



National Undergraduate Study

Sponsored By:

The William F. Buckley, Jr. Program at Yale



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On the web

www.mclaughlinonline.com

Presentation Outline

- 1. Methodology**
- 2. Free Speech on College Campuses**
- 3. Free Speech and the First Amendment**
- 4. Intellectual Diversity on College Campuses**
- 5. Political Correctness and “Trigger Warnings”**
- 6. Characteristics of Undergraduates**
- 7. Demographic Profiles**
- 8. Political and Ideological Profiles**

Methodology

McLaughlin & Associates conducted a national survey of 800 undergraduate students from September 19th to 28th, 2015. All interviews were conducted online and respondents were carefully selected and screened from a nationwide representative platform of individuals who elect to participate in online surveys.

Data for this survey have been stratified by age, race, sex and geography using the National Center for Education Statistics 2014 Report to reflect the actual demographic composition of undergraduate students in the United States.

Because the sample is based on those who initially self-selected for participation rather than a probability sample, no estimates of sampling error can be calculated. All surveys may be subject to multiple sources of error, including, but not limited to sampling error, coverage error and measurement error.

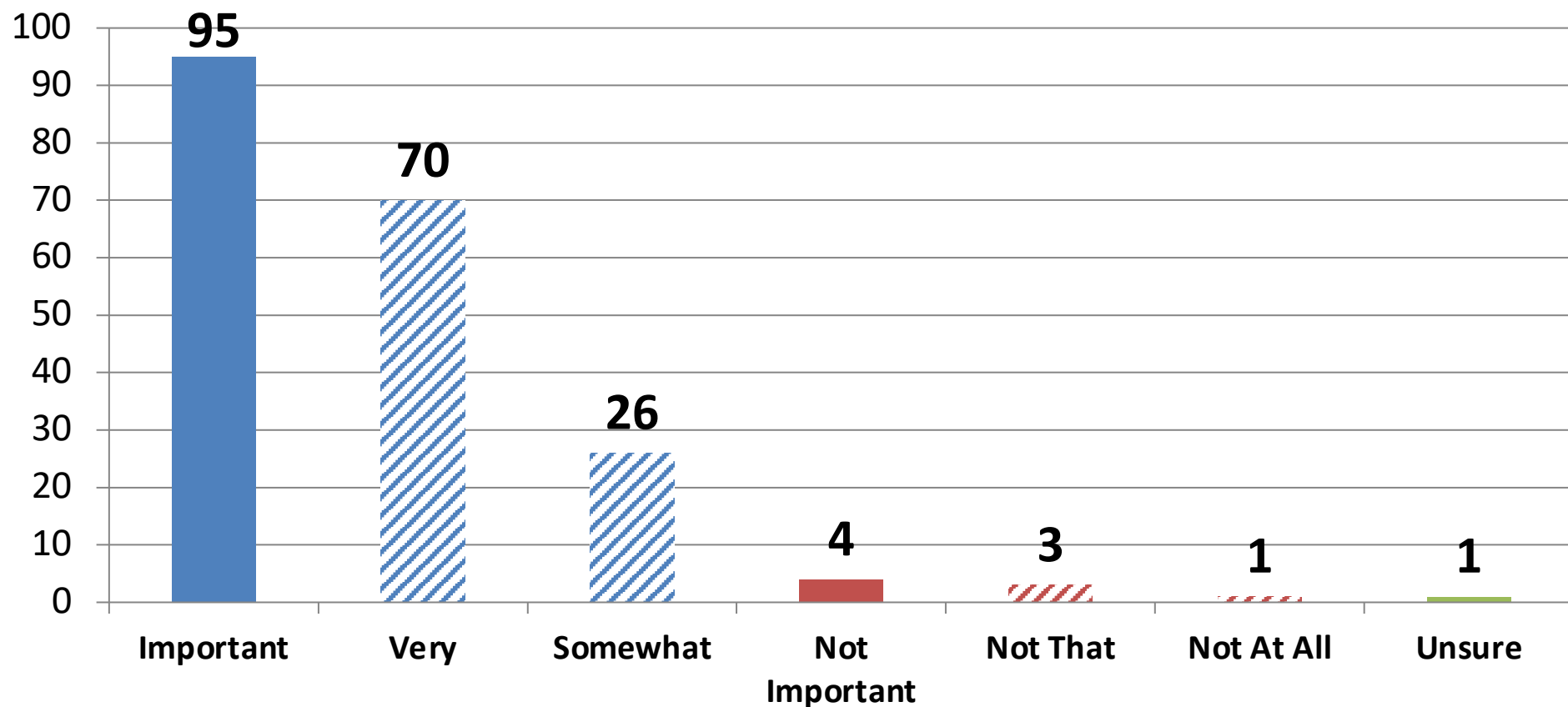
However, a confidence interval of 95% was calculated in order to produce an error estimate of +/- 3.4% for the 800 respondents. This error estimate should be taken into consideration in much the same way that analysis of probability polls takes into account the margin of sampling error. The error estimate increases for cross-tabulations. Totals may not add up to exactly 100% due to rounding.

Part One:

Free Speech on College Campuses

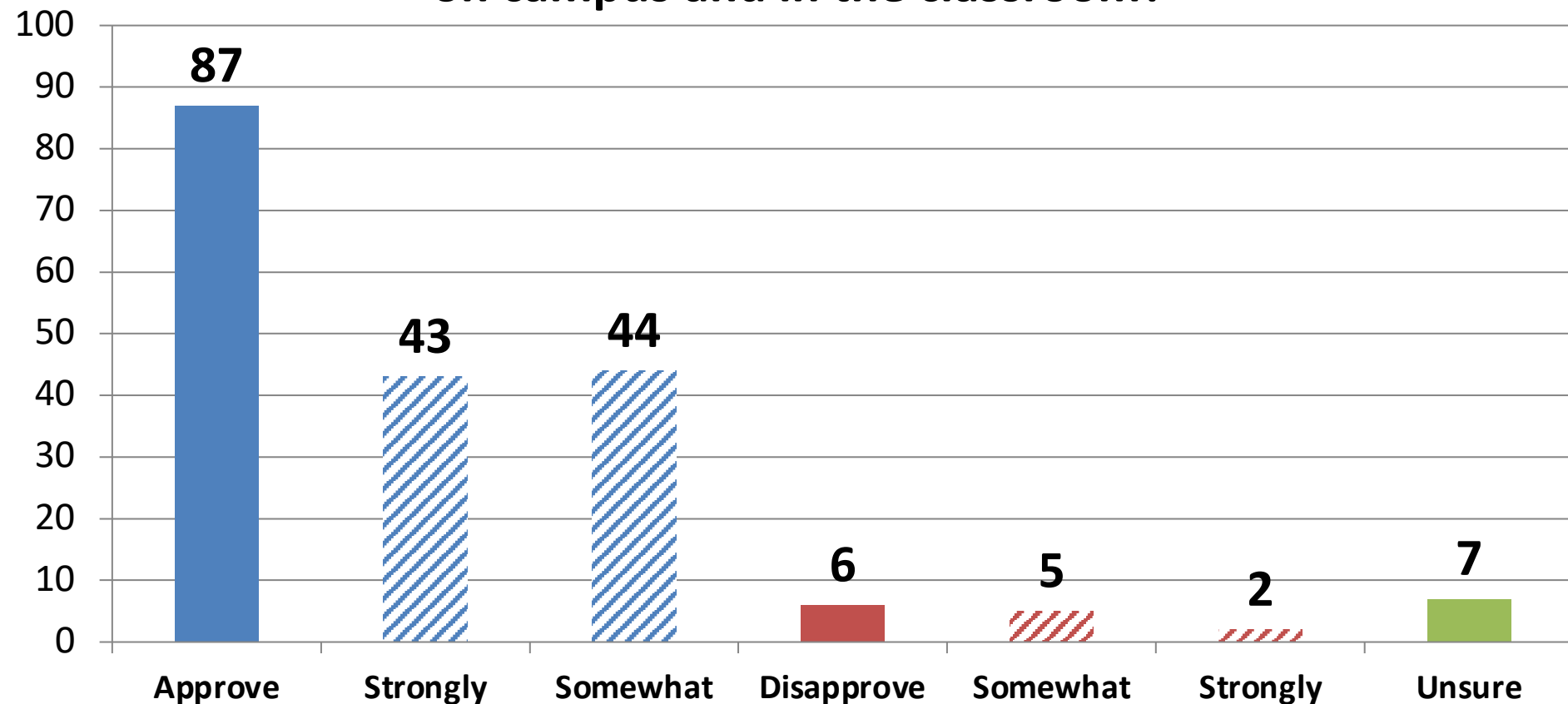
Undergraduates clearly believe that the issue of free speech is important on campus.

How important to you personally is the issue of free speech at your college or university?



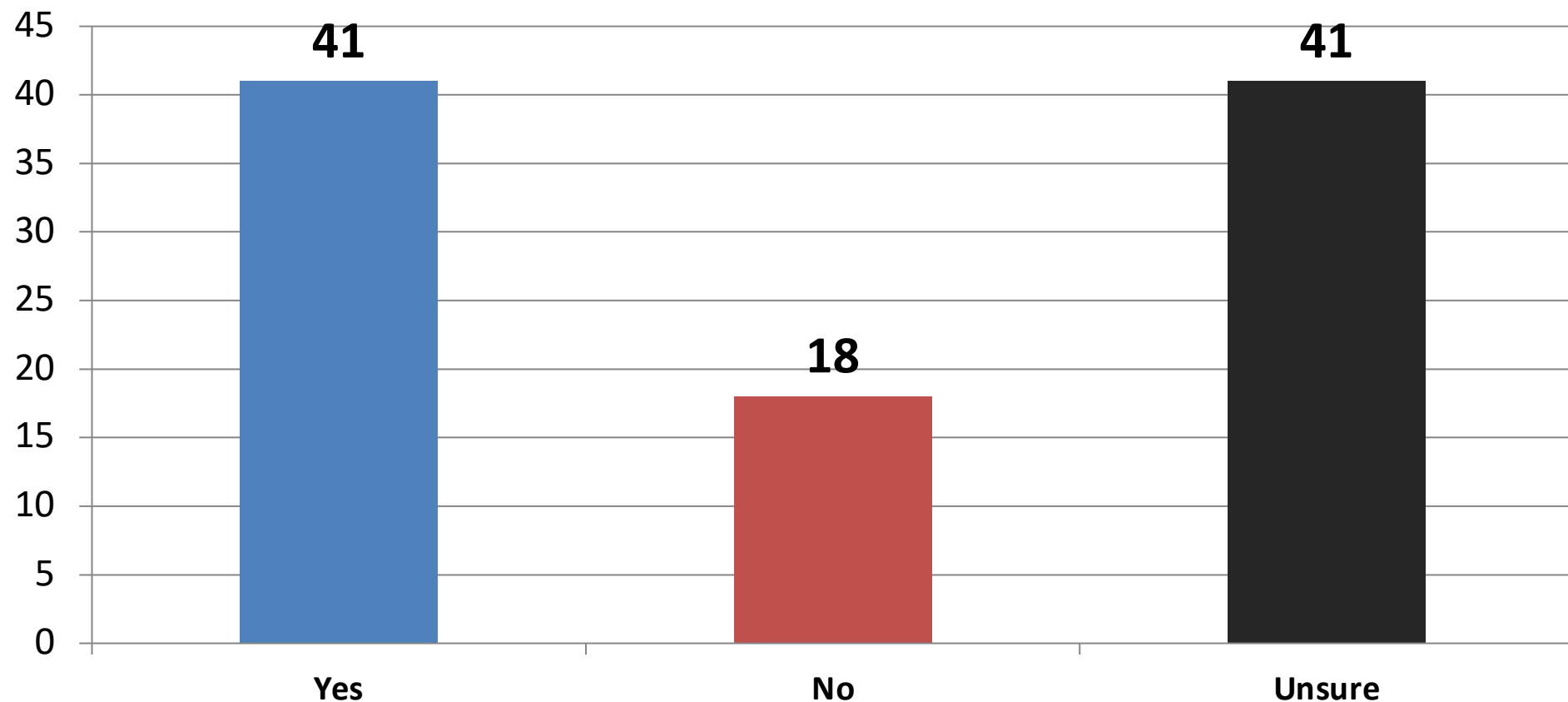
Nearly nine in ten undergraduates give their school good marks when it comes to promoting free speech.

Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of the job that your college or university is doing when it comes to promoting free speech on campus and in the classroom?



Just four in ten are aware of whether their school has speech codes.

