

Washington Residents' Attitudes Toward Wildlife Management



Study Conducted for the
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

2022



 **RESPONSIVE
MANAGEMENT**

WASHINGTON RESIDENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARD WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

2022

Responsive Management National Office

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to determine residents' attitudes toward wildlife management in the state. More specifically, the study assessed residents' experiences with wildlife that cause problems, their attitudes toward predator management, and their support for or opposition to hunting in general and as a means of game and predator population sustainability. The study also includes trends analyses, in which results of this study are compared to those from similar studies conducted in Washington in the past. To accomplish these objectives, the study entailed a scientific, multi-modal survey of Washington residents, age 18 and older.

The telephone and online survey questionnaires were developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and WDFW. The survey was computer coded for both telephone surveying and online surveying. Researchers utilized a scientific, probability-based telephone sample to ensure that all adult Washington residents had an equal chance of being selected for the telephone phase of the survey. The survey was stratified by six management regions, and the telephone sample was supplemented by an online sample of adult Washington residents to ensure that enough questionnaires were collected in each region for statistically valid results.

The survey was conducted in January and February 2021. Using both survey modes, Responsive Management obtained 965 completed surveys of Washington residents.

The analysis of data was performed using IBM SPSS Statistics as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management. Results were weighted by age and gender within each region to match U.S. Census proportions, and then the regions were weighted to be in their proper proportions for statewide data.

PARTICIPATION IN OUTDOOR RECREATION

Two thirds of Washington residents (66%) are satisfied with the variety of options to enjoy fish and wildlife resources throughout the state; 37% are *very* satisfied. This compares to only 9% who are dissatisfied.

A majority of residents participated in hiking (65% did so) and wildlife viewing (56%) in Washington in the past 2 years, and 4% of residents hunted in Washington in the past 12 months.

RECREATION ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LANDS

Just over two thirds of residents (68%) participated in any outdoor recreation activities on public land in Washington over the past 2 years, compared to 29% who did not.

In an even split, 47% of residents participated in outdoor recreation on private property in Washington in the past 2 years and 47% did not.

Over a quarter of residents (28%) are a member of or have donated to an organization that promotes wildlife conservation or habitat enhancement.

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS

A majority of residents (57%) rate WDFW's management of negative human-wildlife interactions in the top half of the scale (19% *excellent*; 38% *good*), while 20% rate it in the bottom half (16% *fair*; 4% *poor*). A substantial percentage (23%) did not know what rating to give.

Nearly a fifth of residents (19%) have had one or more negative interactions with wild animals or birds within the past 2 years. Among those who had conflicts with wildlife, the species or species groups most commonly named as creating problems are raccoons (29% of those who had problems stated this), deer (24%), coyotes (20%), and rodents (12%).

Four potential reasons for having problems with wildlife were presented to those who had problems; the top reason selected by this group was that they live close to the wildlife's habitat (47% of the group selected this), followed by unintentionally attracting the wildlife (40%) and that there are too many of them (31%). Only 3% of the group said that they intentionally attracted the wildlife.

Those who had problems with wildlife most commonly said that they resolved the situation themselves (44% of the group stated this); only 7% contacted WDFW.

INFORMATION ON HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS

Just under a quarter of residents (23%) have ever heard or seen information about how Washington State manages negative human-wildlife interactions.

Residents say the best way to provide them with information about minimizing human-wildlife problems are via email, mail, social media, and the WDFW website.

About three fourths of residents (74%) enjoy seeing and having wild animals around, whereas 19% enjoy seeing a few wild animals but worry about the problems they cause.

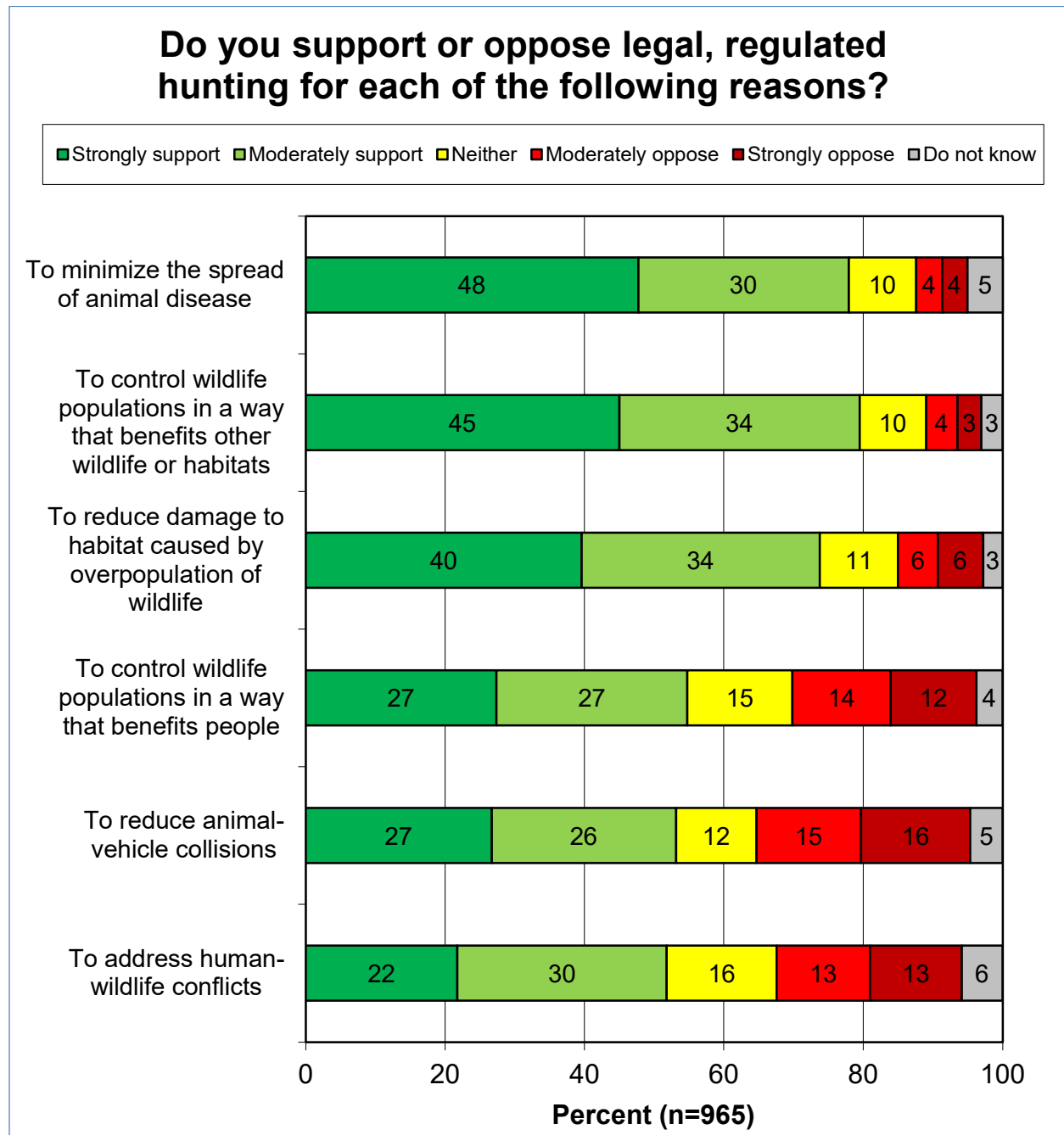
ATTITUDES TOWARD HUNTING

Three fourths of residents (75%) approve of legal, regulated hunting in general; 44% *strongly* approve. In contrast, 10% disapprove.

Those who disapprove of hunting most often said they do so because they are against killing animals (34% of the group stated this).

Regardless of whether residents approve or disapprove of hunting in general, the survey presented six reasons for hunting and asked residents if they would support or oppose hunting for each. There is a clear divide in the results, with support for hunting to benefit wildlife considerably higher than support for hunting to benefit humans (although minimizing the spread of animal disease is beneficial to both wildlife and people). In the top tier, looking at strong and moderate support for hunting combined, are to control wildlife in a way that benefits other wildlife or habitats (79% strongly or moderately support hunting for this reason), to minimize the spread of animal disease (78%), and to reduce damage to habitat caused by overpopulation of wildlife (74%). In the bottom tier are hunting to control wildlife in a way that

benefits people (55% on unrounded sums), to reduce animal-vehicle collisions (53%), and to address human-wildlife conflicts (52%). The results are shown in descending order of strong support.



PREDATOR MANAGEMENT

The vast majority of residents (80%) support maintaining sustainable predator populations in Washington's ecosystem, with 46% being strong support. Only 7% oppose.

Residents are divided on killing predators to reduce the loss of domestic animals: 42% support and 36% oppose.

A majority of residents (58%) support killing predators to protect threatened or endangered species, whereas 18% oppose.

Only 19% of residents support killing black bears to protect private timberlands, compared to 62% who oppose.

The survey asked residents, if WDFW decides to allow the killing of black bears that damage timber, if the removal should be done by hunters, contracted professionals, or private timberland owners. Residents have a slight preference for using professionals (36% selected this) over hunters (33%), while only 7% selected private timberland owners. However, a substantial percentage (24%) did not know or have a preference.

Two thirds of residents (67%) support having WDFW provide cost share funding to commercial livestock producers to assist them with nonlethal deterrents to protect the livestock from wolves. On the other hand, 14% oppose the concept.

Nearly half of residents (48%) approve of some level of lethal control of predators to protect deer, elk, and moose populations in Washington, compared to 30% who oppose.

TRENDS

- Fewer residents experienced problems with wildlife compared to earlier years, particularly problems with deer and geese. However, there is a marked increase in people having problems with coyotes.
- Overall ratings are higher for WDFW's management of problems caused by wildlife, compared to 2014.
- Approval of legal, regulated hunting has decreased substantially, going from 88% in 2014 to 75% in 2022. Likewise, support for hunting is down for all given reasons or scenarios. However, this is not accompanied by notable increases in opposition; rather, higher percentages of residents are giving neutral or "do not know" responses. In fact, some questions show decreases in both support and opposition.
- There is an increase in support for maintaining sustainable populations of predators, going from 70% in 2014 to 80% in 2022.
- There is a decrease in support for killing predators to protect domestic animals or threatened or endangered species.

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INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

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Specific aspects of the research methodology are discussed below.

QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN

The telephone and online survey questionnaires were developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and WDFW, based partially on similar surveys conducted in 2014, 2008, and 2002, as well as the research team's familiarity with natural resources and wildlife management. There are slight differences between the telephone and online versions of the survey to accommodate each survey mode, but otherwise the surveys are identical.

The telephone questionnaire was coded for integration with Responsive Management's computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) process. An important aspect of the CATI process is that the computer controls which questions are asked and allows for immediate data entry, but the telephone surveys are administered by live Responsive Management interviewers with extensive experience conducting surveys about conservation and wildlife. The online questionnaire was coded in an online platform. Responsive Management conducted pre-tests of both versions of the questionnaire to ensure proper wording, flow, and logic in the surveys.

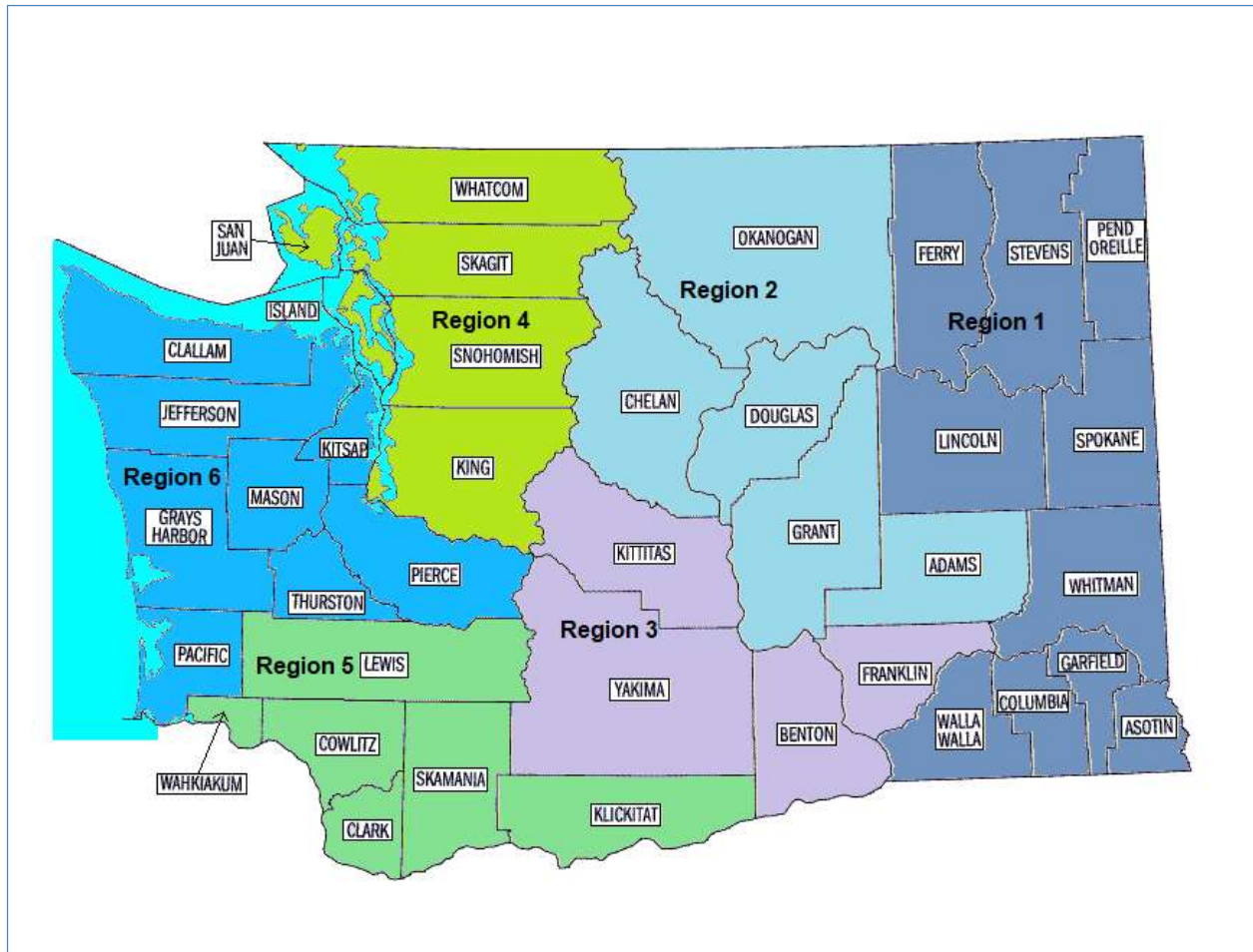
SURVEY SAMPLES

The sampling included a telephone sample of Washington general population residents. The telephone sample was dual-frame, meaning that it contained both landlines and cell phones in their proper proportions among state residents. Researchers utilized Random Digit Dialing, which is a scientific, probability-based selection process for the telephone sample to ensure that all adult Washington residents had an equal chance of being selected for the telephone phase of the survey.

The telephone sample was supplemented by an online sample of adult Washington residents. The samples were stratified by six management regions, with a goal of at least 150 completed questionnaires in each region, to ensure that enough questionnaires would be collected in each region for statistically valid results on a regional basis. For the analysis of statewide results, the data were weighted so that the regions were in their proper proportions of the statewide population.

A map of the six management regions is shown on the following page.

Washington Management Regions



MULTI-MODAL SURVEY ADMINISTRATION

The online version of the survey was coded in an online platform by Responsive Management.

For the telephone phase of the survey, telephone interviews were conducted Monday through Friday from noon to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 7:00 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. Note that the online version of the survey could be taken at any time, at the convenience of the respondent.

In addition, those with a cellular number who could not be reached after five attempts were sent a text message. An example is shown on the following page. Due to the limited characters allowed in a text, the initial short message links to a longer message.

Text Invitation to Take Survey

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife would like your feedback on fish and wildlife resources. Please take this survey [[invite\(survey_link\)](#)].

The [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) is conducting this study to get public feedback on a new game management plan that is being developed for the state. You do NOT have to know much or have any interest in fish, wildlife, or the outdoors to answer. The Department would like to know more about everyone's opinions and knowledge, regardless of experience or interest. Your answers are very important to this study and to future management decisions.

Your answers will be kept completely confidential and will not be associated with your name or contact information in any way.

Responsive Management, an independent research firm that specializes in natural resource and fish and wildlife issues, has been contracted by the Department to conduct this study.

Thank you for your time and willingness to participate.

Please click "Next" or the arrow below to begin the survey.

For quality control, Survey Center Managers monitored some of the interviews in real time and provided feedback to the interviewers. To further 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 briefings with the interviewers prior to the administration of this survey. Interviewers were instructed on type of study, study goals and objectives, handling of survey questions, interview length, termination points and qualifiers for participation, interviewer instructions within the survey questionnaire, reading of the survey questions, skip patterns, and probing and clarifying techniques necessary for specific questions on the survey questionnaires.

For both the online and telephone versions of the surveys, the questionnaire was programmed to branch and substitute phrases in the survey based on previous responses to ensure the integrity and consistency of the data collection. The survey questionnaire also contained error checkers and computation statements to ensure quality and consistent data.

For the telephone interviews, 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 center managers and statisticians monitored the telephone data collection, including

monitoring of the actual telephone interviews without the interviewers' knowledge to evaluate the performance of each interviewer and ensure the integrity of the data.

After both the telephone and online surveys were obtained, the Survey Center Managers and/or statisticians checked each completed survey to ensure clarity and completeness. Using both survey modes, the survey was conducted from January 26 to February 18, 2022.

In total, Responsive Management obtained 965 completed surveys. The regional distribution is shown below.

Completed Surveys (n-values)	
Region 1	169
Region 2	155
Region 3	155
Region 4	161
Region 5	155
Region 6	170
Total	965

DATA ANALYSIS

The analysis of data was performed using IBM SPSS Statistics as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management. Results were weighted by age and gender within each region to match U.S. Census proportions, and then the regions were weighted to be in their proper proportions for statewide data.

SAMPLING ERROR

Throughout this report, findings of the survey are reported at a 95% confidence interval. For the entire sample of Washington residents 18 or older, the sampling error is at most plus or minus 3.15 percentage points. This means that if the survey were conducted 100 times on different samples that were selected in the same way, the findings of 95 out of the 100 surveys would fall within plus or minus 3.15 percentage points of each other. Sampling error was calculated using the formula described below, with a sample size of 965 and a population size of 5,760,561 residents 18 or older.

Sampling Error Equation

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

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

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

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

PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

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

- Open-ended questions are those in which no answer set is read to the respondents; rather, they can respond with anything that comes to mind from the question.
- Closed-ended questions have an answer set from which to choose.
- Single response questions: Some questions allow only a single response.
- Multiple response questions: 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 one that ranges from strongly support to strongly oppose.
- Series questions: Some 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 of support).

Researchers read through all open-ended comments provided by the respondents and coded them into response categories; this was done so that the results could be quantified and presented in "Multiple Responses Allowed" graphs. Overall, researchers coded approximately 2,000 open-ended comments into response categories.

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSES GRAPHS

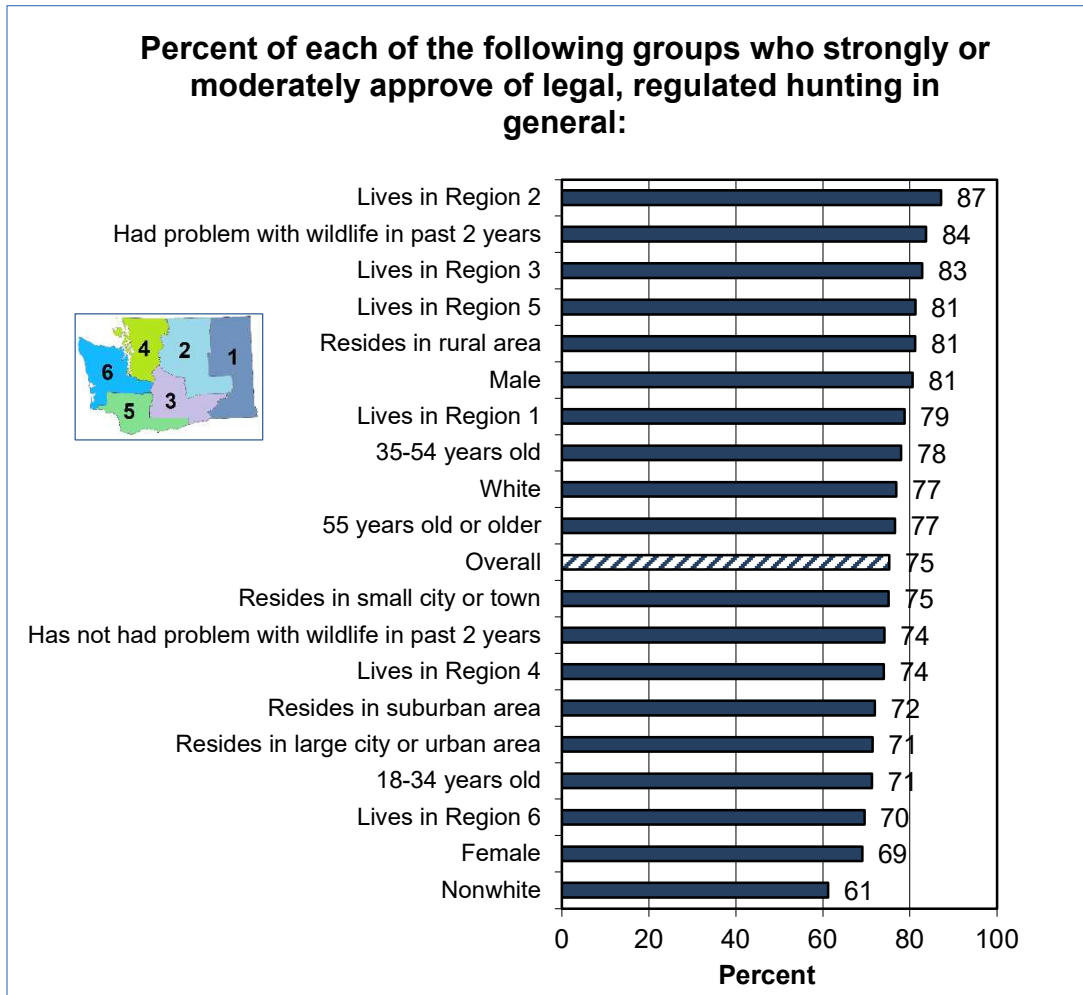
For this project, the analysts produced special graphs that have many demographic characteristics on a single graph, as shown in the example on the following page. These demographic graphs show how various groups responded to a given question. The example shows the percentage of Washington residents who strongly or moderately approve of legal, regulated hunting in general.

Overall, 75% of Washington residents approve of hunting, as shown by the patterned bar. Those groups above the patterned bar have a higher rate of hunting approval than Washington residents overall. For instance, the demographic analyses graph shows that 87% of Region 2 residents strongly or moderately approve of hunting, which is substantially above the overall rate. (This means that 13% of residents from Region 2 did not give one of these responses.)

On the other hand, among nonwhite Washington residents, 61% approve of hunting, markedly less than residents overall.

When one group is above the overall bar, its counterpart or one of its counterparts will be below the overall bar. For instance, males in this example are above the overall bar, and females are below the overall bar.

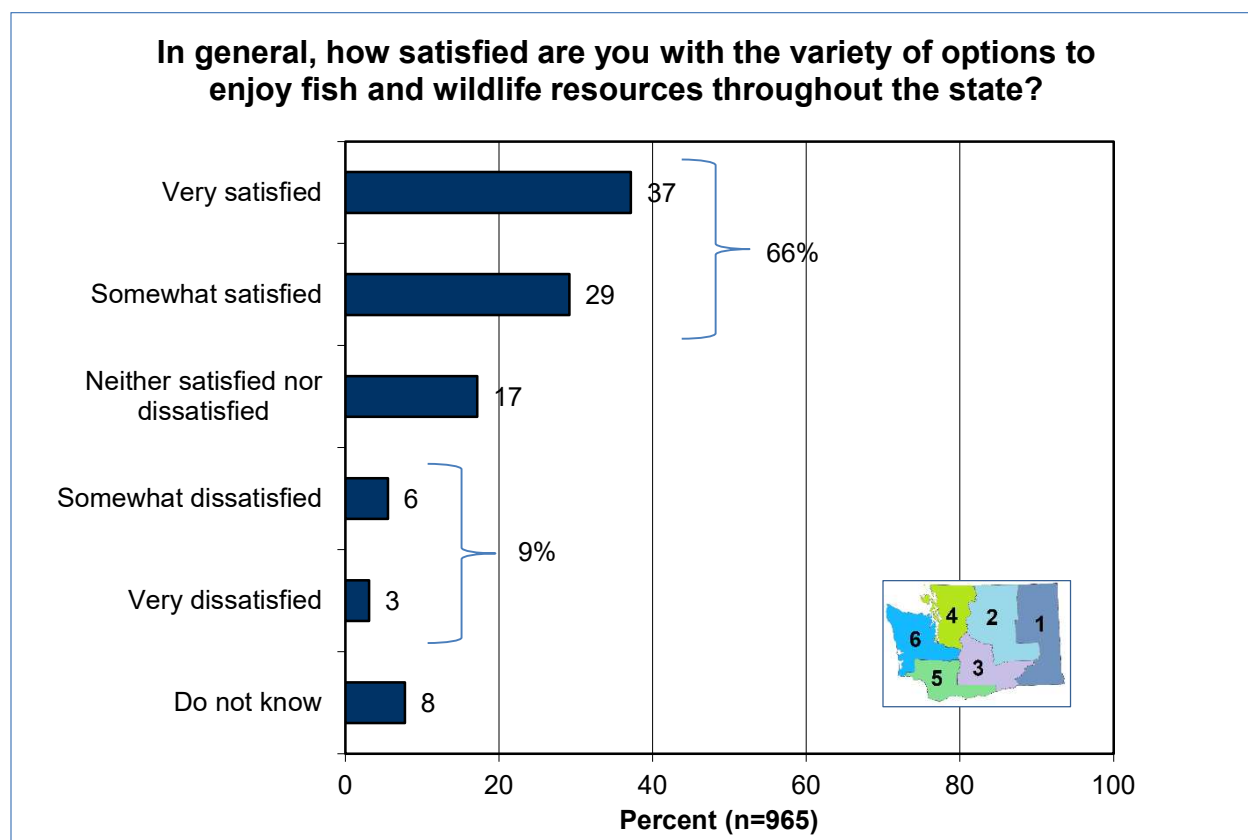
Finally, if a group is close to the overall bar (for instance, those who live in a small city or town in this example), then the group should not be considered markedly different from residents overall. A rule of thumb is that the difference should be 5 percentage points or more for the difference to be noteworthy.



Throughout the report, a graph of statewide results is shown for each question, followed by a table showing results at the regional level (although regional tables are not included if sample sizes are too small within the regions). For select questions, these are followed by a demographic analyses graph.

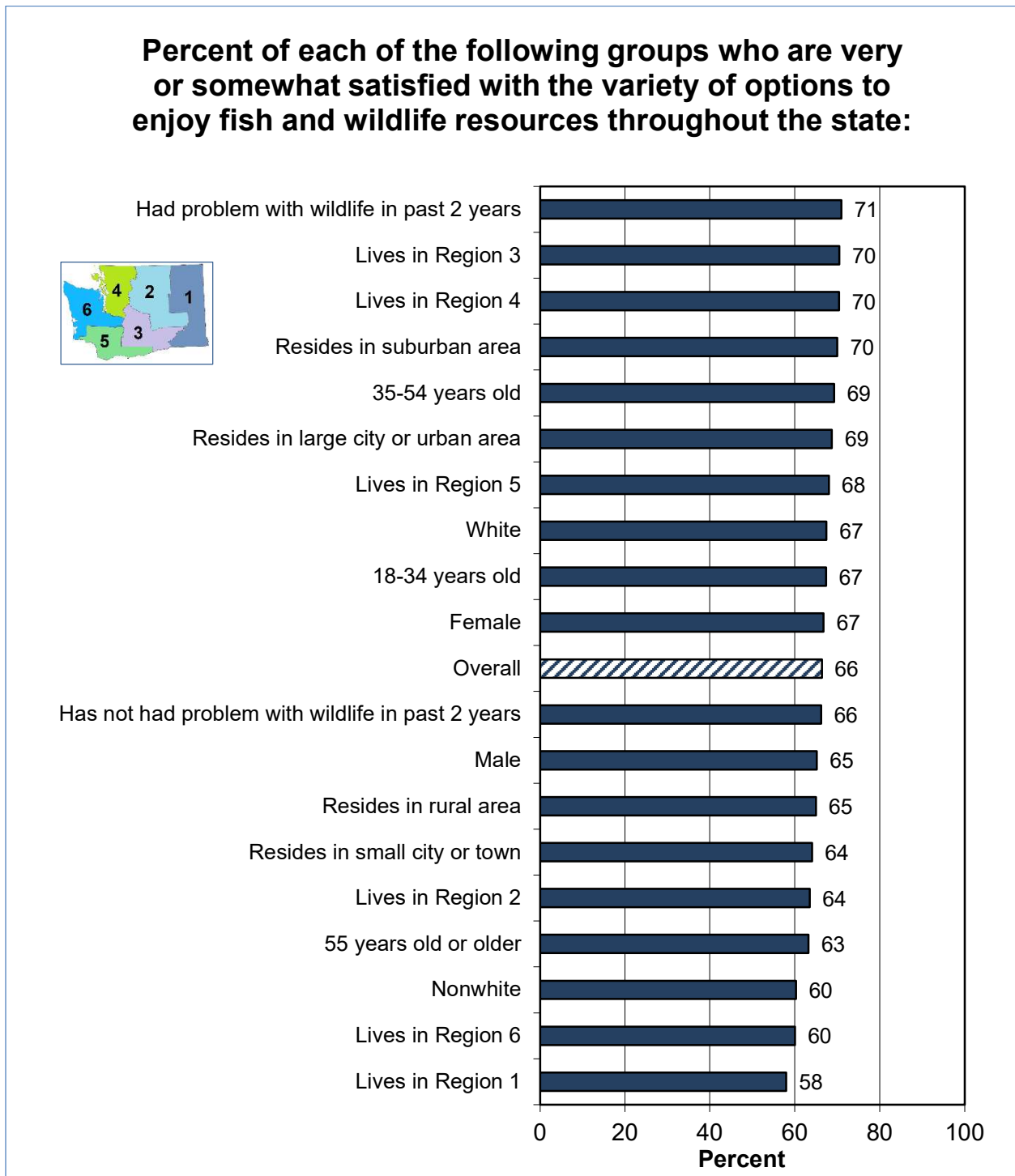
PARTICIPATION IN OUTDOOR RECREATION

Two thirds of Washington residents (66%) are satisfied with the variety of options to enjoy fish and wildlife resources throughout the state; 37% are *very* satisfied. This compares to only 9% who are dissatisfied.

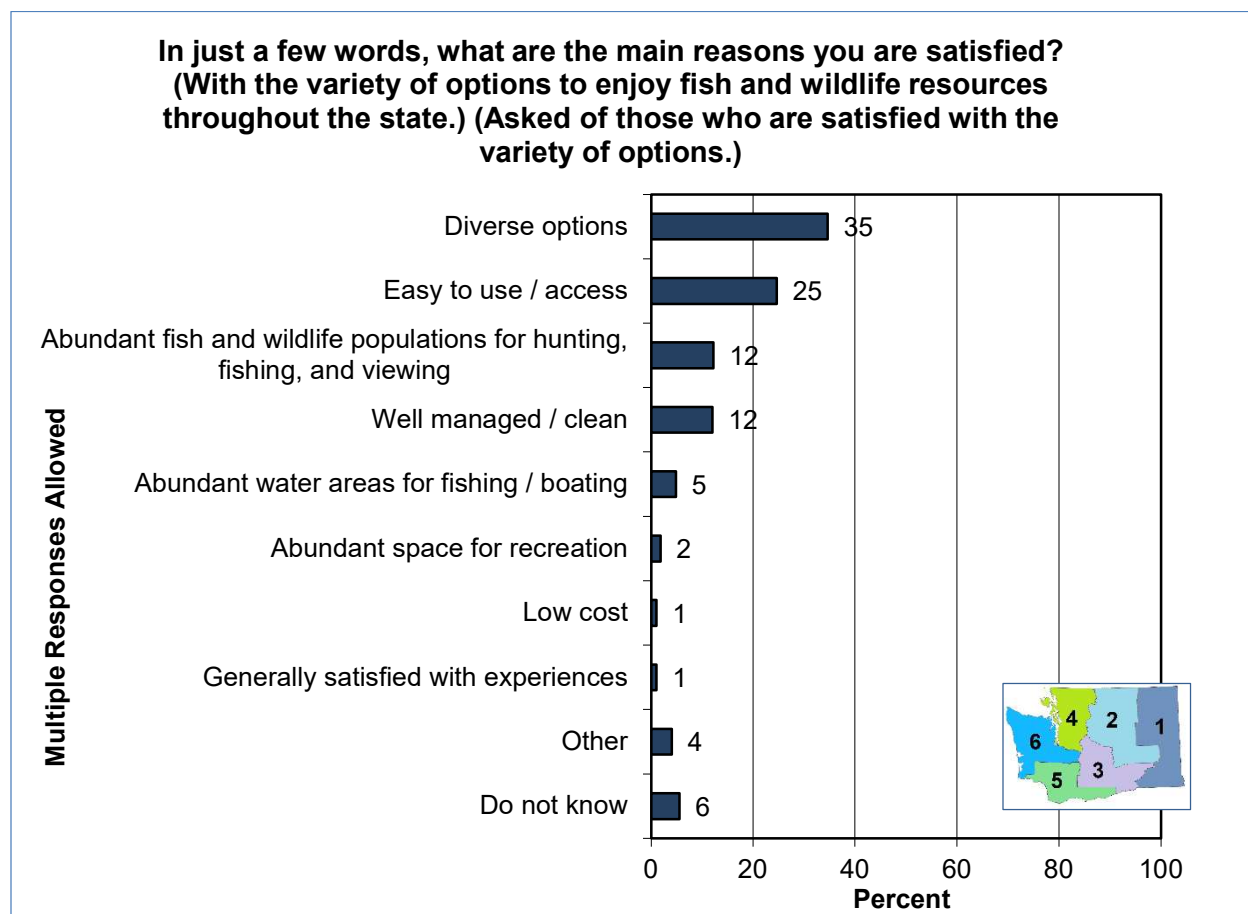


In general, how satisfied are you with the variety of options to enjoy fish and wildlife resources throughout the state?							
(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=169)	Region 2 (n=155)	Region 3 (n=155)	Region 4 (n=161)	Region 5 (n=155)	Region 6 (n=170)	Total (n=965)
Very satisfied	33	36	37	39	40	34	37
Somewhat satisfied	25	28	33	31	28	26	29
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	22	16	17	17	13	17	17
Somewhat dissatisfied	7	9	4	3	9	8	6
Very dissatisfied	3	3	2	2	6	5	3
Do not know	9	8	6	7	4	11	8

Those who had problems with wildlife in the past 2 years is the group most likely to be very or somewhat satisfied with the variety of options to enjoy fish and wildlife resources throughout Washington.



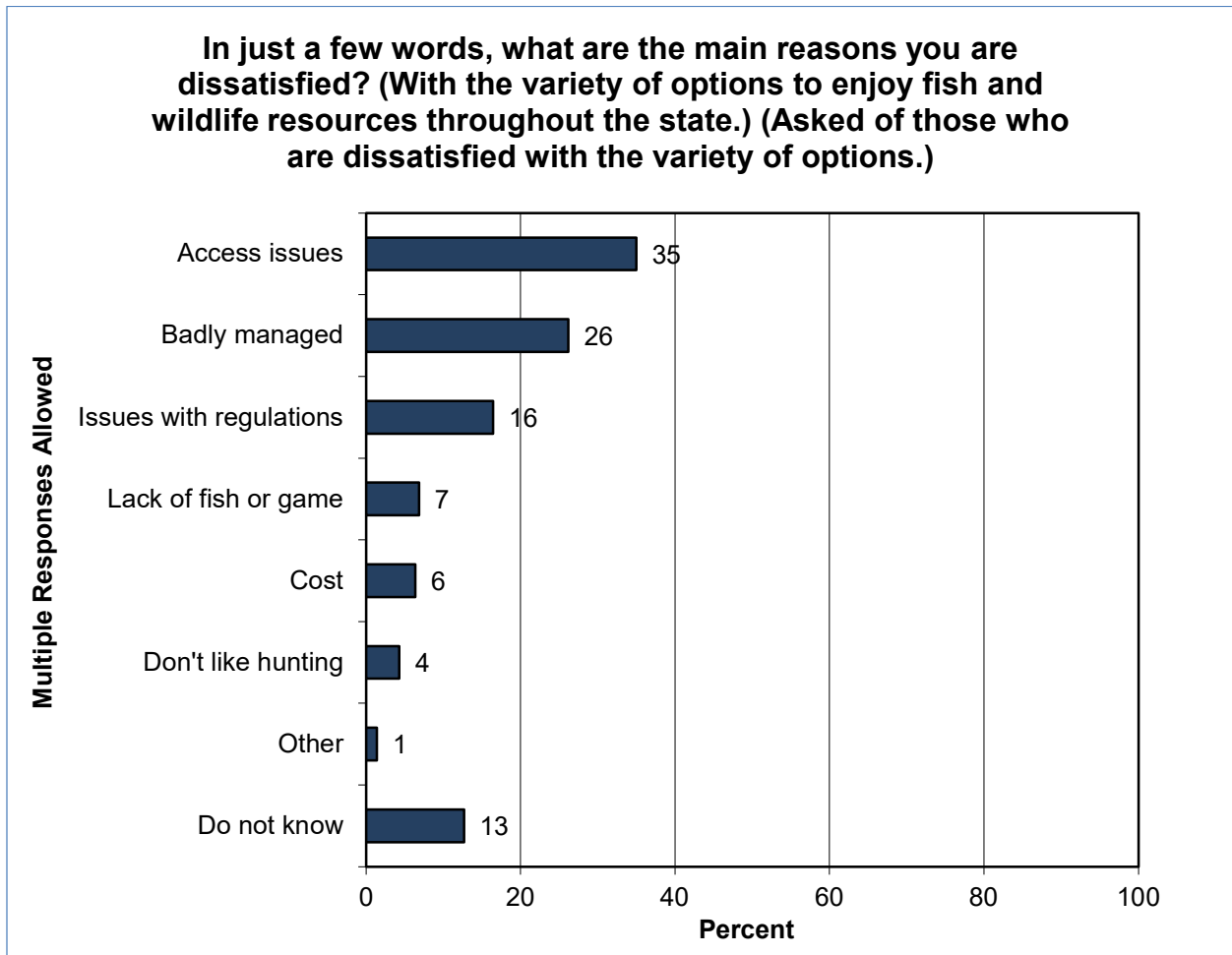
Among those who are satisfied with the variety of options, the top reasons are the diversity of options, the ease of use or access, the abundant fish and wildlife populations, and the areas being well managed and clean.



In just a few words, what are the main reasons you are satisfied? (Asked of those who are satisfied with the variety of options.) (Top responses)

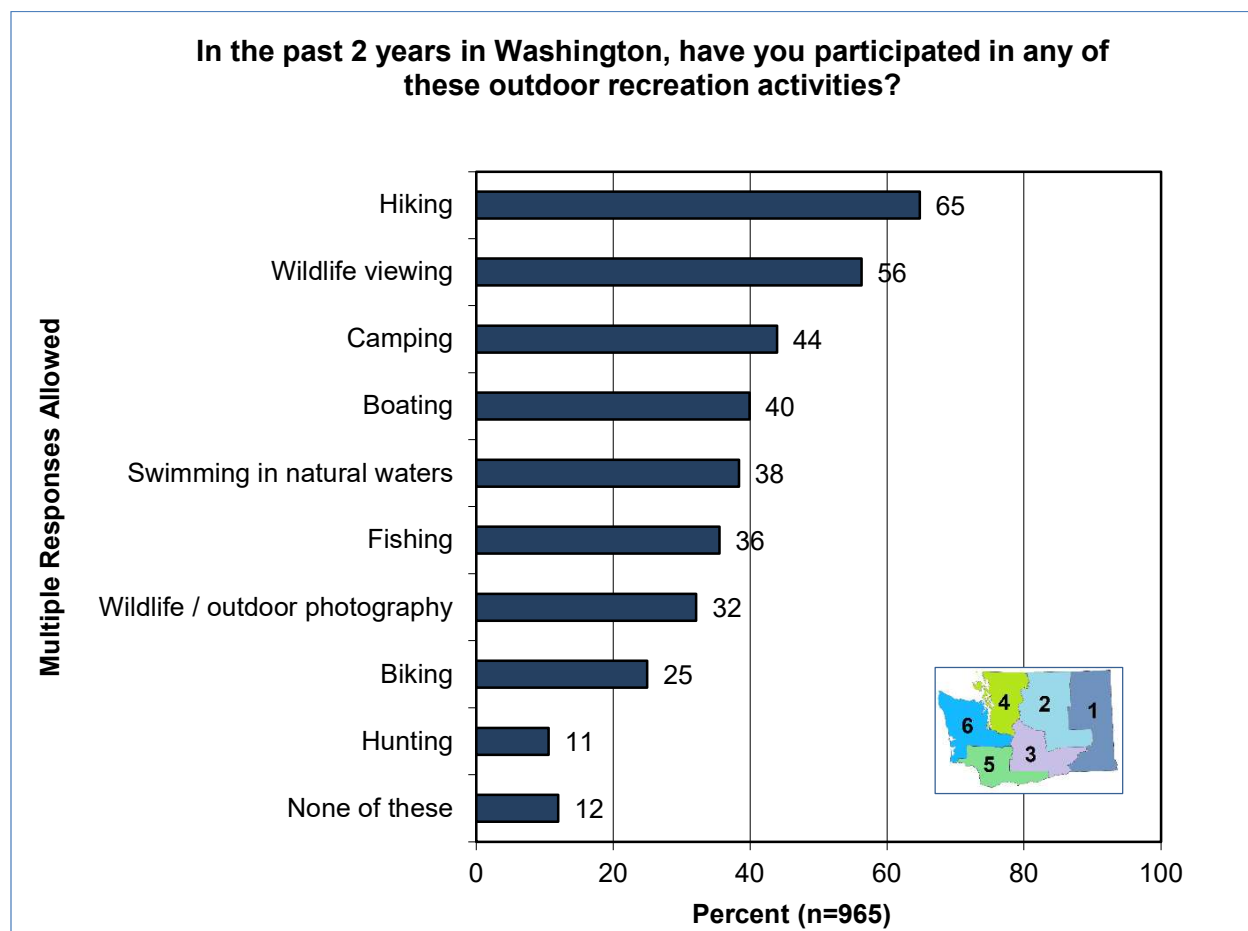
(Values in percent)	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Total
Diverse options	11	30	26	36	29	47	35
Easy to use / access	33	9	13	31	16	17	25
Abundant fish and wildlife populations	3	23	24	12	8	15	12
Well managed / clean	13	10	5	9	29	11	12
Abundant water areas	3	20	2	8	0	1	5

Among those who are dissatisfied with the variety of options, the top reasons are access issues, the feeling that resources are badly managed, and dissatisfaction with regulations.



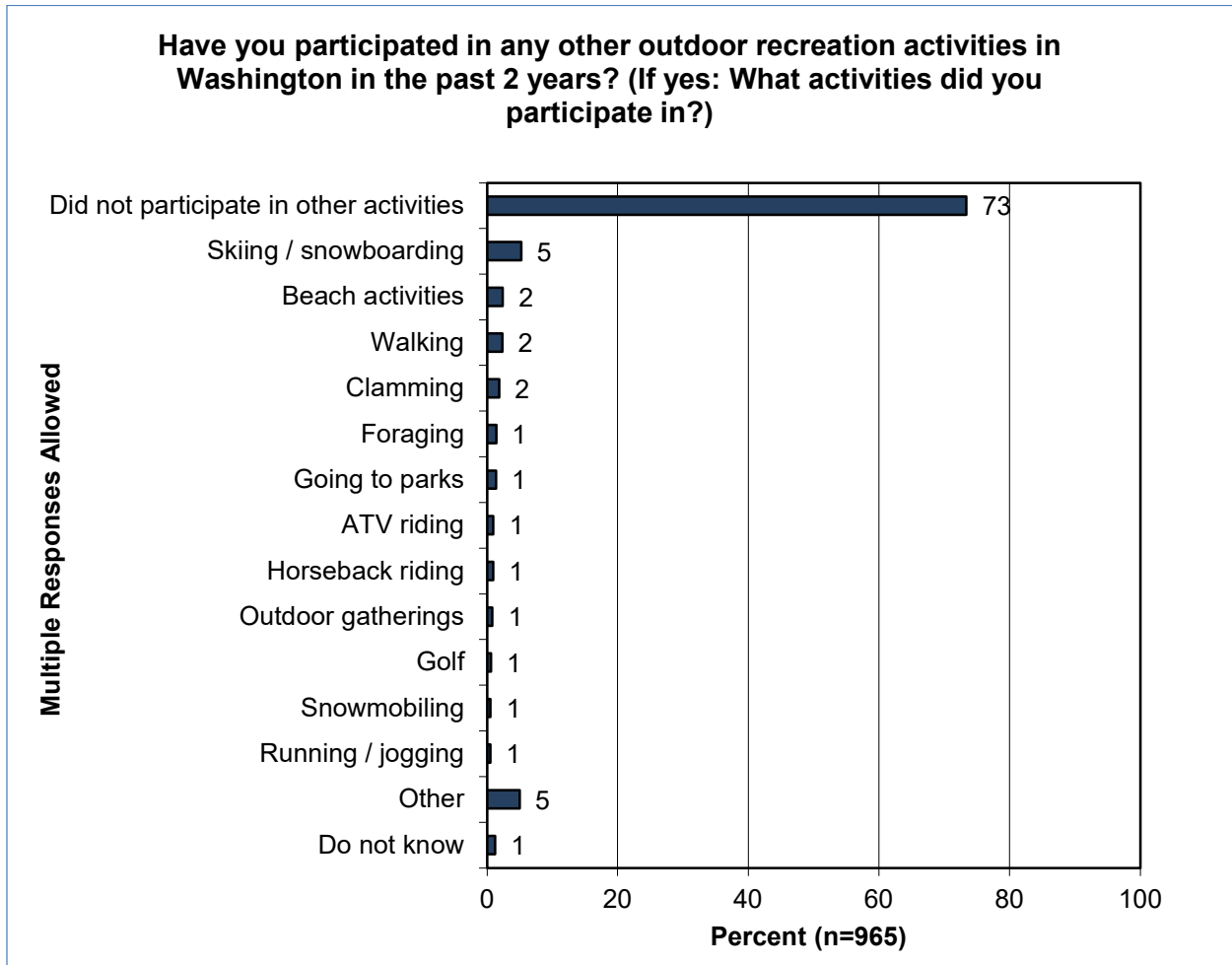
A regional table is not included due to low sample sizes.

Residents were presented with a list of outdoor recreation activities, and they were asked if they participated in each in the past 2 years in Washington. A majority participated in hiking (65% did so) and wildlife viewing (56%). The full list is shown.



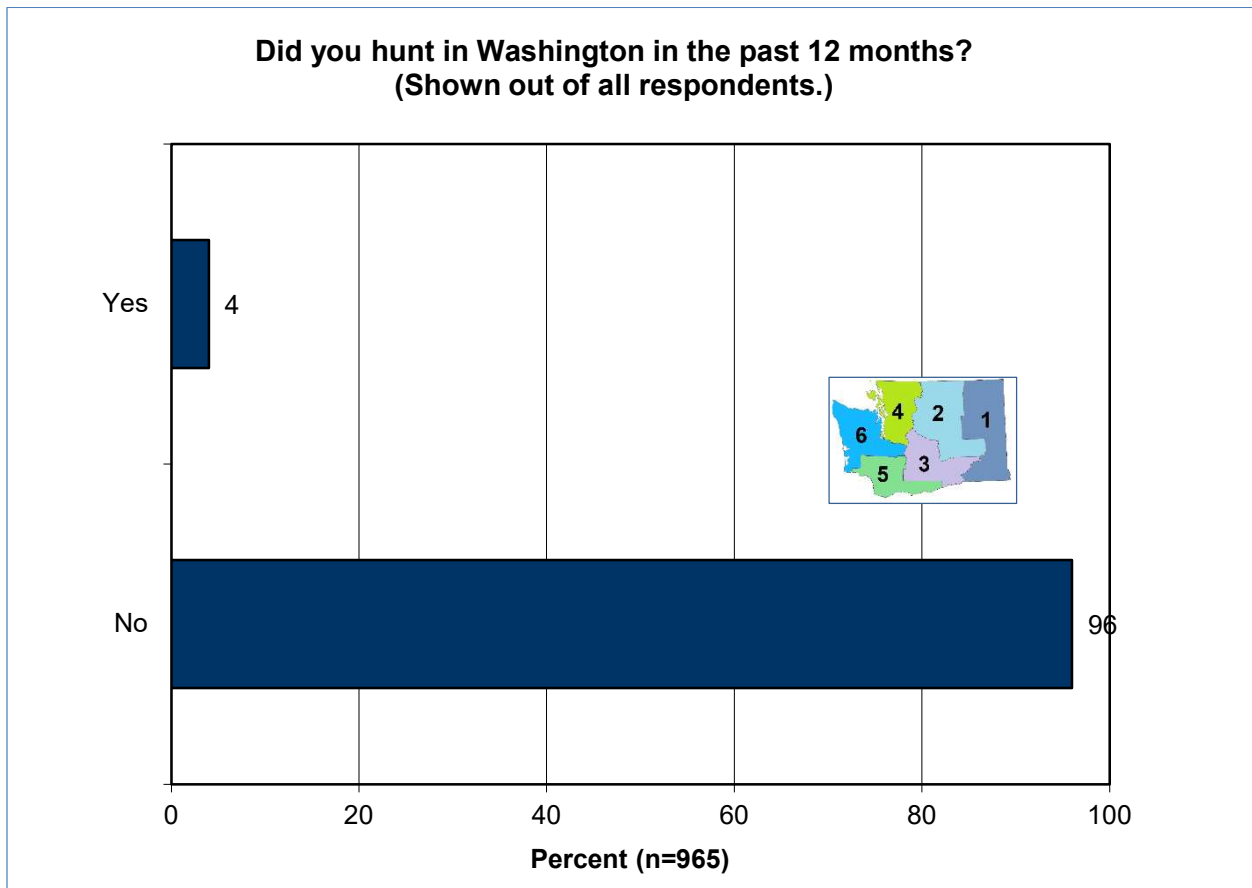
In the past 2 years in Washington, have you participated in any of these outdoor recreation activities?							
(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=169)	Region 2 (n=155)	Region 3 (n=155)	Region 4 (n=161)	Region 5 (n=155)	Region 6 (n=170)	Total (n=965)
Hiking	53	67	63	72	66	56	65
Wildlife viewing	59	52	54	55	60	58	56
Camping	45	49	59	40	52	42	44
Boating	39	42	41	42	40	35	40
Swimming in natural waters	47	58	35	36	49	34	38
Fishing	40	56	44	34	40	29	36
Wildlife / outdoor photography	29	27	37	31	41	32	32
Biking	27	20	31	23	32	25	25
Hunting	16	25	15	7	19	9	11
None of these	17	7	8	10	9	17	12

In follow-up, residents were asked if they participated in any outdoor recreation activities not included on the list: 73% did not, and no additional activity had more than 5% of residents participating in it.



