



## *National Wildlife Federation*

### *National Survey of Hunters & Anglers*

***Bob Carpenter, President***

***Chesapeake Beach Consulting***

***August 2012***

# *Key Demographics*

## *Region of the Country*

*13% East*  
*33% Mid-West*  
*41% South*  
*13% West*

## *Partisanship*

*42% Republican*  
*18% Democrat*  
*32% Independent*

## *Conservationist*

*42% Strong Conservationist*  
*42% Conservationist*  
*83% TOTAL CONSERVATIONIST*  
*14% No*

## *Gender*

*63% Male*  
*37% Female*

## *Ideology*

*10% Liberal*  
*37% Moderate*  
*50% Conservative*

## *Place of Residence*

*6% Urban*  
*19% Suburb*  
*10% Medium sized*  
*22% Small town*  
*41% Rural area*

## *Age*

*2% 18-29*  
*10% 30-44*  
*23% 45-54*  
*27% 55-64*  
*36% 65+*

## *Type of Sportsperson*

*33% Angler*  
*12% Hunter*  
*55% Both*

## *Ethnicity*

*90% White*  
*1% African American*  
*1% Hispanic*  
*\* Asian*  
*4% Other/Something else*

## *NRA Membership*

*25% Yes*  
*73% No*

## *Observations & Key Findings*

- 1. Hunters and anglers tend to be conservative, Republican and Independent and they vote.*
- 2. Anglers and hunters believe their access to quality places to fish and hunt has stayed the same over the past year.*
- 3. Gun rights are important to these anglers and hunters, but conservation is viewed as equally important.*
- 4. Hunters and anglers believe children not spending enough time outdoors is a problem.*
  - This lack of outdoor time is viewed as a threat to the future of wildlife conservation in this country.*
- 5. The sporting public strongly favors restoring clean water protections to waterways in this country.*
  - This includes strong support for restoring Clean Water Act protections to wetlands and waterways.*
- 6. BP should be held responsible for Gulf oil disaster clean-up.*
  - And, fines levied should be used for fish and wildlife habitat restoration and not infrastructure such as roads, bridges, ports and convention centers.*

## *Observations & Key Findings*

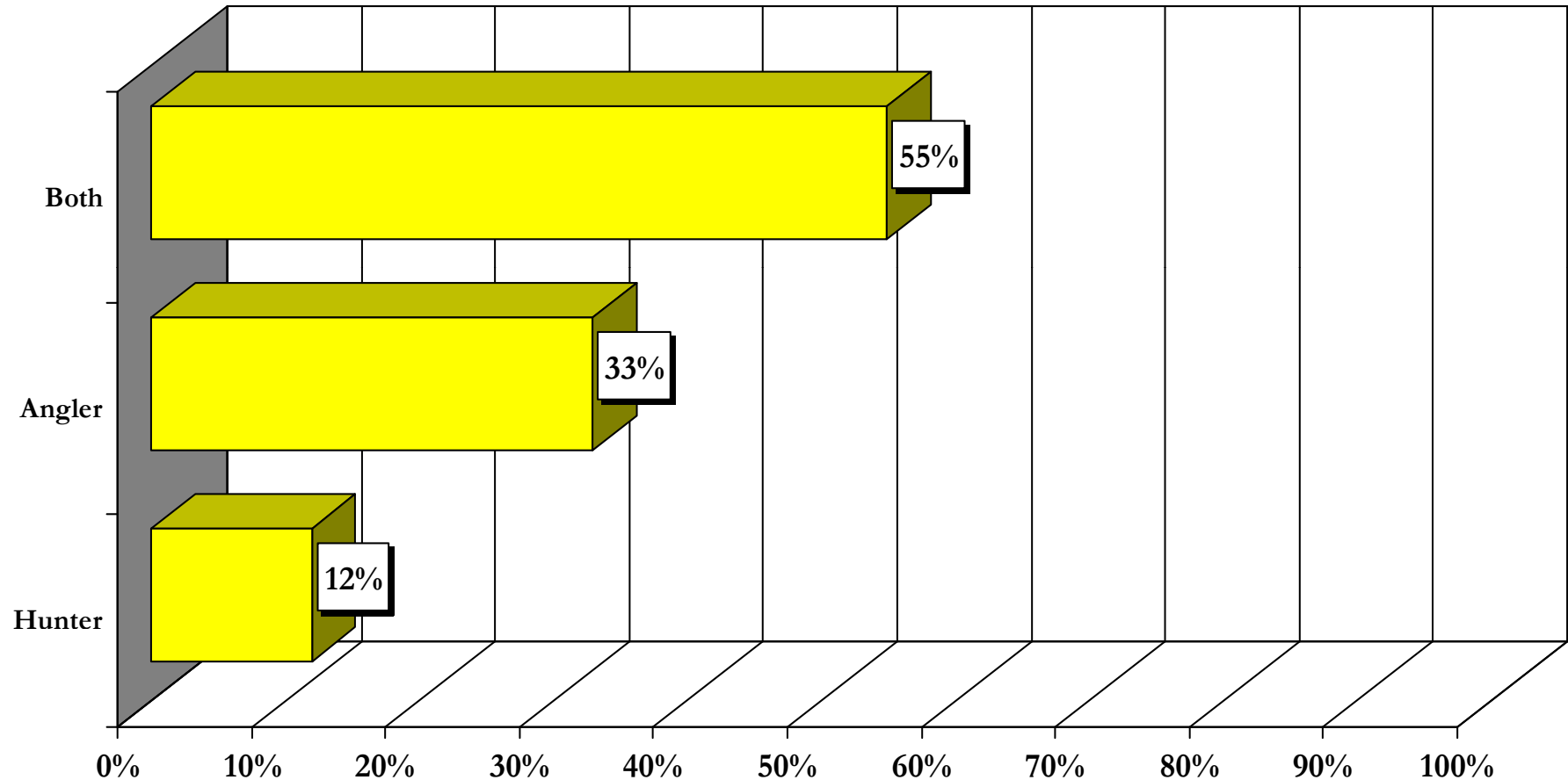
7. *Public lands should be opened for access to hunters and anglers and consideration should be given to their needs prior to issuing oil and gas leases on public lands.*
8. *Anglers and hunters want the 1872 Mining Act updated with royalties used to clean-up abandoned mines.*
9. *Hunters and anglers believe that global warming is occurring.*
  - *Having a moral responsibility to confront global warming to protect our children's future tests well.*
  - *Global warming is a serious threat to fish and wildlife and the U.S. should reduce emissions of greenhouse gases that threaten fish and wildlife habitat.*
  - *Strong agreement is shown to both improving the environment and strengthening the economy by investing in renewable resources.*
  - *The recent hot temperatures are a result of global warming.*

# *Political Environment*

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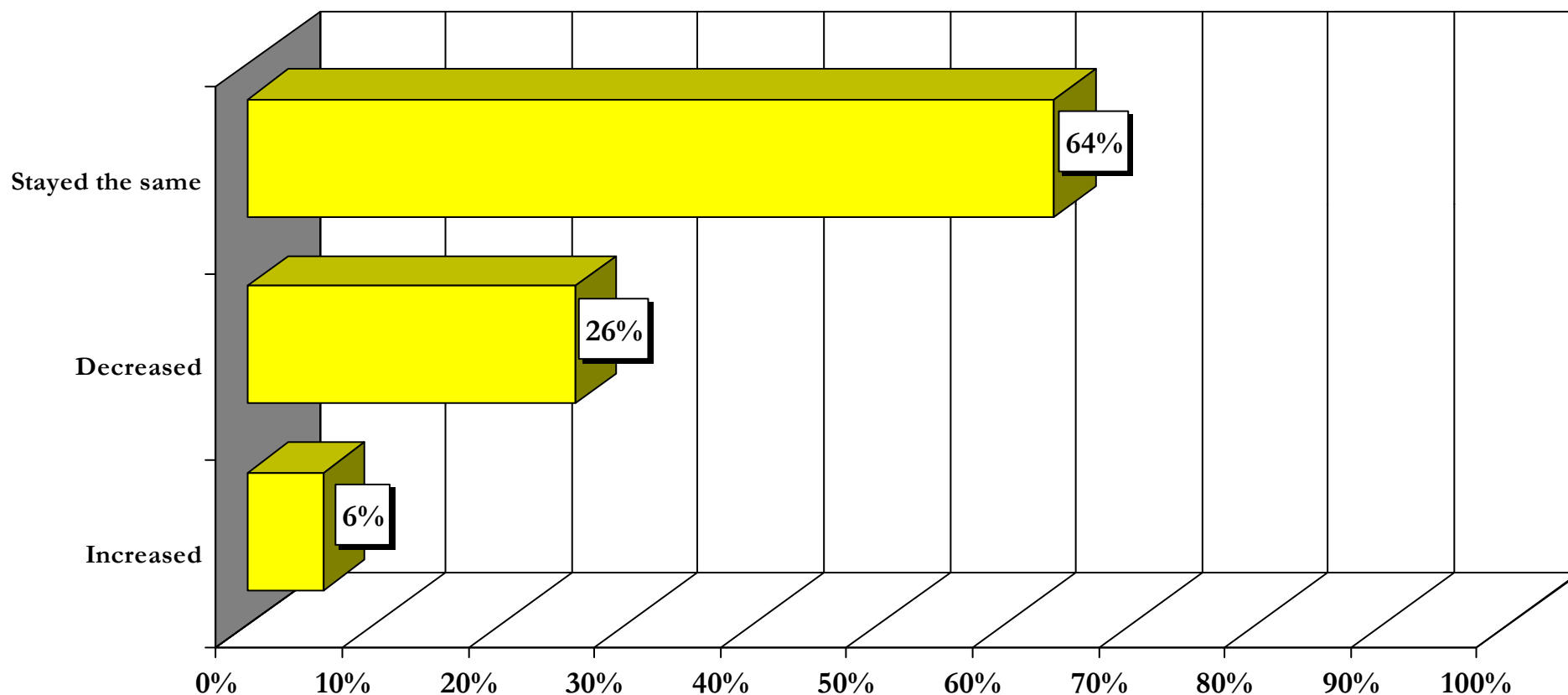
*A majority of these respondents consider themselves both hunters and anglers. 57% of those in the East consider themselves both compared to 56% in the South, 56% in the West and 55% in the Midwest. No clear differences among hunters exist by region, nor are there regional differences among anglers. However, gender differences exist with 42% of women saying they are both, while 61% of men are both and 45% of women are just anglers while 25% of men are just anglers. There are no gender differences between those who are just hunters. No clear age differences exist among those who are both hunters and anglers. Nor are there clear age differences among hunters. 38% of those 55 to 64 are just anglers compared to 60% among seniors. Partisan differences exist with 61% of Independents indicating they are both, compared to 41% of Democrats and 55% of Republicans. And, 46% of Democrats are just anglers while 33% of Republicans are just anglers. No partisan difference exists among hunters.*

