



Discrimination in Canada

Black Canadian Perspectives



Release: July 8, 2020

Foreword

Through a partnership between the **African-Canadian Civic Engagement Council (ACCEC)** and **Innovative Research Group (INNOVATIVE)**, this research study was designed to explore perceptions of Black Canadians and the broader Canadian population regarding systemic racism, the Black Lives Matter movement, policing, and Canada's court systems.

We believe research contributes to society as an instrument for social change, through building knowledge, and facilitating learning opportunities. For Black Canadians, research offers us the ability to tell our stories using race-based data. Research enables us to hold government accountable by drawing conclusions from the data to influence Canadian policies in making informed decisions.

Civic engagement and informed decision making are the ACCEC's mandate. The purpose of this research is to:

1. help improve the quality of life for Black Canadians; and
2. increase awareness and understanding of the unique challenges the Black community faces daily.

ACCEC believes that data-driven decision-making should be at the heart of all policy that impacts quality of life for Black Canadians and the human rights of all people.

ACCEC is a national public affairs organization that promotes and strengthens opportunities for African, Caribbean, and Black communities. We achieve this by informing public policymaking, inspiring cultural change within and outside of our community, and promoting human rights and inclusion through research, education, awareness, and legal advocacy.

Dunia Nur

President

African-Canadian Civic Engagement Council

***Note:** Throughout this study, we use the term "Black Canadians". This refers to all people residing in Canada of African descent, encompassing those who identify their cultural or ethnic origins as African, Caribbean, and/or Black.*

Key Findings

01

Compared to the Canadian average, Black Canadians are nearly three times more likely to experience discrimination in their daily lives.

- A majority (53%) of Black Canadian say they experience discrimination in their daily lives, compared to 19% for the general Canadian population.

02

Black Canadians (55%) are much less likely than the national average (75%) to feel confident in the local police.

- Roughly 6-in-10 (59%) Black Canadians have confidence in Canada's courts, slightly below the national average (65%).

03

Black Canadians more likely to support defunding the police (39%) compared to the general population (21%).

- 3-in-4 Black Canadians believe systemic racism is widespread in Canadian police forces, compared to only half (50%) of the broader Canadian population.
- Similarly, 73% of Black Canadians believe too much police funding is used to enforce minor offenses in marginalized communities; 51% among the general population.

04

A majority of Canadians support the Black Lives Matter movement.

- More than 4-in-5 (85%) Black Canadians support BLM compared to 57% of the general population.

05

Lived experience explains a lot when it comes to confidence and attitudes towards the police and the courts.

- Black Canadians who experience discrimination in their daily lives are less likely to have confidence in the police and courts.
- At the same time, those who face daily discrimination are more likely to believe systemic racism is widespread in the police and are much more likely to support police defunding.

Research Overview

Through a partnership between the ***African-Canadian Civic Engagement Council*** (ACCEC) and ***Innovative Research Group*** (INNOVATIVE), this research study was developed to explore perceptions of Black Canadians and the broader Canadian population on systemic racism, the Black Lives Matter movement, policing and Canada's court systems.

Report findings come from an INNOVATIVE **online poll conducted from June 17-30, 2020.**

This online survey was conducted among a **sample of n=2,322 adult Canadians** using INNOVATIVE's Canada 20/20 national research panel with additional respondents from Lucid, a leading provider of online sample. Each survey is administered to a series of randomly selected samples from the panel. Additional respondents were recruited from online advertisements on Facebook and Instagram.

The sample has been **weighted by age, gender, region, ethnic/cultural background, and whether they were born in Canada** using Statistics Canada's 2016 Census data to reflect the actual demographic composition of the overall and Black Canadian populations, resulting in an overall representative **national sample size of 1,500 Canadians** and representative **national Black Canadians sample size of 400.**

This is a representative sample. Targets were set to ensure a proper reflection of key regional and demographic distribution and then weights were used to ensure an accurate reflection of the target provinces. However, since the online survey was not a random probability based sample, a margin of error cannot be calculated. It is not statistically valid to apply margins of error to most online samples.

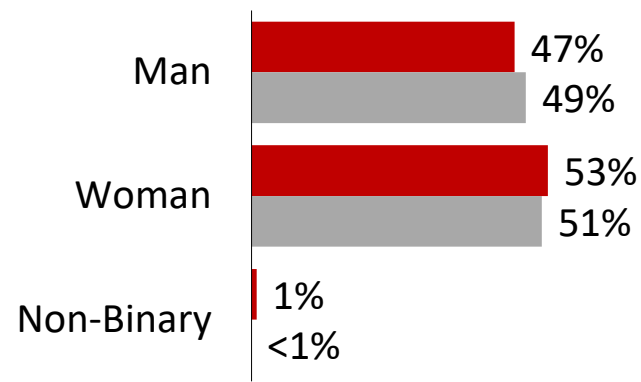
The survey methodology is discussed in further detail starting on page 29 of this report.

Note: *Graphs and tables may not always total 100% due to rounding values rather than any error in data.
Sums are added before rounding numbers.*

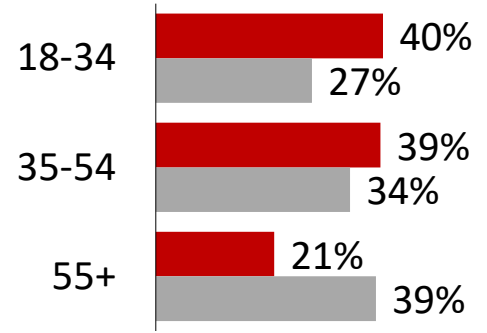


Demographics

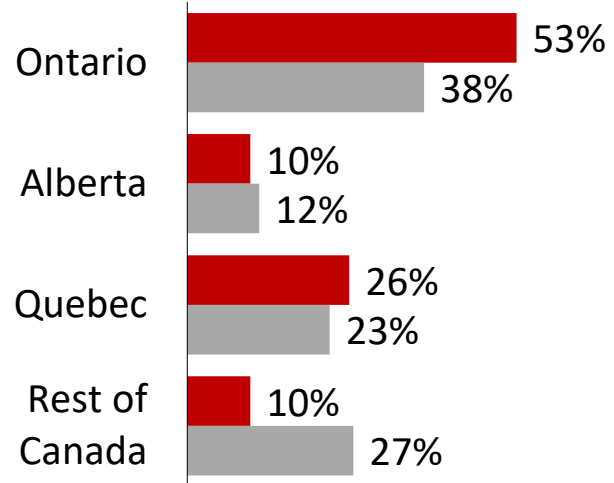
Gender



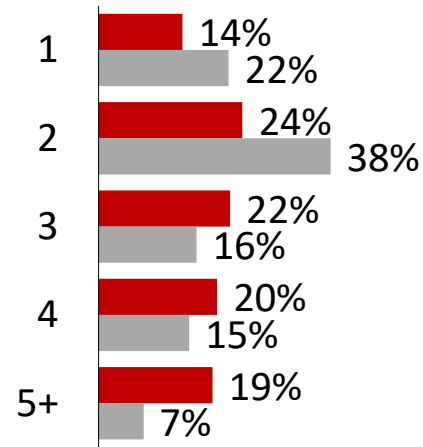
Age



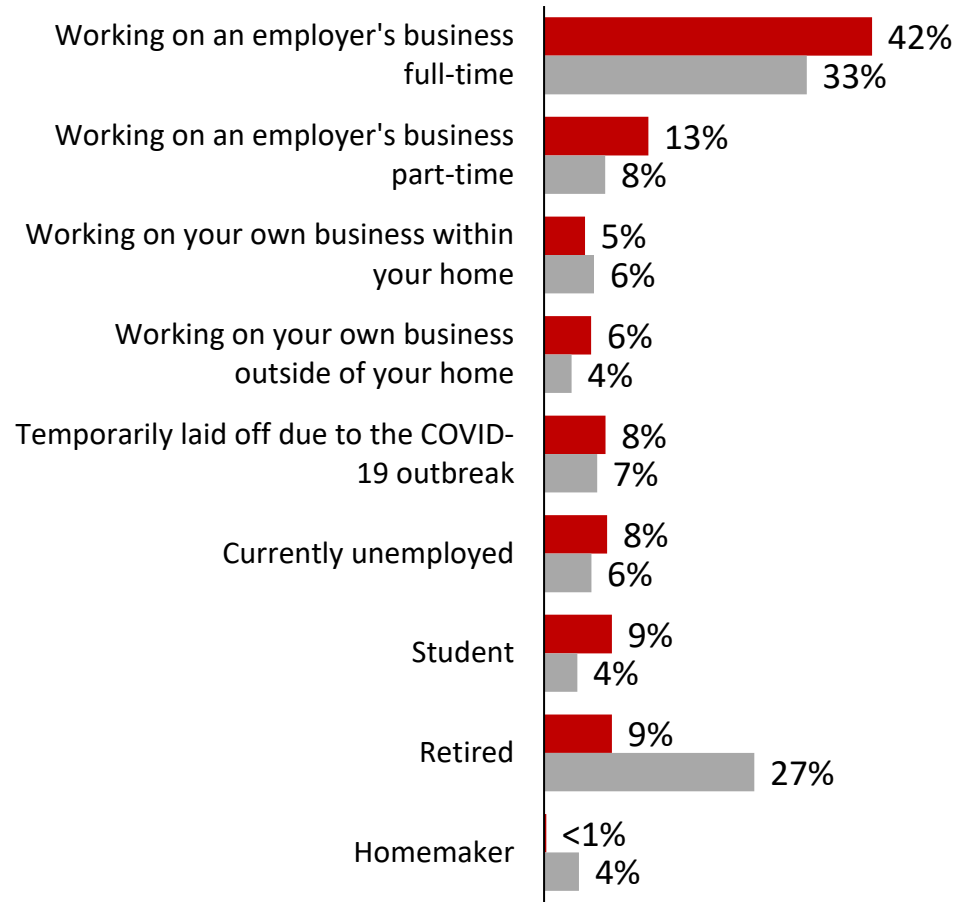
Region



Household Size



Occupation



Legend

- Black Canadians
- National

Note: 'Don't know' and 'Prefer not to say' not shown.



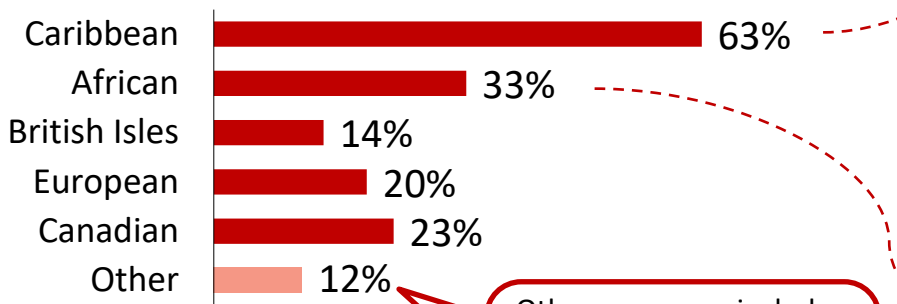
Ethnic and Cultural Origins: Nearly 2-in-3 of the Black Canadian respondents have roots in the Caribbean regions and a third in Africa



What were your ancestor's ethnic or cultural origins? Please select all that apply. An ancestor is usually more distant than a grandparent.