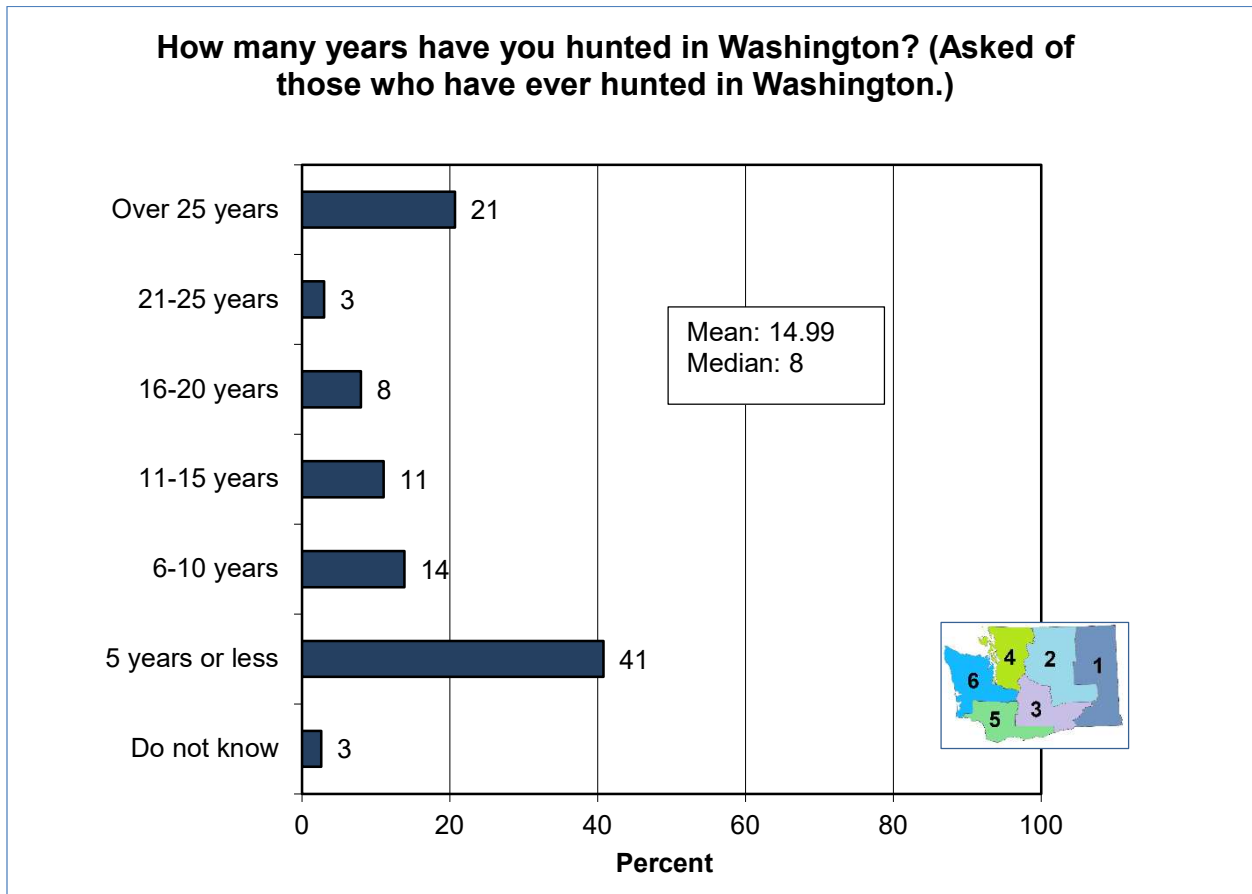
A regional table is not included due to the low percentages of participation in the additional activities.

Overall, 4% of residents hunted in Washington in the past 12 months.



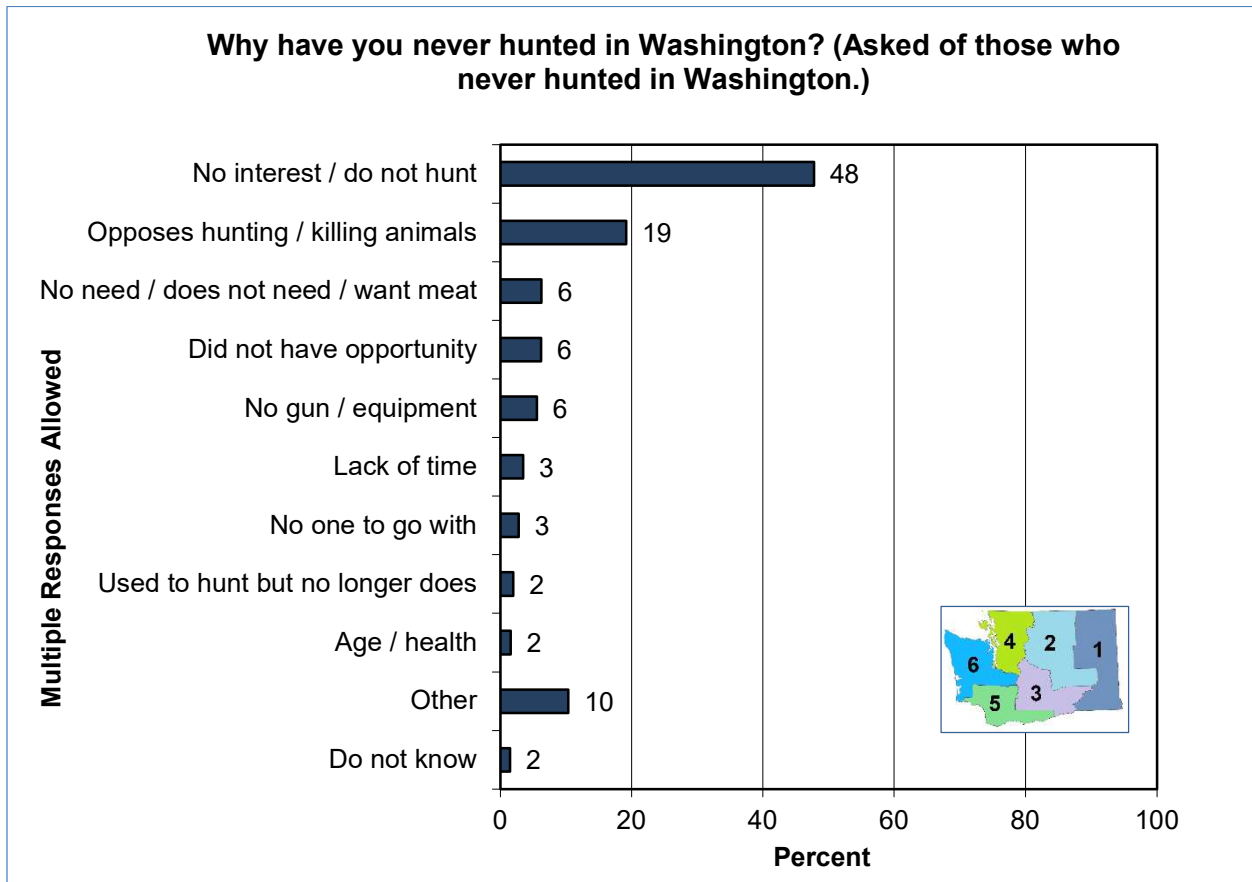
Did you hunt in Washington in the past 12 months? (Shown out of all respondents.)							
(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=169)	Region 2 (n=155)	Region 3 (n=155)	Region 4 (n=161)	Region 5 (n=155)	Region 6 (n=170)	Total (n=965)
Yes	9	6	6	3	7	2	4
No	91	94	94	97	93	98	96

Among those who ever hunted in Washington, the mean years of participation is 15.0 and the median is 8.



(Values in percent)	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Total
Over 25 years	34	27	22	9	31	30	21
21-25 years	4	3	6	1	8	3	3
16-20 years	14	9	6	1	19	13	8
11-15 years	4	9	6	18	4	6	11
6-10 years	9	20	15	16	10	11	14
5 years or less	30	26	38	52	27	36	41
Do not know	5	5	5	2	1	1	3
Mean	20.01	19.20	16.96	9.82	21.04	17.98	14.99
Median	20	14	10	5	20	15	8

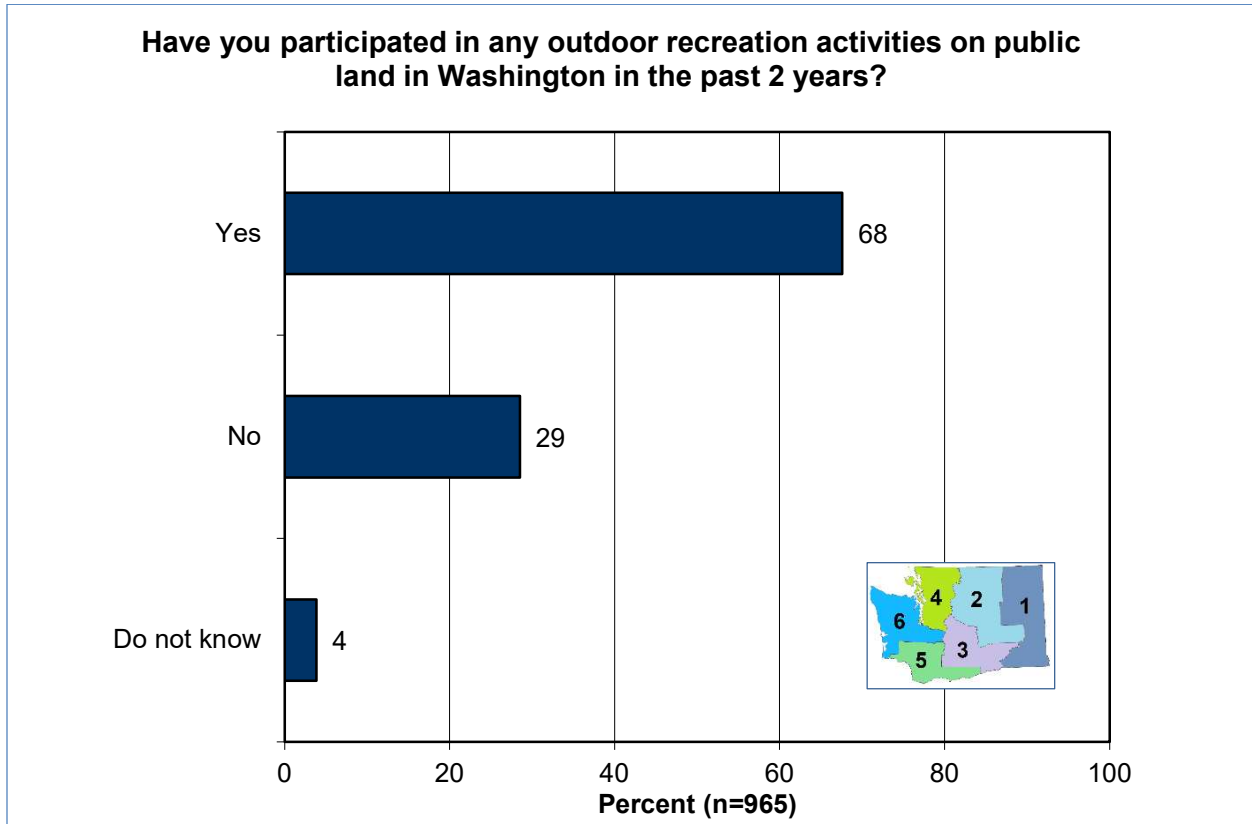
Among those who never hunted in Washington, the top reasons are lack of interest (48% of the group stated this) and opposition to hunting or killing animals (19%).



Why have you never hunted in Washington? (Asked of those who never hunted in Washington.)							
(Top responses)							
(Values in percent)	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Total
No interest / do not hunt	54	42	59	48	41	45	48
Opposes hunting / killing animals	11	18	16	18	20	24	19
No need / does not need / want meat	3	6	0	4	13	10	6
Did not have opportunity	0	7	7	9	0	5	6
No gun / equipment	8	7	0	2	8	10	6

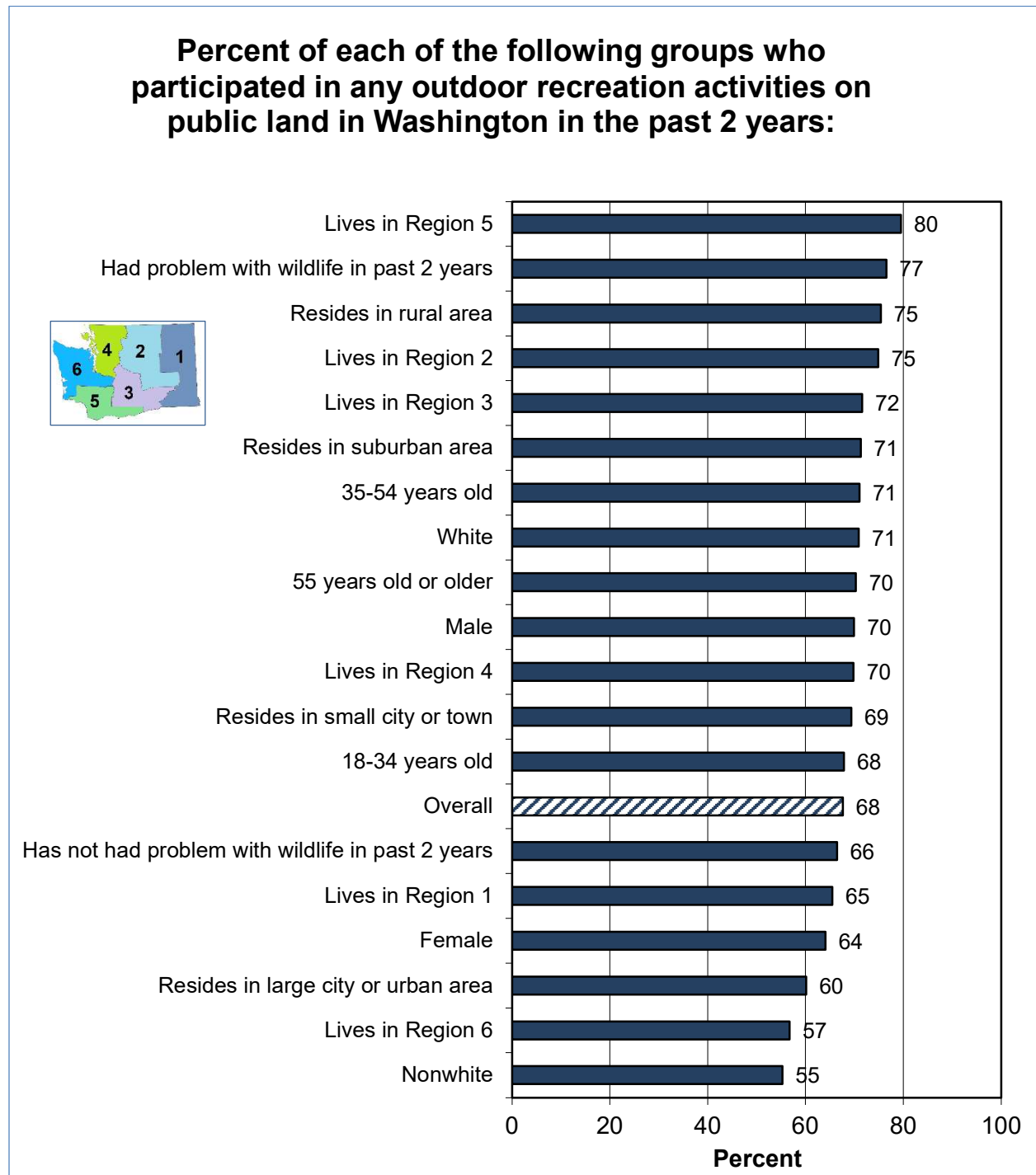
RECREATION ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LANDS

Just over two thirds of residents (68%) participated in any outdoor recreation activities on public land in Washington over the past 2 years, compared to 29% who did not.

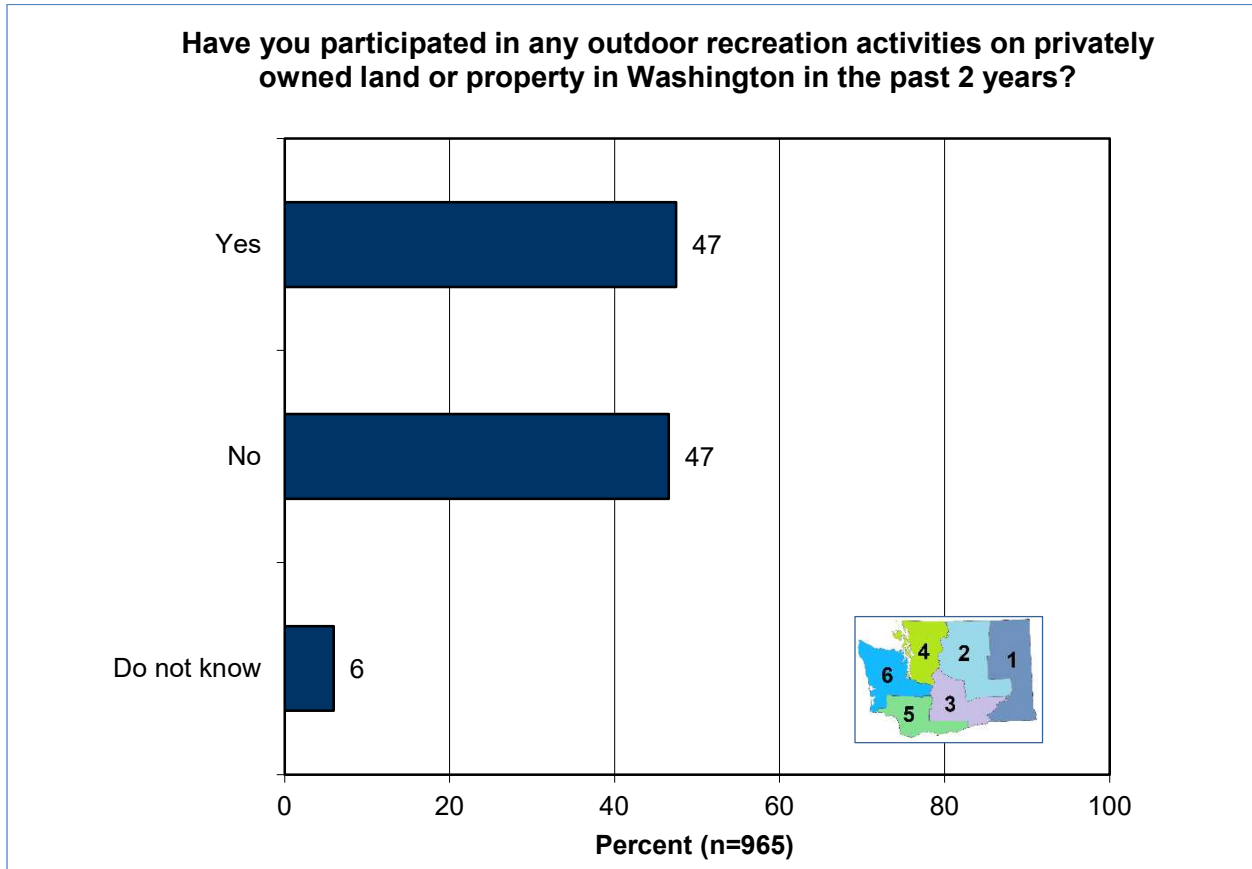


Have you participated in any outdoor recreation activities on public land in Washington in the past 2 years?							
(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=169)	Region 2 (n=155)	Region 3 (n=155)	Region 4 (n=161)	Region 5 (n=155)	Region 6 (n=170)	Total (n=965)
Yes	65	75	72	70	80	57	68
No	33	23	28	26	17	39	29
Do not know	1	2	1	5	4	5	4

Groups most likely to have participated in outdoor recreation on public land in the past 2 years include those from Region 5 and Region 2, those who had problems with wildlife, and rural residents.



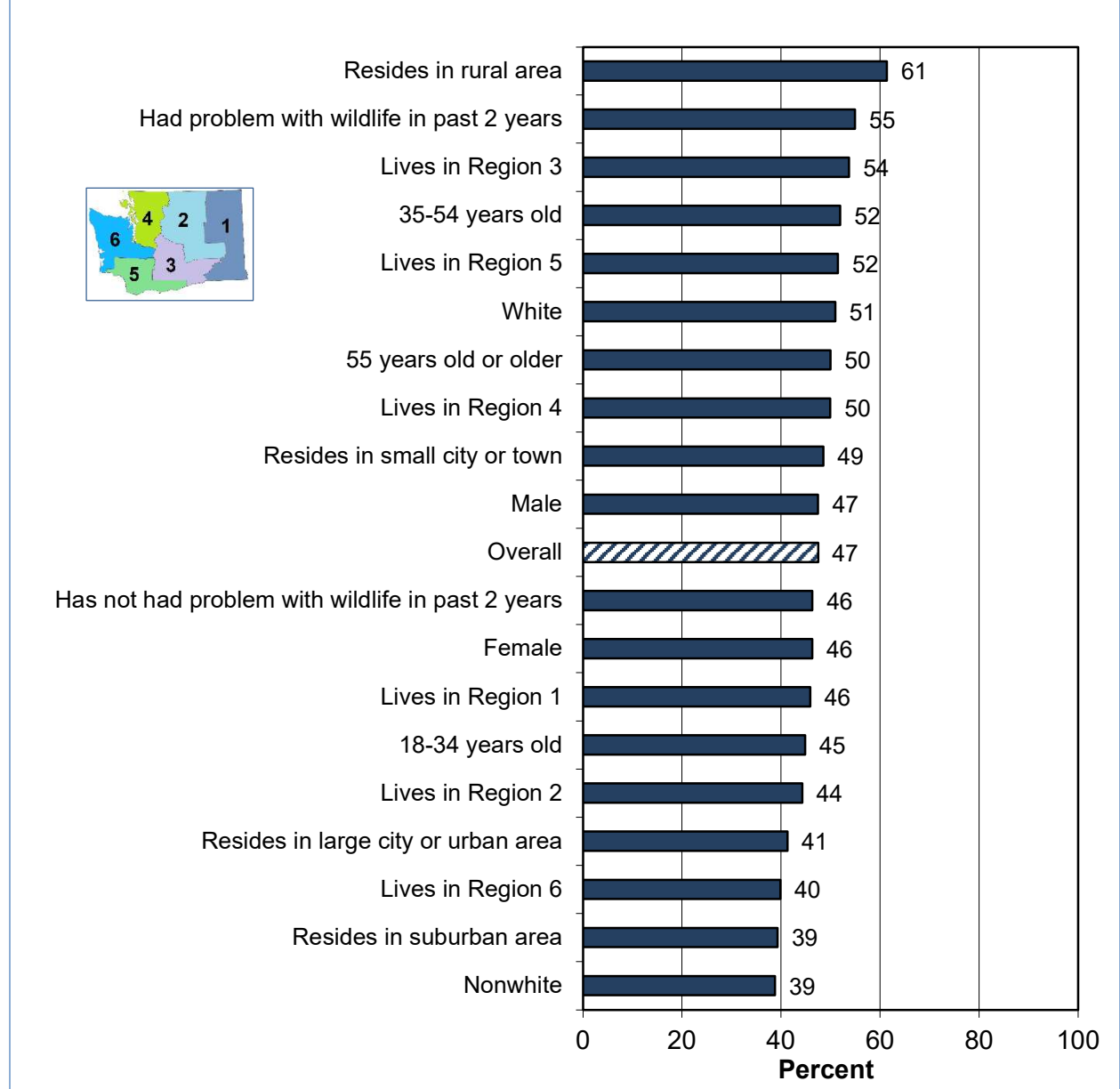
In an even split, 47% of residents participated in outdoor recreation on private property in Washington in the past 2 years and 47% did not.



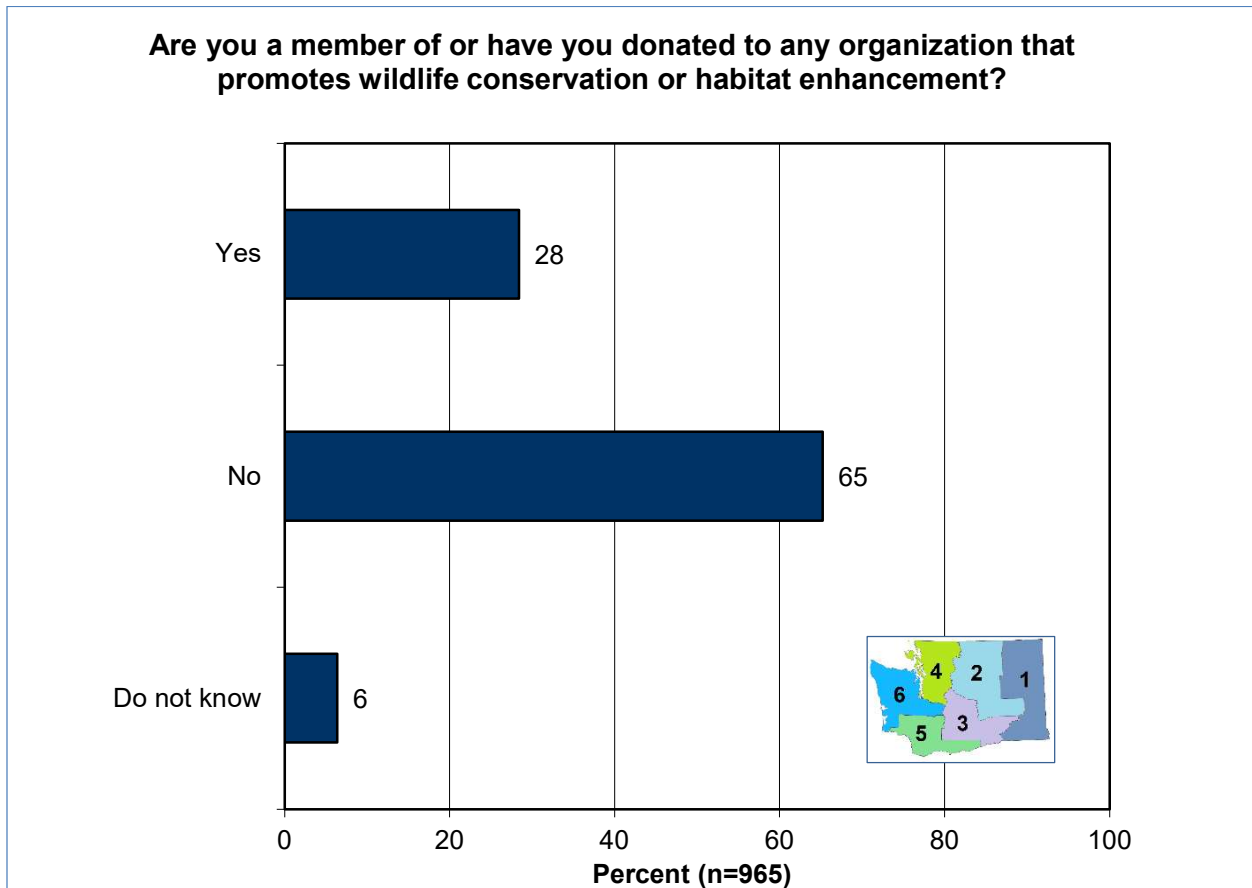
Have you participated in any outdoor recreation activities on privately owned land or property in Washington in the past 2 years?							
(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=169)	Region 2 (n=155)	Region 3 (n=155)	Region 4 (n=161)	Region 5 (n=155)	Region 6 (n=170)	Total (n=965)
Yes	46	44	54	50	52	40	47
No	51	50	44	43	40	55	47
Do not know	3	6	2	7	8	6	6

Groups most likely to have participated in outdoor recreation on private land in the past 2 years include rural residents, those who had problems with wildlife, and Region 3 residents.

Percent of each of the following groups who participated in any outdoor recreation activities on privately owned land or property in Washington in the past 2 years:

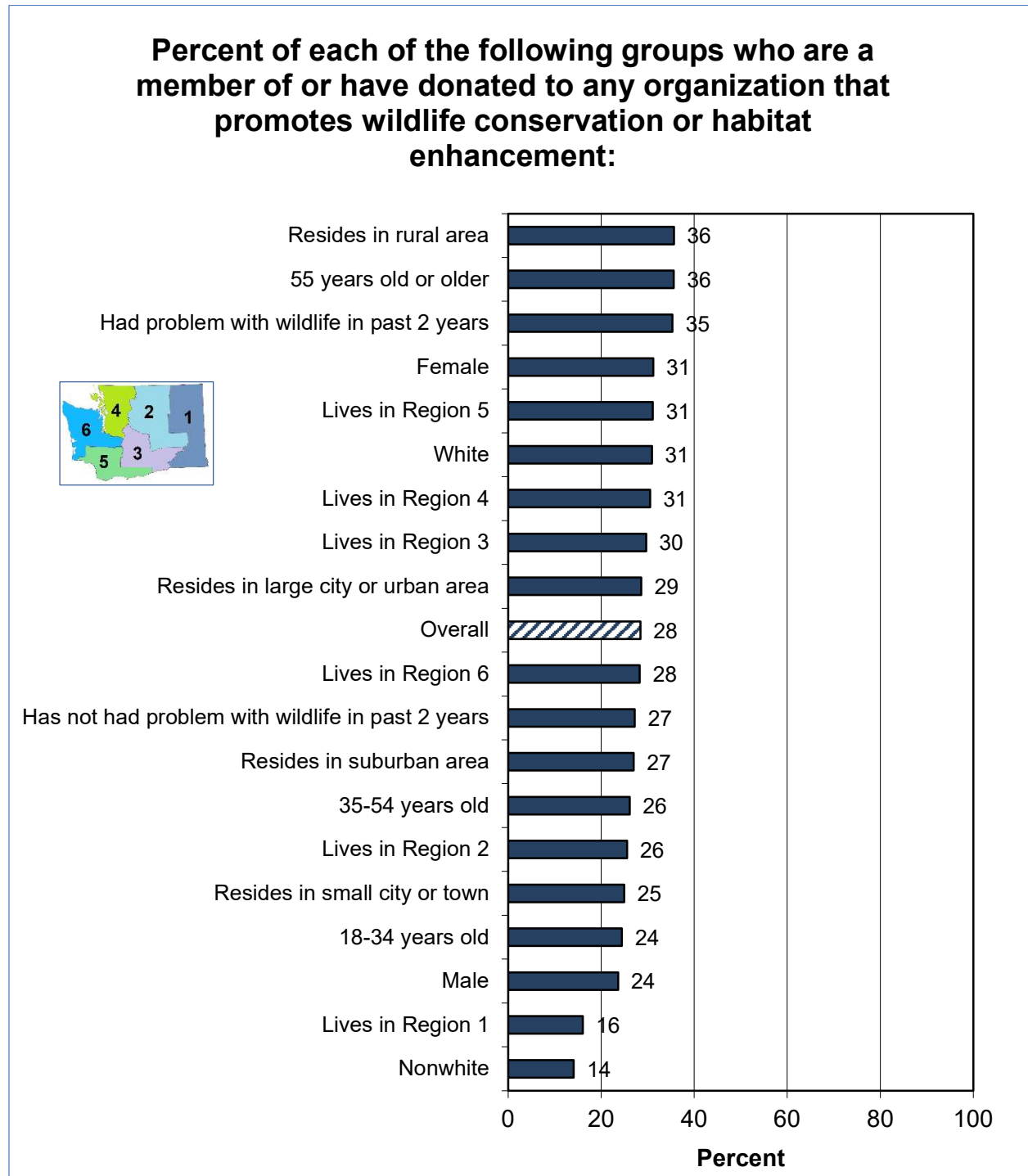


Over a quarter of residents (28%) are a member of or have donated to an organization that promotes wildlife conservation or habitat enhancement.

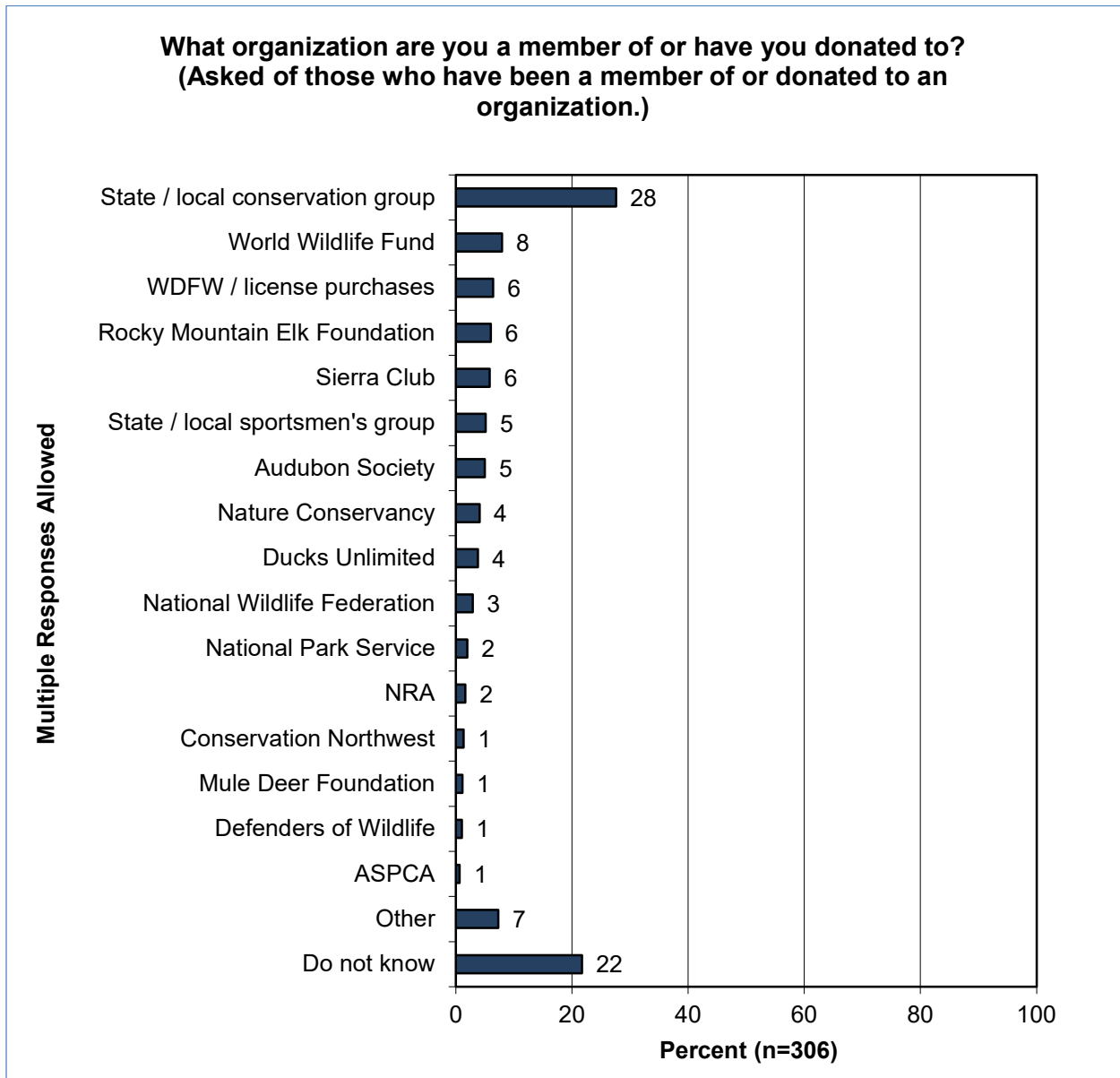


Are you a member of or have you donated to any organization that promotes wildlife conservation or habitat enhancement?							
(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=169)	Region 2 (n=155)	Region 3 (n=155)	Region 4 (n=161)	Region 5 (n=155)	Region 6 (n=170)	Total (n=965)
Yes	16	26	30	31	31	28	28
No	77	71	68	63	64	62	65
Do not know	7	3	2	6	5	9	6

Rural residents, older residents, and those who had problems with wildlife in the past 2 years are the groups most correlated with belonging or donating to a conservation organization.



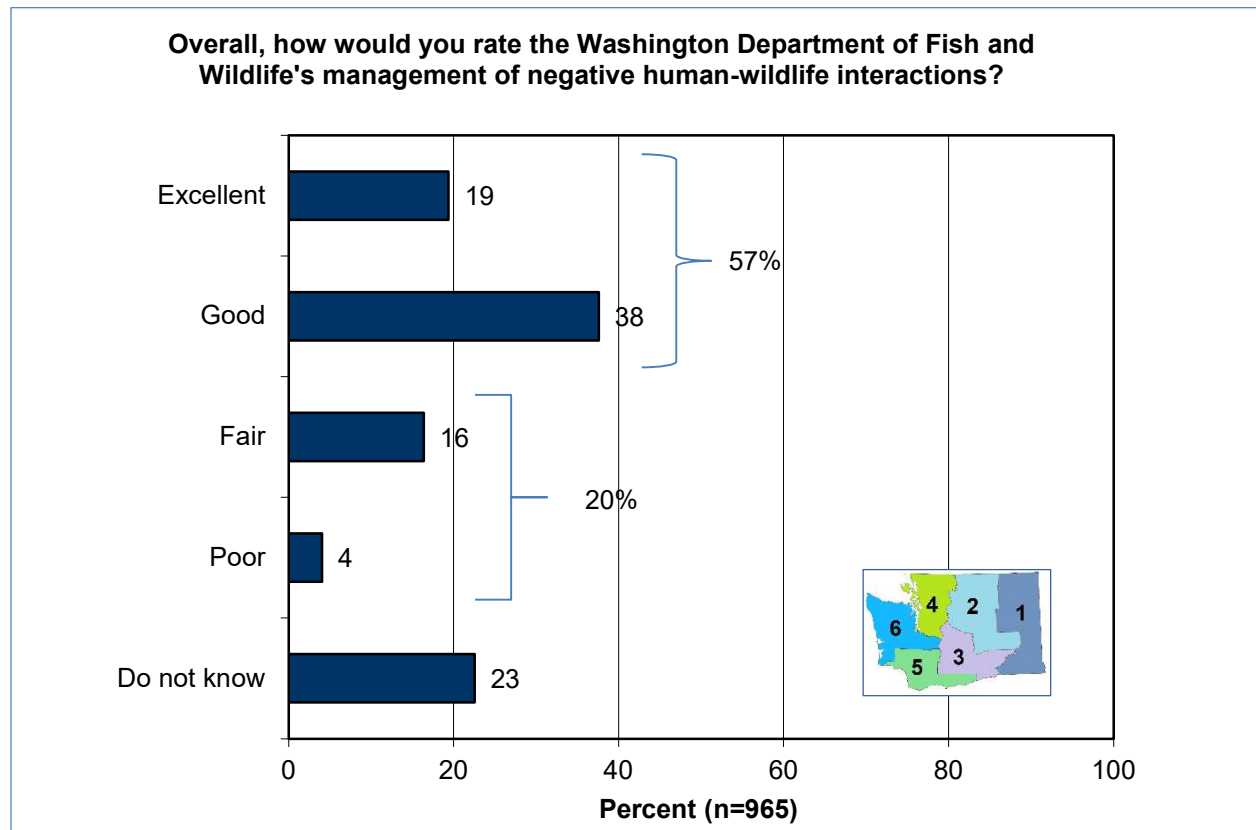
Residents who are a member of or donated to a conservation organization most commonly said the organization is a state or local conservation group.



A regional table is not included due to the low percentages for each individual organization.

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS

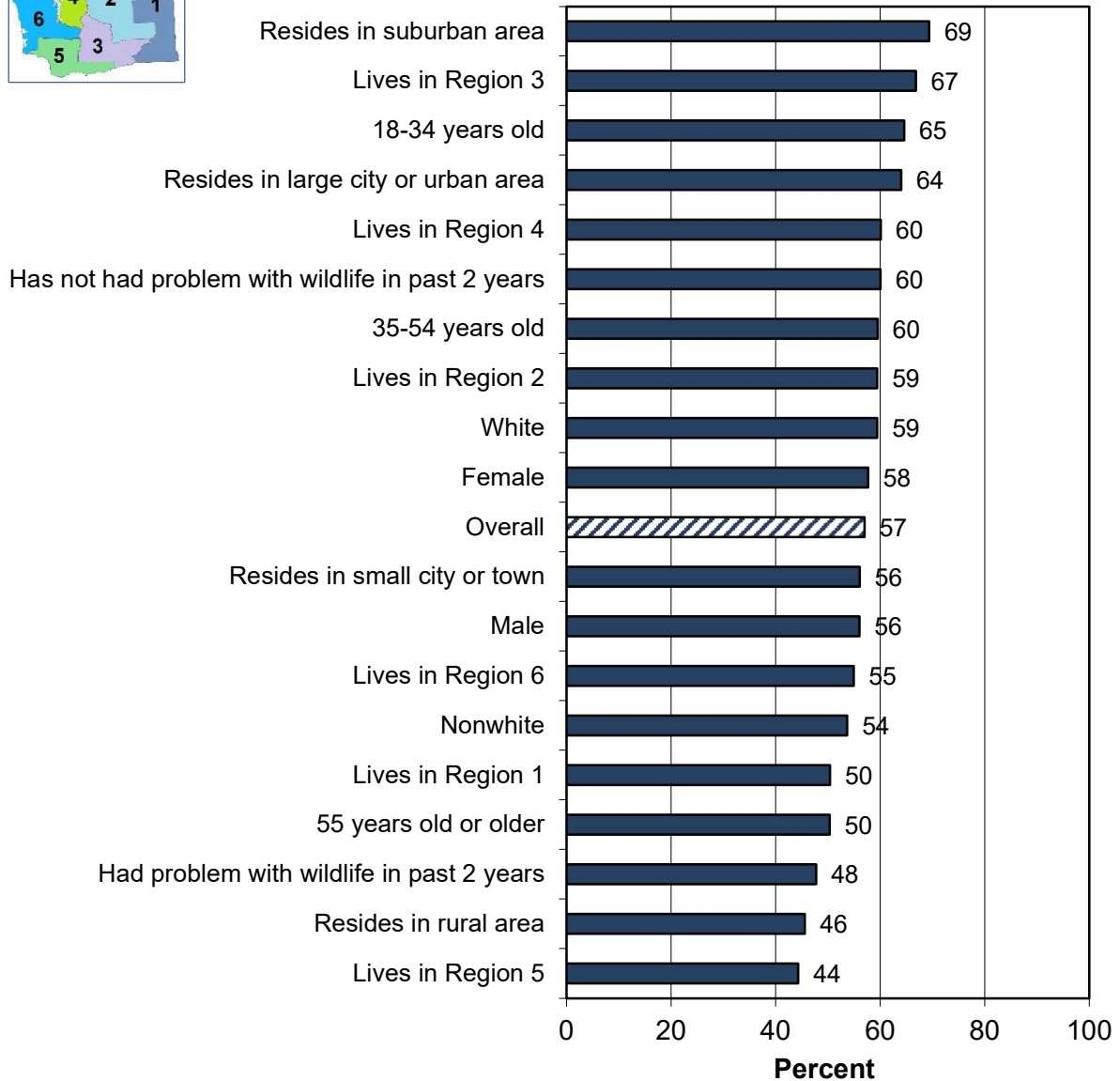
A majority of residents (57%) rate WDFW's management of negative human-wildlife interactions in the top half of the scale (19% *excellent*; 38% *good*), while 20% rate it in the bottom half (16% *fair*; 4% *poor*). A substantial percentage (23%) did not know what rating to give.



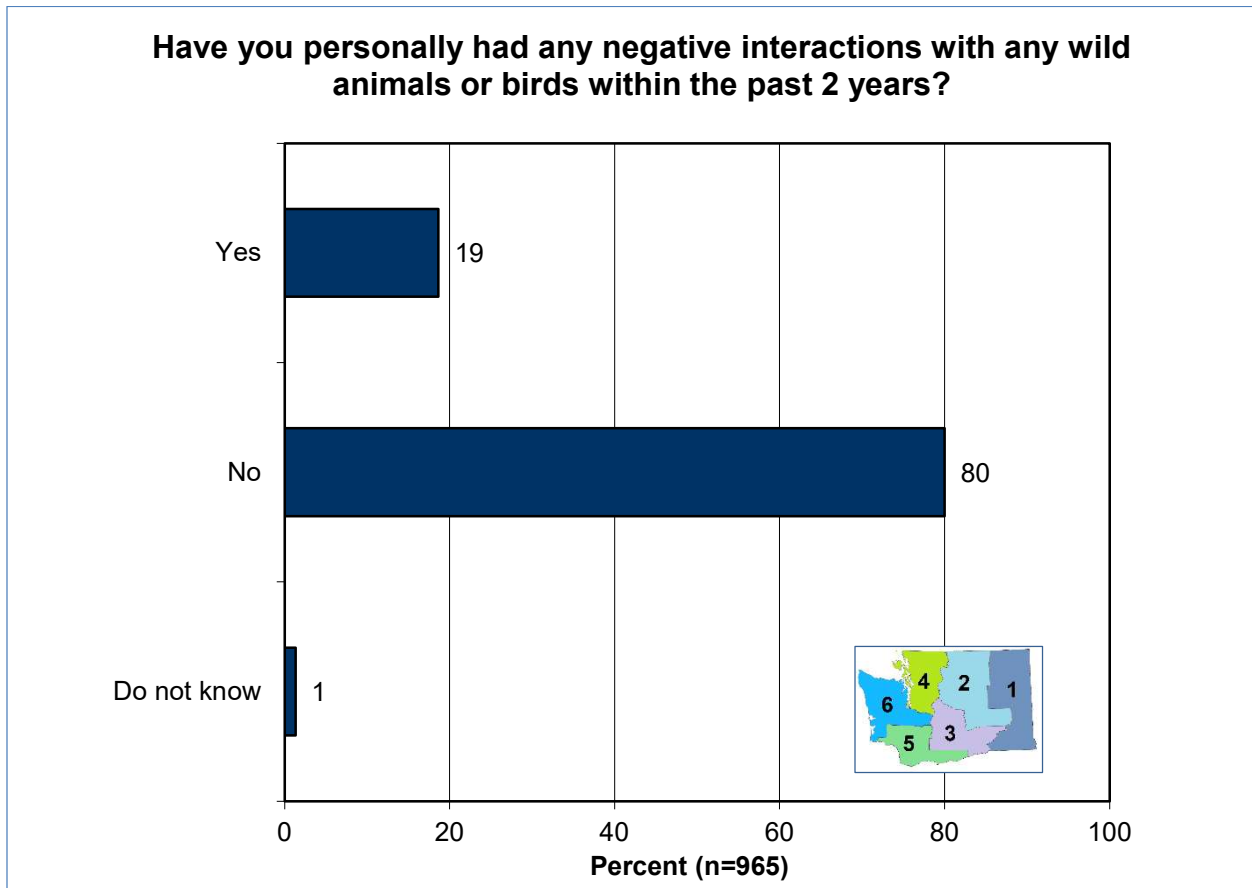
Overall, how would you rate the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's management of negative human-wildlife interactions?							
(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=169)	Region 2 (n=155)	Region 3 (n=155)	Region 4 (n=161)	Region 5 (n=155)	Region 6 (n=170)	Total (n=965)
Excellent	17	20	22	22	17	14	19
Good	34	39	45	38	27	41	38
Fair	20	16	13	17	20	13	16
Poor	10	5	4	2	9	4	4
Do not know	19	19	16	21	26	28	23

The groups most likely to give favorable ratings to WDFW’s management of human-wildlife conflicts include urban and suburban residents, those from Region 3, and younger residents.

