

The Pulse on SCSU
Students: 36th Annual
Spring Student Survey

Who We Are

The SCSU Survey is an ongoing survey research extension of the Social Science Research Institute in the College of Social Sciences at St. Cloud State University. The Survey's faculty directors are:

Dr. Steve Frank – Political Science

Dr. Jim Cottrill – Political Science

Dr. Ann Finan – Sociology

Dr. Steven Wagner – Political Science

Dr. Sandrine Zerbib – Sociology

Dr. Hemmesch-Breaker- Psychology

Student Directors

Lead Director:

Megan Kalk- Senior-Sociology and International Relations. Onamia, MN

Assistant Lead Director:

Josefina Abdullah- Senior- Sociology. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Student Directors:

**Landry Kabore- Junior- International Relations/Political Science.
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso**

Michael Grewatz- Senior- Sociology. Duluth, MN

Cedric Filivaro- Sophomore- Political Science. Saint Cloud, MN

Statement of **Methodology**

Student Callers and Ethics

§The callers came from the classes of Drs. Zerbib and Cottrill

§Everyone underwent a general training session.

§Student callers signed a statement of ethics.

§Student directors also sign a statement of ethics.

§As part of ethics practices, students of the sample were notified via email one week before calling that they may be contacted by the Survey Center.

SCSU Survey Lab

§The SCSU Survey operates a Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) Lab on the St. Cloud State University campus. The CATI Lab is equipped with 19 interviewer stations.

§The SCSU Survey is licensed to use Sawtooth Software's Ci3 Questionnaire Authoring Version 6.0, a state-of-the-art windows-based computer-assisted interviewing package.

The Calling

§The sample was obtained from David Kosel, Center for Information Systems.

§Findings are based on telephone interviews with a representative sample of currently enrolled SCSU students.

§Before calling began, the original sample was comprised of 2300 students, including 600 dorm residents and 1,700 off-campus residents.

§The sample included both landline phones and cell phones.

§Interviews were conducted from February 22nd to February 28th, 2016.

§Calls were made at various times during the week (Sunday through Thursday, 4:30 to 9:30) to maximize contacts and ensure equal opportunities to respond.

Demographics

Sex	Percent
Female	52
Male	47

Standing	Percent
First Year	13
Sophomore	17
Junior	18
Senior	26
Graduate	14
Special	6

Ethnicity	Percent
American Indian or Alaska Native	.3
Asian	6
Black or African American	6
Latino/a or Chicano/a	3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	.1
International	10
White	70
Two or More Races	3

Age	Percent
Under 18	1
18-19	11
20-21	24
22-24	30
25-29	15
30-34	6
35+	9

Resident Status	Percent
Resident	77
Non-Resident	18

Sample Error

§ 524 respondents completed the survey.

§ The margin of sampling error for the complete set of weighted data is ± 2 percent at the 95 percent confidence level.

§ Then analysis is made of sub-samples such as respondent gender, dorm residence, etc., the sample error may be larger.

Cooperation and Response Rate

§The cooperation rate for the survey was 59%.

§The cooperation rate is determined by dividing the number of completed interviews (524), by the total of completed interviews, partial interviews, and refusals.

§The overall response rate for the survey was 23%.

§The response rate is determined by dividing the number of completed interviews (524), by the total of completed interviews, partial interviews, refusals, non-contacts, plus 90% of the cases with unknown eligibility.

Topics Covered in the Survey

Safety at SCSU

Race relations at SCSU and nation

Perceptions of local police

Refugees

Money and influence in American political process and elections

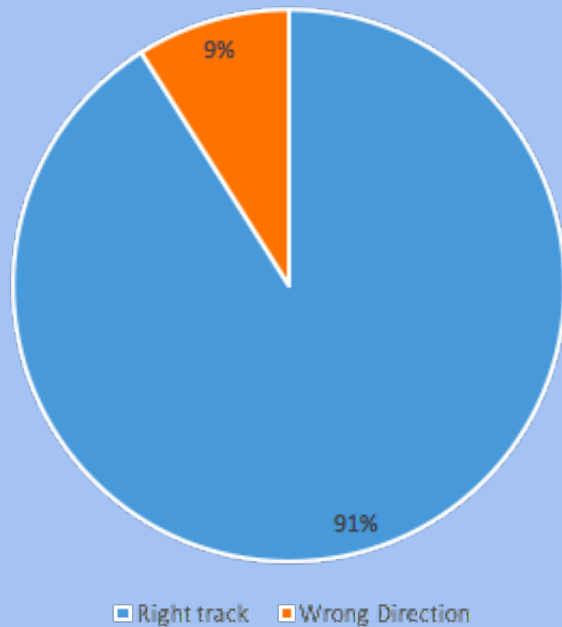
Black Lives Matters

2016 Presidential Election

Healthy diet/ Obesity

Is SCSU on the right track or going in the wrong direction?

N = 454



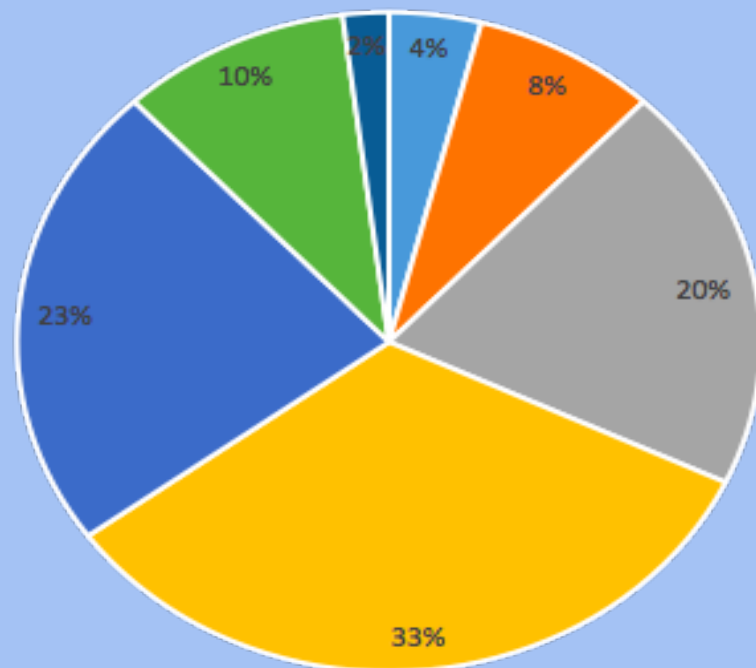
Comparison to Previous Years

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Right Track	84%	87%	90%	84%	73%	79%	83%	88%	82%	79%
Wrong Direction	6%	5%	3%	7%	13%	9%	8%	5%	9%	8%
Don't Know	10%	8%	7%	9%	14%	12%	9%	7%	9%	13%

Campus Safety

- **On a scale of 1 to 5, how safe do you feel on campus at night, with 1 being very unsafe and 5 being very safe?**
- **In which of the following areas on or around campus do you feel most concerned regarding your personal safety?**

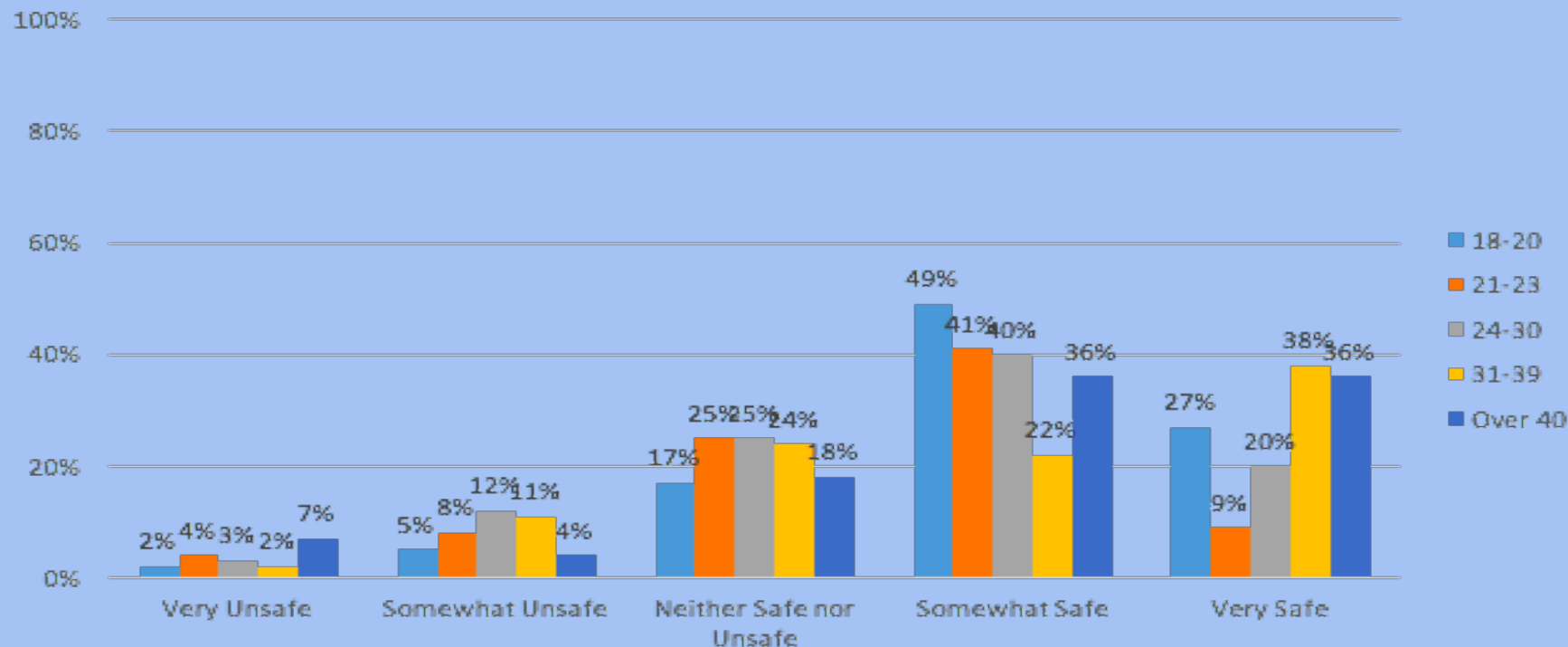
Feeling of Safety on Campus on a Scale of 1 to 5



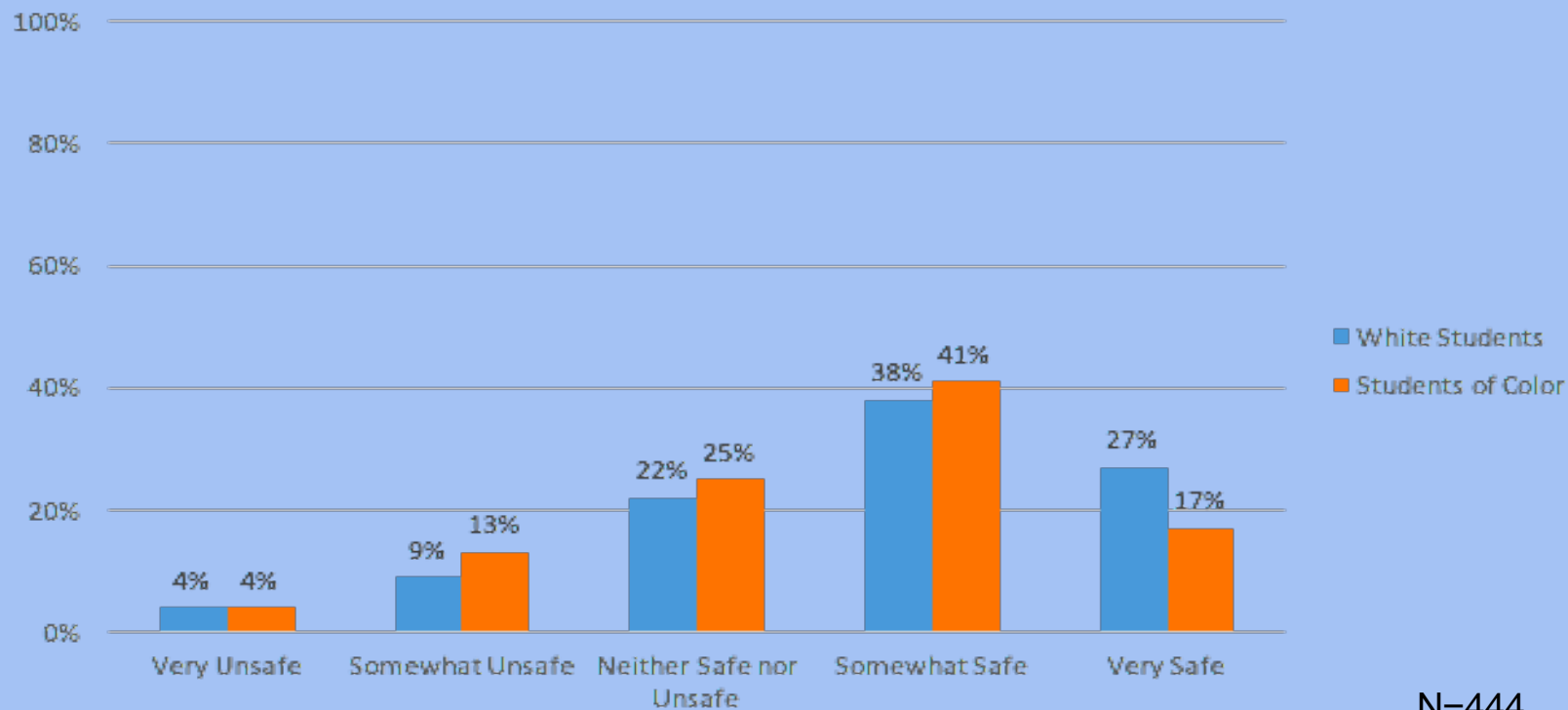
N=524

Very Unsafe Somewhat Unsafe Neither Safe nor Unsafe Somewhat Safe Very Safe Don't Know Refused

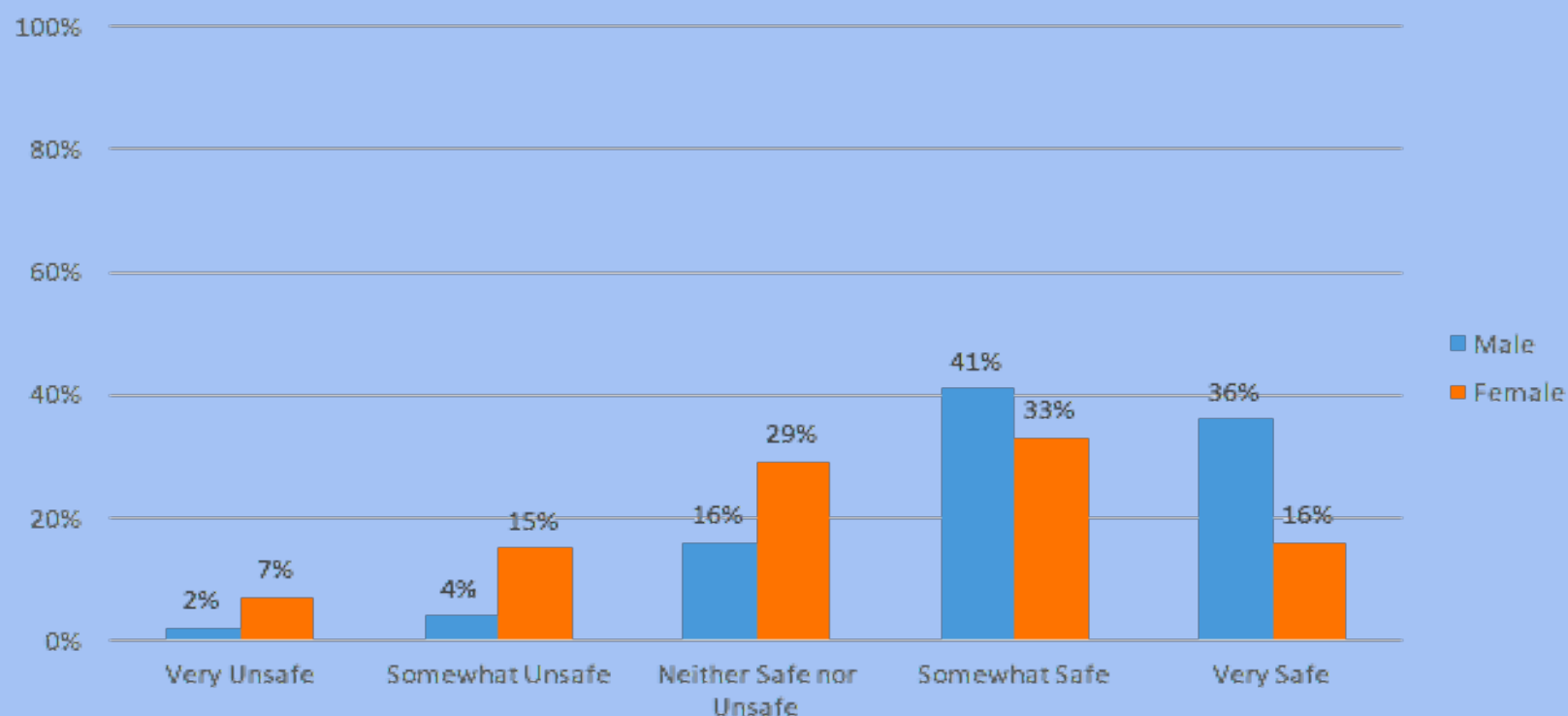
Feeling of Safety on Campus on a Scale of 1 to 5 by Age Category