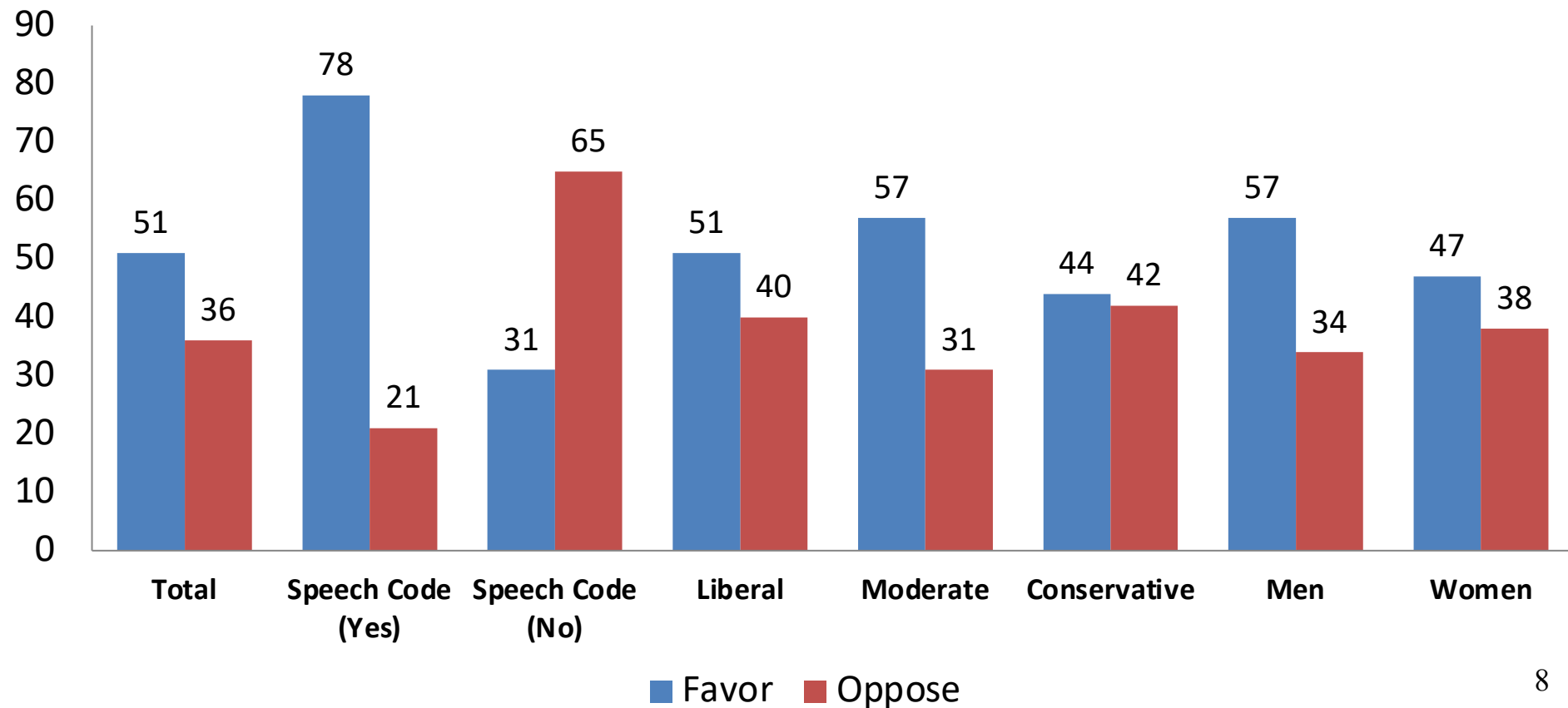
From what you know, does your college or university have speech codes to regulate speech for students and faculty?



While most approve of the job that their school is already doing when it comes to promoting free speech, about half favor speech codes.

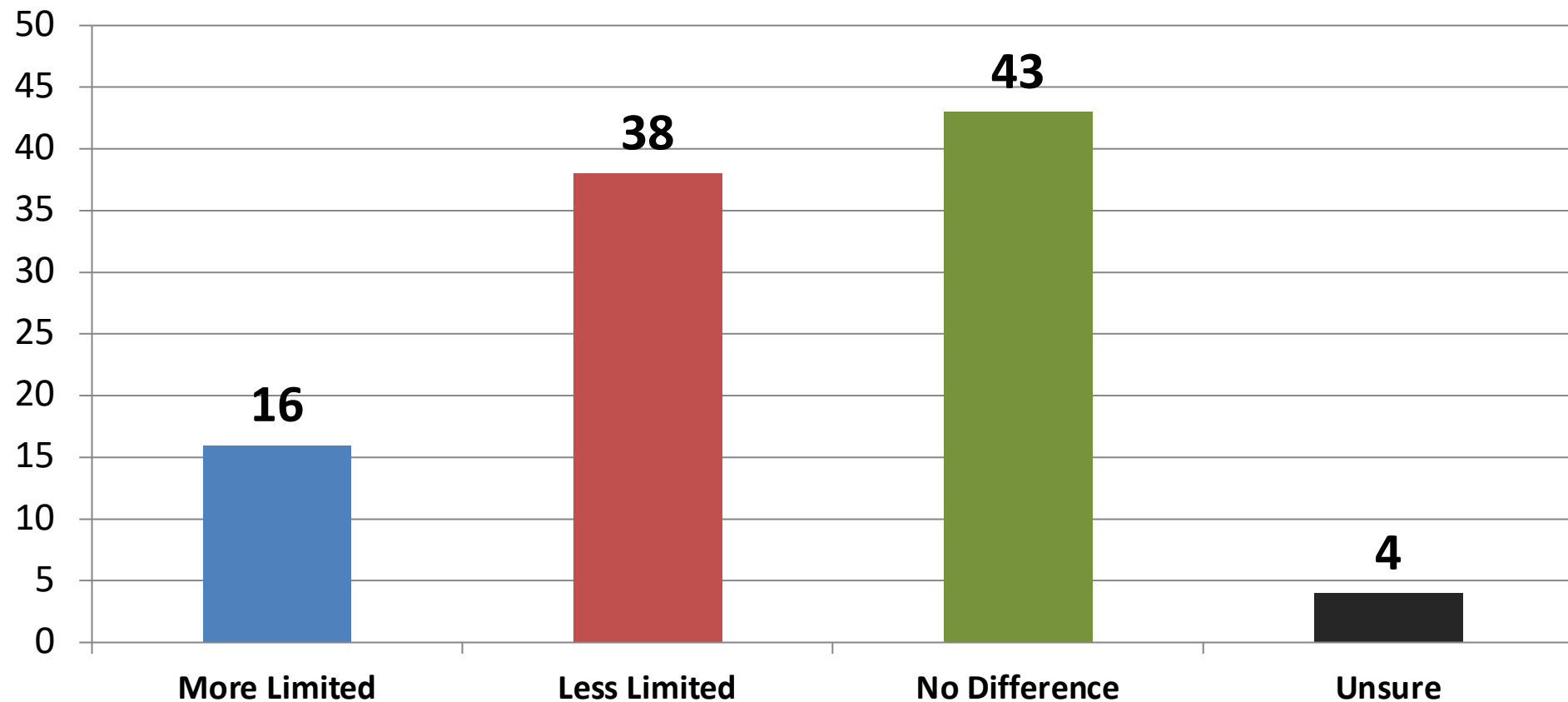
Students who are aware of speech codes at their school are much more likely to favor them.

And would you say you favor or oppose your college or university having speech codes to regulate speech for students and faculty?



Eight in ten believe that freedom of speech should either be less limited on college campuses or there should be no difference compared to society at large.

Compared to society at large, do you think freedom of speech should be more limited or less limited at colleges and universities?

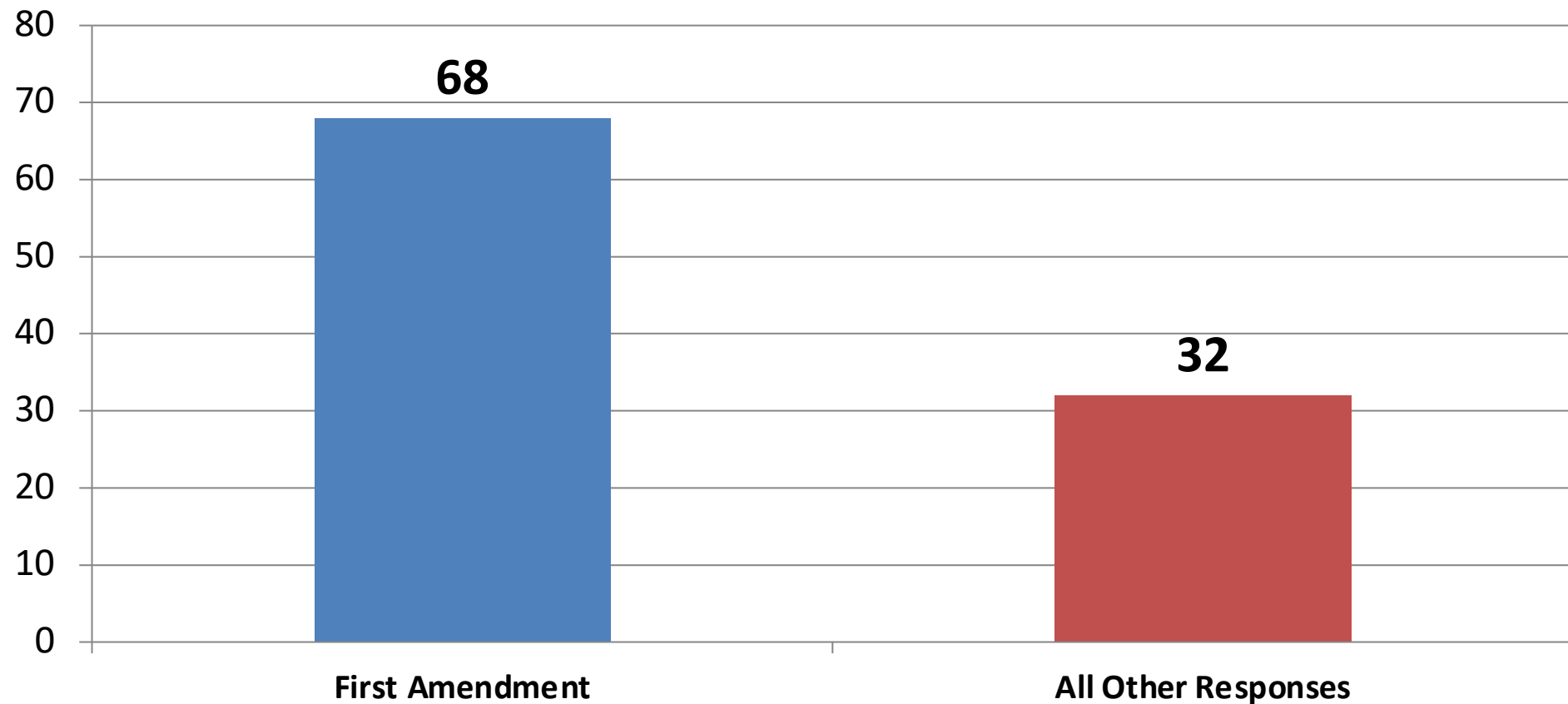


Part Two:

Free Speech and the First Amendment

Two in three students were able to correctly identify that the First Amendment encompasses freedom of speech.

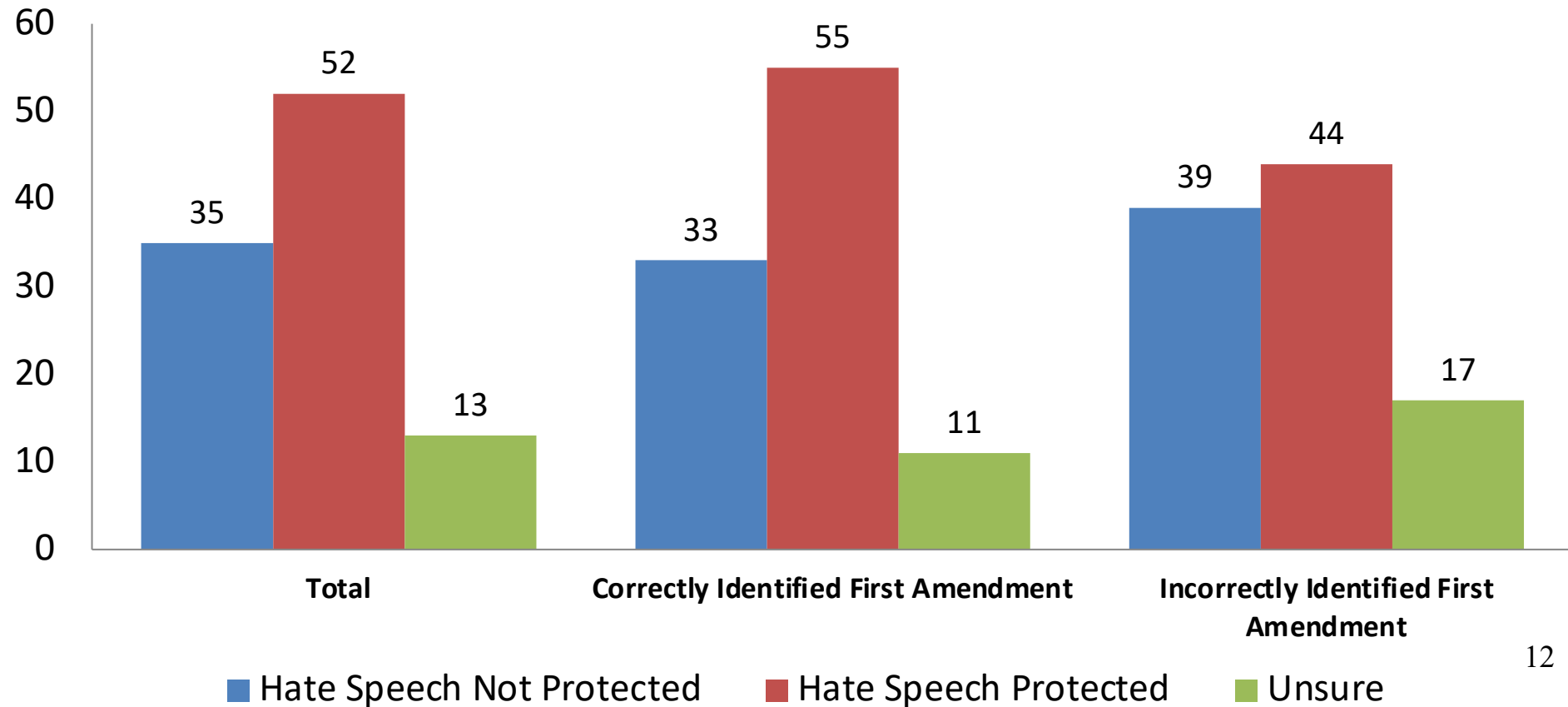
Of the 27 Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, do you know which Amendment deals specifically with freedom of speech?



Half say that the First Amendment DOES NOT make an exemption for hate speech and that ALL speech is protected under the First Amendment.

Students who were unable to connect the First Amendment to free speech are less likely to say that hate speech is protected.