**Do you consider yourself an angler, a hunter or both?**



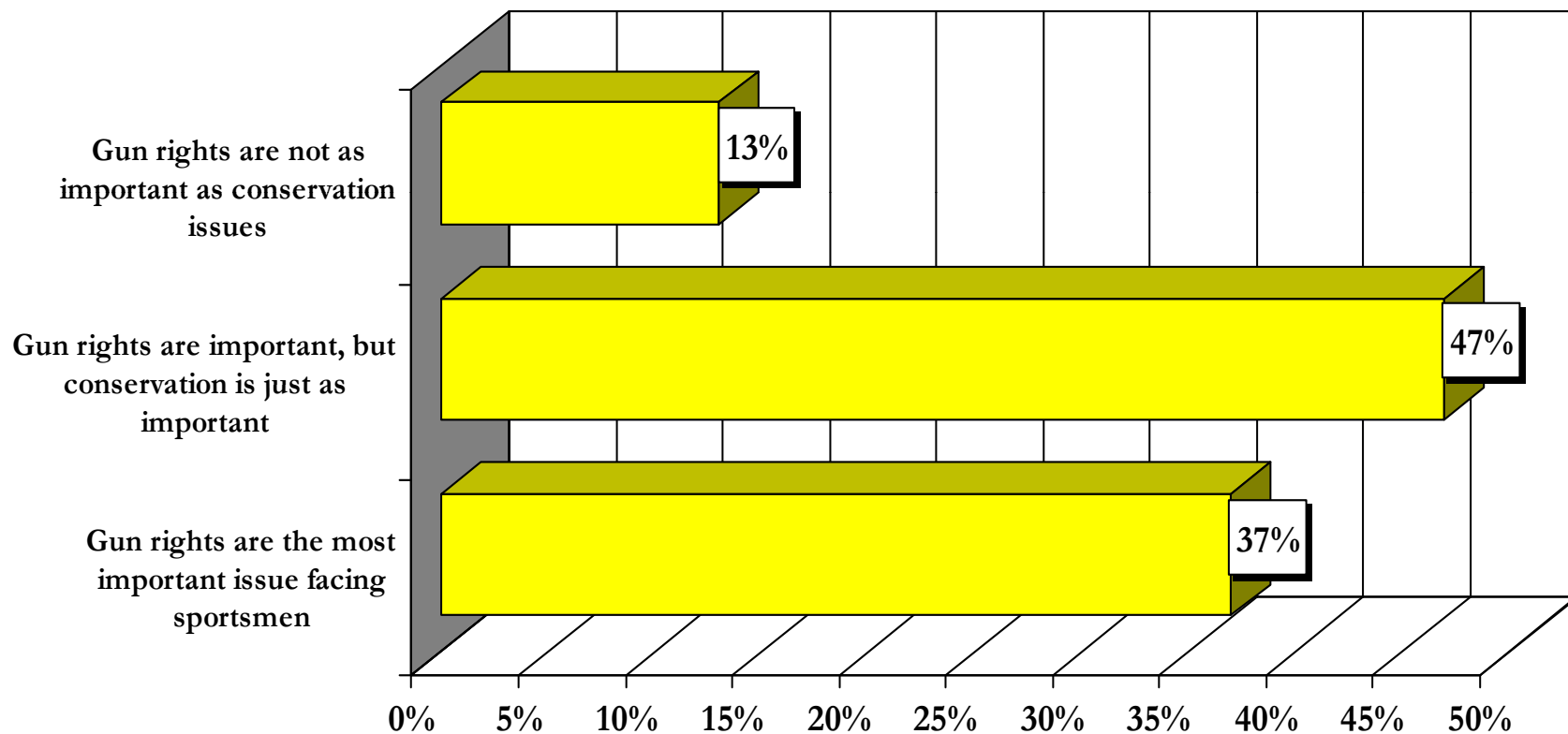
*Two-thirds of these hunters and anglers indicate their access to quality places has stayed the same over the past year. However, 26% believe their access has decreased compared to just 6% who believe it has increased. Majorities in every region believe it has stayed the same as do majorities of men and women and all age groups. 38% of those in the West believe their access has decreased as do 33% in the East. 26% of men and 26% of women believe their access has decreased. 30% of seniors also believe their access has decreased. 29% of those that both hunt and fish believe their access has decreased as do 28% of hunters. 28% of Independents believe they have seen a decrease as do 26% of Republicans. Just 17% of Democrats believe their access has decreased.*

***In the past year...would you say that your ability to access quality places to fish or hunt has increased, decreased or stayed the same?***



*A near majority believe that gun rights are important, but conservation is just as important. 57% of women hold this point of view as do 41% of men. 44% of men believe that gun rights are the most important issue facing sportsmen. 56% of young hunters and anglers and 54% of those 55 to 64 believe that conservation is as important as gun rights as do 51% of those 30 to 44. Those 45 to 54 and seniors split between gun rights are the most important and conservation is just as important. 50% of Republicans believe that gun rights are the most important issue while 56% of Democrats believe gun rights and conservation are equally important. 59% of NRA members believe gun rights are most important while 51% of non-NRA members believe that both are important.*

