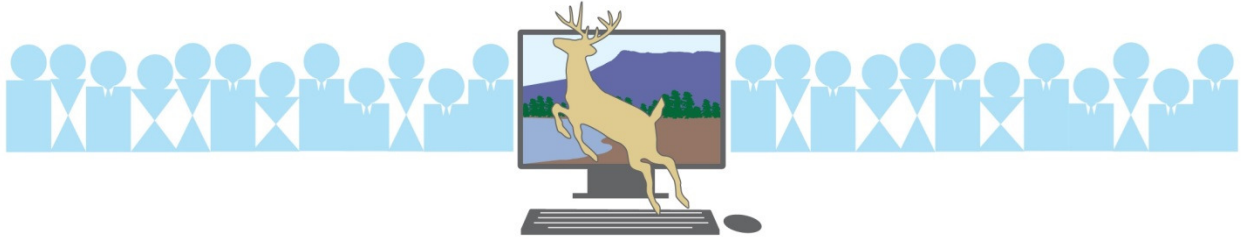


# Responsive Management™



## **MARYLAND RESIDENTS', LANDOWNERS', AND HUNTERS' ATTITUDES TOWARD DEER HUNTING AND DEER MANAGEMENT**

**Prepared for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources in  
cooperation with the University of Delaware**

**by Responsive Management**

**2018**

**MARYLAND RESIDENTS', LANDOWNERS',  
AND HUNTERS' ATTITUDES TOWARD  
DEER HUNTING AND DEER MANAGEMENT**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY**

This study was conducted for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to determine the opinions and attitudes of residents, landowners, and hunters regarding deer hunting and deer management. The study entailed three scientific telephone surveys of Maryland residents (i.e., a general population survey), landowners who own a parcel of at least 20 acres and who grow agricultural crops, and hunters who have licenses that allow deer hunting.

For the surveys, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the almost universal ownership of telephones among all three samples (both landlines and cell phones were called). Additionally, telephone surveys, relative to mail or Internet surveys, allow for more scientific sampling and data collection, provide higher quality data, obtain higher response rates, are more timely, and are more cost-effective. Telephone surveys also have better representation of the sample than do surveys that are read by the respondent (i.e., mail and Internet surveys) because the latter systematically exclude those who are not literate enough to complete the surveys or who would be intimidated by having to complete a written survey—by an estimate of the U.S. Department of Education's National Institute of Literacy (2016), up to 43% of the general population read no higher than a "basic level," suggesting that they would be reticent to complete a survey that they have to read to themselves. Finally, telephone surveys also have fewer negative effects on the environment than do mail surveys because of reduced use of paper and reduced energy consumption for delivering and returning the questionnaires.

The telephone survey questionnaires were developed cooperatively by Responsive Management, the DNR, and the University of Delaware. Responsive Management conducted pre-tests of the questionnaires to ensure proper wording, flow, and logic in the surveys.

The sample of the general population was obtained from SSI, a firm that specializes in providing scientifically valid samples for survey research. The general population sample included both landlines and cell phones in their proper proportions. The report may refer to these people as "residents" or "the general population."

The sample of landowners was provided by the DNR. Screeners in the survey ensured that all landowners in the survey owned a parcel of at least 20 acres and grew agricultural crops on their land. Any reference to “landowners” in the survey refers specifically to those who meet these parameters.

The sample of hunters was obtained from the DNR based on license records for hunting licenses that allowed deer hunting in the 2017-2018 seasons. A screener ensured that the hunters had hunted deer in Maryland within the previous 2 years. Any reference to “deer hunters” or just “hunters” in the report refers to those who had hunted deer within the previous 2 years.

Telephone surveying times are Monday through Friday from noon to 9:00 p.m., Saturday from noon to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., local time. These surveys were conducted in July 2018. The software used for data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language. Responsive Management obtained 800 completed interviews of residents in the general population survey, 606 completed interviews with landowners, and 801 completed interviews with deer hunters.

The analysis of data was performed using IBM SPSS Statistics as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management.

## **OPINIONS ON THE DEER POPULATION**

- The survey asked respondents whether they would like to see the deer population where they live (or where their property is) increase, stay the same, or decrease.
  - In the general population survey, the majority of residents (62%) want to see the deer population stay the same. Otherwise, they are four times more likely to want to see a decrease (28%) than an increase (7%).
    - Common reasons for wanting to see an increase are to improve chances of seeing a deer or a feeling that the deer population is too low.
    - The most common reasons for wanting a decrease is to reduce chances of vehicular accidents, the general feeling that there are too many deer, and to reduce damage to flower beds, gardens, and yards.

- The majority of landowners (57%) want to see the deer population decrease, far exceeding those who want it to stay the same (37%); only 4% of landowners want to see the deer population increase.
    - The most common reasons given by landowners for wanting to see an increase (among the small percentage of landowners who wanted an increase) is that they feel the deer population is too low, to improve hunting opportunities, and to improve a chance of seeing a deer.
    - Among landowners, the most common reason for wanting to decrease the deer population is to reduce agricultural damage—by far the top reason. This is followed by simply thinking that there are too many deer, to reduce vehicle collisions, and to reduce damage to flower beds, gardens, or yards.
  - Just over half of hunters (53%) want the deer population to stay the same; otherwise, they are about evenly split between wanting to see it increase (25%) or decrease (21%).
    - The most common reasons that hunters want to see the deer population increase is the feeling that the deer population is simply too low, to improve hunting opportunities, to improve hunter success, and to improve the opportunity to see a deer.
    - On the other hand, common reasons for wanting the deer population to decrease is the feeling that there are too many deer, to reduce vehicle collisions with deer, to reduce agricultural and timber losses from deer, to reduce damage to gardens and landscaping, and to improve the health of the deer herd.
- All three surveys asked respondents to indicate how they feel about deer in their county on a continuum from enjoying seeing deer around to thinking that they are a nuisance. There is also a fourth response outside of the continuum for those with no particular feeling about deer.
- In the general population survey, 41% of residents say that they enjoy seeing and having deer around. Nonetheless, 45% express some concern, including 8% who generally regard deer as a nuisance.
  - Landowners as a whole are concerned about deer: only 28% say that they enjoy seeing and having deer around, while the large majority (67%) express concern, including 29% who generally regard deer as a nuisance.

- In the hunter survey, the majority of hunters (65%) say that they enjoy seeing and having deer around; however, more than a quarter (29%) express some concern about problems caused by deer (this latter includes 6% who regard deer as a nuisance).
- All the surveys also asked whether respondents agree or disagree that deer are an important part of the balance of nature. Agreement is high in all the surveys.
- The overwhelming majority of residents (88%) agree with the statement, while only 6% disagree.
  - The large majority of landowners (77%) agree with the statement. On the other hand, 15% of them disagree.
  - The overwhelming majority of hunters (95%) agree with the statement; only 3% disagree.

#### **KNOWLEDGE OF DEER, DEER MANAGEMENT, AND DEER HUNTING**

- All three surveys asked about knowledge levels regarding three things: deer in general, deer hunting laws, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Deer Management Program (the full name of the agency was used in the question).
- Just more than half of residents (54%) say that they know a great deal or a moderate amount about deer in general. The percentages are less regarding knowledge of deer hunting laws (31% know a great deal or moderate amount) and knowledge of the DNR's Deer Management Program (20%).
  - Landowners claim to be more knowledgeable about deer in general (81% know a great deal or moderate amount) than about deer hunting laws (68%) or about the DNR's deer management program (54%).
  - Hunters overwhelmingly indicate knowing a great deal or moderate amount about deer in general and deer hunting laws (92% and 95%, respectively), but their self-professed knowledge level of the DNR's Deer Management Program is slightly lower (but still in the majority): 65% know a great deal or moderate amount about it.



## **OPINIONS ON DEER HUNTING AND ALLOWING HUNTING ON PROPERTY**

- The surveys of residents and landowners both asked about opinions on deer hunting itself.
  - Two thirds of the general population in Maryland (67%) are in favor of hunting; nonetheless, 17% are opposed.
  - Nearly all the landowners (92%) are in favor of hunting.
  
- All three surveys asked whether respondents agree or disagree that deer should be hunted to maintain a healthy deer population; agreement is high across all three surveys.
  - More than three fourths of residents (77%) agree with the statement, while 17% disagree.
  - Landowners overwhelmingly agree (95%) with the statement, with almost no disagreement.
  - Hunters, too, overwhelmingly agree (99%) with the statement, with almost no disagreement.
  
- The large majority of landowners in the survey (83%) allow deer hunting on their property. However, about three quarters of those who allow hunting restrict it to friends and family only.
  - Of those who allow non-family and non-friends to hunt on their property, about a third of them charge hunters to hunt there.

## **OPINIONS ON THE DNR'S MANAGEMENT OF DEER AND EFFORTS TO CONTROL DEER**

- The three surveys asked respondents whether they agree or disagree that the DNR does a good job conserving its deer population.
  - A bit more than half of residents (56%) agree, while just 15% disagree.
  - Just over half of landowners (55%) agree, although a substantial percentage (26%) disagree.
  - The large majority of hunters (79%) agree that the DNR does a good job; nonetheless, 15% disagree.

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- More than a dozen questions about opinions on and knowledge of methods to control deer populations were asked of the general population but were not asked in the other surveys. These results are reported below.
  - Among the general population, 69% support controlling deer populations on urban and suburban lands (that is, not allowing populations to naturally increase). On the other end, 17% oppose.
    - Those who support were asked for their preferred methods for deer to be controlled. The most common response (multiple methods could be selected as acceptable) is live trapping and relocating (44% think this is one of the methods that should be used), closely followed by hunting (39%) (including bow and arrow hunting at 38%), and biological birth control (37%).
  - After the questions above, the survey asked residents directly if they supported or opposed the various methods of controlling deer populations, starting with the use of professionals or sharpshooters. Residents are split on this: 44% support and 45% oppose the use of professionals or sharpshooters to control deer in urban and suburban areas.
  - Residents were directly asked about support for or opposition to the use of bow and arrow hunting to control deer populations in urban and suburban areas, and they more often support (60%) than oppose (32%) by about a 2:1 margin.
  - The survey then asked about immunocontraceptives, also referred to in this survey as deer contraceptives. About a quarter of residents (26%) had heard of immunocontraceptives prior to the survey. However, only 9% claim to know a great deal or moderate amount about them.
    - The survey then asked about support for or opposition to the use of immunocontraceptives for controlling deer populations. Among the general population, support (54%) exceeds opposition (31%).

- The last part of the deer control section of the survey asked about sterilization of female deer to prevent pregnancy: 39% of residents have heard of this method, although only 13% say that they know a great deal or moderate amount about it.
  - Residents are about split regarding support for (48%) or opposition to (41%) the use of deer sterilization to control deer populations.
  - Most residents would *not* volunteer time to help sterilize deer (81% indicated being not at all likely); at the other end, 18% indicated being likely, but only 6% said that they would be very likely to do so. Also, most would *not* donate money to help with a sterilization effort (74% would not do so), while 22% said that they would be likely to do so (although only 4% said that they would be very likely).

#### **OPINIONS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF VARIOUS FACTORS TO CONSIDER IN DEER MANAGEMENT**

- The general population survey asked about the importance of seven entities that could be considered in decision-making about deer management. Two of them are overwhelmingly considered important by residents: scientific information (67% think this should be very important, and 23% think it should be somewhat important, a sum of 91% when summed using unrounded numbers) and the professional judgement of biologists with the DNR (64% think this should be very important, and 23% think it should be somewhat important, a sum of 87%). Political and economic concerns are considered the least important.
- The landowner survey also asked about these entities in decision-making. Among landowners, the most important are scientific information (63% say it is very important, and 26% say somewhat important, a sum of 89%), the professional judgement of biologists with the DNR (52% and 28%, a sum of 80%), and hunters' concerns (50% and 35%, a sum of 85%).

## **YARD, LANDSCAPING, AGRICULTURAL, AND OTHER DAMAGE CAUSED BY DEER**

- Among the general population, 35% have experienced damage to their yard, garden or landscaping. Landowners (recall that they had to have owned at least 20 acres) had a higher rate: 48% of landowners in the survey experienced damage to their yards or gardens.
  - Landowners in the survey (who had to have grown agricultural crops to be in the survey) were asked about damage to those crops separate from the question about damage to yards, personal gardens, and landscaping: 77% of landowners have experienced damage to their agricultural crops.
  
- Respondents were asked for their perceptions regarding the trend in deer damage, whether it is increasing, staying about the same, or decreasing. Although most commonly residents think it is about the same (57% of residents), they otherwise are more apt to say it is increasing than decreasing: 35% of residents say it is increasing, compared to 6% who say it is decreasing. Landowners, on the other hand, most commonly say it is increasing (49%), exceeding the percentage who say it is staying about the same (43%), and well more than the percentage who say it is decreasing (4%).
  - In the general population survey, only those who experienced damage were asked the follow-up question about the trends in damage. In the landowner survey, all respondents were asked.
  
- Regardless of whether damage occurs, the survey asked whether respondents thought that deer are important enough that they (the respondents) are willing to tolerate some damage to their yards, gardens, or agricultural crops: 67% of the general population, 66% of landowners, and 82% of deer hunters agreed with the statement.
  - Landowners, who grow crops and have, perhaps, the most to lose are the most likely to disagree with the statement: 28% of landowners disagree, compared to 26% of the general population and 14% of hunters.

## **PREVENTATIVE MEASURES**

- All three surveys asked about preventative measures that people take to deter deer.
  - Most commonly, residents use fencing (17%) or repellants (12%).
  - Landowners most commonly use hunting (45%) to prevent deer damage (either their own hunting or allowing hunting). Otherwise, 15% use fencing and 11% use repellants, with all other responses at less than 10%.
  - Among hunters, hunting (21%) is their top choice, followed by fences (16%) and repellants (11%). The slight majority of hunters (52%) do not do anything to prevent deer damage.
  
- One option to prevent damage (but currently not legal) is to cull the deer herd through night shooting, as night shooting greatly improves harvest success. The survey asked about approval or disapproval of this, and then it asked if landowners would allow it.
  - Only a third of landowners approve of this (34% do so), while the majority (59%) disapprove.

## **DAMAGE PERMITS**

- Awareness of the Deer Management Permit program is high: 76% of landowners and 91% of hunters are very or somewhat aware that the DNR issues Deer Management Permits (also known as Crop Damage Permits) to farmers experiencing damage from deer eating their crops.
  - Use of the permits was also examined: 25% of landowners have used them to help with crop damage; 20% of hunters have hunted using the permits in Maryland.
    - Landowners who know about the permits were asked about their satisfaction with the process for obtaining them: 50% say that they are satisfied, while 13% are not (the remainder do not know).
    - Landowners who use the permits were asked about their satisfaction with the telephone and Internet reporting system for deer harvested under the permits: 80% are satisfied with this aspect, while only 7% are dissatisfied.

- Support for having the DNR issue Deer Management Permits to farmers for crop damage is high among hunters: 85% of hunters support the permits.

### **VEHICLE ACCIDENTS WITH DEER**

- All three surveys asked whether respondents had, in the past year, been in a vehicular accident with a deer: 8% of the general population, 11% of landowners, and 13% of hunters had been in a vehicular accident with a deer in the past year. (The survey asked about being involved, not specifically about being the driver, so percentages include those who had accidents as passengers.)

### **PARTICIPATION IN DEER HUNTING**

- Both the general population and landowner surveys asked about deer hunting ever, within the past 10 years, and within the past 2 years.
  - Among the general population, 8% hunted deer in the past 2 years. The overwhelming majority (84%) have never hunted deer in Maryland.
  - Landowners have a higher rate of hunting: 29% say that they hunted deer in the past 2 years, and another 11% hunted in the past 10 years but not the past 2 years.
- For deer hunters to be included in the survey, they had to have hunted within the previous 2 years. Of these deer hunters, 95% had hunted deer in the past year, 80% had hunted for antlerless deer, and 47% had hunted deer with a crossbow.

### **HARVEST OF DEER**

- Half of those who hunted in the past year (51%) harvested a deer.
  - Those who harvested a deer were asked about harvesting antlered deer: 62% of these hunters had harvested an antlered deer.
  - Hunters who had harvested were also asked about harvest of antlerless deer: 68% of those who harvested deer harvested an antlerless deer.

- Hunters who had harvested were read a list of items that could have potentially helped them harvest more deer, with the survey asking, “Do you think you would have harvested more deer if...?” Access and opportunity top the list: 42% of these hunters said they would have harvested more if more private landowners would allow deer hunting on their land, and 41% said they would have harvested more if more Sundays were available to hunt deer.
  
- Similar to the above, hunters who had *not* harvested were asked, “Do you think you would have harvested a deer if...?”
  - Again, access and opportunity top the list: 43% of these unsuccessful hunters said that they would have harvested if more private landowners would allow deer hunting on their land, and 43% said that they would have harvested if more Sundays were available to hunt deer.

## **MOTIVATIONS FOR HUNTING DEER**

- The hunter survey asked hunters to choose their most important reason for hunting; the landowner survey asked for the most important reasons for hunting, including the reasons for others to hunt among the landowners who did not personally hunt deer.
  - Landowners are almost completely utilitarian: the most commonly chosen reasons for hunting deer are for deer population control (a majority of 53% choosing this reason) and for the meat (24%). Only 9% say it is for sport or recreation, and almost none (just 3% and 2%, respectively) say it is to be with friends and family or to be close to nature.
  - In the hunter survey, for the meat (42%) is the top reason to hunt deer in Maryland, with four of the remaining five reasons having from 11% to 15%: for the sport/recreation (15%), to be with family and friends (14%), deer population control (13%), and to be close to nature (11%). In other words, while the top reason among hunters is utilitarian, the other reasons have substantial percentages, compared to the landowners' results.

## **SATISFACTION WITH DEER HUNTING**

- More deer hunters say that their satisfaction with deer hunting in Maryland has increased over the past 10 years than say it has decreased: 31% say it has increased, while 21% say it has decreased. Most commonly, they say it has remained about the same (46%).

## **PREFERRED HUNTING SEASONS**

- The firearms season is the most preferred season among deer hunters: 36% say that they prefer firearms season. This exceeds the percentages who prefer archery season using a vertical bow (i.e., not a crossbow) (23%), archery season using a crossbow (19%), or muzzleloader season (15%).

## **HUNTING IN REGION A**

- The DNR separates Maryland into two regions: Region A, made up of Allegany County, Garrett County, and western Washington County, and Region B, consisting of the rest of the state.
  
- Among all hunters in the survey, 24% hunted deer in Region A. They were asked follow-up questions.
  - Among Region A hunters, about half hunted deer on public land there frequently or sometimes over the past 2 years (47% did so).
  - Among Region A hunters, 70% hunted on private lands in Region A frequently or sometimes.
  
- Region A hunters were asked about their perceptions of the deer population there.
  - Those who had hunted deer on public lands in Region A were asked for their opinions on the deer population on public lands. The large majority of these Region A public land hunters (73%) would like to see the deer population on public lands in Region A to increase. Otherwise, 20% want it to stay the same, and only 3% want it to decrease.
  - Those who had hunted on private land most commonly want the deer population there to increase (50% give this response), and 42% want it to stay the same. Only 6% want the deer population to decrease on private lands in Region A.



## **HUNTING IN REGION B**

- Among all hunters in the survey, 84% hunted deer in Region B.
  - Among Region B hunters, about a quarter hunted deer on public land there frequently or sometimes over the past 2 years (28% did so).
  - Among Region B hunters, 84% hunted on private lands in Region B frequently or sometimes.
  
- Region B hunters were asked about their perceptions of the deer population there.
  - The majority of Region B public land deer hunters would like to see the deer population on public land in Region B to increase (58% do so), while only 4% want to see it decreased. Meanwhile, 35% want it to stay the same.
  - Those who had hunted on private land in Region B most commonly want the deer population there to stay the same (53% give this response); otherwise, they, by far, want to see it increased (36%) rather than decreased (9%).
  
- Region B hunters were asked about their opinions on various regulations in Region B.
  - Support (75%) far exceeds opposition (18%) to the 10 antlerless deer per season bag limit for muzzleloader season and firearms season for Region B.
  - Regarding archery season, at the time of the survey there was an unlimited antlerless deer bag limit in Region B. Two thirds of Region B hunters (67%) support this unlimited bag limit, while 27% oppose it.

## **HUNTING IN WASHINGTON AND FREDERICK COUNTIES**

- The survey also asked Region B hunters specifically about hunting in Washington and Frederick Counties. The questions about these counties were within the survey section on Region B; therefore, the questions were asked of all hunters who had hunted in Region B.
  - Among those who hunted in Region B, 6% hunted on public lands in Washington or Frederick Counties frequently or sometimes.
  - Of Region B hunters, 18% hunted on private land in Washington or Frederick Counties in the past 2 years.

- All those who hunted on public lands in Washington or Frederick Counties were asked about the deer population: 49% would like to see an increase in the deer population on public lands in these two counties, while 40% would like to see it stay the same. Only 5% want to see it decreased.
- Those who hunted deer on private land in Washington or Frederick Counties in the past 2 years were asked whether they agree or disagree that deer hunting on public lands there should be managed separately from deer hunting on private lands: agreement (35%) is a bit higher than disagreement (20%); however, they most commonly answer neutrally or that they do not know (45% give one of these two responses).

### **OPINIONS ON QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT**

- An open-ended question asked hunters to say what “quality deer management” means to them. While they most commonly give a response relating to having bigger deer and bigger bucks (35%), the next most common response is an increase in overall deer herd health (22%).
- Most hunters (79%) support recently enacted regulations where deer hunters can harvest two antlered deer of less than 3 points on one antler but any additional antlered deer must have at least 3 points on one antler. A small percentage (15%) oppose this quality deer management regulation.
- Lastly in this section, hunters were asked about which they would prefer regarding deer with less than 3 points on one antler. They would prefer harvest of only one deer of less than 3 points on one side (48%) rather than harvest of two such deer (25%) or three such deer (8%) or more than that (7%).

## **HUNTING OVER BAIT**

- A little less than half of deer hunters (43%) hunted deer over bait in the past 2 years.
  
- Regardless of whether they hunted over bait, a large majority of deer hunters (69%) support hunting deer by attracting them using bait, such as corn or another food.
  - Reasons given for supporting hunting deer over bait include a better chance of harvest (by far the top answer among deer hunters who support hunting over bait), that such hunting allows for better control of the deer population, and that such hunting helps with quality deer management.
  - The top reason for opposing is that hunters feel it is unethical/not fair to the deer to hunt over bait—by far the top response category.
  
- Landowners were asked about their support for or opposition to hunting deer over bait as well, and they are split, with a little more in the support (51%) side rather than the opposition (36%) side.
  - Their top reasons for supporting hunting over bait are increased harvest success and that it allows better control of the deer population.
  - As it is with hunters, the top reason that landowners oppose is that they feel it is unethical/not fair to the deer to hunt over bait—by far the top response category.
  
- The large majority of deer hunters would oppose (75%) making it illegal to hunt deer using bait on private lands, while 18% would support.

## **SUNDAY HUNTING**

- All three surveys asked about opinions on deer hunting on Sundays in Maryland.
  - There is a greater percentage in favor among the general population (45% are in favor) than in opposition (29%) to Sunday deer hunting.
  - Among landowners, 56% are in favor of Sunday deer hunting; however, 33% are opposed.
  - The overwhelming majority of deer hunters (83%) support Sunday deer hunting, while only 14% oppose it.

- The majority of Maryland's deer hunters (60%) hunted deer on a Sunday within the past 2 years.
  - Most commonly, these Sunday deer hunters hunted the firearms season (77% did so), although a majority hunted the archery season (61%) (some, obviously, did both). Also, 46% hunted the muzzleloader season.
  - These Sunday deer hunters overwhelmingly think Sunday hunting is very or somewhat important to their success in harvesting a deer: 90% say it is very or somewhat important.
  - These hunters also overwhelmingly say that they want additional Sundays open for deer hunting (79% say this), compared to 19% who want the same and only 2% who want fewer days of Sunday deer hunting.
  - Most of these Sunday deer hunters did *not* hunt on public land on Sundays: only 11% did so.
  - A final question of these Sunday deer hunters found that a majority (81%) agree that all public lands currently open to deer hunting should also be open on Sundays during the deer season.
  
- The large majority of landowners who allow deer hunting on their land and who live in a county that has Sunday hunting allow Sunday hunting on their land (65% do so).
  
- Looking at Sunday hunting from the other recreationists' view, the survey asked if respondents had altered times of other recreation because of Sunday hunting. This line of questioning was in both the survey of residents and landowners. The results are first looked at as a whole, and then among those who have not hunted in the past 10 years.
  - Among the general population, 17% say that they have altered times because of deer season at least a little, with a quarter of these respondents (25%) saying that they altered times because of Sunday hunting.
    - Another question asked about avoiding areas because of hunting. In total, 38% of residents (34% of non-hunting residents) in the general population survey say that they avoid certain areas in which hunters might be hunting. In follow-up, 27% of

- these respondents overall, and 31% of the non-hunting respondents, who avoid areas said that they avoid areas because of Sunday hunting.
- Just less than a quarter of landowners (22%) say that Sunday hunting has caused them to alter times of other outdoor recreation at least a little, with 5% saying that they have altered times a whole lot.

- The general population survey asked about support for or opposition to the opening of additional Sundays for bow and arrow deer hunting and for firearms deer hunting (in separate questions): 49% supported this for bow and arrow hunting (34% opposing), and 42% supported the opening of additional days for firearms deer hunting (with 42% opposing).

### **CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE**

- All three surveys asked about awareness of Chronic Wasting Disease, or CWD. The general population and landowner surveys asked only those who had hunted deer, as the question was primarily a lead-in to the three-county comparison discussed later in the report.
  - In the general population survey, those who hunted in the past 10 years were asked about their awareness: 61% of them were aware of CWD prior to the survey.
  - The large majority of landowners who had hunted deer in the past 10 years (85%) had heard of CWD.
  - The vast majority of deer hunters (89%) had heard of CWD.
- The surveys explored the level of concern about CWD.
  - In the general population survey, those who had hunted deer in the past 10 years are evenly split: 50% are very or somewhat concerned about CWD, and 50% are not at all concerned or have not heard of it.
  - Among landowners who had hunted in the past 10 years, 74% are very or somewhat concerned.
  - In total, 79% of hunters are very or somewhat concerned about CWD.

- Despite a high level of concern among deer hunters regarding CWD in the hunter survey, only 10% of deer hunters have changed where they hunt in Maryland because of CWD, and only 4% say that CWD has caused them to hunt deer less in Maryland in general.
  - A question on the same theme asked hunters in the general population survey if CWD had caused them to stop hunting deer in Maryland: 1% agreed that it had.
  
- Three Maryland counties were compared regarding hunters' behaviors in light of CWD. One of the counties (Allegany) has confirmed cases of CWD in deer, another county is close to the CWD area (Garrett), and the third is far away from the CWD area (Dorchester). The first question simply asks deer hunters to indicate if they have hunted in the three counties.
  - In total, 16% of deer hunters in the survey had hunted in Allegany County within the previous 10 years, 18% had hunted in Garrett County, and 20% had hunted in Dorchester County. For each county in which the hunter had hunted, three questions were asked: did the hunter *hunt less* in the county because of CWD, did the hunter *stop hunting bucks* in the county because of it, and did the hunter *stop hunting does* in the county because of CWD. All three counties are shown on the same graph for each of these questions for comparison. It appears that hunters are more likely to *hunt less* rather than stopping hunting either bucks or does altogether.
    - Regarding hunting less: those who had hunted in Allegany County had a higher percentage agreeing that they had hunted less in the county because of CWD (16%), compared to either Garrett County hunters (6%) or Dorchester County hunters (4%). The most disagreement (including those who had not heard of CWD and, therefore, can be assumed to align with "disagreement" in this question) is among Garrett and Dorchester County hunters (91% and 90%, respectively).
    - Regarding whether they have stopped hunting bucks: the counties are quite similar, with only from 3% to 8% agreeing that they have stopped hunting bucks, a small range. An even smaller range is in disagreement (with not hearing about CWD being aligned with disagreement): from 88% to 91% disagree.
    - Regarding whether they have stopped hunting does: again, the ranges of percentages are small, with only 4% to 9% agreeing (Allegany County hunters being the most likely to agree) and 85% to 92% disagreeing (Garrett County hunters being the most likely to disagree).

## **EATING VENISON AND THE VENISON DONATION PROGRAM**

- Respondents in the surveys were asked about their level of awareness that venison donation programs are available in Maryland where hunters can donate extra harvested deer.
  - Just more than a third of residents (37%) say that they were aware, prior to the survey, of venison donation programs in Maryland.
  - The large majority of landowners (81%) were very or somewhat aware of the programs.
  - The overwhelming majority of hunters (93%) were very or somewhat aware of the programs. In addition, 21% of deer hunters have donated deer to such programs in Maryland in the past 2 years.
  
- The general population and landowner surveys both asked about support for or opposition to venison donation programs. Both residents and landowners are overwhelmingly in support (92% and 97%, respectively) of the programs.
  
- The general population and landowner surveys asked about eating venison.
  - A quarter of residents say that they eat venison frequently or sometimes, while 75% say that they eat it rarely or never (with 45% never eating it).
  - Landowners are about evenly split: 44% eat venison frequently or sometimes, while 55% eat it rarely or never (including 29% who never eat it).

## **SIKA DEER**

- Regarding sika deer, 13% of deer hunters had hunted sika deer in Maryland during the past 2 years.

## **LANDOWNERS' AND OTHER RECREATIONISTS' INTERACTIONS AND CONFLICTS WITH HUNTERS**

- Landowners were asked about any problems that they may have had with hunters in the past 2 years: 16% of landowners have had problems.
  - Trespassing is the most common reason, by far (80% of those with problems cited this). Also with substantial percentages are responses pertaining to hunters' rude/threatening behavior (20% of those with problems) and unsafe behavior (16%).

- Among non-hunters in the general population survey, 14% say that deer season causes them to alter their times of participation in other outdoor recreation.
- In the general population survey, both hunters and non-hunters indicated that they avoid areas in which they know hunters are or might be hunting (38% overall, 62% of hunters within the general population, and 34% of non-hunters).
  - More than half of non-hunters *who indicated previously that they avoid areas* (53% of *those who avoid areas*) are avoiding areas because they do not want to disturb hunters; however, 45% are avoiding areas out of personal safety concerns.
- The general population survey asked if residents had encountered hunters while they (the respondents themselves) were engaged in other outdoor recreation within the past 5 years: 16% of non-hunters encountered hunters while engaging in outdoor recreation.
  - Of those who encountered hunters, 14% of non-hunters indicated that they experienced problems with the hunters that they encountered (note that this percentage is of those who encountered hunters while they—the respondents themselves—were engaged in other recreation). Rude or discourteous behavior is the top complaint. Deer hunters predominate regarding the types of hunters that caused problems.

#### **VIEWING AND PHOTOGRAPHING DEER**

- About a quarter of residents (24%) frequently or occasionally make trips specifically to view and experience deer in their native habitat for photography or other non-hunting purposes.

#### **OPINIONS ON NON-HUNTING RECREATIONAL PASSES**

- The majority of residents (66%) would support the creation of a non-hunting recreational pass to access Wildlife Management Areas (with non-hunters even higher in support). Nonetheless, 18% of residents would oppose.
  - Those who support were asked to name a reasonable fee: the median is \$25.



## **SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

- All the surveys asked respondents, in open-ended questions, to say where they get information about deer in Maryland.
  - Residents most commonly get information from friends/family/word-of-mouth, the DNR (at 16%), and the Internet in general.
  - Landowners' most common sources are friends/family/word-of-mouth, newspapers, their own experience, and the Maryland DNR website (this latter visited by 14% of landowners).
  - Among hunters, the DNR is the top source (at 53%), distantly followed by friends/family/word-of-mouth.
  
- The general population and landowner surveys asked respondents to rate the credibility of five sources of information.
  - Of the five sources, the top ratings of credibility among the general population are given to a biologist with the DNR (67% give a rating of very credible, and 19% say somewhat credible, a sum of 86%), followed by a professor at a Maryland college or university (50% say very credible, and 34% say somewhat credible, a sum of 84%).
  - Similarly, the top ratings of credibility among landowners are for a biologist with the DNR (46% give a rating of very credible, and 36% say somewhat credible, a sum of 82%), followed by a professor at a Maryland college or university (31% say very credible, and 41% say somewhat credible, a sum of 73% when summed using unrounded numbers).

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## **INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY**

This study was conducted for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to determine the opinions and attitudes of residents, landowners, and hunters regarding deer hunting and deer management. The study entailed three scientific telephone surveys of Maryland residents (i.e., a general population survey), landowners who own a parcel of at least 20 acres and who grow agricultural crops, and hunters who have licenses that allow deer hunting. Specific aspects of the research methodology are discussed below.

### **USE OF TELEPHONES FOR THE SURVEYS**

For the surveys, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the almost universal ownership of telephones among all three samples (both landlines and cell phones were called). Additionally, telephone surveys, relative to mail or Internet surveys, allow for more scientific sampling and data collection, provide higher quality data, obtain higher response rates, are more timely, and are more cost-effective. Telephone surveys also have better representation of the sample than do surveys that are read by the respondent (i.e., mail and Internet surveys) because the latter systematically exclude those who are not literate enough to complete the surveys or who would be intimidated by having to complete a written survey—by an estimate of the U.S. Department of Education's National Institute of Literacy (2016), up to 43% of the general population read no higher than a "basic level," suggesting that they would be reticent to complete a survey that they have to read to themselves. Finally, telephone surveys also have fewer negative effects on the environment than do mail surveys because of reduced use of paper and reduced energy consumption for delivering and returning the questionnaires.

### **DESIGN OF THE QUESTIONNAIRES**

The telephone survey questionnaires were developed cooperatively by Responsive Management, the DNR, and the University of Delaware, based on the research team's familiarity with deer hunting, deer management, and natural resources in general. The surveys were also based, in part, on previous surveys conducted in Maryland. Responsive Management conducted pre-tests of the questionnaires to ensure proper wording, flow, and logic in the surveys.

**SURVEY SAMPLES**

The sample of the general population was obtained from SSI, a firm that specializes in providing scientifically valid samples for survey research. The general population sample included both landlines and cell phones in their proper proportions. The sample used a probability-based selection process that ensured that each eligible resident had an approximately equal chance of being selected for the survey. The report may refer to these people as “residents” or “the general population.”

The sample of landowners was provided by the DNR. Screeners in the survey ensured that all landowners in the survey owned a parcel of at least 20 acres and grew agricultural crops on their land. Any reference to “landowners” in the survey refers specifically to those who meet these parameters.

The sample of hunters was obtained from the DNR based on license records for hunting licenses that allowed deer hunting in the 2017-2018 seasons. A screener ensured that the hunters had hunted deer in Maryland within the previous 2 years. Any reference to “deer hunters” or just “hunters” in the report refers to those who had hunted deer within the previous 2 years.

**TELEPHONE INTERVIEWING FACILITIES**

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 deer hunting and deer management, as well as outdoor recreation and natural resources in general.

To ensure the integrity of the telephone survey data, Responsive Management has interviewers who have been trained according to the standards established by the Council of American Survey Research Organizations. Methods of instruction included lecture and role-playing. The Survey Center Managers and other professional staff conducted a project briefing with the interviewers prior to the administration of these surveys. 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 questionnaires, reading of the survey questions, skip patterns, and probing and clarifying techniques necessary for specific questions on the survey questionnaires.

### **INTERVIEWING DATES AND TIMES**

Telephone surveying times are Monday through Friday from noon to 9:00 p.m., Saturday from noon to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., local time. A five-callback design was used to maintain the representativeness of the sample, to avoid bias toward people easy to reach by telephone, and to provide an equal opportunity for all to participate. When a respondent could not be reached on the first call, subsequent calls were placed on different days of the week and at different times of the day. These surveys were conducted in July 2018.

### **TELEPHONE SURVEY DATA COLLECTION AND QUALITY CONTROL**

The software used for data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language (QPL). The survey data were entered into the computer as each interview was being conducted, eliminating manual data entry after the completion of the survey and the concomitant data entry errors that may occur with manual data entry. The survey questionnaires were programmed so that QPL branched, coded, and substituted phrases in the surveys based on previous responses to ensure the integrity and consistency of the data collection.

The Survey Center Managers and statisticians monitored the data collection, including monitoring of the actual telephone interviews without the interviewers' knowledge to evaluate the performance of each interviewer and ensure the integrity of the data. The survey questionnaires themselves contained error checkers and computation statements to ensure quality and consistent data. After the surveys were obtained by the interviewers, the Survey Center Managers and/or statisticians checked each completed survey to ensure clarity and completeness. Responsive Management obtained 800 completed interviews of residents in the general population survey, 606 completed interviews with landowners, and 801 completed interviews with deer hunters.

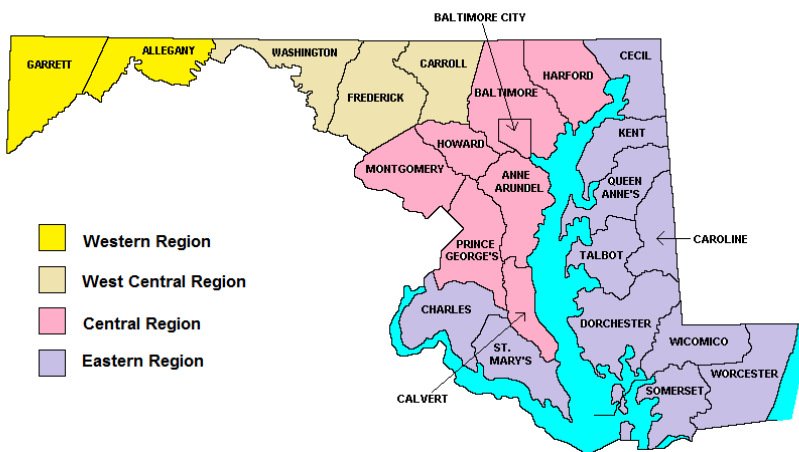
## DATA ANALYSIS

The analysis of data was performed using IBM SPSS Statistics as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management.

The results of the general population survey were slightly weighted by demographic and geographic characteristics to exactly match U.S. Census data so that the sample was fully representative of residents of Maryland as a whole. There was no weighting applied to the landowners or hunters.

For some of the analyses—those graphs that show the demographic characteristics of various groups, such as those who support Sunday hunting—Maryland was divided into four regions, as shown in the map that follows. A full explanation of how to interpret those graphs that show the demographic characteristics of the various groups is included on pages 6 and 7. For these analyses on the general population sample, the Western and West Central Regions were combined into a single region (so that there would be enough sample in all of the regions analyzed in this way).

Deer Survey: Regions for Analysis



Map produced in color; may not be legible in black and white printing.

In the analysis of the general population survey, the results are crosstabulated by hunters vs. non-hunters. To be included in the “hunters” group, the respondent had to have hunted in the past 10 years; non-hunters are those who did not hunt in the past 10 years. Additionally, the analysis

also included a look at trends, based on previous surveys conducted in 2007. These are included for any questions that had consistent wording between the surveys.

## **SAMPLING ERRORS**

Throughout this report, findings of the surveys are reported at a 95% confidence interval. Sampling errors were calculated using the standard formula in SPSS, with sample sizes and population sizes as shown in the tabulation that follows. The population size of residents was obtained from U.S. Census data. The landowner population is based on the size of the database provided for the survey of them. The hunter population is based on the size of the database provided for the survey of hunters.

<b>Sample Type</b>	<b>Size of Sample</b>	<b>Estimated Population Size</b>	<b>Sampling Error</b>
Residents	800	4,612,128	3.46
Landowners	606	23,066	3.93
Hunters	801	78,115	3.44

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRESENTATION OF RESULTS IN THE REPORT**

This report presents the results thematically rather than by the survey—in other words, it presents all the findings about particular themes together rather than having a section for the general population survey, a separate section for the landowner survey, and a separate section for the hunter survey. Because all three surveys had some questions in common, a thematic presentation of the data allows all questions from all three surveys about a common theme to be presented together. In general, the structure of the report is for each section to have a summary page followed by all the graphs that pertain to that section. Within each thematic section, the resident survey results are presented first, followed by the landowner survey results and then the hunter survey results.

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

- Open-ended questions are those in which no answer set is read to the respondents; rather, they can respond with anything that comes to mind from the question.
- Closed-ended questions have an answer set from which to choose.

- Single or multiple response questions: Some questions allow only a single response, while other questions allow respondents to give more than one response or choose all that apply. Those that allow more than a single response are indicated on the graphs with the label, “Multiple Responses Allowed.”
- Scaled questions: Many closed-ended questions (but not all) are in a scale, such as excellent-good-fair-poor.
- Series questions: Many questions are part of a series, and the results are primarily intended to be examined relative to the other questions in that series (although results of the questions individually can also be valuable). Typically, results of all questions in a series are shown together.

Most graphs show results rounded to the nearest integer; however, all data are stored in decimal format, and all calculations are performed on unrounded numbers. For this reason, some results may not sum to exactly 100% because of this rounding on the graphs. Additionally, rounding may cause apparent discrepancies of 1 percentage point between the graphs and the reported results of combined responses (e.g., when “strongly support” and “moderately support” are summed to determine the total percentage in support).

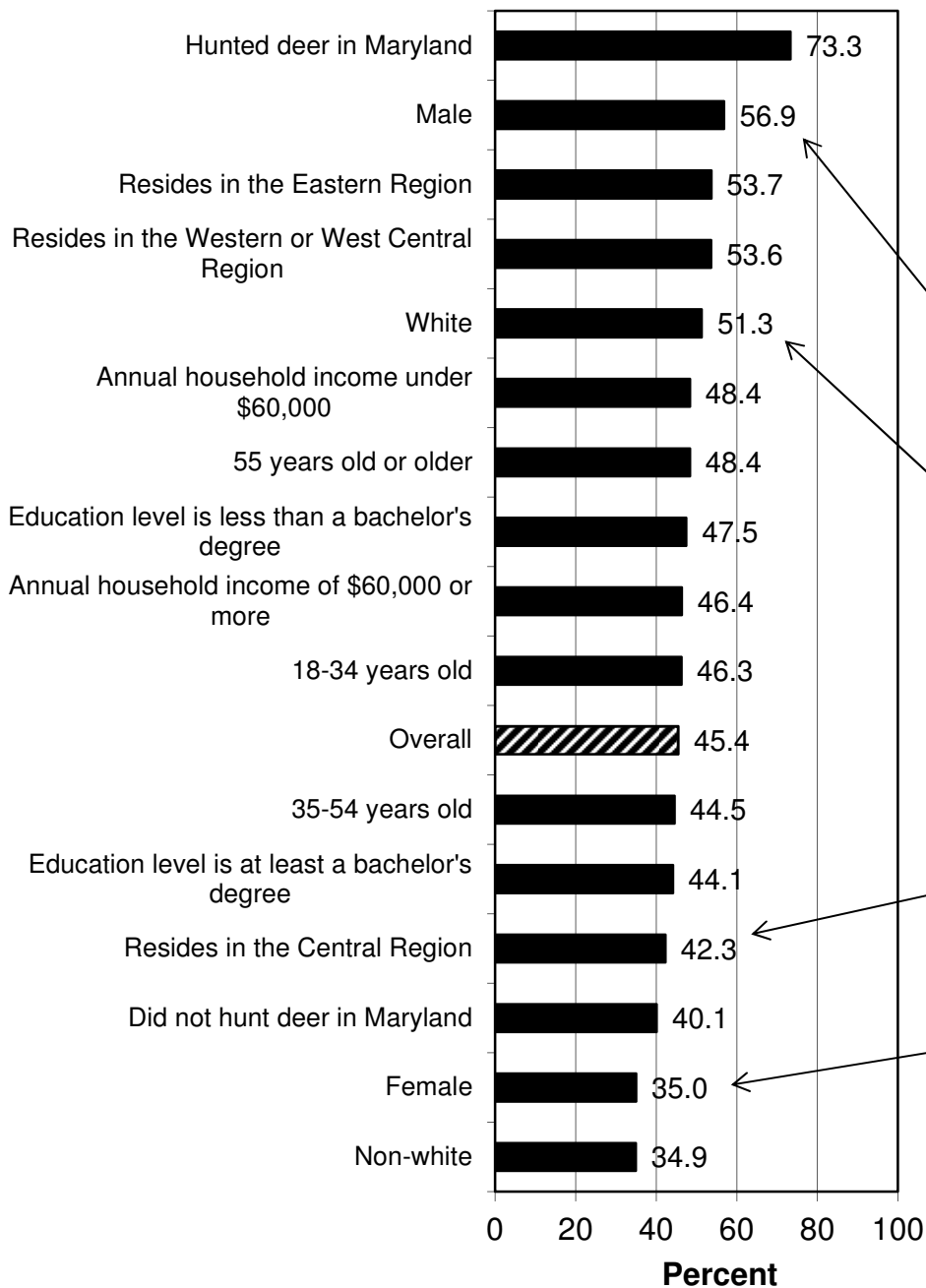
As mentioned previously, the report includes graphs that show multiple demographic characteristics of various groups on one graph. For instance, the group of people within the general population survey who are strongly or somewhat in favor of deer hunting on Sundays is examined in one of these graphs, and it is used as the example on the following page in the explanation of how to interpret these graphs.

The graph on the next page shows that in the general population overall, 45.4% say that they are strongly or somewhat in favor of deer hunting on Sundays, identified by the striped bar. All groups above that bar are more likely to be in favor of Sunday deer hunting, and all groups below that bar are less likely to be in favor of it.

For each group, the percentage who say that they are in favor is shown. This means that the converse are those who did not say that they are in favor (i.e., said that they oppose, gave a neutral answer, or said “don’t know”). For instance, 56.9% of males said that they are in favor; this means that 43.1% did not say that they are in favor.



**Percent of the following groups who are strongly or somewhat in favor of deer hunting on Sundays:  
(Gen pop survey)**



This graph looks at opinion on Sunday deer hunting. The striped bar shows that 45.4% of all Maryland residents are strongly or somewhat in favor of deer hunting on Sundays.

Males are more likely than the general population overall to be in favor, with 56.9% saying that they are in favor.

Whites (51.3%) are more likely to be in favor than are residents overall.

Conversely, those groups below the striped bar are less likely to be in favor than are residents overall.

For instance, those who reside in the Central Region (42.3%) are less likely to be in favor than are residents overall.

Also, females (35.0%) are less likely to be in favor than are residents overall.

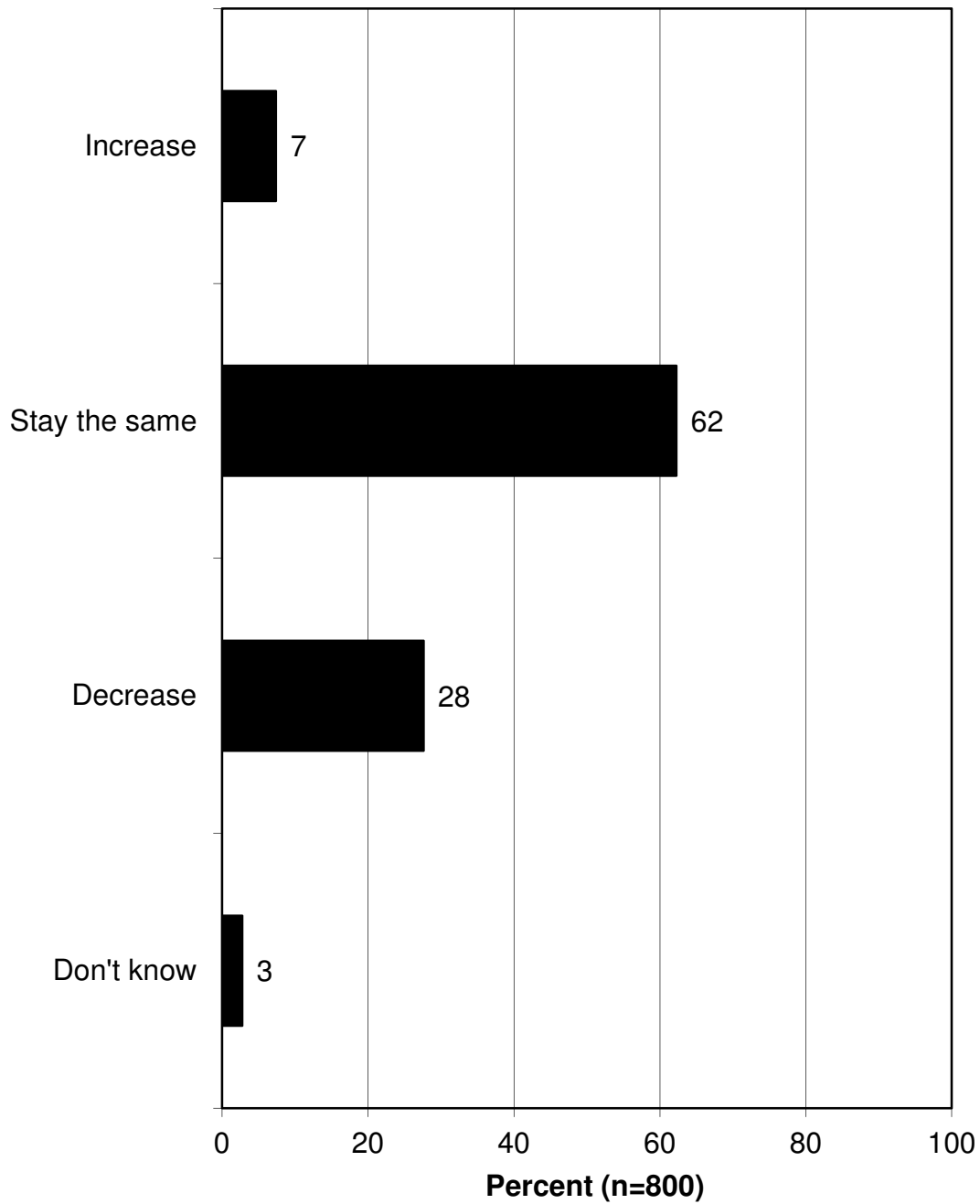
## OPINIONS ON THE DEER POPULATION

- The survey asked respondents whether they would like to see the deer population where they live (or where their property is) increase, stay the same, or decrease.
  - In the general population survey, the majority of residents (62%) want to see the deer population stay the same. Otherwise, they are four times more likely to want to see a decrease (28%) than an increase (7%).
    - In the crosstabulation of general population results by hunter versus non-hunter, the results show that hunters are more likely to want to see an increase in the deer population.
    - Common reasons for wanting to see an increase are to improve chances of seeing a deer or a feeling that the deer population is too low.
    - The most common reasons for wanting a decrease is to reduce chances of vehicular accidents, the general feeling that there are too many deer, and to reduce damage to flower beds, gardens, and yards.
  - The majority of landowners (57%) want to see the deer population decrease, far exceeding those who want it to stay the same (37%); only 4% of landowners want to see the deer population increase. (Another question asked specifically about the deer population on their farm, with similar results; those graphs are included as well.)
    - The most common reasons given by landowners for wanting to see an increase (among the small percentage of landowners who wanted an increase) is that they feel the deer population is too low, to improve hunting opportunities, and to improve a chance of seeing a deer.
    - Among landowners, the most common reason for wanting to decrease the deer population is to reduce agricultural damage—by far the top reason. This is followed by simply thinking that there are too many deer, to reduce vehicle collisions, and to reduce damage to flower beds, gardens, or yards.
  - Just over half of hunters (53%) want the deer population to stay the same; otherwise, they are about evenly split between wanting to see it increase (25%) or decrease (21%).
    - The most common reasons that hunters want to see the deer population increase is the feeling that the deer population is simply too low, to improve hunting opportunities, to improve hunter success, and to improve the opportunity to see a deer. The graph shows the full listing.
    - On the other hand, common reasons for wanting the deer population to decrease is the feeling that there are too many deer, to reduce vehicle collisions with deer, to reduce

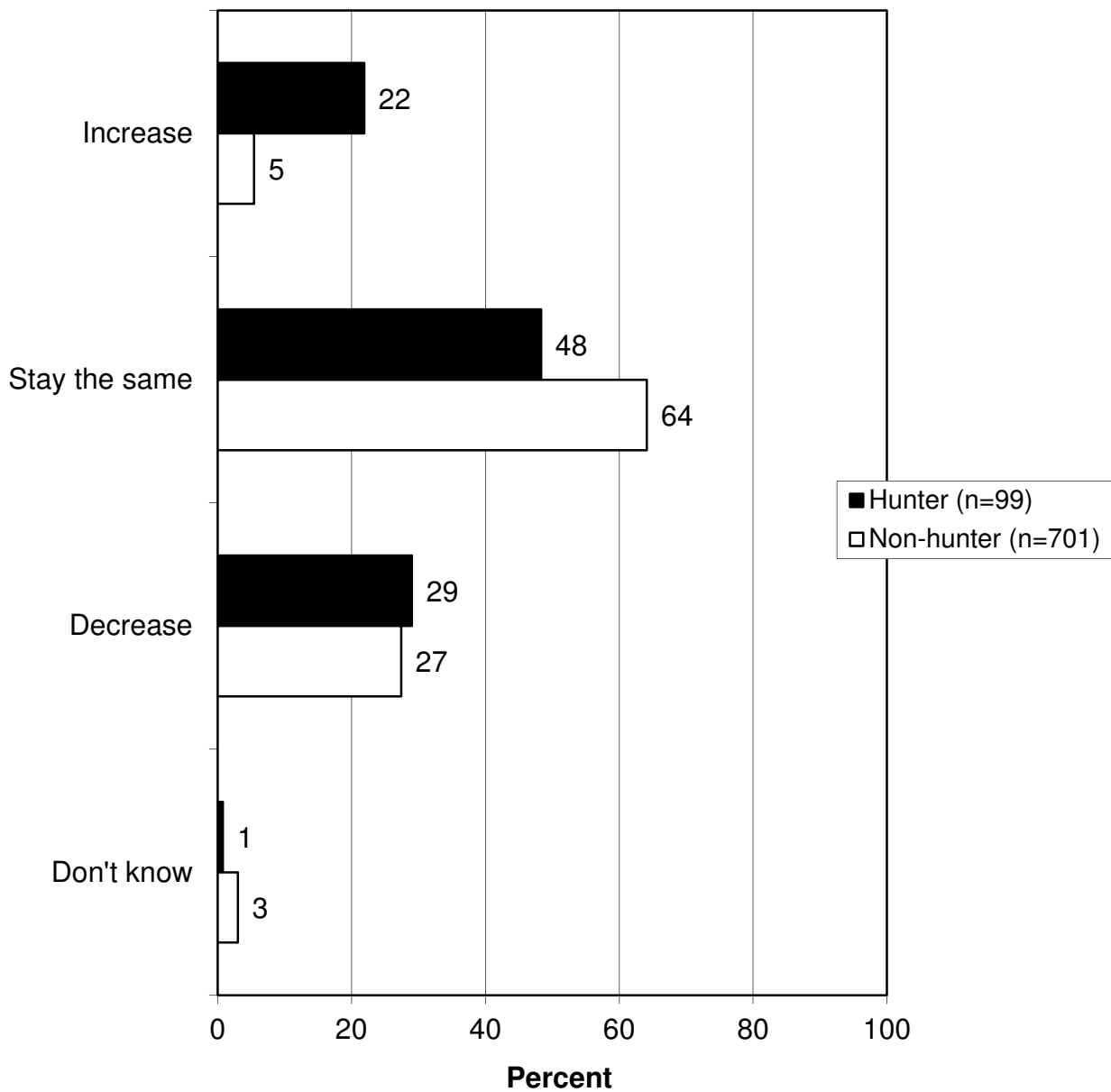
agricultural and timber losses from deer, to reduce damage to gardens and landscaping, and to improve the health of the deer herd. The graph shows the full listing.

- All three surveys asked respondents to indicate how they feel about deer in their county on a continuum from enjoying seeing deer around to thinking that they are a nuisance. There is also a fourth response outside of the continuum for those with no particular feeling about deer.
  - In the general population survey, 41% of residents say that they enjoy seeing and having deer around. Nonetheless, 45% express some concern, including 8% who generally regard deer as a nuisance.
  - Landowners as a whole are concerned about deer: only 28% say that they enjoy seeing and having deer around, while the large majority (67%) express concern, including 29% who generally regard deer as a nuisance.
  - In the hunter survey, the majority of hunters (65%) say that they enjoy seeing and having deer around; however, more than a quarter (29%) express some concern about problems caused by deer (this latter includes 6% who regard deer as a nuisance).
  
- All the surveys also asked whether respondents agree or disagree that deer are an important part of the balance of nature. Agreement is high in all the surveys.
  - The overwhelming majority of residents (88%) agree with the statement, while only 6% disagree.
  - The large majority of landowners (77%) agree with the statement. On the other hand, 15% of them disagree.
  - The overwhelming majority of hunters (95%) agree with the statement; only 3% disagree.
    - An implication of this question and the continuum question reported here is that some residents and hunters who worry about deer problems or consider them to be a nuisance still, nonetheless, agree that deer are an important part of the balance of nature.

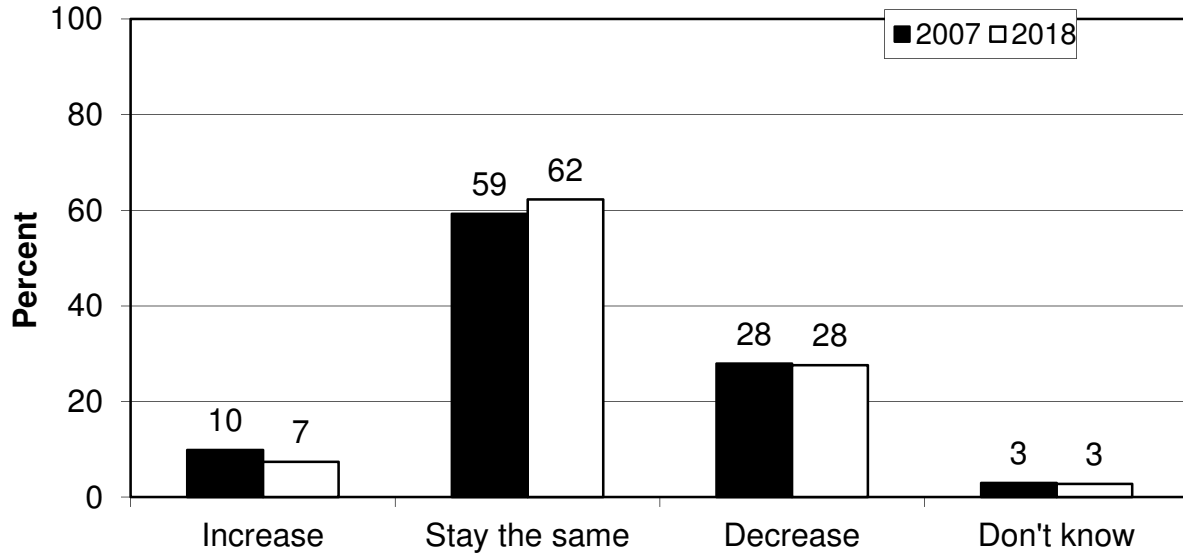
**Q24. Would you like to see the deer population in the area where you live increase, stay the same, or decrease? (Gen pop survey)**



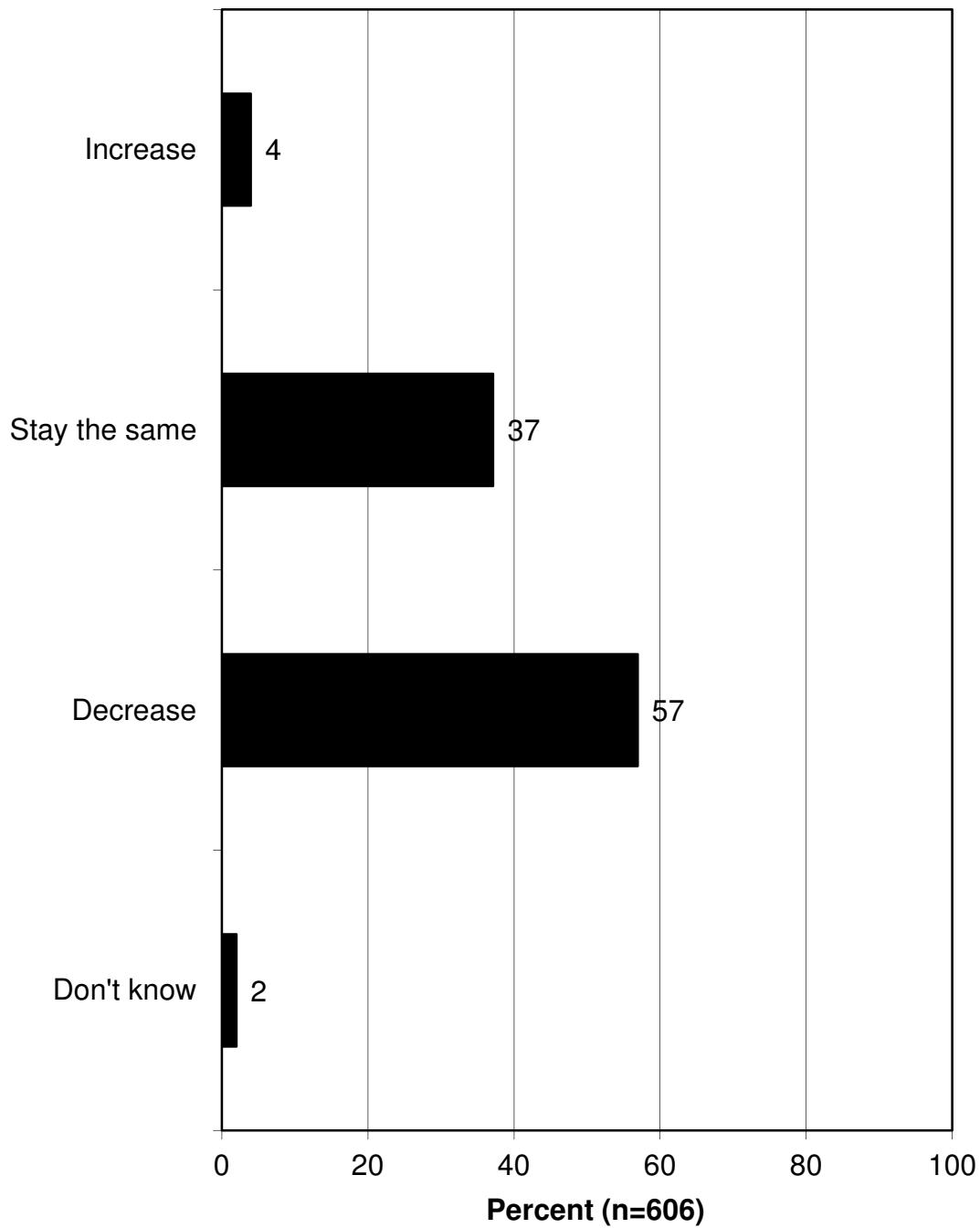
**Q24. Would you like to see the deer population in the area where you live increase, stay the same, or decrease? (Gen pop survey)**



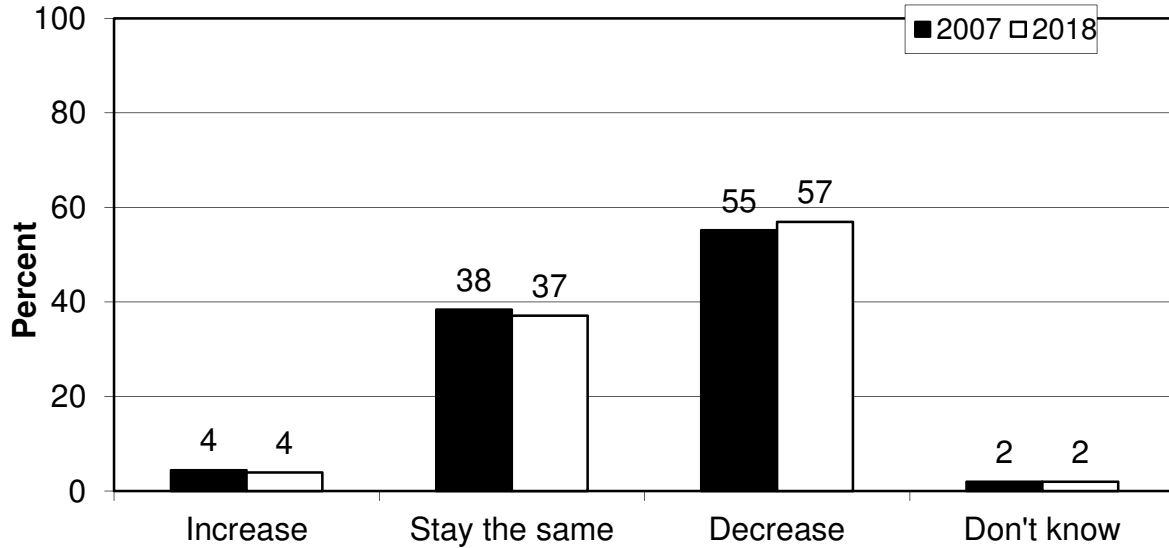
**Q24. Would you like to see the deer population  
in the area where you live increase, stay the  
same, or decrease?  
(Gen pop survey)**



**Q26. Would you like to see the deer population in the area where you live increase, stay the same, or decrease? (Landowner survey)**

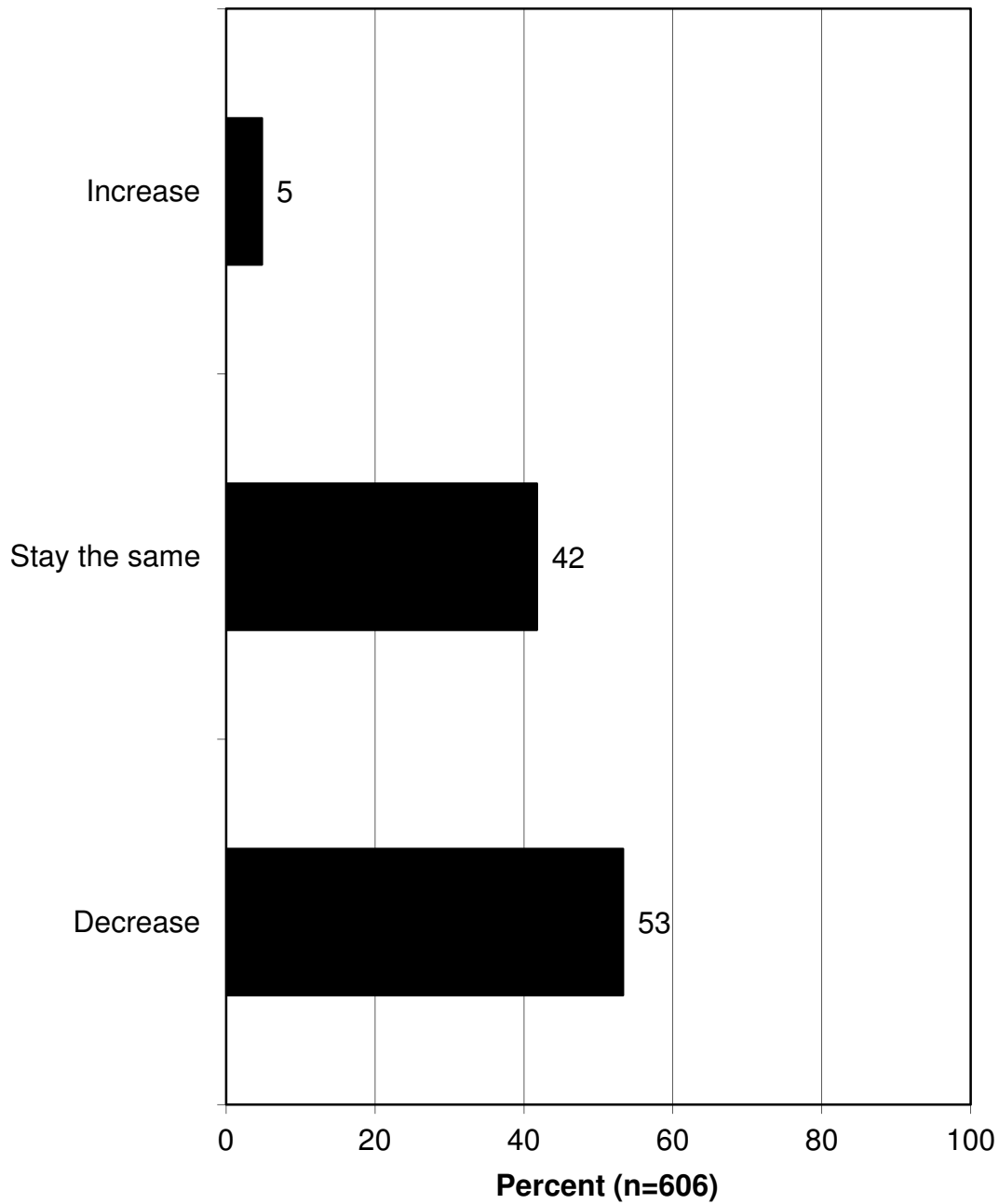


**Q26. Would you like to see the deer population  
in the area where you live increase, stay the  
same, or decrease?  
(Landowner survey)**

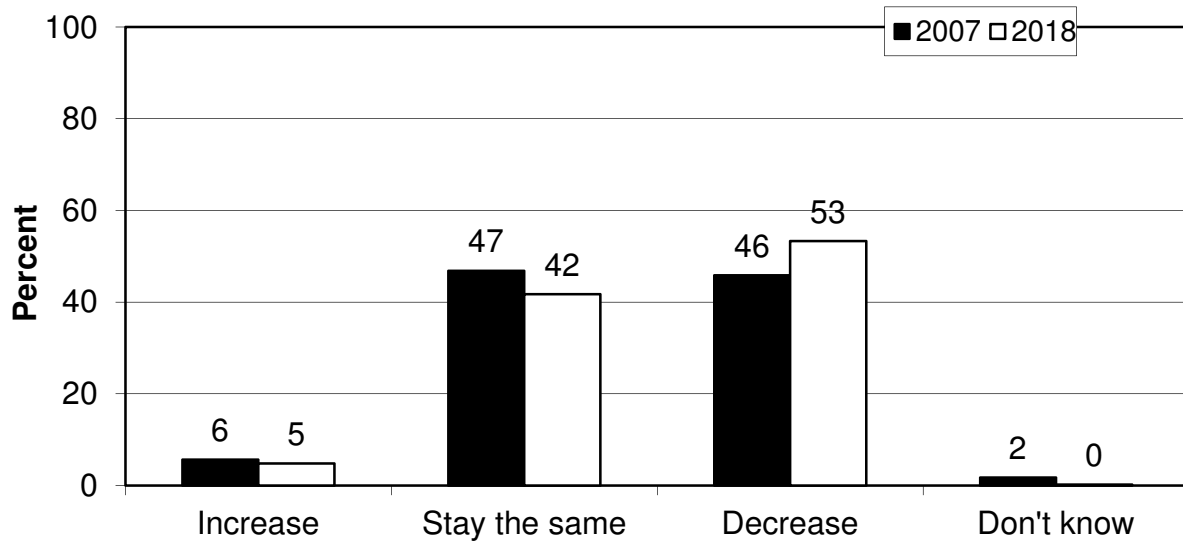




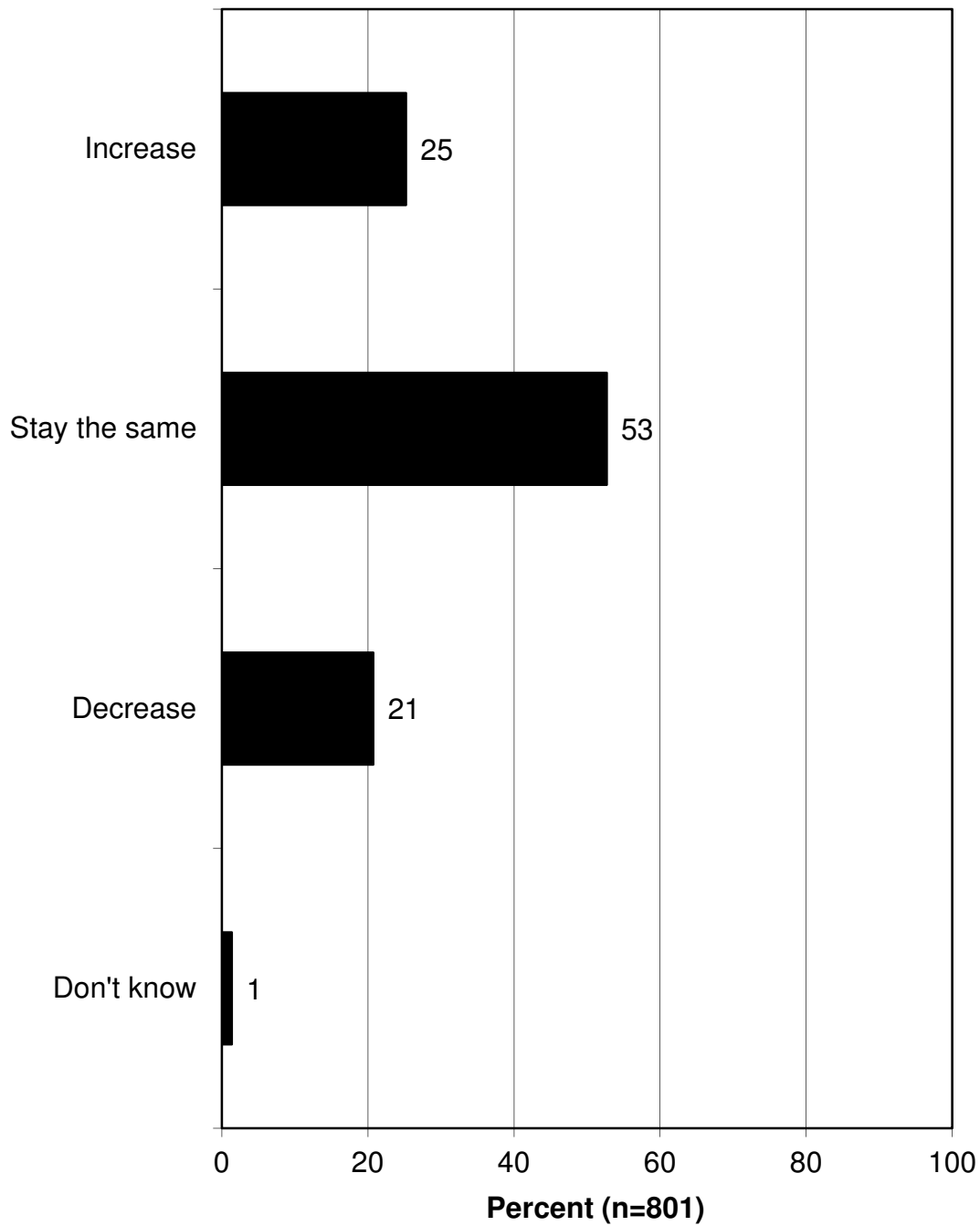
**Q114. Would you like to see the deer population on your farm increase, stay the same, or decrease? (Landowner survey)**



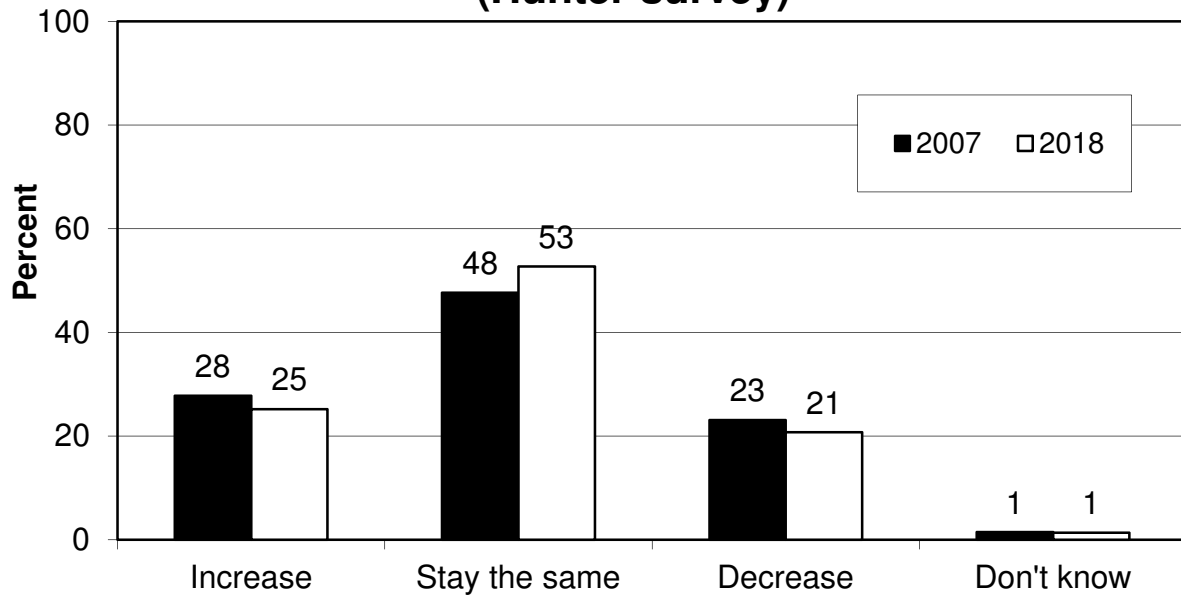
**Q114. Would you like to see the deer population on your farm increase, stay the same, or decrease? (Landowner survey)**



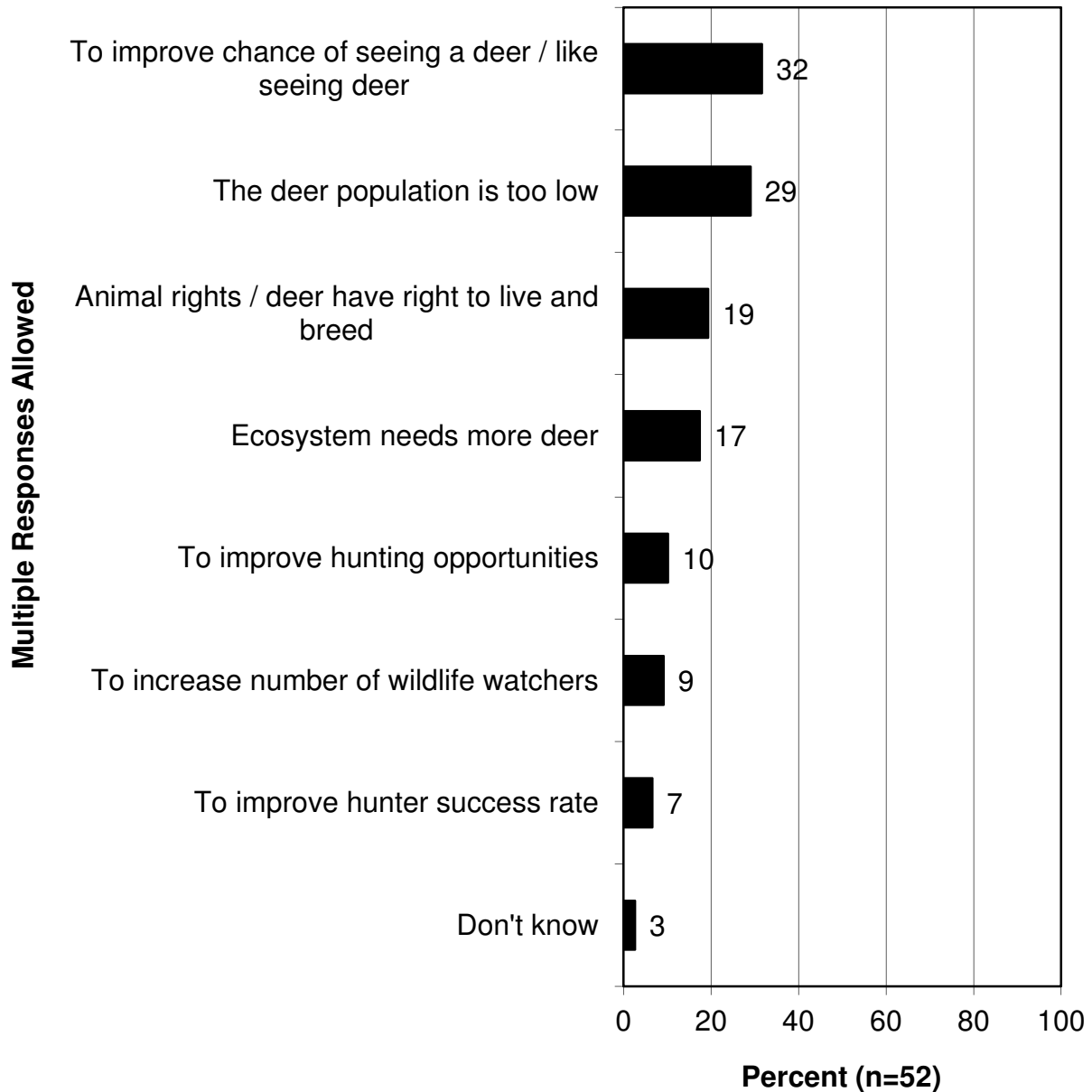
**Q21. Would you like to see the deer population in the area where you live increase, stay the same, or decrease? (Hunter survey)**



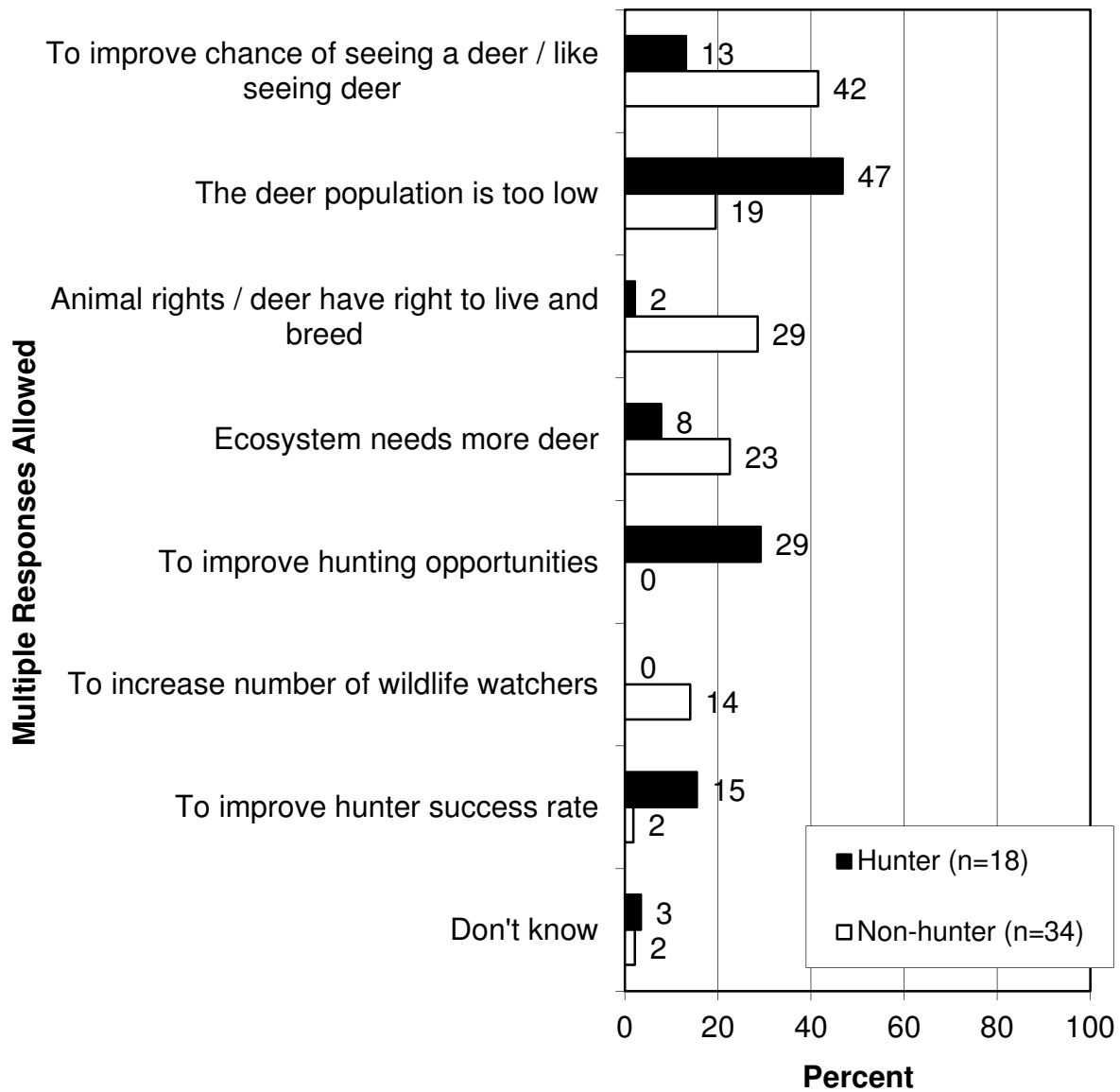
**Q21. Would you like to see the deer population  
in the area where you live increase, stay the  
same, or decrease?  
(Hunter survey)**



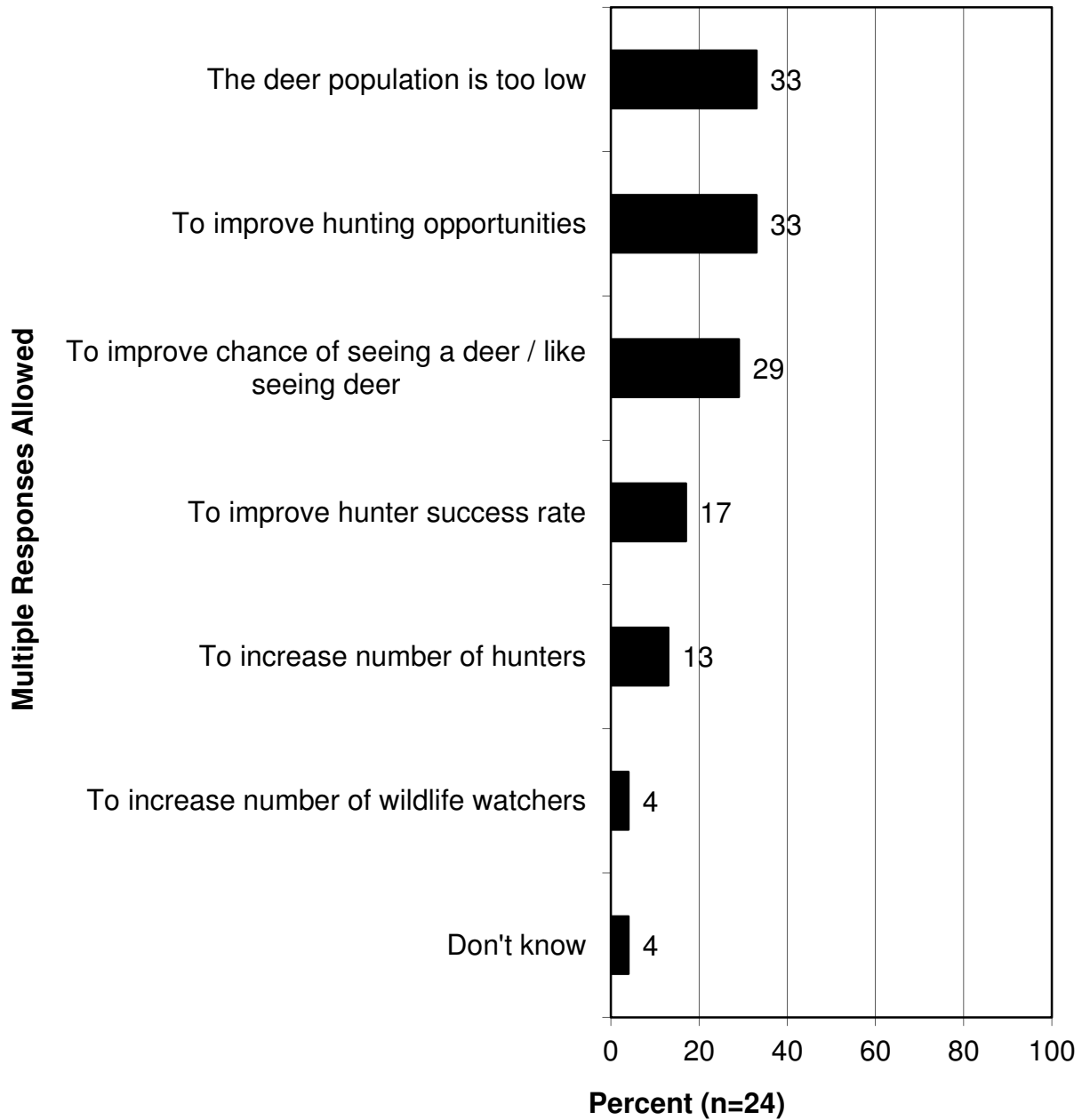
**Q27. Why would you like to see the deer population in the area where you live increase?  
(Asked of those who would like to see an increase in the deer population.)  
(Gen pop survey)**



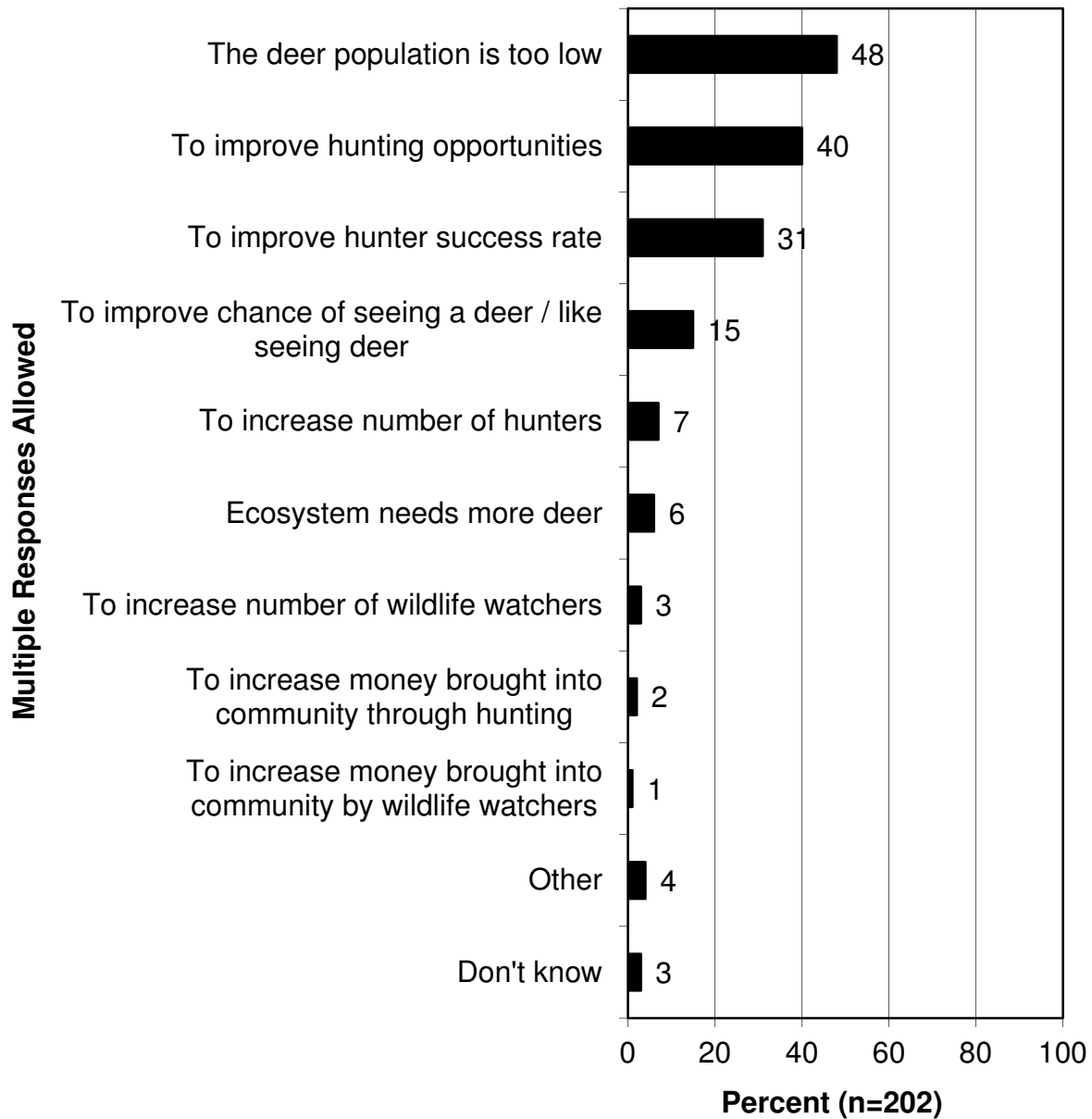
**Q27. Why would you like to see the deer population in the area where you live increase?  
(Asked of those who would like to see an increase in the deer population.)  
(Gen pop survey)**



**Q29. Why would you like to see the deer population in the area where you live increase?  
(Asked of those who would like to see an increase in the deer population.)  
(Landowner survey)**

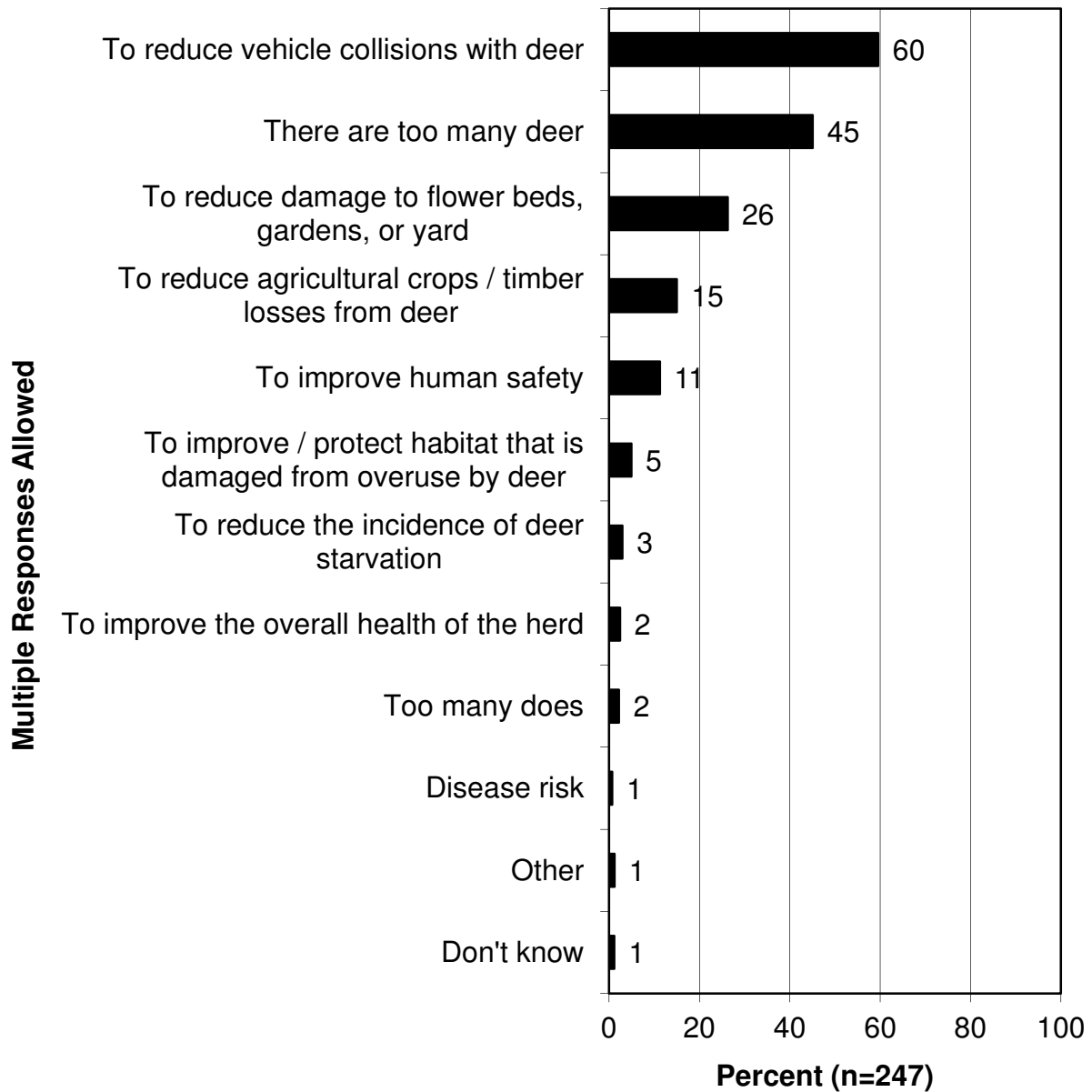


**Q24. Why would you like to see the deer population in the area where you live increase?  
(Asked of those who would like to see an increase in the deer population.)  
(Hunter survey)**

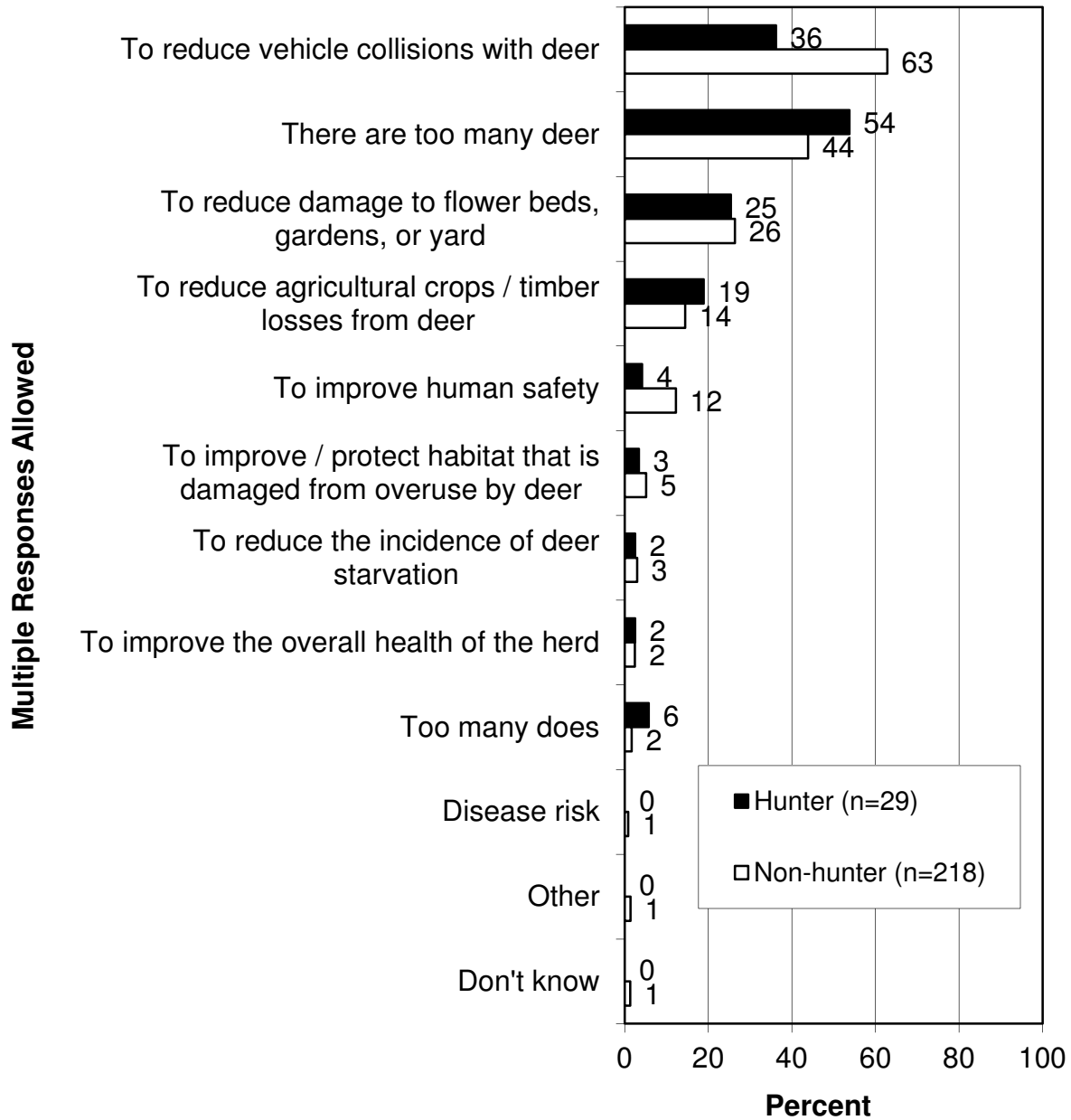




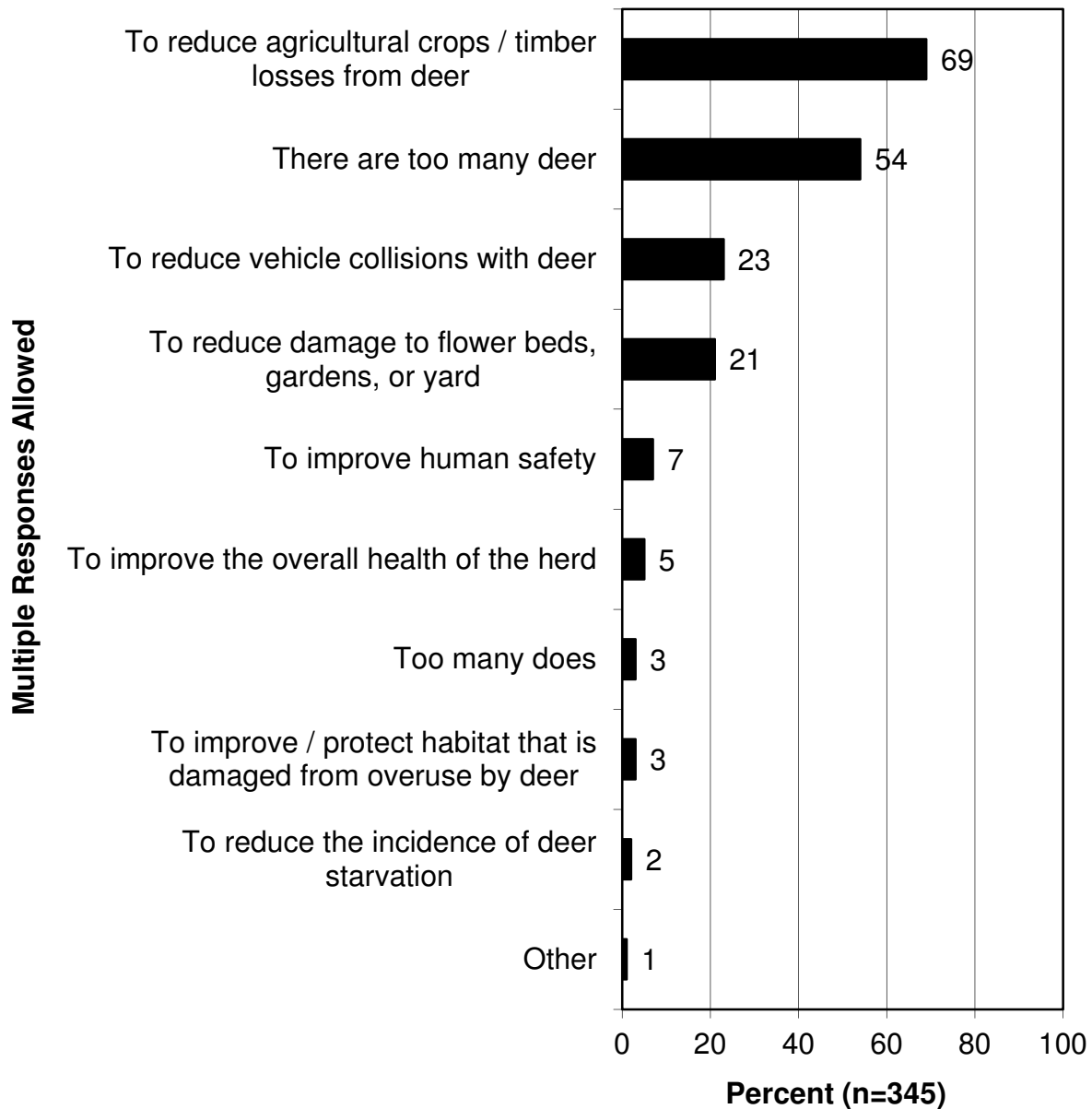
**Q31. Why would you like to see the deer population in the area where you live decrease?  
(Asked of those who would like to see a decrease in the deer population.)  
(Gen pop survey)**



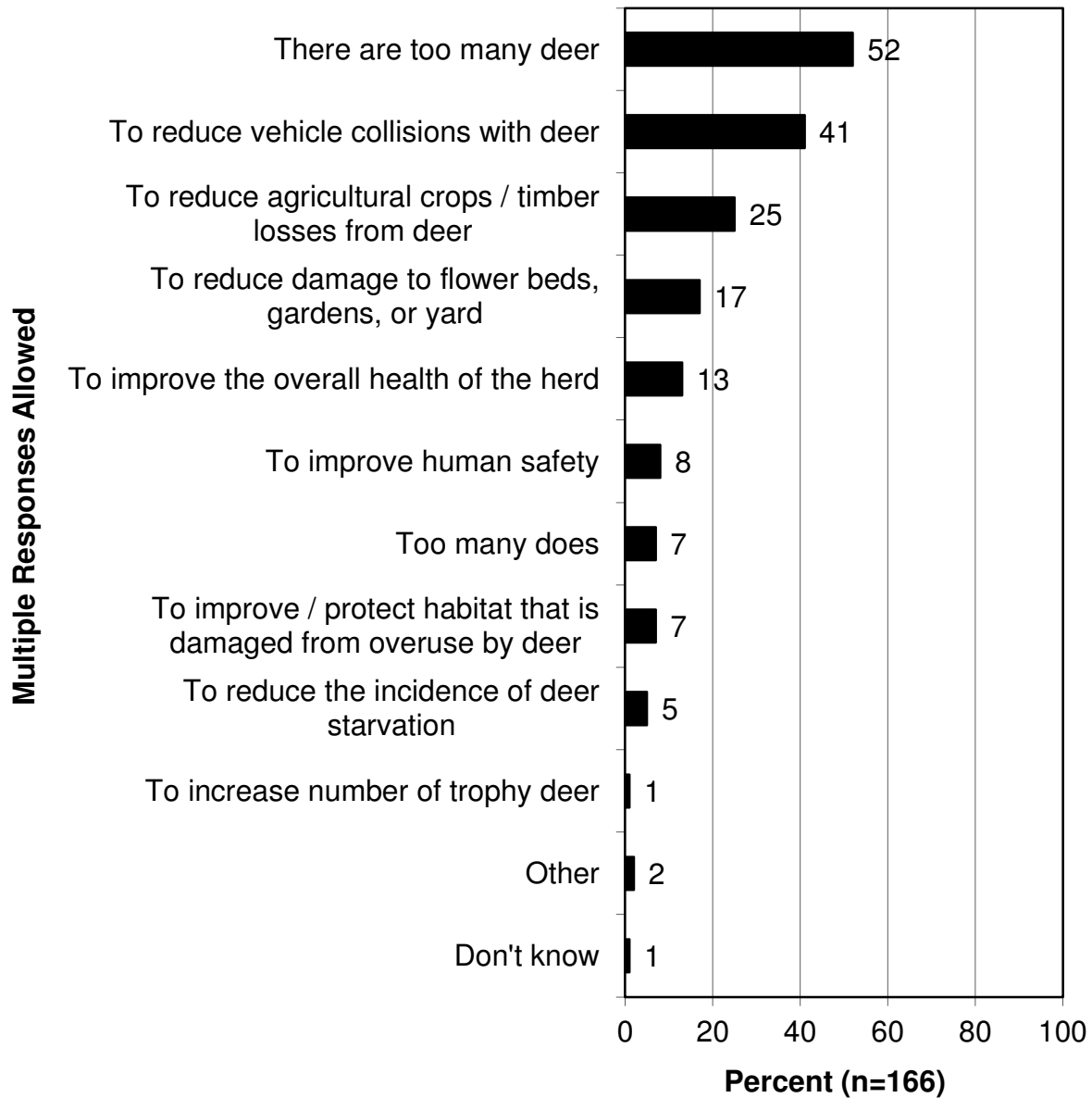
**Q31. Why would you like to see the deer population in the area where you live decrease?  
(Asked of those who would like to see a decrease in the deer population.)  
(Gen pop survey)**



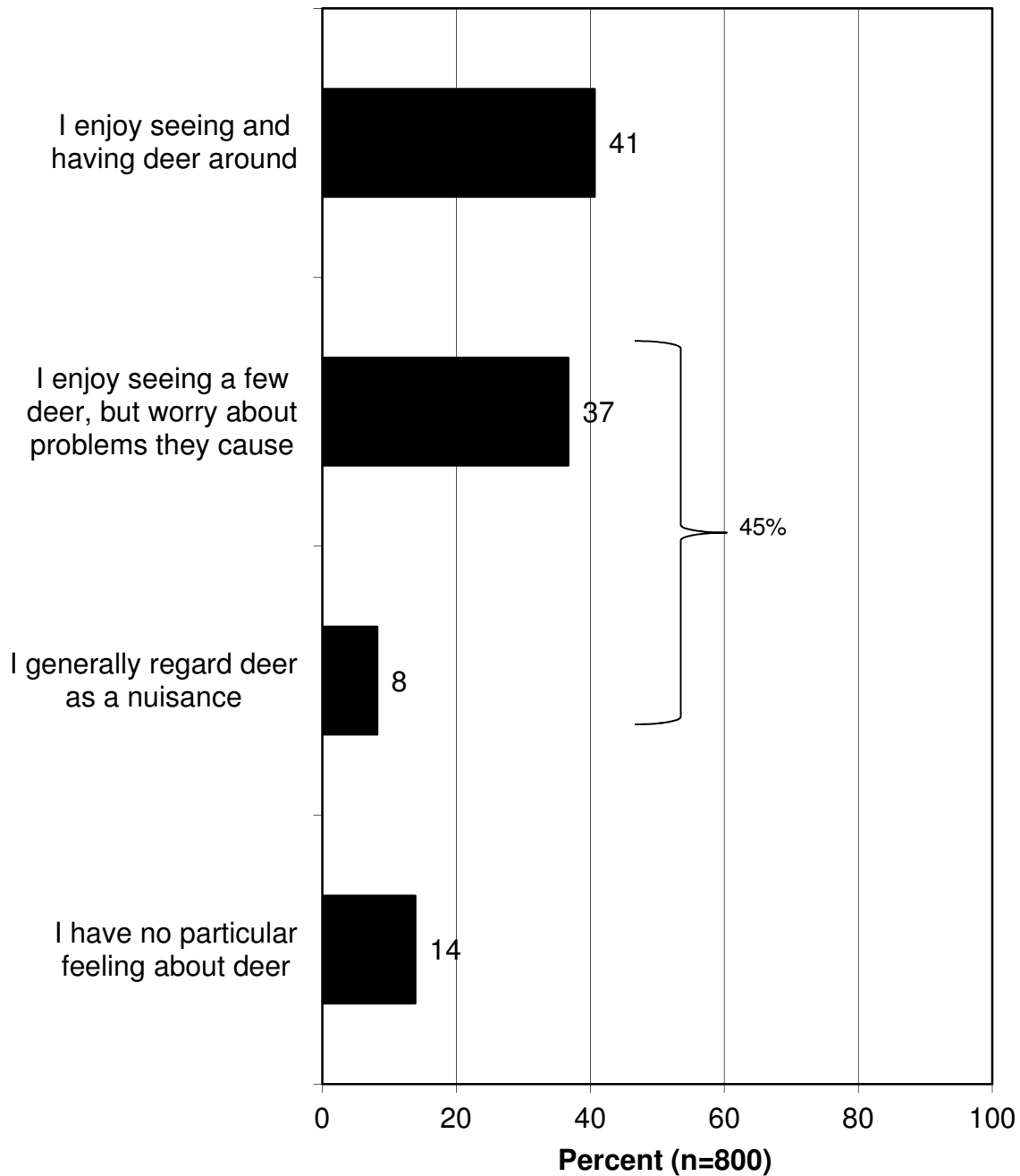
**Q33. Why would you like to see the deer population in the area where you live decrease?  
(Asked of those who would like to see a decrease in the deer population.)  
(Landowner survey)**



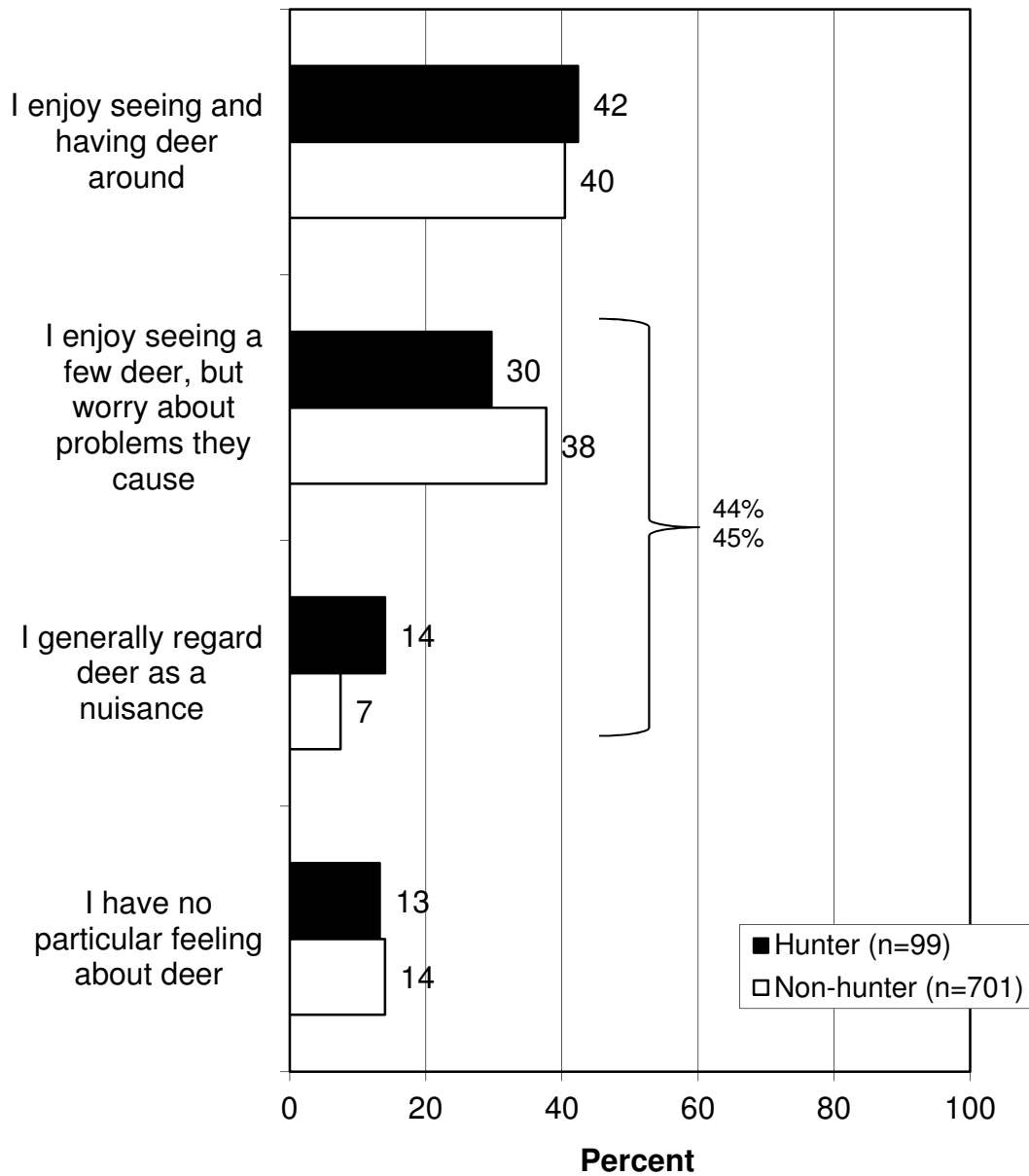
**Q28. Why would you like to see the deer population in the area where you live decrease?  
(Asked of those who would like to see a decrease in the deer population.)  
(Hunter survey)**



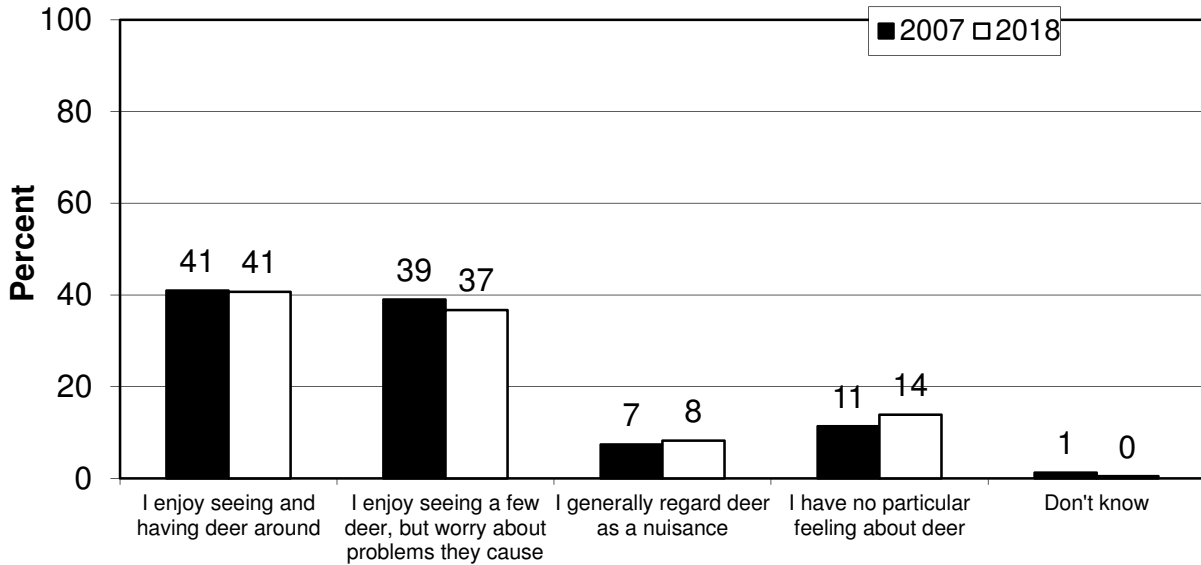
**Q7. Generally, which of the following statements best describes your feelings about deer in your county? (Gen pop survey)**



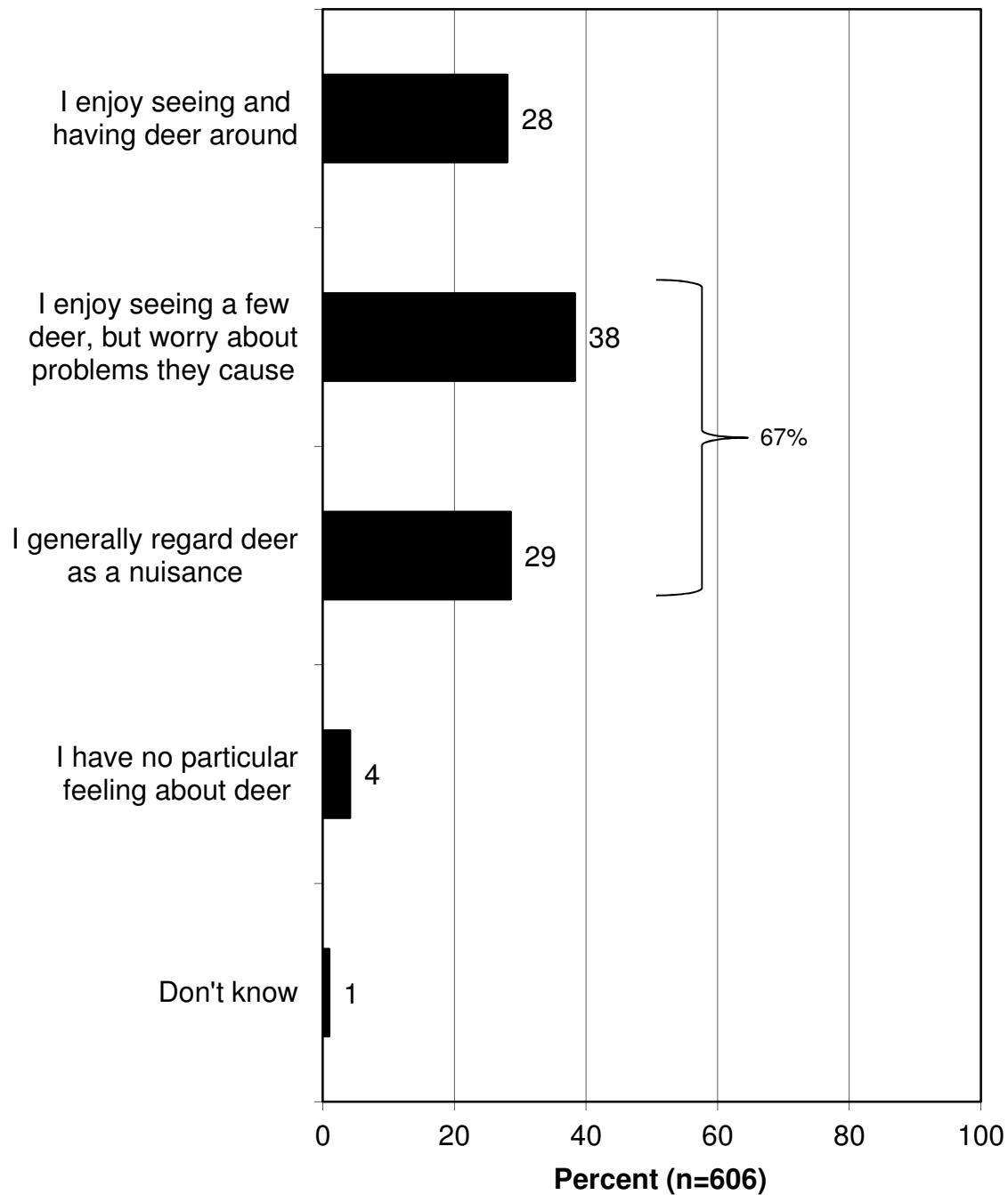
**Q7. Generally, which of the following statements best describes your feelings about deer in your county? (Gen pop survey)**



**Q7. Generally, which of the following statements best describes your feelings about deer in your county?  
(Gen pop survey)**

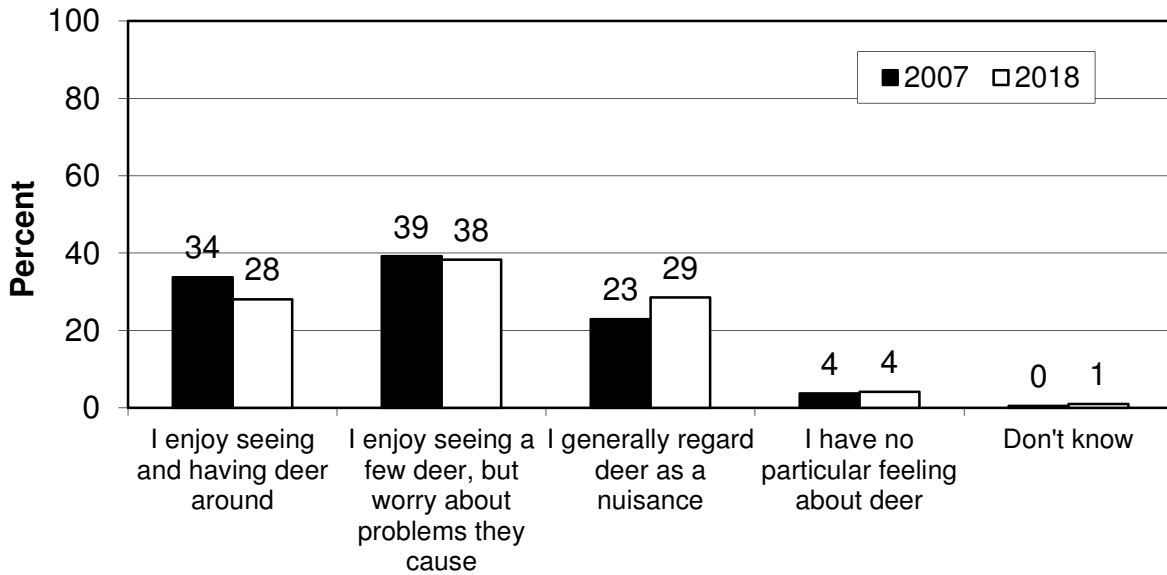


**Q11. Generally, which of the following statements best describes your feelings about deer in your county? (Landowner survey)**

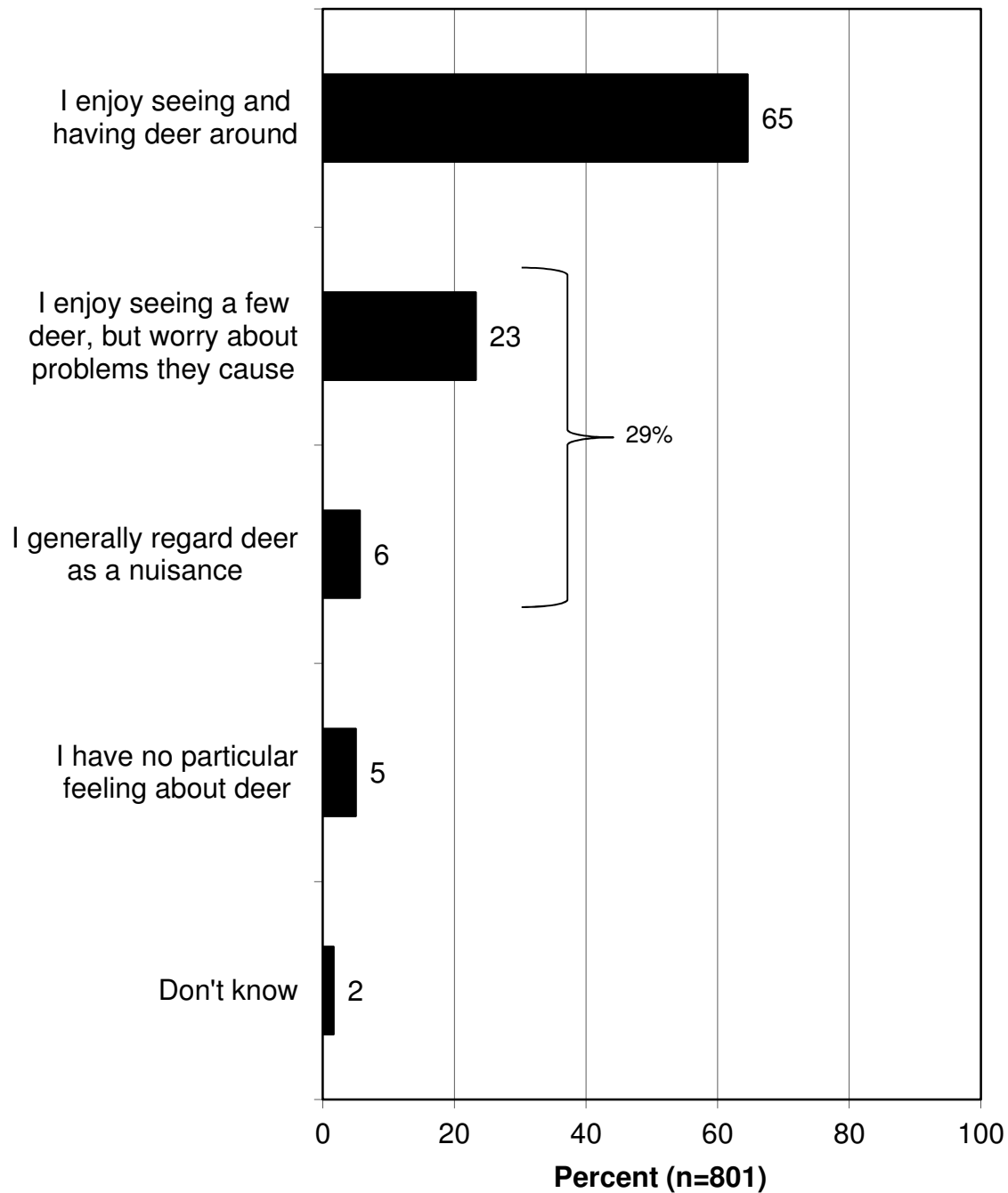




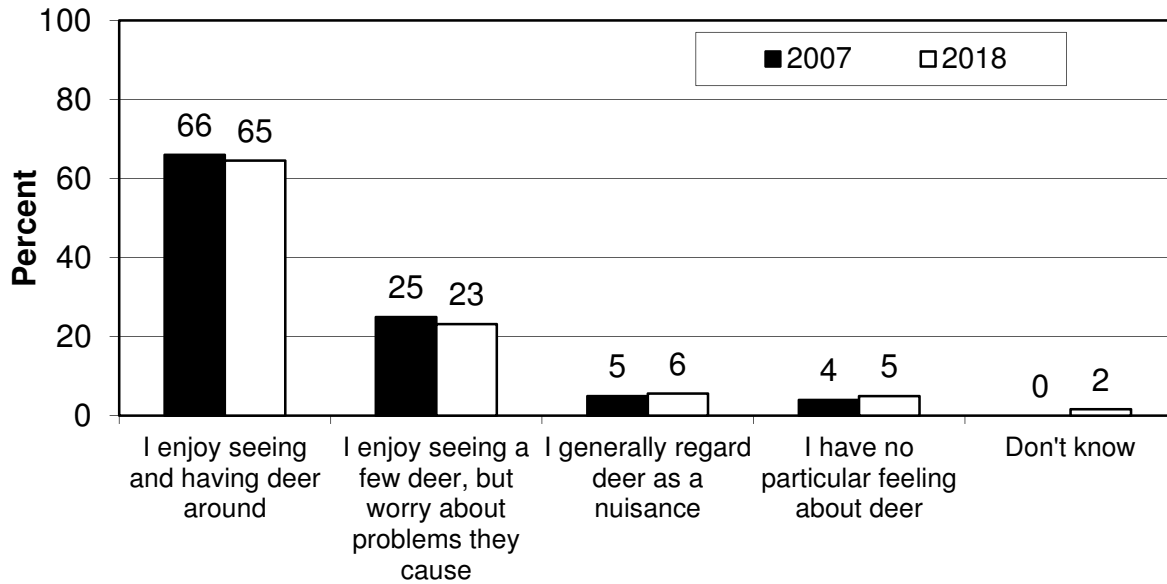
**Q11. Generally, which of the following statements best describes your feelings about deer in your county?  
(Landowner survey)**



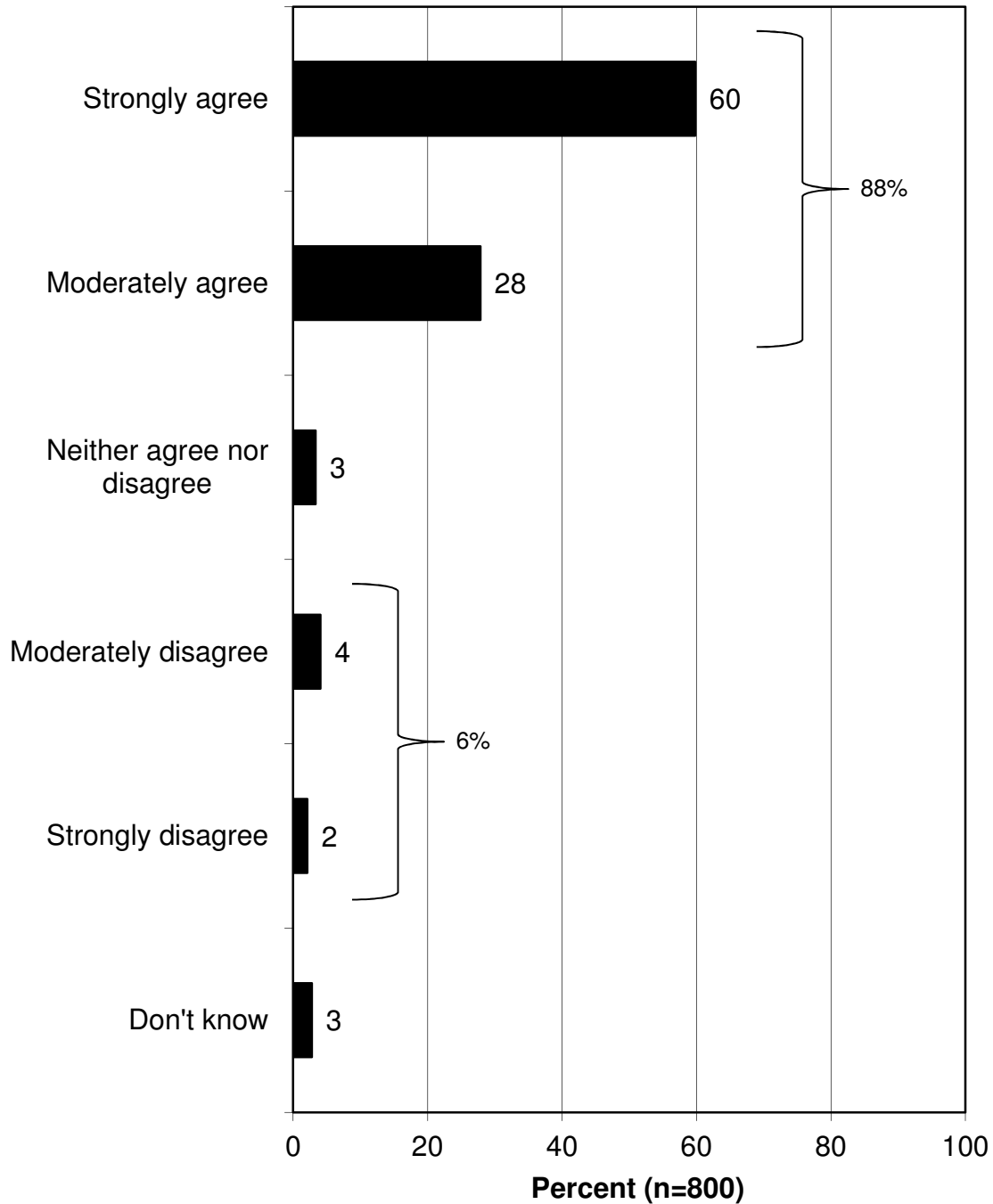
**Q9. Generally, which of the following statements best describes your feelings about deer in your county? (Hunter survey)**



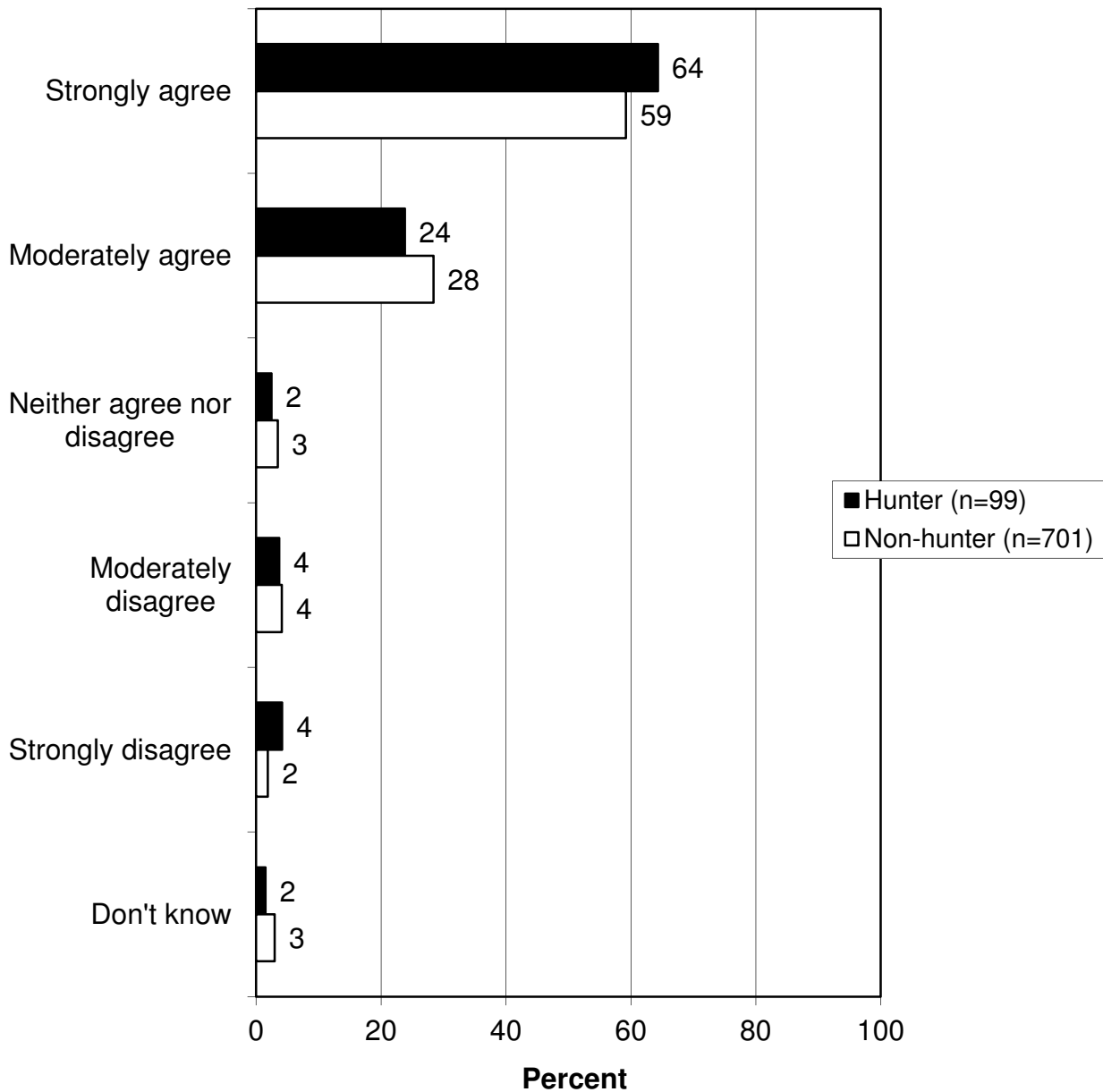
**Q9. Generally, which of the following statements best describes your feelings about deer in your county?  
(Hunter survey)**



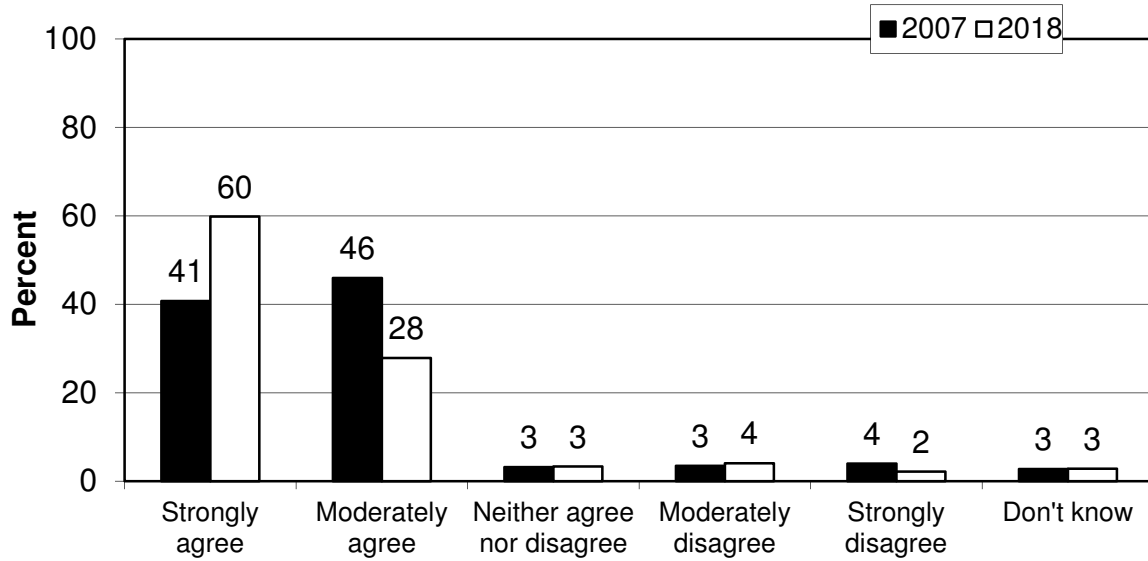
**Q11. Deer are an important part of the balance of nature. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?) (Gen pop survey)**



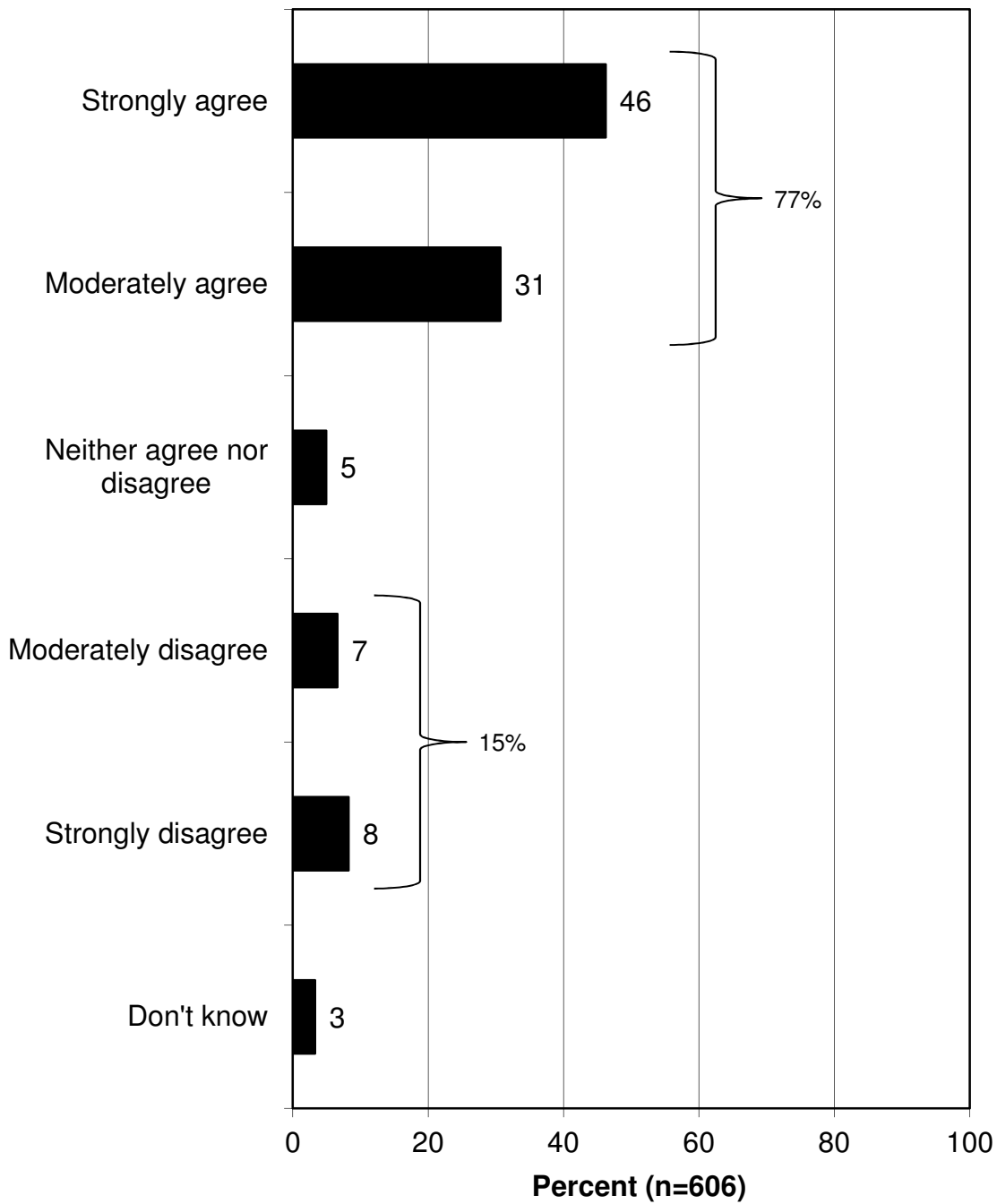
**Q11. Deer are an important part of the balance of nature. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?) (Gen pop survey)**



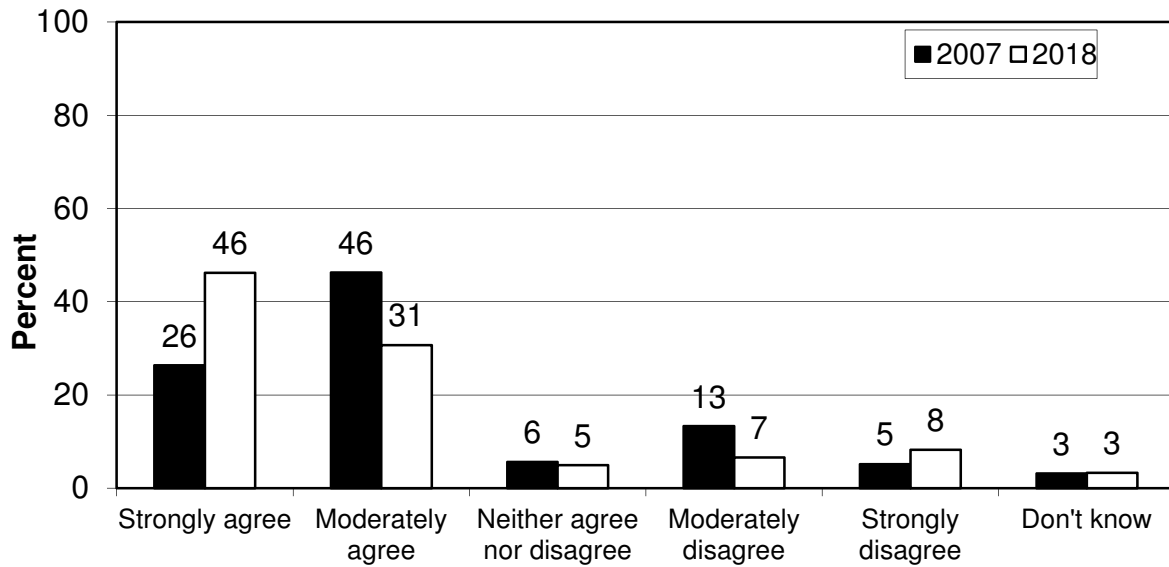
**Q11. Deer are an important part of the balance  
of nature.  
(Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)  
(Gen pop survey)**



**Q17. Deer are an important part of the balance of nature. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement.) (Landowner survey)**

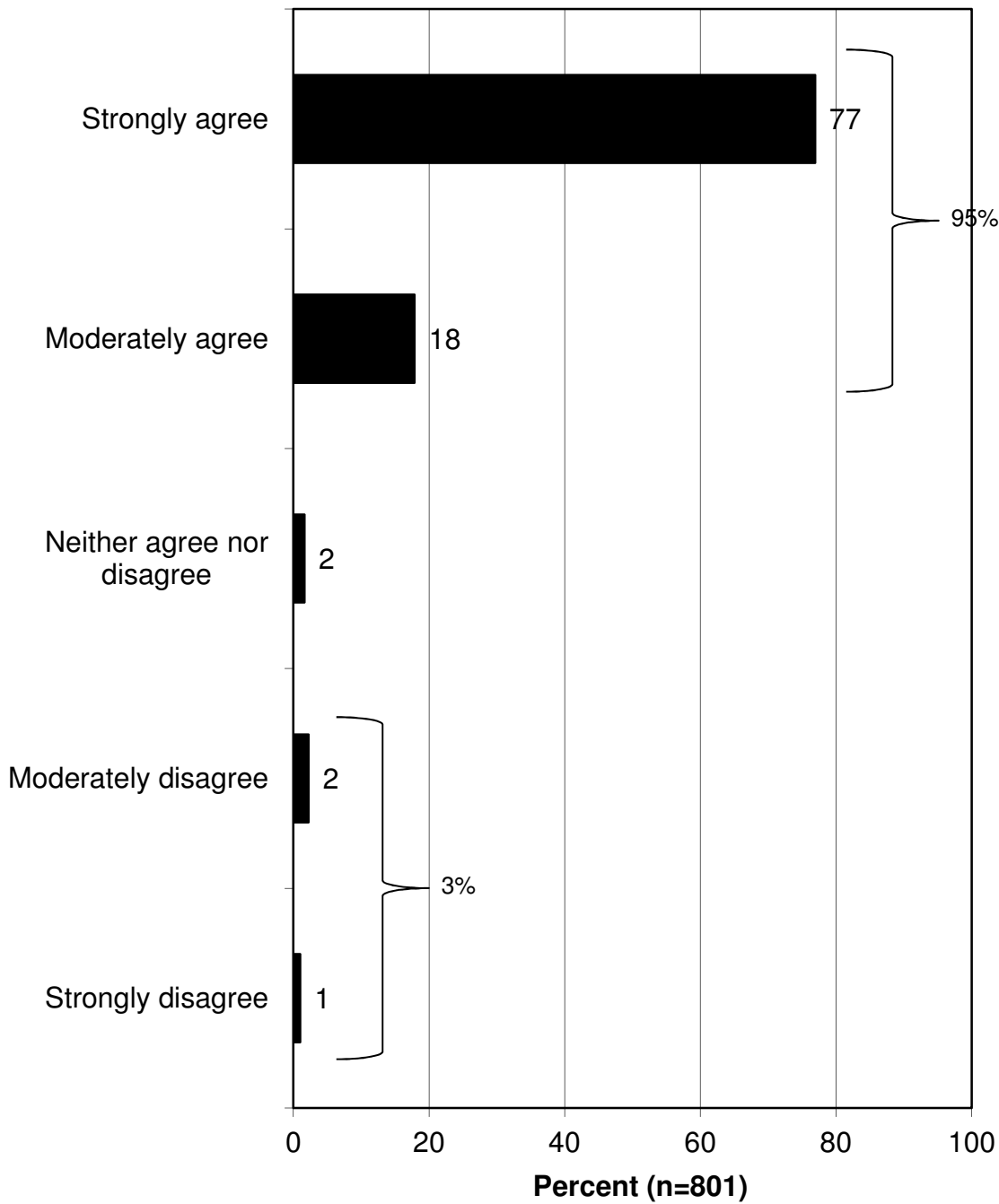


**Q17. Deer are an important part of the balance  
of nature.  
(Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)  
(Landowner survey)**

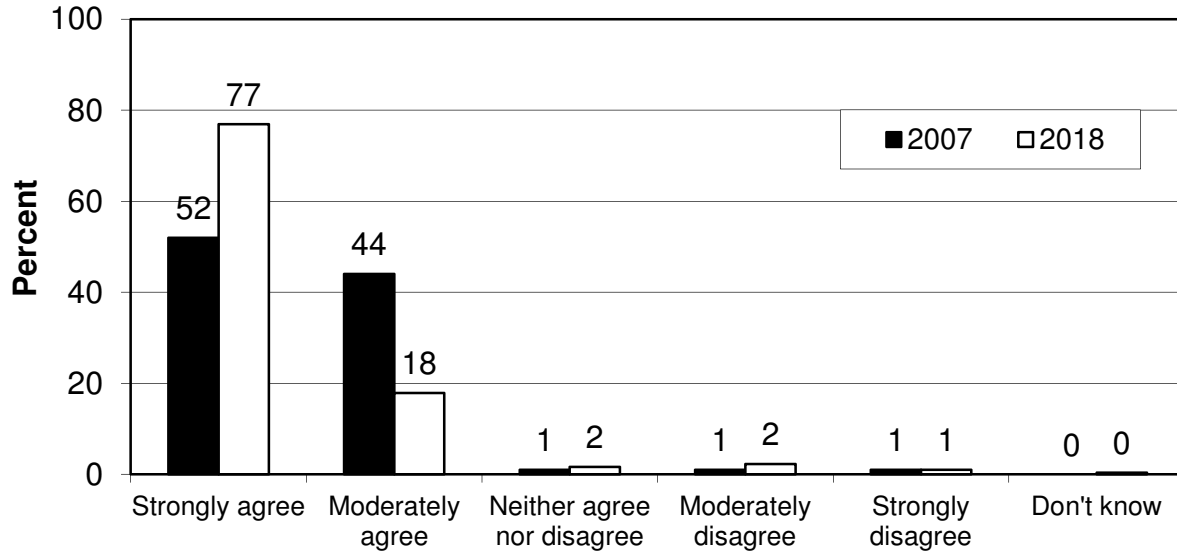




**Q12. Deer are an important part of the balance of nature. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?) (Hunter survey)**



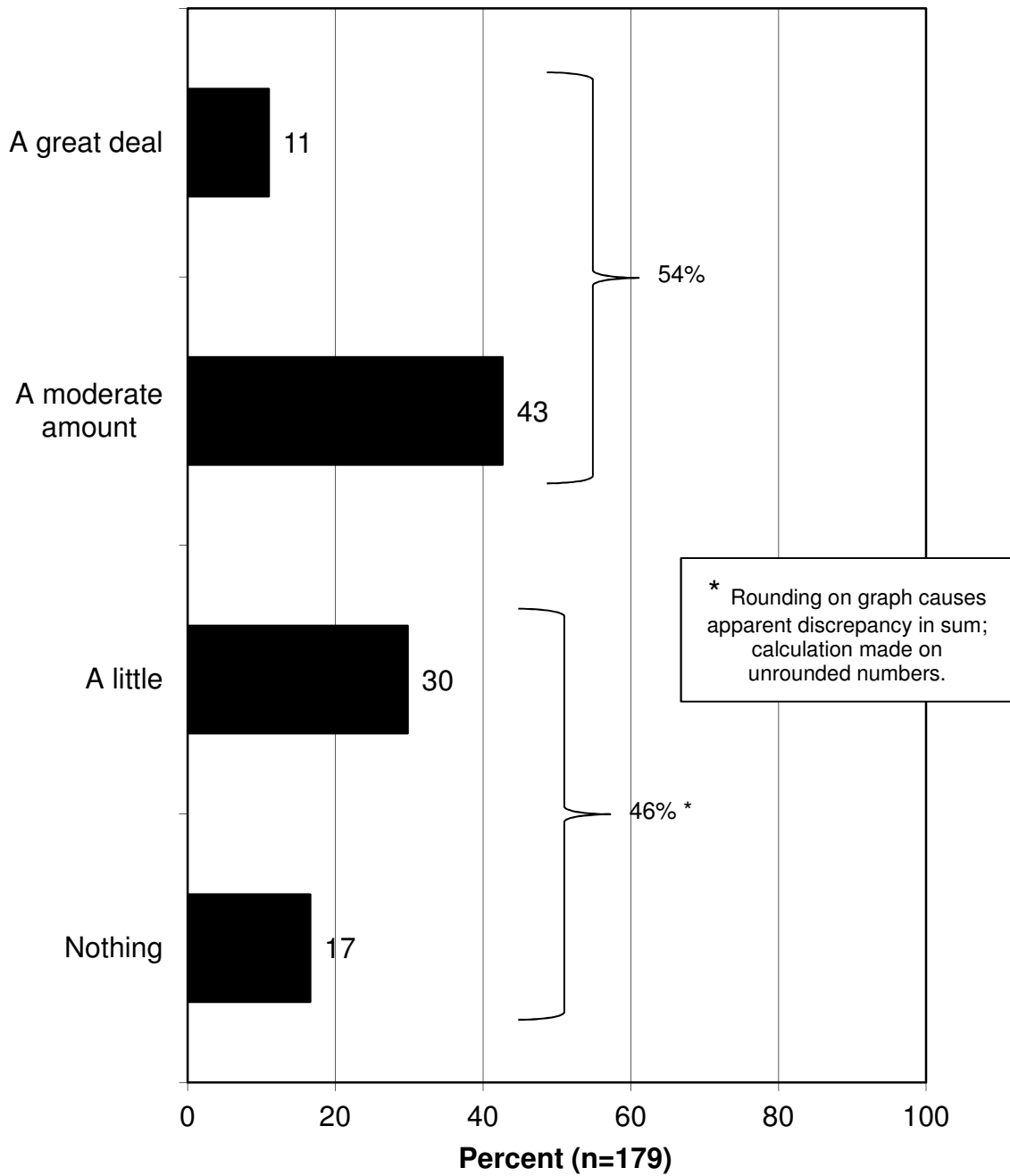
**Q12. Deer are an important part of the balance of nature. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)  
(Hunter survey)**



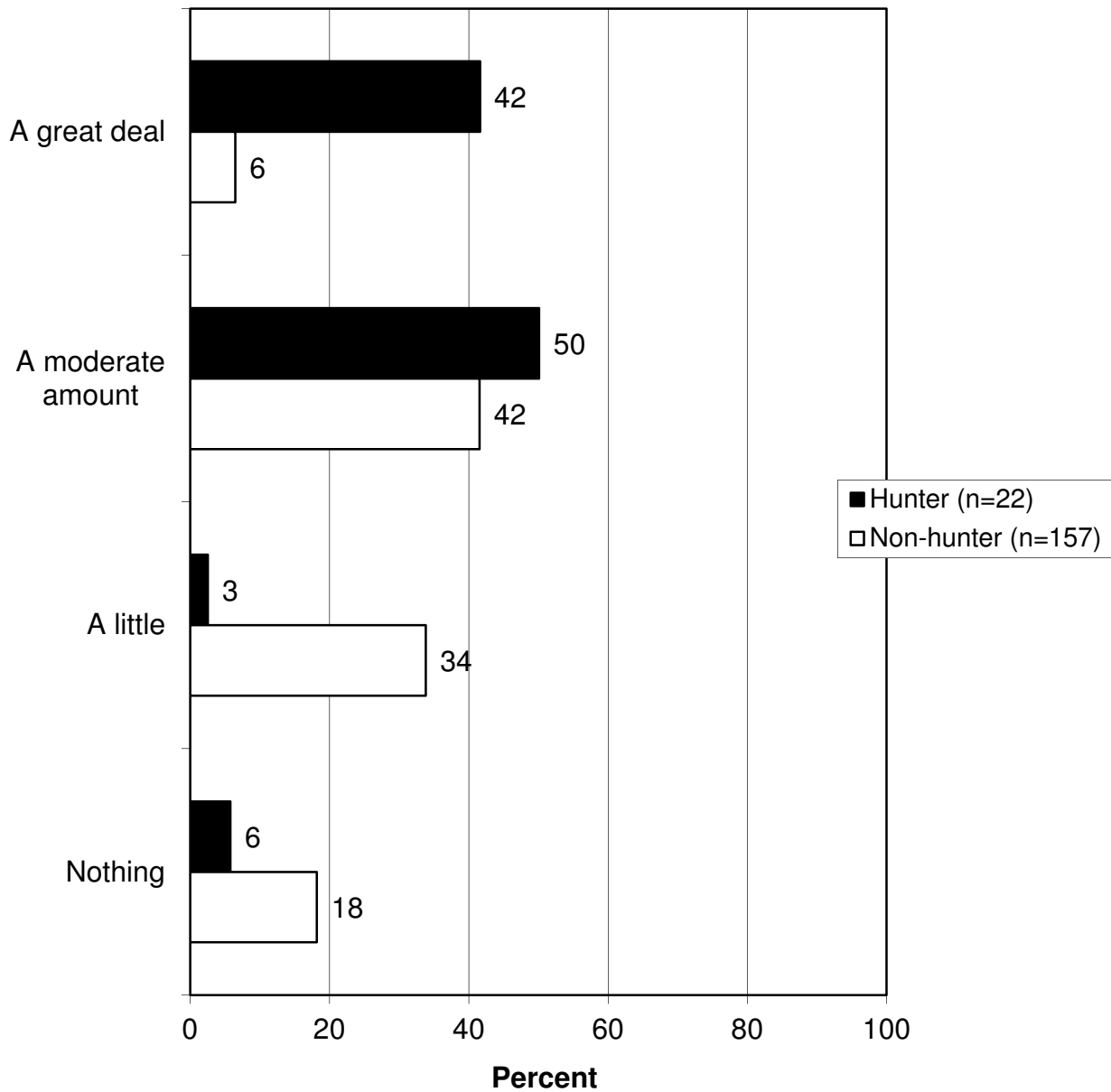
## **KNOWLEDGE OF DEER, DEER MANAGEMENT, AND DEER HUNTING**

- All three surveys asked about knowledge levels regarding three things: deer in general, deer hunting laws, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Deer Management Program (the full name of the agency was used in the question).
  - Just more than half of residents (54%) say that they know a great deal or a moderate amount about deer in general. The percentages are less regarding knowledge of deer hunting laws (31% know a great deal or moderate amount) and knowledge of the DNR's Deer Management Program (20%).
  - Landowners claim to be more knowledgeable about deer in general (81% know a great deal or moderate amount) than about deer hunting laws (68%) or about the DNR's deer management program (54%).
  - Hunters overwhelmingly indicate knowing a great deal or moderate amount about deer in general and deer hunting laws (92% and 95%, respectively), but their self-professed knowledge level of the DNR's Deer Management Program is slightly lower (but still in the majority): 65% know a great deal or moderate amount about it.

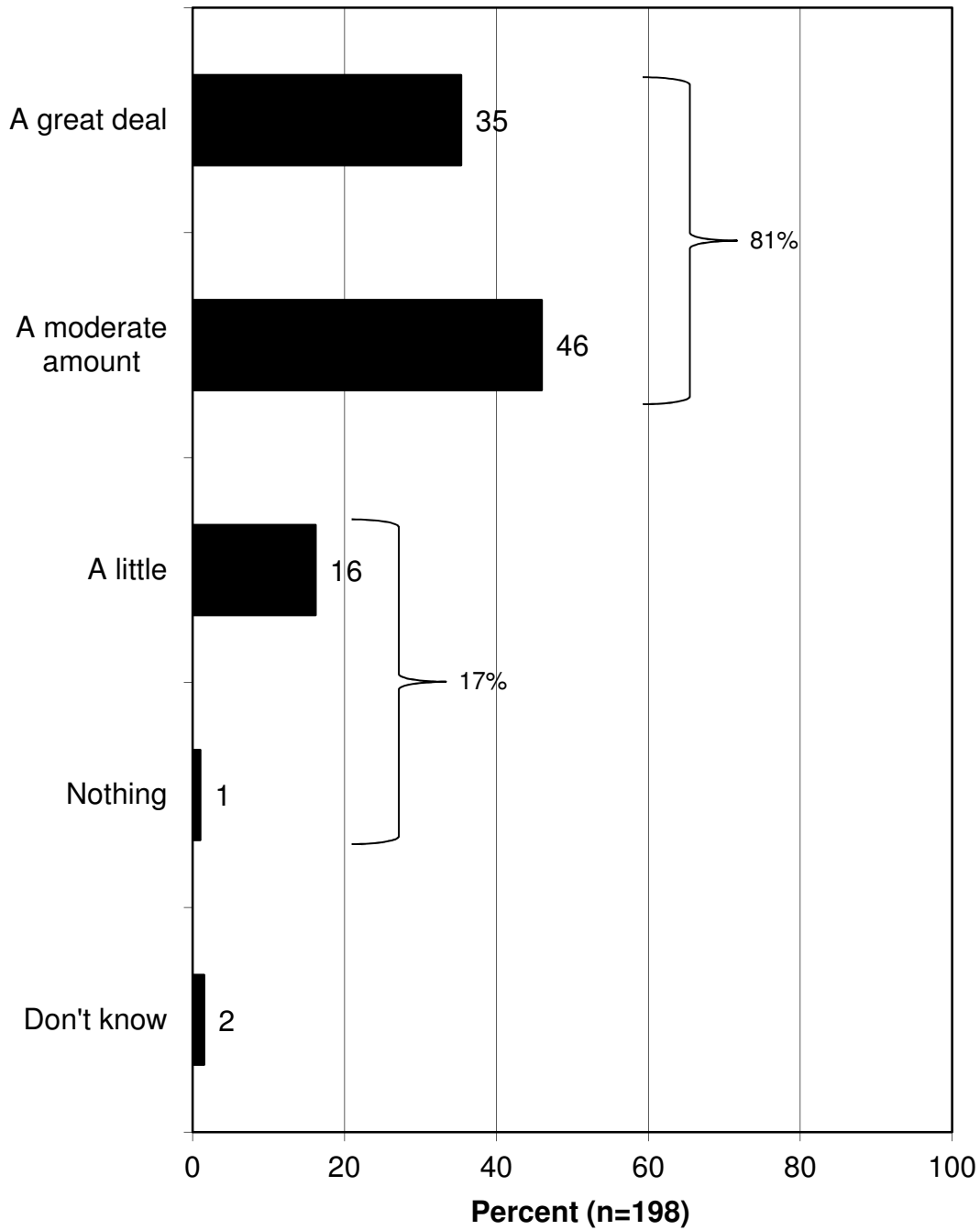
**Q22. Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about deer in general? (Gen pop survey)**



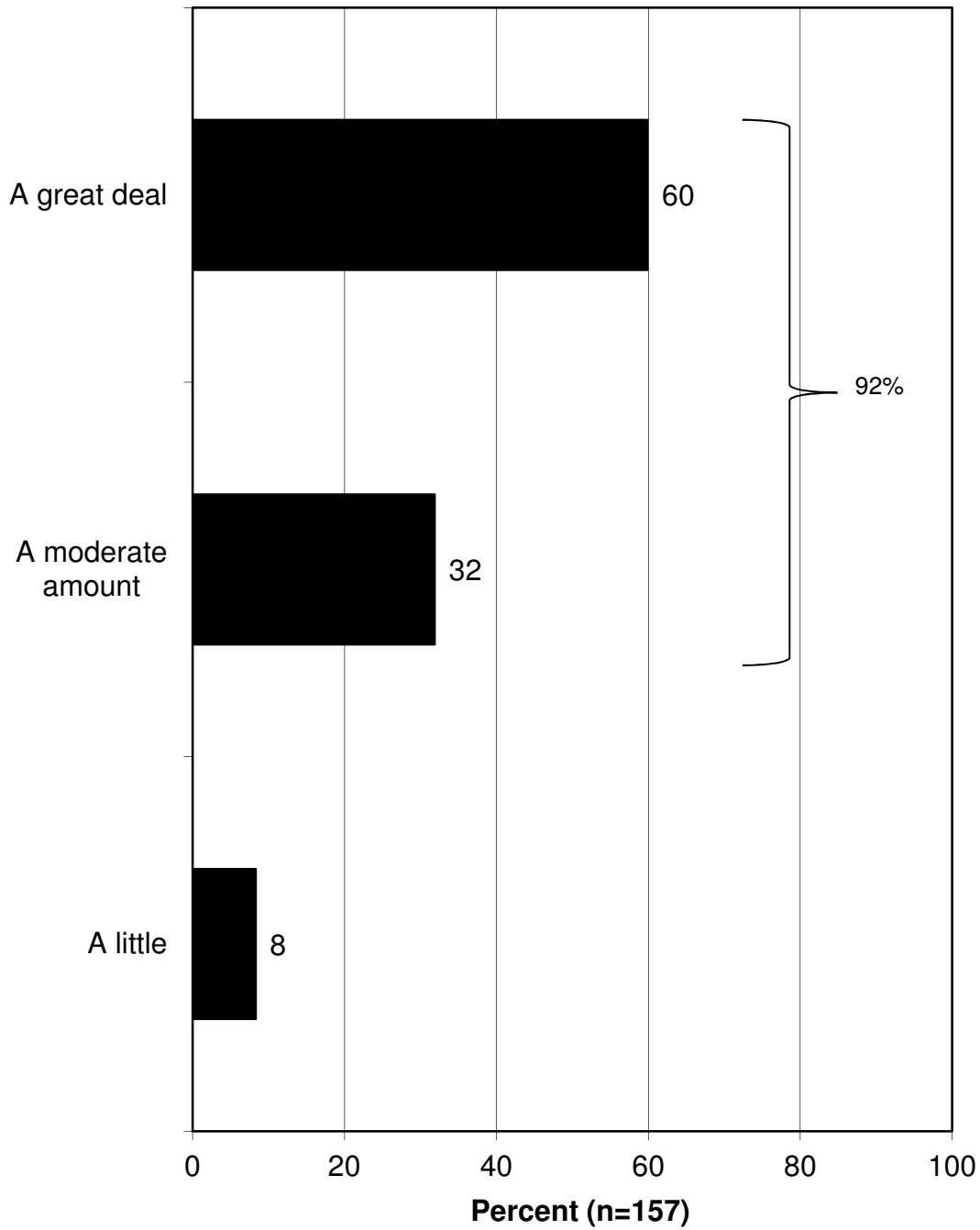
**Q22. Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about deer in general? (Gen pop survey)**



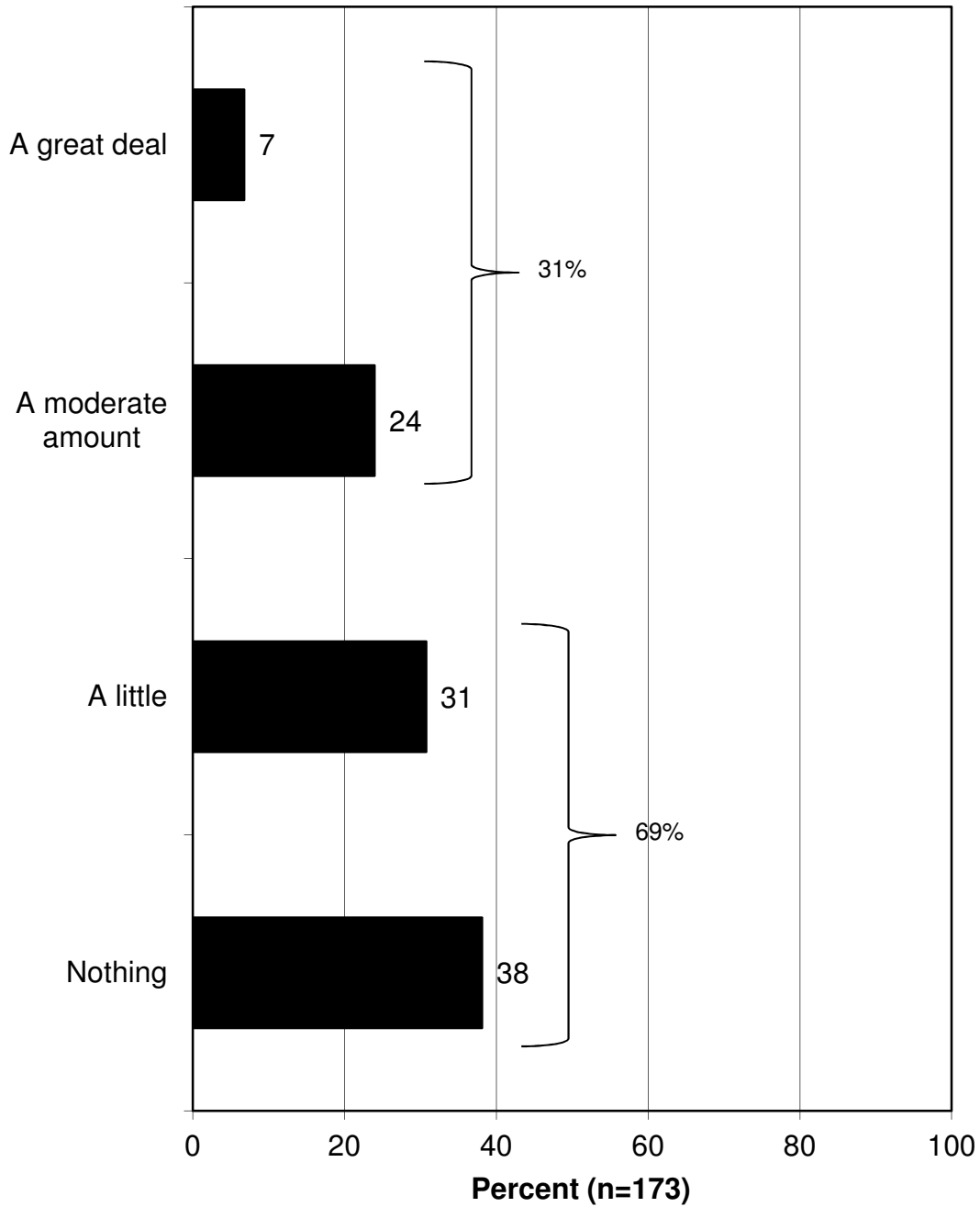
**Q24. Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about deer in general? (Landowner survey)**



**Q19. Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about deer in general? (Hunter survey)**

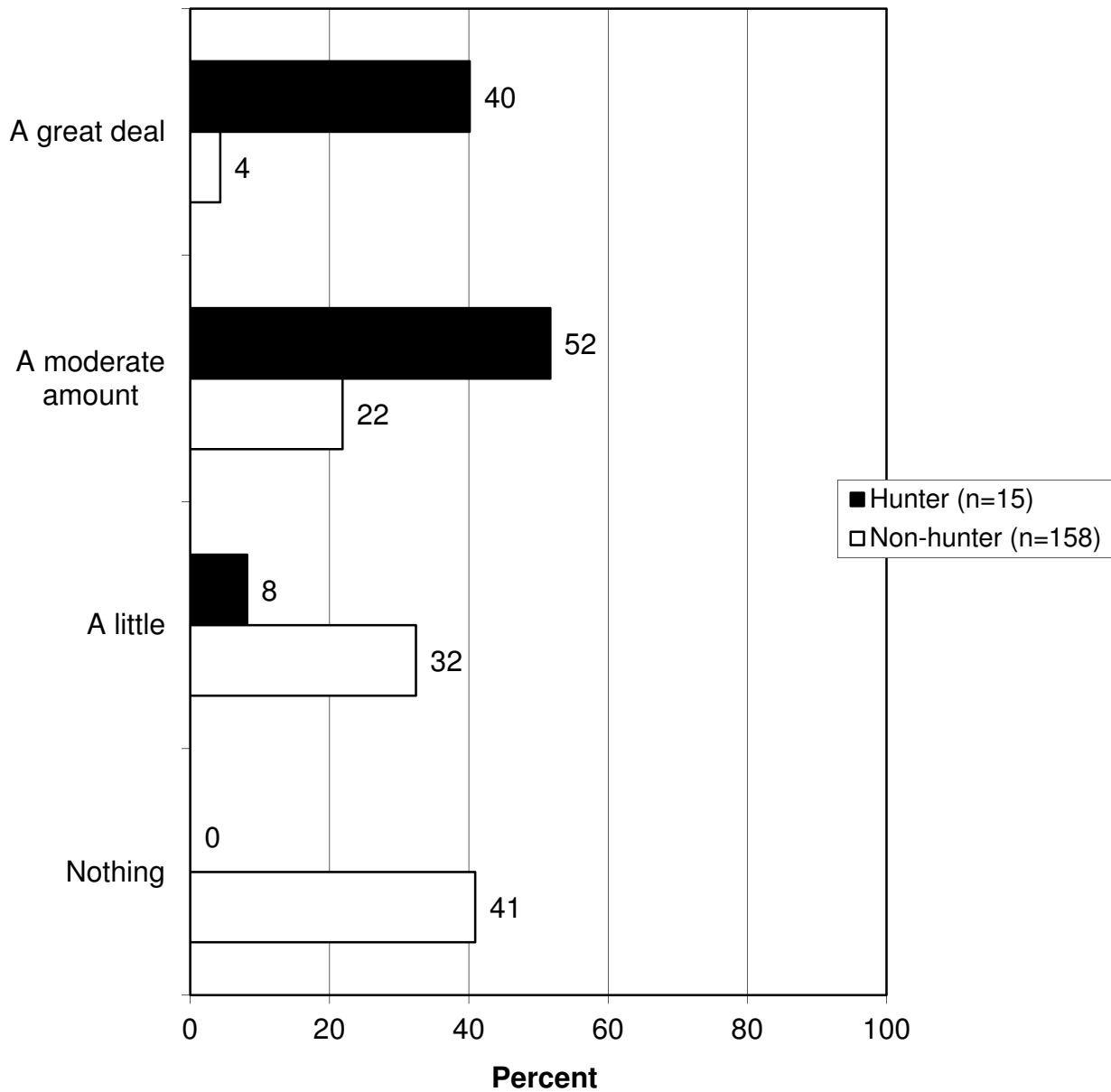


**Q23. Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about deer hunting laws? (Gen pop survey)**

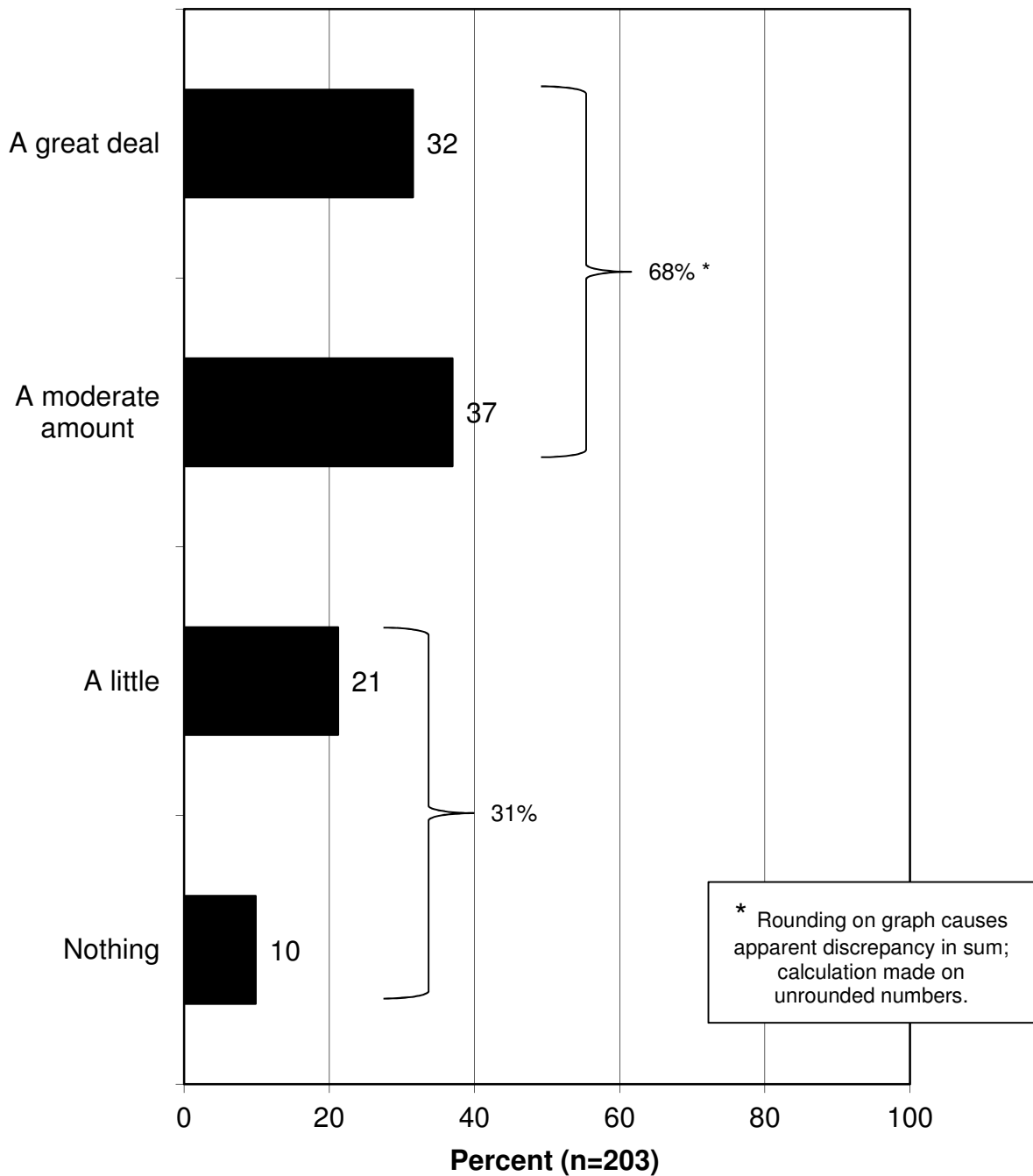




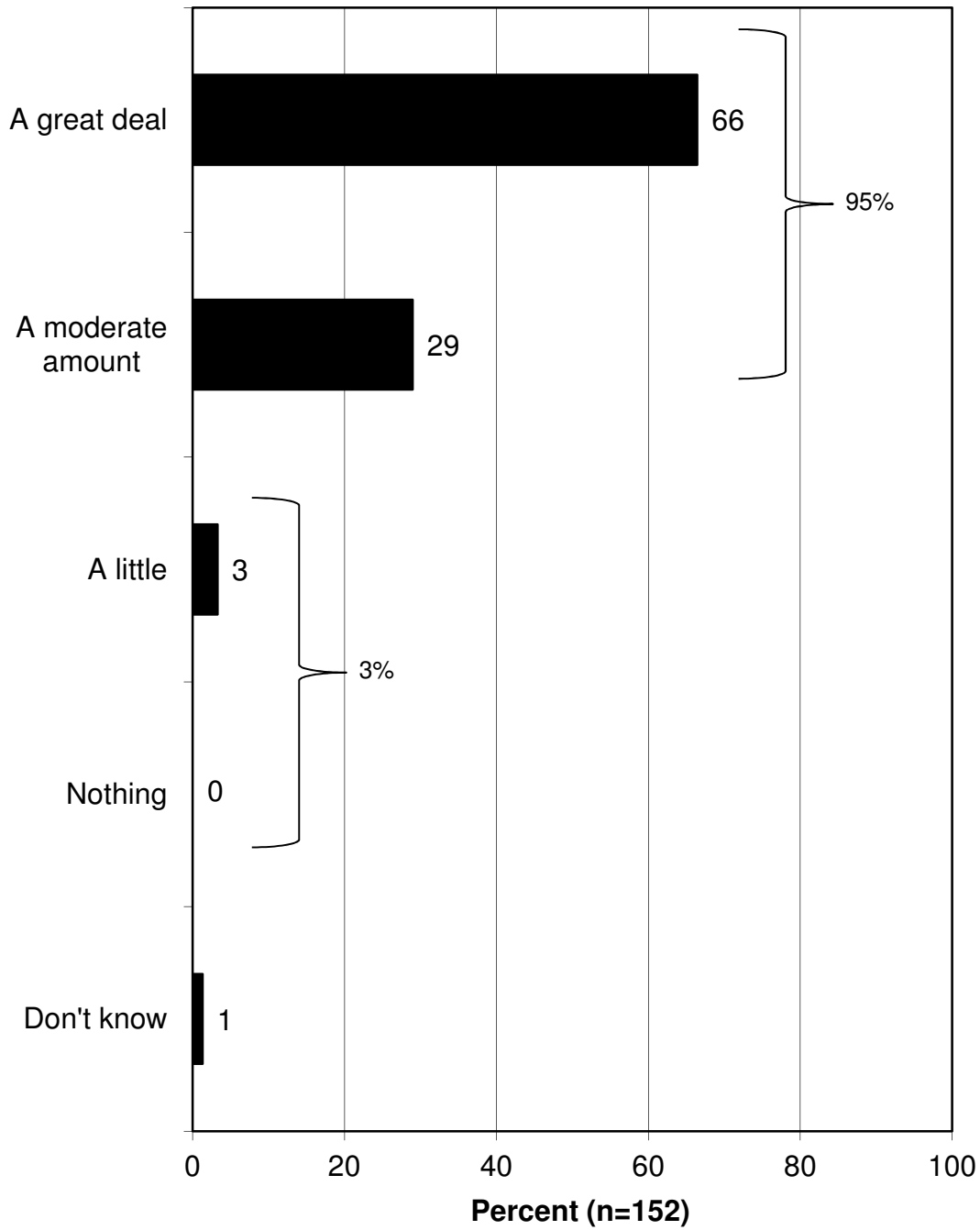
**Q23. Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about deer hunting laws? (Gen pop survey)**



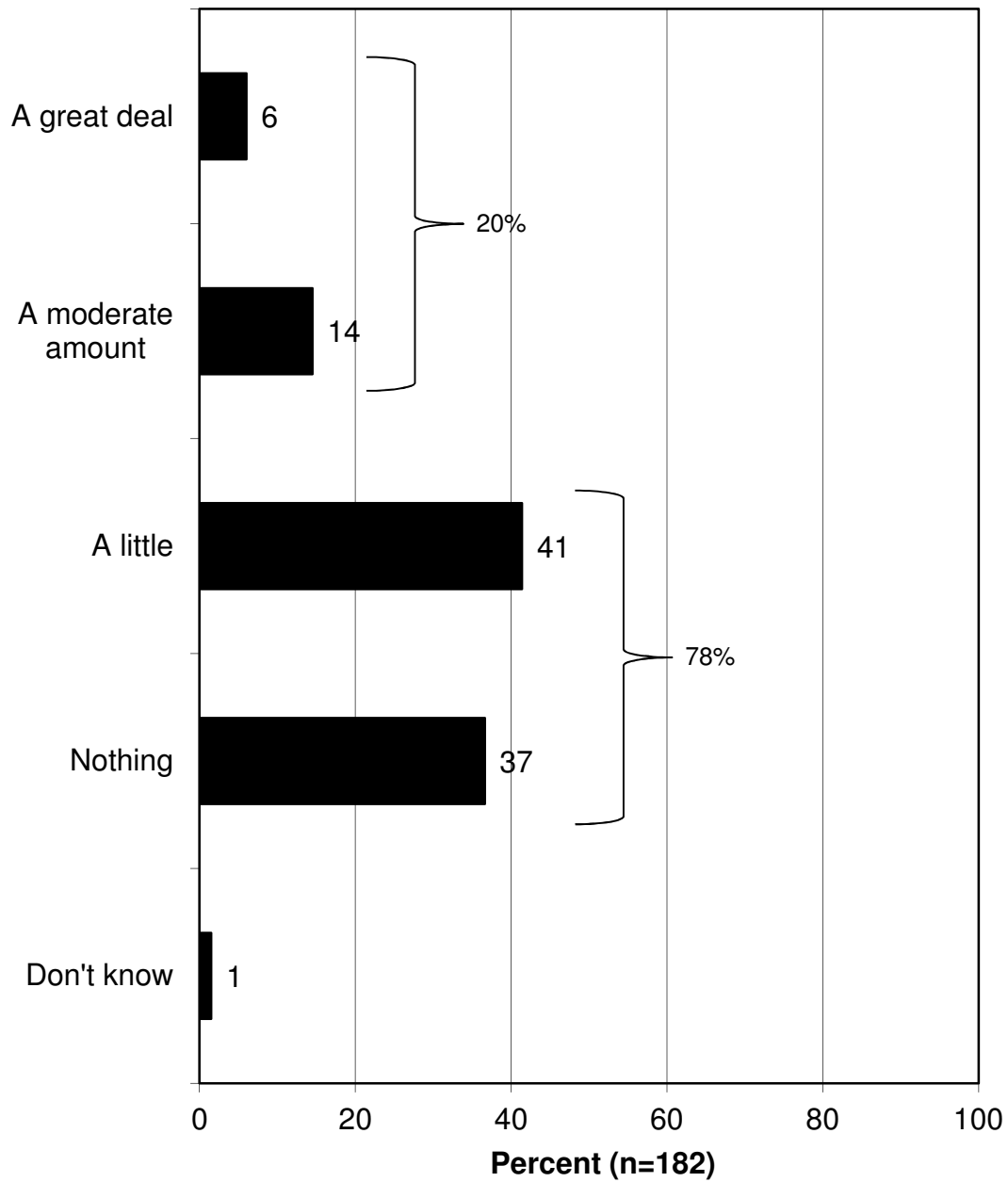
**Q25. Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about deer hunting laws? (Landowner survey)**



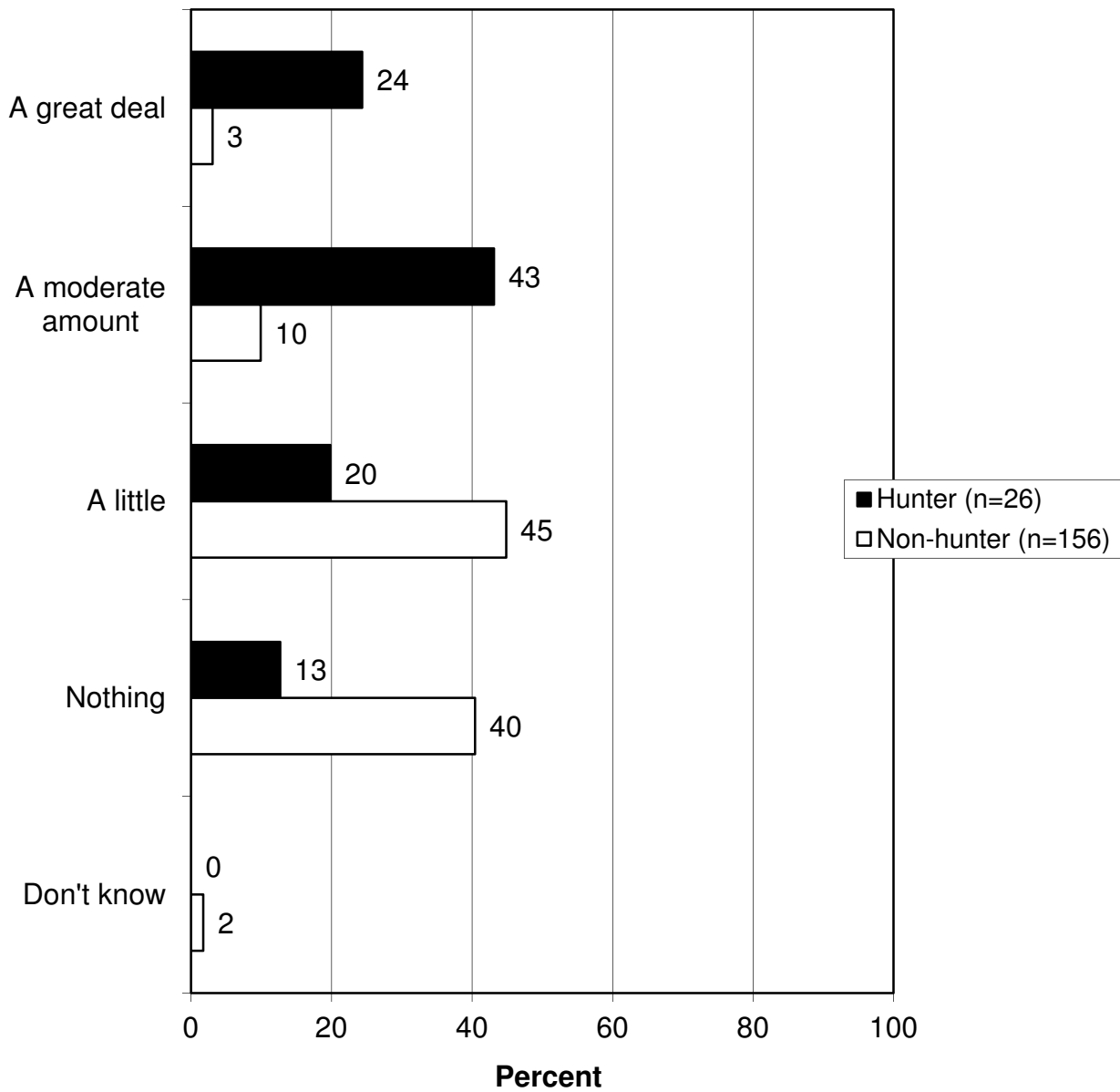
**Q20. Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about deer hunting laws? (Hunter survey)**



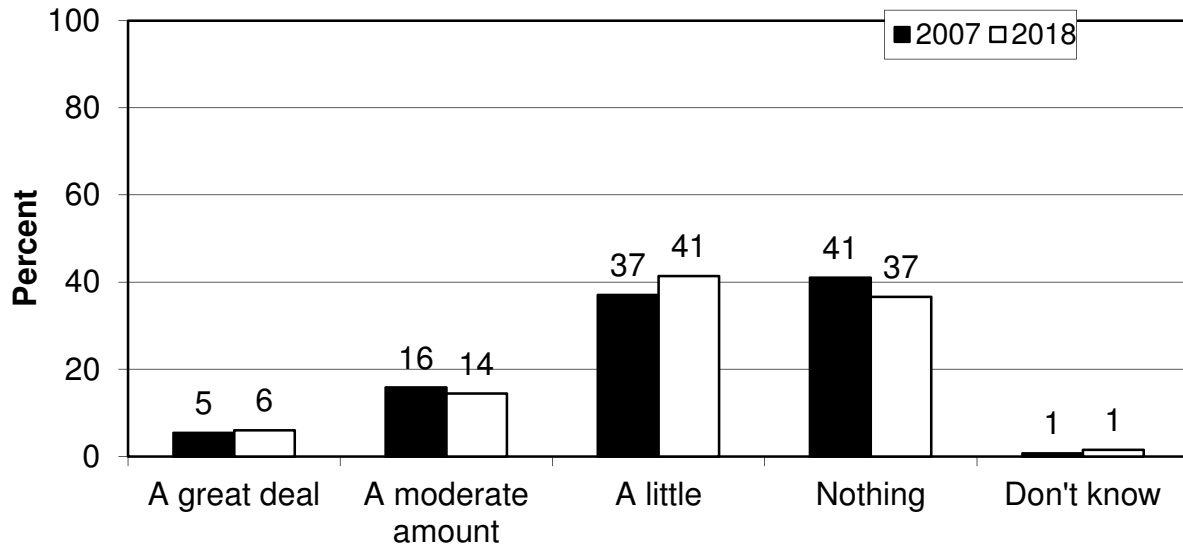
**Q21. Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Deer Management Program? (Gen pop survey)**



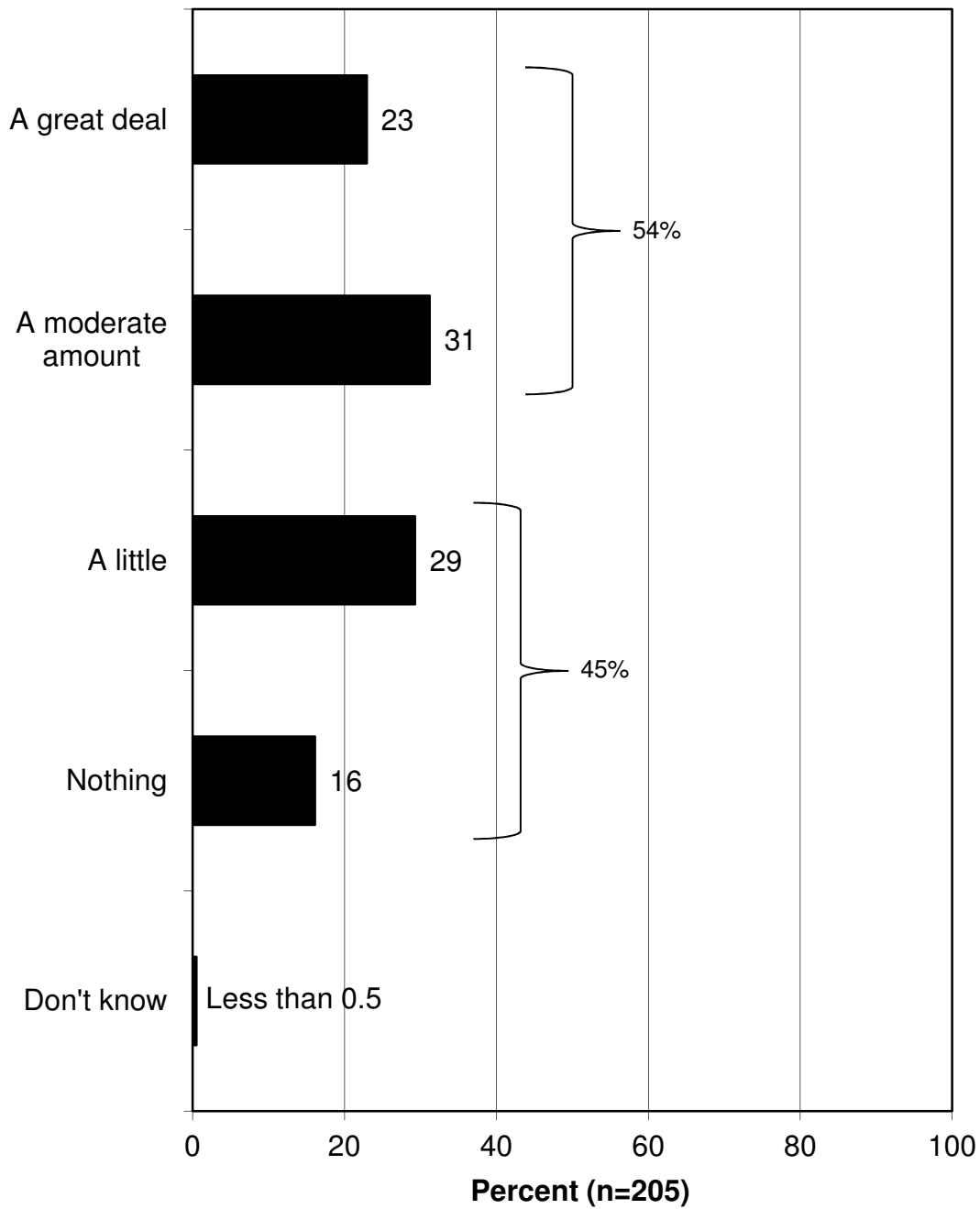
**Q21. Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Deer Management Program? (Gen pop survey)**



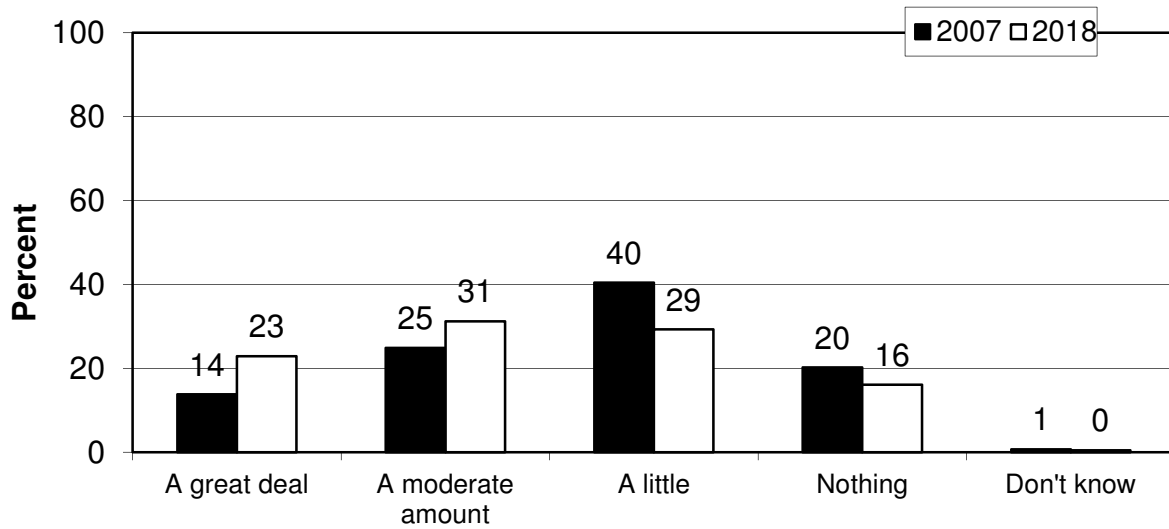
**Q21. Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Deer Management Program?  
(Gen pop survey)**



**Q23. Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Deer Management Program?  
(Landowner survey)**

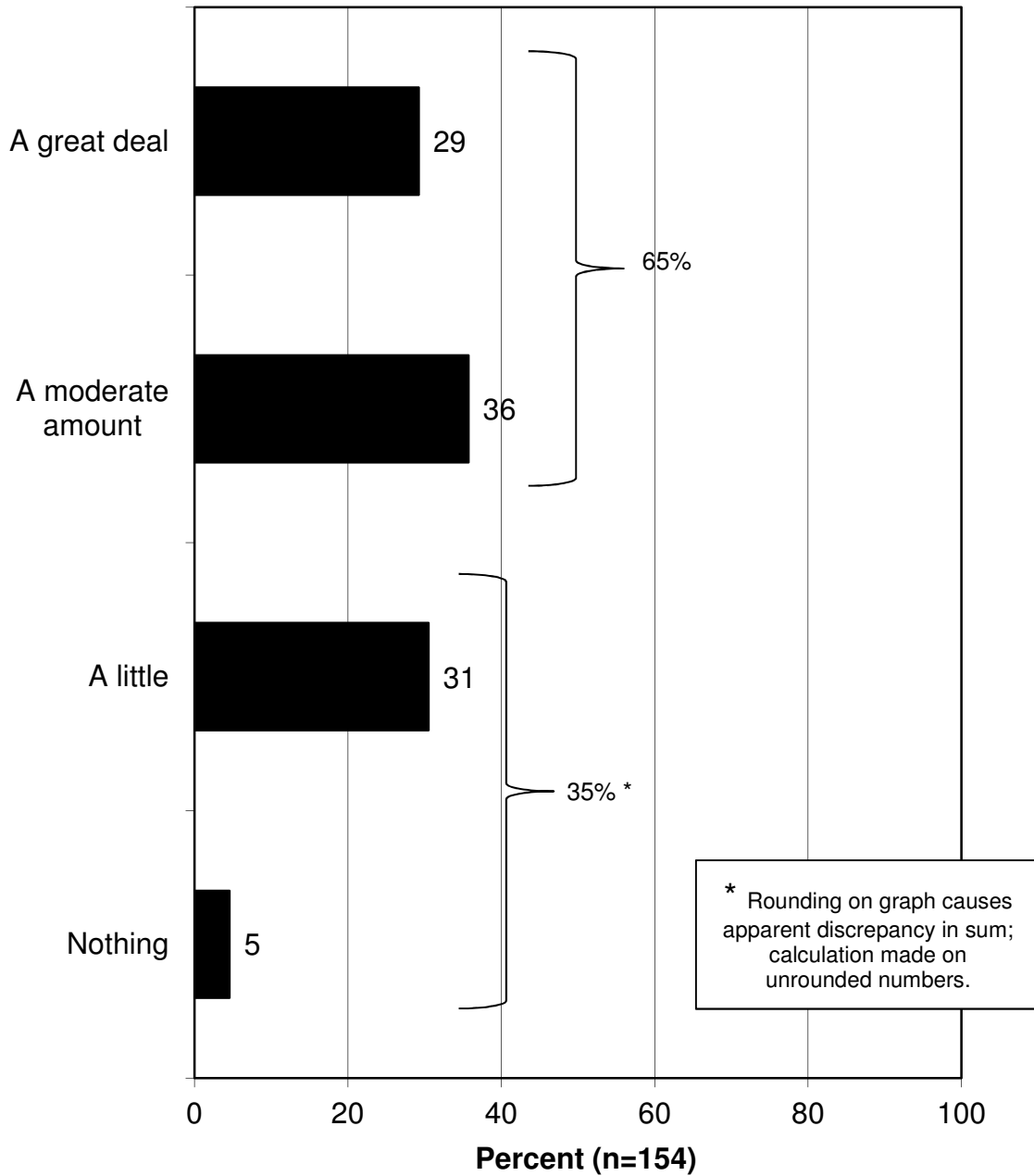


**Q23. Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Deer Management Program?  
(Landowner survey)**

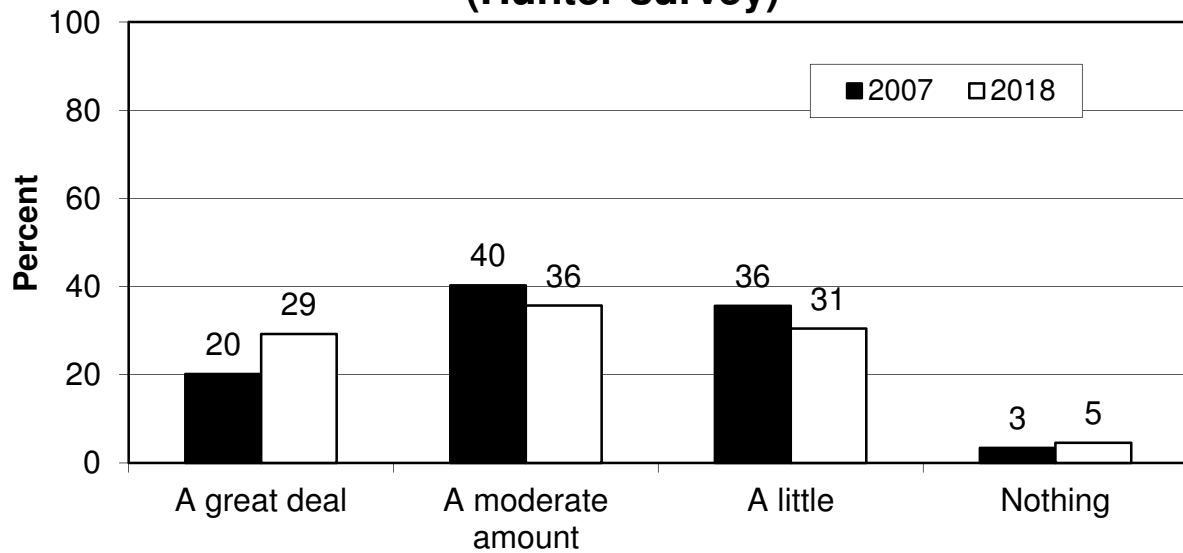




**Q18. Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Deer Management Program? (Hunter survey)**



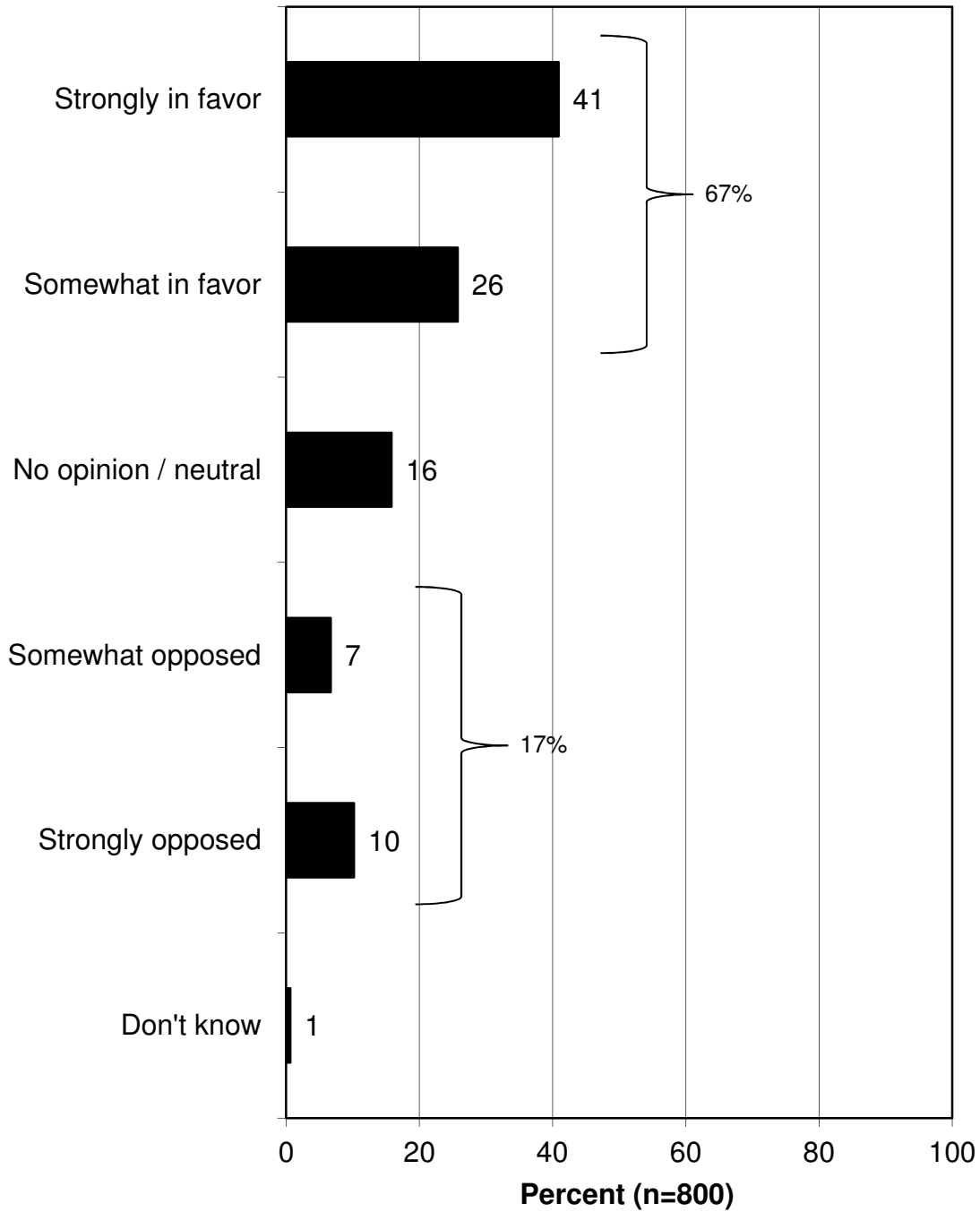
**Q18. Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Deer Management Program?  
(Hunter survey)**



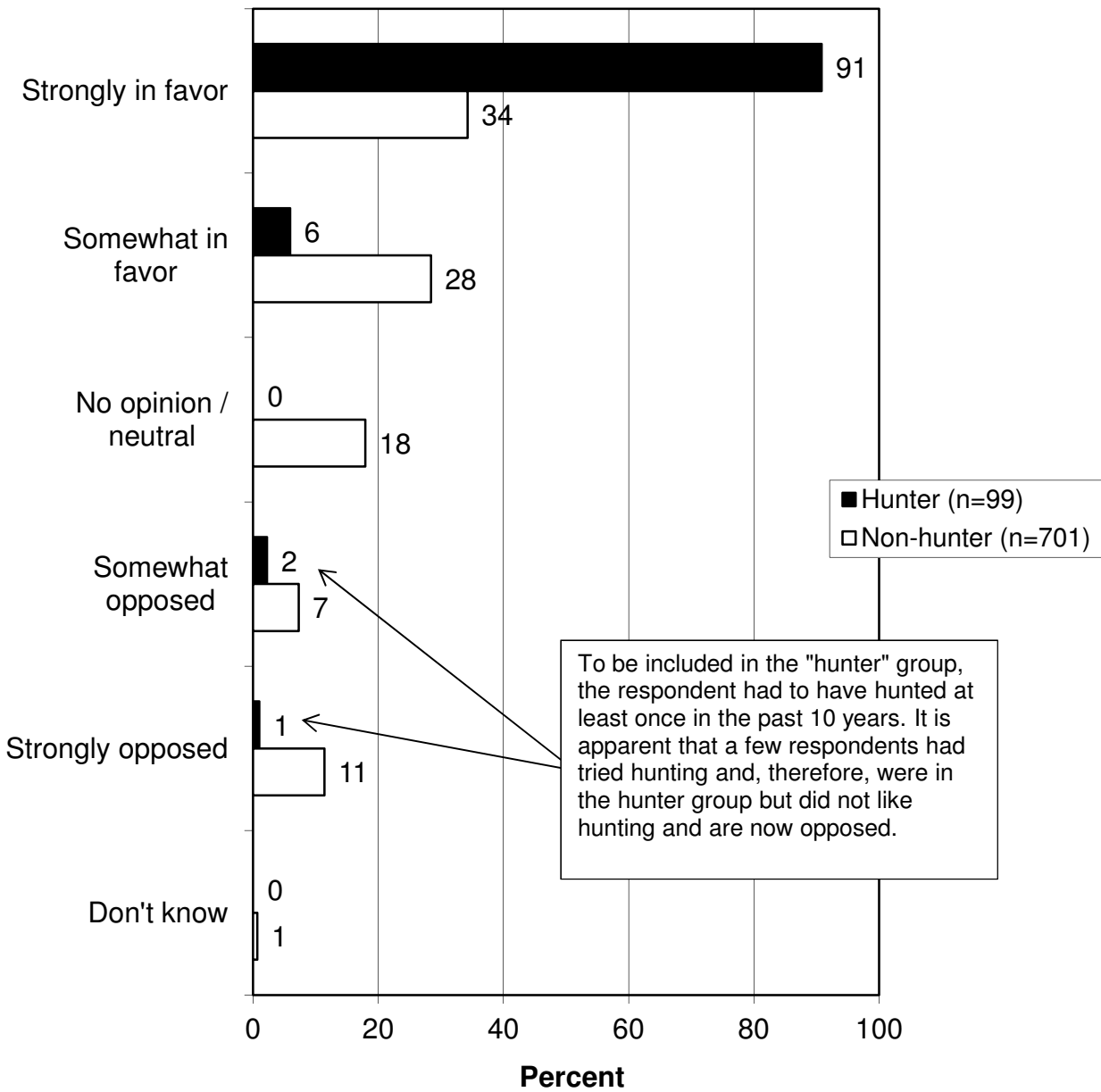
## **OPINIONS ON DEER HUNTING AND ALLOWING HUNTING ON PROPERTY**

- The surveys of residents and landowners both asked about opinions on deer hunting itself.
  - Two thirds of the general population in Maryland (67%) are in favor of hunting; nonetheless, 17% are opposed (the remaining are neutral).
  - Nearly all the landowners (92%) are in favor of hunting; only 3% are opposed.
  