From what you know, when it comes to freedom of speech, does the First Amendment make an exception for hate speech, meaning that hate speech is NOT protected under the First Amendment?



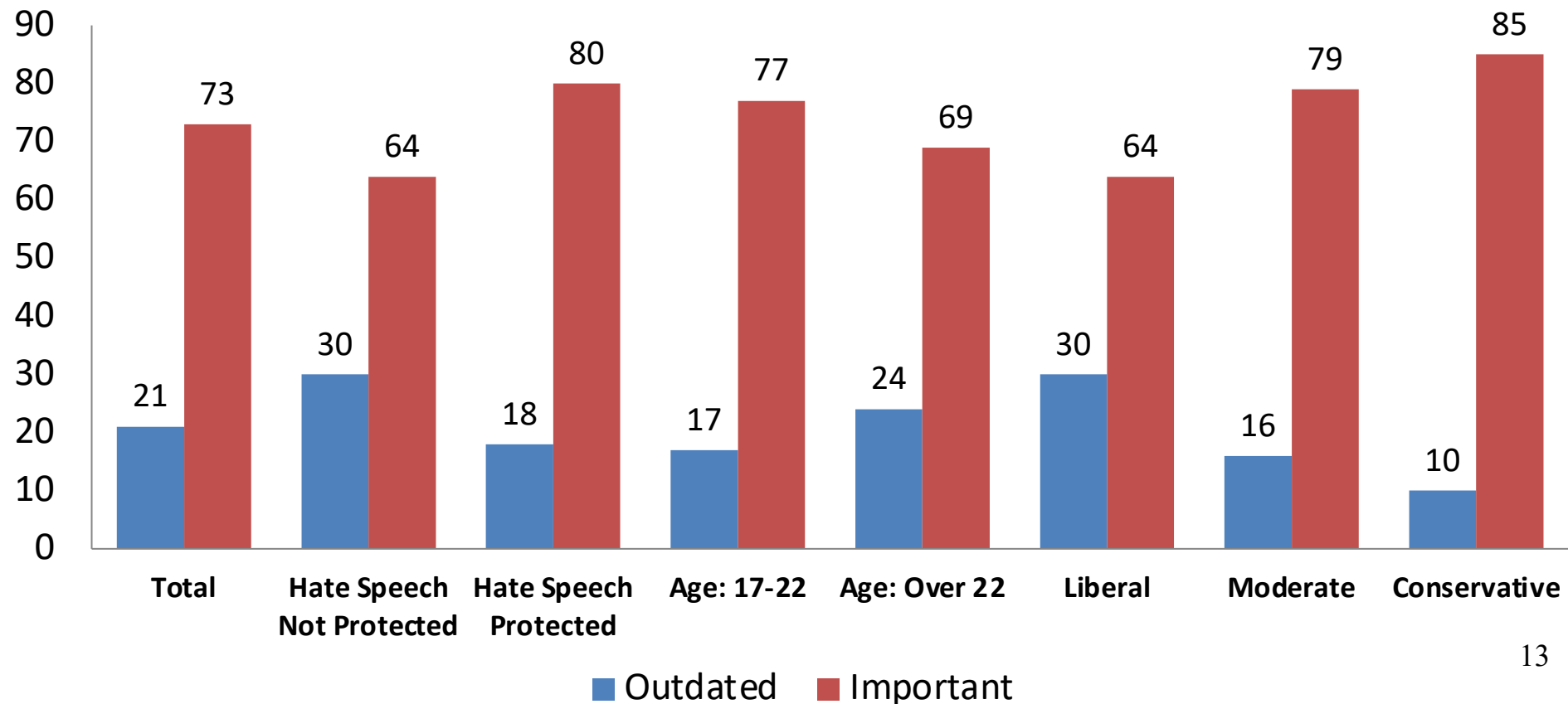
Nearly three in four say the First Amendment is an important amendment that still needs to be followed and respected in society.

Generally speaking, do you think the First Amendment, which deals with freedom of speech, is...?

An outdated amendment that can no longer be applied in today's society and should be changed

OR

An important amendment that still needs to be followed and respected in today's society



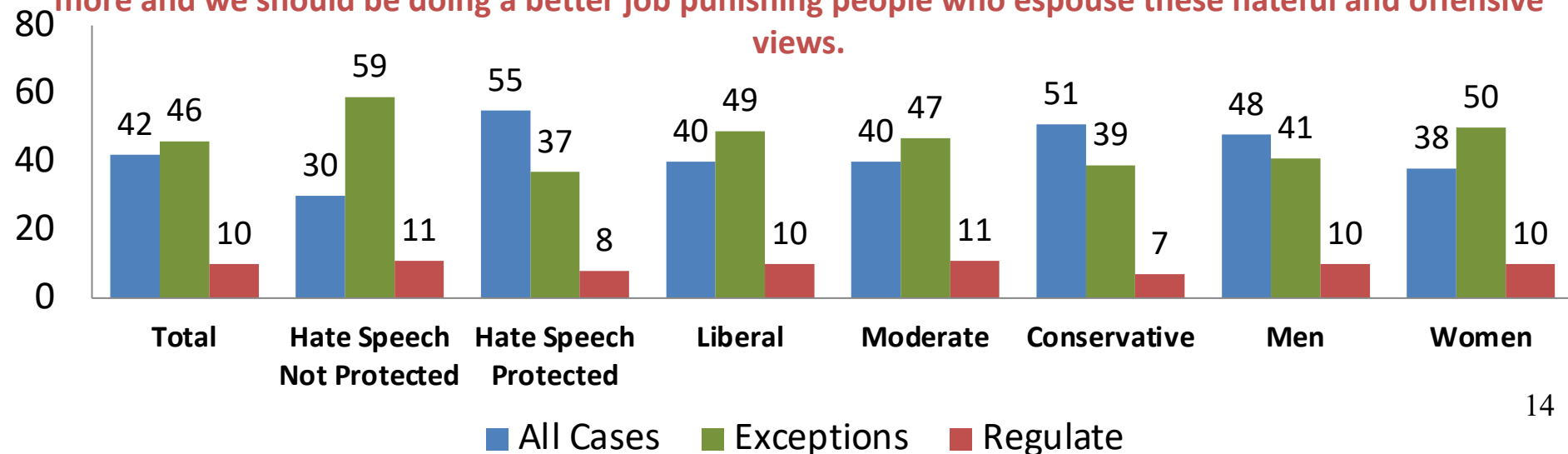
When given a list of choices, just one in ten believes colleges should regulate free speech more. A slight plurality (46%) says there are exceptions to every rule and 42% support freedom of speech in all cases.

Which of the following comes closest to your own personal opinion?

I support freedom of speech in all cases. Even though hate speech is harmful and hurtful, it is protected under the First Amendment and everyone is entitled to share his or her own opinions.

Freedom of speech is important and protected under the First Amendment, but there are exceptions to every rule. Hateful speech should not be protected under the First Amendment, just like saying “bomb” on an airplane or “fire” in a movie theater is not protected as free speech.

Too often, people are making hateful, racial, sexual and religious comments because they believe it is protected under the First Amendment. Colleges, universities and government should regulate free speech more and we should be doing a better job punishing people who espouse these hateful and offensive views.

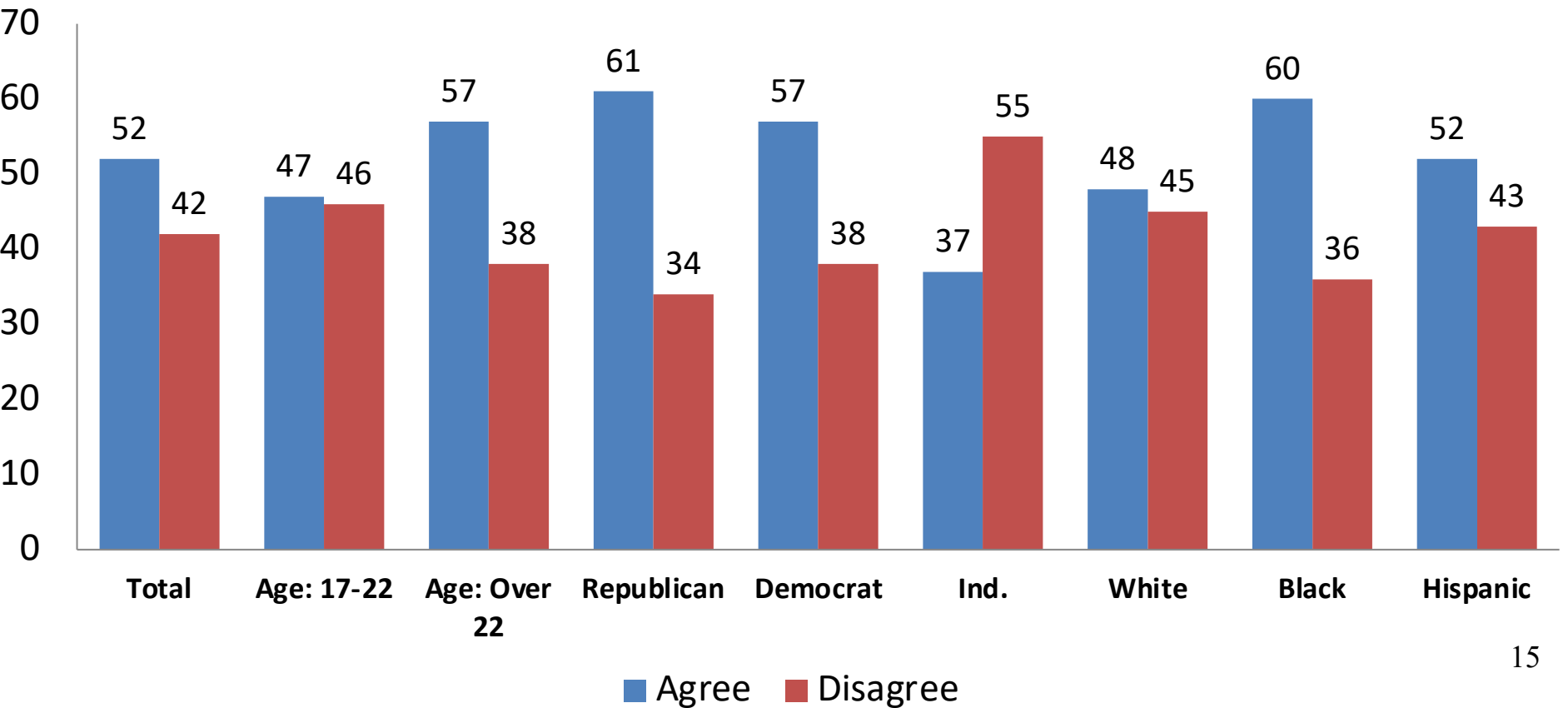


Half agree that their school should forbid speakers on campus who have a history in engaging in hate speech.

Minority students are more likely to agree with this statement than white students.

Agree/Disagree:

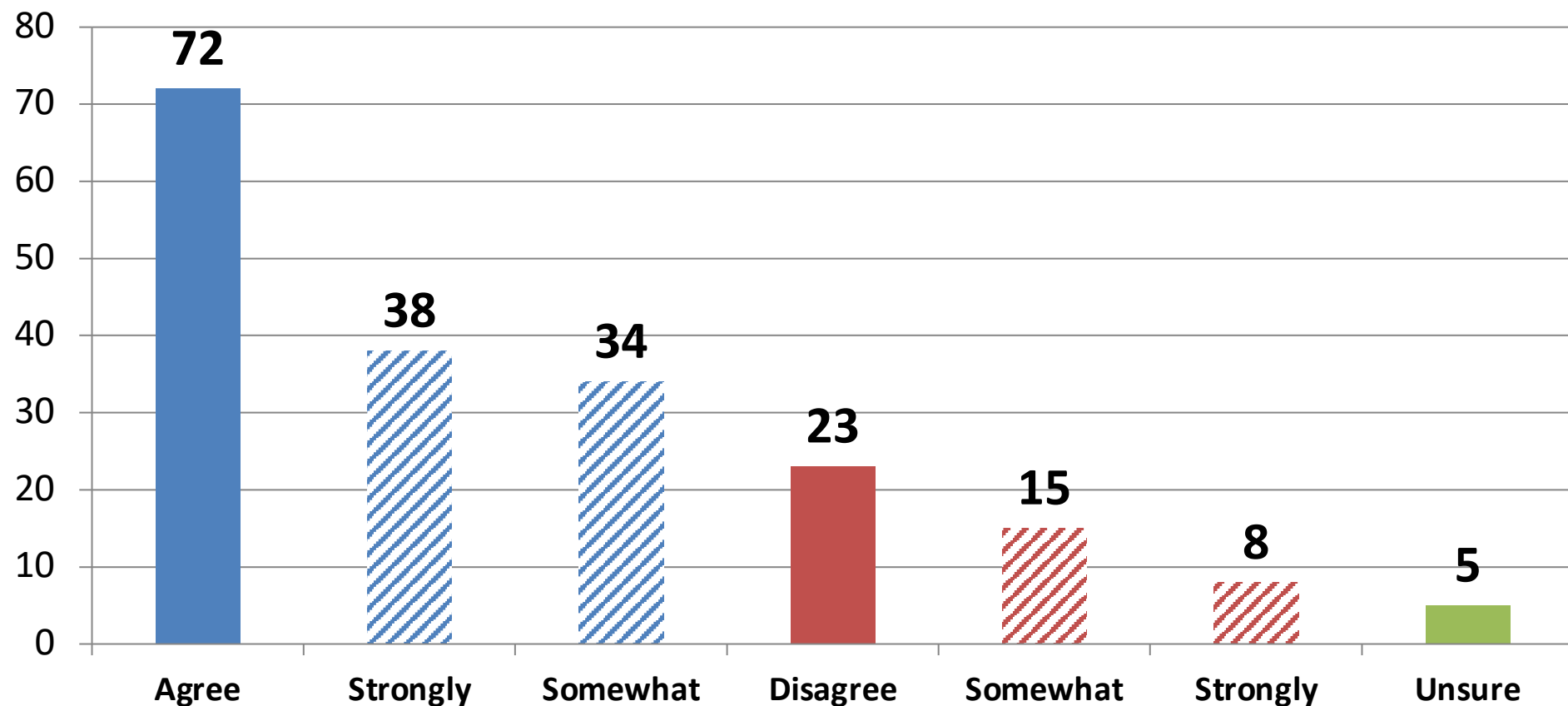
“My college or university should forbid people from speaking on campus who have a history of engaging in hate speech.”