Feeling of Safety on Campus on a Scale of 1 to 5 by Race



Feeling of Safety on Campus on a Scale of 1 to 5 by Gender



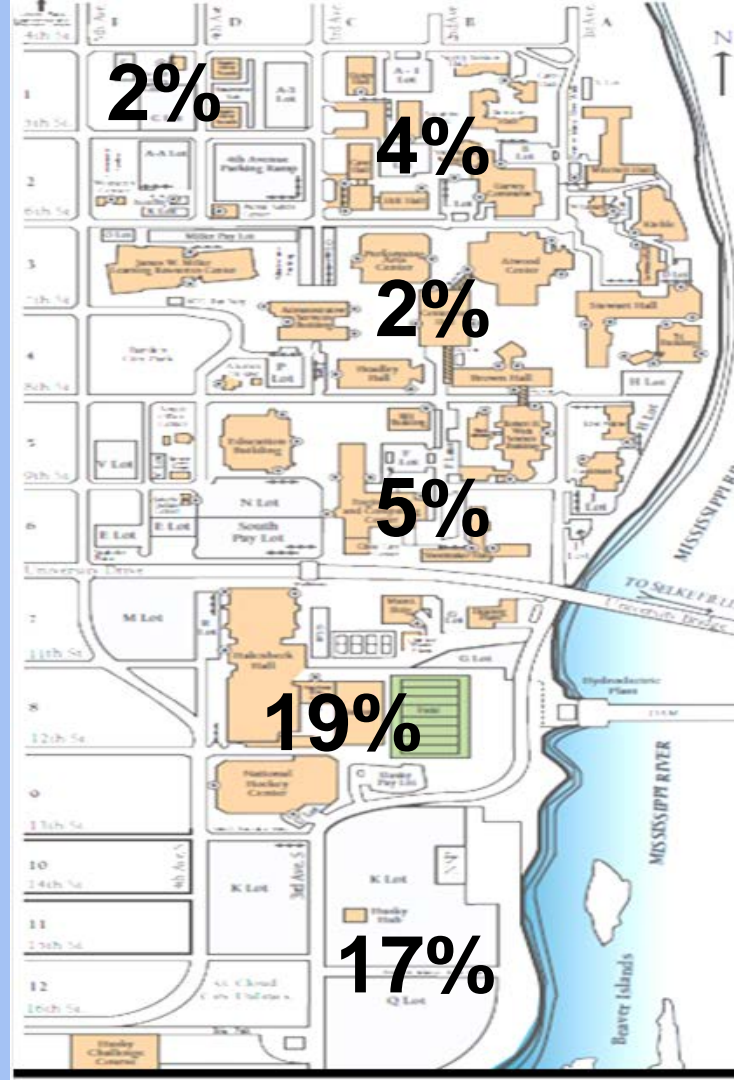
N=460



20%- Residential District

21%- No Area of Concern

5%- Never Been to Campus

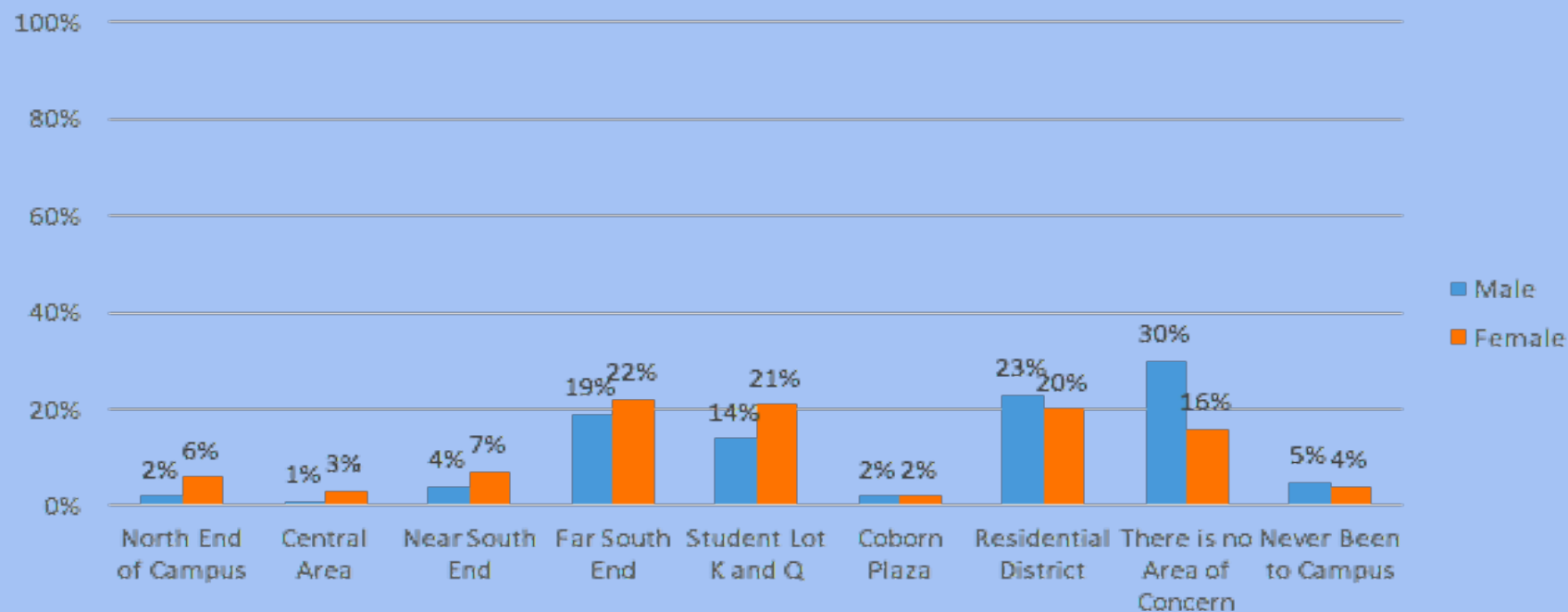


N= 524

Comparison to Previous Years

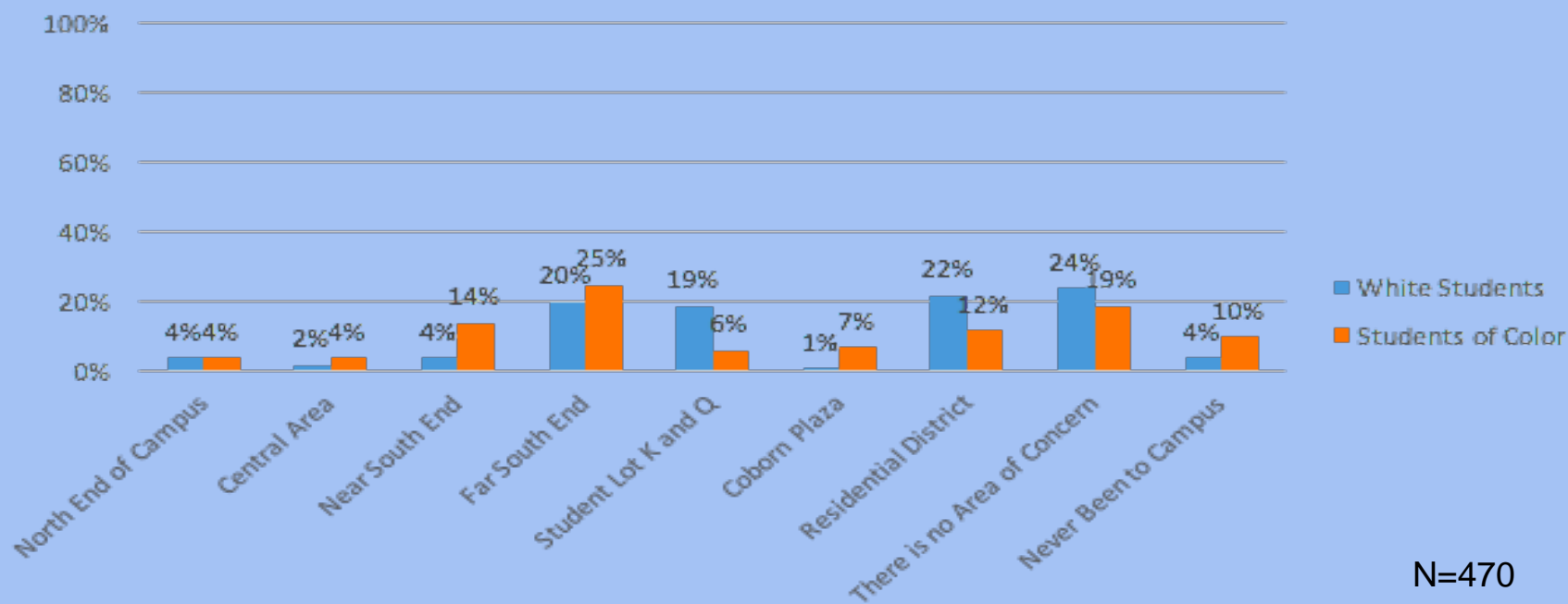
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
North End	5%	4%	5%	5%	1%	2%	4%
Central Area	5%	6%	5%	6%	5%	4%	2%
Near South End	8%	6%	5%	6%	3%	4%	5%
Far South End	17%	16%	19%	19%	25%	23%	19%
Lots K & Q	18%	19%	17%	19%	19%	17%	16%
Coborn Plaza	N/A	2%	2%	3%	1%	2%	2%
Residential District	16%	20%	20%	19%	19%	16%	20%
No Area of Concern	27%	19%	20%	19%	24%	26%	21%
Don't Know	5%	8%	7%	4%	3%	6%	7%

Where do you Feel most Concerned Regarding Personal Safety on Campus on or Around Campus by Gender



N=486

Where do you Feel most Concerned Regarding Personal Safety on Campus on or Around Campus by Race



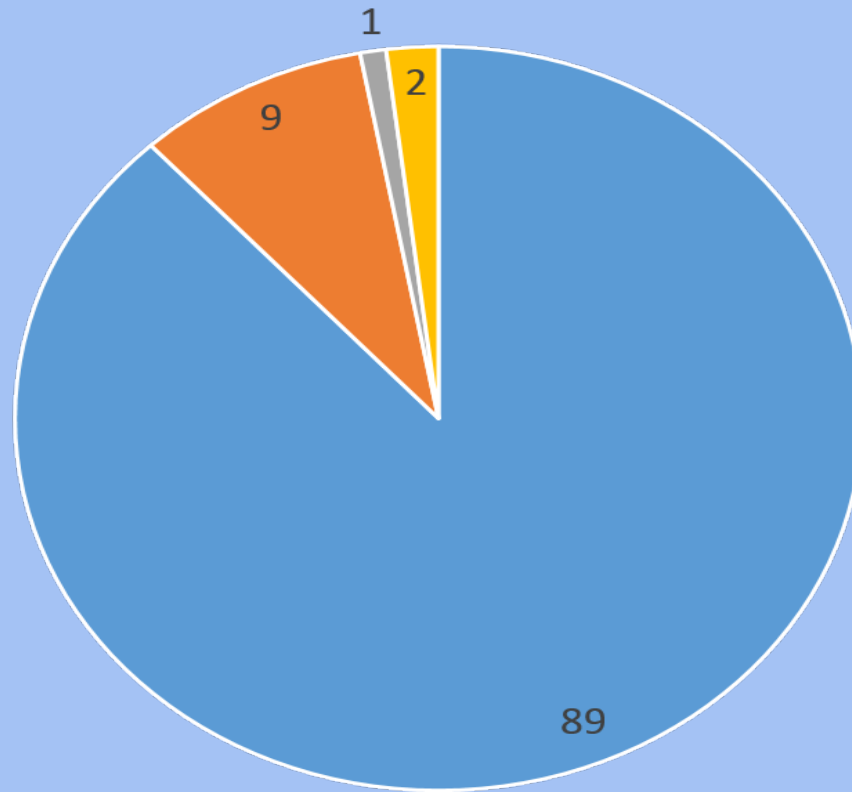
Noteworthy Findings

- The majority of students interviewed feel that campus is somewhat safe or very safe.
- 36% of males said that they felt campus was very safe compared to 16% of females.
- 30% of males responded there are no areas of concern regarding safety, as compared to 16% of females.
- White students felt there was more of a safety concern in the residential area of campus and Student lots K and Q
- Students of color felt the near South side were more areas of concern

Money and Influence in the American Election Process and Campaigns

- We asked students whether they thought the influence of money in American political campaigns was: Too much, About right, or Too little.
- Also asked whether they believe that all Americans have an equal chance to influence the election process, or if wealthy Americans have more of a chance to influence the election process than other Americans.

Influence of Money in American Political Campaigns

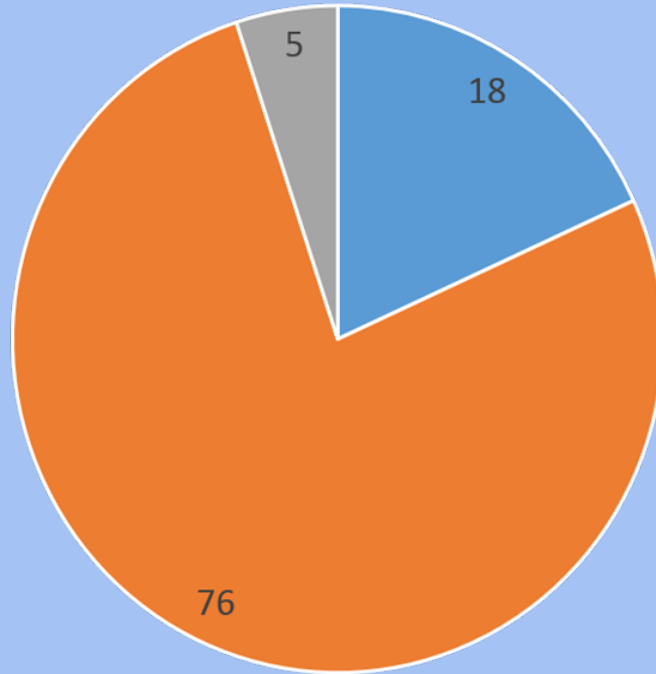


***Percentages**

N=520

Too much About right Too little Don't Know

Influence on the Election Process



***Percentages**

N=518

■ All Americans have an Equal Chance

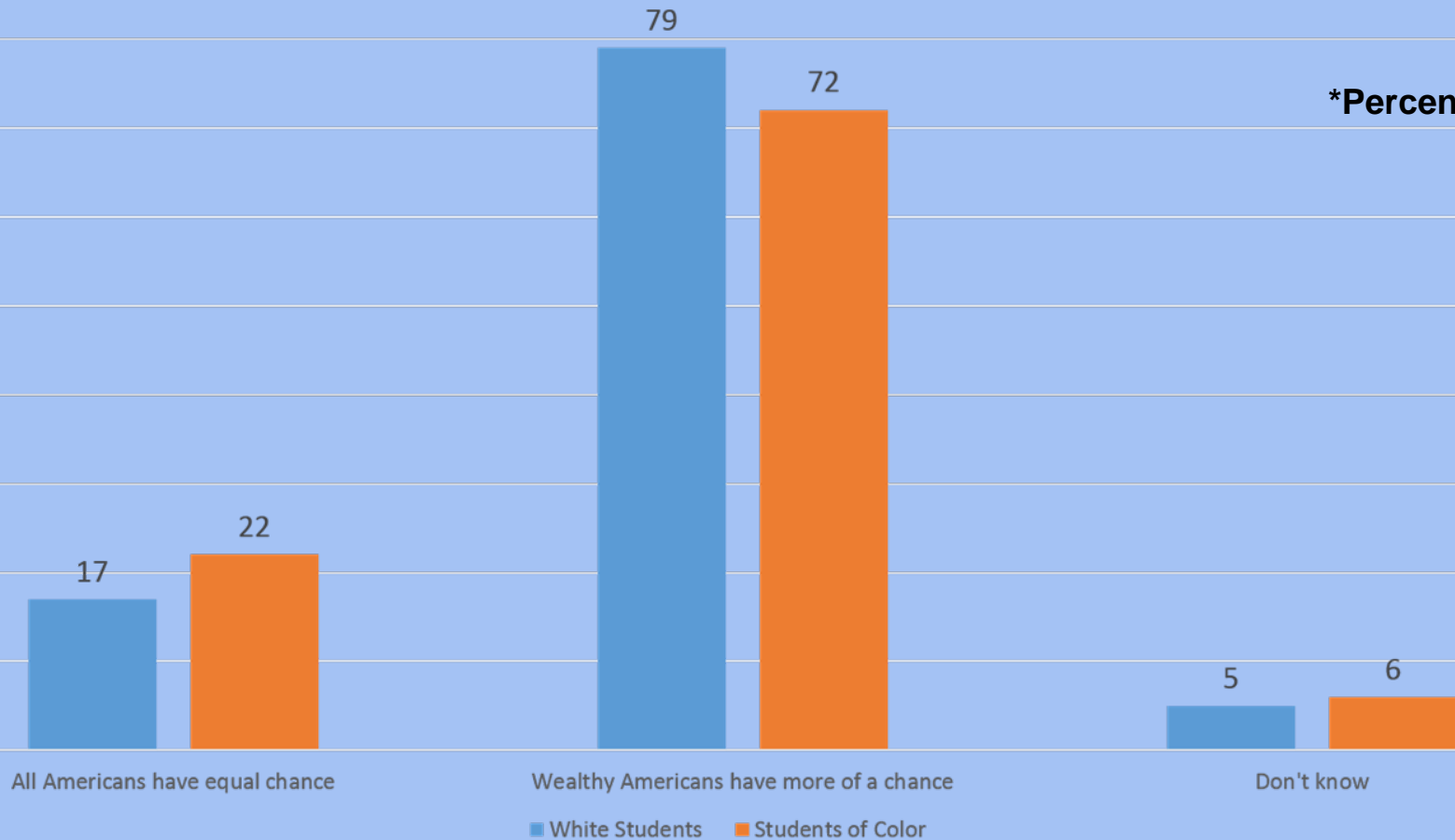
■ Wealthy Americans Have More of a Chance

