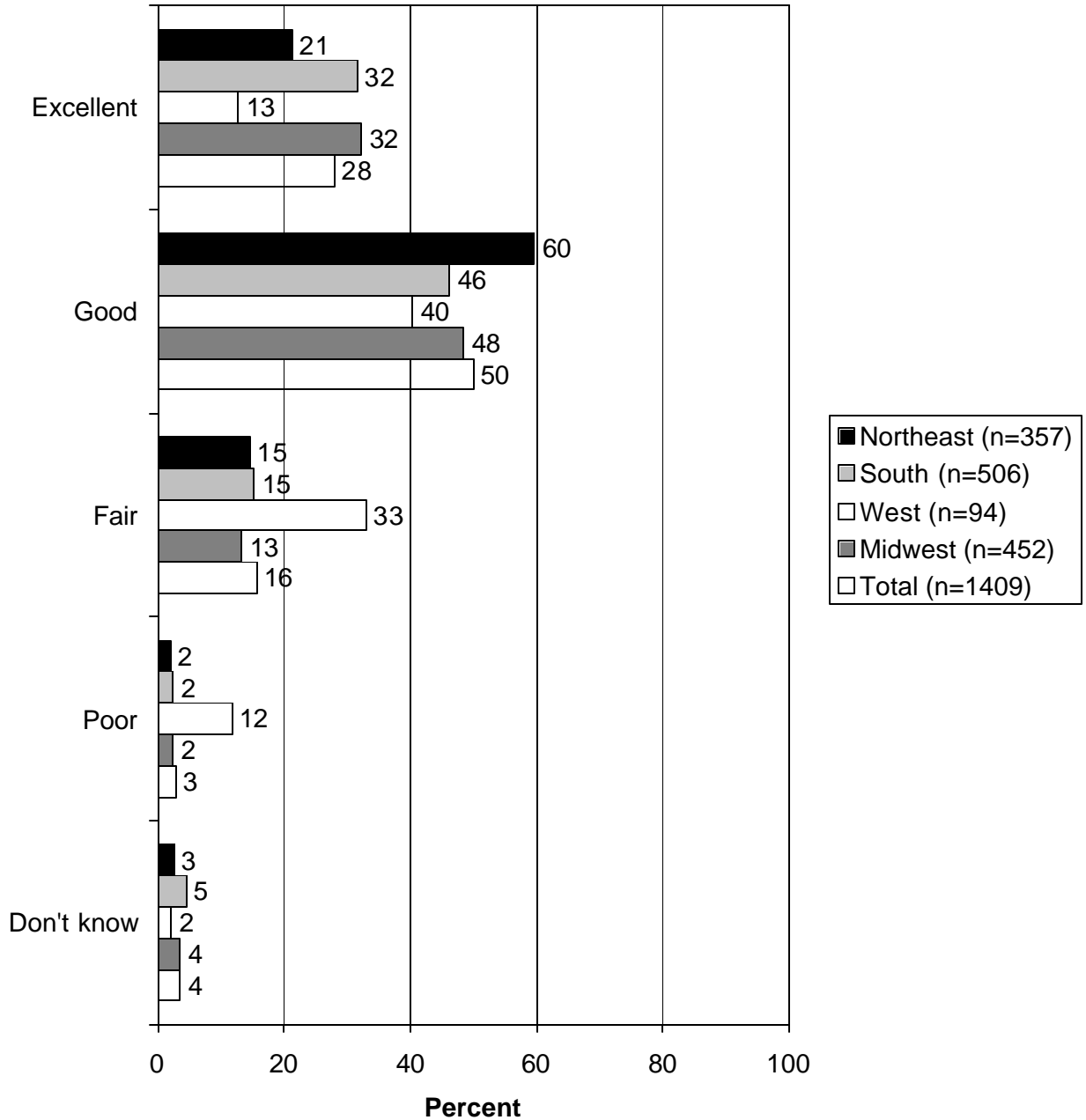
**Q153-Q163. Programs considered very unimportant for the state fish and wildlife agency.
Part 1**



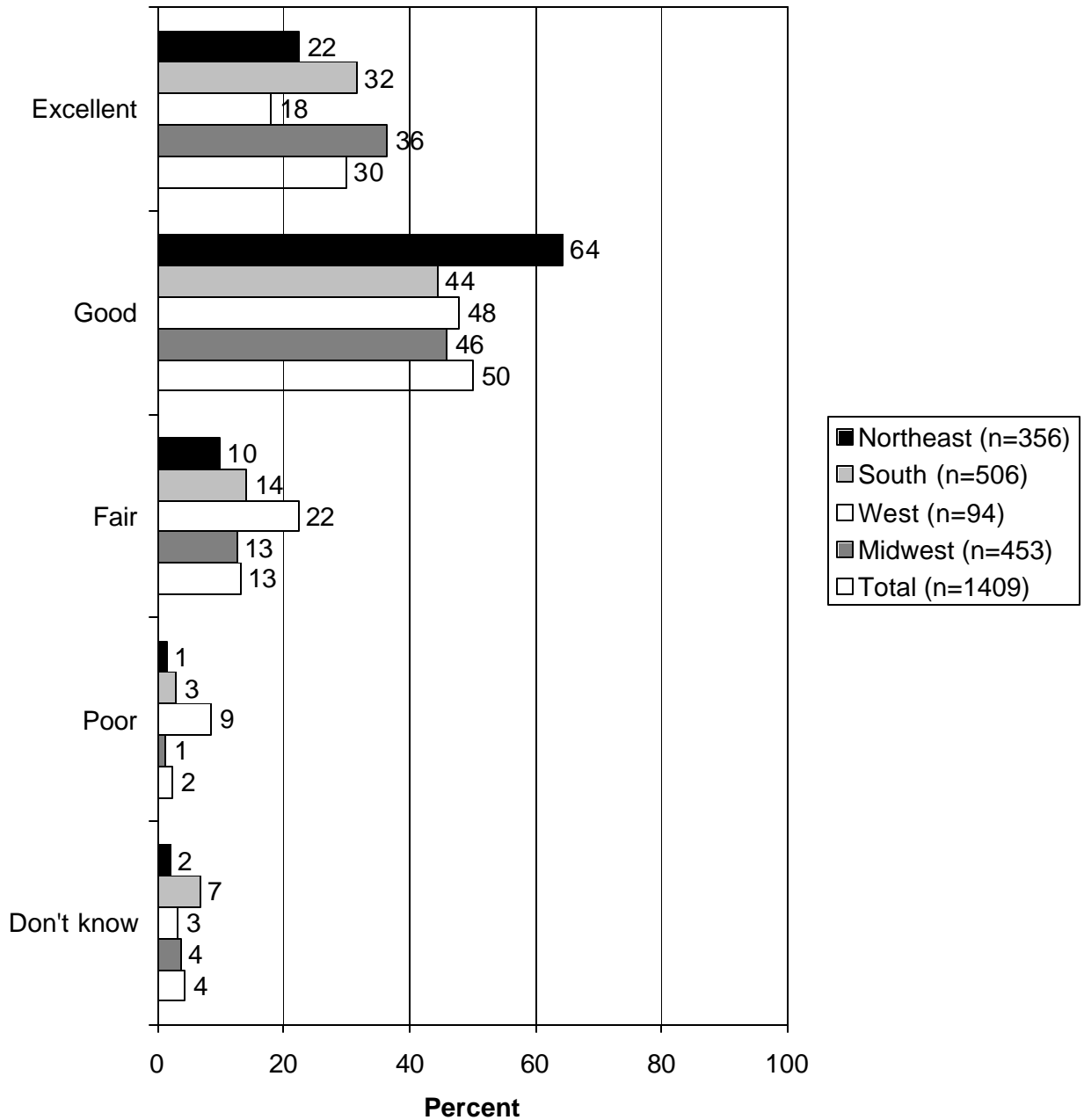
**Q153-Q163. Programs considered very unimportant for the state fish and wildlife agency.
Part 2**



Q164. Overall, would you say your state fish and wildlife agency does an excellent, good, fair, or poor job of providing hunting opportunities in your state?



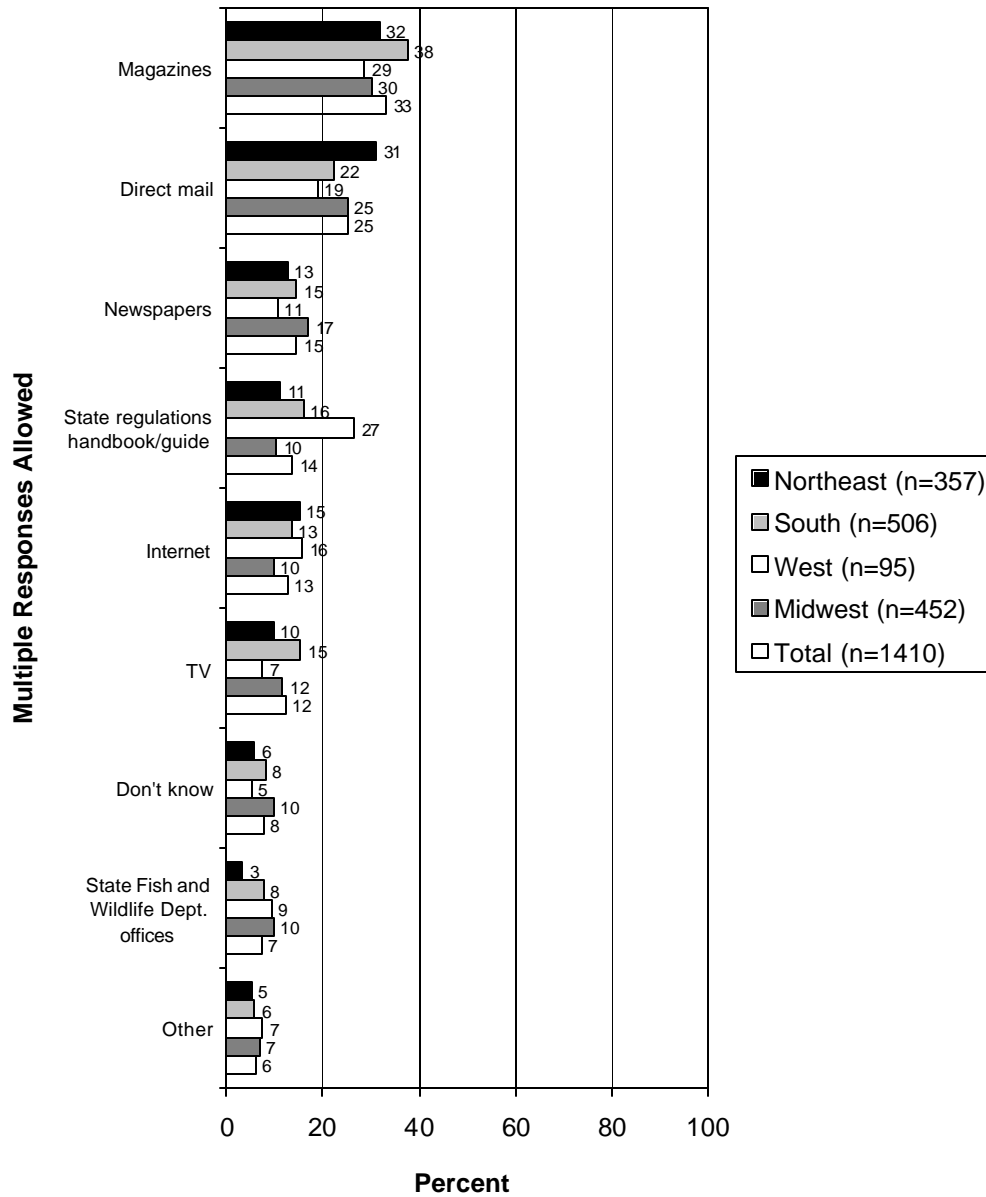
Q165. Overall, would you say your state fish and wildlife agency does an excellent, good, fair, or poor job of providing spring turkey hunting opportunities in your state?



