



# **Current Salience of Work and Family Issues**

January 2004



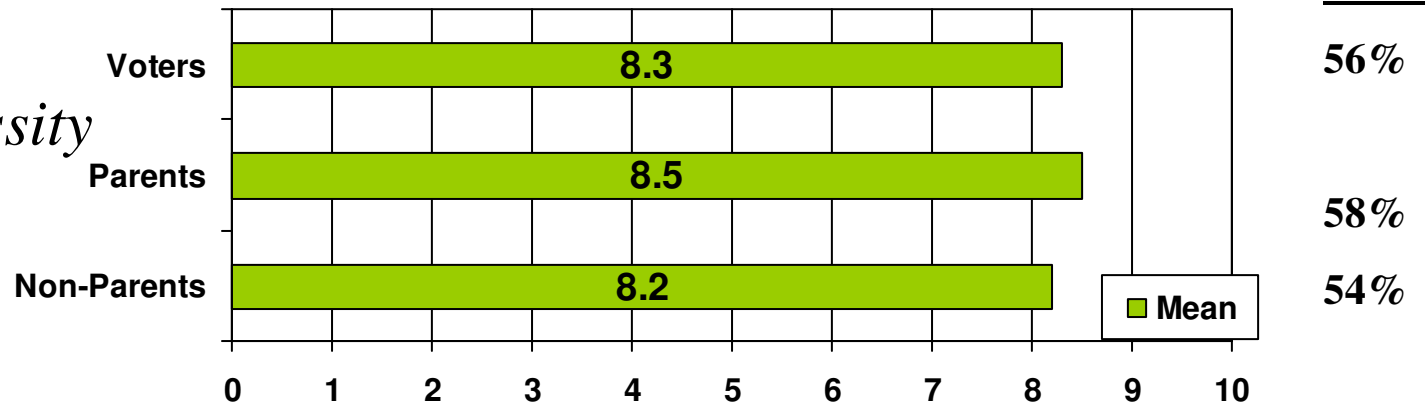
# Child Care



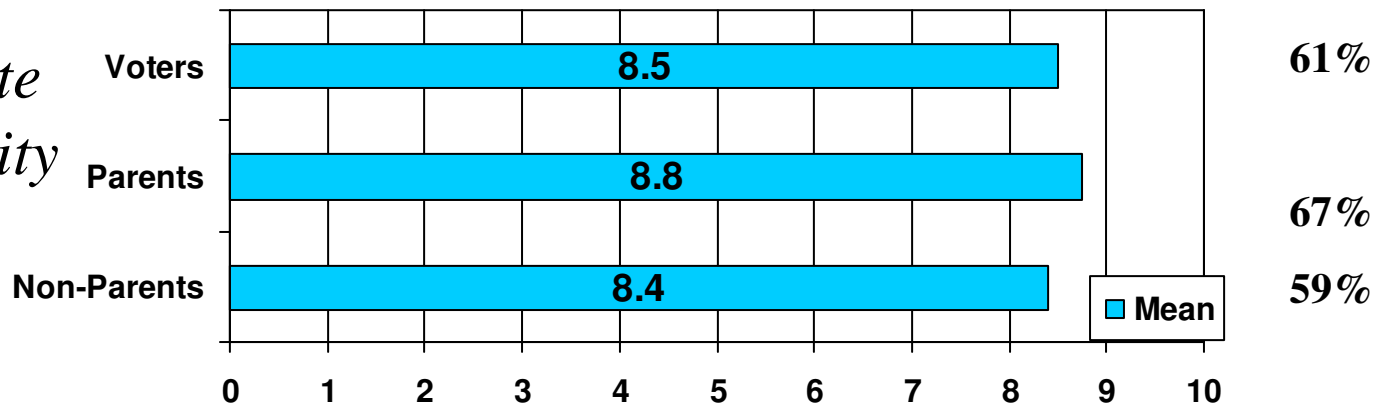
Voters, both those with children under 18 and those with no children under 18, see child care not only as a necessity, but as an *absolute necessity*. In fact, response is stronger to child care being an absolute necessity.

Still thinking about child care programs, would you say that child care programs are [a necessity/ an absolute necessity] in for your community on a scale which goes from 0-10, where zero is not at all a necessity and 10 means very much a necessity?\*

*Necessity*



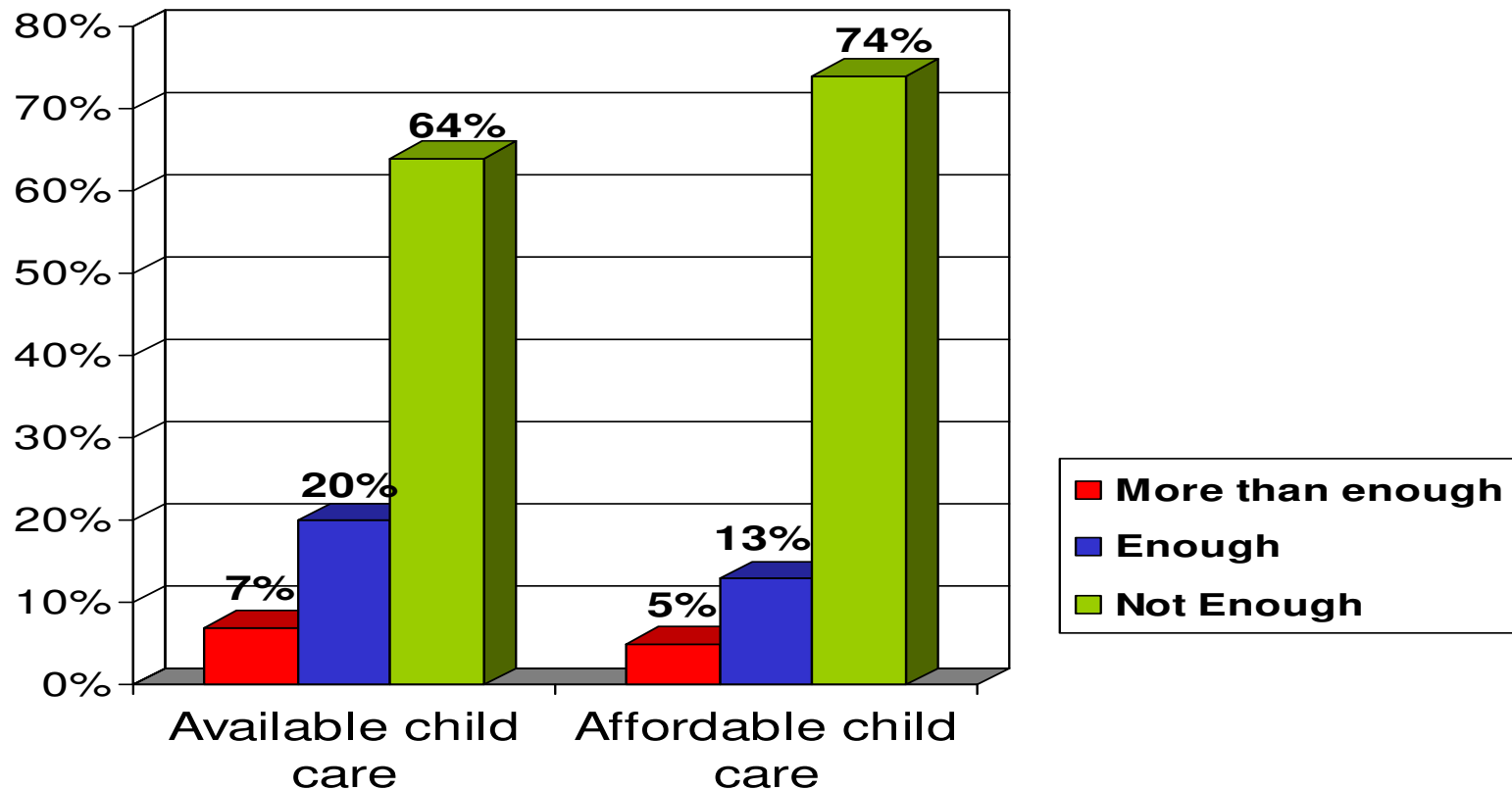
*Absolute Necessity*



\*Split sampled question

While voters see child care programs as a necessity, they do not think there are enough child care programs available for families today and they are even more likely to think there are not enough *affordable* child care programs available.