■ Don't Know

Influence on Election Process by Race

N=502

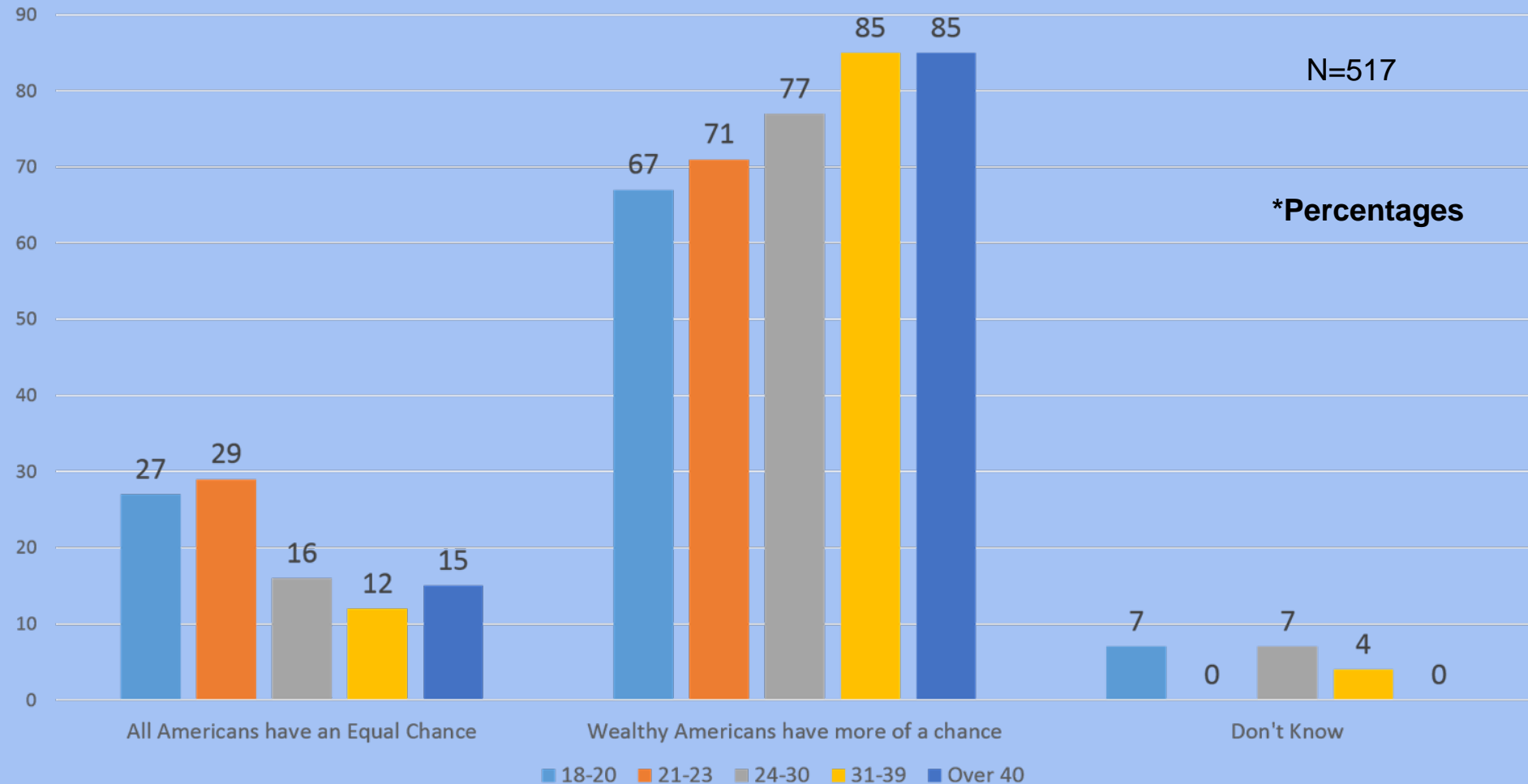
***Percentages**



Influence on Election Process by Age Category

N=517

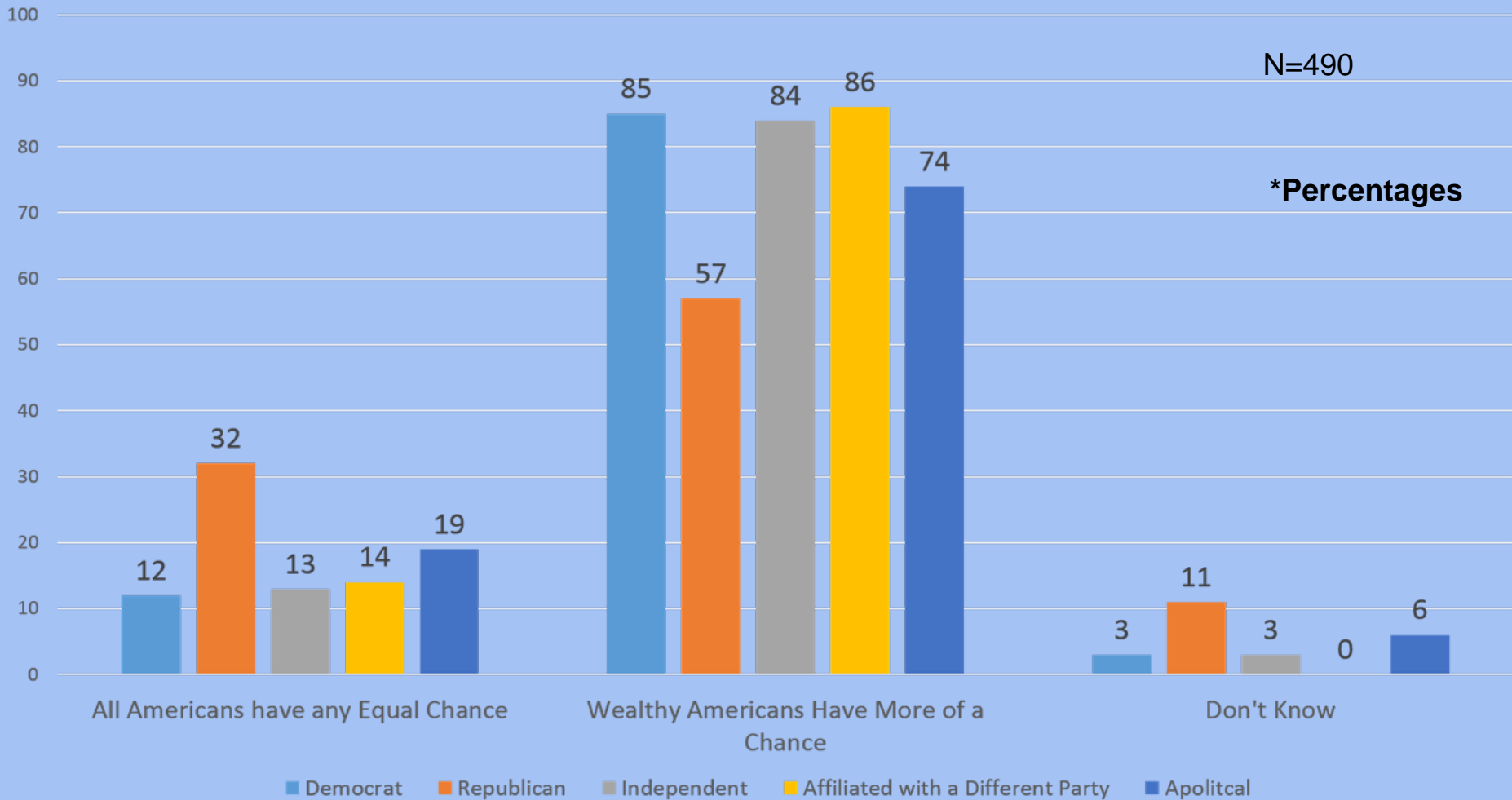
***Percentages**



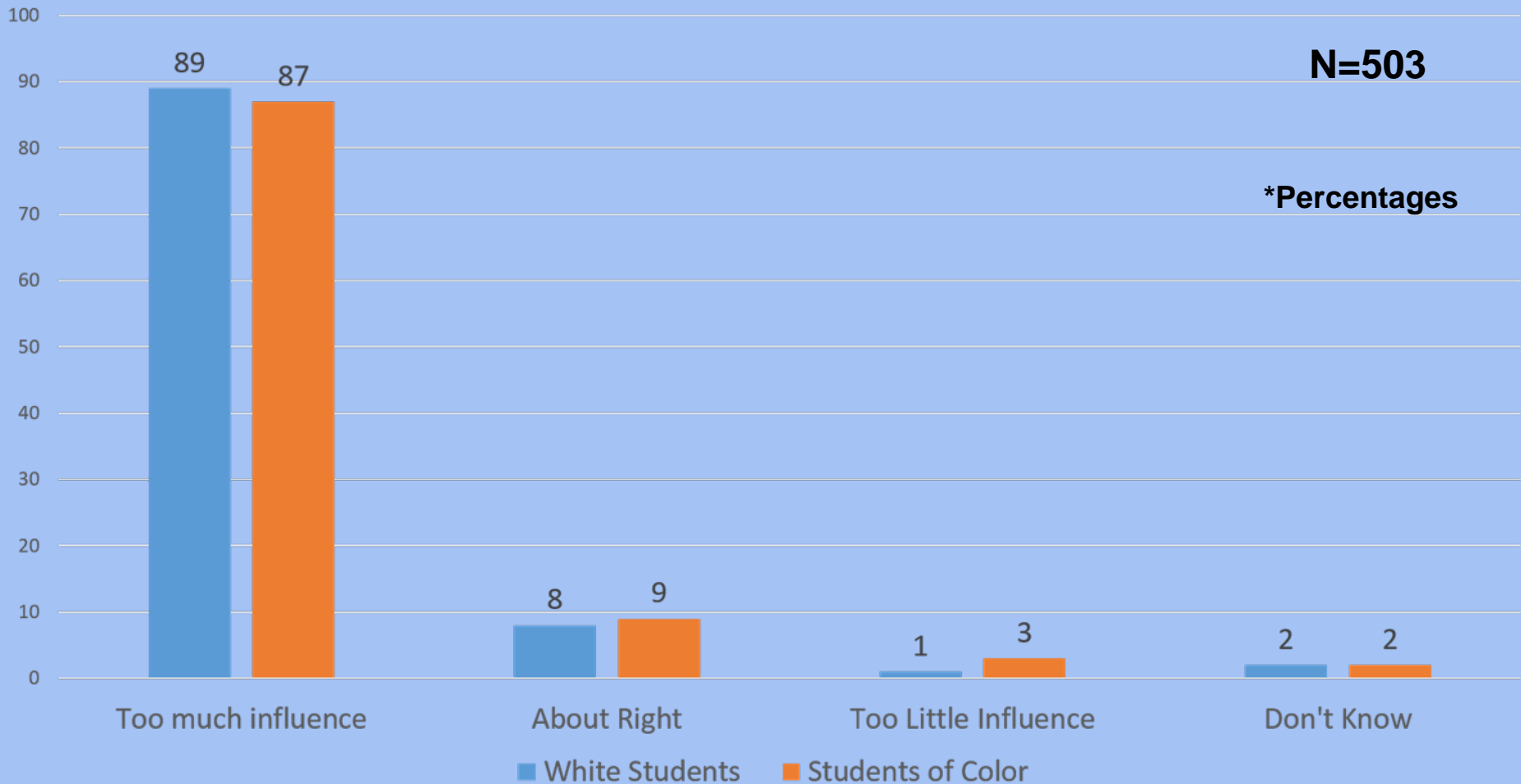
Influence on Election Process by Party

N=490

***Percentages**

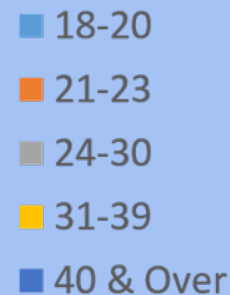


Amount of Influence of Money in Political Campaigns by Race



Amount of Influence of Money in Political Campaigns by Age

***Percentages**



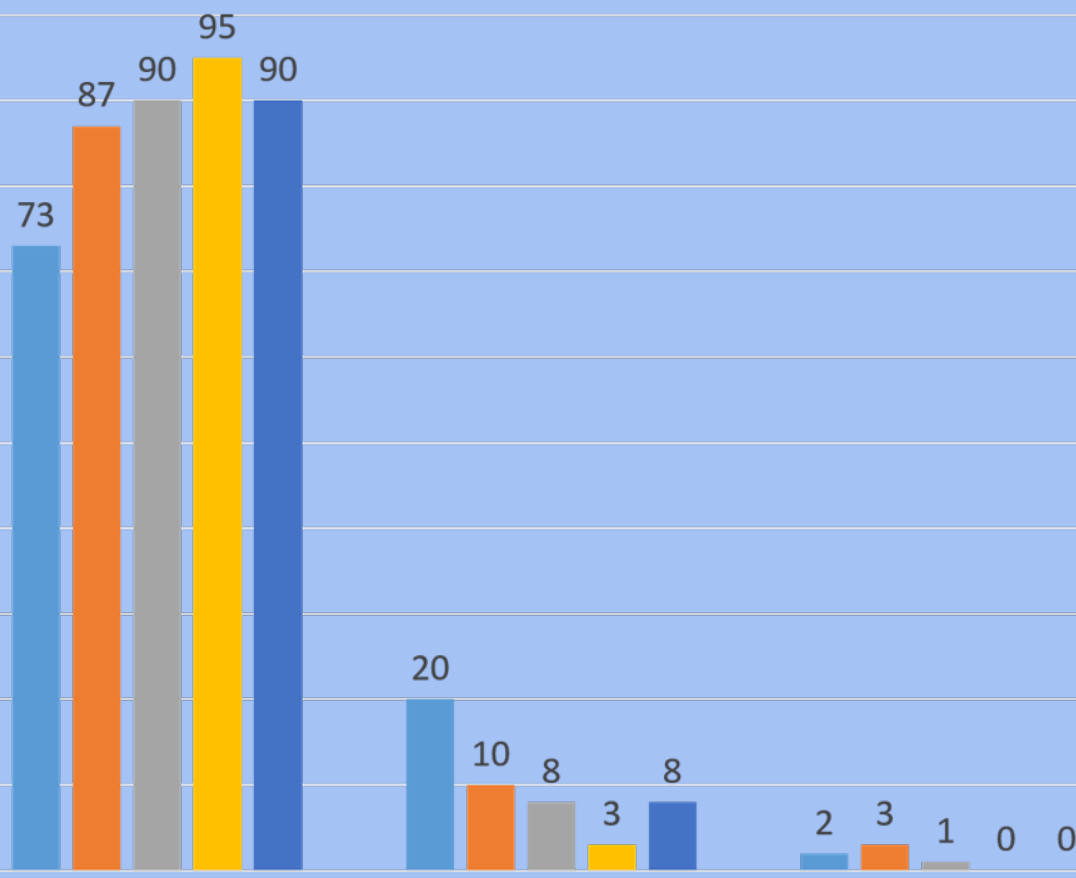
N=521

Too Much Influence

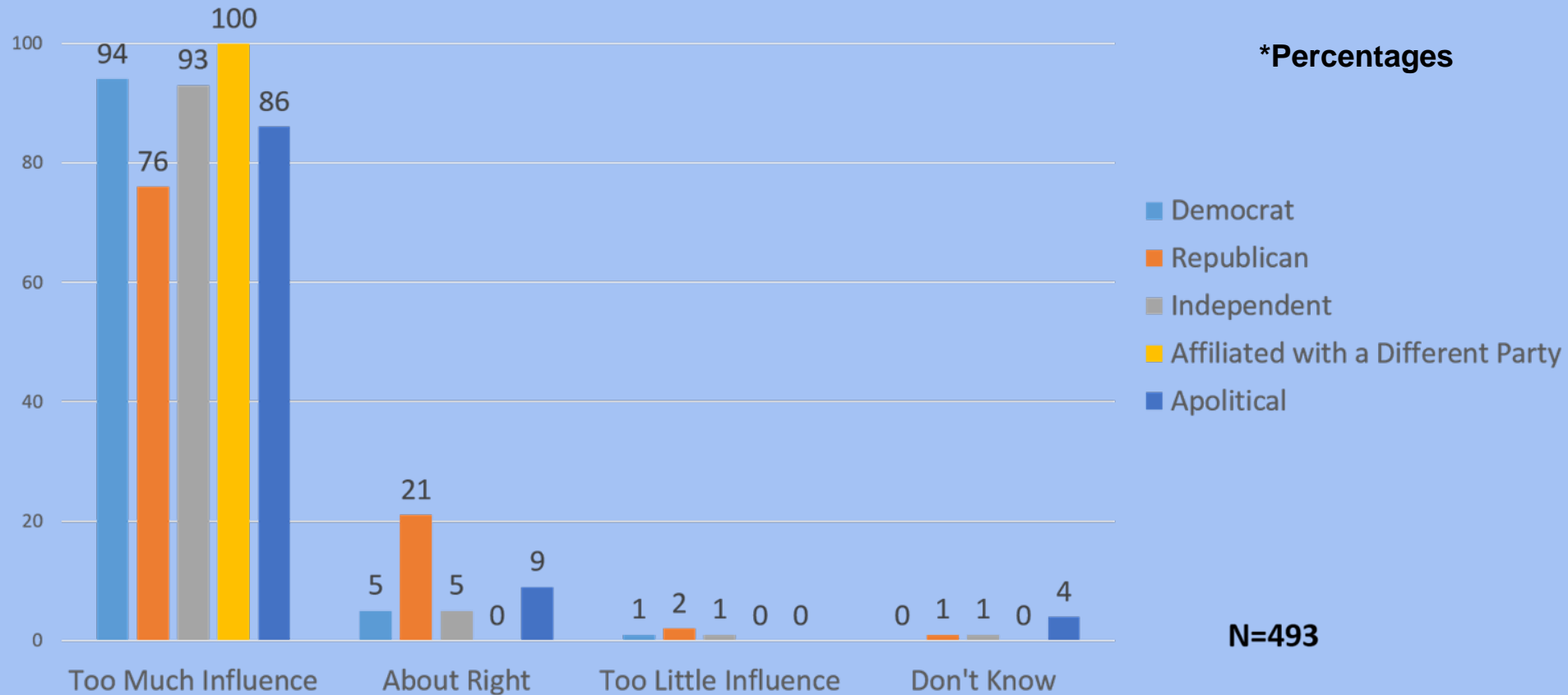
About Right

Too Little Influence

Don't Know



Amount of Influence of Money on Political Campaigns by Party



Noteworthy Findings on Money in Politics

- **Most students believe there is too much influence of money in politics, with 90% saying too much.**
- **When it comes to race, white students and students of color believe at similar rates that money have too much influence in politics.**
- **Surprisingly, as students get older they feel that money has too much influence in politics.**
- **Republicans are the political party that are most likely to think that the influence of money in politics is about right, but over half of those in any political category believe that money has too much of an influence in politics.**

Noteworthy Findings on Influence in Politics

- **Most students believe that wealthy Americans have more of a chance to influence the election process (76%).**
- **White students and students of color do not differ much and overwhelmingly believe that wealthy Americans have more ability influence elections.**
- **Again, as students get older they are more likely to believe that wealthy are more influential.**
- **Republicans are most likely to think that all Americans have an equal chance, but again, over half of all those in any political category think the wealthy have more of a chance to sway elections.**

Presidential Election and Issues

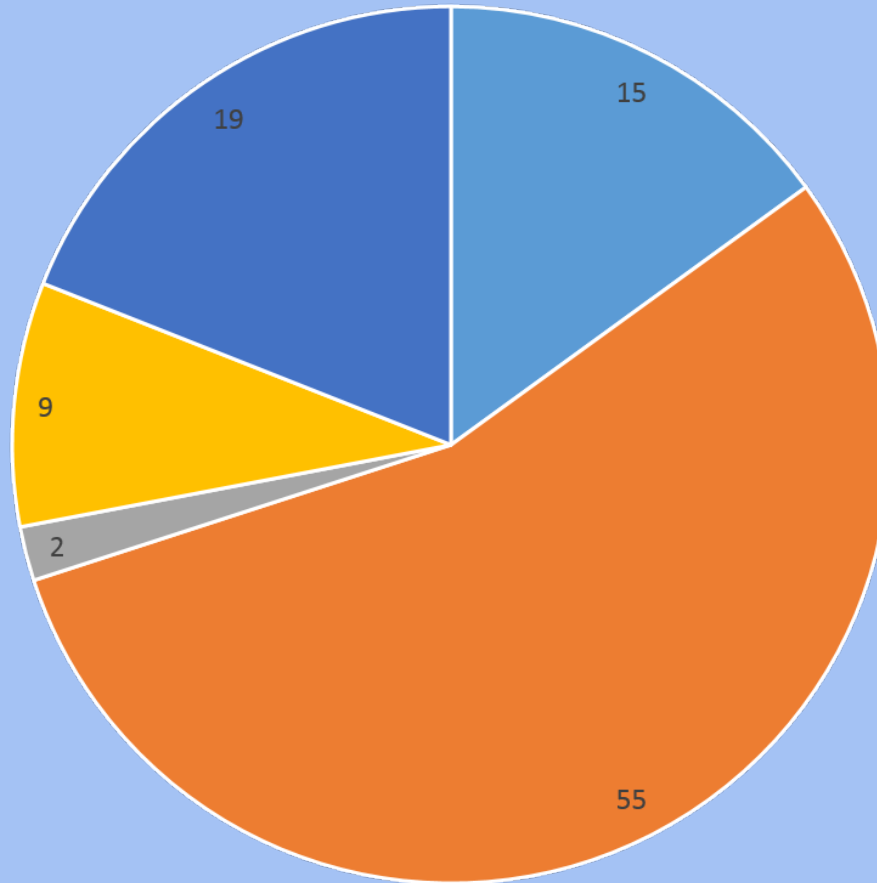
Who do you support for President in the 2016 election?

What issue concerns them the most when thinking about the presidential election?

