



Impact of COVID-19 Black Canadian Perspectives



Release: September 2, 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 the direct health and economic impact of the COVID-19 virus on Canada's Black Community.

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.

Report Findings

01

Compared to the Canadian average, Black Canadians report far worse health outcomes related to COVID-19.

- Black Canadians are more likely to report COVID-19 symptoms, either themselves or someone they know, more likely to say they sought treatment for COVID-19, and nearly three times as likely (21% to 8%) to report knowing someone who has died due to the virus.

02

Although further research is needed, poorer health outcomes for Black Canadians may be explained by greater exposure at work to the virus.

- Black Canadians are much more likely to report their job requires them to work with people face-to-face (Net: +41 vs. +25 national average).
- Black Canadians are more likely to feel that no matter what steps they take, their day-to-day routine puts them at an uncomfortably high risk of catching the virus (Net: -2 vs. -17% national average.)
- Black commuters, those who go in to work at least part-time, are much more likely than the national average to report symptoms, to seek medical treatment, and to admit themselves or know someone admitted to the hospital.
- Black commuters are twice as likely than the average Canadian worker to say their commute is unsafe (24% vs. 12%). This may be because Black Canadians who commute to their work are also twice as likely to use public transit than the average Canadian (25% vs. 12%).

03

Black Canadians report much worse financial impact from COVID-19 than the average Canadian.

- Black Canadians are more likely to report layoffs or reduced working hours in their household (56% to 43%) and more worried, over the next few months, about paying their rent (45% to 36% national average).
- Black Canadians are also more likely than the average Canadian to say their household finances have been negatively impacted by COVID-19. And when it comes to age and gender, it's Black men over 45yrs who are most negatively impacted by COVID-19 when it comes to household finances.

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 the impact of COVID-19 on Black Canadians and the broader Canadian population.



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.**

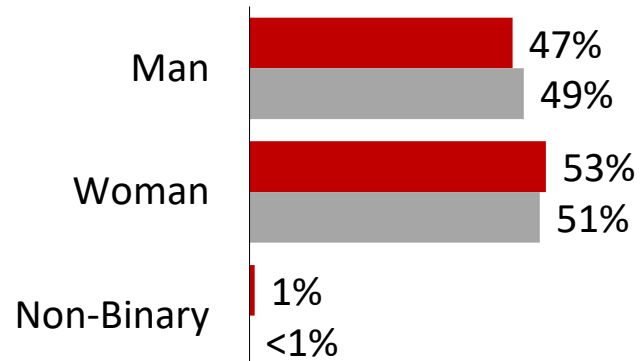
This is a representative sample. Targets were set to ensure a proper reflection of key regional and demographic distribution and then weights were used to ensure an accurate reflection of the target provinces. However, since the online survey was not a random probability based sample, a margin of error 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.

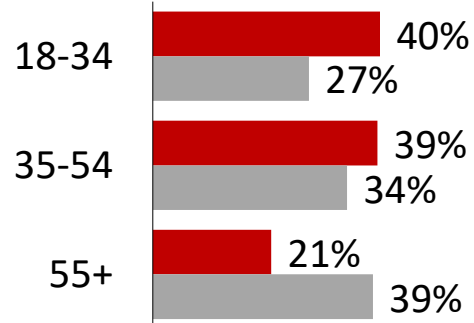
Note: *Graphs and tables may not always total 100% due to rounding values rather than any error in data.
Sums are added before rounding numbers.*

Demographics

Gender



Age



Legend

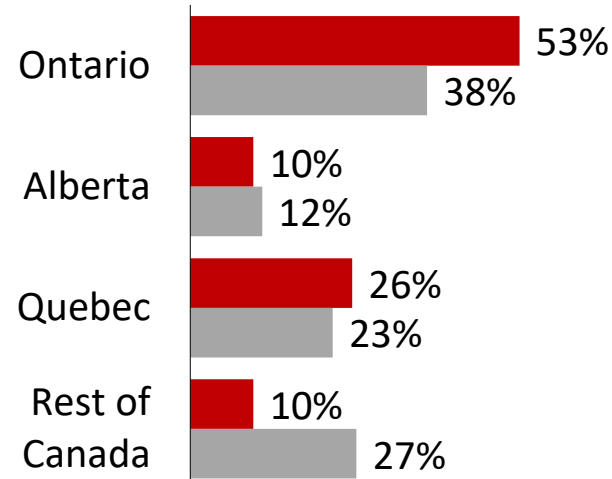


Black Canadians

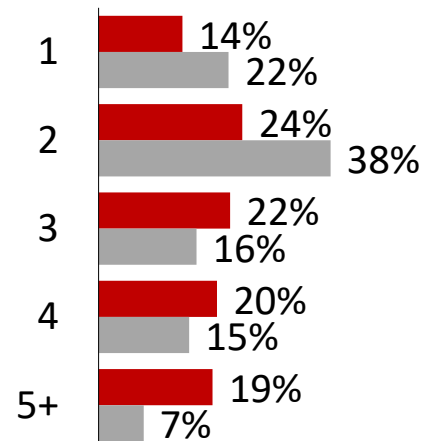
National

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

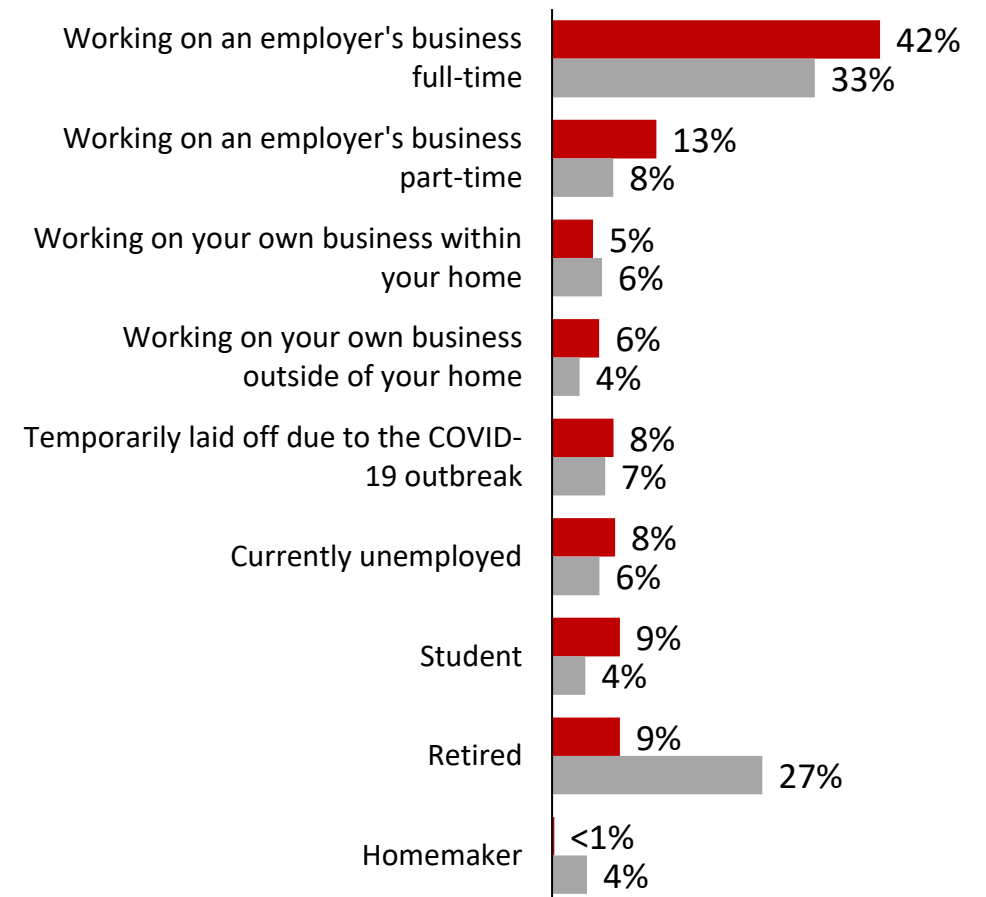
Region



Household Size



Occupation

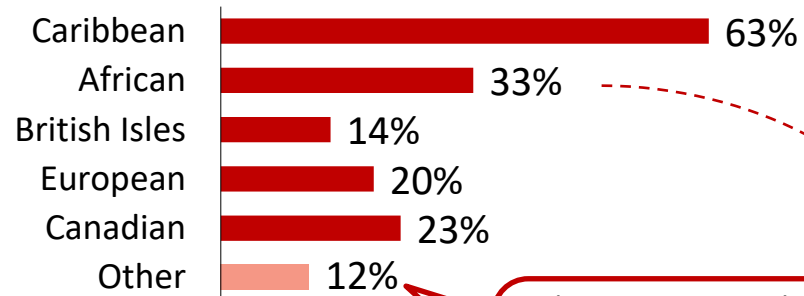


Ethnic and Cultural Origins: Nearly 2-in-3 of the Black Canadian respondents have roots in the Caribbean regions and a third in Africa

Q 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]

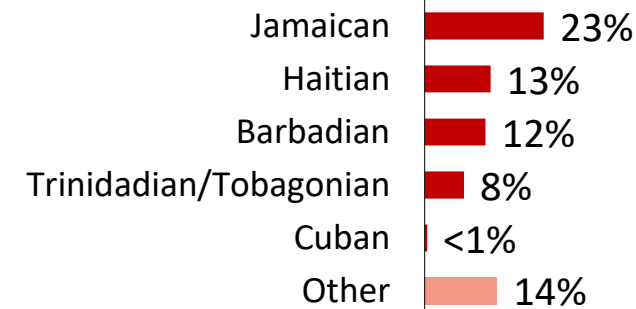


Other responses include:

- American
- South American
- South Asian
- Chinese

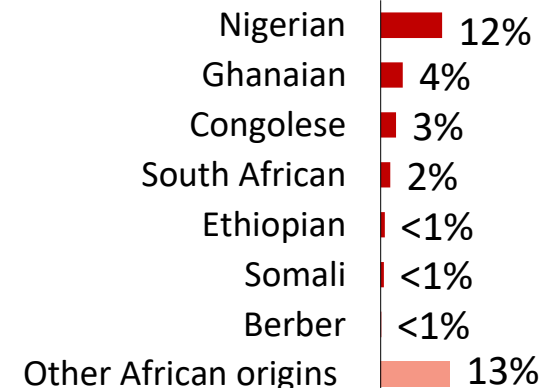
Q And what were your ancestor's Caribbean ethnic or cultural origins?
[asked of those whose ethnic or cultural origins is Caribbean, multiple mention; n=254]

Caribbean [n=254]

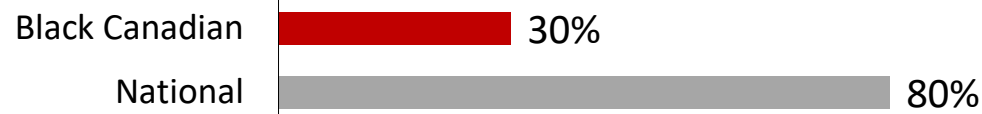


Q And what were your ancestor's African ethnic or cultural origins?
[asked of those whose ethnic or cultural origins is African, multiple mention; n=131]

African [n=131]



Q Were you born in Canada?
[all respondents, Black Canadians n=400; national n=1,500]

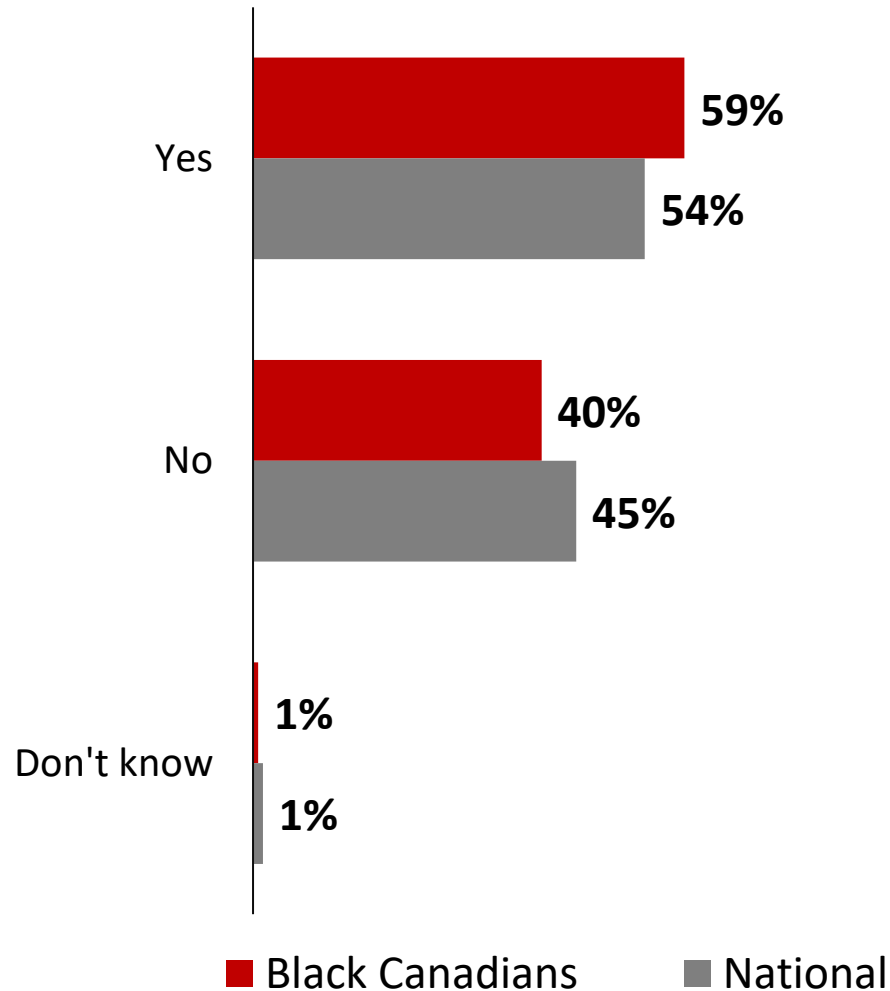


Commute: A majority in both groups currently commute to work at least sometimes; Black Canadians twice as likely to take public transit



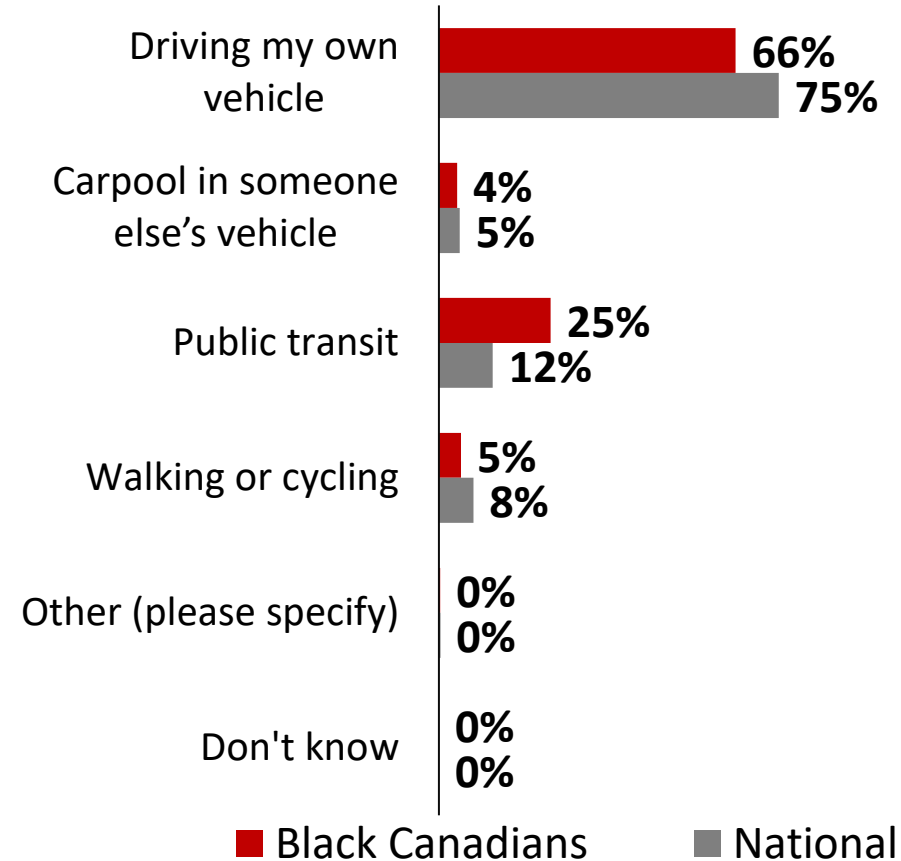
Do you currently commute to your place of work at least some of the time?

[asked of all employed respondents, Black Canadian n=265, national n=767]



When you commute to work, what is your primary mode of transportation?

[asked of all employed commuters; Black Canadian n=158, national n=415]



COVID-19 Health Impacts

Black Canadians are more likely to report COVID-19 symptoms and treatment, and nearly three times as likely as the national population to know someone who has died from the virus.

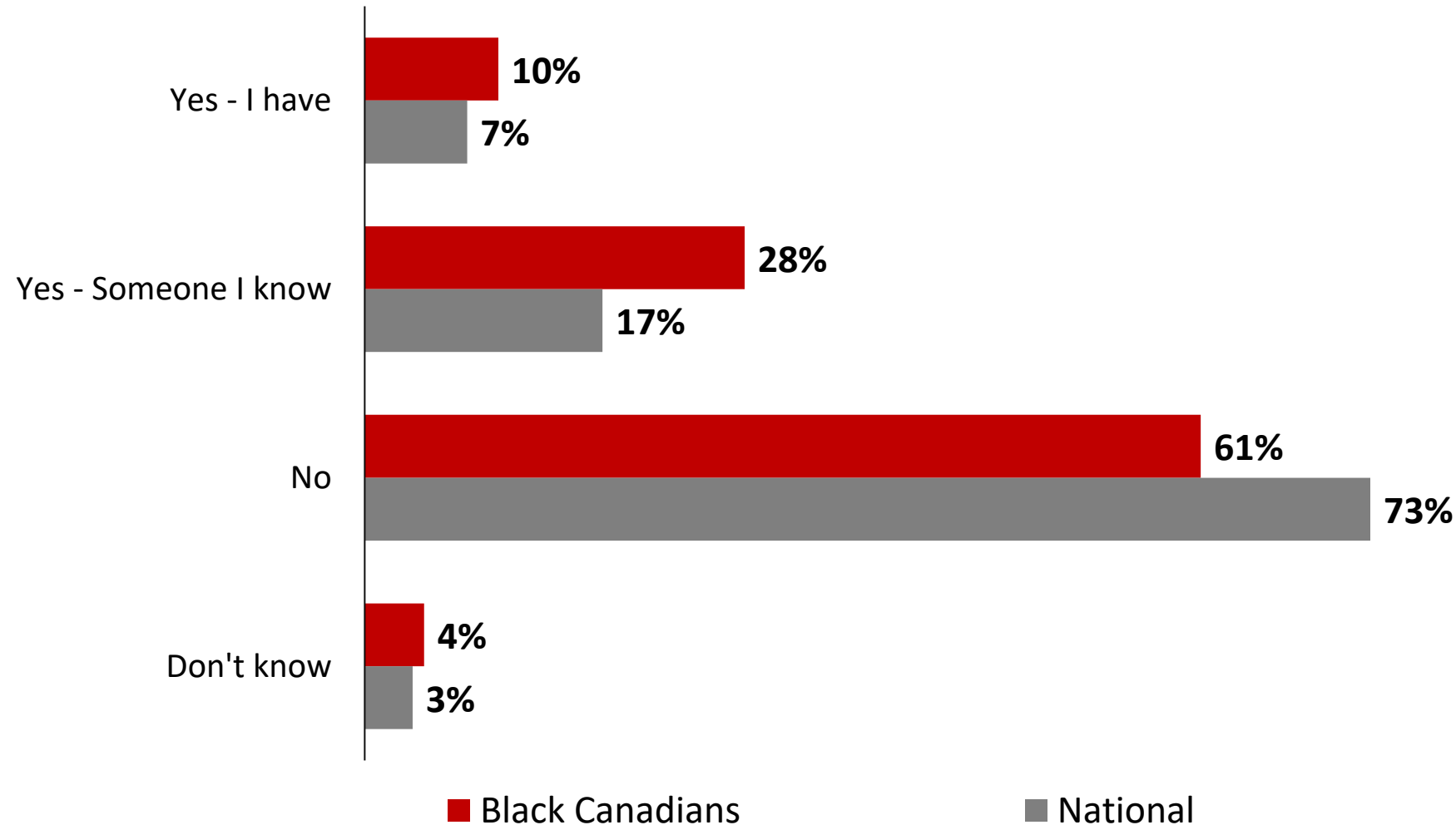
- Black Canadian commuters report far worse health outcomes than the national average in terms of symptoms, treatment, and hospitalization.
- This may, in part, be due to reports of greater daily, face-to-face interactions with the general public.