Percent of each of the following groups who rate the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's management of negative human-wildlife interactions as excellent or good:

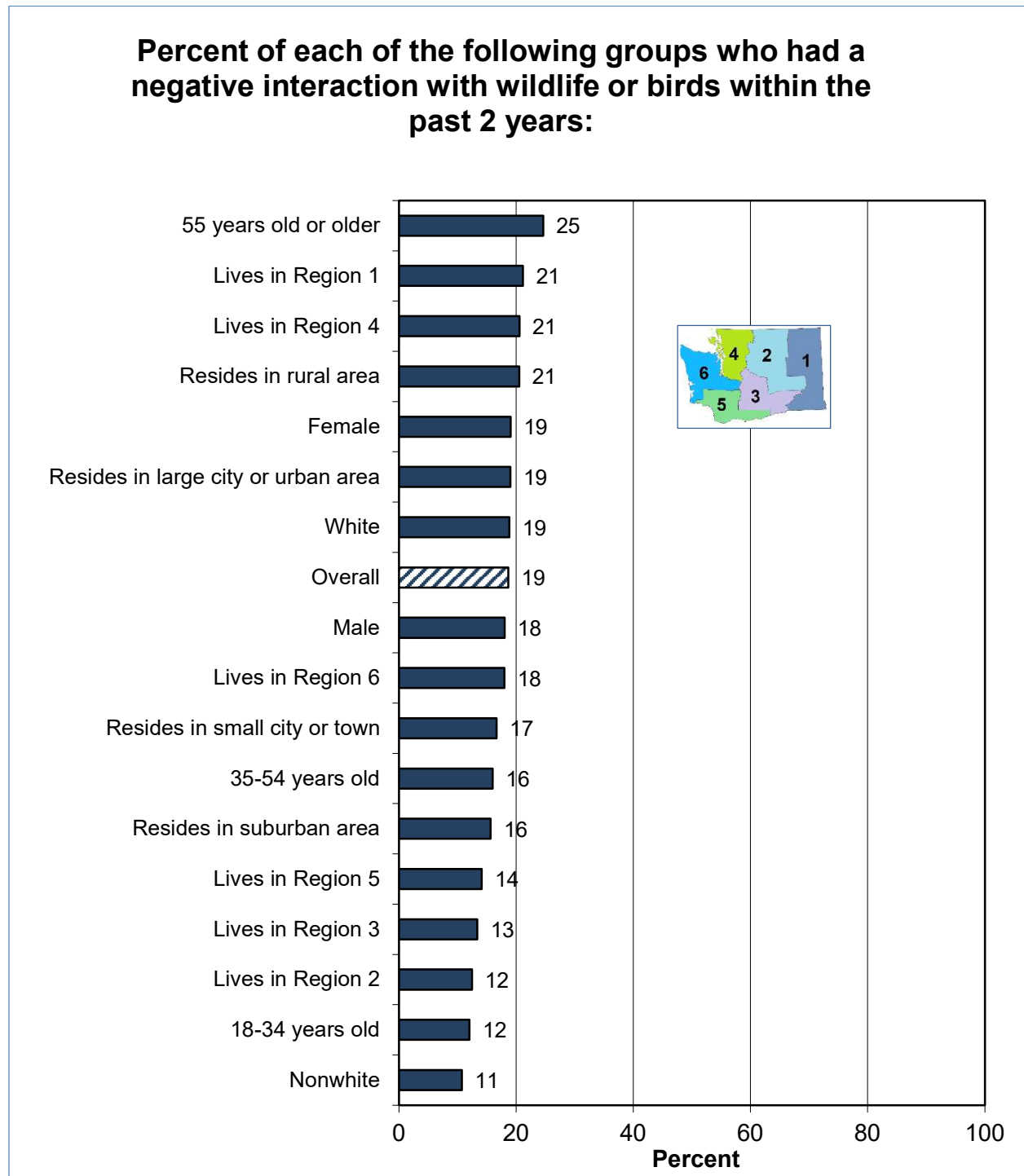


Nearly a fifth of residents (19%) have had one or more negative interactions with wild animals or birds within the past 2 years. These conflicts were most common in Regions 1 and 4.

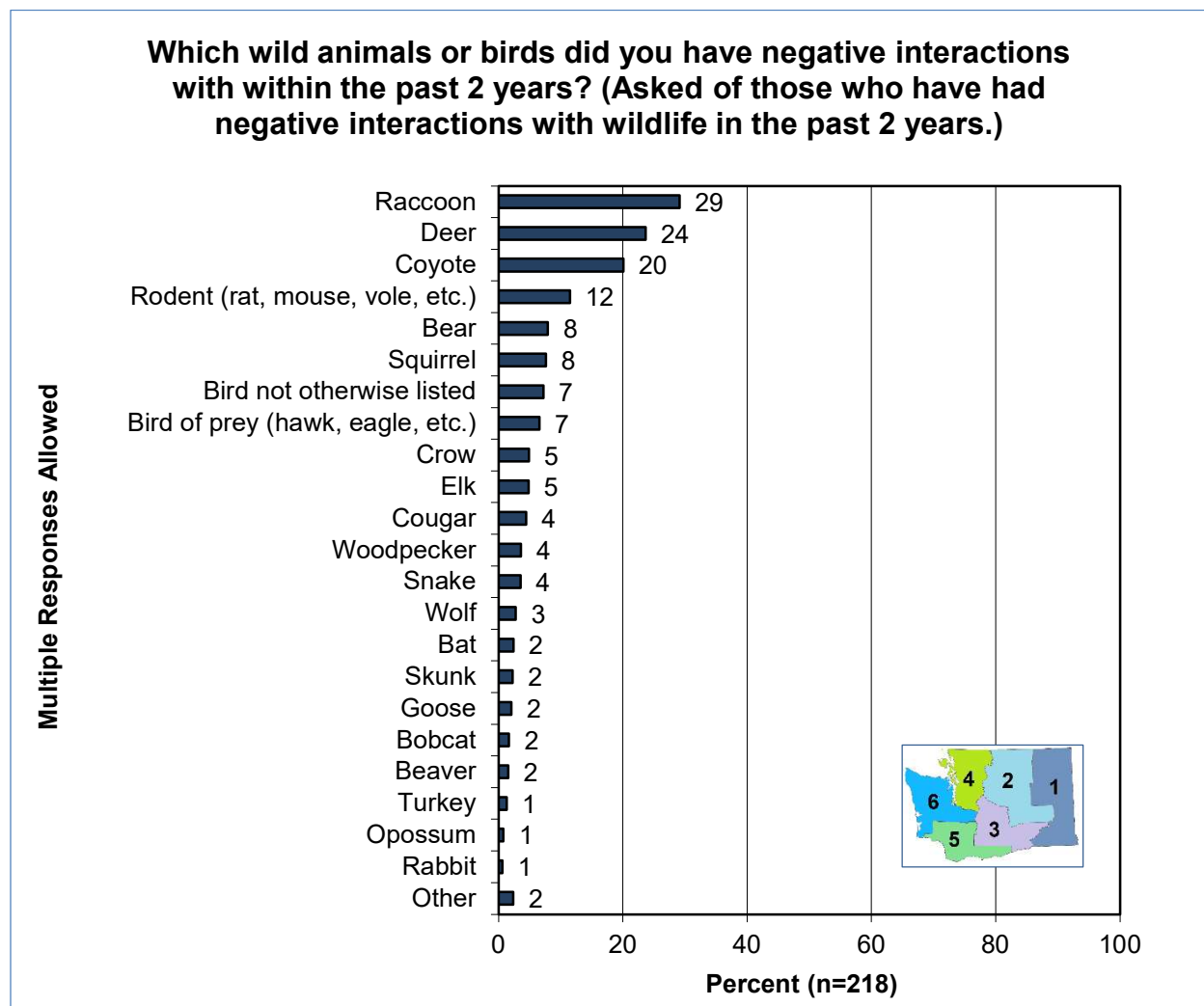


Have you personally had any negative interactions with any wild animals or birds within the past 2 years?							
(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=169)	Region 2 (n=155)	Region 3 (n=155)	Region 4 (n=161)	Region 5 (n=155)	Region 6 (n=170)	Total (n=965)
Yes	21	12	13	21	14	18	19
No	79	88	87	77	86	81	80
Do not know	0	0	0	2	0	1	1

Residents 55 and older most commonly had negative interactions with wildlife.



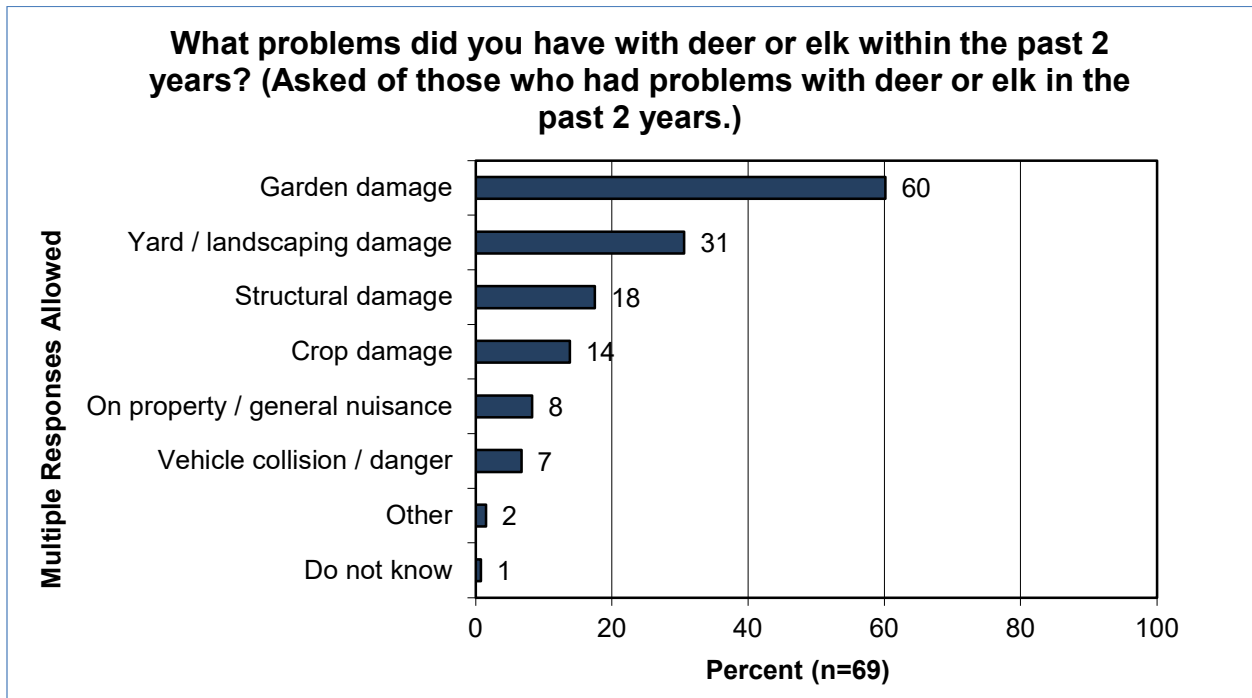
Among those who had conflicts with wildlife, the species or species groups most commonly named as creating problems are raccoons (29% of those who had problems stated this), deer (24%), coyotes (20%), and rodents (12%). The full list is shown. There is a lot of variability between the regions as to the wildlife species that created problems.



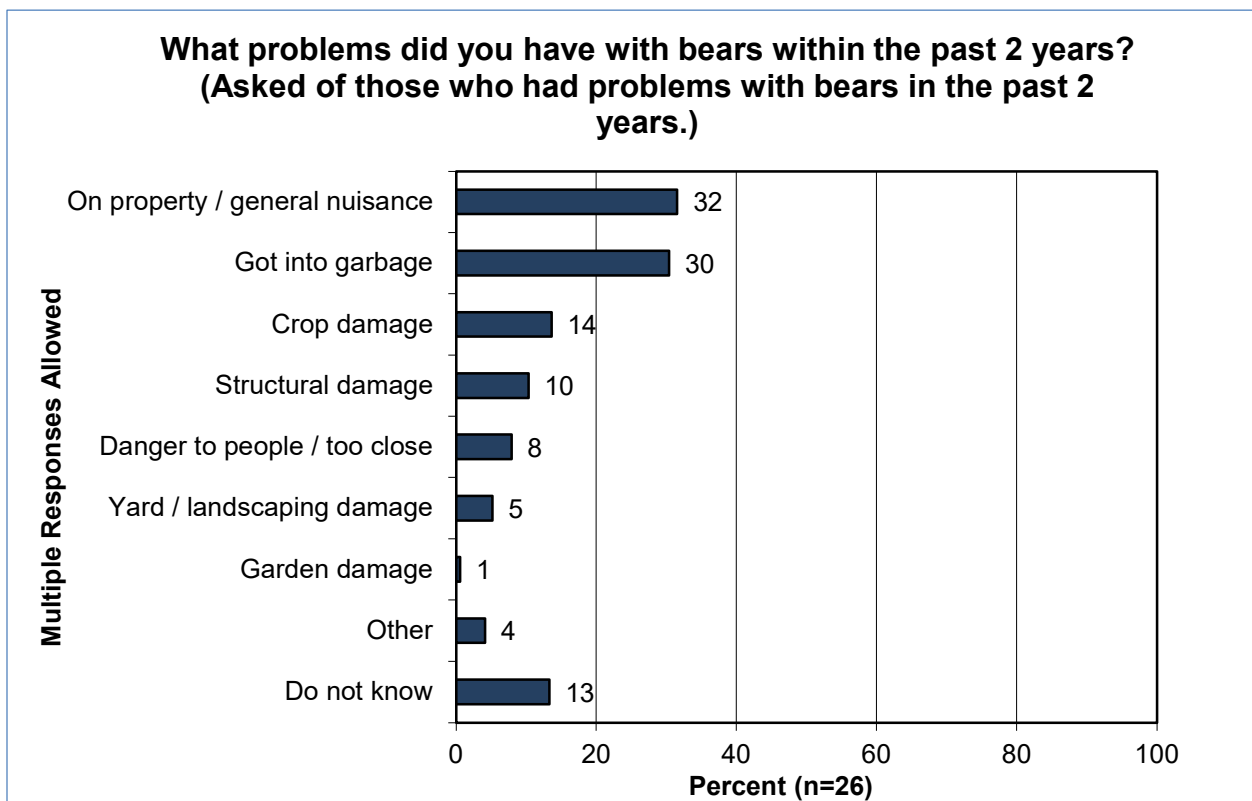
Which wild animals or birds did you have negative interactions with within the past 2 years? (Asked of those who have had negative interactions with wildlife in the past 2 years.) (Top responses)

(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=55)	Region 2 (n=27)	Region 3 (n=24)	Region 4 (n=37)	Region 5 (n=35)	Region 6 (n=40)	Total (n=218)
Raccoon	16	14	32	33	19	30	29
Deer	37	24	9	21	35	23	24
Coyote	22	17	20	23	14	16	20
Rodent	4	4	14	15	0	10	12
Bear	8	9	8	5	14	12	8
Squirrel	3	6	13	10	6	4	8

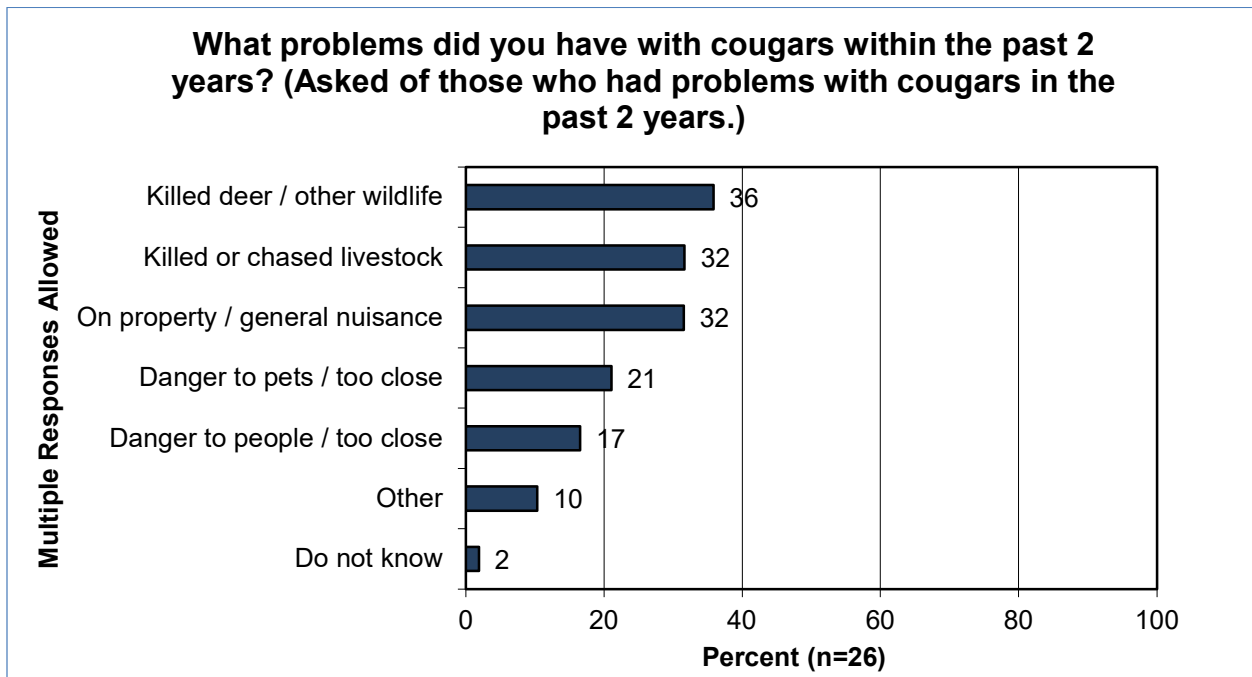
The next four graphs show the types of problems residents had with deer or elk, bears, cougars, and wolves, among those who named the species as being problematic.



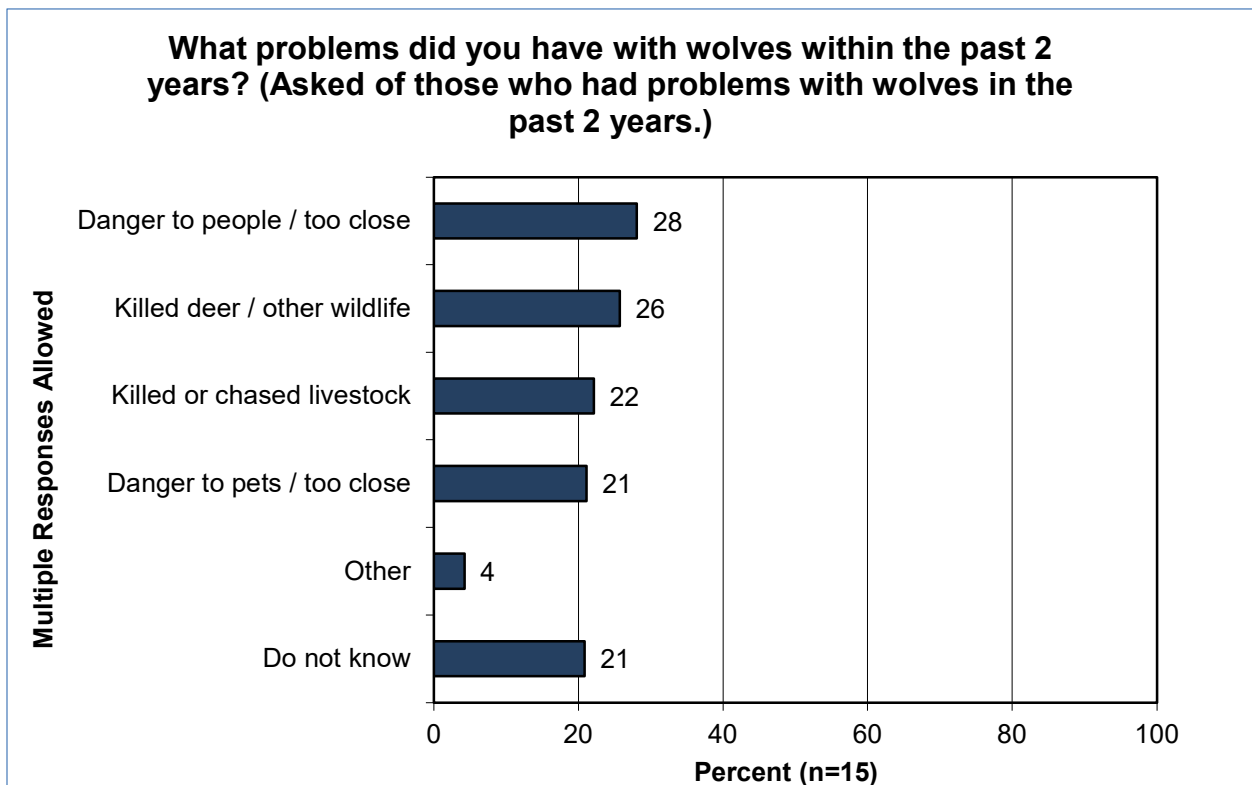
A regional table is not included due to low sample sizes.



A regional table is not included due to low sample sizes.

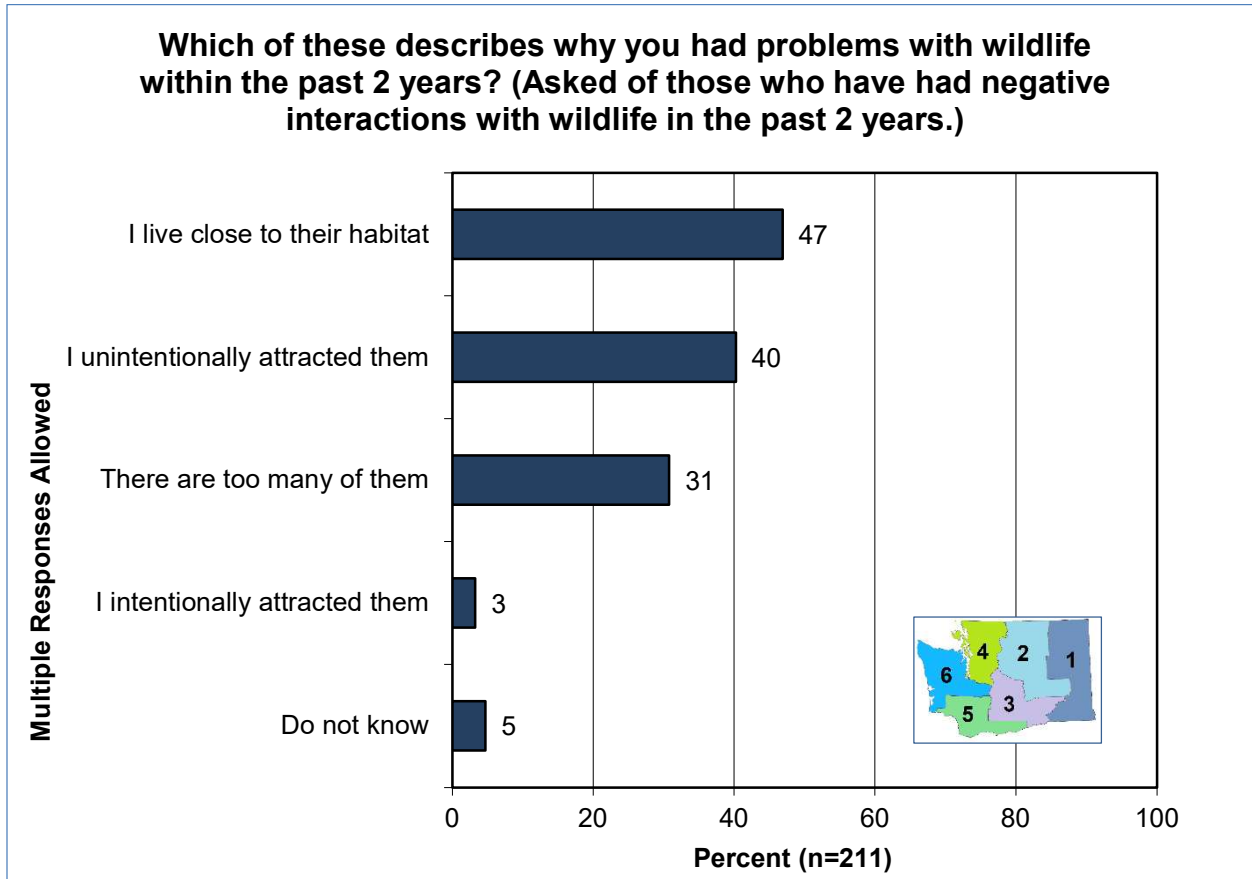


A regional table is not included due to low sample sizes.



A regional table is not included due to low sample sizes.

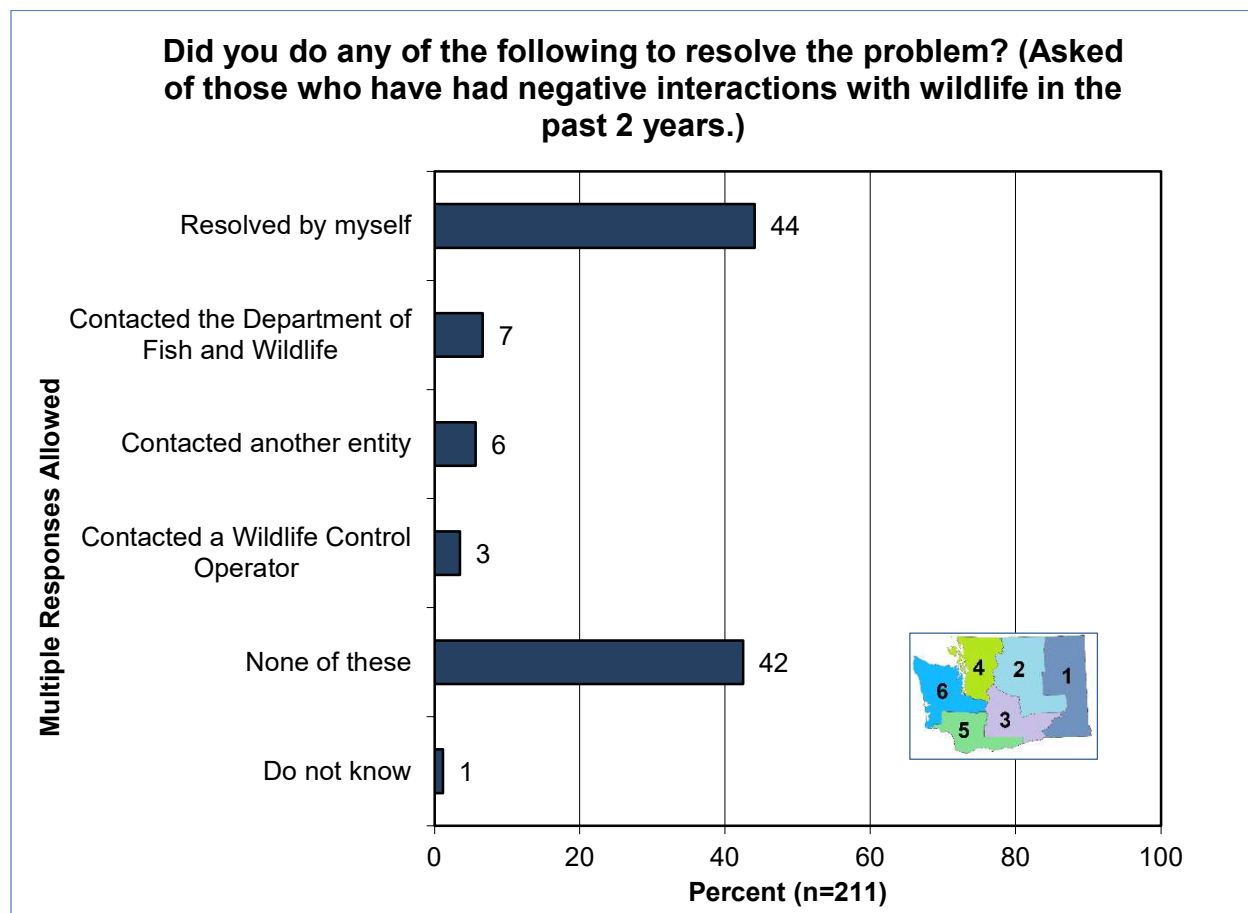
Four potential reasons for having problems with wildlife were presented to those who had problems; the top reason selected by this group was that they live close to the wildlife’s habitat (47% of the group selected this), followed by unintentionally attracting the wildlife (40%) and that there are too many of them (31%). Only 3% of the group said that they intentionally attracted the wildlife.



Which of these describes why you had problems with wildlife within the past 2 years? (Asked of those who have had negative interactions with wildlife in the past 2 years.)

(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=53)	Region 2 (n=26)	Region 3 (n=24)	Region 4 (n=35)	Region 5 (n=35)	Region 6 (n=38)	Total (n=211)
I live close to their habitat	64	67	58	40	45	51	47
I unintentionally attract them	19	23	57	40	34	52	40
There are too many of them	39	19	34	33	44	17	31
I intentionally attract them	1	1	0	1	0	12	3
Do not know	9	12	1	5	1	3	5

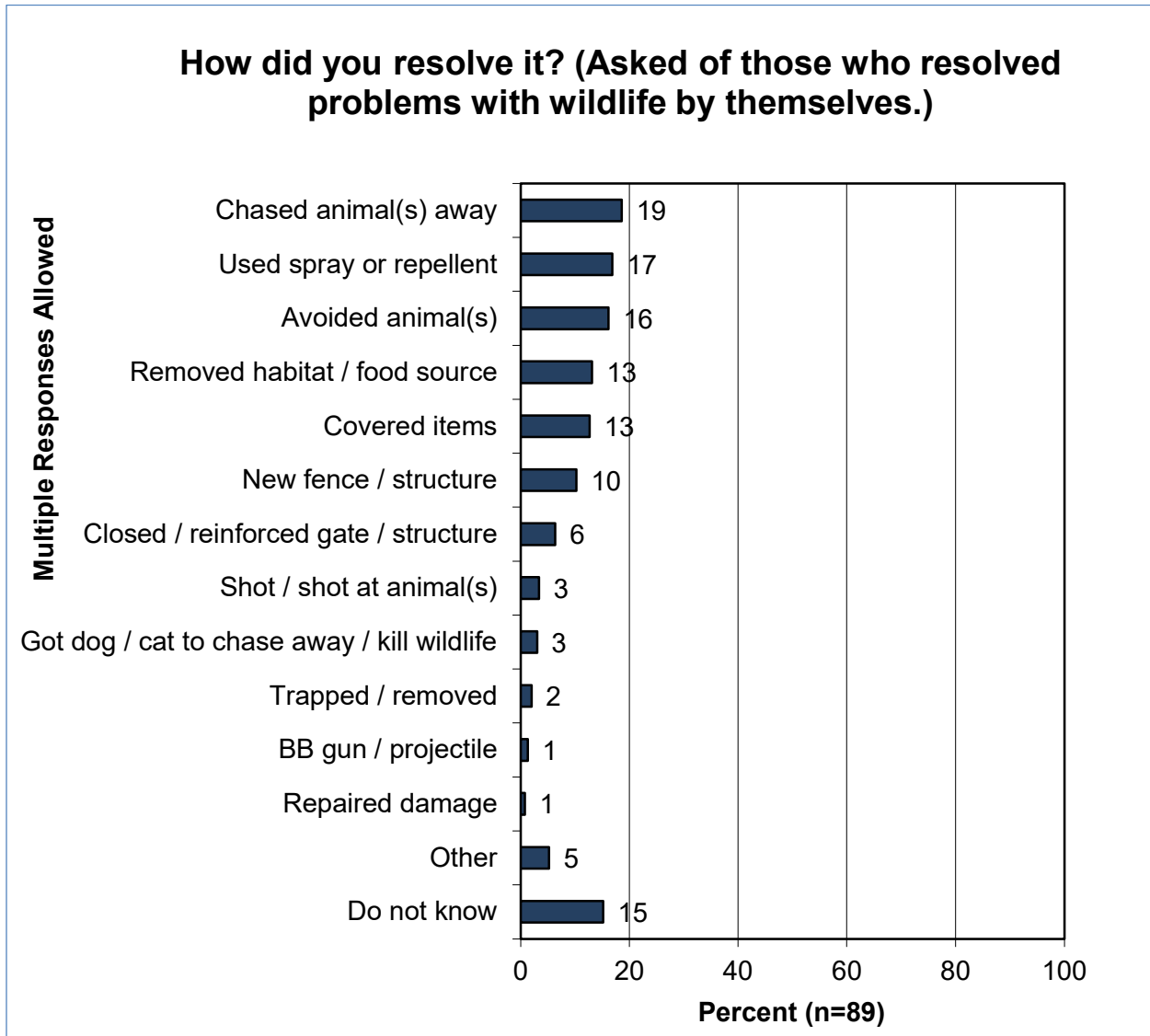
Those who had problems with wildlife most commonly said that they resolved the situation themselves (44% of the group stated this); only 7% contacted WDFW.



Did you do any of the following to resolve the problem? (Asked of those who have had negative interactions with wildlife in the past 2 years.)

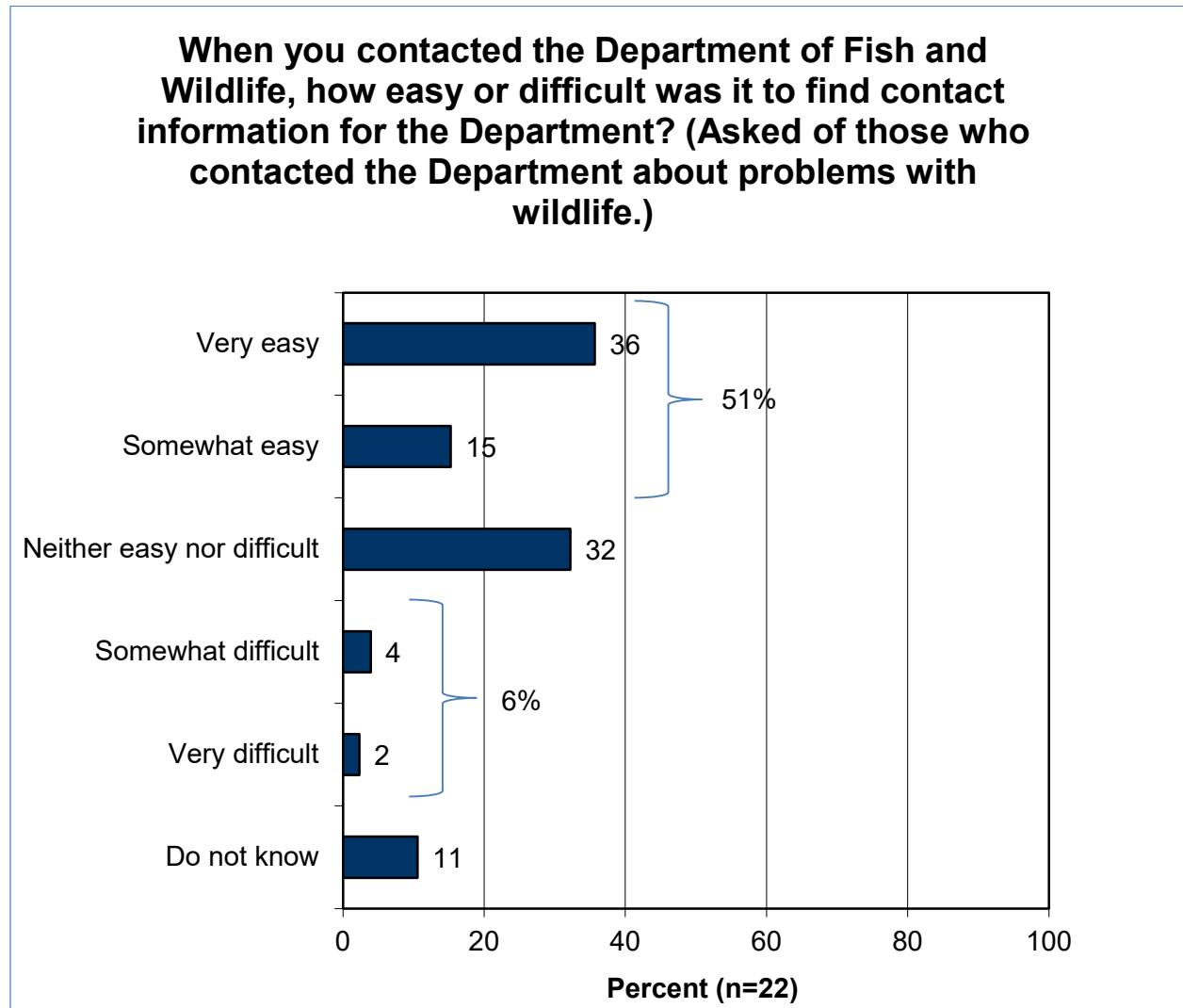
(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=53)	Region 2 (n=26)	Region 3 (n=24)	Region 4 (n=35)	Region 5 (n=35)	Region 6 (n=38)	Total (n=211)
Resolved by myself	27	34	59	48	44	40	44
Contacted the Department of Fish and Wildlife	6	10	23	4	12	7	7
Contacted another entity	3	10	12	4	8	7	6
Contacted a Wildlife Control Operator	3	10	0	3	4	5	3
None of these	63	55	12	44	27	41	42
Do not know	1	0	1	2	0	0	1

There were several approaches to resolving problems with wildlife by those who resolved it by themselves. The methods used by 10% or more of this group are they chased the animal(s) away, used spray or repellent, avoided the animal(s), removed habitat or food sources, covered items, and installed a new fence or structure.



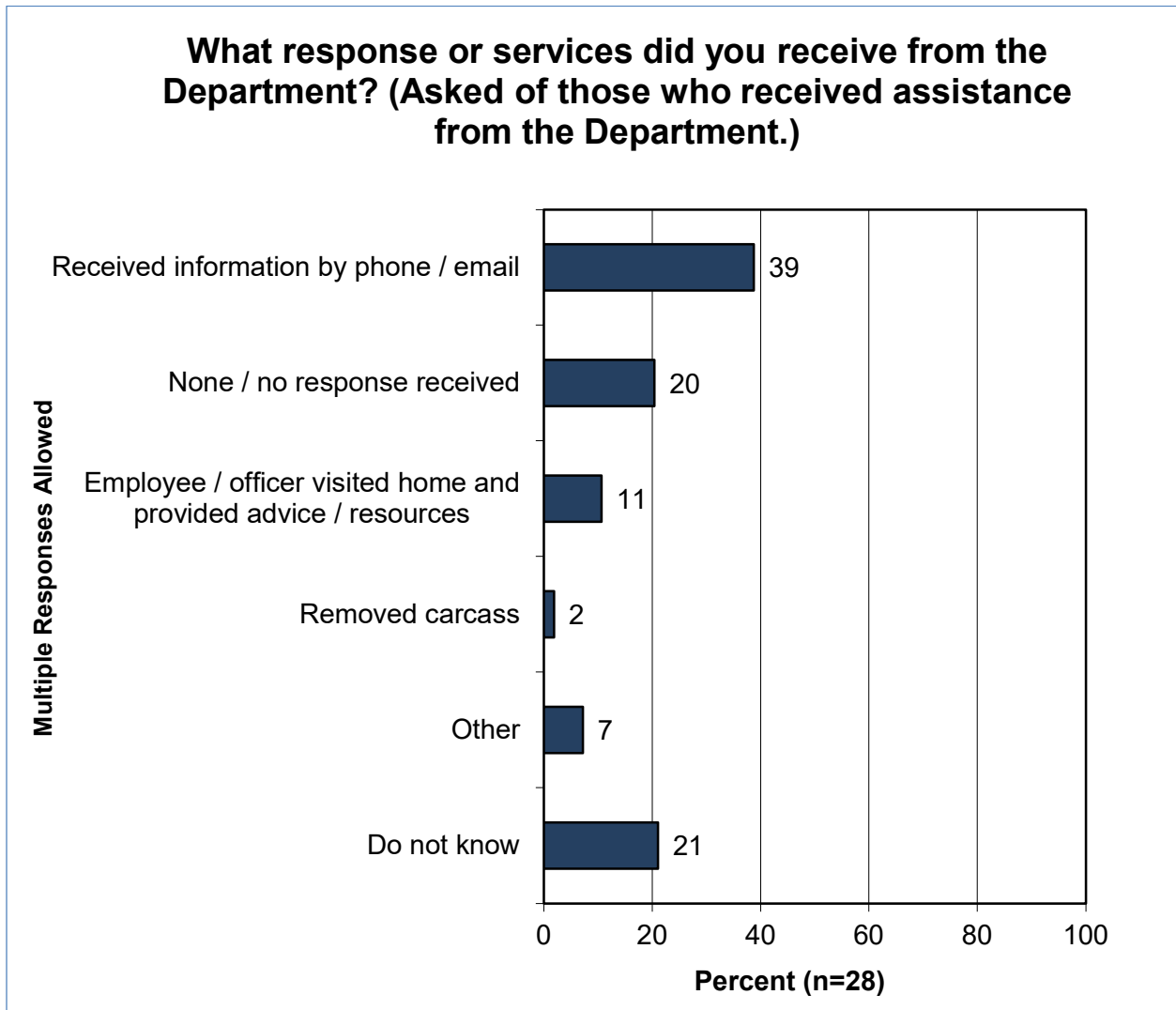
A regional table is not included due to low sample sizes.

A slight majority of those who contacted WDFW about problems with wildlife (51%) said it was very or somewhat easy to find contact information.



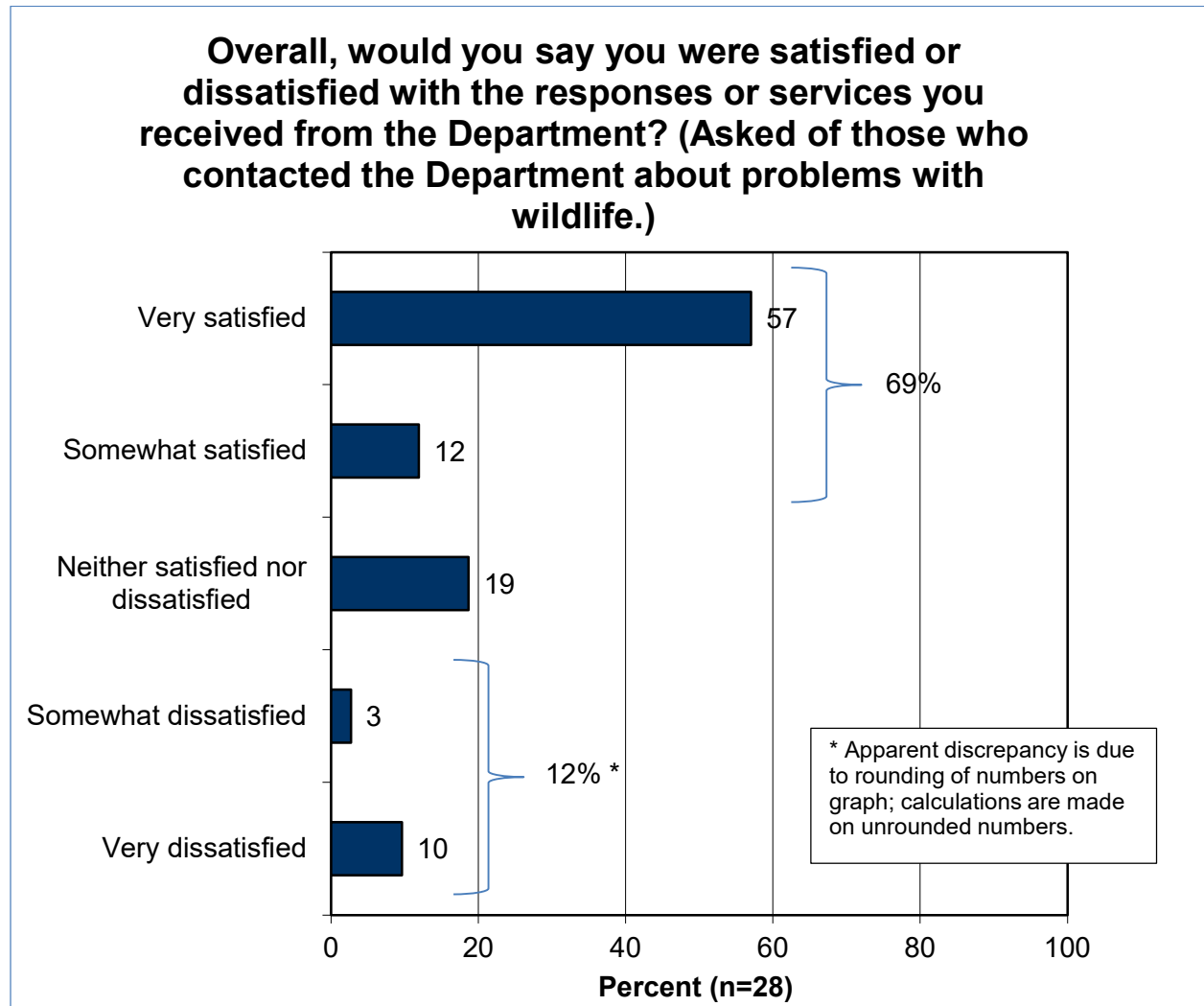
A regional table is not included due to low sample sizes.

Responses or services received from WDFW are shown, among those who requested assistance.



A regional table is not included due to low sample sizes.

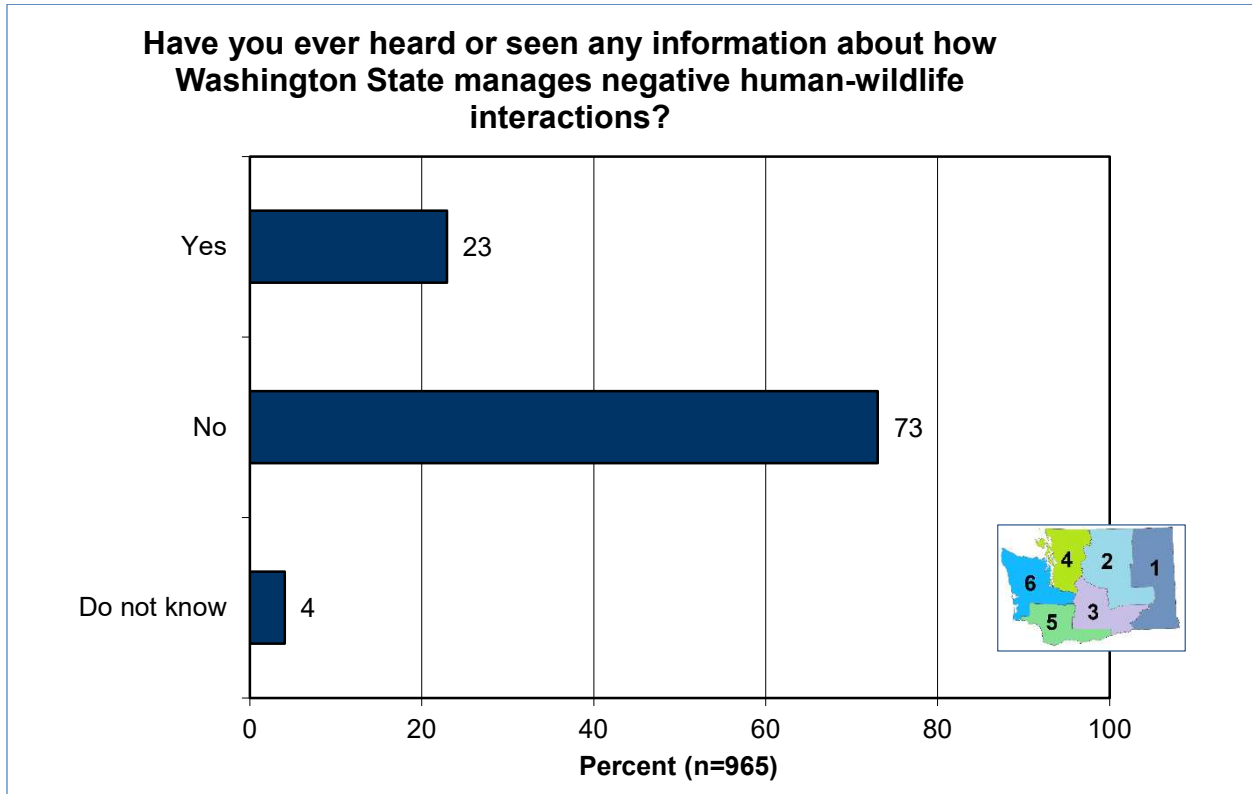
Among those who contacted WDFW about problems with wildlife, 69% are satisfied and 12% are dissatisfied with the assistance.



A regional table is not included due to low sample sizes.

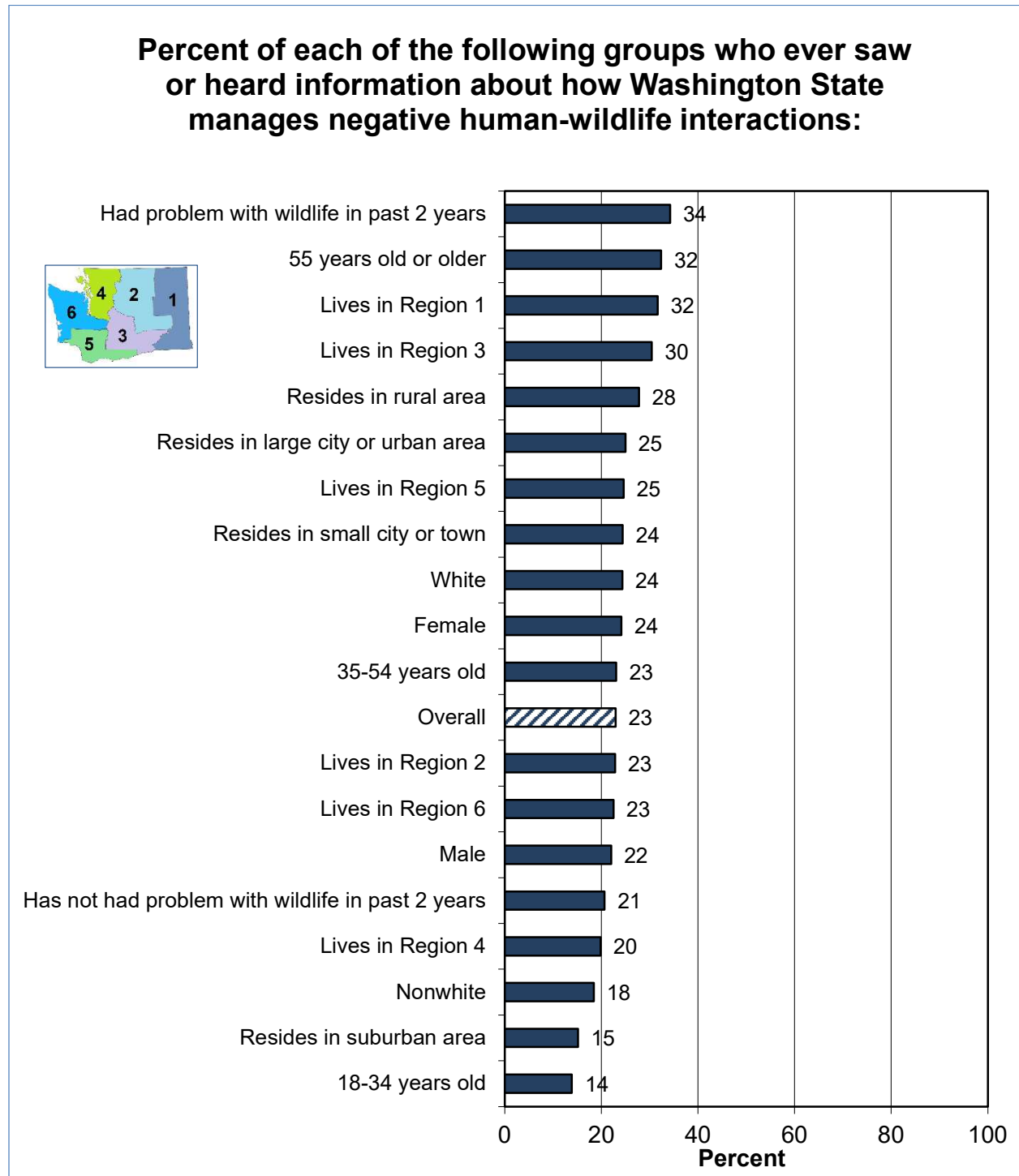
INFORMATION ON HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS

Just under a quarter of residents (23%) have ever heard or seen information about how Washington State manages negative human-wildlife interactions.