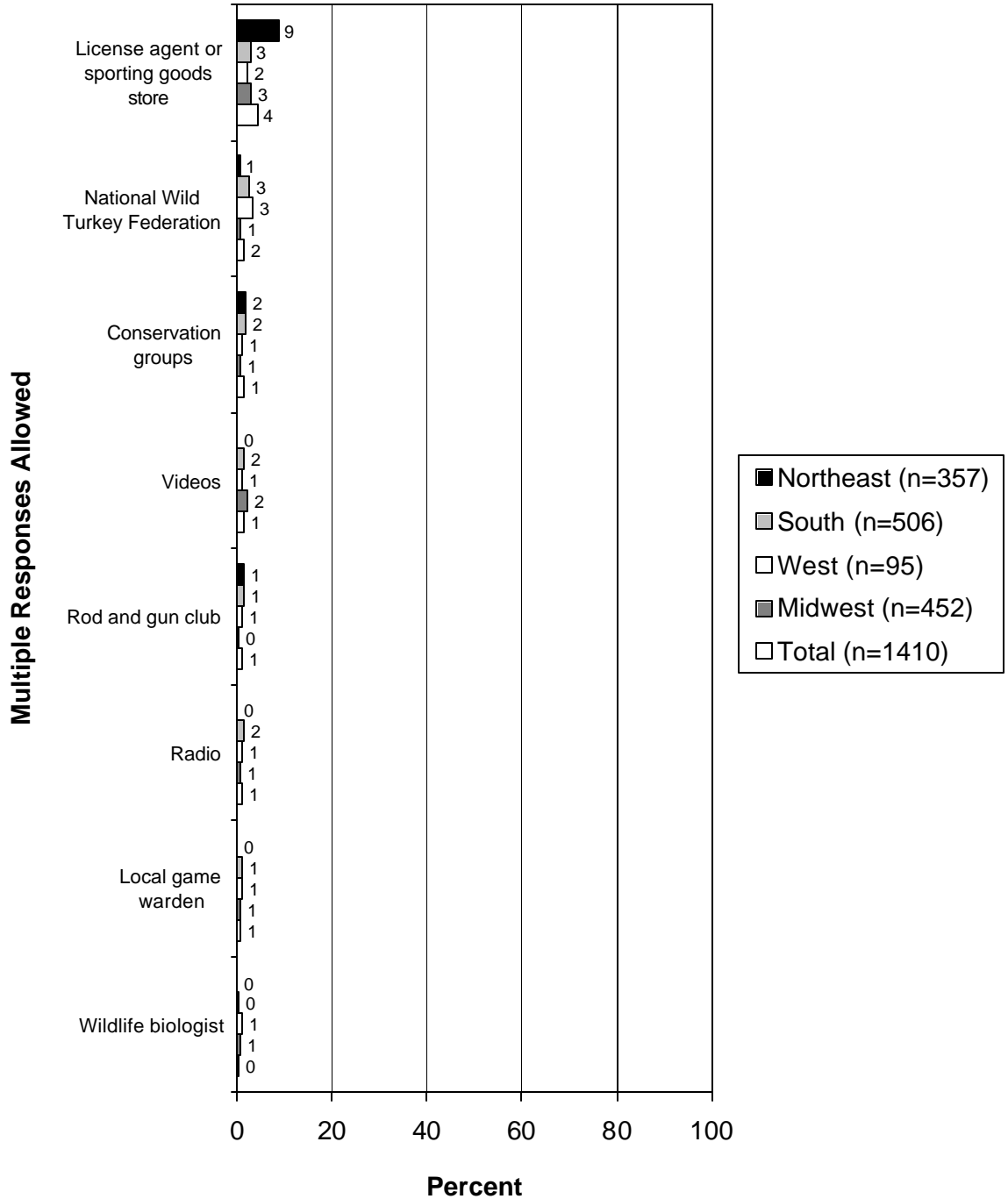
WAYS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT SPRING TURKEY HUNTING

- The ways that spring turkey hunters said would be best to inform them about spring turkey hunting were magazines (33%), direct mail (25%), and newspapers (15%).

Q170. What are the best ways to provide you with information on spring turkey hunting? (Part 1)



Q170. What are the best ways to provide you with information on spring turkey hunting? (Part 2)



MEMBERSHIP IN CONSERVATION/SPORTSMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS AND DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

- Regarding membership in conservation/sportsmen's organizations, the regional total for the West could not be determined because the sample in California, which would have been used to calculate the West regional total, was derived from NWTF membership lists, not from randomly selected licensees, thereby skewing the results. This, in turn, prevented national totals from being determined. For this reason, only the Northeast, South, and Midwest are shown in the membership graph. For those regions, the National Rifle Association is the most common organization to which spring turkey hunters belong (22% in the Northeast, 20% in the South, and 24% in the Midwest). The NWTF had membership percentages as follows: 7% of spring turkey hunters from the Northeast, 15% of spring turkey hunters from the South, and 14% of spring turkey hunters from the Midwest.

- Overall, spring turkey hunters were most commonly from a rural area (38%) or from a small city/town (34%). Only 15% were from a suburban area, and 10% were from a large city.

- The most common occupations of spring turkey hunters were construction (13%) and manufacturing (11%).

- Spring turkey hunters overall were overwhelmingly white (93%).

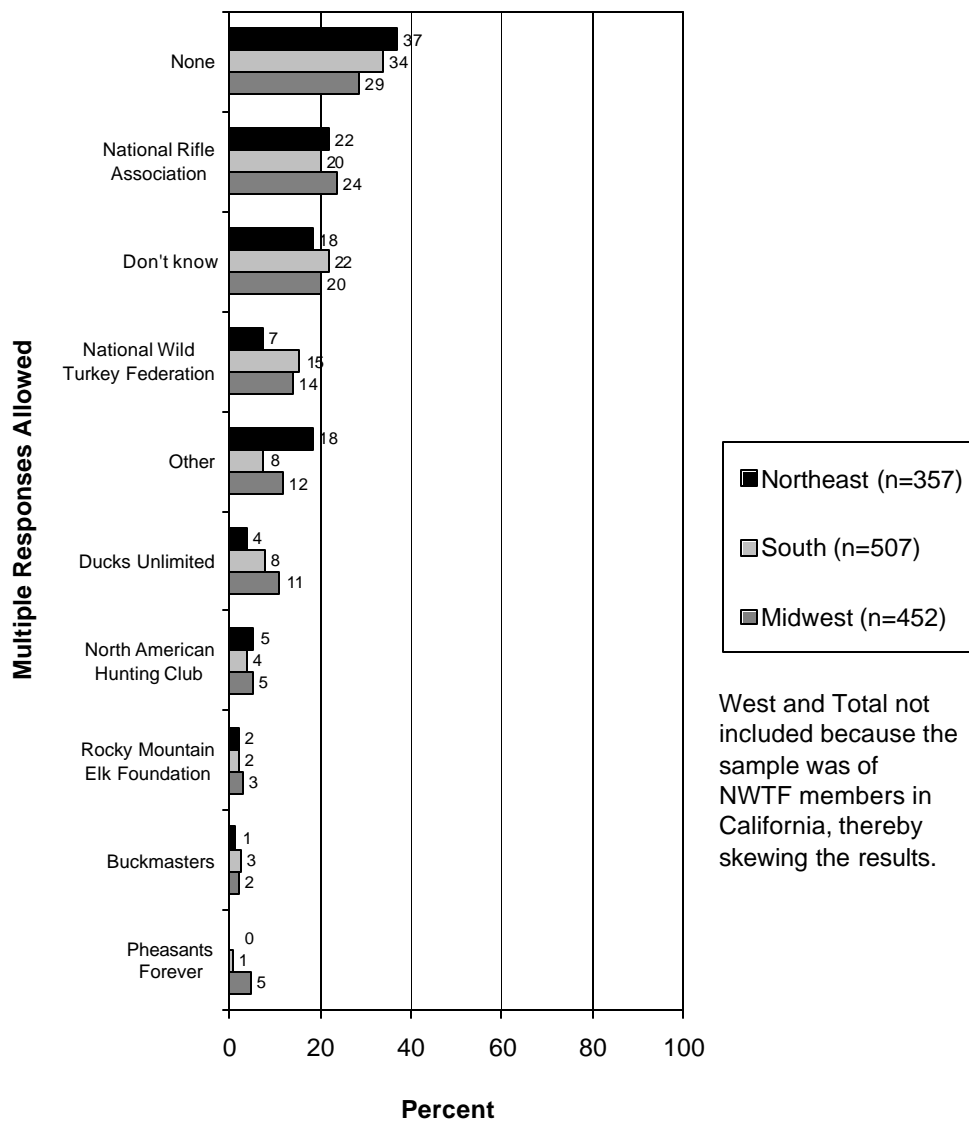
- A plurality of spring turkey hunters (34%) indicated that their highest grade level was a high school diploma or equivalent with no college or trade school experience.
 - 45% of spring turkey hunters indicated that they had no college/trade school experience.
 - 52% had attended college or trade school, with or without obtaining a degree.

- The most common household income category of spring turkey hunters was \$40,000 to \$59,999 (19%). Otherwise, the responses followed a bell curve.

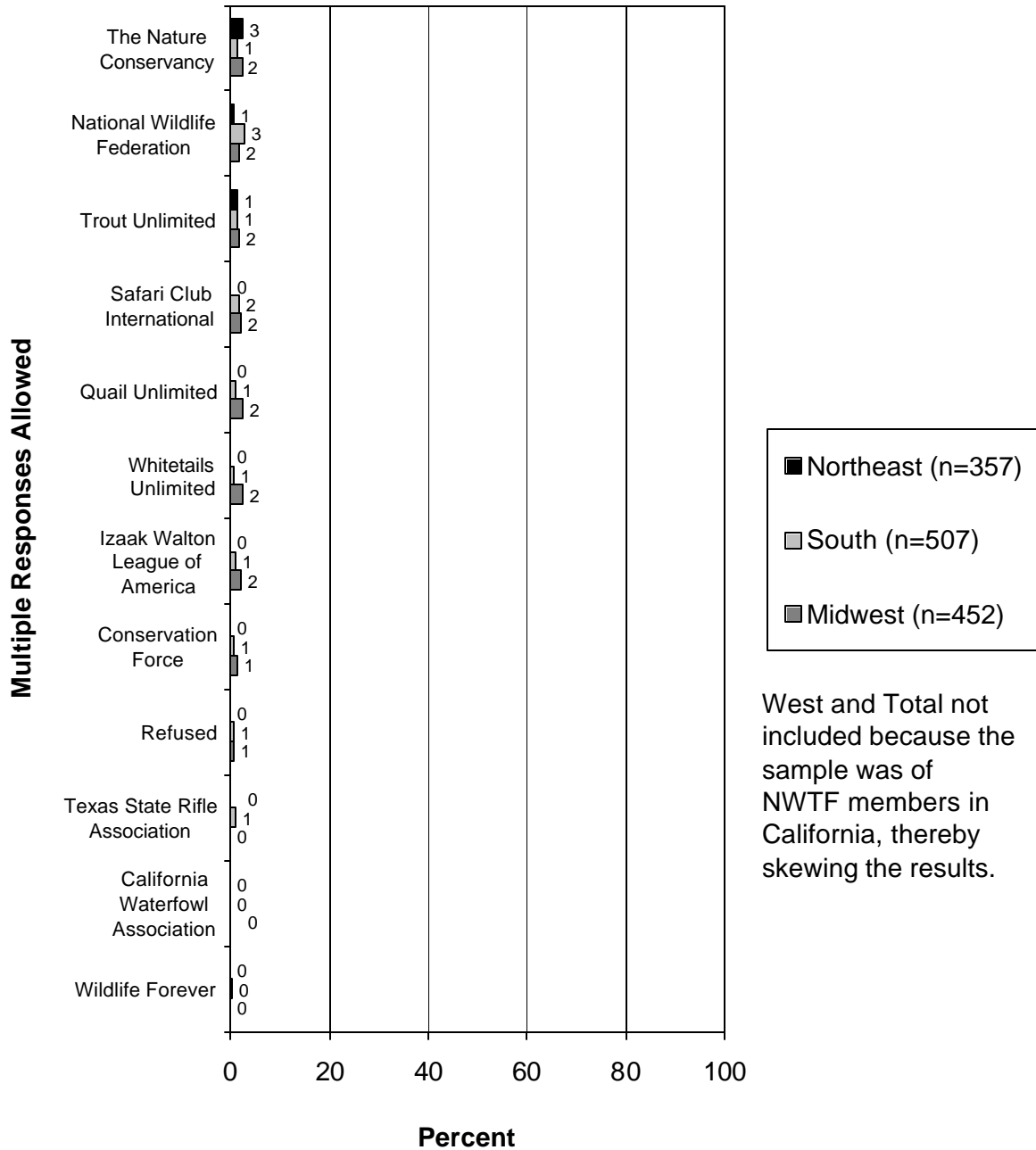
- The mean of spring turkey hunters' ages was 47.3 years, ranging from a low of 44.3 years among spring turkey hunters from the West to a high of 51.5 years among spring turkey hunters from the Midwest.