***As a sportsman/sportswoman, which of the following statements BEST describes your feelings about gun rights?***



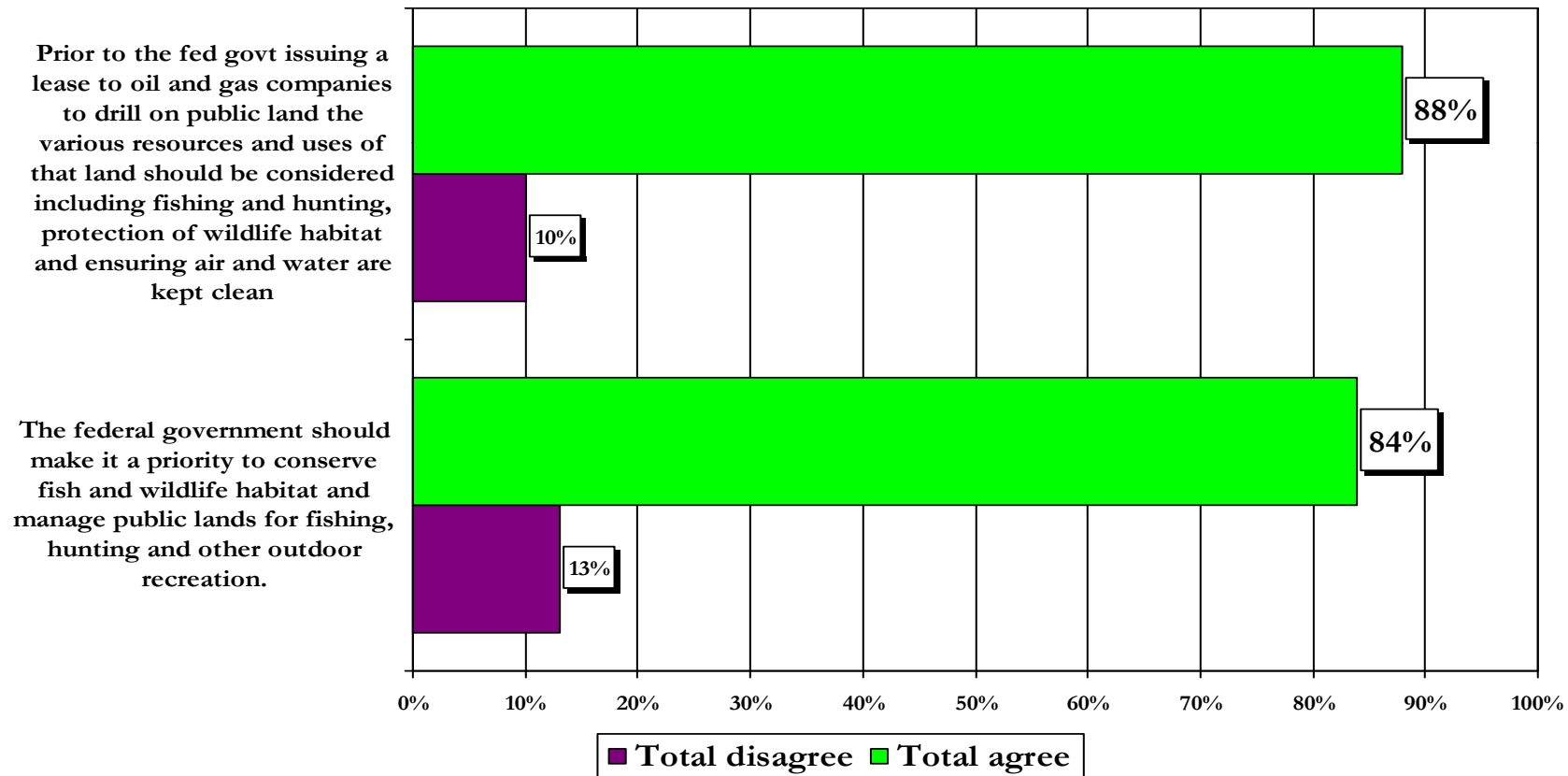


# *Public Lands*

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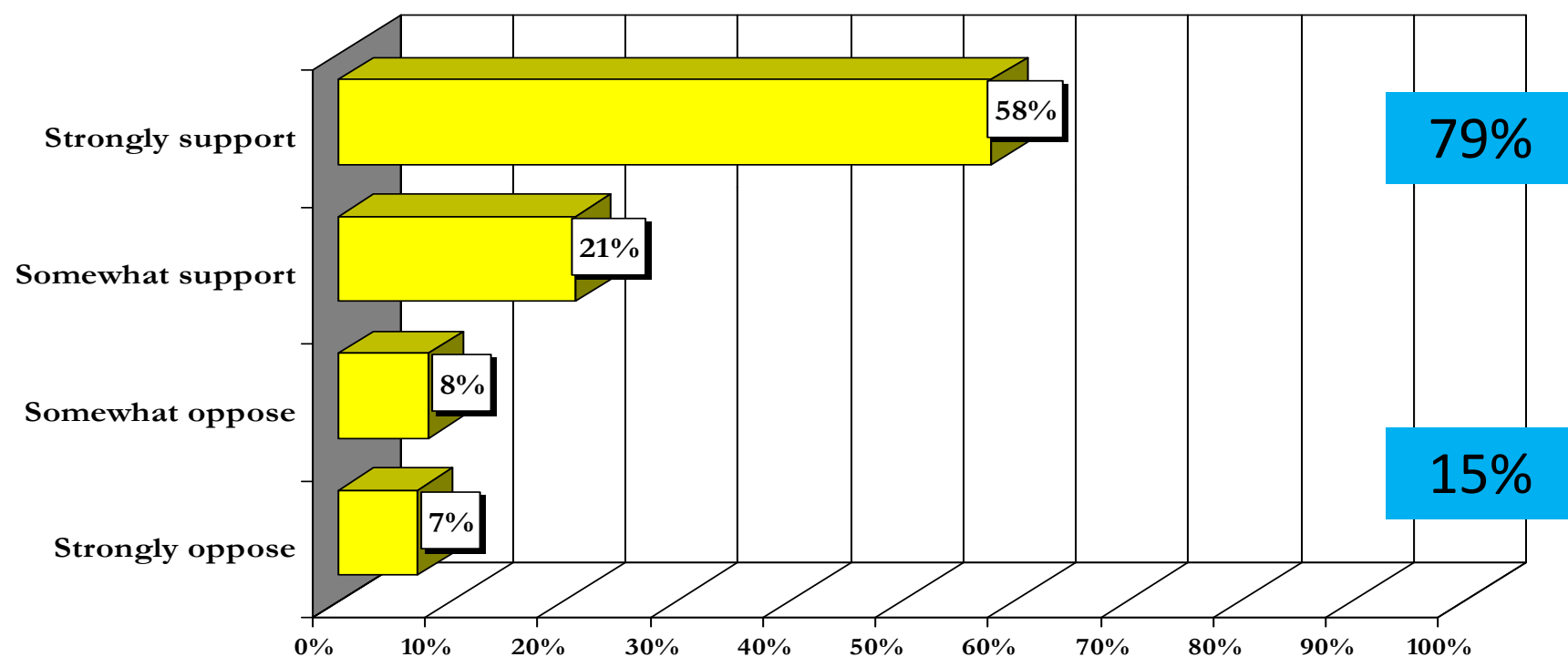
*Hunters and anglers overwhelmingly want the government to consider resource use before issuing oil and gas leases and they want the government to make it a priority to conserve fish and wildlife habitat. These feelings extend across all regions, among both men and women and among all age groups. Hunters and anglers hold equally strong opinions and all partisans agree with these statements.*

**America's public lands, including national forests, parks, refuges and lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management provide important opportunities for fishing, hunting and other outdoor recreation activities. Outdoor recreation, including fishing and hunting, contributes \$730 billion annually to the U.S. economy. Would you agree or disagree with the following questions?**



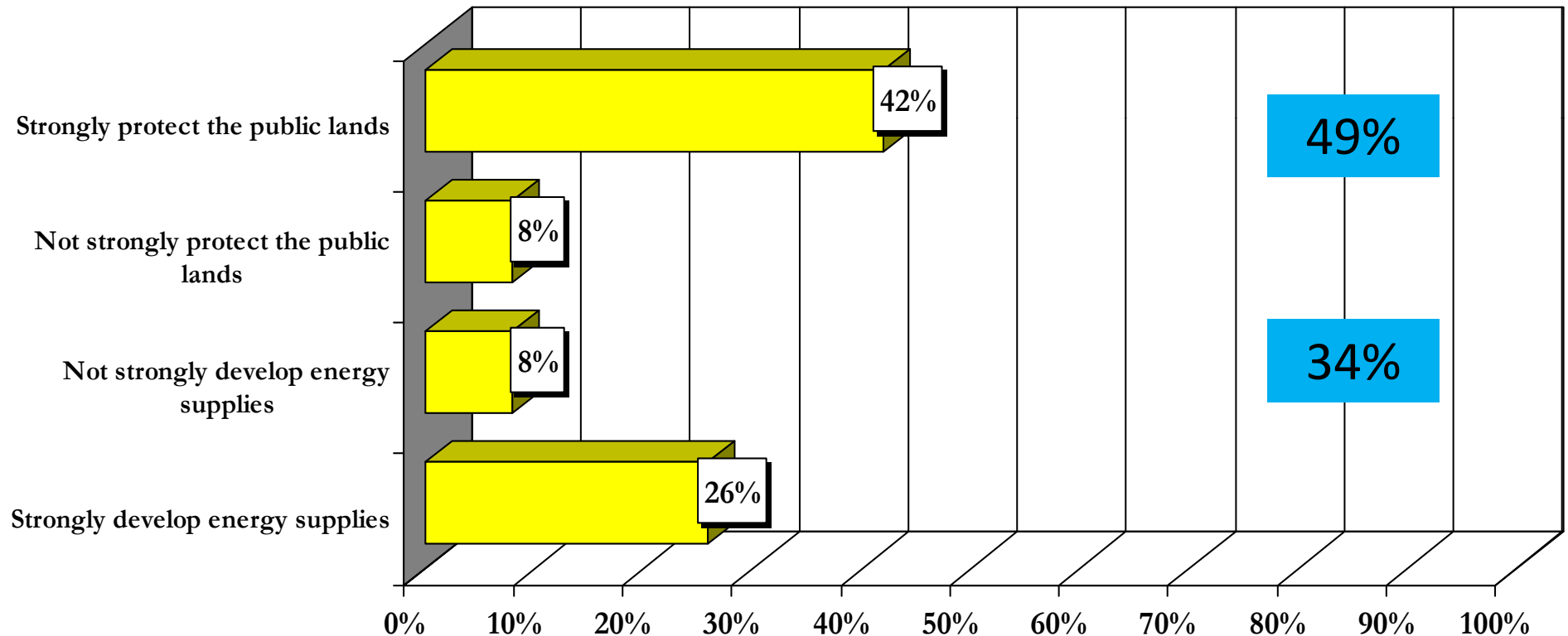
*Hunters and anglers overwhelmingly support allowing hunters and anglers access to public lands that to date have been inaccessible. These feelings extend across all regions, among both men and women and among all age groups. 82% of those that both hunt and fish support this as do 77% of hunters and 76% of anglers. 83% of Republicans support opening up access as do 79% of Independents and 71% of Democrats.*

