

St. Cloud State University

## The Repository at St. Cloud State

---

Student and Campus Surveys

SCSU Survey

---

4-13-2023

### Students Attitudes in a Post-Pandemic World: Findings from the Spring 2023 SCSU Survey

St. Cloud State University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/sacs>

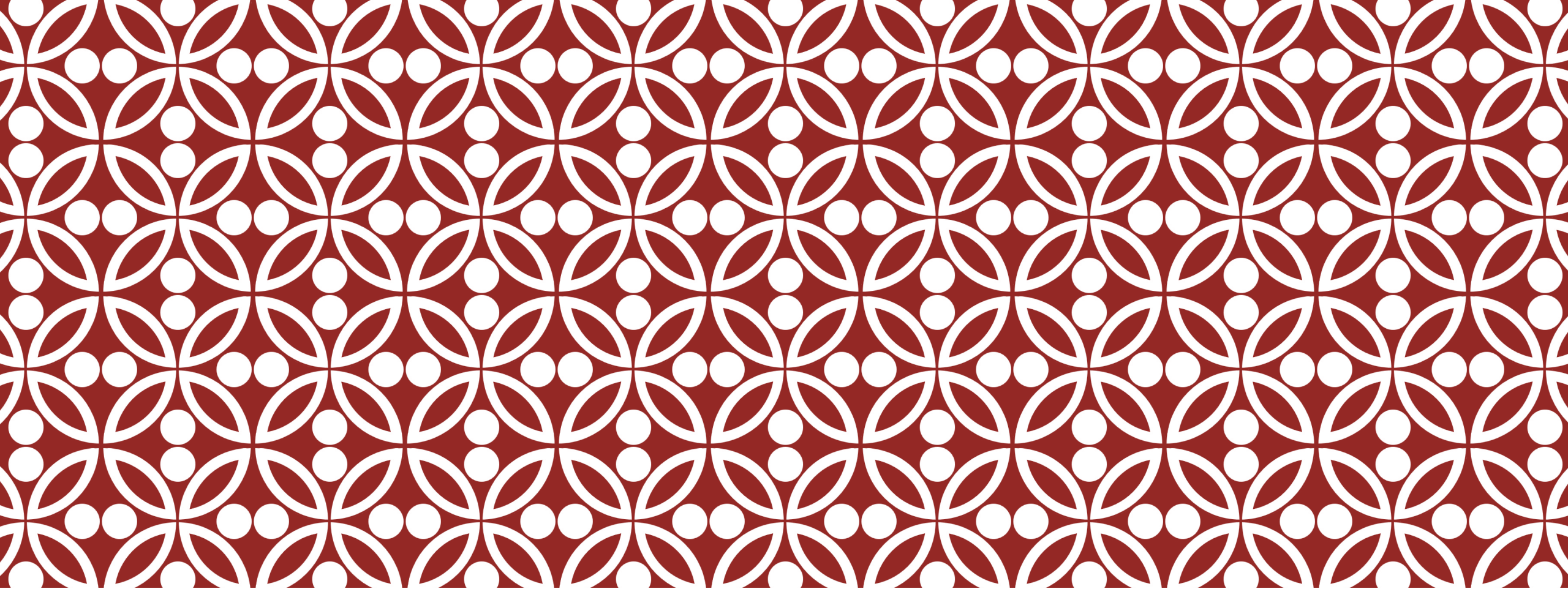
---

#### Recommended Citation

St. Cloud State University, "Students Attitudes in a Post-Pandemic World: Findings from the Spring 2023 SCSU Survey" (2023). *Student and Campus Surveys*. 28.

<https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/sacs/28>

This Research Study is brought to you for free and open access by the SCSU Survey at The Repository at St. Cloud State. It has been accepted for inclusion in Student and Campus Surveys by an authorized administrator of The Repository at St. Cloud State. For more information, please contact [tdsteman@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:tdsteman@stcloudstate.edu).

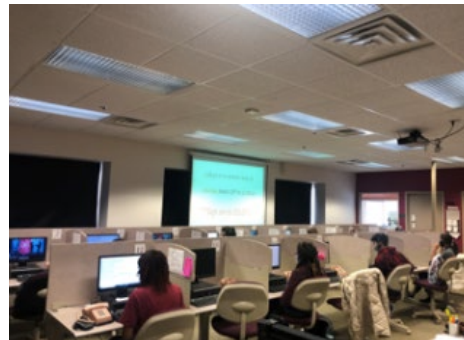


**STUDENT ATTITUDES IN A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD:  
FINDINGS FROM THE SPRING 2023 SCSU SURVEY**

2023 SOPA SHOWCASE, APRIL 18, 2023

Sabina Scotti,  
Owen Wunderlich, Riley  
Briekos, Ben Brecht, Ben  
Zabel, and Alexa  
Harmon

# ABOUT THE STEPHEN FRANK SCSU SURVEY CENTER



- ✓ Founded in 1980
- ✓ Located on campus in Stewart Hall
- ✓ Partnership between undergraduate students and faculty
- ✓ Strives to assure all students and faculty contribute to the research process

# METHODS

- ❖ Survey data was collected via telephone and Qualtrics.
- ❖ SCSU survey conducted a telephone survey from 2/18/23 through 3/2/23 on weekdays during evening hours, except for Fridays and on Saturday in the afternoon and on Sunday during evening hours.
- ❖ This study was approved by the SCSU IRB, and callers were trained in ethical data collection.
- ❖ The survey employs a Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) program called WinCati and the analysis was done using SPSS
- ❖ A representative sample of St. Cloud State University students ages 18 and older who provided their phone numbers were interviewed by landline and cell phone.
- ❖ A total of 587 respondents completed the survey, 387 via telephone and 200 via Qualtrics.
- ❖ Interviewers asked questions about various issues on and off campus, as well as demographic questions.

# 2023 SURVEY

- ❖ The cooperation rate for the phone survey was 67%
- ❖ The cooperation rate for the Qualtrics (Web) survey was 47%
- ❖ The margin of error was 4%, with a 96% confidence level.
- ❖ The data was not weighted for this survey, we had a representative sample of students