However, students are more likely to favor disciplinary action against students or faculty members who use inappropriate or offensive language.

Agree/Disagree:

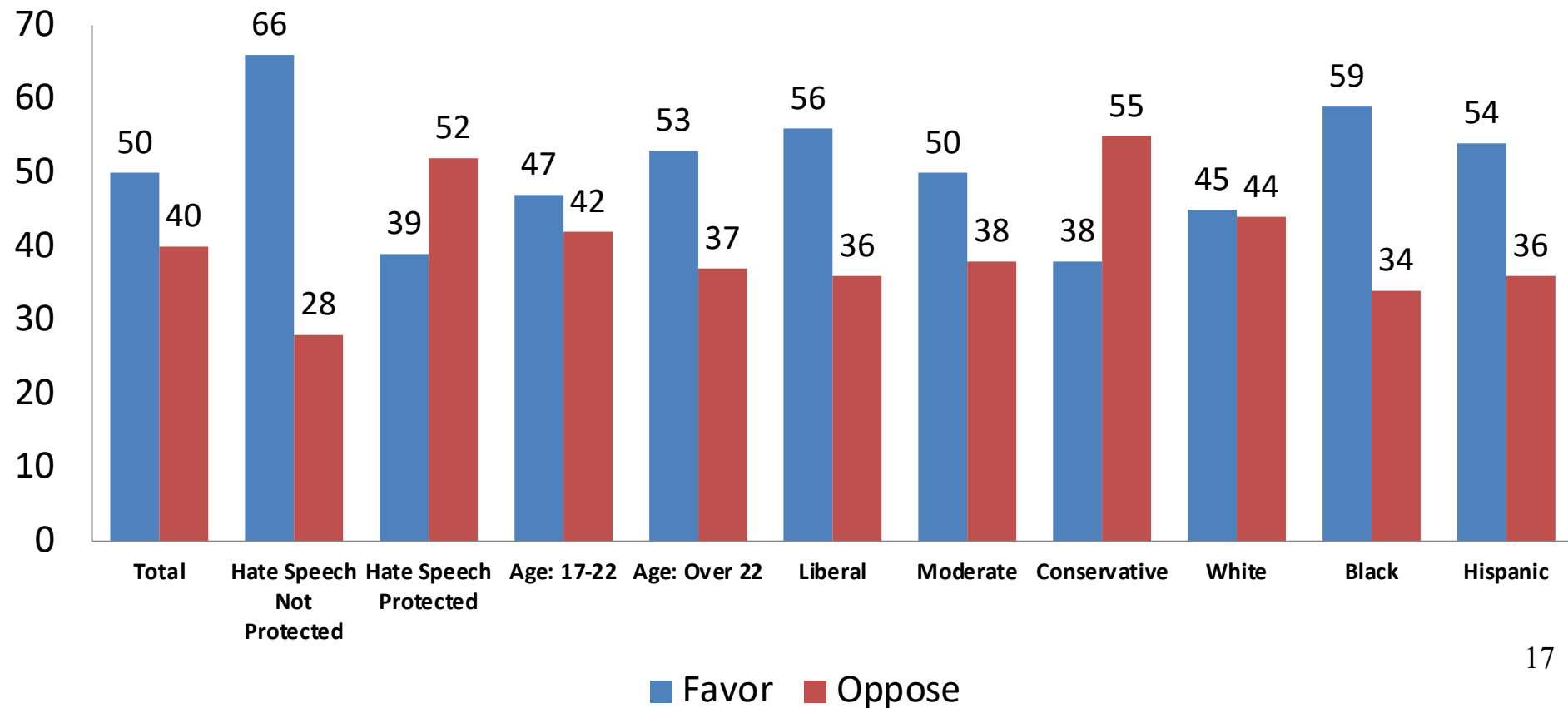
“Any student or faculty member on campus who uses language that is considered racist, sexist, homophobic or otherwise offensive should be subject to disciplinary action.”



Exactly half favor their school banning the publication of political cartoons that would criticize any particular religion or ethnicity. Still, a notable 40% oppose such a measure.

Self described liberals as well as minority students are more likely to favor this policy, as well as those who believe hate speech is NOT protected under the First Amendment.

Would you say you favor or oppose your college or university banning the publication of any political cartoons that would criticize any particular religion, religious figures or ethnic groups?

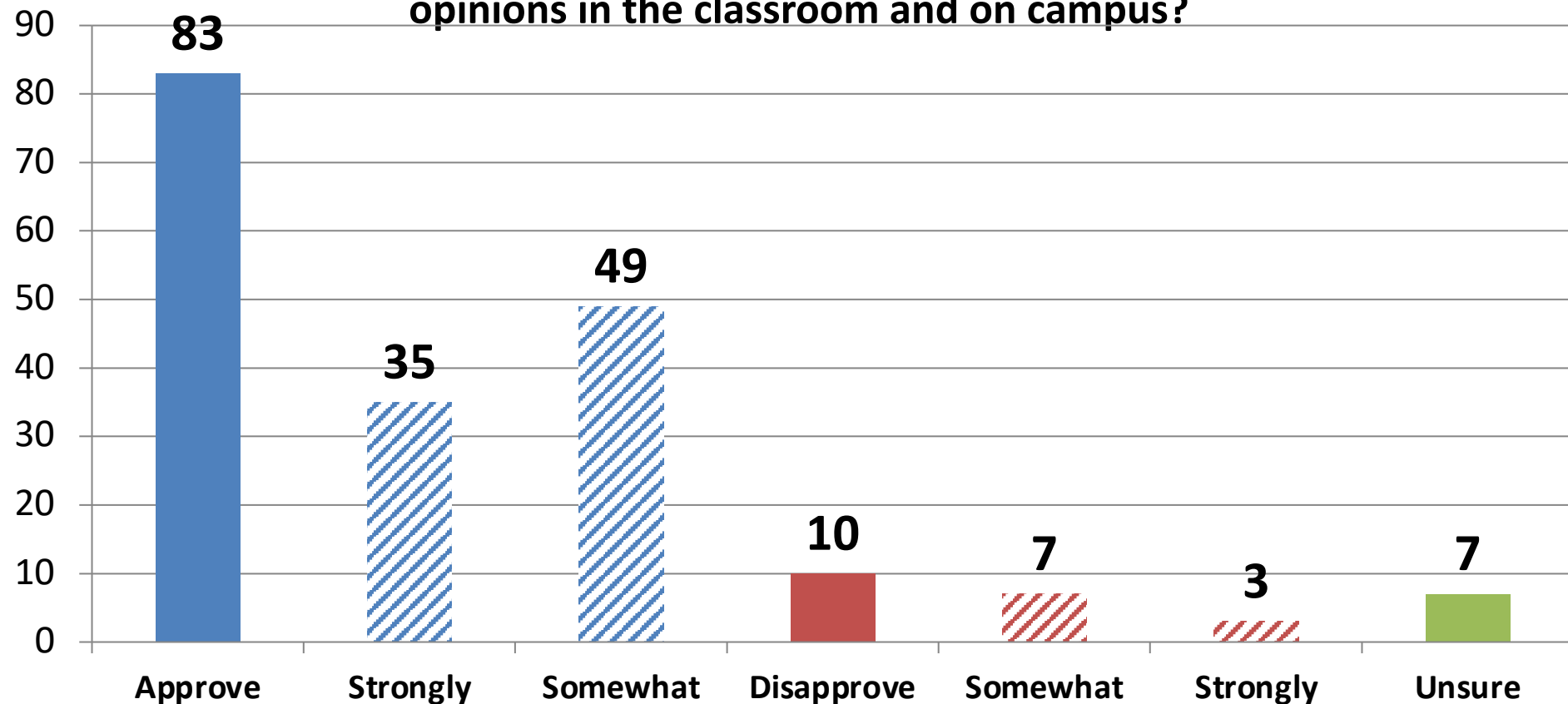


Part Three:

Intellectual Diversity on College Campuses

Greater than eight in ten approve of the job that their school is doing when it comes to promoting intellectual diversity. This 83% approval is slightly lower than the 87% who approve of their school's promotion of free speech.

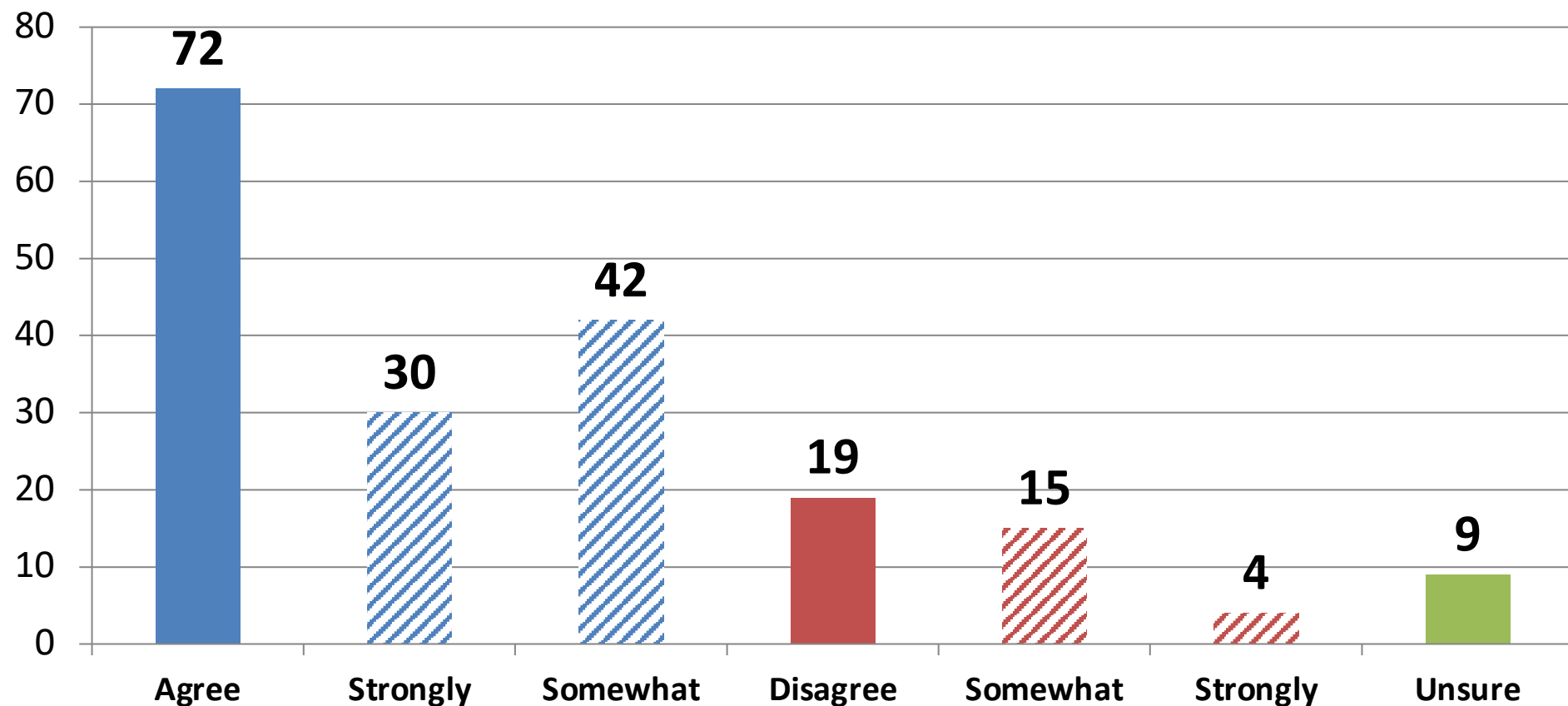
Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of the job that your college or university is doing when it comes to promoting intellectual diversity and differing opinions in the classroom and on campus?



Still, seven in ten believe their school should be doing more to promote diversity of opinion.