Support for President in the 2016 election

N=524

***Percentages**

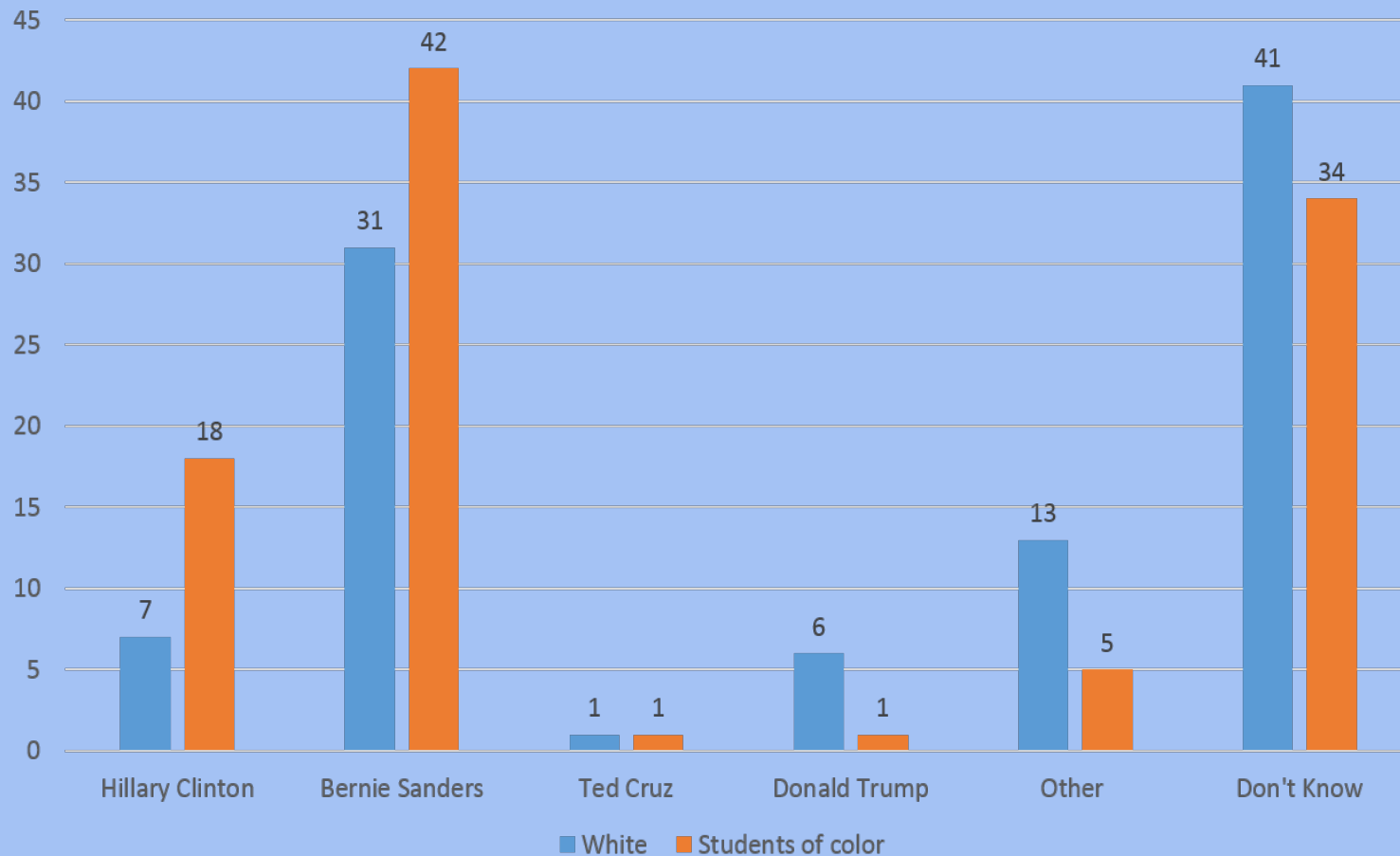


■ Hillary Clinton ■ Bernie Sanders ■ Ted Cruz ■ Donald Trump ■ Other

Presidential candidates students support for the 2016 election based on race

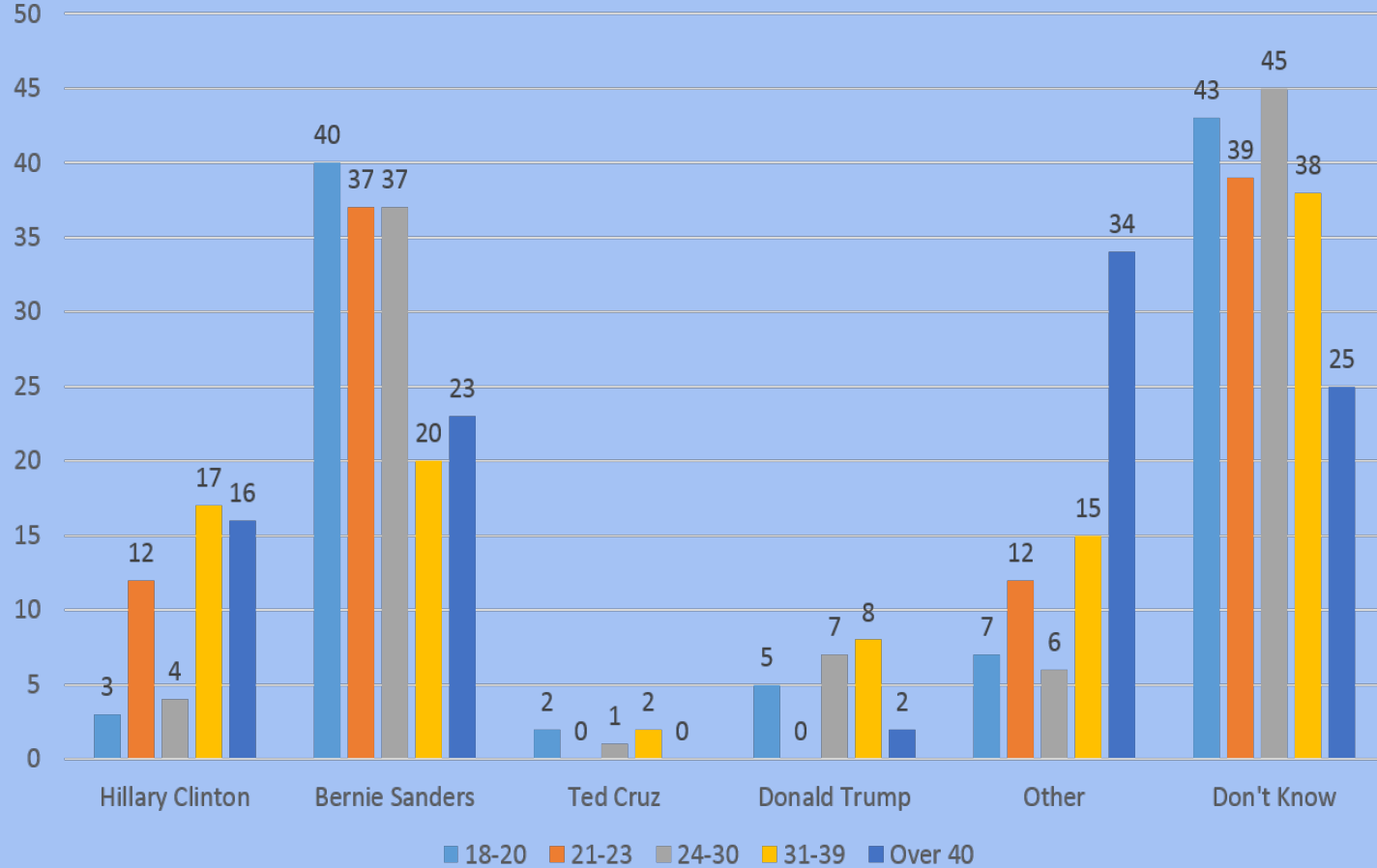
N=473

*Percentages



Presidential candidates student support for the 2016 election based on age

N=488

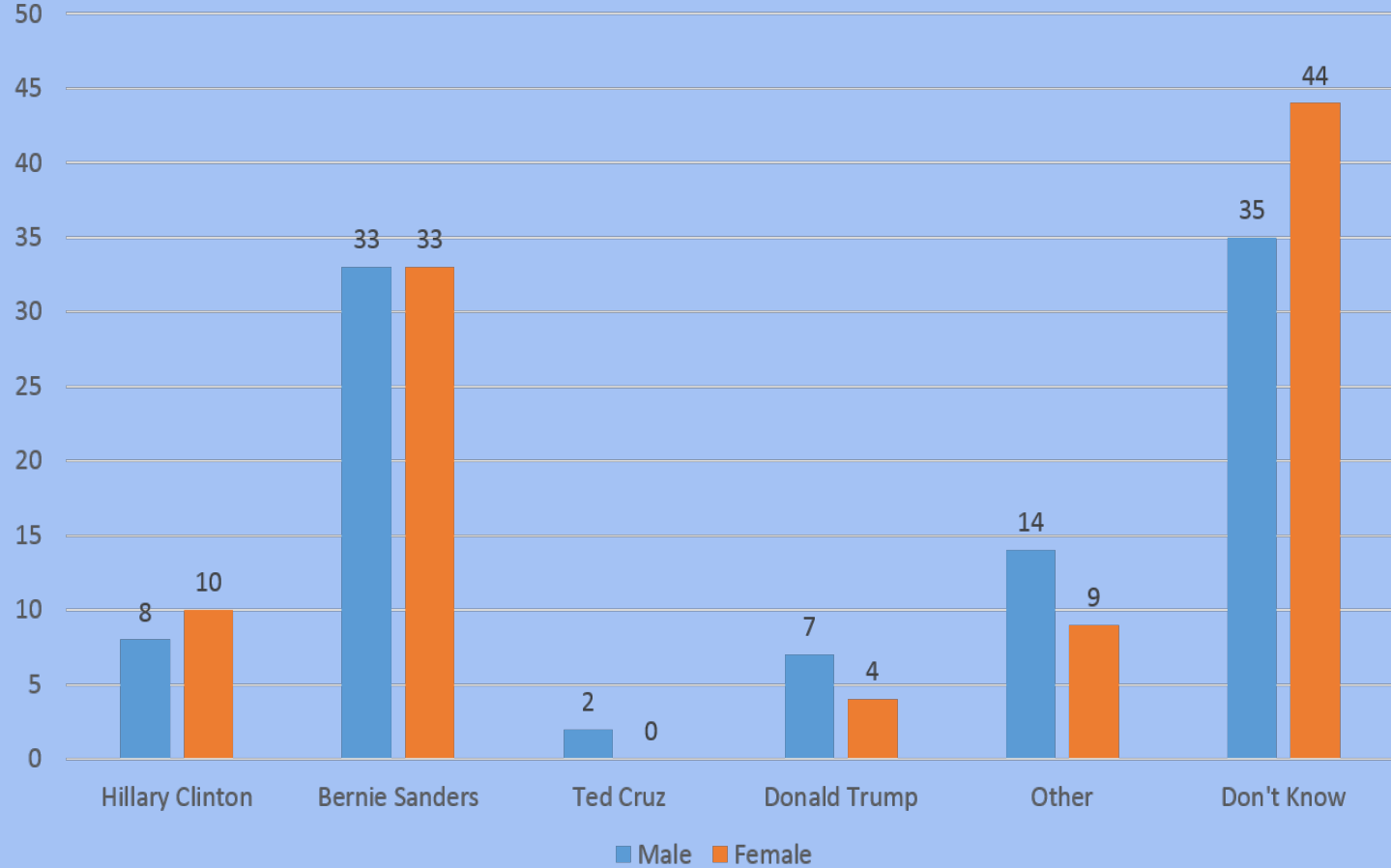


*Percentages

Presidential candidates students support for the 2016 election based on gender

N=492

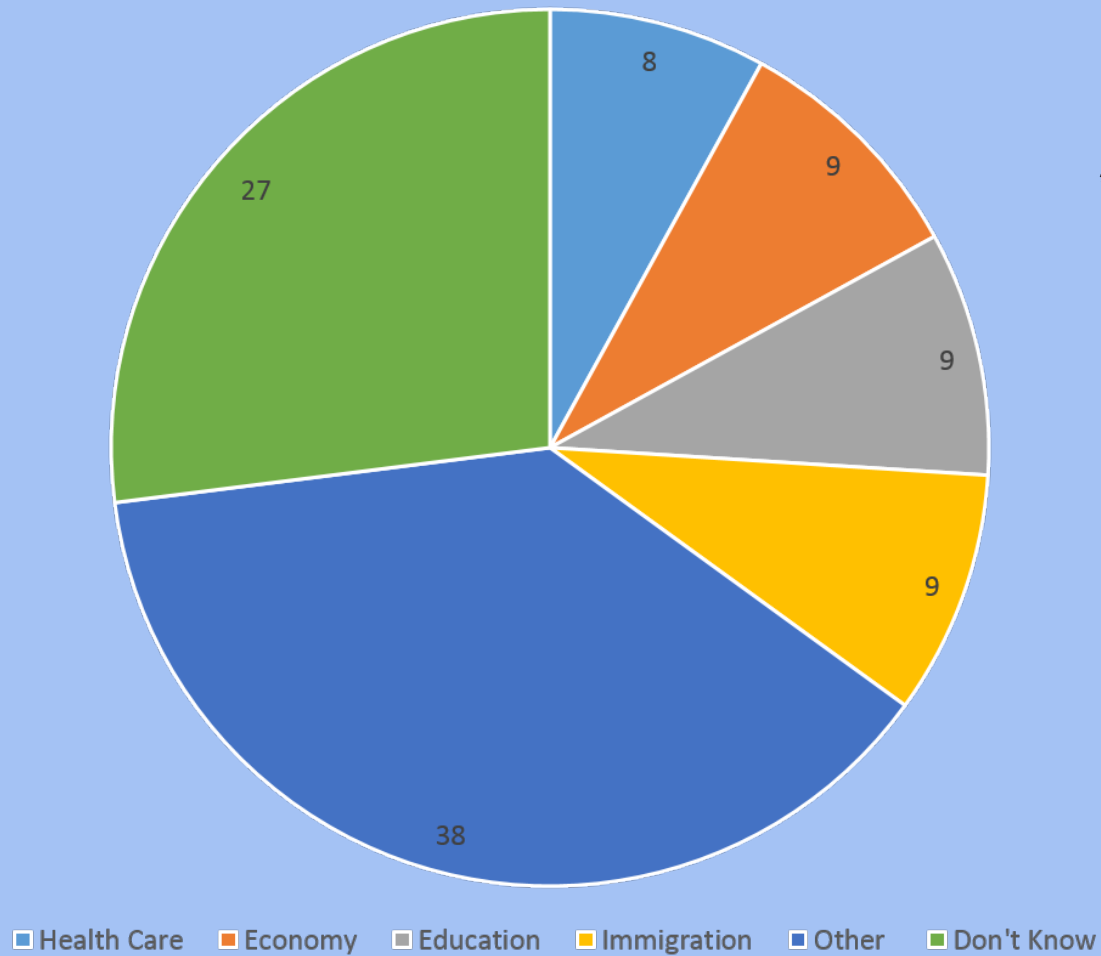
*Percentages



What issues concern students the most

N=524

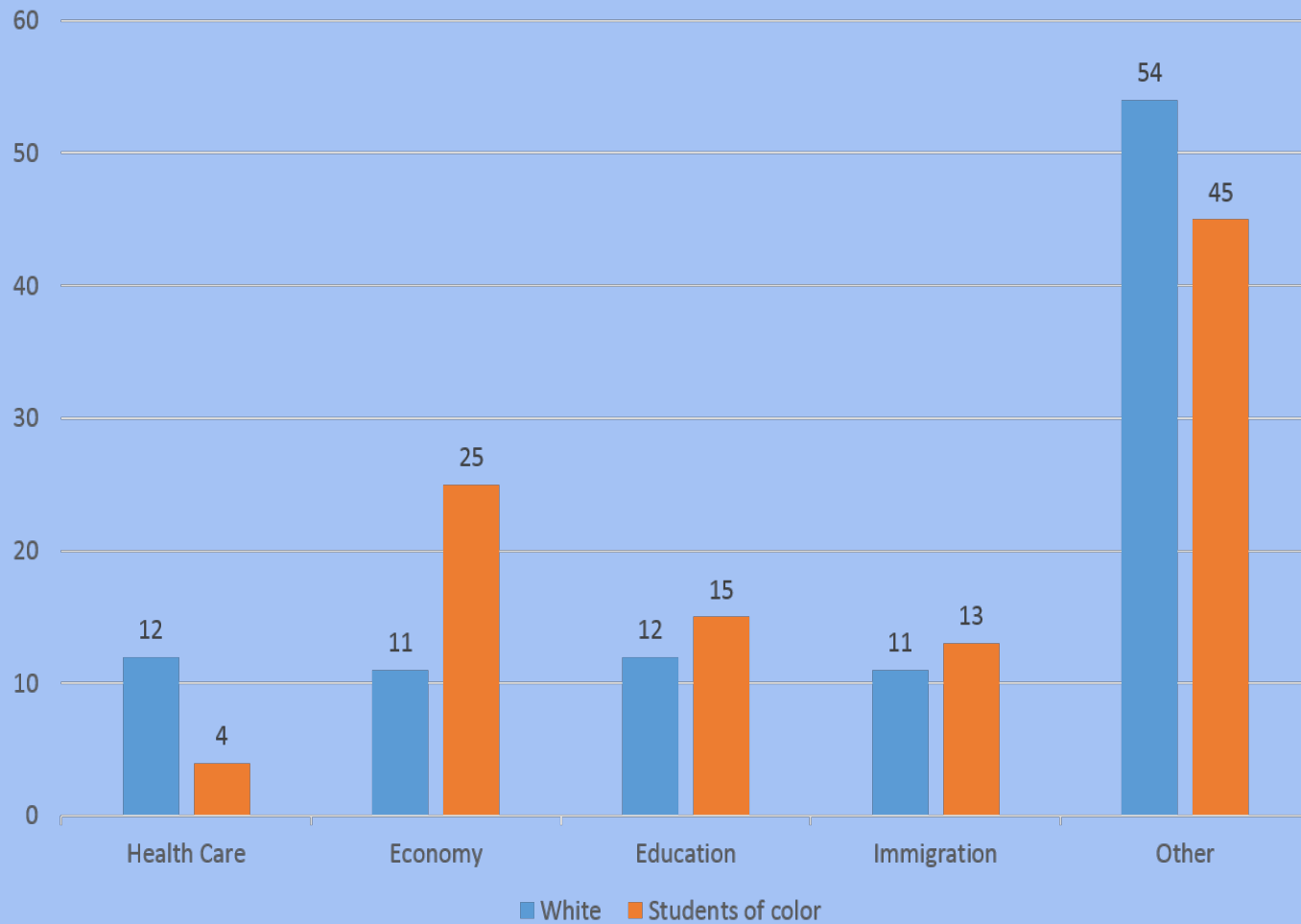
***Percentages**



What issues concern students the most based on race

N=360

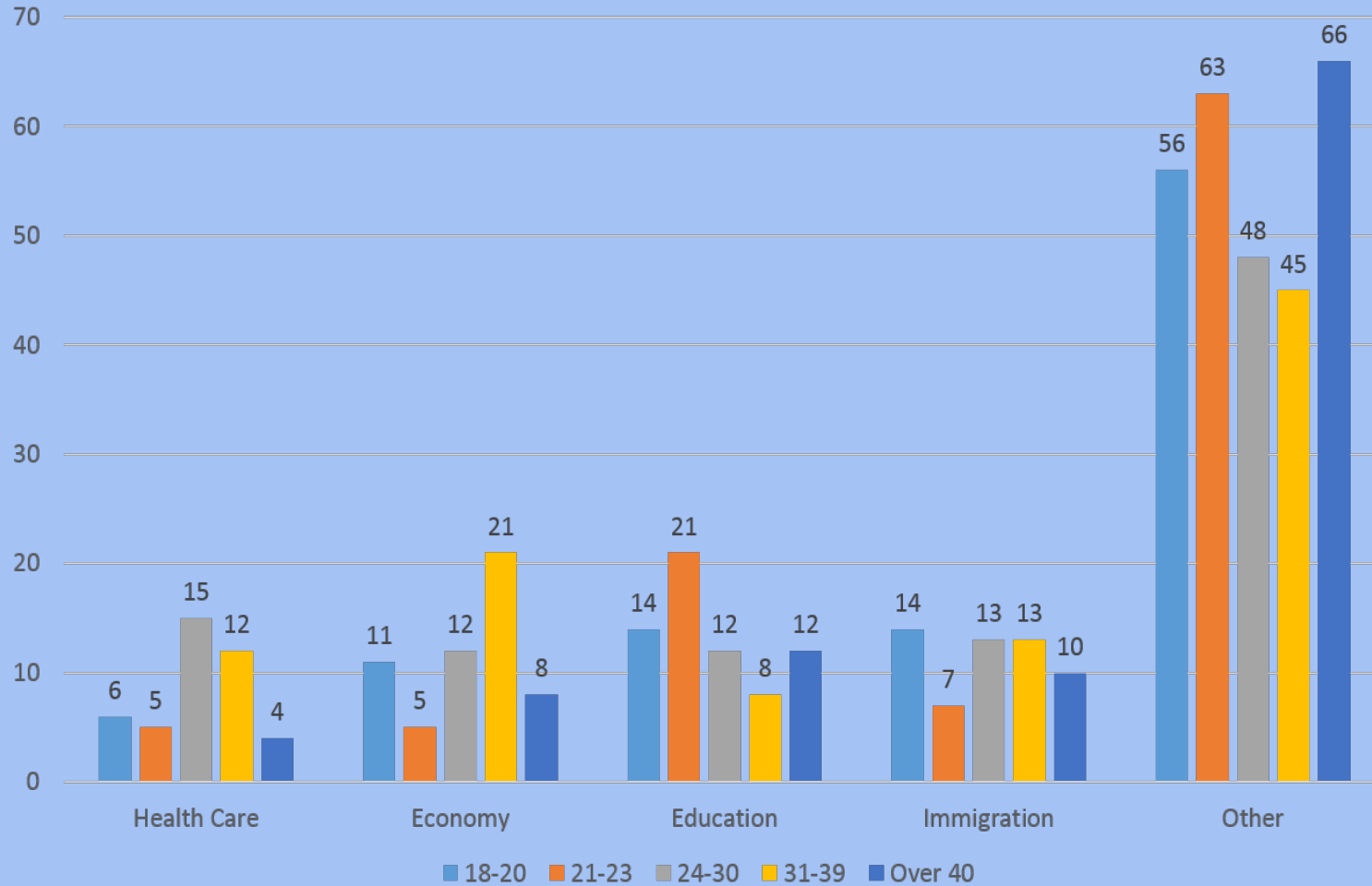
***Percentages**



What issues concern students the most based on age.

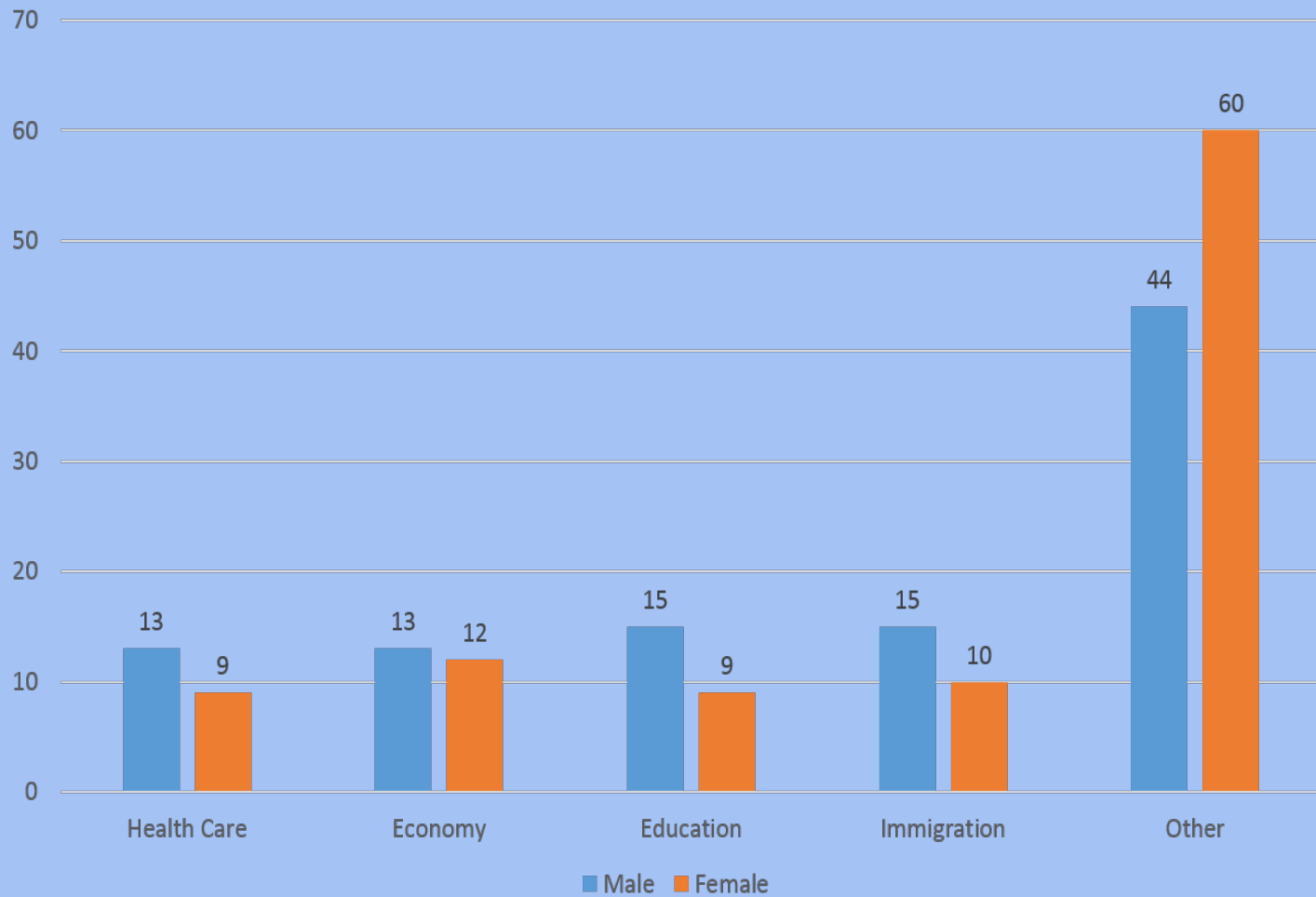
N=375

*Percentages



What issues concern students the most based on gender

N=373



*Percentages

Noteworthy findings on Presidential Candidates

Bernie Sanders has the most support from students of color at 42% followed by Don't know at 34% and Hillary Clinton at 18%.

Don't Know has the highest percentage among white support at 41%, followed by Bernie Sanders at 31% and other at 5%.

Don't know has the highest percentage out of all the ages except over 40 (25%). Most people under 40 don't know who they support for President with 18-20 at 43%, 21-23 at 39%, 24-30 at 45%, and 31-39 at 38%.

Bernie Sanders comes into second place with most ages except ages 31-39 at 20% and over 40 at 23%.

Noteworthy findings on Presidential Candidates

Most males and females don't know who they support for the 2016 election at 44% and 35%.

Bernie Sanders come in second with equal support for both males and females at 33%.

Other comes in third with 14% of male support, followed by Hillary Clinton with 8%.

Hillary Clinton has 10% of female support and other has 9%.

Noteworthy findings on concerning issues

Most people chose other as an issue with 54% of white support and 45% support of students of color.

The economy has 25% support from students of color followed by education at 15%.

Health care and education are tied with 12% among white support and the economy and immigration at 11%.

All ages overwhelmingly support other over all the other candidates with 18-20 at 56%, 21-23 at 63%, 24-30 at 48%, 31-39 at 45%, and over 40 at 66%.

