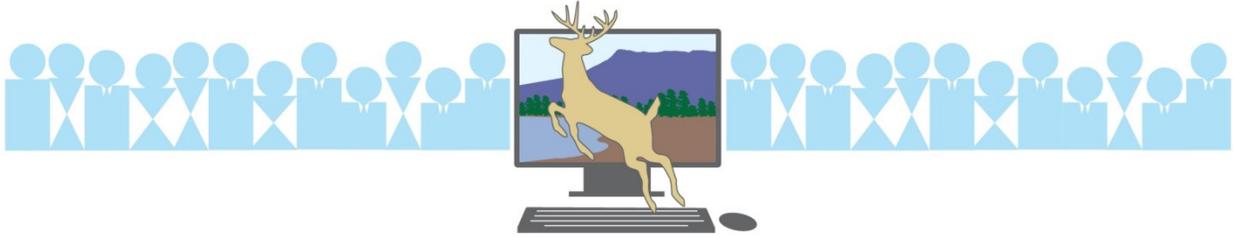


Responsive Management™



FLORIDA RESIDENTS' OPINIONS ON BLACK BEARS AND BLACK BEAR MANAGEMENT

**Conducted for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
by Responsive Management**

2016

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Acknowledgments

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (hereinafter referred to as the FWC or simply “the Commission”) to determine Florida residents’ attitudes toward black bears, their opinions on the management of black bears, and whether they have had any interactions with black bears, positive or negative. Additionally, the survey explored Florida residents’ attitudes toward hunting in general and the hunting of black bears in particular. The study entailed a scientific telephone survey of adult Florida residents.

For the survey, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the almost universal ownership of telephones among Florida residents (both landlines and cell phones were called and then properly proportioned). Additionally, telephone surveys, relative to mail or Internet surveys, allow for more scientific sampling and data collection, provide higher quality data, obtain higher response rates, are more timely, and are more cost-effective.

Telephone surveys also have fewer negative effects on the environment than do mail surveys because of reduced use of paper and reduced energy consumption for delivering and returning the questionnaires.

The telephone survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and the Commission. Responsive Management conducted pre-tests of the questionnaire to ensure proper wording, flow, and logic in the survey.

The sample of Florida residents was obtained from Survey Sampling International (SSI), a firm that specializes in providing scientifically valid samples for survey research. The sample consisted of a random landline telephone sample and a random cell phone sample put together into the dual-frame sample so that it had the widest coverage possible and accurately represented Florida residents as a whole.

Telephone surveying times are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday from noon to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., local time. The survey was conducted in November 2016. The software used for data collection was Questionnaire

Programming Language. Responsive Management obtained a total of 1,289 completed interviews.

The analysis of data was performed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management. For the entire sample of adult Florida residents, the sampling error is at most plus or minus 2.73 percentage points.

KNOWLEDGE OF BLACK BEARS

- A large majority of Florida residents (80%) correctly indicate that black bears currently live in Florida, including 64% who are absolutely sure of it.
- Just under half of Florida residents (44%) think that black bears live in their county.
- The Commission estimates that there are approximately 4,000 black bears living in the wild in the state of Florida. When residents are given four choices regarding how many black bears live in the wild in Florida, only 16% choose the correct answer.
- While most Florida residents do *not* correctly answer that the black bear populations in Florida have increased over the past 10 years (58% do *not* give the correct answer), 42% correctly answer the question.

OPINION ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE BLACK BEAR POPULATION IN FLORIDA

- Just over half of Florida residents (54%) think that the bear population in the state is about right. Nonetheless, 19% think it is too high. Overall, 54% of residents think the bear population in their *county* is about right, while only 8% think it is too high.
- Ratings are more positive than negative regarding the Commission staff's job at managing black bears in Florida: 64% rate them excellent or good, compared to 17% giving them a rating in the lower half of the scale (the remainder do not know).

OPINION ON THE PRESENCE OF BLACK BEARS AND EXPERIENCES WITH BLACK BEARS

- Just over half of Florida residents, when presented with a continuum relating to their comfort level regarding the presence of black bears, say that they “want to see and have black bears in my county but not in my neighborhood” (56% choose this response), which is the middle of the continuum. Meanwhile, 13% are more tolerant than that, and 22% are less tolerant—the latter choosing the response indicating that they are “uncomfortable about having black bears even in my county.”
- Just over half of Florida residents (53%) agree that black bears and humans can live in the same area without conflict; about a third (36%) disagree.
- Just over half of Florida residents (53%) agree that “knowing black bears live in the wild in Florida improves my overall quality of life.” Just under a quarter (22%) disagree.
- Just under a third of Florida residents (31%) say that they have seen a black bear in the wild in Florida.
- Of those who have seen a bear, 63% described seeing the bear as a positive experience, while 8% described it as a negative experience.

PROBLEMS WITH BLACK BEARS

- The majority of Florida residents (55%) say that black bears are a problem *in the state*, but only 6% say that they are a major problem. However, when residents are asked if black bears are a problem *in their neighborhood*, only 10% say that they are a problem (major or minor).
- The questions above ask only about perceptions of whether bears are a problem. The next questions concern actual problems experienced. For residents statewide, 3% have had problems with or property damage from black bears in the past 2 years. The most common problems are bears getting into garbage (60% of those who had problems) and damaged property (54%).

- Of those who had a problem with black bears, 20% contacted someone outside of friends or family for assistance with the problem. This equates to approximately 1% of Florida residents overall.

WILLINGNESS TO TAKE ACTIONS TO ADDRESS NEGATIVE HUMAN-BEAR INTERACTIONS

- The survey presented a series of potential actions to Florida residents. They were asked, “Please tell me if you agree or disagree that you would be willing to take each of the following actions recommended by FWC to reduce conflicts with bears.” Nine potential actions were included in the survey. Among residents overall, a majority agree that they would be willing to do each of the actions except one. The top actions in the ranking are keeping trashcans in a secure location, removing pet feeding bowls from outside, cleaning outdoor grills after each use, and modifying trashcans to make them more bear-resistant.
- Three questions asked about residents’ opinions on feeding bears, and a fourth question asked about inadvertent feeding through unsecured trashcans.
 - The vast majority of Florida residents (83%) disagree that it is okay to feed wildlife or leave food out for wildlife.
 - Nearly two-thirds of state residents (64%) say that they are aware that it is illegal to feed bears in Florida.
 - Support is high among Florida residents overall (84%) for the use of penalties, such as fines, for people who feed bears.
 - Support is also high among Florida residents overall (87%) for requiring people through the use of laws and ordinances to keep their trash secure so that bears cannot access it in areas with high numbers of human-bear conflicts.

OPINIONS ON BLACK BEAR HABITAT IN FLORIDA

- Just over half of Florida residents (53%) agree that there is enough habitat for bears in the state; a little over a third (35%) disagree.
- Black bear habitat is overwhelmingly considered important, as 96% of Florida residents agree with the statement, “Keeping habitat for black bears is important.”

HUNTING PARTICIPATION AND OPINIONS ON HUNTING

- Three questions asked about opinions on regulated hunting: one question about *hunting in general* and then about *hunting black bears in the state* and about *hunting black bears in the respondent's county* of residence. Support among all residents of the state far exceeds opposition regarding hunting in general: 70% support, while 22% oppose (the remainder are neutral). However, residents are more polarized regarding hunting black bears, with 48% supporting/43% opposing hunting of black bears in the state, and 40% supporting/48% opposing hunting of black bears in their county.
- Five questions asked about residents' support for or opposition to hunting of black bears with knowledge of certain aspects of black bear hunting in mind. Support for hunting black bears is highest when respondents know that the FWC carefully monitors the population as well as when respondents know that the goal is to keep the populations at their current levels where the populations are abundant and healthy. These are more ecological aspects that resonate well; human-centered aspects, like the statement that black bears are killed in vehicle accidents, do *not* resonate as well.

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INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (hereinafter referred to as the FWC or simply “the Commission”) to determine Florida residents’ attitudes toward black bears, their opinions on the management of black bears, and whether they have had any interactions with black bears, positive or negative. Additionally, the survey explored Florida residents’ attitudes toward hunting in general and the hunting of black bears in particular. The study entailed a scientific telephone survey of adult Florida residents. Specific aspects of the research methodology are discussed below.

USE OF TELEPHONES FOR THE SURVEY

For the survey, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the almost universal ownership of telephones among Florida residents (both landlines and cell phones were called and then properly proportioned). Additionally, telephone surveys, relative to mail or Internet surveys, allow for more scientific sampling and data collection, provide higher quality data, obtain higher response rates, are more timely, and are more cost-effective. Telephone surveys also have fewer negative effects on the environment than do mail surveys because of reduced use of paper and reduced energy consumption for delivering and returning the questionnaires.

QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN

The telephone survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and the Commission, based on the research team’s familiarity with wildlife management, natural resources, and outdoor recreation. Responsive Management conducted pre-tests of the questionnaire to ensure proper wording, flow, and logic in the survey.

SURVEY SAMPLE

The sample of Florida residents was obtained from Survey Sampling International (SSI), a firm that specializes in providing scientifically valid samples for survey research. The sample actually consisted of two samples and is therefore known as a dual-frame sample. Specifically, it consisted of a random landline telephone sample and a random cell phone sample put together into the dual-frame sample so that it had the widest coverage possible and accurately represented

Florida residents as a whole. The sample used a probability-based selection process that ensured that each eligible resident had an approximately equal chance of being selected for the survey. This process ensured that the sample was valid because every resident had a known chance of participating in the survey.

The sample was stratified into seven bear management units; Responsive Management obtained at least 175 interviews in each bear management unit (more were obtained in some units). Furthermore, the survey was to obtain at least 300 completed interviews in a grouping of counties selected because they had numerous bear nuisance complaints (371 were obtained in total for these selected bear counties). For statewide results, the bear management units were then weighted into their proper proportions. Note that a map of the bear management units is included in a further section of the report titled, "Data Analysis."

TELEPHONE INTERVIEWING FACILITIES

A central polling site at the Responsive Management office allowed for rigorous quality control over the interviews and data collection. Responsive Management maintains its own in-house telephone interviewing facilities. These facilities are staffed by interviewers with experience conducting computer-assisted telephone interviews on the subjects of wildlife management, natural resources, and outdoor recreation.

To ensure the integrity of the telephone survey data, Responsive Management has interviewers who have been trained according to the standards established by the Council of American Survey Research Organizations. Methods of instruction included lecture and role-playing. The Survey Center Managers and other professional staff conducted a project briefing with the interviewers prior to the administration of this survey. Interviewers were instructed on type of study, study goals and objectives, handling of survey questions, interview length, termination points and qualifiers for participation, interviewer instructions within the survey questionnaire, reading of the survey questions, skip patterns, and probing and clarifying techniques necessary for specific questions on the survey questionnaire.

INTERVIEWING DATES AND TIMES

Telephone surveying times are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday from noon to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., local time. A five-callback design was used to maintain the representativeness of the sample, to avoid bias toward people easy to reach by telephone, and to provide an equal opportunity for all to participate. When a respondent could not be reached on the first call, subsequent calls were placed on different days of the week and at different times of the day. The survey was conducted in November 2016.

TELEPHONE SURVEY DATA COLLECTION AND QUALITY CONTROL

The software used for data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language (QPL). The survey data were entered into the computer as each interview was being conducted, eliminating manual data entry after the completion of the survey and the concomitant data entry errors that may occur with manual data entry. The survey questionnaire was programmed so that QPL branched, coded, and substituted phrases in the survey based on previous responses to ensure the integrity and consistency of the data collection.

The Survey Center Managers and statisticians monitored the data collection, including monitoring of the actual telephone interviews without the interviewers' knowledge, to evaluate the performance of each interviewer and ensure the integrity of the data. The survey questionnaire itself contained error checkers and computation statements to ensure quality and consistent data. After the surveys were obtained by the interviewers, the Survey Center Managers and/or statisticians checked each completed survey to ensure clarity and completeness.

Responsive Management obtained a total of 1,289 completed interviews, distributed among the bear management units as shown in the tabulation at right. Note that the a map of the bear management units is included in the next section of this report, "Data Analysis."

Bear Management Units	Number of Completed Interviews
West Panhandle	175
East Panhandle	175
North	175
Big Bend	181
Central	191
South Central	213
South	179
For statewide results, the units were properly weighted to be in the proper proportions.	

DATA ANALYSIS

The analysis of data was performed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management. The results were weighted by demographic, geographic, and telephone use characteristics so that the sample was representative of residents of Florida as a whole.

On questions that asked respondents to provide a number (e.g., number of years lived in Florida), the graphs may show ranges of numbers rather than the precise numbers. Nonetheless, in the survey each respondent provided a precise number, and the dataset includes this precise number, even if the graph only shows ranges of numbers. Note that the calculation of means and medians used the precise numbers that the respondents provided.

Crosstabulations were run on the question results by bear management unit; there are seven bear management units for this study. Crosstabulations were also run on residency by four categories: large city/urban area, suburban area, small city/town, and rural area. Finally, a data run was made of a set of non-contiguous counties where bear nuisance complaints are the most numerous, referred to as “the selected bear counties” in the text. (The bear management units and the selected bear counties are shown in the maps and tables on the following page.)

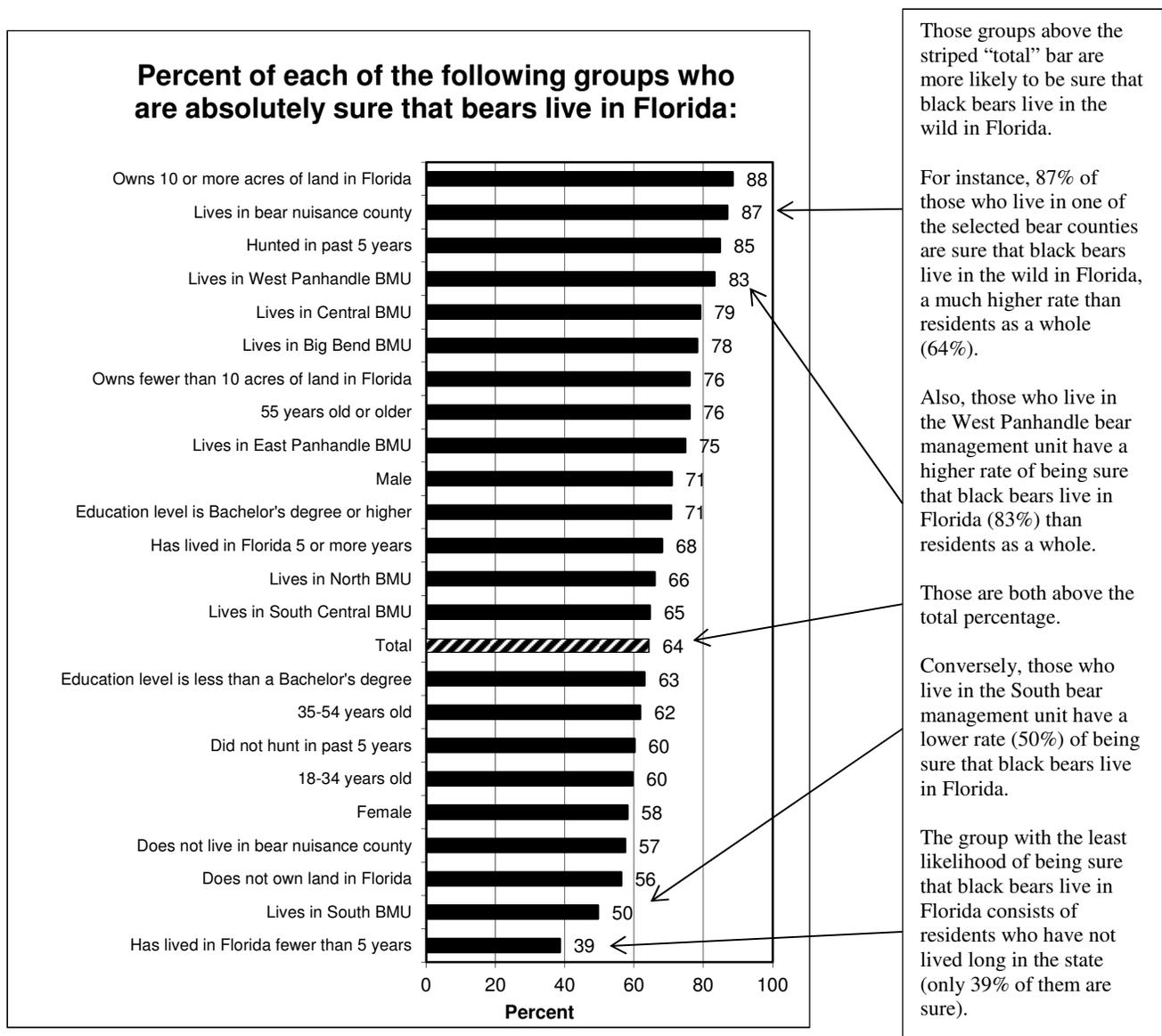
In the body of the report, graphs are shown of the results in the same order each time:

- Statewide.
- By bear management unit (two graphs for the units: one with the Panhandles, North, and Big Bend units on it; the other with the Central, South Central, and South units on it).
- By residency.
- A data run of the selected black bear nuisance counties.

An additional way to analyze data is through “omnigraphs,” so called because they have all the demographic information about certain groups on one graph, such as those who support hunting of black bears in the state. The following section explains how these graphs are interpreted.

INTERPRETING OMNIGRAPHS

Graphs are presented for some questions that show the percentage of various groups who give a certain response. For instance, one question asked Florida residents whether they thought black bears lived in the wild in Florida, with four possible answers: yes, absolutely sure; yes, but not sure; no, but not sure; and no, absolutely sure they do not. (The latter two answers are, of course, wrong.) An omnigraph for this question was created, showing the percentage of various groups who are absolutely sure black bears live in Florida, as shown in the example below. Among all adult Florida residents, 64% said that they were absolutely sure black bears lived in Florida, as indicated by the striped bar. The text box to the right of the graph explains how to interpret the graph.



All of the omnigraphs are set up the same way, with the groups *most likely* to have the characteristic or hold the opinion at the *top* of the graph, and those *least likely* to have the characteristic at the *bottom* of the graph. The overall results are always shown in the middle by a striped bar.

Also note that one group being above the striped bar means that at least one counterpart group has to be below the striped bar; for instance, in the graph on the previous page, males are above the striped bar (71% are sure black bears live in Florida), so females are below the striped bar (58% of them are sure black bears live in Florida). As a further example, both types of landowners are above the striped bar (88% of large landowners and 76% of small landowners), while their counterpart, the “does not own land” group, is below the striped bar (56%). The possible exception to this is the variable for knowing whether black bears live in Florida: one part of the variable is, “Is absolutely sure bears live in Florida”; the second part of the variable is “Does not think bears live in FL (both those sure and unsure)”; a third element of this variable is not shown on the graph, which consists of respondents who thought bears live in Florida but they weren't sure and those who answered that they did not know. For this reason, at times both parts of this variable shown on the omnigraphs can be on the same side of the striped bar.

SAMPLING ERROR

Throughout this report, findings of the telephone survey are reported at a 95% confidence interval. For the entire sample of adult Florida residents, the sampling error is at most plus or minus 2.73 percentage points. This means that if the survey were conducted 100 times on different samples that were selected in the same way, the findings of 95 out of the 100 surveys would fall within plus or minus 2.73 percentage points of each other. Sampling error was calculated using the formula described below, with a sample size of 1,289 and a population size of 15,975,472 adult Florida residents.

Sampling Error Equation

$$B = \left(\sqrt{\frac{N_p(.25)}{N_s} - .25} \right) (1.96)$$

Where: B = maximum sampling error (as decimal)
 N_p = population size (i.e., total number who could be surveyed)
 N_s = sample size (i.e., total number of respondents surveyed)

Derived from formula: p. 206 in Dillman, D. A. 2000. *Mail and Internet Surveys*. John Wiley & Sons, NY.

Note: This is a simplified version of the formula that calculates the maximum sampling error using a 50:50 split (the most conservative calculation because a 50:50 split would give maximum variation).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRESENTATION OF RESULTS IN THE REPORT

In examining the results, it is important to be aware that the questionnaire included several types of questions:

- **Open-ended** questions are those in which no answer set is read to the respondents; rather, they can respond with anything that comes to mind from the question.
- **Closed-ended** questions have an answer set from which to choose.
- **Single or multiple response** questions: Some questions allow only a single response, while other questions allow respondents to give more than one response or choose all that apply. Those that allow more than a single response are indicated on the graphs with the label, "Multiple Responses Allowed."
- **Scaled** questions: Many closed-ended questions (but not all) are in a scale, such as excellent-good-fair-poor.
- **Series** questions: Many questions are part of a series, and the results are primarily intended to be examined relative to the other questions in that series (although results of the questions individually can also be valuable). Typically, results of all questions in a series are shown together.

The graphs show results rounded to the nearest integer; however, all data are stored in decimal format, and all calculations are performed on unrounded numbers. For this reason, some results may not sum to exactly 100% because of this rounding on the graphs. Additionally, rounding may cause apparent discrepancies of 1 percentage point between the graphs and the reported results of combined responses (e.g., when "strongly support" and "moderately support" are summed to determine the total percentage in support).

KNOWLEDGE OF BLACK BEARS

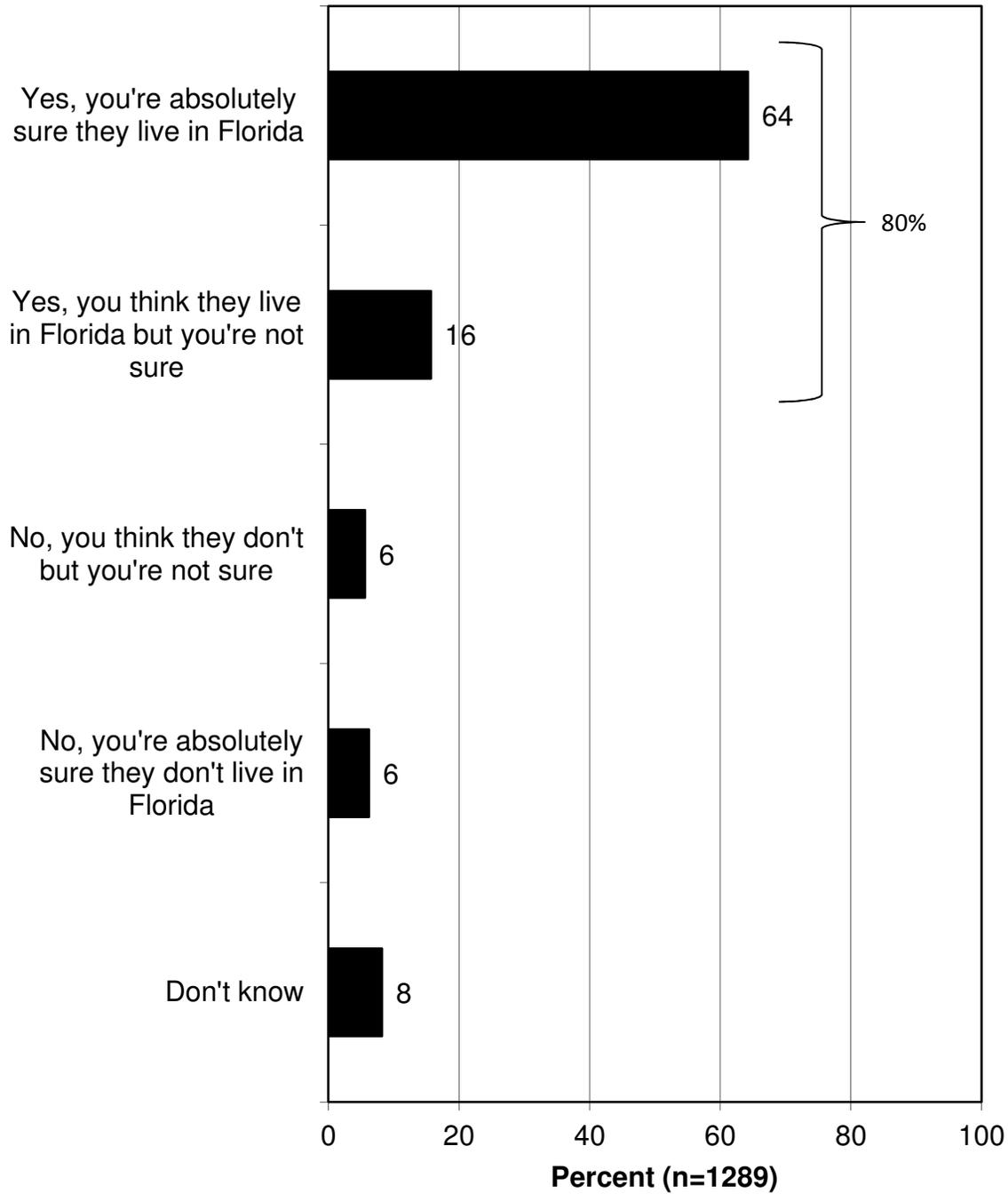
- A large majority of Florida residents (80%) correctly indicate that black bears currently live in Florida, including 64% who are absolutely sure of it.
 - The highest correct percentages are in the West Panhandle, East Panhandle, and Central bear management units.
 - Rural residents have a higher rate of correctly answering than any other residency group.
 - Residents of the selected bear counties have a higher rate of correctly answering than respondents overall: 96% correctly answer.
 - Omnigraphs are included of this question, showing respondent characteristics associated with the various responses.

- Just under half of Florida residents (44%) think that black bears live in their county.
 - The units with the highest percentages are the West Panhandle, East Panhandle, and Central.
 - Rural residents are the most likely to think that bears live in their county.
 - Bear county residents are much more likely to think that bears live in the wild in their county: 78% do so.
 - Omnigraphs are included of this question, showing respondent characteristics associated with the various responses.

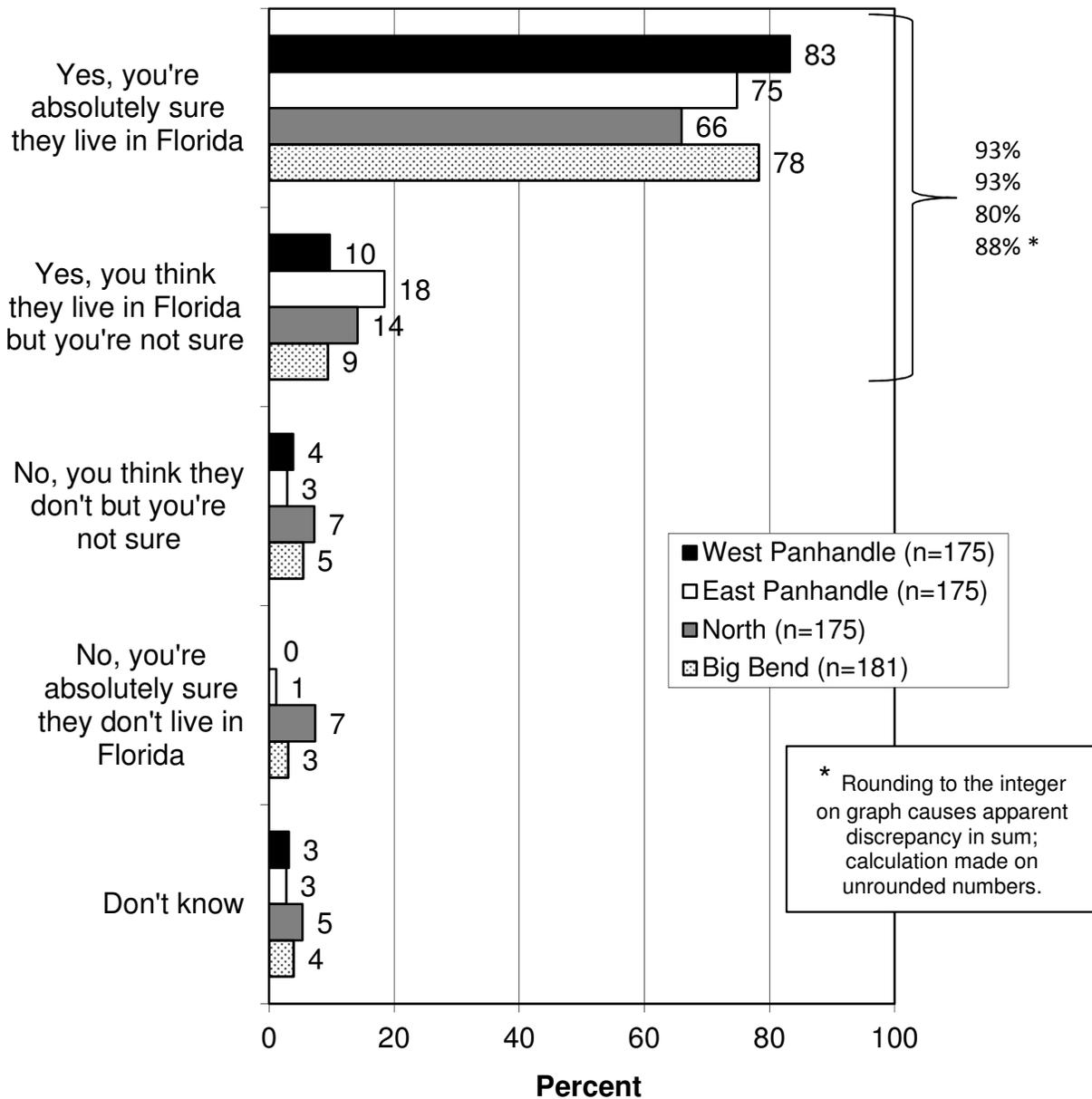
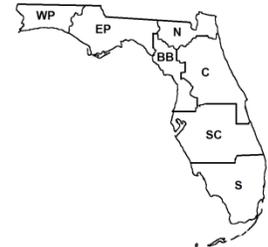
- The Commission estimates that there are approximately 4,000 black bears living in the wild in the state of Florida. When residents are given four choices regarding how many black bears live in the wild in Florida, only 16% choose the correct answer.
 - The crosstabulations by bear management unit, by residency, and by the selected bear counties finds no great differences from the statewide results.

- While most Florida residents do *not* correctly answer that the black bear populations in Florida have increased over the past 10 years (58% do *not* give the correct answer), 42% correctly answer the question.
 - The West and East Panhandle units, North unit, and the Big Bend units have the highest percentages of residents giving the correct answer.
 - Rural residents have the highest percentage giving the correct answer that bears have increased.
 - Residents of the selected bear counties have a higher percentage than residents overall giving the correct answer (48% do so).
 - Omnigraphs are included of this question, showing respondent characteristics associated with the various responses.

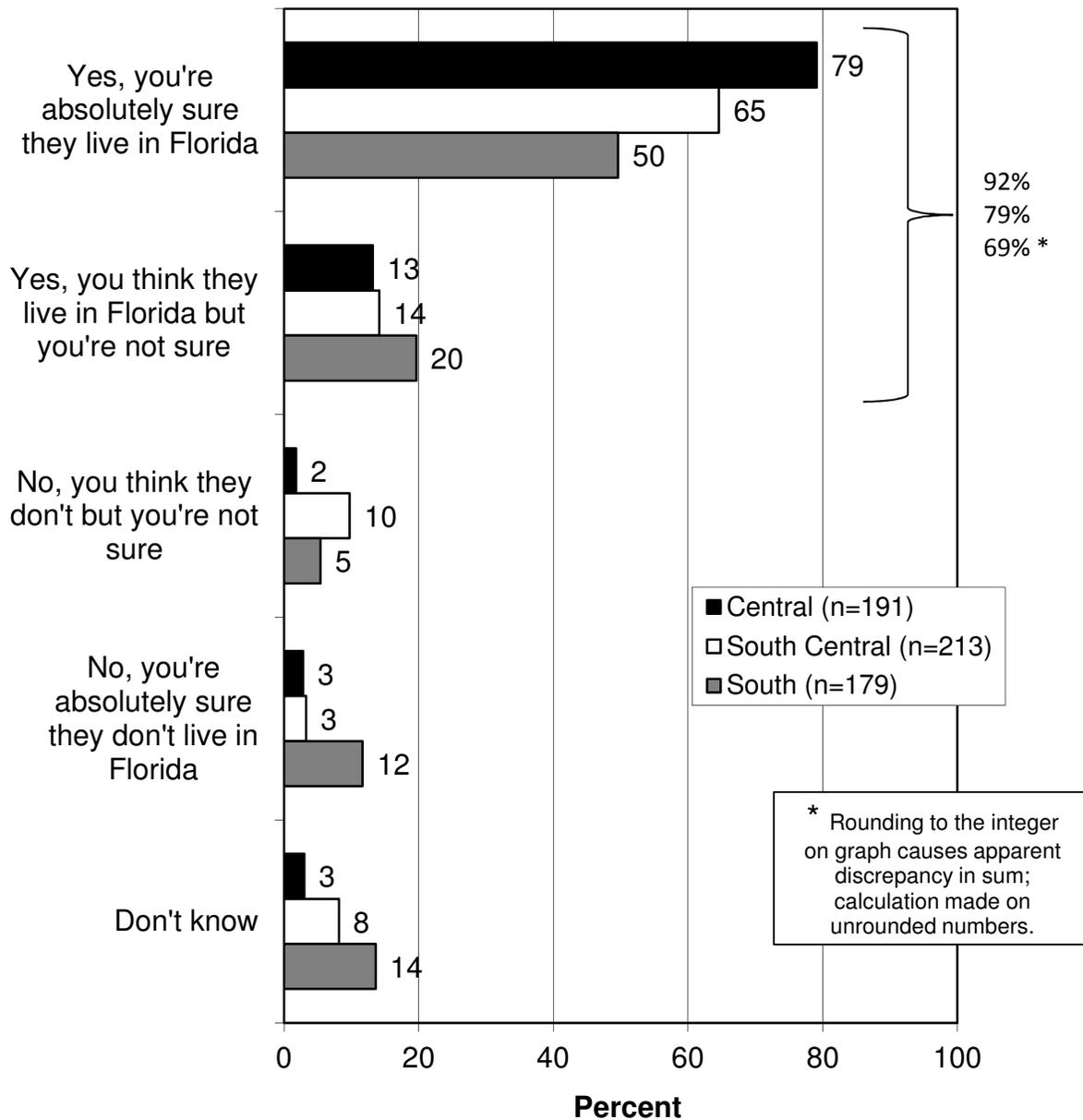
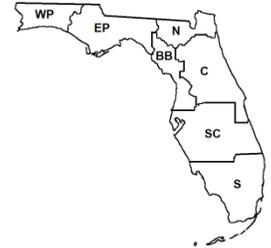
Q14. Based on what you know, do black bears currently live in the wild in Florida?



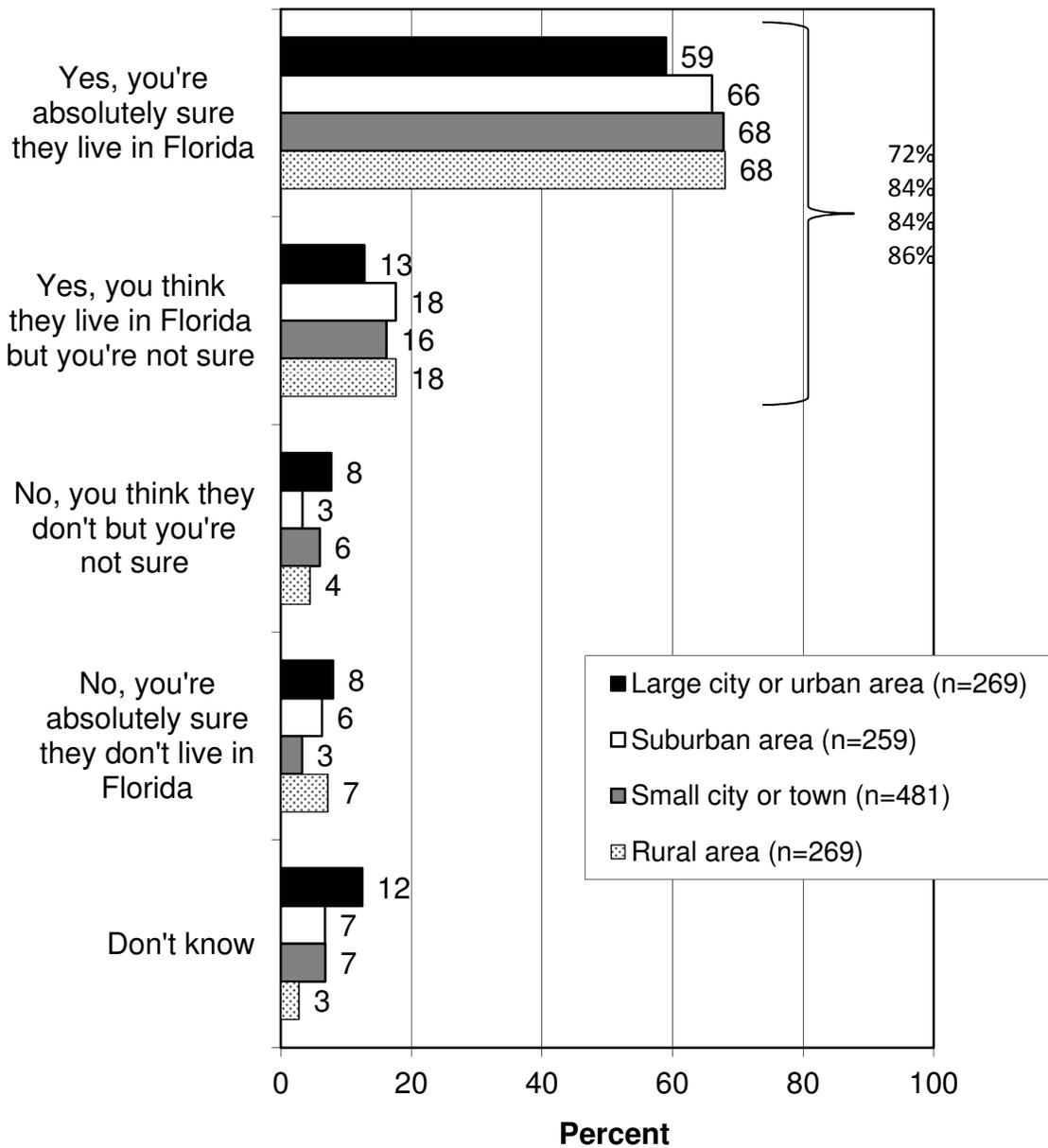
Q14. Based on what you know, do black bears currently live in the wild in Florida?



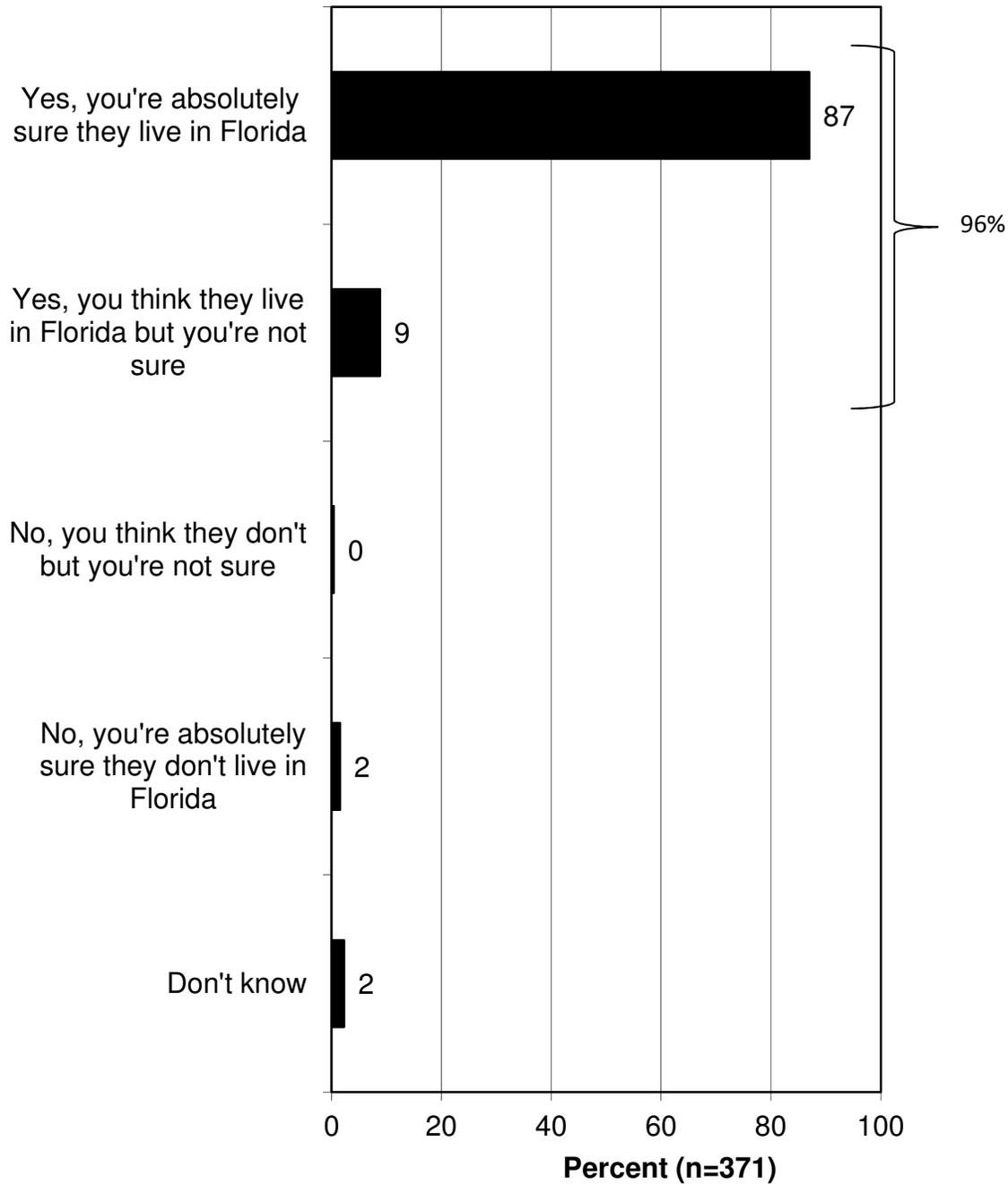
Q14. Based on what you know, do black bears currently live in the wild in Florida?



Q14. Based on what you know, do black bears currently live in the wild in Florida?

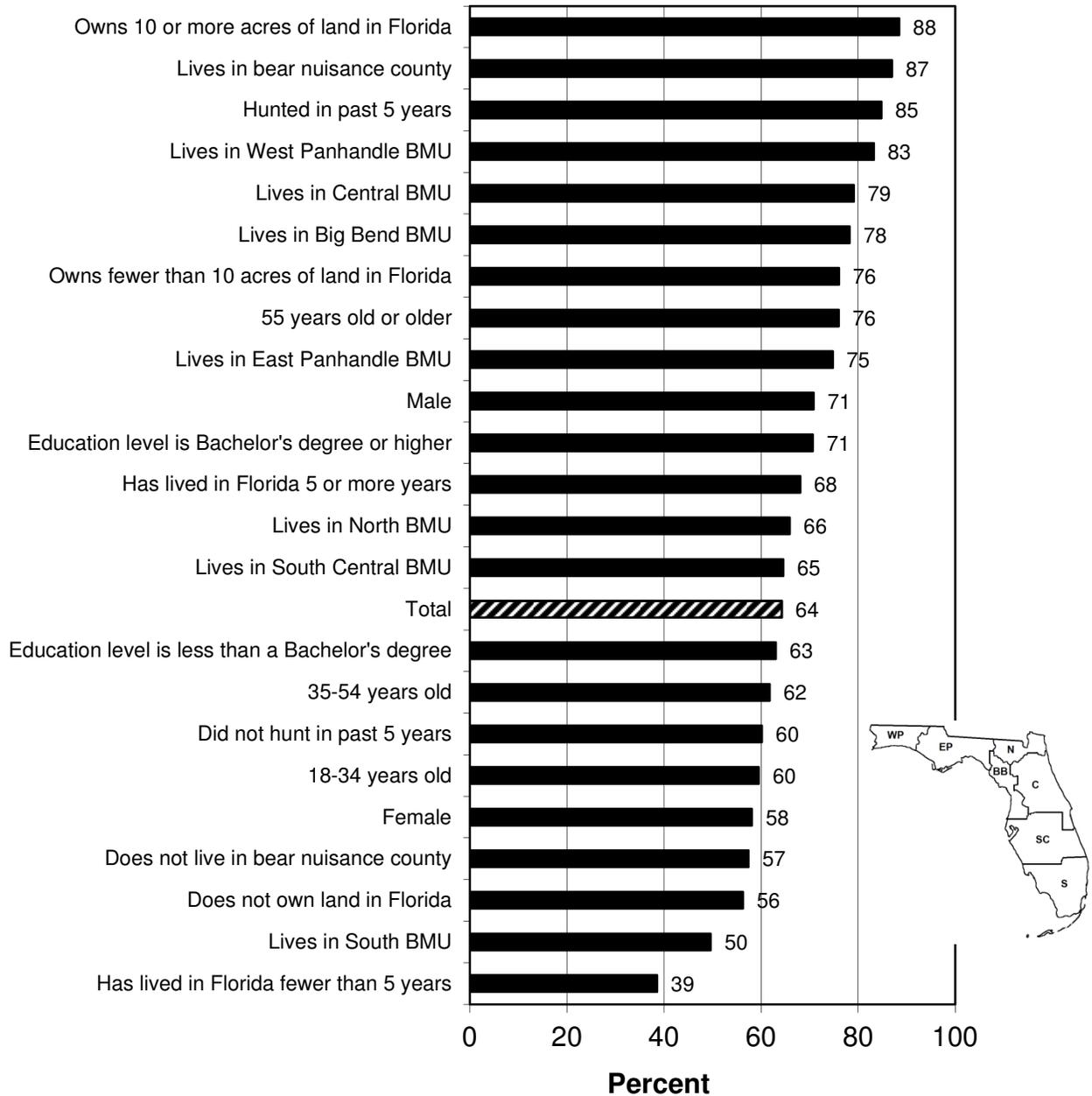


Q14. Based on what you know, do black bears currently live in the wild in Florida? (Bear county residents.)



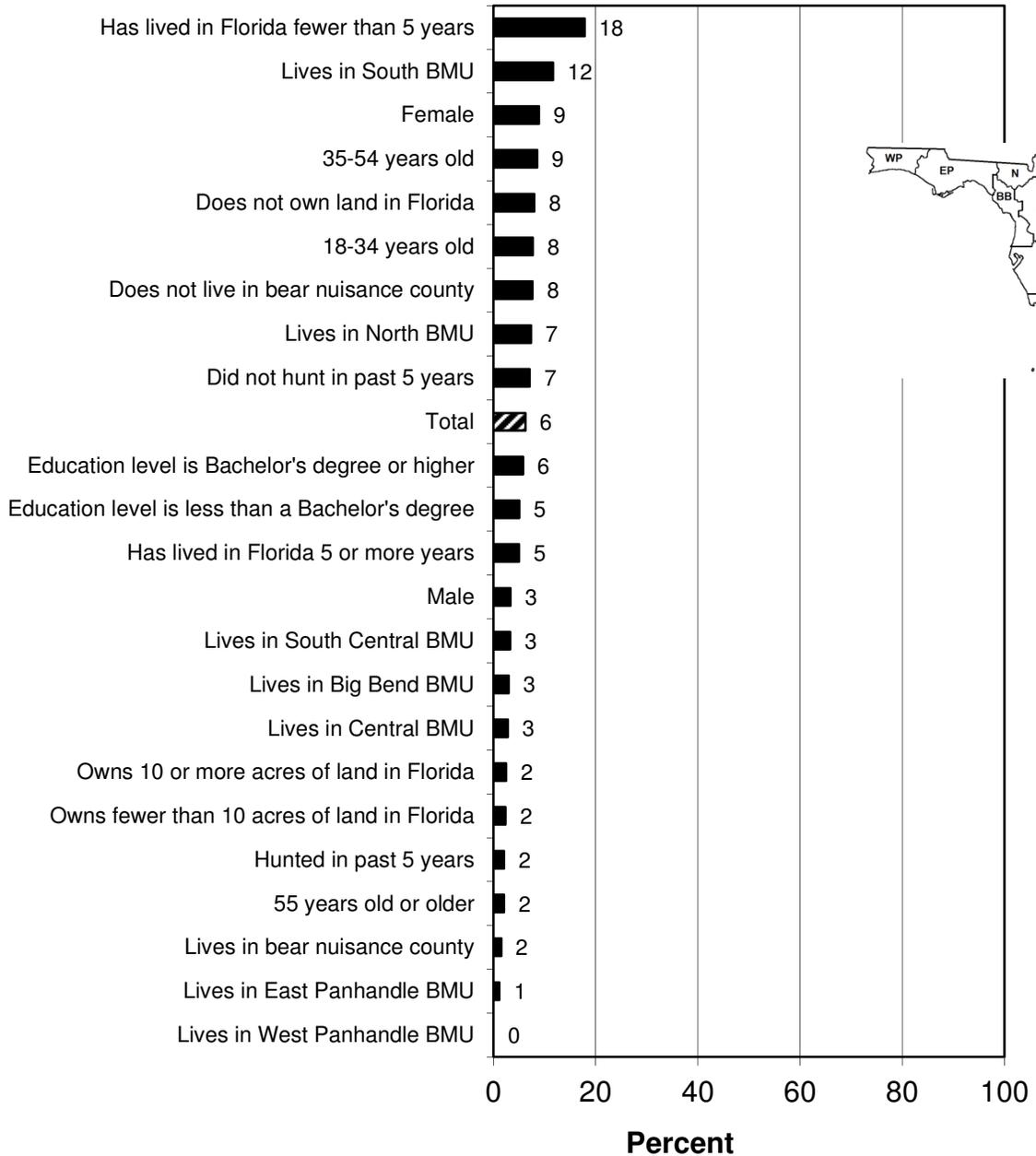
(See the section titled, “Interpreting Omnigraphs,” for an explanation of how to interpret this graph.)

Percent of each of the following groups who are absolutely sure that bears live in Florida:

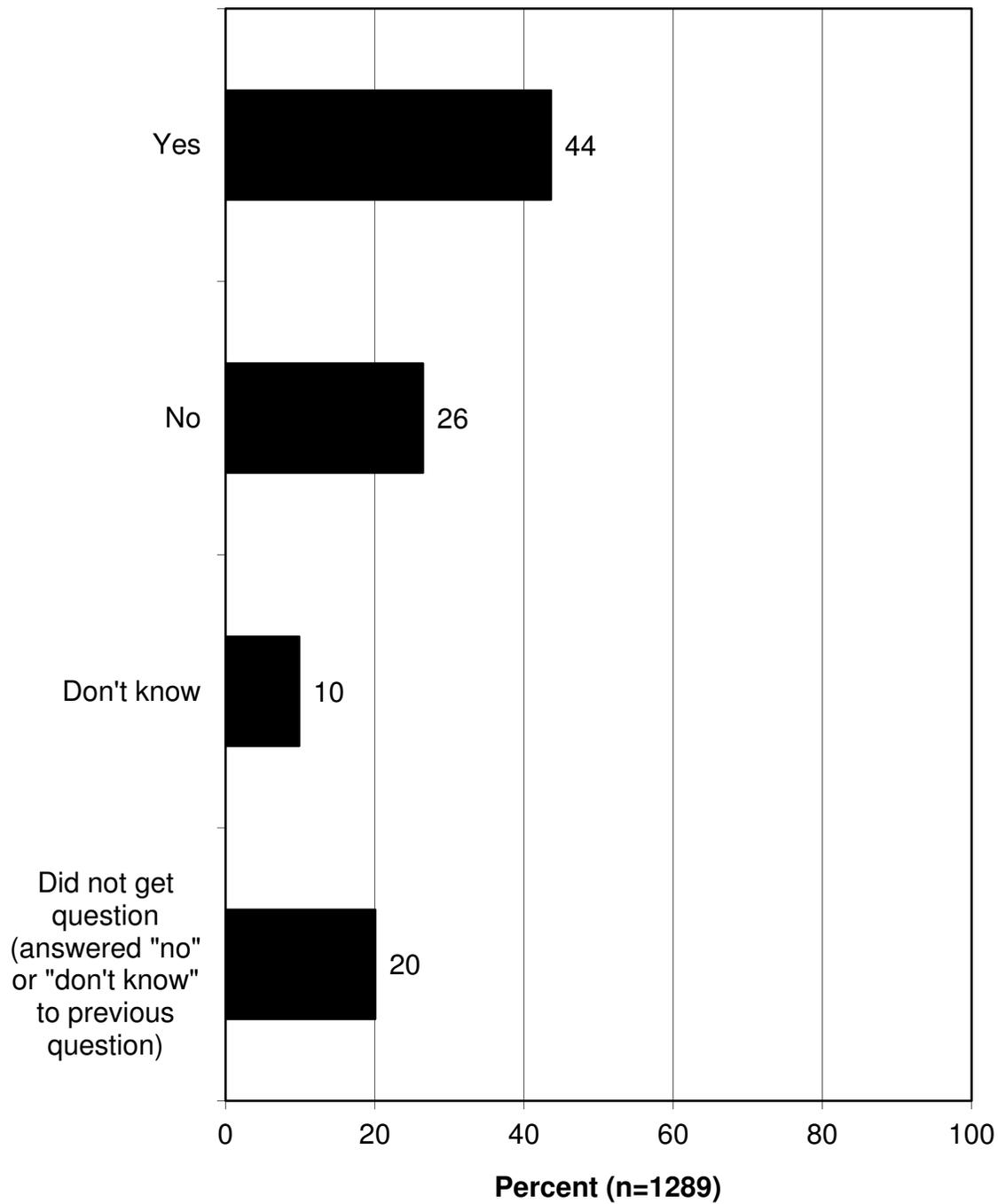


(See the section titled, "Interpreting Omnigraphs," for an explanation of how to interpret this graph.)

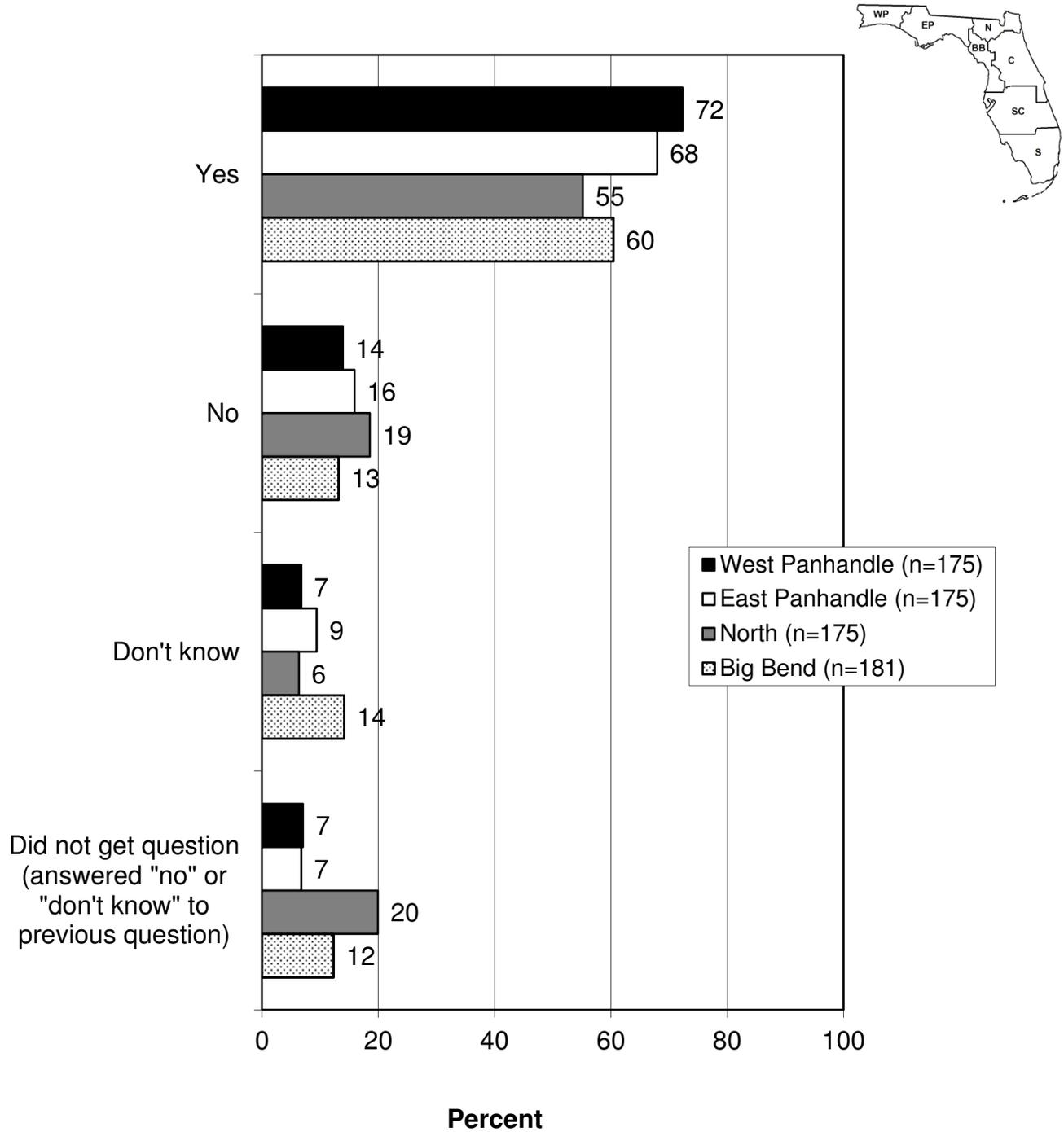
Percent of each of the following groups who are absolutely sure that bears do not live in Florida:



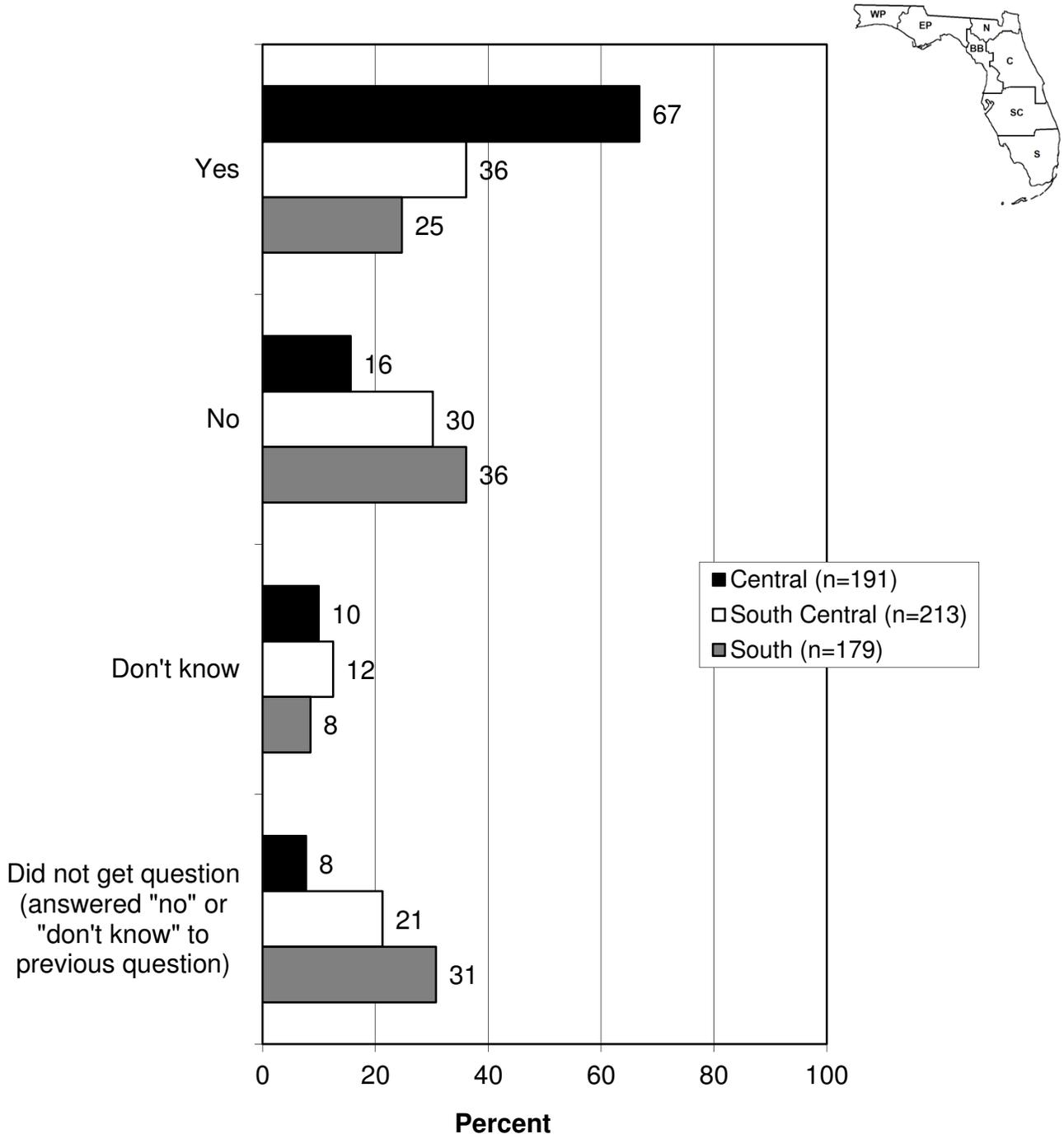
Q15. Do you think black bears live in the wild in your county?



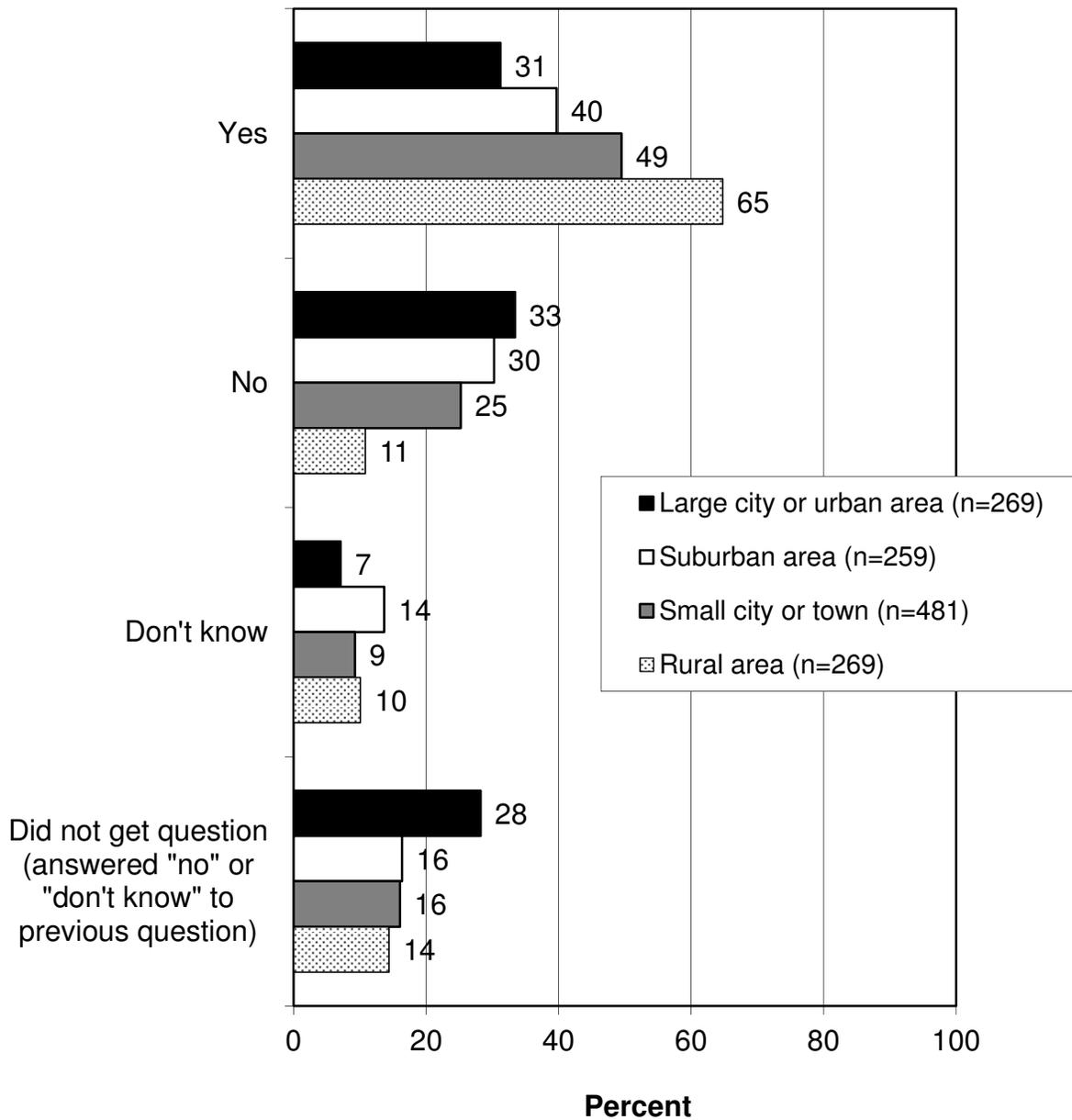
Q15. Do you think black bears live in the wild in your county?



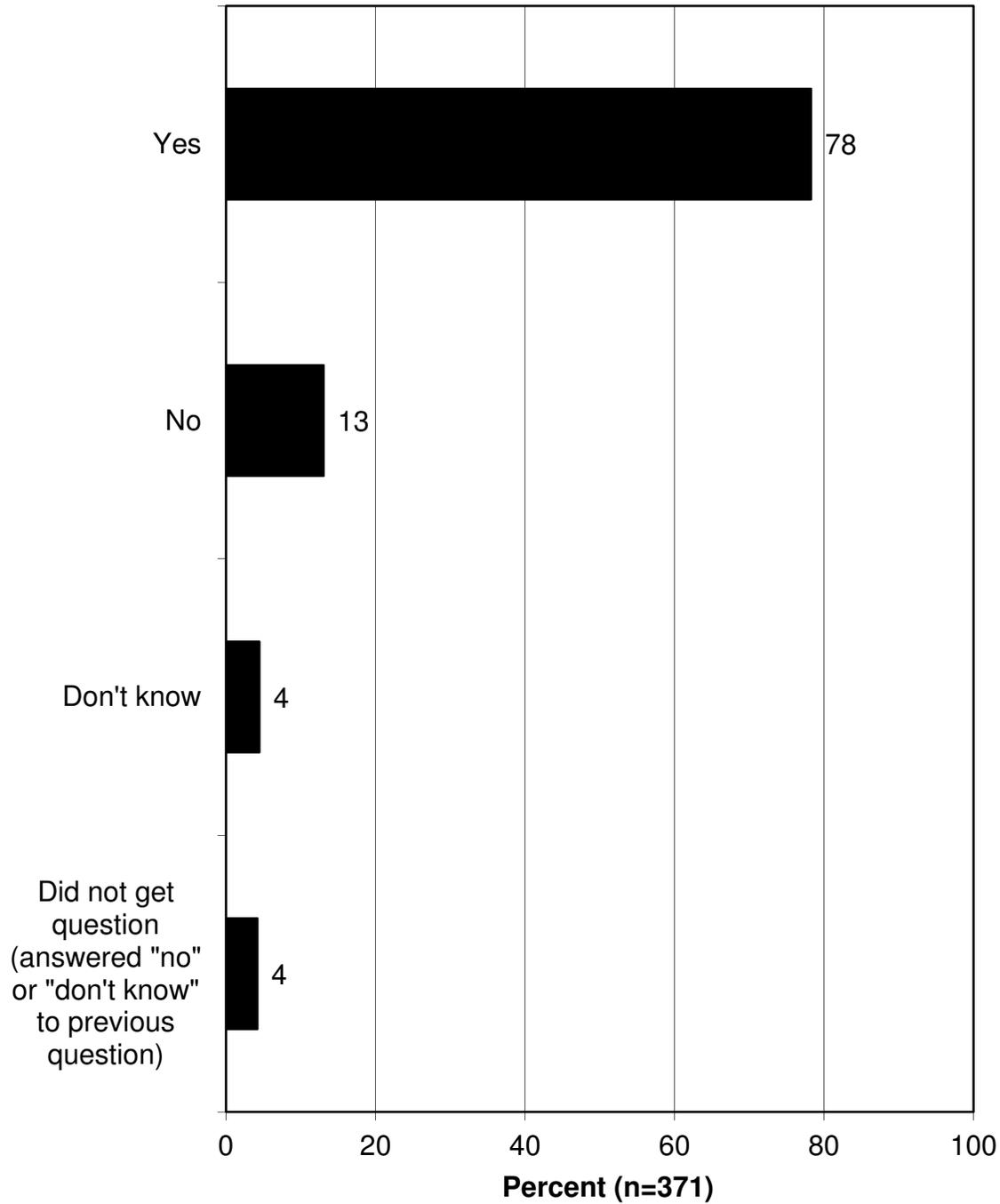
Q15. Do you think black bears live in the wild in your county?



Q15. Do you think black bears live in the wild in your county?

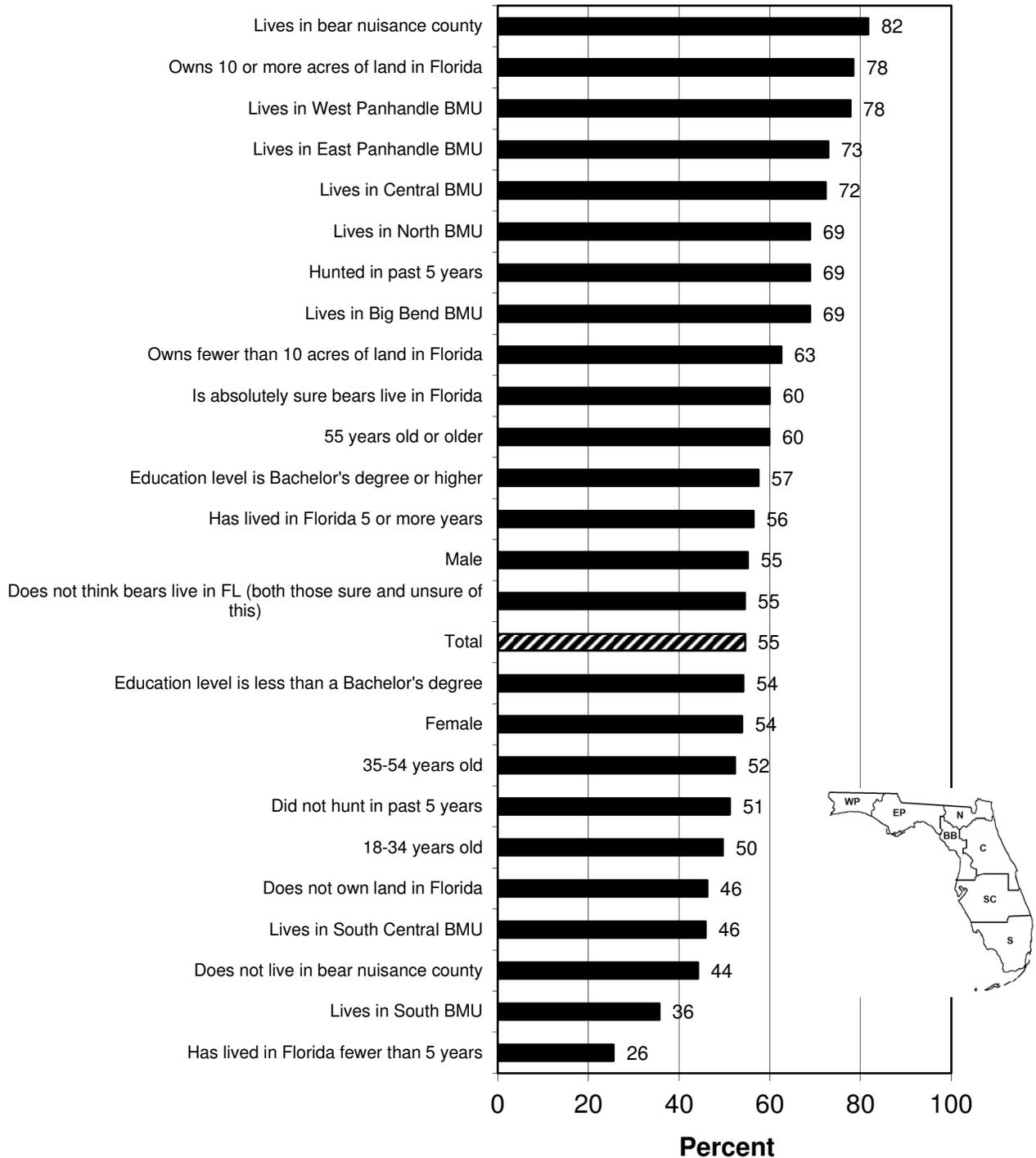


Q15. Do you think black bears live in the wild in your county? (Bear county residents.)



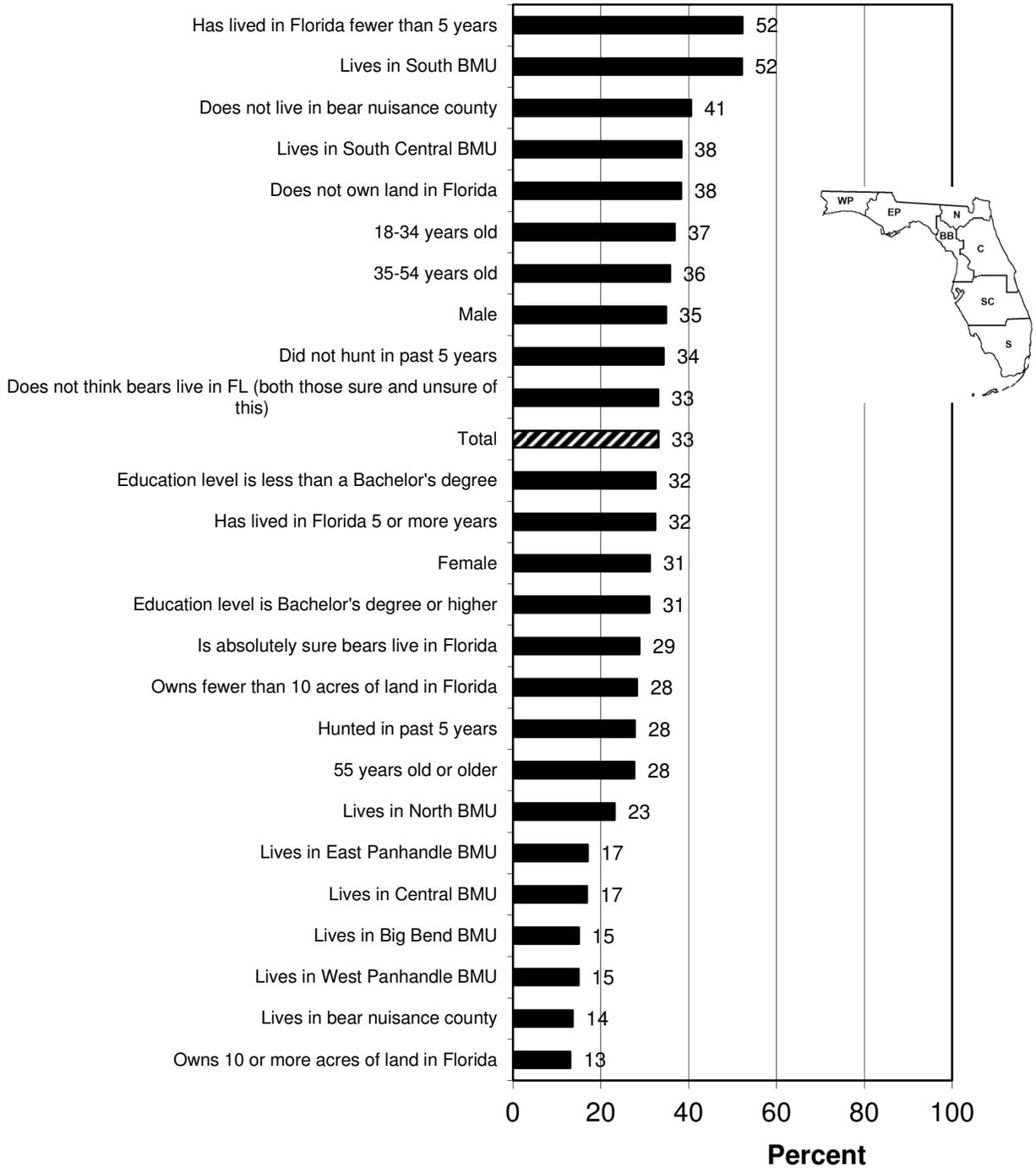
(See the section titled, "Interpreting Omnigraphs," for an explanation of how to interpret this graph.)

Percent of each of the following groups who think black bears live in the wild in their county:

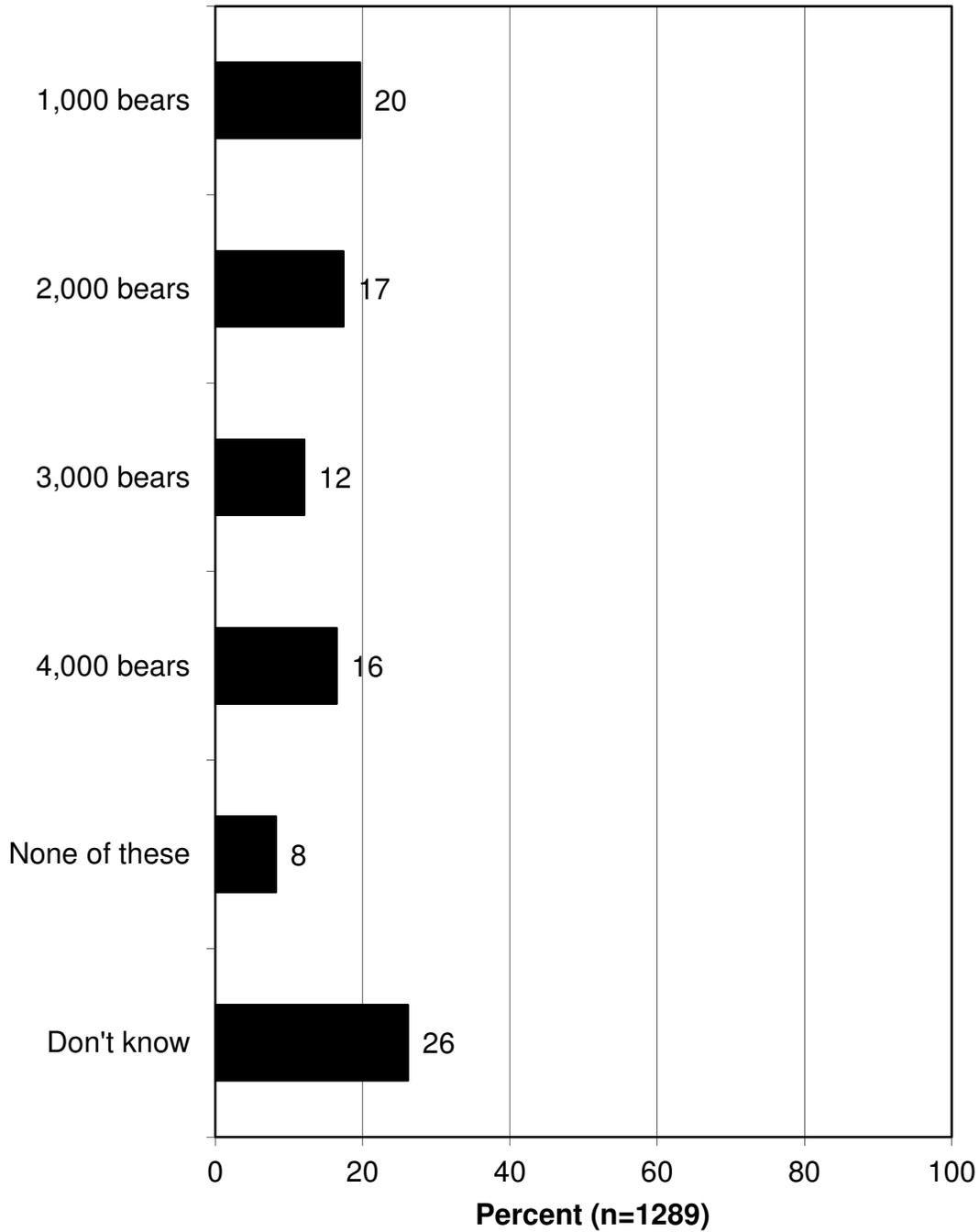


(See the section titled, “Interpreting Omnigraphs,” for an explanation of how to interpret this graph.)

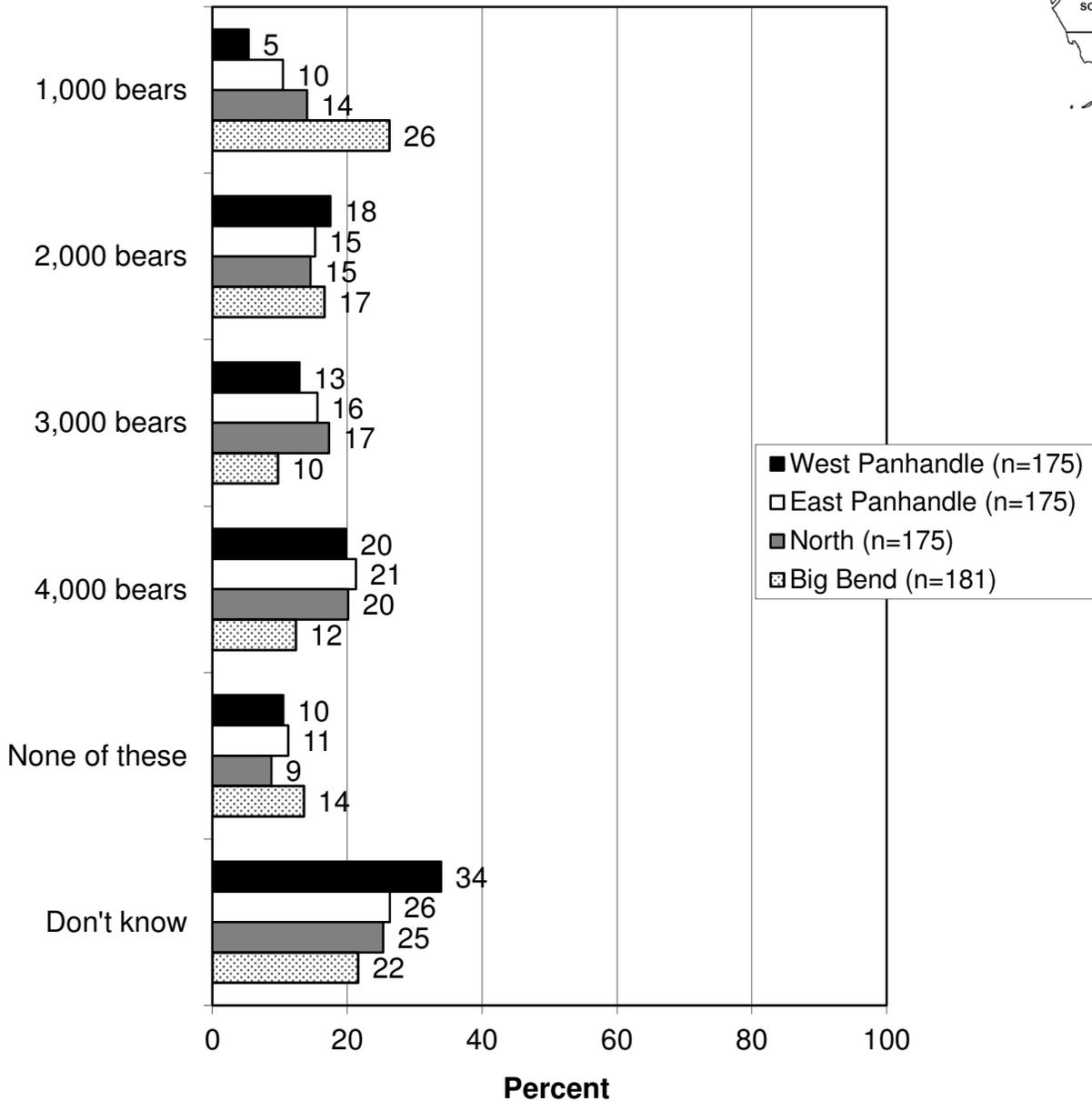
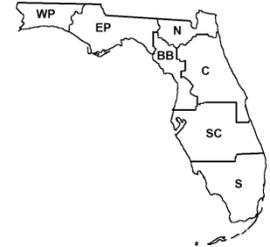
Percent of each of the following groups who do not think black bears live in the wild in their county:



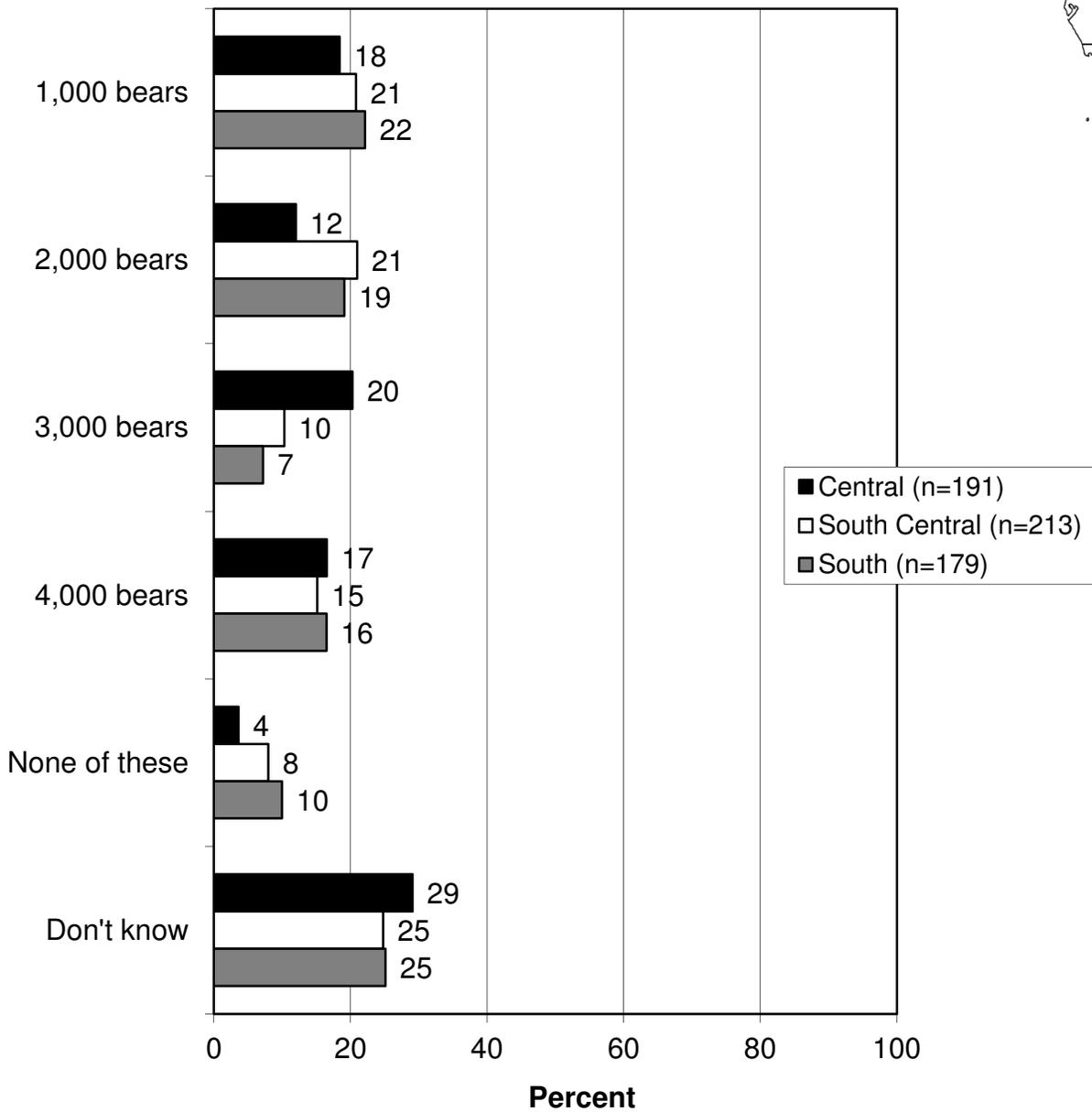
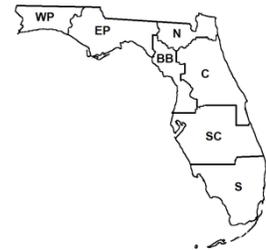
Q17. How many black bears do you think live in the entire state of Florida? (Respondents were given the four choices shown.)



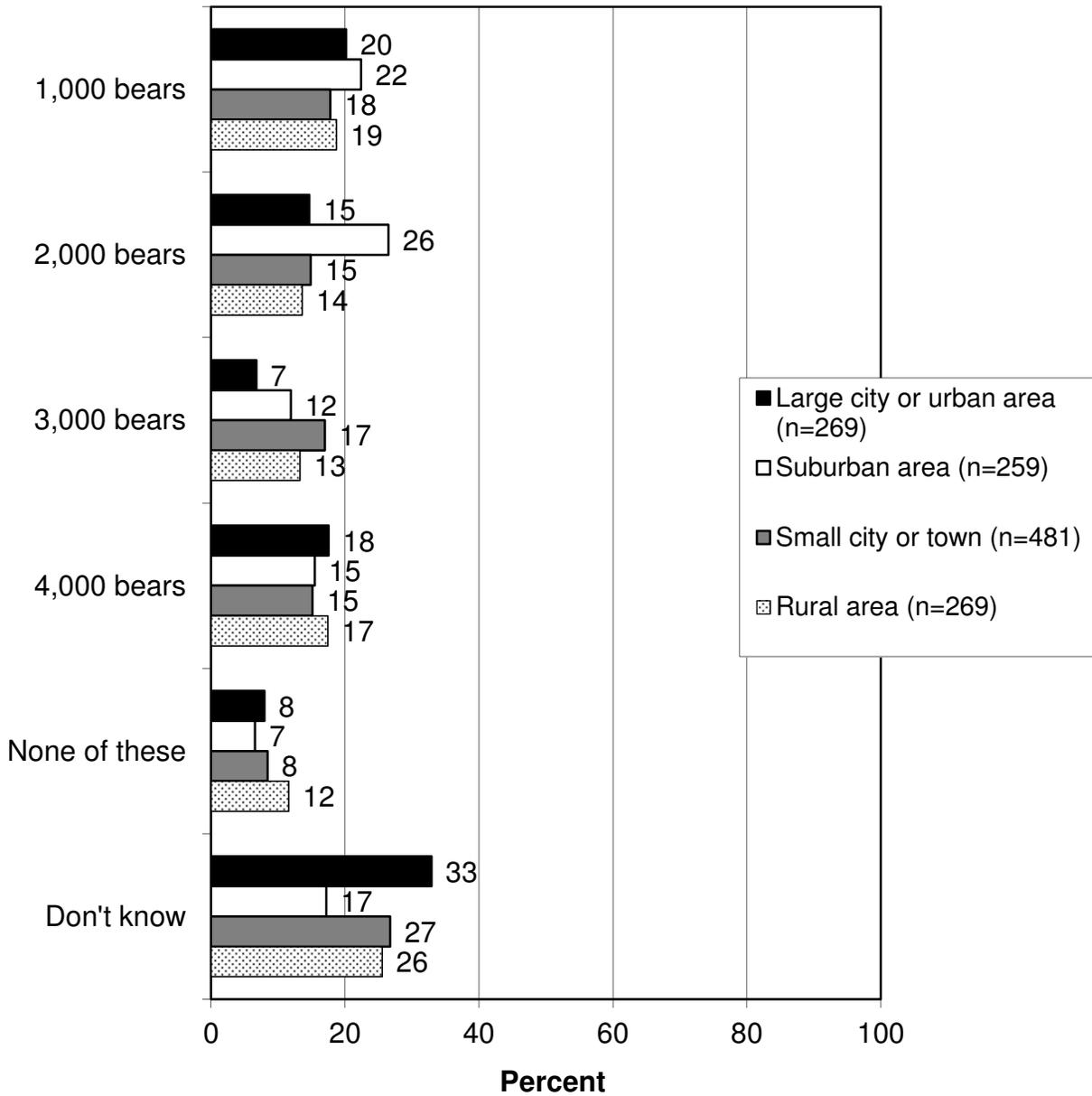
Q17. How many black bears do you think live in the entire state of Florida? (Respondents were given the four choices shown.)



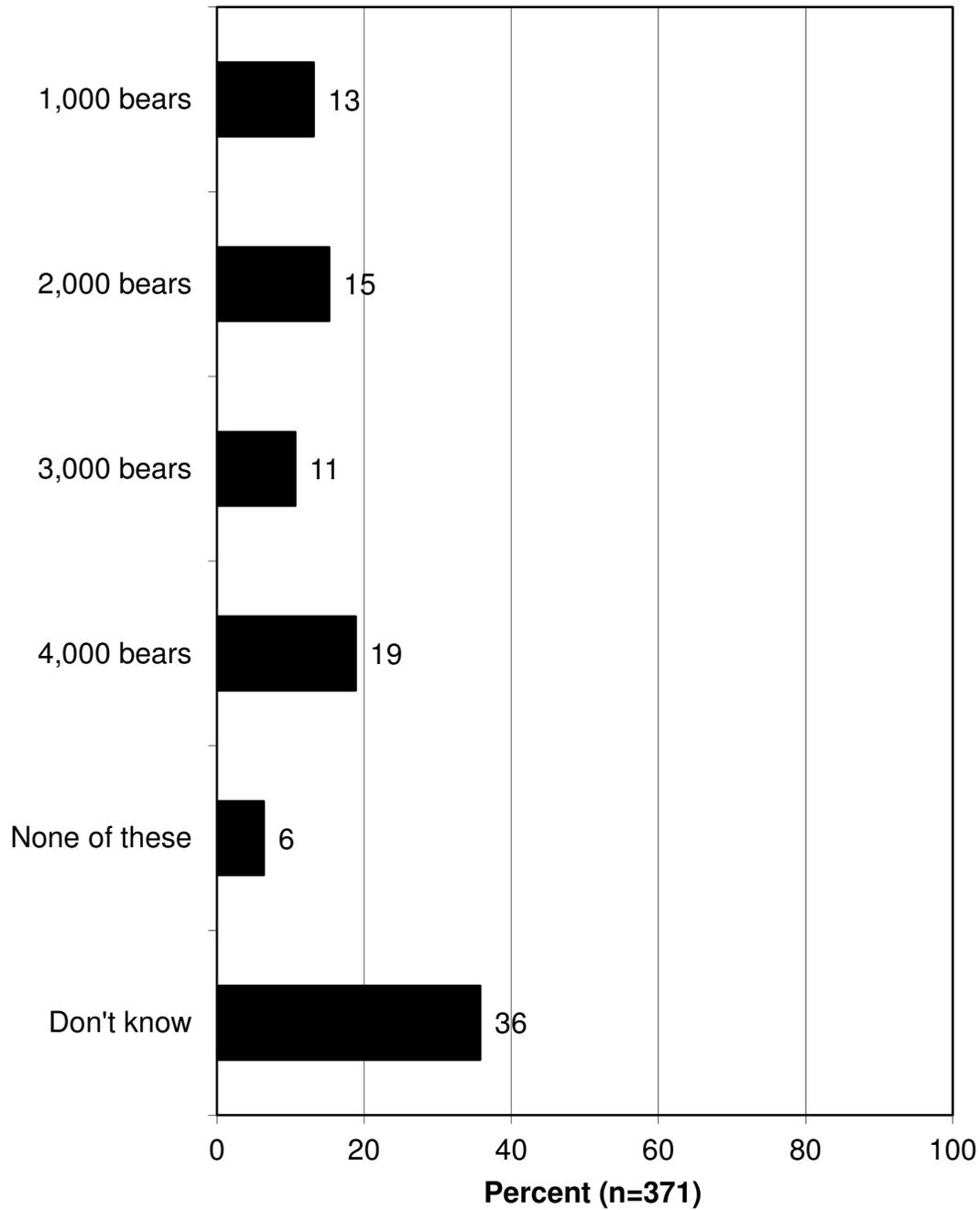
Q17. How many black bears do you think live in the entire state of Florida? (Respondents were given the four choices shown.)