*Do you think there are more than enough, enough, or not enough [affordable] child care programs [available] for families and children in America today?\**



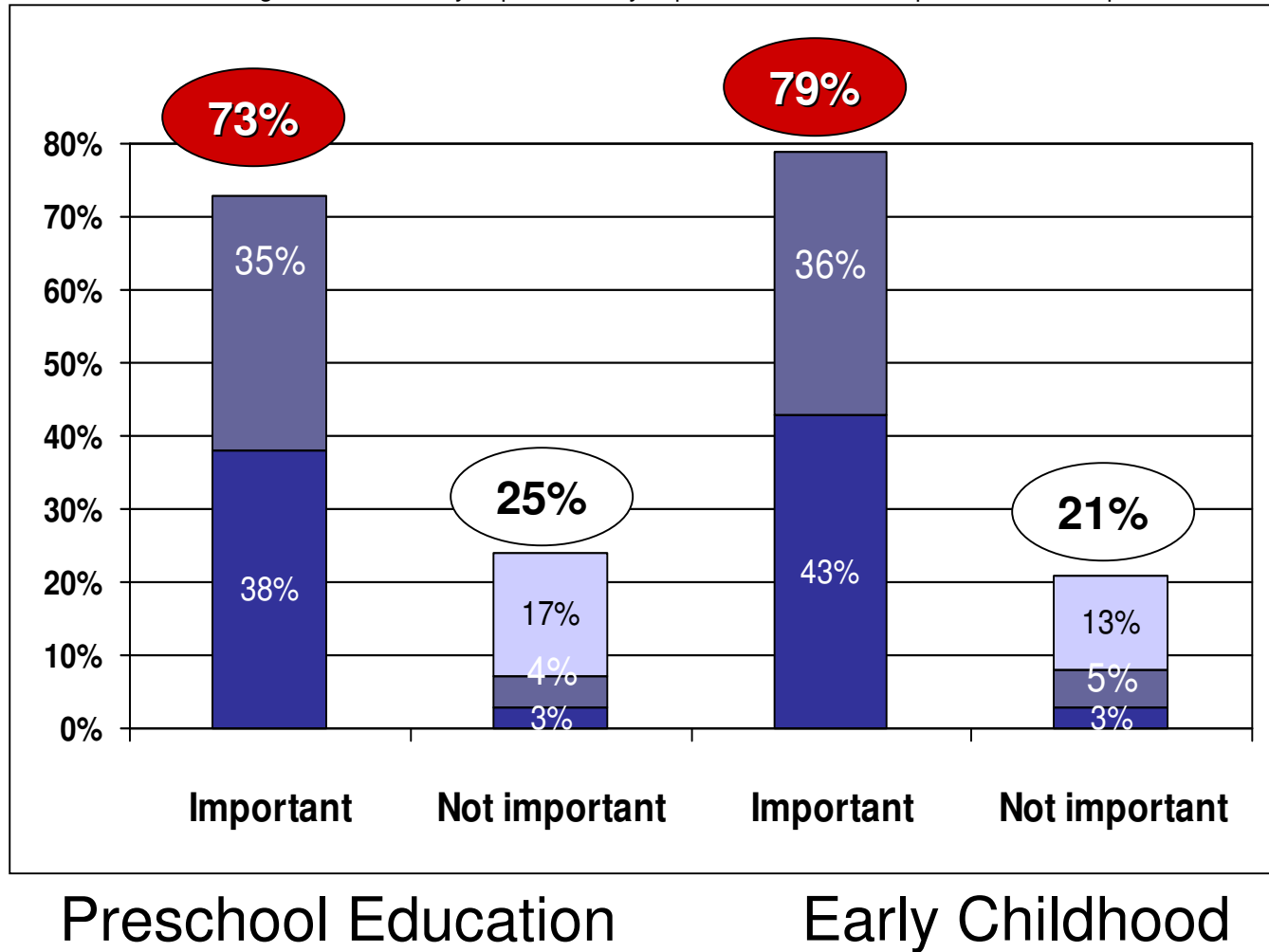
\*Split sampled question



# Early Education

## Women believe both early childhood education and preschool education programs are important.

How important do you think pre-school education programs are in preparing children for kindergarten – extremely important, very important, somewhat important, a little important, or not important at all? \* How important do you think early childhood education programs are in preparing children for kindergarten – extremely important, very important, somewhat important, a little important, or not important at all? \*



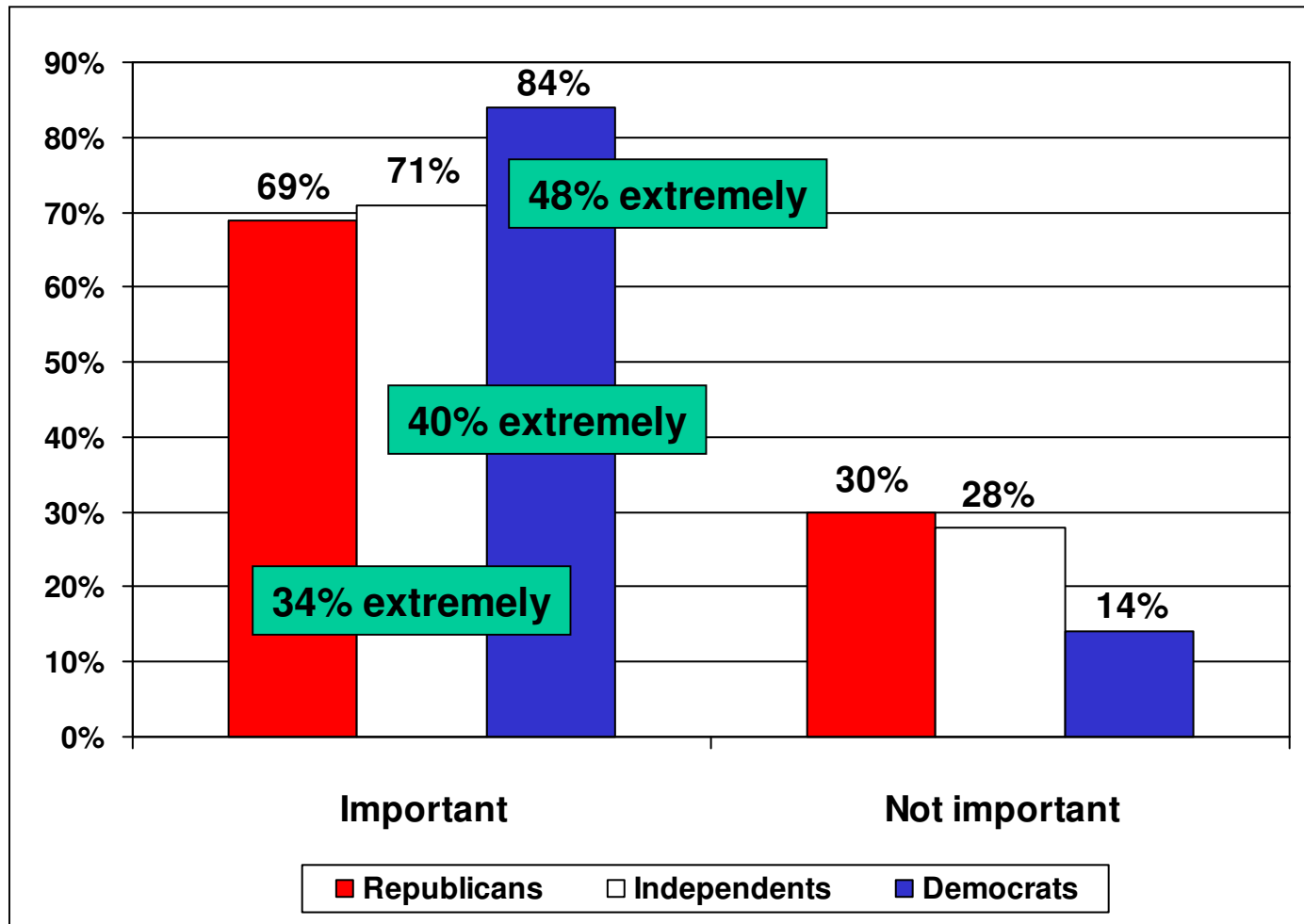
Important for:  
Single mothers, mothers with young children, mothers with more than one child, under age 30, strong Democrats, younger Democrats, minorities, those with children or grandchildren in preschool.