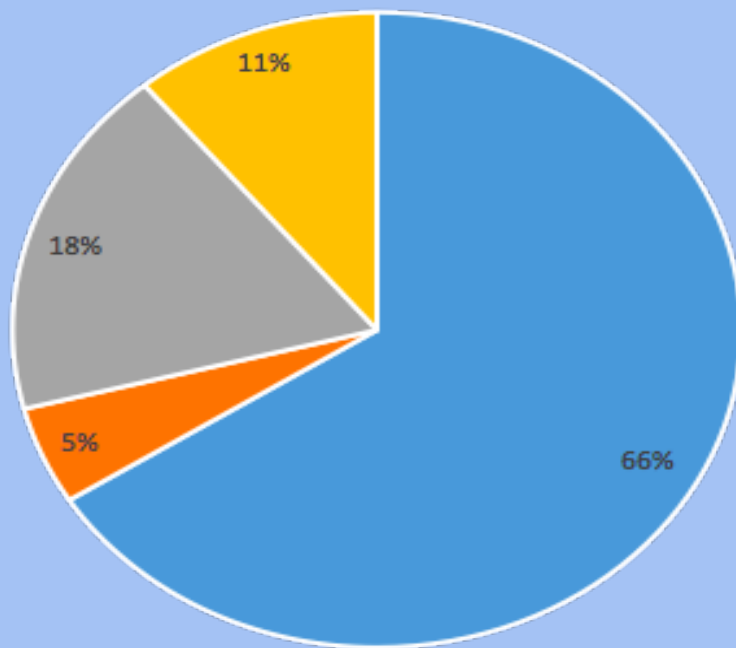
Both males and females overwhelmingly support other as an issue with 44% and 60%.

Support and welcoming of Syrian refugees

- 1. Do you support Minnesota welcoming Syrian refugees?**
- 1. If some of these Syrian refugees came to live in the Saint Cloud community, do you think they would be welcomed, or not?**

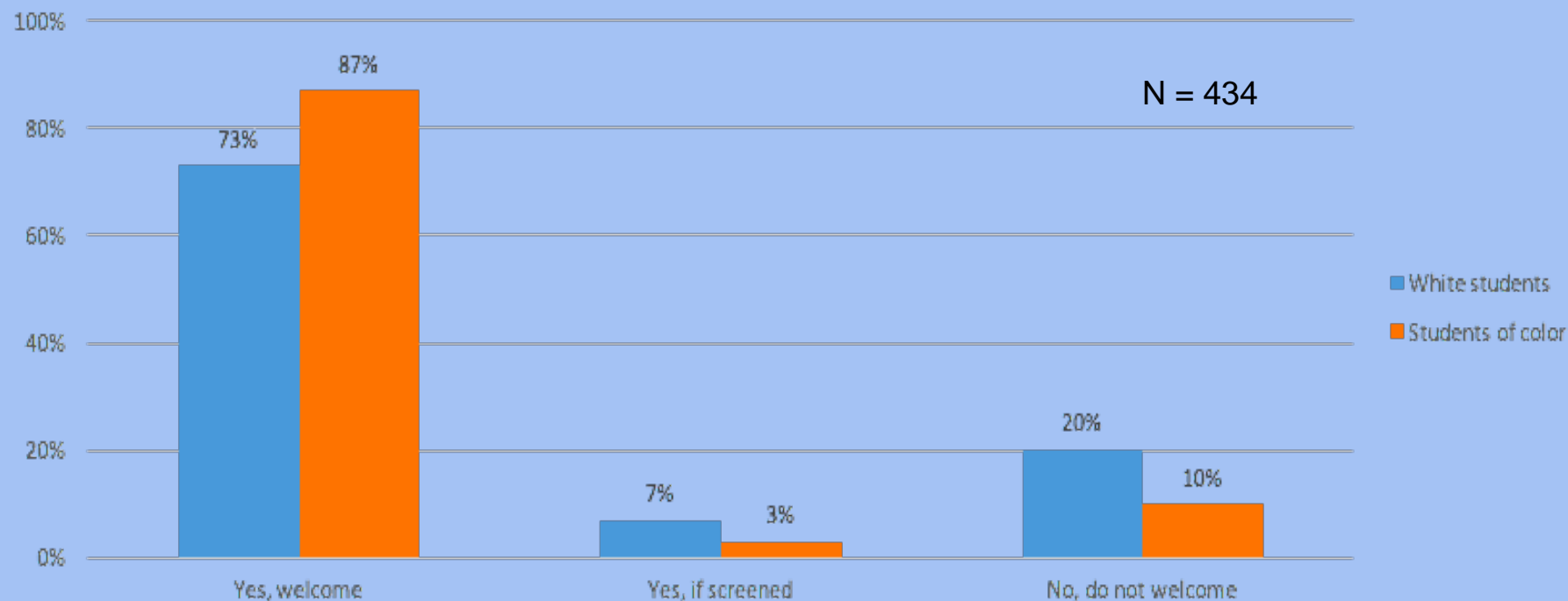
Support Minnesota Welcoming Syrian refugees

N = 506

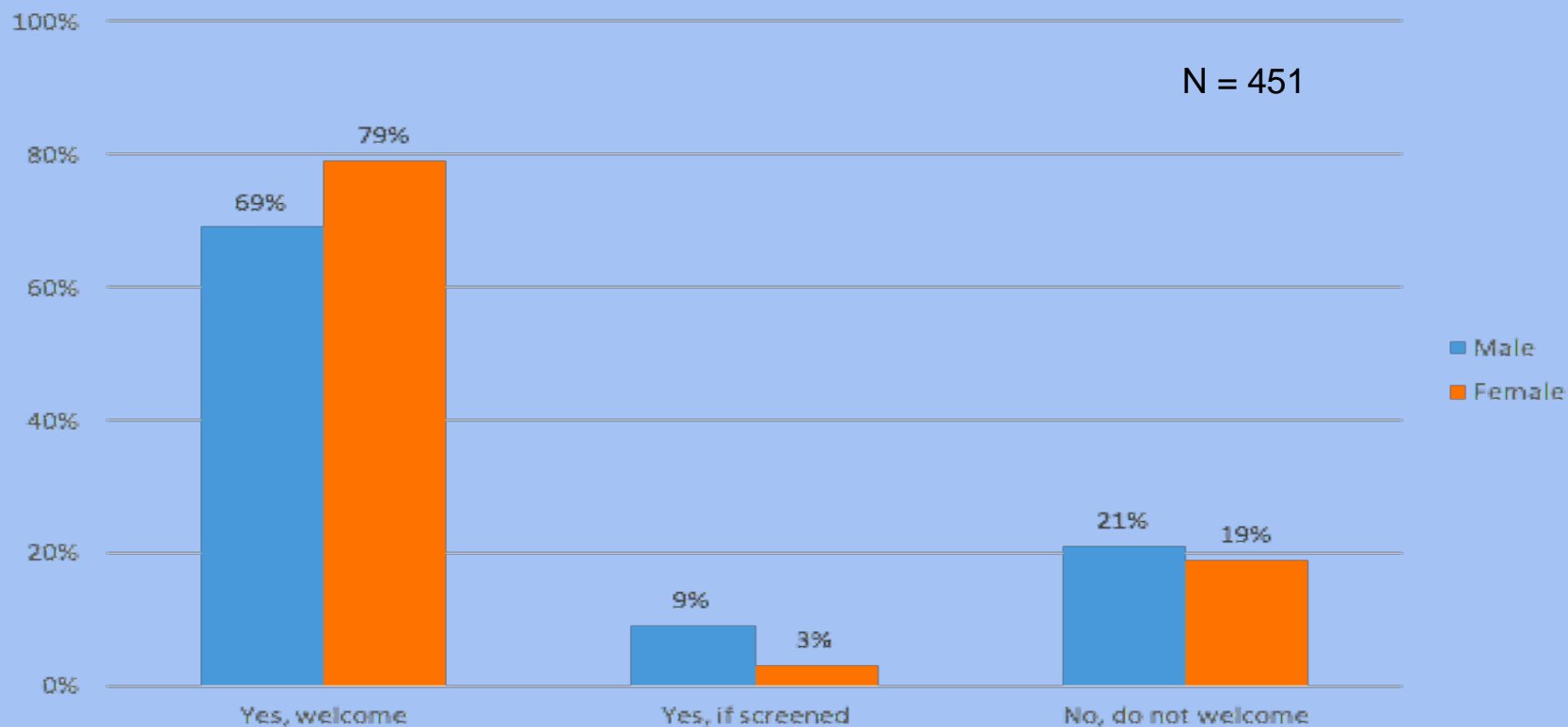


■ Yes, welcome ■ Yes, if screened ■ No, do not welcome ■ Don't know

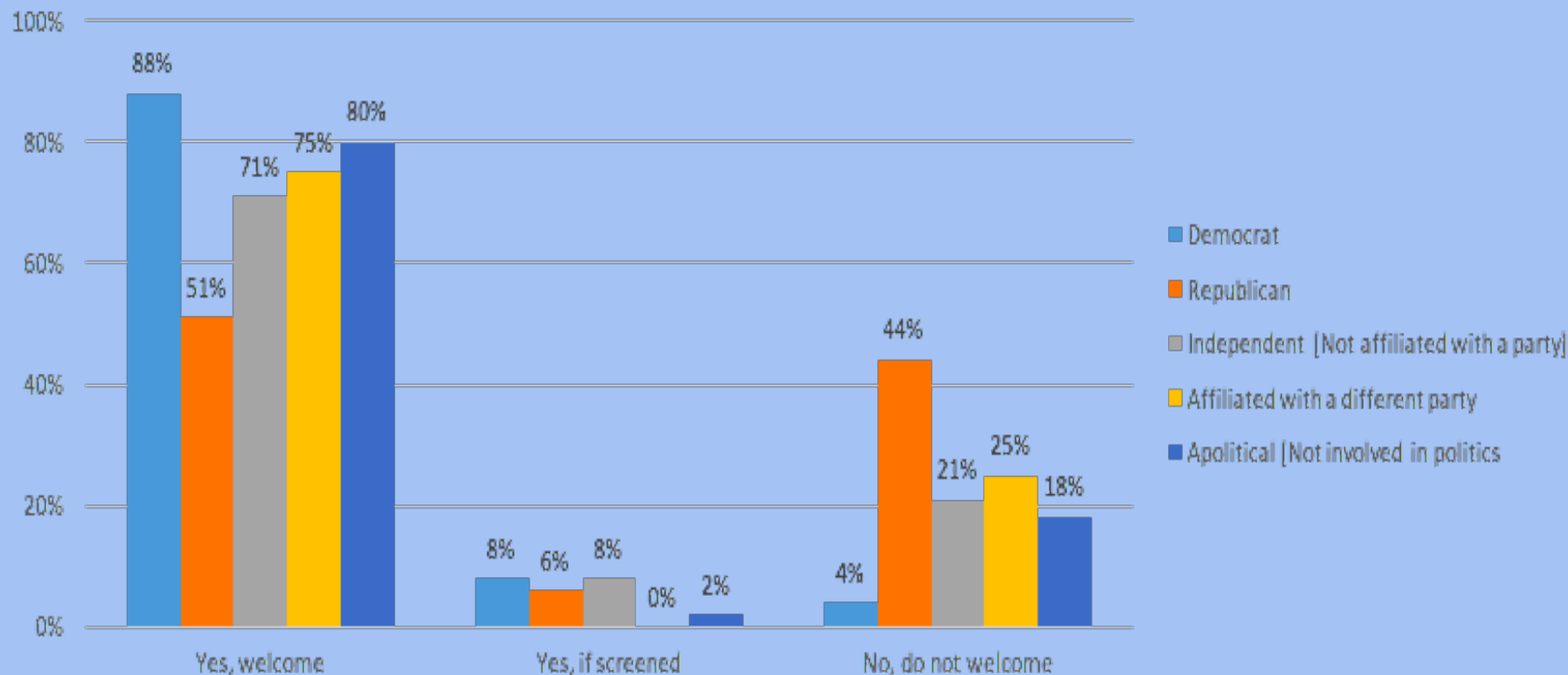
Support of Syrian refugees by race



Support of Syrian refugees by gender



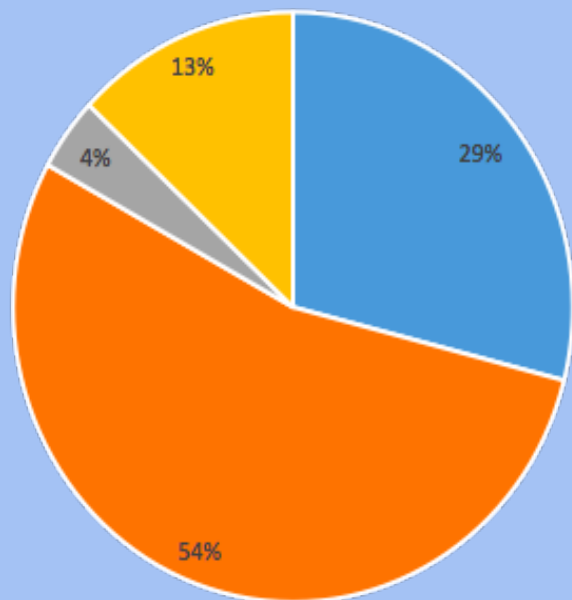
Support of Syrian refugees by party affiliation



N = 427

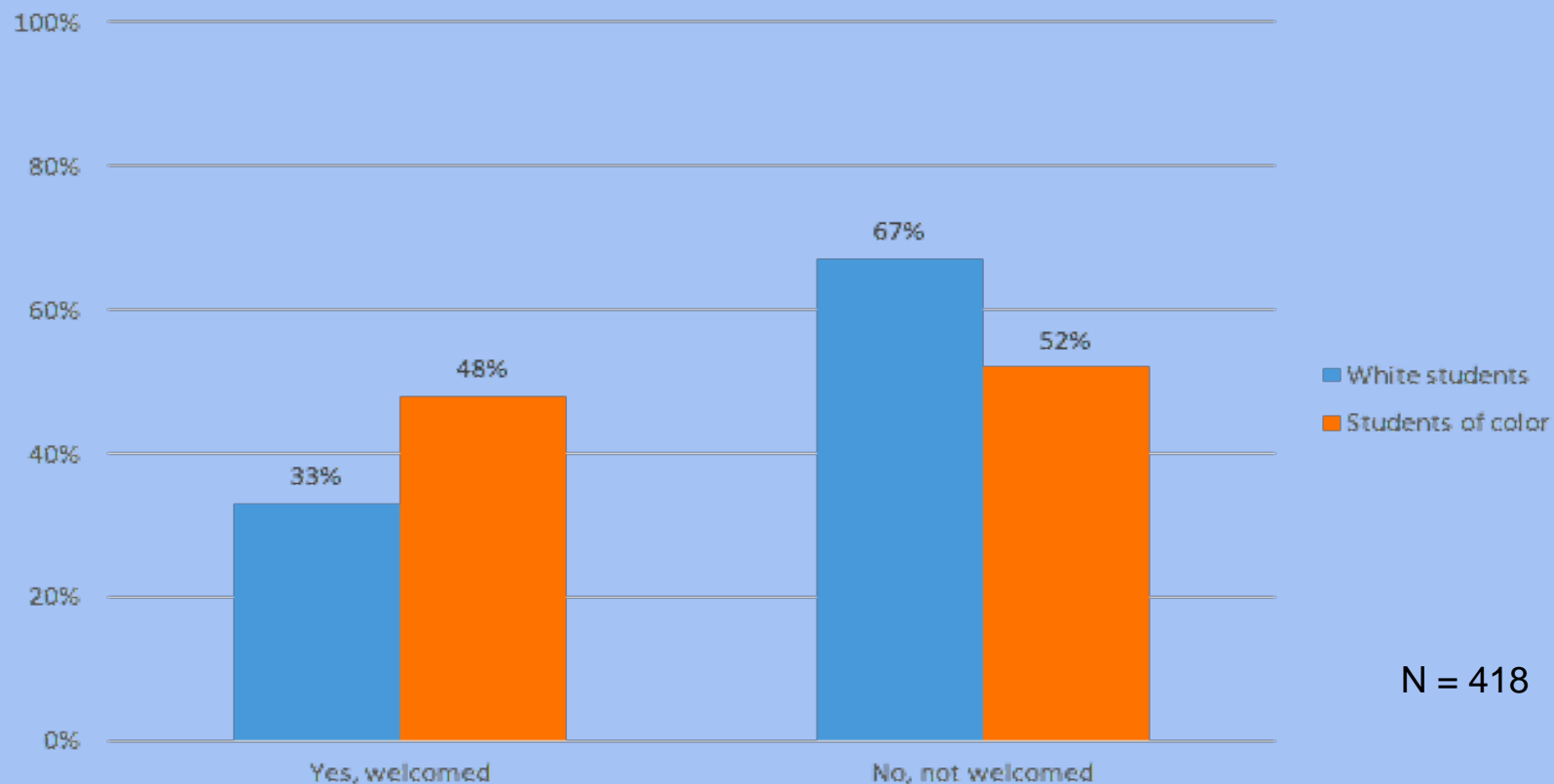
Syrian refugees would be welcomed in the Saint Cloud community

N = 518

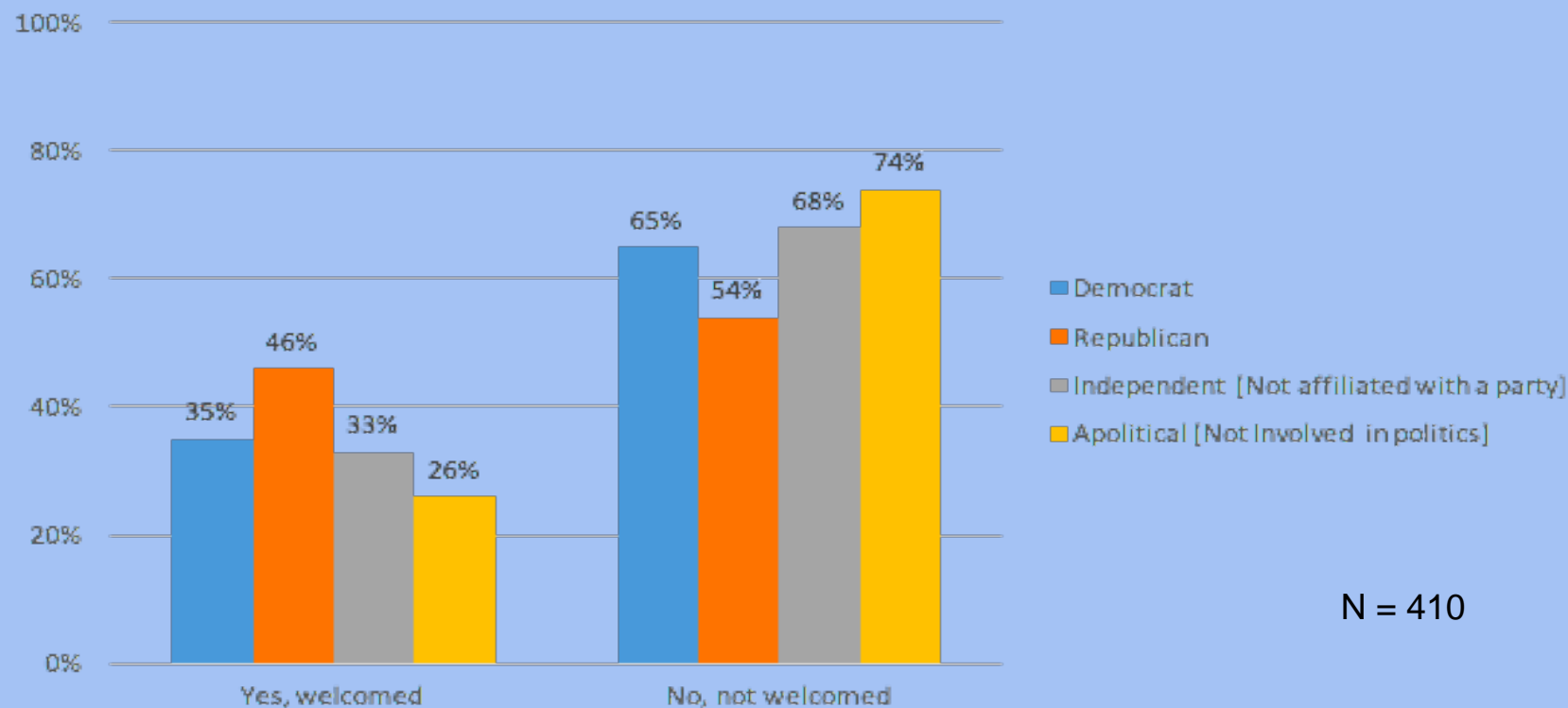


Yes, welcomed No, not welcomed No opinion [volunteered] Don't know

Welcoming of Syrian refugees by race

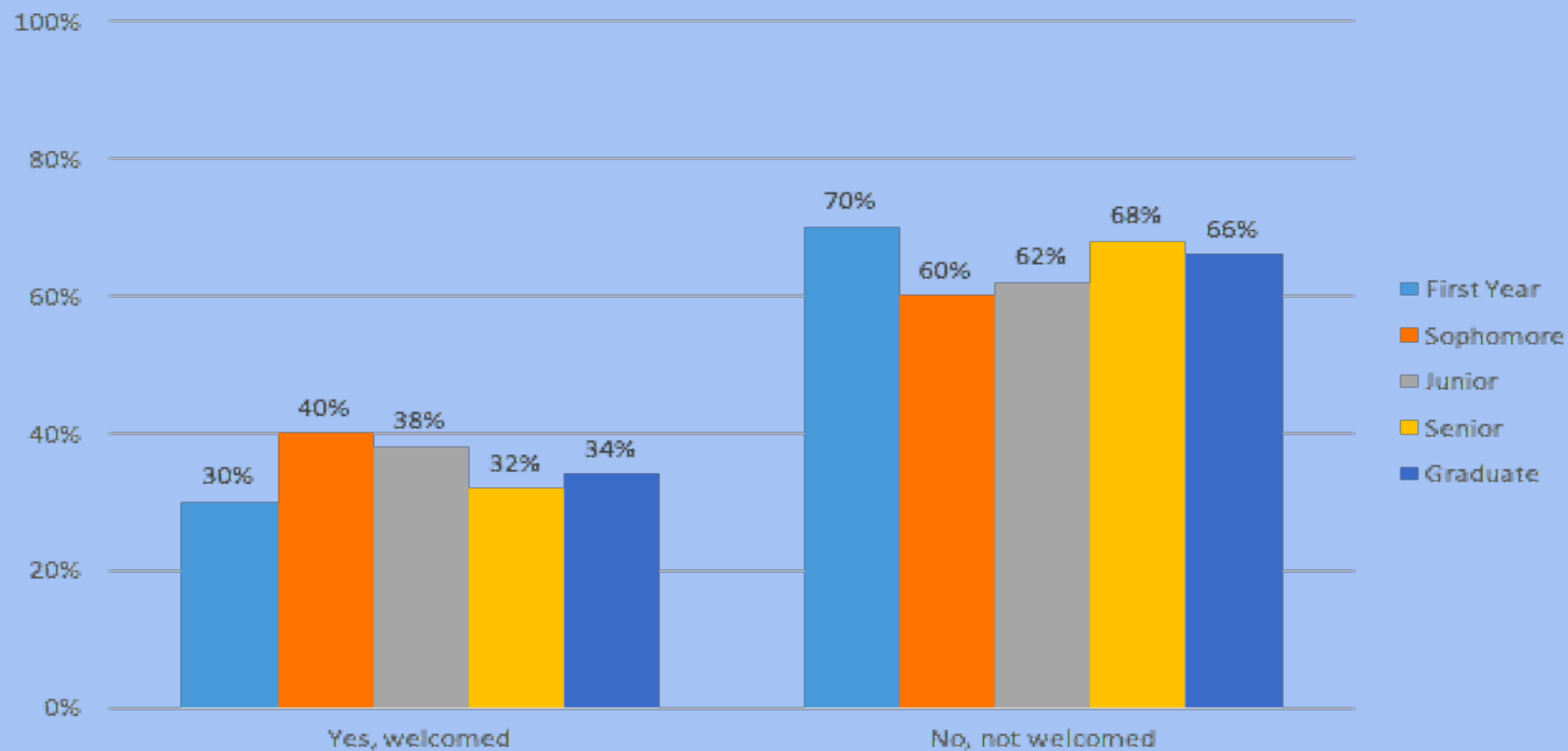


Welcoming of Syrian refugees by party affiliation



N = 410

Welcoming of Syrian refugees by class



N = 431

Noteworthy Findings

- Students of color, females and democrats are more likely to support Minnesota welcoming Syrian refugees.
- No significant difference by class.
- In terms of whether Syrian refugees will be welcomed in the Saint Cloud community, students of color, Republicans and those with lower education level are more likely to agree with the statement.
- No significant difference by gender.