- All three surveys asked whether respondents agree or disagree that deer should be hunted to maintain a healthy deer population; agreement is high across all three surveys.
  - More than three fourths of residents (77%) agree with the statement, while 17% disagree.
  - Landowners overwhelmingly agree (95%) with the statement, with almost no disagreement.
  - Hunters, too, overwhelmingly agree (99%) with the statement, with almost no disagreement.
  
- The large majority of landowners in the survey (83%) allow deer hunting on their property. However, about three quarters of those who allow hunting restrict it to friends and family only.
  - Reasons for limiting hunting to family and friends include not wanting strangers on the land and concern for personal safety (the two top reasons). Other reasons include the concern that there will be too many people on the land, the poor behavior of hunters, and legal liability.
  - Of those who allow non-family and non-friends to hunt on their property, about a third of them charge hunters to hunt there.

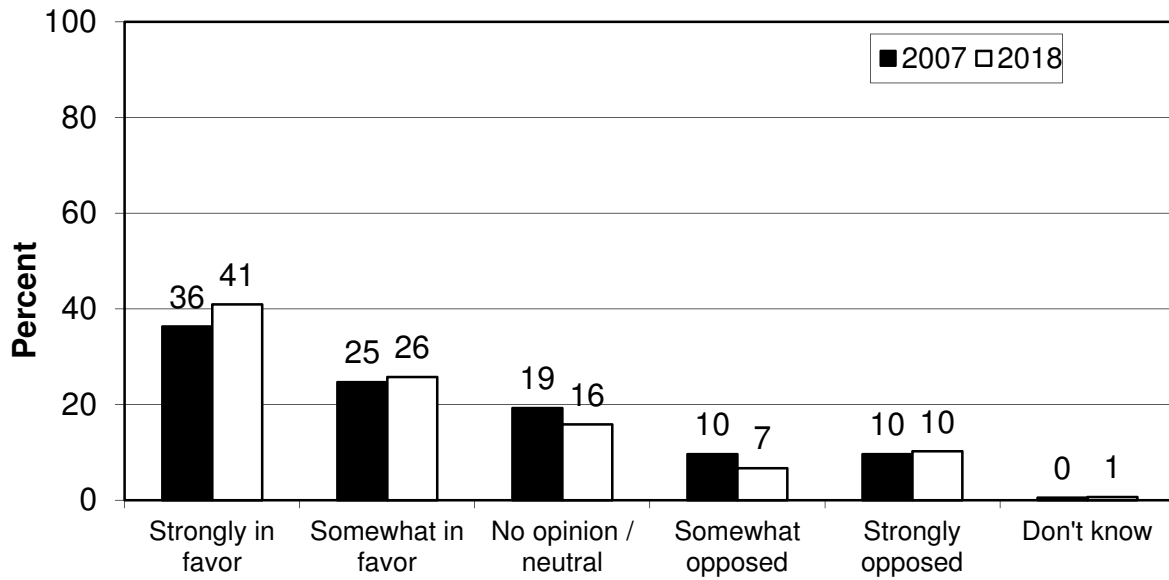
**Q15. What is your general opinion of deer hunting? (Gen pop survey)**



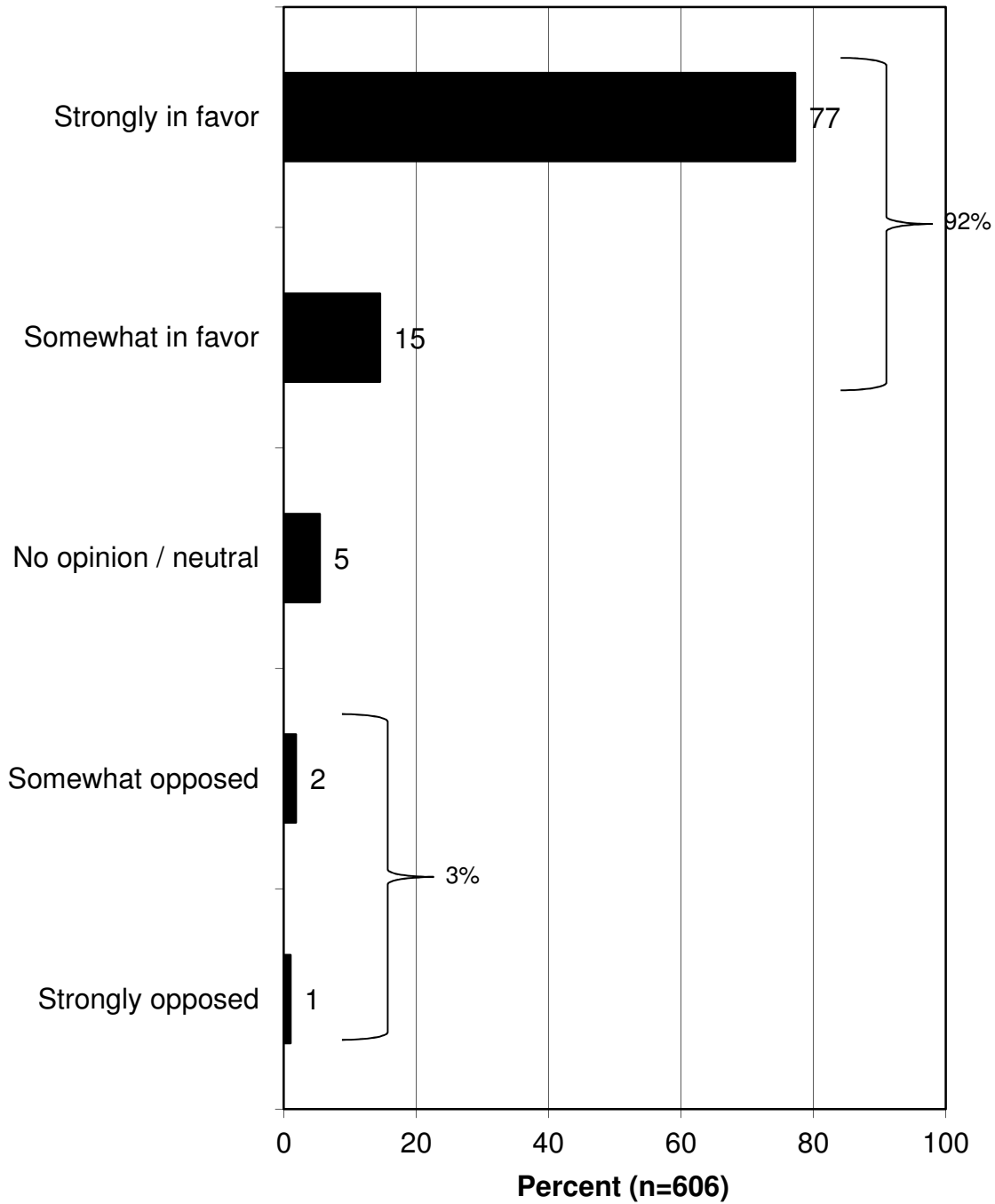
**Q15. What is your general opinion of deer hunting? (Gen pop survey)**



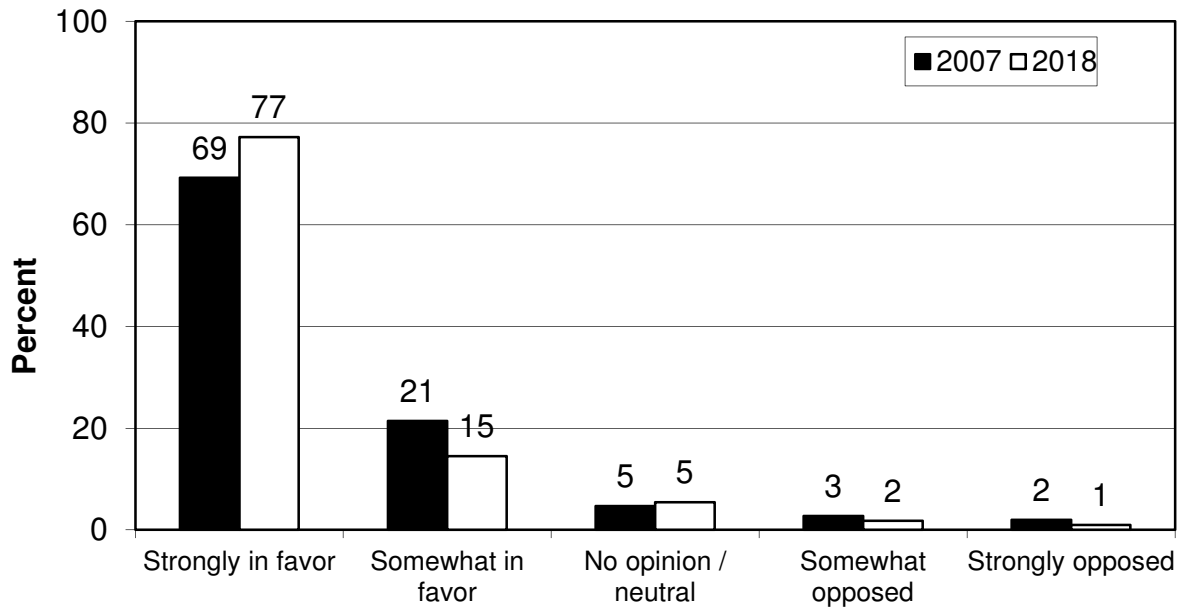
**Q15. What is your general opinion of deer hunting?  
(Gen pop survey)**



### Q12. What is your general opinion of deer hunting? (Landowner survey)

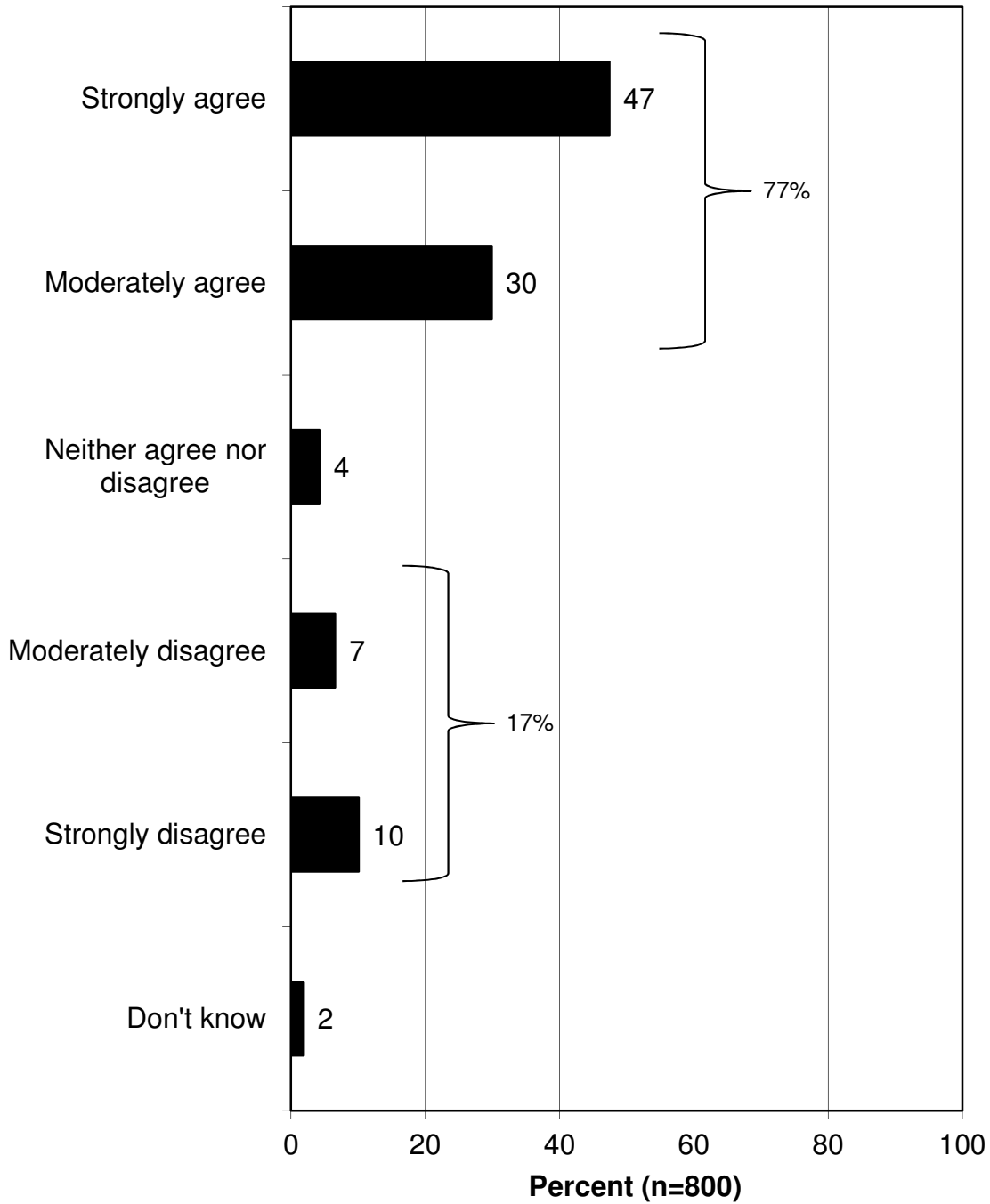


**Q12. What is your general opinion of deer hunting?  
(Landowner survey)**

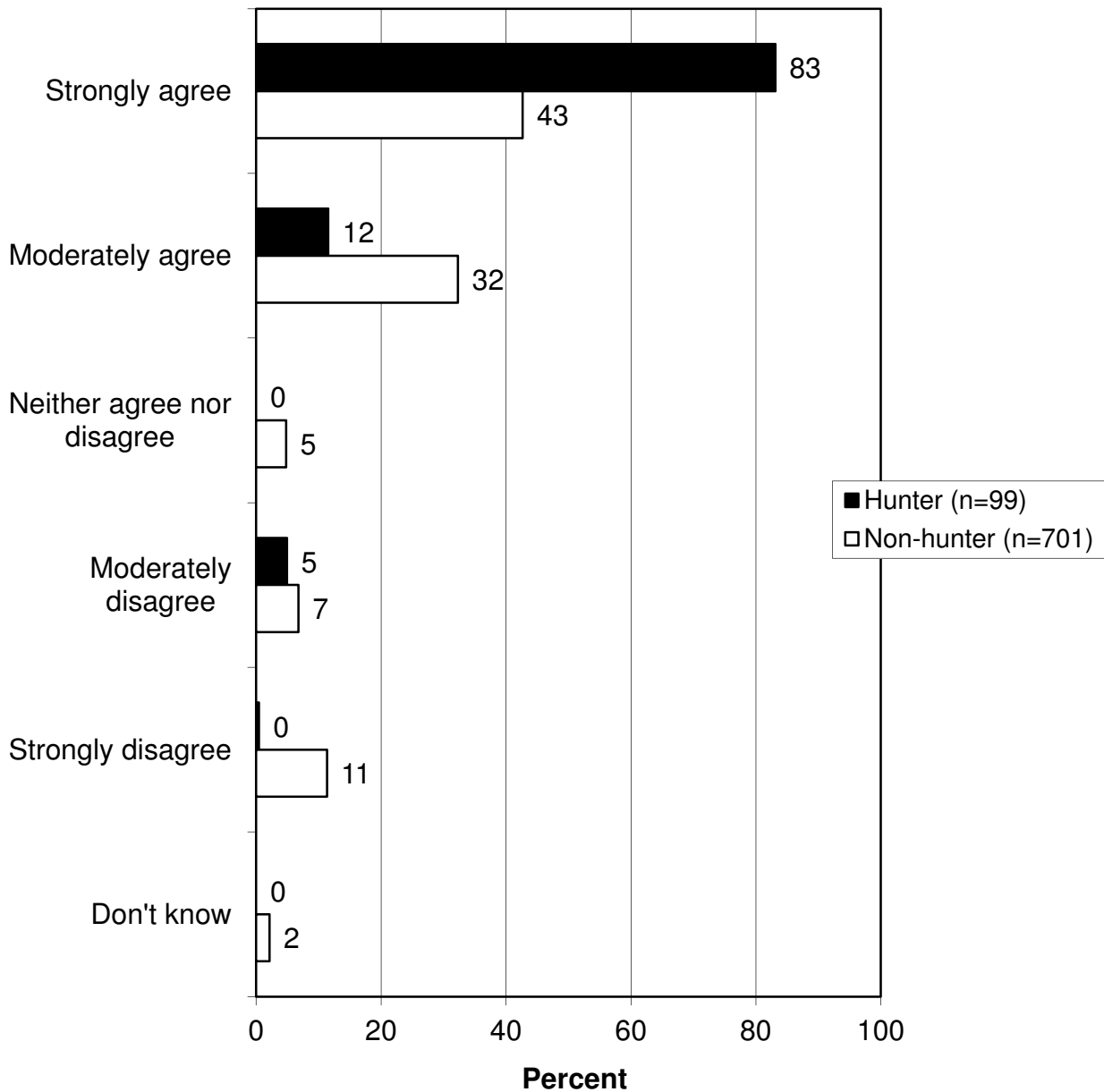




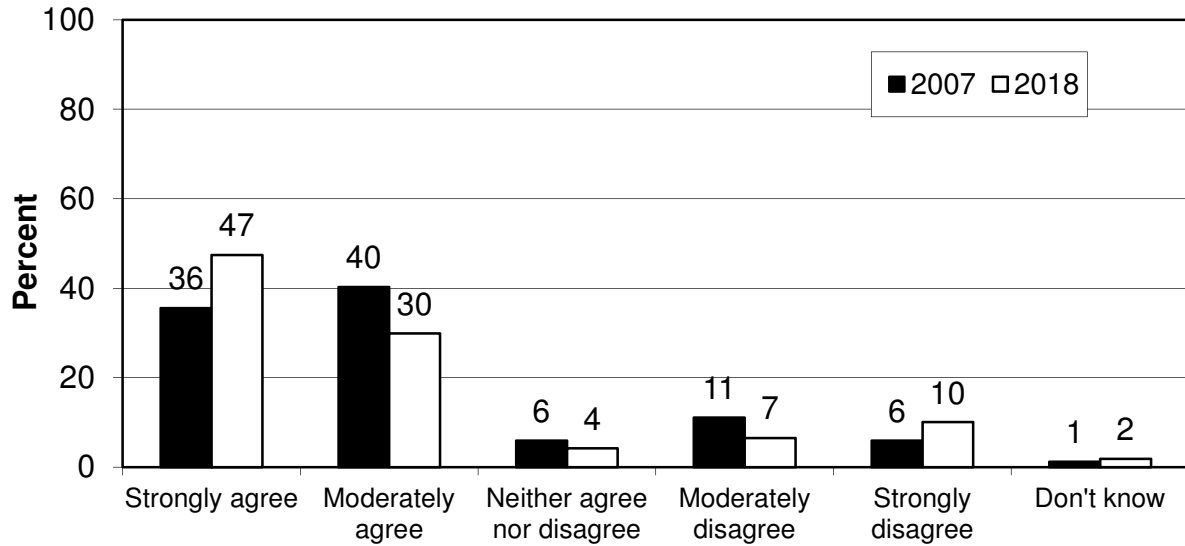
**Q13. Deer should be hunted to maintain a healthy deer population. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?) (Gen pop survey)**



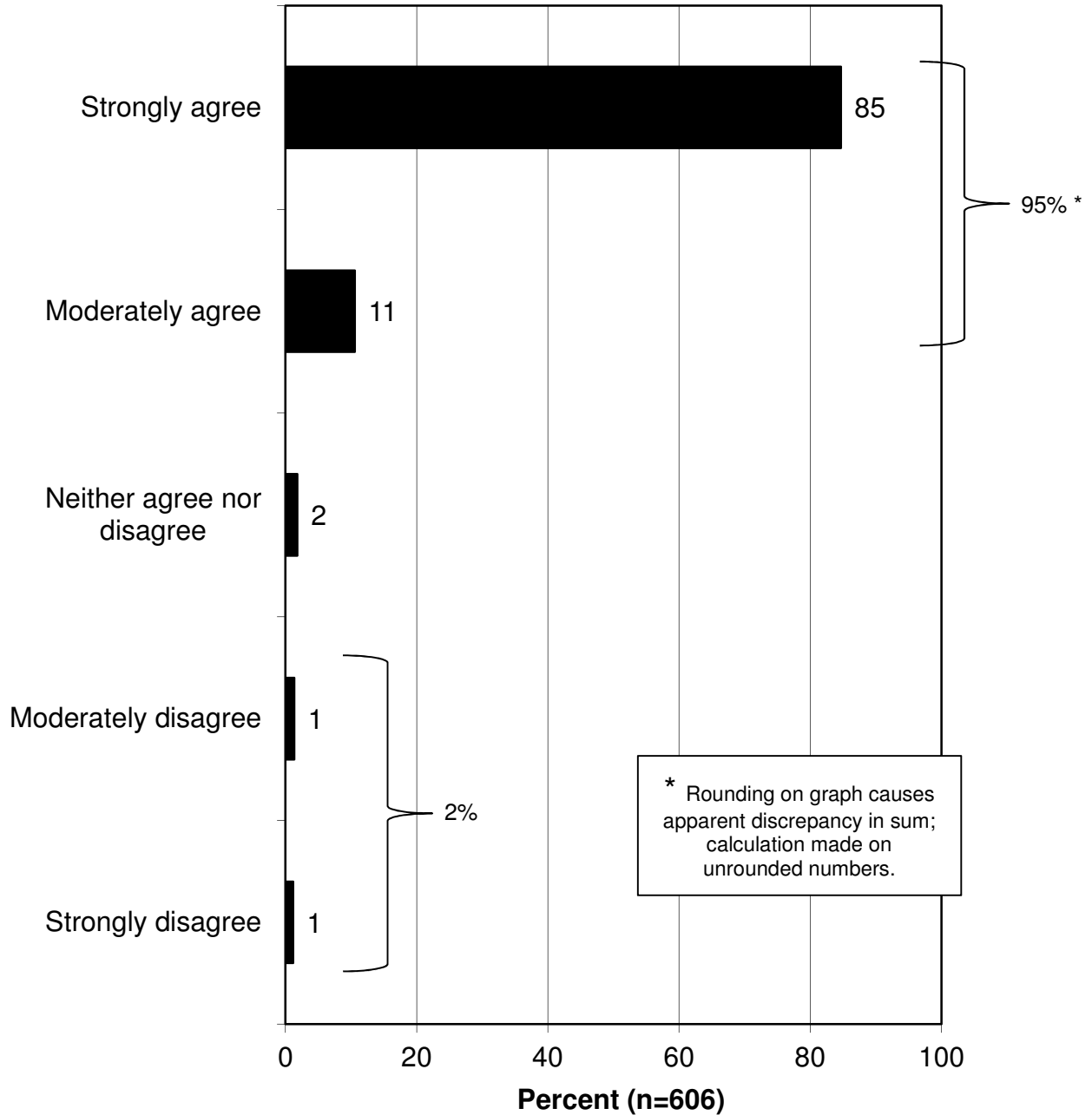
**Q13. Deer should be hunted to maintain a healthy deer population. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?) (Gen pop survey)**



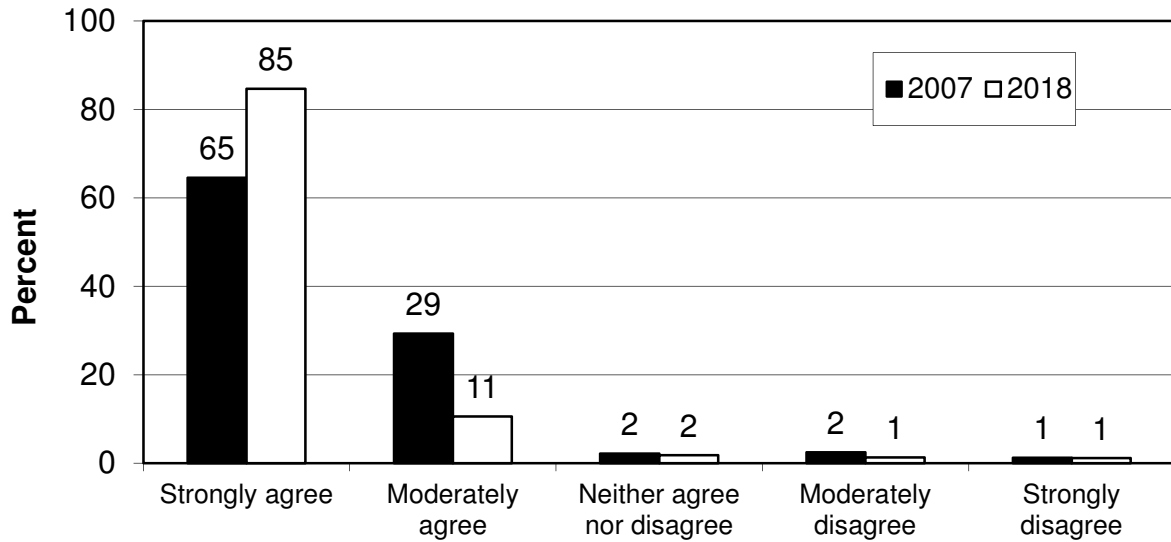
**Q13. Deer should be hunted to maintain a healthy deer population.  
(Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)  
(Gen pop survey)**



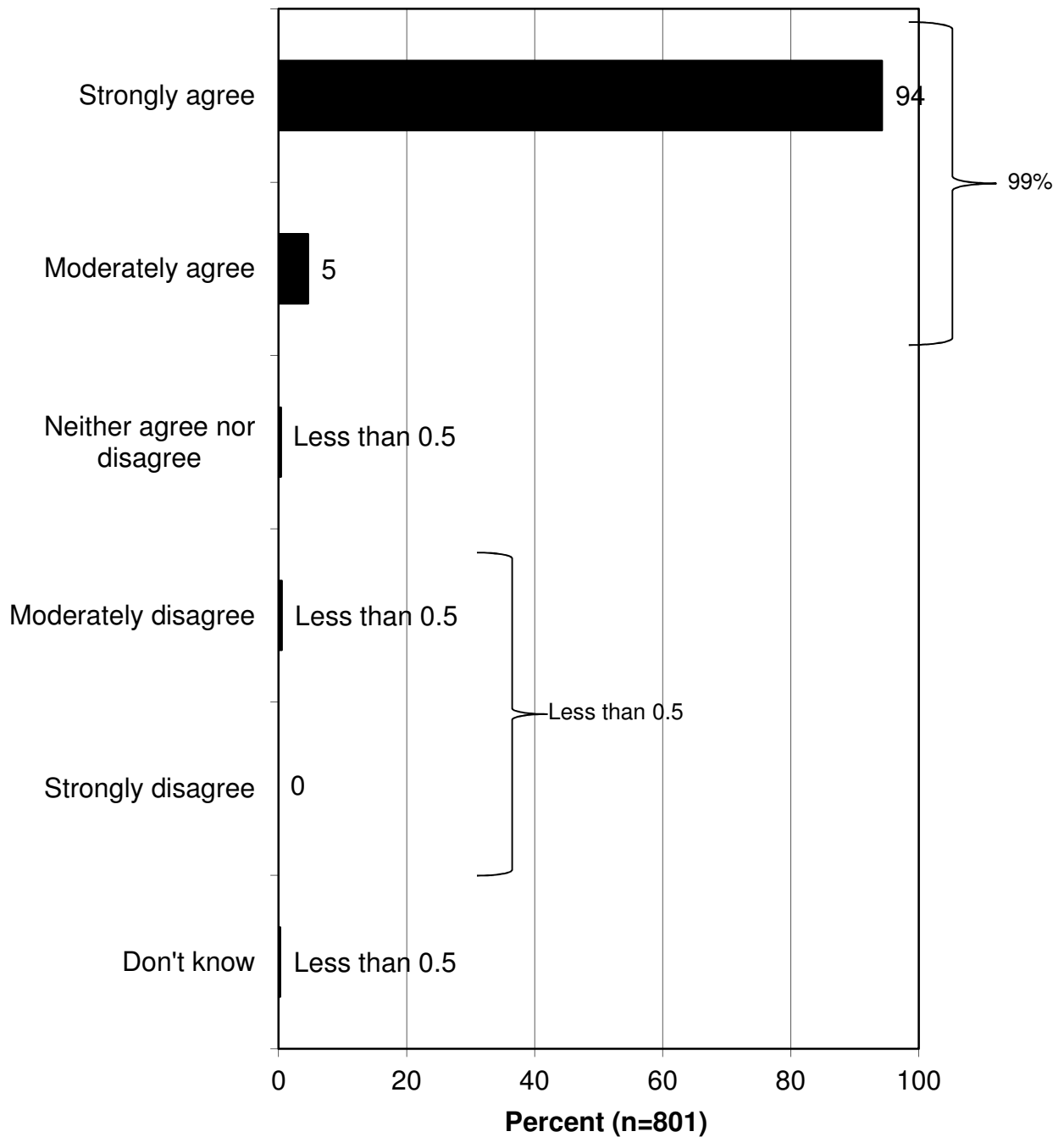
**Q19. Deer should be hunted to maintain a healthy deer population. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement.)  
(Landowner survey)**



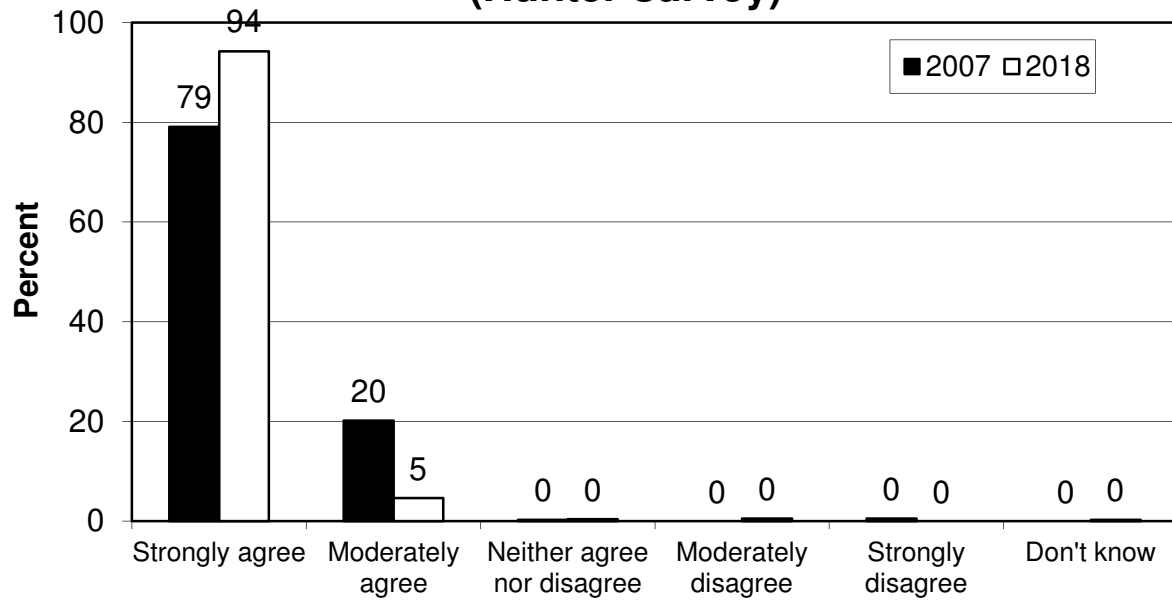
**Q19. Deer should be hunted to maintain a healthy deer population.  
(Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)  
(Landowner survey)**



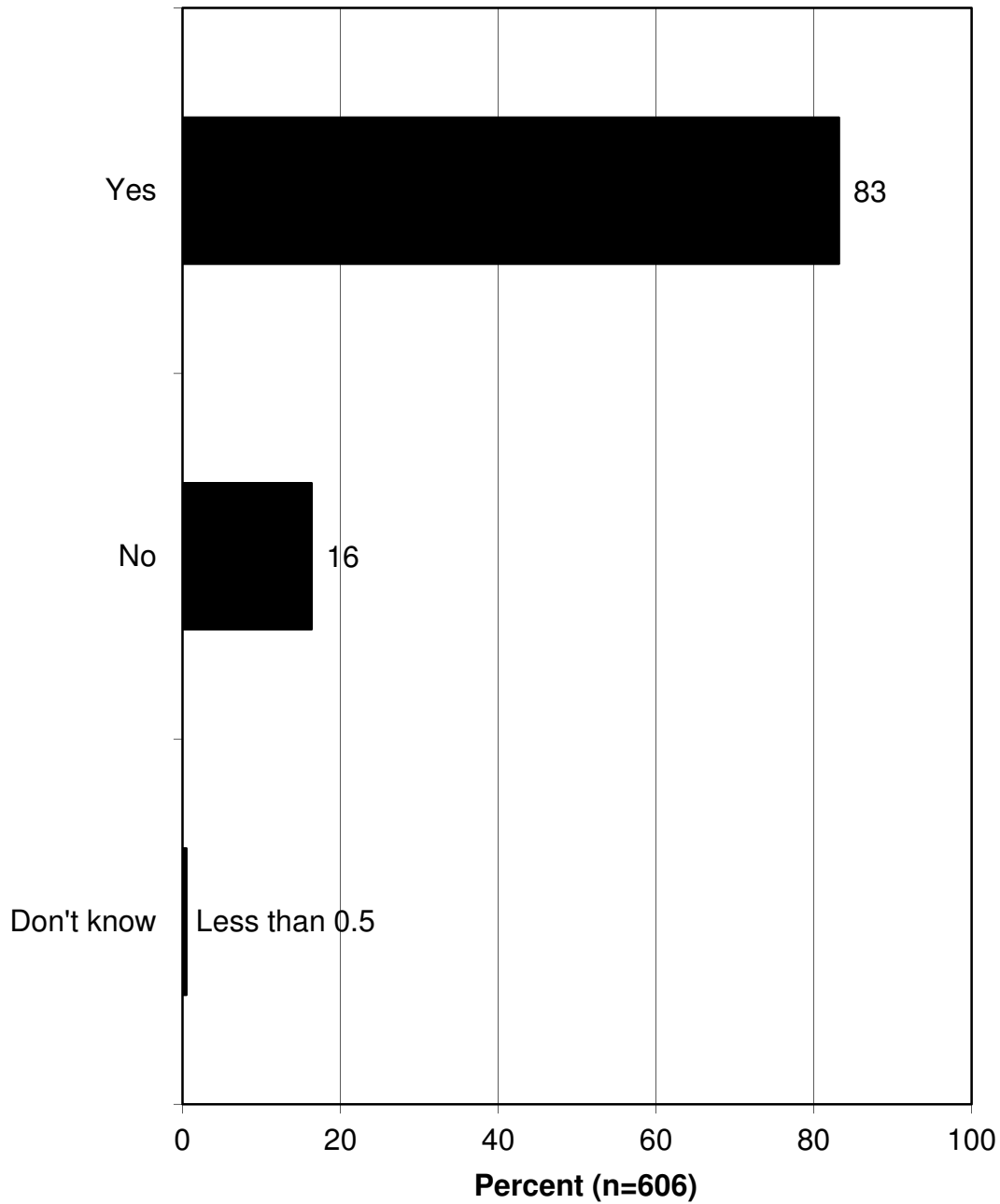
**Q14. Deer should be hunted to maintain a healthy deer population. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?) (Hunter survey)**



**Q14. Deer should be hunted to maintain a healthy deer population.  
(Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)  
(Hunter survey)**

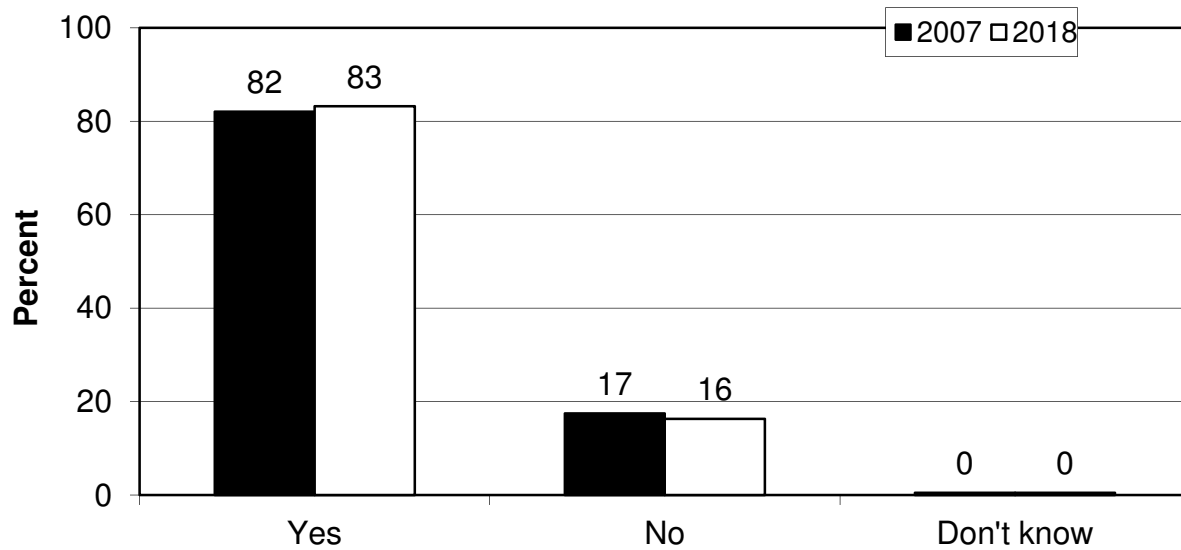


**Q115. Do you allow deer hunting on your property? )  
(Landowner survey)**

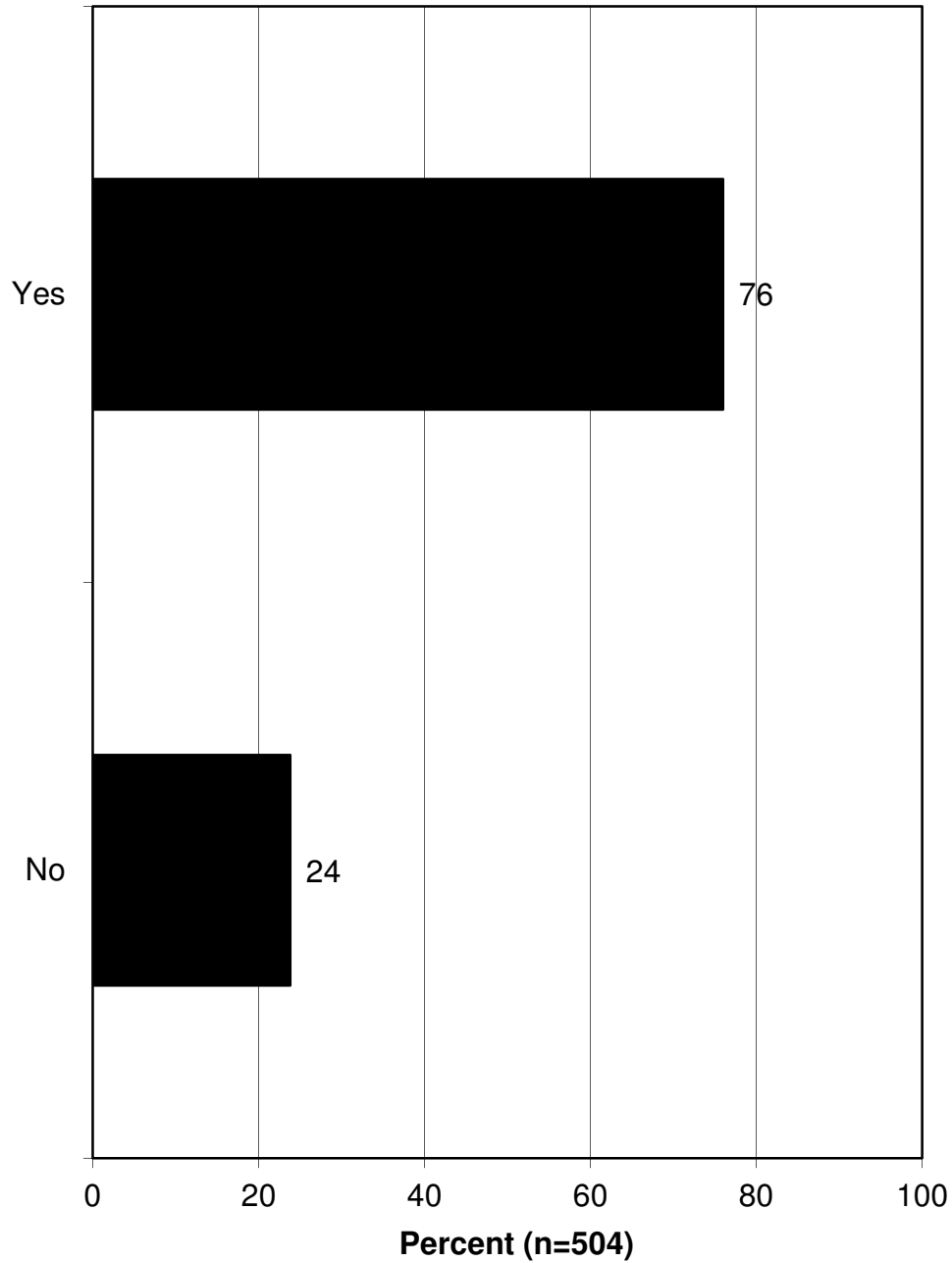




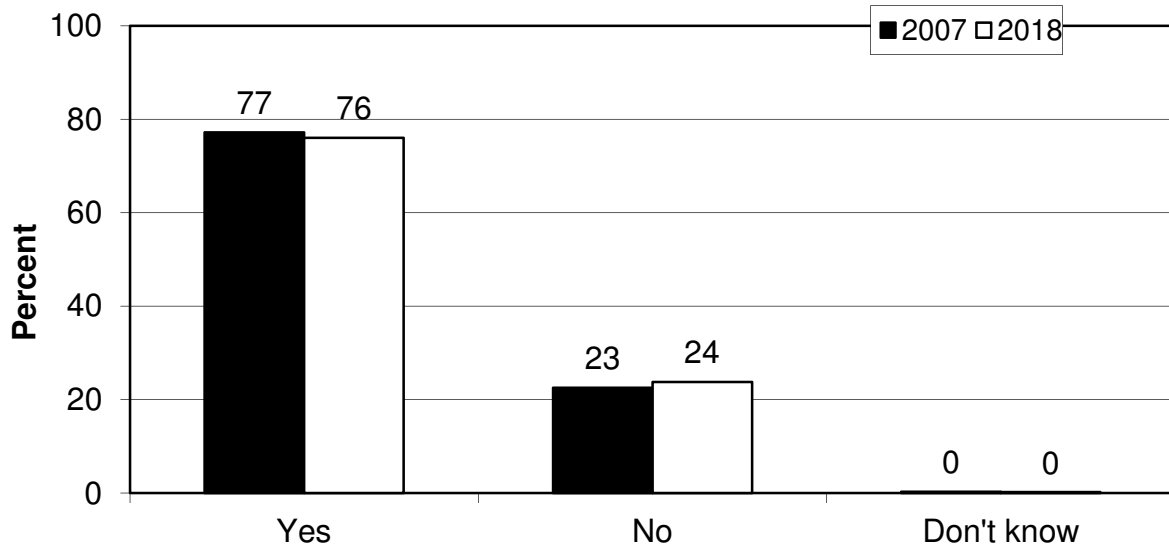
**Q115. Do you allow deer hunting on your property?  
(Landowner survey)**



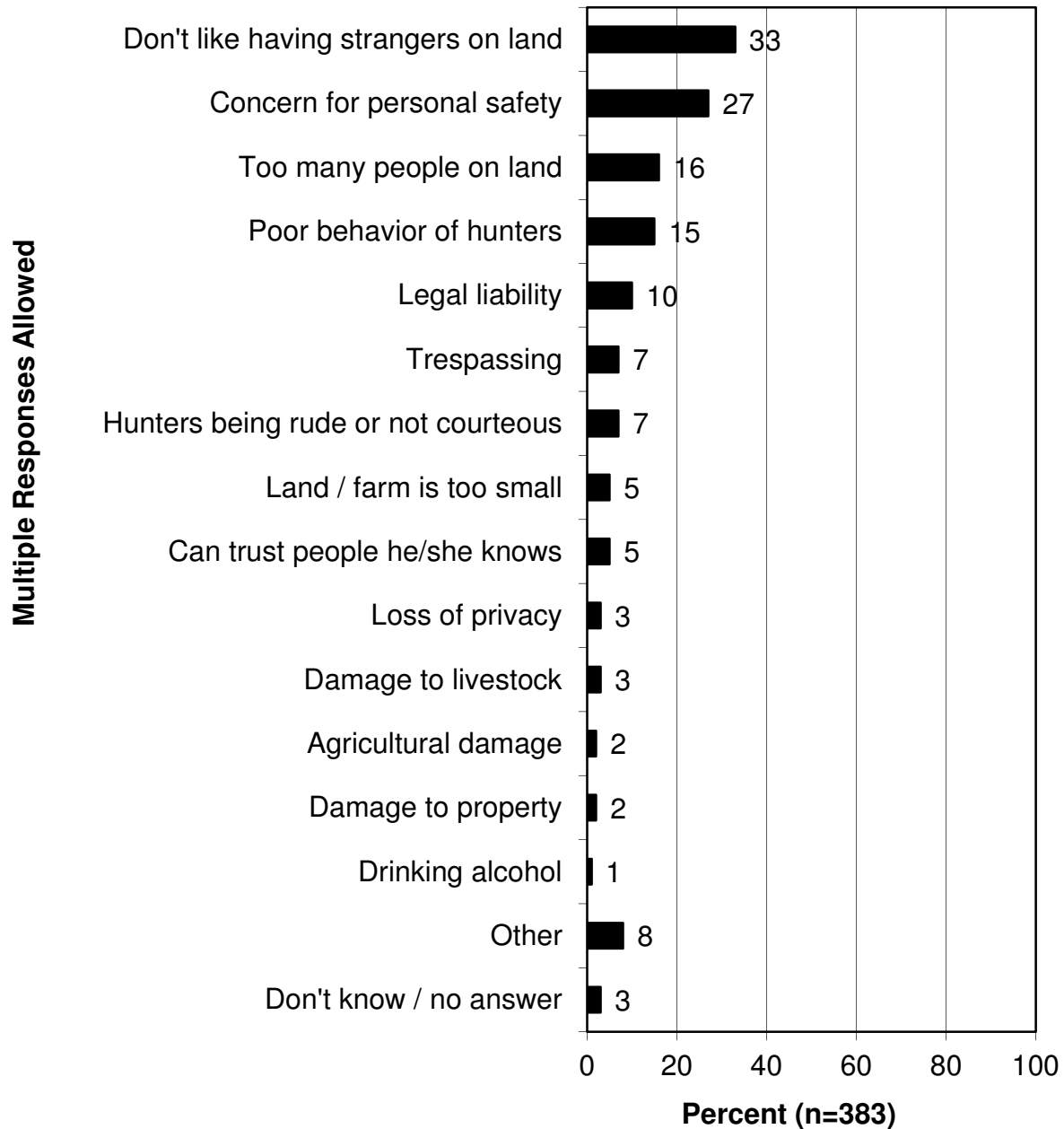
**Q118. Do you limit deer hunting to only friends and family on your land? (Asked of those who allow deer hunting on their property.)  
(Landowner survey)**



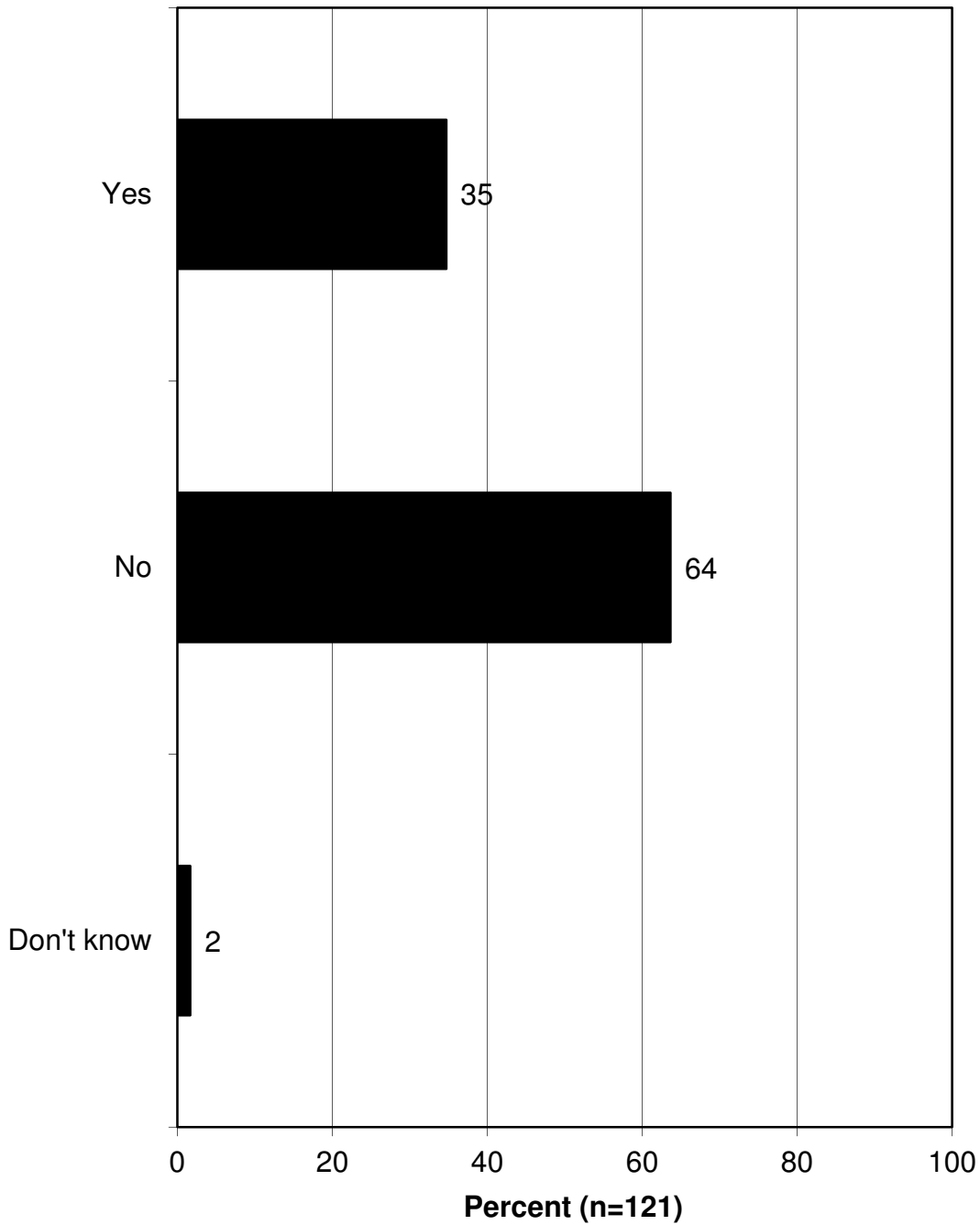
**Q118. Do you limit deer hunting to only friends and family on your land? (Asked of those who allow deer hunting on their property.)  
(Landowner survey)**



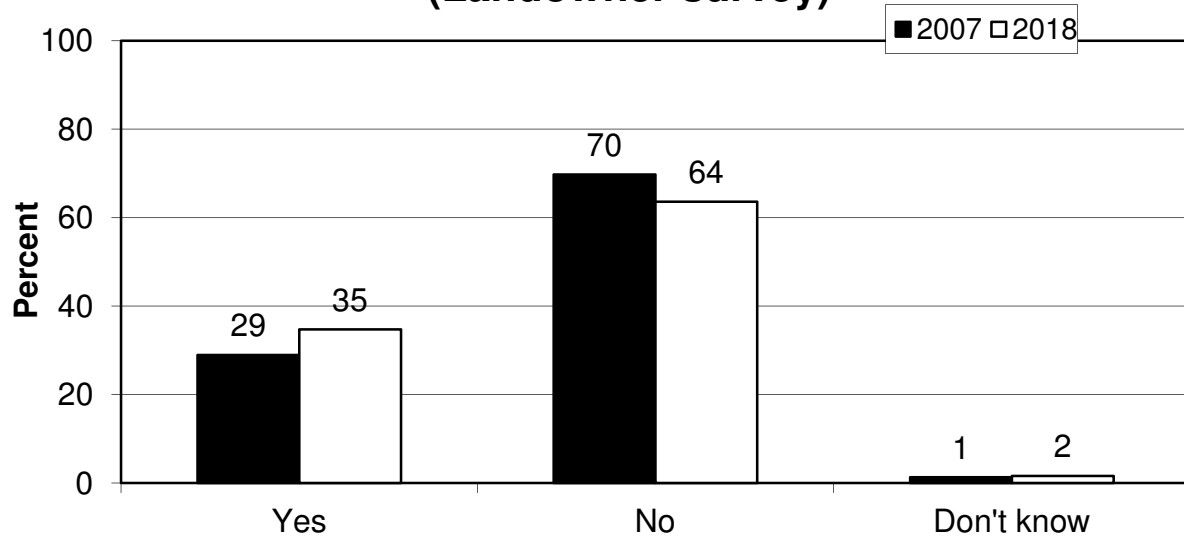
**Q122. Why do you limit deer hunting to friends and family on your land? (Asked of those who limit deer hunting to friends and family.)  
(Landowner survey)**



**Q119. Do you charge hunters to hunt deer on your land? (Asked of those who allow non-friends and non-family members to go deer hunting on their property.) (Landowner survey)**



**Q119. Do you charge hunters to hunt deer on your land? (Asked of those who allow non-friends and non-family members to go deer hunting on their property.)  
(Landowner survey)**



## **OPINIONS ON THE DNR'S MANAGEMENT OF DEER AND EFFORTS TO CONTROL DEER**

- The three surveys asked respondents whether they agree or disagree that the DNR does a good job conserving its deer population.
  - A bit more than half of residents (56%) agree, while just 15% disagree. The remainder either do not know or answer neutrally.
  - Just over half of landowners (55%) agree, although a substantial percentage (26%) disagree.
  - The large majority of hunters (79%) agree that the DNR does a good job; nonetheless, 15% disagree.
  
- More than a dozen questions about opinions on and knowledge of methods to control deer populations were asked of the general population but were not asked in the other surveys. These results are reported below.
  
- Among the general population, 69% support controlling deer populations on urban and suburban lands (that is, not allowing populations to naturally increase). On the other end, 17% oppose.
  - Those who support were asked for their preferred methods for deer to be controlled. The most common response (multiple methods could be selected as acceptable) is live trapping and relocating (44% think this is one of the methods that should be used), closely followed by hunting (39%) (including bow and arrow hunting at 38%), and biological birth control (37%). The least acceptable method is professionals or sharpshooters (24%).
  
- After the questions above, the survey asked residents directly if they supported or opposed the various methods of controlling deer populations, starting with the use of professionals or sharpshooters. Residents are split on this: 44% support and 45% oppose the use of professionals or sharpshooters to control deer in urban and suburban areas.
  - Those who support were asked if they had a preference for type of weapon; most have no preference, and they otherwise prefer use of rifles or archery rather than shotguns.

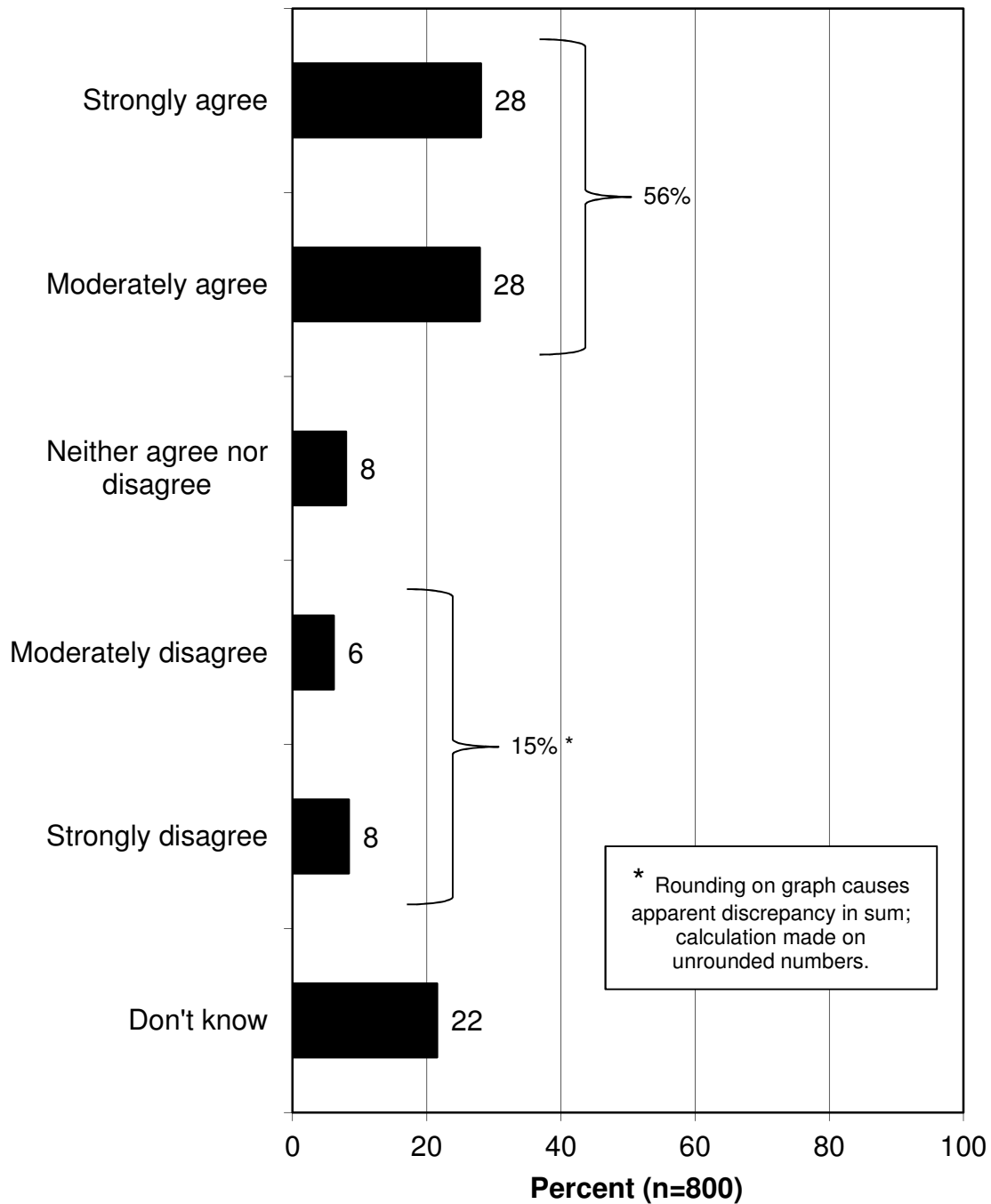
- Residents were directly asked about support for or opposition to the use of bow and arrow hunting to control deer populations in urban and suburban areas, and they more often support (60%) than oppose (32%) by about a 2:1 margin.
- The survey then asked about immunocontraceptives, also referred to in this survey as deer contraceptives. About a quarter of residents (26%) had heard of immunocontraceptives prior to the survey. However, only 9% claim to know a great deal or moderate amount about them.
  - The survey then asked about support for or opposition to the use of immunocontraceptives for controlling deer populations. Among the general population, support (54%) exceeds opposition (31%).
  - The survey also asked if immunocontraceptives would be an acceptable alternative to lethal measures to control deer herds. The majority of residents agree (59%) that this is so, but 26% disagree.
  - After providing respondents with information about immunocontraceptives (shown on the graph itself), including the difficulty in using them on wild deer, the survey again asked about support for or opposition to the use of immunocontraceptives to control deer: 41% supported, while 47% opposed. (In comparing these results, support went down from 54% to 41% based on the information given.)
  - When the use of state tax dollars to pay for immunocontraceptives was brought up in the survey, 38% supported the use of state tax dollars for this, but 56% opposed after considering the use of taxes.
- The last part of the deer control section of the survey asked about sterilization of female deer to prevent pregnancy: 39% of residents have heard of this method, although only 13% say that they know a great deal or moderate amount about it.
  - Residents are about split regarding support for (48%) or opposition to (41%) the use of deer sterilization to control deer populations.
  - The survey also asked if sterilization would be an acceptable alternative to lethal measures to control deer herds. The majority of residents agree (53%) with this, but a substantial percentage (38%) disagree.
  - Respondents were then provided with information about sterilization (shown on the graph itself), including the difficulty in using this method on deer. Then the survey asked about



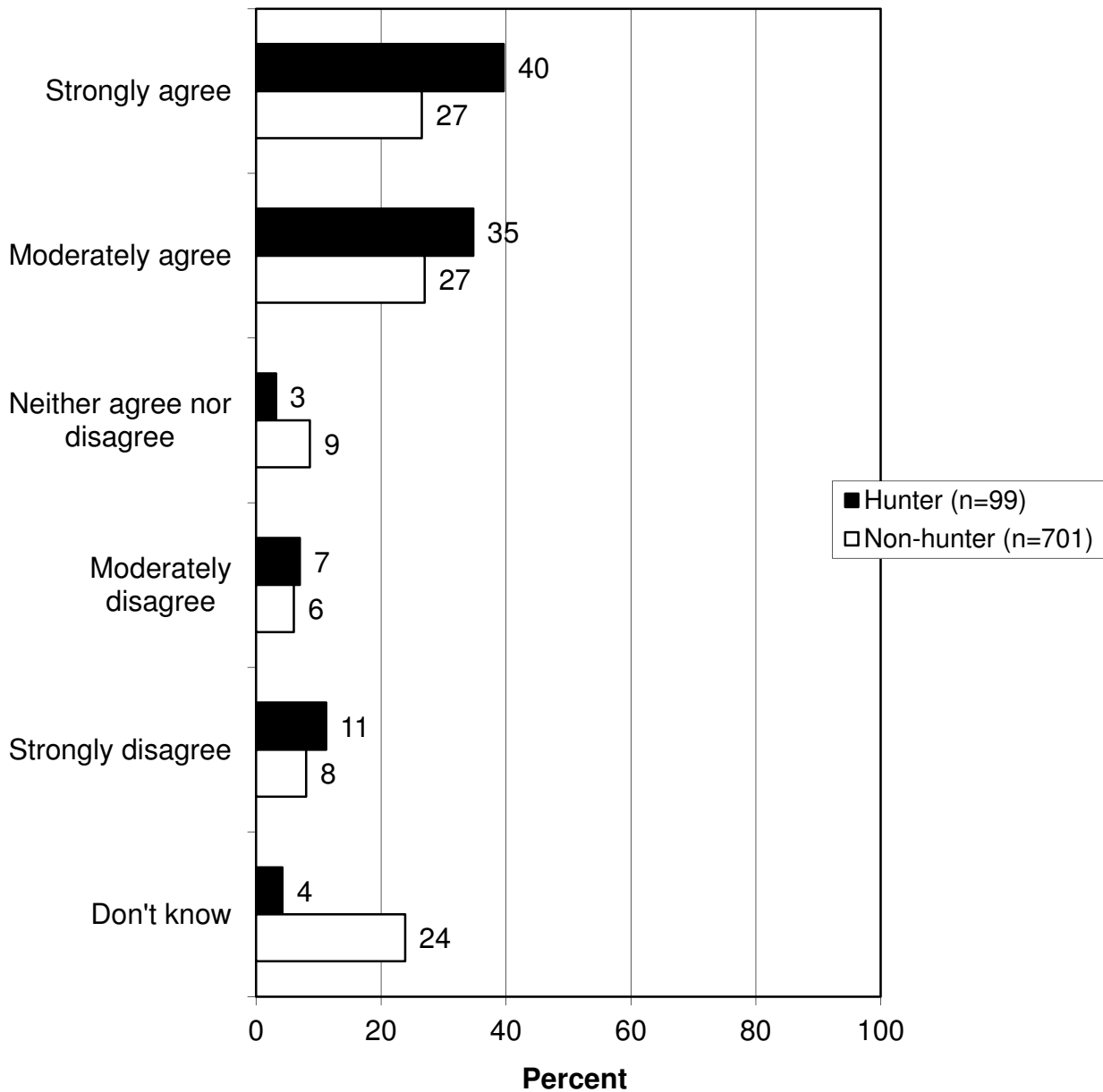
support for or opposition to the use of sterilization: 39% supported, while 49% opposed. (In comparing these results, support went down from 48% to 39% based on the information given.)

- Regarding the use of state tax dollars to pay for sterilization, 34% supported the use of state tax dollars for this, but 58% opposed.
- Most residents would *not* volunteer time to help sterilize deer (81% indicated being not at all likely); at the other end, 18% indicated being likely, but only 6% said that they would be very likely to do so. Also, most would *not* donate money to help with a sterilization effort (74% would not do so), while 22% said that they would be likely to do so (although only 4% said that they would be very likely).

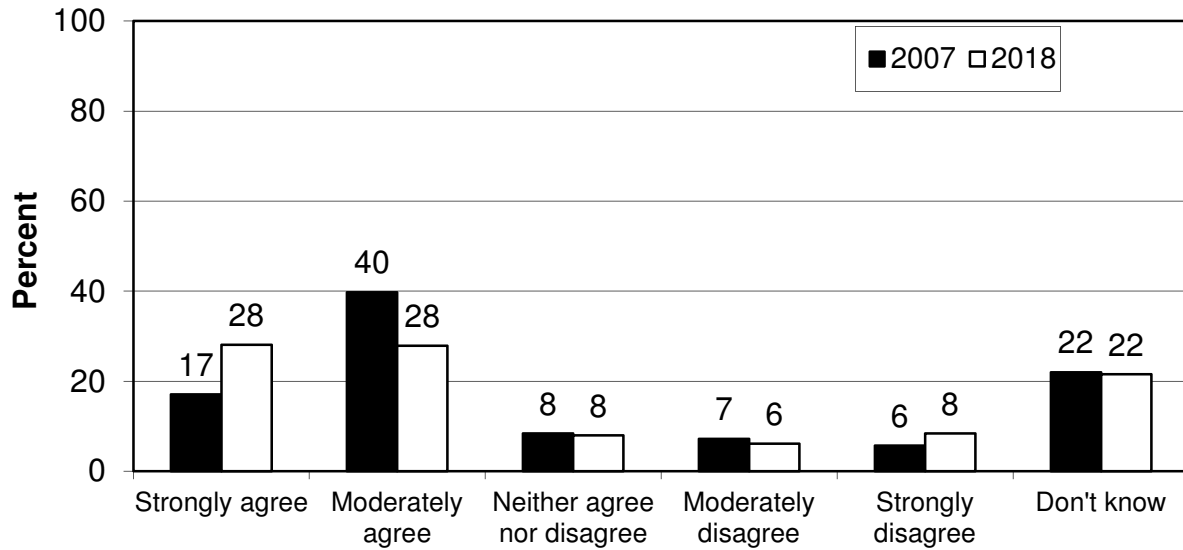
**Q14. Maryland does a good job of conserving its deer population. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?) (Gen pop survey)**



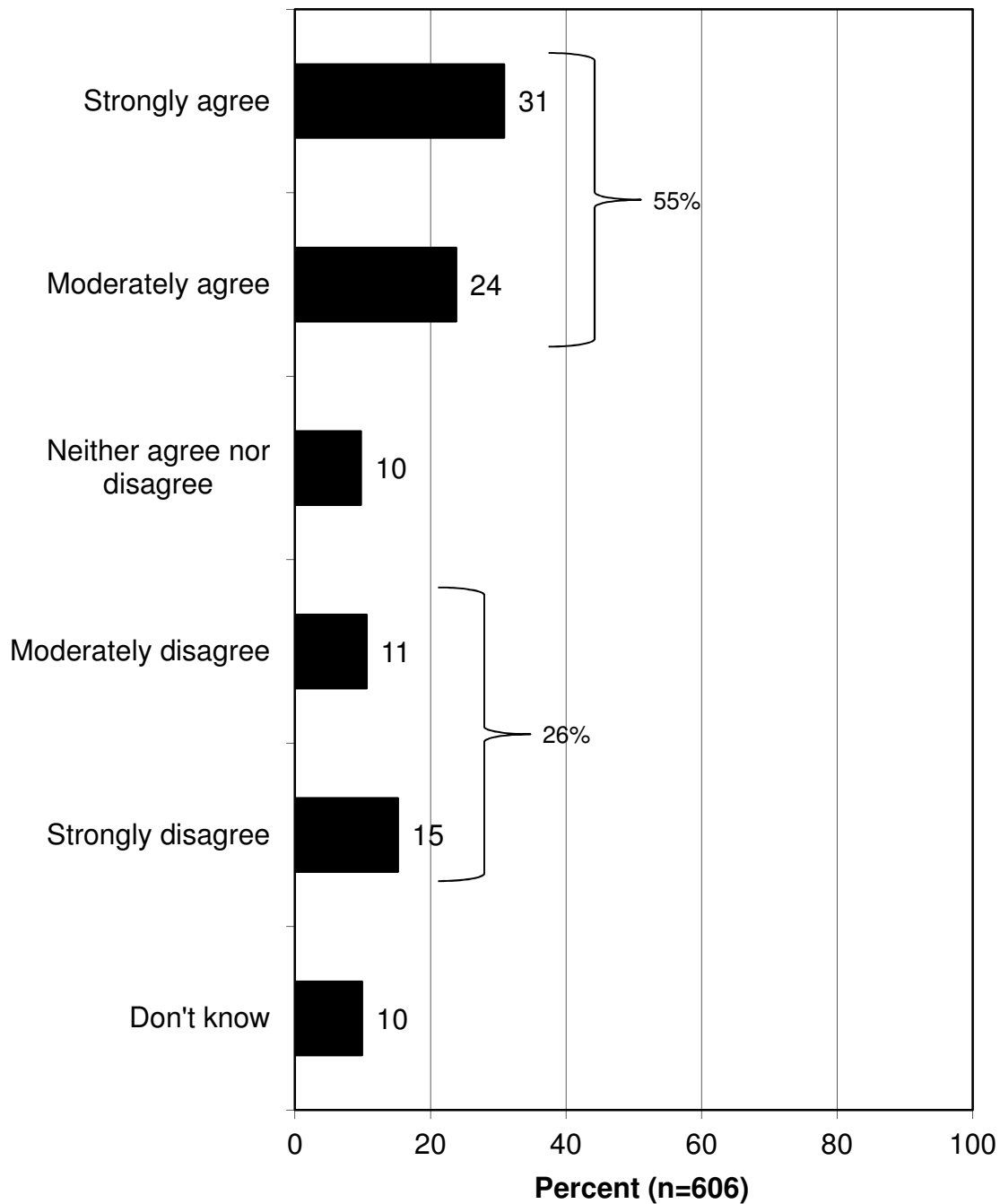
**Q14. Maryland does a good job of conserving its deer population. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?) (Gen pop survey)**



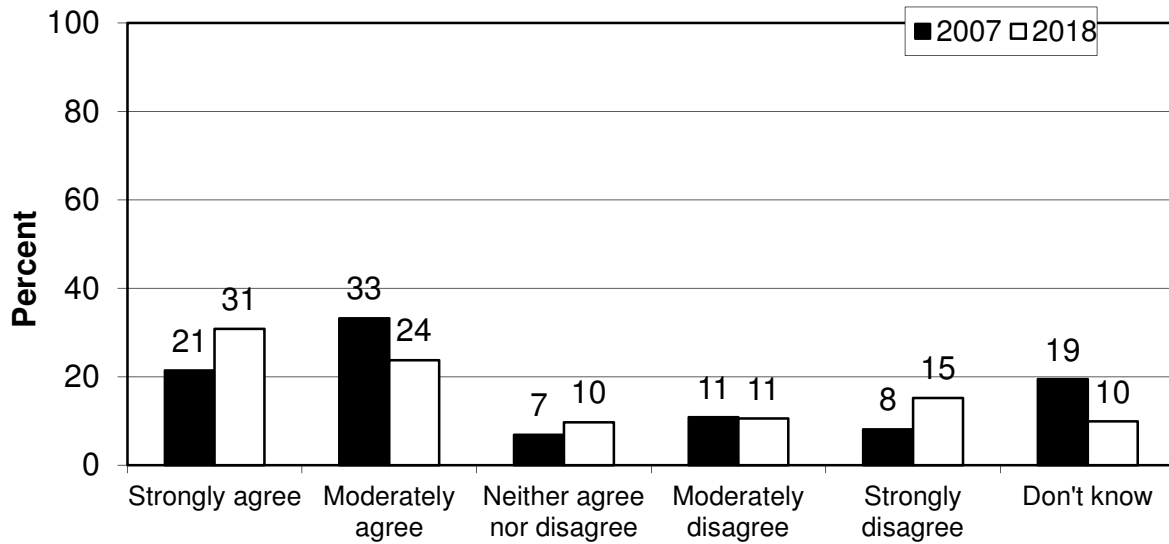
**Q14. Maryland does a good job of conserving  
its deer population.  
(Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)  
(Gen pop survey)**



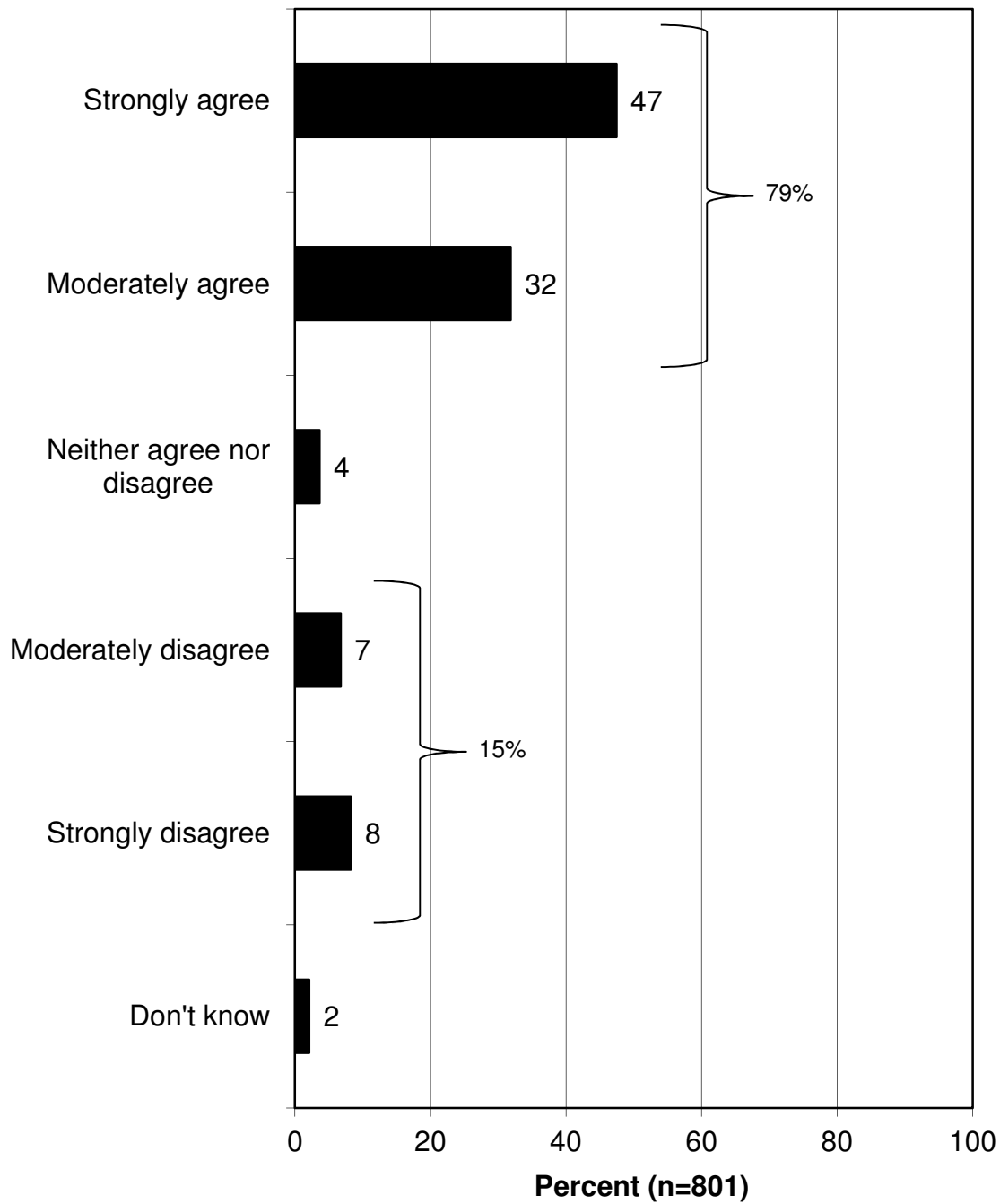
**Q20. Maryland does a good job of conserving its deer population. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement.) (Landowner survey)**



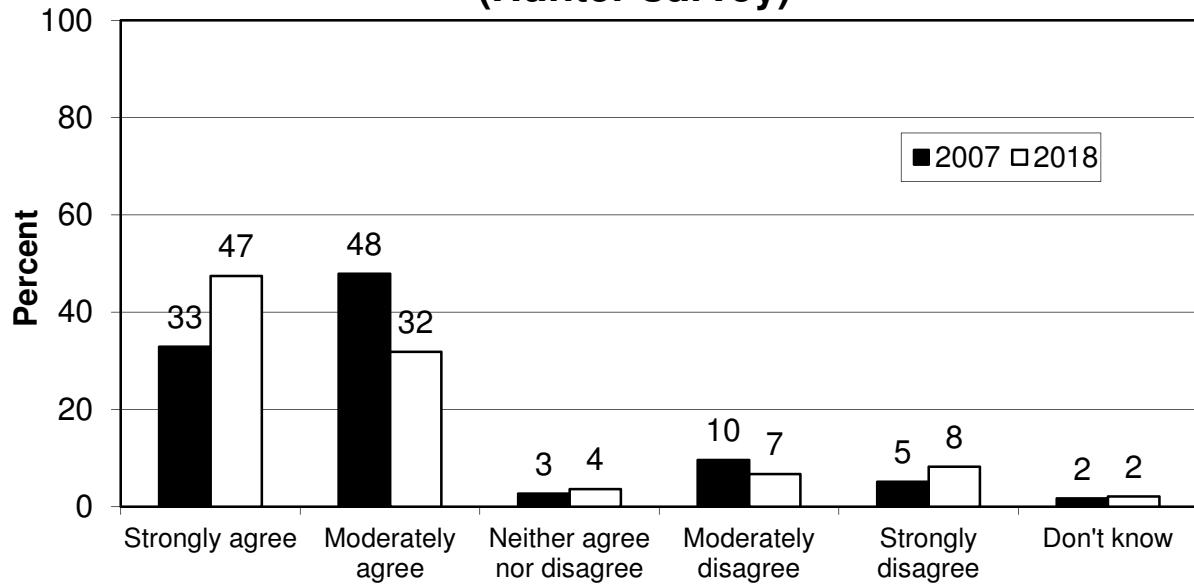
**Q20. Maryland does a good job of conserving  
its deer population.  
(Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)  
(Landowner survey)**



**Q15. Maryland does a good job of conserving its deer population. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?) (Hunter survey)**

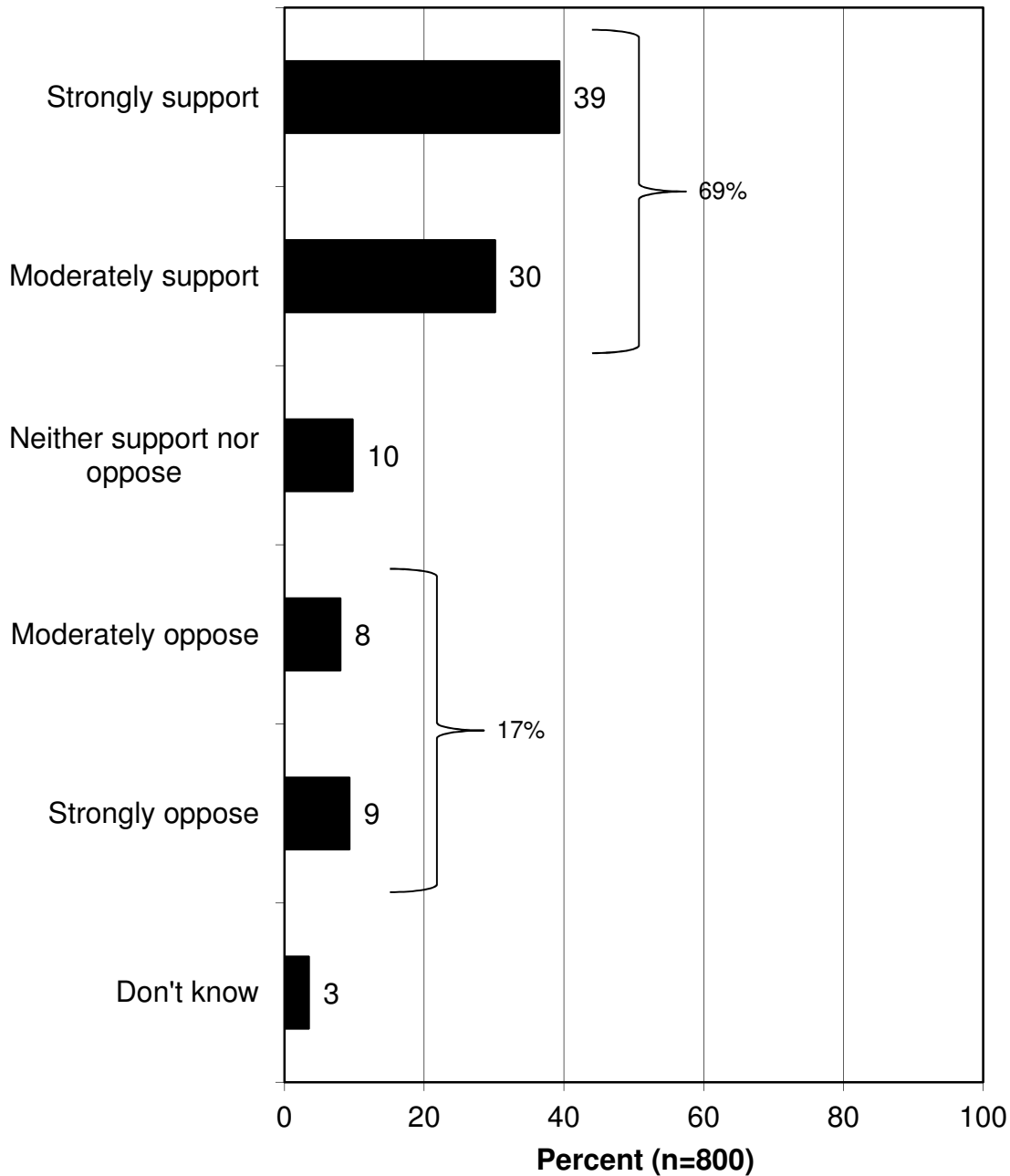


**Q15. Maryland does a good job of conserving  
its deer population.  
(Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)  
(Hunter survey)**

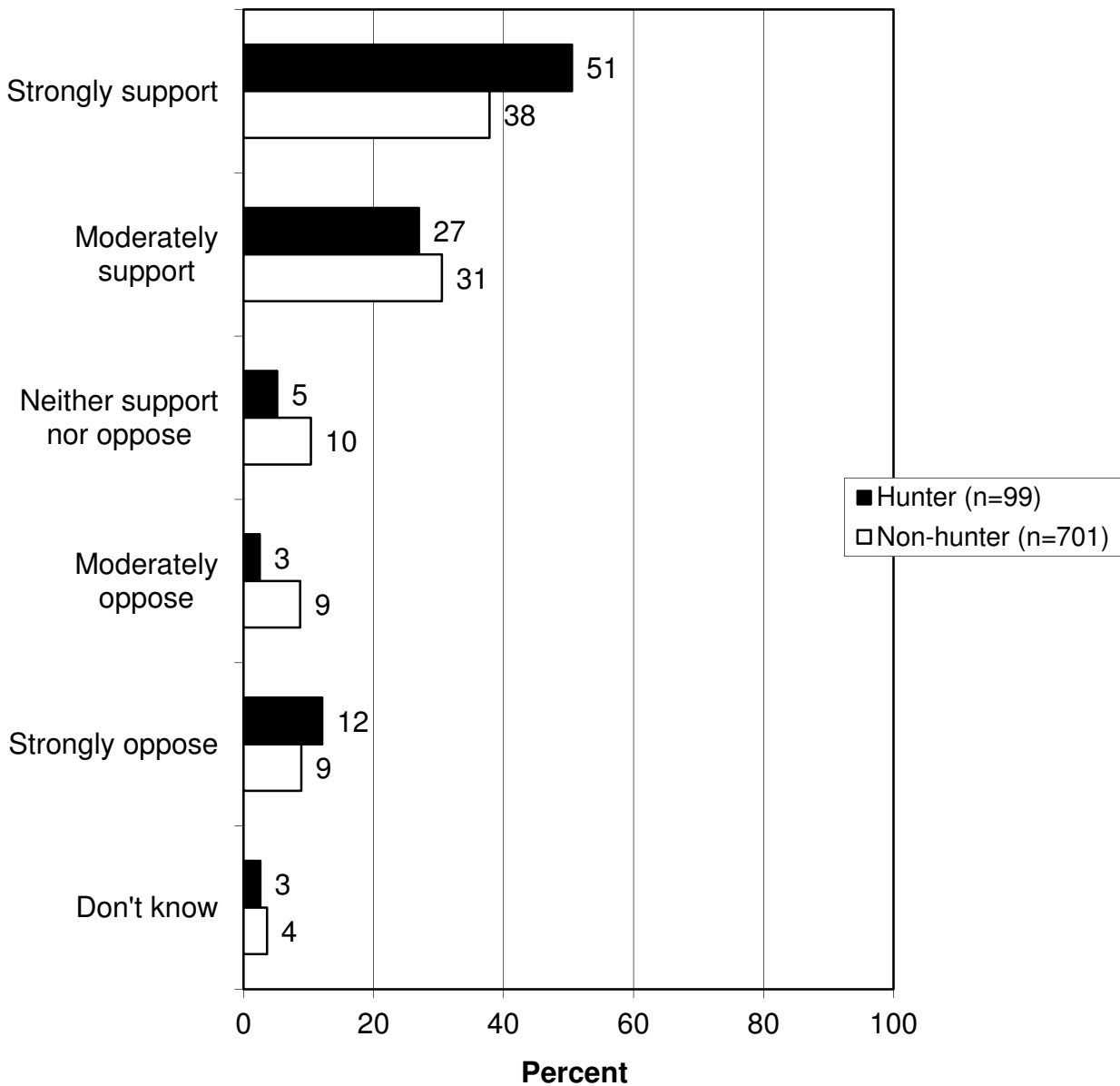




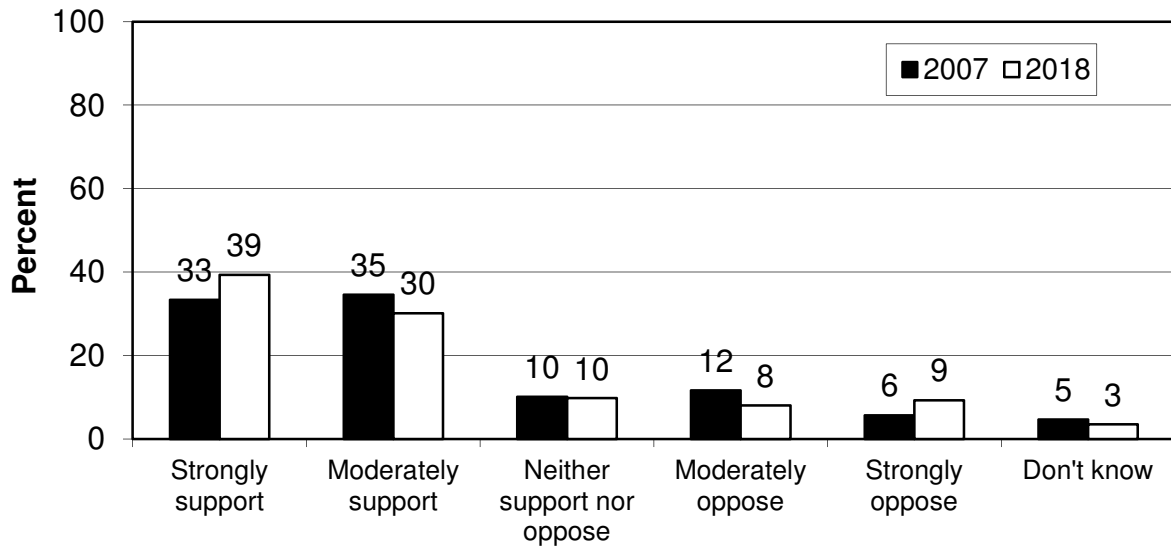
**Q81. Do you support or oppose controlling deer populations, that is, not allowing populations to naturally increase, on public and private lands in urban and suburban areas? (Gen pop survey)**



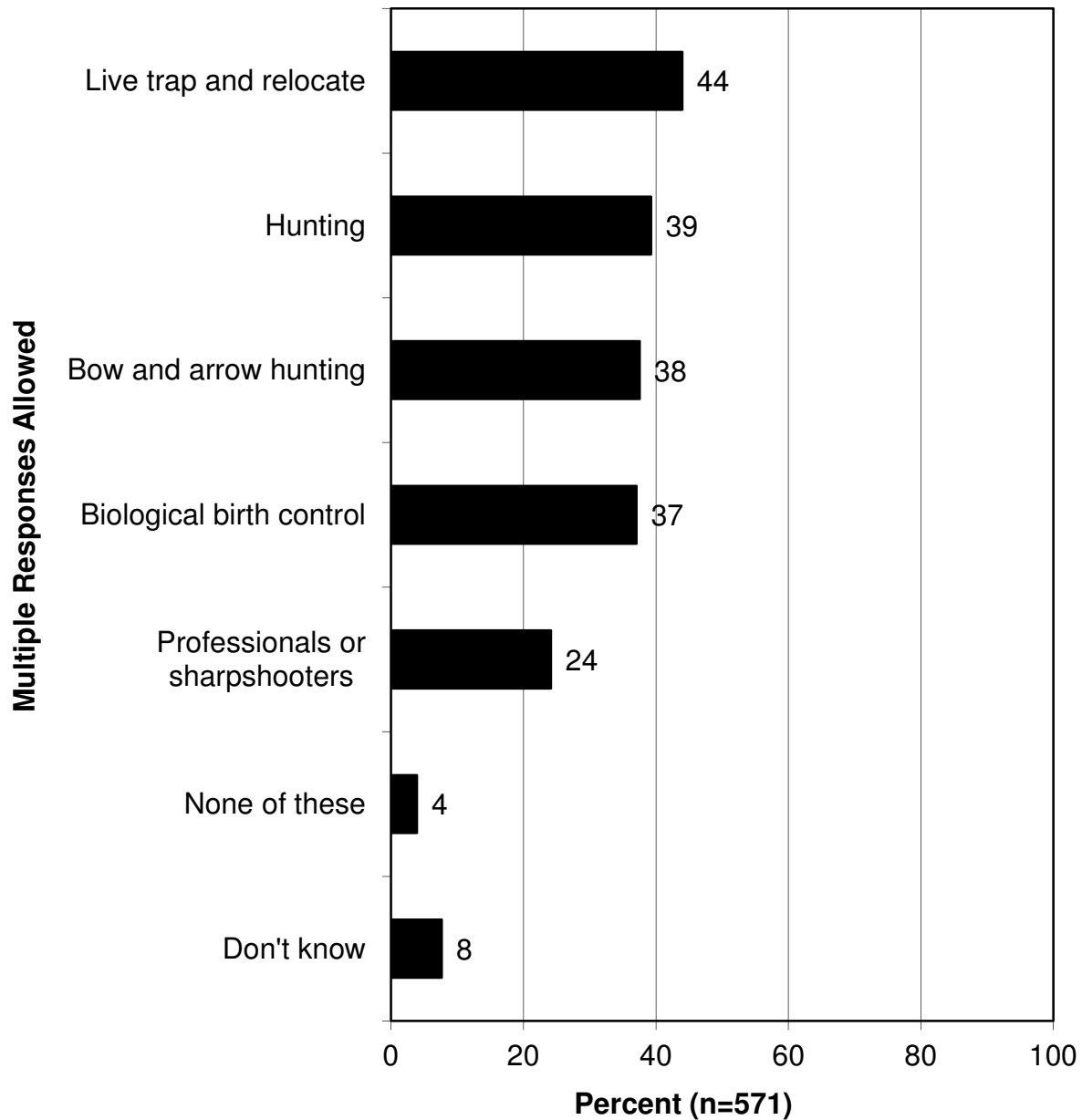
**Q81. Do you support or oppose controlling deer populations, that is, not allowing populations to naturally increase, on public and private lands in urban and suburban areas? (Gen pop survey)**



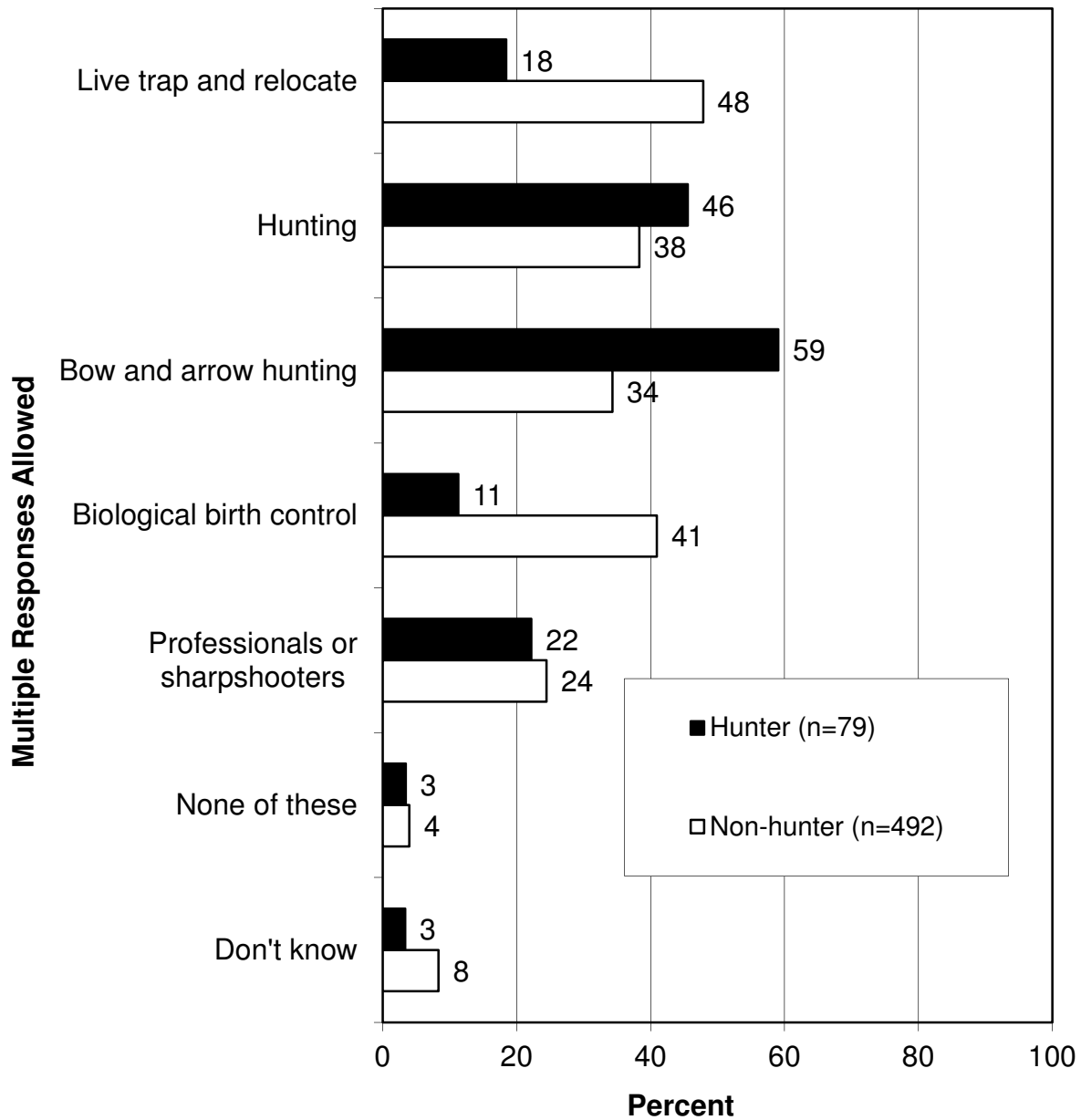
**Q81. Do you support or oppose controlling deer populations, that is, not allowing populations to naturally increase, on public and private lands in urban and suburban areas?  
(Gen pop survey)**



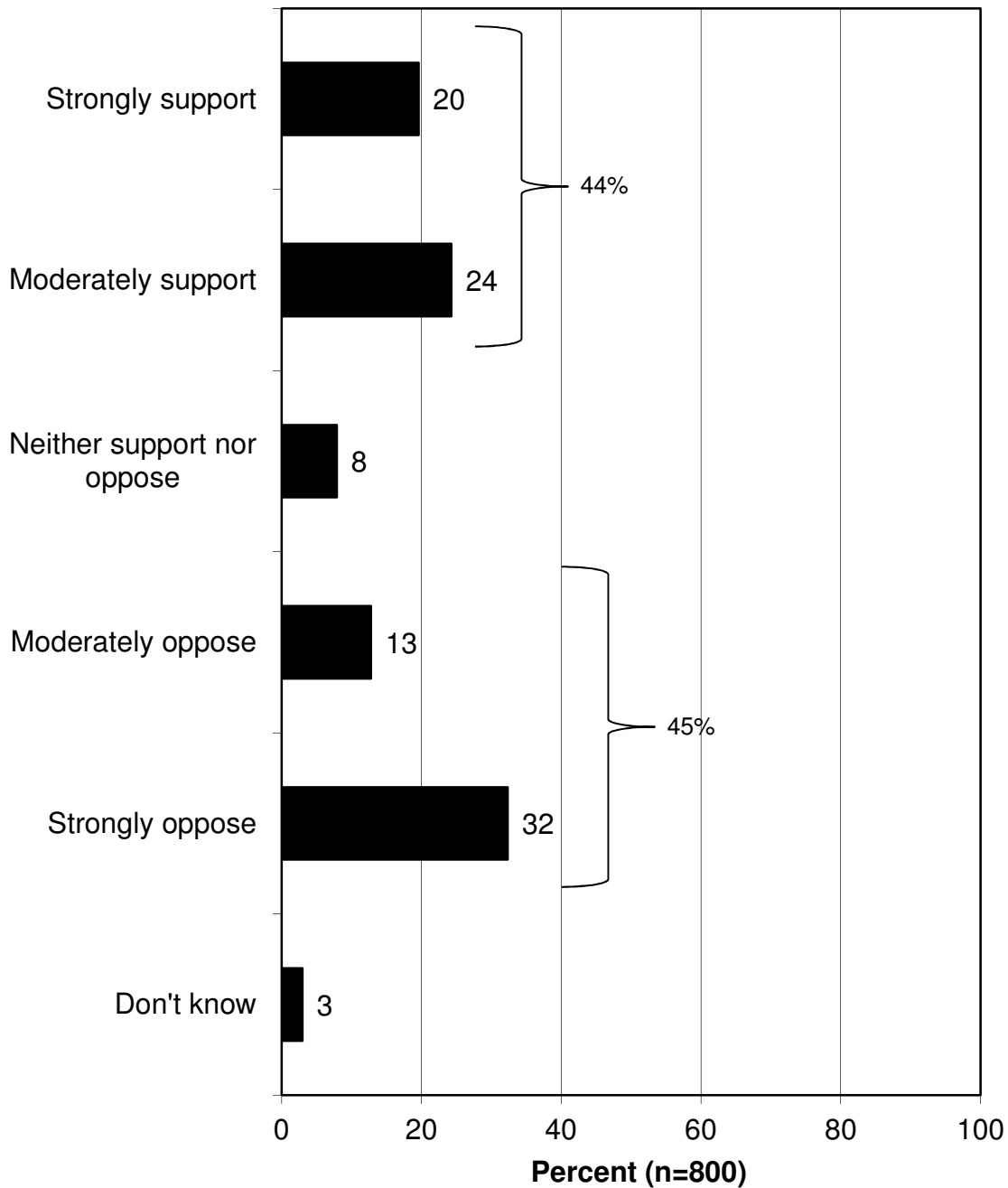
**Q84. How do you think deer should be controlled in urban and suburban areas?  
(Asked of those who support controlling deer populations.) (Gen pop survey)**



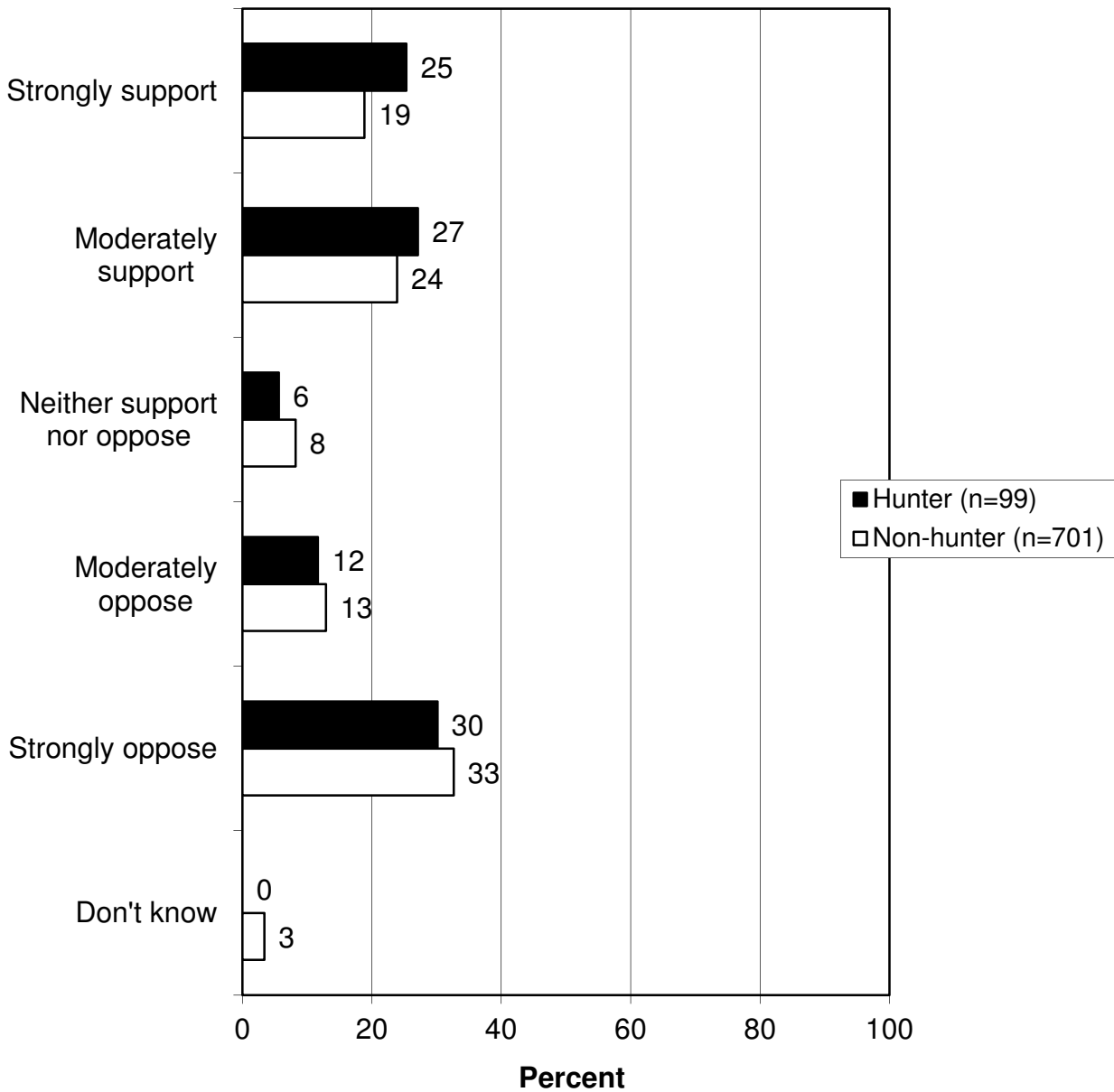
**Q84. How do you think deer should be controlled in urban and suburban areas?  
(Asked of those who support controlling deer populations.) (Gen pop survey)**



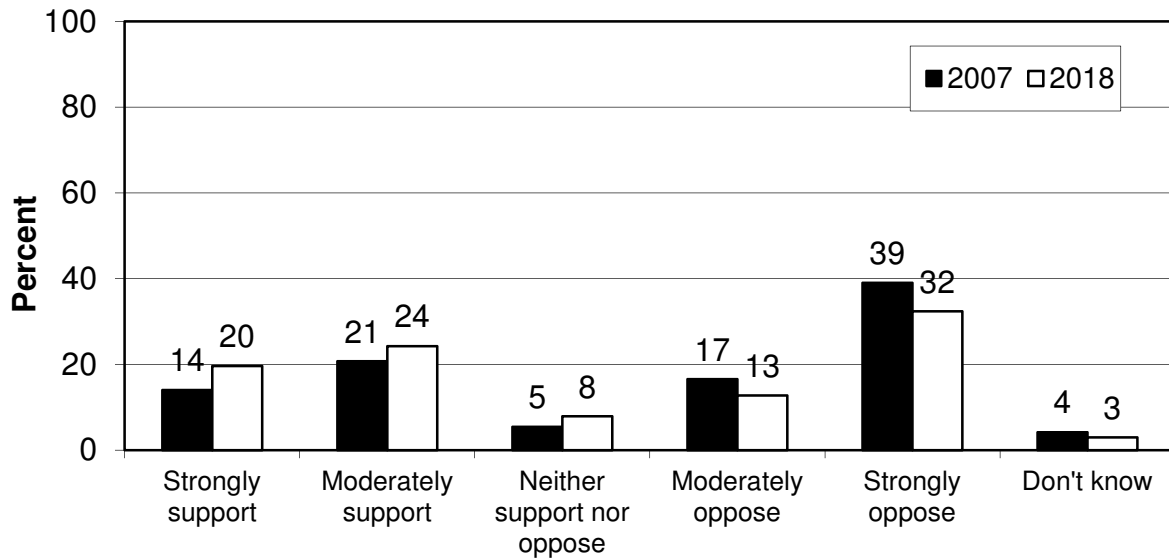
**Q86. Do you support or oppose the use of professionals or sharpshooters to control deer in urban and suburban areas? (Gen pop survey)**



**Q86. Do you support or oppose the use of professionals or sharpshooters to control deer in urban and suburban areas? (Gen pop survey)**

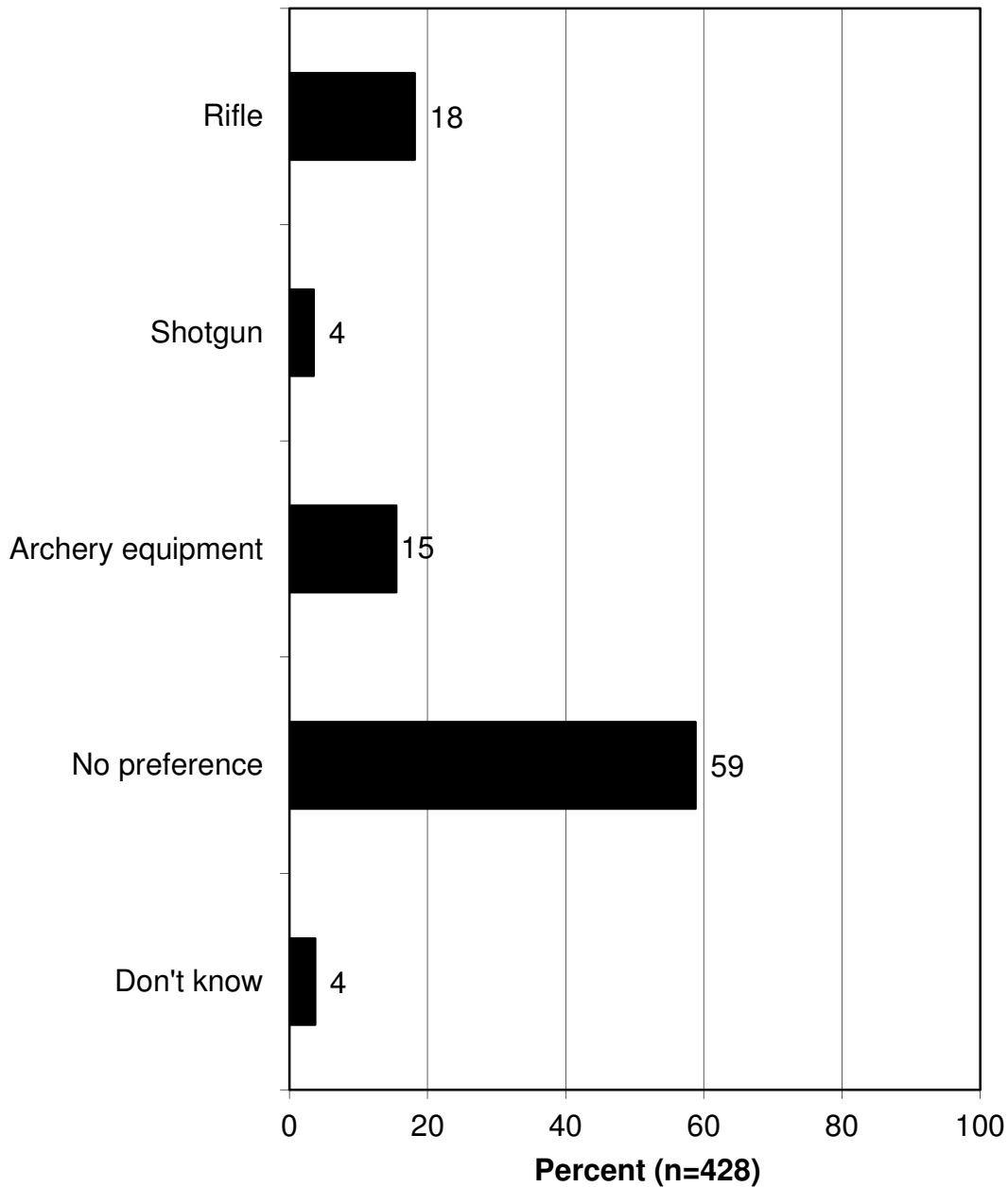


**Q86. Do you support or oppose the use of professionals or sharpshooters to control deer in urban and suburban areas?  
(Gen pop survey)**

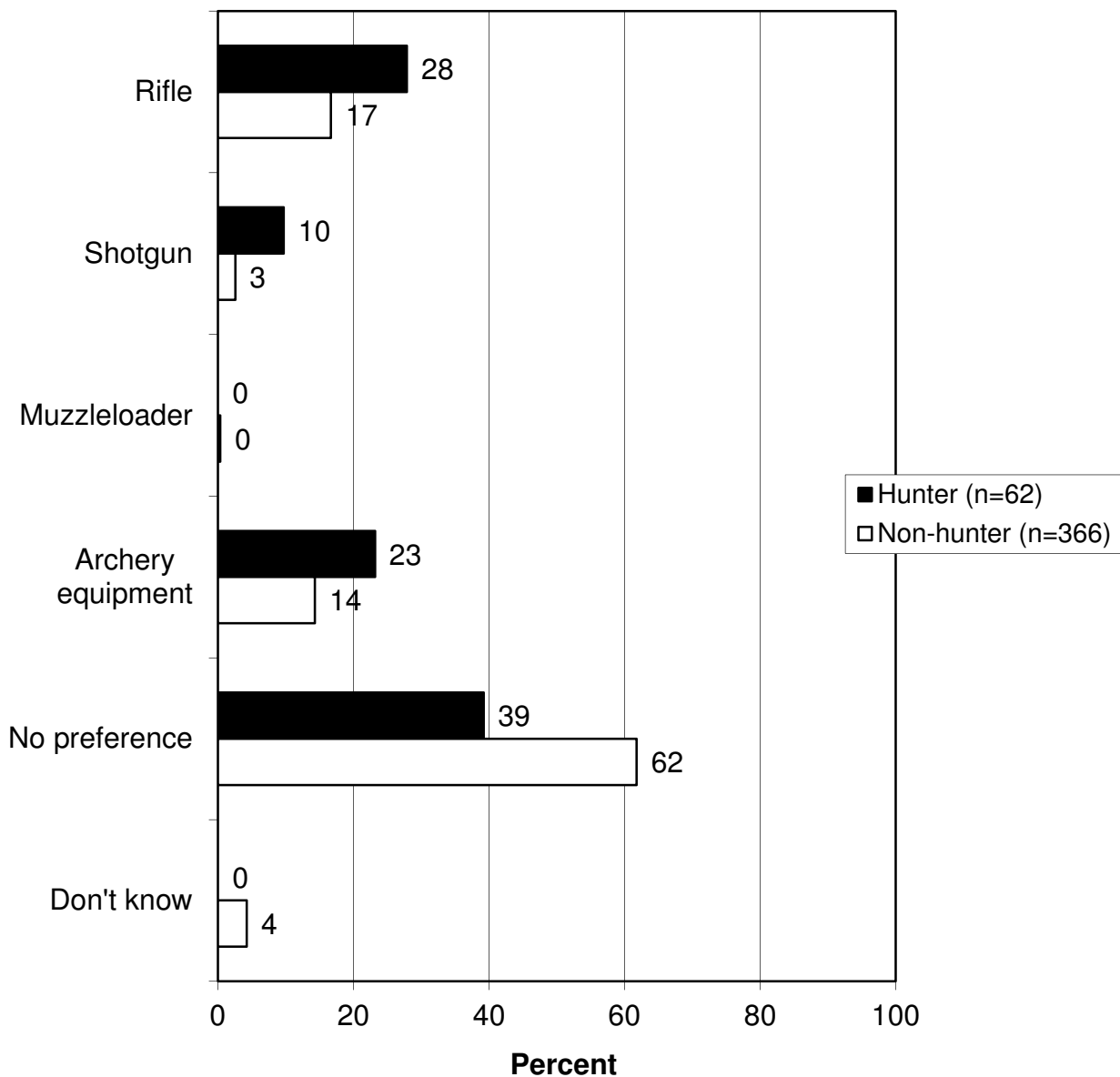




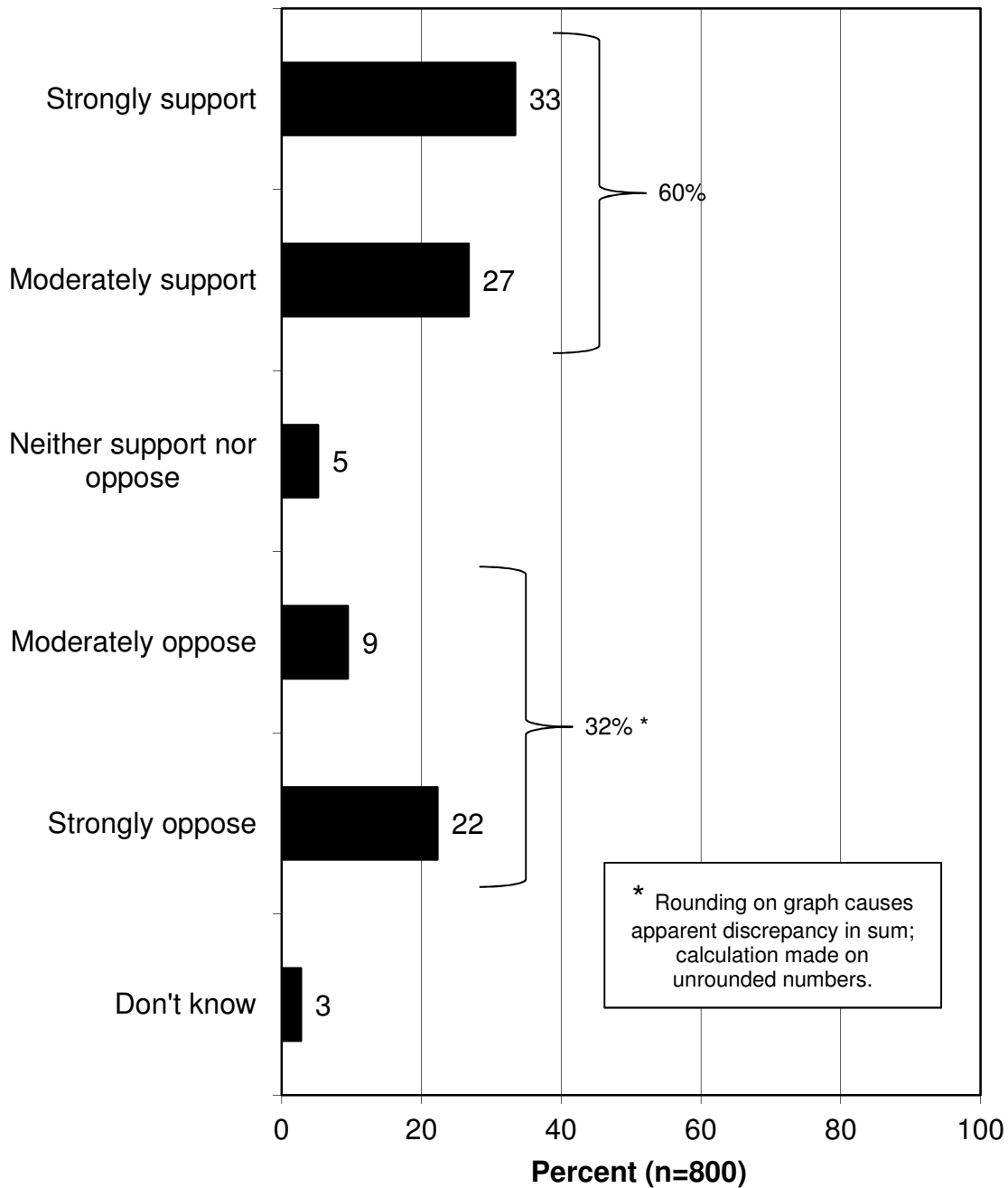
**Q87. Do you have a preference on what type of weapons professionals or sharpshooters should use in urban and suburban areas to control deer? (Asked of those who did not oppose the use of pros or sharpshooters.) (Gen pop survey)**



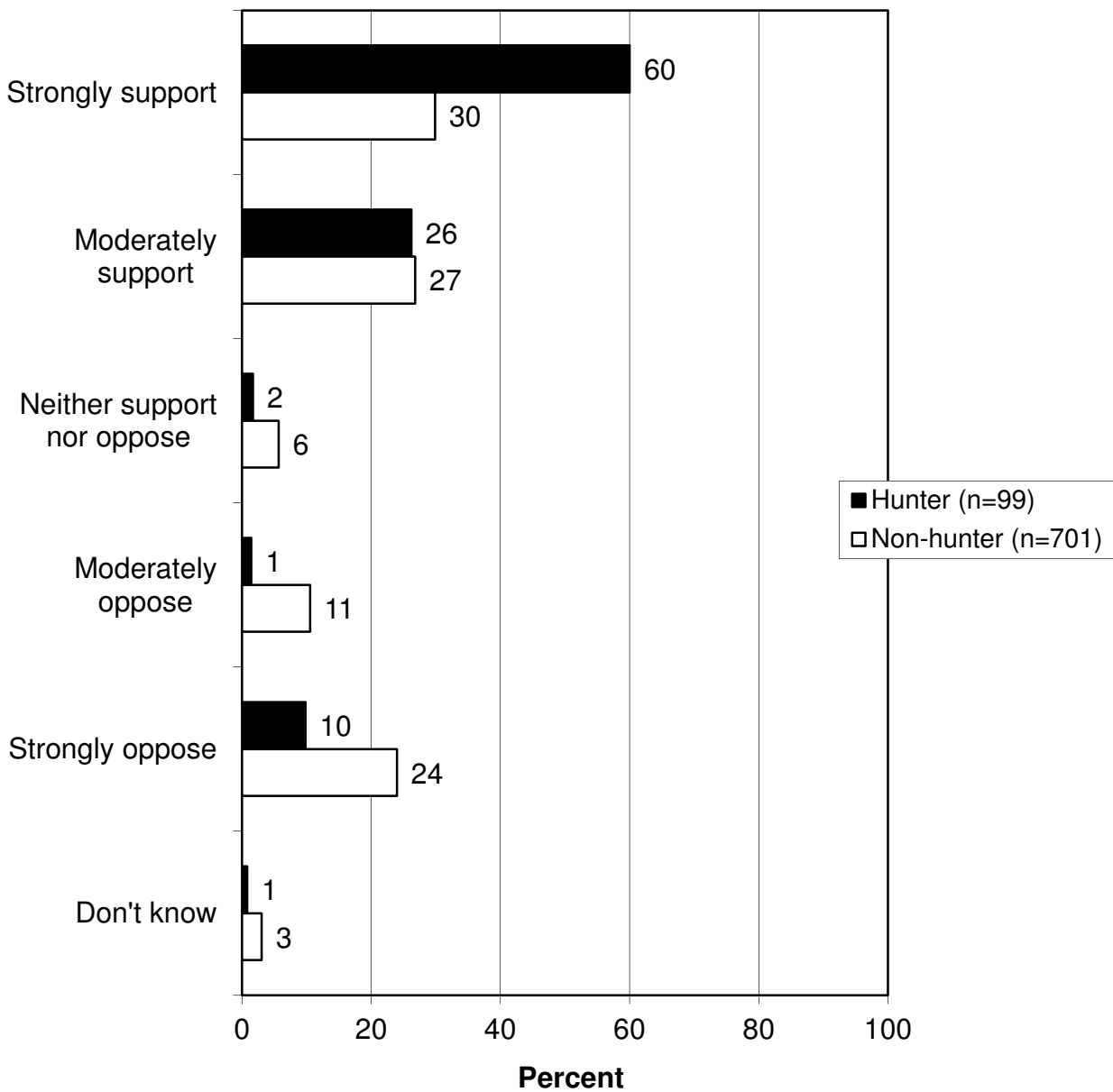
**Q87. Do you have a preference on what type of weapons professionals or sharpshooters should use in urban and suburban areas to control deer? (Asked of those who did not oppose the use of pros or sharpshooters.) (Gen pop survey)**



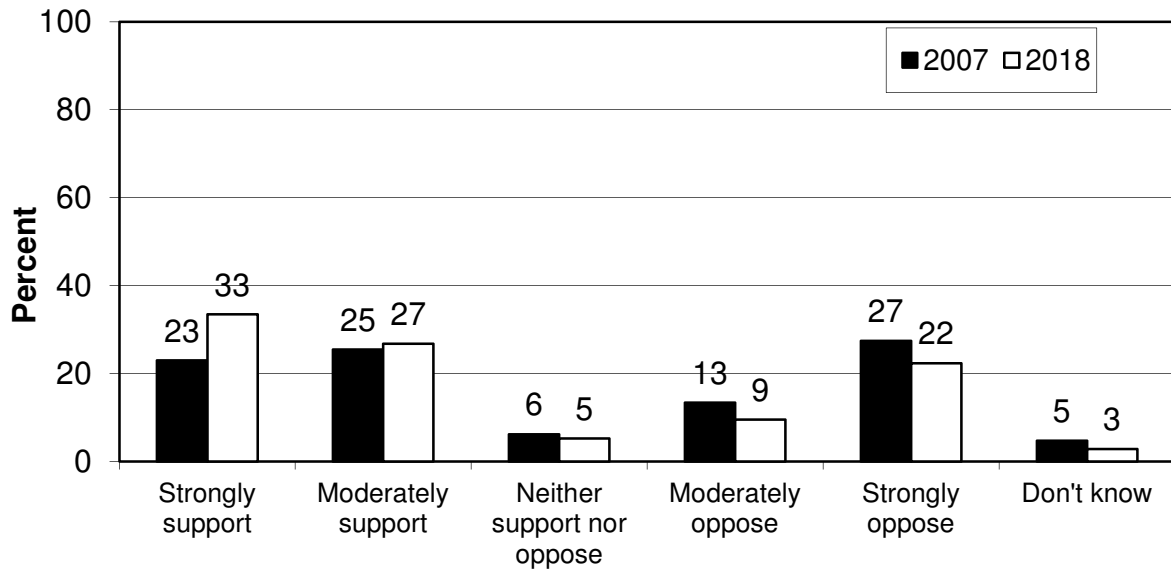
**Q88. Do you support or oppose the use of bow and arrow hunting to control deer in urban and suburban areas? (Gen pop survey)**



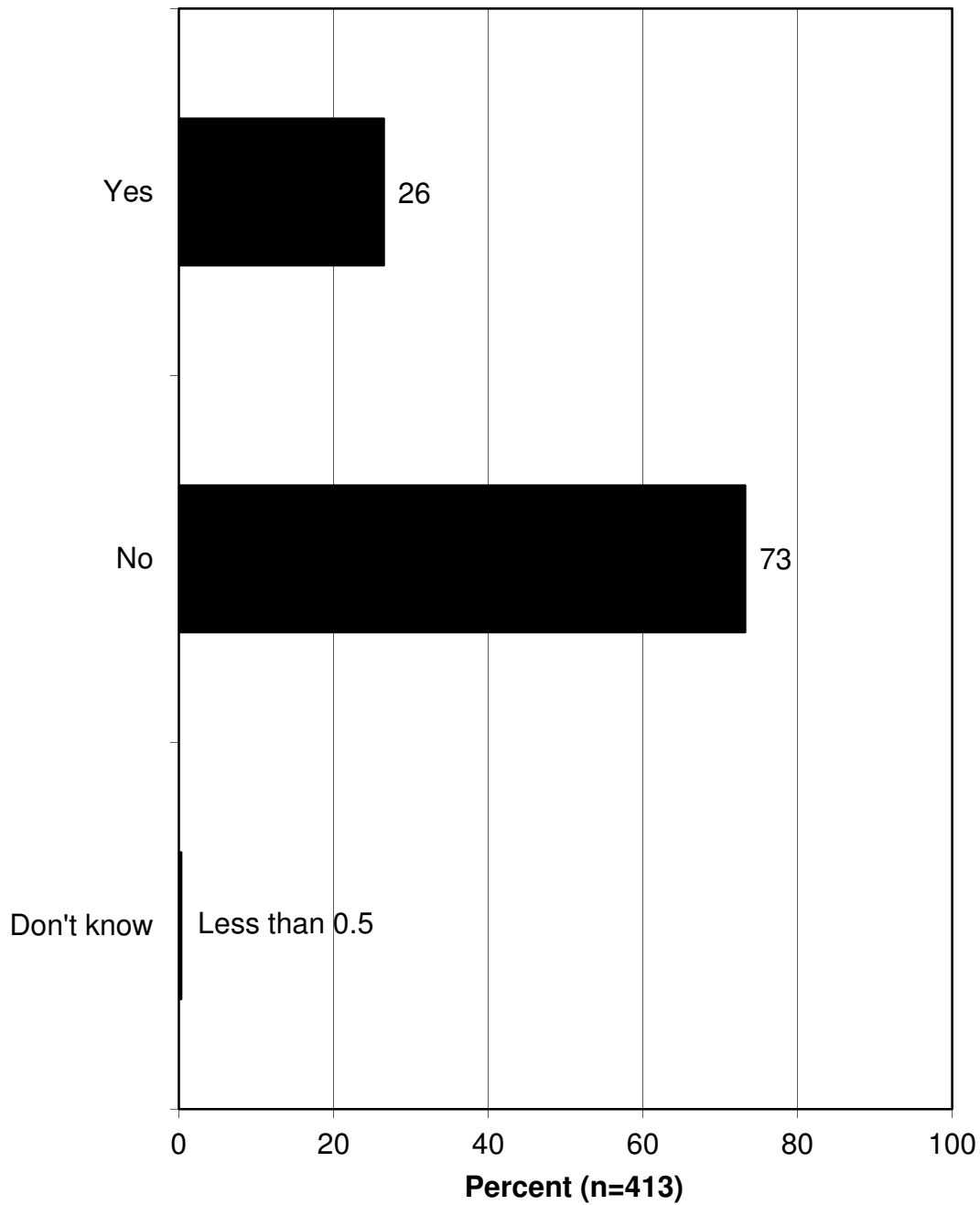
**Q88. Do you support or oppose the use of bow and arrow hunting to control deer in urban and suburban areas? (Gen pop survey)**



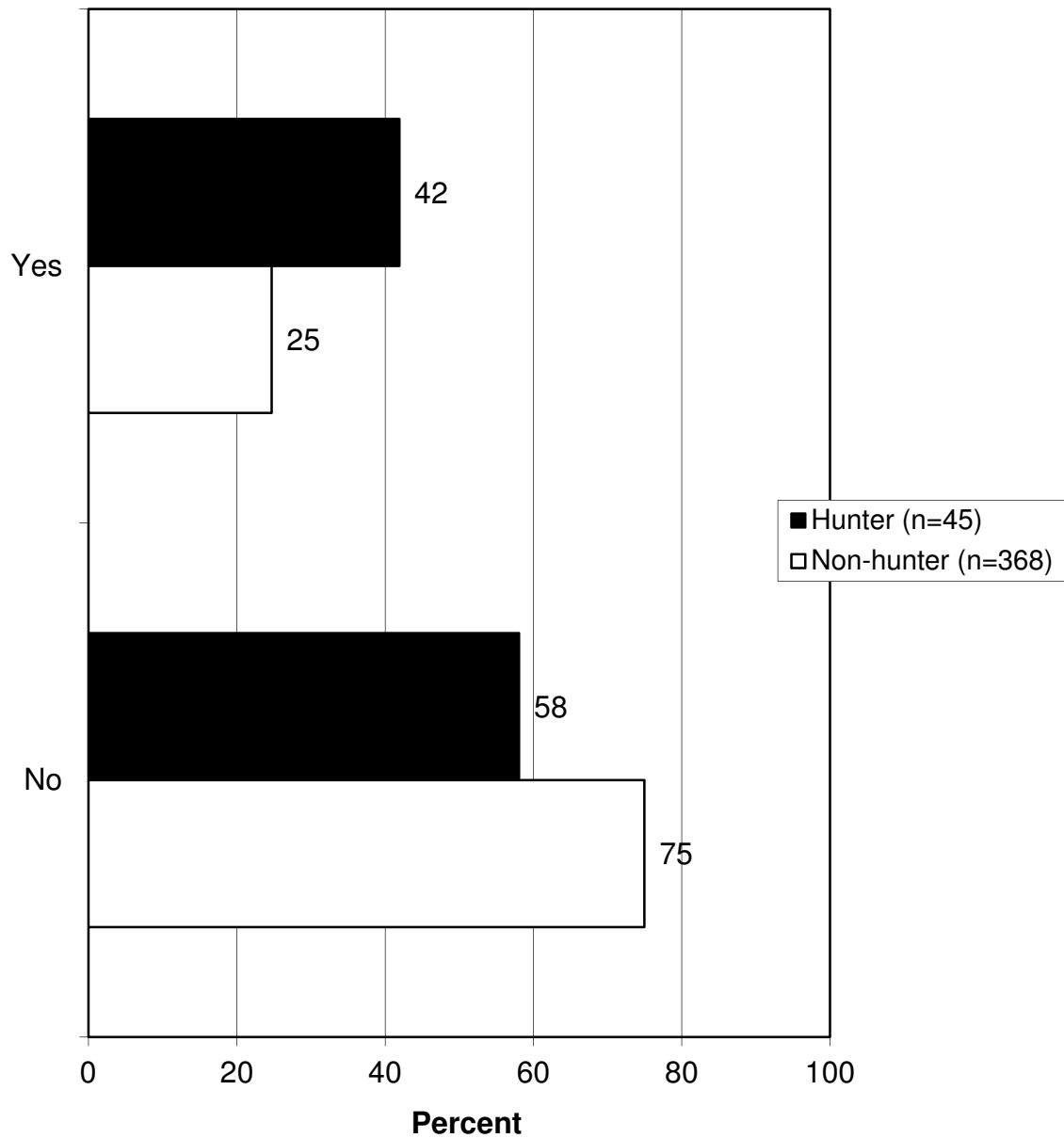
**Q88. Do you support or oppose the use of bow and arrow hunting to control deer in urban and suburban areas?  
(Gen pop survey)**



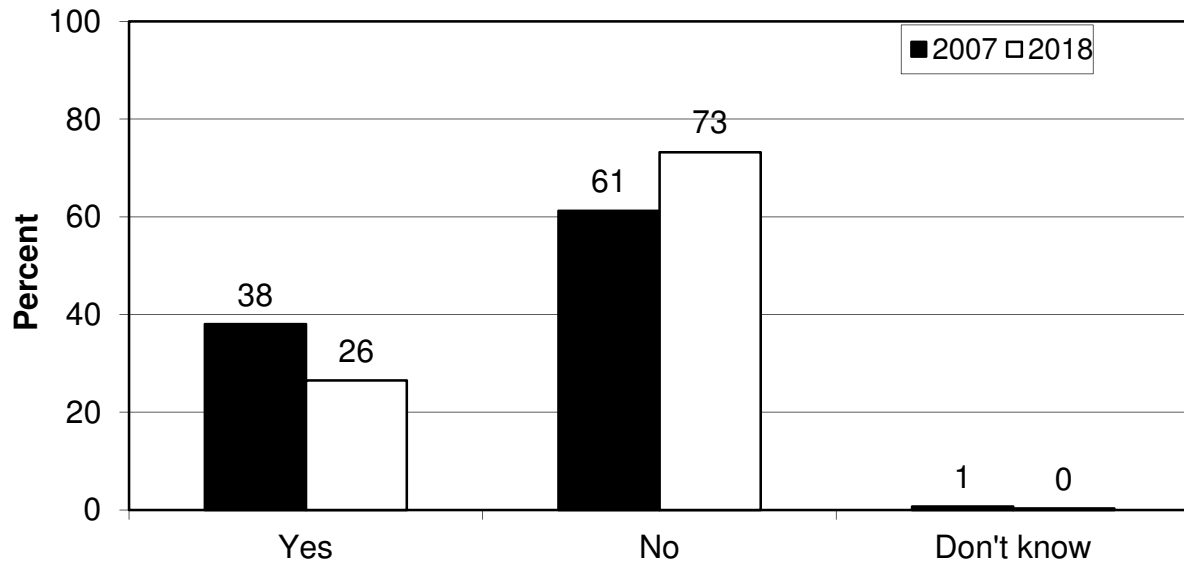
**Q90. Prior to this survey, had you heard of immunocontraceptives or deer contraceptives?  
(Gen pop survey)**



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(Gen pop survey)**

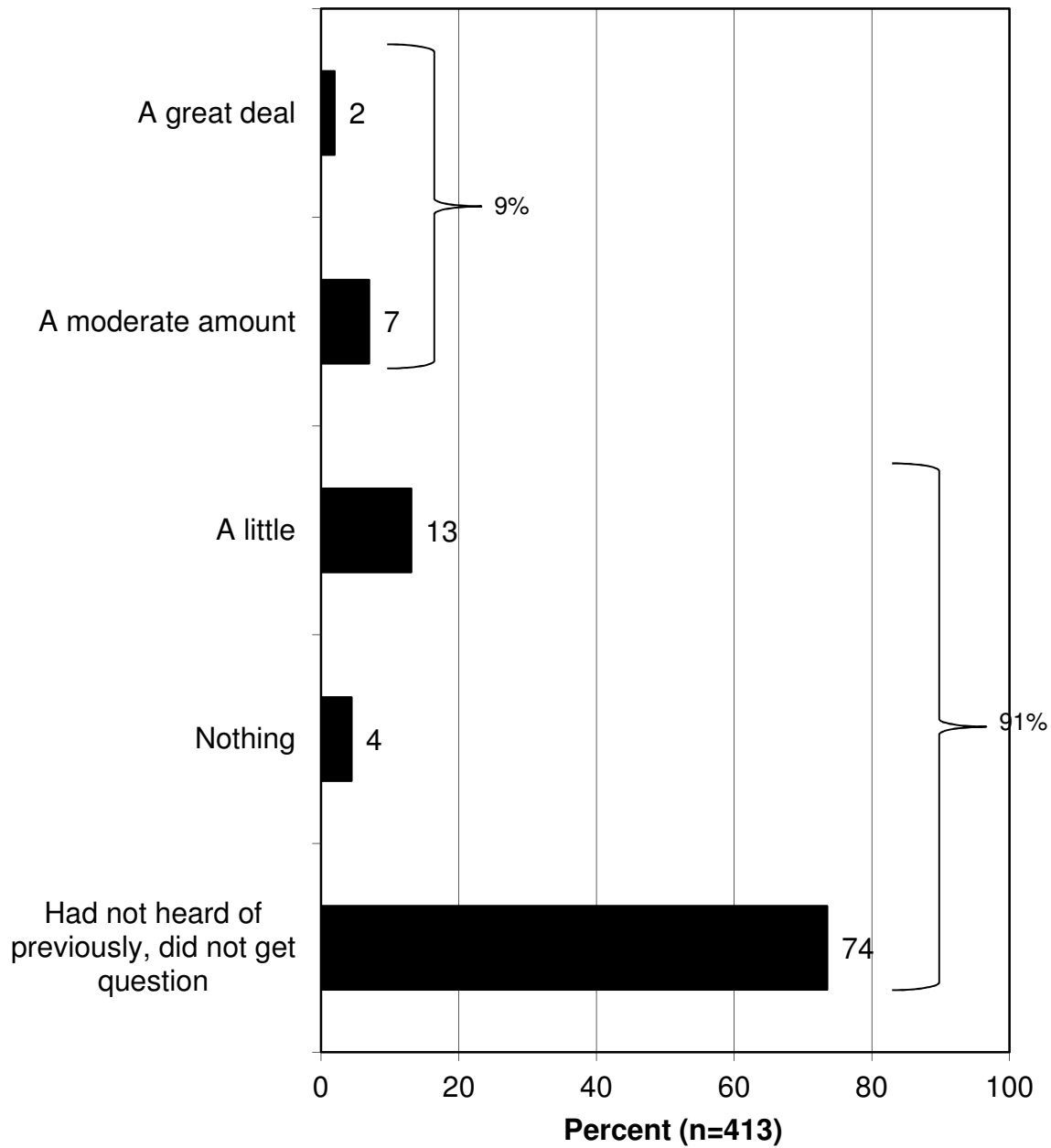


**Q90. Prior to this survey, had you heard of  
immunocontraceptives or deer contraceptives?  
(Gen pop survey)**

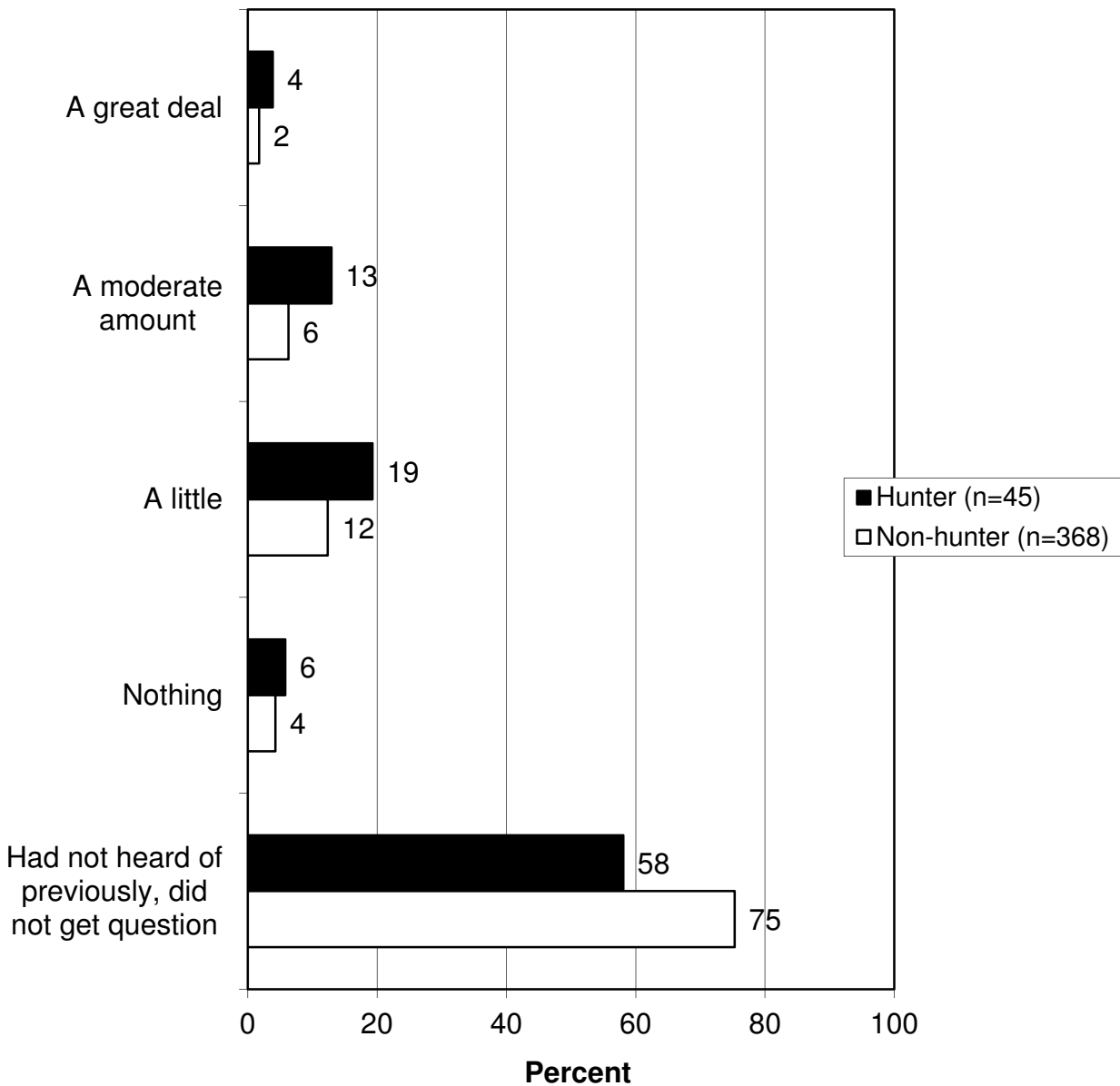




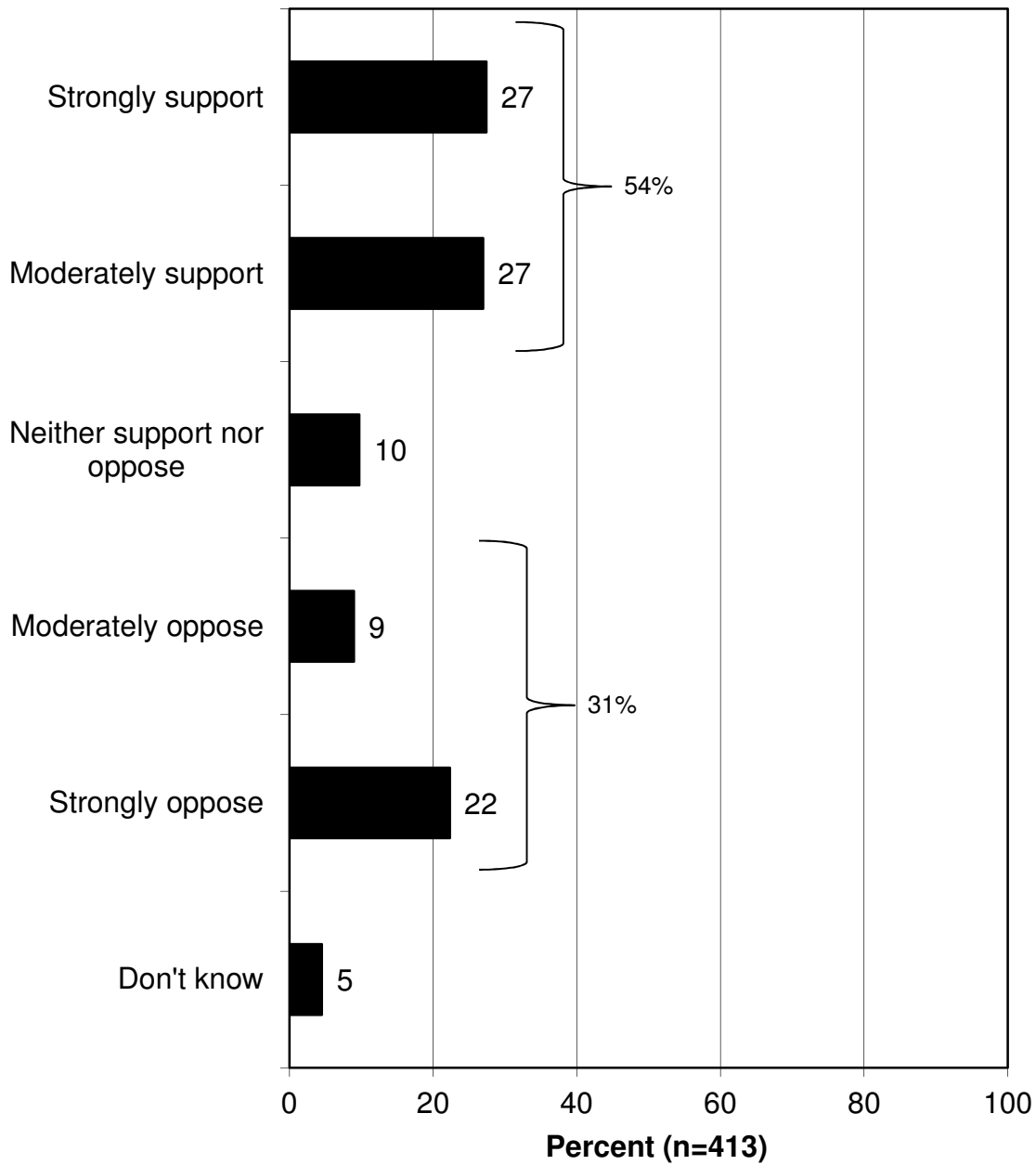
**Q91. Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about immunocontraceptives or deer contraceptives? (Gen pop survey)**



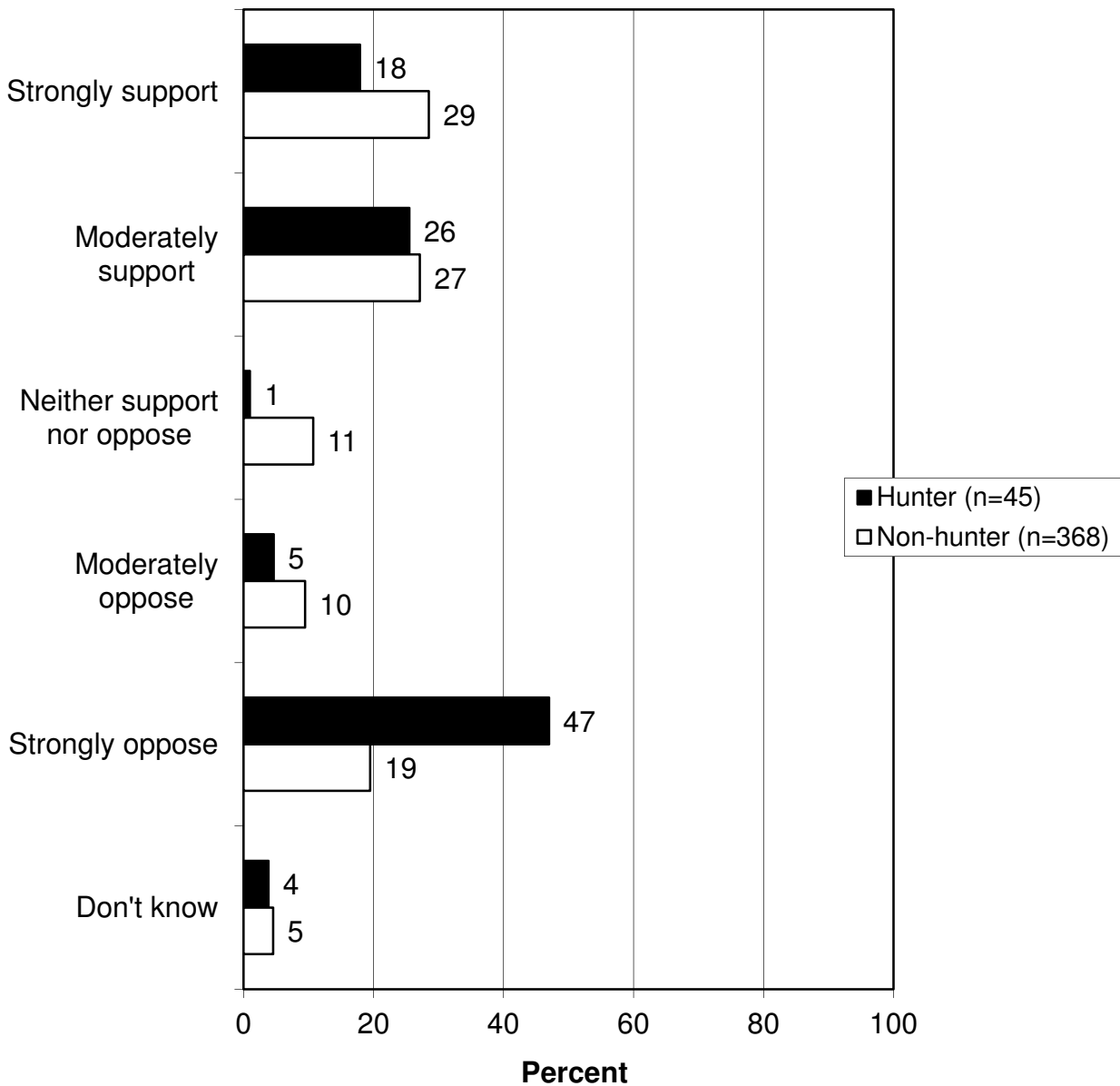
**Q91. Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about immunocontraceptives or deer contraceptives?  
(Gen pop survey)**



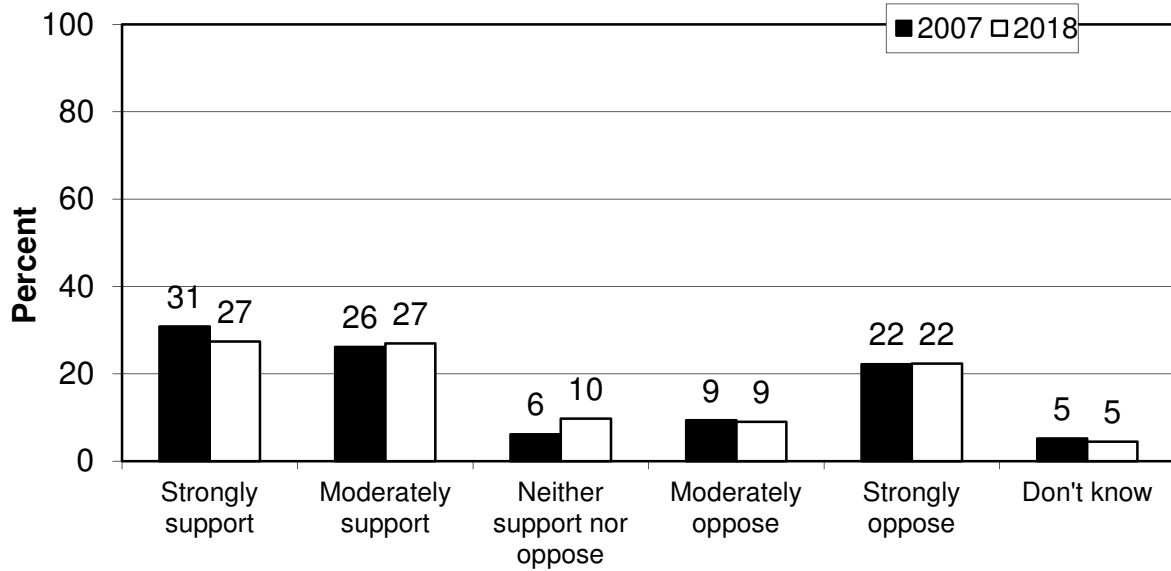
**Q93. Do you support or oppose the use of immunocontraceptives in deer population management efforts for wild deer herds?  
(Gen pop survey)**



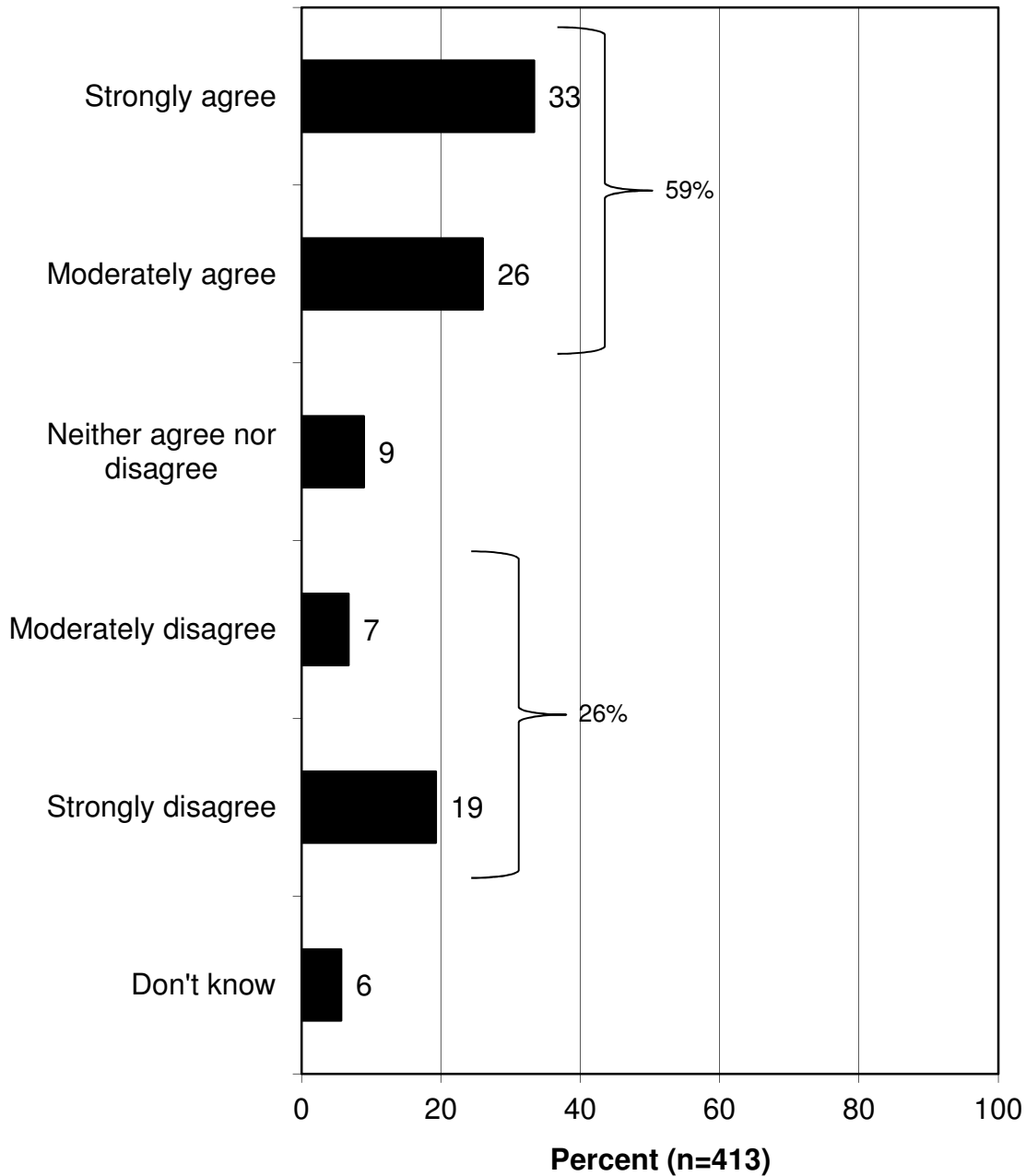
**Q93. Do you support or oppose the use of immunocontraceptives in deer population management efforts for wild deer herds?  
(Gen pop survey)**



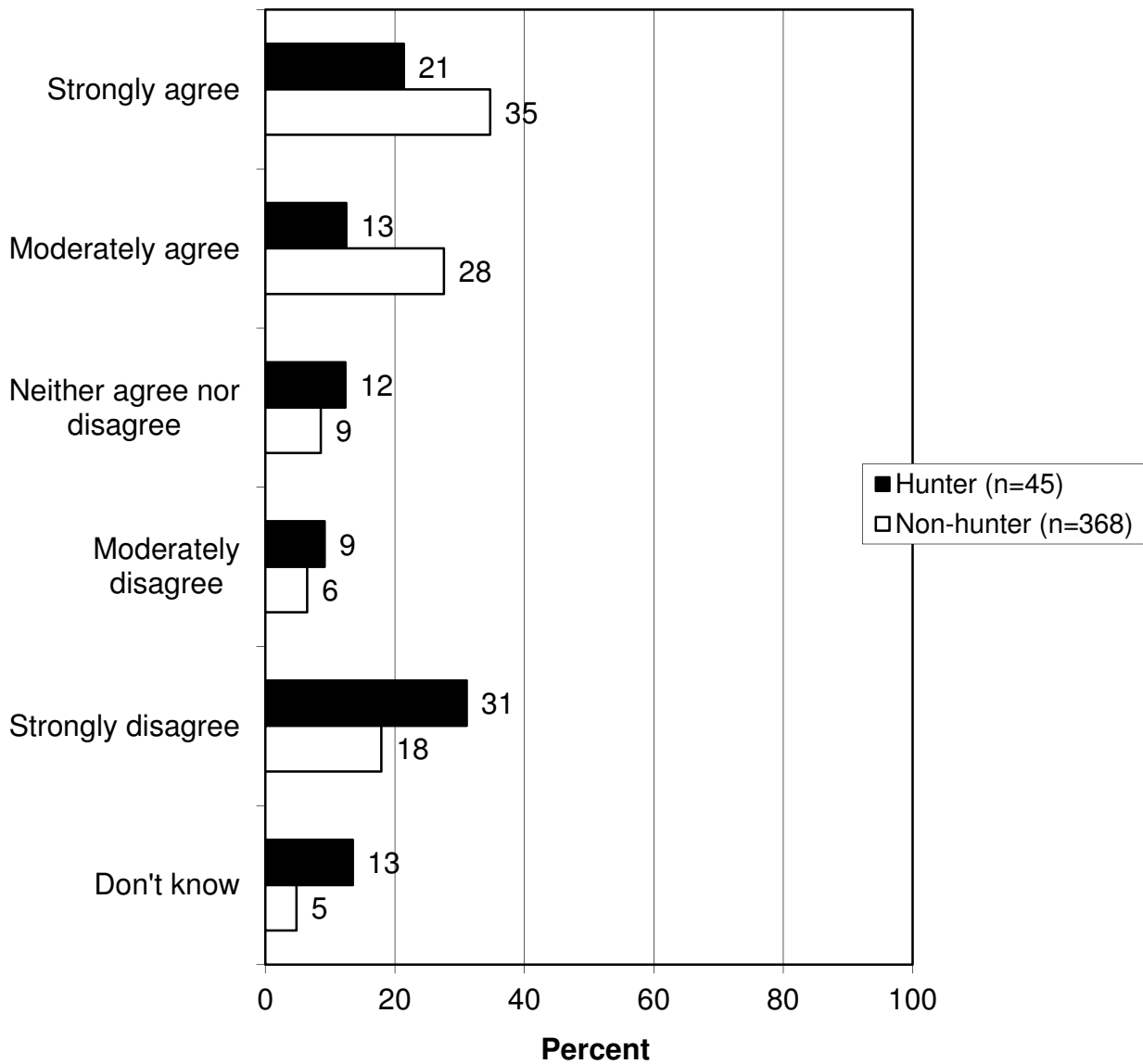
**Q93. Do you support or oppose the use of immunocontraceptives in deer population management efforts for wild deer herds?  
(Gen pop survey)**



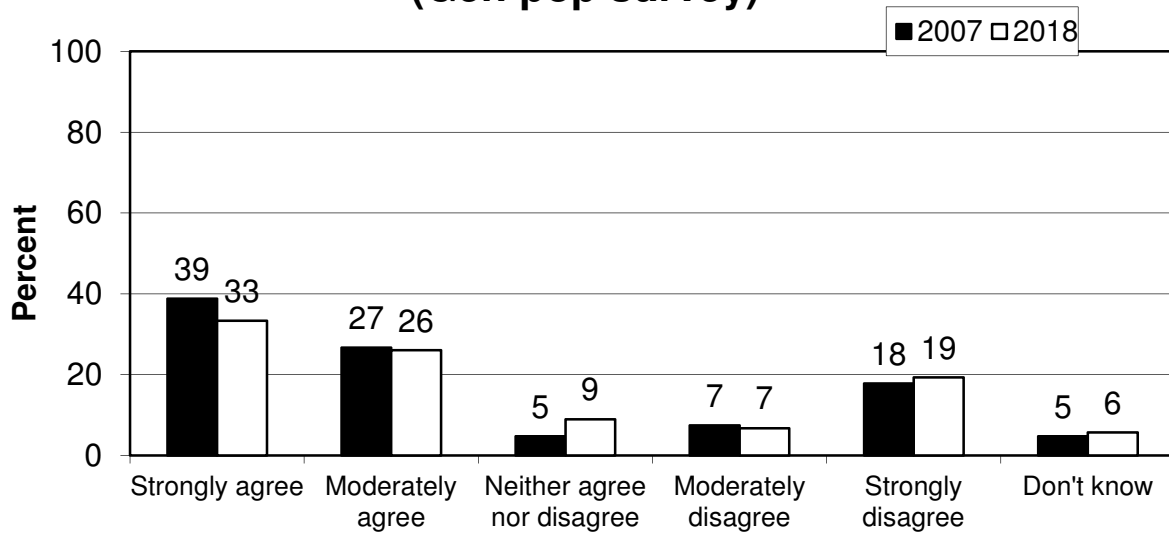
**Q94. Do you agree or disagree that immunocontraceptives are an acceptable alternative to lethal measures for deer population management in wild deer herds? (Gen pop survey)**



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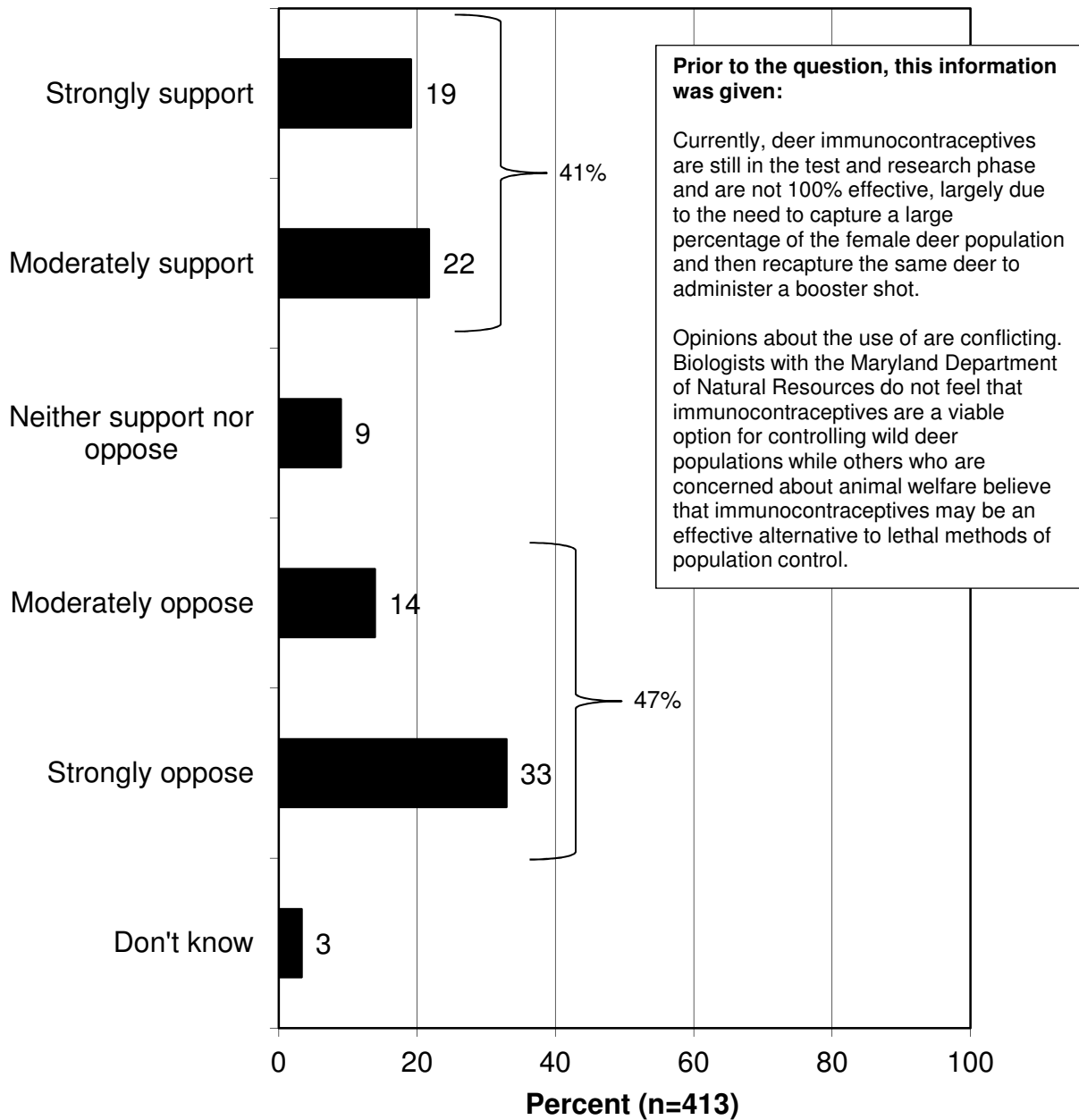


**Q94. Do you agree or disagree that  
immunocontraceptives are an acceptable  
alternative to lethal measures for deer  
population management in wild deer herds?  
(Gen pop survey)**

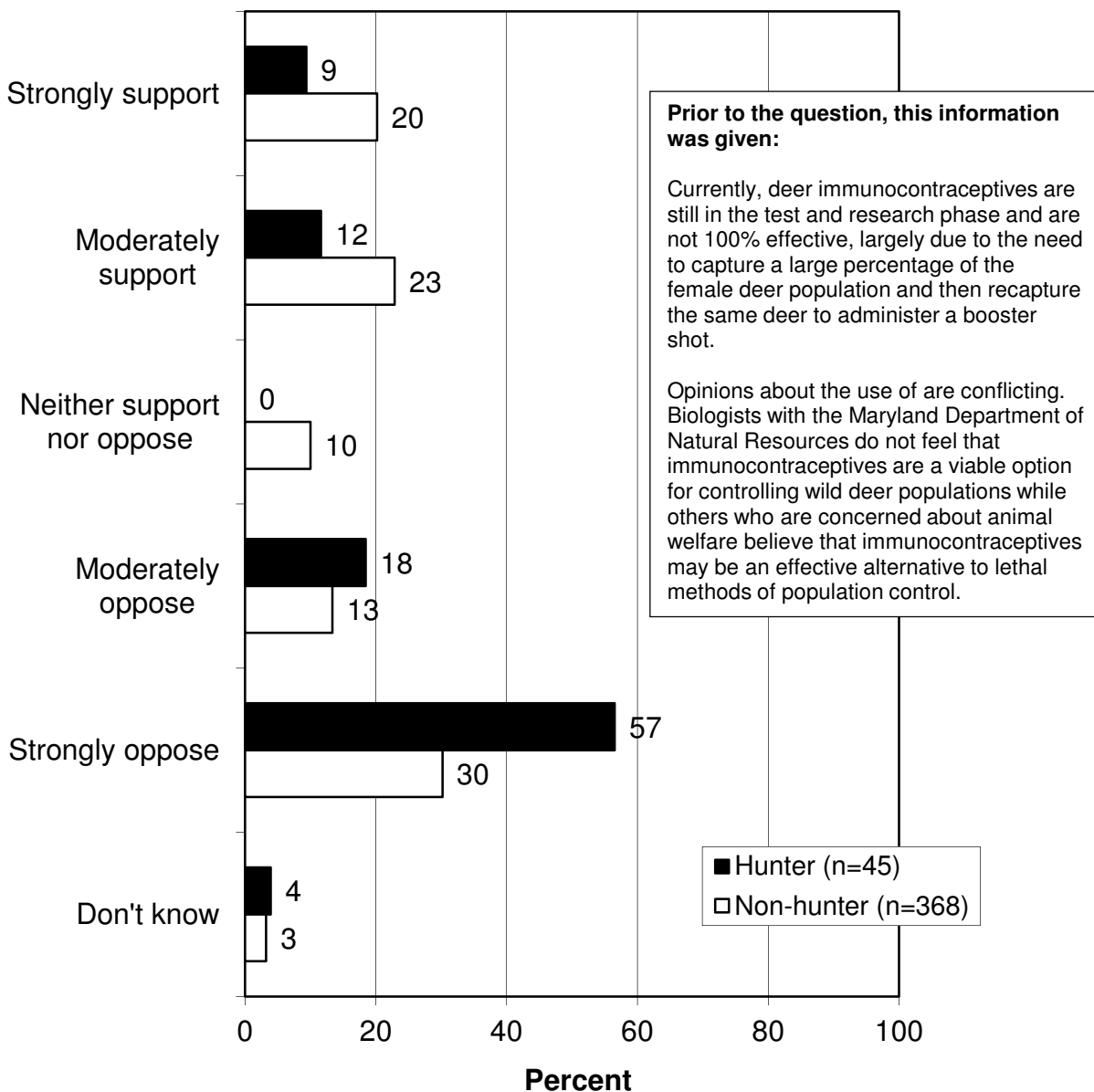




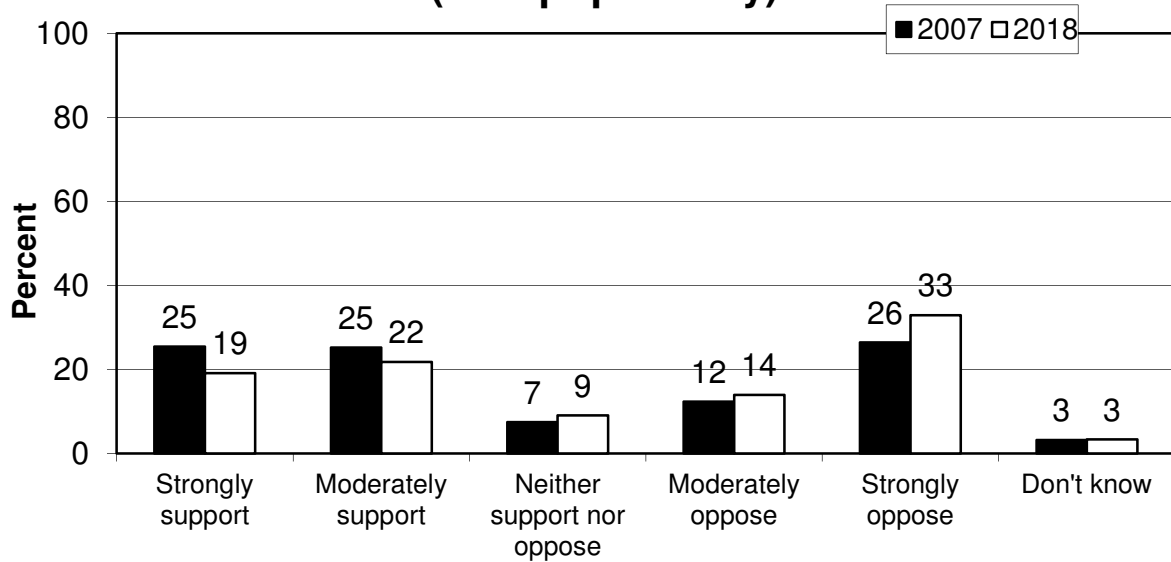
**Q96. Given this information, do you support or oppose the use of immunocontraceptives in deer population management efforts for wild deer herds? (Gen pop survey)**



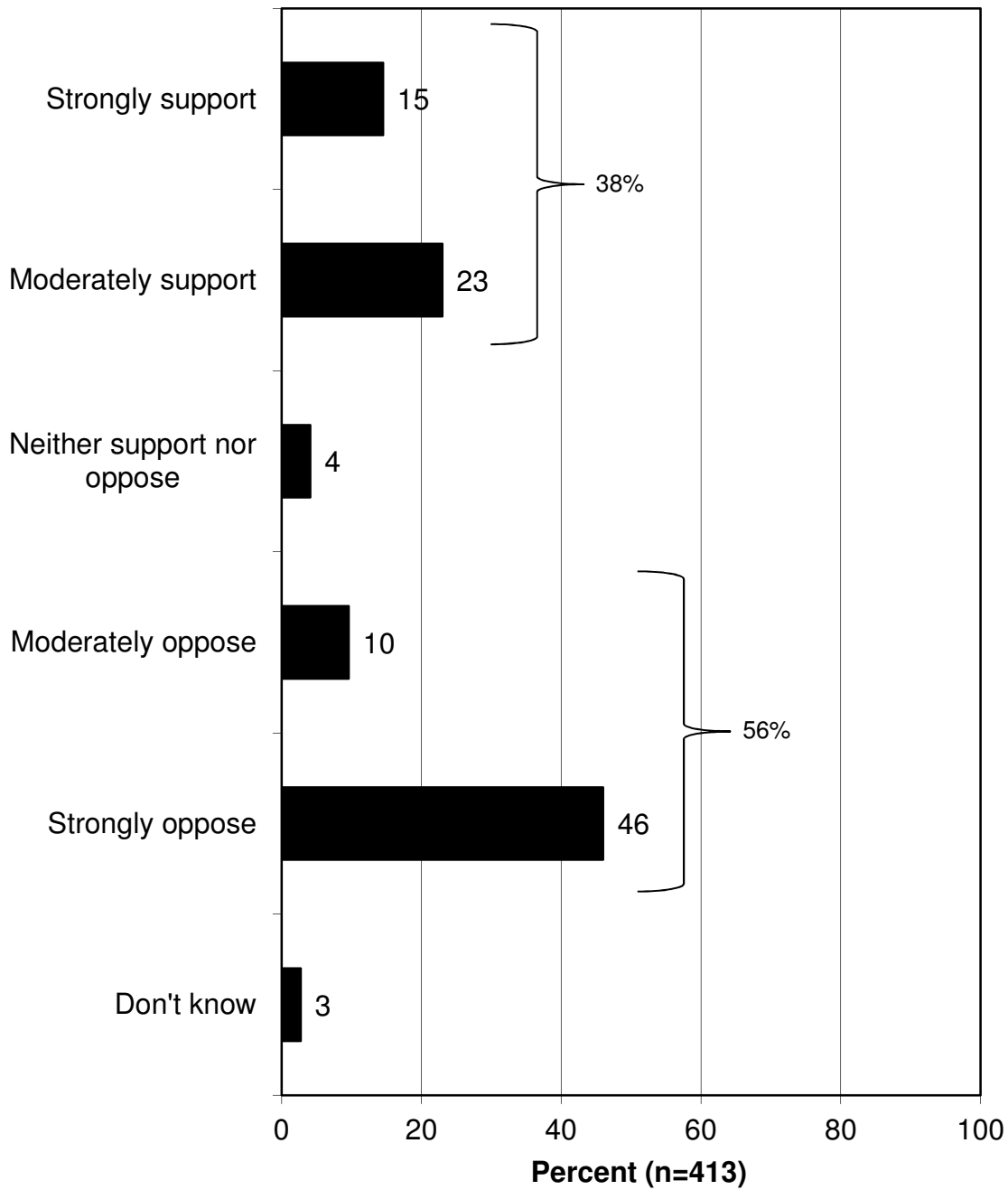
**Q96. Given this information, do you support or oppose the use of immunocontraceptives in deer population management efforts for wild deer herds? (Gen pop survey)**