# INDEPENDENT VARIABLES OF THE STUDY

❖ Gender

❖ Ideology

❖ Race

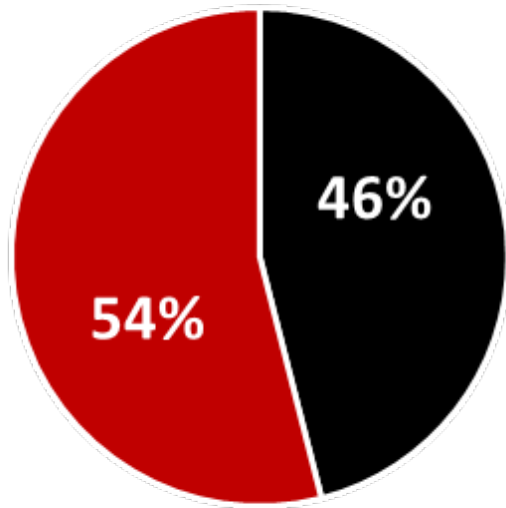
❖ Political Party

❖ Age

❖ Trust in News

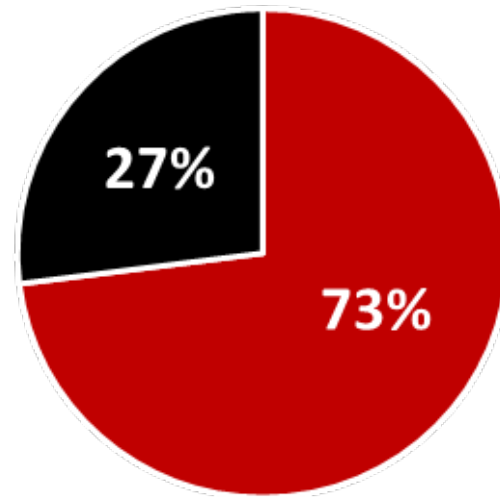
# SOME INDEPENDENT VARIABLE BREAKDOWNS

## Gender



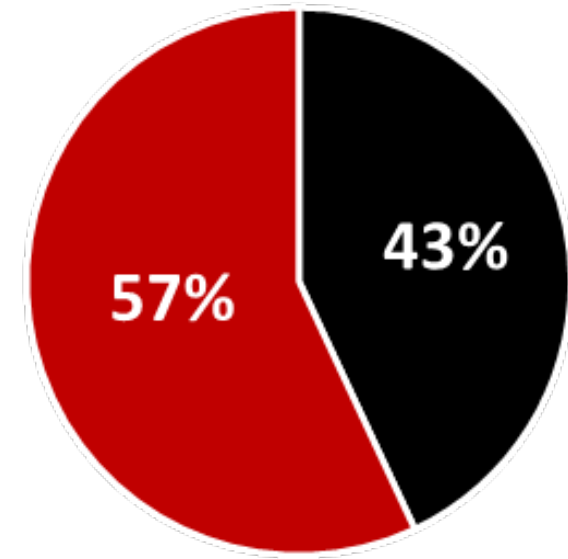
■ Male ■ Female

## Race/Ethnicity

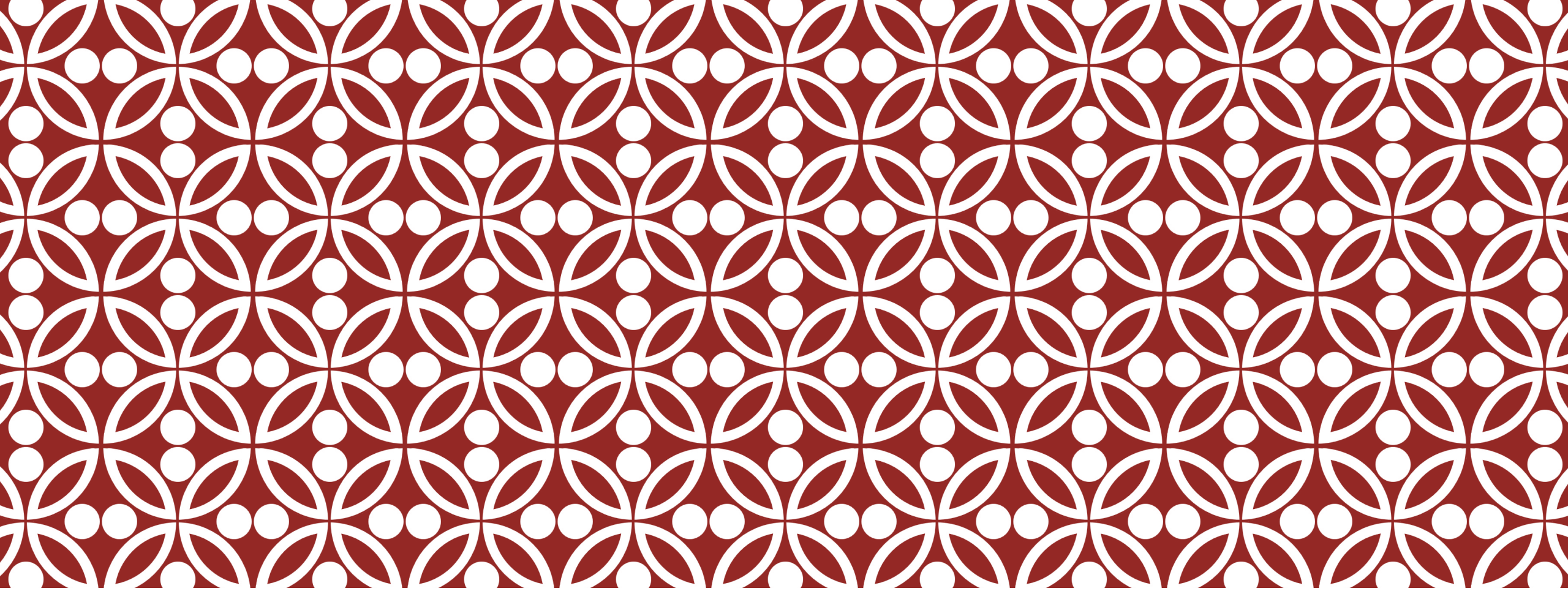


■ White Students ■ Students of Color

## Trust in News



■ Truthful ■ Untruthful



*BELIEF IN CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS CAUSES*

By Alexa Harmon &  
Sabina Scotti



# CLIMATE CHANGE BELIEF

Which of the following statements do you most agree with?

- ❖ 1. Climate change is happening now, caused mainly by human activity
- ❖ 2. Climate change is happening now, but caused mainly by natural forces
- ❖ 3. Climate change is NOT happening now

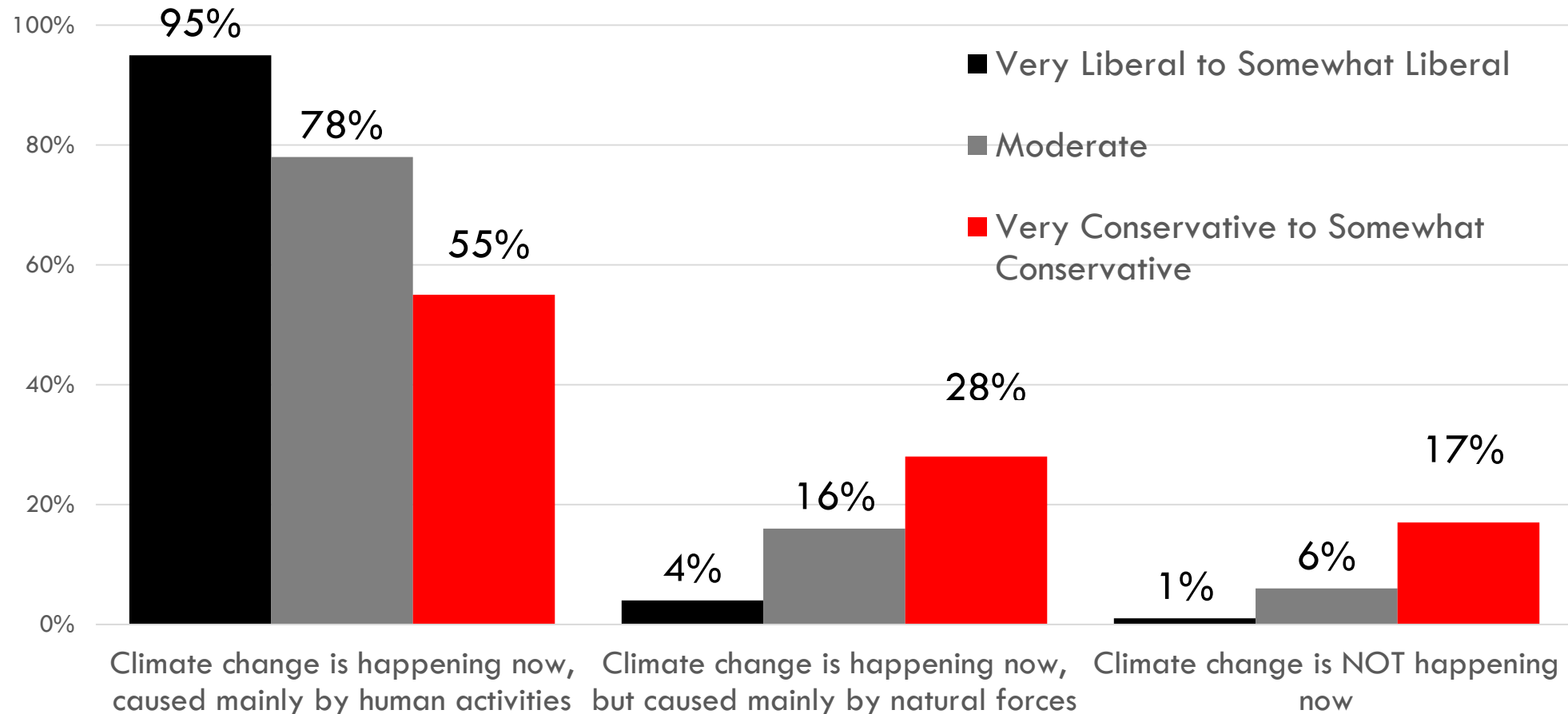
# HYPOTHESIS FOR IDEOLOGY

❖ Respondents who affiliate with liberal ideology are more likely to believe climate change is happening and that it is caused by human activities.

According to Hamilton et al. (2019), liberals are far more likely than conservatives to believe that climate change is happening.

# CLIMATE CHANGE BELIEF BY IDEOLOGY

Chi-square value: 74.217  
P Value: .001



N = 455

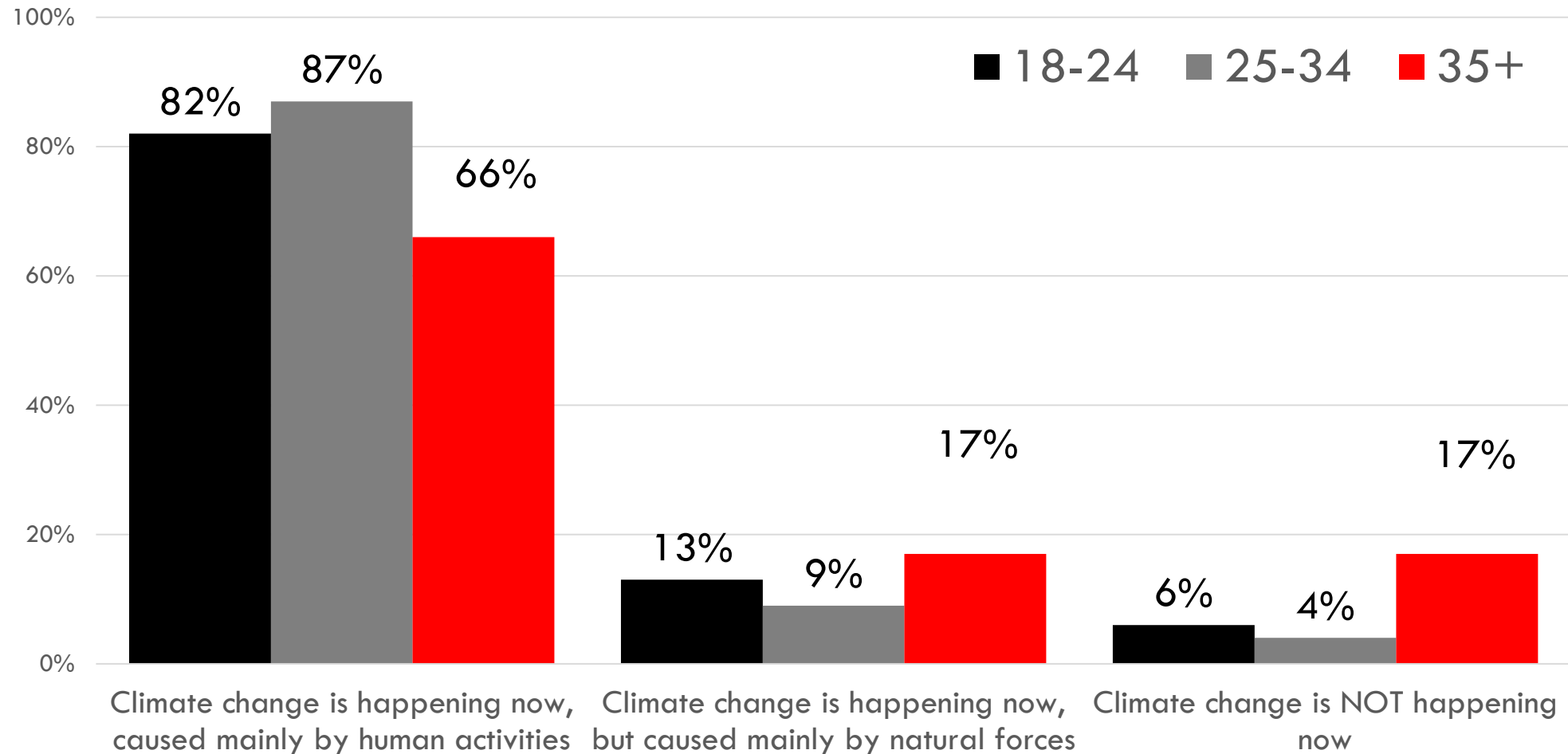
# HYPOTHESIS FOR AGE

- ❖ The younger the respondents, the more likely they are to believe that climate change is happening and that it is caused by human activity.