Questions Related to Race Relations

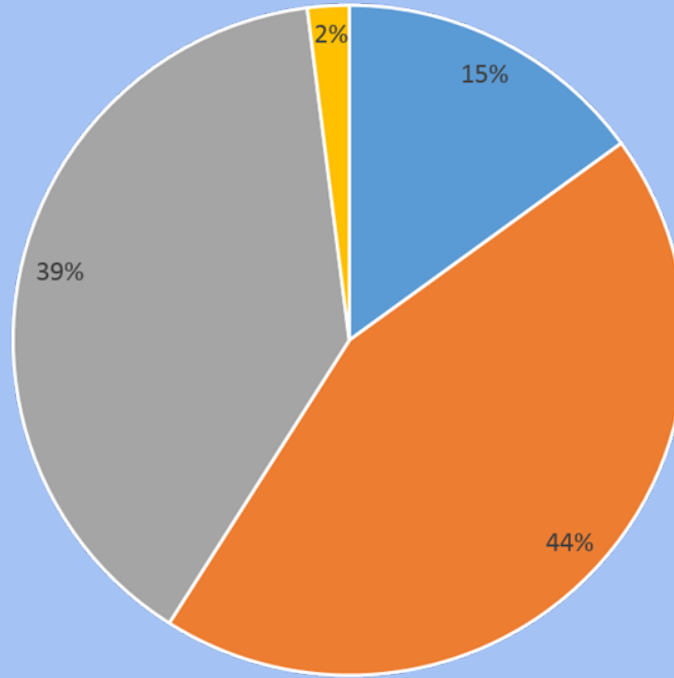
Michael Grewatz - Sociology

- Do you think race relations in the United States are getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?
- Overall do you think SCSU as an institution spends too much time, the right amount of time, or too little time on the topic of race relations?

Opinions on the state of race relations in the U.S.

N = 522

Missing (n=2): REFUSED

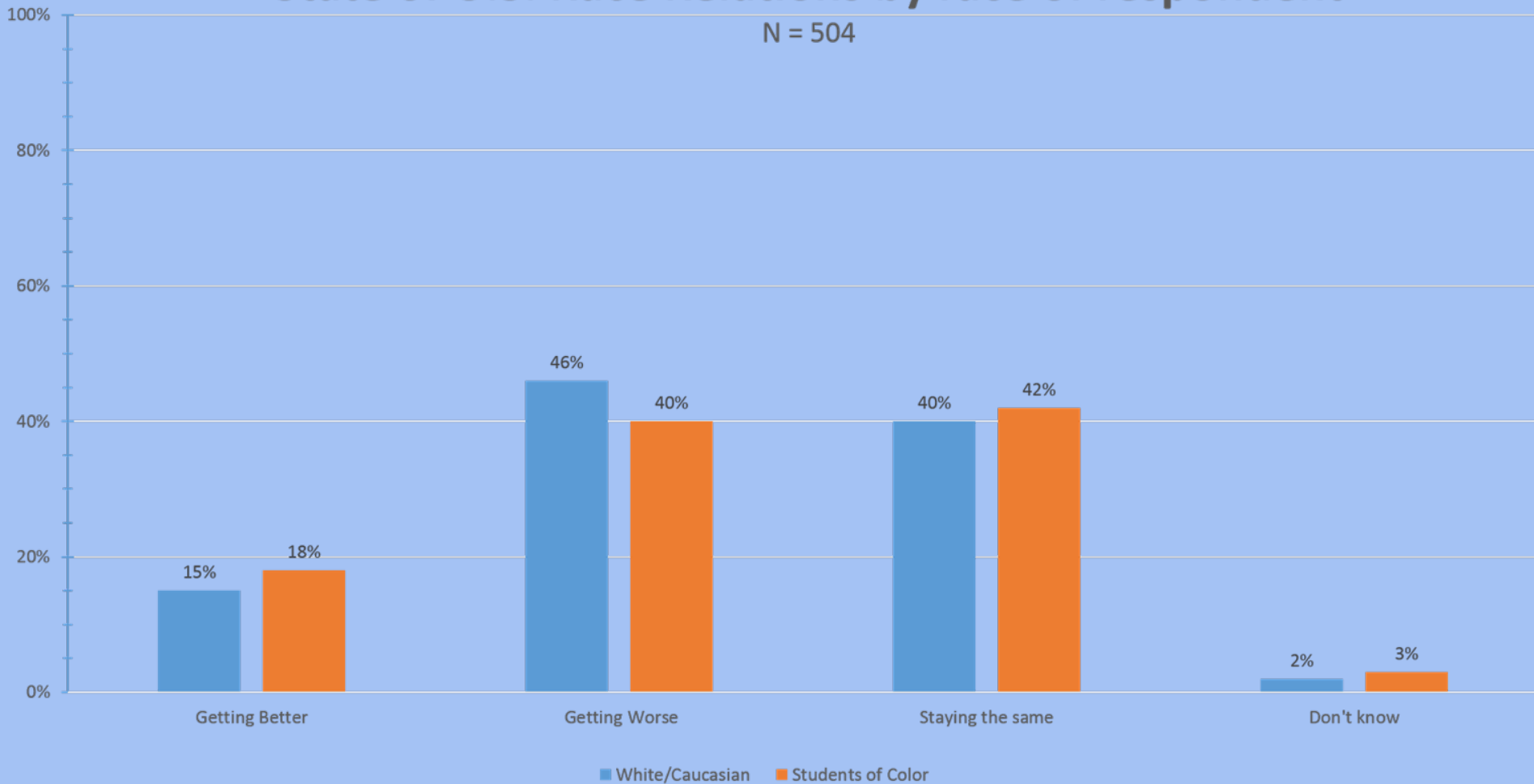


The highest percentage of students answered that they feel that race relations in the U.S. are getting worse. Most students do not believe that race relations in the U.S. are getting better.

Getting Better Getting Worse Staying the Same Don't Know

State of U.S. Race Relations by race of respondent

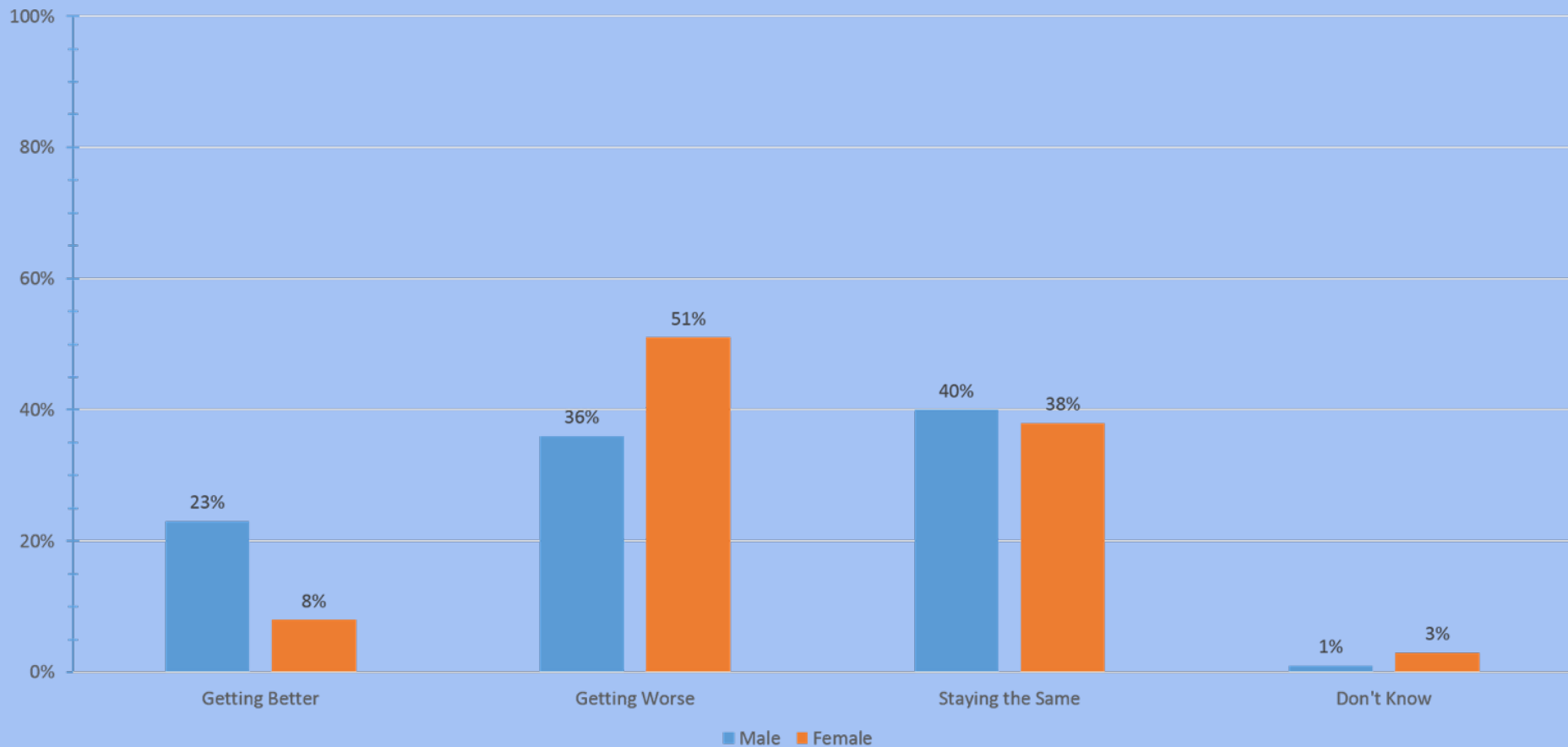
N = 504



State of U.S. Race Relations by Self-identified Gender

N = 521

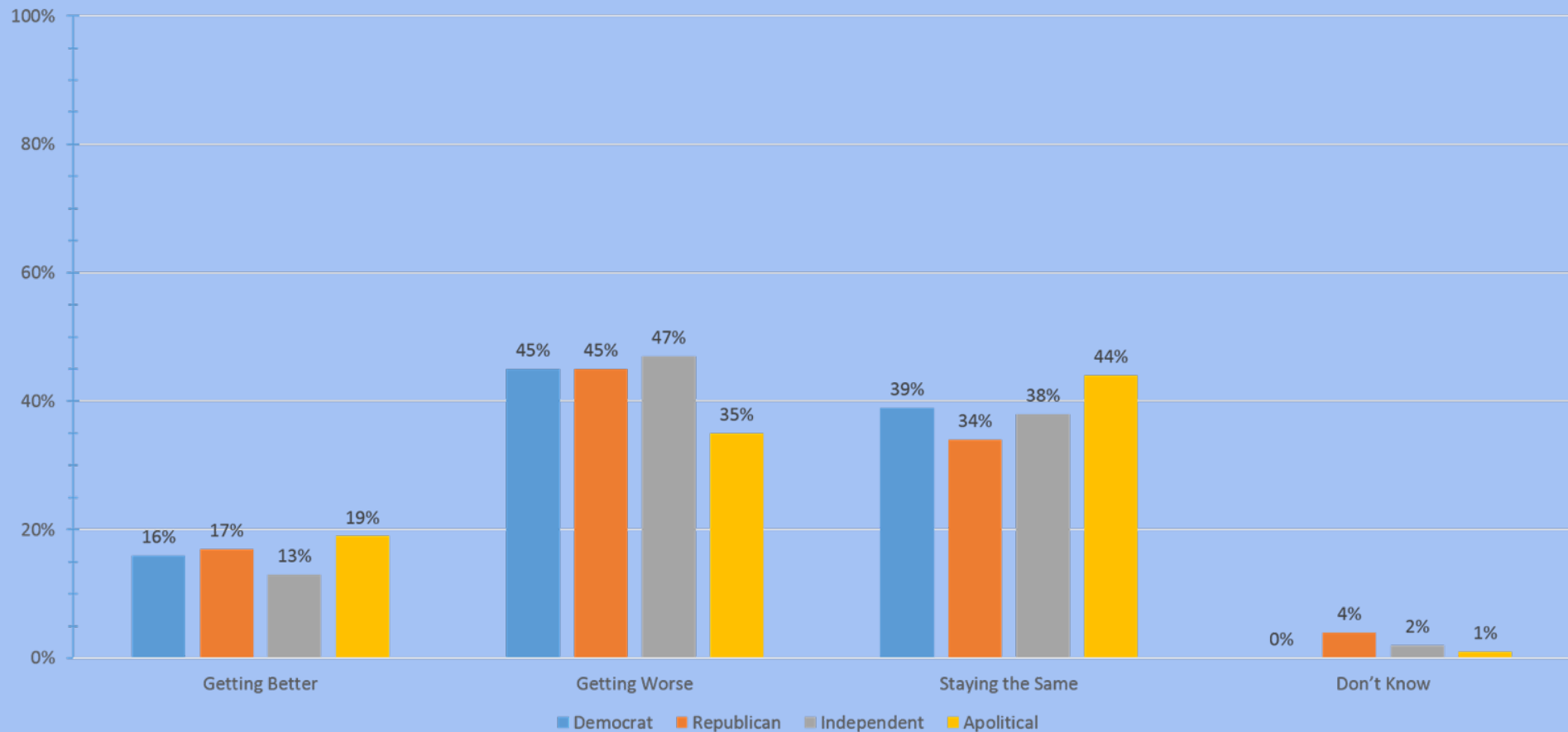
Missing (n=3): REFUSED



State of U.S. Race Relations by Political Party

N = 480

*Missing (n=44): REFUSED (n=17); DON'T KNOW (polaffil) (n=12), Affiliated with different party (n=13)

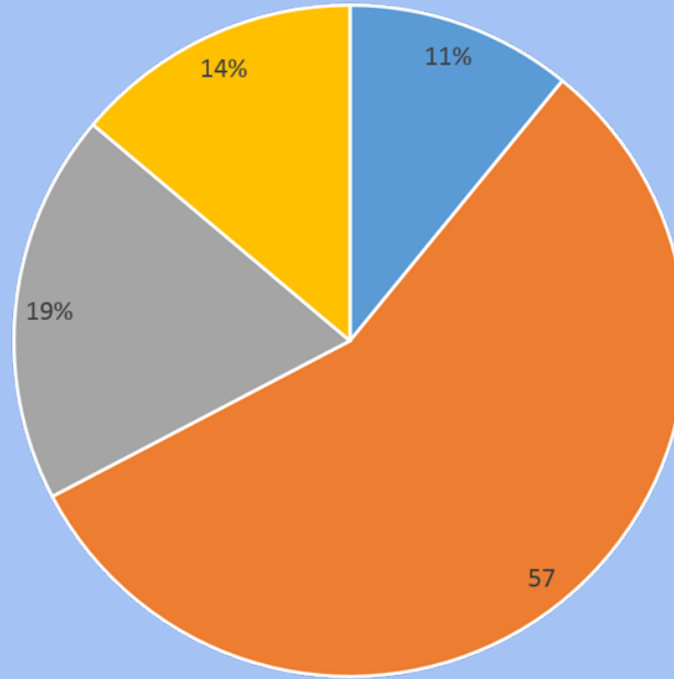


Time Spent on Race Relations at SCSU

N = 521

*Missing (n=3): REFUSED

Most student feel that SCSU spends about the right amount of time on race relations.