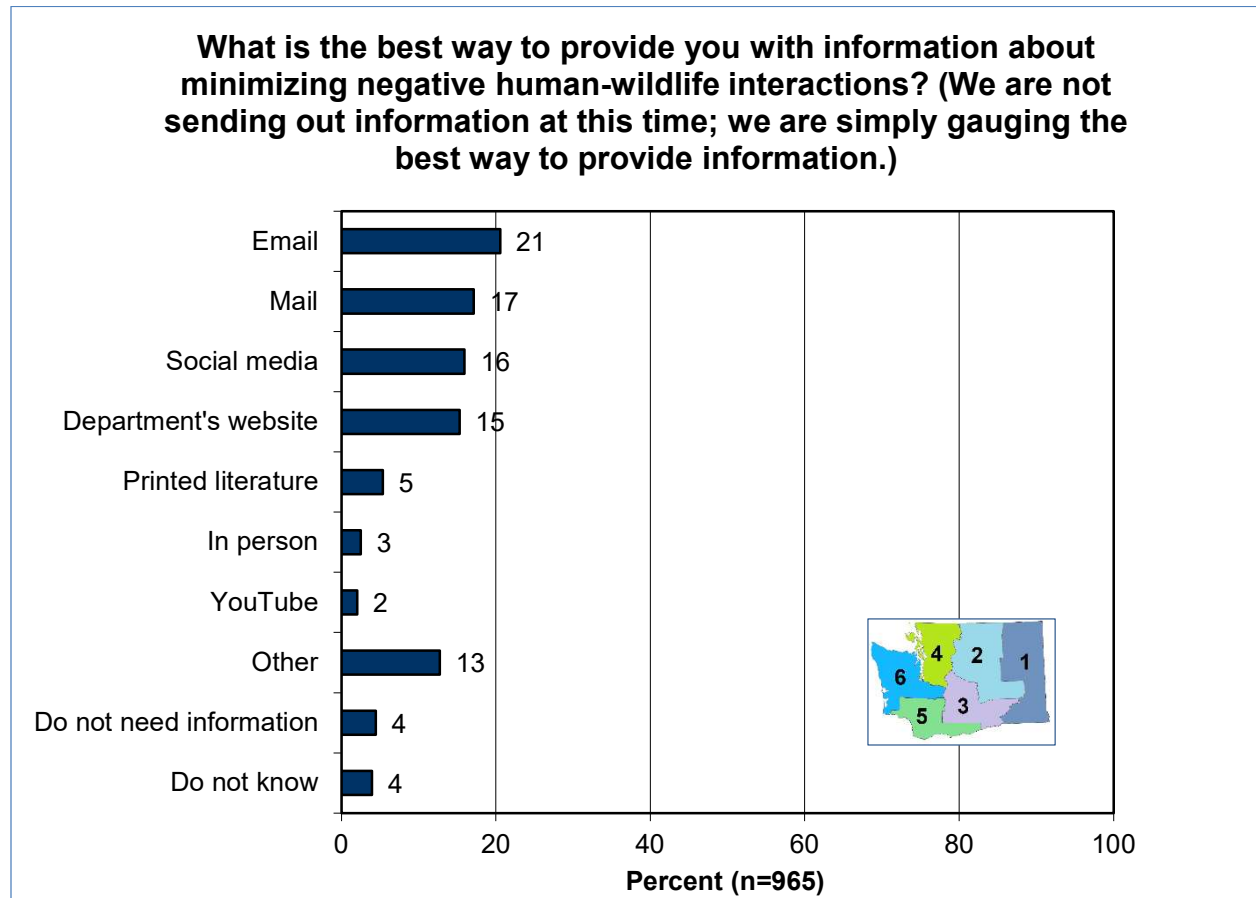


Have you ever heard or seen any information about how Washington State manages negative human-wildlife interactions?							
(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=169)	Region 2 (n=155)	Region 3 (n=155)	Region 4 (n=161)	Region 5 (n=155)	Region 6 (n=170)	Total (n=965)
Yes	32	23	30	20	25	23	23
No	67	72	66	77	66	72	73
Do not know	1	5	4	3	9	5	4

Those who had problems with wildlife, older residents, and residents of Regions 1 and 3 were most likely to see or hear information about managing human-wildlife conflicts.

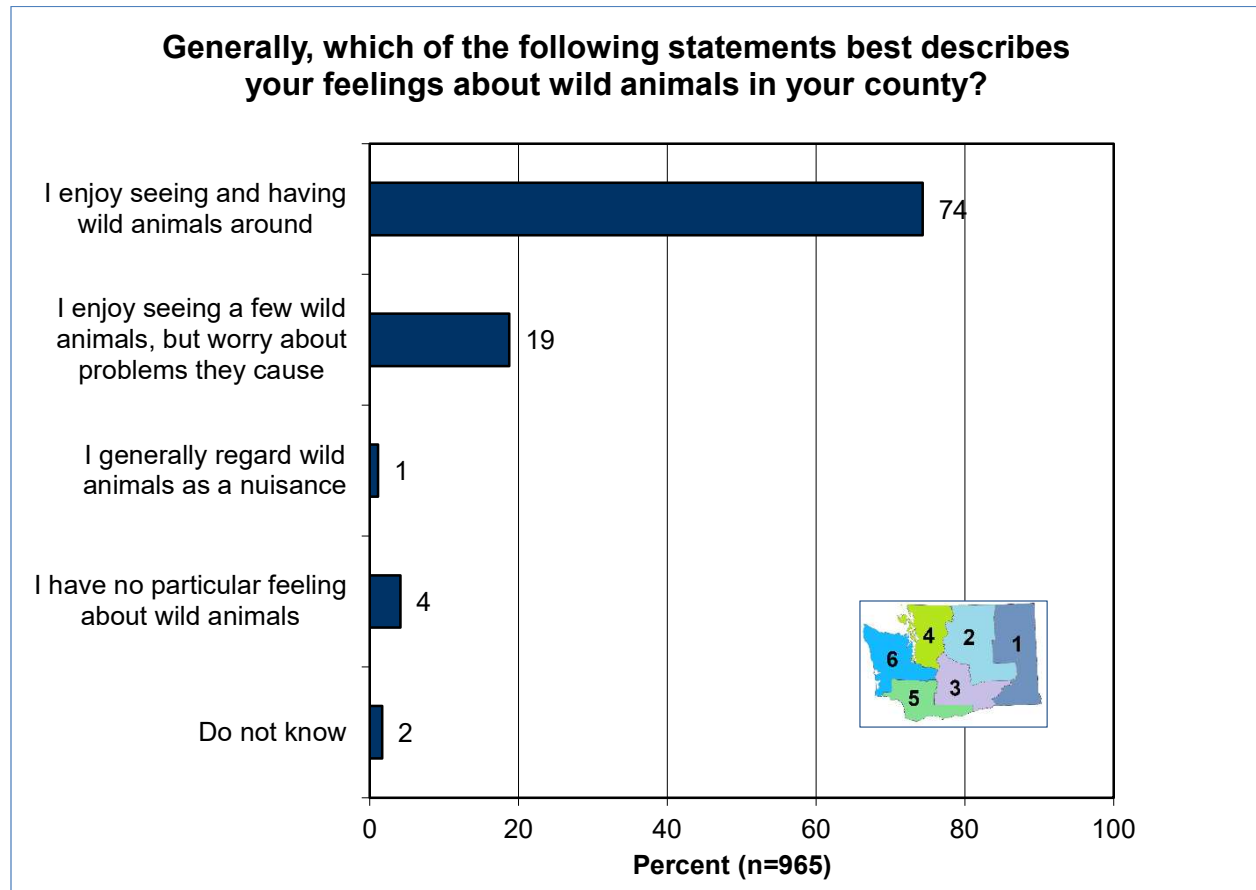


Residents say the best way to provide them with information about minimizing human-wildlife problems are via email, mail, social media, and the WDFW website.



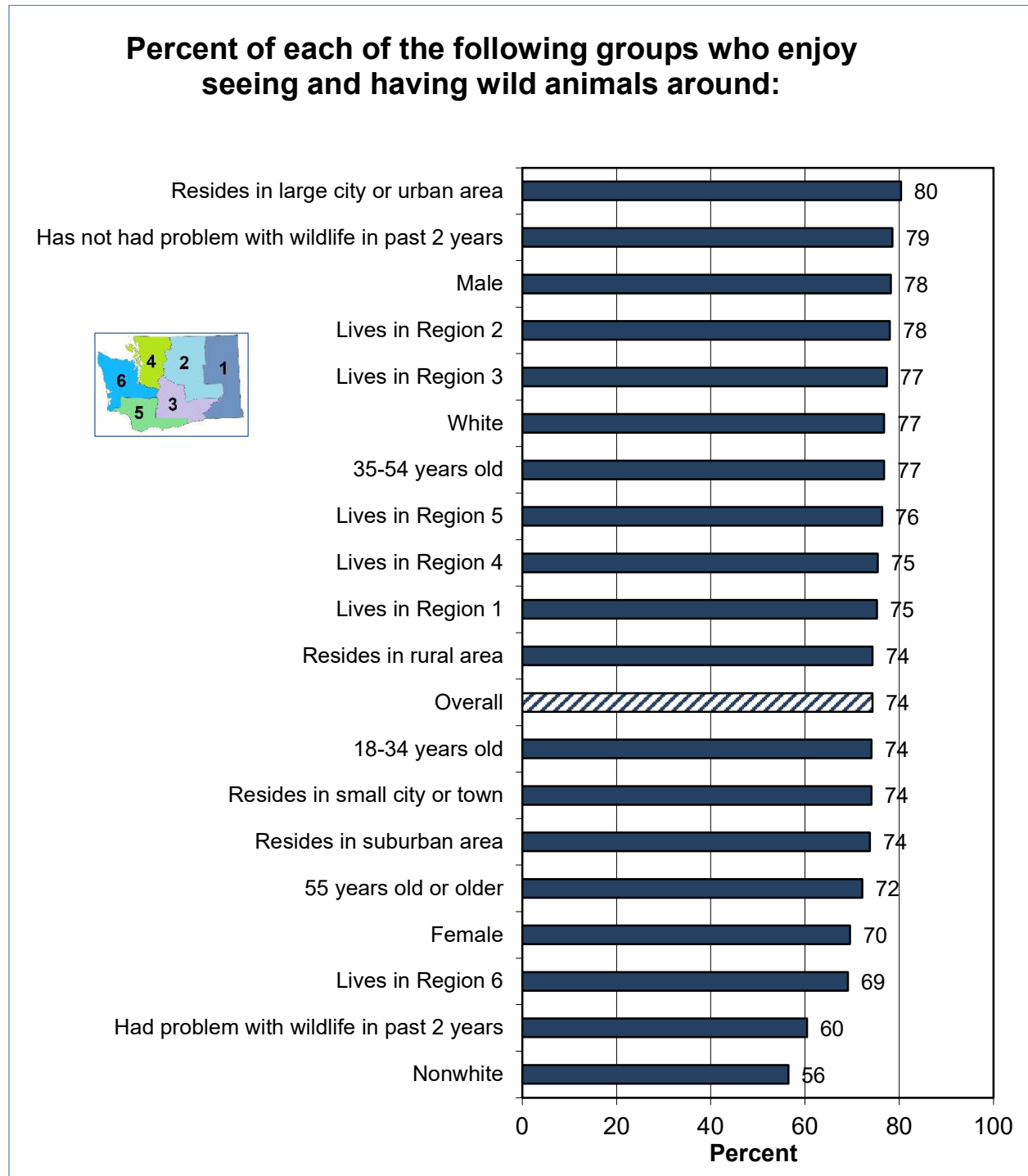
What is the best way to provide you with information about minimizing negative human-wildlife interactions?							
(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=169)	Region 2 (n=155)	Region 3 (n=155)	Region 4 (n=161)	Region 5 (n=155)	Region 6 (n=170)	Total (n=965)
E-mail	18	21	24	20	25	19	21
Mail	23	17	13	14	22	20	17
Social media	15	17	21	16	13	16	16
Department's website	10	20	12	18	16	12	15
Printed literature	4	9	7	5	5	6	5
In person	6	1	9	0	3	4	3
YouTube	3	0	4	2	1	2	2
Other	13	11	8	17	7	9	13
Do not need information	2	2	2	4	3	7	4
Do not know	7	2	1	4	3	3	4

About three fourths of residents (74%) enjoy seeing and having wild animals around, whereas 19% enjoy seeing a few wild animals but worry about the problems they cause.

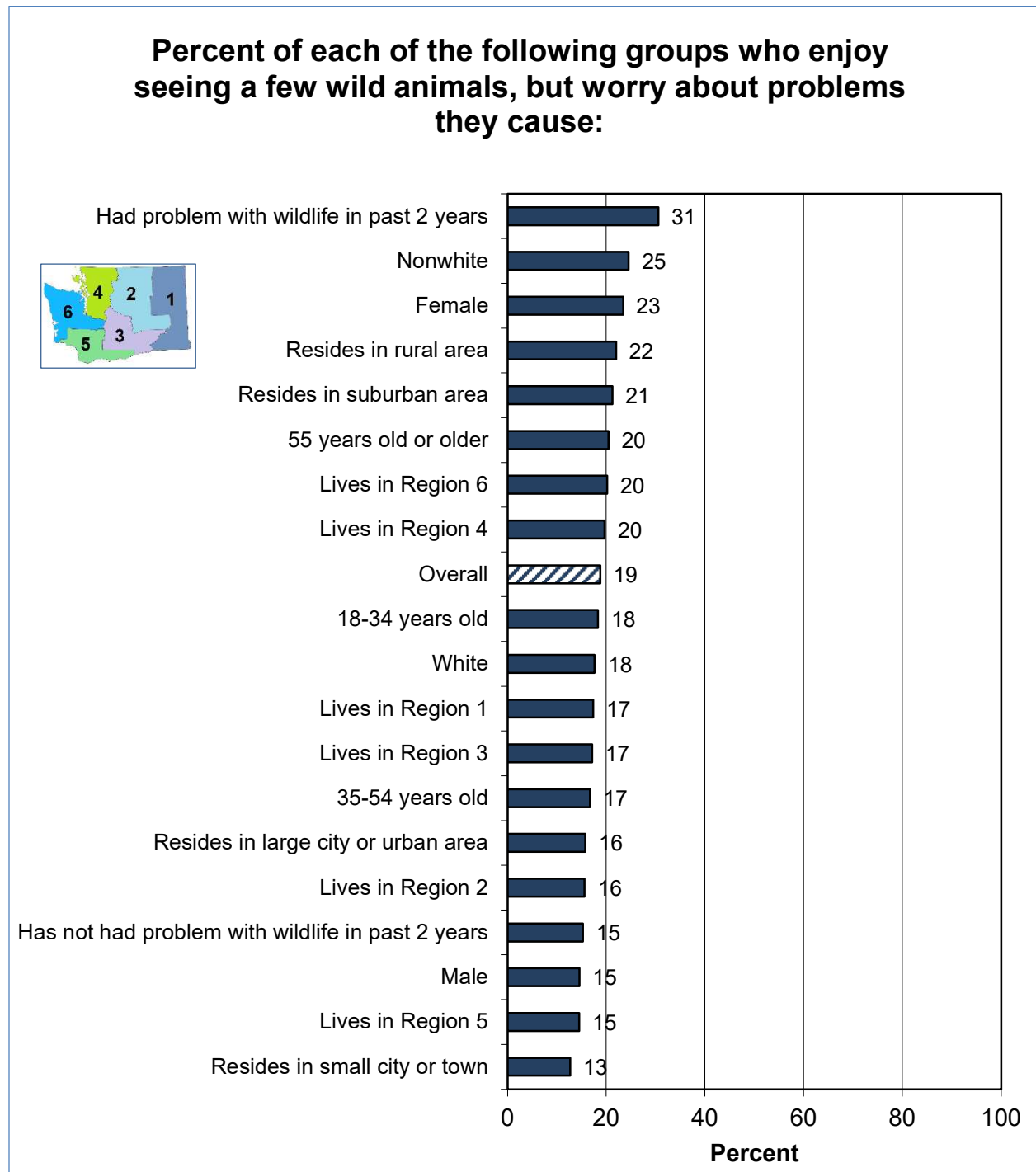


Generally, which of the following statements best describes your feelings about wild animals in your county?							
(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=169)	Region 2 (n=155)	Region 3 (n=155)	Region 4 (n=161)	Region 5 (n=155)	Region 6 (n=170)	Total (n=965)
I enjoy seeing and having wild animals around	75	78	77	75	76	69	74
I enjoy seeing a few wild animals, but worry about problems they cause	17	16	17	20	15	20	19
I generally regard wild animals as a nuisance	2	1	0	1	0	2	1
I have no particular feeling about wild animals	5	5	5	3	7	5	4
Do not know	0	0	0	2	2	3	2

Large city or urban residents and those who have not had a problem with wildlife in the past 2 years are the groups most likely to enjoy having wildlife around.

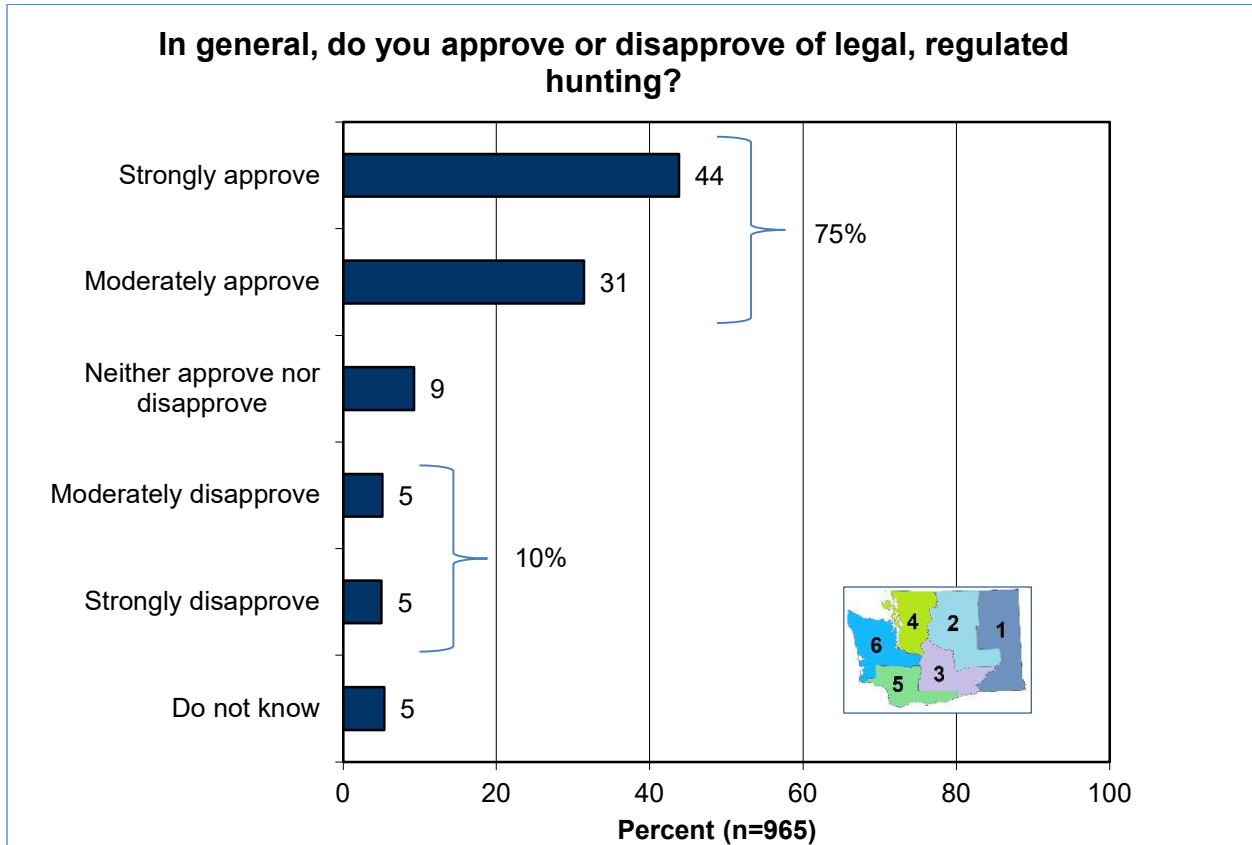


Those who had problems with wildlife in the past 2 years and nonwhite residents are more likely than other groups to enjoy seeing a few wild animals but worry about problems they cause.



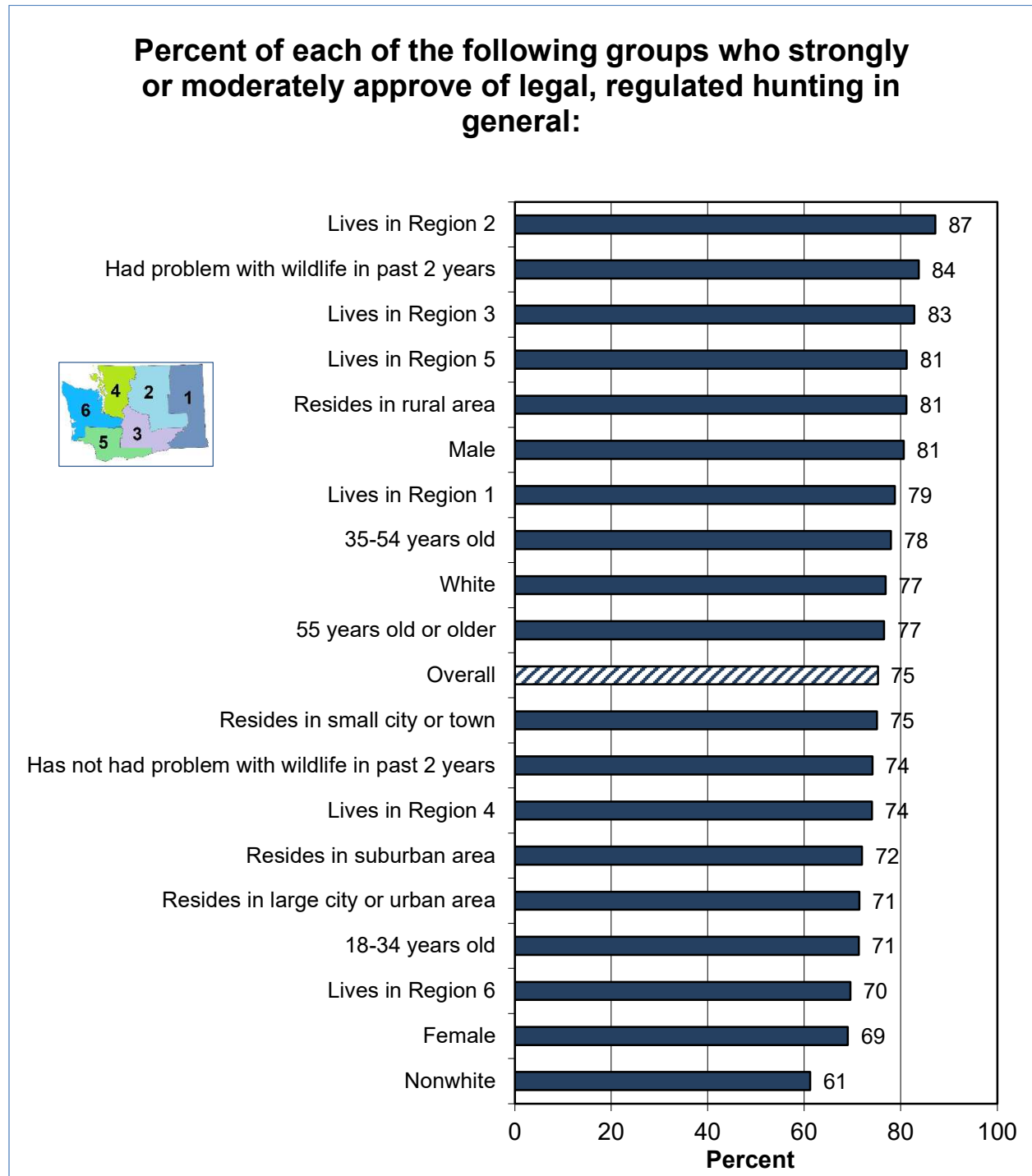
ATTITUDES TOWARD HUNTING

Three fourths of residents (75%) approve of legal, regulated hunting in general; 44% *strongly* approve. In contrast, 10% disapprove. Strong approval is highest in Regions 2 and 3.

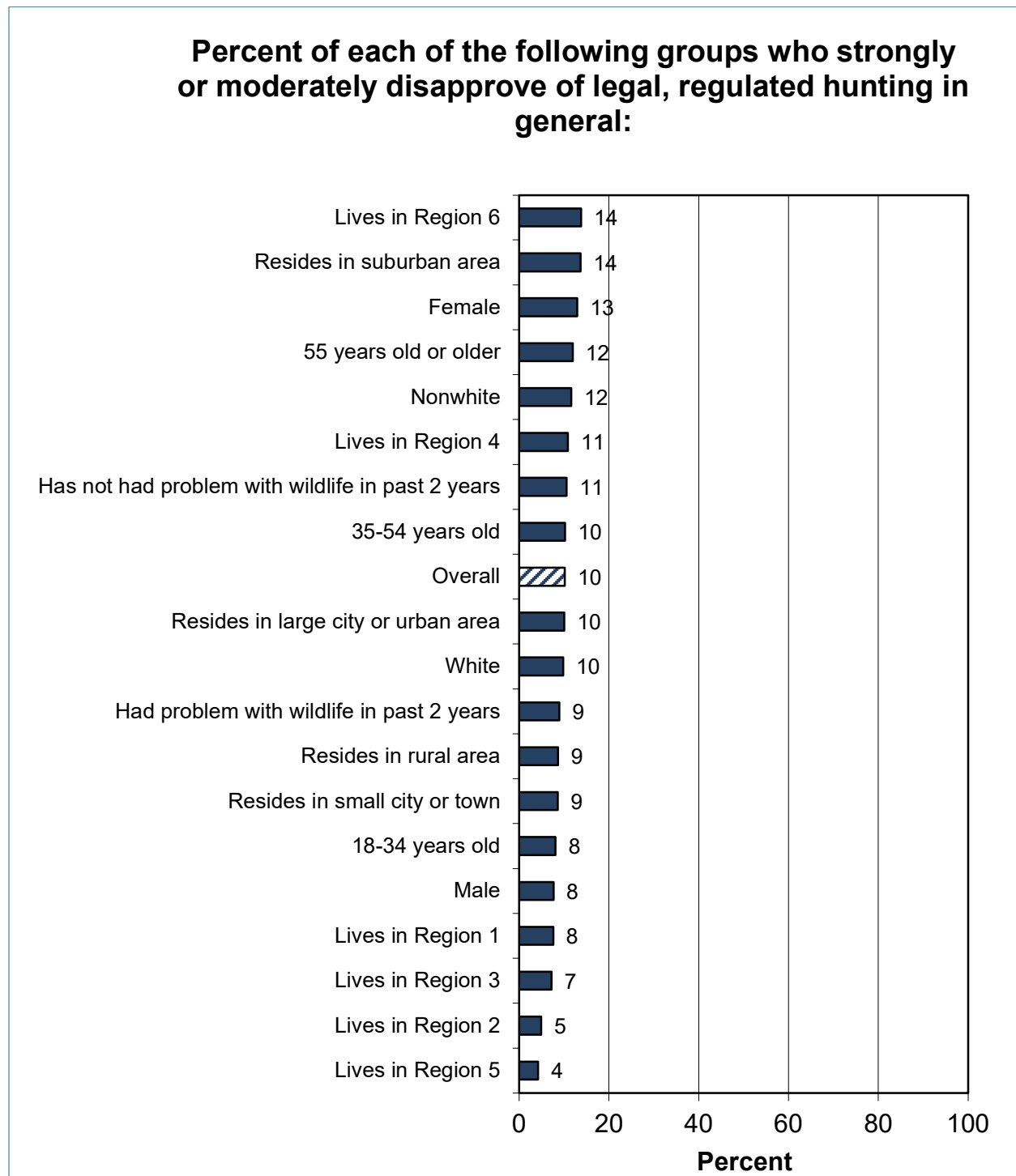


(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=169)	Region 2 (n=155)	Region 3 (n=155)	Region 4 (n=161)	Region 5 (n=155)	Region 6 (n=170)	Total (n=965)
Strongly approve	47	58	60	39	52	43	44
Moderately approve	32	29	23	35	29	27	31
Neither approve nor disapprove	6	7	8	9	13	10	9
Moderately disapprove	2	1	4	5	2	9	5
Strongly disapprove	6	4	3	6	2	4	5
Do not know	8	1	2	6	2	7	5

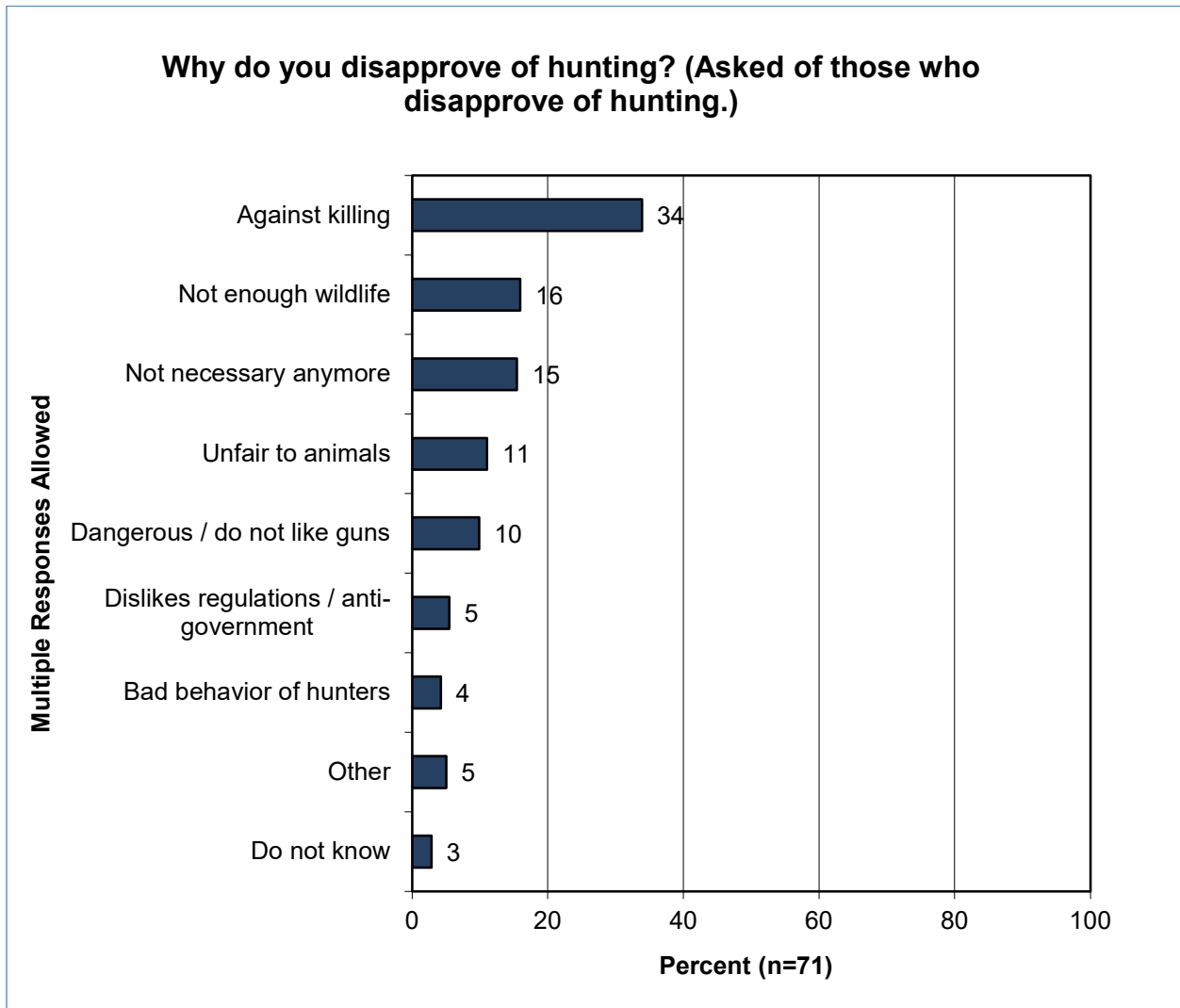
Overall hunting approval is highest among residents of Regions 2 and 3, as well as those who experienced problems from wildlife.



General disapproval of hunting is highest among Region 6 and suburban residents, although it is not substantially higher than disapproval among residents overall.

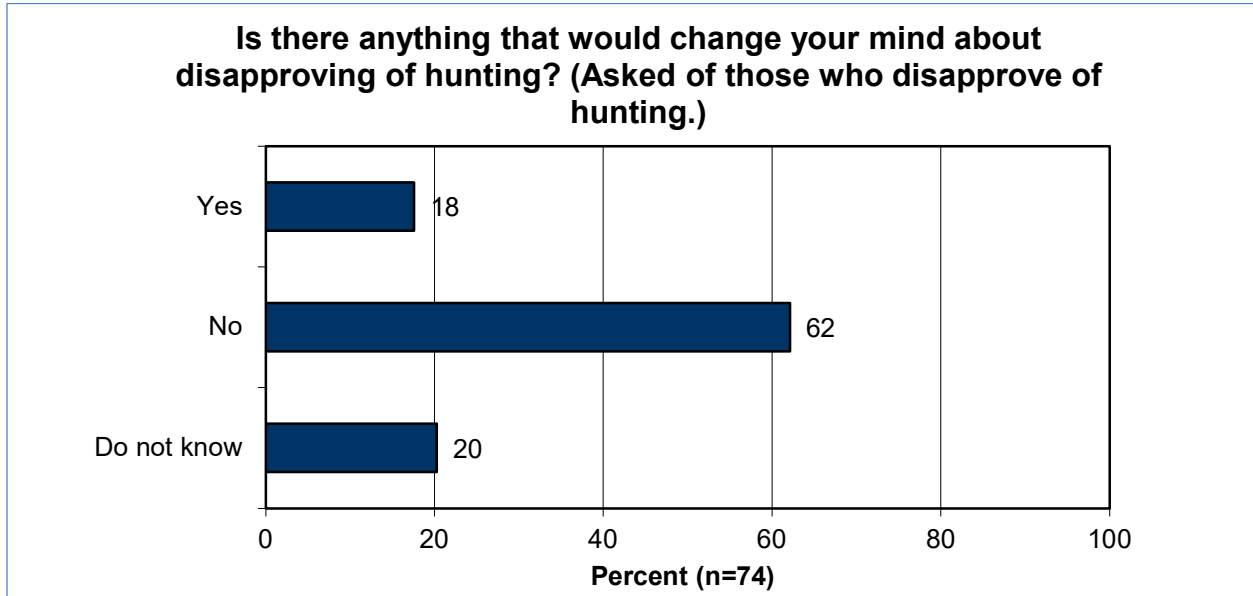


Those who disapprove of hunting most often said they do so because they are against killing animals (34% of the group stated this).

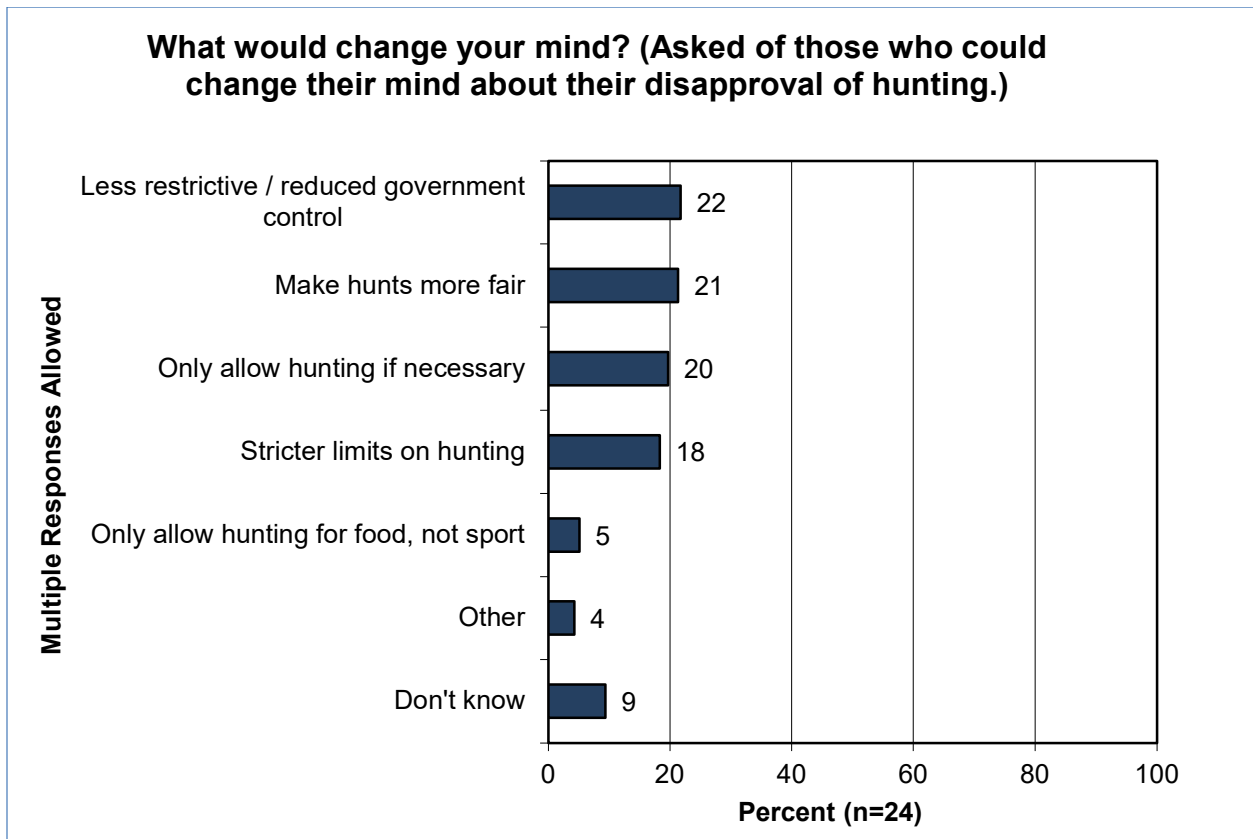


A regional table is not included due to low sample sizes.

Among those who disapprove of hunting, 18% say they are open to changing their mind about their disapproval. Among that 18%, potential differences that could change their mind include lesser restrictions or reduced government control, along with differences from an opposite mindset: making hunts more fair, only allowing hunting if necessary, and stricter limitations.



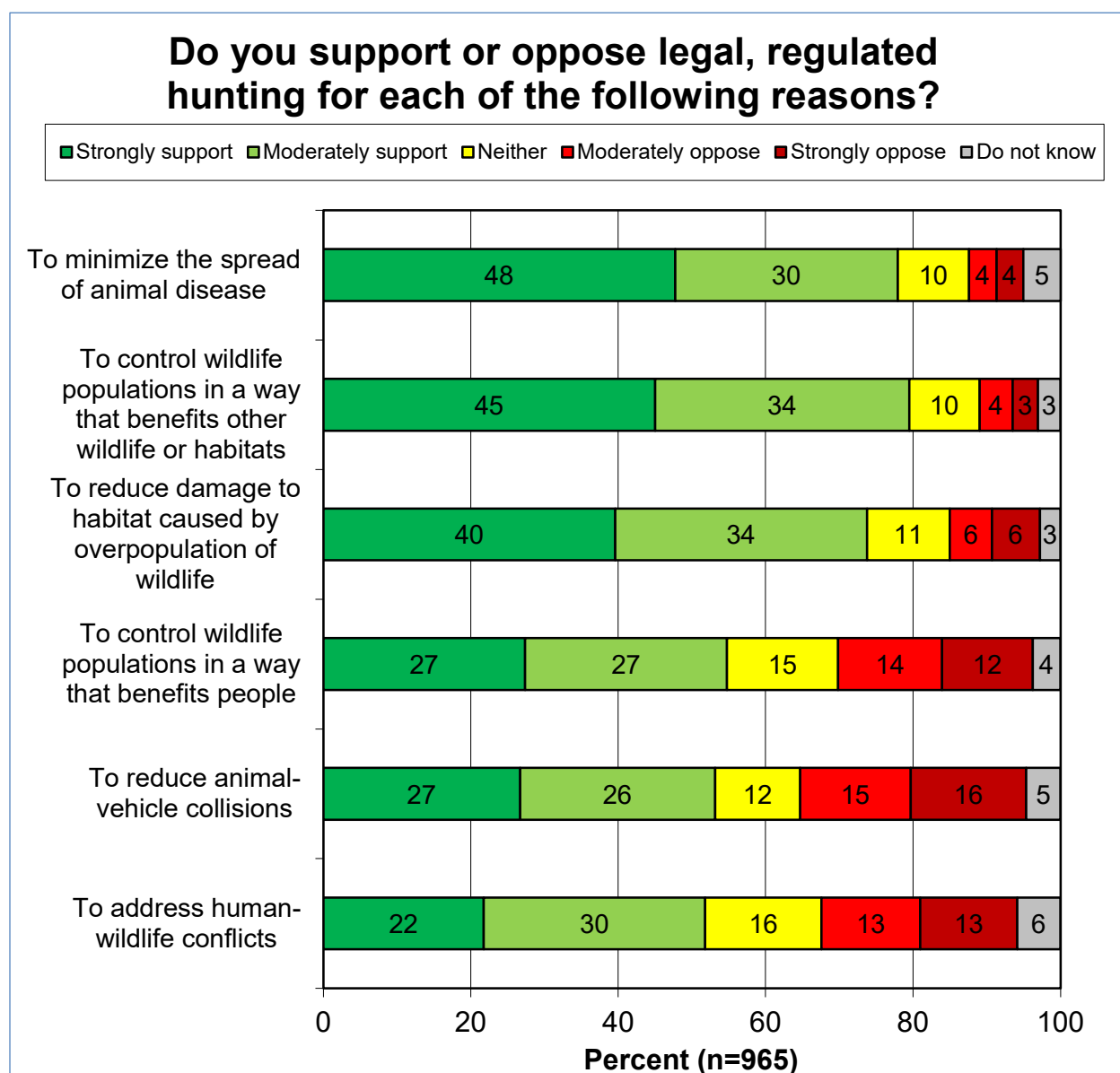
A regional table is not included due to low sample sizes.



A regional table is not included due to low sample sizes.

Regardless of whether residents approve or disapprove of hunting in general, the survey presented six reasons for hunting and asked residents if they would support or oppose hunting for each. There is a clear divide in the results, with support for hunting to benefit wildlife considerably higher than support for hunting to benefit humans (although minimizing the spread of animal disease is beneficial to both wildlife and people). In the top tier, looking at strong and moderate support for hunting combined, are to control wildlife in a way that benefits other wildlife or habitats (79% strongly or moderately support hunting for this reason), to minimize the spread of animal disease (78%), and to reduce damage to habitat caused by overpopulation of wildlife (74%). In the bottom tier are hunting to control wildlife in a way that benefits people (55% on unrounded sums), to reduce animal-vehicle collisions (53%), and to address human-wildlife conflicts (52%).

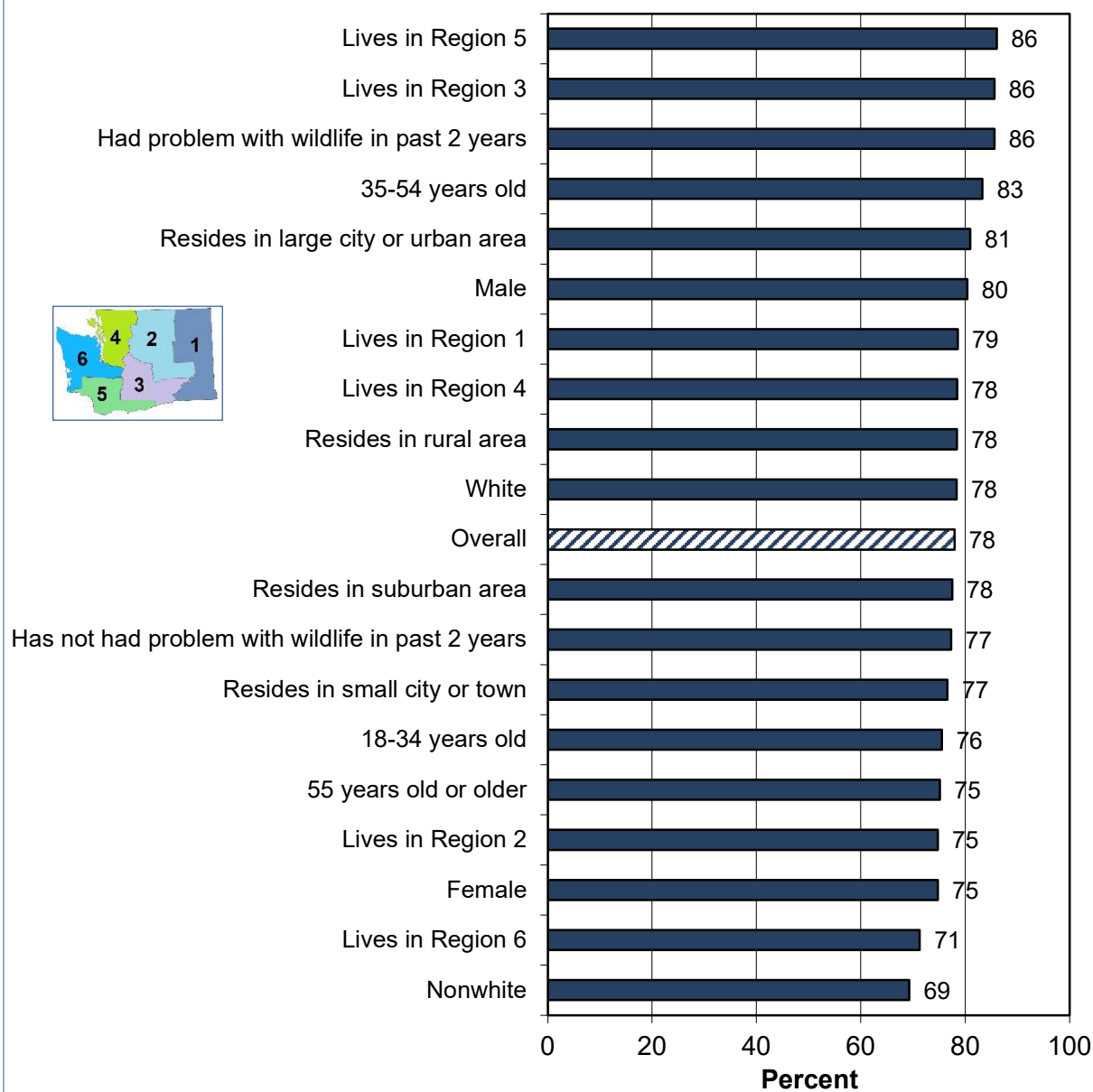
Statewide results are shown below in descending order of strong support, and regional results are shown on the following page.