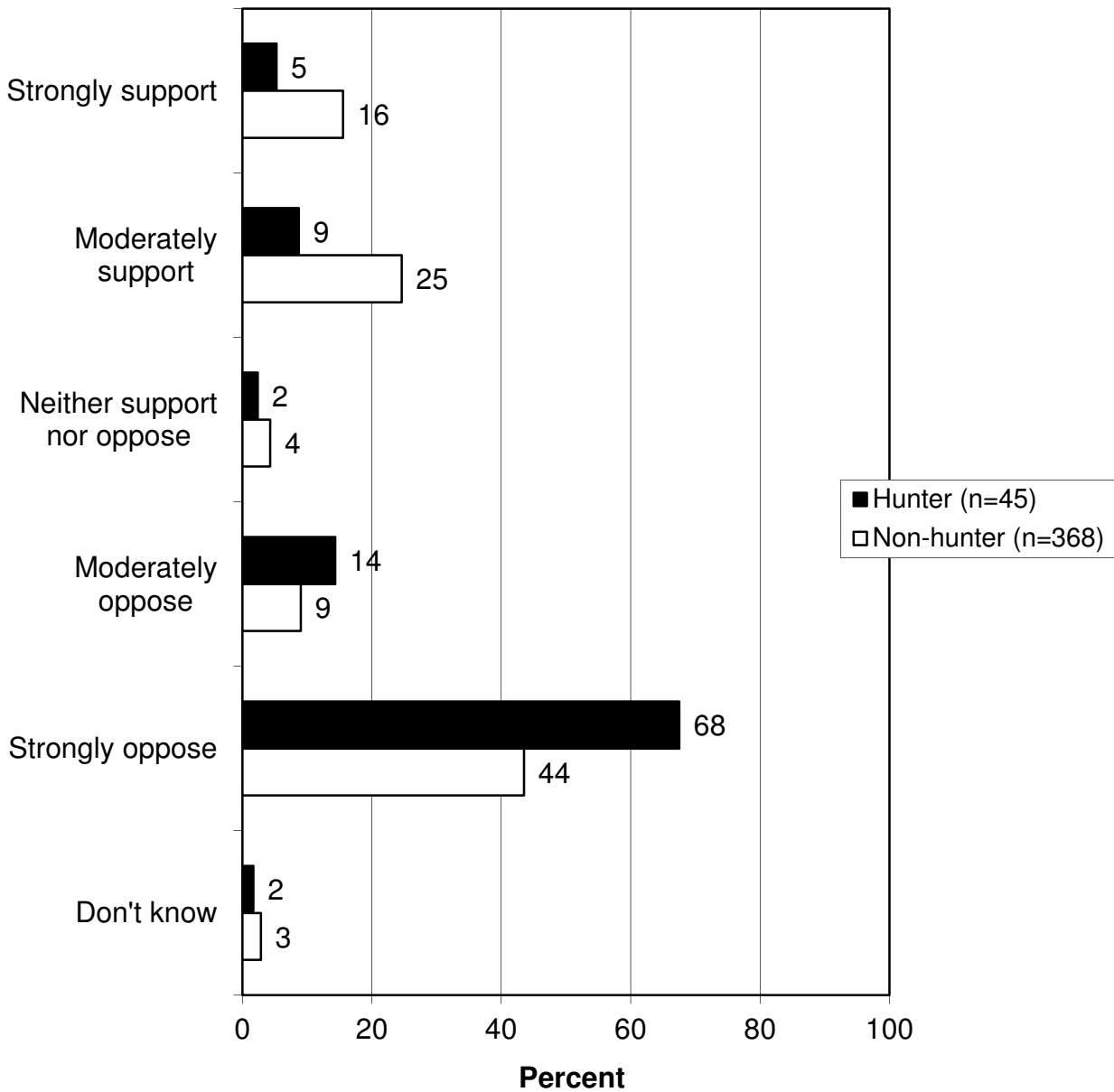
**Q96. Given this information, do you support or oppose the use of immunocontraceptives in deer population management efforts for wild deer herds?  
(Gen pop survey)**



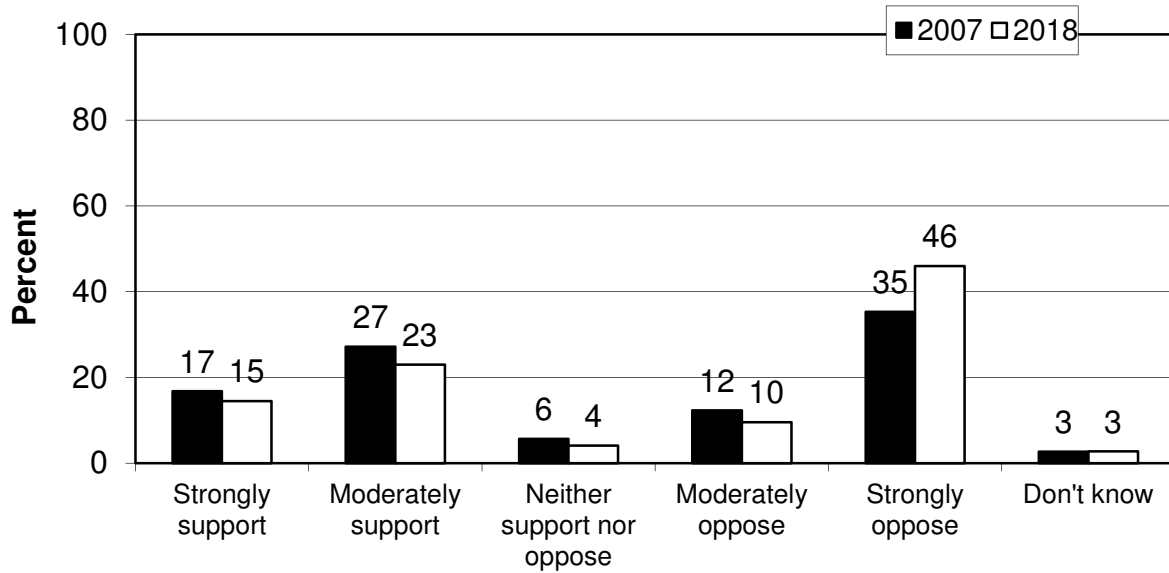
**Q97. Do you support or oppose using state tax revenue to administer immunocontraceptives to wild deer? (Gen pop survey)**



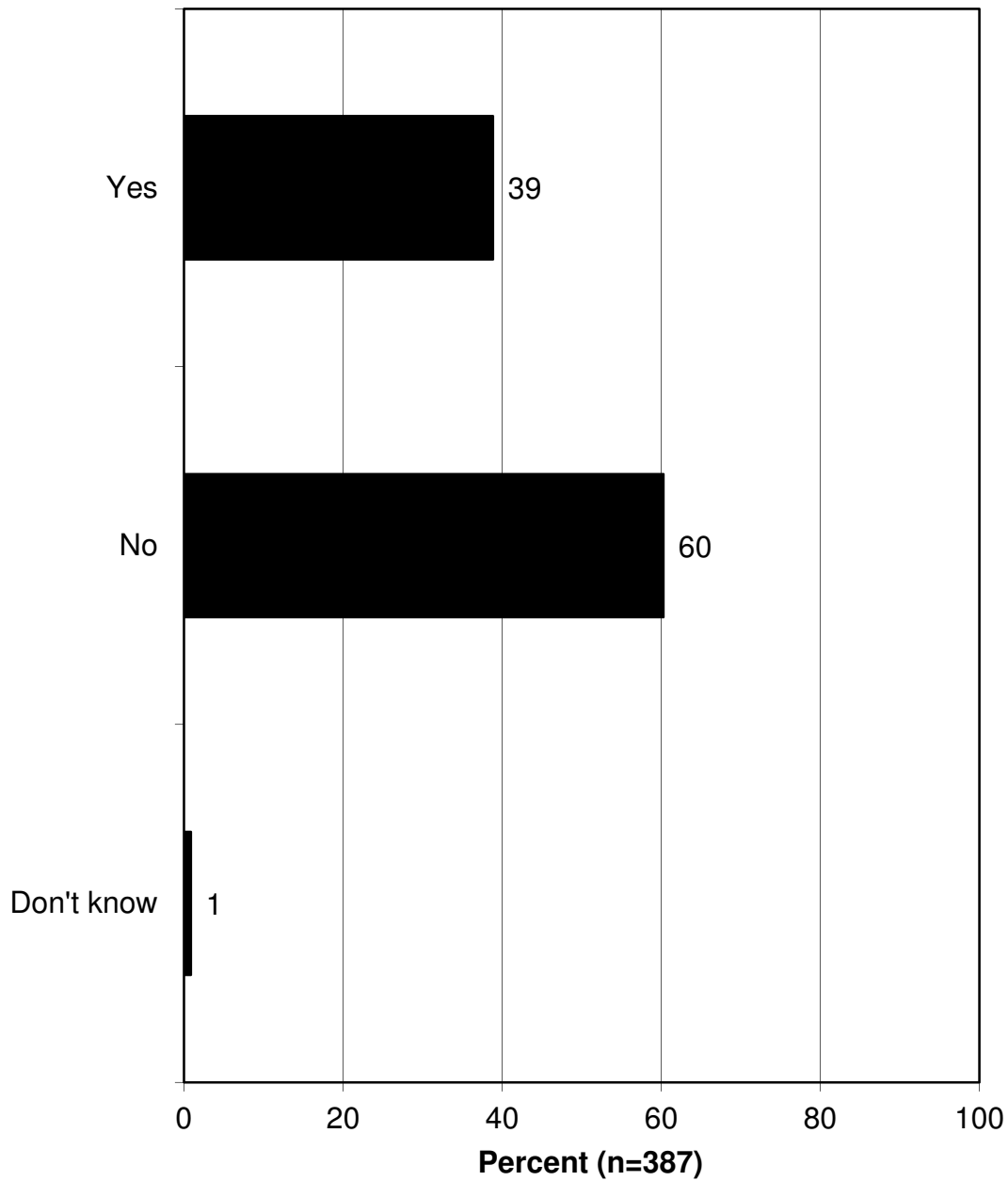
**Q97. Do you support or oppose using state tax revenue to administer immunocontraceptives to wild deer? (Gen pop survey)**



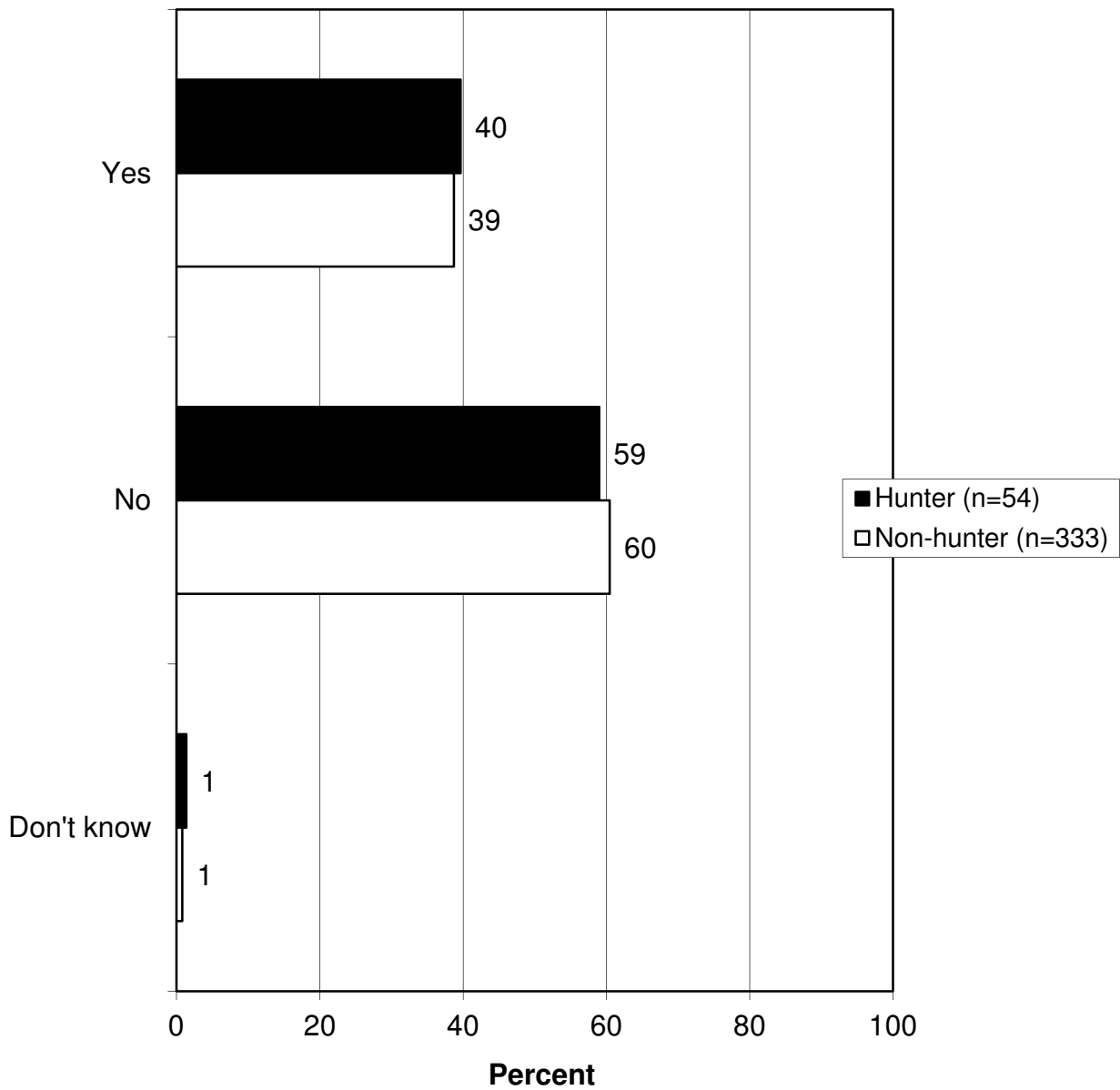
**Q97. Do you support or oppose using state tax revenue to administer immunocontraceptives to wild deer?  
(Gen pop survey)**



**Q98. Prior to this survey, had you heard of sterilizing female deer to prevent pregnancy for deer population management in wild herds?  
(Gen pop survey)**

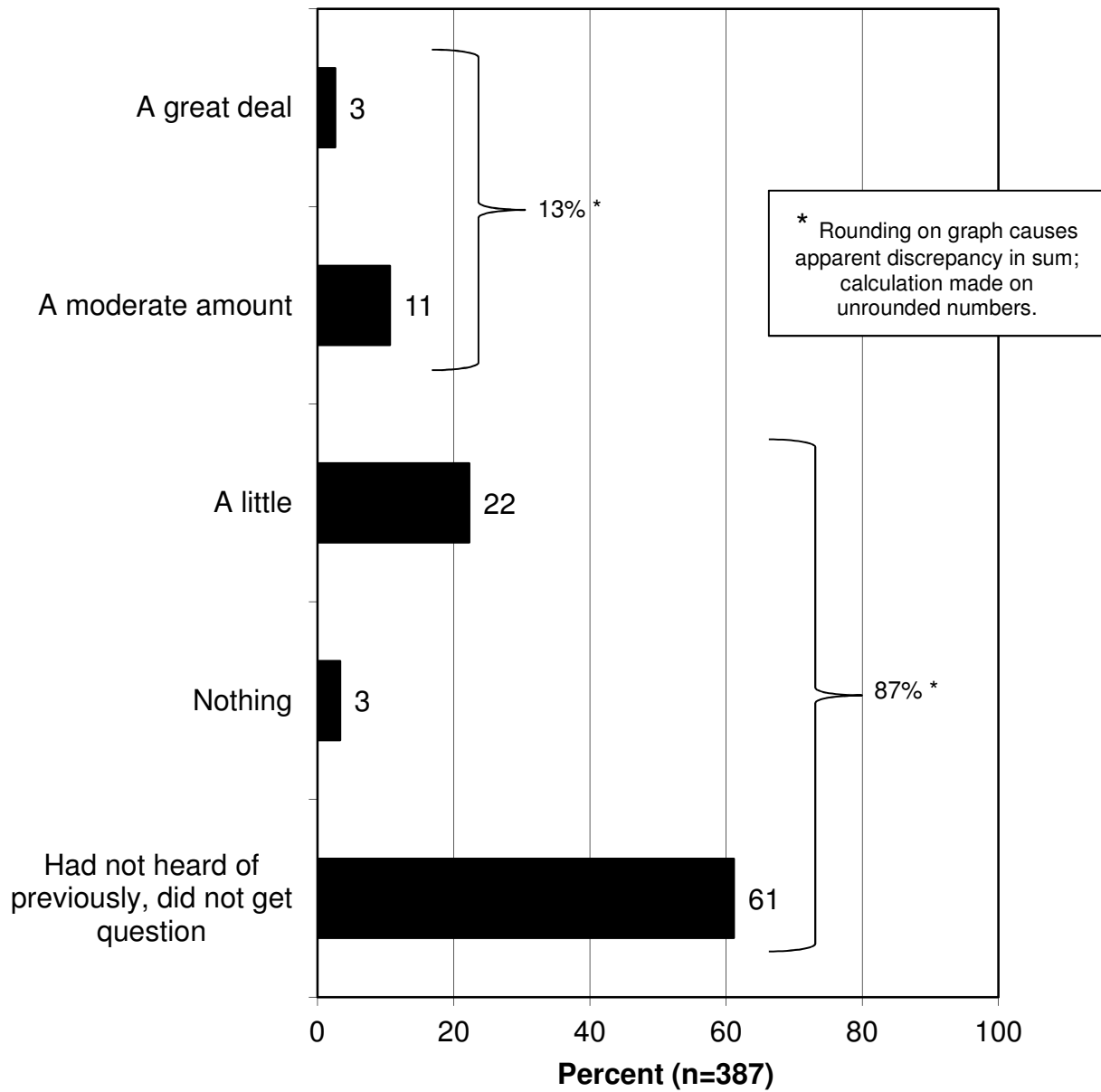


**Q98. Prior to this survey, had you heard of sterilizing female deer to prevent pregnancy for deer population management in wild herds?  
(Gen pop survey)**

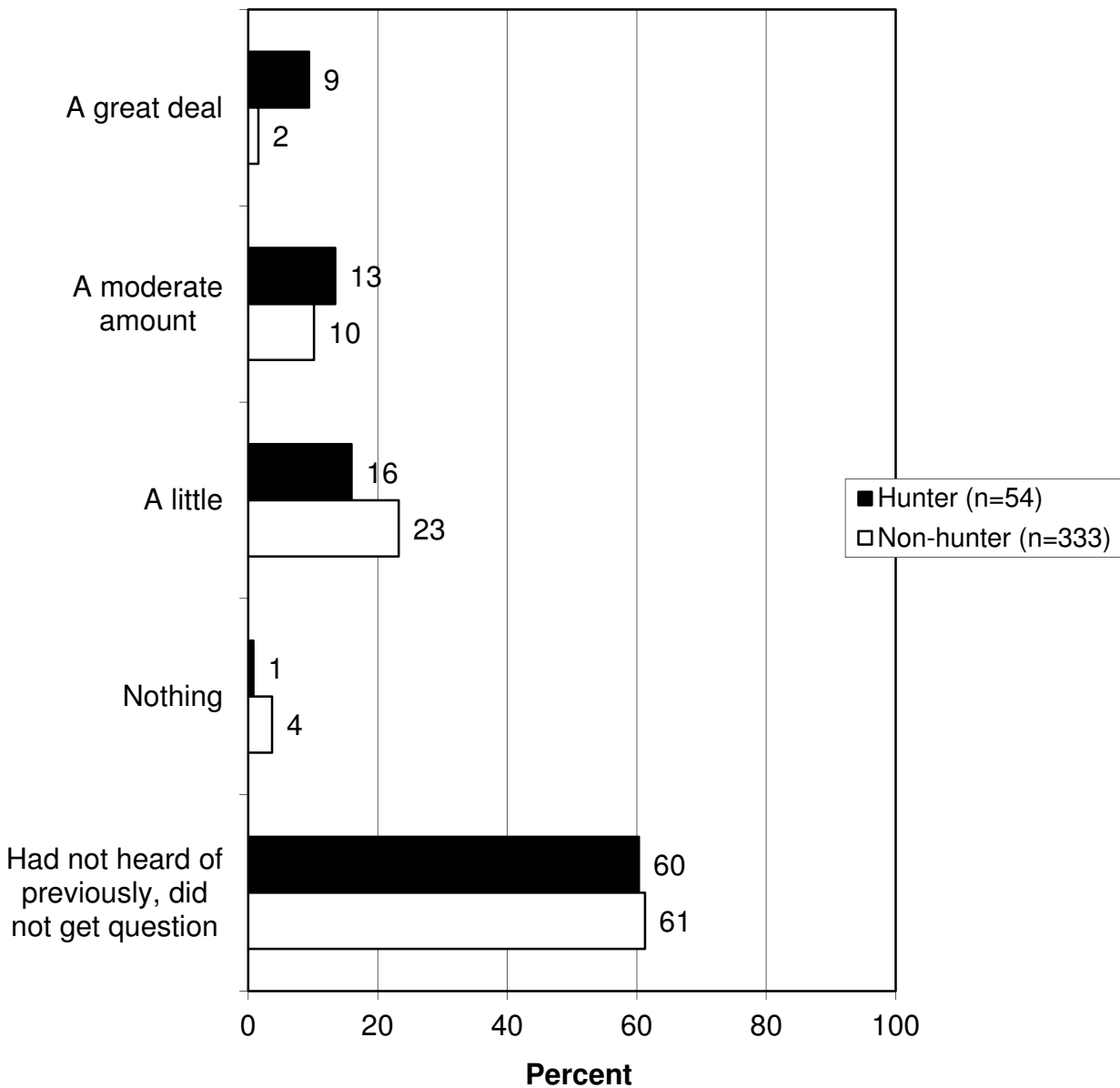




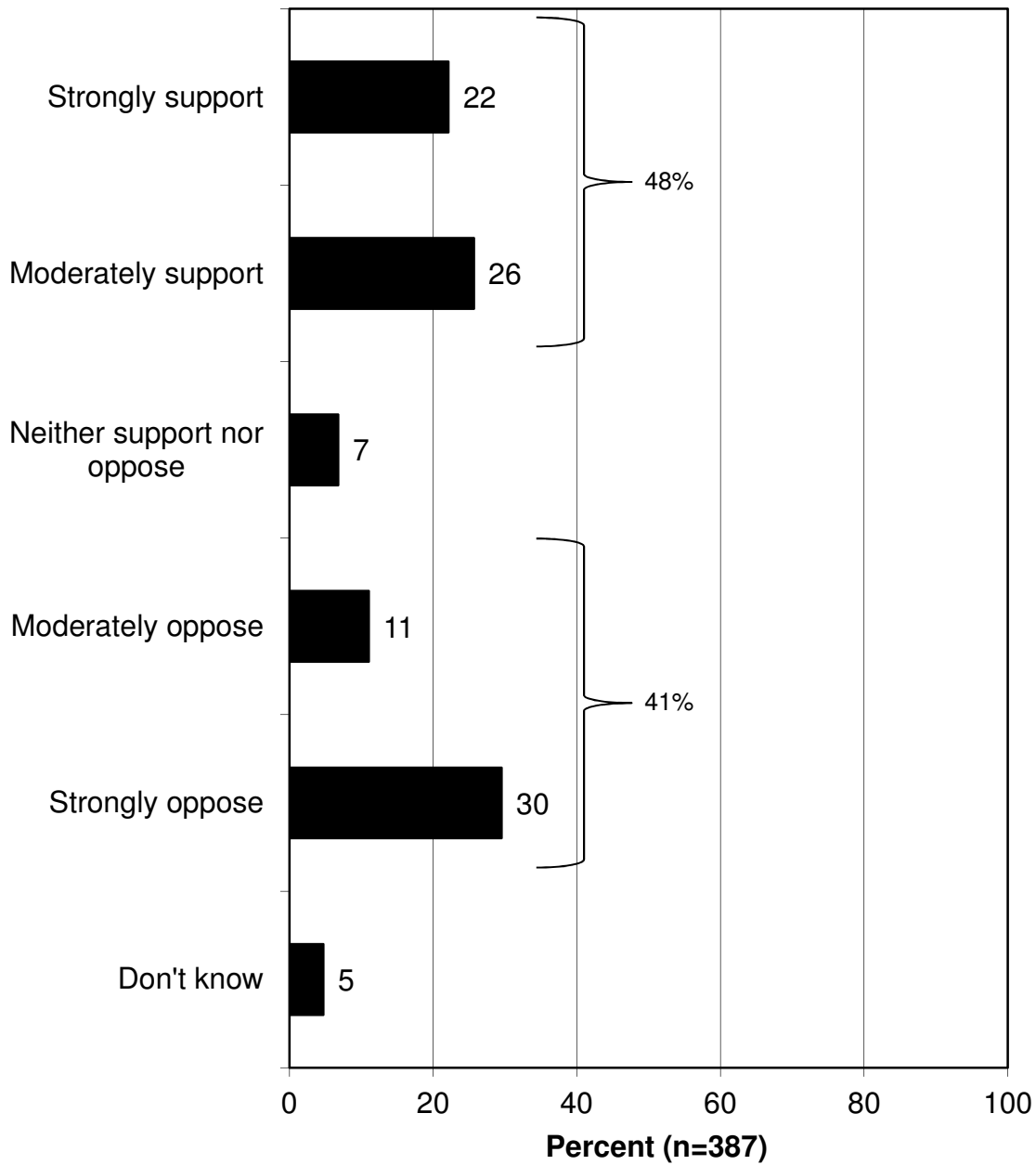
**Q99. Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about sterilizing female deer for population management? (Gen pop survey)**



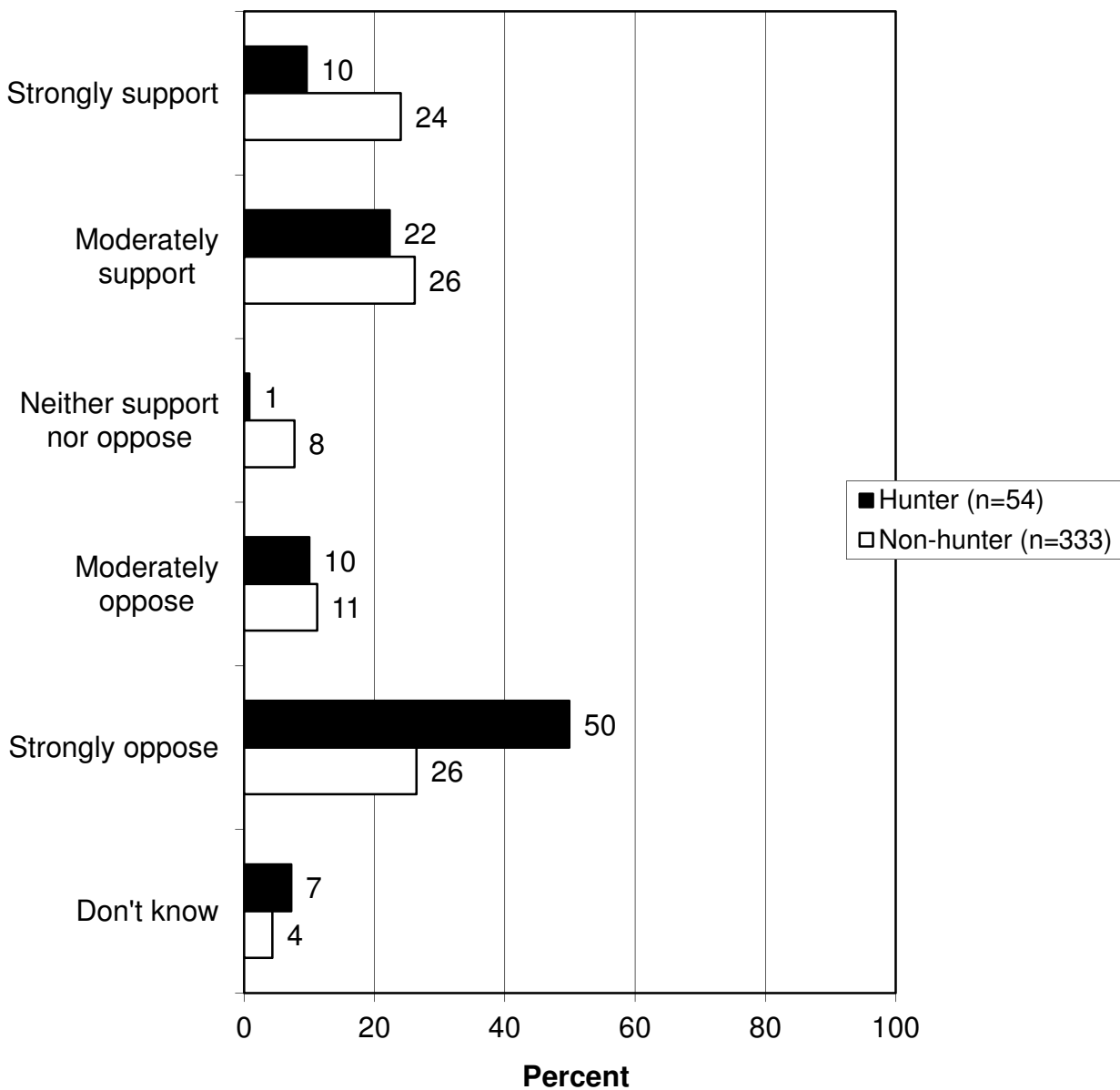
**Q99. Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about sterilizing female deer for population management? (Gen pop survey)**



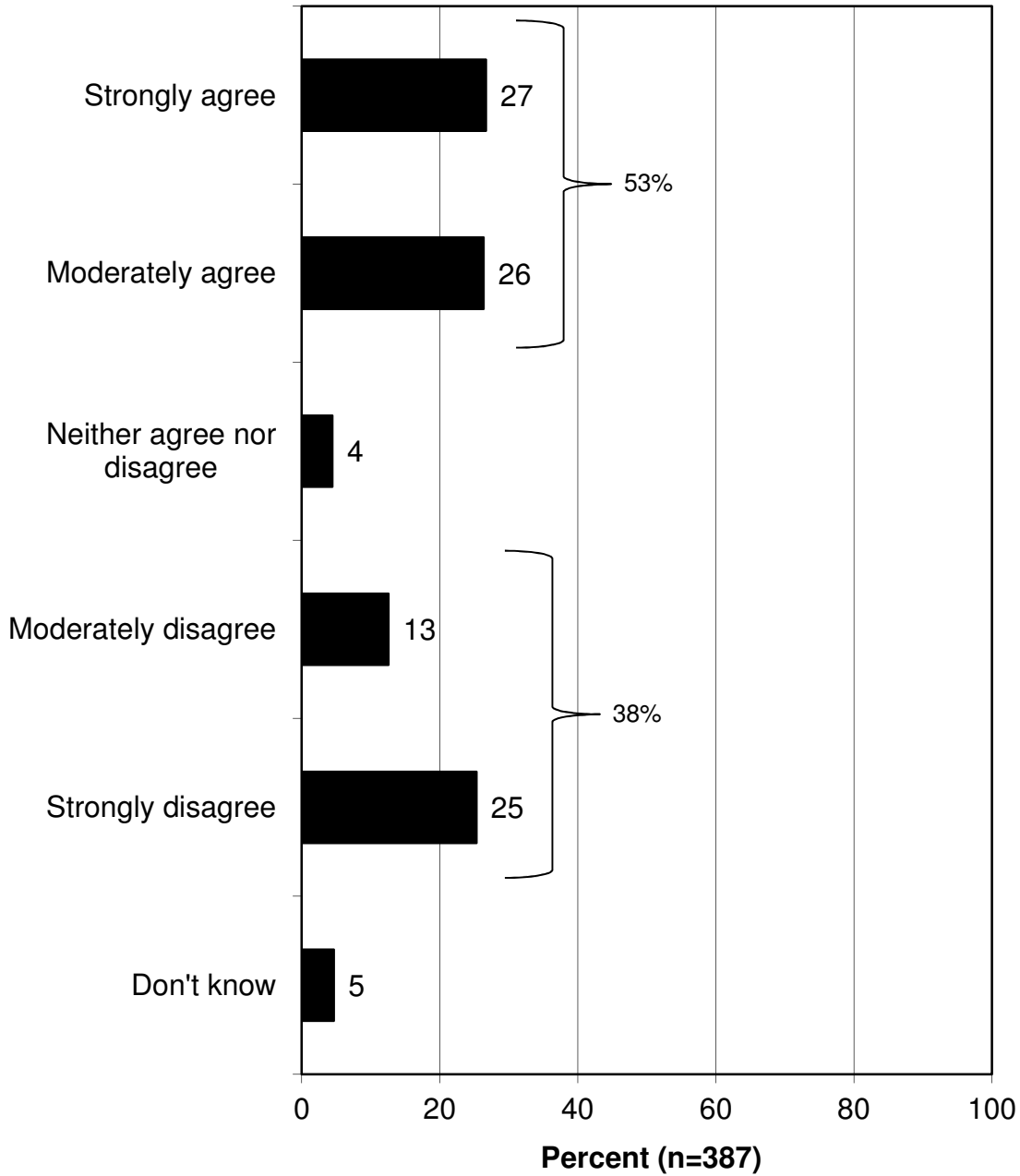
**Q101. Do you support or oppose the use of sterilization of female deer in deer population management efforts for wild deer herds?  
(Gen pop survey)**



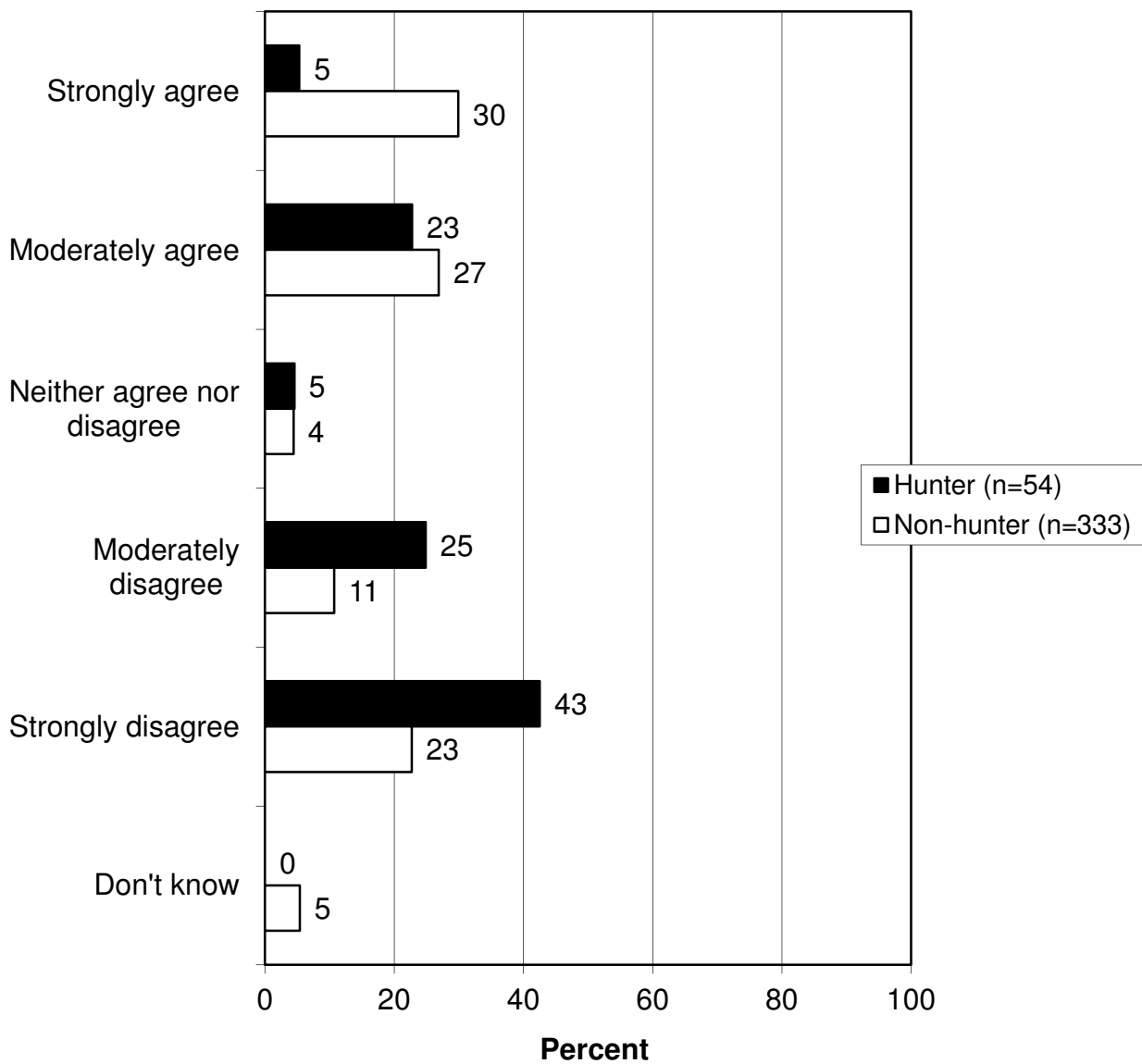
**Q101. Do you support or oppose the use of sterilization of female deer in deer population management efforts for wild deer herds?  
(Gen pop survey)**



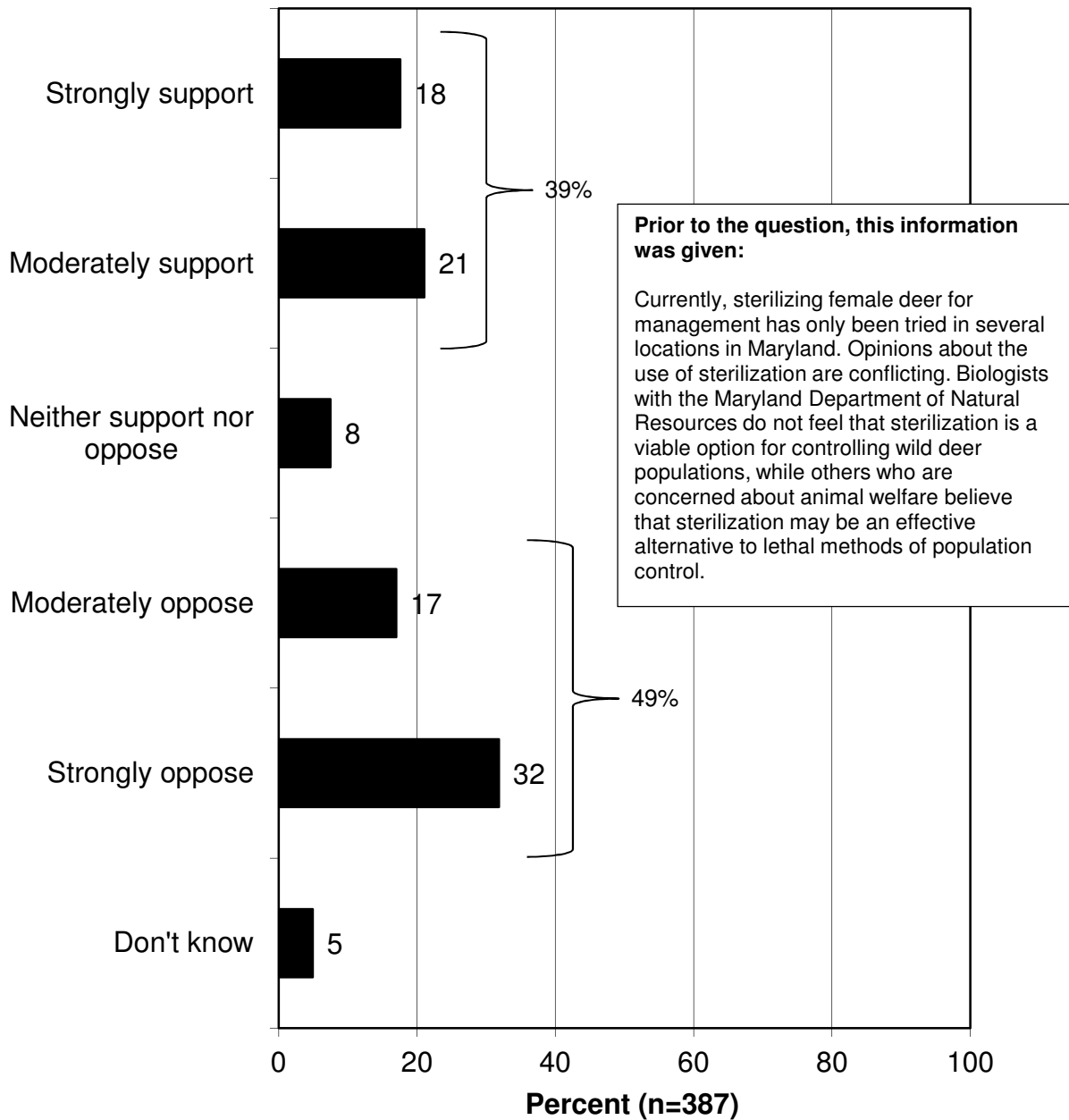
**Q102. Do you agree or disagree that permanently sterilizing female deer is an acceptable alternative to lethal measures for deer population management in wild deer herds? (Gen pop survey)**



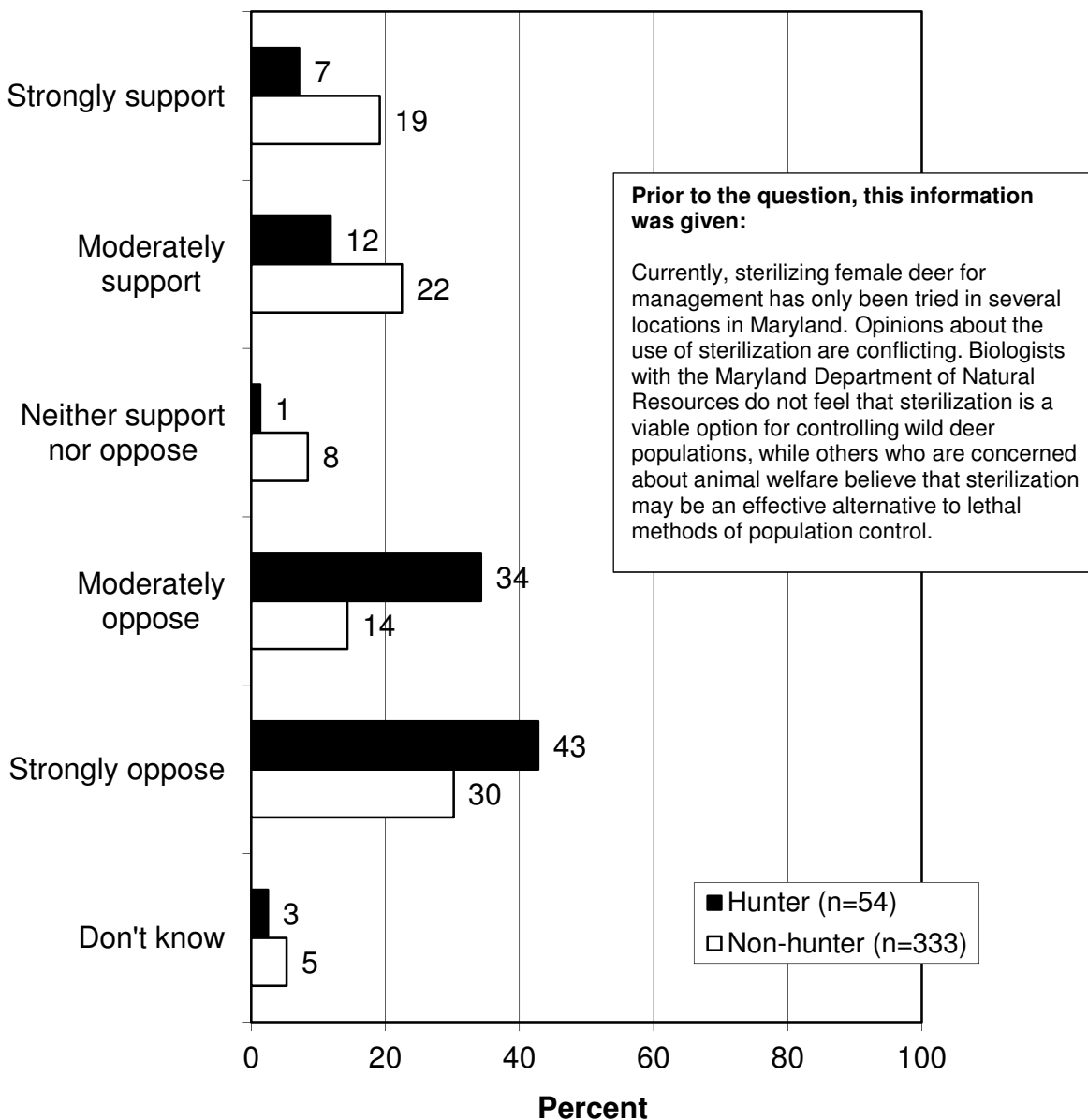
**Q102. Do you agree or disagree that permanently sterilizing female deer is an acceptable alternative to lethal measures for deer population management in wild deer herds? (Gen pop survey)**



**Q104. Given this information, do you support or oppose the use of female sterilization in deer population management efforts for wild deer herds? (Gen pop survey)**

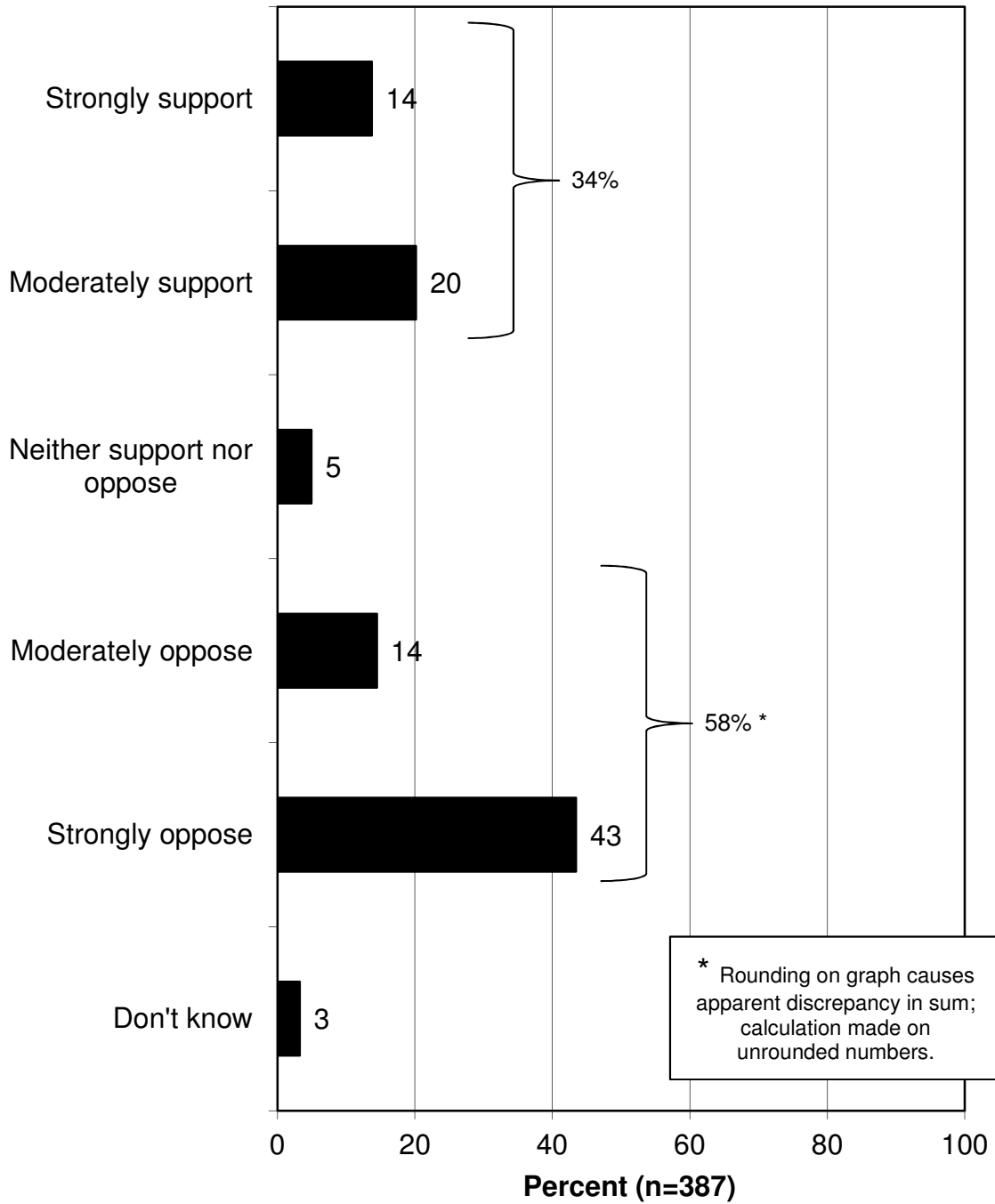


**Q104. Given this information, do you support or oppose the use of female sterilization in deer population management efforts for wild deer herds? (Gen pop survey)**

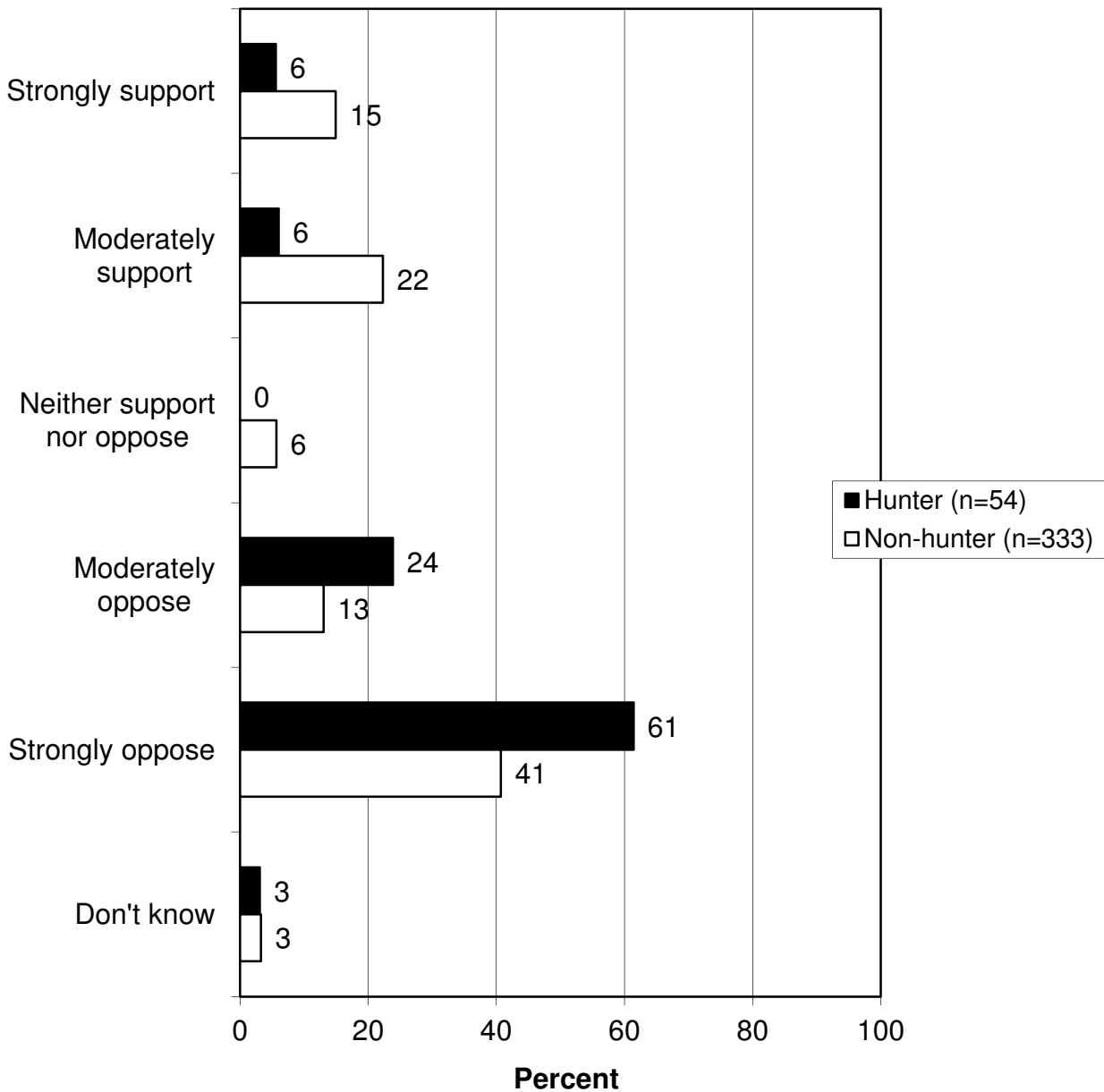




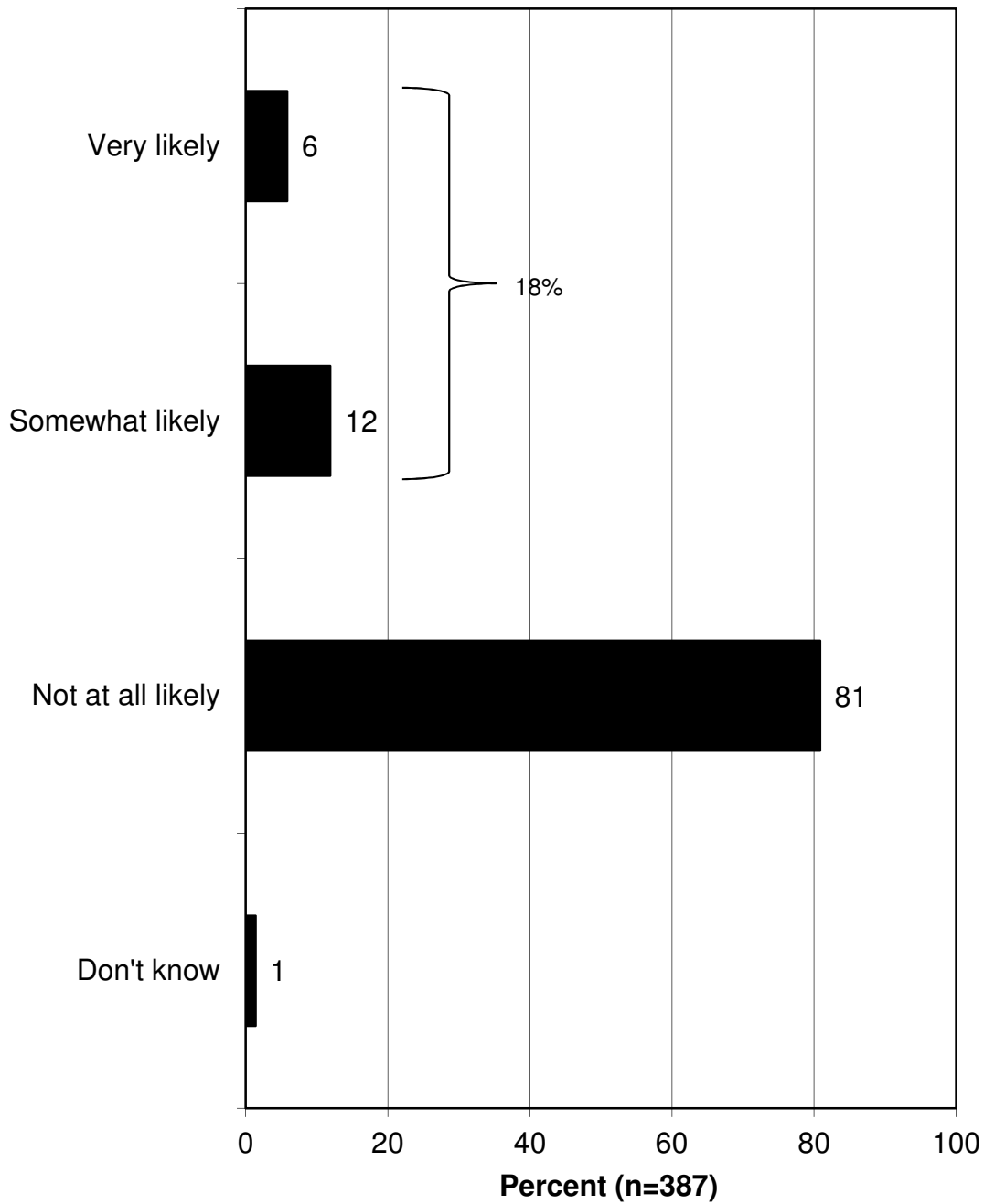
**Q105. Do you support or oppose using state tax revenue to sterilize wild deer? (Gen pop survey)**



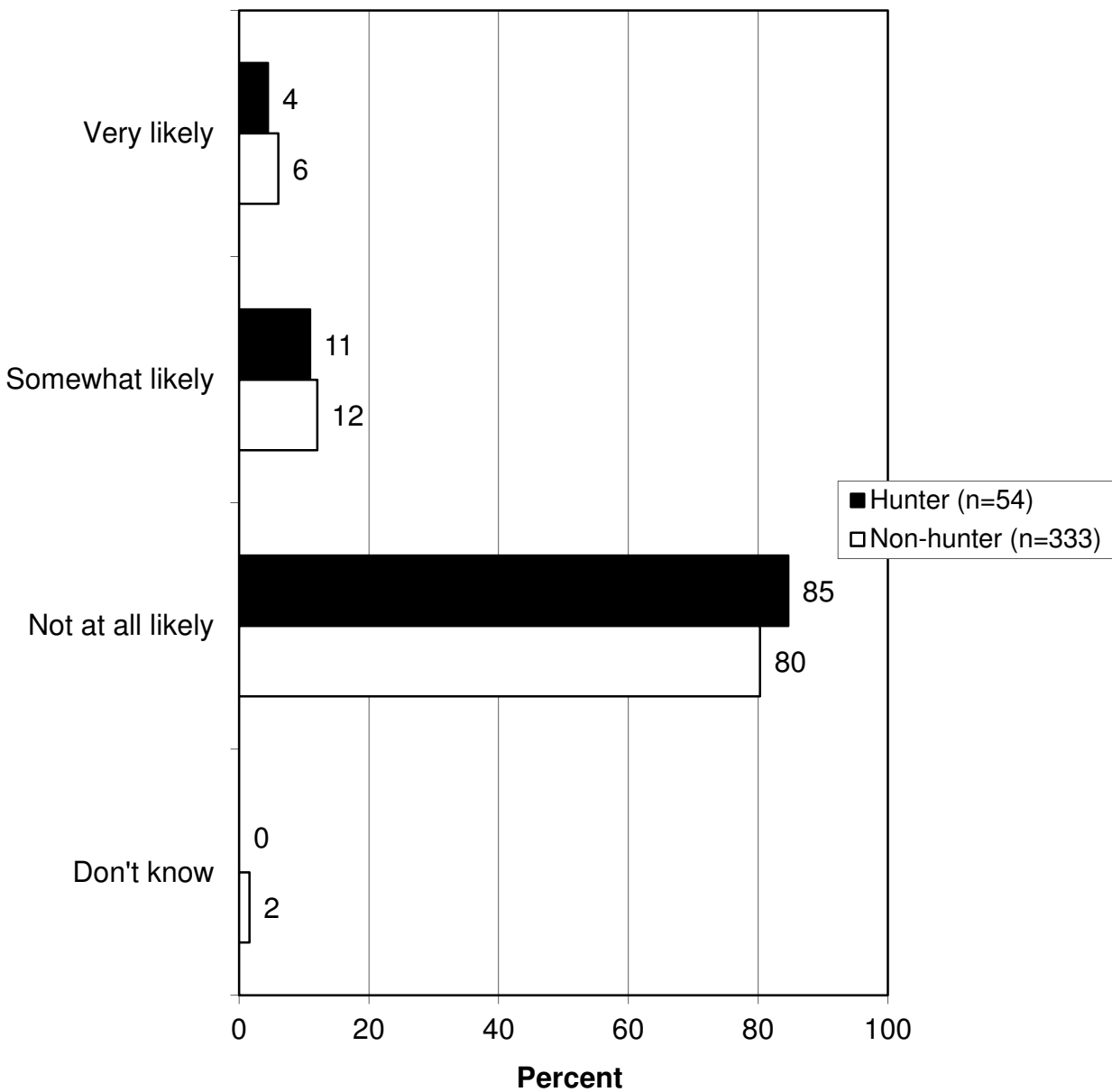
**Q105. Do you support or oppose using state tax revenue to sterilize wild deer? (Gen pop survey)**



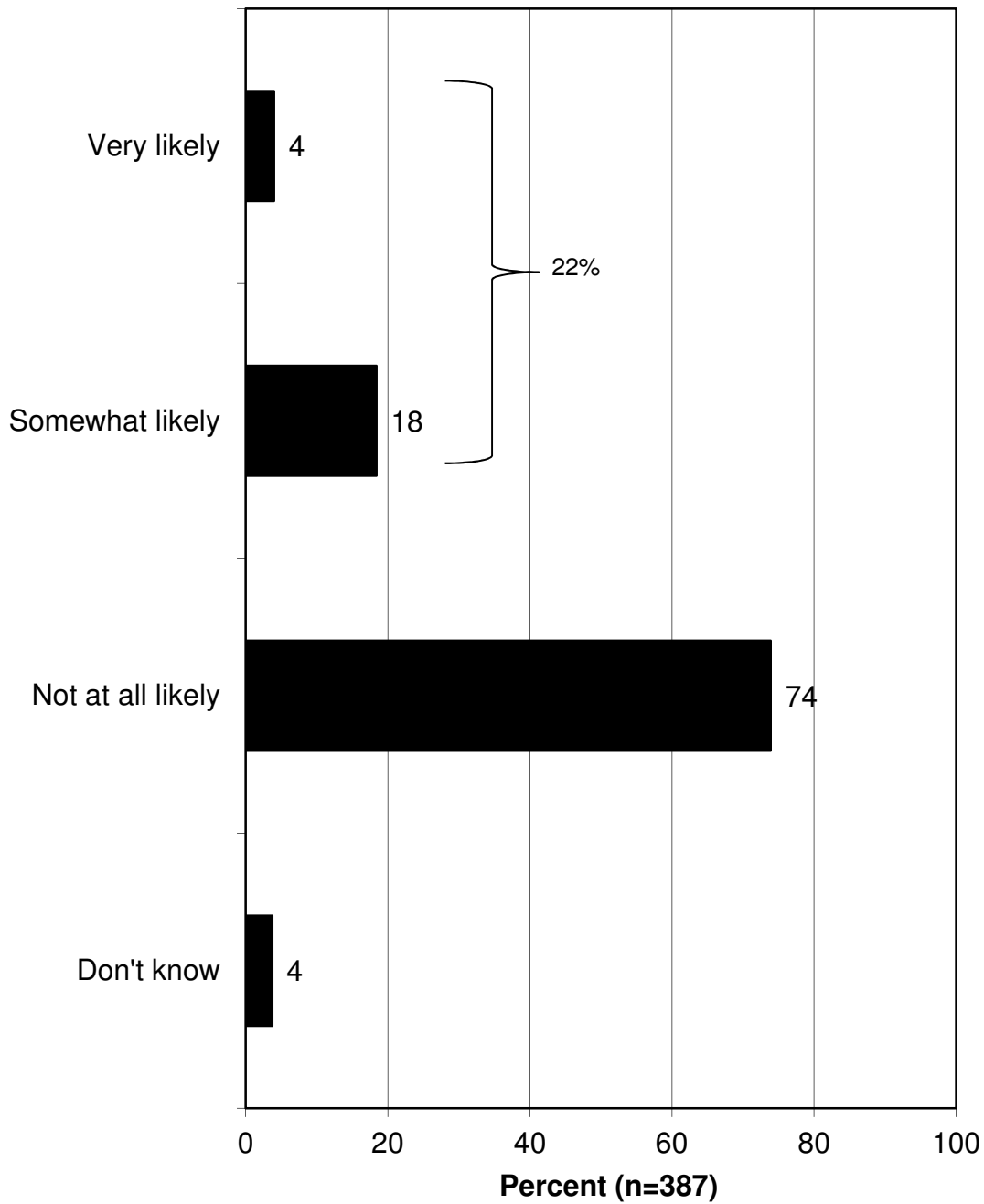
**Q106. Would you volunteer time to help capture and sterilize deer in your community or neighborhood? (Gen pop survey)**



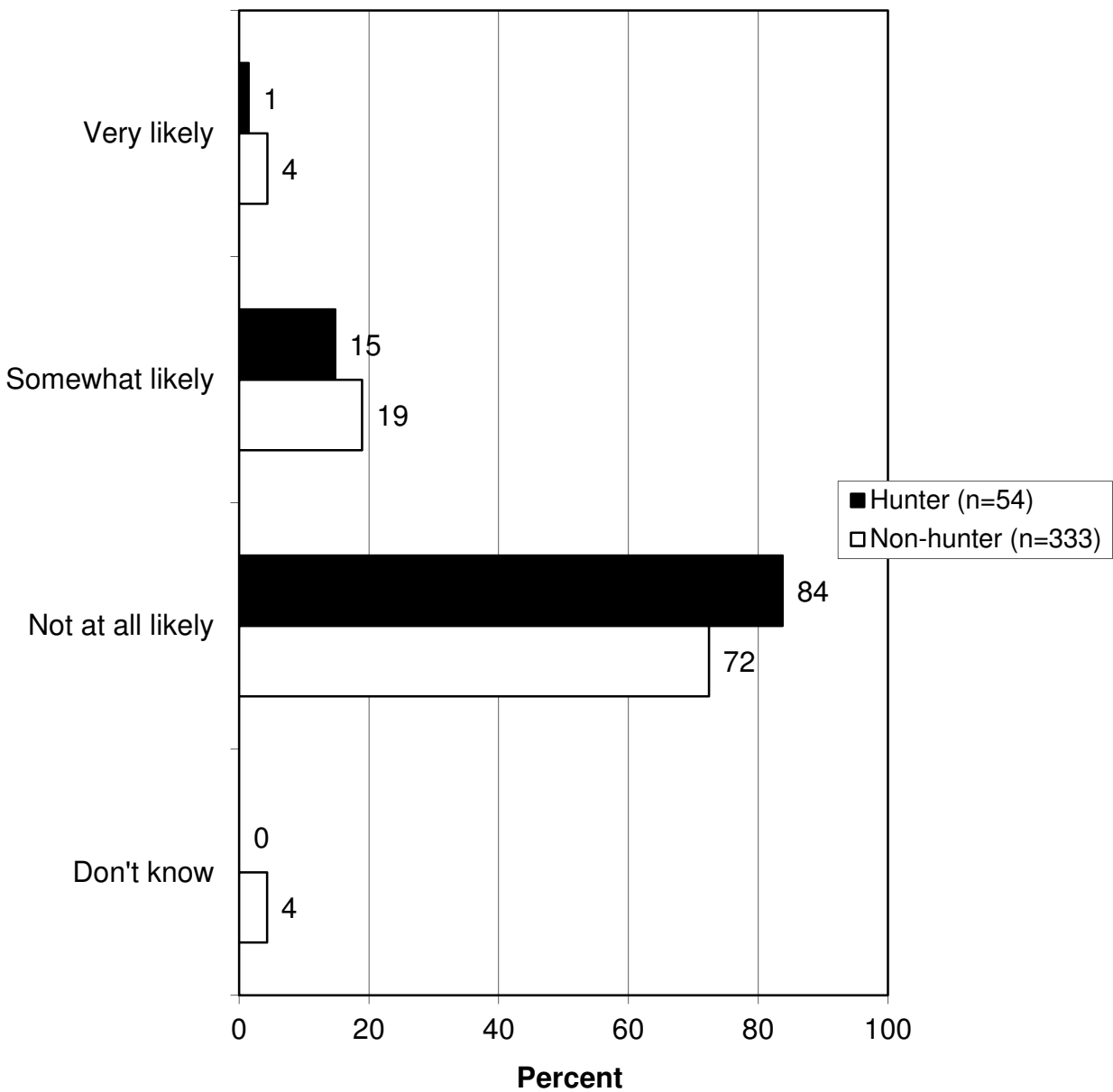
**Q106. Would you volunteer time to help capture and sterilize deer in your community or neighborhood? (Gen pop survey)**



**Q107. Would you personally donate funding to help capture and sterilize deer in your community or neighborhood? (Gen pop survey)**



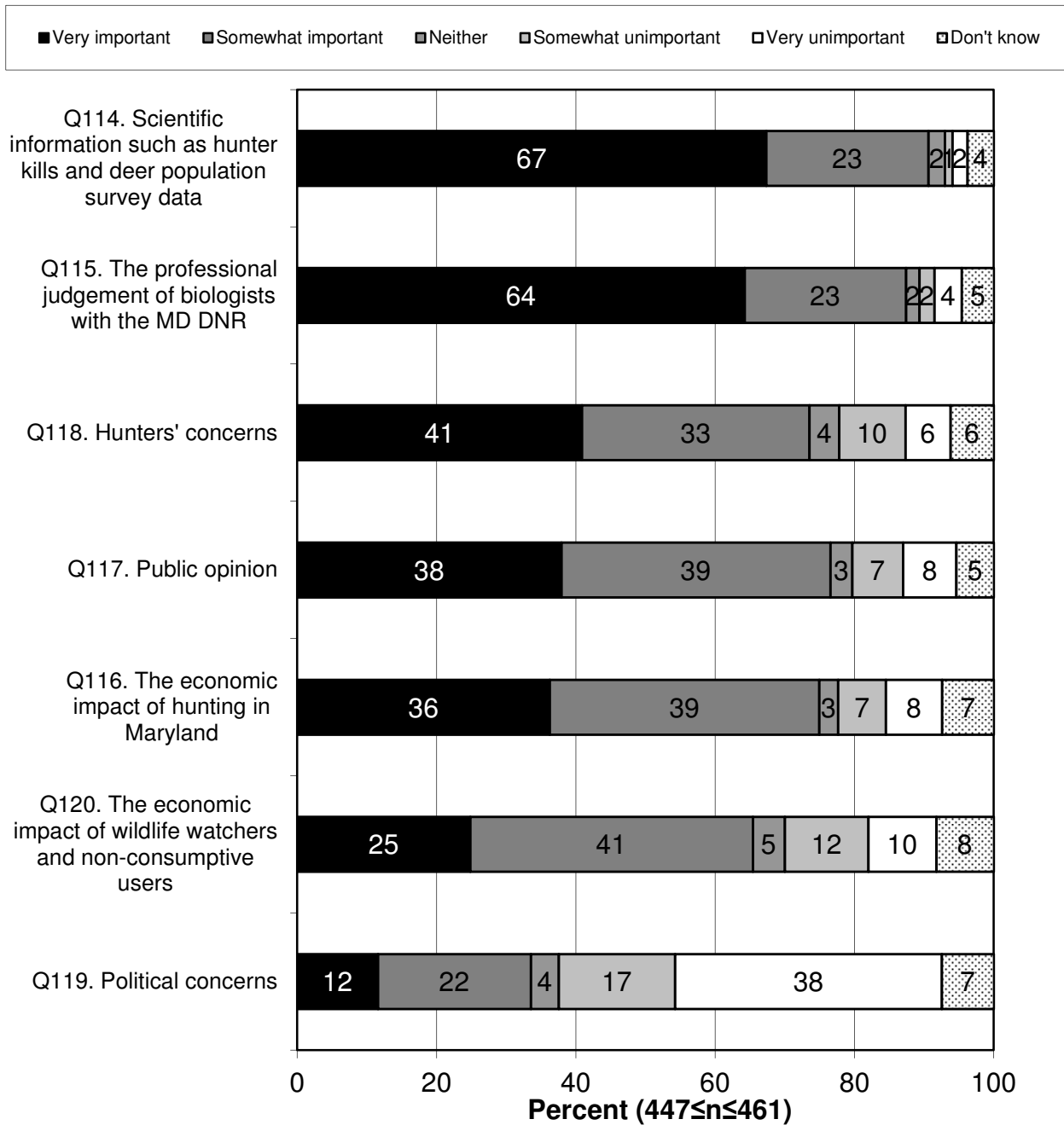
**Q107. Would you personally donate funding to help capture and sterilize deer in your community or neighborhood? (Gen pop survey)**



## **OPINIONS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF VARIOUS FACTORS TO CONSIDER IN DEER MANAGEMENT**

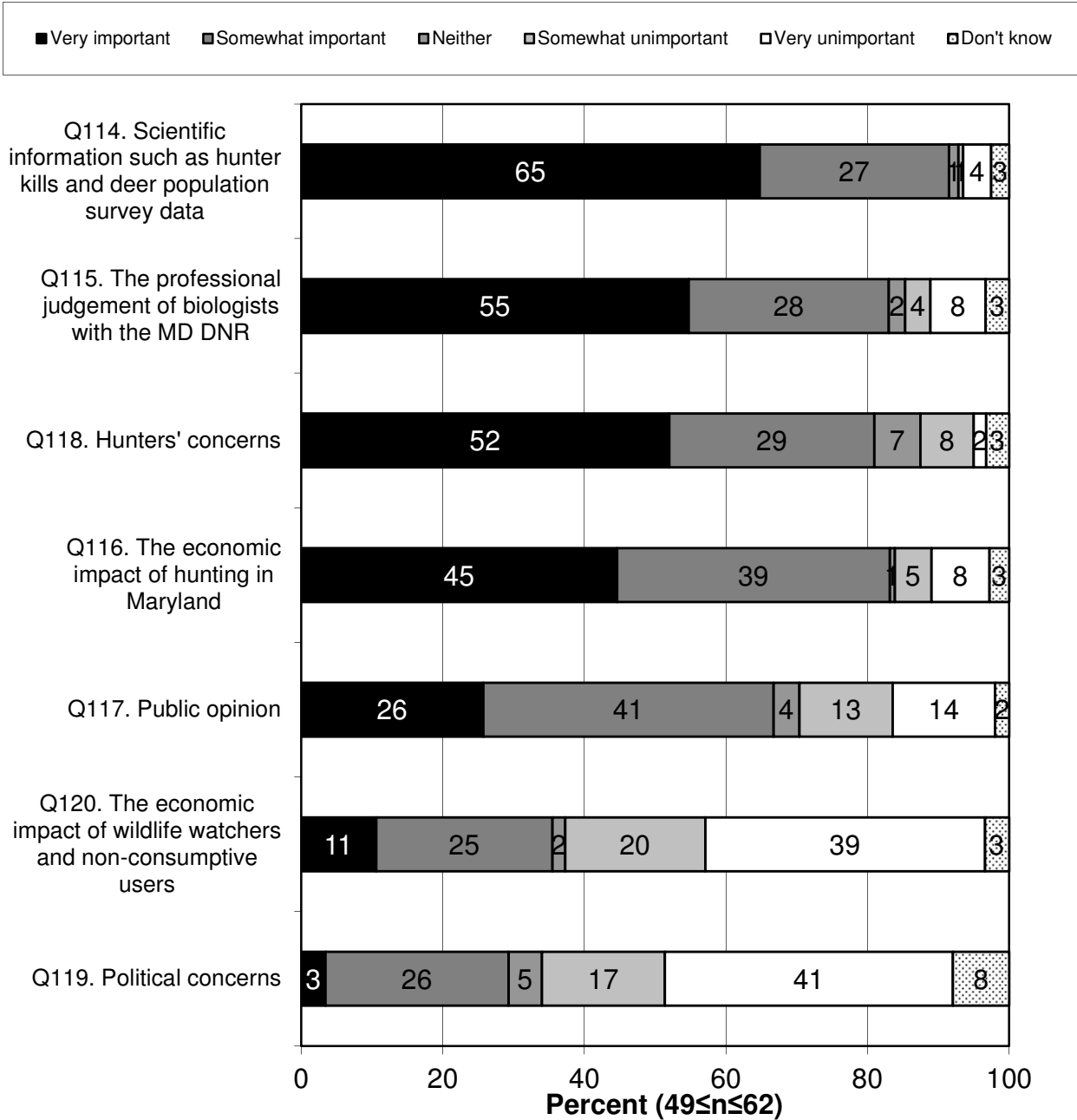
- The general population survey asked about the importance of seven entities that could be considered in decision-making about deer management. Two of them are overwhelmingly considered important by residents: scientific information (67% think this should be very important, and 23% think it should be somewhat important, a sum of 91% when summed using unrounded numbers) and the professional judgement of biologists with the DNR (64% think this should be very important, and 23% think it should be somewhat important, a sum of 87%).
  - Political and economic concerns are considered the least important.
    - Among hunters in the crosstabulation of the general population results, hunters' concerns are also considered important.
  
- The landowner survey also asked about these entities in decision-making. Among landowners, the most important are scientific information (63% say it is very important, and 26% say somewhat important, a sum of 89%), the professional judgement of biologists with the DNR (52% and 28%, a sum of 80%), and hunters' concerns (50% and 35%, a sum of 85%).

**Q114-Q120. Percent of respondents who indicated that each of the following should be at the given importance level in making decisions about deer management. (Gen pop survey) (Overall)**

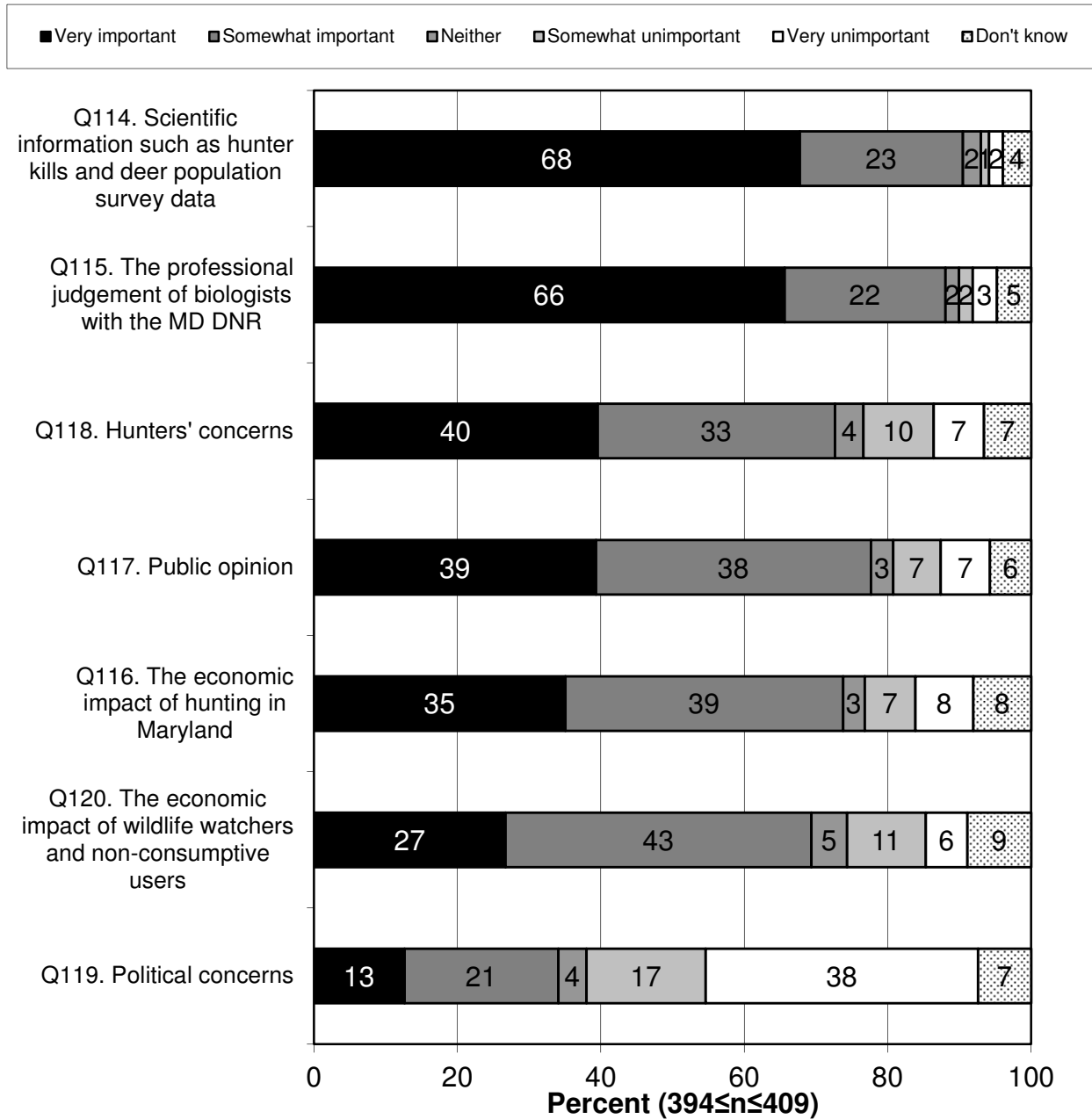




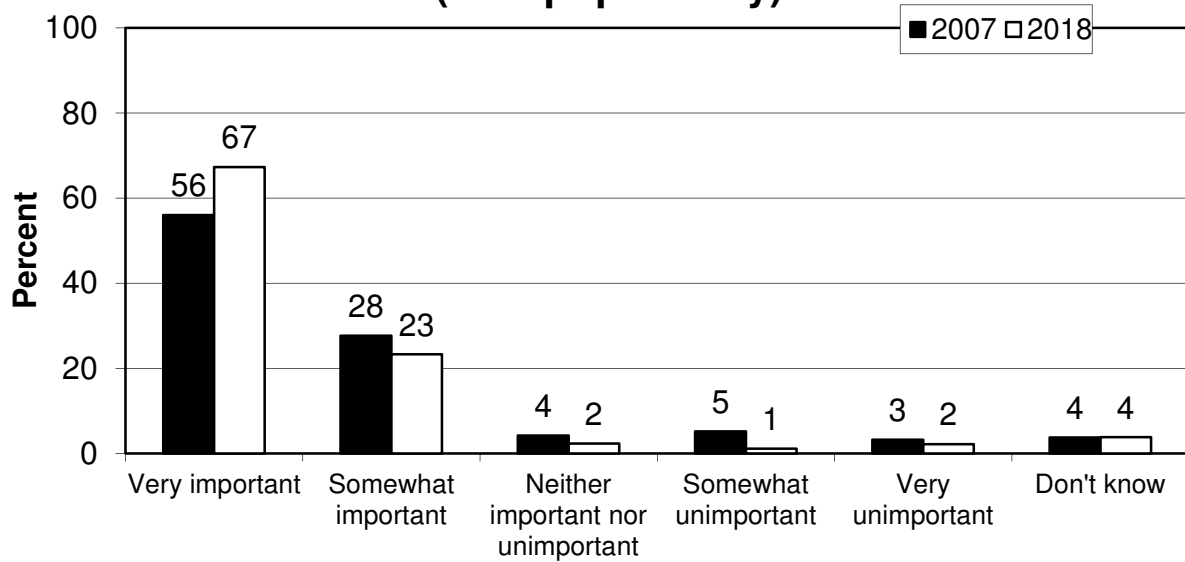
**Q114-Q120. Percent of respondents who indicated that each of the following should be at the given importance level in making decisions about deer management. (Gen pop survey) (Hunters)**



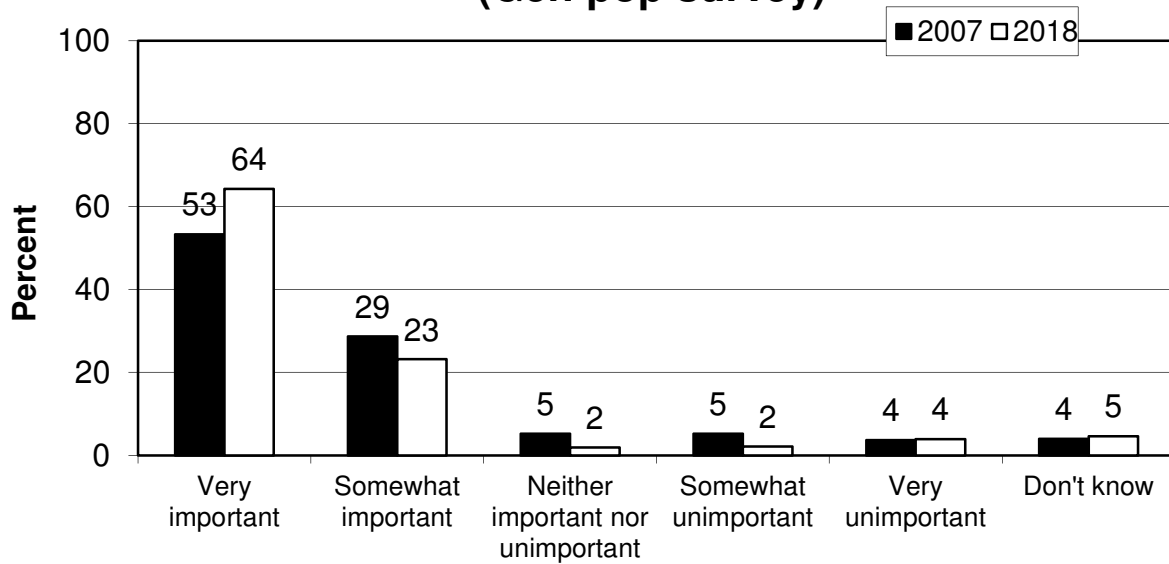
**Q114-Q120. Percent of respondents who indicated that each of the following should be at the given importance level in making decisions about deer management. (Gen pop survey) (Non-hunters)**



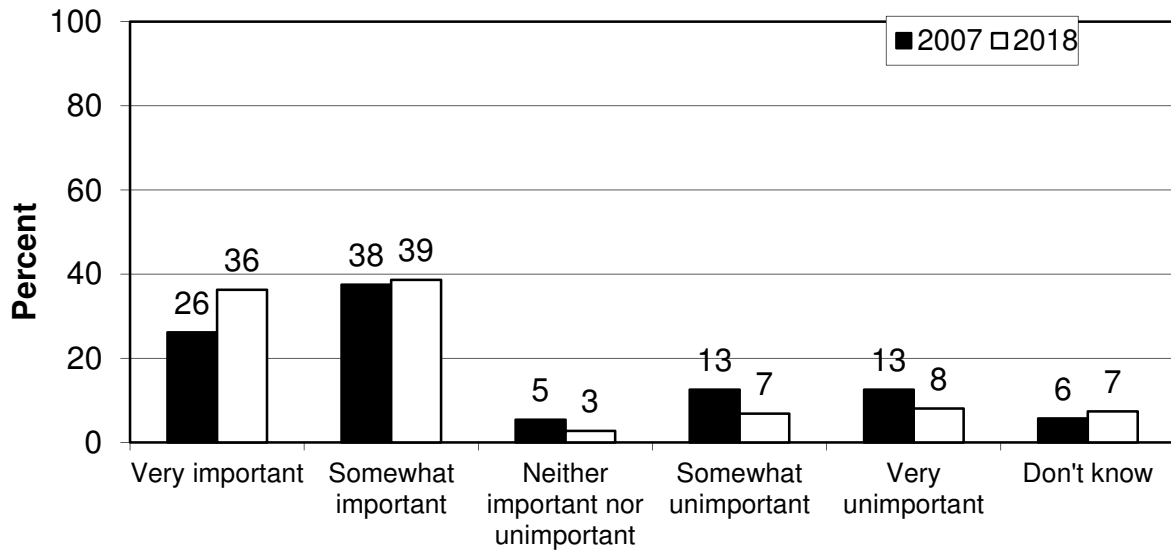
**Q114. How important or unimportant should scientific information such as hunter kills and deer population survey data be in making decisions about deer management?  
(Gen pop survey)**



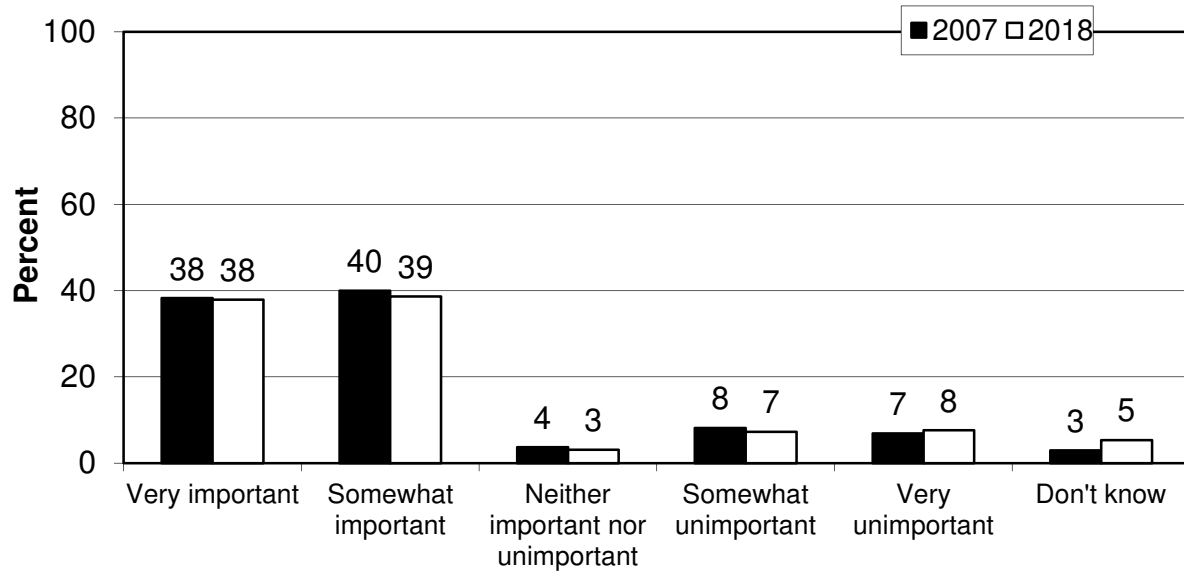
**Q115. How important or unimportant should the professional judgement of biologists with the Maryland DNR be in making decisions about deer management?  
(Gen pop survey)**



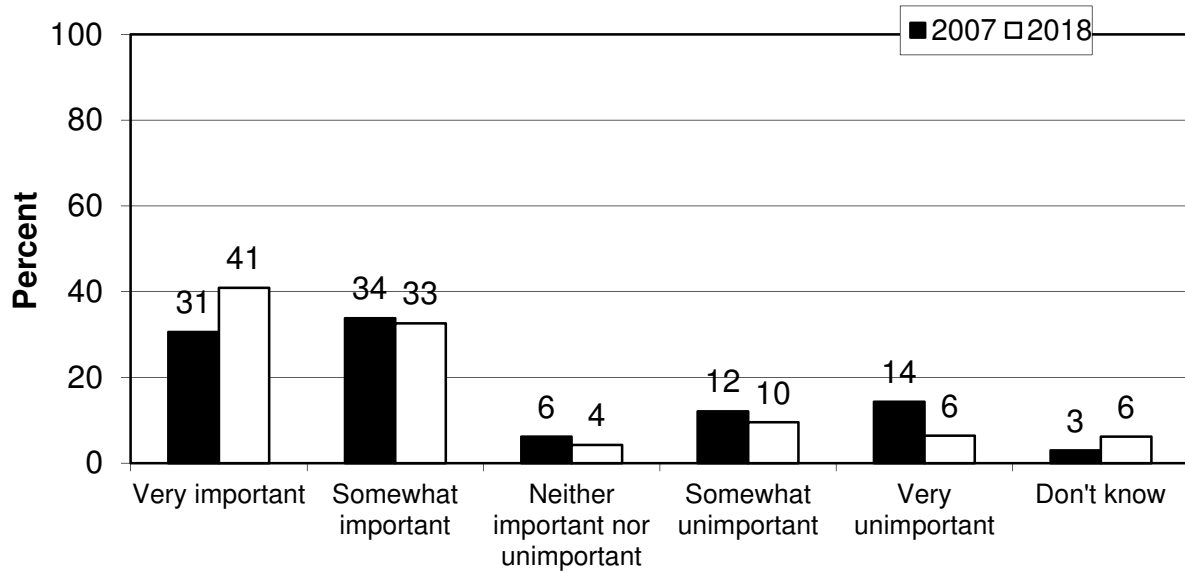
**Q116. How important or unimportant should the economic impact of hunting in Maryland be in making decisions about deer management? (Gen pop survey)**



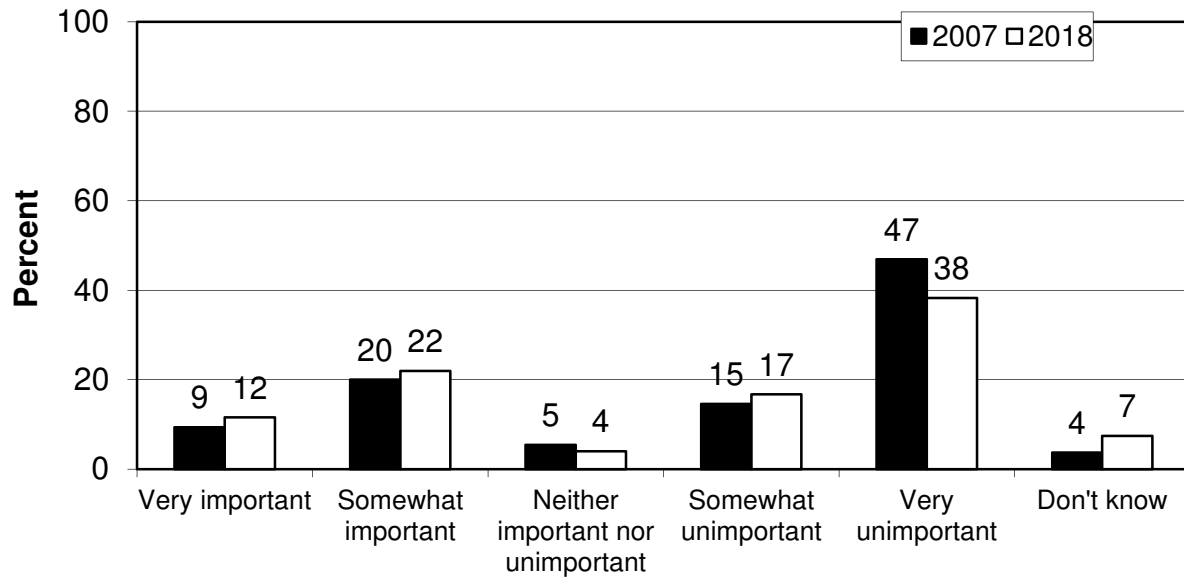
**Q117. How important or unimportant should public opinion be in making decisions about deer management in Maryland?  
(Gen pop survey)**



**Q118. How important or unimportant should hunters' concerns be in making decisions about deer management in Maryland?  
(Gen pop survey)**



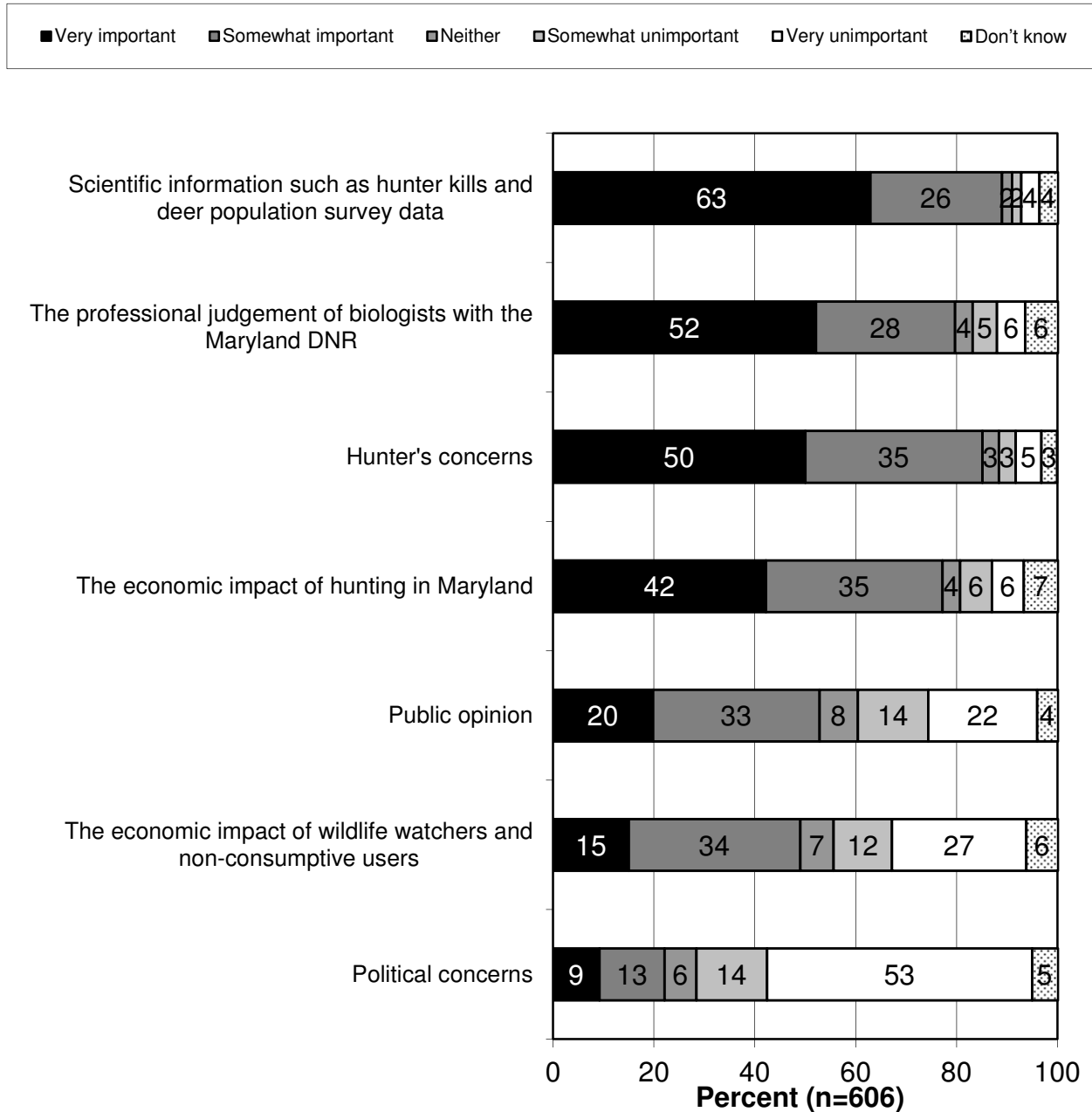
**Q119. How important or unimportant should political concerns be in making decisions about deer management in Maryland?  
(Gen pop survey)**



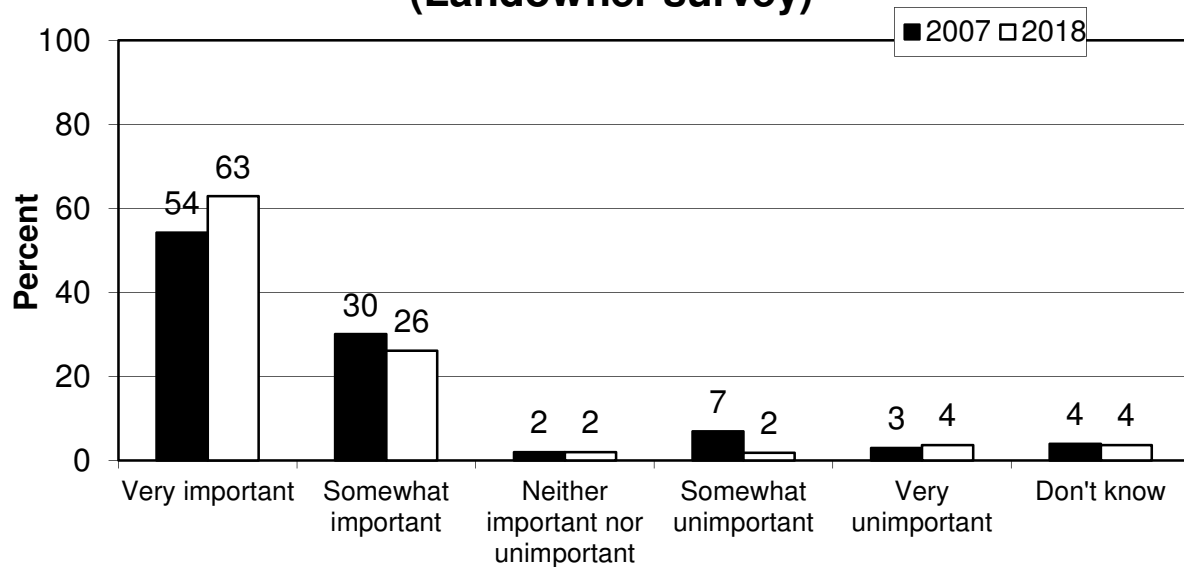
Note that Q120 (about the economic impact of wildlife watchers and non-consumptive users) was a new question in this year's survey; therefore, no trends are available for that question.



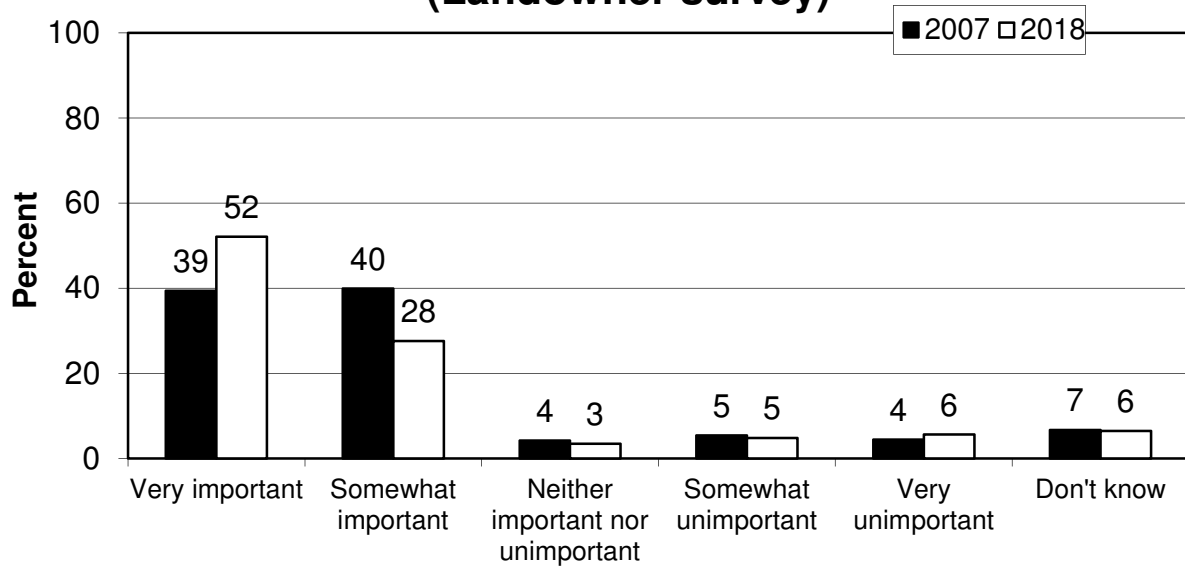
**Q60-Q66. Percent of respondents who indicated that each of the following should be at the given importance level in making decisions about deer management. (Landowner survey)**



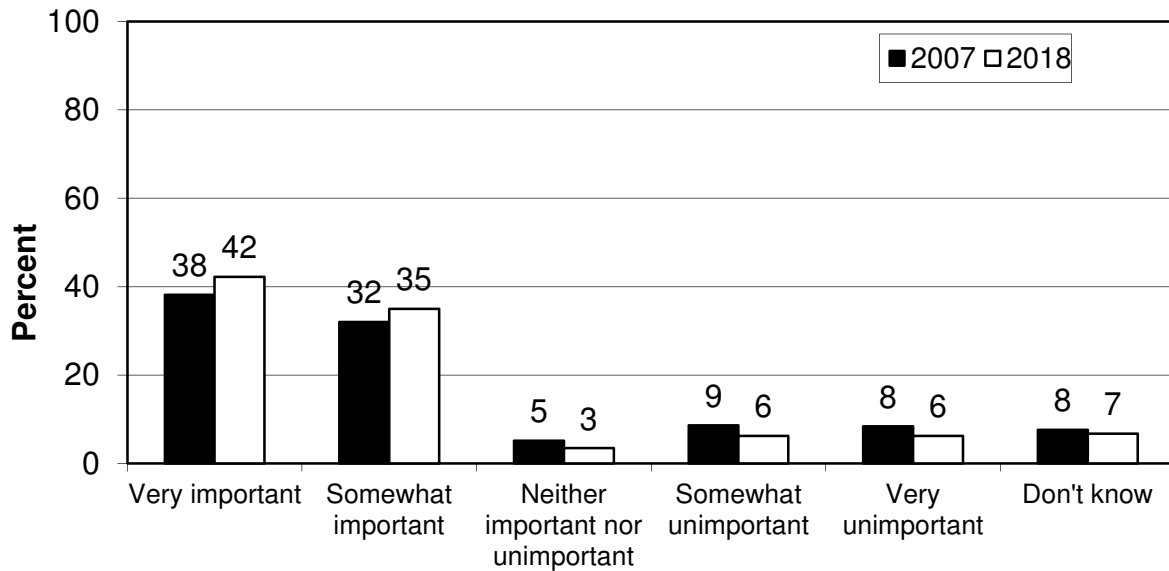
**Q60. How important or unimportant should scientific information such as hunter kills and deer population survey data be in making decisions about deer management?  
(Landowner survey)**



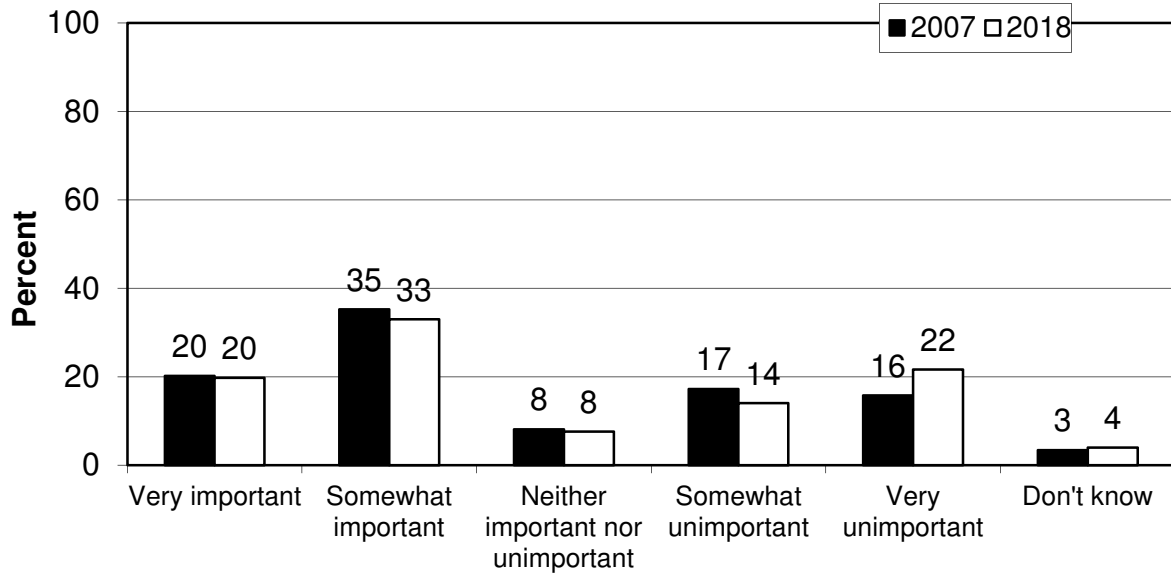
**Q61. How important or unimportant should the professional judgement of biologists with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources be in making decisions about deer management? (Landowner survey)**



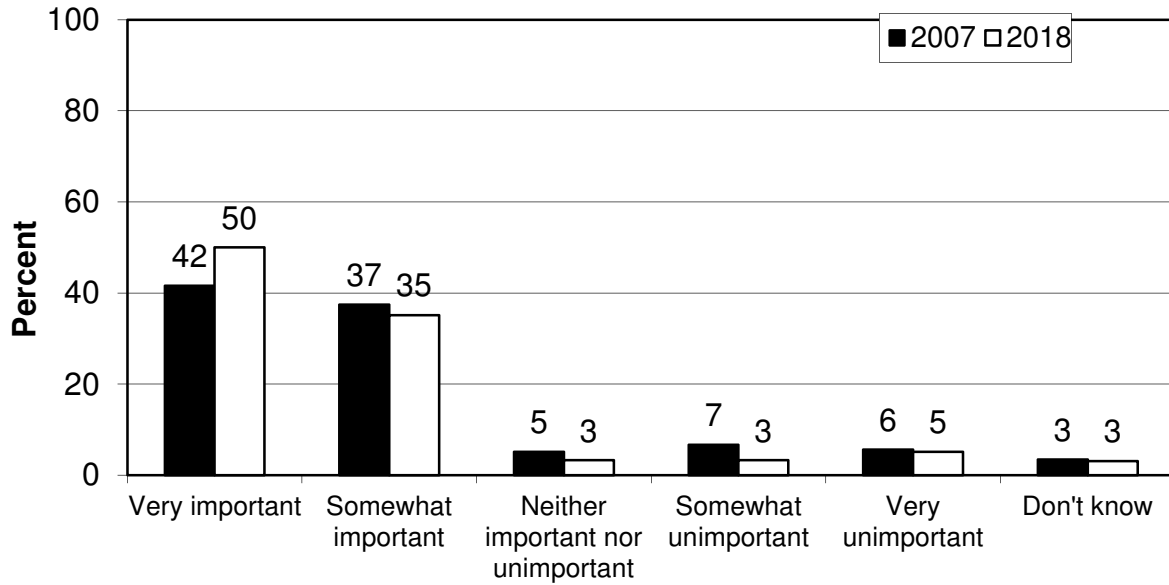
**Q62. How important or unimportant should the economic impact of hunting in Maryland be in making decisions about deer management?  
(Landowner survey)**



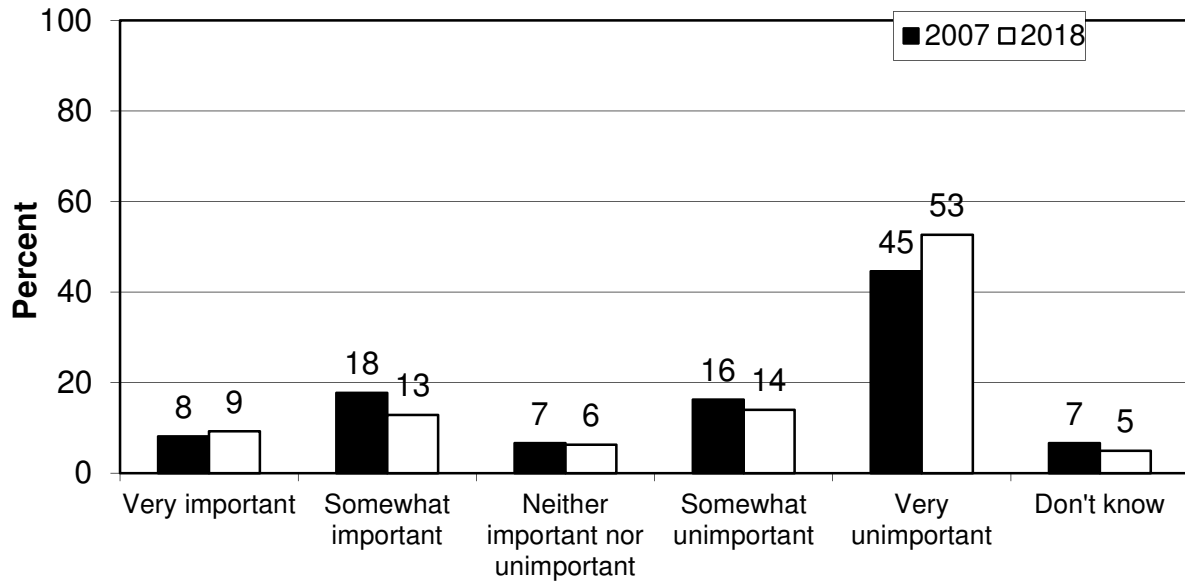
**Q63. How important or unimportant should public opinion be in making decisions about deer management in Maryland?  
(Landowner survey)**



**Q64. How important or unimportant should hunters' concerns be in making decisions about deer management in Maryland?  
(Landowner survey)**



**Q65. How important or unimportant should political concerns be in making decisions about deer management in Maryland?  
(Landowner survey)**



Note that Q66 (about the economic impact of wildlife watchers and non-consumptive users) was a new question in this year's survey; therefore, no trends are available for that question.

## DEER DAMAGE

This section first looks at damage that deer have caused to yards, landscaping, gardens, and crops. The next subsection looks at preventative measures that people have taken. There is then a subsection about deer damage permits. The last subsection looks specifically at vehicular accidents with deer.

### YARD, LANDSCAPING, AGRICULTURAL, AND OTHER DAMAGE CAUSED BY DEER

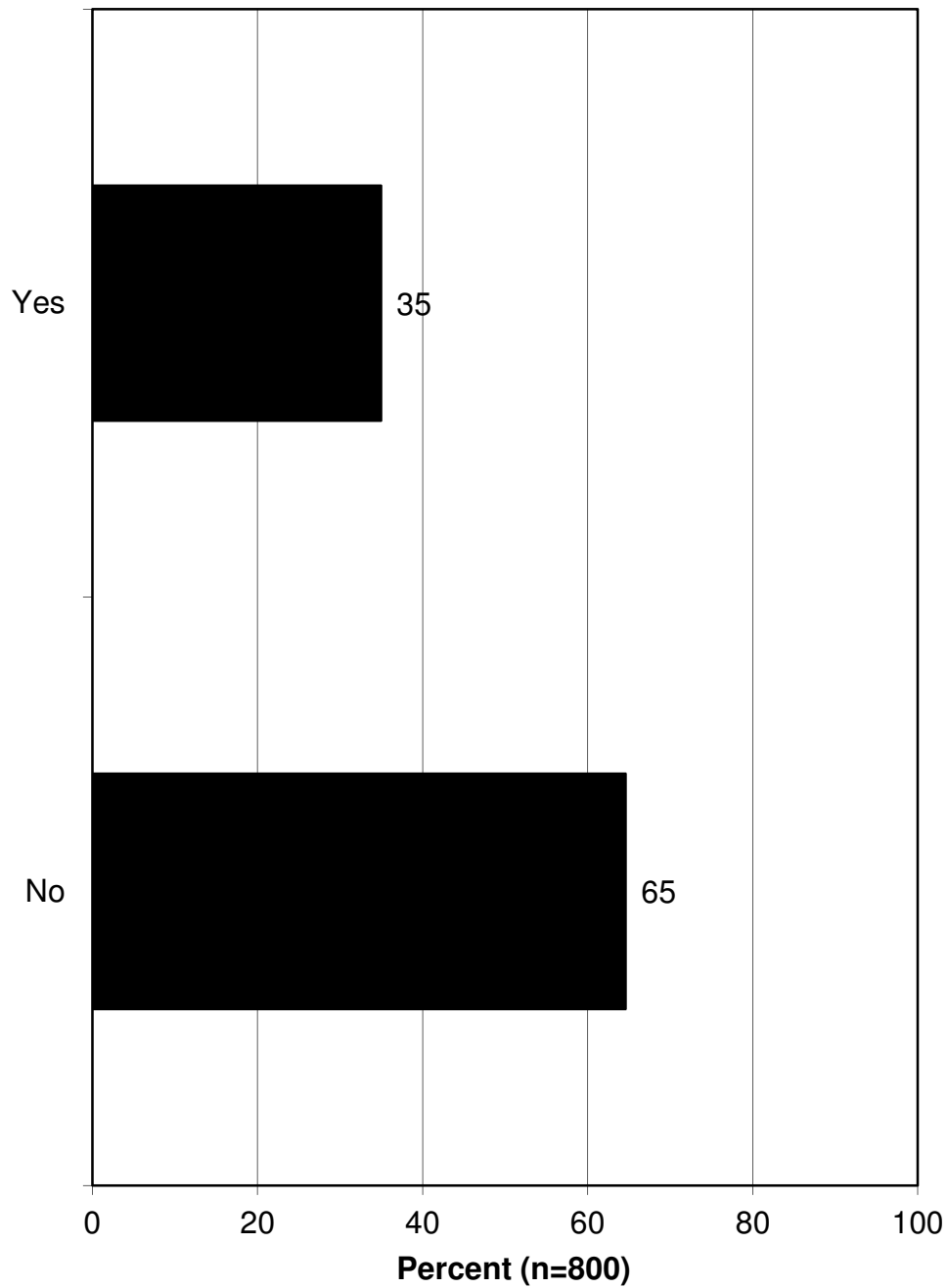
- Among the general population, 35% have experienced damage to their yard, garden or landscaping. Landowners (recall that they had to have owned at least 20 acres) had a higher rate: 48% of landowners in the survey experienced damage to their yards or gardens. Finally, 41% of hunters have experienced damage from deer.
  - Graphs show the characteristics of landowners who experienced damage. Among landowners, having experienced yard, landscaping, or garden damage is associated with living in the Central or Western Regions, having a bachelor's degree or higher, and being younger than 55 years old.
  - Landowners in the survey (who had to have grown agricultural crops to be in the survey) were asked about damage to those crops separate from the question about damage to yards, personal gardens, and landscaping: 77% of landowners have experienced damage to their agricultural crops.
    - A graph is included showing the characteristics associated with having had damage to crops from deer in the survey of landowners. A second graph shows the characteristics of those who did not have damage.
    - Landowners were asked to put a monetary value on the damage that deer had caused. They most commonly say that they do not know (51%); otherwise, about a quarter (24%) suffered damage of \$1,000 or less, while 25% suffered more than this.
- Respondents were asked for their perceptions regarding the trend in deer damage, whether it is increasing, staying about the same, or decreasing. Although most commonly residents and hunters think it is about the same (57% of residents and 57% of hunters), they otherwise are more apt to say it is increasing than decreasing: 35% of residents say it is increasing, compared to 6% who say it is decreasing, while among hunters, 23% say it is increasing,



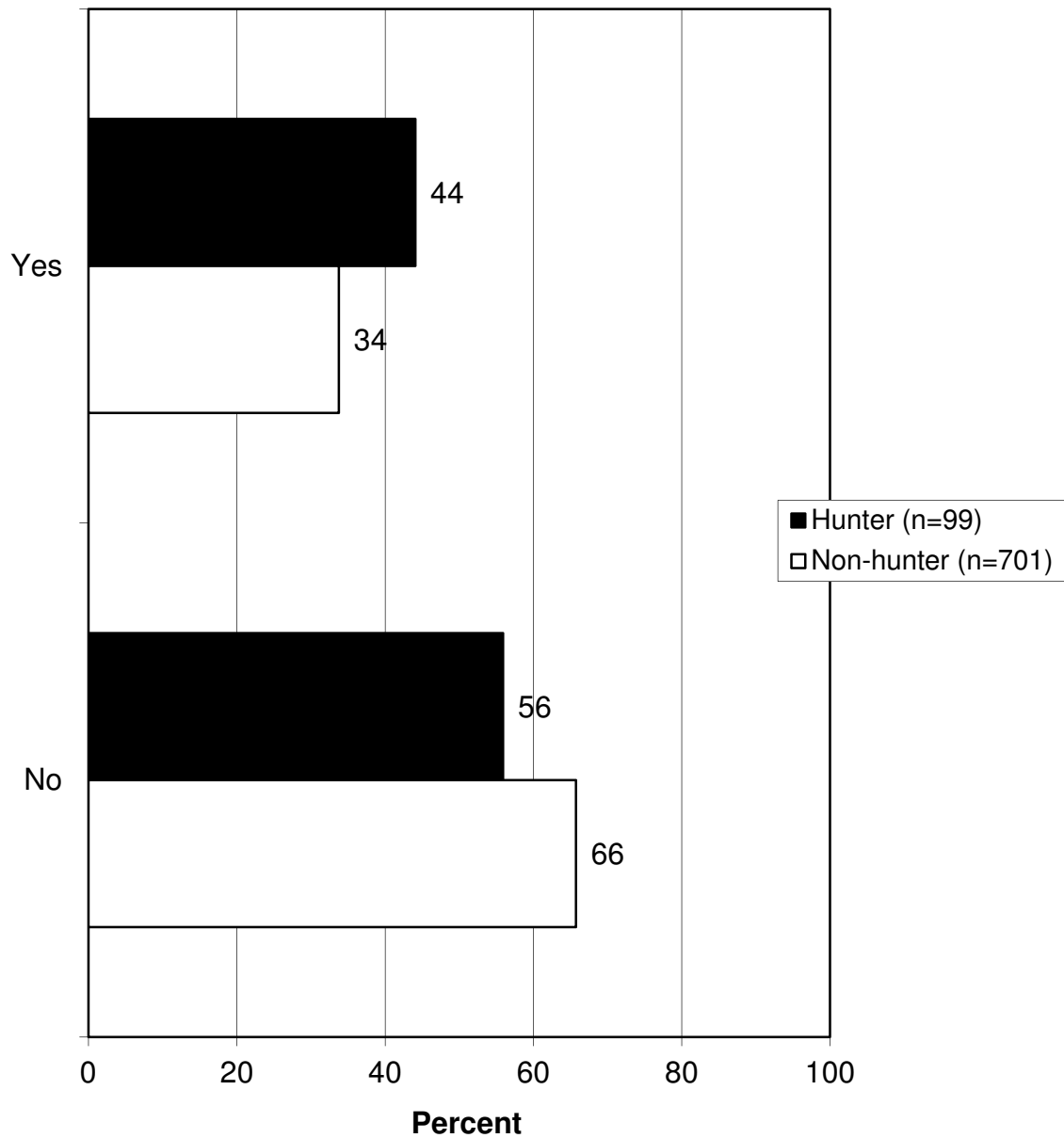
while 10% say it is decreasing. Landowners, on the other hand, most commonly say it is increasing (49%), exceeding the percentage who say it is staying about the same (43%), and well more than the percentage who say it is decreasing (4%).

- Although landowners were discussed last here, the graphs are still presented in the same order as the rest of the report: residents, landowners, and then hunters. Also, in the general population survey, only those who experienced damage were asked the follow-up question about the trends in damage. In the landowner and hunter surveys, all respondents were asked.
- Regardless of whether damage occurs, the survey asked whether respondents thought that deer are important enough that they (the respondents) are willing to tolerate some damage to their yards, gardens, or agricultural crops: 67% of the general population, 66% of landowners, and 82% of deer hunters agreed with the statement.
- Landowners, who grow crops and have, perhaps, the most to lose are the most likely to disagree with the statement: 28% of landowners disagree, compared to 26% of the general population and 14% of hunters.

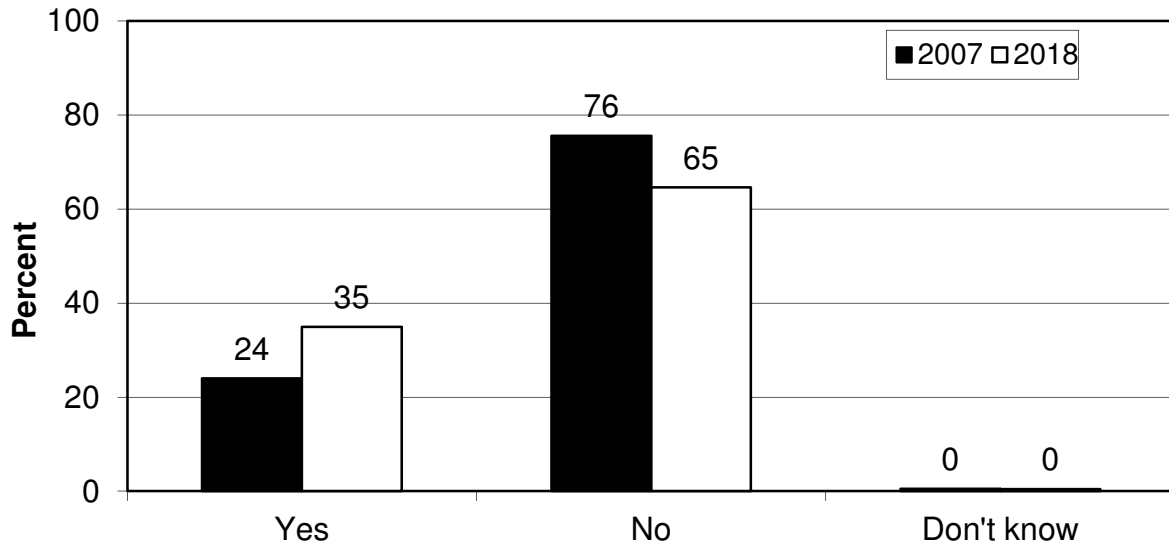
**Q36. Have you, in the past year, experienced damage to your yard, garden, or agricultural crops from deer? (Gen pop survey)**



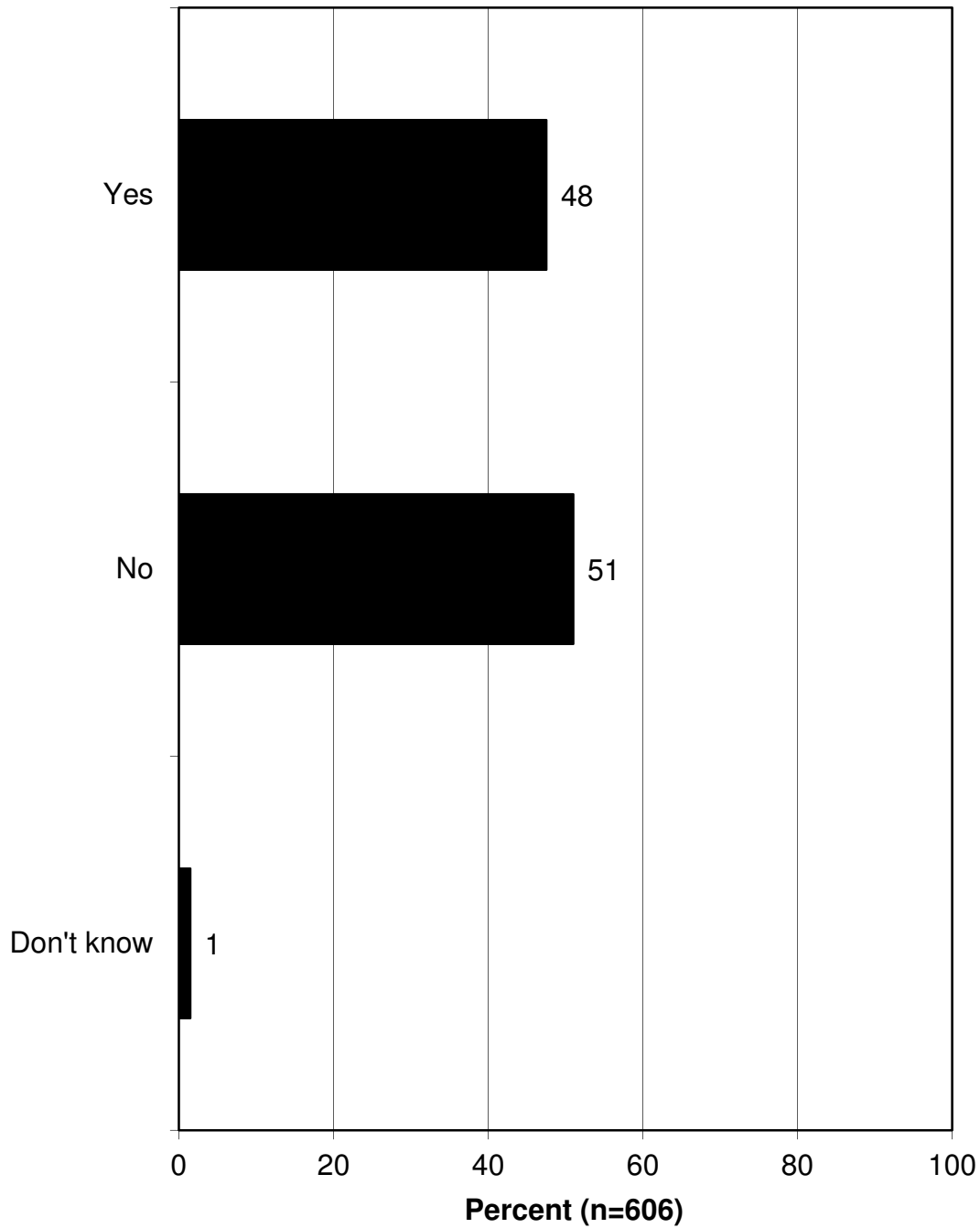
**Q36. Have you, in the past year, experienced damage to your yard, garden, or agricultural crops from deer? (Gen pop survey)**



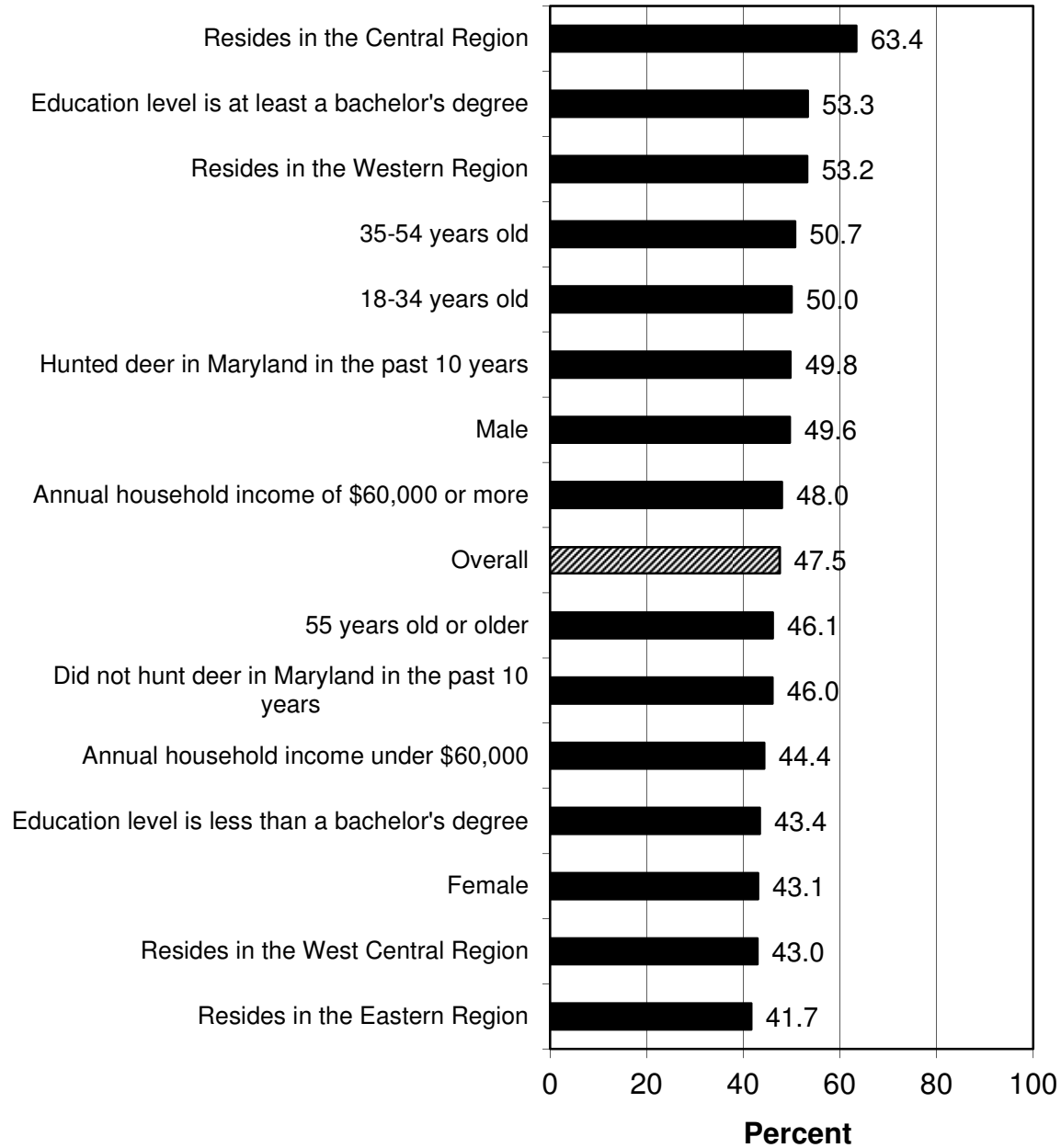
**Q36. Have you, in the past year, experienced damage to your yard, garden, or agricultural crops from deer?  
(Gen pop survey)**



**Q36. In the past year have you experienced damage to your yard, landscaping, or garden from deer? (Landowner survey)**

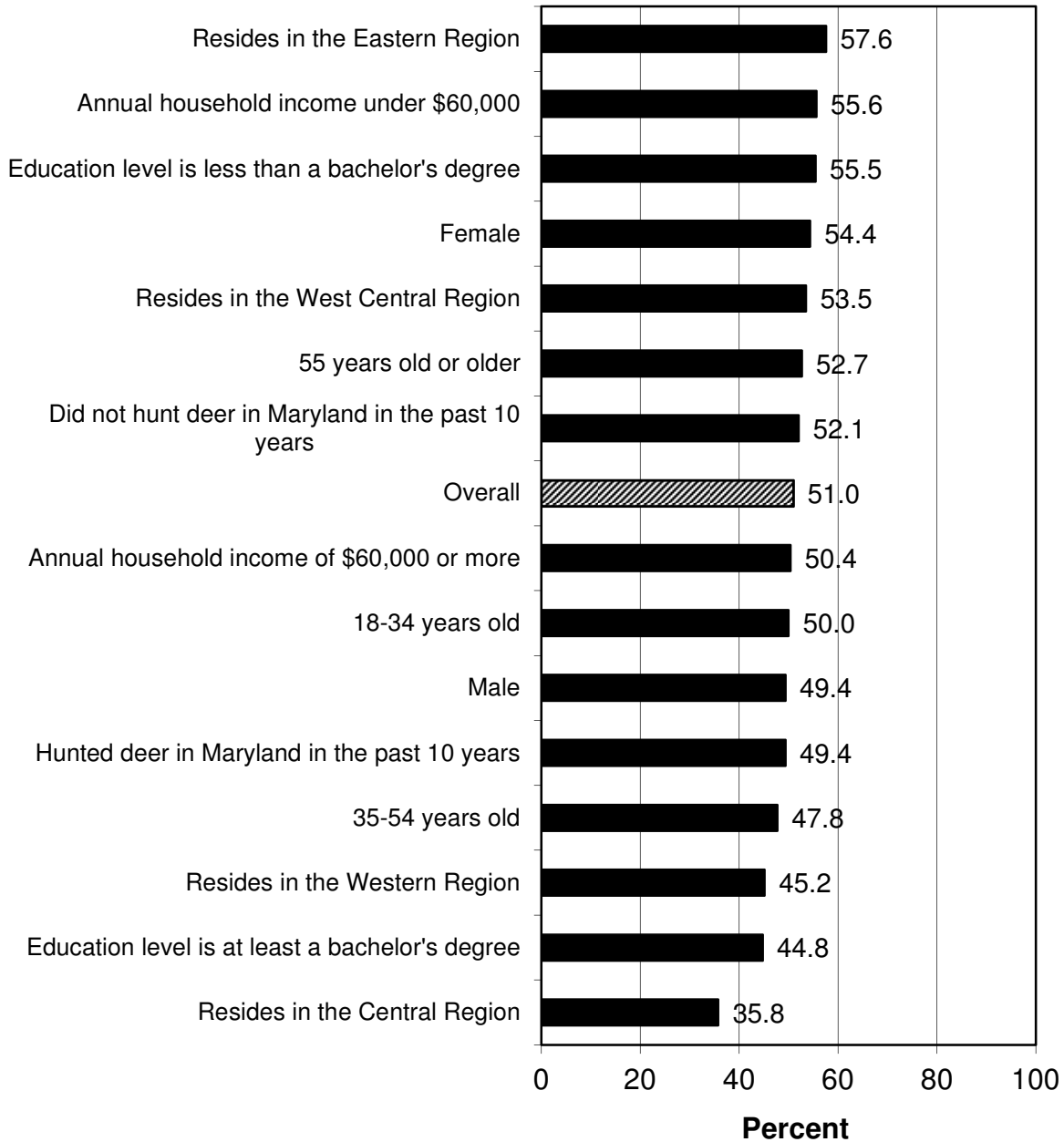


**Percent of the following groups who  
experienced damage to their yard, landscaping,  
or garden from deer over the past year:  
(Landowner survey)**



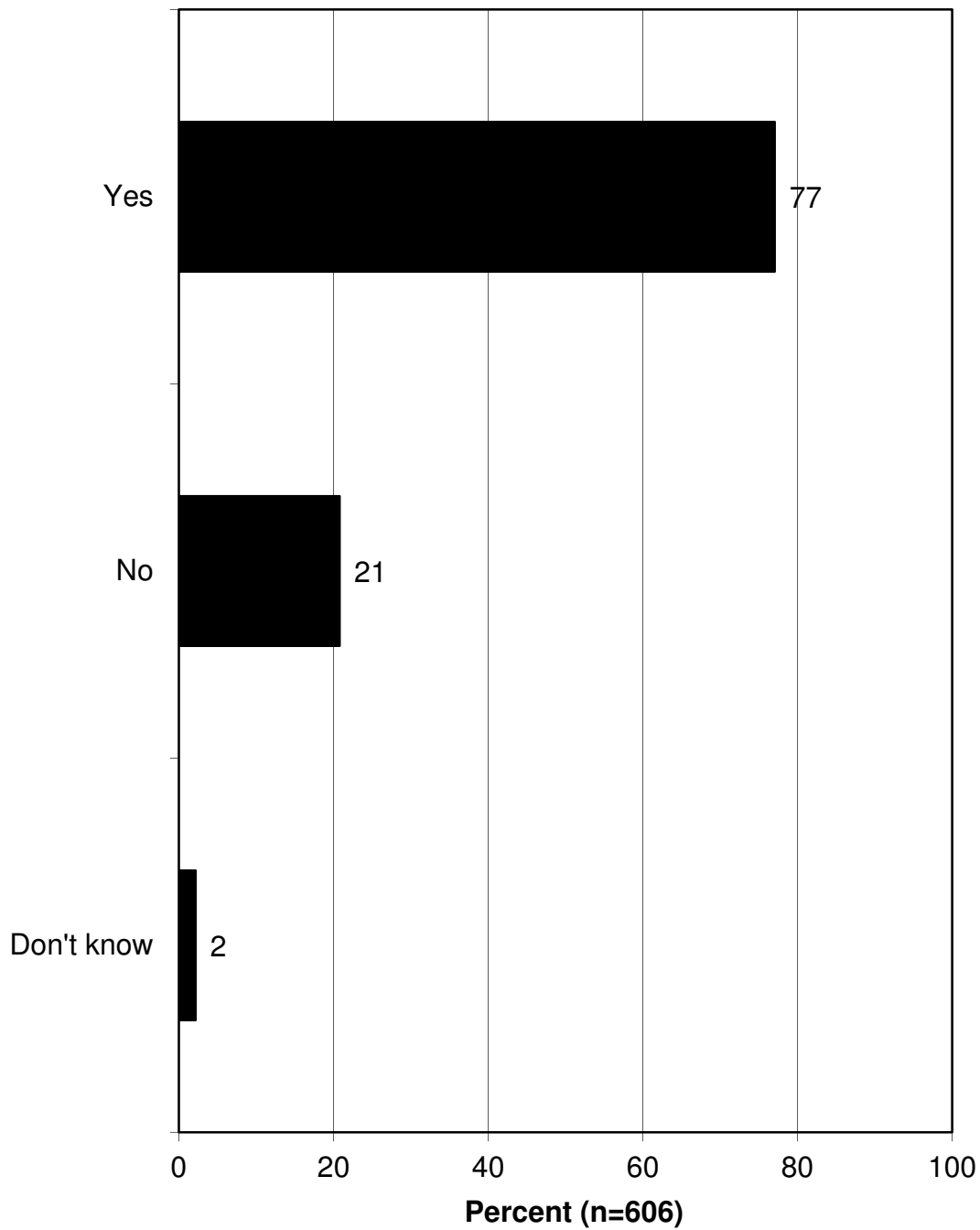
An explanation of how to interpret these graphs is on pages 6 through 7.

**Percent of the following groups who did not experience damage to their yard, landscaping, or garden from deer over the past year:  
(Landowner survey)**



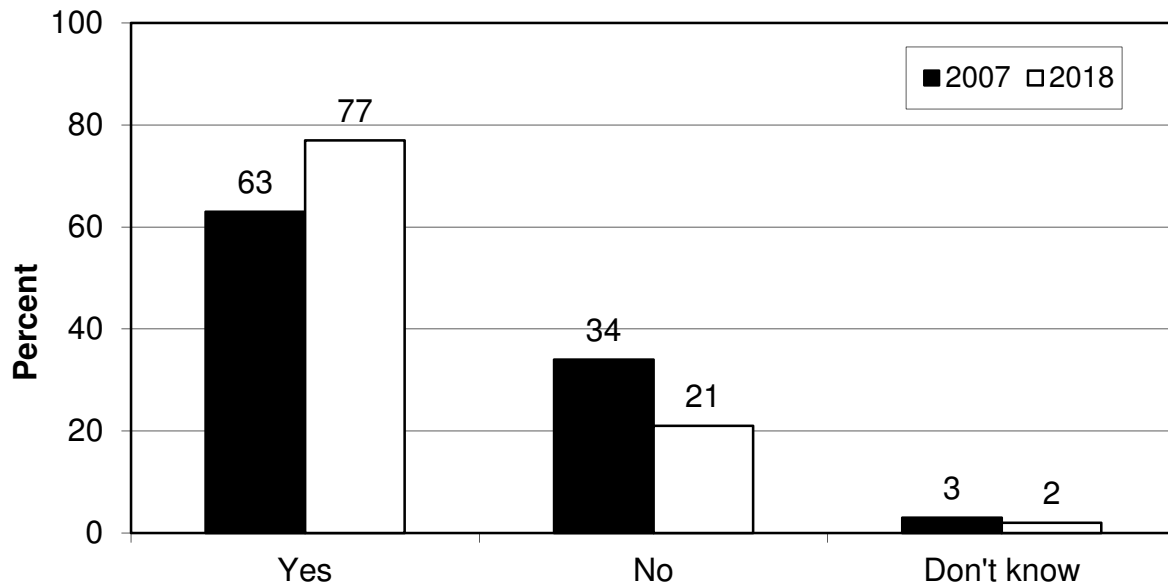
An explanation of how to interpret these graphs is on pages 6 through 7.

**Q35. Have you, in the past year, experienced damage to your agricultural crops from deer?  
(Landowner survey)**

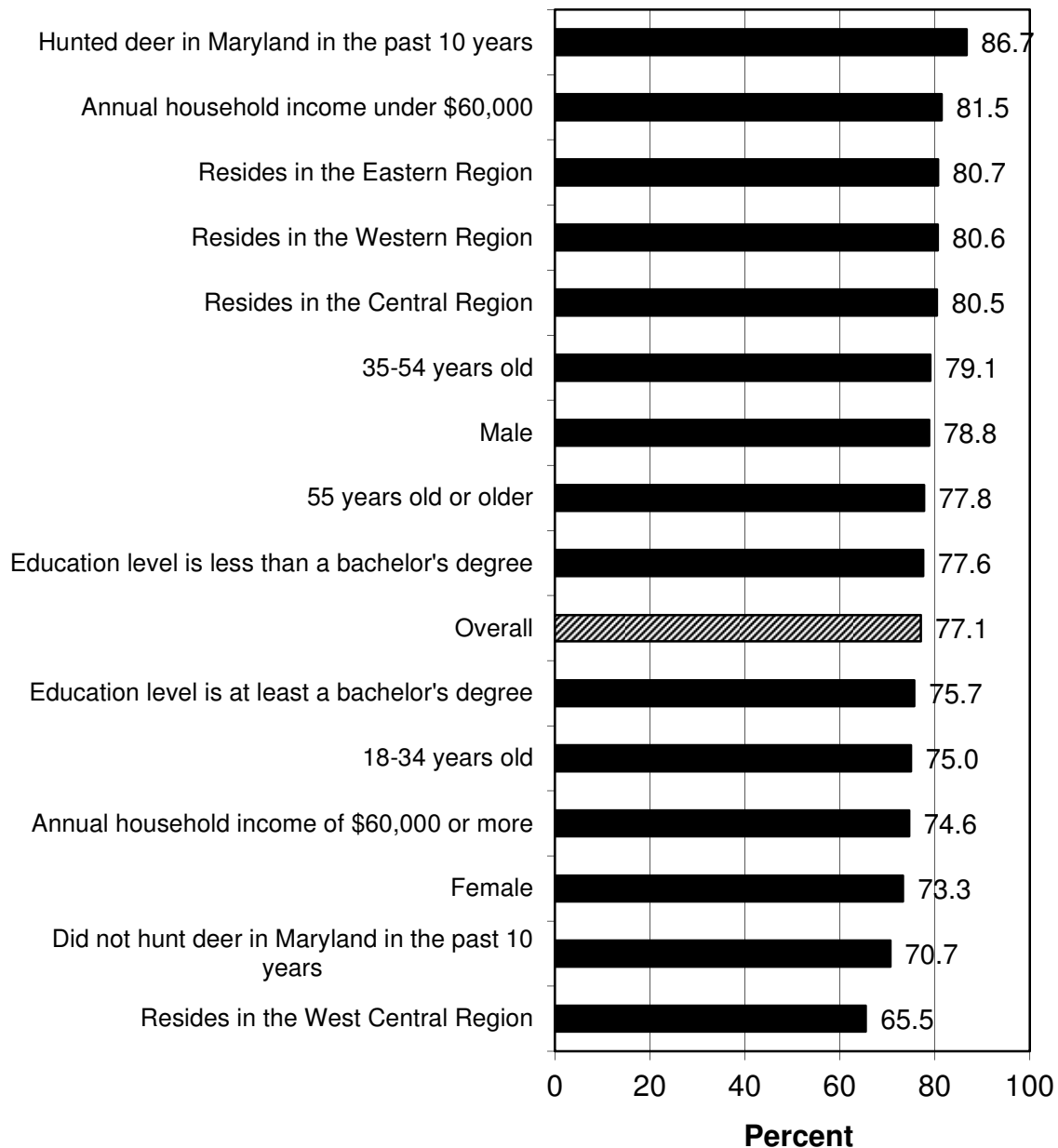




**Q35. Have you, in the past year, experienced damage to your agricultural crops from deer?  
(Landowner survey)**

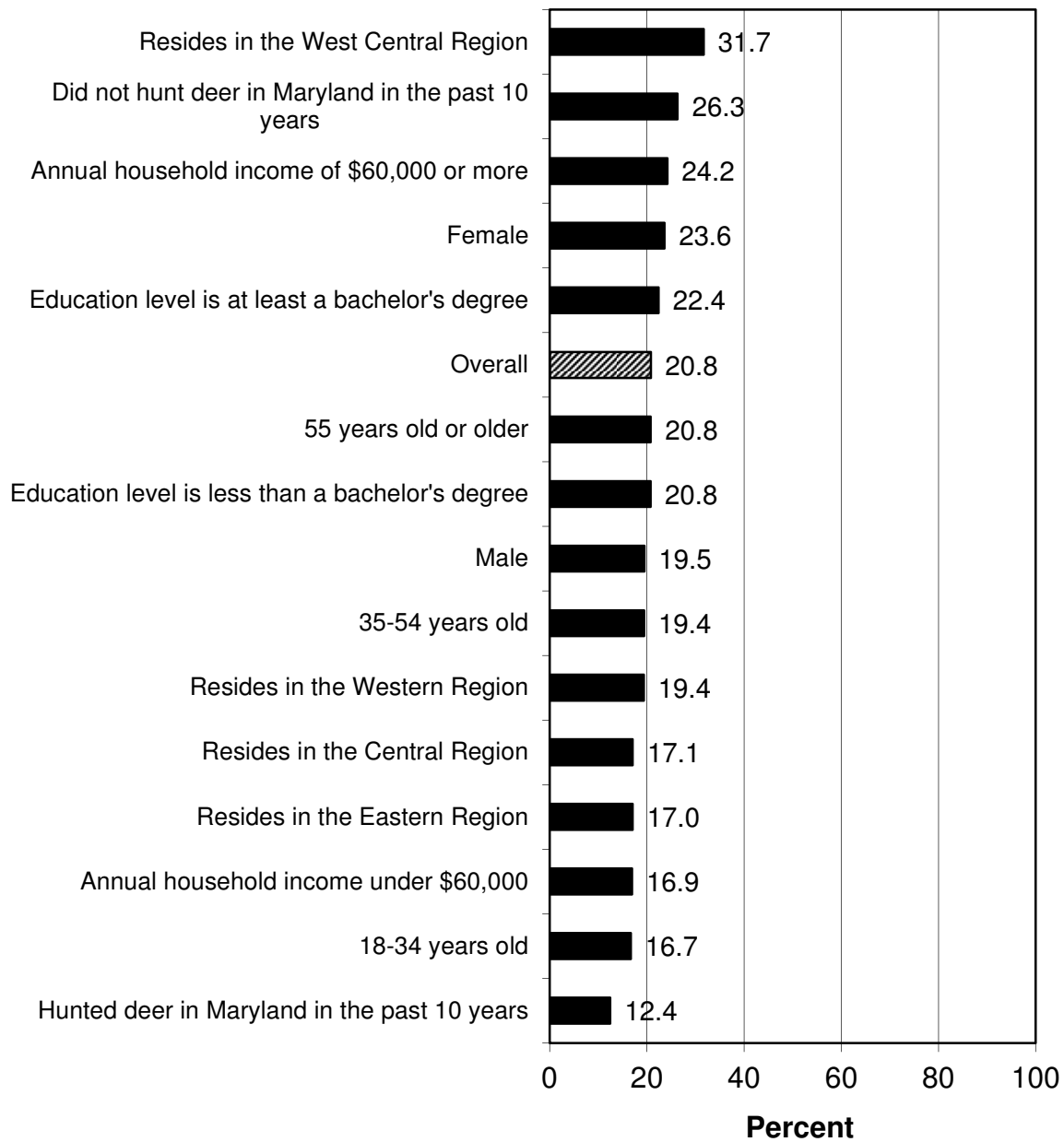


**Percent of the following groups who  
experienced damage to their agricultural crops  
from deer over the past year:  
(Landowner survey)**



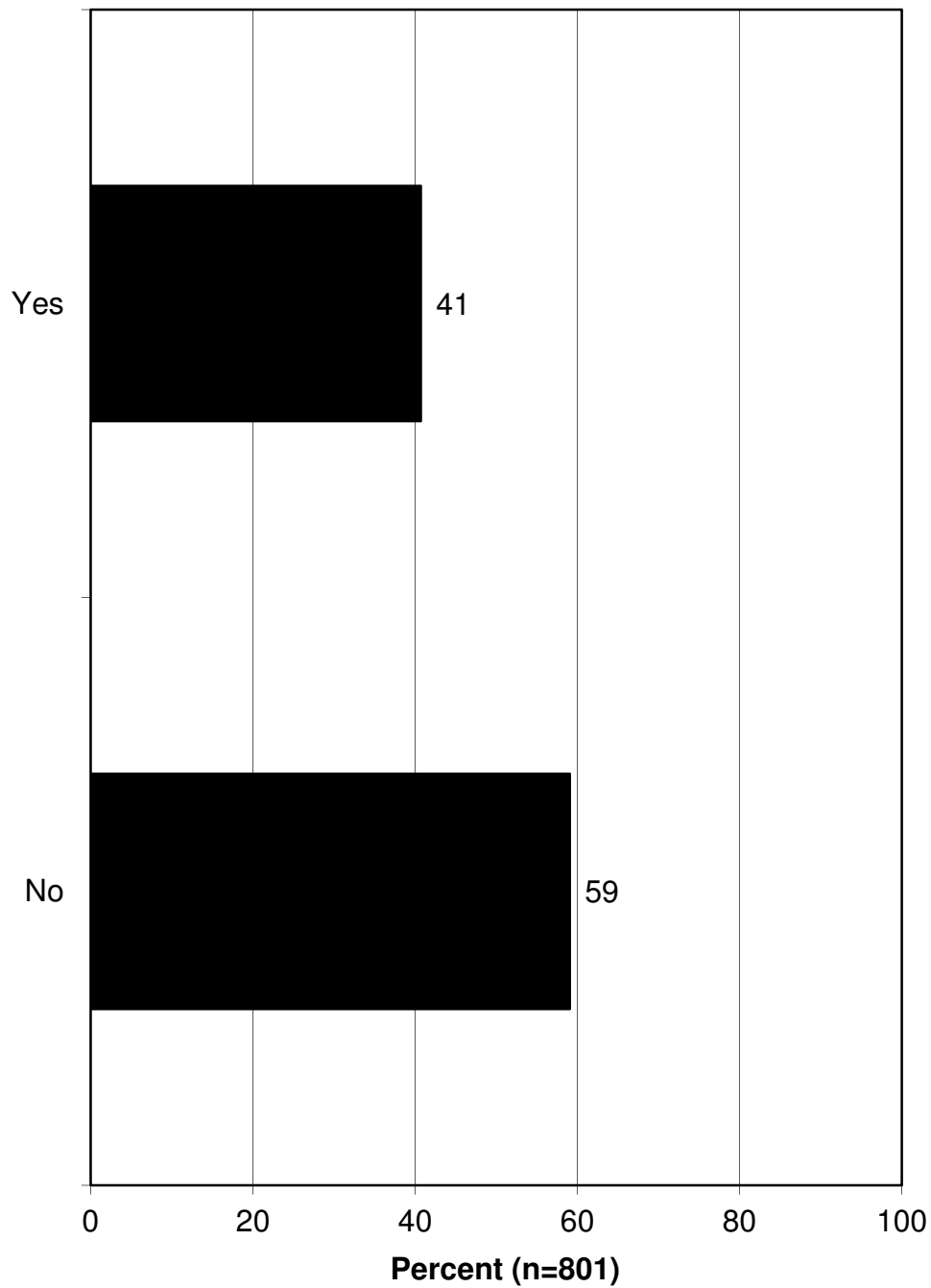
An explanation of how to interpret these graphs is on pages 6 through 7.

**Percent of the following groups who did not experience damage to their agricultural crops from deer over the past year:  
(Landowner survey)**

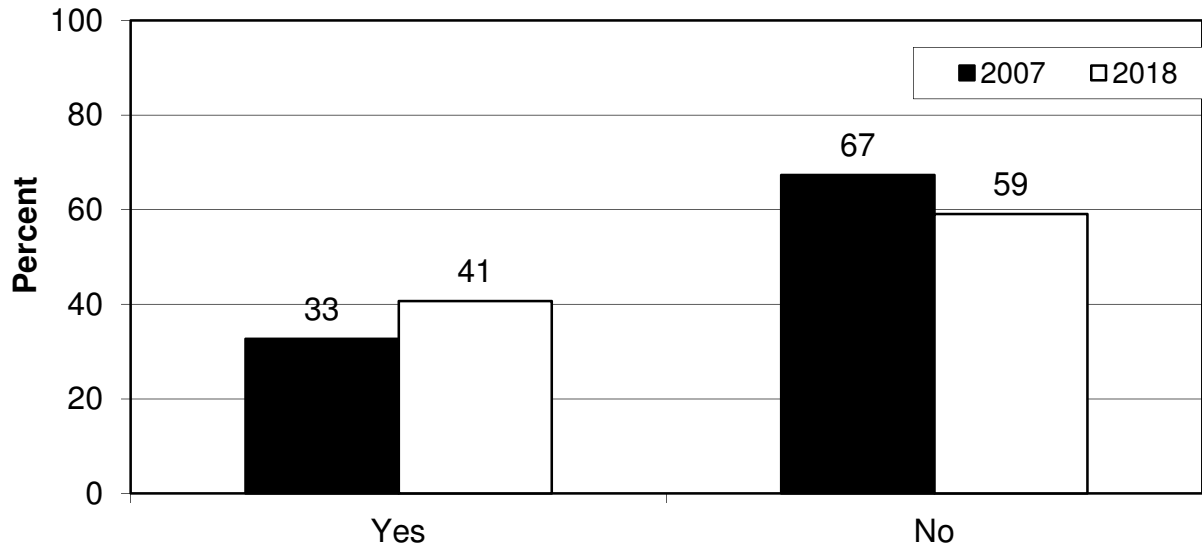


An explanation of how to interpret these graphs is on pages 6 through 7.

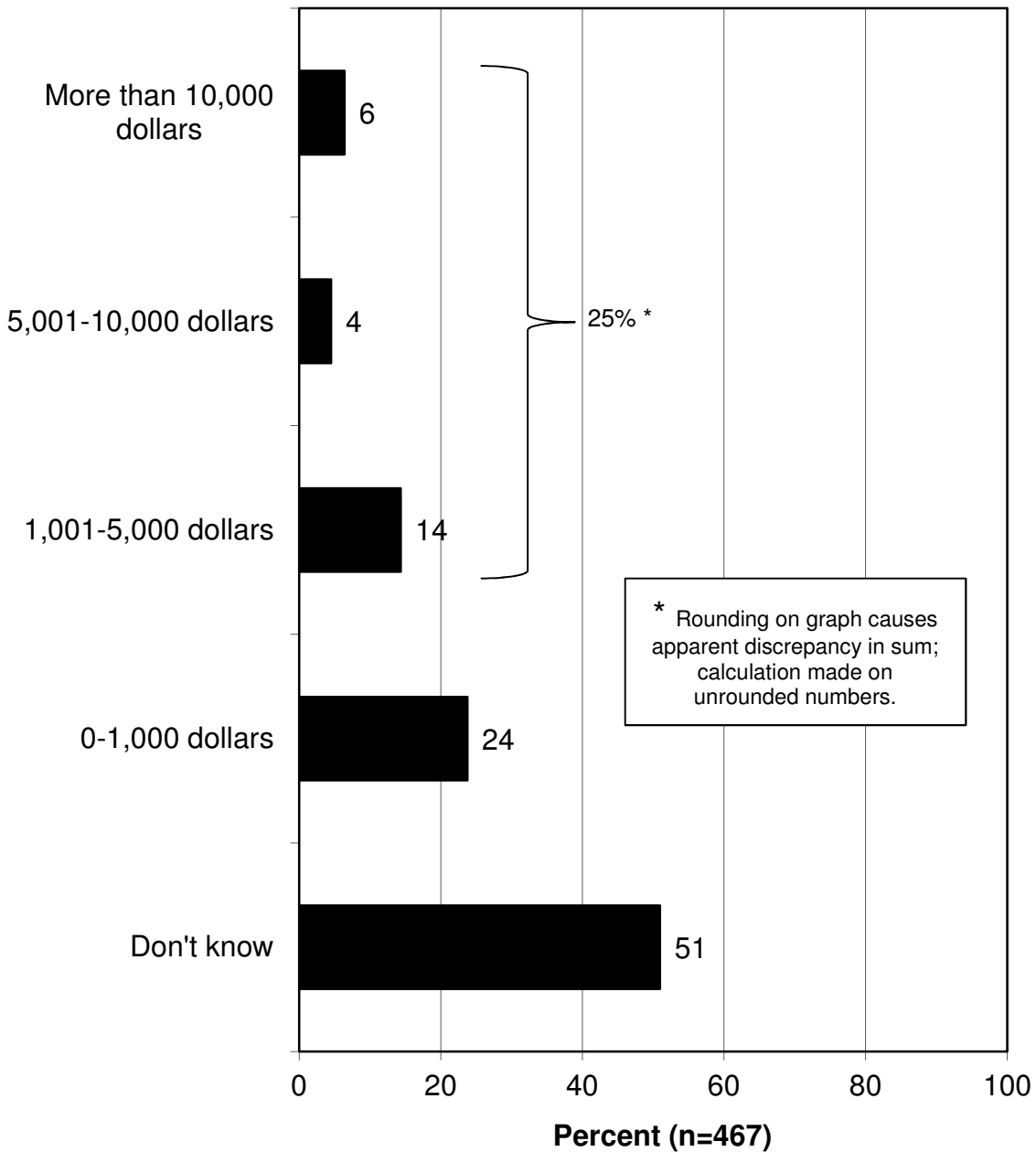
**Q30. Have you, in the past year, experienced damage to your yard, garden, or agricultural crops from deer? (Hunter survey)**



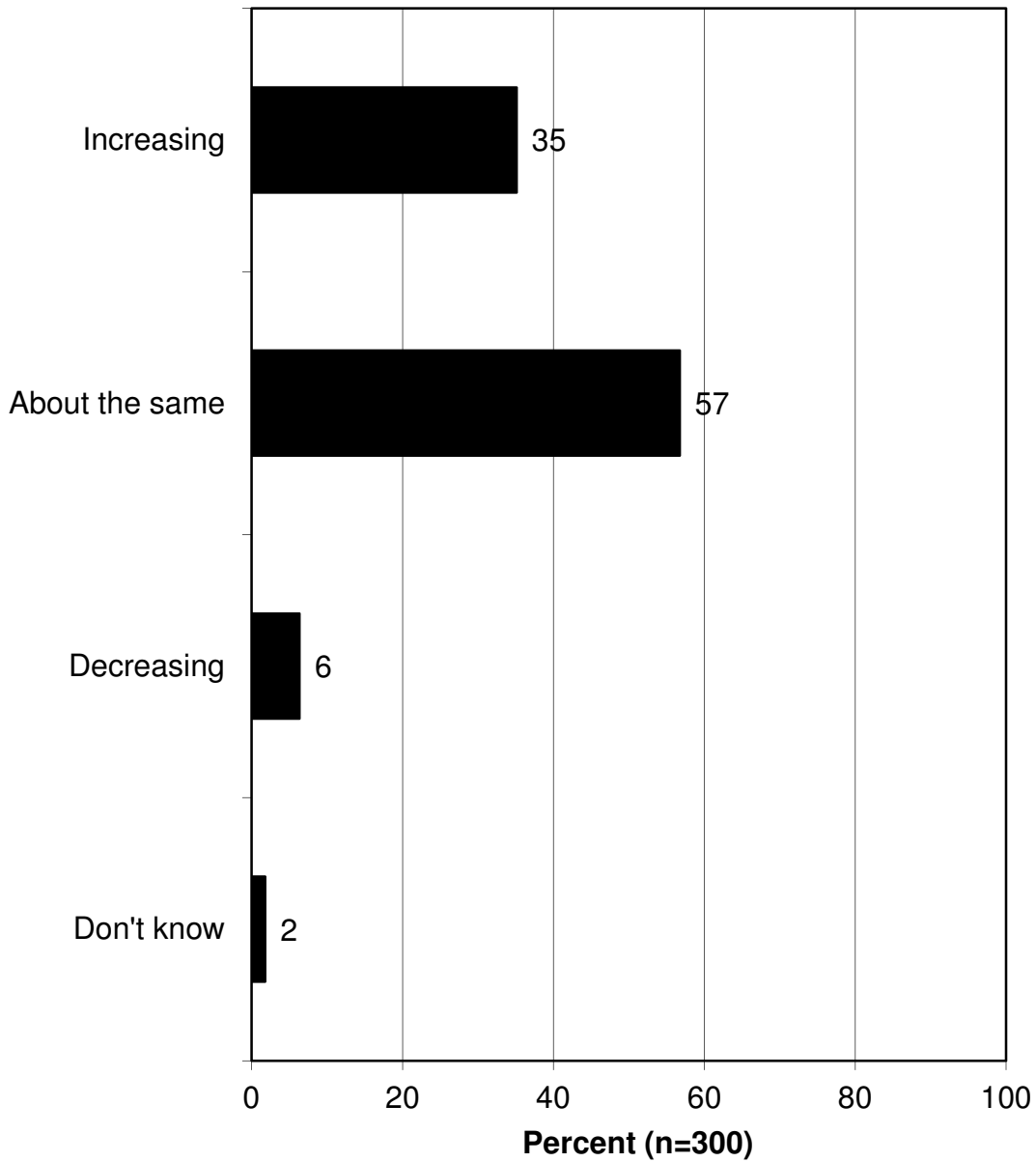
**Q30. Have you, in the past year, experienced damage to your yard, garden, or agricultural crops from deer?  
(Hunter survey)**



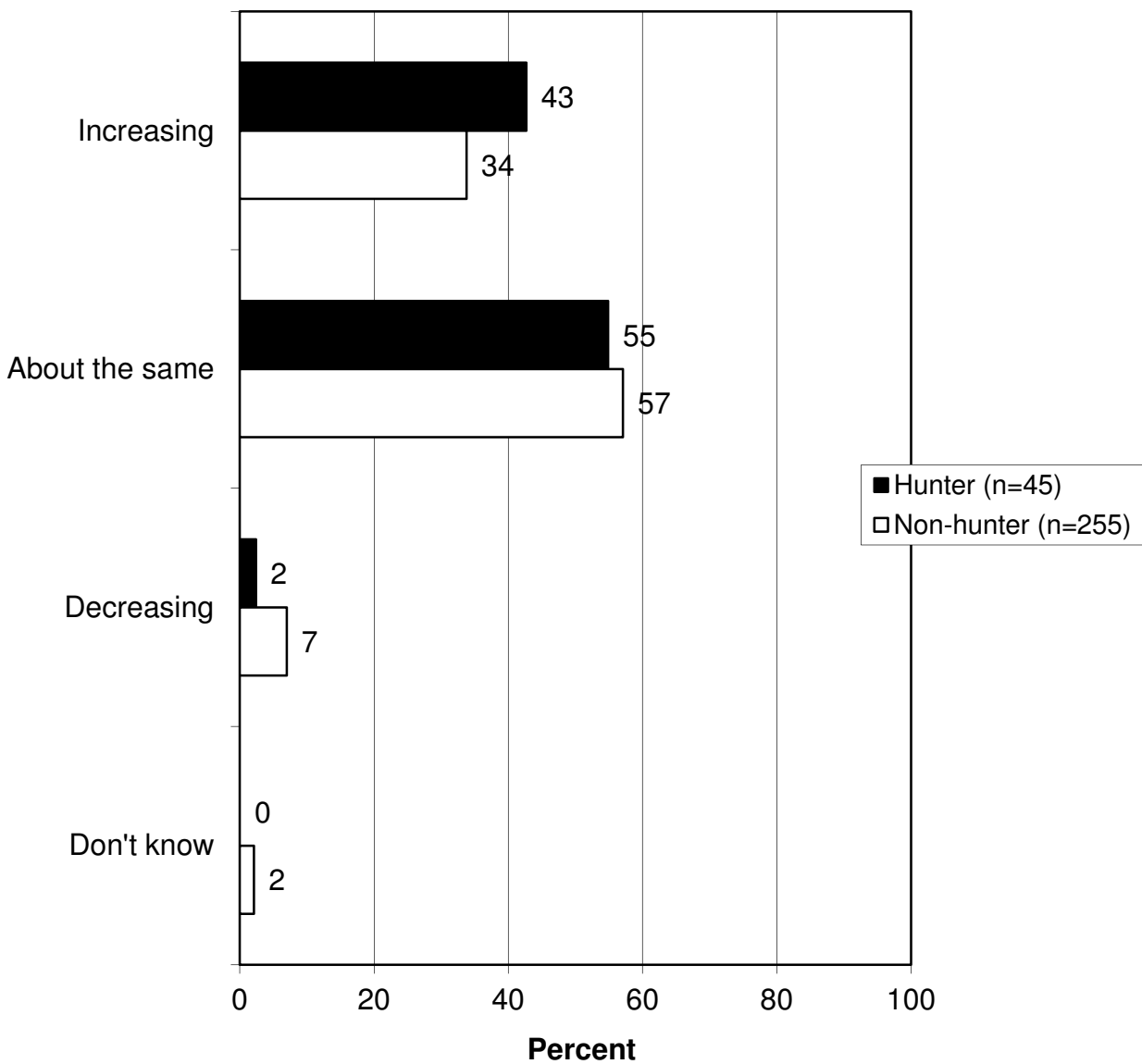
**Q125. Please tell me how much monetary damage the deer caused in the past 12 months, in your best estimate. (Asked of those who experienced agricultural damage from deer in the 12 months.) (Landowner survey)**



**Q37. Do you feel that the incidence of yard, garden, or agricultural crop damage is increasing, about the same, or decreasing? (Asked of those who experienced damage.) (Gen pop survey)**

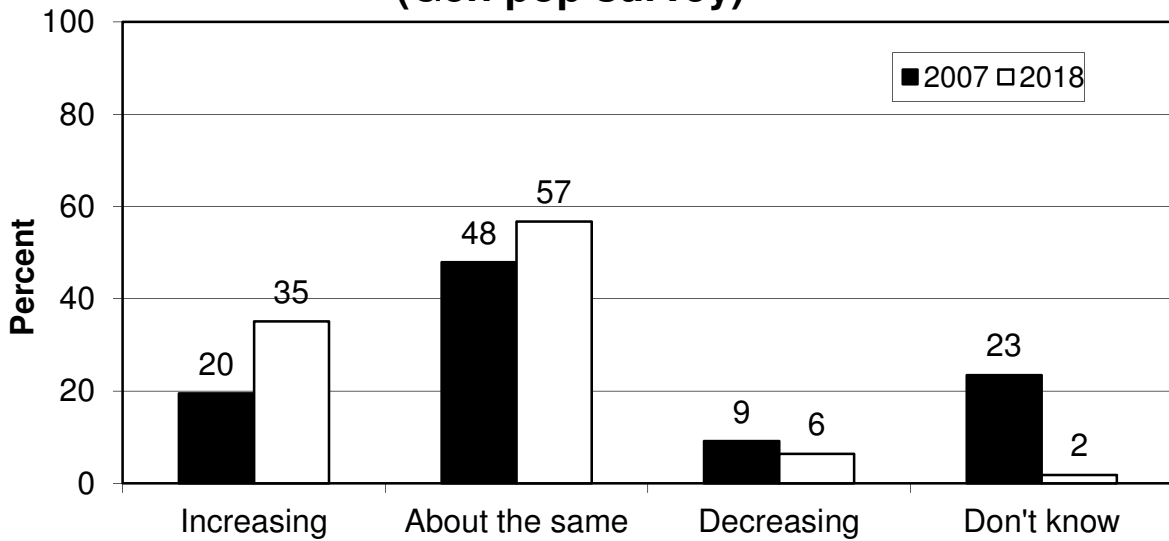


**Q37. Do you feel that the incidence of yard, garden, or agricultural crop damage is increasing, about the same, or decreasing? (Asked of those who experienced damage.) (Gen pop survey)**

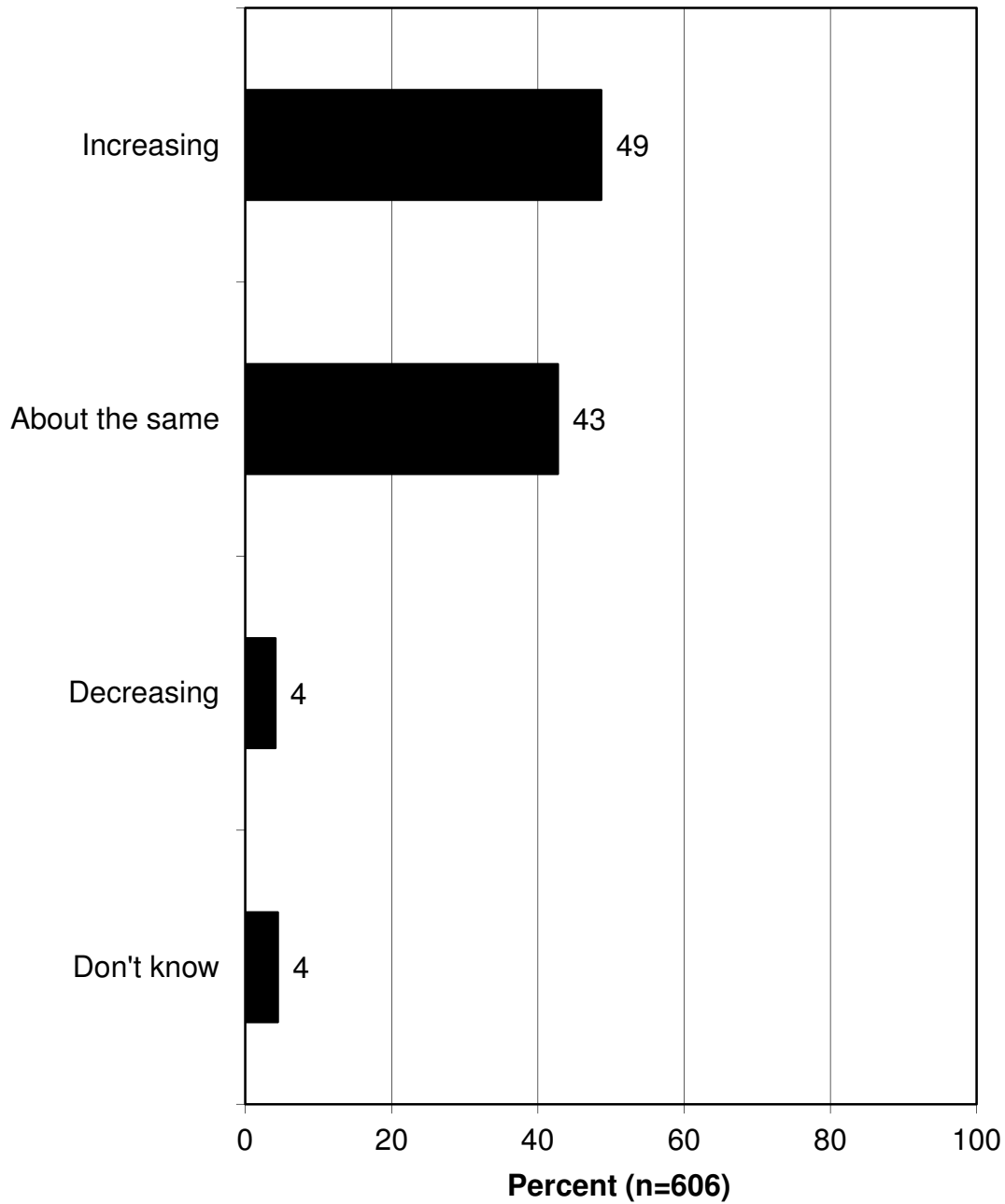




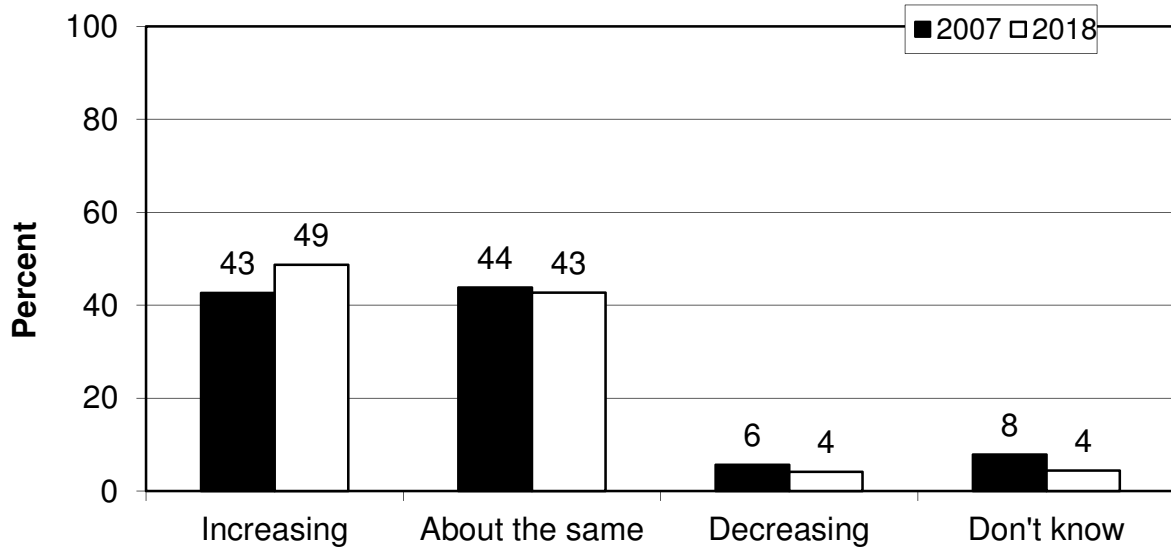
**Q37. Do you feel that the incidence of yard, garden, or agricultural crop damage is increasing, about the same, or decreasing? (Asked of those who experienced damage.) (Gen pop survey)**



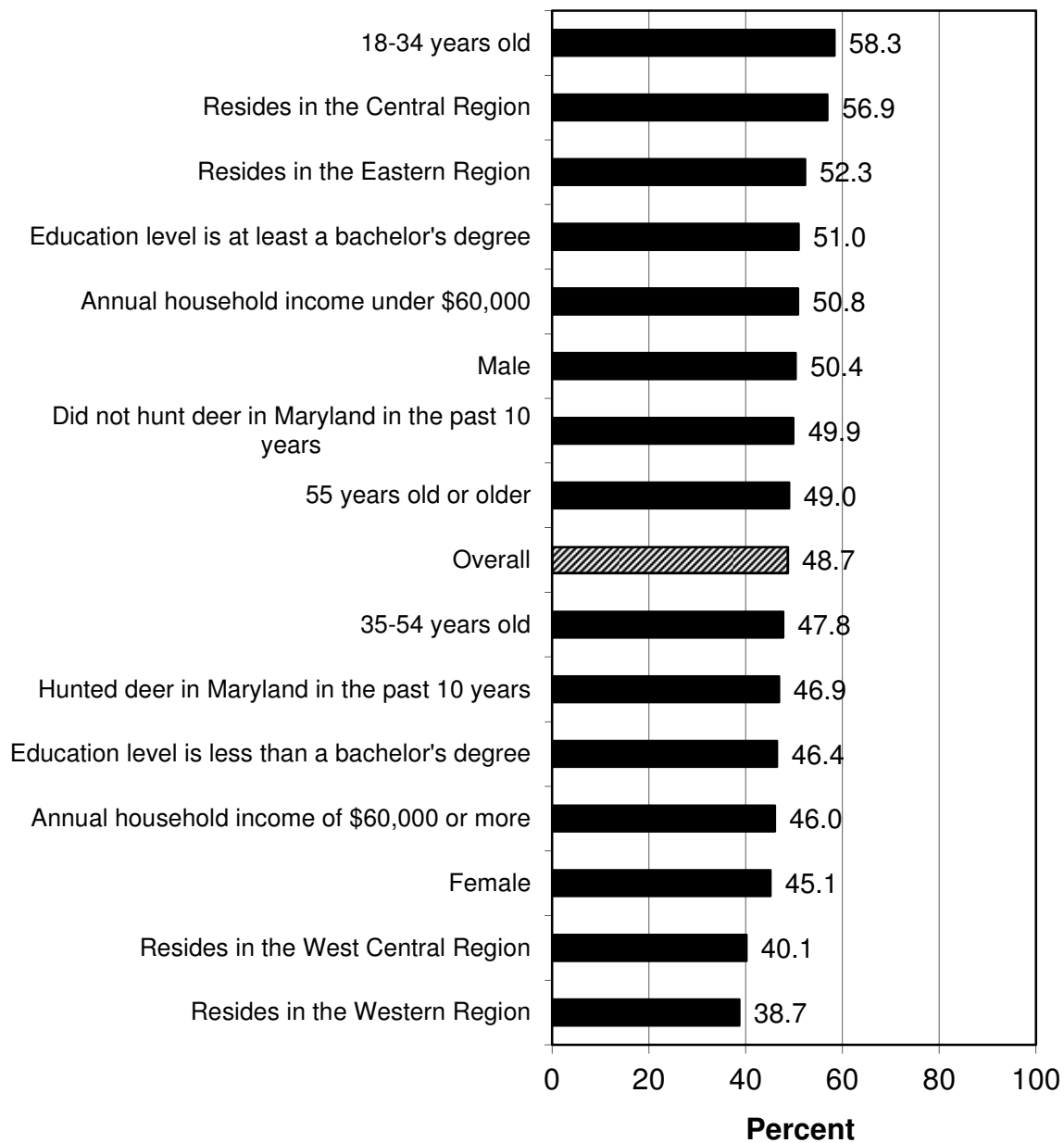
**Q37. Do you feel that the incidence of yard, garden, or agricultural crop damage is increasing, about the same, or decreasing?  
(Landowner survey)**



**Q37. Do you feel that the incidence of yard, garden, or agricultural crop damage is increasing, about the same, or decreasing?  
(Landowner survey)**

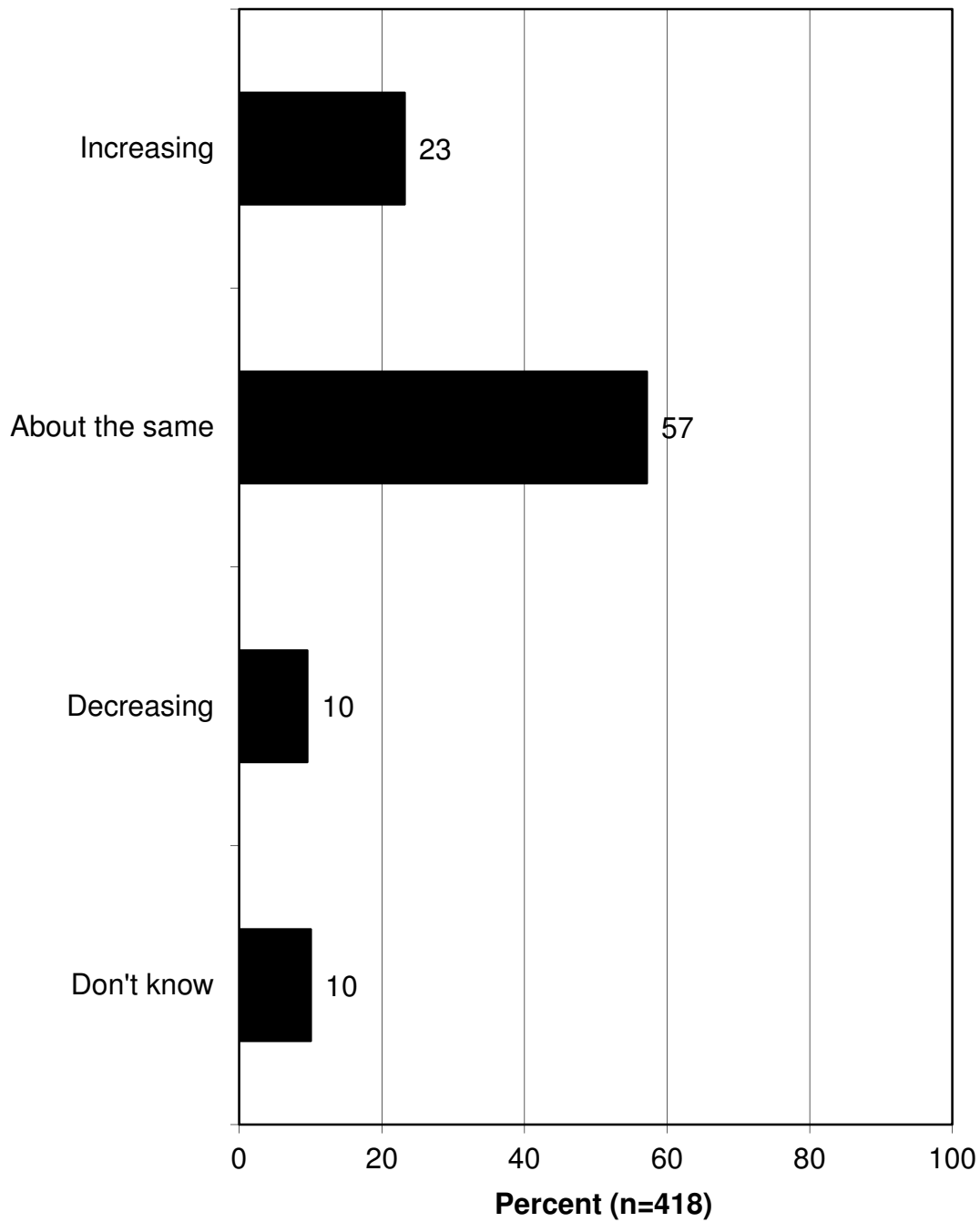


**Percent of the following groups who feel that  
the incidence of yard, garden, or agricultural  
crop damage is increasing:  
(Landowner survey)**

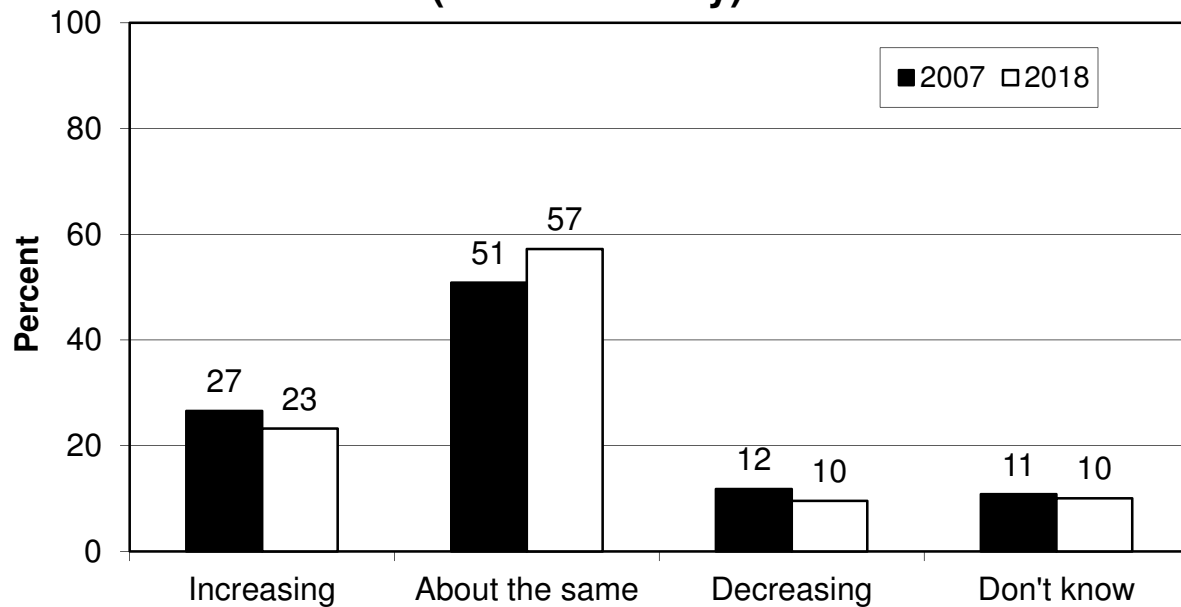


An explanation of how to interpret these graphs is on pages 6 through 7.