COVID-19 Health Affects: Black Canadians are more likely to report coronavirus symptoms themselves or from someone they know



Have you or someone you know experienced symptoms that could be caused by COVID-19?

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

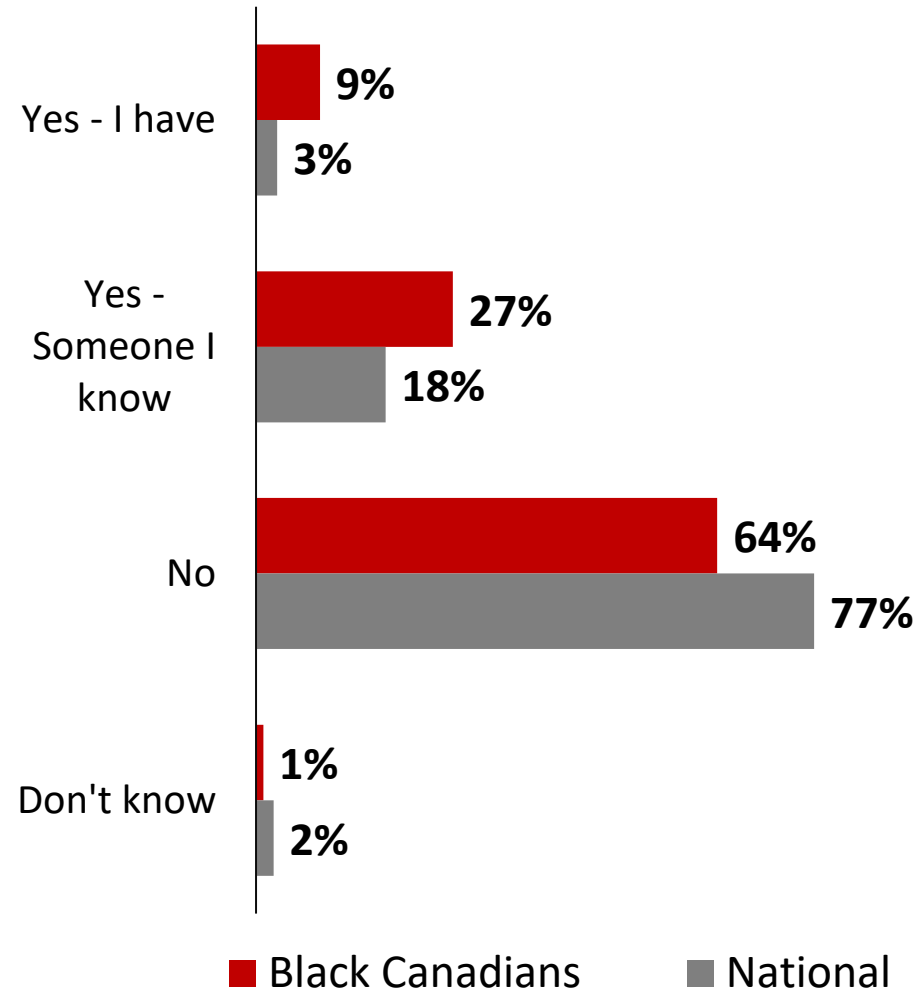


COVID-19 Health Affects: Black Canadians more likely to say they, or someone they know, has sought treatment for COVID-19

Q

Have you or someone you know sought medical treatment for a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19?

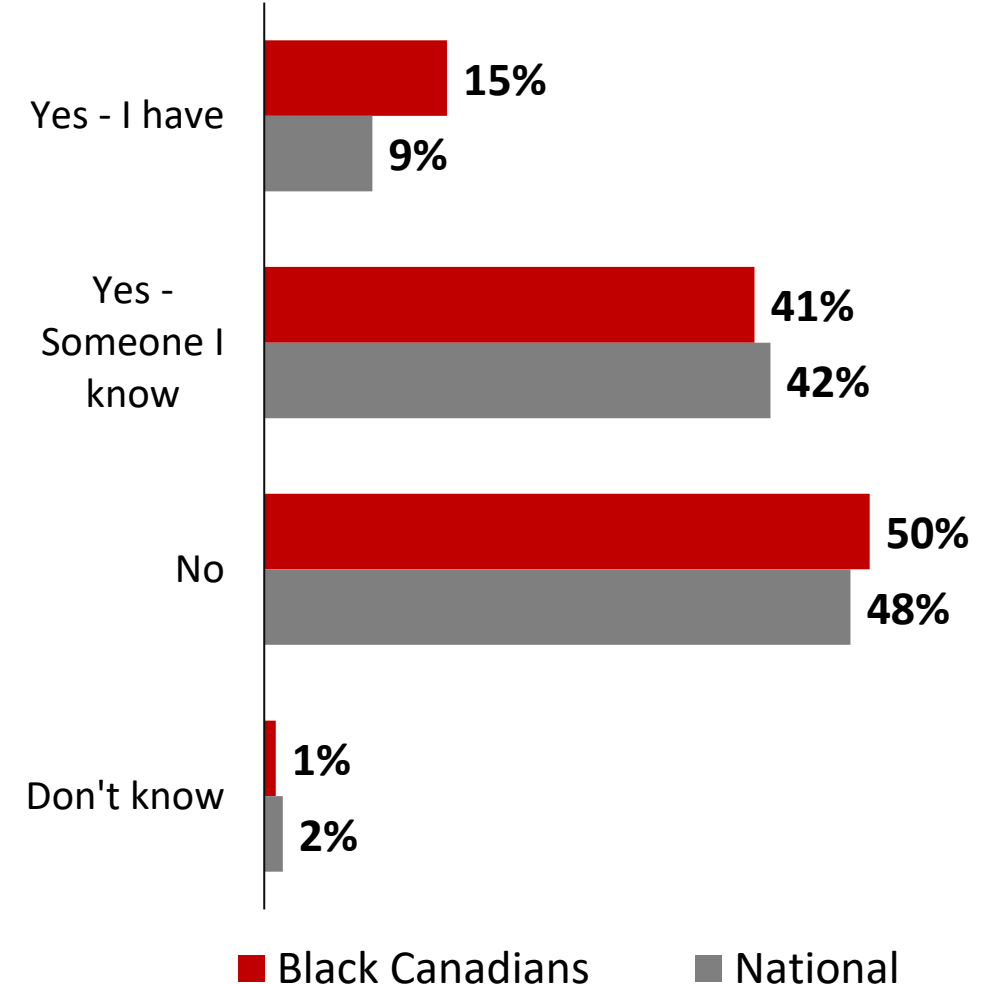
[asked of all respondents, multiple mention; Black Canadian n=400, national n=1,500]



Q

Have you or someone you know been admitted to the hospital for at least one night for a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19?