Agree/Disagree:

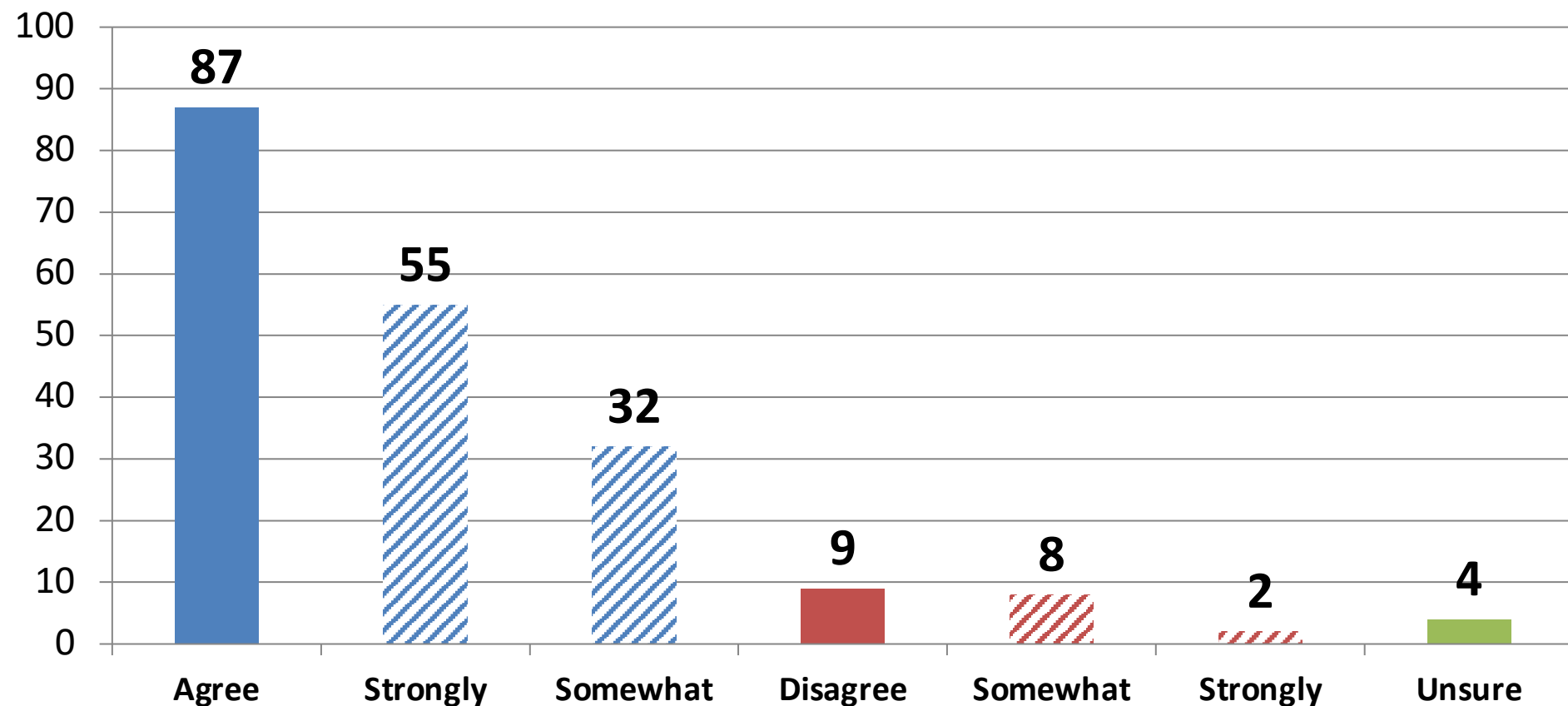
“My college or university should be doing more to promote policies that increase diversity of opinions in the classroom and on campus.”



Nearly nine in ten see the educational value in views and opinions that differ from their own.

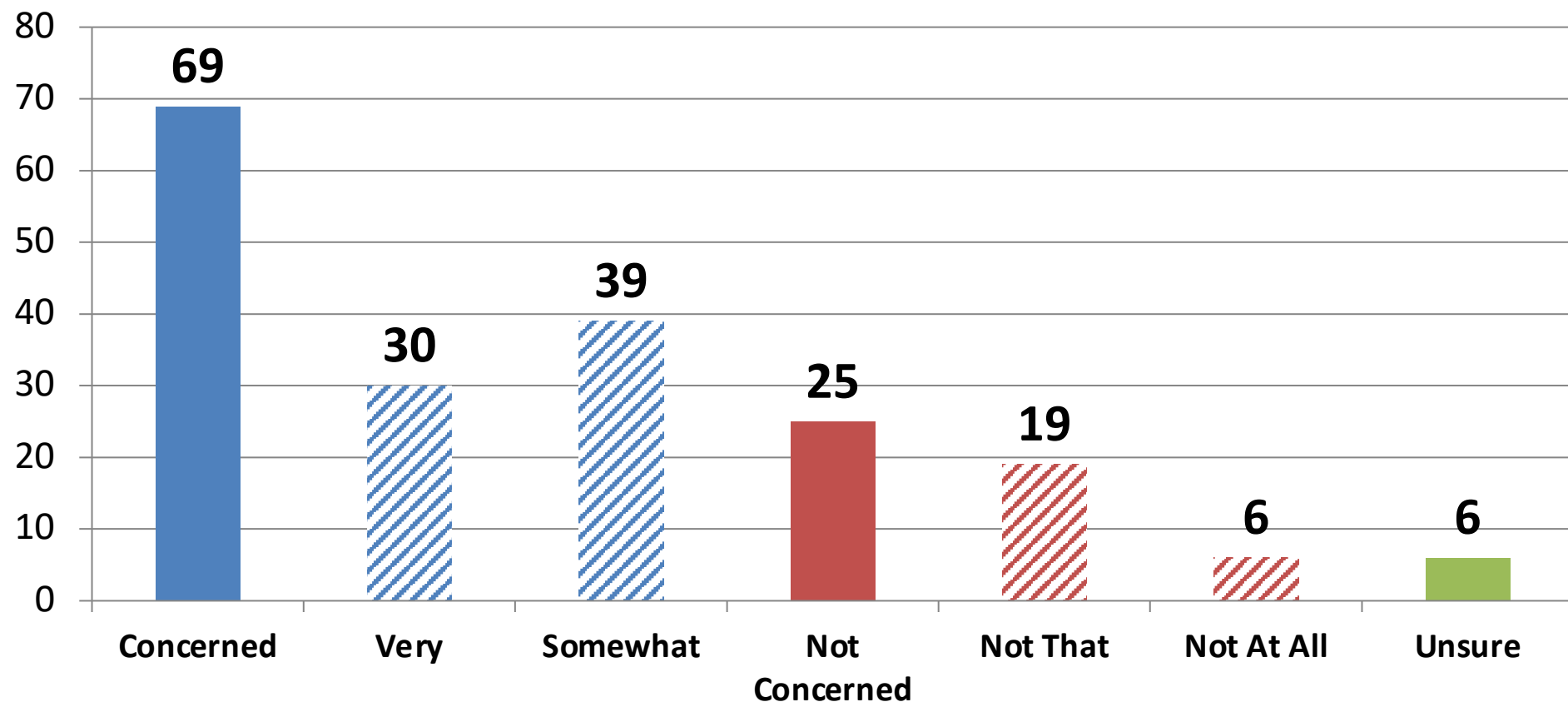
Agree/Disagree:

“There is educational value in listening to and understanding views and opinions that I may disagree with and are different from my own.”



Most students would be concerned if there was ideological and political uniformity among the faculty.

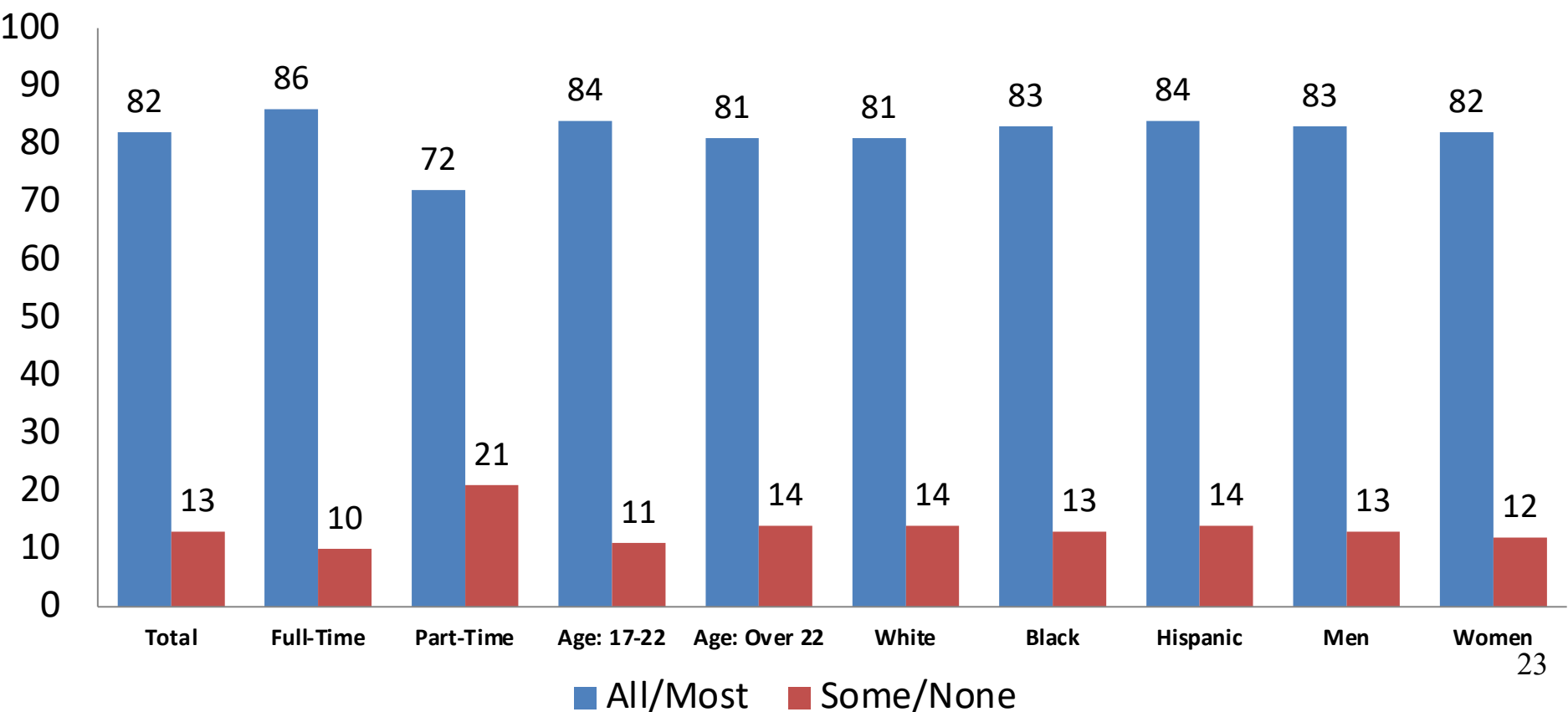
How concerned would you be if most of your professors and course instructors had the same beliefs, ideologies and political leanings?



Eight in ten say either all (30%) or most (53%) of their professors and course instructors are tolerant of diverse opinions in the classroom. Just 13% say that some or none are tolerant.

Full-time students are more likely than part-time students to say their professors are tolerant of diverse opinions.

Generally speaking, are your professors and course instructors tolerant of diverse opinions in the classroom?

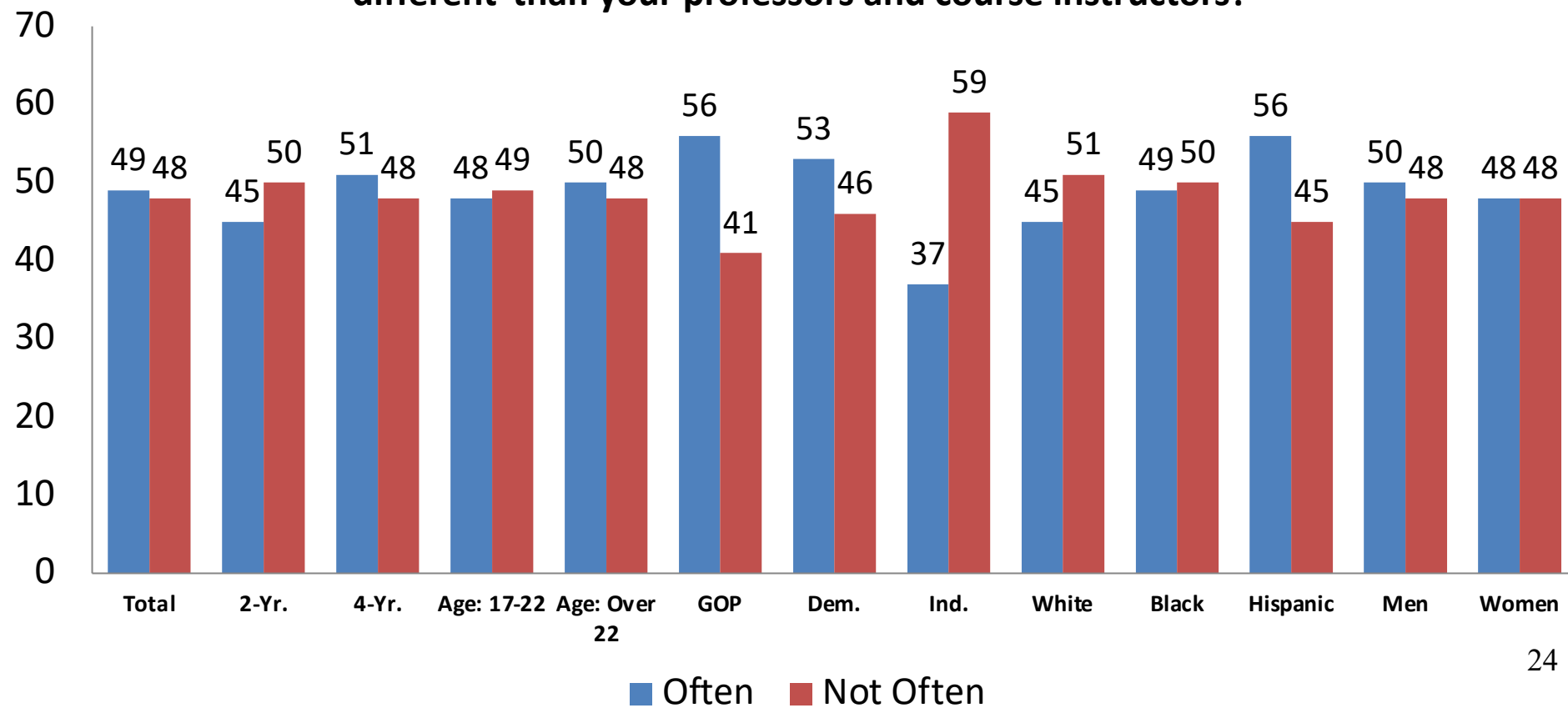


Students are more divided when it comes to sharing their ideas, opinions and beliefs.