- Spring turkey hunters were overwhelmingly male: 97%.

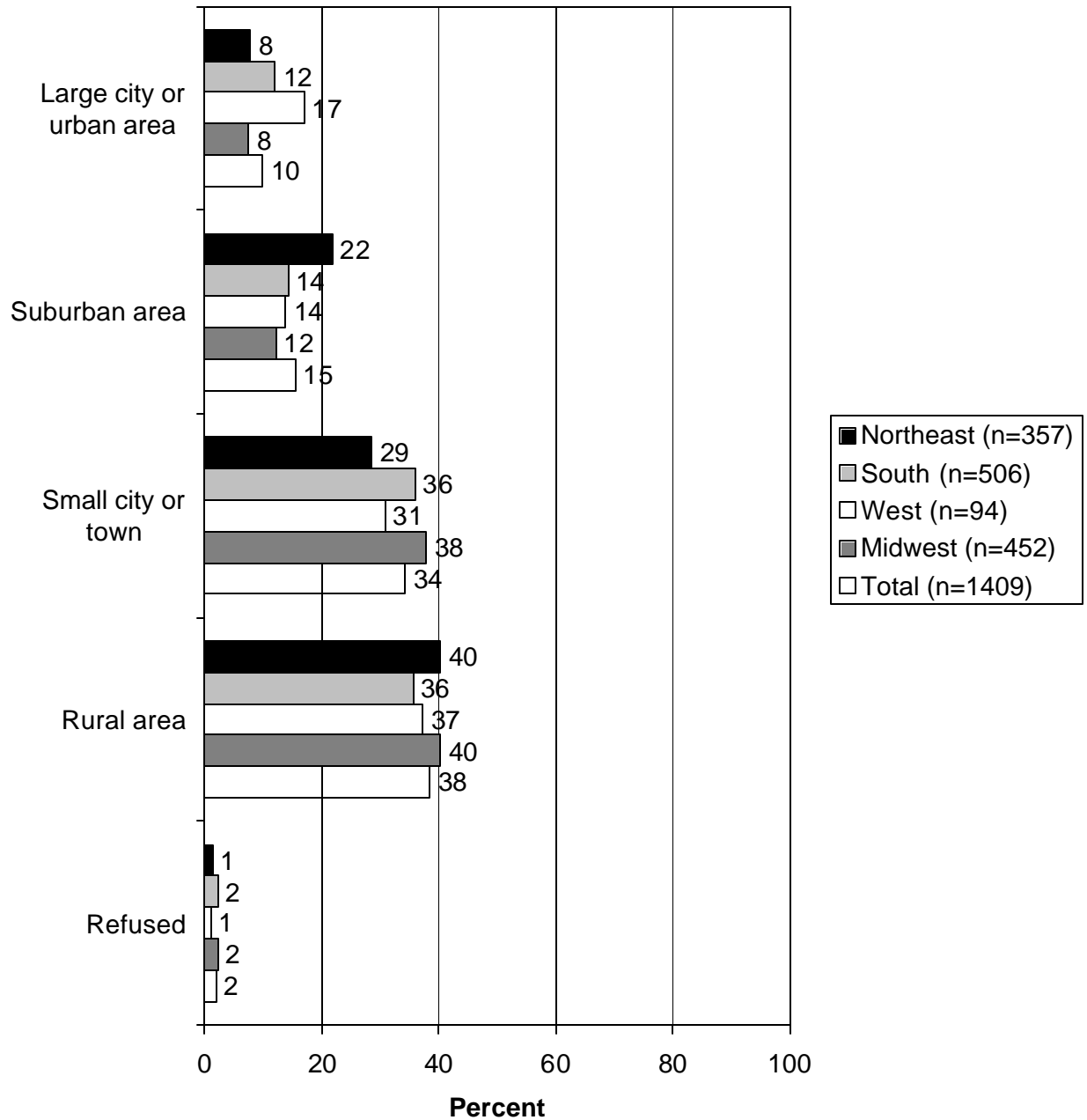
**Q174. Are you a member of any conservation or sportsman's organizations? If yes: Which ones?
(Part 1)**



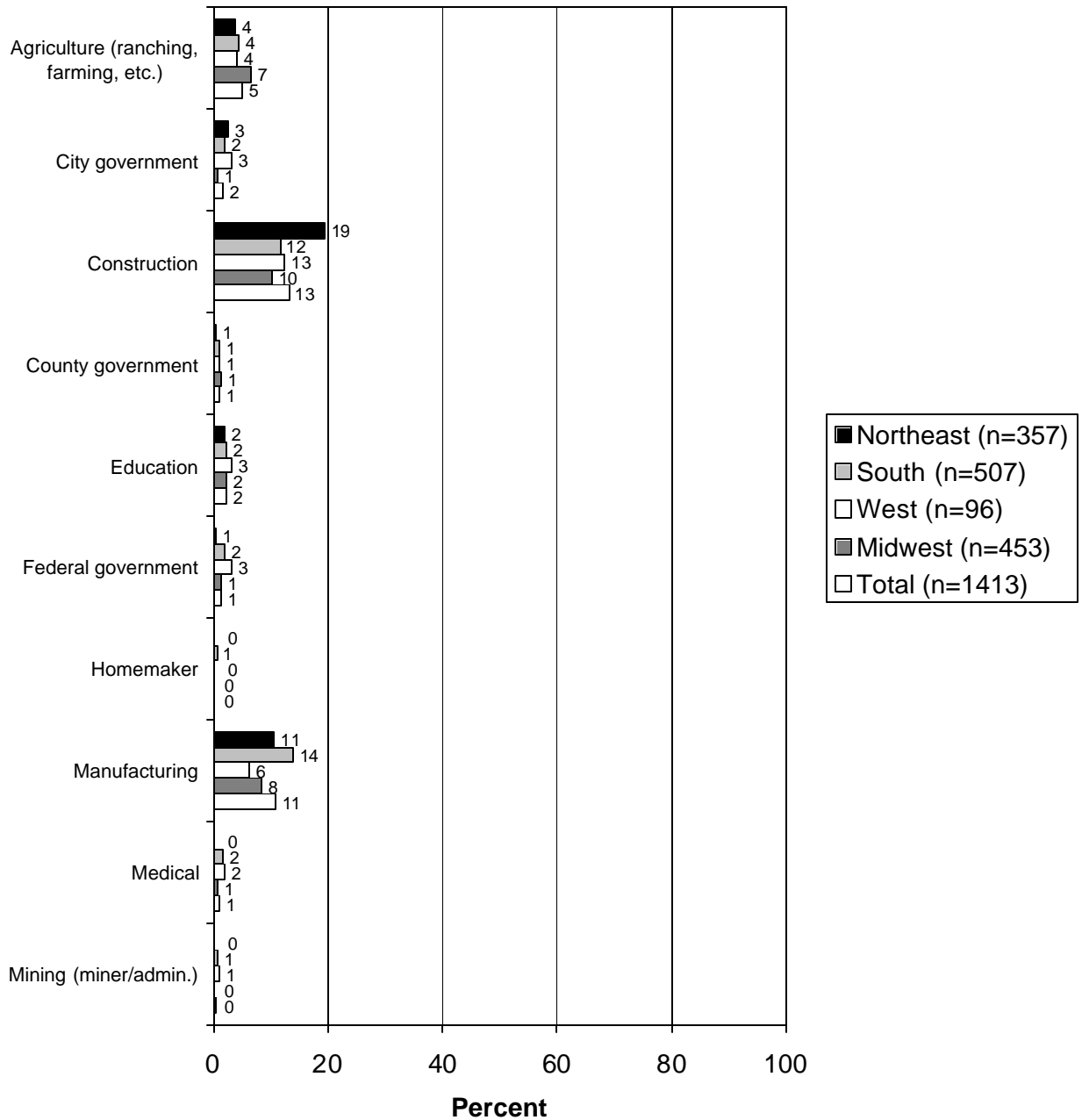
**Q174. Are you a member of any conservation or sportsman's organizations? If yes: Which ones?
(Part 2)**



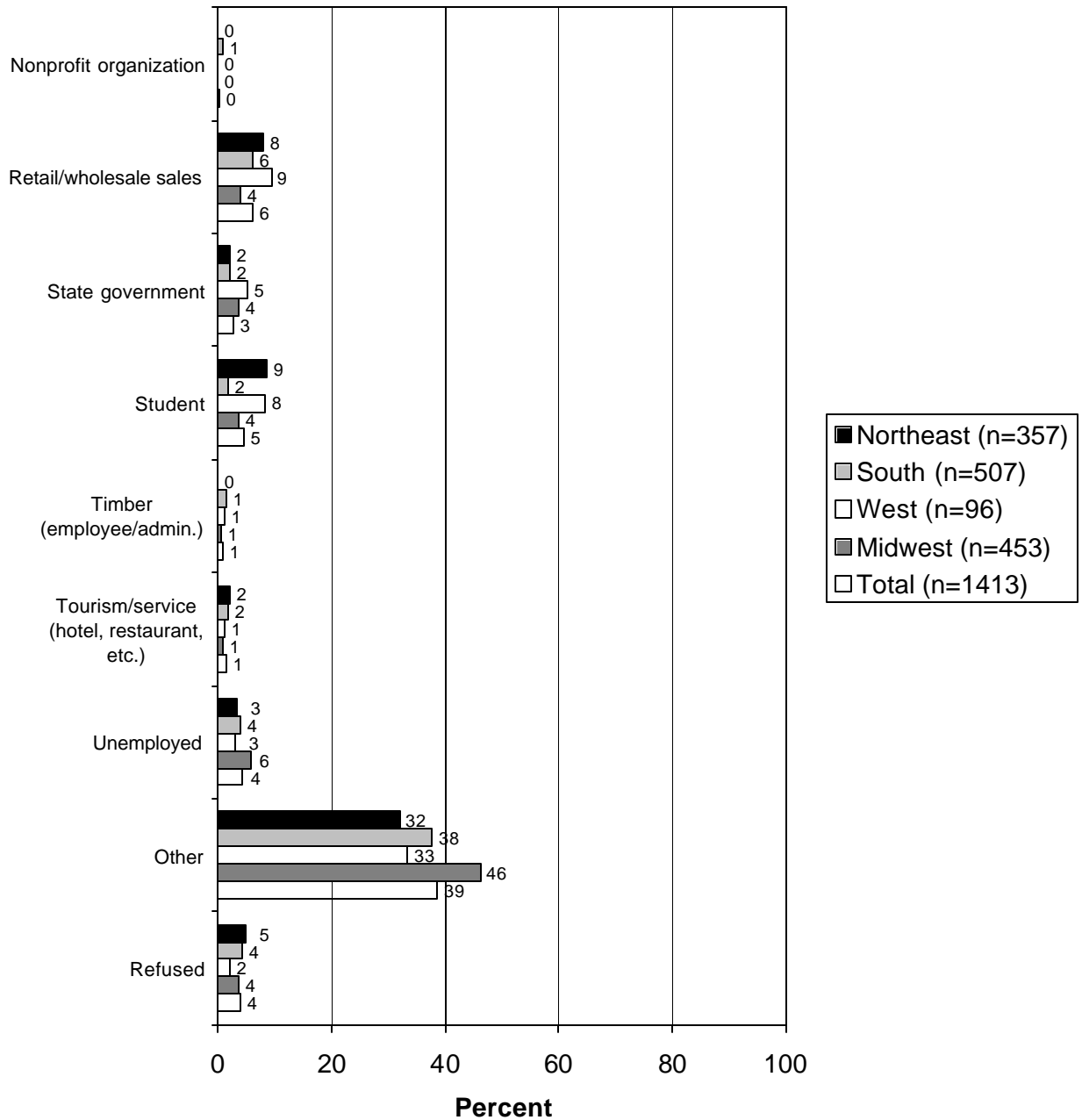
Q176. Do you consider your place of residence to be in a large city, a suburban area, a small city/town, or a rural area?