If your origins are not included on the list, please enter them in the text box below.

[asked of Black Canadians, multiple mention, n=400]



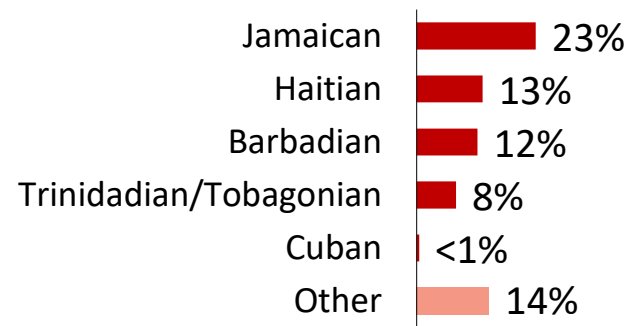
Other responses include:

- American
- South American
- South Asian
- Chinese



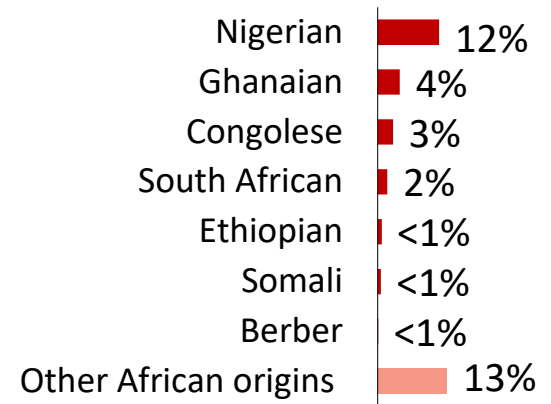
And what were your ancestor's Caribbean ethnic or cultural origins? [asked of those whose ethnic or cultural origins is Caribbean, multiple mention; n=254]

Caribbean [n=254]



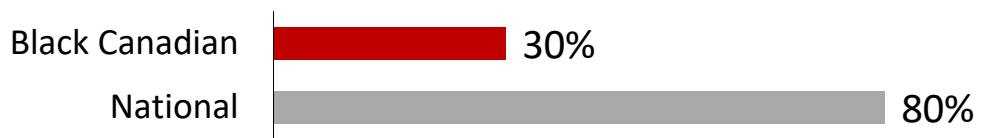
And what were your ancestor's African ethnic or cultural origins? [asked of those whose ethnic or cultural origins is African, multiple mention; n=131]

African [n=131]



Were you born in Canada?

[all respondents, Black Canadians n=400; national n=1,500]



Lived Experience of Discrimination

Black Canadians are almost *three times* more likely to say they have experienced discrimination in their daily lives than the general population.

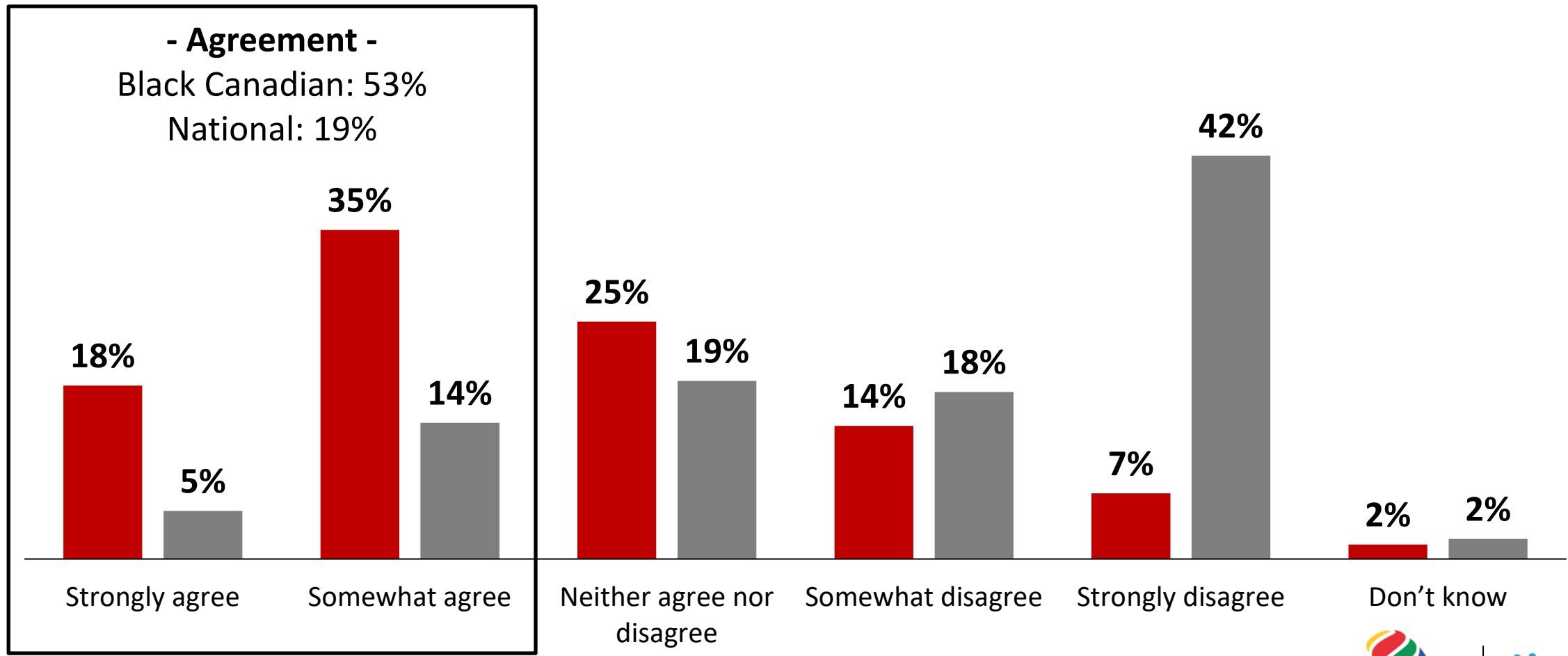
Discrimination: Black Canadians are nearly *three times* more likely to experience discrimination in their daily lives than the general population



Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

I experience discrimination in my daily life.

[asked of all respondents; Black Canadian n=400, national n=1,500]



■ Black-Canadian ■ National



Discrimination: Black women, especially those 45+, are most likely to agree they experience discrimination daily

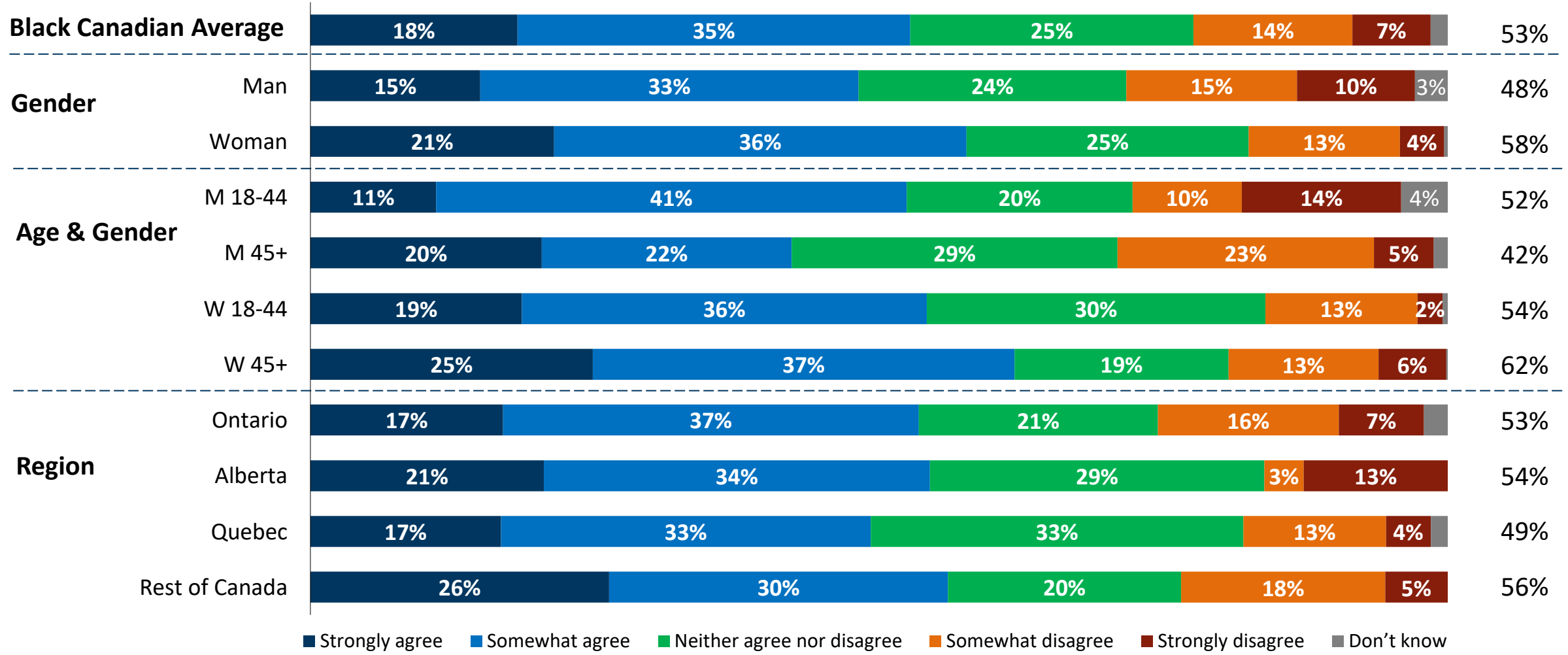


Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

I experience discrimination in my daily life.

[asked of Black respondents; Black Canadian n=400]

Total Agree



Strongly agree Somewhat agree Neither agree nor disagree Somewhat disagree Strongly disagree Don't know

Confidence in Police and Courts

Black Canadians are less confident in police and more likely than the general population to say, 'decrease funding to local police.'

3-in-4 Black Canadians believe systemic racism is widespread in Canadian police forces.