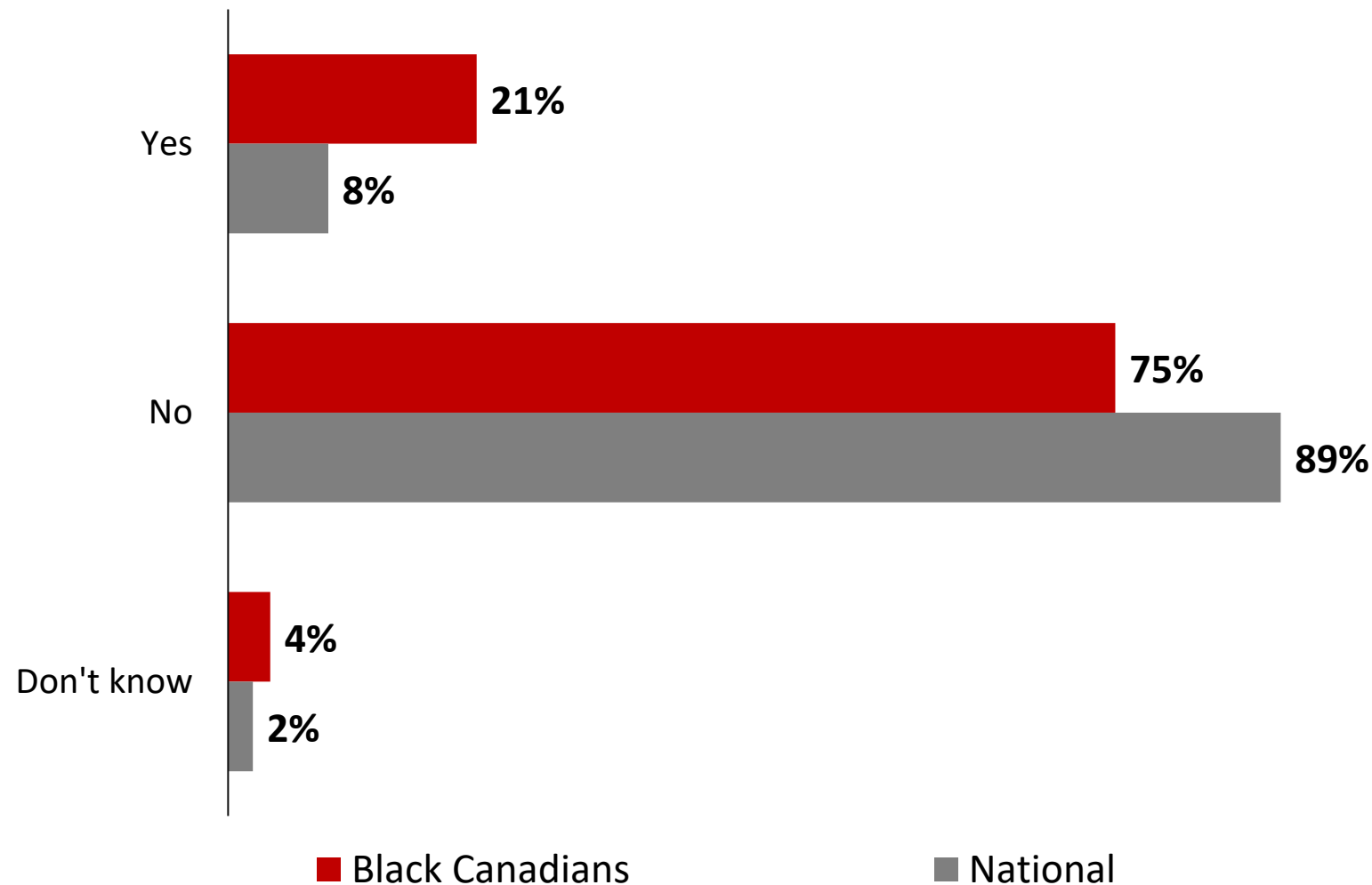
[asked of all respondents who sought medical treatment, multiple mention; Black Canadian n=142, national n=309]



COVID-19 Deaths: Black Canadians are nearly three times as likely to report knowing someone who has died as a result of COVID-19



Has someone you know died as a result of COVID-19?
[asked of all respondents, multiple mention; Black Canadian n=400, national n=1,500]

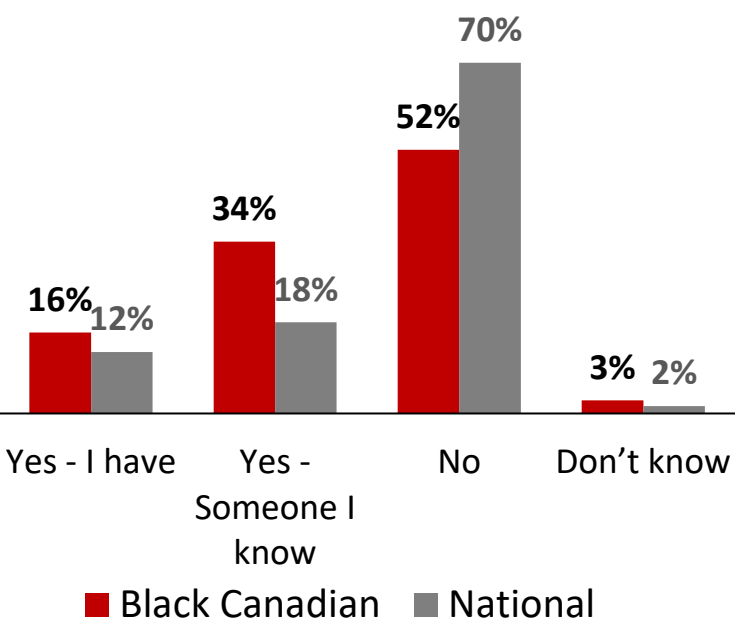


Black Commuters Hit Hardest: Black Canadians who commute at least part-time report much worse health outcomes than national average ¹²

Q Health Outcomes for Commuters, Black Canadian (n=158)/National (n=415)

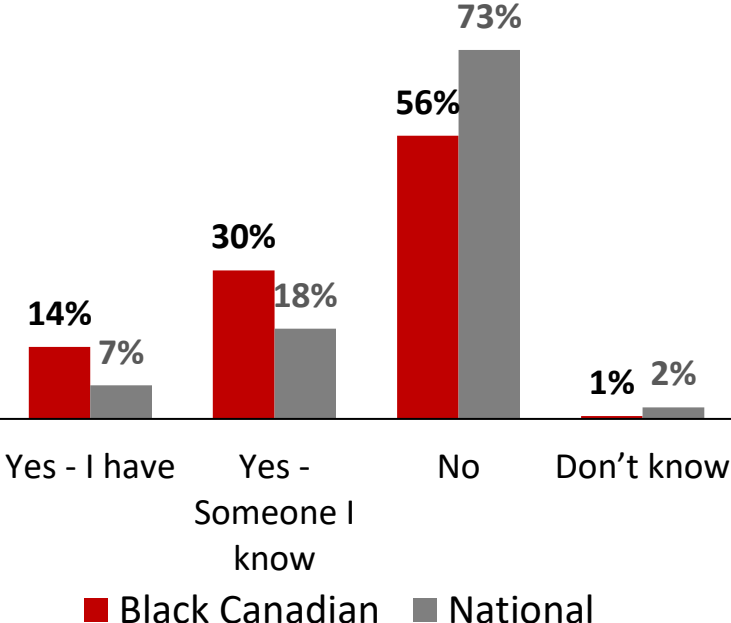
Have you or someone you know experienced symptoms that could be caused by COVID-19?

Commuters



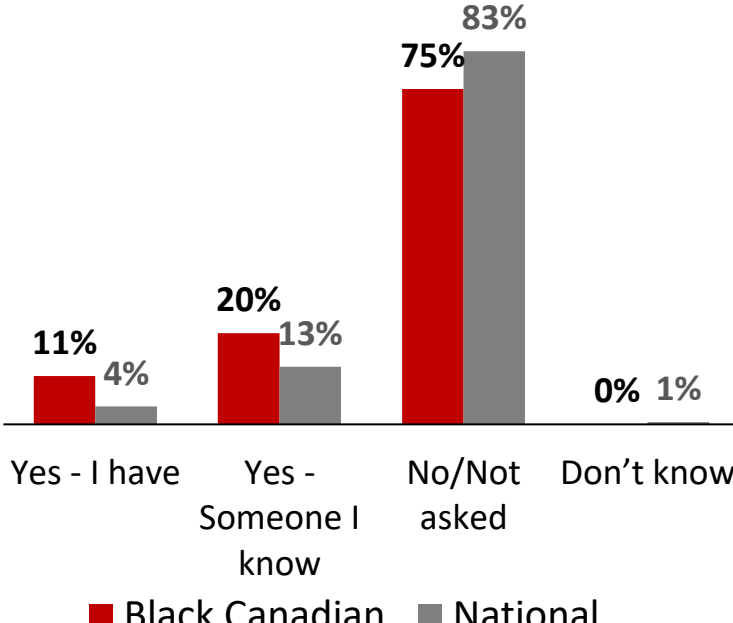
Have you or someone you know sought medical treatment for a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19?

Commuters



Have you or someone you know been admitted to the hospital for at least one night for a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19?

Commuters



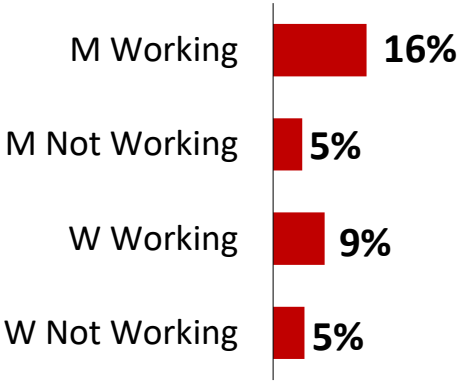
Work/Gender: Working Black Canadians more likely to have experienced symptoms or have been admitted to hospital than national average