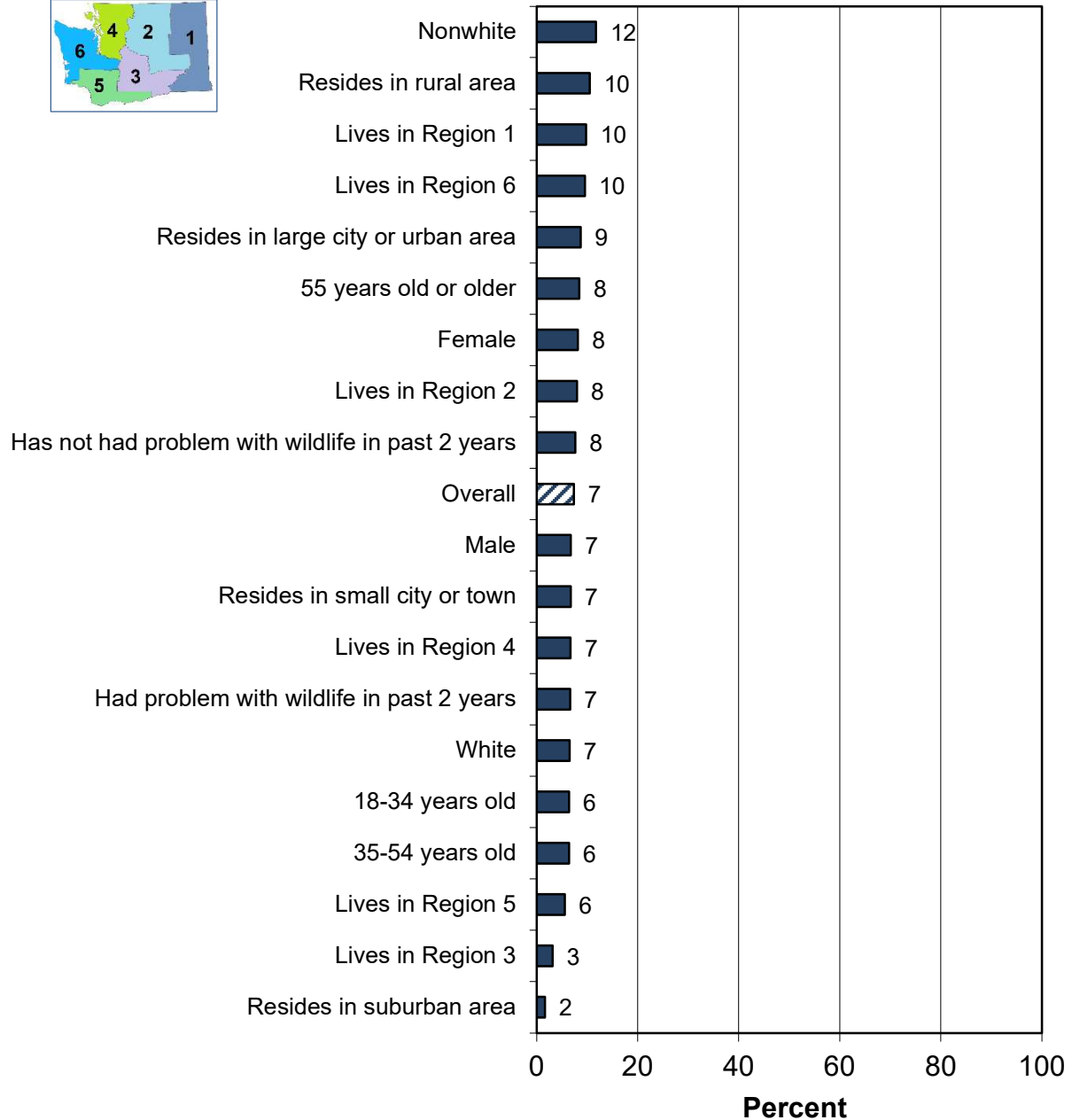
Do you support or oppose legal, regulated hunting for each of the following reasons?							
<i>To minimize the spread of animal disease</i>							
(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=169)	Region 2 (n=155)	Region 3 (n=155)	Region 4 (n=161)	Region 5 (n=155)	Region 6 (n=170)	Total (n=965)
Strongly support	49	46	63	45	56	45	48
Moderately support	30	29	22	34	30	26	30
Neither support nor oppose	8	9	9	9	6	14	10
Moderately oppose	1	5	3	3	3	6	4
Strongly oppose	8	3	0	4	3	3	4
Do not know	3	9	2	6	3	5	5
<i>To control wildlife populations in a way that benefits other wildlife or habitats</i>							
Strongly support	44	49	55	42	59	43	45
Moderately support	32	34	31	36	30	36	34
Neither support nor oppose	12	8	9	12	4	7	10
Moderately oppose	1	4	3	6	4	4	4
Strongly oppose	5	2	2	2	2	7	3
Do not know	5	4	1	3	1	3	3
<i>To reduce damage to habitat caused by overpopulation of wildlife</i>							
Strongly support	41	48	45	40	48	32	40
Moderately support	33	30	39	35	34	33	34
Neither support nor oppose	10	7	8	10	6	17	11
Moderately oppose	4	5	4	5	6	8	6
Strongly oppose	8	7	2	7	3	6	6
Do not know	3	3	2	2	3	4	3
<i>To control wildlife populations in a way that benefits people</i>							
Strongly support	28	30	36	24	35	27	27
Moderately support	34	32	33	27	27	23	27
Neither support nor oppose	10	15	11	16	10	19	15
Moderately oppose	13	12	13	15	11	14	14
Strongly oppose	12	8	7	14	13	12	12
Do not know	3	3	1	4	4	5	4
<i>To reduce animal-vehicle collisions</i>							
Strongly support	23	31	35	26	34	25	27
Moderately support	28	22	29	29	24	21	26
Neither support nor oppose	10	17	12	11	13	12	12
Moderately oppose	14	12	12	17	10	15	15
Strongly oppose	16	12	11	14	14	21	16
Do not know	10	6	3	3	5	6	5
<i>To address human-wildlife conflicts</i>							
Strongly support	24	36	33	16	26	25	22
Moderately support	34	27	33	33	32	22	30
Neither support nor oppose	13	13	19	16	17	16	16
Moderately oppose	6	9	7	16	7	16	13
Strongly oppose	15	8	6	13	11	17	13
Do not know	8	7	2	6	8	5	6

Demographic analyses graphs are included for each question in the preceding series. In general, residents of Regions 3 and 5 and those who had problems with wildlife have higher levels of support for hunting, while residents of Region 6, rural residents, and those 55 and older have slightly higher levels of opposition to hunting.

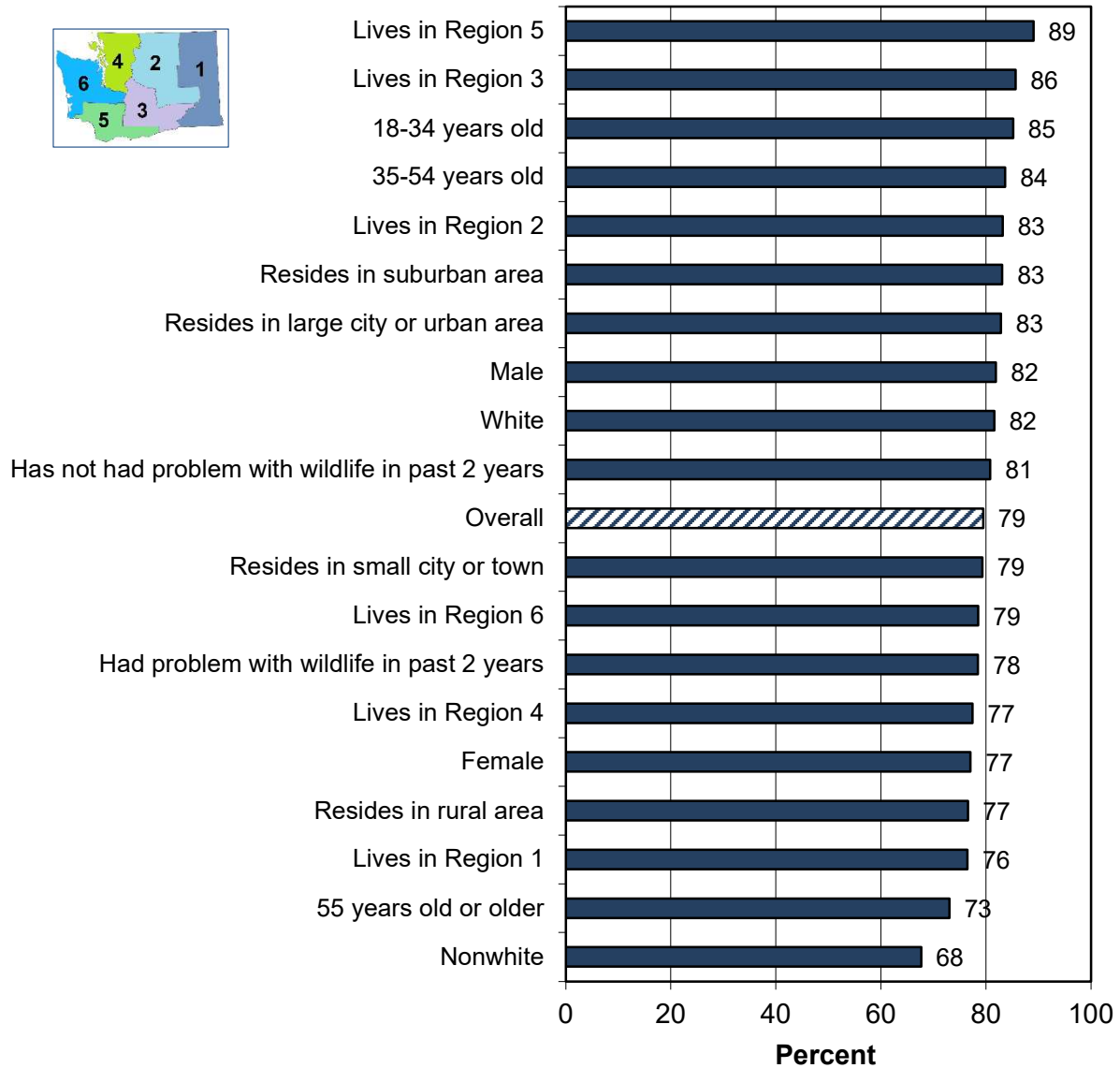
Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting to minimize the spread of animal disease:



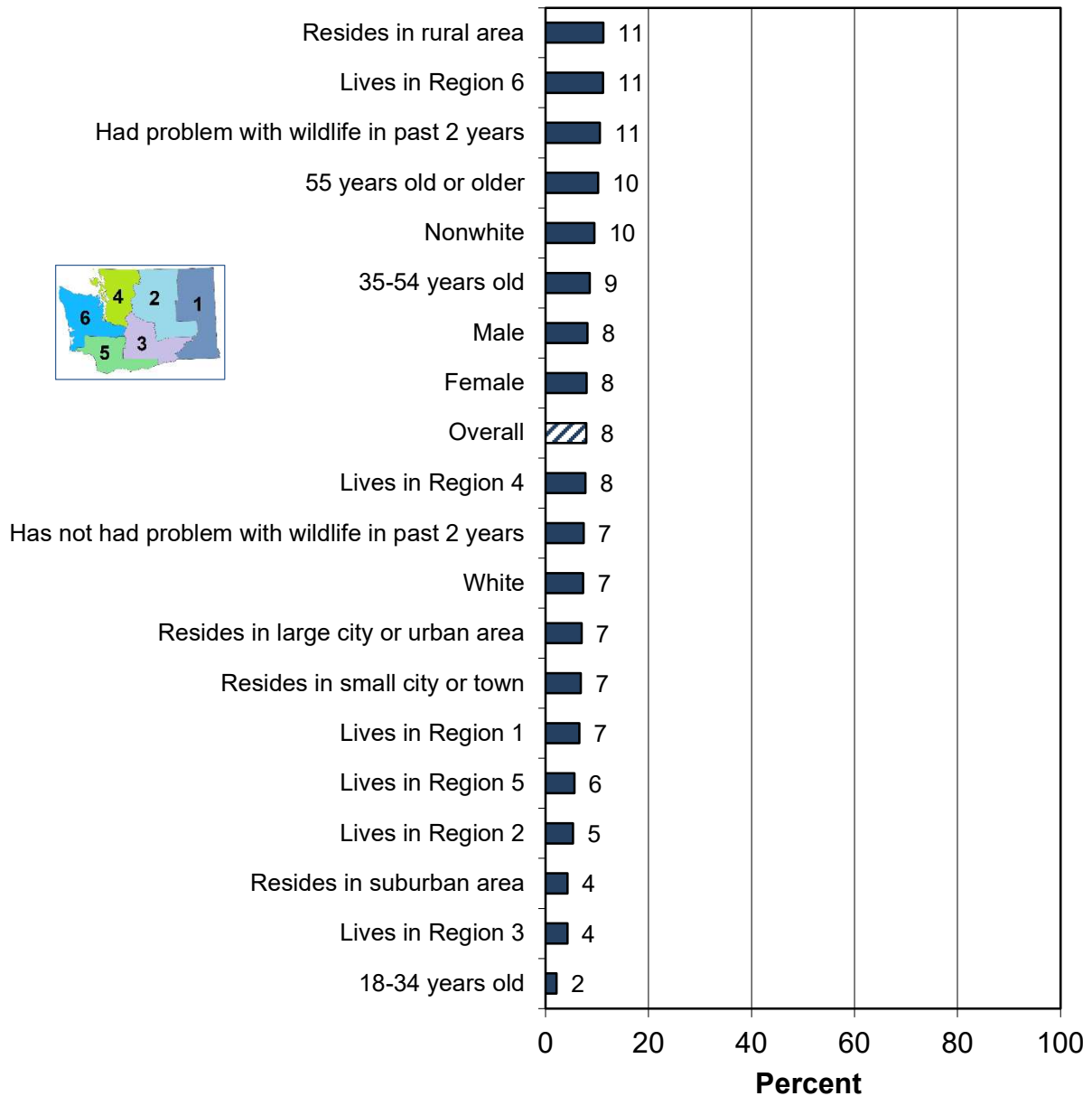
Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting to minimize the spread of animal disease:



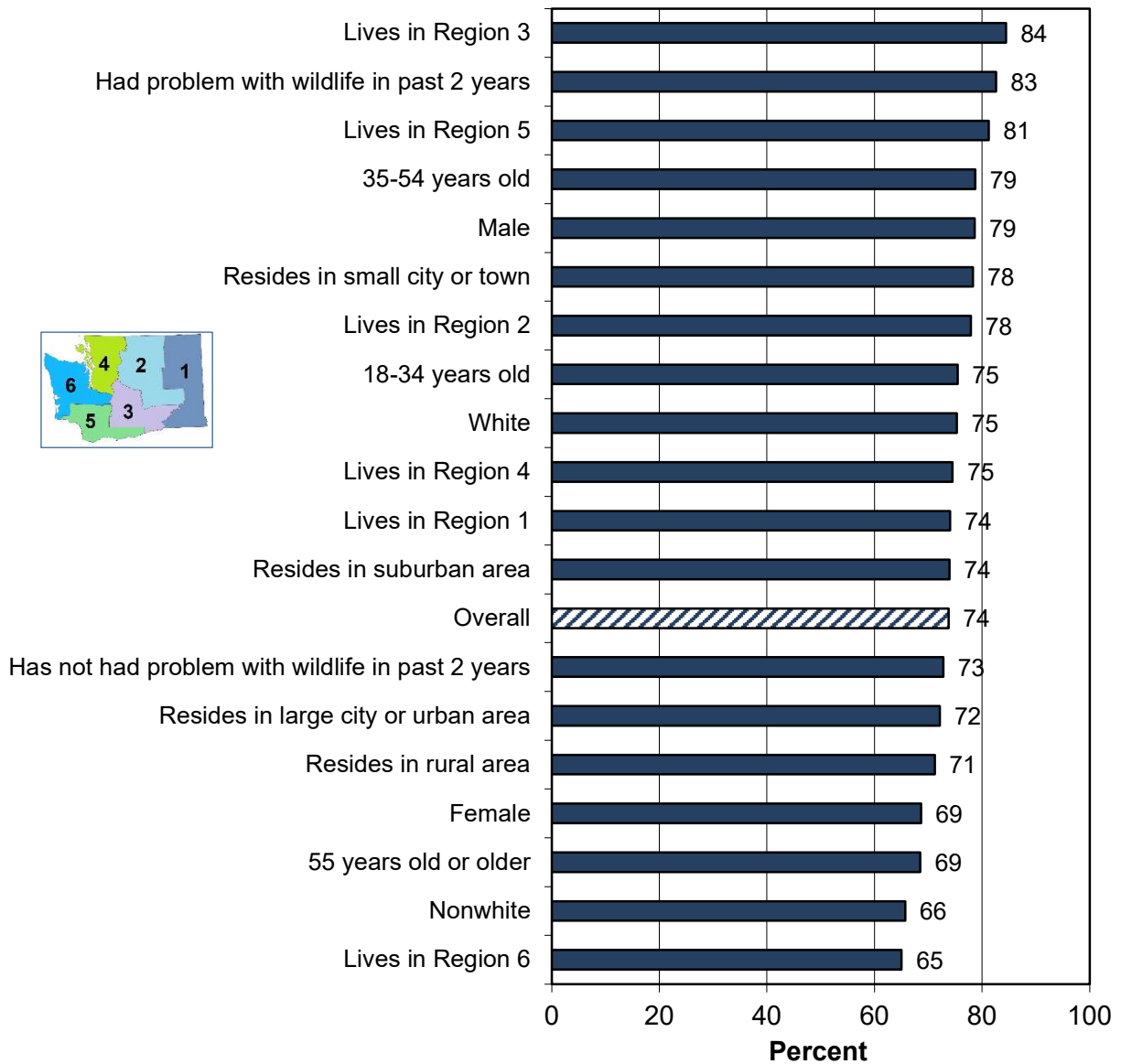
Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting to control wildlife populations in a way that benefits other wildlife or habitats:



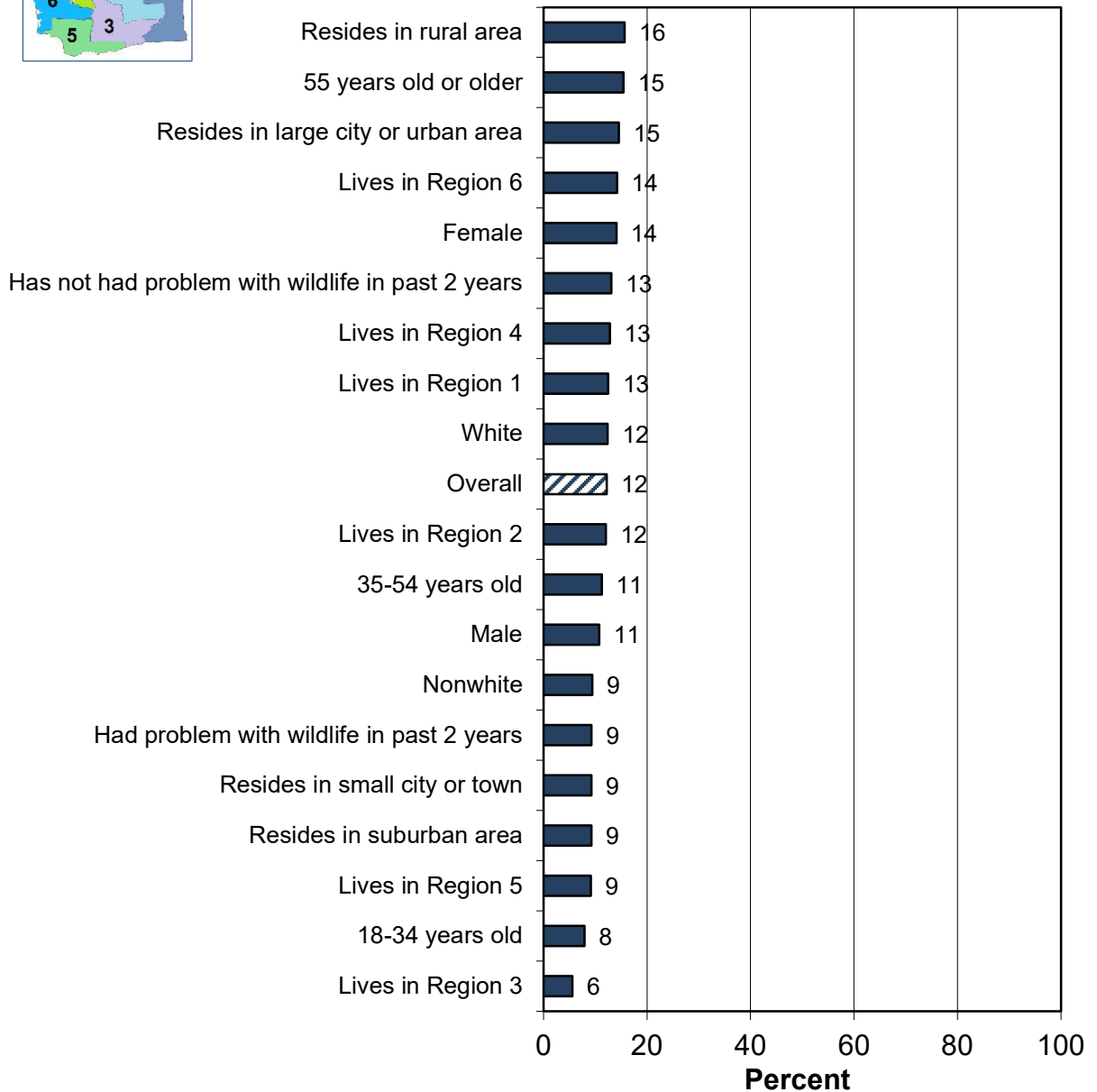
Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting to control wildlife populations in a way that benefits other wildlife or habitats:



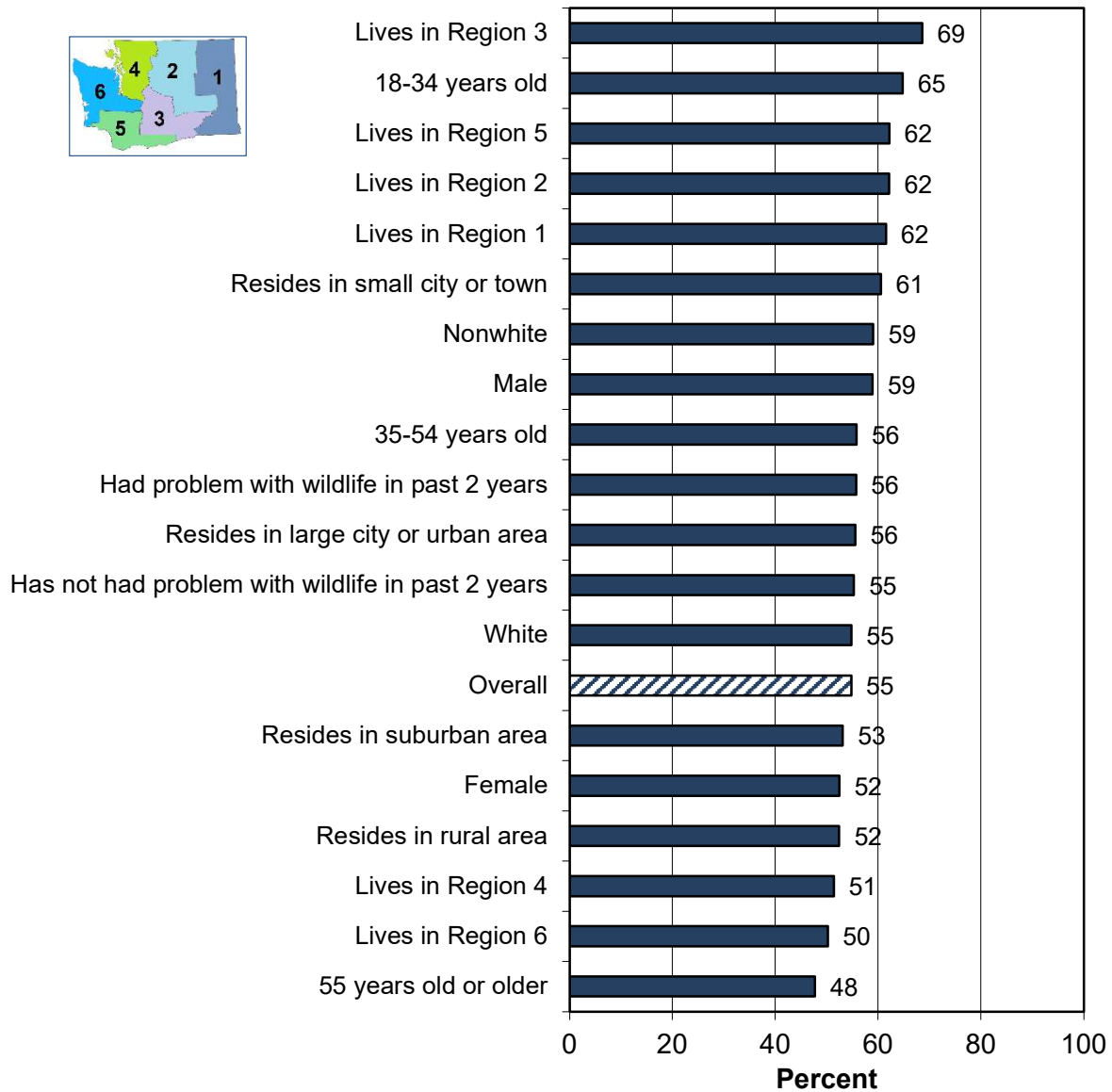
Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting to reduce damage to habitat caused by overpopulation of wildlife:



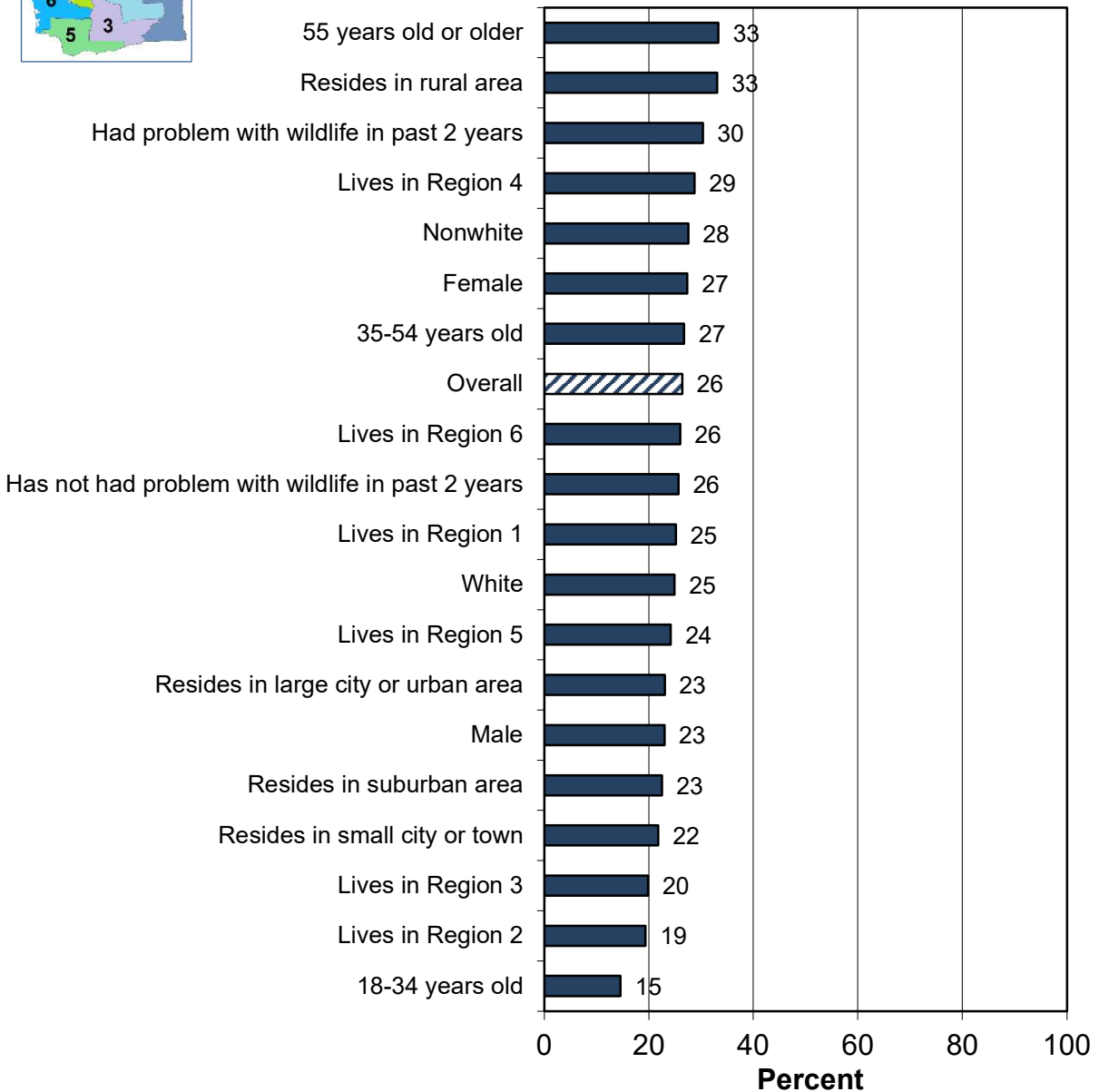
Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting to reduce damage to habitat caused by overpopulation of wildlife:



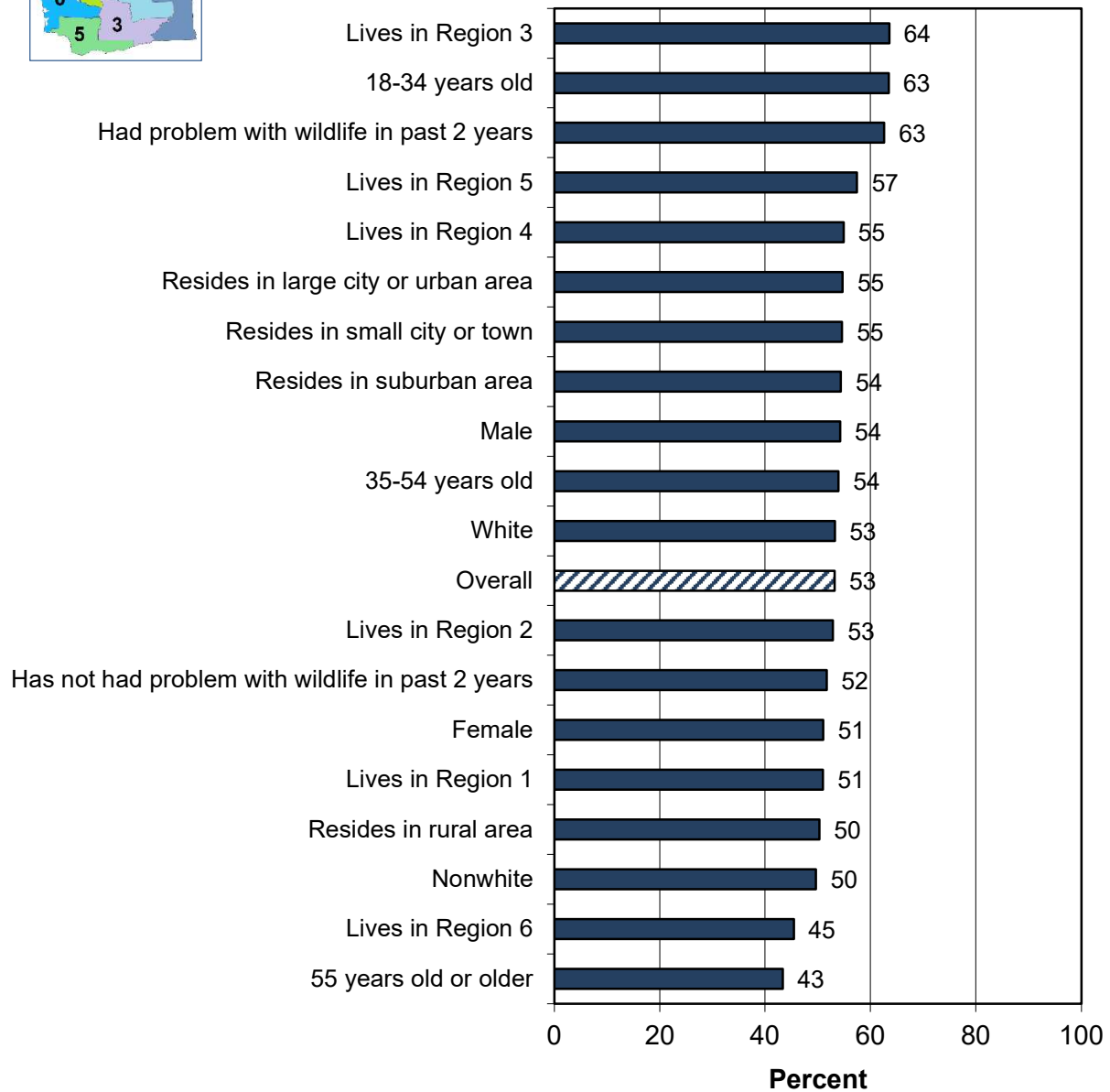
Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting to control wildlife populations in a way that benefits people:



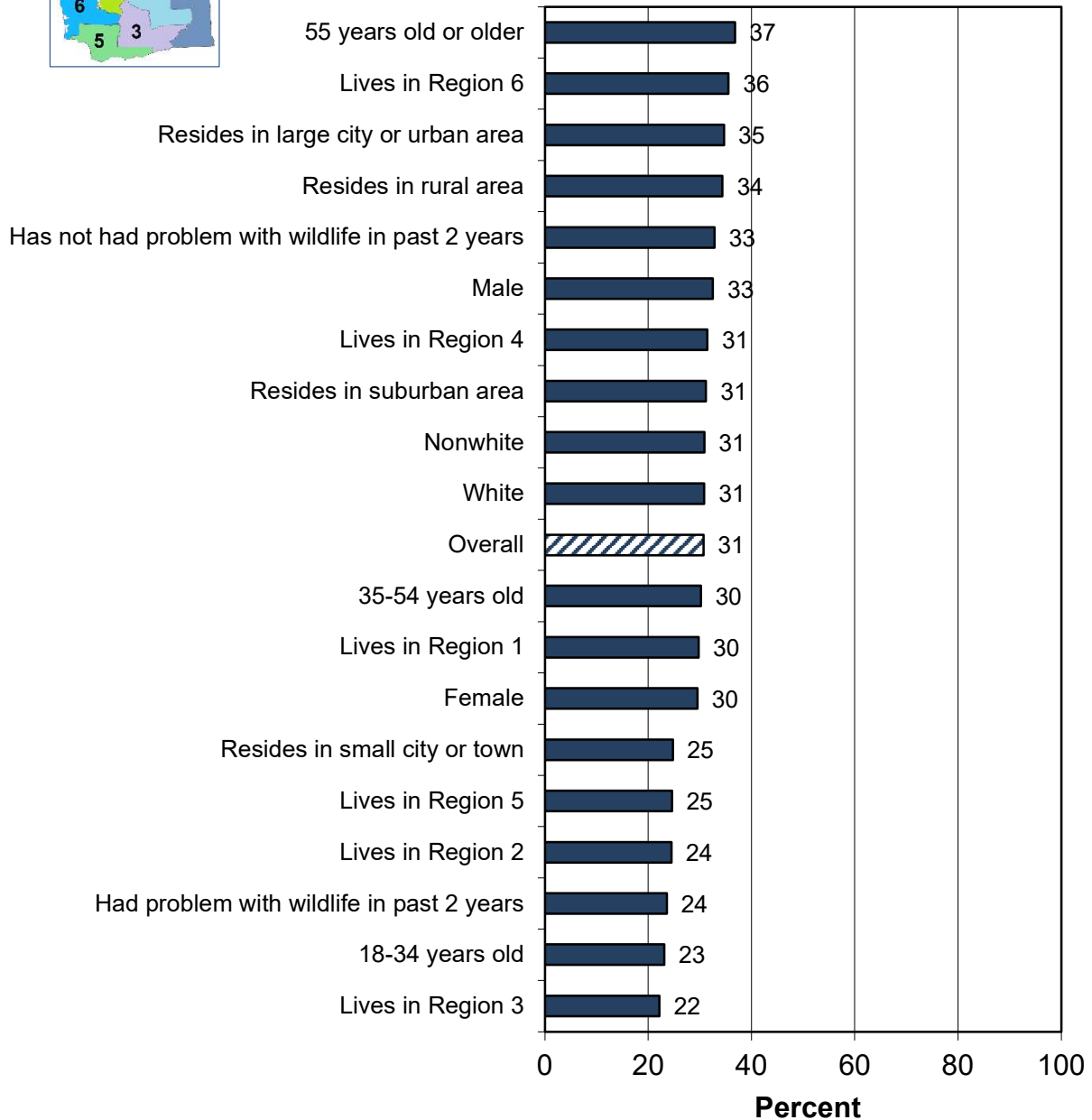
Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting to control wildlife populations in a way that benefits people:



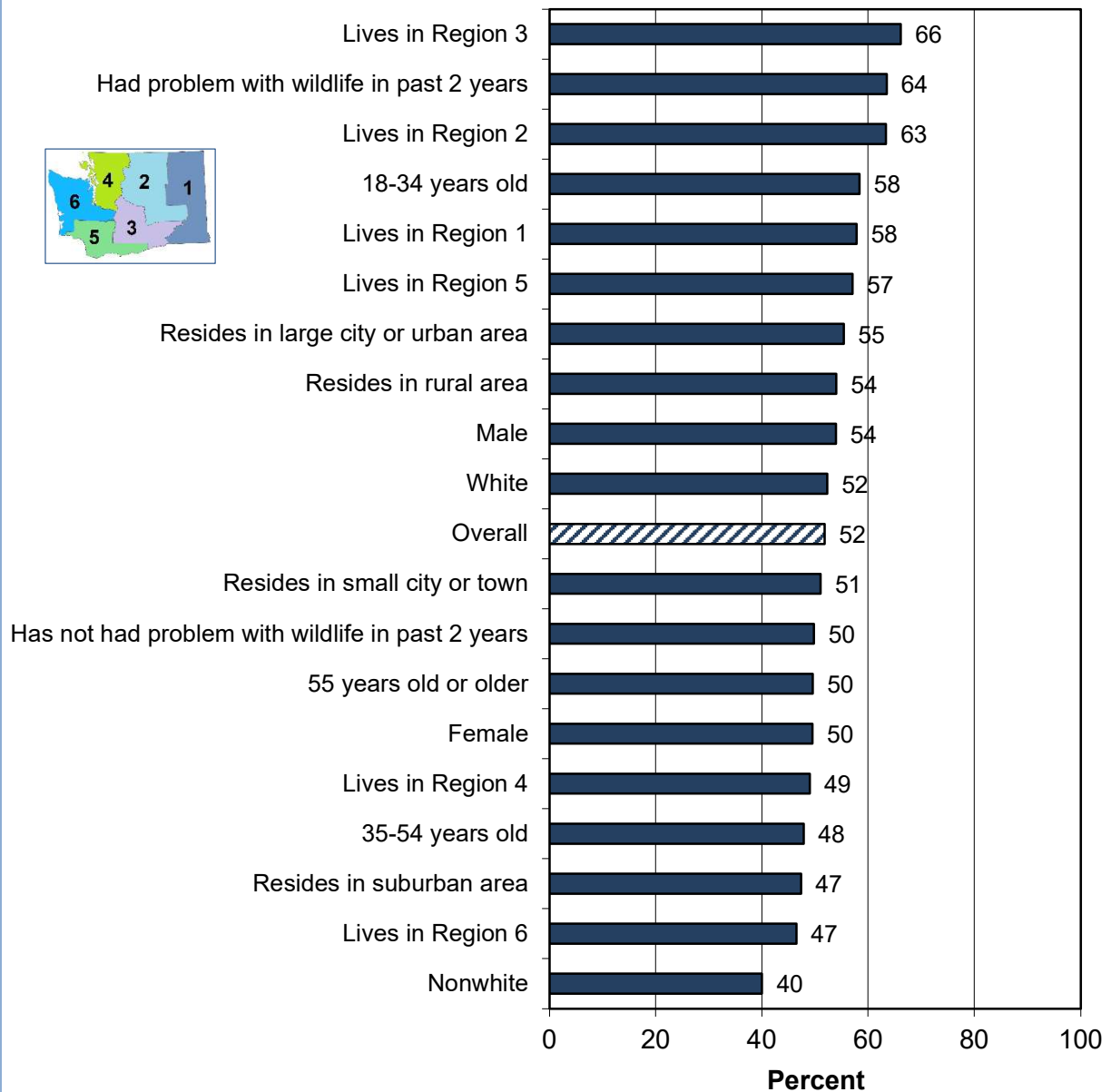
Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting to reduce animal-vehicle collisions:



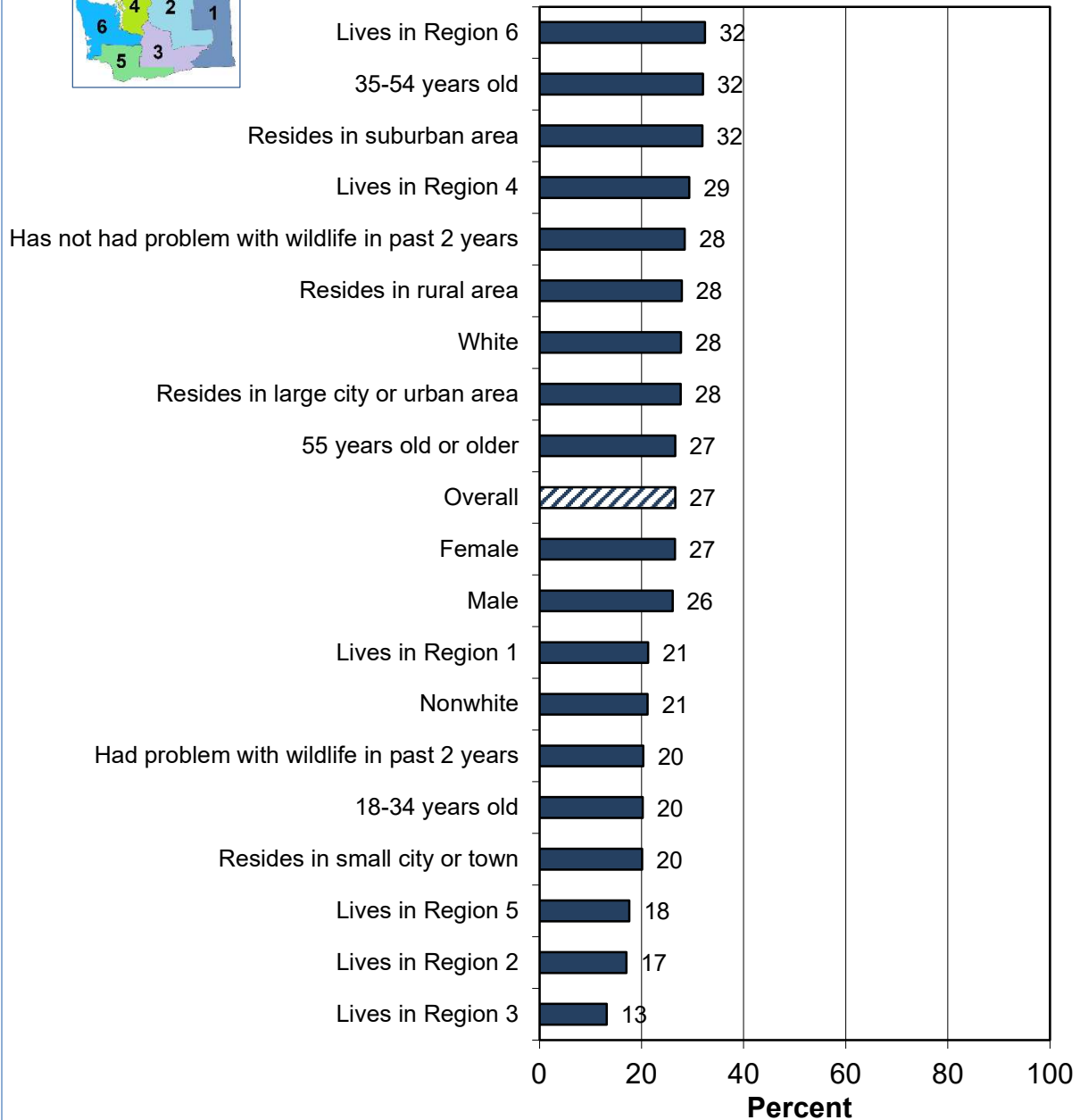
Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting to reduce animal-vehicle collisions:



Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately support legal, regulated hunting to address human-wildlife conflicts:

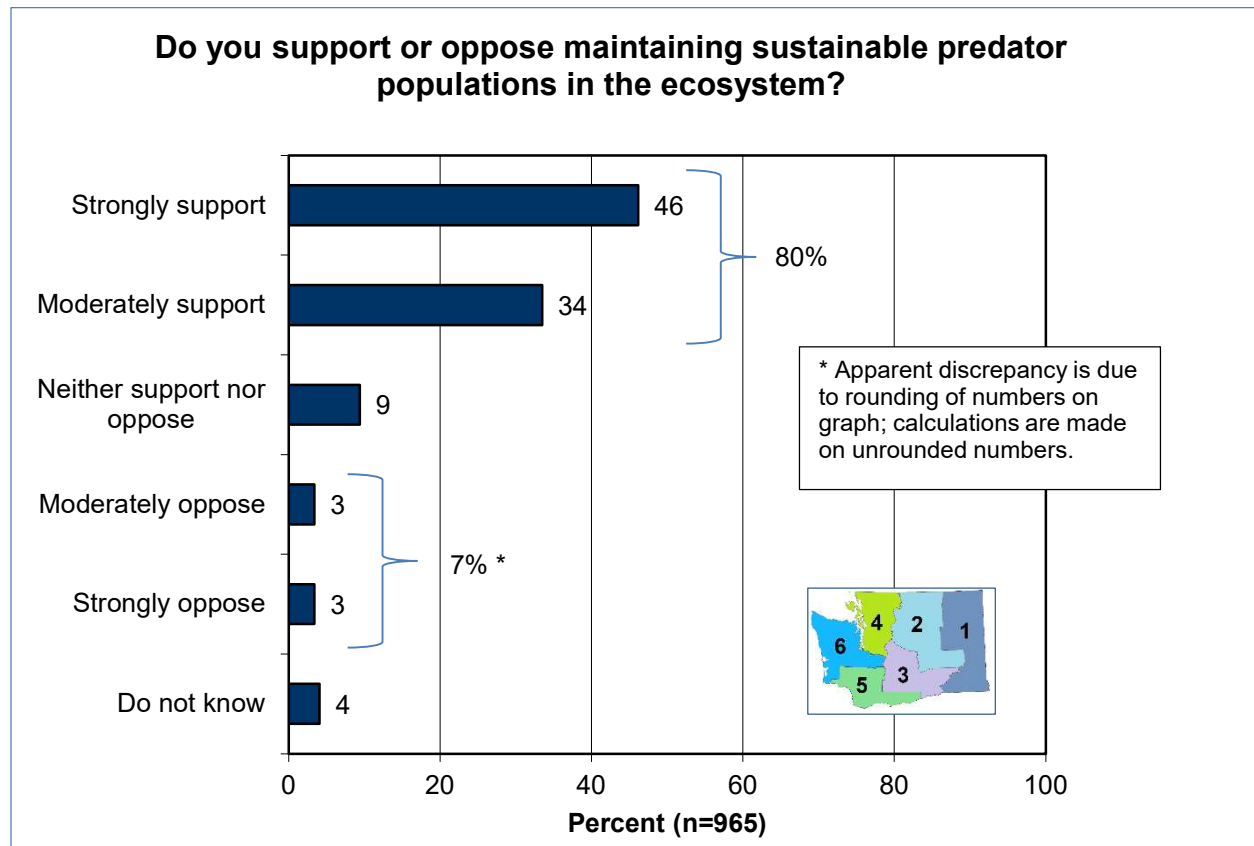


Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately oppose legal, regulated hunting to address human-wildlife conflicts:



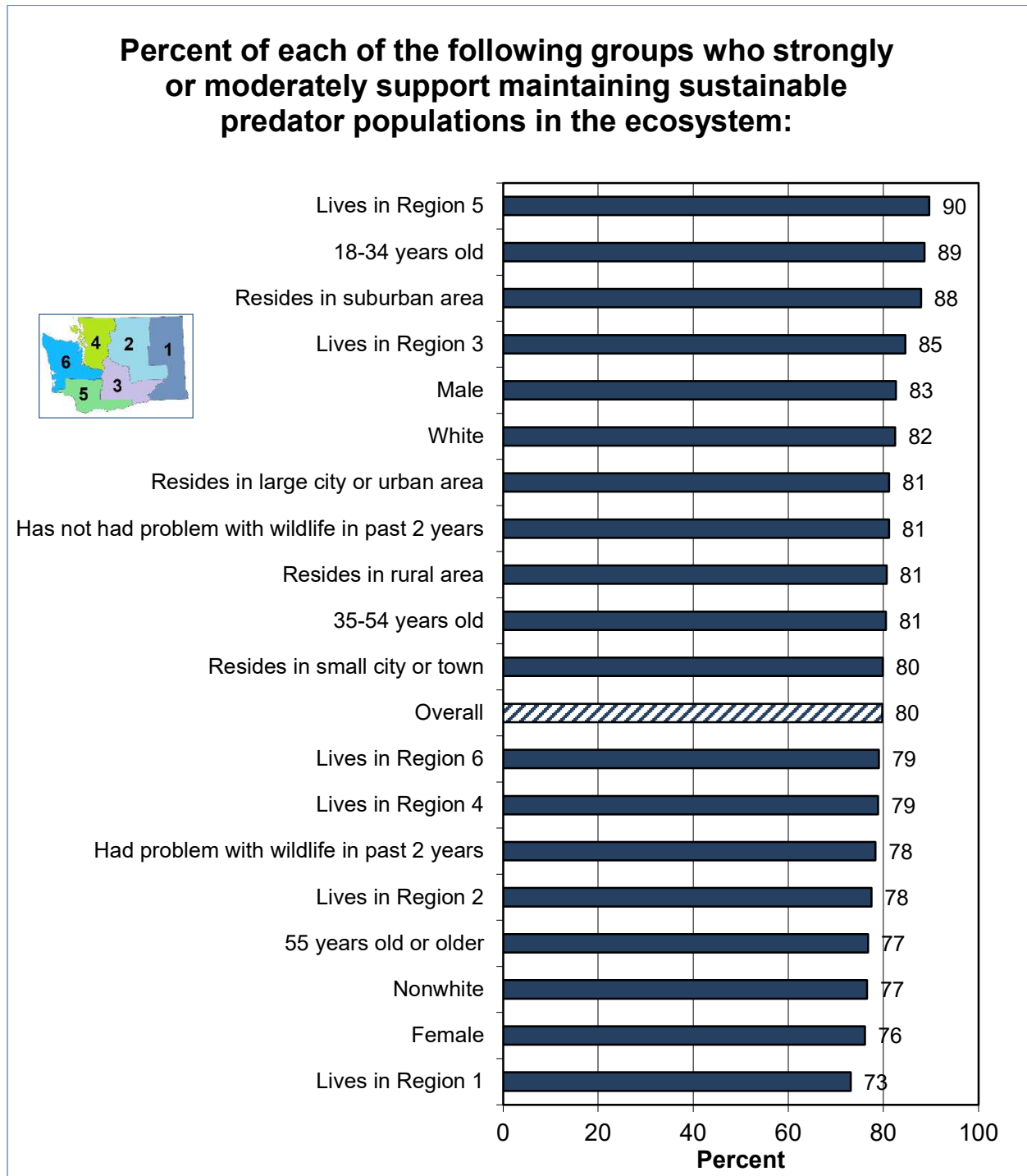
PREDATOR MANAGEMENT

The vast majority of residents (80%) support maintaining sustainable predator populations in Washington's ecosystem, with 46% being strong support. Only 7% oppose. Strong support is highest in Region 5.