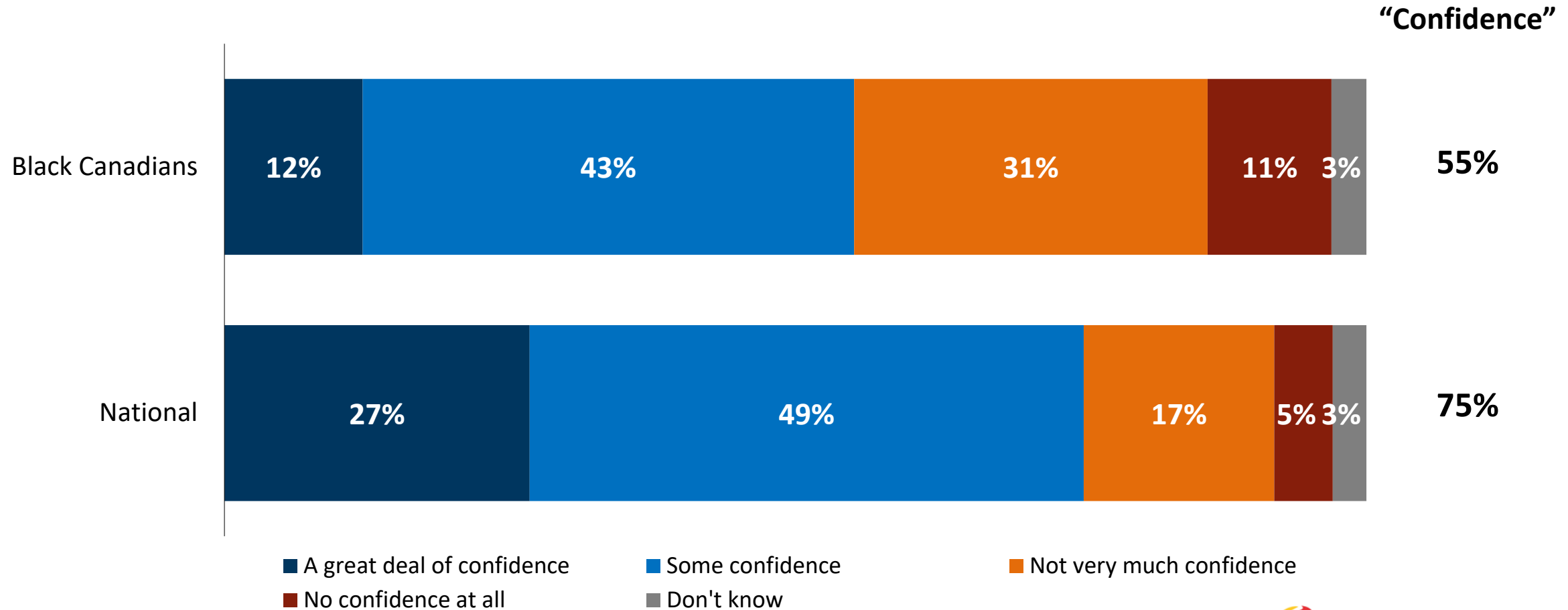
Confidence in Police: Black Canadians are much less confident in local police than Canadians as a whole



In general, how much confidence do you have in your local police?

'Local police' refers to the police responsible for your municipality. In some places that may be an RCMP detachment.

[asked of all respondents; Black Canadian n=400, national n=1,500]



Confidence in Police: Black women, especially those 45+, have the lowest confidence in their local police

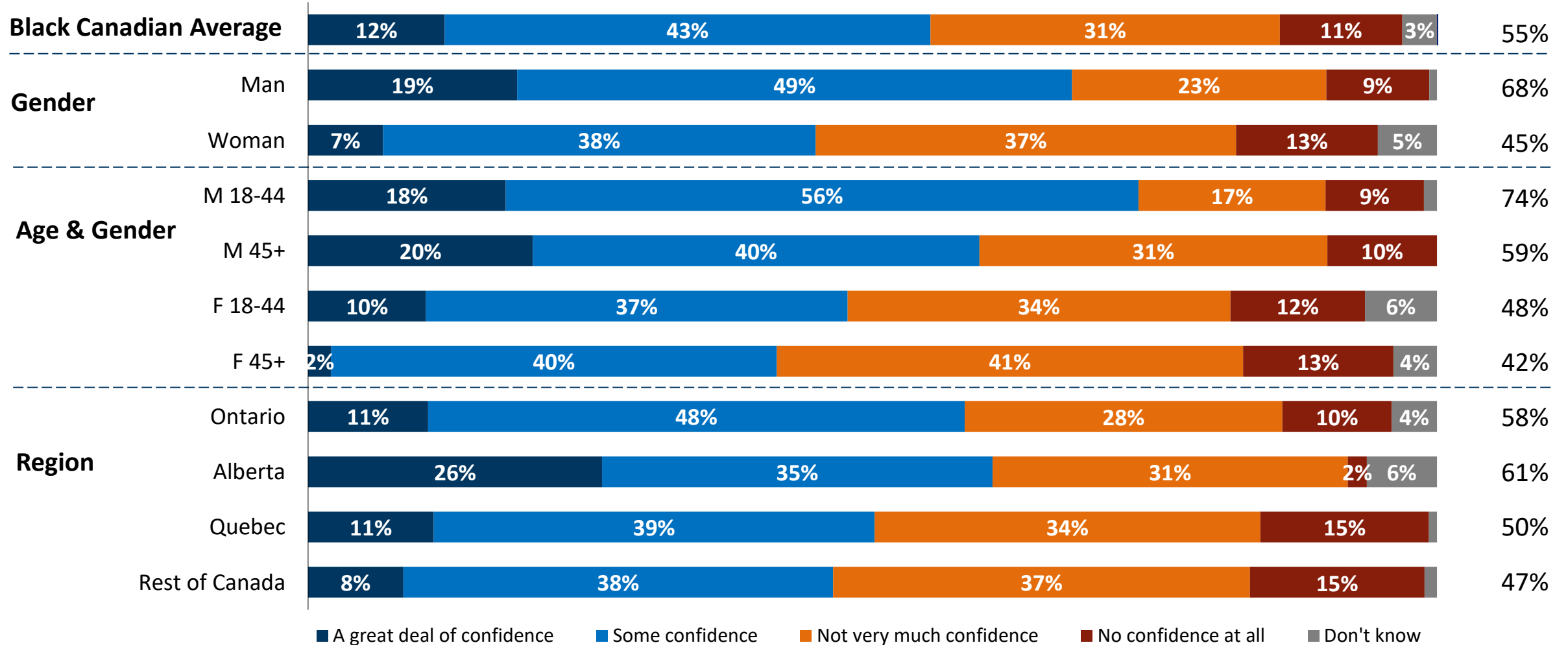


In general, how much confidence do you have in your local police?

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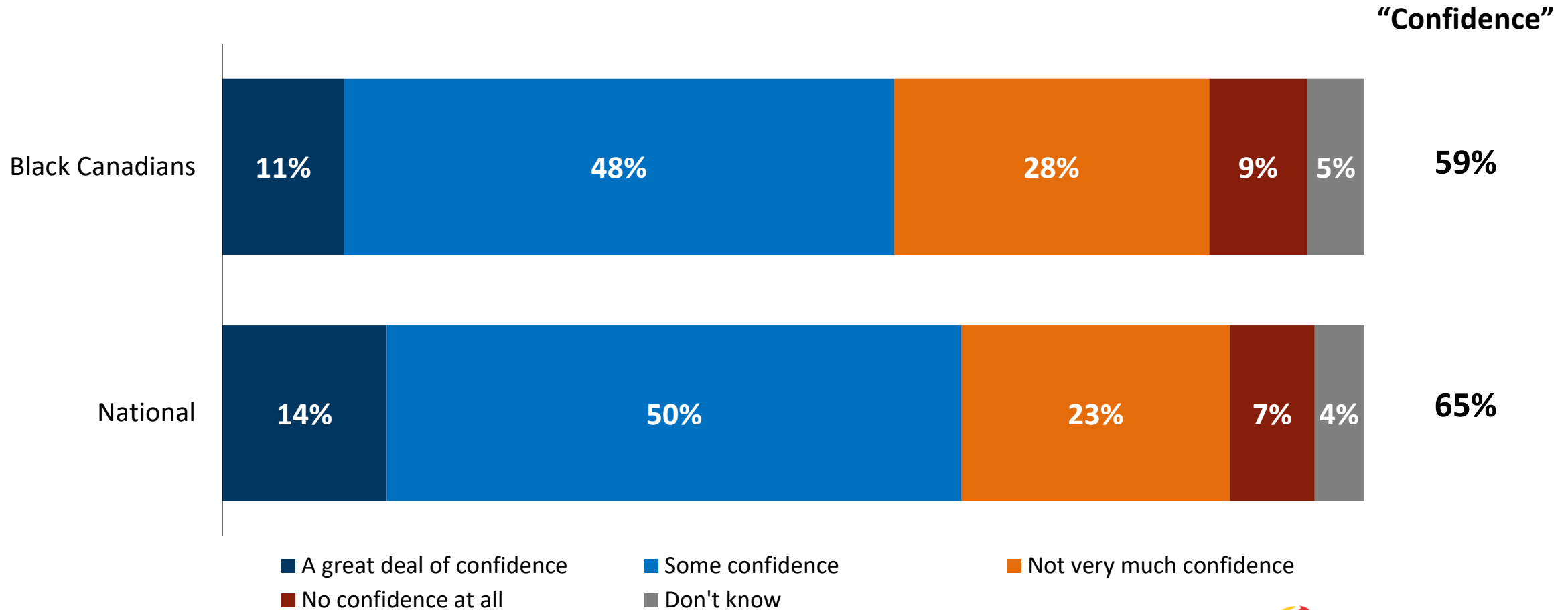
[asked of Black respondents; Black Canadian n=400]

Confidence



Confidence in Courts: Black Canadians are a bit less confident in the civil and criminal courts compared to Canadians as a whole

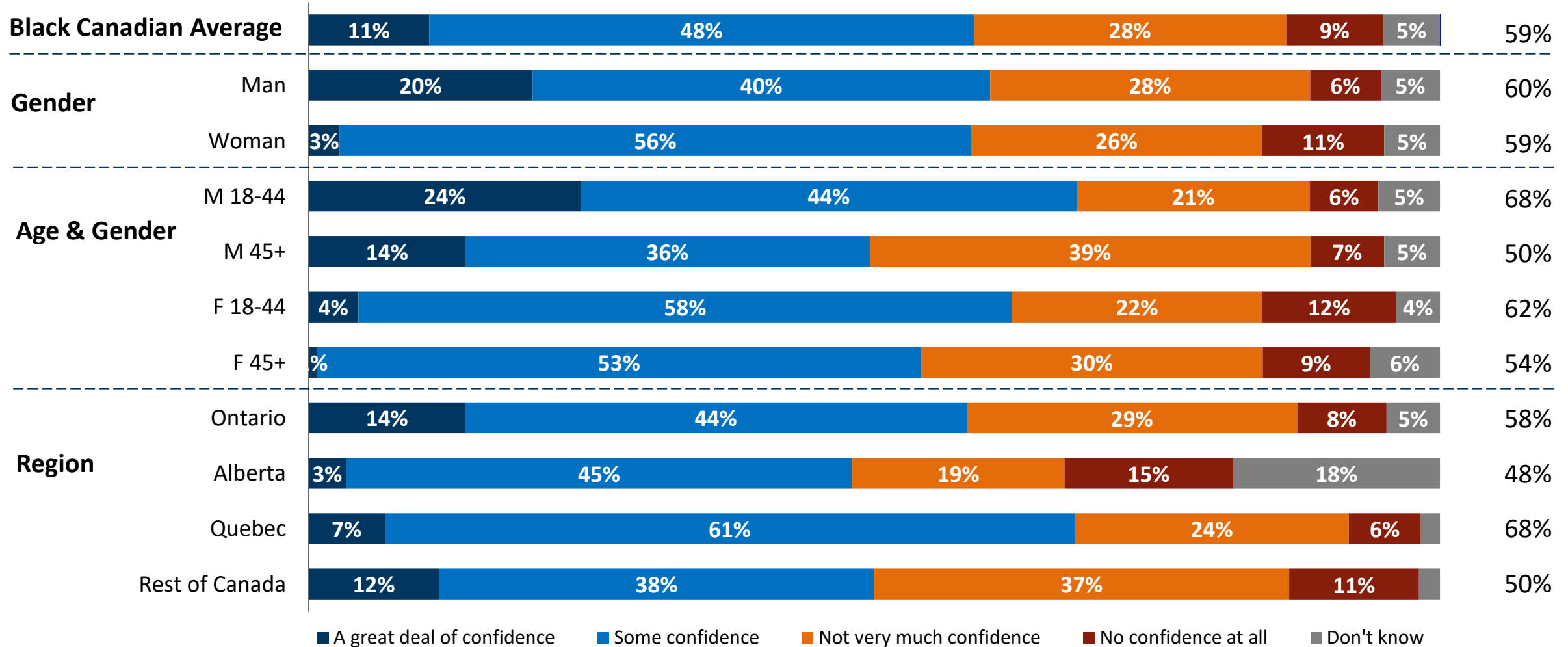
Q In general, how much confidence do you have in the civil and criminal courts in Canada?
[asked of all respondents; Black Canadian n=400, national n=1,500]



