



**LAND CENTER**  
FOR CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

# American Views on Abortion

A SURVEY OF 1,155 AMERICANS

**Lifeway** research

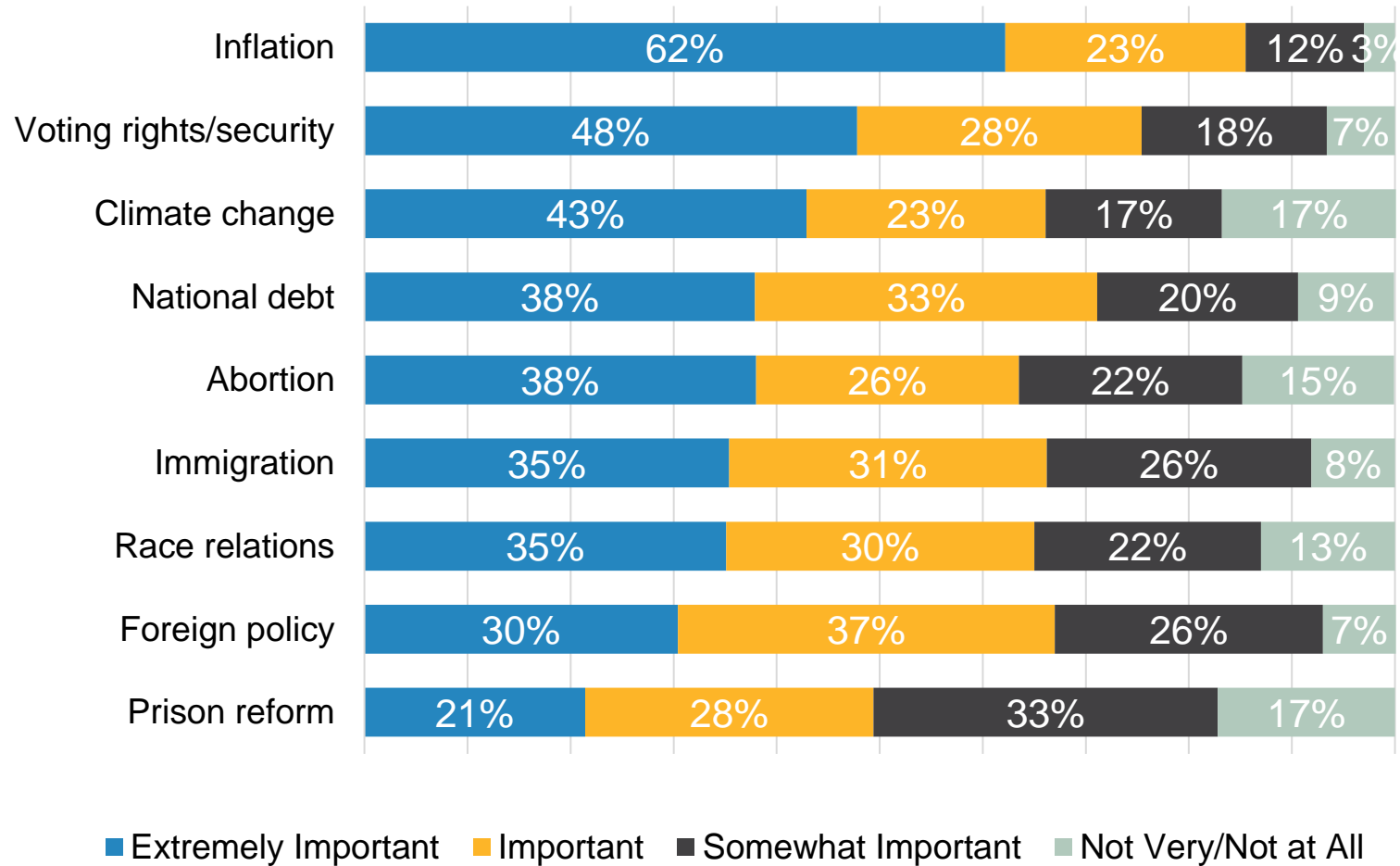
# Methodology

- The study was originated and commissioned by the Land Center For Cultural Engagement at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.
- The online survey of 1,155 Americans was conducted by Lifeway Research April 20 – May 3, 2022 using a blend of national pre-recruited panels.
- Quotas and slight weights were used to balance gender, age, region, ethnicity, household income, and marital status to more accurately reflect the population.
- The completed sample is 1,155 surveys.
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error from the panel does not exceed  $\pm 2.7\%$ . This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting.
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