According to Hamilton et al. (2014), age is generally a strong predictor of climate change attitudes with older adults being less concerned about it.

# CLIMATE CHANGE BELIEF BY AGE

Chi-square value: 17.842  
P Value: .001



N = 504

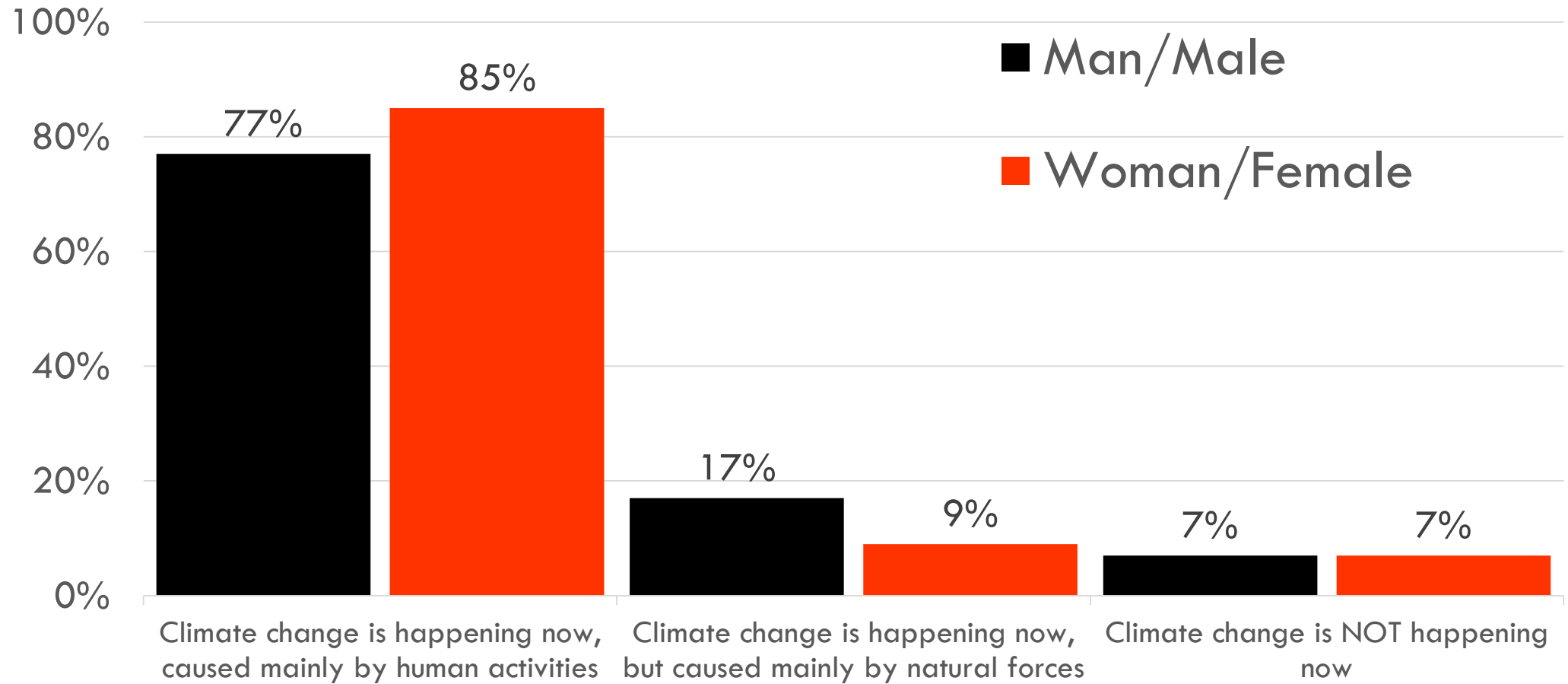
# HYPOTHESIS FOR GENDER

- ❖ Women are more likely to believe climate change is happening and that it is caused mainly by human activity.

According to Matthew Arbuckle and Makenzie Mercer, women are more likely to be concerned about climate change than men (2020).

# CLIMATE CHANGE BELIEF BY GENDER

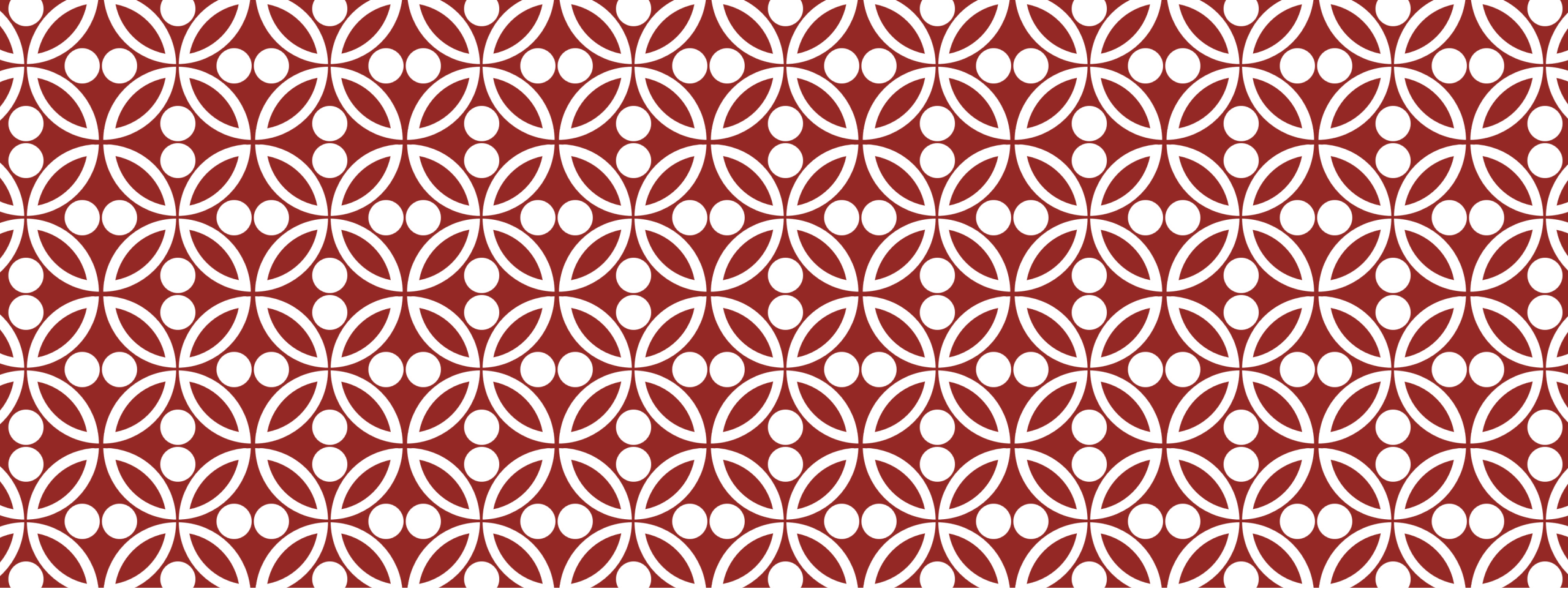
Chi-square value: 6.446  
P Value: .04



# CONCLUSIONS

- ❖ Respondents who affiliate with liberal ideology are more likely to believe climate change is happening and that it is caused by human activities.
  - ❖ **The hypothesis is supported.**
- ❖ The younger the respondents, the more likely they are to believe that climate change is happening and that it is caused by human activity.
  - ❖ **The hypothesis is supported.**
- ❖ Women are more likely to believe climate change is happening and that it is caused mainly by human activity.
  - ❖ **The hypothesis is supported.**





*TRUST IN MEDIA AND CONCERNS ABOUT RENEWABLE  
ENERGY IN MINNESOTA*

By Owen Wunderlich  
and Riley Briekos

# LIT REVIEW

- ❖ The U.S. is at a point where the public is becoming increasingly less trusting of the media. According to a Gallup "majorities of Democrats have consistently expressed confidence in the media since 1997, this has not been true of independents since 2004. Republicans' last majority-level reading for trust in the media was in 1998" (Brenan, 2023, news.gallup.com).
- ❖ Similarly, the U.S. Seems too also have conflicting interest on renewable energy, "most Americans prefer the U.S. put more emphasis on producing domestic energy from solar and wind power. About half want a greater emphasis on natural gas energy production, while opinions are mixed on nuclear power" (Jones, 2021, news.gallup.com).
- ❖ "Among Republicans, those who say they have heard a lot about wind power are especially likely to see it as less reliable and more costly than other energy sources" (Gustafson et al., 2020, climatecommunication.yale.edu)

[Americans Remain Distrustful of Mass Media \(gallup.com\)](https://news.gallup.com)

[Americans Show Elevated Concern About Energy \(gallup.com\)](https://news.gallup.com)

[Republicans and Democrats Differ In Their Primary Reasons For Supporting Renewable Energy\(Climatecommunication.yale.edu\)](https://climatecommunication.yale.edu)

# SUPPORT FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY IN MINNESOTA

DEPENDENT VARIABLE

Whether you support or don't support moving toward renewable sources of energy, what do you view as the biggest problem with renewable energy?