Confidence in Courts: Black men aged 45+ and Black Albertans are least confident in Canada's courts

Q In general, how much confidence do you have in the civil and criminal courts in Canada?
[asked of Black respondents; Black Canadian n=400]

Confidence

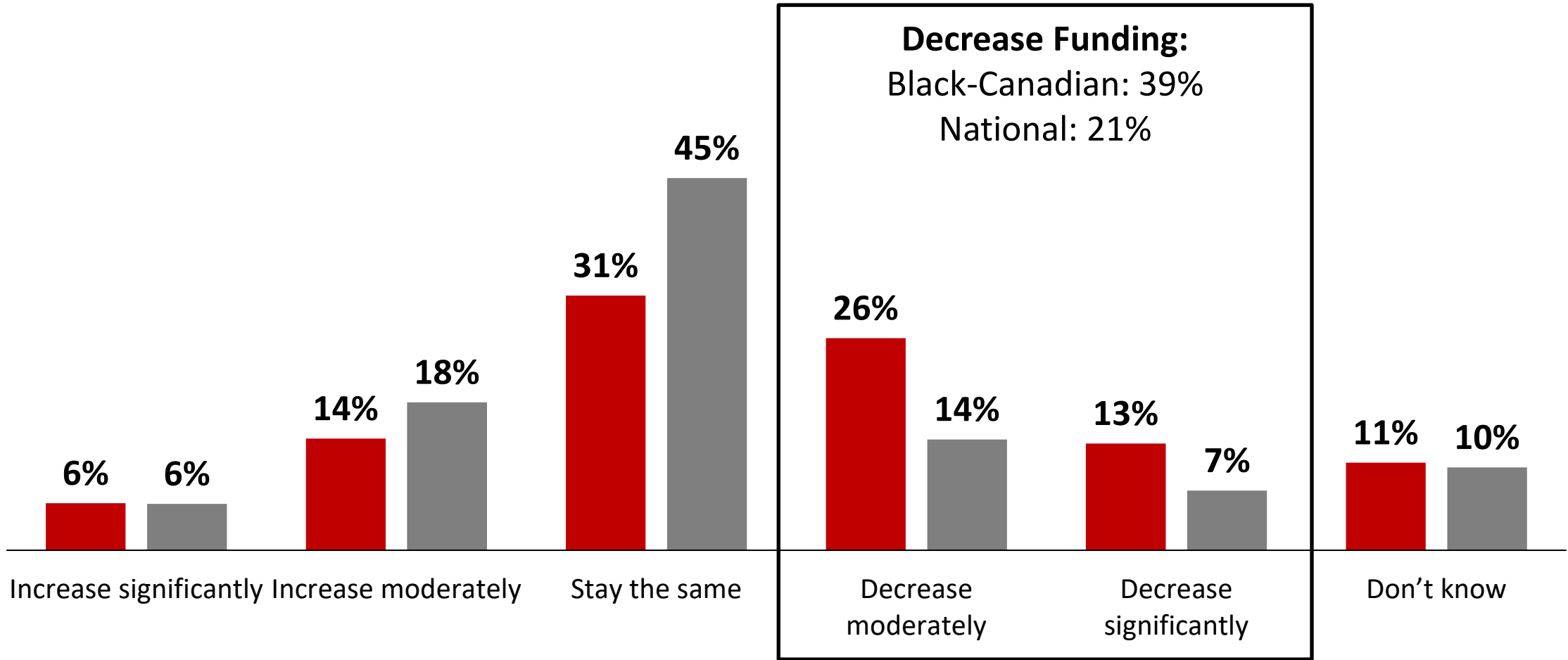


Funding for Local Police: Black Canadians are 18 points more likely to say local police should receive less funding



Do you think funding to your local police should increase or decrease?

[asked of all respondents; Black Canadian n=400, national n=1,500]



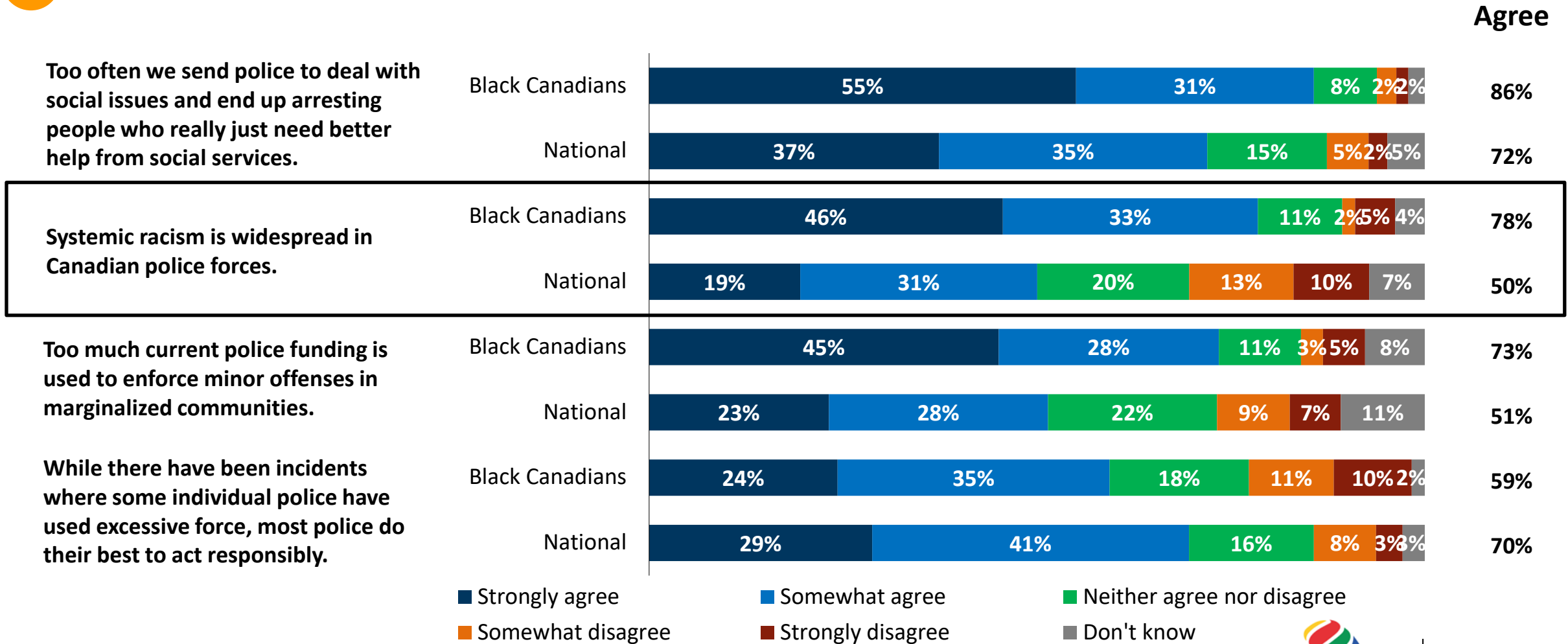
■ Black Canadians ■ National



Attitudes Towards Police: Wide gap on perceptions of systemic racism in the police between Black Canadians and the general population



Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
 [asked of all respondents; Black Canadian n=400, national n=1,500]



■ Strongly agree
 ■ Somewhat agree
 ■ Neither agree nor disagree
■ Somewhat disagree
 ■ Strongly disagree
 ■ Don't know

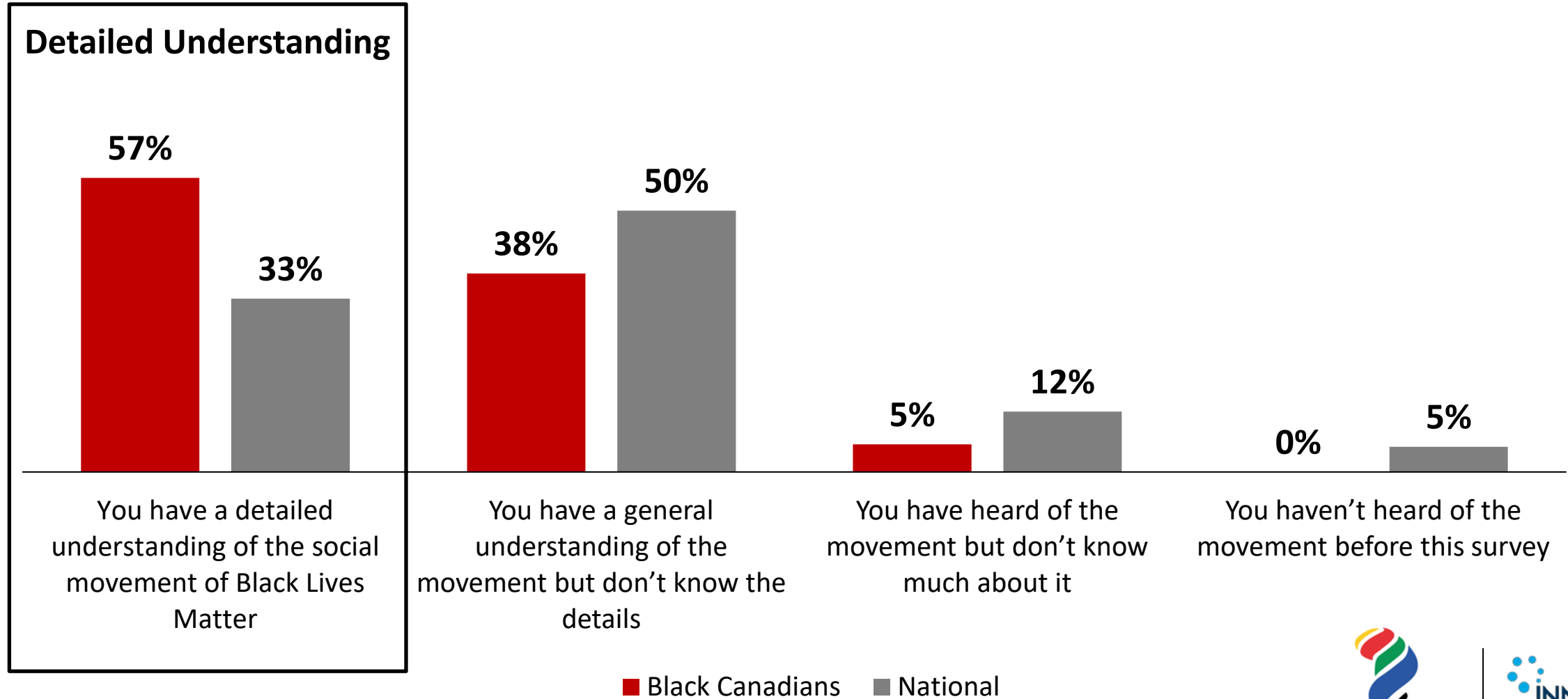


Black Lives Matter

While a majority of Canadians support the BLM movement, Black Canadians are three times more likely than the general population to have attended a protest.