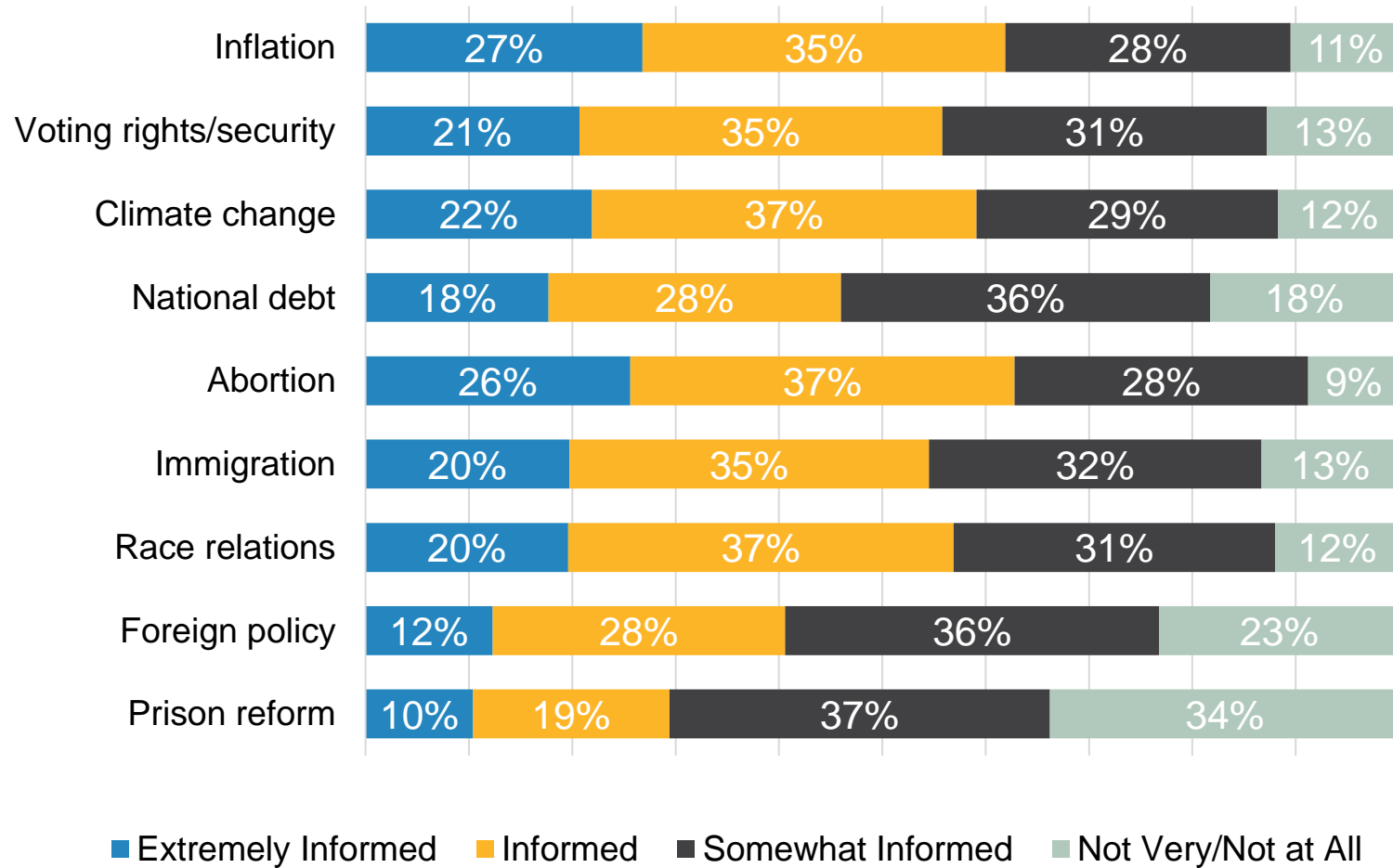
# Definitions

- **Evangelical Beliefs** are defined using the NAE Lifeway Research Evangelical Beliefs Research Definition based on respondent beliefs
- Respondents are asked their level of agreement with four separate statements using a four-point, forced choice scale (strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, strongly disagree). Those who strongly agree with all four statements are categorized as having Evangelical Beliefs
  - The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe
  - It is very important for me personally to encourage non-Christians to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior
  - Jesus Christ's death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of my sin
  - Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God's free gift of eternal salvation

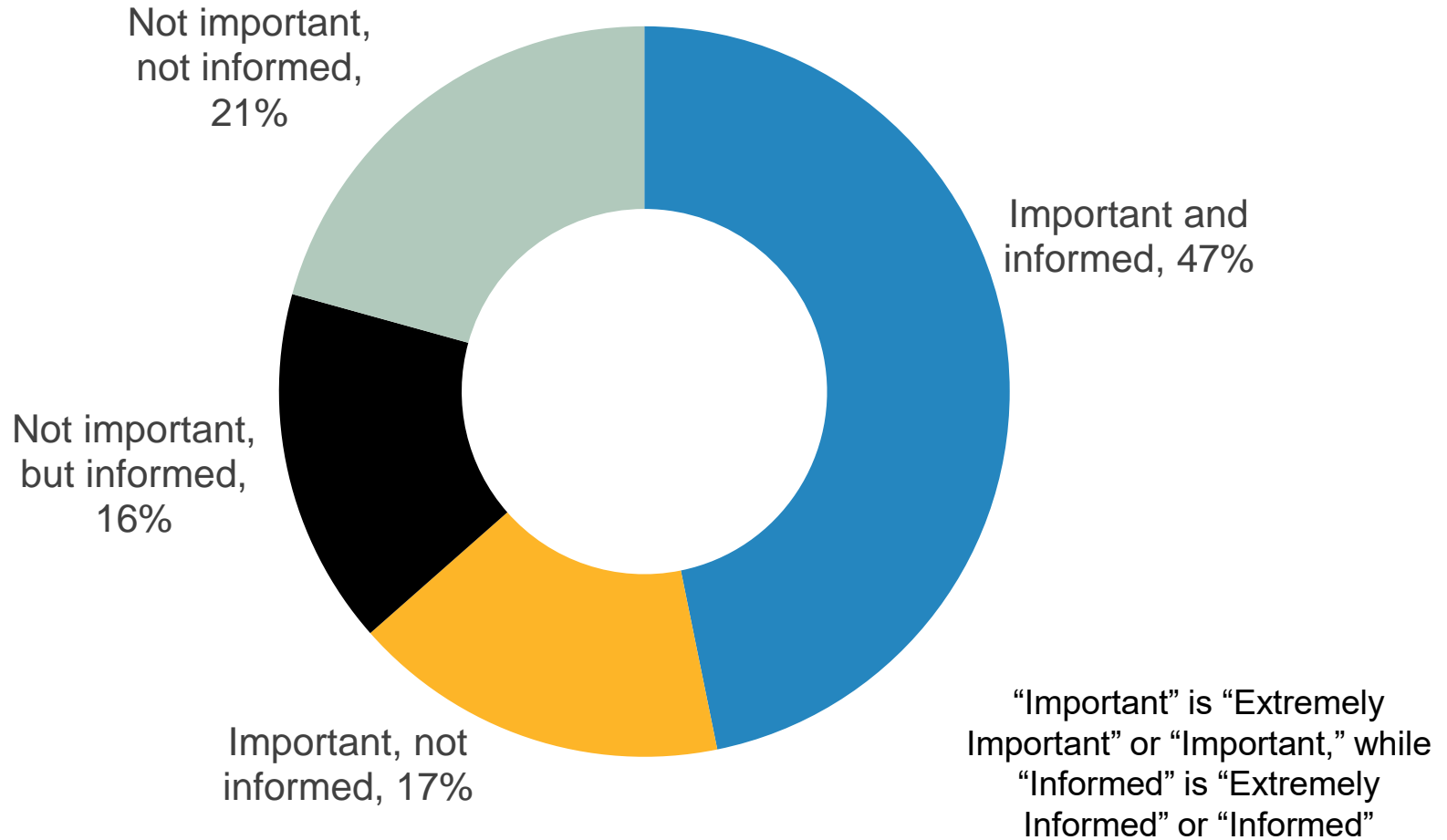
# Comparative Personal Importance of Abortion as an Issue