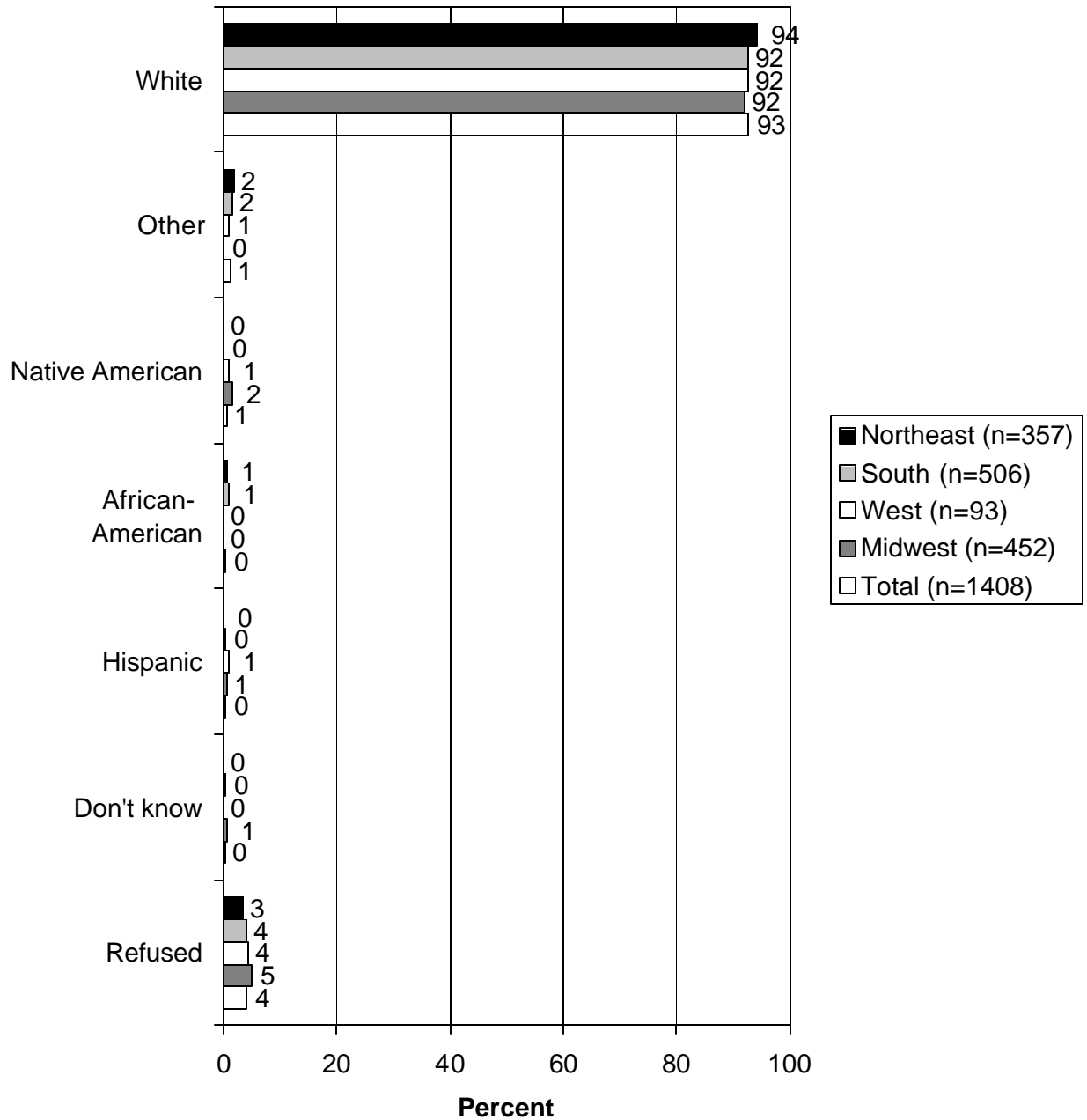
Q177. Which of the following best describes your occupation? (Part 1)



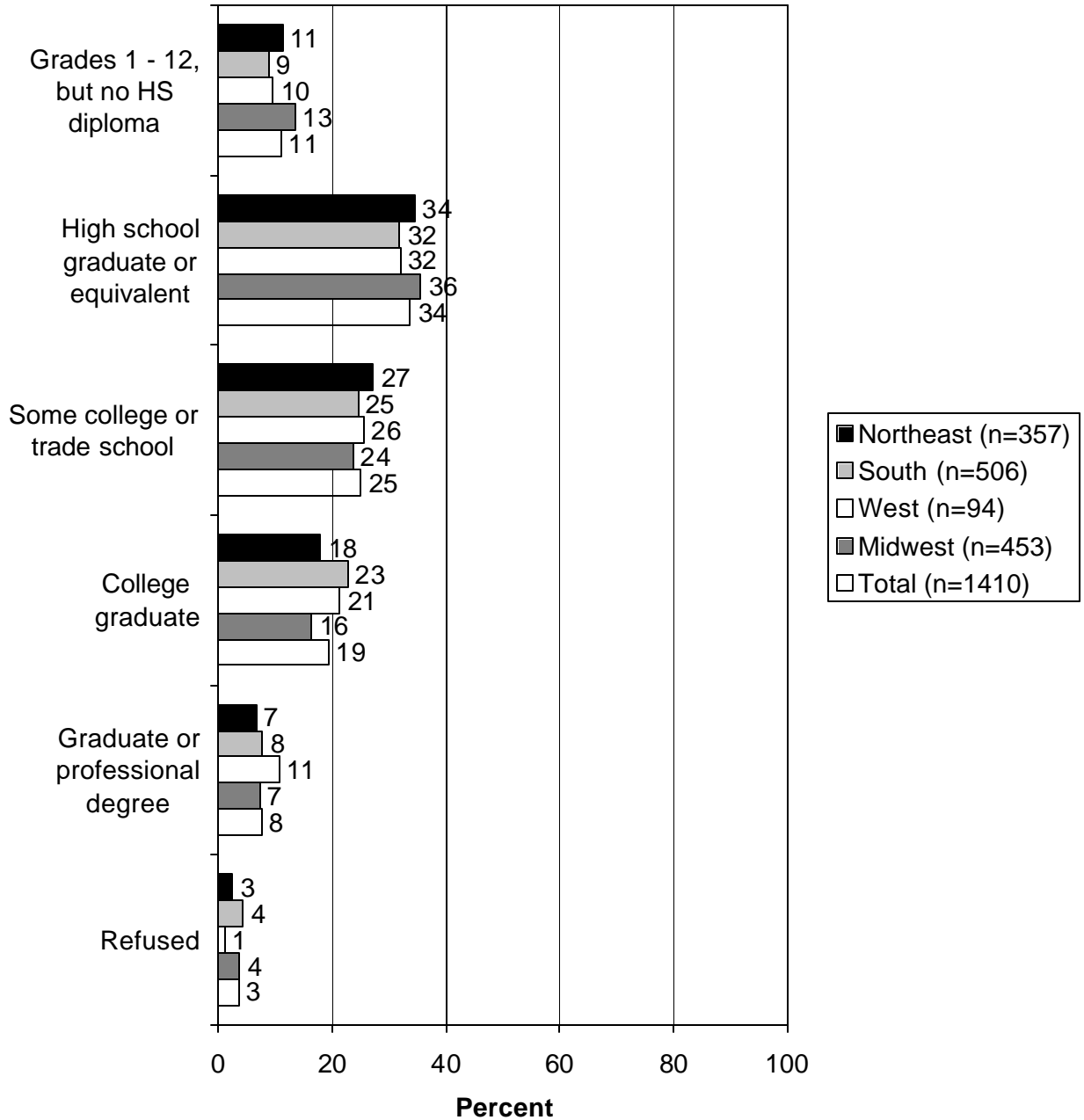
Q177. Which of the following best describes your occupation? (Part 2)



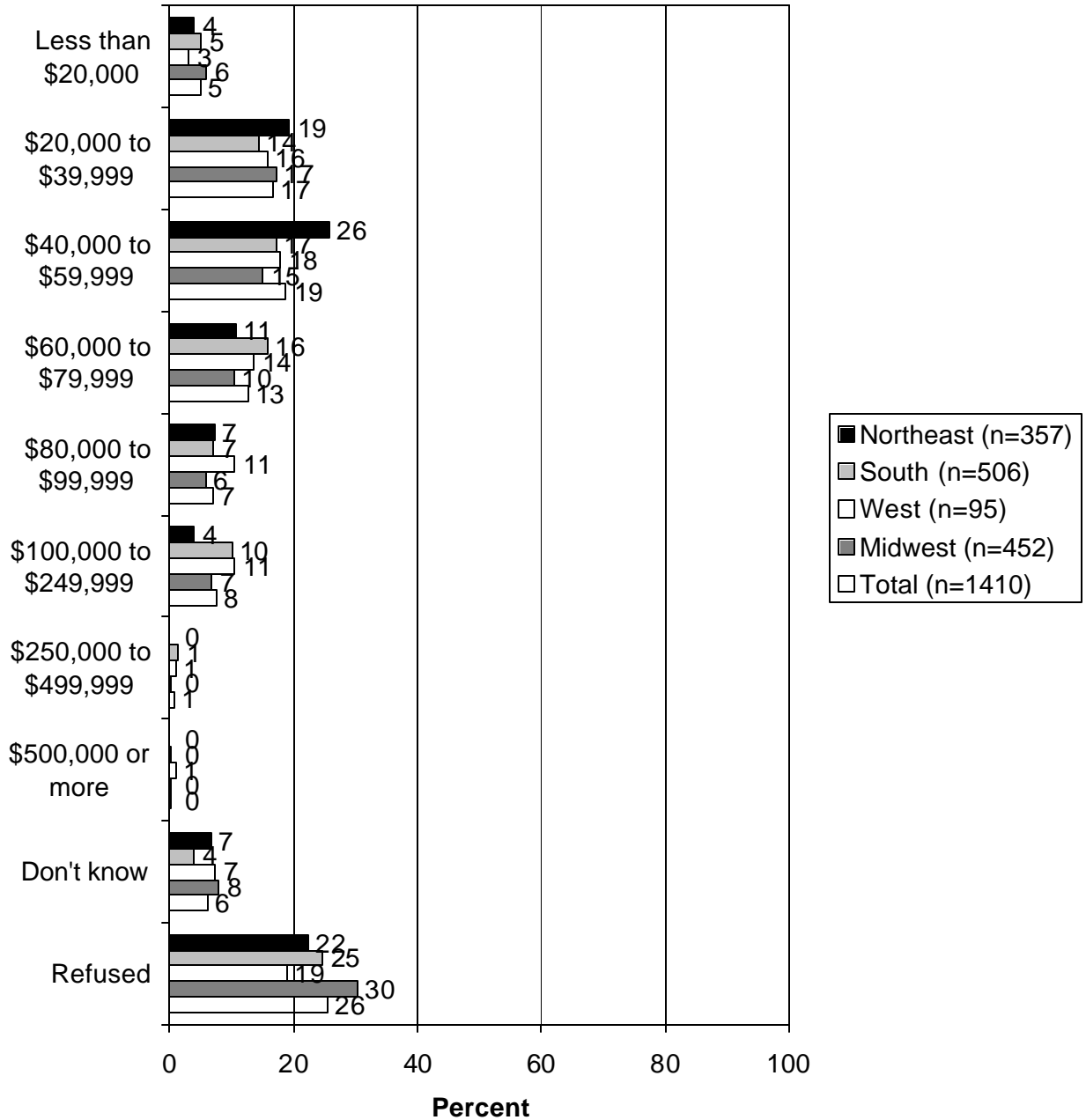
Q179. What is your race or ethnic background?