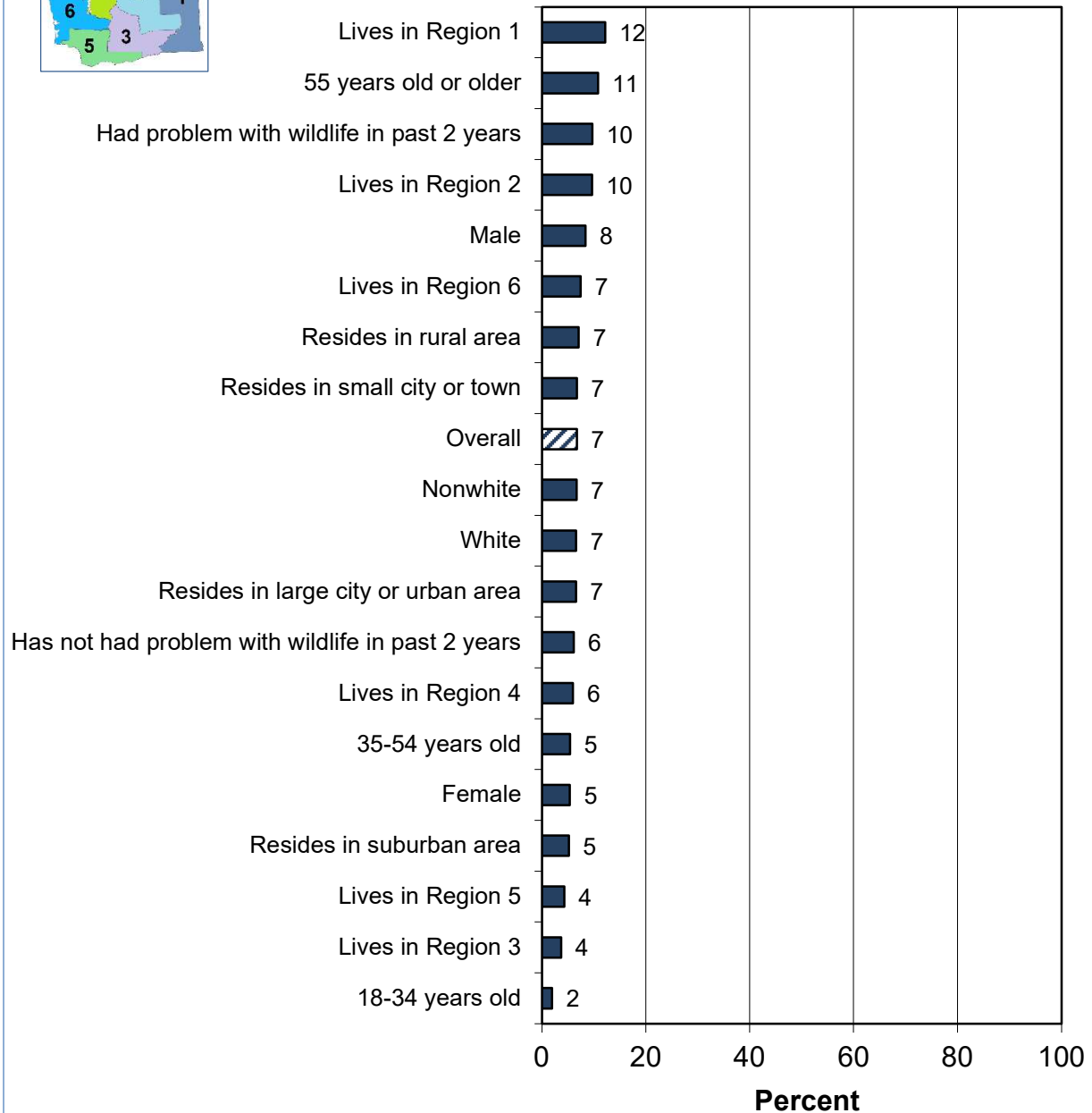


Do you support or oppose maintaining sustainable predator populations in the ecosystem?							
(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=169)	Region 2 (n=155)	Region 3 (n=155)	Region 4 (n=161)	Region 5 (n=155)	Region 6 (n=170)	Total (n=965)
Strongly support	43	42	48	43	60	48	46
Moderately support	30	35	37	35	30	31	34
Neither support nor oppose	10	8	11	10	4	9	9
Moderately oppose	4	6	2	4	1	4	3
Strongly oppose	9	4	2	2	3	4	3
Do not know	5	4	0	5	2	5	4

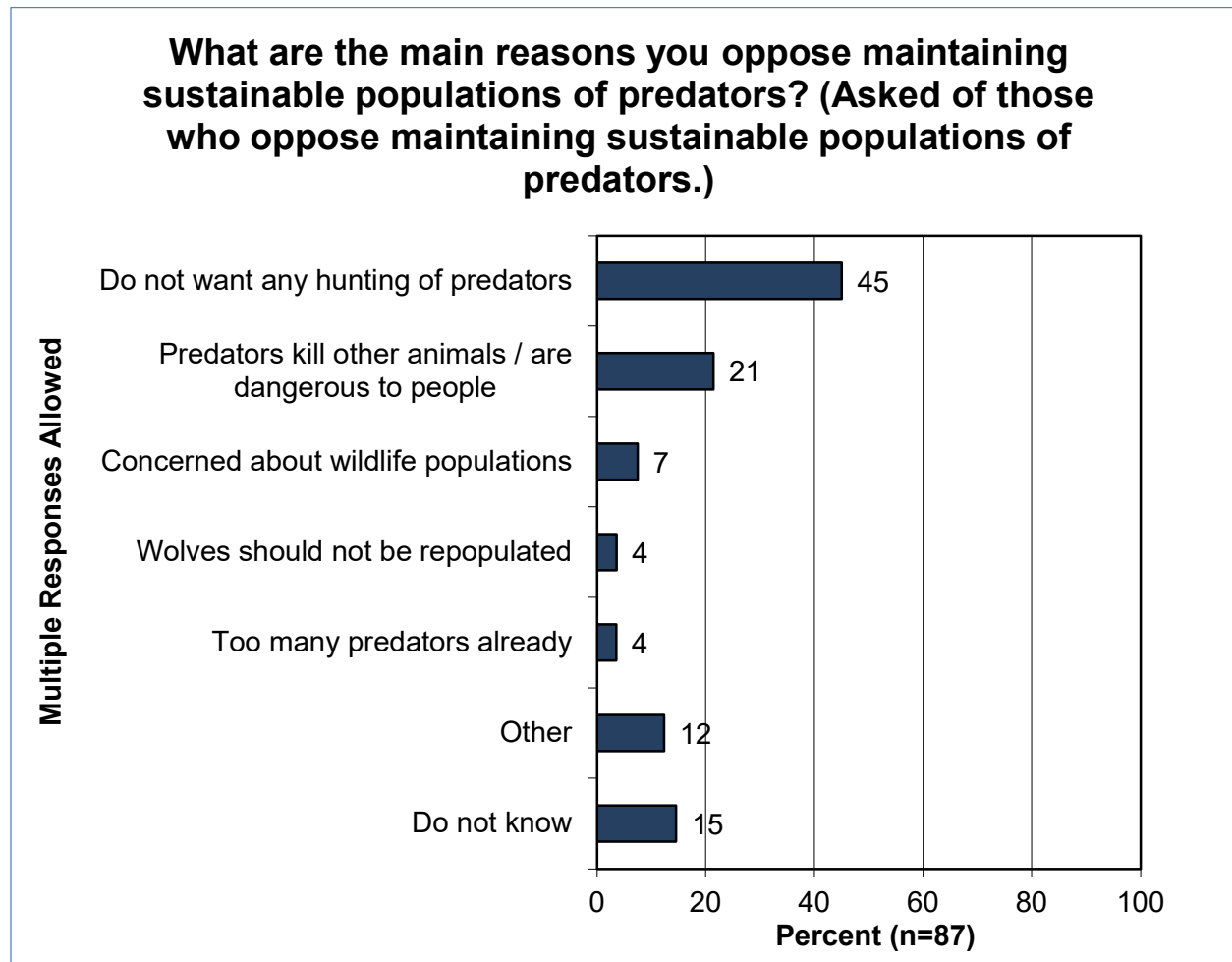
Groups most likely to support maintaining predator populations include Region 5 residents, younger residents, and suburban residents. Region 1 residents have the lowest level of support.



Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately oppose maintaining sustainable predator populations in the ecosystem:



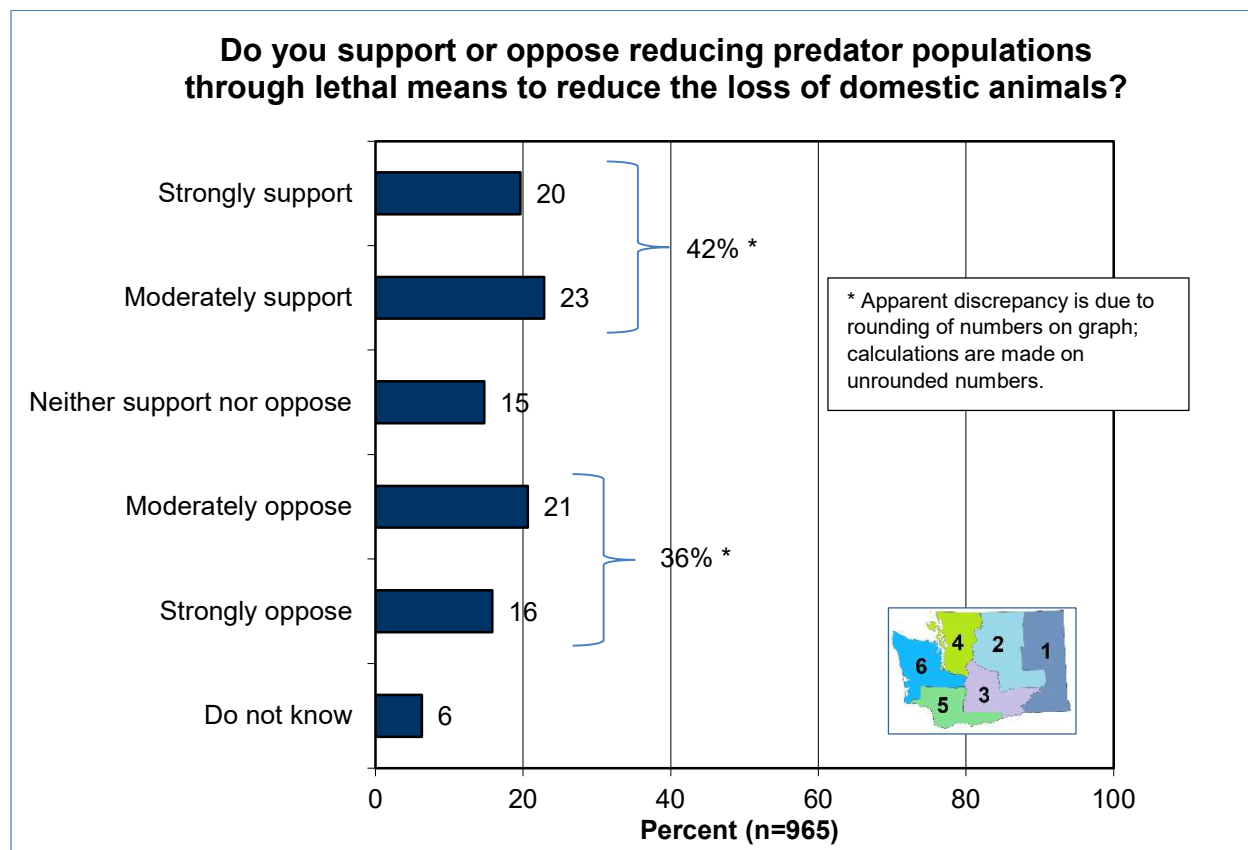
Among those who oppose maintaining sustainable populations of predators, the top reason is that they do not want any hunting of predators (45% of the group stated this). In other words, the opposition is based on human control of predators through hunting, rather than the existence of predators in the state. The other stated reasons for opposition are based on concerns about danger or problems caused by predators.



A regional table is not included due to low sample sizes.

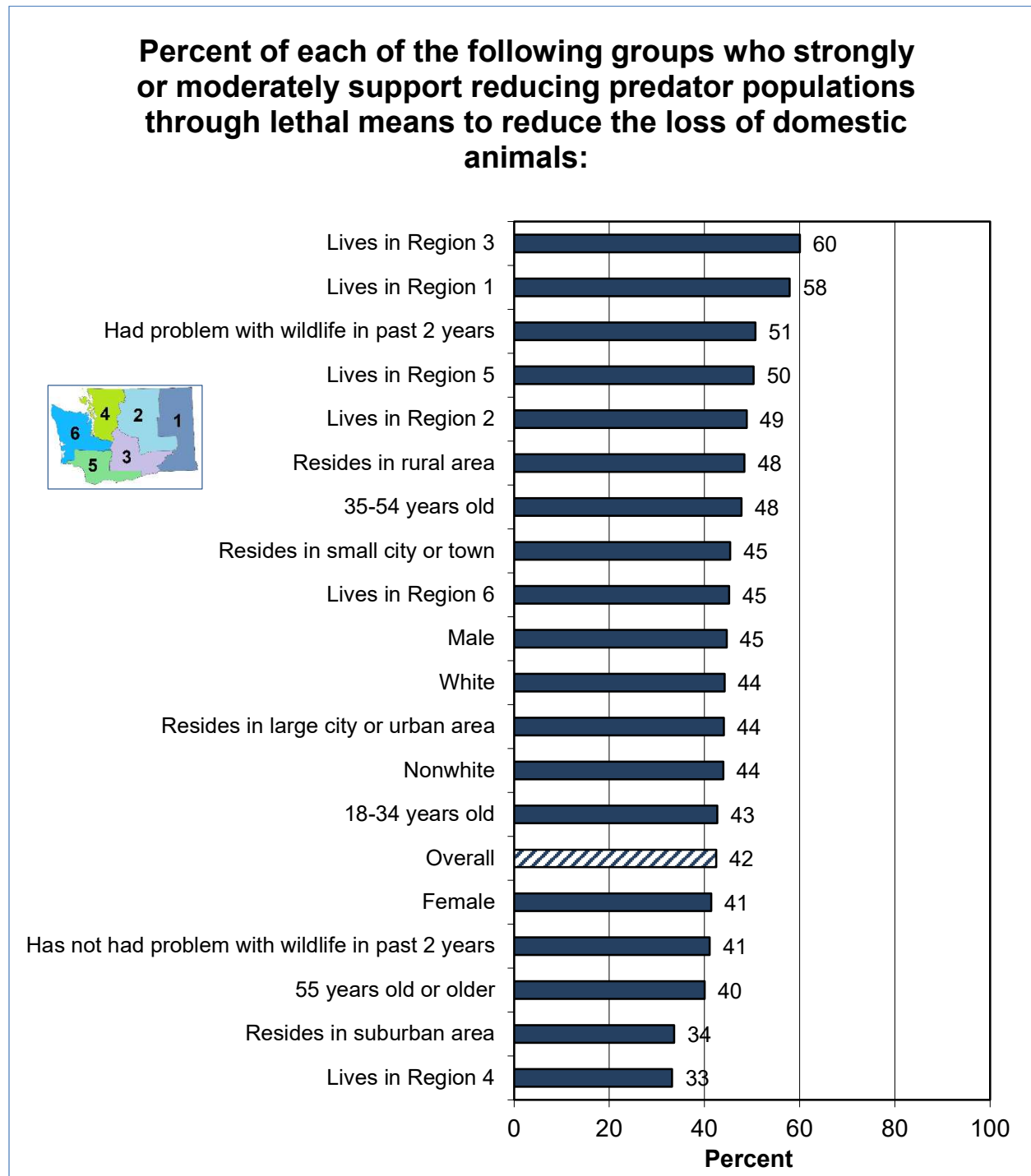
The above results suggest that some respondents interpreted “sustainable populations” to mean the reduction of predators through hunting, while others interpreted it to mean increases in predator populations.

Residents are divided on killing predators to reduce the loss of domestic animals: 42% support and 36% oppose.

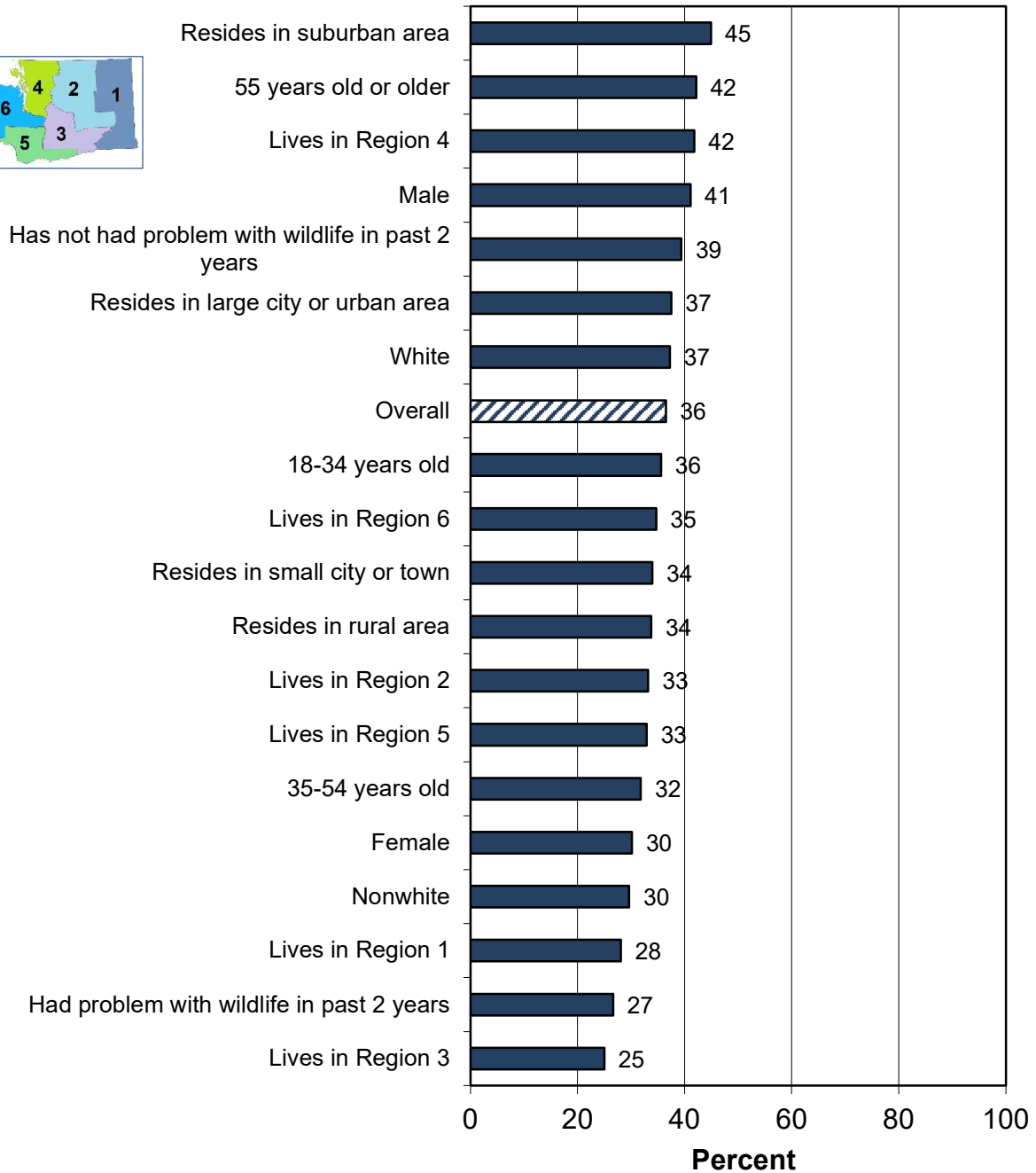
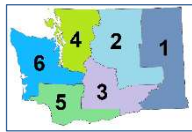


Do you support or oppose reducing predator populations through lethal means to reduce the loss of domestic animals?							
(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=169)	Region 2 (n=155)	Region 3 (n=155)	Region 4 (n=161)	Region 5 (n=155)	Region 6 (n=170)	Total (n=965)
Strongly support	34	19	24	14	27	20	20
Moderately support	24	29	36	19	24	25	23
Neither support nor oppose	11	14	14	16	12	16	15
Moderately oppose	15	19	15	22	18	23	21
Strongly oppose	13	14	10	19	15	12	16
Do not know	3	4	1	9	5	5	6

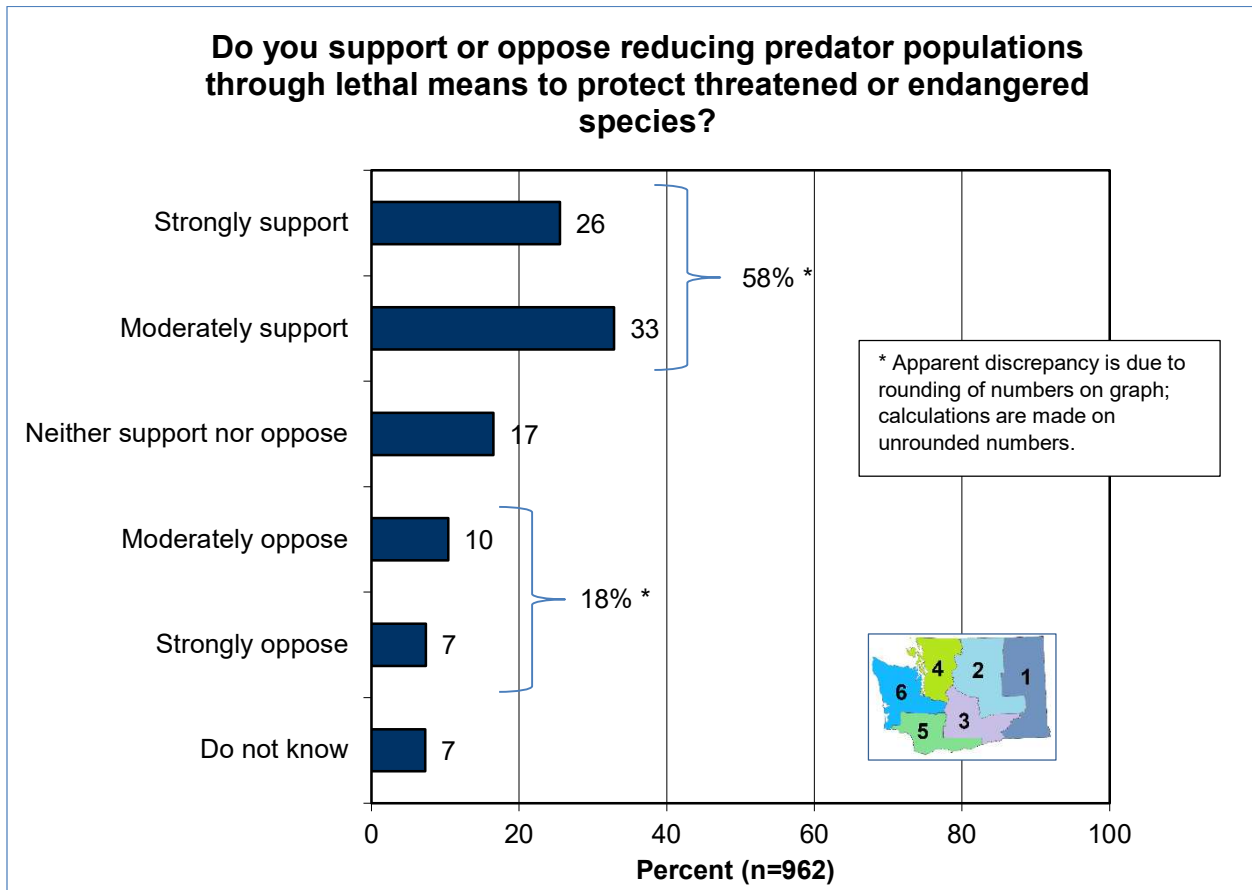
Support for killing predators to protect domestic animals is highest among Region 1 and Region 3 residents, those who had problems with wildlife, and Region 5 residents. Opposition is highest among suburban, older, and Region 4 residents.



Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately oppose reducing predator populations through lethal means to reduce the loss of domestic animals:



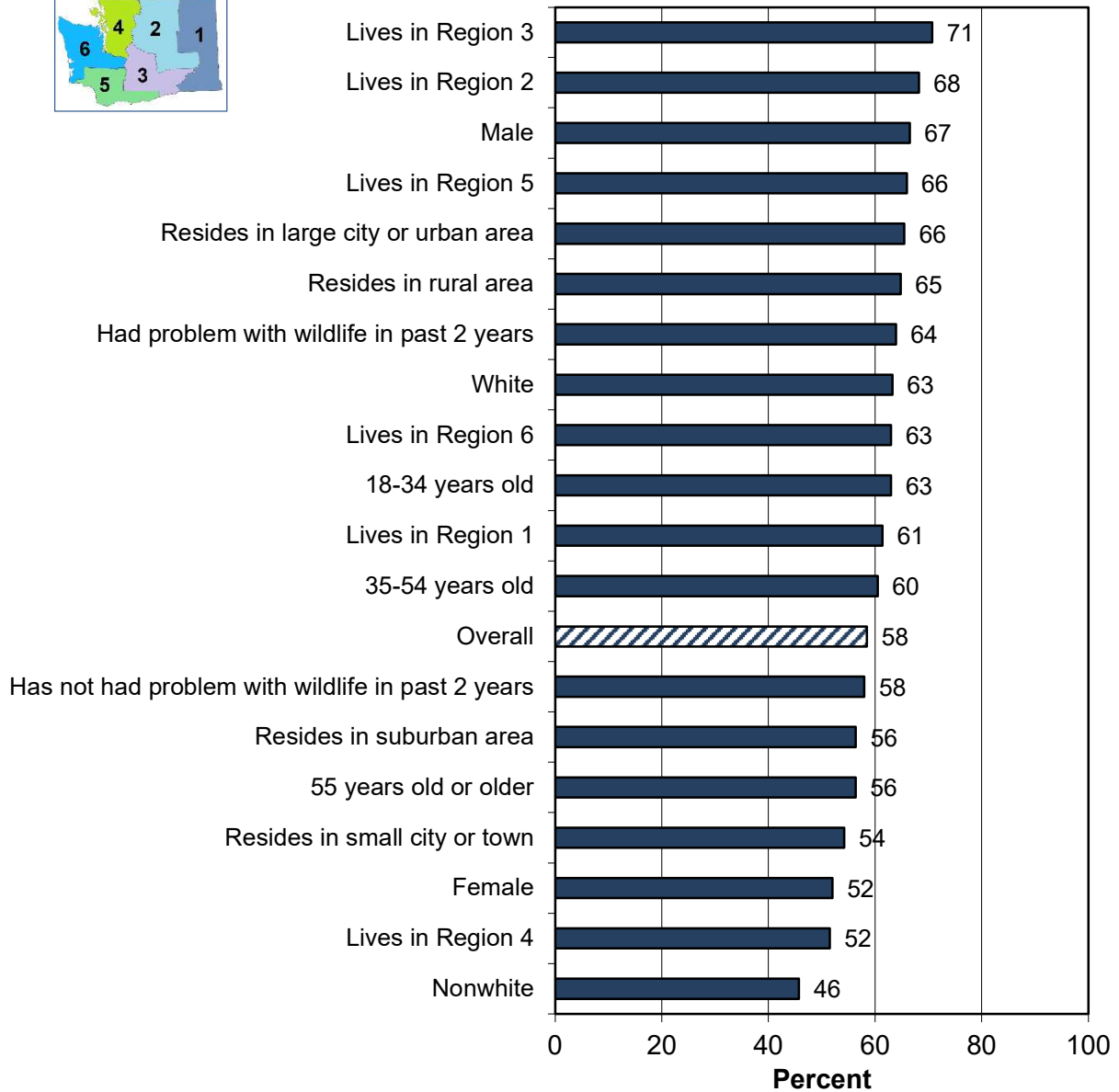
A majority of residents (58%) support killing predators to protect threatened or endangered species, whereas 18% oppose.



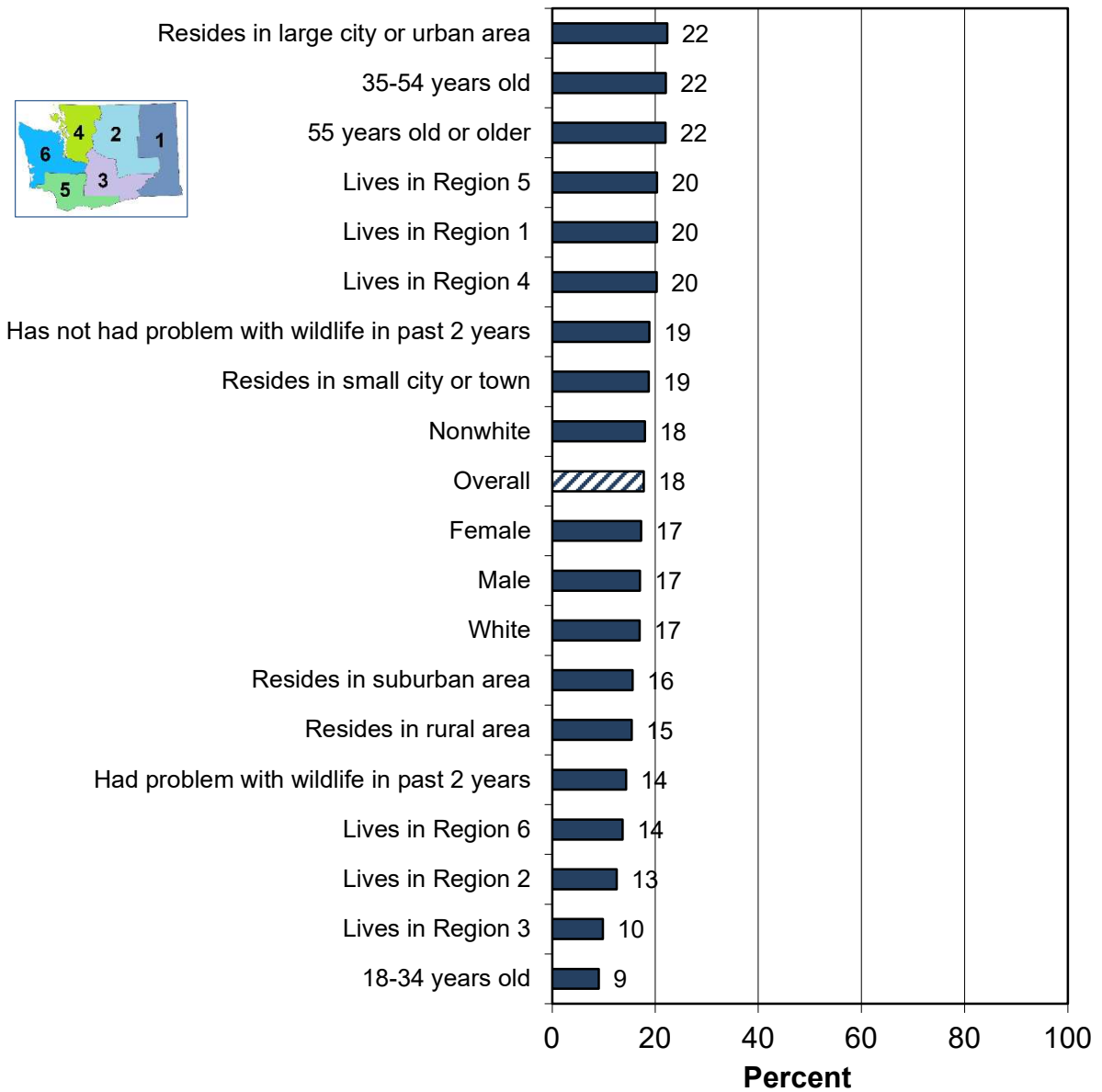
Do you support or oppose reducing predator populations through lethal means to protect threatened or endangered species?							
(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=169)	Region 2 (n=154)	Region 3 (n=155)	Region 4 (n=160)	Region 5 (n=155)	Region 6 (n=169)	Total (n=962)
Strongly support	34	25	31	21	33	26	26
Moderately support	27	43	39	31	33	37	33
Neither support nor oppose	12	13	18	19	11	16	17
Moderately oppose	5	7	7	13	14	8	10
Strongly oppose	15	5	3	8	7	5	7
Do not know	7	6	2	9	3	7	7

Region 3, Region 2, and male residents have the highest levels of support for killing predators to protect threatened and endangered species. Opposition is highest among city, middle-aged, and older residents, although not substantially higher than among residents overall.

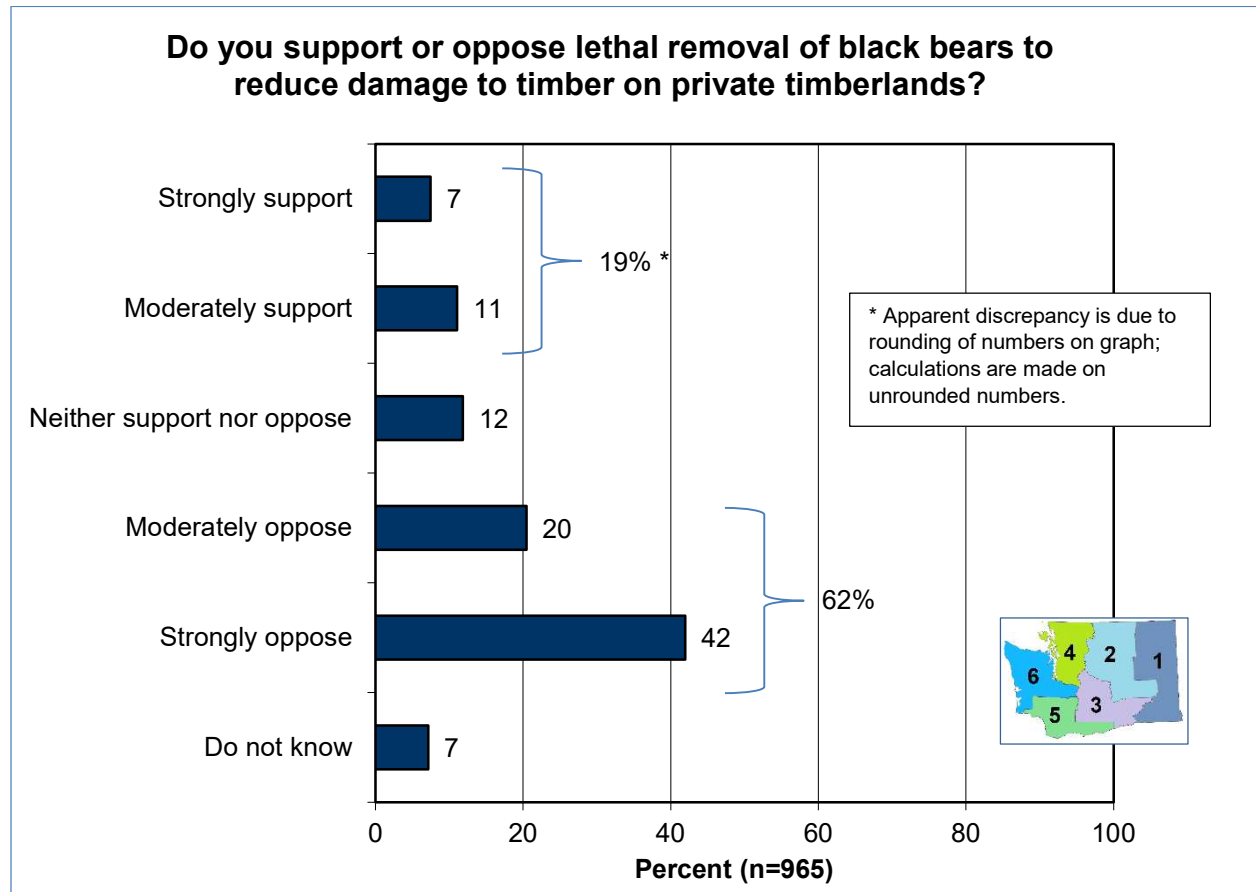
Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately support reducing predator populations through lethal means to protect threatened or endangered species:



Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately oppose reducing predator populations through lethal means to protect threatened or endangered species:

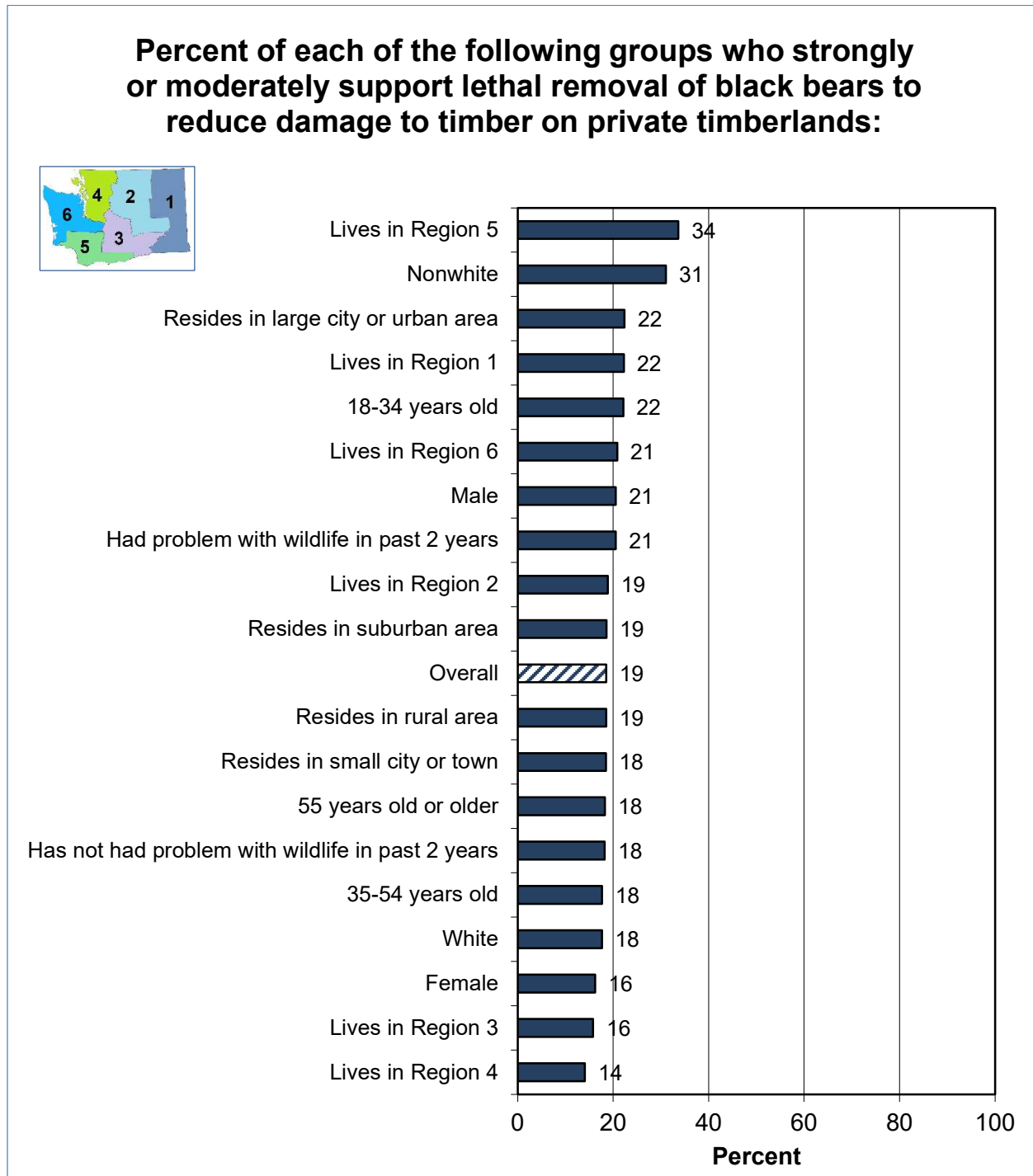


Only 19% of residents support killing black bears to protect private timberlands, compared to 62% who oppose.

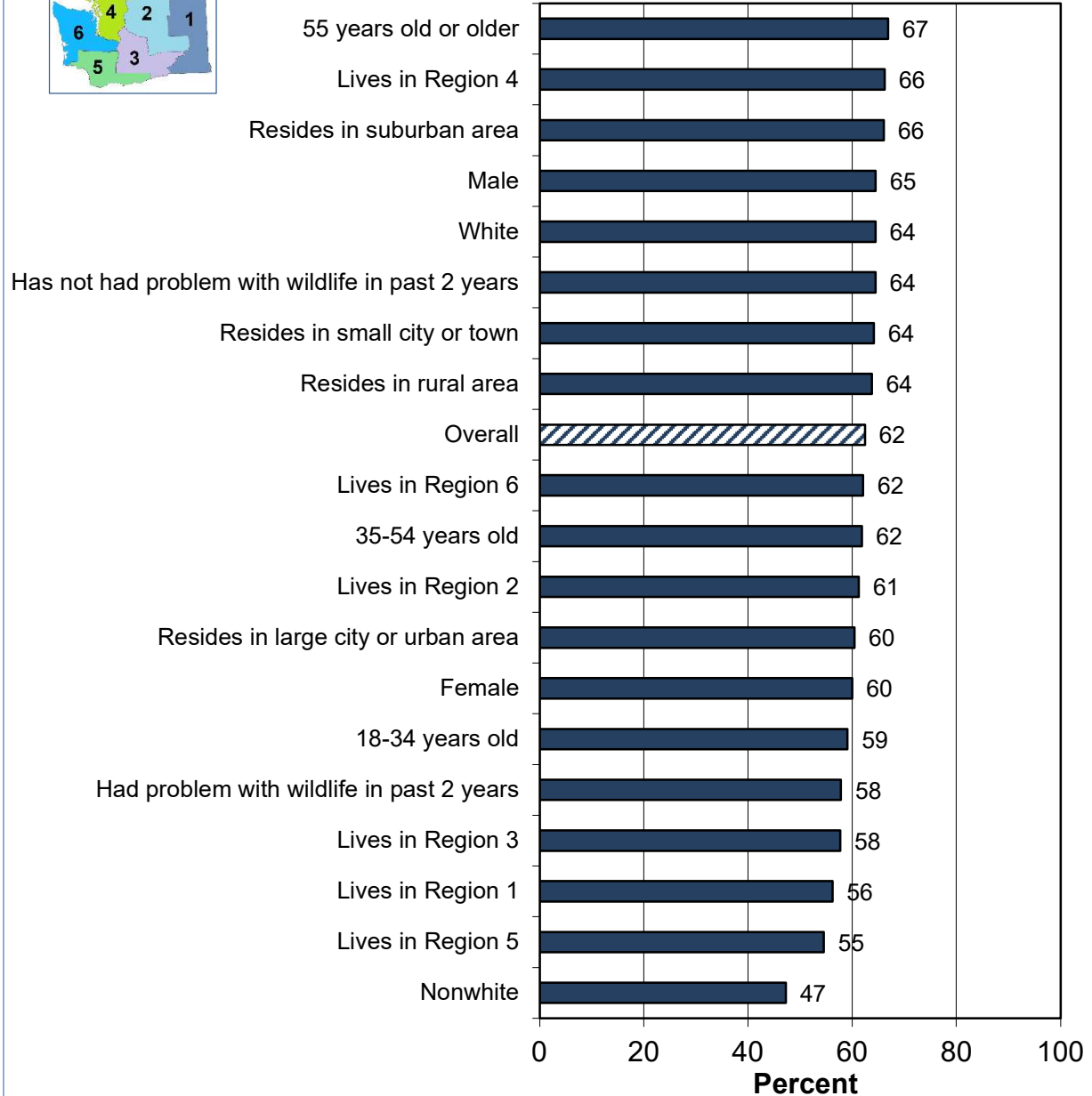


Do you support or oppose lethal removal of black bears to reduce damage to timber on private timberlands?							
(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=169)	Region 2 (n=155)	Region 3 (n=155)	Region 4 (n=161)	Region 5 (n=155)	Region 6 (n=170)	Total (n=965)
Strongly support	10	9	4	6	11	9	7
Moderately support	13	10	12	8	23	11	11
Neither support nor oppose	15	16	21	11	8	10	12
Moderately oppose	22	22	29	20	19	19	20
Strongly oppose	35	39	29	46	36	43	42
Do not know	6	4	5	9	3	7	7

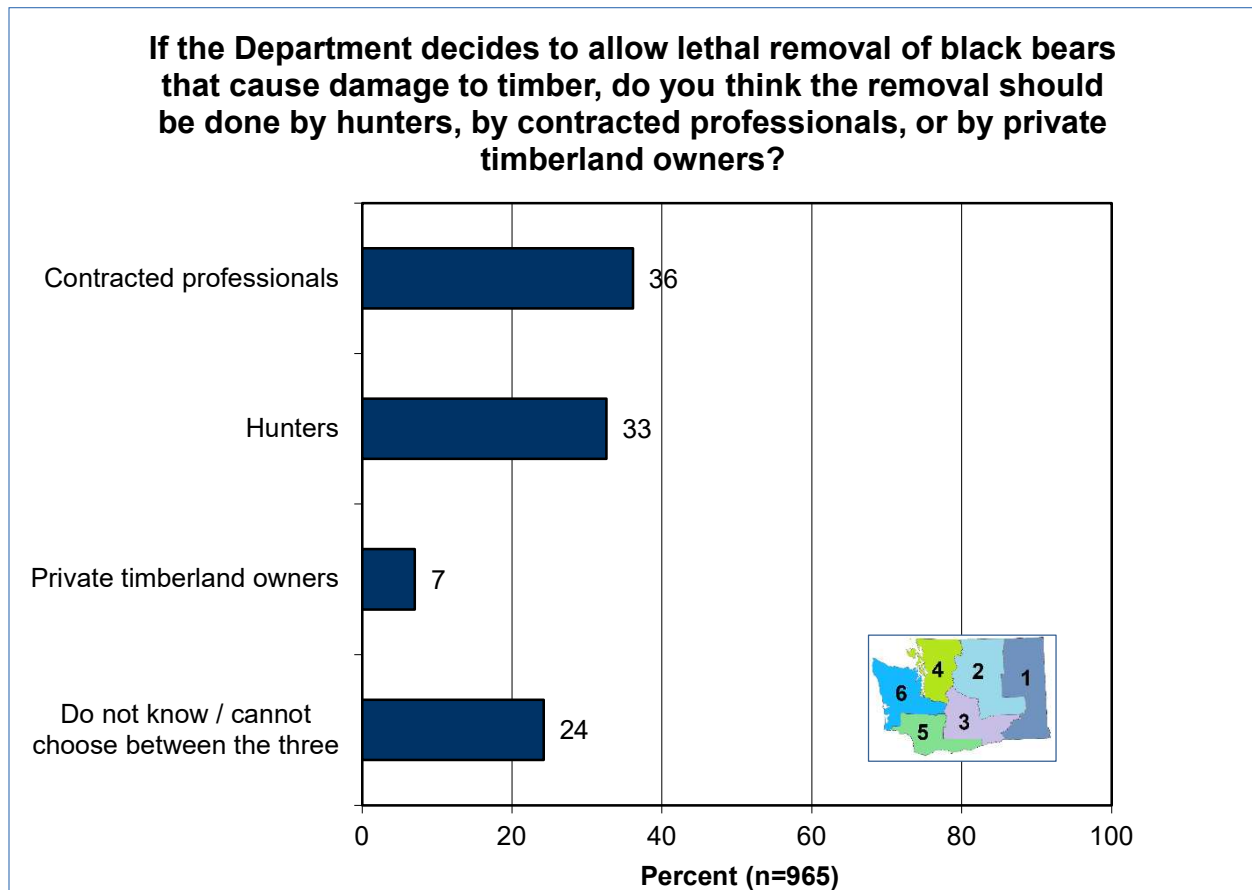
Region 5 and nonwhite residents have the highest levels of support for killing black bears to protect private timberlands. No other group is substantially different from residents overall.



Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately oppose lethal removal of black bears to reduce damage to timber on private timberlands:

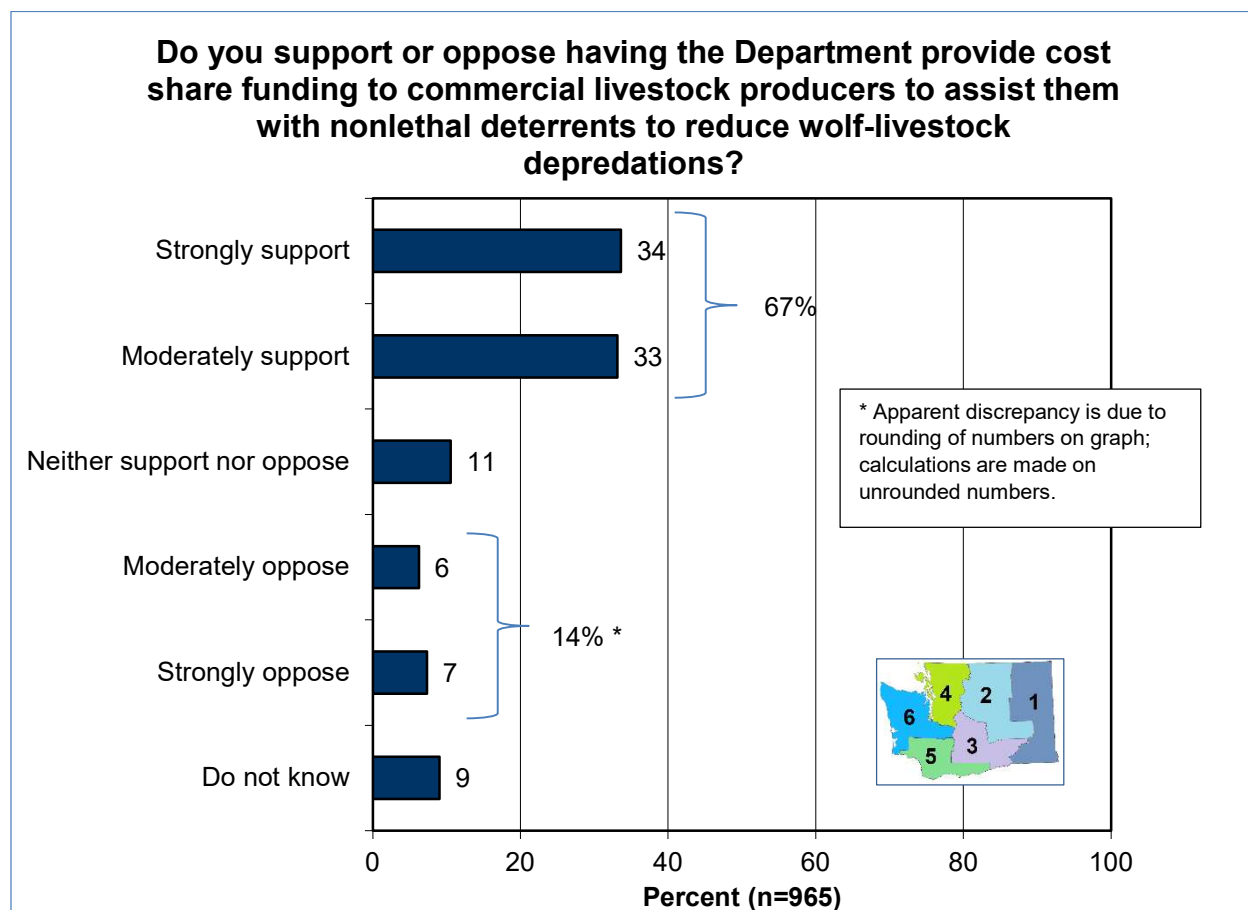


The survey asked residents, if WDFW decides to allow the killing of black bears that damage timber, if the removal should be done by hunters, contracted professionals, or private timberland owners. Residents have a slight preference for using professionals (36% selected this) over hunters (33%), while only 7% selected private timberland owners. However, a substantial percentage (24%) did not know or have a preference. Note that the use of contracted professionals is preferred in Regions 4 and 6, which are more populated, urban regions, while the use of hunters is preferred in the other four regions.