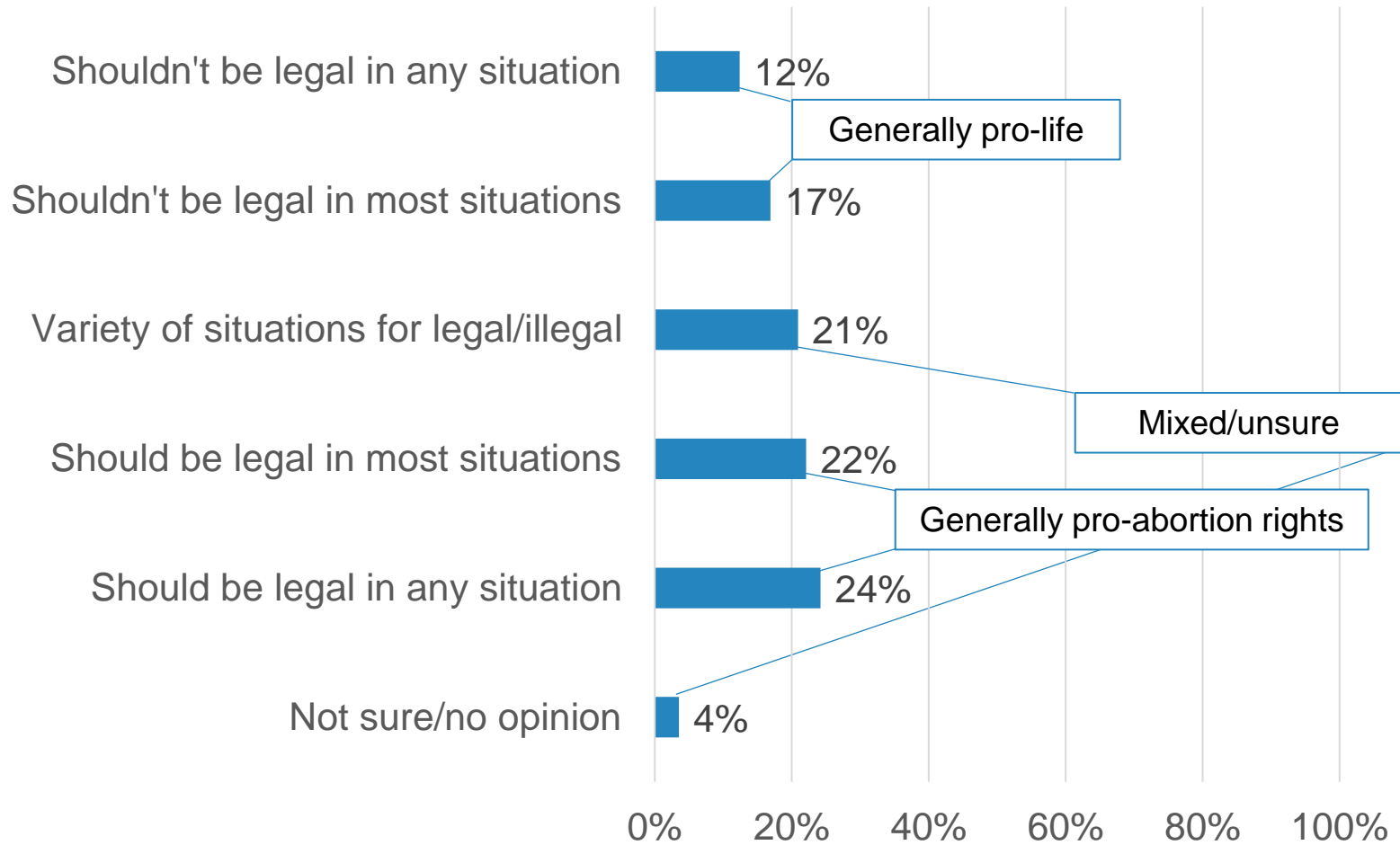
# How Informed People Feel on Issues



# Abortion: How Important It Is and How Informed People Feel

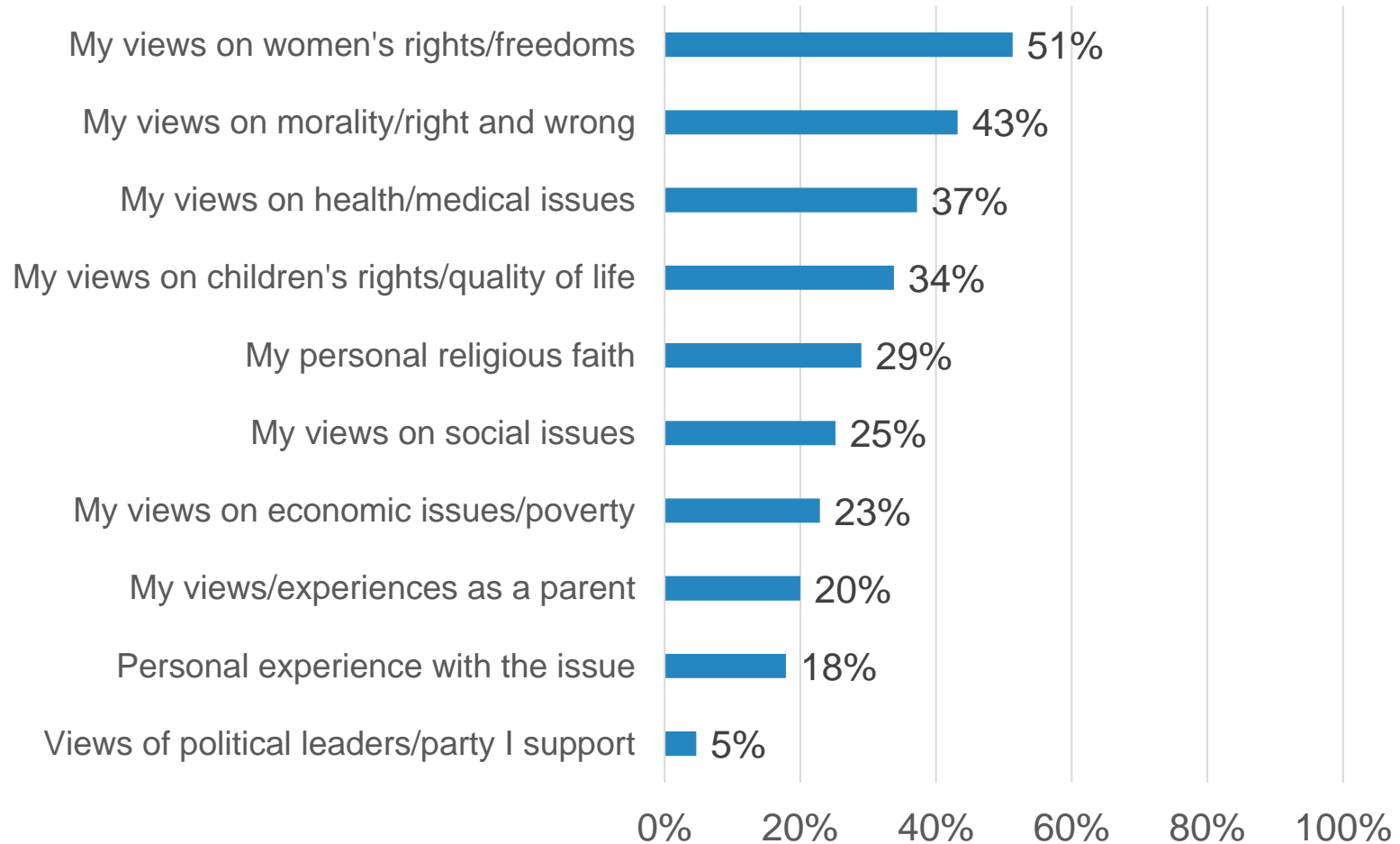