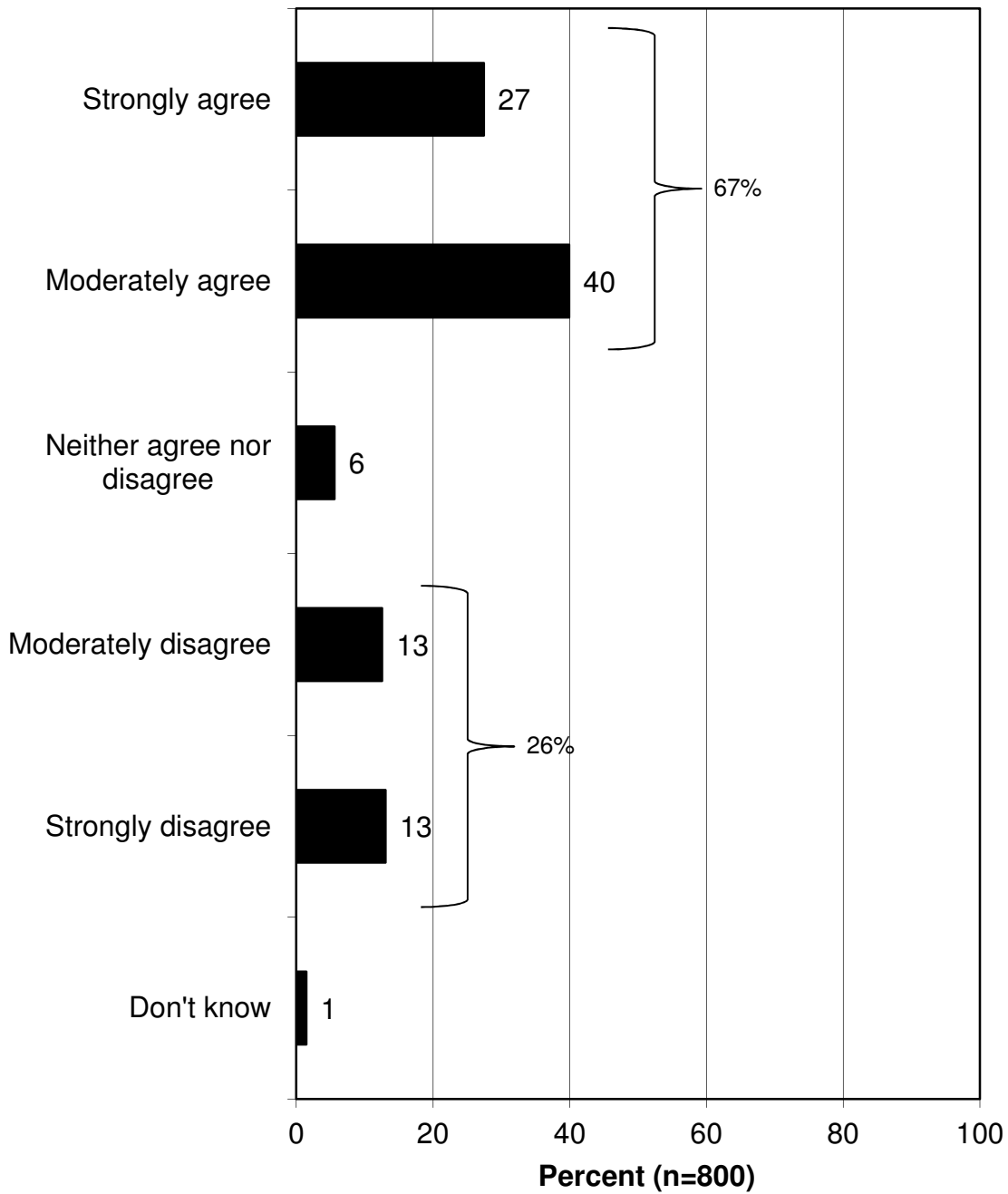
**Q32. Do you feel that the incidence of yard, garden, or agricultural crop damage is increasing, about the same, or decreasing?  
(Hunter survey)**



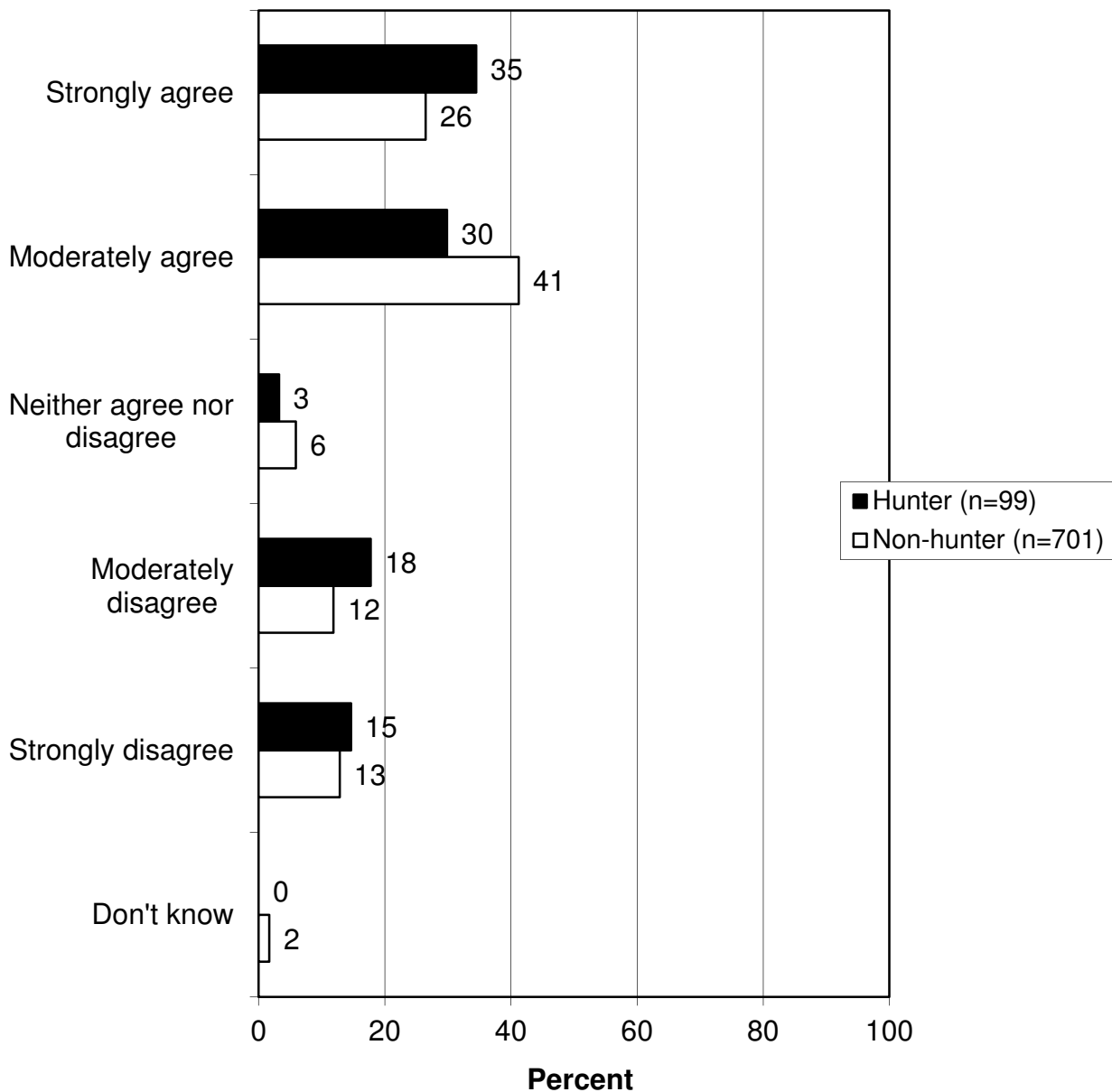
**Q32. Do you feel that the incidence of yard, garden, or agricultural crop damage is increasing, about the same, or decreasing?  
(Hunter survey)**



**Q12. Deer are important enough that I am willing to tolerate some damage to my yard, garden, or agricultural crops. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?) (Gen pop survey)**

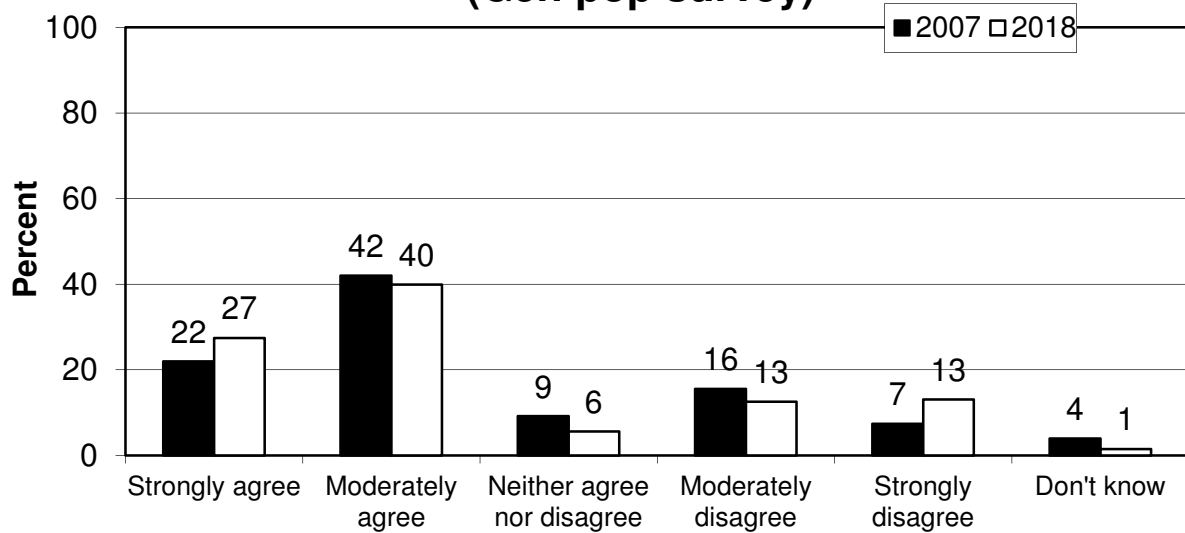


**Q12. Deer are important enough that I am willing to tolerate some damage to my yard, garden, or agricultural crops. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?) (Gen pop survey)**

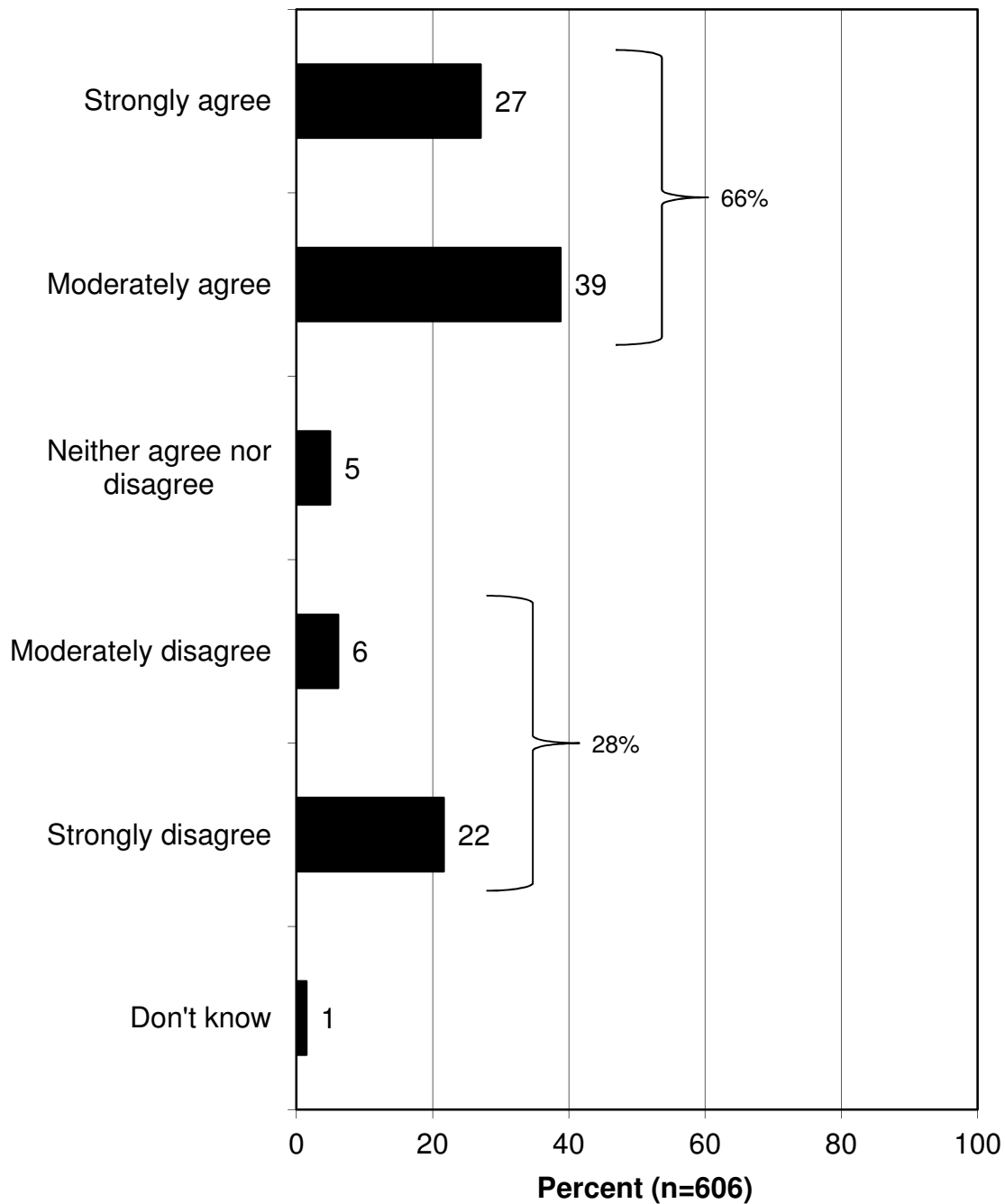




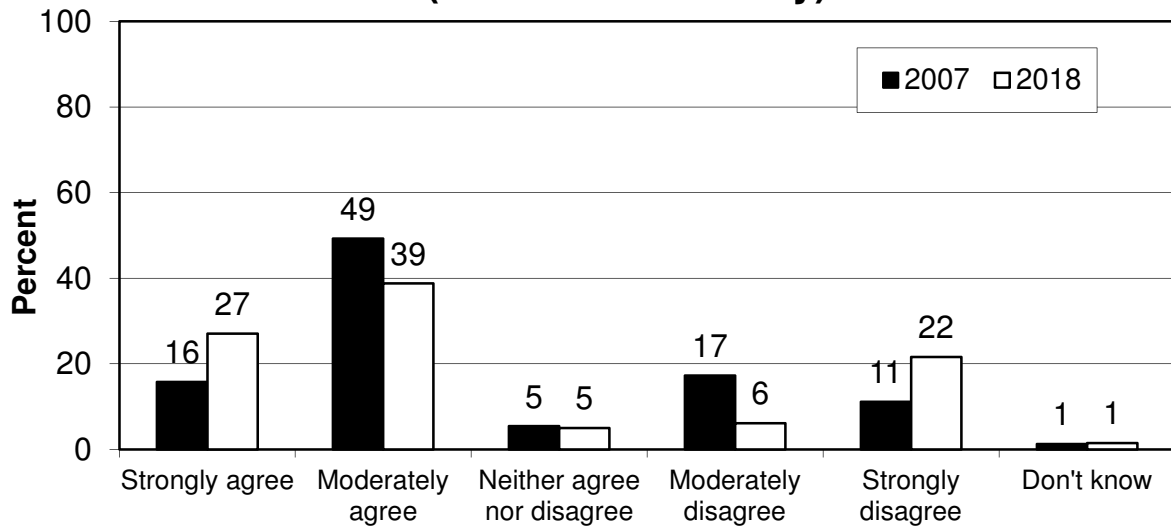
**Q12. Deer are important enough that I am willing to tolerate some damage to my yard, garden, or agricultural crops.  
(Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)  
(Gen pop survey)**



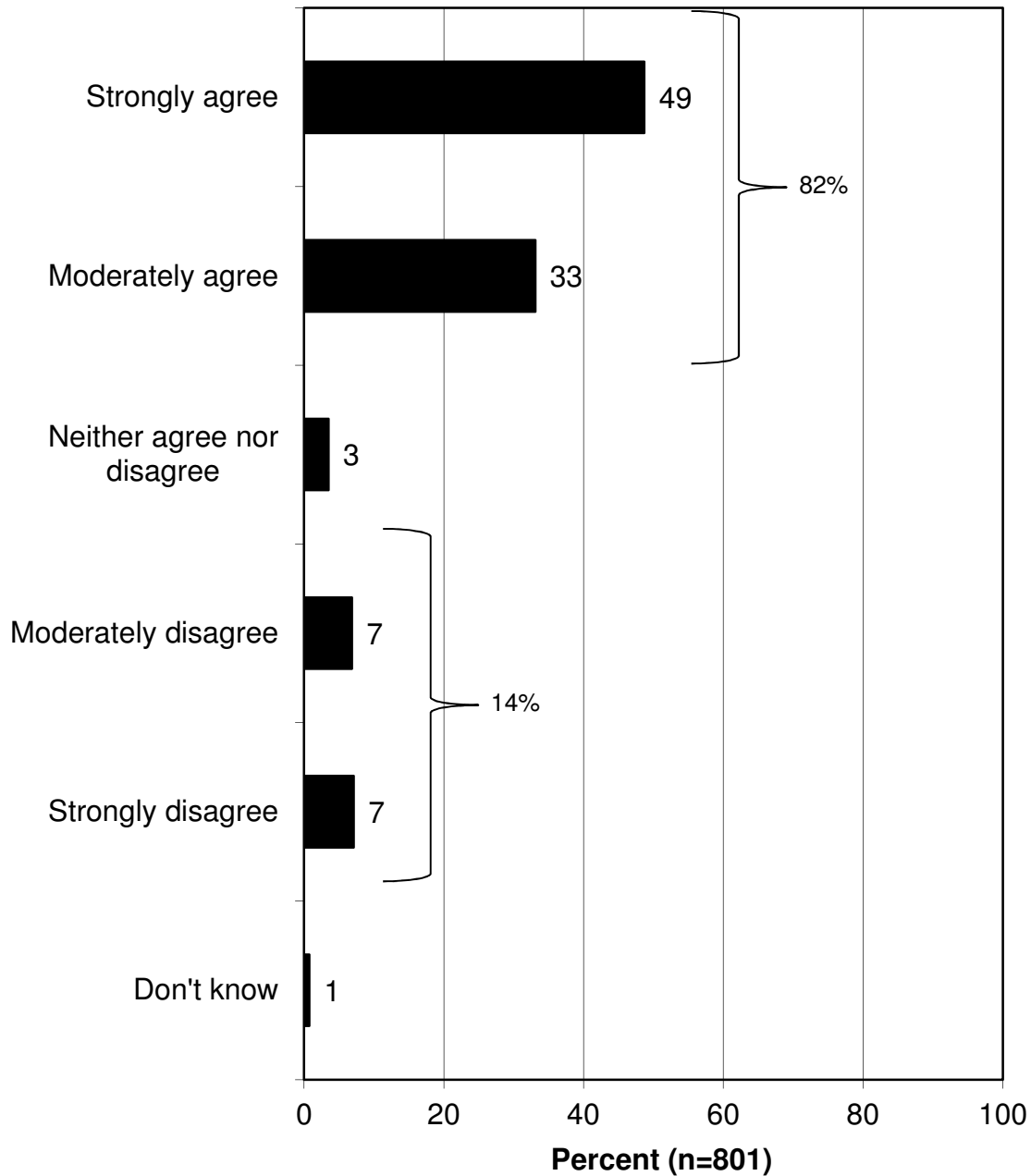
**Q18. Deer are important enough that I am willing to tolerate some damage to my yard, garden or agricultural crops. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement.) (Landowner survey)**



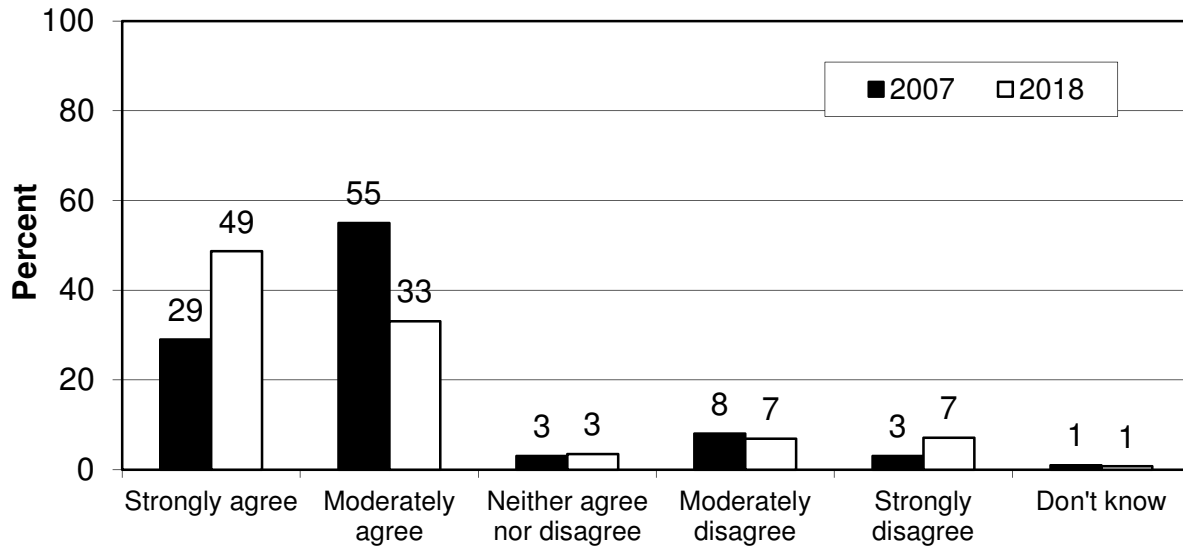
**Q18. Deer are important enough that I am willing to tolerate some damage to my yard, garden, or agricultural crops.  
(Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)  
(Landowner survey)**



**Q13. Deer are important enough that I am willing to tolerate some damage to my yard, garden, or agricultural crops. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?) (Hunter survey)**



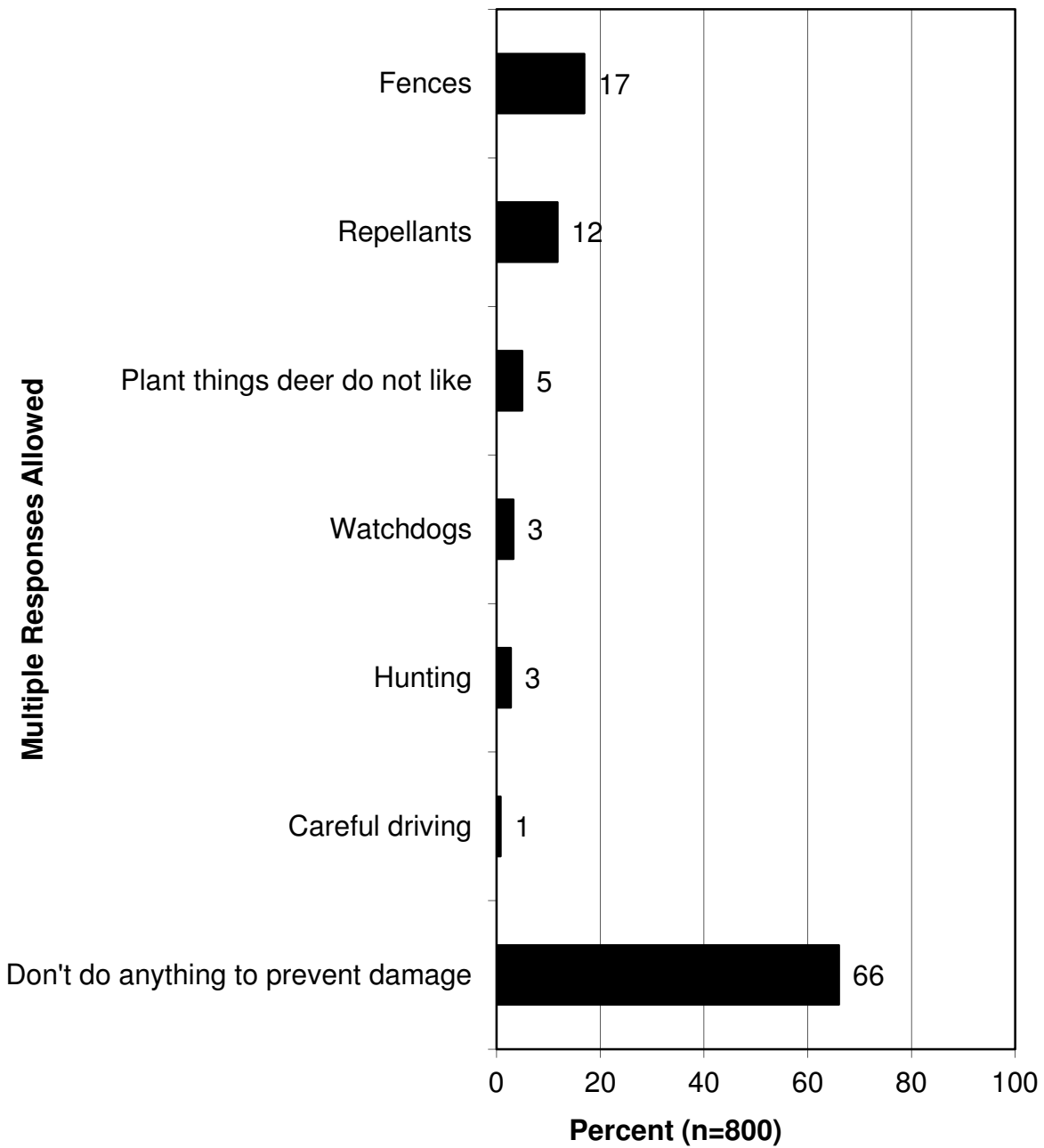
**Q13. Deer are important enough that I am willing to tolerate some damage to my yard, garden or agricultural crops. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?) (Hunter survey)**



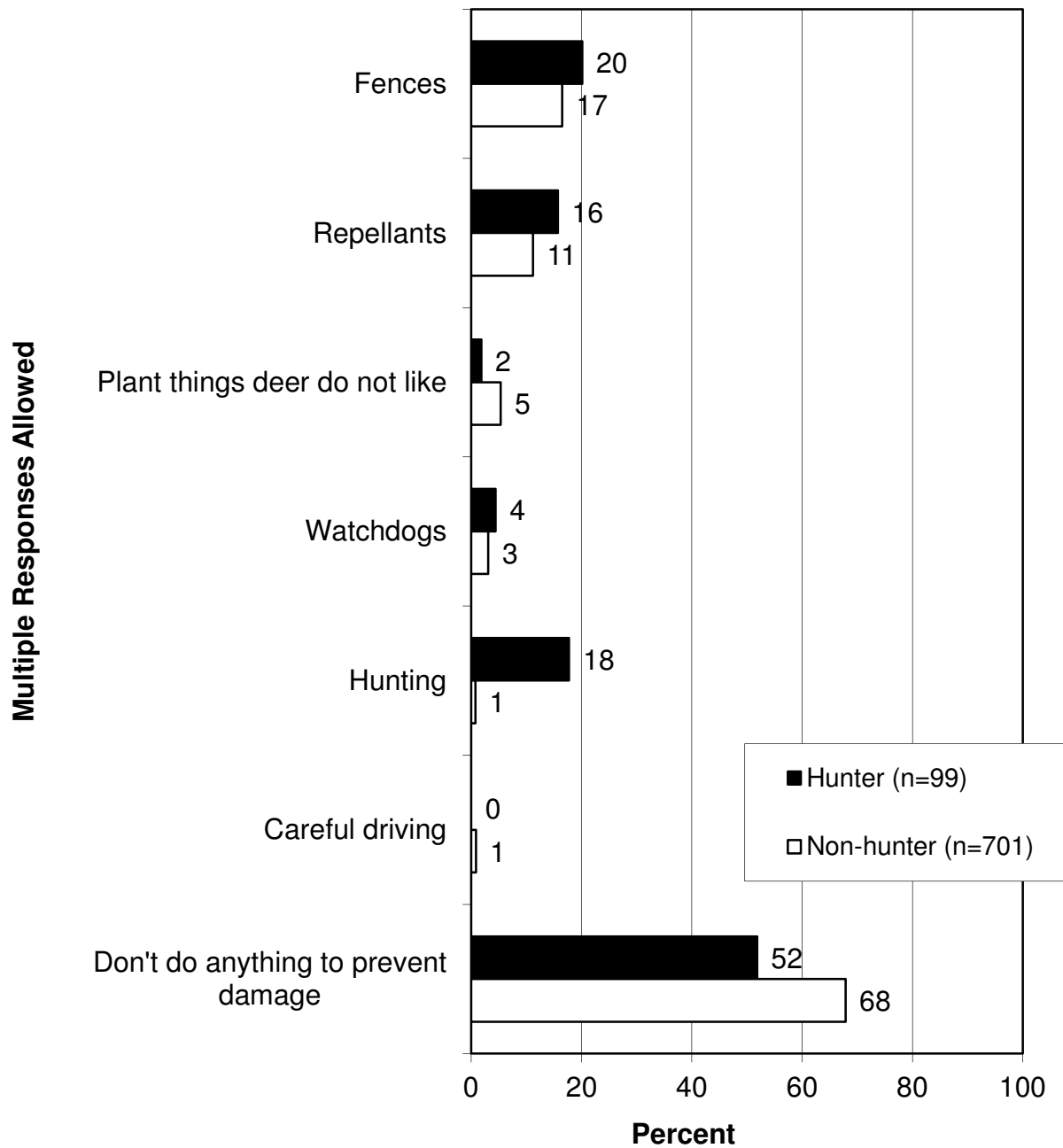
## PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

- All three surveys asked about preventative measures that people take to deter deer.
  - Most commonly, residents use fencing (17%) or repellants (12%).
  - Landowners most commonly use hunting (45%) to prevent deer damage (either their own hunting or allowing hunting). Otherwise, 15% use fencing and 11% use repellants, with all other responses at less than 10%.
  - Among hunters, hunting (21%) is their top choice, followed by fences (16%) and repellants (11%). The slight majority of hunters (52%) do not do anything to prevent deer damage.
  
- One option to prevent damage (but currently not legal) is to cull the deer herd through night shooting, as night shooting greatly improves harvest success. The survey asked about approval or disapproval of this, and then it asked if landowners would allow it.
  - Only a third of landowners approve of this (34% do so), while the majority (59%) disapprove.
  - Because most of those who approve of it would allow it, the survey found that 30% would allow it.

**Q40. What, if anything, do you do to prevent damage by deer? (Gen pop survey)**

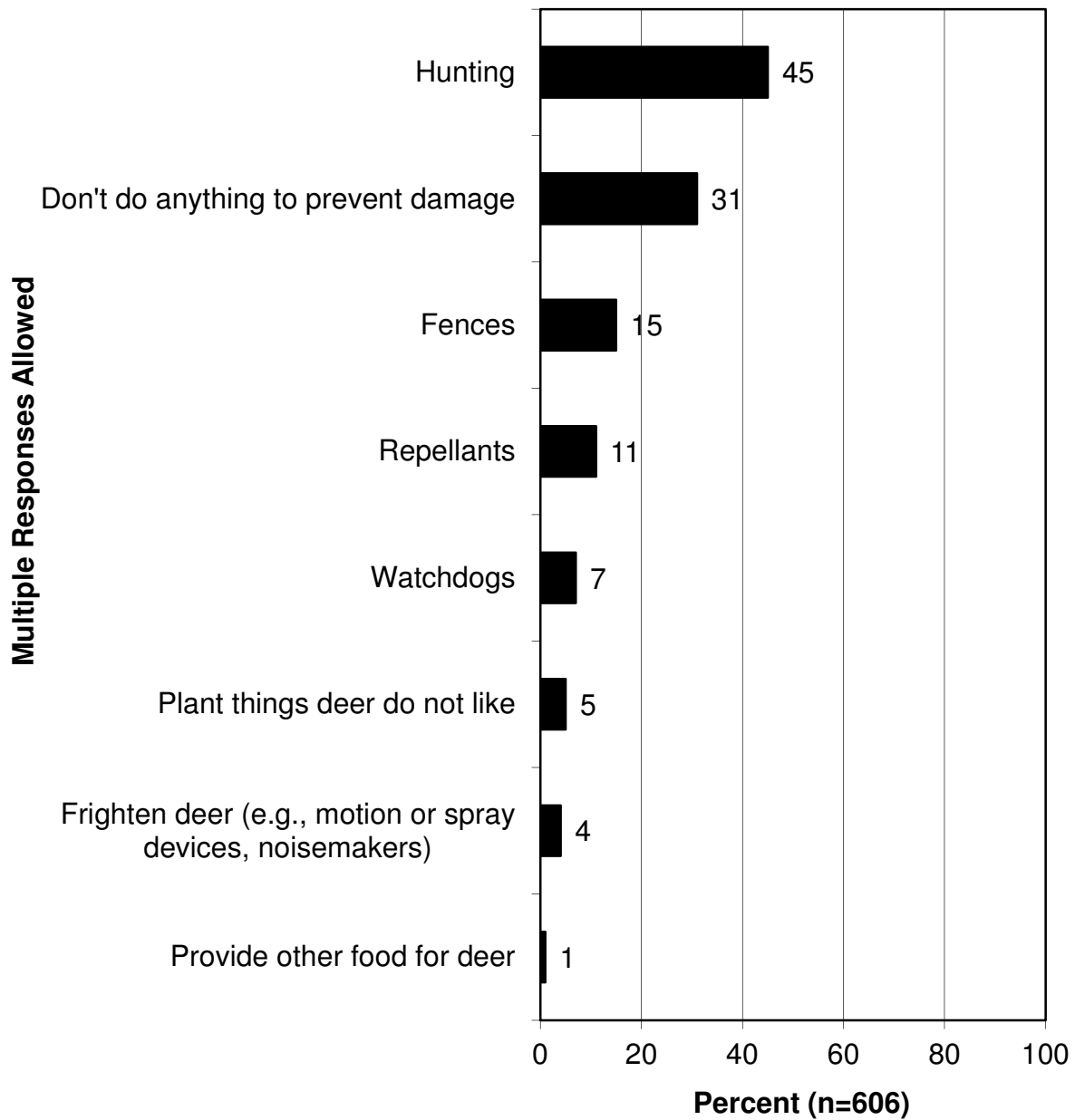


**Q40. What, if anything, do you do to prevent damage by deer? (Gen pop survey)**

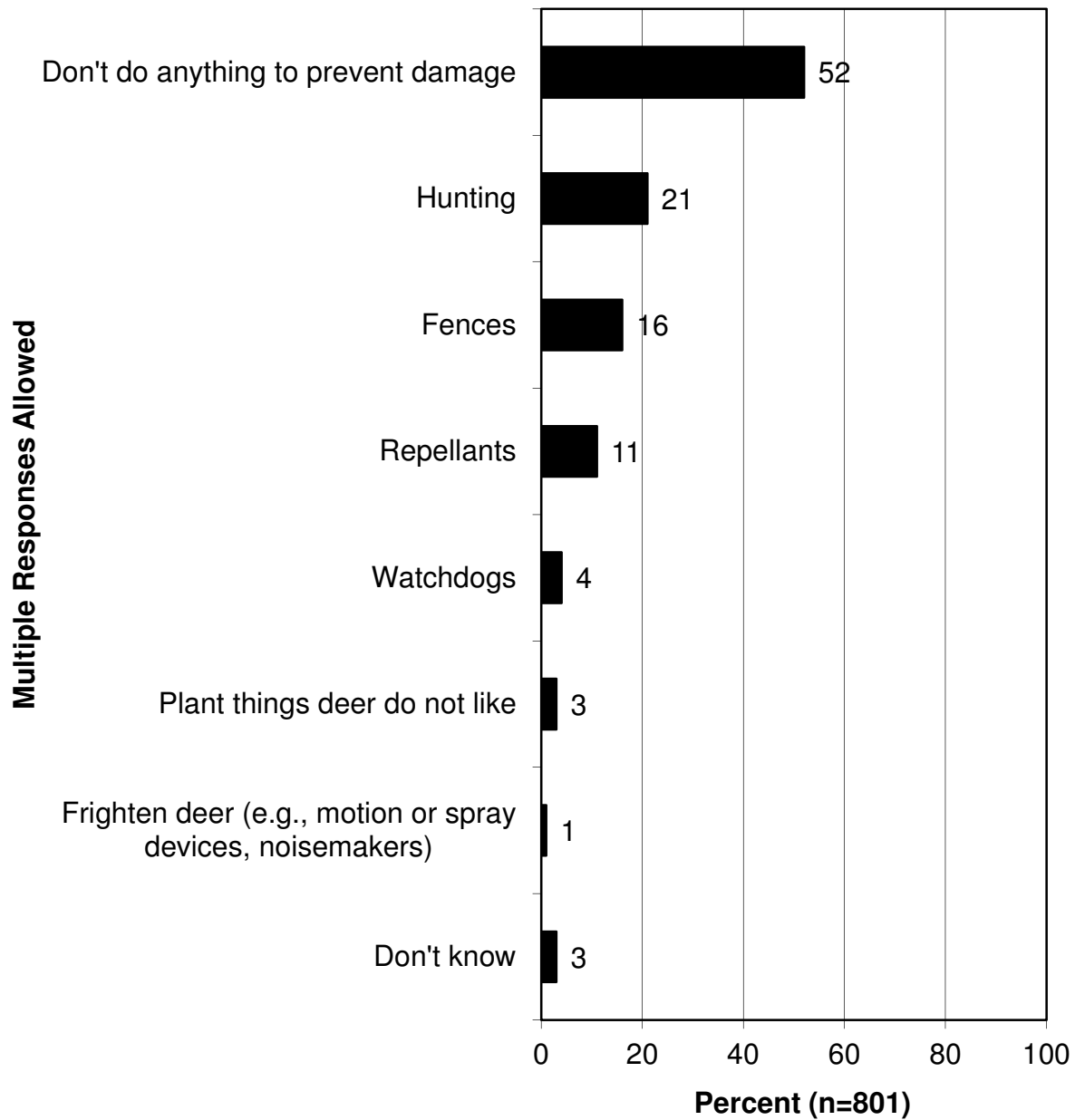




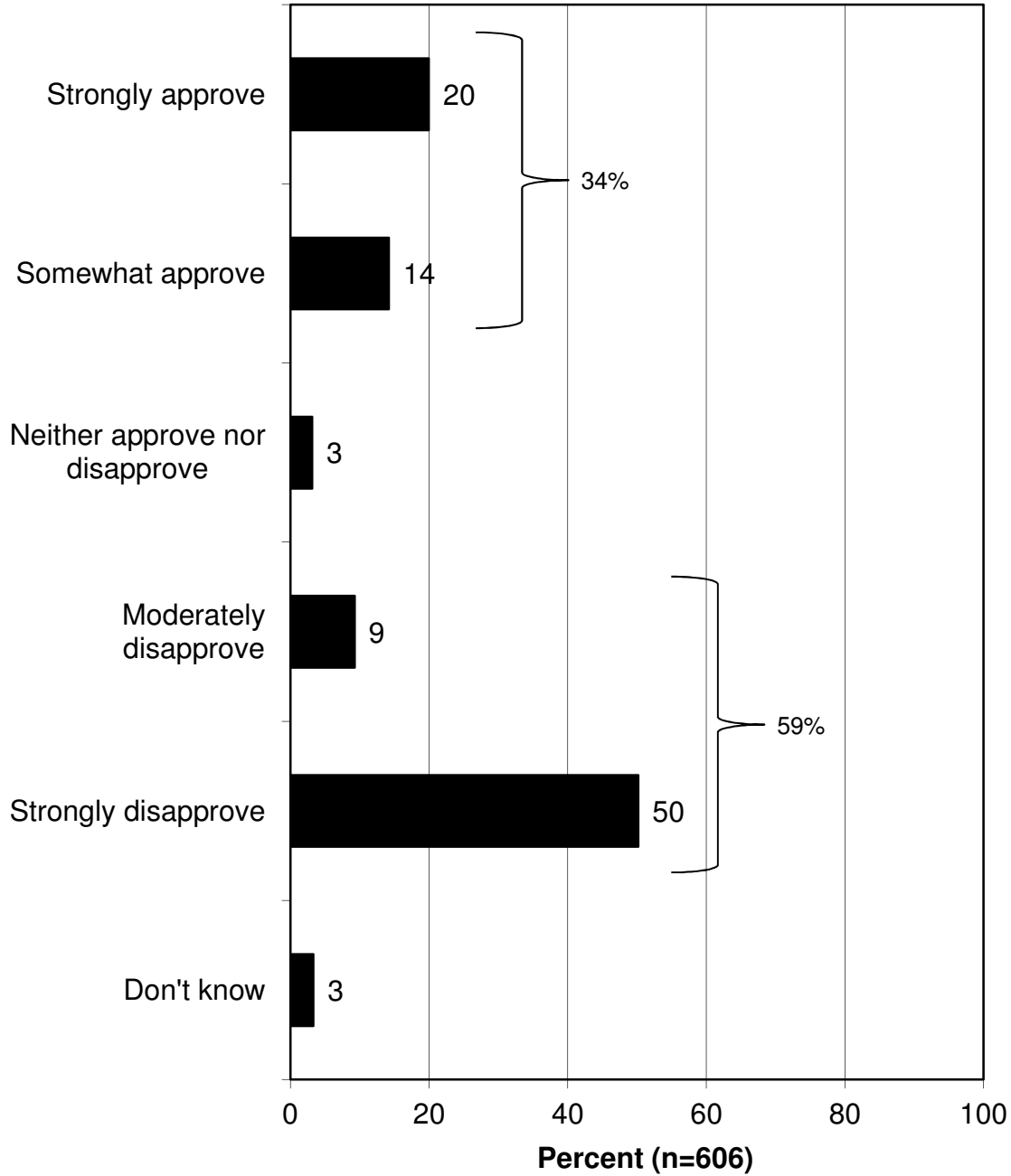
### Q40. What, if anything, do you do to prevent damage by deer? (Landowner survey)



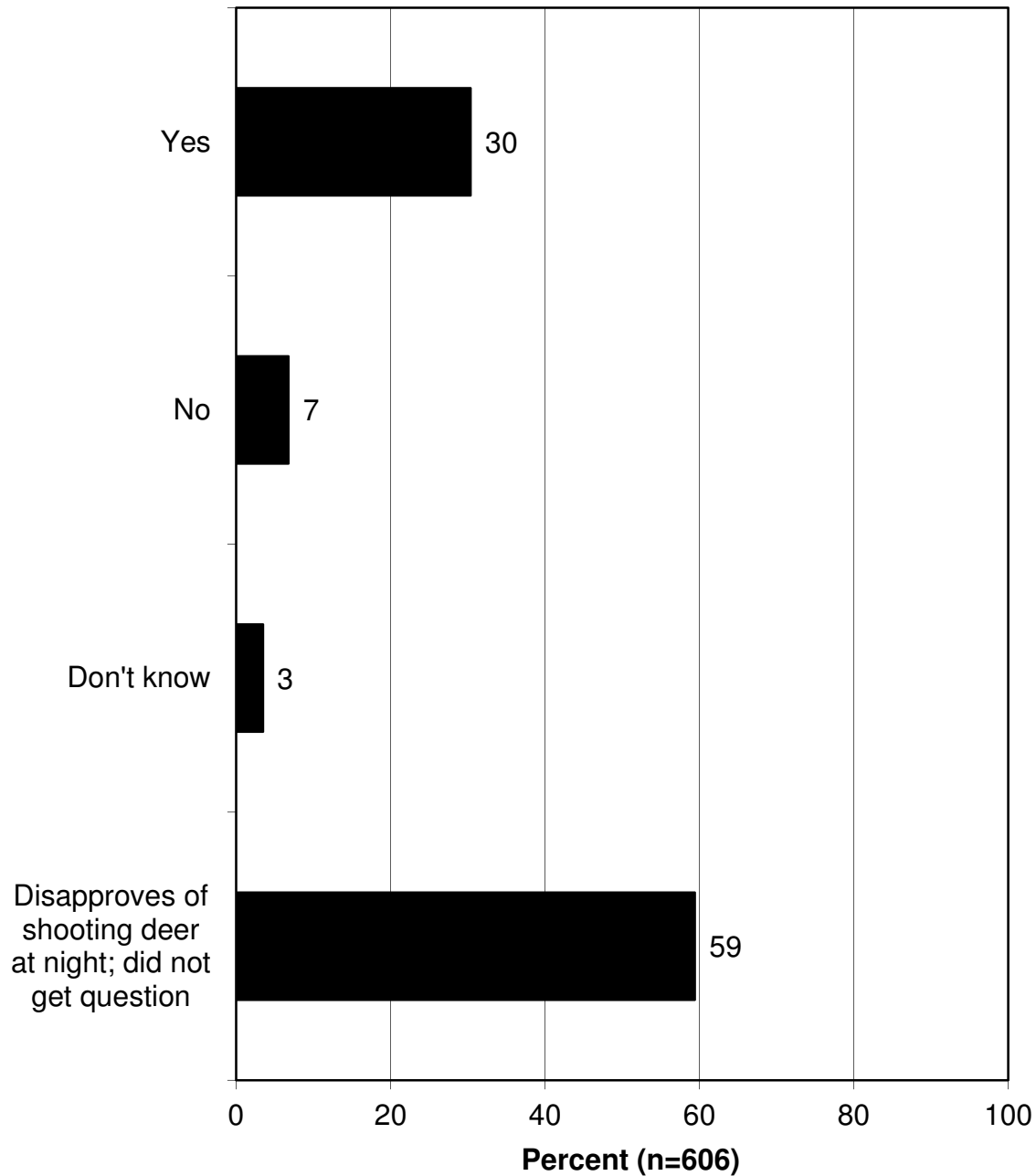
### Q35. What, if anything, do you do to prevent damage by deer? (Hunter survey)



**Q134. Do you approve or disapprove of shooting deer at night for this purpose?  
(Landowner survey)**



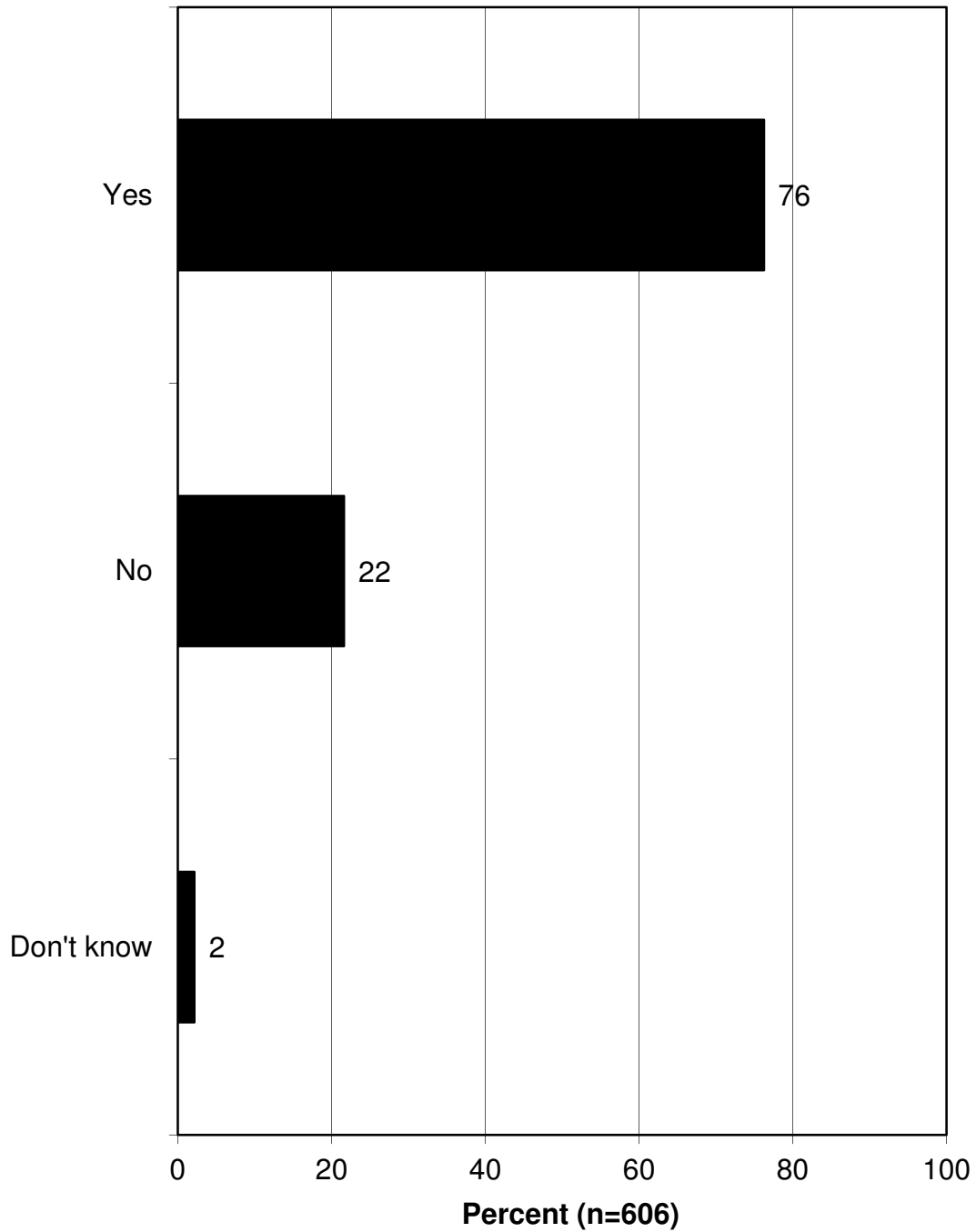
**Q135. Would you allow shooting deer at night on your land to alleviate deer damage if the option was available? (Landowner survey)**



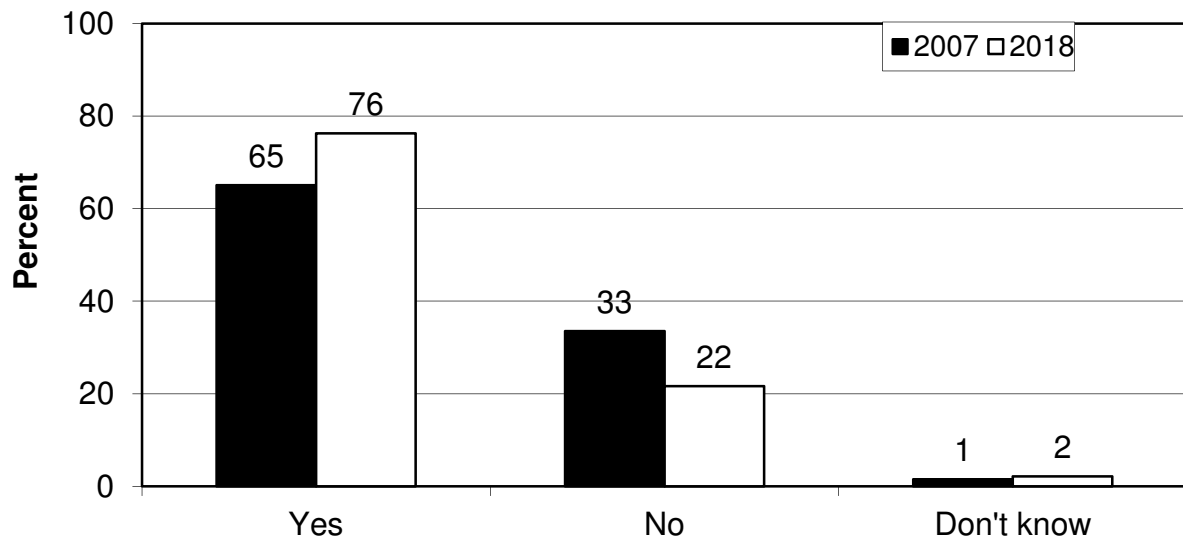
## **DAMAGE PERMITS**

- The next part of this section examines Deer Management Permits, also known as Crop Damage Permits.
  - Awareness of the Deer Management Permit program is high: 76% of landowners and 91% of hunters are very or somewhat aware that the DNR issues Deer Management Permits (also known as Crop Damage Permits) to farmers experiencing damage from deer eating their crops.
  - Use of the permits was also examined: 25% of landowners have used them to help with crop damage; 20% of hunters have hunted using the permits in Maryland.
    - Landowners who know about the permits were asked about their satisfaction with the process for obtaining them: 50% say that they are satisfied, while 13% are not (the remainder do not know).
    - Landowners who use the permits were asked about their satisfaction with the telephone and Internet reporting system for deer harvested under the permits: 80% are satisfied with this aspect, while only 7% are dissatisfied.
- Support for having the DNR issue Deer Management Permits to farmers for crop damage is high among hunters: 85% of hunters support the permits.

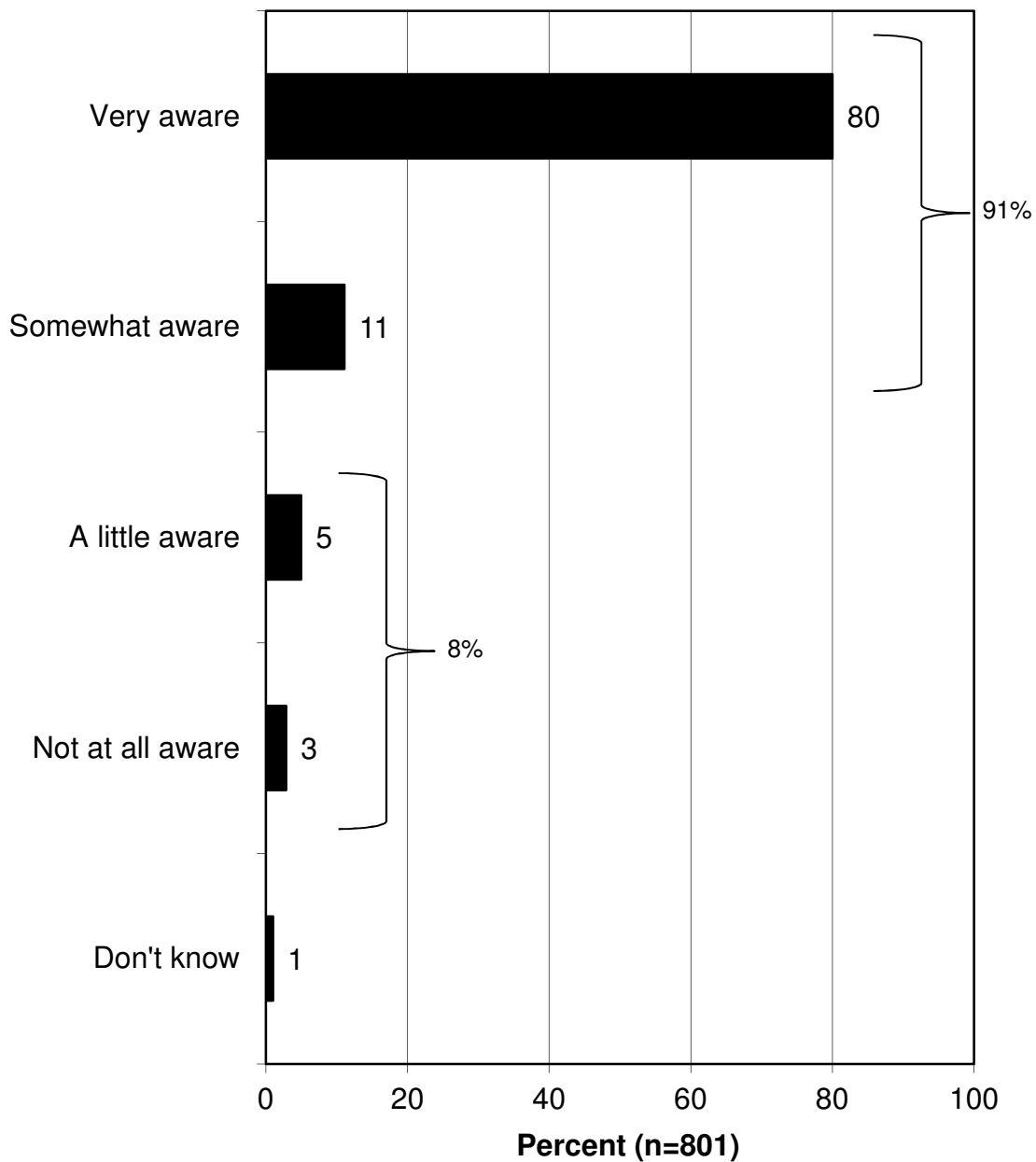
**Q128. Do you know about Deer Management or Crop Damage Permits? (Landowner survey)**



**Q128. Do you know about deer management or crop damage permits?  
(Landowner survey)**

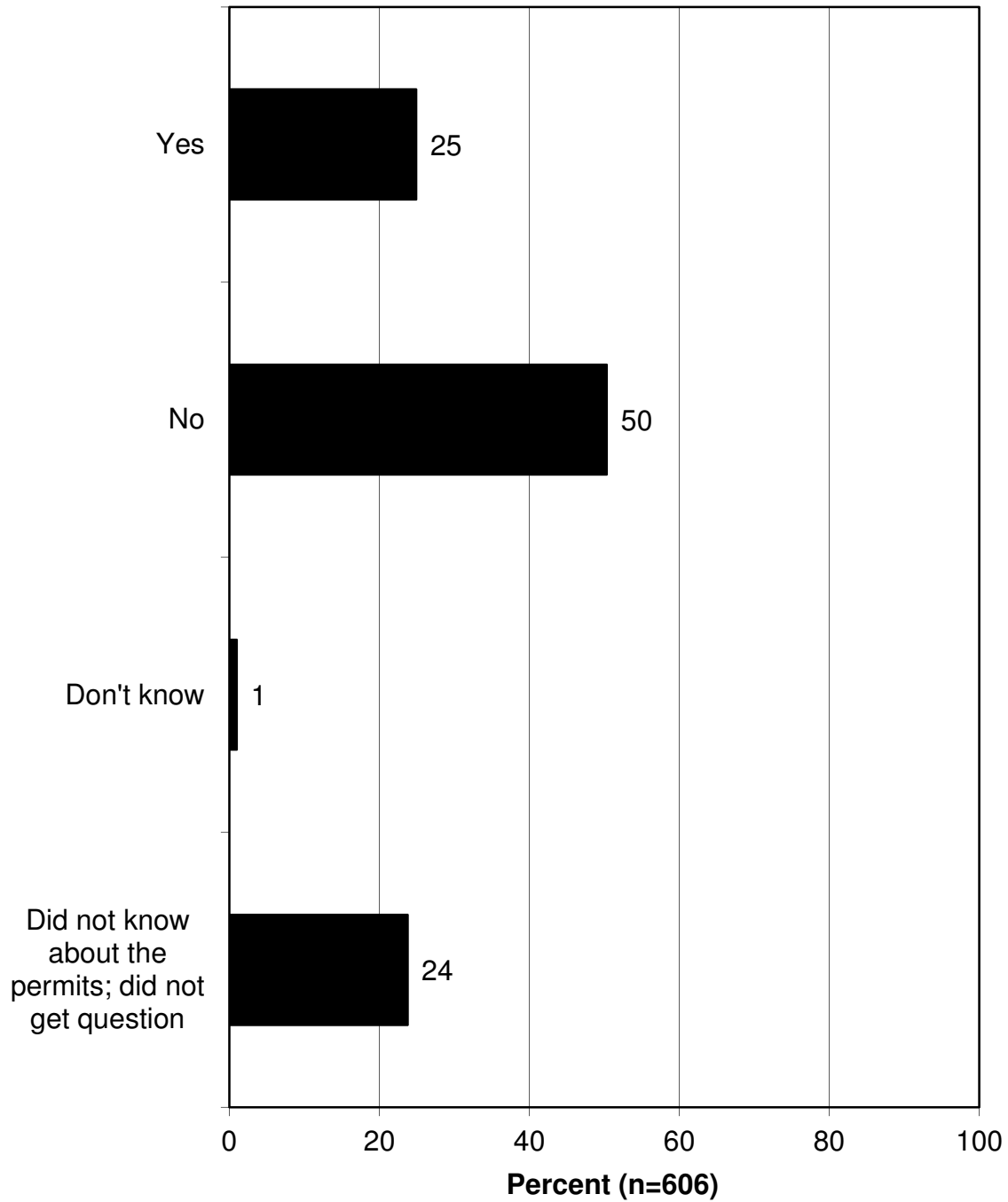


**Q158. How aware are you that DNR issues Deer Management Permits, also known as Crop Damage Permits, to farmers experiencing damage from deer eating their crops?  
(Hunter survey)**

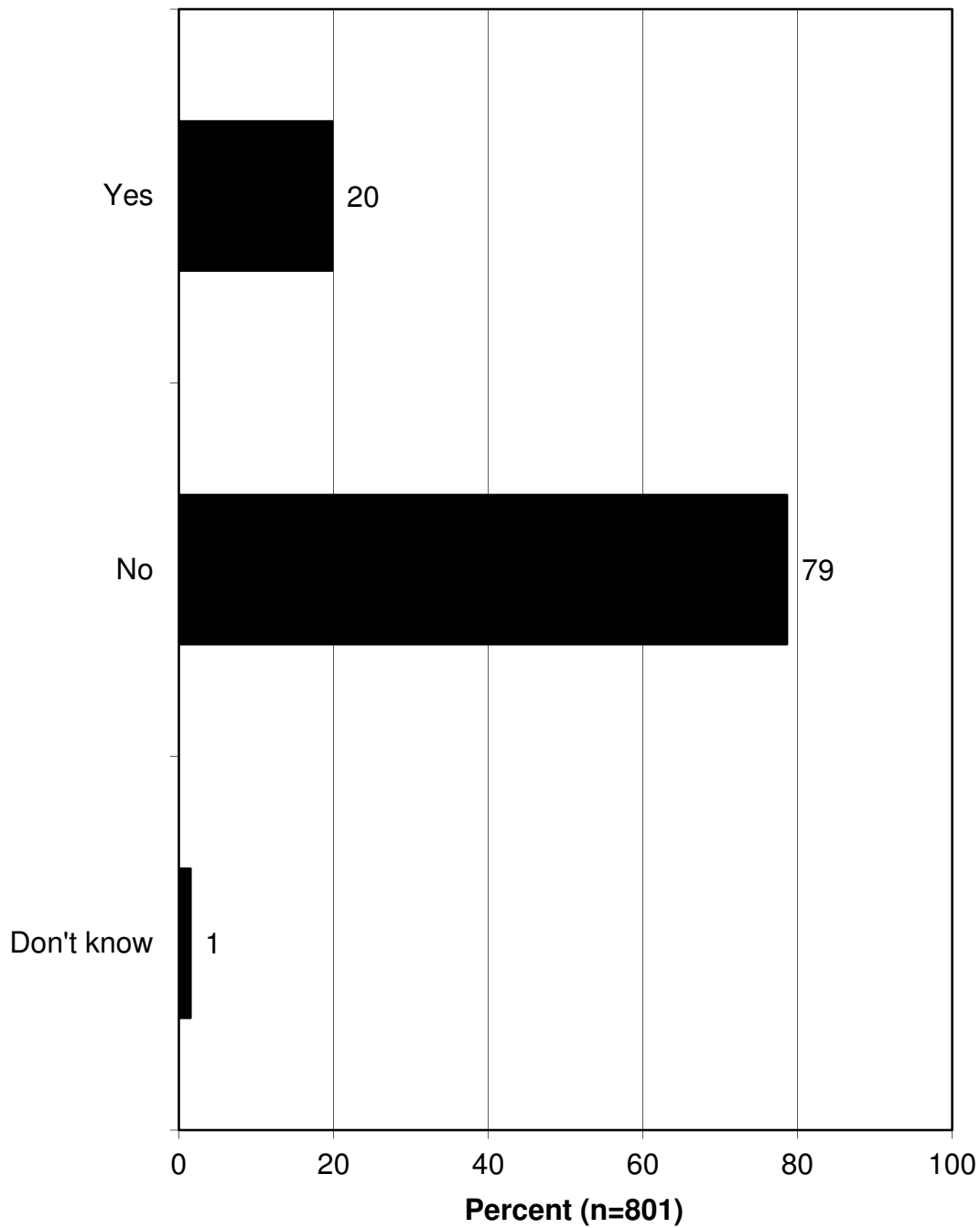




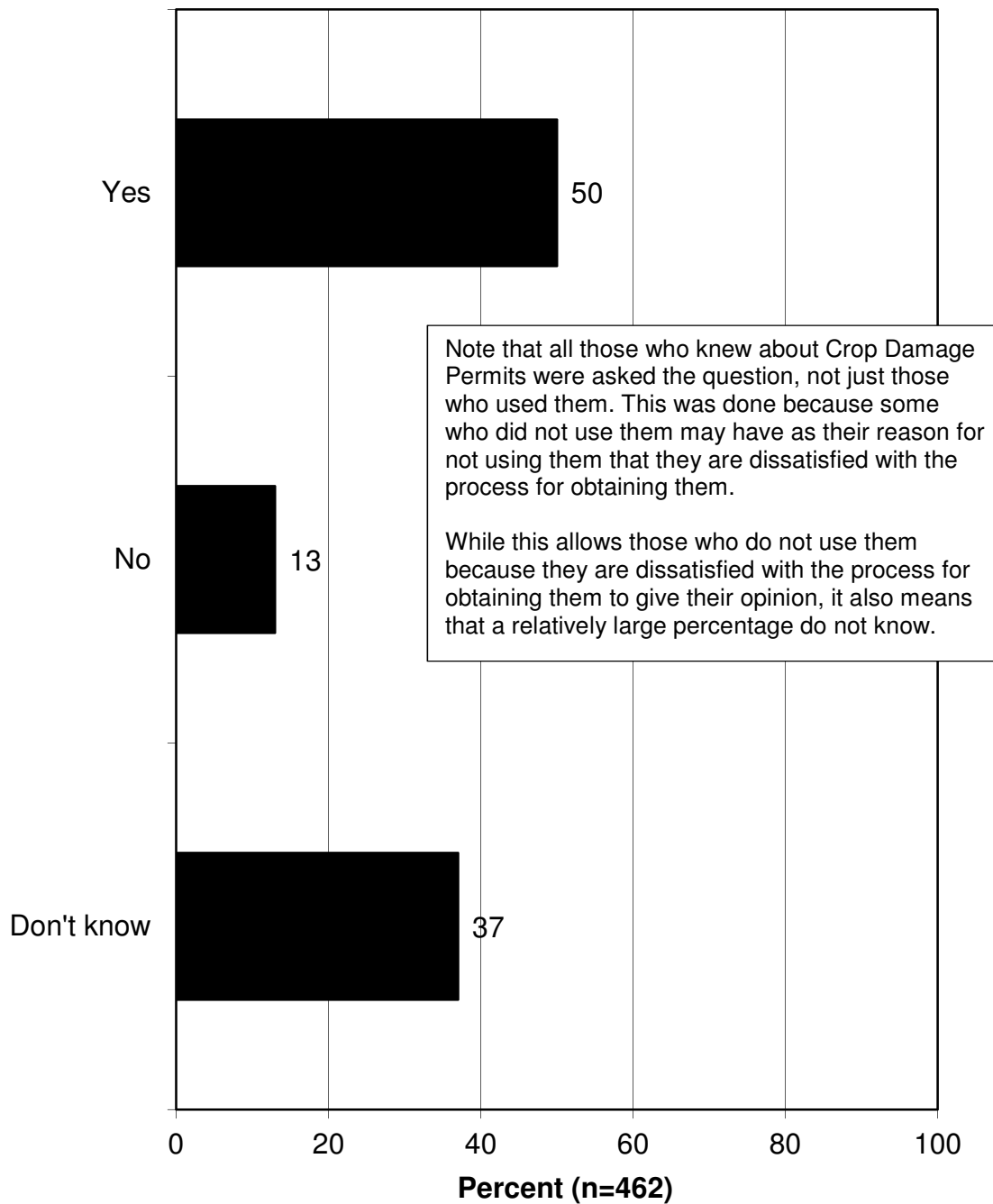
**Q129. Do you use crop damage permits?  
(Landowner survey)**



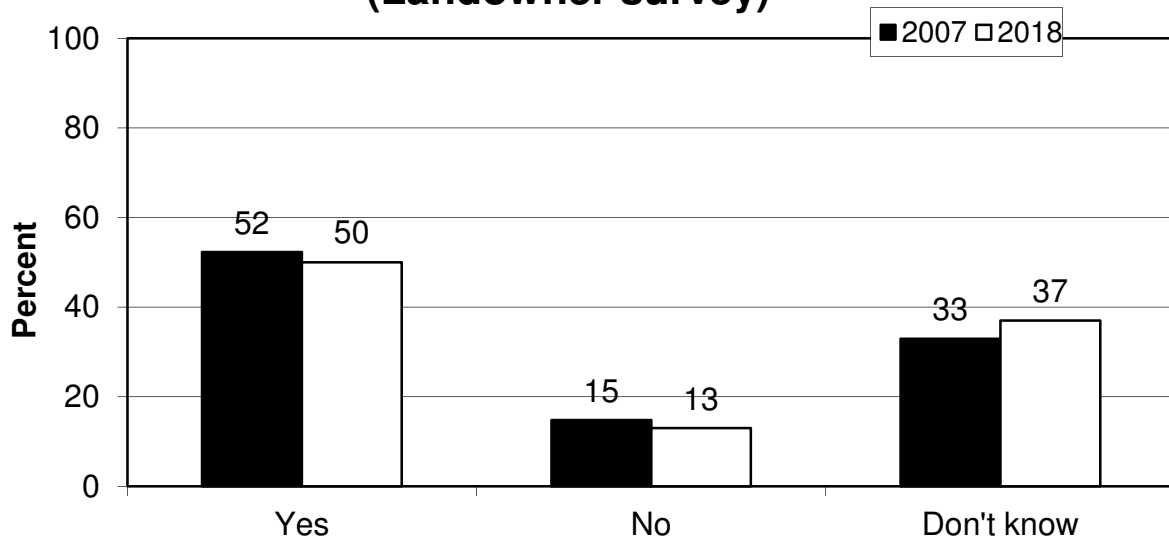
**Q160. Have you personally ever harvested a deer under authority of a Deer Management Permit in Maryland? (Hunter survey)**



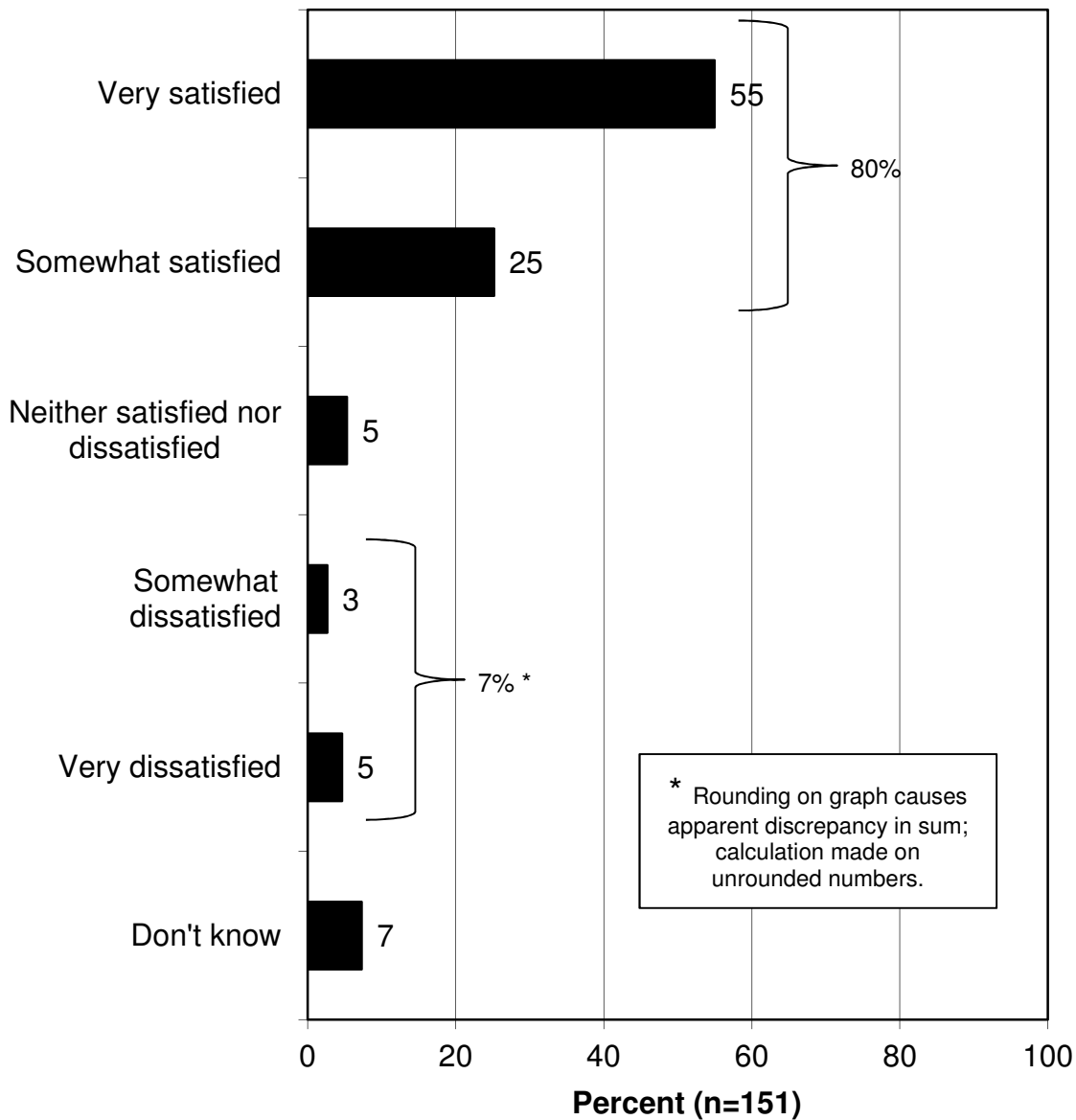
**Q130. Are you satisfied with the process for obtaining Crop Damage Permits? (Asked of those who know about Deer Management or Crop Damage Permits.) (Landowner survey)**



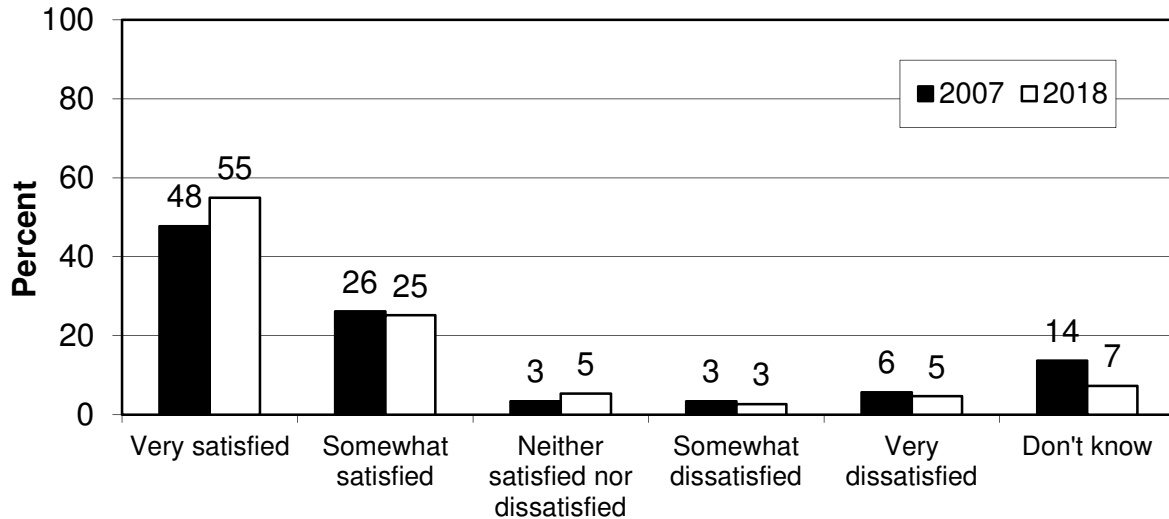
**Q130. Are you satisfied with the process for obtaining crop damage permits? (Asked of those who know about deer management or crop damage permits.)  
(Landowner survey)**



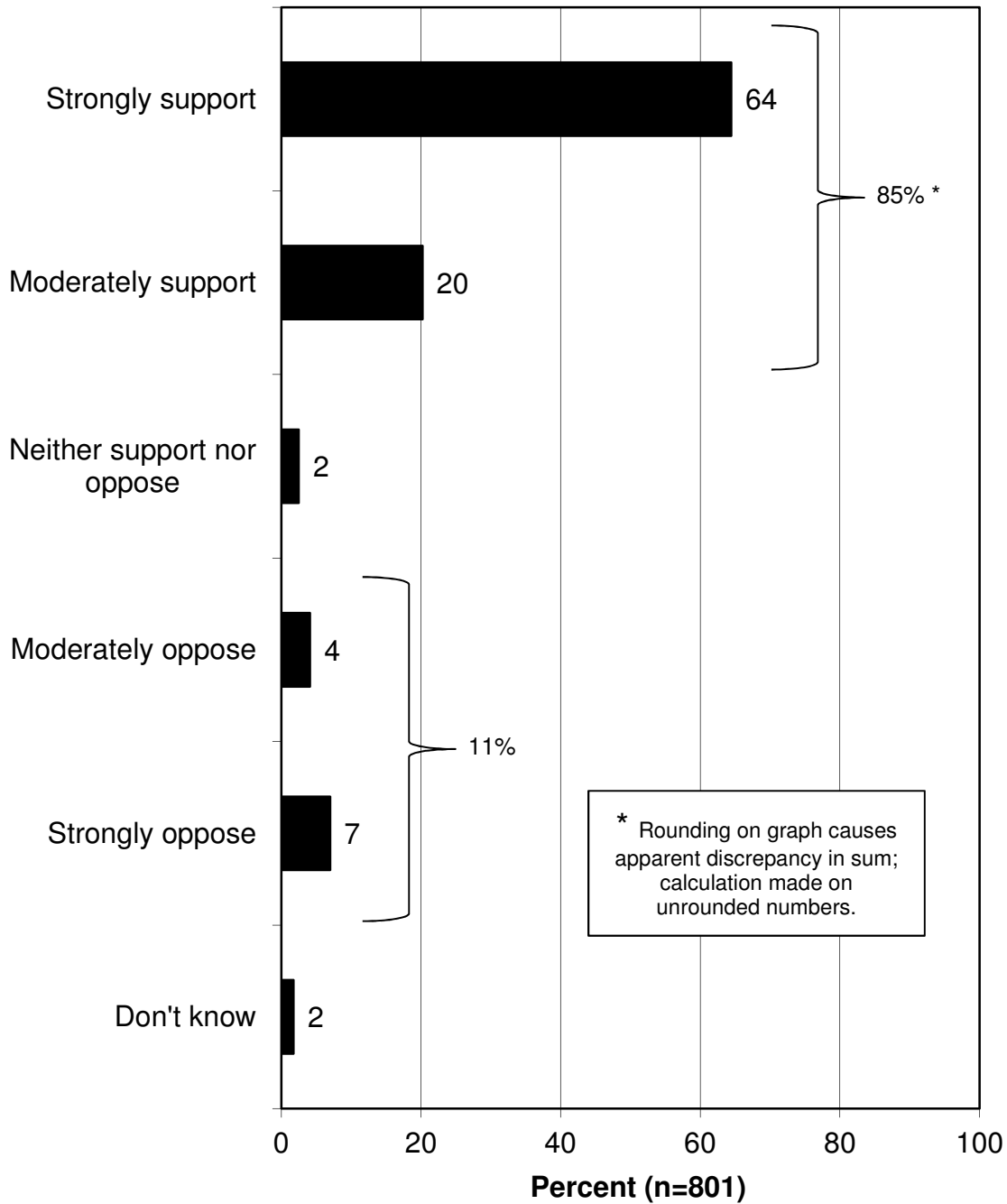
**Q132. Currently, landowners and farmers who harvest deer using Crop Damage Permits can report the harvested deer over the telephone or using the Internet. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the telephone and Internet reporting system for deer harvested under authority of Crop Damage Permits? (Asked of those who have used Crop Damage Permits.) (Landowner survey)**



**Q132. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the telephone and Internet reporting system for deer harvested under authority of crop damage permits? (Asked of those who use crop damage permits.) (Landowner survey)**



### Q159. Do you support or oppose issuing Deer Management Permits to farmers for crop damage? (Hunter survey)

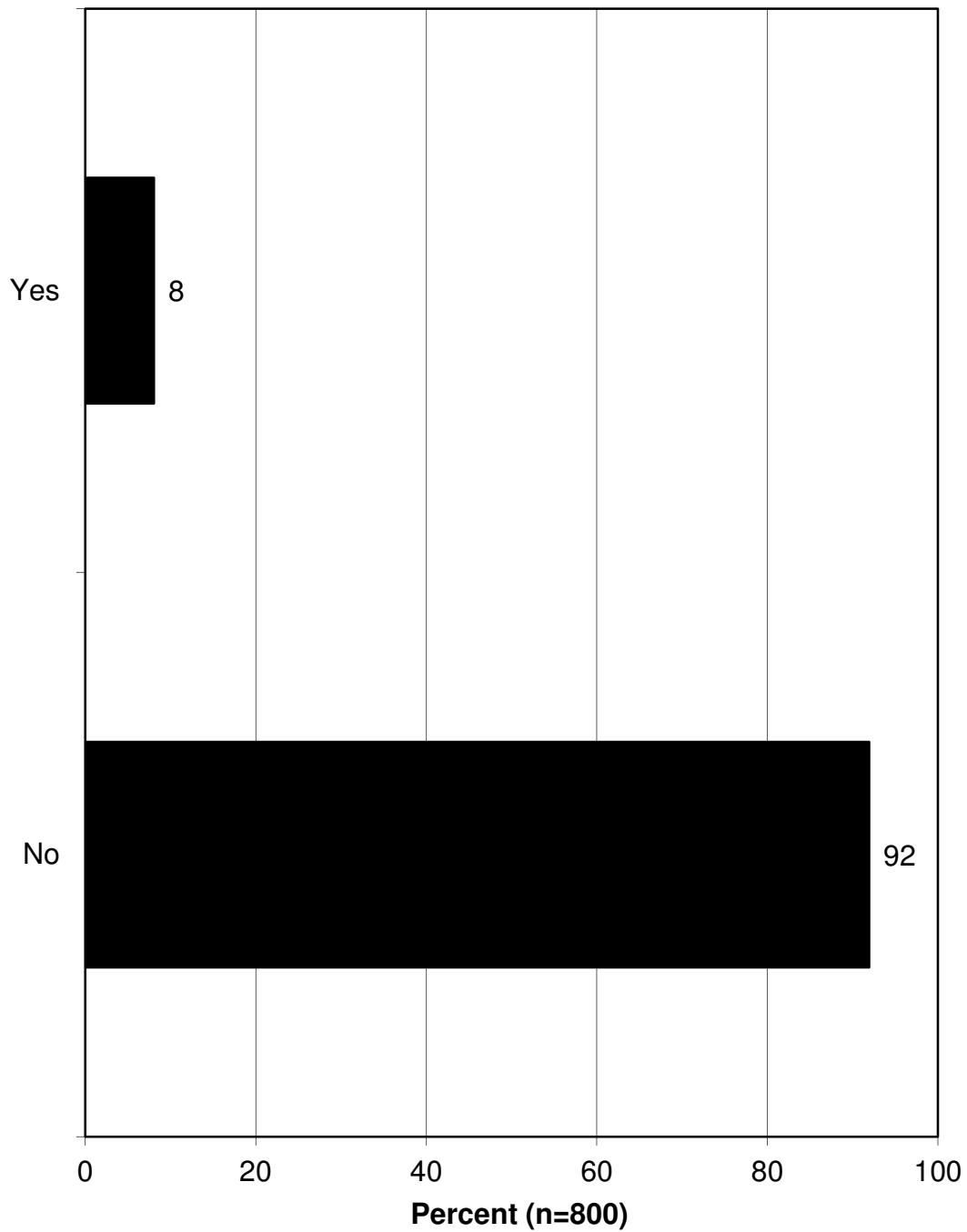


**VEHICLE ACCIDENTS WITH DEER**

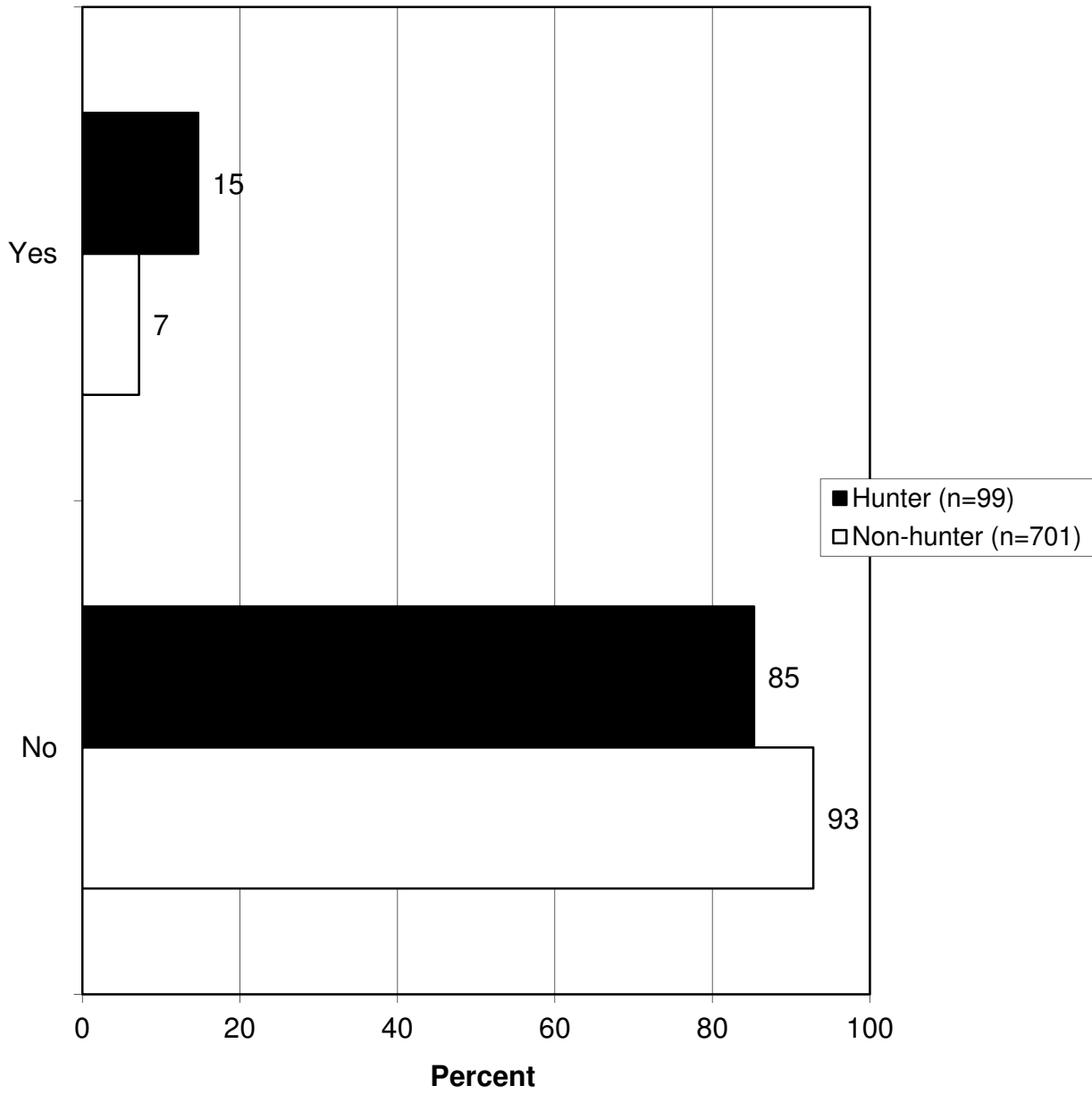
- All three surveys asked whether respondents had, in the past year, been in a vehicular accident with a deer: 8% of the general population, 11% of landowners, and 13% of hunters had been in a vehicular accident with a deer in the past year.
  - The landowner and hunter samples, being more rural, have a higher rate.
    - Graphs show the demographic characteristics of those who had been in a vehicular accident with a deer in the past year; primary among the characteristics is being a young driver and living in either the Western or Eastern Regions (i.e., not in the Central or West Central Regions).
    - Note that the survey asked about being involved, not specifically about being the driver, so percentages include those who had accidents as passengers



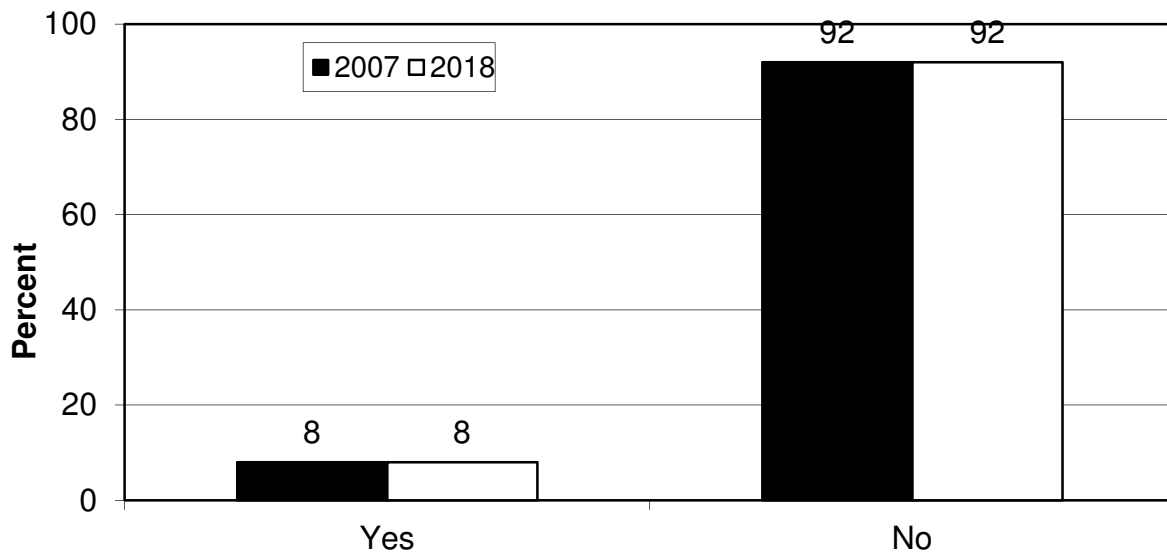
**Q42. Have you, in the past year, had a vehicular accident with a deer? (Gen pop survey)**



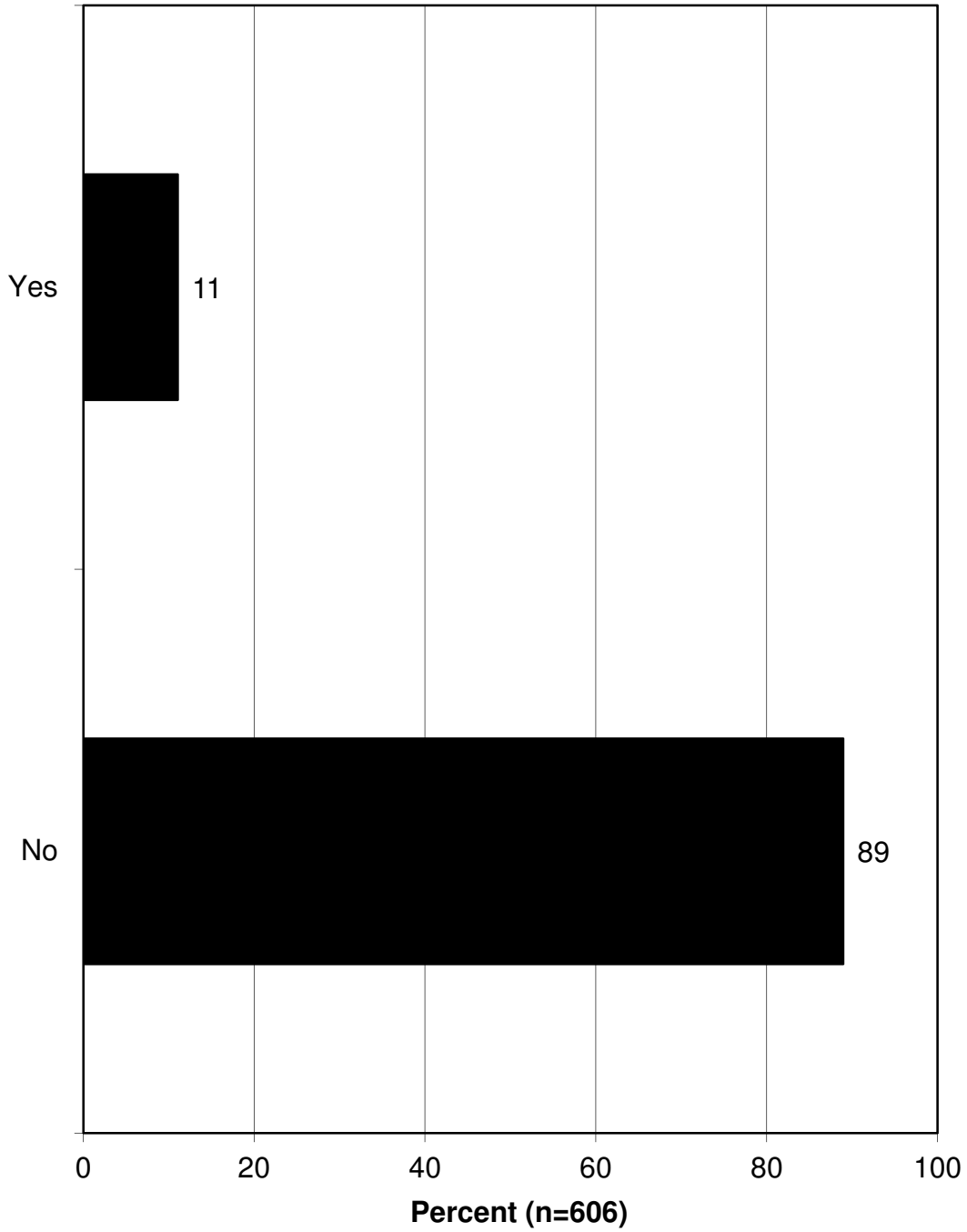
**Q42. Have you, in the past year, had a vehicular accident with a deer? (Gen pop survey)**



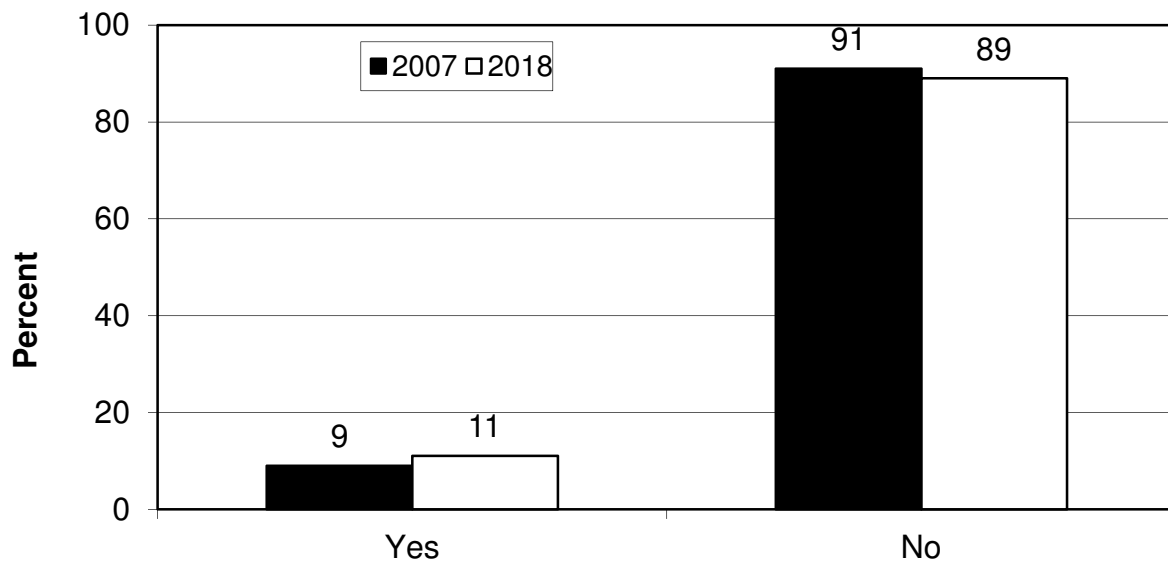
**Q42. Have you, in the past year, had a vehicular accident with a deer?  
(Gen pop survey)**



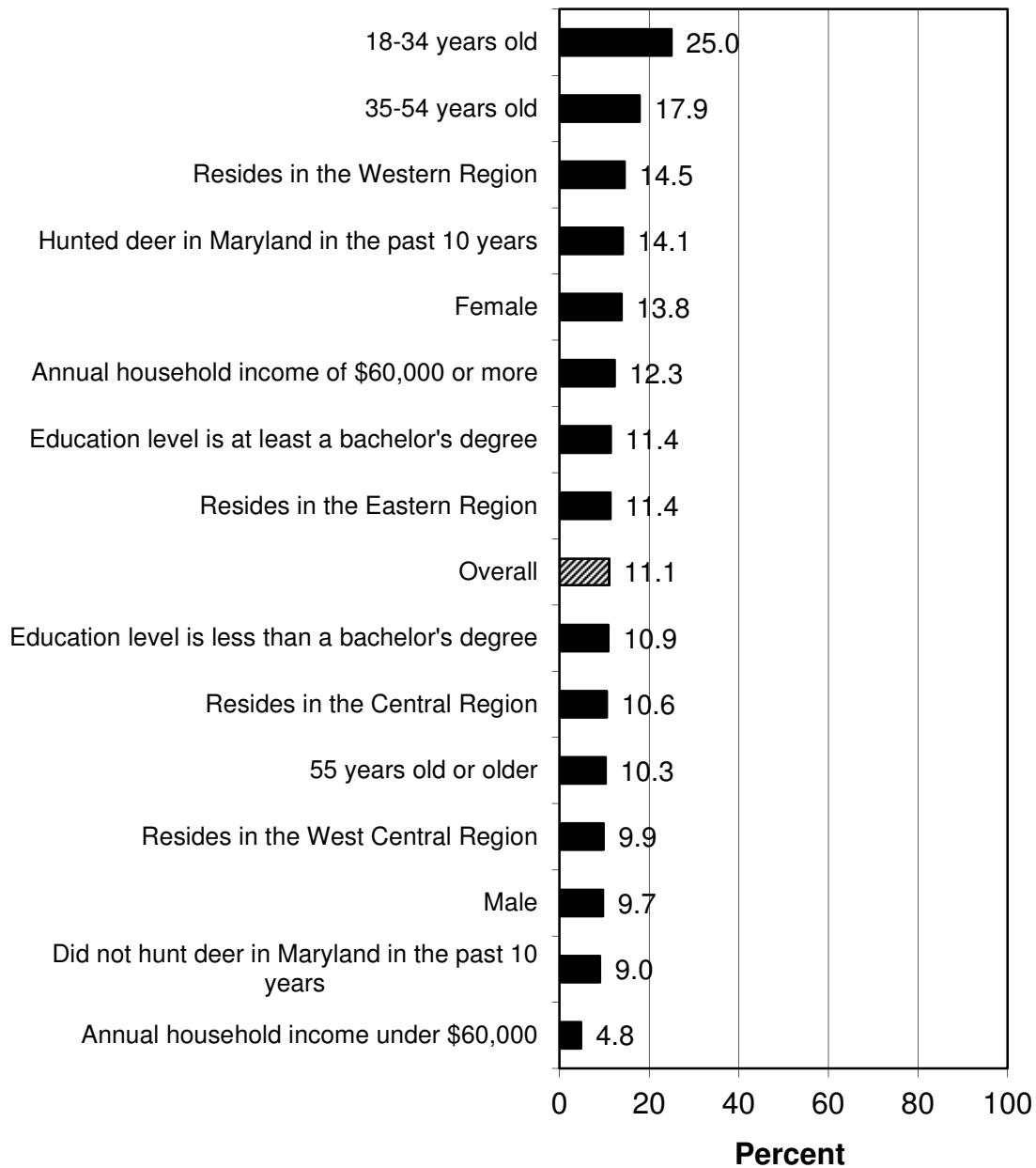
**Q42. Have you, in the past year, had a vehicular accident with a deer? (Landowner survey)**



**Q42. Have you, in the past year, had a vehicular accident with a deer?  
(Landowner survey)**

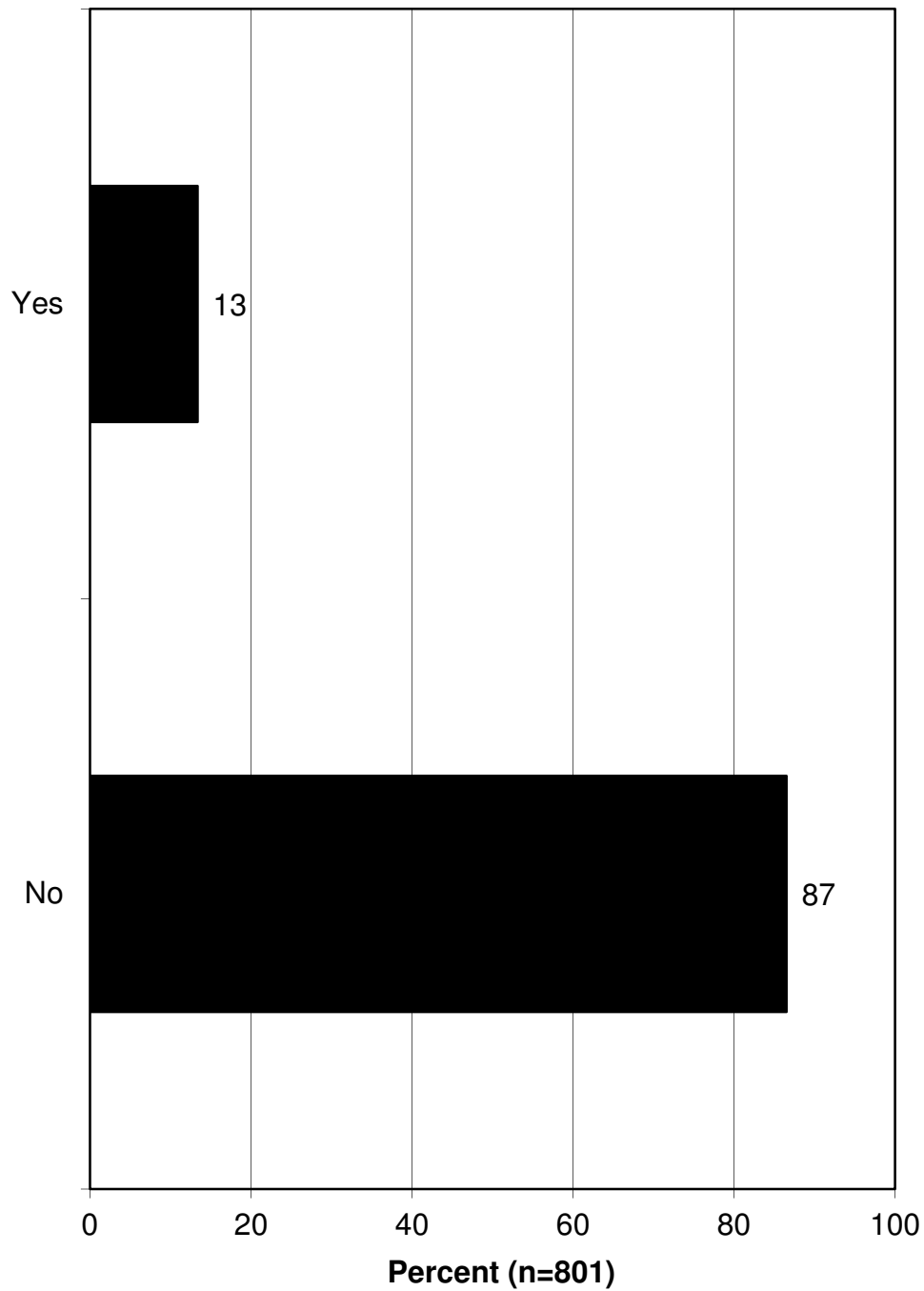


**Percent of the following groups who have had a  
vehicular accident with a deer over the past  
year:  
(Landowner survey)**

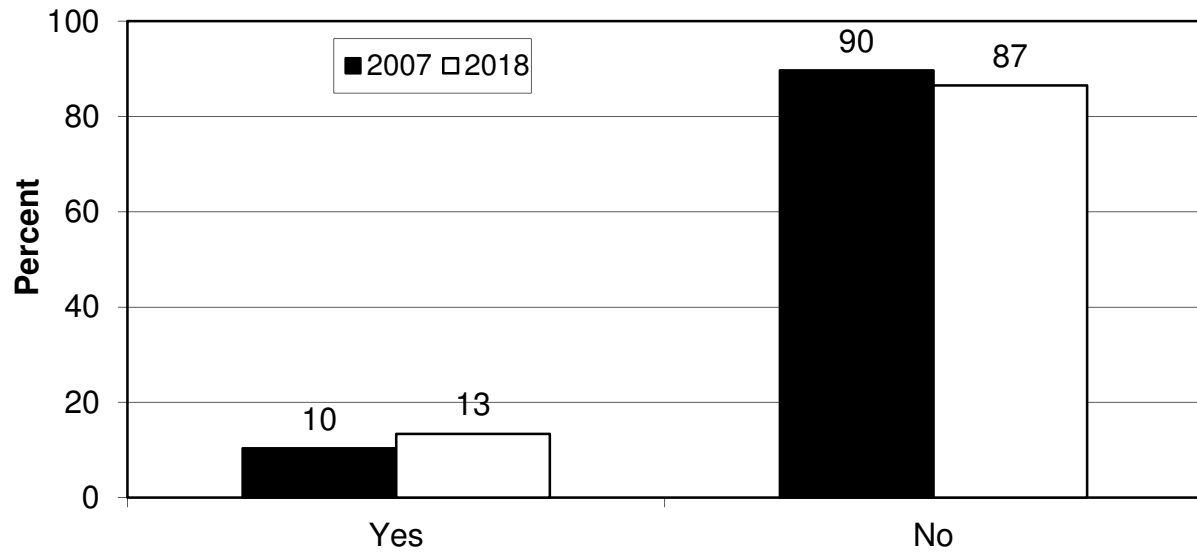


An explanation of how to interpret these graphs is on pages 6 through 7.

**Q37. Have you, in the past year, had a vehicular accident with a deer? (Hunter survey)**



**Q37. Have you, in the past year, had a vehicular accident with a deer?  
(Hunter survey)**

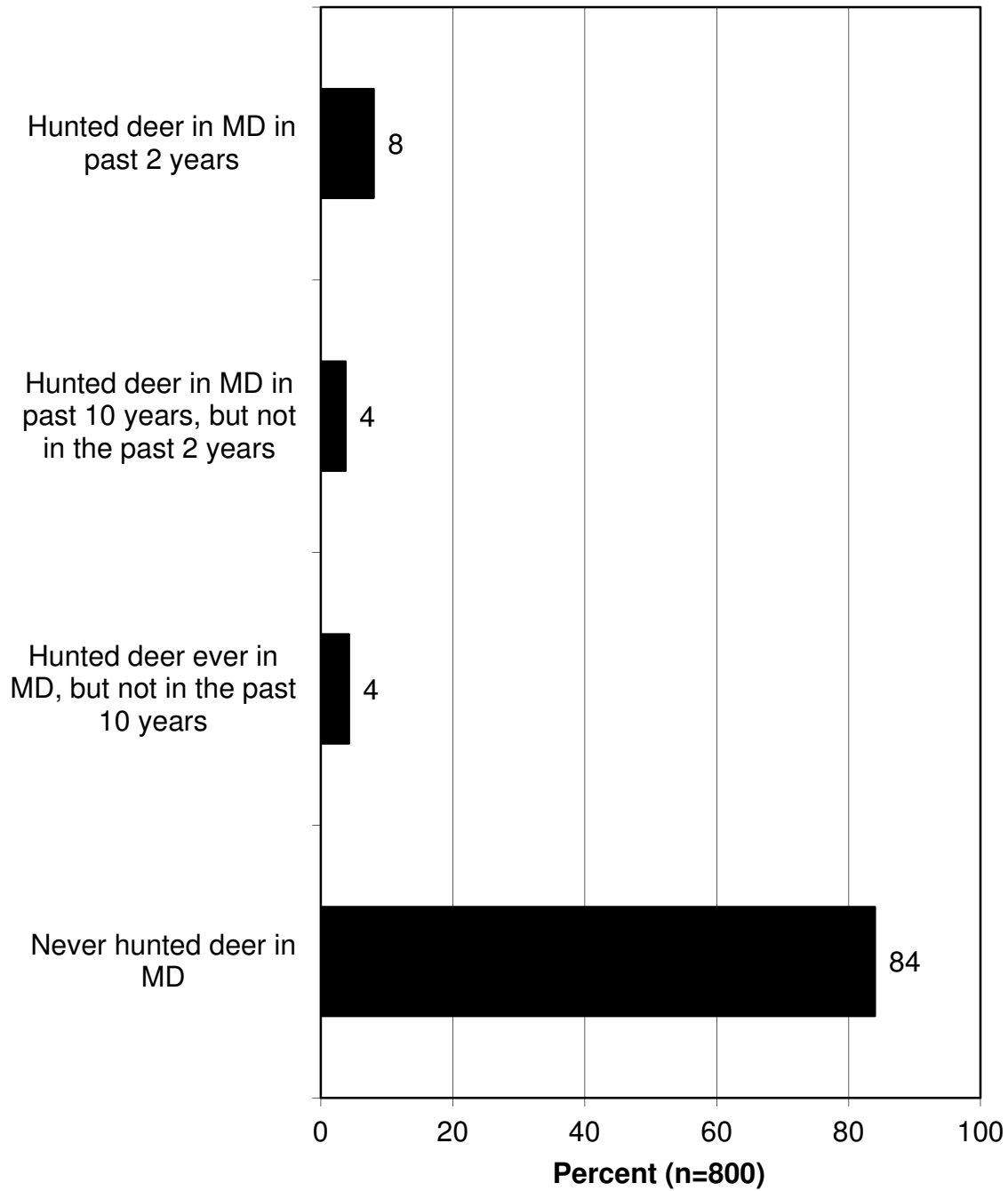




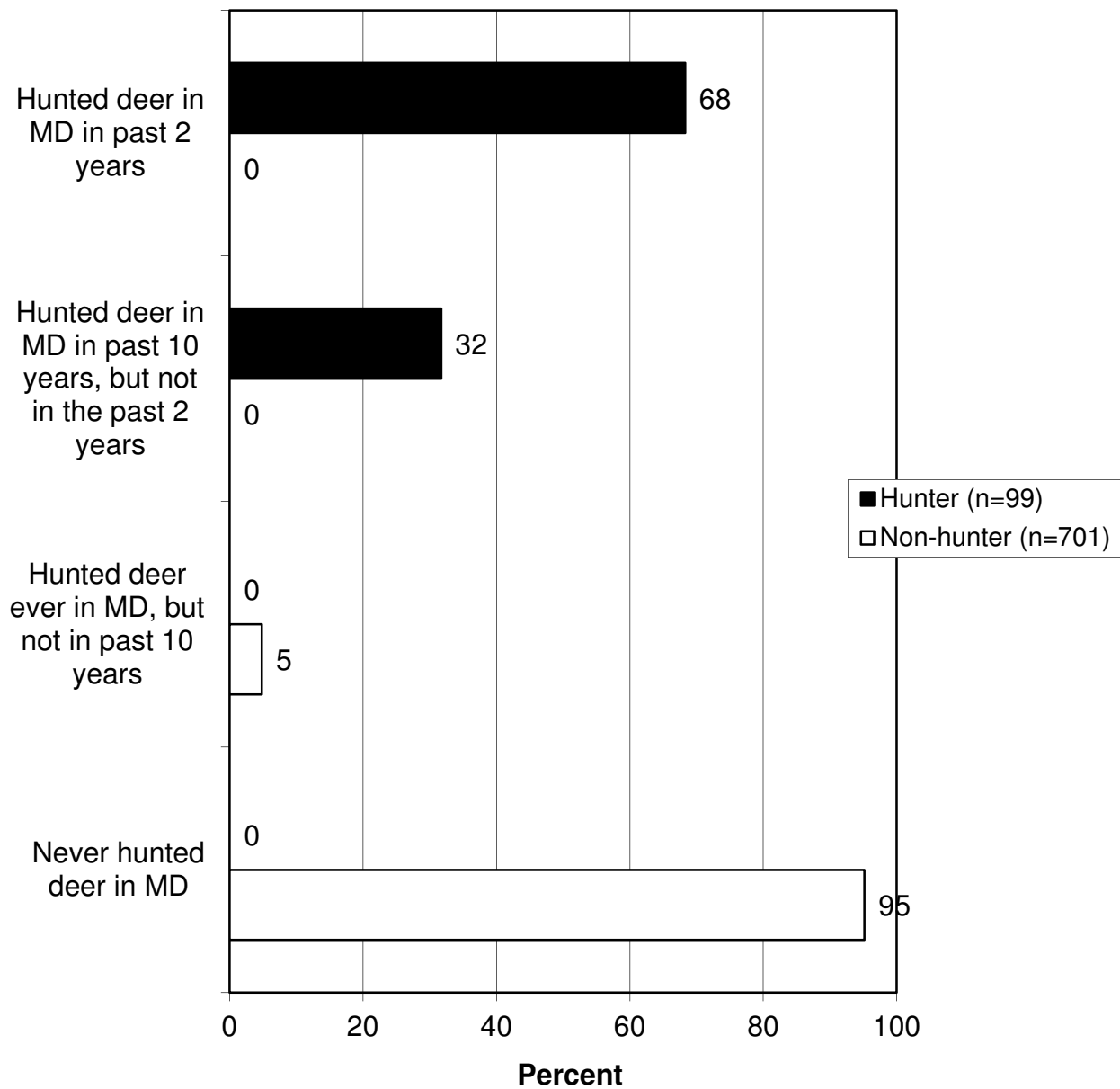
## **PARTICIPATION IN DEER HUNTING**

- Both the general population and landowner surveys asked about deer hunting ever, within the past 10 years, and within the past 2 years. (The questions did not ask about *personally* carrying a firearm or other equipment to actually shoot the deer; some people who indicate participating in hunting may have been along at camp, helped in the butchering, and so forth, without actually having carried a firearm or other equipment.)
  - Among the general population, 8% hunted deer in the past 2 years. The overwhelming majority (84%) have never hunted deer in Maryland.
  - Landowners have a higher rate of hunting: 29% say that they hunted deer in the past 2 years, and another 11% hunted in the past 10 years but not the past 2 years.
  
- For deer hunters to be included in the survey, they had to have hunted within the previous 2 years. Of these deer hunters, 95% had hunted deer in the past year, 80% had hunted for antlerless deer, and 47% had hunted deer with a crossbow.
  - Common reasons given for not hunting antlerless deer is the feeling that it would have a negative impact on the deer population (22% of those who did not hunt antlerless deer stated this) or that an antlerless deer is not a trophy (20%).

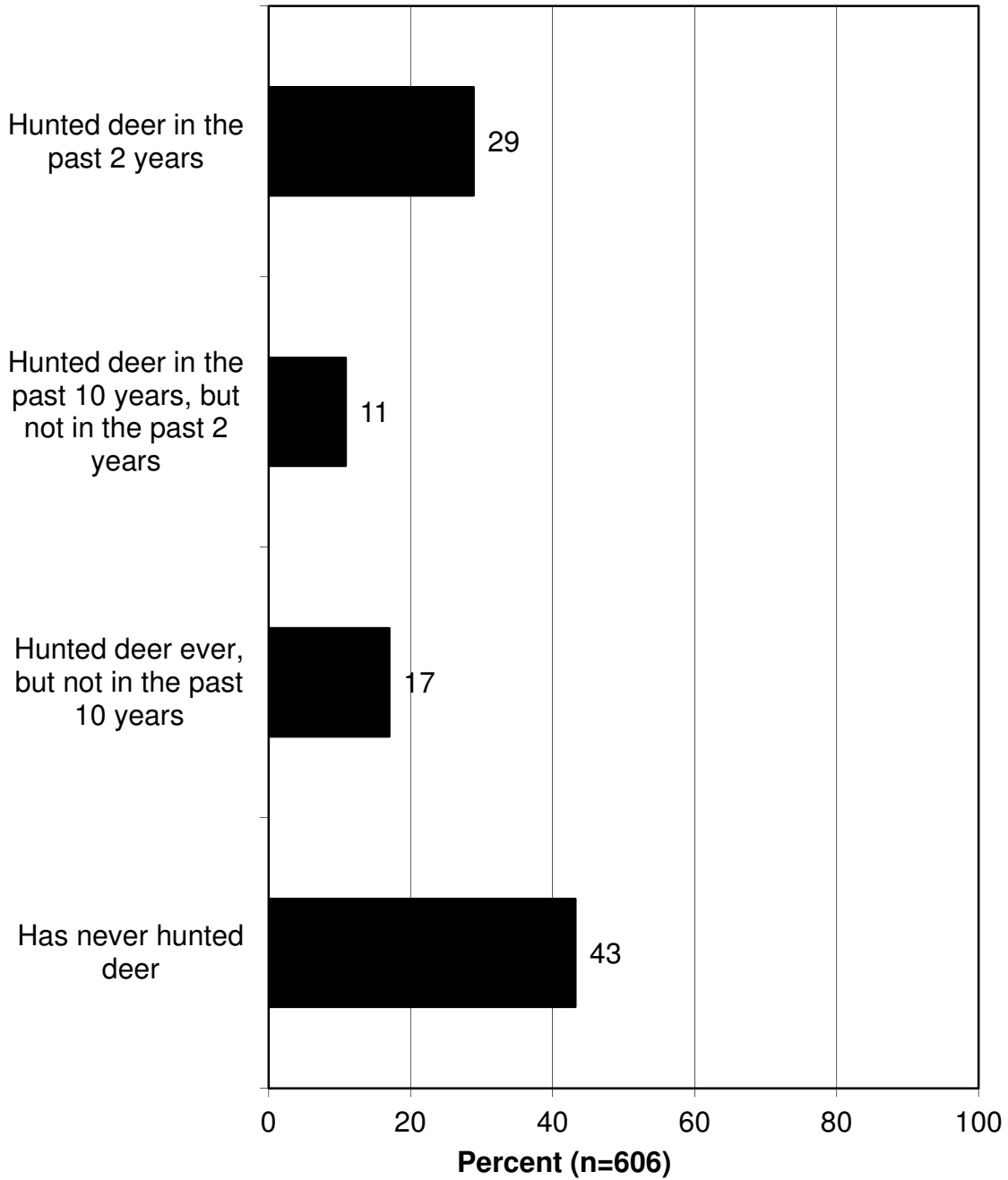
**Q43. Have you ever hunted deer in Maryland? In the past 10 years? In the past 2 years?  
(Gen pop survey)**



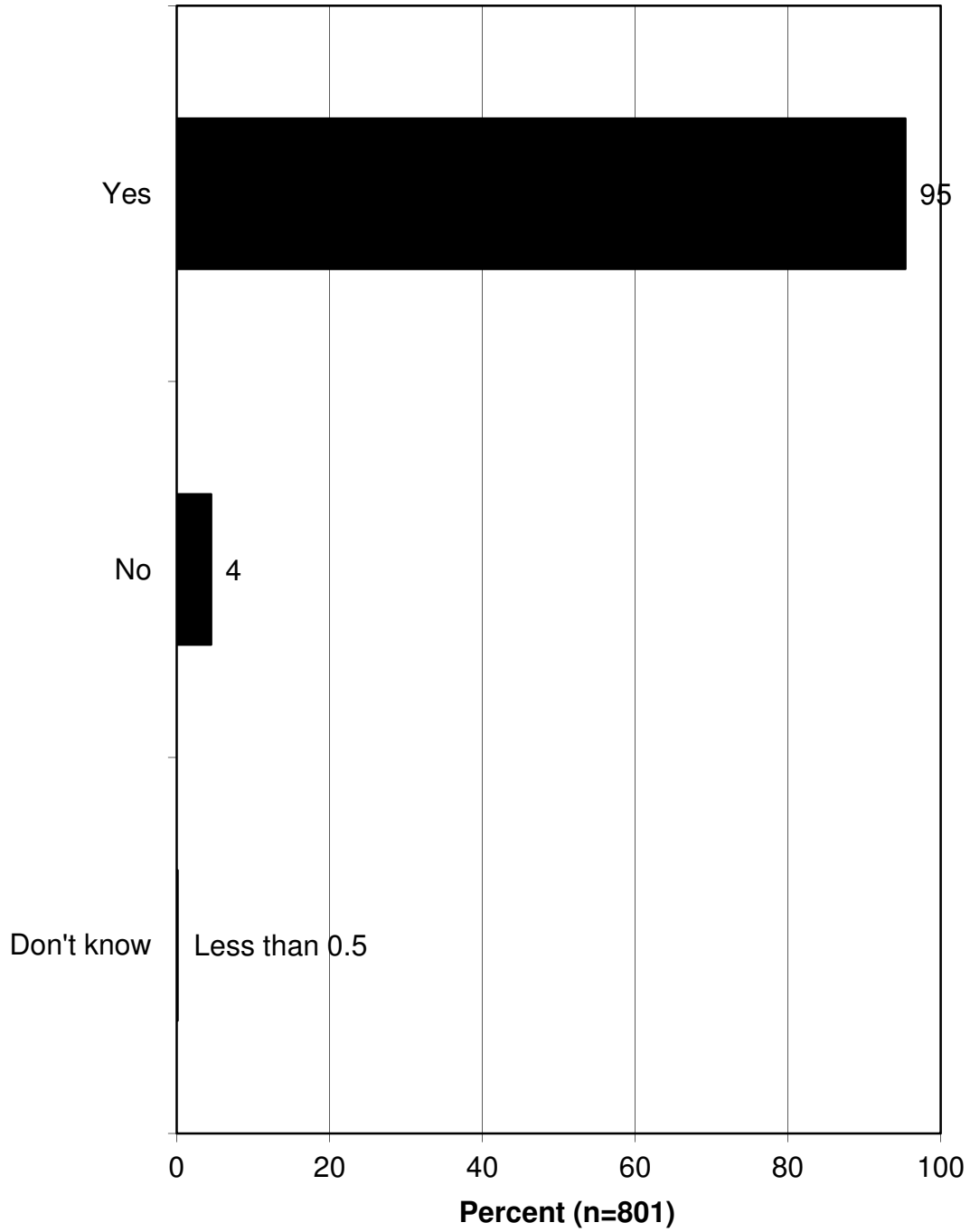
**Q43. Have you ever hunted deer in Maryland? In the past 10 years? In the past 2 years?  
(Gen pop survey)**



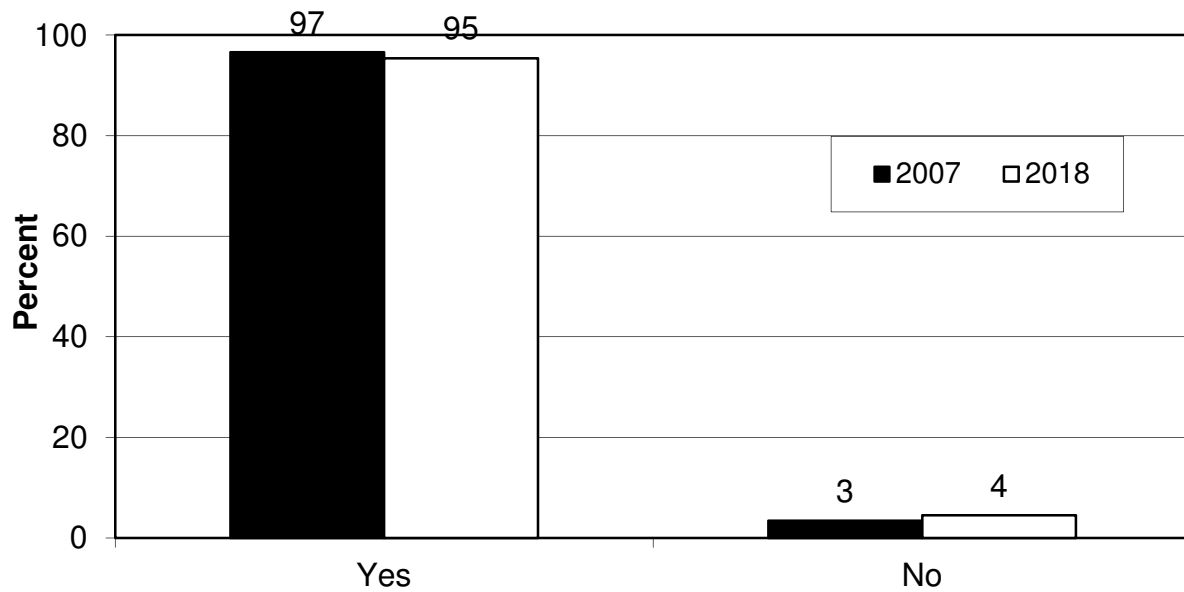
**Q72/Q73/Q74. Have you ever hunted deer? Did you you hunt in the past 2 years? In the past 10 years?  
(Landowner survey)**



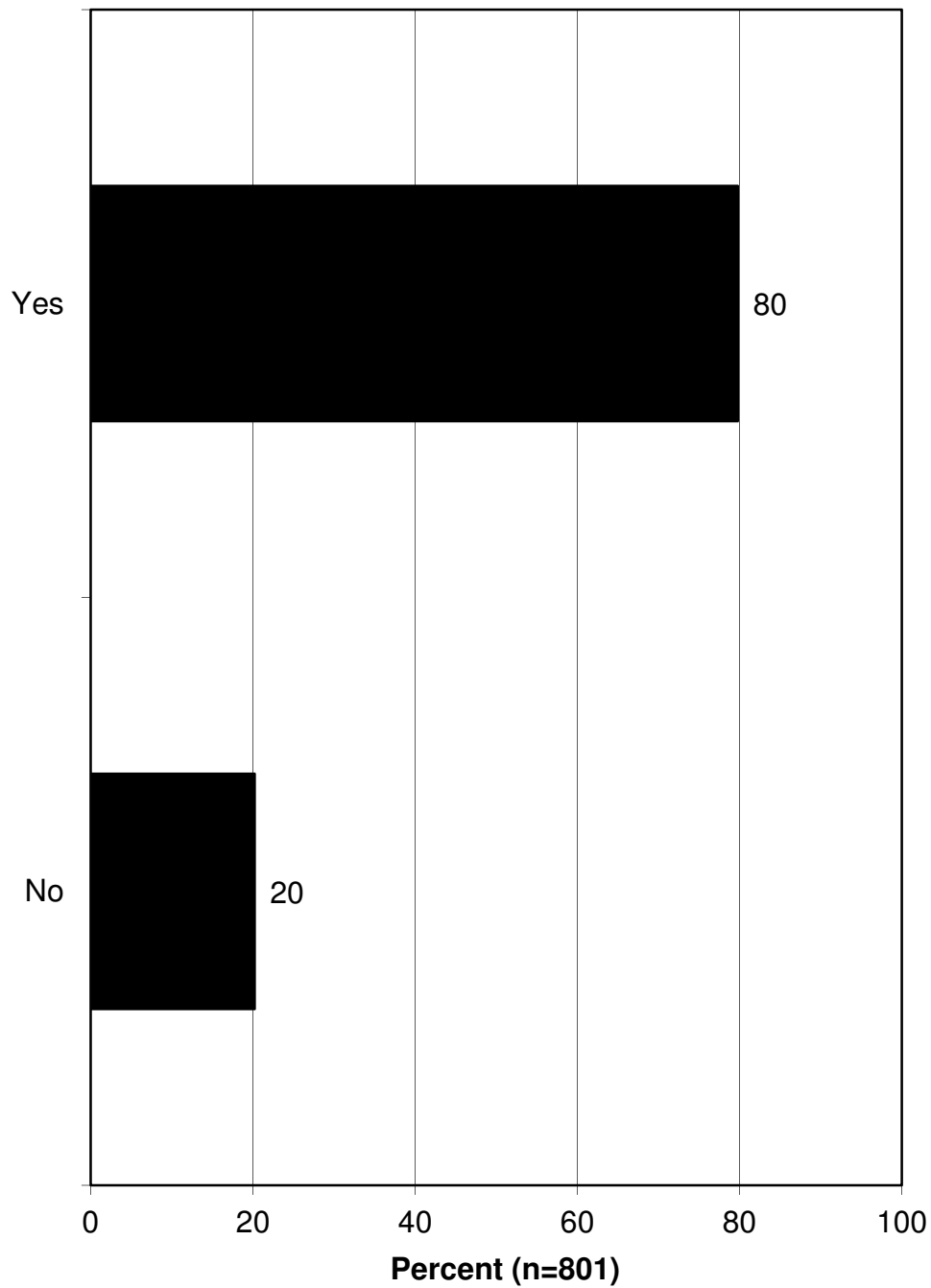
**Q38. Did you hunt deer in the past year?  
(Hunter survey)**



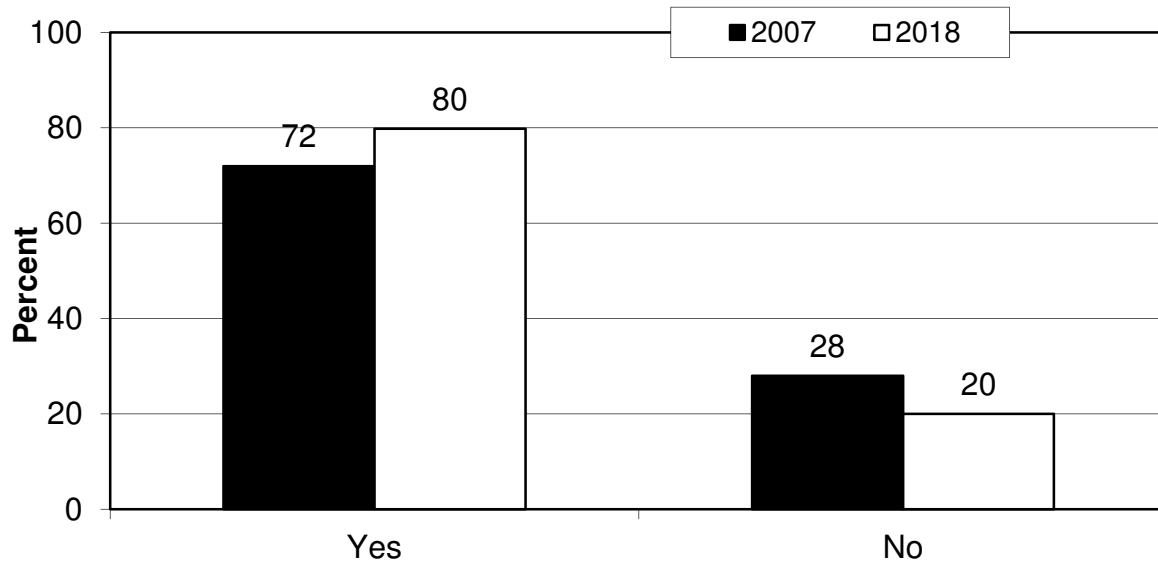
**Q38. Did you hunt deer in the past year?  
(Hunter survey)**



**Q59. Did you hunt for antlerless deer in Maryland in the past year? (Hunter survey)**

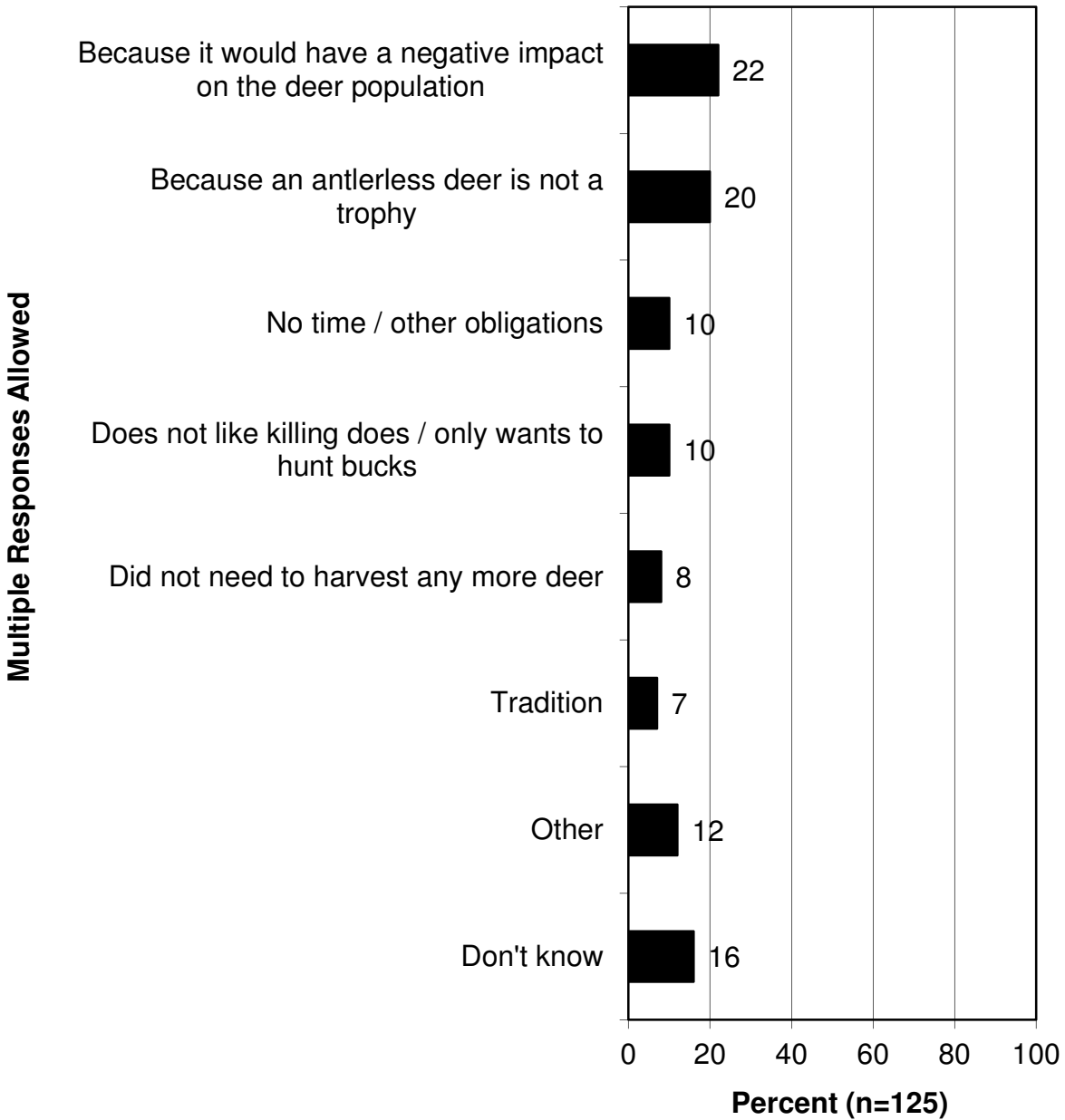


**Q59. Did you hunt for antlerless deer in Maryland in the past year? (Hunter survey)**

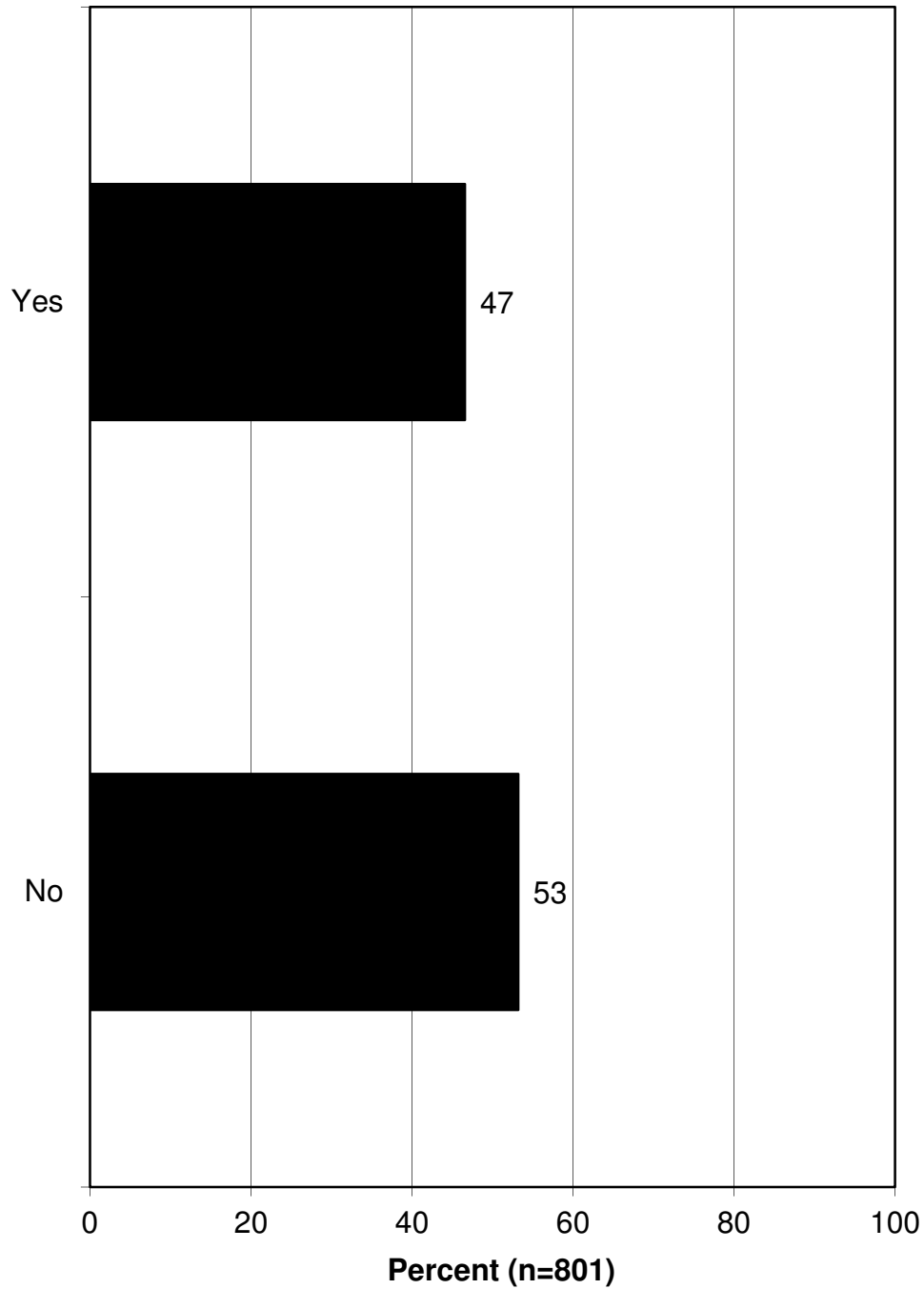




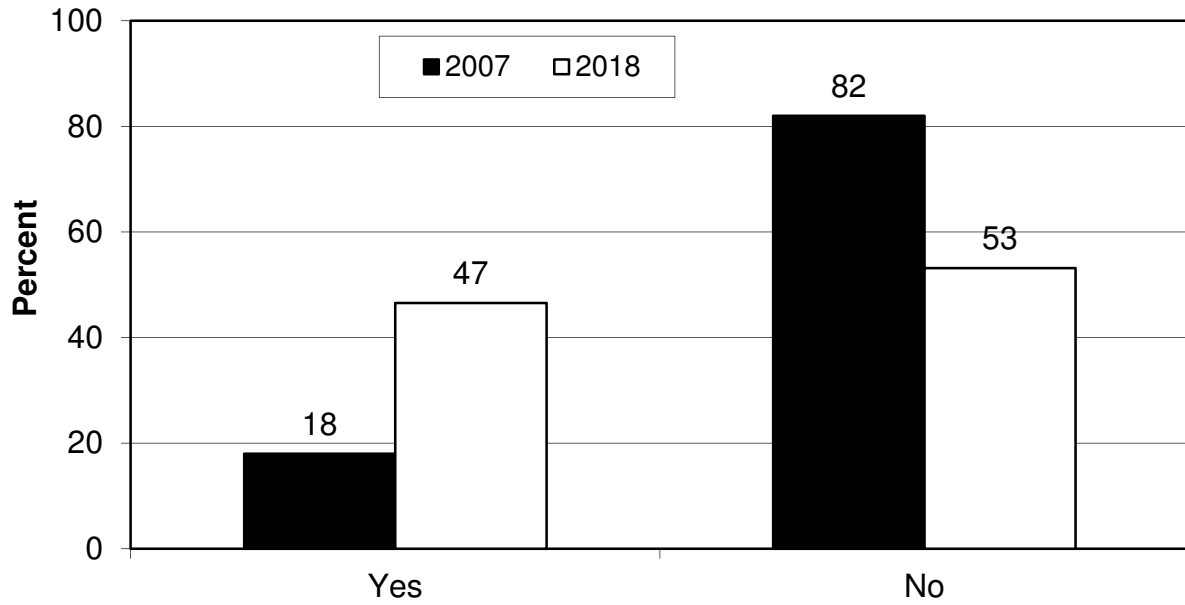
**Q64. Why didn't you hunt antlerless deer in Maryland in the past year? (Asked of those who did not hunt antlerless deer in Maryland in the past year.) (Hunter survey)**



**Q69. Did you hunt deer with a crossbow in Maryland in the past 2 years? (Hunter survey)**



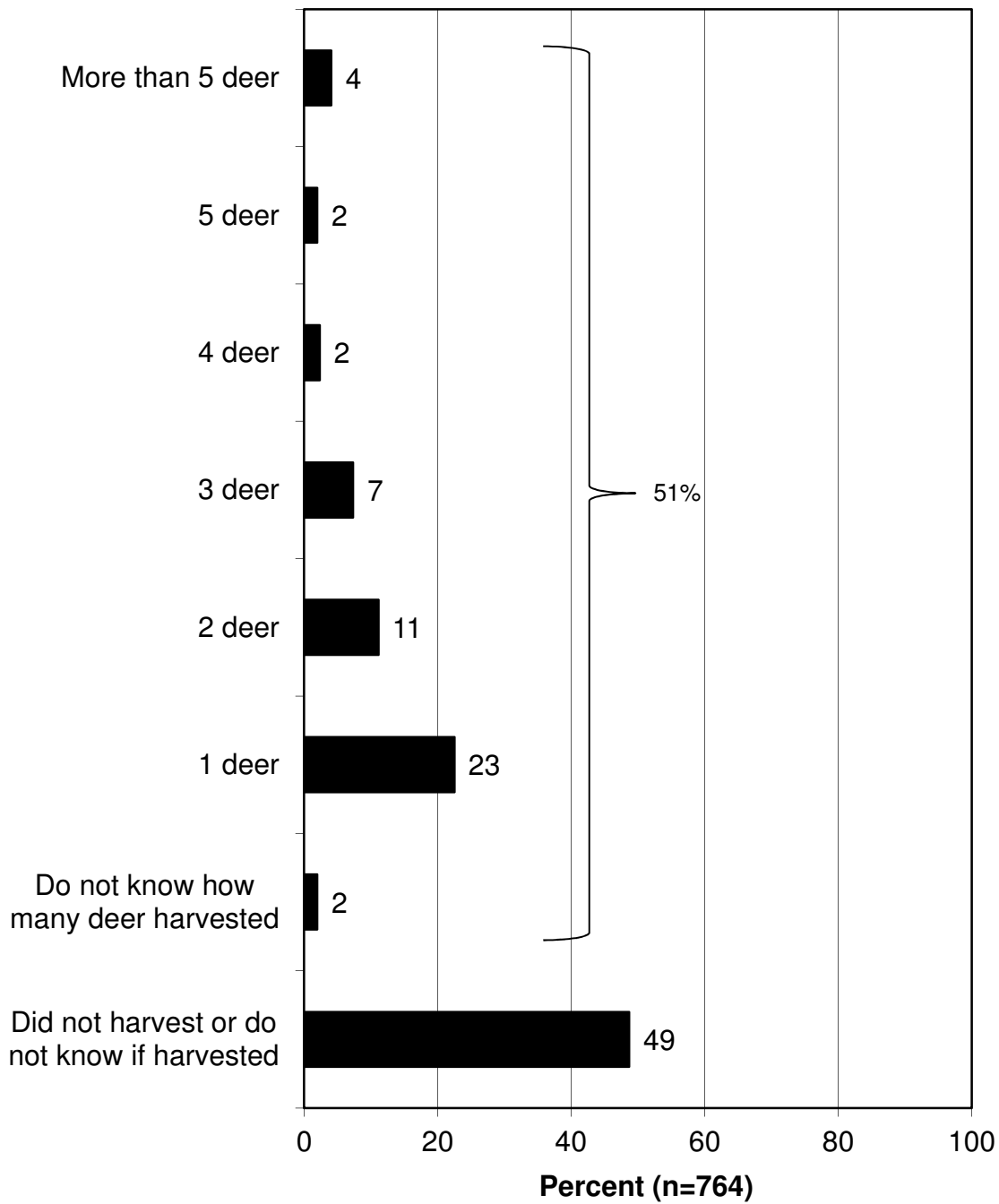
**Q69. Did you hunt deer with a crossbow in Maryland in the past 2 years? (Hunter survey)**



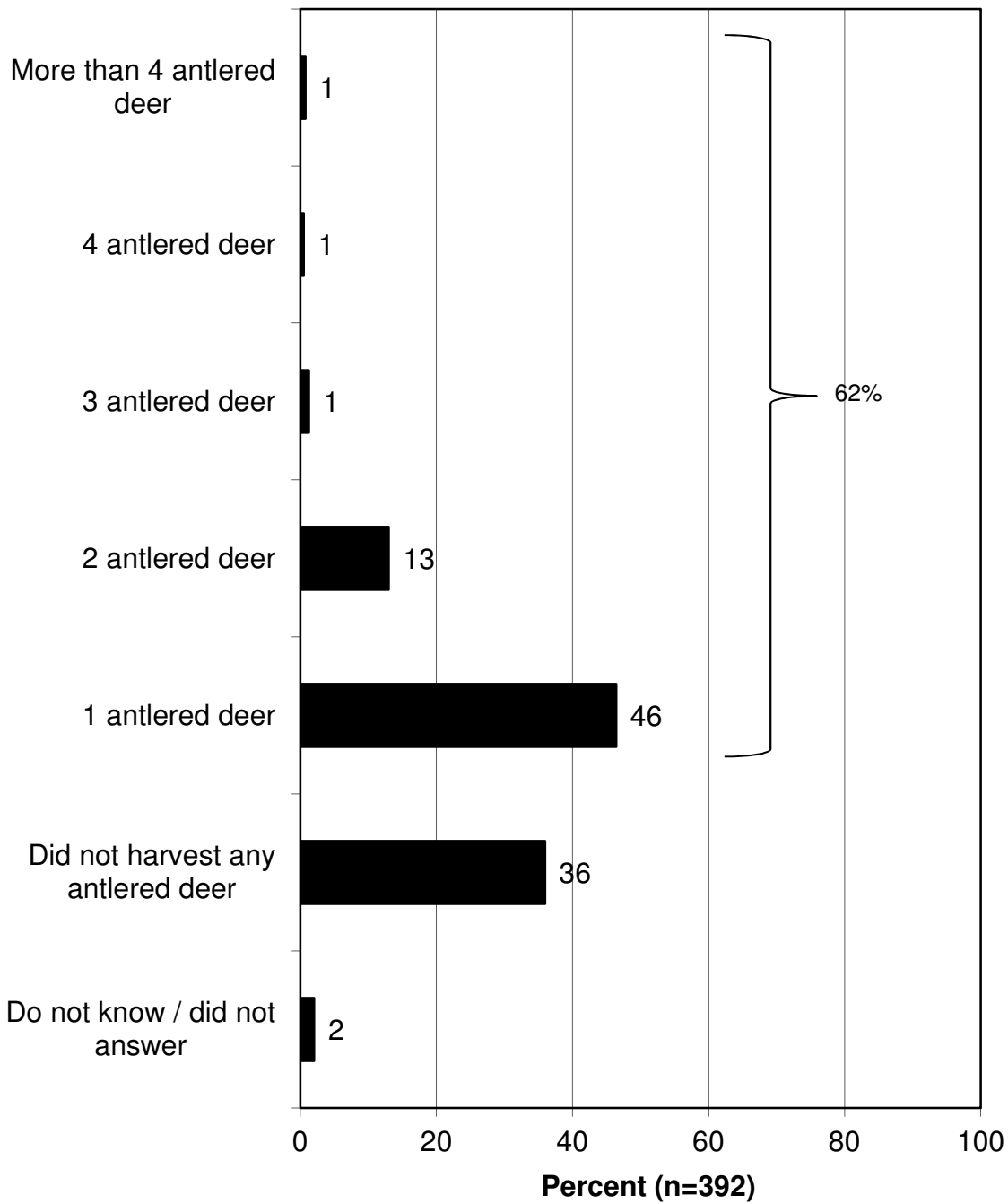
## HARVEST OF DEER

- Half of those who hunted in the past year (51%) harvested a deer. The graph shows the number of deer harvested by deer hunters.
  - Those who harvested a deer were asked about harvesting antlered deer: 62% of these hunters had harvested an antlered deer; the graph shows the numbers harvested (among those who harvested a deer).
  - Hunters who had harvested were also asked about harvest of antlerless deer: 68% of those who harvested deer harvested an antlerless deer; again, the graph shows the numbers harvested.
    - As the percentages show, some hunters harvested both types of deer.
- Hunters who had harvested were read a list of items that could have potentially helped them harvest more deer, with the survey asking, “Do you think you would have harvested more deer if...?” Access and opportunity top the list: 42% of these hunters said they would have harvested more if more private landowners would allow deer hunting on their land, and 41% said they would have harvested more if more Sundays were available to hunt deer.
  - Another commonly indicated choice was if they needed the meat: 38% would have harvested more if they needed more meat. (Note that also high among the reasons was if the hunter had more time off from work—39%—an issue that the DNR can do little to address.)
- Similar to the above, hunters who had *not* harvested were asked, “Do you think you would have harvested a deer if...?”
  - Again, access and opportunity top the list: 43% of these unsuccessful hunters said that they would have harvested if more private landowners would allow deer hunting on their land, and 43% said that they would have harvested if more Sundays were available to hunt deer. Other commonly indicated choices were if the season were longer (33%) and if there were more public land open to deer hunting (30%).

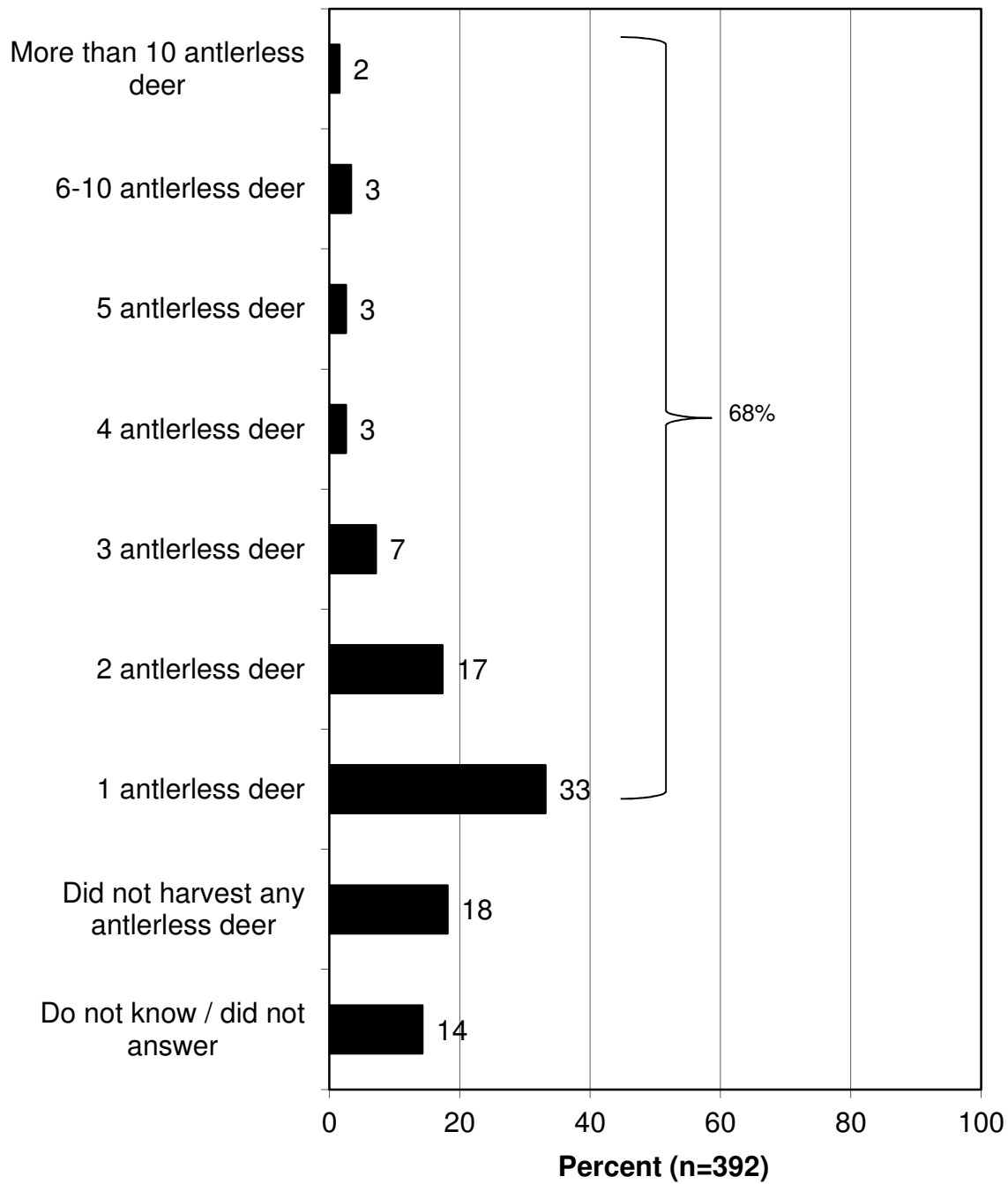
**Q40. How many deer did you harvest in the past year? (Asked of those who hunted deer in the past year.) (Hunter survey)**



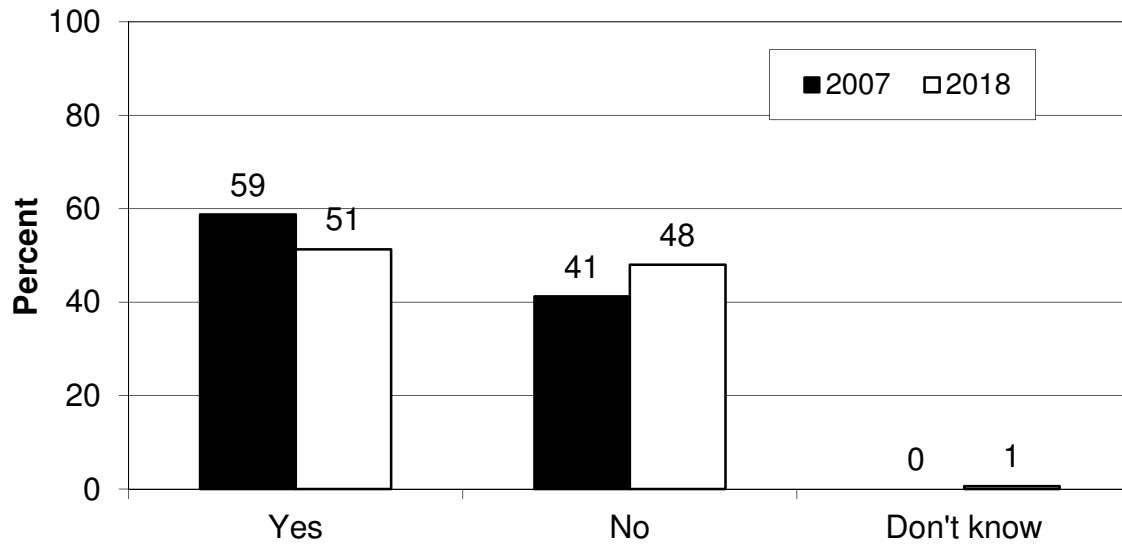
**Q50. How many antlered deer did you harvest in the past year? (Asked of those who harvested a deer in the past year.) (Hunter survey)**



**Q60. How many antlerless deer did you harvest in the past year? (Asked of those who harvested a deer in the past year.) (Hunter survey)**

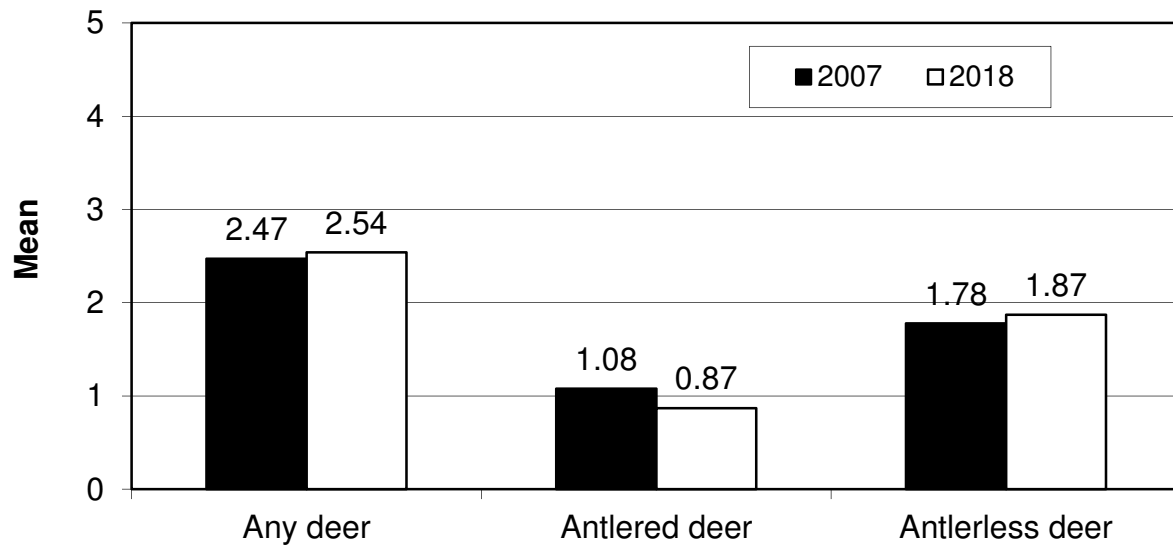


**Q39. Did you harvest a deer in the past year?  
(Asked of those who hunted deer in the past  
year.) (Hunter survey)**

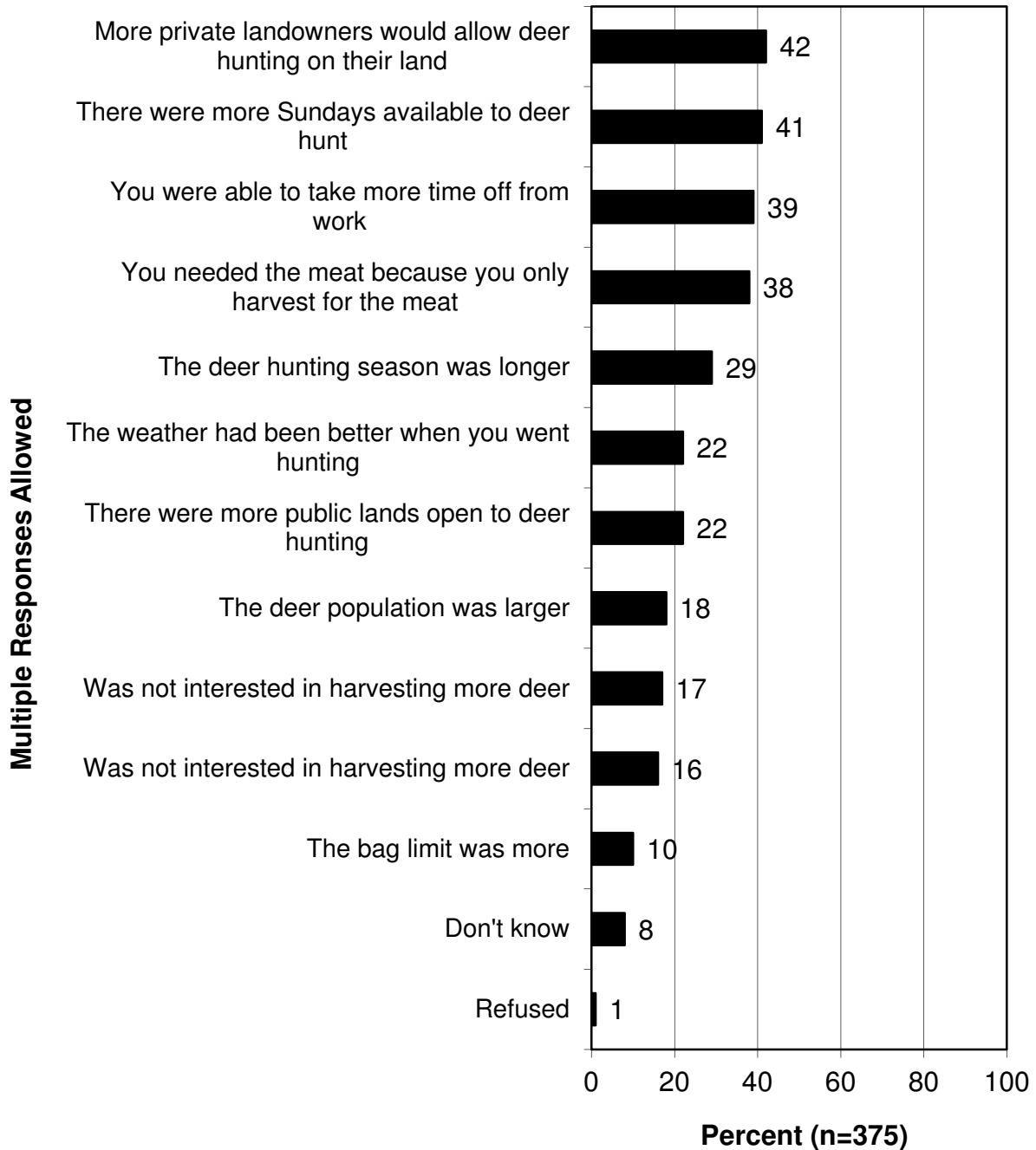




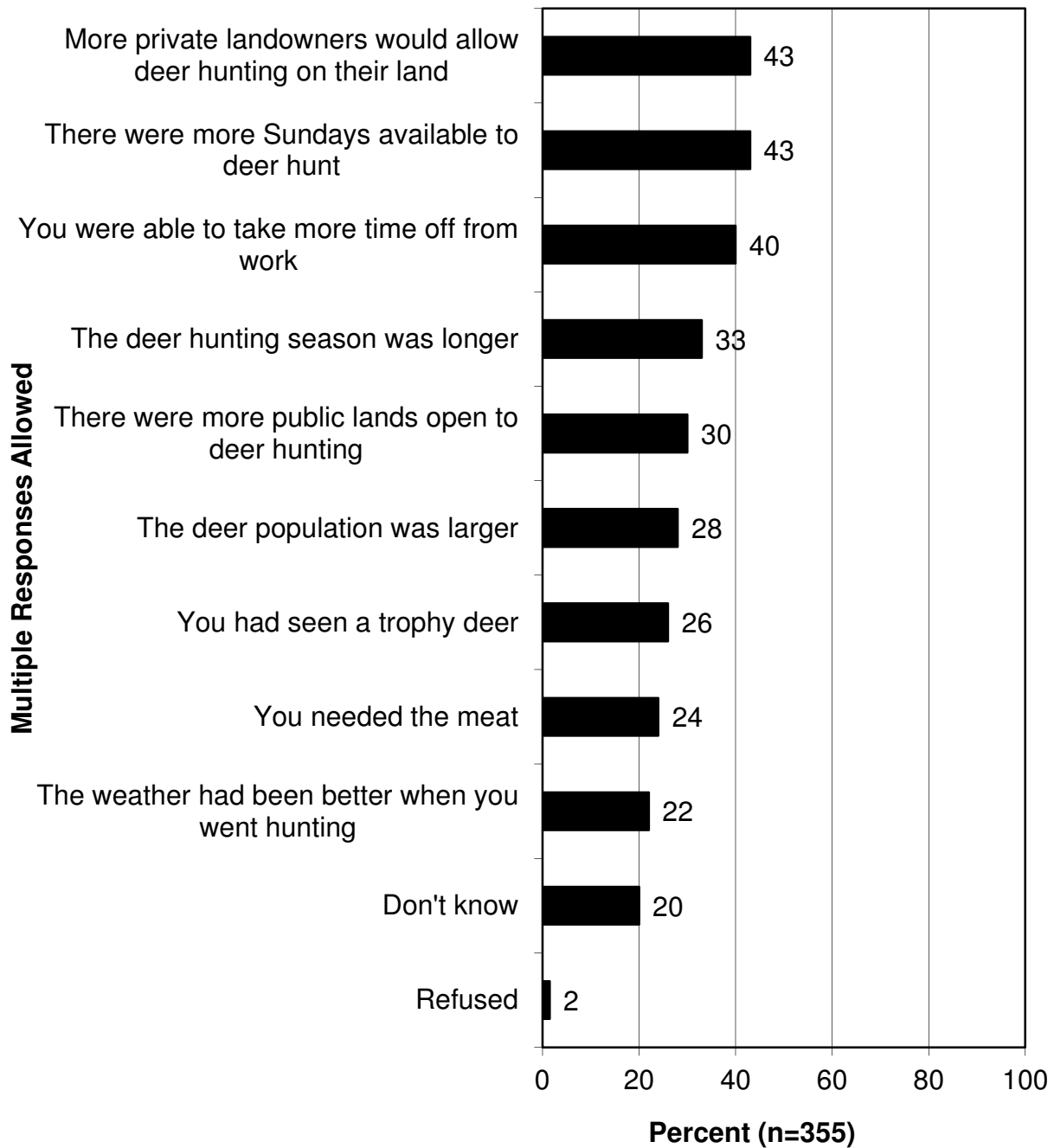
**Q40/50/60. How many of the following did you harvest in the past year?  
(Hunter survey)**



**Q46/Q49. Do you think you would have harvested more deer if...? (Asked of those who harvested a deer in the past year.)  
(Hunter survey)**



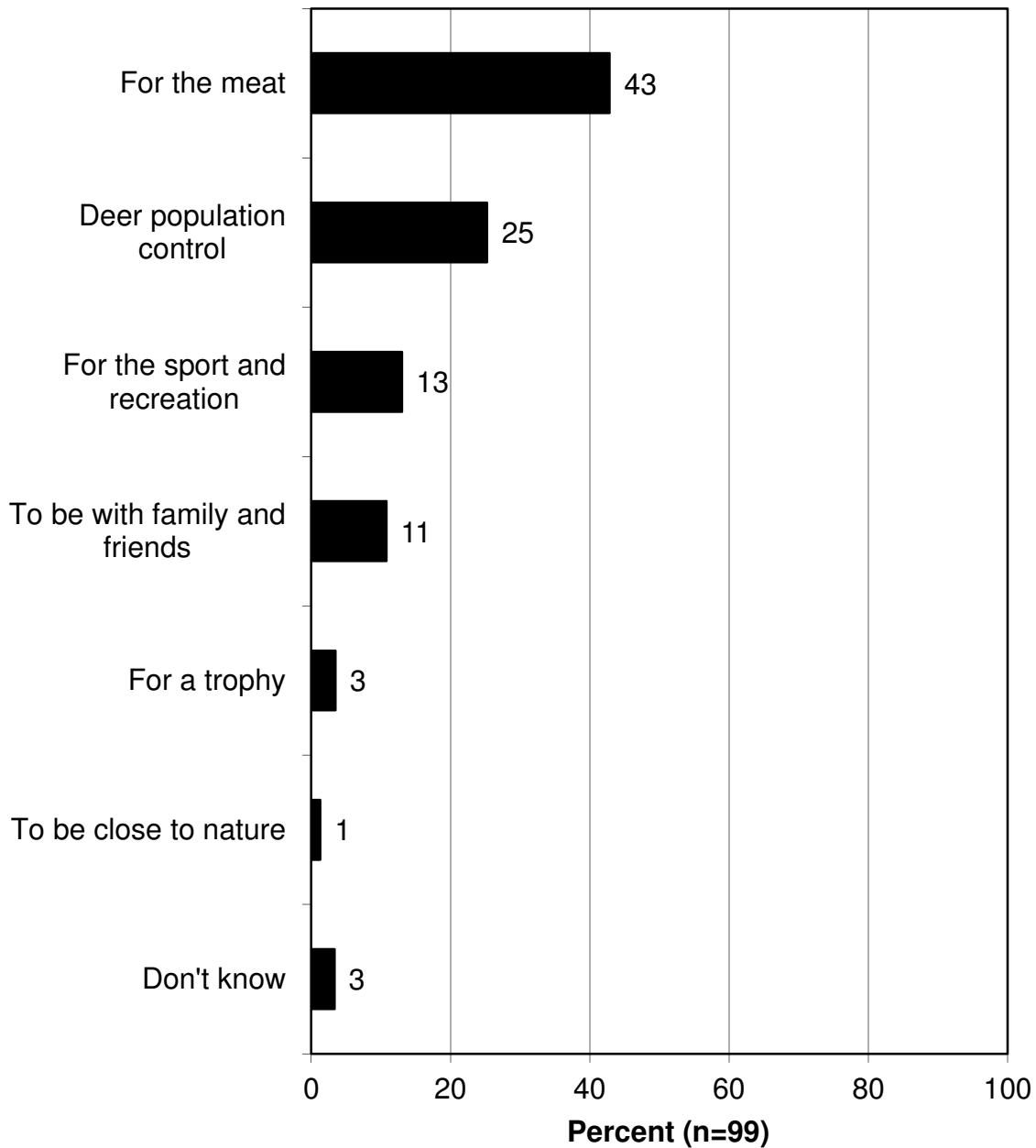
**Q55/Q58. Do you think you would have harvested a deer if...? (Asked of those who hunted deer but did not harvest a deer in the past year.) (Hunter survey)**



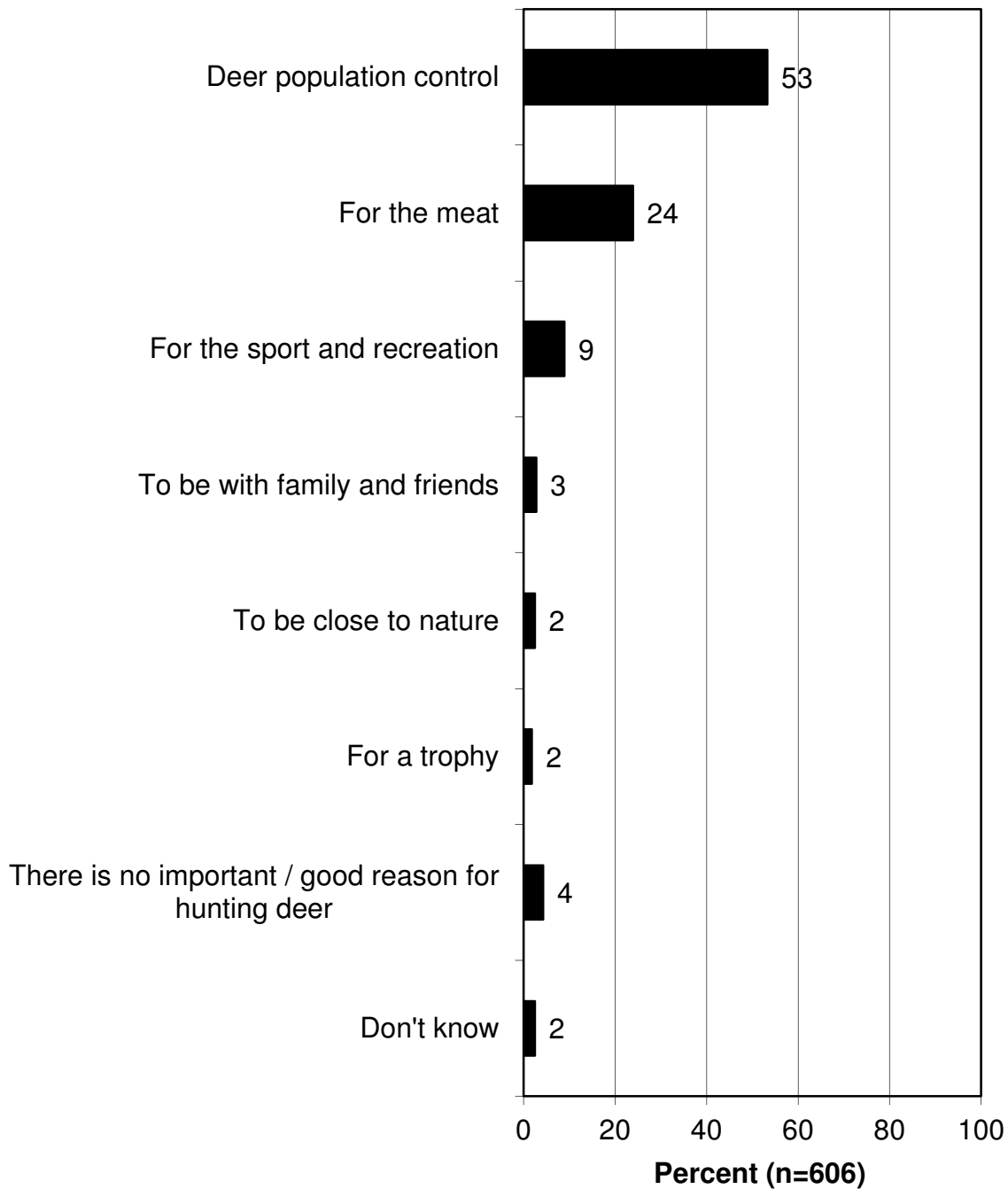
## MOTIVATIONS FOR HUNTING DEER

- The survey asked residents who hunted (from the general population survey) and hunters to choose their most important reason for hunting; the landowner survey asked for the most important reasons for hunting, including the reasons for others to hunt among the landowners who did not personally hunt deer.
  - Landowners are almost completely utilitarian: the most commonly chosen reasons for hunting deer are for deer population control (a majority of 53% choosing this reason) and for the meat (24%). Only 9% say it is for sport or recreation, and almost none (just 3% and 2%, respectively) say it is to be with friends and family or to be close to nature.
  - In the hunter survey, for the meat (42%) is the top reason to hunt deer in Maryland, with four of the remaining five reasons having from 11% to 15%: for the sport/recreation (15%), to be with family and friends (14%), deer population control (13%), and to be close to nature (11%). In other words, while the top reason among hunters is utilitarian, the other reasons have substantial percentages, compared to the landowners' results.
  - The general population results are shown as well. Their top reason (among the general population who had hunted within the past 10 years) is for the meat (43%), followed by deer population control (25%).
    - Although the landowner graphs were discussed first, the graphs are still presented in the same order as the rest of the report: general population results first, followed by landowners, and then hunters.

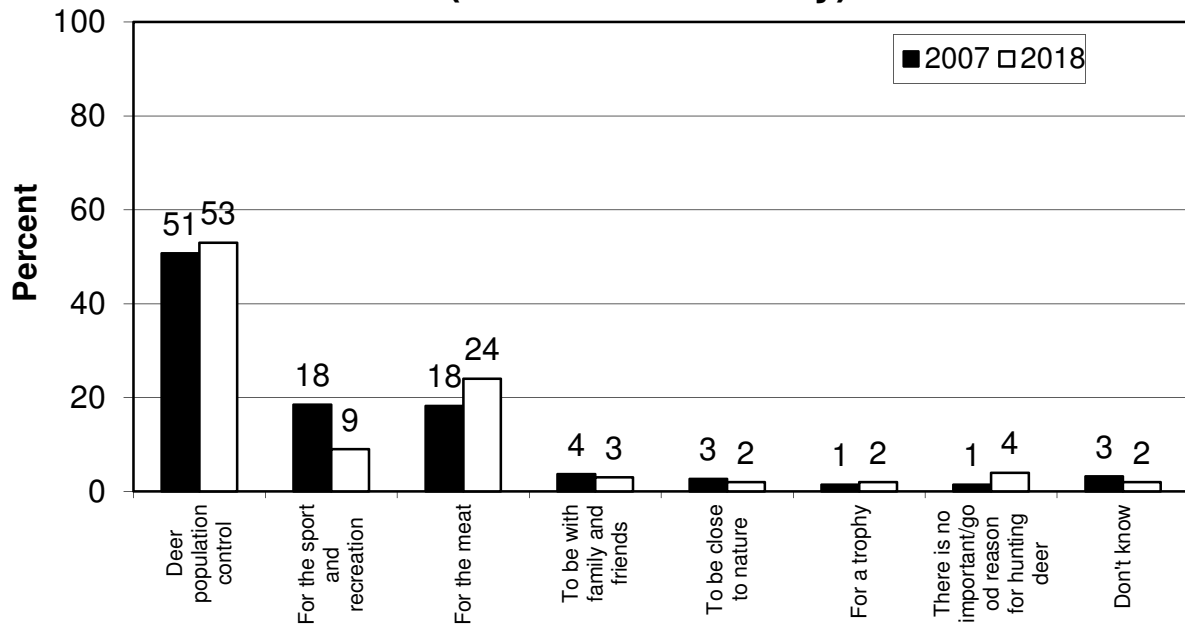
**Q46. Which of the following do you consider the most important reason for hunting deer in Maryland? (Asked of those who hunted deer within the past 10 years.) (Gen pop survey)**



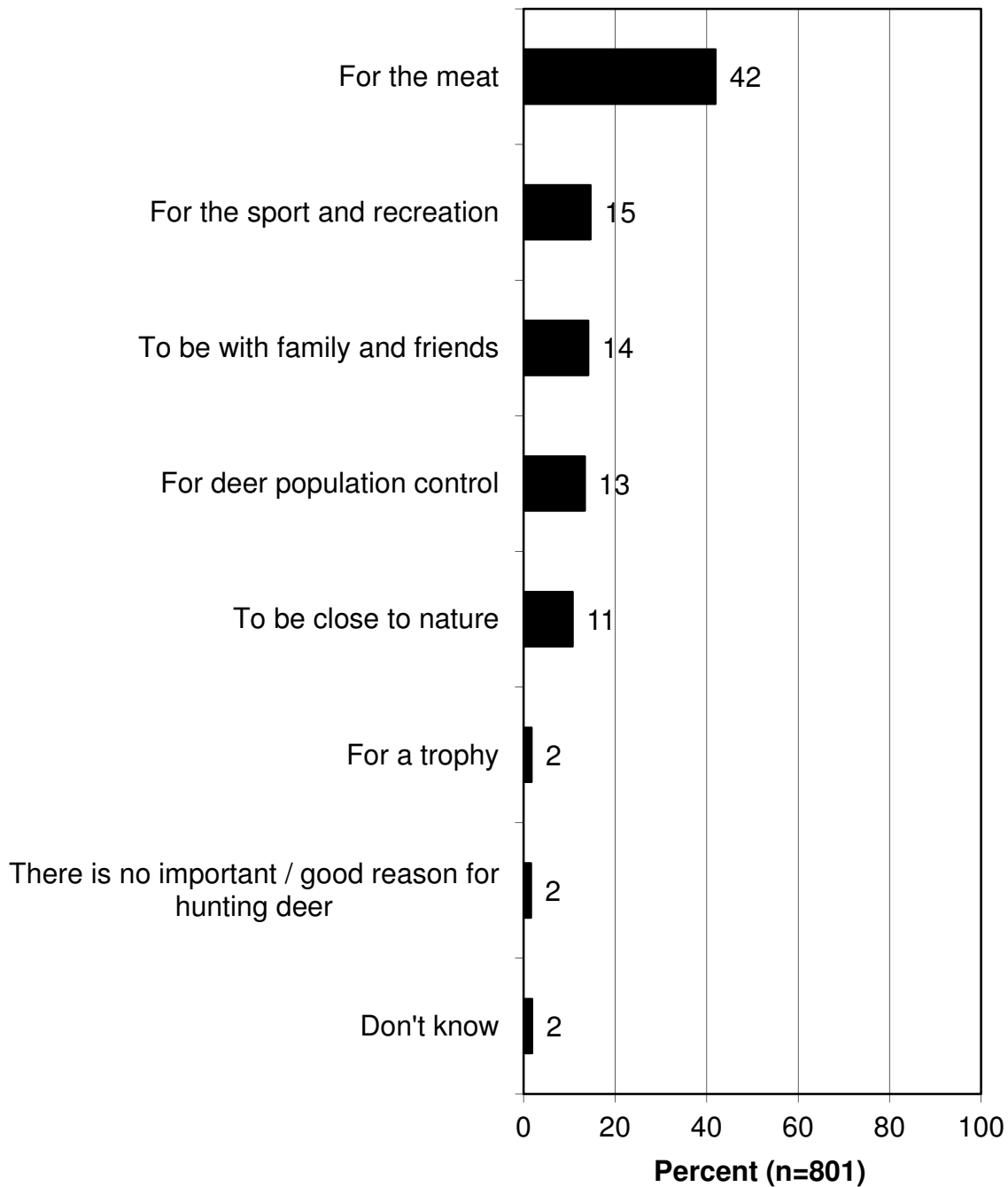
**Q43. Which of the following do you consider the most important reason for hunting deer in Maryland? (Landowner survey)**



**Q43. Which of the following do you consider the most important reason for hunting deer in Maryland?  
(Landowner survey)**

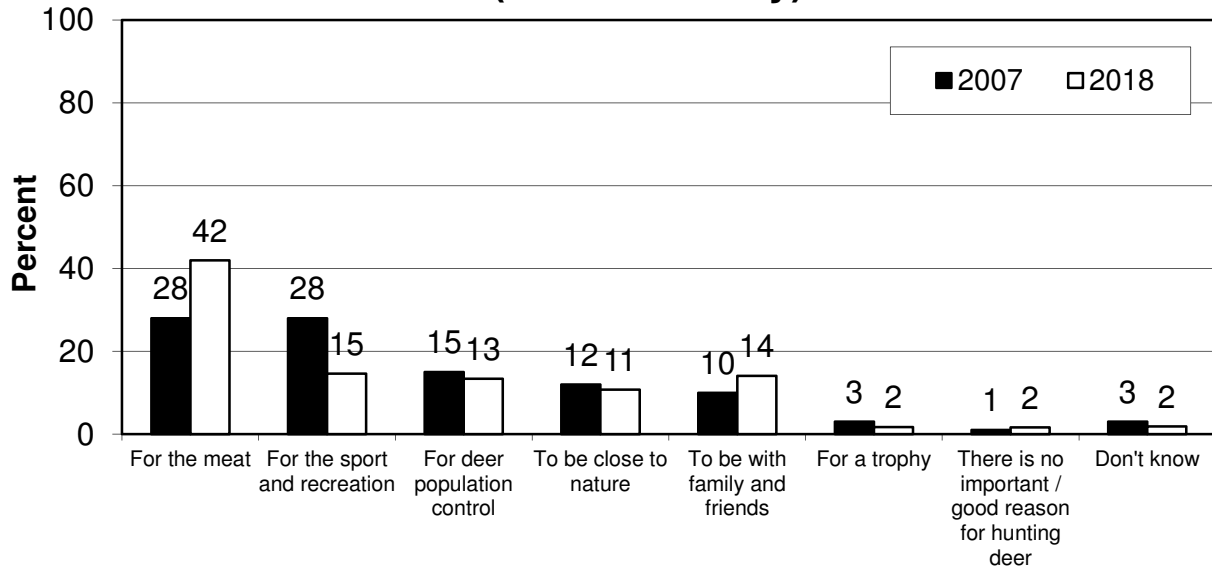


**Q66. Which of the following do you consider the most important reason for hunting deer in Maryland? (Hunter survey)**





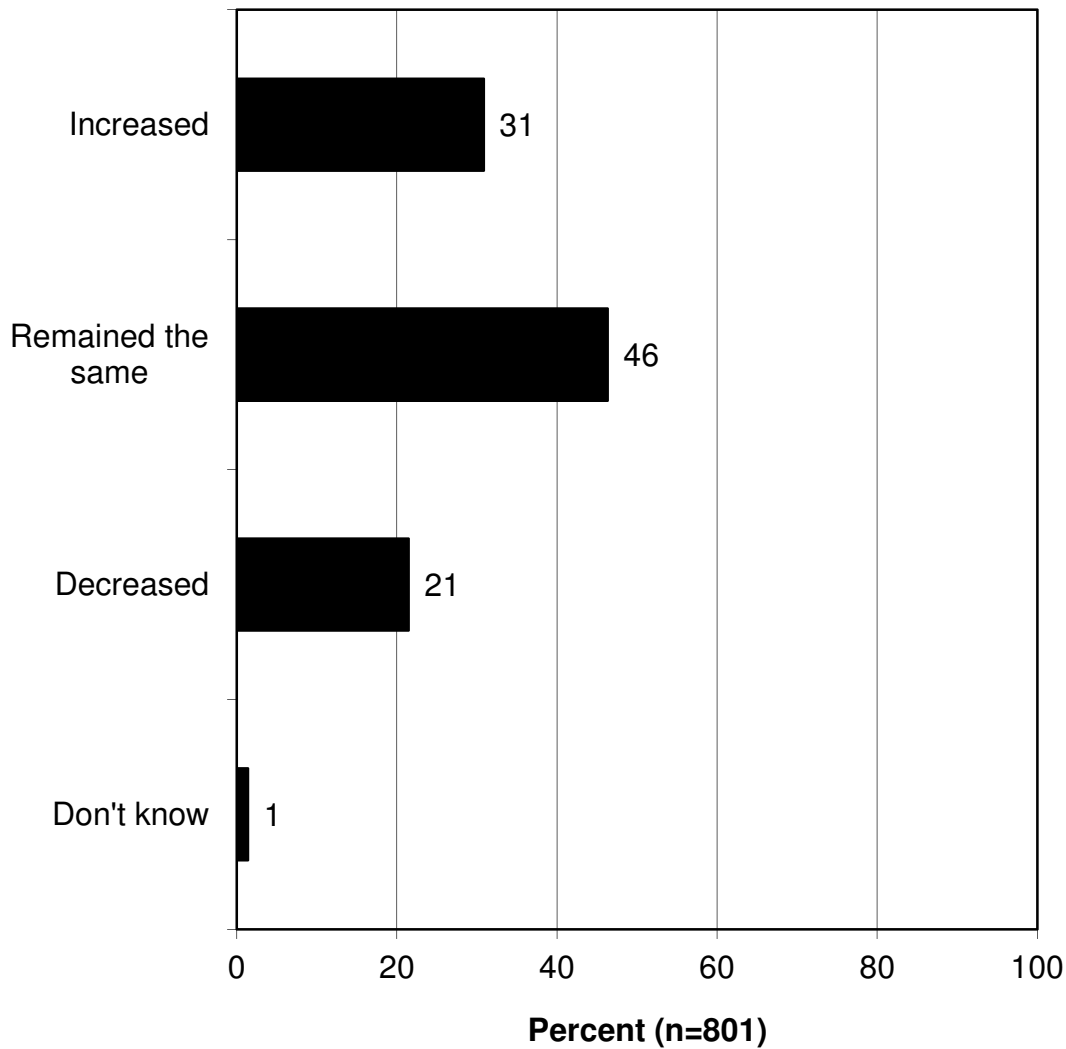
**Q66. Which of the following do you consider the most important reason for hunting deer in Maryland?  
(Hunter survey)**



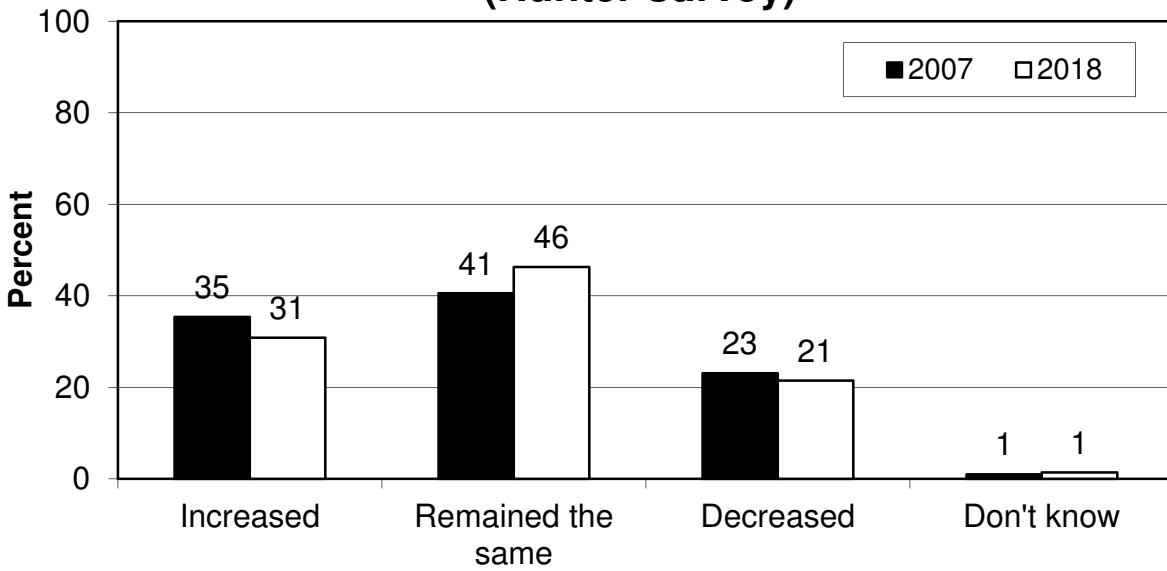
## SATISFACTION WITH DEER HUNTING

- More deer hunters say that their satisfaction with deer hunting in Maryland has increased over the past 10 years than say it has decreased: 31% say it has increased, while 21% say it has decreased. Most commonly, they say it has remained about the same (46%).

### Q67. Would you say your satisfaction with your deer hunting experiences in Maryland has increased, remained the same, or decreased over the past 10 years? (Hunter survey)



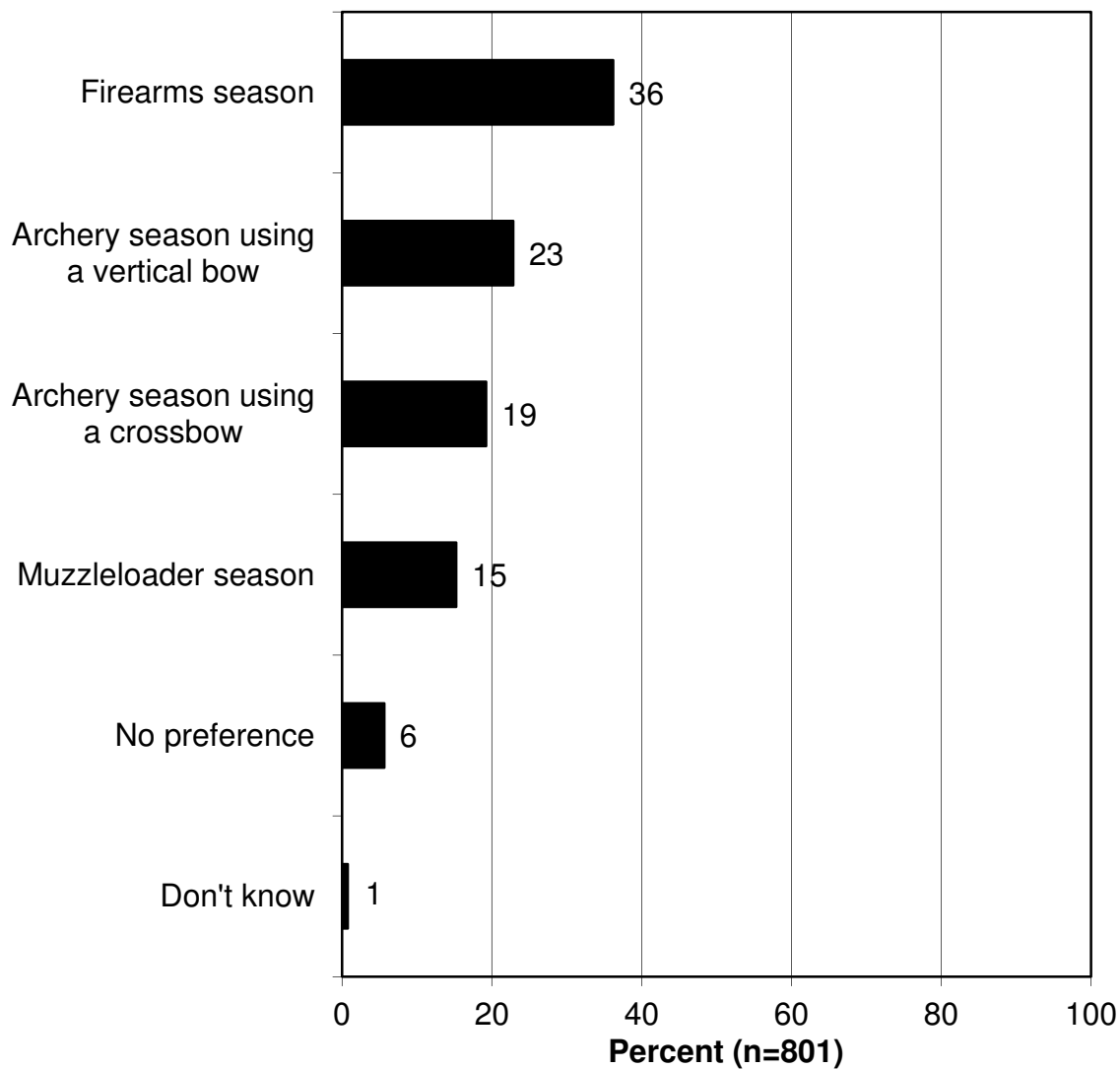
**Q67. Would you say your satisfaction with your deer hunting experiences in Maryland has increased, remained the same, or decreased over the past 10 years?  
(Hunter survey)**



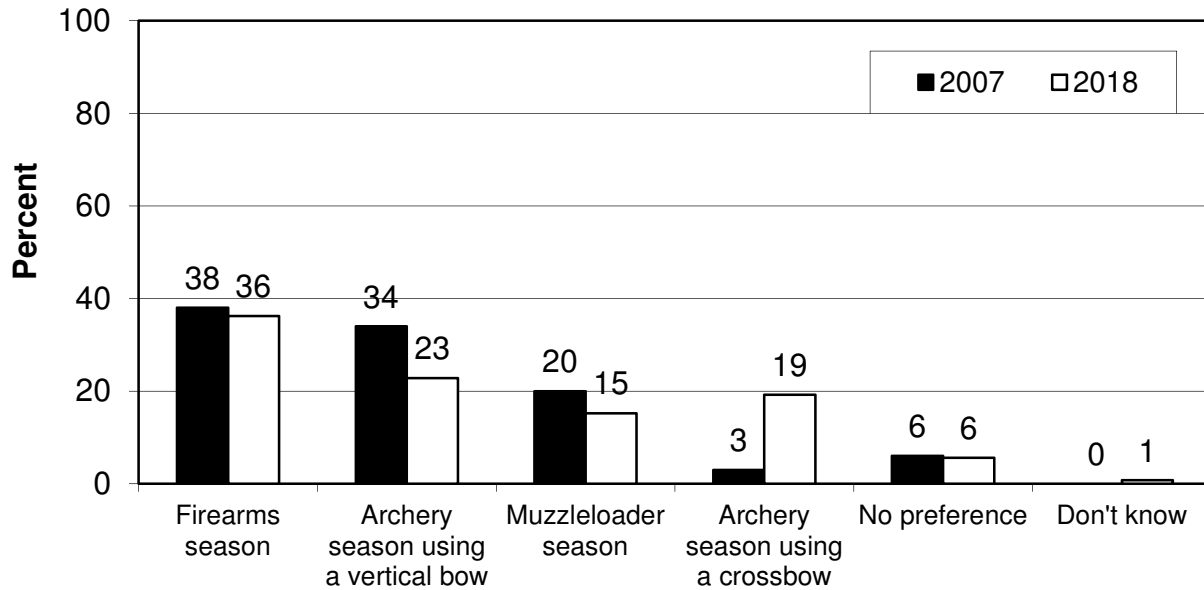
## PREFERRED HUNTING SEASONS

- The firearms season is the most preferred season among deer hunters: 36% say that they prefer firearms season. This exceeds the percentages who prefer archery season using a vertical bow (i.e., not a crossbow) (23%), archery season using a crossbow (19%), or muzzleloader season (15%).

### Q68. Please tell me which one of the following deer hunting seasons you most prefer to participate in. (Hunter survey)

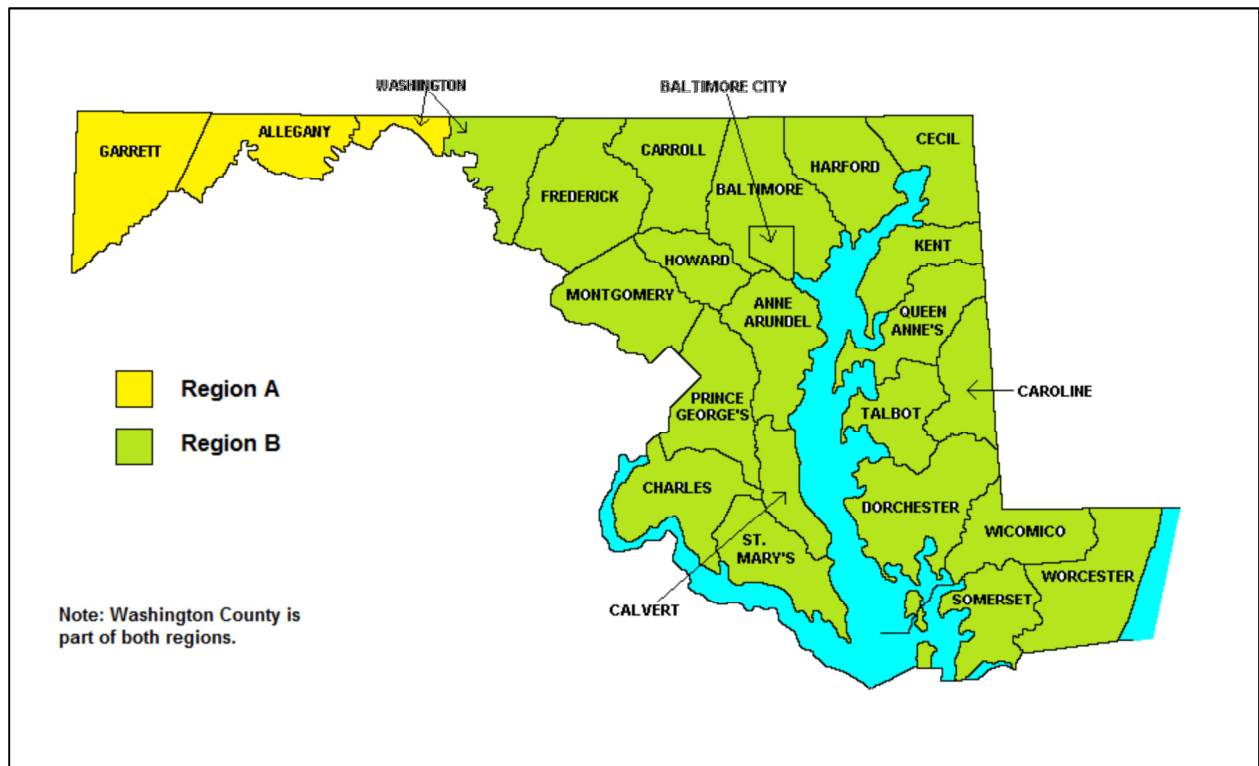


**Q68. Please tell me which one of the following deer hunting seasons you most prefer to participate in.  
(Hunter survey)**



## HUNTING IN REGION A

- The DNR separates Maryland into two regions: Region A, made up of Allegany County, Garrett County, and western Washington County, and Region B, consisting of the rest of the state.



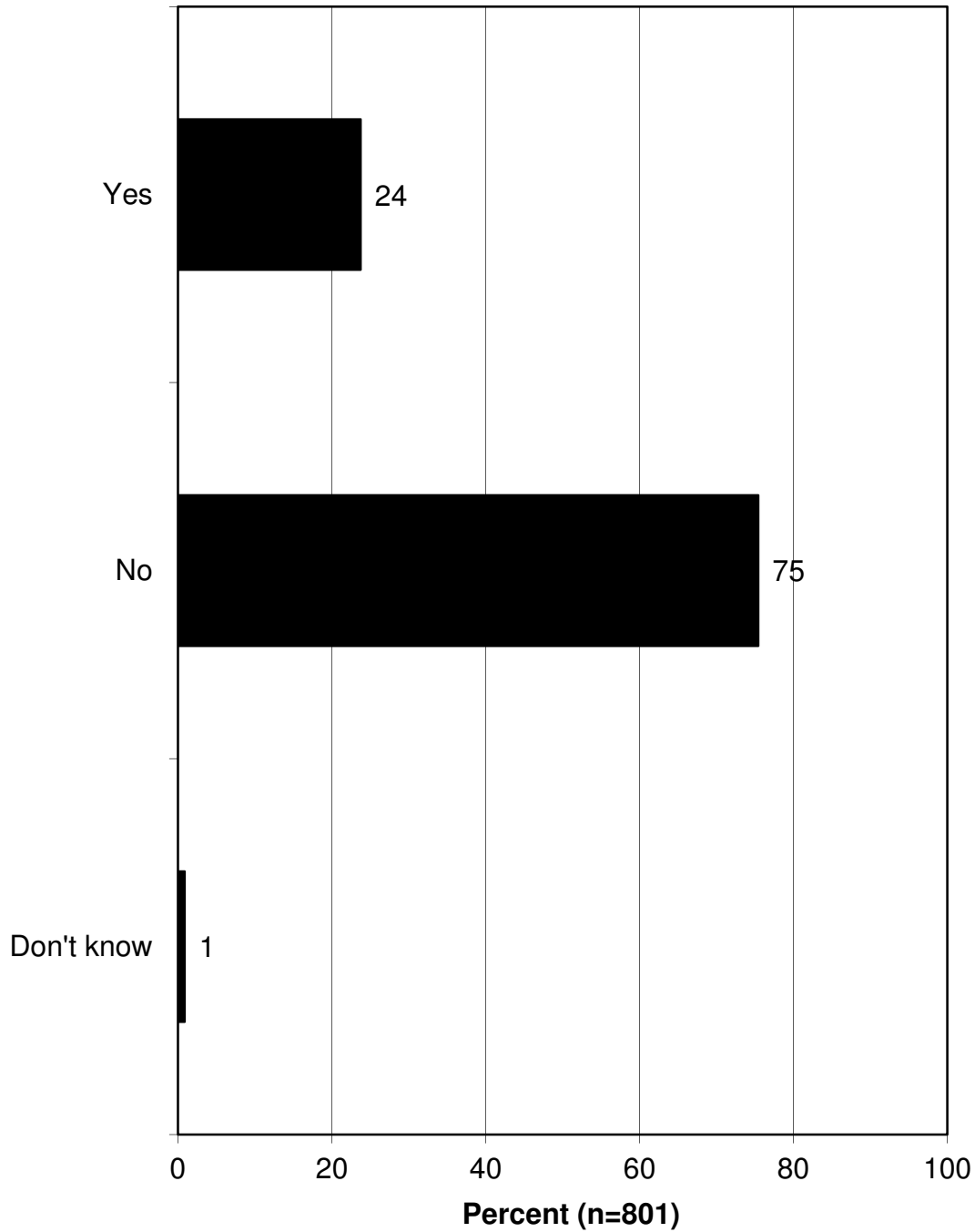
Map produced in color; may not be legible in black and white printing.