If the Department decides to allow lethal removal of black bears that cause damage to timber, do you think the removal should be done by hunters, by contracted professionals, or by private timberland owners?							
(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=169)	Region 2 (n=155)	Region 3 (n=155)	Region 4 (n=161)	Region 5 (n=155)	Region 6 (n=170)	Total (n=965)
Hunters	41	47	39	28	44	29	33
Contracted professionals	27	26	33	39	26	41	36
Private timberland owners	7	7	10	7	4	8	7
Do not know / cannot choose between the three	24	20	18	27	25	22	24

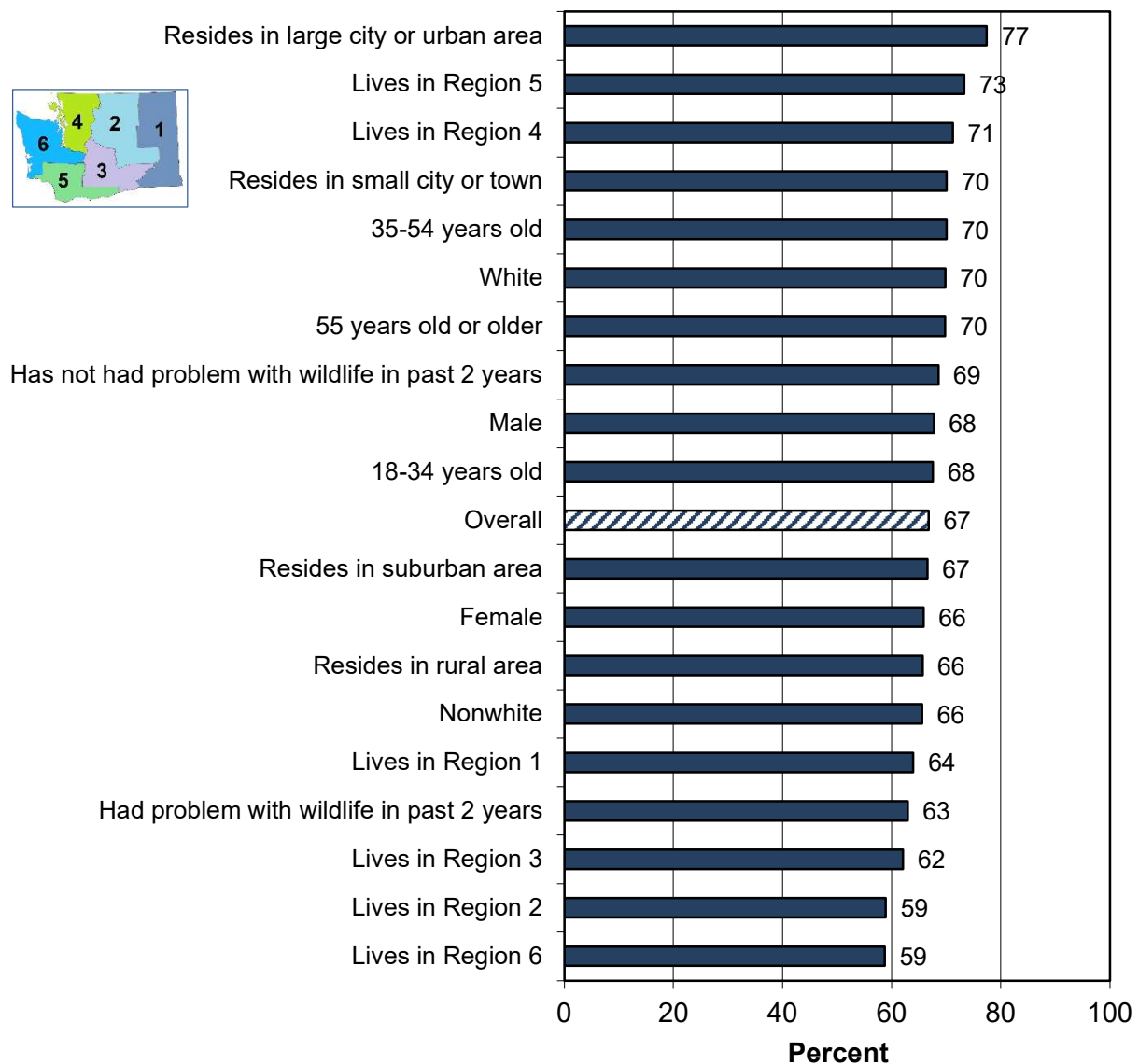
Two thirds of residents (67%) support having WDFW provide cost share funding to commercial livestock producers to assist them with nonlethal deterrents to protect the livestock from wolves. On the other hand, 14% oppose the concept.



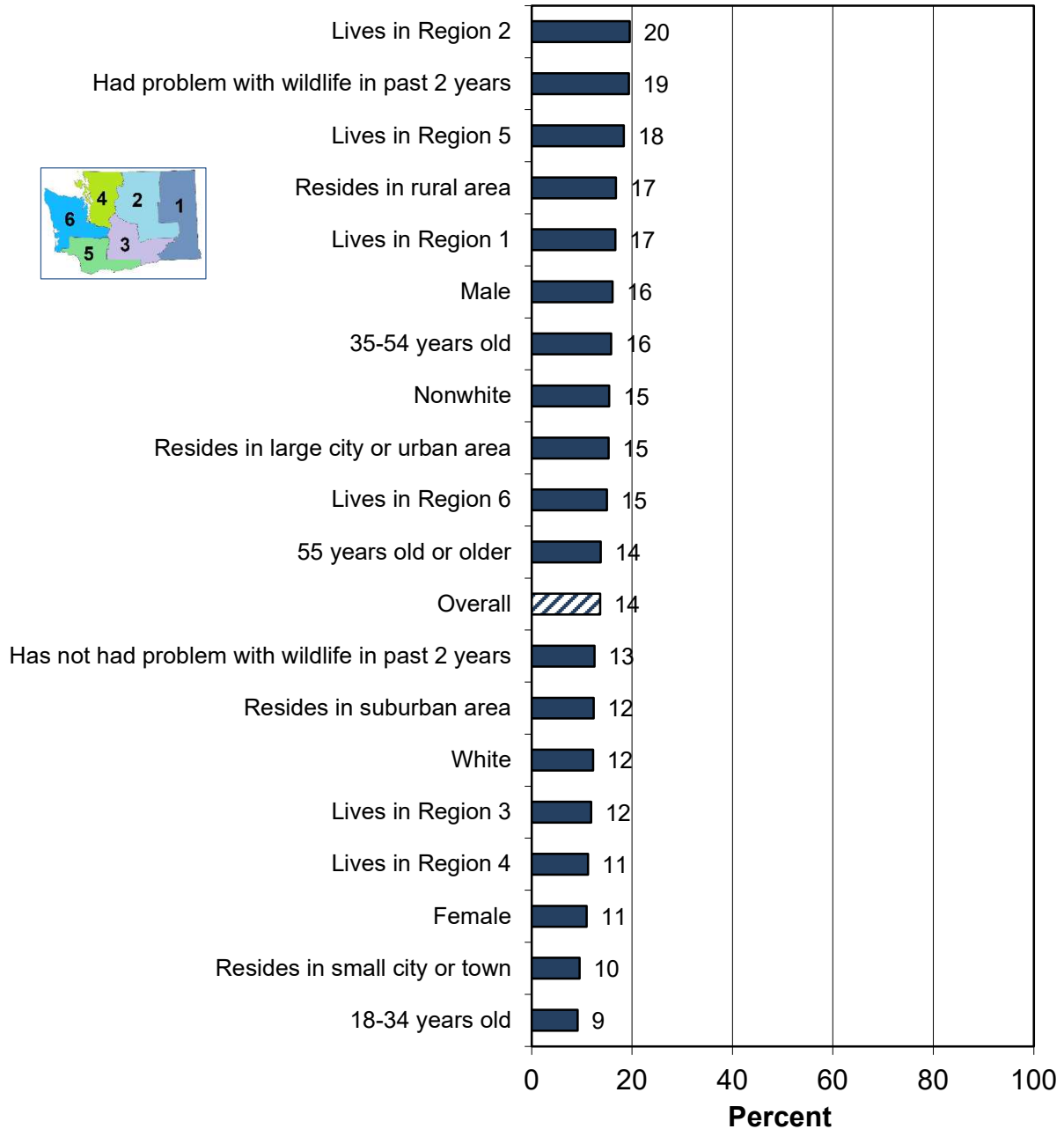
Do you support or oppose having the Department provide cost share funding to commercial livestock producers to assist them with nonlethal deterrents to reduce wolf-livestock depredations?							
(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=169)	Region 2 (n=155)	Region 3 (n=155)	Region 4 (n=161)	Region 5 (n=155)	Region 6 (n=170)	Total (n=965)
Strongly support	41	31	34	34	38	28	34
Moderately support	23	27	28	37	35	31	33
Neither support nor oppose	14	12	19	7	4	16	11
Moderately oppose	6	10	4	7	7	5	6
Strongly oppose	11	9	8	5	11	10	7
Do not know	5	9	7	10	5	11	9

Support for cost share funding to livestock producers for nonlethal deterrents to reduce wolf-livestock depredations is highest among large city/urban and Region 5 residents, while opposition is highest among Region 2 residents and those who had problems with wildlife.

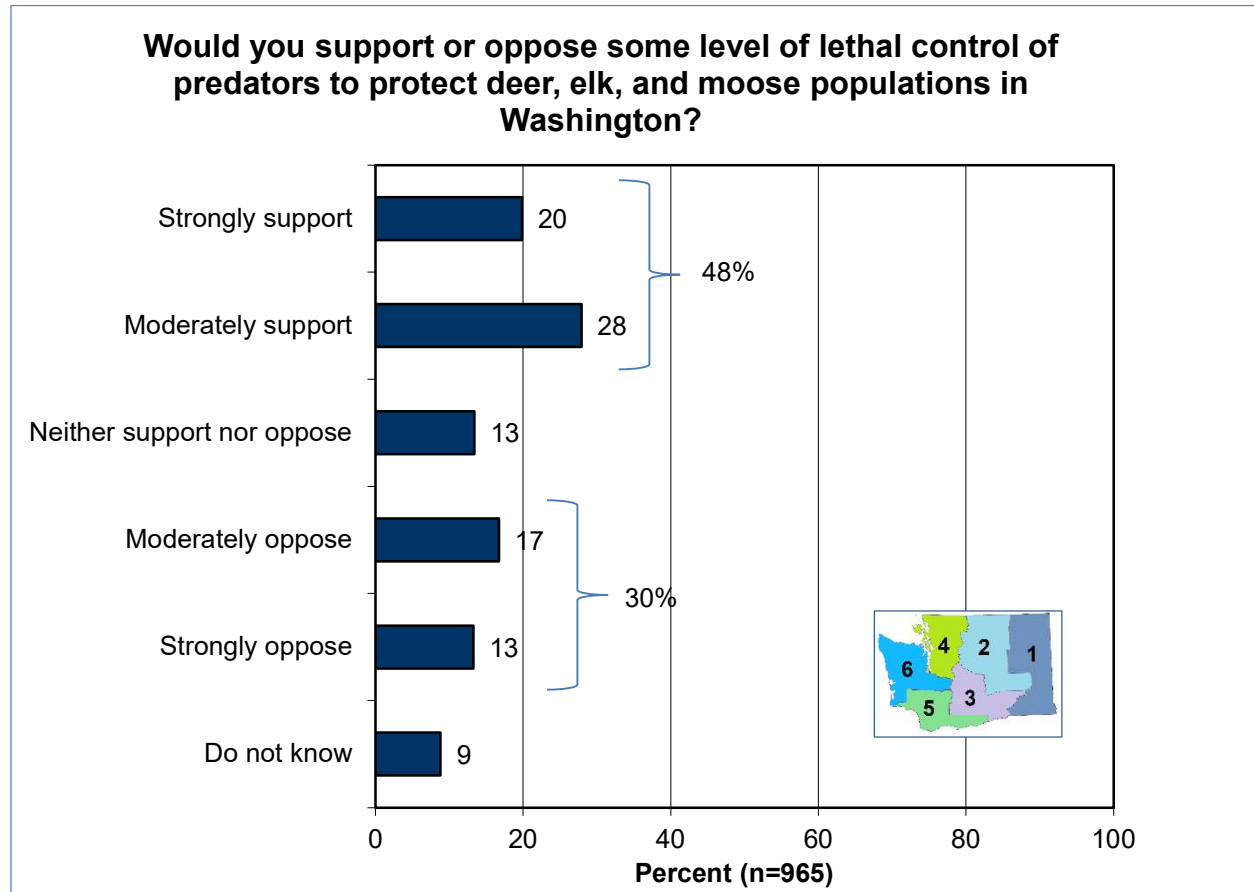
Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately support having the Department provide cost share funding to commercial livestock producers to assist them with nonlethal deterrents to reduce wolf-livestock depredations:



Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately oppose having the Department provide cost share funding to commercial livestock producers to assist them with nonlethal deterrents to reduce wolf-livestock depredations:



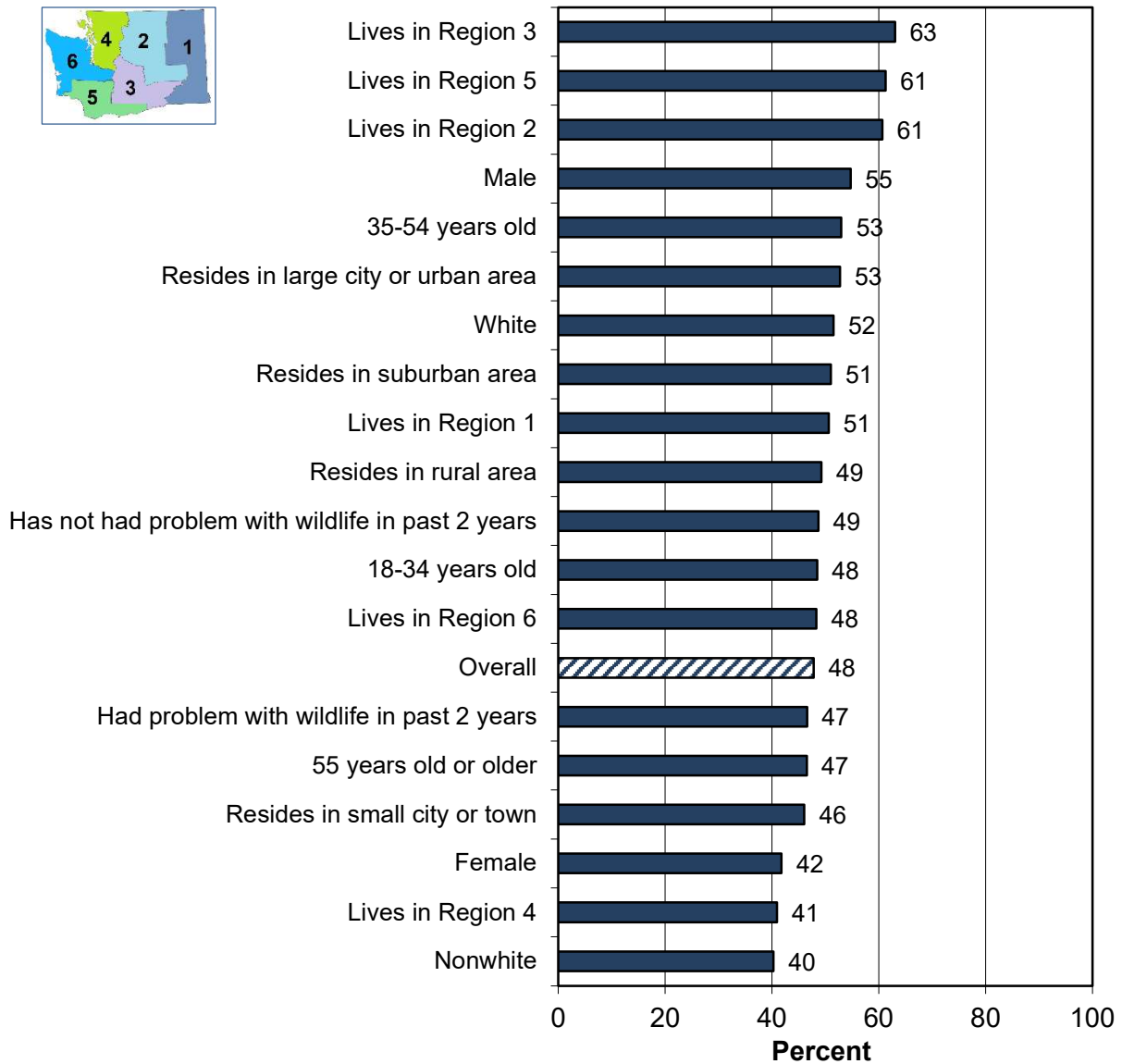
Nearly half of residents (48%) approve of some level of lethal control of predators to protect deer, elk, and moose populations in Washington, compared to 30% who oppose. The survey defined “some level” as a certain threshold that would be set, after which the predator would be killed.



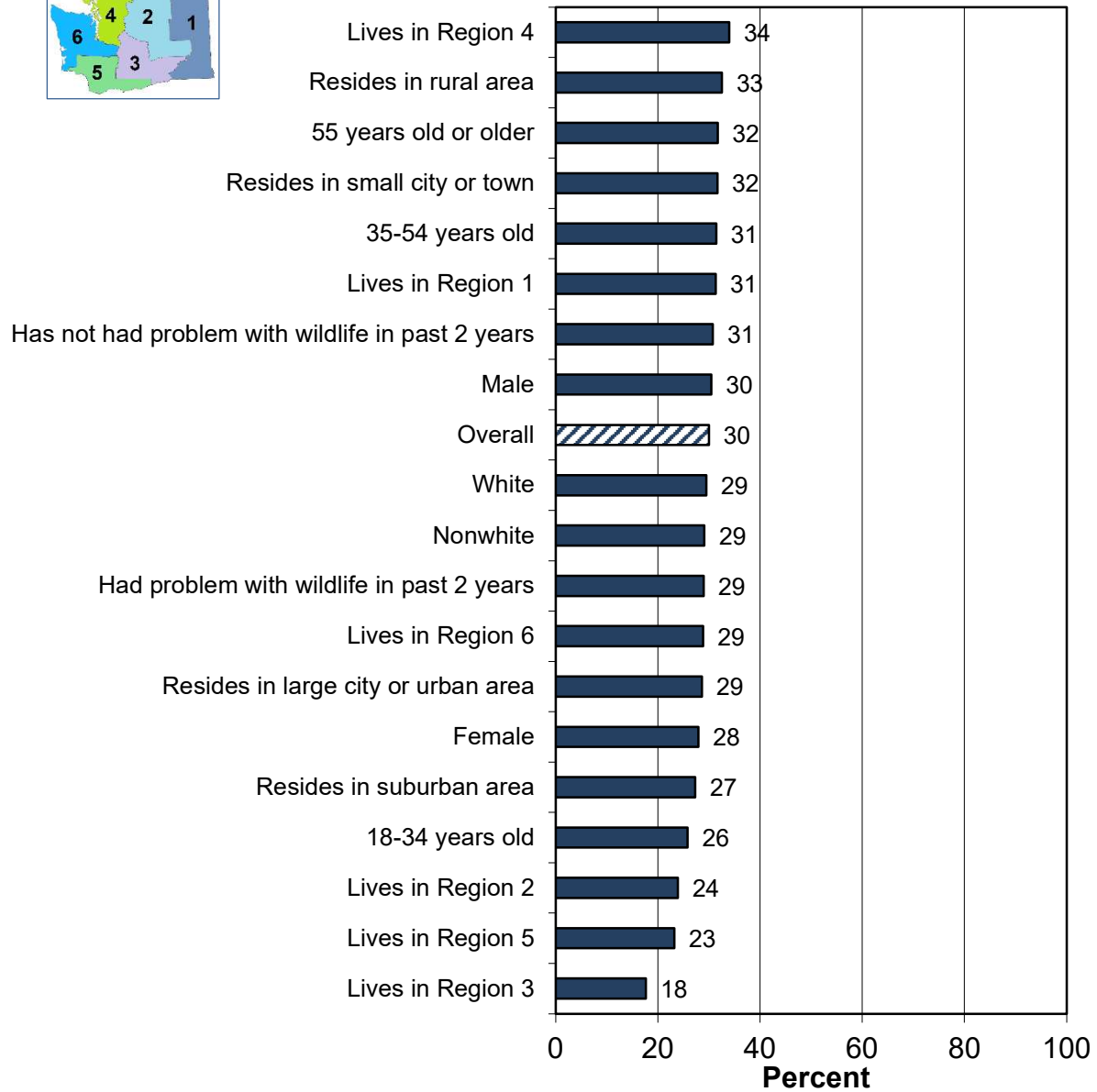
Would you support or oppose some level of lethal control of predators to protect deer, elk, and moose populations in Washington?							
(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=169)	Region 2 (n=155)	Region 3 (n=155)	Region 4 (n=161)	Region 5 (n=155)	Region 6 (n=170)	Total (n=965)
Strongly support	32	26	28	13	33	20	20
Moderately support	19	35	35	28	28	28	28
Neither support nor oppose	12	9	18	14	11	13	13
Moderately oppose	14	12	10	21	13	13	17
Strongly oppose	17	12	8	13	10	15	13
Do not know	6	6	2	11	5	10	9

Support for a level of lethal control of predators to protect deer, elk, and moose populations is highest among residents of Regions 2, 3, and 5, along with male residents. Opposition is highest among Region 4 residents, although not substantially higher than among residents overall.

Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately support some level of lethal control of predators to protect deer, elk, and moose populations in Washington:



Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately oppose some level of lethal control of predators to protect deer, elk, and moose populations in Washington:

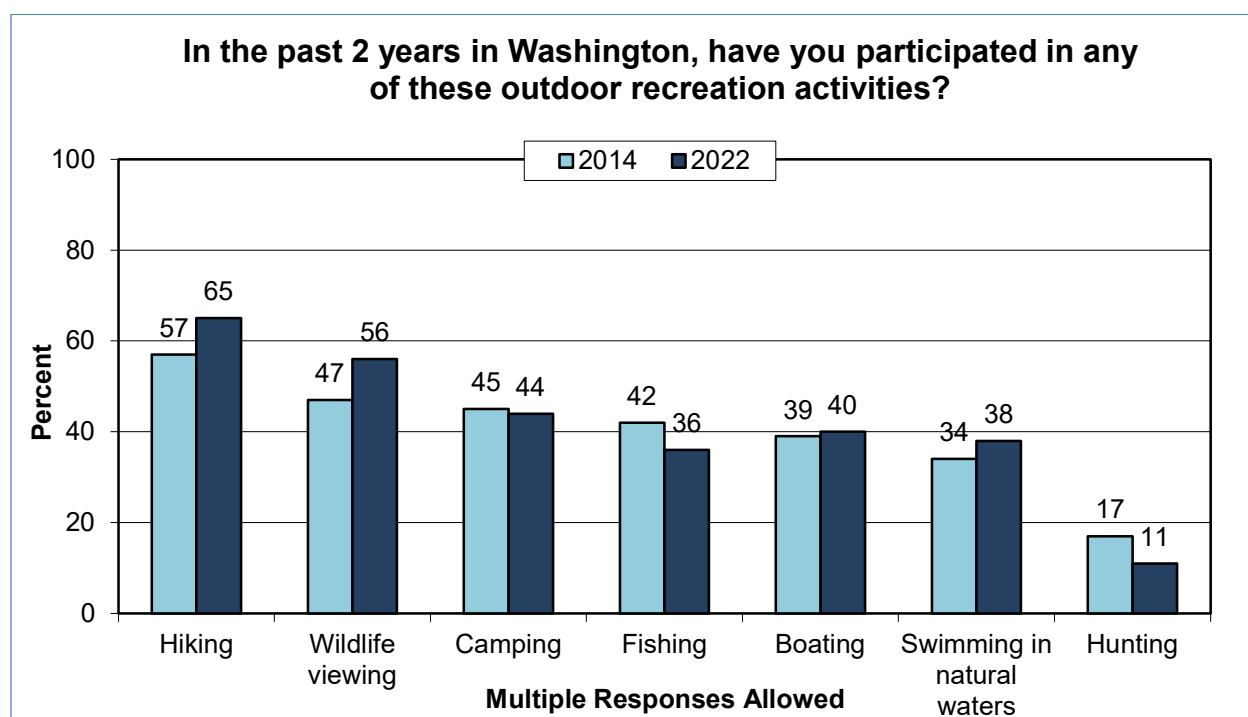


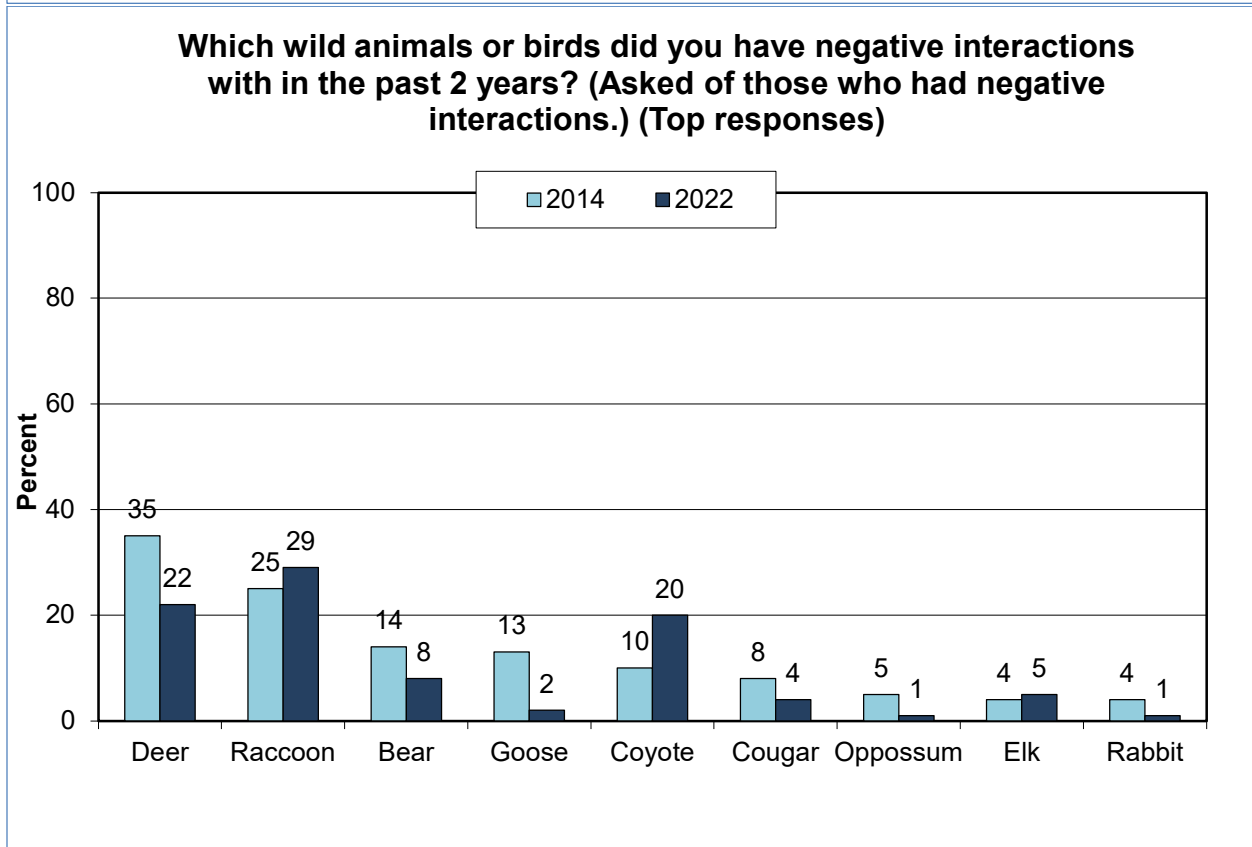
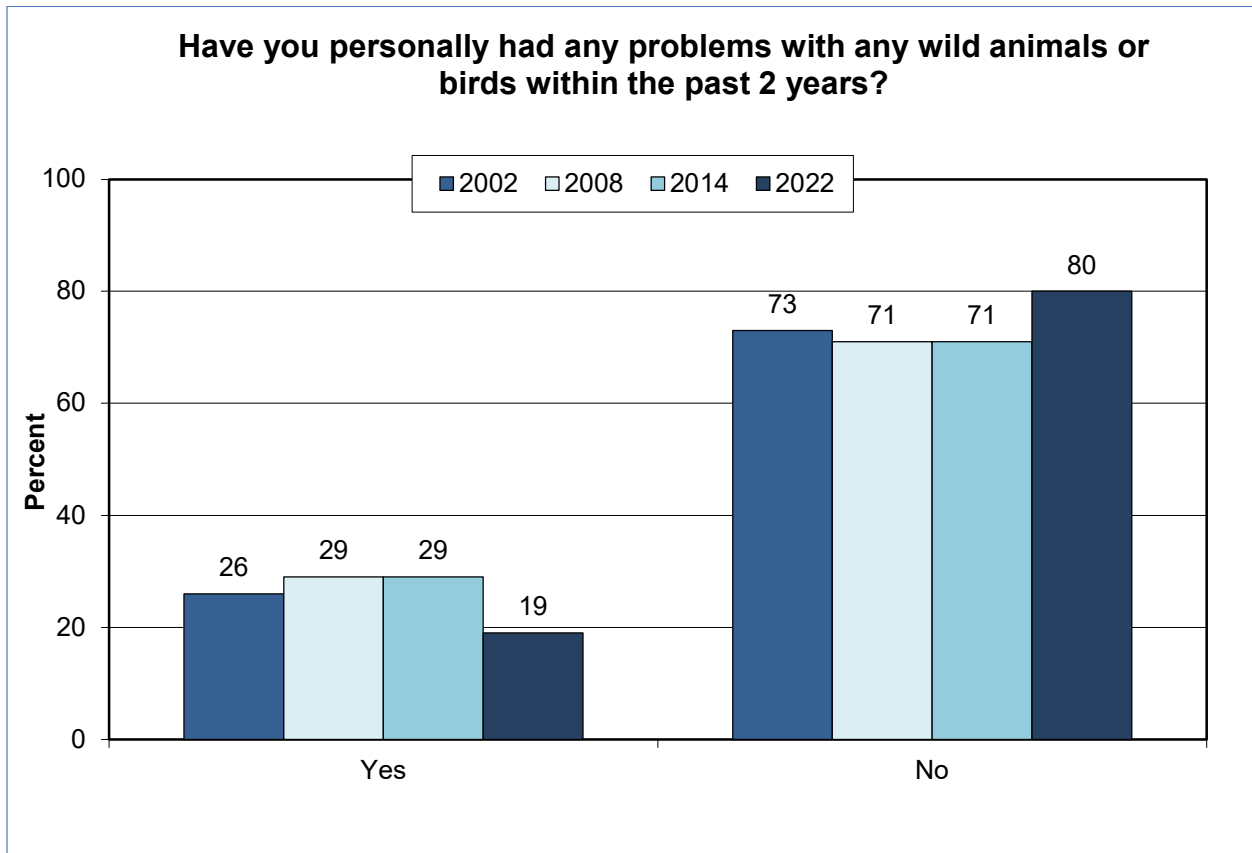
TRENDS

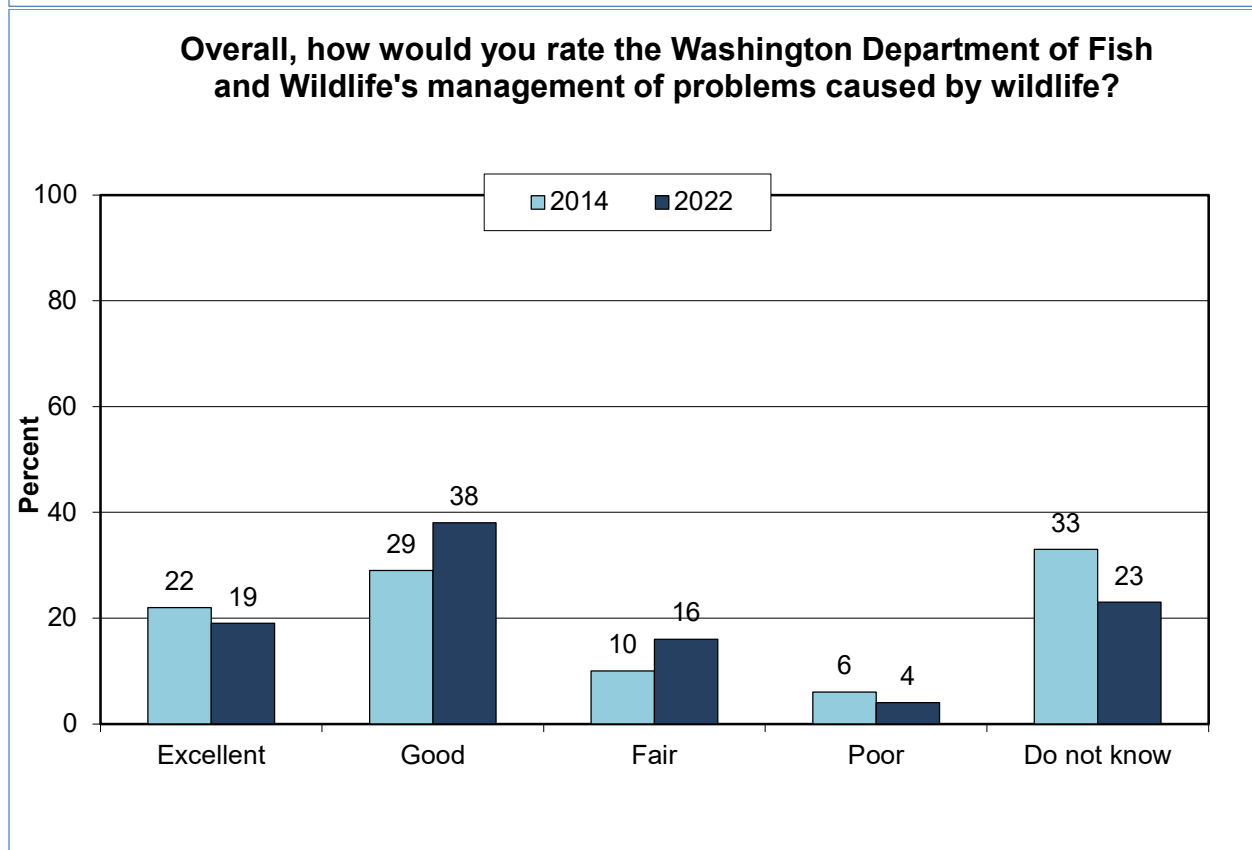
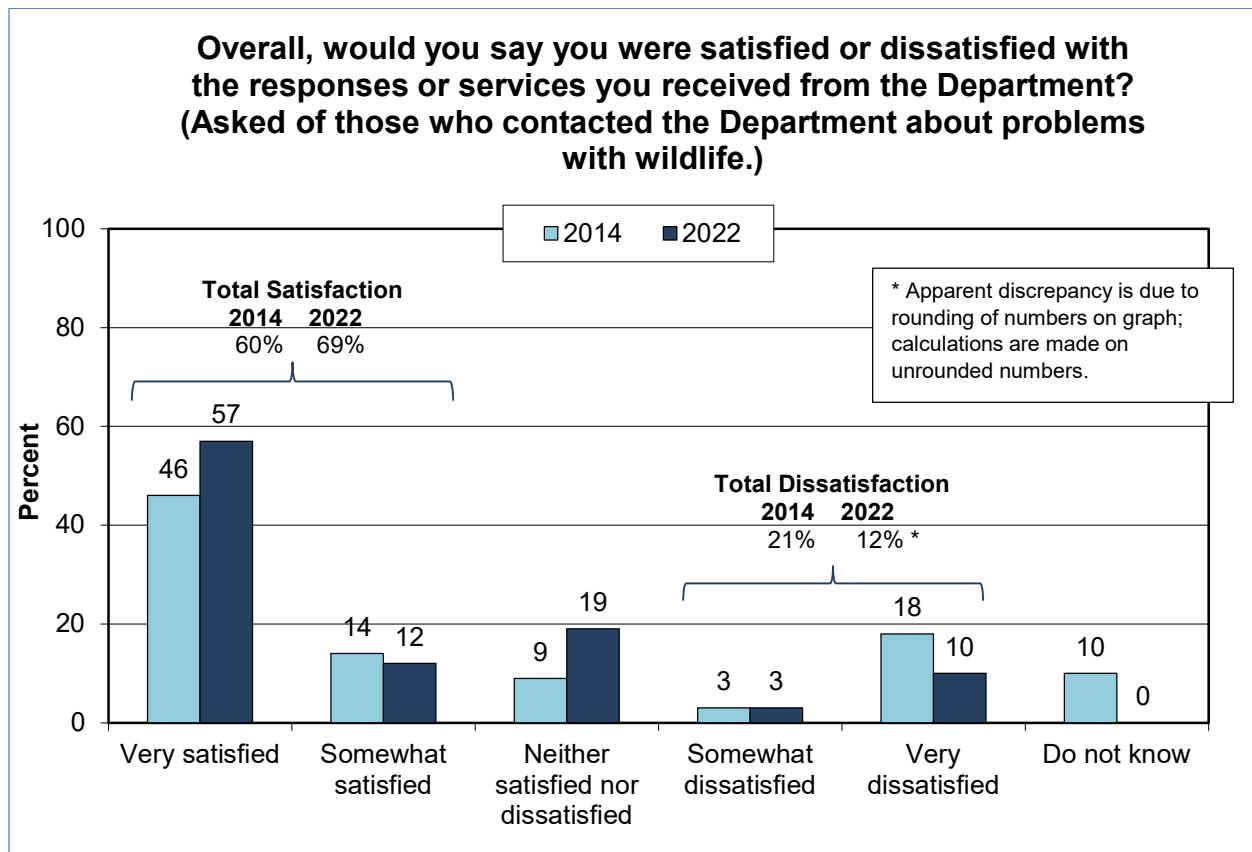
This section compares results of the current survey with those from similar surveys conducted in 2014, 2008, and 2002 for identical questions, where available. Note that graphs that show summations (e.g., strongly support and moderately support combined) just include the summation of integers for the earlier years. It is possible that the true summation for earlier years is off by 1% due to rounding of numbers in the graphs, but nonetheless this is sufficiently accurate to observe trends in residents' attitudes over time.

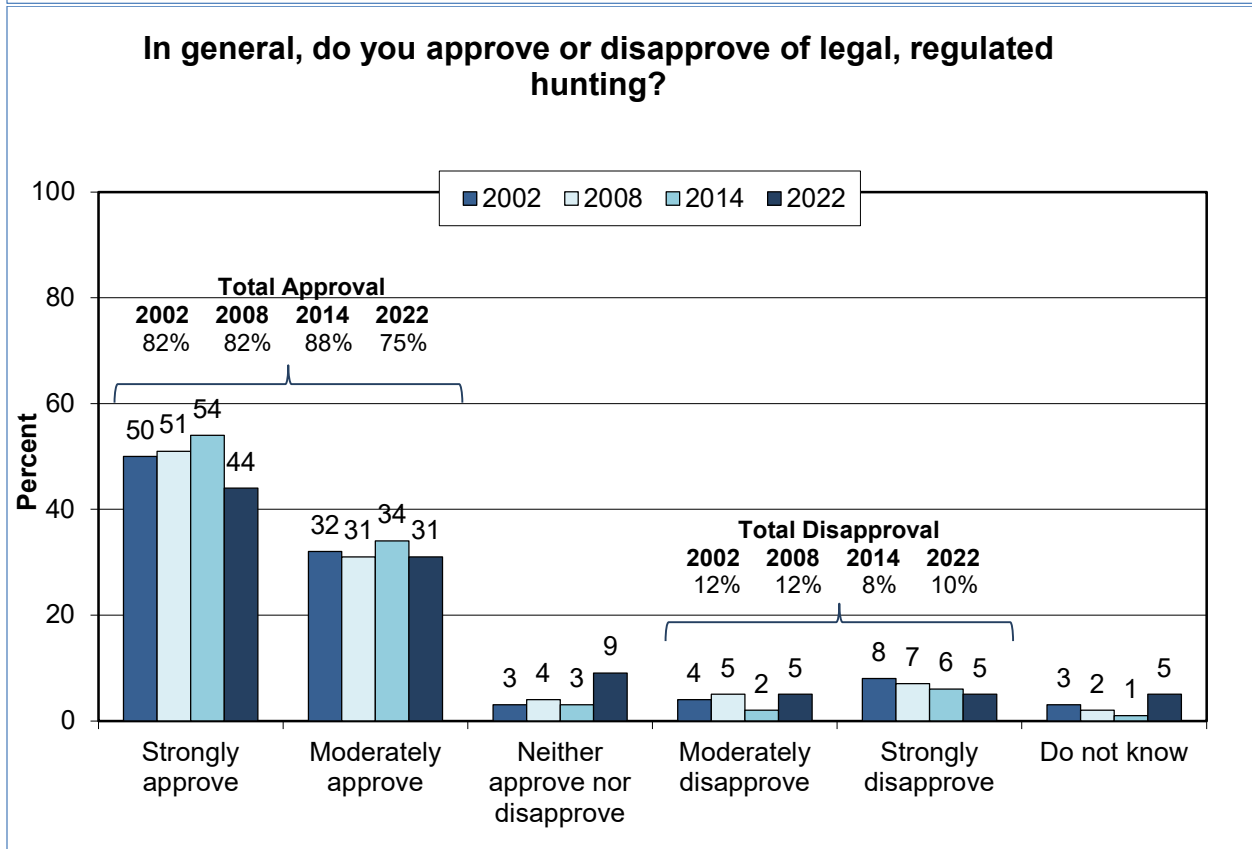
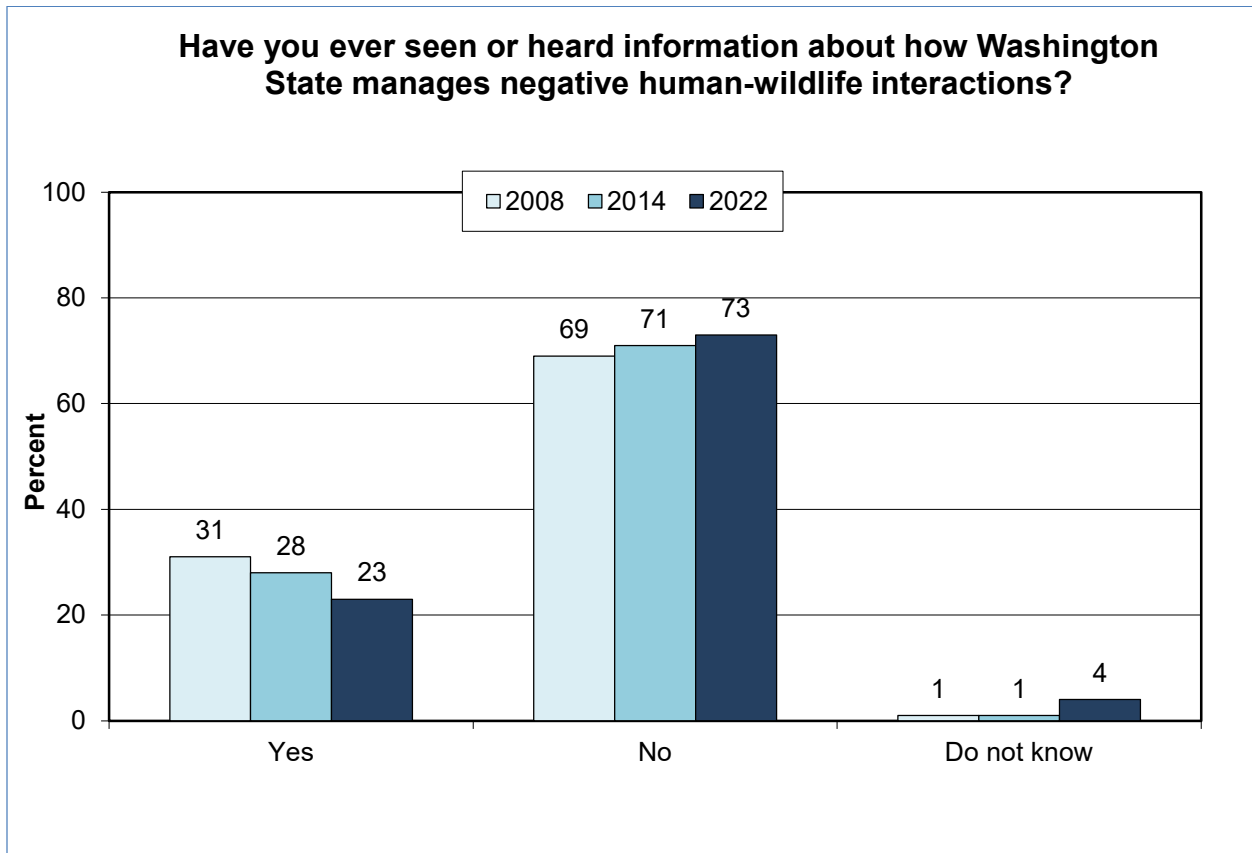
The major findings include:

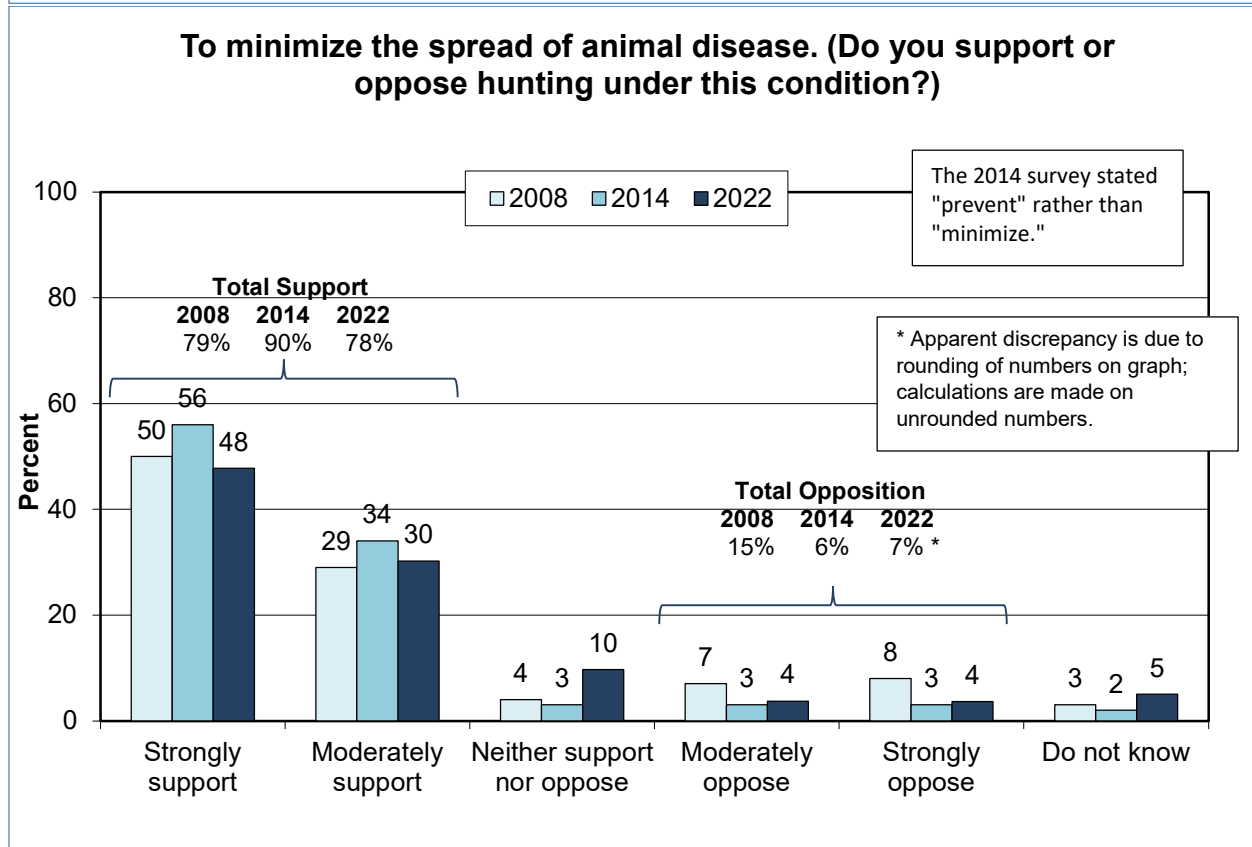
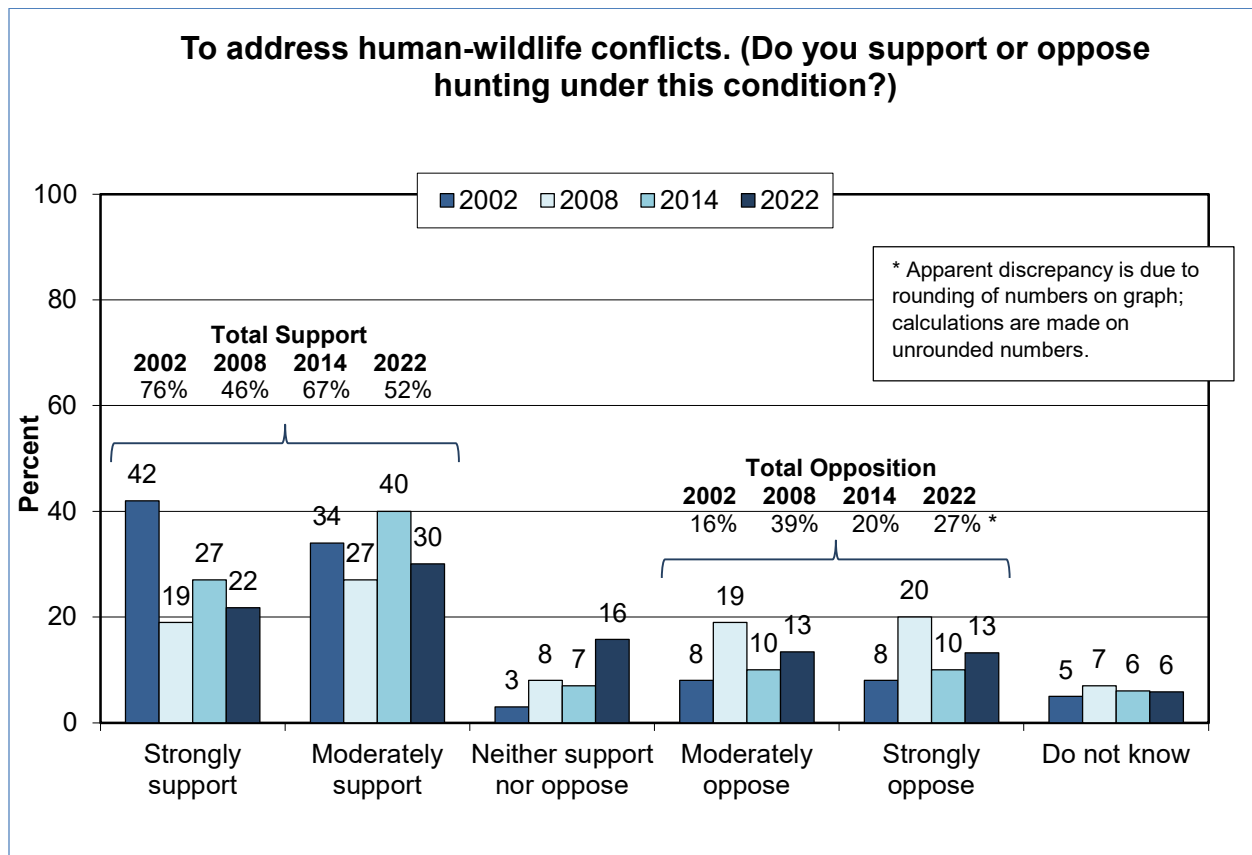
- Fewer residents experienced problems with wildlife compared to earlier years, particularly problems with deer and geese. However, there is a marked increase in people having problems with coyotes.
- Overall ratings are higher for WDFW's management of problems caused by wildlife, compared to 2014.
- Approval of legal, regulated hunting has decreased substantially, going from 88% in 2014 to 75% in 2022. Likewise, support for hunting is down for all given reasons or scenarios. However, this is not accompanied by notable increases in opposition; rather, higher percentages of residents are giving neutral or "do not know" responses. In fact, some questions show decreases in both support and opposition.
- There is an increase in support for maintaining sustainable populations of predators, going from 70% in 2014 to 80% in 2022.
- There is a decrease in support for killing predators to protect domestic animals or threatened or endangered species.