Familiarity with Movement: Black Canadians are much more likely to have a detailed understanding of the Black Lives Matter movement

Q How familiar are you with the social movement called Black Lives Matter?
[asked of all respondents; Black Canadian n=400, national n=1,500]

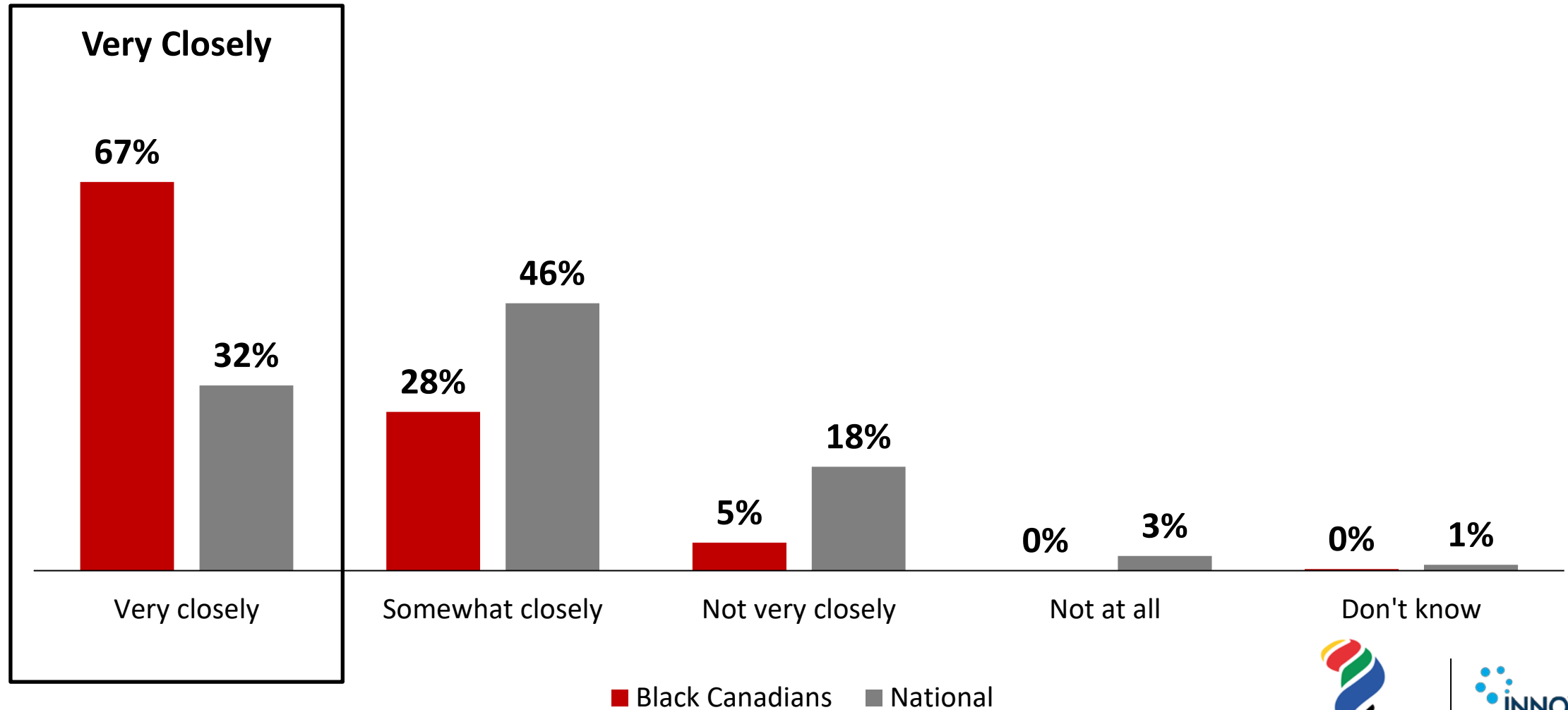


George Floyd News: Two-thirds (67%) of Black Canadians have followed the news about the death of George Floyd 'Very closely'



As you may recall, George Floyd, a 46-year-old American black man, was killed while under police restraint in Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 25th during an arrest for allegedly using a counterfeit bill. How closely have you been following news about the death of George Floyd?

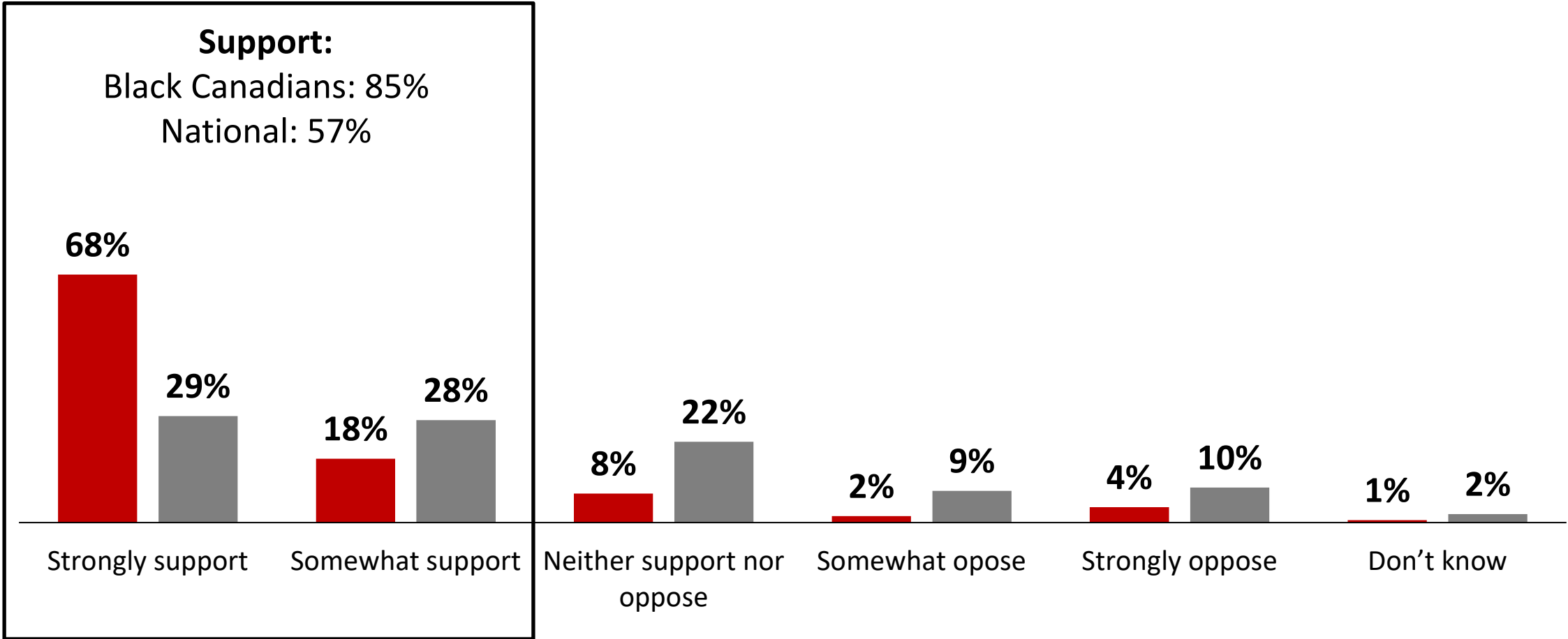
[asked of all respondents; Black Canadian n=400, national n=1,500]



Protest Support: A majority support protests. Black Canadians are 28-points more likely to say support than the general population



And do you support or oppose these protests?
[asked of all respondents; Black Canadian n=400, national n=1,500]



Support:
 Black Canadians: 85%
 National: 57%

■ Black Canadians ■ National

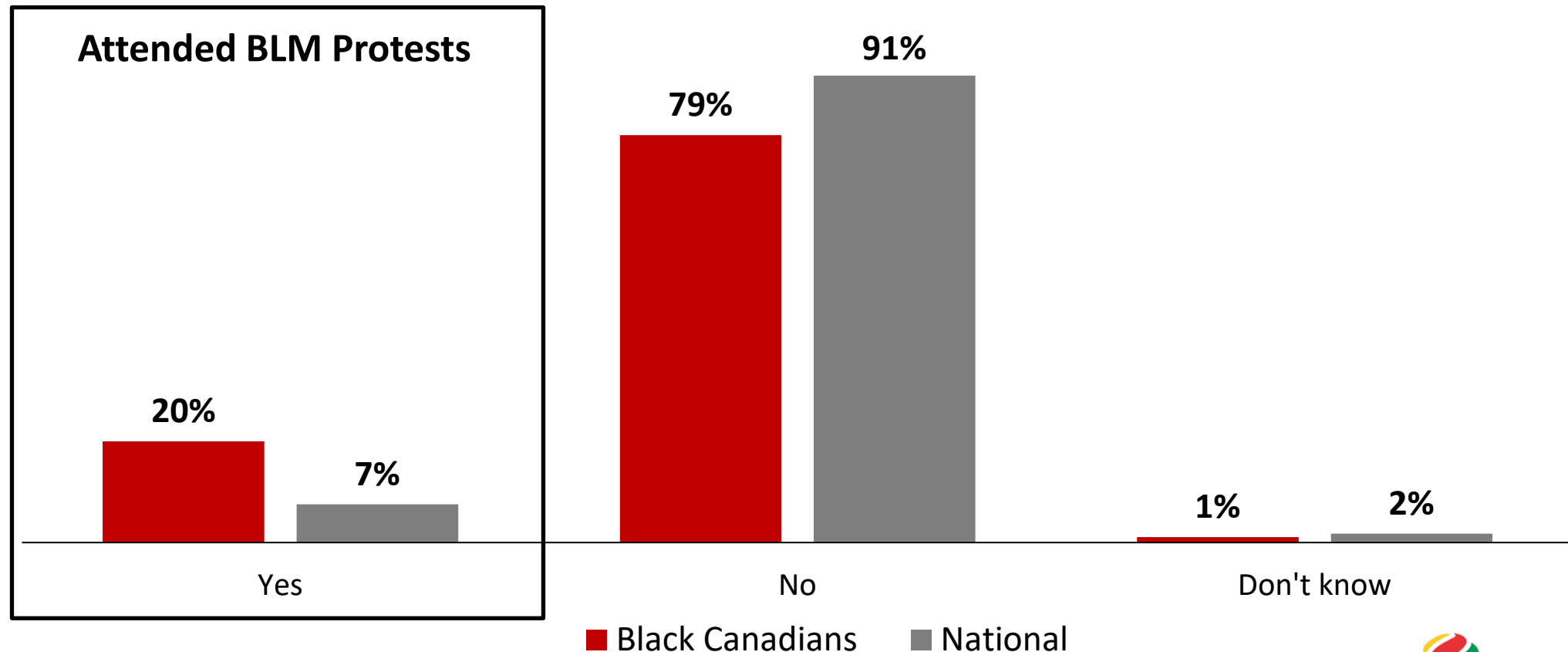


Protest Attendance: Black Canadians are three times more likely than the general population to have attended BLM protests