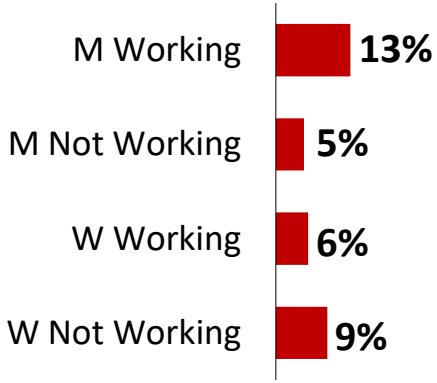
Health Outcomes by Work/Gender

*Have you experienced symptoms that could be caused by COVID-19?**

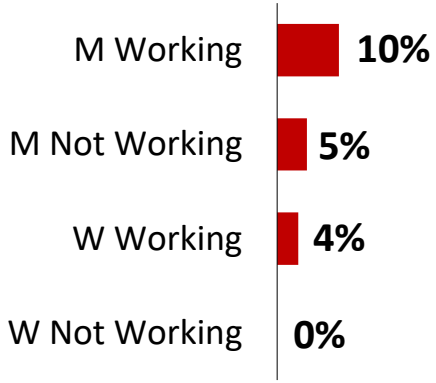
Black Canadian



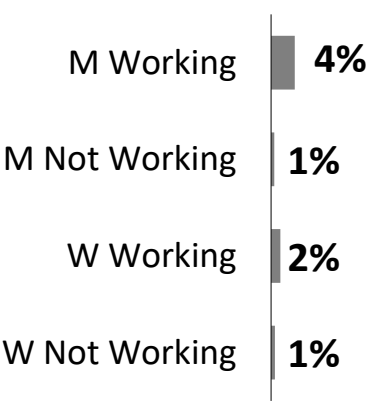
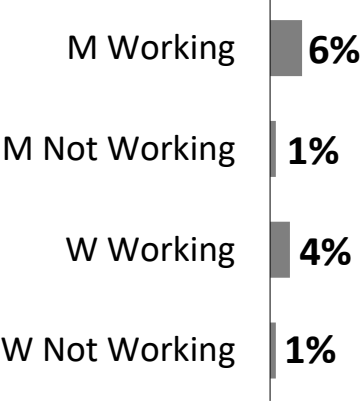
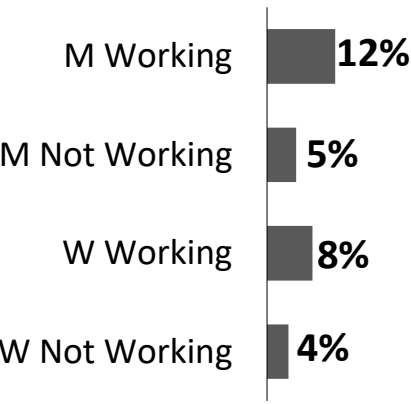
*Have you sought medical treatment for a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19?**



*Have you been admitted to the hospital for at least one night for a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19?**



National

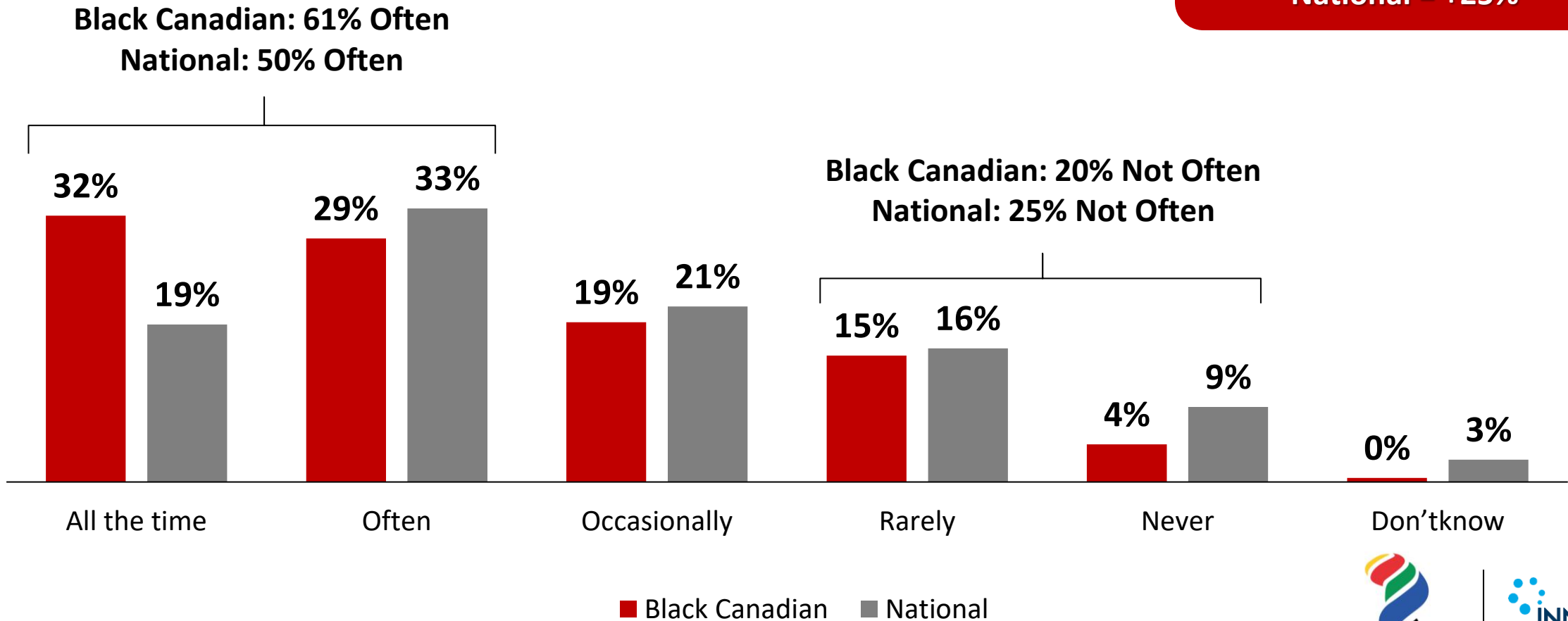


*Full question text: "Have you or someone you know...?" However for the purpose of the analysis, only results of those who say they themselves are impacted are shown.

Job Interaction: Black Canadians are much more likely to report a requirement for face-to-face interaction on the job

Q How often does your work currently require you to interact with people face-to-face?
[asked of those who are currently employed, Black Canadian n=265; national n=767]

Net Often
Black Canadian = +41%
National = +25%



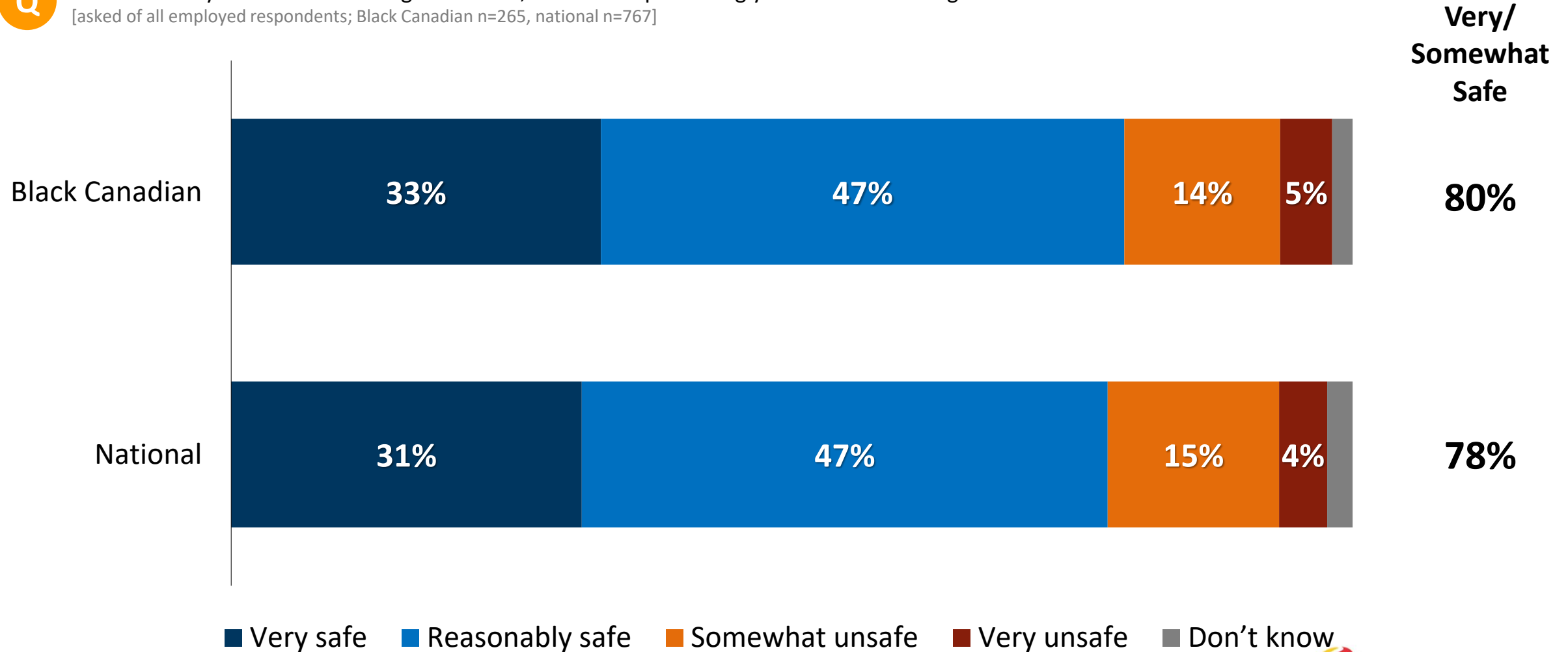
Note: A positive net score means All the time/often outweighed Rarely/never on this question.