\*Split sampled questions

\*Sample: 761 women ages 18 or older nationwide who identify themselves as infrequent voters.

## Across the political spectrum, preschool education programs are important- even among majorities of Independents and Republicans.

How important do you think pre-school education programs are in preparing children for kindergarten – extremely important, very important, somewhat important, a little important, or not important at all? \* How important do you think early childhood education programs are in preparing children for kindergarten – extremely important, very important, somewhat important, a little important, or not important at all? \*

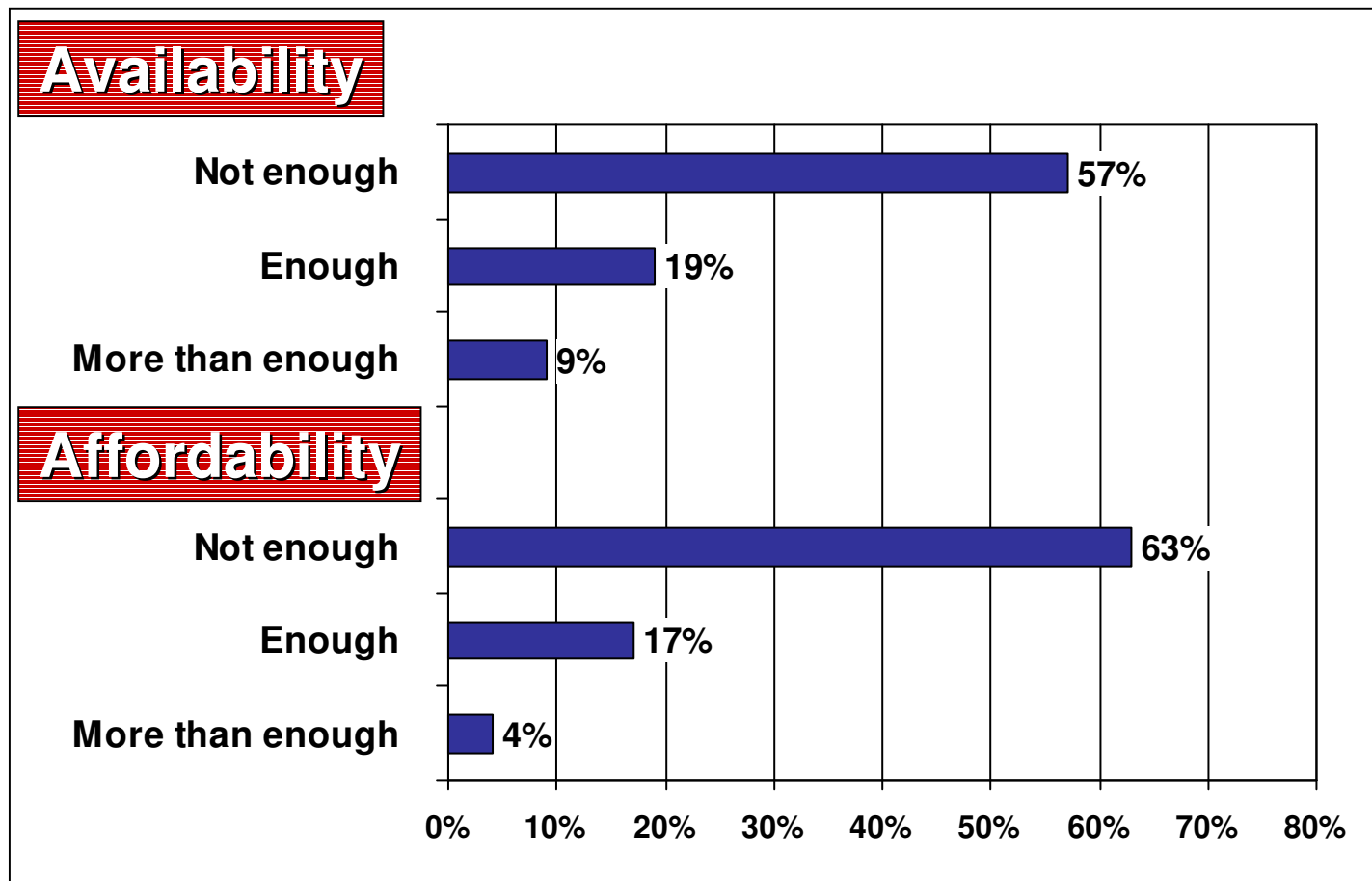


\*Combined split sample questions

\*Sample: 761 women ages 18 or older nationwide who identify themselves as infrequent voters.

# There is a strong sense that there are NOT enough preschool education programs, and a stronger sense that affordable programs are scarce.

Do you think there are more than enough, enough, or not enough preschool education programs available for families and children in America today? \* Do you think there are more than enough, enough, or not enough affordable preschool education programs for families and children in America today? \*



\*Split sampled questions

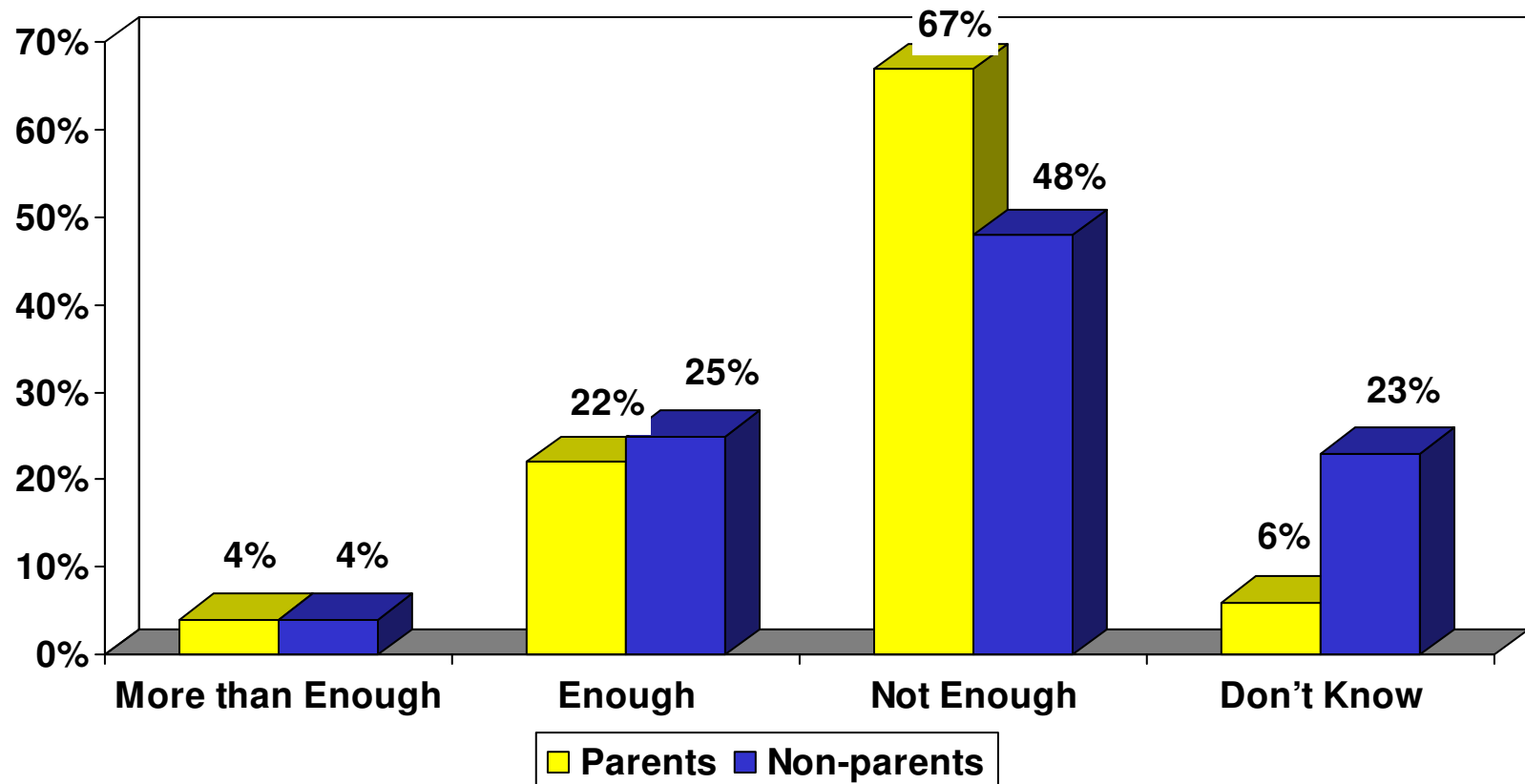
\*Sample: 761 women ages 18 or older nationwide who identify themselves as infrequent voters.