# Overall Views on Abortion



# How Their Abortion Views Developed

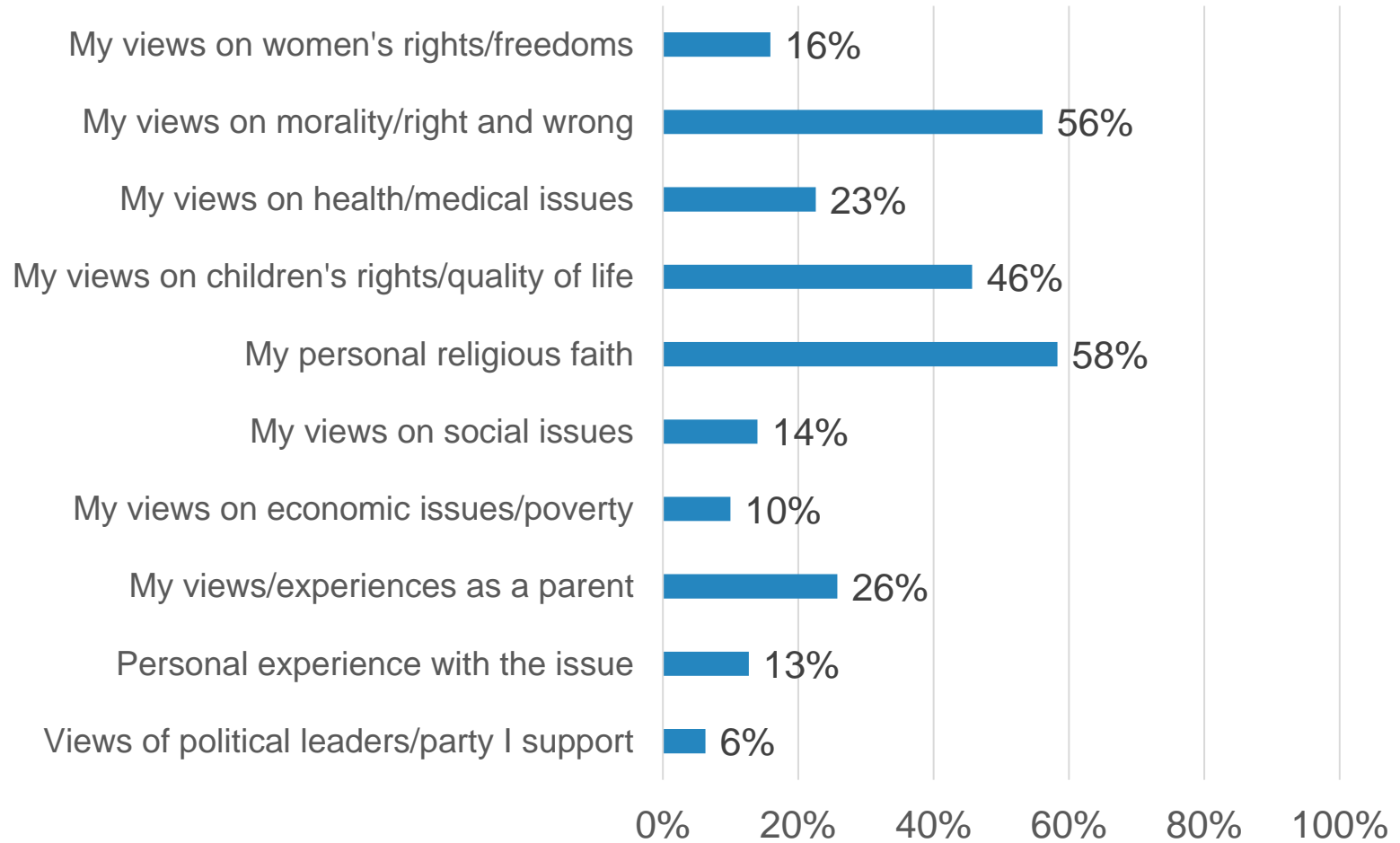
Among all Americans





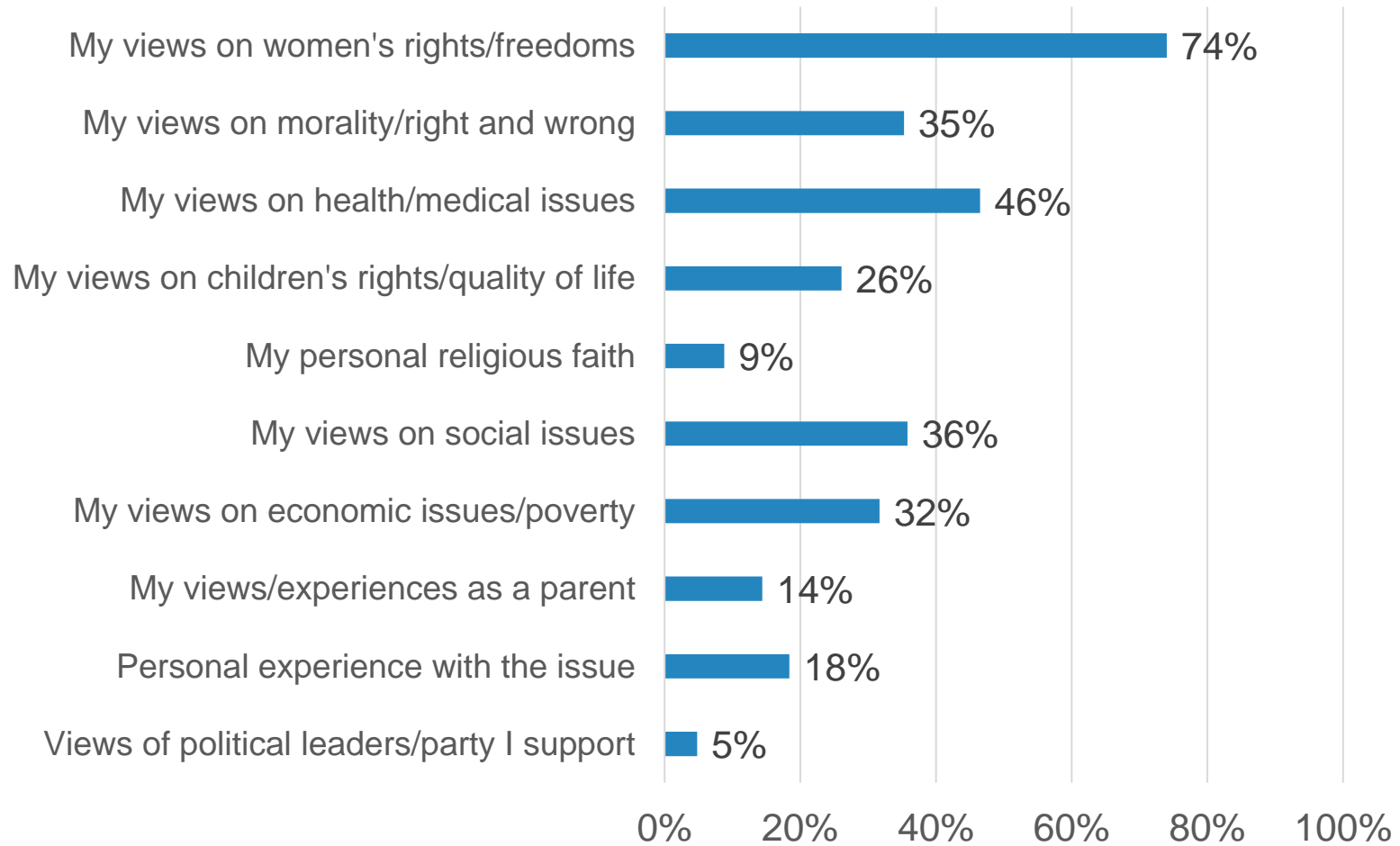
# How Their Abortion Views Developed

Among the generally pro-life