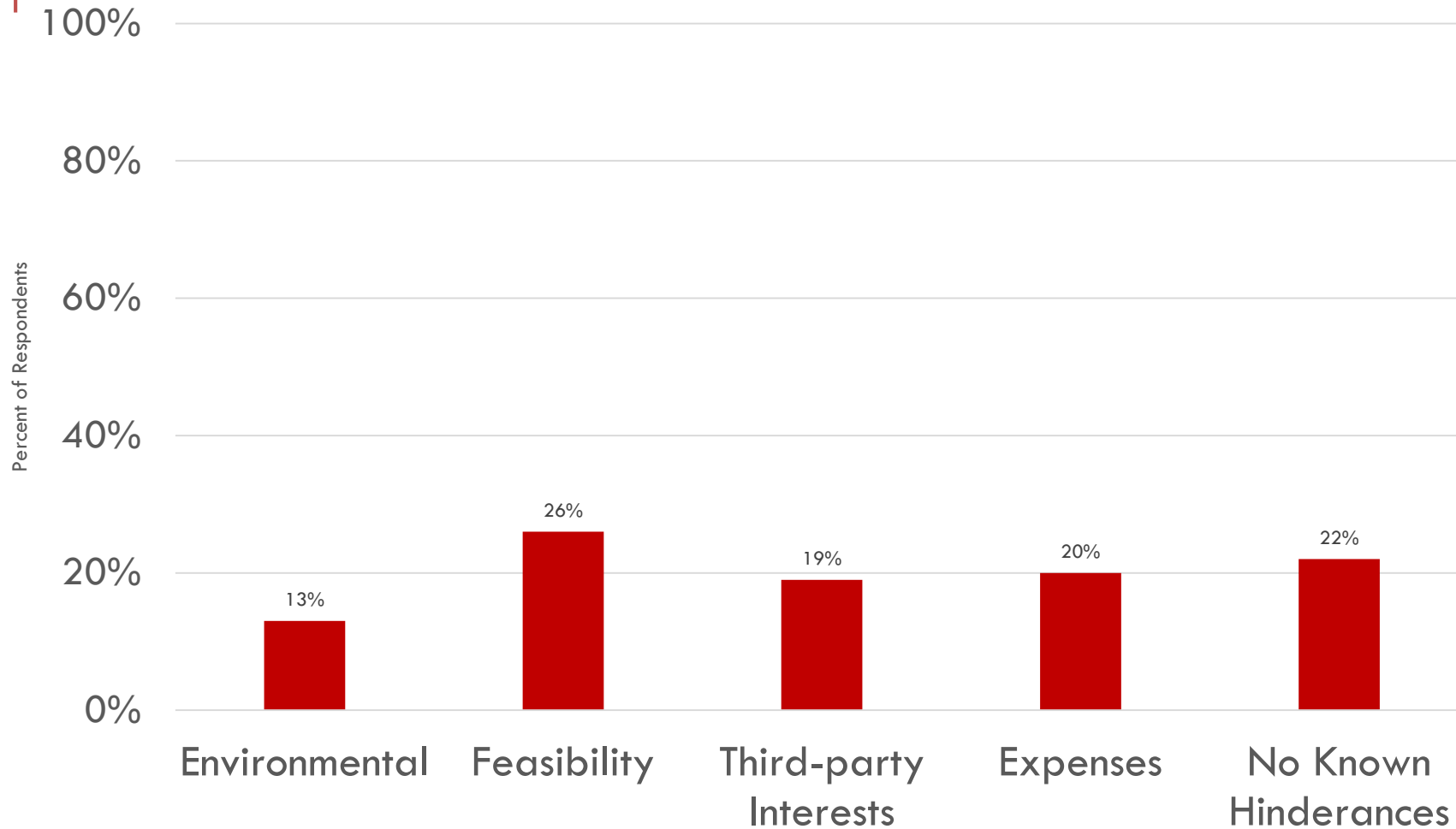
Open Ended Responses:

# OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES

1. **Environmental:** More Harmful than Fossil Fuels, Land Usage
2. **Feasibility:** Energy Production, Infrastructure, Energy Storage
3. **Third-Party Interest:** Politics, Older Generations, Business, Media
4. **Expenses:** Cost of production, Cost of Installation
5. **No Known Hindrances:** Don't Know, No Idea, N/A

# OPEN-ENDED CONCERNS WITH RENEWABLE ENERGY

Valid: 495  
Missing: 101



# DO YOU BELIEVE THE NEWS MEDIA, IN GENERAL, IS USUALLY TRUTHFUL OR USUALLY UNTRUTHFUL?

INDEPENDENT VARIABLE

1. TRUTHFUL

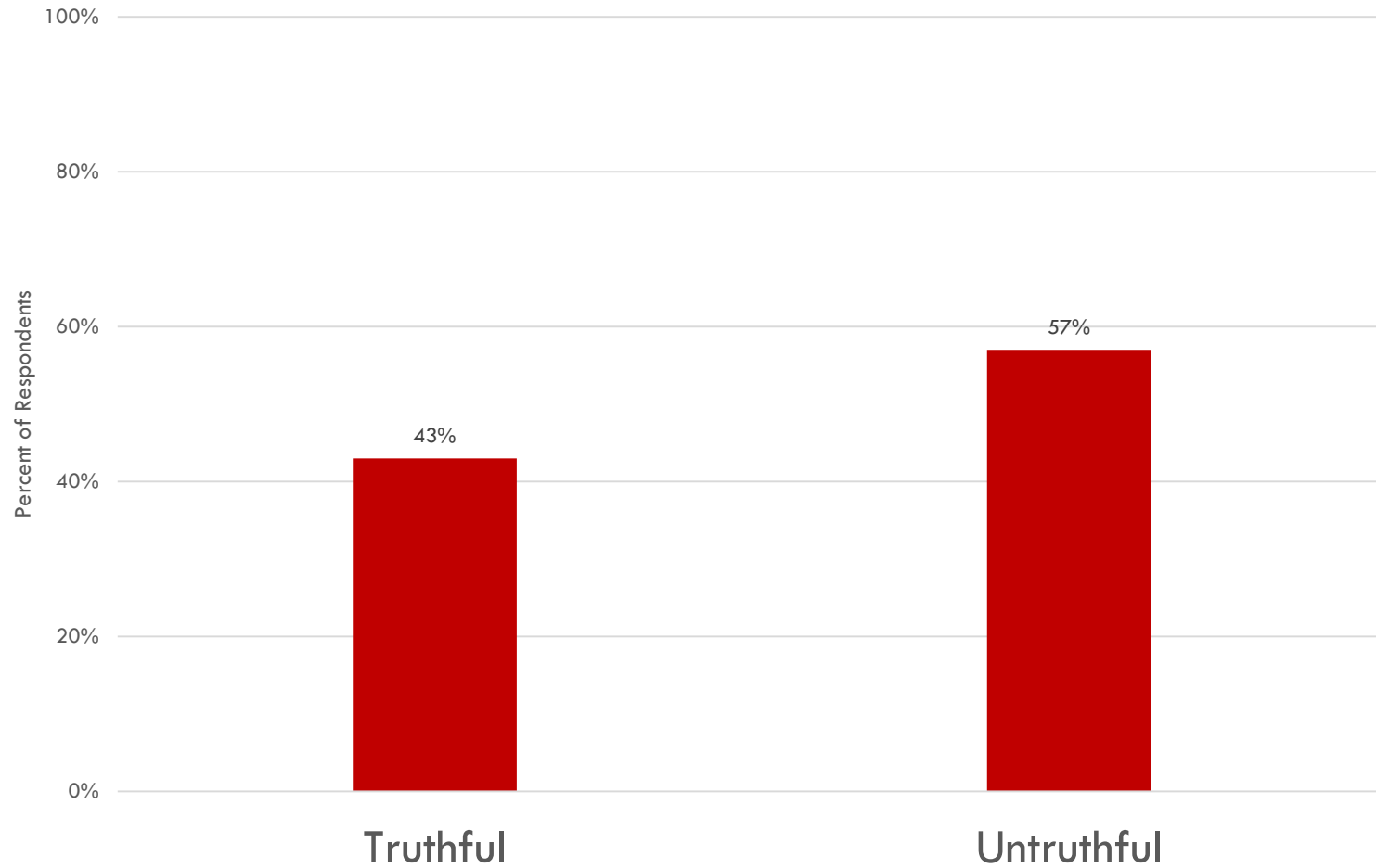
2. UNTRUTHFUL

88. DON'T KNOW

99. REFUSED

# OVERALL FINDINGS: TRUST IN MEDIA

**Valid: 443**  
**Missing: 153**



**DO YOU USUALLY CONSIDER YOURSELF TO BE A DEMOCRAT,  
REPUBLICAN, ANOTHER PARTY, OR ARE YOU AN INDEPENDENT  
WHO IS NOT A MEMBER OF ANY PARTY?**

**1. DEMOCRAT (DFL)**

**2. REPUBLICAN (GOP)**

**3. ANOTHER PARTY**

**4. INDEPENDENT, NOT A MEMBER OF ANY PARTY**

**5. NOT POLITICAL [VOLUNTEERED]**



# HYPOTHESIS FOR TRUST IN MEDIA

❖ Those who view the media as untruthful are likely to be concerned with environmental, expenses, and feasibility. People who view media as truthful will be more concerned with third-party interest, or no known hindrances

❖ "[Americans increasingly see bias in news coverage](#), they nonetheless believe that an independent media is key to democracy." (Brenan, 2023, news.gallup.com)

[Americans Remain Distrustful of Mass Media \(gallup.com\)](#)

# HYPOTHESIS FOR PARTY

1. Democrats are likely to cite Third-party, or no Known Hindrances as their concern with Renewable energy.
2. Republicans are likely to cite Feasibility, Environmental, or Expenses