# Afterschool Programs

While only half of non-parents believe there are not enough afterschool programs, two-thirds of parents say there are not enough. A quarter of non-parents are unsure.

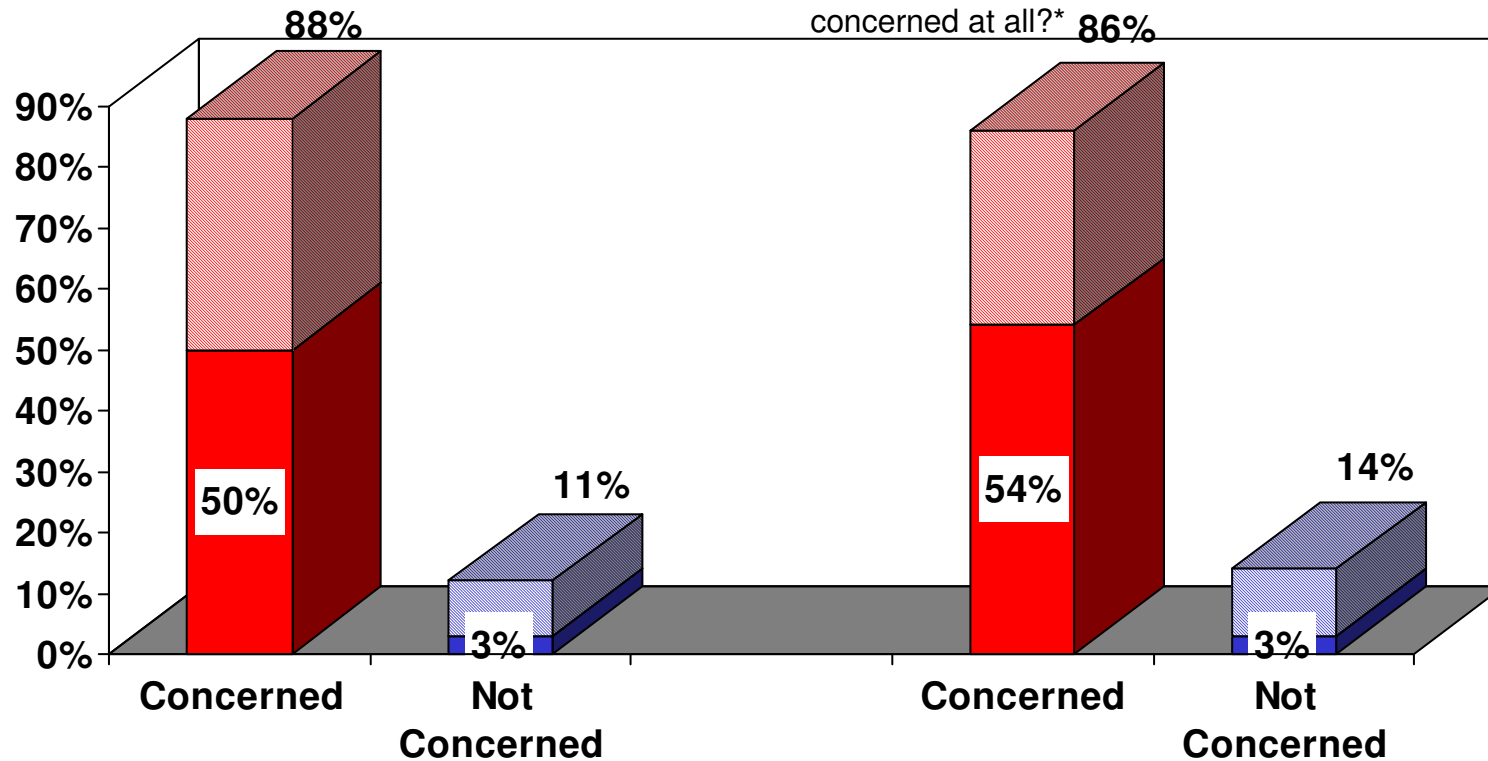
Do you think there are more than enough, enough, or not enough afterschool programs available for children and teens today?



Nearly nine out of ten voters are concerned that children are unsupervised after school with too much unstructured time. Half are very concerned. They are equally concerned about children *and* teens.

How concerned are you that children are unsupervised after school with too much unstructured time – very concerned, somewhat concerned, a little concerned, or not concerned at all?\*

How concerned are you that children and teens are unsupervised after school with too much unstructured time – very concerned, somewhat concerned, a little concerned, or not concerned at all?\*

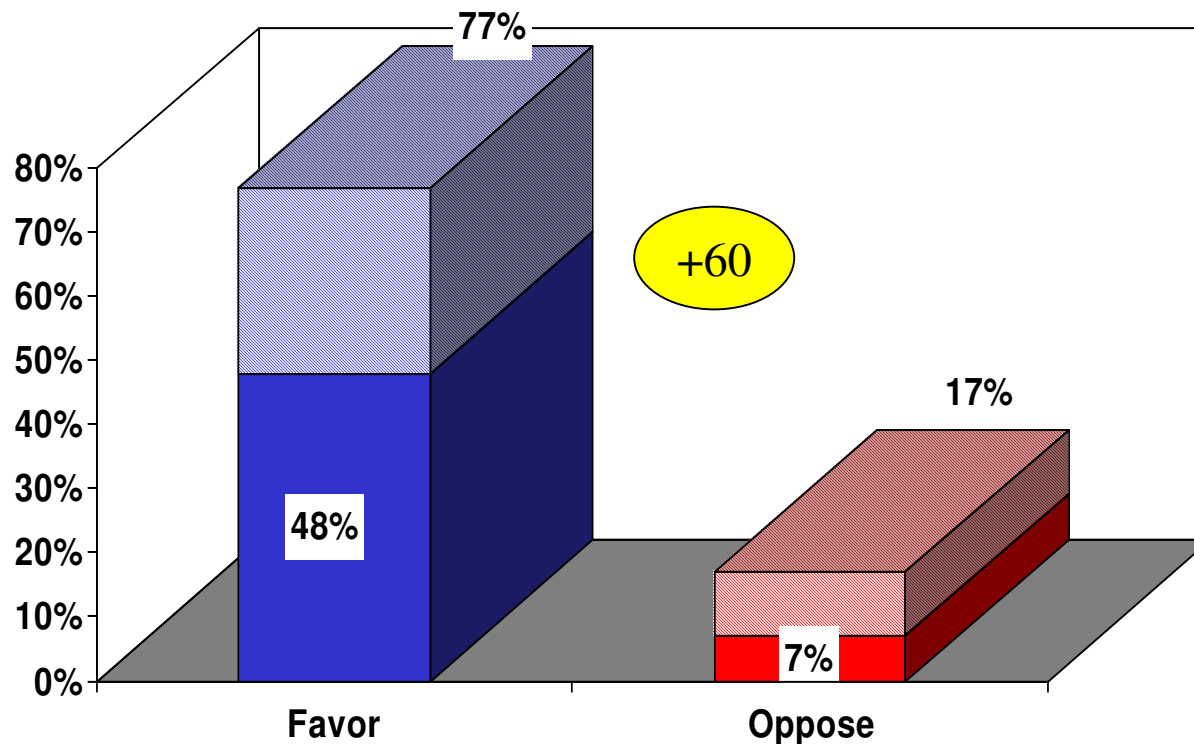


Very concerned Somewhat concerned Not concerned at all A little concerned

\*Split-sampled questions

## Over three-quarters of voters favor the federal government putting aside specific funds to be used for afterschool programs.