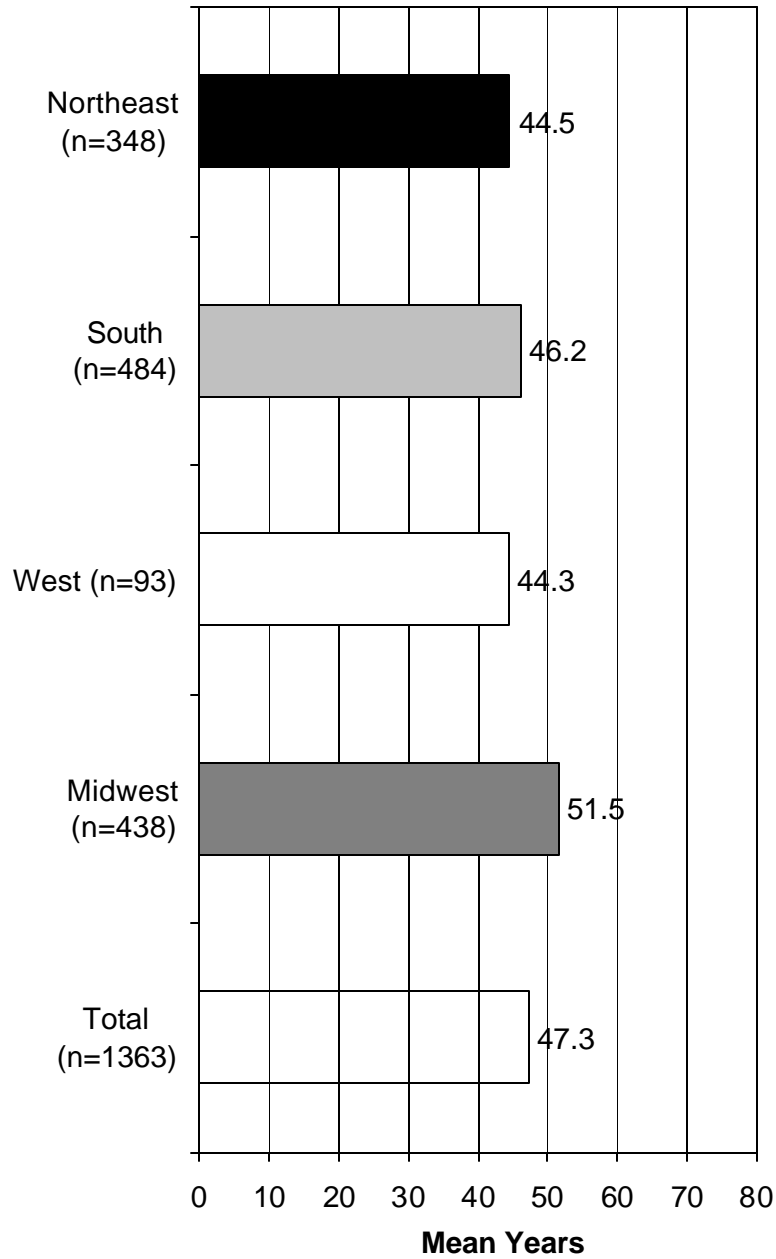
Q181. What is the highest grade level you have completed in school?



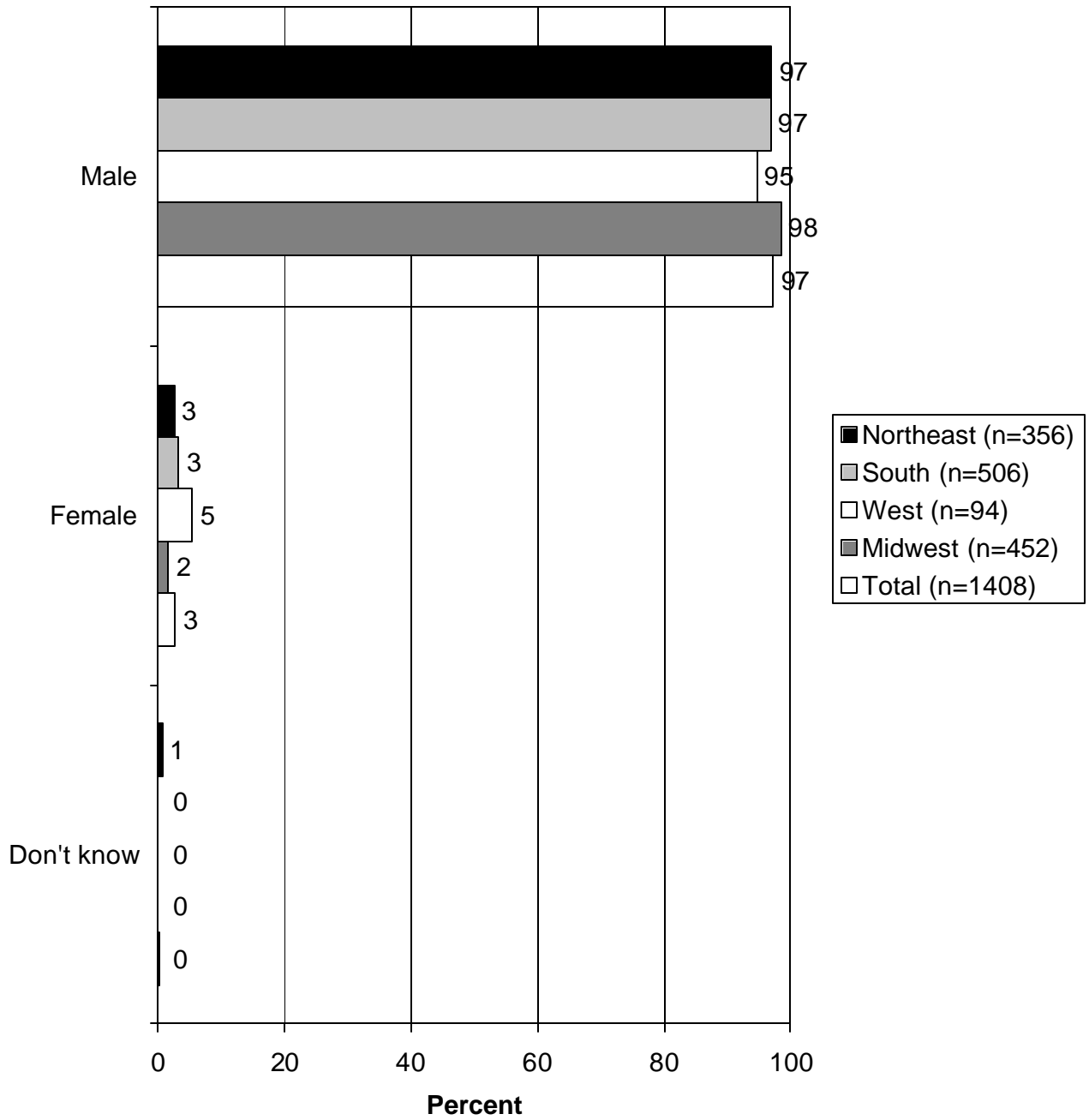
Q182. Which of these categories best describes your total household income before taxes last year?



Q183. May I ask your age?

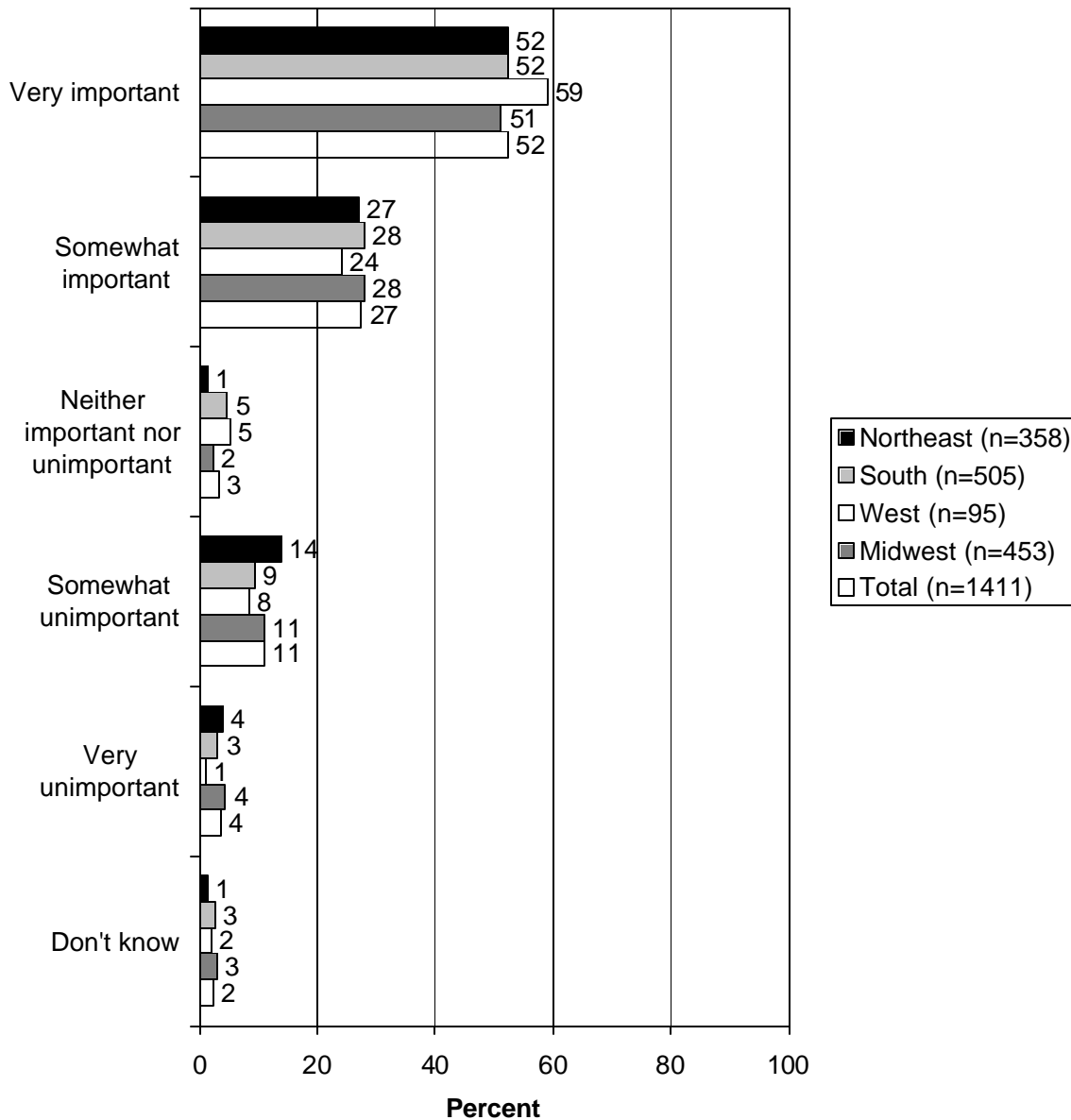


Q185. Respondent's gender (not asked, but observed by interviewer).