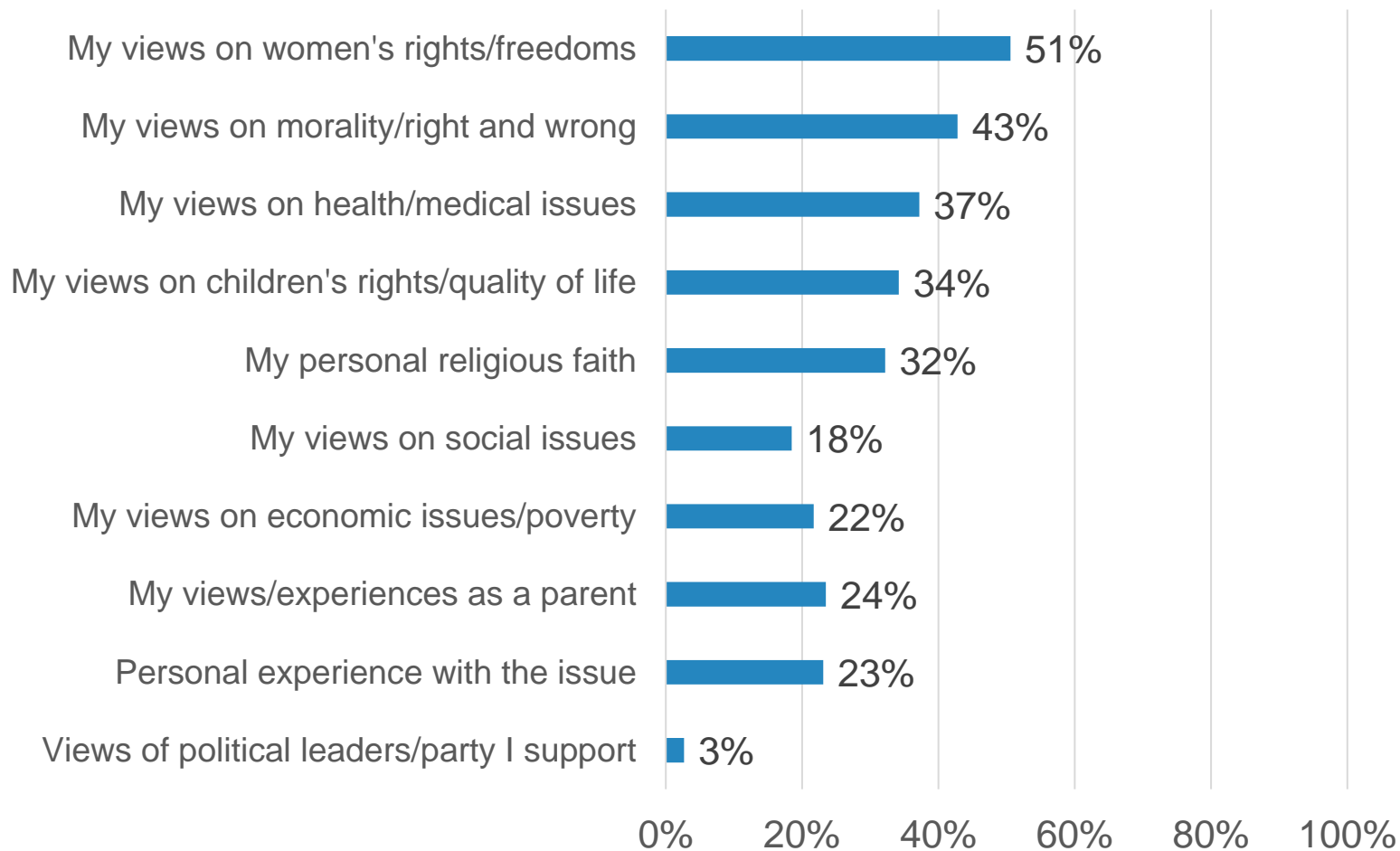
# How Their Abortion Views Developed

Among the generally pro-abortion rights

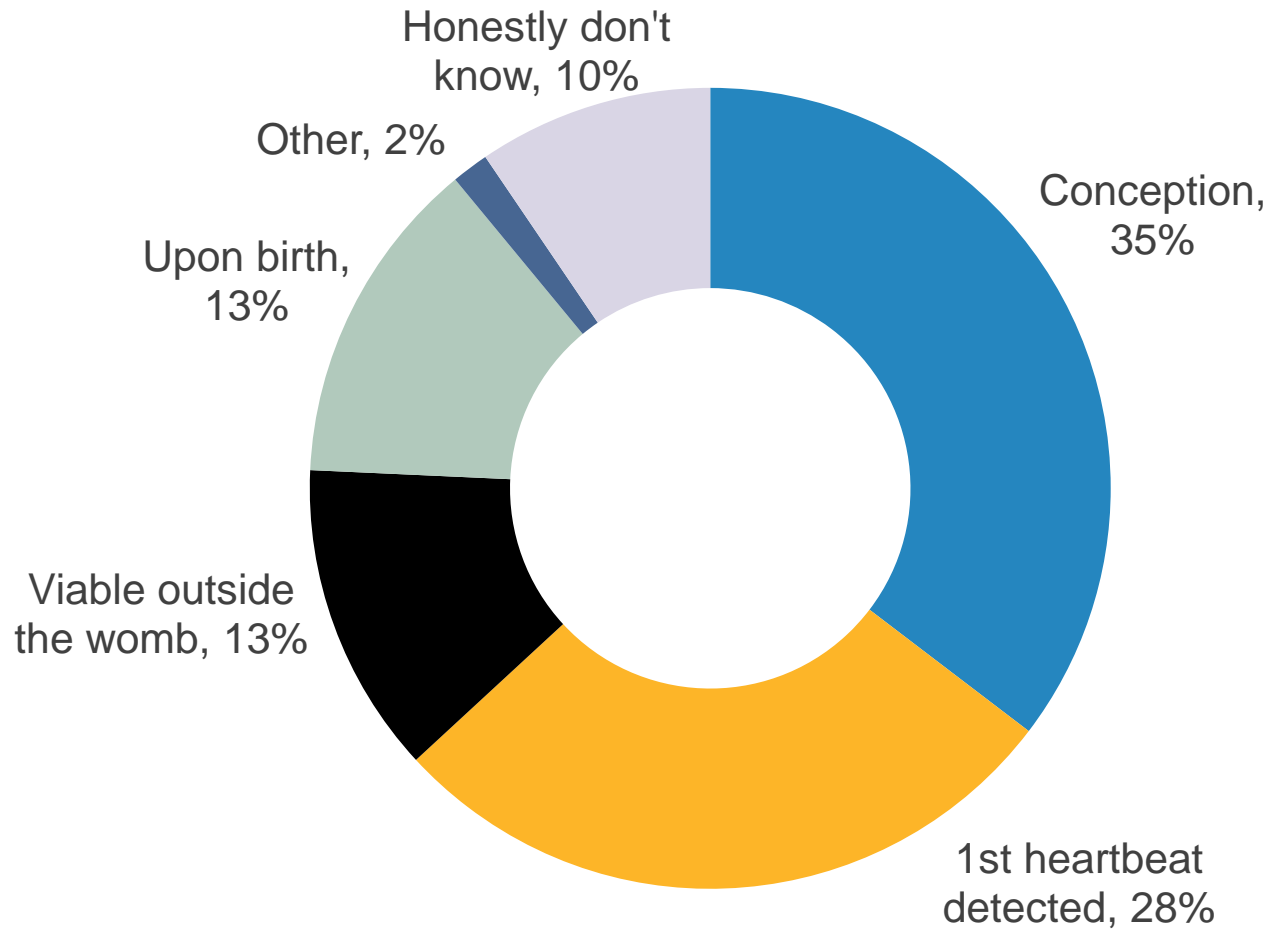