Do you favor or oppose the federal government setting aside specific funds to be used for afterschool programs?



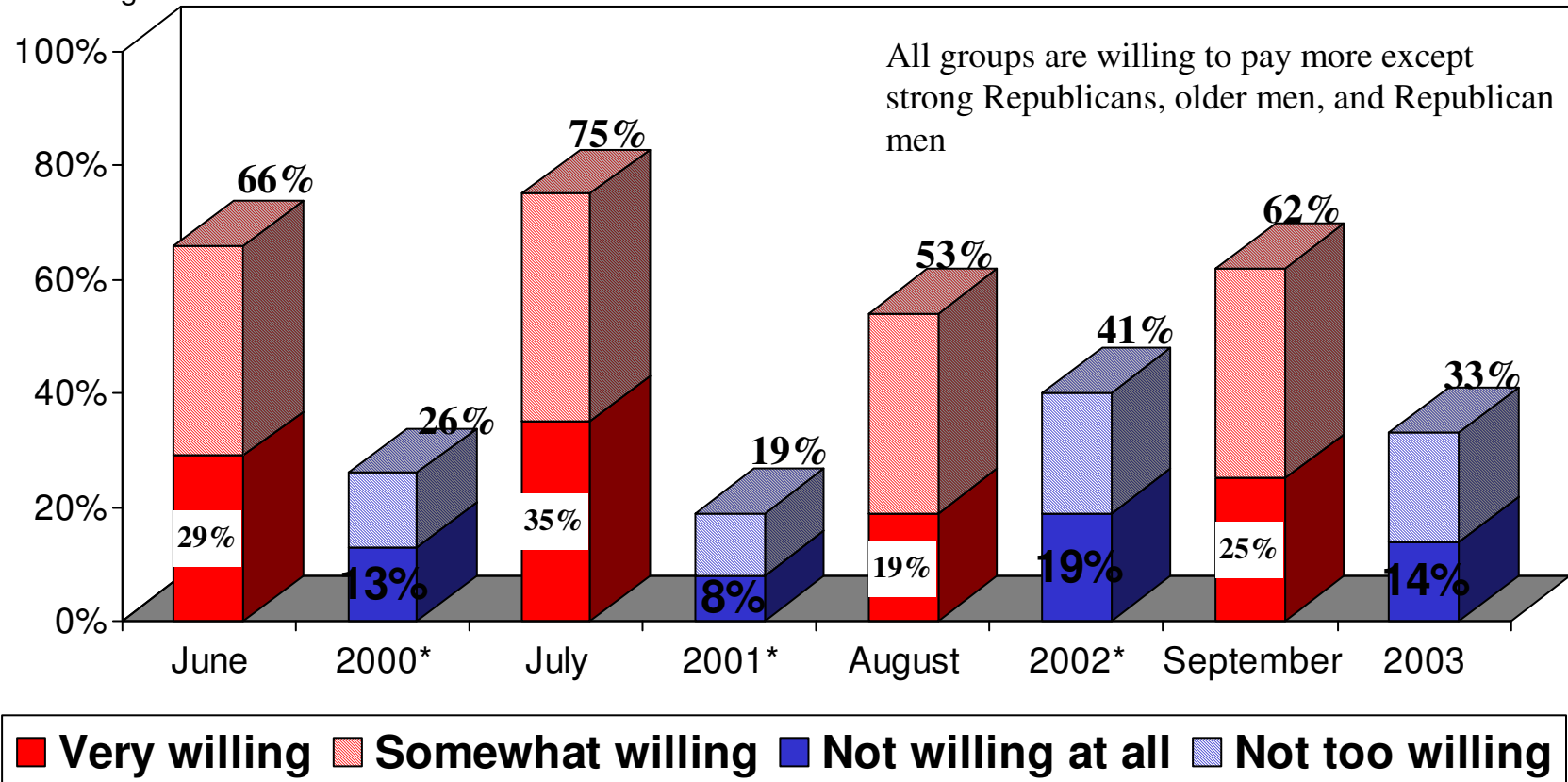
All demographic groups favor the federal government setting aside funds.

When asked the same question about *STATE* government rather than federal government, favorability dropped slightly but still remains strong: 75% favor, 19% oppose.

■ Strongly favor ■ Not so strongly favor ■ Strongly oppose ■ Not so strongly oppose

## Voters' willingness to pay for afterschool programs has held over the years.

If I told you this program will cost \$1,500 per child, per school year, how willing would you be to use federal or state taxpayer money to put these programs in your community – very willing, somewhat willing, not too willing, or not willing at all?



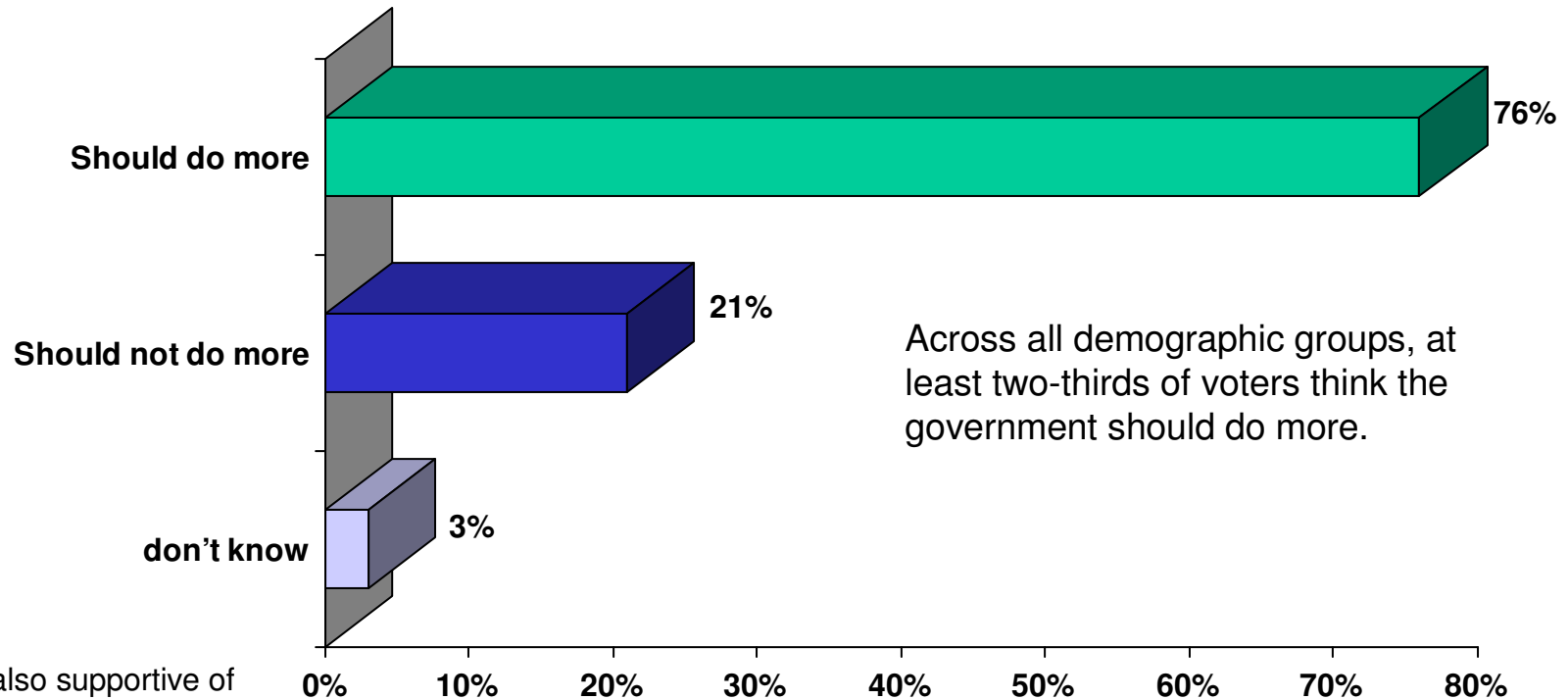
\*The figure used in 2000, 2001, and 2002 was \$1,000 per child, per school year.