Forty-nine percent (49%) say they have often felt intimidated to share beliefs that differ than their professors, including 14% who said “frequently” and 35% who said “sometimes.” Forty-eight percent (48%) say they have not often felt intimidated, including 26% who said “rarely” and 22% who said “never.”

Republican (56%) and Democratic (53%) students are more likely to feel intimidated to express their opinions than Independents (37%).

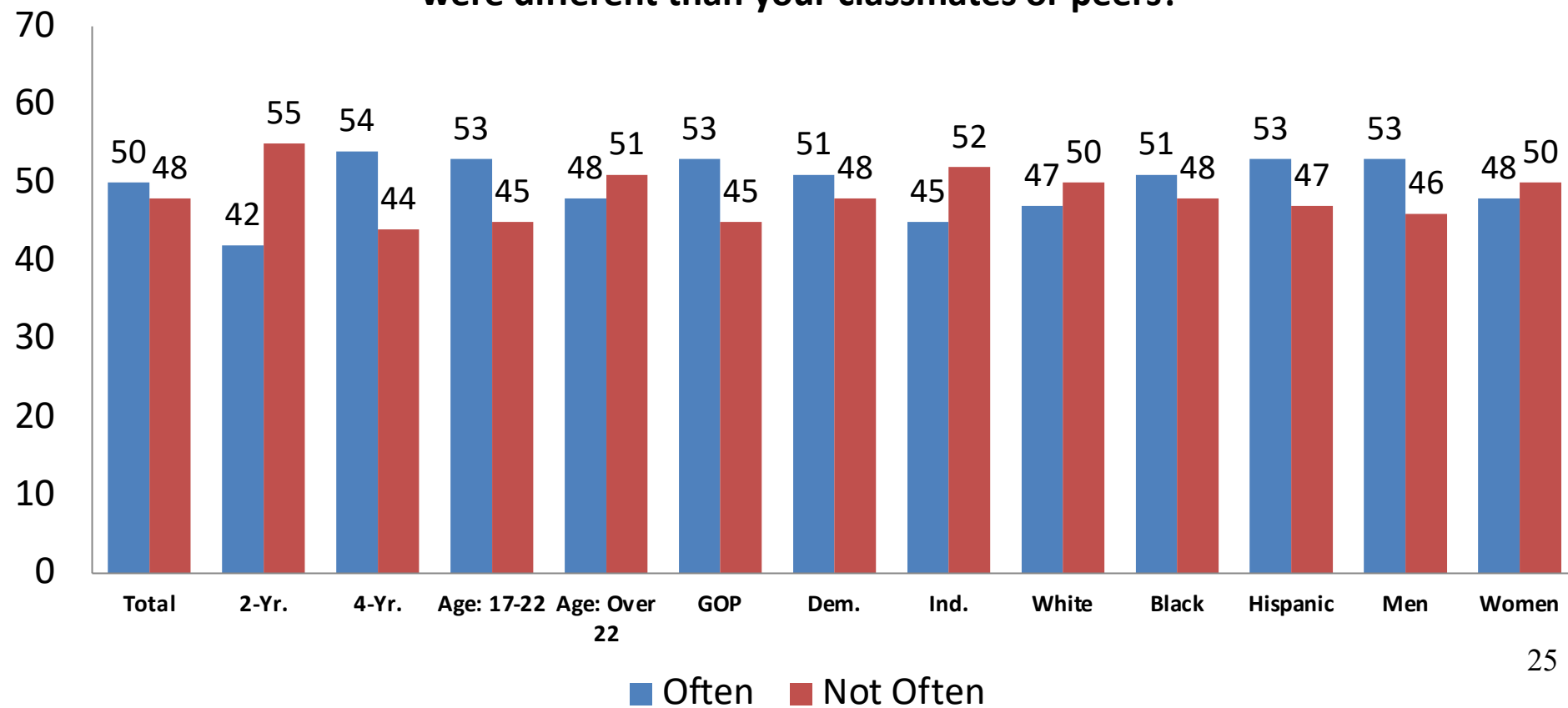
Have you felt intimidated to share your ideas, opinions or beliefs in class because they were different than your professors and course instructors?



Students continue to be divided when it comes to sharing ideas, opinions and beliefs that are different than their classmates.

Exactly half (50%) say they have often felt intimidated to share beliefs that differ than their classmates, including 16% who said “frequently” and 34% who said “sometimes.” Forty-eight percent (48%) say they have not often felt intimidated, including 27% who said “rarely” and 21% who said “never.”

And have you felt intimidated to share your ideas, opinions or beliefs in class because they were different than your classmates or peers?

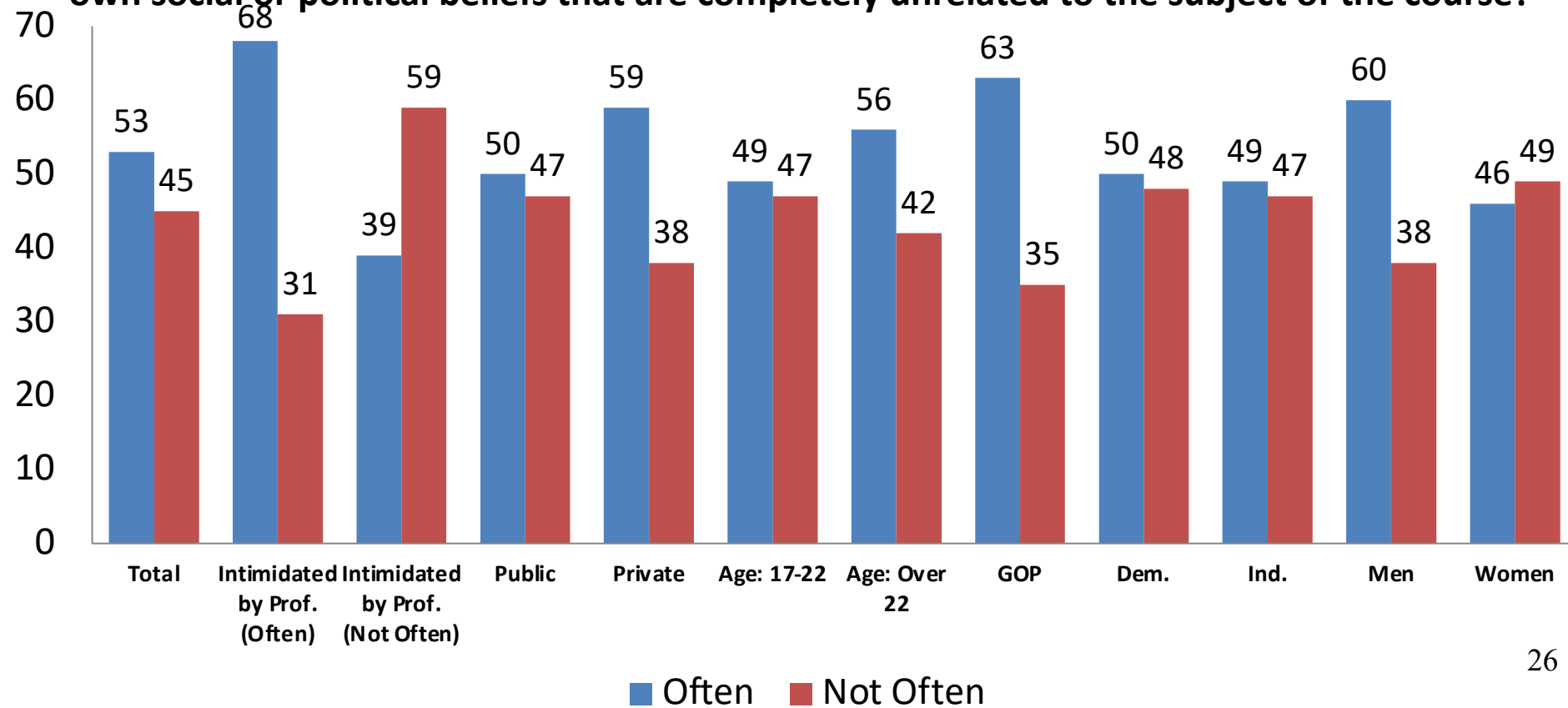


The majority of students (53%) says their professors have often used class time to express their own views, including 14% who say “frequently” and 38% who say “sometimes.” Forty-five percent (45%) say their professors do not often express their views in class.

Students who said they often felt intimidated to express views that were different than their professors were much more likely to say that their professors have used class time to express their own views.

Private school students are also more likely than public school students to feel this way, 59% to 50%, respectively.

Have you had any professors or course instructors that have used class time to express their own social or political beliefs that are completely unrelated to the subject of the course?



By a nearly two to one margin, students said their school is generally more tolerant of liberal ideas and beliefs than conservative ideas and beliefs. Thirty-six percent (36%) said their school was equally tolerant of both.

Private school students are more likely than public school students to say their school is more tolerant of liberal ideas, 43% to 35%, respectively.

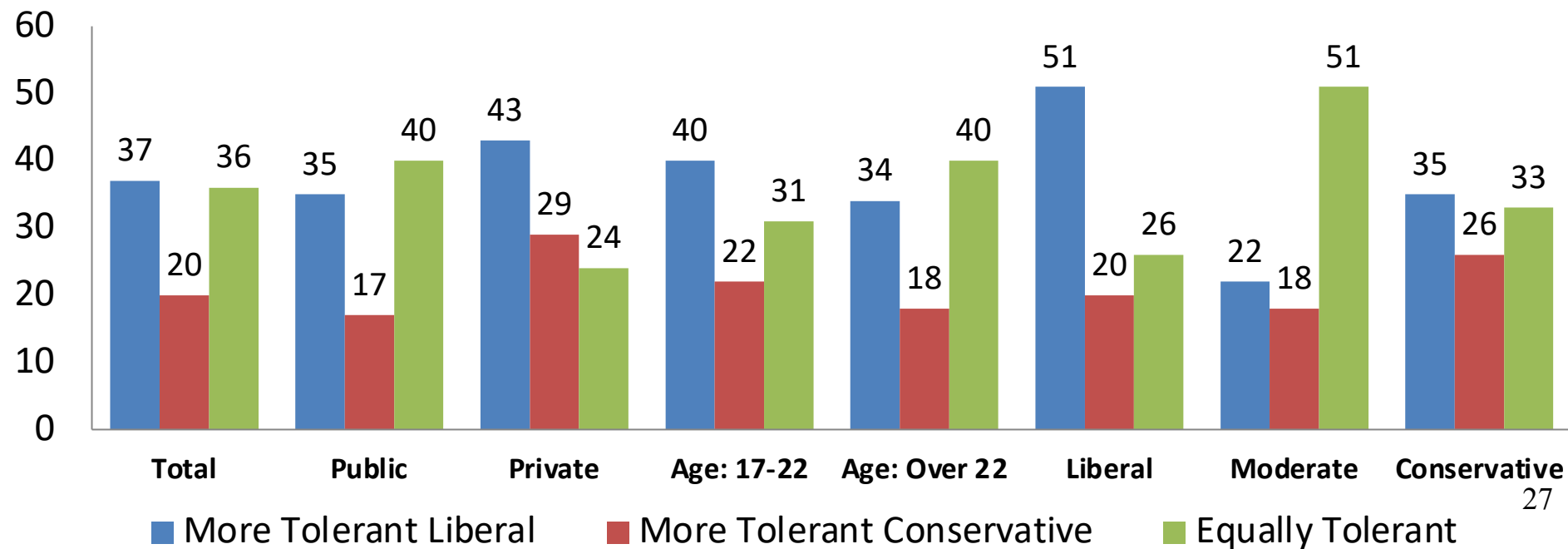
Would you say your college or university in general is...?

More tolerant of liberal ideas and beliefs

More tolerant of conservative ideas and beliefs

OR

Equally tolerant of both liberal and conservative ideas and beliefs



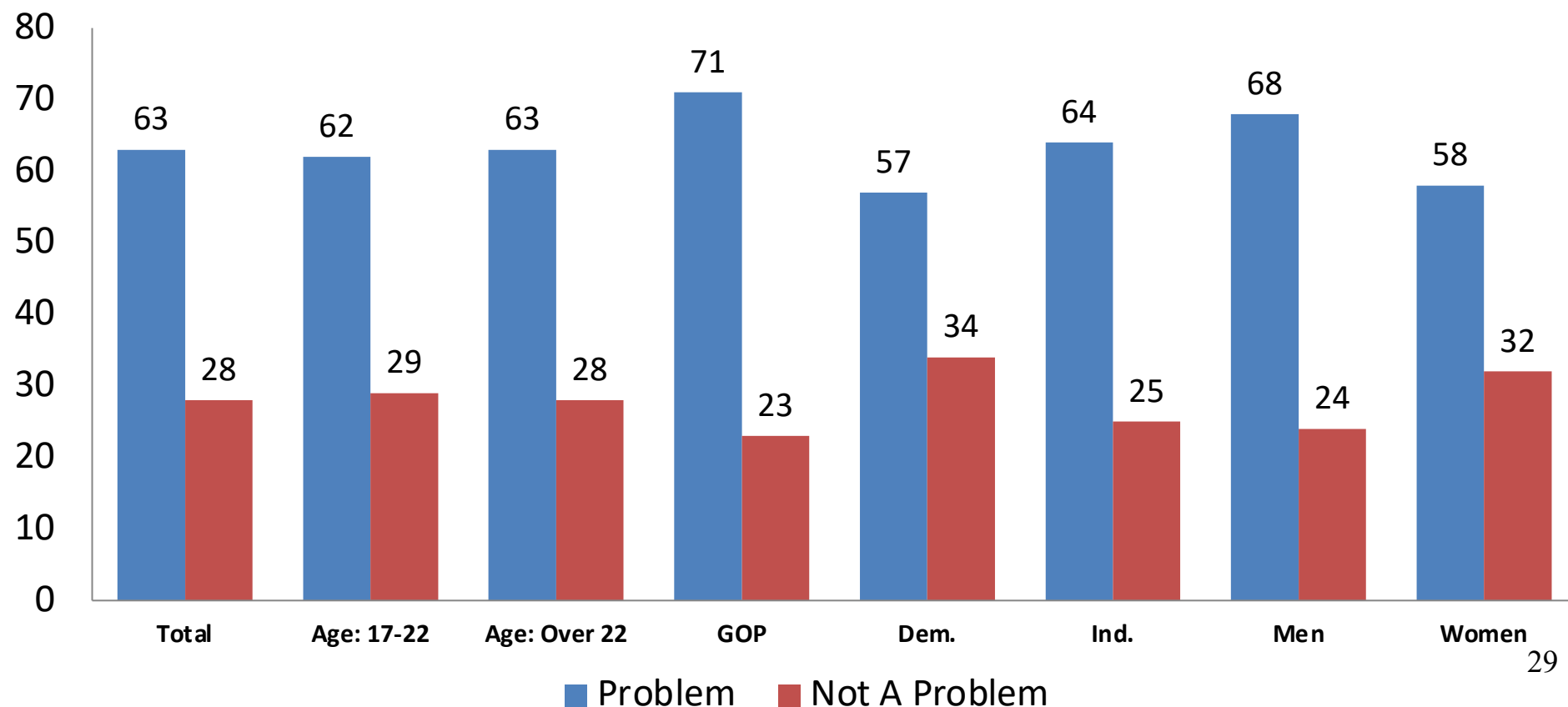
Part Four:

Political Correctness and “Trigger Warnings”

Greater than six in ten say political correctness on college campuses is either a “big problem” (19%) or “somewhat of a problem” (44%).