- The section of the hunter survey devoted to hunting in Region A in Maryland found that, among all hunters, 24% hunted deer in Region A. They were asked follow-up questions.
  - Among Region A hunters, about half hunted deer on public land there frequently or sometimes over the past 2 years (47% did so).
    - The most common reason for no longer hunting on public lands in Region A (among those who used to do so but no longer do) or for hunting less on public lands in Region A (among those who have still hunted there, but not as often as before) is simply having other places to hunt; otherwise, crowding and safety concerns because

of other hunters and recreationists are the reasons given among the small group who qualified for the questions.

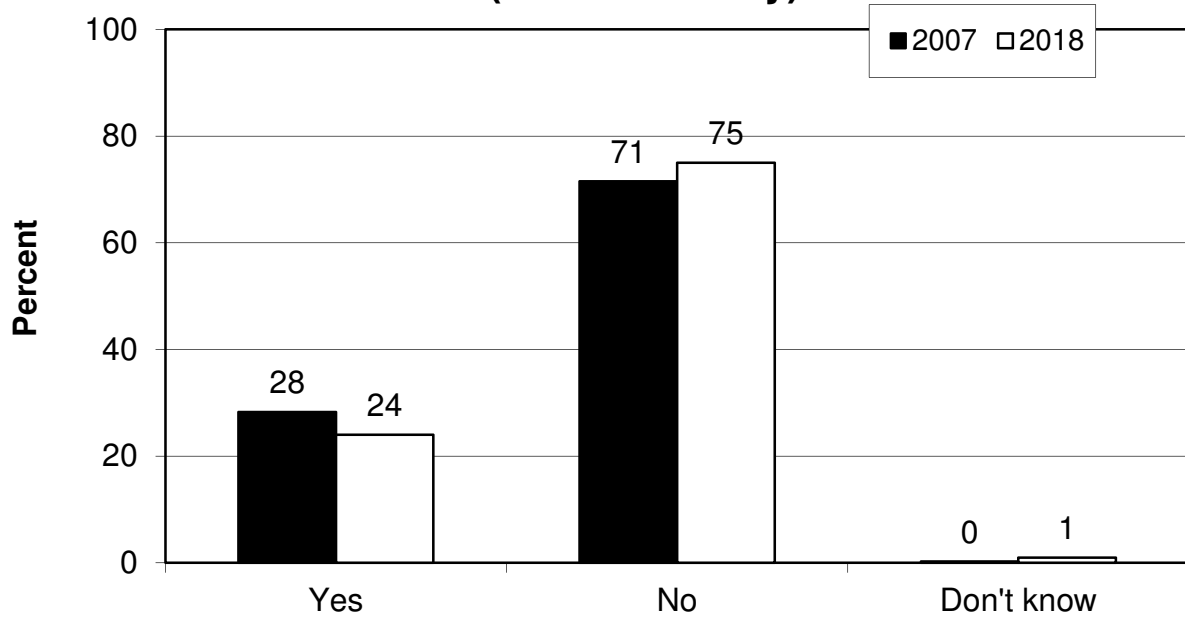
- Among Region A hunters, 70% hunted on private lands in Region A frequently or sometimes.
- Region A hunters were asked about their perceptions of the deer population there.
- Those who had hunted deer on public lands in Region A were asked for their opinions on the deer population on public lands. The large majority of these Region A public land hunters (73%) would like to see the deer population on public lands in Region A to increase. Otherwise, 20% want it to stay the same, and only 3% want it to decrease.
  - Those who had hunted on private land most commonly want the deer population there to increase (50% give this response), and 42% want it to stay the same. Only 6% want the deer population to decrease on private lands in Region A.

**Q73. Did you hunt deer in Region A in the past 2 years? (Hunter survey)**

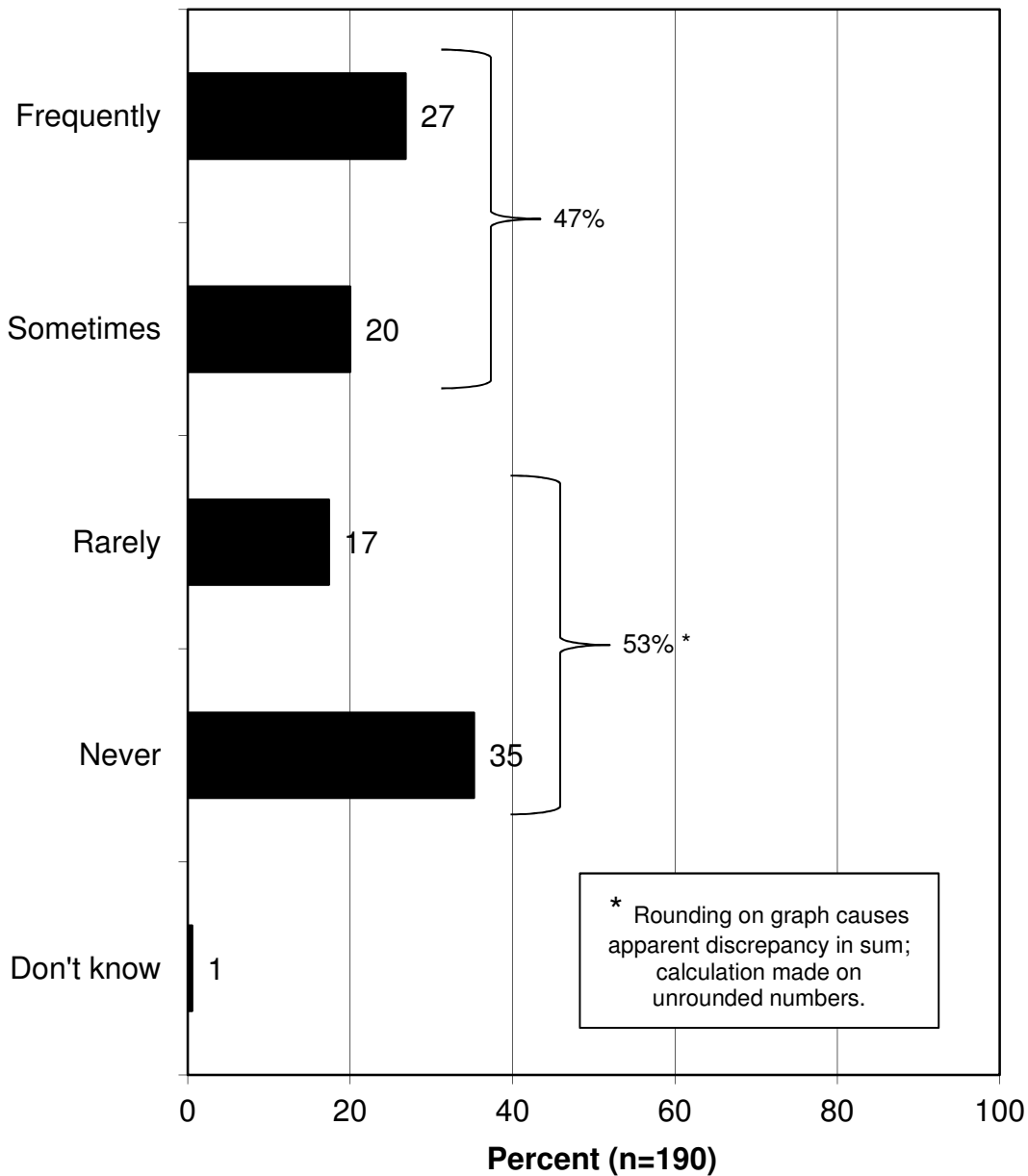




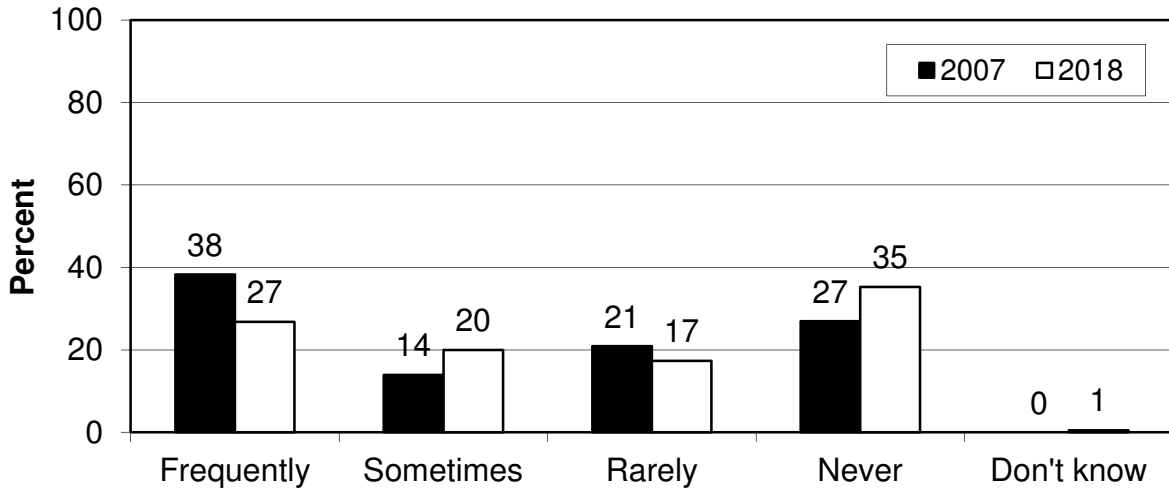
**Q73. Did you hunt deer in Region A in the past 2 years?  
(Hunter survey)**



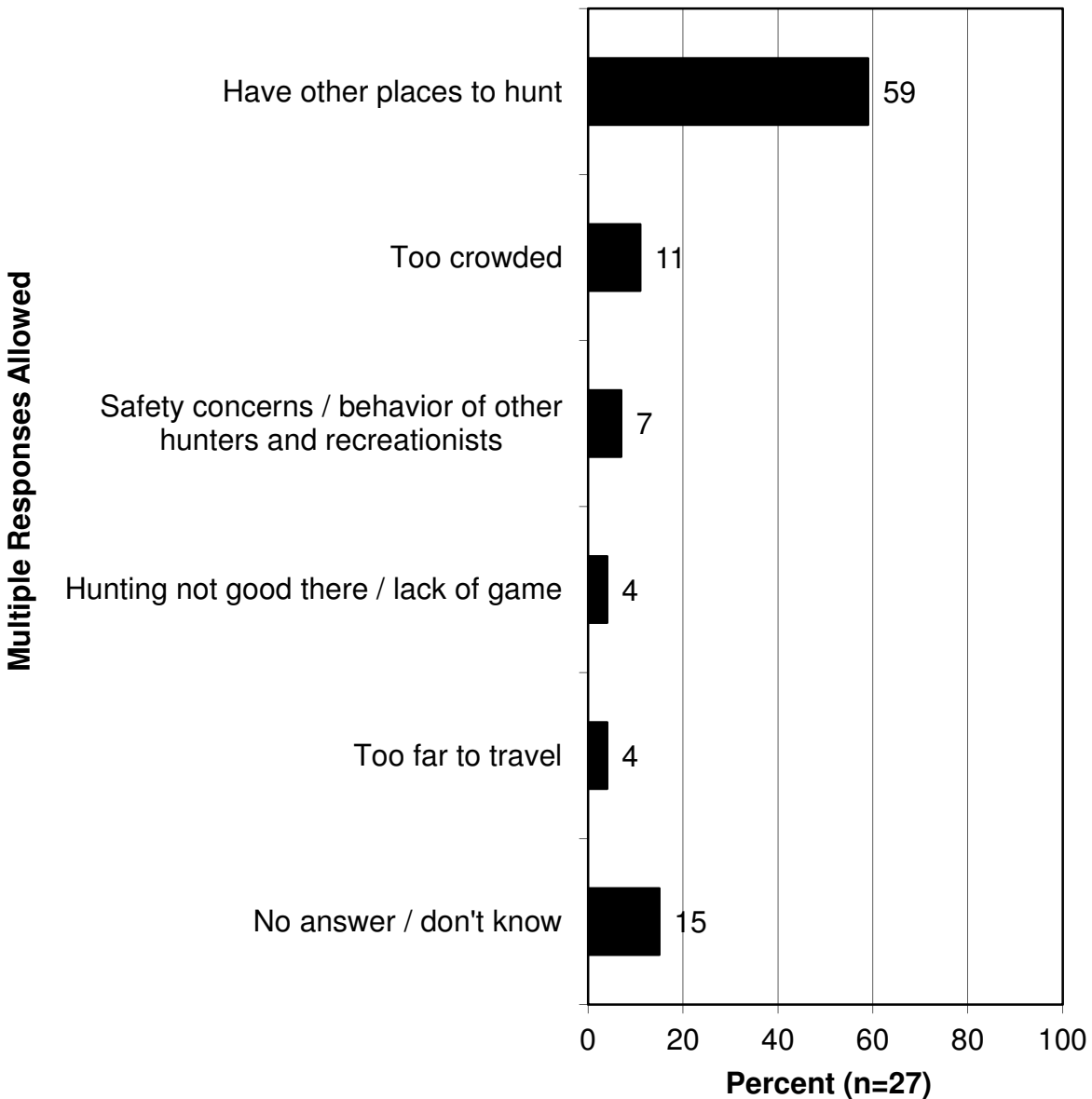
**Q74. How often did you hunt deer on public lands in the past 2 years in Region A? Would you say frequently, sometimes, rarely, or never? (Asked of those who hunted deer in Region A in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**



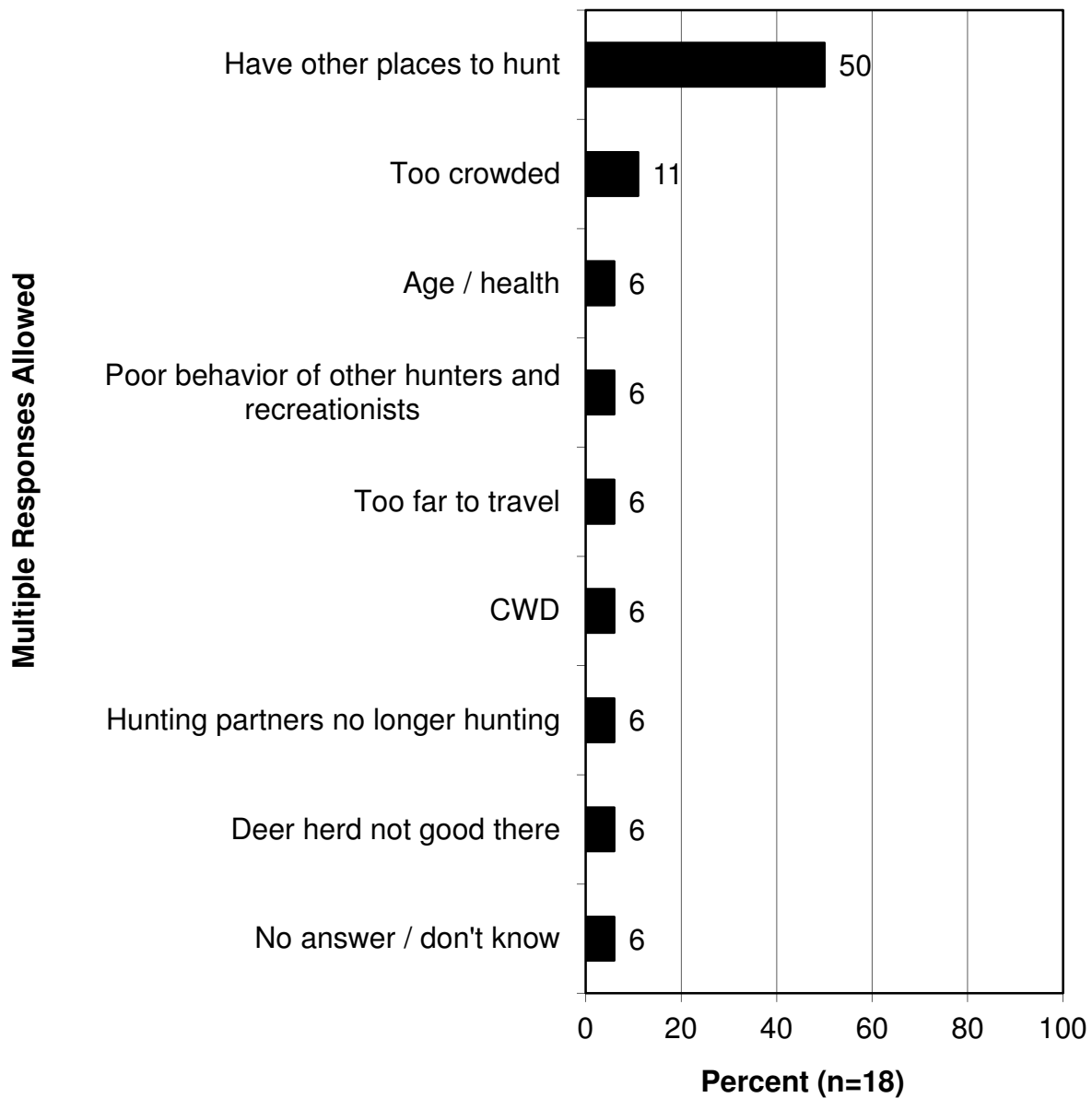
**Q74. How often did you hunt deer on public lands in the past 2 years in Region A? Would you say frequently, sometimes, rarely, or never? (Asked of those who hunted deer in Region A in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**



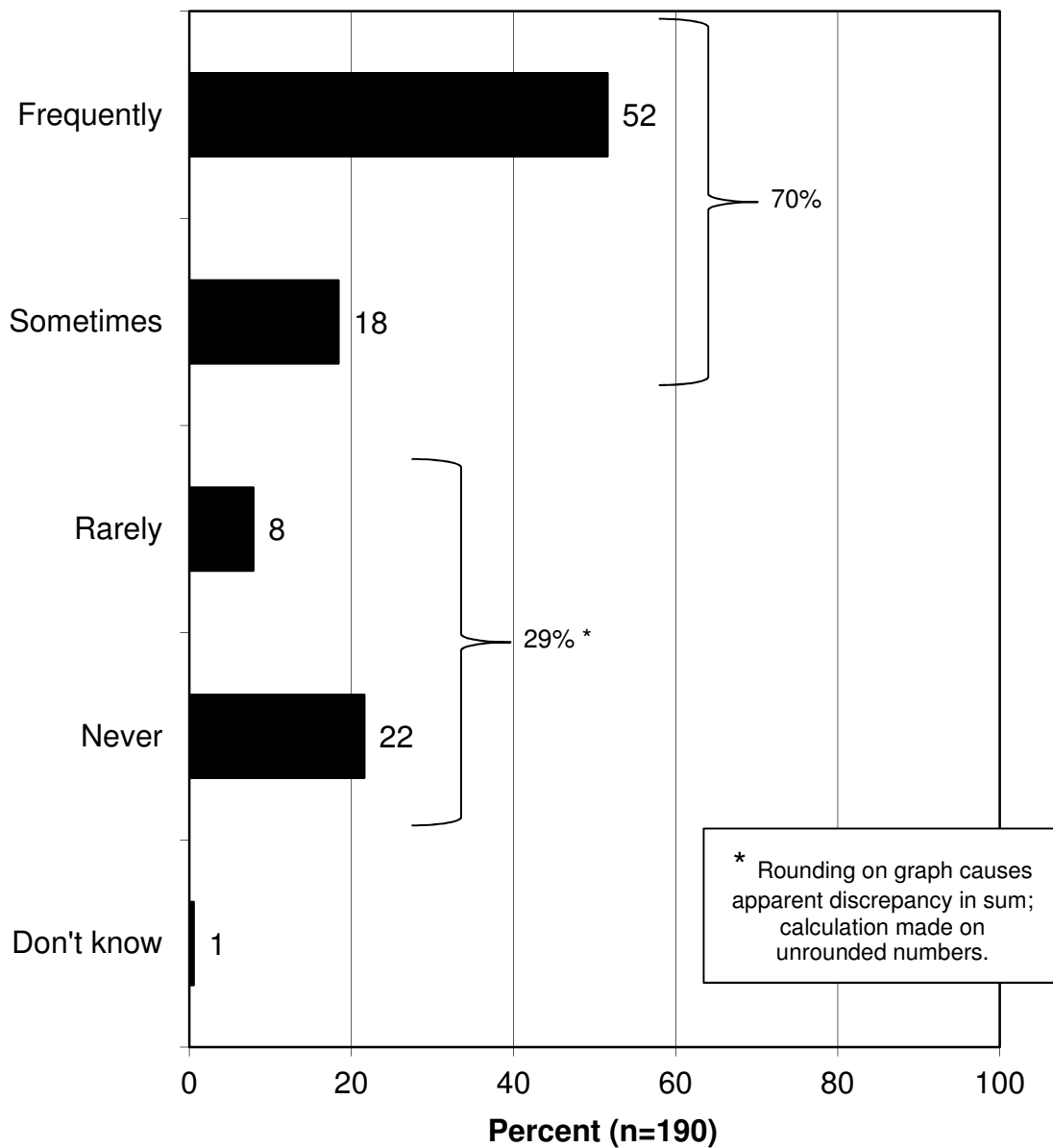
**Q76. Why have you not hunted deer on public lands in Region A in the past 2 years? (Asked of Region A hunters who said that they never hunted on public lands in Region A over the past 2 years but that they used to hunt them.) (Hunter survey)**



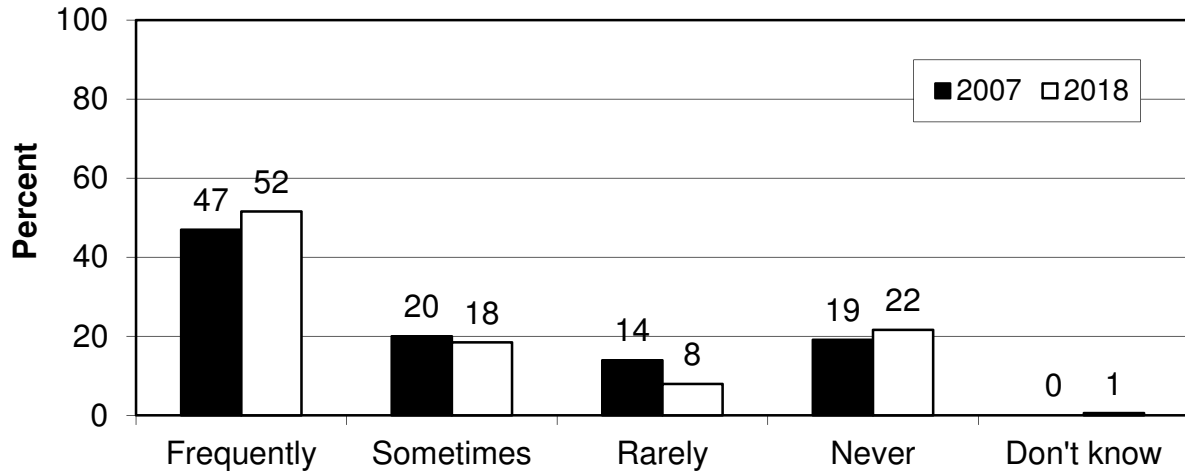
**Q78. Why did you hunt deer on public lands in Region A less often in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who hunted deer in Region A in the past 2 years on public lands, but did so only rarely and who used to do so more often.) (Hunter survey)**



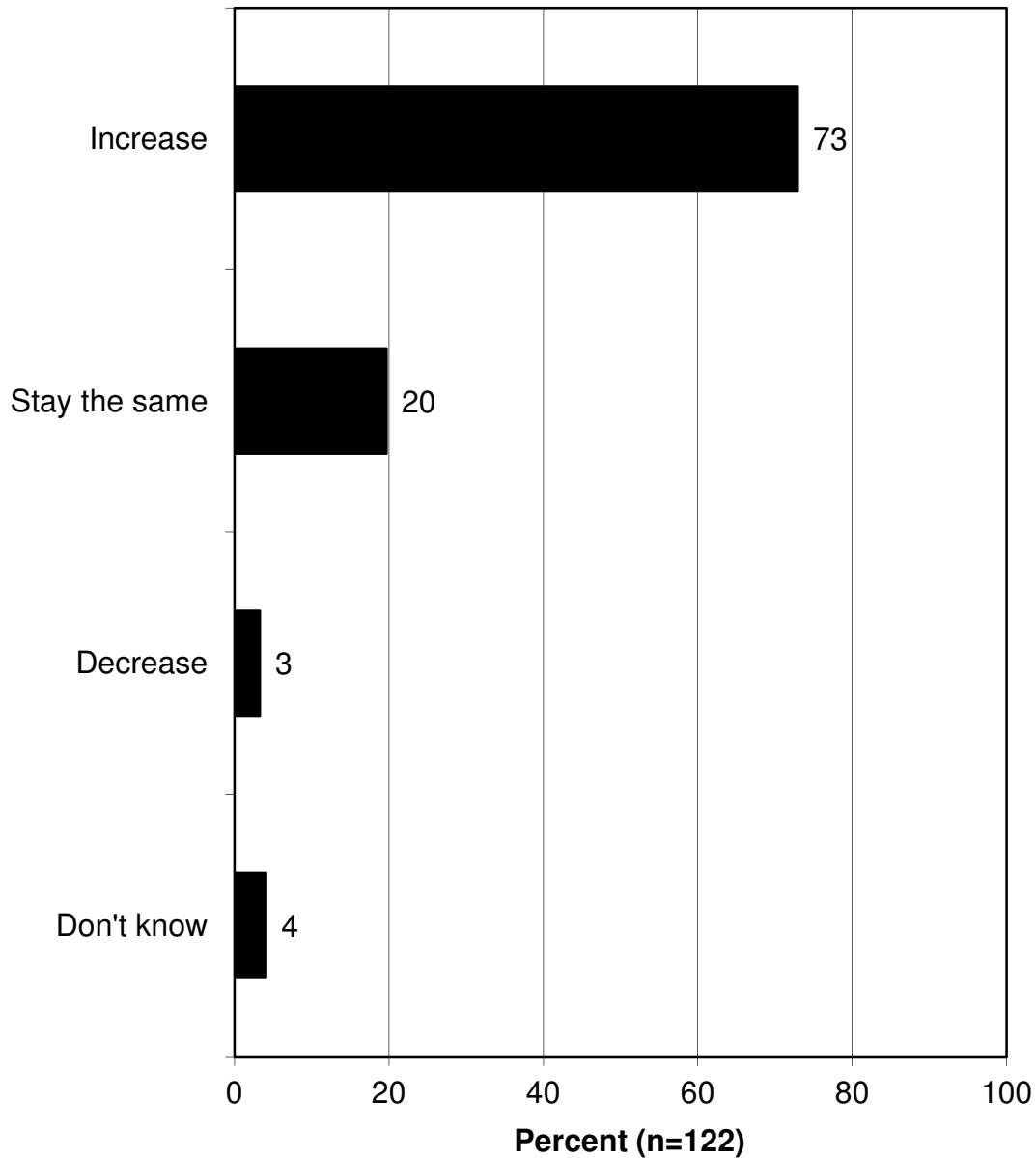
**Q80. How often did you hunt deer on private lands in Region A in the past 2 years? Would you say frequently, sometimes, rarely, or never? (Asked of those who hunted deer on public lands in Region A in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**



**Q80. How often did you hunt deer on private lands in Region A in the past 2 years? Would you say frequently, sometimes, rarely, or never? (Asked of those who hunted deer on public lands in Region A in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**

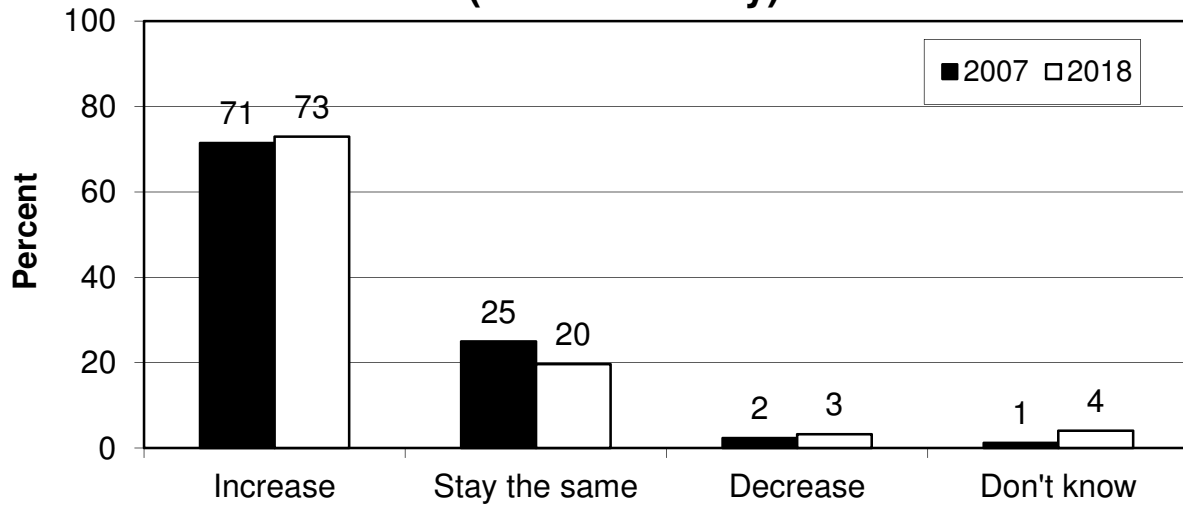


**Q79. Would you like to see the deer population where you hunt on public lands in Region A increase, stay the same, or decrease? (Asked of those who hunted deer on public lands in Region A in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**

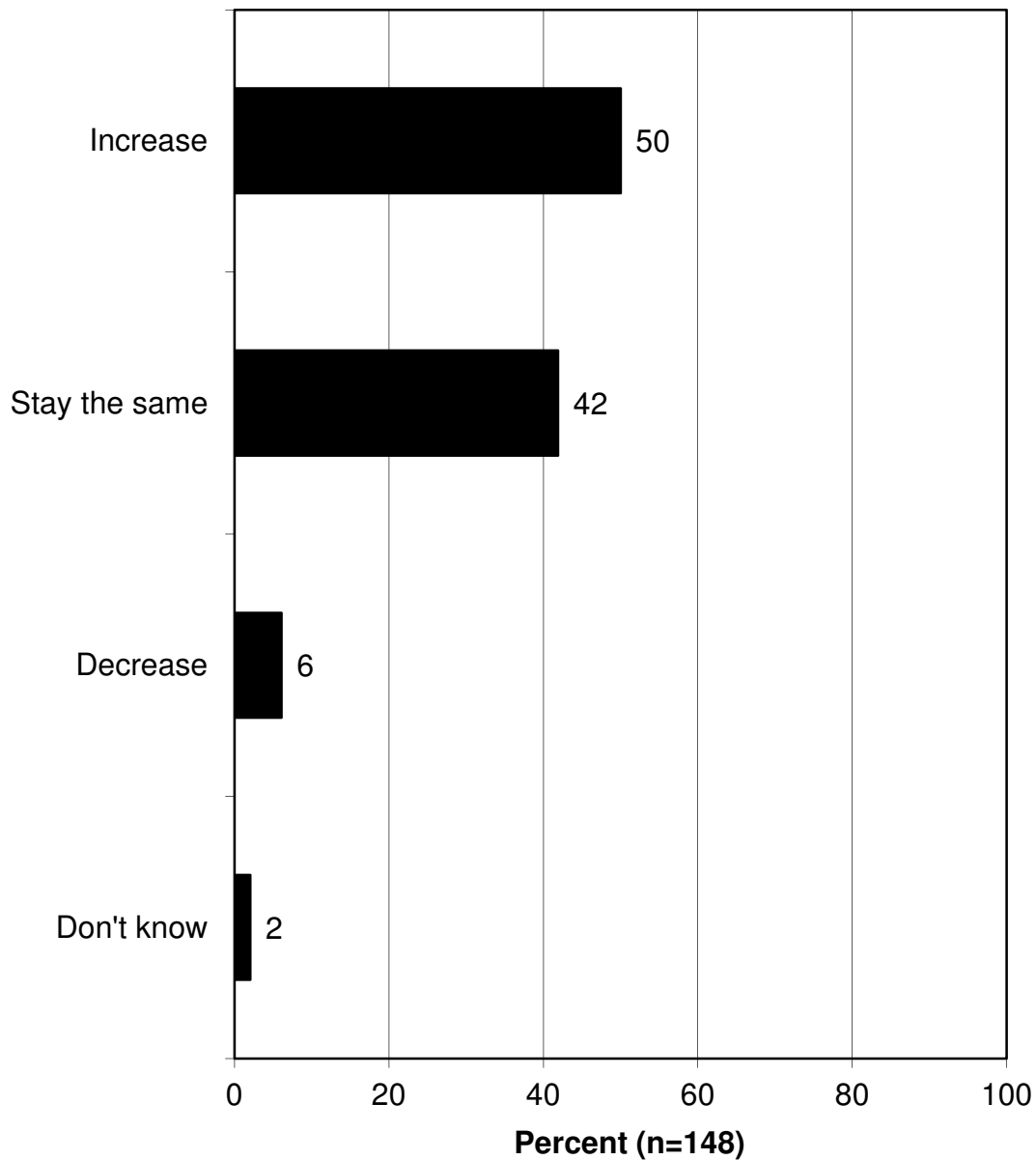




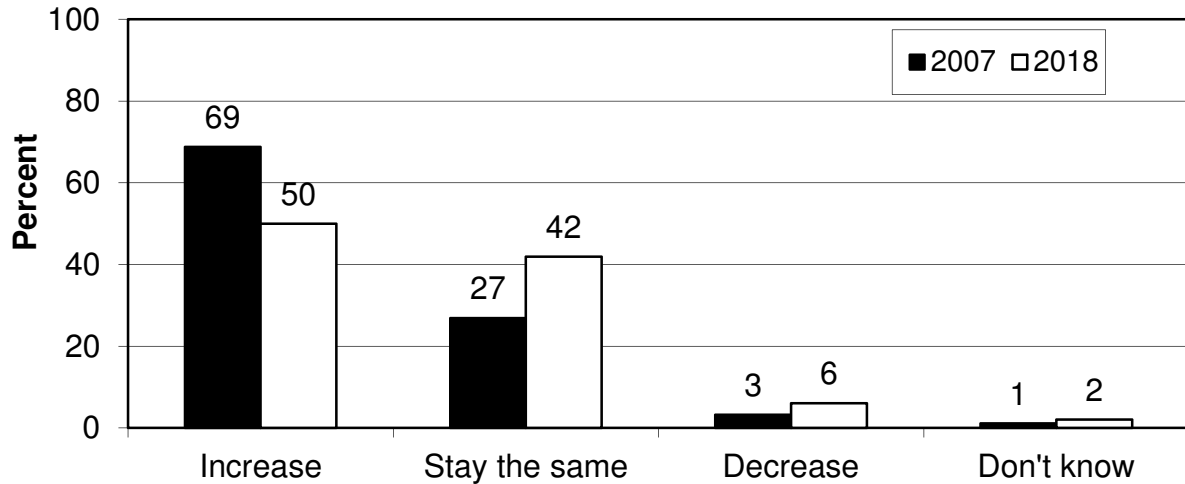
**Q79. Would you like to see the deer population where you hunt on public lands in Region A increase, stay the same, or decrease? (Asked of those who hunted deer on public lands in Region A in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**



**Q81. Would you like to see the deer population where you hunt on private lands in Region A increase, stay the same, or decrease? (Asked of those who hunted deer on private lands in Region A in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**

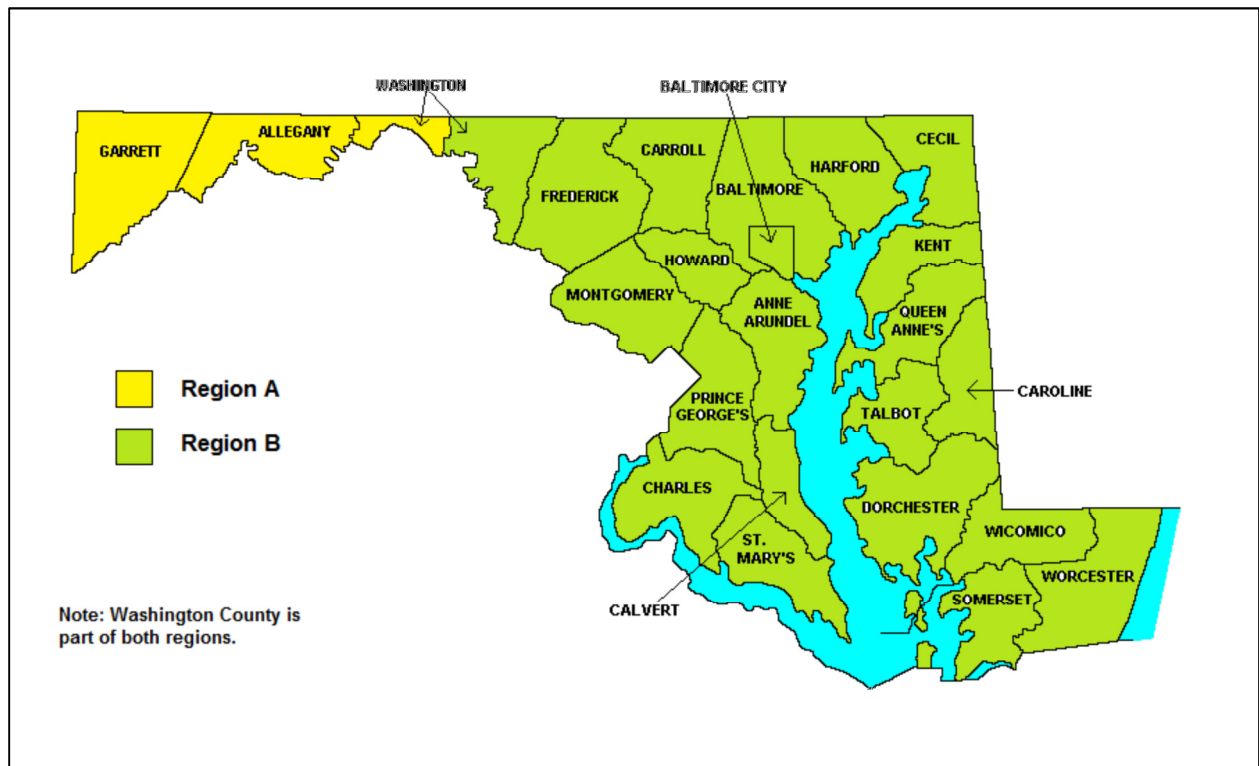


**Q81. Would you like to see the deer population where you hunt on private lands in Region A increase, stay the same, or decrease? (Asked of those who hunted deer on private lands in Region A in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**



## HUNTING IN REGION B

- As discussed previously, the DNR separates Maryland into two regions: Region A, made up of Allegany, Garrett, and western Washington Counties, and Region B, consisting of the rest of the state. These regions are shown in the map below; this section looks at Region B.

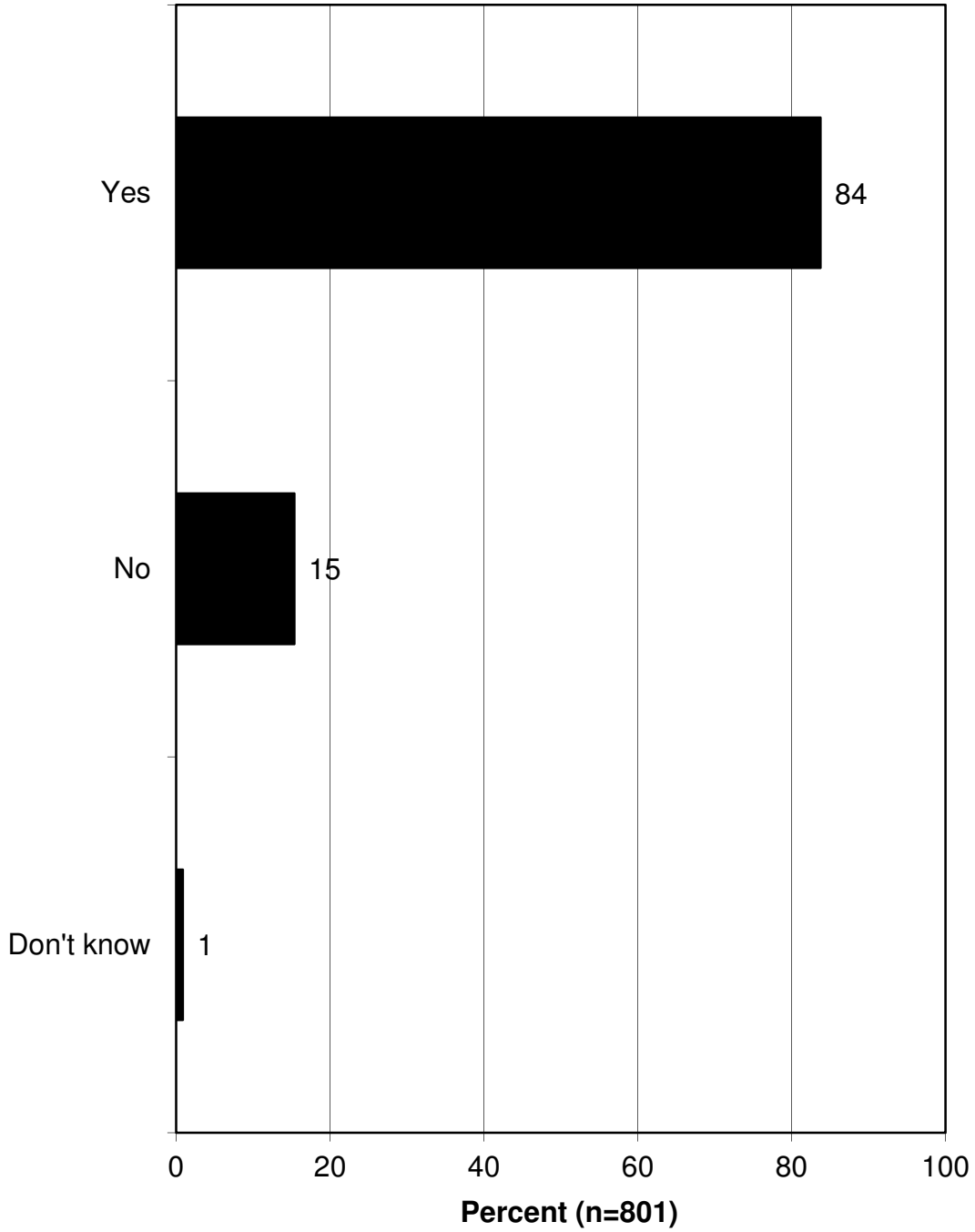


Map produced in color; may not be legible in black and white printing.

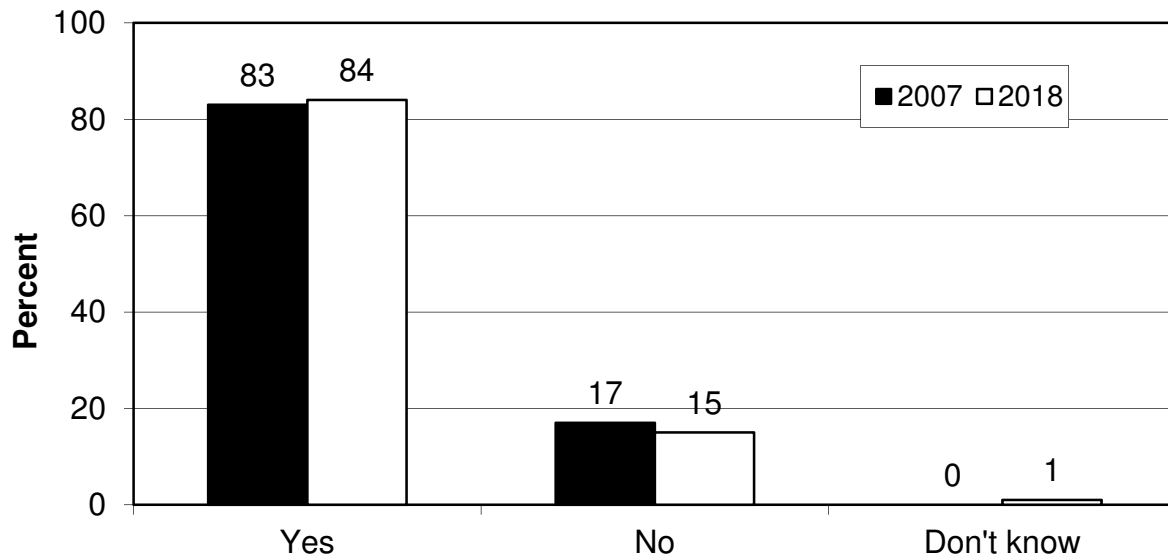
- Among all hunters in the hunter survey, 84% hunted deer in Region B.
  - Among Region B hunters, about a quarter hunted deer on public land there frequently or sometimes over the past 2 years (28% did so).
    - As was the case with Region A, the most common reason for no longer hunting or for hunting less on public lands in Region B is having other locations in which to hunt. And again, crowding and safety concerns because of other hunters and recreationists are the reasons given among the small group who received the questions.
  - Among Region B hunters, 84% hunted on private lands in Region B frequently or sometimes.

- Region B hunters were asked about their perceptions of the deer population there.
  - The majority of Region B public land deer hunters would like to see the deer population on public land in Region B increase (58% do so), while only 4% want to see it decrease. Meanwhile, 35% want it to stay the same.
  - Those who had hunted on private land in Region B most commonly want the deer population there to stay the same (53% give this response); otherwise, they, by far, want to see it increase (36%) rather than decrease (9%).
  
- Region B hunters were asked about their opinions on various regulations in Region B.
  - Support (75%) far exceeds opposition (18%) to the 10 antlerless deer per season bag limit for muzzleloader season and firearms season for Region B.
    - When asked what the antlerless bag limit per season for muzzleloader and firearms seasons in Region B should be, Region B hunters most commonly say it should be 10 (the current limit) (54% give this response). Meanwhile, 10% say it should be unlimited. Other desired bag limits are shown on the graph.
  - Regarding archery season, at the time of the survey there was an unlimited antlerless deer bag limit in Region B. Two thirds of Region B hunters (67%) support this unlimited bag limit, while 27% oppose it.
    - When asked to name their desired bag limit for archery (currently unlimited), Region B hunters most commonly say it should be unlimited (52% give this response); otherwise, a relatively substantial percentage say it should be 10 antlerless deer (13%).

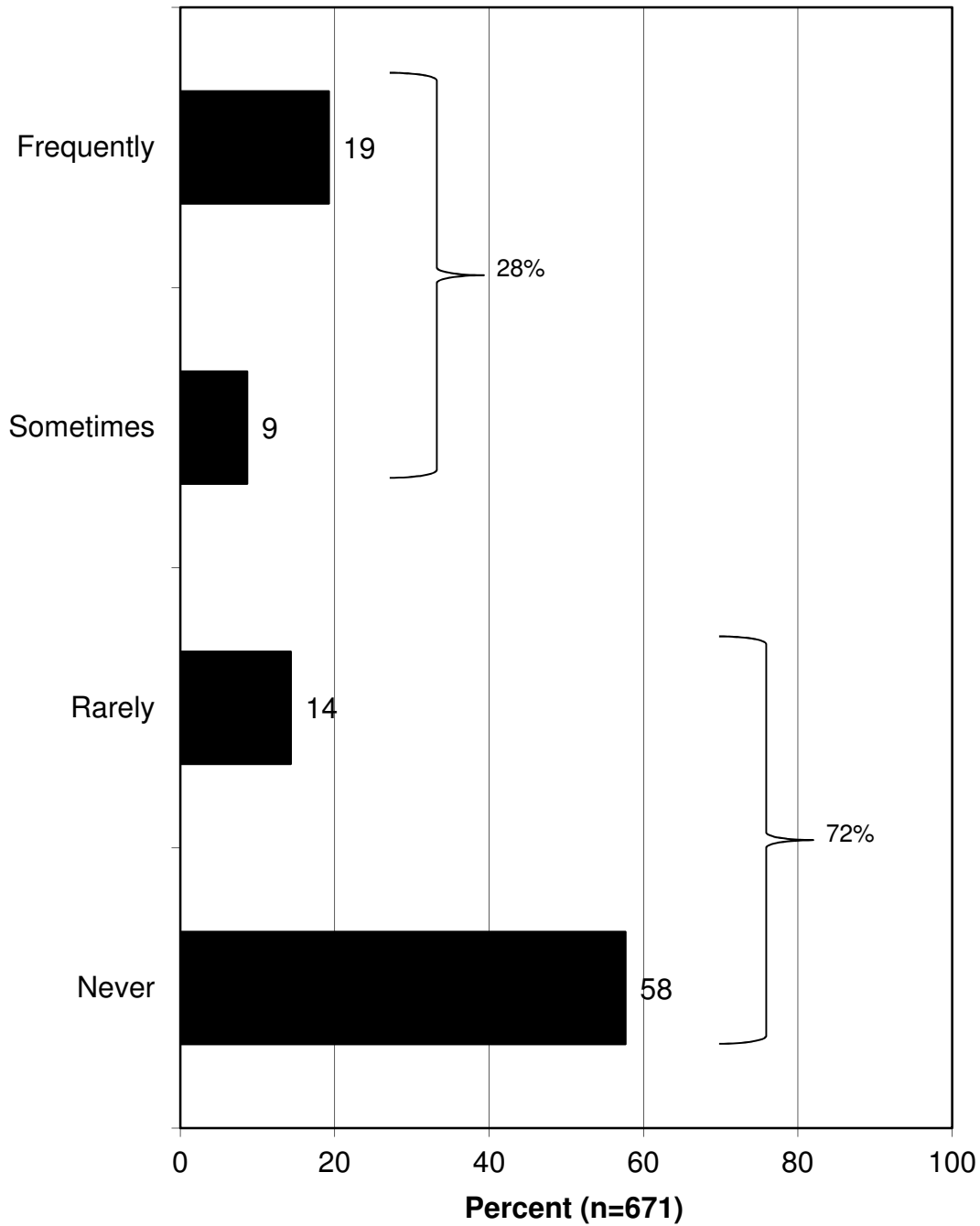
**Q83. Did you hunt deer in Region B in the past 2 years? (Hunter survey)**



**Q83. Did you hunt deer in Region B in the past 2 years?  
(Hunter survey)**

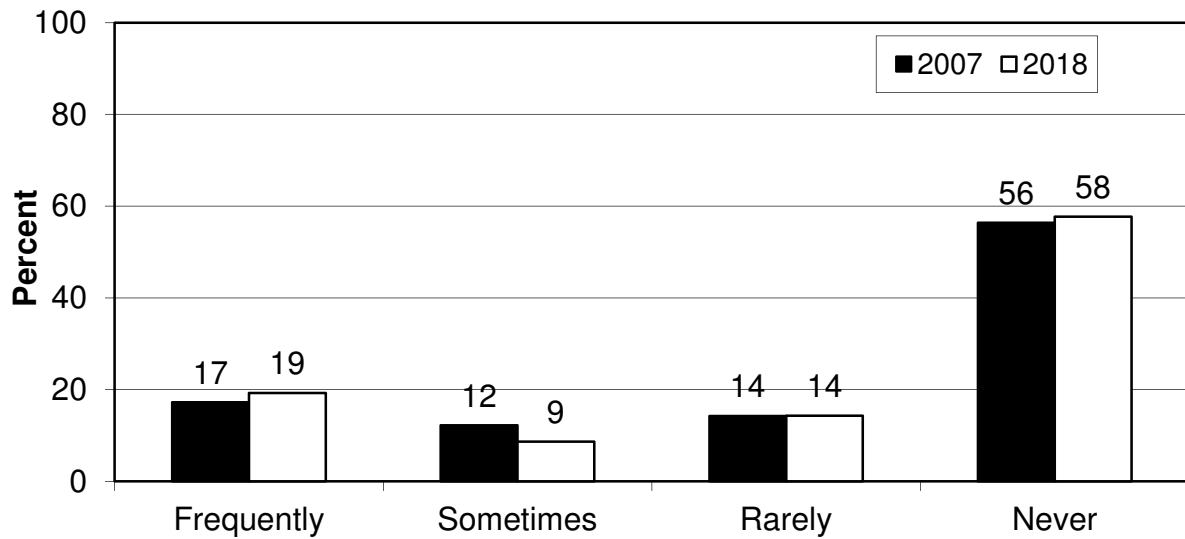


**Q92. How often did you hunt on public lands in Region B in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who hunted deer in Region B in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**

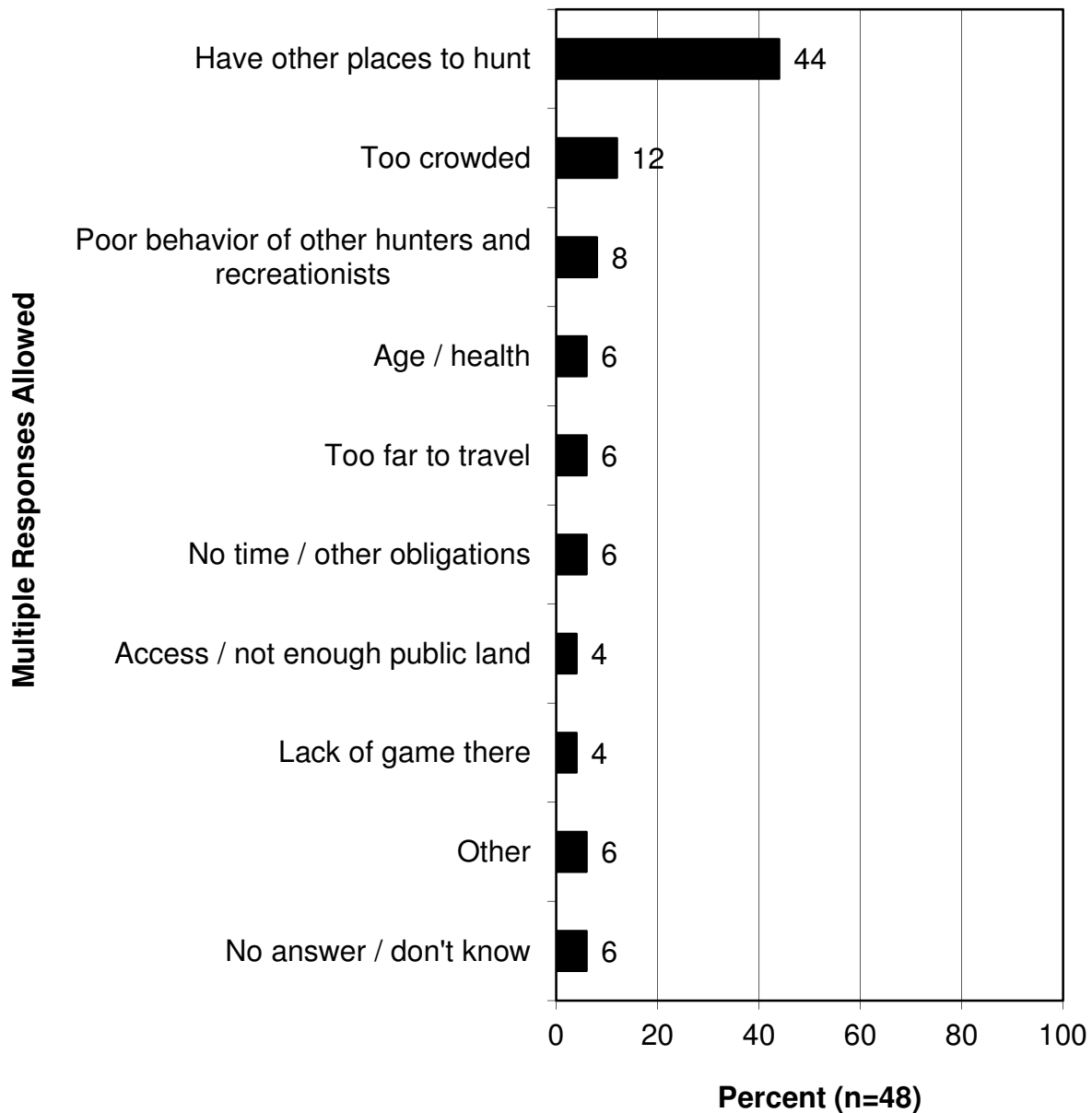




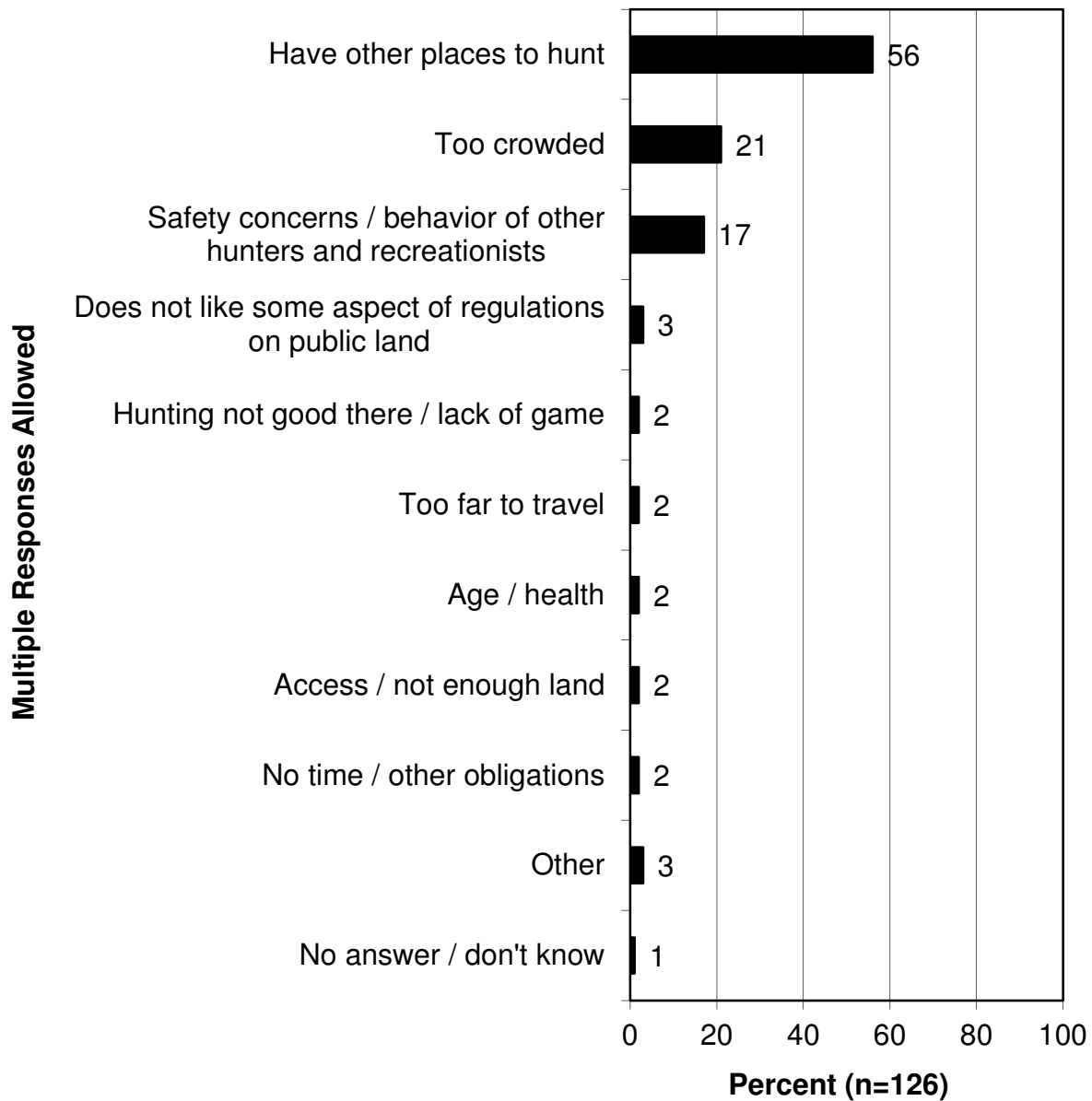
**Q92. How often did you hunt on public lands in Region B in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who hunted deer in Region B in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**



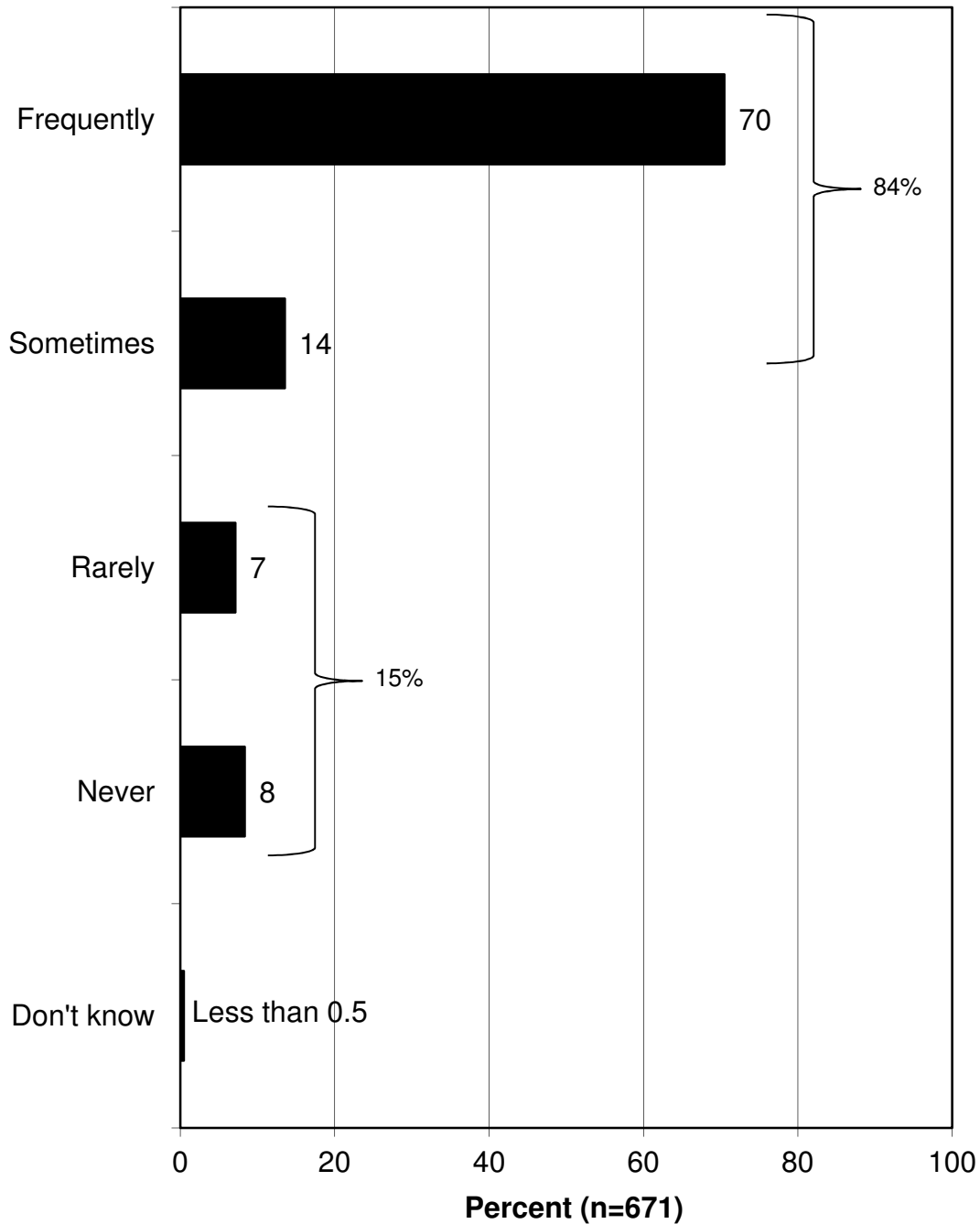
**Q94. Why did you hunt deer on public lands in Region B less often in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who hunted deer in Region B in the past 2 years on public lands, but did so only rarely and who used to do so more often.) (Hunter survey)**



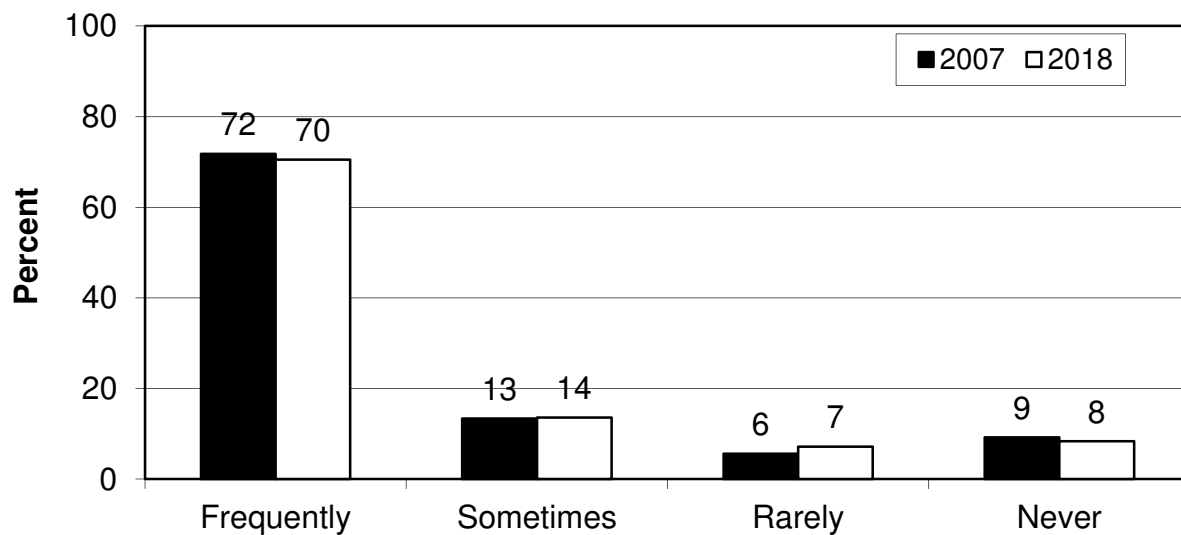
**Q96. Why have you not hunted deer on public lands in Region B in the past 2 years? (Asked of Region B hunters who said that they did not hunt on public lands in Region B over the past 2 years but that they used to hunt them.) (Hunter survey)**



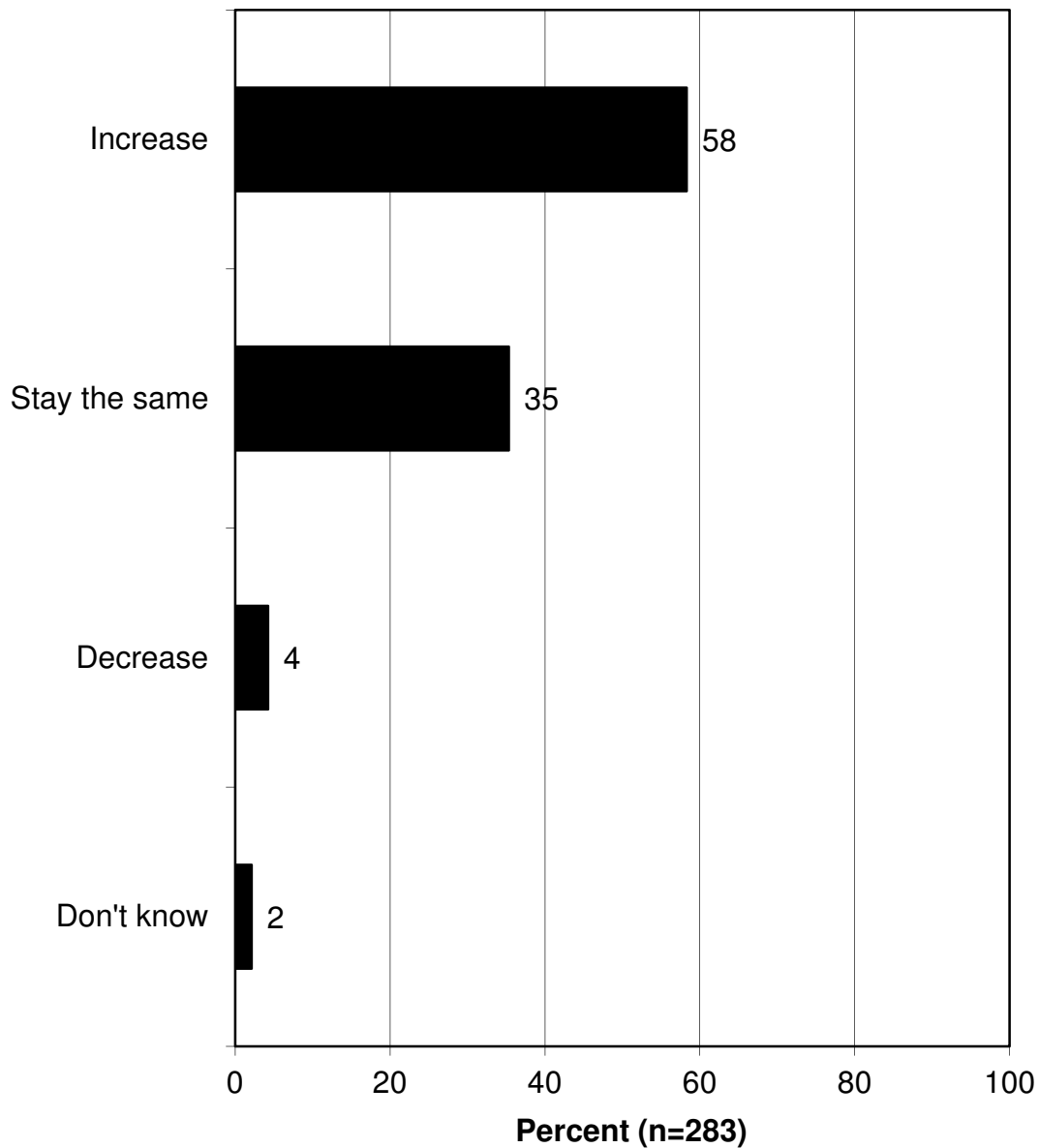
**Q103. How often did you hunt on private lands in Region B in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who hunted deer in Region B in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**



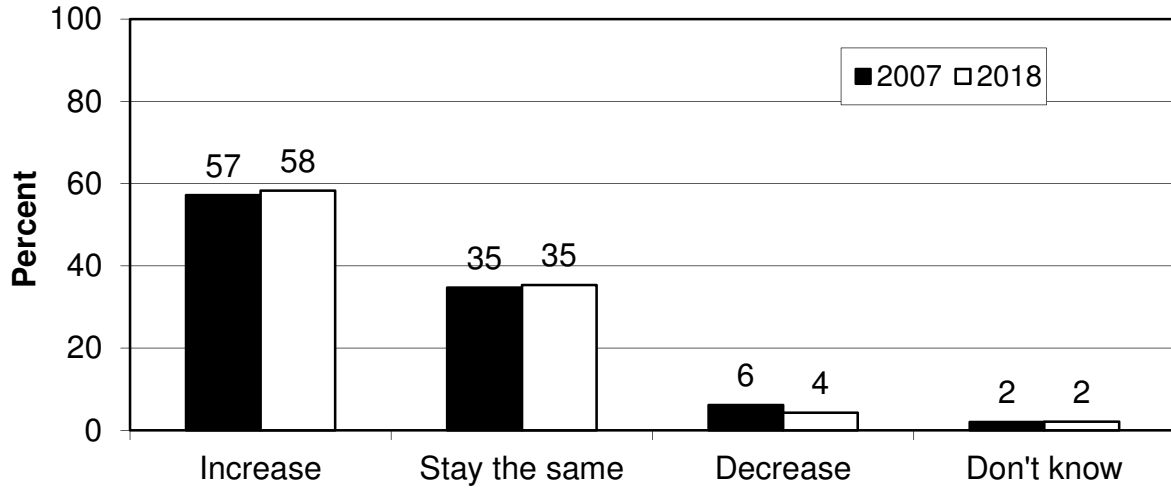
**Q103. How often did you hunt on private lands in Region B in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who hunted deer in Region B in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**



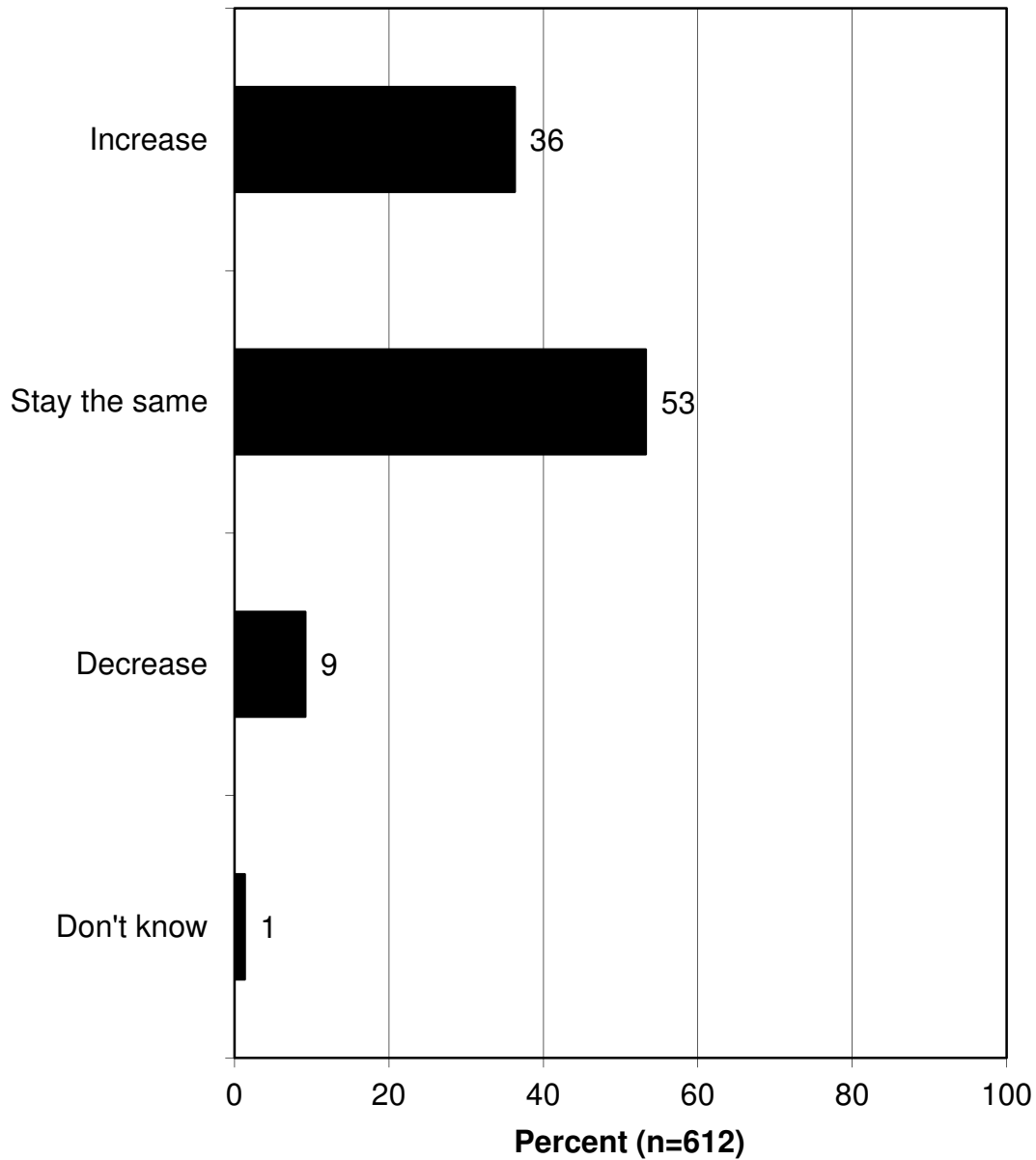
**Q97. Would you like to see the deer population on the public lands in Region B where you hunt increase, stay the same, or decrease? (Asked of those who hunted deer on public lands in Region B in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**



**Q97. Would you like to see the deer population on the public lands in Region B where you hunt increase, stay the same, or decrease? (Asked of those who hunted deer on public lands in Region B in the past 2 years.)  
(Hunter survey)**

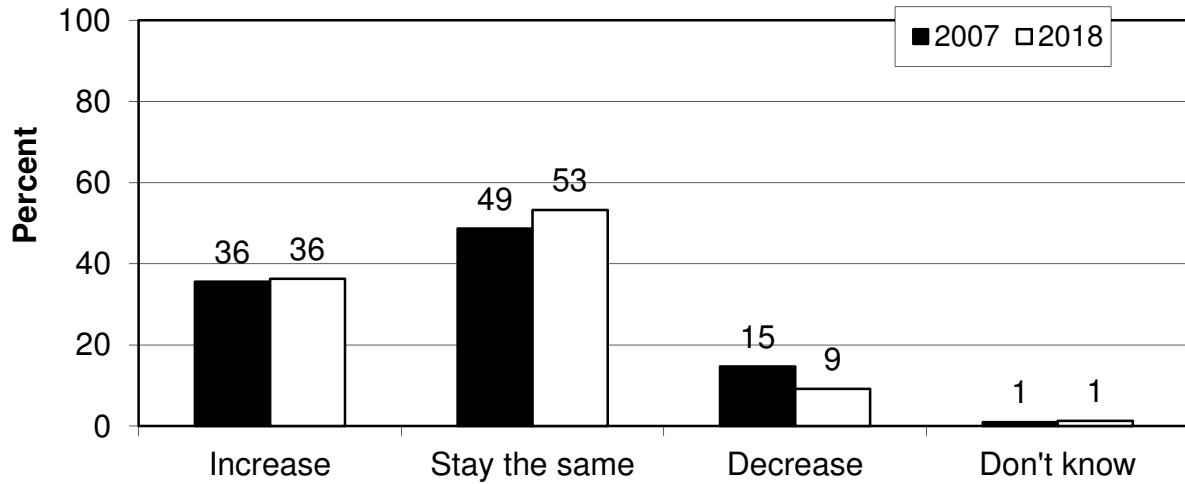


**Q104. Would you like to see the deer population on private lands in Region B where you hunt increase, stay the same, or decrease? (Asked of those who hunted deer on private lands in Region B in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**

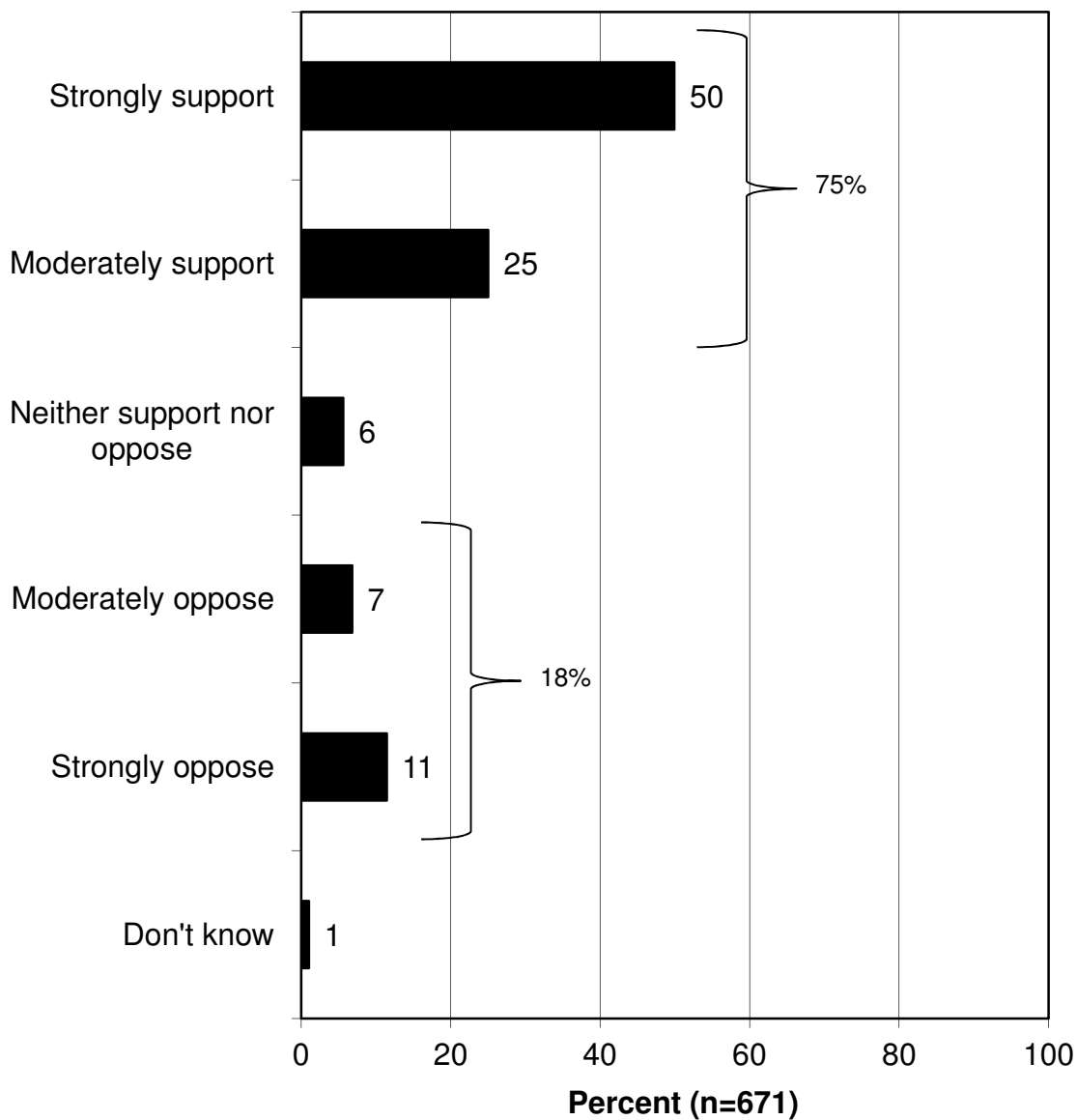




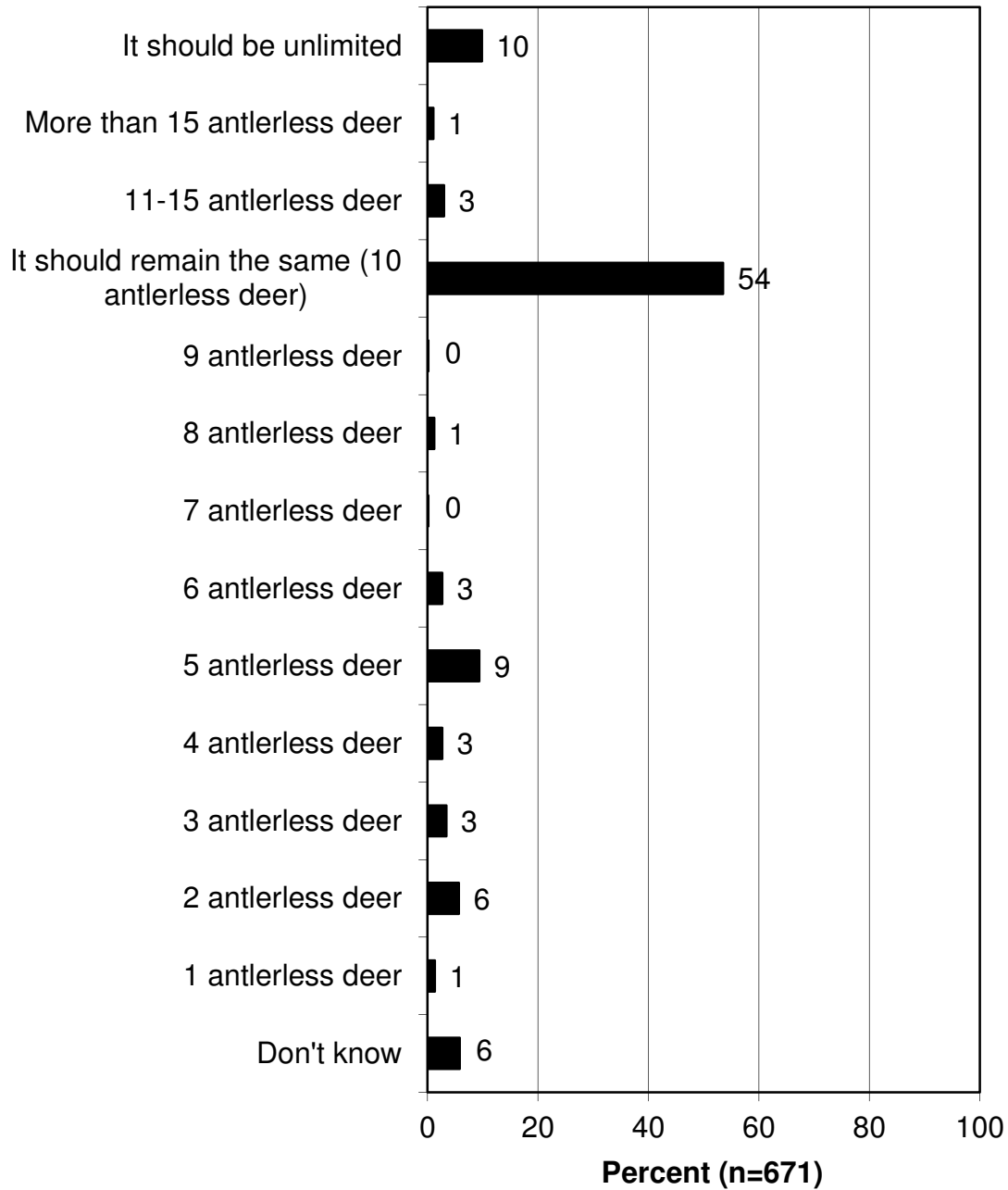
**Q104. Would you like to see the deer population on private lands in Region B where you hunt increase, stay the same, or decrease? (Asked of those who hunted deer on private lands in Region B in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**



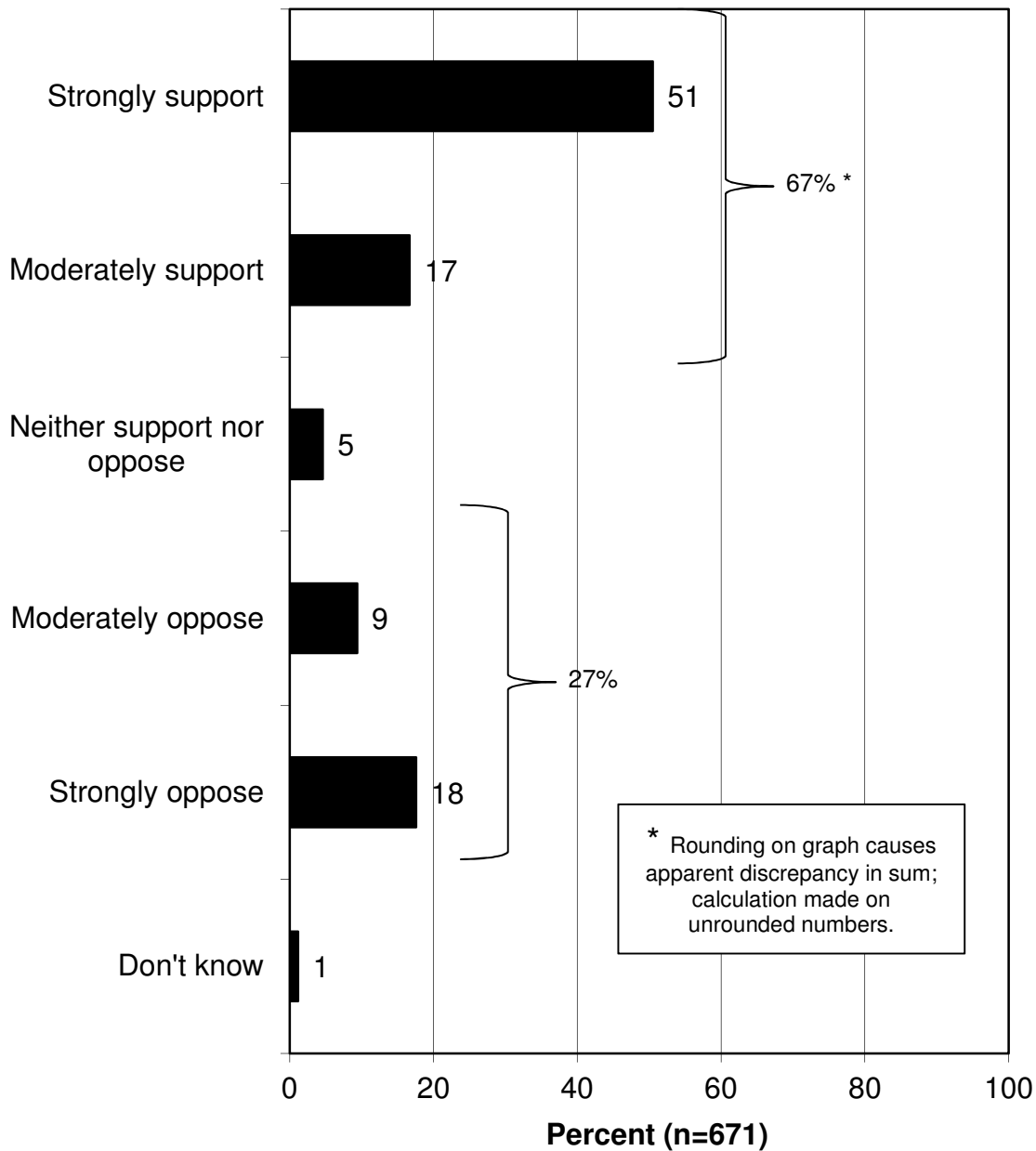
**Q84. Currently, the antlerless deer bag limit for Region B is 10 antlerless deer per season for the firearms season and muzzleloader season. Do you support or oppose the 10 antlerless deer per season bag limit for muzzleloader season and firearms season for Region B? (Asked of those who hunted deer in Region B in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**



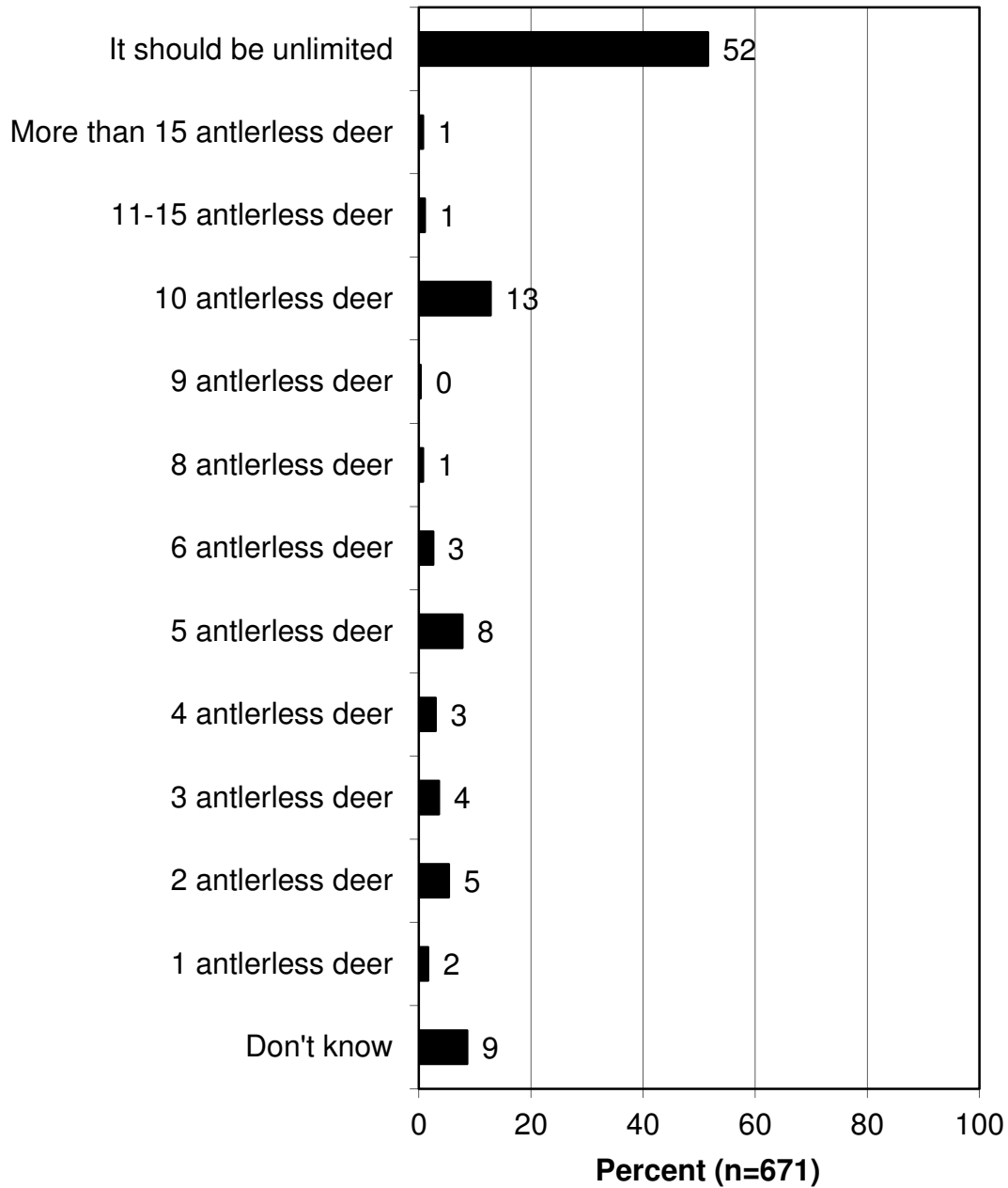
**Q85. In your opinion, what should the antlerless bag limit be per season for muzzleloader and firearms seasons in Region B? (Asked of those who hunted deer in Region B in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**



**Q88. Currently, there is an unlimited antlerless deer bag limit in Region B for the archery season. Do you support or oppose the unlimited antlerless deer bag limit for archery season for Region B? (Asked of those who hunted deer in Region B in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**

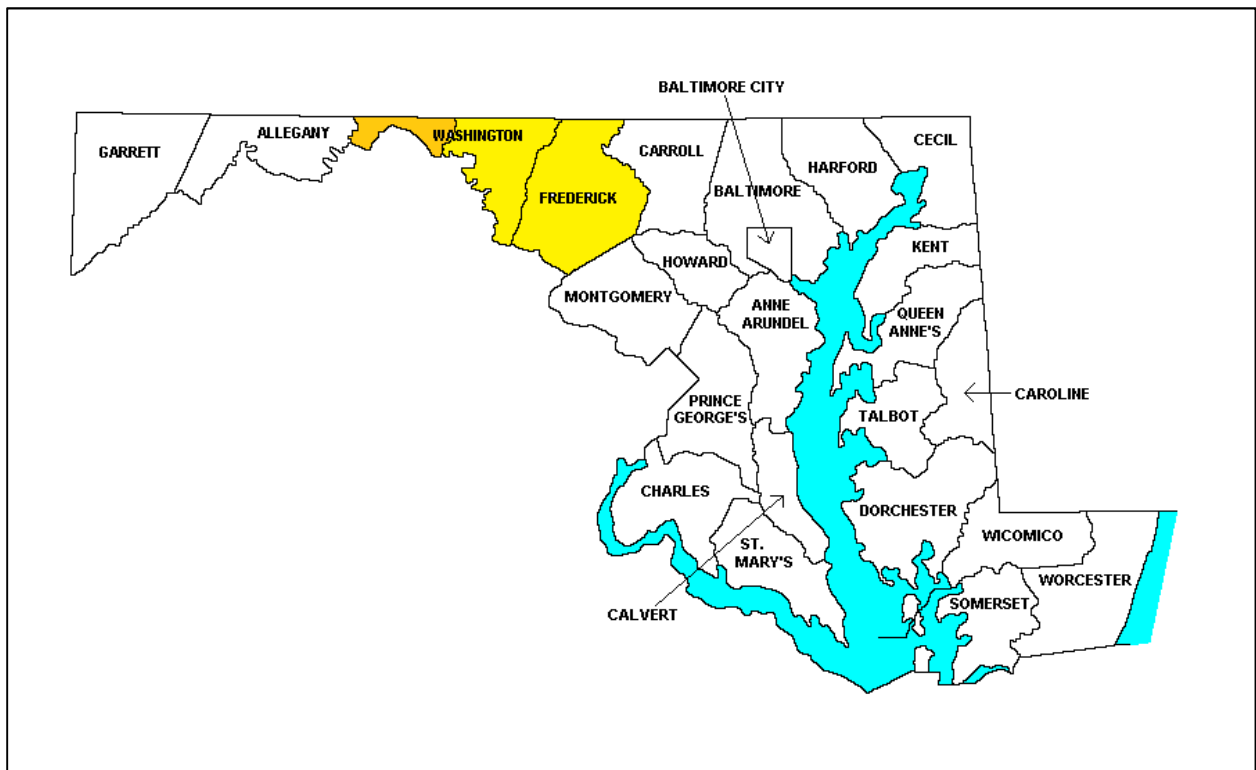


**Q89. In your opinion, what should the antlerless bag limit for archery season be for Region B?  
(Asked of those who hunted deer in Region B in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**



## HUNTING IN WASHINGTON AND FREDERICK COUNTIES

- The map below shows Washington and Frederick Counties. The questions about these counties were within the survey section on Region B; therefore, the questions were asked of all hunters who had hunted in Region B. Strictly speaking, the western part of Washington County is in Region A, but as these questions were asked of Region B hunters, the assumption is reasonable that the questions were answered regarding the Region B part of Washington County. The two parts of Washington County are shaded differently, with the western portion being in Region A.

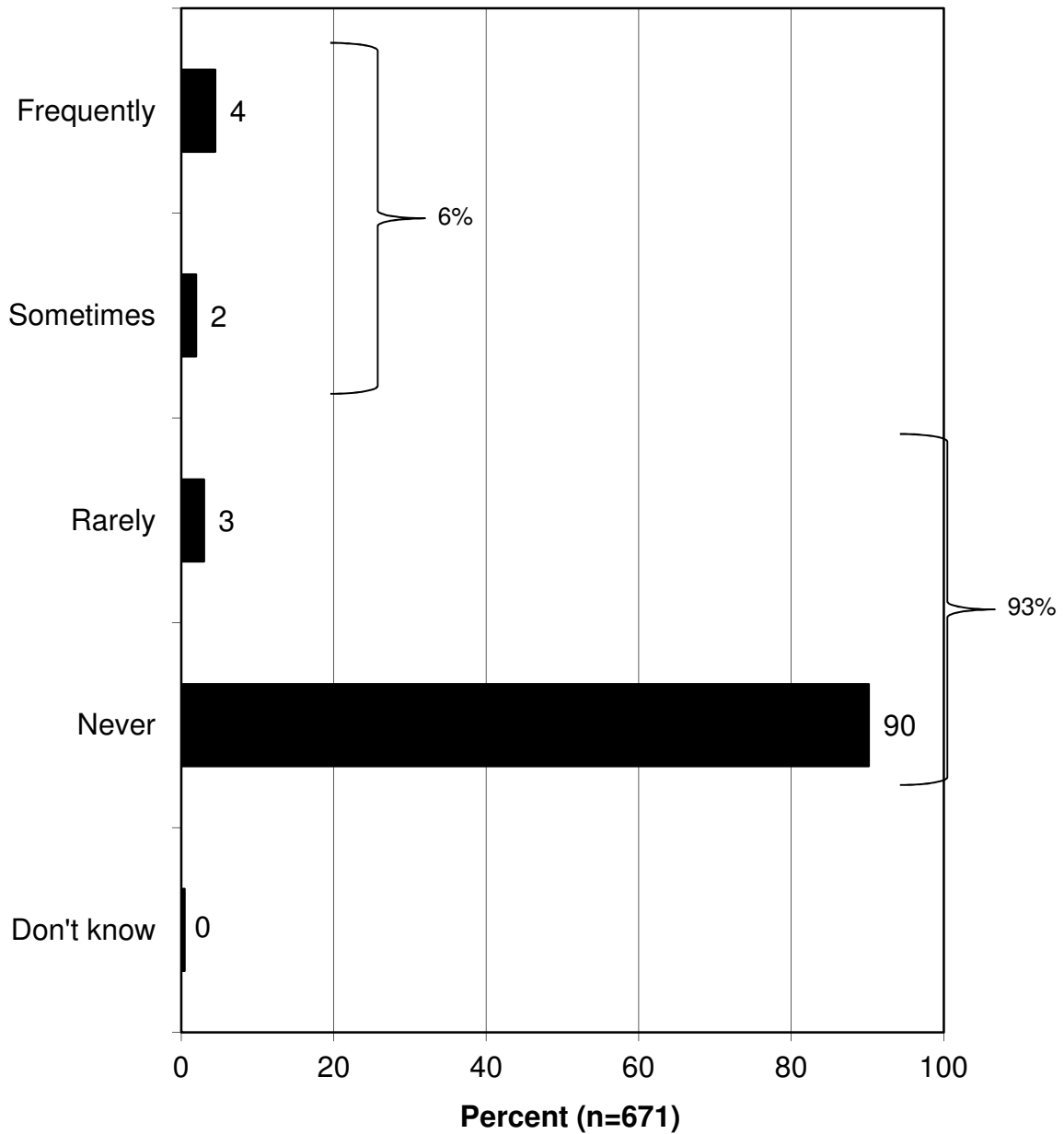


Map produced in color; may not be legible in black and white printing.

- As indicated above, the survey asked Region B hunters specifically about hunting in Washington and Frederick Counties.
- Among those who hunted in Region B, 6% hunted on public lands in Washington or Frederick Counties frequently or sometimes.
  - Of Region B hunters, 18% hunted on private land in Washington or Frederick Counties in the past 2 years.

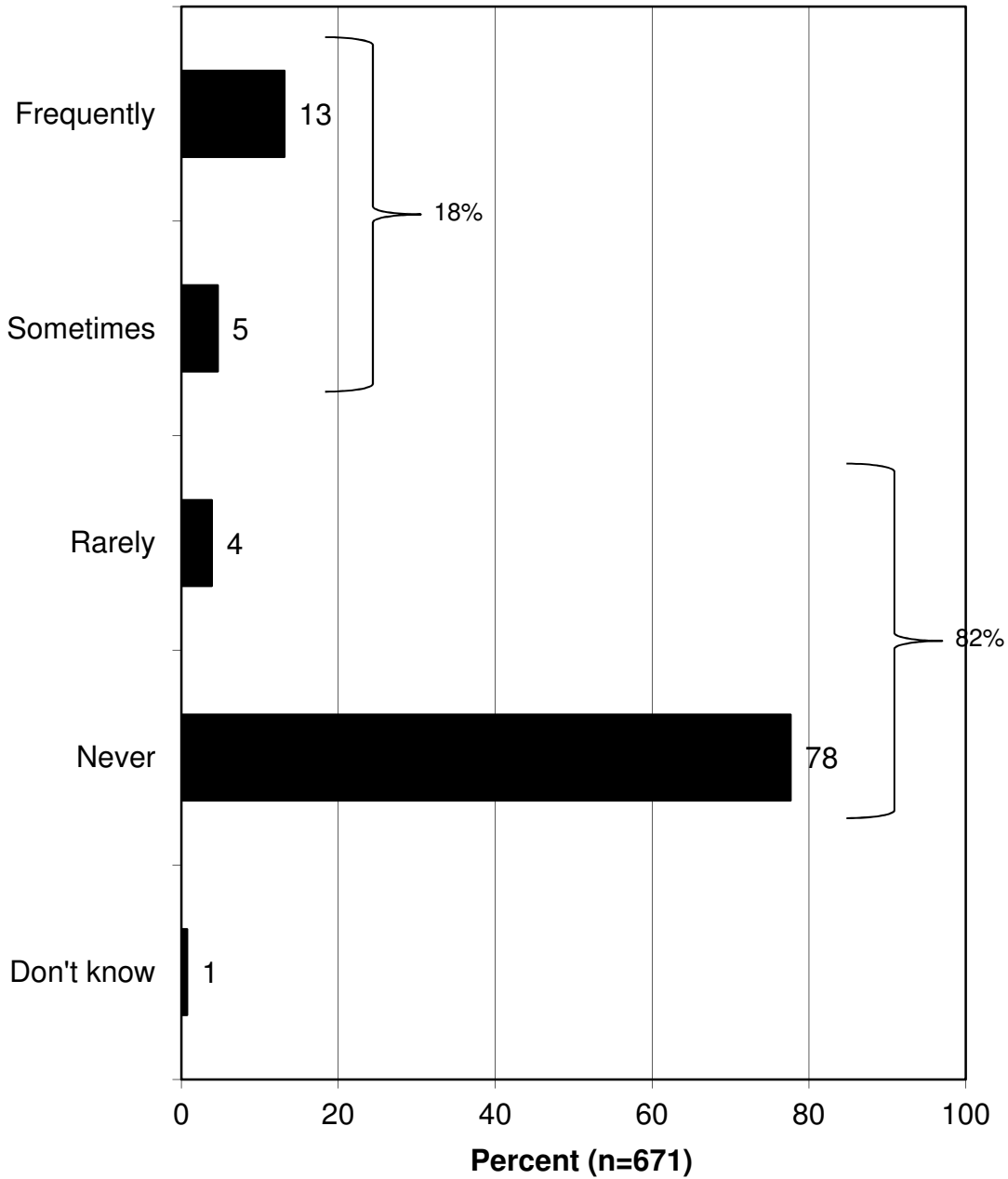
- All those who hunted on public lands in Washington or Frederick Counties were asked about the deer population: 49% would like to see an increase in the deer population on public lands in these two counties, while 40% would like to see it stay the same. Only 5% want to see it decrease.
  
- Those who hunted deer on private land in Washington or Frederick Counties in the past 2 years were asked whether they agree or disagree that deer hunting on public lands there should be managed separately from deer hunting on private lands: agreement (35%) is a bit higher than disagreement (20%); however, they most commonly answer neutrally or that they do not know (45% give one of these two responses).

**Q98. How often did you hunt deer on public lands in Washington or Frederick County in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who hunted deer in Region B in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**

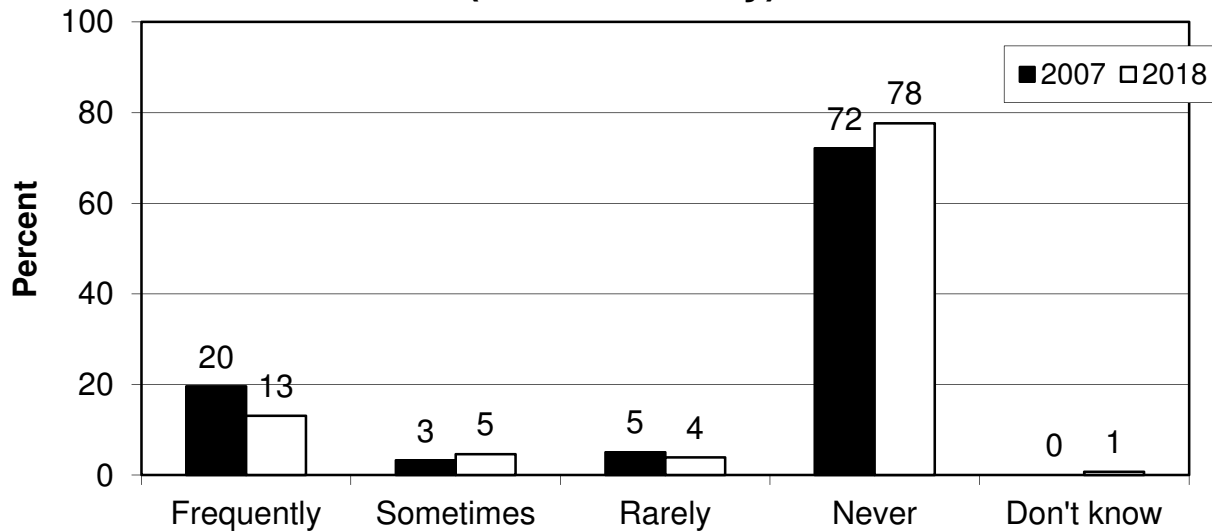




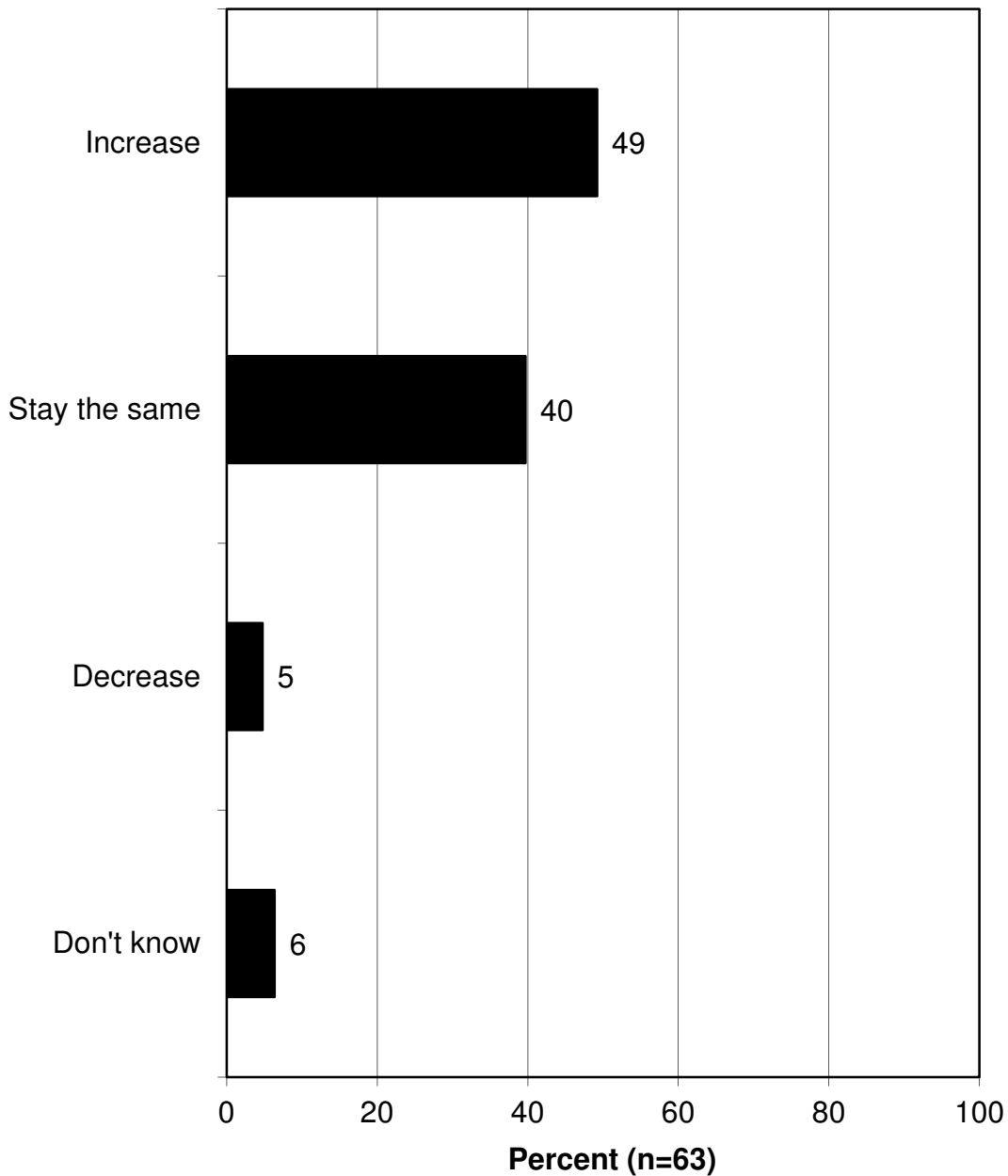
**Q100. How often did you hunt deer on private lands in Washington or Frederick County in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who hunted deer in Region B in the past 2 years.)  
(Hunter survey)**



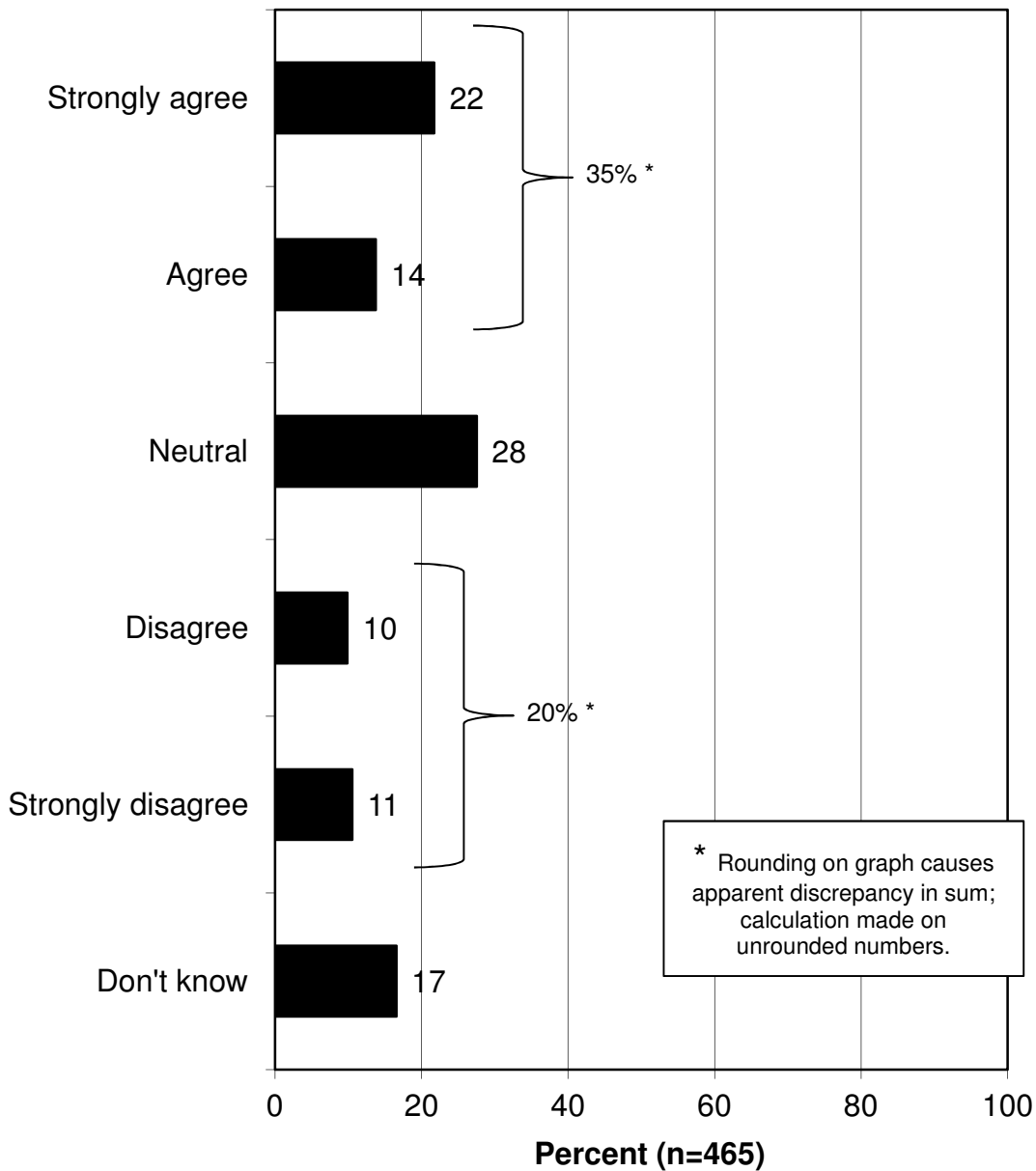
**Q100. How often did you hunt deer on private lands in Washington or Frederick County in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who hunted deer in Region B in the past 2 years.)  
(Hunter survey)**



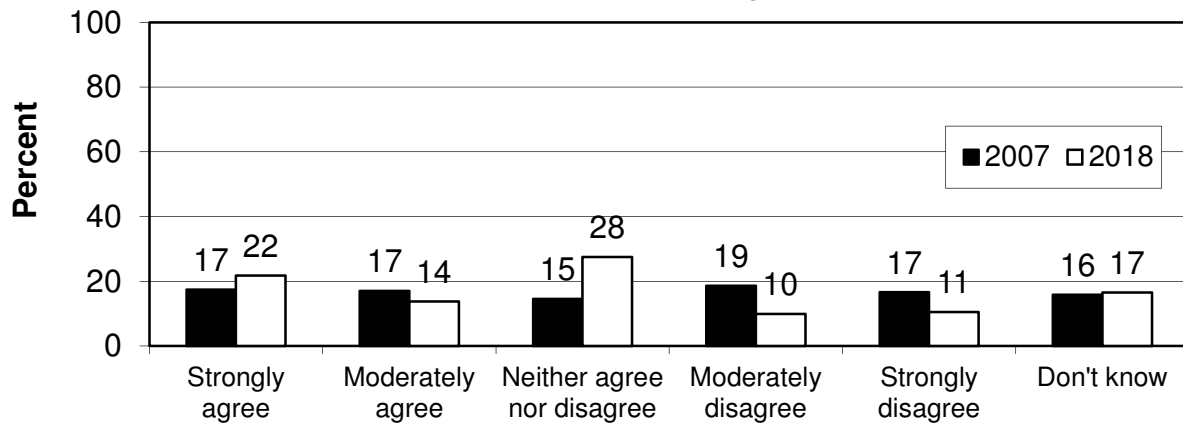
**Q99. Would you like to see the deer population on public lands in Washington and Frederick Counties where you hunt increase, stay the same, or decrease? (Asked of those who hunted deer on public lands in Washington or Frederick Counties in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**



**Q101. Do you agree or disagree that deer hunting on public lands in Washington and Frederick Counties should be managed separately from deer hunting on private lands in Washington and Frederick Counties? (Asked of those who hunted deer on private lands in Washington or Frederick Counties in the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**



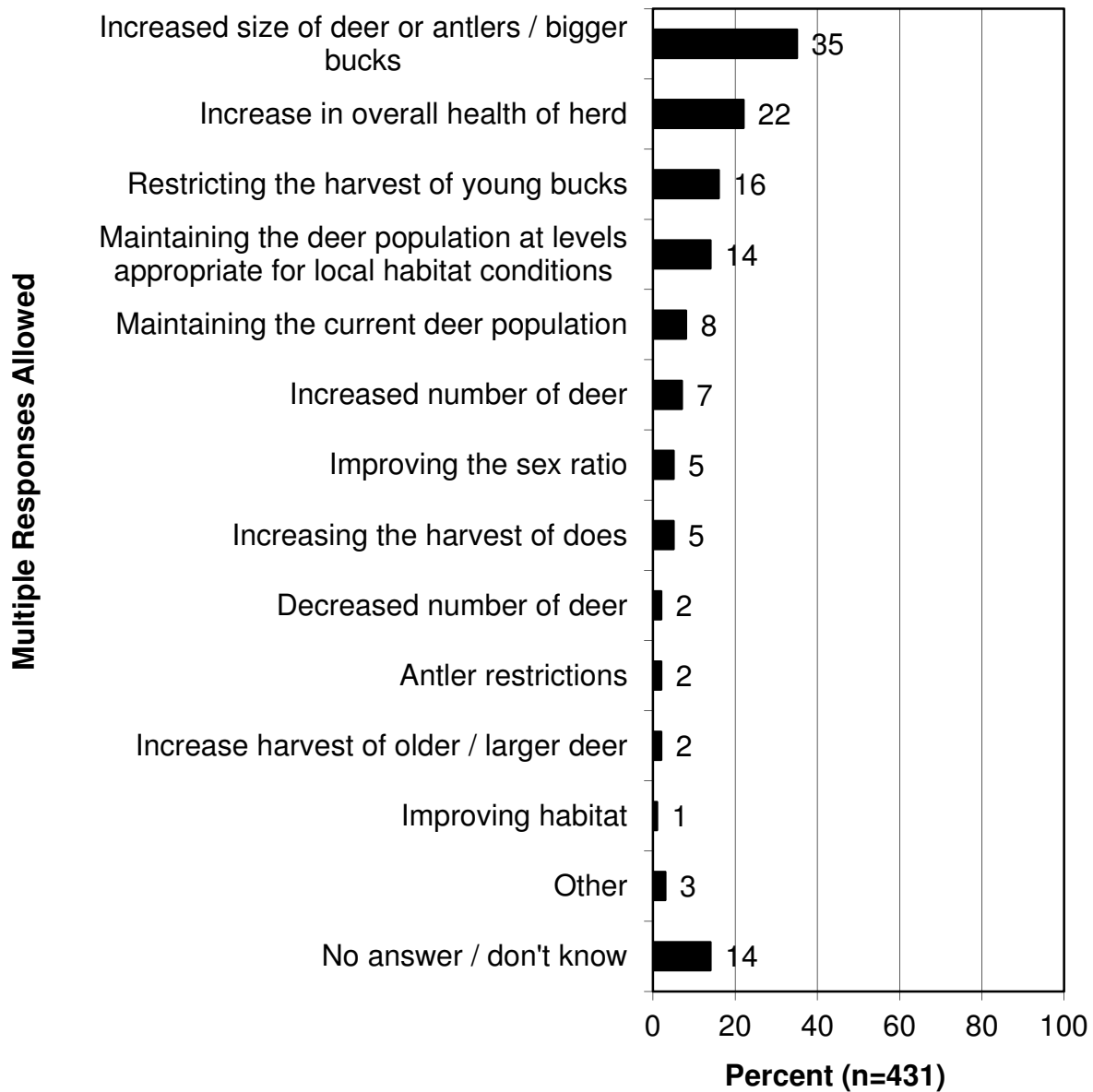
**Q101. Do you agree or disagree that deer hunting on public lands in Washington and Frederick Counties should be managed separately from deer hunting on private lands in Washington and Frederick Counties? (Asked of those who hunted deer on private lands in Washington or Frederick county.) (Hunter survey)**



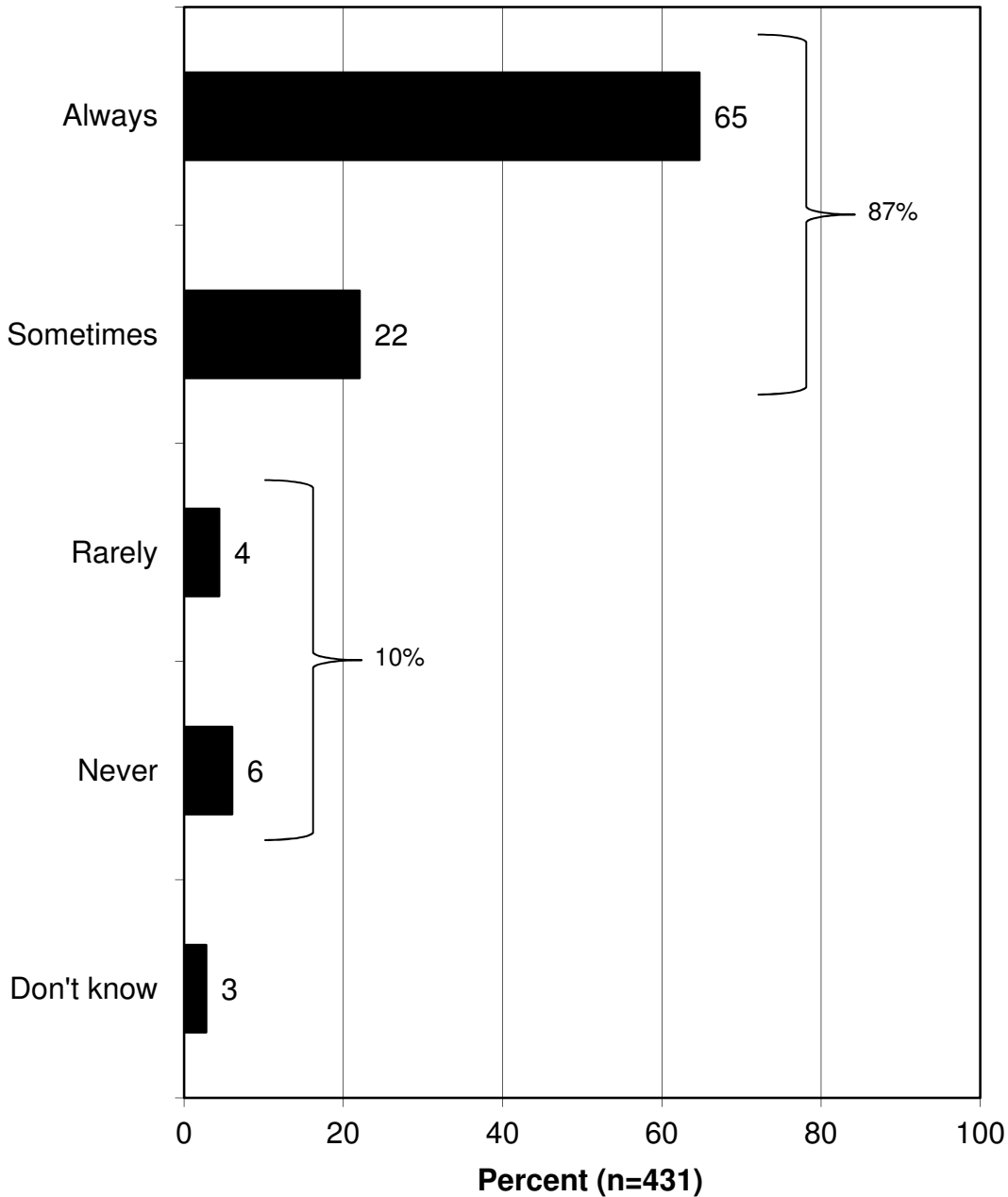
## OPINIONS ON QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT

- An open-ended question asked hunters to say what “quality deer management” means to them. While they most commonly give a response relating to having bigger deer and bigger bucks (35%), the next most common response is an increase in overall deer herd health (22%). Other responses with substantial percentages include restricting the harvest of young bucks (16%) and maintaining the deer herd at levels appropriate to the habitat conditions (14%).
- Most hunters (87%) say that they practice quality deer management always or sometimes, which means harvesting mostly does and *not* harvesting young bucks.
- Most hunters (79%) support recently enacted regulations where deer hunters can harvest two antlered deer of less than 3 points on one antler but any additional antlered deer must have at least 3 points on one antler. A small percentage (15%) oppose this quality deer management regulation.
- Lastly in this section, hunters were asked about which they would prefer regarding deer with less than 3 points on one antler. They would prefer harvest of only one deer of less than 3 points on one side (48%) rather than harvest of two such deer (25%) or three such deer (8%) or more than that (7%).

**Q109. Some hunters have asked the Department to do more to manage the deer herd for quality deer, but not everyone agrees on what this means. What does the term quality deer management mean to you? (Hunter survey)**

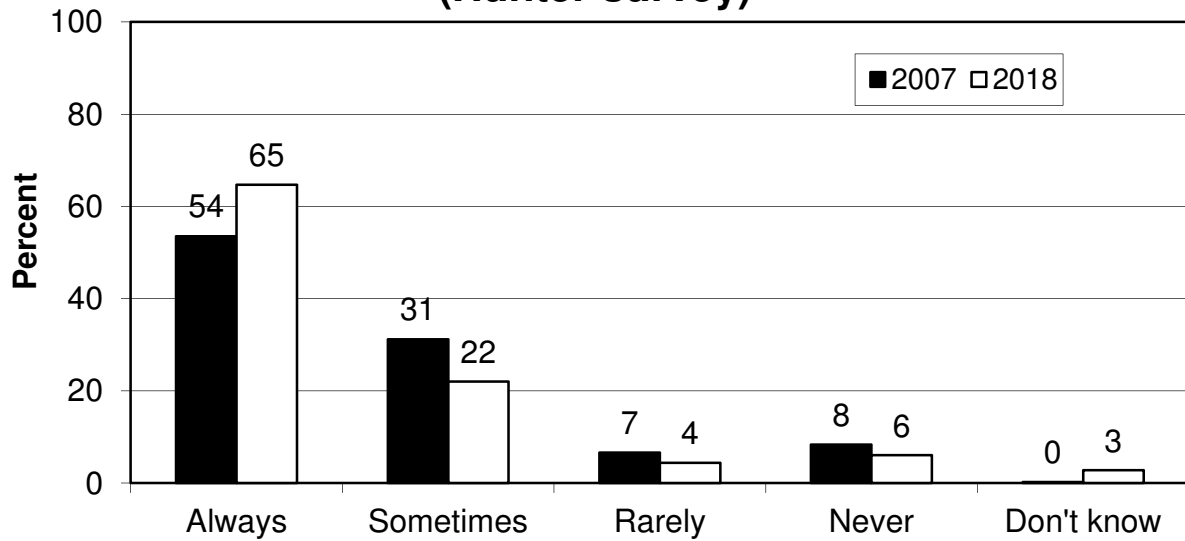


**Q112. How often do you practice quality deer management, that is harvesting mostly does and not harvesting bucks of less than 2 1/2 years old, when deer hunting in Maryland? Would you say you practice quality deer management always, sometimes, rarely, or never? (Hunter survey)**

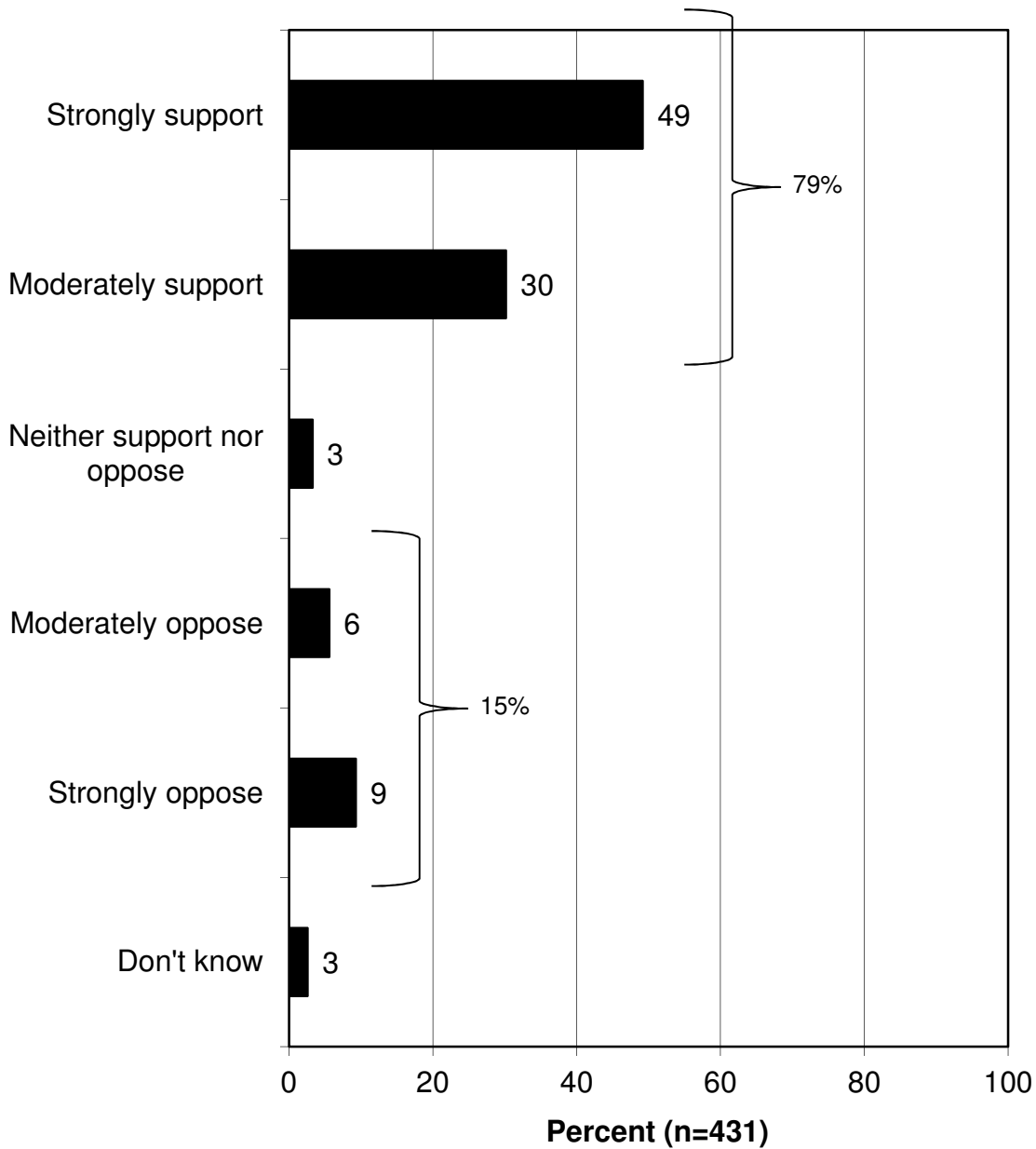




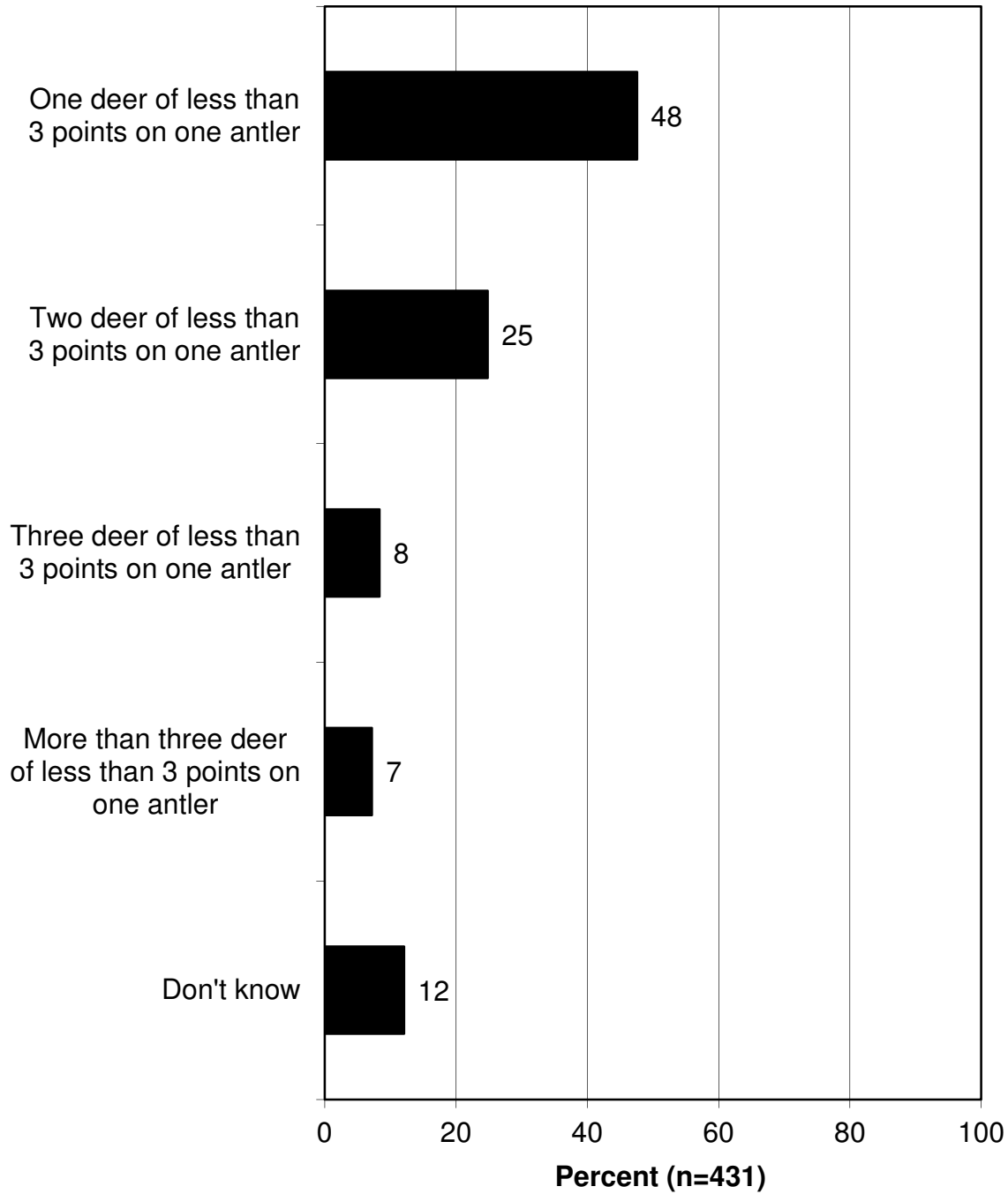
**Q112. How often do you practice quality deer management, that is harvesting mostly does and not harvesting bucks of less than 2 1/2 years old, when deer hunting in Maryland? (Hunter survey)**



**Q113. Recently, the DNR enacted quality deer management regulations. Deer hunters can harvest two antlered deer of less than 3 points on one antler. Any additional antlered deer must have at least 3 points on one antler. Do you support or oppose this current antler restriction? (Hunter survey)**



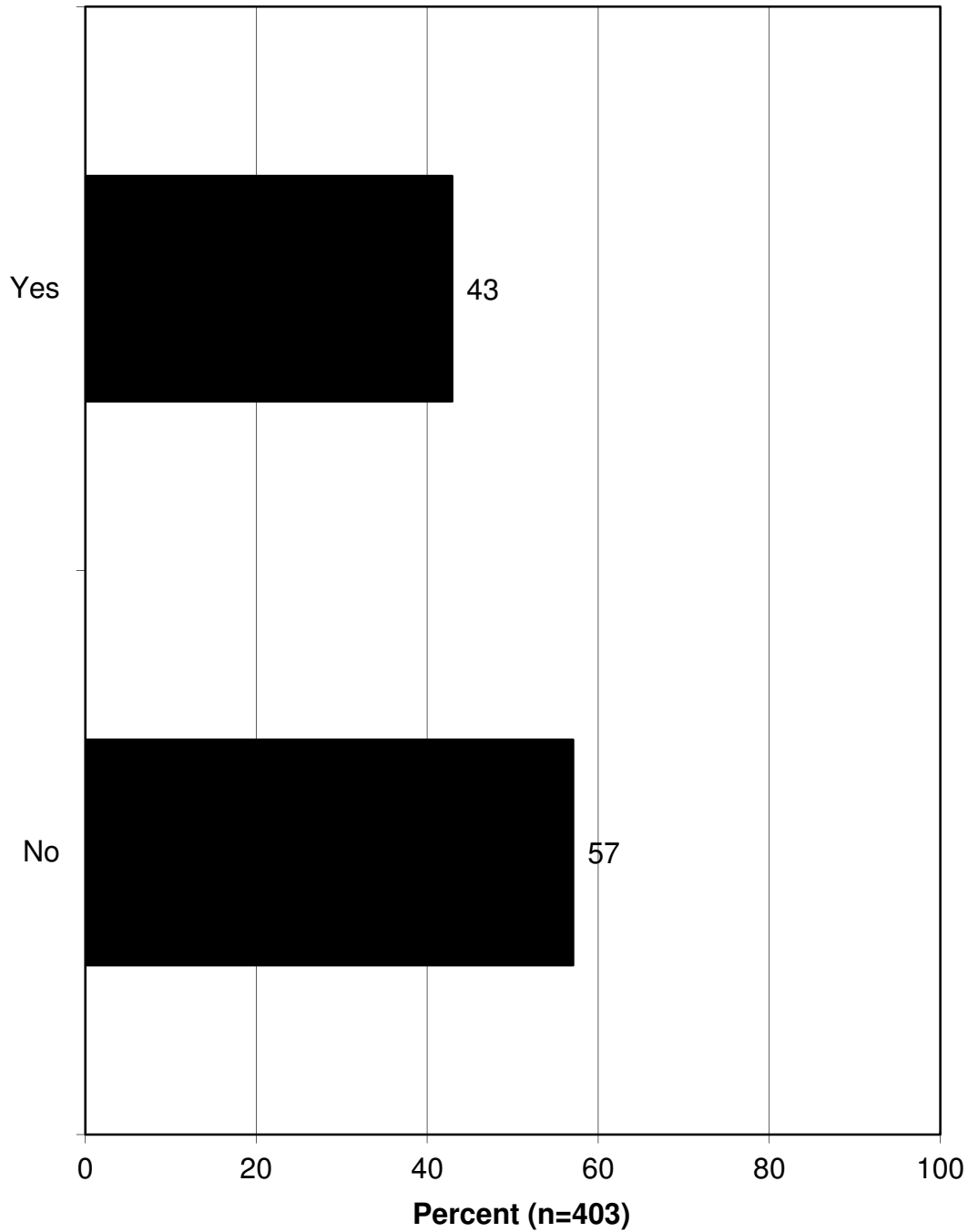
**Q114. Which would you prefer? Regulations that allowed harvest of only...? (Hunter survey)**



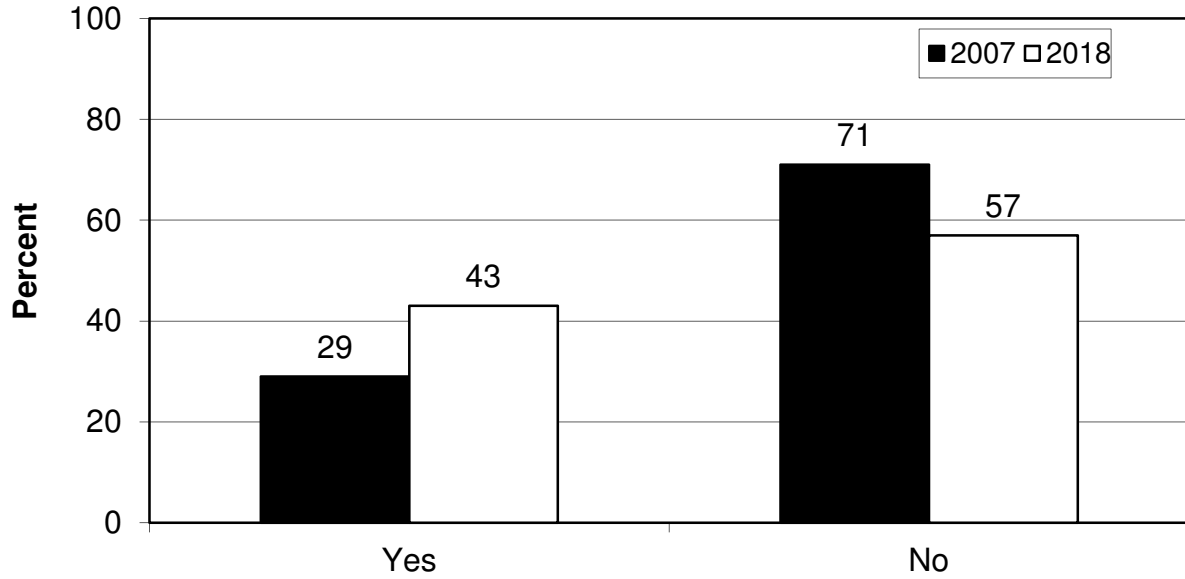
## HUNTING OVER BAIT

- A little less than half of deer hunters (43%) hunted deer over bait in the past 2 years.
- Regardless of whether they hunted over bait, a large majority of deer hunters (69%) support hunting deer by attracting them using bait, such as corn or another food.
  - Reasons given for supporting hunting deer over bait include a better chance of harvest (by far the top answer among deer hunters who support hunting over bait), that such hunting allows for better control of the deer population, and that such hunting helps with quality deer management.
  - The top reason for opposing is that hunters feel it is unethical/not fair to the deer to hunt over bait—by far the top response category.
- Landowners were asked about their support for or opposition to hunting deer over bait as well, and they are split, with a little more in the support (51%) side rather than the opposition (36%) side.
  - Their top reasons for supporting hunting over bait are increased harvest success and that it allows better control of the deer population.
  - As it is with hunters, the top reason that landowners oppose is that they feel it is unethical/not fair to the deer to hunt over bait—by far the top response category.
- The large majority of deer hunters would oppose (75%) making it illegal to hunt deer using bait on private lands, while 18% would support.

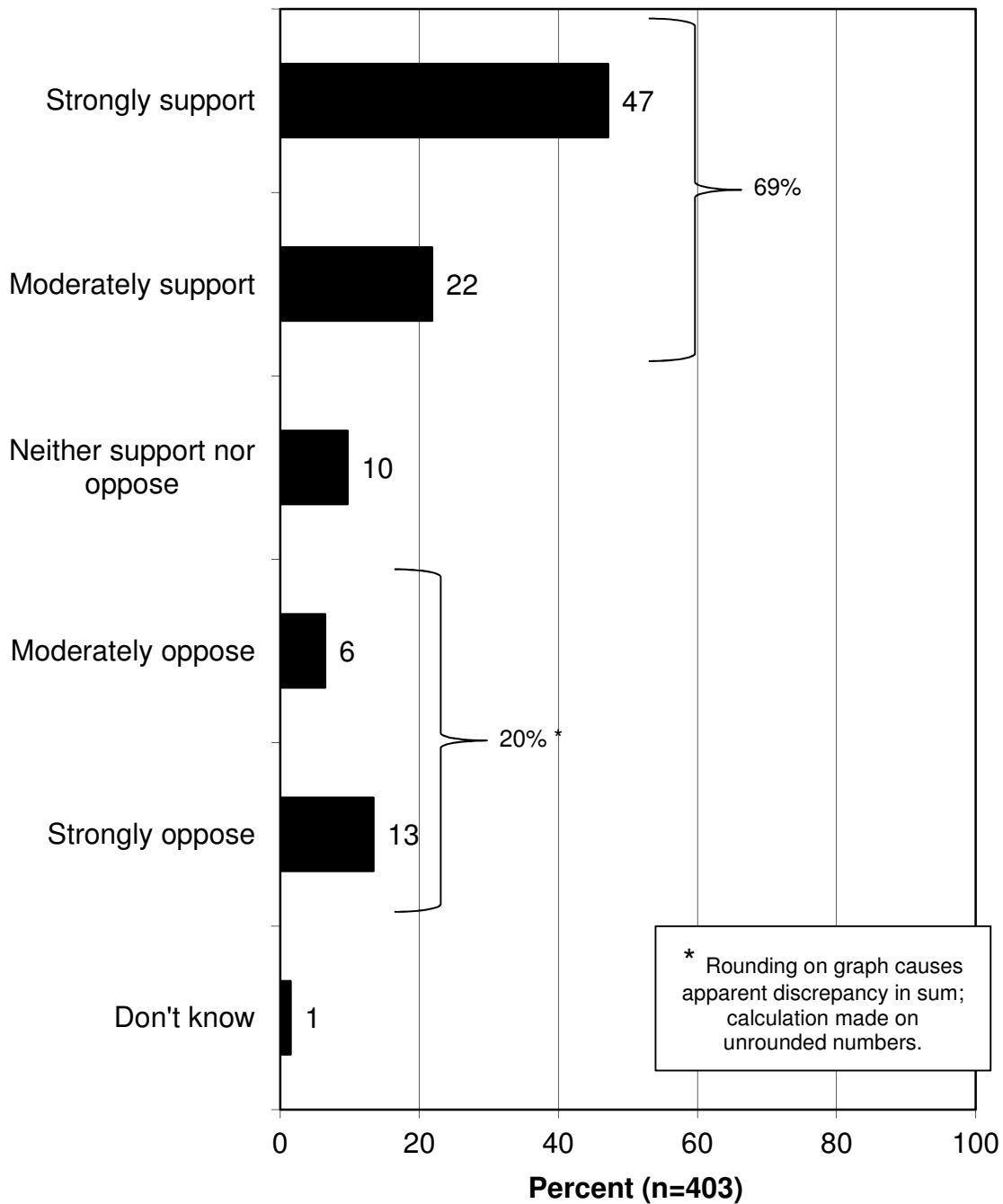
**Q115. Did you hunt deer using bait in Maryland in the past 2 years? (Hunter survey)**



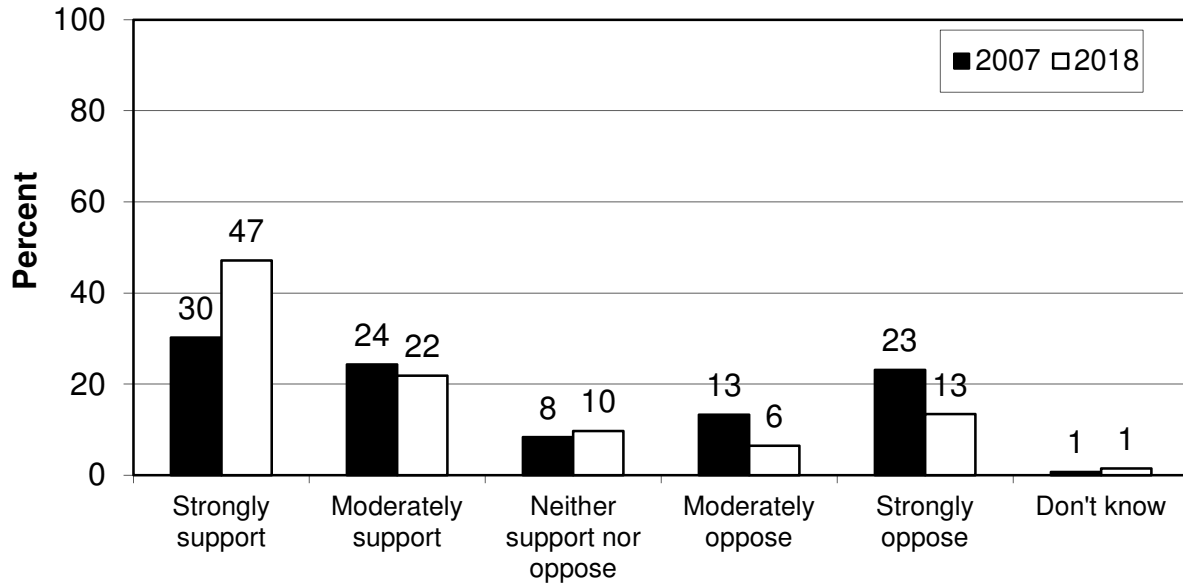
**Q115. Did you hunt deer using bait in Maryland  
in the past 2 years?  
(Hunter survey)**



**Q116. Do you support or oppose hunting deer by attracting them using bait, such as corn or another food as an attractant? (Hunter survey)**

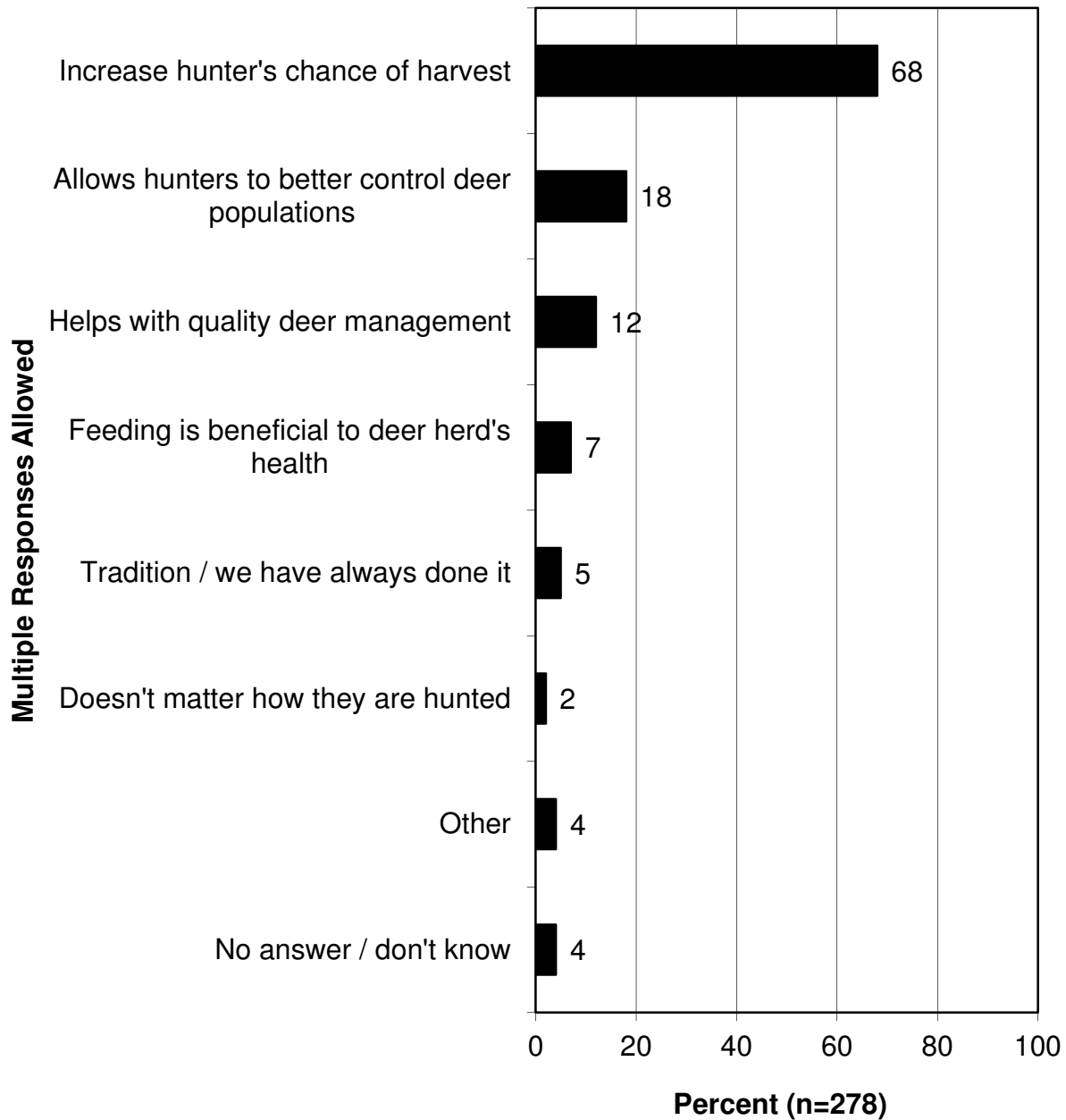


**Q116. Do you support or oppose hunting deer by attracting them using bait, such as corn or another food as an attractant?  
(Hunter survey)**

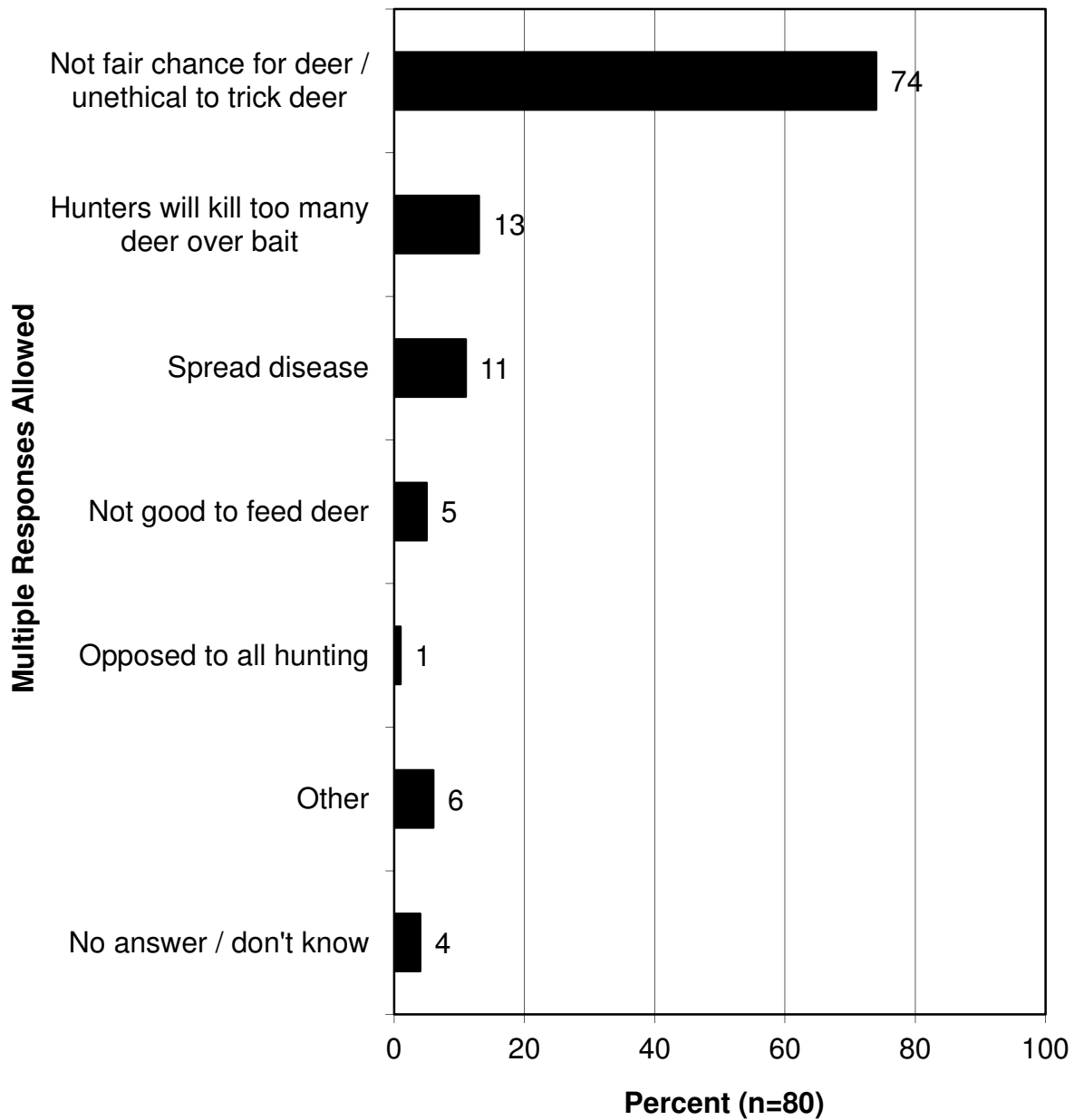




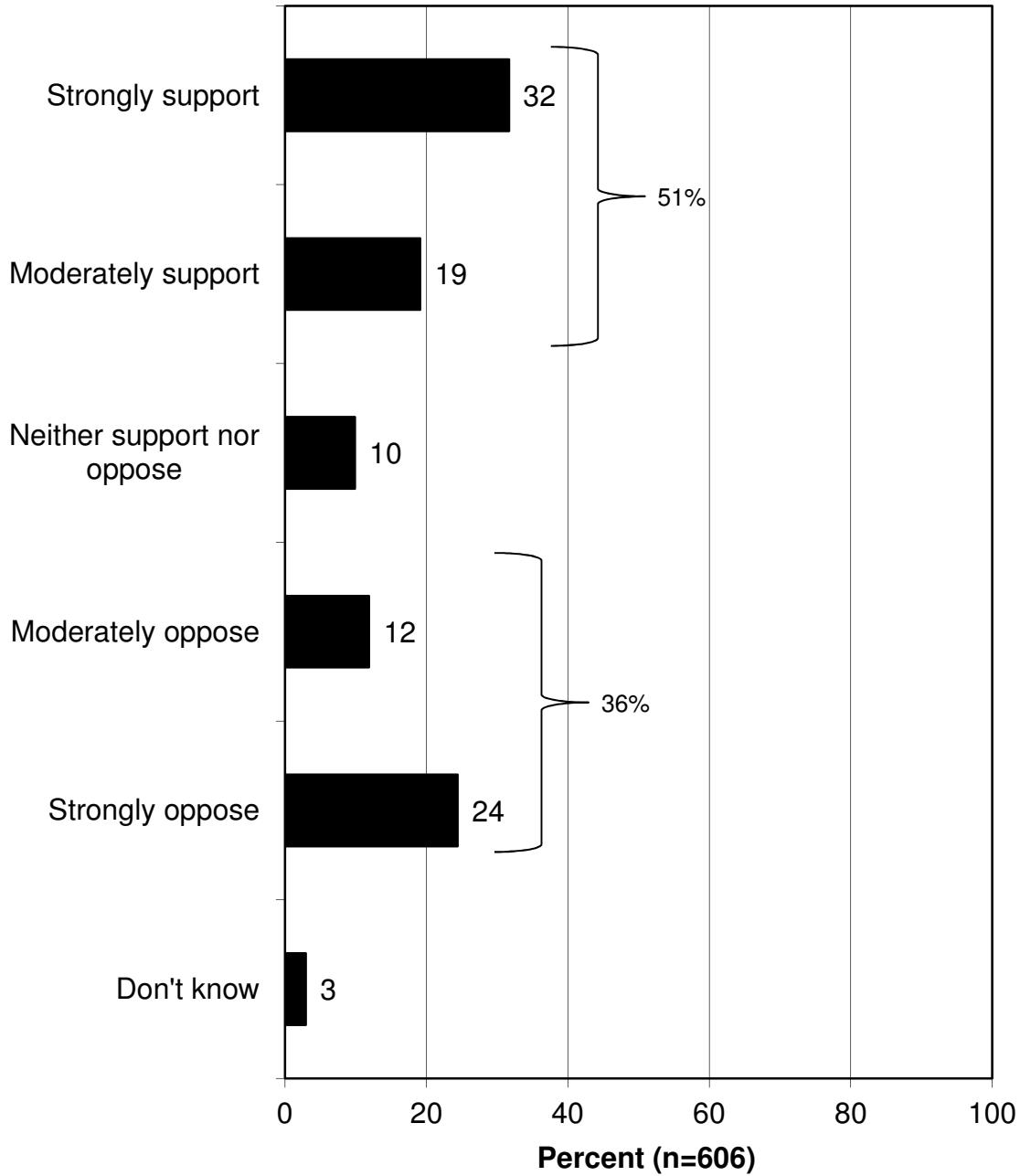
**Q119. What is your main reason for supporting hunting deer using bait? (Asked of those who support hunting deer using bait.) (Hunter survey)**



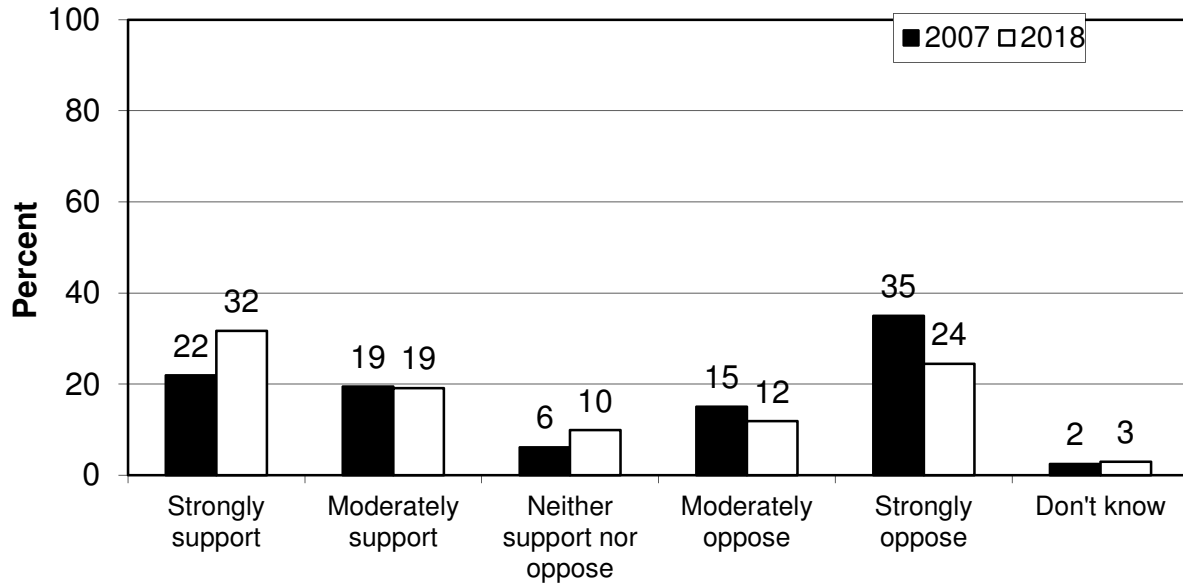
**Q123. What is your main reason for opposing hunting deer using bait? (Asked of those who oppose hunting deer using bait.)  
(Hunter survey)**



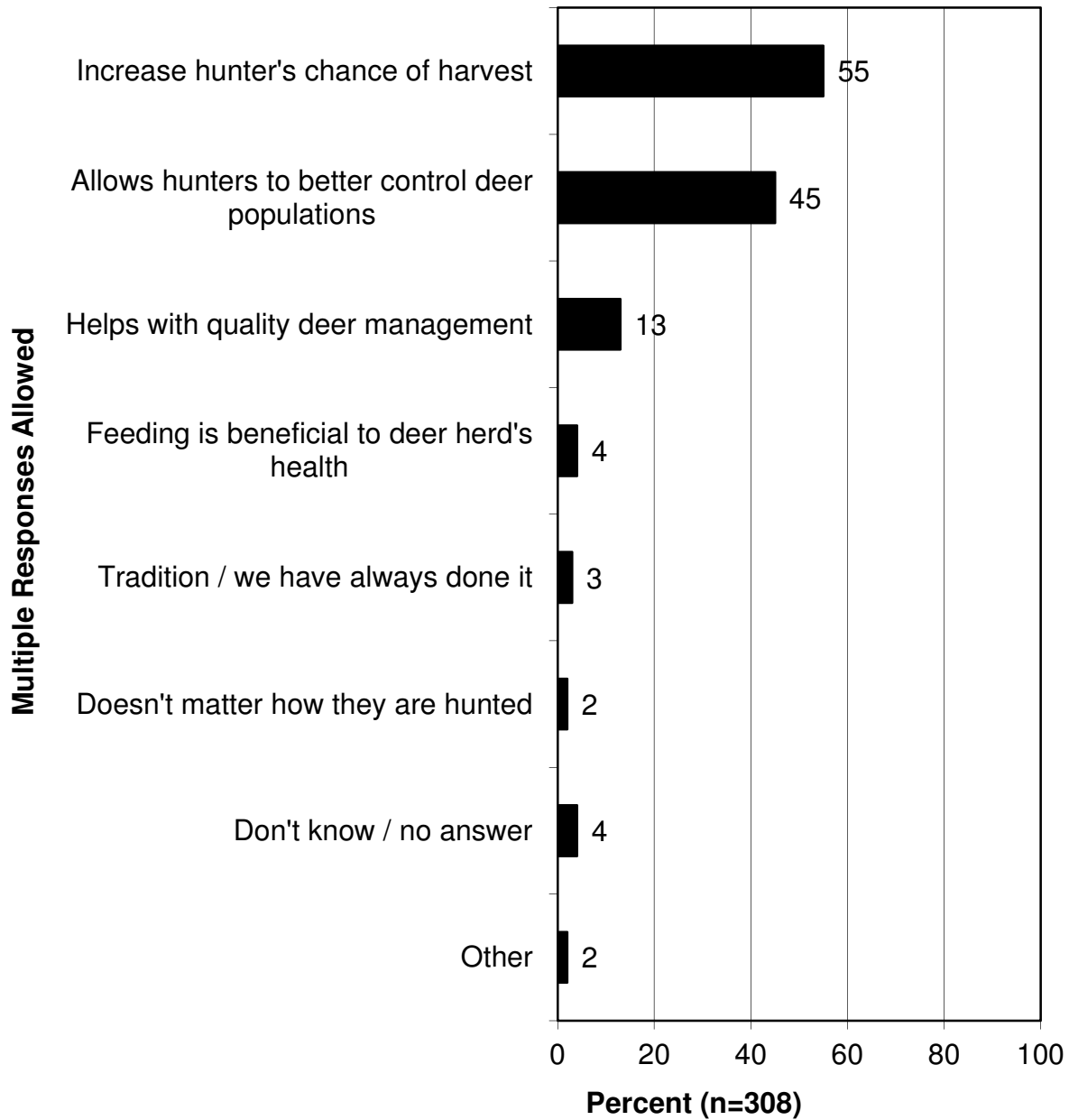
**Q49. Do you support or oppose hunting deer by attracting them using bait, such as corn or another food as an attractant?  
(Landowner survey)**



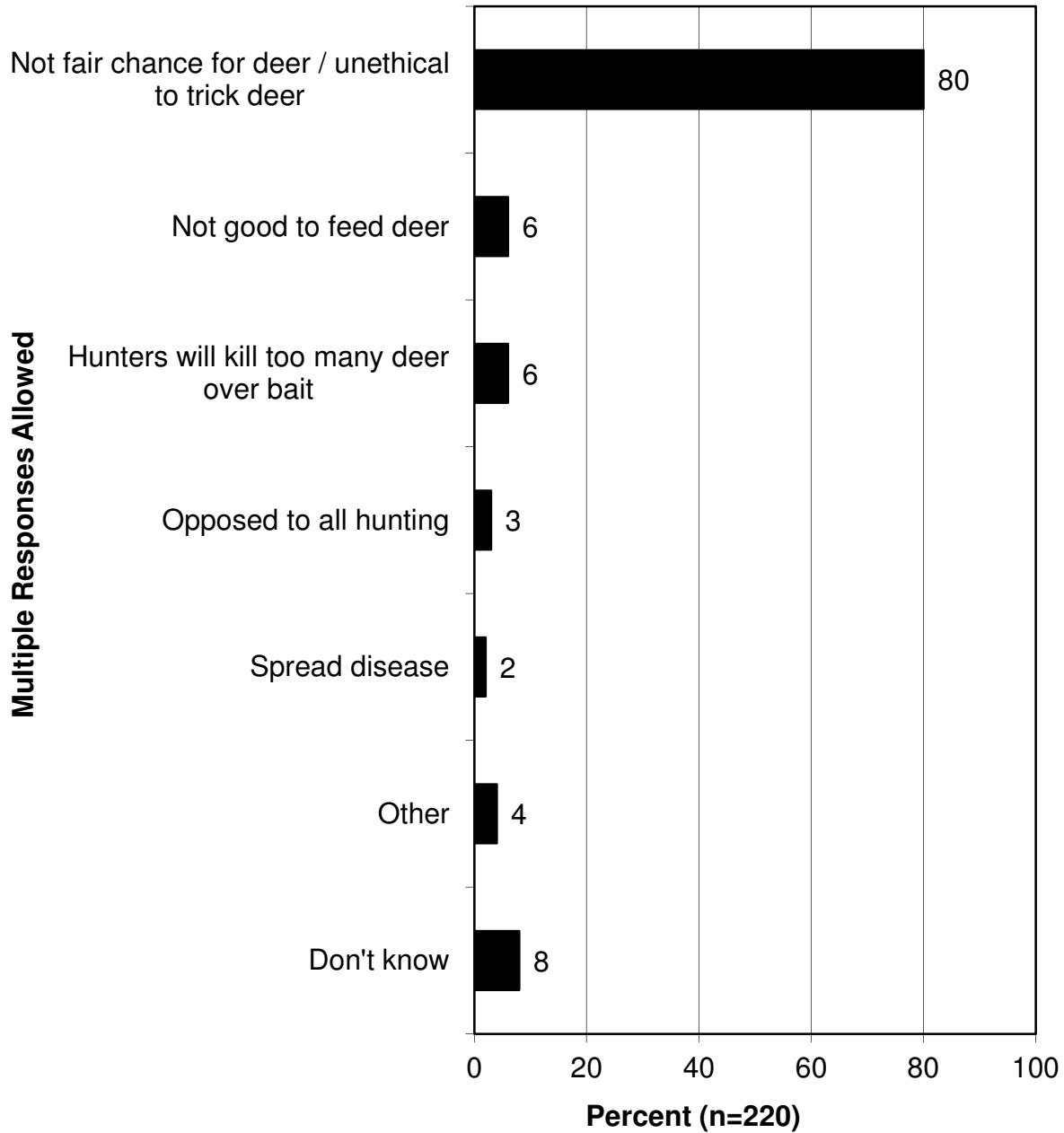
**Q49. Do you support or oppose hunting deer by attracting them using bait, such as corn or another food as an attractant?  
(Landowner survey)**



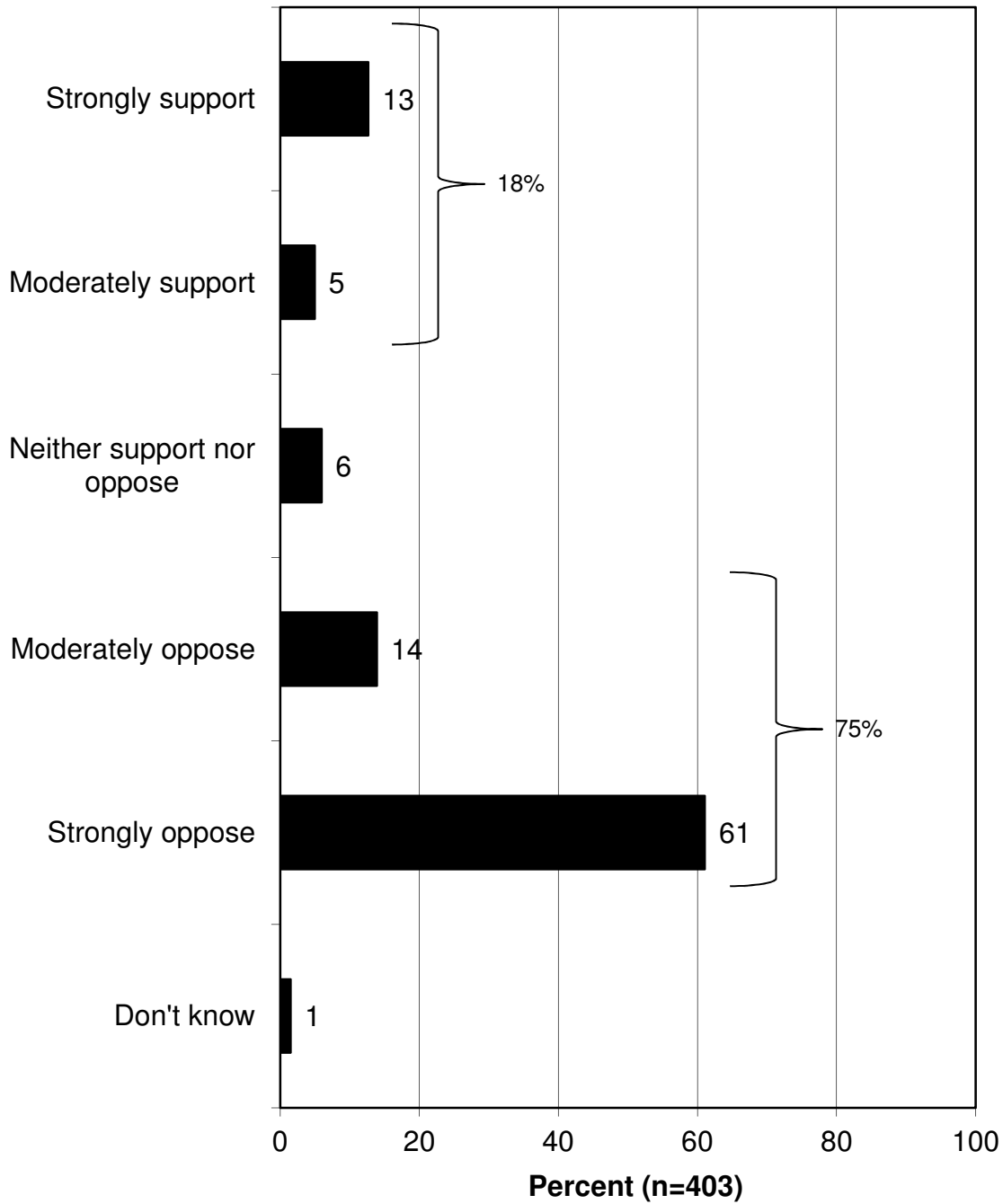
**Q52. What is your main reason for supporting hunting deer using bait? (Asked of those who support the hunting of deer over bait.)  
(Landowner survey)**



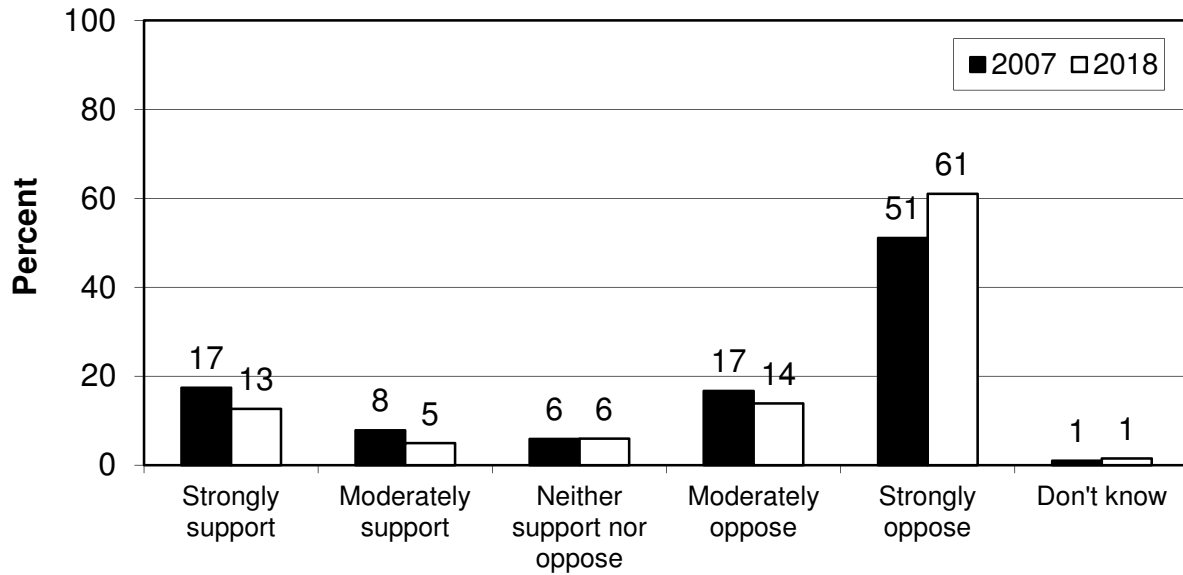
**Q56. What is your main reason for opposing hunting deer using bait? (Asked of those who oppose the hunting of deer over bait.)  
(Landowner survey)**



**Q125. Would you support or oppose regulations making it illegal to hunt deer using bait on private lands? (Hunter survey)**



**Q125. Would you support or oppose regulations making it illegal to hunt deer using bait on private lands?  
(Hunter survey)**





## **SUNDAY HUNTING**

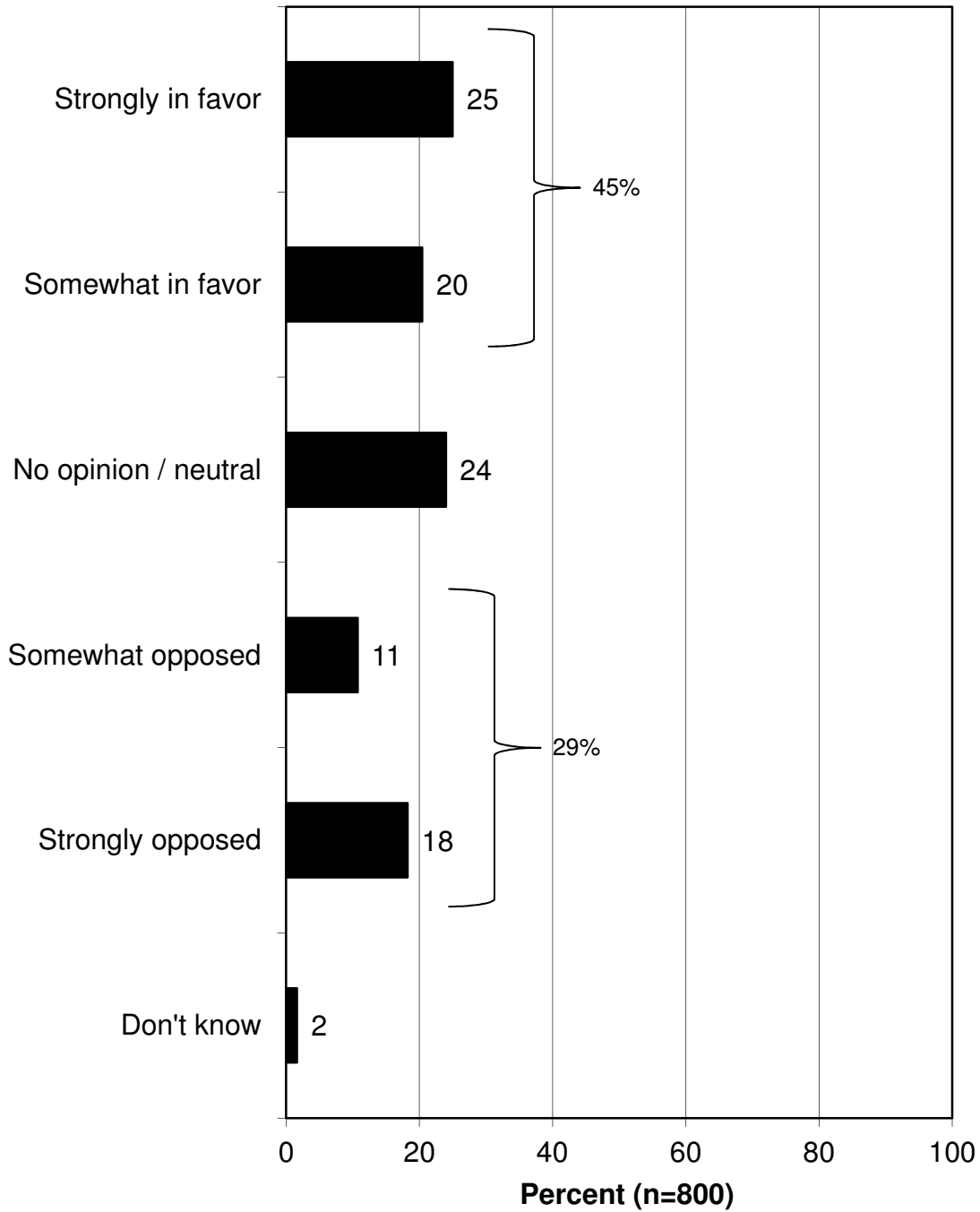
- All three surveys asked about opinions on deer hunting on Sundays in Maryland.
  - There is a greater percentage in favor among the general population (45% are in favor) than in opposition (29%) to Sunday deer hunting.
    - A graph shows the characteristics of residents who are strongly or somewhat in favor of deer hunting on Sundays. Those in favor are associated with having hunted in the past 10 years, being male, residing in the Eastern Region or Western/West Central Regions, and being white. Opposition among the general population is also shown in a graph and is highest among non-whites, females, those 55 years old and older, and those residing in the Central Region.
  - Among landowners, 56% are in favor of Sunday deer hunting; however, 33% are opposed.
    - A graph shows the characteristics of those landowners who are strongly in favor of deer hunting on Sundays. Those strongly in favor are associated with having hunted in the past 10 years, being 35-54 years old, being male, and residing in the Eastern Region. Opposition among landowners, shown in a graph as well, is highest among females and those residing in the Western Region.
  - The overwhelming majority of deer hunters (83%) support Sunday deer hunting, while only 14% oppose it.
    - The characteristics of hunters who strongly support Sunday hunting are shown in a graph. Characteristics associated with strong support include being 34-54 years old, having an annual household income of \$60,000 or more, having an education level of at least a bachelor's degree, residing in the Eastern Region, and residing in a rural area. Opposition in the hunter survey is highest among non-white hunters, those with an annual household income of less than \$60,000, those 55 years old and older, and female hunters.

- The majority of Maryland's deer hunters (60%) hunted deer on a Sunday within the past 2 years.
  - A graph shows characteristics associated with having been Sunday hunting within the past 2 years. Hunters who are 35-54 years old, those residing in the Eastern Region, those with a household income of \$60,000 or more, those living in a rural area, and those with a bachelor's degree or higher are all associated with having been Sunday hunting for deer within the past 2 years.
  - Most commonly, these Sunday deer hunters hunted the firearms season (77% did so), although a majority hunted the archery season (61%) (some, obviously, did both). Also, 46% hunted the muzzleloader season.
  - These Sunday deer hunters overwhelmingly think Sunday hunting is very or somewhat important to their success in harvesting a deer: 90% say it is very or somewhat important.
  - These hunters also overwhelmingly say that they want additional Sundays open for deer hunting (79% say this), compared to 19% who want the same and only 2% who want fewer days of Sunday deer hunting.
  - Most of these Sunday deer hunters did *not* hunt on public land on Sundays: only 11% did so.
  - A final question of these Sunday deer hunters found that a majority (81%) agree that all public lands currently open to deer hunting should also be open on Sundays during the deer season.
  
- The large majority of landowners who allow deer hunting on their land and who live in a county that has Sunday hunting allow Sunday hunting on their land (65% do so).

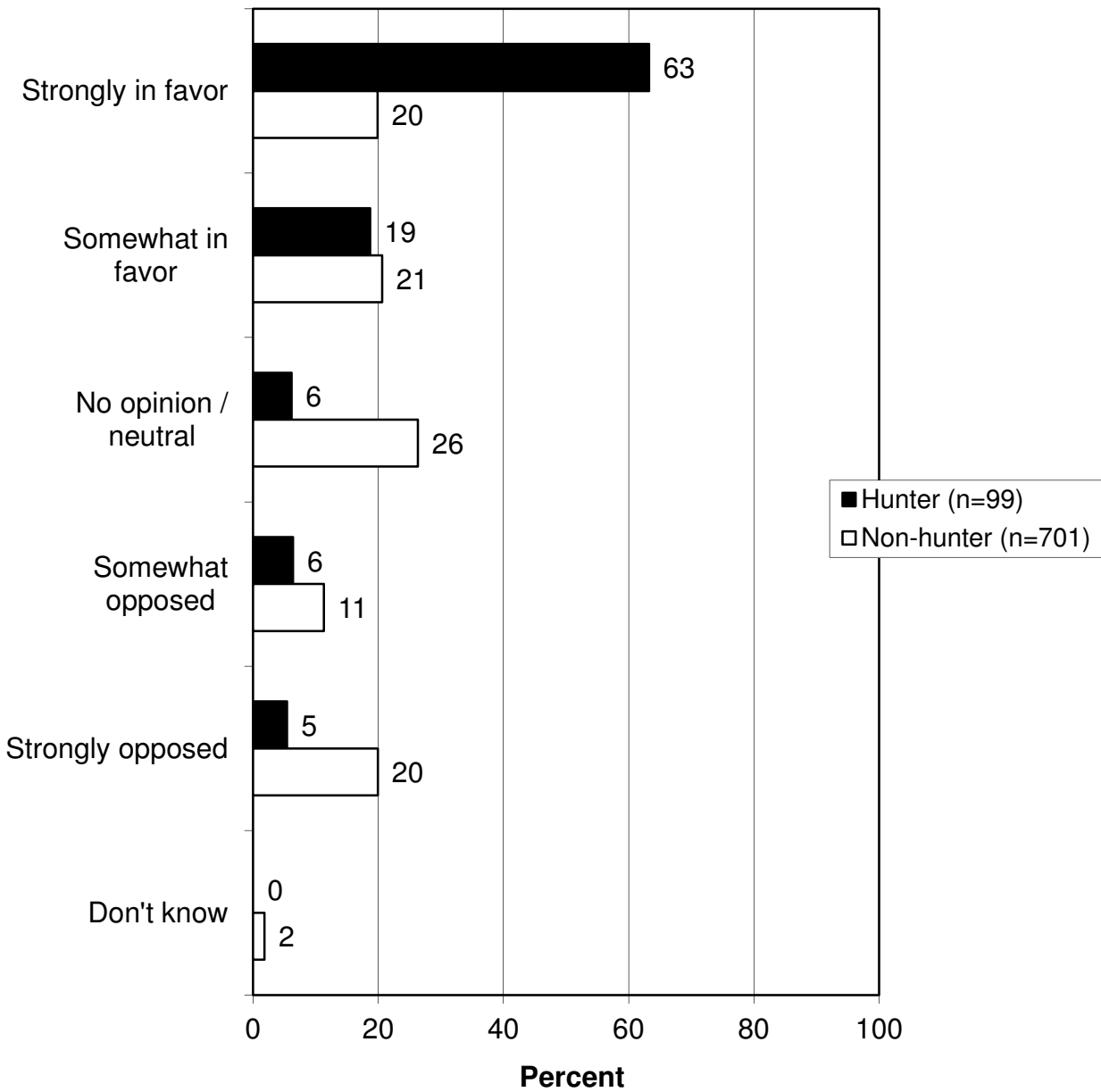
- Looking at Sunday hunting from the other recreationists' view, the survey asked if respondents had altered times of other recreation because of Sunday hunting. This line of questioning was in both the survey of residents and landowners. The results are first looked at as a whole, and then among those who have not hunted in the past 10 years (because these latter would not be changing plans because they were planning to hunt but because of hunters' presence in the field).
- Among the general population, 17% say that they have altered times because of deer season at least a little (this graph appears in the section titled, "Landowners' and Other Recreationists' Interactions and Conflicts With Hunters"), with a quarter of these respondents (25%) saying that they altered times because of Sunday hunting (with almost no difference between hunters and non-hunters on this question).
    - Another question asked about avoiding areas because of hunting. In total, 38% of residents (34% of non-hunting residents) in the general population survey say that they avoid certain areas in which hunters might be hunting (this graph appears in the section titled, "Landowners' and Other Recreationists' Interactions and Conflicts With Hunters"). In follow-up, 27% of these respondents overall, and 31% of the non-hunting respondents, who avoid areas said that they avoid areas because of Sunday hunting.
  - Just less than a quarter of landowners (22%) say that Sunday hunting has caused them to alter times of other outdoor recreation at least a little, with 5% saying that they have altered times a whole lot. When looking only at landowners who have not hunted in the past 10 years, about the same percentage (24%) alter times at least a little.
    - Common activities that are changed because of Sunday hunting include hiking/walking in the woods, just being outside, and horseback or ATV riding.

- The general population survey asked about support for or opposition to the opening of additional Sundays for bow and arrow deer hunting and for firearms deer hunting (in separate questions): 49% supported this for bow and arrow hunting (34% opposing), and 42% supported the opening of additional days for firearms deer hunting (with 42% opposing).
- Graphs are included showing the characteristics of those who supported both of these, and additional graphs show the characteristics of those who opposed. At a notably higher level of support than the general population as a whole are males, those residing in the Eastern, Western, or West Central Regions, and whites. There is markedly higher opposition among non-whites, females, those 55 years old and older, and those residing in the Central Region.
  - After being given information about how Sunday hunting can help control overpopulation of deer, respondents were again asked about support for or opposition to opening additional Sunday hunting days for deer. Support went up a bit after the information was given: 57% supported, while 31% opposed, for bow and arrow hunting, and 50% supported, while 38% opposed, for firearms hunting.