Q The death of George Floyd triggered a series of protests for Black Lives Matter in US, in Canada, and around the world. These protests raised concerns about police brutality, racial inequalities in policing, and lack of police accountability.

Did you take part in any of these protests?

[asked of all respondents; Black Canadian n=400, national n=1,500]



Impact of Lived Experience

Lived experience explains a lot.

Black Canadians who face discrimination in their daily lives are less likely to have confidence in their local police force and Canada's court systems and are more likely to support the defunding of police.

Confidence in Police: Black Canadians who experience discrimination in their daily life are less likely to be confident in the police



In general, how much confidence do you have in your local police?

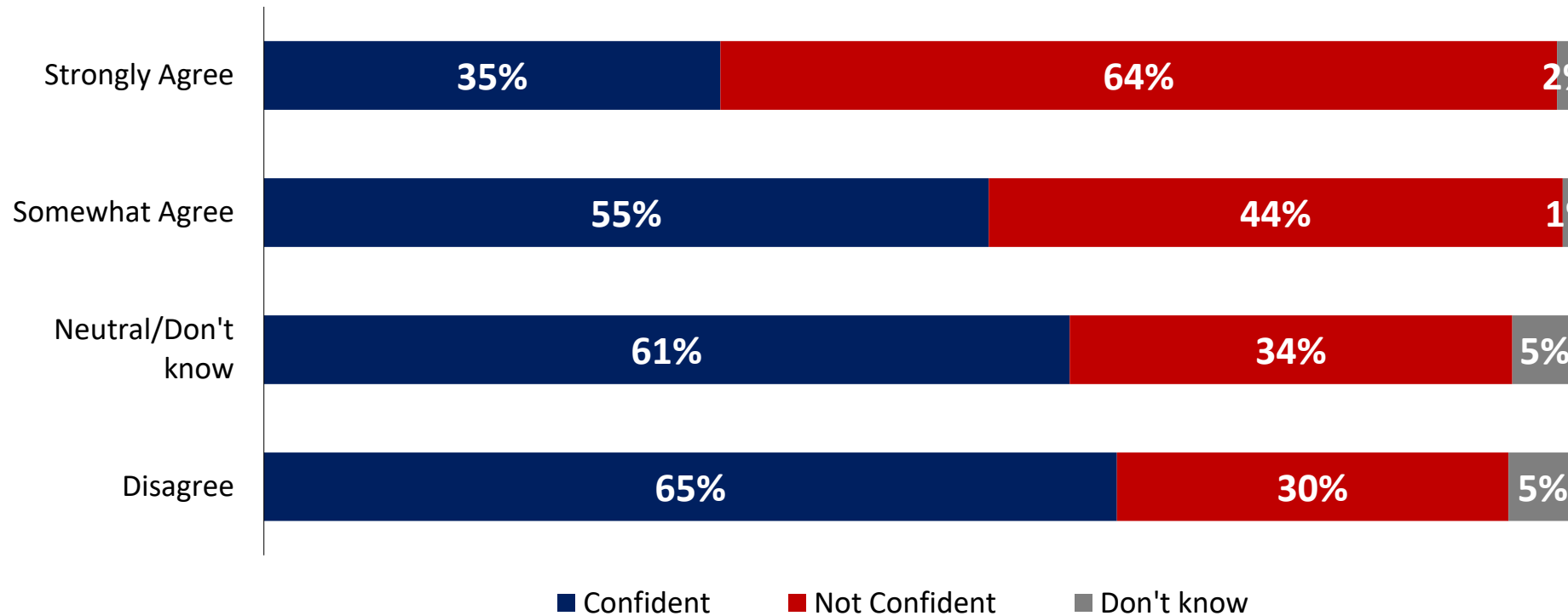
'Local police' refers to the police responsible for your municipality. In some places that may be an RCMP detachment

BY Discrimination

[asked of Black respondents; Black Canadian n=500]

Black Canadians' Confidence in Local Police

Experience discrimination in daily life



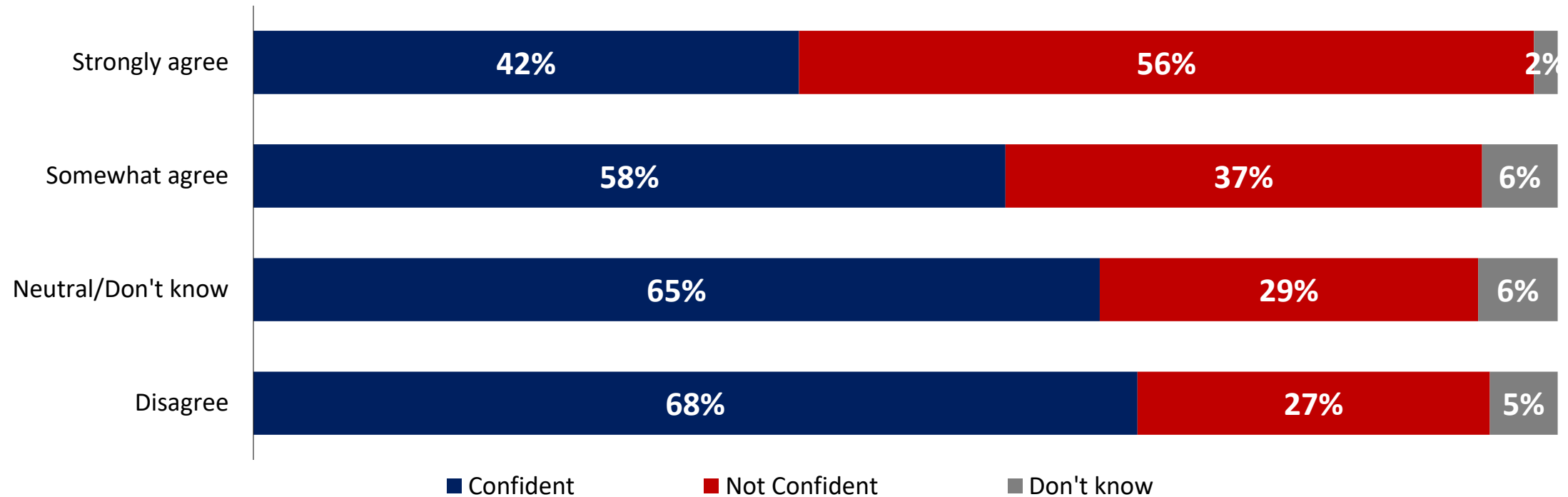
For example, of the people that strongly agree they experience discrimination in their daily lives, only 35% are confident in the local police.

Confidence in Civil/Criminal Courts: Black Canadians who strongly agree they experience discrimination are least likely to be confident

Q In general, how much confidence do you have in the civil and criminal courts in Canada?
 BY Discrimination
 [asked of Black respondents; Black Canadian n=500]

Black Canadians' Confidence in Civil/Criminal Courts

Experience discrimination in daily life



Police Funding: Black Canadians who experience discrimination in their day-to-day lives are more likely to say funding should decrease²⁵



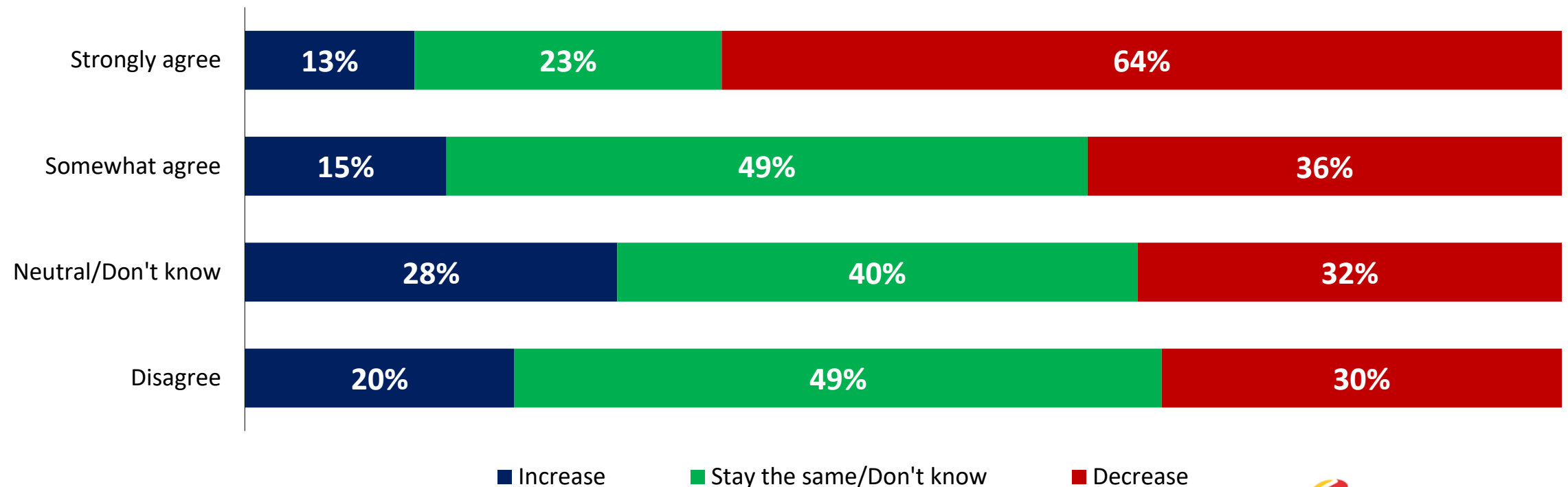
Do you think funding to your local police should increase or decrease?