# How Their Abortion Views Developed

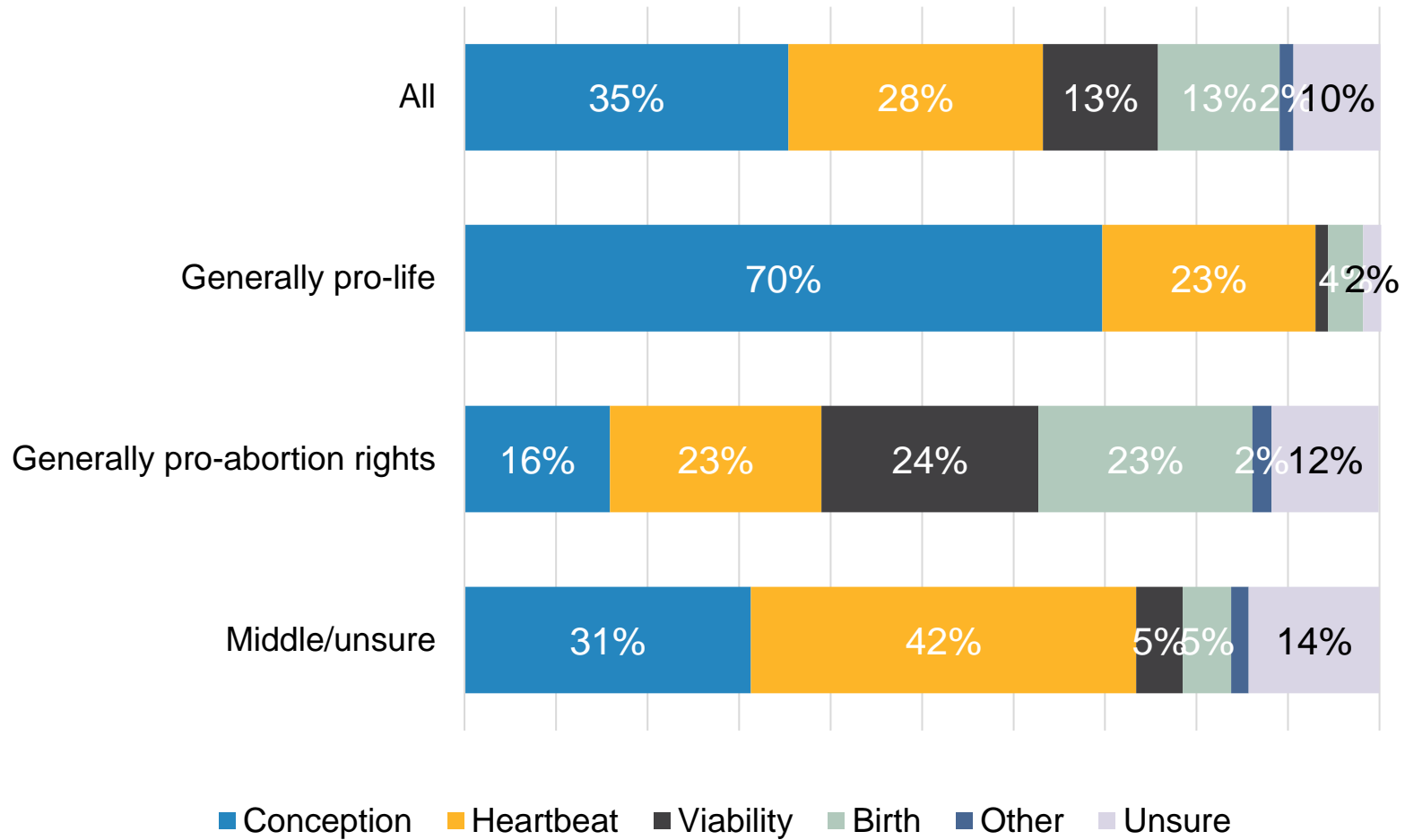
Among those with mixed views/unsure



# When Does Life Begin?



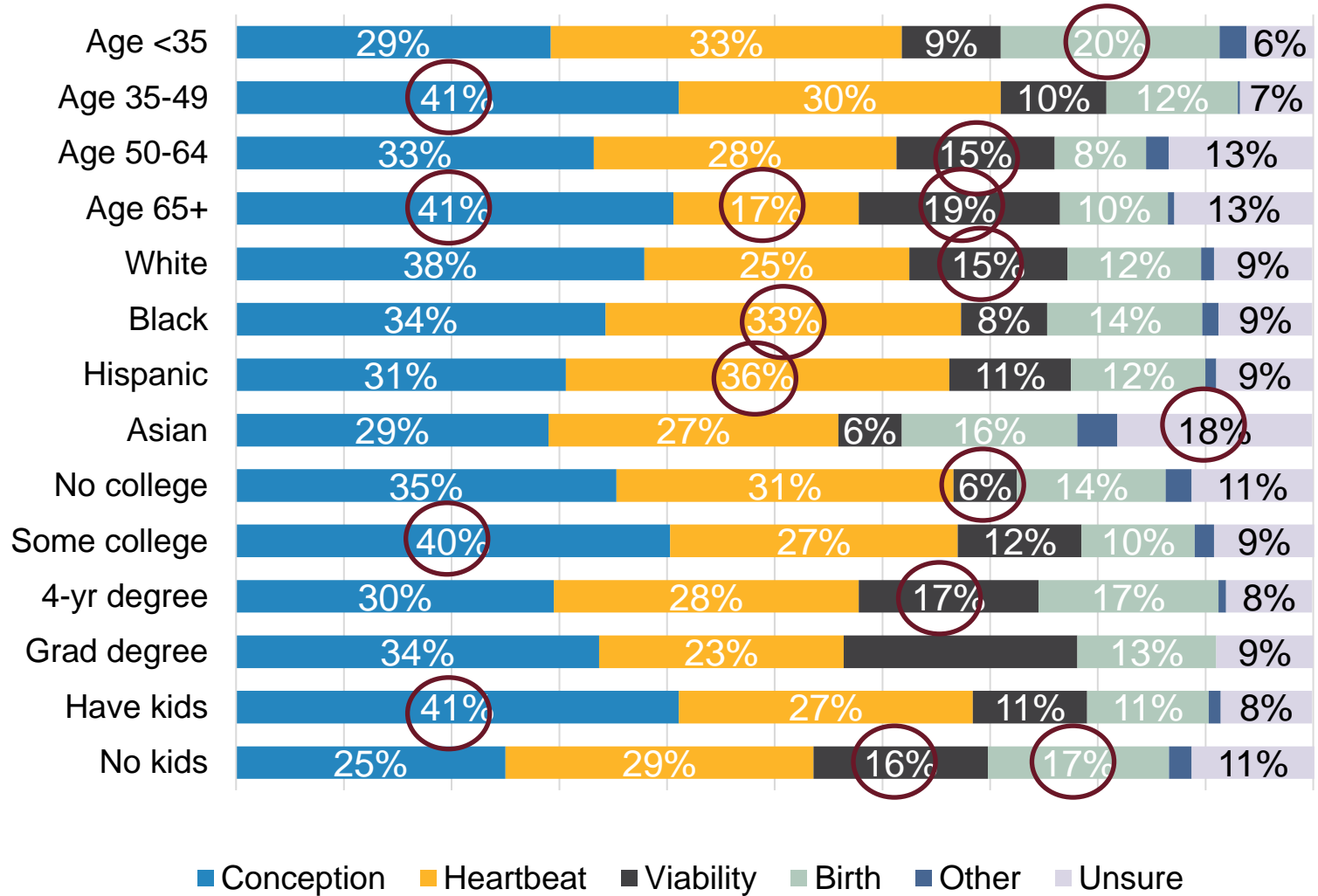
# When Does Life Begin?



Q10: "In your view, when does life begin? Upon birth, When the fetus is viable outside the womb, When the first heartbeat can be detected, Upon conception, Other, I honestly do not know" n= 1,155