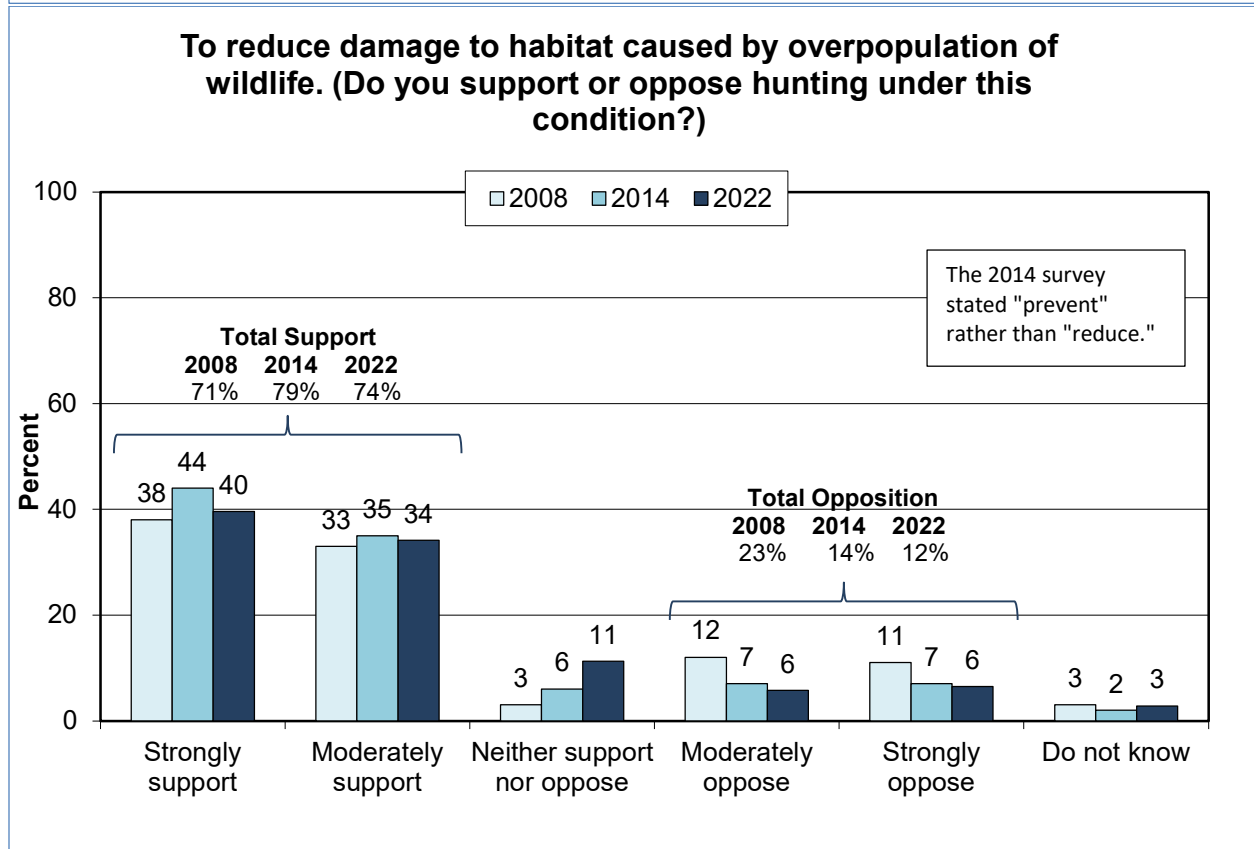
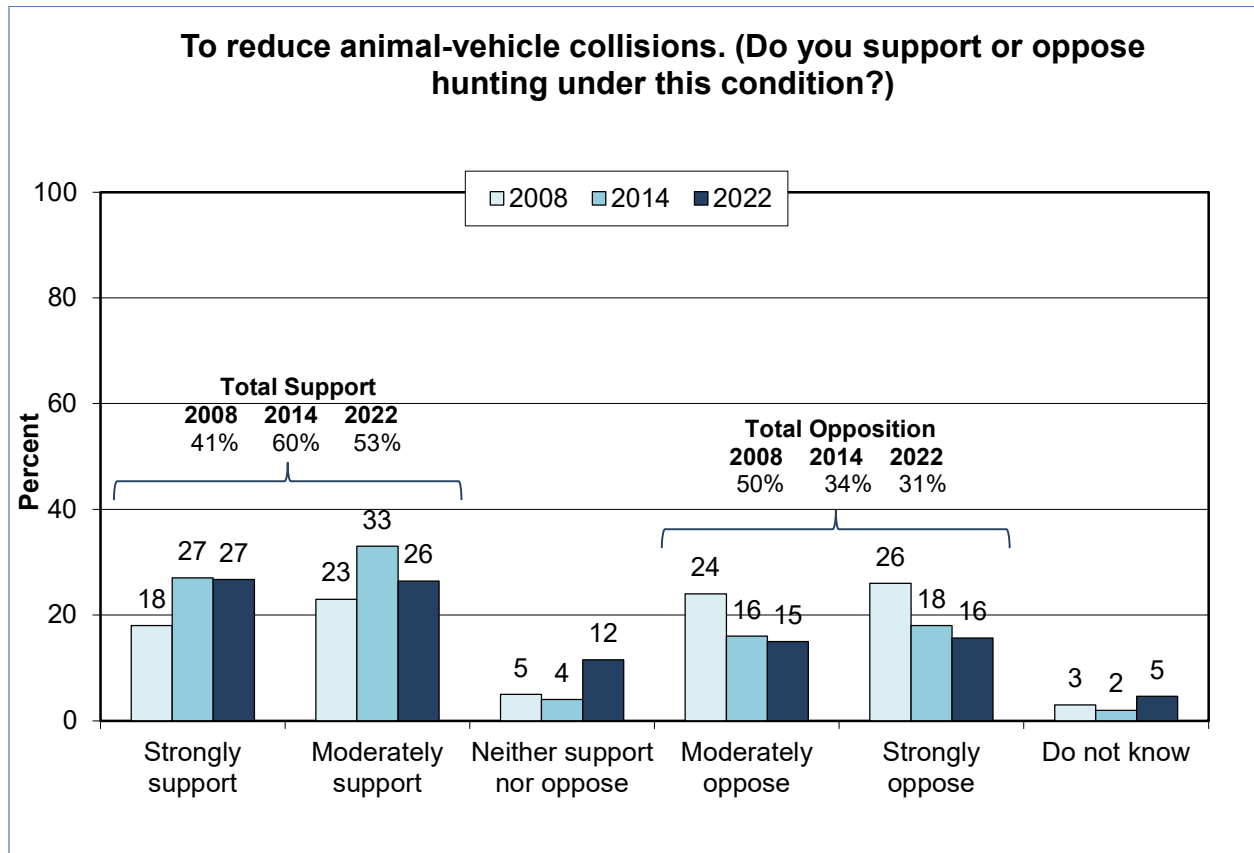


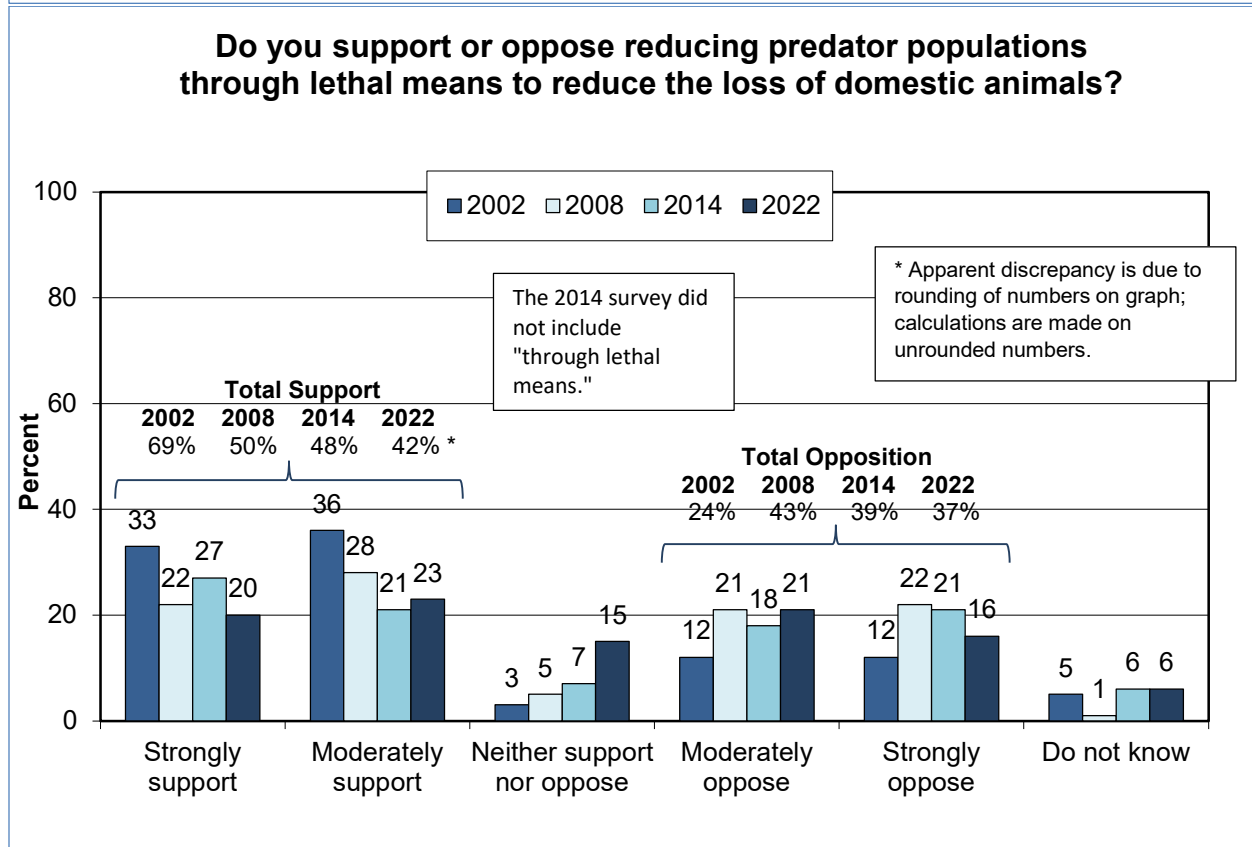
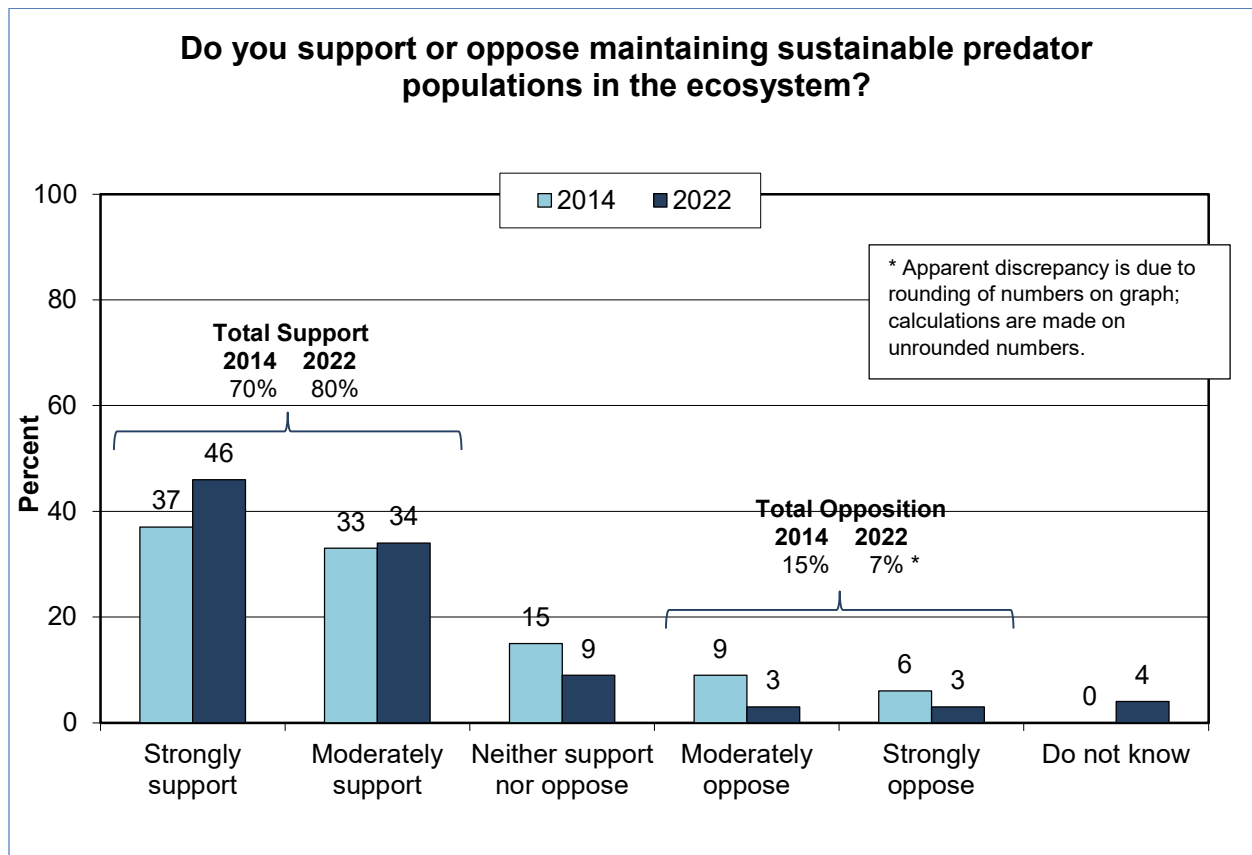




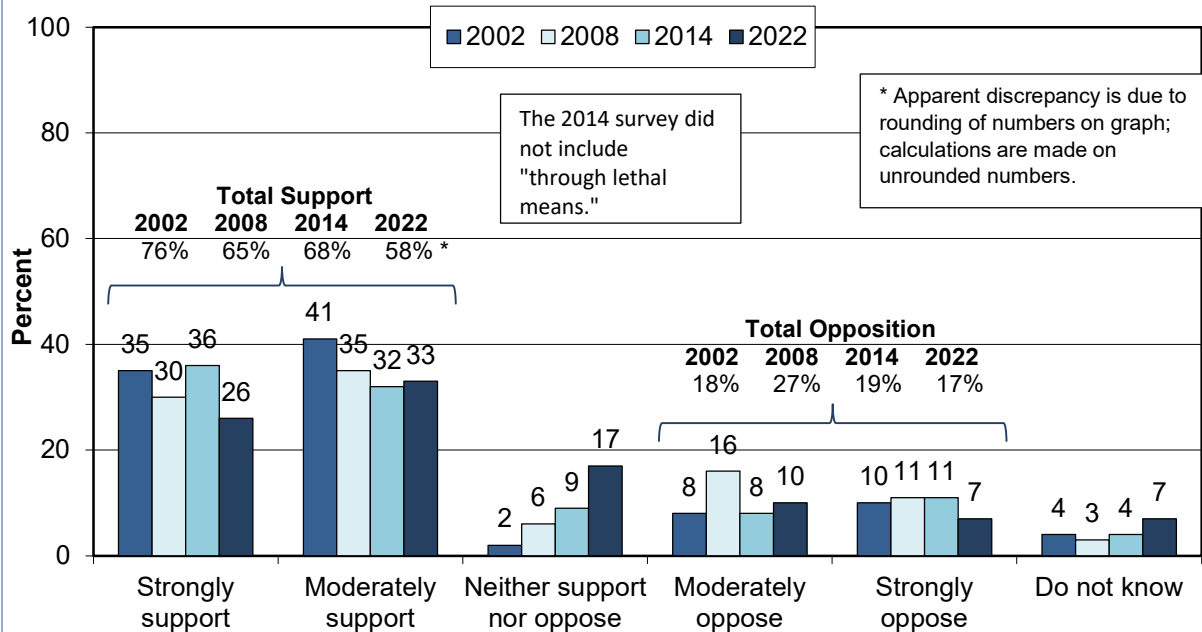




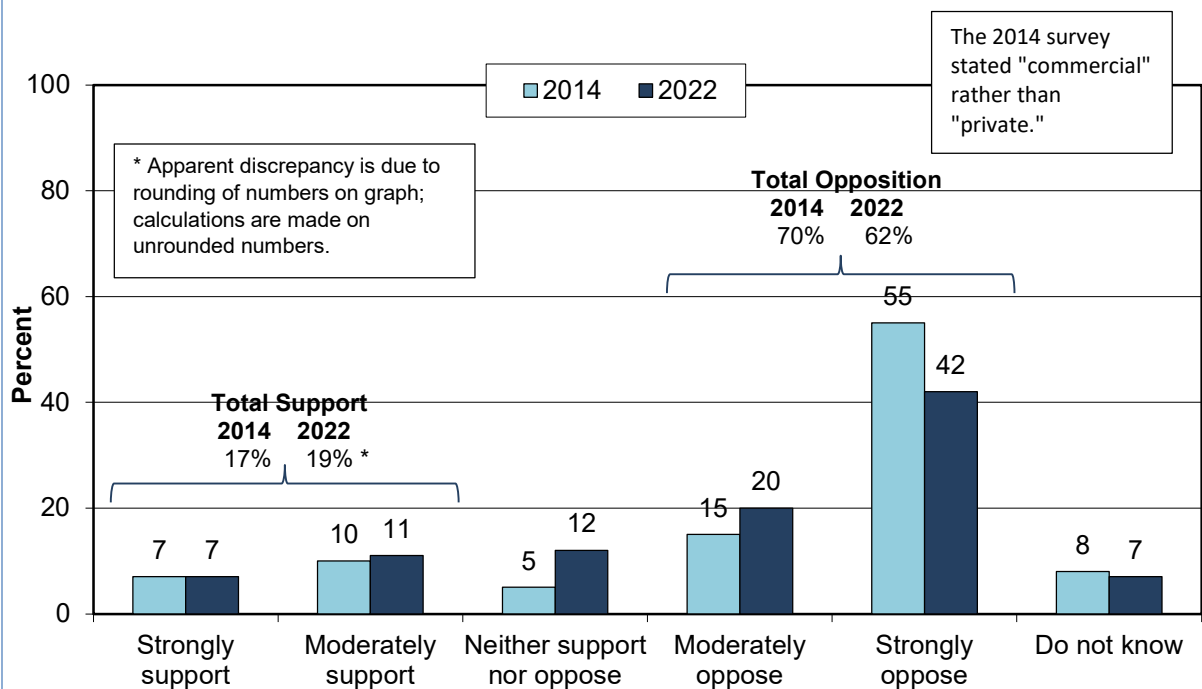


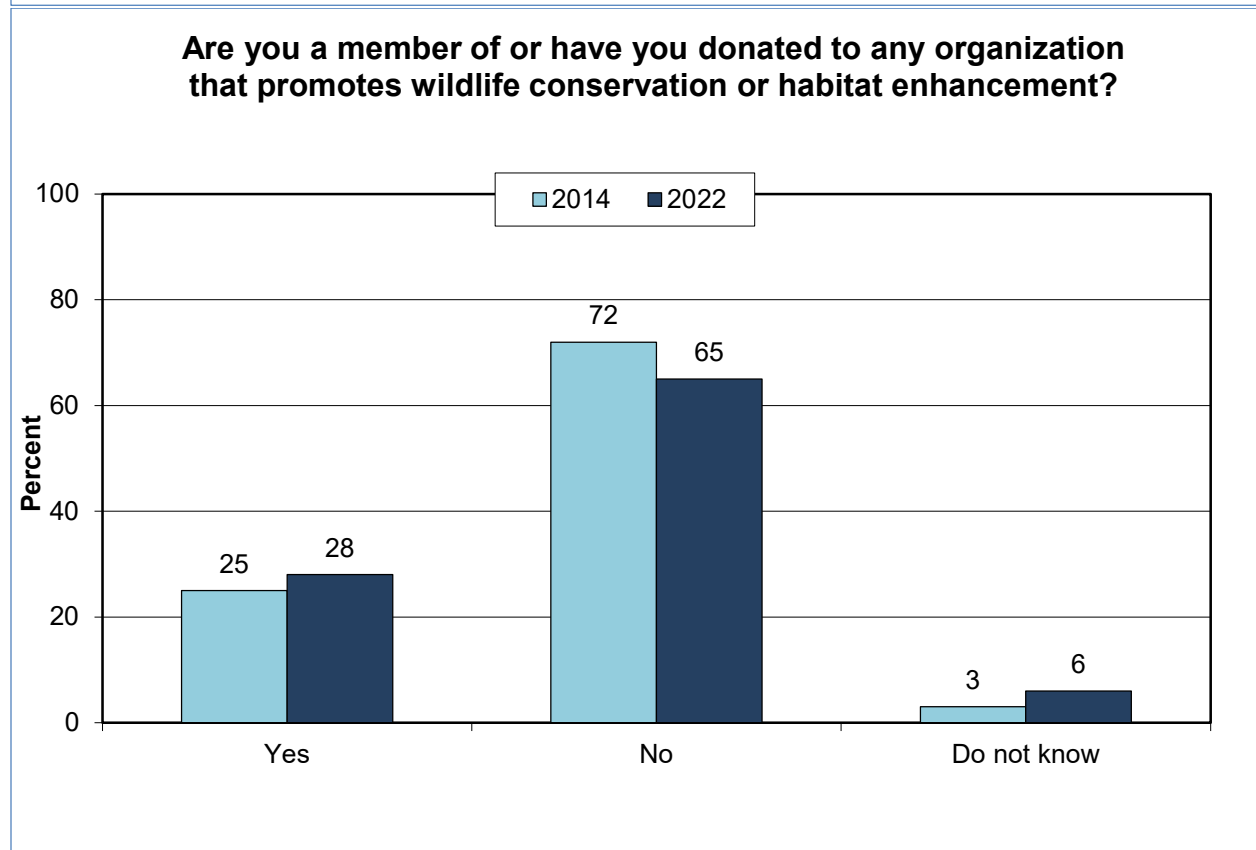
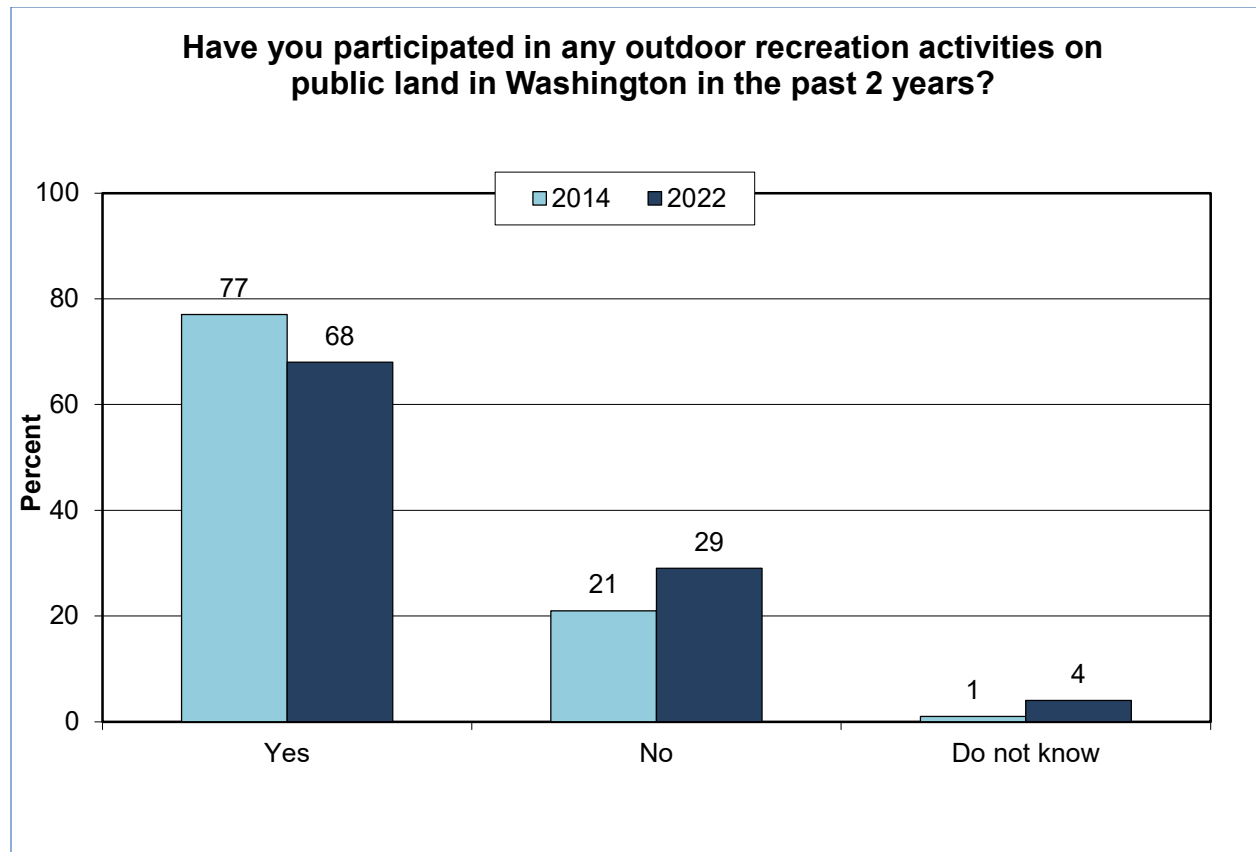


Do you support or oppose reducing predator populations through lethal means to protect threatened or endangered species?



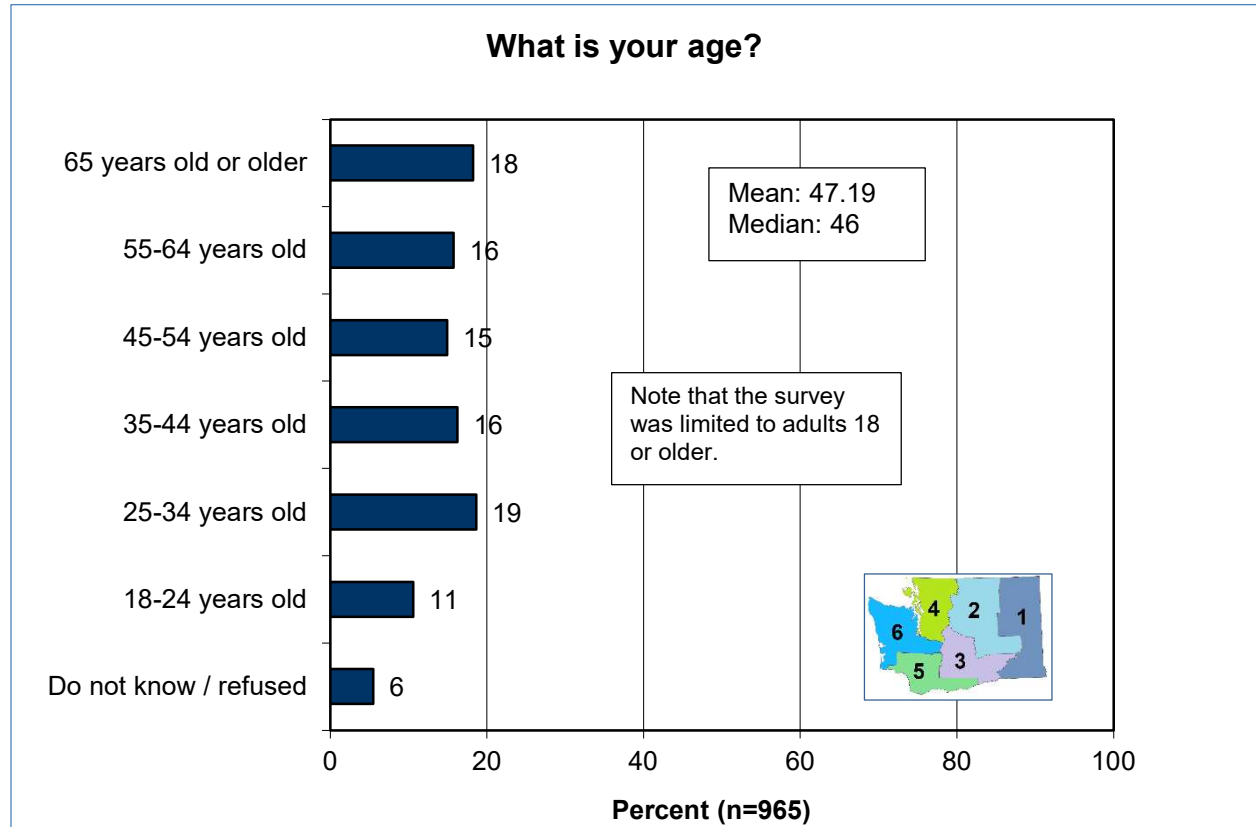
Do you support or oppose lethal removal of black bears to reduce damage to timber on private timberlands?



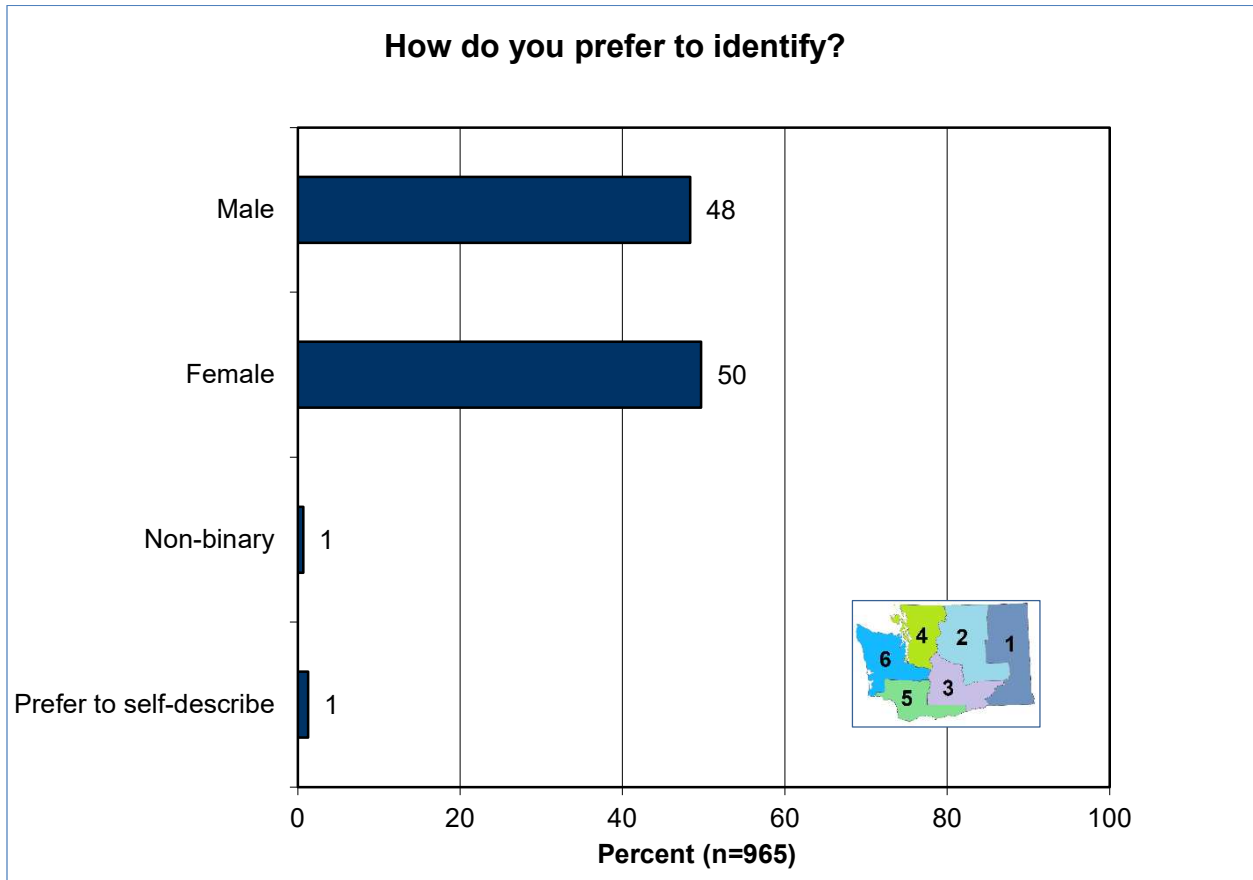


DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

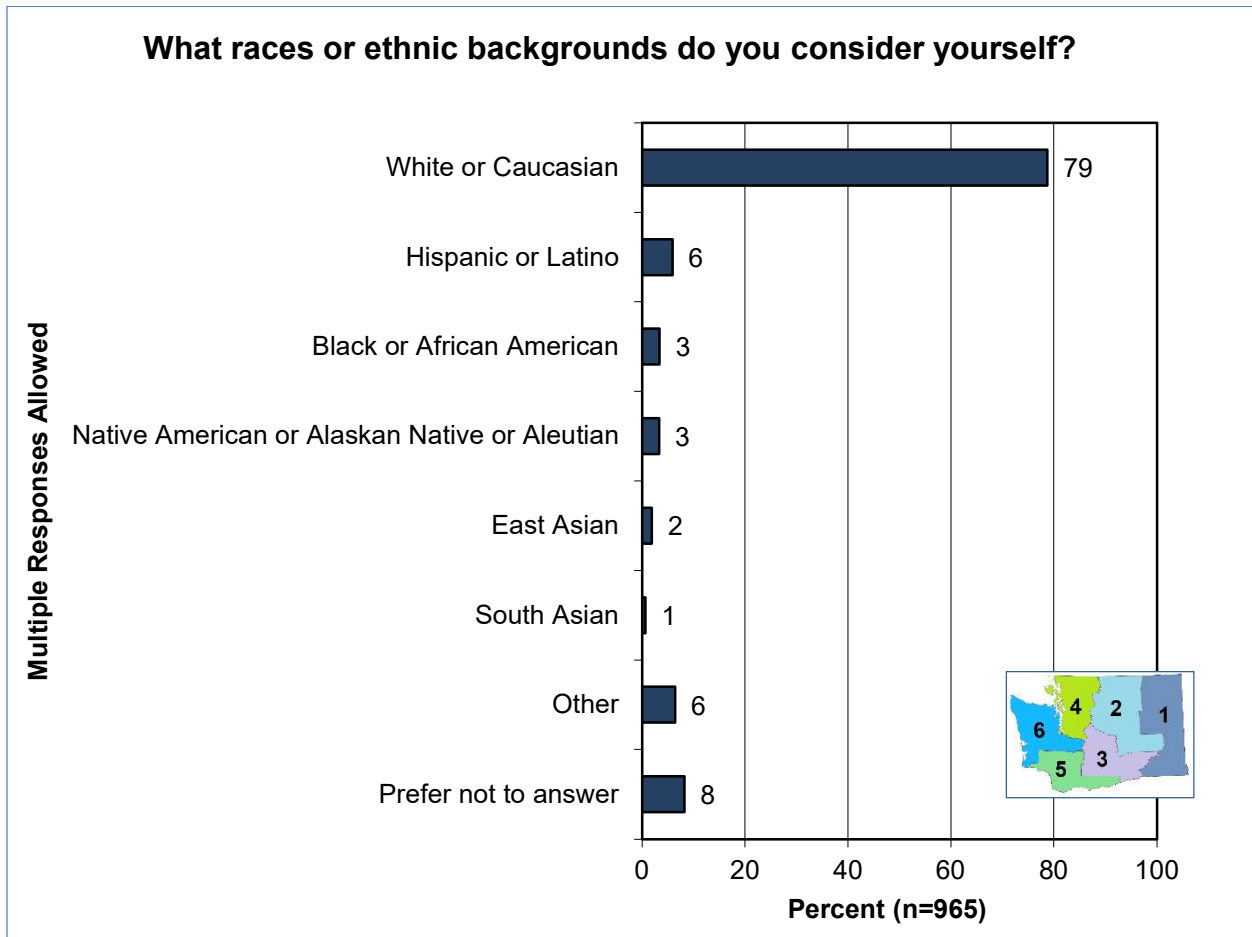
The survey obtained information about age, gender, ethnicity, type of residential area (urban-rural continuum), and county of residence. These are primarily used for crosstabulations, but they are shown in this section on their own.



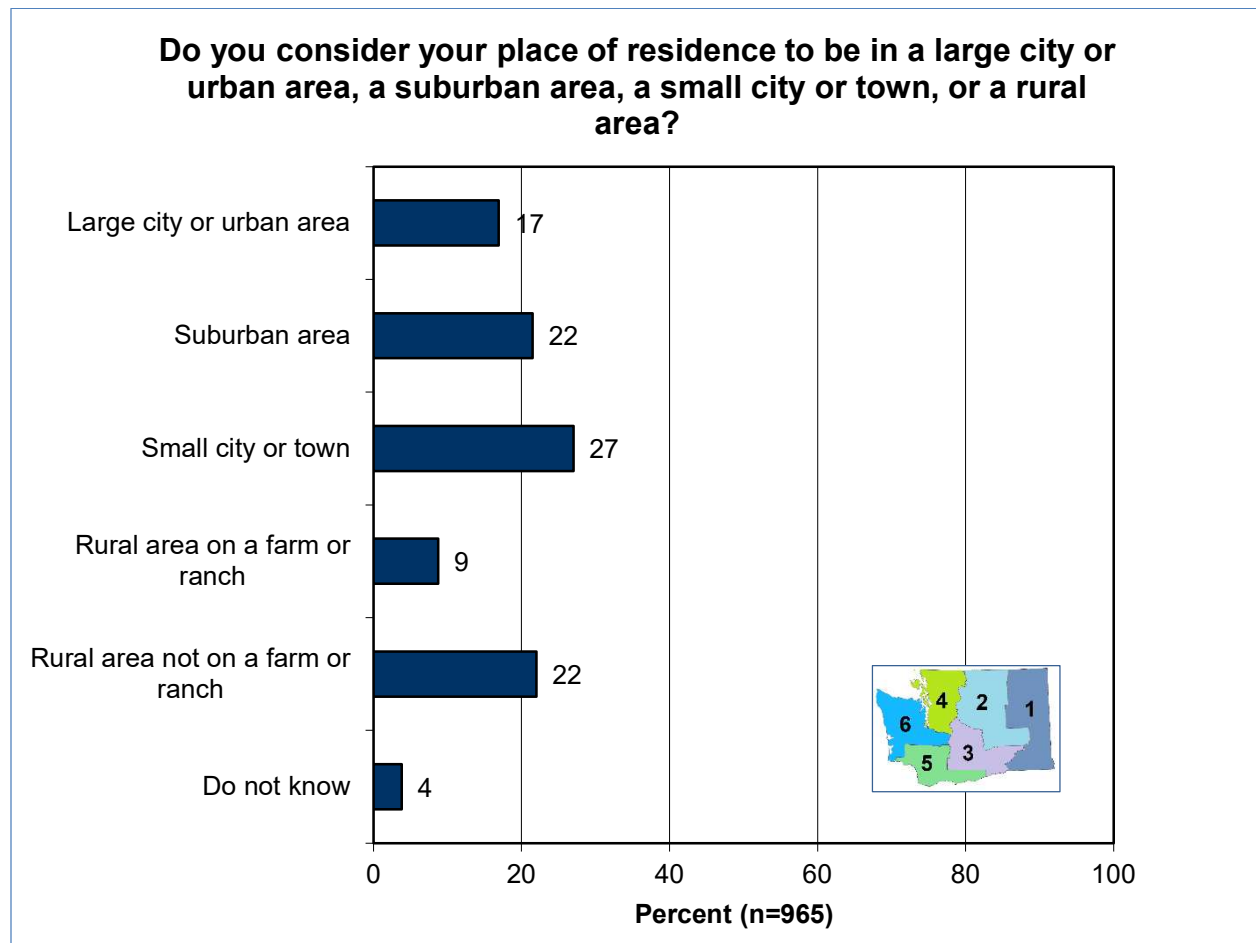
What is your age?							
(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=169)	Region 2 (n=155)	Region 3 (n=155)	Region 4 (n=161)	Region 5 (n=155)	Region 6 (n=170)	Total (n=965)
65 years old or older	20	22	19	16	20	21	18
55-64 years old	17	16	16	16	18	14	16
45-54 years old	14	15	15	15	15	14	15
35-44 years old	15	15	16	17	17	15	16
25-34 years old	18	17	18	21	17	16	19
18-24 years old	14	12	14	9	10	11	11
Do not know / refused	2	3	2	5	3	9	6
Mean	47.36	48.66	46.16	46.55	48.17	48.16	47.19
Median	46	49	46	44	49	47	46



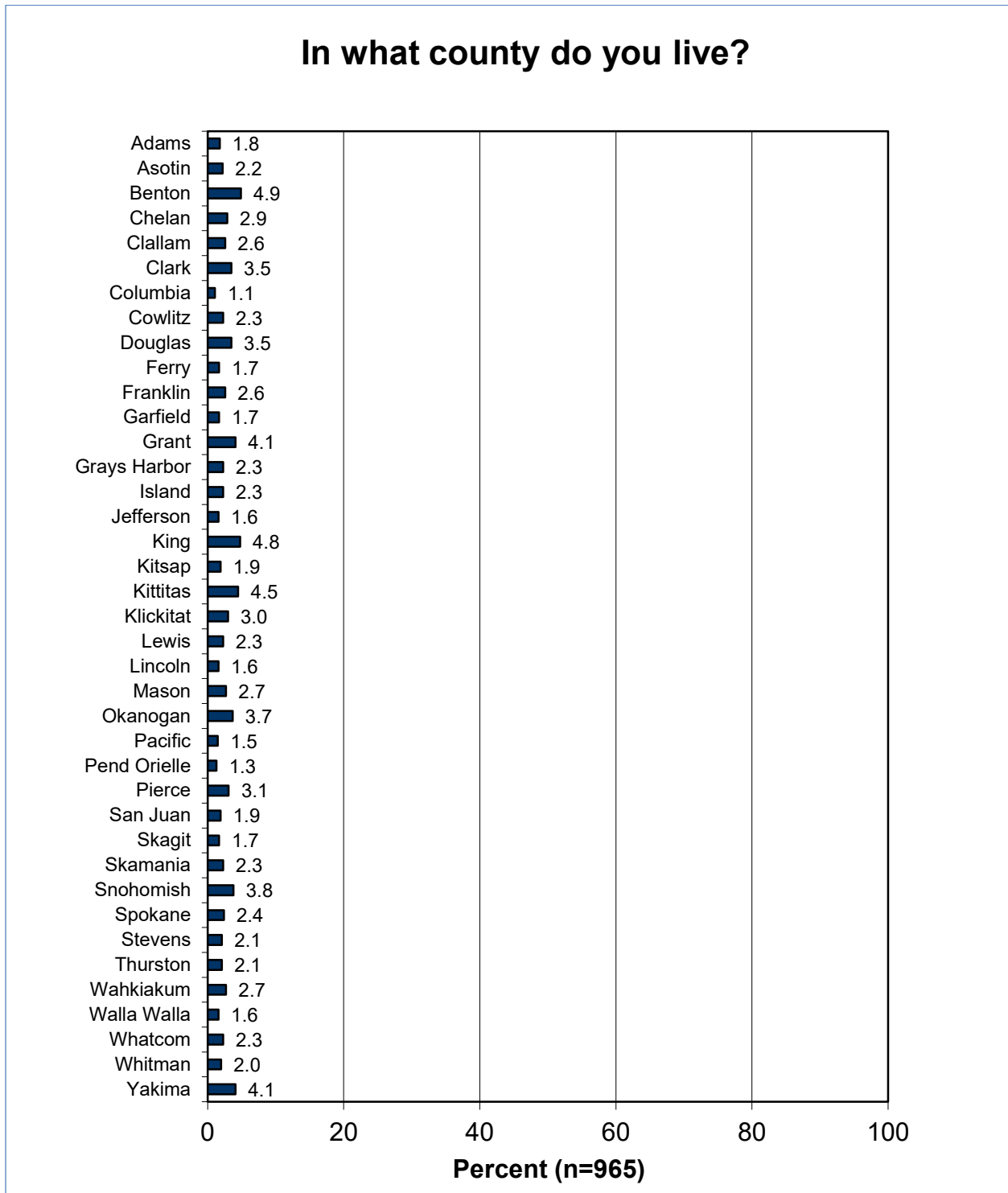
(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=169)	Region 2 (n=155)	Region 3 (n=155)	Region 4 (n=161)	Region 5 (n=155)	Region 6 (n=170)	Total (n=965)
Male	49	50	50	47	49	49	48
Female	51	49	50	50	49	48	50
Non-binary	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
Prefer to self-describe	1	1	0	2	2	1	1



What races or ethnic backgrounds do you consider yourself?							
(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=169)	Region 2 (n=155)	Region 3 (n=155)	Region 4 (n=161)	Region 5 (n=155)	Region 6 (n=170)	Total (n=965)
White or Caucasian	80	69	81	81	82	78	79
Hispanic or Latino	0	13	10	7	7	4	6
Black or African American	4	2	2	4	2	3	3
Native American or Alaskan Native or Aleutian	2	9	3	1	6	6	3
East Asian	2	1	3	2	0	3	2
South Asian	3	0	1	1	0	0	1



Do you consider your place of residence to be in a large city or urban area, a suburban area, a small city or town, or a rural area?							
(Values in percent)	Region 1 (n=169)	Region 2 (n=155)	Region 3 (n=155)	Region 4 (n=161)	Region 5 (n=155)	Region 6 (n=170)	Total (n=965)
Large city or urban area	7	3	11	27	12	7	17
Suburban area	4	6	23	25	11	27	22
Small city or town	42	42	41	21	26	26	27
Rural area on a farm or ranch	19	11	10	7	14	6	9
Rural area not on a farm or ranch	25	38	15	16	34	28	22
Do not know	4	1	1	4	2	5	4



ABOUT RESPONSIVE MANAGEMENT

Responsive Management is an internationally recognized survey research firm specializing in 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. Focusing only on natural resource and outdoor recreation issues, 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 human dimensions research measuring how people relate to the natural world for more than 30 years. 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 human dimensions projects *only* on natural resource and outdoor recreation issues.

Responsive Management has conducted research for every state fish and wildlife agency and every federal natural resource agency, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Coast Guard, and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Additionally, we have also provided research for all the major conservation NGOs including the Archery Trade Association, the American Sportfishing Association, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Dallas Safari Club, Ducks Unlimited, Environmental Defense Fund, the Izaak Walton League of America, the National Rifle Association, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the National Wildlife Federation, the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Safari Club International, the Sierra Club, Trout Unlimited, and the Wildlife Management Institute.

Other nonprofit and NGO clients include the American Museum of Natural History, the BoatUS Foundation, the National Association of Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs, the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, and the Ocean Conservancy. As well, 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, Clemson 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, Yale 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, National Public Radio, and on the front pages of *The Washington Post* and *USA Today*.