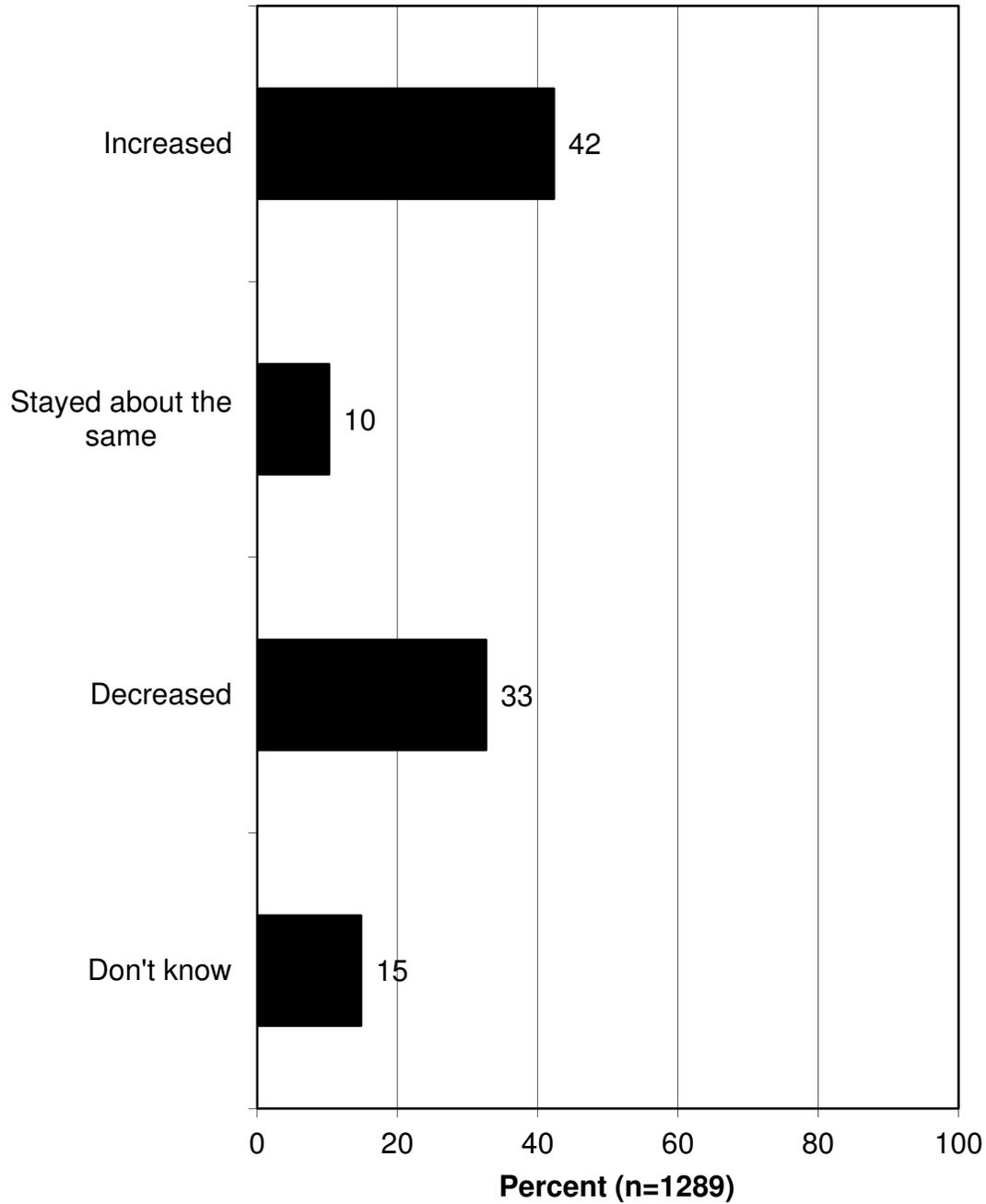
Q17. How many black bears do you think live in the entire state of Florida? (Respondents were given the four choices shown.)



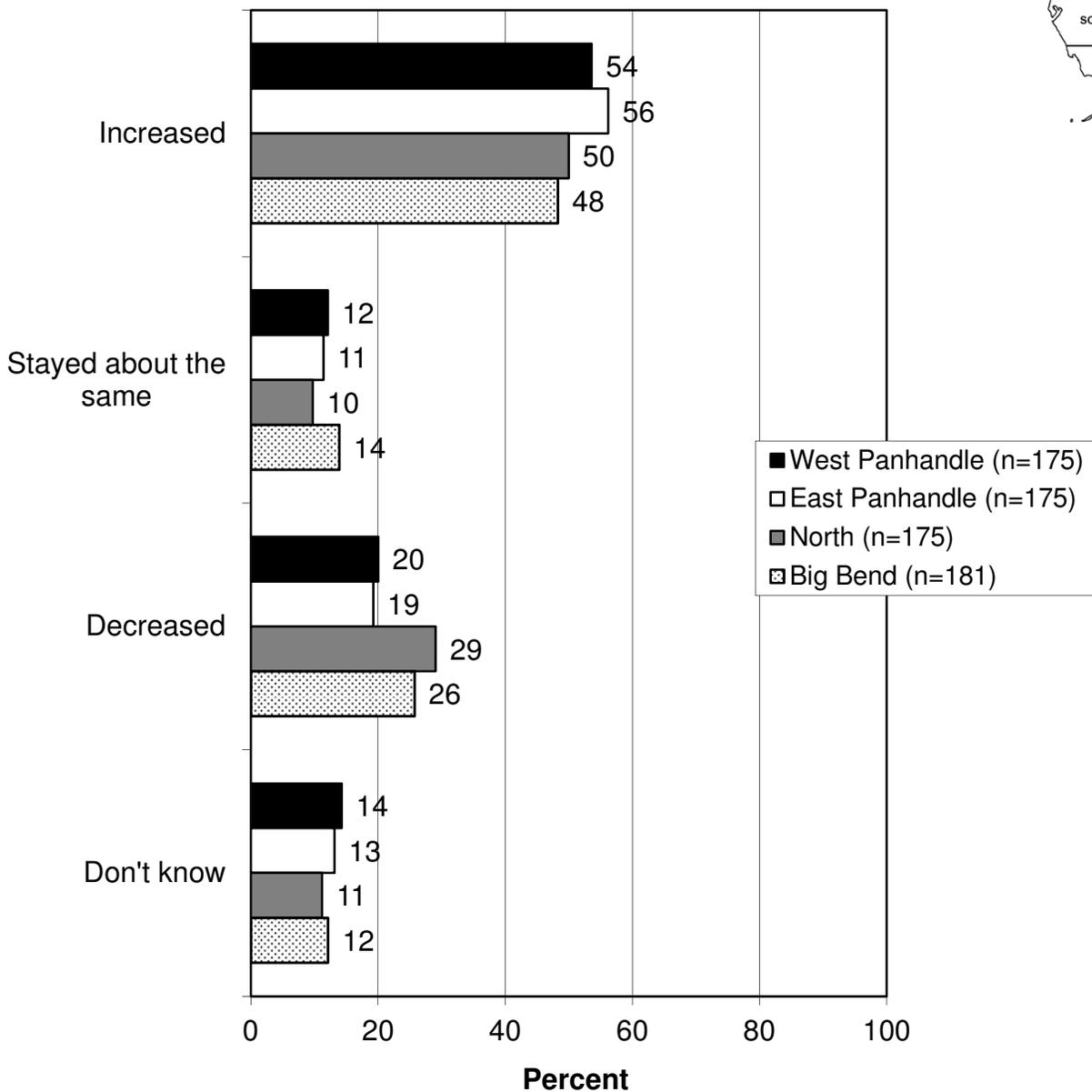
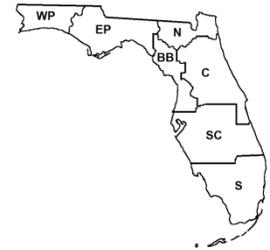
Q17. How many black bears do you think live in the entire state of Florida? (Respondents were given the four choices shown.) (Bear county residents.)



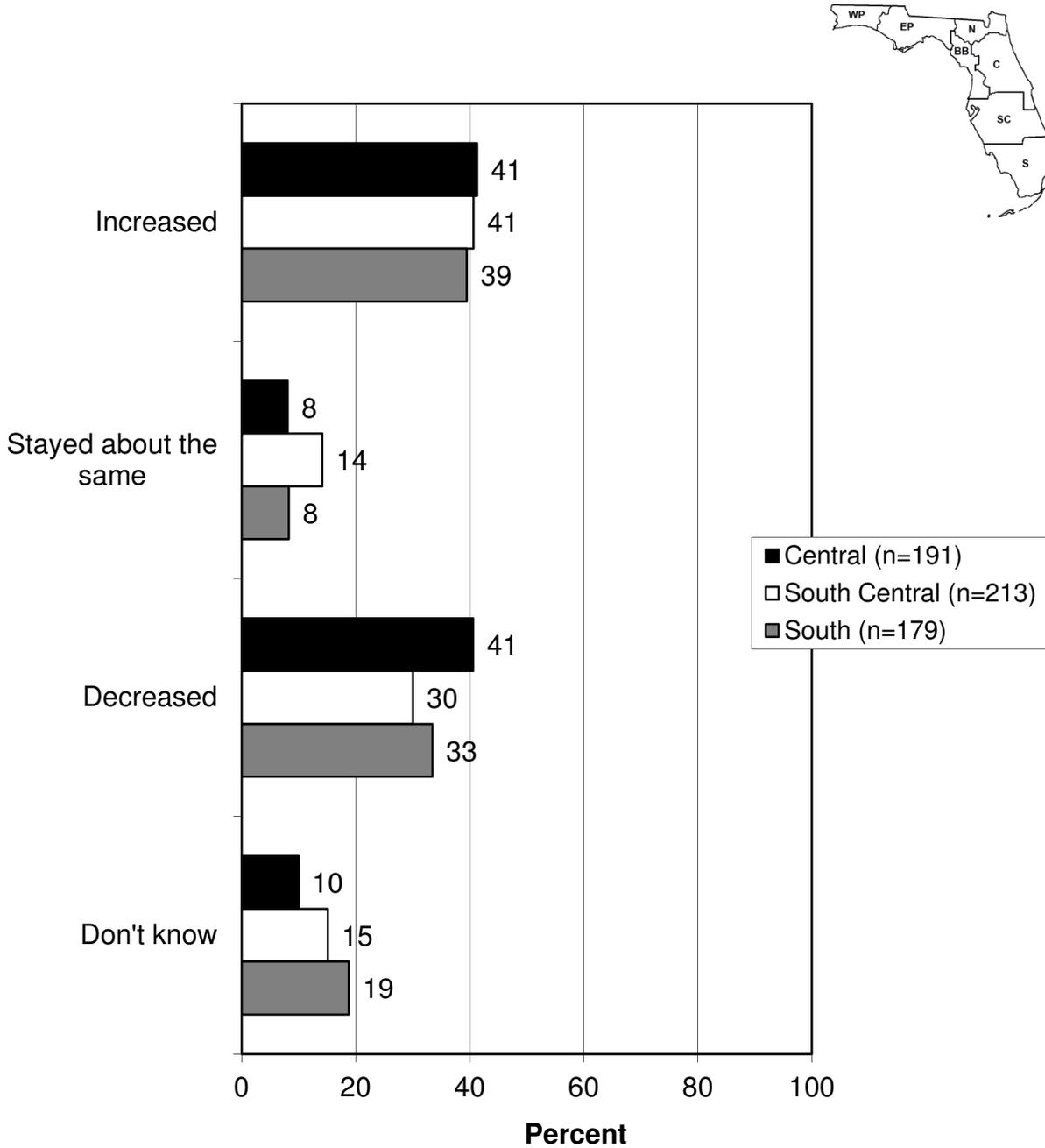
Q19. Do you think black bear populations in Florida have increased, stayed about the same, or decreased over the past 10 years?



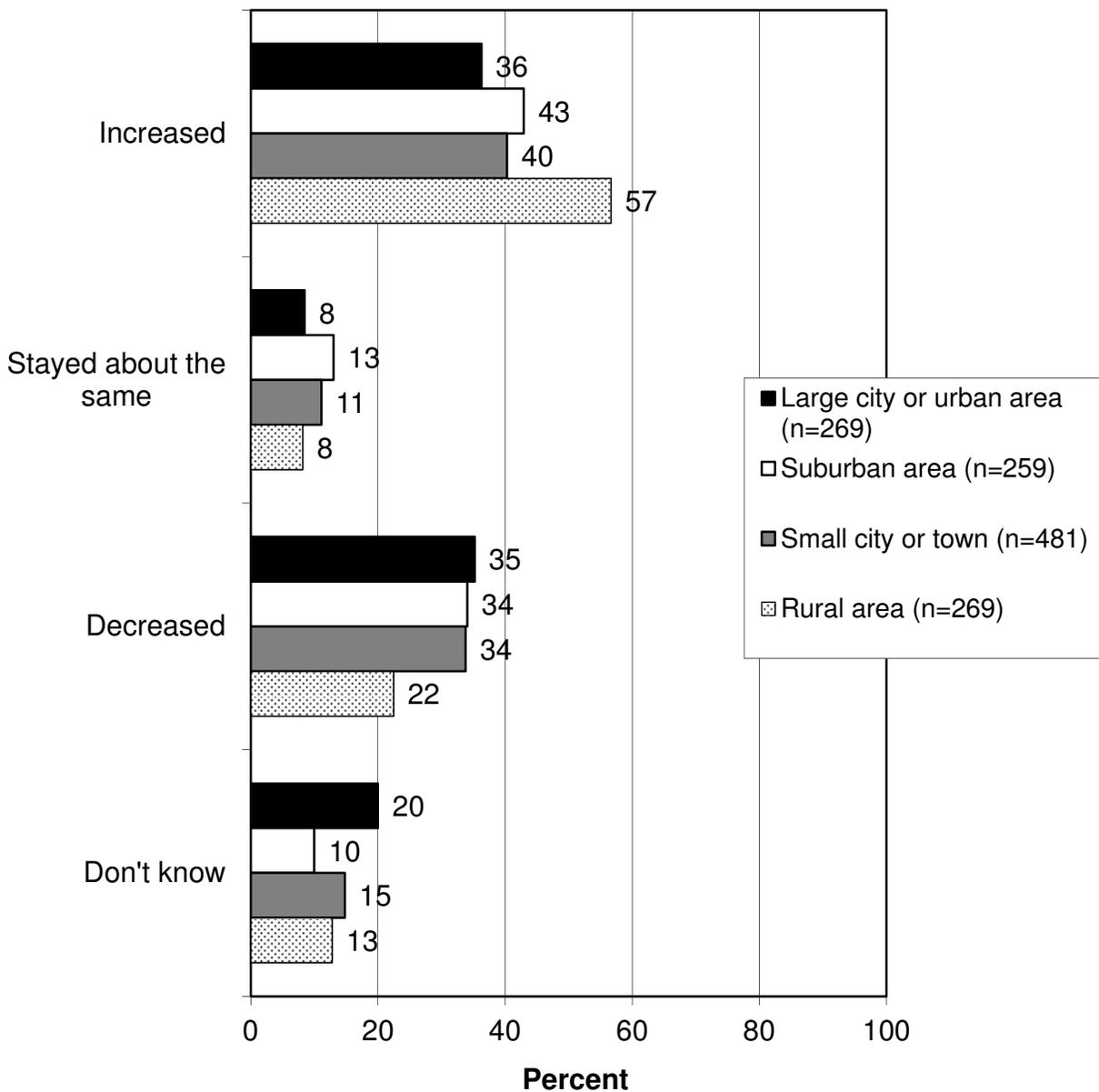
Q19. Do you think black bear populations in Florida have increased, stayed about the same, or decreased over the past 10 years?



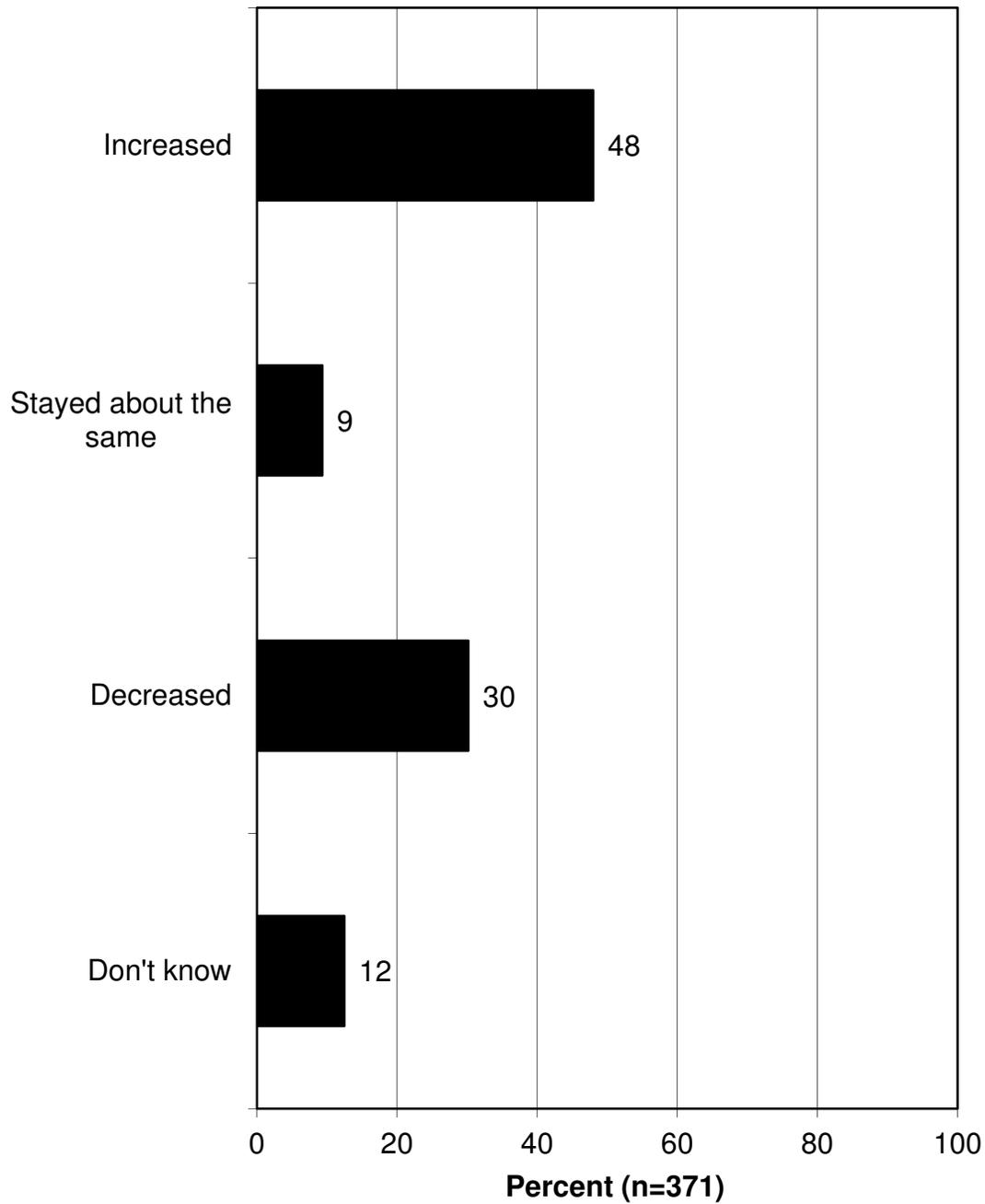
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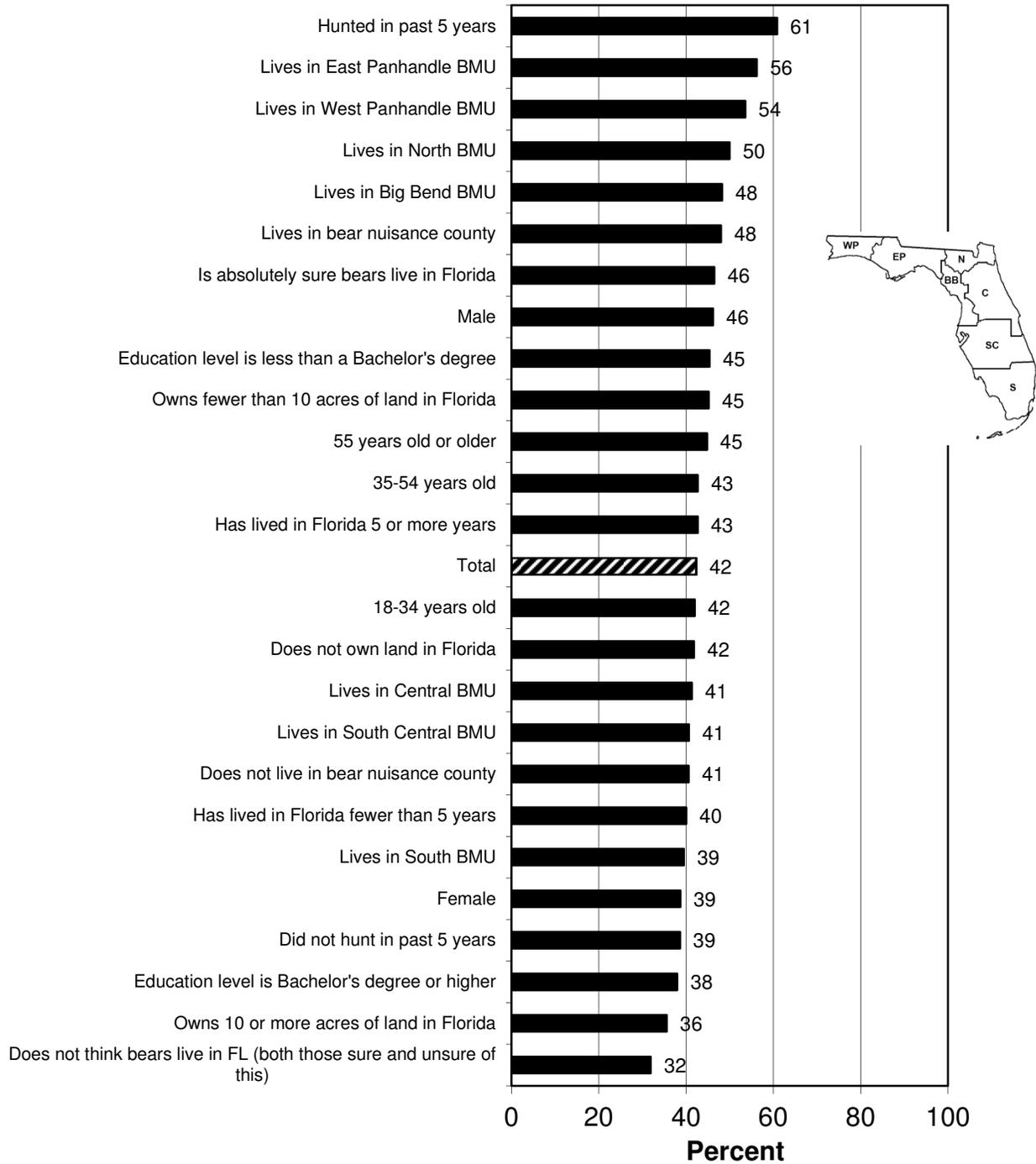


Q19. Do you think black bear populations in Florida have increased, stayed about the same, or decreased over the past 10 years? (Bear county residents.)



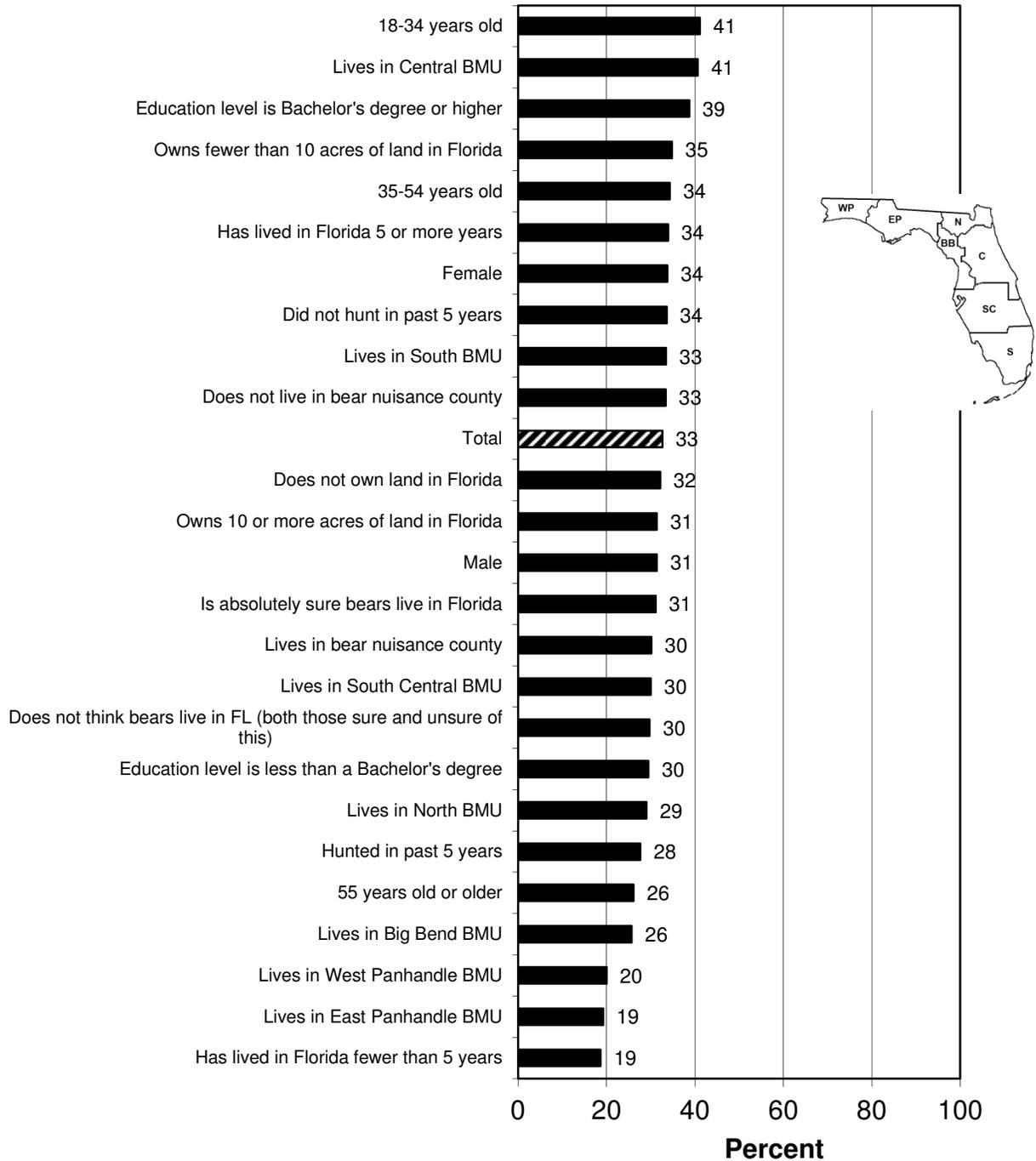
(See the section titled, "Interpreting Omnigraphs," for an explanation of how to interpret this graph.)

Percent of each of the following groups who think that black bear populations in Florida have increased in the past 10 years:



(See the section titled, “Interpreting Omnigraphs,” for an explanation of how to interpret this graph.)

Percent of each of the following groups who think that black bear populations in Florida have decreased in the past 10 years:



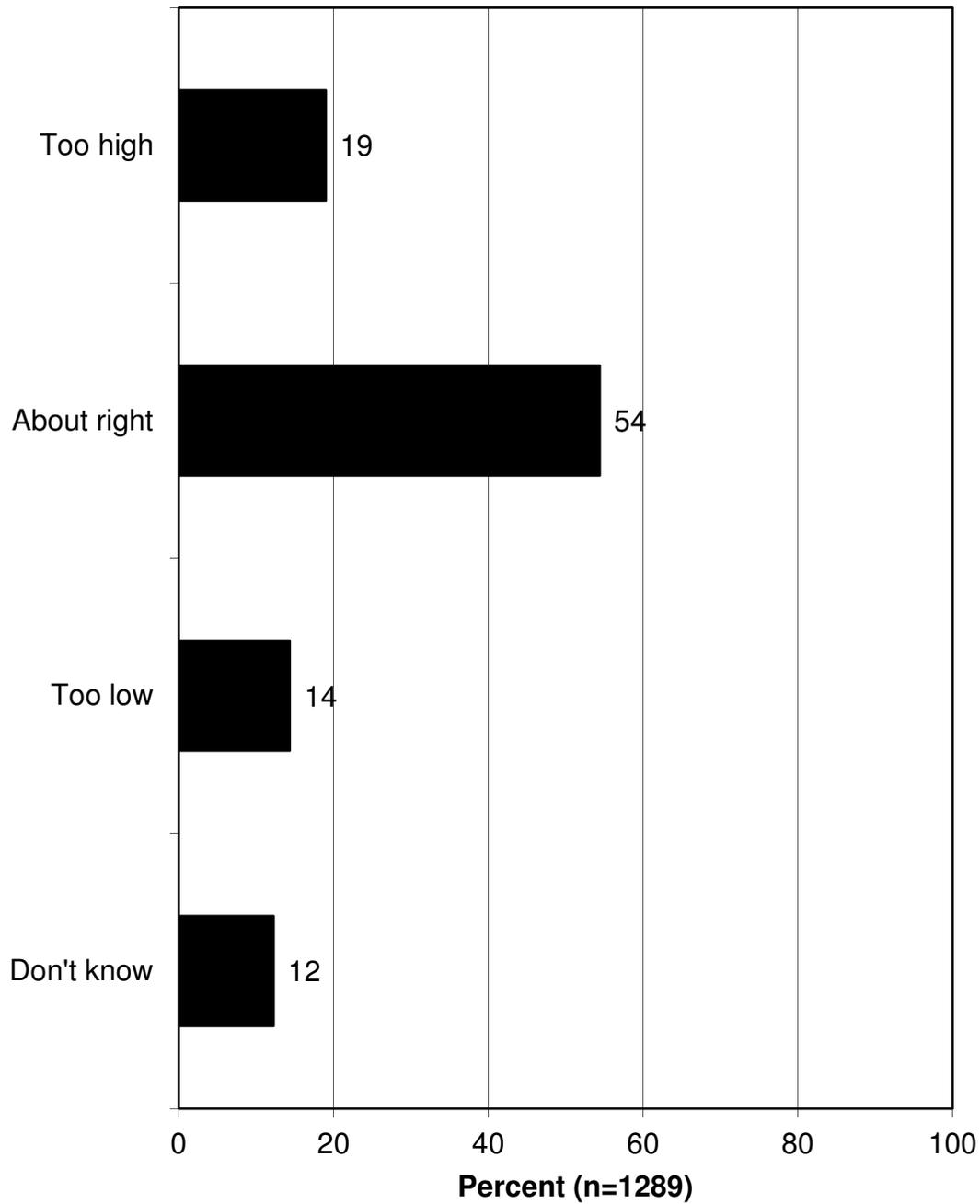
OPINION ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE BLACK BEAR POPULATION IN FLORIDA

- The previous section showed the results of knowledge questions to which there are correct and incorrect responses. The rest of the results presented are opinion and attitude questions for which there are no wrong or right responses.

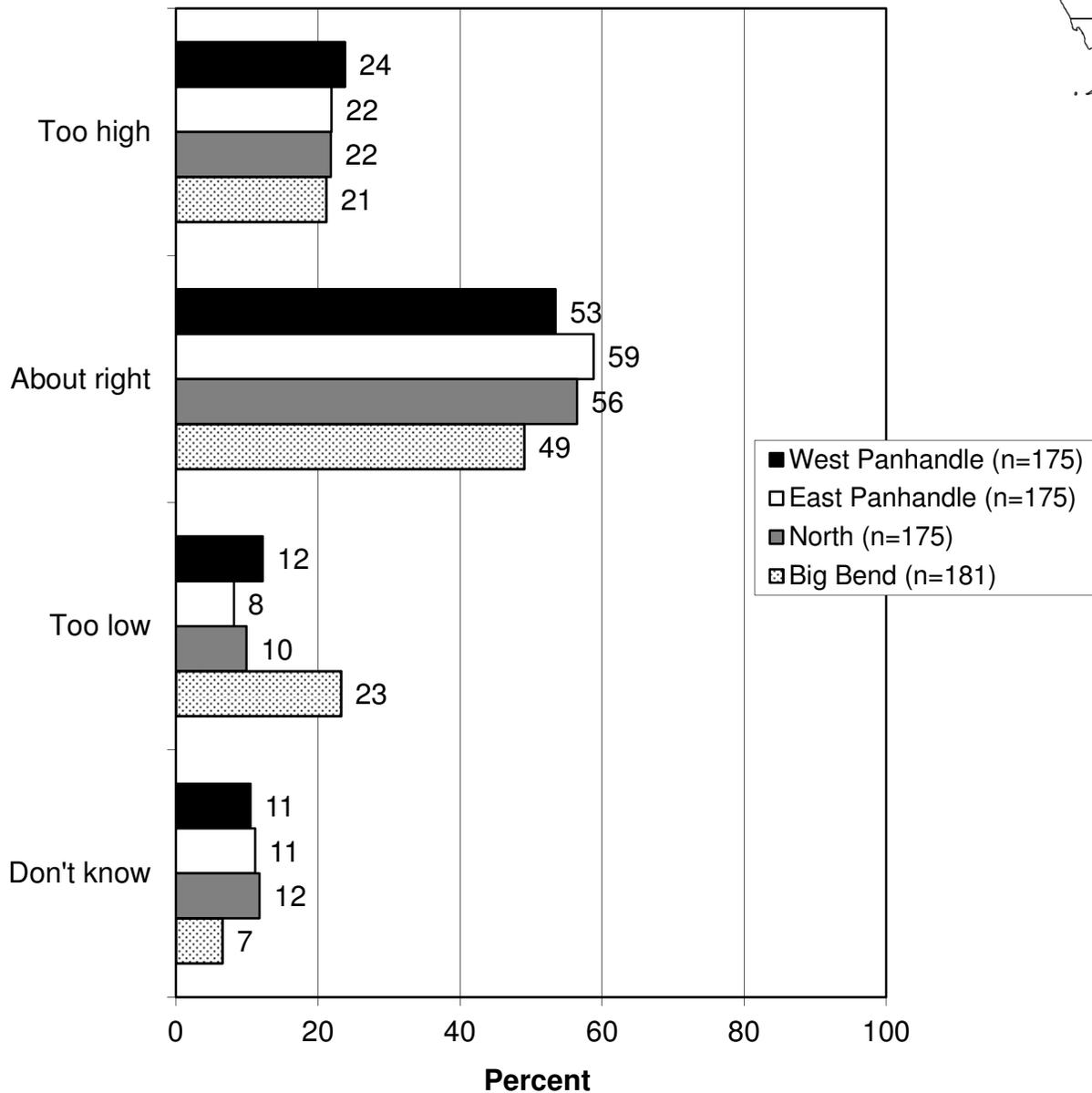
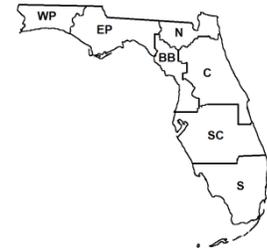
- Just over half of Florida residents (54%) think that the bear population in the state is about right. Nonetheless, 19% think it is too high.
 - West Panhandle unit residents are the most likely to think that the bear population is too high in the state.
 - Rural residents and small city/town residents have the highest percentage saying that the bear population is too low.
 - Residents of the selected bear counties have a slightly higher percentage than residents of the state as a whole thinking that the bear population is too high: 23% think so.
 - Results regarding the population in the respondent's county of residence are shown. Overall, 54% of residents think the bear population in their county is about right, while only 8% think it is too high.
 - Omnigraphs are included of these questions about the bear population statewide and in the respondent's county, showing respondent characteristics associated with the various responses.

- Ratings are more positive than negative regarding the Commission staff's job at managing black bears in Florida: 64% rate them excellent or good, compared to 17% giving them a rating in the lower half of the scale (the remainder do not know).
 - In looking at the bear management units, residents of the Big Bend unit give the best ratings, followed by residents of the South unit.
 - Rural residents have the highest percentage giving a fair or poor rating.
 - Residents of the selected bear counties are just slightly more likely than residents of Florida overall to give a negative response (i.e., a rating of fair or poor).
 - Omnigraphs are included of this question, showing respondent characteristics associated with the various responses.

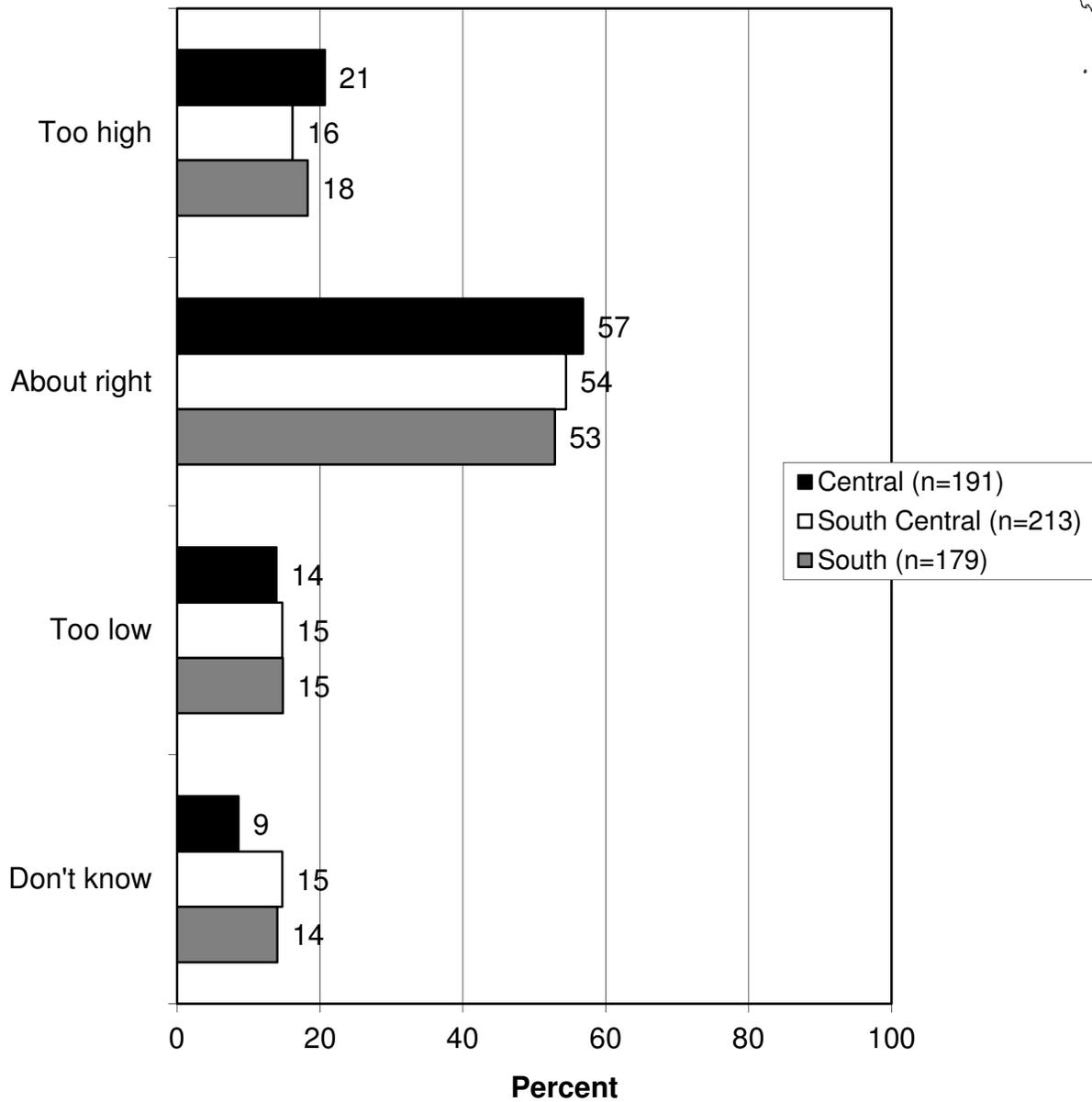
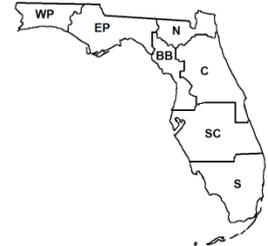
Q22. In your opinion, would you say the black bear population in Florida is too high, about right, or too low?



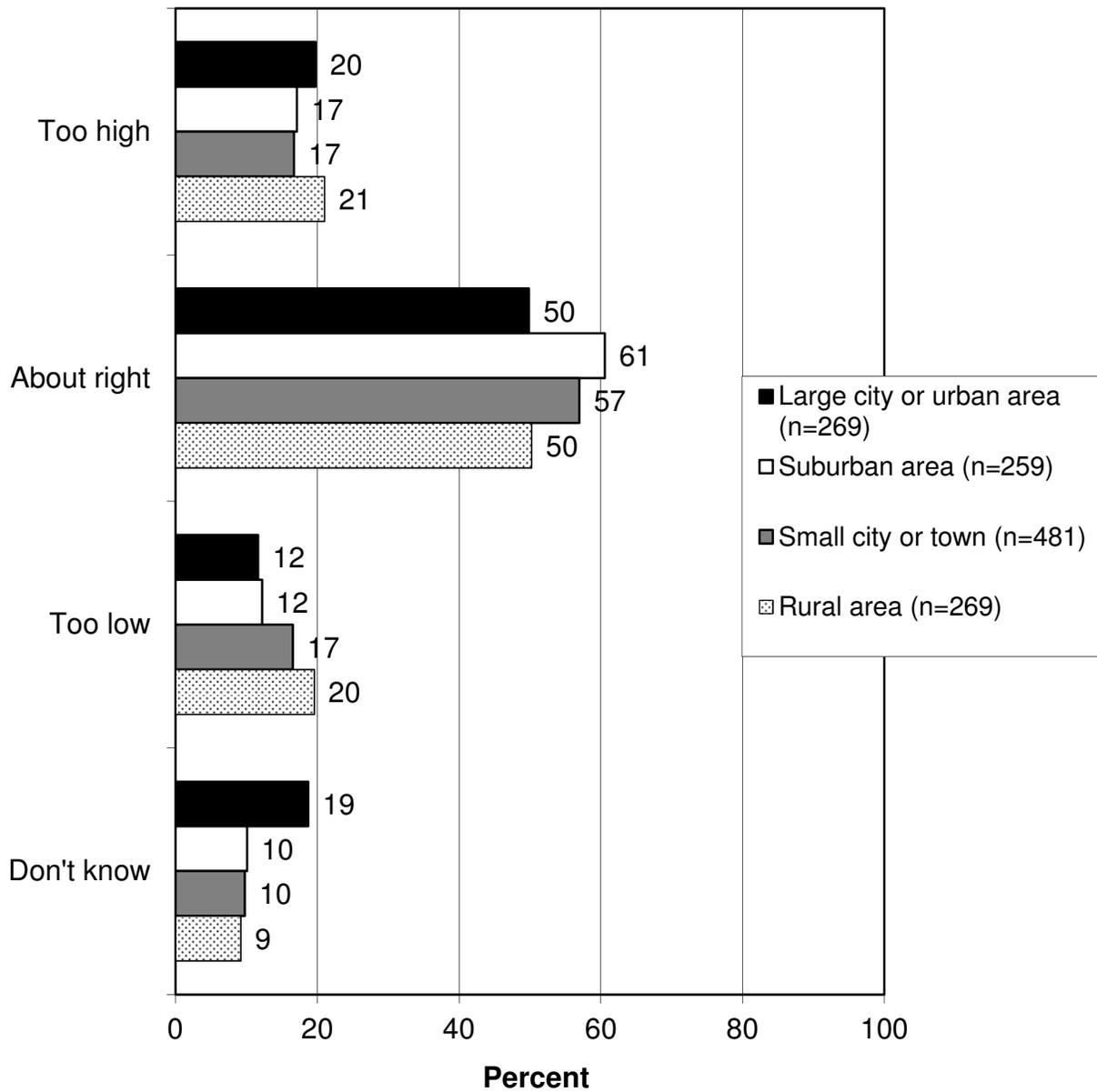
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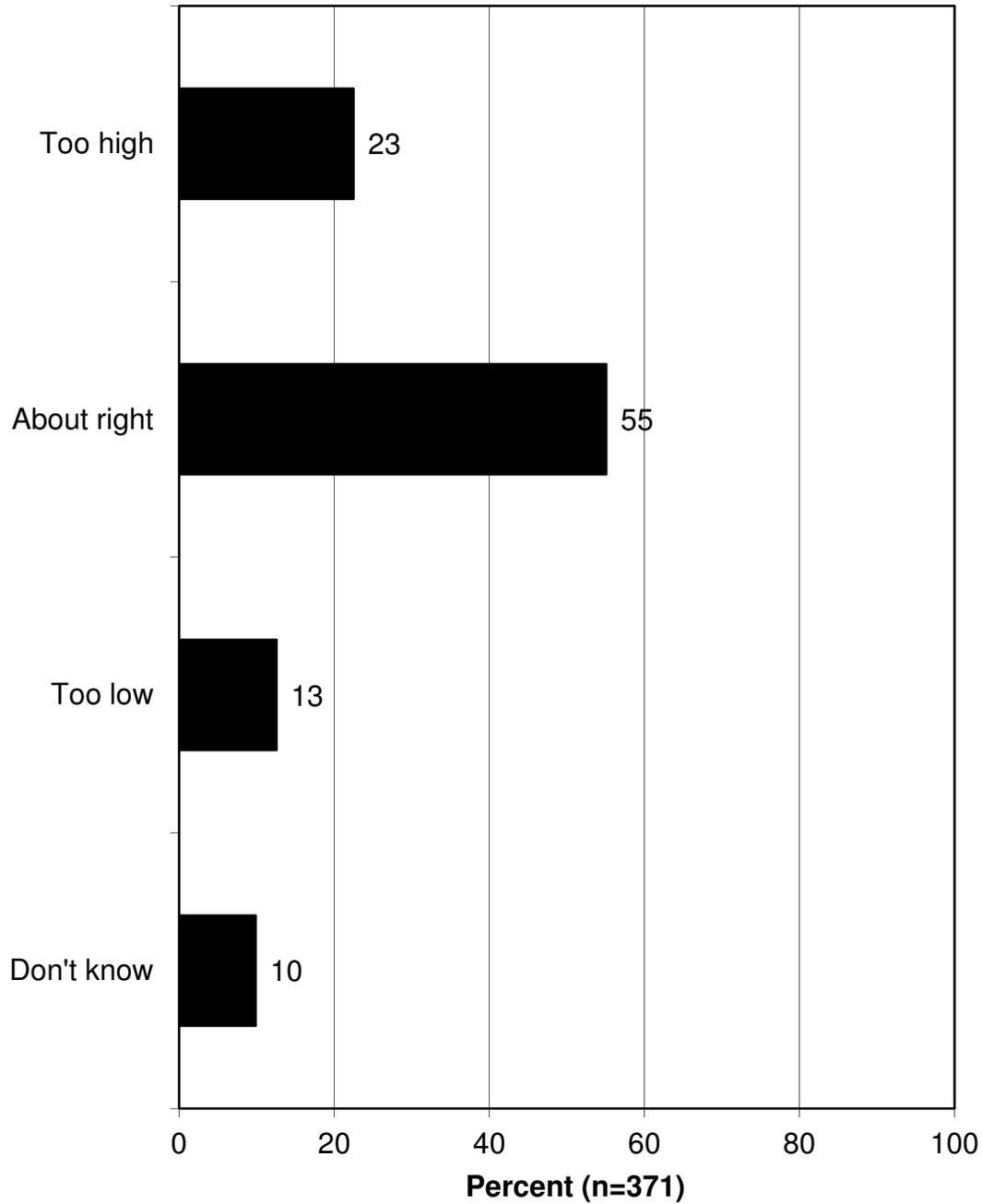
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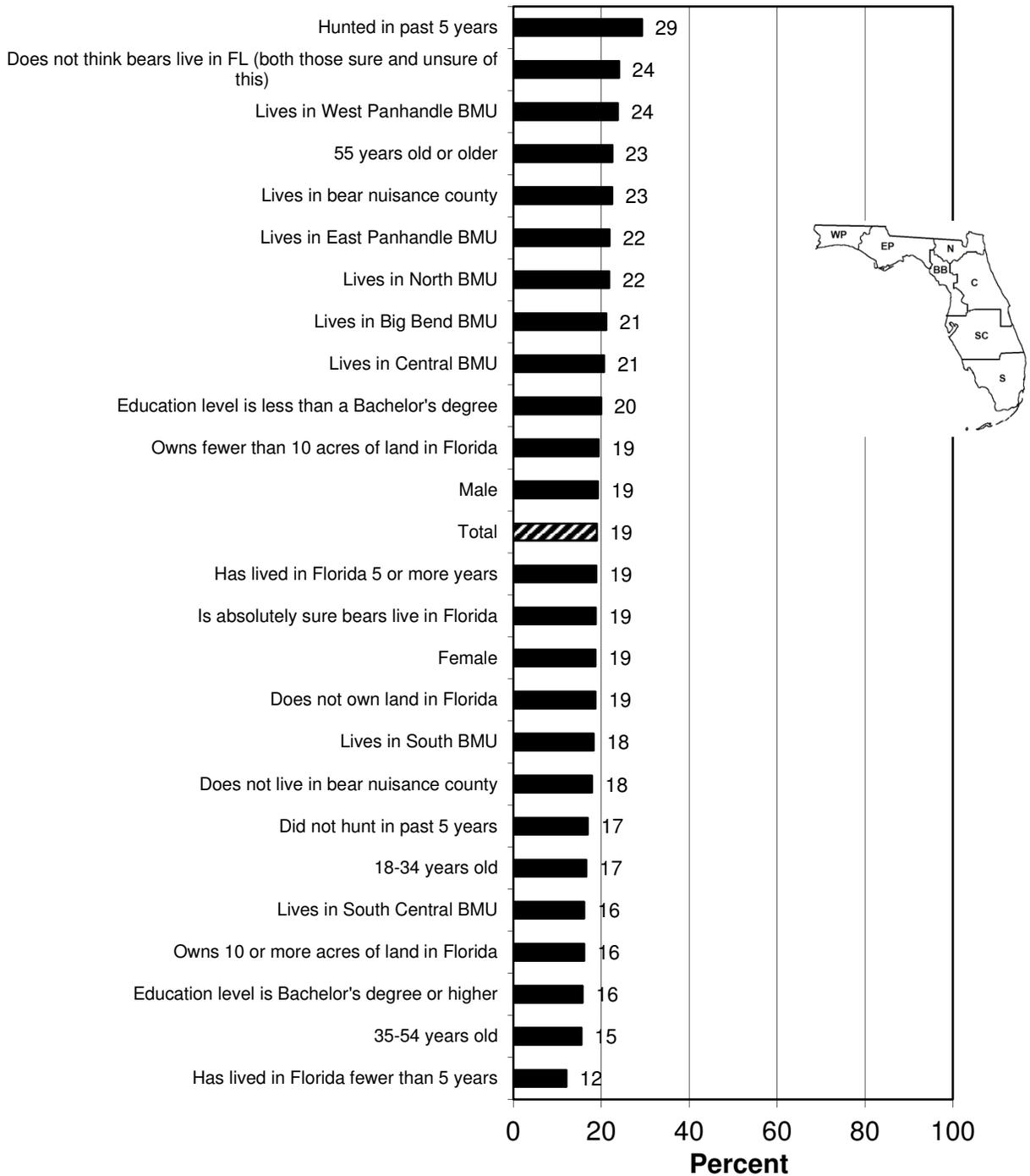


Q22. In your opinion, would you say the black bear population in Florida is too high, about right, or too low? (Bear county residents.)



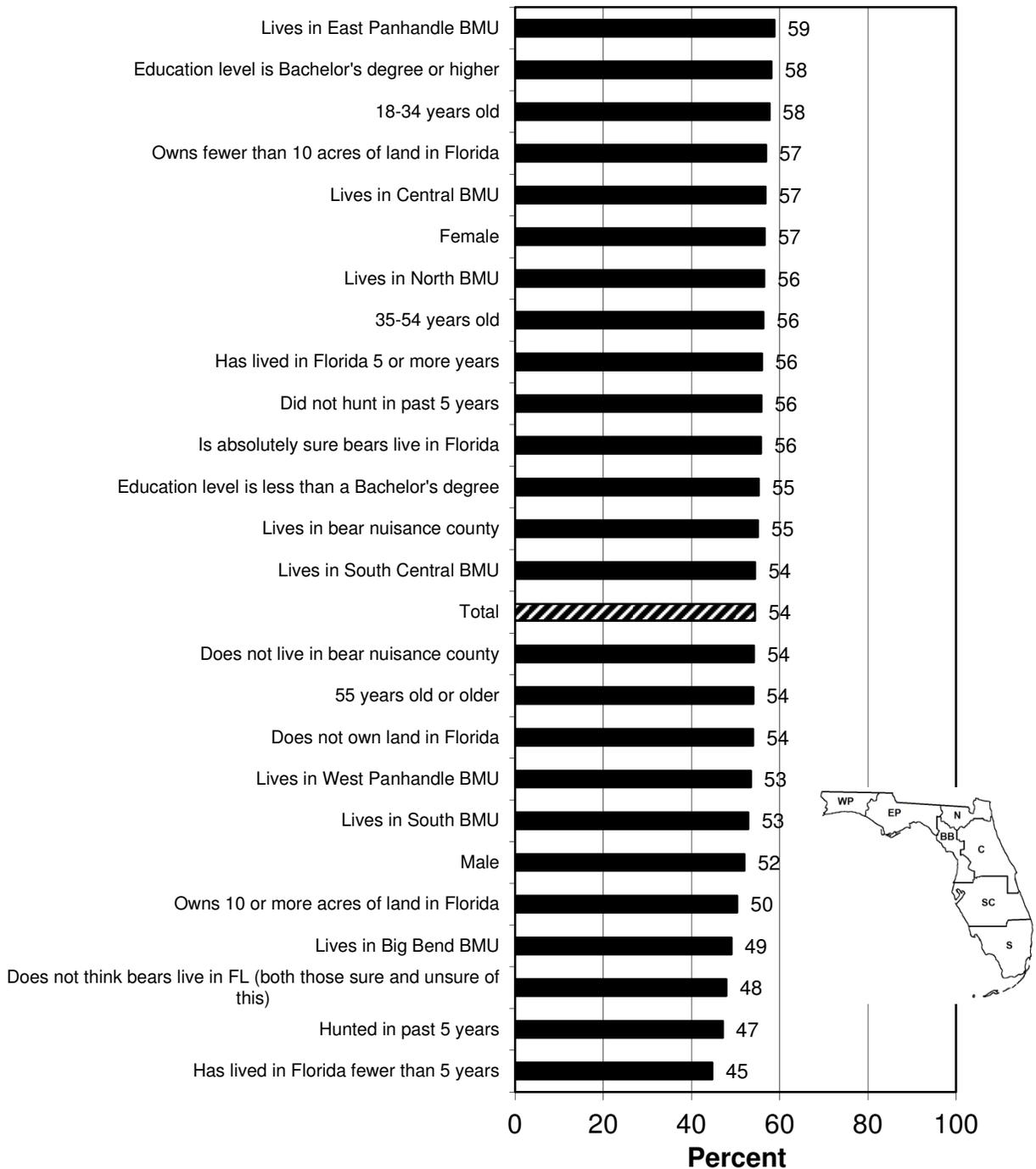
(See the section titled, "Interpreting Omnigraphs," for an explanation of how to interpret this graph.)

Percent of each of the following groups who think the black bear population in Florida is too high:



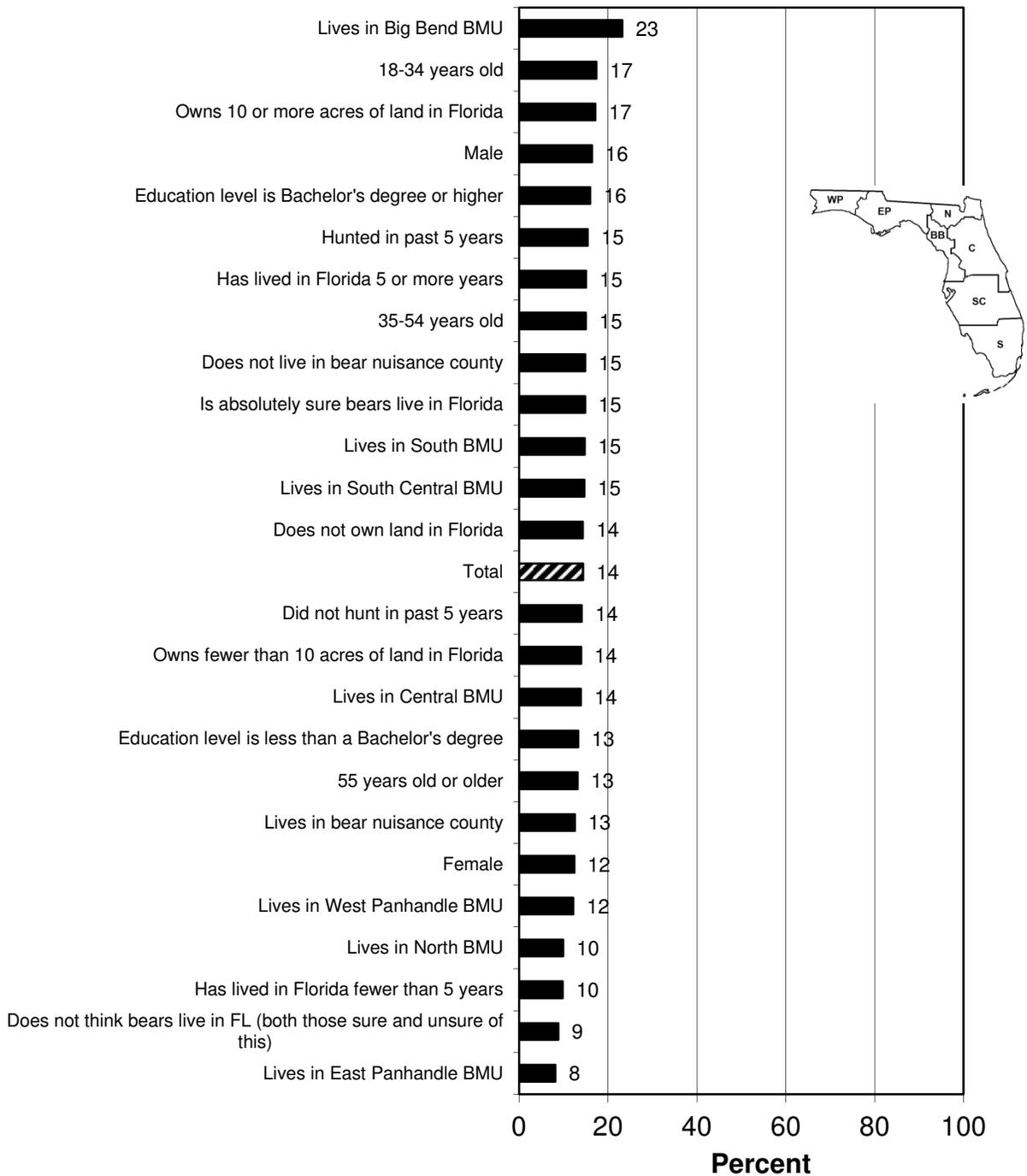
(See the section titled, “Interpreting Omnigraphs,” for an explanation of how to interpret this graph.)

Percent of each of the following groups who think the black bear population in Florida is about right:

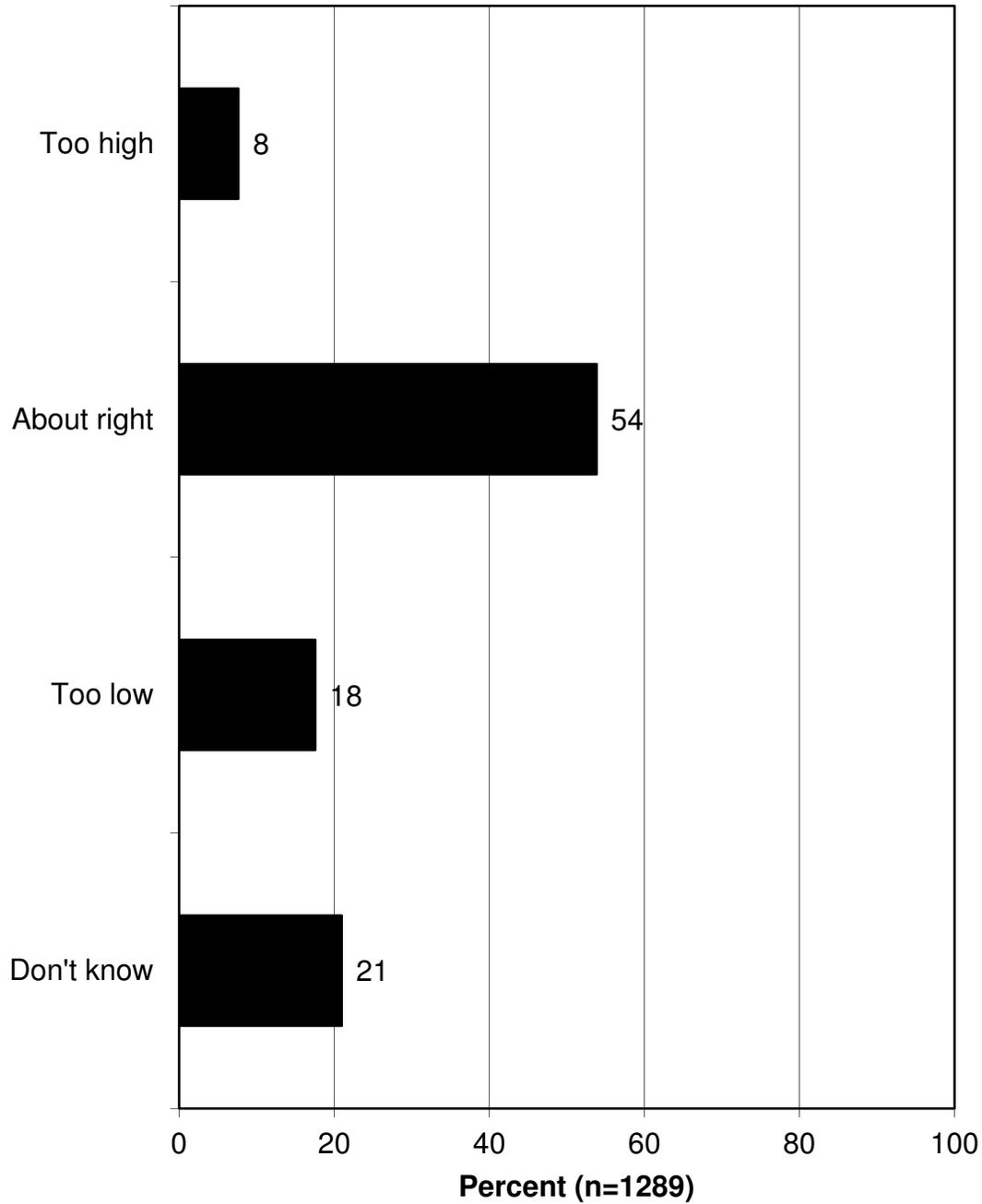


(See the section titled, "Interpreting Omnigraphs," for an explanation of how to interpret this graph.)

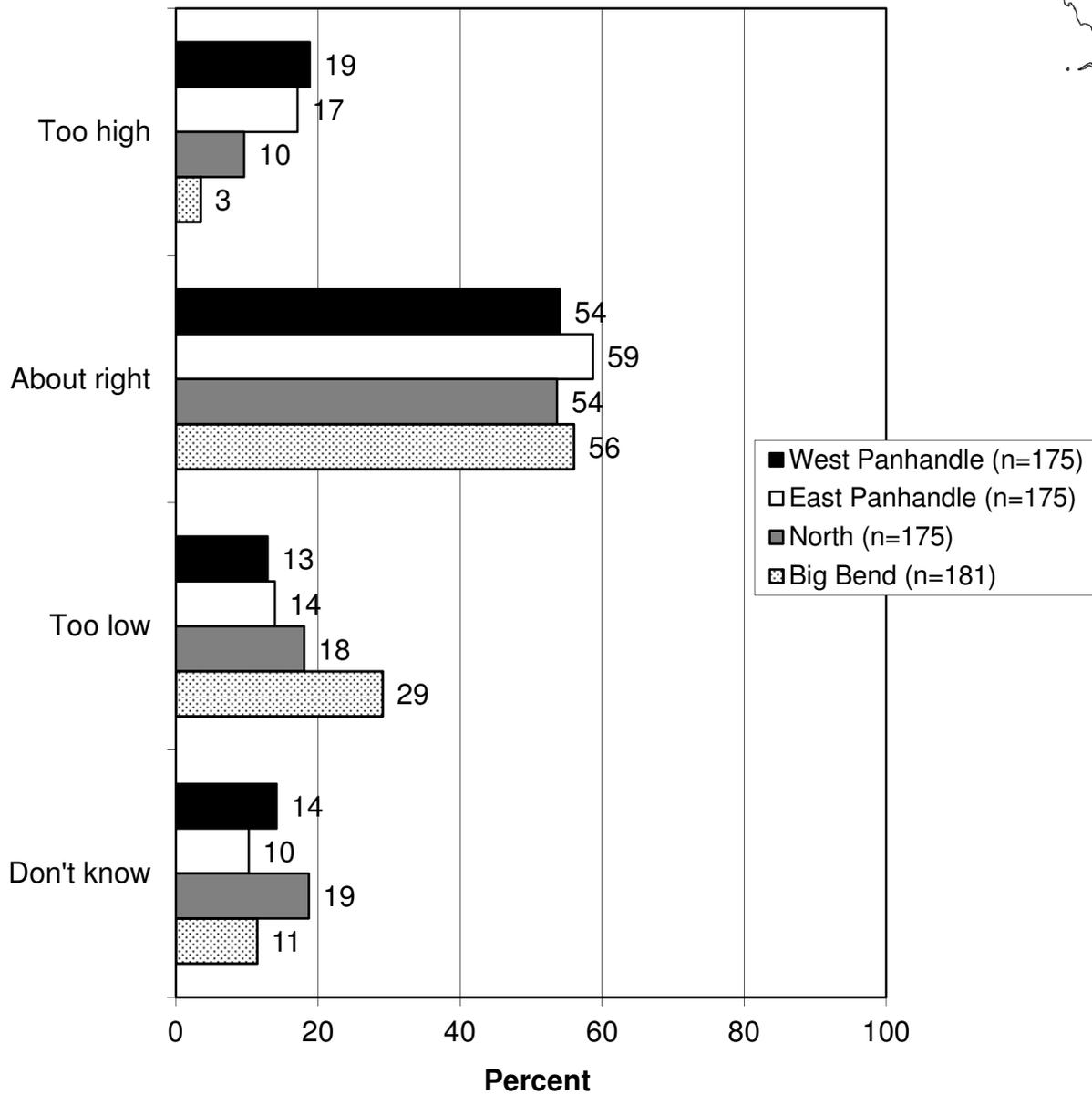
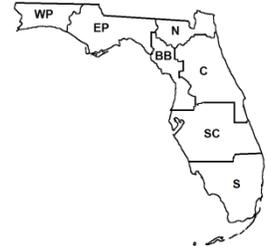
Percent of each of the following groups who think the black bear population in Florida is too low:



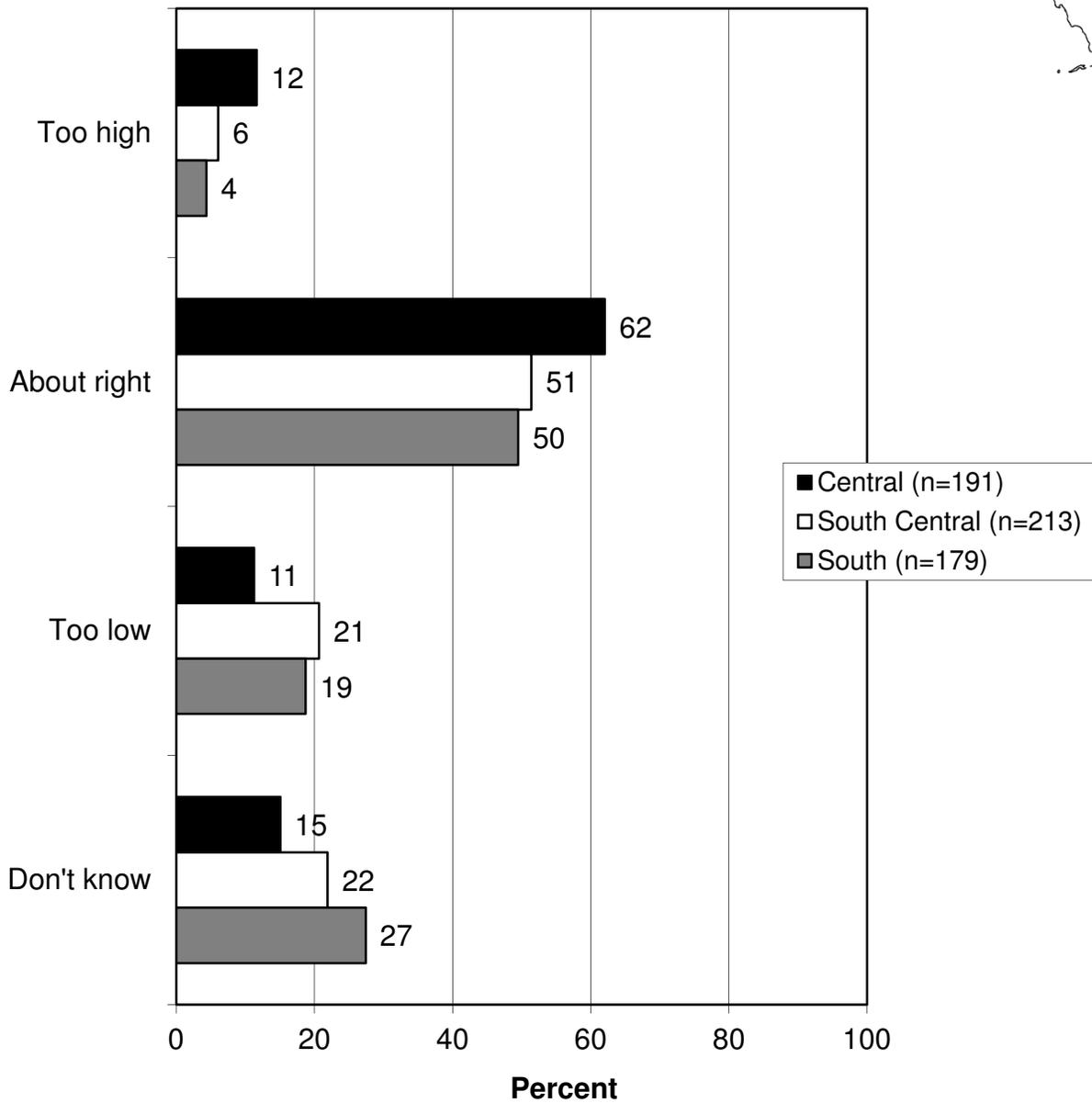
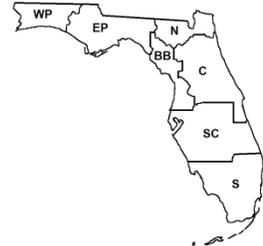
Q24. In your opinion, would you say the black bear population in your county is too high, about right, or too low?



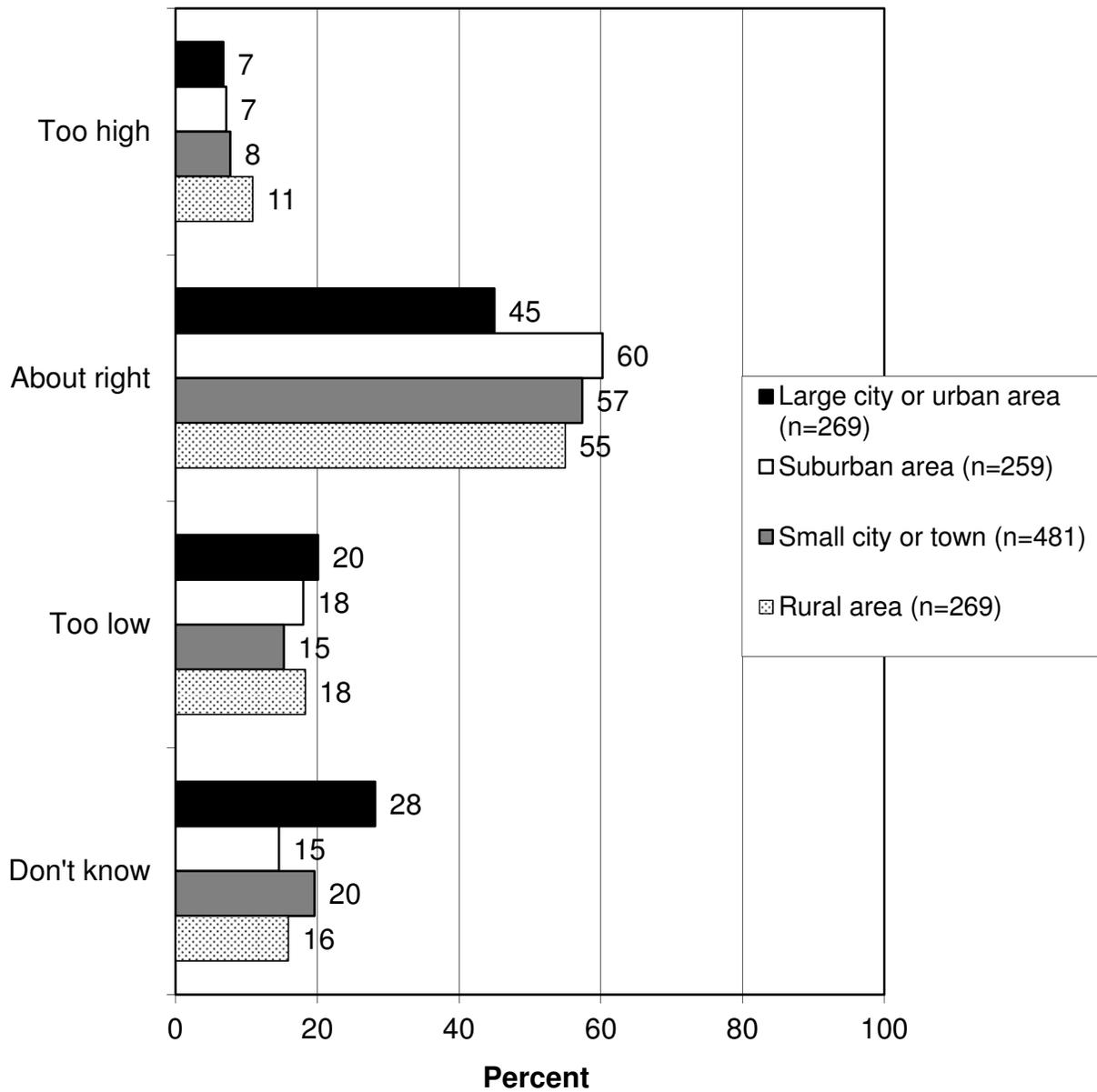
Q24. In your opinion, would you say the black bear population in your county is too high, about right, or too low?



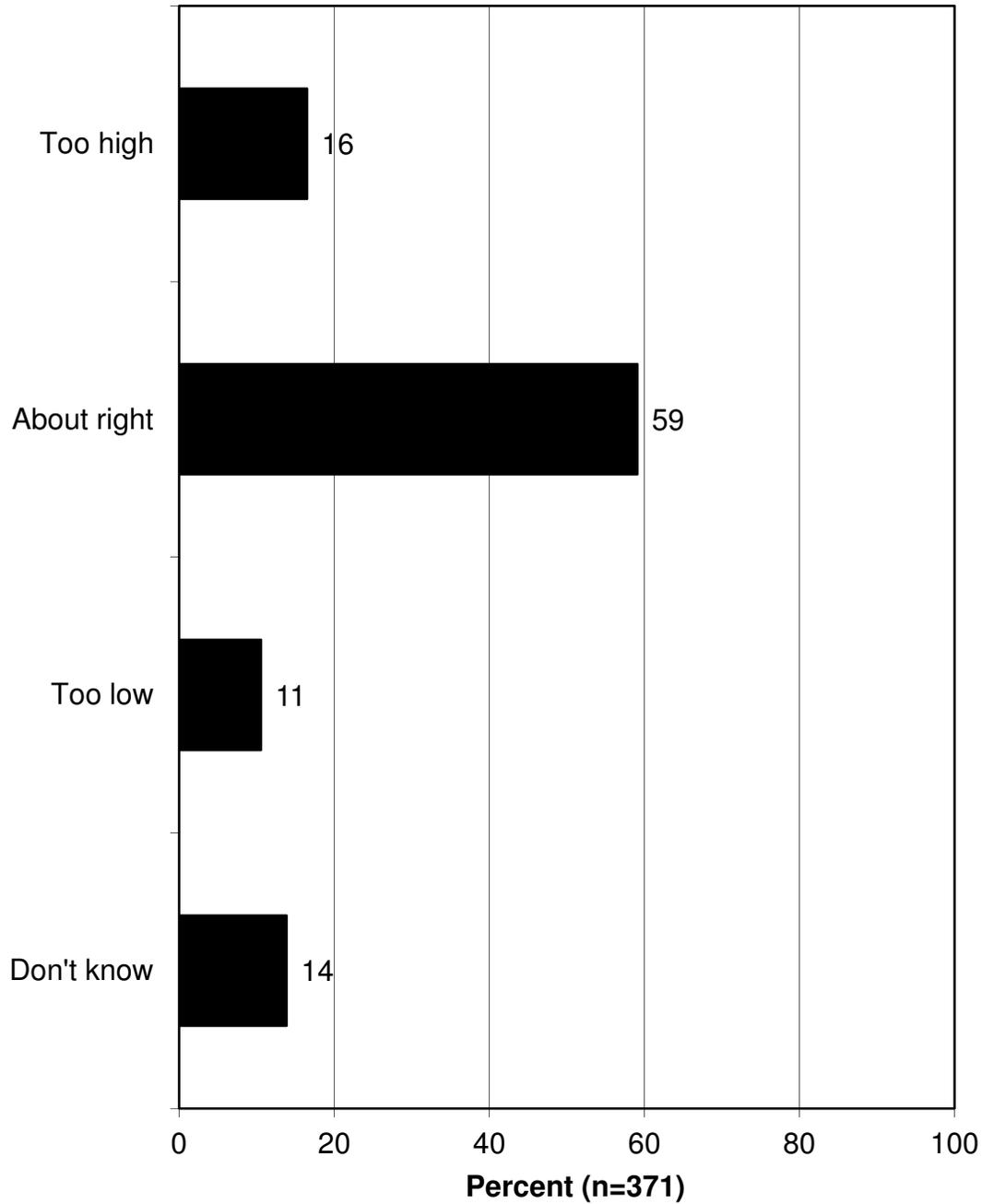
Q24. In your opinion, would you say the black bear population in your county is too high, about right, or too low?



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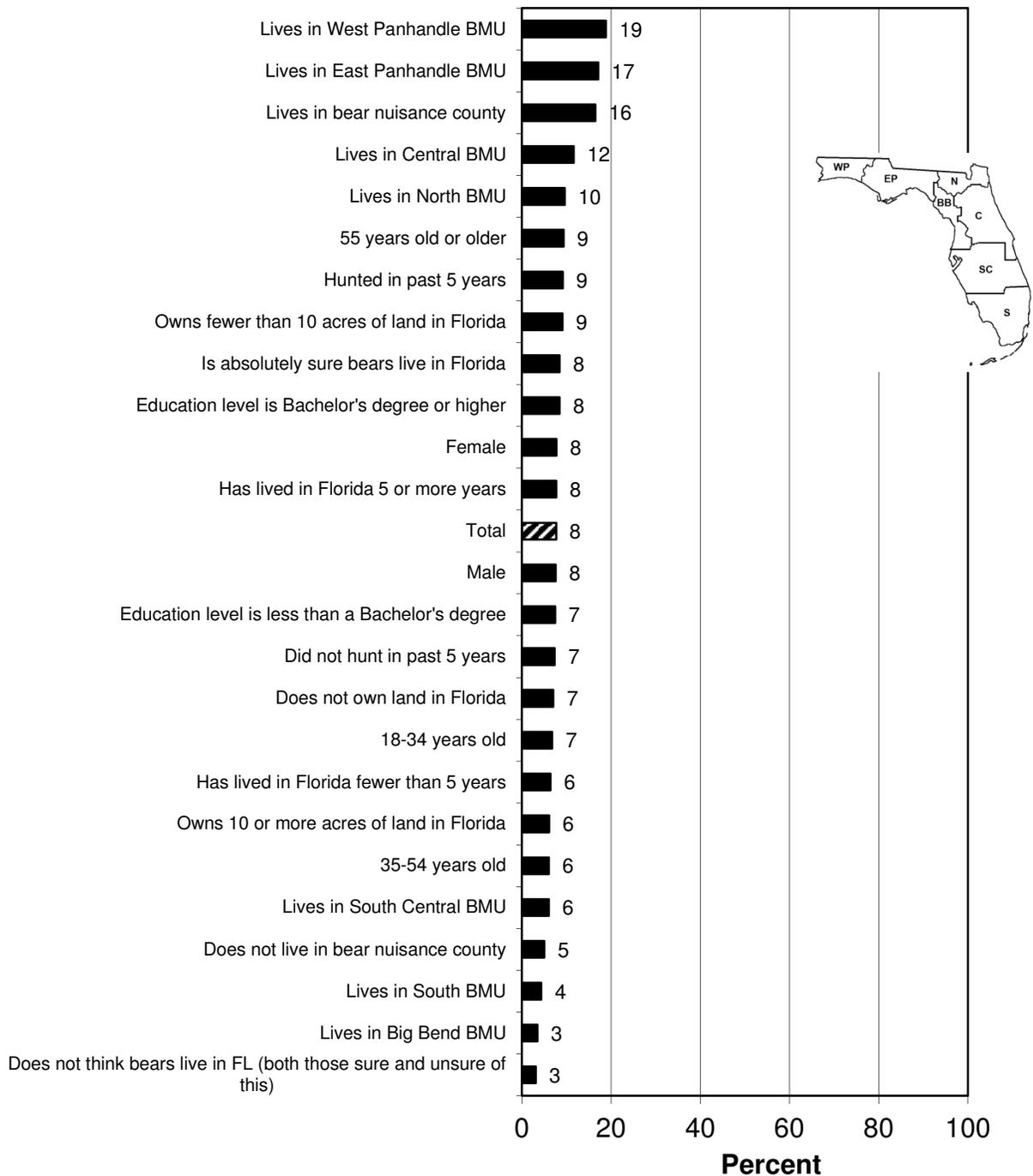


Q24. In your opinion, would you say the black bear population in your county is too high, about right, or too low? (Bear county residents.)



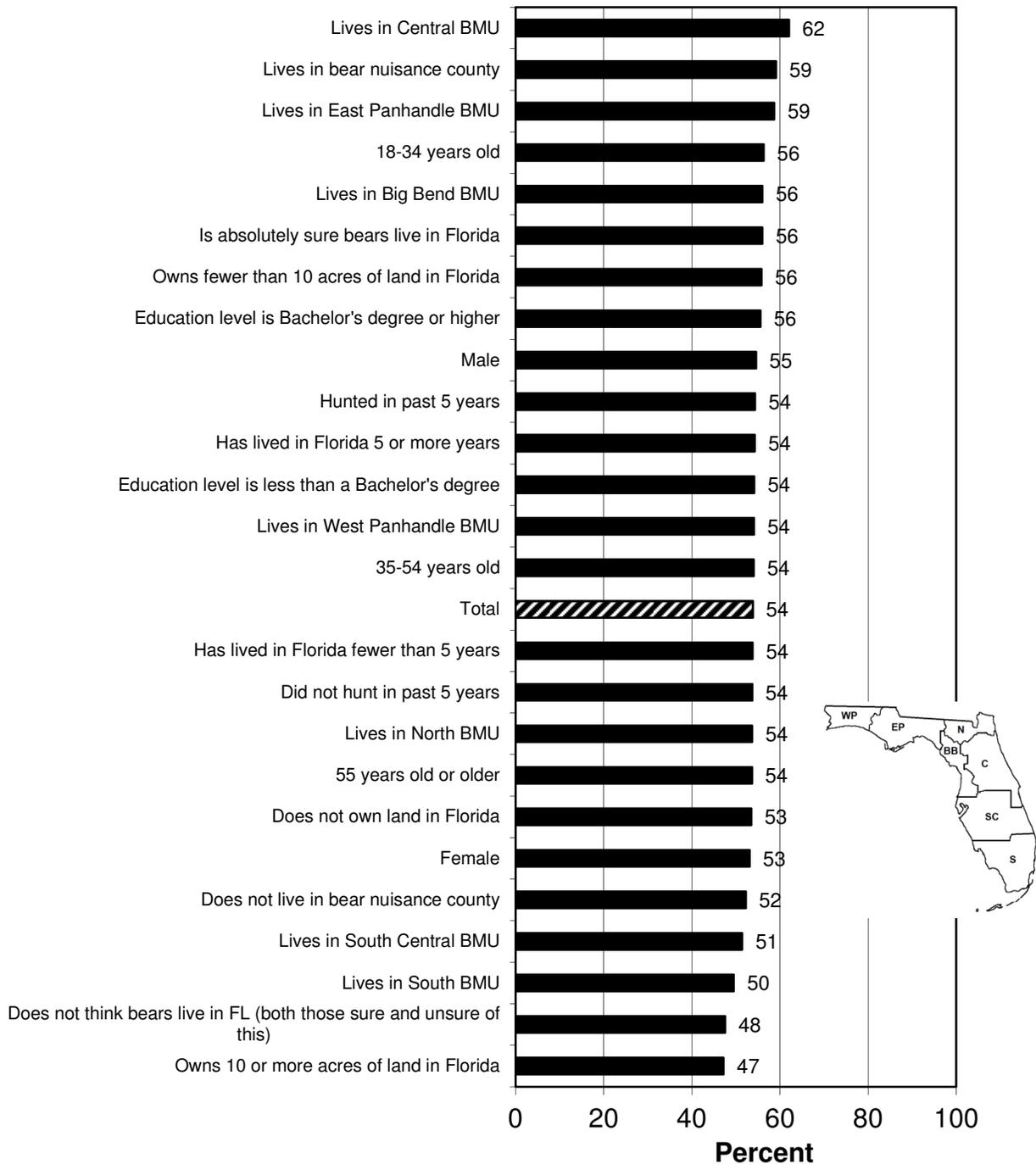
(See the section titled, "Interpreting Omnigraphs," for an explanation of how to interpret this graph.)

Percent of each of the following groups who think the black bear population in their county is too high:



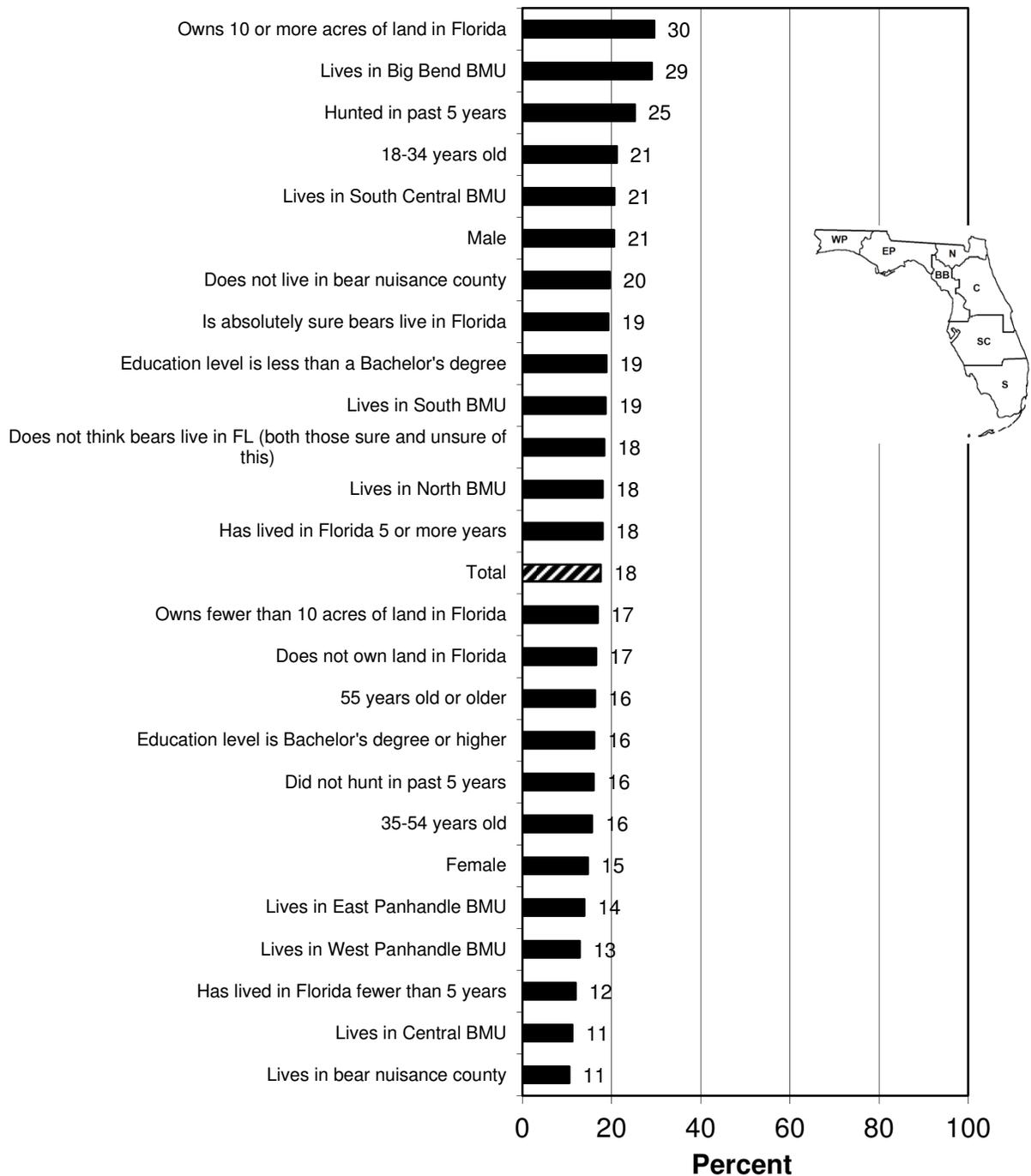
(See the section titled, “Interpreting Omnigraphs,” for an explanation of how to interpret this graph.)

Percent of each of the following groups who think the black bear population in their county is about right:

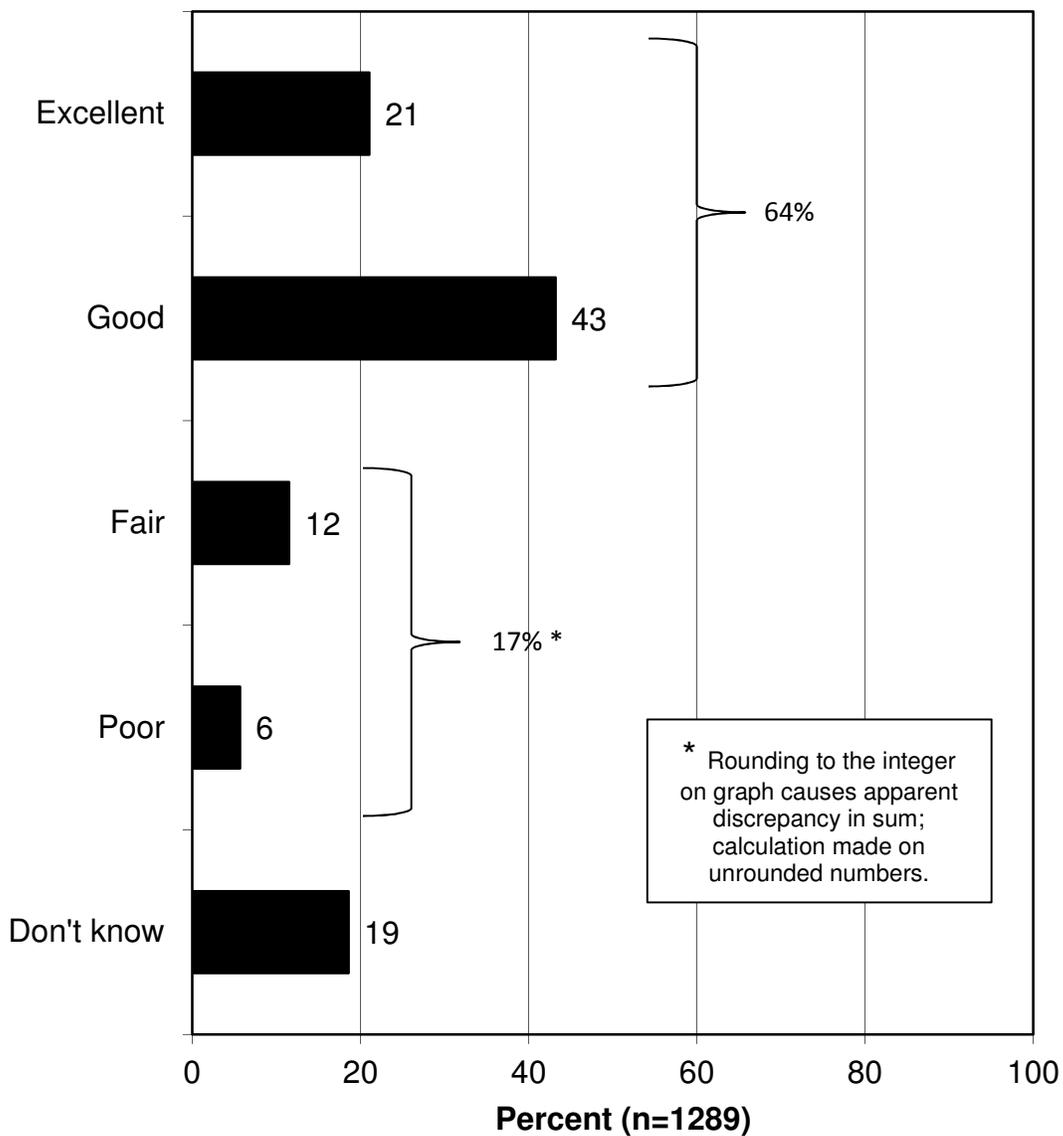


(See the section titled, "Interpreting Omnigraphs," for an explanation of how to interpret this graph.)