# **Working Families and Minimum Wage**

Additionally, voters overwhelmingly believe the government should be doing even more to help working families.

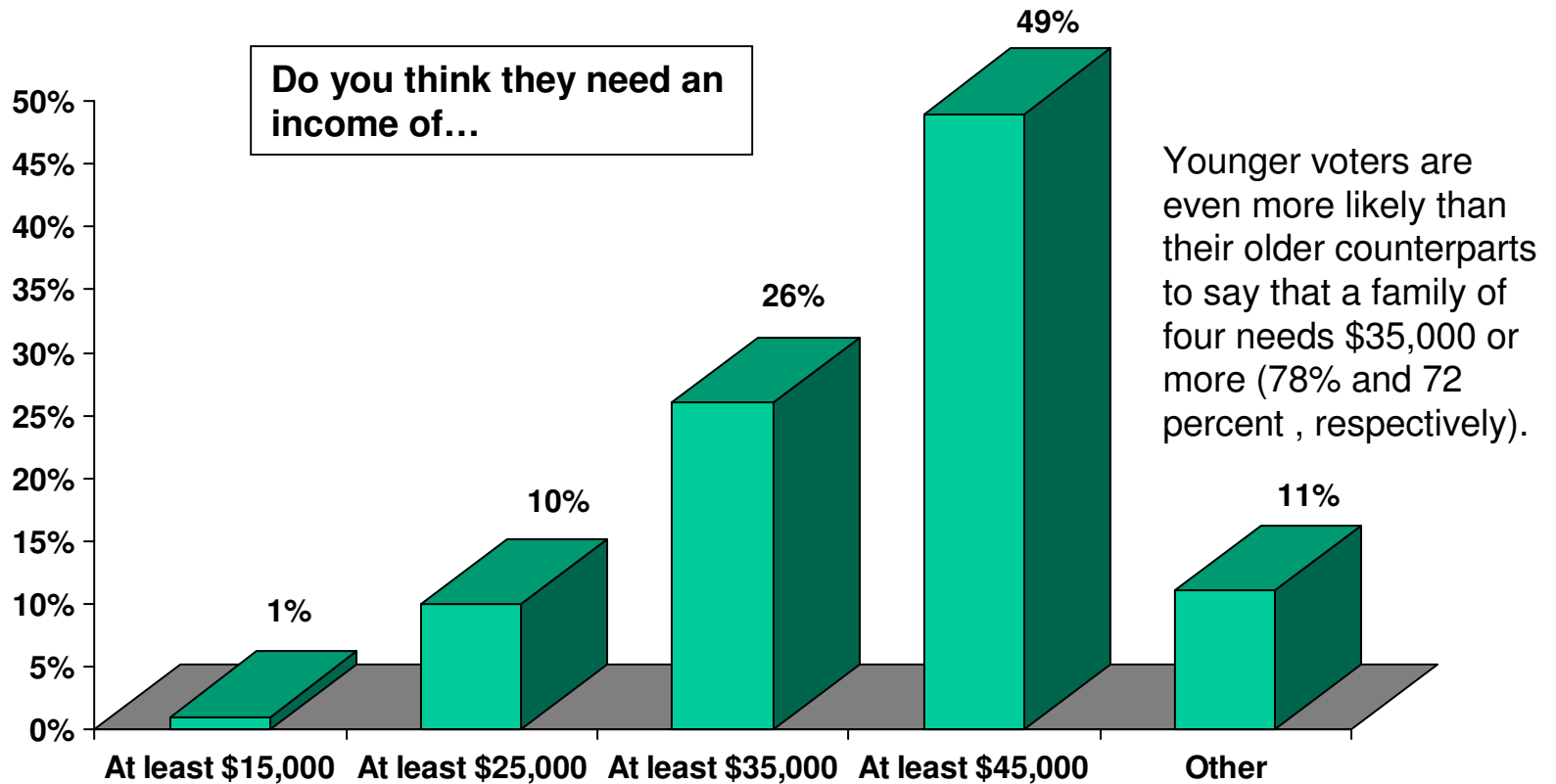
Should the government do MORE to help working families, or should the government NOT do more?



\*Men are also supportive of government doing more (74 percent more, 22 percent no for men; 73 percent more, 19 percent no for women)

Nearly three-quarters of voters say a family of four needs to earn \$35,000 or more a year to make ends meet. Forty-nine percent of voters say a family of four needs to earn at least \$45,000 a year to make ends meet and an additional 26 percent says it takes at least \$35,000.

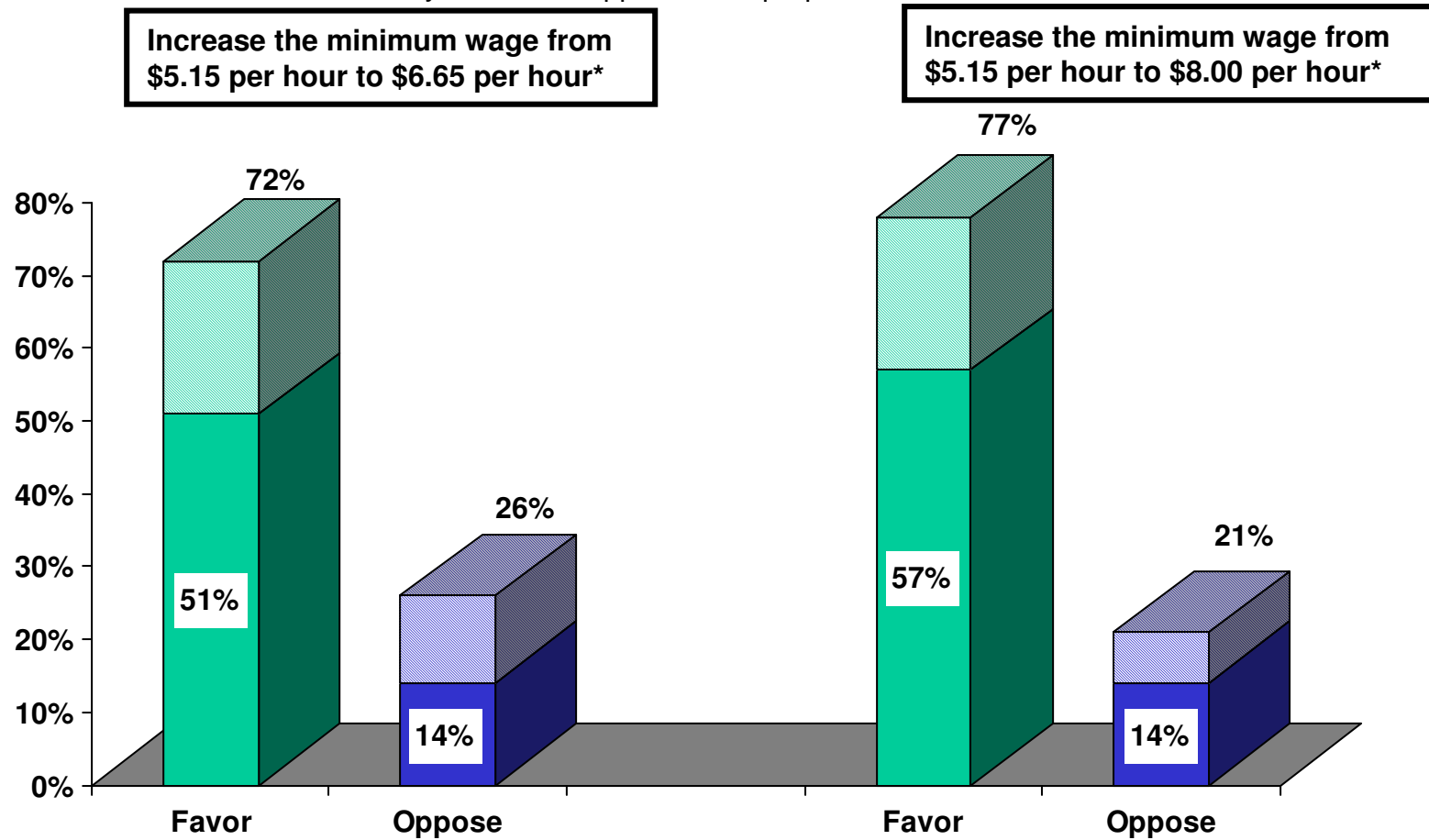
How much income would you say a family of four needs to earn in a year in order to make ends meet?