**Would you support or oppose allowing hunters and anglers access to public lands that to date have been inaccessible?**



*When hunters and anglers are asked about protecting public lands vs. developing U.S. energy supplies. They pick protecting public lands by a 15% margin. In the East 63% pick public lands over developing energy supplies as do 50% in the Midwest. 60% of women pick public lands while 43% of men hold that view. As age increases, the percentage who pick public lands decreases. 59% of anglers pick public lands while just 40% of hunters hold that view. 75% of Democrats pick public lands while Republicans are split.*

***I would now like to read to you two statements that others have made and have you tell me which statement comes closest to your own personal point of view. Protection of our public lands should be given priority, even at the risk of limiting the amount of energy supplies such as oil, gas and coal that the United States produces. Development of U.S. energy supplies such as oil, gas and coal should be given priority, even if our public lands suffer.***

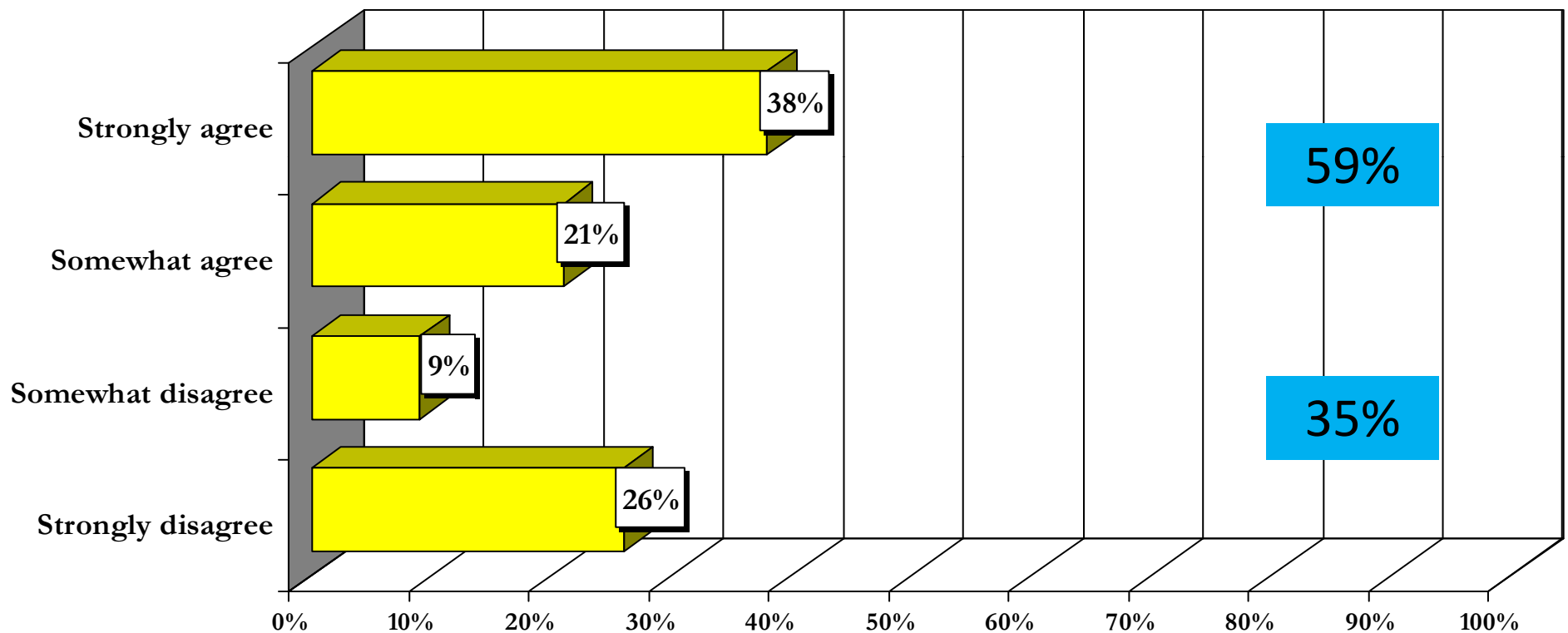


# *Global Warming*

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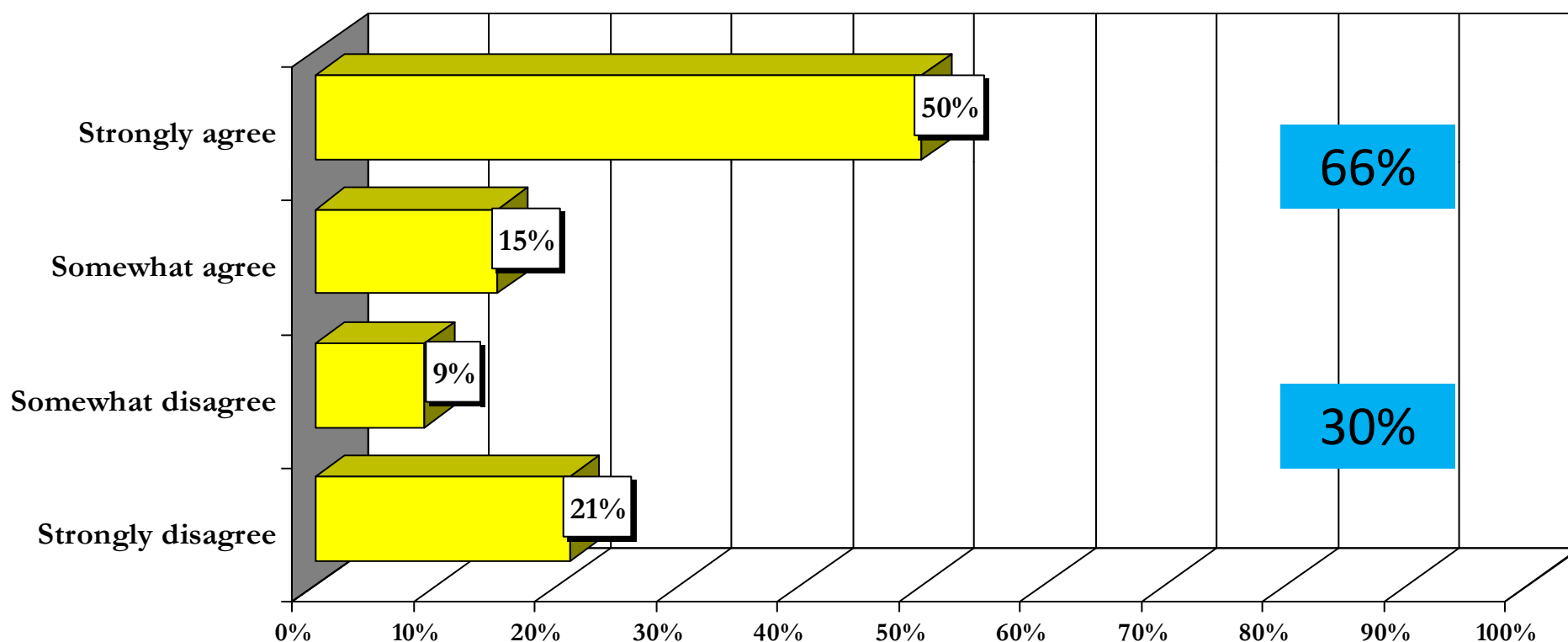
*A majority of hunters and anglers believe that global warming is occurring. Majorities in every region hold this view as do 66% of women and 55% of men. Majorities of all age groups believe that global warming is occurring. 64% of anglers and 55% of hunters hold this view as do 86% of Democrats and 61% of Independents. 49% of Republicans disagree that global warming is occurring (45% occurring).*

**Global warming has been defined as the rise in temperature of the Earth's atmosphere. Would you agree or disagree that global warming is currently occurring?**



*Two-thirds of these hunters and anglers believe we have a moral responsibility to protect our children's future by confronting global warming. This strong feeling extends across the country, among both men and women and among all age groups. 70% of anglers and 65% of hunters believe we have a responsibility. 87% of those that believe global warming is occurring believe we have a moral responsibility while 63% of those that don't think global warming is occurring disagree. 90% of Democrats, 66% of Independents and 53% of Republicans believe we have a moral responsibility.*

**Would you agree or disagree with the following statement? We have a moral responsibility to confront global warming to protect our children's future.**



*Majority support exists for each statement tested. 72% agree we can improve the environment and strengthen the economy by investing in renewable energy technologies. Majorities across all regions, gender and age agree with each of these four statements as do both hunters and anglers. 53% of Republicans disagree that global warming is a serious threat, though a strong majority (67%) agree that we can improve the environment and strengthen the economy. Republicans are split on oil companies. Republicans agree we should reduce emissions. Democrats overwhelming agree with each statement.*