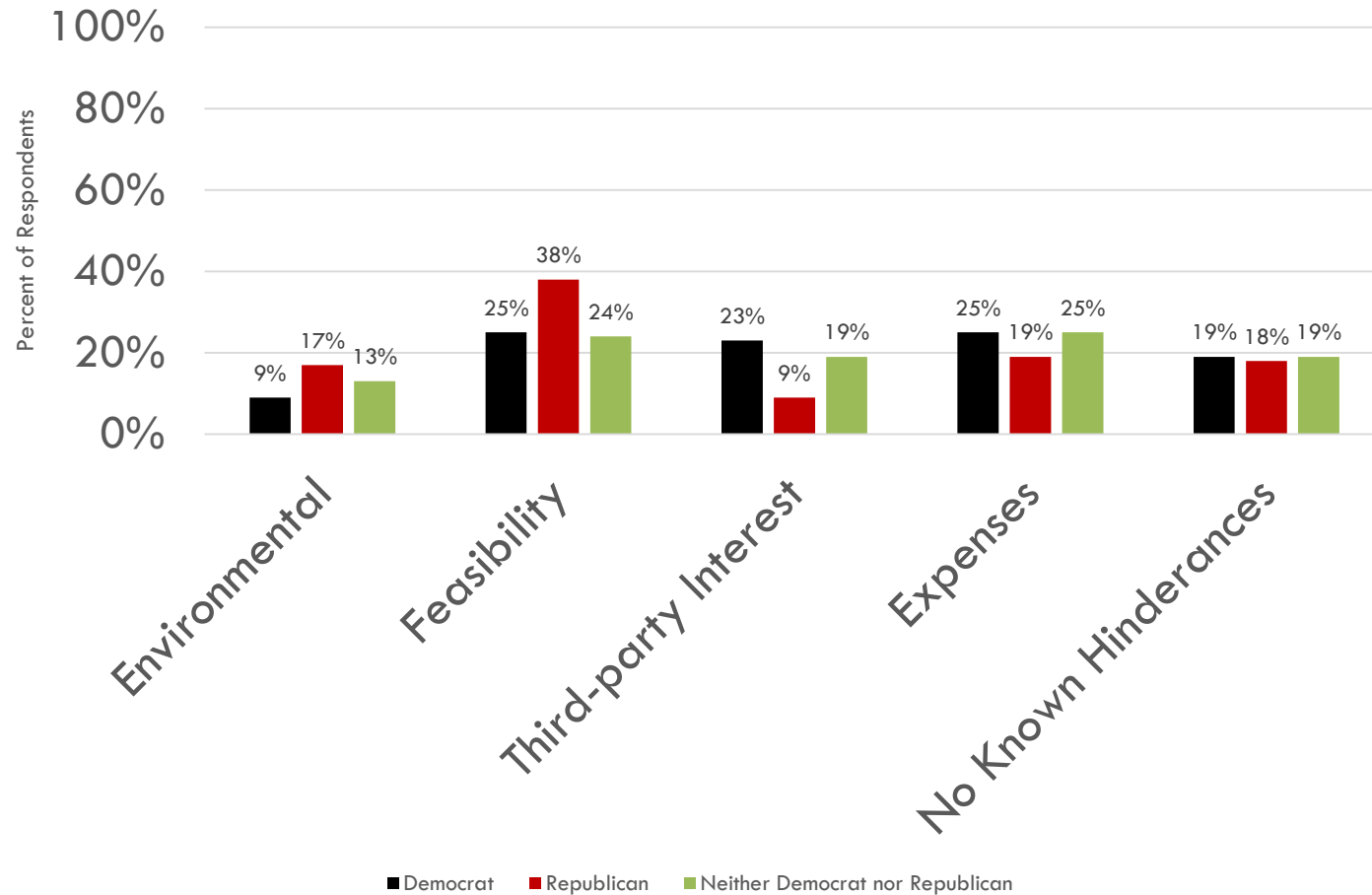
"Two-thirds of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (68%) consider the risk of harm to the economy and expansion of the deficit from passing climate change laws" (Jones, 2022, news.gallup.com)

- [Climate Change Proposals Favored by Solid Majorities in U.S. \(gallup.com\)](#)

# CONCERNS WITH RENEWABLE ENERGY BY PARTY

**Valid: 431**  
**Missing: 165**

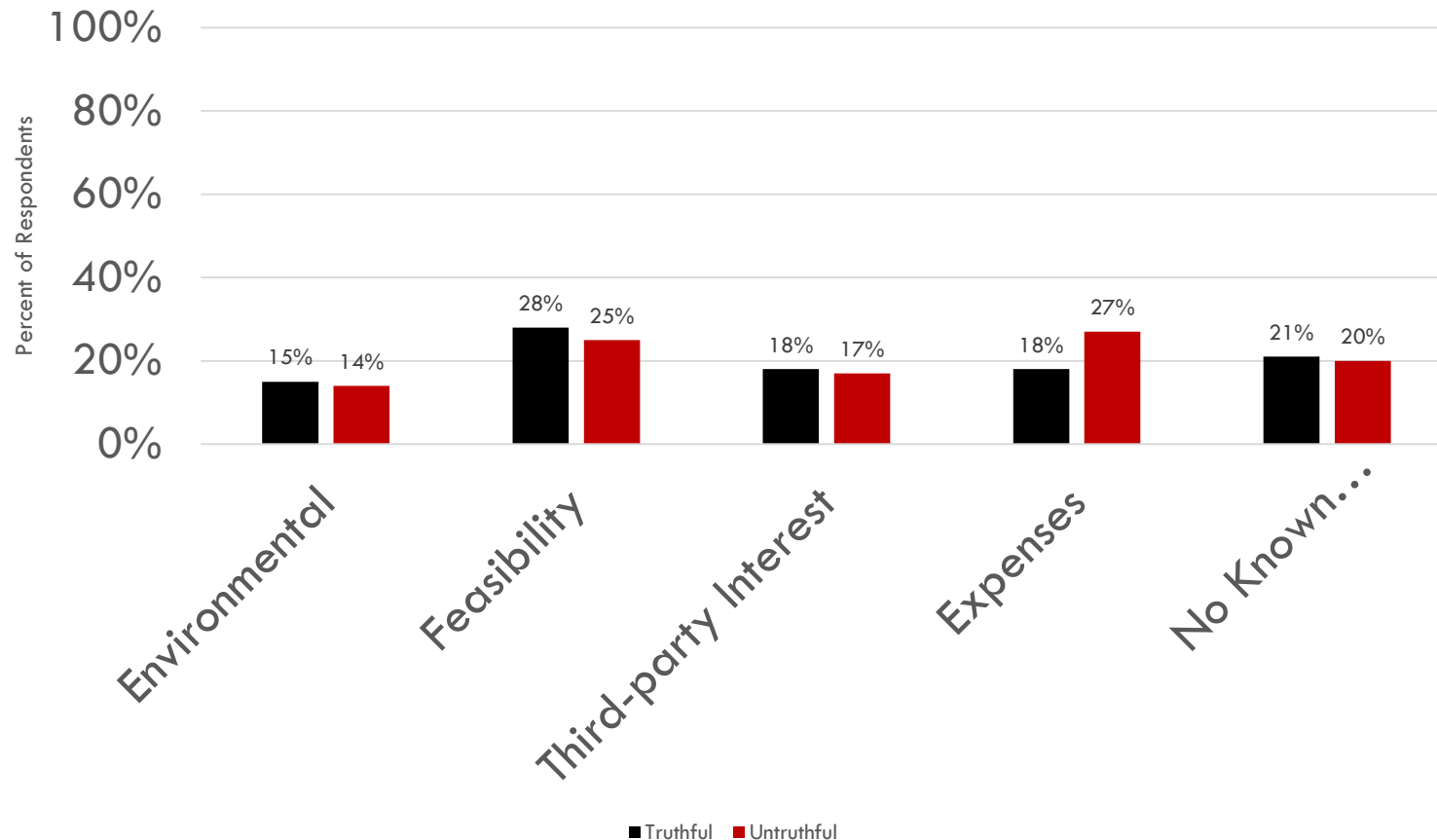
Chi Square=17.57, P=.03



# CONCERNS WITH RENEWABLE ENERGY BY TRUTHFULNESS OF MEDIA

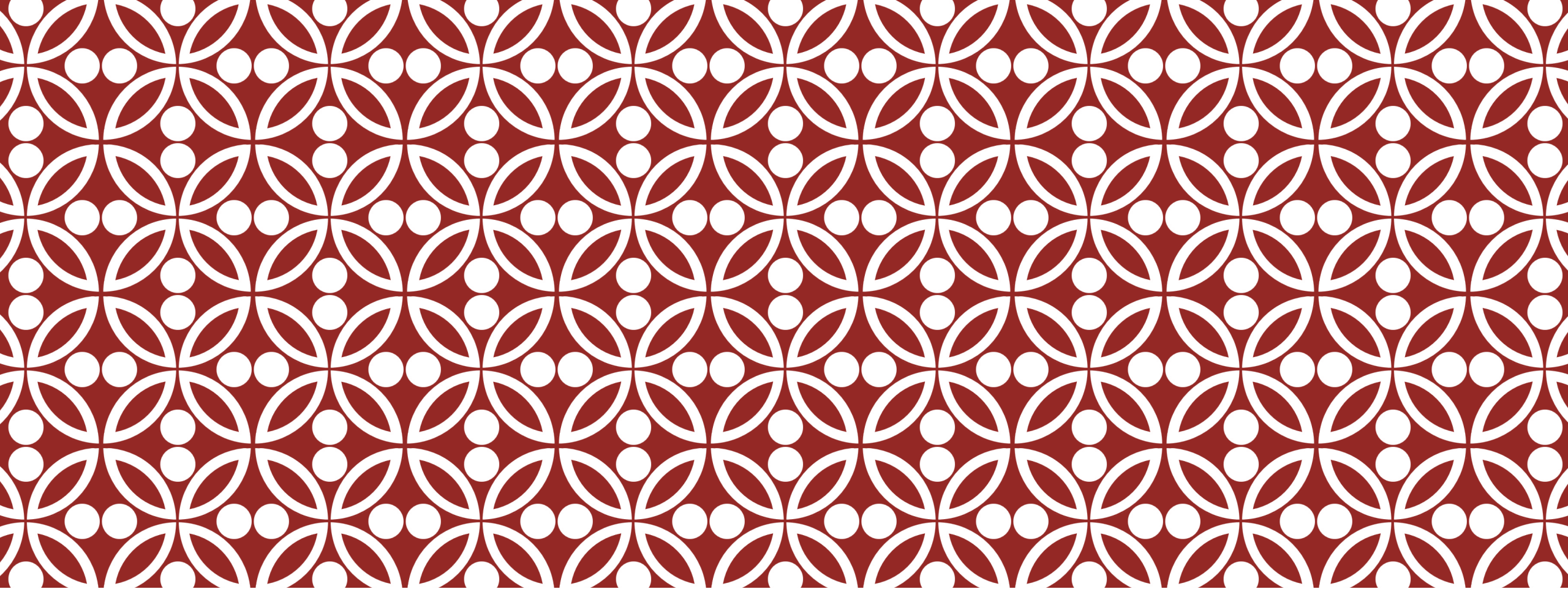
Valid: 399  
Missing: 197

Chi Square=4.08, P=.40



# CONCLUSIONS

- ❖ Truthfulness: Those who view the media as untruthful are likely to be concerned with environmental, expenses, and feasibility. People who view media as truthful will be more concerned with third-party interest, or No Known Hindrances.
  - ❖ Hypothesis is not supported
    - ❖ "Americans' confidence in the media to report the news fairly, accurately and fully has been persistently low for over a decade and shows no signs of improving, as Republicans' and Democrats' trust moves in opposite directions. The political polarization that grips the country is reflected in partisans' views of the media (Brenan, 2023, news.gallup.com)
- ❖ Party: Democrats likely to say No Known Hindrances, and Third-party Interests. Republicans are likely to say Environment, Feasibility, and Expenses.
  - ❖ Hypothesis is partially supported
    - ❖ "Among Republicans, those who say they have heard a lot about wind power are especially likely to see it as less reliable and more costly than other energy sources." (Kennedy & Spencer, 2021)