Additionally, a three-quarters of voters in all income levels agree that a family of four needs \$35,000 or more a year, though voters who make less than \$40,000 are slightly more likely to think they need less than those who make over \$40,000.

Voters are supportive of raising the minimum wage.  
Support is even stronger for raising it to \$8 a hour than  
for raising it to \$6.65 an hour.

Now let me read you some proposals that other people have said would help low-income working families. Please tell me if you favor or oppose each proposal.

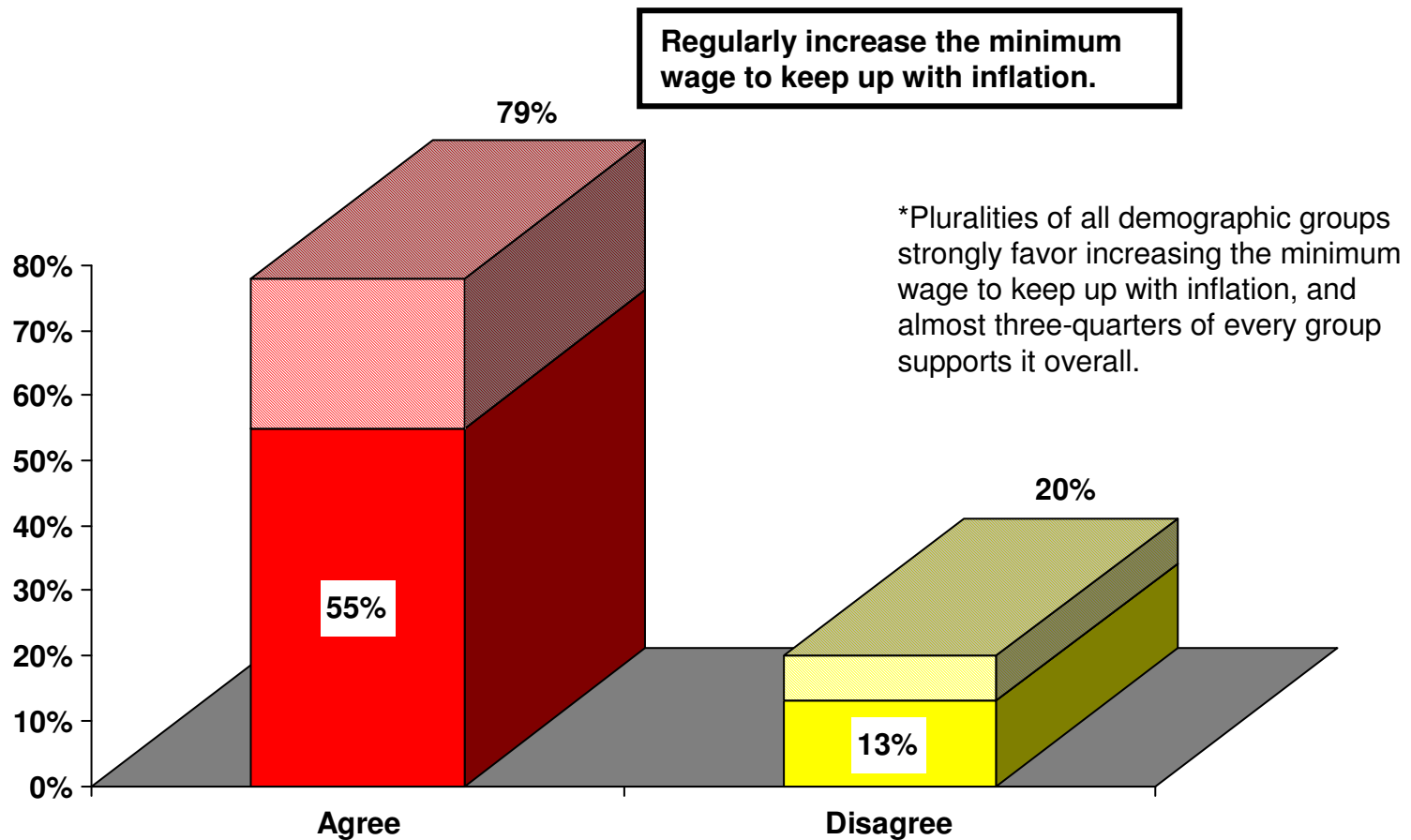


\*Split-sampled questions—each asked of half of respondents

Intensity of color reflects intensity of feeling

## Additionally, voters favor regularly increasing the minimum wage to keep up with inflation.

Now let me read you some proposals that other people have said would help low-income working families. Please tell me if you favor or oppose each proposal.



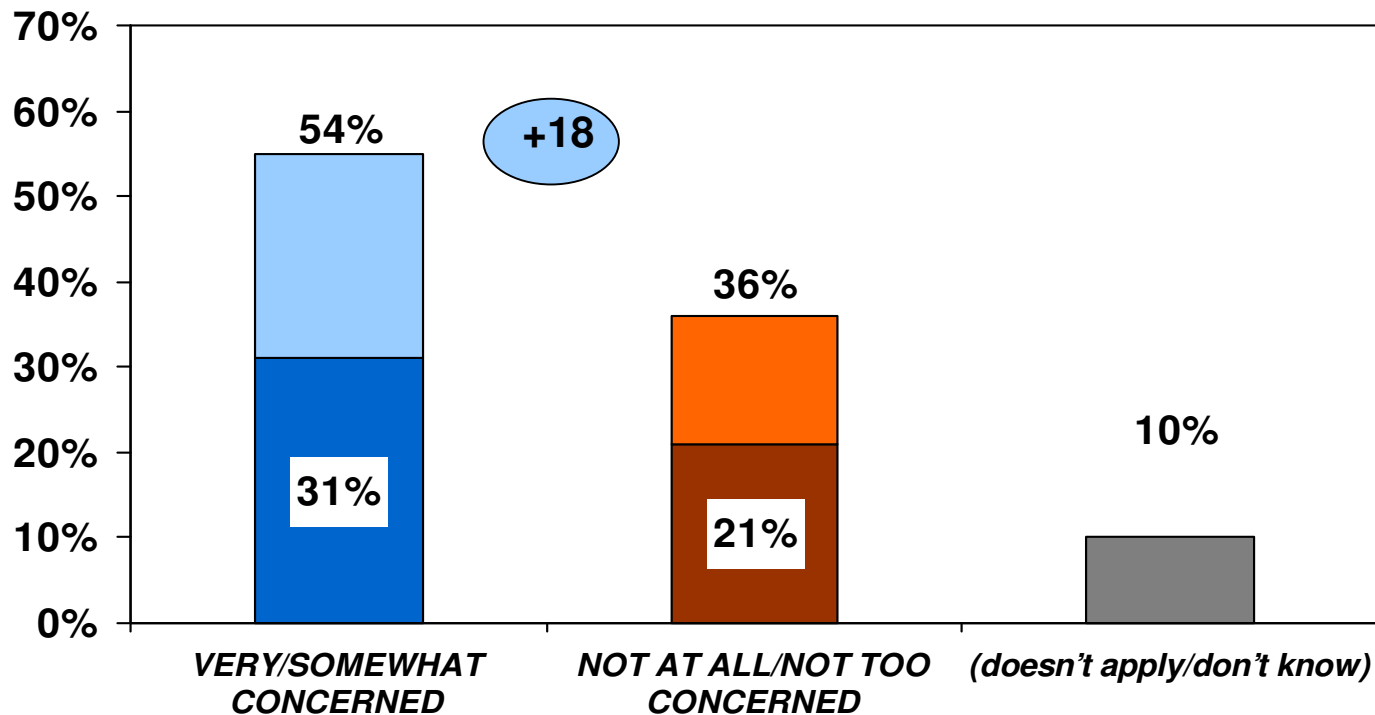
Intensity of color reflects intensity of feeling



# **Benefits for Family Caregivers**

## A majority of adults are concerned about having to care for an aging parent or relative. Nearly one in three say they are very concerned.