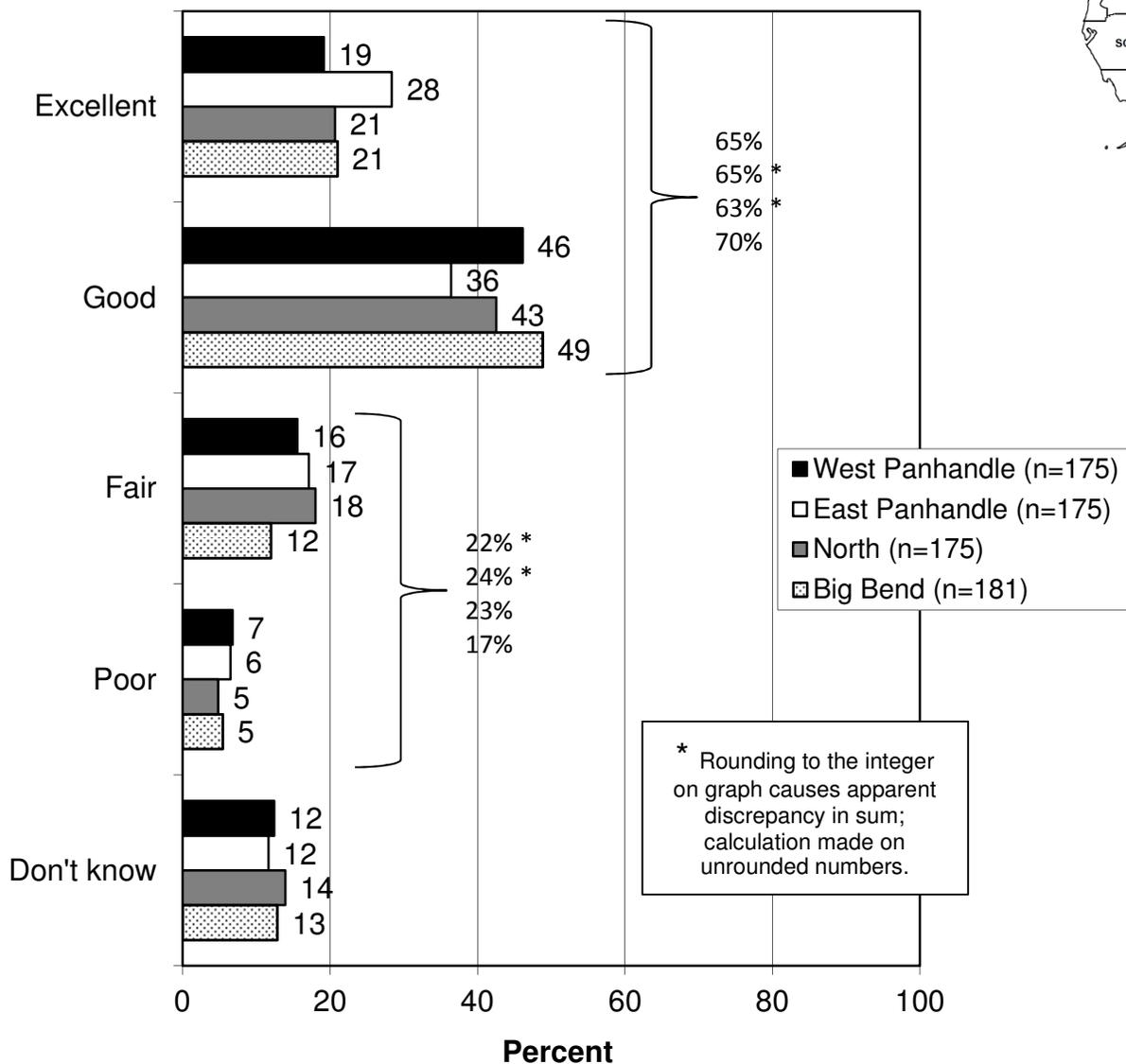
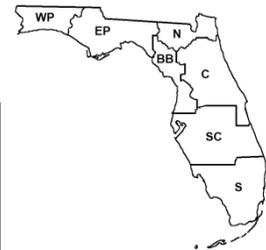
Percent of each of the following groups who think the black bear population in their county is too low:



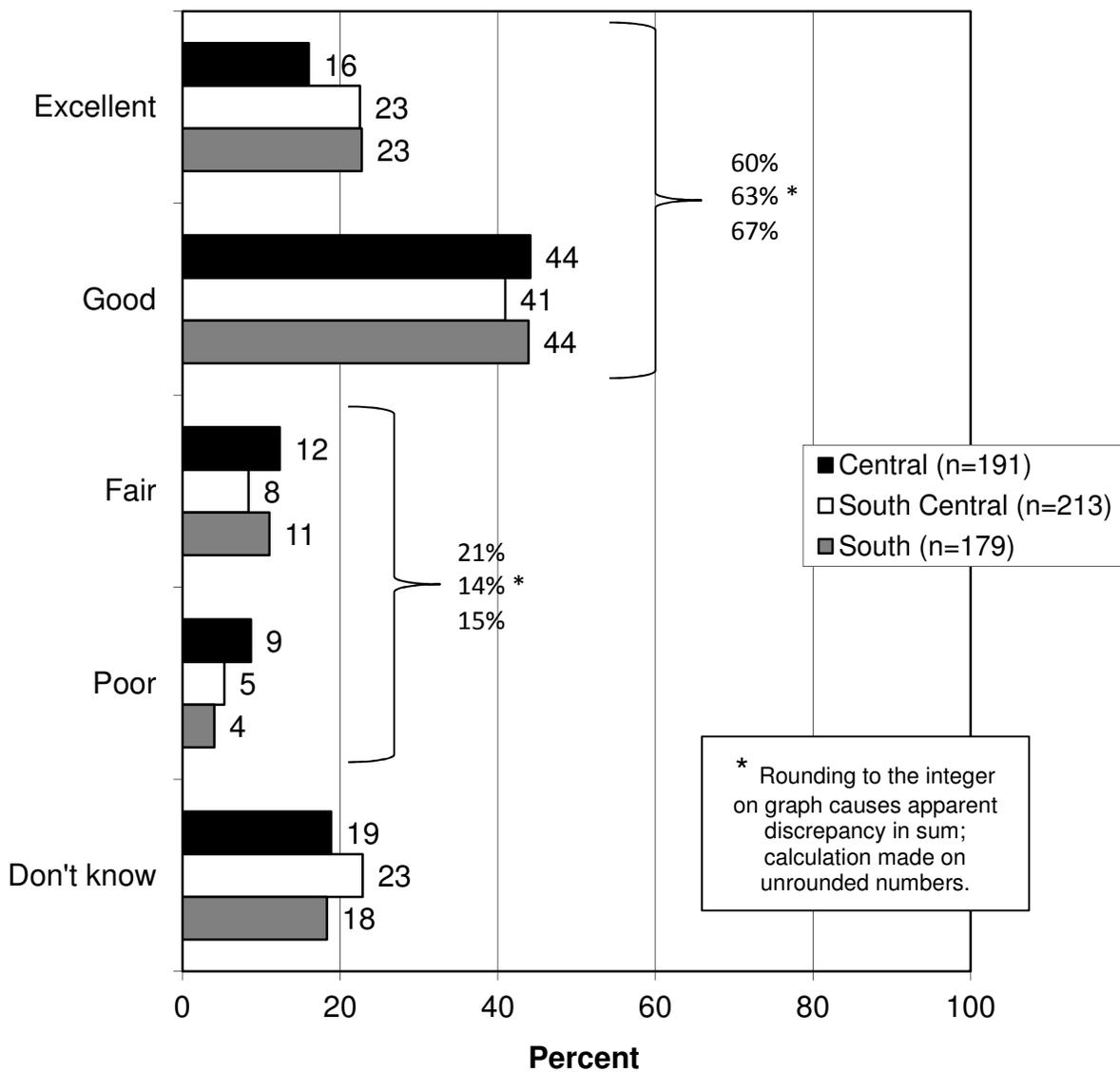
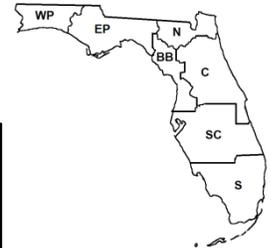
Q23. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is the agency responsible for managing bears in the state. Overall, do you think FWC staff have done an excellent, good, fair, or poor job of managing black bears in Florida?



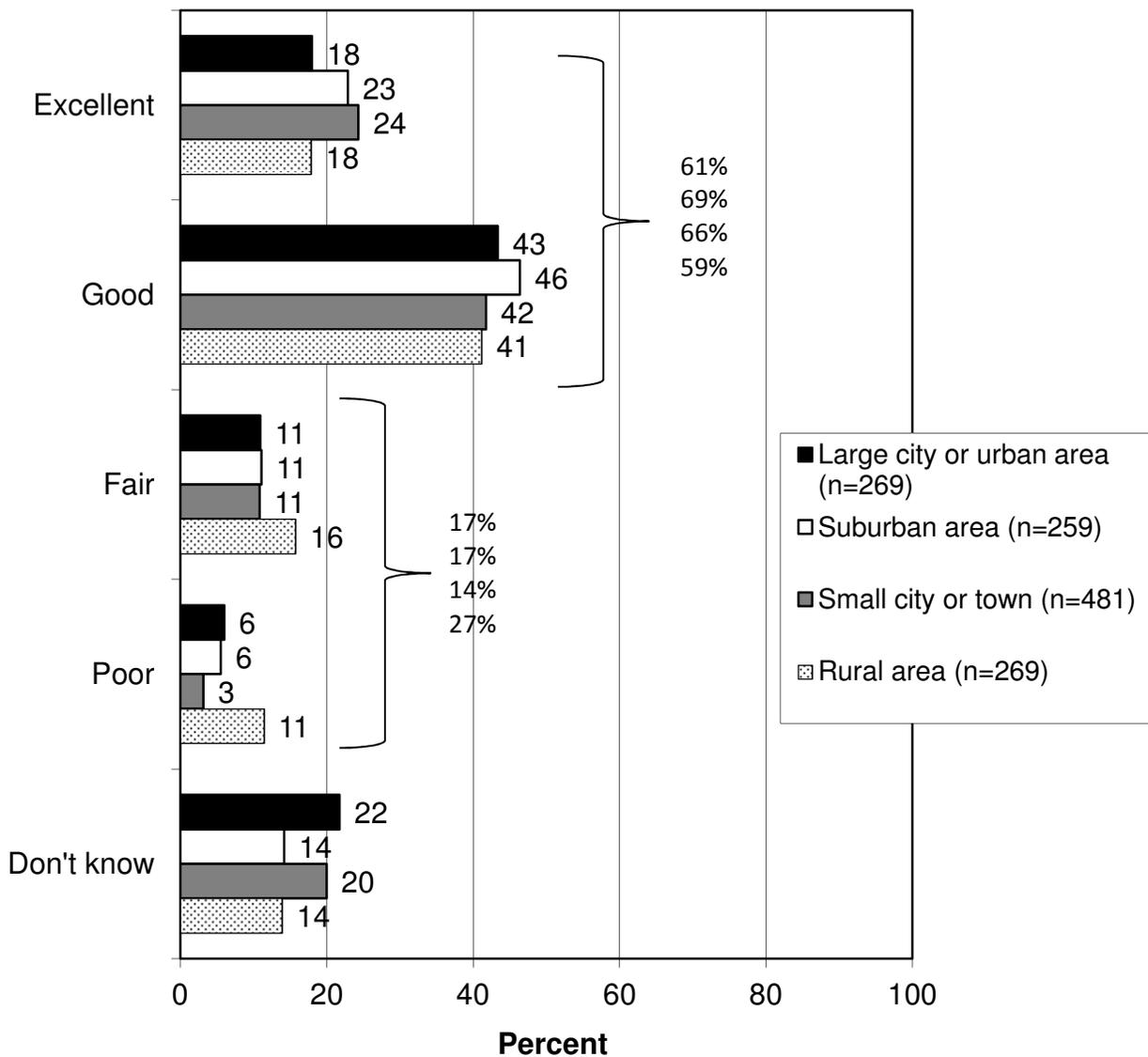
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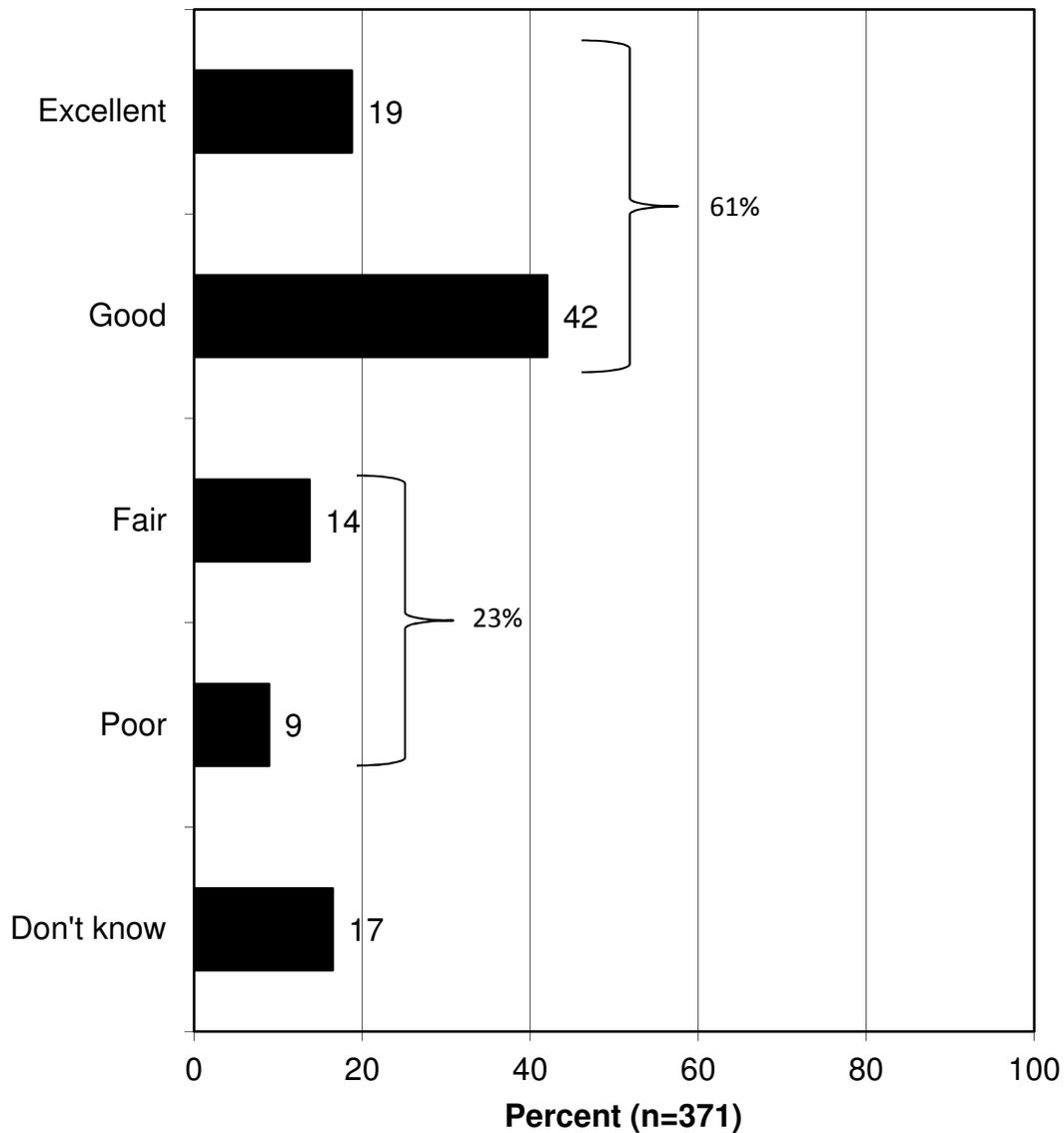
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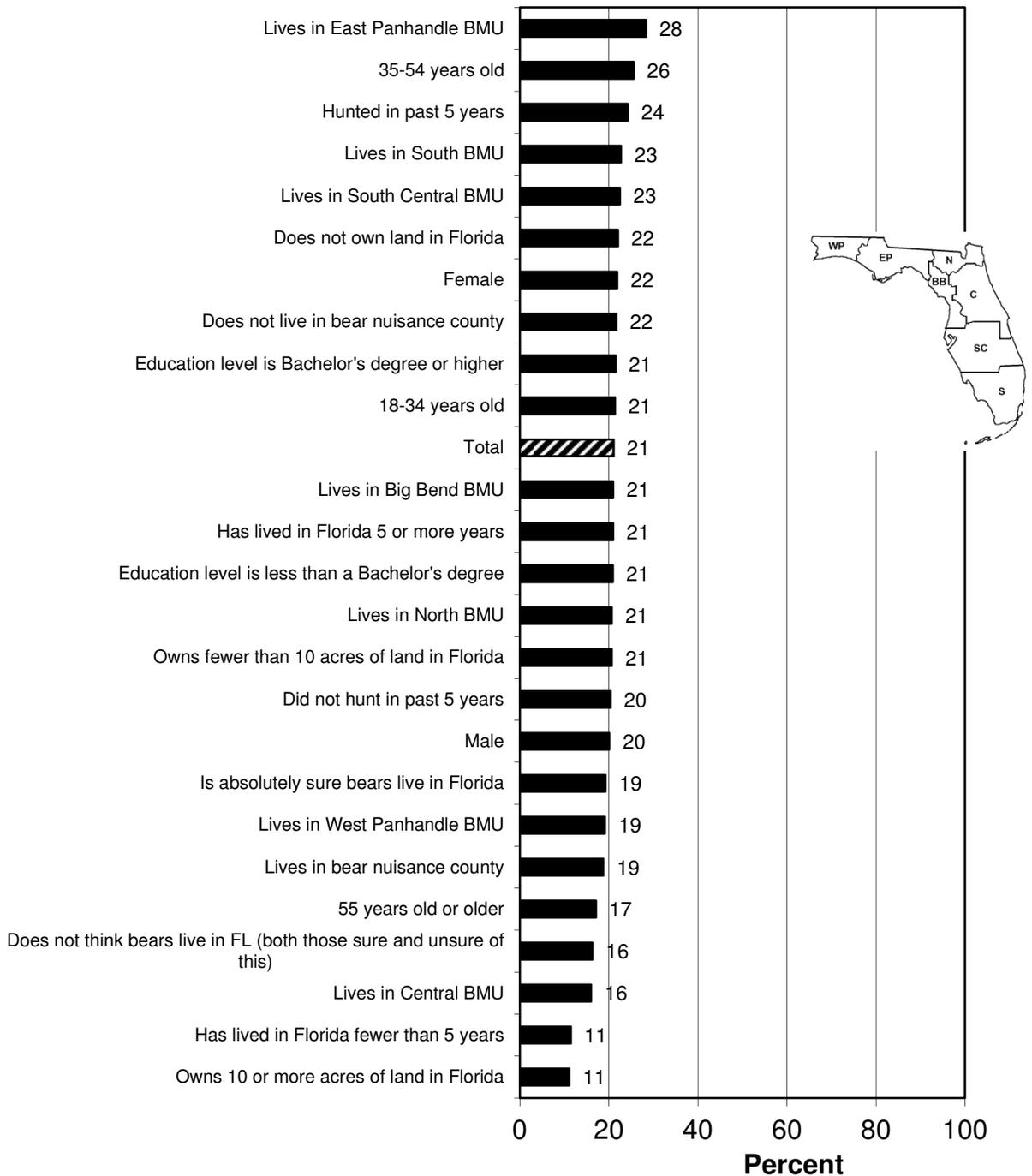


Q23. The FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is the agency responsible for managing bears in the state. Overall, do you think FWC staff have done an excellent, good, fair, or poor job of managing black bears in Florida? (Bear county residents.)



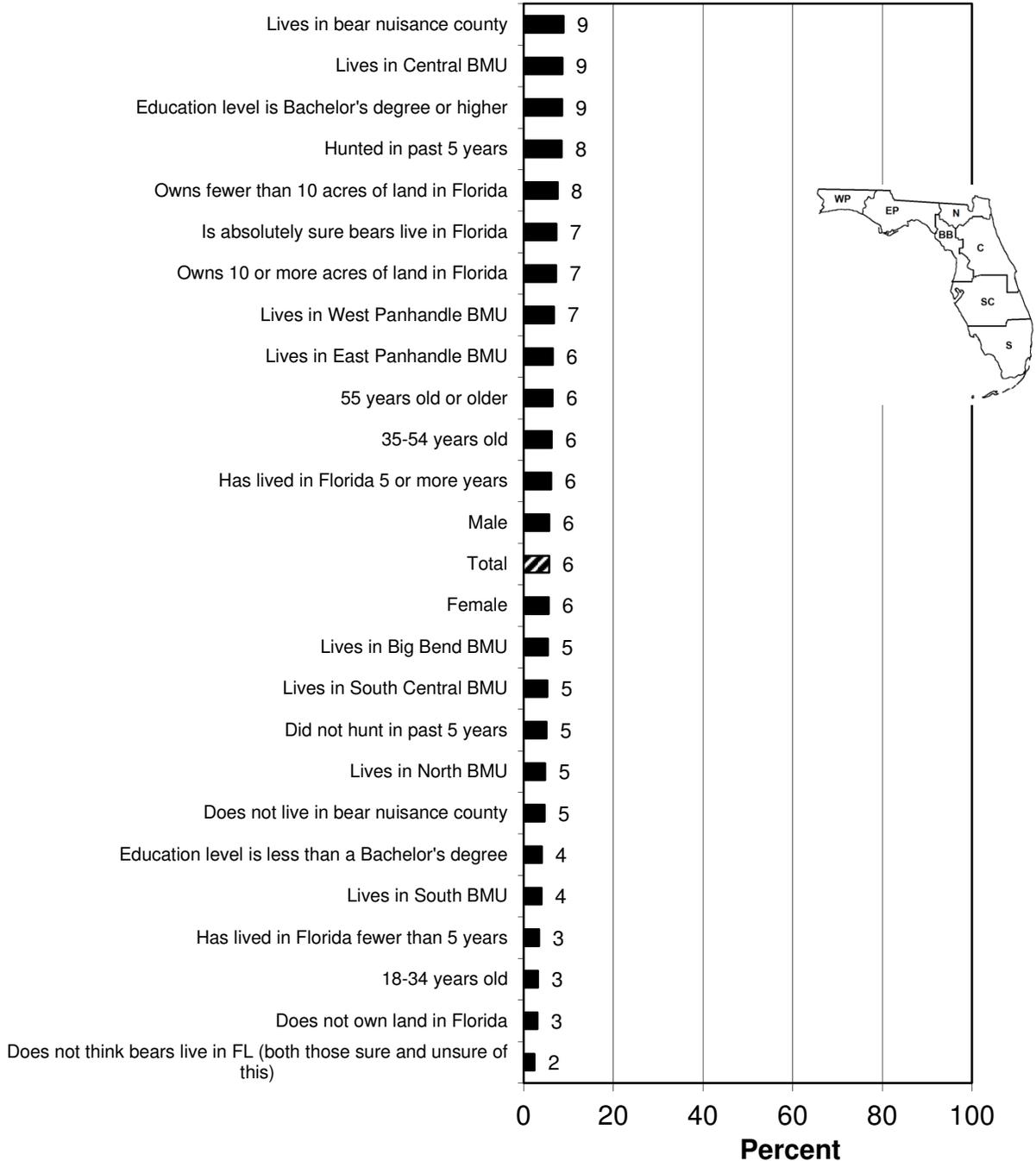
(See the section titled, "Interpreting Omnigraphs," for an explanation of how to interpret this graph.)

Percent of each of the following groups who think the FWC is doing an excellent job of managing black bears in Florida:



(See the section titled, “Interpreting Omnigraphs,” for an explanation of how to interpret this graph.)

Percent of each of the following groups who think the FWC is doing a poor job of managing black bears in Florida:



OPINION ON THE PRESENCE OF BLACK BEARS AND EXPERIENCES WITH BLACK BEARS

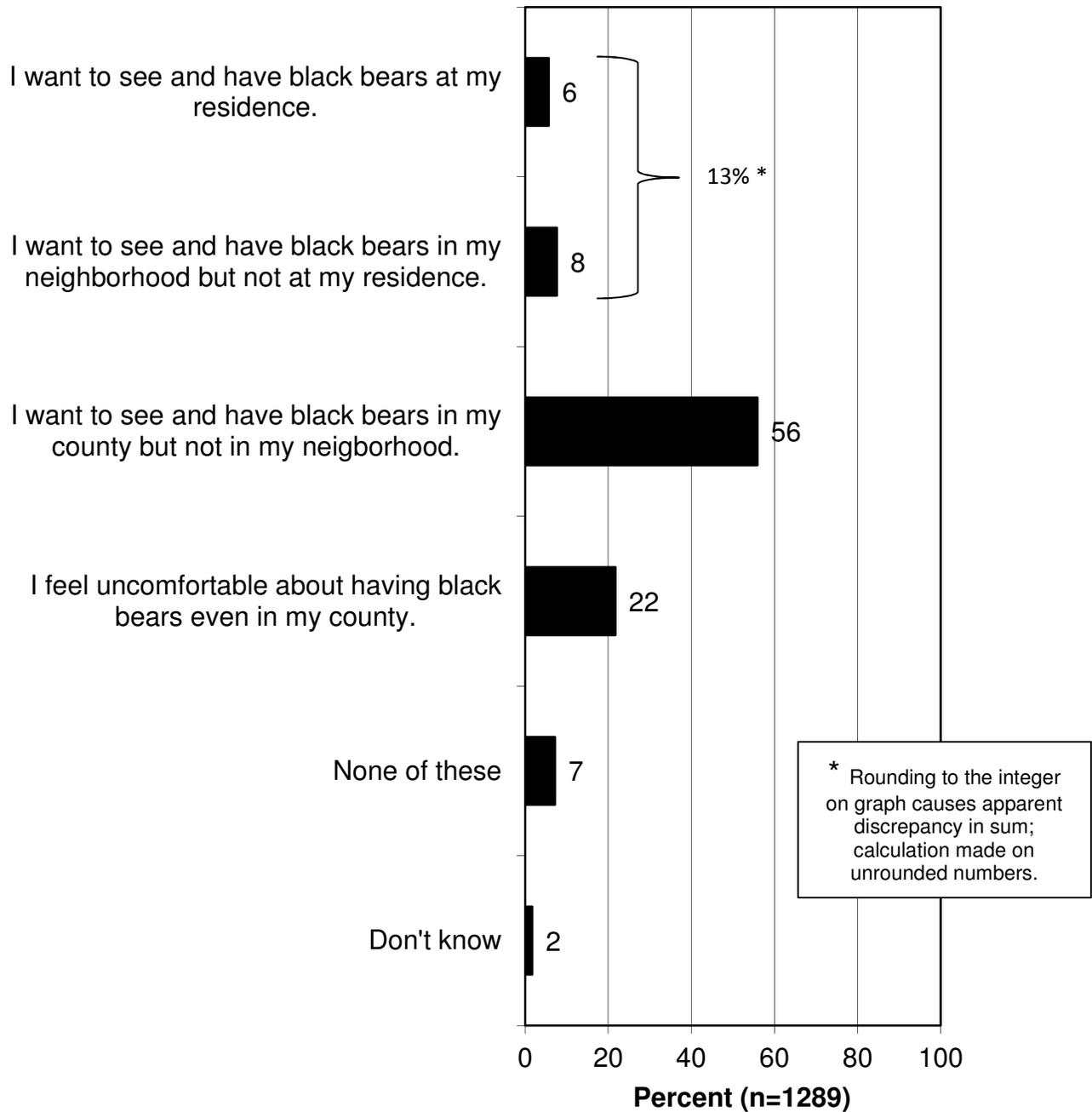
- Just over half of Florida residents, when presented with a continuum relating to their comfort level regarding the presence of black bears, say that they “want to see and have black bears in my county but not in my neighborhood” (56% choose this response), which is the middle of the continuum. Meanwhile, 13% are more tolerant than that, and 22% are less tolerant—the latter choosing the response indicating that they are “uncomfortable about having black bears even in my county.”
 - The most tolerant units are the West Panhandle and the Big Bend bear management units. The least tolerant is the South unit.
 - Rural residents are the most tolerant of all the residency groups.
 - Residents of the selected bear counties are more tolerant than residents of the state as a whole.

- Just over half of Florida residents (53%) agree that black bears and humans can live in the same area without conflict; about a third (36%) disagree.
 - The highest percentage in agreement are residents of the West and East Panhandle units and the Big Bend unit.
 - The highest percentage disagreeing with this are urban residents.
 - Residents of the selected bear counties have a slightly higher percentage agreeing (58%), compared to residents overall.

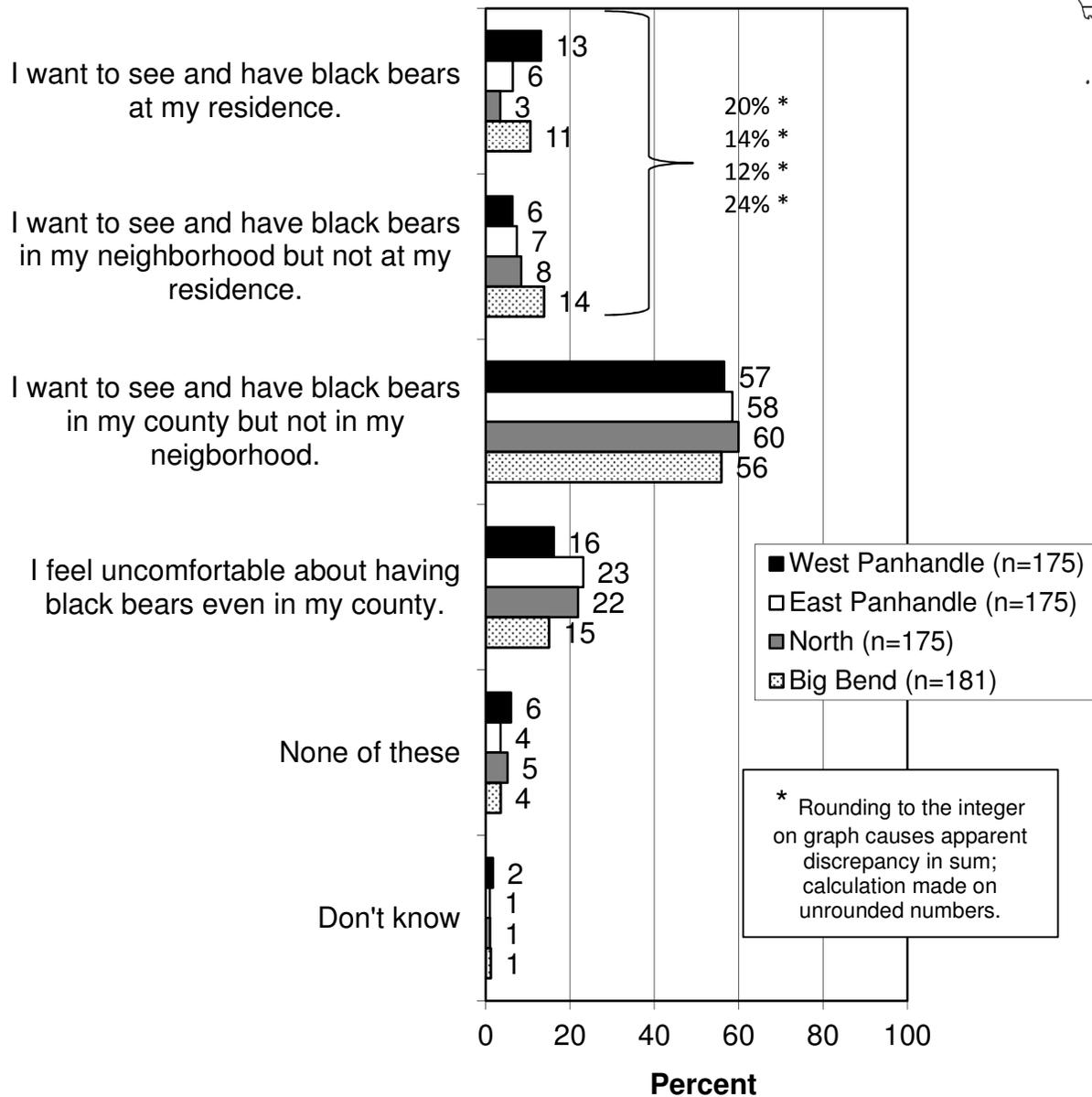
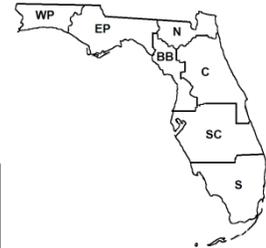
- In a question purely about ecological values that people hold, just over half of Florida residents (53%) agree that “knowing black bears live in the wild in Florida improves my overall quality of life.” Just under a quarter (22%) disagree. On this question, a relatively high percentage answered neutrally (25%).
 - Residents of the Big Bend unit and the North unit are markedly lower in their agreement with the statement.
 - In the crosstabulation by residency type, about the same percentages agree across all types, but suburban residents have the lowest percentage who disagree (they have a relatively high percentage giving a neutral response).

- Residents of the selected bear counties have a markedly higher percentage who agree with the statement (61%), compared to residents overall.
- Just under a third of Florida residents (31%) say that they have seen a black bear in the wild in Florida. Those who have seen one were asked to indicate the last year that they had seen a black bear in the wild in Florida, as shown on the graphs.
 - The West and East Panhandle units and the Central unit have the highest rate of residents having seen a wild bear in Florida; the South unit has the lowest rate.
 - Not surprisingly, rural residents have the highest percentage who have seen a black bear in the wild in Florida.
 - Residents of the selected bear counties are much more likely to have seen a black bear in the wild in Florida: 55% have seen one. Compared to residents overall, residents of the selected bear counties have had *more recent sightings* of wild black bears, as well.
- Of those who have seen a bear, 63% described seeing the bear as a positive experience, while 8% described it as a negative experience.
 - Big Bend and South unit residents have the highest percentage describing the experience as positive. East Panhandle and Central unit residents have the highest percentage describing the experience as negative.
 - Urban residents have the highest percentage who describe their encounter with a black bear as positive.
 - Residents of the selected bear counties have a just slightly lower percentage who describe the experience as positive, compared to residents overall.
 - Omnigraphs are included of this question, showing respondent characteristics associated with the various responses.

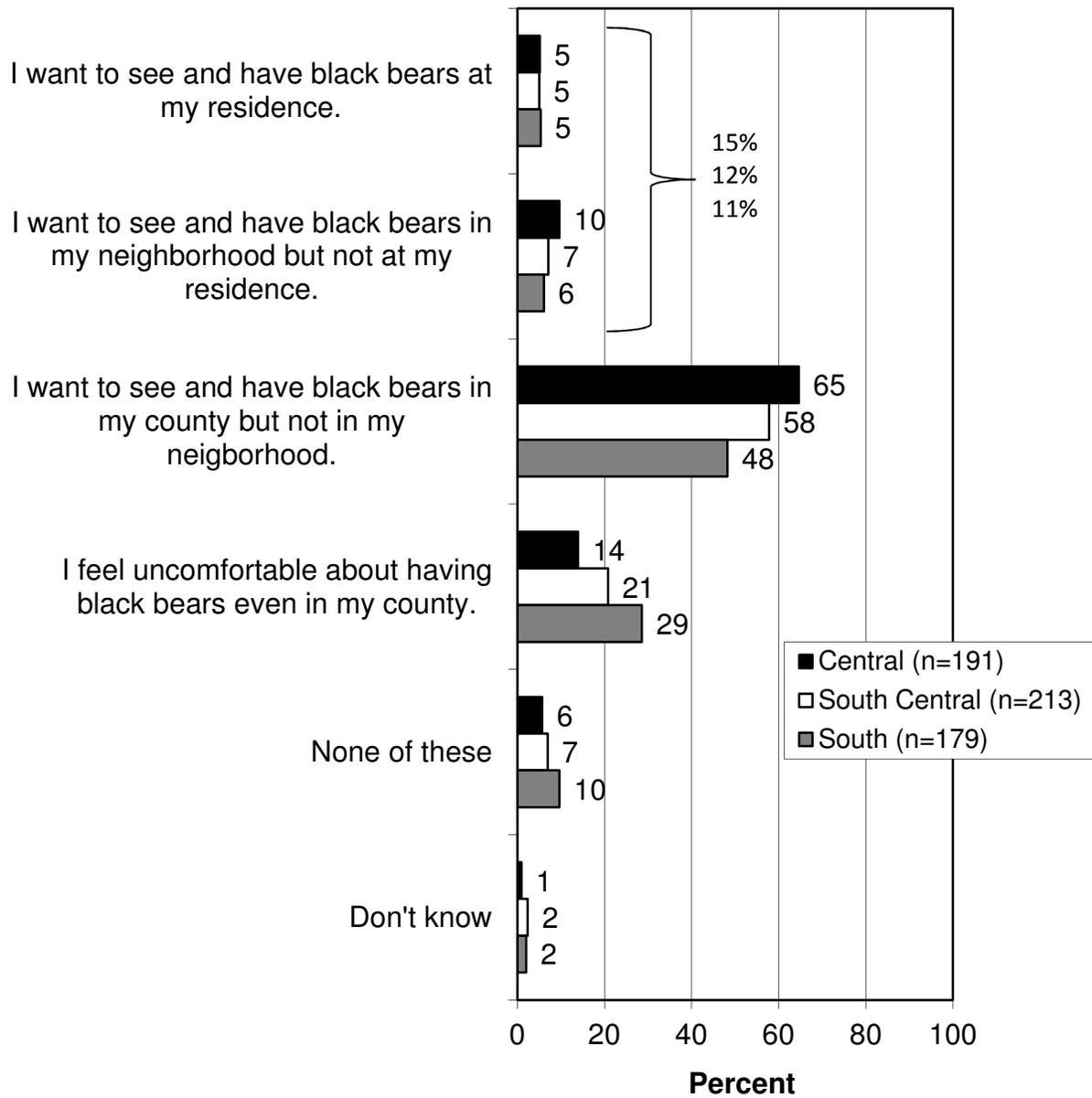
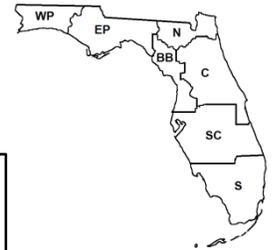
Q25. Which of the following statements best describes your feelings about black bears around your primary residence and in your area?



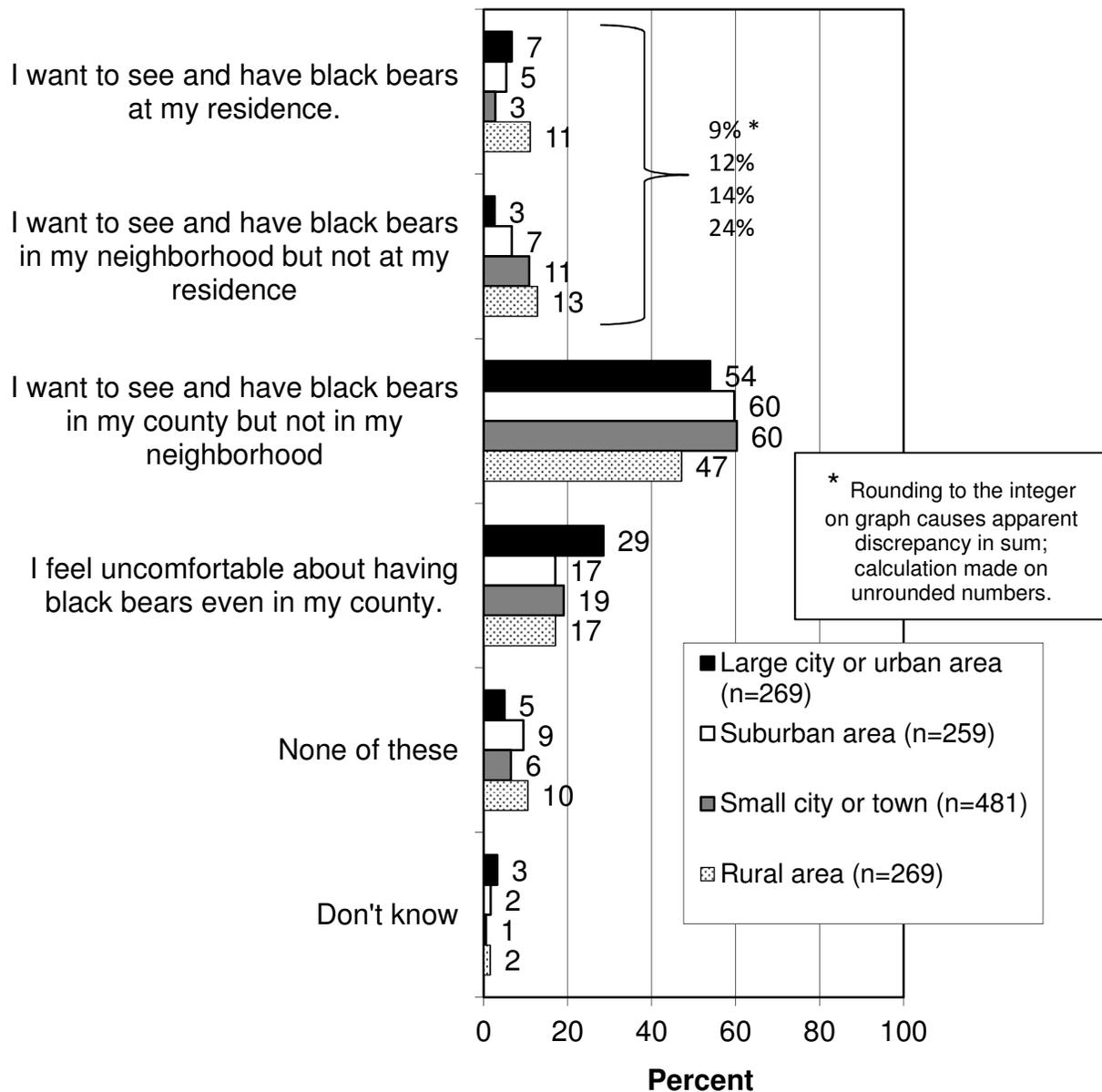
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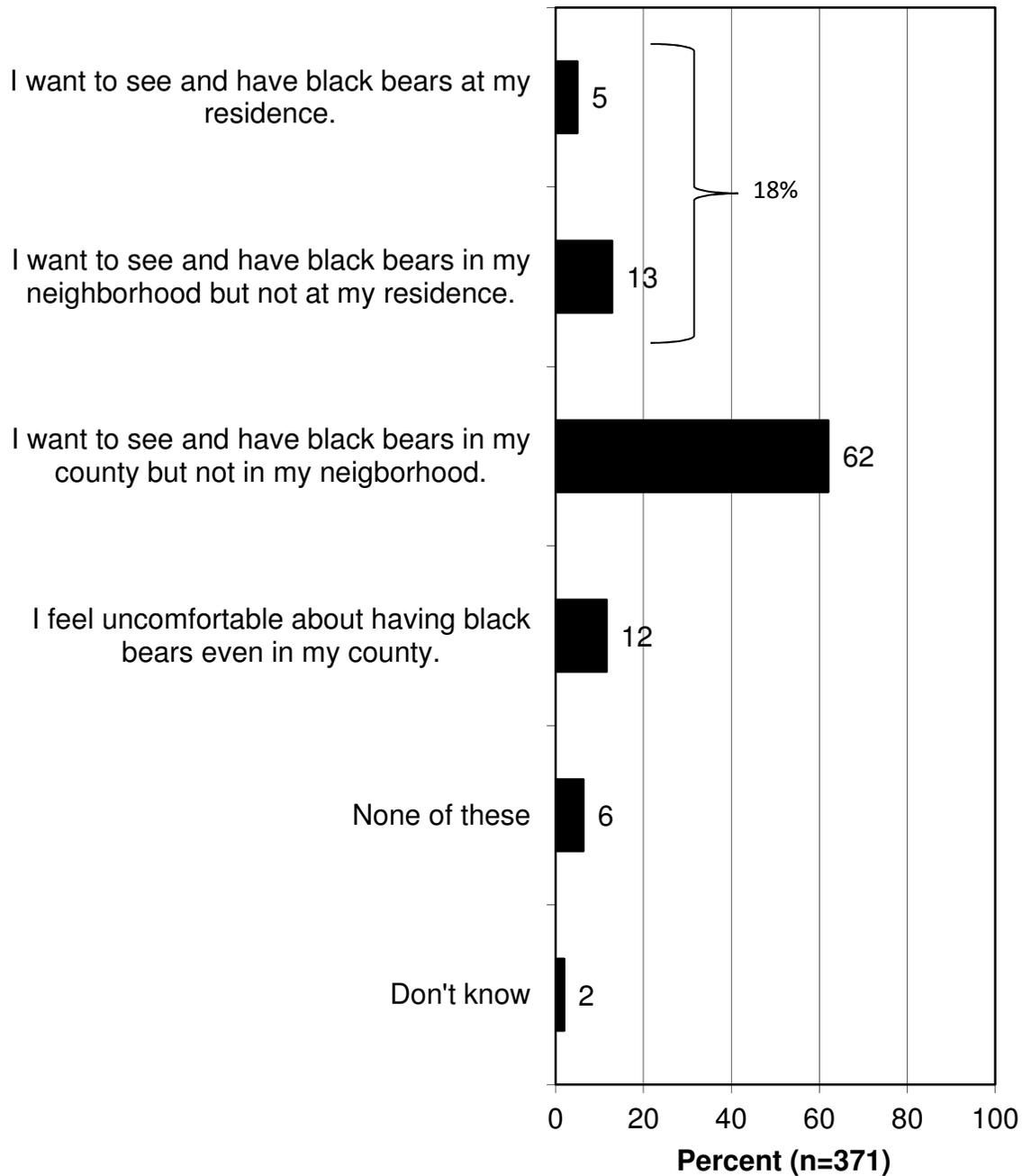
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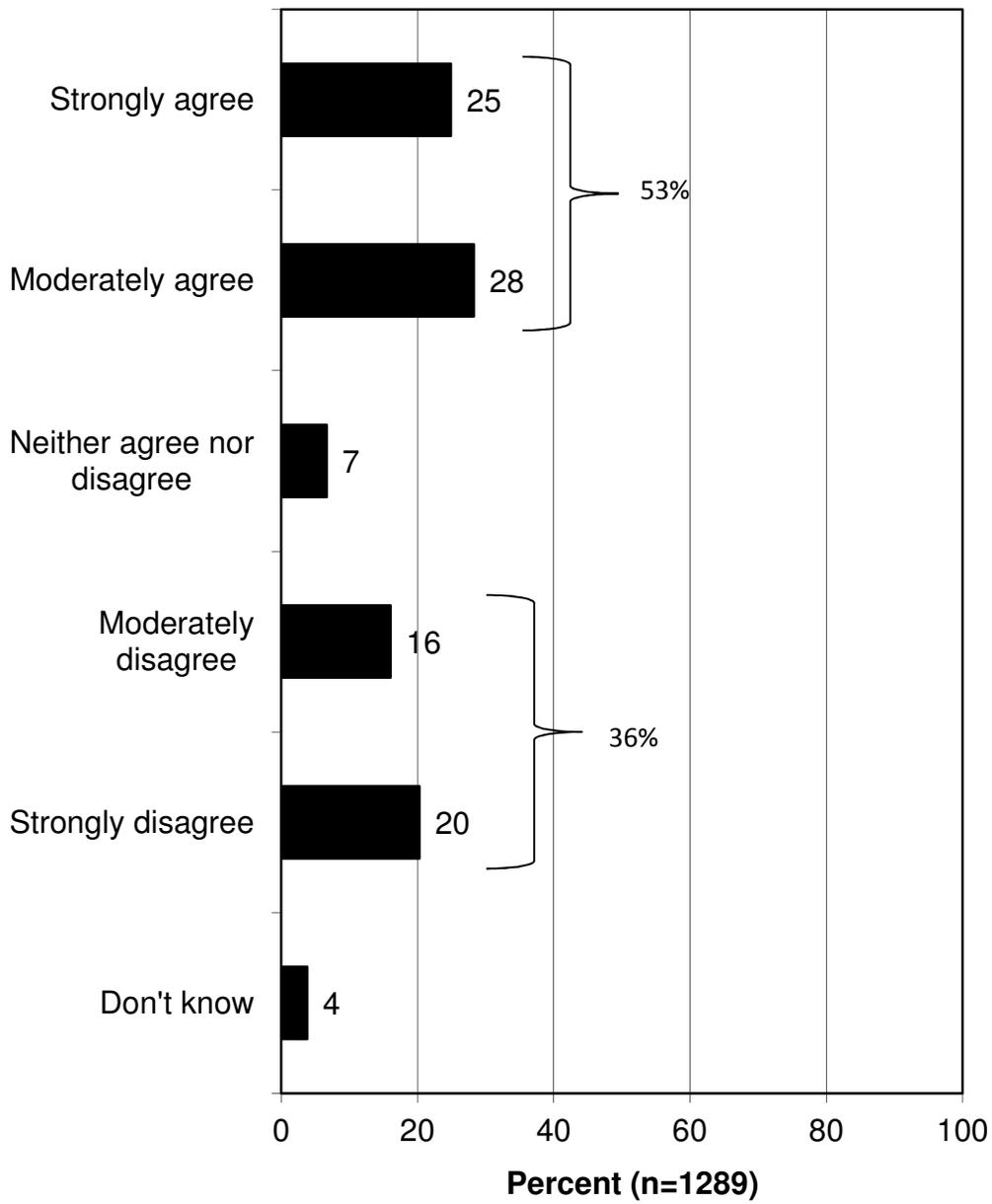
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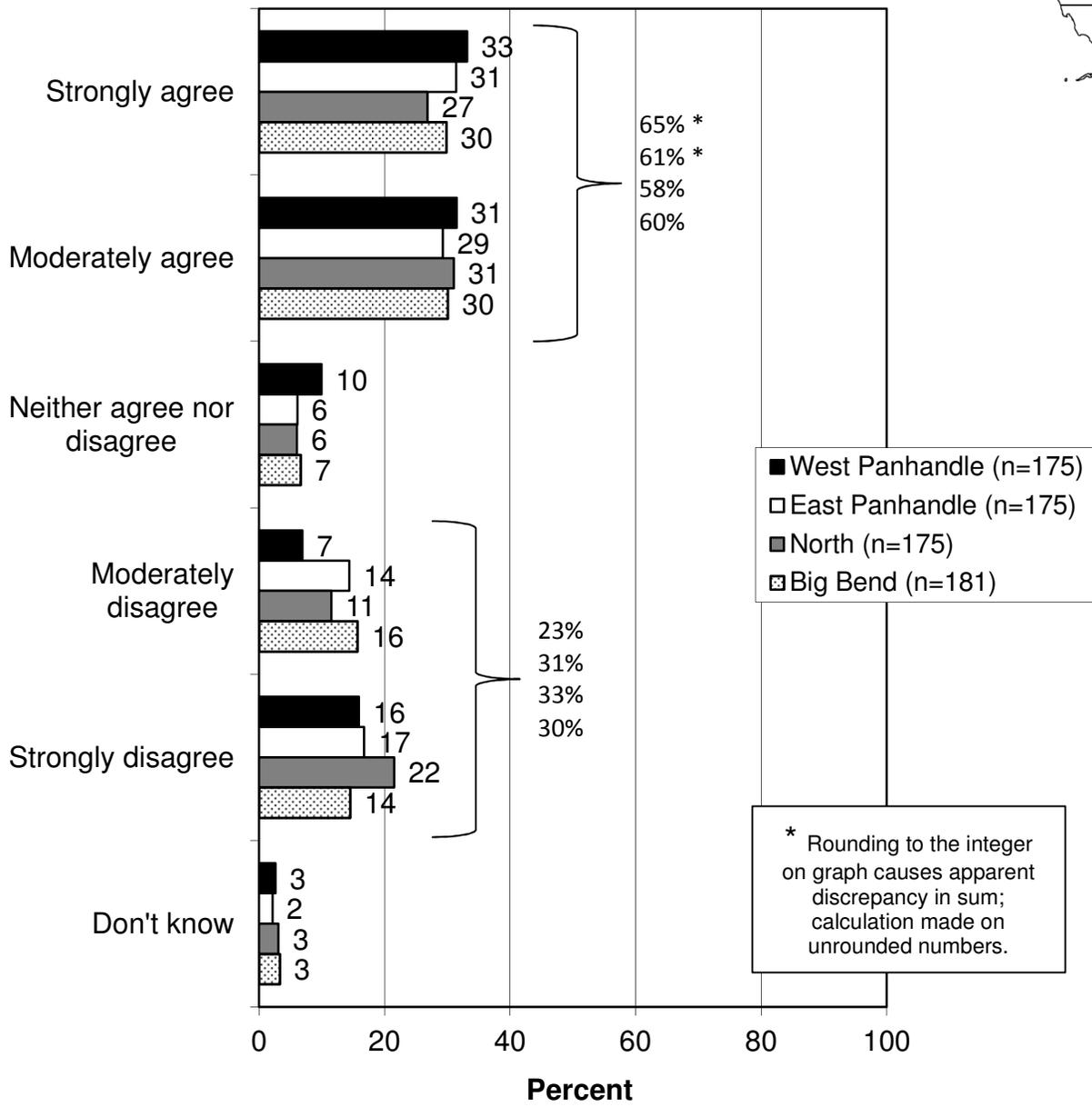
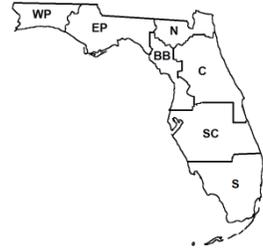
Q25. Which of the following statements best describes your feelings about black bears around your primary residence and in your area? (Bear county residents.)



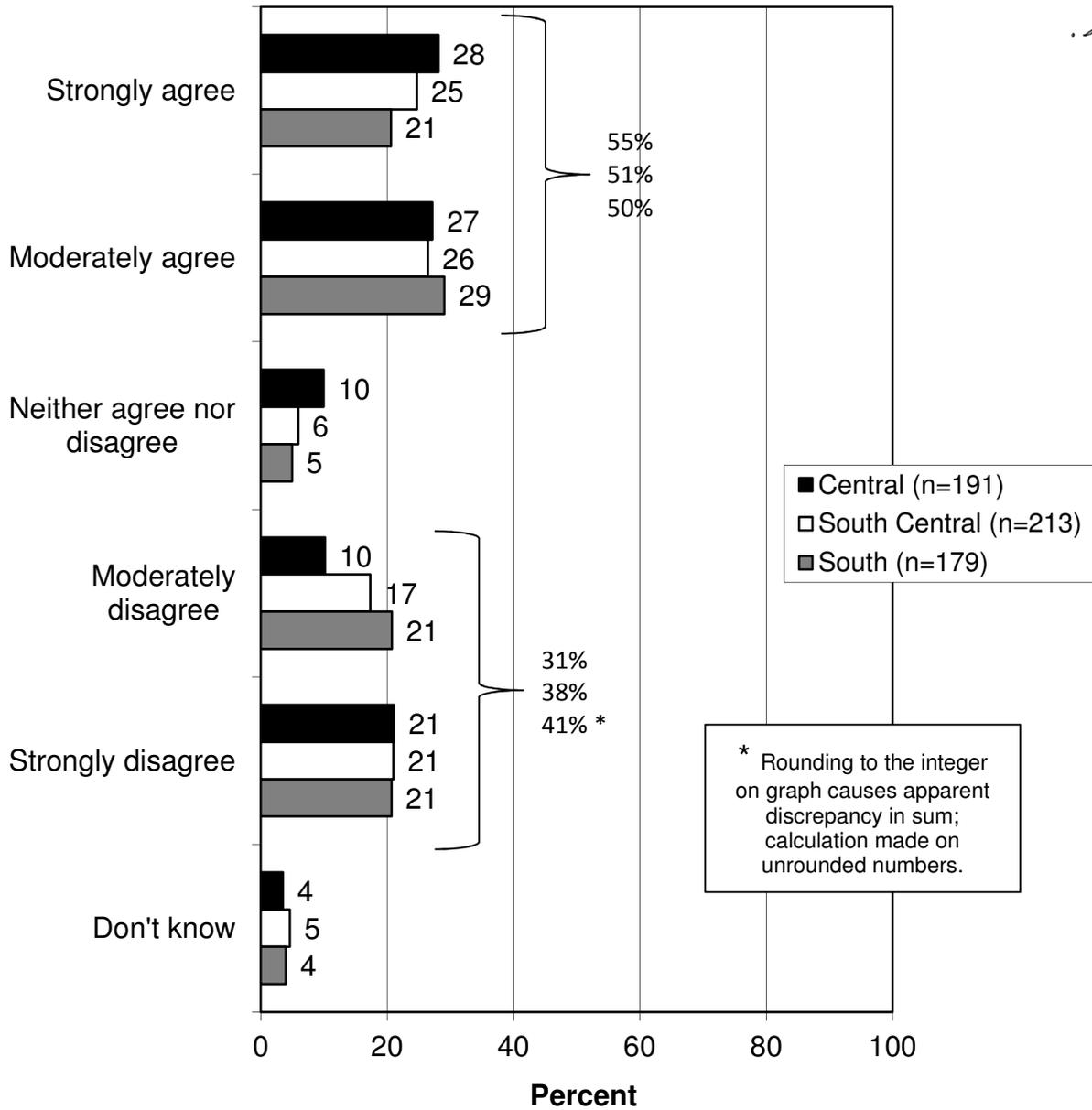
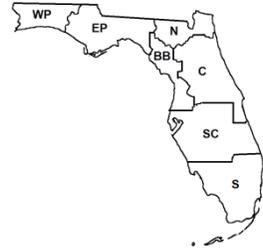
Q34. People and black bears can live in the same area without conflict.



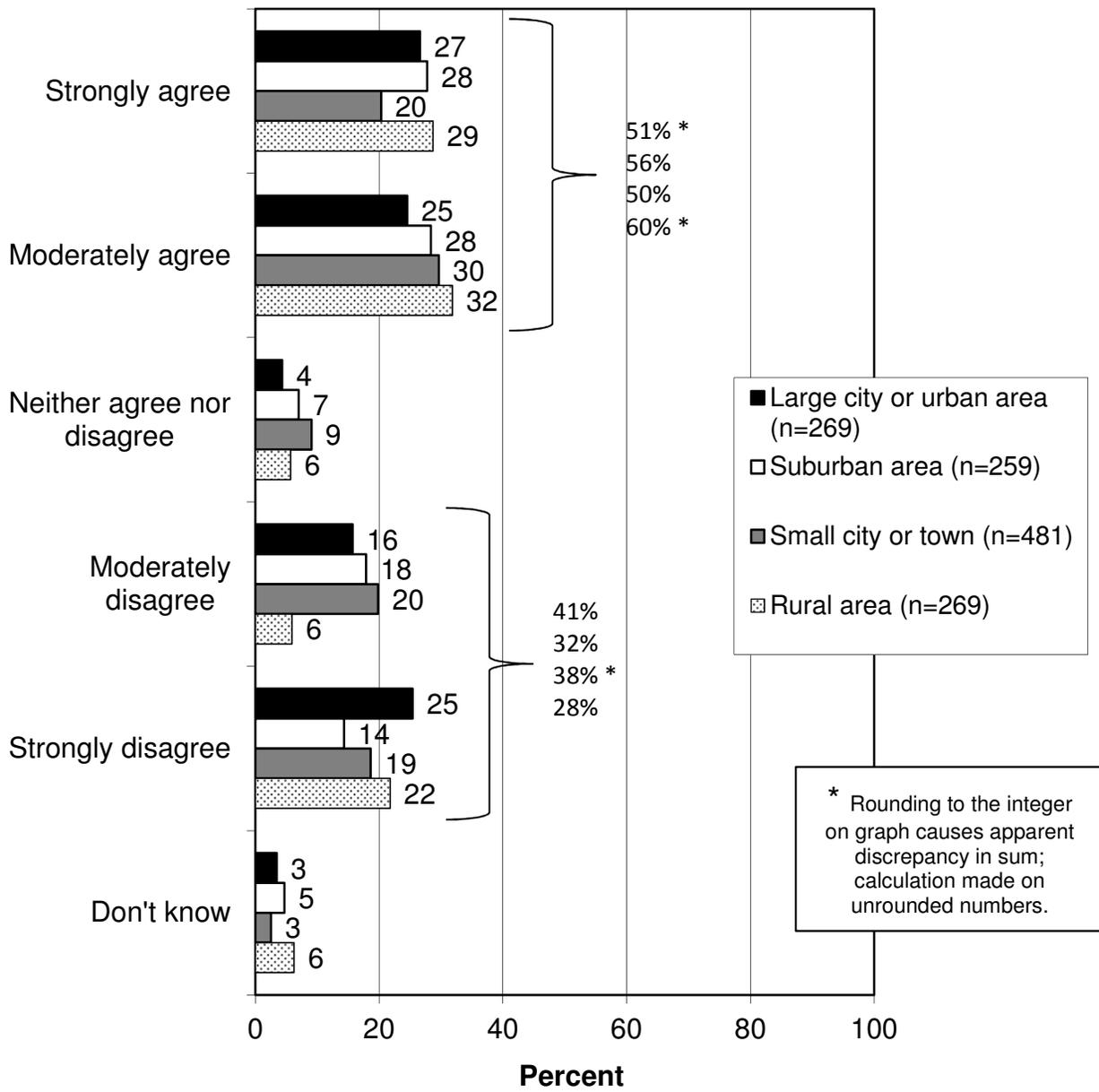
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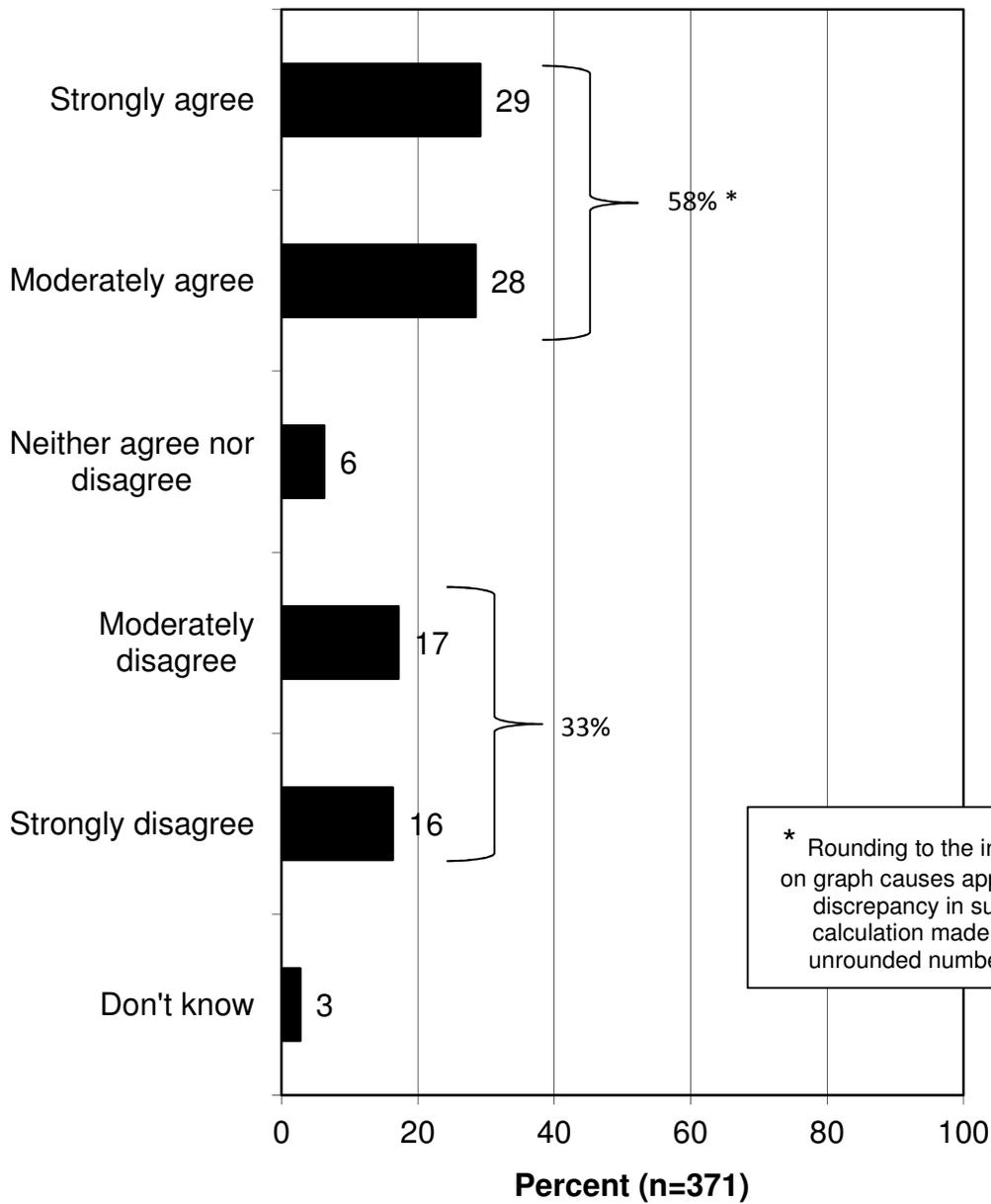
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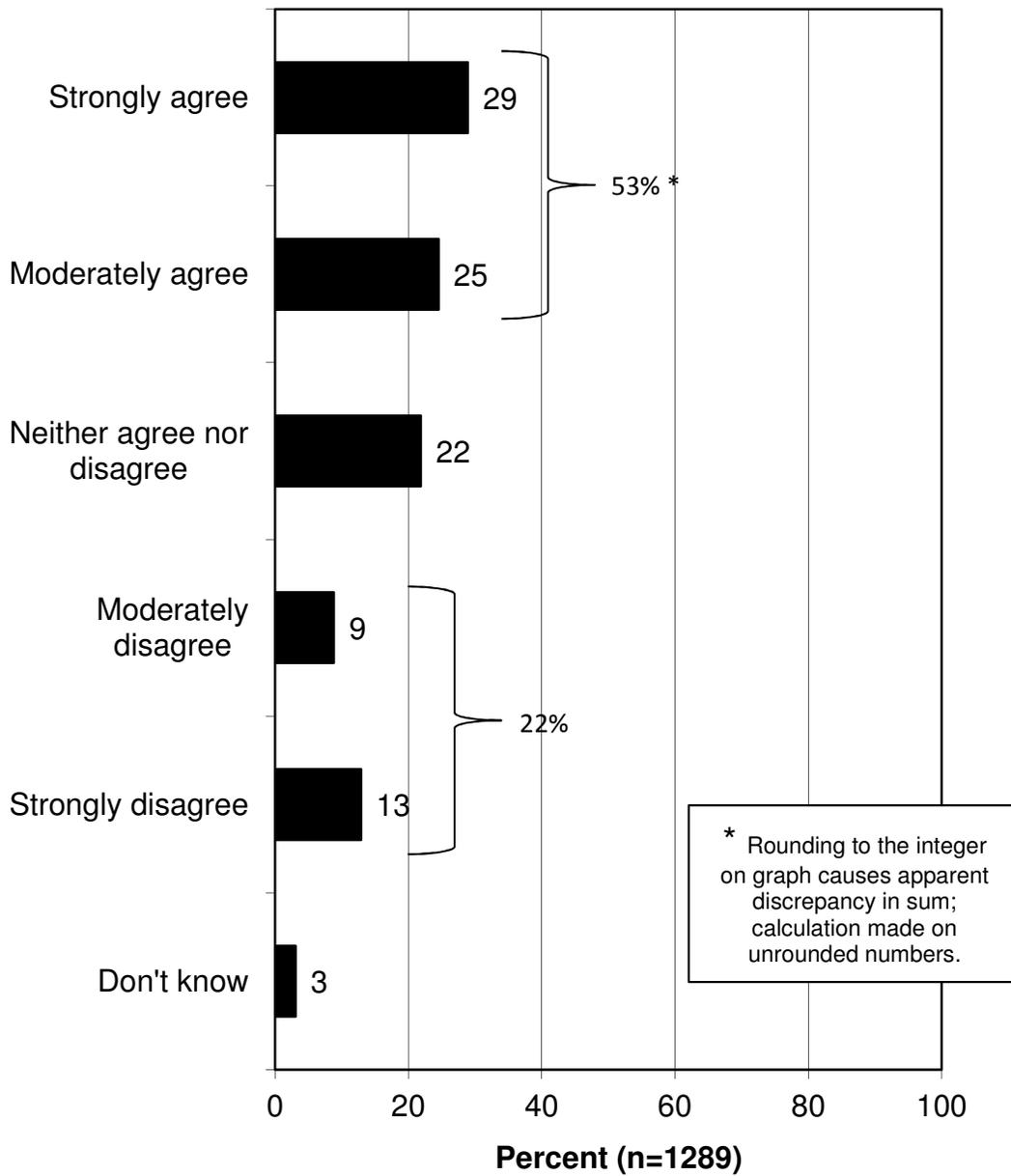
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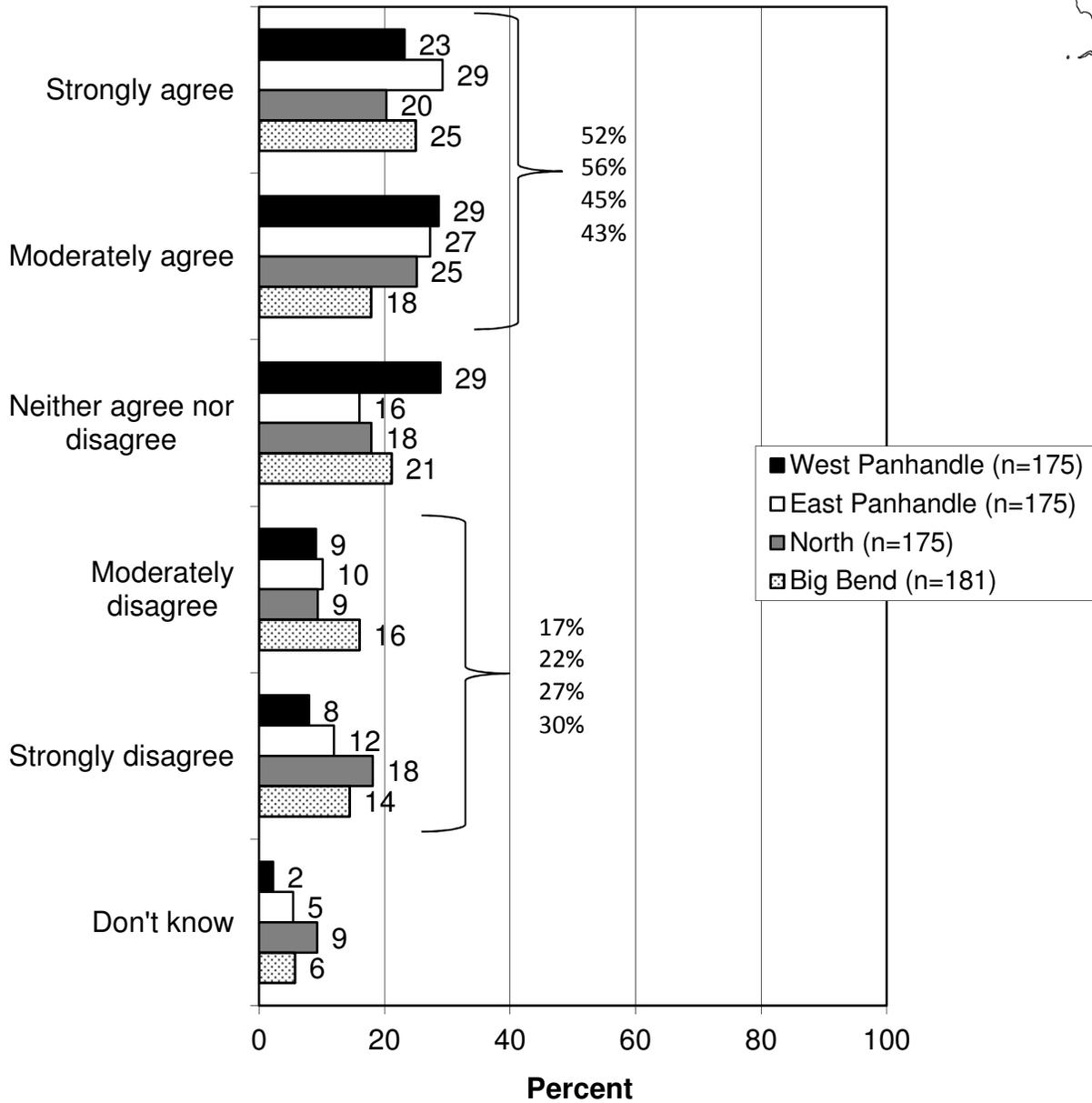
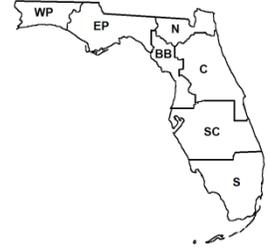
Q34. People and black bears can live in the same area without conflict. (Bear county residents.)



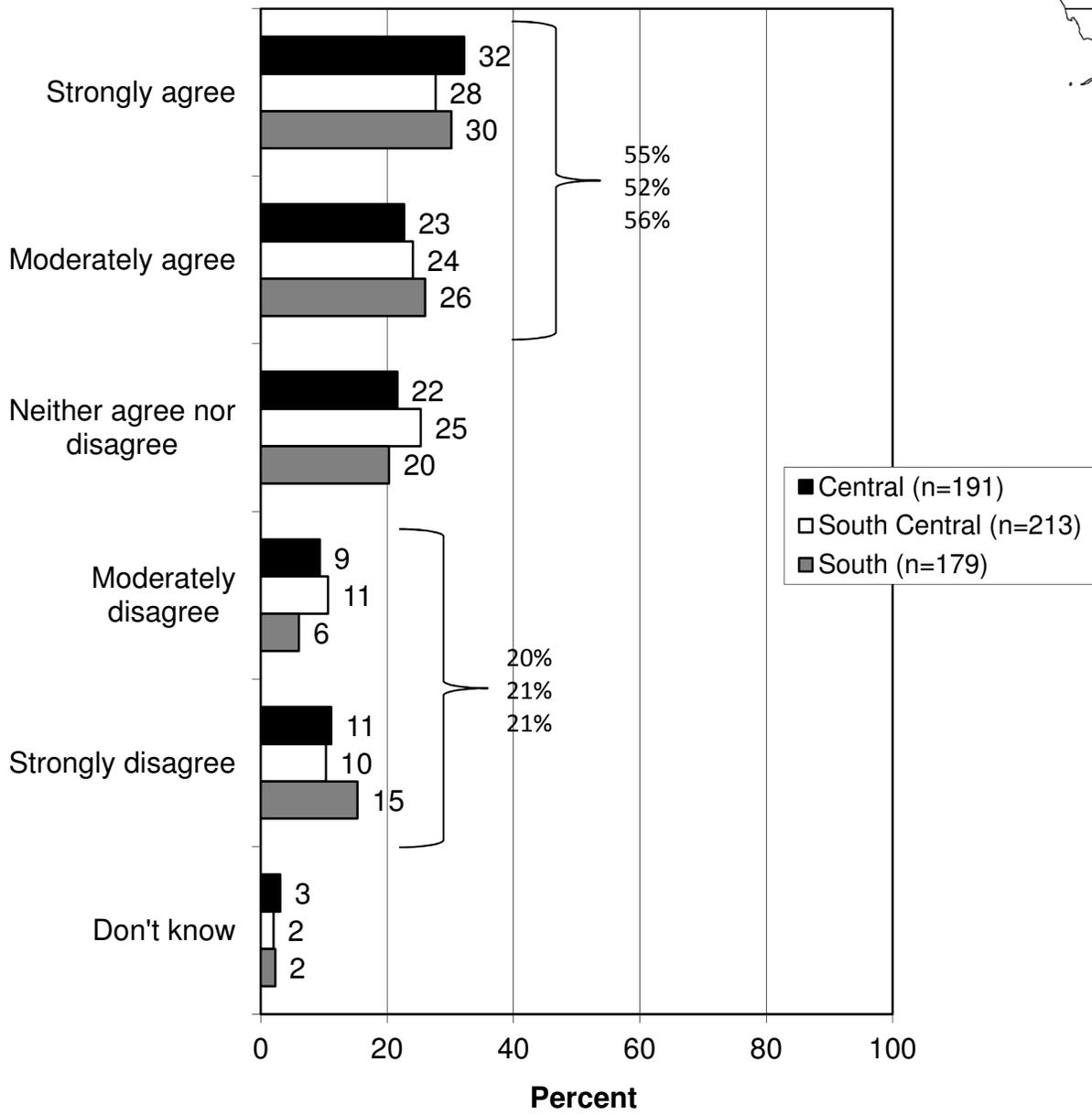
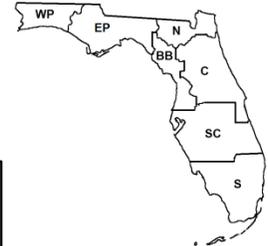
Q35. Knowing black bears live in the wild in Florida improves my overall quality of life.



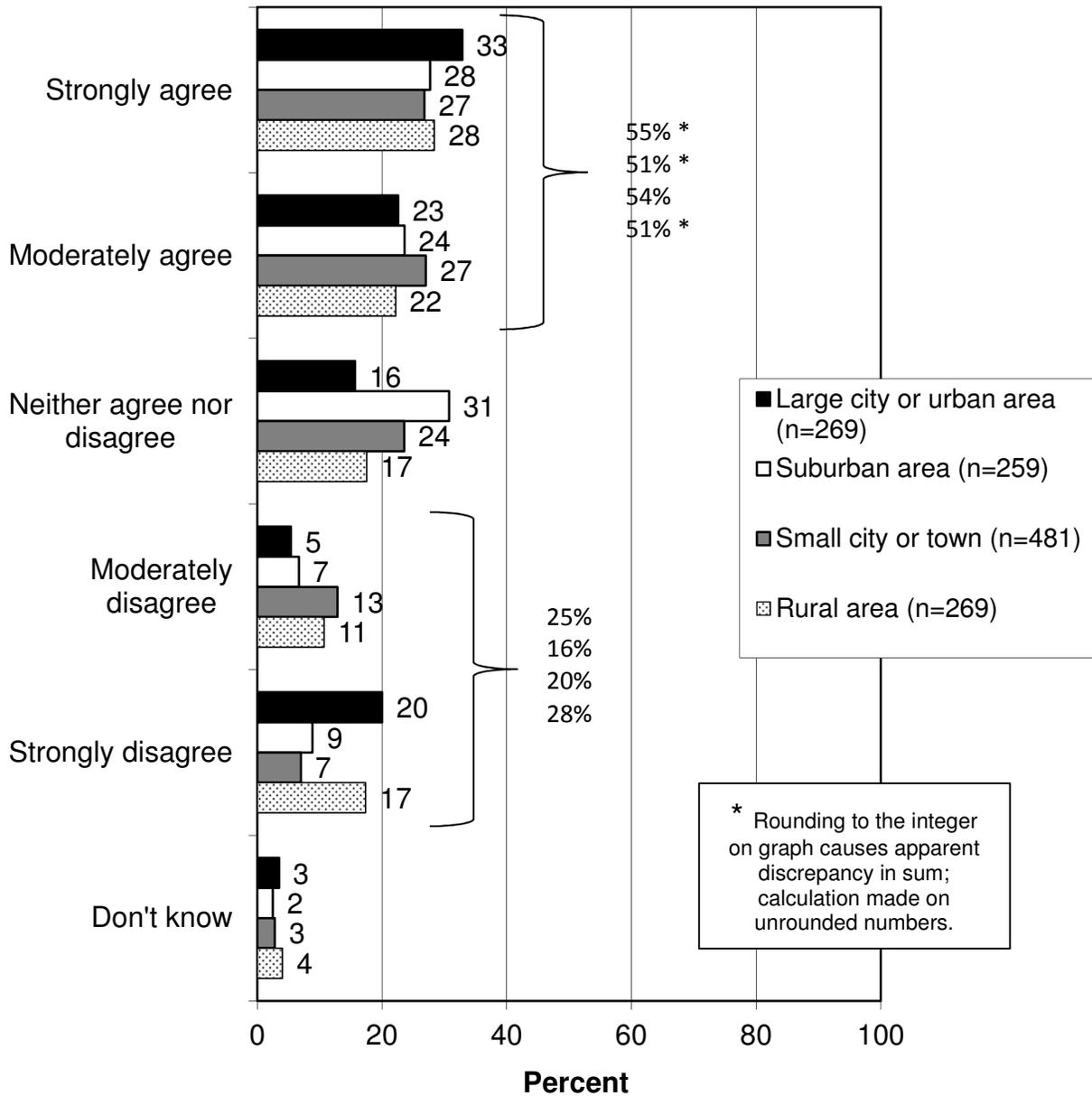
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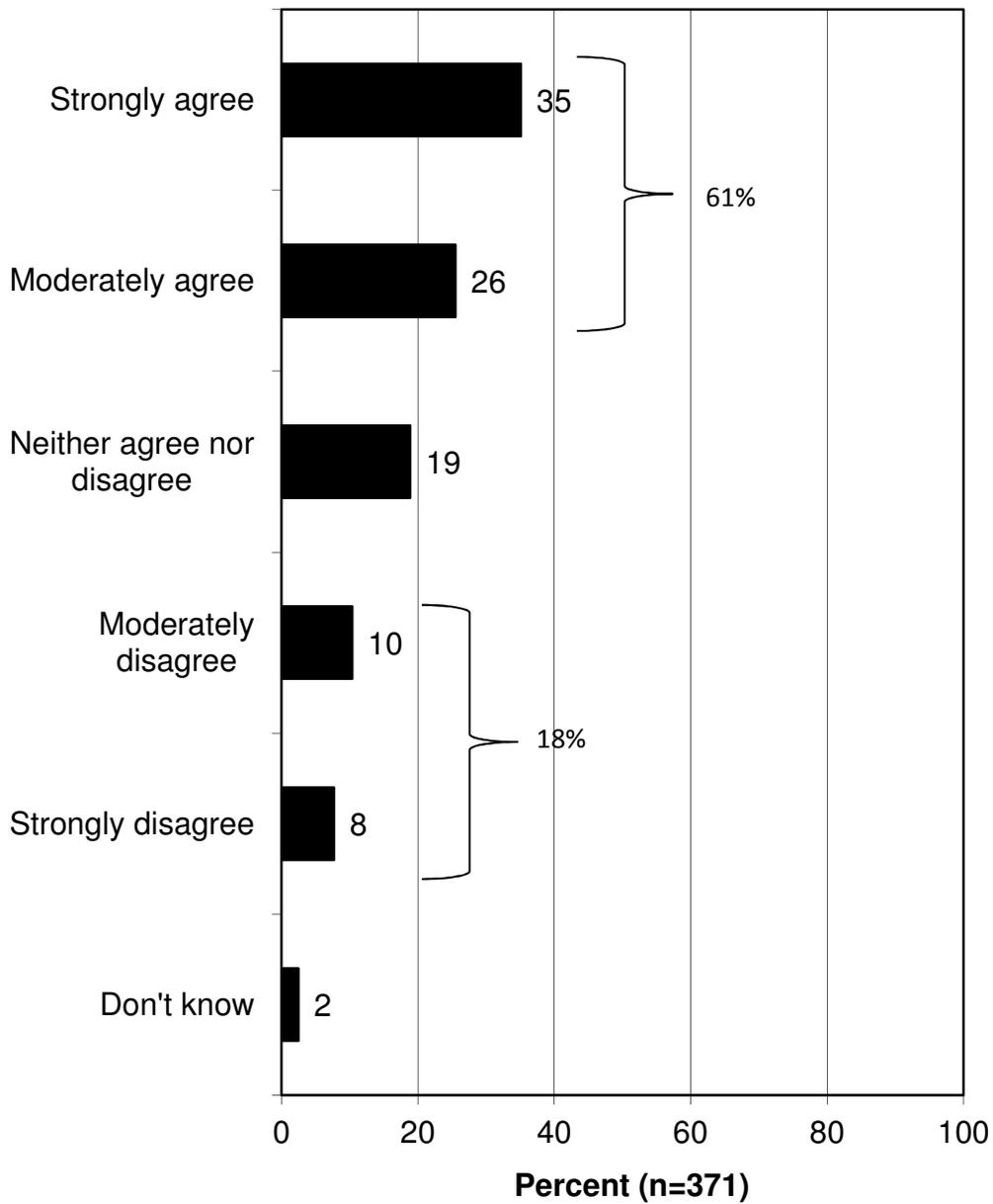
Q35. Knowing black bears live in the wild in Florida improves my overall quality of life.



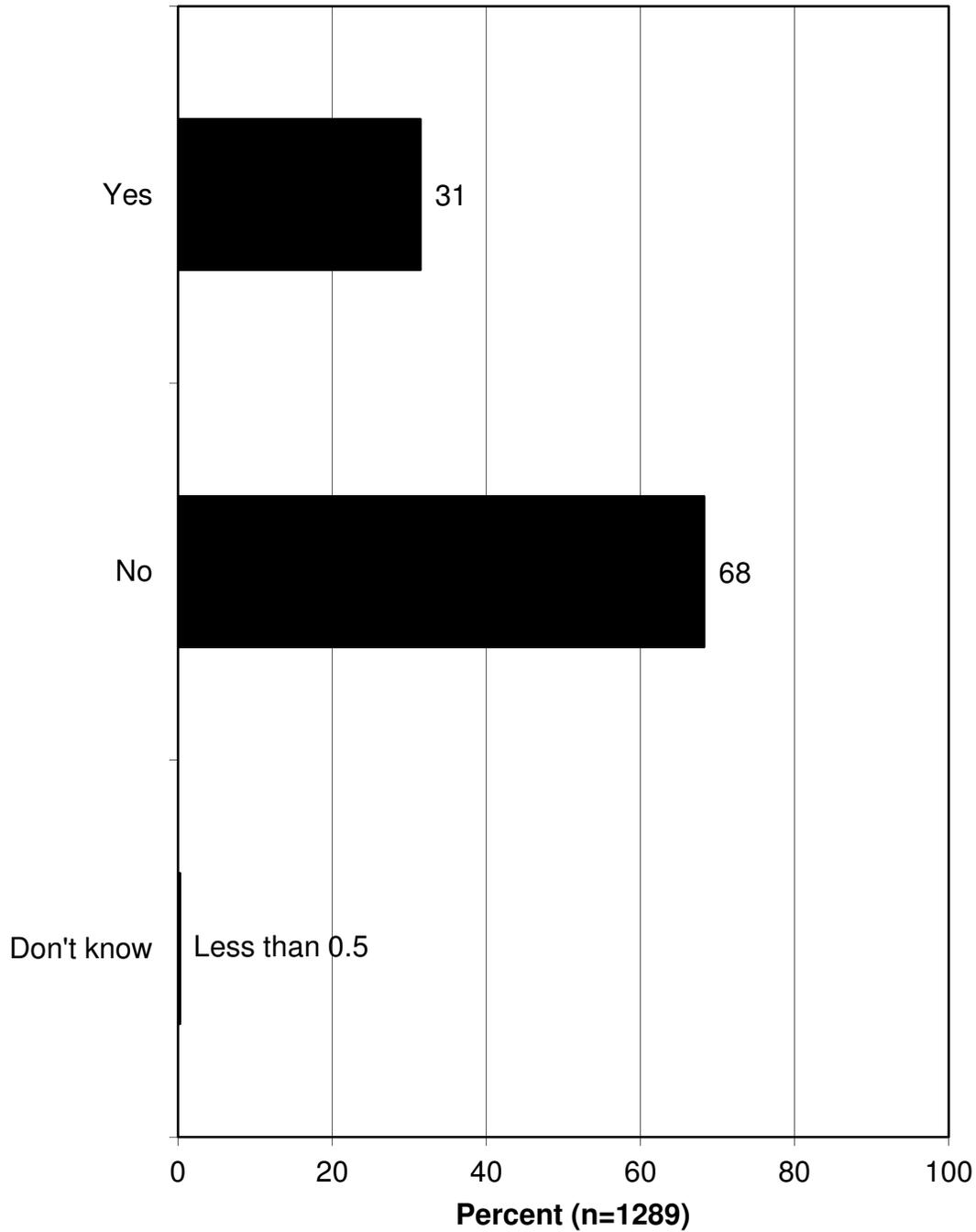
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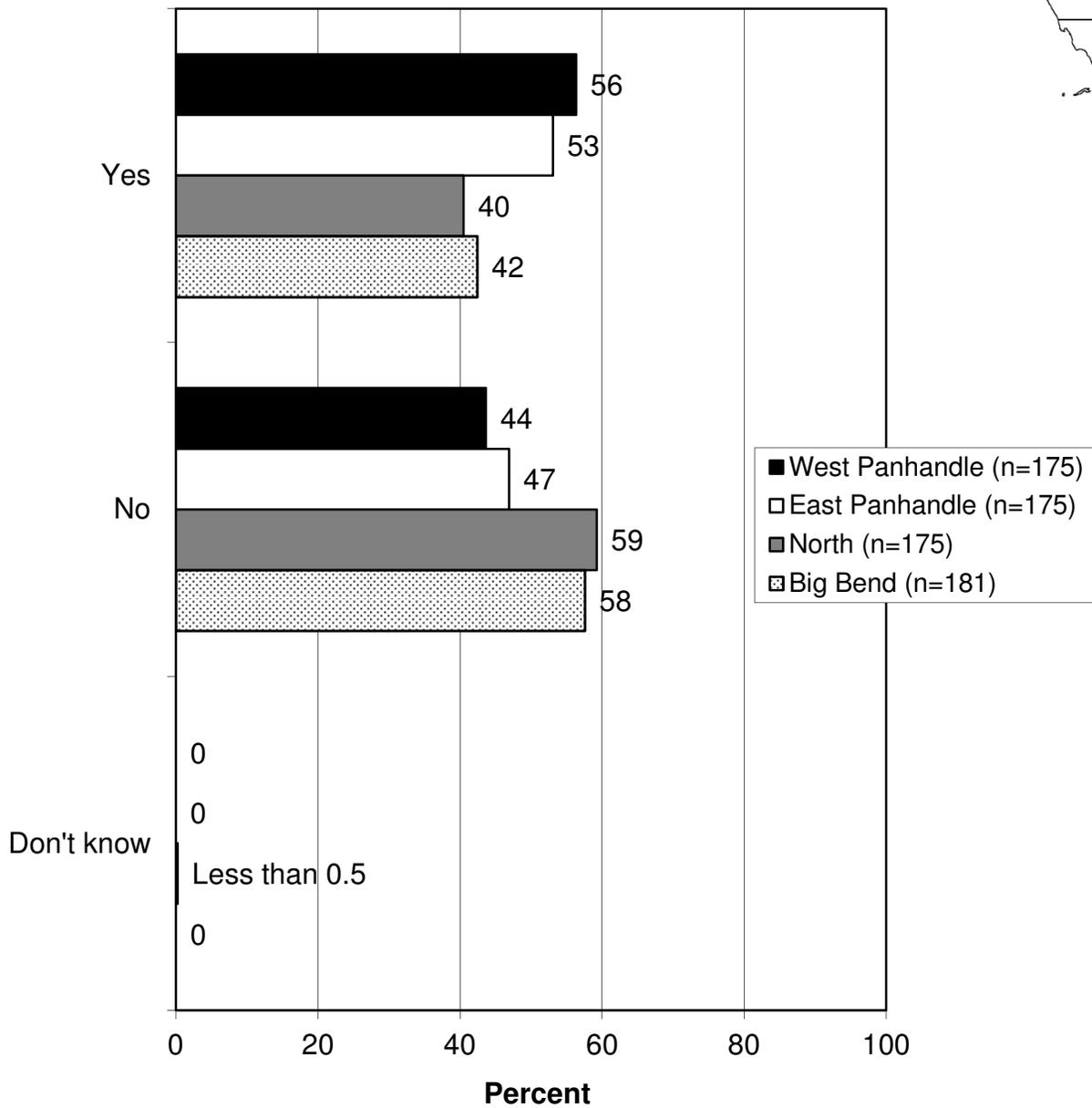
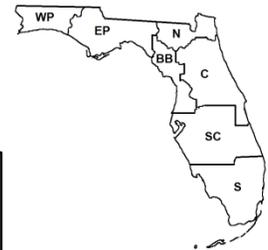
Q35. Knowing black bears live in the wild in Florida improves my overall quality of life. (Bear county residents.)



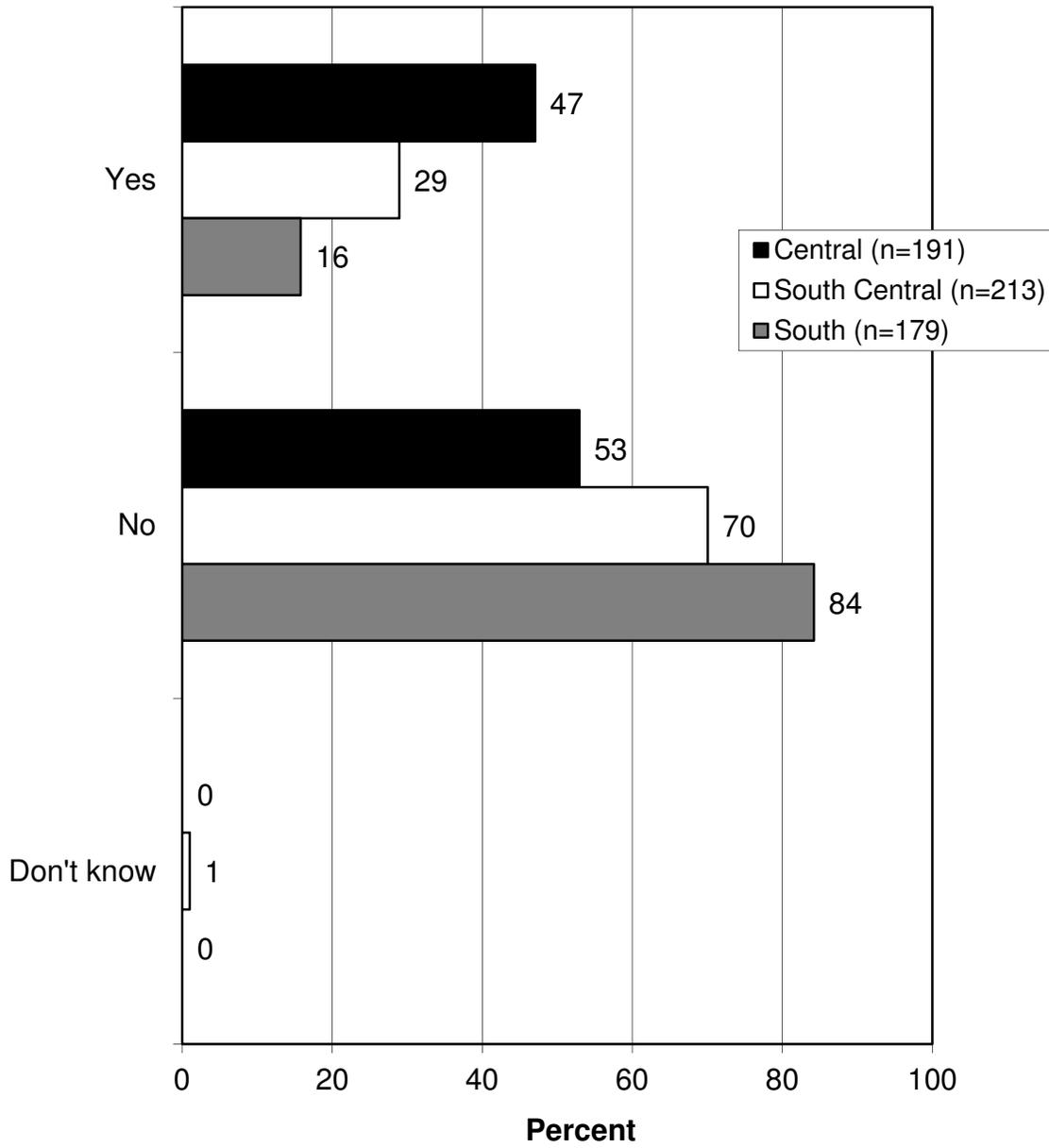
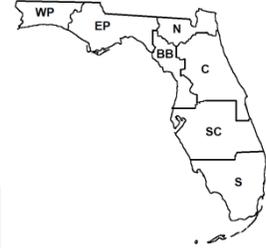
Q26. Have you, personally, ever seen a black bear in the wild in Florida?



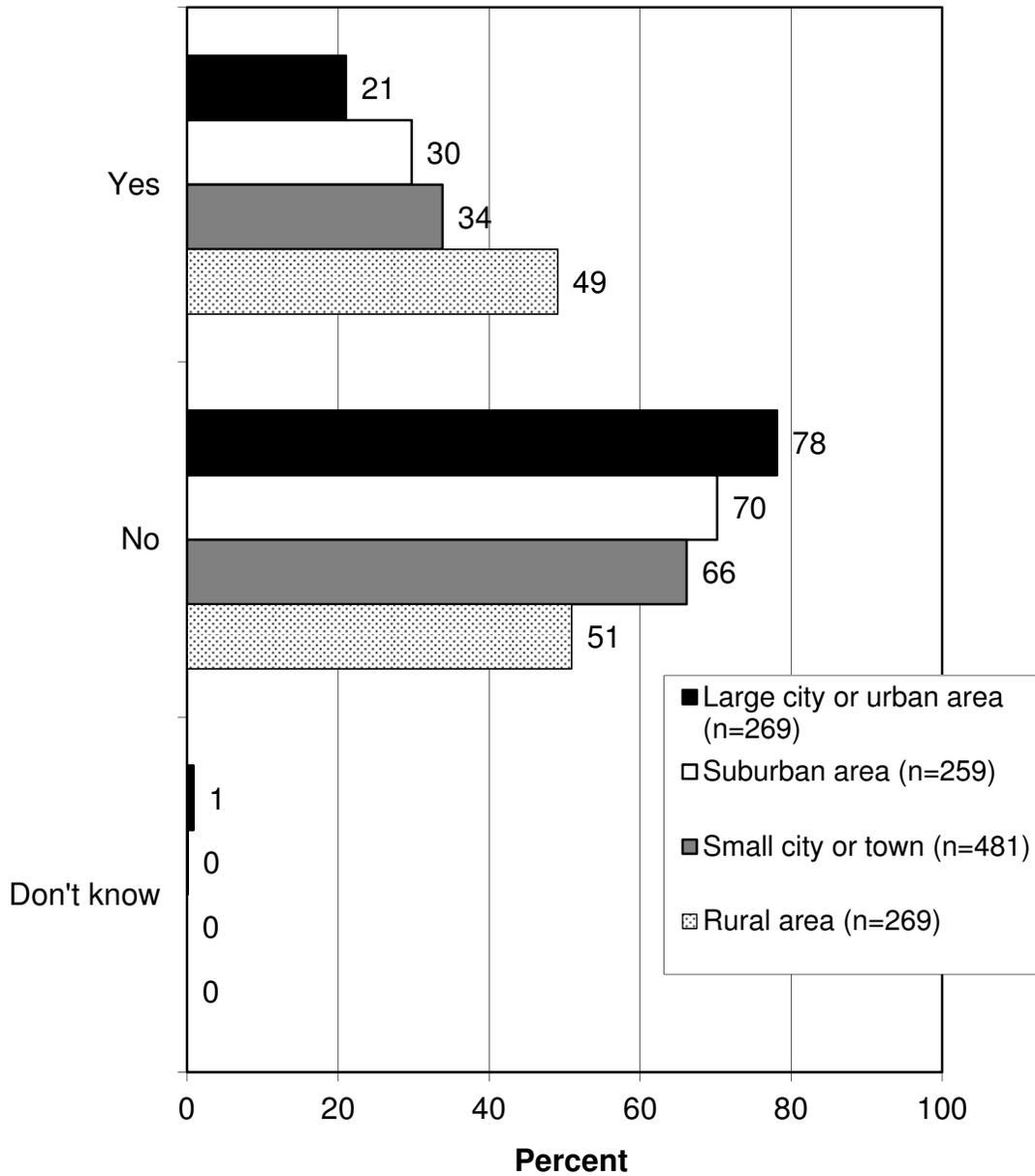
Q26. Have you, personally, ever seen a black bear in the wild in Florida?