# IMPACT OF MENTAL HEALTH ON EATING HABITS

By: Ben Brecht

# VARIABLES

- Independent Variable - Overall mental wellbeing
- Dependent Variable 1 - Eating habits since attending SCSU
- Dependent Variable 2 - Eating to the point of feeling uncomfortably full

# OVERALL MENTAL HEALTH

How would you rate your overall mental health?

1. Excellent
2. Very good
3. Good
4. Fair
5. Poor



# MENTAL HEALTH AND EATING TO THE POINT OF FEELING UNCOMFORTABLY FULL

How well does the following statement describe your experiences in the last three months: I ate to the point of feeling uncomfortably full:

1. Never
2. Rarely
3. Sometimes
4. Often
5. Very Often

# HYPOTHESIS FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND EATING TO THE POINT OF FEELING UNCOMFORTABLY FULL

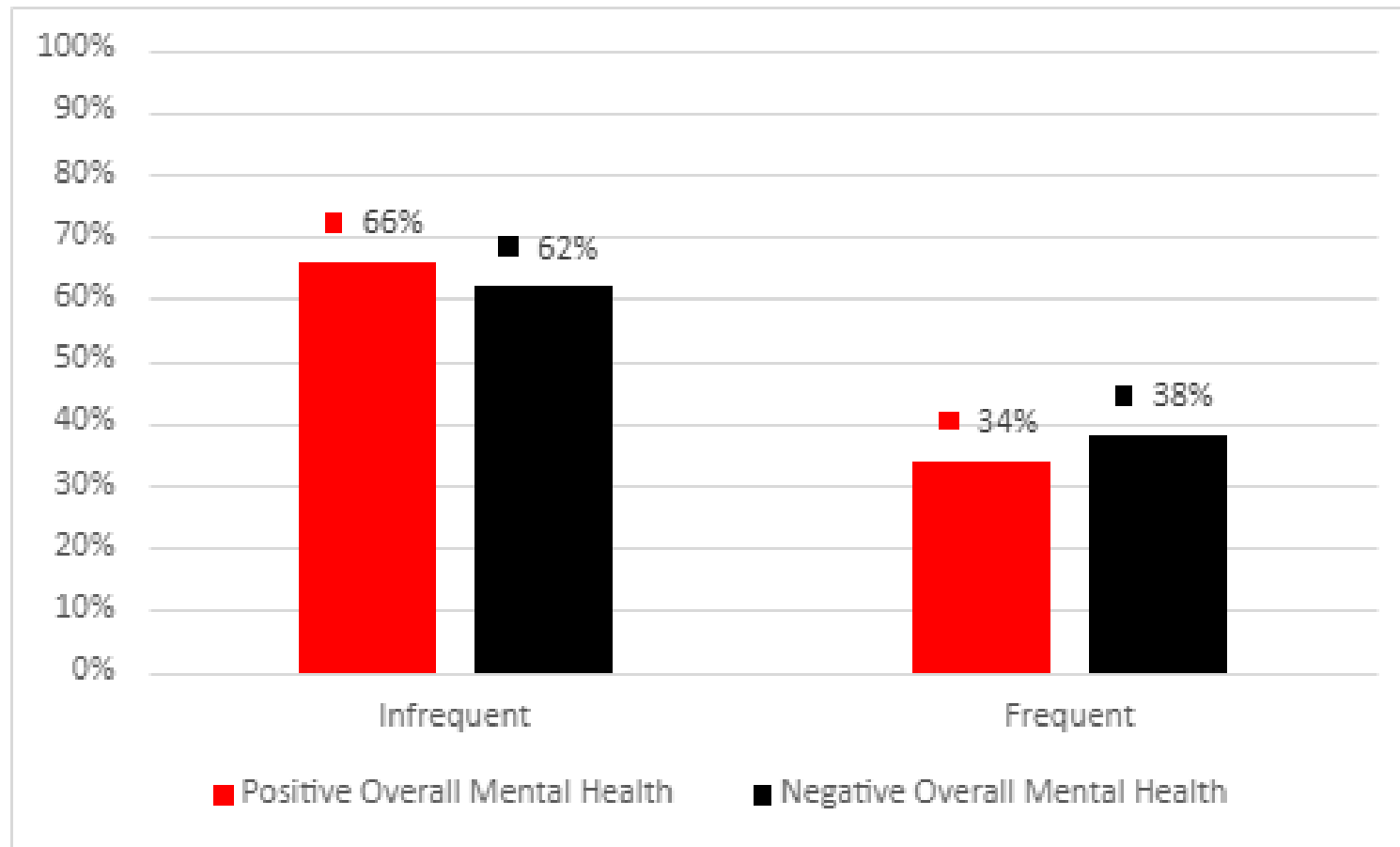
❖ We Hypothesize that those who report having an overall positive state of mental health will be less likely to frequently eat to the point of feeling uncomfortably full than those who report an overall negative state of mental health

According to Lim et. (2021), overall wellbeing determined by feelings of stress and anxiety, had no significant effect on binge eating behavior

Lim, M.C., Parsons, S., Goglio, A. et al. Anxiety, stress, and binge eating tendencies in adolescence: a prospective approach. *J Eat Disord* 9, 94 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40337-021-00444-2>

# MENTAL HEALTH AND EATING UNTIL UNCOMFORTABLY FULL

Valid: 544  
Missing: 3



# MENTAL HEALTH AND CHANGES OF EATING HABITS WHILE IN COLLEGE

Compared to before you came to SCSU, do you feel that your eating habits have:

1. Become much healthier
2. Become somewhat healthier
3. Stayed mostly the same
4. Become somewhat unhealthier
5. Become much unhealthier

# HYPOTHESIS FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND CHANGES OF EATING HABITS WHILE IN COLLEGE

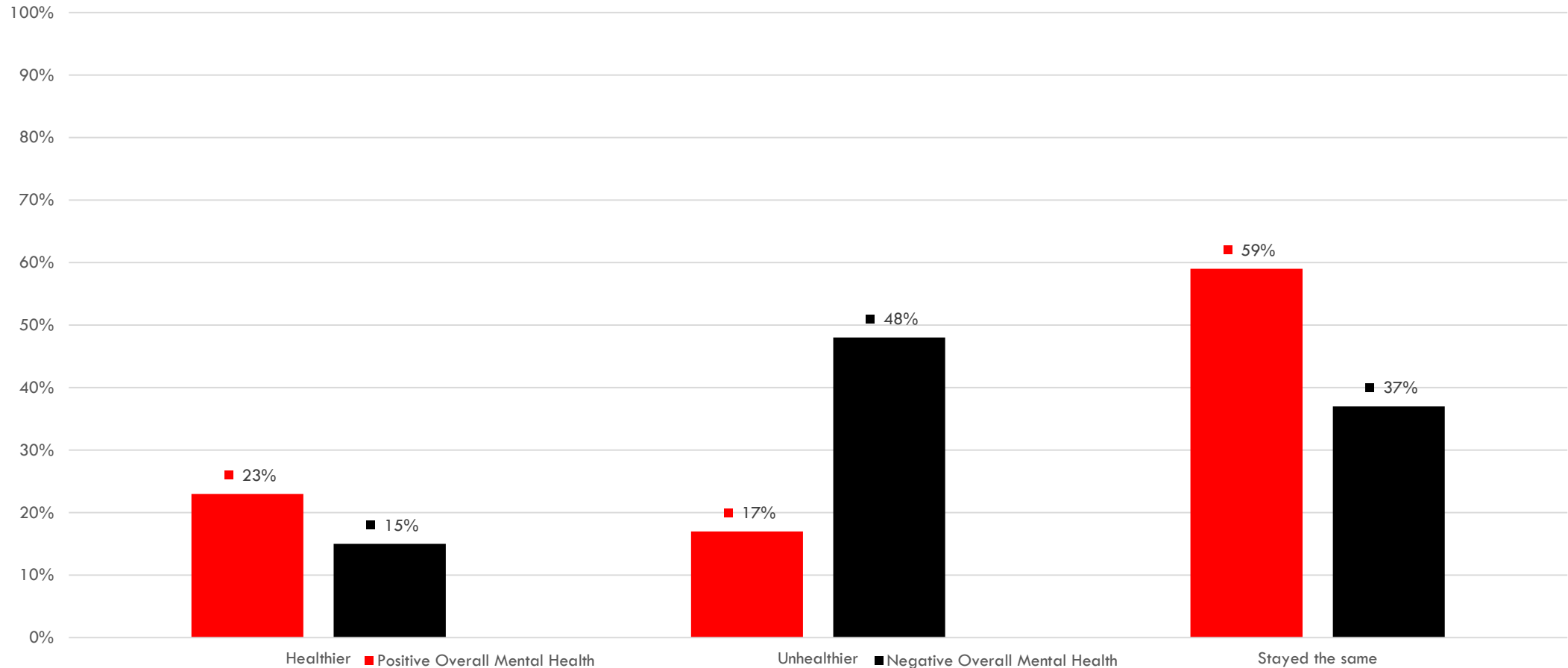
❖ We hypothesized that those who report having an overall positive state of mental health will be more likely to report having improved eating habits since they had started SCSU than those who report an overall negative state of mental health