Workplace Safety: Both Black Canadians and the national population feel the same level of safety from COVID-19 at work



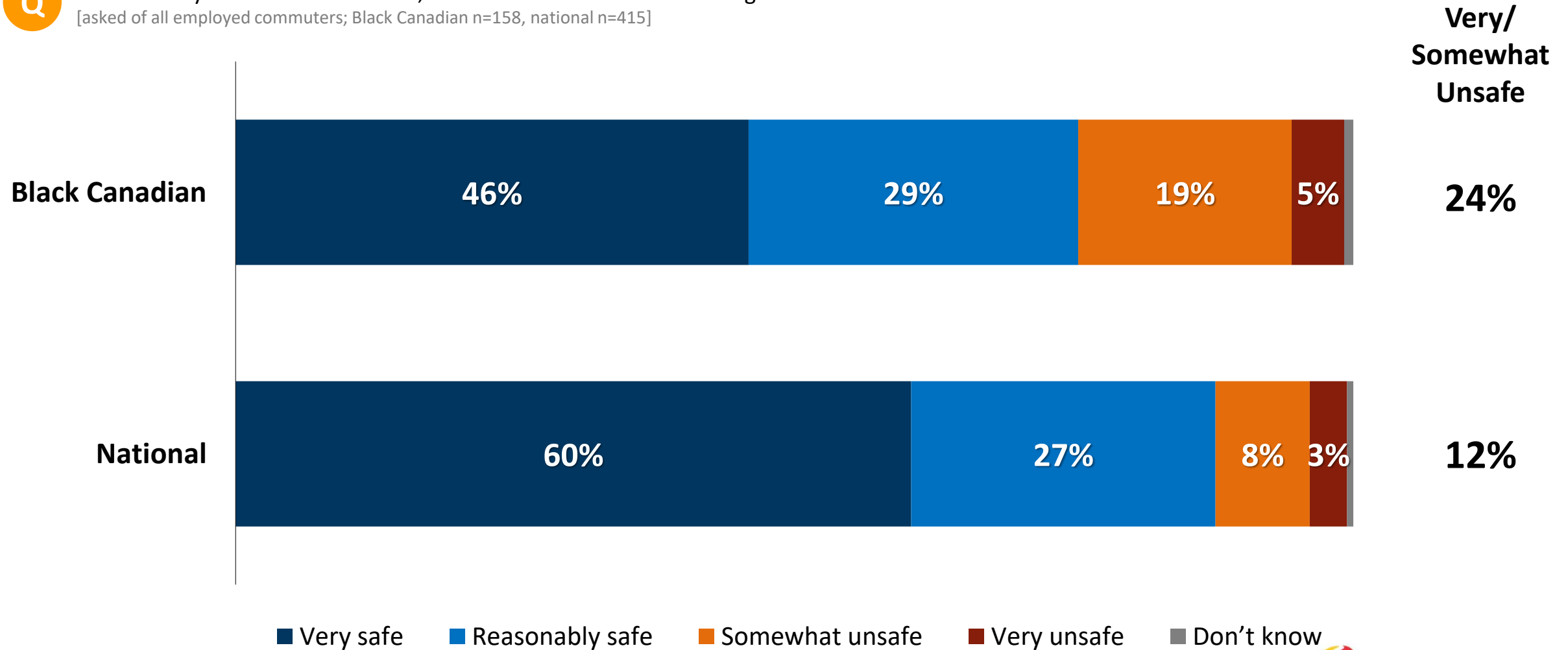
How safe are your current working conditions, in terms of protecting you from contracting COVID-19?

[asked of all employed respondents; Black Canadian n=265, national n=767]



Commute Safety: Black Canadians twice as likely than national average to feel their commute to work is unsafe

Q How safe is your commute to work, in terms of the risk of contracting COVID-19?
[asked of all employed commuters; Black Canadian n=158, national n=415]

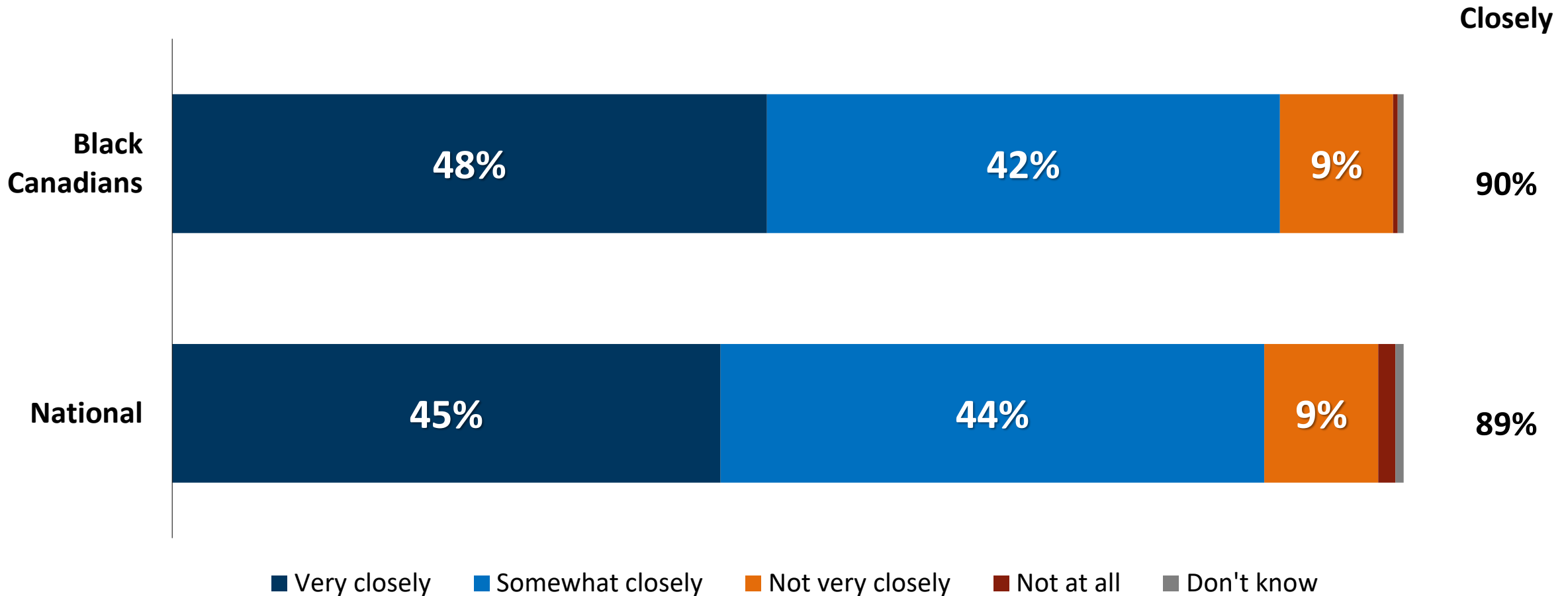


Attention to COVID-19 News: All Canadians are paying close attention to news coverage of the pandemic



How closely have you been following news about COVID-19 which is also known as the novel coronavirus?

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



Concern: The level of concern for self and vulnerable others is higher and more intense among Black Canadians



How concerned are you personally about each of the following?
[asked of all respondents; Black Canadian n=400, national n=1,500]

Very/
Somewhat
concerned

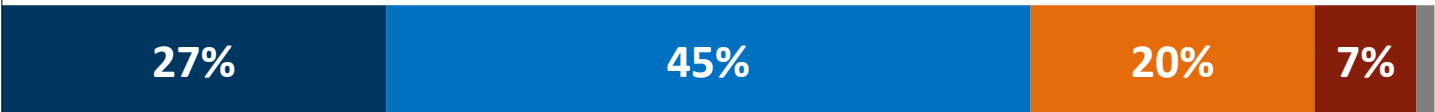
That a vulnerable
friend or a relative will
contract COVID-19.

Black
Canadians



79%

National



72%

That you yourself will
contract COVID-19.

Black
Canadians



66%

National



57%

■ Very concerned ■ Somewhat concerned ■ Not very concerned
■ Not at all concerned ■ Don't know

Attitudes: Black Canadians are more confident in their precautions, but also to feel that their day-to-day routine puts them at risk



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

Net Agreement

I am confident that I am taking all the steps needed to protect myself and my family from COVID-19.

Black Canadians



+86%

National



+77%

I am worried that if we don't take special precautions COVID-19 could come back and put more lives at risk.

Black Canadians



+73%

National



+71%

No matter what steps I take, my day to day routine puts me at a higher risk of catching COVID-19 than I am comfortable with.

Black Canadians



-2%

National



-17%

Strongly agree
Somewhat disagree

Somewhat agree
Strongly disagree

Neither agree nor disagree
Don't know

COVID-19 Financial Impacts

Black Canadians are more likely to report household layoffs, to feel that their household finances are affected by the outbreak, and to worry about paying their rent or mortgage.

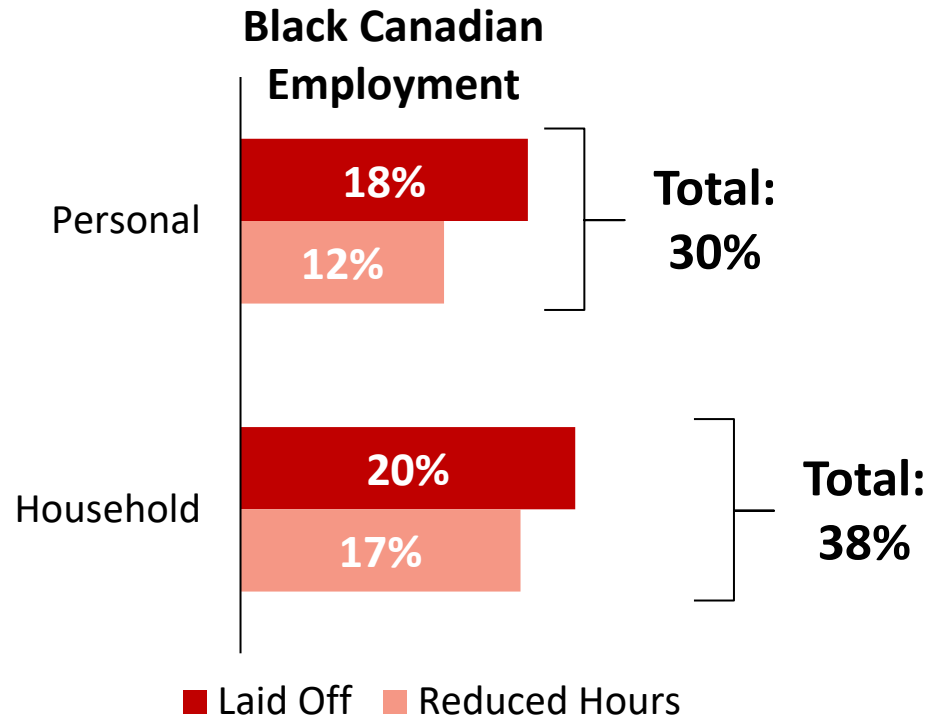
Black Canadian men aged 45+ are nearly twice as likely to report a negative financial impact as the national average.