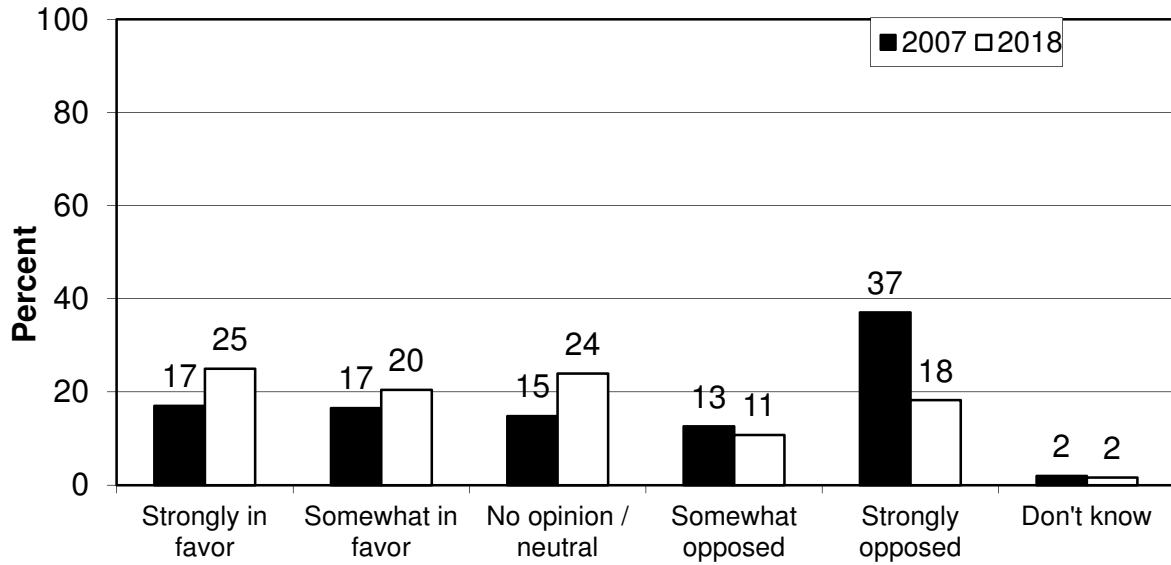
### Q17. What is your general opinion of Sunday deer hunting? (Gen pop survey)



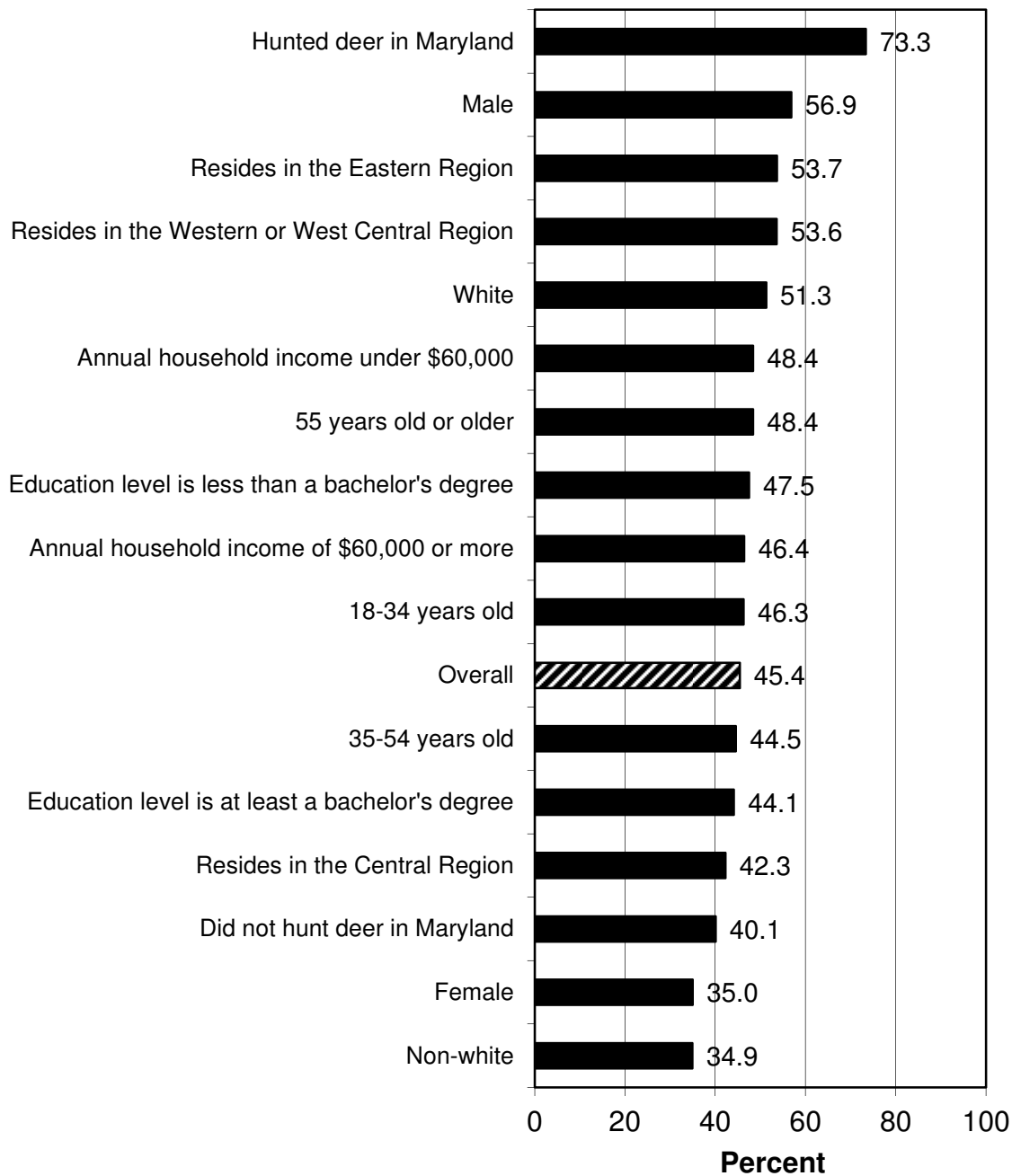
### Q17. What is your general opinion of Sunday deer hunting? (Gen pop survey)



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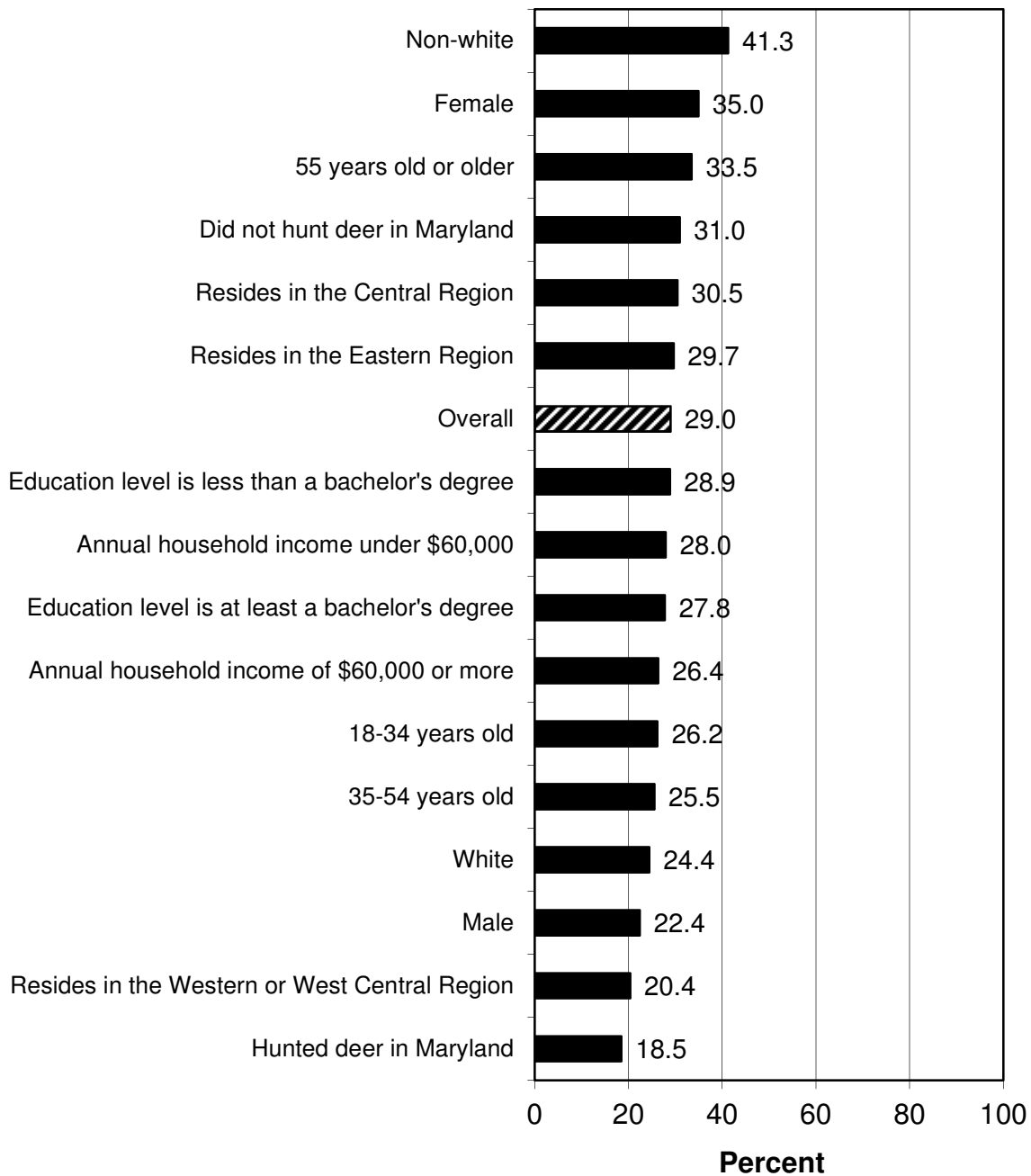
**Percent of the following groups who are  
strongly or somewhat in favor of deer hunting  
on Sundays:  
(Gen pop survey)**



An explanation of how to interpret these graphs is on pages 6 through 7.

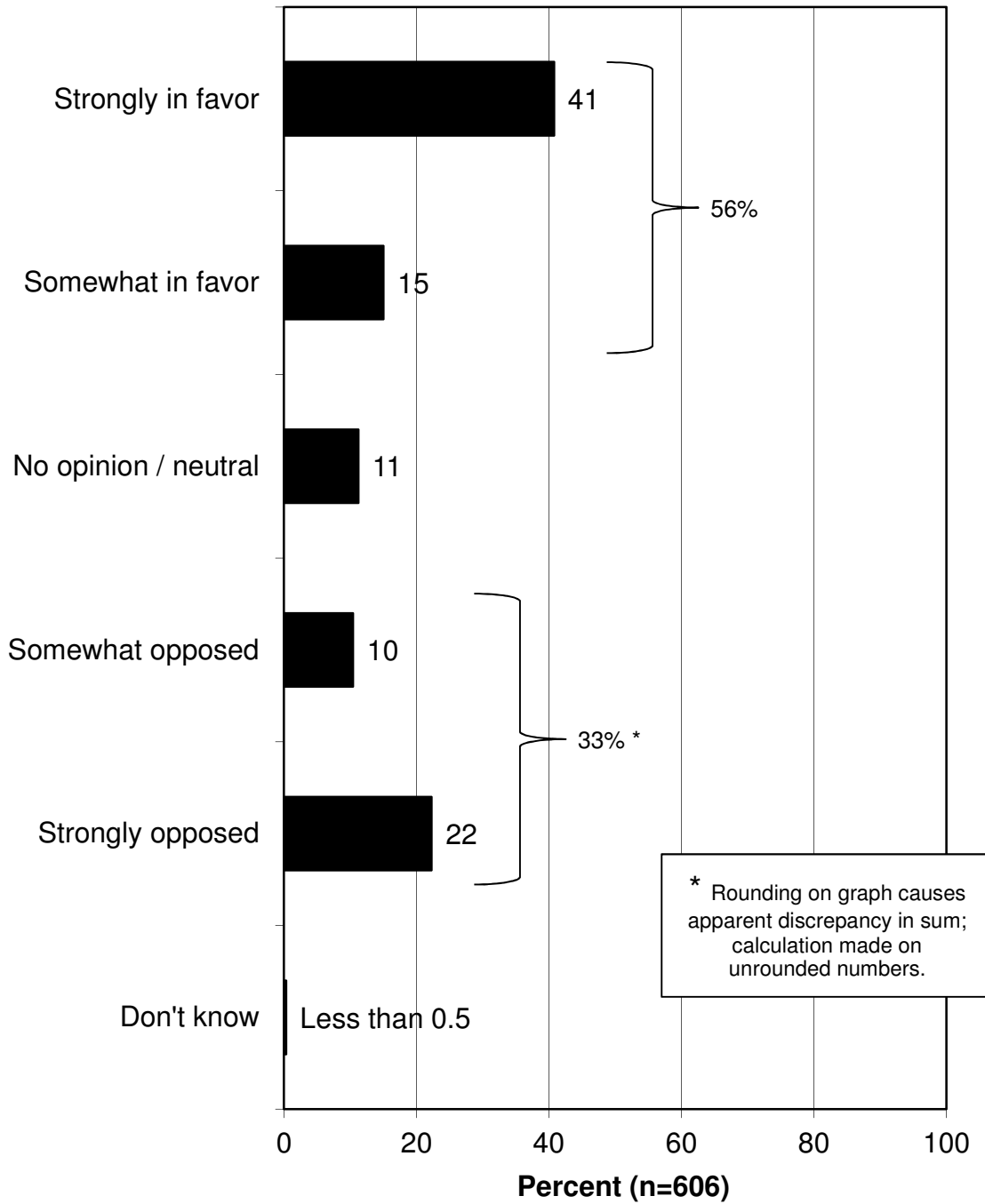


**Percent of the following groups who somewhat or strongly oppose deer hunting on Sundays:  
(Gen pop survey)**

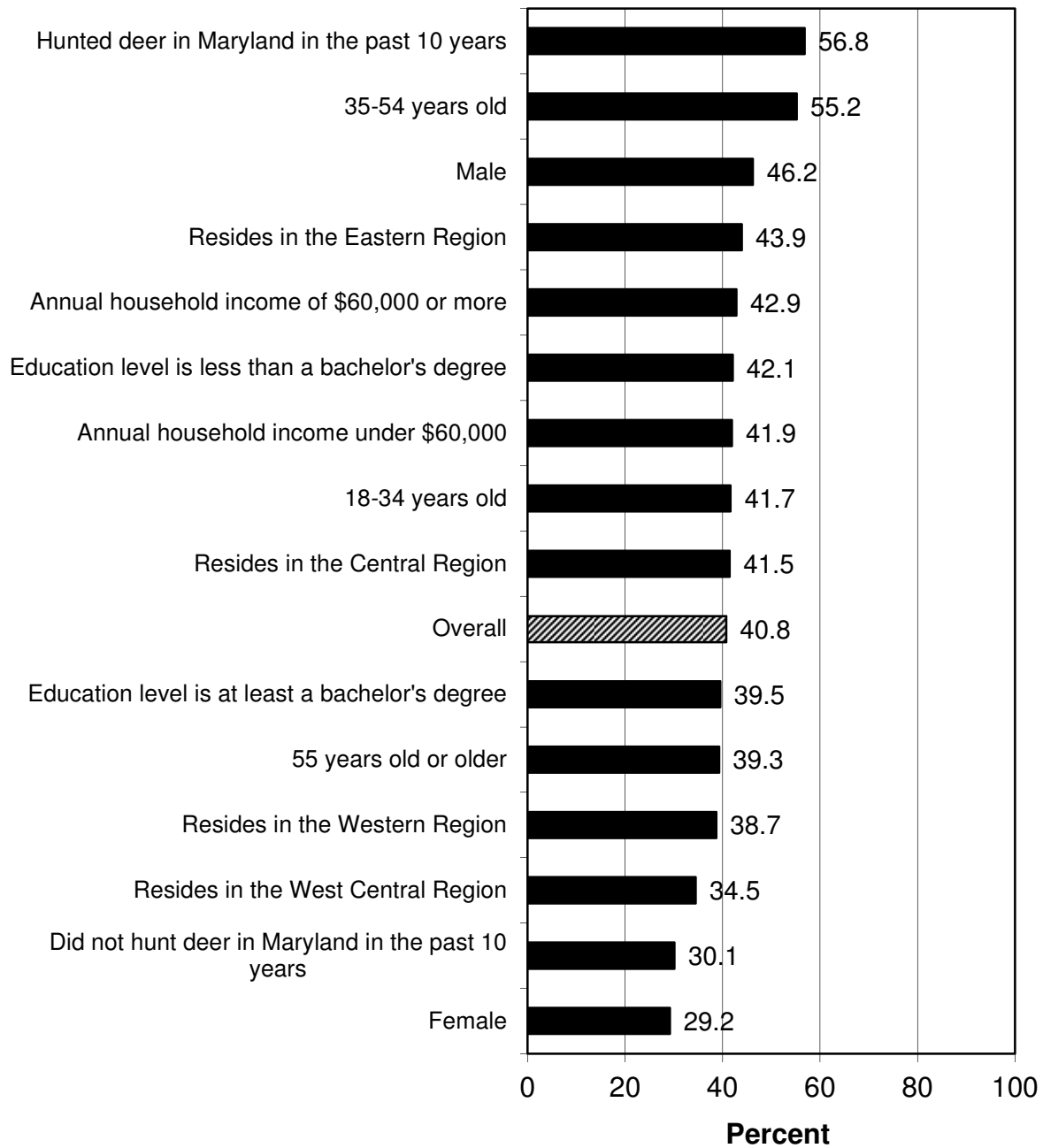


An explanation of how to interpret these graphs is on pages 6 through 7.

### Q14. What is your general opinion of Sunday deer hunting? (Landowner survey)

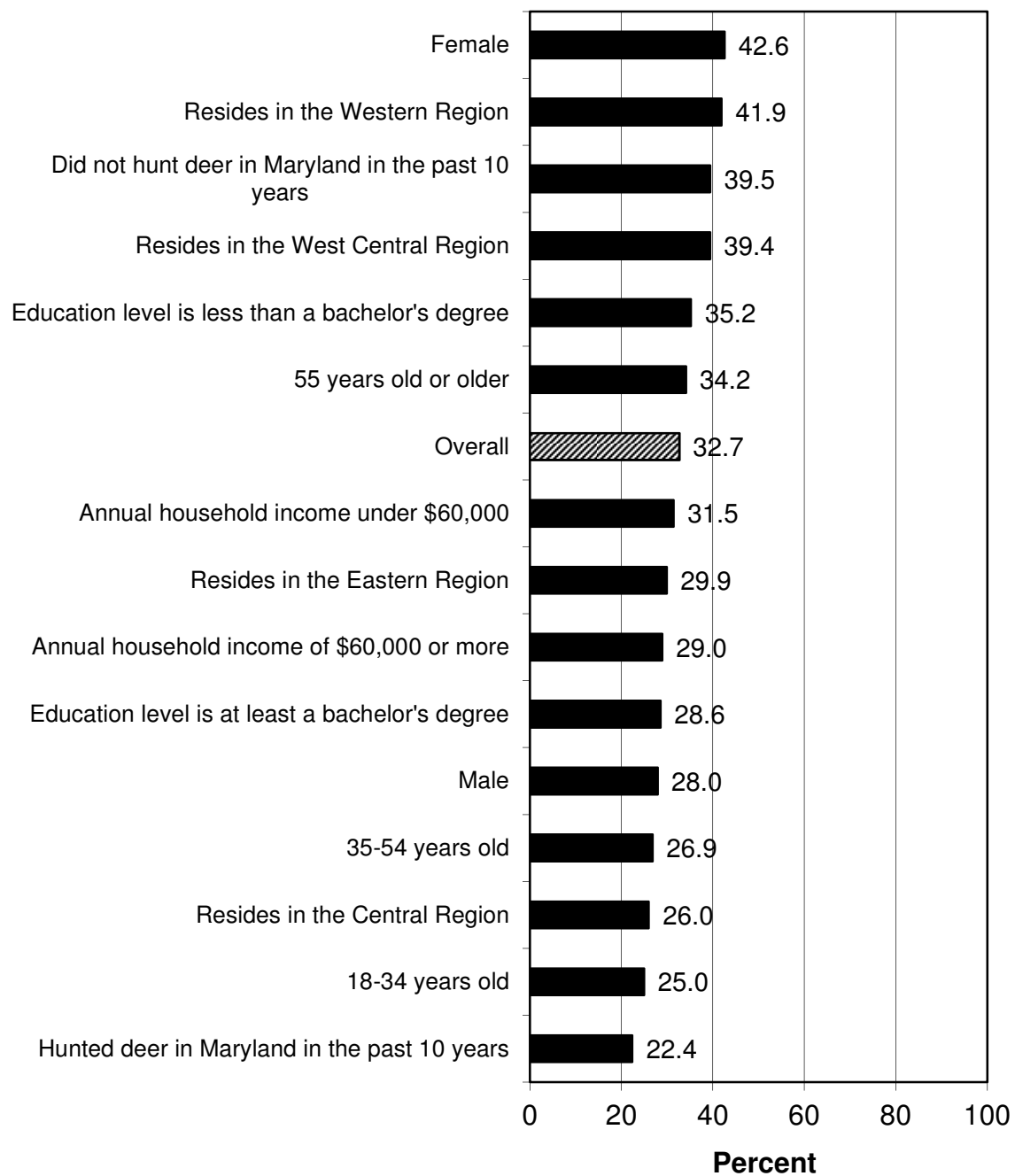


**Percent of the following groups who are strongly in favor of deer hunting on Sundays:  
(Landowner survey)**



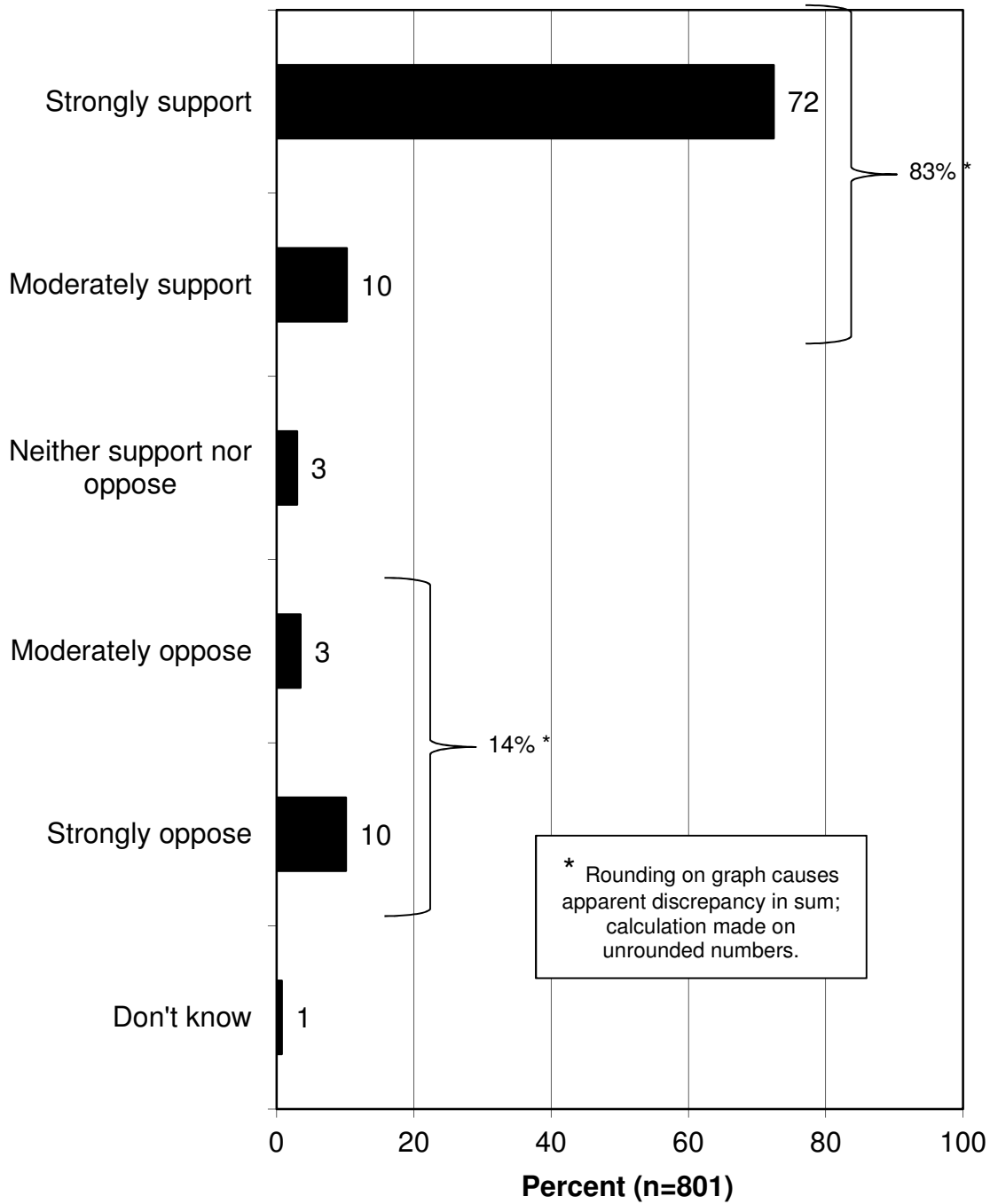
An explanation of how to interpret these graphs is on pages 6 through 7.

**Percent of the following groups who somewhat or strongly oppose deer hunting on Sundays:  
(Landowner survey)**

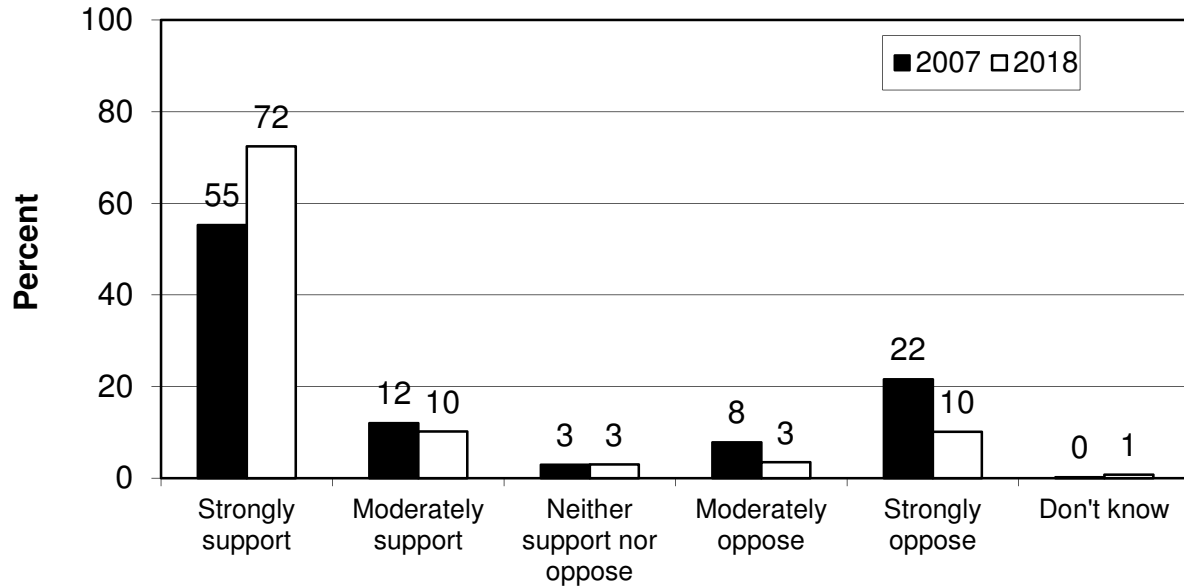


An explanation of how to interpret these graphs is on pages 6 through 7.

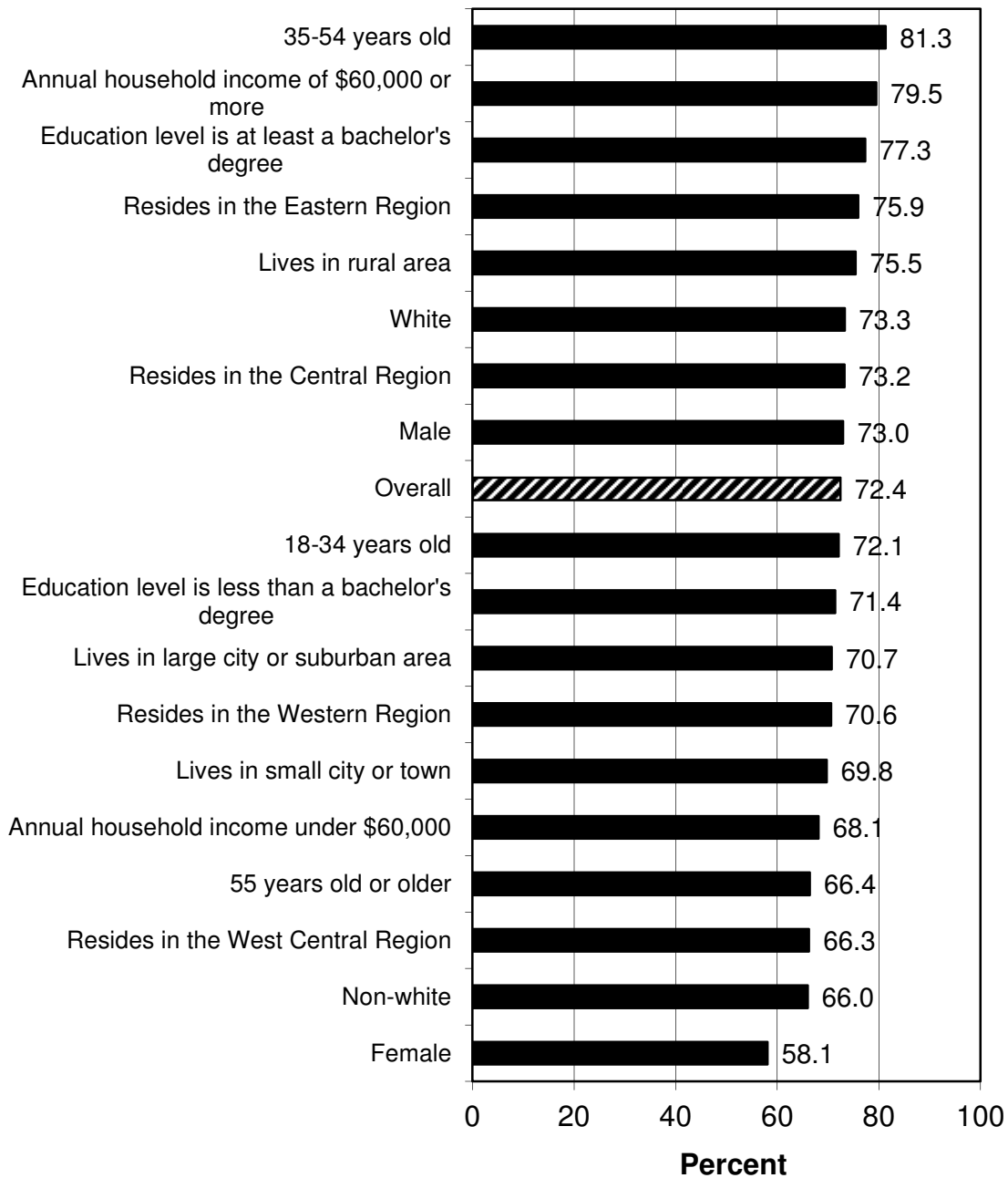
**Q126. In general, do you support or oppose deer hunting on Sundays in Maryland? (Hunter survey)**



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deer hunting on Sundays in Maryland?  
(Hunter survey)**

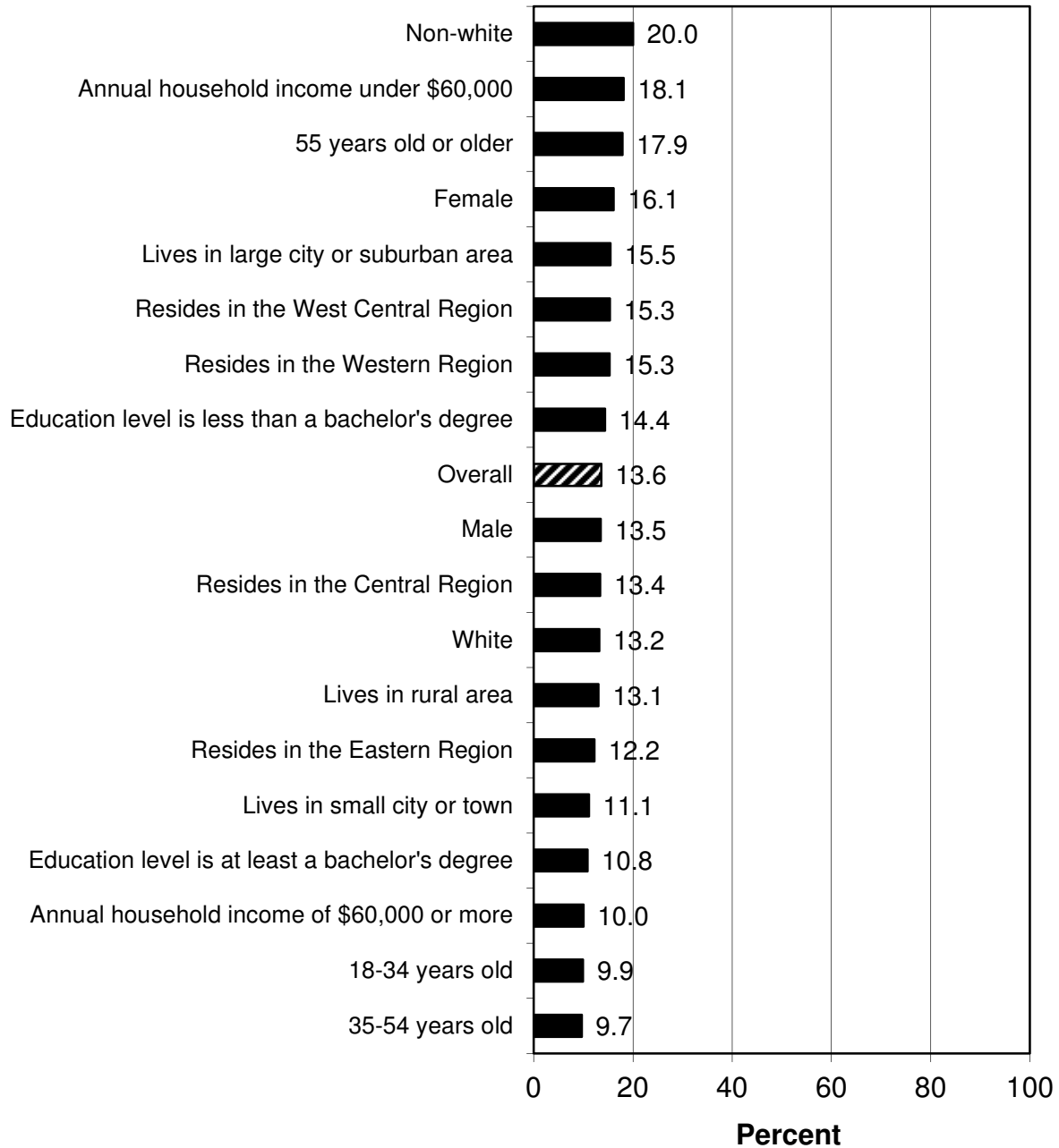


### Percent of the following groups who strongly support deer hunting on Sundays in Maryland: (Hunter survey)



An explanation of how to interpret these graphs is on pages 6 through 7.

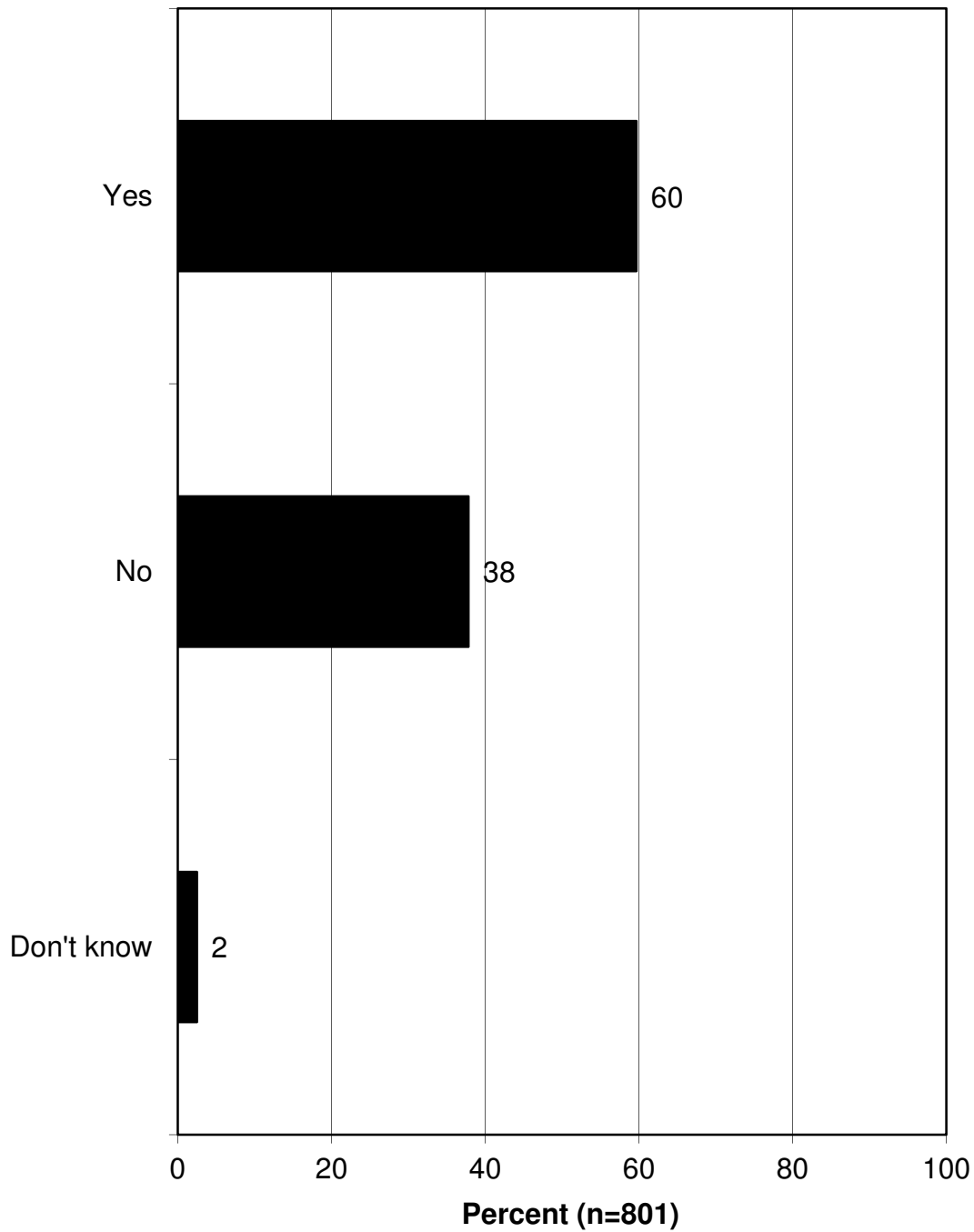
**Percent of the following groups who strongly or moderately oppose deer hunting on Sundays in Maryland: (Hunter survey)**



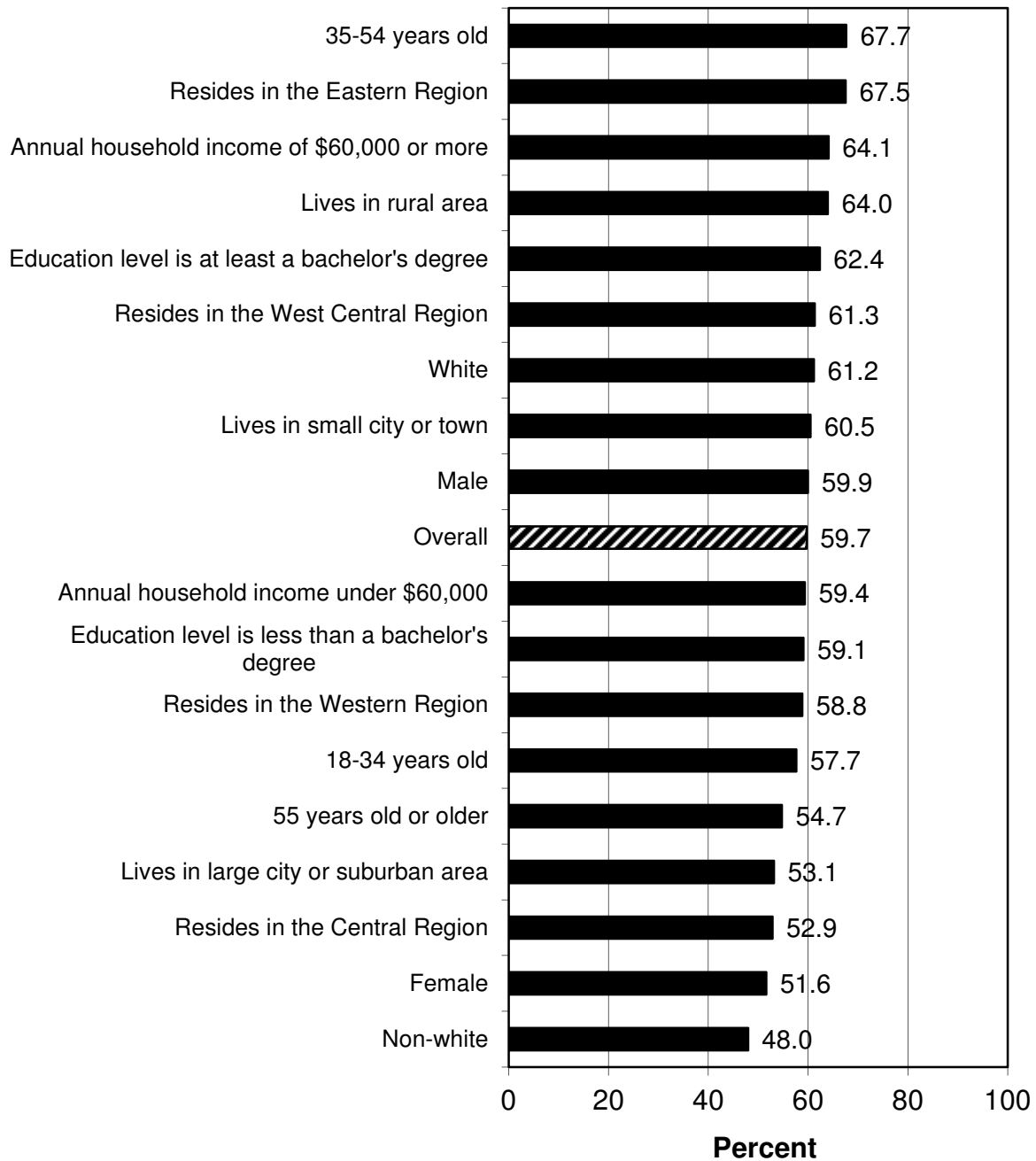
An explanation of how to interpret these graphs is on pages 6 through 7.



**Q127. Did you hunt deer on any Sundays during the past 2 years? (Hunter survey)**

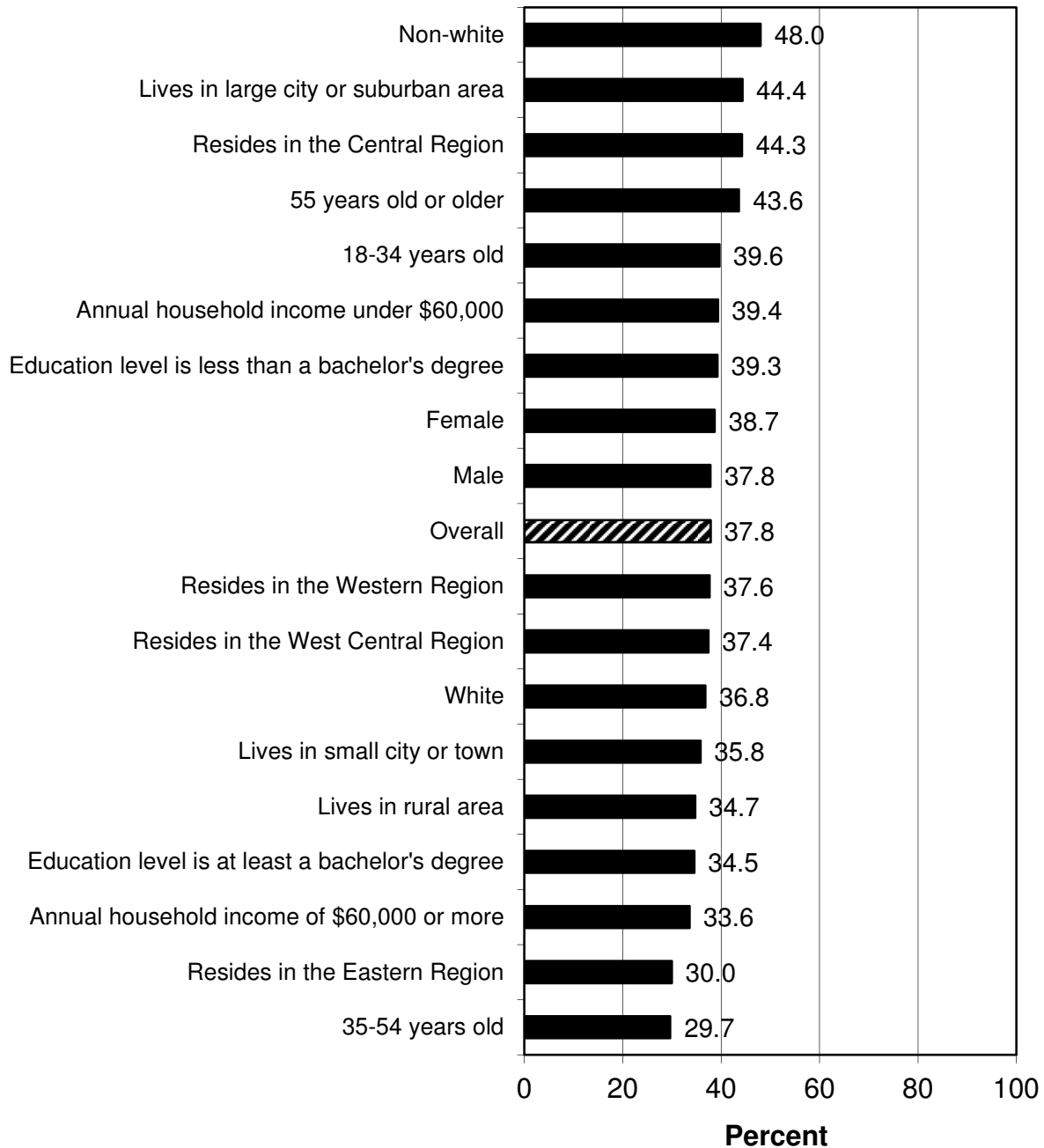


**Percent of the following groups who hunted deer on a Sunday in Maryland during the past 2 years: (Hunter survey)**



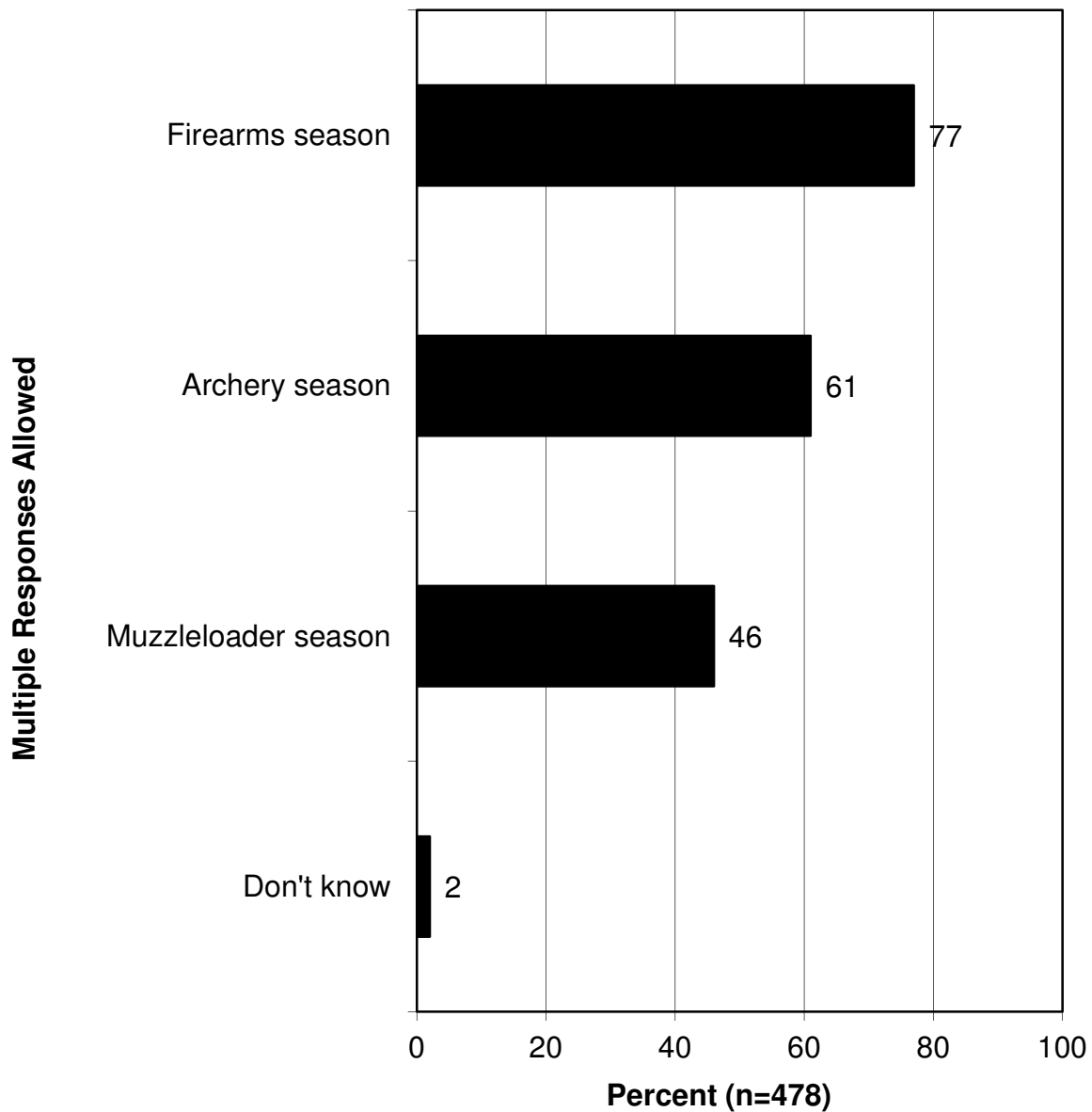
An explanation of how to interpret these graphs is on pages 6 through 7.

**Percent of the following groups who did not hunt deer on a Sunday in Maryland during the past 2 years: (Hunter survey)**

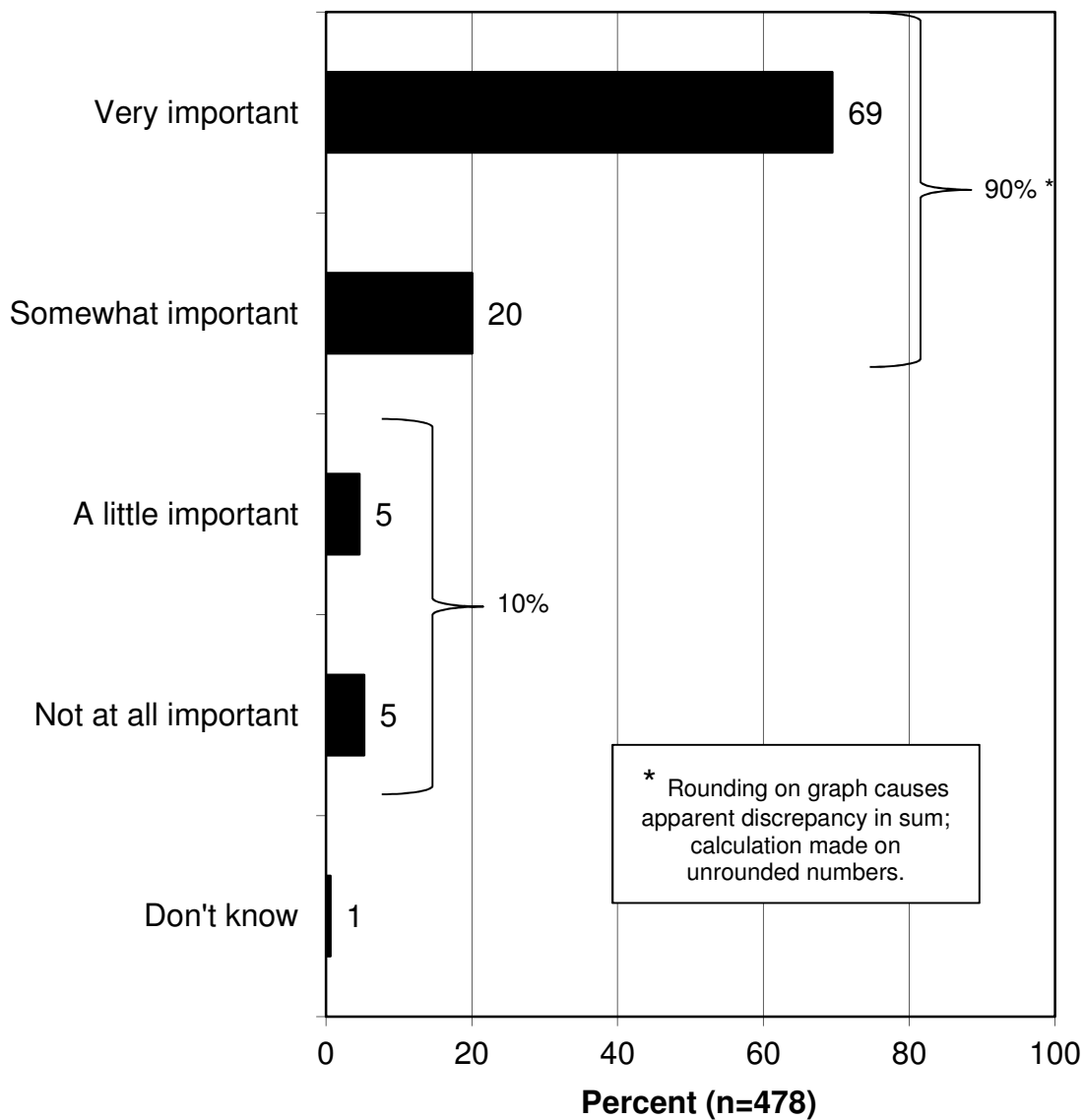


An explanation of how to interpret these graphs is on pages 6 through 7.

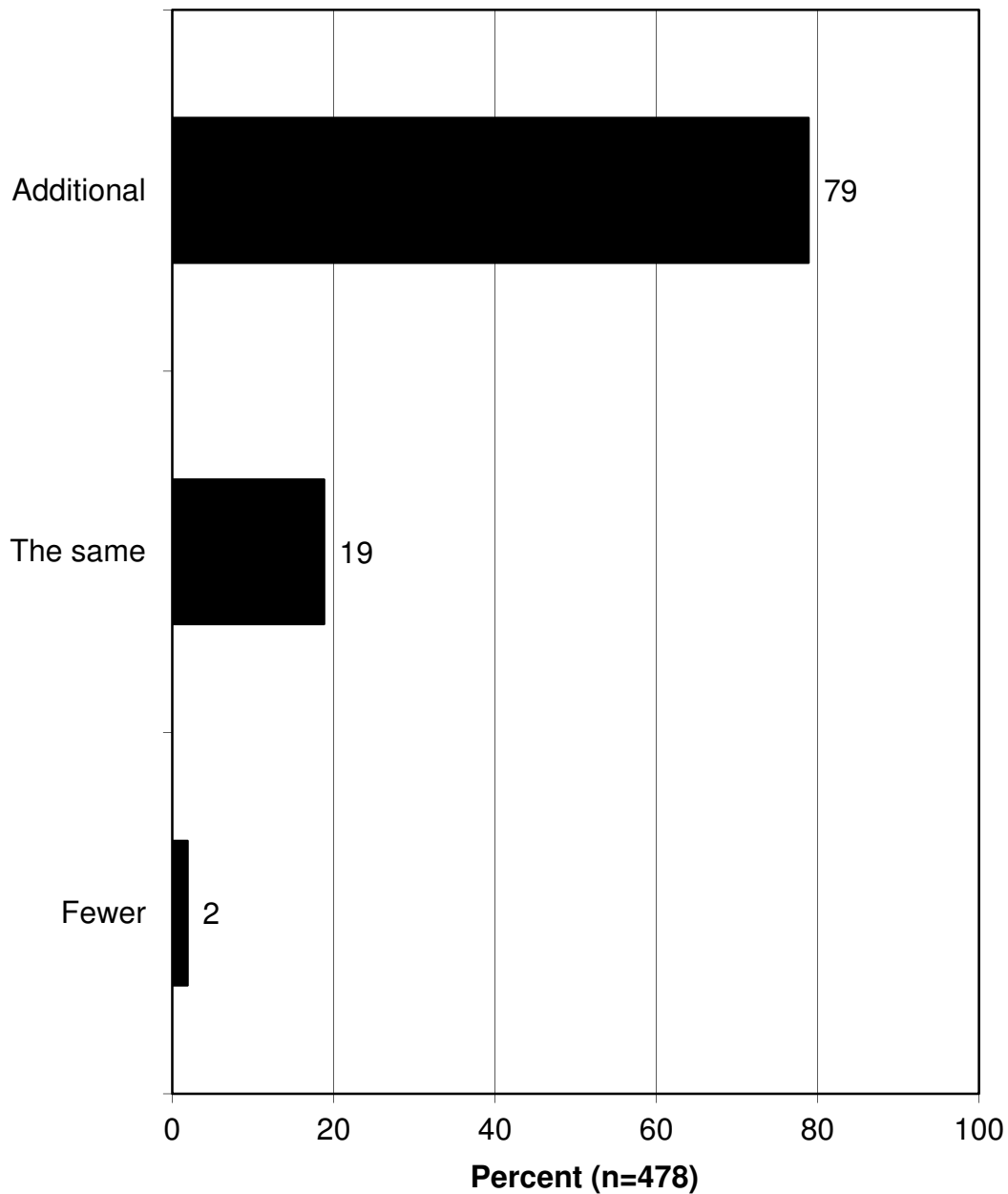
**Q130. In which of the following seasons did you hunt deer on Sundays during the past 2 years?  
(Asked of those who hunted deer on Sundays during the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**



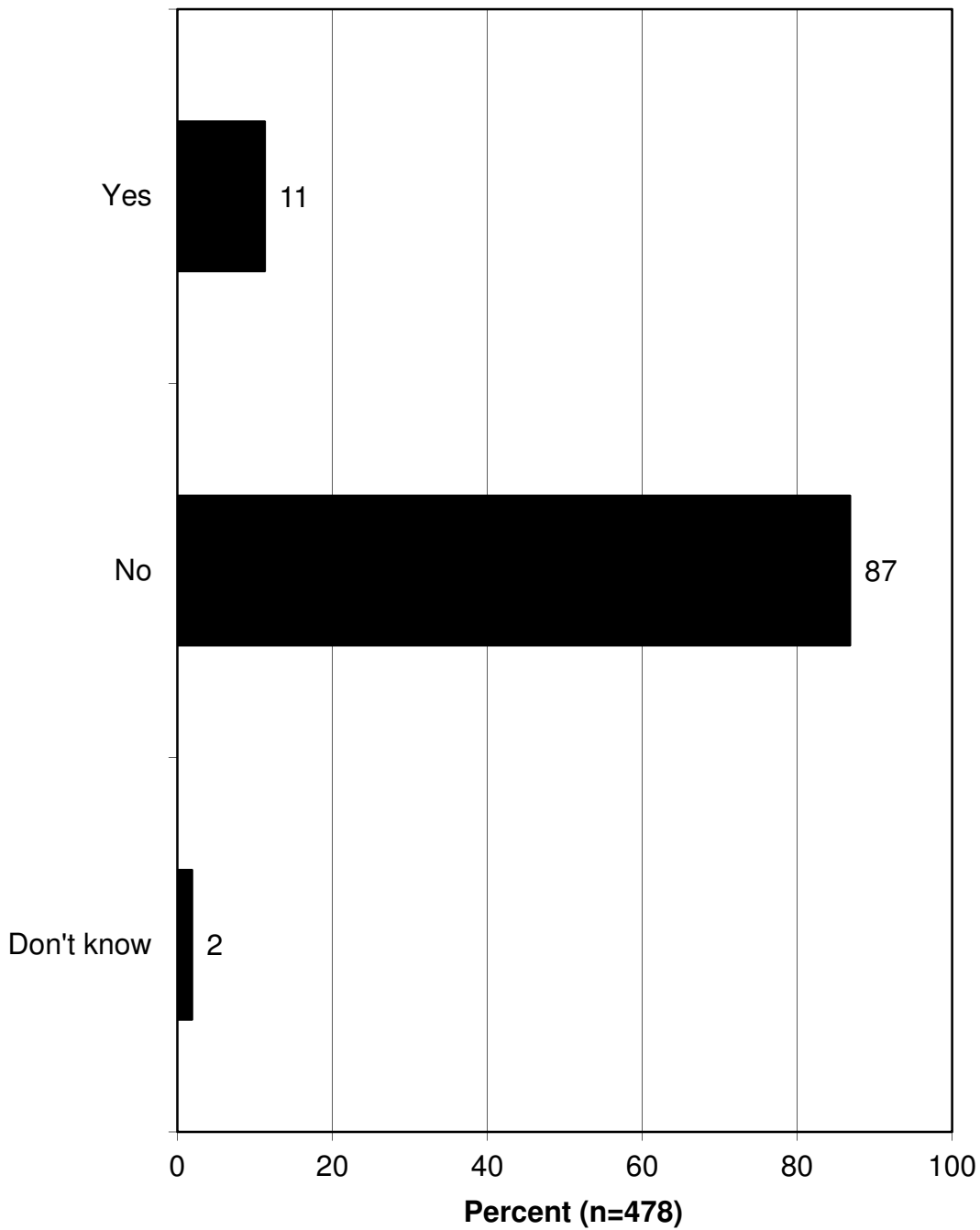
**Q131. Do you feel that having Sundays available to hunt is very important, somewhat important, a little important, or not at all important to your success in harvesting a deer? (Asked of those who hunted deer on Sundays during the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**



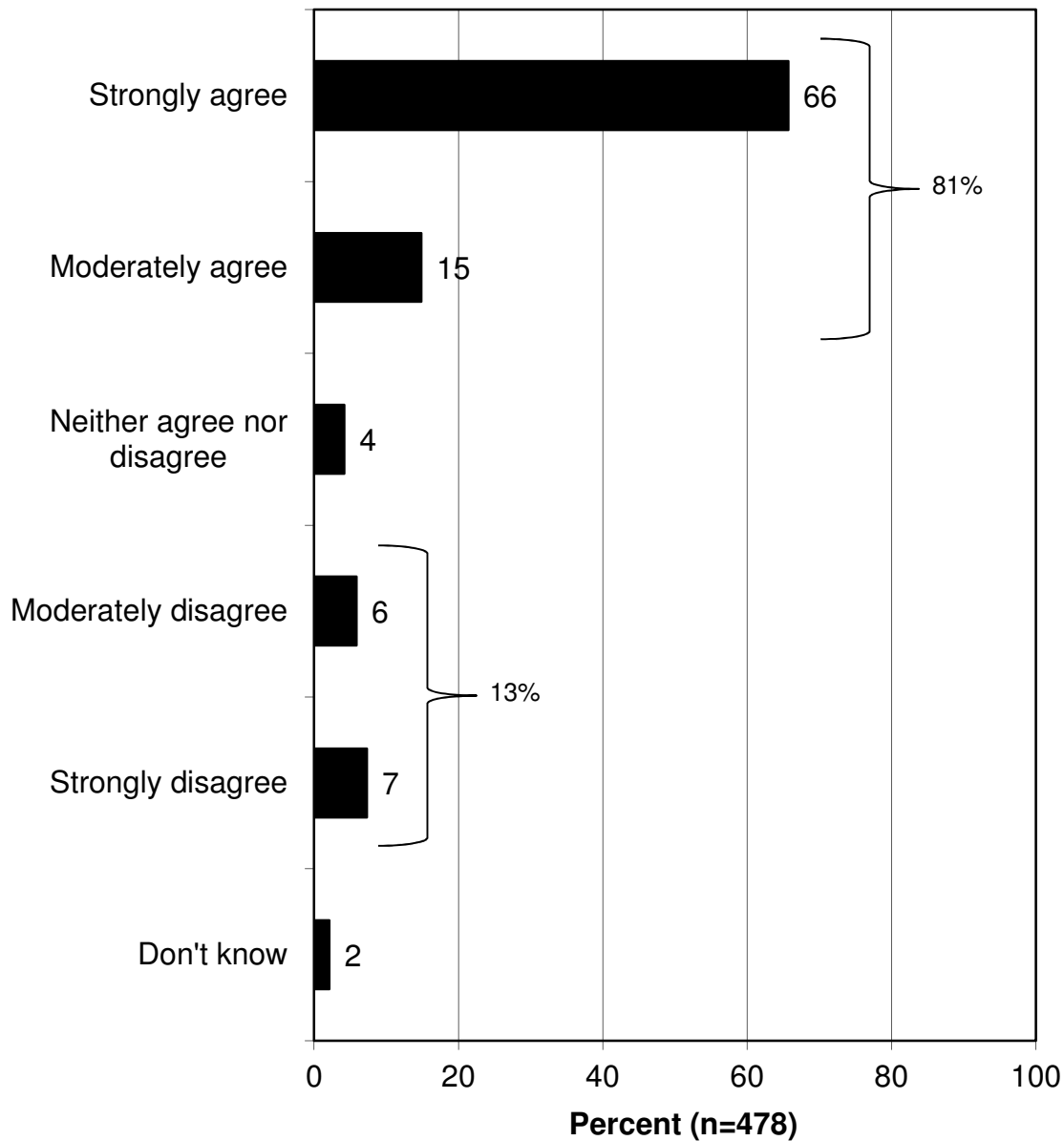
**Q132. Would you like additional, the same, or fewer Sundays open for deer hunting? (Asked of those who hunted deer on Sundays during the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**



**Q133. Did you hunt deer on Sundays on public land? (Asked of those who hunted deer on Sundays during the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**

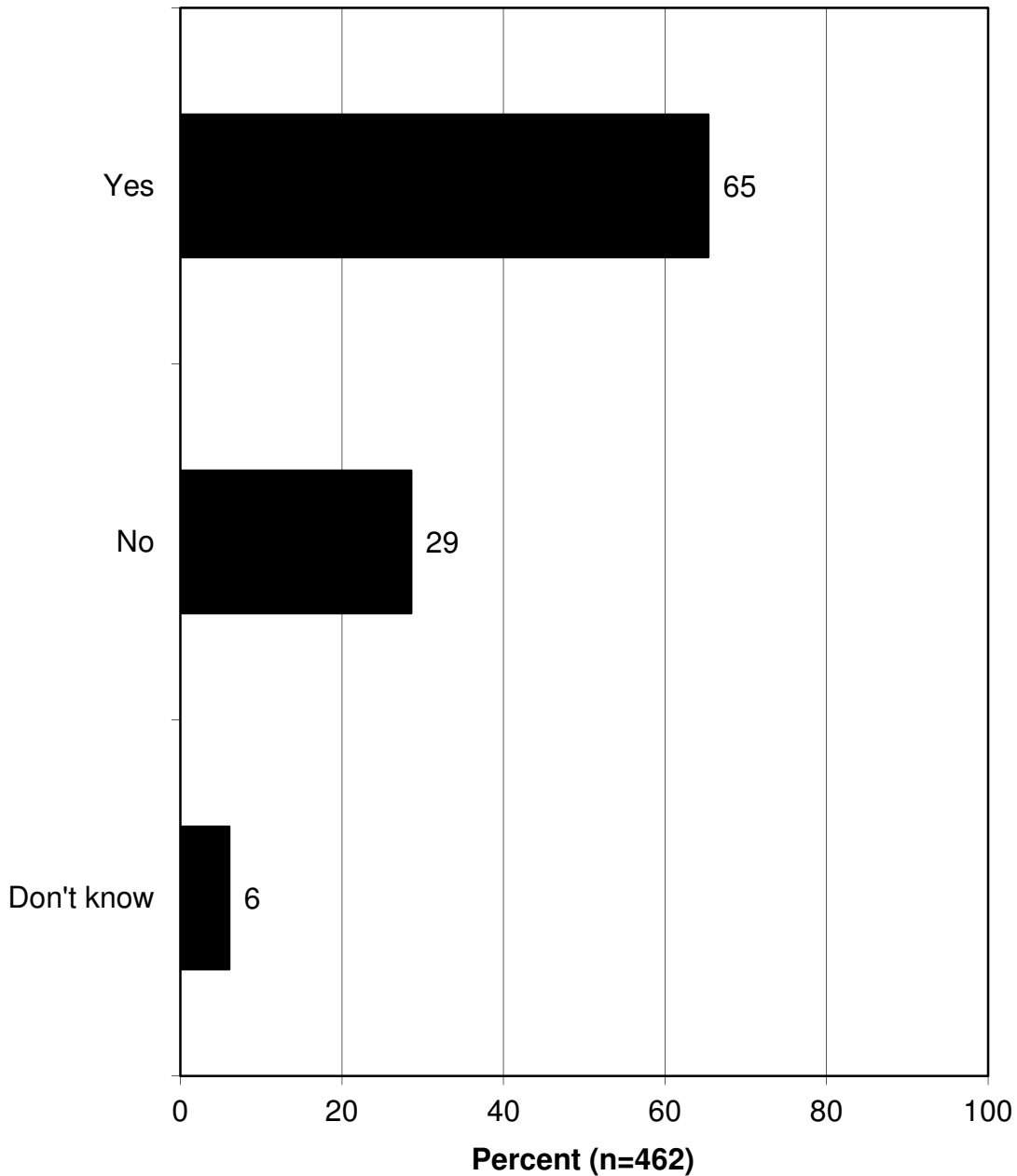


**Q134. All public lands currently open to deer hunting should also be open on Sundays during the deer season? (Do you agree or disagree?) (Asked of those who hunted deer on Sundays during the past 2 years.) (Hunter survey)**

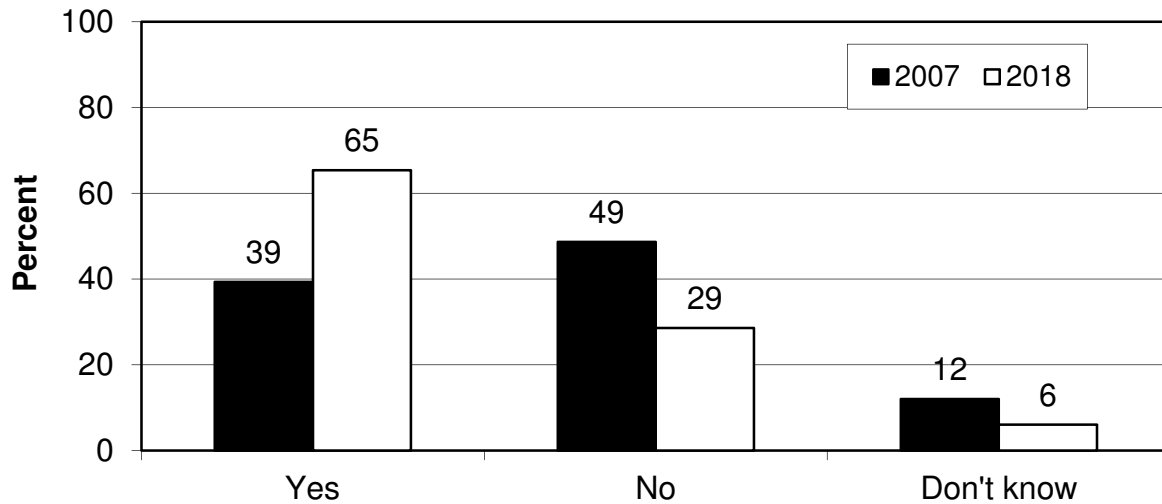




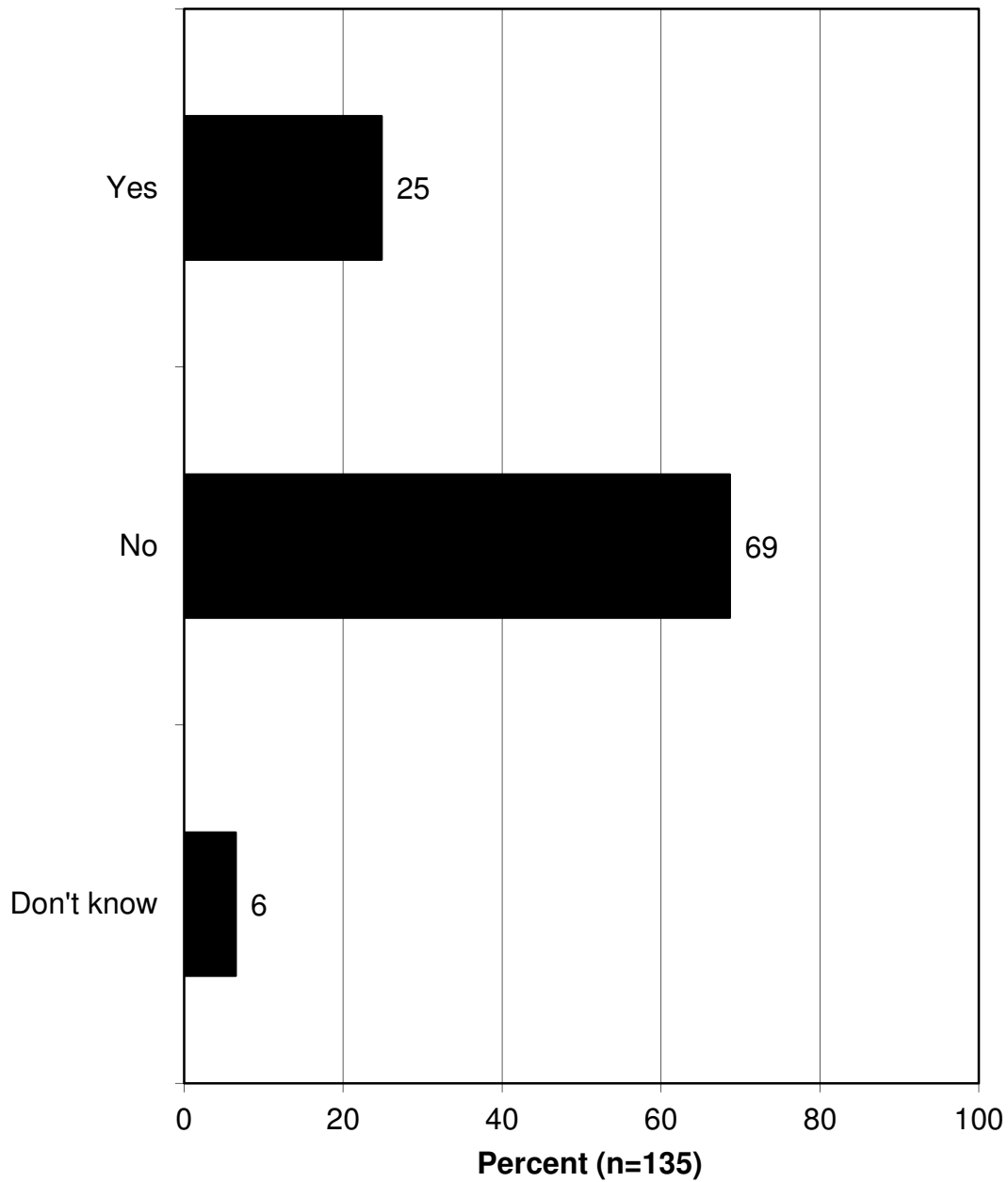
**Q117. Did you allow any legal Sunday deer hunting on your land in the past 2 years?  
(Asked of those who allow deer hunting on their property and whose land is in a county that has Sunday hunting.) (Landowner survey)**



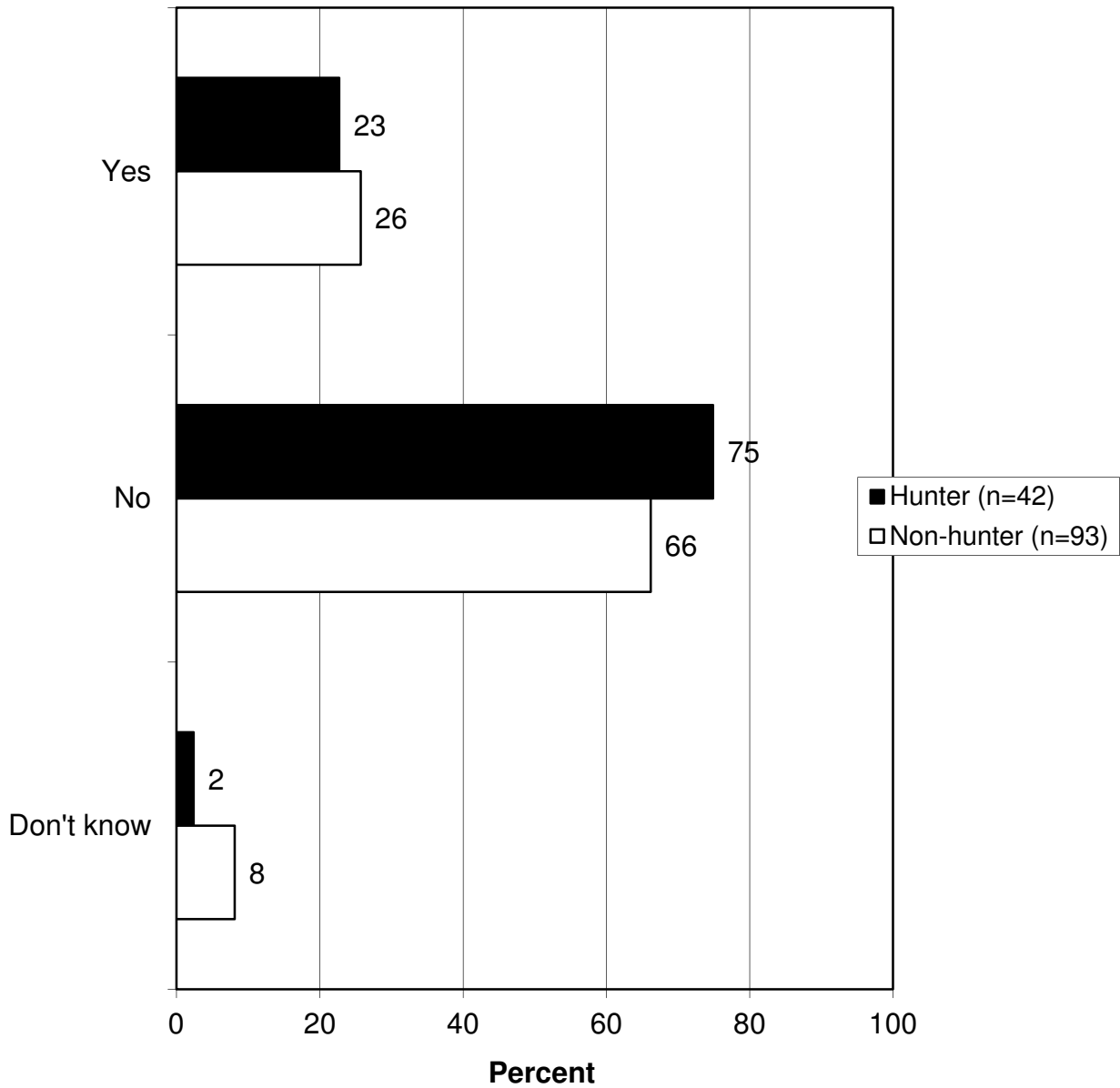
**Q117. Did you allow any legal Sunday deer hunting on your land in the past 2 years?  
(Asked of those who allow deer hunting on their property and whose land is in a county that has Sunday hunting.) (Landowner survey)**



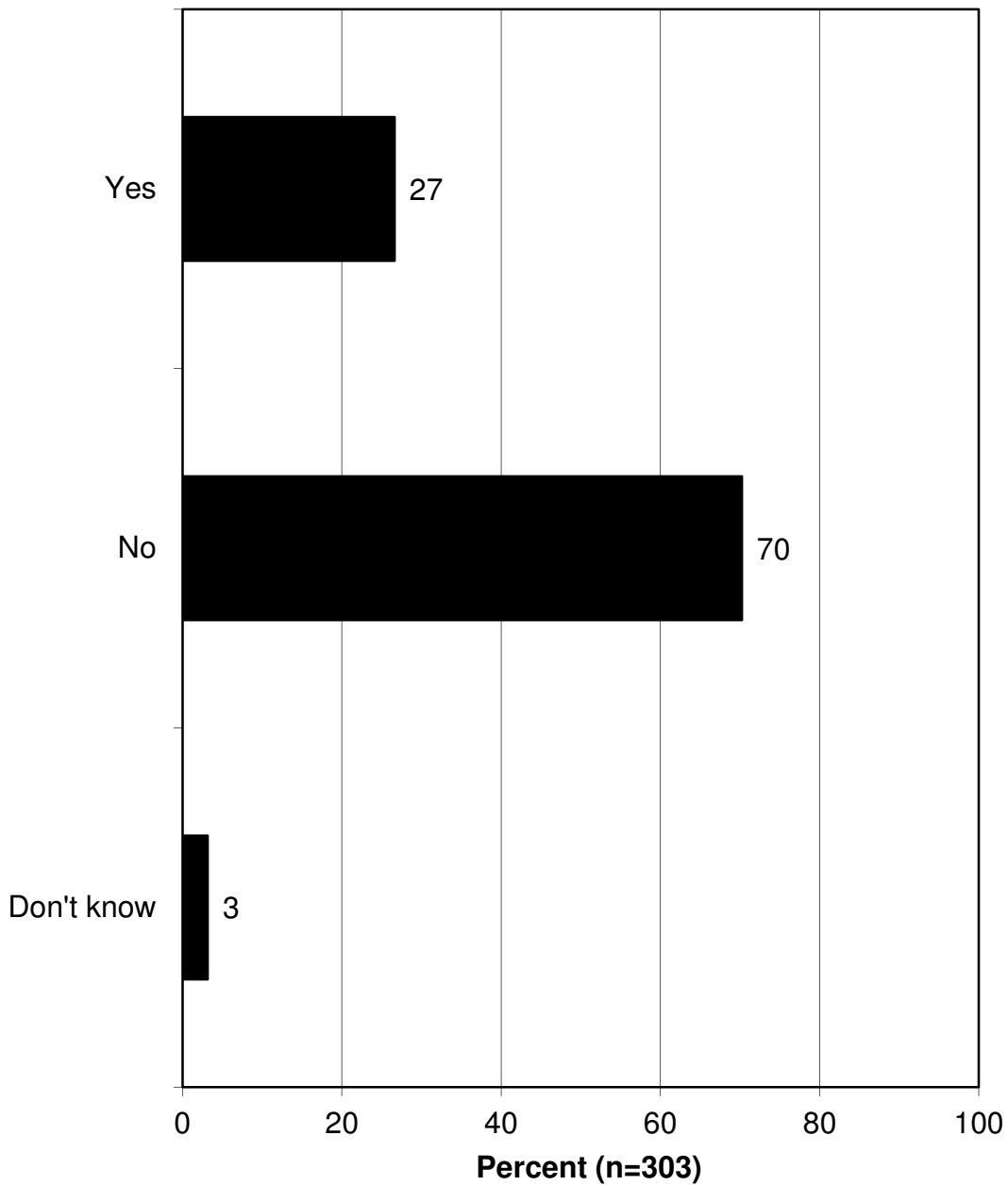
**Q52. Have you altered times because of Sunday hunting? (Asked of those who alter their times of participation in other outdoor activities because of deer season.) (Gen pop survey)**



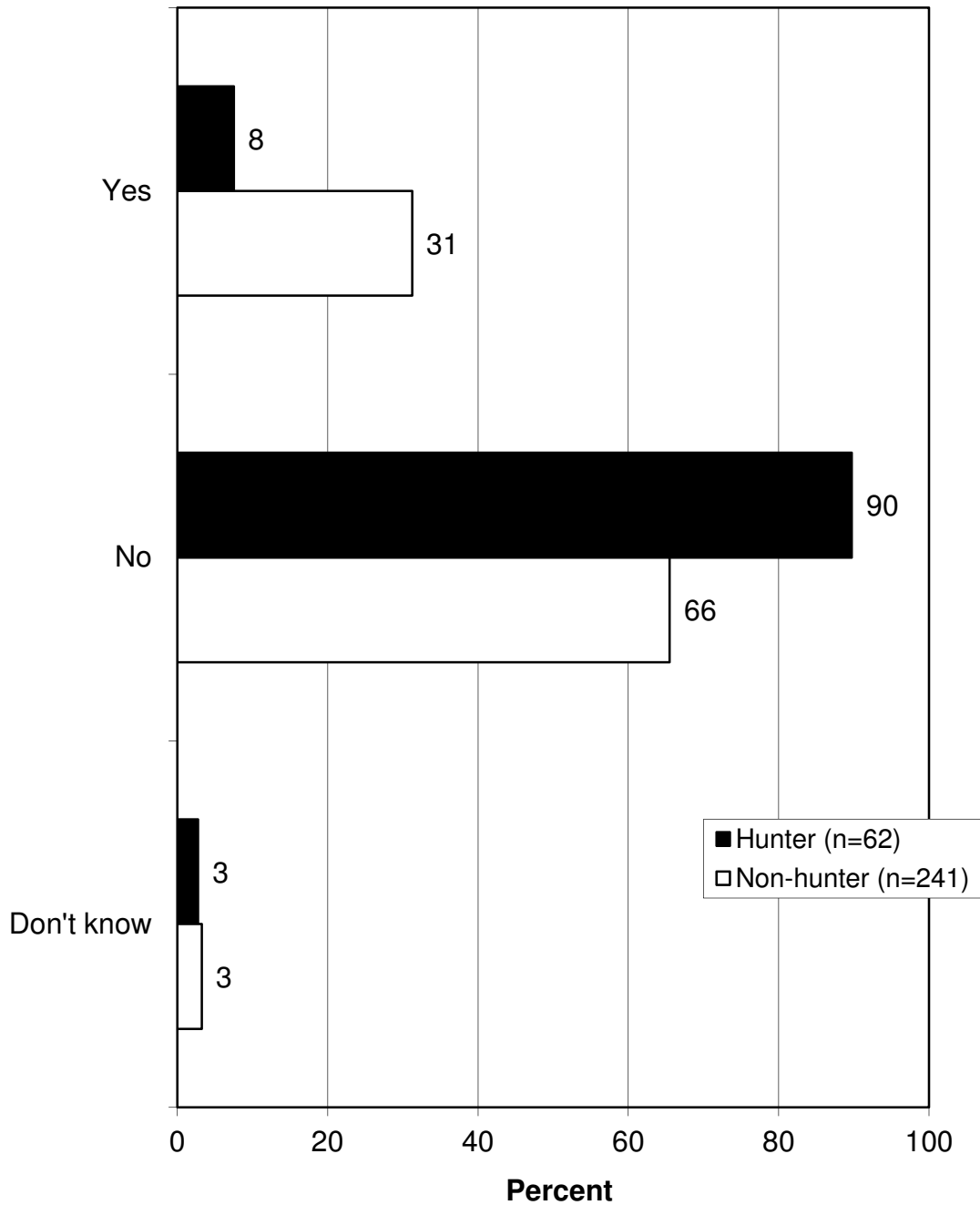
**Q52. Have you altered times because of Sunday hunting? (Asked of those who alter their times of participation in other outdoor activities because of deer season.) (Gen pop survey)**



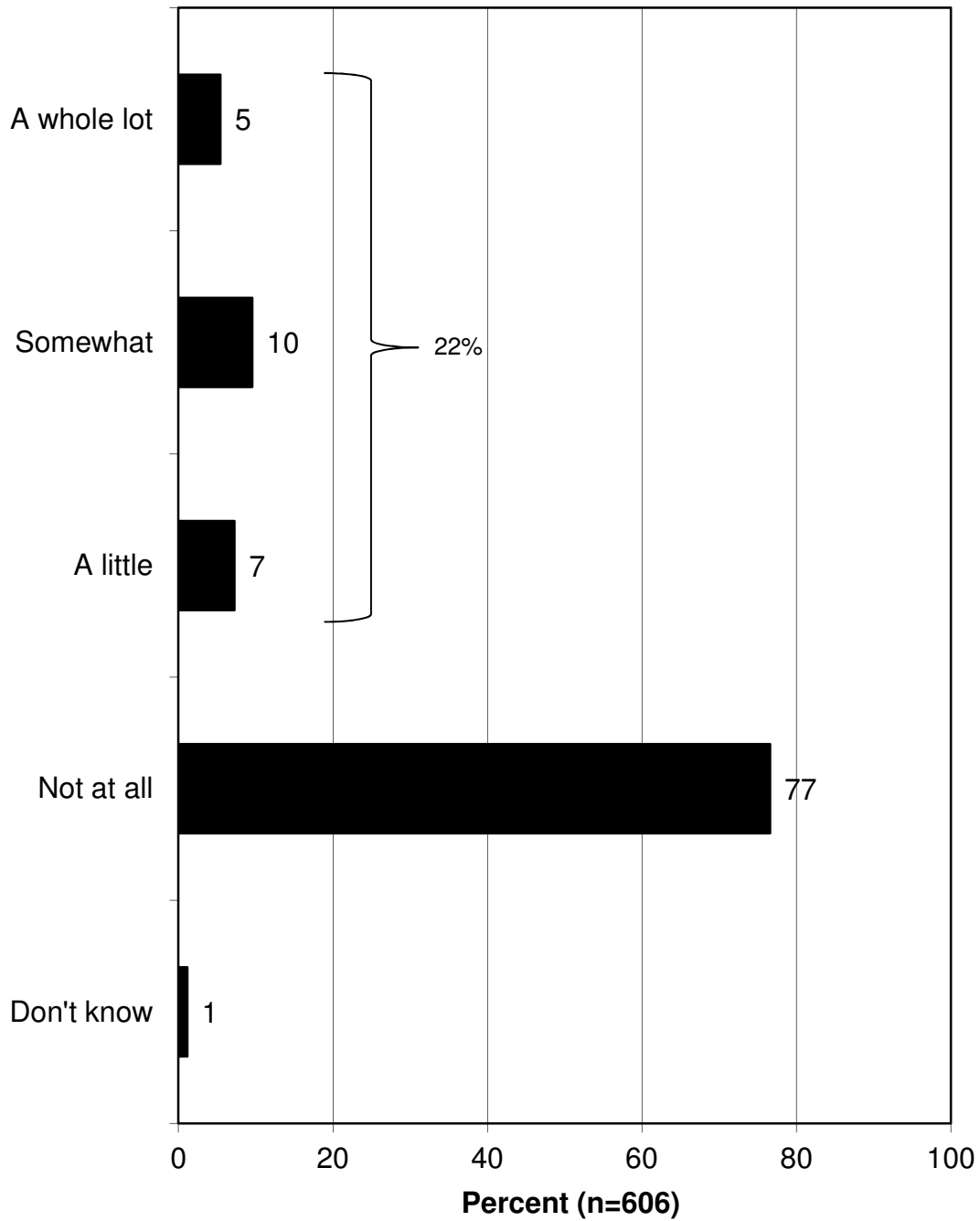
**Q58. Are you avoiding areas because of Sunday hunting? (Asked of those who avoid areas in which hunters are or might be hunting.) (Gen pop survey)**



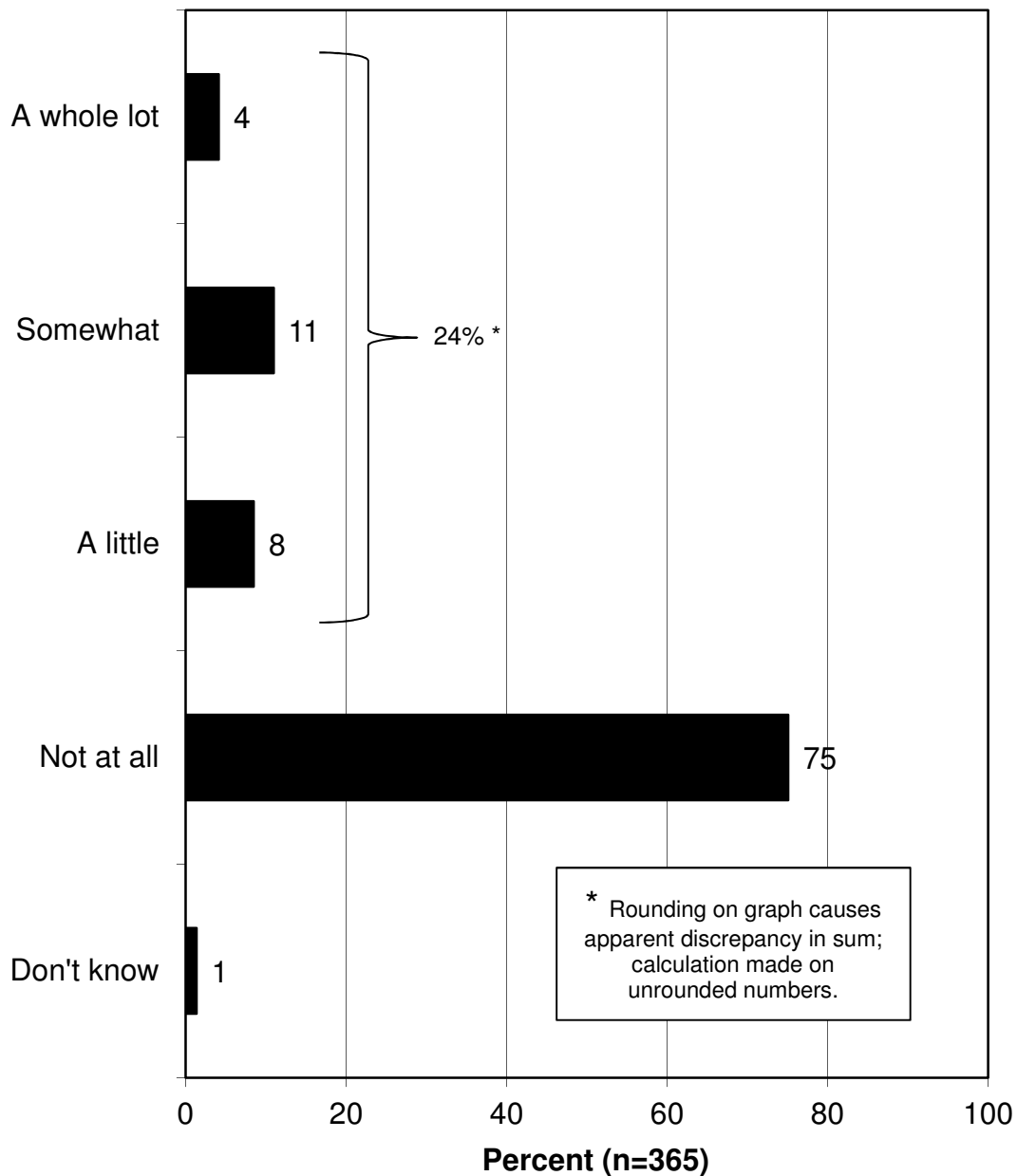
**Q58. Are you avoiding areas because of Sunday hunting? (Asked of those who avoid areas in which hunters are or might be hunting.) (Gen pop survey)**



**Q44. How much has deer hunting on Sundays caused you to alter the times you participate in recreation outdoors in Maryland?  
(Landowner survey)**

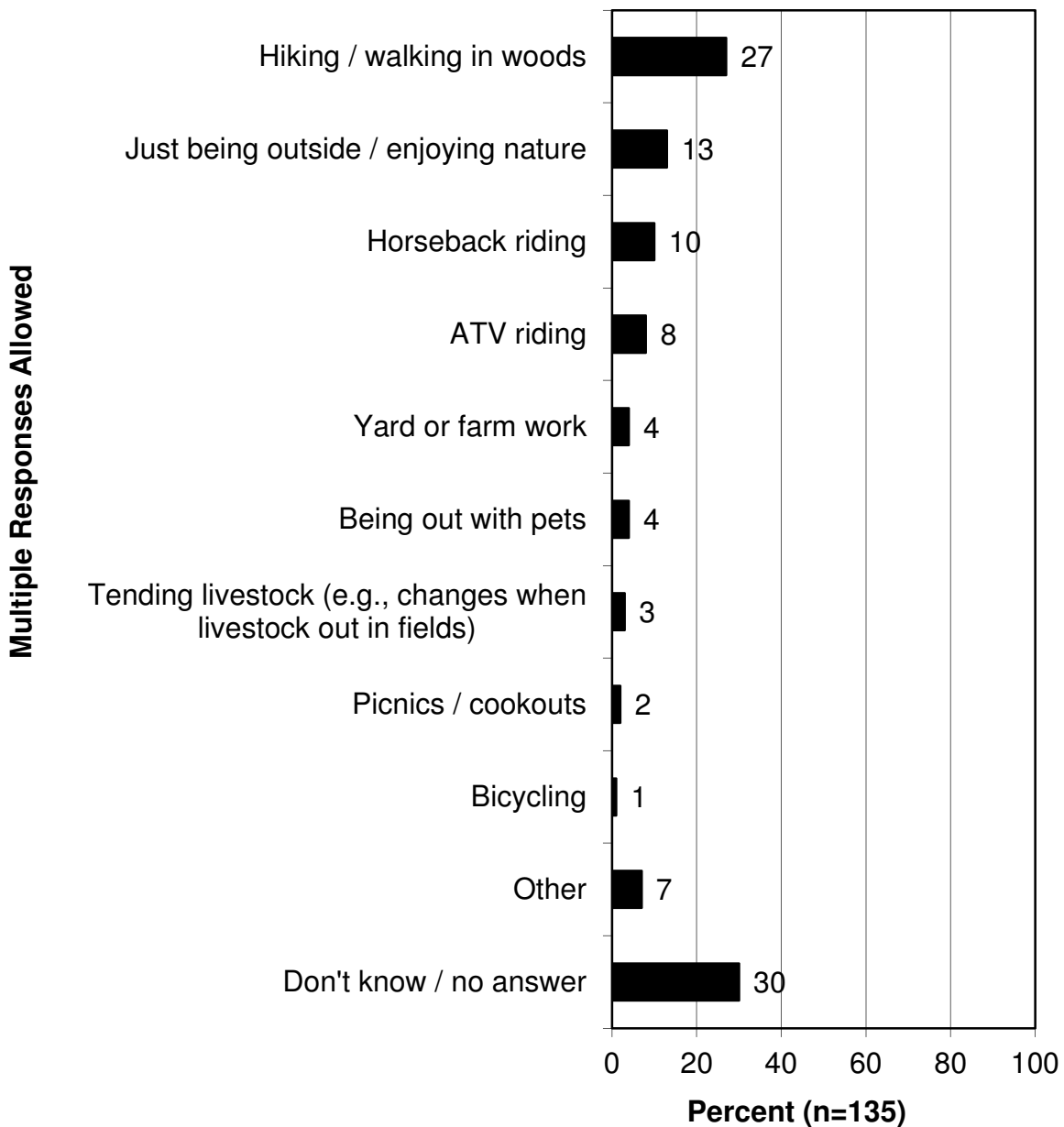


**Q44. How much has deer hunting on Sundays caused you to alter the times you participate in recreation outdoors in Maryland? (Among those who have not hunted in the past 10 years.)  
(Landowner survey)**

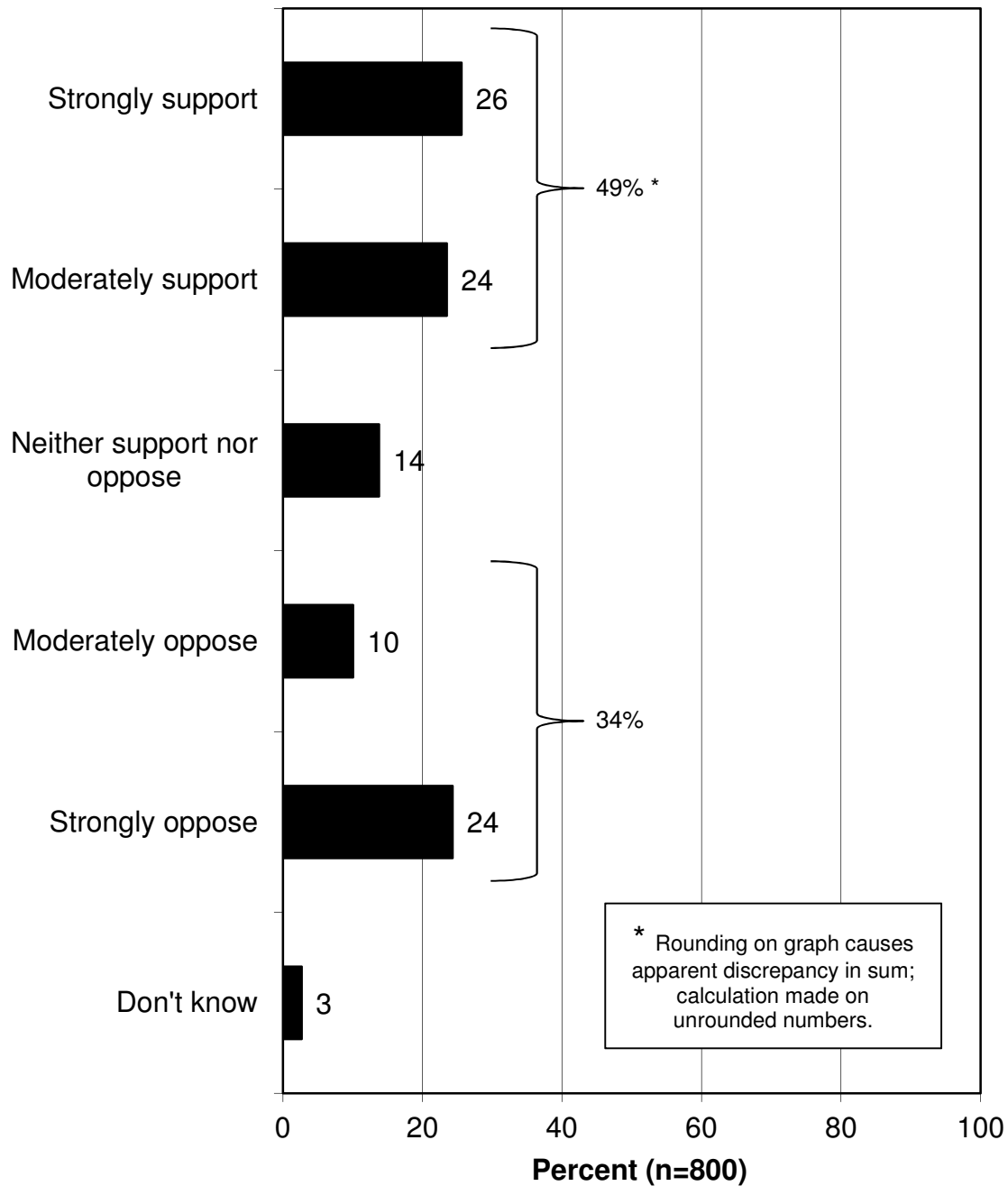




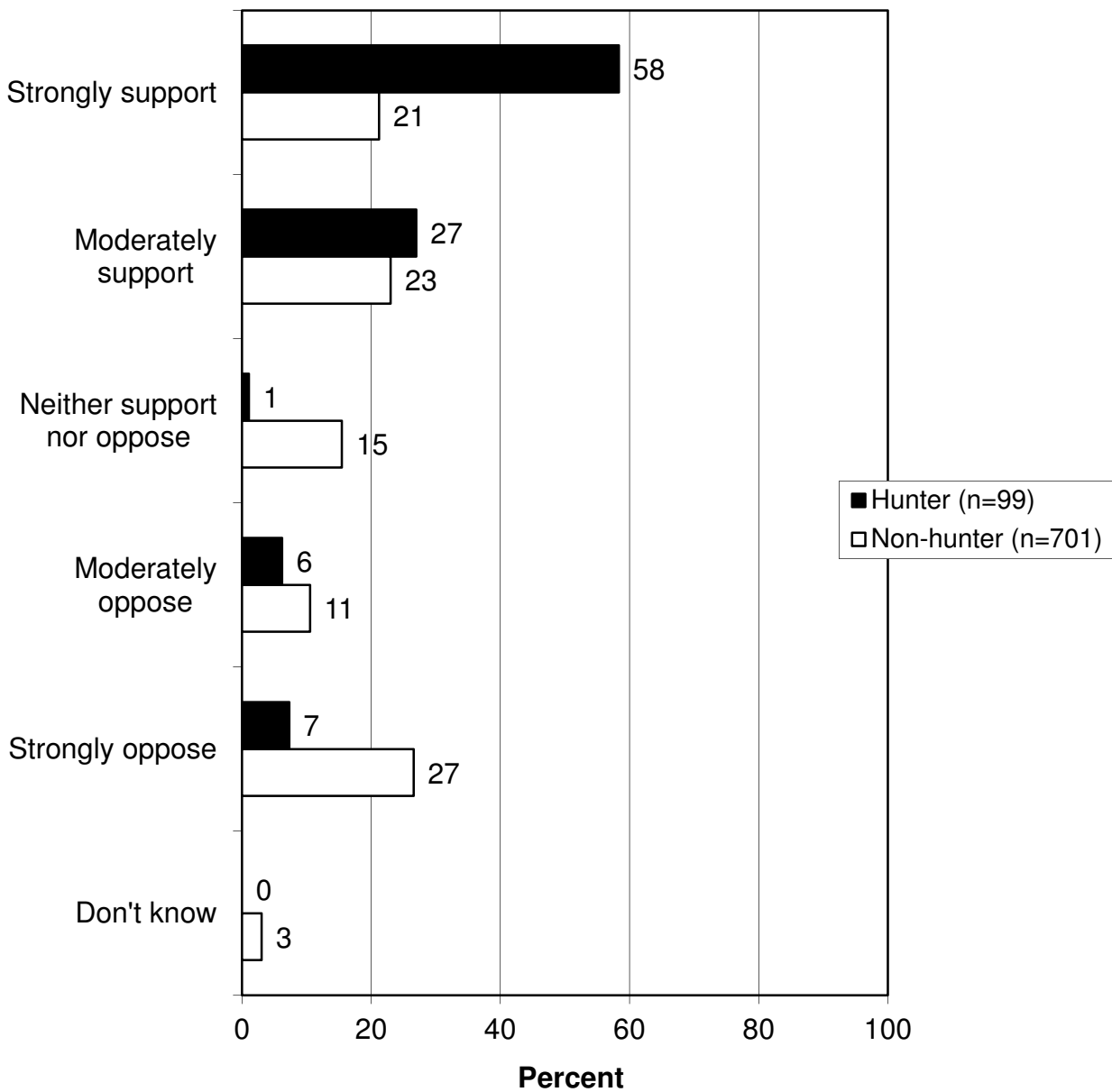
**Q45. What outdoor activities have you had to change doing because of deer hunting on Sundays? (Asked of those who alter their times of participation in other outdoor activities because of deer season.) (Landowner survey)**



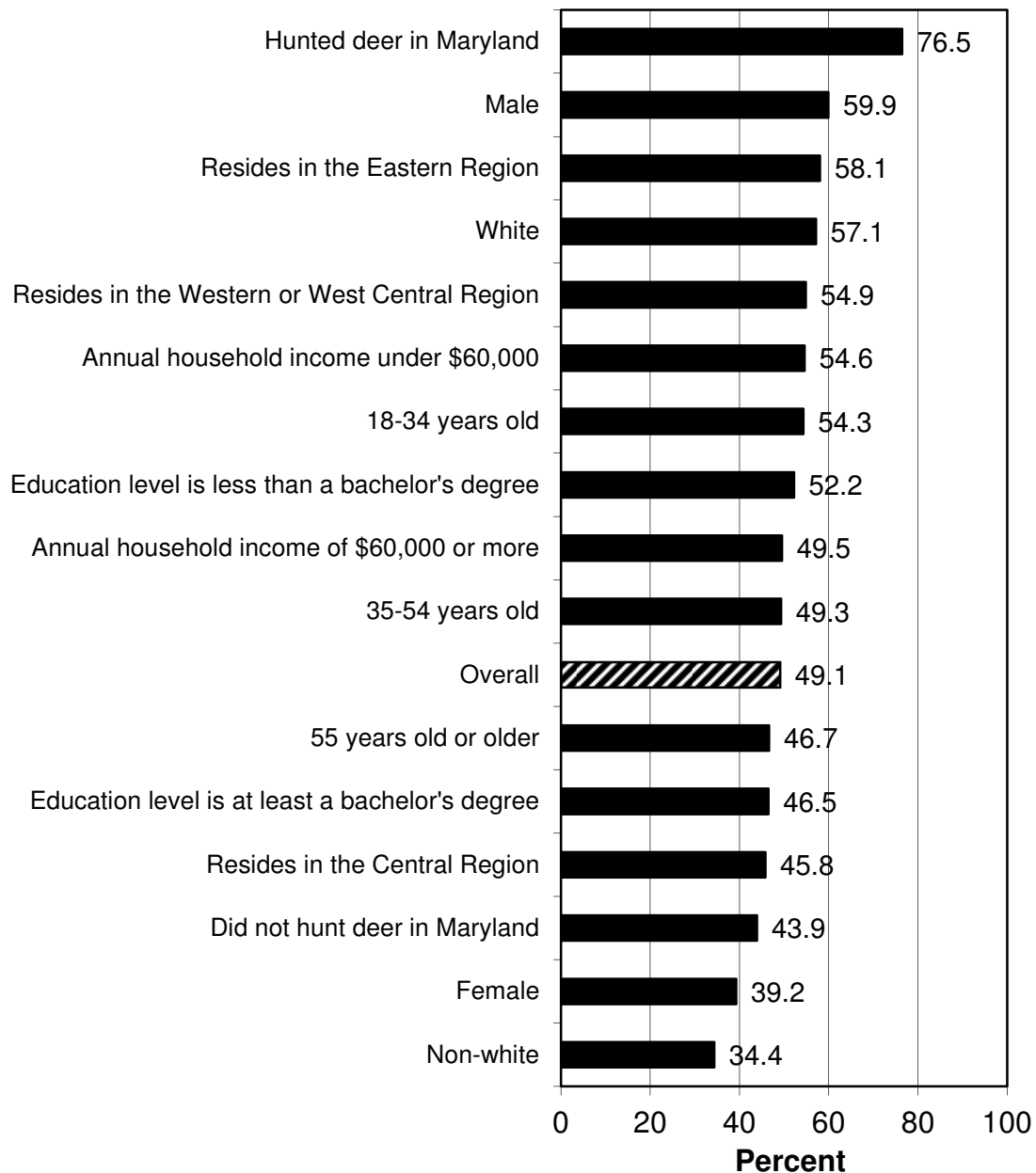
**Q72. Would you support or oppose opening additional Sundays for bow and arrow deer hunting? (Gen pop survey)**



**Q72. Would you support or oppose opening additional Sundays for bow and arrow deer hunting? (Gen pop survey)**

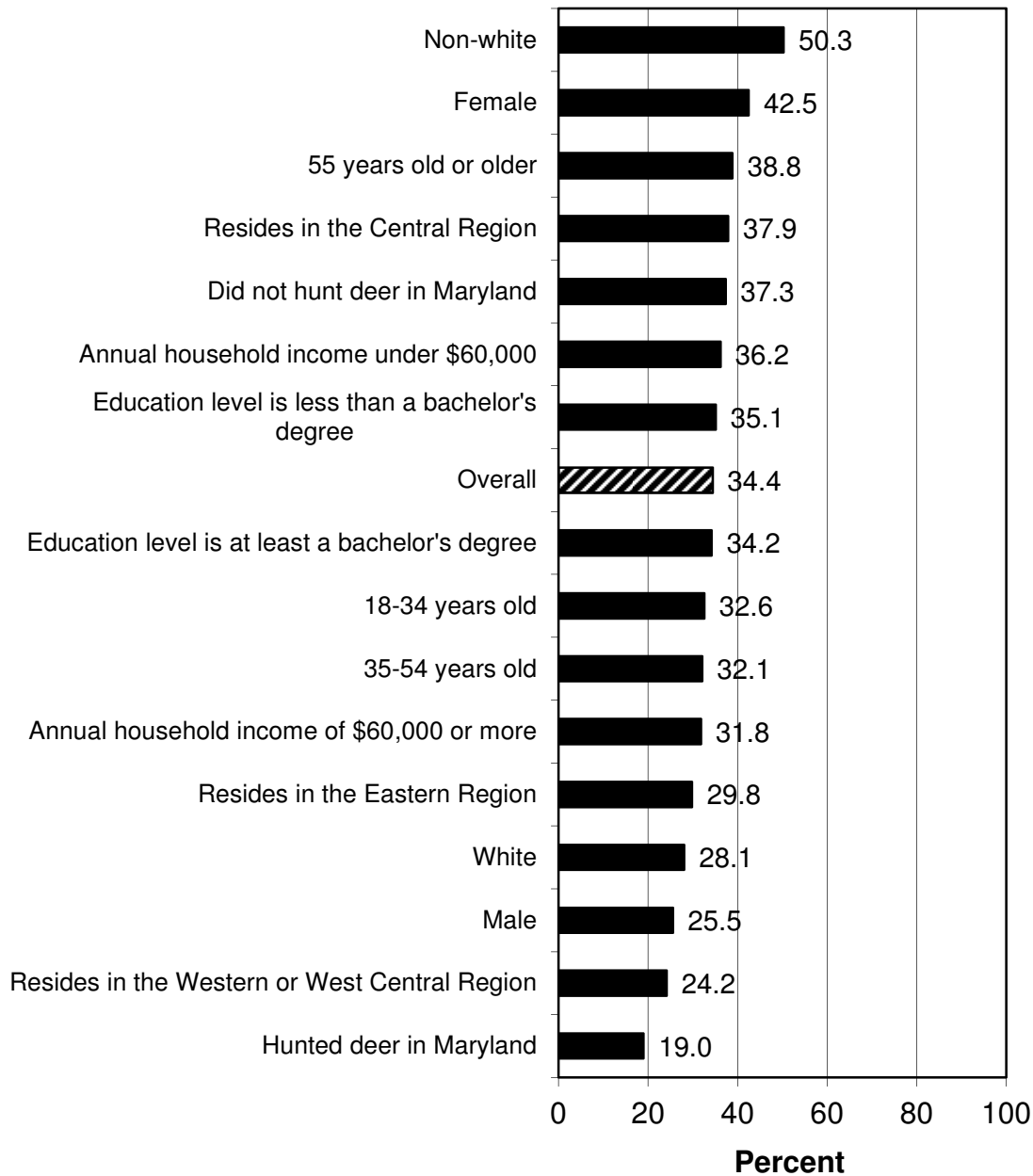


**Percent of the following groups who strongly or moderately support opening additional Sundays for bow and arrow deer hunting:  
(Gen pop survey)**



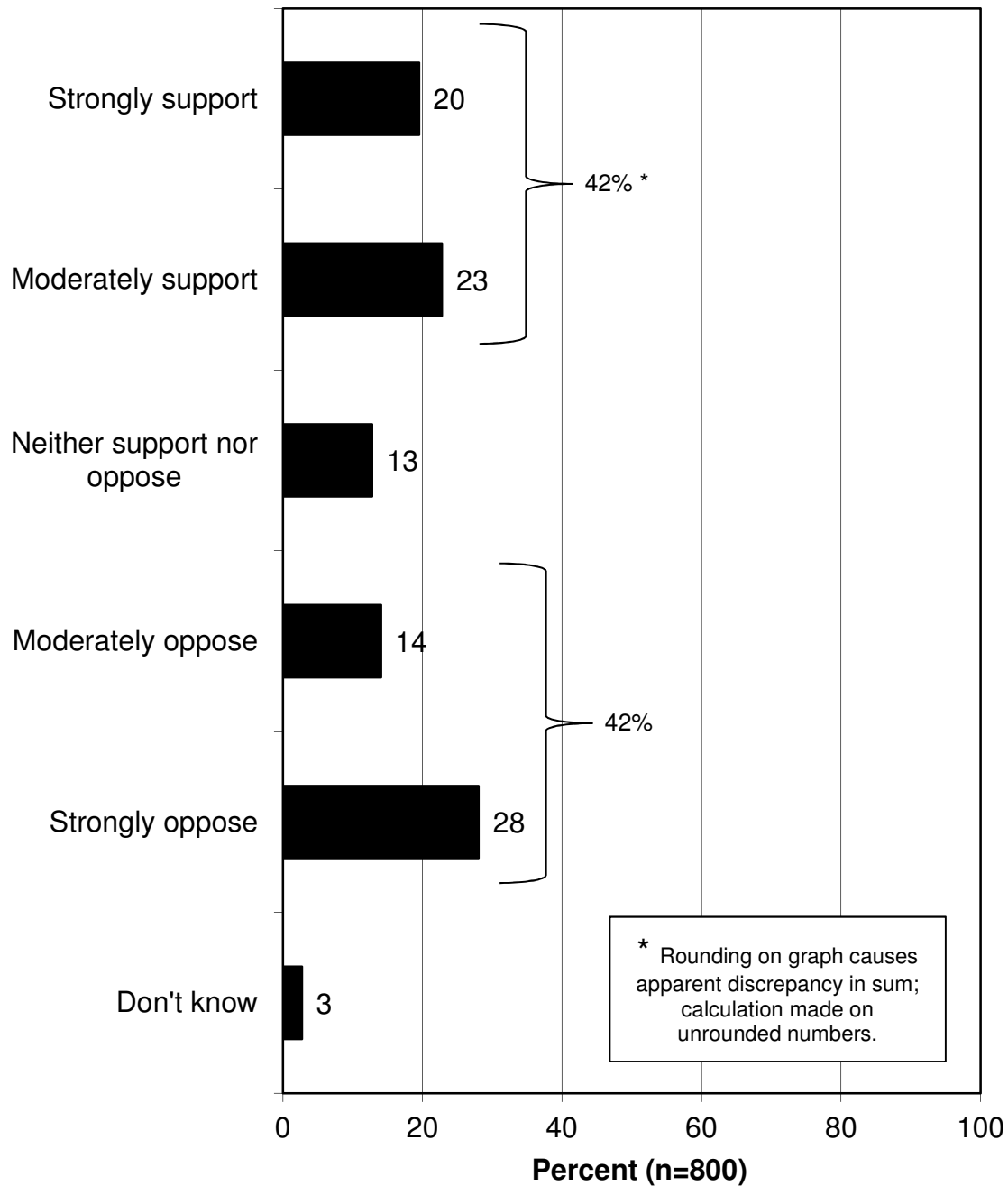
An explanation of how to interpret these graphs is on pages 6 through 7.

**Percent of the following groups who strongly or moderately oppose opening additional Sundays for bow and arrow deer hunting:  
(Gen pop survey)**

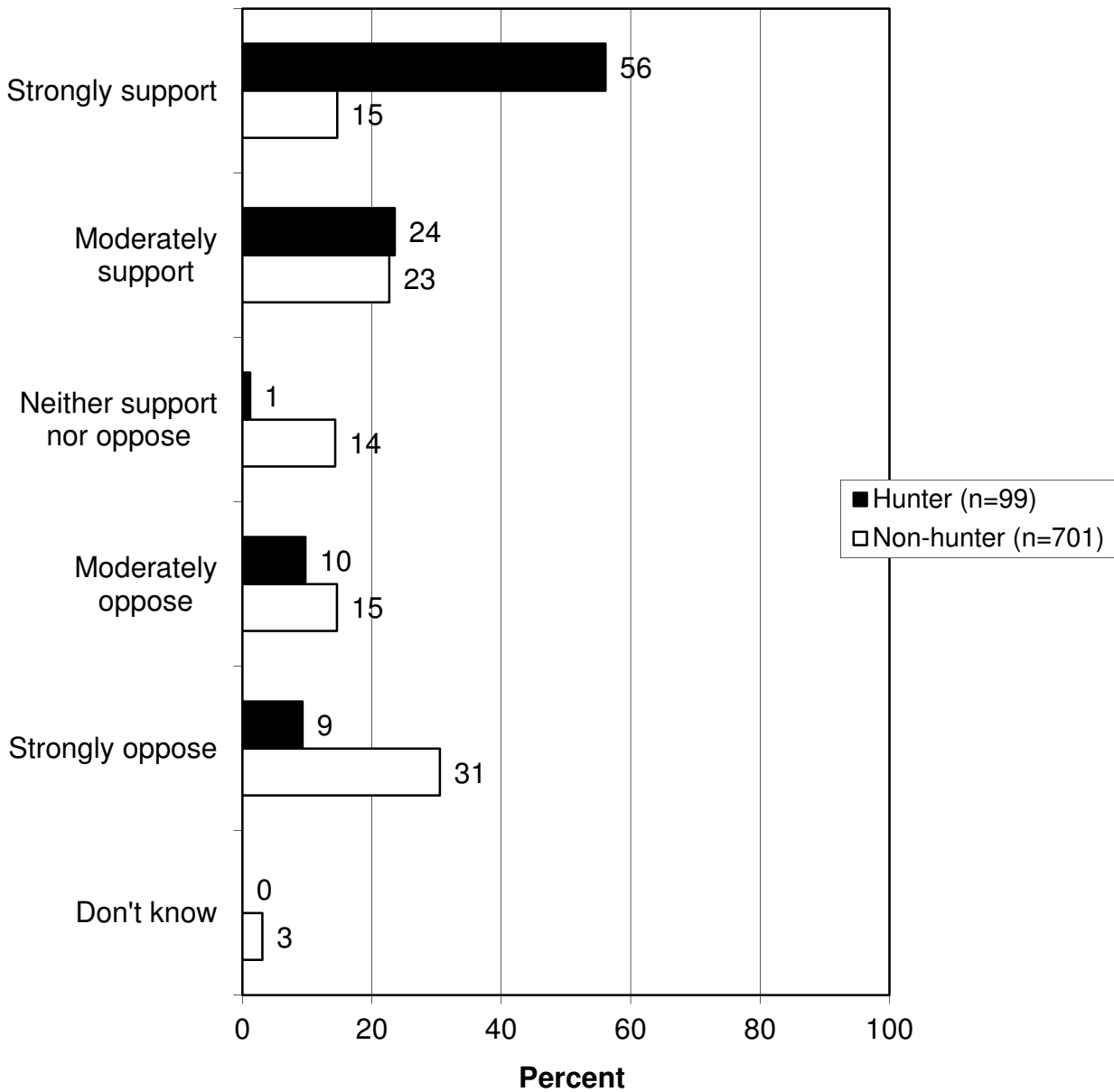


An explanation of how to interpret these graphs is on pages 6 through 7.

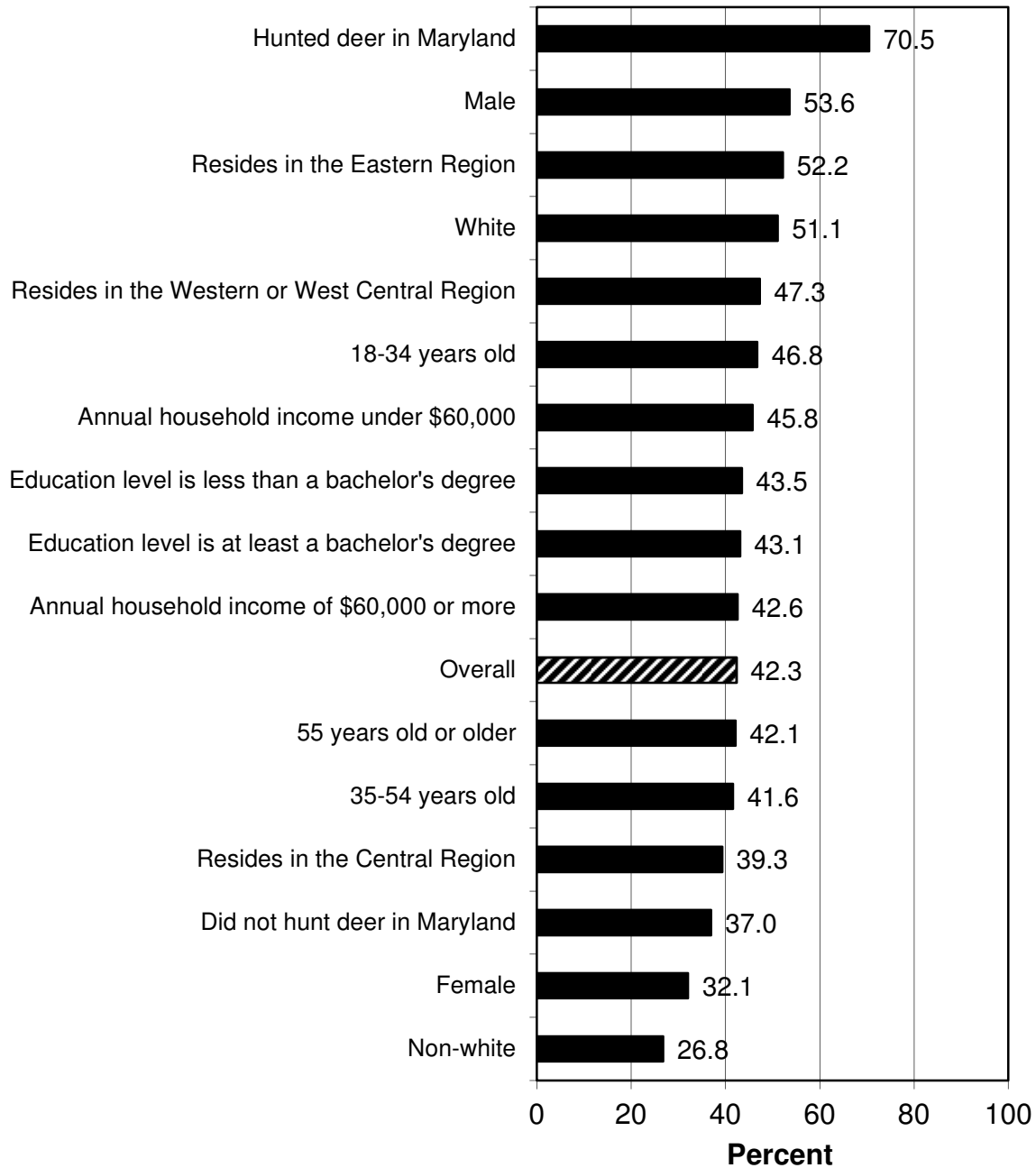
**Q73. Would you support or oppose opening additional Sundays for firearms deer hunting?  
(Gen pop survey)**



**Q73. Would you support or oppose opening additional Sundays for firearms deer hunting?  
(Gen pop survey)**



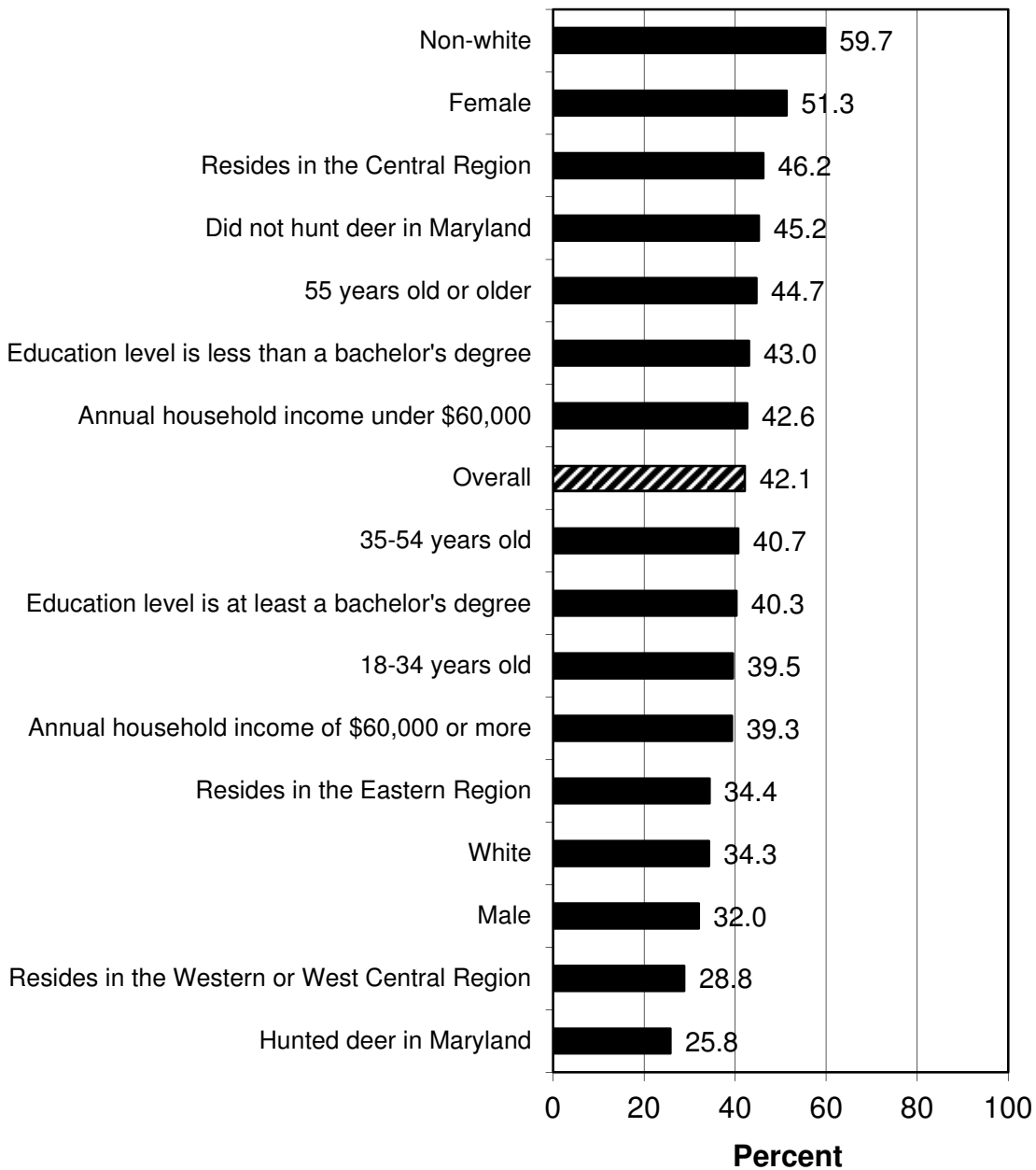
**Percent of the following groups who strongly or moderately support opening additional Sundays for firearms deer hunting:  
(Gen pop survey)**



An explanation of how to interpret these graphs is on pages 6 through 7.

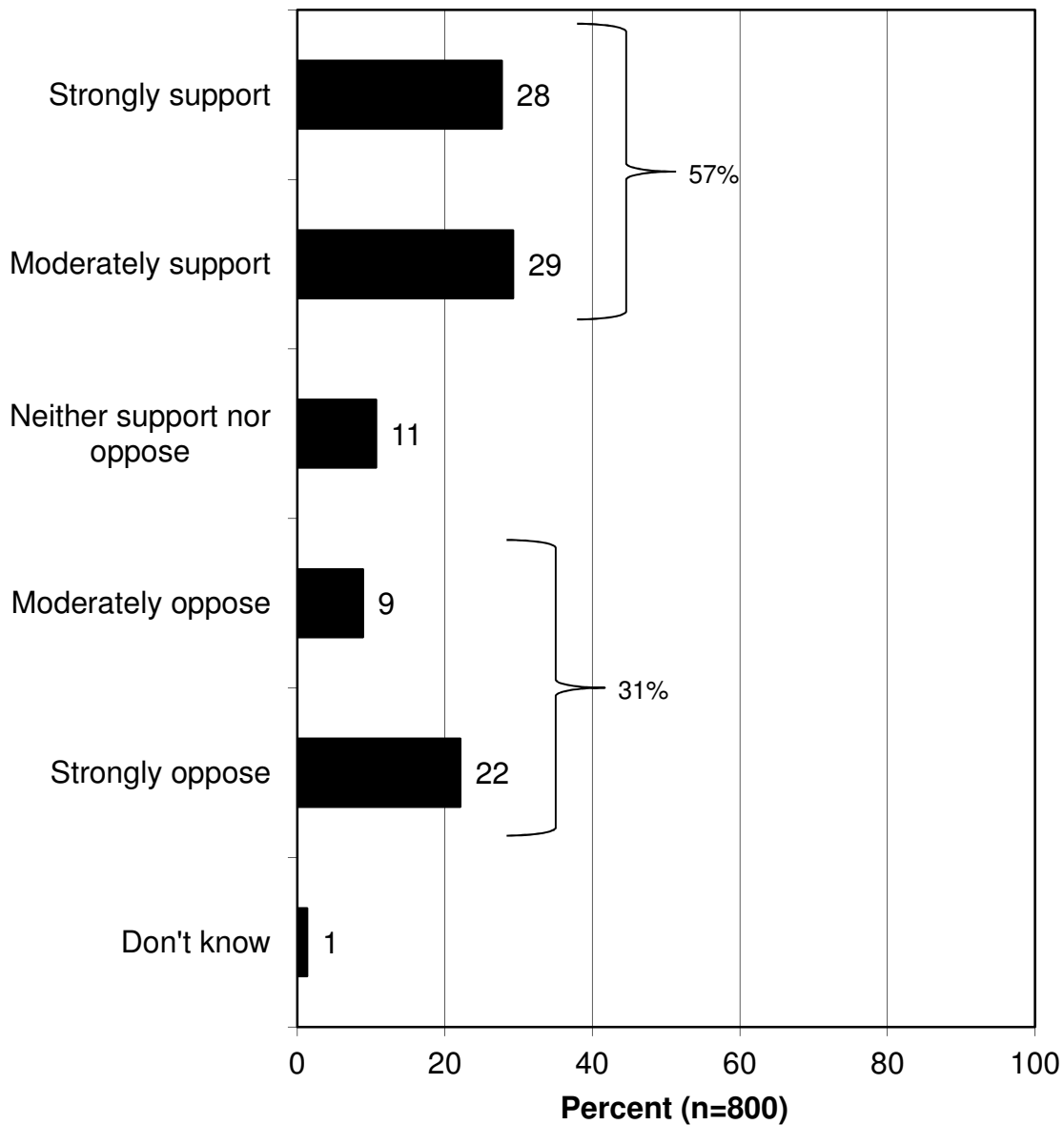


**Percent of the following groups who strongly or moderately oppose opening additional Sundays for firearms deer hunting:  
(Gen pop survey)**

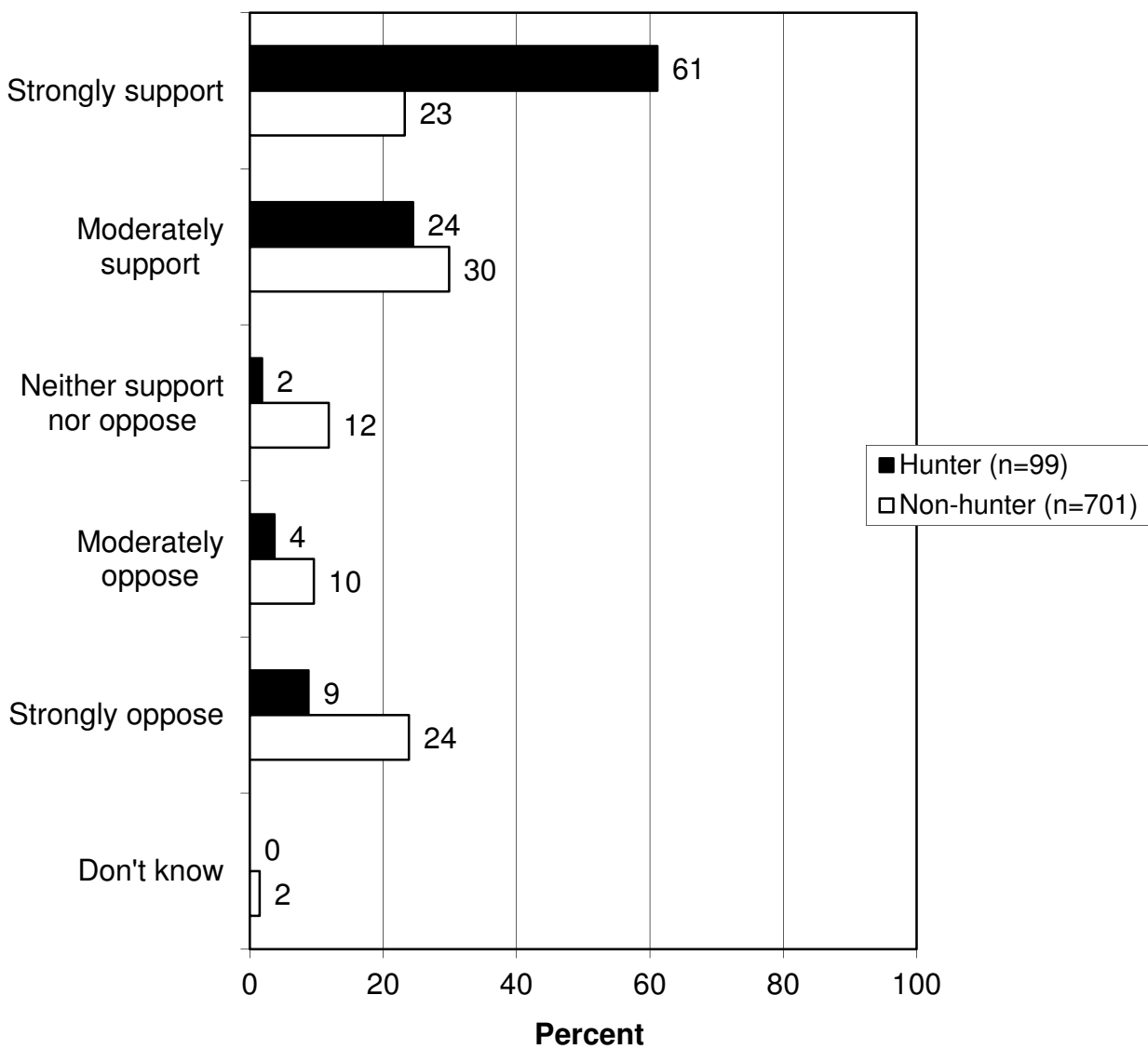


An explanation of how to interpret these graphs is on pages 6 through 7.

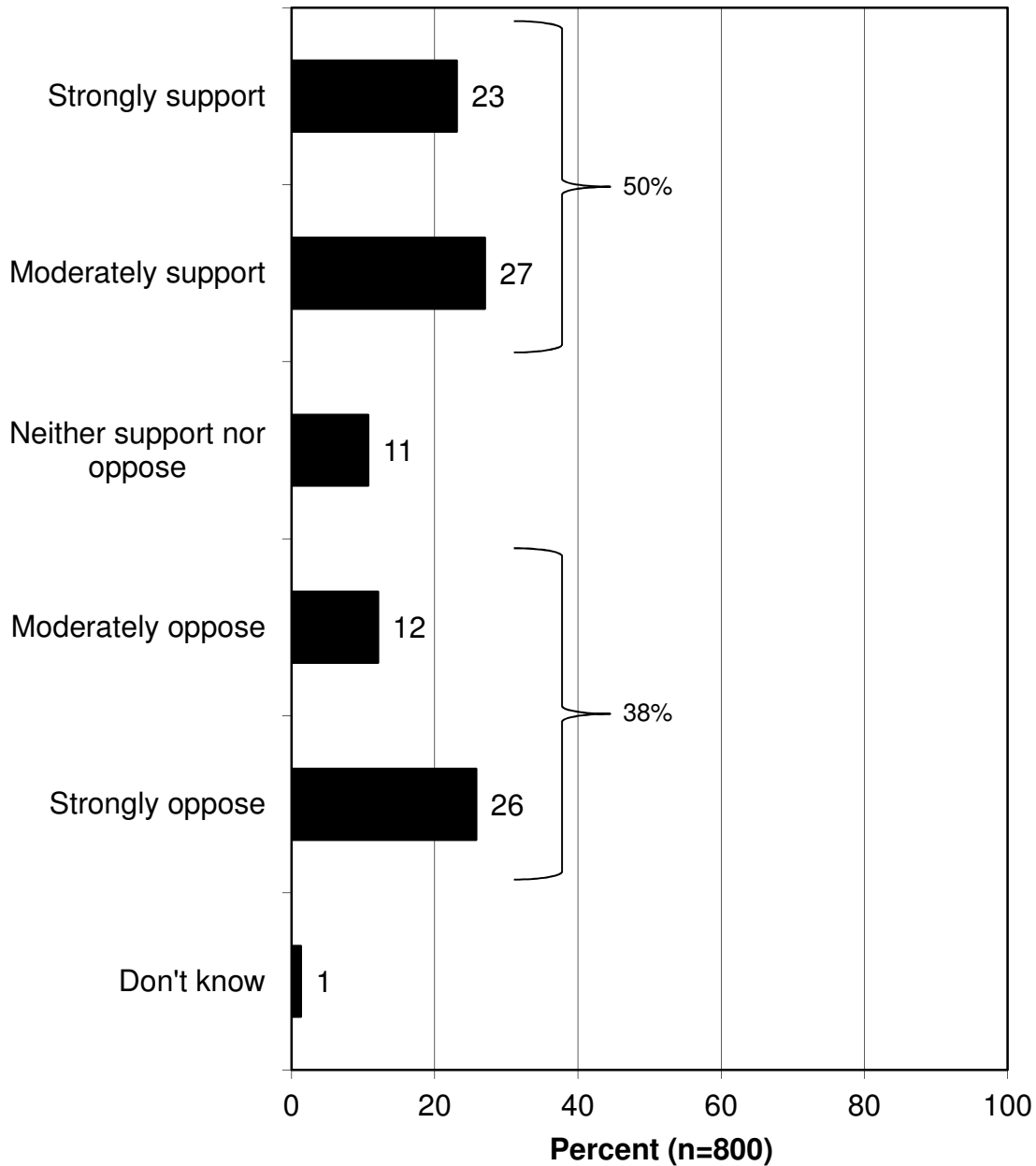
**Q75. Given this information [about Sunday hunting helping control overpopulation], would you support or oppose opening additional Sundays for bow and arrow deer hunting? (Gen pop survey)**



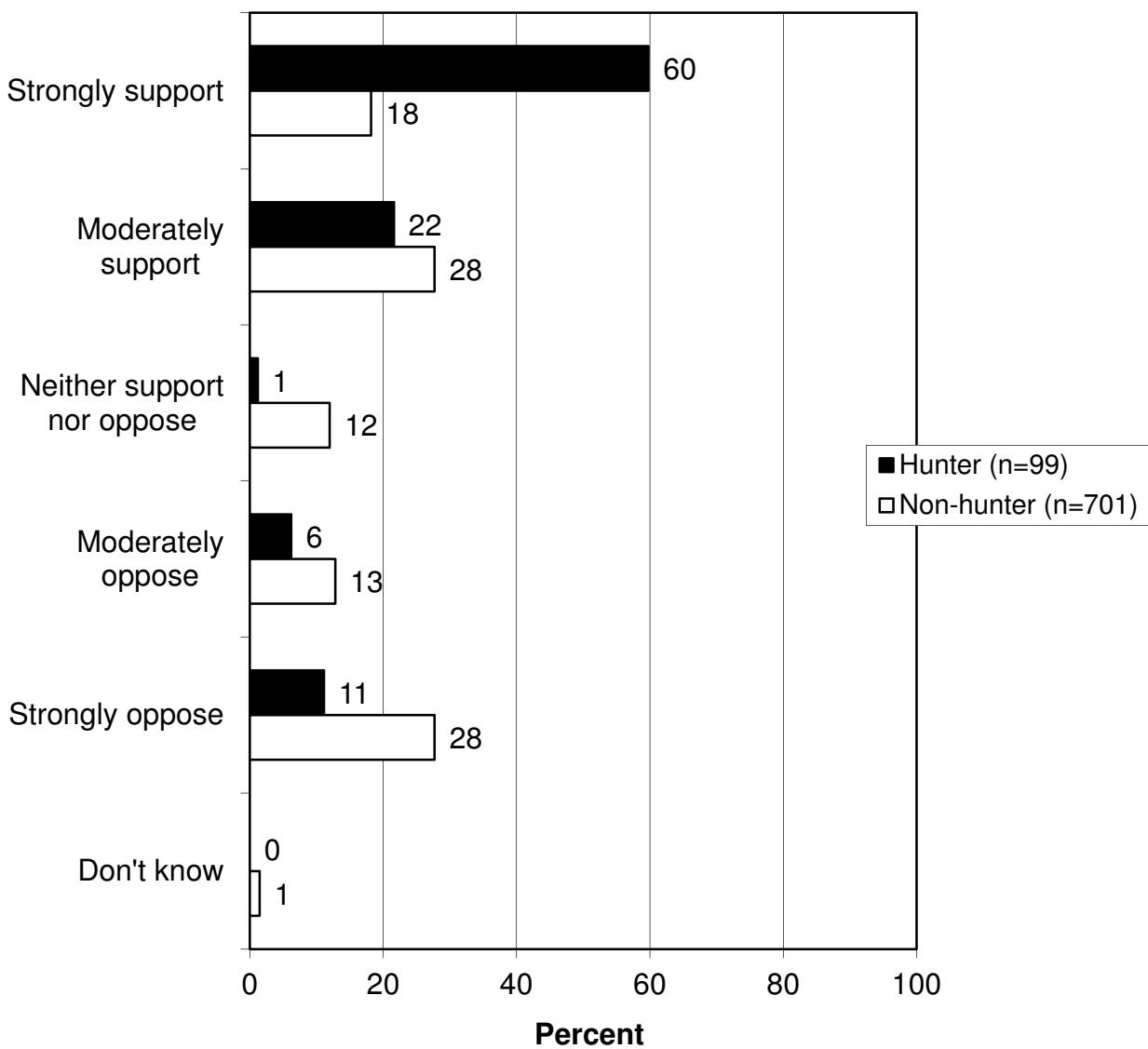
**Q75. Given this information [about Sunday hunting helping control overpopulation], would you support or oppose opening additional Sundays for bow and arrow deer hunting? (Gen pop survey)**



**Q76. Given this information [about Sunday hunting helping control overpopulation], would you support or oppose opening additional Sundays for firearms deer hunting?  
(Gen pop survey)**



**Q76. Given this information [about Sunday hunting helping control overpopulation], would you support or oppose opening additional Sundays for firearms deer hunting? (Gen pop survey)**



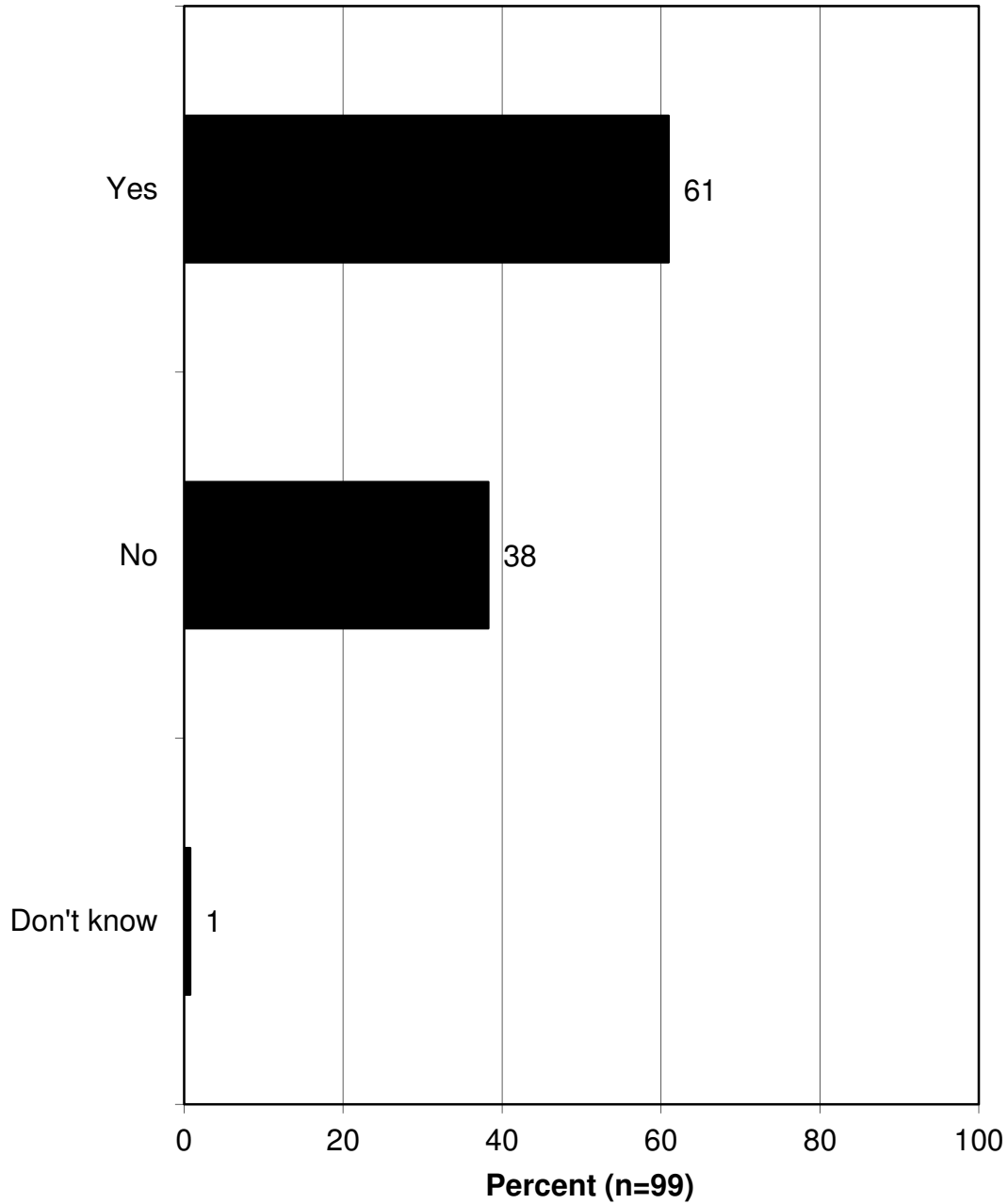
## CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

### OPINIONS ON AND CONCERNS ABOUT CWD IN GENERAL

- All three surveys asked about awareness of Chronic Wasting Disease, or CWD. The general population and landowner surveys asked only those who had hunted deer, as the question was primarily a lead-in to the three-county comparison discussed later in the report.
  - In the general population survey, those who hunted in the past 10 years were asked about their awareness: 61% of them were aware of CWD prior to the survey.
  - The large majority of landowners who had hunted deer in the past 10 years (85%) had heard of CWD.
  - The vast majority of deer hunters (89%) had heard of CWD.
  
- All respondents in the hunter survey who had heard of CWD were asked about their level of concern about it, and all those in either the general population or landowner survey who had hunted and who had heard of CWD were asked about their concern. The results include those who had not heard of CWD; we can assume that they would be not at all concerned for the purposes of the survey.
  - In the general population survey, those who had hunted deer in the past 10 years are evenly split: 50% are very or somewhat concerned about CWD, and 50% are not at all concerned or have not heard of it.
  - Among landowners who had hunted in the past 10 years, 74% are very or somewhat concerned.
  - In total, 79% of hunters are very or somewhat concerned about CWD.

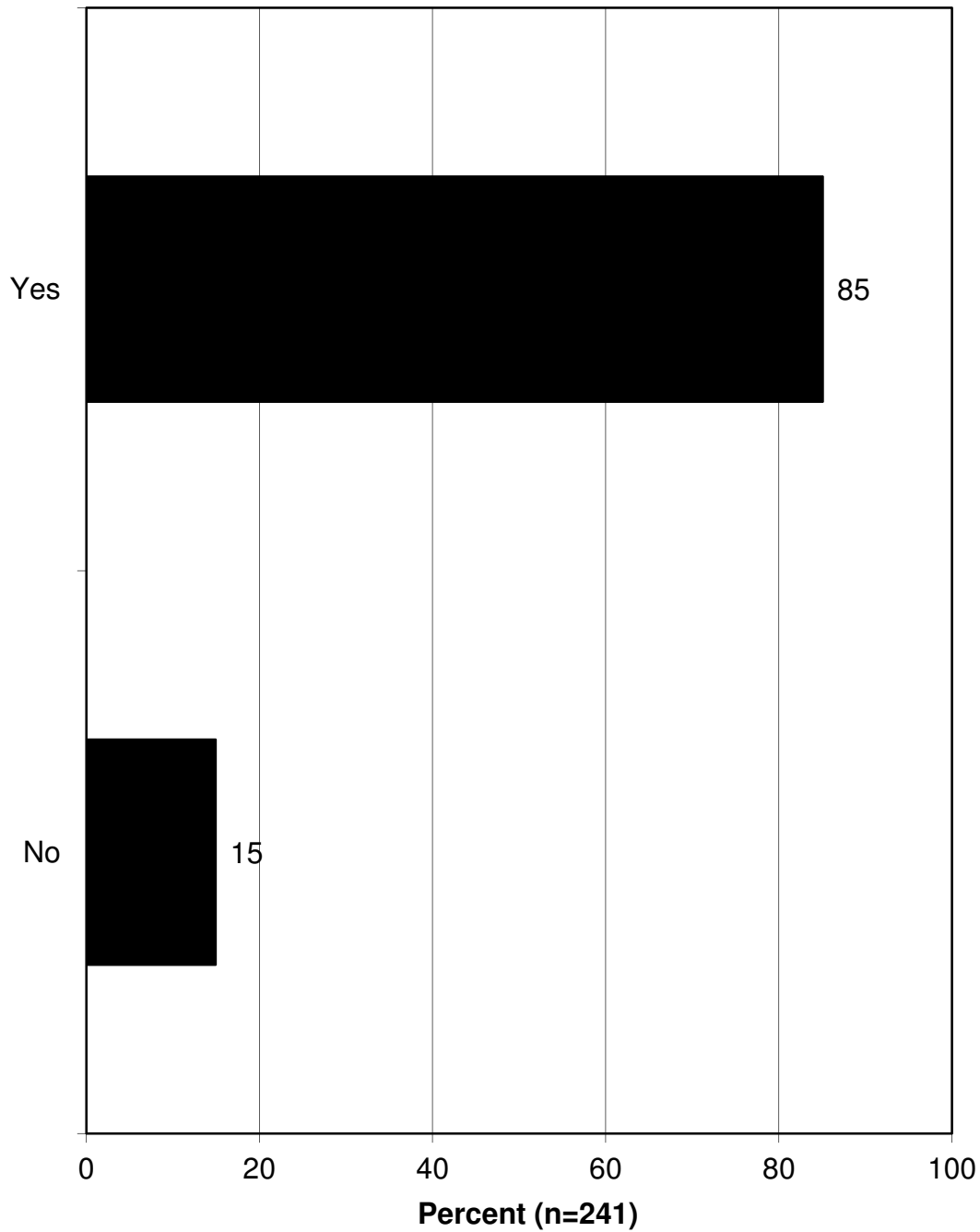
- Despite a high level of concern among deer hunters regarding CWD in the hunter survey, only 10% of deer hunters have changed where they hunt in Maryland because of CWD, and only 4% say that CWD has caused them to hunt deer less in Maryland in general.
  - The results of the other surveys mirror the above results. Among hunters in the general population survey, 9% have changed their hunting location because of CWD (or stopped hunting deer because of CWD), and 5% have hunted deer less (or stopped hunting deer) in Maryland in general because of CWD.
  - Among landowners who had hunted deer in Maryland in the past 10 years, 8% have changed their hunting location because of CWD (or stopped hunting deer because of CWD), and 5% have hunted deer less (or stopped hunting deer) in Maryland in general because of CWD.
  - A question on the same theme asked hunters in the general population survey if CWD had caused them to stop hunting deer in Maryland: 1% agreed that it had.
  - Among landowners who had hunted deer in the past 10 years, only 2% agreed that the disease had caused them to stop hunting deer.
    - Although the results of the hunter survey were discussed first—being the primary survey for this topic—the graphs are still presented in the same order as done throughout the report: the general population survey results, the landowner survey results, and then the hunter survey results.

**Q122. Prior to this survey, had you heard of Chronic Wasting Disease or CWD? (Asked of those who hunted deer within the past 10 years.) (Gen pop survey)**

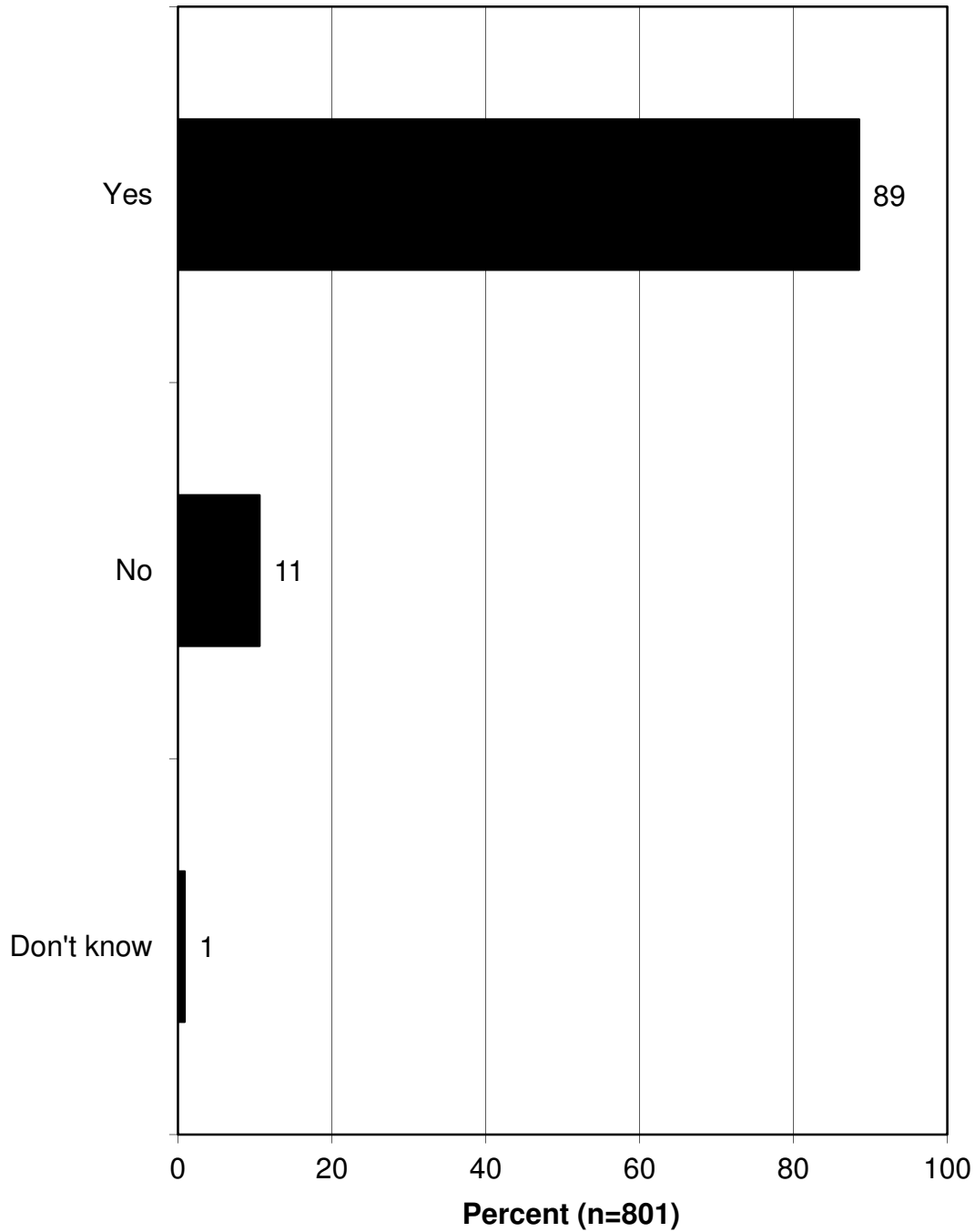




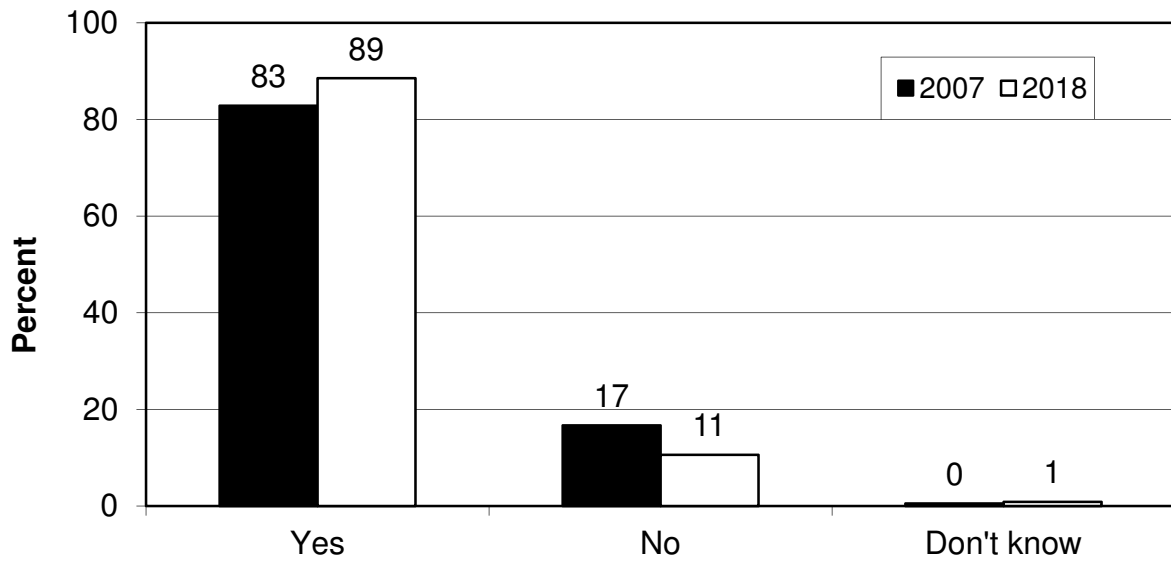
**Q75. Prior to this survey, had you heard of Chronic Wasting Disease or CWD? (Asked of those who hunted deer within the past 10 years.) (Landowner survey)**



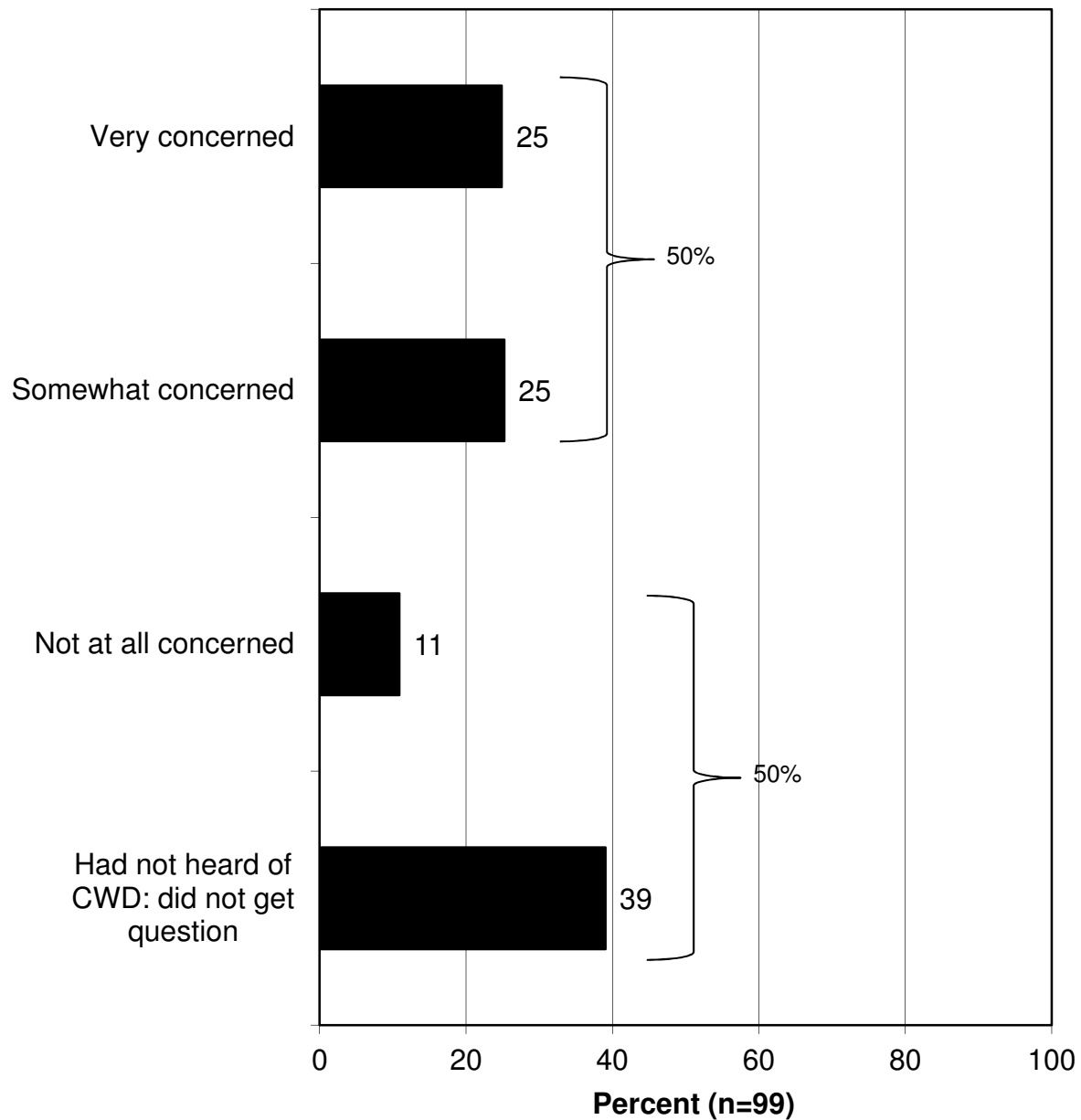
**Q135. Prior to this survey, had you heard of  
Chronic Wasting Disease or CWD?  
(Hunter survey)**



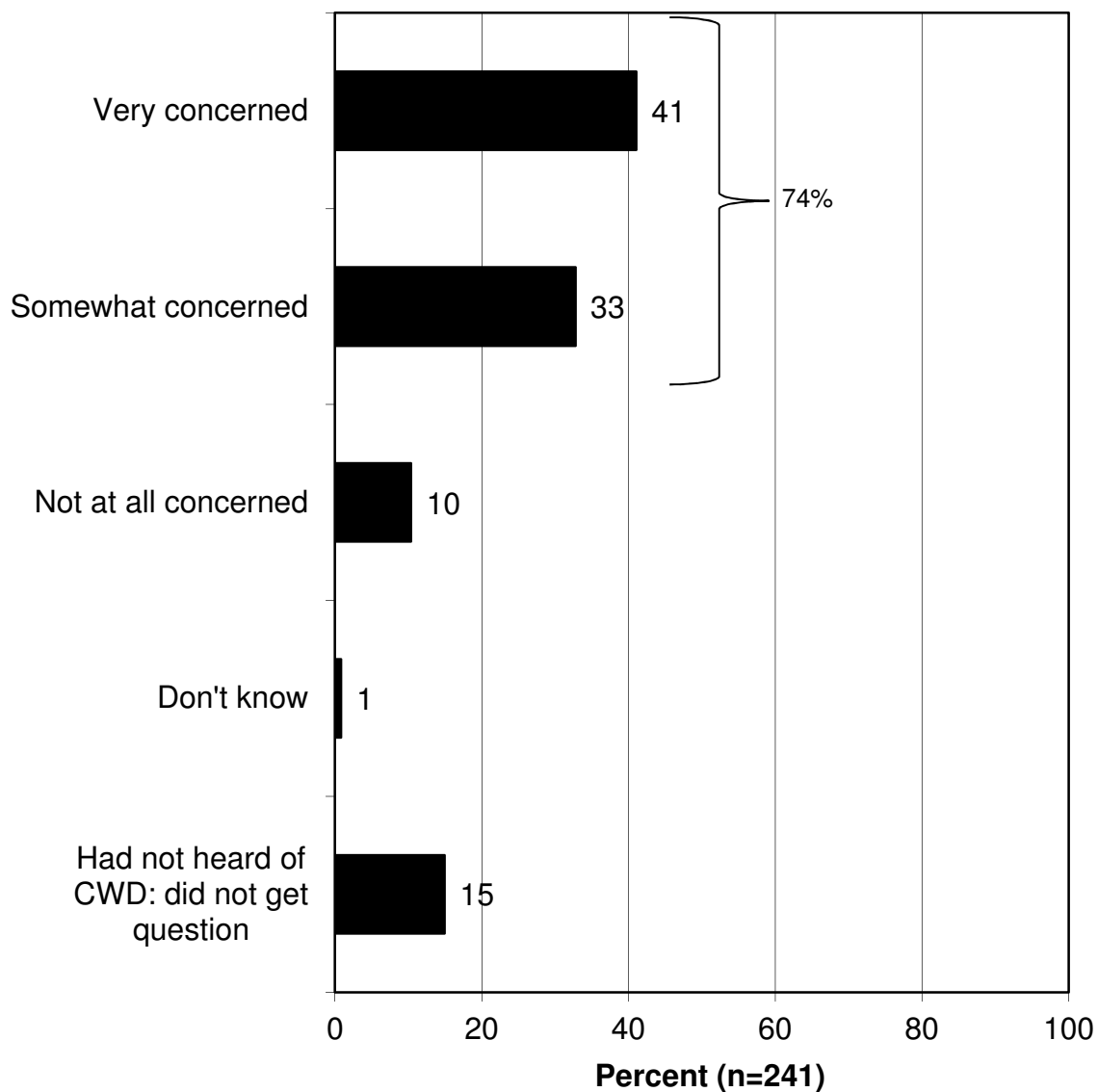
**Q135. Prior to this survey, had you heard of Chronic Wasting Disease or CWD?  
(Hunter survey)**



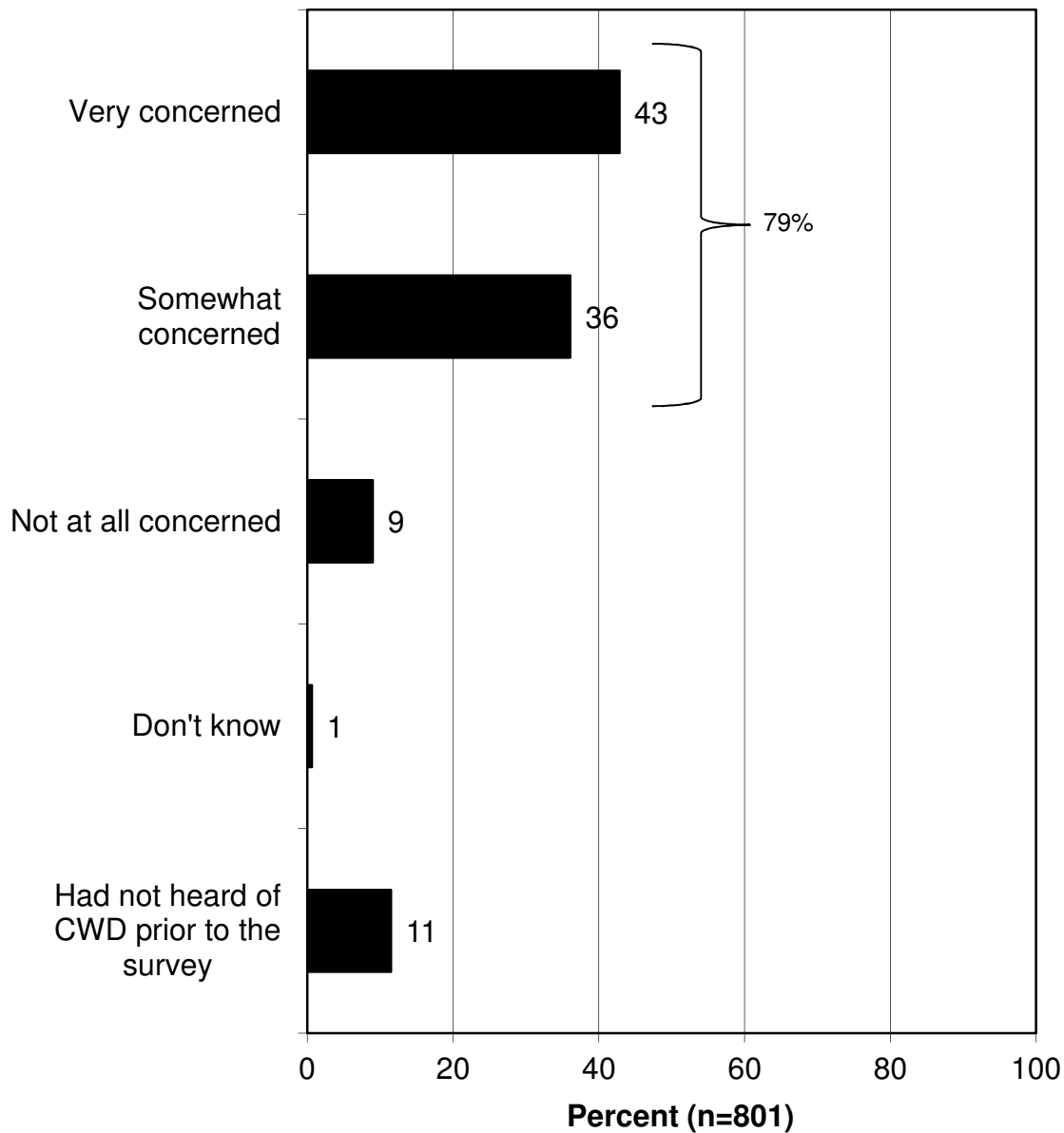
**Q123. Chronic Wasting Disease or CWD is a disease of the nervous system in deer, moose, and elk that results in a distinctive brain lesions and is fatal to the animal. In general, how concerned are you about Chronic Wasting Disease? (Asked of those who hunted deer within the past 10 years.)  
(Gen pop survey)**



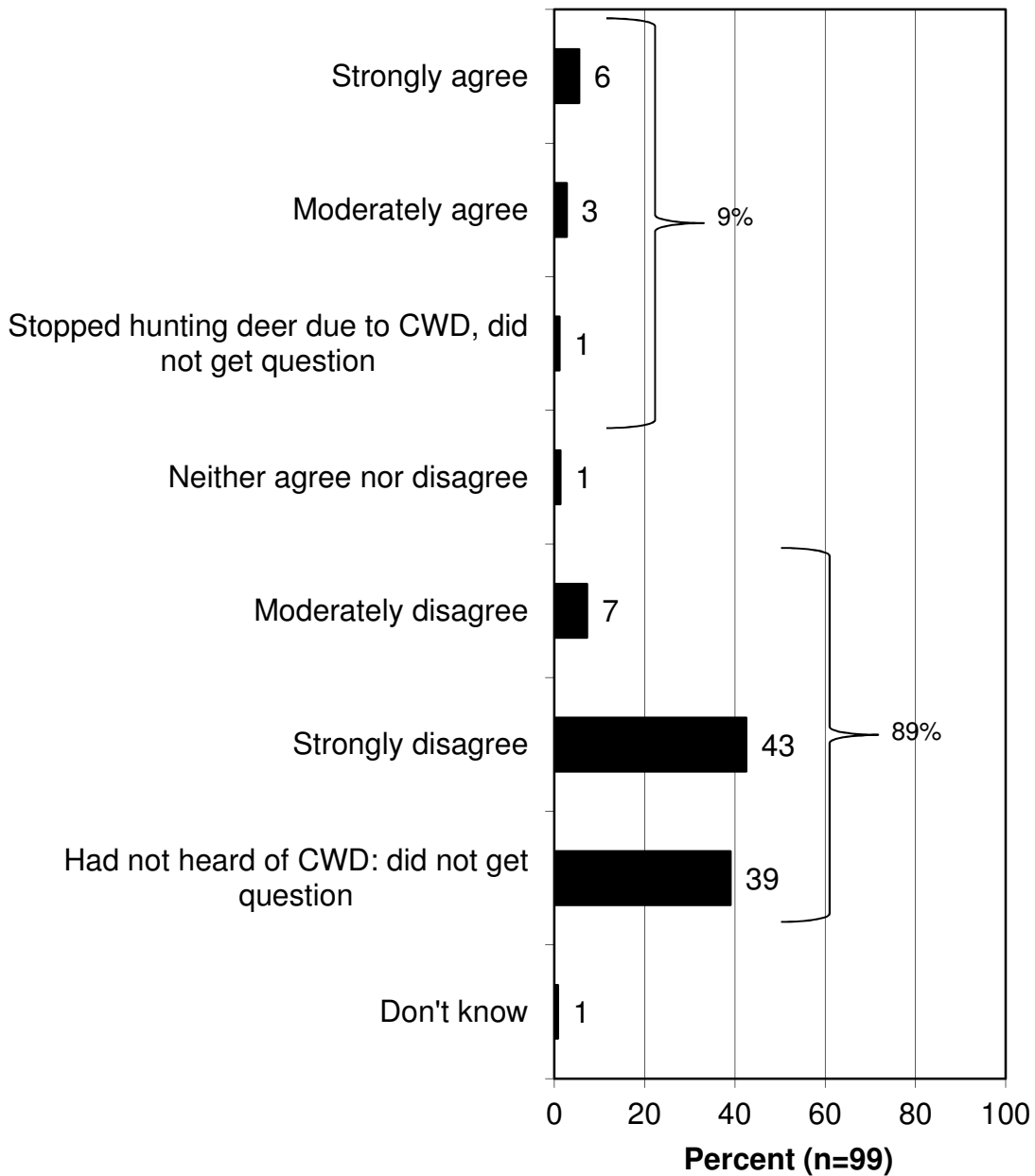
**Q76. Chronic Wasting Disease or CWD is a disease of the nervous system in deer, moose, and elk that results in a distinctive brain lesions and is fatal to the animal. In general, how concerned are you about Chronic Wasting Disease? (Asked of those who hunted deer within the past 10 years.)  
(Landowner survey)**



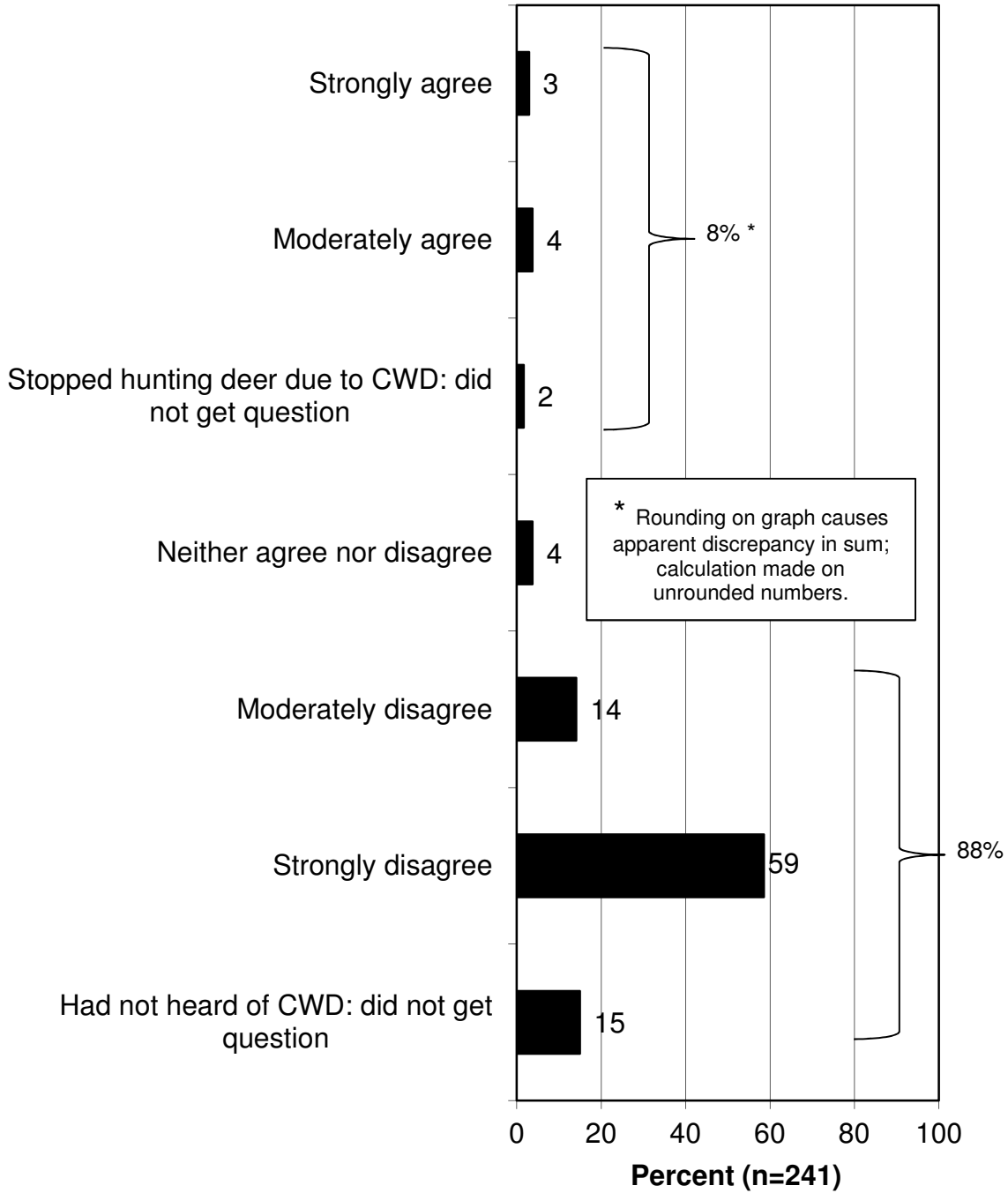
**Q136. Chronic Wasting Disease or CWD is a disease of the nervous system in deer, moose, and elk that results in distinctive brain lesions and is fatal to the animal. In general, how concerned are you about Chronic Wasting Disease? (Hunter survey)**



**Q126. CWD has caused you to change where you hunt deer in Maryland. (Asked of those who hunted deer within the past 10 years.) (Gen pop survey)**

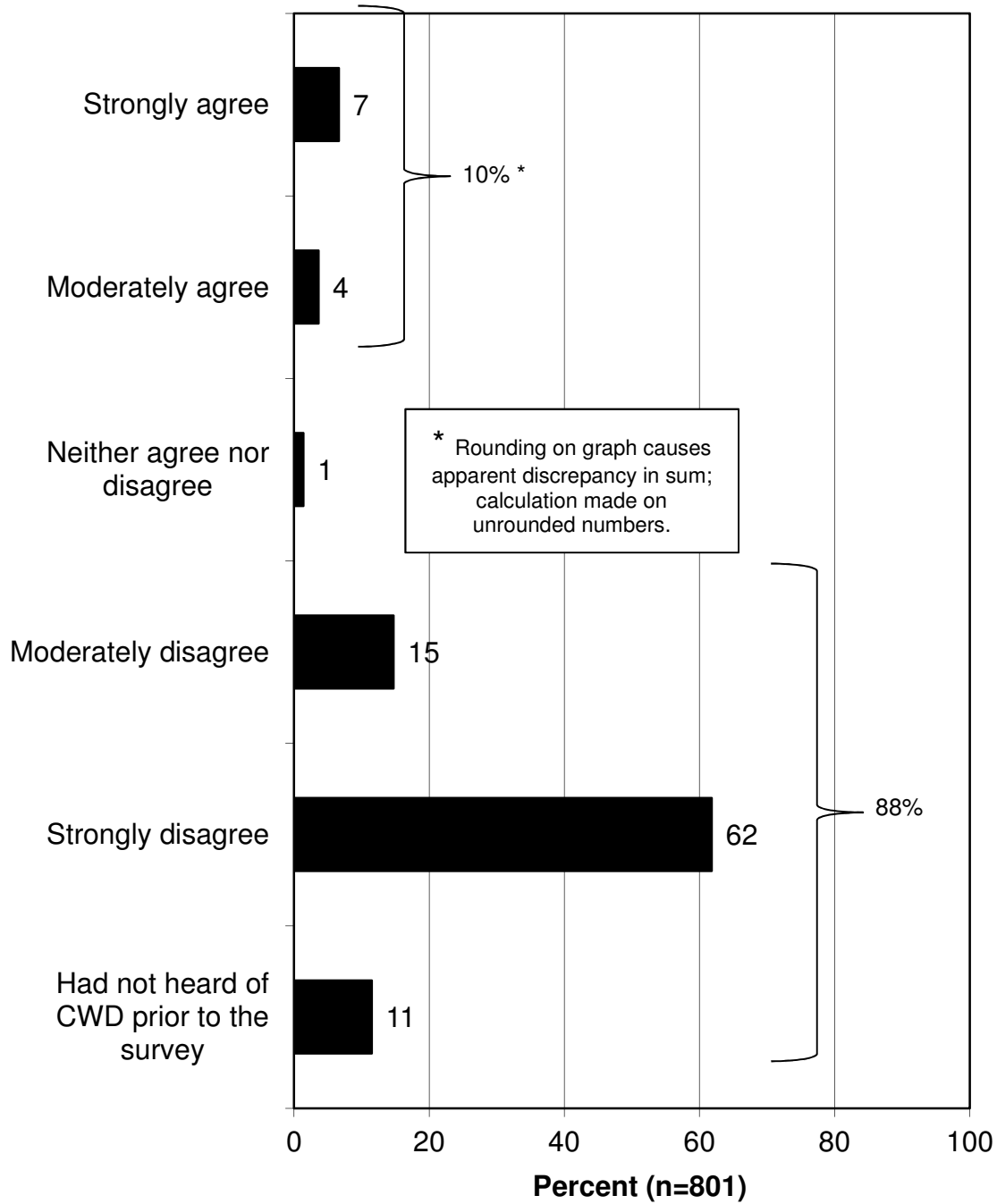


**Q79. CWD has caused you to change where you hunt deer in Maryland. (Among those who hunted deer in the past 10 years.)  
(Landowner survey)**

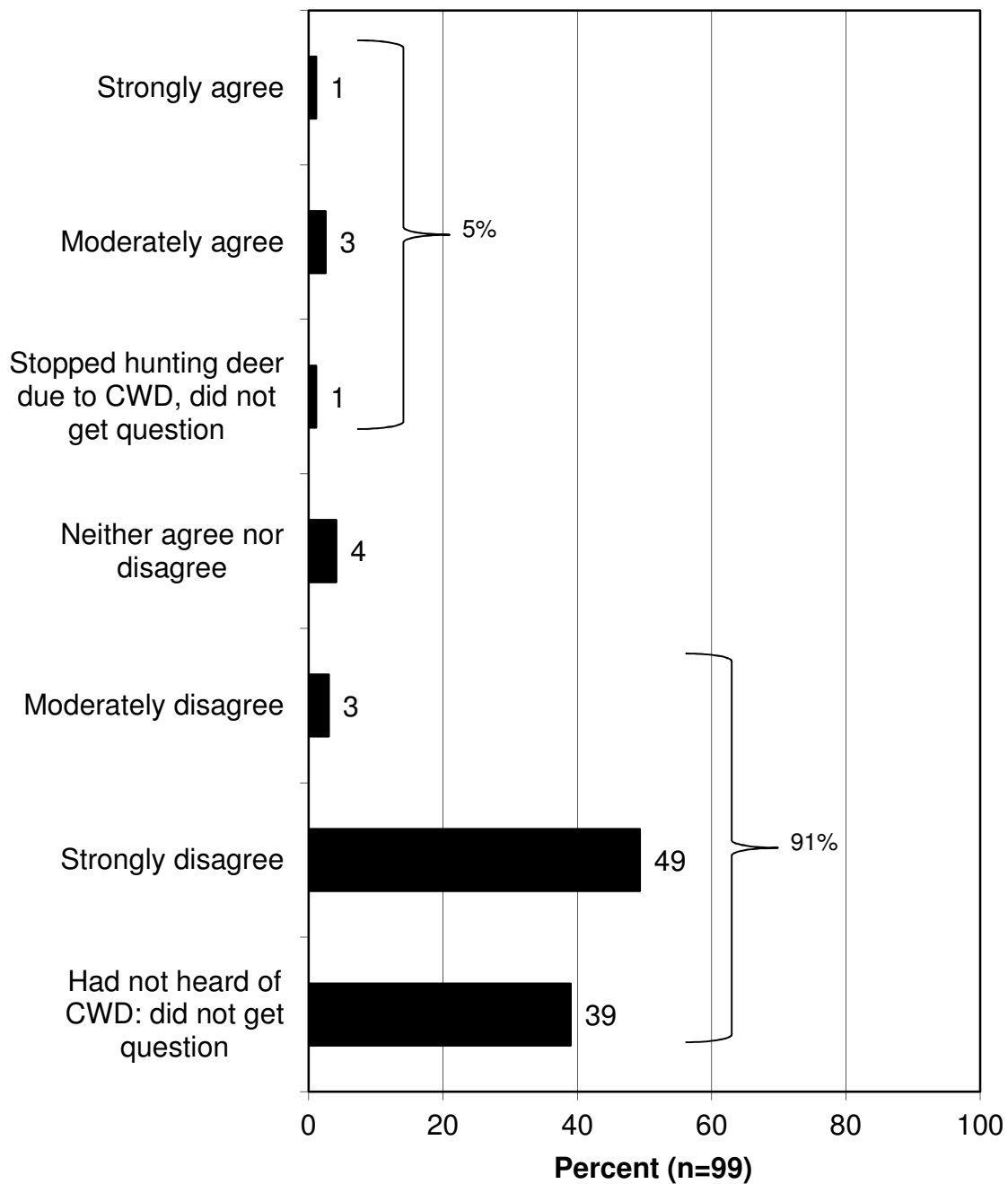




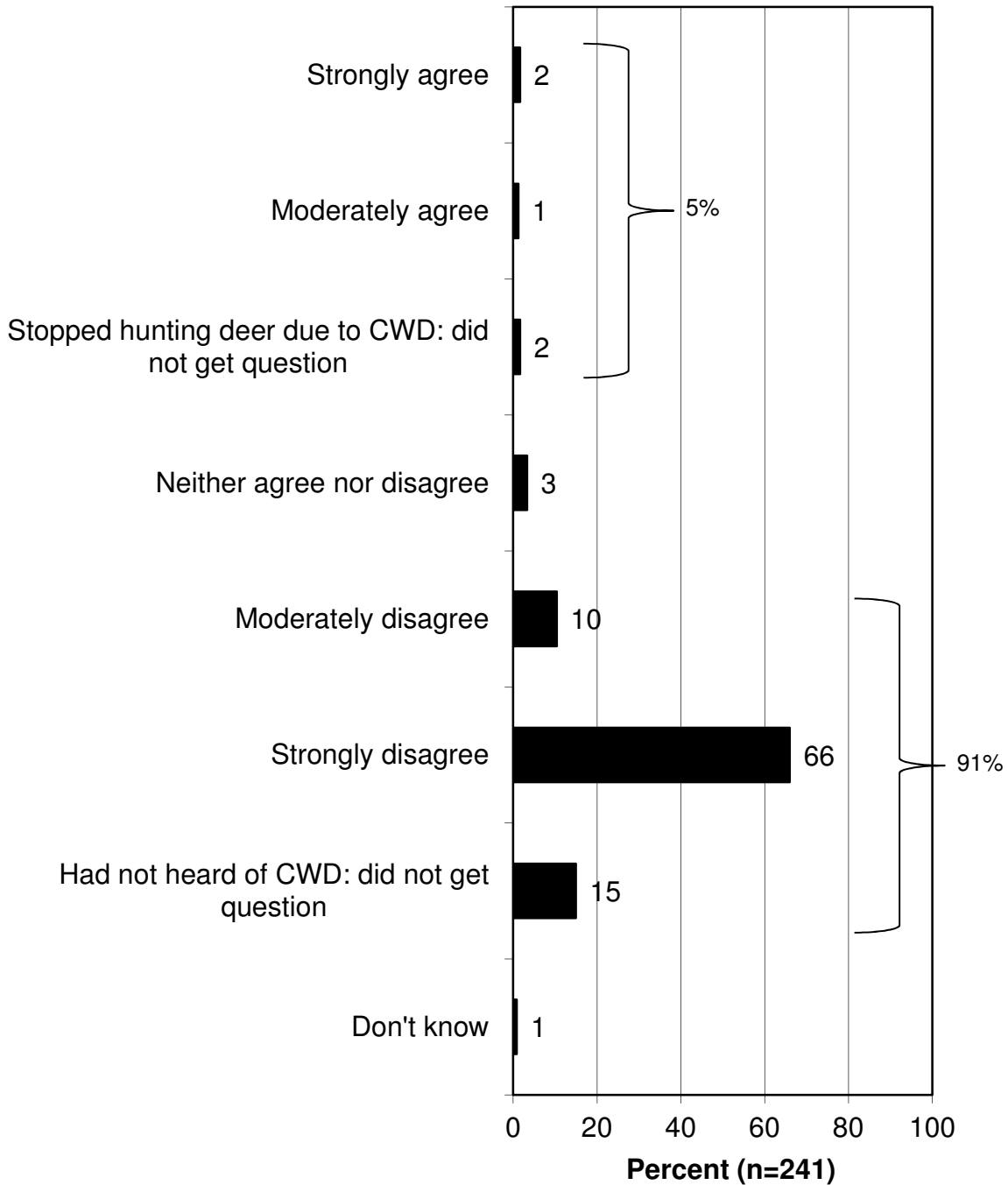
**Q138. CWD has caused you to change where you hunt deer in Maryland. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?) (Hunter survey)**



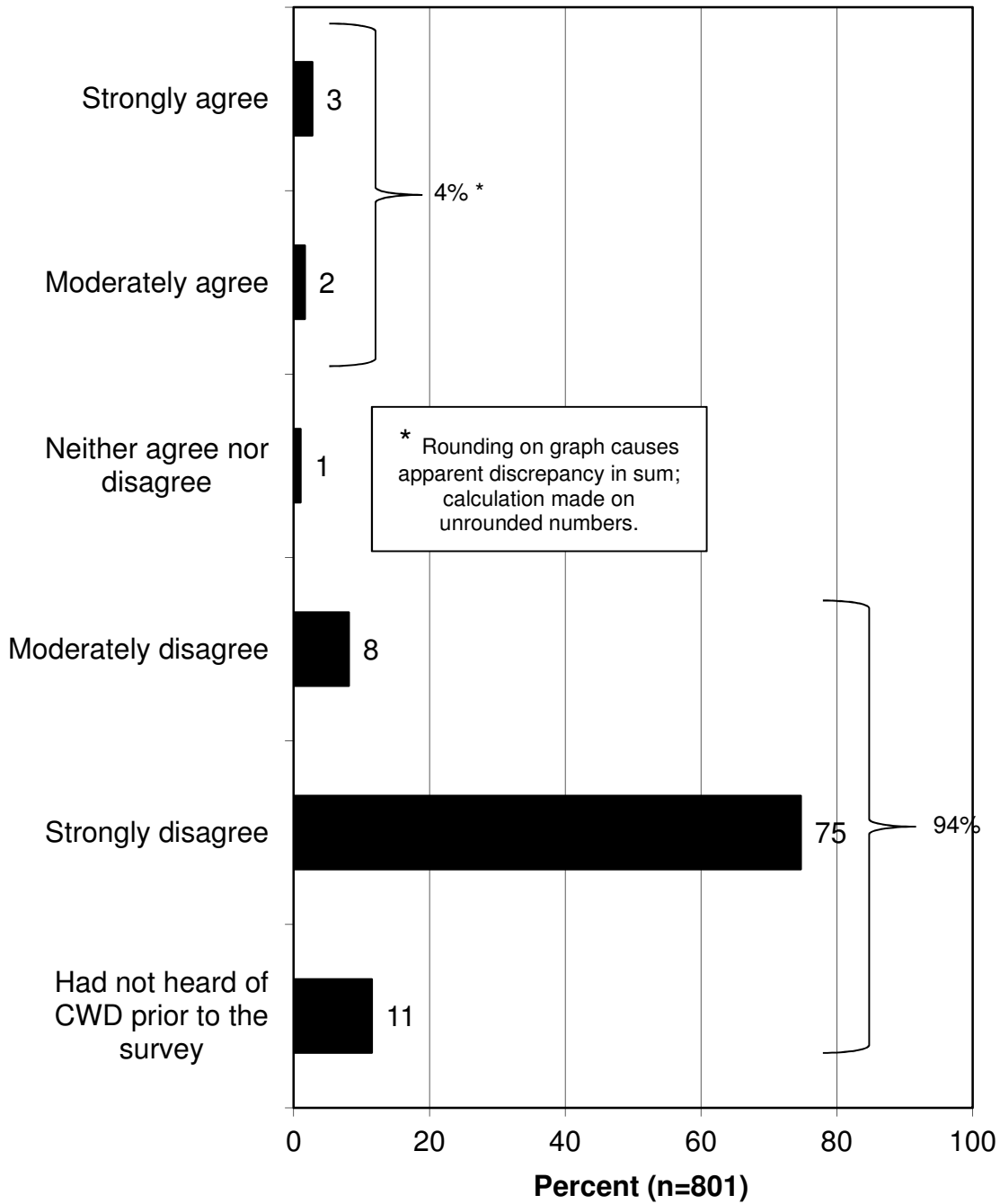
**Q127. CWD has caused you to deer hunt less in Maryland in general. (Asked of those who hunted deer within the past 10 years.) (Gen pop survey)**



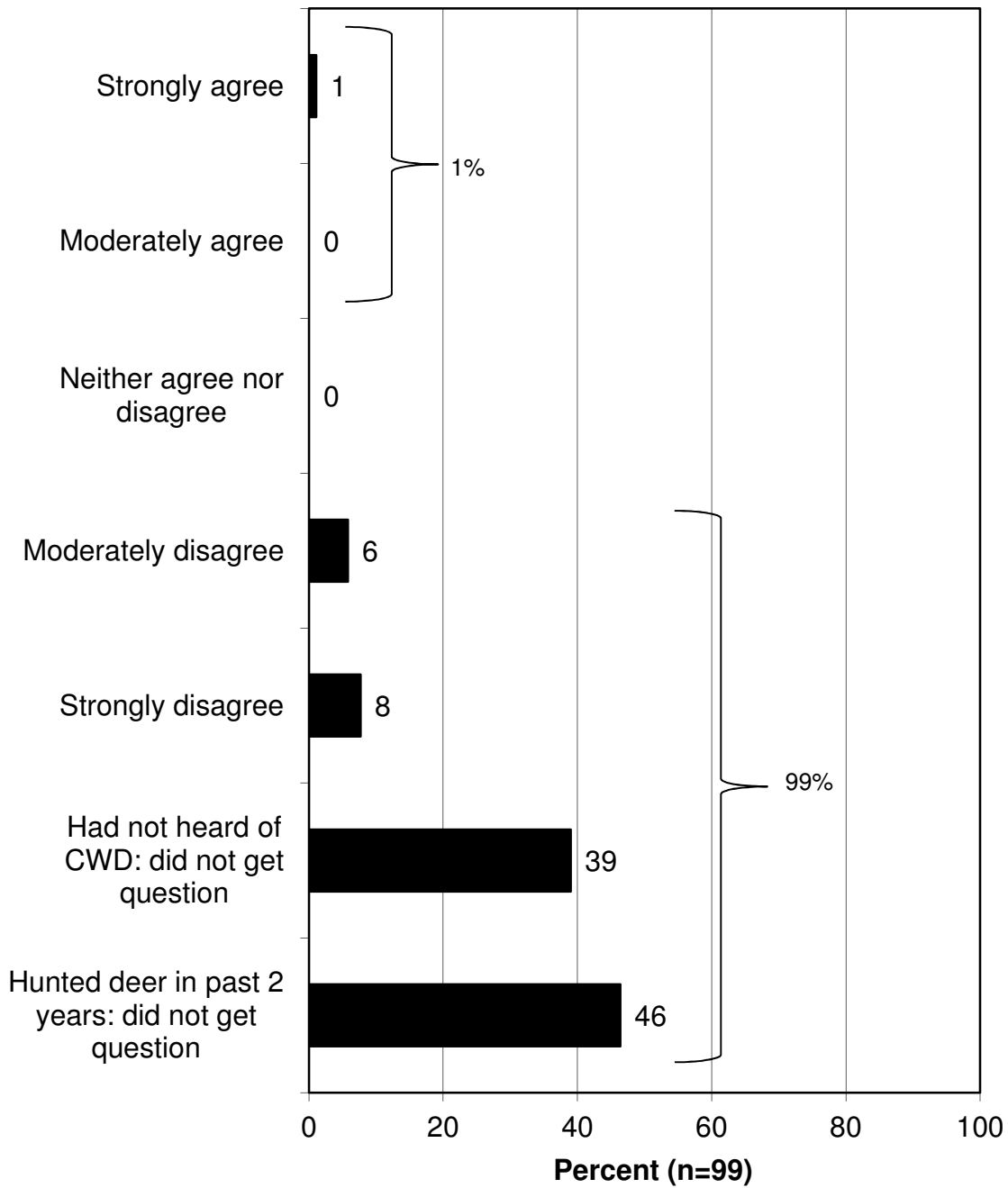
**Q80. CWD has caused you to deer hunt less in Maryland in general. (Among those who hunted deer in the past 10 years.) (Landowner survey)**



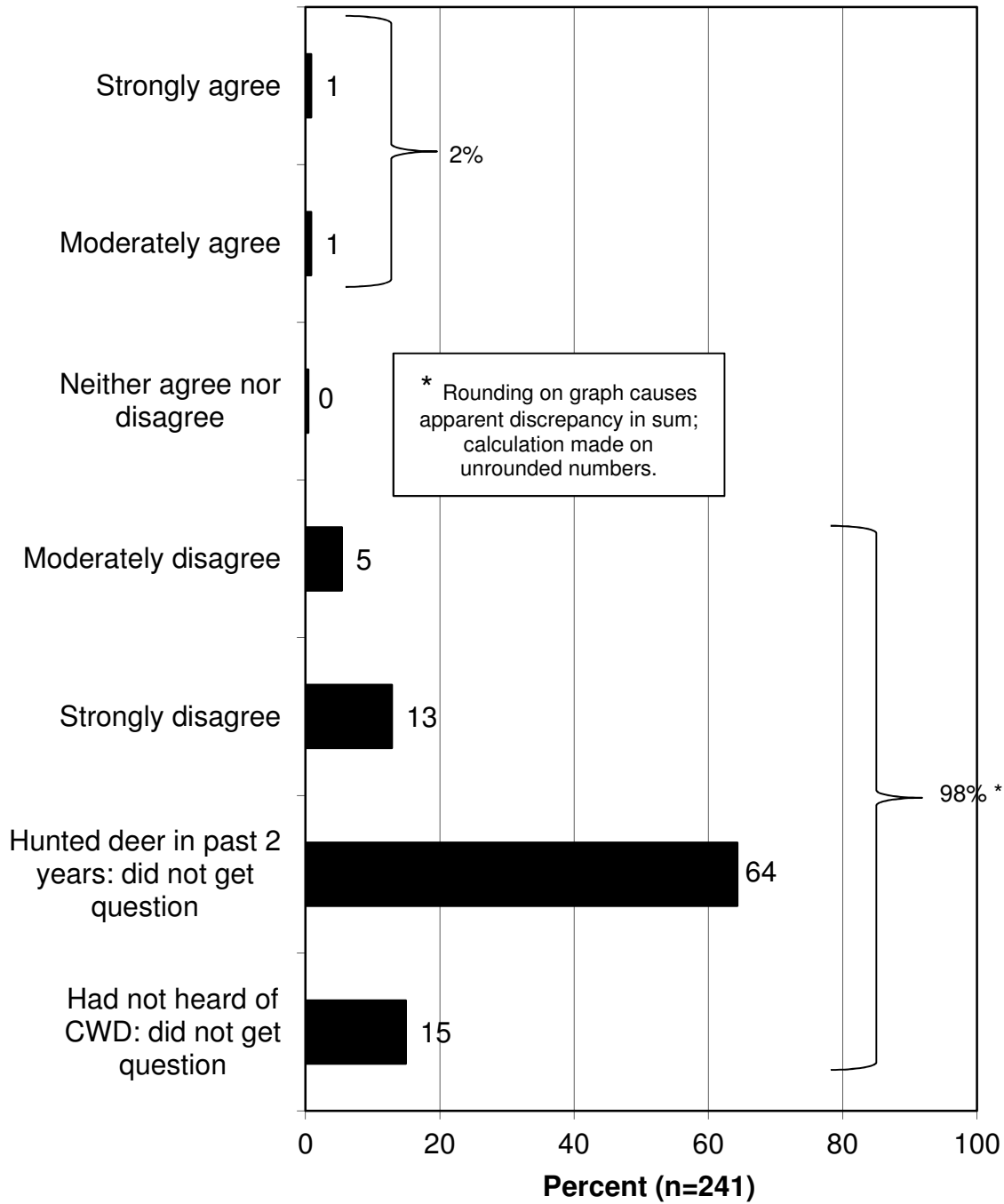
**Q139. CWD has caused you to deer hunt less in Maryland in general. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?) (Hunter survey)**



**Q125. CWD has caused you to stop hunting deer in Maryland. (Asked of those who hunted deer within the past 10 years.) (Gen pop survey)**



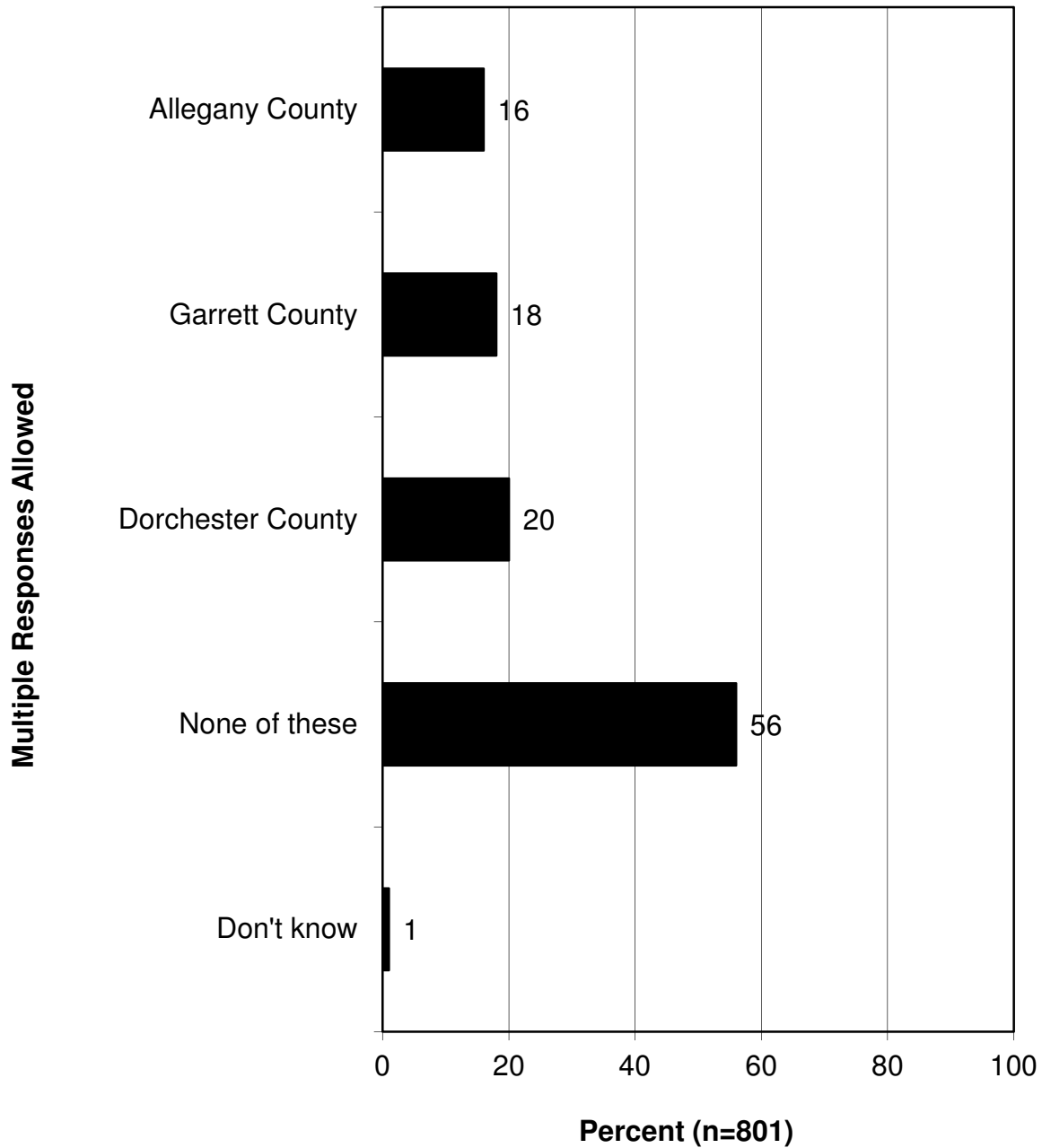
**Q78. CWD has caused you to stop hunting deer in Maryland. (Among those who hunted deer in the past 10 years.) (Landowner survey)**



### THREE-COUNTY COMPARISON OF HUNTER BEHAVIOR REGARDING CWD

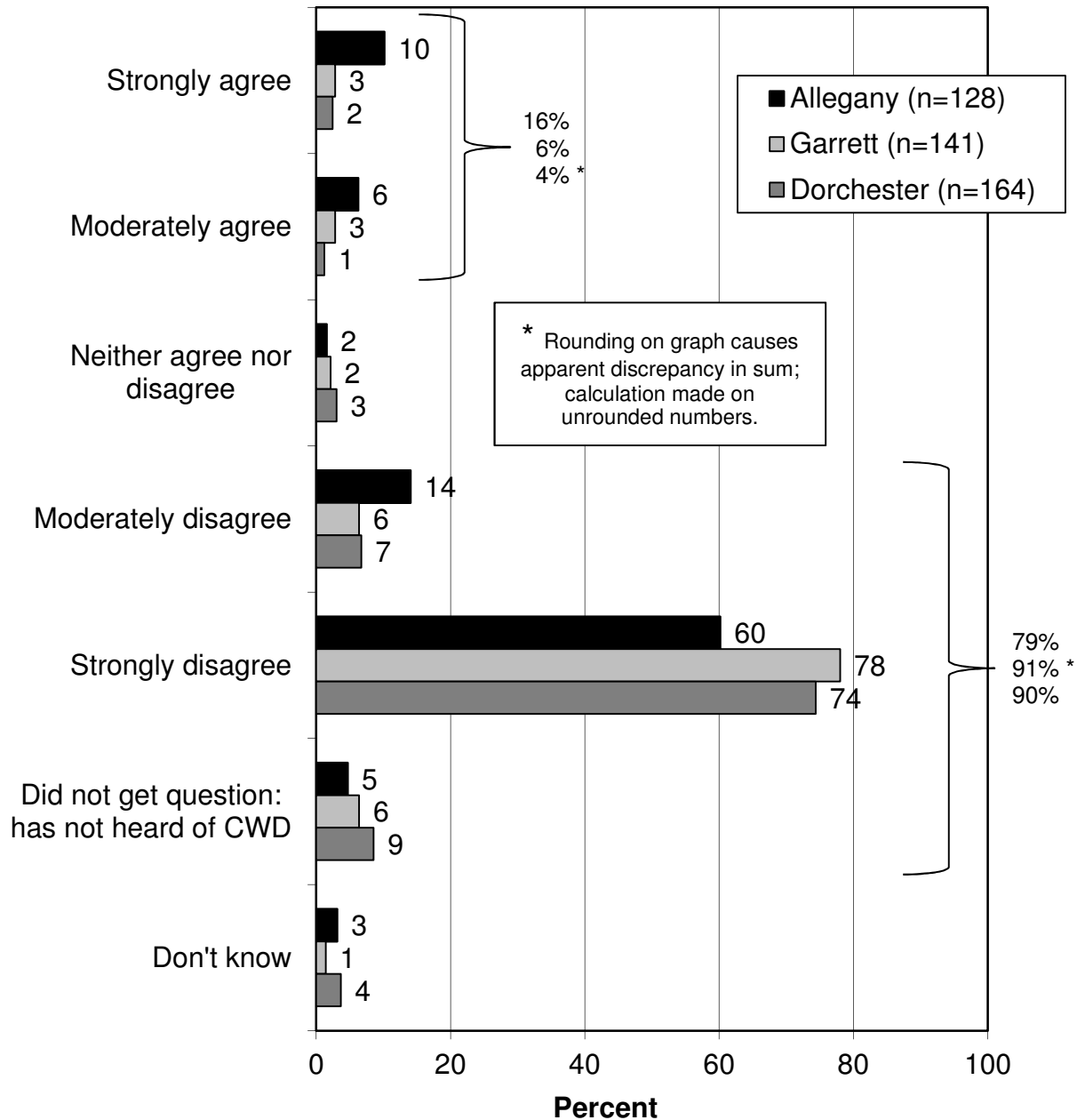
- Harkening back to a study done a few years ago by Responsive Management for the DNR (*Maryland Deer Hunters' Attitudes Toward Chronic Wasting Disease and Its Impacts on Their Hunting Participation*, 2013), three Maryland counties were compared regarding hunters' behaviors in light of CWD. One of the counties (Allegany) has confirmed cases of CWD in deer, another county is close to the CWD area (Garrett), and the third is far away from the CWD area (Dorchester). These results are first reported among hunters in the hunter survey, as this survey has the most robust samples in each of these counties. Then the results are shown for hunters within the landowner survey. The first question simply asks deer hunters to indicate if they have hunted in the three counties.
  - In total, 16% of deer hunters in the survey had hunted Allegany County within the previous 10 years, 18% had hunted Garrett County, and 20% had hunted Dorchester County. For each county in which the hunter had hunted, three questions were asked: did the hunter *hunt less* in the county because of CWD, did the hunter *stop hunting bucks* in the county because of it, and did the hunter *stop hunting does* in the county because of CWD. All three counties are shown on the same graph for each of these questions for comparison. It appears that hunters are more likely to *hunt less* rather than stopping hunting either bucks or does altogether.
    - Regarding hunting less: those who had hunted in Allegany County had a higher percentage agreeing that they had hunted less in the county because of CWD (16%), compared to either Garrett County hunters (6%) or Dorchester County hunters (4%). The most disagreement (including those who had not heard of CWD and, therefore, can be assumed to align with “disagreement” in this question) is among Garrett and Dorchester County hunters (91% and 90%, respectively).
    - Regarding whether they have stopped hunting bucks: the counties are quite similar, with only from 3% to 8% agreeing that they have stopped hunting bucks, a small range. An even smaller range is in disagreement (with not hearing about CWD being aligned with disagreement): from 88% to 91% disagree.
    - Regarding whether they have stopped hunting does: again, the ranges of percentages are small, with only 4% to 9% agreeing (Allegany County hunters being the most likely to agree) and 85% to 92% disagreeing (Garrett County hunters being the most likely to disagree).