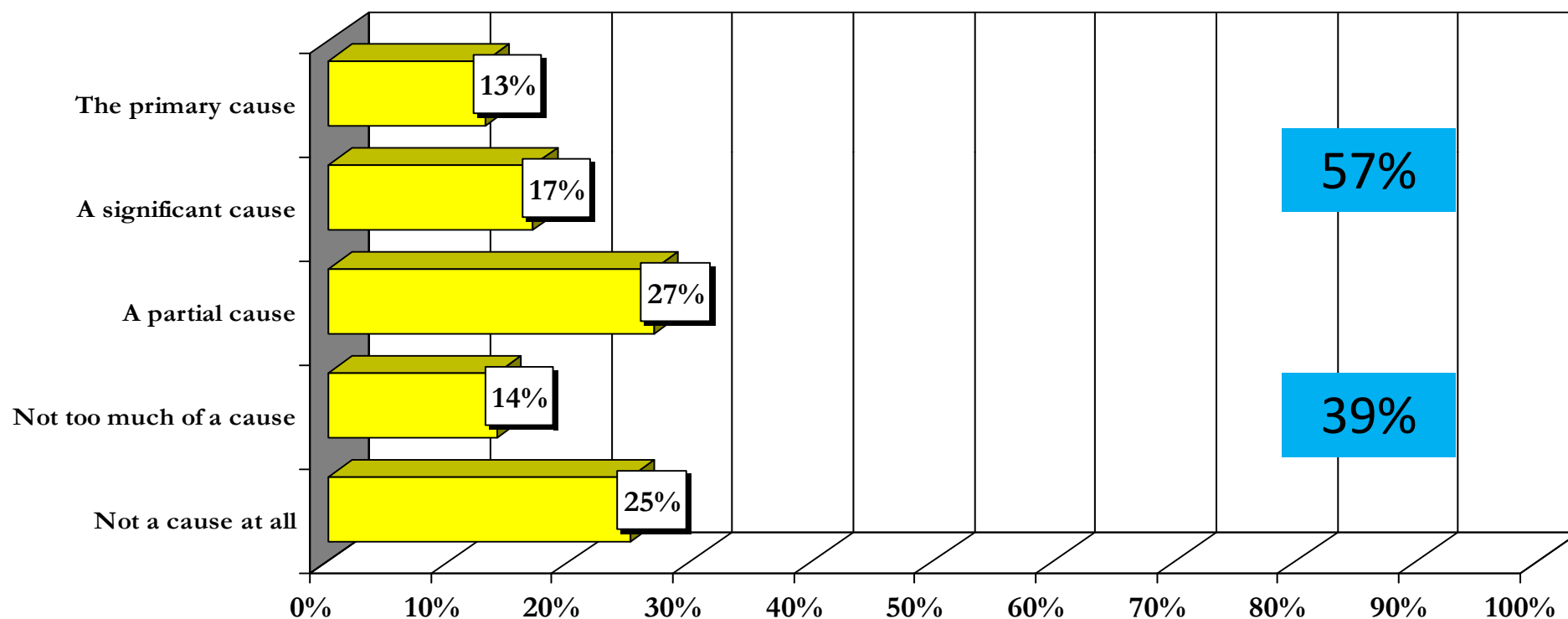
***I would now like to read to you a series of statements and have you tell me if you agree or disagree with each one. The first one is...***

	Agree-Disagree
Global warming is a serious threat to fish and wildlife.	58%-37%
We can improve the environment and strengthen the economy by investing in renewable energy technologies that create jobs while reducing global warming pollution.	72%-23%
Oil company profits and the oil industry's influence in Washington are several of the major reasons little is being done to address the issue of global warming.	61%-32%
The U.S. should reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide that contribute to global warming and threaten fish and wildlife habitat.	69%-27%



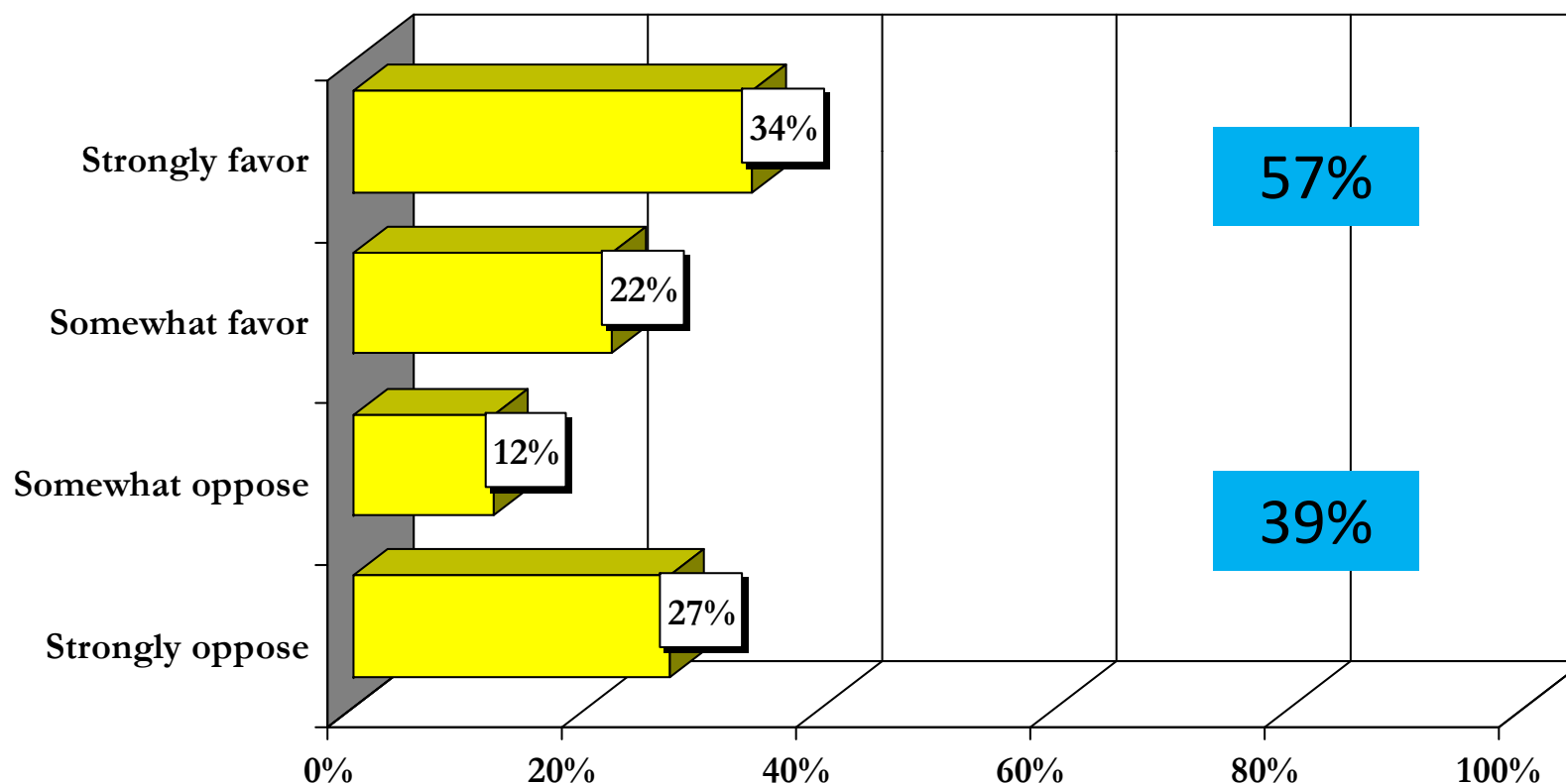
*57% of these hunters and anglers believe that global warming was a cause of the high temperatures we have experienced lately. 60% of those in the East and Midwest believe global warming was the cause as do 55% of those in the South and 54% of those in the West. 69% of women believe it was the cause compared to 50% of men. Majorities of all ages believe global warming was the cause. 62% of anglers and 57% of hunters believe it was the cause as do 54% of those that are both hunters and anglers. 81% of those that believe global warming is occurring believe it was the cause of the high temperatures while 81% of those that don't believe it is occurring don't think it was a cause. 83% of Democrats believe that global warming was the cause while 52% of Republicans don't believe it was the cause.*

**Thinking about the hot temperatures we have been experiencing over the past several years, including the hottest July on record...would you say that global warming was the primary cause of these hot temperatures, a significant cause, partially a cause, not too much of a cause or not a cause at all?**



*57% want the President to enforce the authority granted to the EPA to limit carbon dioxide and other air pollutants. Strong majorities in the East and the Midwest want the President to enforce this authority, while hunters and anglers in the South and West are divided. 65% of women want enforcement while men are split. Favorability of enforcement declines with age. 64% of anglers, 56% of hunters and 52% of those that do both want enforcement. 79% of Democrats want enforcement while Republicans are split.*

**Do you favor or oppose the President and the Environmental Protection Agency enforcing this authority to limit carbon dioxide and other air pollutants that cause dangers to the health of the public and wildlife?**