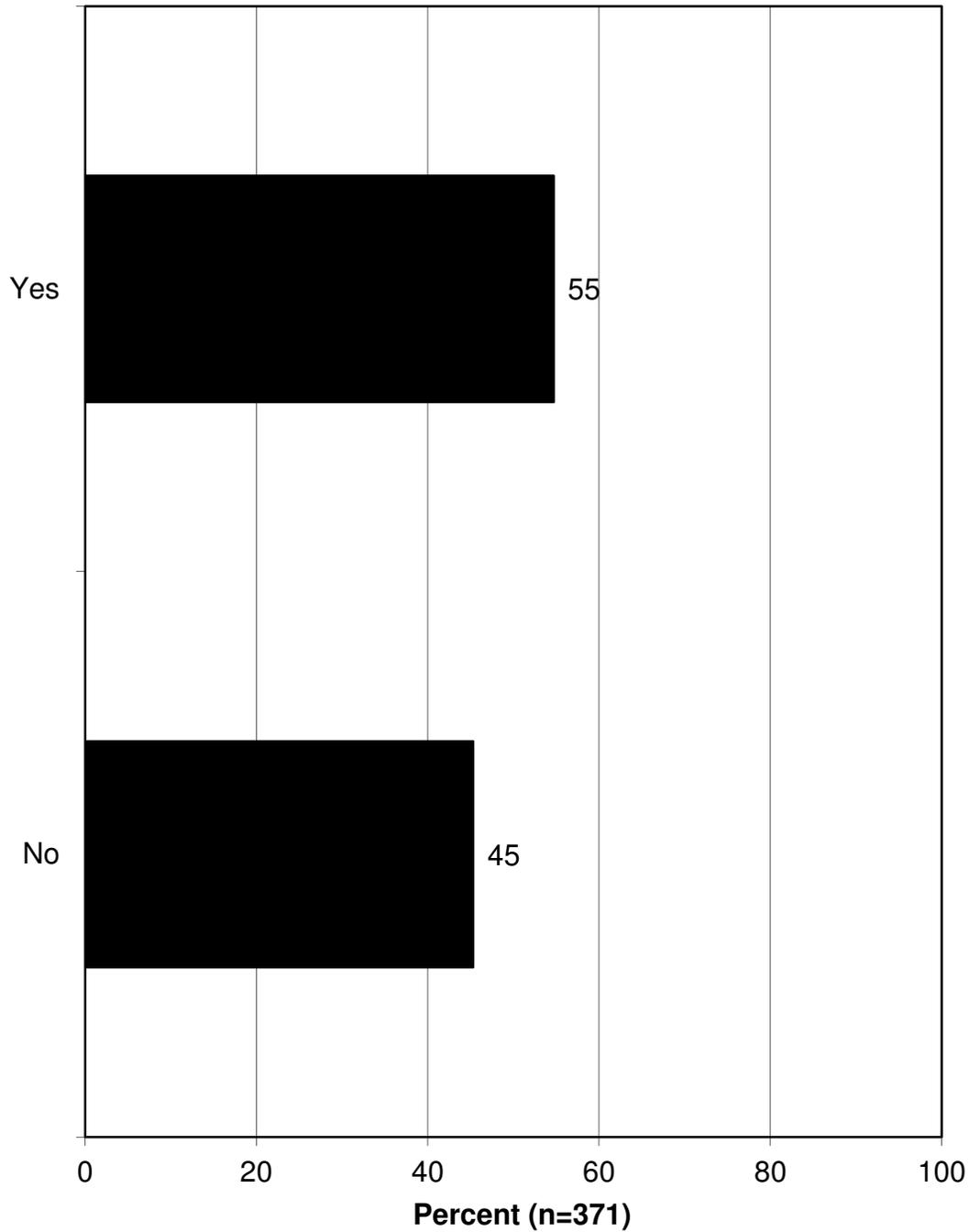
Q26. Have you, personally, ever seen a black bear in the wild in Florida?



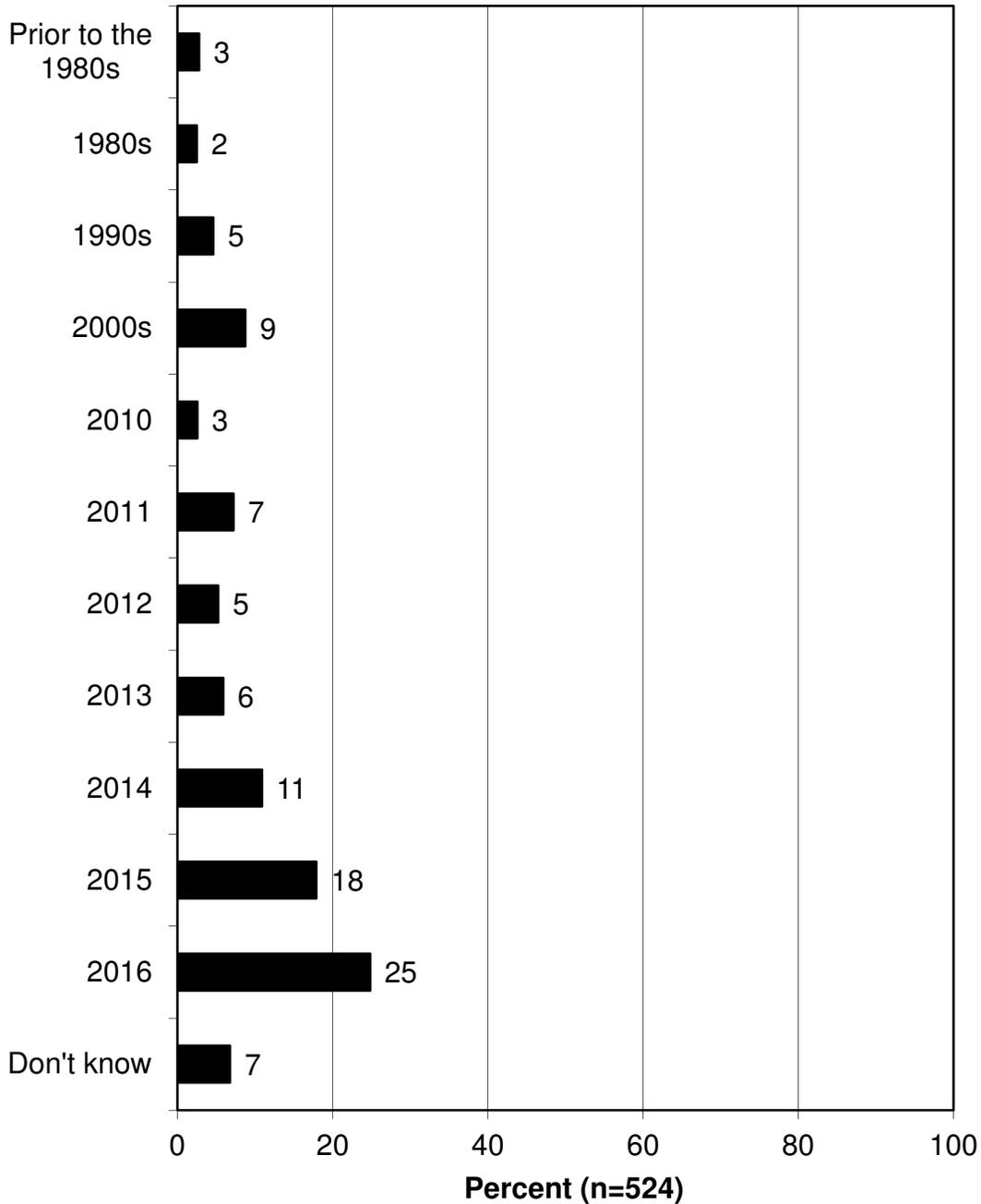
Q26. Have you, personally, ever seen a black bear in the wild in Florida?



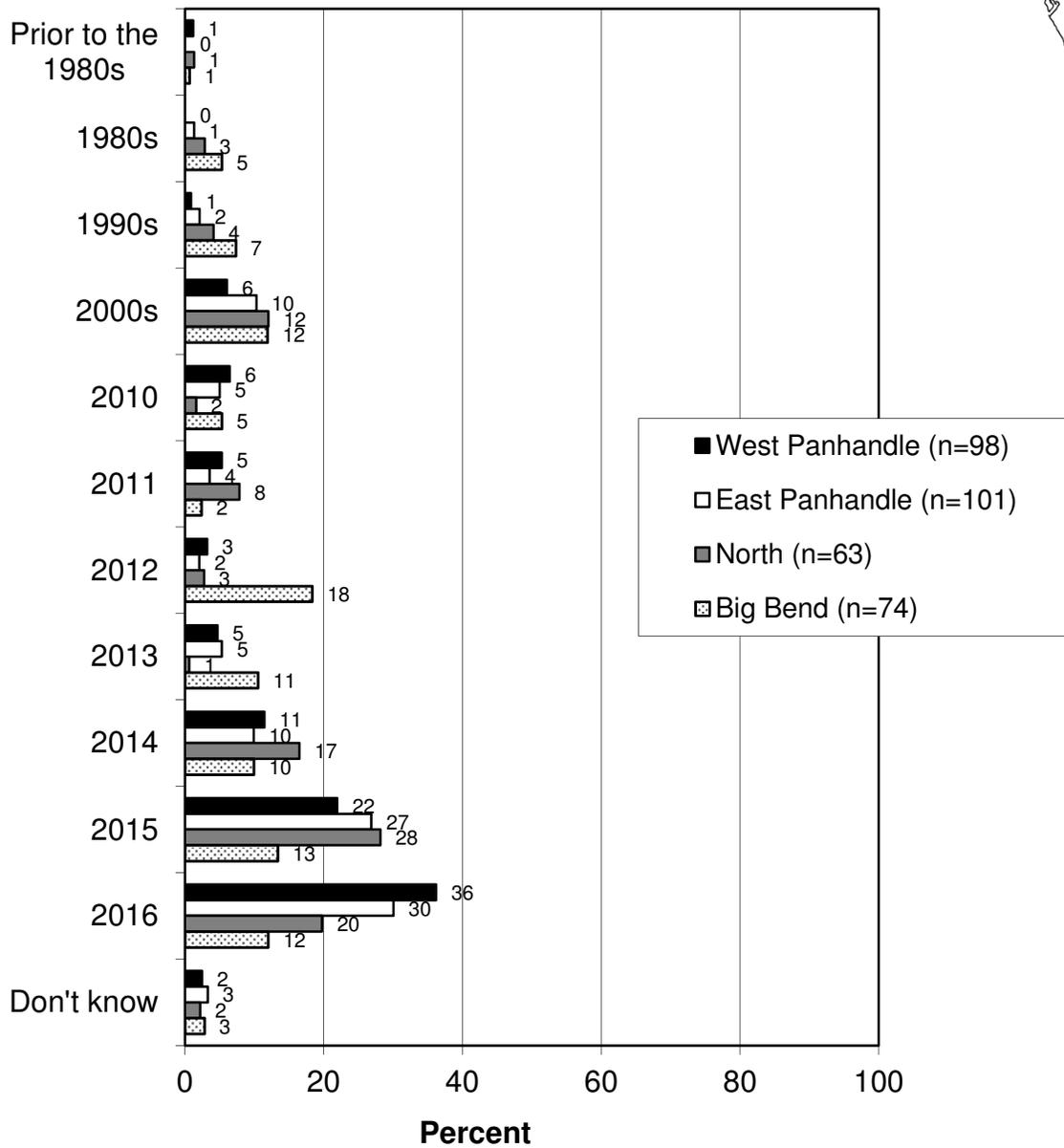
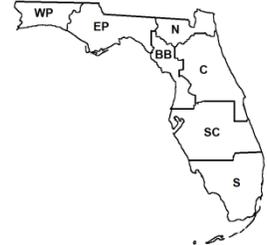
Q26. Have you, personally, ever seen a black bear in the wild in Florida? (Bear county residents.)



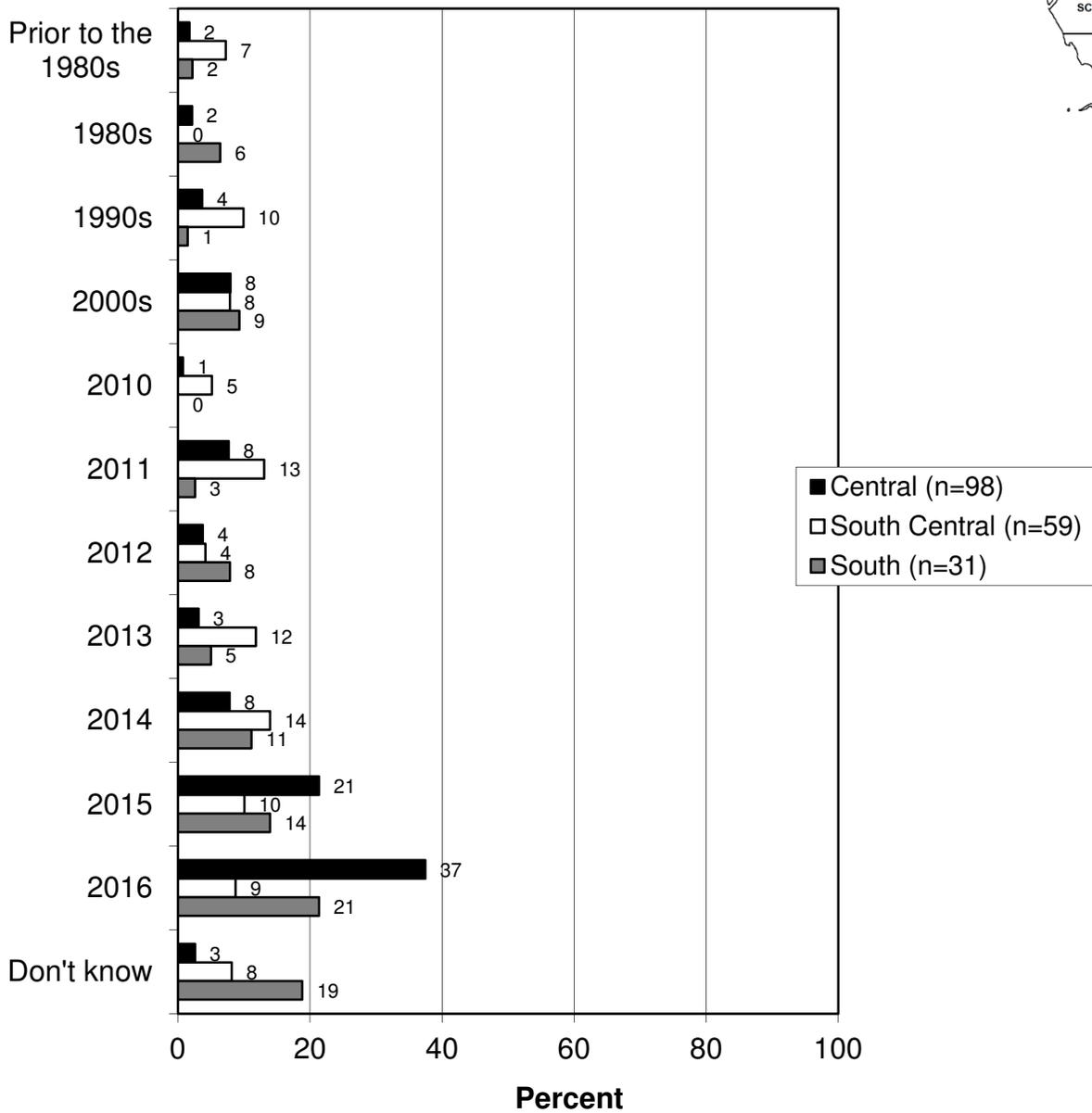
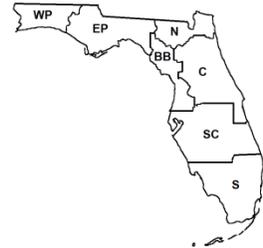
Q27. What was the last year you saw a black bear in the wild in Florida? (Asked of those who have ever seen a black bear in the wild in Florida.)



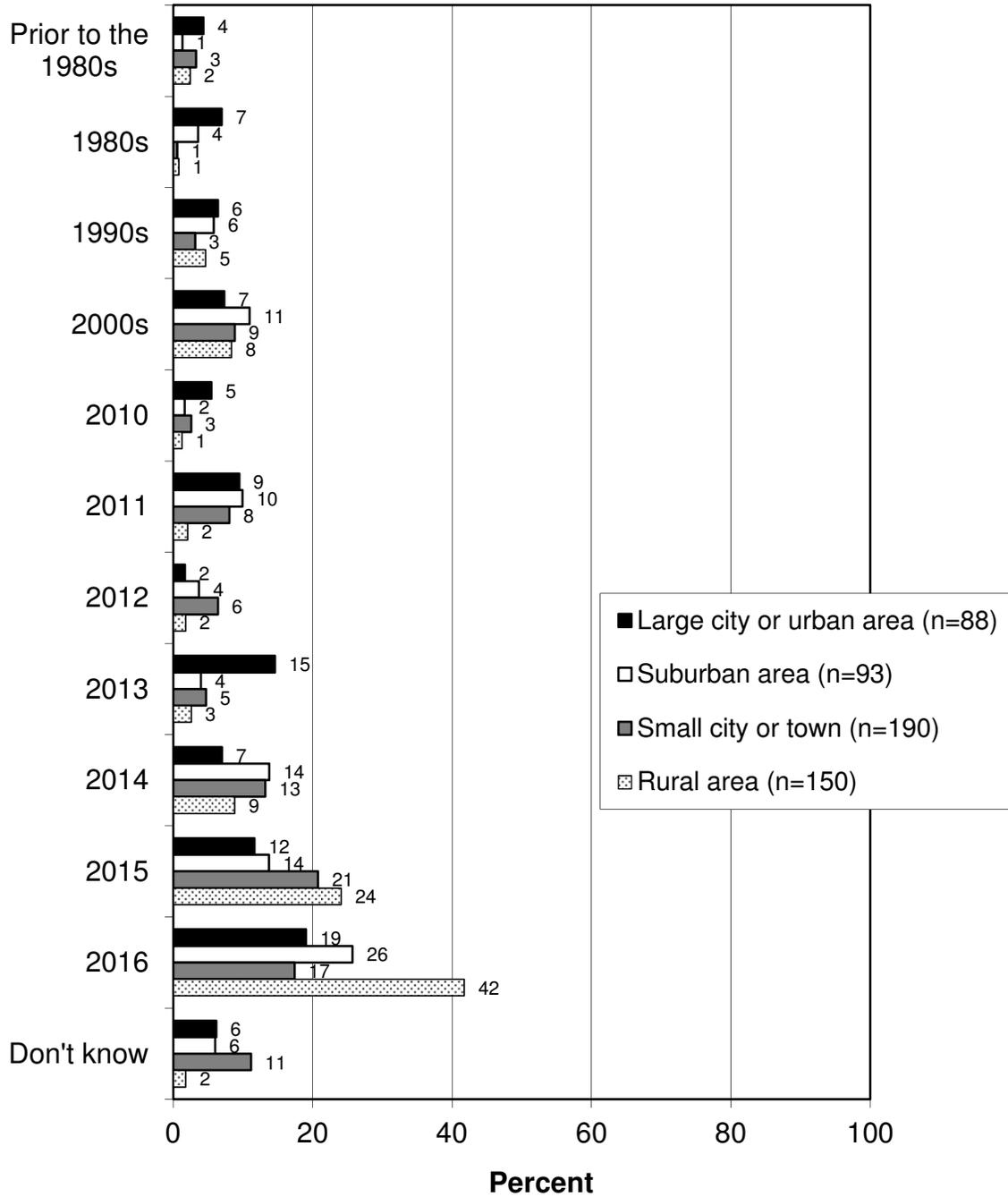
Q27. What was the last year you saw a black bear in the wild in Florida? (Asked of those who have ever seen a black bear in the wild in Florida.)



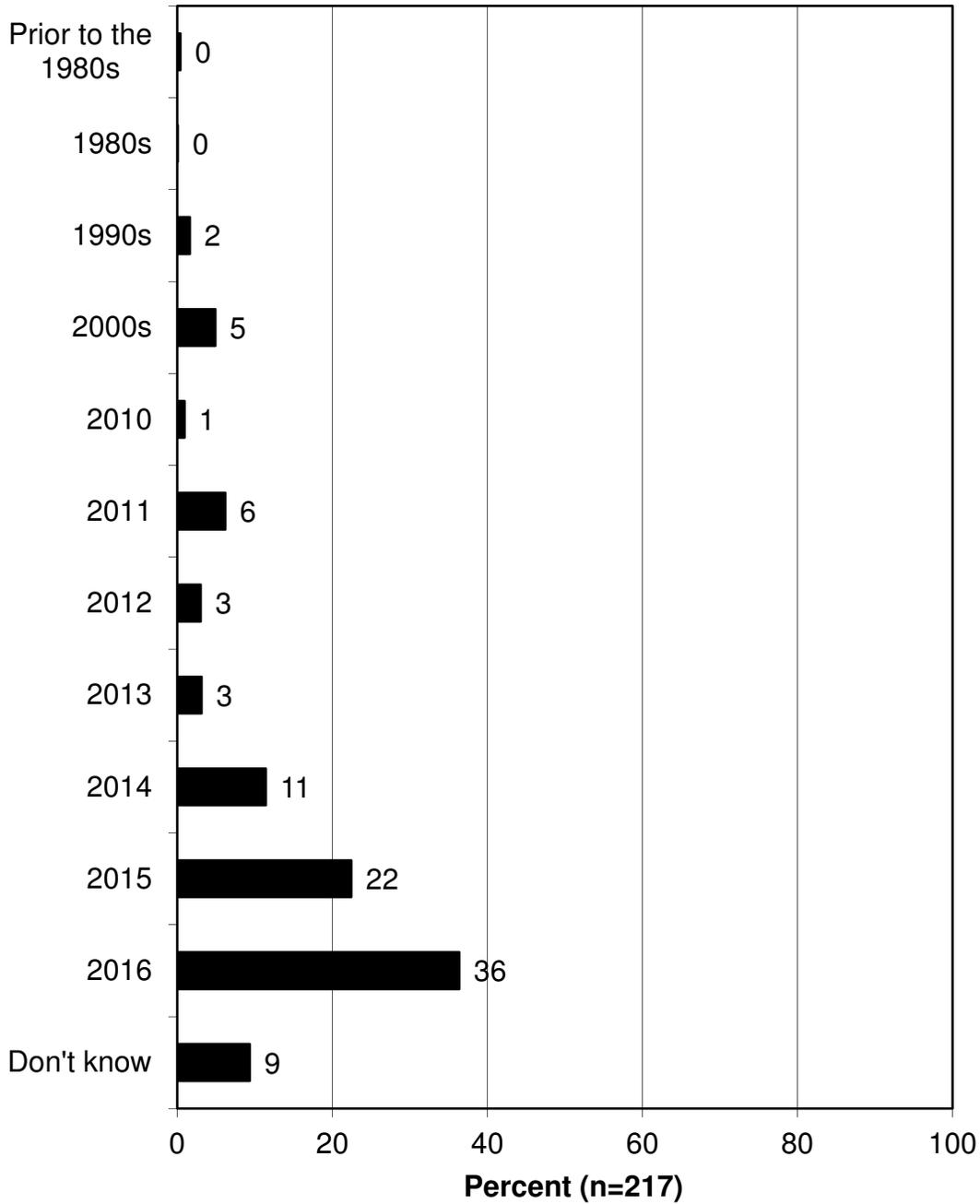
Q27. What was the last year you saw a black bear in the wild in Florida? (Asked of those who have ever seen a black bear in the wild in Florida.)



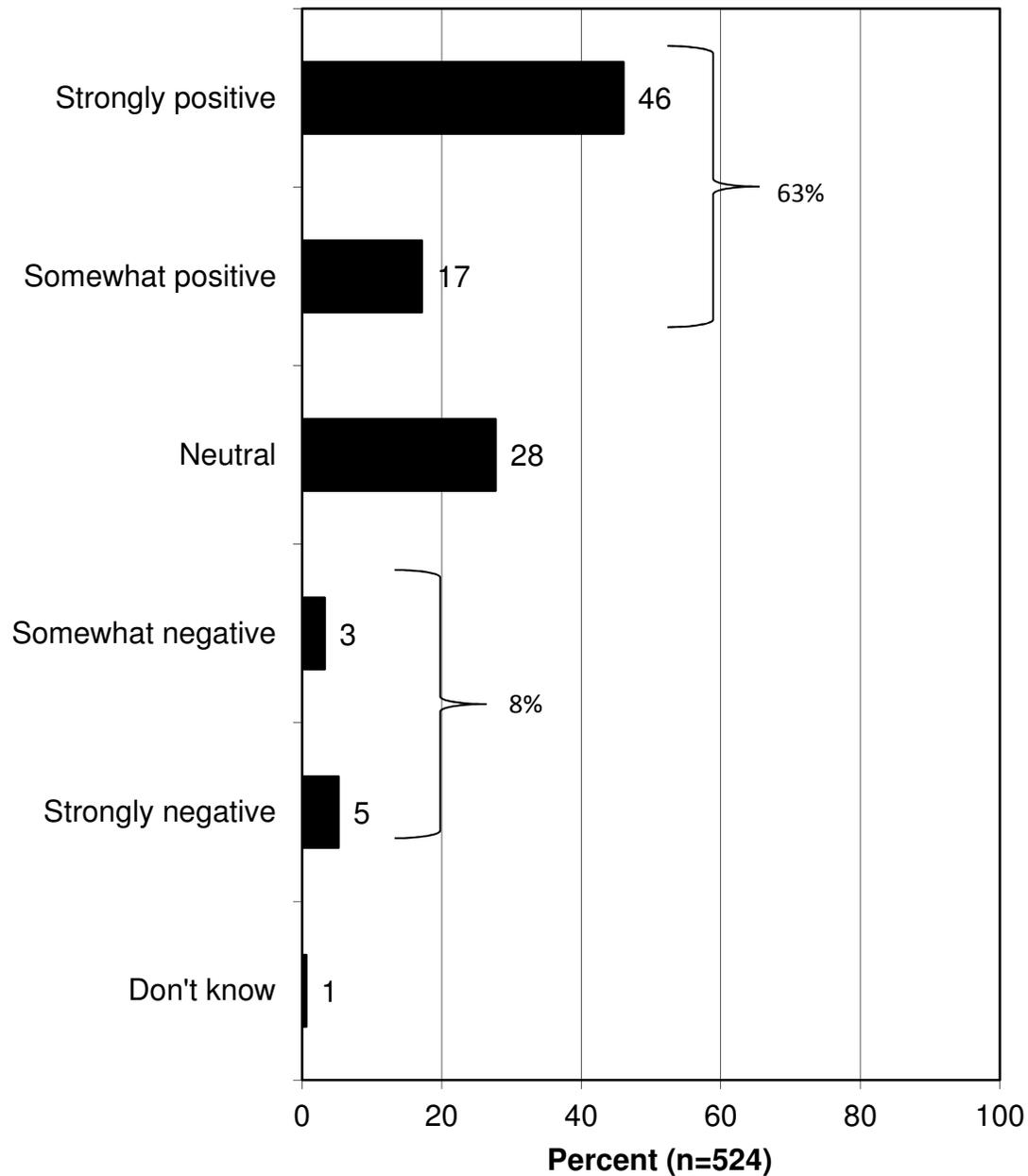
Q27. What was the last year you saw a black bear in the wild in Florida? (Asked of those who have ever seen a black bear in the wild in Florida.)



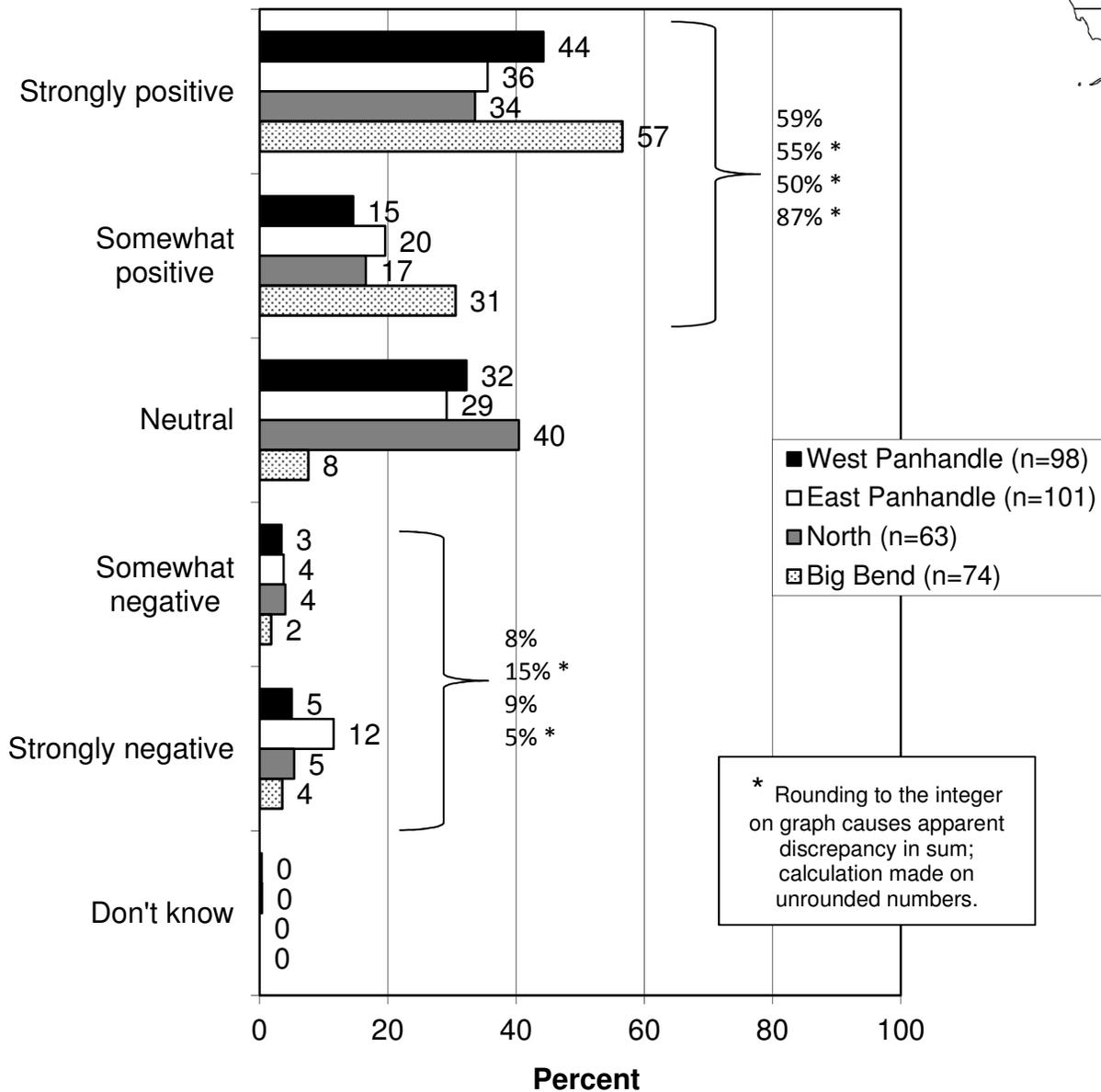
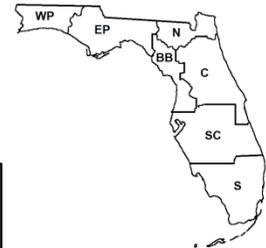
Q27. What was the last year you saw a black bear in the wild in Florida? (Asked of those who have ever seen a black bear in the wild in Florida.) (Bear county residents.)



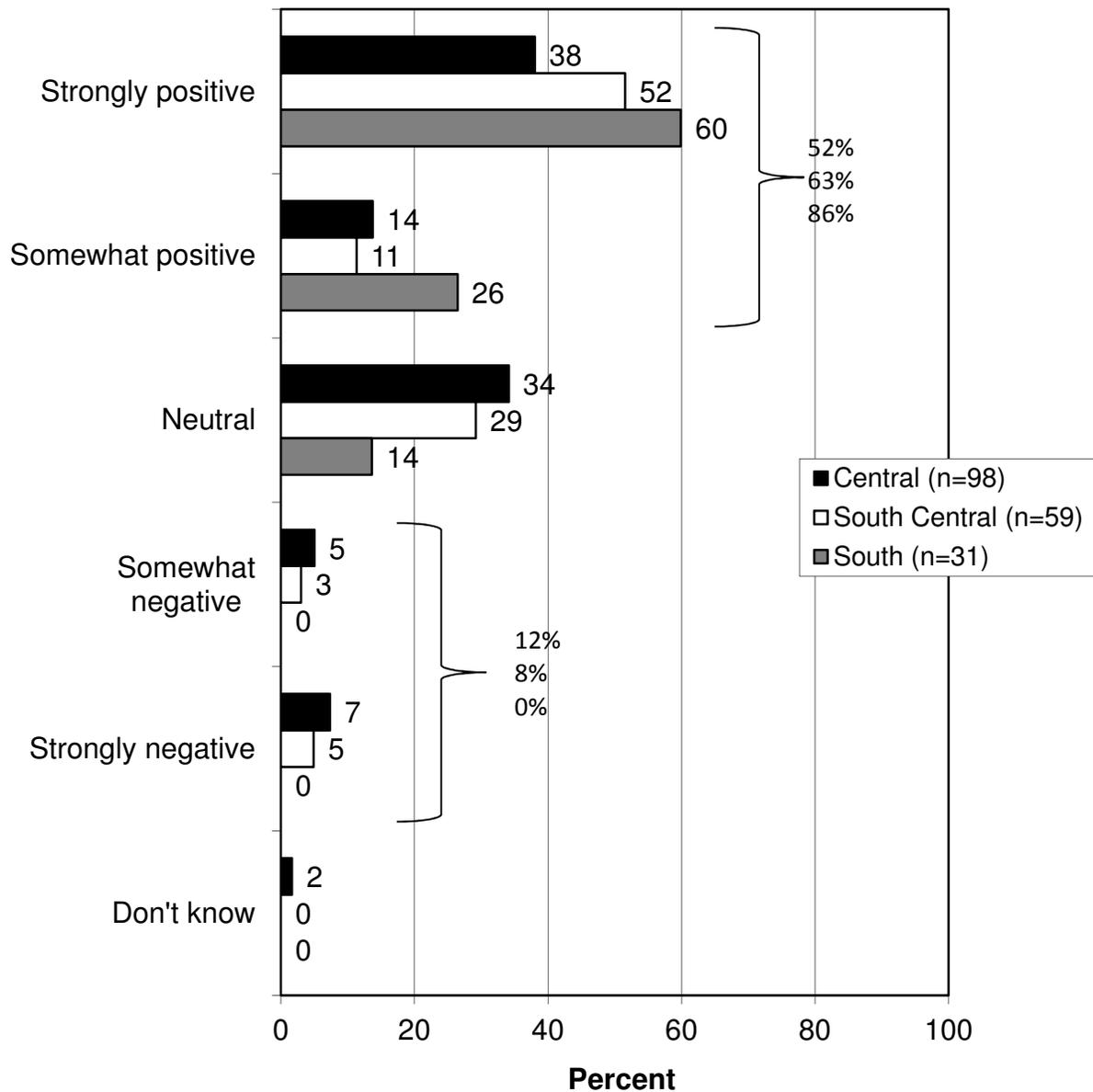
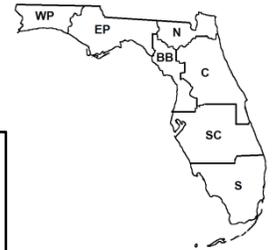
**Q29. Would you describe seeing the bear as a positive, a neutral, or a negative experience?
(Asked of those who have ever seen a black bear in the wild in Florida.)**



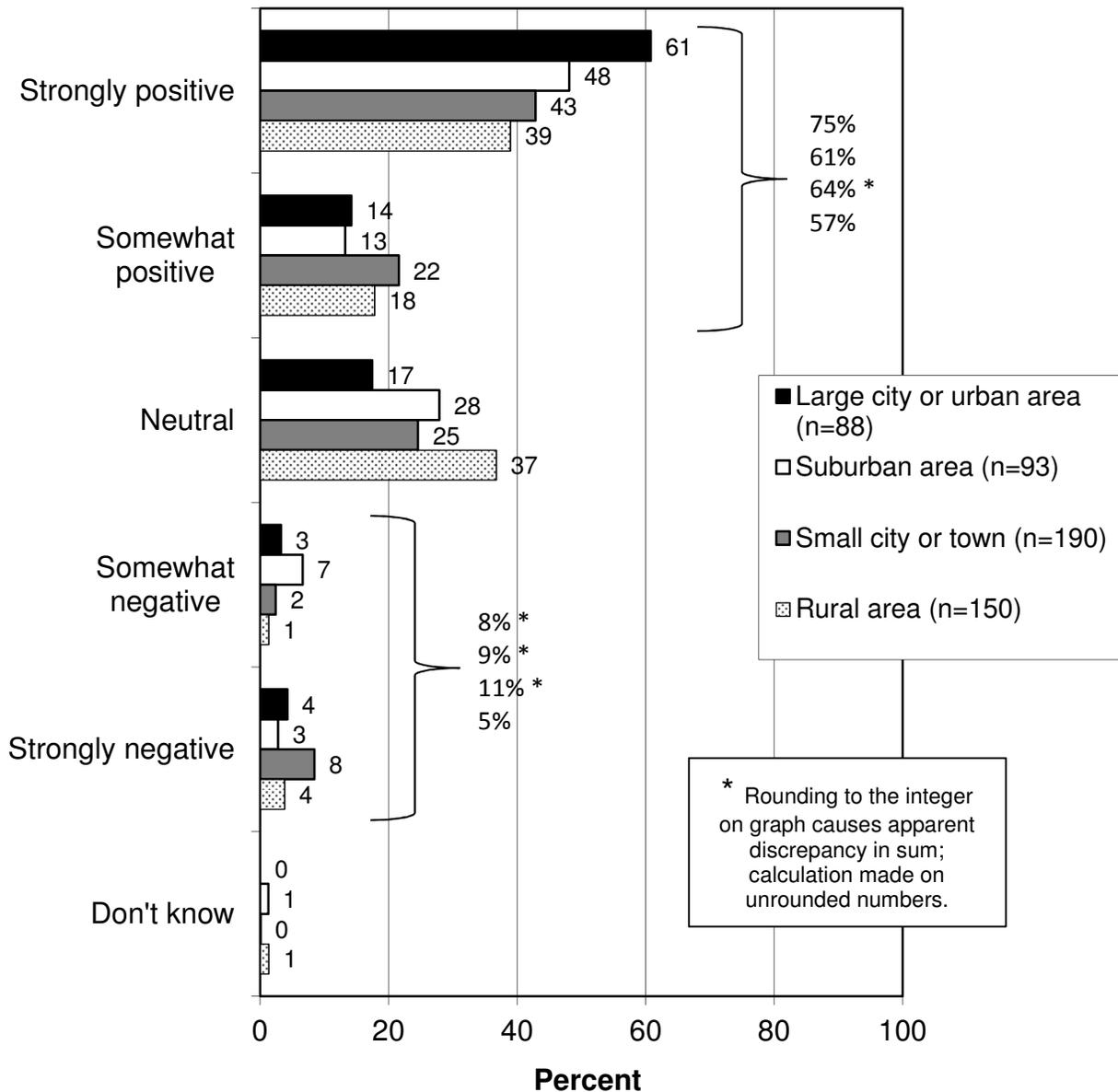
**Q29. Would you describe seeing the bear as a positive, a neutral, or a negative experience?
(Asked of those who have ever seen a black bear in the wild in Florida.)**



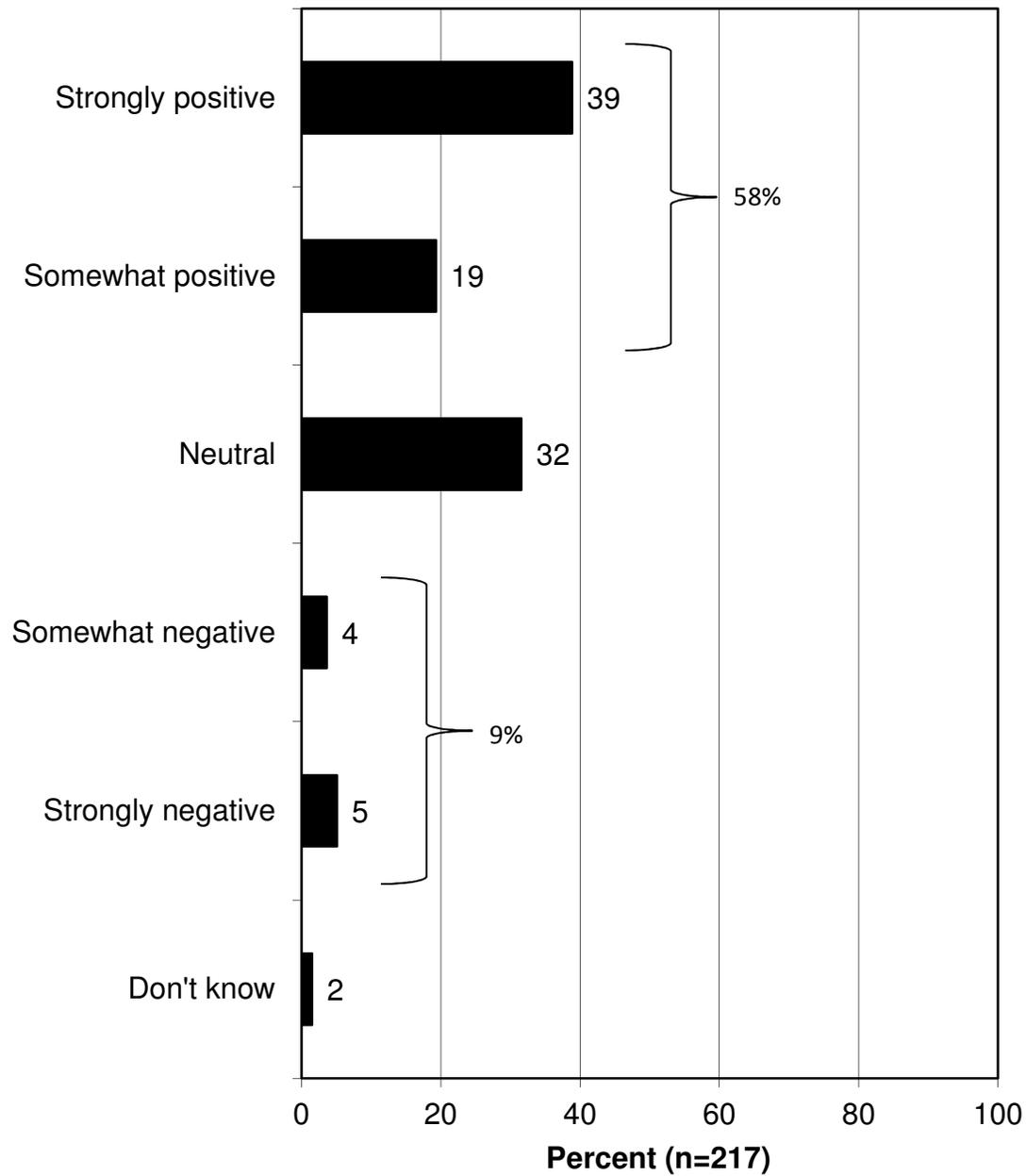
**Q29. Would you describe seeing the bear as a positive, a neutral, or a negative experience?
(Asked of those who have ever seen a black bear in the wild in Florida.)**



Q29. Would you describe seeing the bear as a positive, a neutral, or a negative experience? (Asked of those who have ever seen a black bear in the wild in Florida.)

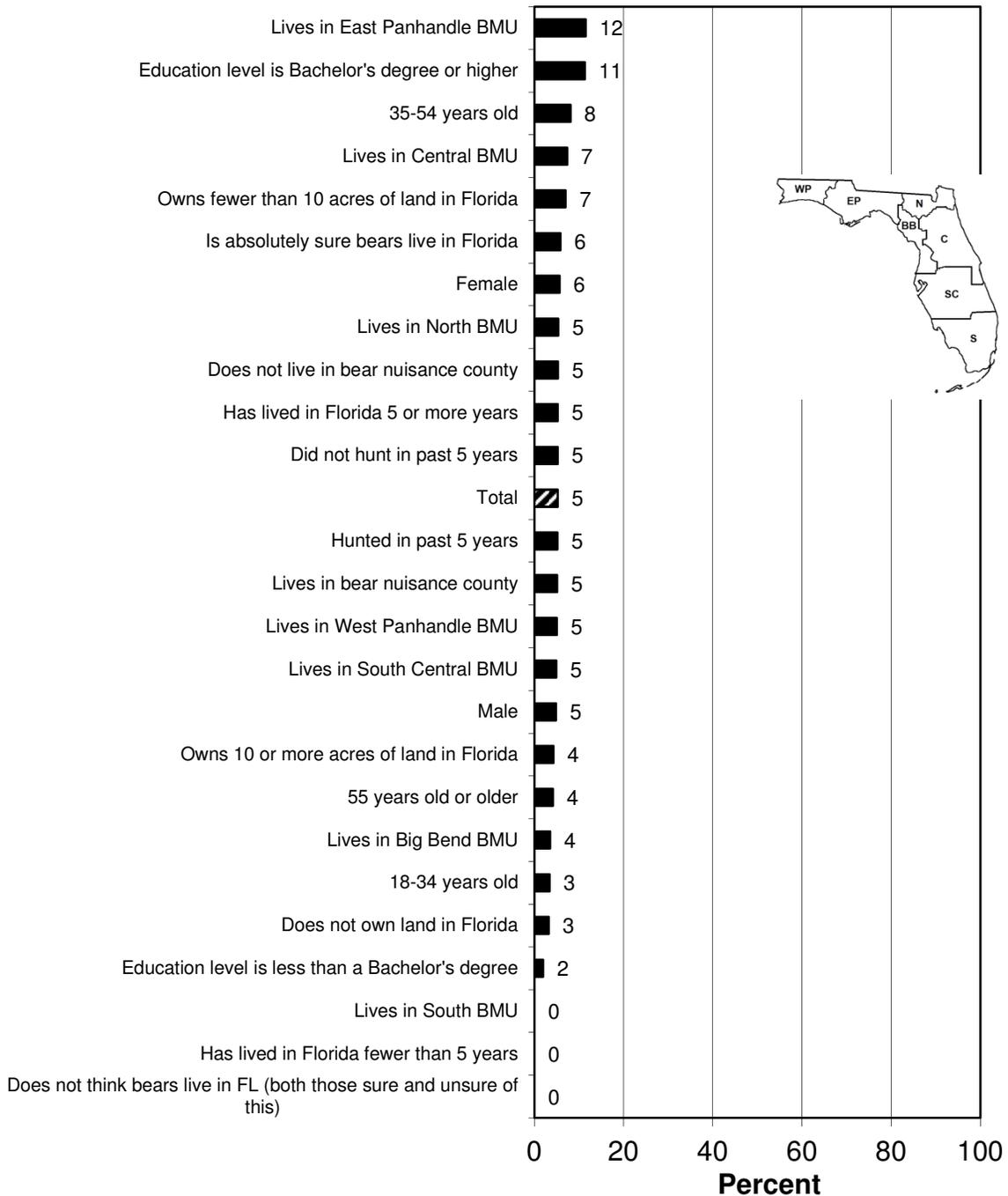


**Q29. Would you describe seeing the bear as a positive, a neutral, or a negative experience?
(Asked of those who have ever seen a black bear in the wild in Florida.) (Bear county residents.)**



(See the section titled, "Interpreting Omnigraphs," for an explanation of how to interpret this graph.)

Among those who have seen a black bear in the wild in Florida, the percent of each of the following groups who describe their experience as strongly negative:



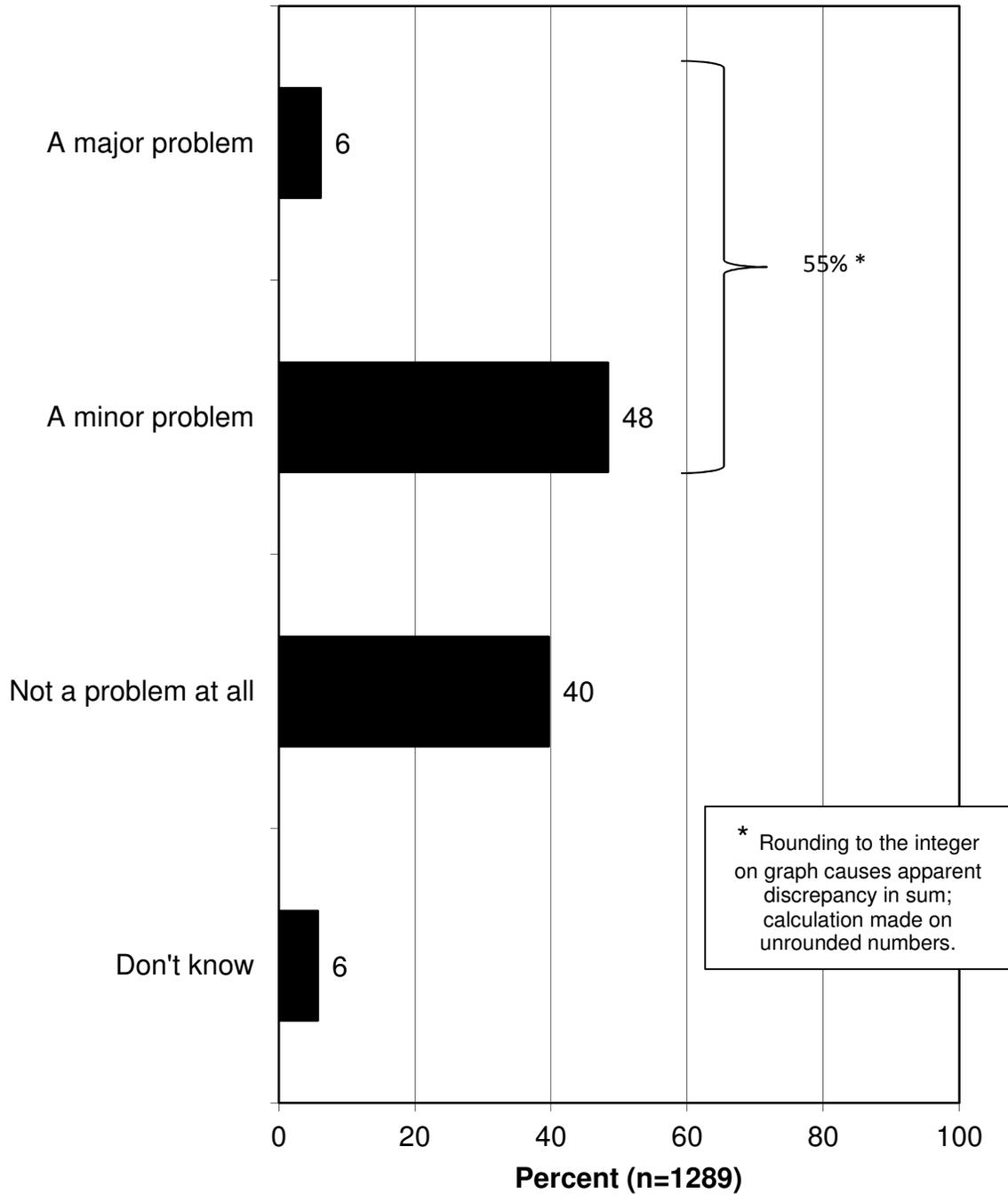
PROBLEMS WITH BLACK BEARS

- The majority of Florida residents (55%) say that black bears are a problem *in the state*, but only 6% say that they are a major problem. However, when residents are asked if black bears are a problem *in their neighborhood*, only 10% say that they are a problem.
 - Residents of the Central bear management unit have the highest percentage saying black bears are a problem in the state. Residents of the Central unit, along with residents of both Panhandle units, have the highest percentage saying that black bears are a problem in their neighborhood—but only 17% at the highest.
 - Urban residents have the lowest percentage who say that black bears are a problem in the state or their neighborhood.
 - Residents of the selected bear counties have a higher rate of thinking that black bears are a problem in the state: 65% do so, with 9% saying that bears are a major problem. Furthermore, they have a higher percentage, relative to Florida residents overall, saying that black bears are a problem in their neighborhood (22%).
 - An omnigraph is included of those thinking bears are a major problem, showing respondent characteristics associated with that opinion.

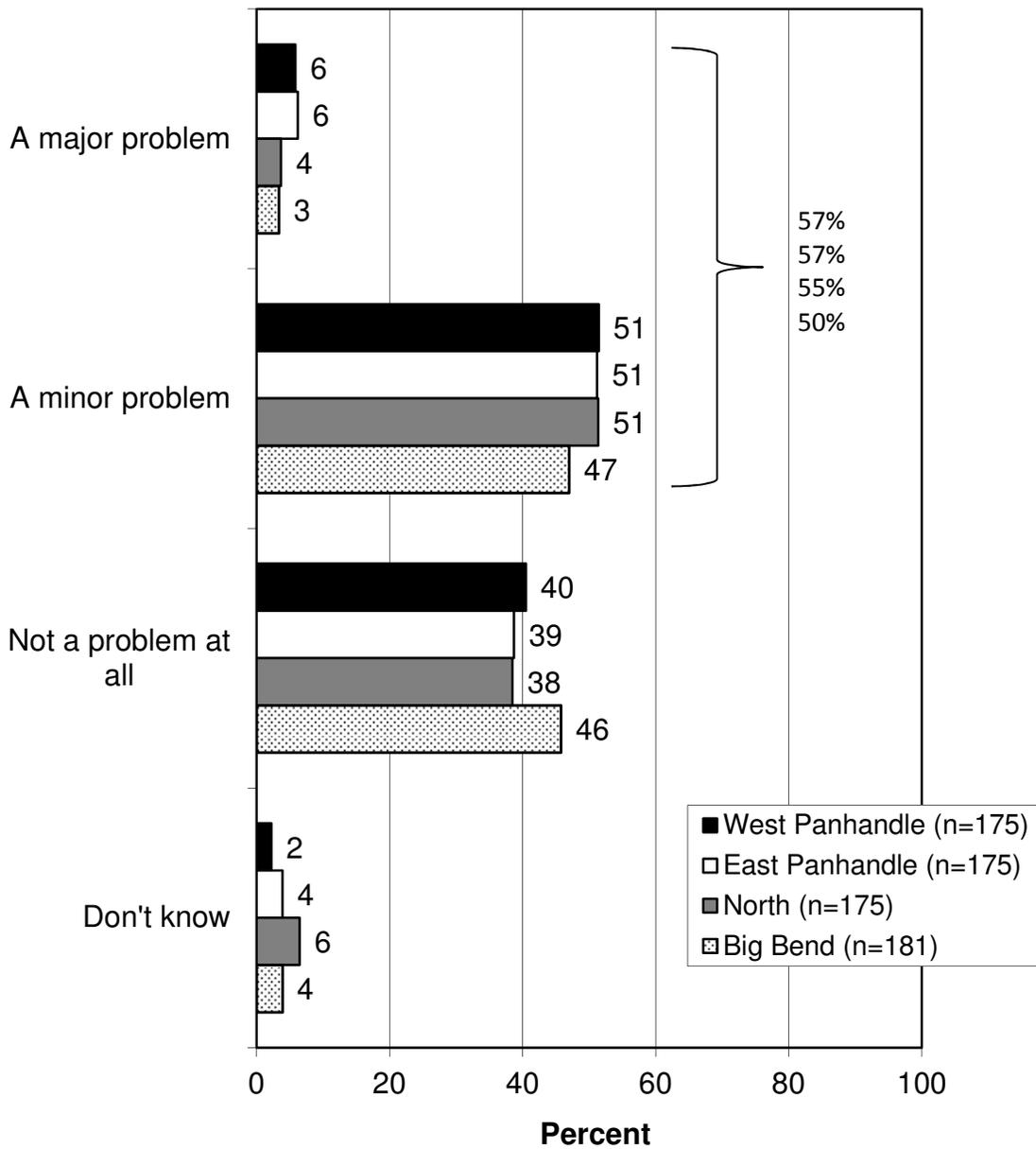
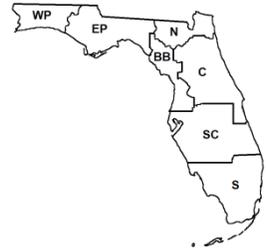
- The questions above ask only about perceptions of whether bears are a problem. The next questions concern actual problems experienced. For residents statewide, 3% have had problems with or property damage from black bears in the past 2 years. The most common problems are bears getting into garbage (60% of those who had problems) and damaged property (54%).
 - The Central unit (10%), West Panhandle unit (9%), and East Panhandle unit (6%) have the highest percentages of residents who experienced black bear problems.
 - Rural residents have a higher percentage saying that they experienced a problem.
 - Residents of the selected bear counties have a 10% rate of experiencing black bear problems, considerably higher than residents overall.
 - An omnigraph is included of those who experienced a problem, showing respondent characteristics associated with that response.

- Of those who had a problem with black bears, 20% contacted someone outside of friends or family for assistance with the problem. This equates to approximately 1% of Florida residents overall.
 - Results are shown crosstabulated by bear management unit, for those units that had a sample size of at least 15 respondents on the question (only those who had problems received the follow-up questions). On the units that are shown, the sample sizes are, nevertheless, small.
 - Results are also shown crosstabulated by residency, but only small city/town and rural residents had sufficient sample sizes to be shown.
 - Among residents of the selected bear counties who had black bear problems, 30% contacted someone outside of friends or family for assistance with the problem.

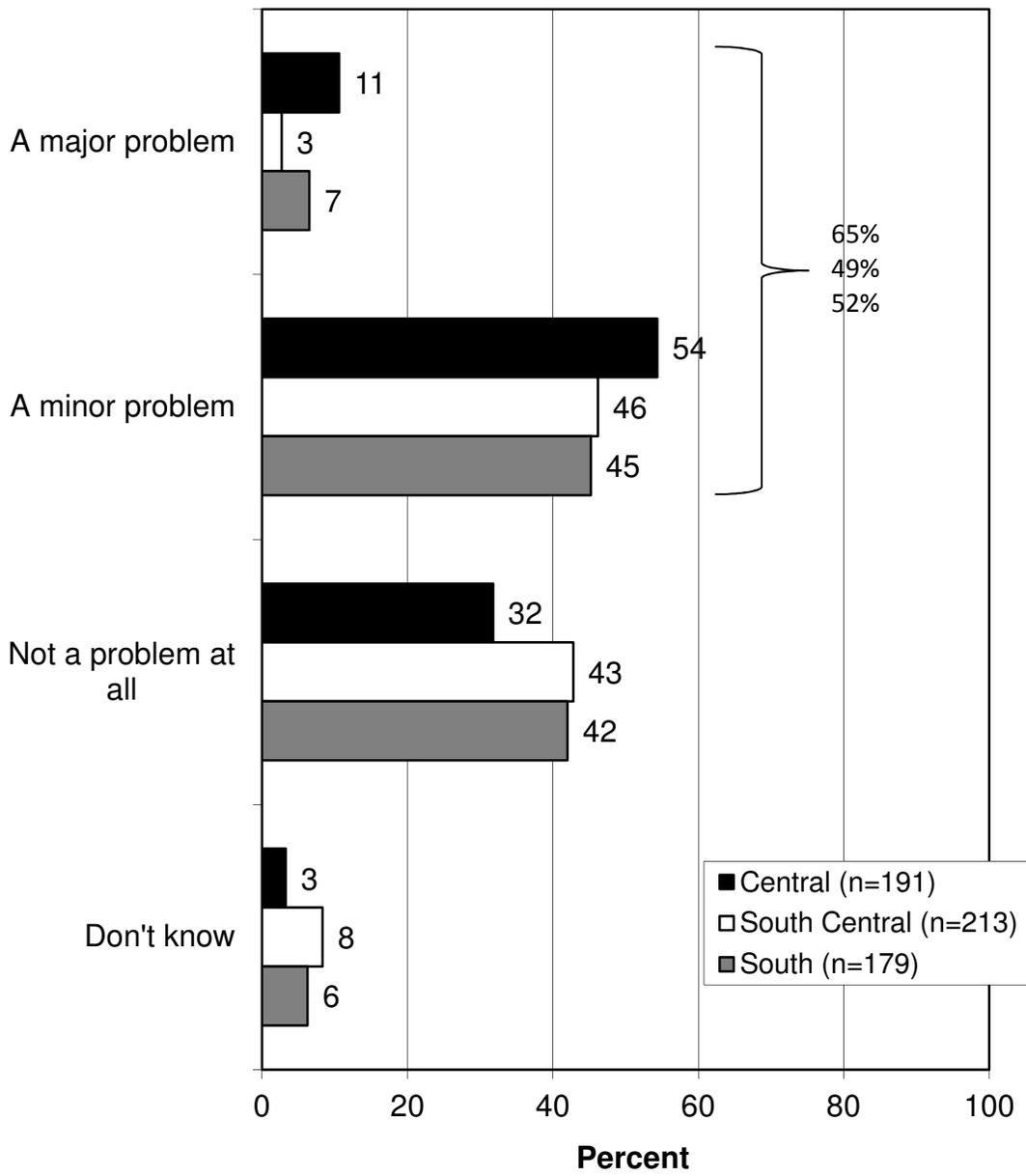
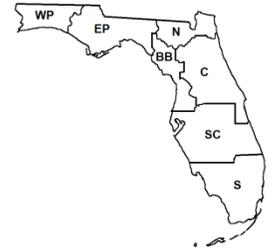
Q50. How much of a problem would you say black bears are in Florida in general?



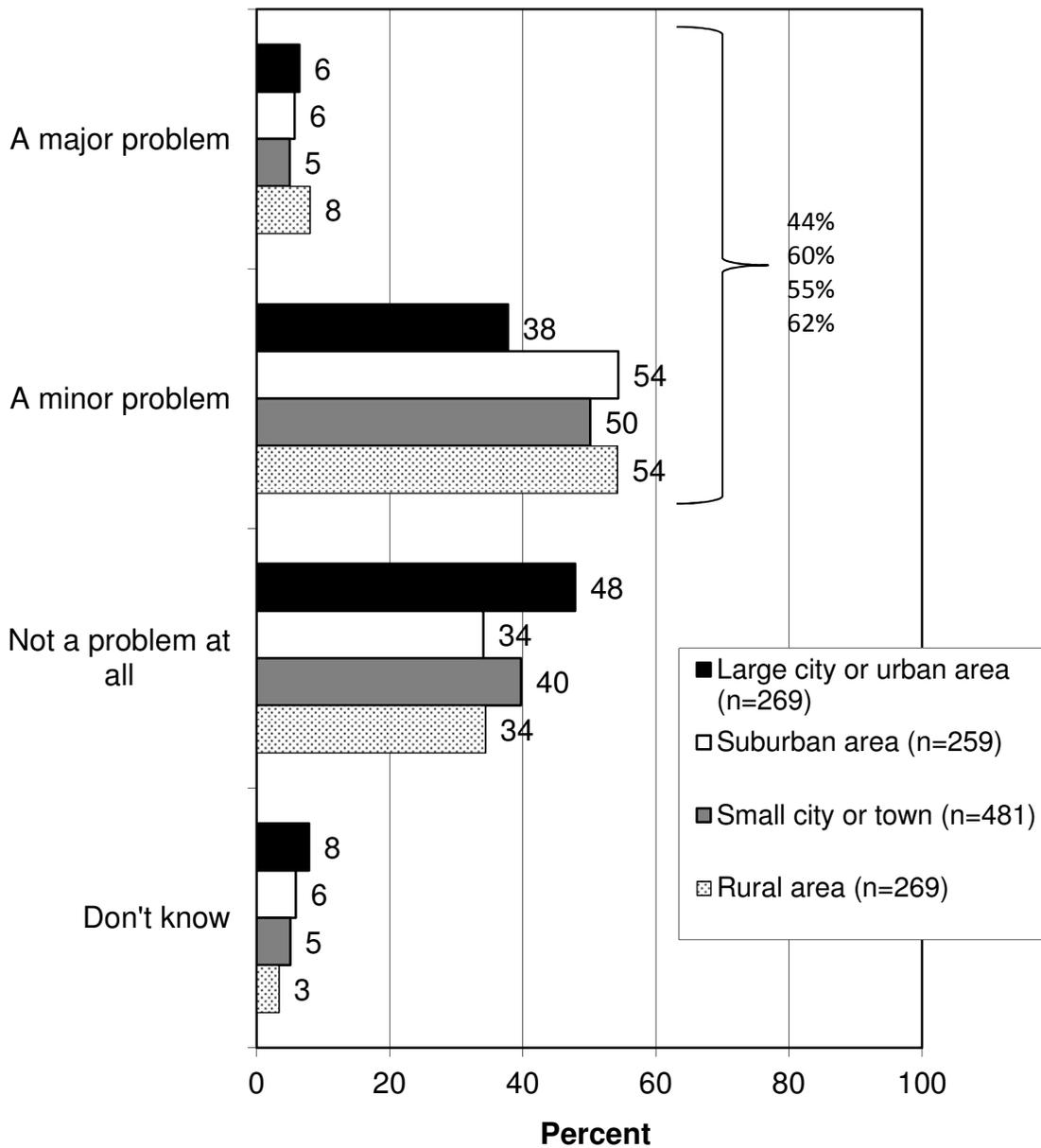
Q50. How much of a problem would you say black bears are in Florida in general?



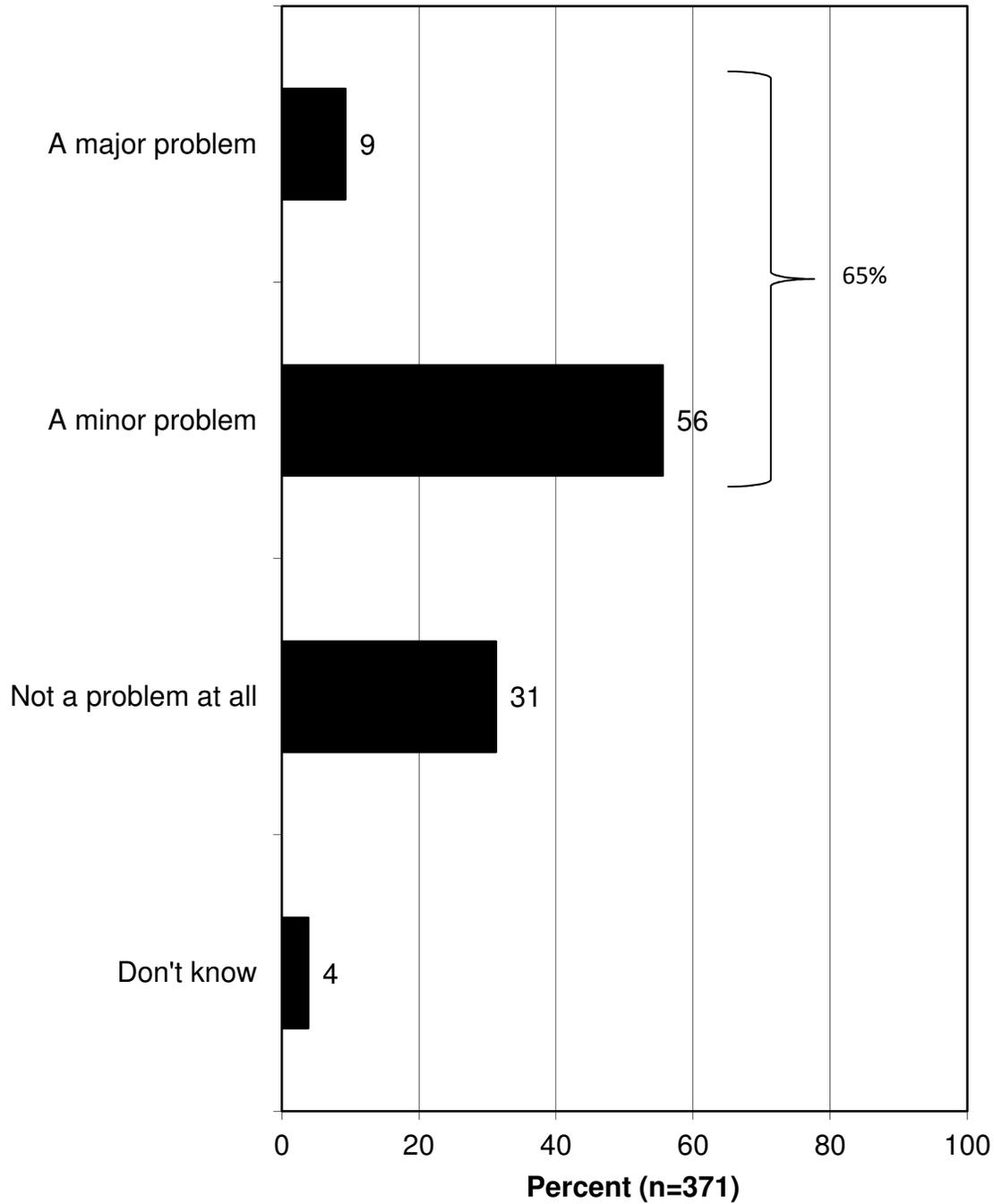
Q50. How much of a problem would you say black bears are in Florida in general?



Q50. How much of a problem would you say black bears are in Florida in general?



Q50. How much of a problem would you say black bears are in Florida in general? (Bear county residents.)

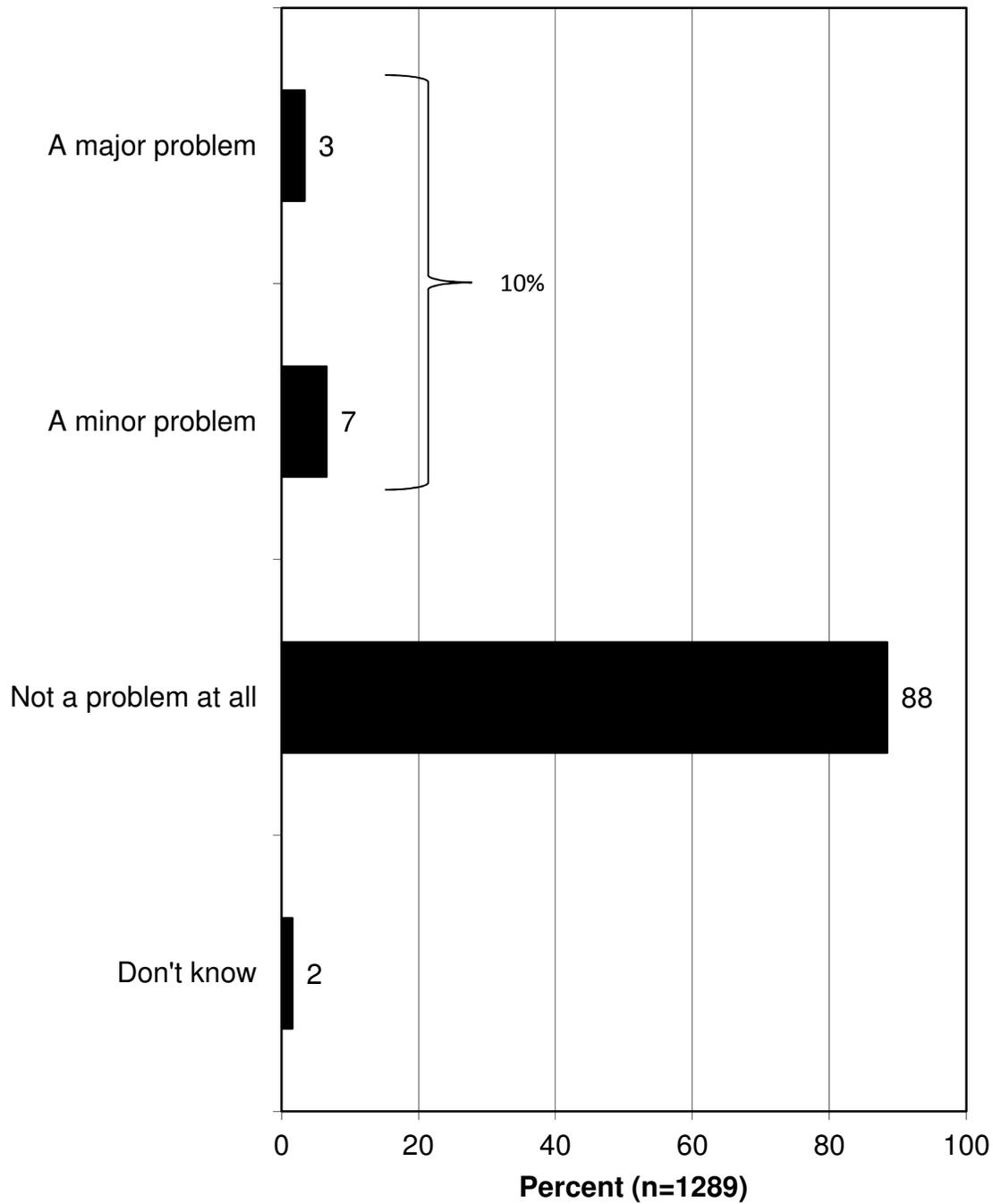


(See the section titled, "Interpreting Omnigraphs," for an explanation of how to interpret this graph.)

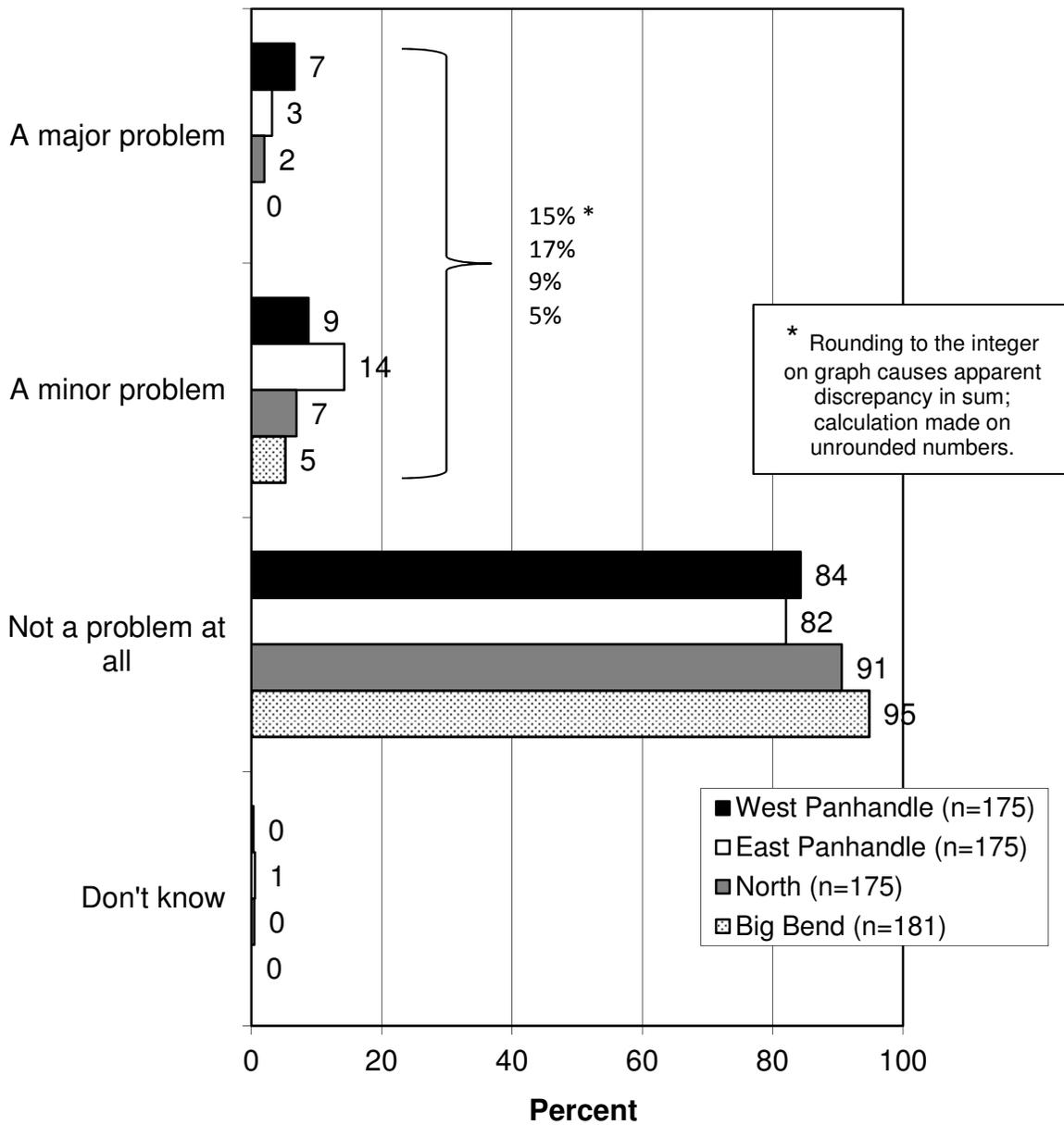
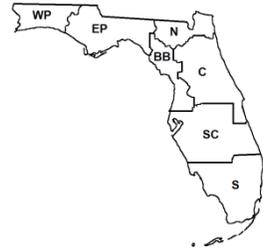
Percent of each of the following groups who think black bears are a major problem in Florida in general:



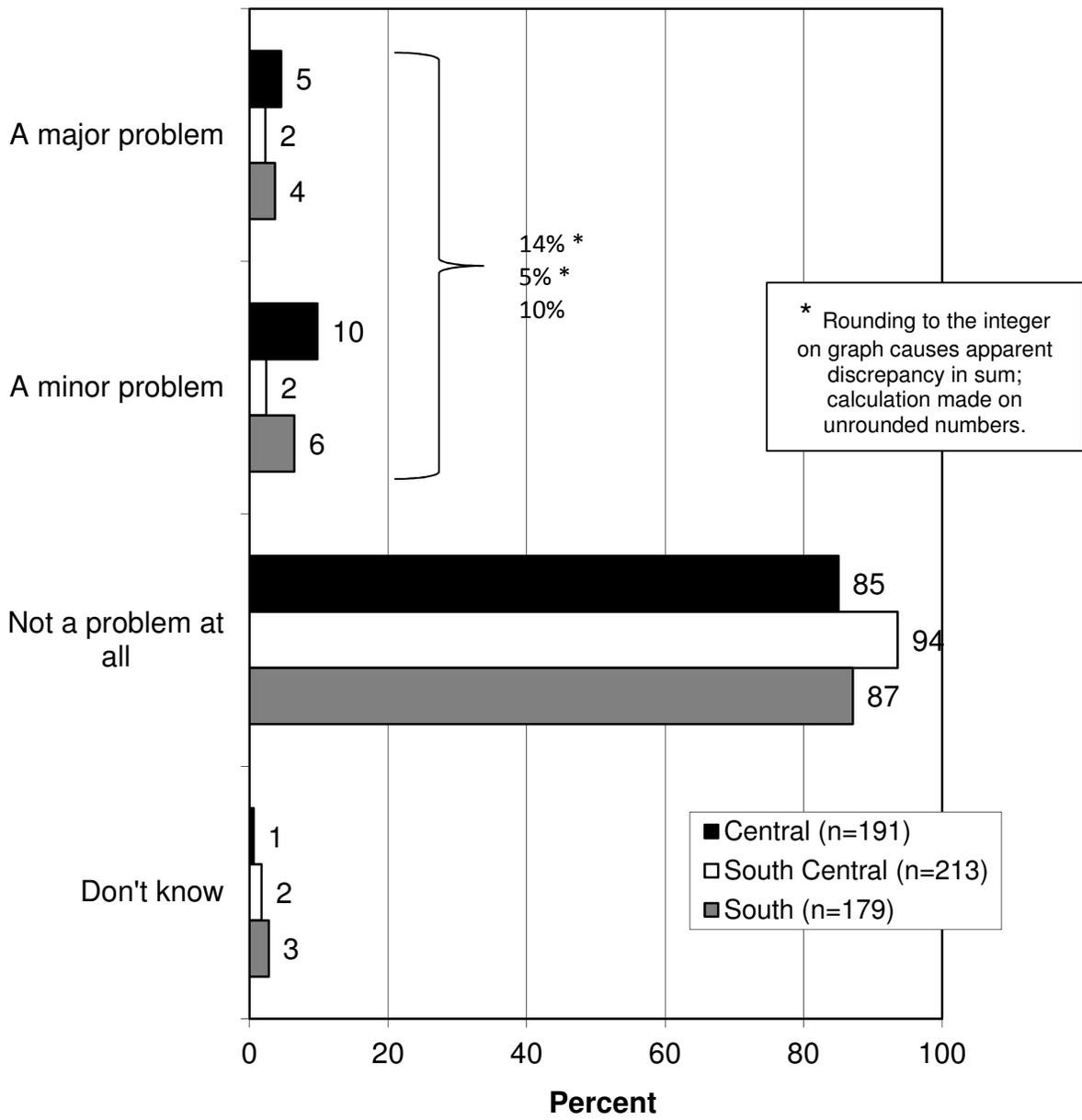
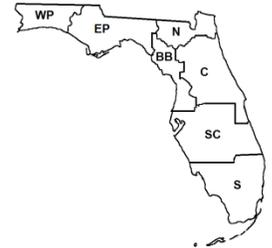
Q51. How much of a problem would you say black bears are for you in your neighborhood?



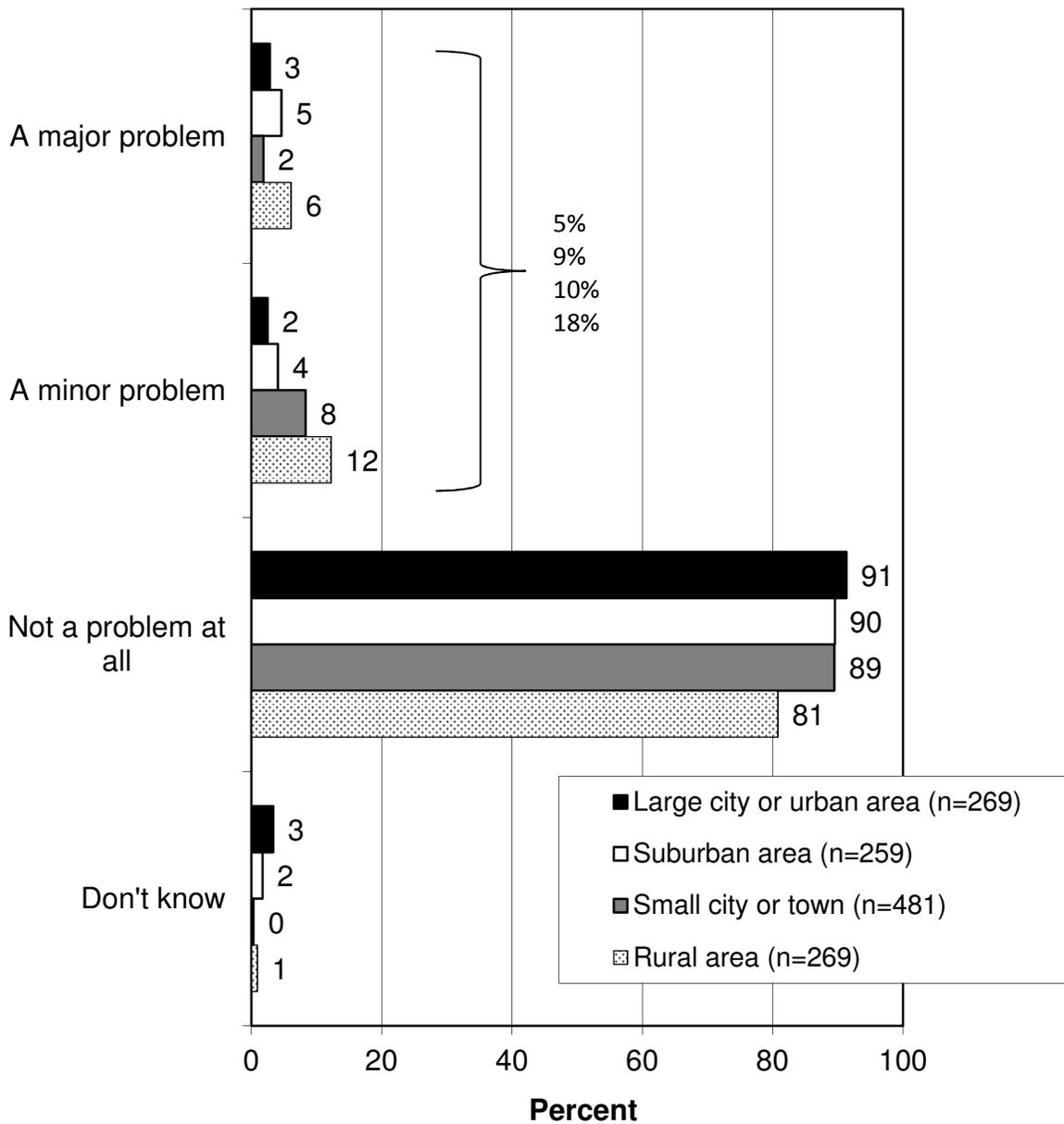
Q51. How much of a problem would you say black bears are for you in your neighborhood?



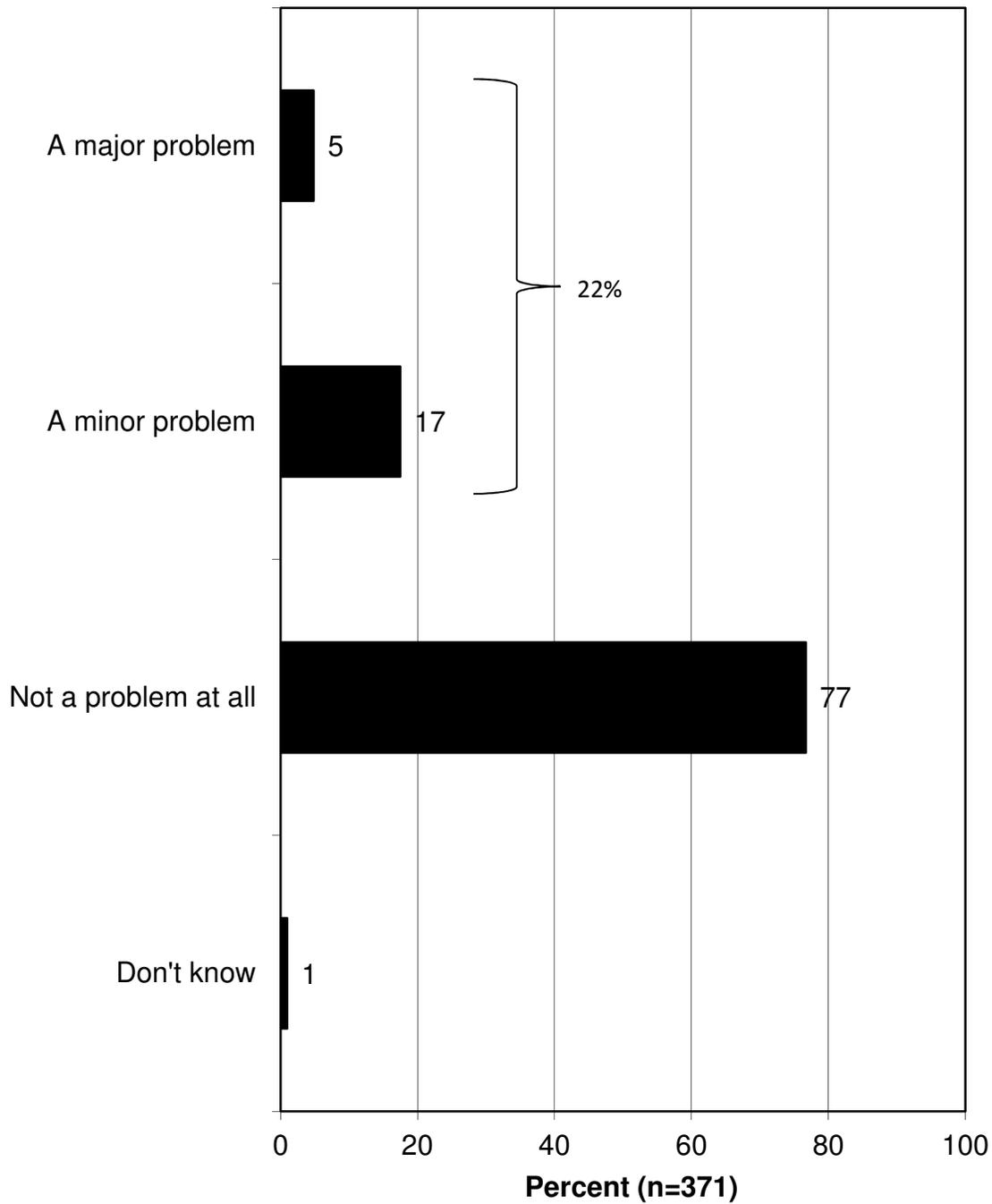
Q51. How much of a problem would you say black bears are for you in your neighborhood?



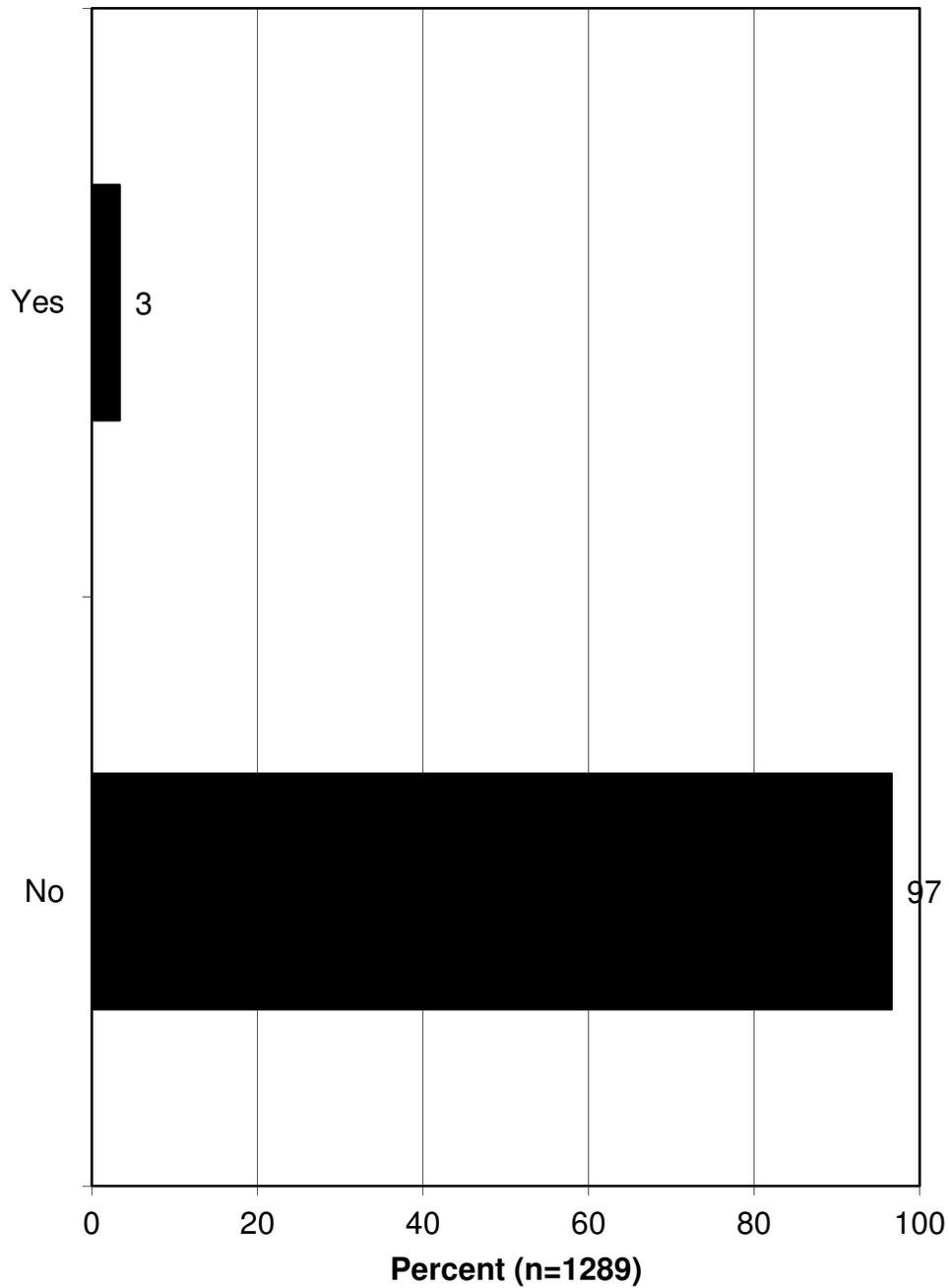
Q51. How much of a problem would you say black bears are for you in your neighborhood?