According to Gangwisch et. Al (2020), "Healthy eating patterns, such as the Mediterranean diet, are associated with better mental health than "unhealthy" eating patterns, such as the Western diet"

Firth, J., Gangwisch, J. E., Borsini, A., Wootton, R. E., & Mayer, E. A. (2020). Food and mood: How do diet and nutrition affect mental wellbeing? *BMJ*, m2382. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.m2382>

# MENTAL HEALTH AND OVERALL EATING HABITS SINCE STARTING SCSU

Valid: 544  
Missing: 3



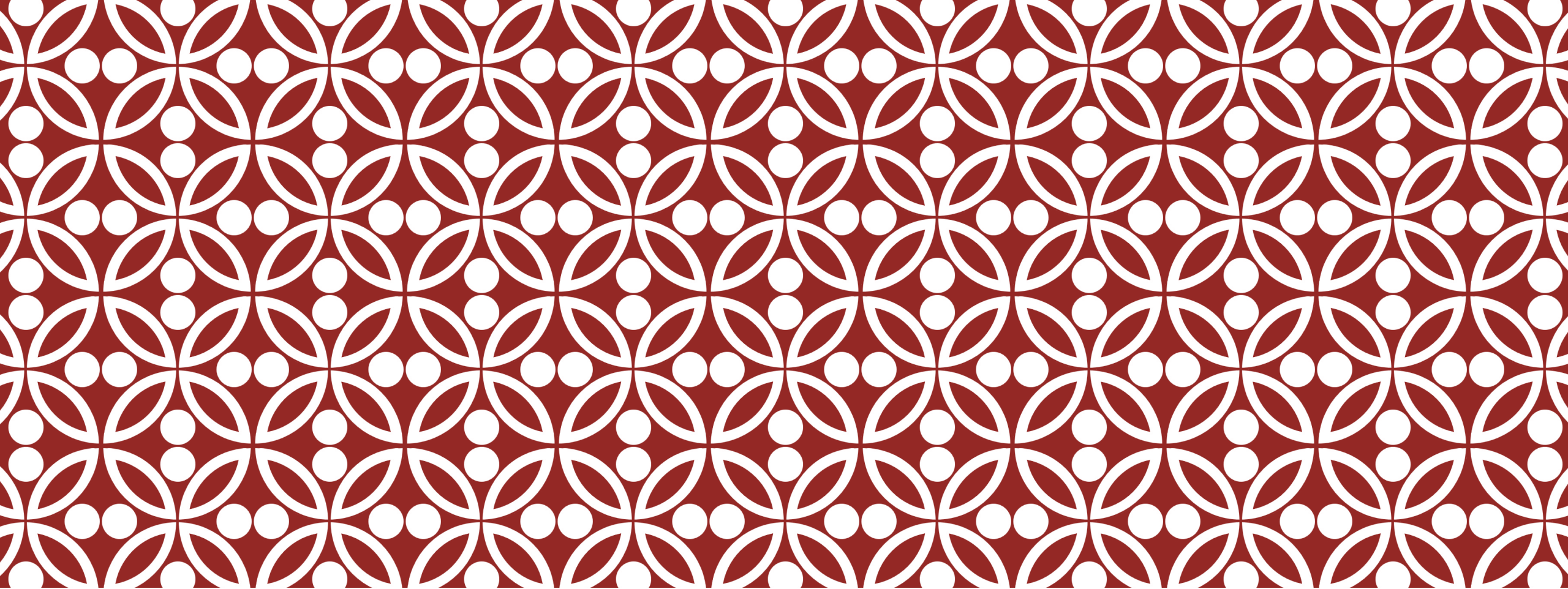
# CONCLUSION

There is not a significant correlation between mental health and eating until uncomfortably full

❖ Hypothesis is supported

There is a significant correlation between mental health and overall eating habits since starting SCSU

❖ Hypothesis is supported



***POLITICAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE INCARCERATED***

By Ben Zabel



# HYPOTHESIS

- ❖ The more left-aligned the participant, with regards to party affiliation and ideology, the more lenient they will be with their attitudes towards the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated (Gramlich, 2021).

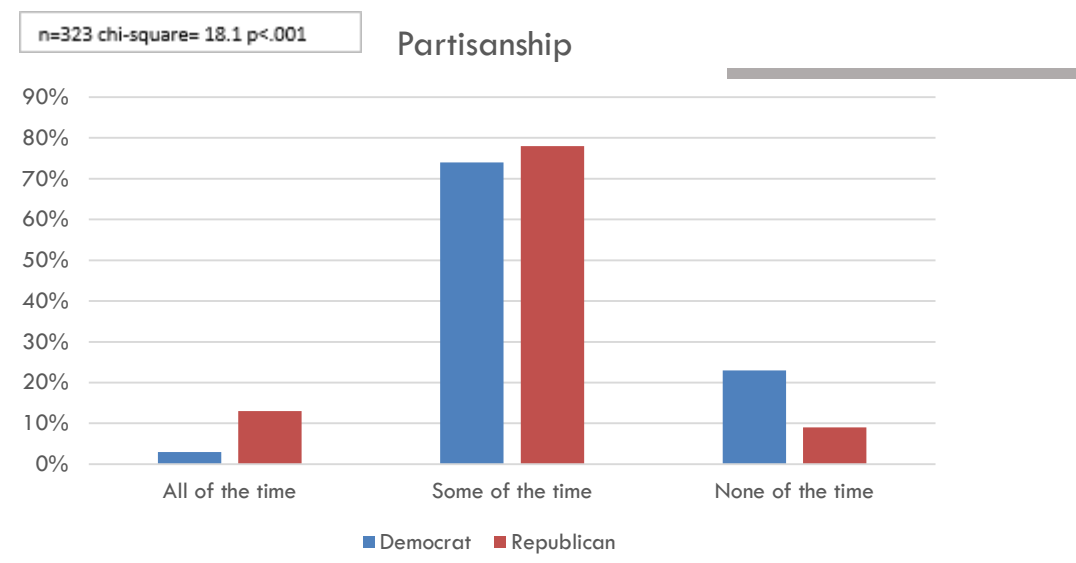
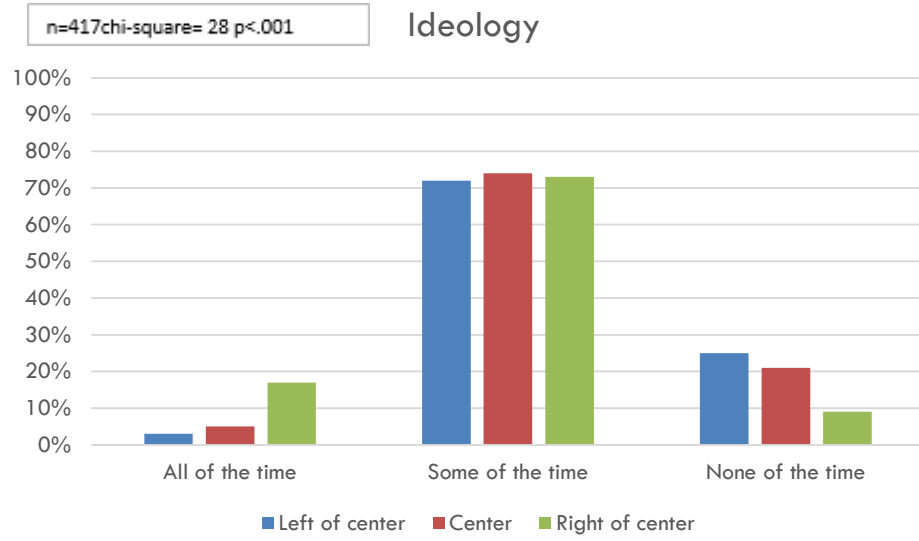
# ESTABLISHED LITERATURE

- ❖ 41% of Democrats say convicts spend too much time in prison
- ❖ 44% of Republicans say people convicted of crimes spend too little time in prison.

Gramlich, John. 2021. "U.S. Public Divided over Whether People Convicted of Crimes Spend Too Much or Too Little Time in Prison." *Pew Research Center*. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/12/06/u-s-public-divided-over-whether-people-convicted-of-crimes-spend-too-much-or-too-little-time-in-prison/> (April 11, 2023).

- ❖ Roughly three-quarters of Republican (73%) say violent crime is very important to their vote, compared with around half of Democratic or Democratic-leaning registered voters (49%).

Gramlich, John. 2022. "Violent Crime Is a Key Midterm Voting Issue, but What Does the Data Say?" *Pew Research Center*. <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2022/10/31/violent-crime-is-a-key-midterm-voting-issue-but-what-does-the-data-say/> (April 11, 2023).