Direct Impact: Black Canadians are much more likely than the national sample to report household layoffs or reduced hours

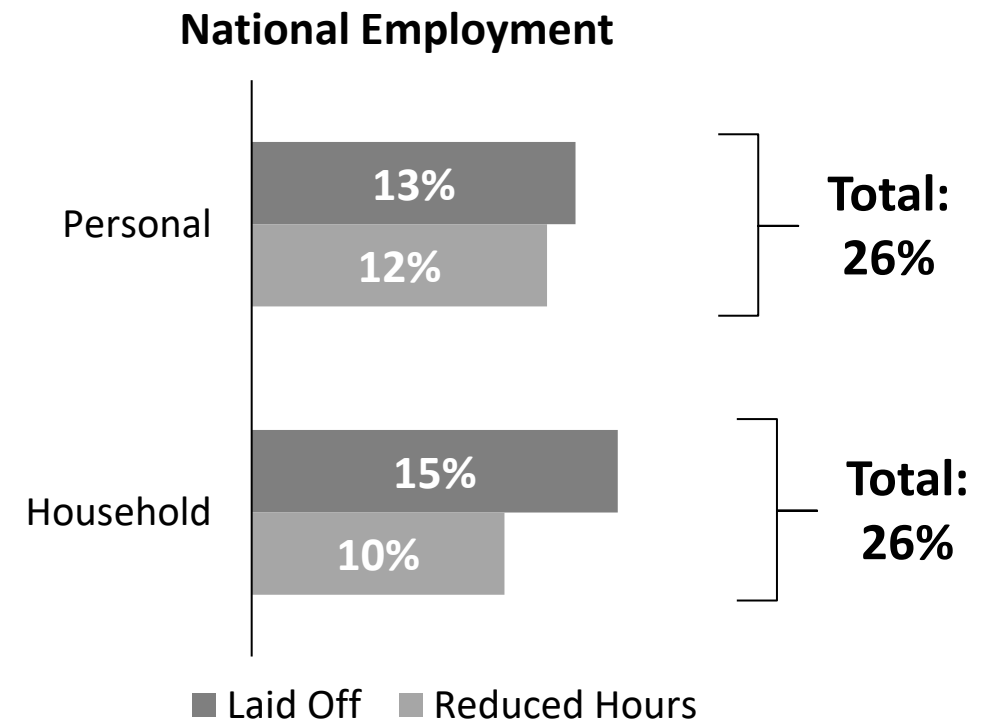


Have you, or has anyone in your household, experienced any of the following impacts on work as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak?

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



In total, 56% of respondents say either they or someone in their household has had their job impacted.



In total, 43% of respondents say either they or someone in their household has had their job impacted.

Note: The question allowed for multiple responses. Where respondents selected multiple, only their most extreme response is shown.

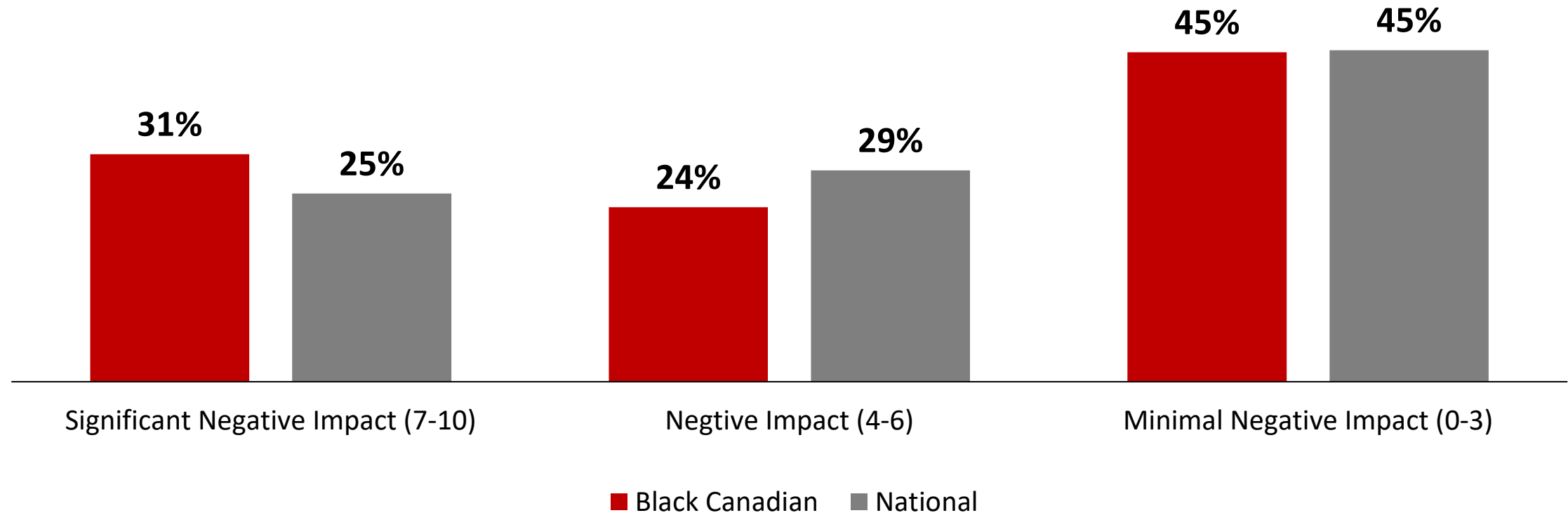
Financial Impact: Black Canadians slightly more likely to say COVID-19 has had a negative impact on their household finances ²²



The COVID-19 outbreak has resulted in major changes to personal behaviour, Canadians' finances, business operations, and the economy overall.

Thinking about these changes as a whole, how much have they negatively impacted you personally in each of the following areas? Please answer from 0 to 10 where 0 means "No negative impact" and 10 means "Extremely negative".

"Your household's finances"