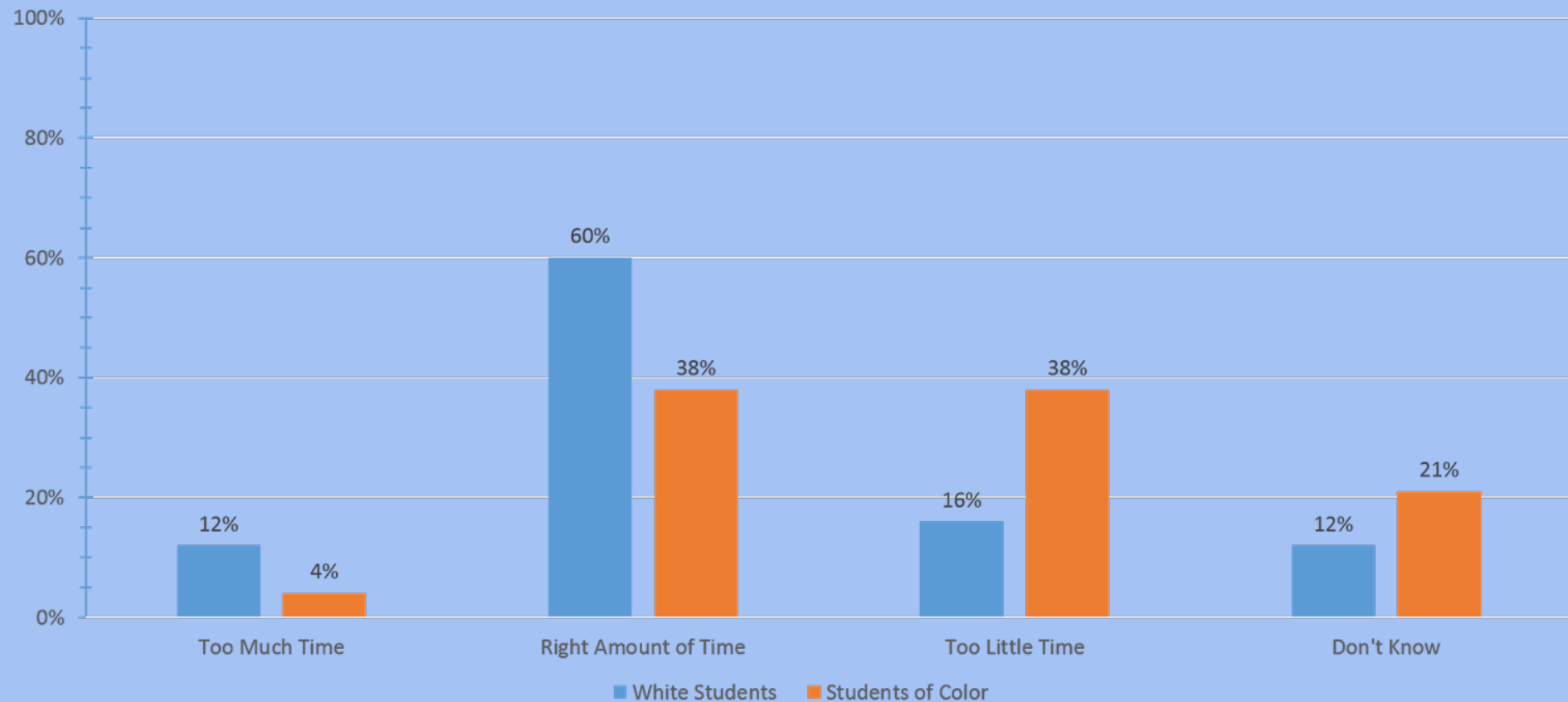


Too Much Time Right Amount of Time Too Little Time Don't Know

Time Spent on Race Relations at SCSU by race

N = 504

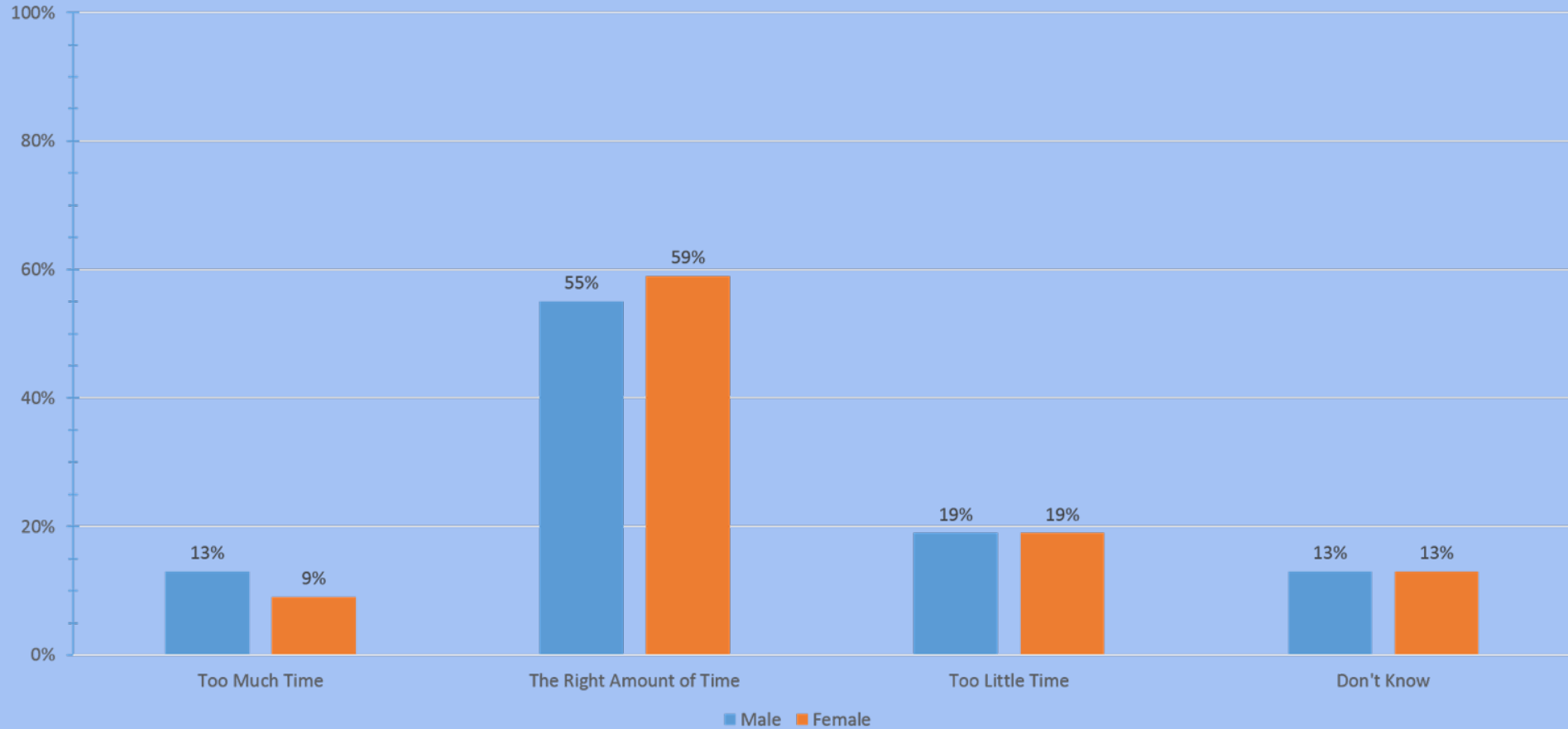
*Missing (n=20): REFUSED



Time Spent on Race Relations at SCSU by Gender

N = 522

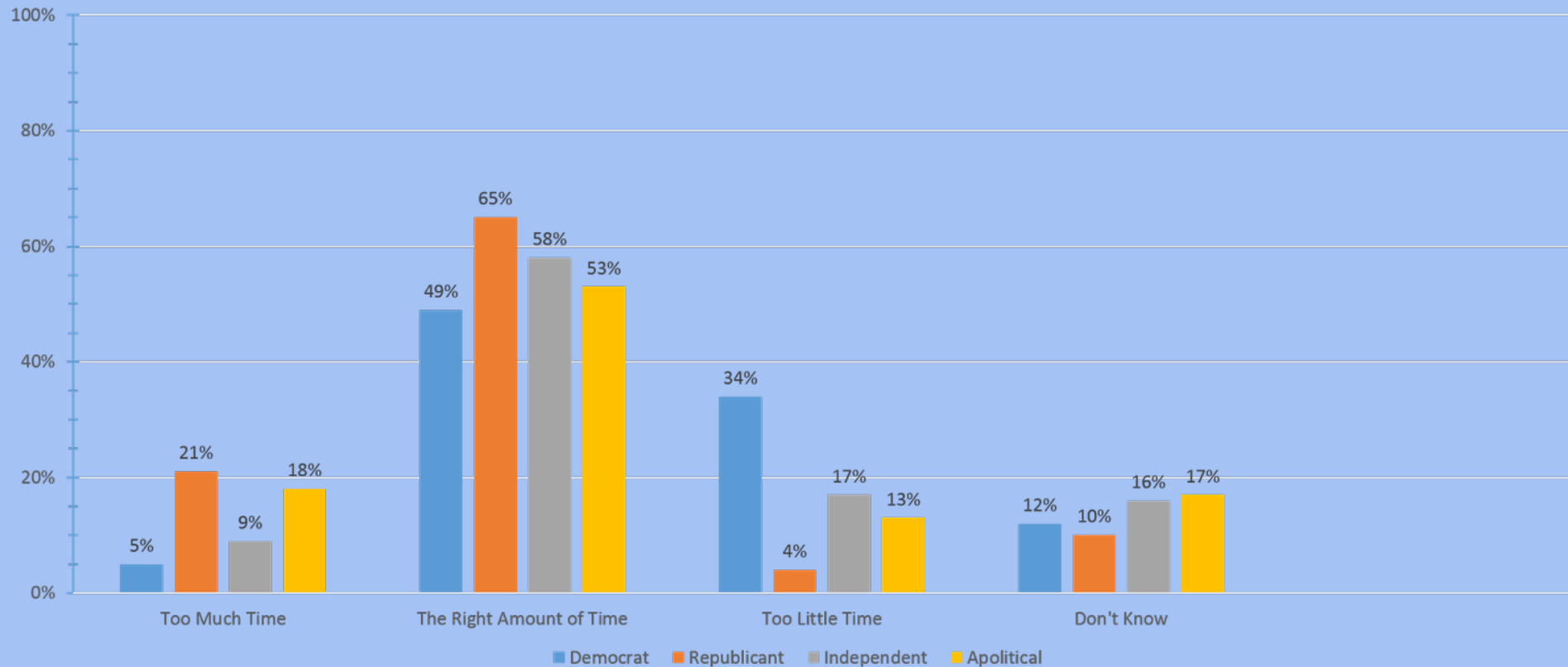
*Missing (n=2): REFUSED



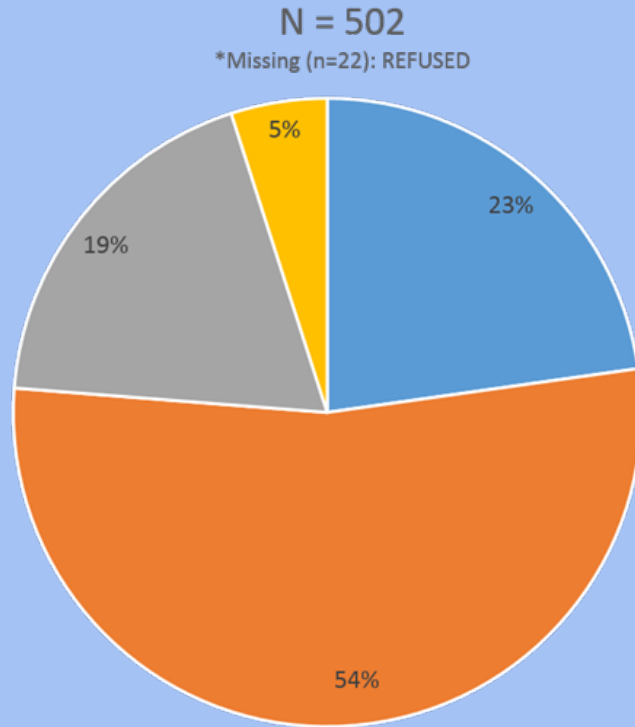
Time Spent on Race Relations at SCSU by Political Affiliation

N = 479

Missing (n=45): Refused (n=18), DON'T KNOW (n=12), Affiliated with different party (n=13)



Time Spent on Race Relations at SCSU 2006



Too much Time Right Amount of Time too little time don't know

Percentages between 2006 and 2016 compared

	2006	2016
Too Much	23%	11%
Right Amount	54%	57%
Too Little	19%	19%
Don't Know	5%	14%

Noteworthy Findings

While most students answered that they feel race relations in the U.S. are getting worse or staying the same, these students also answered that they feel that SCSU spends the right amount of time on the topic of race relations.

A significantly higher percentage of females than males believe that race relations in the U.S. are getting worse.

Noteworthy Findings

A higher percentage of white students than students of color answered that they feel that SCSU spends too much time or the right amount of time on the topic of race relations, while a higher percentage of students of color believe that SCSU spends too little time on the topic of race relations.

Compared with findings in 2006, fewer students are likely to believe that SCSU spends too much time on race relations in 2016. However, more students were likely to respond “don’t know” in 2016 than in 2006, and students were equally likely to respond that we spend too little time or the right amount of time on race relations.

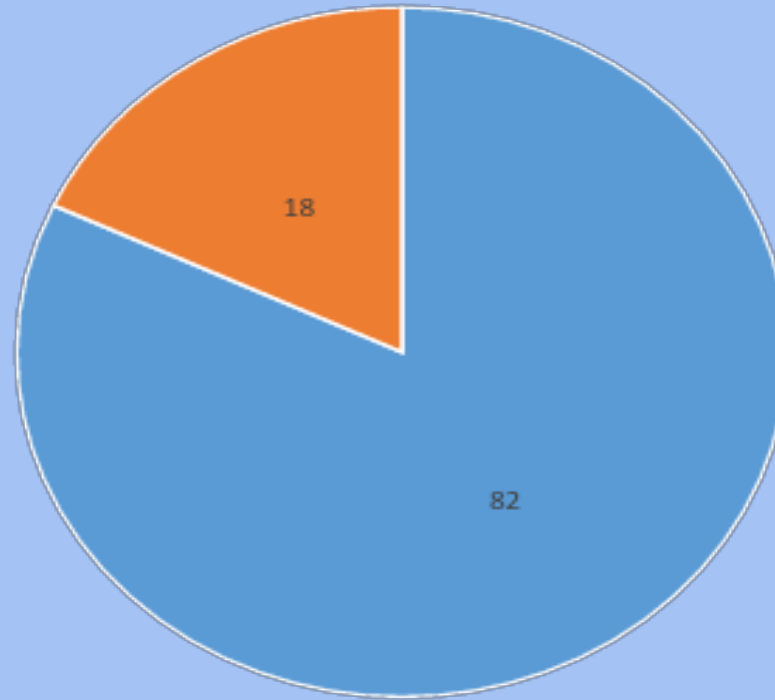
Views on Obesity

We asked students when thinking about the issue of obesity, which comes closer to their view :

1. Obesity has consequences for society that go beyond its personal impact
2. Obesity has consequences for individuals, but doesn't have a major impact on society

Attitudes Toward Obesity

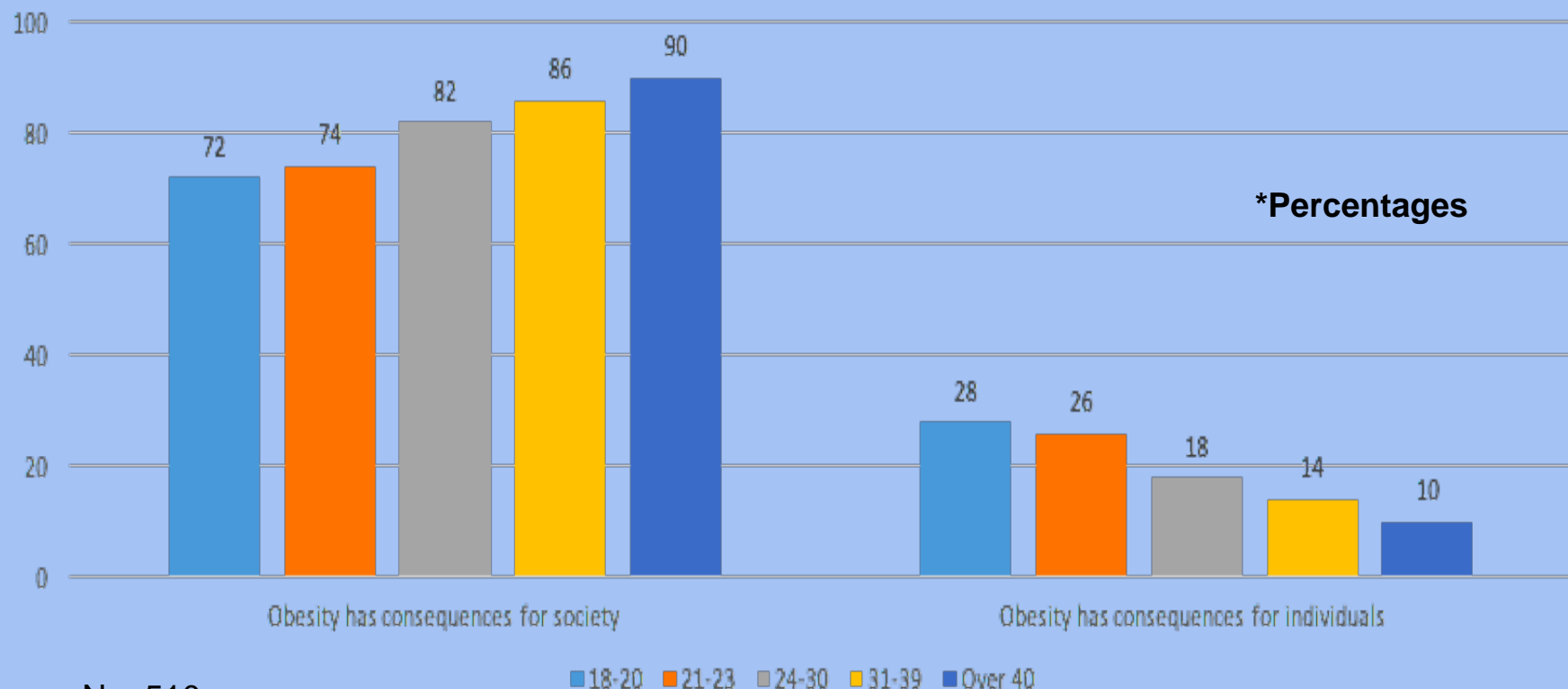
N = 510



* Percentages

■ Obesity has consequences for society ■ Obesity has consequences for Individuals

Obesity Consequences By Age



***Percentages**

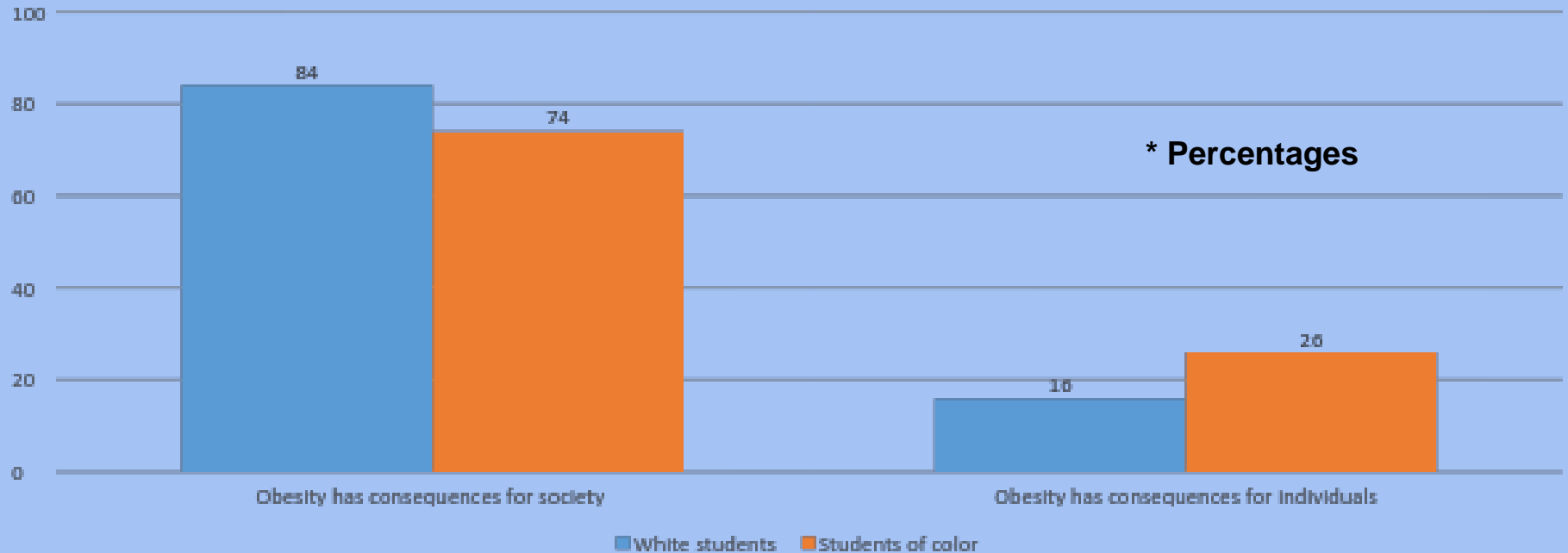
N = 510

Obesity Consequences By Gender



N = 510

Obesity Consequences By Race



N = 495

Noteworthy Findings

82 % of students believe obesity has consequences for society that go beyond its personal impact.

By age categories, 90 % of those 40 & over compared to 72 % of those 18-20 recognize that obesity has consequences for society beyond its personal impact. As age goes up, sentiments on obesity differ.

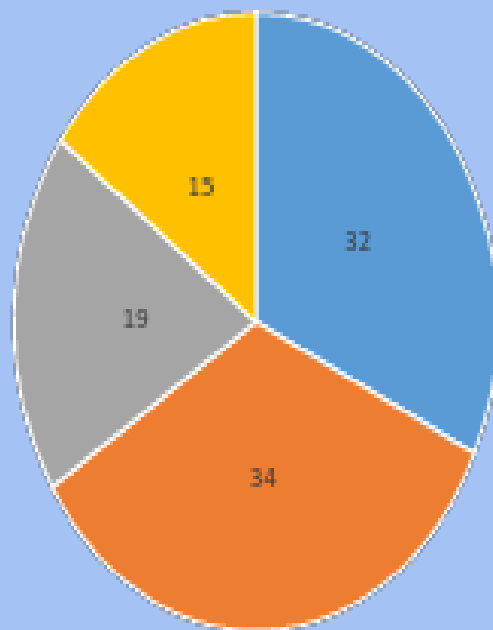
By race categories, 84 % of white students compared to 74 % of student of colors believe obesity has consequences for society beyond its personal impact

By gender categories, female (81%) and male (82%) do not differ too much in their opinions, both supporting the view that obesity has consequences for society that go beyond its personal impact.