**Q142. Have you hunted deer in any of the following Maryland counties in the past 10 years? What about...? (Hunter survey)**

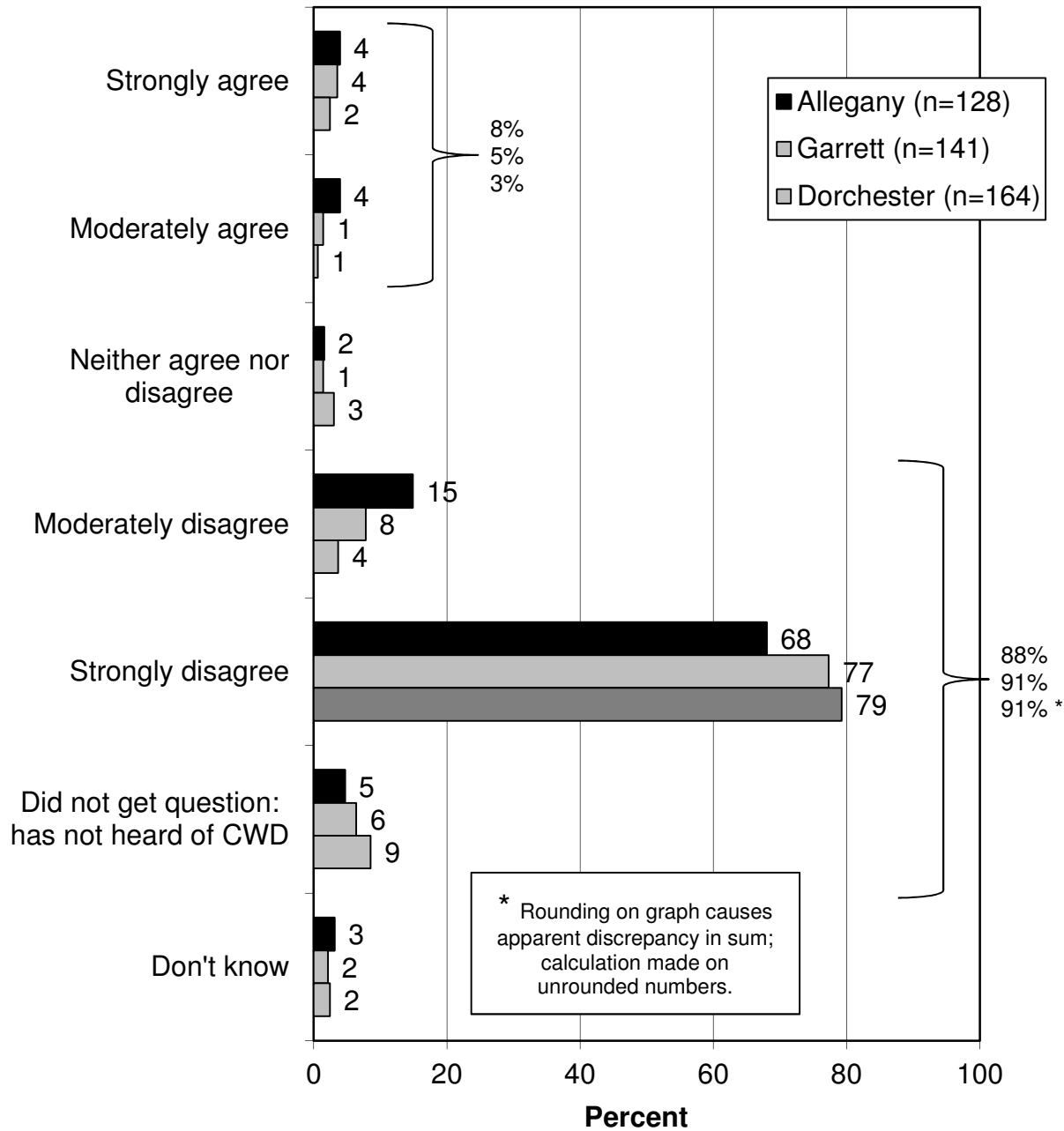




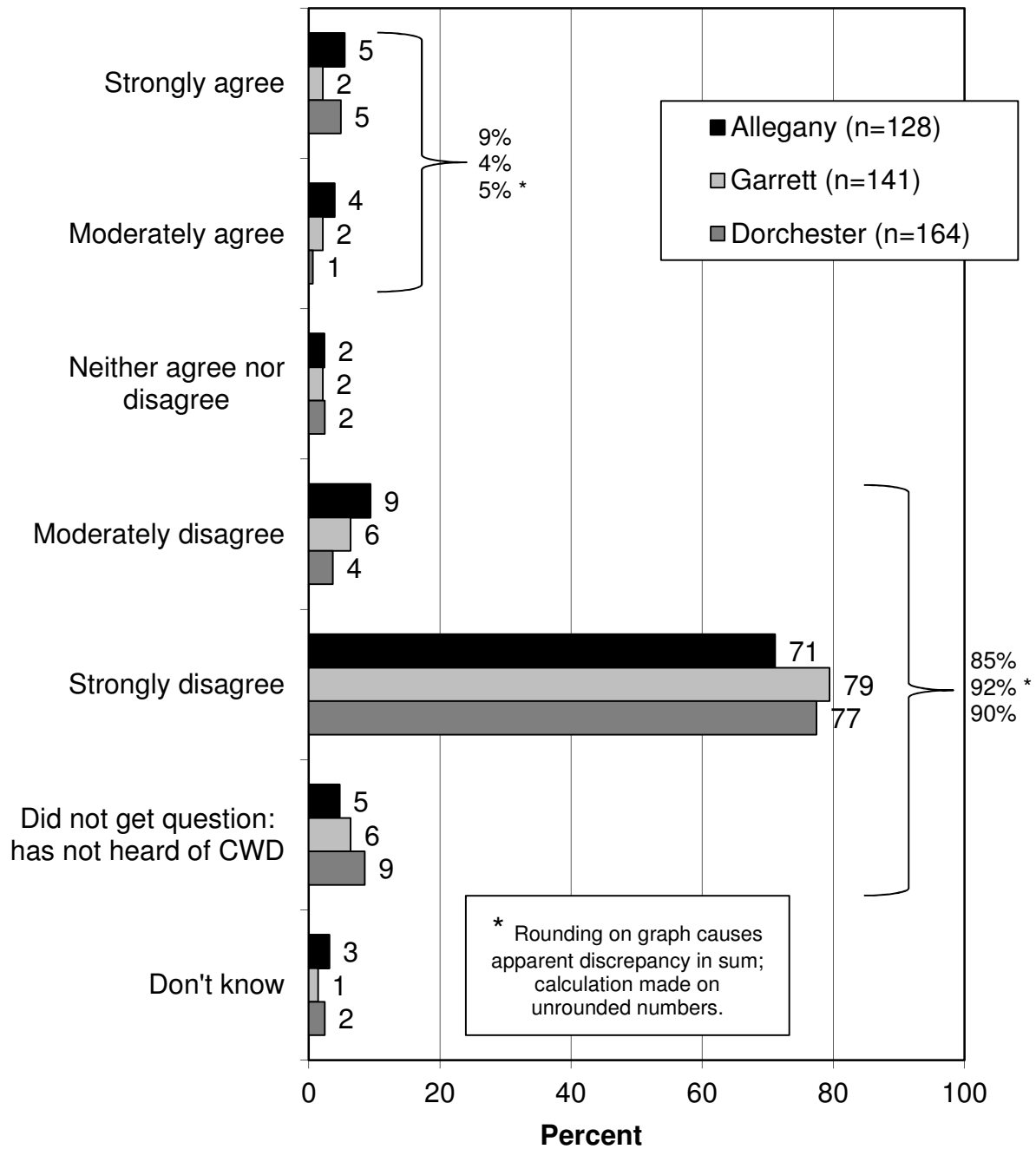
**Q146, Q149, Q152. Would you agree or disagree that CWD has caused you to deer hunt less in [Allegany / Garrett / Dorchester] County? (Asked of those hunted deer in the given county within the past 10 years.) (Hunter survey)**



**Q147, Q150, Q153. CWD has caused you to stop hunting bucks in [Allegheny / Garrett / Dorchester] County. (Asked of those hunted deer in the given county within the past 10 years.) (Hunter survey)**

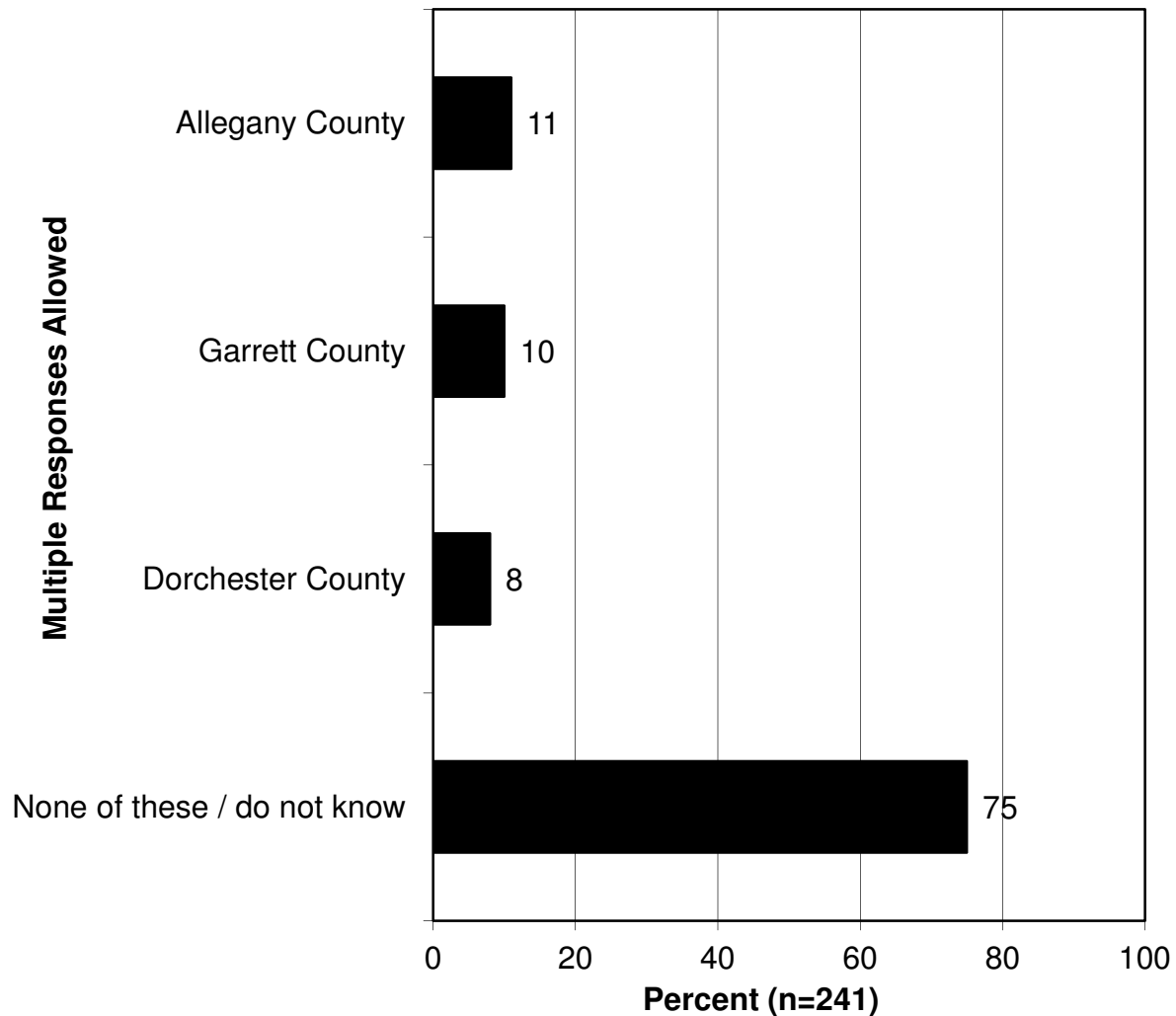


**Q148, Q151, Q154. CWD has caused you to stop hunting does in [Allegany / Garrett / Dorchester] County. (Asked of those hunted deer in the given county within the past 10 years.) (Hunter survey)**

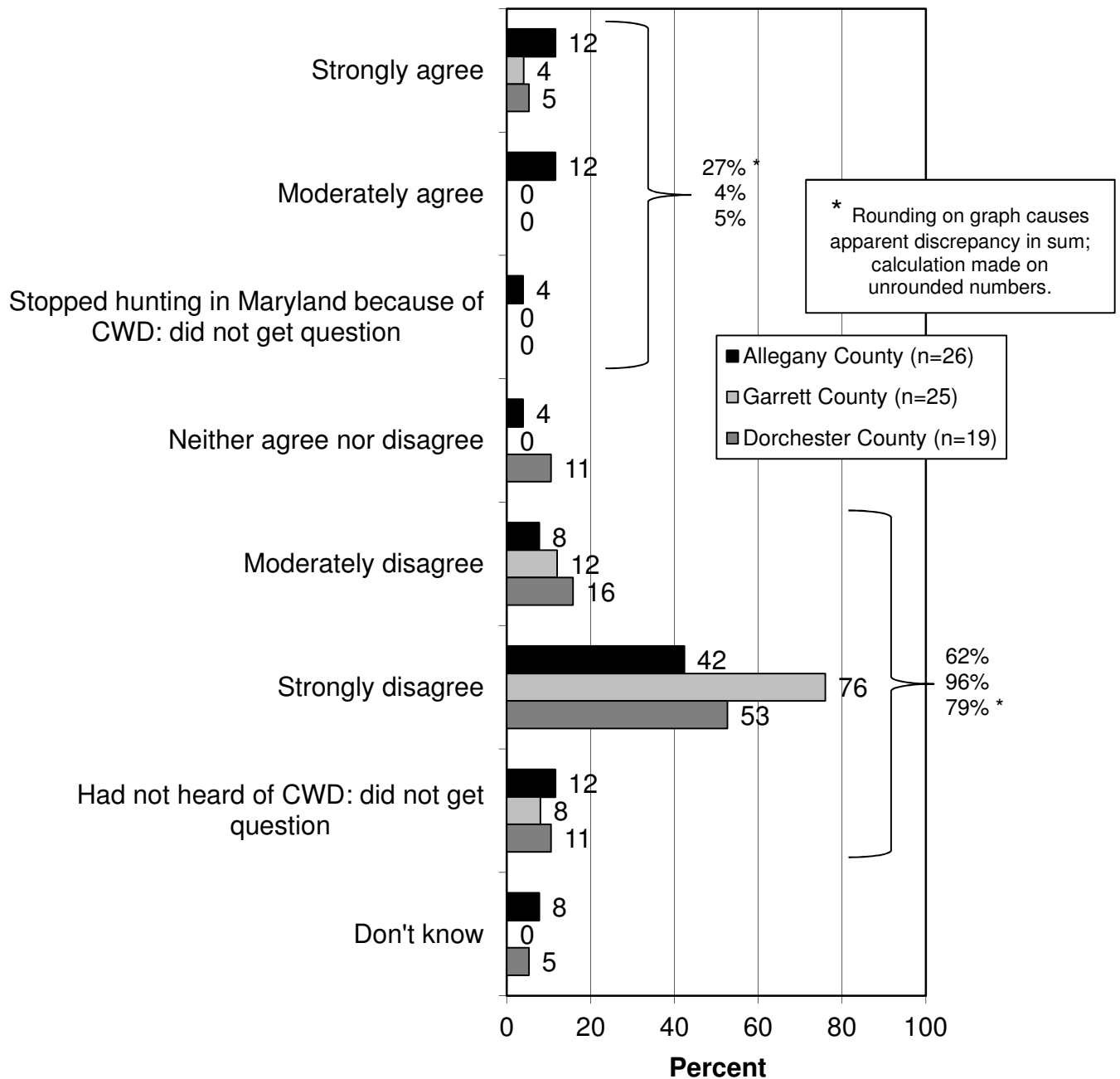


- The same results are shown among hunters within the landowner survey. The results, for the most part, mirror those of hunters. (There were not enough hunters within the general population survey who qualified for the questions, so no results are shown from the general population survey.)

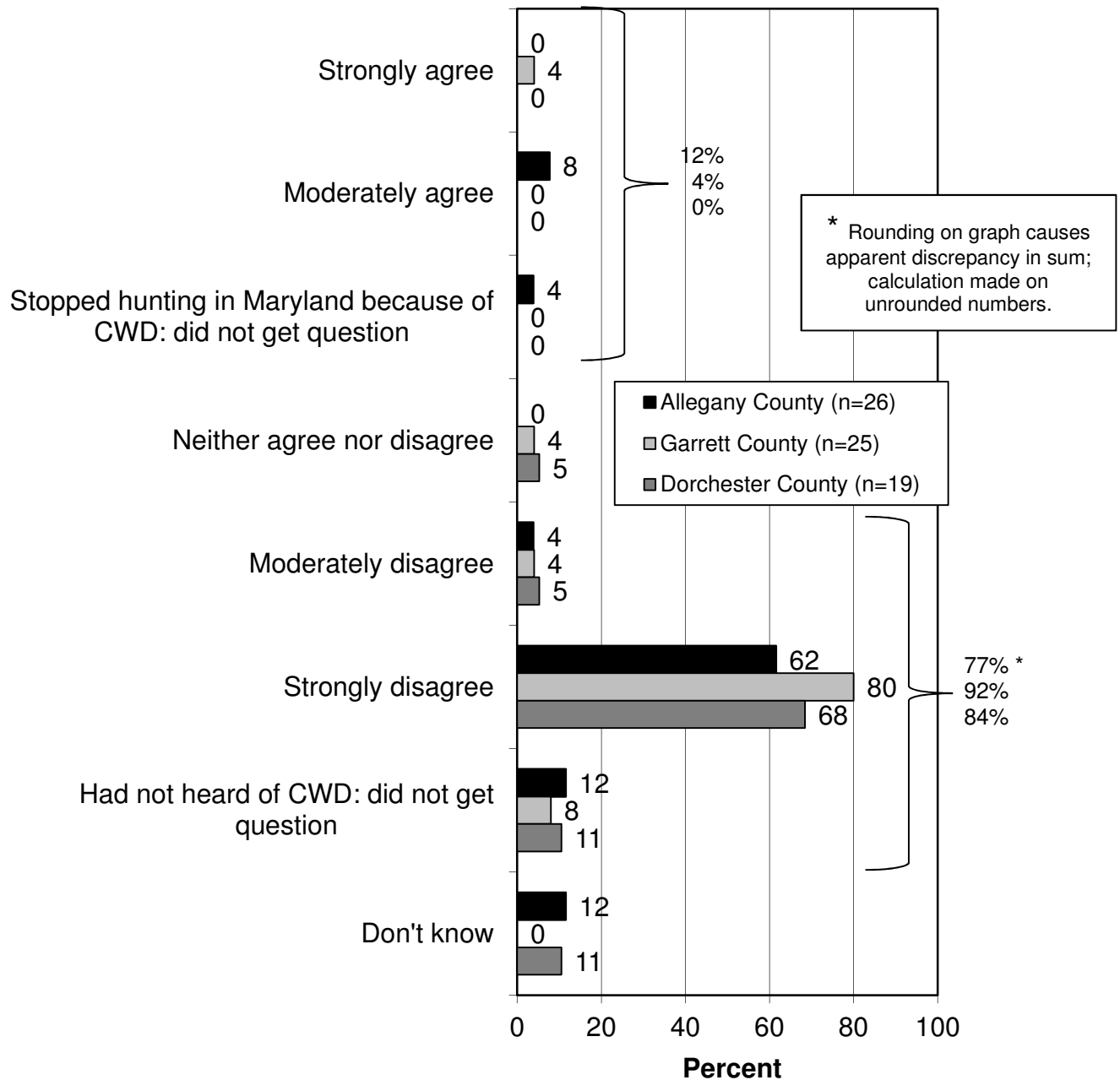
**Q83. Have you hunted deer in any of the following Maryland counties in the past 10 years? What about...? (Asked of those who hunted deer within the past 10 years.)  
(Landowner survey)**



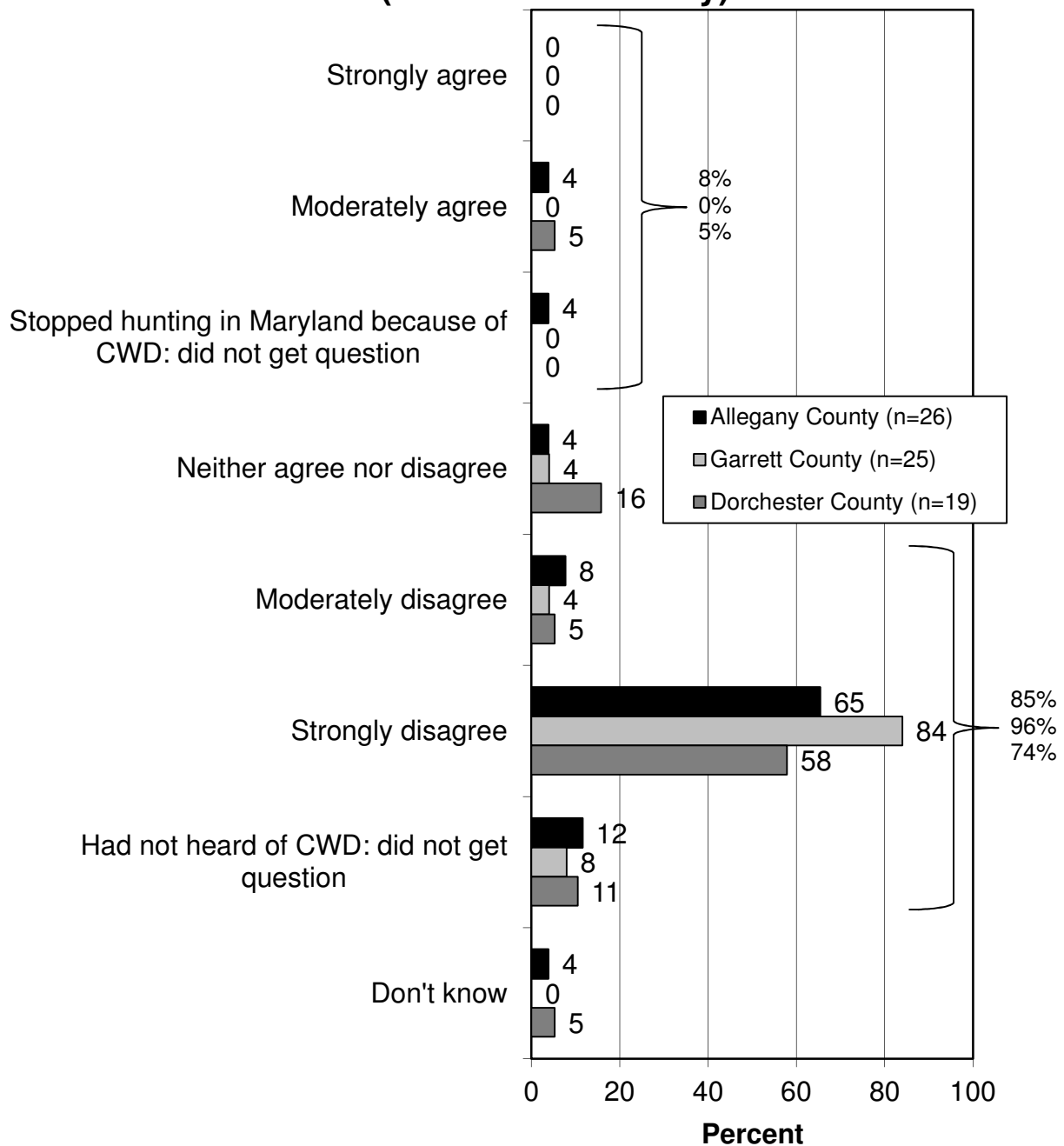
**Q87, Q90, Q93. Would you agree or disagree that CWD has caused you to deer hunt less in [Allegany / Garrett / Dorchester] County?  
(Asked of those hunted deer in the given county within the past 10 years.) (Landowner survey)**



**Q88, Q91, Q94. CWD has caused you to stop hunting bucks in [Allegheny / Garrett / Dorchester] County. (Asked of those hunted deer in the given county within the past 10 years.) (Landowner survey)**



**Q89, Q92, Q95. CWD has caused you to stop hunting does in [Allegheny / Garrett / Dorchester] County. (Asked of those hunted deer in the given county within the past 10 years.) (Landowner survey)**

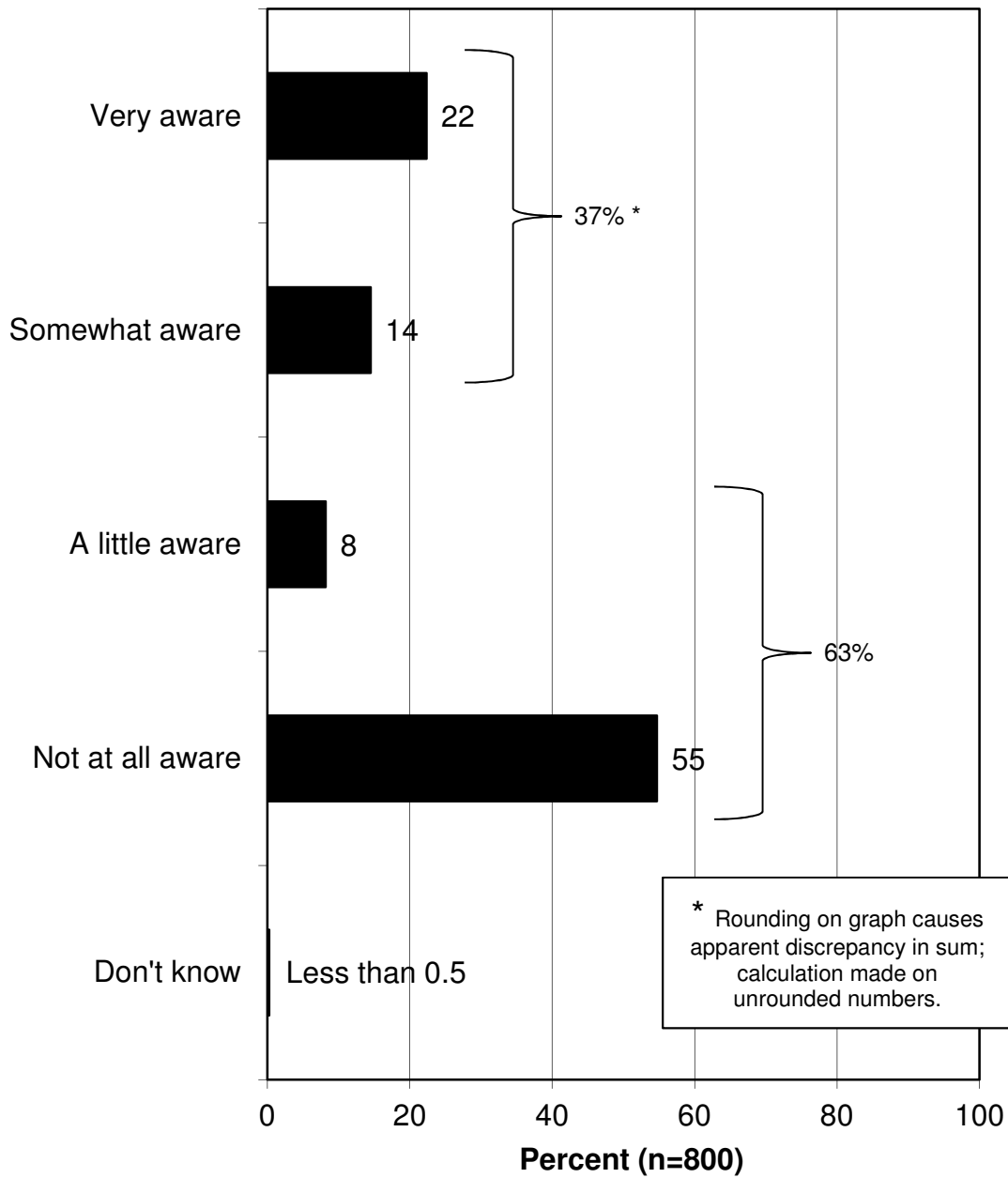


## EATING VENISON AND THE VENISON DONATION PROGRAM

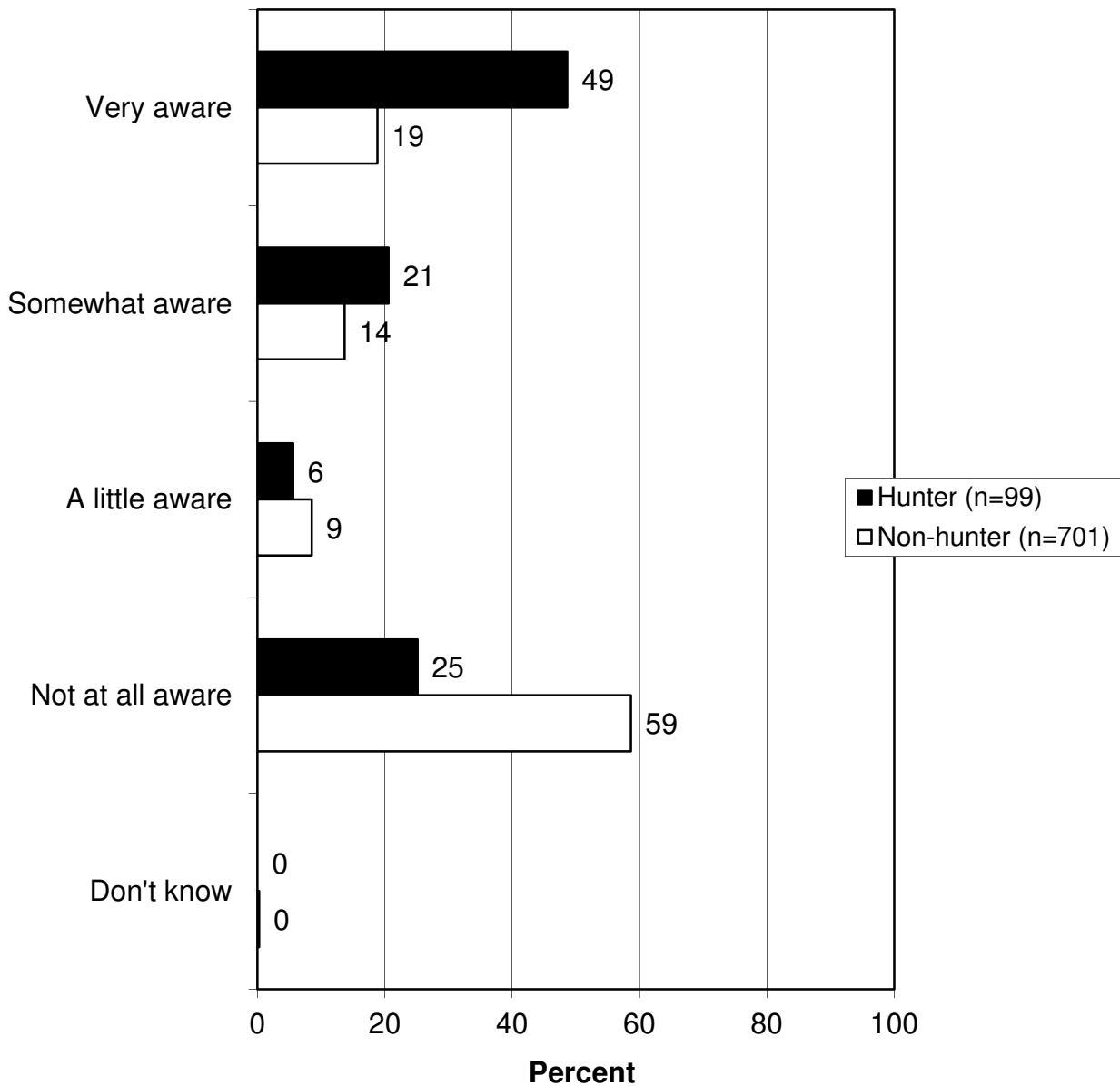
- Respondents in the surveys were asked about their level of awareness that venison donation programs are available in Maryland where hunters can donate extra harvested deer.
  - Just more than a third of residents (37%) say that they were aware, prior to the survey, of venison donation programs in Maryland.
  - The large majority of landowners (81%) were very or somewhat aware of the programs.
  - The overwhelming majority of hunters (93%) were very or somewhat aware of the programs. In addition, 21% of deer hunters have donated deer to such programs in Maryland in the past 2 years.
  
- The general population and landowner surveys both asked about support for or opposition to venison donation programs. Both residents and landowners are overwhelmingly in support (92% and 97%, respectively) of the programs, with only 4% of residents and 1% of landowners opposed.
  
- The general population and landowner surveys asked about eating venison.
  - A quarter of residents say that they eat venison frequently or sometimes, while 75% say that they eat it rarely or never (with 45% never eating it).
  - Landowners are about evenly split: 44% eat venison frequently or sometimes, while 55% eat it rarely or never (including 29% who never eat it).



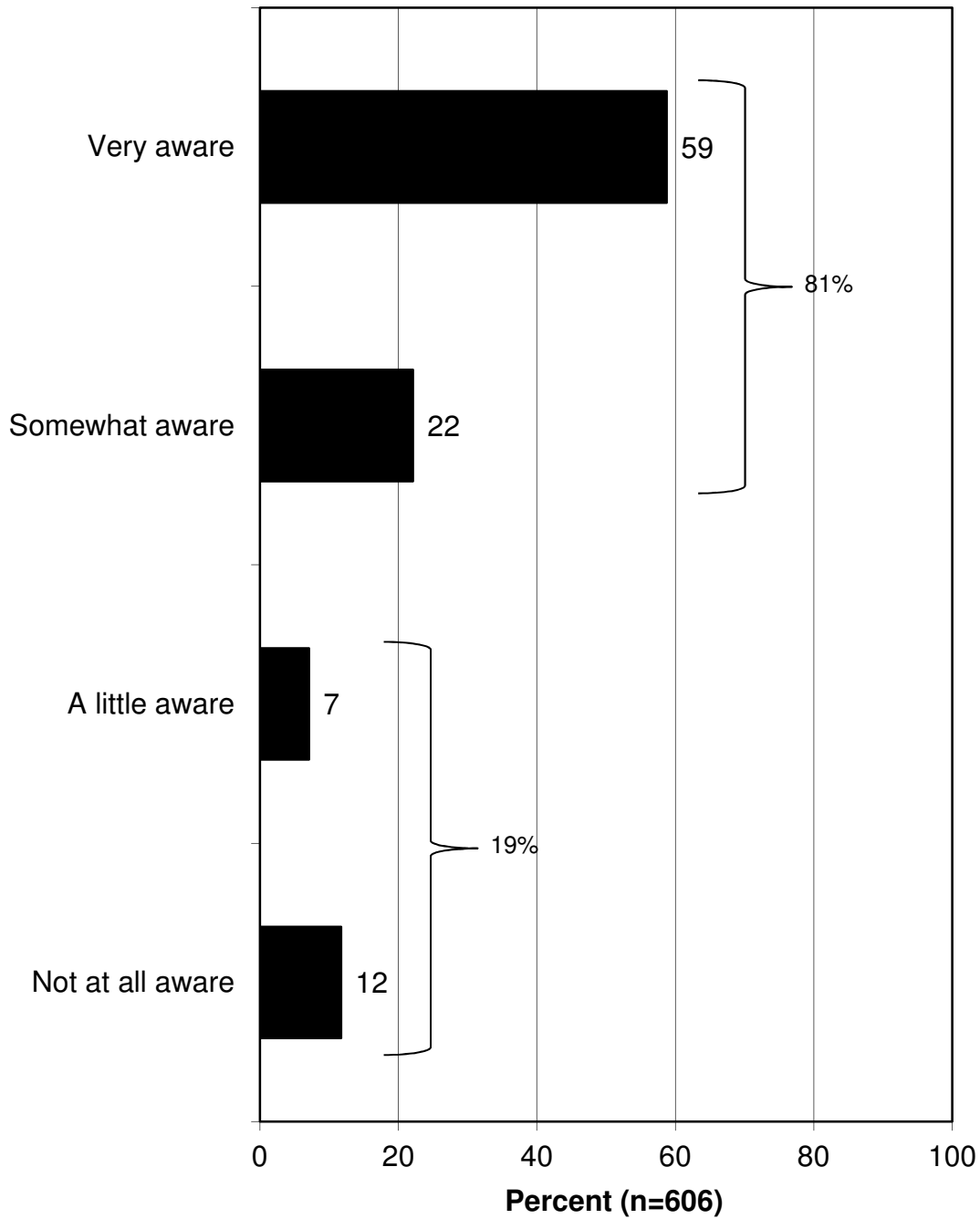
**Q79. How aware or unaware were you prior to this survey that there are venison donation programs in Maryland for hunters to donate deer to families in need? (Gen pop survey)**



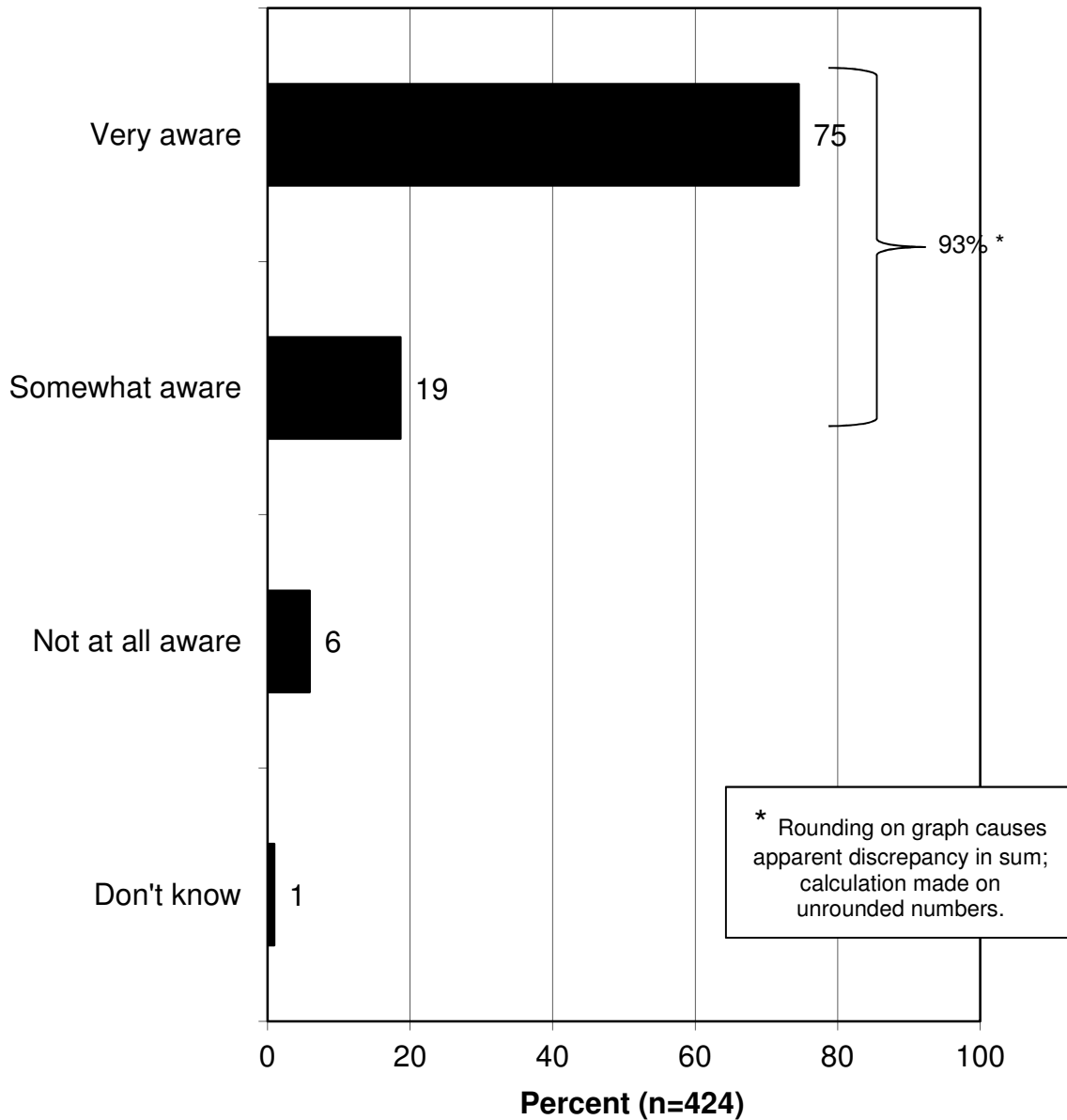
**Q79. How aware or unaware were you prior to this survey that there are venison donation programs in Maryland for hunters to donate deer to families in need? (Gen pop survey)**



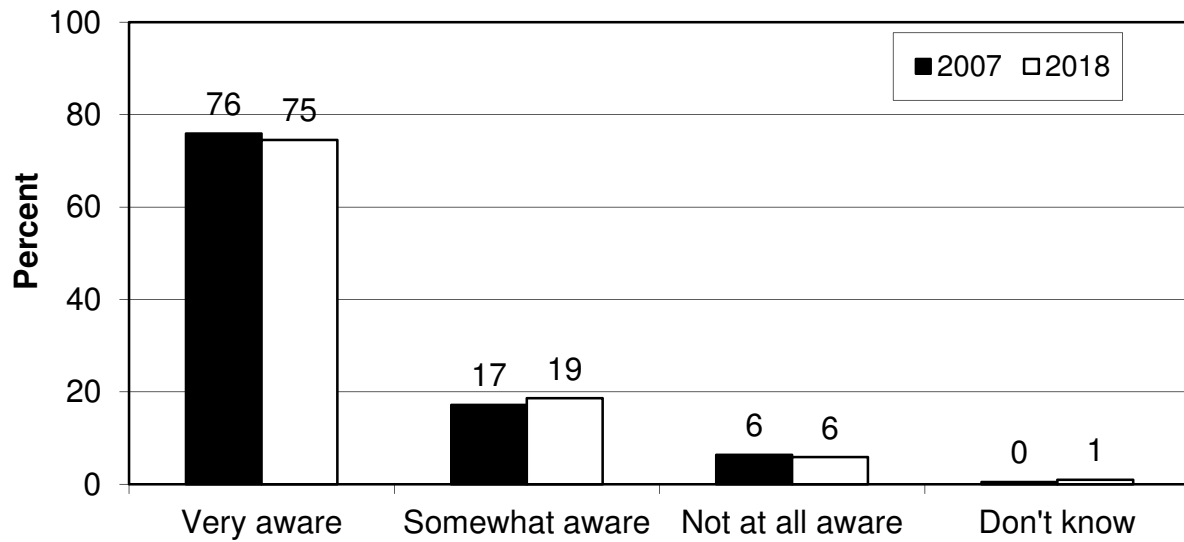
**Q47. How aware or unaware were you prior to this survey that there are venison donation programs in Maryland for hunters to donate deer to families in need? (Landowner survey)**



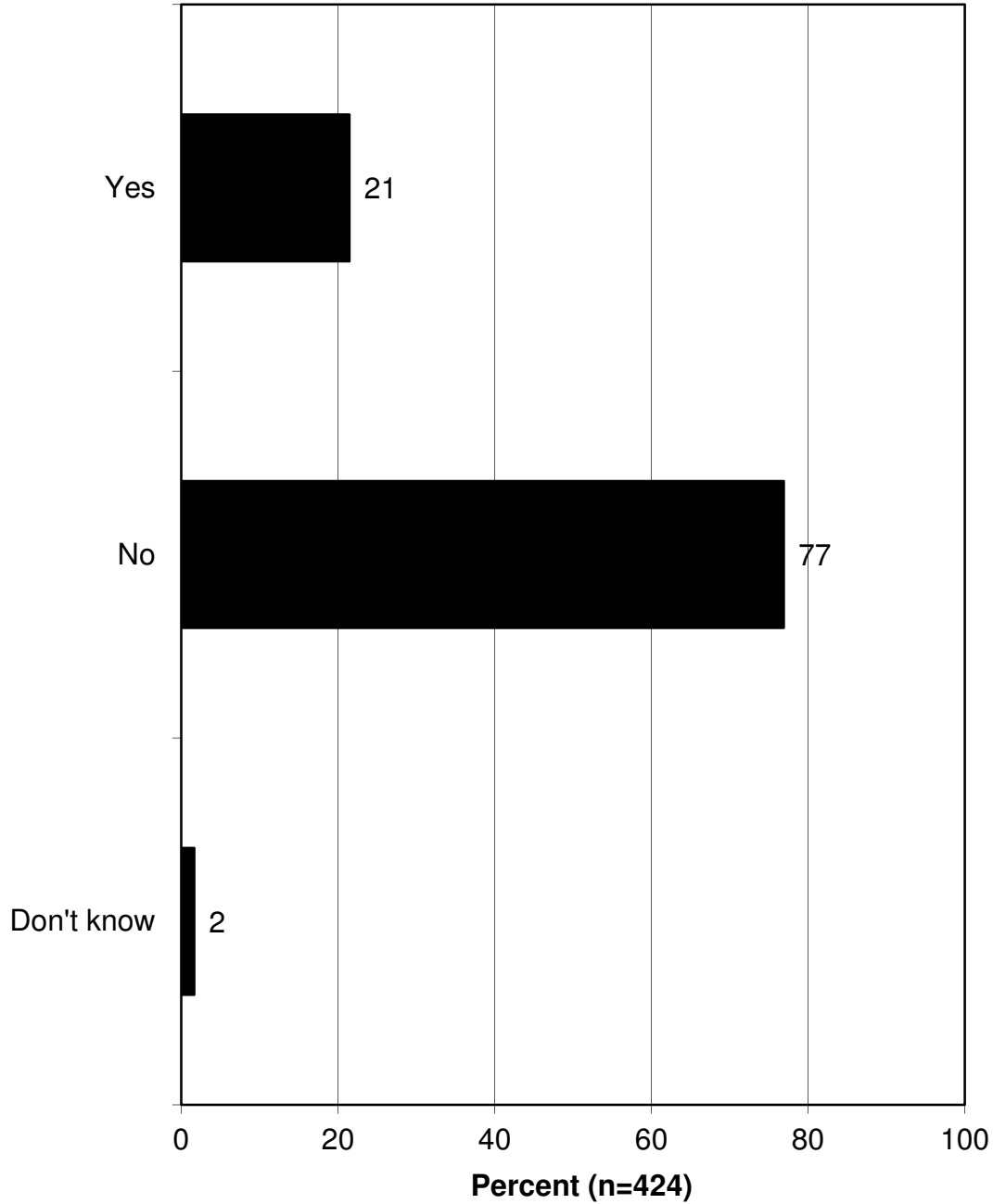
**Q156. How aware are you that venison donation programs are available in Maryland for you to donate your extra harvested deer? Would you say you are very aware, somewhat are, or not at all aware? (Hunter survey)**



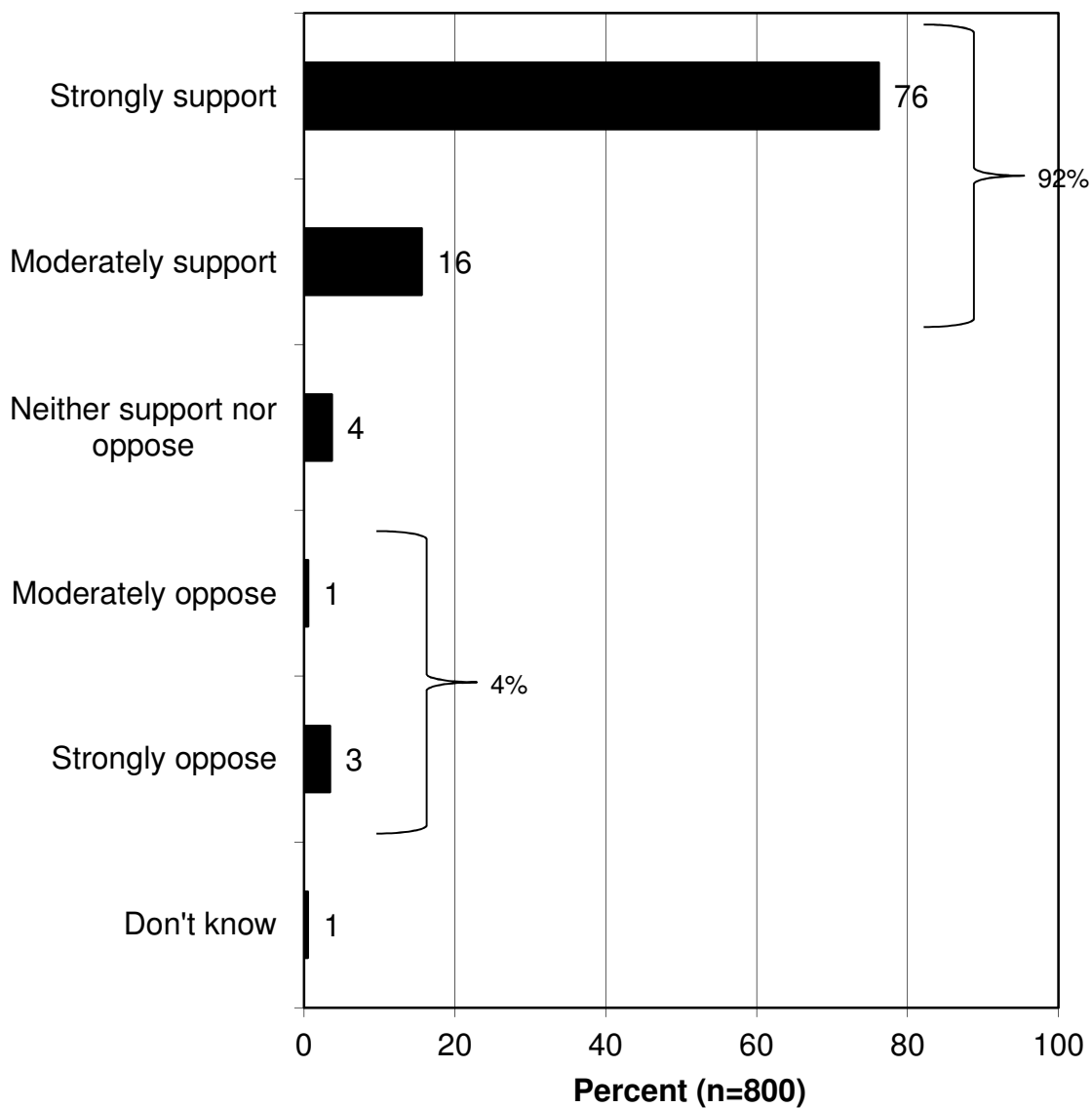
**Q156. How aware are you that venison donation programs are available in Maryland for you to donate your extra harvested deer?  
(Hunter survey)**



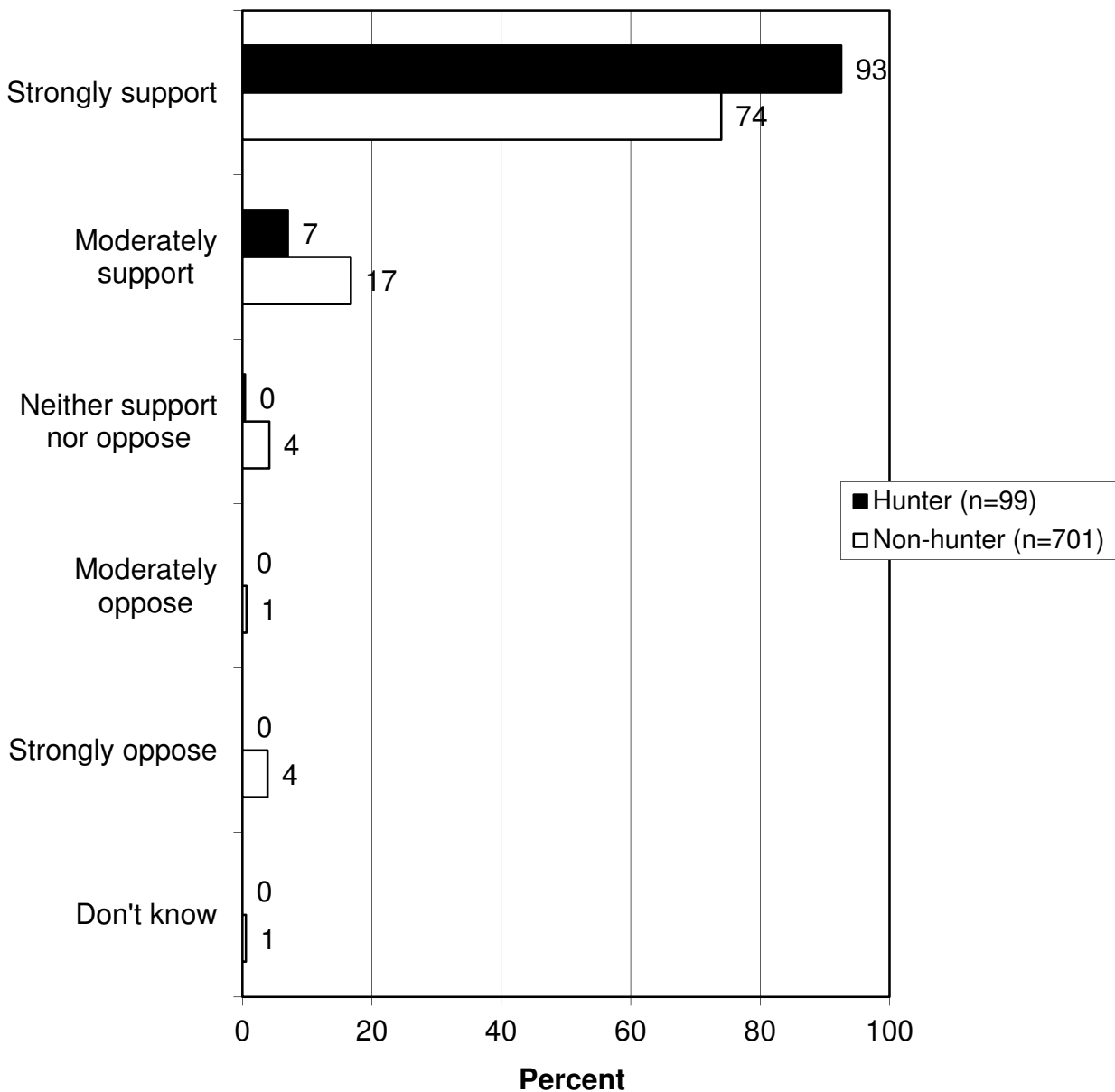
**Q157. Have you donated a deer to a venison donation program in the past 2 years in Maryland? (Hunter survey)**



**Q80. Maryland does have venison donation programs, and they provide about 500,000 meals each year in Maryland. Would you say you support or oppose those programs? (Gen pop survey)**

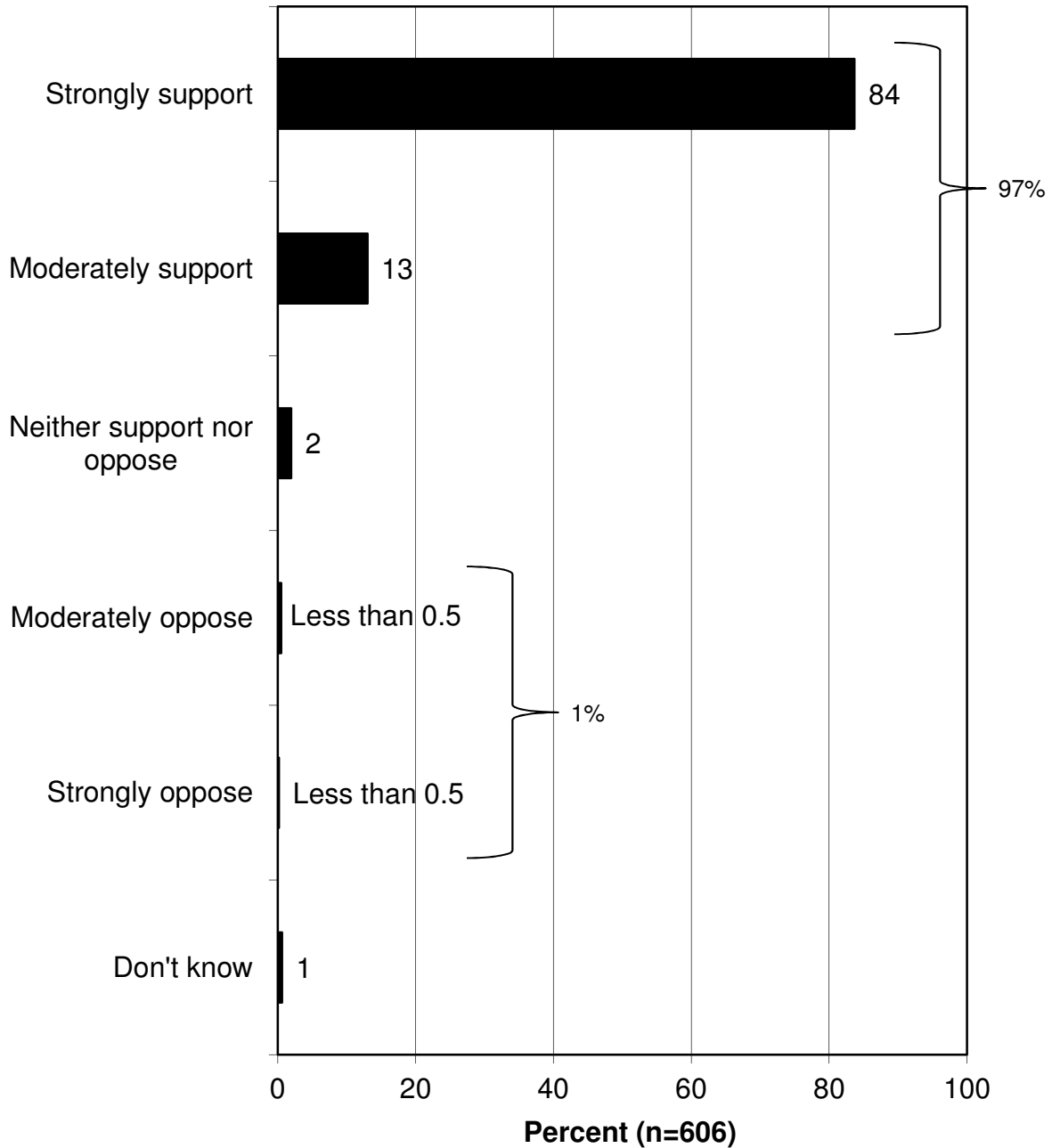


**Q80. Maryland does have venison donation programs, and they provide about 500,000 meals each year in Maryland. Would you say you support or oppose those programs?  
(Gen pop survey)**

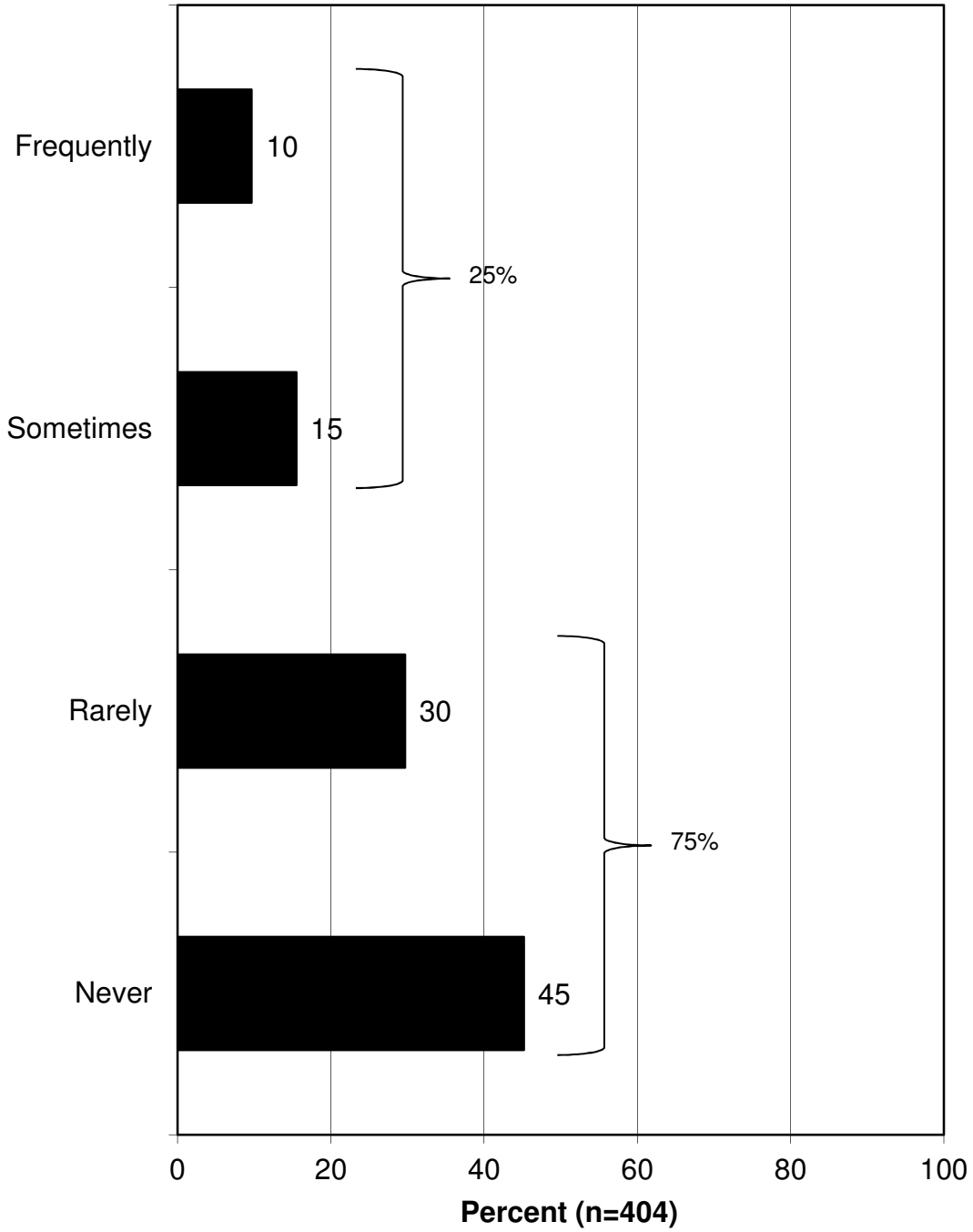




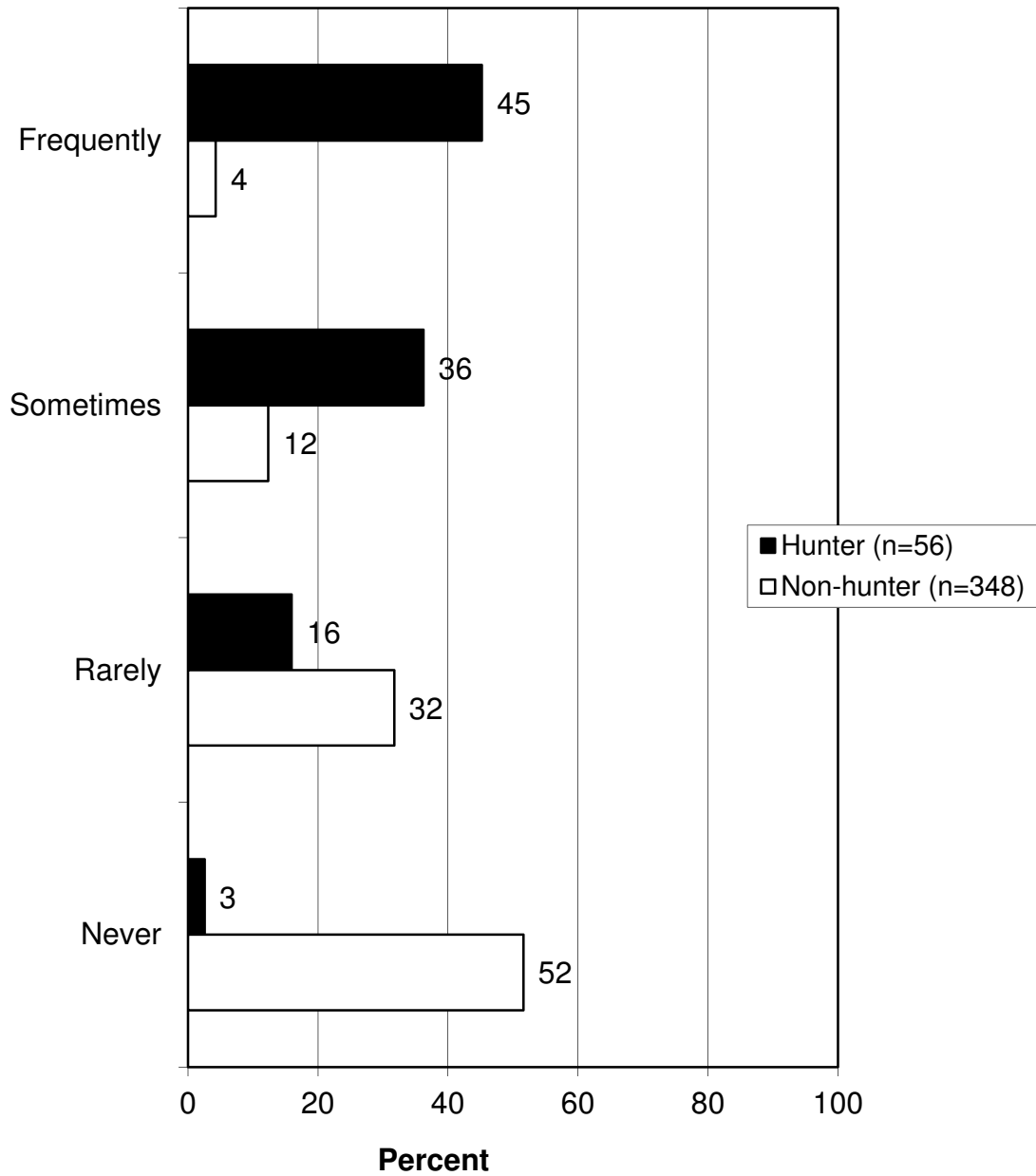
**Q48. Maryland does have venison donation programs, and they provide about 500,000 meals each year in Maryland. Would you say you support or oppose those programs? (Landowner survey)**



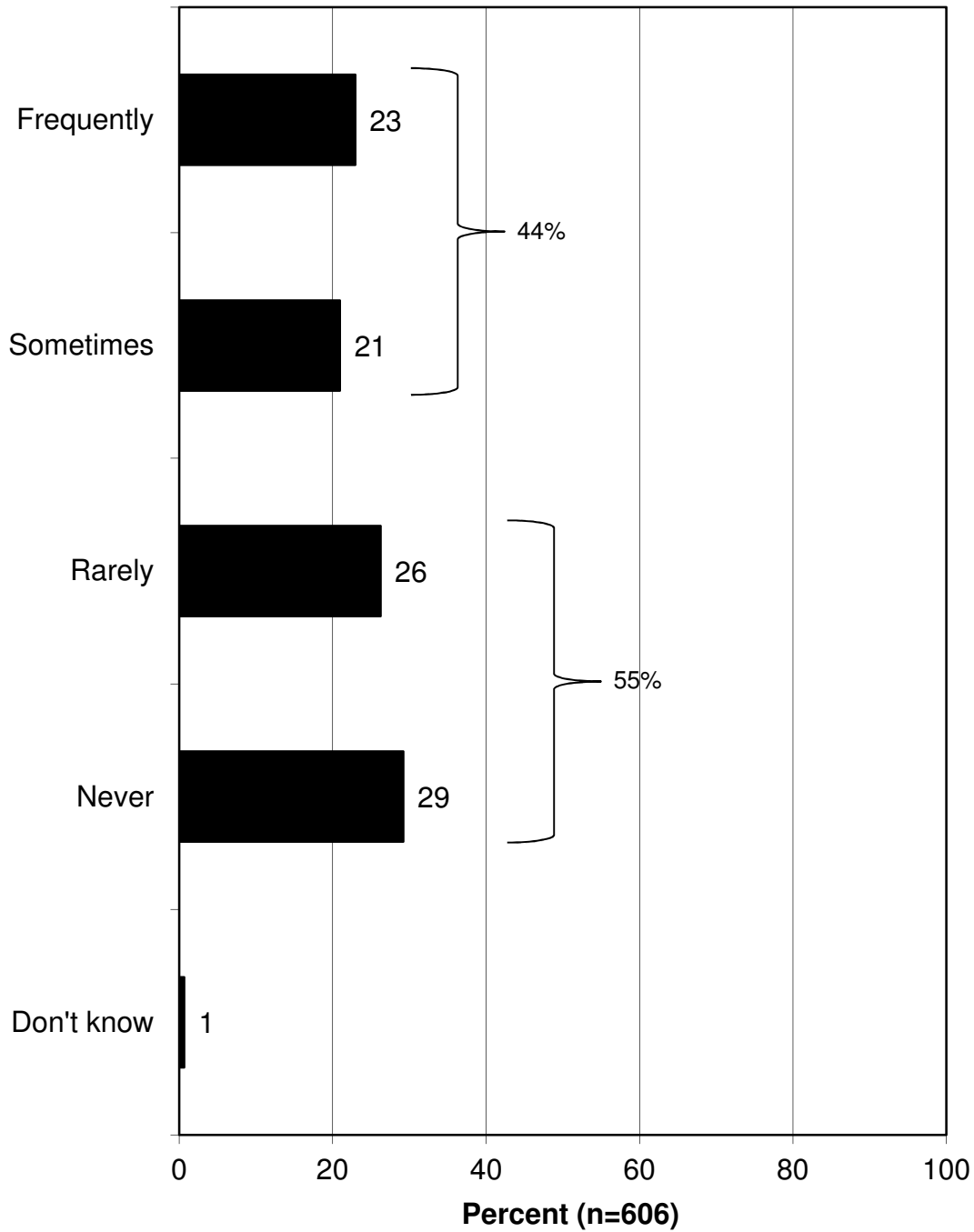
**Q78. How much would you say you eat venison? (Gen pop survey)**



### Q78. How much would you say you eat venison? (Gen pop survey)



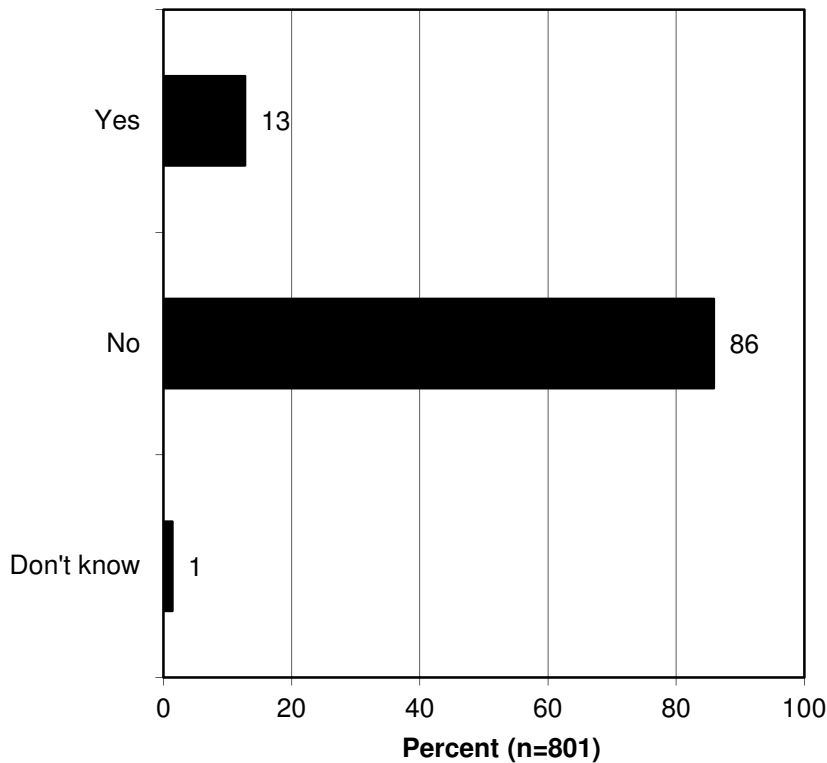
**Q46. How much would you say you eat venison? (Landowner survey)**



## SIKA DEER

- A lone question asked about hunting sika deer: 13% of deer hunters had hunted sika deer in Maryland during the past 2 years. An accompanying table shows the breakdown by hunters' counties of residence.

**Q161. Did you hunt sika deer in Maryland during the past 2 years? (Hunter survey)**



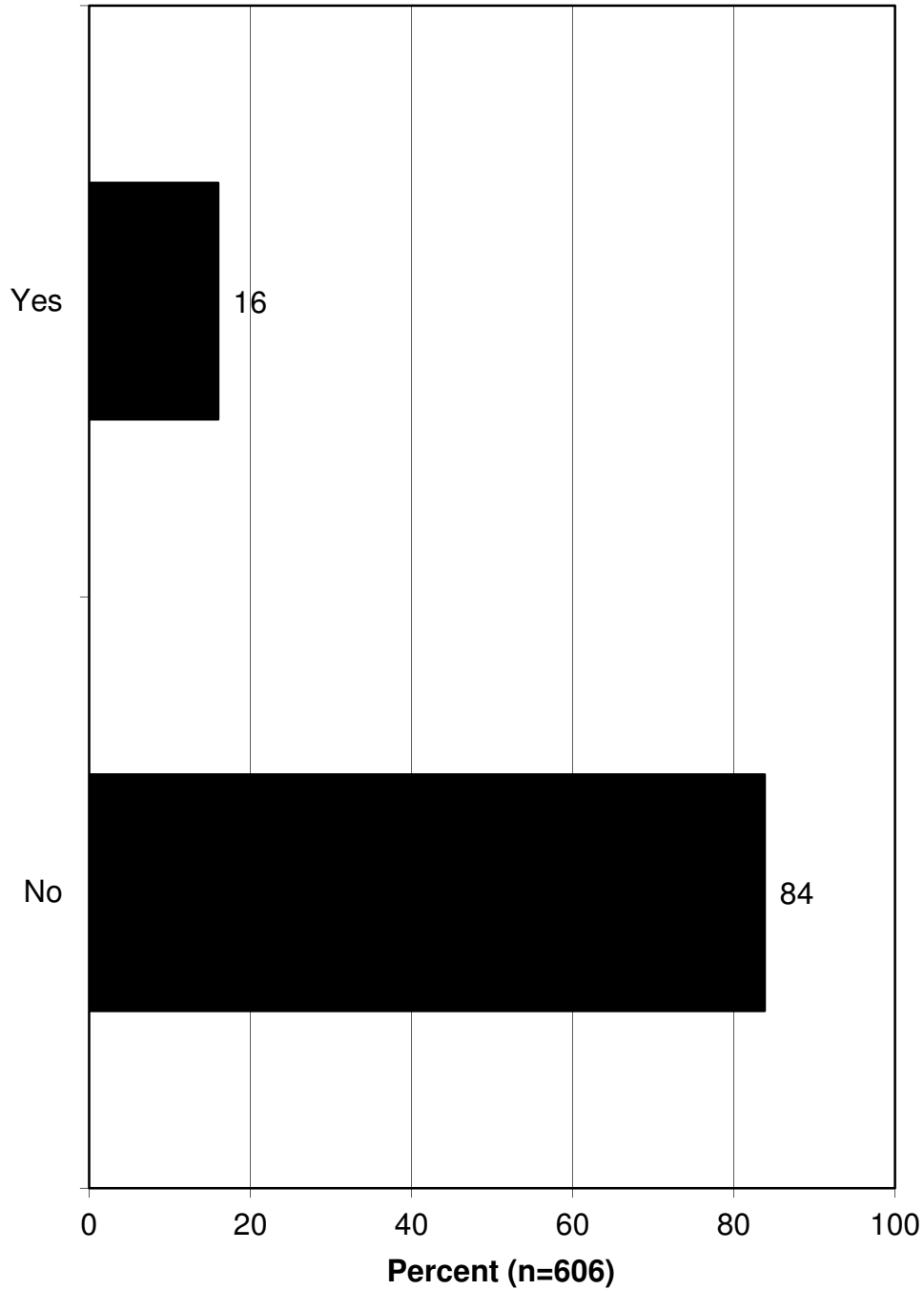
County of Residence	Percent who hunted sika deer	County of Residence	Percent who hunted sika deer
Allegany (n=40)	0	Howard (n=23)	13
Anne Arundel (n=94)	24	Kent (n=13)	15
Baltimore City (n=75)	12	Montgomery (n=28)	7
Baltimore County (n=20)	20	Prince George's (n=15)	20
Calvert (n=20)	5	Queen Anne's (n=22)	14
Caroline (n=22)	18	Somerset (n=4)	0
Carroll (n=60)	8	St. Mary's (n=23)	0
Cecil (n=39)	10	Talbot (n=17)	18
Charles (n=25)	4	Washington (n=49)	4
Dorchester (n=18)	22	Wicomico (n=38)	42
Frederick (n=54)	7	Worcester (n=16)	19
Garrett (n=45)	2	Total (n=801)	13
Harford (n=39)	13		

## **LANDOWNERS' AND OTHER RECREATIONISTS' INTERACTIONS AND CONFLICTS WITH HUNTERS**

- Landowners were asked about any problems that they may have had with hunters in the past 2 years: 16% of landowners have had problems.
  - Trespassing is the most common reason, by far (80% of those with problems cited this). Also with substantial percentages are responses pertaining to hunters' rude/threatening behavior (20% of those with problems) and unsafe behavior (16%).
  
- The general population survey had a section about interactions with hunters and the effects of hunting season on other outdoor recreation. For this section, the general population overall results are sometimes not shown because the question results have quite different meanings for hunters and non-hunters. For instance, a question about changing plans for "other" (i.e., non-hunting) outdoor recreation is different because you plan to participate in hunting (i.e., you are doing an activity in place of the "other" activity) rather than because you do not want to be outside in an area where active hunting is going on. In this question, it makes no sense to show results of hunters and non-hunters together as one group.
  
- In the general population survey, 17% say that deer season causes them to alter their times in participation in other outdoor recreation. Among non-hunters in the general population survey, 14% say that deer season causes them to alter their times of participation in other outdoor recreation (among the hunters, that percentage is higher, most likely because they plan to hunt themselves).
  - Most commonly, hiking/walking was the other activity that was altered.

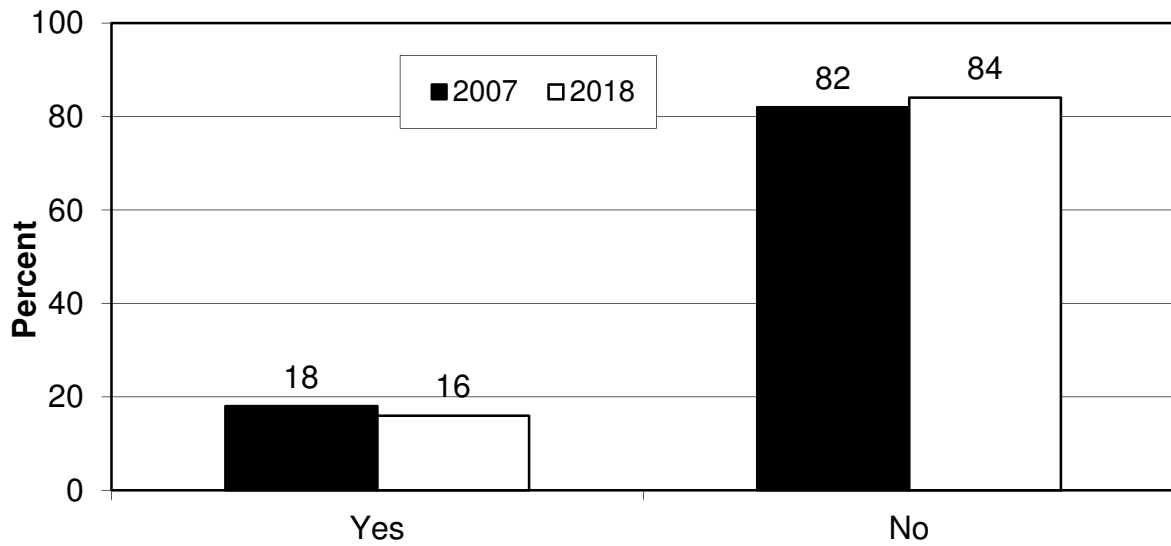
- In the general population survey, both hunters and non-hunters indicated that they avoid areas in which they know hunters are or might be hunting (38% overall, 62% of hunters within the general population, and 34% of non-hunters).
  - A graph shows the type of equipment that the hunters would be expected to use in those avoided areas; it does not matter among non-hunters whether hunters are using firearms or archery in their decisions to avoid certain areas, nor does it matter which species the hunters are seeking.
  - More than half of non-hunters *who indicated previously that they avoid areas* (53% of those who avoid areas) are avoiding areas because they do not want to disturb hunters; however, 45% are avoiding areas out of personal safety concerns.
  
- The general population survey asked if residents had encountered hunters while they (the respondents themselves) were engaged in other outdoor recreation within the past 5 years, and it makes most sense to look at hunters and non-hunters separately, to distinguish between hunters seeing other hunters versus other recreationists seeing hunters. The crosstabulation shows that 16% of non-hunters encountered hunters while engaging in outdoor recreation. Hunters' rate was much higher: 40% of hunters encountered other hunters.
  - Of those who encountered hunters, 10% of hunters and 14% of non-hunters indicated that they experienced problems with the hunters that they encountered (note that these percentages are of those who encountered hunters while they—the respondents themselves—were engaged in other recreation). Rude or discourteous behavior is the top complaint. Deer hunters predominate regarding the types of hunters that caused problems.

**Q67. Have you experienced any problems with hunters in the past 2 years?  
(Landowner survey)**

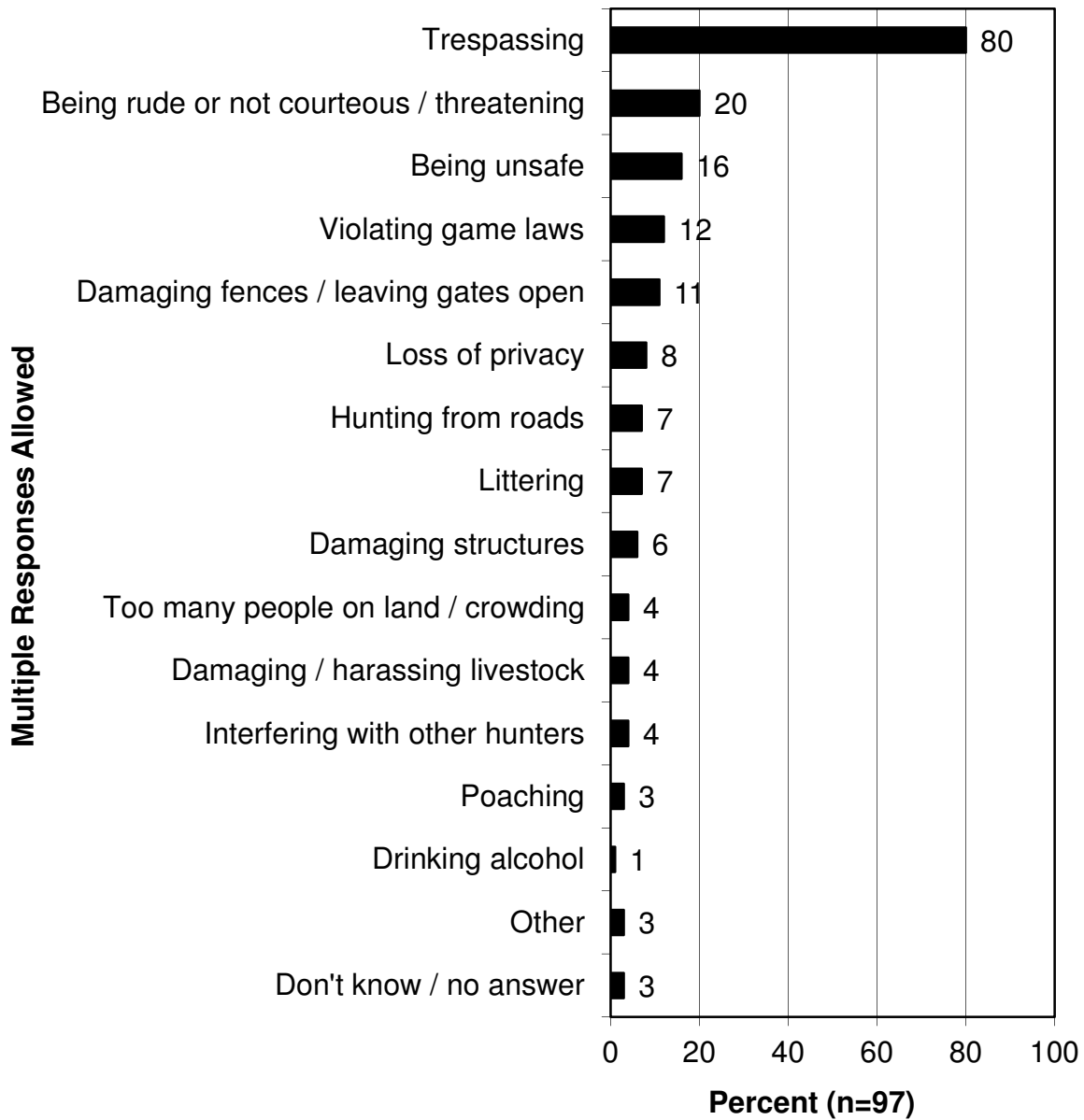




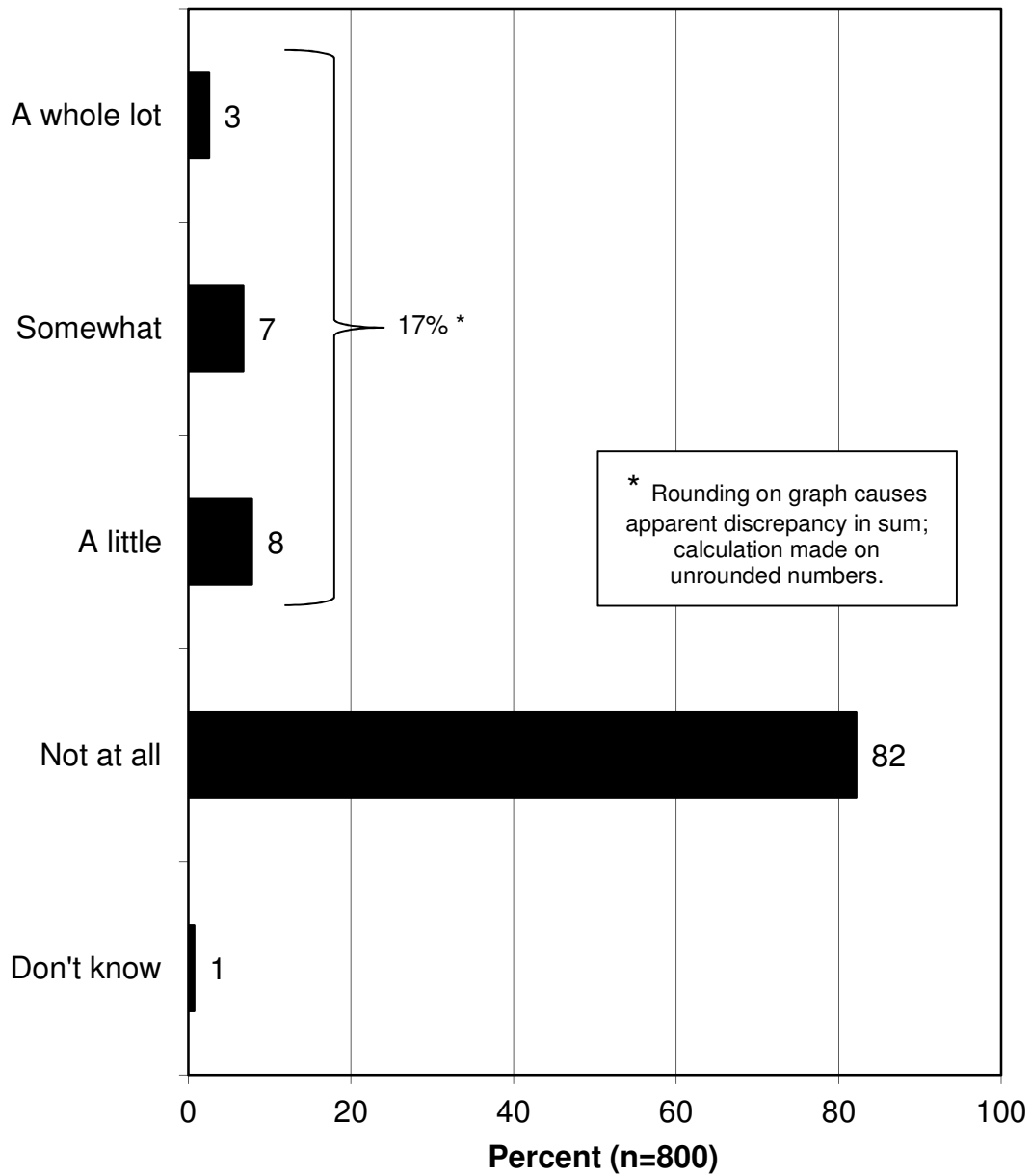
**Q67. Have you experienced any problems with hunters in the past 2 years?  
(Landowner survey)**



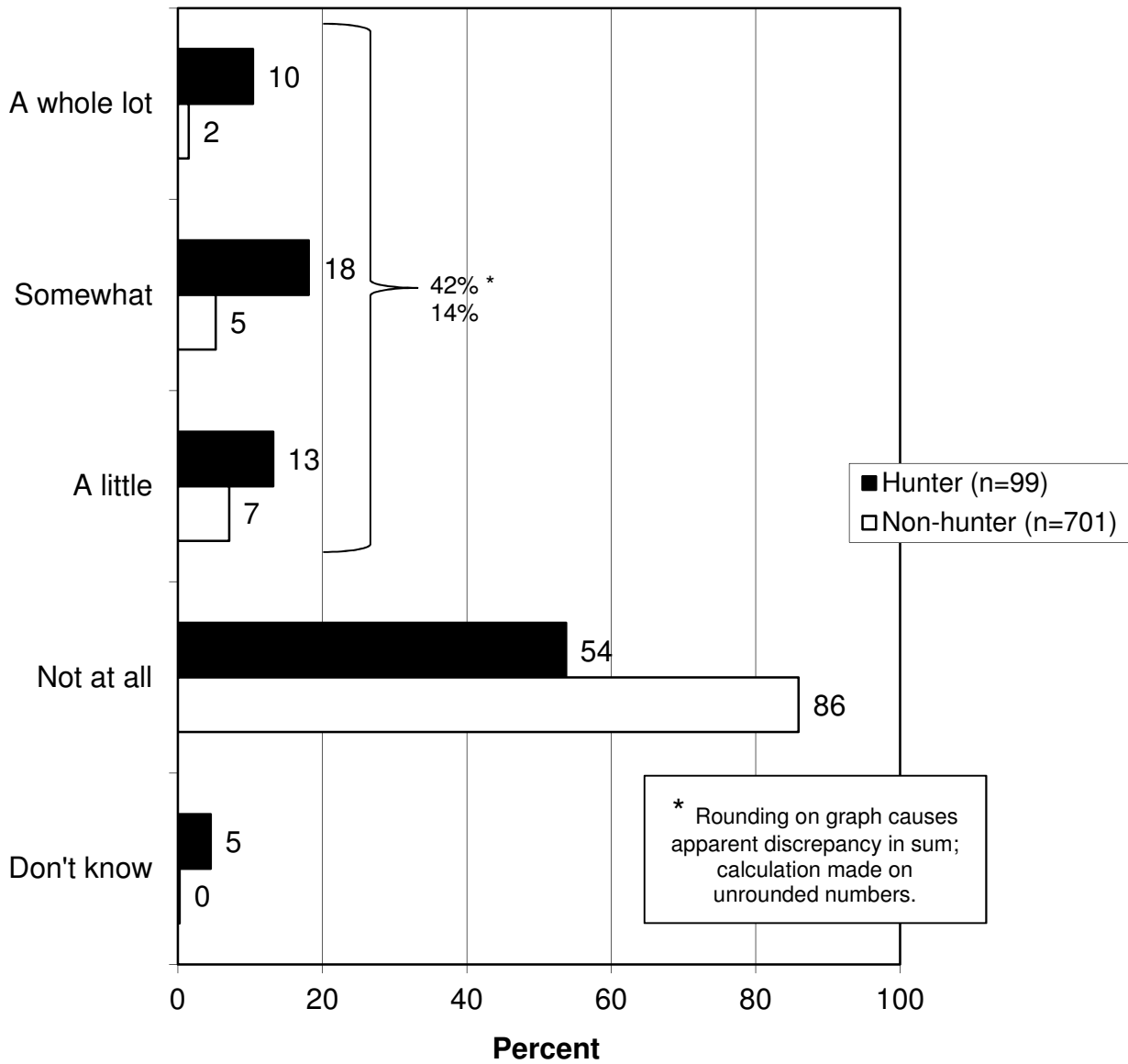
**Q70. What types of problems did you experience with hunters in the past 2 years?  
(Asked of those who experienced problems with hunters in the past 2 years.)  
(Landowner survey)**



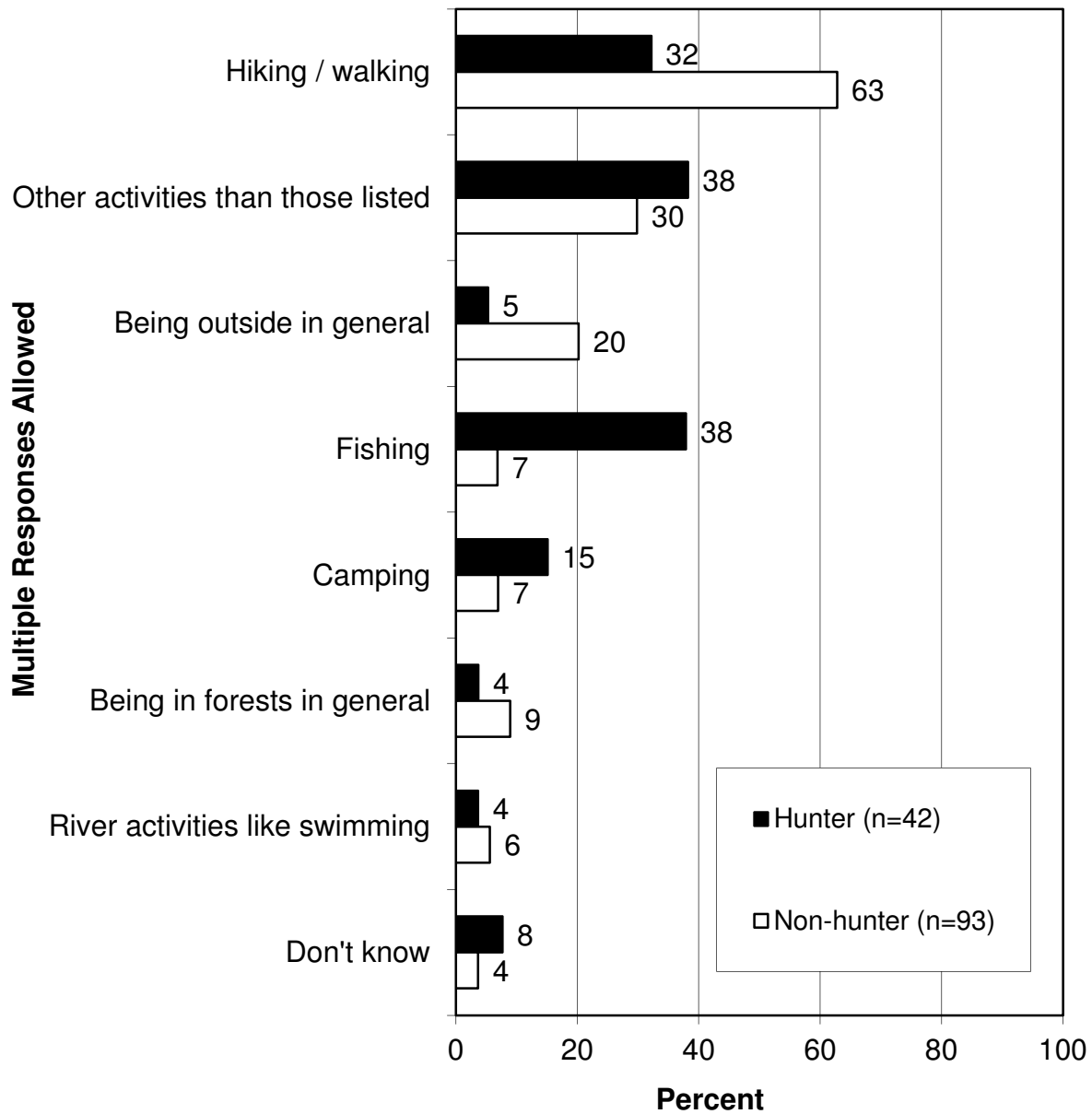
**Q47. How much would you say deer season causes you to alter times you participate in other outdoor activities? Would you say...? (Gen pop survey)**



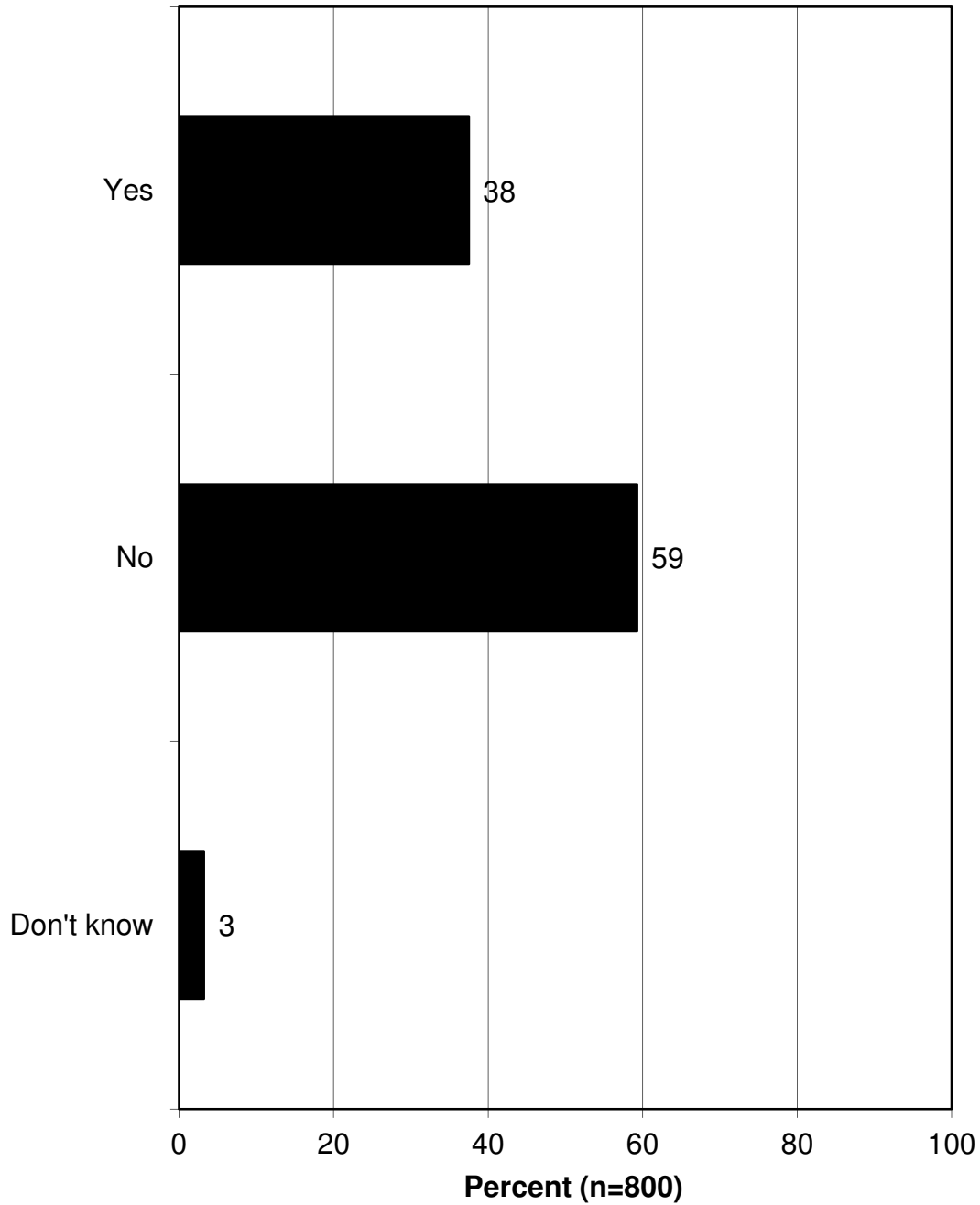
**Q47. How much would you say deer season causes you to alter times you participate in other outdoor activities? Would you say...? (Gen pop survey)**



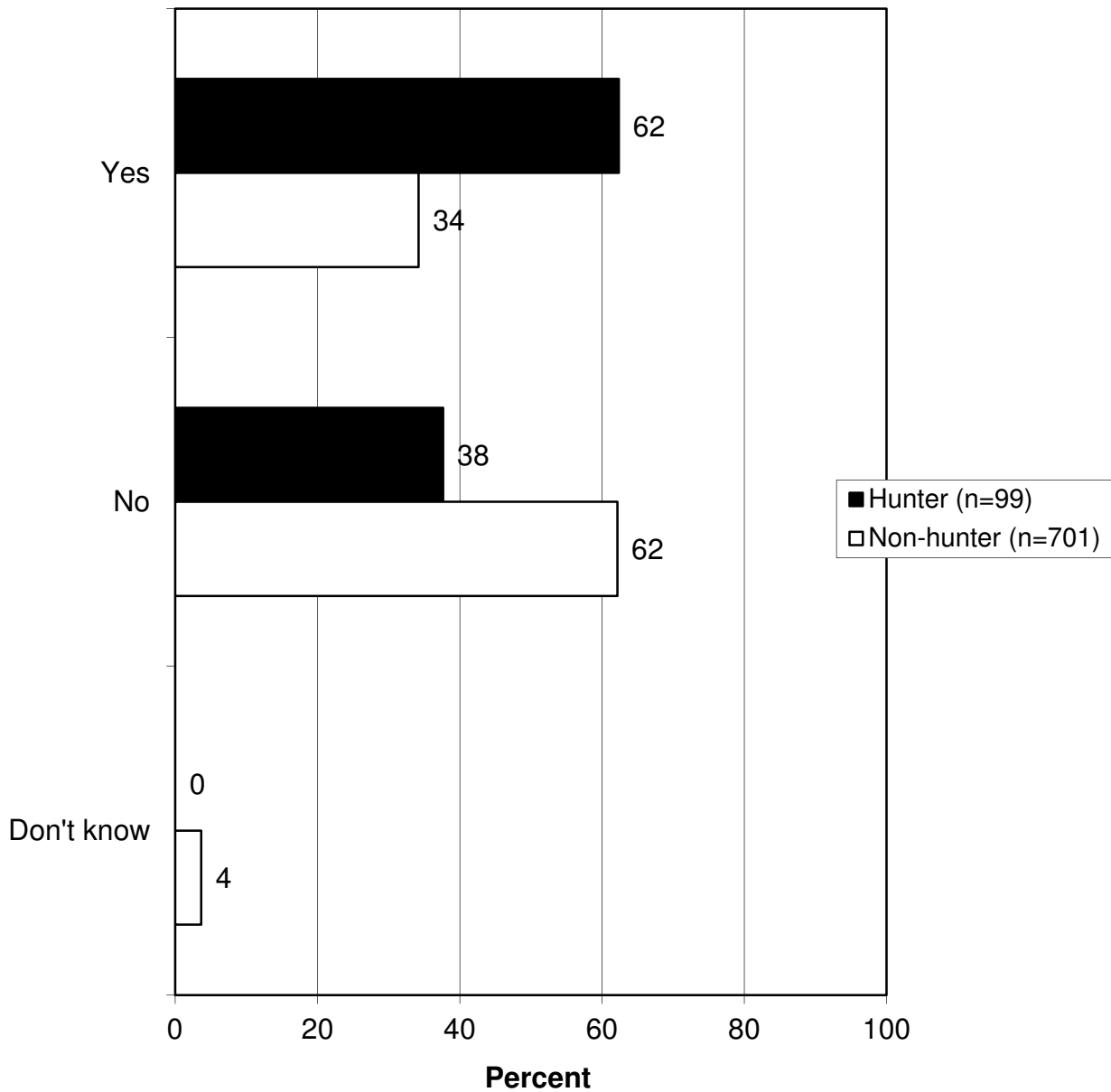
**Q50. What outdoor activities are they? (Asked of those who alter their times of participation in other outdoor activities because of deer season.) (Gen pop survey)**



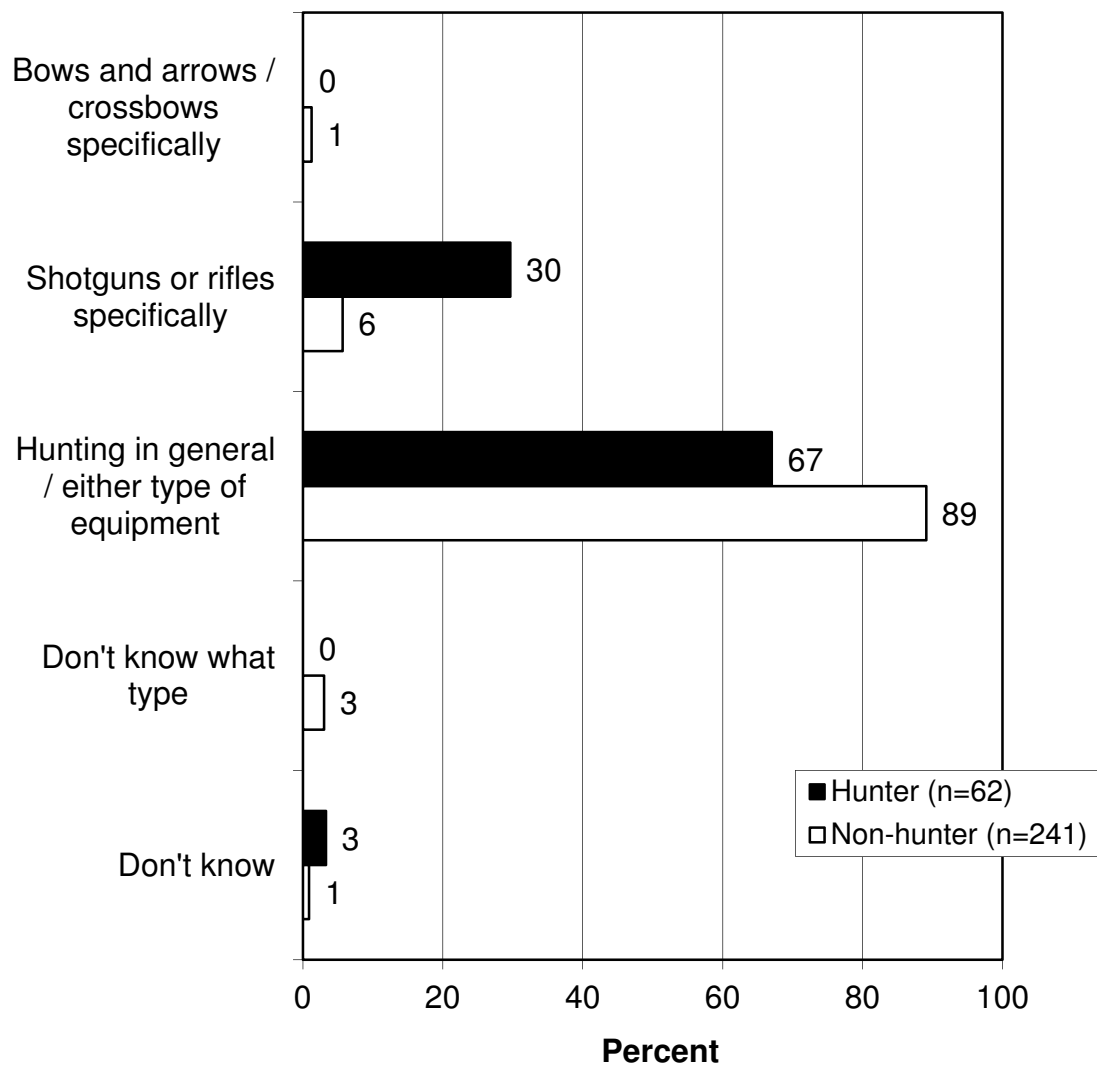
**Q53. Do you ever avoid areas in which you know hunters are hunting or might be hunting?  
(Gen pop survey)**



**Q53. Do you ever avoid areas in which you know hunters are hunting or might be hunting?  
(Gen pop survey)**

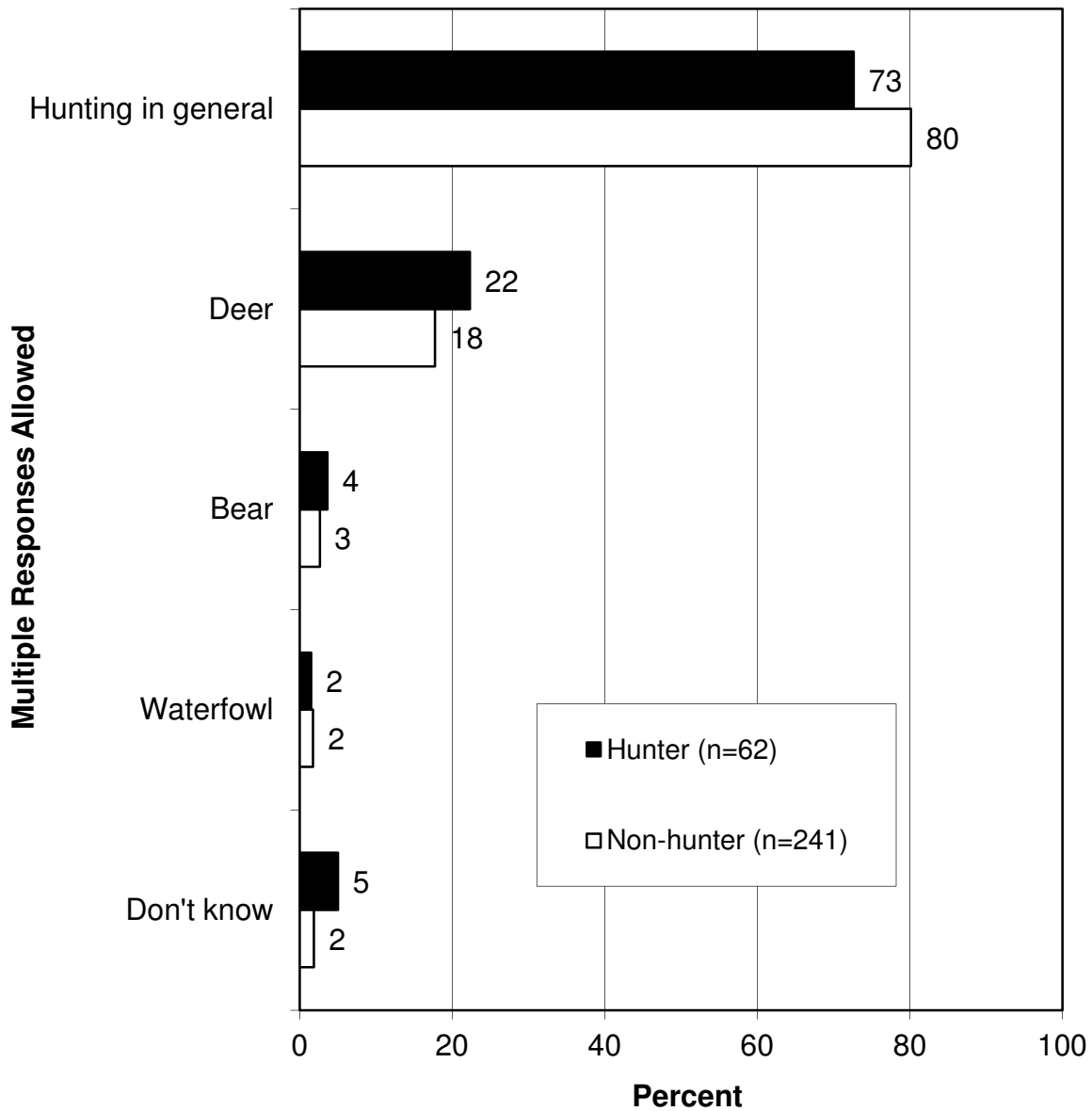


**Q54. Are you avoiding areas where hunters are specifically using bows and arrows or crossbows, shotguns or rifles, or just hunting areas in general? (Asked of those who avoid areas in which hunters are or might be hunting.) (Gen pop survey)**

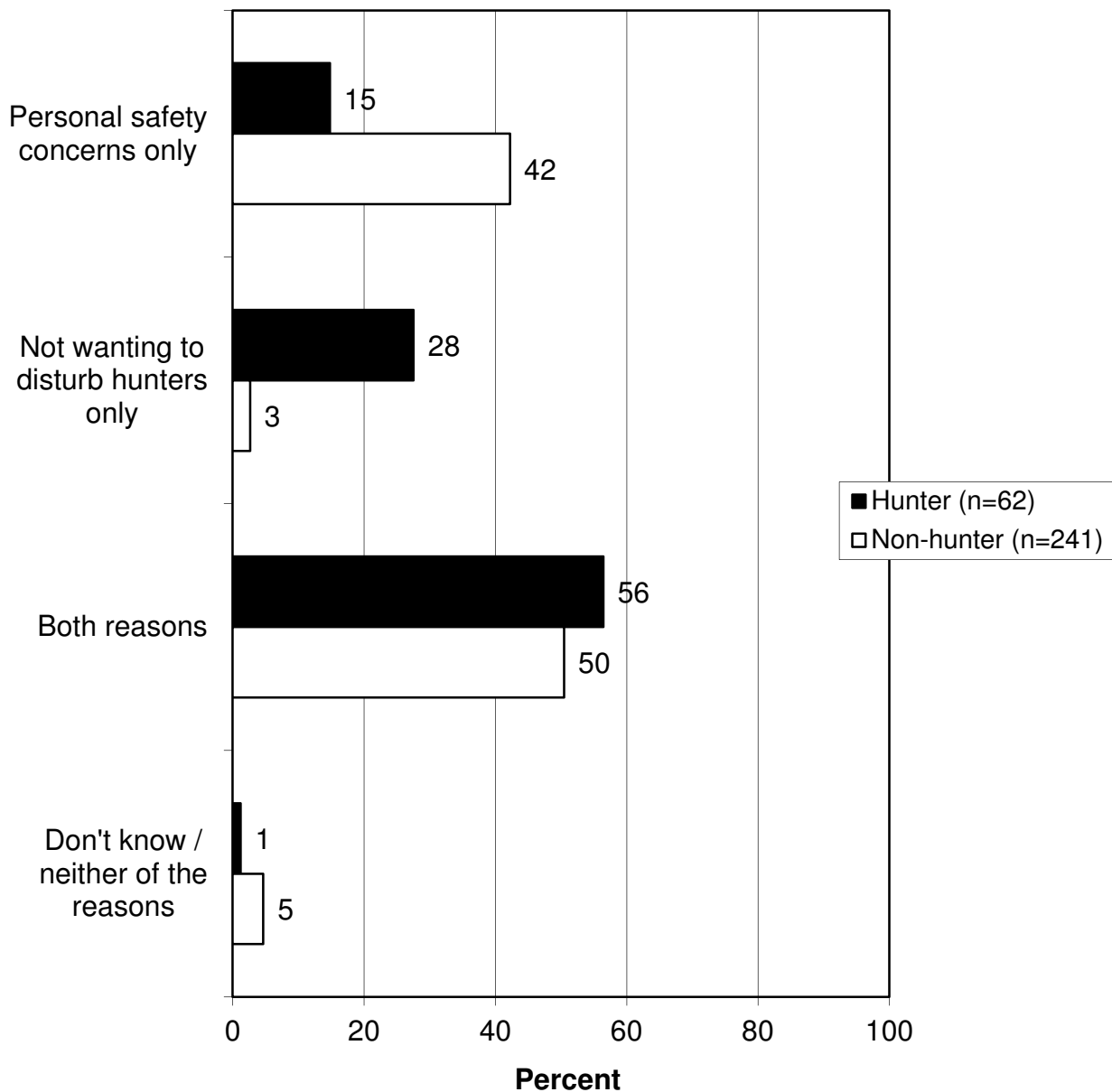




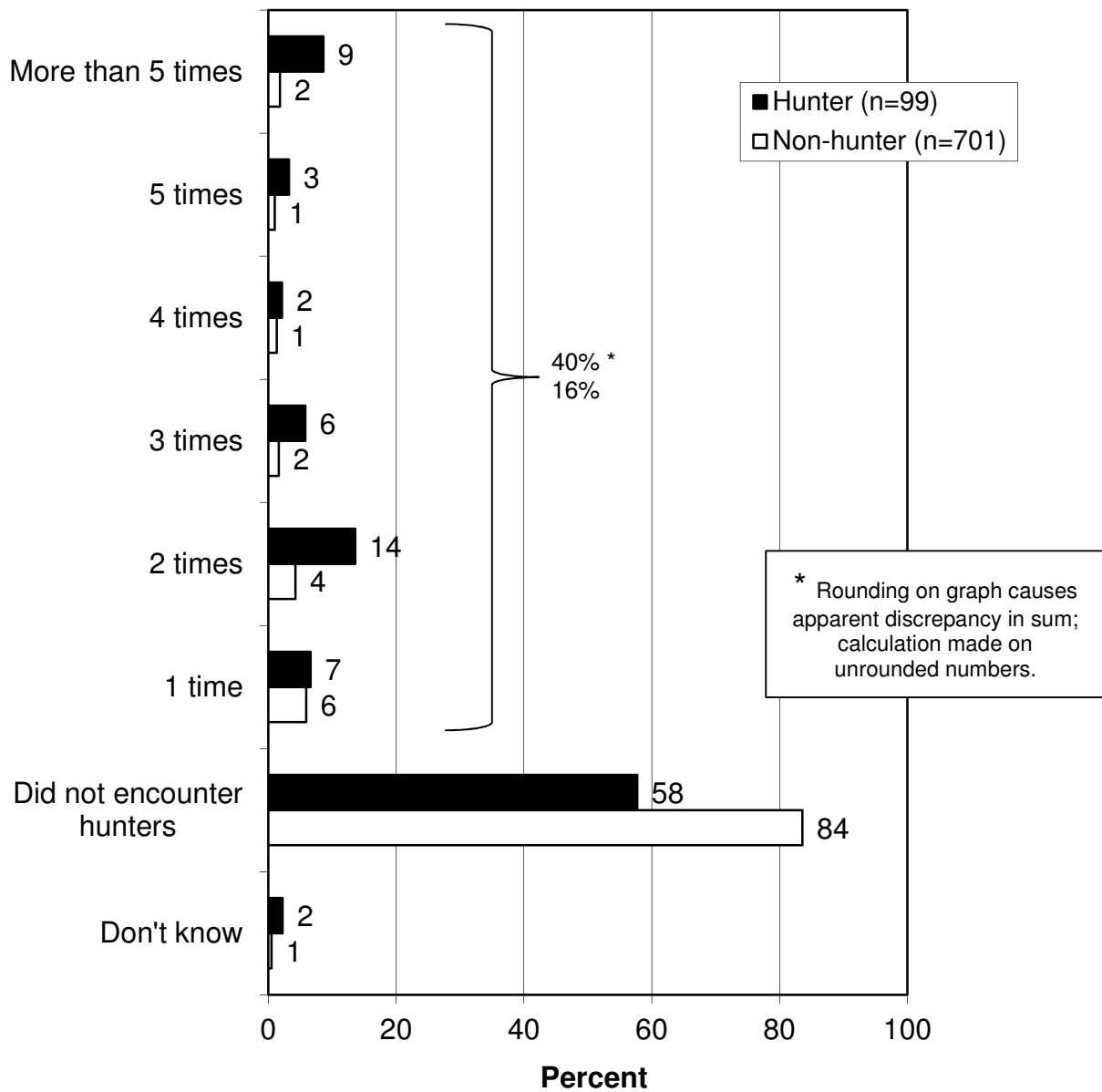
**Q57. Are you avoiding areas where hunters are hunting...? (Asked of those who avoid areas in which hunters are or might be hunting.) (Gen pop survey)**



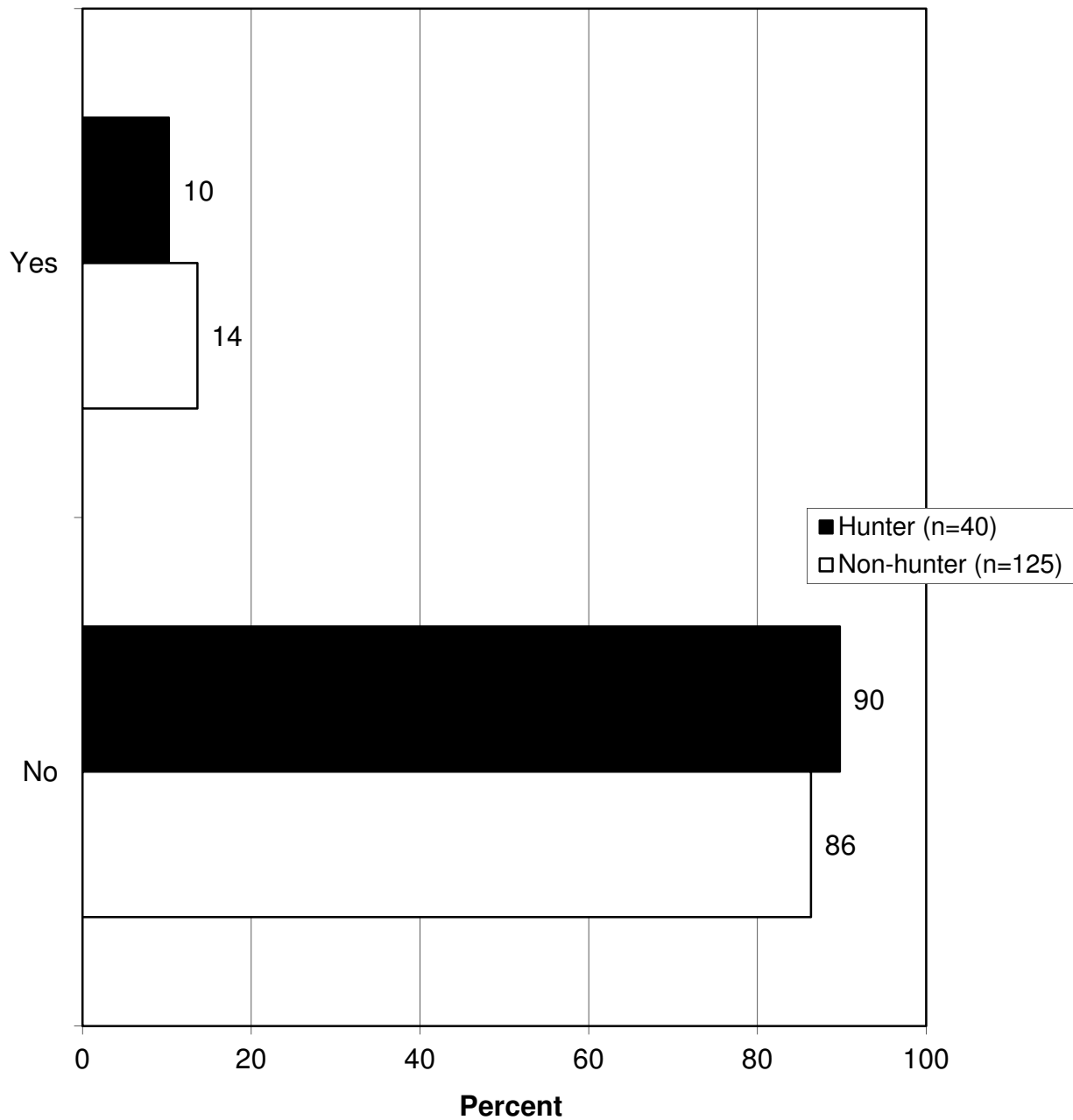
**Q59. Do you avoid those areas out of your own personal safety concerns, because you do not want to disturb the hunters, or both? (Asked of those who avoid areas in which hunters are or might be hunting.) (Gen pop survey)**



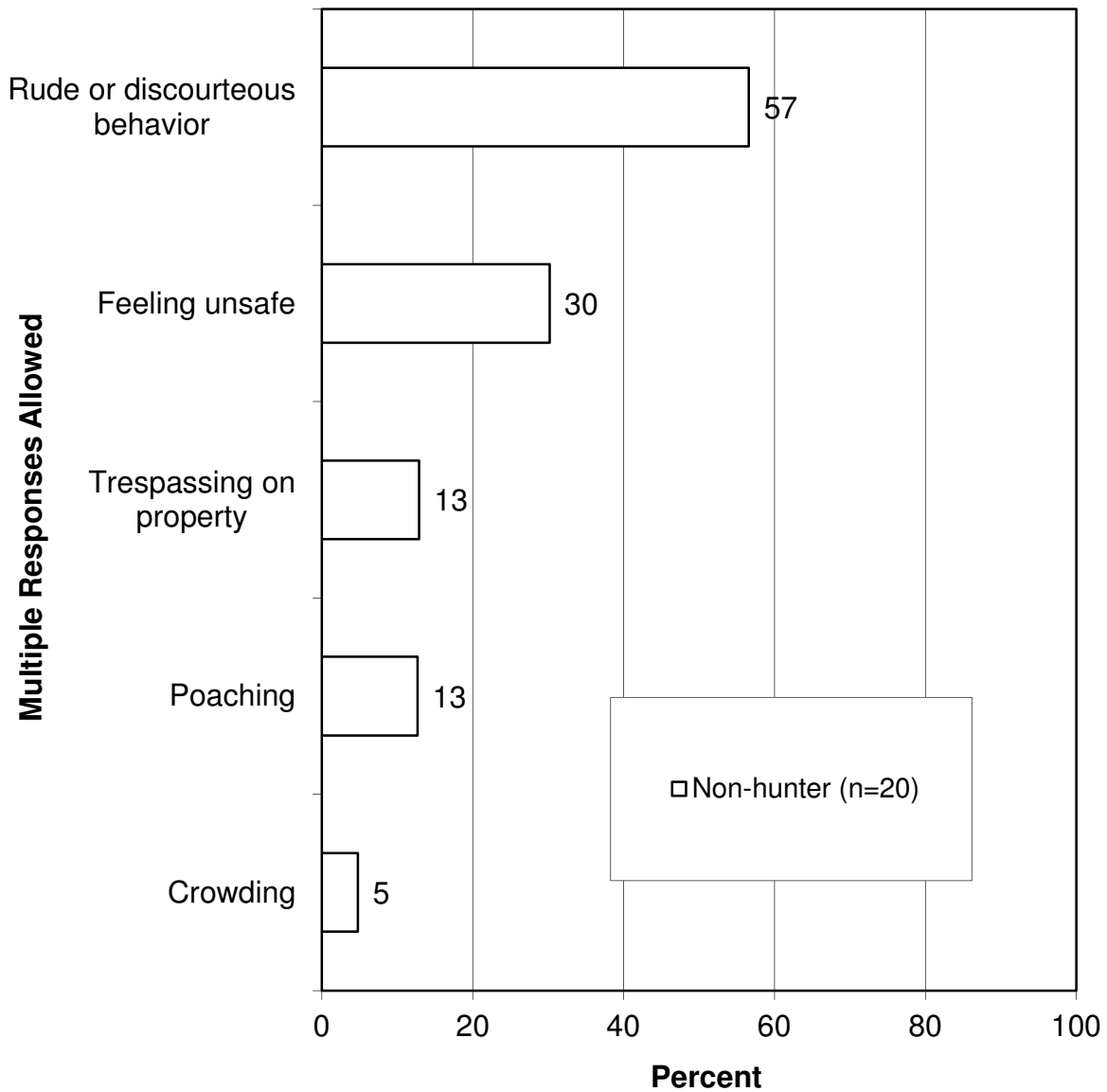
**Q60. In the past 5 years in Maryland, how many times did you encounter a person actively hunting while you were engaged in other outdoor recreation? (Gen pop survey)**



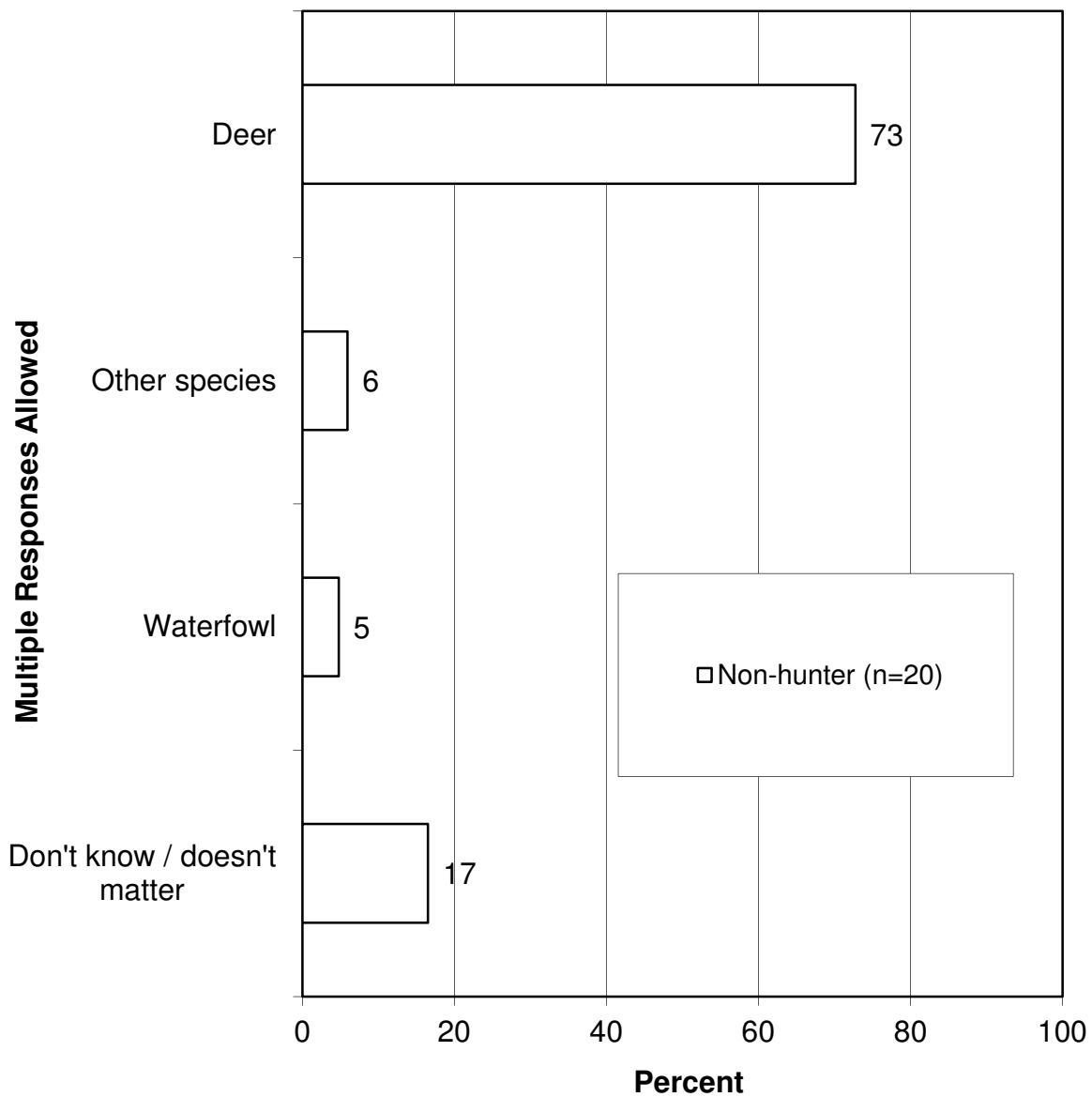
**Q63. Did you experience any problems with those hunters you encountered? (Asked of those who, while engaged in other outdoor recreation, encountered hunters.) (Gen pop survey)**



**Q66. What problems with deer hunters did you experience? (Asked of those who, while engaged in other outdoor recreation, experienced problems with hunters.) (Gen pop survey)**



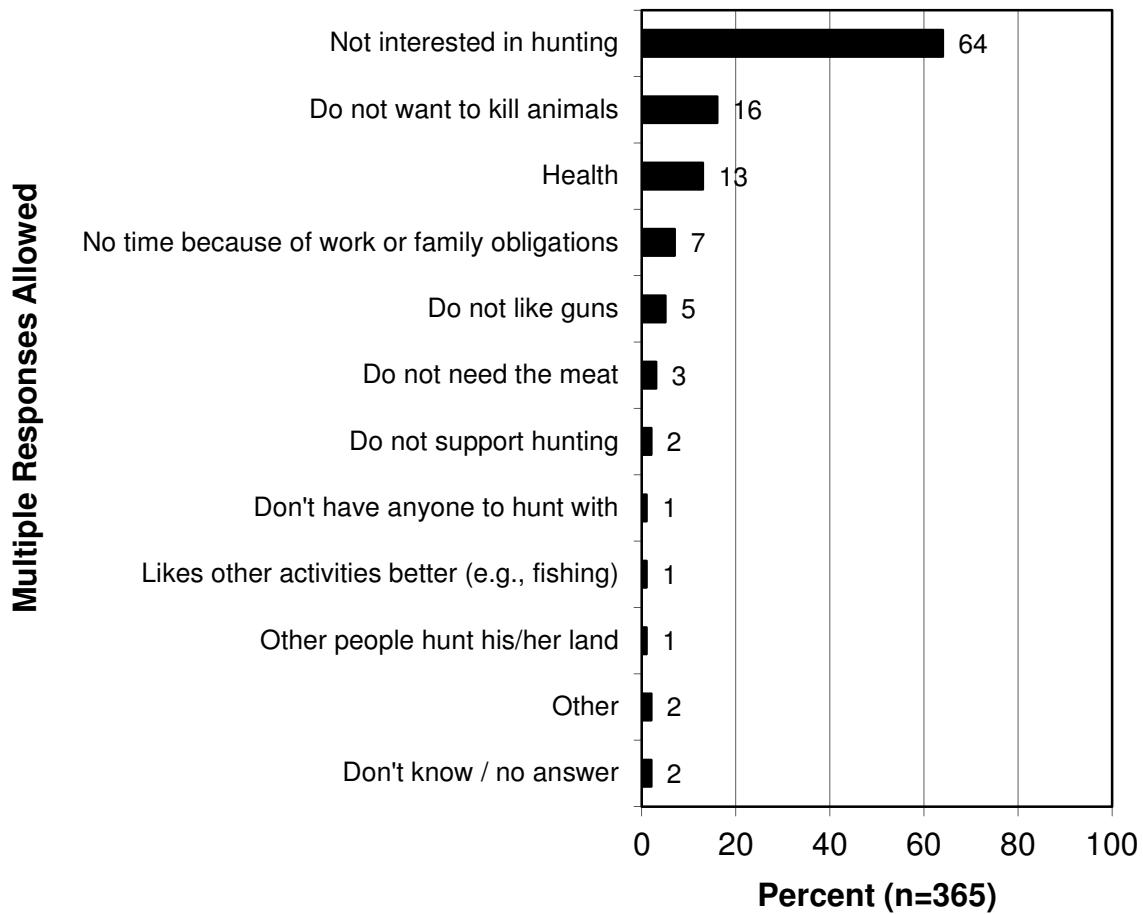
**Q70. Were those hunters hunting deer, bear, waterfowl, something else, or do you not know? (Asked of those who, while engaged in other outdoor recreation, experienced problems with hunters.) (Gen pop survey)**



## CONSTRAINTS TO HUNTING PARTICIPATION AND REASONS FOR NOT HUNTING

- Landowners who had never hunted deer or have not done so in the past 10 years were asked for their reasons. Other than a simple lack of interest (which was the most common response, at 64% of those who received the question), not wanting to kill animals (16%) and age/health (13%) are the most common reasons.

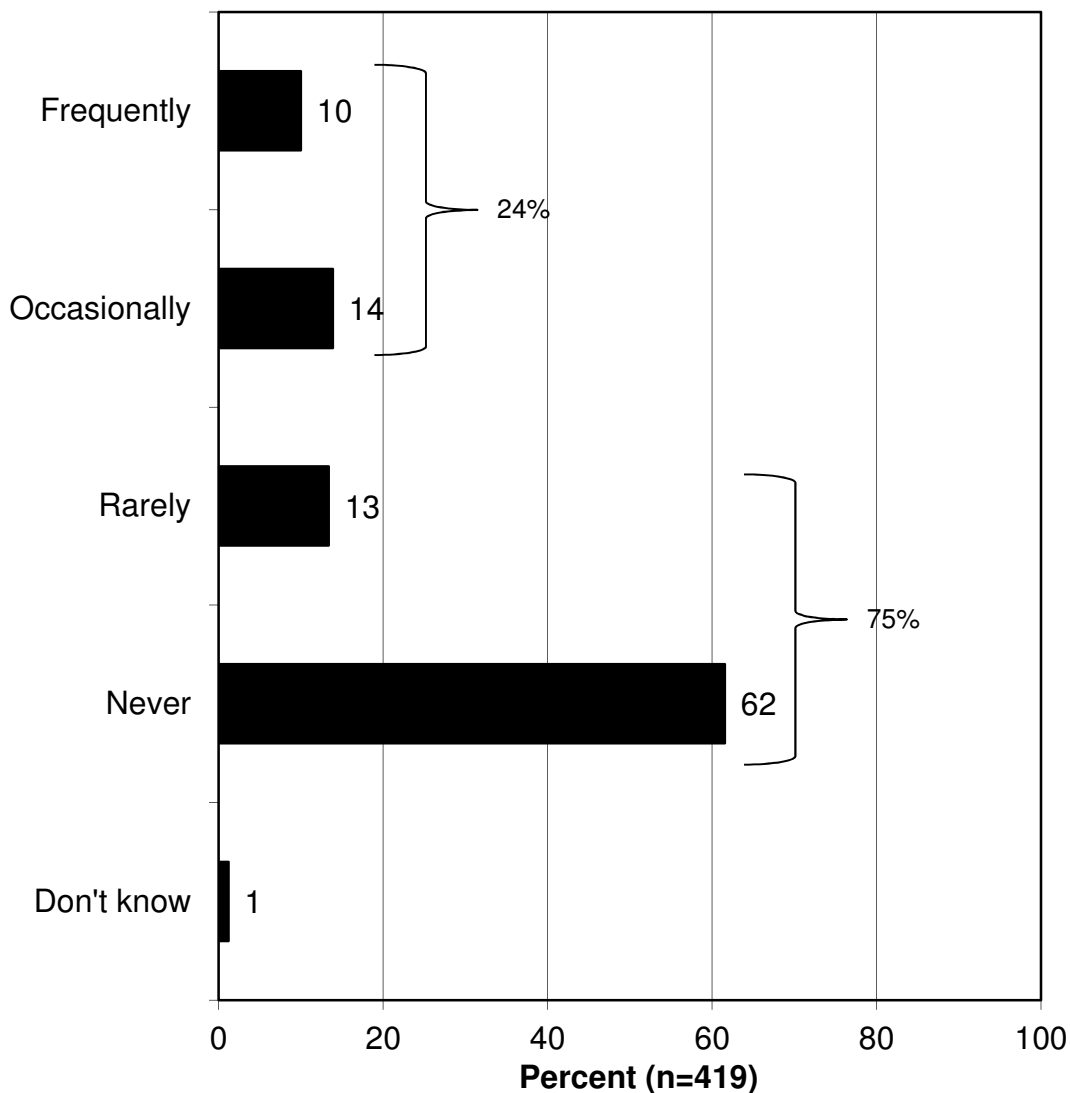
**Q99. What are the main reasons you [have never hunted deer in Maryland / have not hunted deer in Maryland in the past 10 years]? (Asked of those who have not hunted deer in the past 10 years, including those who never have.) (Landowner survey)**



## VIEWING AND PHOTOGRAPHING DEER

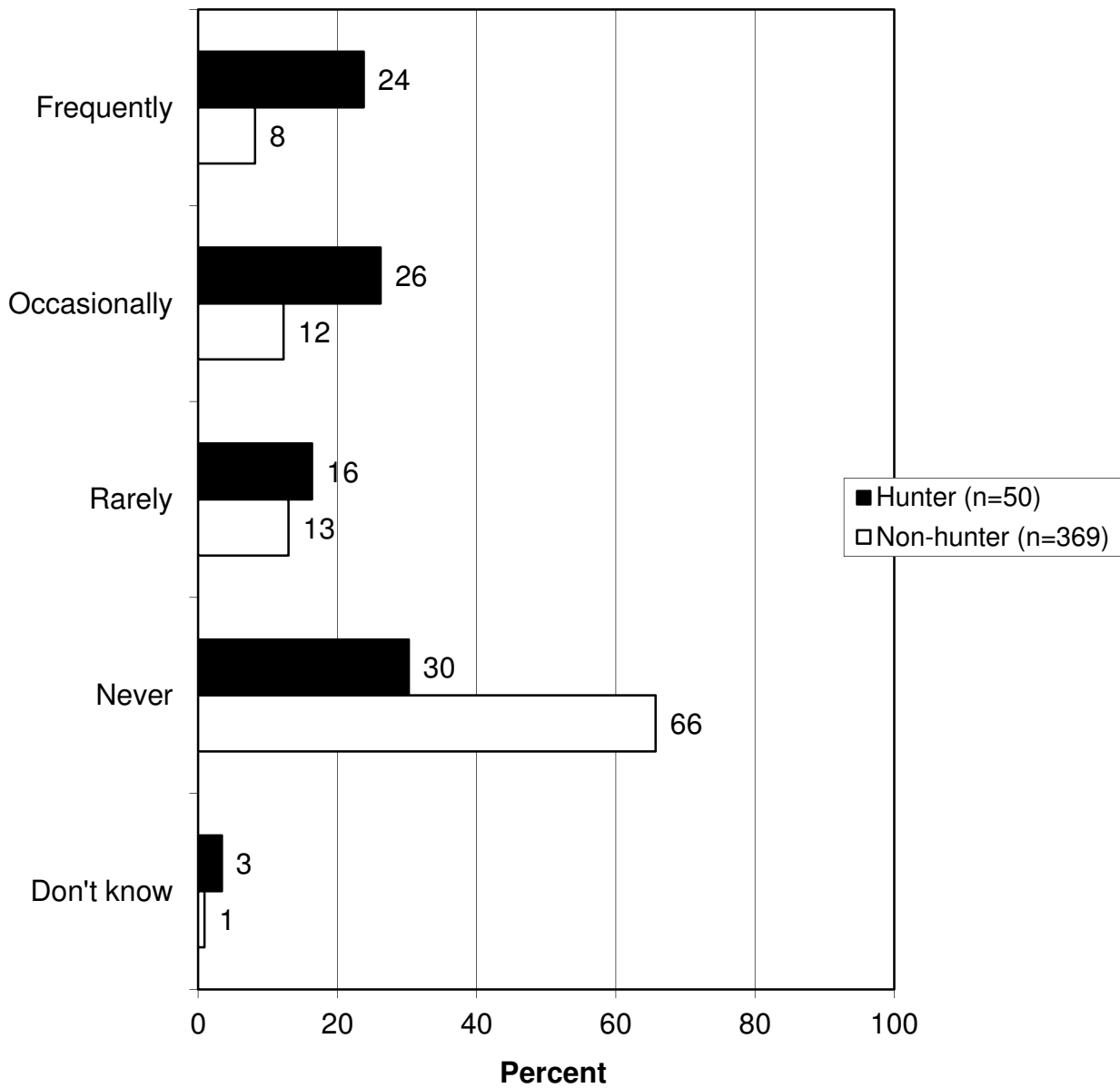
- About a quarter of residents (24%) frequently or occasionally make trips specifically to view and experience deer in their native habitat for photography or other non-hunting purposes.
  - Although weekends predominate for these trips, there is some activity on weekdays.

### Q34. How often do you make trips specifically to view and experience deer in their native habitat for photography or other non-hunting purposes? (Gen pop survey)

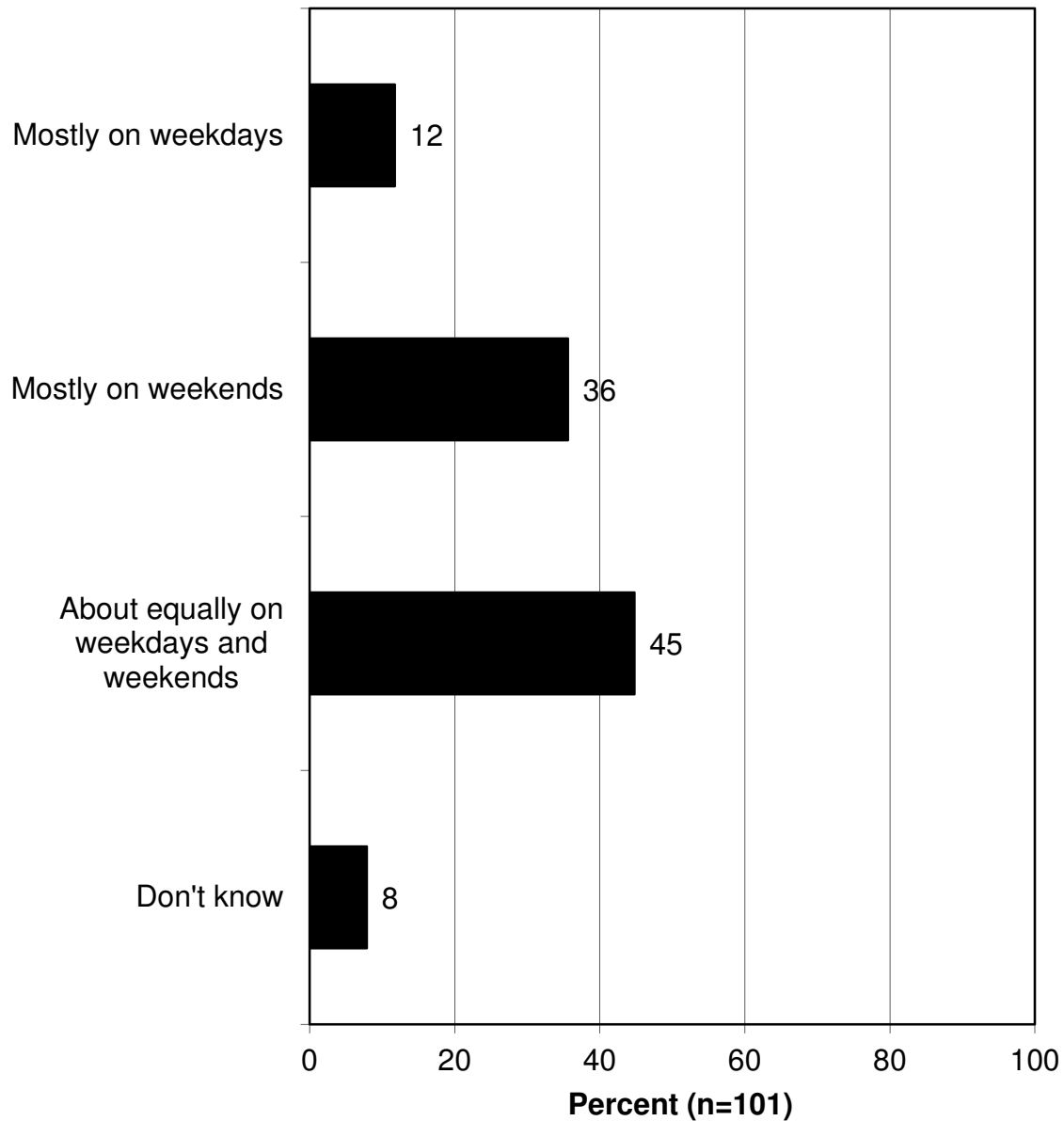




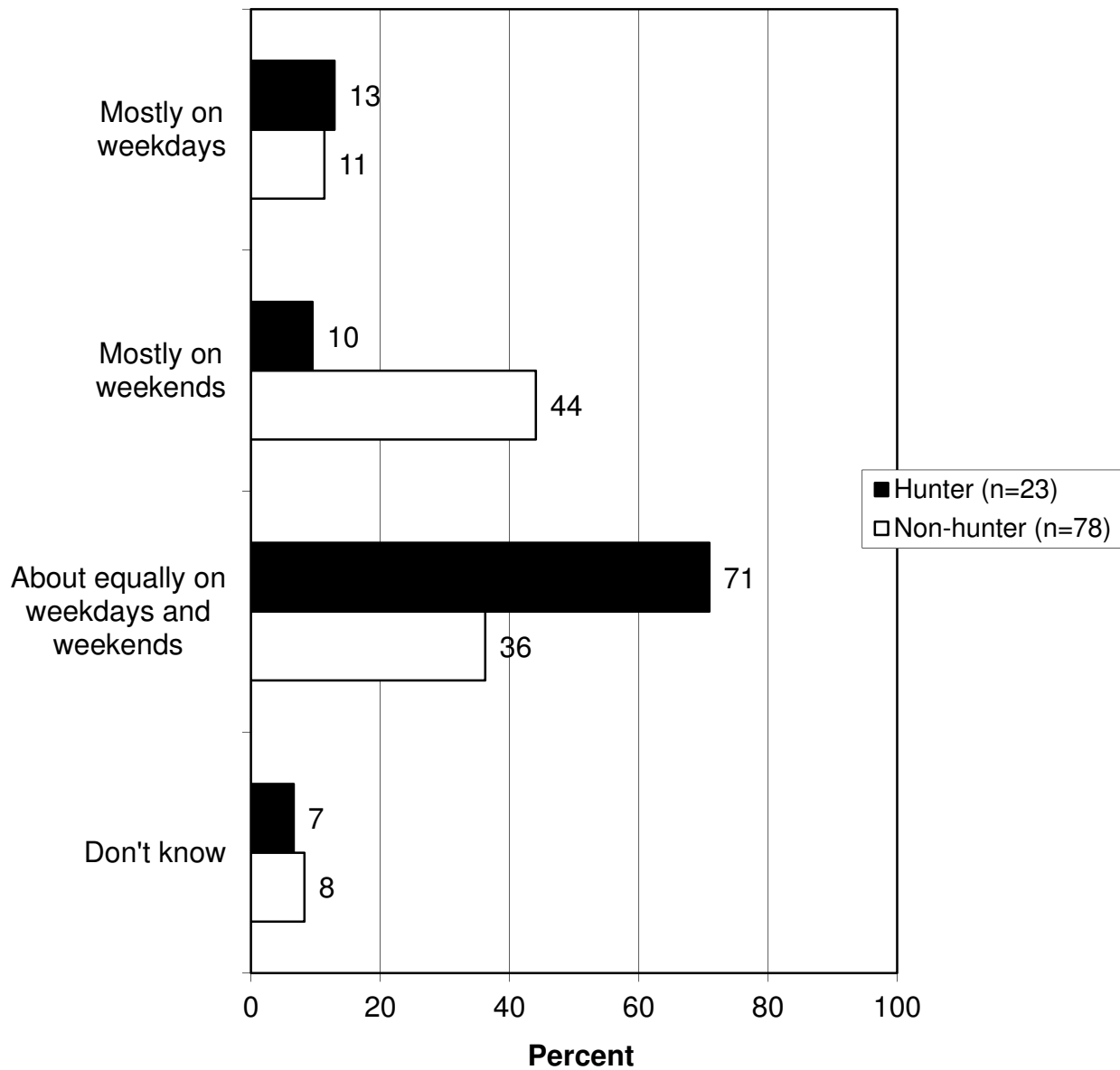
**Q34. How often do you make trips specifically to view and experience deer in their native habitat for photography or other non-hunting purposes? (Gen pop survey)**



**Q35. Do you take these trips mostly on weekdays or mostly on weekends? (Asked of those who take trips specifically to view and experience deer in their native habitat for non-hunting purposes.) (Gen pop survey)**



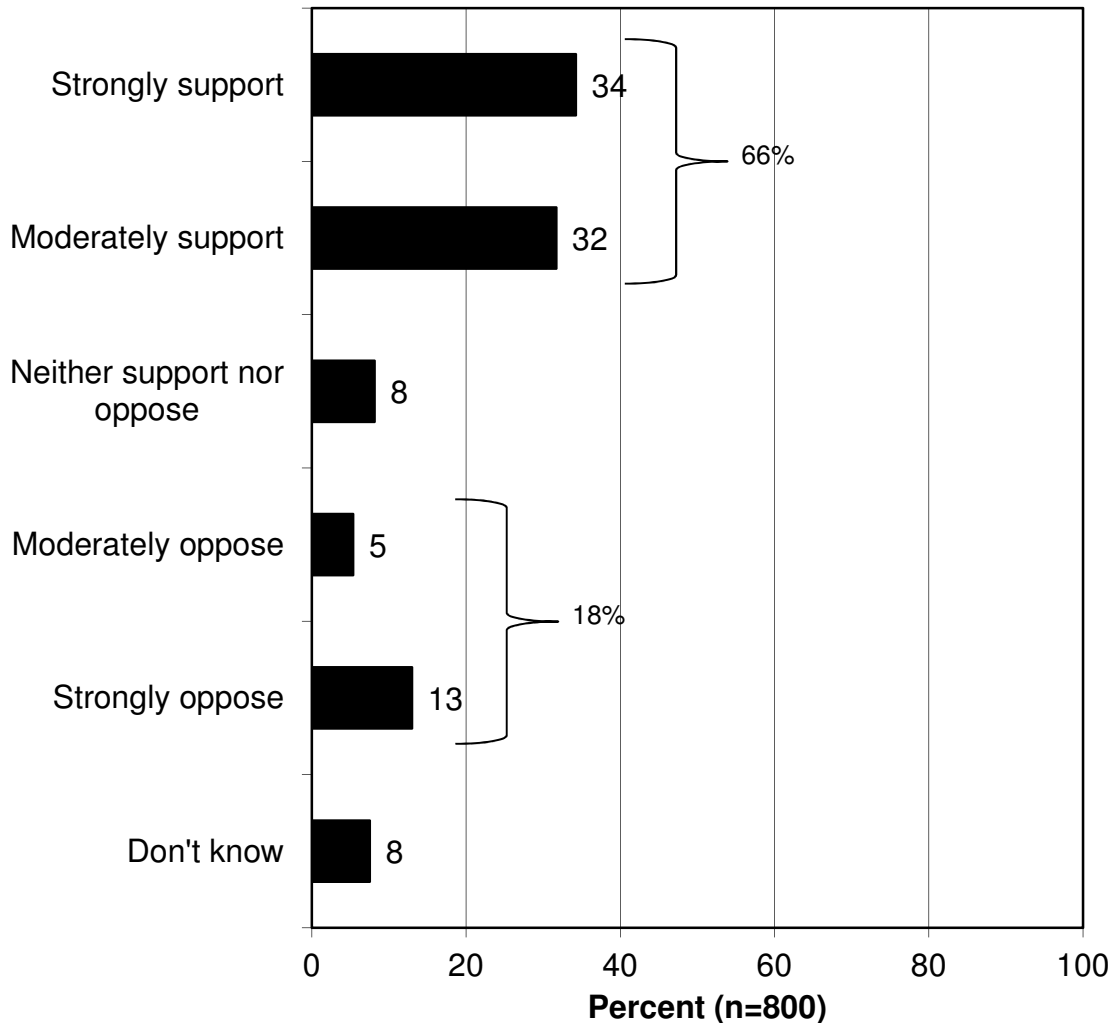
**Q35. Do you take these trips mostly on weekdays or mostly on weekends? (Asked of those who take trips specifically to view and experience deer in their native habitat for non-hunting purposes.) (Gen pop survey)**



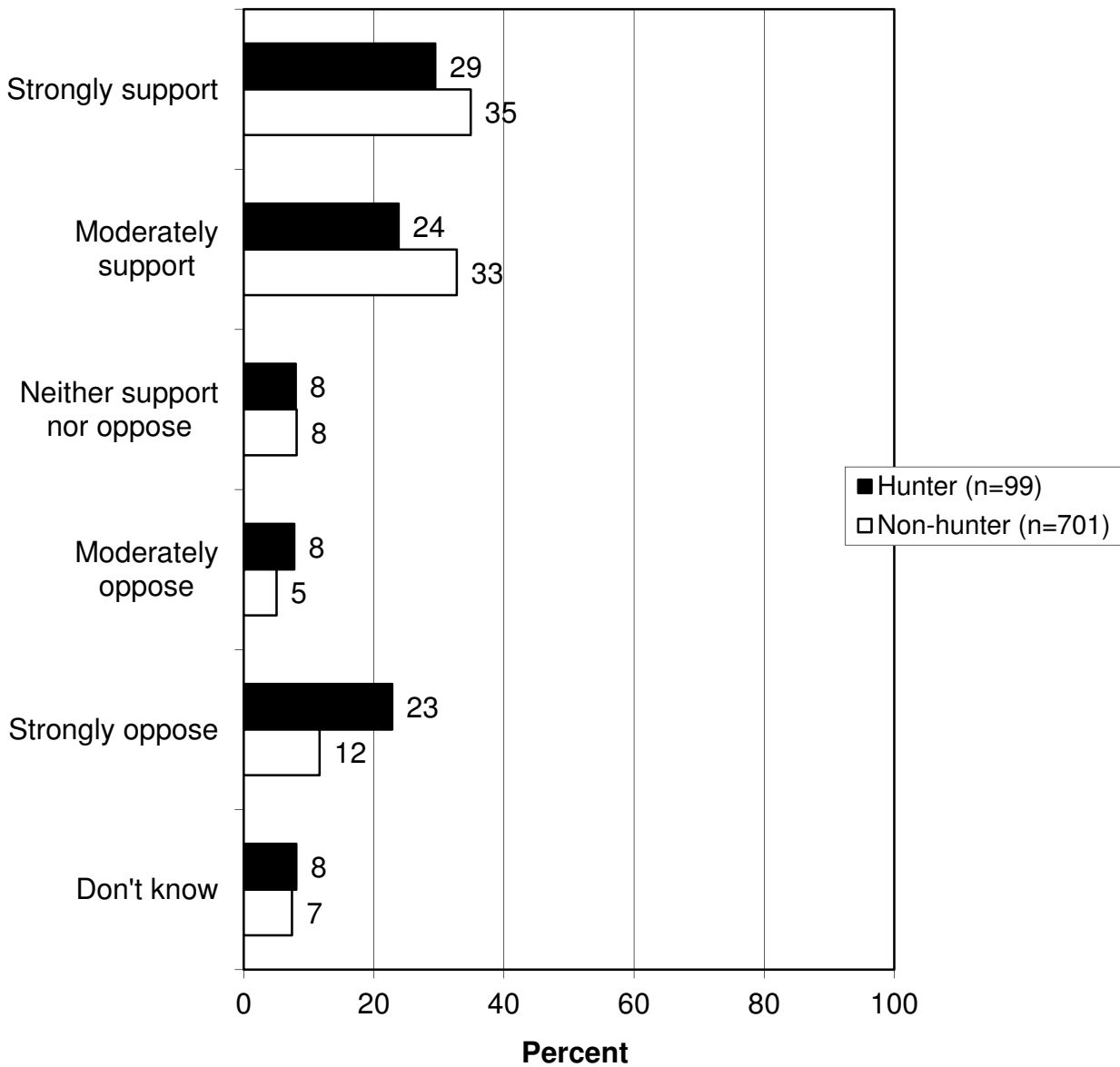
## OPINIONS ON NON-HUNTING RECREATIONAL PASSES

- The majority of residents (66%) would support the creation of a non-hunting recreational pass to access Wildlife Management Areas (with non-hunters even higher in support). Nonetheless, 18% of residents would oppose.
  - Those who support were asked to name a reasonable fee: the median is \$25.

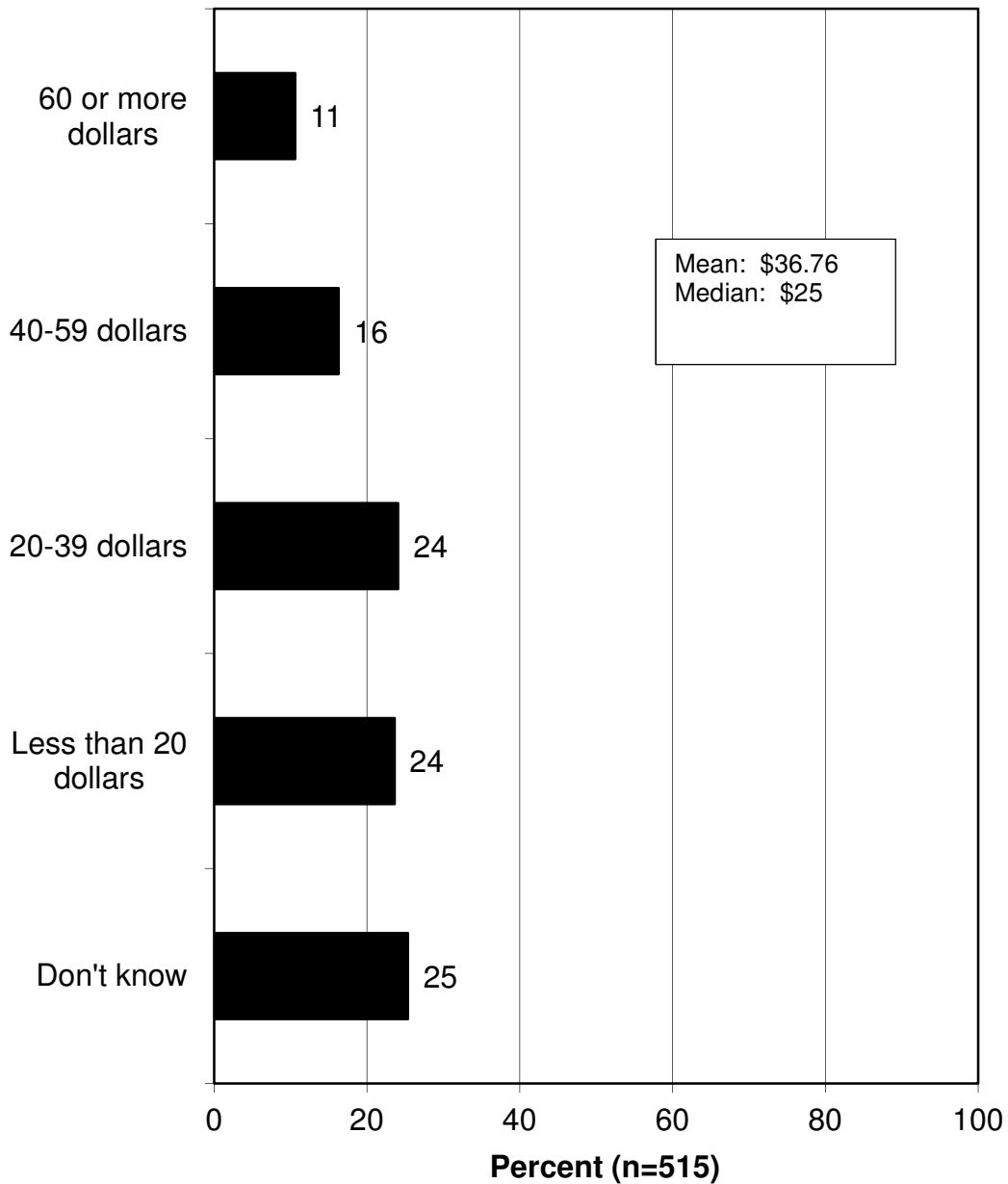
**Q108. Would you support or oppose the creation of a non-hunting recreational pass for a moderate annual fee to access Wildlife Management Areas, with the funds being used for management of all wildlife, including non-hunted species? (Gen pop survey)**



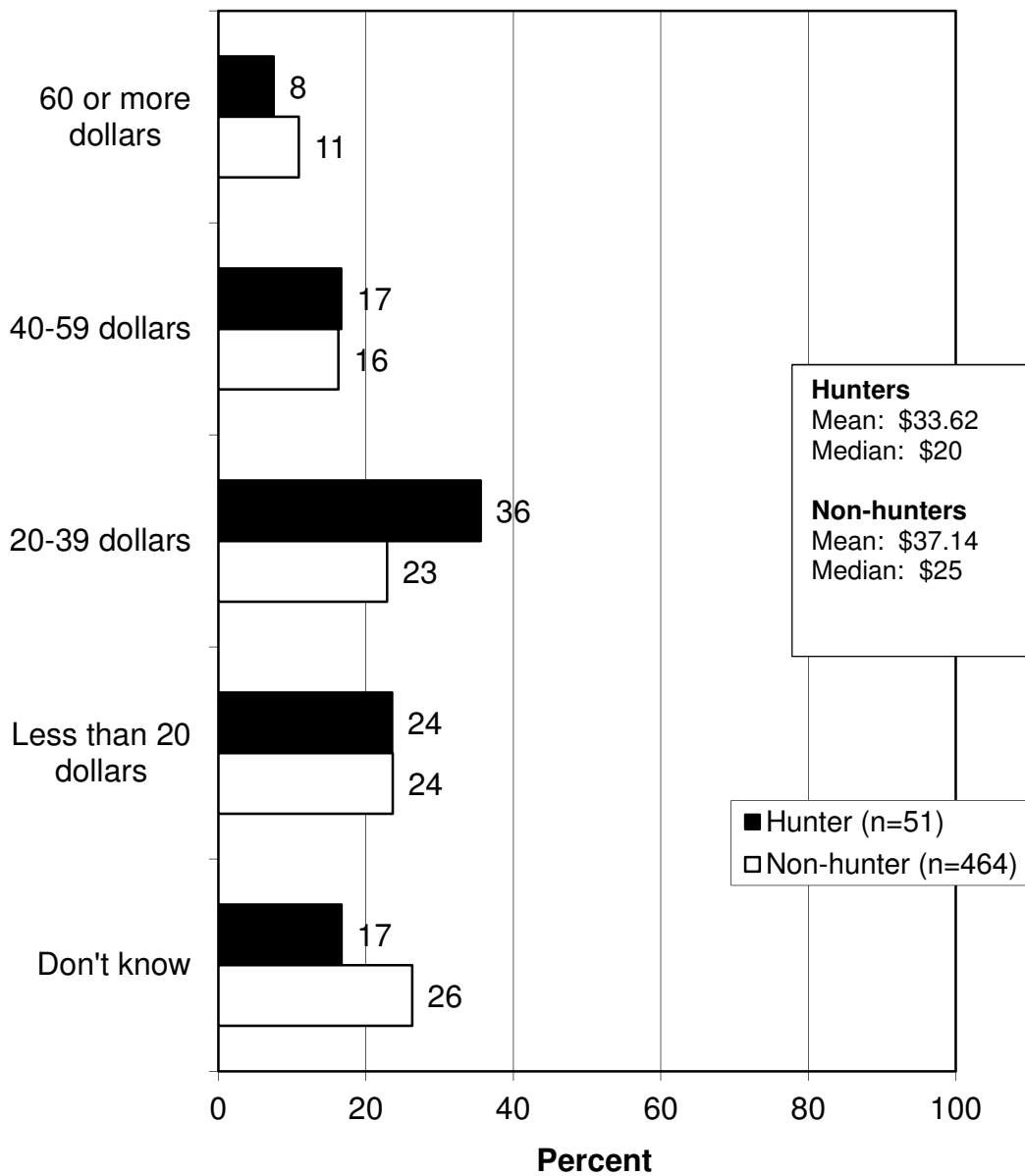
**Q108. Would you support or oppose the creation of a non-hunting recreational pass for a moderate annual fee to access Wildlife Management Areas, with the funds being used for management of all wildlife, including non-hunted species? (Gen pop survey)**



**Q109. What would you consider to be a moderate fee for a non-hunting recreational pass? (Asked of those who support the creation of a non-hunting recreational pass.) (Gen pop survey)**



**Q109. What would you consider to be a moderate fee for a non-hunting recreational pass? (Asked of those who support the creation of a non-hunting recreational pass.) (Gen pop survey)**

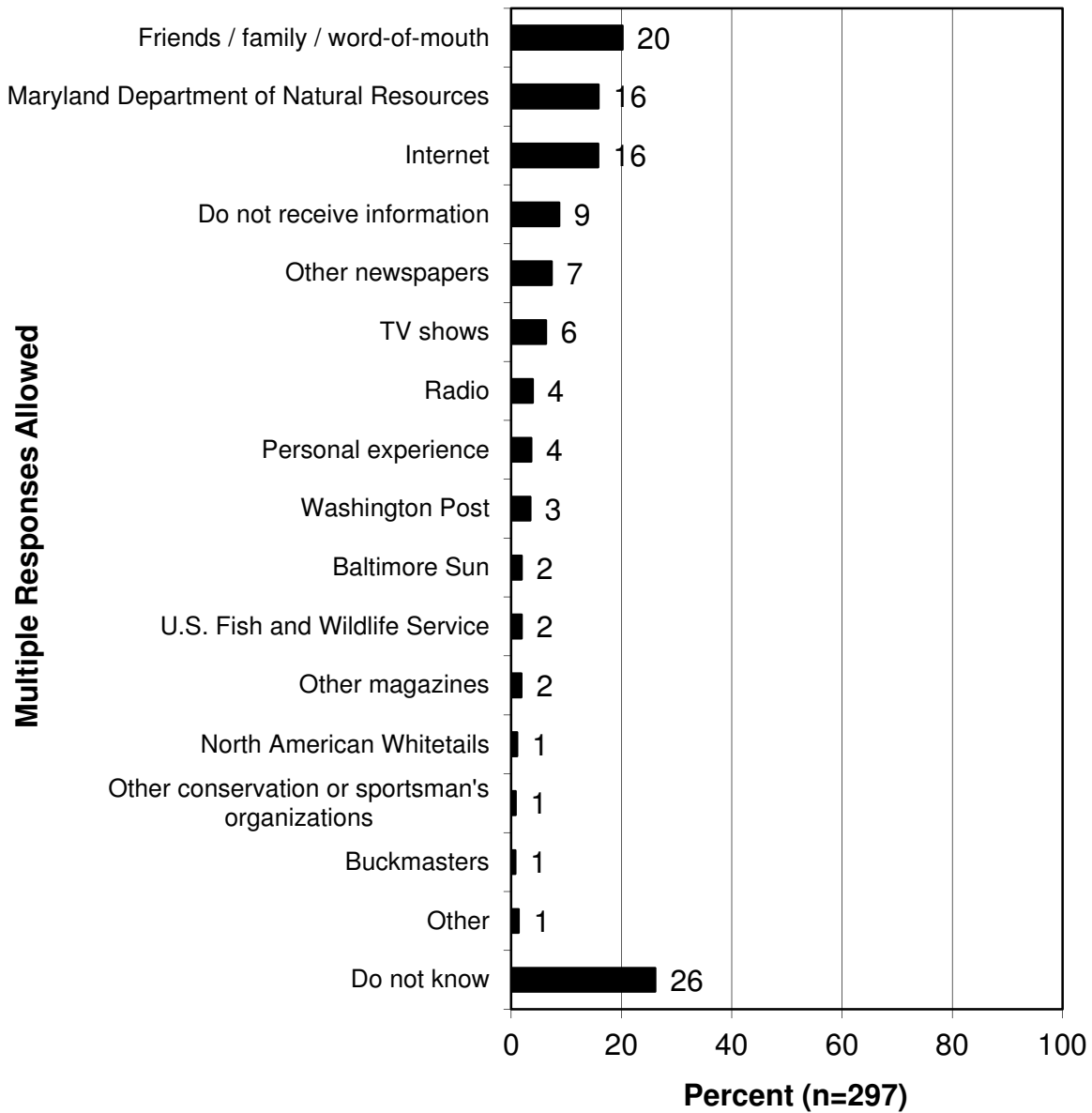


## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

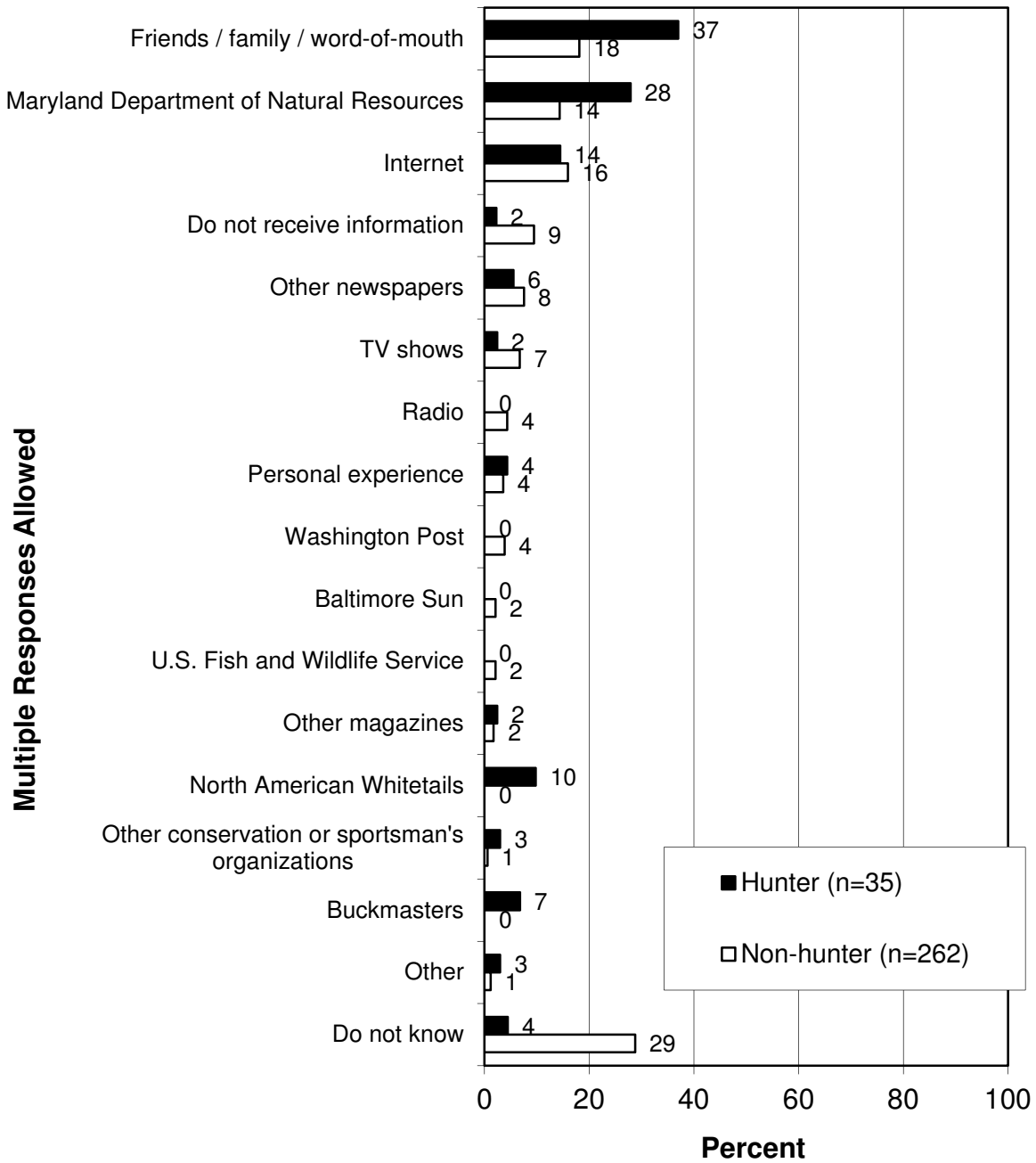
- All the surveys asked respondents, in open-ended questions, to say where they get information about deer in Maryland.
  - Residents most commonly get information from friends/family/word-of-mouth, the DNR (at 16%), and the Internet in general.
  - Landowners' most common sources are friends/family/word-of-mouth, newspapers, their own experience, and the Maryland DNR website (this latter visited by 14% of landowners).
  - Among hunters, the DNR is the top source (at 53%), distantly followed by friends/family/word-of-mouth.
  