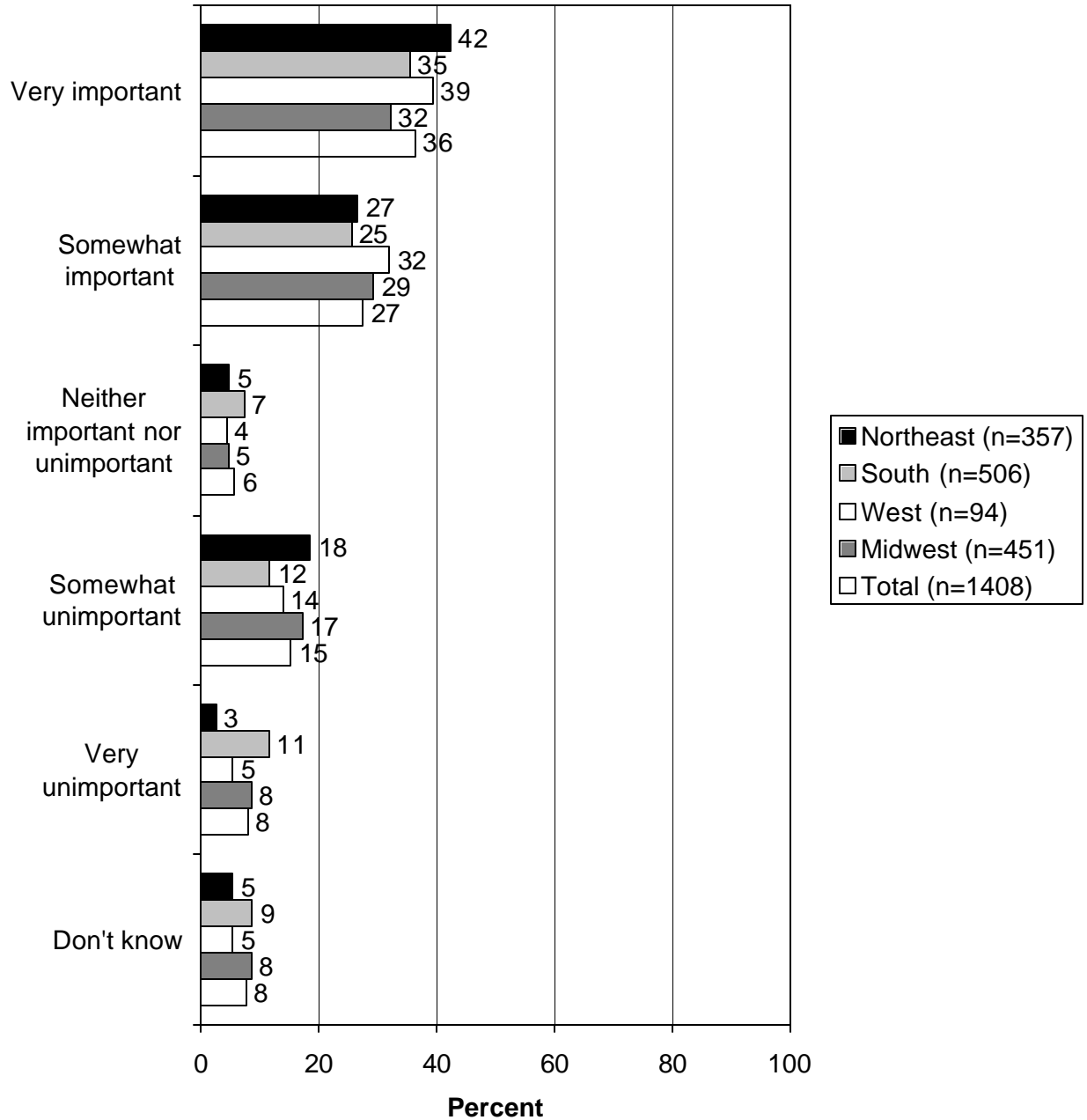


APPENDIX A. ADDITIONAL GRAPHS

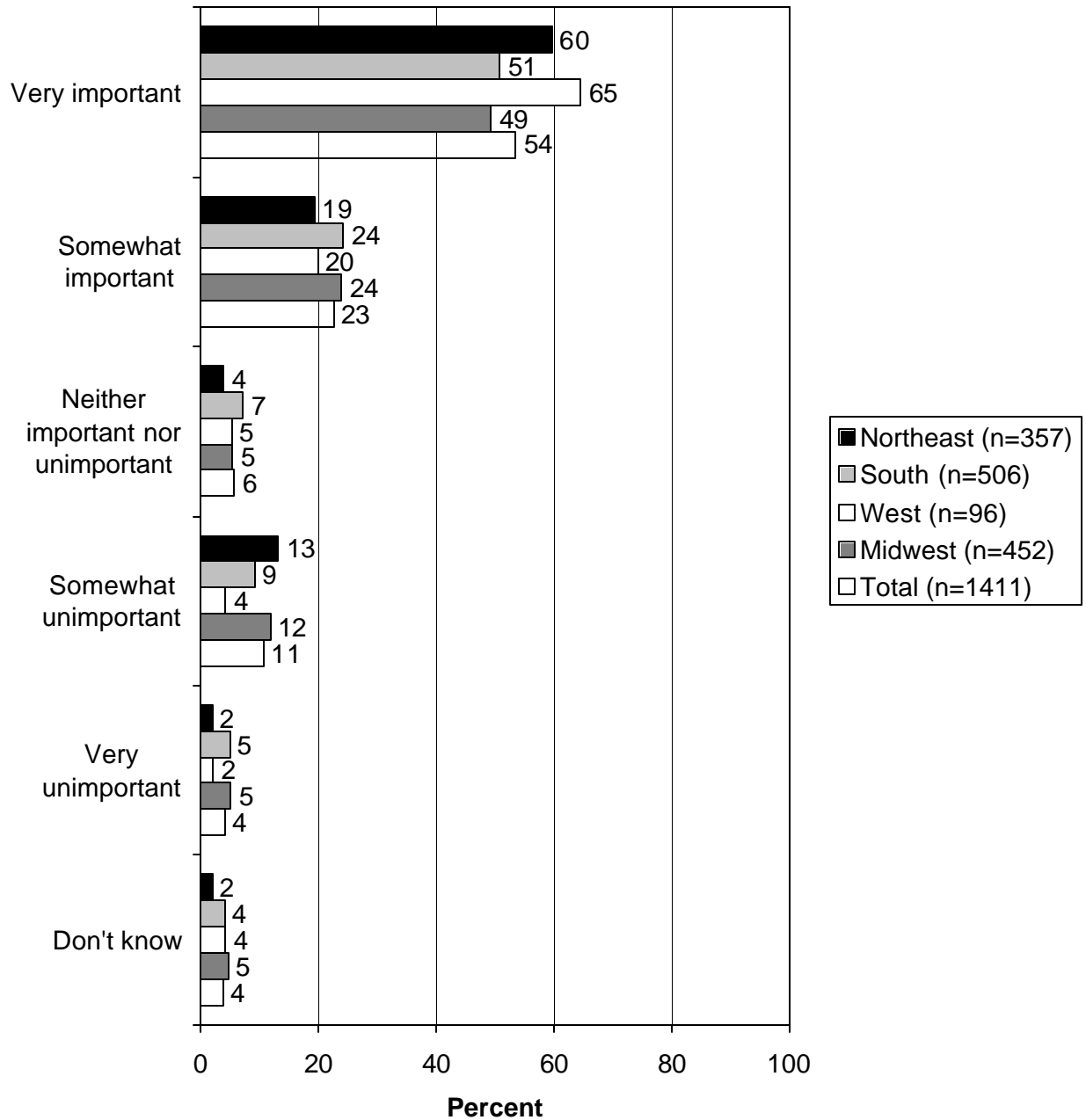
Q153. Do you think that providing additional spring turkey hunting opportunities is an important or unimportant program for your state fish and wildlife agency?



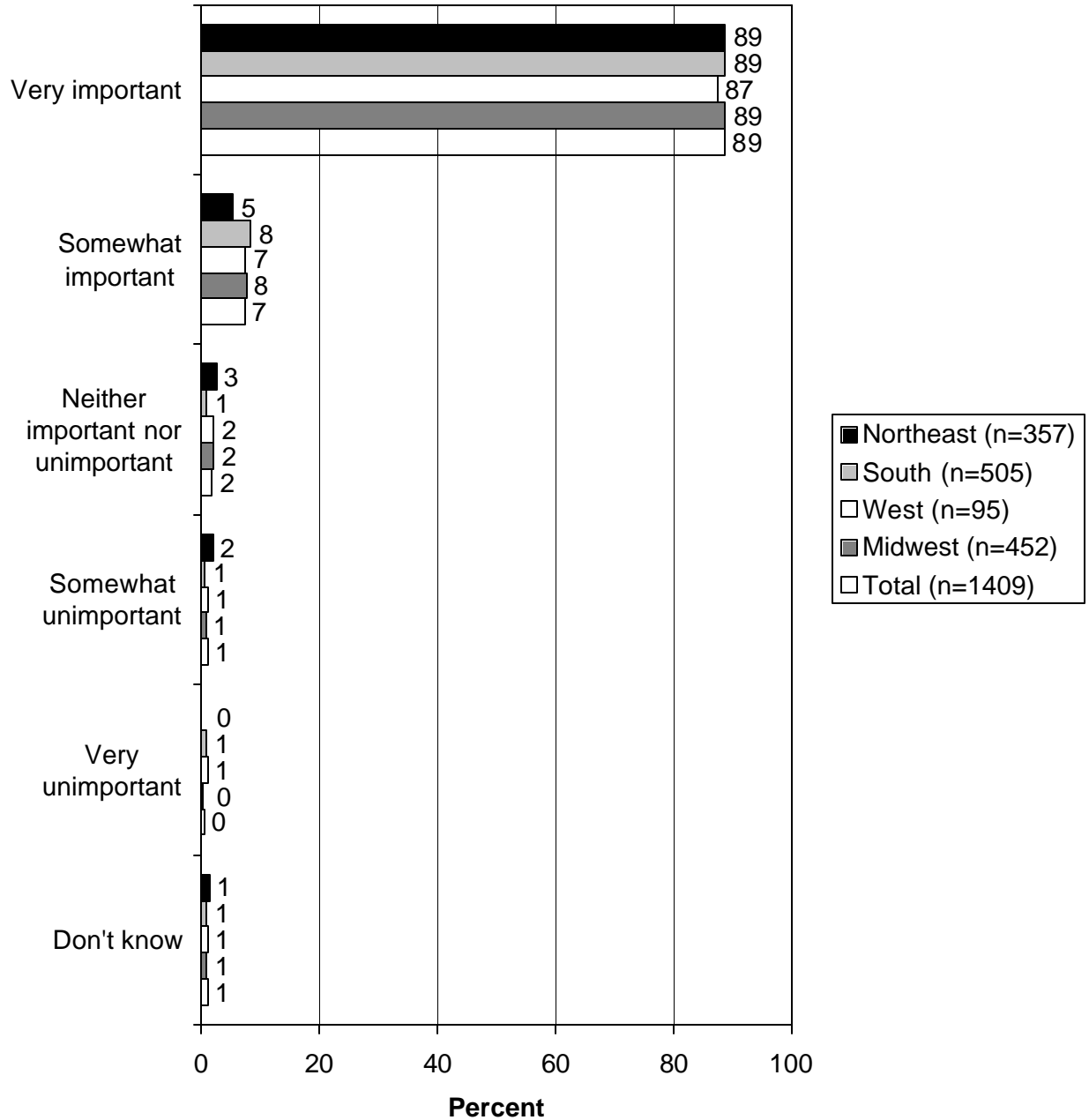
Q154. Do you think that providing additional fall turkey hunting opportunities is an important or unimportant program for your state fish and wildlife agency?