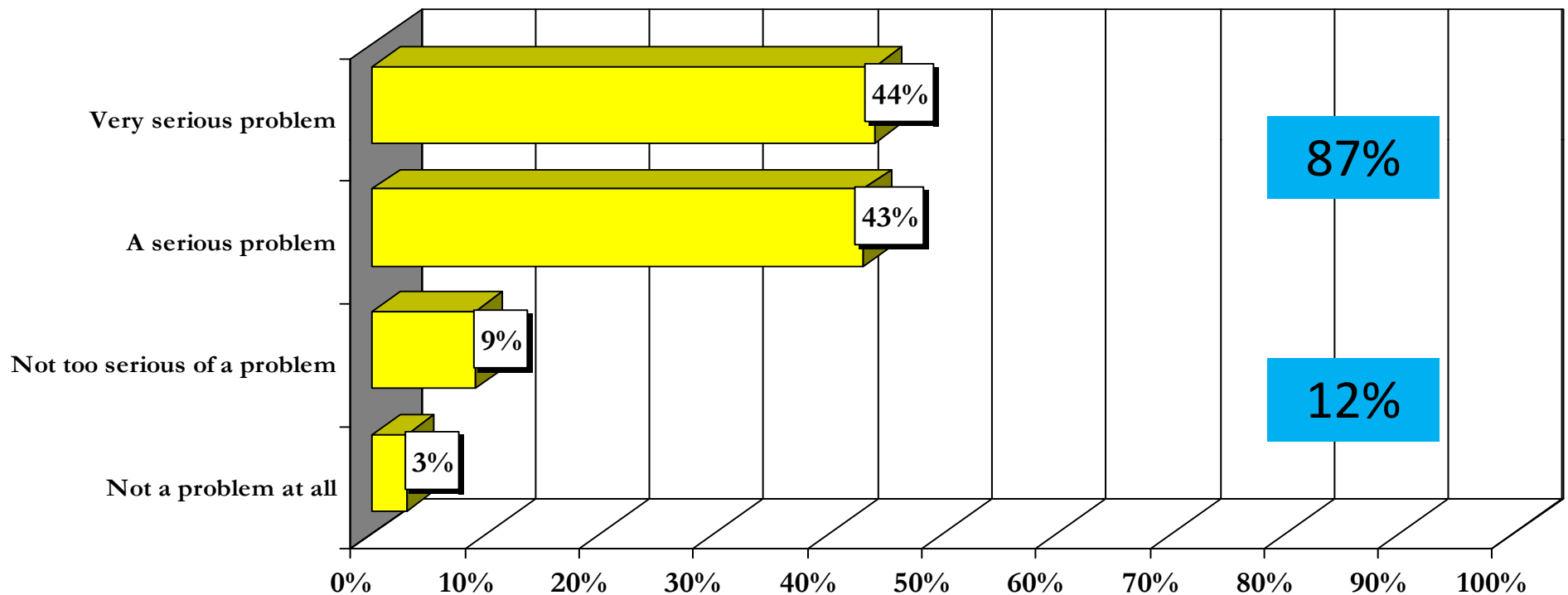


# *Children & Conservation*

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*An overwhelming 87% believe that children not spending time outdoors is a very serious or serious problem, including 44% who view this as a very serious problem. This strong feeling extends across all voter groups. 92% of those in the East and 90% of those in the West view this as a problem as do 91% of women and 85% of men. 89% of anglers, 85% of hunters and 86% of those that do both view this as a problem. 91% of Democrats, 88% of Republicans and 83% of Independents view this as a problem.*

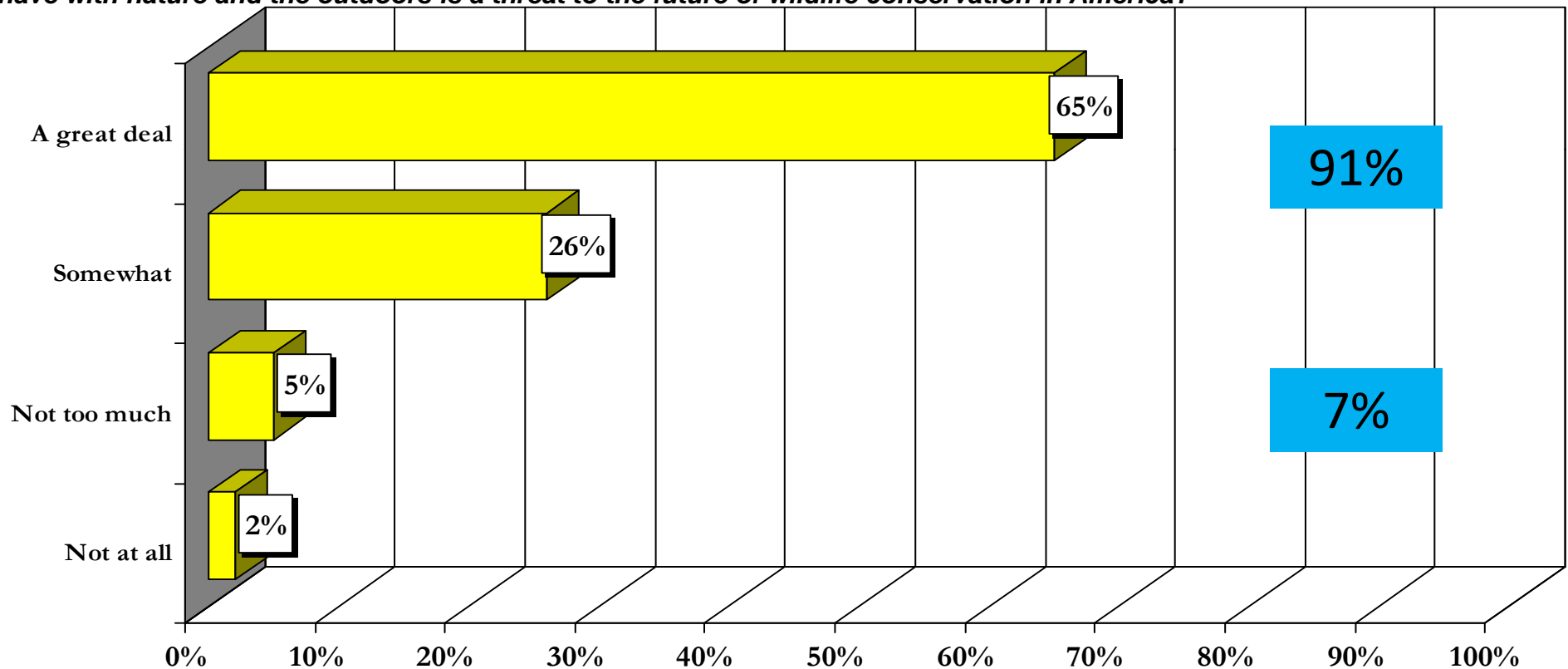
**Thinking about our children, would you say children not spending enough time outdoors and away from television, computers and video games is a very serious problem a serious problem, not too serious of a problem or not a problem at all?**



*And, 91% of these hunters and anglers are concerned a great deal (65%) or somewhat (26%) that this lack of outdoor time is a threat to the future of wildlife conservation in America. This concern extends across the country, among men and women and among all age groups. 69% of those that both hunt and fish are concerned a great deal as are 61% of those that fish and 60% of those that hunt. 68% of Republicans, 64% of Democrats and 60% of Independents are concerned a great deal.*

**Today's children spend less time outdoors than any generation in human history. The average child spends approximately 7.5 hours per day watching television, on the computer or playing video games. Today's children are less likely to hunt or fish than previous generations. Knowing this...**

**Would you say it concerns you a great deal, somewhat, not too much or not at all that this lack of connection our children have with nature and the outdoors is a threat to the future of wildlife conservation in America?**