BY Discrimination

[asked of Black respondents; Black Canadian n=500]

Black Canadians' Attitudes on Local Police Funding

Experience discrimination in daily life



Attitudes Towards Police: More than 9-in-10 who strongly agree they experience discrimination say systemic racism is widespread in police



Attitudes Towards Police

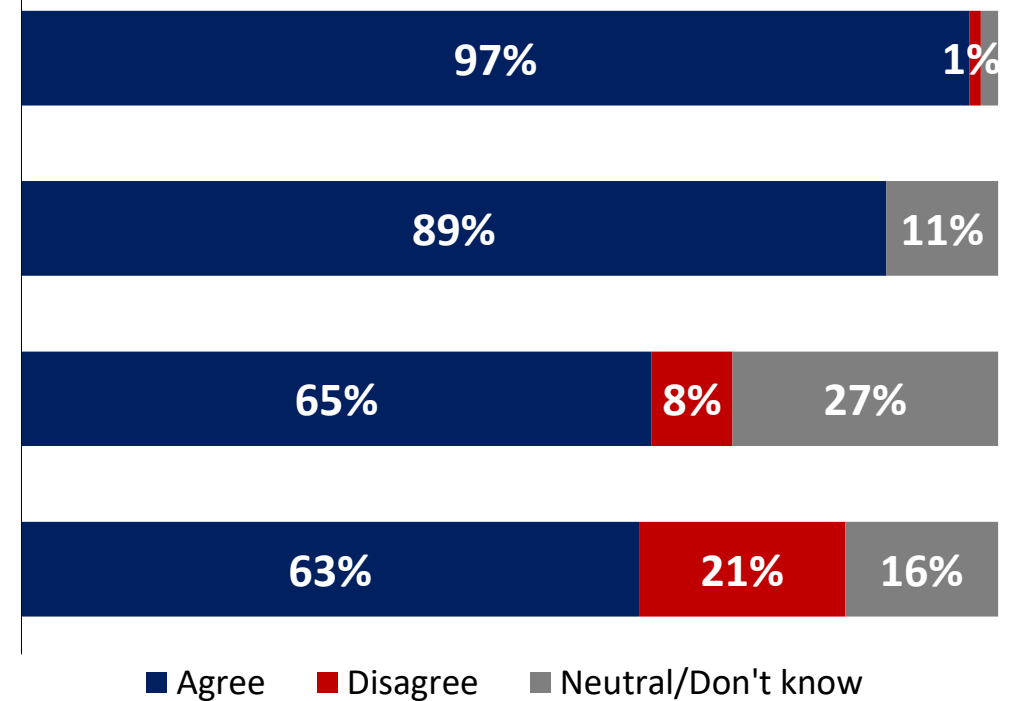
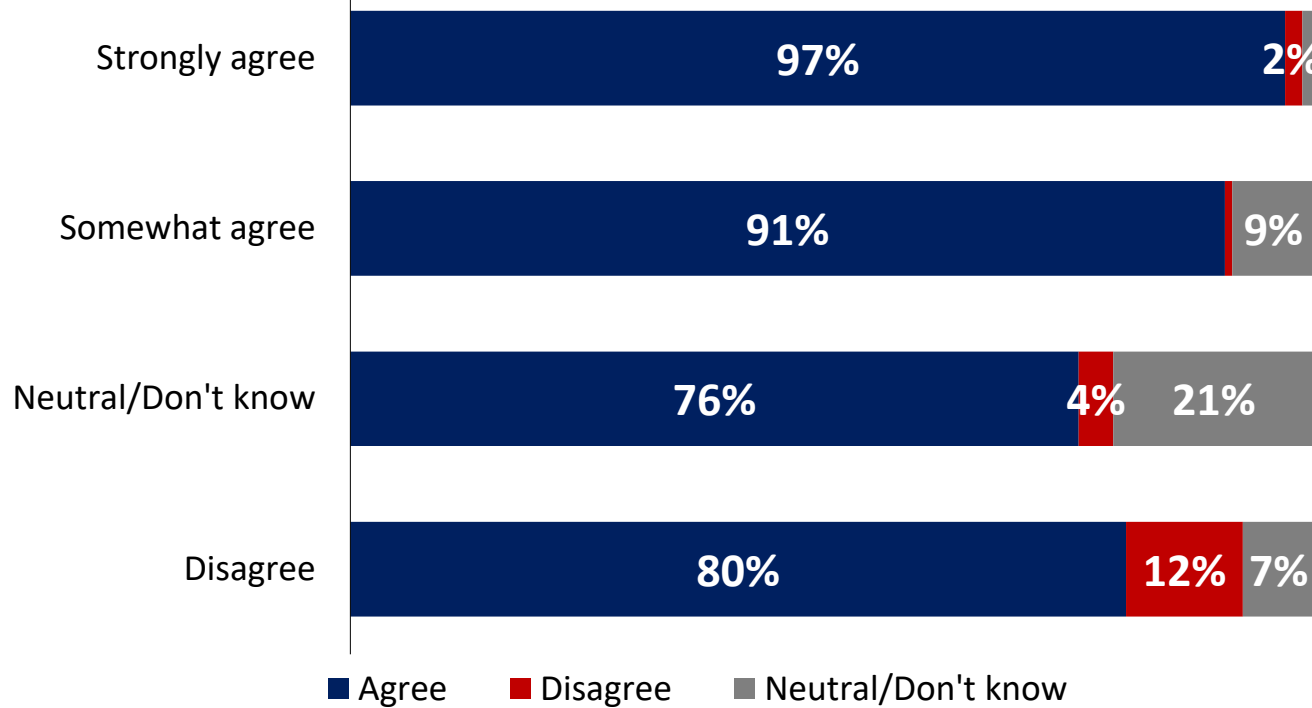
BY Discrimination

[asked of Black respondents; Black Canadian n=500]

Too often we send police to deal with social issues and end up arresting people who really just need better help from social services.

Systemic racism is widespread in Canadian police forces.

Experience discrimination in daily life



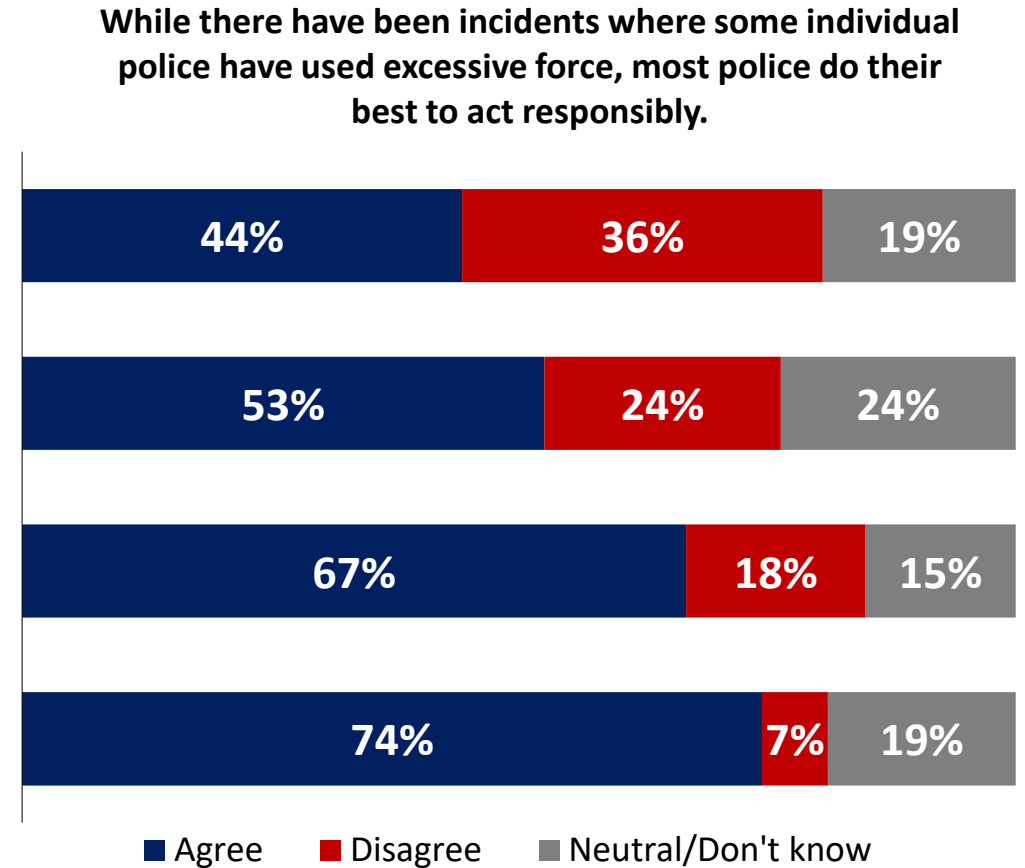
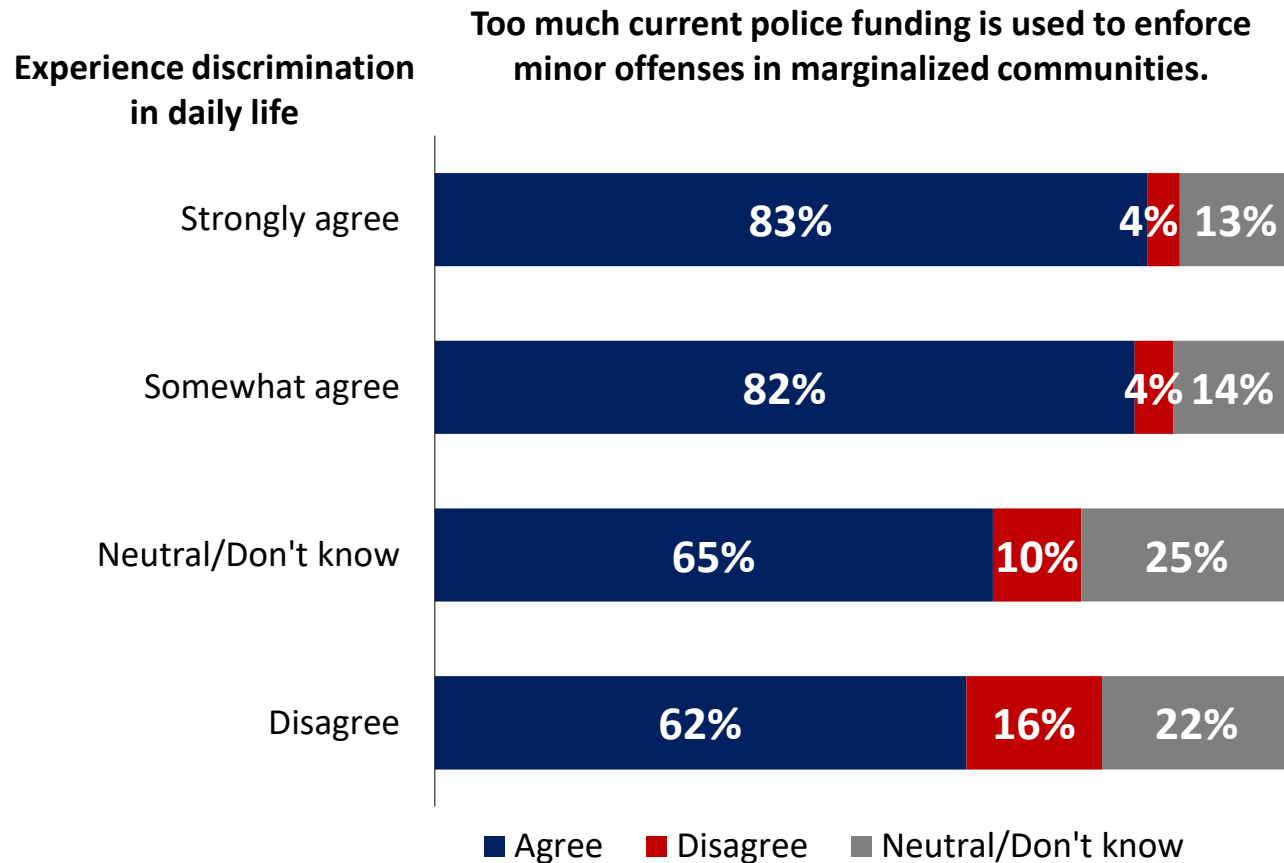
Attitudes Towards Police: Those who experience discrimination are more likely to feel that police funding is used to target communities