Now, as I read you some different things that might affect your personal future, please tell me how concerned you are about each one happening to you. (First) How concerned are you about . . .? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned or not at all concerned? -- Having to care for an aging parent or relative.

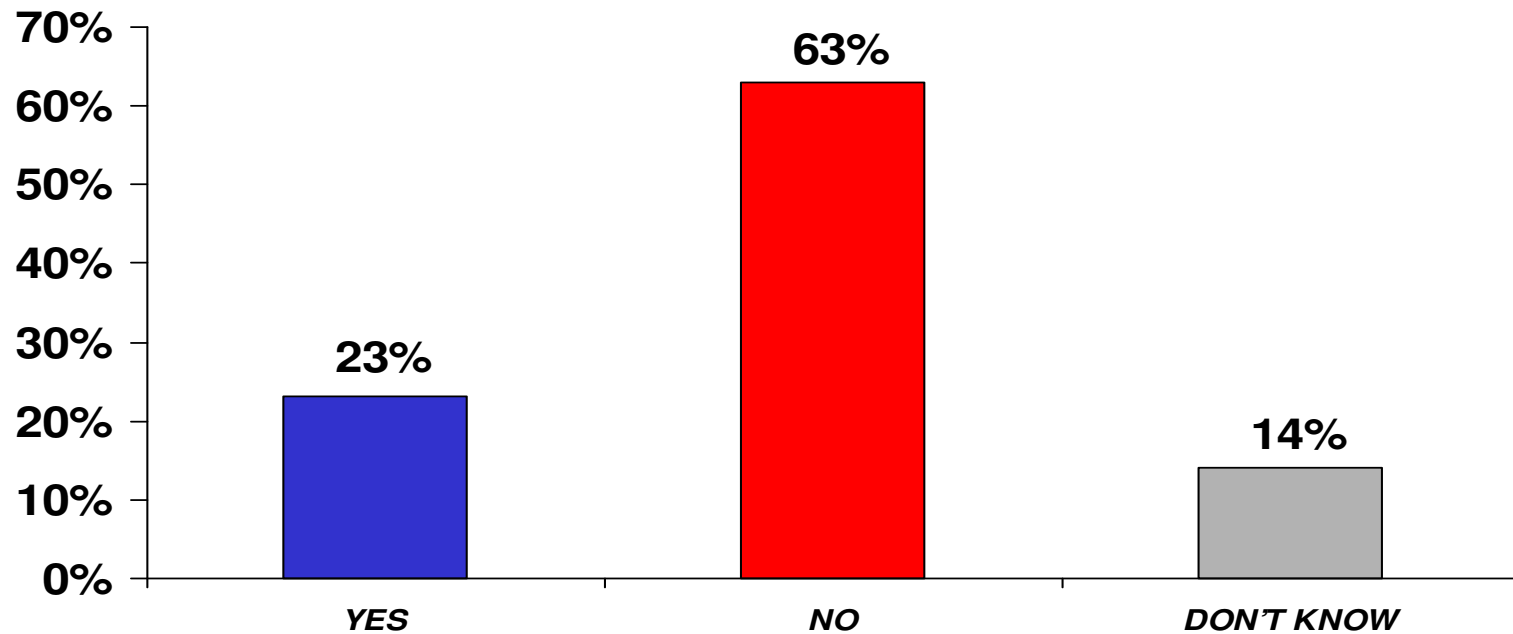


*Ages 18-34 and 35-54 showed identical levels of concern (35% very concerned, 62% very/somewhat concerned.) Ages 55 + are 21% very concerned and 34% very/somewhat concerned.*

**DARKER SHADES =  
GREATER INTENSITY**

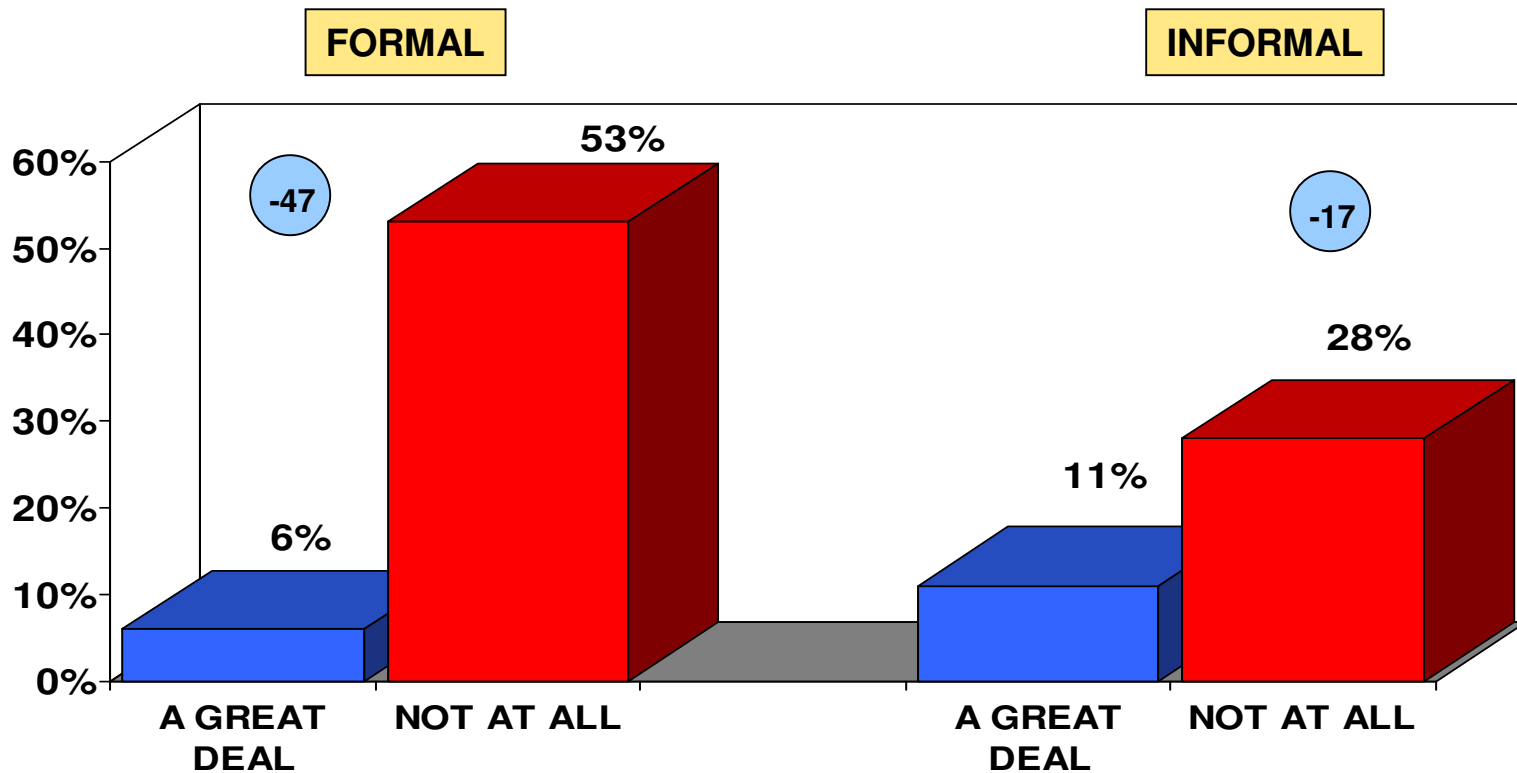
## Nearly a quarter of caregivers say their careers have been adversely affected by their caregiving activities.

Has your career been adversely impacted by your caregiving?



**More than half of caregivers say “not at all” when asked if their workplace has any formal recognition of eldercare issues. Twenty eight percent say that their workplace has no informal recognition of eldercare issues.**

*On a scale of 1 to 7, with 1 being “not at all” and 7 indicating “a great deal” to what extent is there active acknowledgement of elder care issues in your work place: Formally (through work life benefits and programs,) Informally (for example, management looks the other way while you take advantage of existing programs like flex time, flex place, which you are using to help cope with elder care issues.)*



Source: Genesis Eldercare – National Association for Female Executives 1999  
Elder Care Survey Summary, May and June 1999