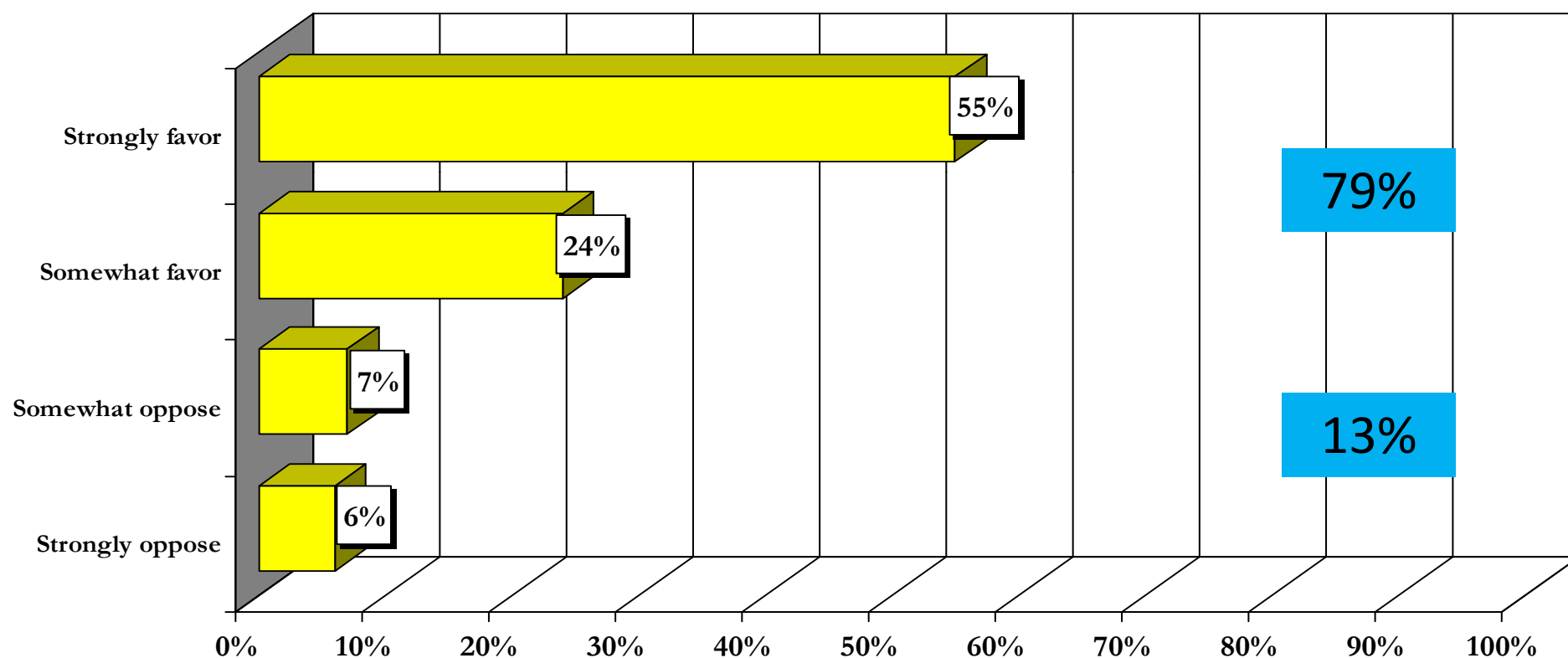


# *Clean Water*

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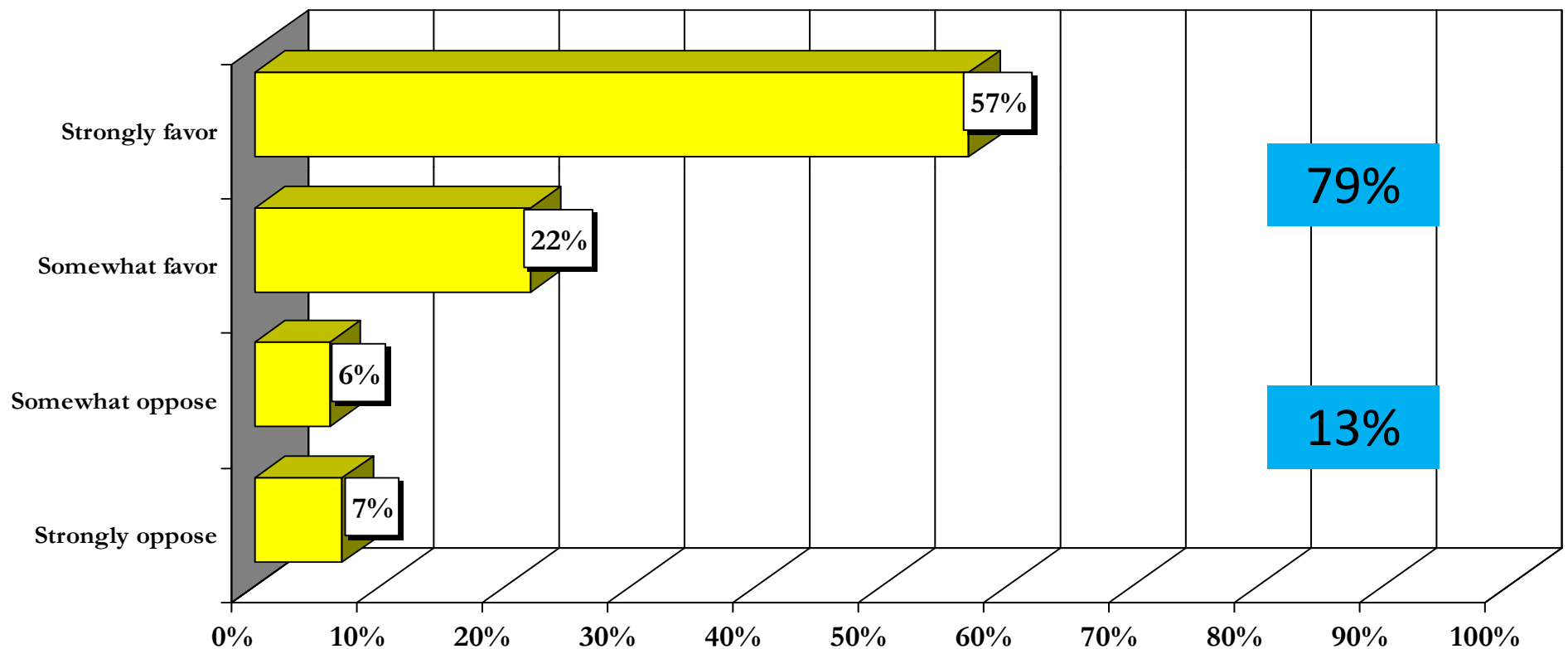
*79% of these hunters and anglers favor restoring clean water protections to our waterways, including 55% who strongly favor this action. Overwhelming majorities in every region of the country favor this as do men and women and majorities of every age group. 84% of anglers and 74% of hunters favor this action as do 92% of Democrats, 76% of Independents and 75% of Republicans.*

**Would you favor or oppose restoring clean water protections to many waterways across the country, including smaller creeks, streams and wetlands?**



*And, 79% of these hunters and anglers favor restoring Clean Water Act protections to our wetlands and waterways, including 57% who strongly favor this action. Overwhelming majorities in every region, men and women and all age groups favor restoring these protections. 83% of anglers favor restoring these protections as do 78% of hunters. 94% of Democrats, 78% of Independents and 73% of Republicans favor this action.*

**Would you favor or oppose restoring Clean Water Act protections to wetlands and waterways, including smaller creeks and streams, in order to protect our health and important fish and wildlife habitat?**