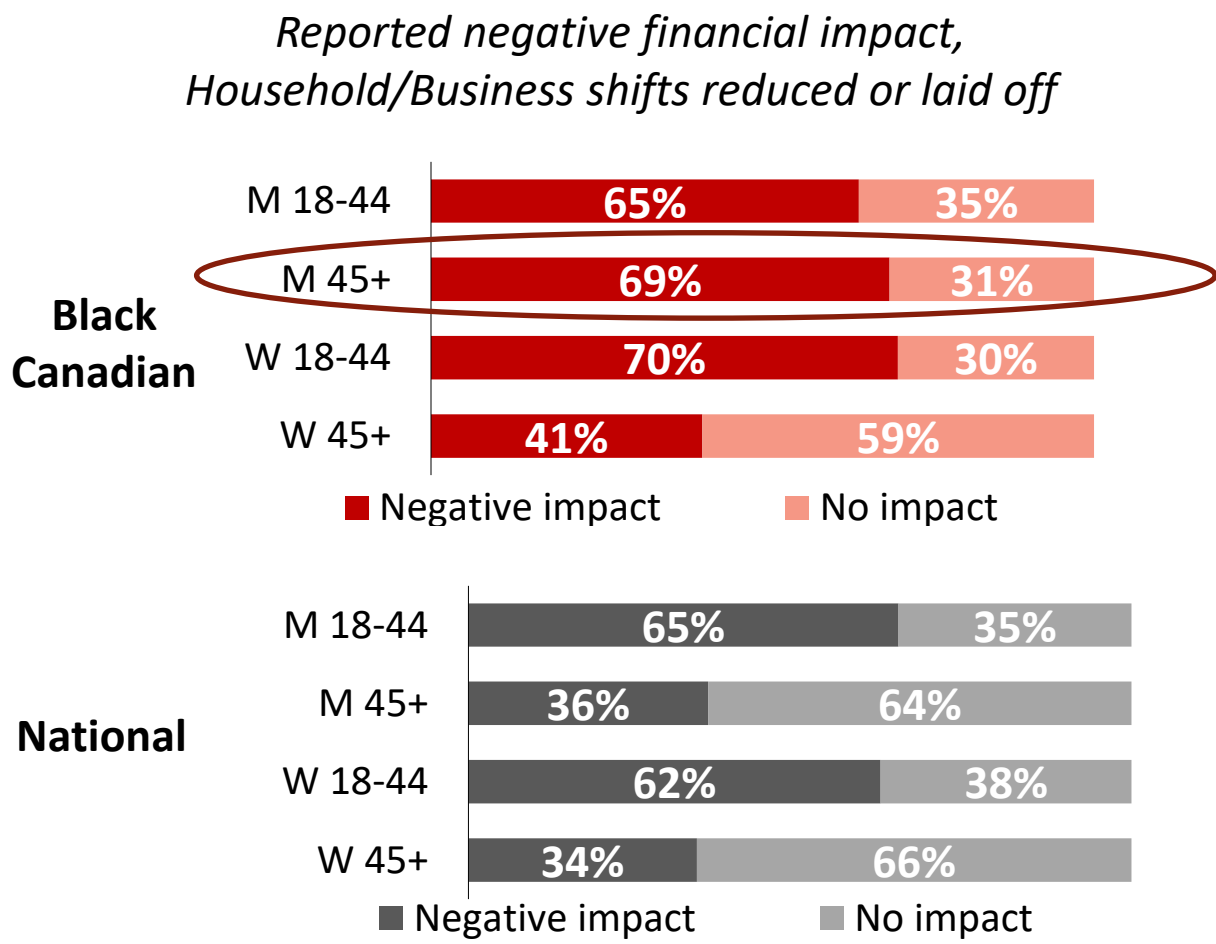


Note: Don't know (1%) not shown

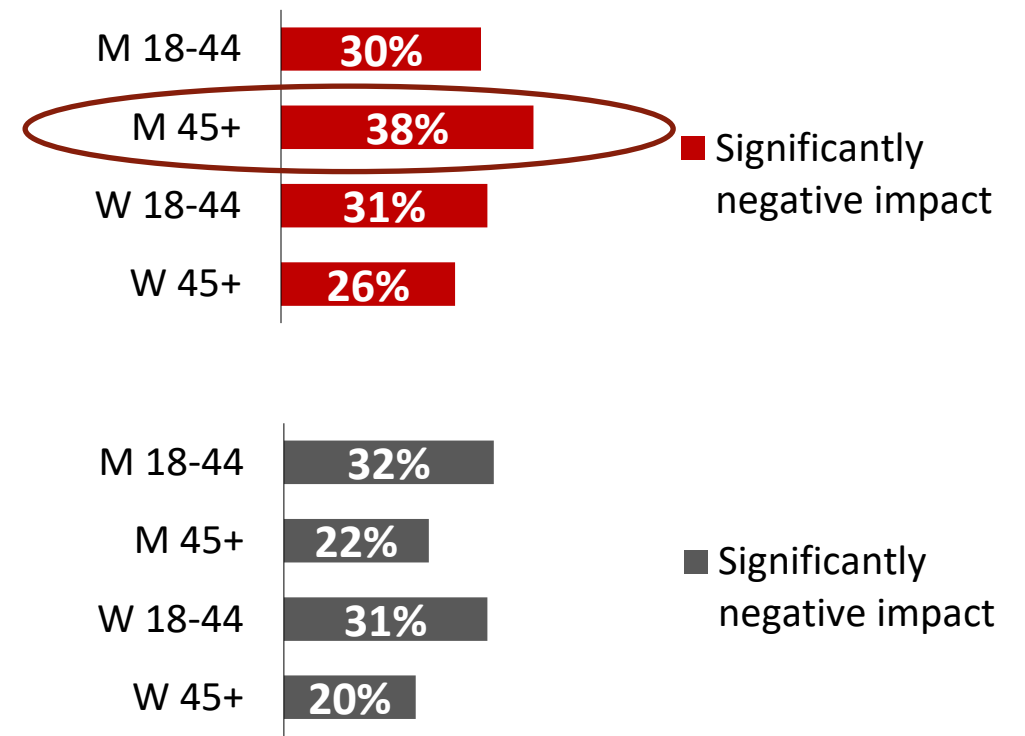
Financial Impact In-Depth: Older Black Canadian men are nearly twice as likely to report a negative financial impact as the national average



Financial Impact by Age-Gender, Black Canadian/National



Significantly Negative Impact on Household Finances (7-10 on 0-10 scale)



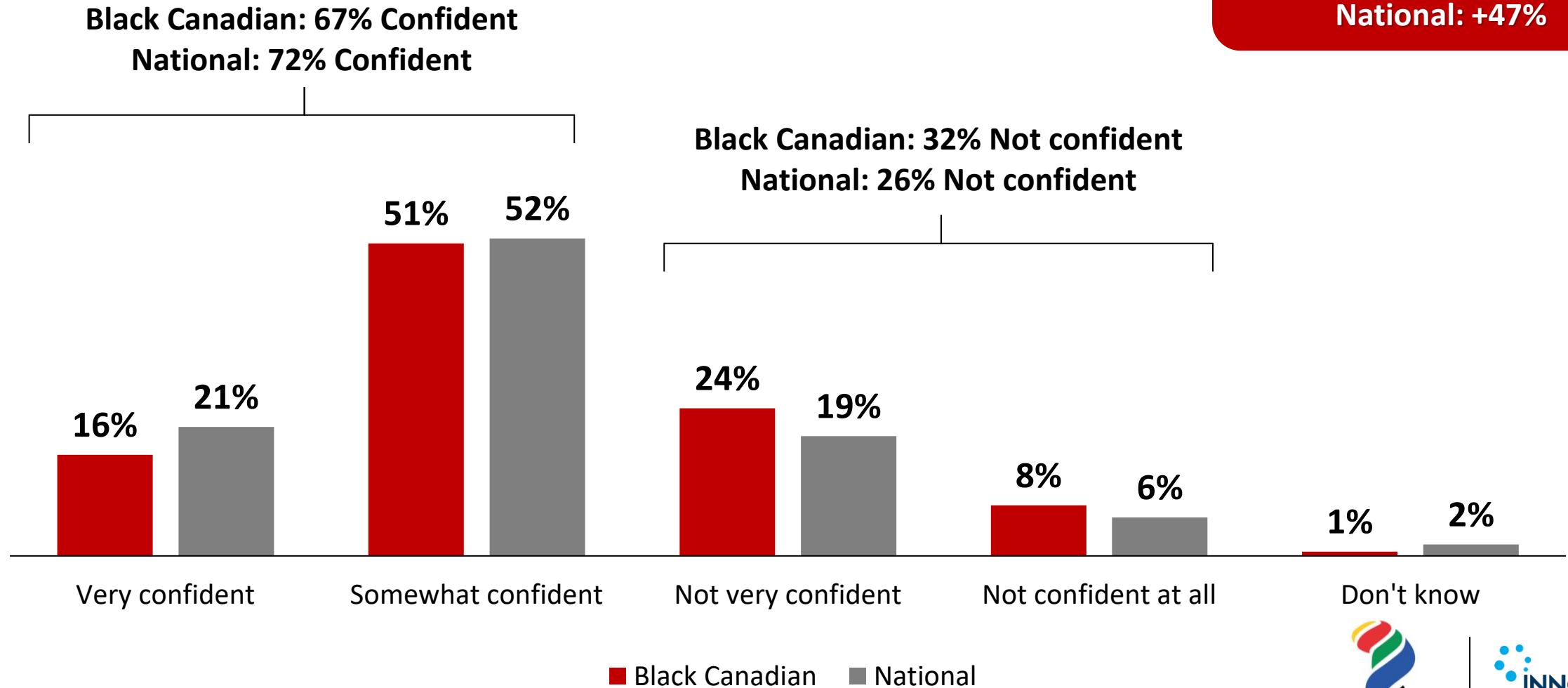
Financial Confidence: Black Canadians are less confident than the Canadian average when it comes to household finances



Generally speaking, how confident and secure do you feel about your household's current financial situation?

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

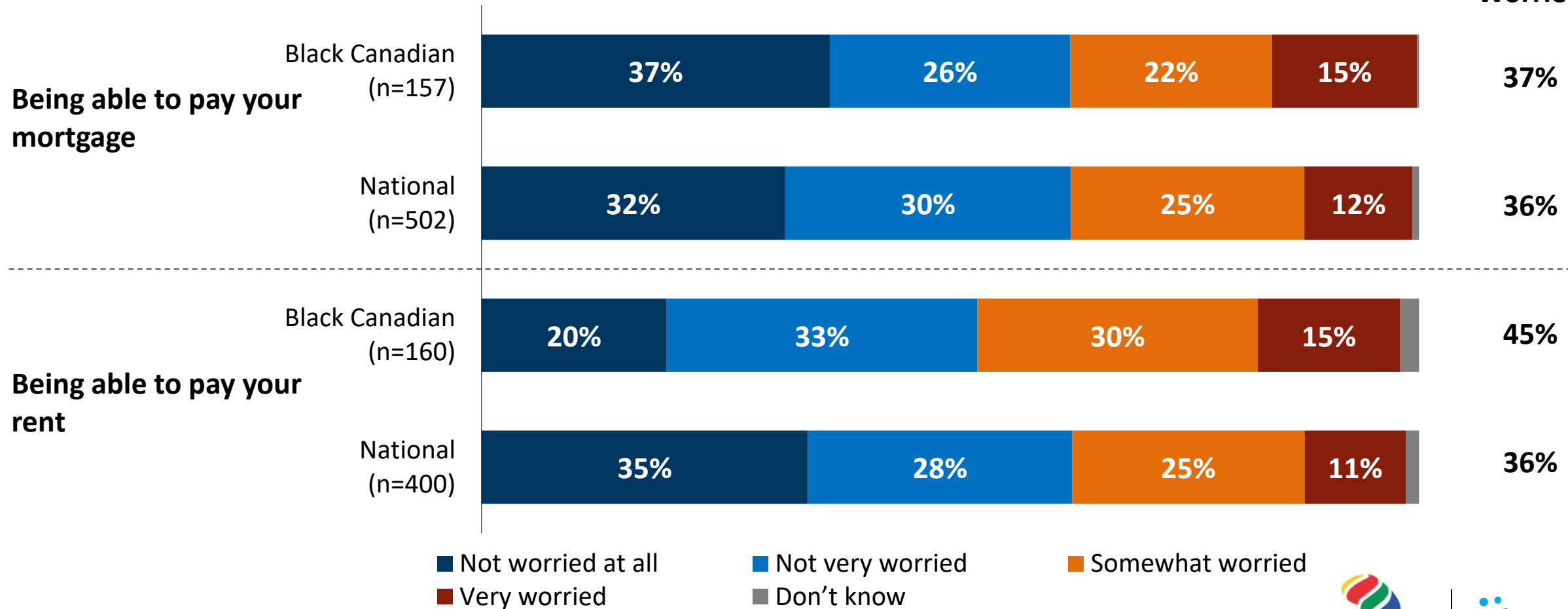
Net Confidence
Black Canadian: +35%
National: +47%



Financial Worry: Black Canadian renters are significantly more worried than the average Canadian about paying rent

Q Thinking about the next few months, how worried are you about the following?
[asked of all respondents who own mortgage or rent; n-sizes shown below]

**Very/
Somewhat
Worried**



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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