Views on College Student Debt

We asked students whether they strongly agree, agree, disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement “*I am worried about the amount of debt I will have once I finish school.*”

Concerned About Student Debt

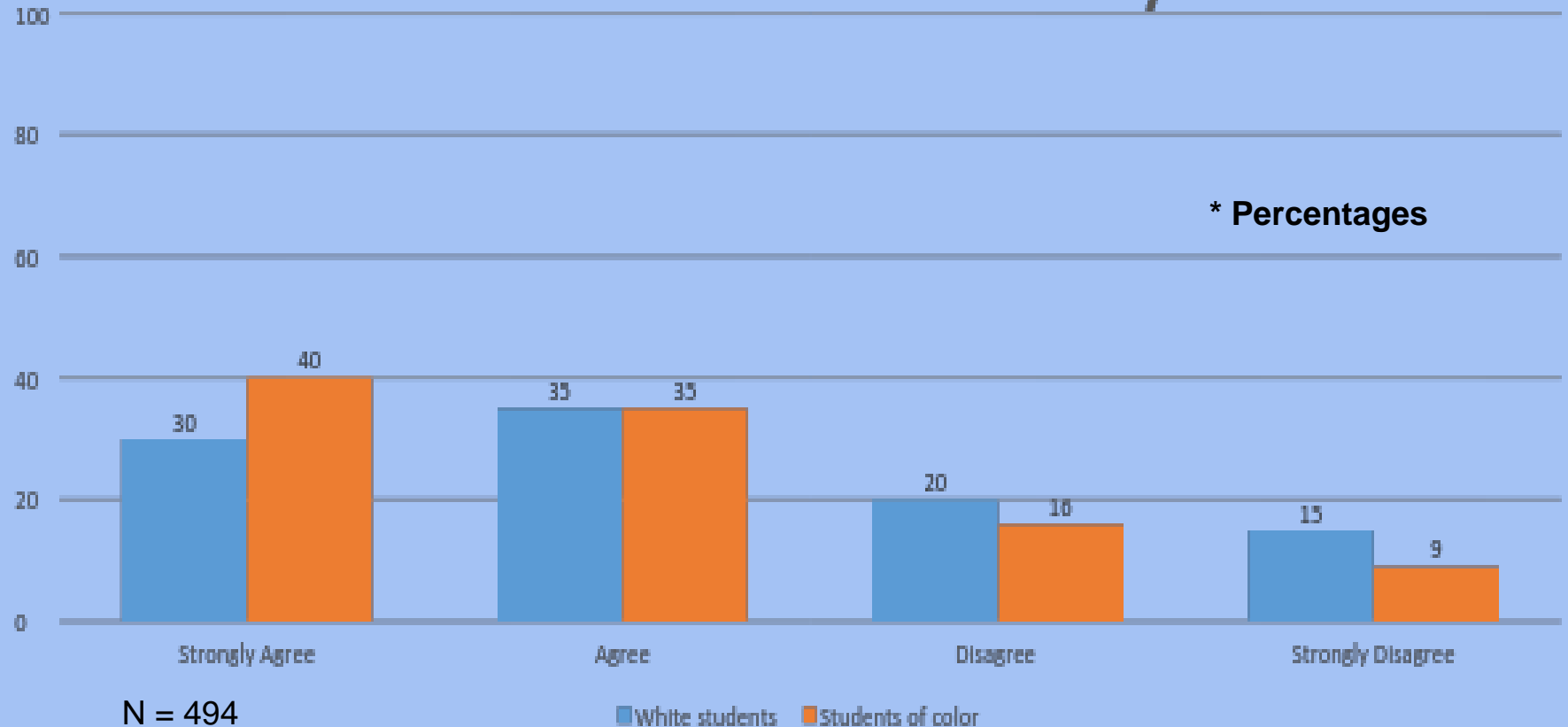


*** Percentages**

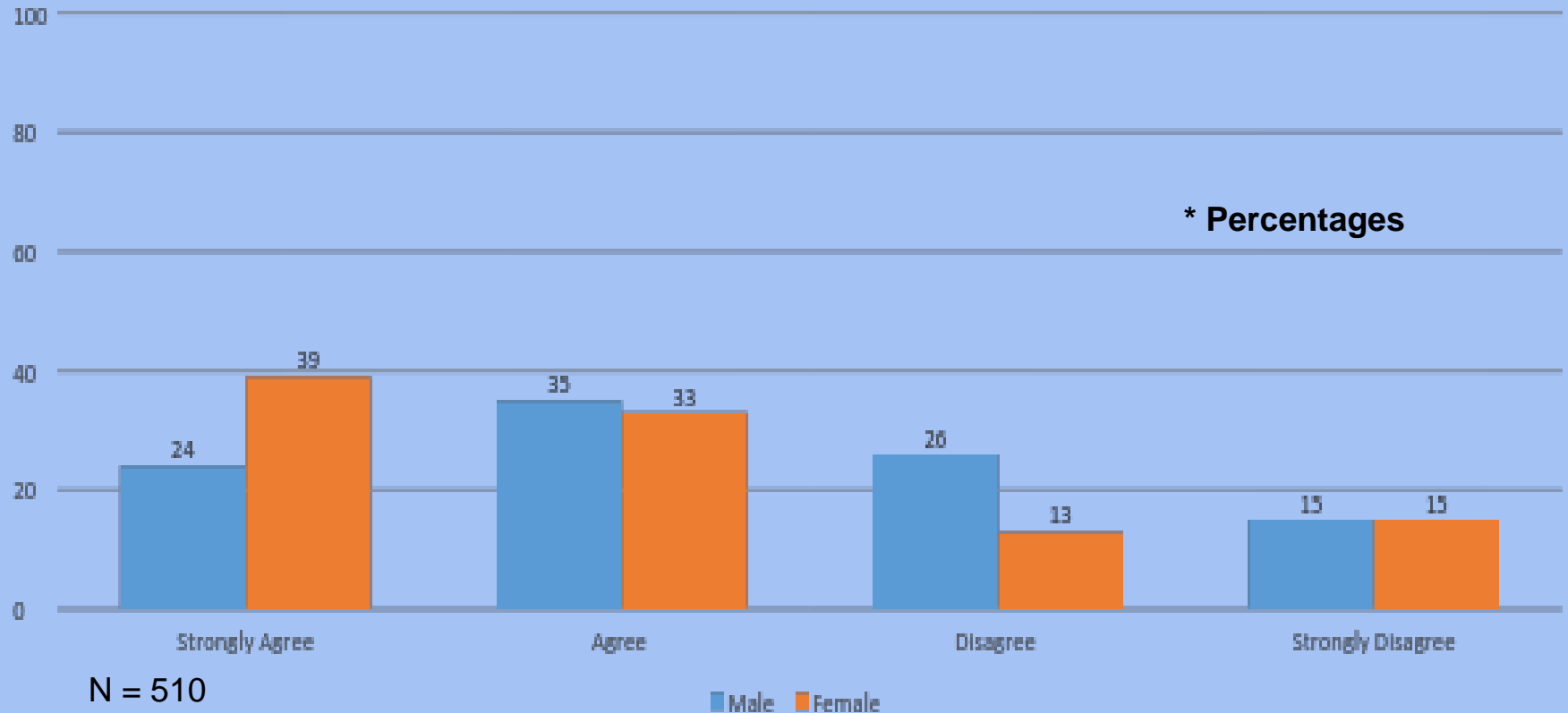
N = 512

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Strongly Disagree

Concerned About Student Debt By Race



Concerned About Student Debt By gender



Noteworthy Findings

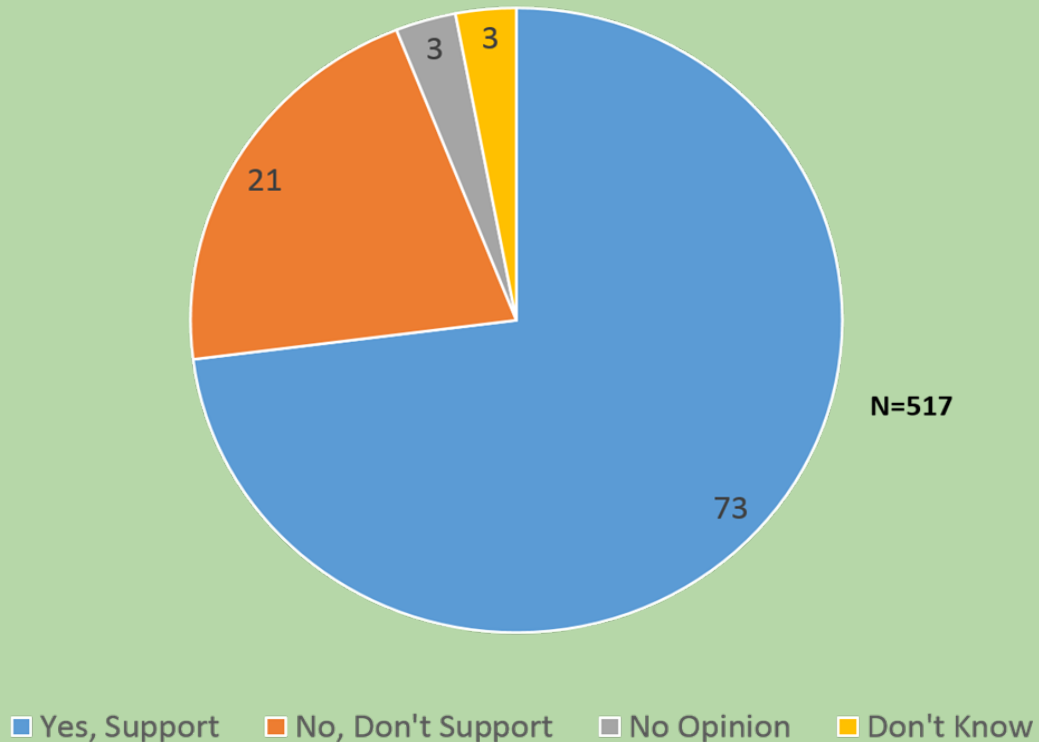
66 % of students are concerned about the amount of debt they will have once they finish school.

By race categories, 75 % of student of color were concerned by their amount of debt compared to 65 % of white students.

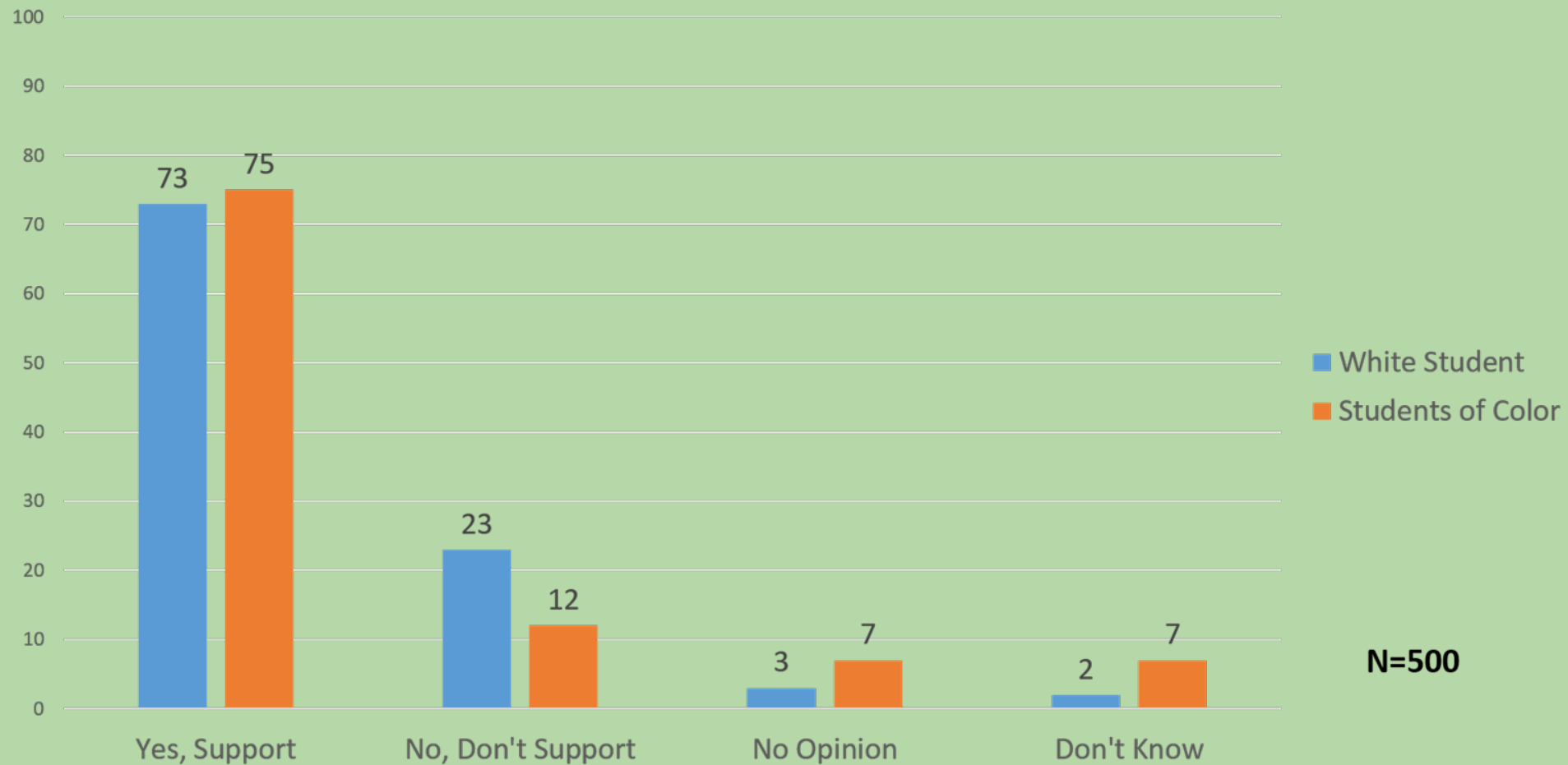
By gender categories, 72 % of females were concerned about their amount of debt in comparison to 59 % of males.

Medical Marijuana in Minnesota- A Smokeable Form?

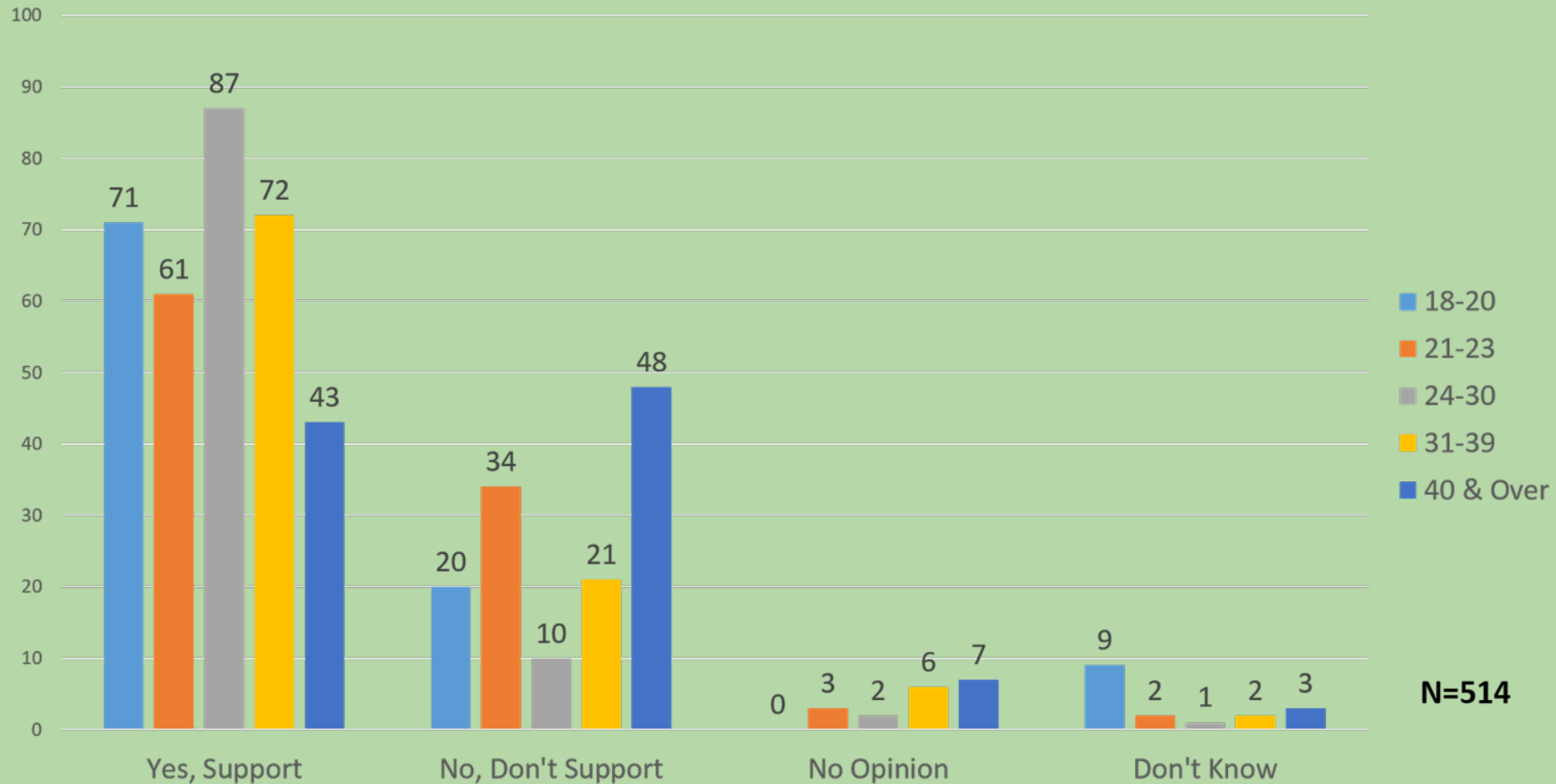
Support for a Smokeable Form of Medical Marijuana



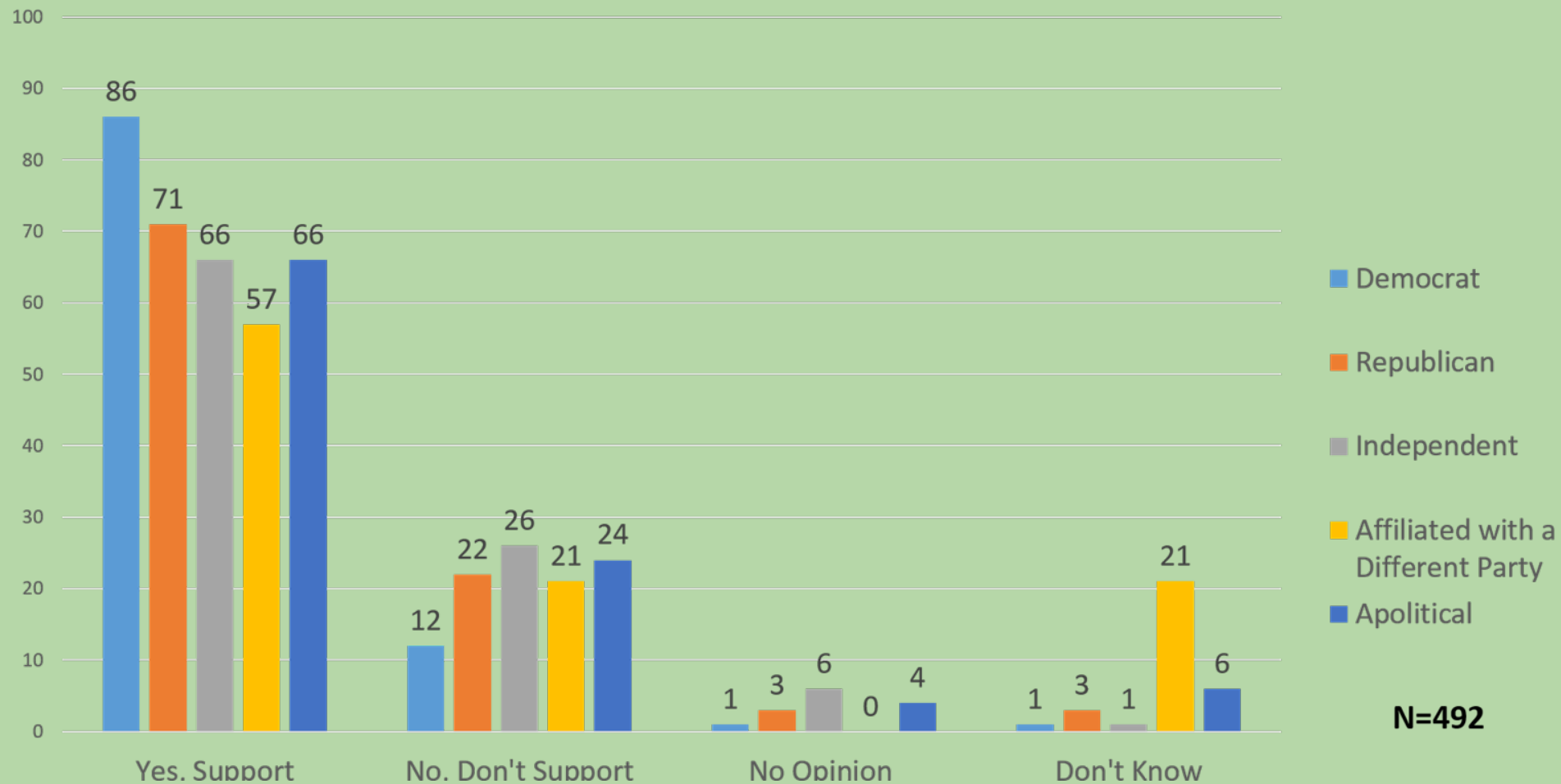
Support for a Smokeable Form of Medical Marijuana by Race



Support for A Smokeable Form of Medical Marijuana by Age



Support for a Smokeable Form of Medical Marijuana by Party



Noteworthy Findings

A majority of students would support the state of Minnesota expanding medical marijuana to include a smokeable version of the drug. White students and students of color do not differ too much on support, with most favoring a smokeable medical marijuana. Oldest student, those 40 & over are split over support; and students younger than 24 have less support than those 24-30 (highest support for). Over half of those in any of our political categories included in analysis would support the expansion of medical marijuana to include a smokeable form.

Benefits

§The SCSU Student Survey has been and continues to be an academic and social tool.

§Student Directors are able to actively write and learn from the questions within the survey.

§Students are able to directly learn from applied research methods and techniques.

§SCSU students who take the survey are provided the opportunity to voice their opinions about topics concerning the University.

§The data gathered may be used by departments, organizations and students on campus for academic and policy concerns.

§This is a record of the viewpoint of our students for this period of time.

§ We would like to thank you for your time and cooperation you have been very helpful. The results of this survey will be available on the SCSU Survey homepage in about a month.

**Would you like the website address?
www.stcloudstate.edu/scsusurvey**

§ Goodbye!

Questions?