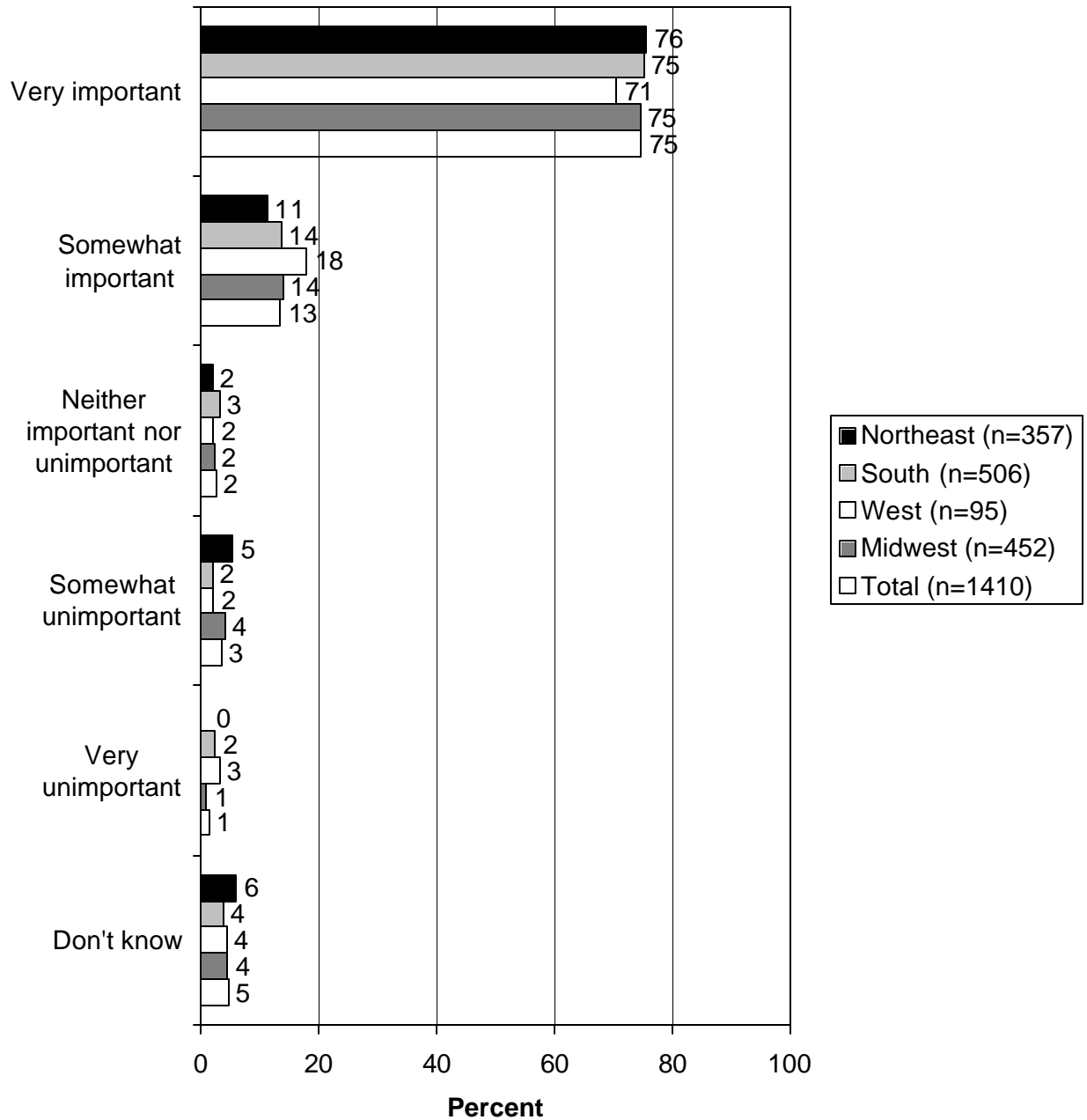
Q155. Do you think that providing additional hunting opportunities for species other than wild turkey is an important or unimportant program for your state fish and wildlife agency?



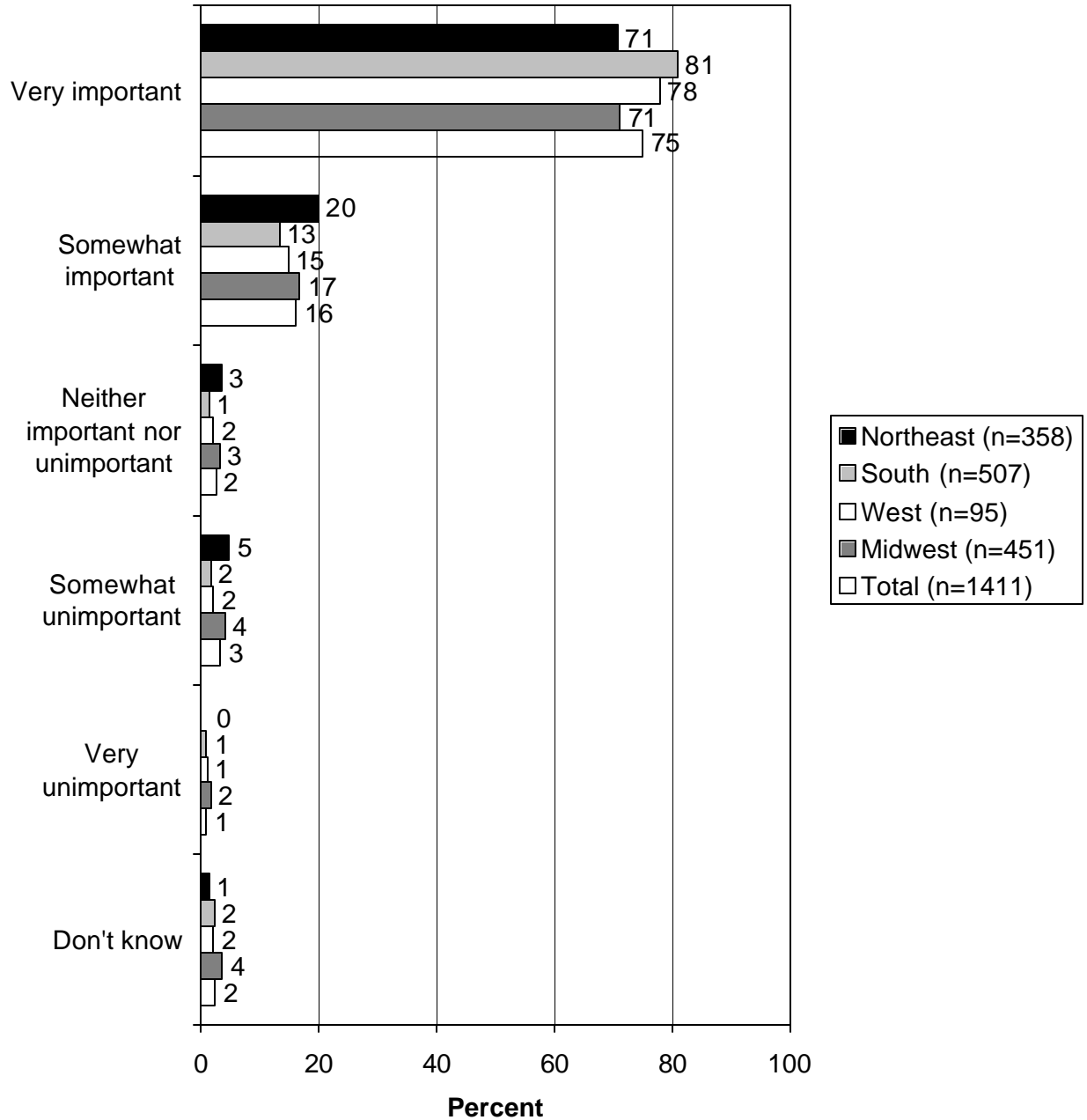
Q156. Do you think firearm use and safety is an important or unimportant program for your state fish and wildlife agency?



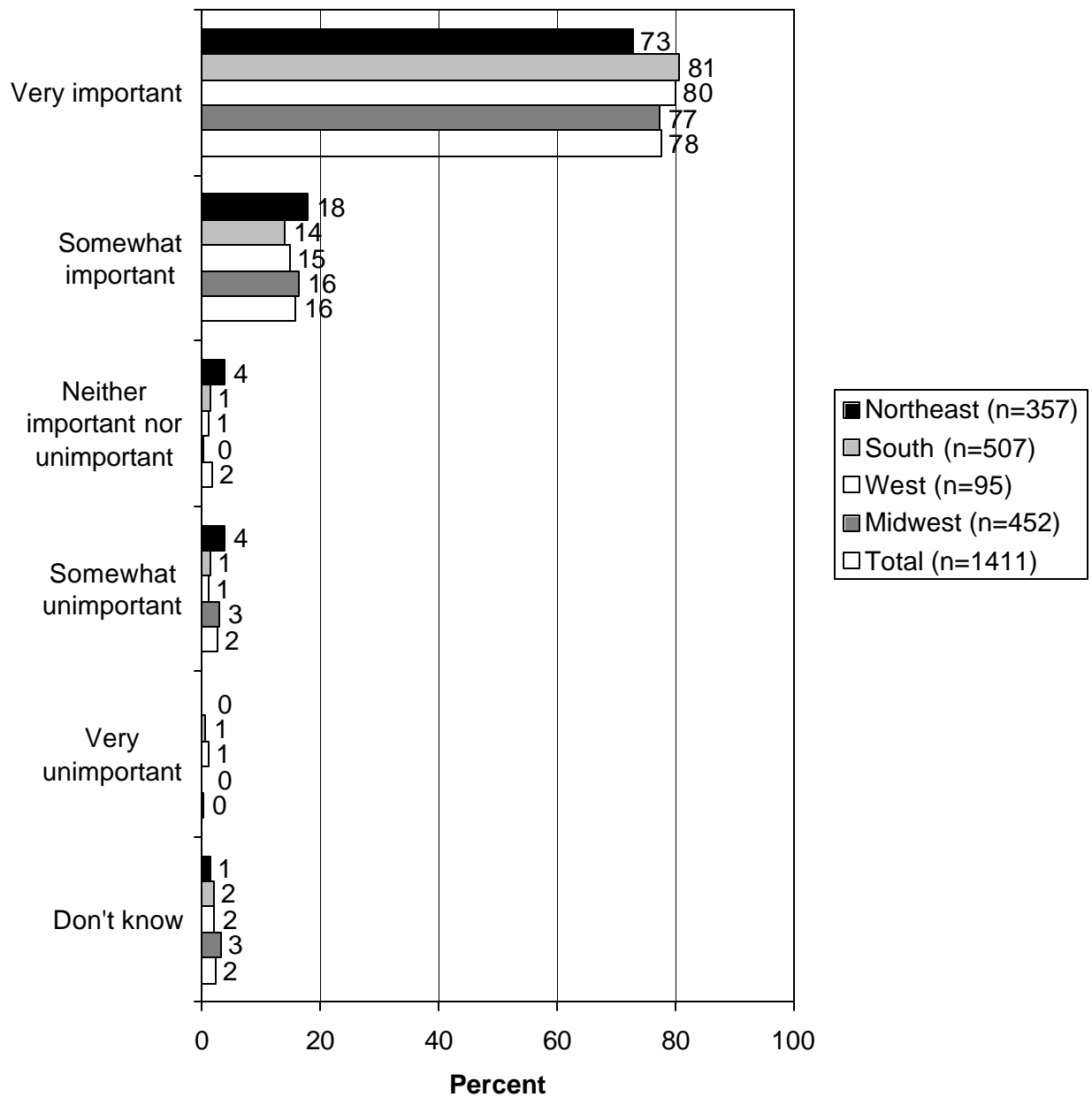
Q157. Do you think archery use and safety is an important or unimportant program for your state fish and wildlife agency?