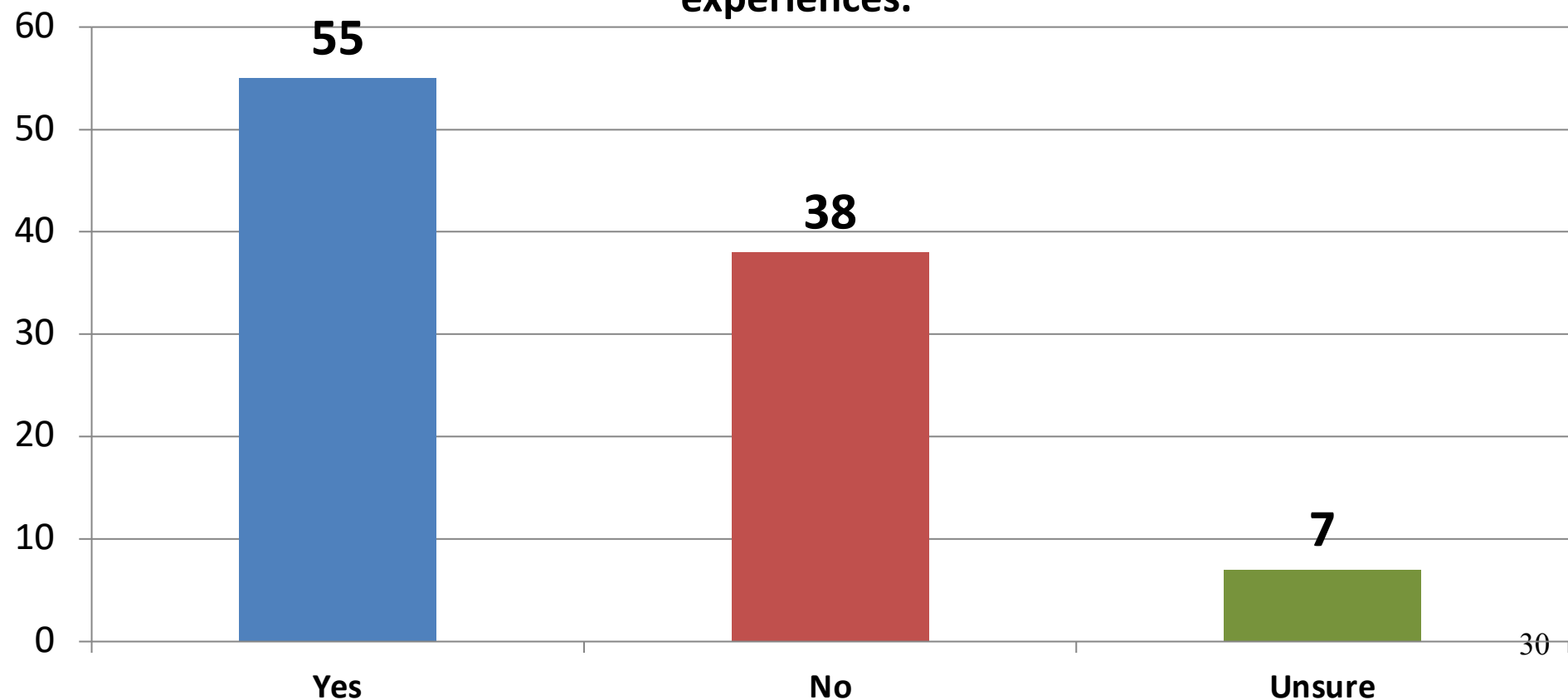
Recently, comedians like Jerry Seinfeld, Chris Rock and Larry the Cable Guy have discussed the growing trend among comedians who have avoided college campuses for fear of backlash over so-called “political correctness.”

Do you think political correctness on college campuses is...?



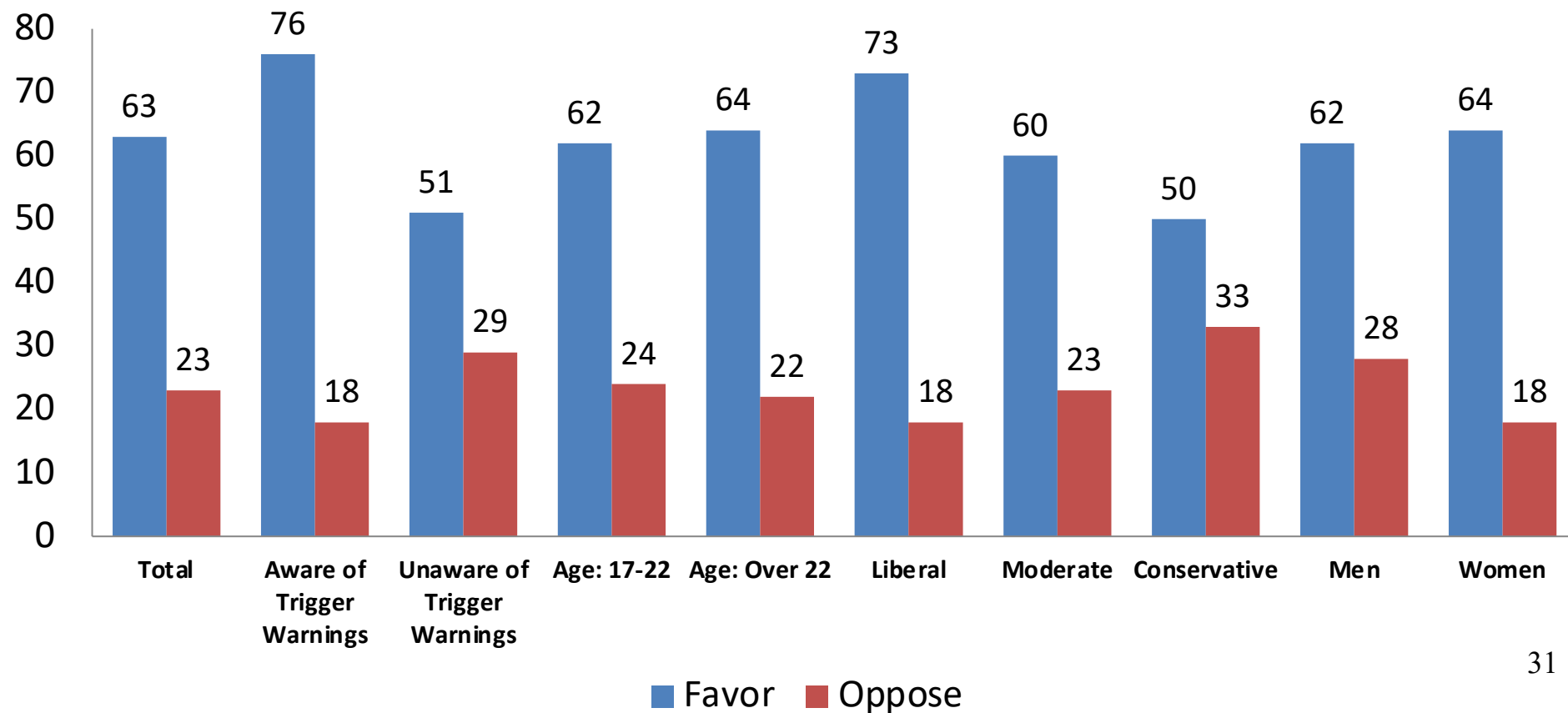
The majority of students says they are aware of “trigger warnings.”

Are you familiar with so-called “trigger warnings”? “Trigger warnings” are disclaimers provided by professors and instructors for certain course material containing anything that might “trigger” difficult emotional responses for students by causing them to recall a previous traumatic memory. These warnings serve to not offend any students’ sensibilities if the material challenges their values, beliefs and experiences.



Greater than six in ten would favor their professors using “trigger warnings” in the classroom.

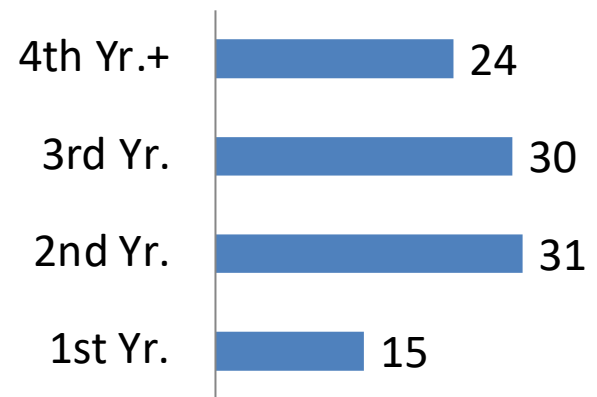
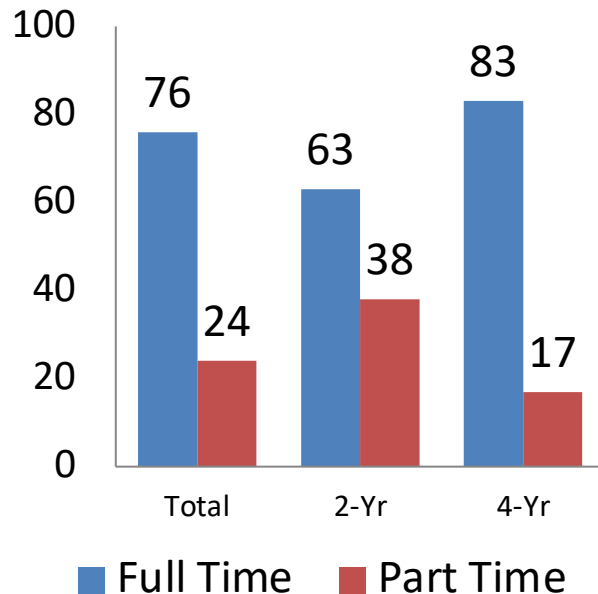
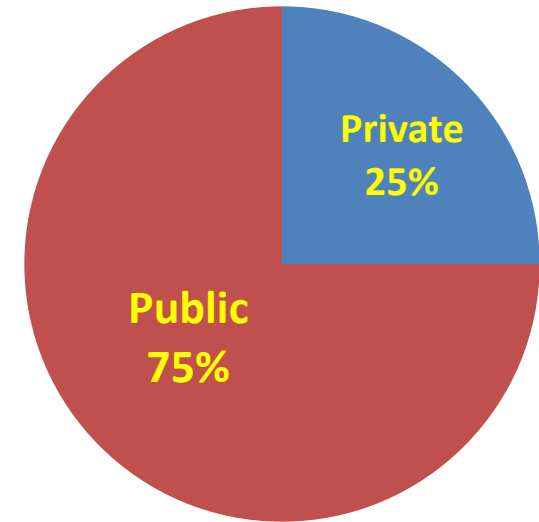
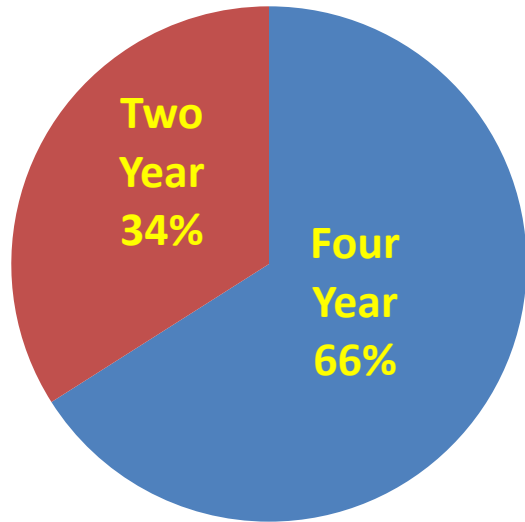
Regardless of whether or not you have heard of “trigger warnings,” do you favor or oppose your professors and instructors using “trigger warnings”?



Part Five:

Characteristics and Demographics of Undergraduates

Undergraduate Characteristics



**Asked Only To 4-Yr. Full-Time Students*

Which of the following best describes your coursework...?