Attitudes Towards Police

BY Discrimination

[asked of Black respondents; Black Canadian n=500]



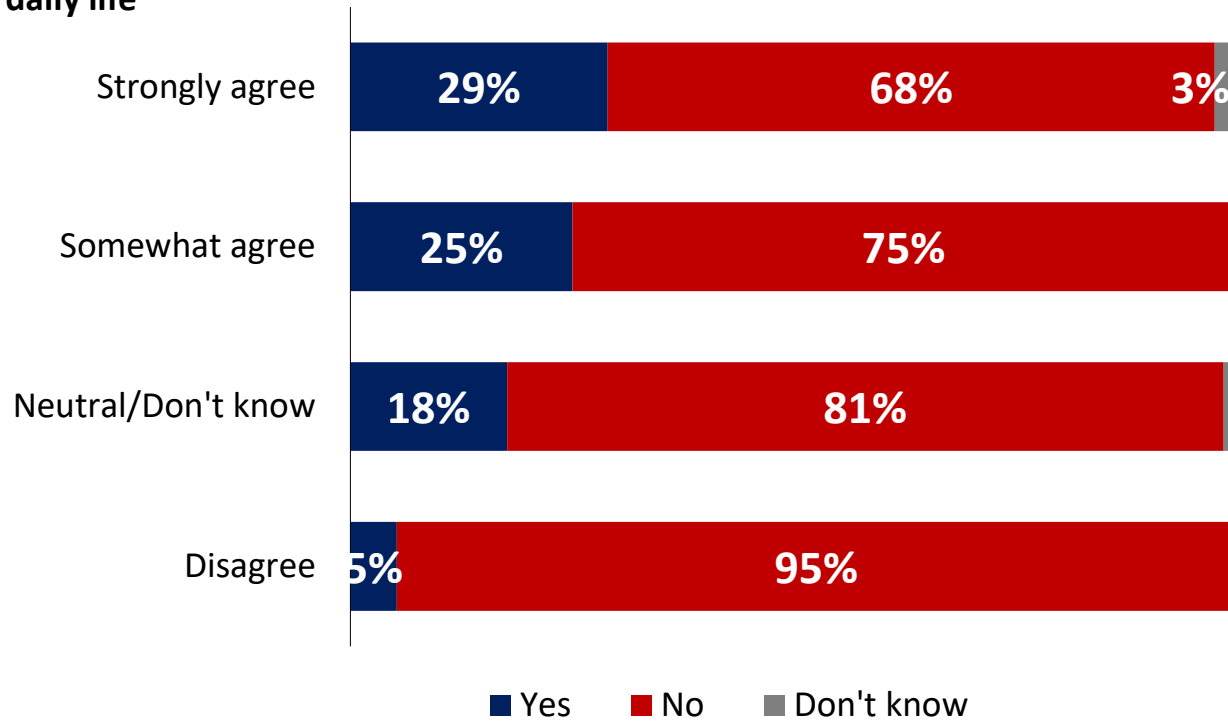
Protest Attendance and Support: Those who experience discrimination are more likely to have attended or support the protests



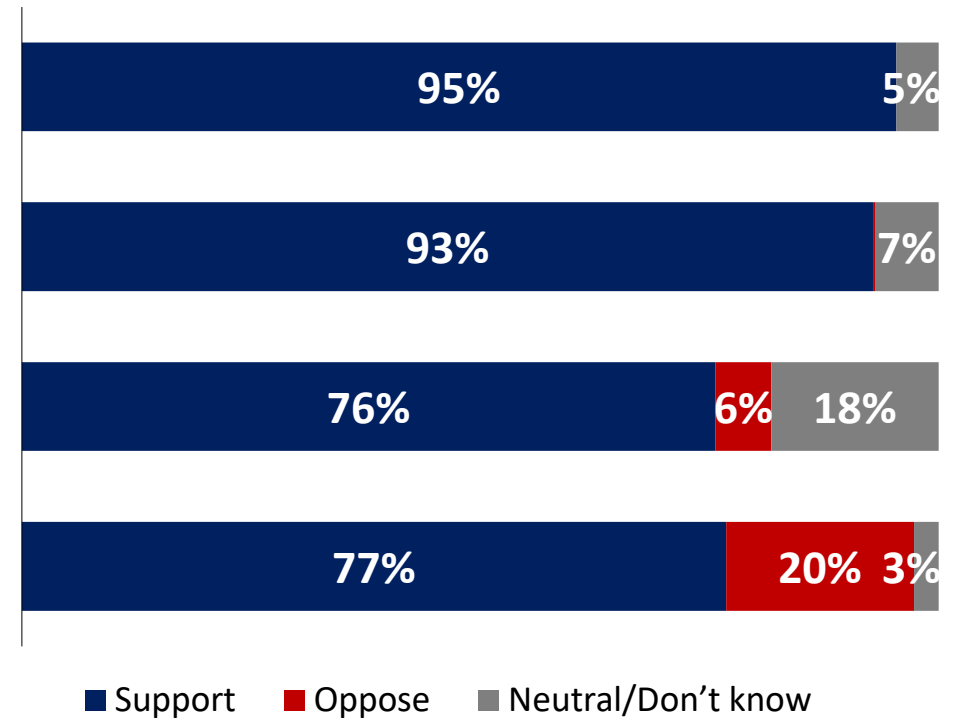
BLM protest attendance and support
 BY Discrimination
 [asked of Black respondents; Black Canadian n=500]

Black Canadians Attendance of Protests

Experience discrimination
 in daily life



Black Canadians Support of Protests



Methodology



General Population Survey Methodology

These are the results of an online survey conducted between June 17th and June 30th, 2020.

Method: This online survey was conducted using INNOVATIVE's Canada 20/20 national research panel with additional respondents from Lucid, a leading provider of online sample. Each survey is administered to a series of randomly selected samples from the panel and weighted to ensure that the overall sample's composition reflects that of the actual Canadian population according to Census data to provide results that are intended to approximate a probability sample.

Sample Size: n=2,322 Canadian citizens, 18 years or older. The results are nationally weighted to n=1,500 based on Census data from Statistics Canada.

Field Dates: June 17th to June 30th, 2020.

Weighting: Results for Canada are weighted by age, gender, and region to ensure that the overall sample's composition reflects that of the actual population according to Census data; in order to provide results that are intended to approximate a probability sample. Weighted and unweighted frequencies are reported in the table.

Margin of Error: This is a representative sample. However, since the online survey was not a random probability based sample, a margin of error cannot be calculated. Statements about margins of sampling error or population estimates do not apply to most online panels.

Note: Graphs may not always total 100% due to rounding values rather than any error in data. Sums are added before rounding numbers.

This survey looked in-depth at a number of topics, and we will be releasing more results in the coming weeks. This release focuses on a few key topics, but the full questionnaire is provided as an appendix.

	Unweighted (n)	Unweighted (%)	Weighted (n)	Weighted (%)
Males 18-34	282	12.1%	206	13.7%
Males 35-54	312	13.4%	250	16.7%
Males 55+	600	25.8%	272	18.1%
Females 18-34	313	13.5%	204	13.6%
Females 35-54	349	15.0%	261	17.4%
Females 55+	466	20.1%	306	20.4%
BC	397	17.1%	202	13.5%
Alberta	352	15.2%	175	11.6%
Prairies	97	4.2%	102	6.8%
Ontario	958	41.3%	575	38.4%
Quebec	368	15.8%	346	23.1%
Atlantic	150	6.5%	100	6.6%

Black Canadians Survey Methodology

The Black Canadians results are drawn from a subsample of the general population survey, with additional respondents recruited from online advertisements on Facebook and Instagram.

Method: This online survey was conducted using INNOVATIVE's Canada 20/20 national research panel with additional respondents from Lucid, a leading provider of online sample. Each survey is administered to a series of randomly selected samples from the panel. Additional respondents were recruited from online advertisements on Facebook and Instagram.

Respondents were weighted by age, gender, region, ethnic/cultural background and whether or not they were born in Canada to provide results that are intended to approximate a probability sample of Black Canadians according to Statistics Canada census data.

Sample Size: n=408 Black Canadians, 18 years or older. The results are weighted to n=400 based on data from Statistics Canada.

Field Dates: June 17th to June 30th, 2020.

Weighting: Results for Canada are weighted by region and ethnic/cultural background within age and gender, as well as whether or not respondents were born in Canada by region. These weights ensure that the overall sample's composition reflects that of the actual population of Black Canadians according to 2016 Census data from Statistics Canada; in order to provide results that are intended to approximate a probability sample. Weighted and unweighted frequencies are reported in the tables on the next page.

Margin of Error: This is a representative sample. However, since the online survey was not a random probability based sample, a margin of error cannot be calculated. Statements about margins of sampling error or population estimates do not apply to most online panels.

Black Canadians Survey Methodology

	Unweighted (n)	Unweighted (%)	Weighted (n)	Weighted (%)
Men 18-44	102	24.9%	108	27.1%
Men 45+	64	15.6%	78	19.5%
Women 18-44	144	35.2%	115	28.7%
Women 45+	98	24.0%	95	23.8%
Ontario	231	56.5%	213	53.4%
Alberta	45	11.0%	41	10.2%
Quebec	79	19.3%	105	26.2%
Rest of Canada	54	13.2%	41	10.2%

Selected Ethnic/Cultural Backgrounds (percentages will not equal 100)

	Unweighted (n)	Unweighted (%)	Weighted (n)	Weighted (%)
African	266	65.0%	131	32.8%
Jamaican	115	28.1%	91	22.7%
Haitian	41	10.0%	50	12.5%
First Generation	184	45.0%	122	30.4%
2 nd Gen or Later	225	55.0%	278	69.6%



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