- The general population and landowner surveys asked respondents to rate the credibility of five sources of information.
  - Of the five sources, the top ratings of credibility among the general population are given to a biologist with the DNR (67% give a rating of very credible, and 19% say somewhat credible, a sum of 86%), followed by a professor at a Maryland college or university (50% say very credible, and 34% say somewhat credible, a sum of 84%).
  - Similarly, the top ratings of credibility among landowners are for a biologist with the DNR (46% give a rating of very credible, and 36% say somewhat credible, a sum of 82%), followed by a professor at a Maryland college or university (31% say very credible, and 41% say somewhat credible, a sum of 73% when summed using unrounded numbers).



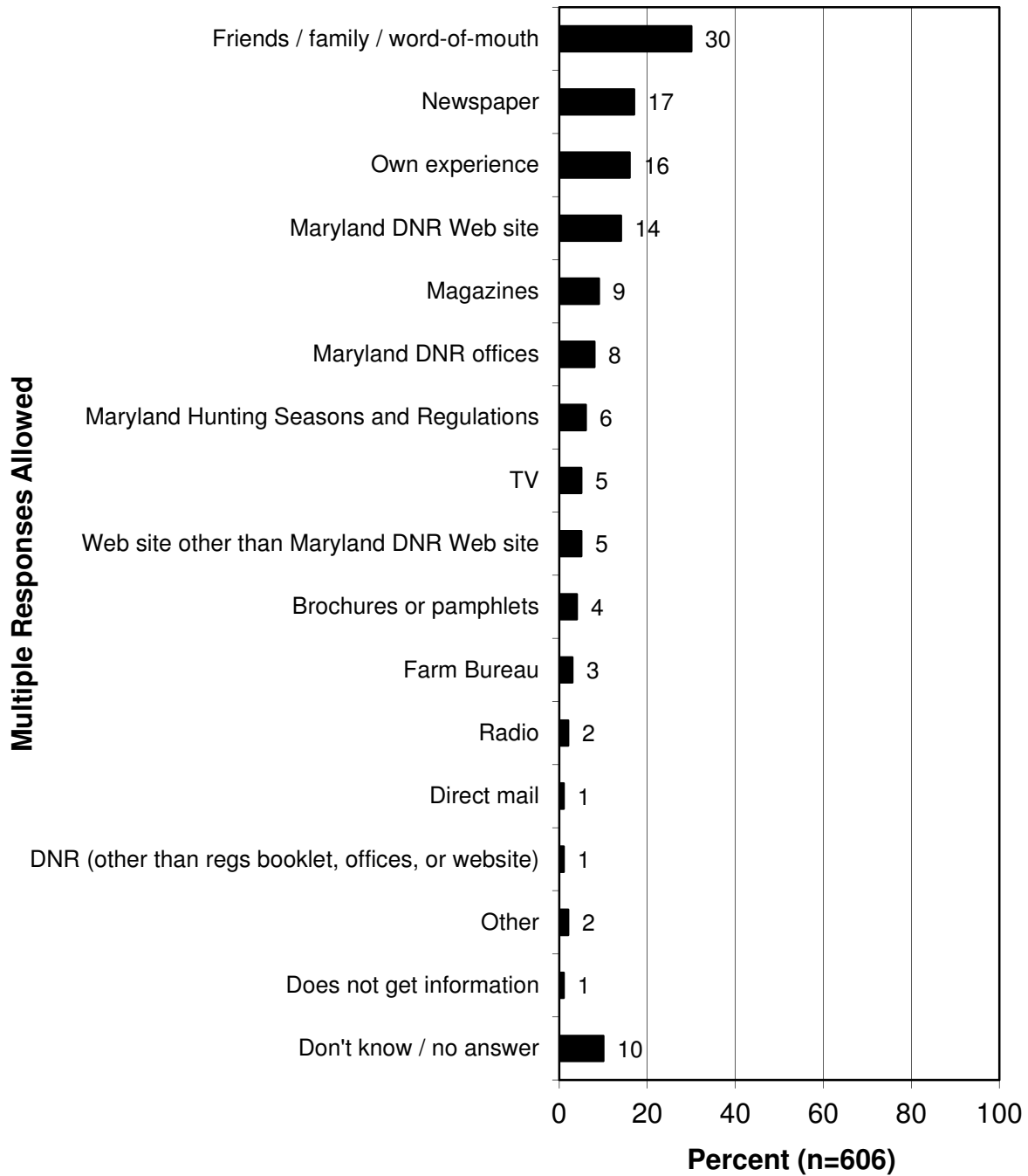
**Q146. What sources do you use to get information about deer in Maryland?  
(Gen pop survey)**



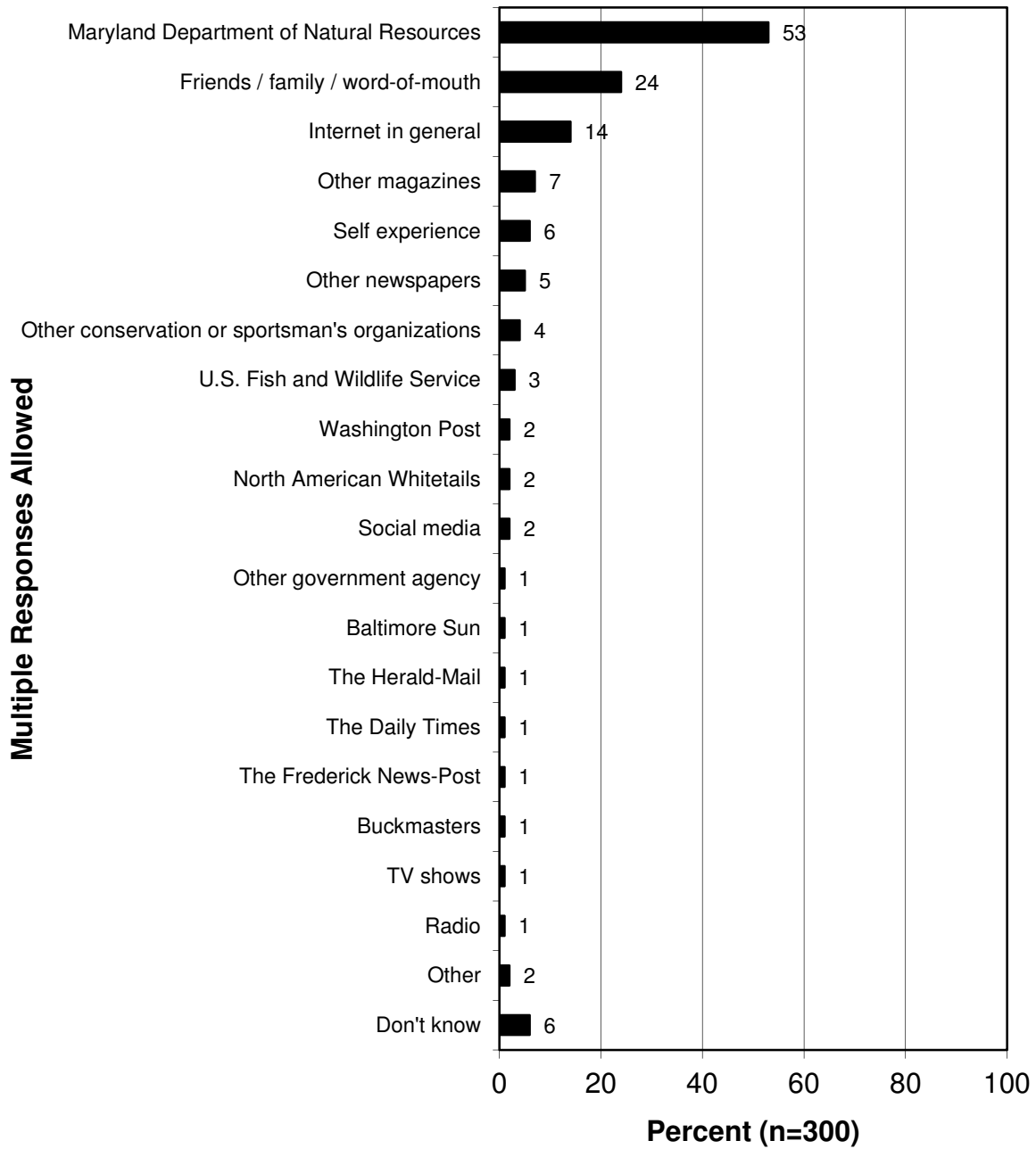
### Q146. What sources do you use to get information about deer in Maryland? (Gen pop survey)



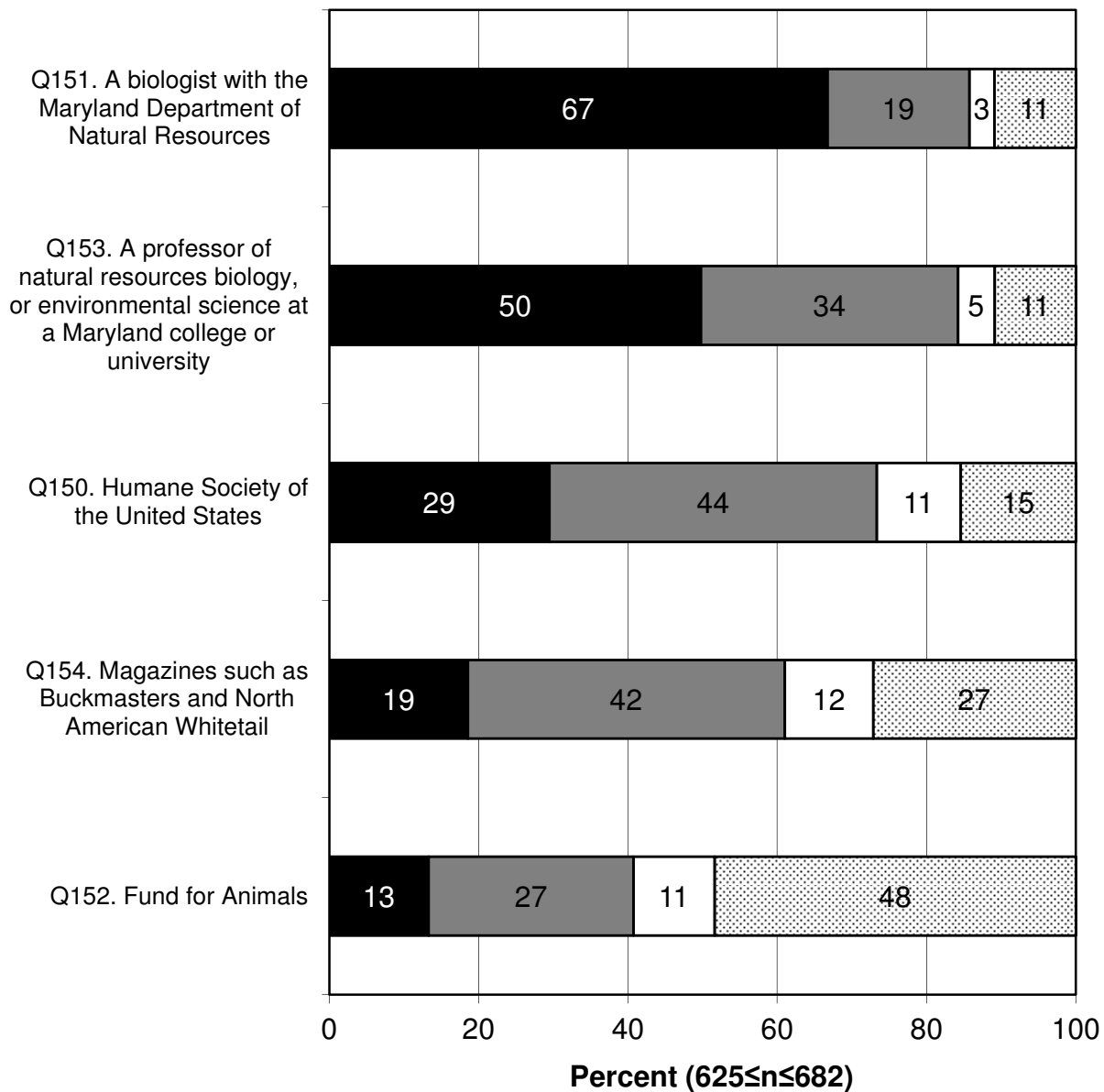
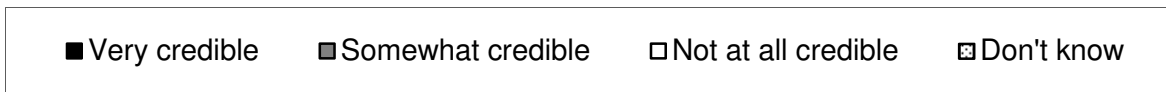
**Q138. Where do you get most of your information about deer in Maryland?  
(Landowner survey)**



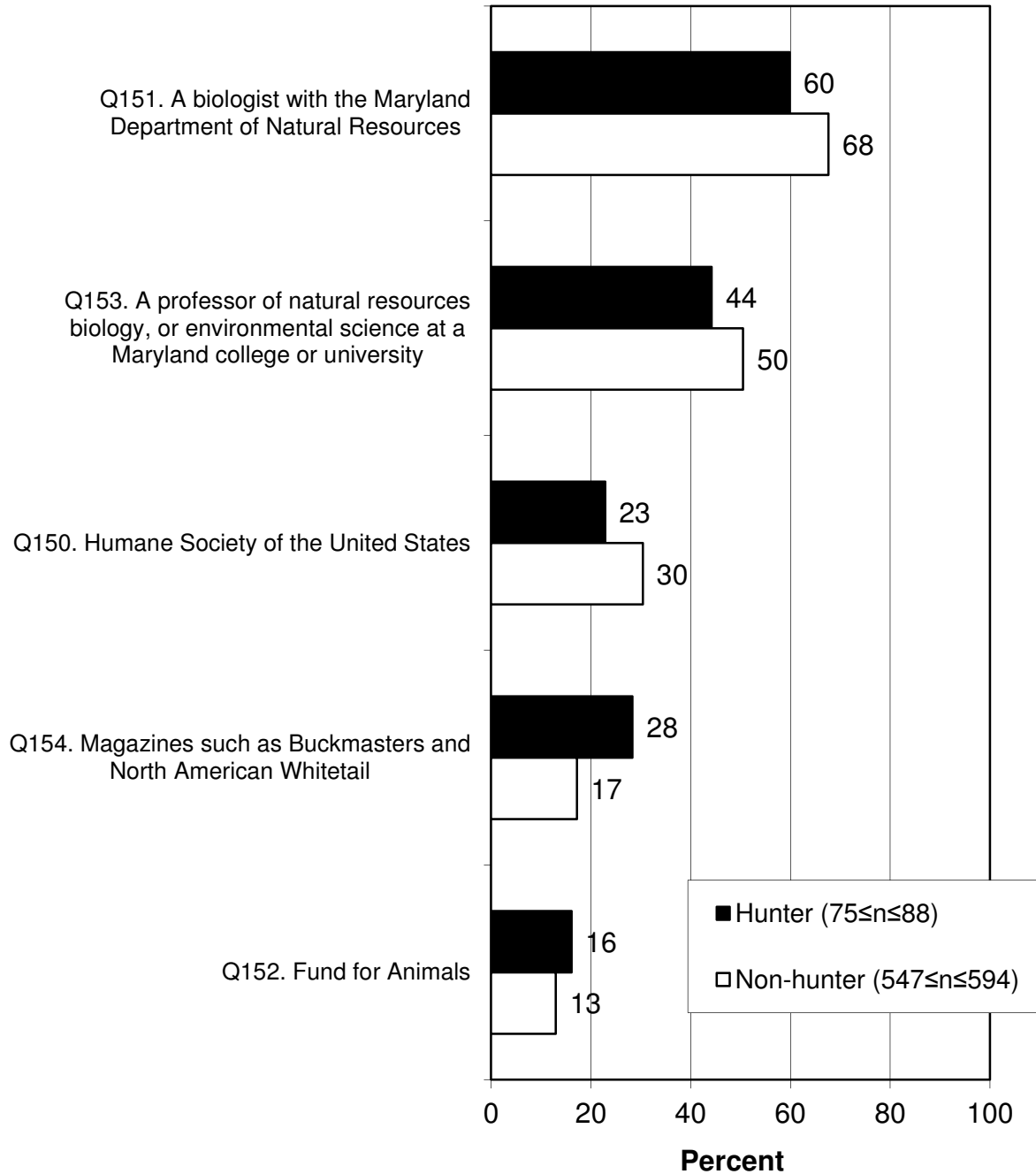
### Q165. What sources do you use to get information about deer in Maryland? (Hunter survey)



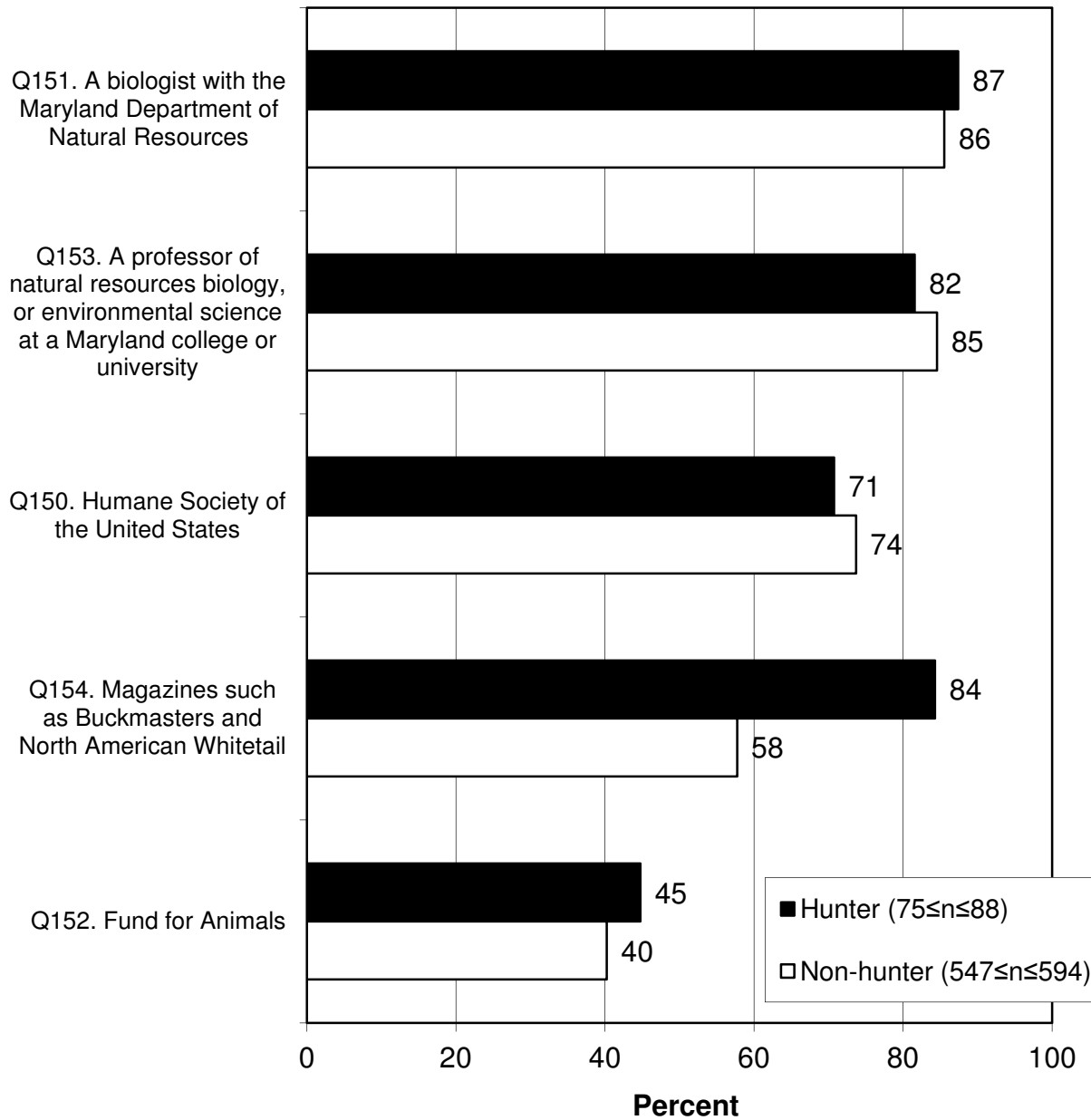
**Q150-Q154. Percent of respondents who indicated that they find each of the following at the given credibility level as a source of information on deer. (Gen pop survey) (Overall)**



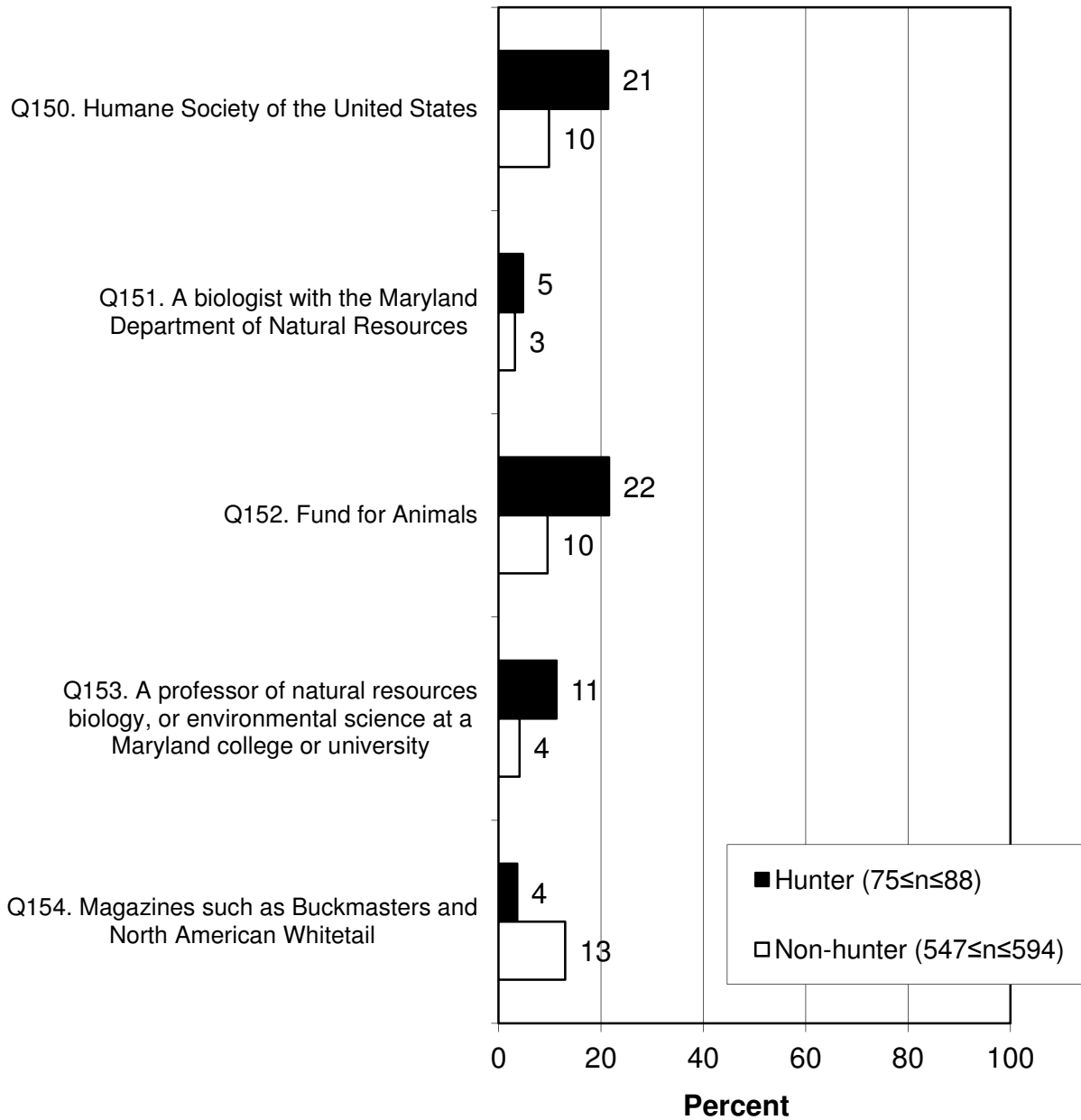
**Q150-Q154. Percent of respondents who indicated that they find each of the following very credible as a source of information on deer. (Gen pop survey)**



**Q150-Q154. Percent of respondents who indicated that they find each of the following very credible or somewhat credible as a source of information on deer. (Gen pop survey)**

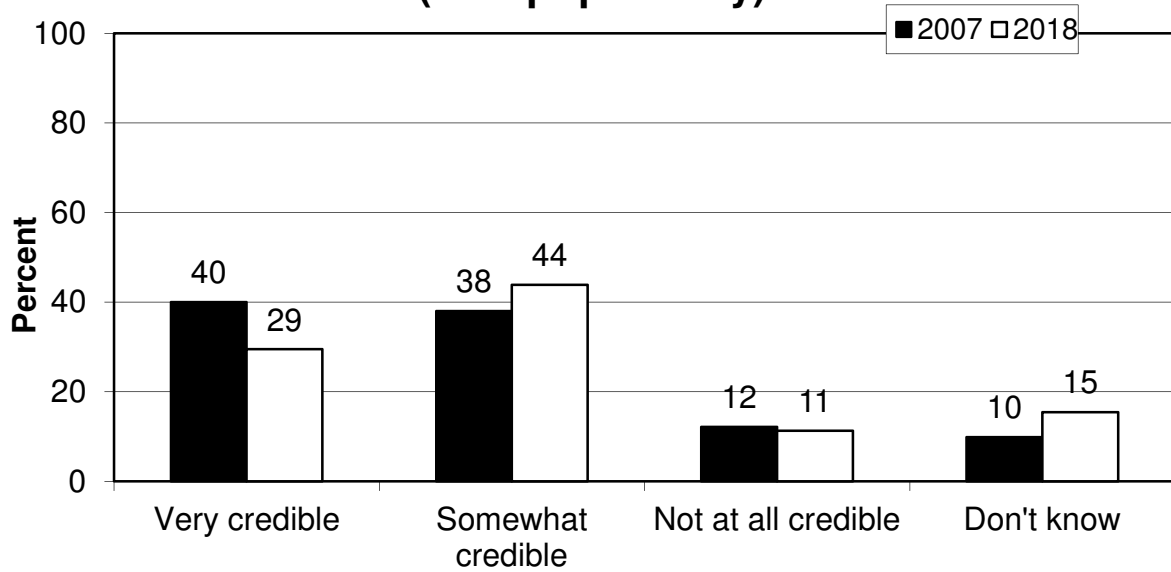


**Q150-Q154. Percent of respondents who indicated that they find each of the following not at all credible as a source of information on deer. (Gen pop survey)**

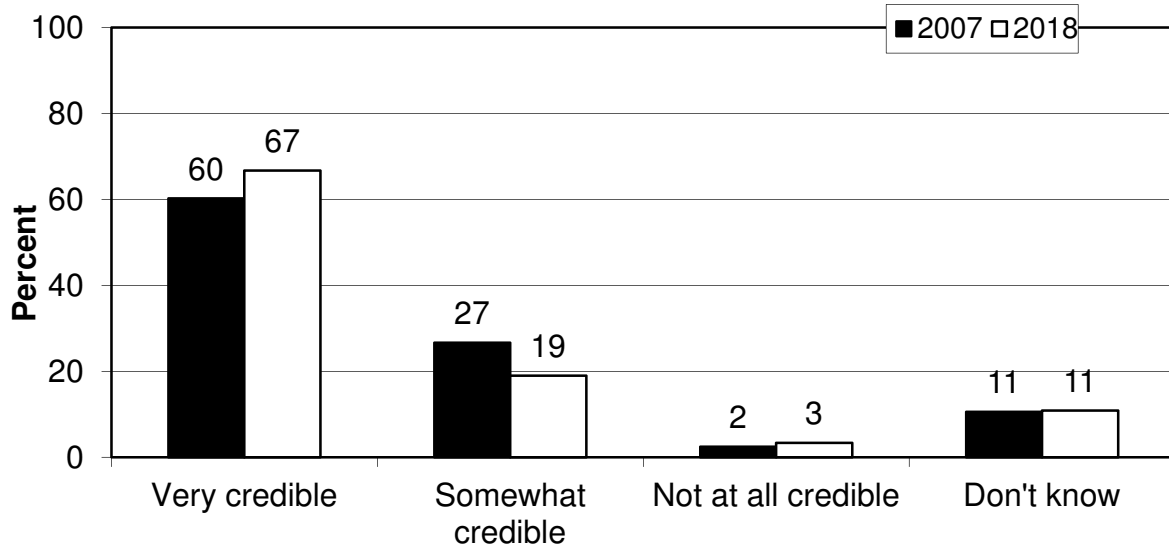




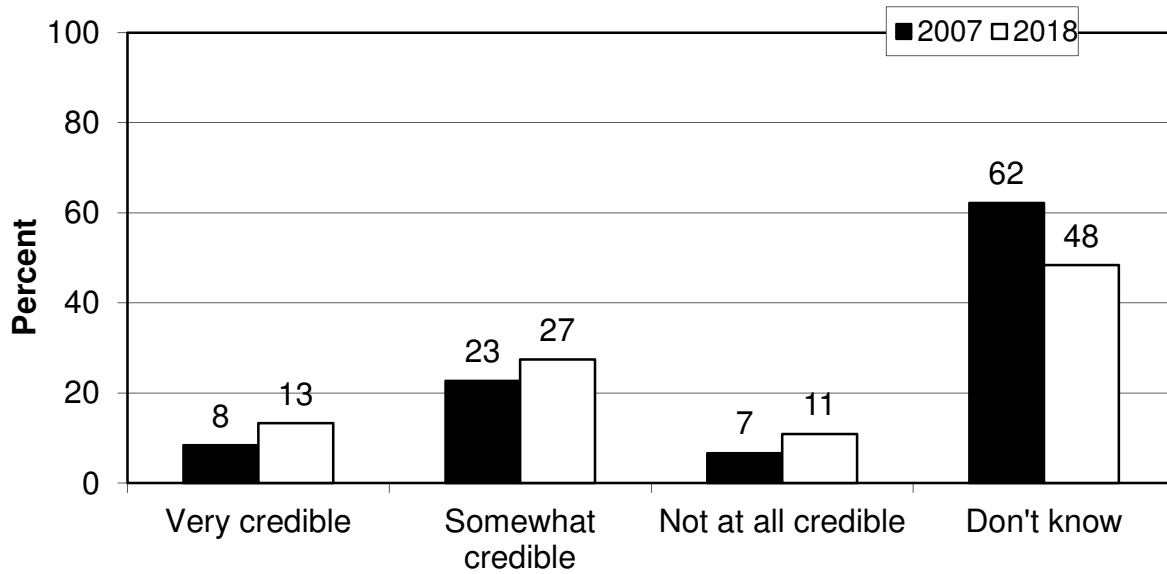
**Q150. Do you think the Humane Society of the United States is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible as a source of information on deer?  
(Gen pop survey)**



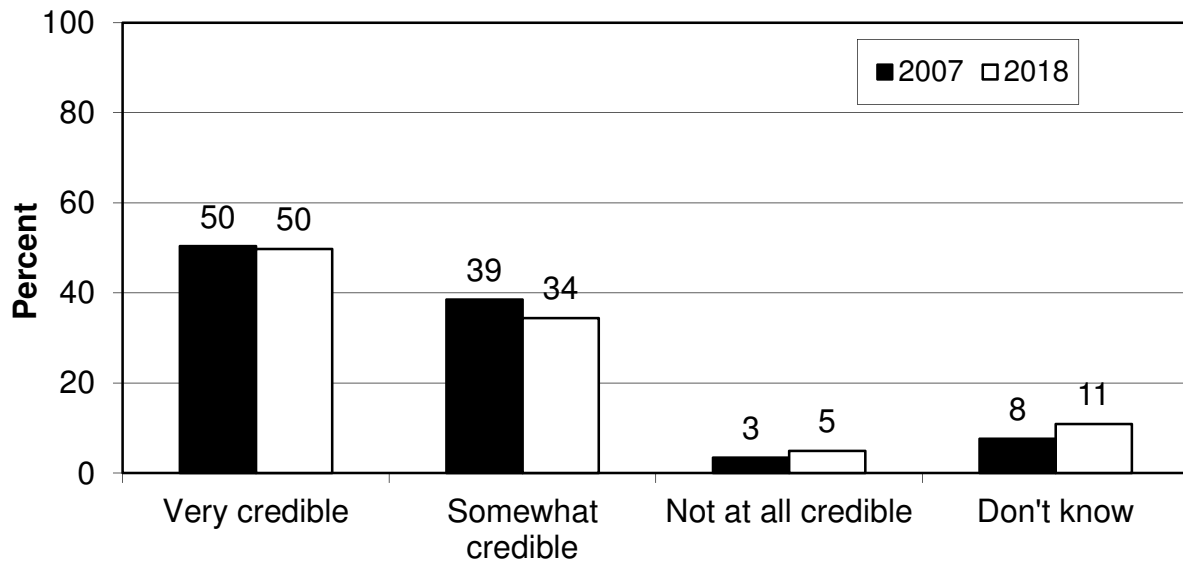
**Q151. Do you think a biologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible?  
(Gen pop survey)**



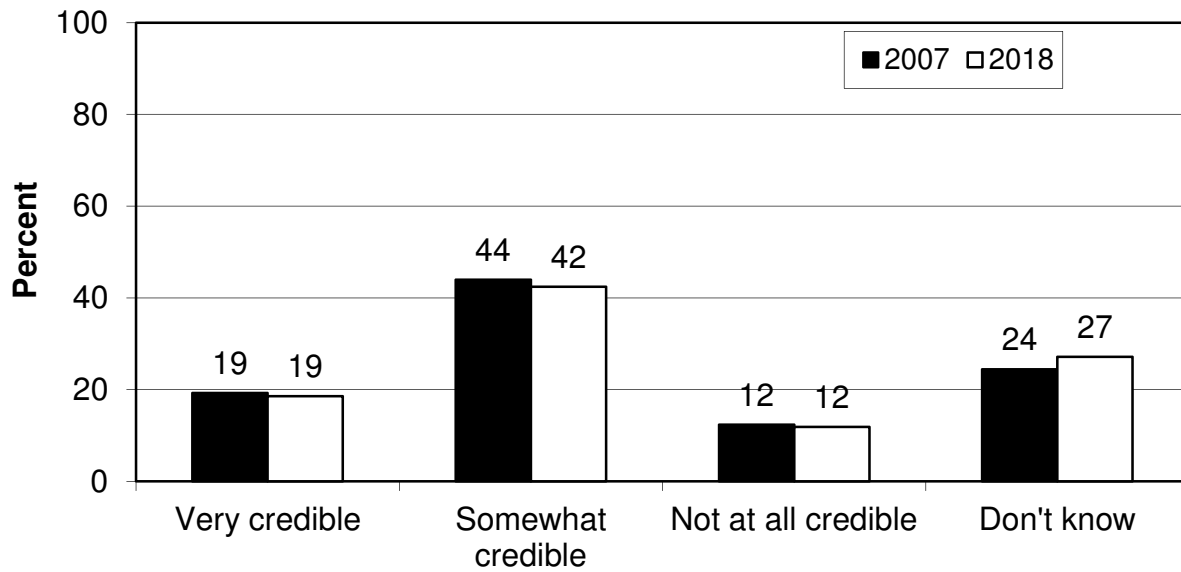
**Q152. Do you think the organization Fund for Animals is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible as a source of information on deer? (Gen pop survey)**



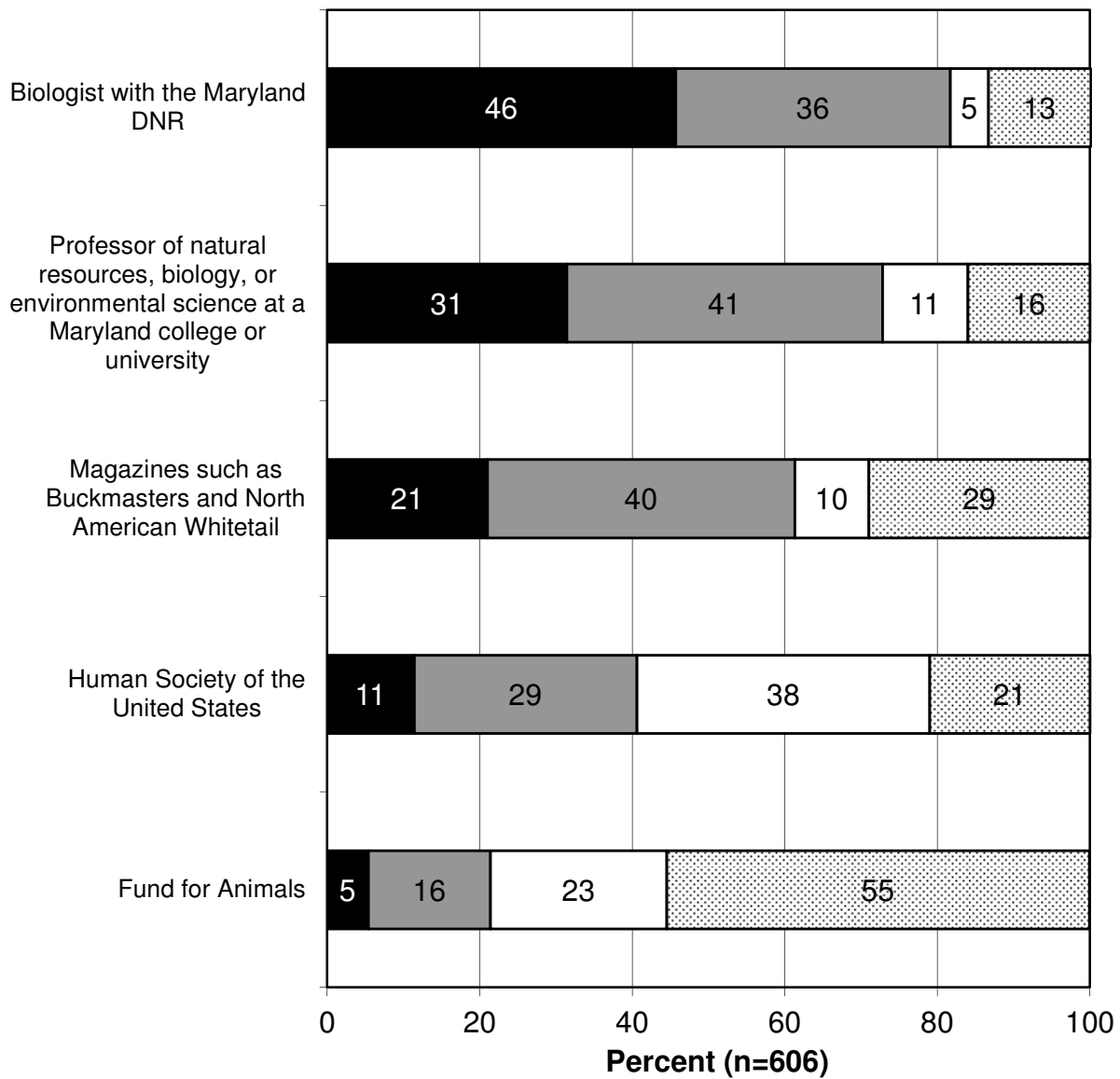
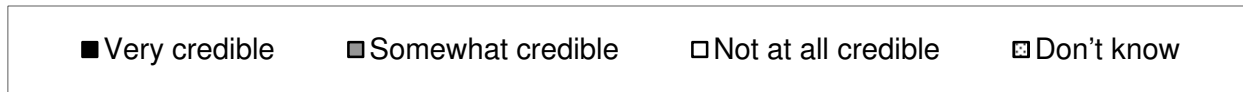
**Q153. Do you think a professor of natural resources biology, or environmental science at a Maryland college or university, is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible, or not at all credible? (Gen pop survey)**



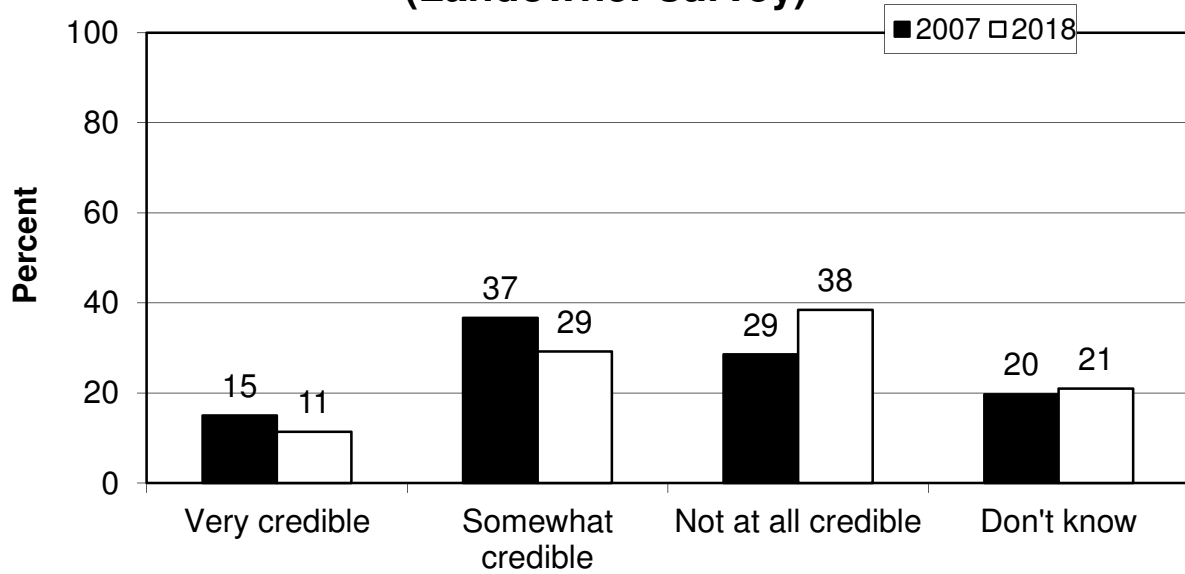
**Q154. Do you think magazines such as Buckmasters and North American Whitetail are very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible? (Gen pop survey)**



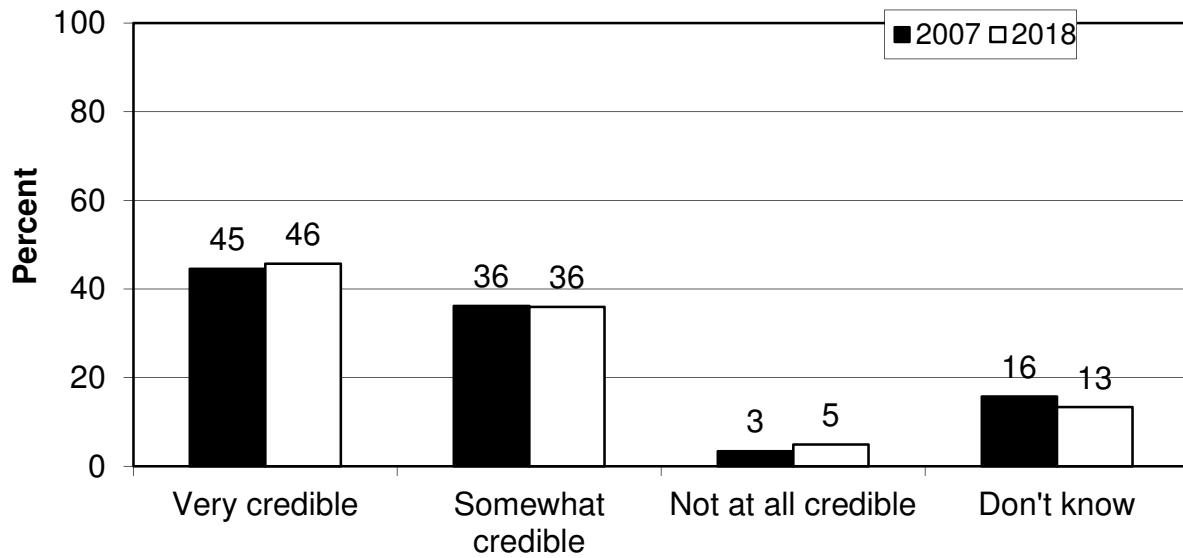
**Q142-Q146. Percent of respondents who indicated that they find each of the following at the given credibility level as a source of information on deer. (Landowner survey)**



**Q142. Do you think the Humane Society of the United States is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible as a source of information on deer?  
(Landowner survey)**

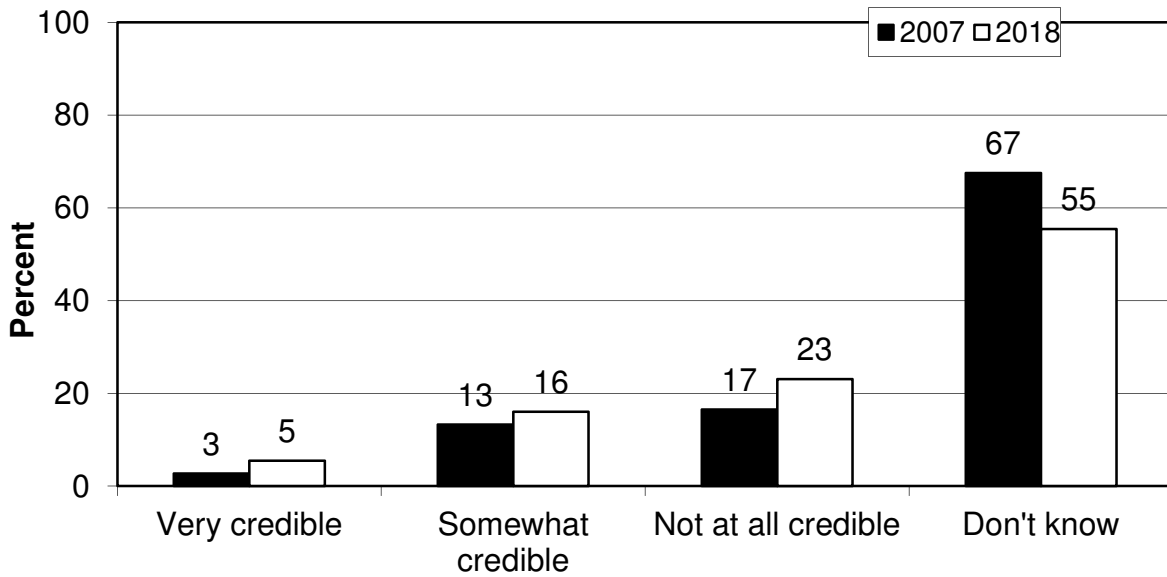


**Q143. Do you think a biologist with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible? (Landowner survey)**

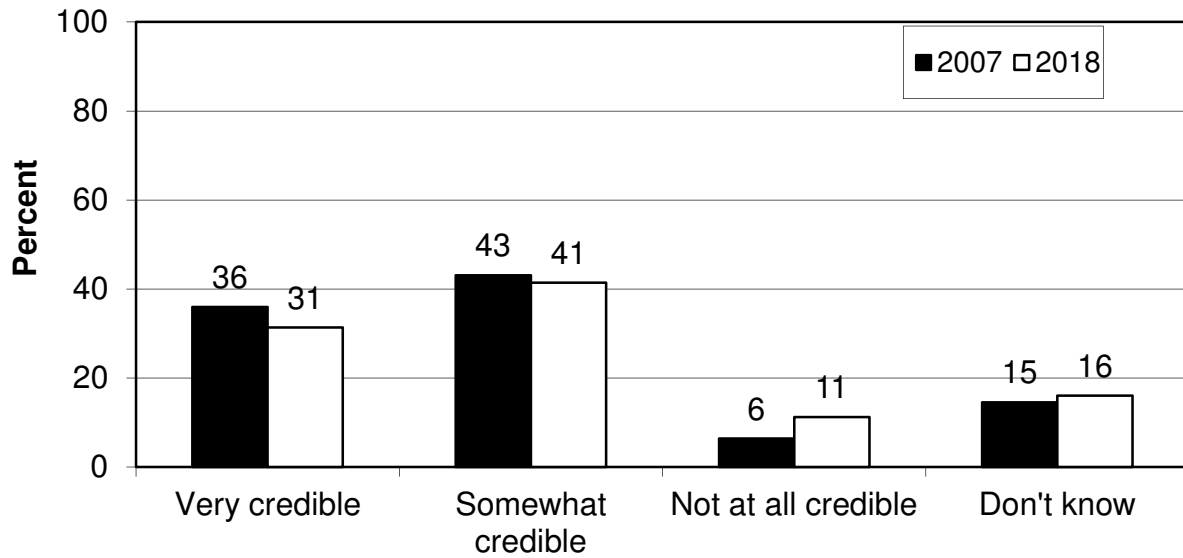




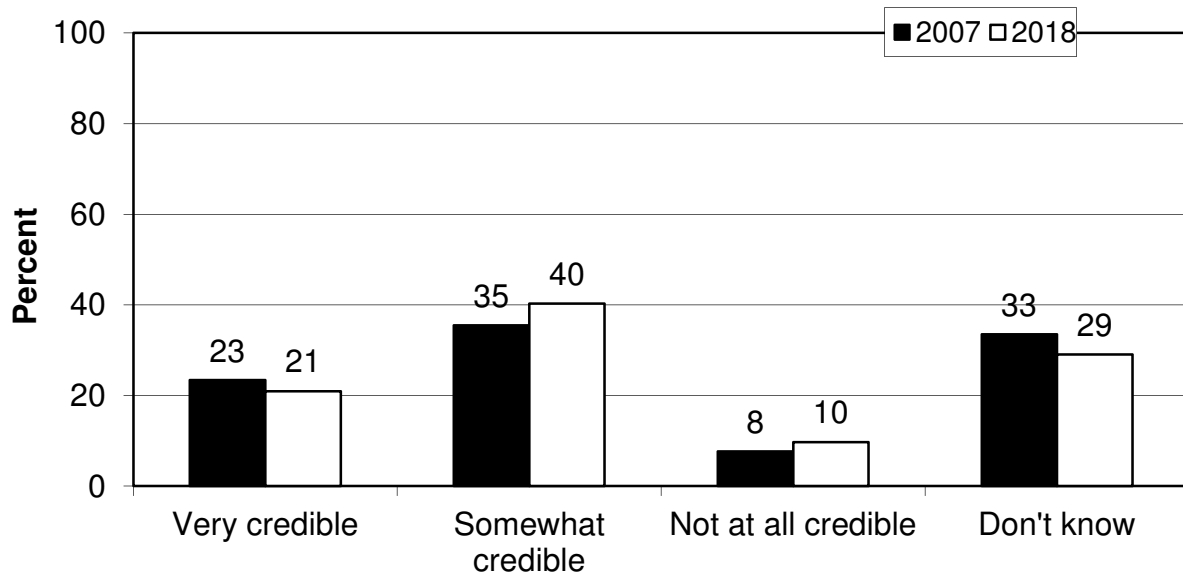
**Q144. Do you think the organization Fund for Animals is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible as a source of information on deer? (Landowner survey)**



**Q145. Do you think a professor of natural resources biology, or environmental science at a Maryland college or university, is very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible, or not at all credible? (Landowner survey)**



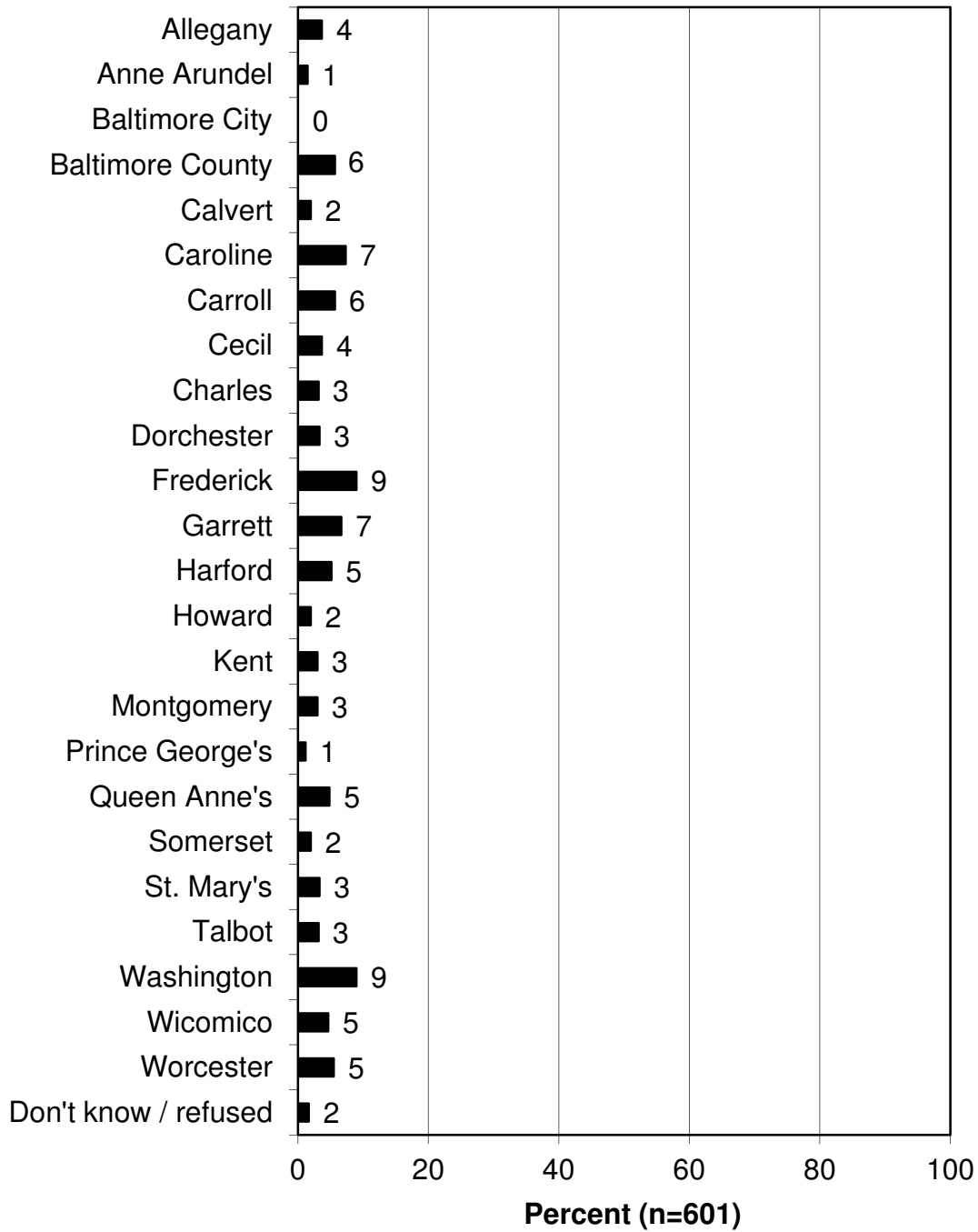
**Q146. Do you think magazines such as Buckmasters and North American Whitetail are very credible, somewhat credible, or not at all credible? (Landowner survey)**



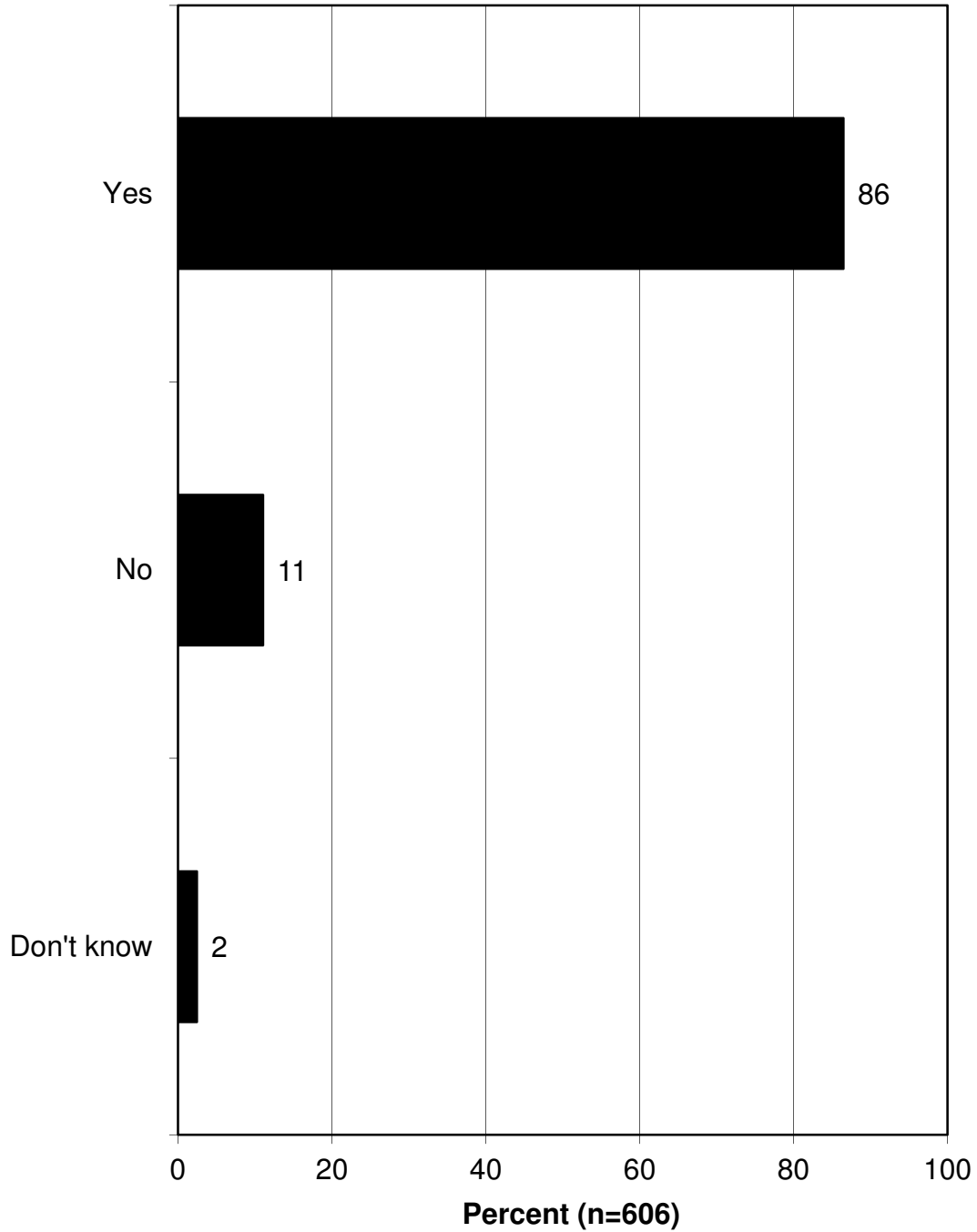
## LANDOWNER INFORMATION

- The landowner survey gathered some demographic information, as well as the county in which the land in question is located.
  - The lands were well distributed throughout the state.
  - Most of the landowners live on their agricultural land: 86% do so.
  - Gender, age, ethnicity, and education are shown. Note that these apply only to the person who was on the telephone taking the survey. In some instances, lands are jointly owned or owned by multiple entities, and these graphs, obviously, cannot account for all owners, only the ones who actually took the survey. Nonetheless, the information is shown and gives a rough idea of owners' characteristics.
  - Household income is also shown; this would apply to all the owners in joint-ownership situations because the question asked about the household.
  - The primary uses of the land are shown. Other than agricultural crops (a requirement to be in the survey was that at least some of the land is used for agricultural crops), common uses are livestock (22%) and forestry/timber (14%).

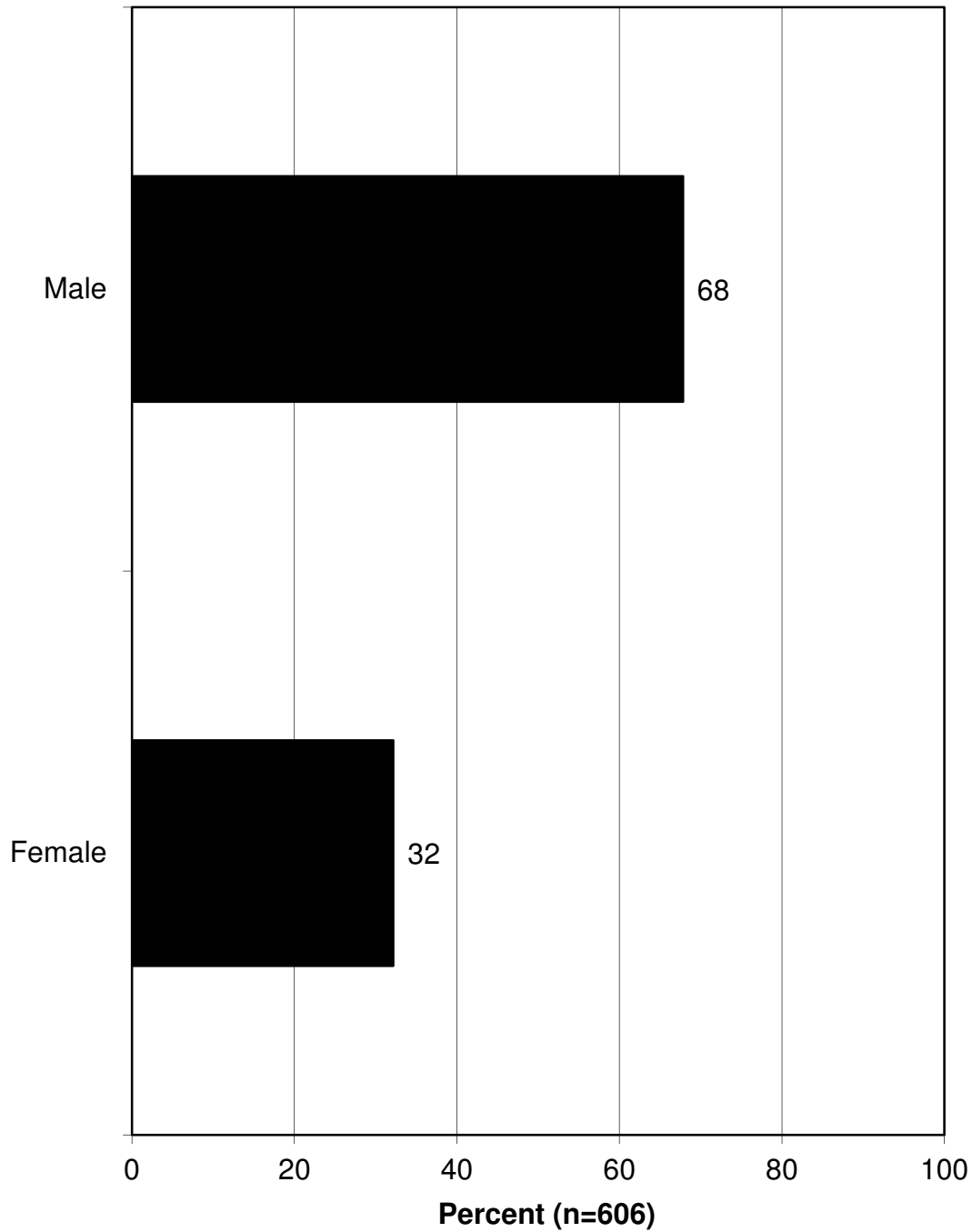
**Q102. In what county is the land that you own located? (Excludes those who have multiple tracts.) (Landowner survey)**

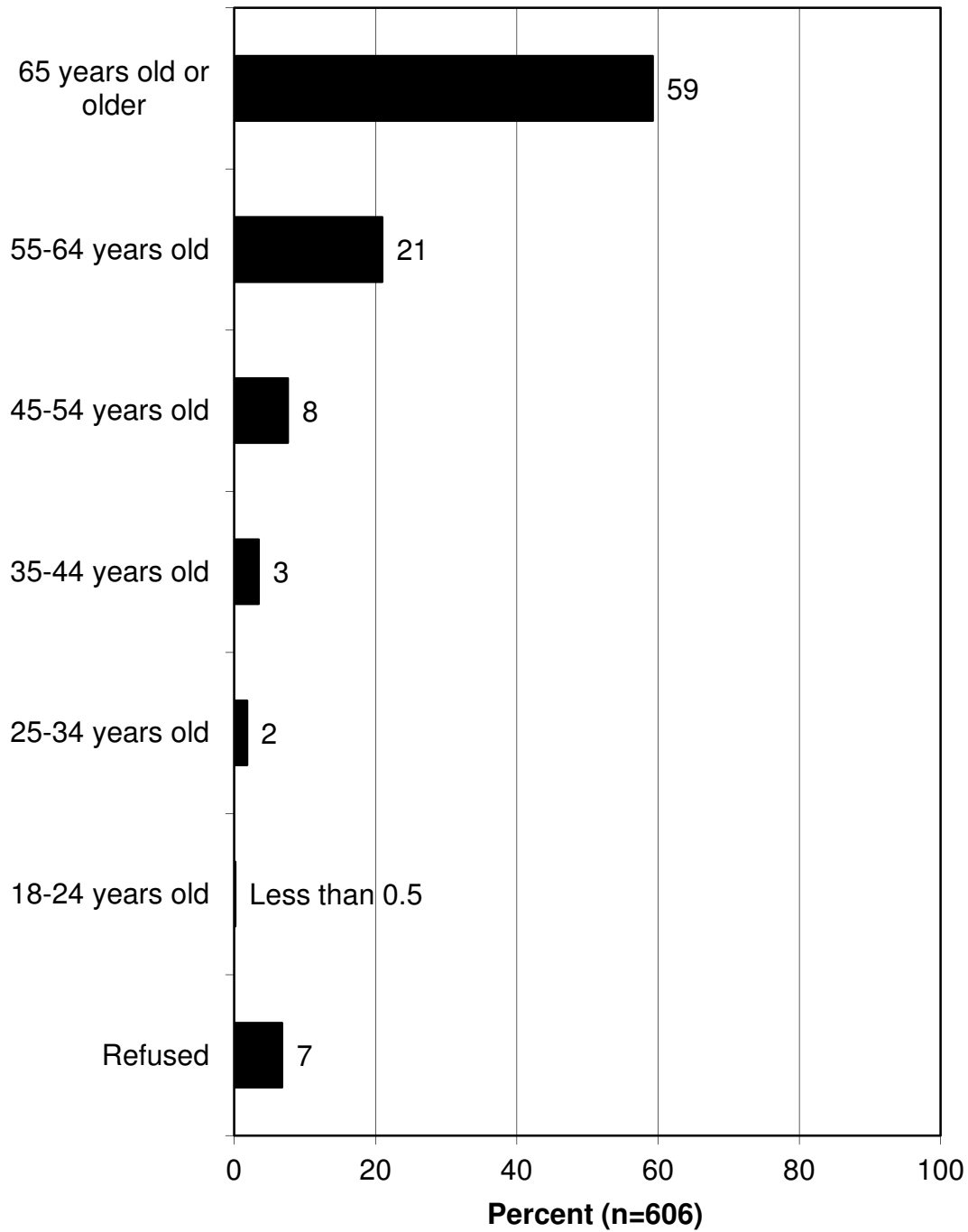


**Q148. Do you reside on your agricultural land?  
(Landowner survey)**



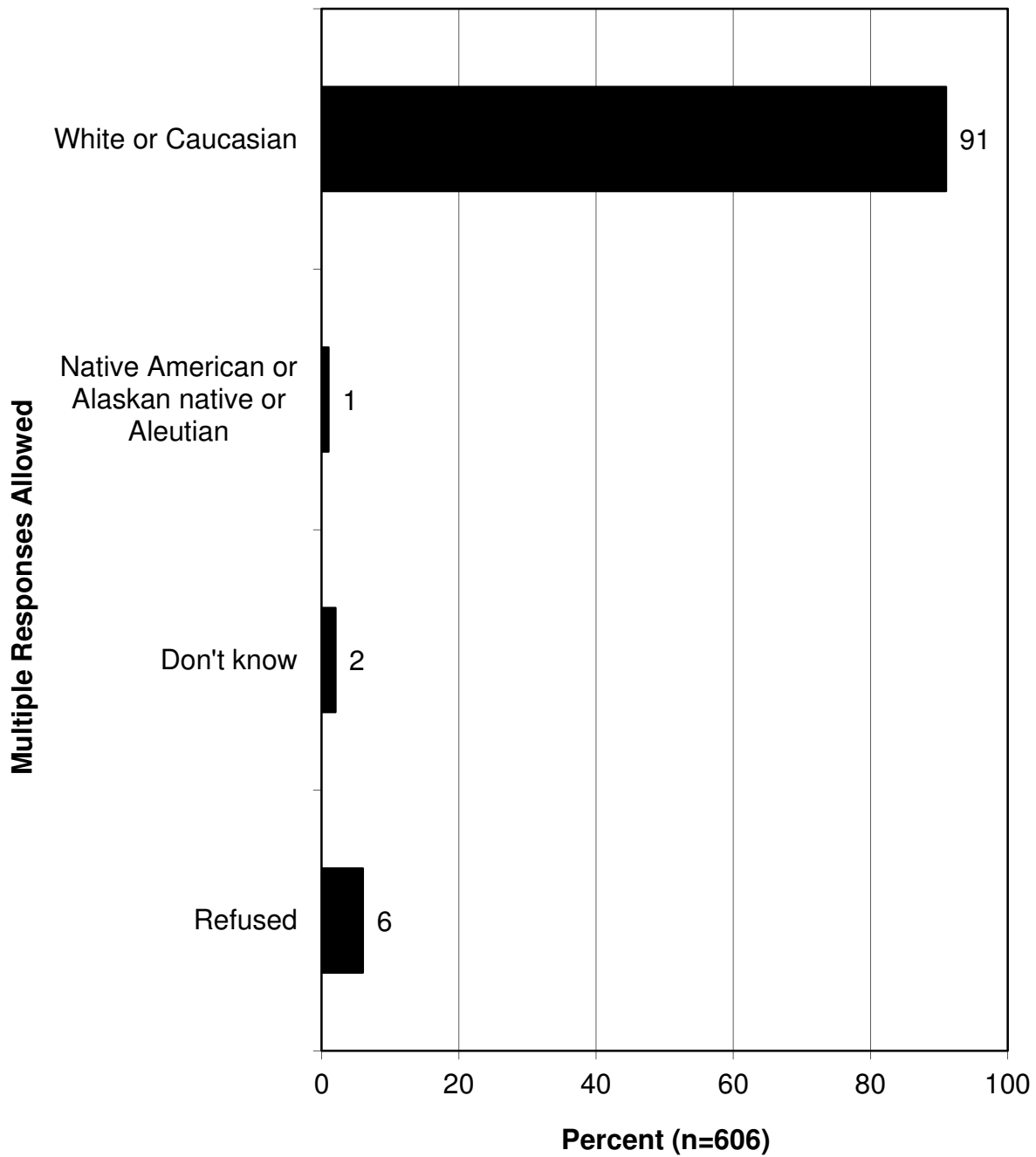
**Q167. Respondent's gender (not asked; observed by interviewer). (Landowner survey)**



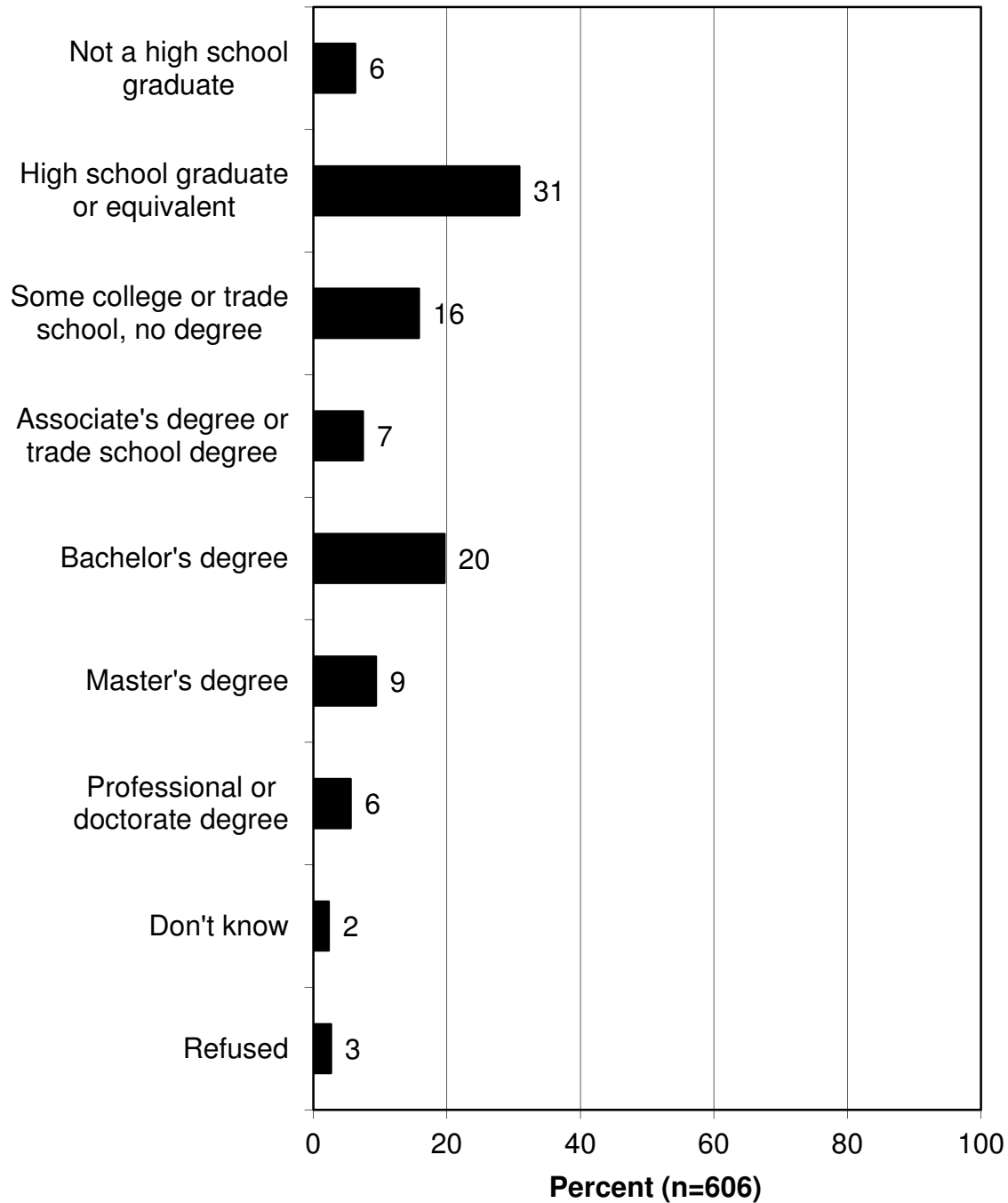
**Q161. May I ask your age? (Landowner survey)**



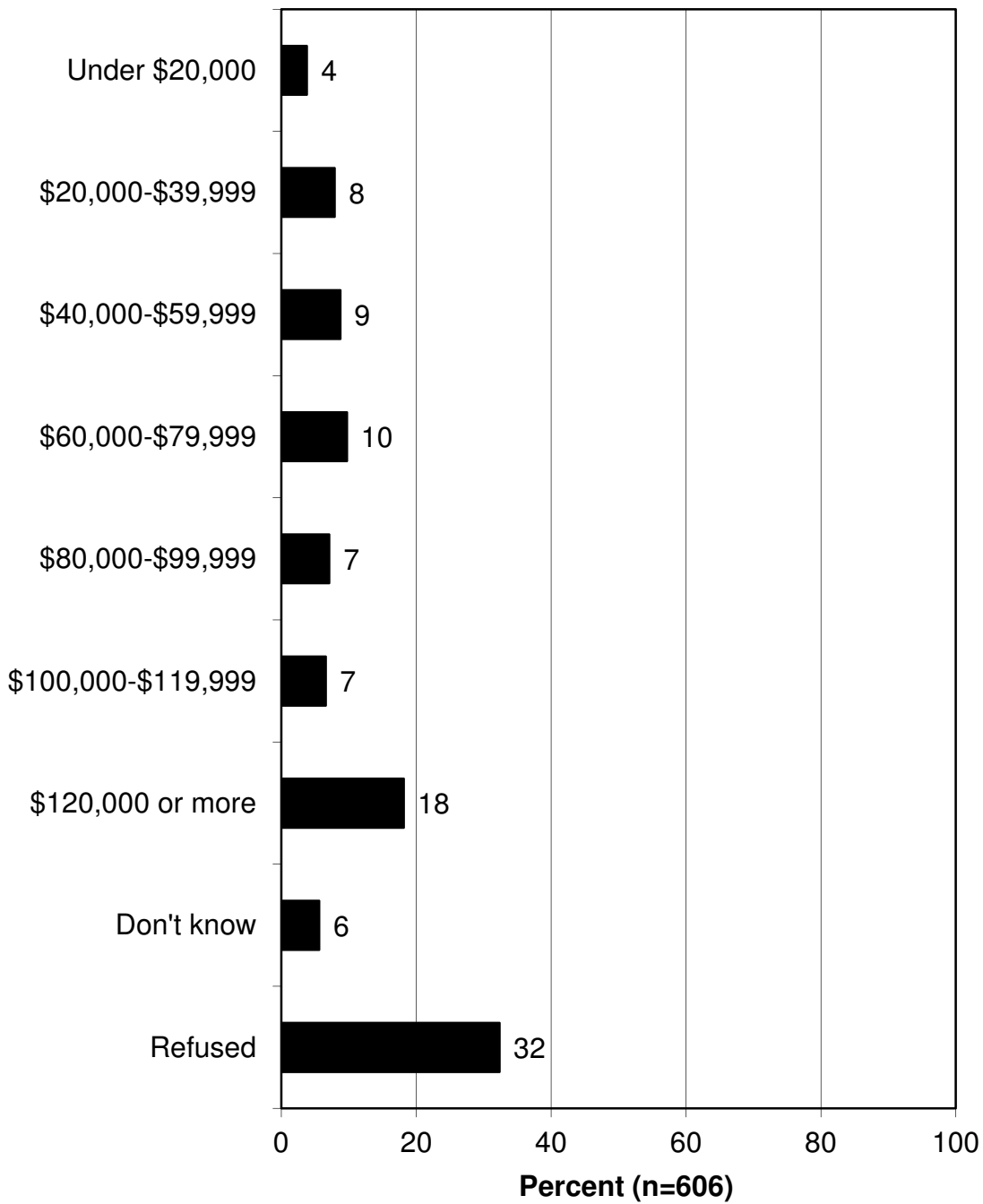
**Q159. What races or ethnic backgrounds do you consider yourself? Please mention all that apply. (Landowner survey)**



**Q155. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (Landowner survey)**



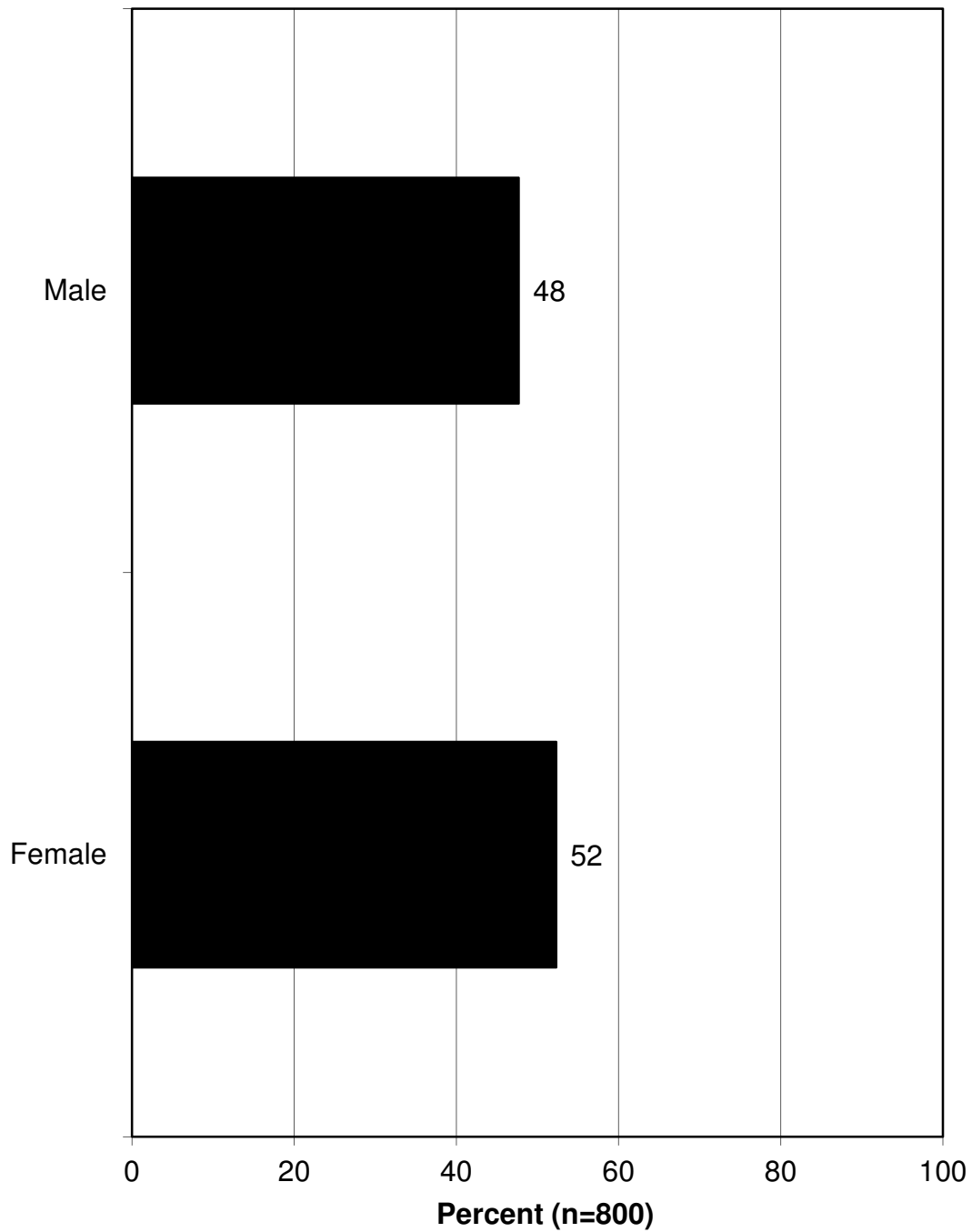
**Q156. Which of these categories best describes your total household income before taxes last year? (Landowner survey)**



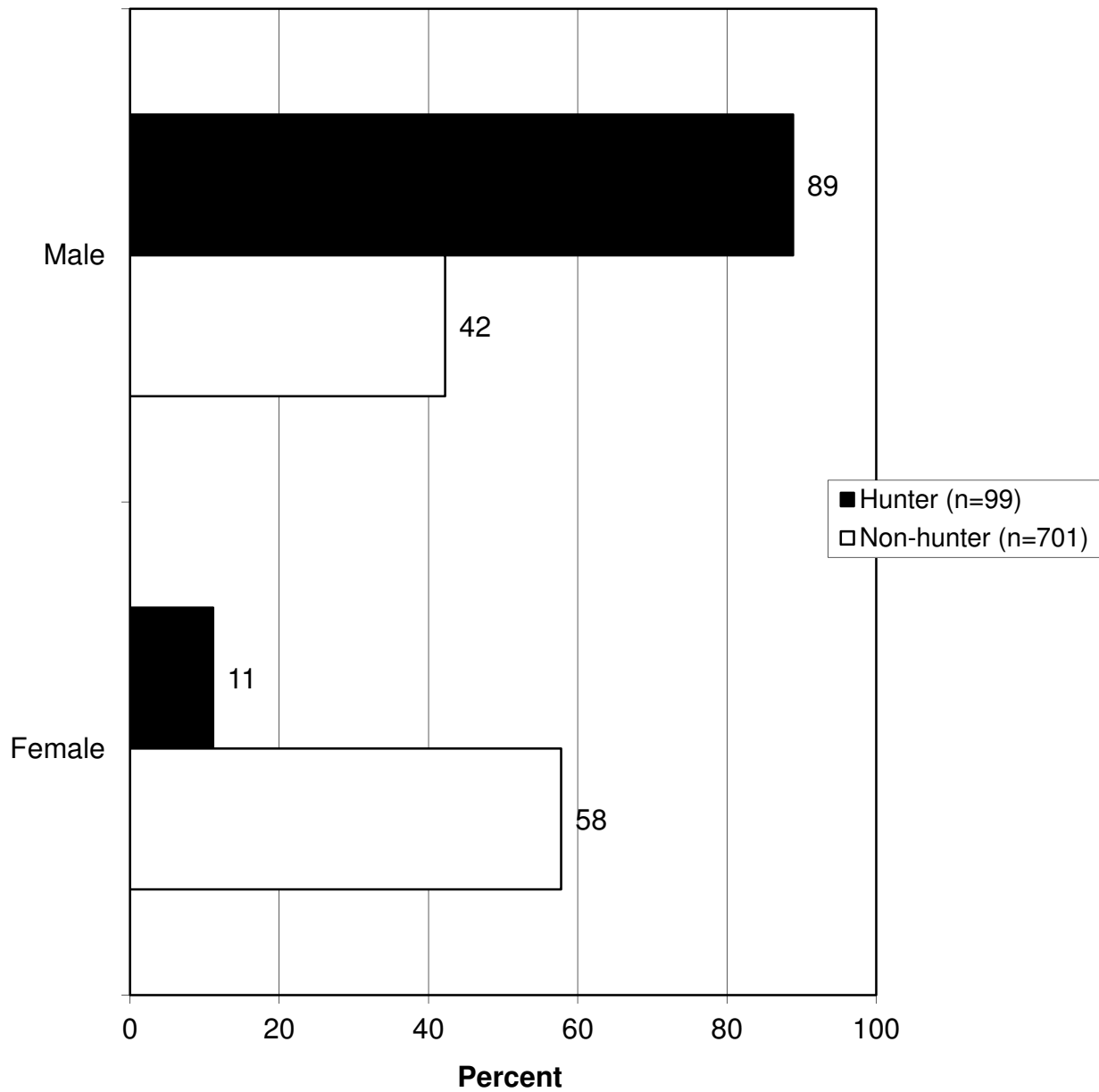
## **DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

- In the general population and hunter surveys, the following demographic information was gathered:
  - Gender: residents were evenly distributed among men and women; hunters are mostly men.
  - Age. hunters tend to be a little older than the residents as a whole.
  - Ethnicity: hunters are composed of a higher percentage of whites, compared to the general population.
  - County of residence.
  - Whether they consider their place of residence to be rural or urban.
  - Number of years lived at their current address and in the state of Maryland.
  - Education level.
  - Income level.

**Q173. Respondent's gender (not asked; observed by interviewer). (Gen pop survey)**

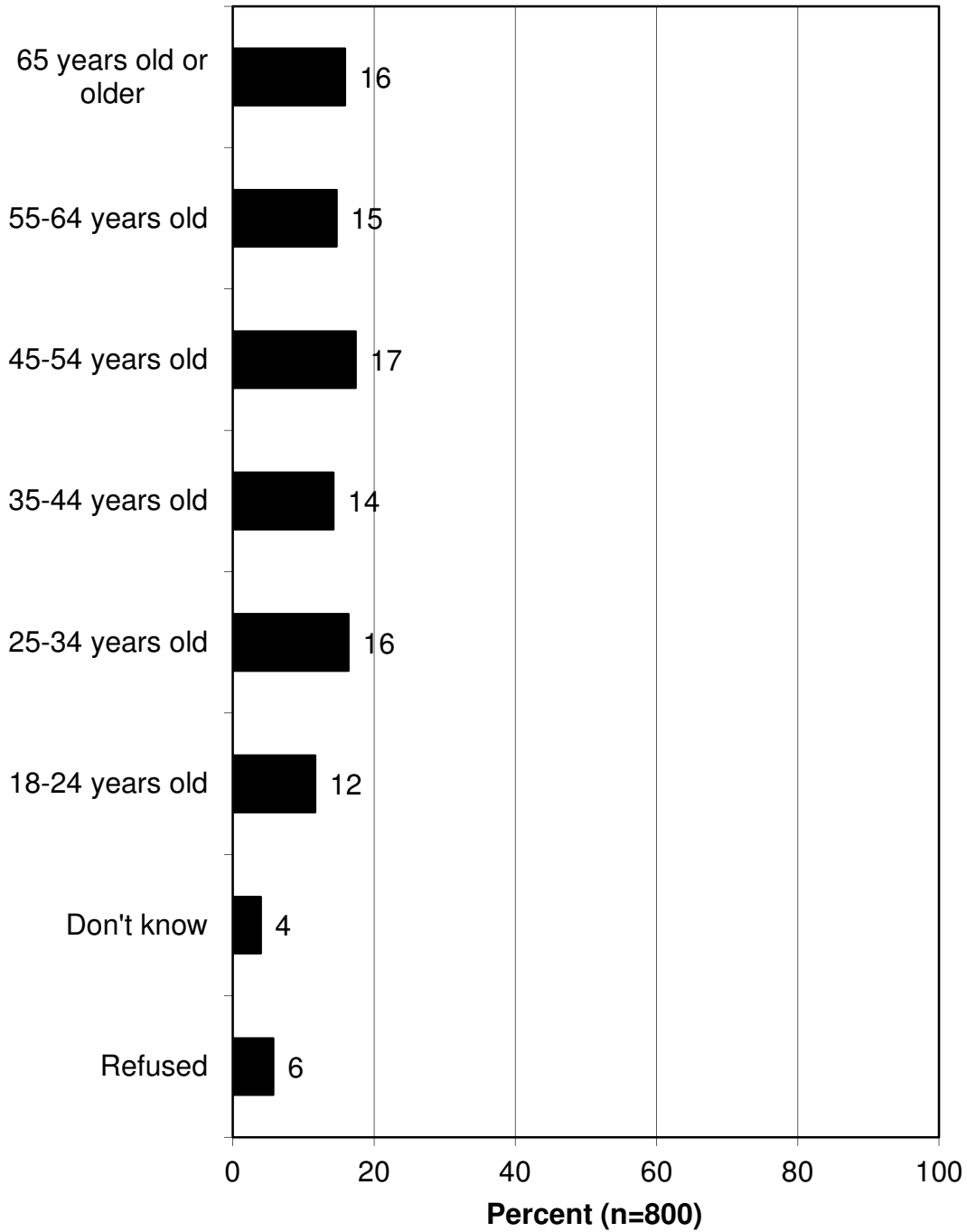


**Q173. Respondent's gender (not asked; observed by interviewer). (Gen pop survey)**



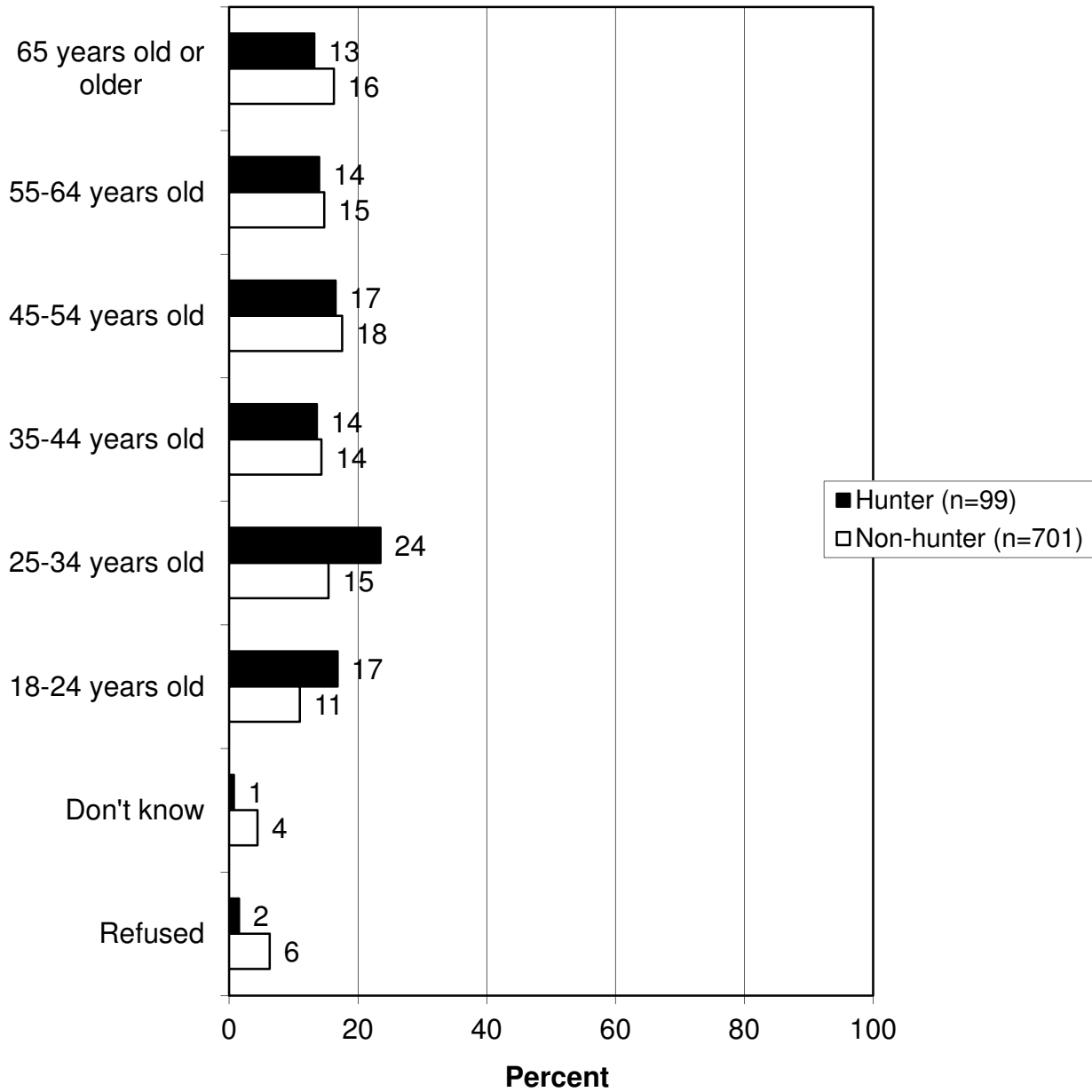
**Q184. Respondent's gender (not asked, observed by interviewer). (Hunter survey)**



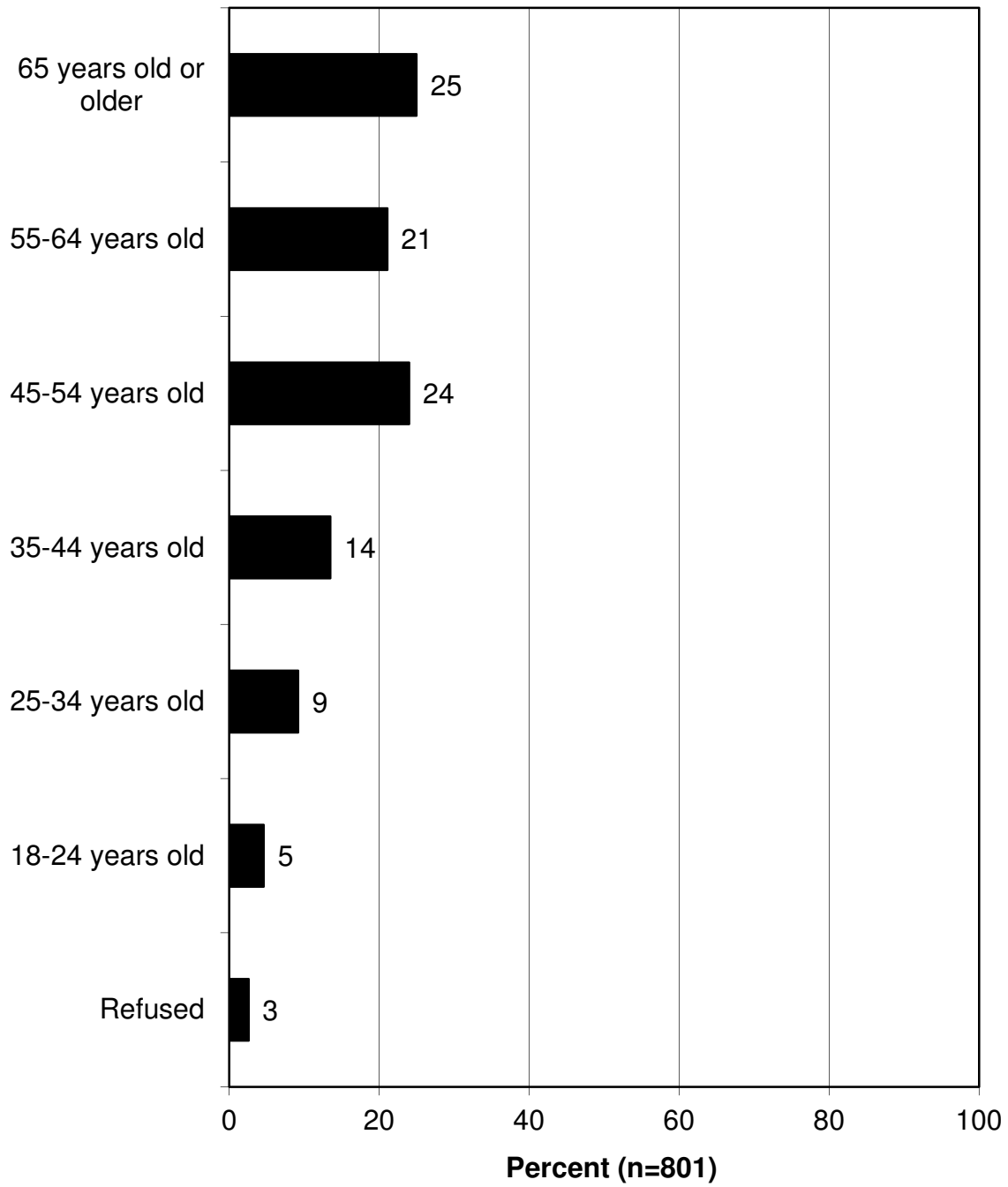
**Q167. May I ask your age? (Gen pop survey)**



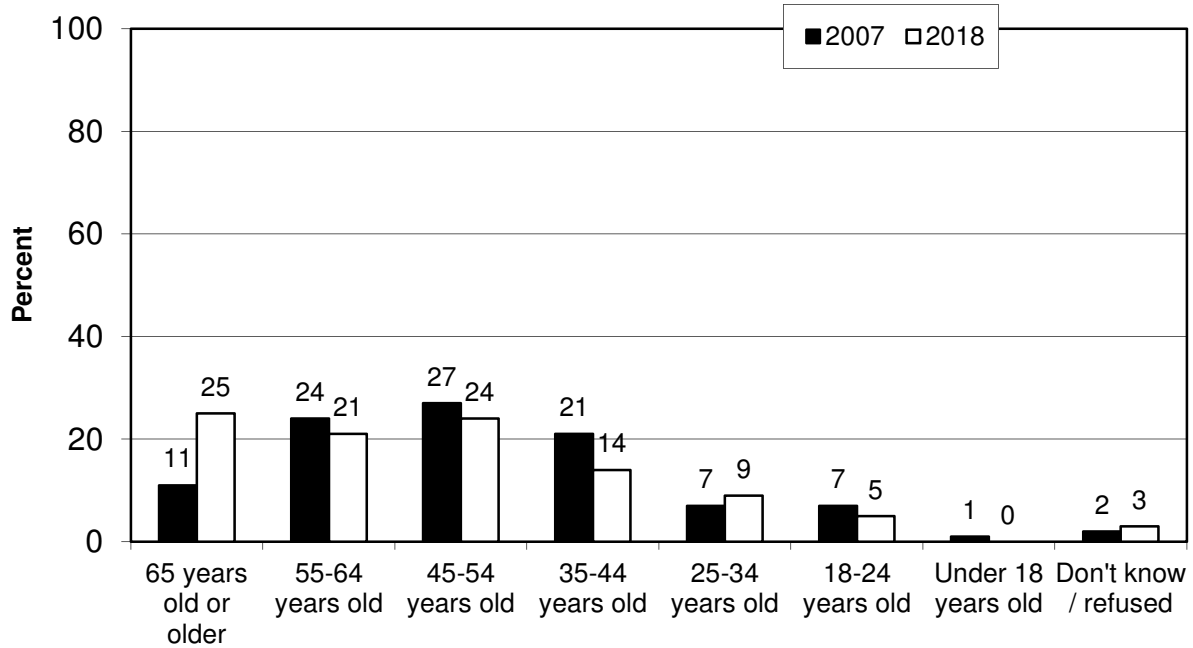
**Q167. May I ask your age? (Gen pop survey)**



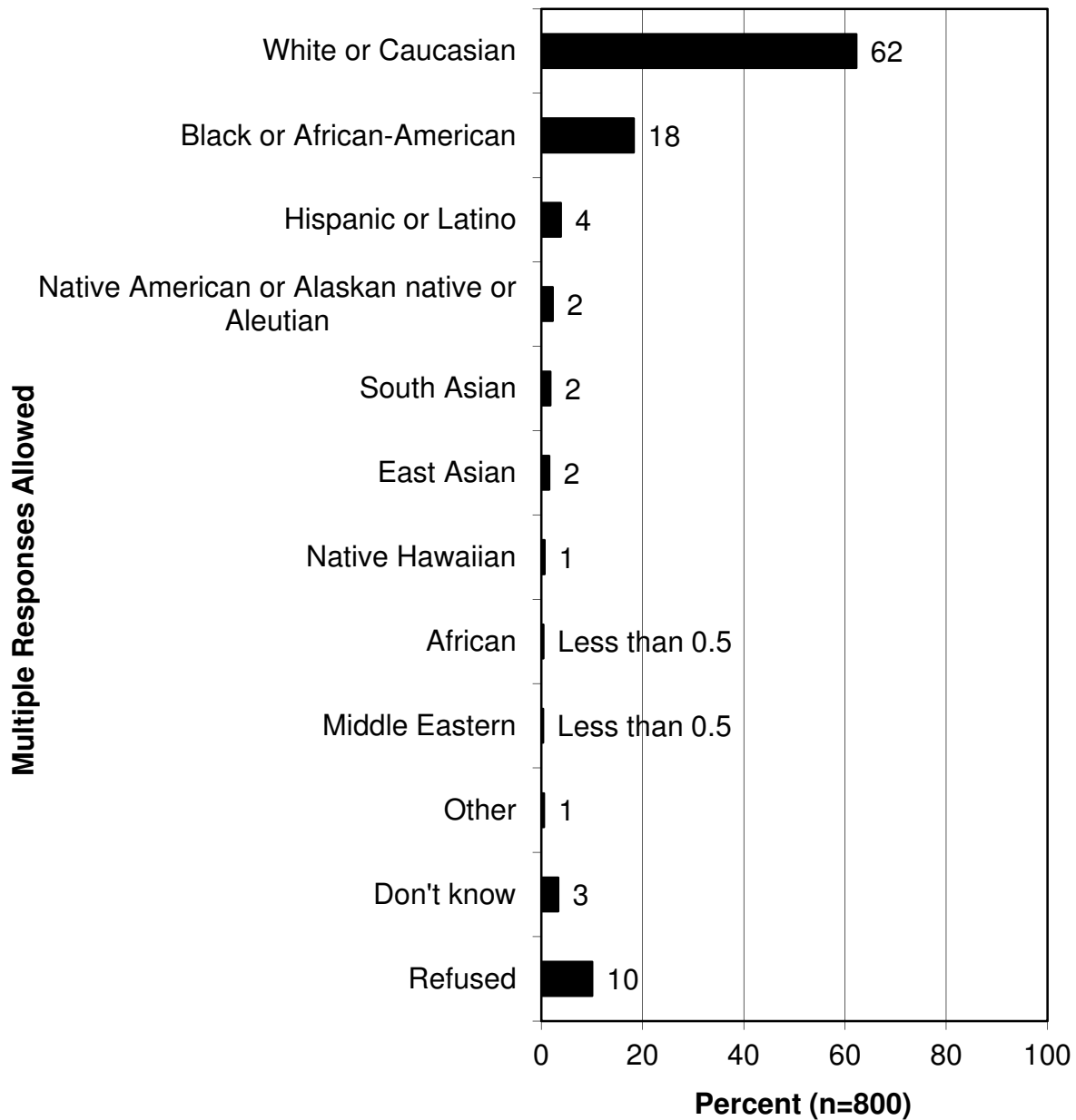
### Q178. May I ask your age? (Hunter survey)



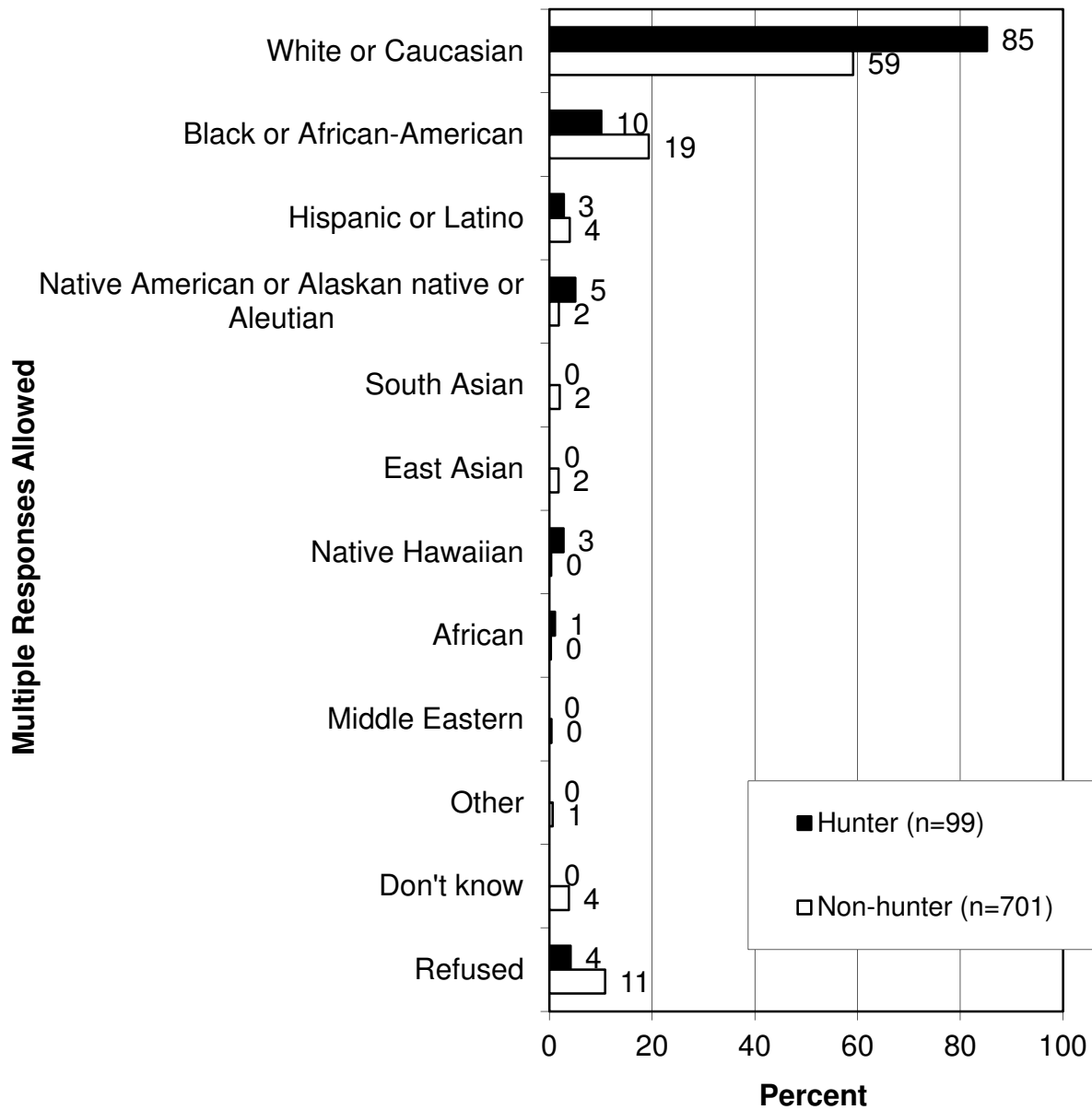
### Q178. May I ask your age? (Hunter survey)



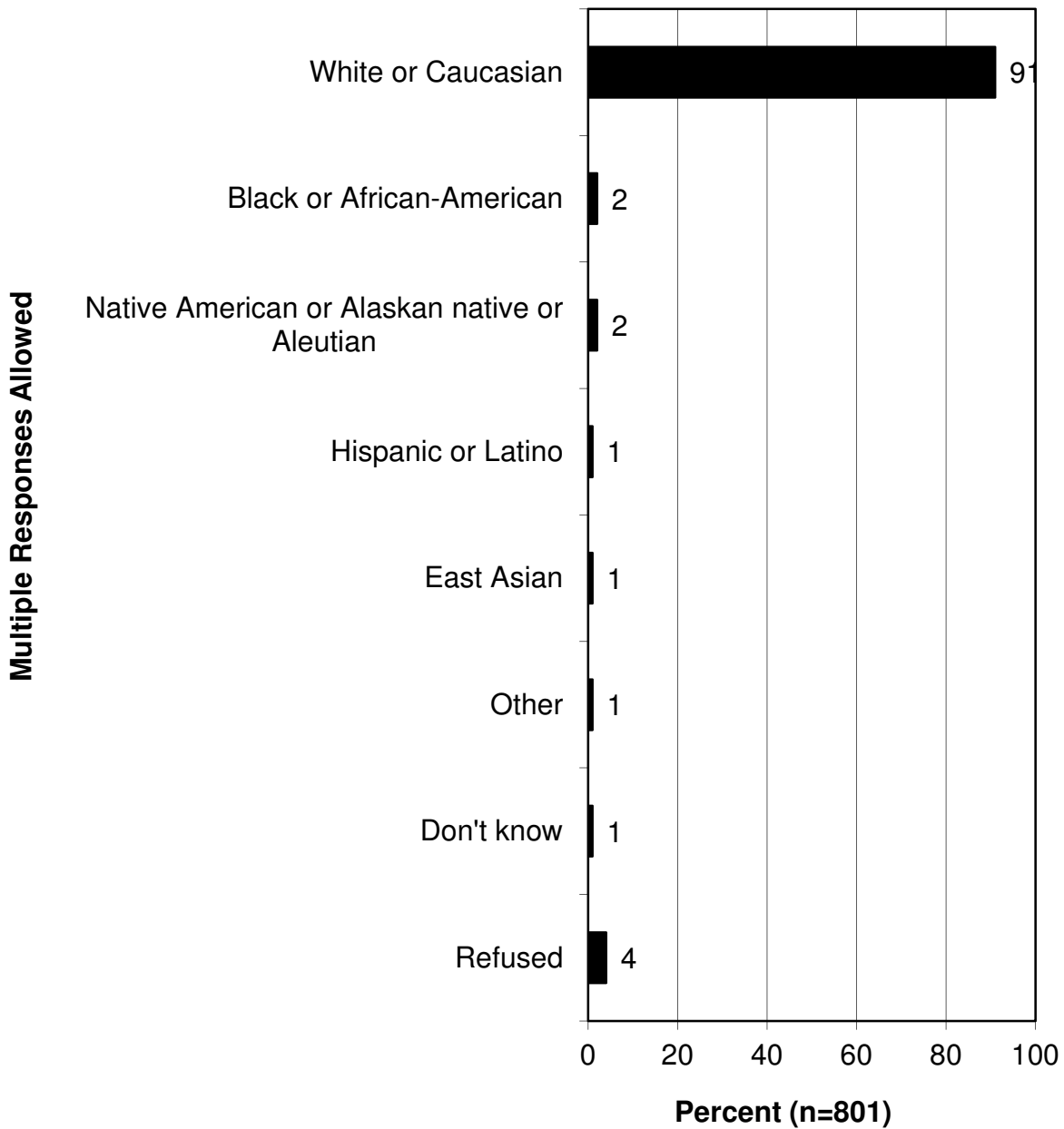
**Q165. What races or ethnic backgrounds do you consider yourself? Please mention all that apply. (Gen pop survey)**



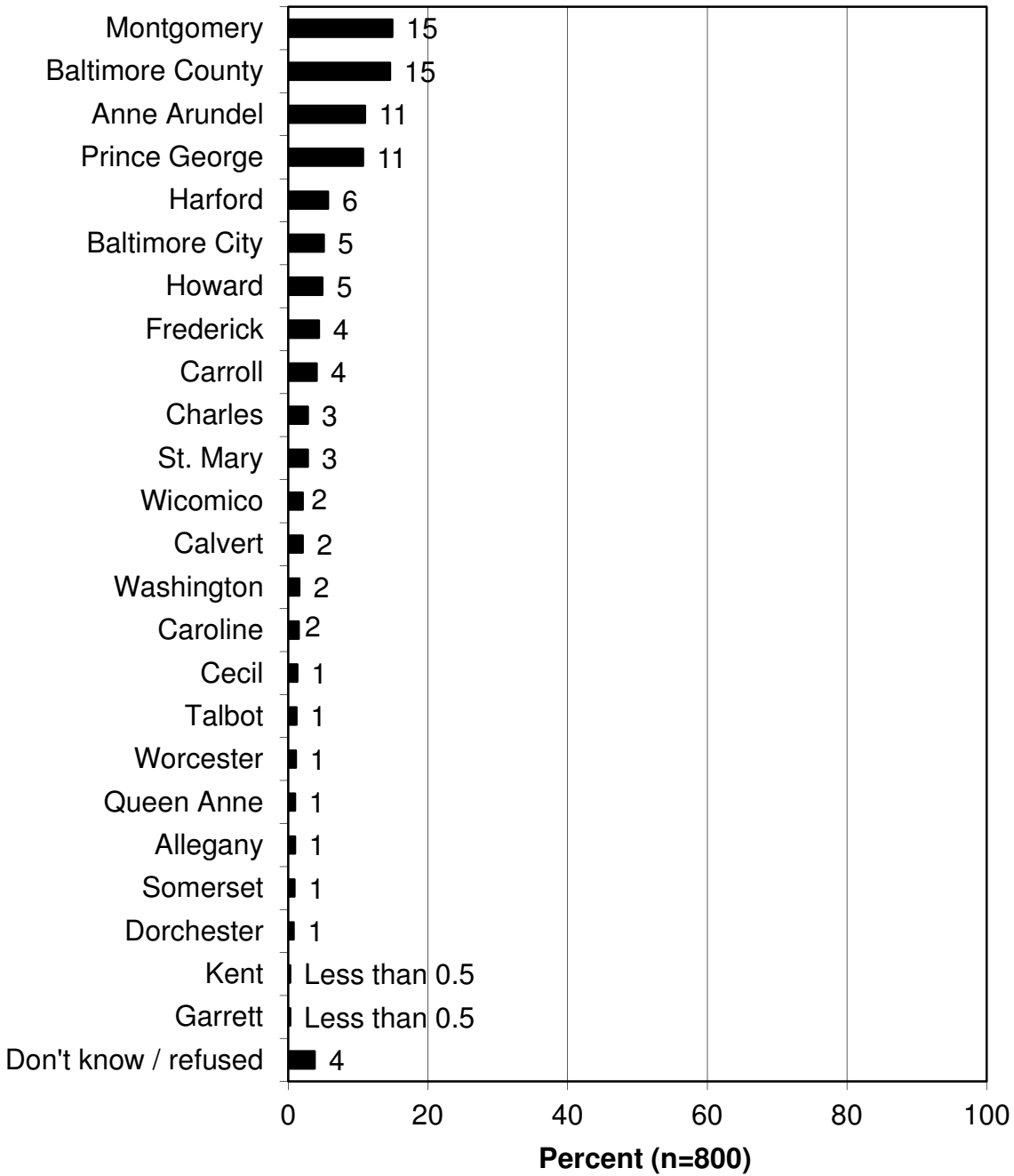
**Q165. What races or ethnic backgrounds do you consider yourself? Please mention all that apply. (Gen pop survey)**



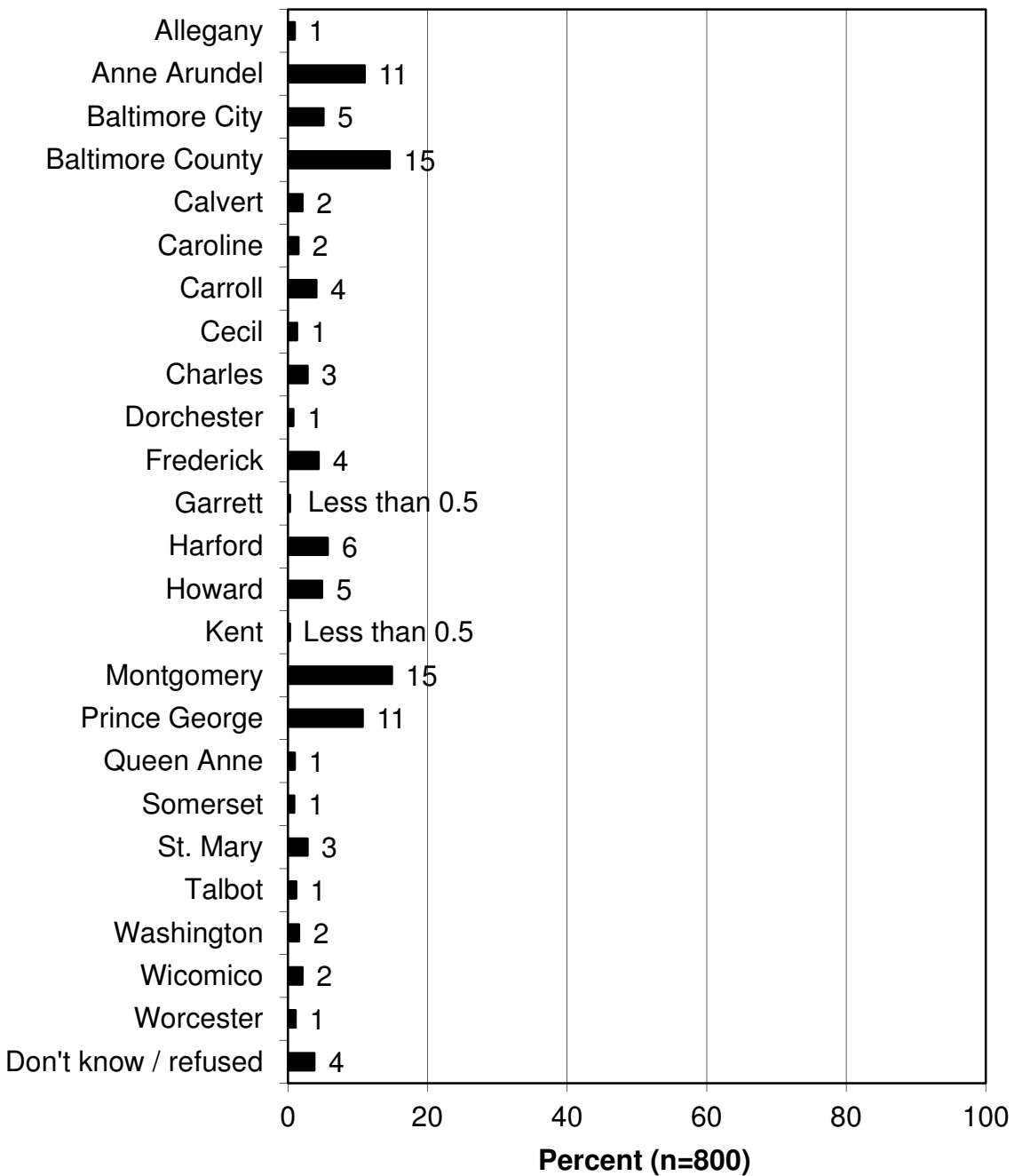
**Q176. What races or ethnic backgrounds do you consider yourself? Please mention all that apply. (Hunter survey)**



**Q156. In what county do you live?  
(Gen pop survey)**

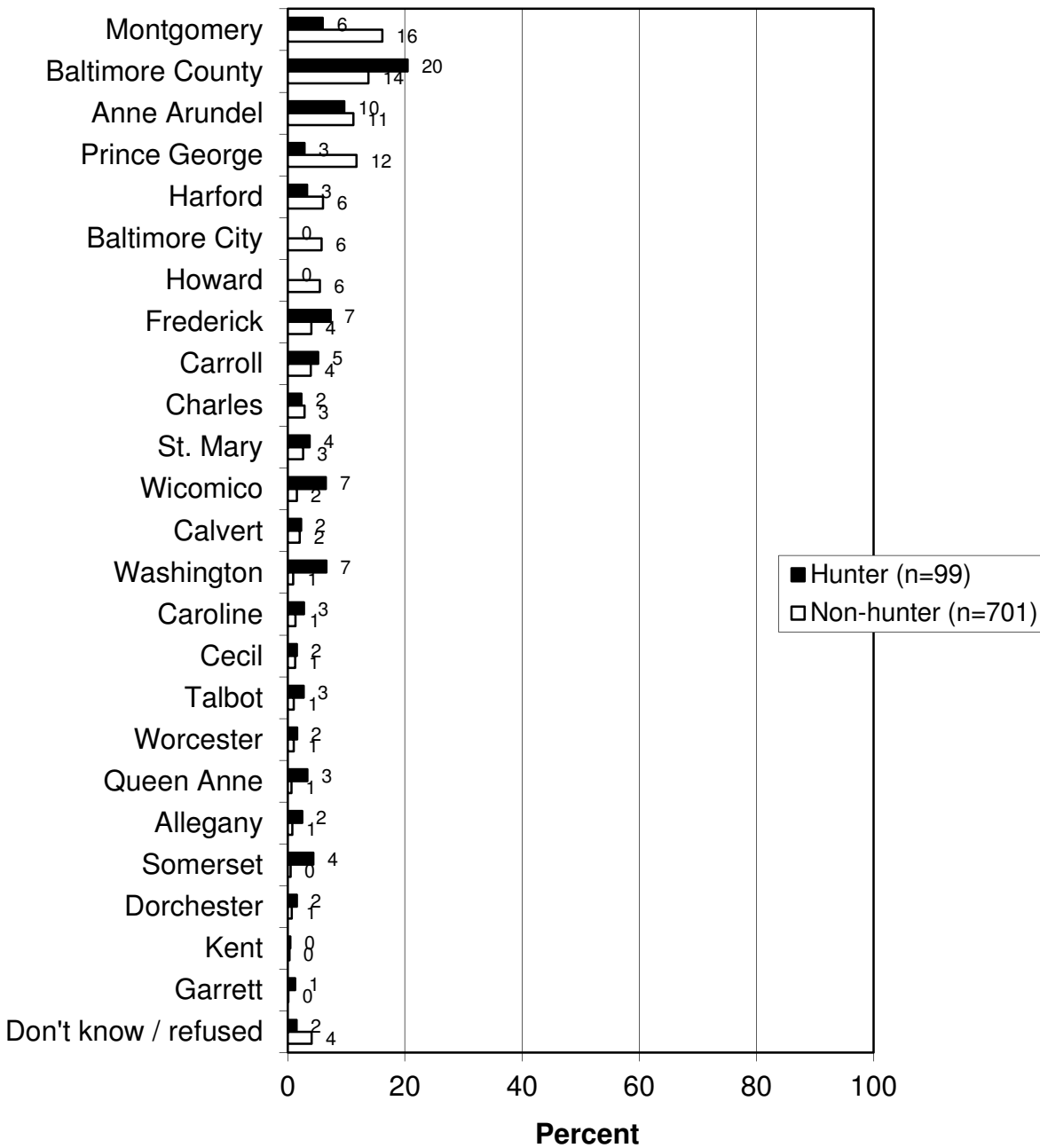


**Q156. In what county do you live? (Alphabetical)  
(Gen pop survey)**

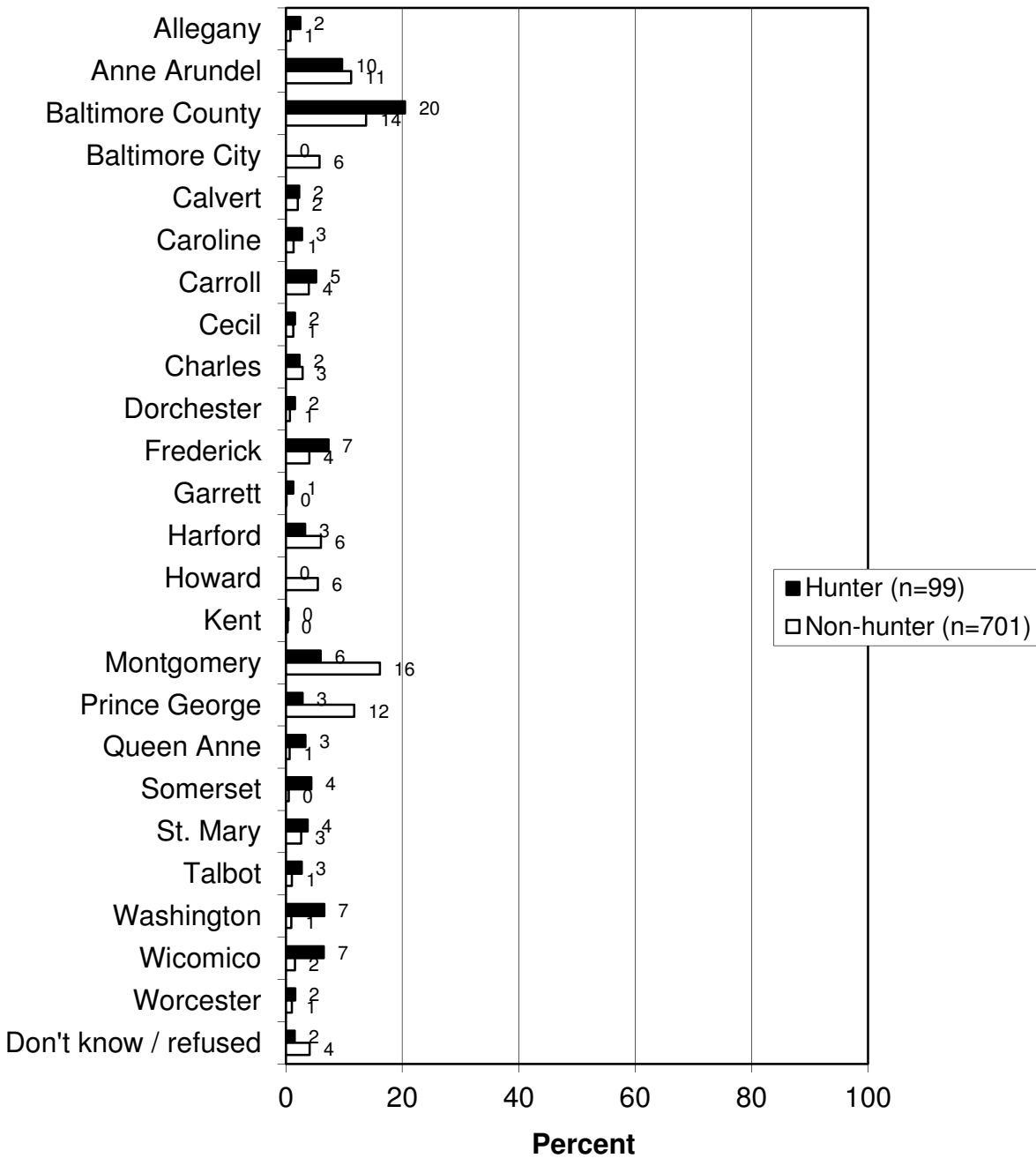




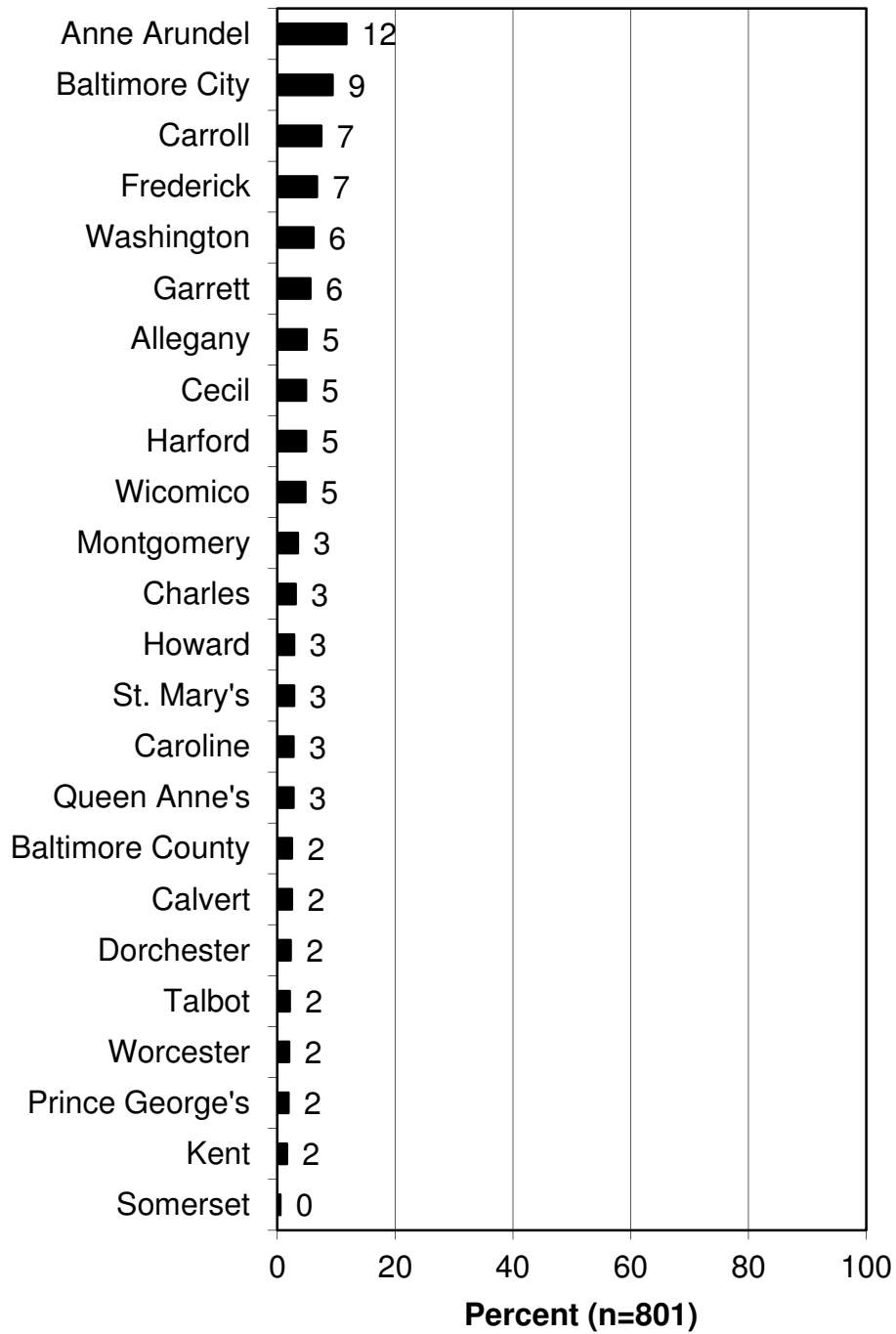
**Q156. In what county do you live?  
(Gen pop survey)**



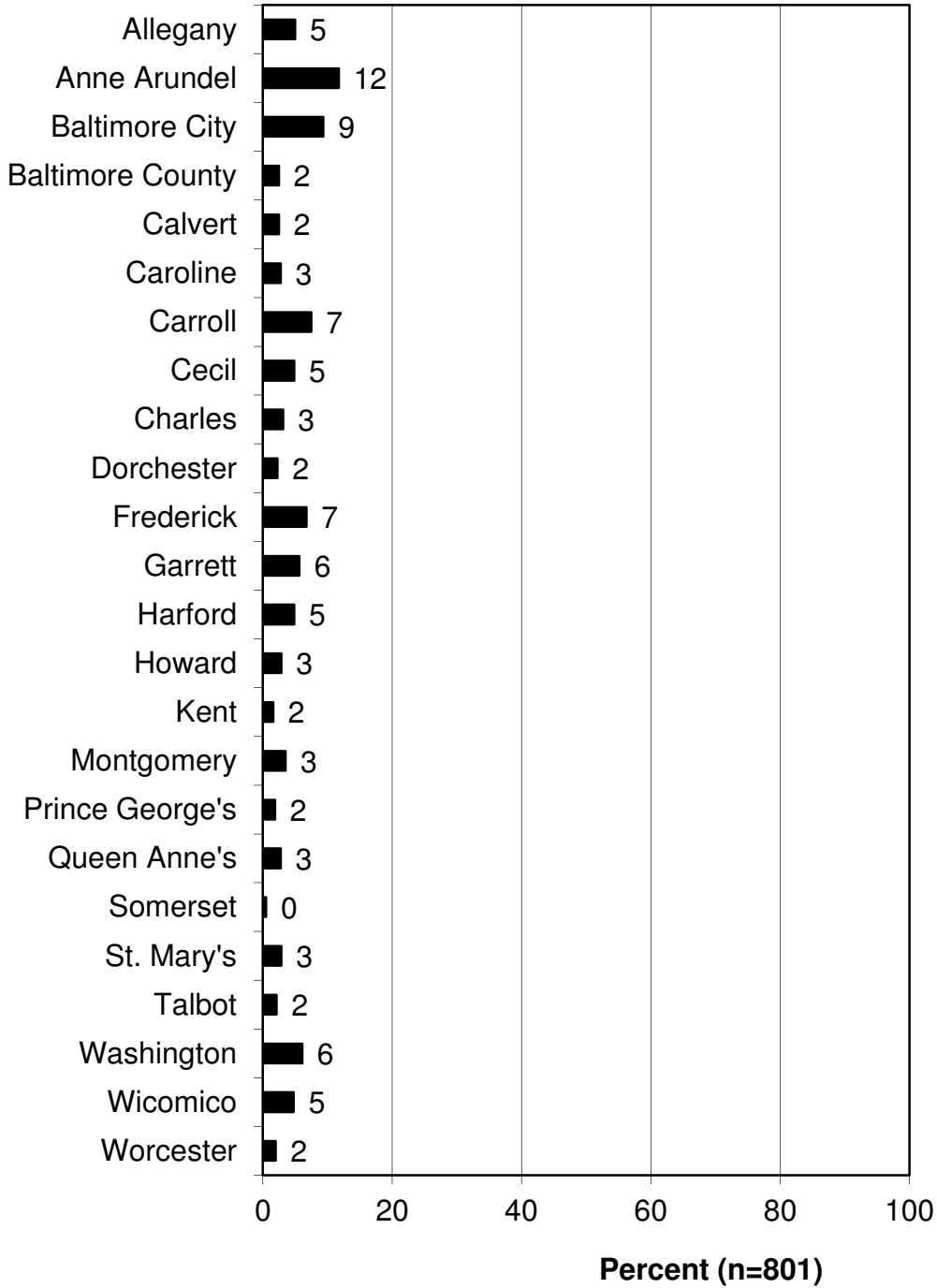
### Q156. In what county do you live? (Alphabetical) (Gen pop survey)



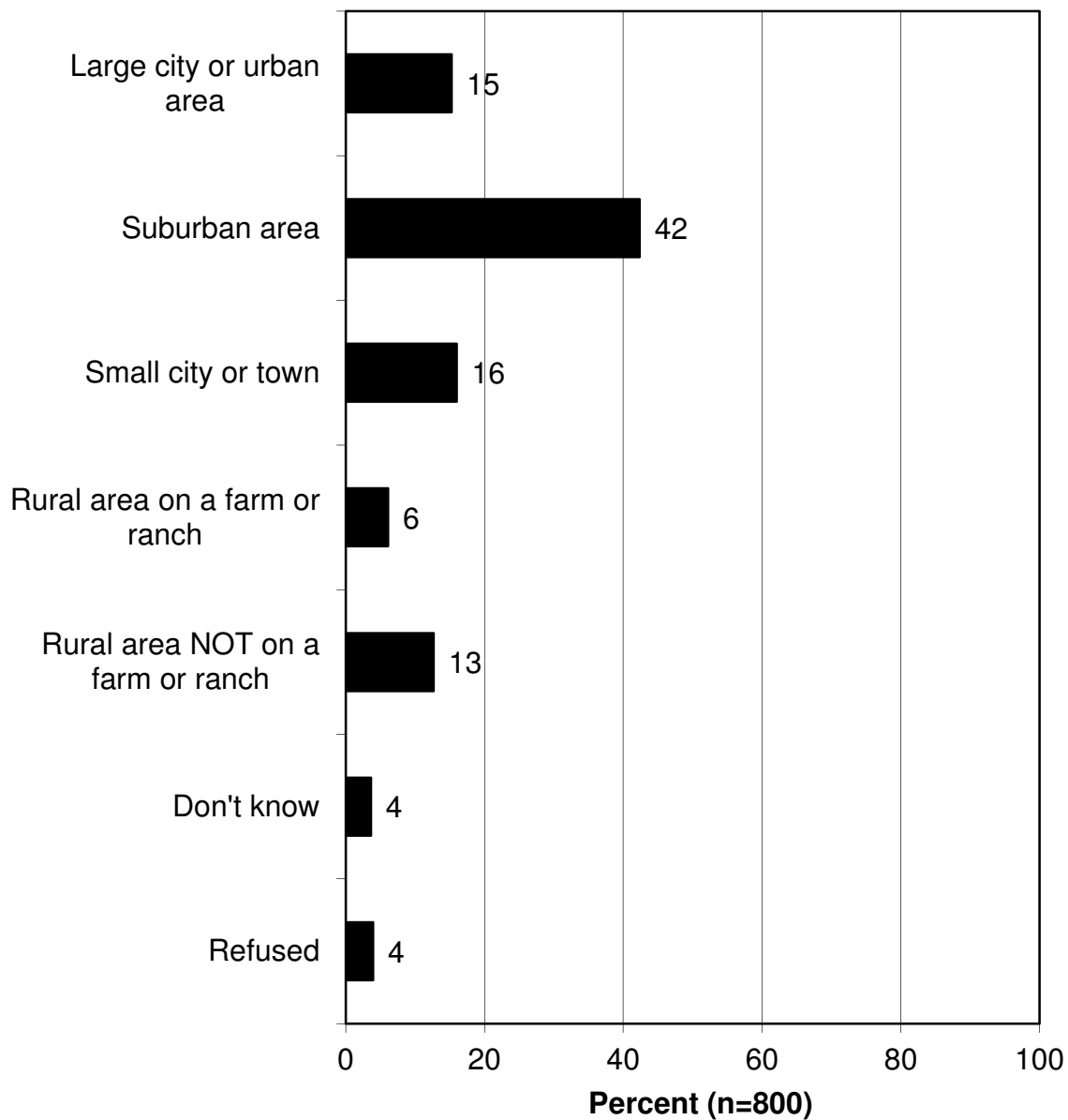
### Q168. In what county do you live? (Hunter survey)



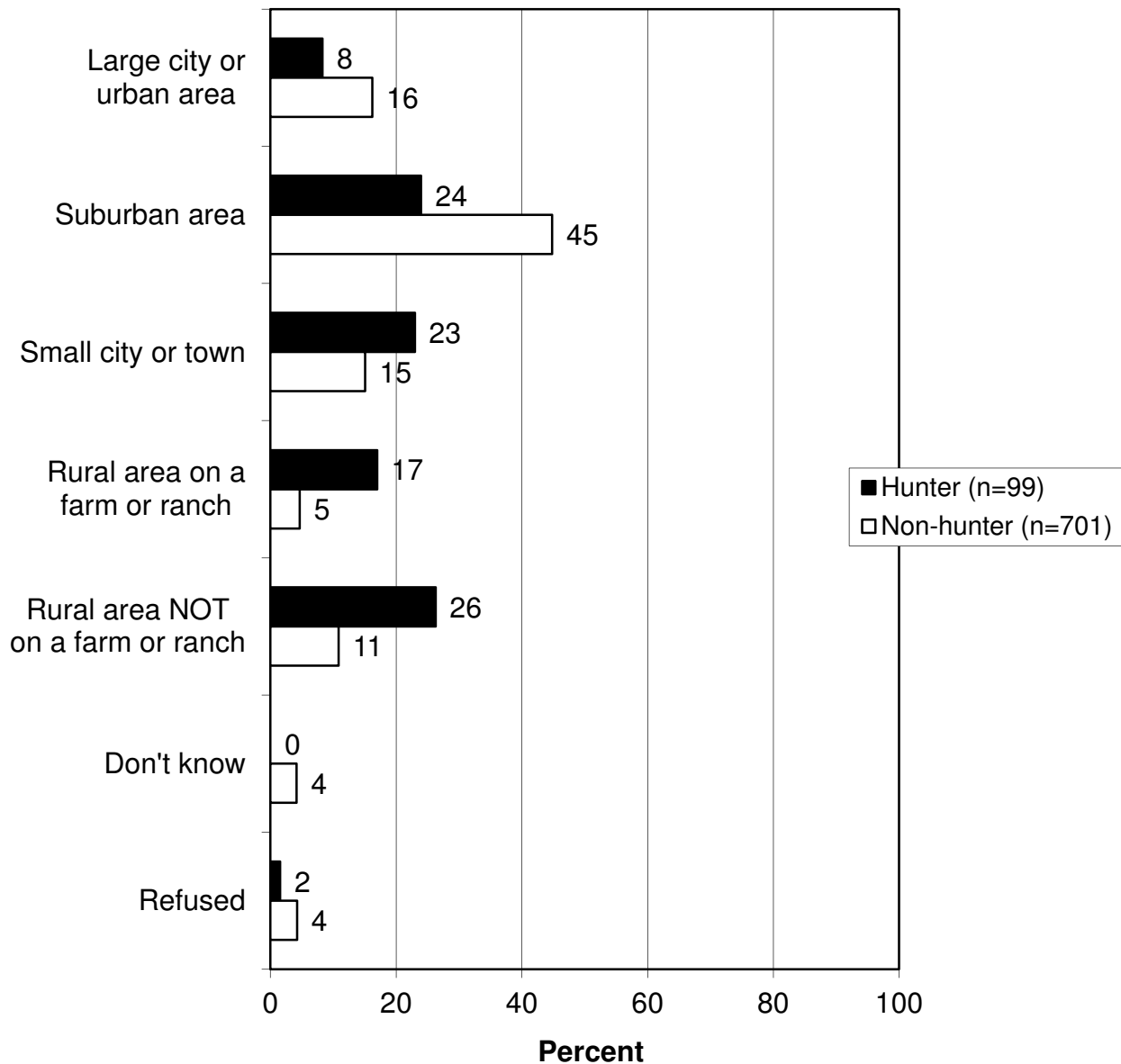
**Q168. In what county do you live? (Alphabetical)  
(Hunter survey)**



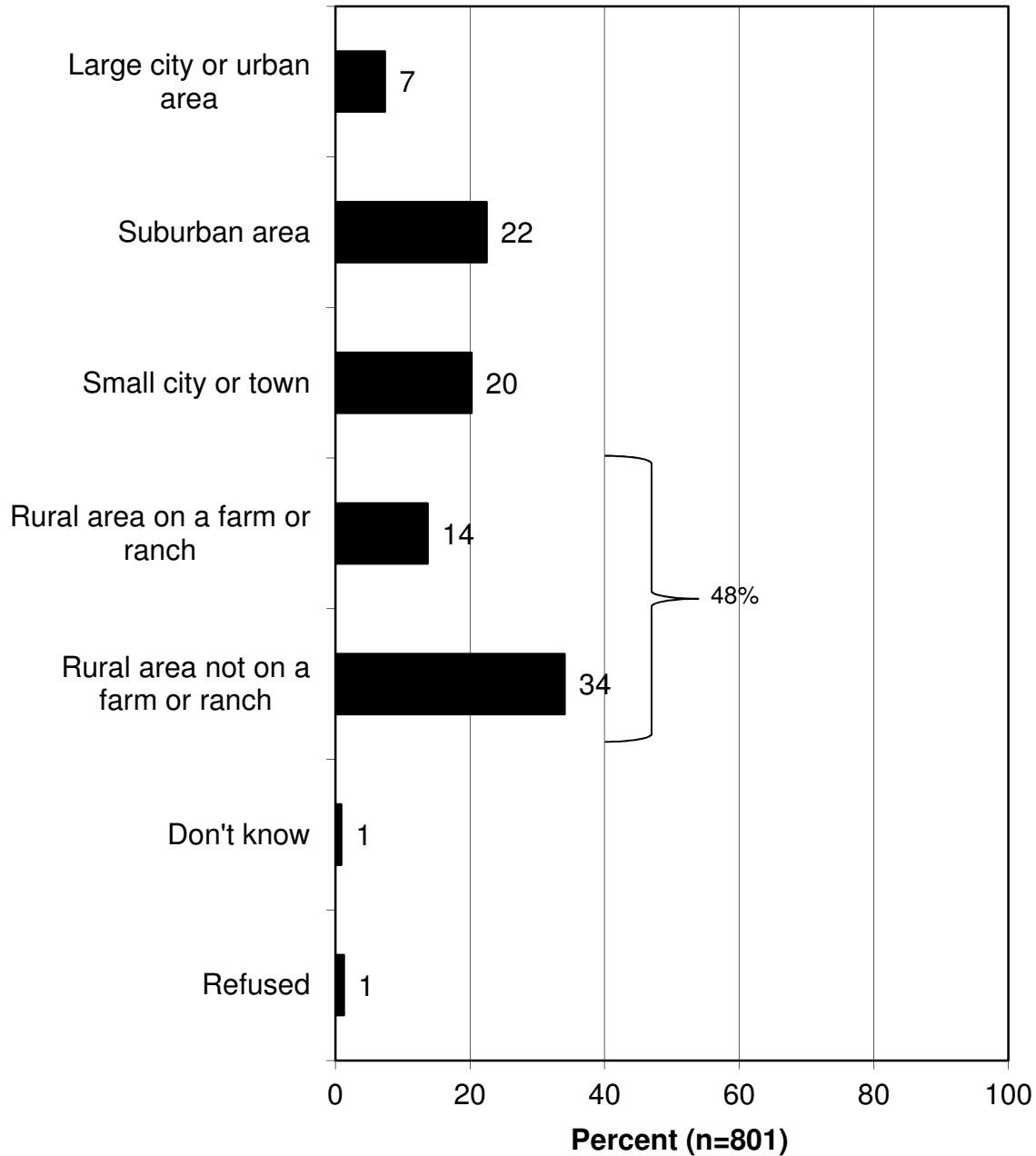
**Q160. Do you consider your place of residence to be a large city or urban area, a suburban area, a small city or town, a rural area on a farm or ranch, or a rural area not on a farm or ranch?  
(Gen pop survey)**



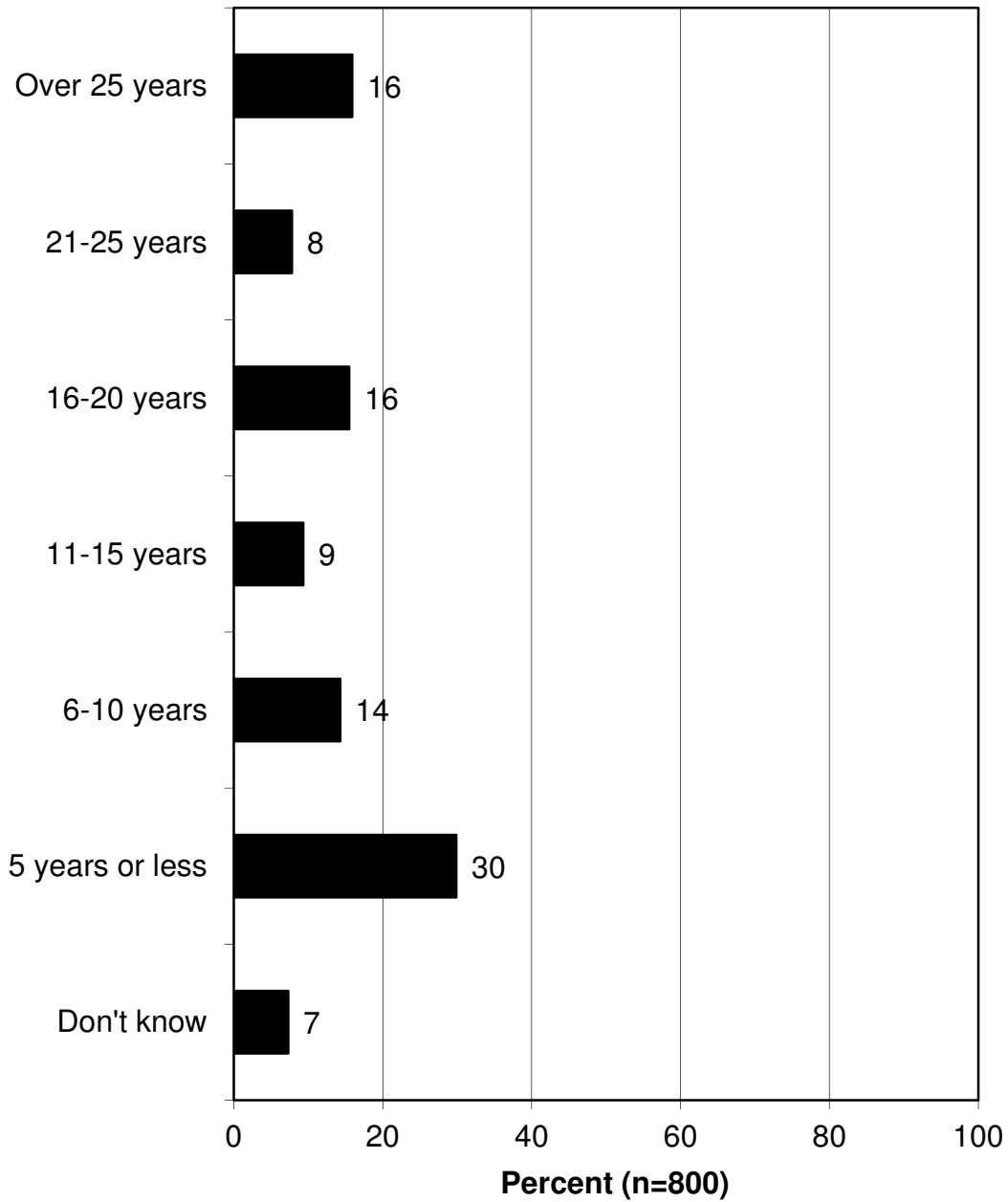
**Q160. Do you consider your place of residence to be a large city or urban area, a suburban area, a small city or town, a rural area on a farm or ranch, or a rural area not on a farm or ranch?  
(Gen pop survey)**



**Q171. Do you consider your place of residence to be a large city or urban area, a suburban area, a small city or town, a rural area on a farm or ranch, or a rural area not on a farm or ranch? (Hunter survey)**

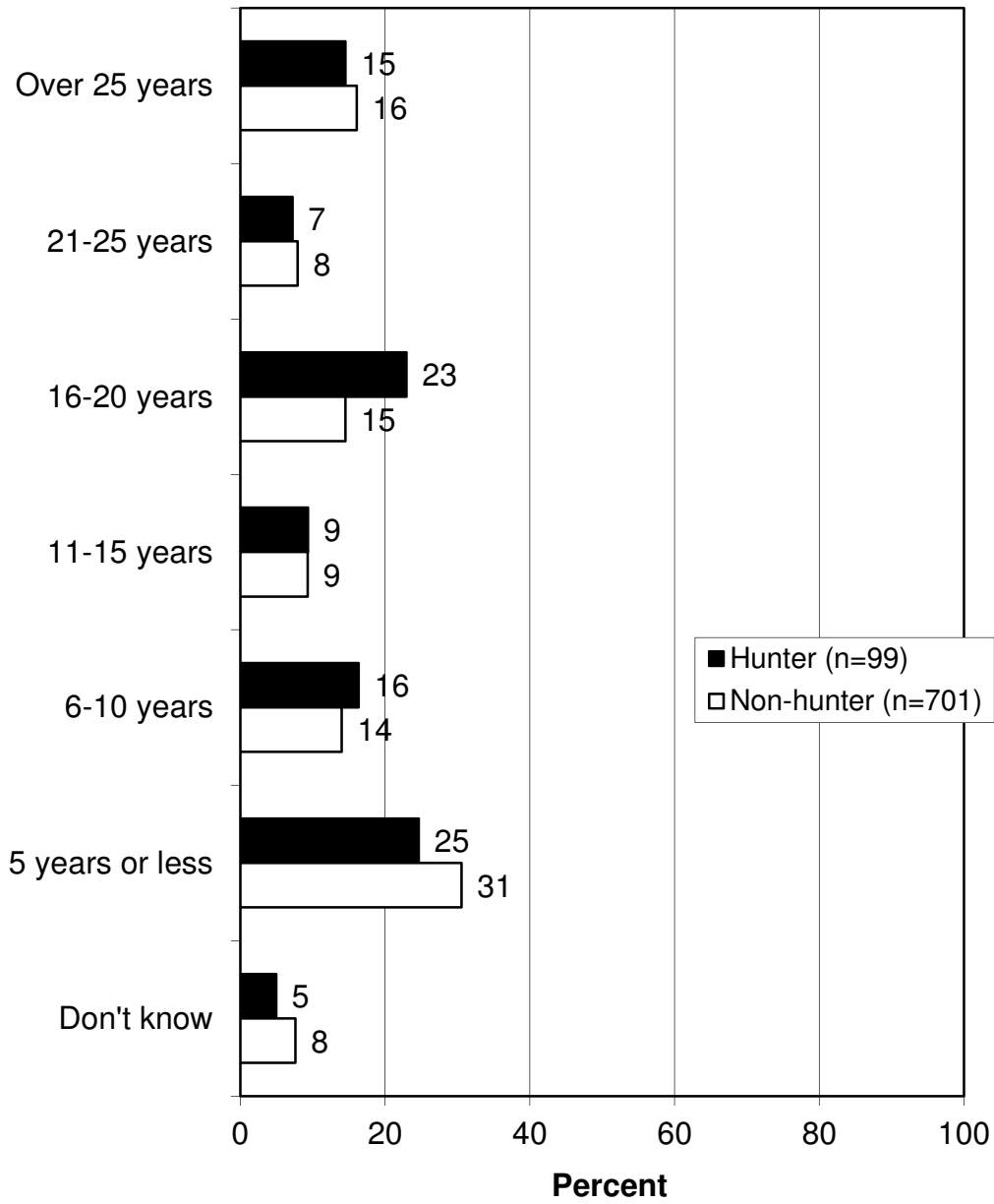


**Q157. How many years have you lived at your current address? (Gen pop survey)**

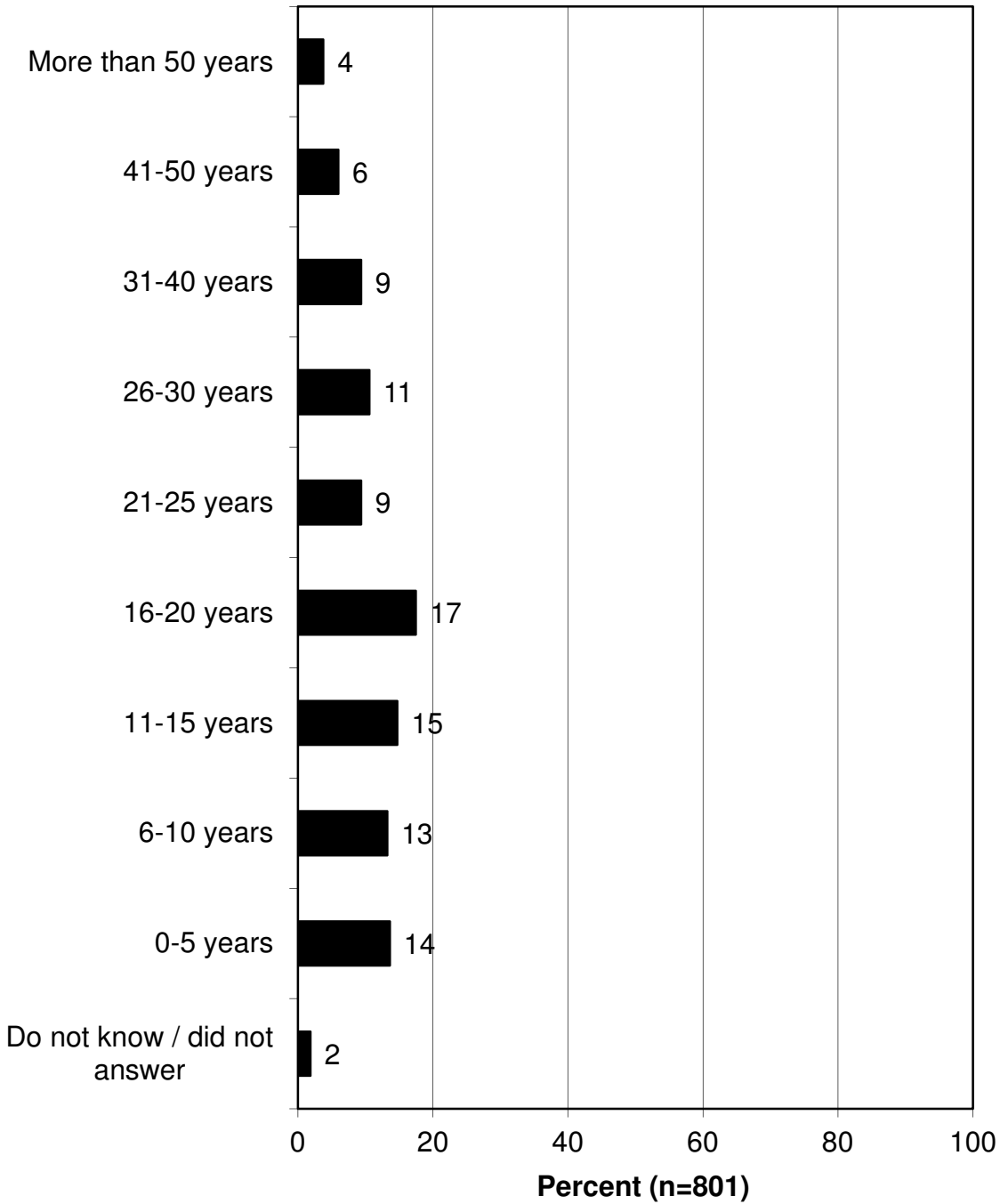




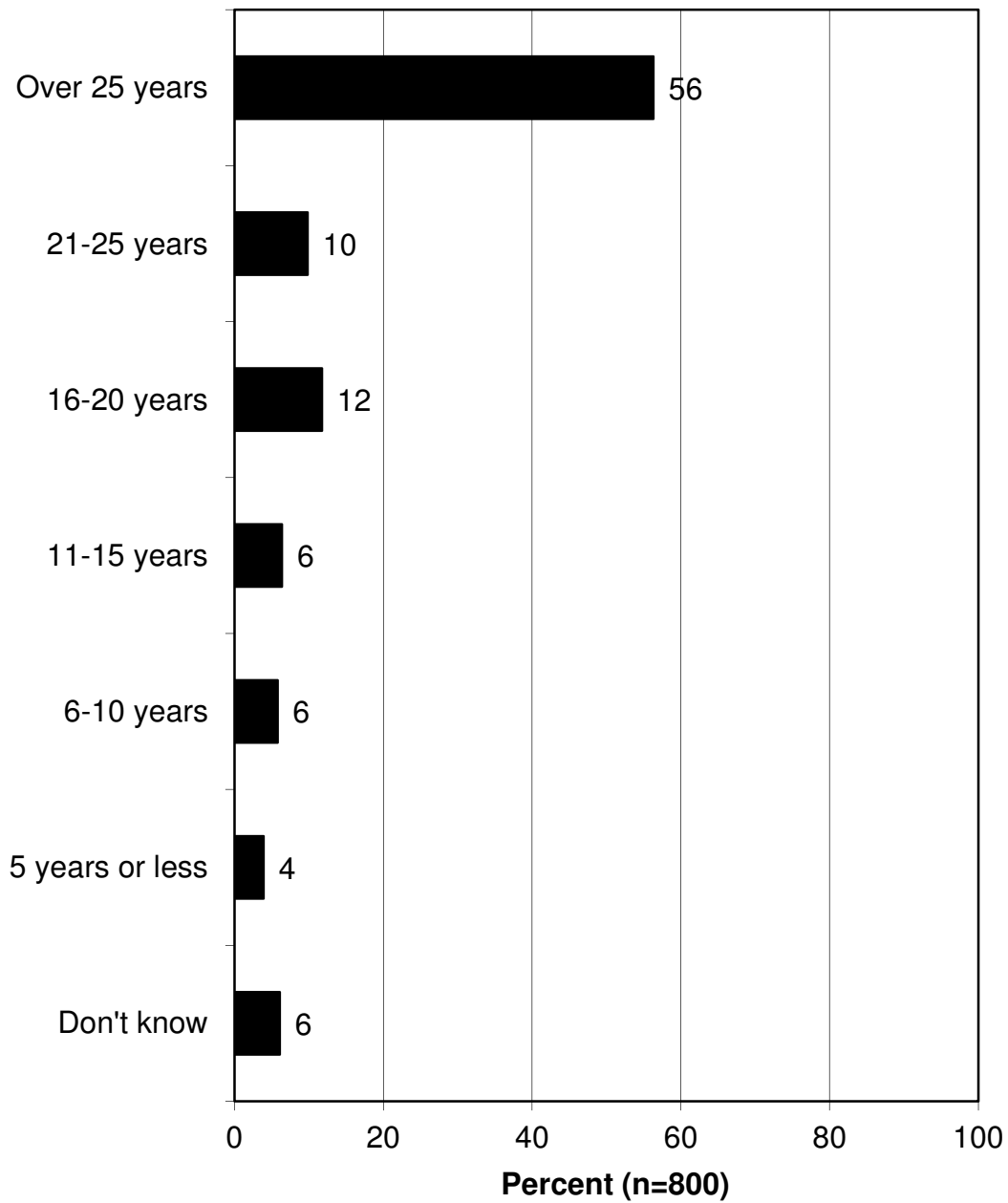
### Q157. How many years have you lived at your current address? (Gen pop survey)



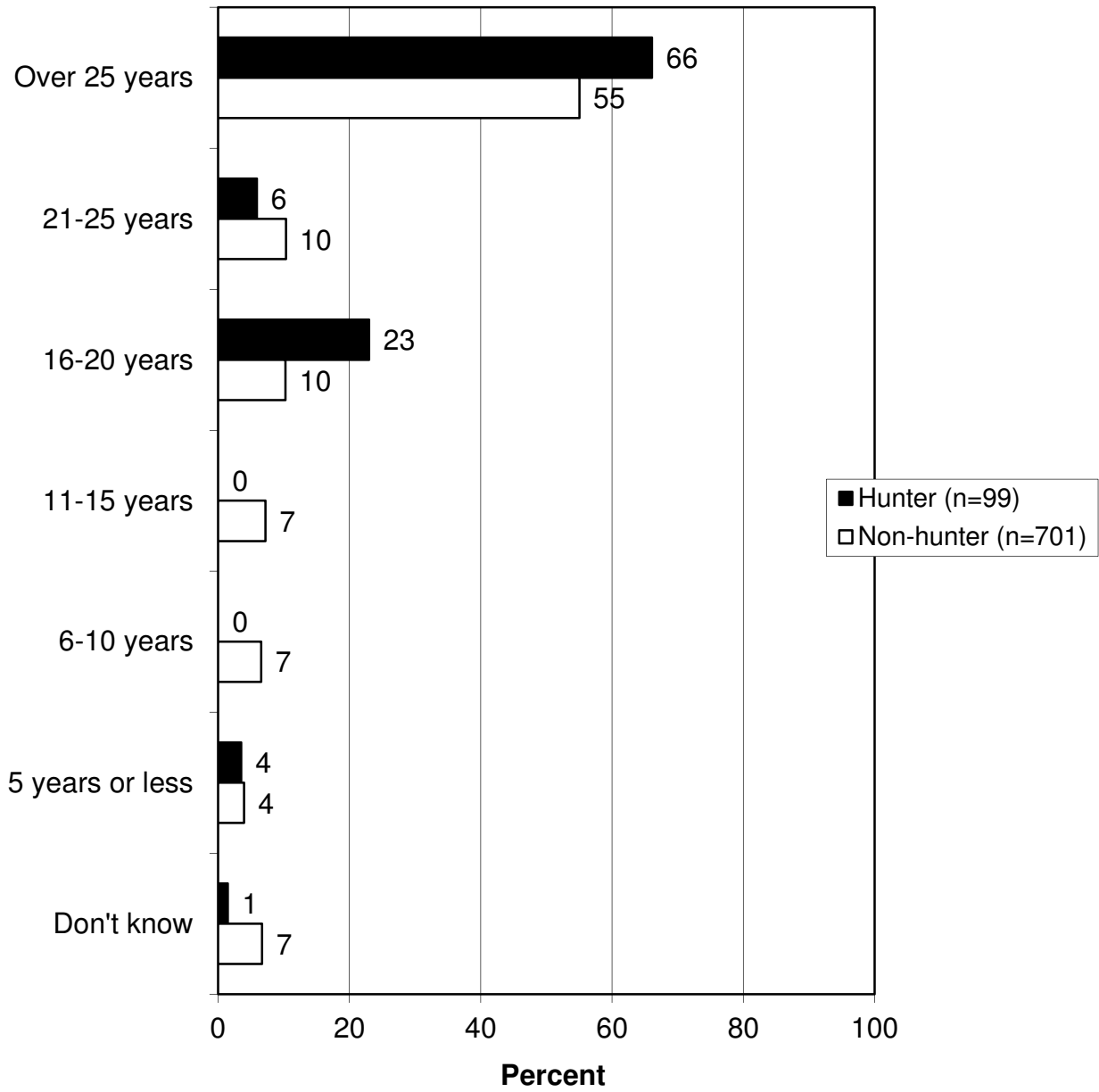
**Q169. How many years have you lived at your current address? (Hunter survey)**



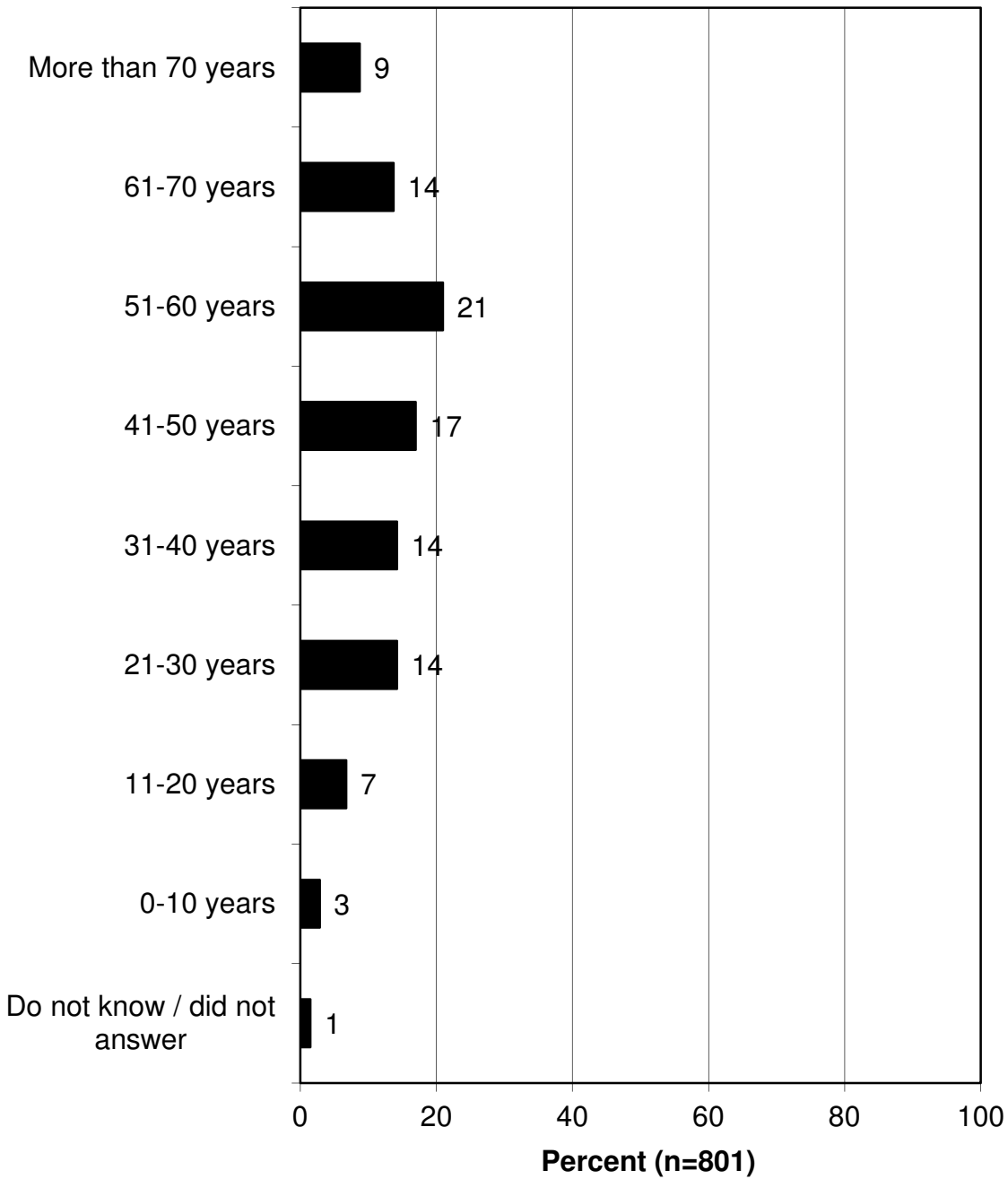
**Q158. How many years have you lived in Maryland? (Gen pop survey)**



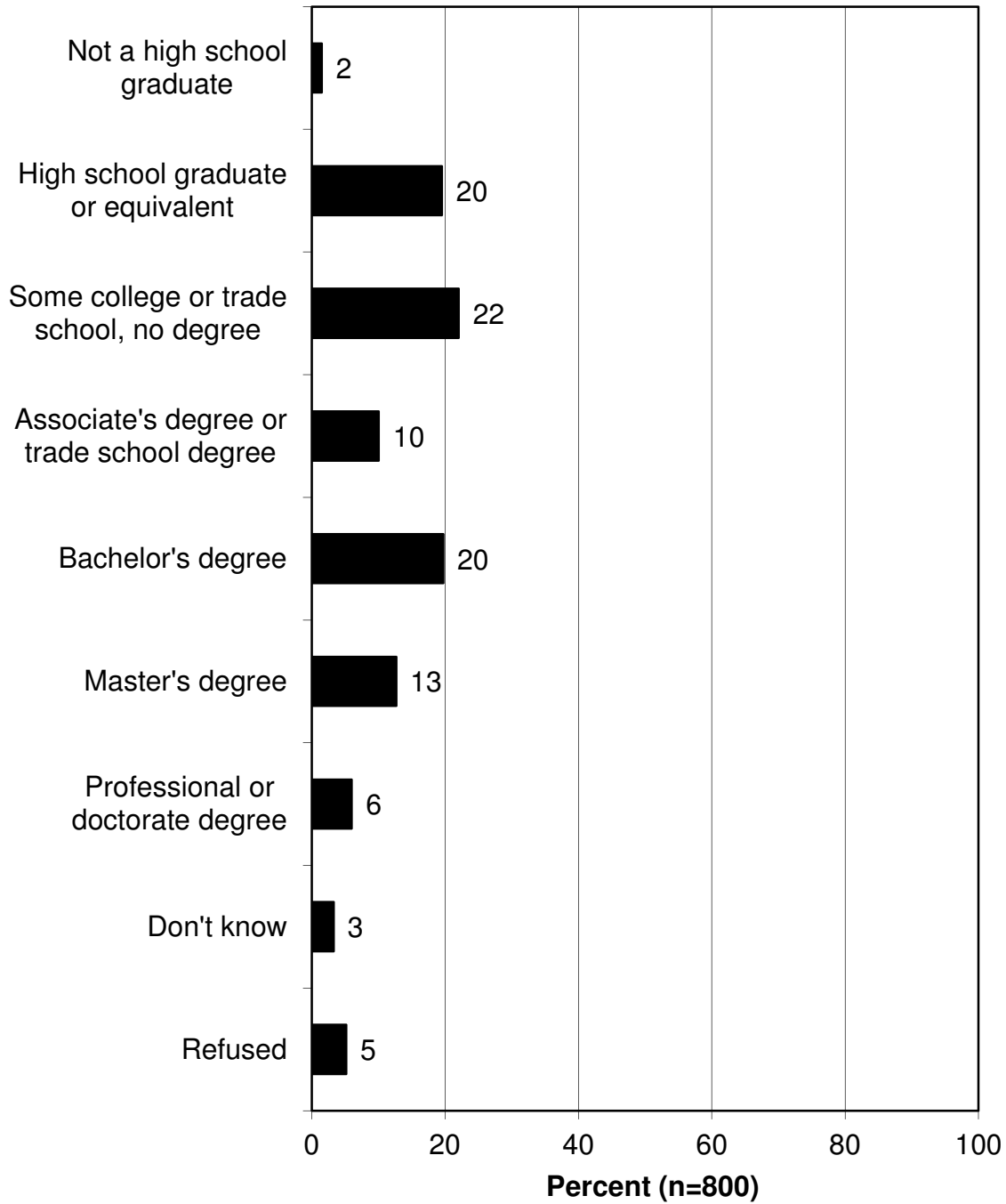
**Q158. How many years have you lived in Maryland? (Gen pop survey)**



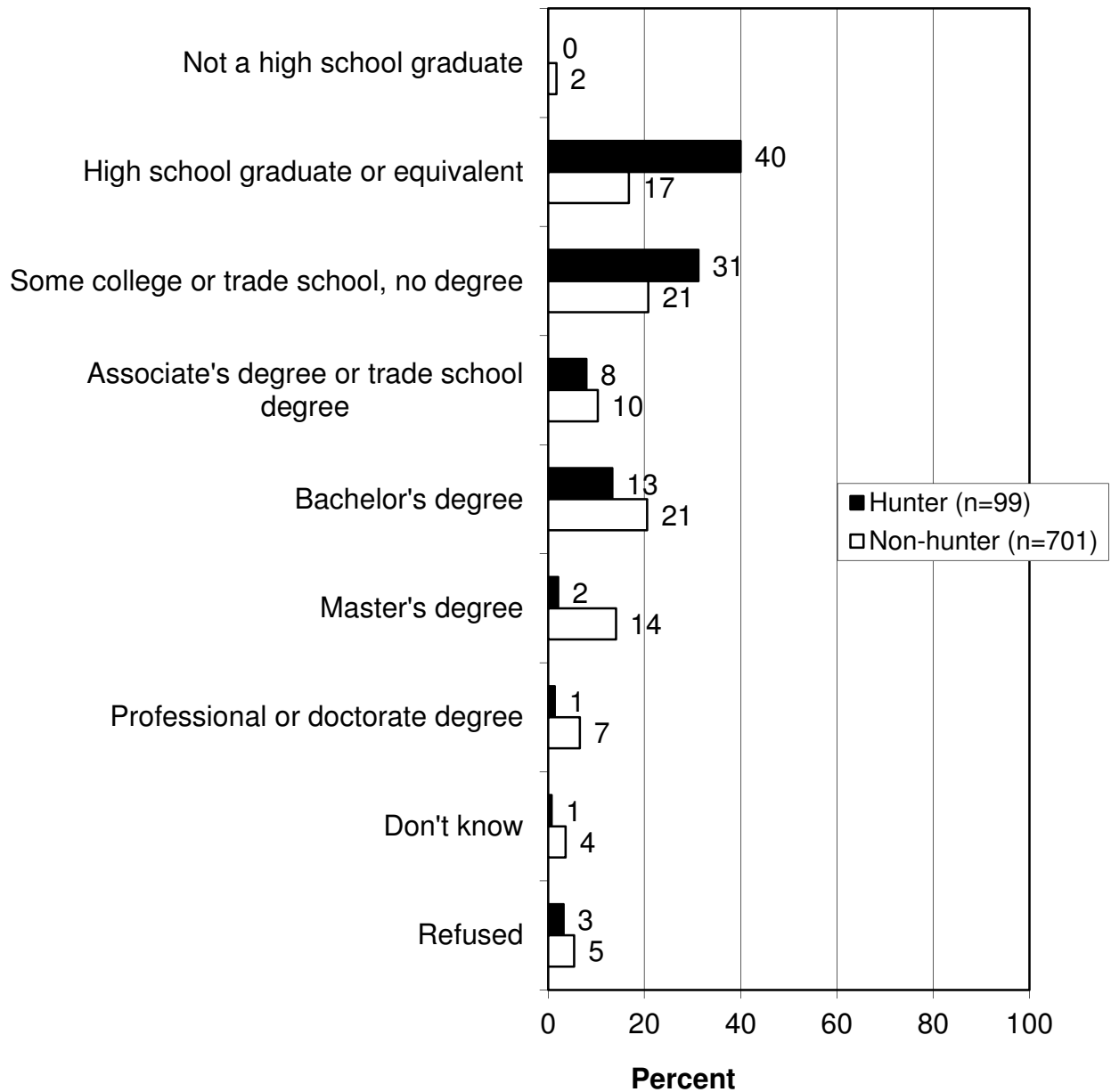
### Q170. How many years have you lived in Maryland? (Hunter survey)



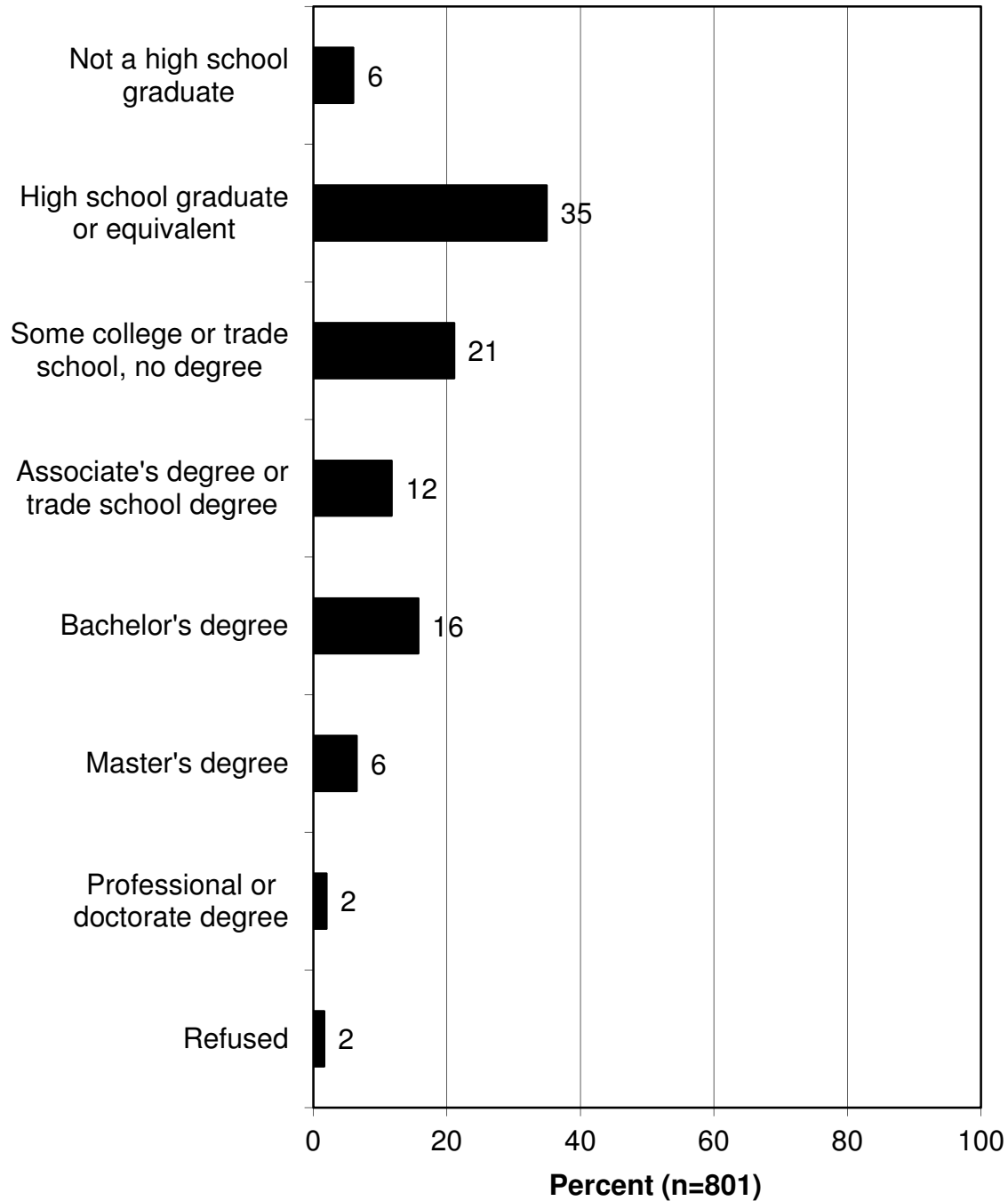
**Q161. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (Gen pop survey)**



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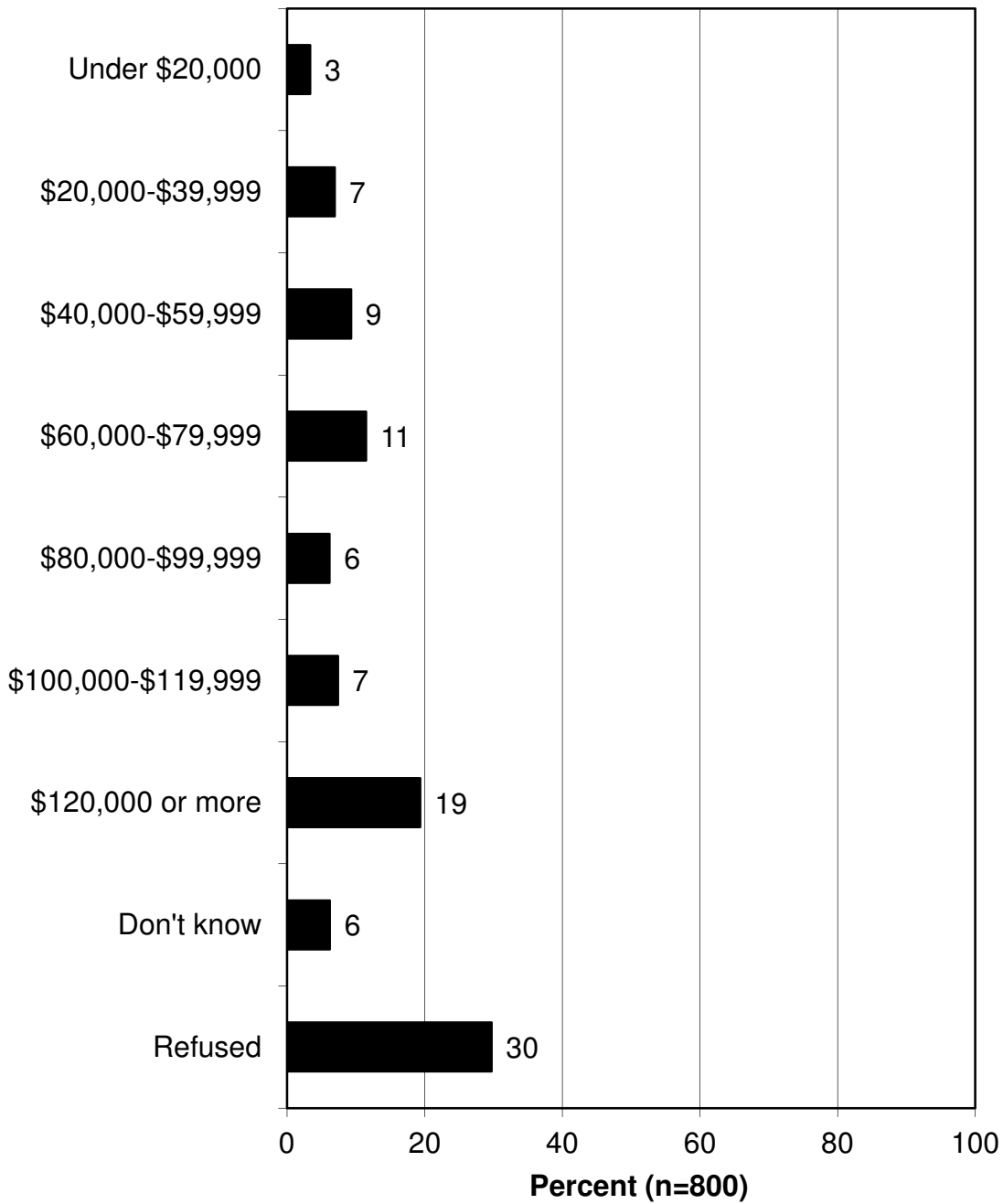


**Q172. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (Hunter survey)**

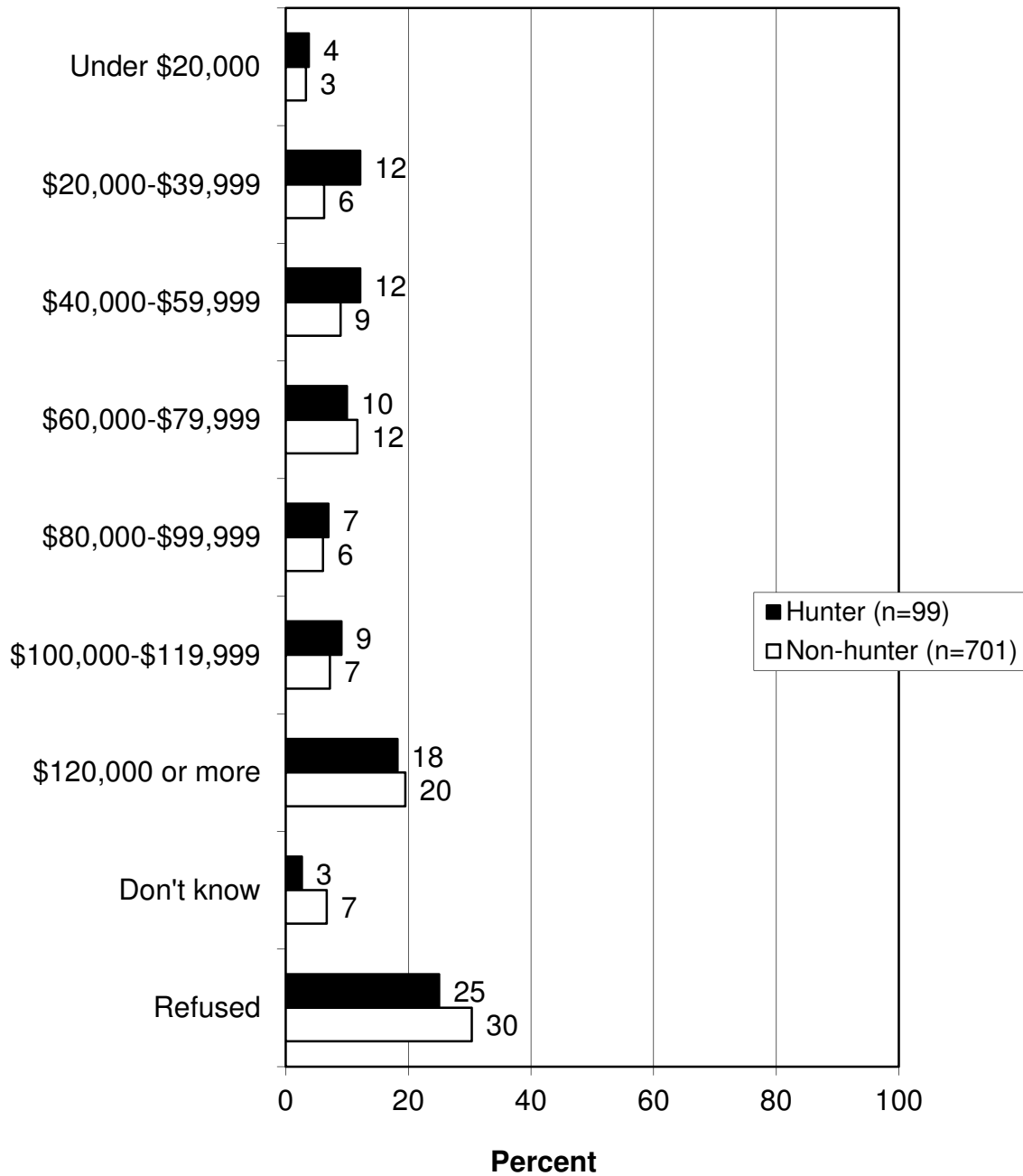




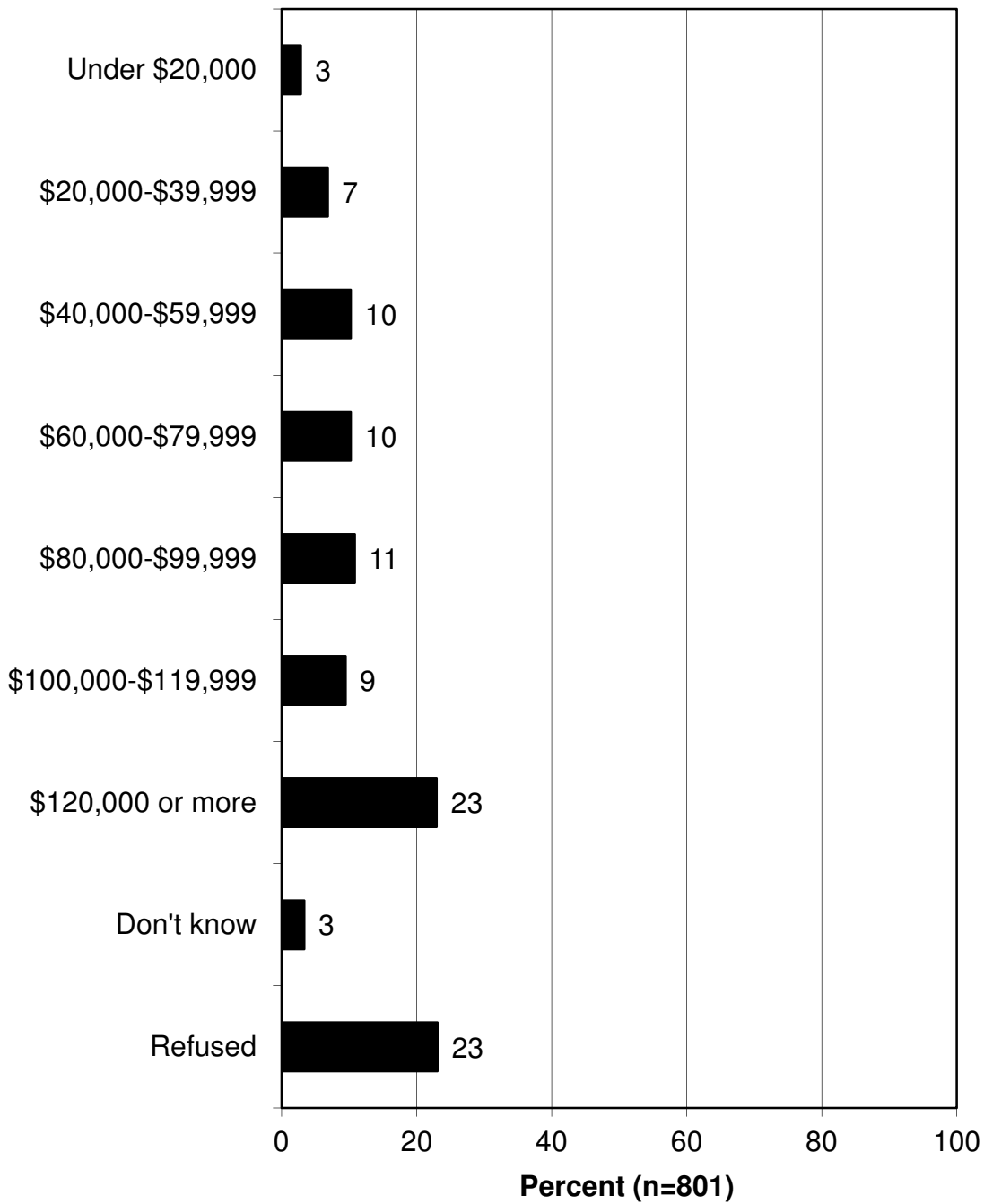
**Q162. Which of these categories best describes your total household income before taxes last year? (Gen pop survey)**



**Q162. Which of these categories best describes your total household income before taxes last year? (Gen pop survey)**



**Q173. Which of these categories best describes your total household income before taxes last year? (Hunter survey)**



## ABOUT RESPONSIVE MANAGEMENT

Responsive Management is an internationally recognized survey research firm specializing in attitudes toward natural resource and outdoor recreation issues. Our mission is to help natural resource and outdoor recreation agencies, businesses, and organizations better understand and work with their constituents, customers, and the public.

Since 1985, Responsive Management has conducted telephone, mail, and online surveys, as well as multi-modal surveys, on-site intercepts, focus groups, public meetings, personal interviews, needs assessments, program evaluations, marketing and communication plans, and other forms of research measuring public opinions and attitudes. Utilizing our in-house, full-service survey facilities with 75 professional interviewers, we have conducted studies in all 50 states and 15 countries worldwide, totaling more than 1,000 projects and almost \$60 million in research.

Responsive Management has conducted research for every state fish and wildlife agency and most of the federal resource agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

We have also provided research for many nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations, including the National Wildlife Federation, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the National Rifle Association, the Archery Trade Association, the Izaak Walton League, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, SCI, and Dallas Safari Club. Other nonprofit and NGO clients include Trout Unlimited, the Sierra Club, the American Museum of Natural History, the Ocean Conservancy, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, and the BoatUS Foundation.

Responsive Management conducts market research and product testing for numerous outdoor recreation manufacturers and industry leaders, such as Winchester Ammunition, Vista Outdoor (whose brands include Federal Premium, CamelBak, Bushnell, Primos, and more), Trijicon, Yamaha, and others.

Responsive Management also provides data collection for the nation's top universities, including Auburn University, Colorado State University, Duke University, George Mason University, Michigan State University, Mississippi State University, North Carolina State University, Oregon State University, Penn State University, Rutgers University, Stanford University, Texas Tech, University of California-Davis, University of Florida, University of Montana, University of New Hampshire, University of Southern California, Virginia Tech, West Virginia University, and many more.

Our research has been upheld in U.S. Courts, used in peer-reviewed journals, and presented at major wildlife and natural resource conferences around the world. Responsive Management's research has also been featured in many of the nation's top media, including *Newsweek*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, CNN, and on the front pages of *The Washington Post* and *USA Today*.

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