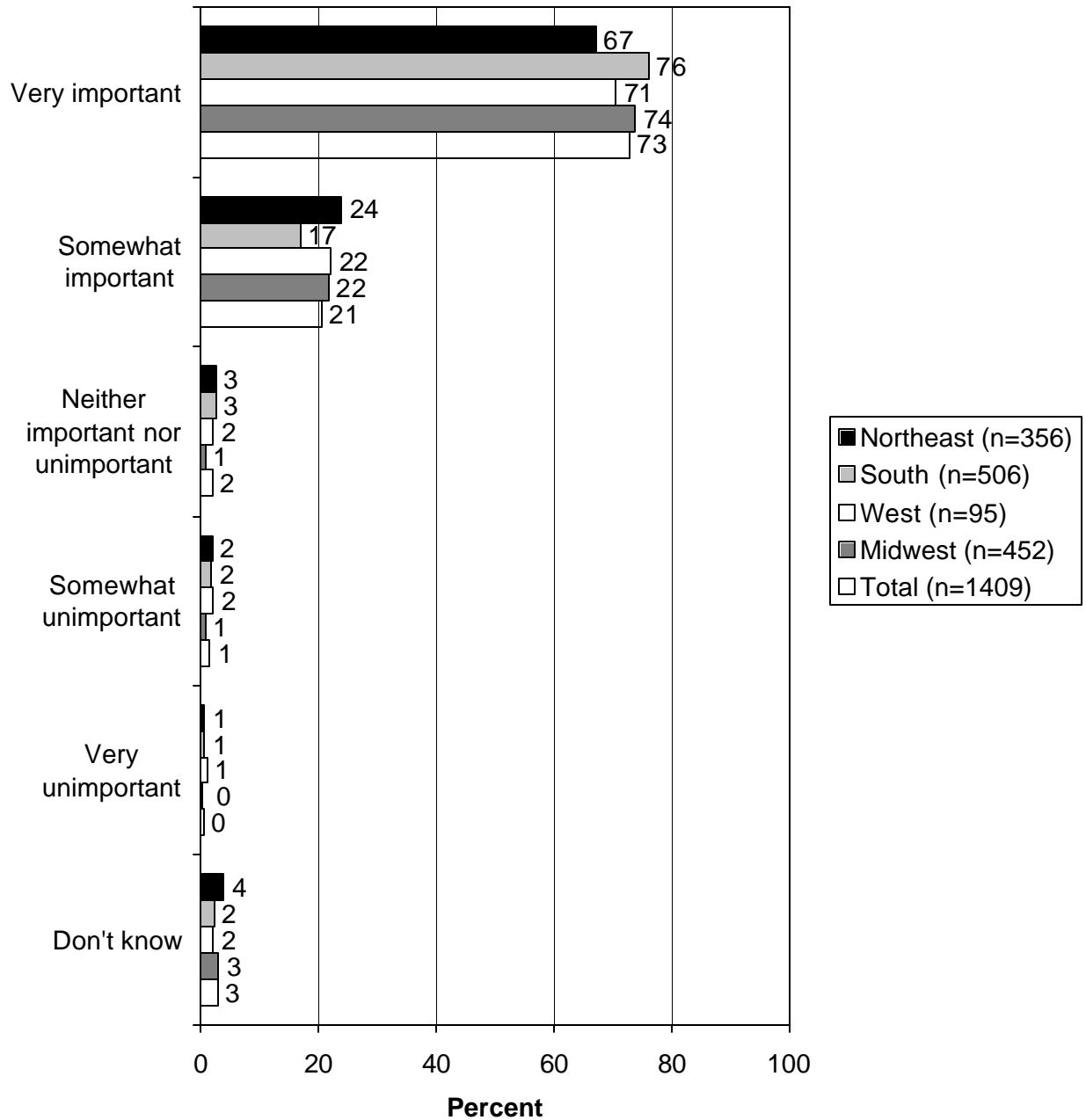
Q158. Do you think conservation projects, such as protecting or enhancing wild turkey habitat, are important or unimportant for your state fish and wildlife agency?



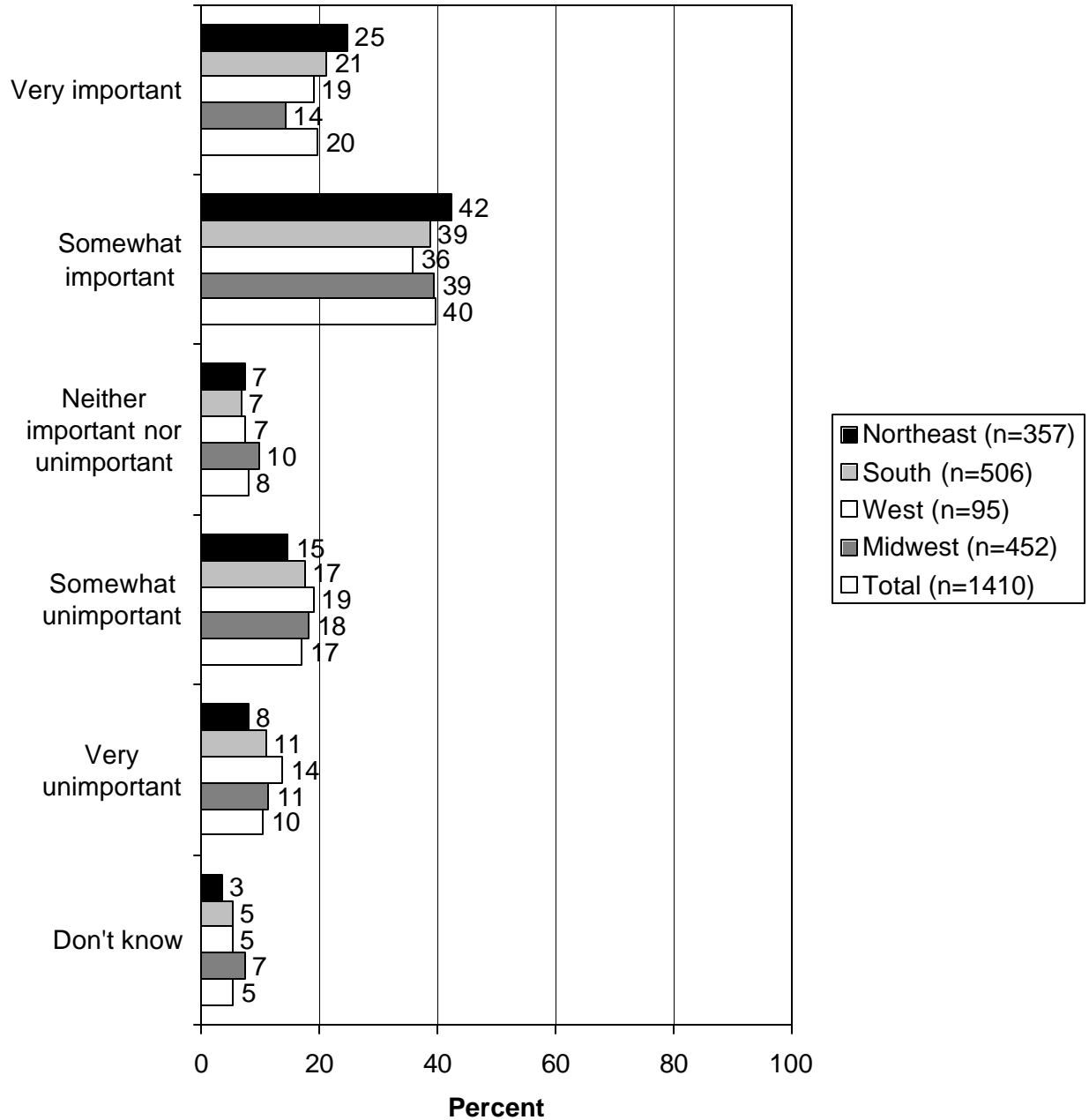
Q159. Do you think conservation projects, such as protecting or enhancing habitat for other wildlife besides wild turkey, are important or unimportant for your state fish and wildlife agency?



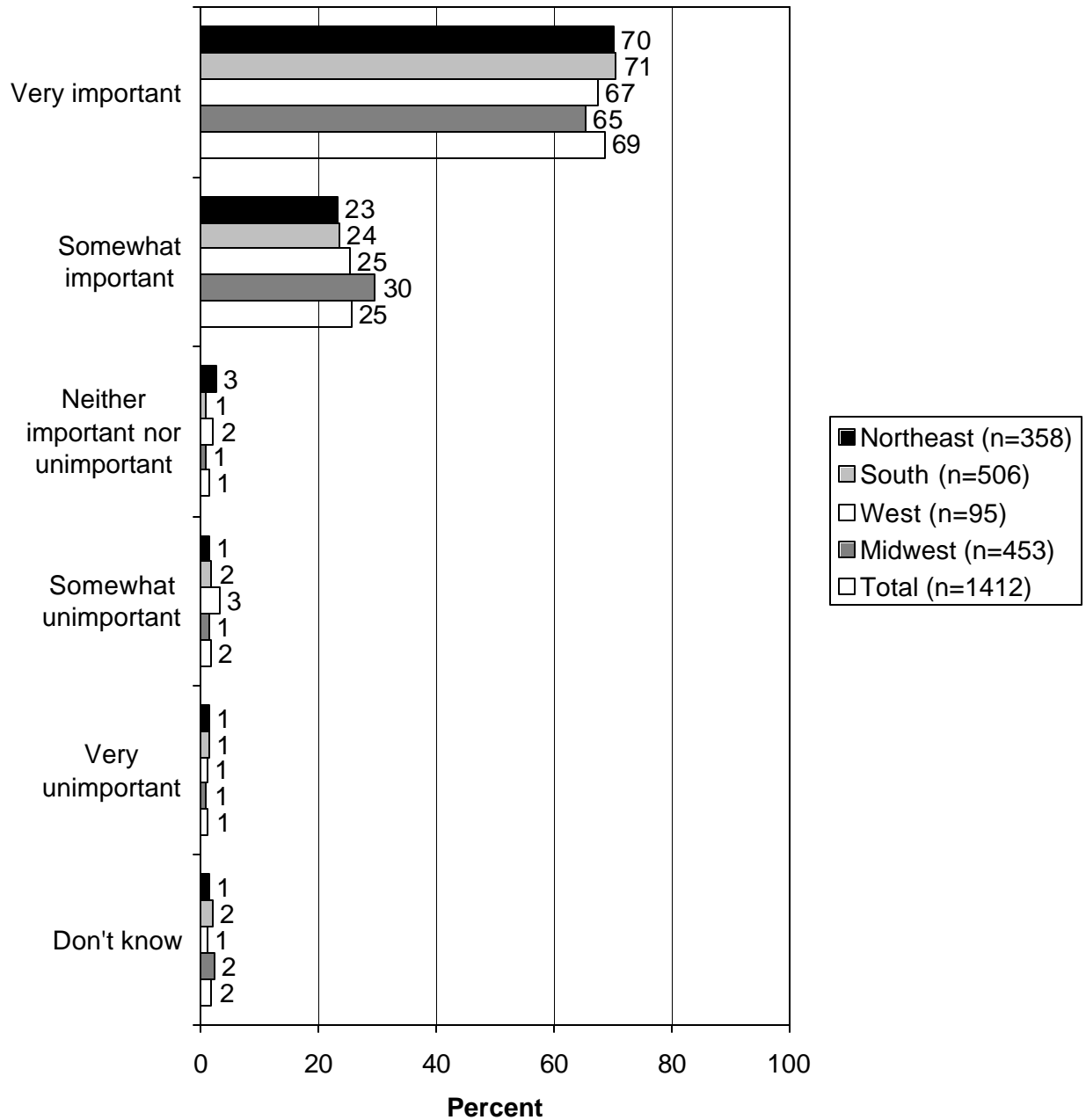
Q160. Do you think providing wild turkey hunting opportunities for disabled hunters is an important or unimportant program for your state fish and wildlife agency?



Q161. Do you think special events, such as calling contests, are important or unimportant for your state fish and wildlife agency?



Q162. Do you think education regarding conservation and outdoor skills is an important or unimportant program for your state fish and wildlife agency?



Q163. Do you think providing wild turkey hunting opportunities for youth is an important or unimportant program for your state fish and wildlife agency?