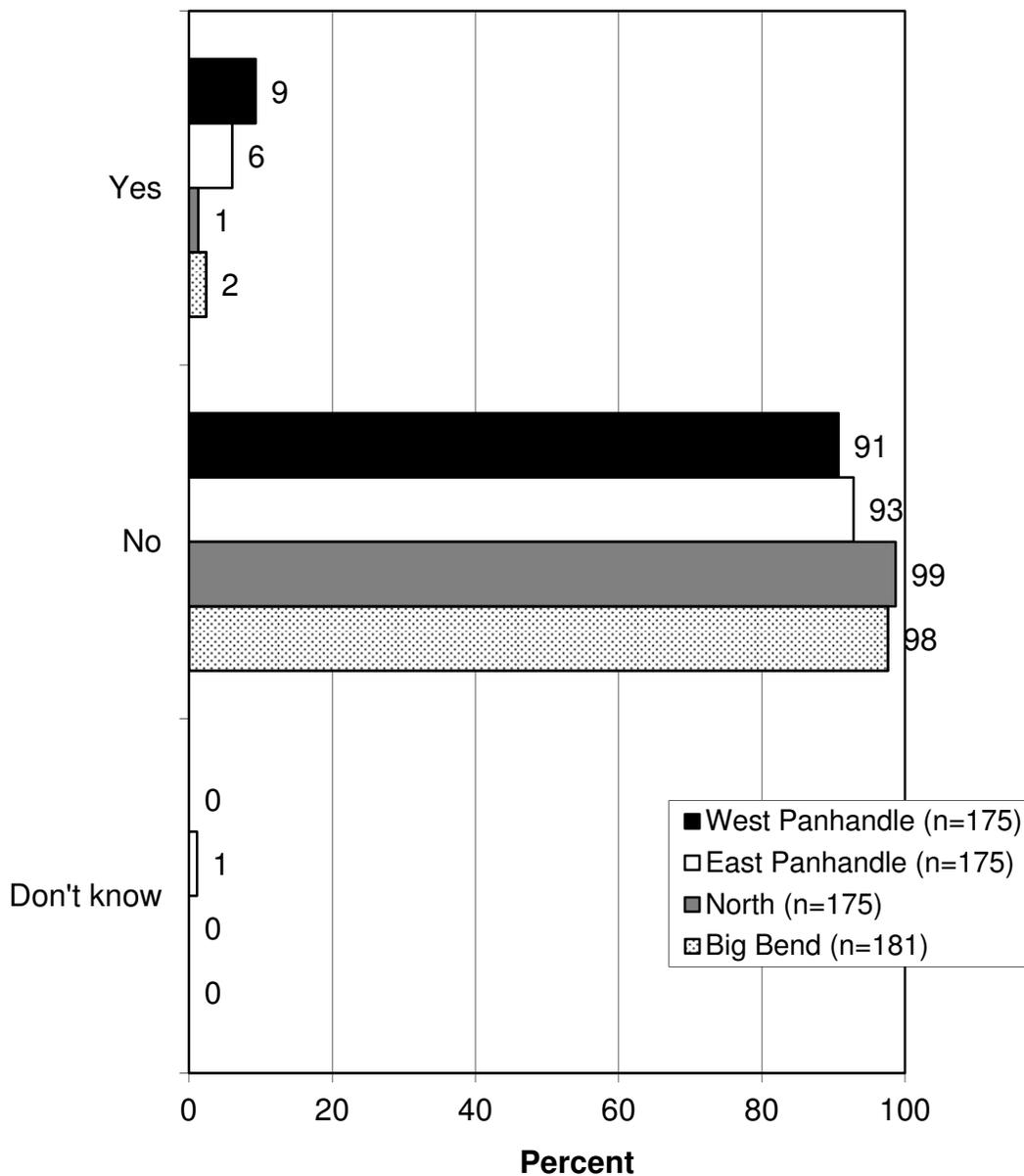
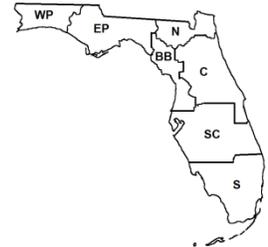
**Q51. How much of a problem would you say
black bears are for you in your neighborhood?
(Bear county residents.)**



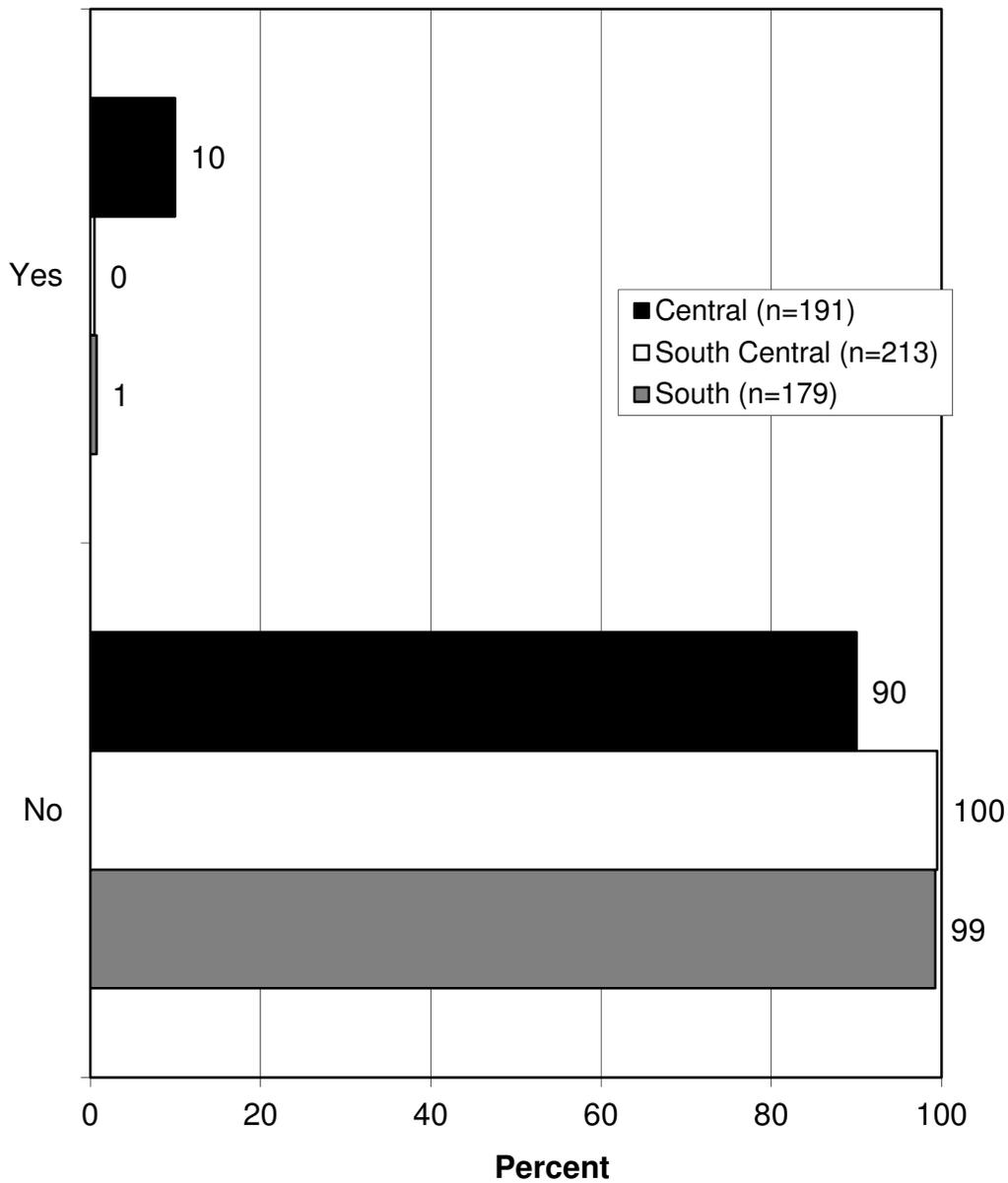
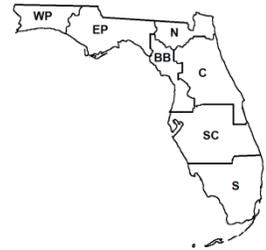
Q52. Have you personally had any problems with, or property damage from, black bears within the past 2 years in Florida?



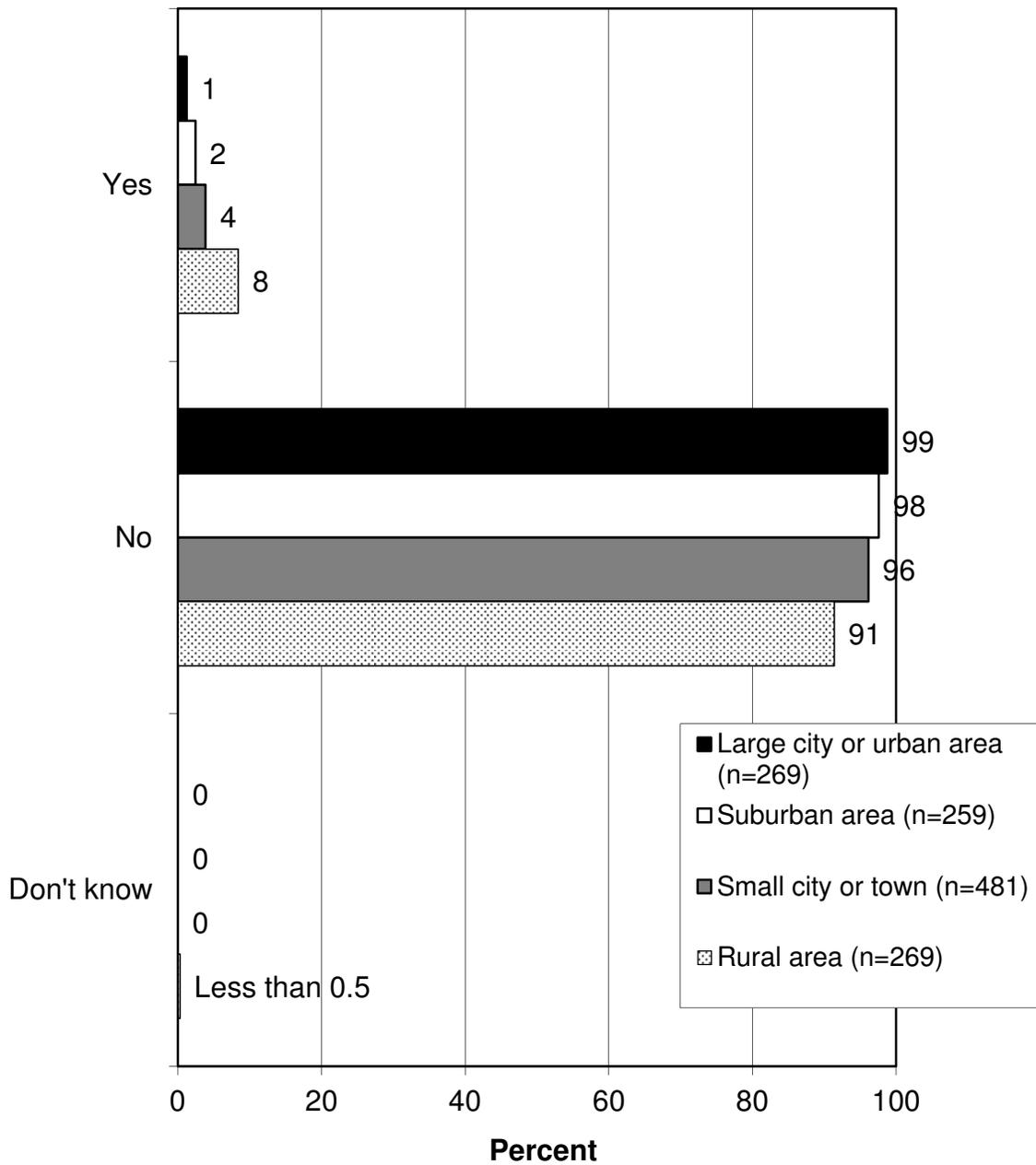
Q52. Have you personally had any problems with, or property damage from, black bears within the past 2 years in Florida?



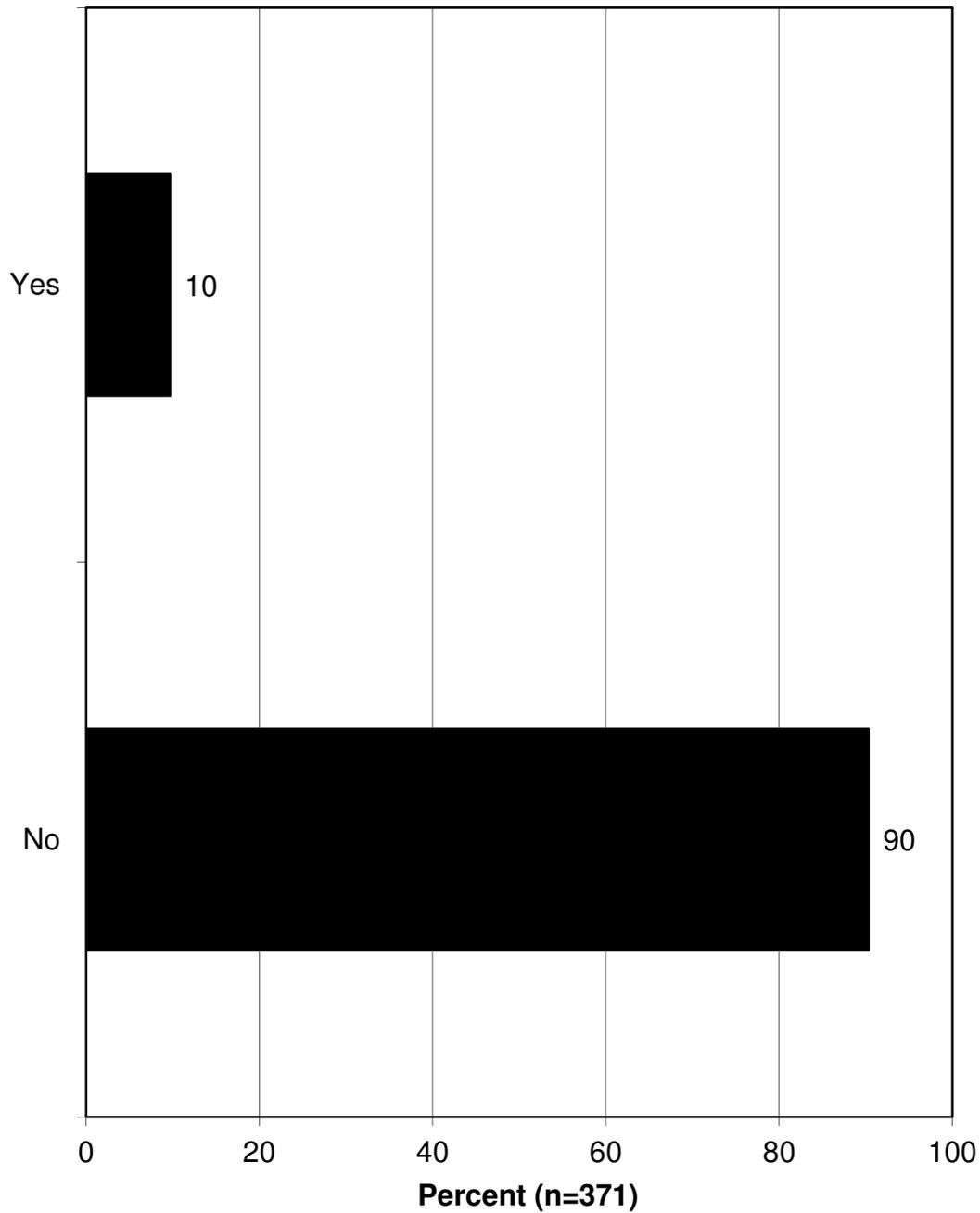
Q52. Have you personally had any problems with, or property damage from, black bears within the past 2 years in Florida?



Q52. Have you personally had any problems with, or property damage from, black bears within the past 2 years in Florida?



Q52. Have you personally had any problems with, or property damage from, black bears within the past 2 years in Florida? (Bear county residents.)

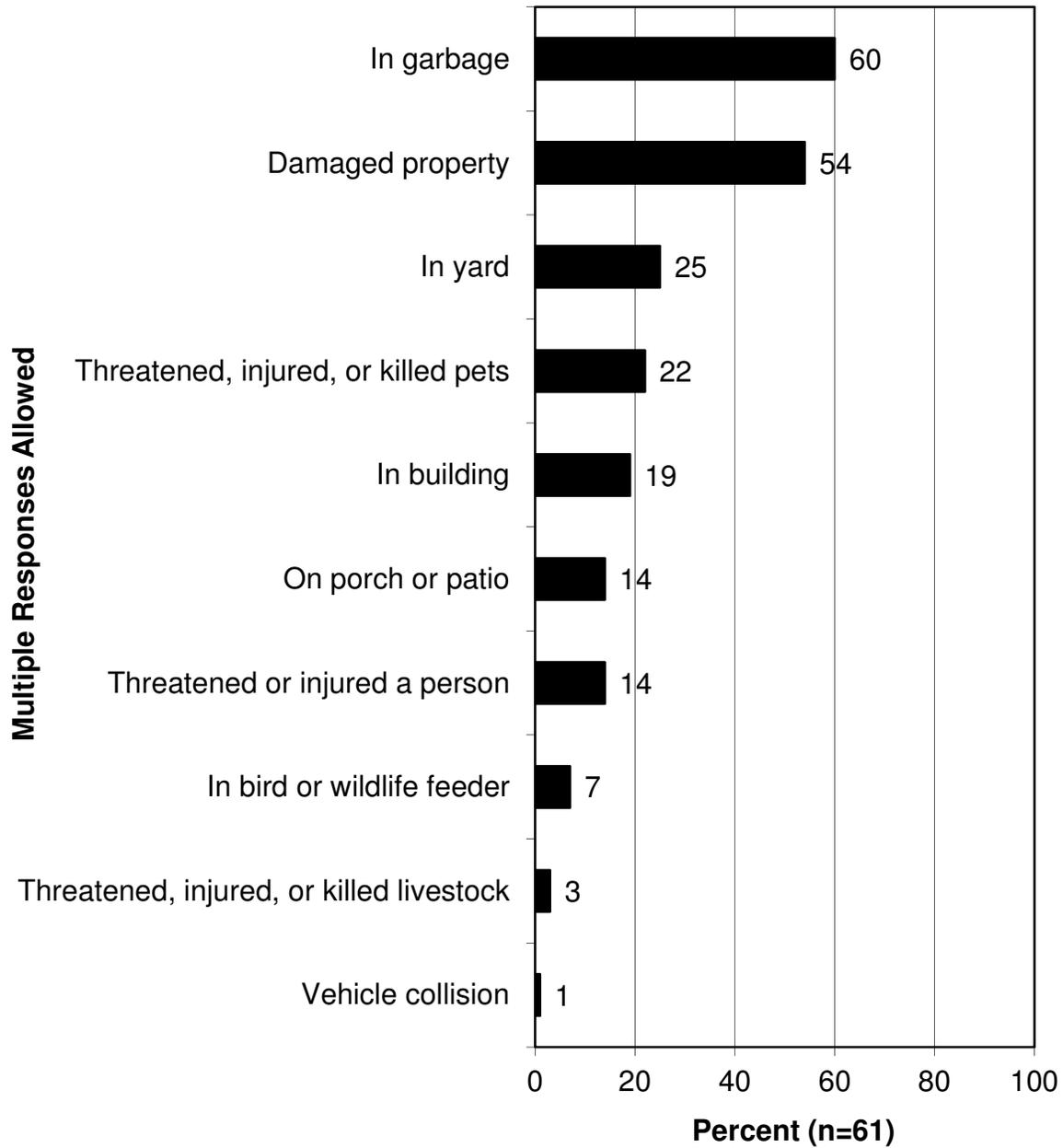


(See the section titled, “Interpreting Omnigraphs,” for an explanation of how to interpret this graph.)

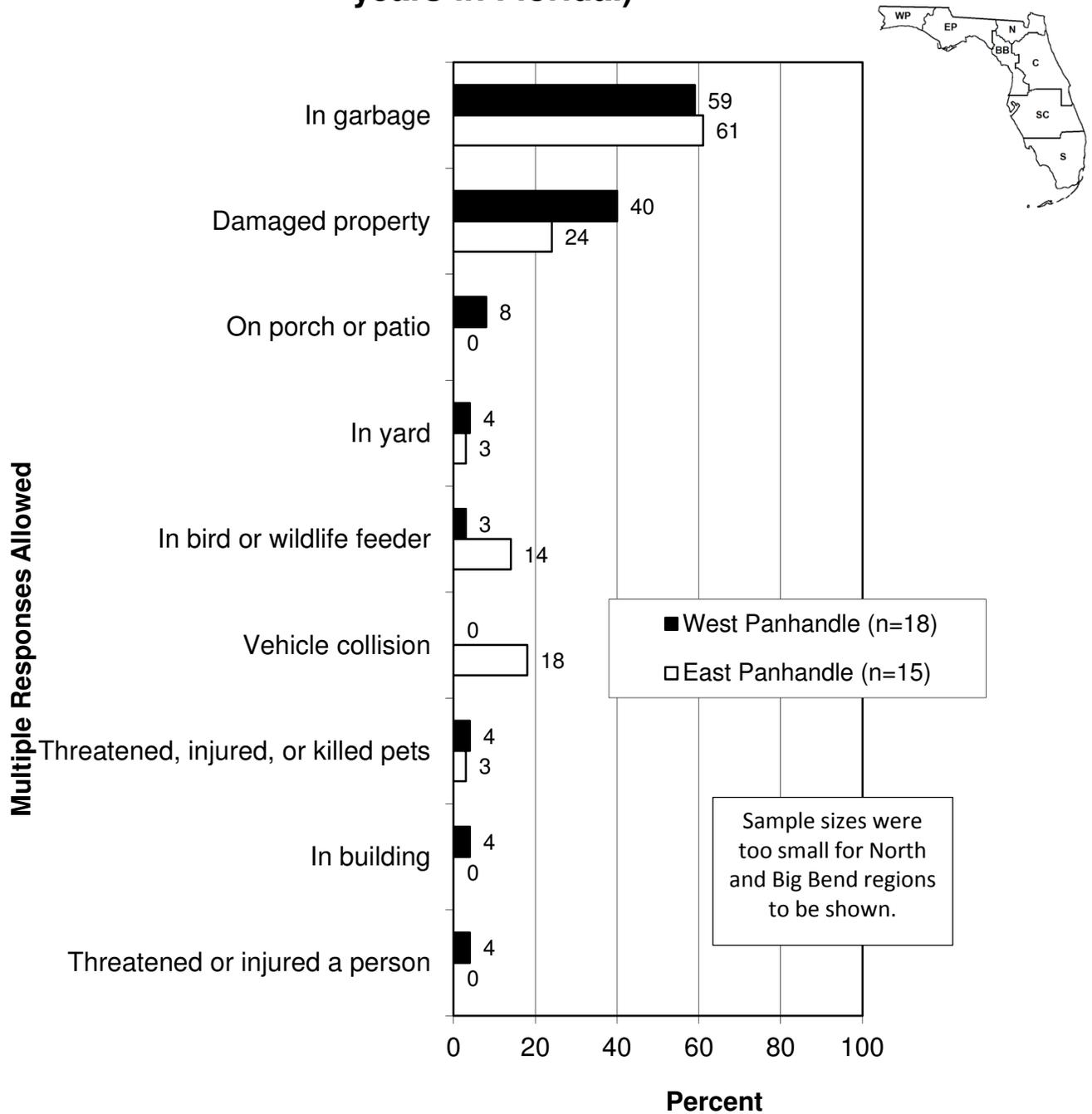
Percent of each of the following groups who have experienced problems with black bears in Florida in the past 2 years:



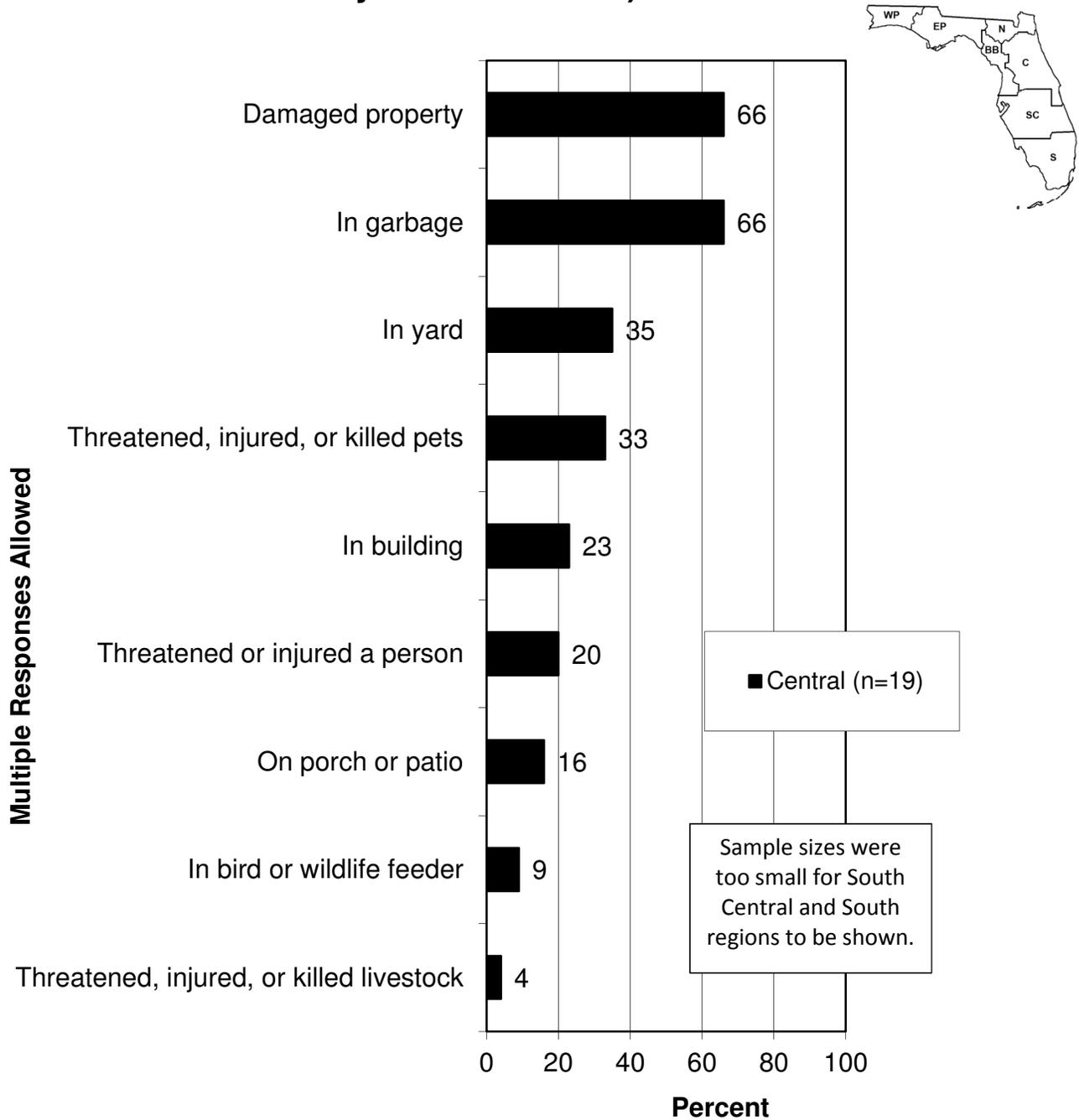
Q55. What types of problems did you have with black bears? (Asked of those who have had any problems with black bears within the past 2 years in Florida.)



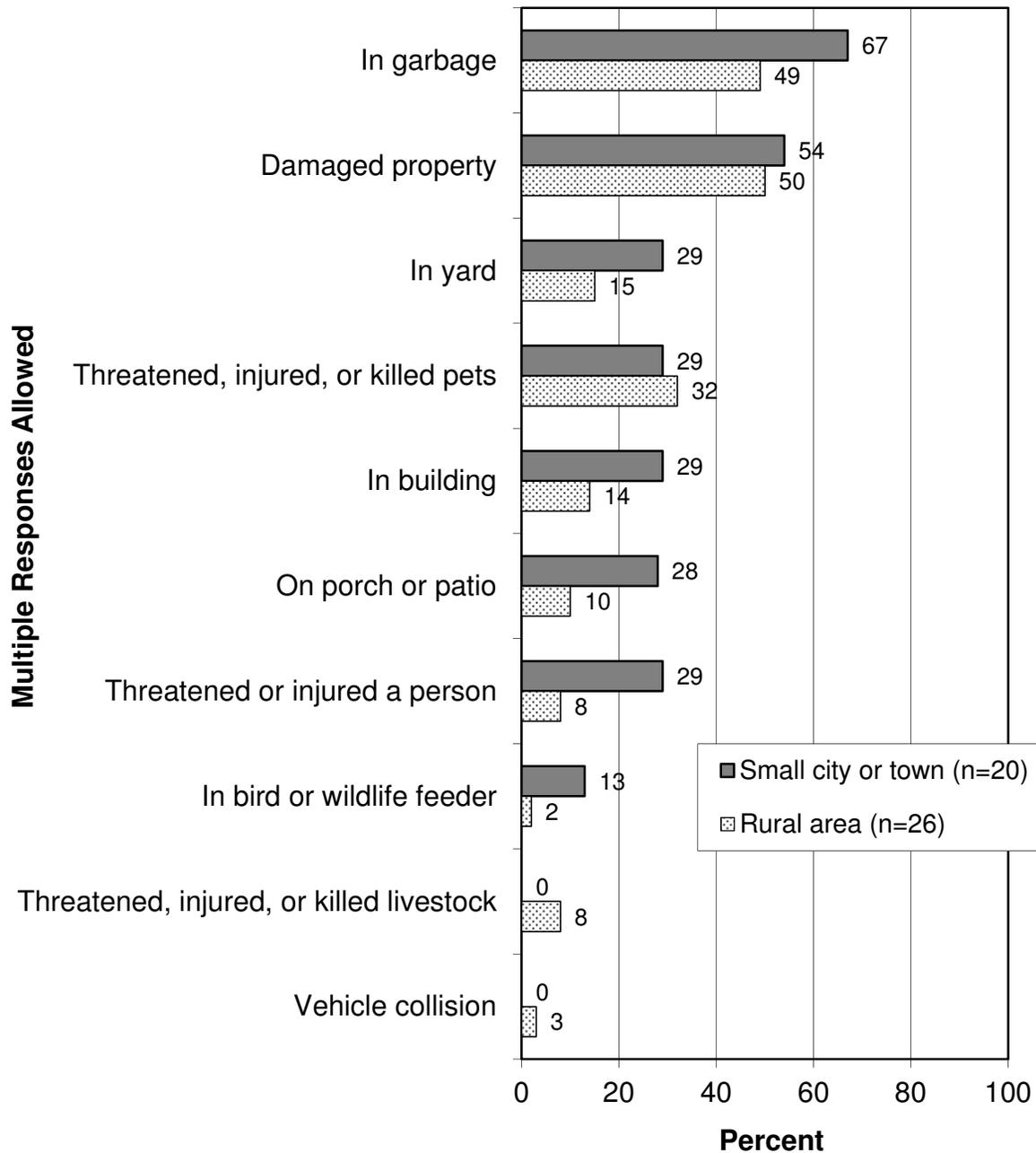
Q55. What types of problems did you have with black bears? (Asked of those who have had any problems with black bears within the past 2 years in Florida.)



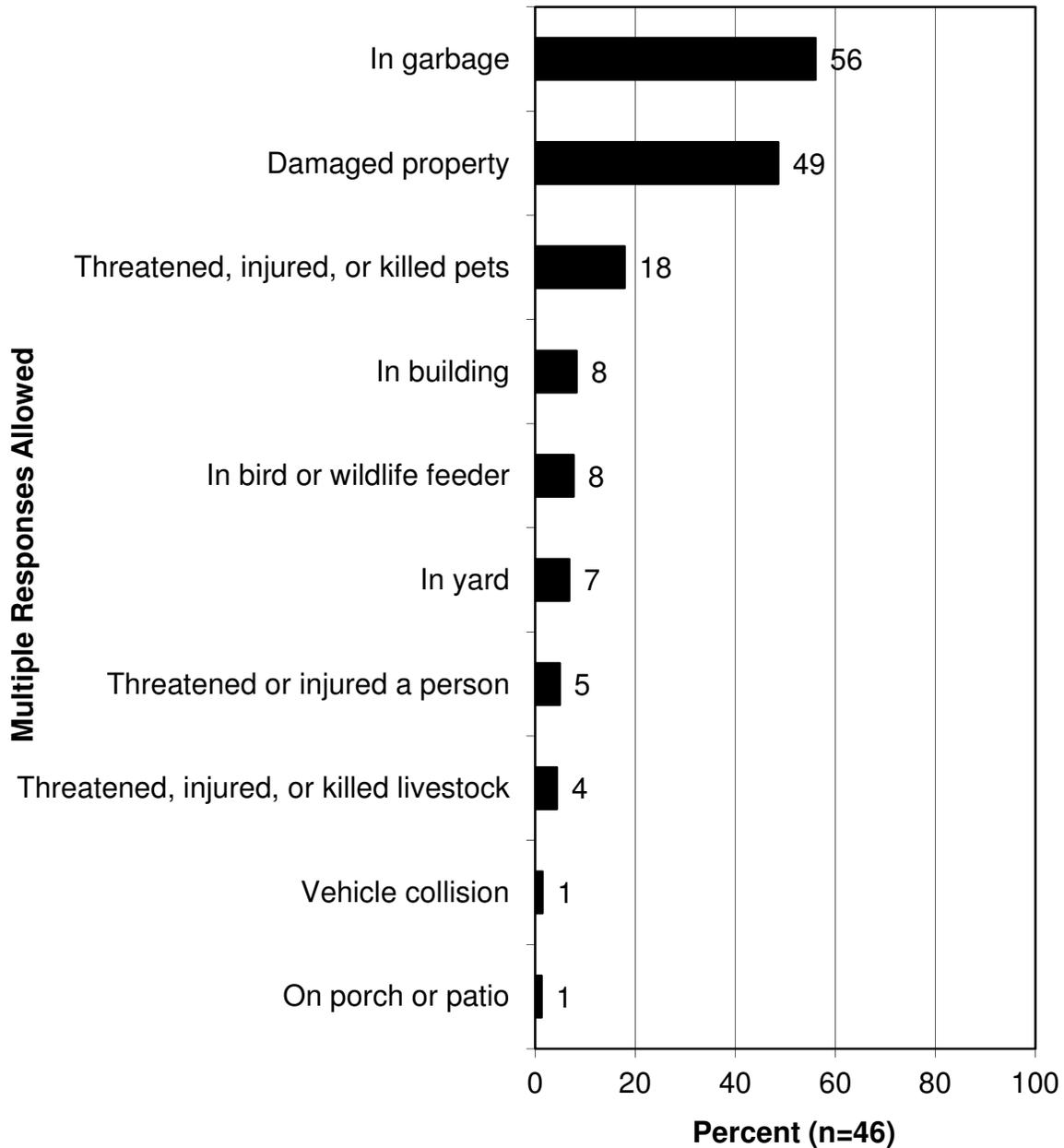
Q55. What types of problems did you have with black bears? (Asked of those who have had any problems with black bears within the past 2 years in Florida.)



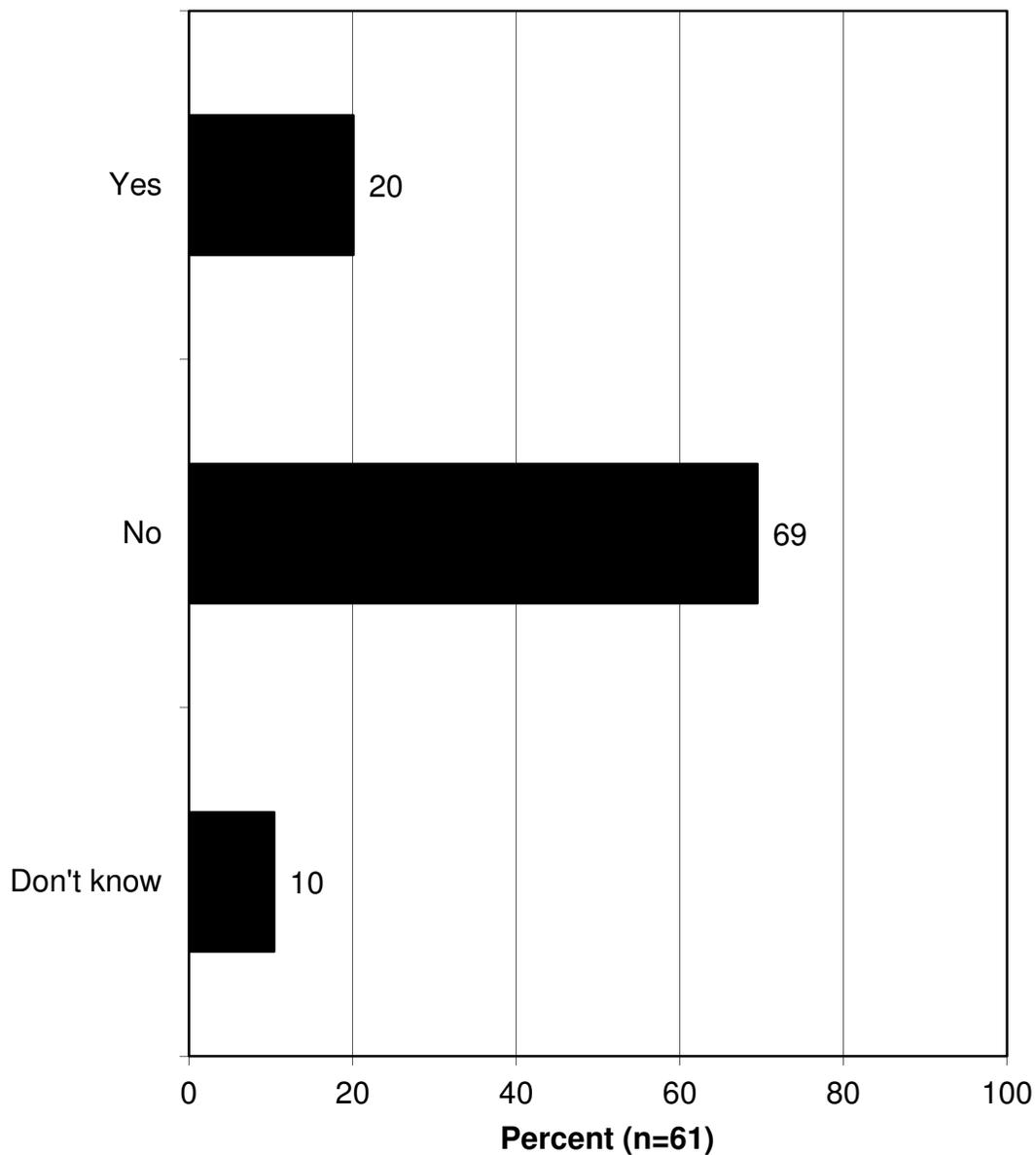
Q55. What types of problems did you have with black bears? (Asked of those who have had any problems with black bears within the past 2 years in Florida.)



Q55. What types of problems did you have with black bears? (Asked of those who have had any problems with black bears within the past 2 years in Florida.) (Bear county residents.)

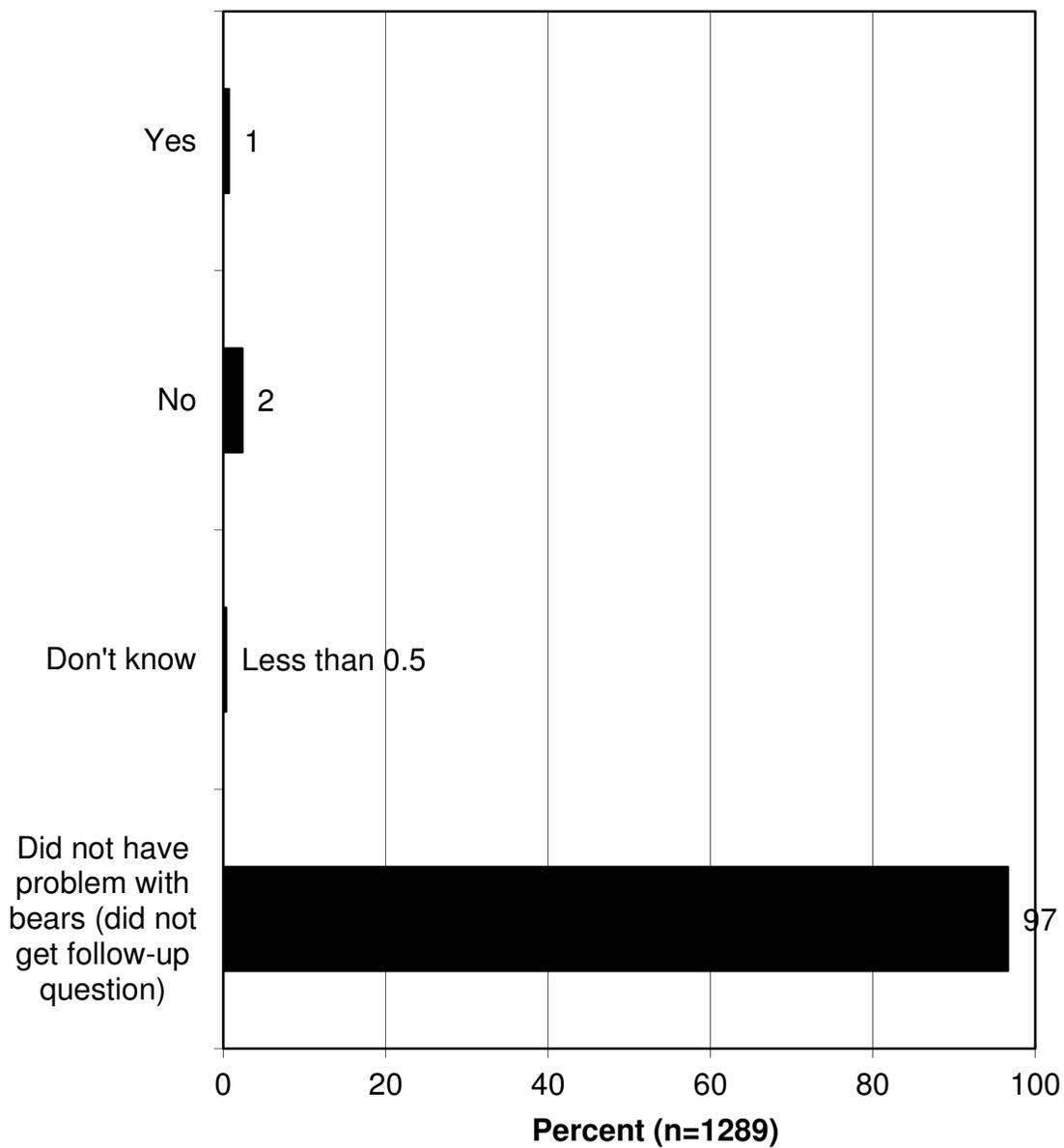


Q57. Did you contact anyone outside of friends or family for assistance with your problem with black bears? (Asked of those who have had any problems with black bears within the past 2 years in Florida.)



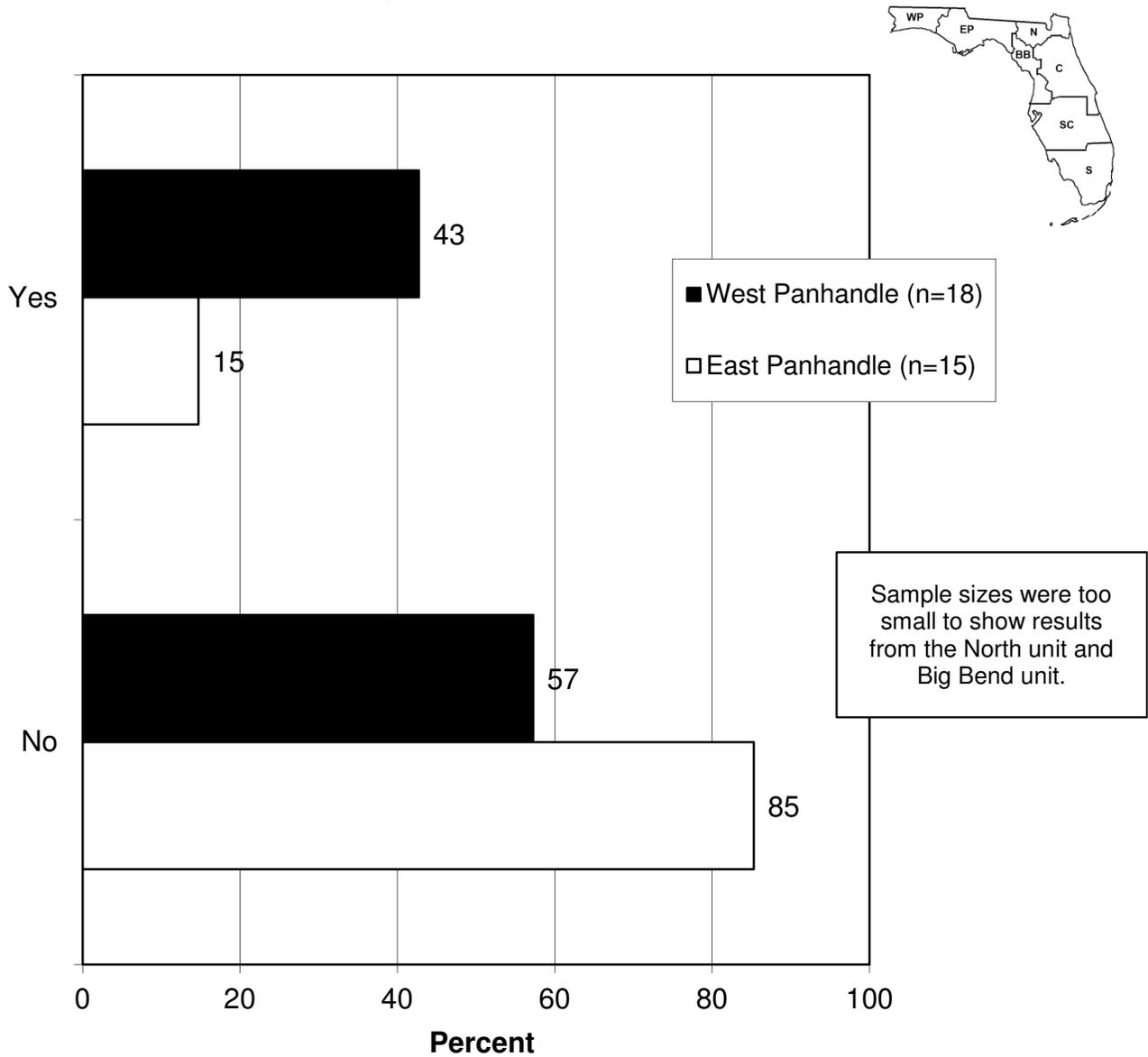
(Note: the following graph shows the results of the question out of all residents, including those who did not receive the question.)

Q57. Did you contact anyone outside of friends or family for assistance with your problem with black bears? (Among all residents in Florida.)

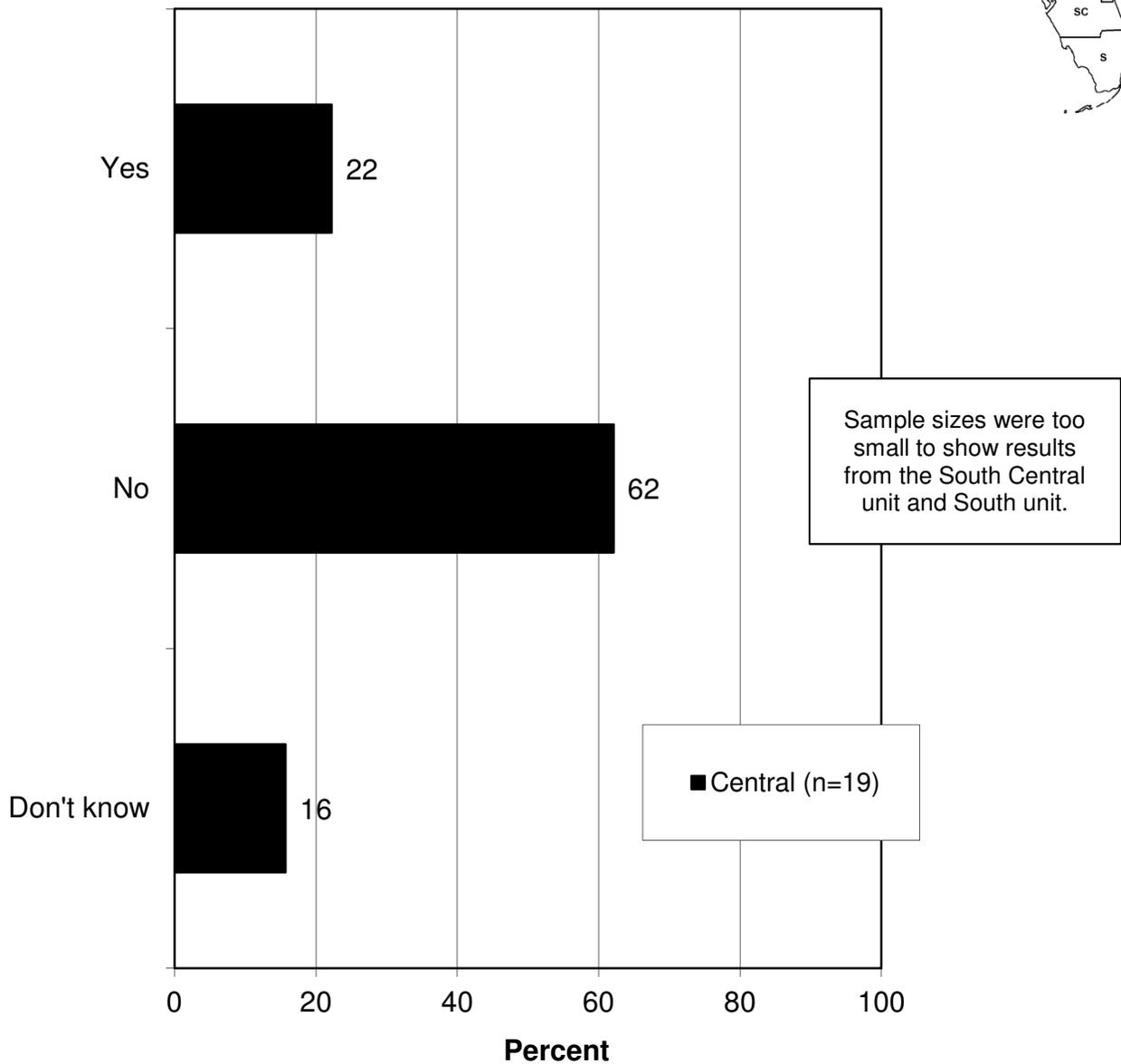
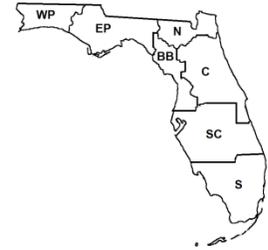


(Note: the results overall on the previous page are shown out of everybody, including those who did not get the question. Because the percentage who received the question is relatively low, the results are shown only of those who received the question rather than of all residents for the following crosstabulations.)

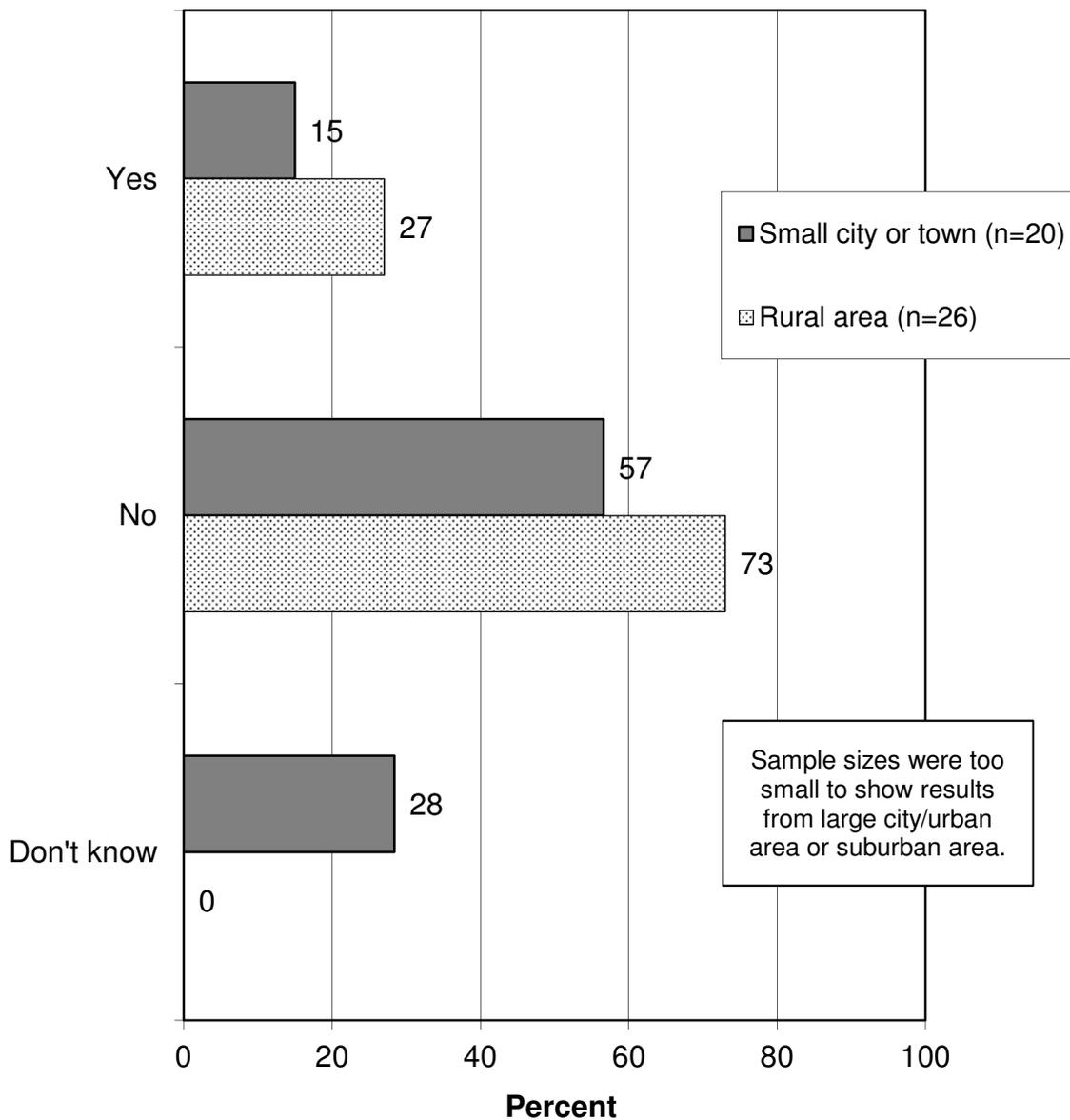
Q57. Did you contact anyone outside of friends or family for assistance with your problem with black bears? (Asked of those who have had any problems with black bears within the past 2 years in Florida.)



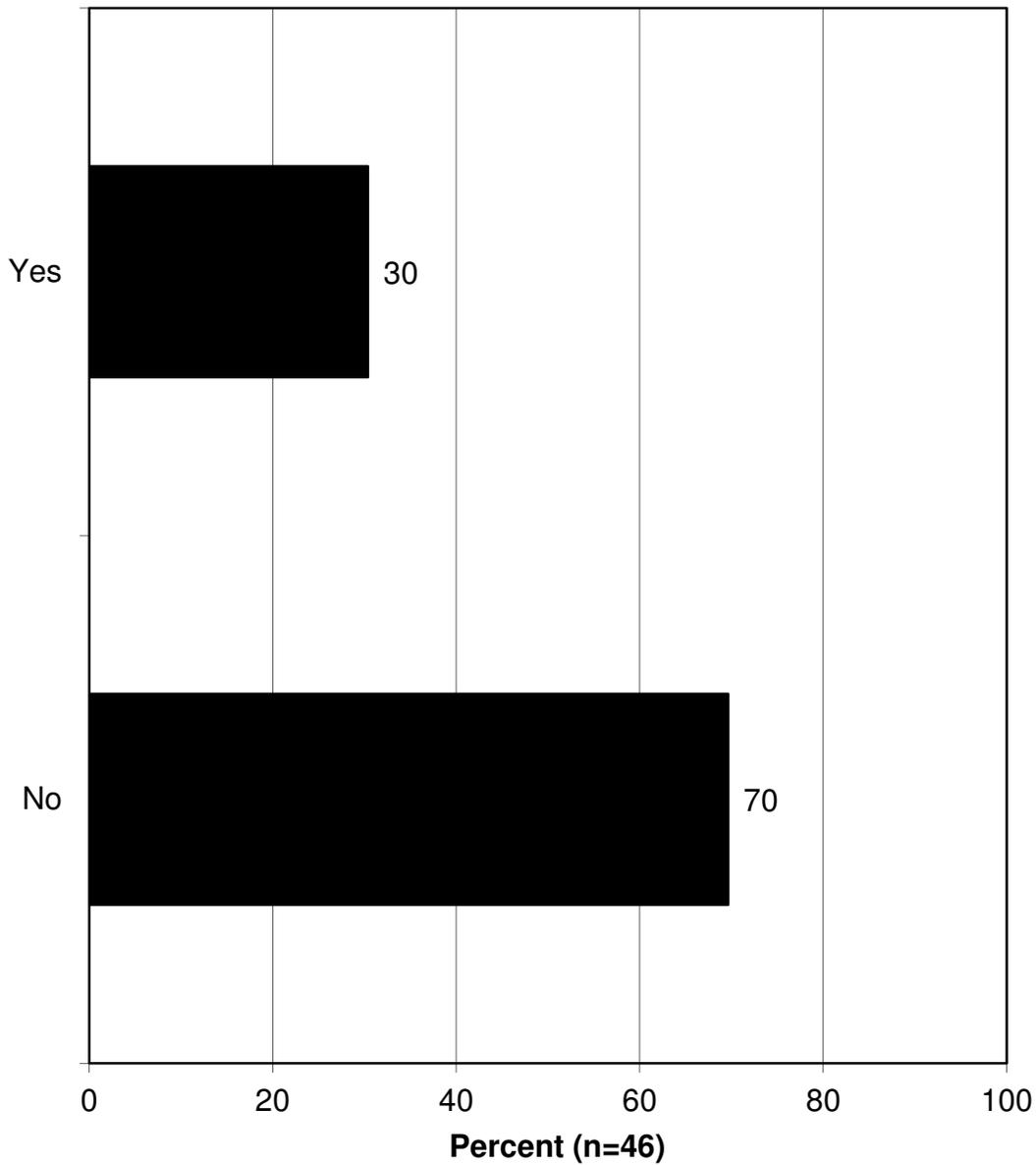
Q57. Did you contact anyone outside of friends or family for assistance with your problem with black bears? (Asked of those who have had any problems with black bears within the past 2 years in Florida.)



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Q57. Did you contact anyone outside of friends or family for assistance with your problem with black bears? (Asked of those who have had any problems with black bears within the past 2 years in Florida.) (Bear county residents.)



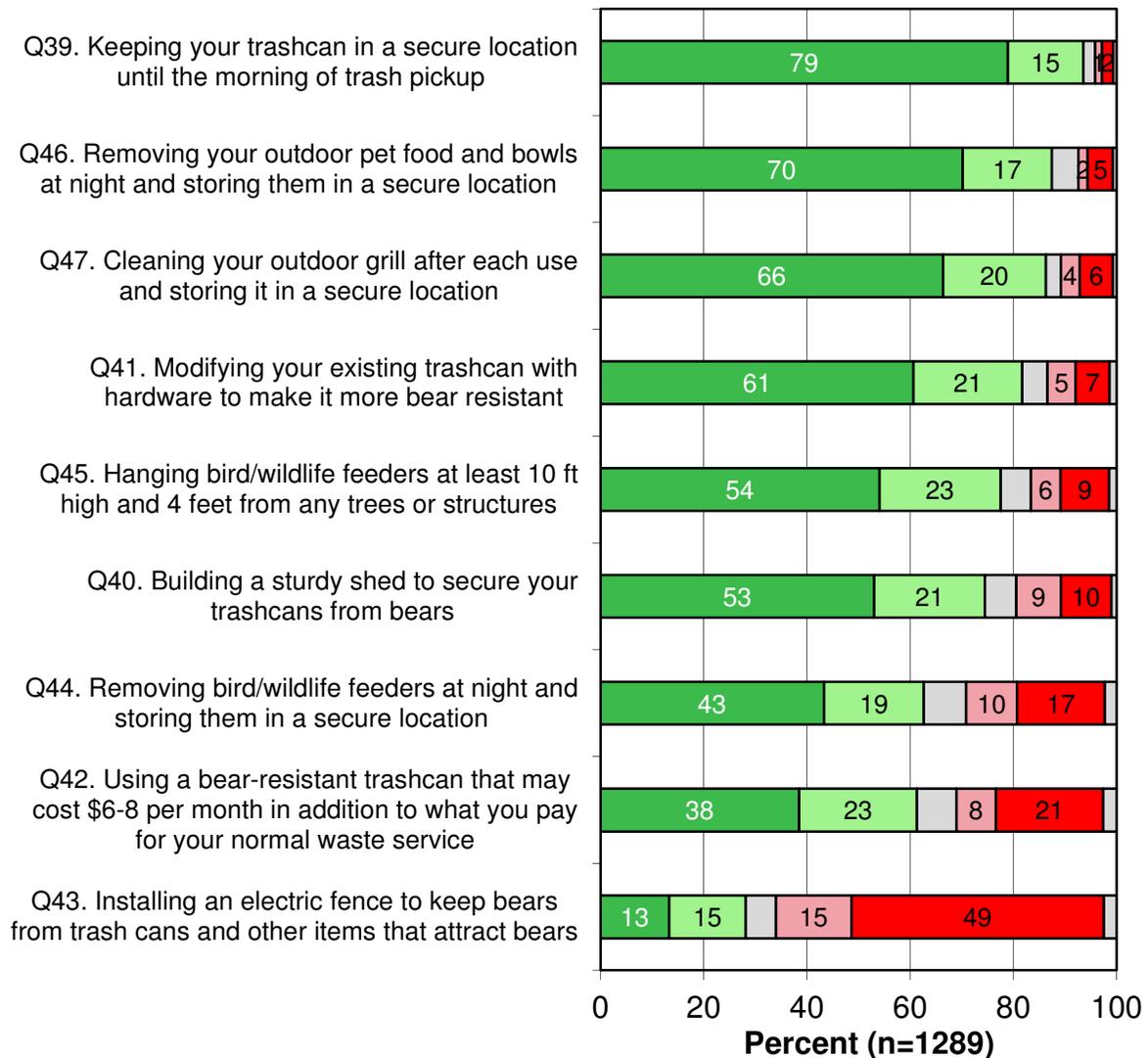
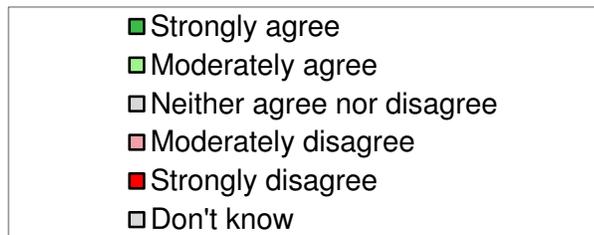
WILLINGNESS TO TAKE ACTIONS TO ADDRESS NEGATIVE HUMAN-BEAR INTERACTIONS

- The survey presented a series of potential actions to Florida residents. They were asked, “Please tell me if you agree or disagree that you would be willing to take each of the following actions recommended by FWC to reduce conflicts with bears.” Nine potential actions were included in the survey. Among residents overall, a majority agree that they would be willing to do each of the actions except one. The top actions in the ranking are keeping trashcans in a secure location, removing pet feeding bowls from outside, cleaning outdoor grills after each use, and modifying trashcans to make them more bear-resistant.
 - For the crosstabulations by bear management unit, the color-coded data presentation that was used for the overall results cannot be used. Instead, four graphs are shown for these crosstabulated data runs: the percentages strongly agreeing, the percentages strongly or moderately agreeing combined, the percentages strongly or moderately disagreeing combined, and the percentages strongly disagreeing.

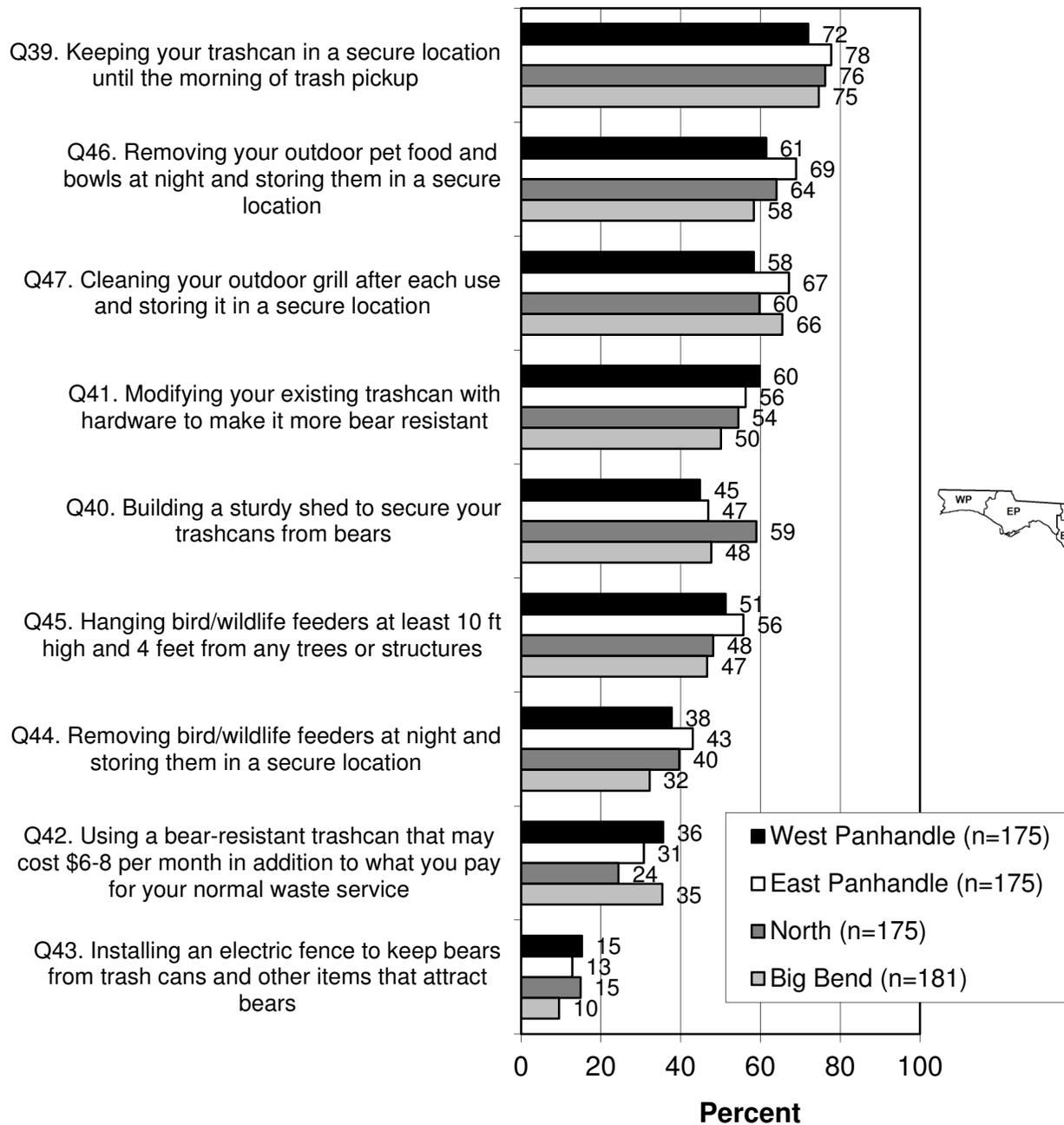
- Three questions asked about residents’ opinions on feeding bears, and a fourth question asked about inadvertent feeding through unsecured trashcans.
 - The vast majority of Florida residents (83%) disagree that it is okay to feed wildlife or leave food out for wildlife (note that, because the survey was about black bears, it is unlikely that birds were considered when respondents answered the question, and this should not be considered to apply to birdfeeders being put out to feed birds).
 - The crosstabulations did not find marked differences on these question results.
 - Nearly two-thirds of state residents (64%) say that they are aware that it is illegal to feed bears in Florida.
 - The crosstabulations by bear management unit found no marked differences in this knowledge level.
 - Rural residents have the highest percentage being aware that it is illegal to feed bears in Florida.
 - The crosstabulation by selected bear county residents finds them to have a much higher knowledge level regarding this fact than residents of the state overall: 74% of residents of the selected bear counties say that they know it is illegal to feed bears.

- An omnigraph is presented for those who did not know that it is illegal to feed bears in Florida.
- Support is high among Florida residents overall (84%) for the use of penalties, such as fines, for people who feed bears.
 - The crosstabulations did not find marked differences on these question results.
- Support is also high among Florida residents overall (87%) for requiring people through the use of laws and ordinances to keep their trash secure so that bears cannot access it in areas with high numbers of human-bear conflicts.
 - The crosstabulations did not find marked differences on these question results, with one exception: residents of large cities/urban areas and suburban areas have the highest percentage who *strongly* support this.

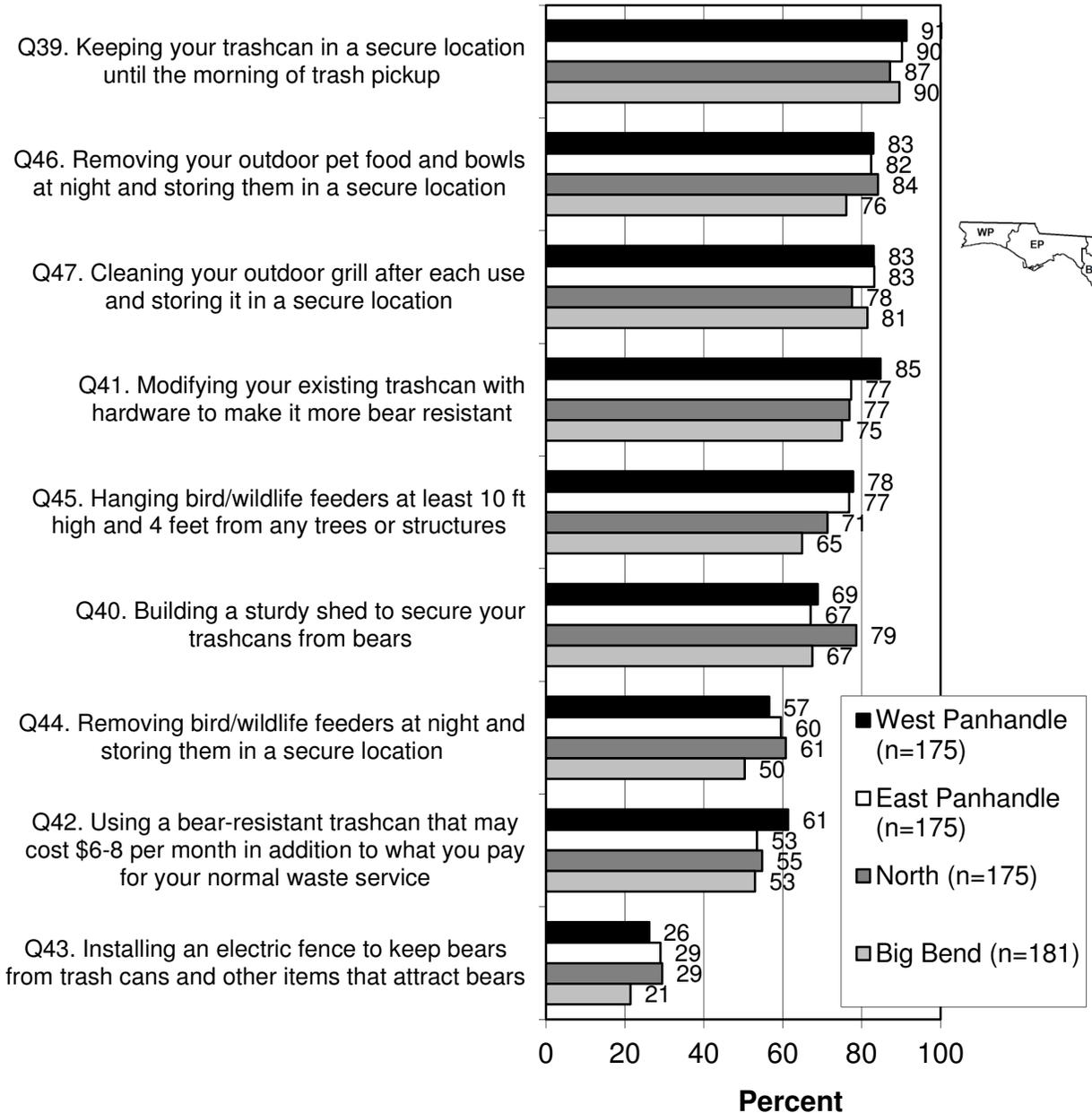
Q39-Q47. Percent of respondents who agree or disagree that they would be willing to take each of the following actions recommended by FWC to reduce conflicts with bears:



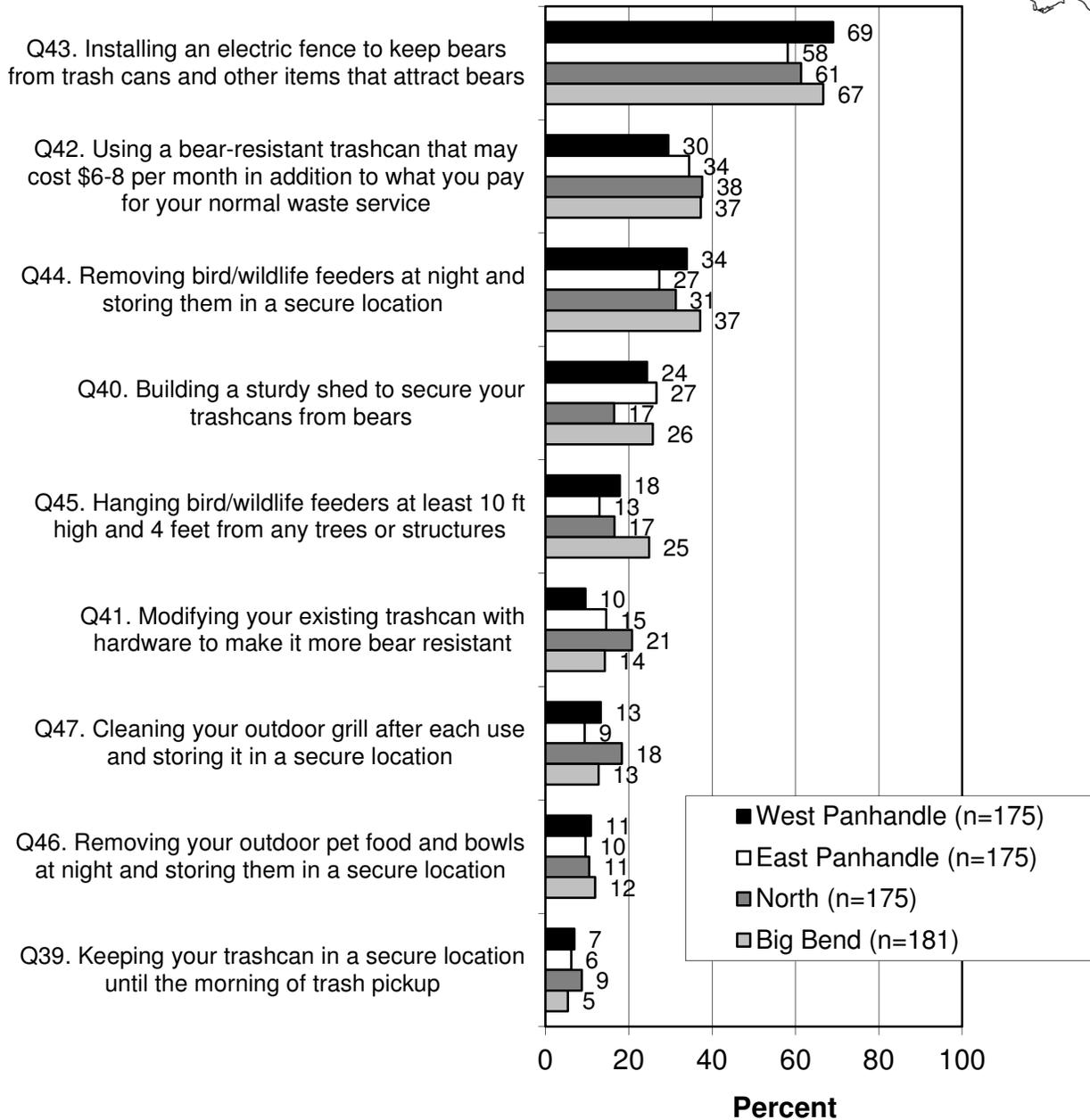
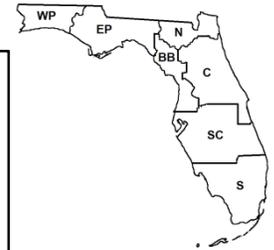
Q39-Q47. Percent of respondents who strongly agree that they would be willing to take each of the following actions recommended by FWC to reduce conflicts with bears:



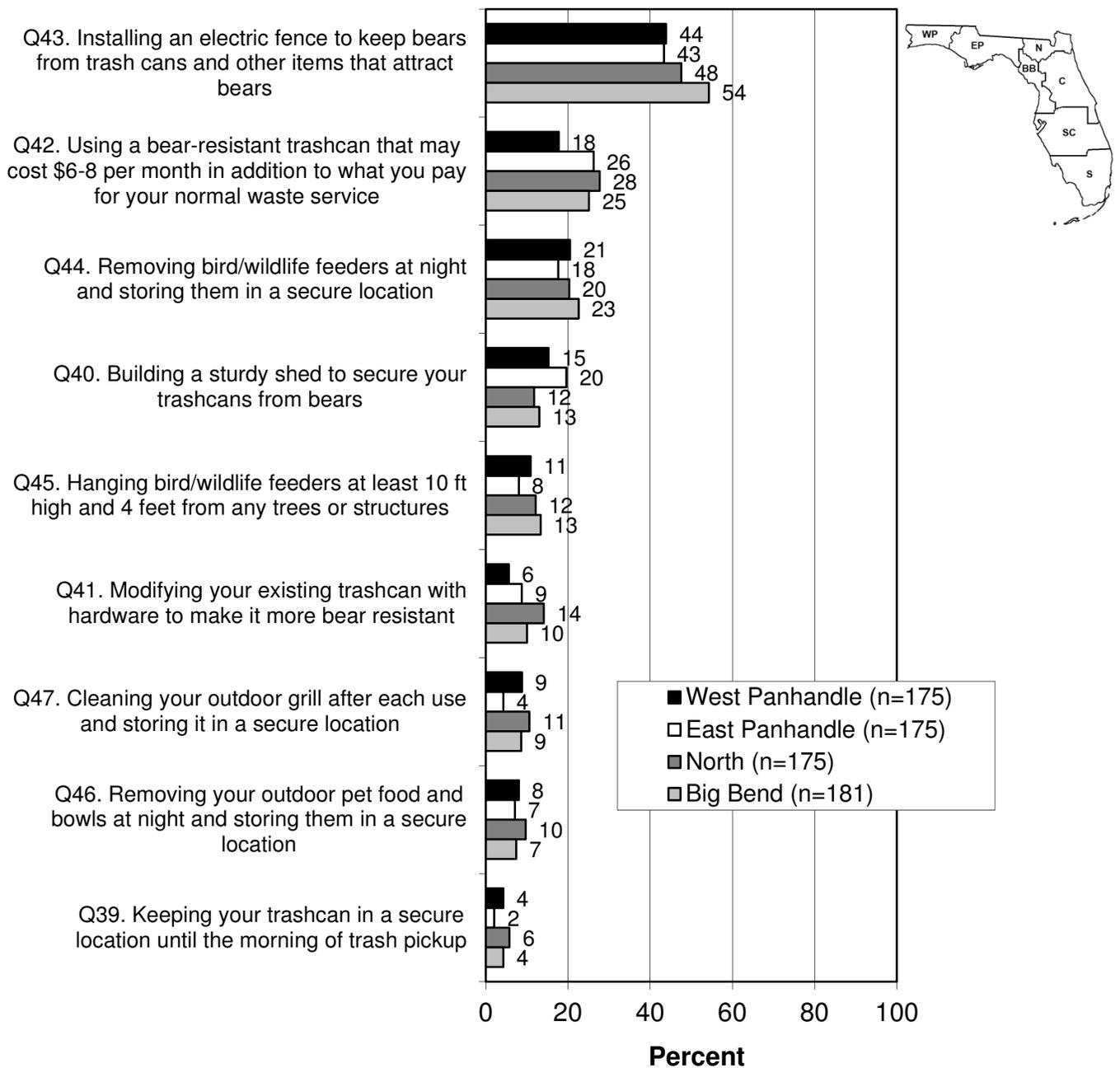
Q39-Q47. Percent of respondents who strongly agree or moderately agree that they would be willing to take each of the following actions recommended by FWC to reduce conflicts with bears:



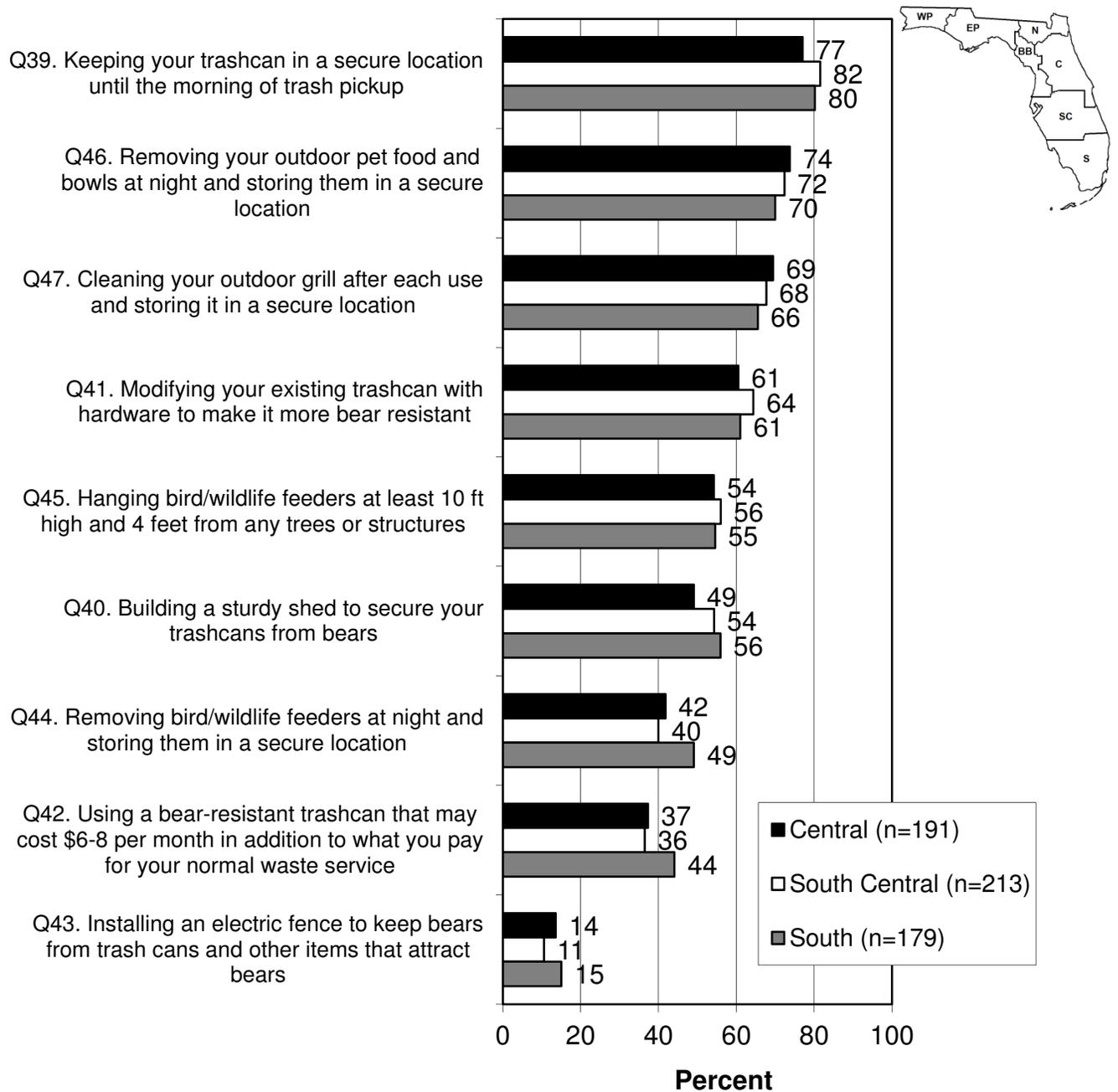
Q39-Q47. Percent of respondents who moderately disagree or strongly disagree that they would be willing to take each of the following actions recommended by FWC to reduce conflicts with bears:



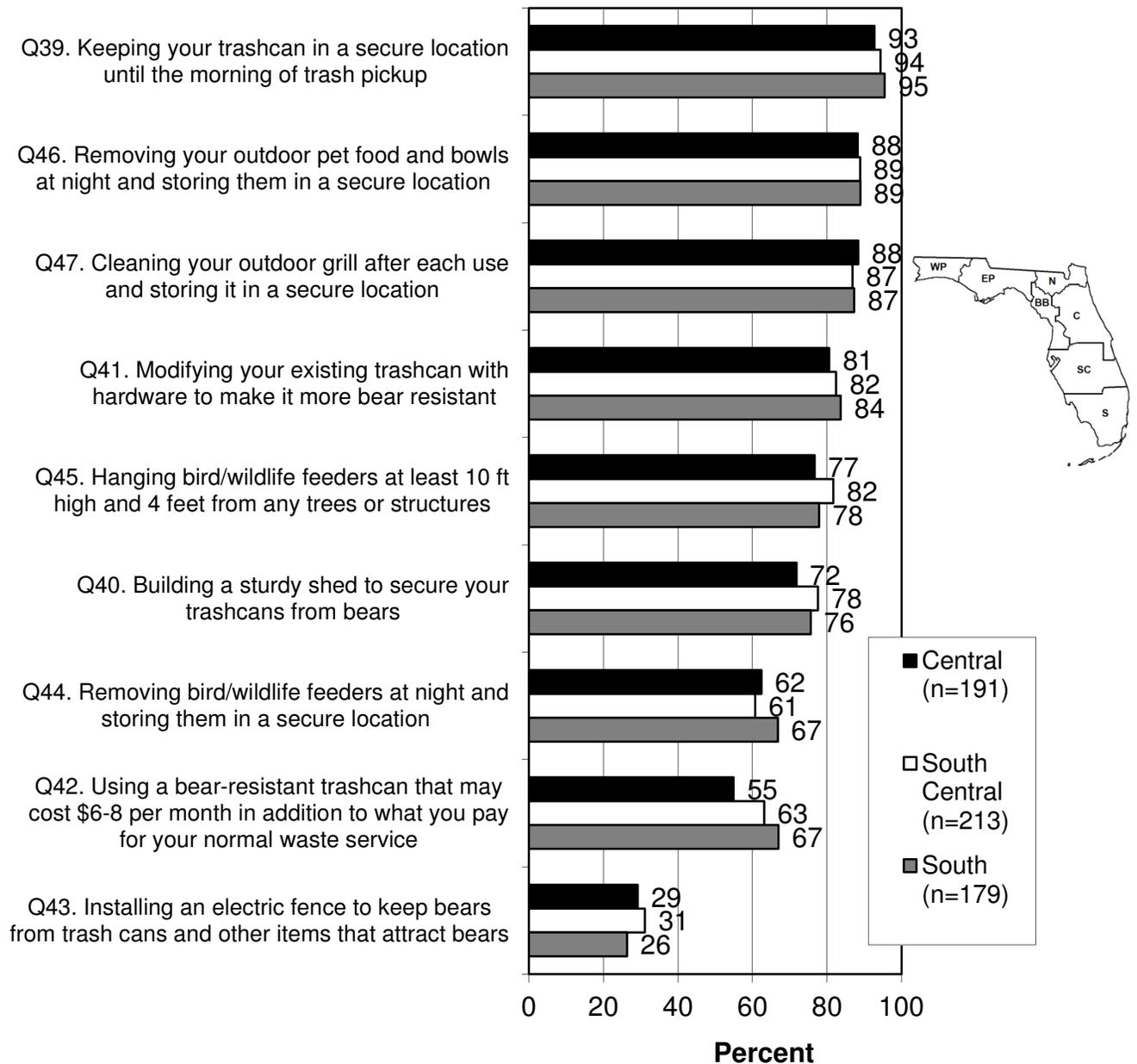
Q39-Q47. Percent of respondents who strongly disagree that they would be willing to take each of the following actions recommended by FWC to reduce conflicts with bears:



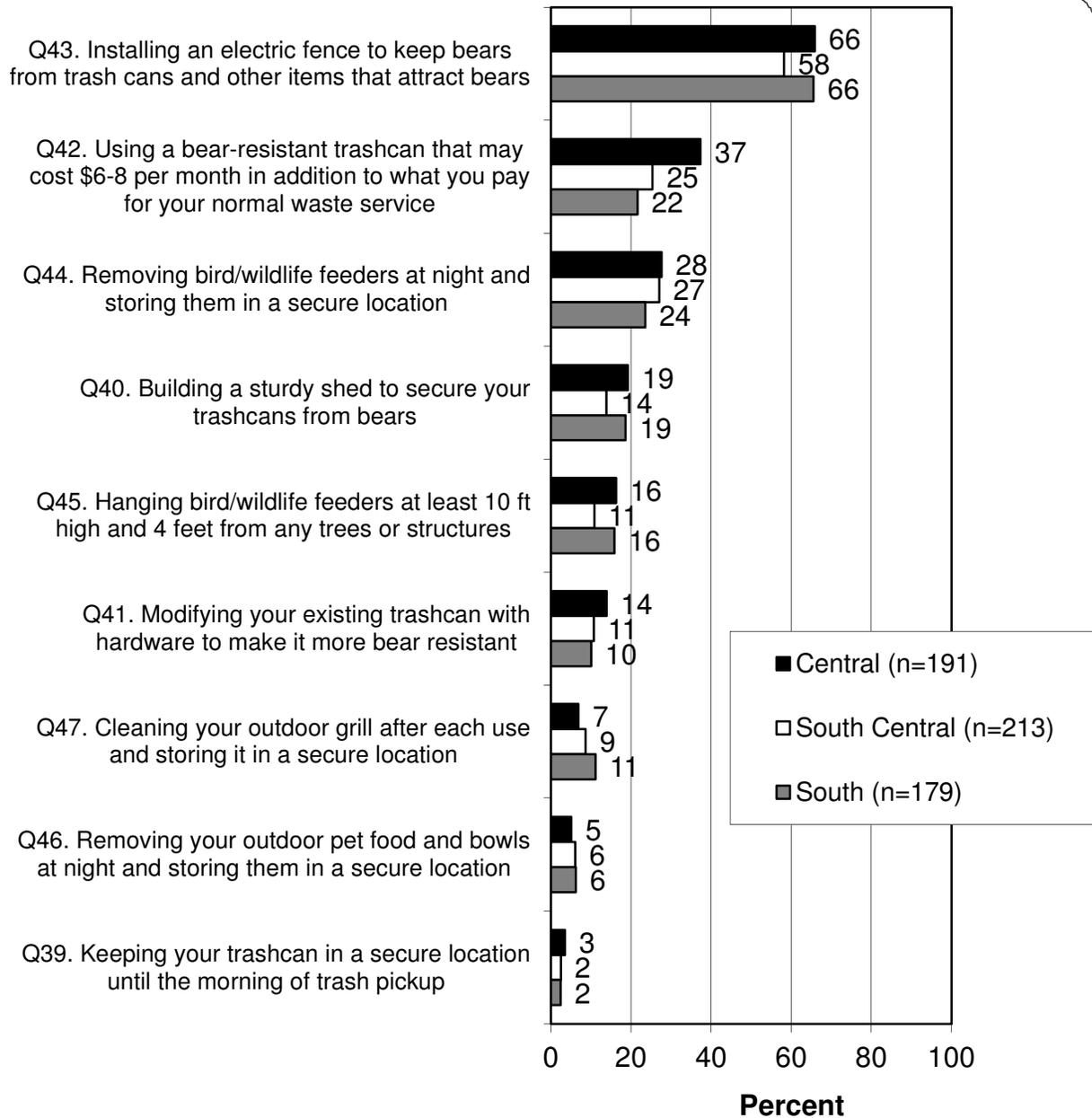
Q39-Q47. Percent of respondents who strongly agree that they would be willing to take each of the following actions recommended by FWC to reduce conflicts with bears:



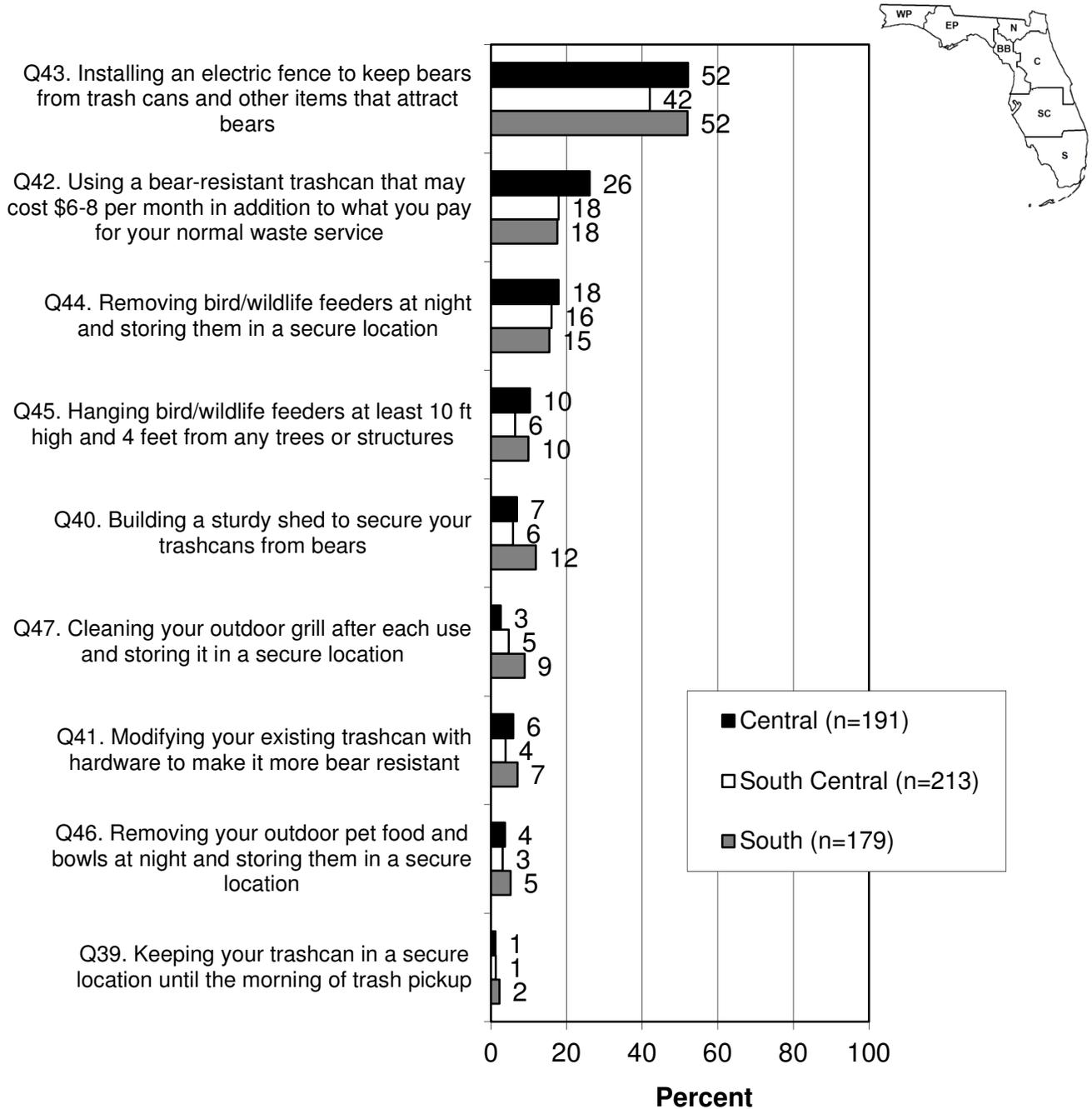
Q39-Q47. Percent of respondents who strongly agree or moderately agree that they would be willing to take each of the following actions recommended by FWC to reduce conflicts with bears:



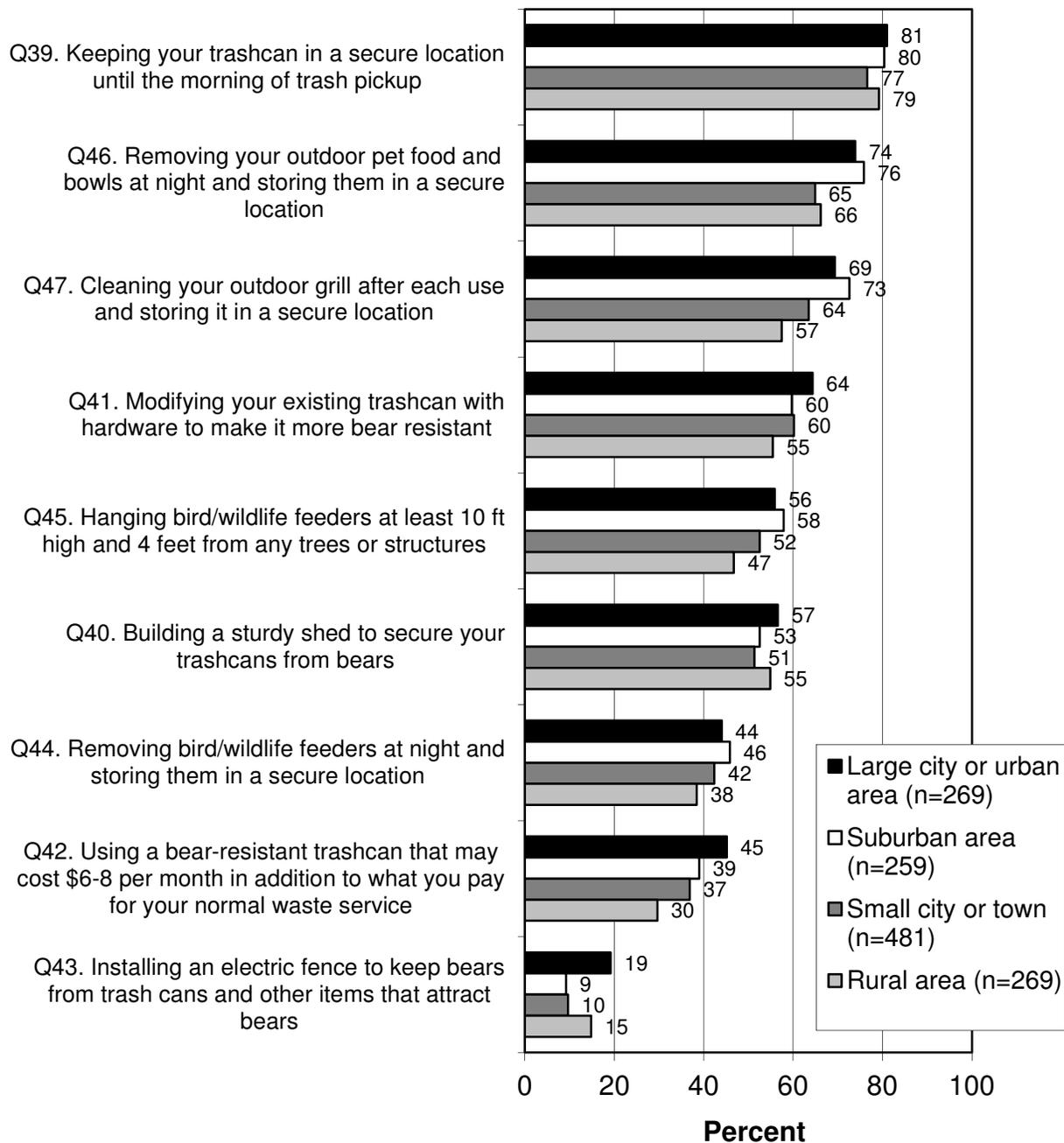
Q39-Q47. Percent of respondents who moderately disagree or strongly disagree that they would be willing to take each of the following actions recommended by FWC to reduce conflicts with bears:



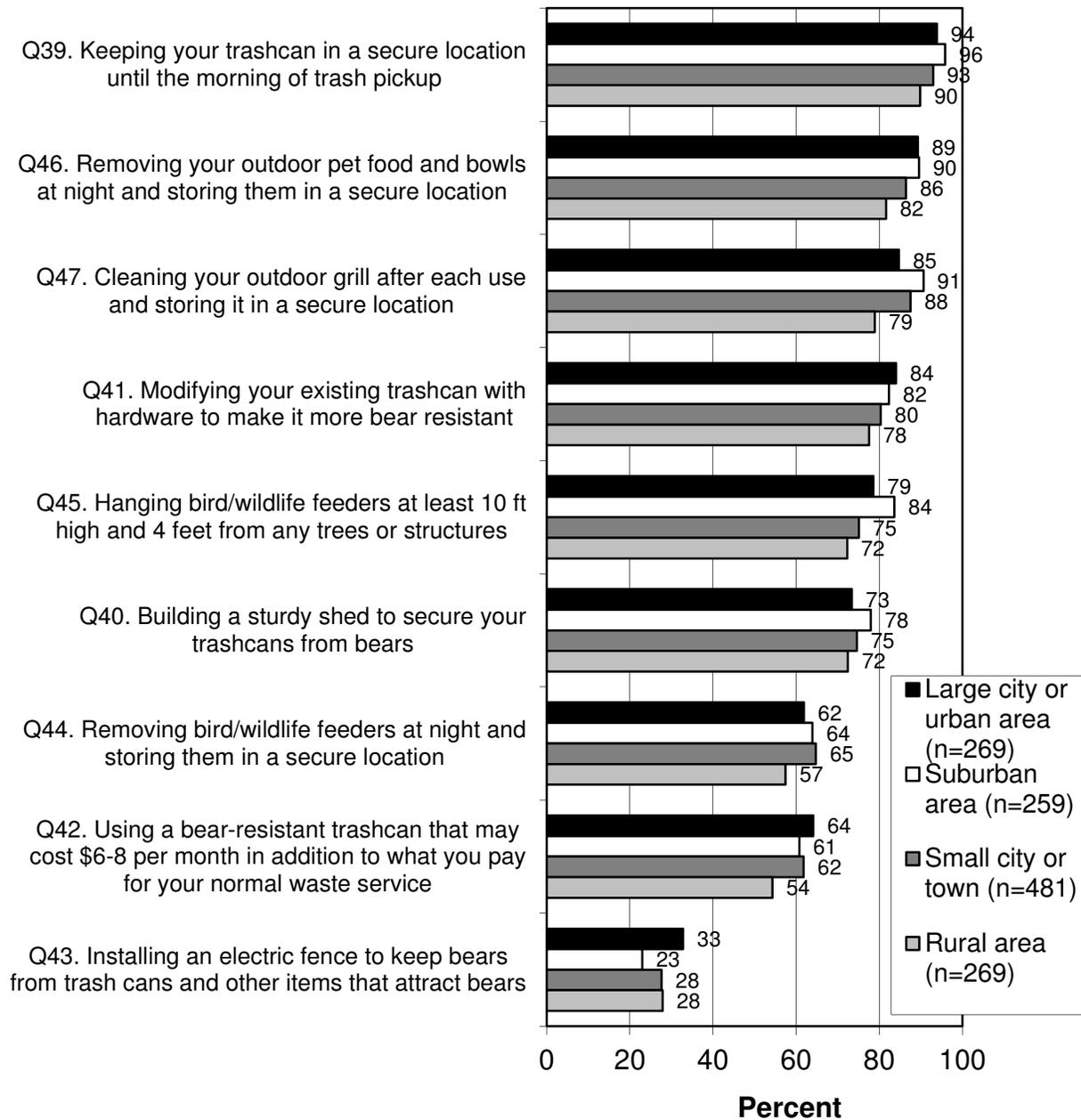
Q39-Q47. Percent of respondents who strongly disagree that they would be willing to take each of the following actions recommended by FWC to reduce conflicts with bears:



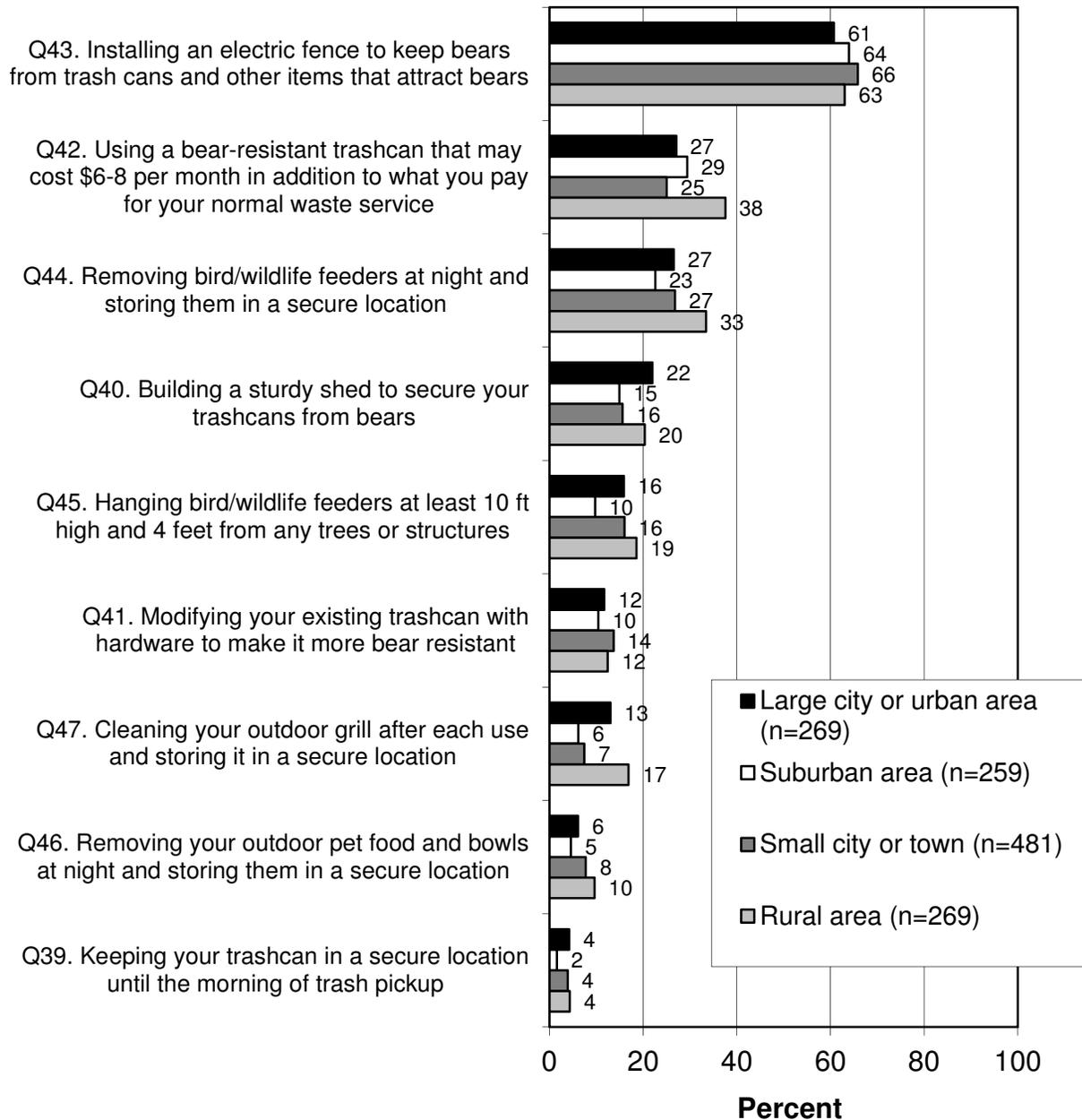
Q39-Q47. Percent of respondents who strongly agree that they would be willing to take each of the following actions recommended by FWC to reduce conflicts with bears:



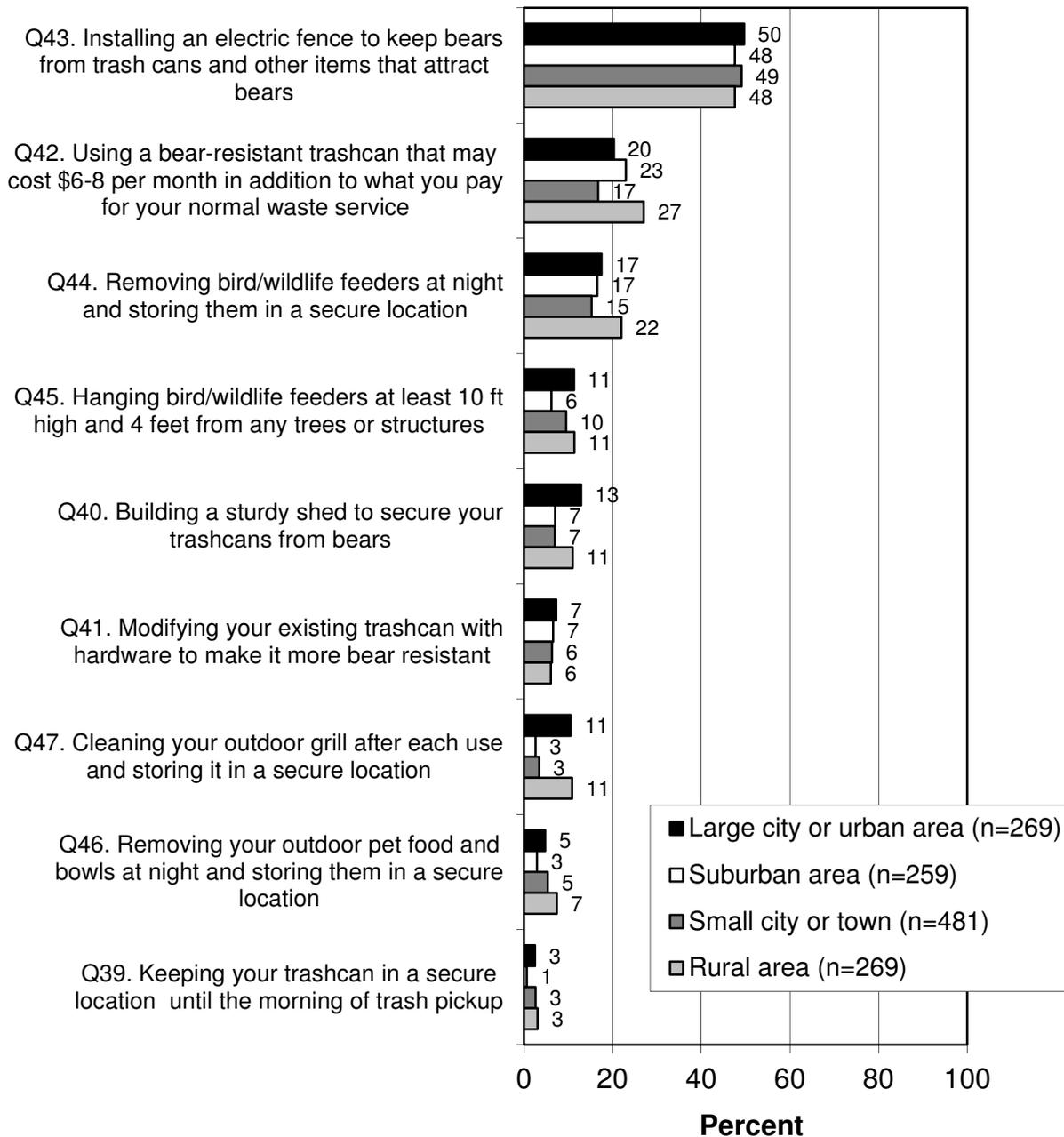
Q39-Q47. Percent of respondents who strongly agree or moderately agree that they would be willing to take each of the following actions recommended by FWC to reduce conflicts with bears:



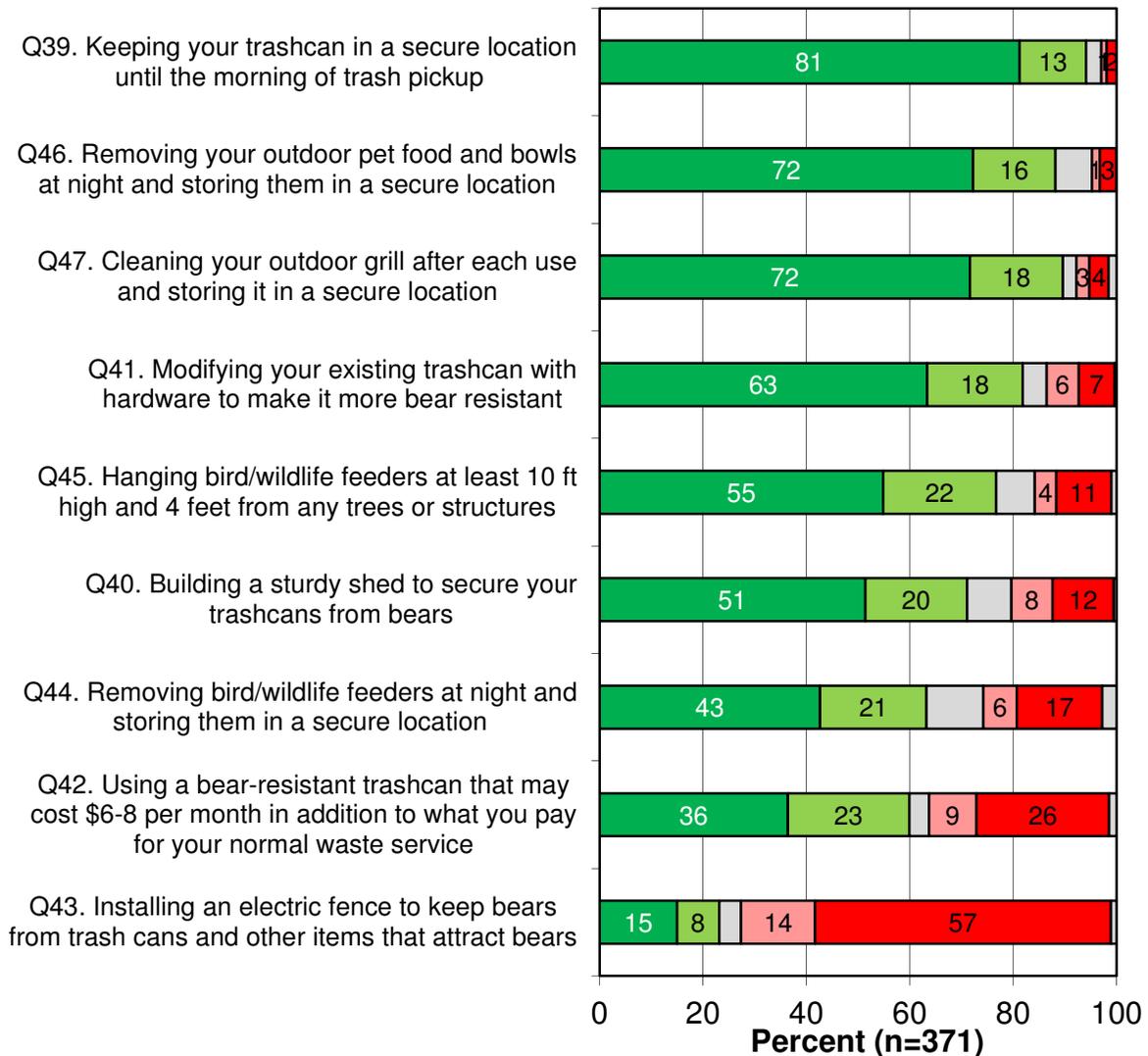
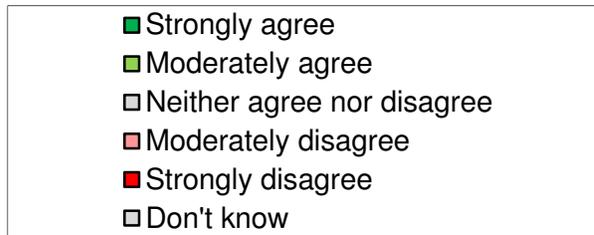
Q39-Q47. Percent of respondents who moderately disagree or strongly disagree that they would be willing to take each of the following actions recommended by FWC to reduce conflicts with bears:



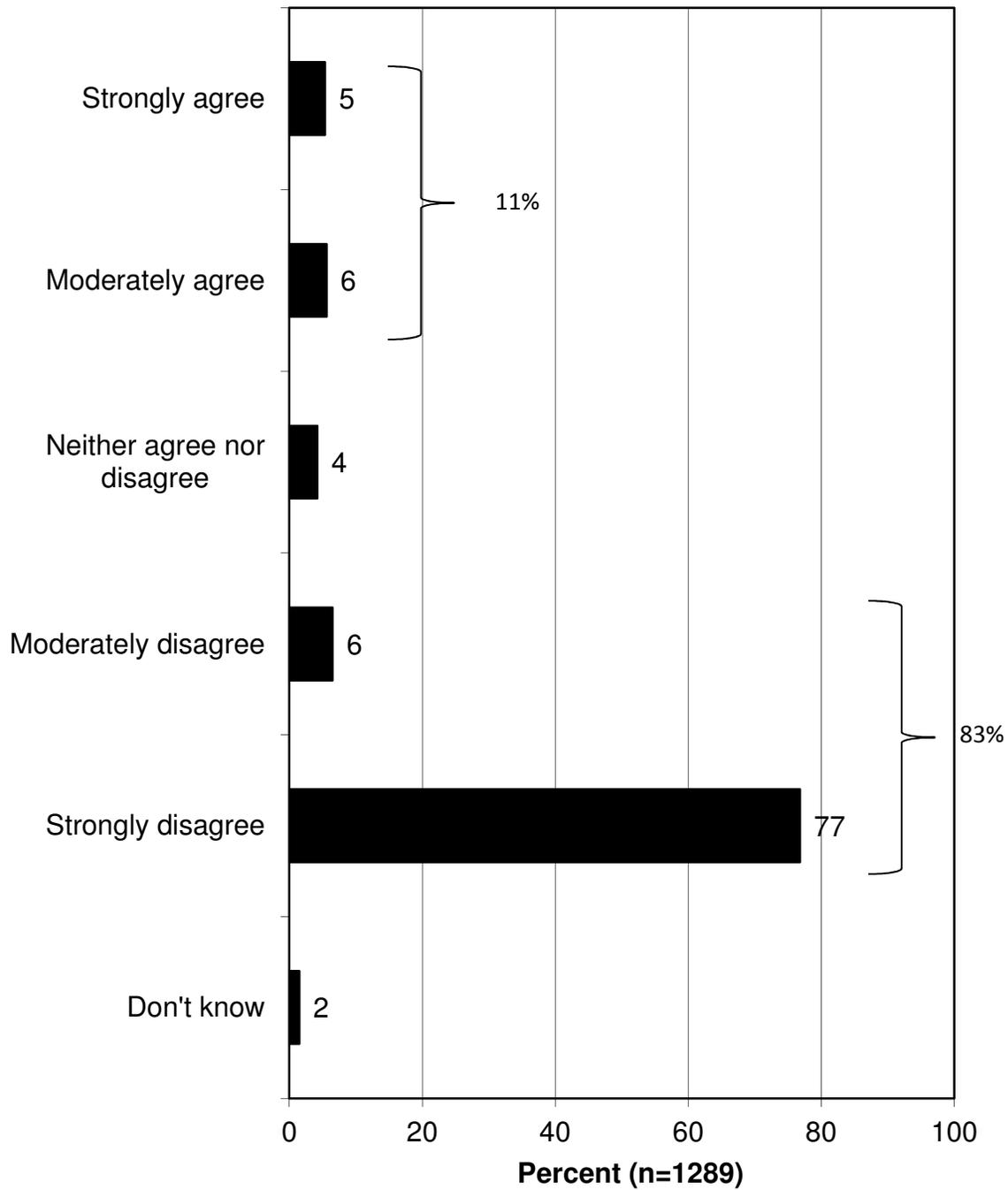
Q39-Q47. Percent of respondents who strongly disagree that they would be willing to take each of the following actions recommended by FWC to reduce conflicts with bears:



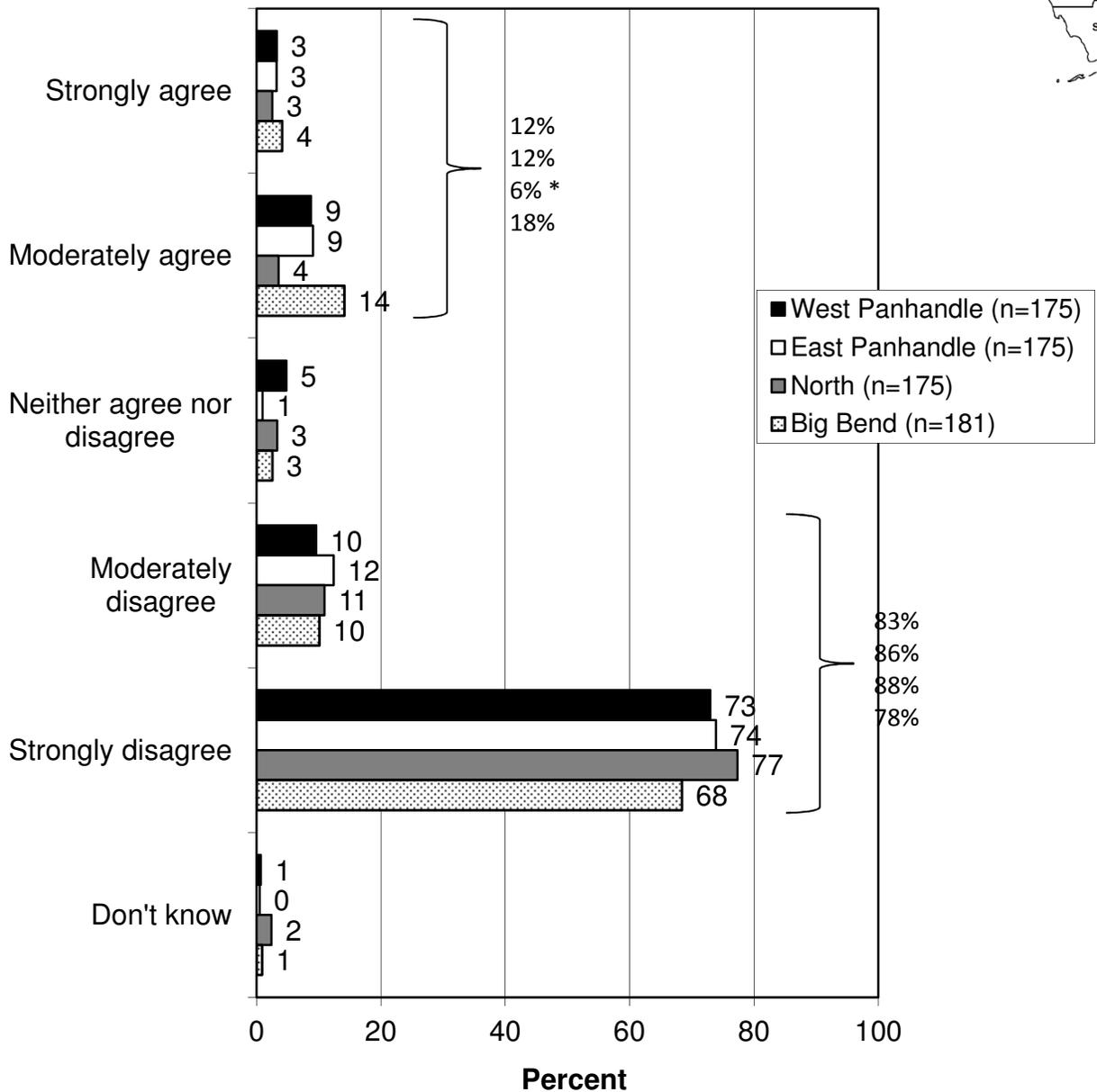
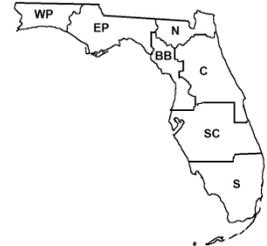
Q39-Q47. Percent of respondents who agree or disagree that they would be willing to take each of the actions recommended by FWC to reduce conflicts with bears. (Bear county residents.)



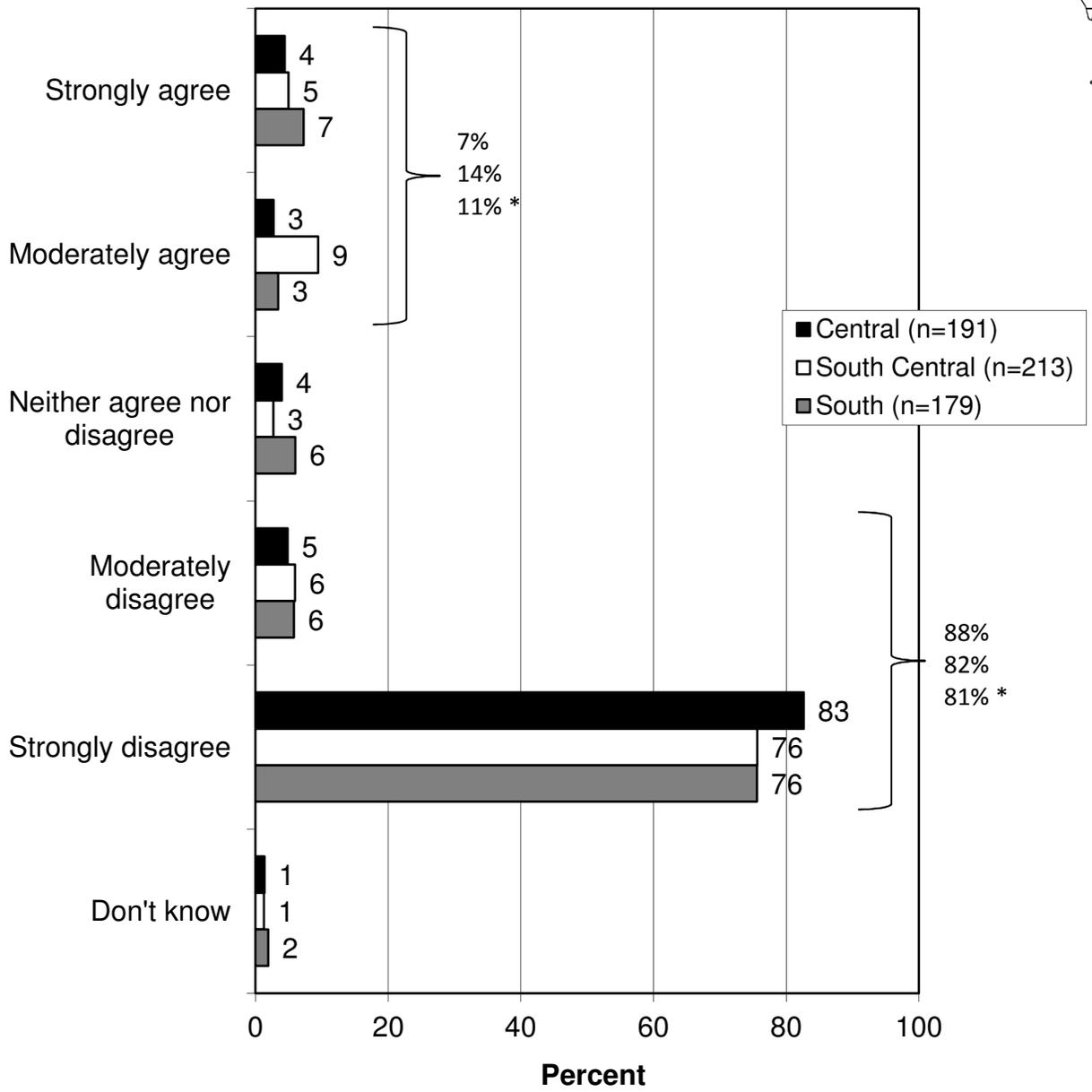
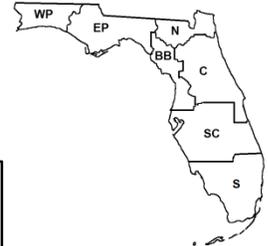
Q58. Do you agree or disagree that it is okay to feed wildlife or to leave food out for wildlife?



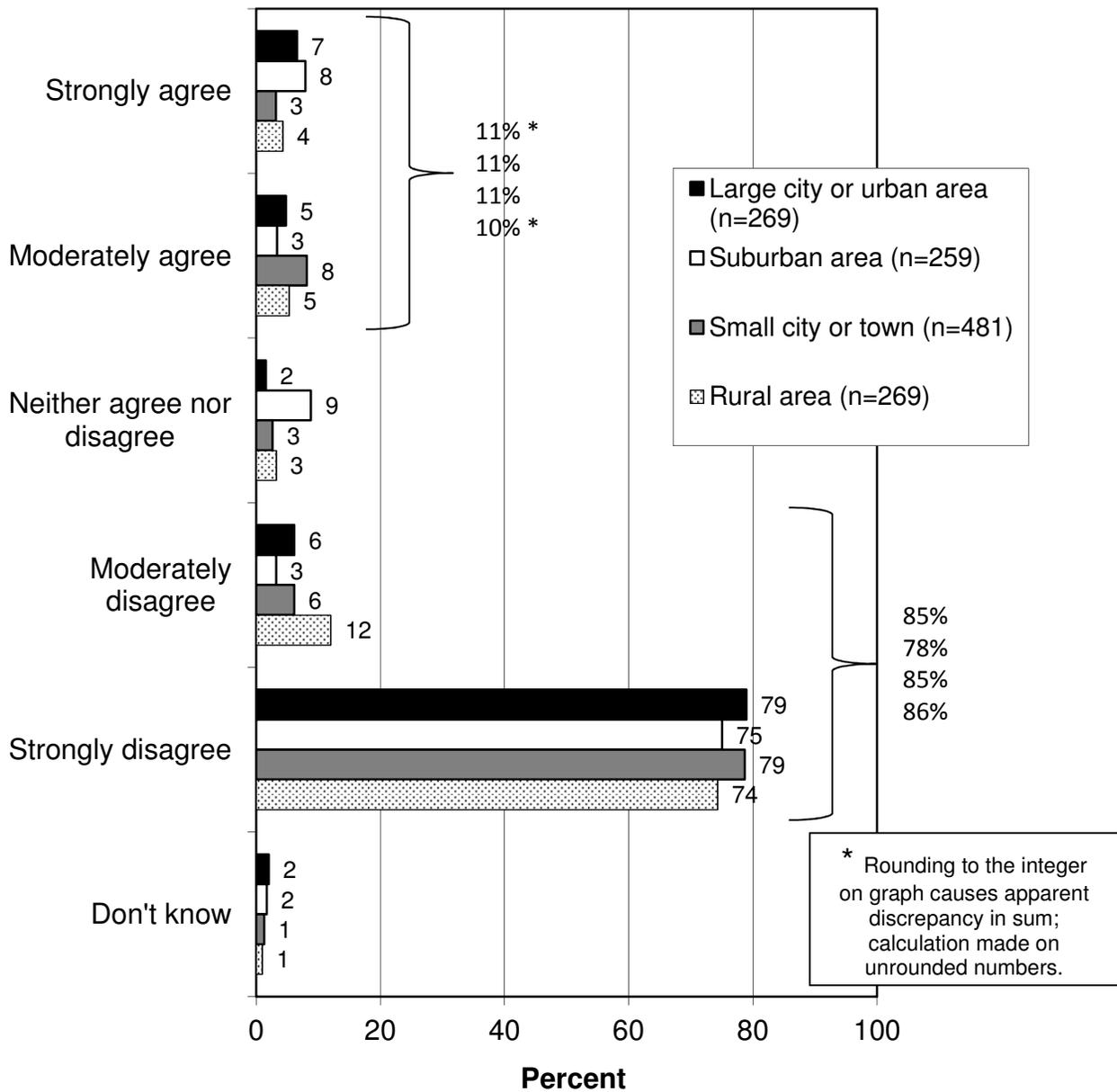
Q58. Do you agree or disagree that it is okay to feed wildlife or to leave food out for wildlife?



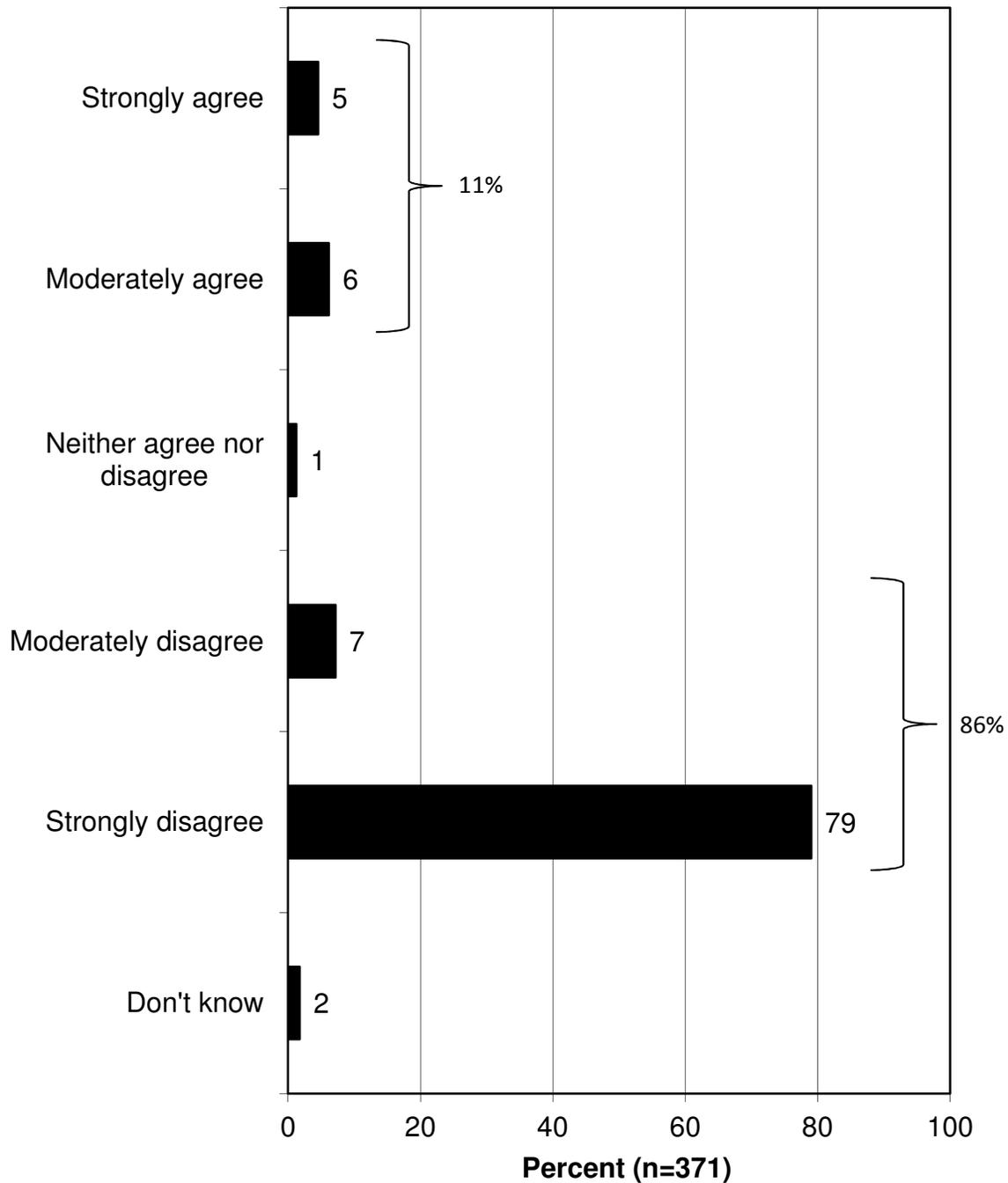
Q58. Do you agree or disagree that it is okay to feed wildlife or to leave food out for wildlife?



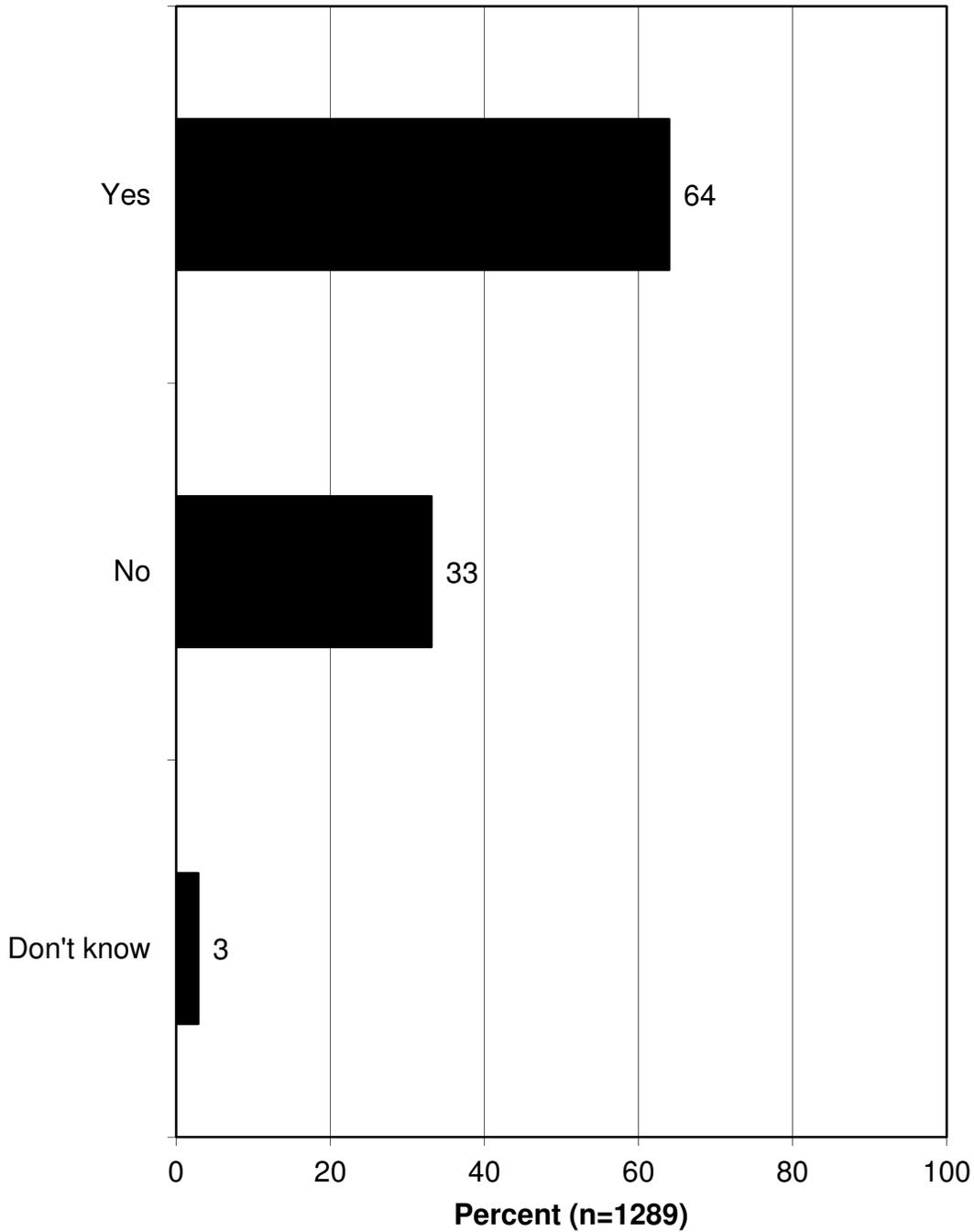
Q58. Do you agree or disagree that it is okay to feed wildlife or to leave food out for wildlife?



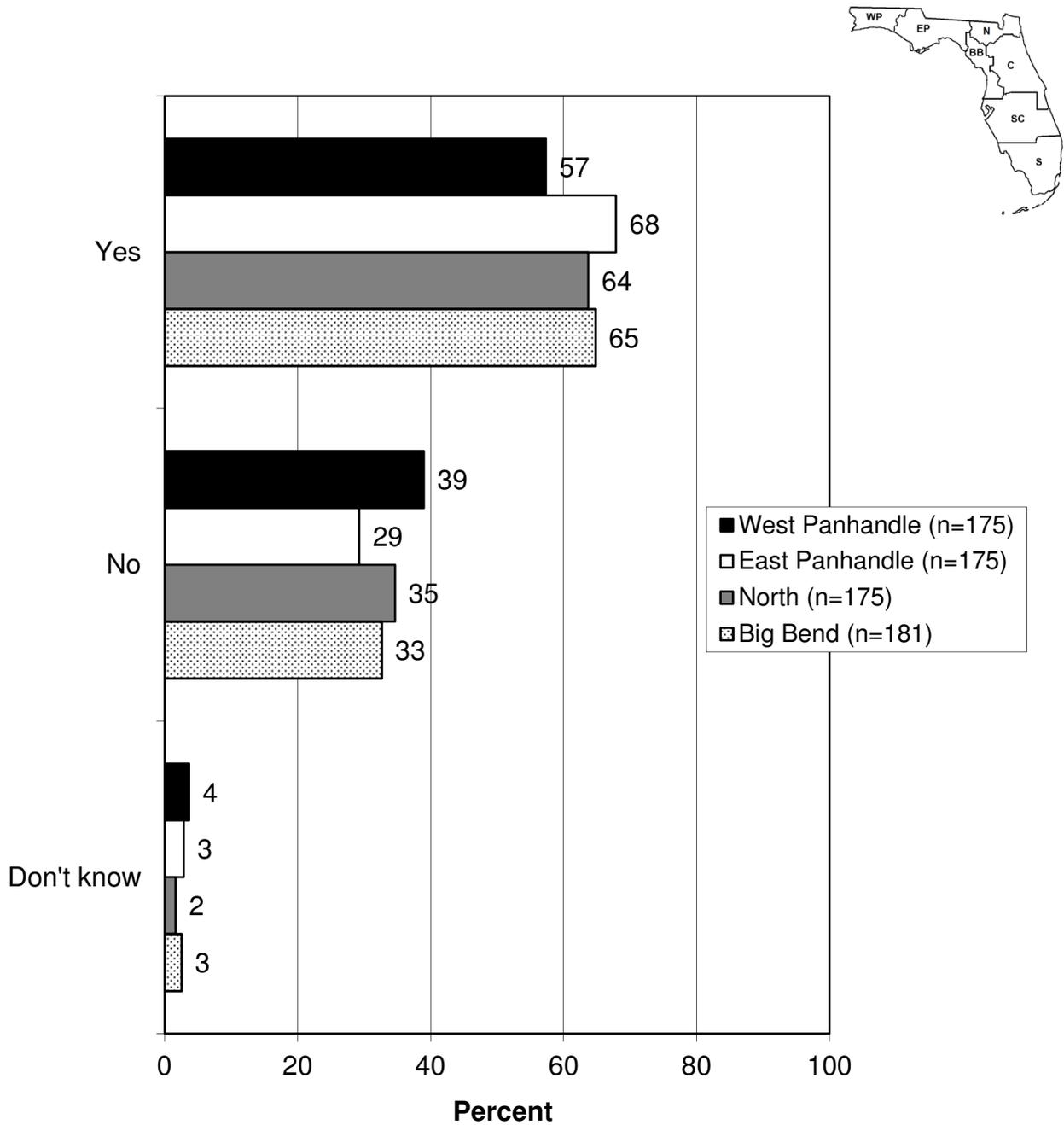
**Q58. Do you agree or disagree that it is okay to feed wildlife or to leave food out for wildlife?
(Bear county residents.)**



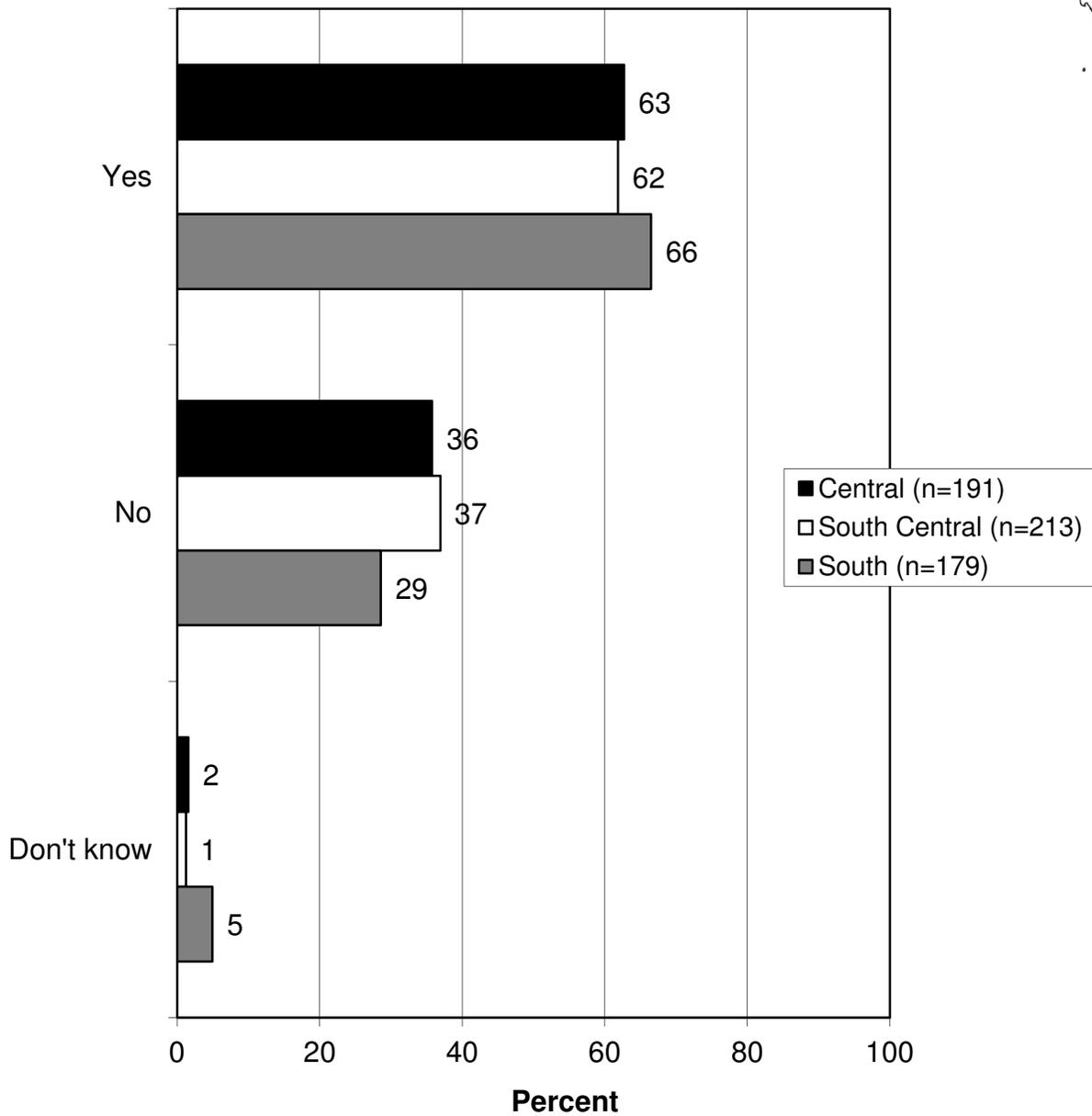
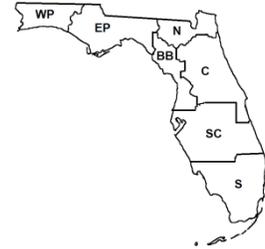
Q59. Are you aware that it is illegal to feed bears in Florida?



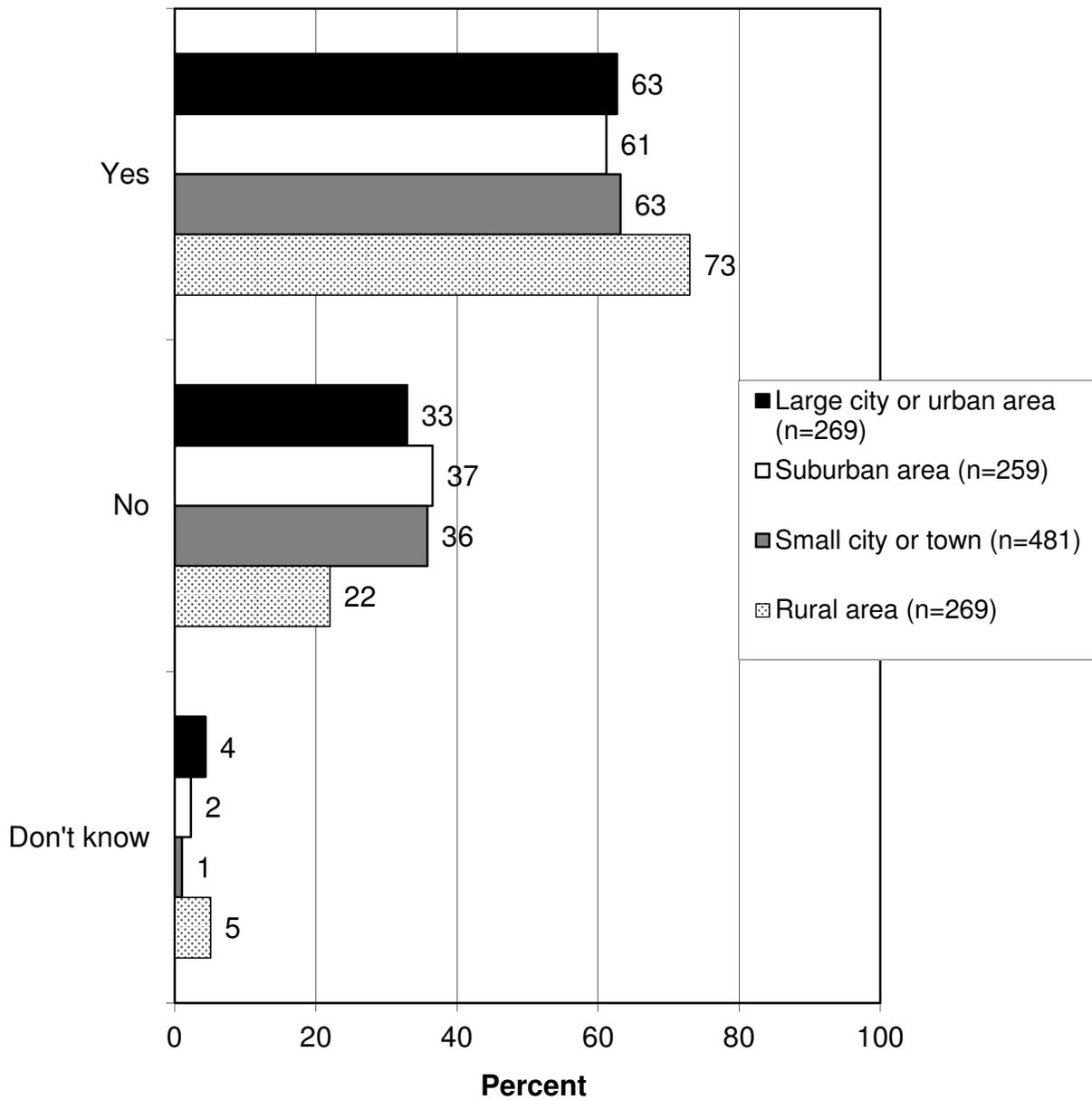
Q59. Are you aware that it is illegal to feed bears in Florida?



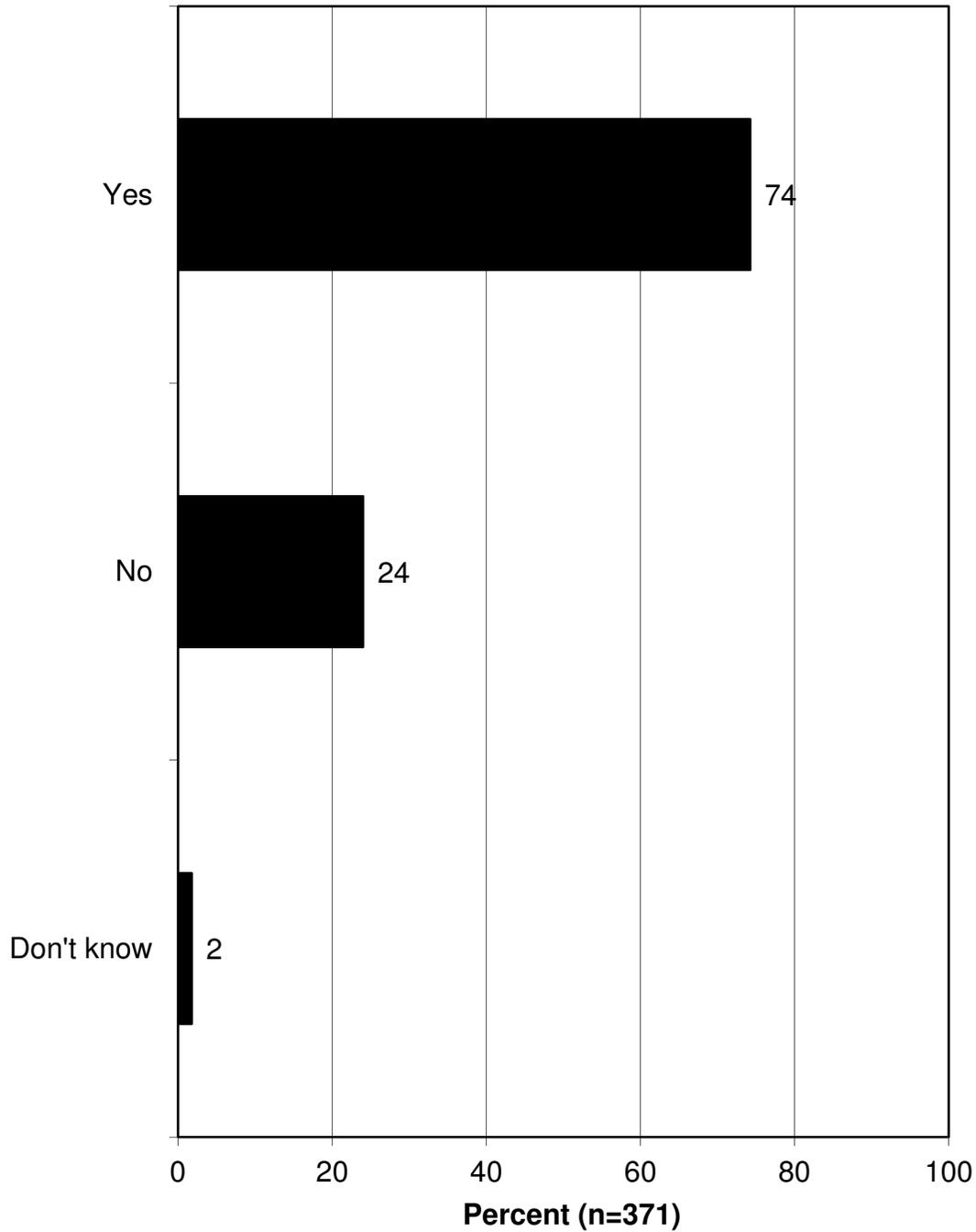
Q59. Are you aware that it is illegal to feed bears in Florida?



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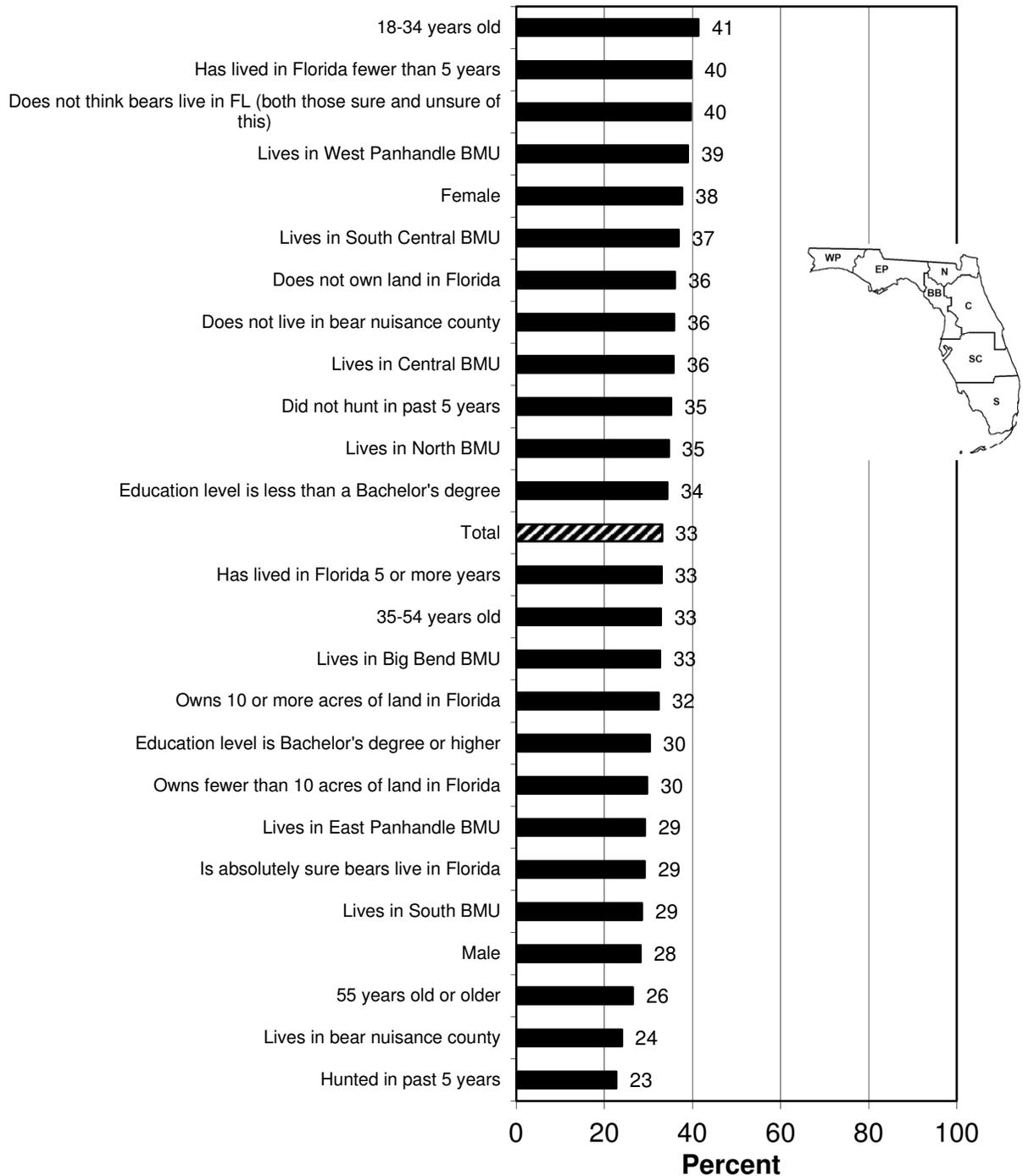


Q59. Are you aware that it is illegal to feed bears in Florida? (Bear county residents.)

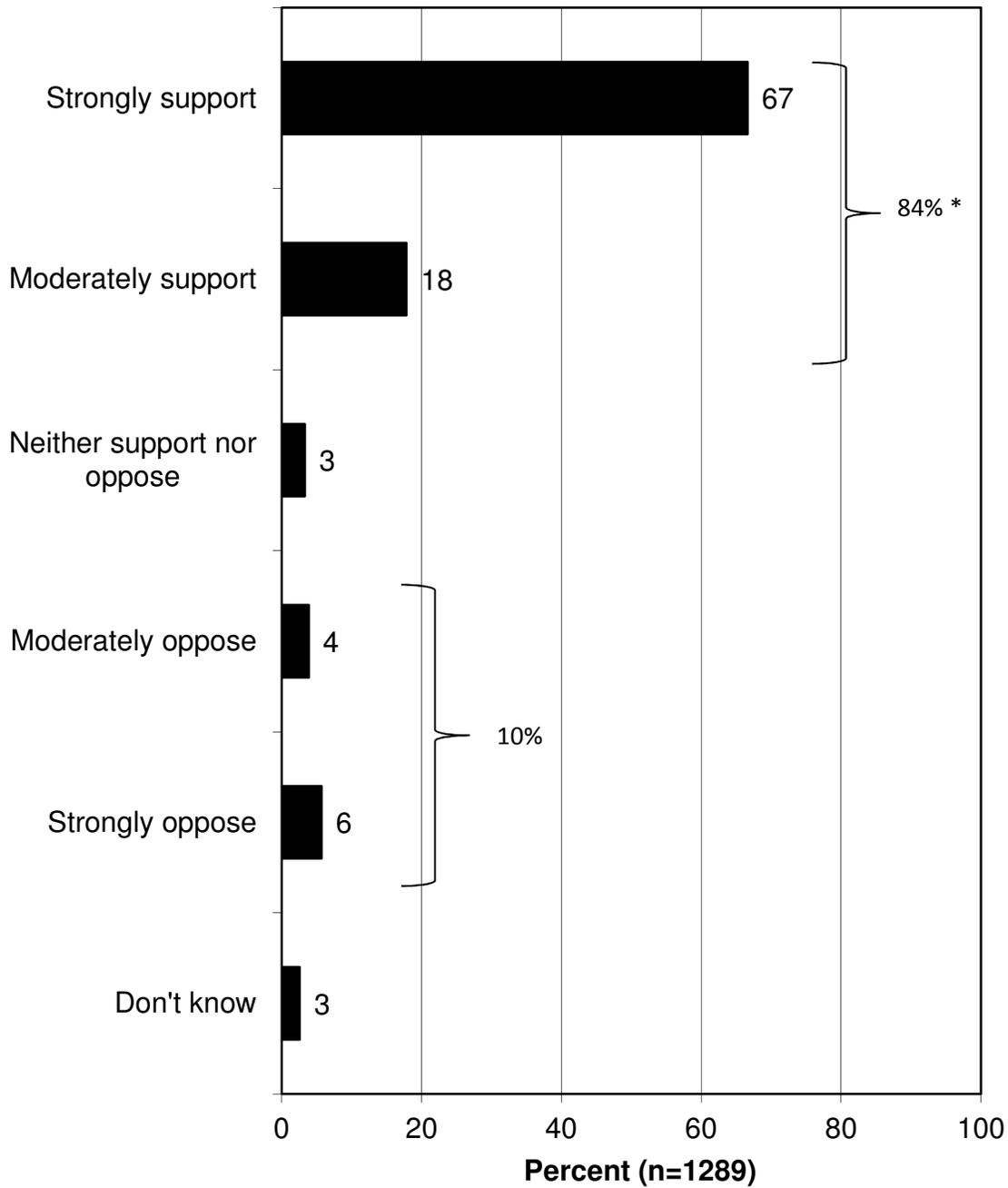


(See the section titled, “Interpreting Omnigraphs,” for an explanation of how to interpret this graph.)

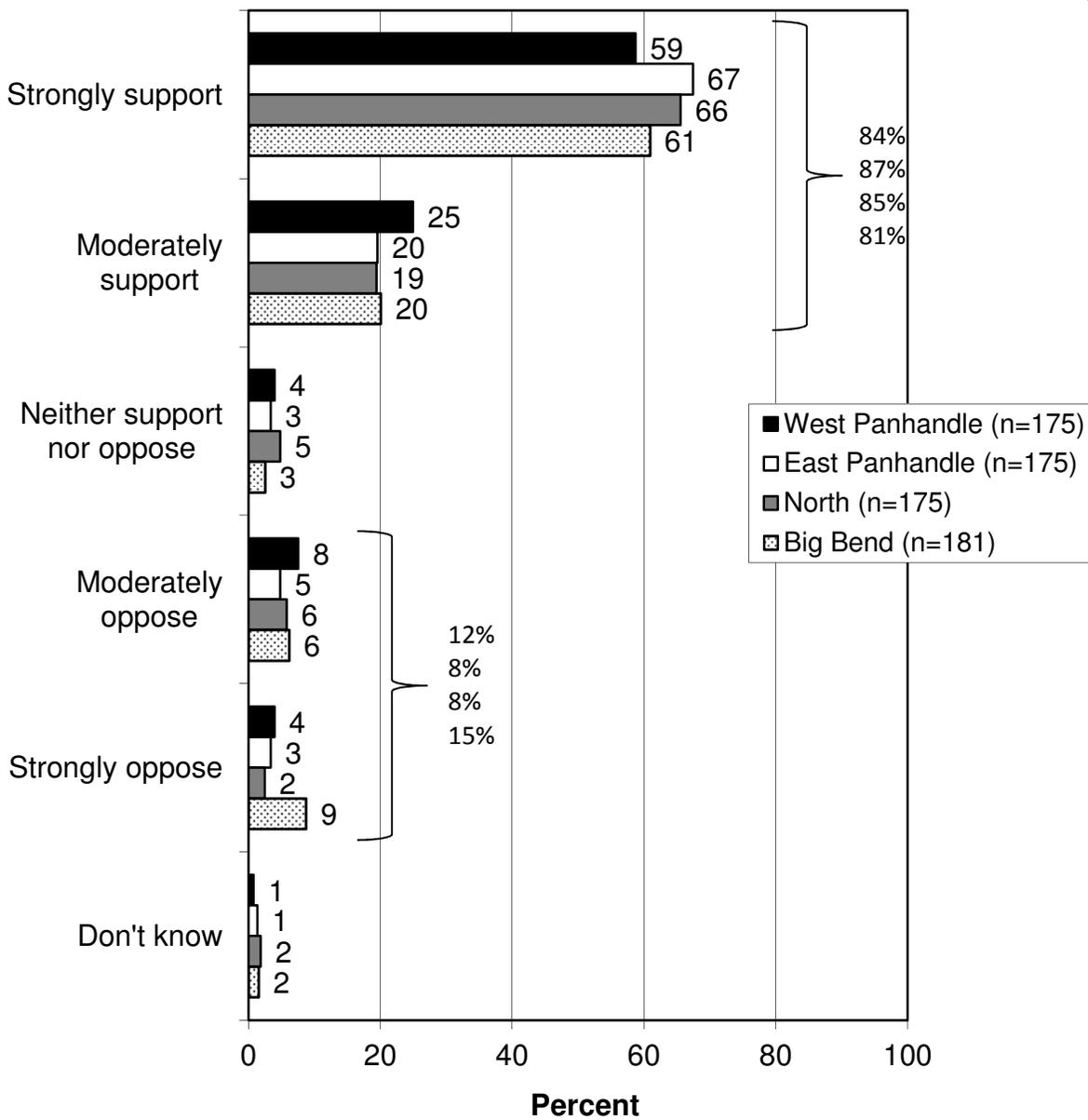
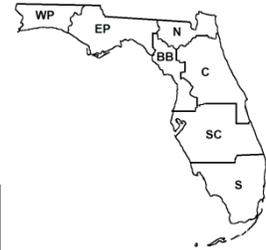
Percent of each of the following groups who are not aware that it is illegal to feed bears in Florida:



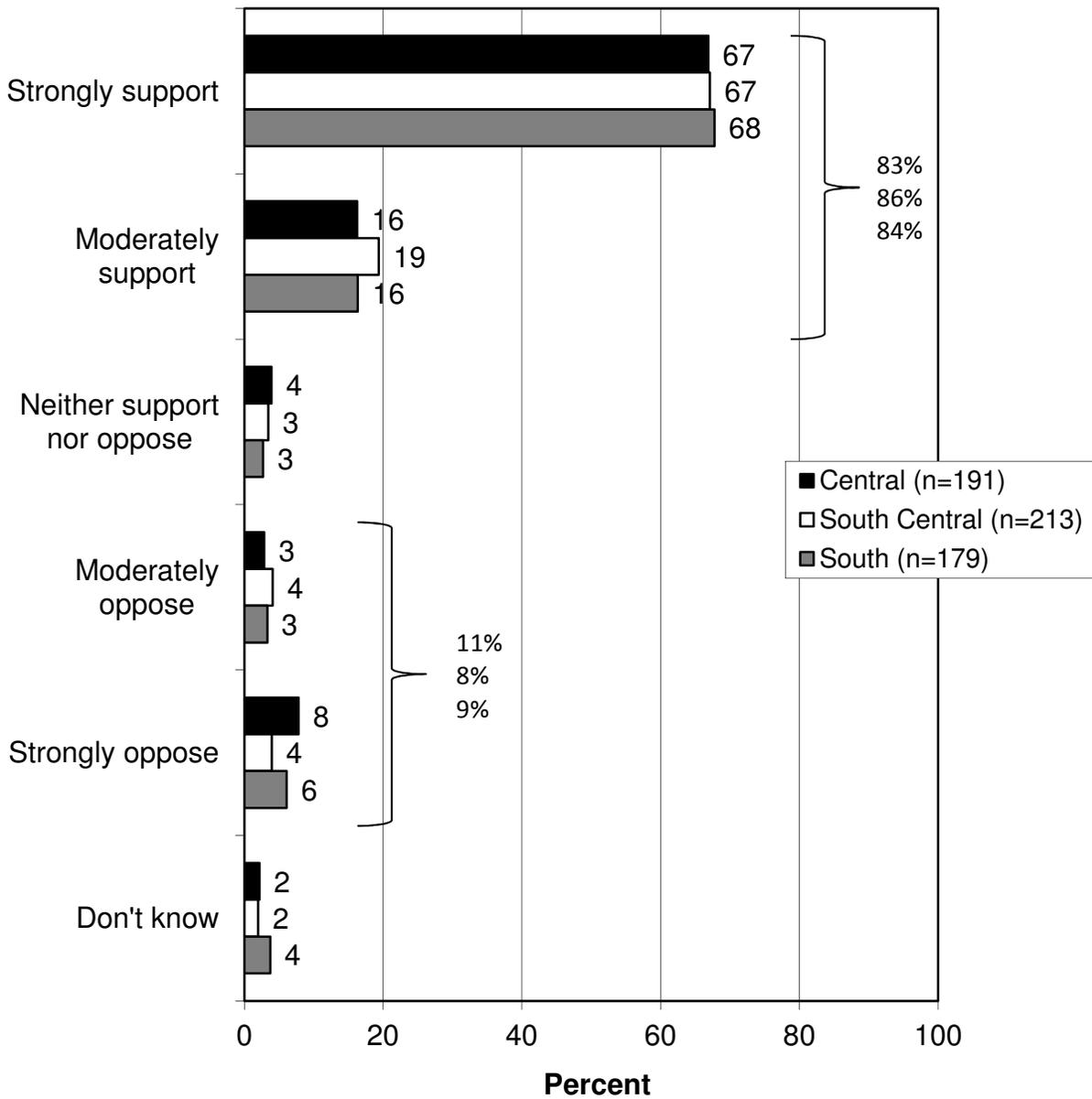
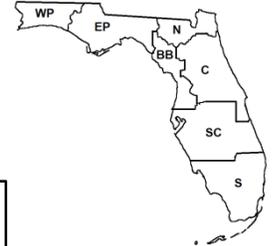
Q60. Do you support or oppose the use of penalties, such as fines, for people who feed bears?



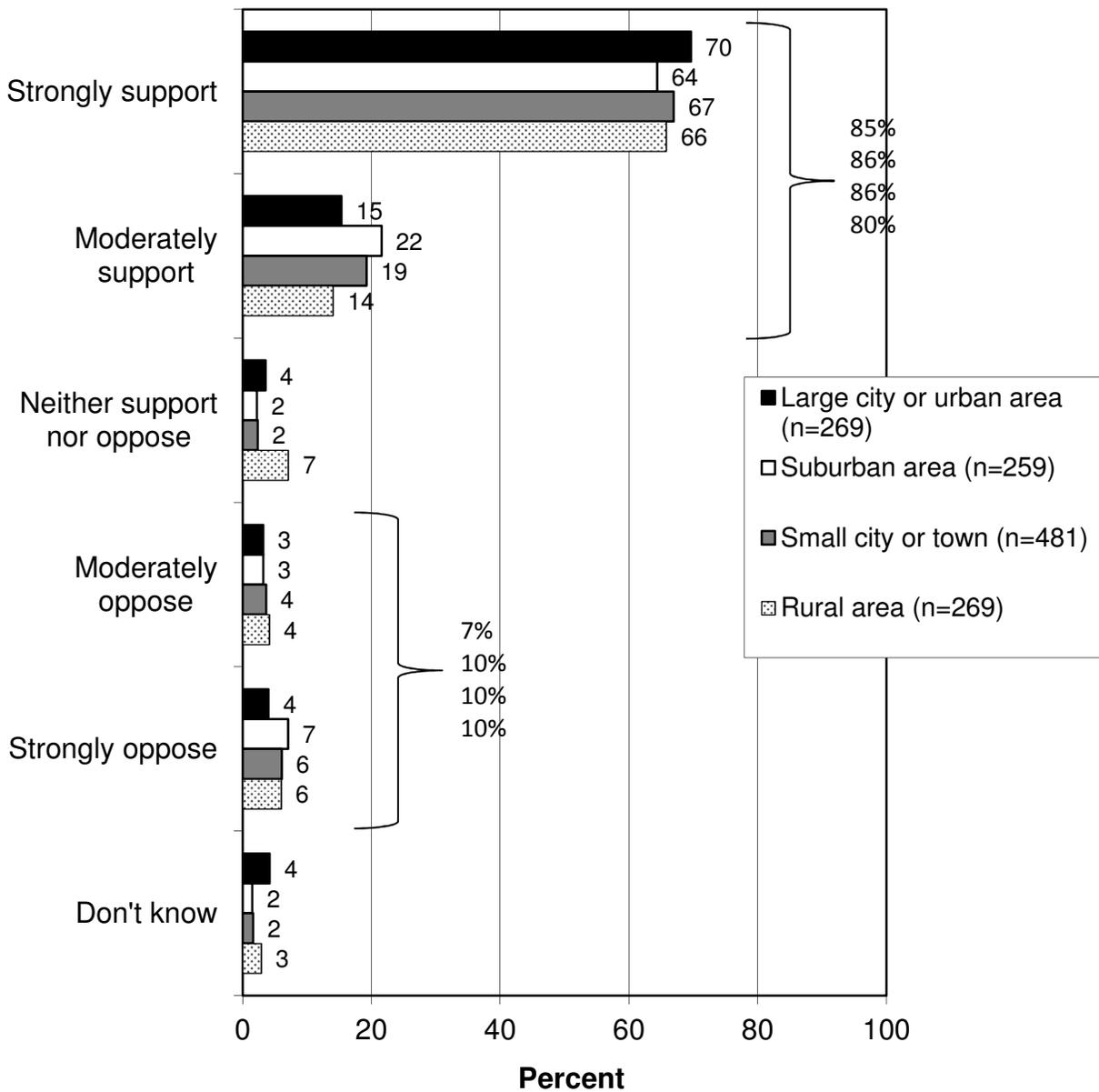
Q60. Do you support or oppose the use of penalties, such as fines, for people who feed bears?



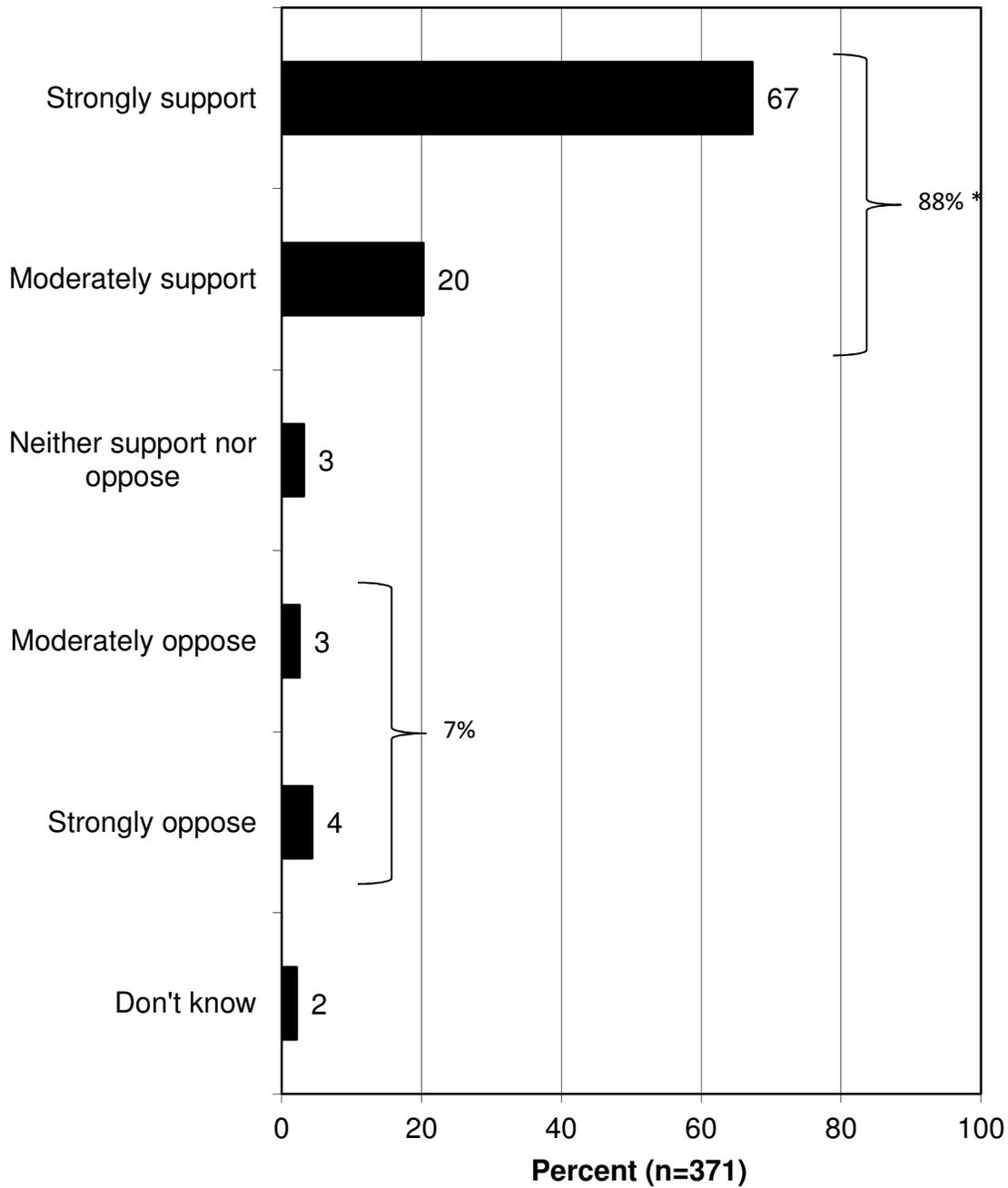
Q60. Do you support or oppose the use of penalties, such as fines, for people who feed bears?



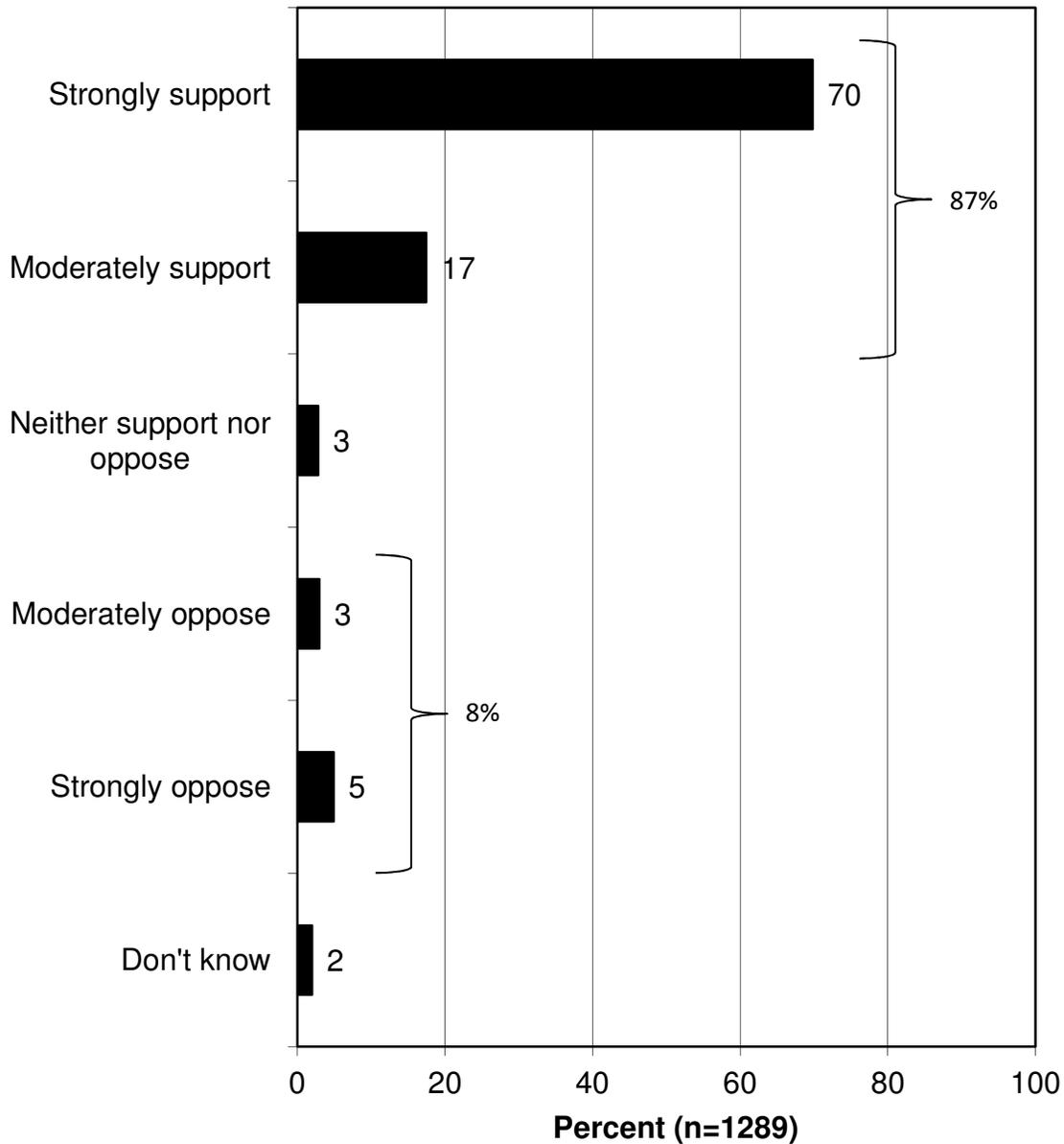
Q60. Do you support or oppose the use of penalties, such as fines, for people who feed bears?



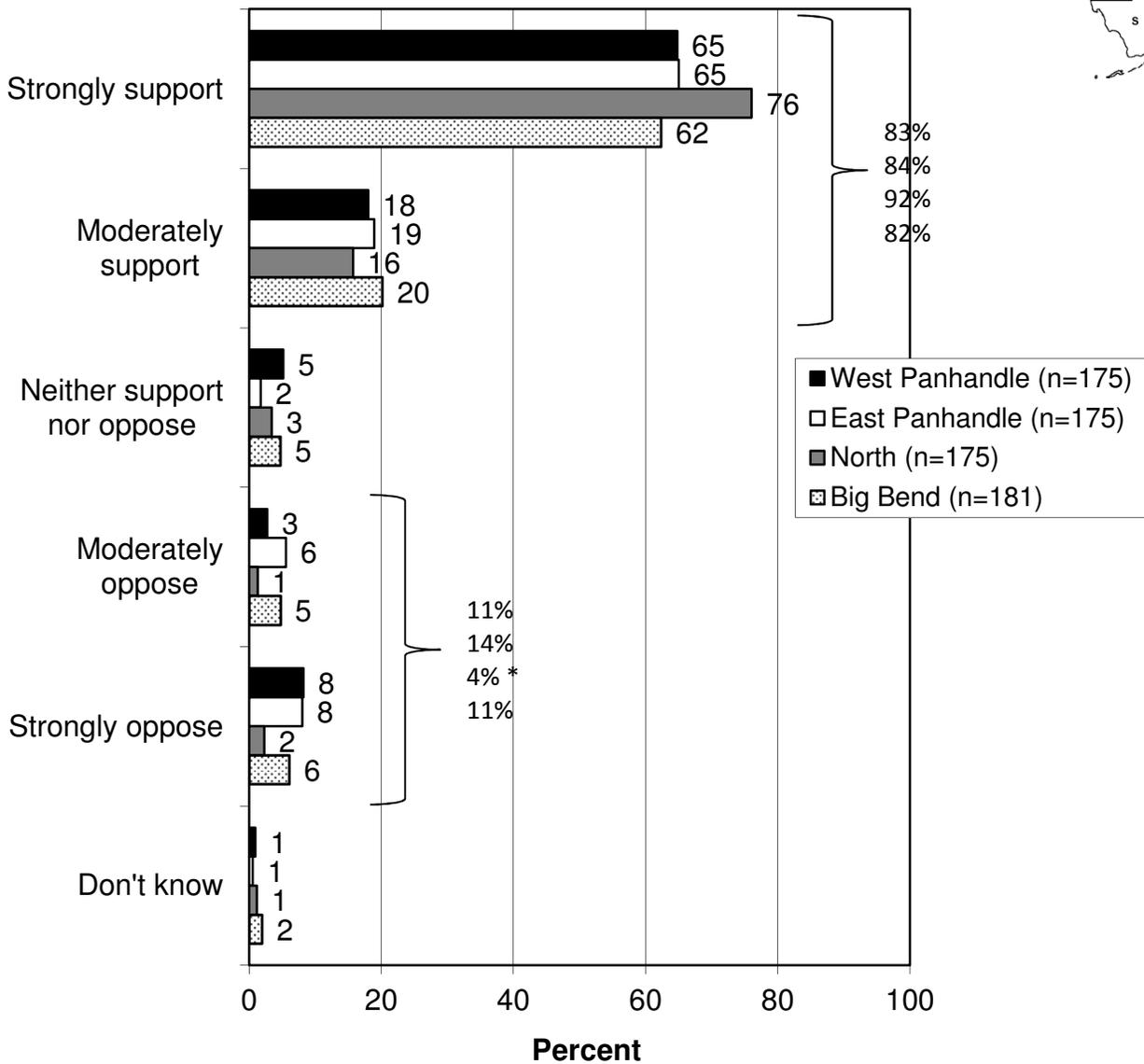
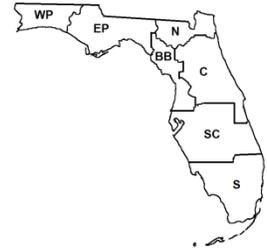
Q60. Do you support or oppose the use of penalties, such as fines, for people who feed bears? (Bear county residents.)



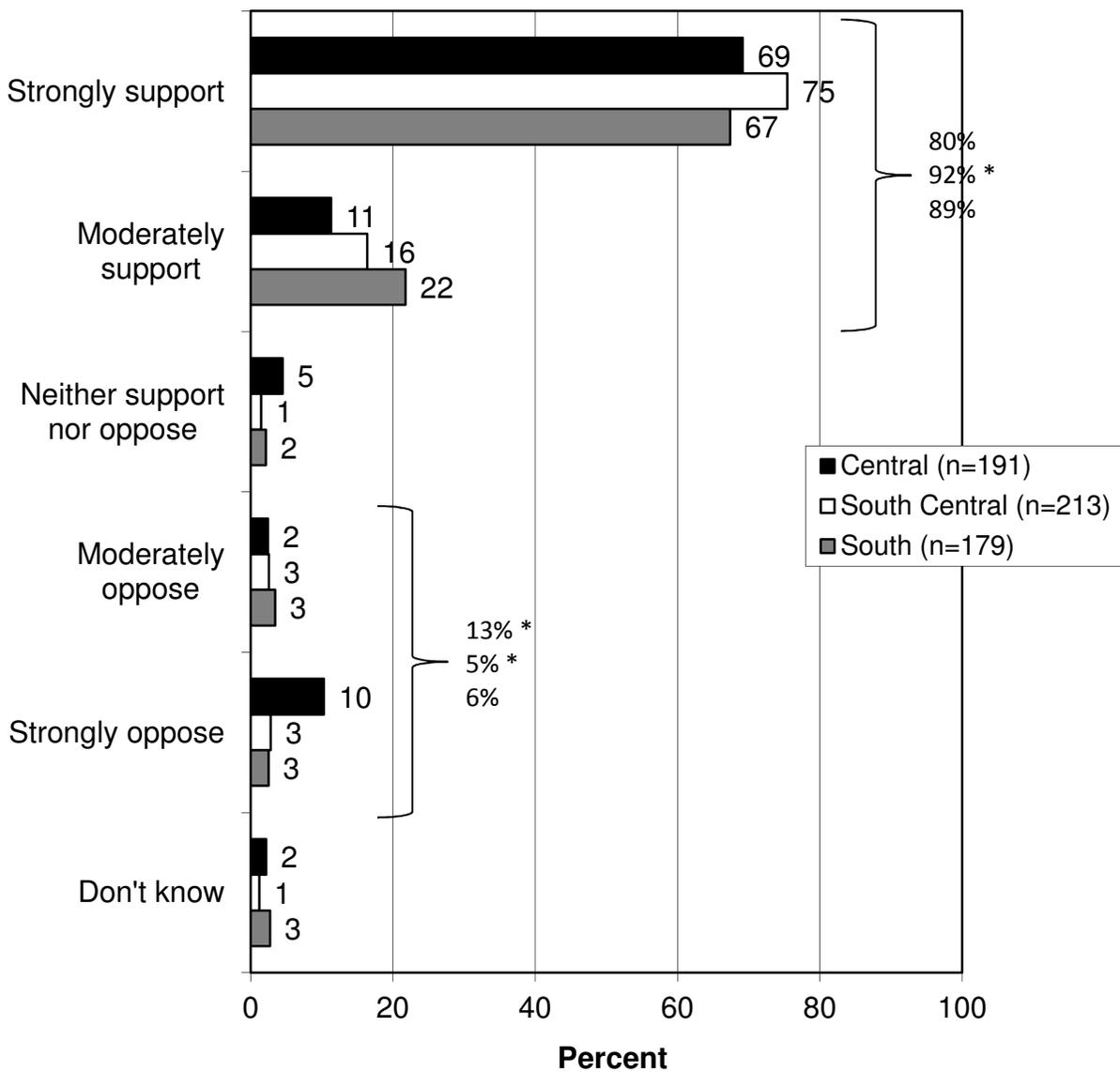
Q61. Do you support or oppose requiring people through the use of laws and ordinances to keep their trash secure so bears cannot access it in areas with high numbers of human-bear conflicts?



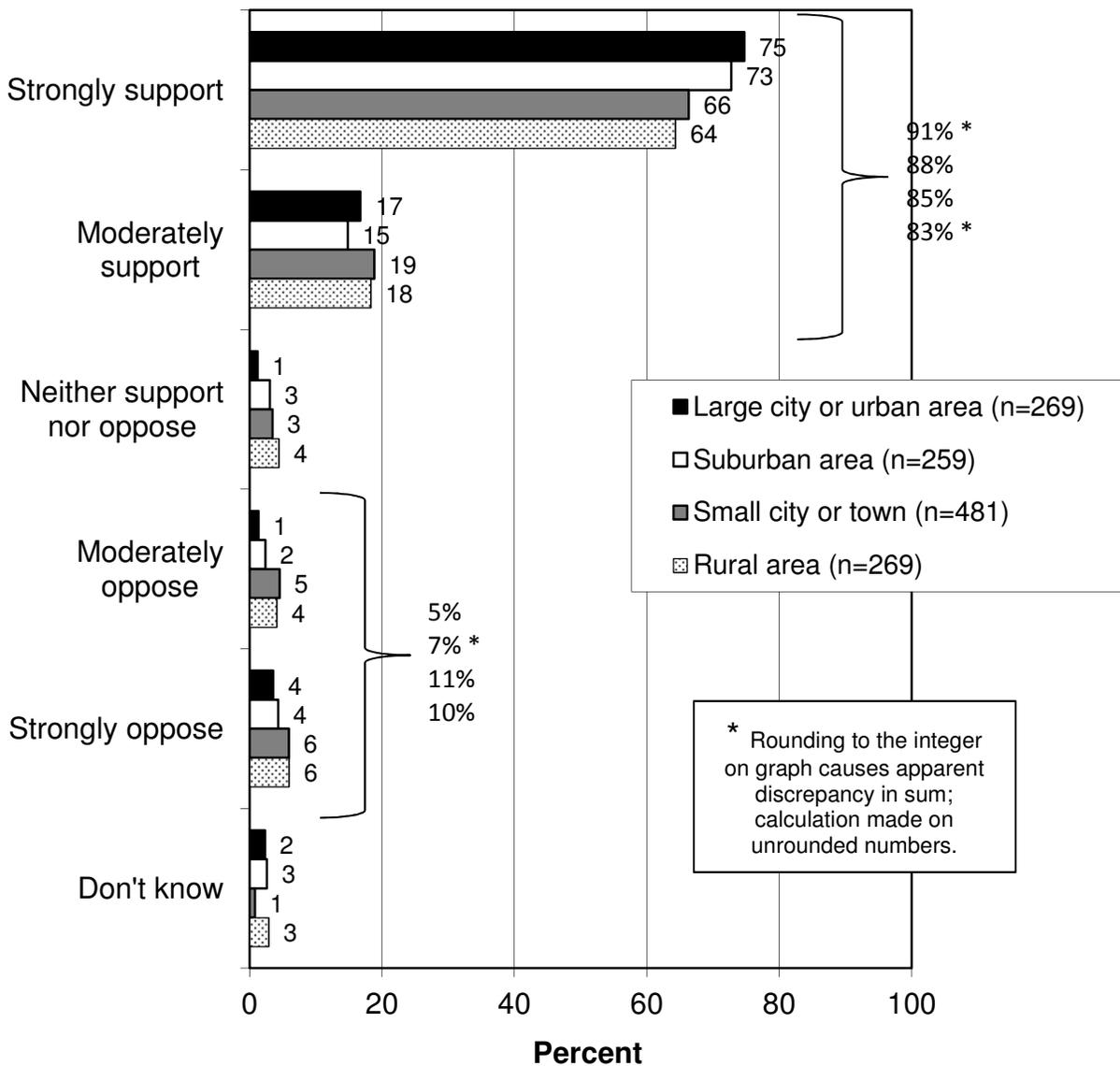
Q61. Do you support or oppose requiring people through the use of laws and ordinances to keep their trash secure so bears cannot access it in areas with high numbers of human-bear conflicts?



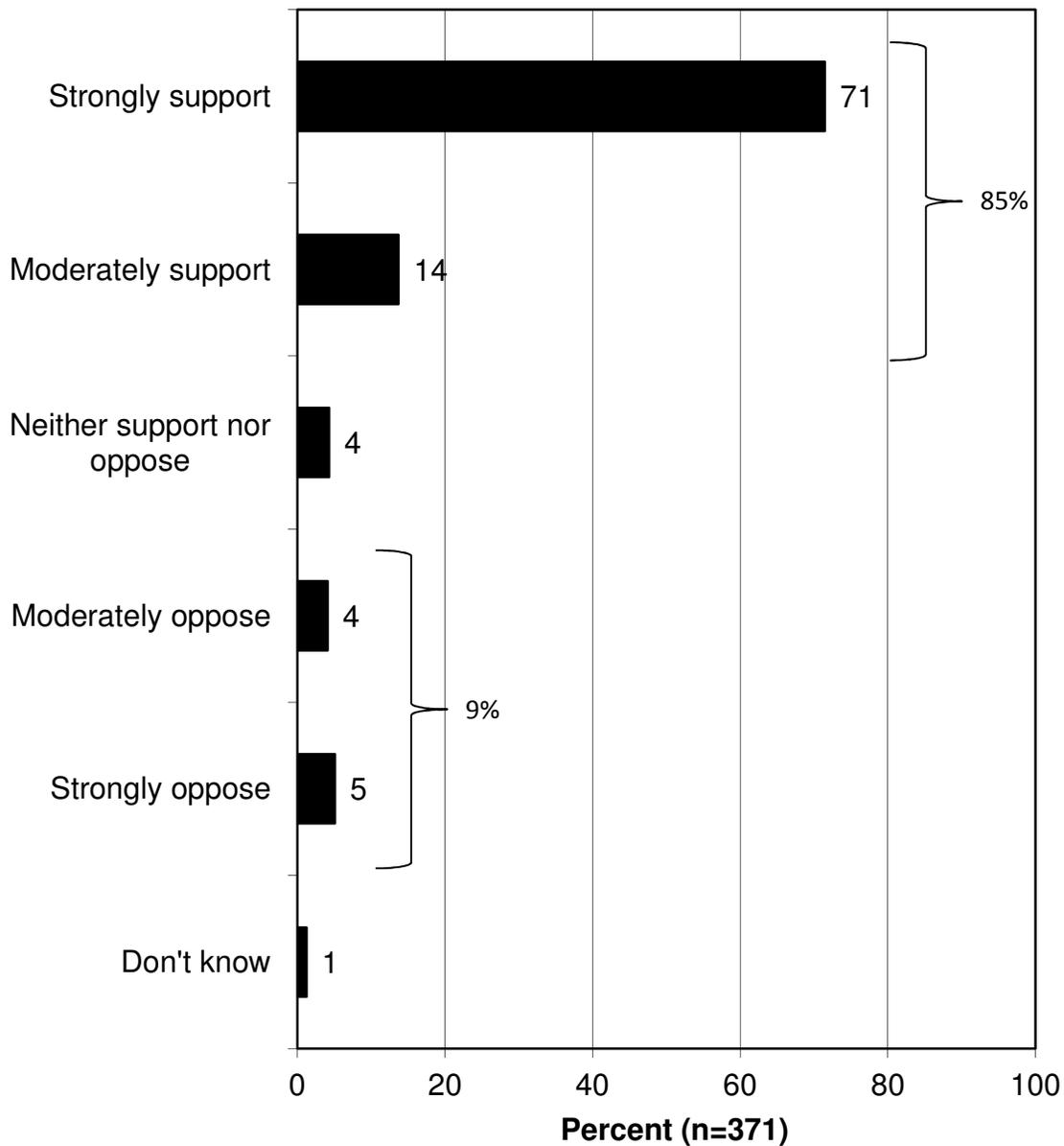
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Q61. Do you support or oppose requiring people through the use of laws and ordinances to keep their trash secure so bears cannot access it in areas with high numbers of human-bear conflicts? (Bear county residents.)