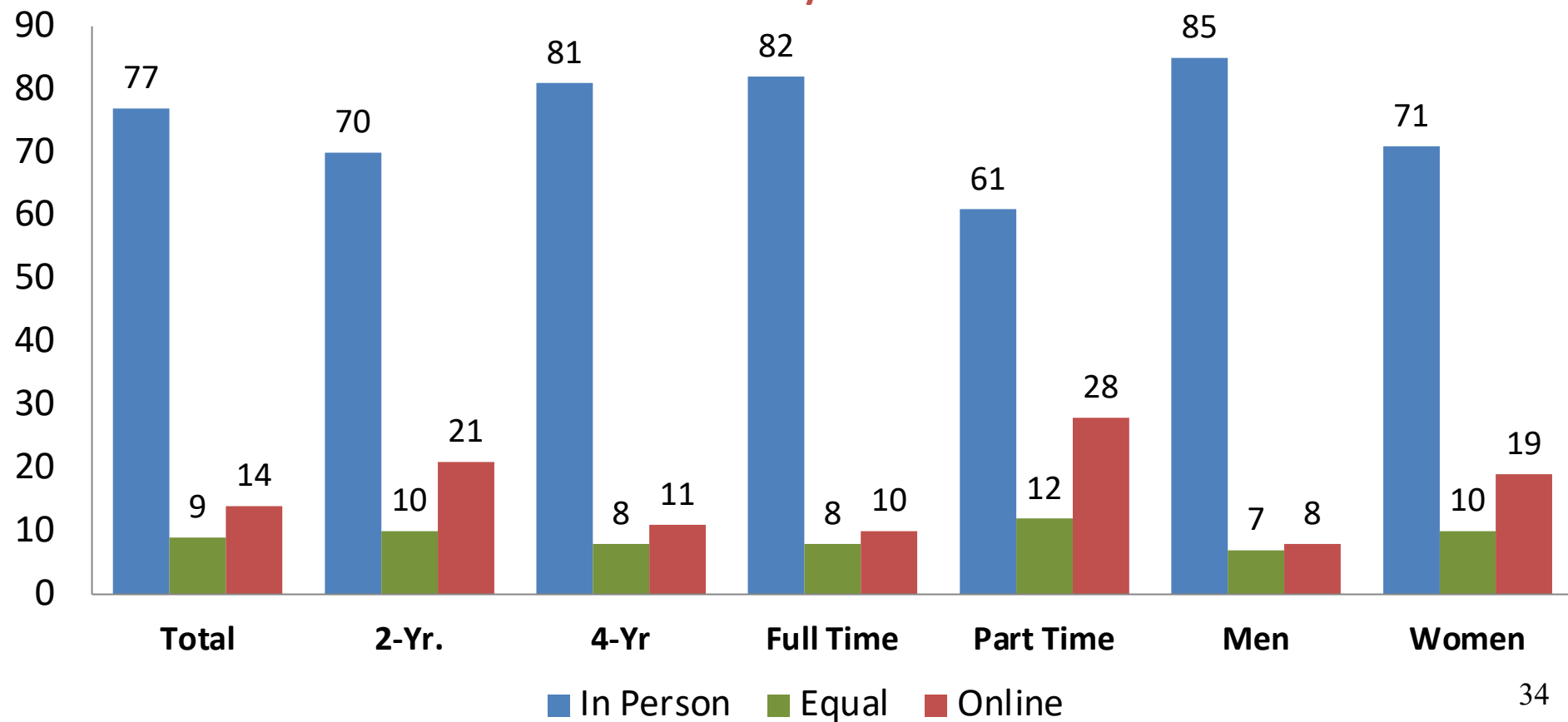
I take ALL of my classes in person

I take MOST of my classes in person, but some online

I take an EQUAL amount of classes in person and online

I take MOST of my classes online, but some in person

I take ALL of my classes online



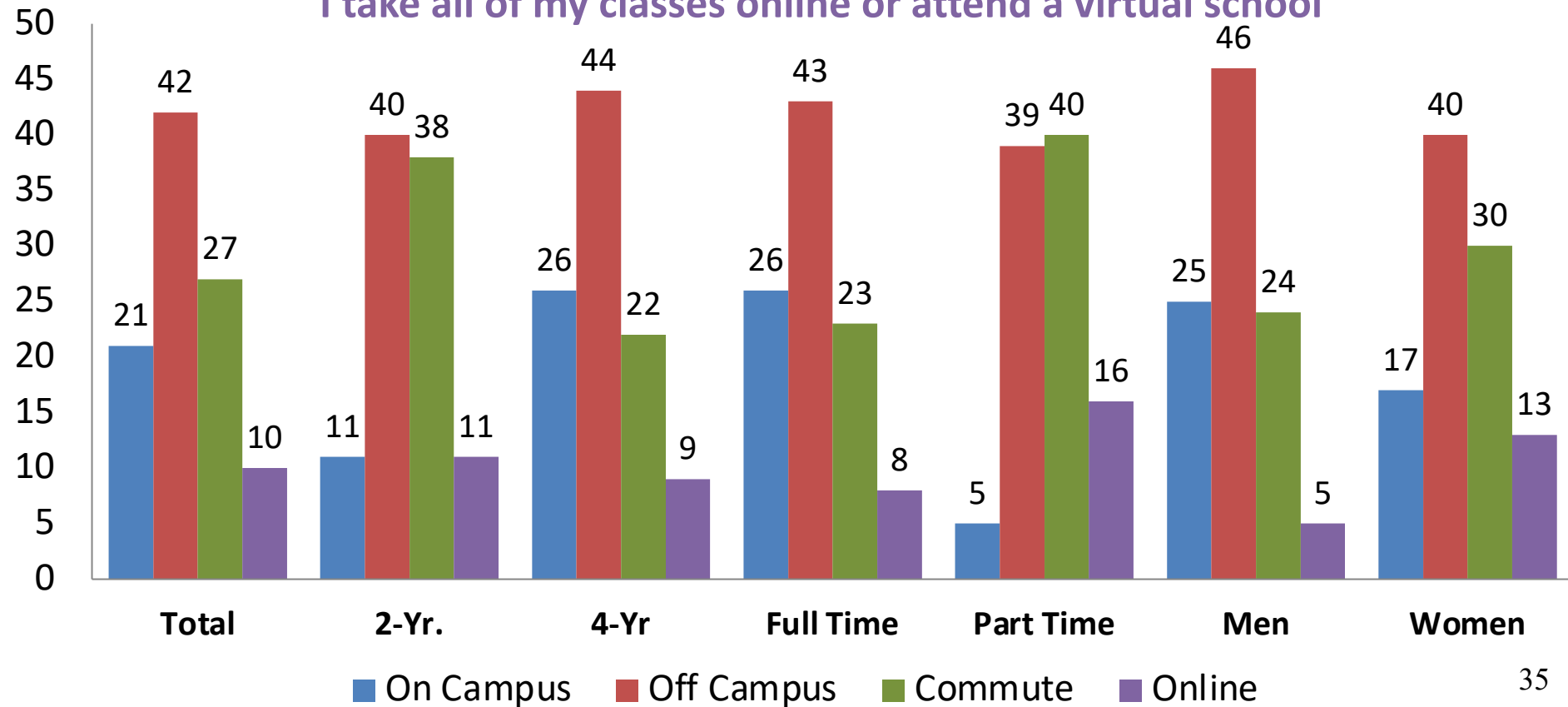
Which of the following best describes you?

I live on-campus

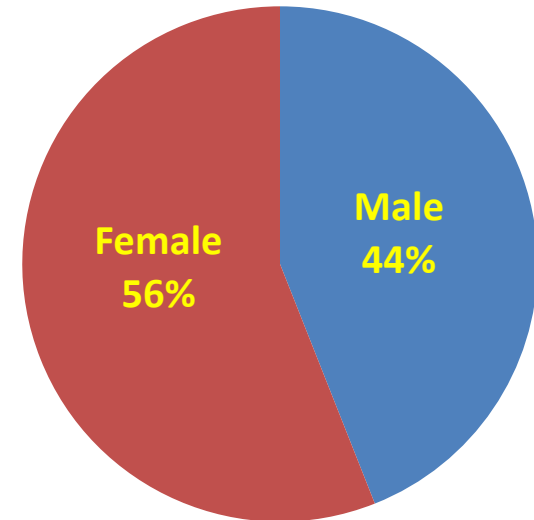
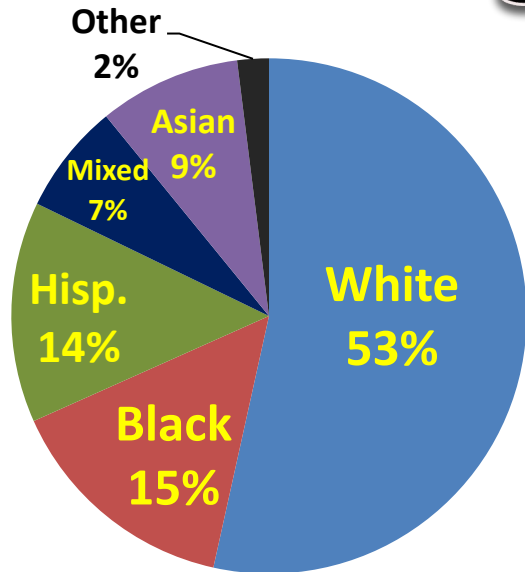
I live off-campus, but live nearby

I commute to campus by car or public transportation

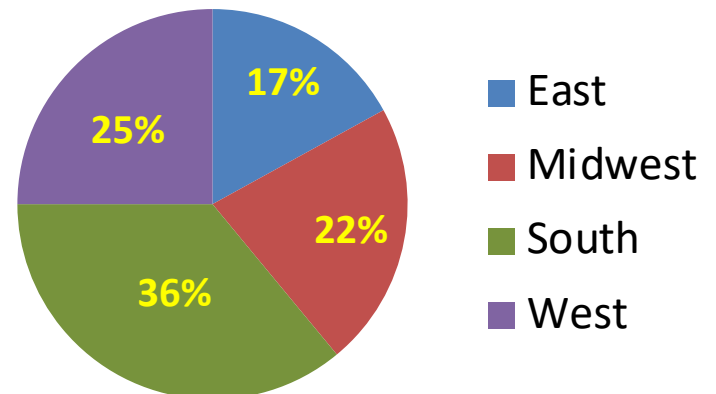
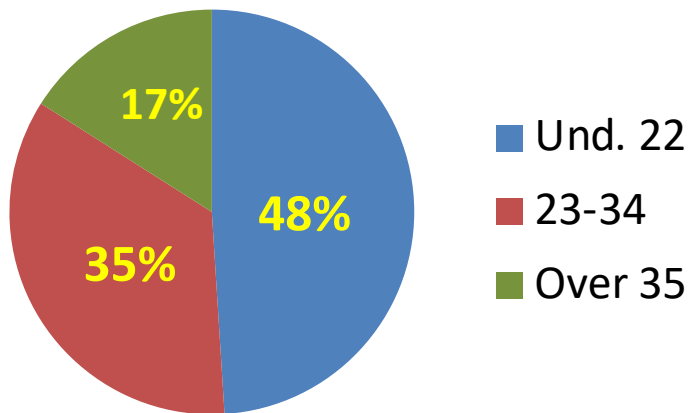
I take all of my classes online or attend a virtual school



Demographic Profiles



School Location

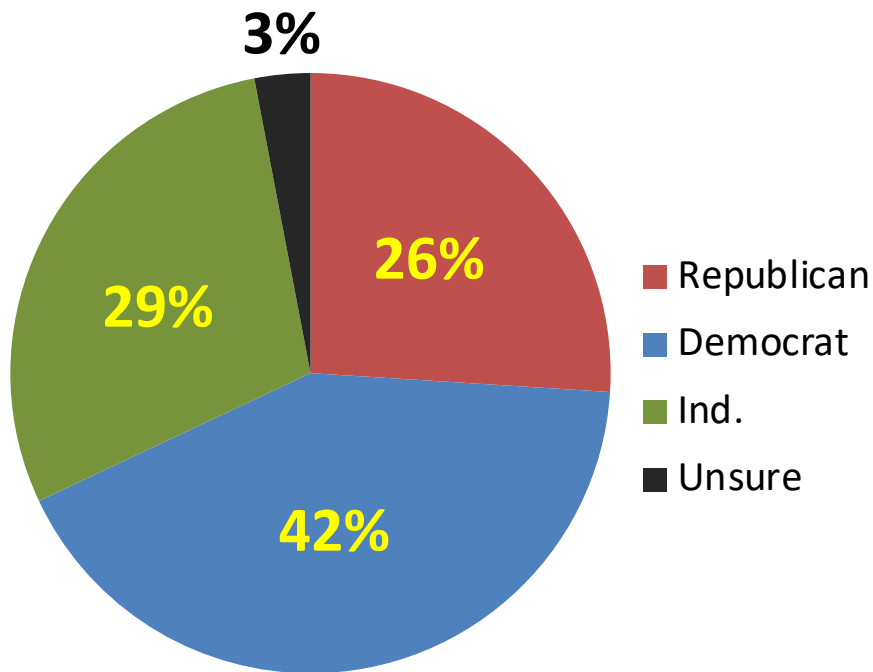


Demographic Comparisons

<u>School</u>	<u>Actual Population</u>	<u>Survey Percentage</u>
Full-Time	63%	76%
Part-Time	37%	24%
<u>School</u>	<u>Actual Population</u>	<u>Survey Percentage</u>
2-Year	40%	34%
4-Year	60%	66%
<u>School</u>	<u>Actual Population</u>	<u>Survey Percentage</u>
Public	76%	75%
Private	24%	25%
<u>Gender</u>	<u>Actual Population</u>	<u>Survey Percentage</u>
Male	44%	44%
Female	56%	56%
<u>Age</u>	<u>Actual Population</u>	<u>Survey Percentage</u>
Under 22	52%	49%
23-34	34%	35%
Over 35	14%	16%
<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>	<u>Actual Population</u>	<u>Survey Percentage</u>
White	57%	54%
Black	14%	15%
Hispanic	16%	14%
Asian	6%	8%
Mixed	3%	7%

Political Profiles

Party Affiliation



Ideology