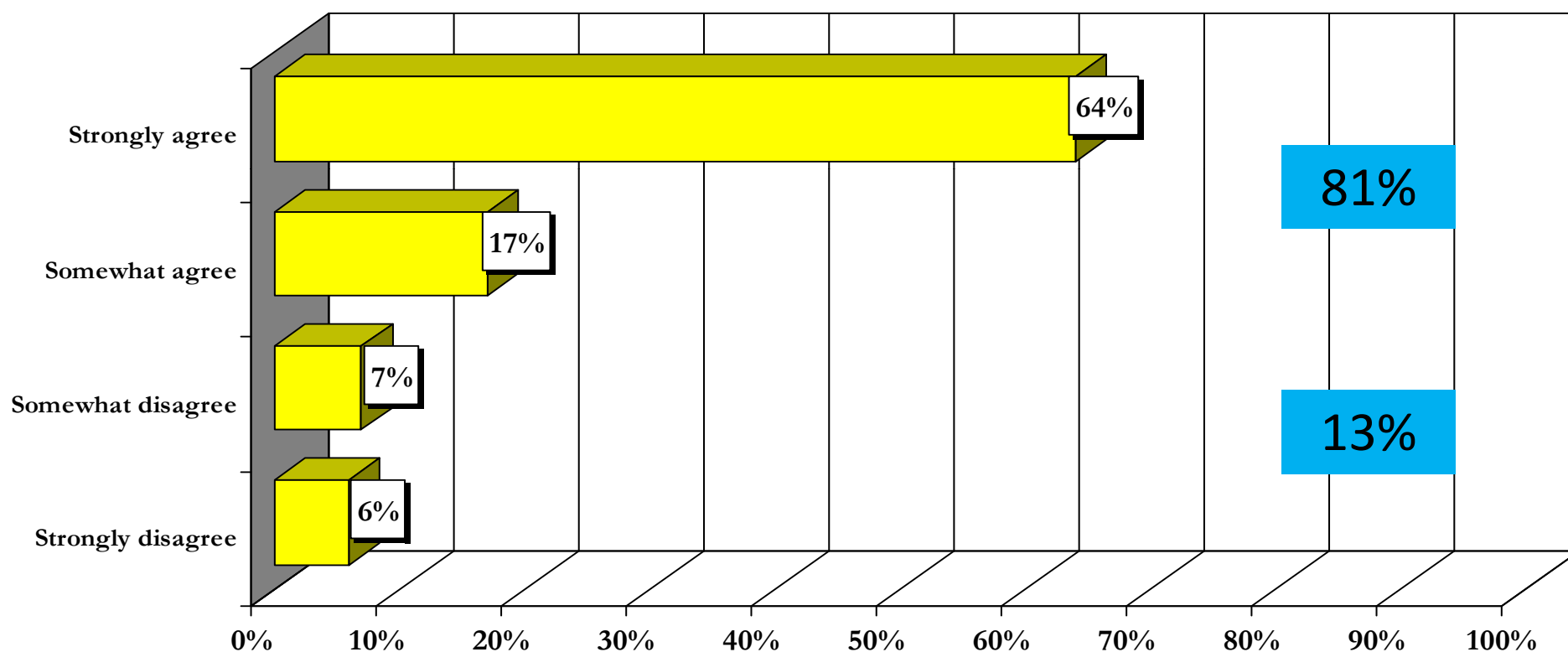


# *Gulf Clean-Up*

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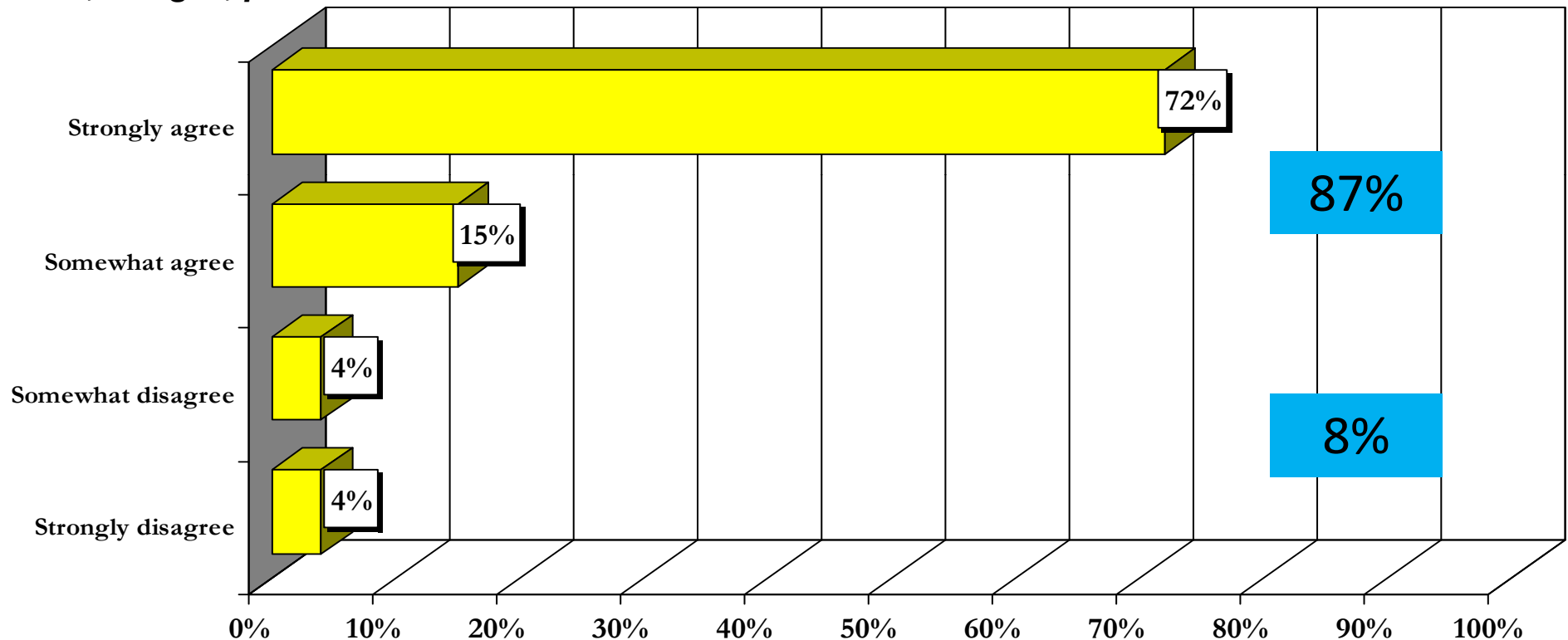
*These hunters and anglers feel very strongly about gulf clean-up with 81% agreeing that BP should be held accountable and fined for their 2010 oil spill. 64% strongly agree. All regions, men and women and all age groups believe that BP should be held accountable. 81% of those in the South believe BP should be held accountable, as do 81% in the East and 84% in the Midwest. 74% hold this opinion in the West. 86% of anglers and 85% of hunters agree BP should be held accountable. 97% of Democrats and 75% of Republicans and 78% Independents agree that BP should be held accountable.*

**Would you agree or disagree with the following statement? BP should be held accountable and fined the maximum amount allowed for the 2010 oil spill and required to pay to restore the Gulf to insure the recover of fish and wildlife populations?**



*And, 87% want the funds collected to be used exclusively to restore the fish and wildlife habitat and not spent on infrastructure. 72% strongly agree with this action. No regional differences exist and men and women hold equally strong opinions that the funds should be used to restore habitat, as do strong majorities of all age groups. 87% of anglers and 87% of hunters want the funds used to restore habitat as do 87% of Independents, 88% of Republicans and 81% of Democrats.*

**Would you agree or disagree with the following statement? Monies collected from fines assessed to BP for the 2010 oil spill should be used exclusively to restore the fish and wildlife habitat of the Gulf of Mexico and its fishing and hunting heritage and not for infrastructure projects such as roads, bridges, ports and convention centers.**

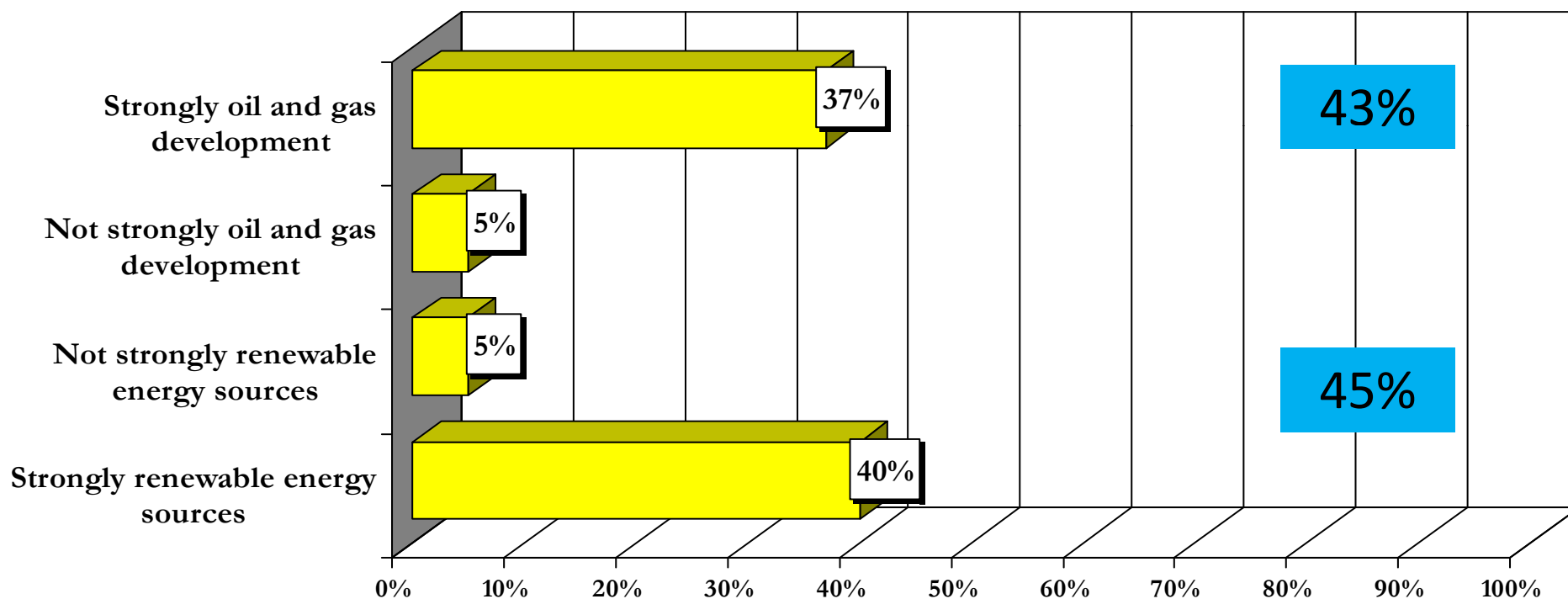


# *National Energy Policy*

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*Hunters and anglers are split on this question. In the Midwest 50% opt for renewable energy as do 47% in the East. 48% in the South opt for oil and gas development while hunters and anglers in the West are split. 52% of women favor renewable energy development while men by a 6% margin favor oil and gas development. Support for renewable energy development declines with age. 51% of anglers opt for renewable energy while hunters are split. By a 5% margin those that both hunt and fish favor oil and gas development. 56% of Republicans pick oil and gas development while 71% of Democrats pick renewable energy development.*

**Which of the following do you personally believe would do more to stimulate and help the United States economy and job creation...ROTATE additional development of oil and gas sources such as drilling off our coast and in our wildlife refuges, or additional development of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar?**



# *Mining*

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*Hunters and anglers strongly support updating the 1872 Mining Act to ensure public lands are protected and royalties are used to clean up abandoned mines. This strong support extends across all regions, genders and ages. 82% of hunters and 80% of anglers support this change as do 86% of Democrats, 85% of Independents and 78% of Republicans.*

**Under the terms of the 1872 Mining Act, mining on public lands in the United States takes precedence over all other uses. And, taxpayers receive no royalties for the minerals found on these public lands. Would you support or oppose updating the 1872 Mining Law to ensure public lands are protected and royalties generated are used to clean up abandoned mines?**