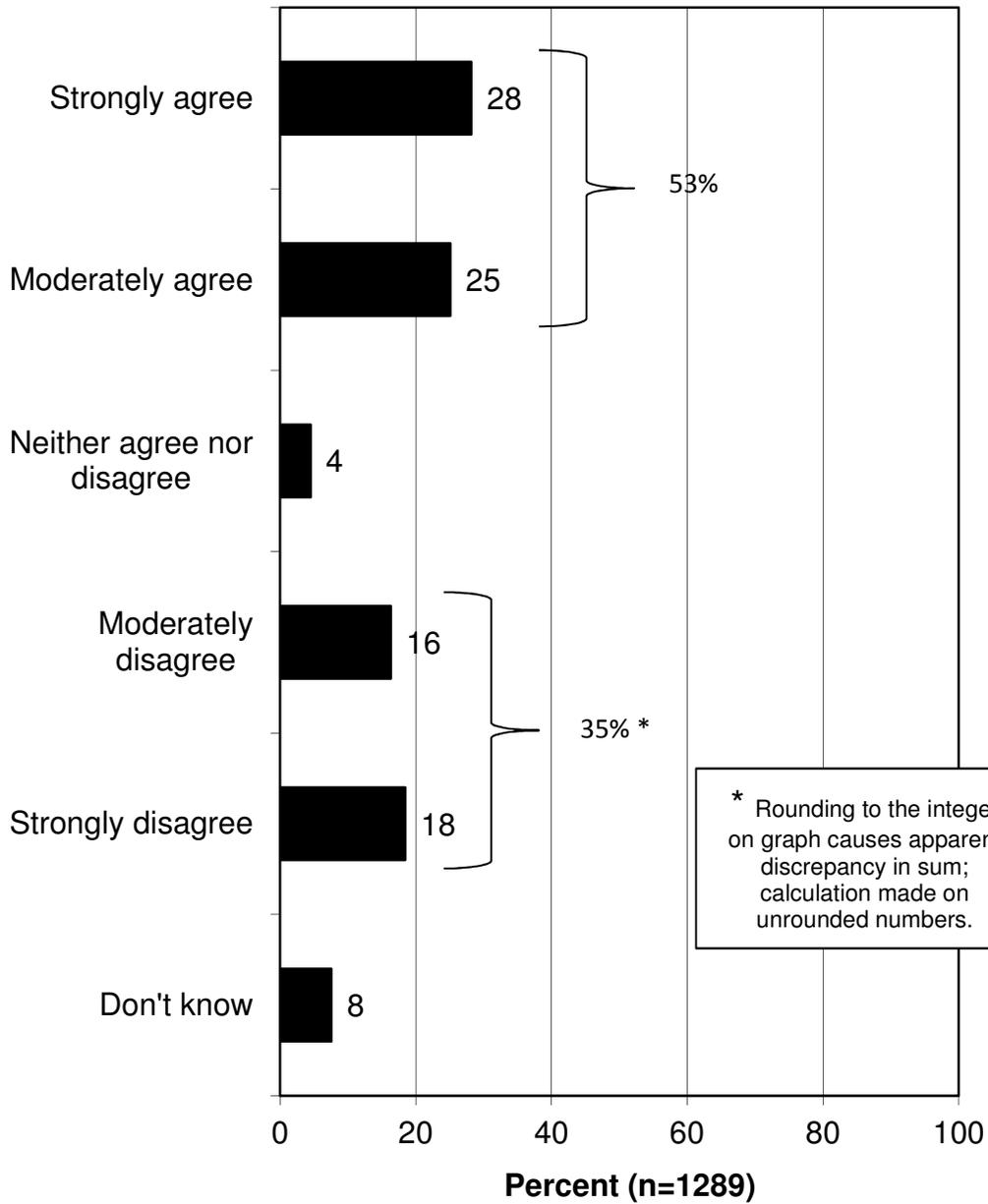


OPINIONS ON BLACK BEAR HABITAT IN FLORIDA

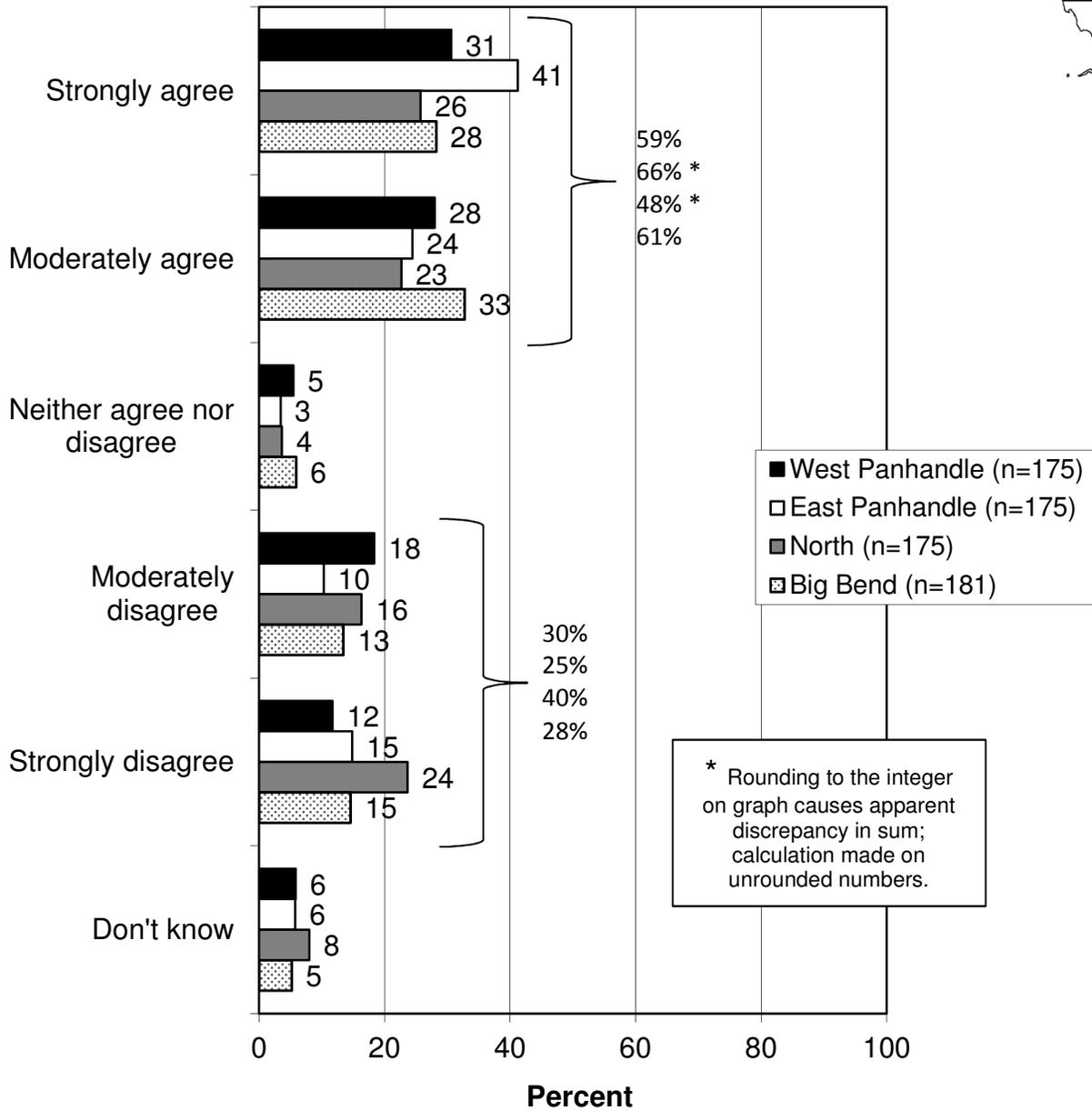
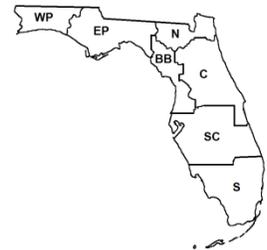
- Just over half of Florida residents (53%) agree that there is enough habitat for bears in the state; a little over a third (35%) disagree.
 - The West and East Panhandle and the Big Bend units have the highest percentages of residents who agree.
 - Urban residents have the lowest percentage disagreeing.
 - Among residents of the selected bear counties, compared to residents overall, there is a slightly lower percentage who agree and a higher percentage who disagree with the statement that there is enough habitat for bears in Florida.

- Black bear habitat is overwhelmingly considered important, as 96% of Florida residents agree with the statement, “Keeping habitat for black bears is important.”
 - All of the crosstabulations found overwhelming majorities agreeing with the statement.

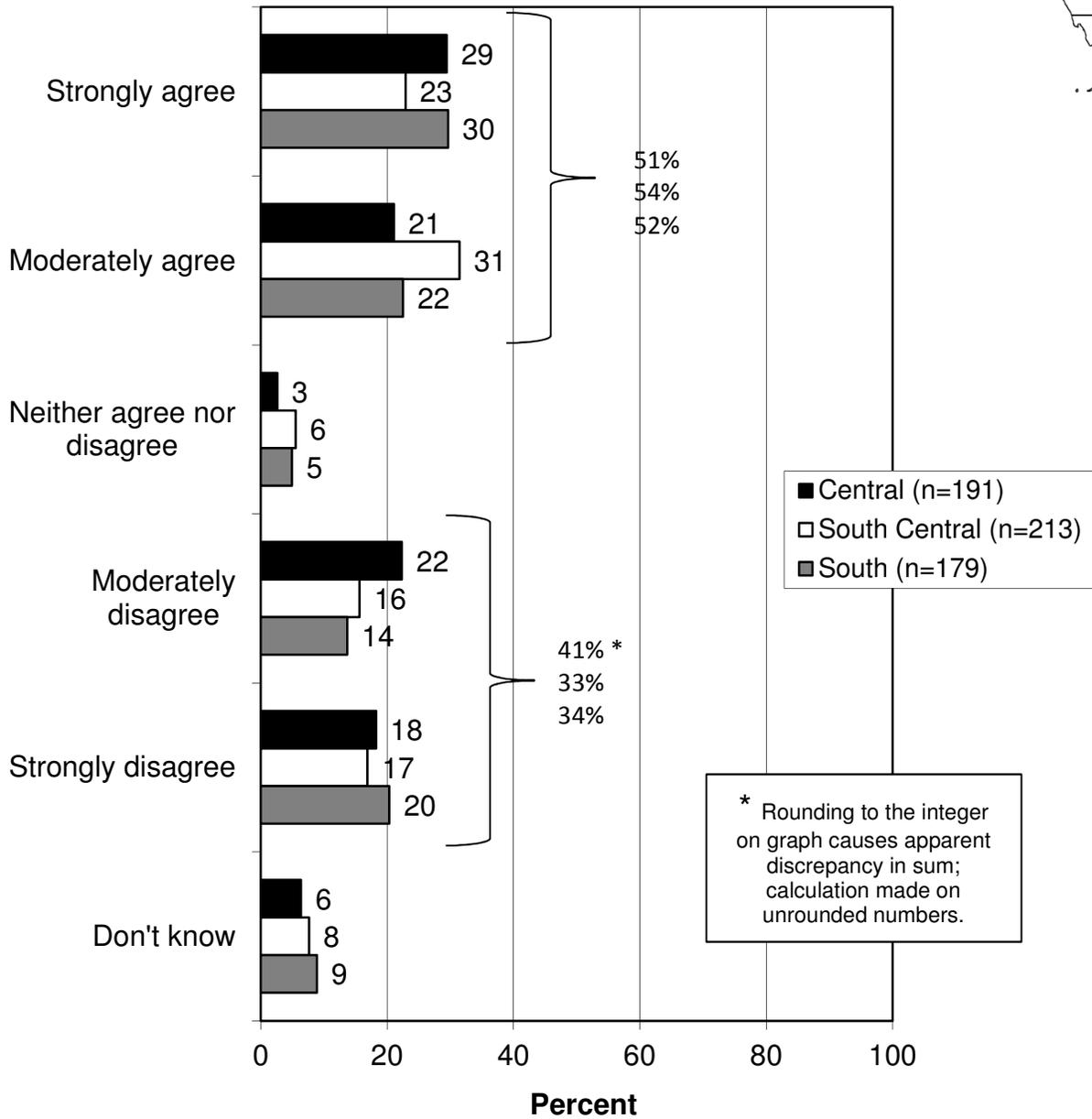
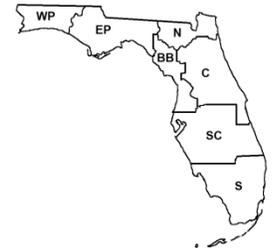
Q32. There is enough habitat for bears in Florida.



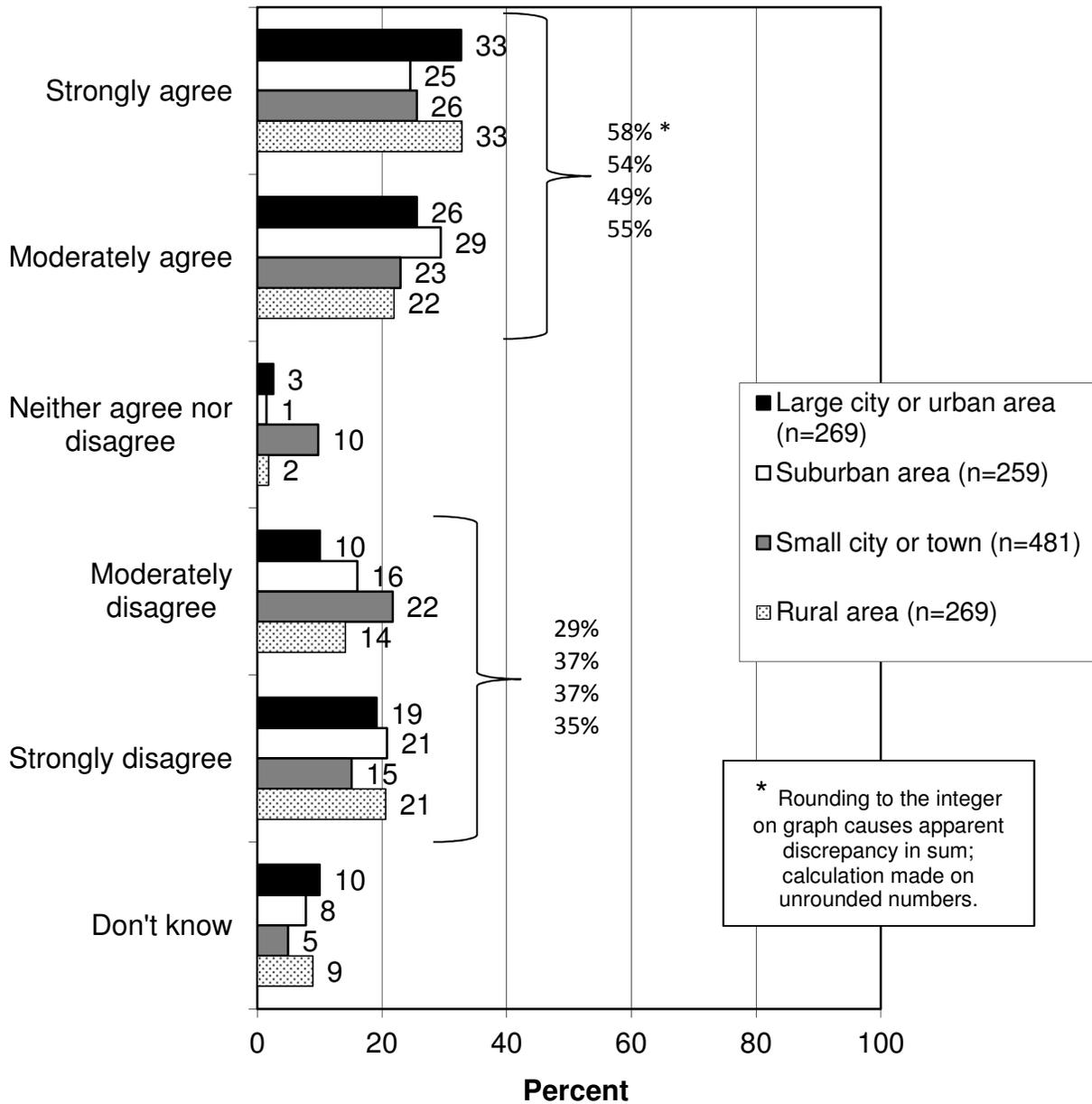
Q32. There is enough habitat for bears in Florida.



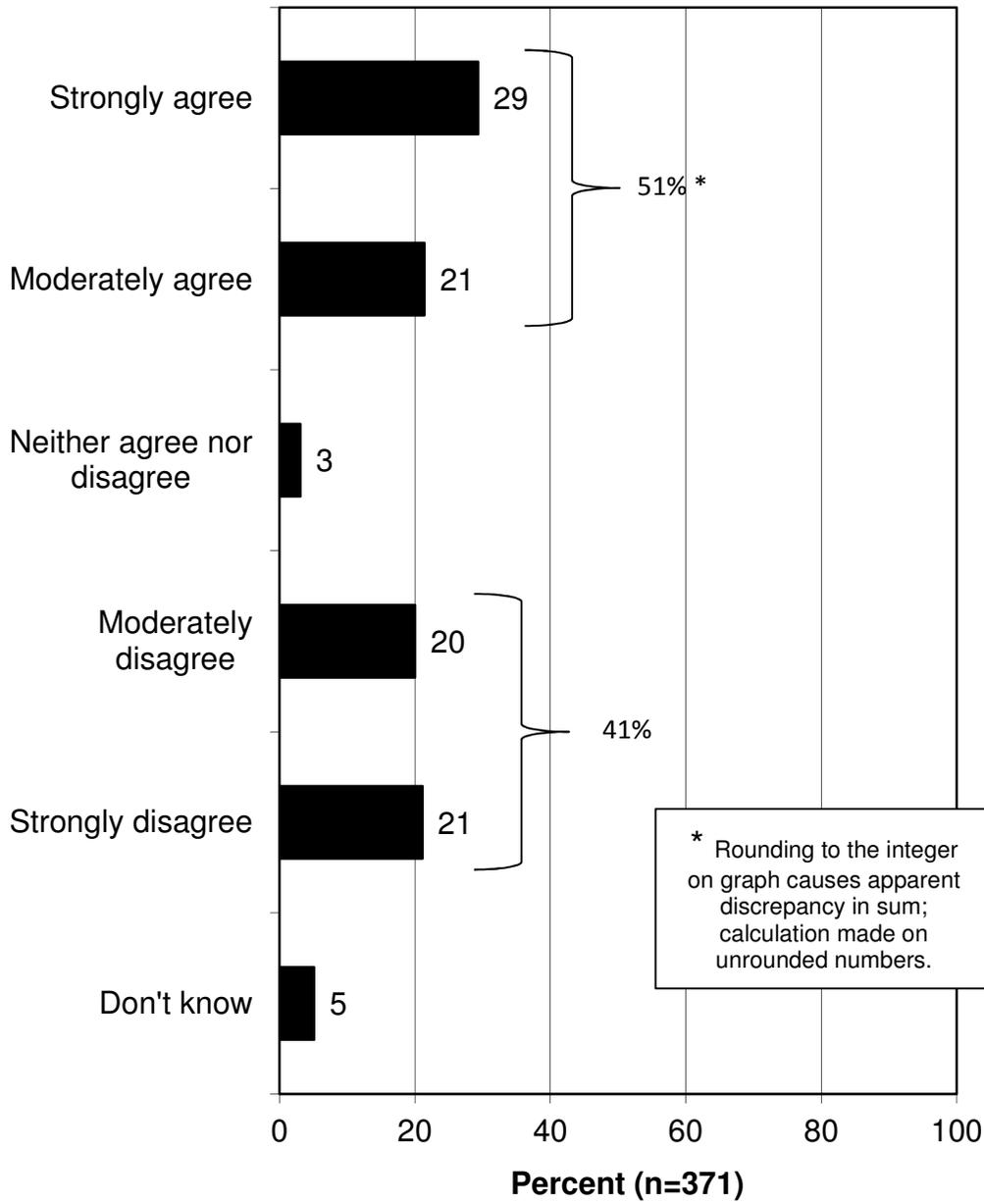
Q32. There is enough habitat for bears in Florida.



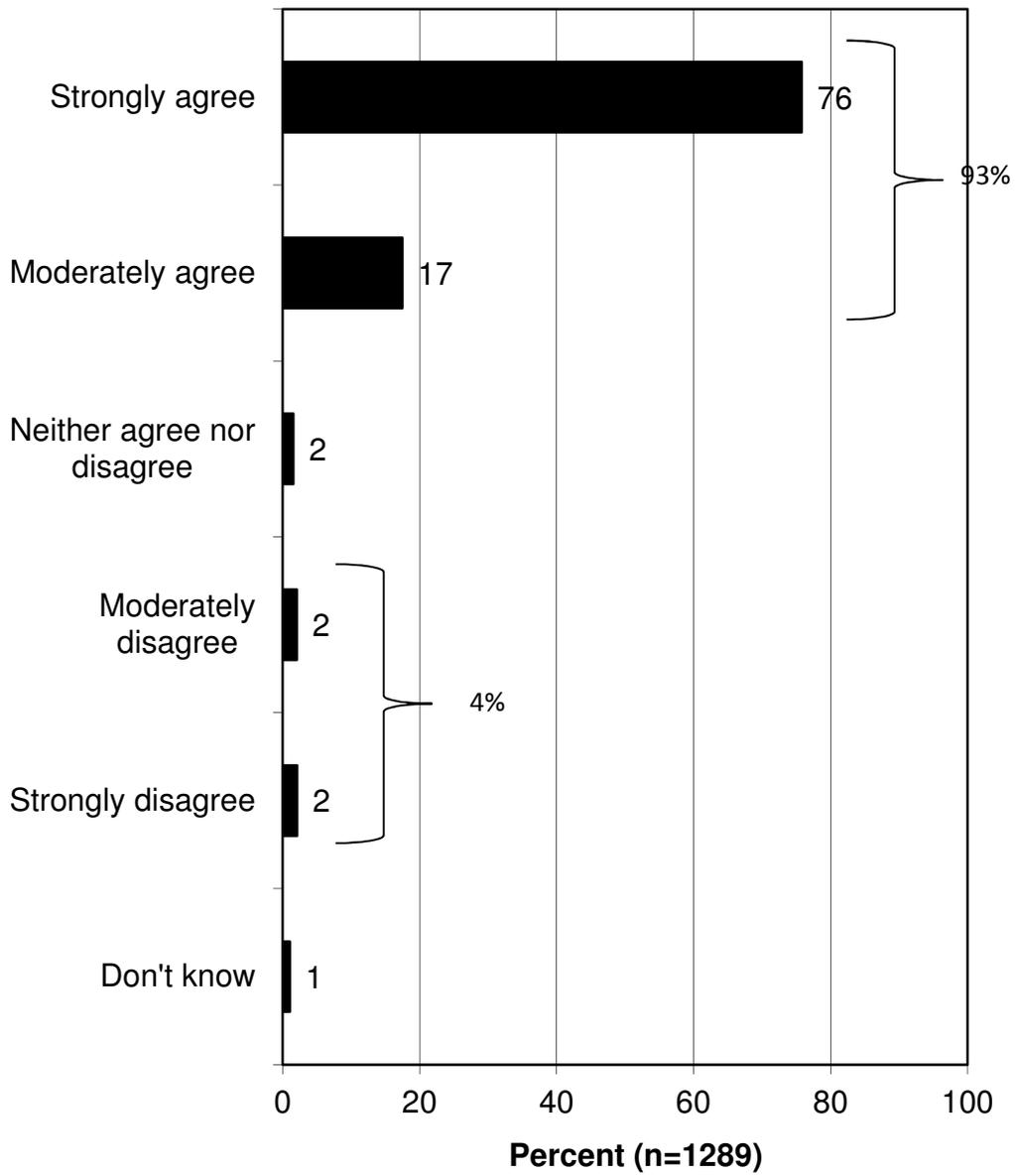
Q32. There is enough habitat for bears in Florida.



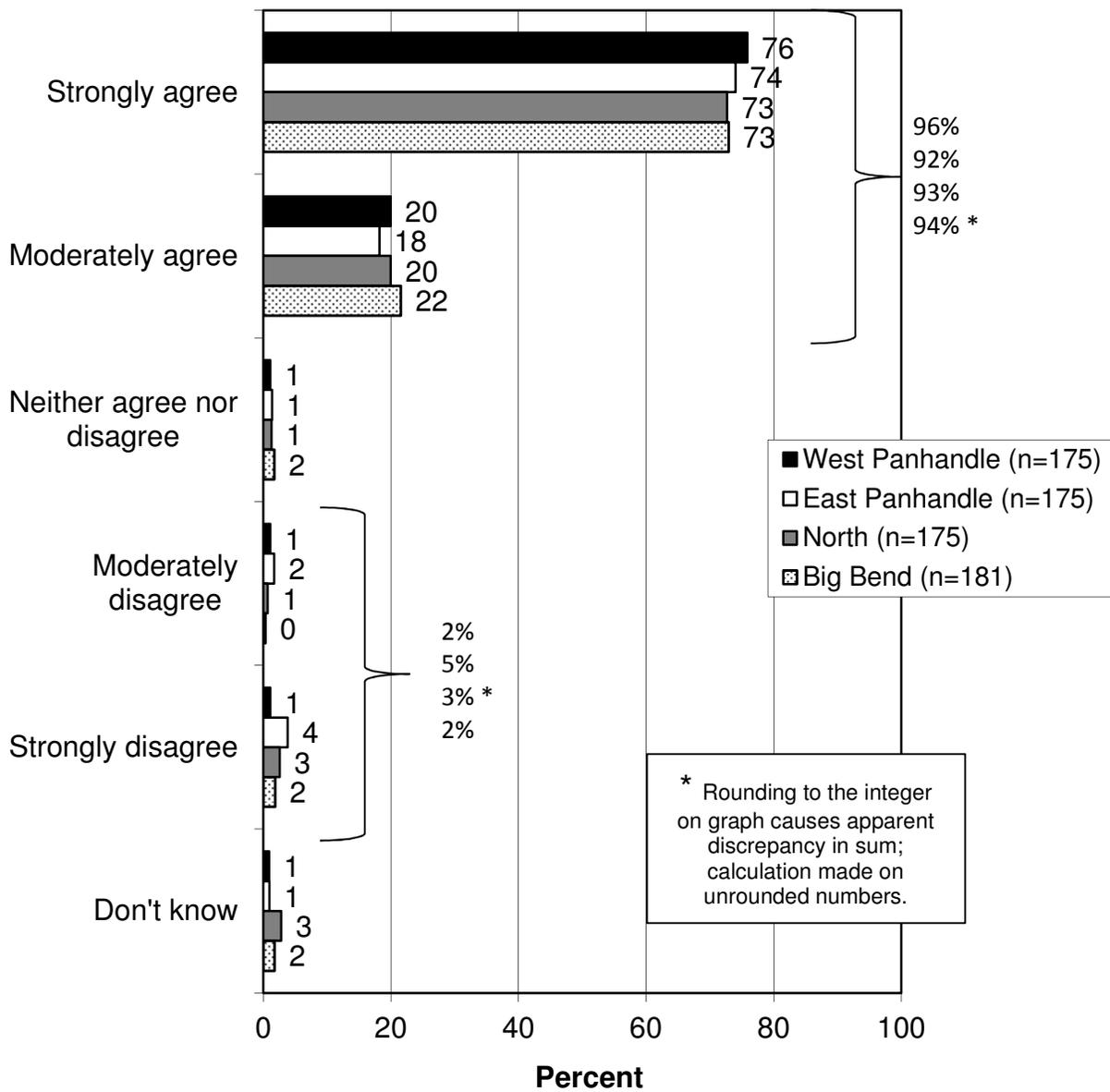
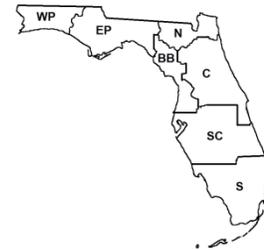
Q32. There is enough habitat for bears in Florida. (Bear county residents.)



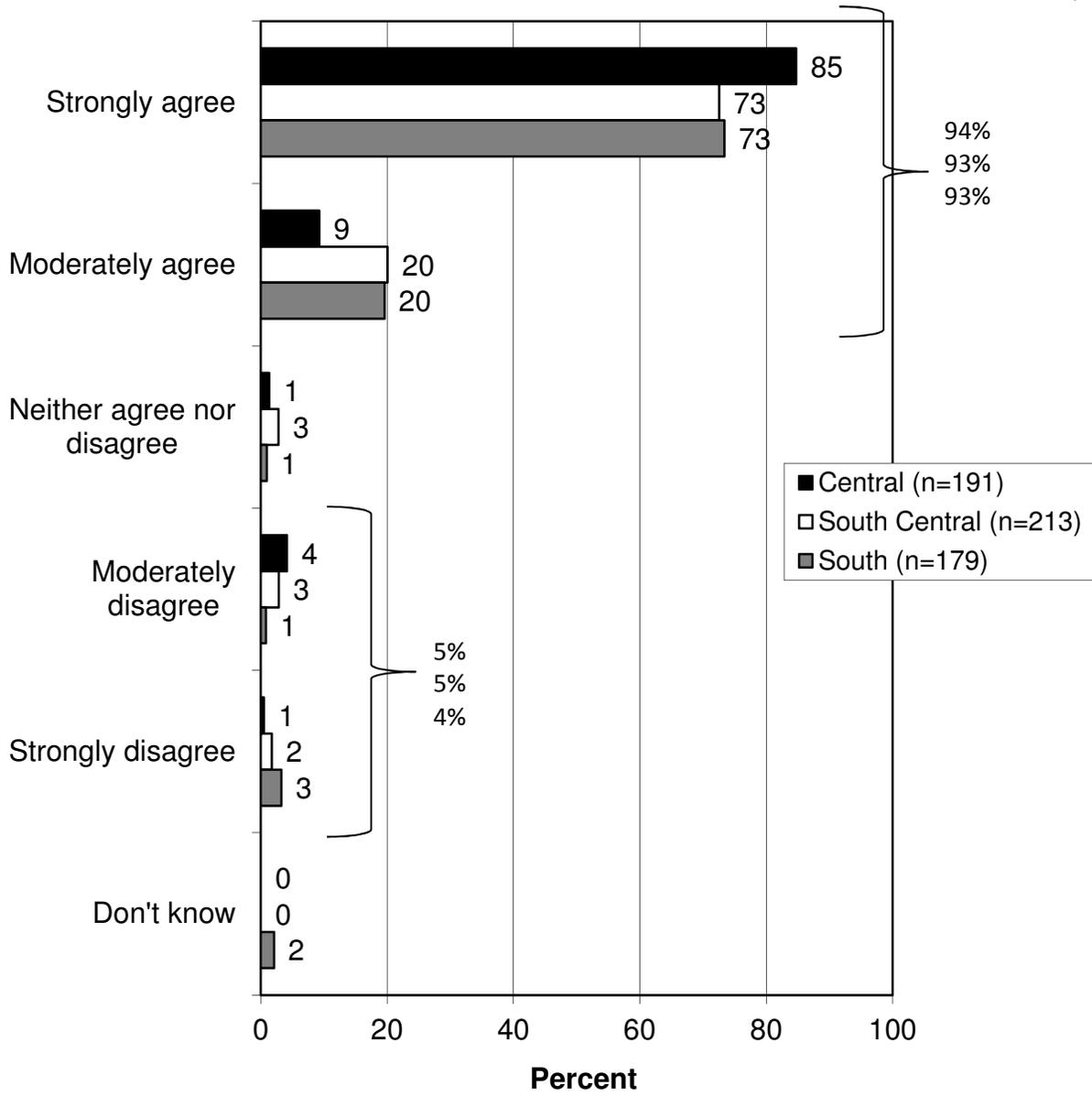
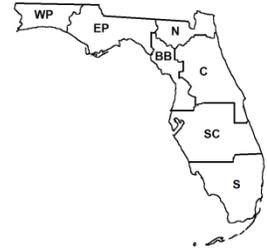
Q33. Keeping habitat for black bears is important.



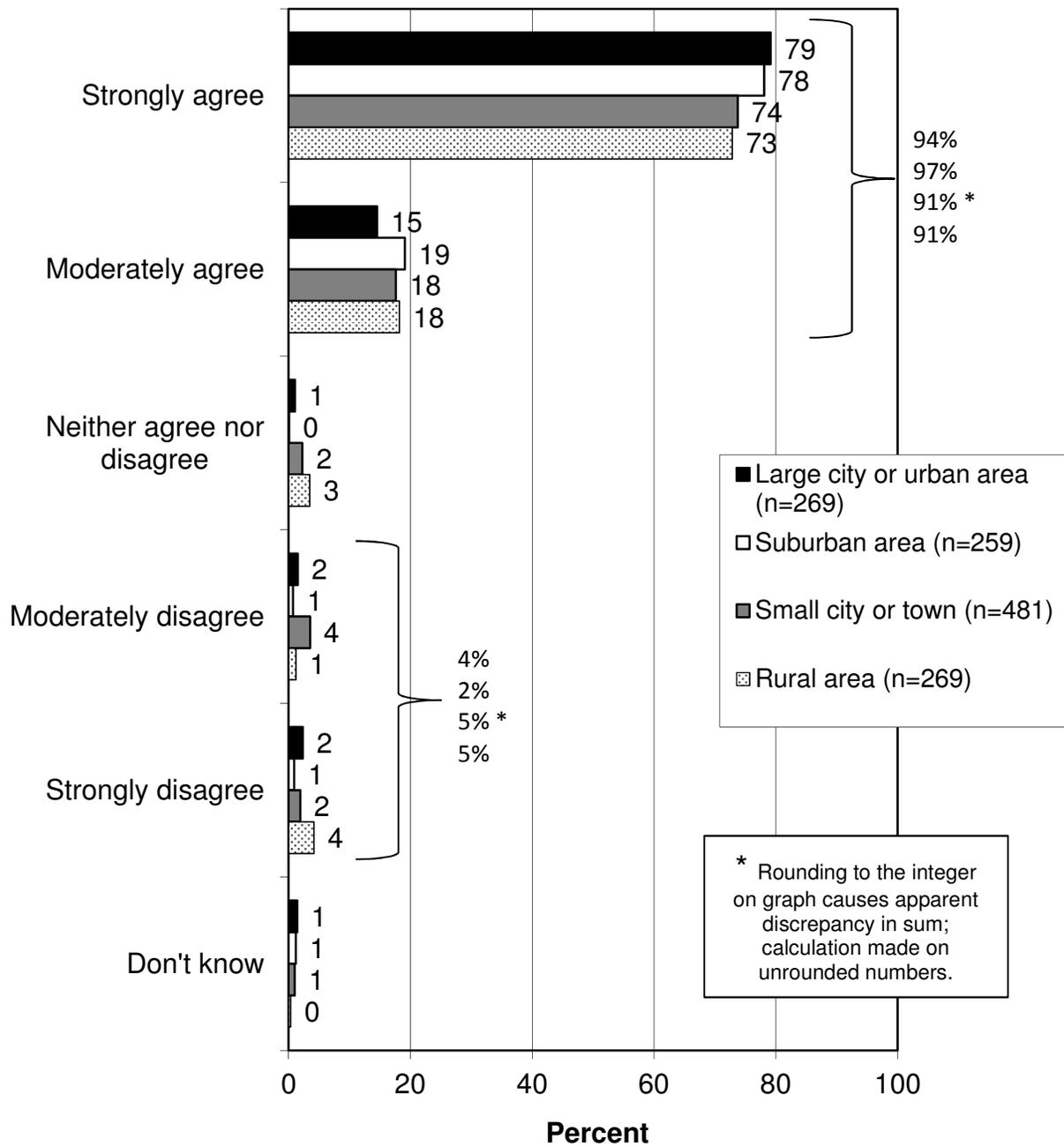
Q33. Keeping habitat for black bears is important.



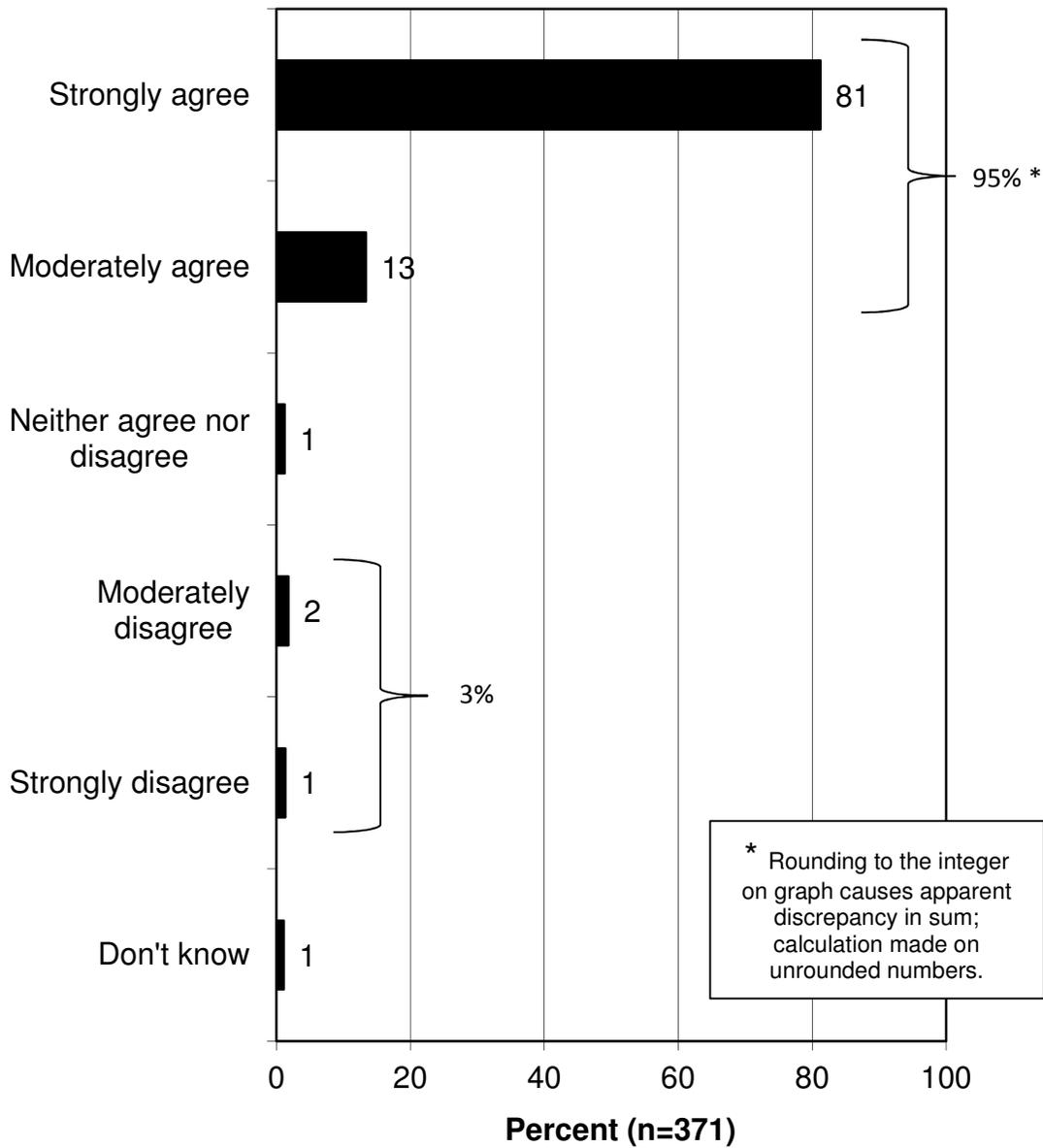
Q33. Keeping habitat for black bears is important.



Q33. Keeping habitat for black bears is important.



Q33. Keeping habitat for black bears is important. (Bear county residents.)

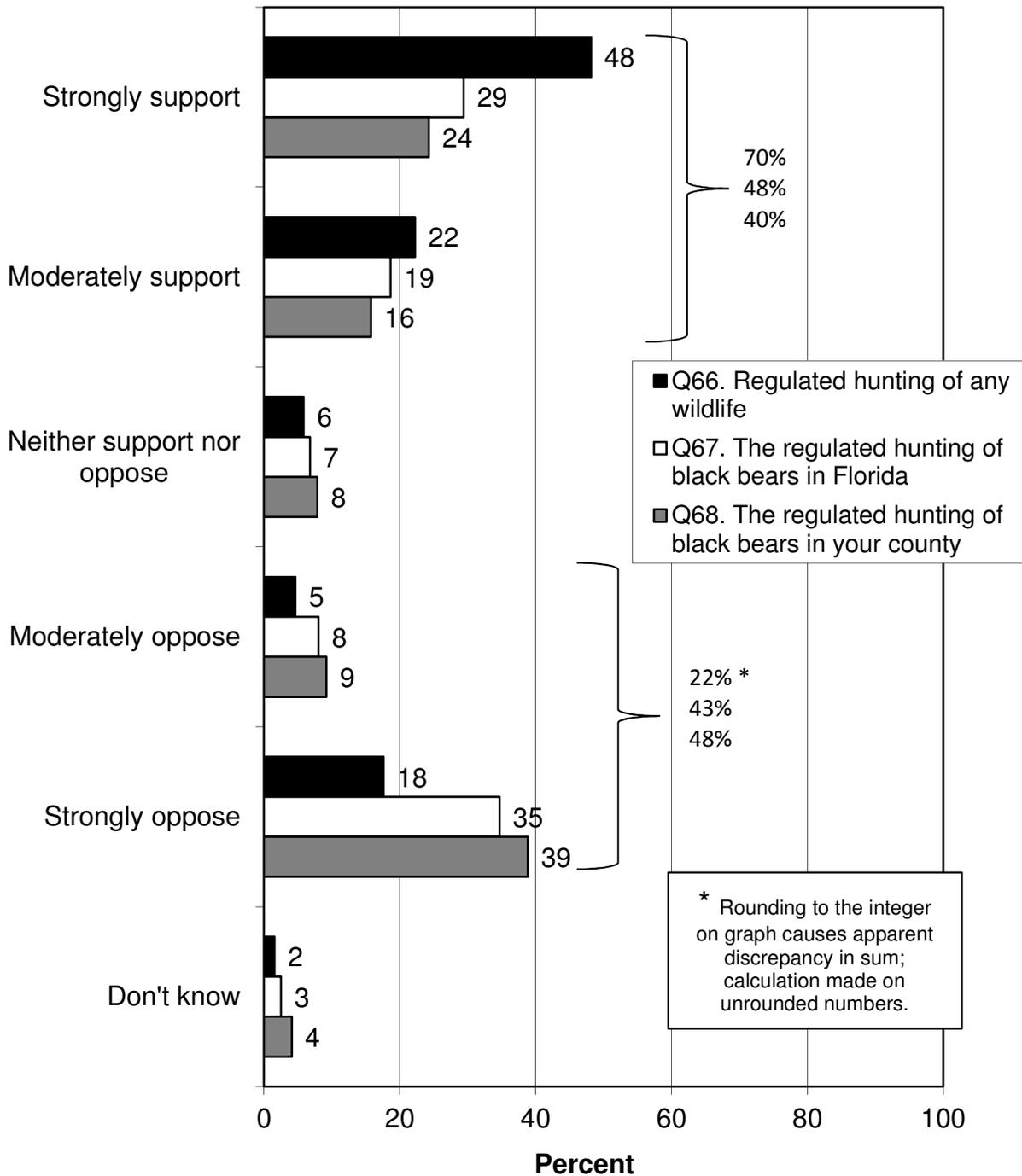


OPINIONS ON HUNTING

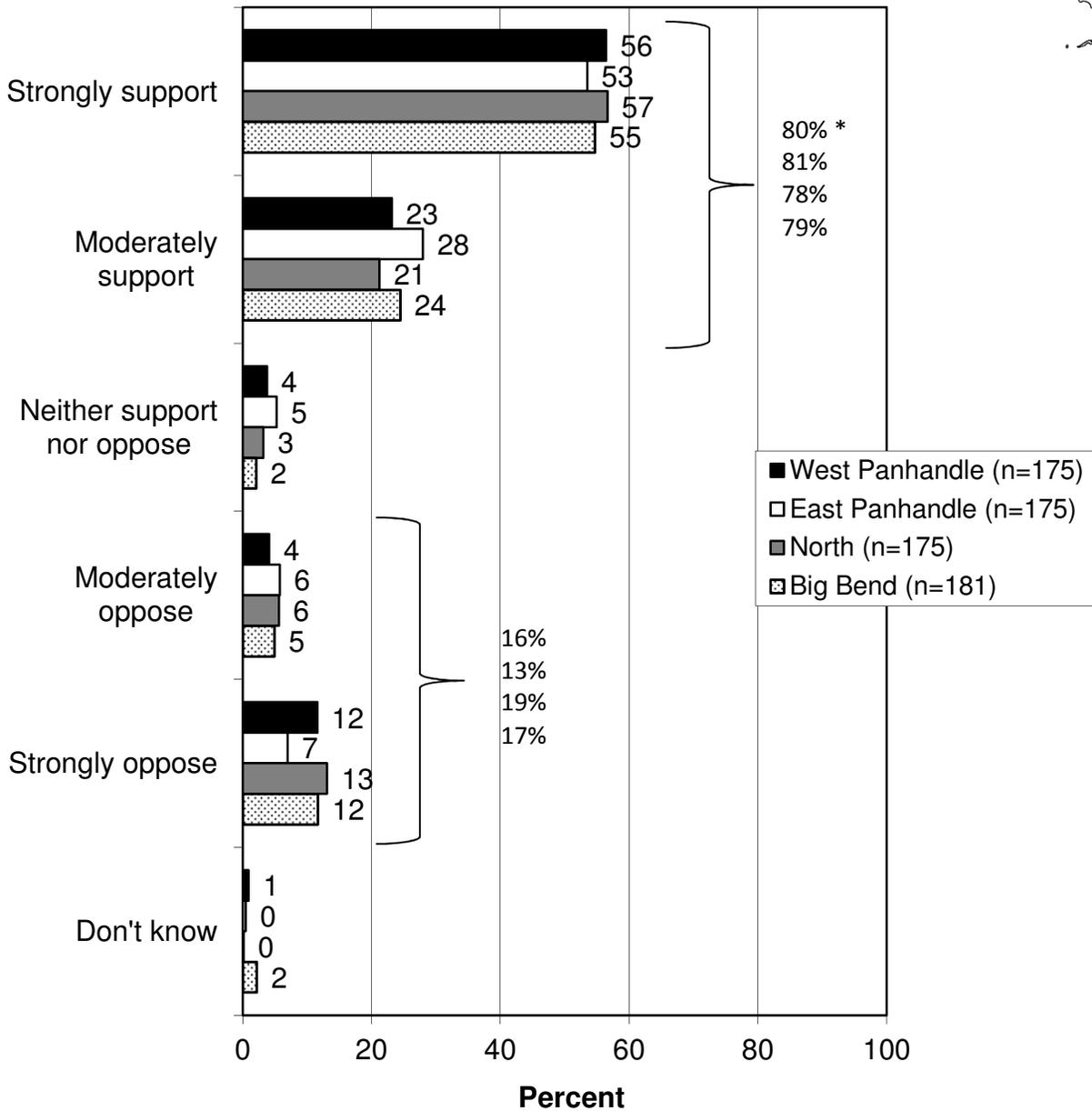
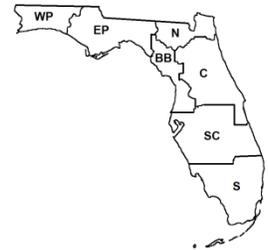
- Three questions asked about opinions on regulated hunting: one question about *hunting in general* and then about *hunting black bears in the state* and about *hunting black bears in the respondent's county* of residence. Support among all residents of the state far exceeds opposition regarding hunting in general: 70% support, while 22% oppose (the remainder are neutral). However, residents are more polarized regarding hunting black bears, with 48% supporting/43% opposing hunting of black bears in the state, and 40% supporting/48% opposing hunting of black bears in their county.
 - In looking at bear management units, support for hunting in general is markedly lower in the South Central and South units.
 - Support for hunting in general is highest among rural residents. On the other hunting opinion questions, the crosstabulation by residency found no marked differences.
 - Regarding the selected bear counties, support is higher for hunting in general and for hunting black bears in the state and in the county. Another set of graphs shows a comparison of those who live in the selected bear counties and those who do not.
 - Omnigraphs are included of these questions, showing respondent characteristics associated with the various responses.

- Five questions asked about residents' support for or opposition to hunting of black bears with knowledge of certain aspects of black bear hunting in mind. Support for hunting black bears is highest when respondents know that the FWC carefully monitors the population as well as when respondents know that the goal is to keep the populations at their current levels where the populations are abundant and healthy. These are more ecological aspects that resonate well; human-centered aspects, like the statement that black bears are killed in vehicle accidents, do *not* resonate as well.
 - For the crosstabulations by bear management unit, the color-coded data presentation that was used for the overall results cannot be used. Instead, four graphs are shown for these crosstabulated data runs: the percentages strongly supporting, the percentages strongly or moderately supporting combined, the percentages strongly or moderately opposing combined, and the percentages strongly opposing.

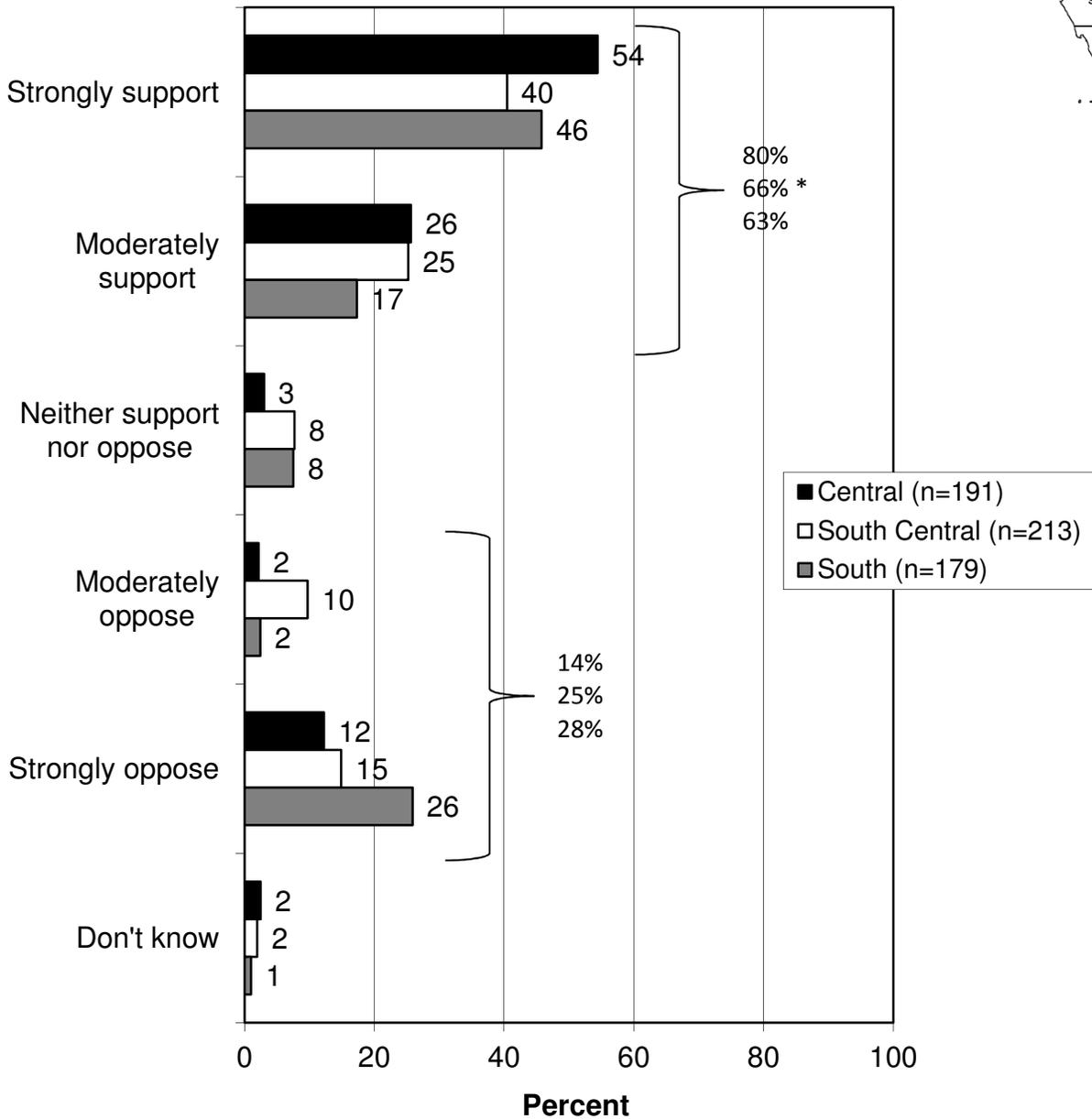
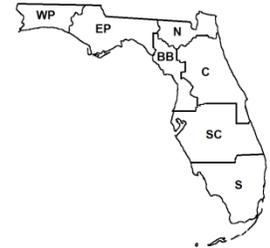
Q66, Q67, and Q68. Do you support or oppose...? (Residents statewide.)



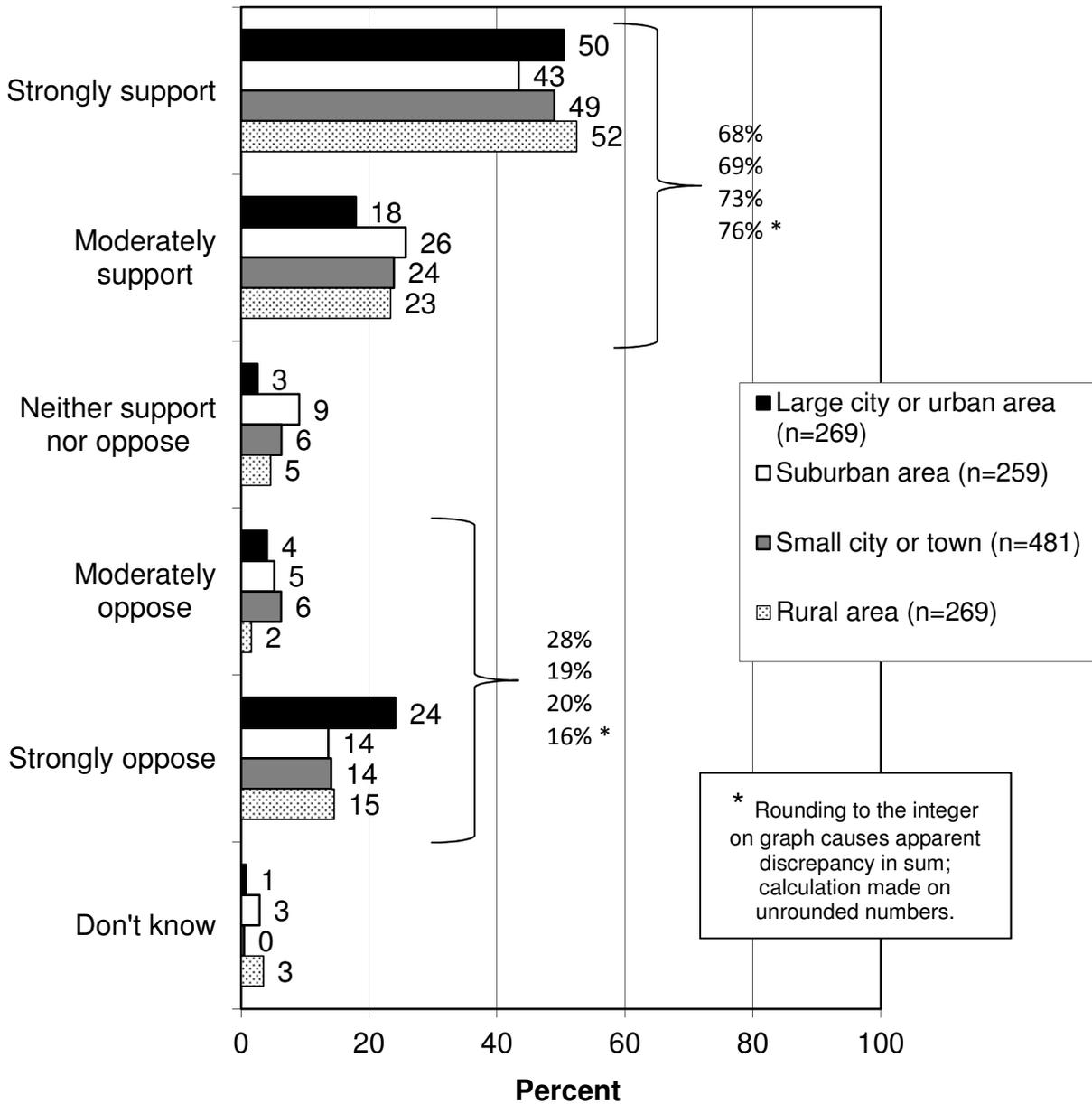
Q66. Do you support or oppose regulated hunting of any wildlife?



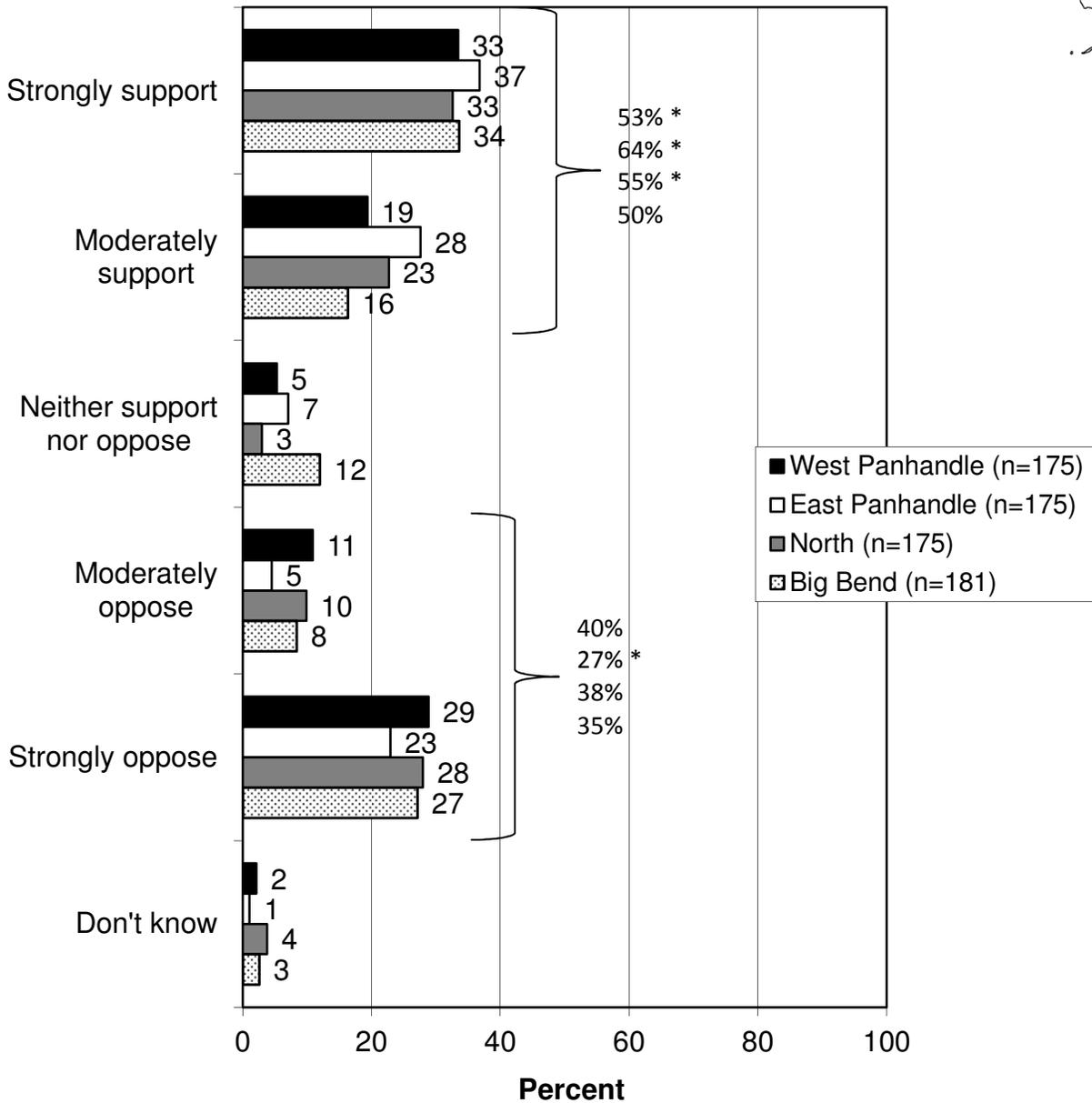
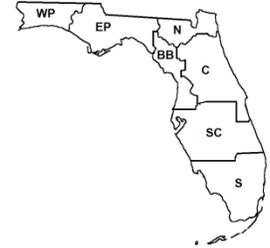
Q66. Do you support or oppose regulated hunting of any wildlife?



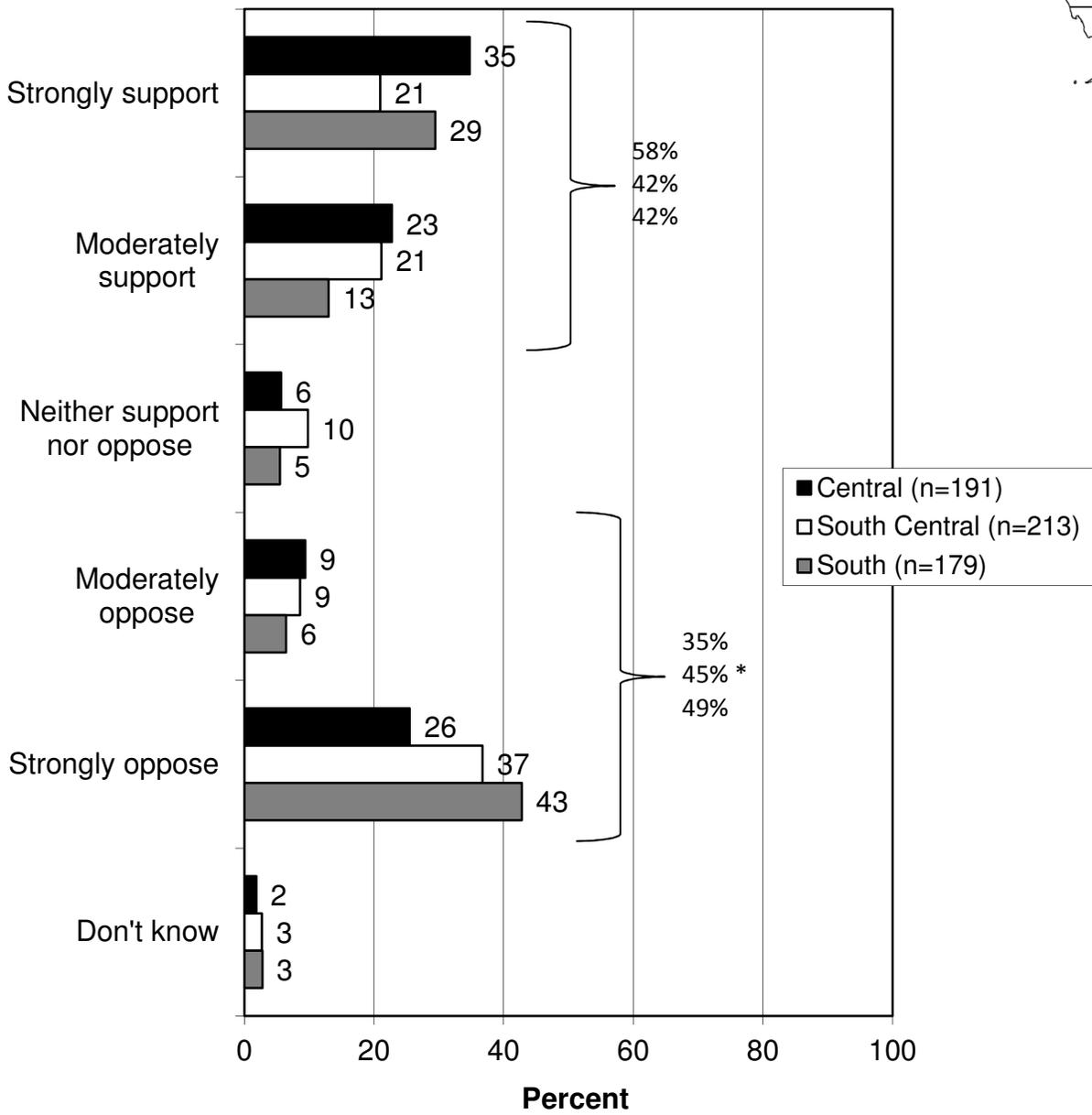
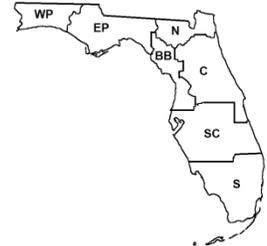
Q66. Regulated hunting of any wildlife?



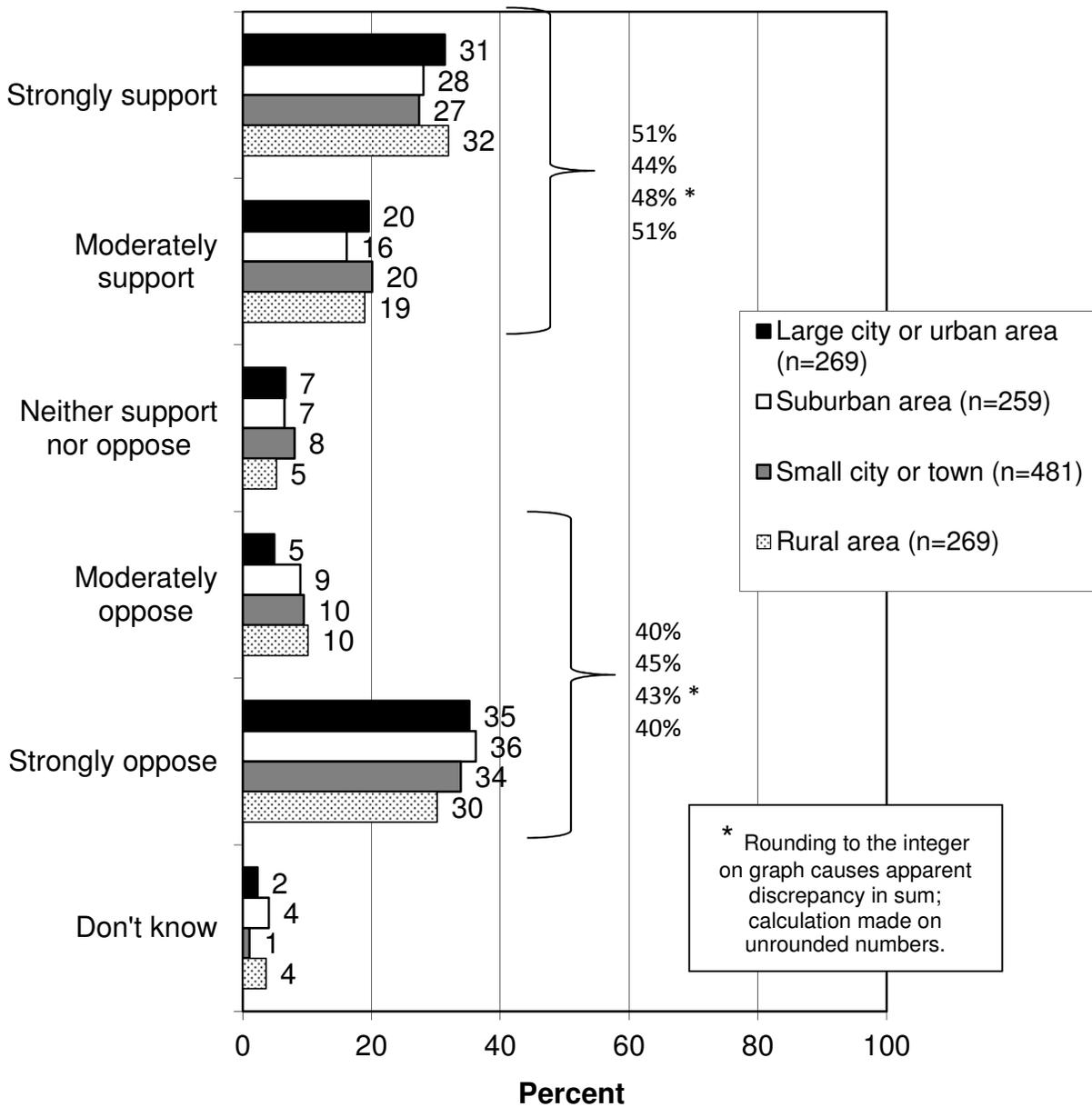
Q67. Do you support or oppose the regulated hunting of black bears in Florida?



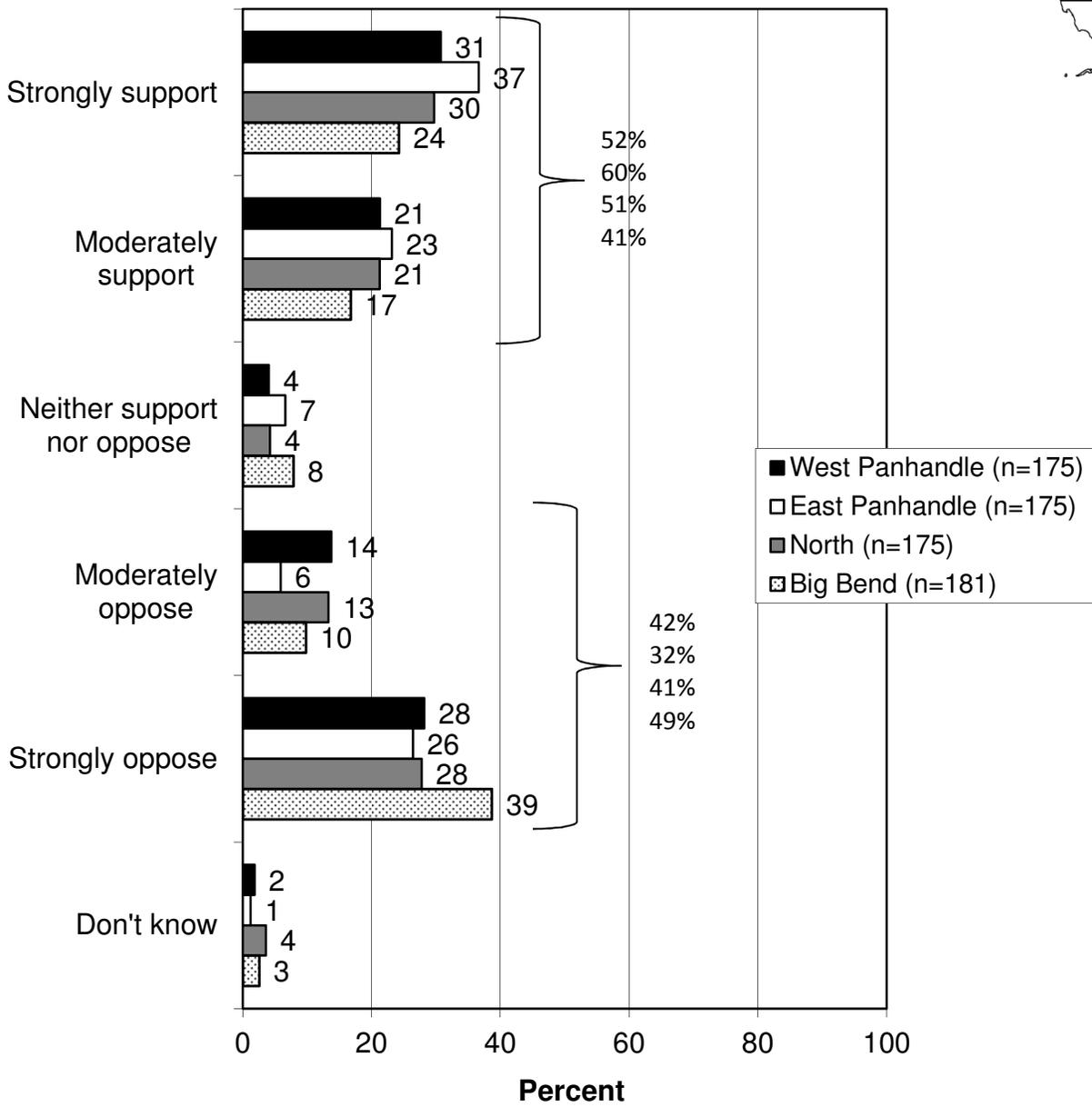
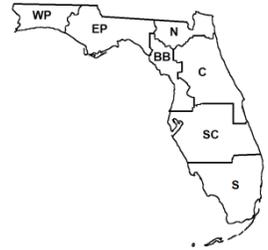
Q67. Do you support or oppose the regulated hunting of black bears in Florida?



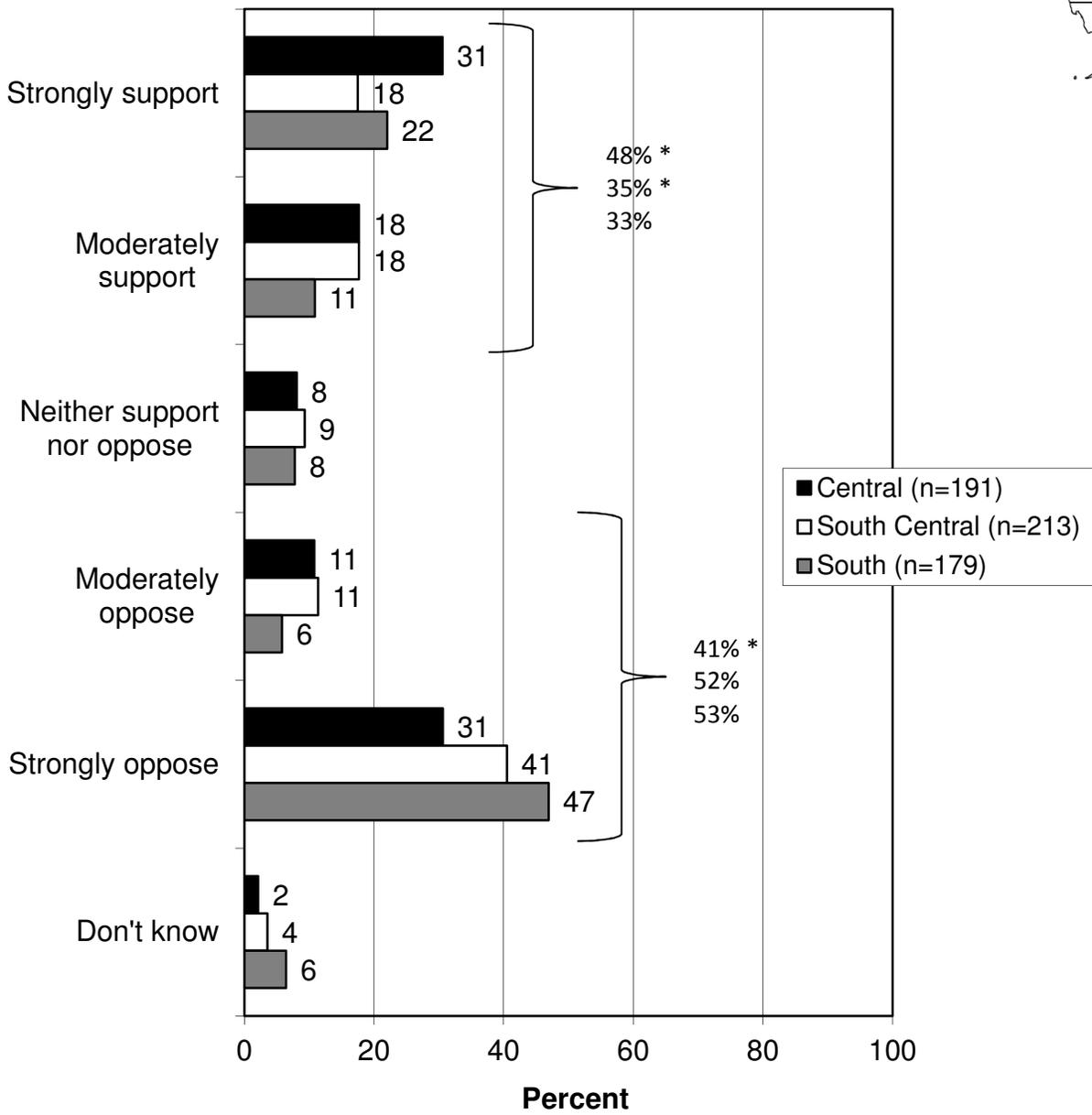
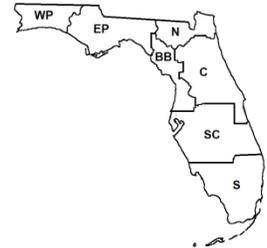
Q67. The regulated hunting of black bears in Florida?



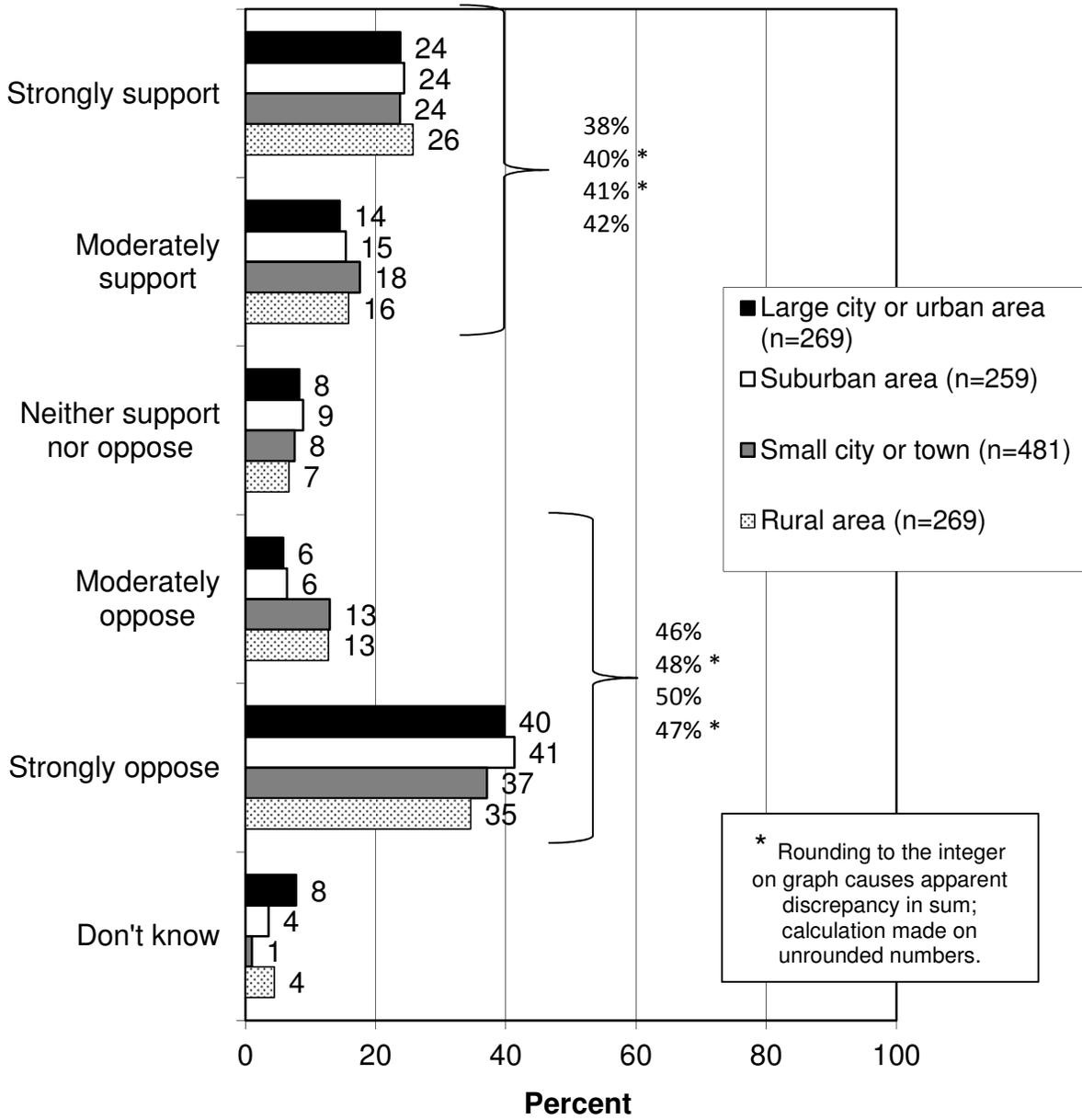
Q68. Do you support or oppose the regulated hunting of black bears in your county?



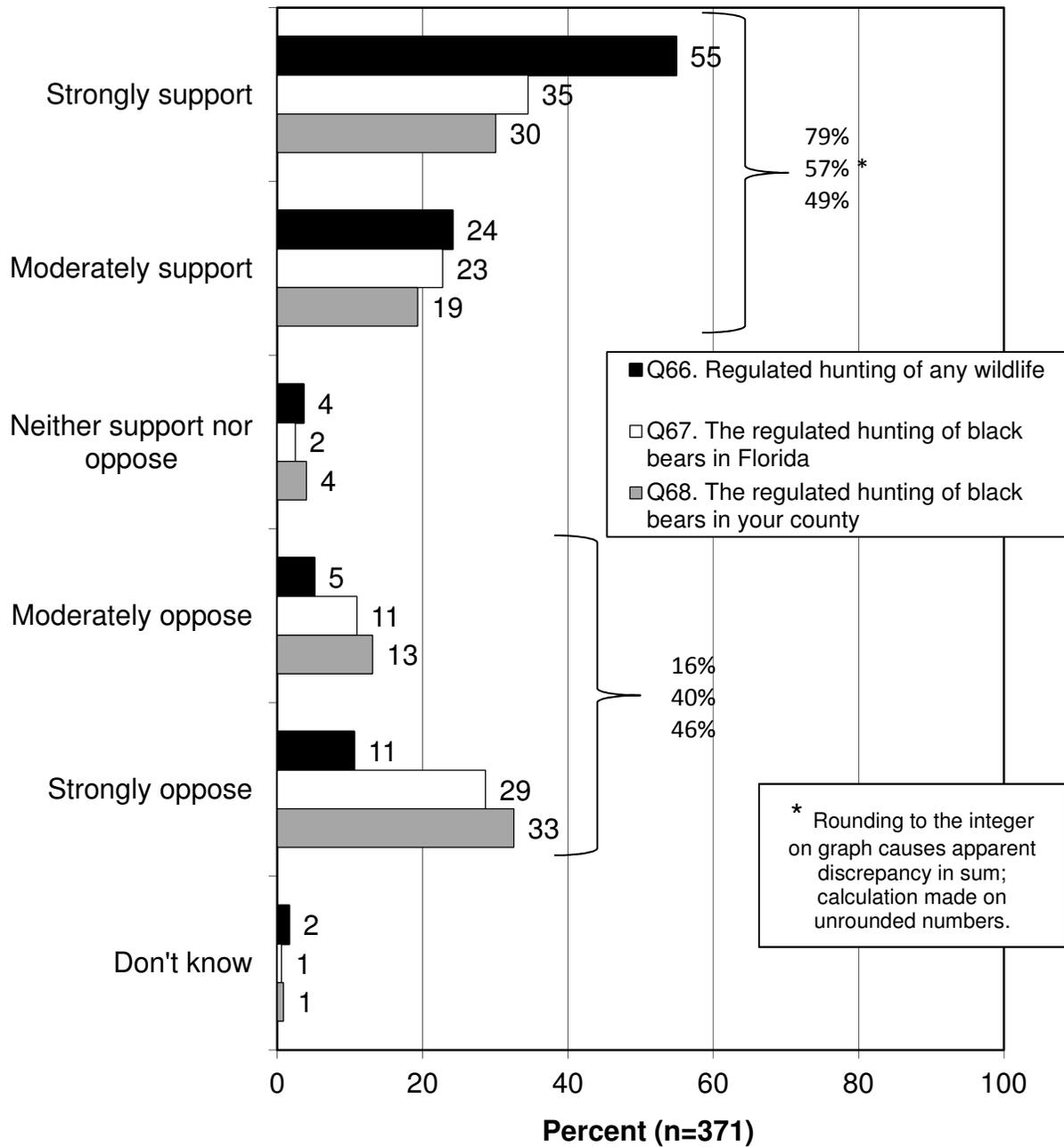
Q68. Do you support or oppose the regulated hunting of black bears in your county?



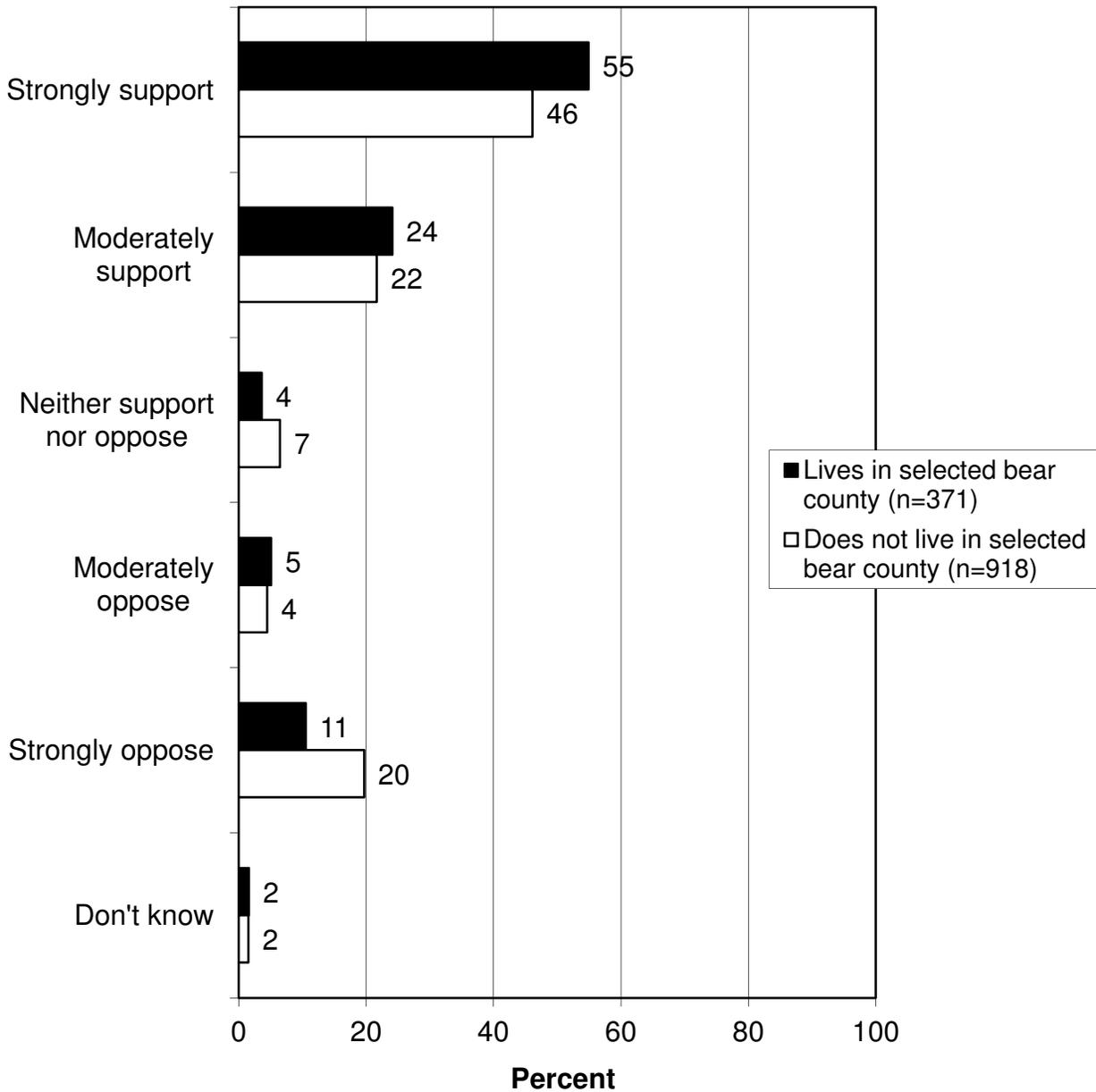
Q68. The regulated hunting of black bears in your county?



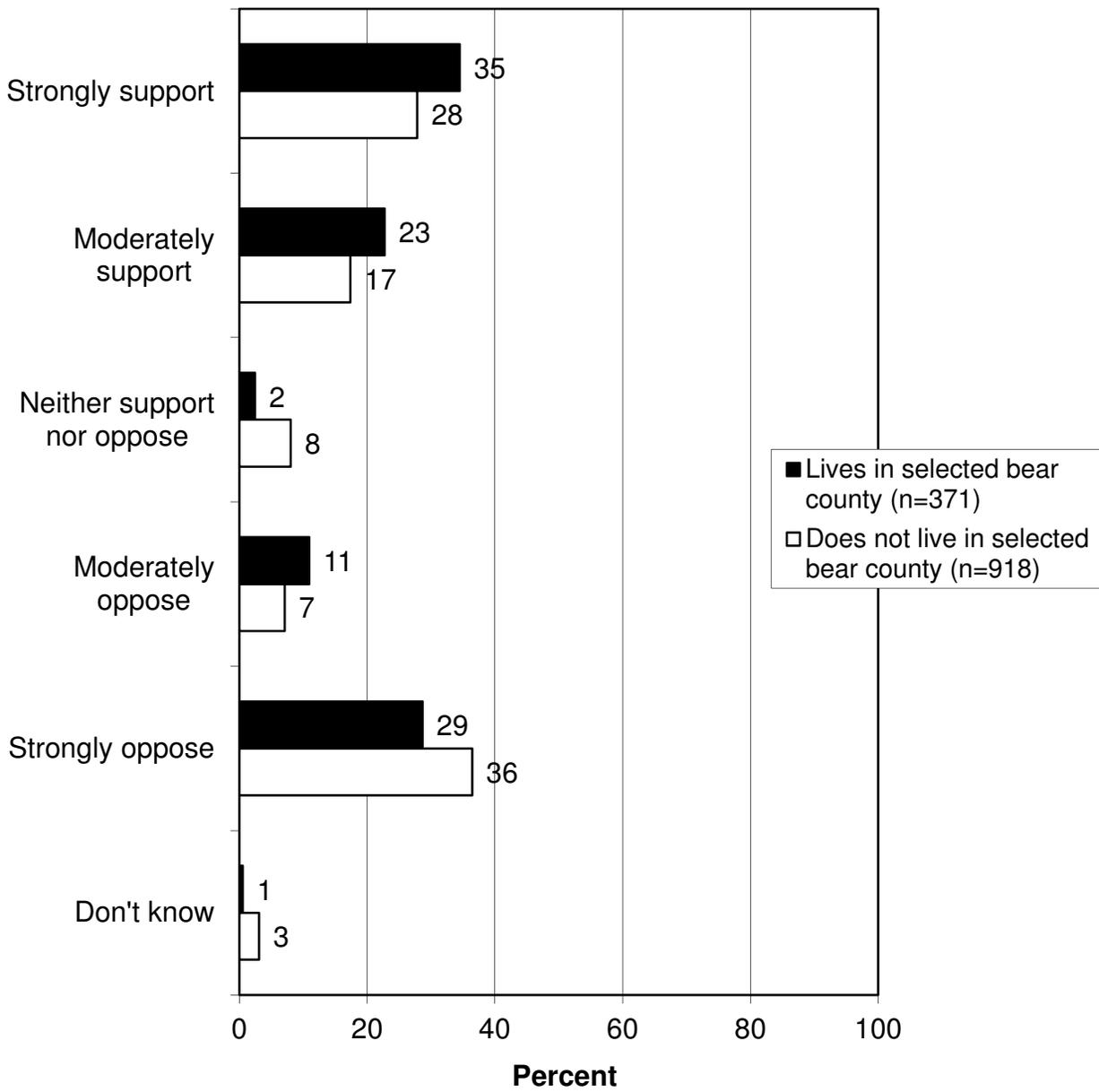
Q66, Q67, and Q68. Do you support or oppose...?. (Bear county residents.)



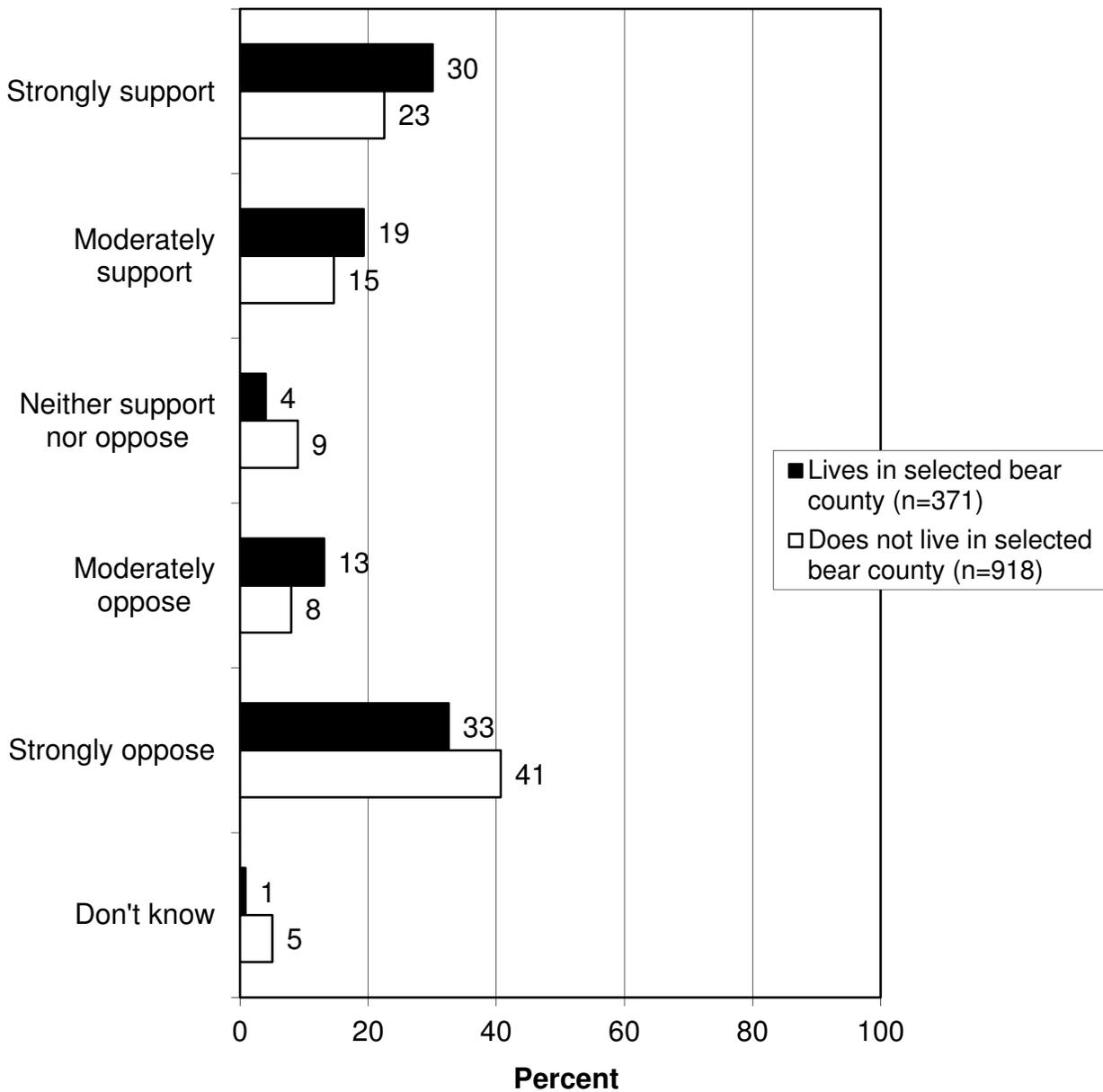
Q66. Do you support or oppose regulated hunting of any wildlife?