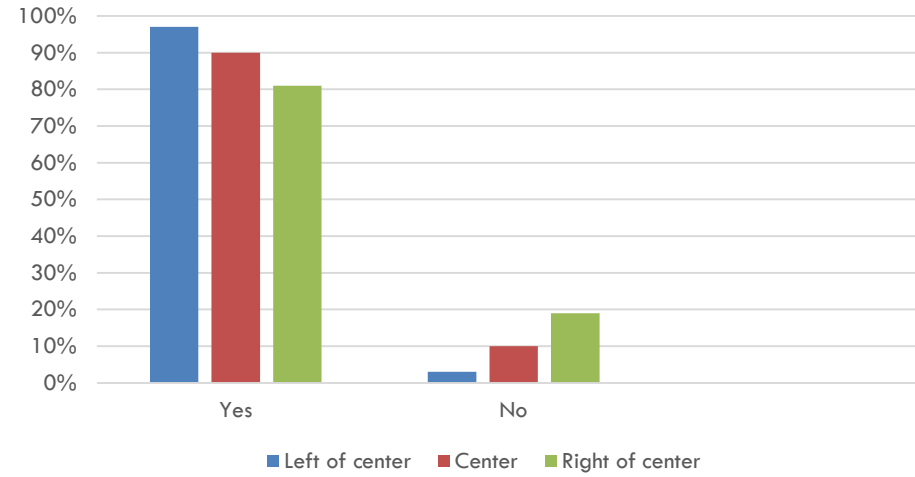


# FINDINGS: HOUSING DISCRIMINATION

# SHOULD FELONS BE ABLE TO VOTE?

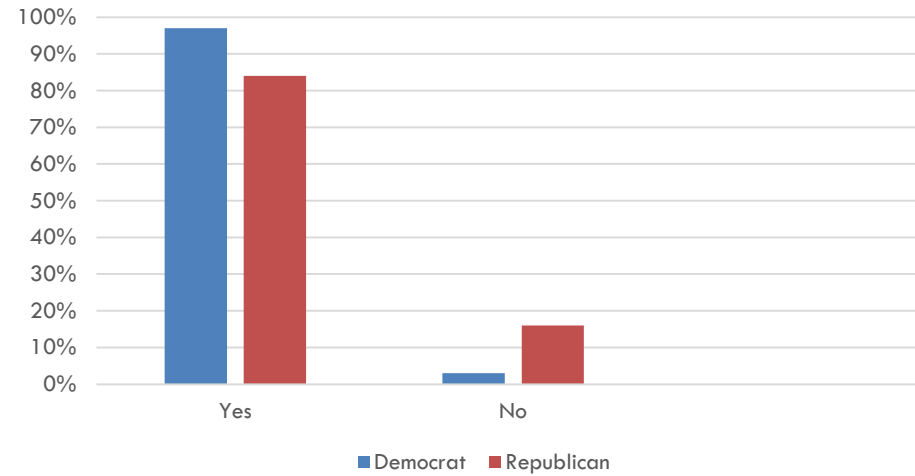
Ideology

n=412 chi-square= 20.8 p<.001



n=312 chi-square= 16.4 p<.001

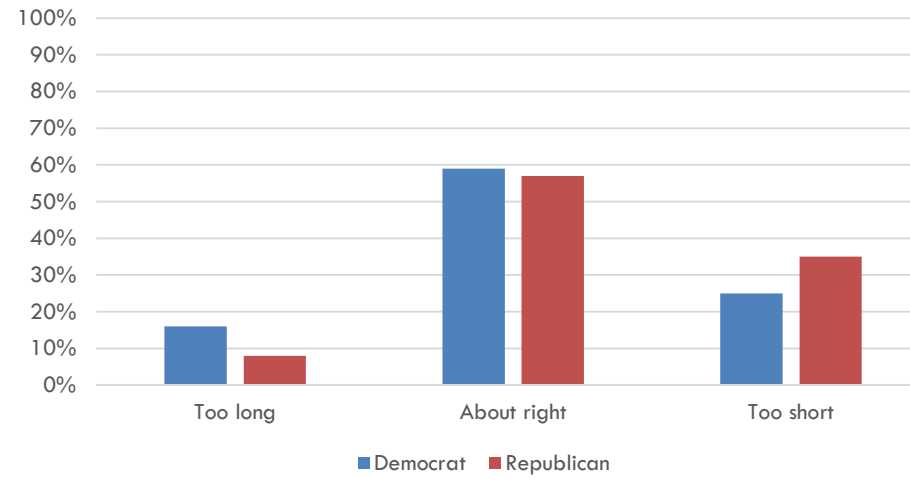
Partisanship



# ARE SENTENCES FOR VIOLENT CRIMES?

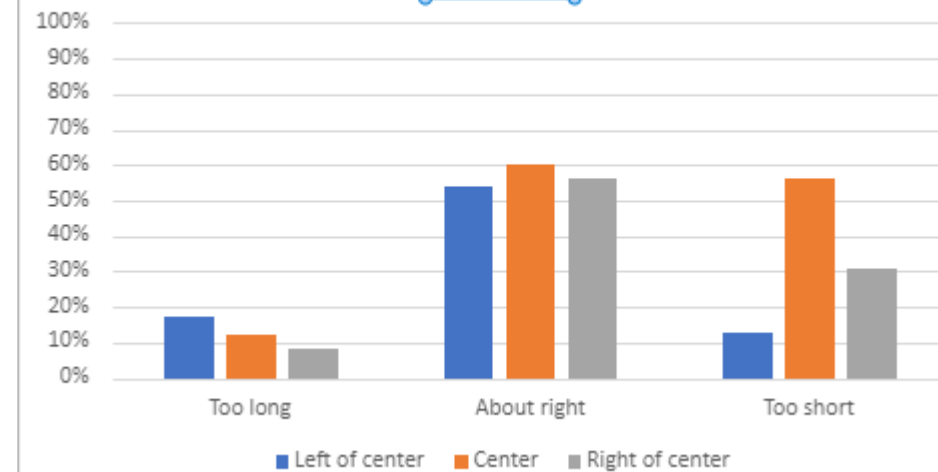
n=270 chi-square= 4.5 p<.103

Partisanship

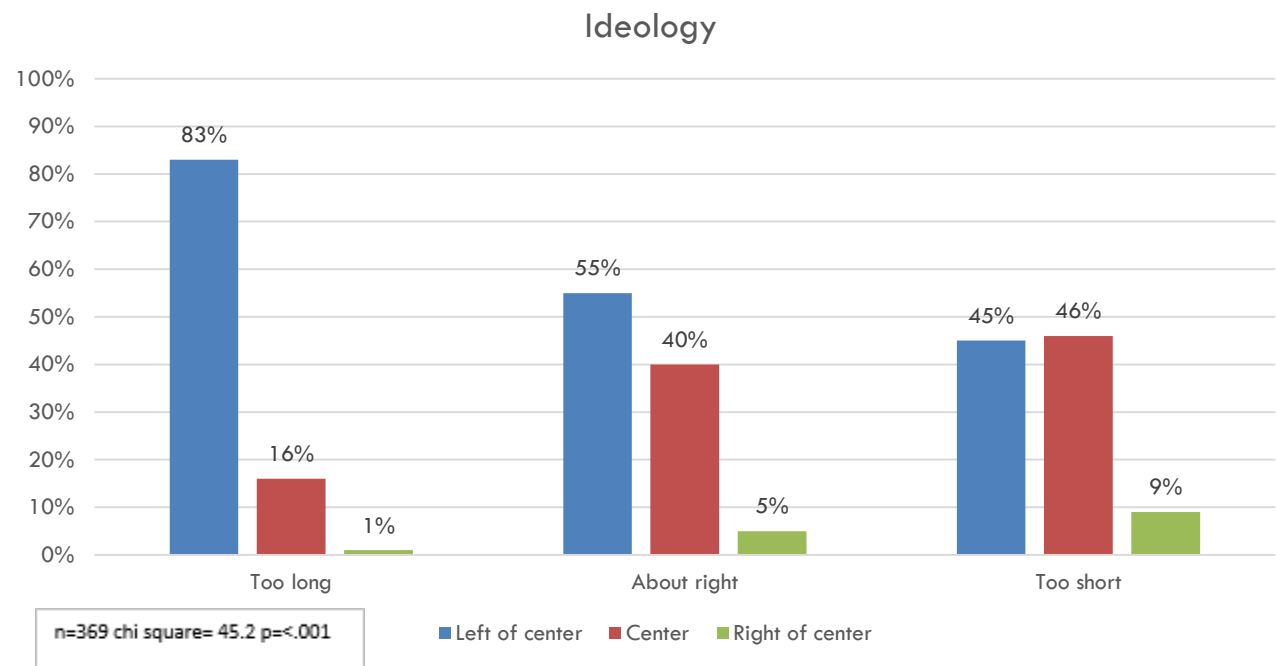
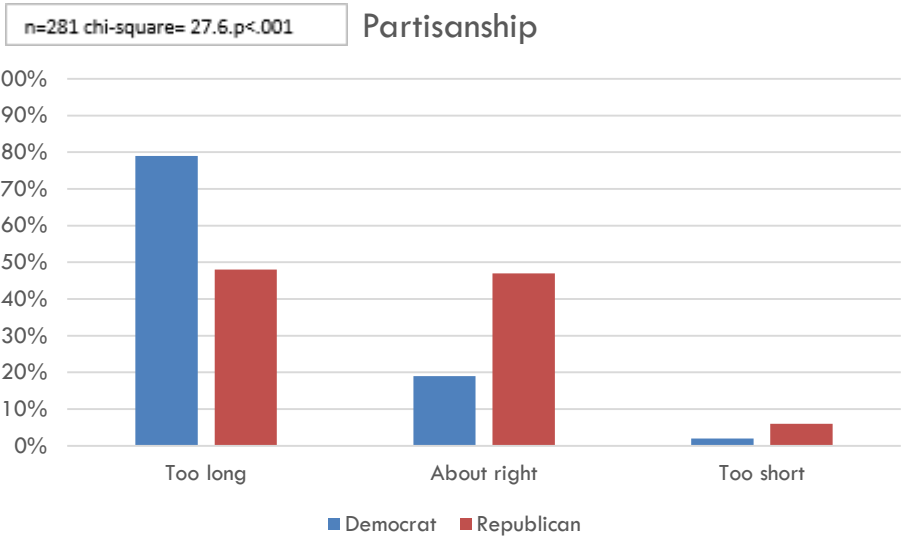


n=350 chi-square= 5.5 p.0240

Ideology



# ARE SENTENCES FOR NON-VIOLENT CRIMES?



# CONCLUSIONS

- ❖ The findings follow established literature in showing a trend for Democrats and left-leaning participants having more lenient attitudes towards the incarcerated.
- ❖ Hypothesis is supported.