Q67. Do you support or oppose the regulated hunting of black bears in Florida?

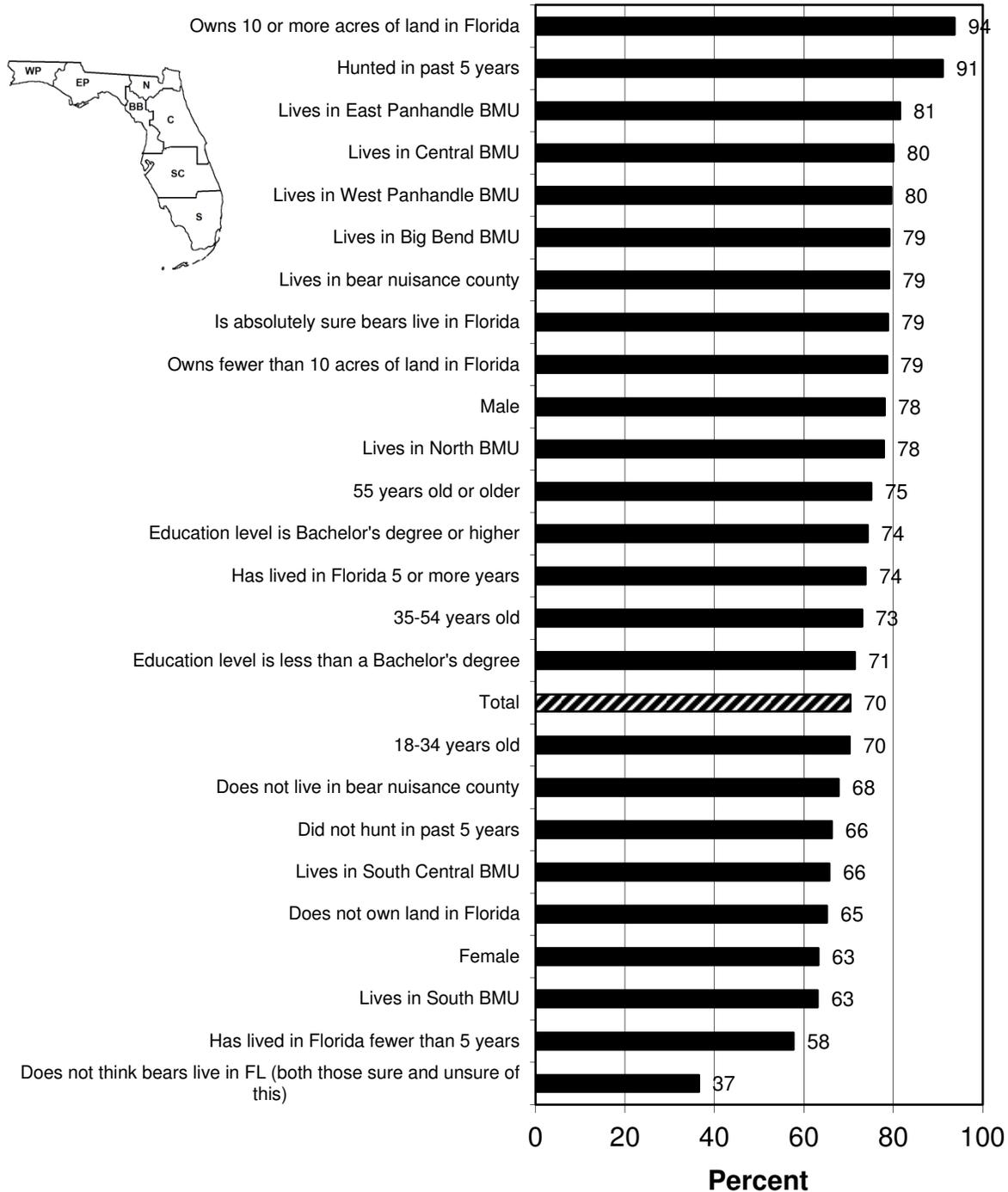


Q68. Do you support or oppose the regulated hunting of black bears in your county?



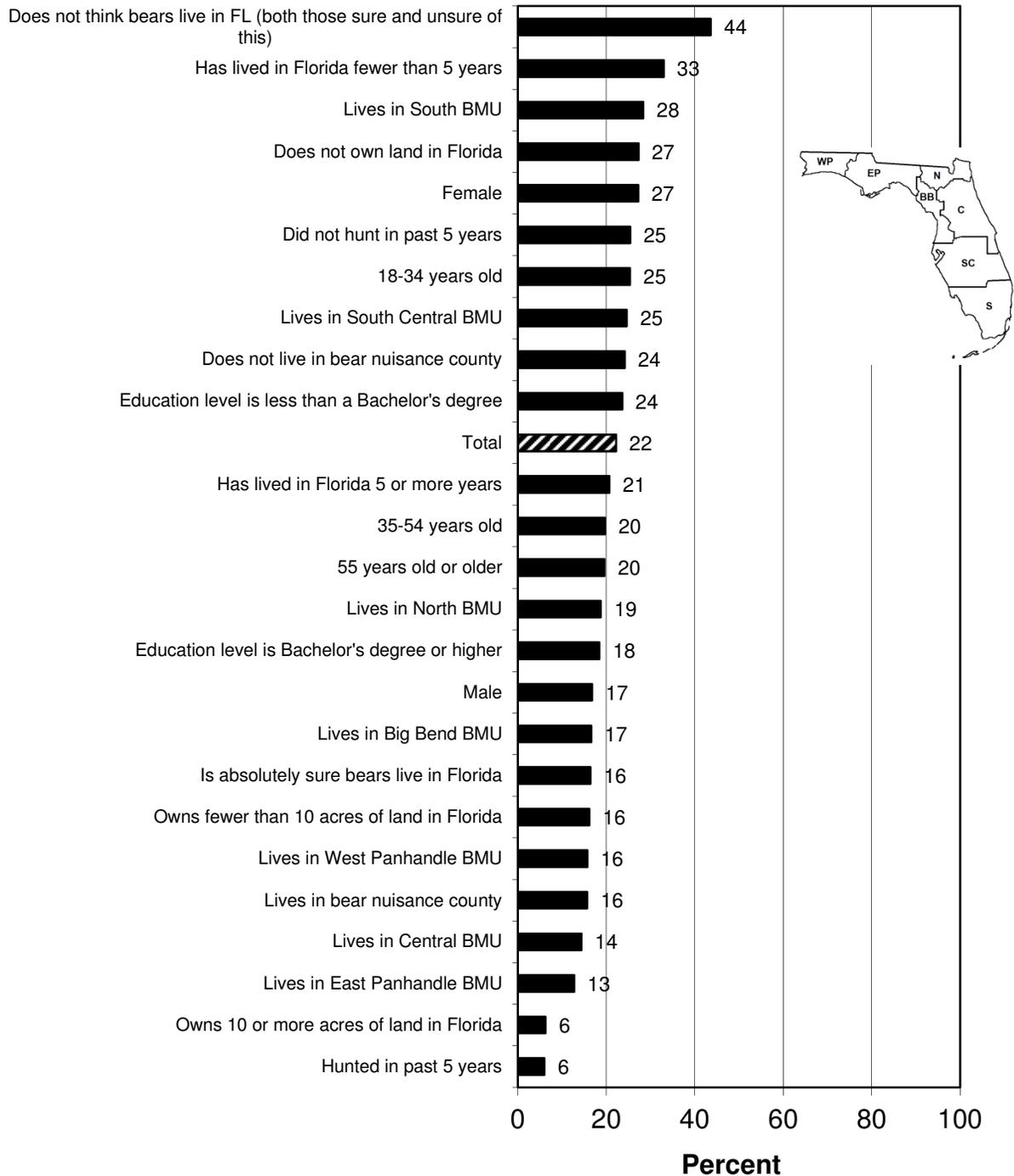
(See the section titled, "Interpreting Omnigraphs," for an explanation of how to interpret this graph.)

Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately support regulated hunting of any wildlife:



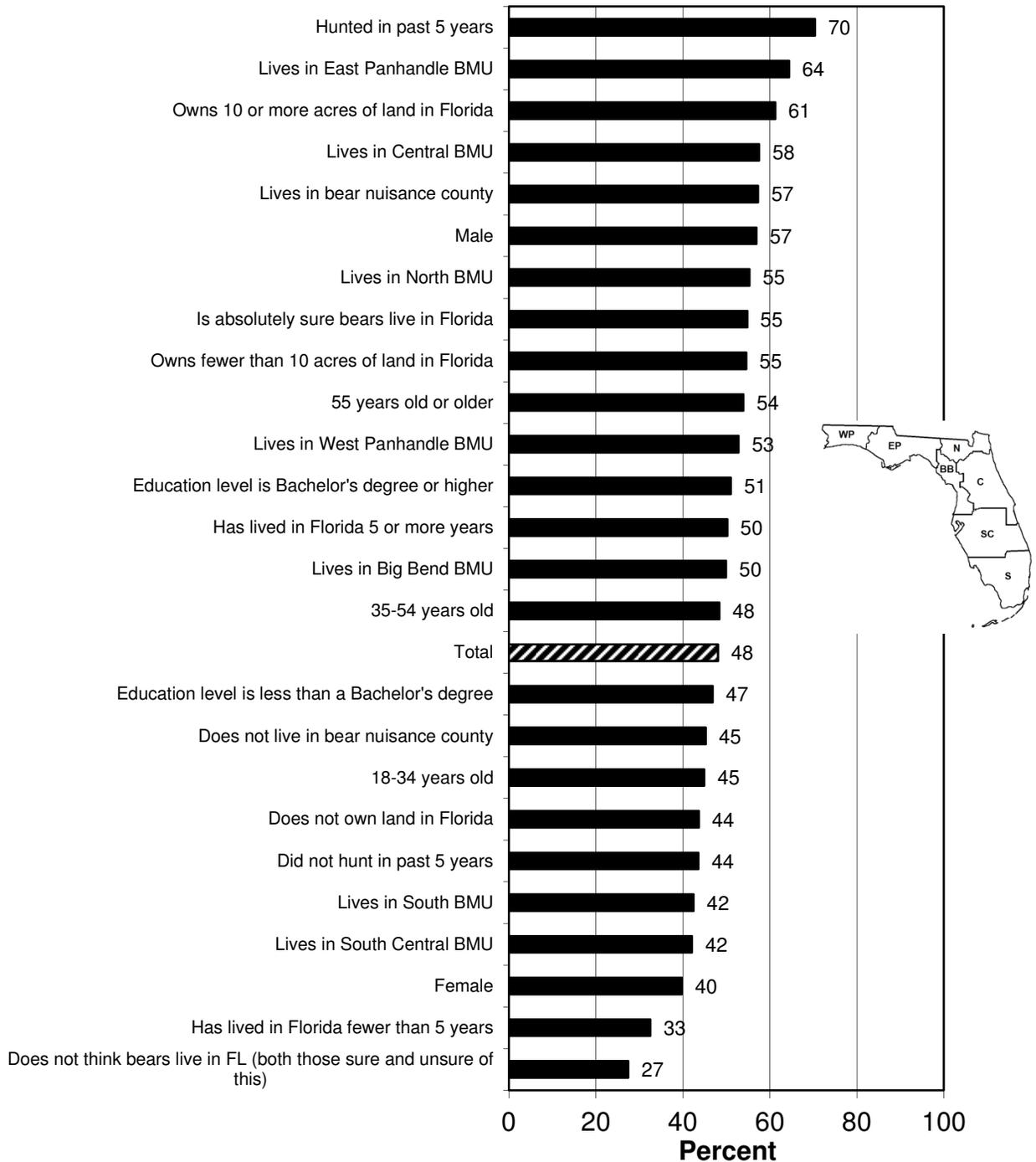
(See the section titled, “Interpreting Omnigraphs,” for an explanation of how to interpret this graph.)

Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately oppose regulated hunting of any wildlife:



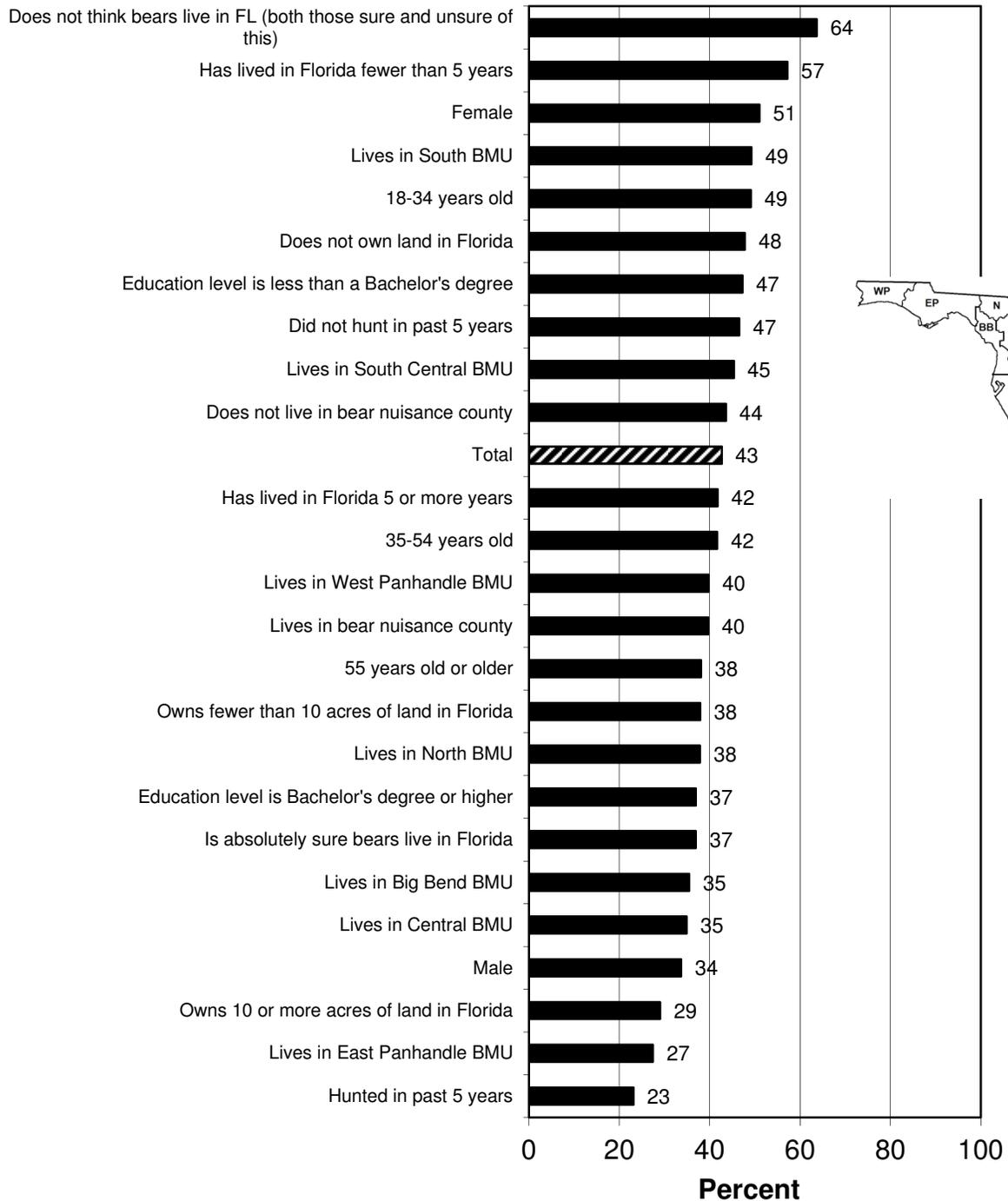
(See the section titled, "Interpreting Omnigraphs," for an explanation of how to interpret this graph.)

Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately support regulated hunting of black bears in Florida:



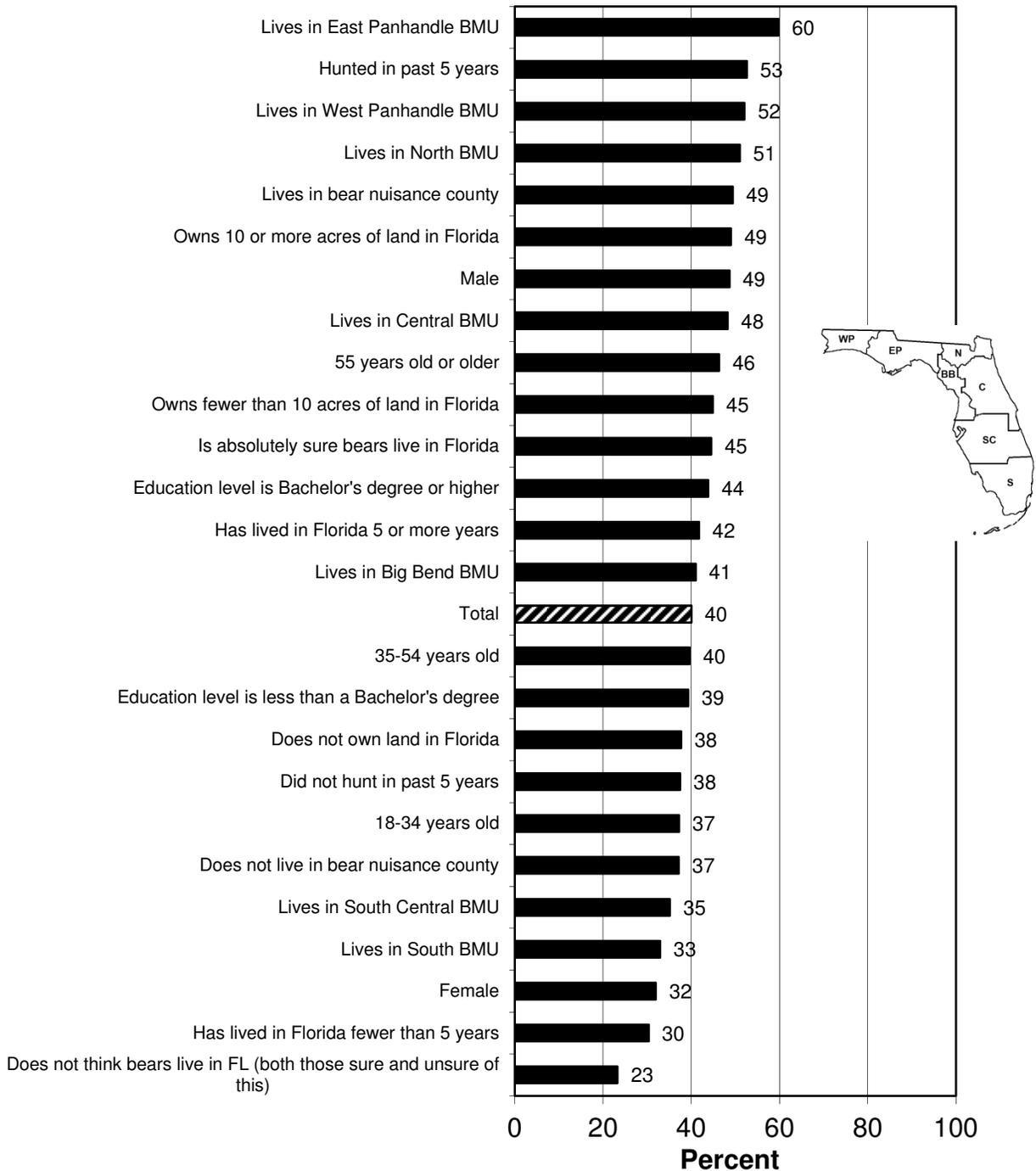
(See the section titled, “Interpreting Omnigraphs,” for an explanation of how to interpret this graph.)

Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately oppose regulated hunting of black bears in Florida:



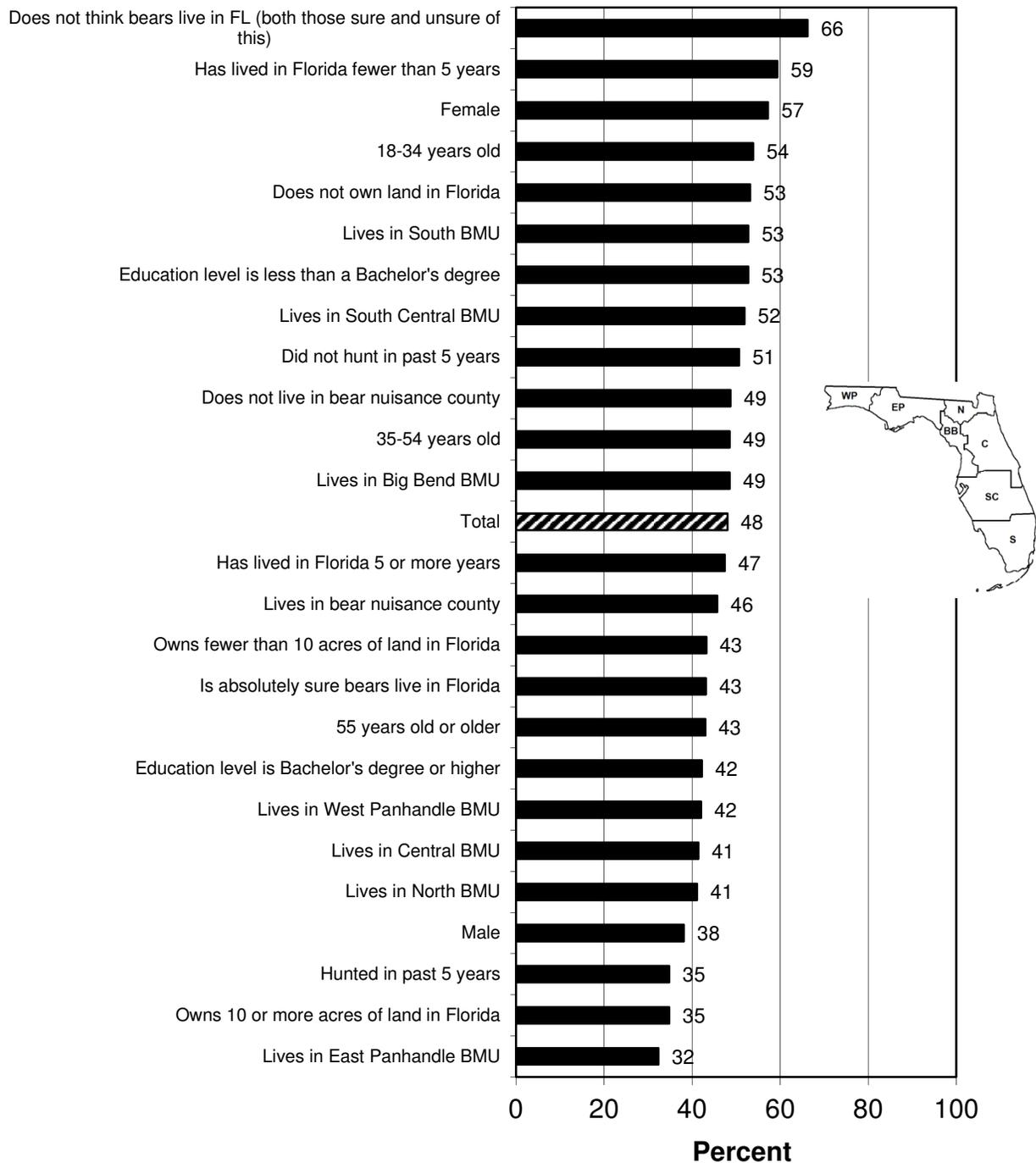
(See the section titled, "Interpreting Omnigraphs," for an explanation of how to interpret this graph.)

Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately support regulated hunting of black bears in their county:



(See the section titled, “Interpreting Omnigraphs,” for an explanation of how to interpret this graph.)

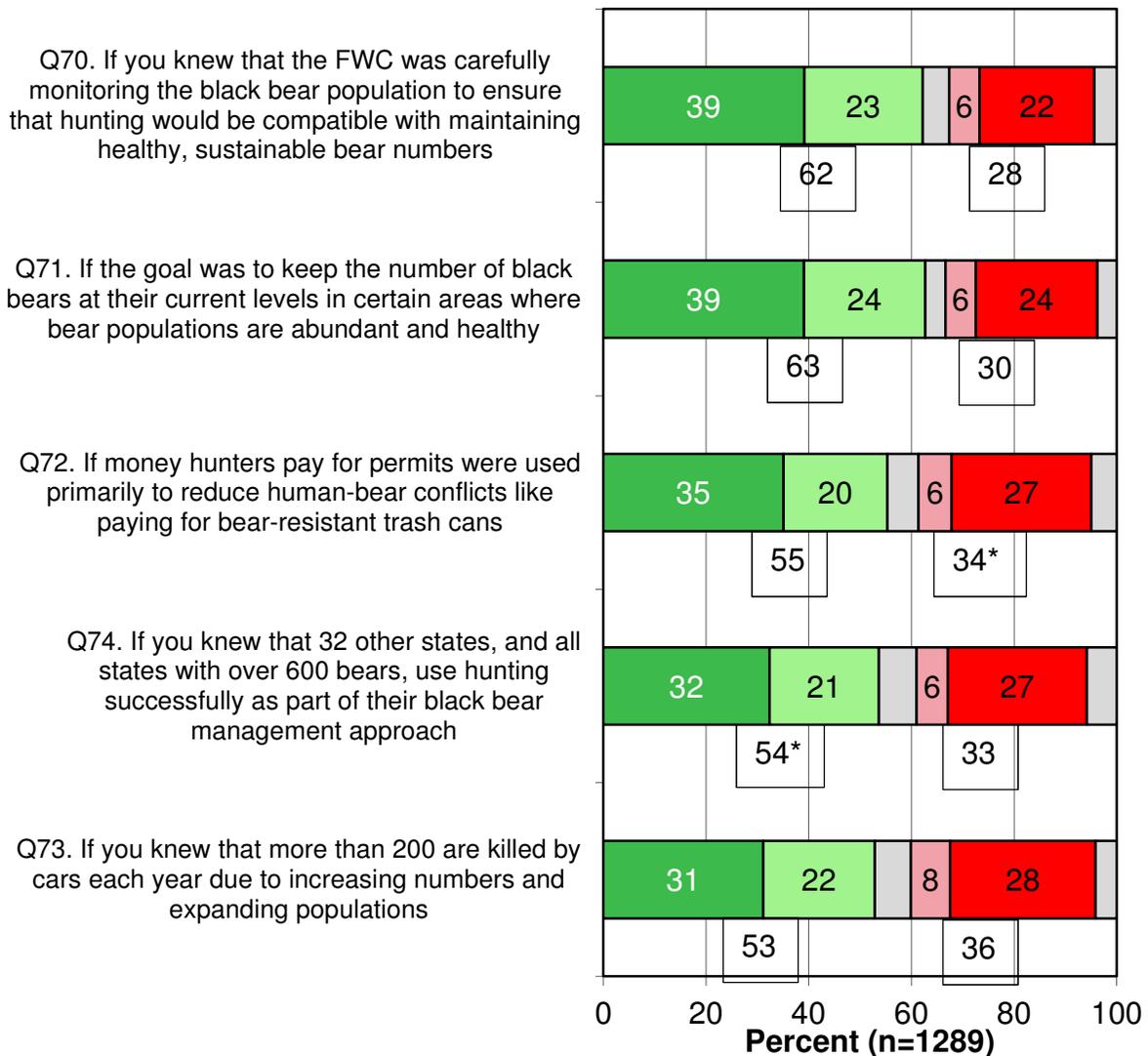
Percent of each of the following groups who strongly or moderately oppose regulated hunting of black bears in their county:



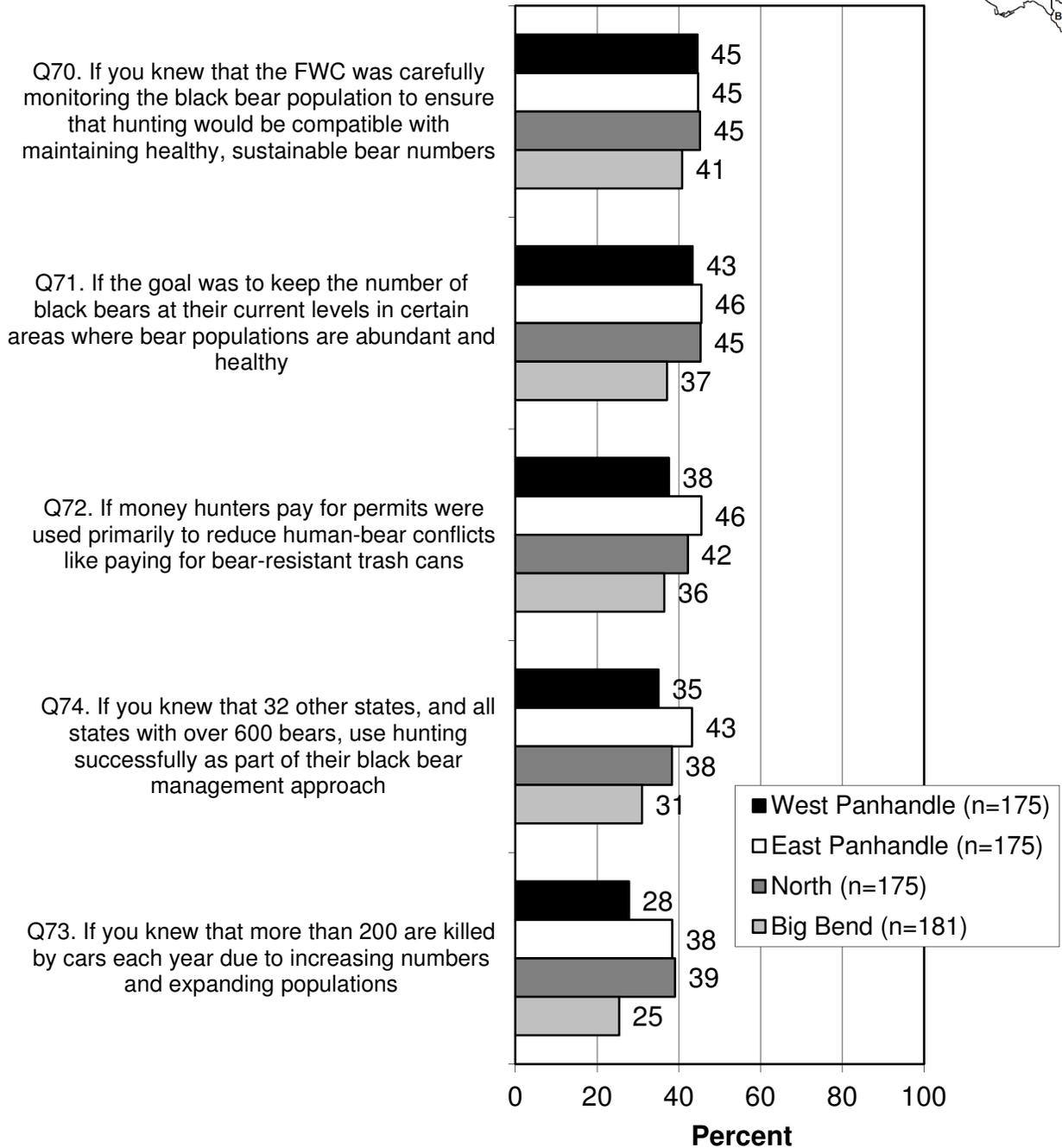
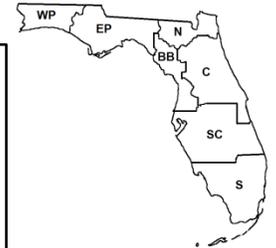
Q70-Q74. Percent of respondents who would support or oppose hunting for black bear in Florida in each of the following situations:

- Strongly support
- Moderately support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Moderately oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know

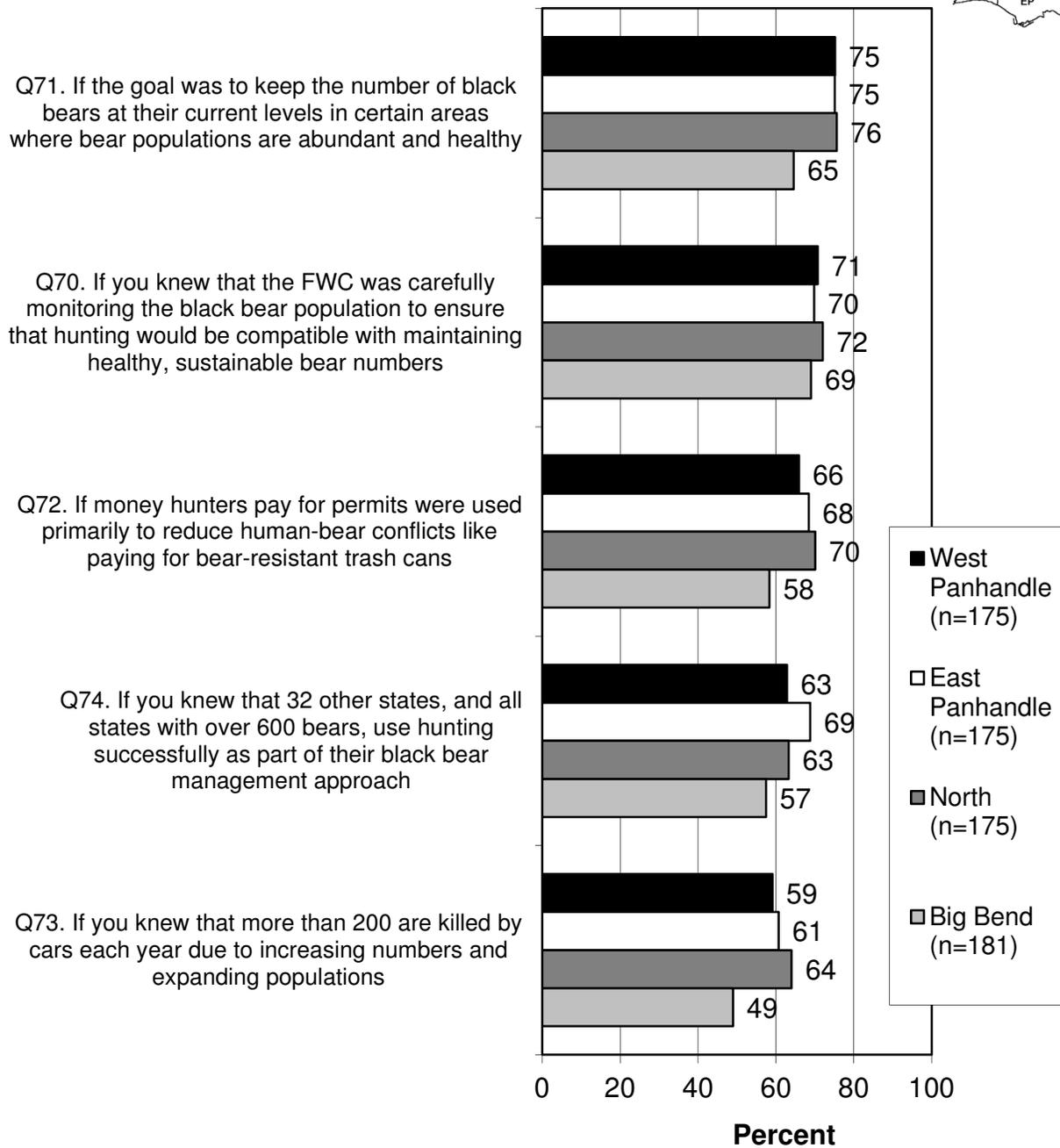
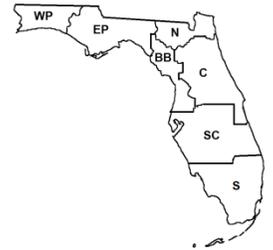
* Rounding to the integer on graph causes apparent discrepancy in sum; calculation made on unrounded numbers.



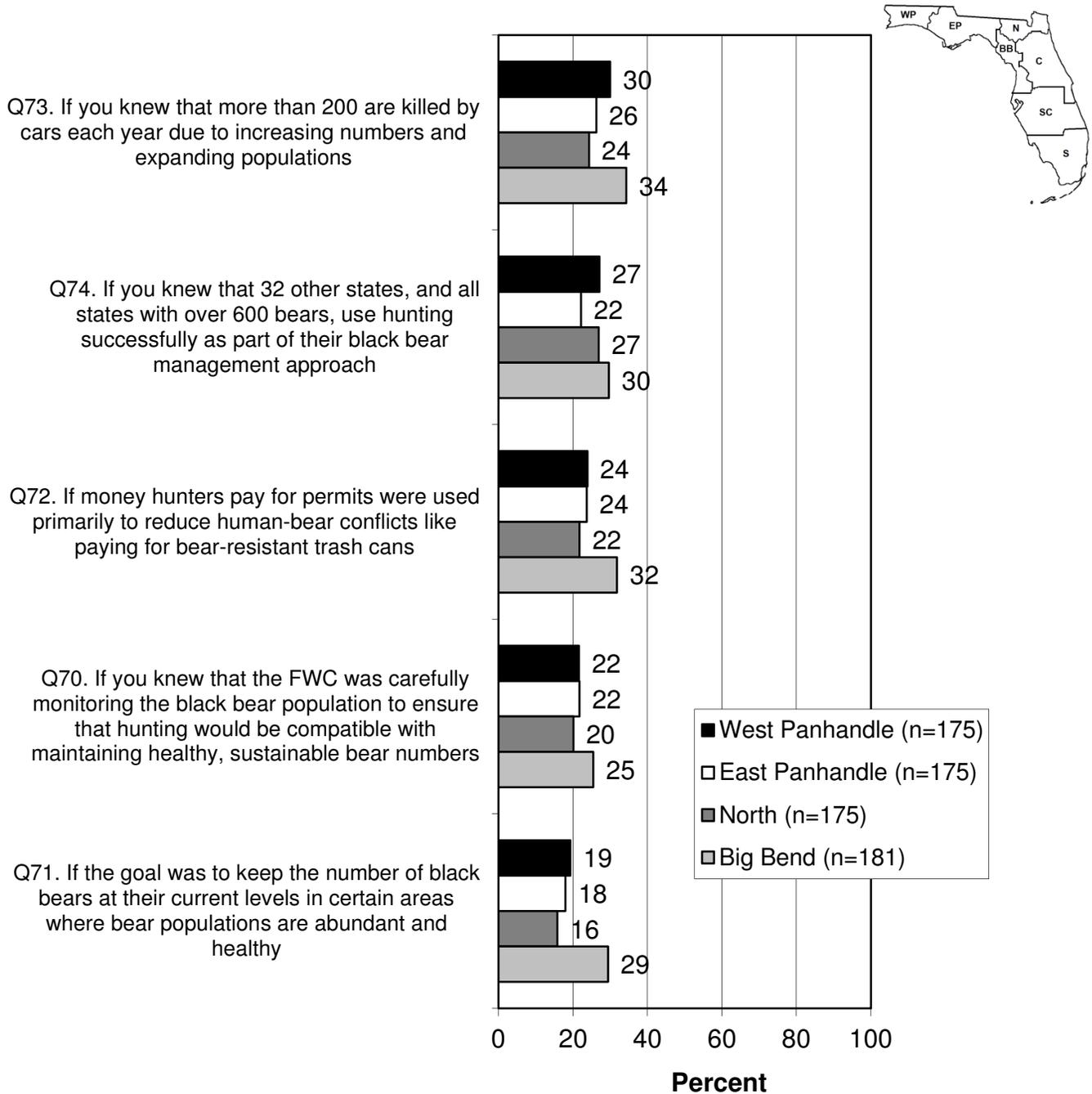
Q70-Q74. Percent of respondents who would strongly support hunting for black bear in Florida in each of the following situations:



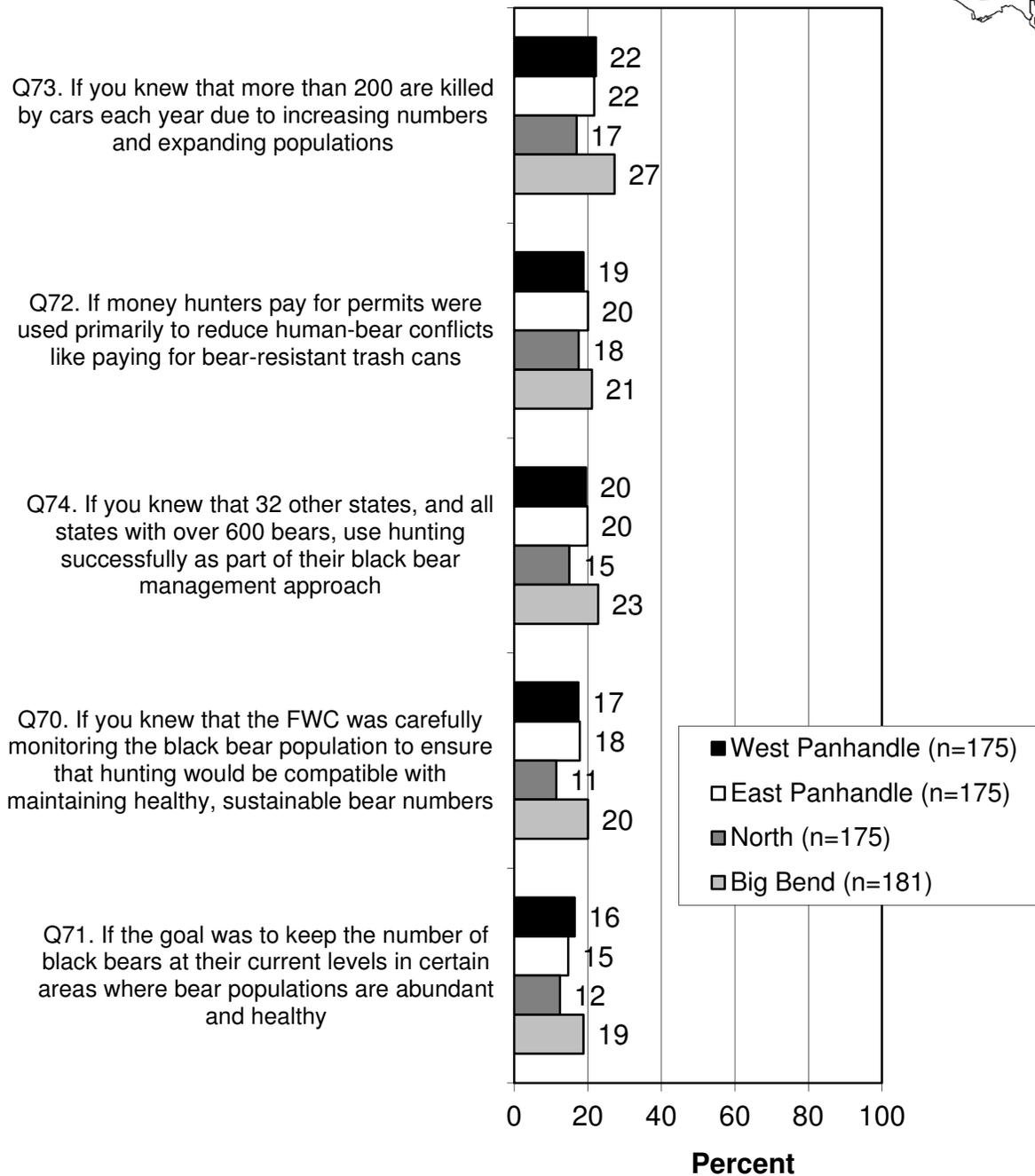
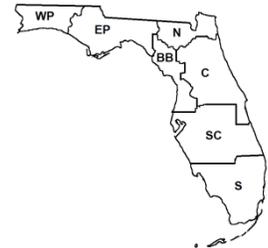
Q70-Q74. Percent of respondents who would strongly support or moderately support hunting for black bear in Florida in each of the following situations:



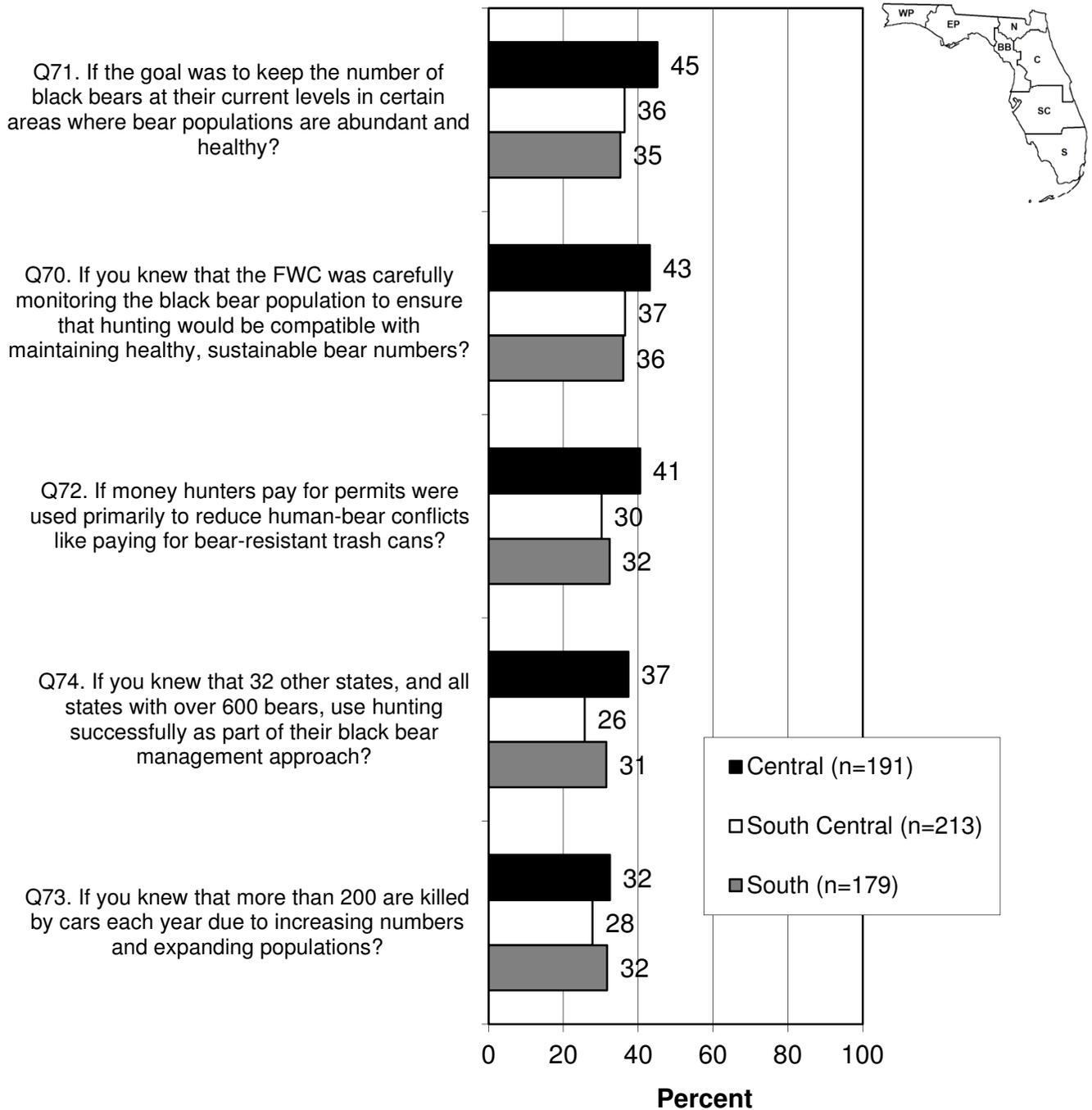
Q70-Q74. Percent of respondents who would moderately oppose or strongly oppose hunting for black bear in Florida in each of the following situations:



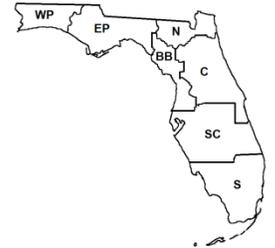
Q70-Q74. Percent of respondents who would strongly oppose hunting for black bear in Florida in each of the following situations:



Q70-Q74. Percent of respondents who would strongly support hunting for black bear in Florida in each of the following situations:



Q70-Q74. Percent of respondents who would strongly support or moderately support hunting for black bear in Florida in each of the following situations:



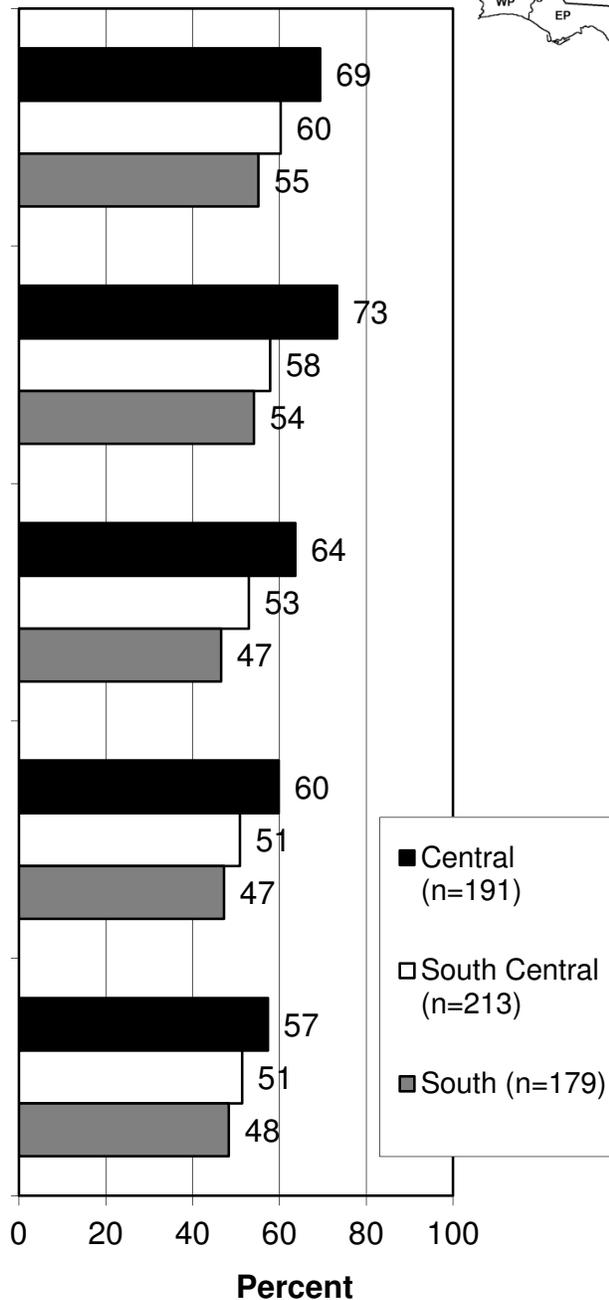
Q71. If the goal was to keep the number of black bears at their current levels in certain areas where bear populations are abundant and healthy?

Q70. If you knew that the FWC was carefully monitoring the black bear population to ensure that hunting would be compatible with maintaining healthy, sustainable bear numbers?

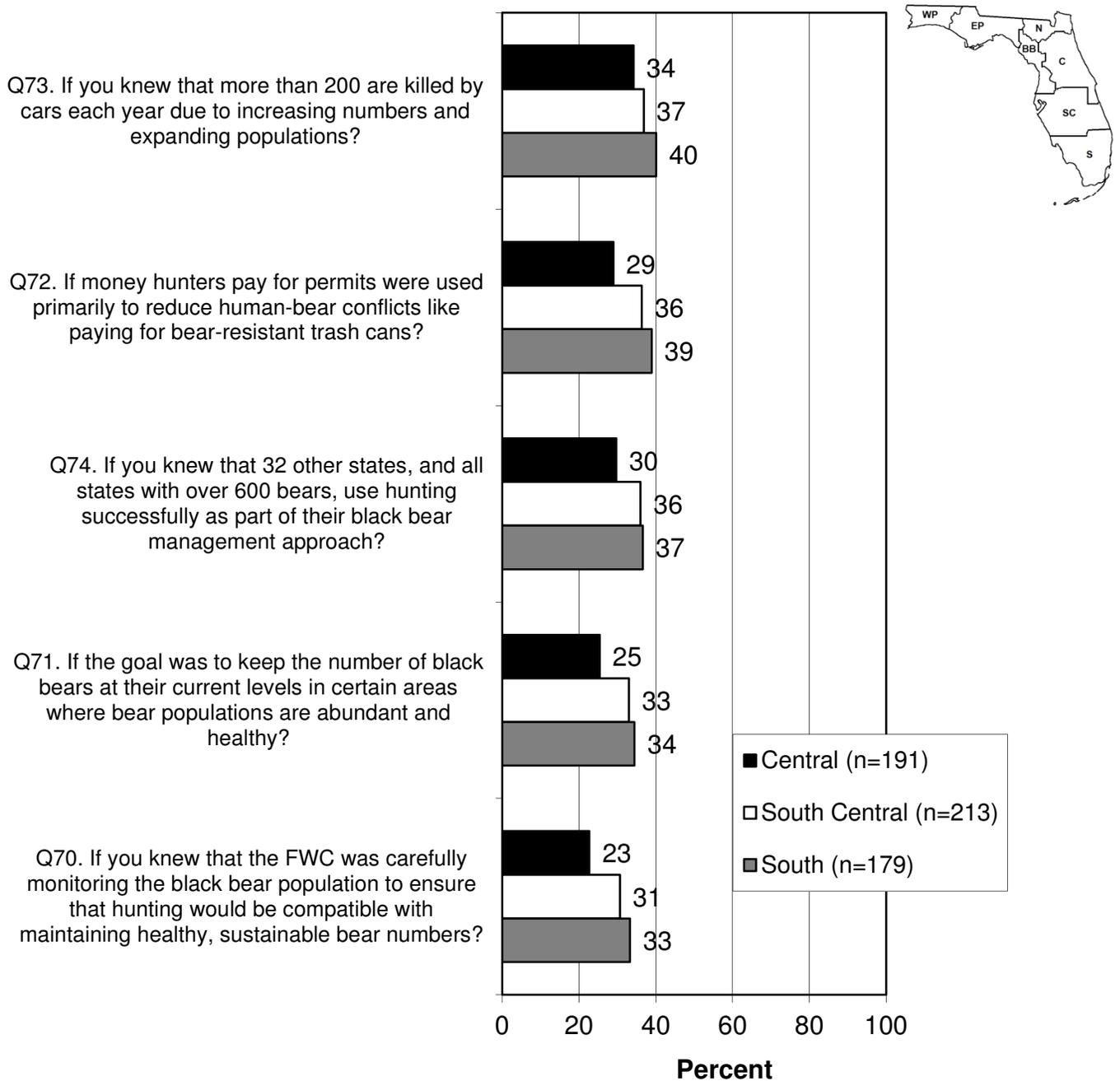
Q72. If money hunters pay for permits were used primarily to reduce human-bear conflicts like paying for bear-resistant trash cans?

Q74. If you knew that 32 other states, and all states with over 600 bears, use hunting successfully as part of their black bear management approach?

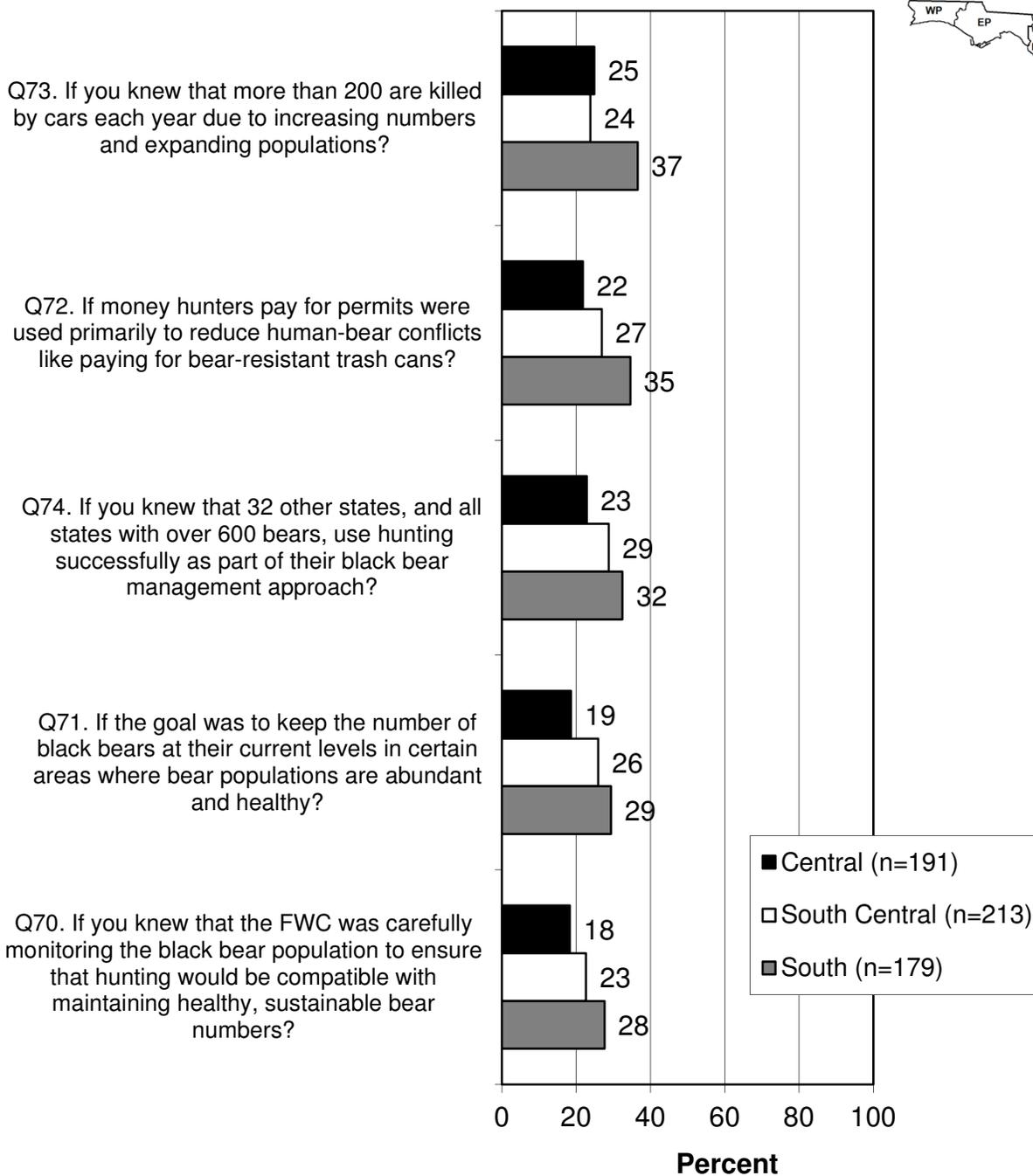
Q73. If you knew that more than 200 are killed by cars each year due to increasing numbers and expanding populations?



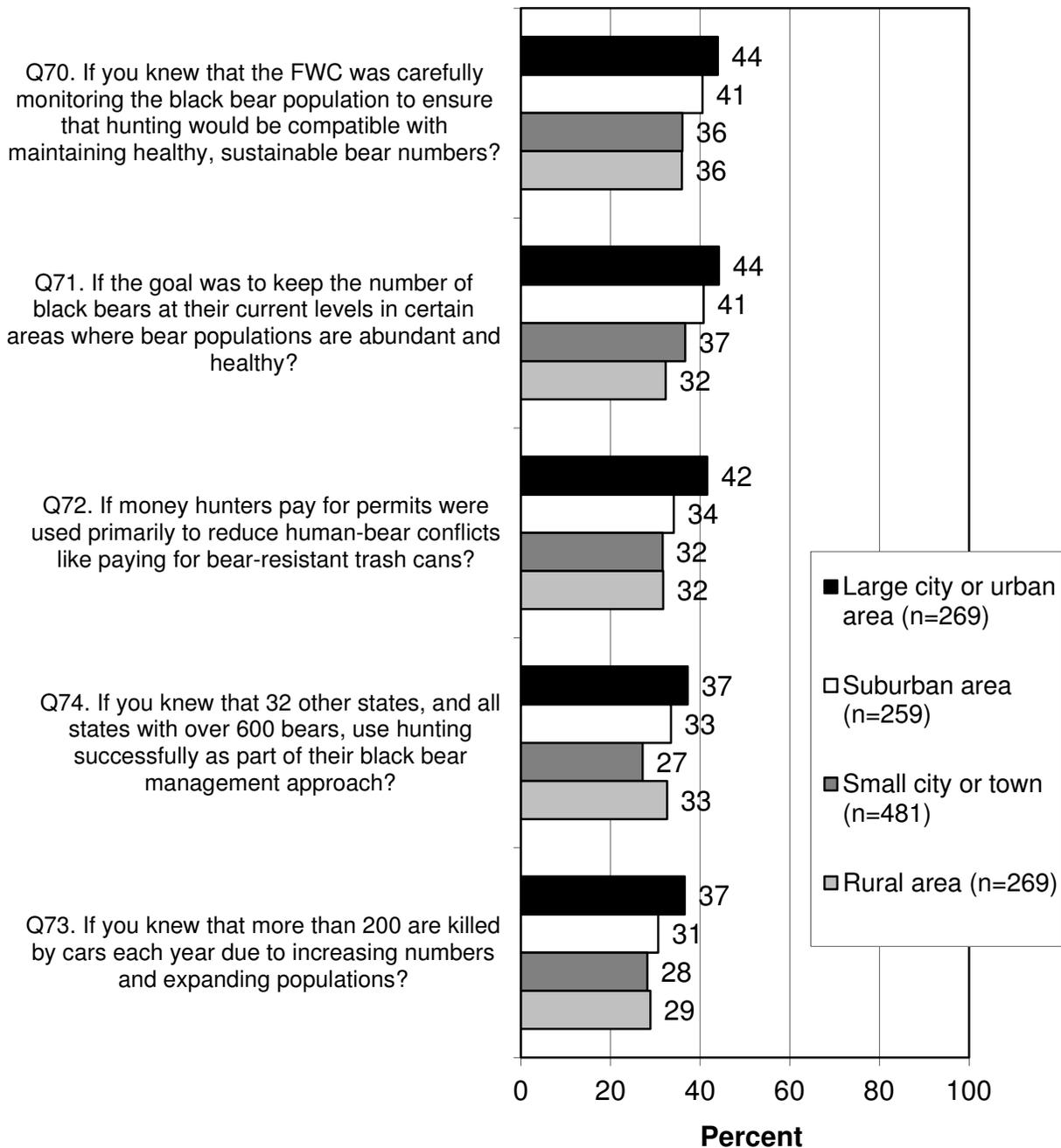
Q70-Q74. Percent of respondents who would moderately oppose or strongly oppose hunting for black bear in Florida in each of the following situations:



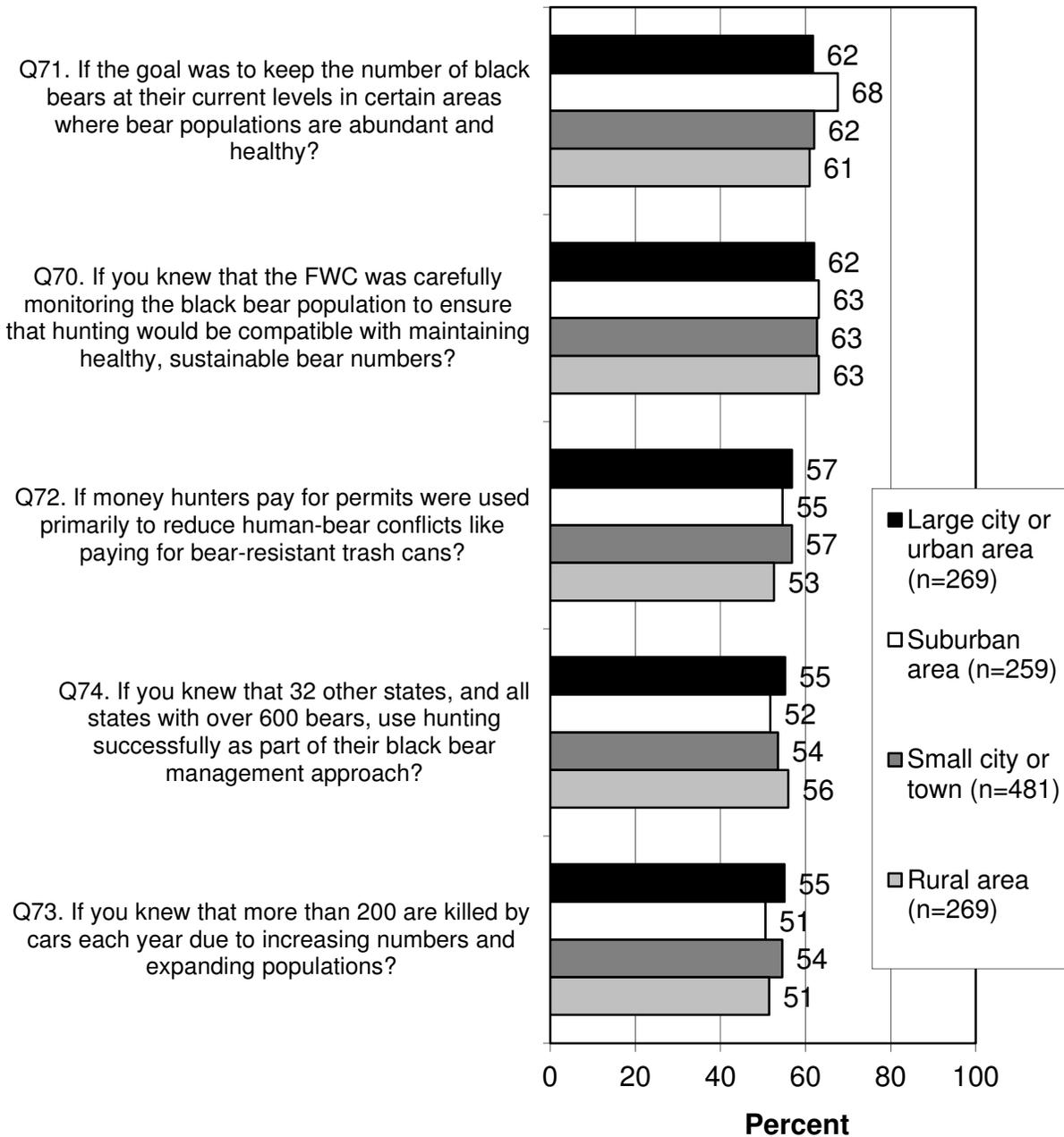
Q70-Q74. Percent of respondents who would strongly oppose hunting for black bear in Florida in each of the following situations:



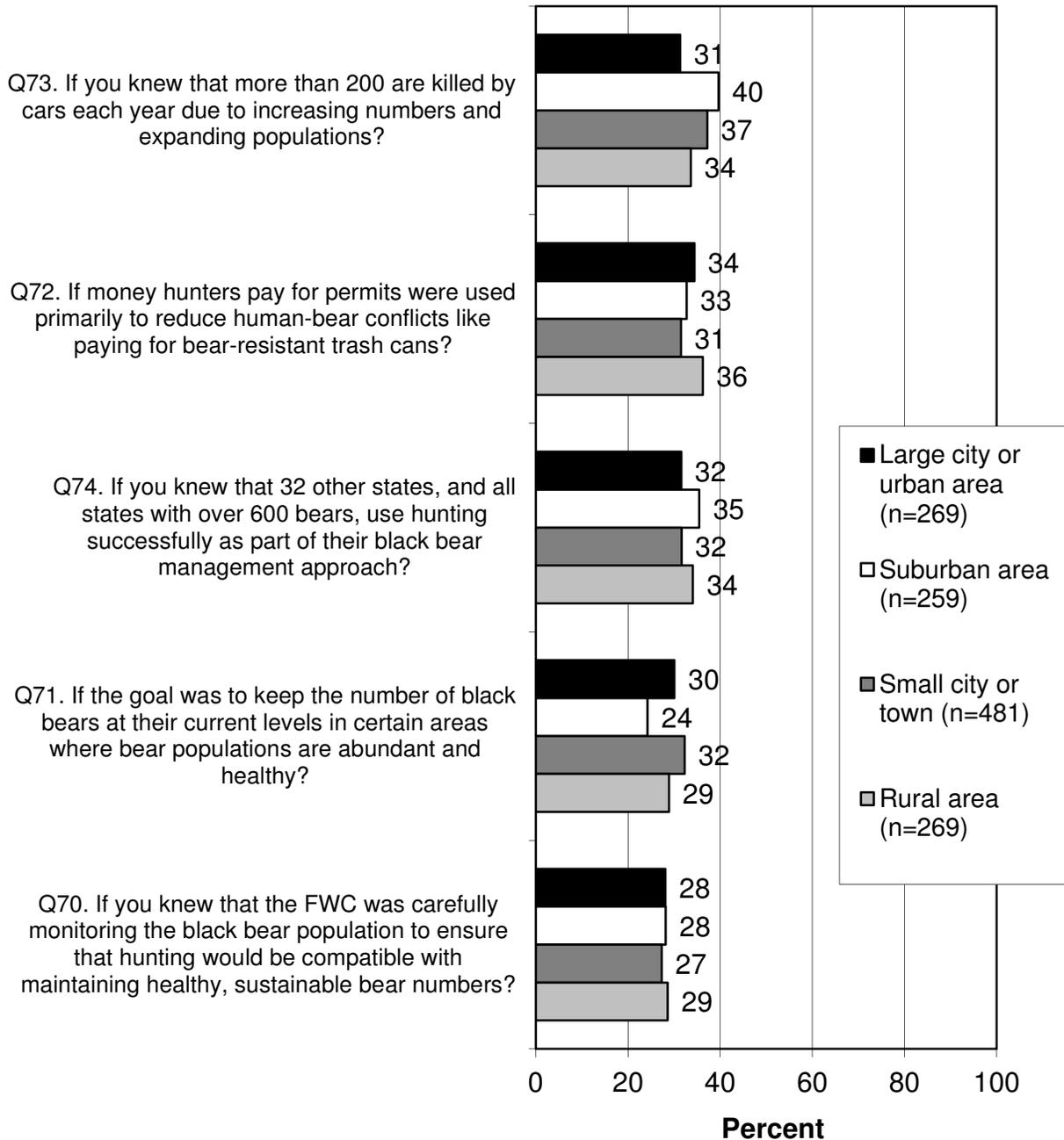
Q70-Q74. Percent of respondents who would strongly support hunting for black bear in Florida in each of the following situations:



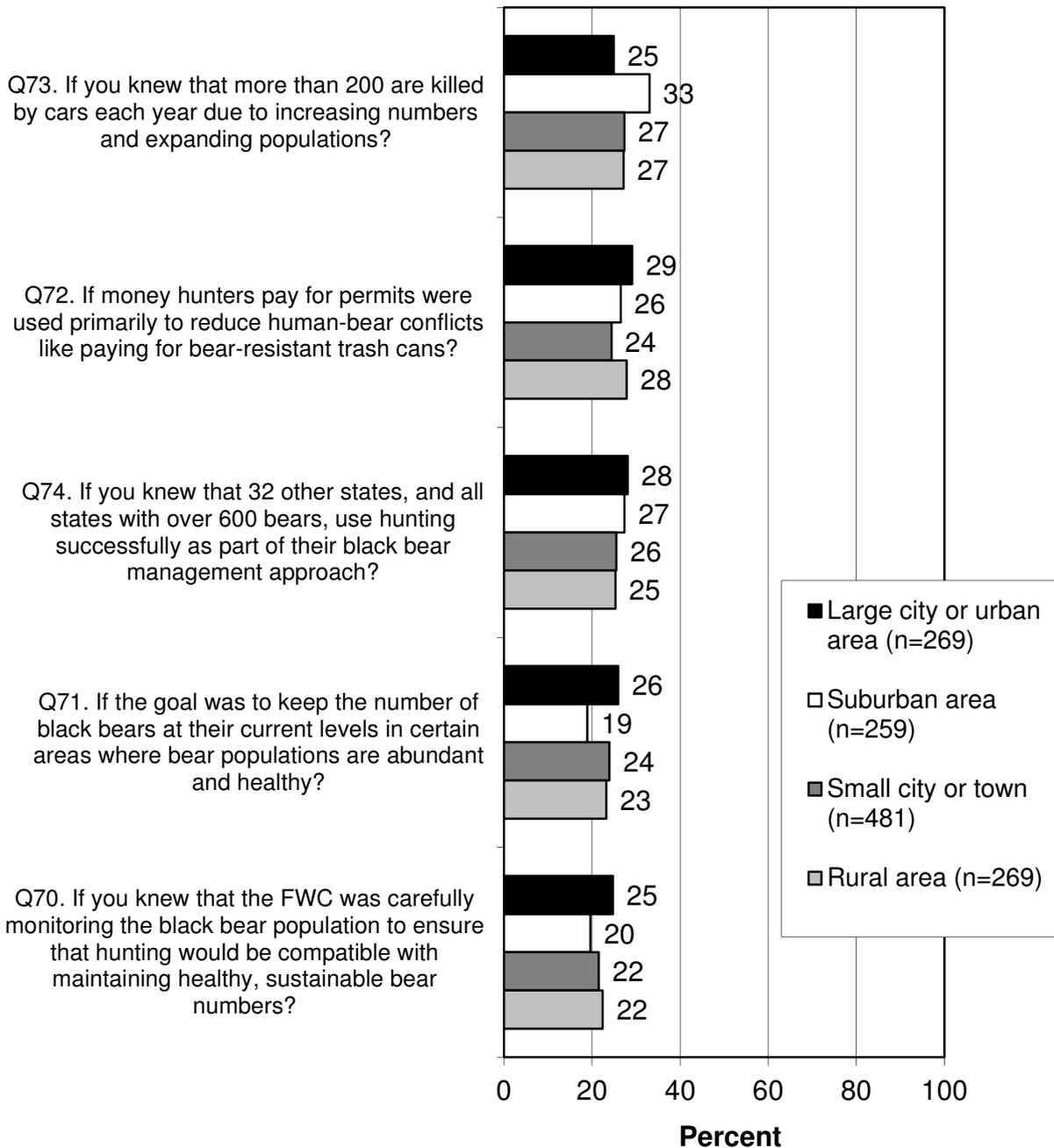
Q70-Q74. Percent of respondents who would strongly support or moderately support hunting for black bear in Florida in each of the following situations:



Q70-Q74. Percent of respondents who would moderately oppose or strongly oppose hunting for black bear in Florida in each of the following situations:



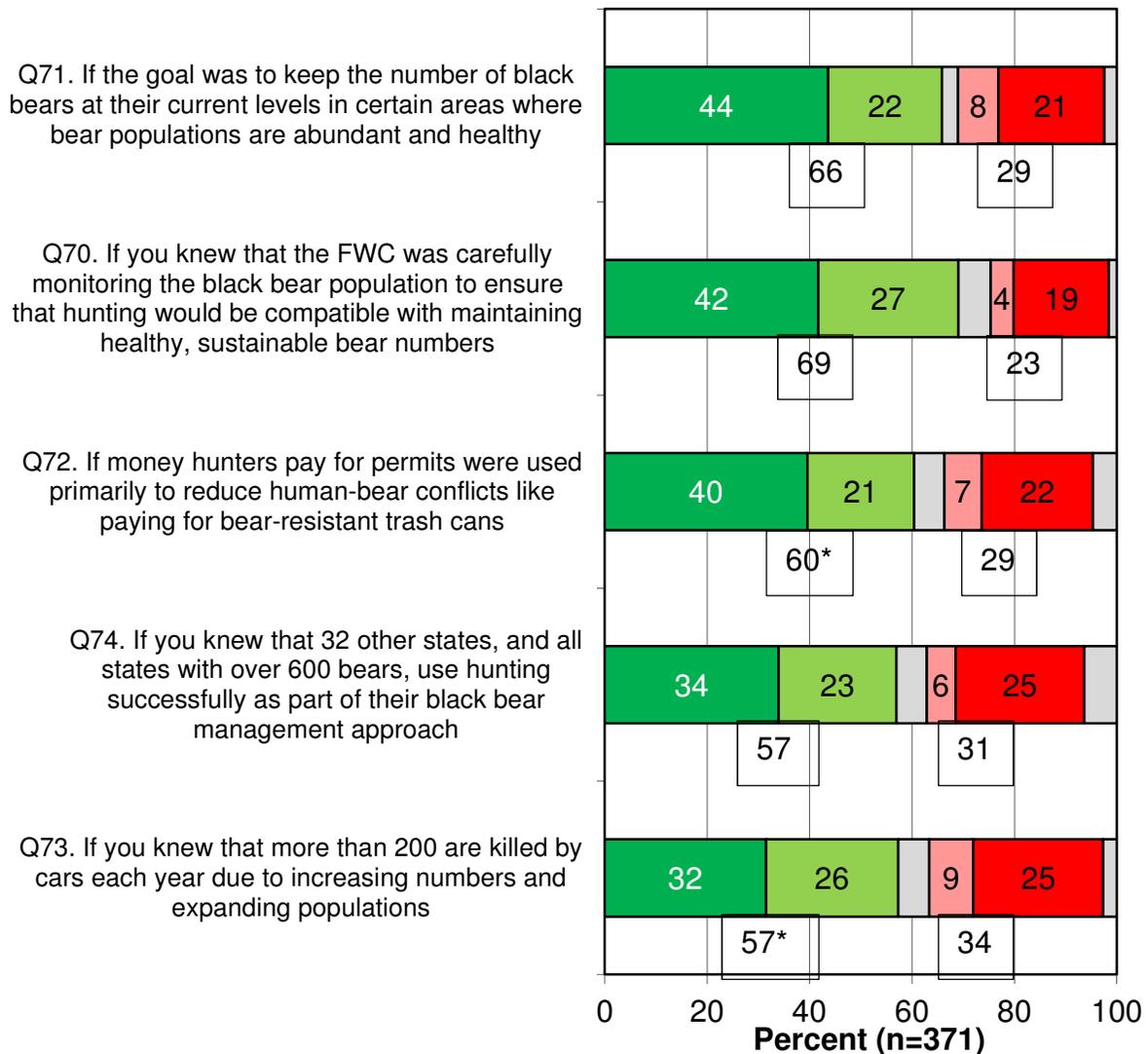
Q70-Q74. Percent of respondents who would strongly oppose hunting for black bear in Florida in each of the following situations:



Q70-Q74. Percent of respondents who would support or oppose hunting for black bear in Florida in each of the situations. (Bear county residents.)

- Strongly support
- Moderately support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Moderately oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know

* Rounding to the integer on graph causes apparent discrepancy in sum; calculation made on unrounded numbers.



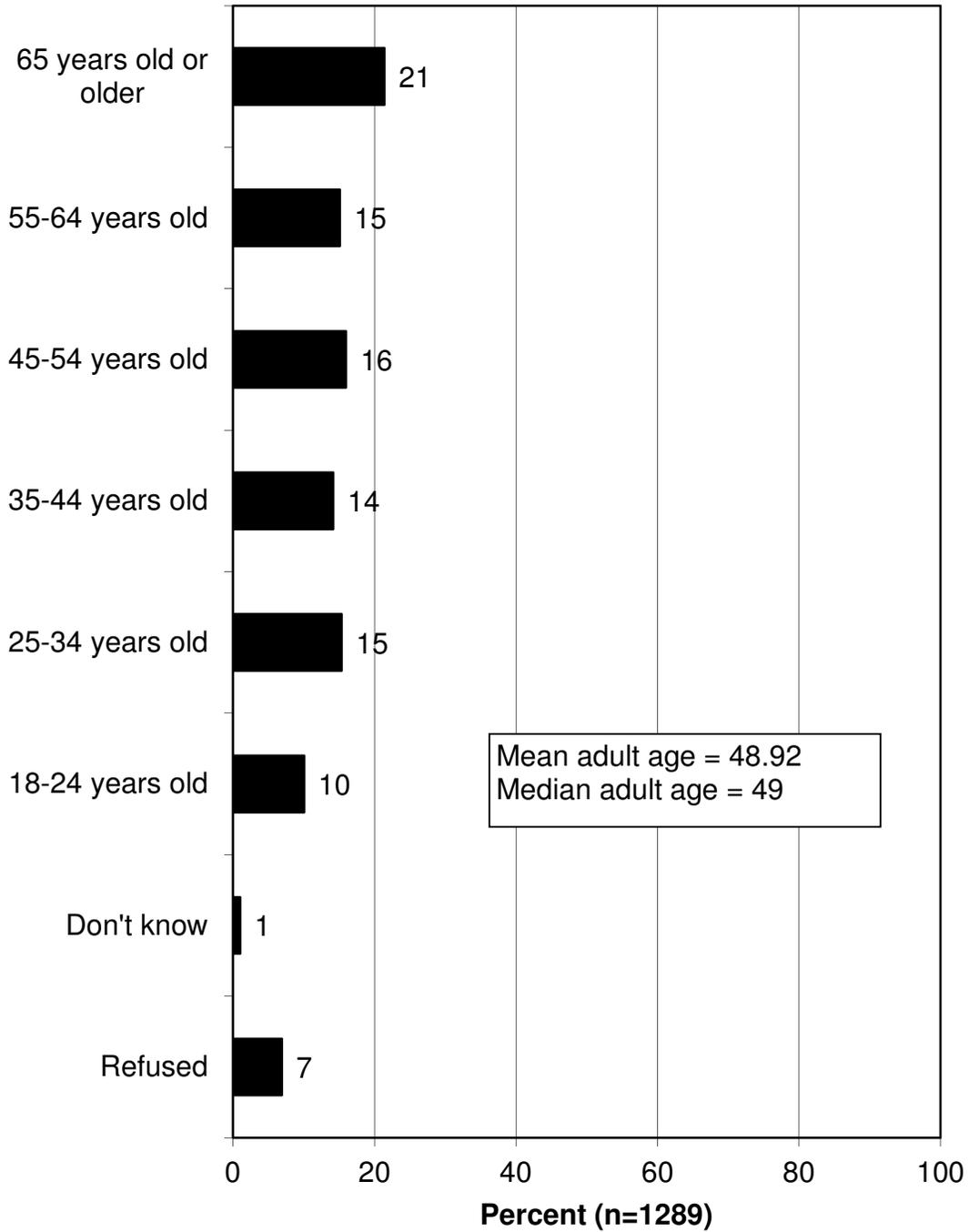
DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

- The following demographic data were obtained primarily for weighting and for crosstabulations and further analysis. The statewide data are shown.
 - Gender.
 - Age. Note that the survey is of adults, not all residents (i.e., not including minors), so the data show adult age groupings and the mean and median age among adults.
 - Years lived in Florida.
 - Education.
 - Household income.

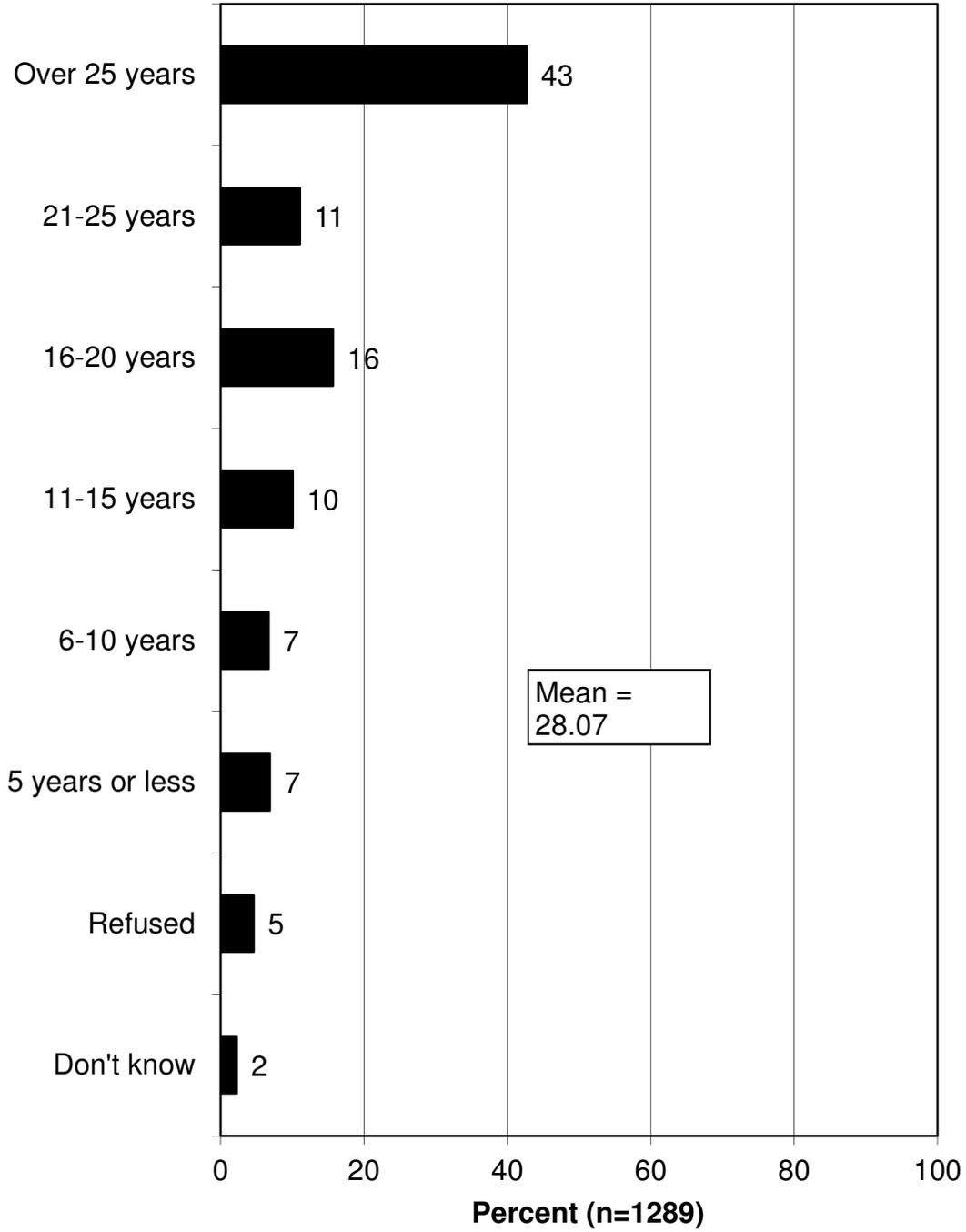
Q97. Respondent's gender (not asked; observed by interviewer).



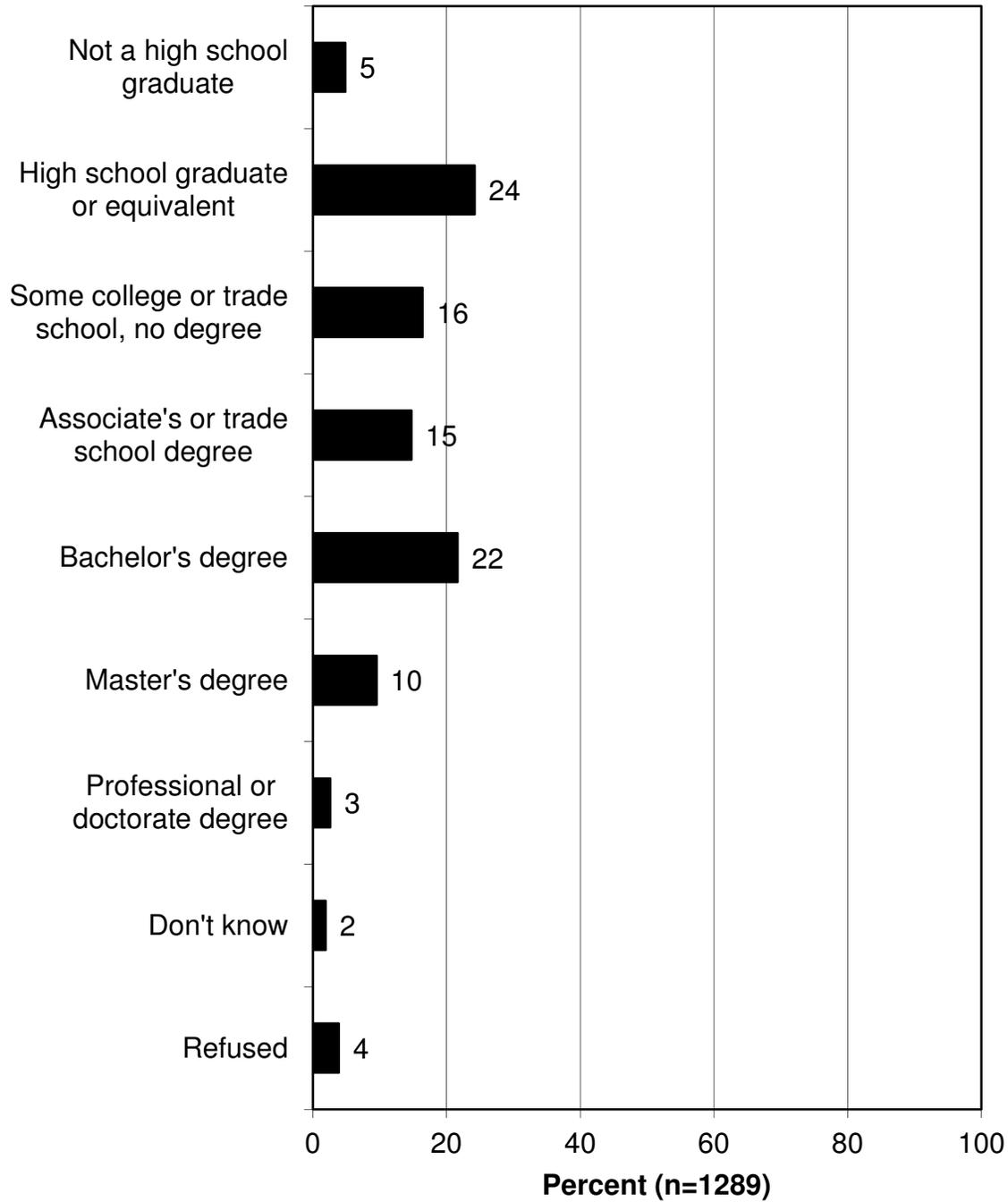
Q90. May I ask your age?



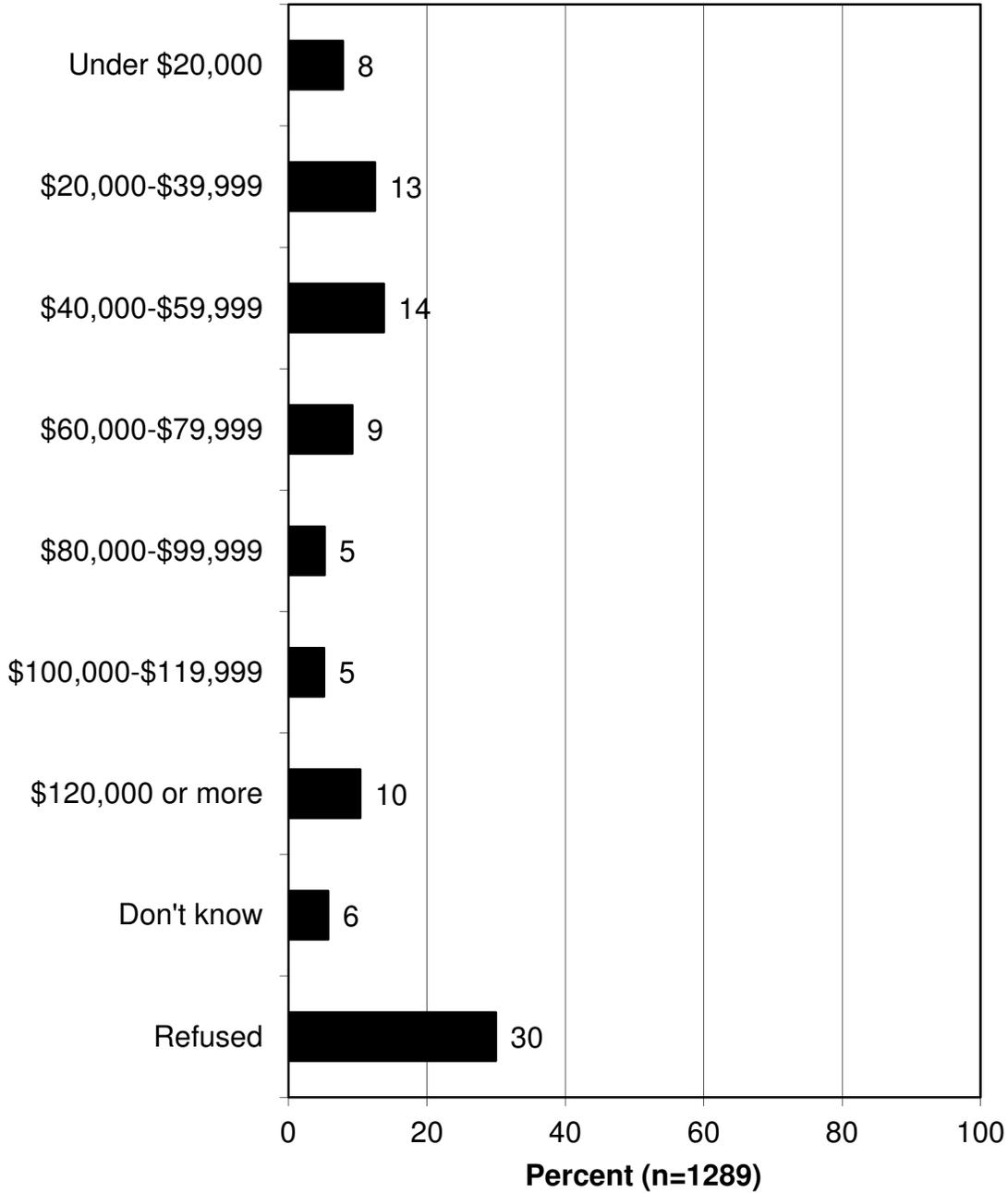
Q87. How many years have you lived in Florida?



Q81. What is the highest level of education you have completed?



Q82. Which of these categories best describes your total household income before taxes last year?



ABOUT RESPONSIVE MANAGEMENT

Responsive Management is an internationally recognized public opinion and attitude survey research firm specializing in natural resource and outdoor recreation issues. Our mission is to help natural resource and outdoor recreation agencies and organizations better understand and work with their constituents, customers, and the public.

Utilizing our in-house, full-service telephone, mail, and web-based survey facilities with 50 professional interviewers, we have conducted more than 1,000 telephone surveys, mail surveys, personal interviews, and focus groups, as well as numerous marketing and communication plans, needs assessments, and program evaluations.

Clients include the federal natural resource and land management agencies, most state fish and wildlife agencies, state departments of natural resources, environmental protection agencies, state park agencies, tourism boards, most of the major conservation and sportsmen's organizations, and numerous private businesses. Responsive Management also collects attitude and opinion data for many of the nation's top universities.

Specializing in research on public attitudes toward natural resource and outdoor recreation issues, Responsive Management has completed a wide range of projects during the past 25 years, including dozens of studies of hunters, anglers, wildlife viewers, boaters, park visitors, historic site visitors, hikers, birdwatchers, campers, and rock climbers. Responsive Management has conducted studies on endangered species; waterfowl and wetlands; and the reintroduction of large predators such as wolves, grizzly bears, and the Florida panther.

Responsive Management has assisted with research on numerous natural resource ballot initiatives and referenda and has helped agencies and organizations find alternative funding and increase their membership and donations. Additionally, Responsive Management has conducted major organizational and programmatic needs assessments to assist natural resource agencies and organizations in developing more effective programs based on a solid foundation of fact.

Responsive Management has conducted research on public attitudes toward natural resources and outdoor recreation in almost every state in the United States, as well as in Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Japan. Responsive Management has also conducted focus groups and personal interviews with residents of the African countries of Algeria, Cameroon, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Responsive Management routinely conducts surveys in Spanish and has conducted surveys in Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Vietnamese and has completed numerous studies with specific target audiences, including Hispanics; African-Americans; Asians; women; children; senior citizens; urban, suburban, and rural residents; large landowners; and farmers.

Responsive Management's research has been upheld in U.S. District Courts; used in peer-reviewed journals; and presented at major natural resource, fish and wildlife, and outdoor recreation conferences across the world. Company research has been featured in most of the nation's major media, including CNN, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and on the front pages of *USA Today* and *The Washington Post*. Responsive Management's research has also been highlighted in *Newsweek* magazine.

Visit the Responsive Management website at:

www.responsivemanagement.com