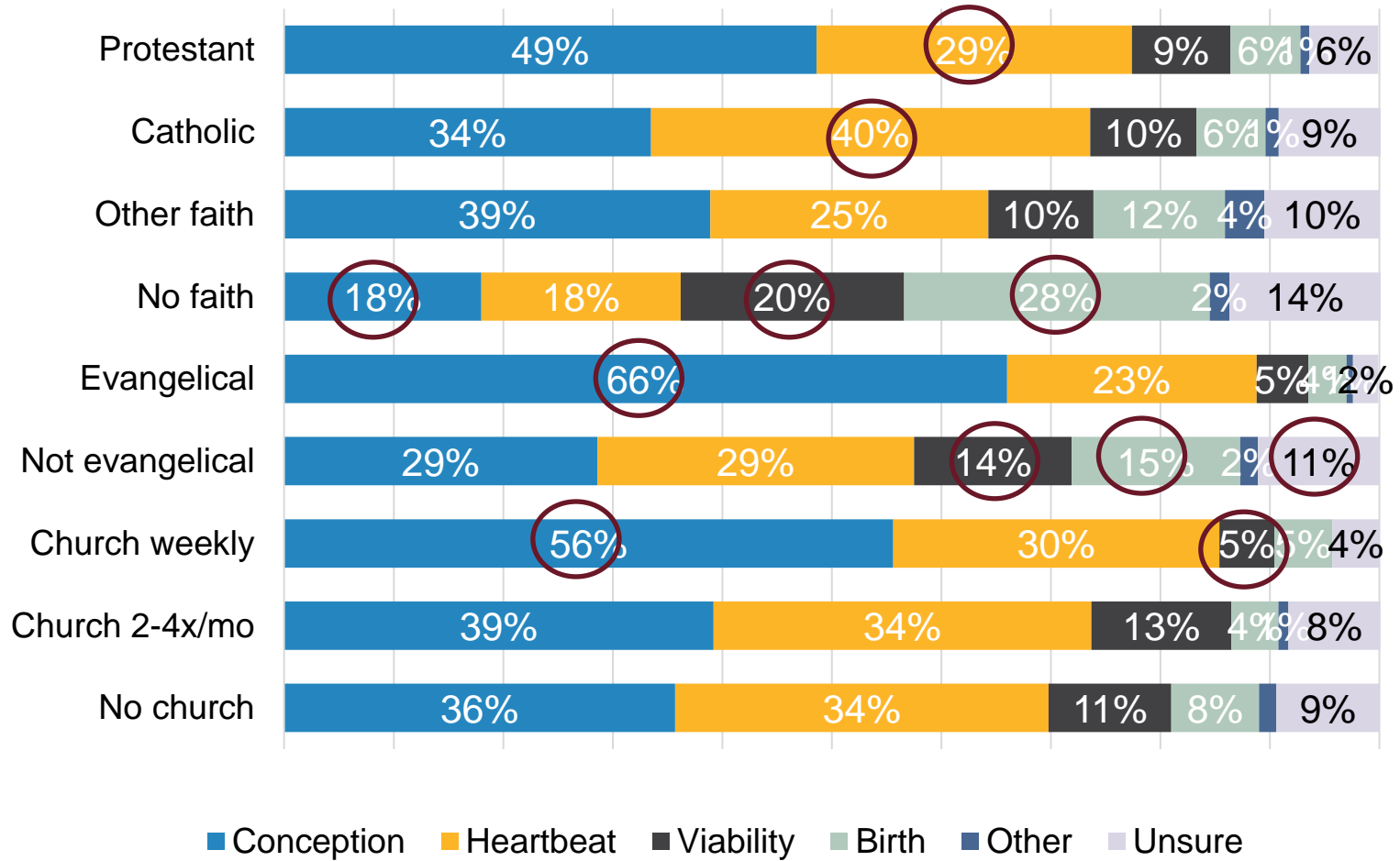
Lifeway research

# When Life Begins, by Demographics



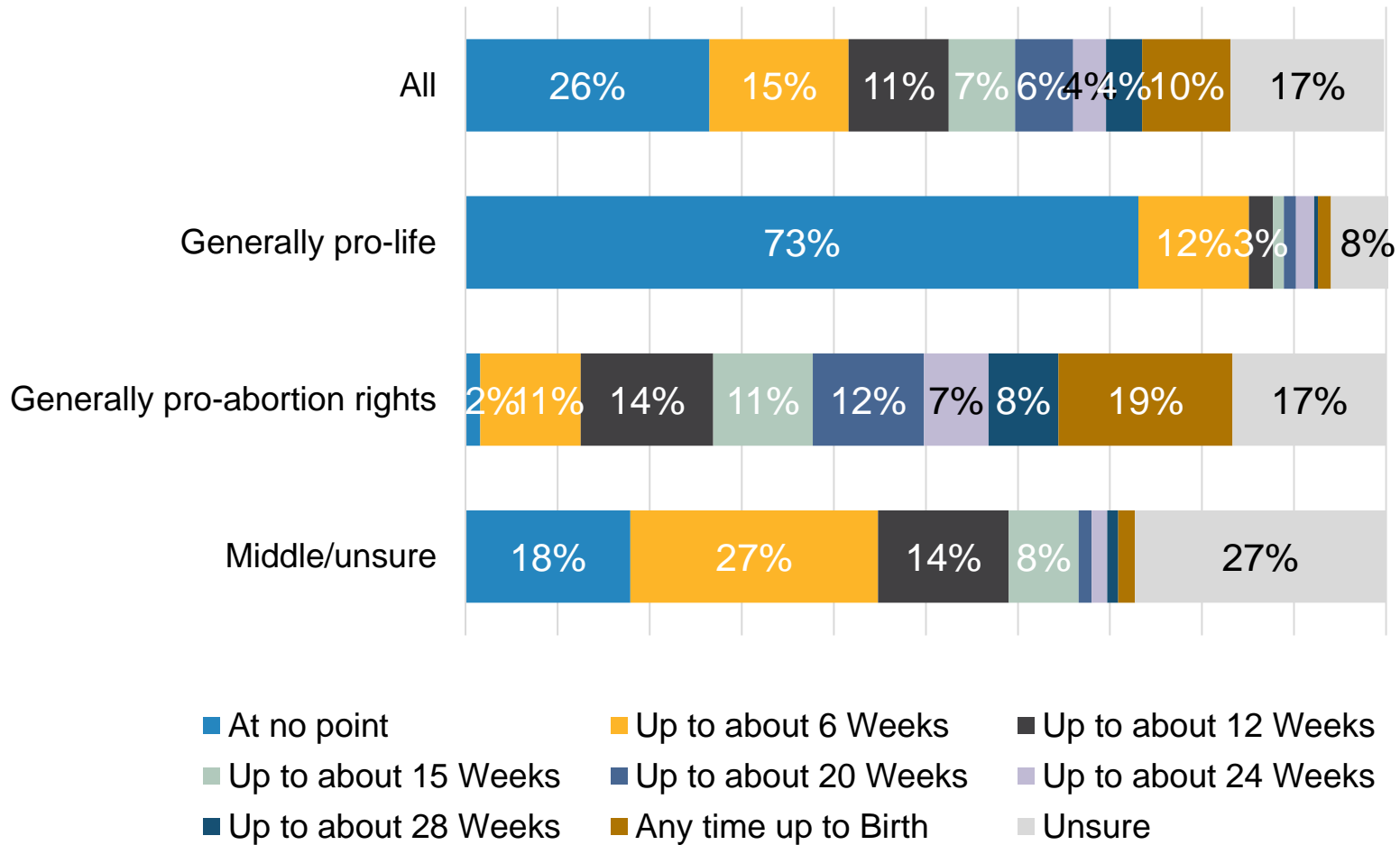
= statistically different from others in the category

# When Life Begins, by Faith Factors



= statistically different from others in the category

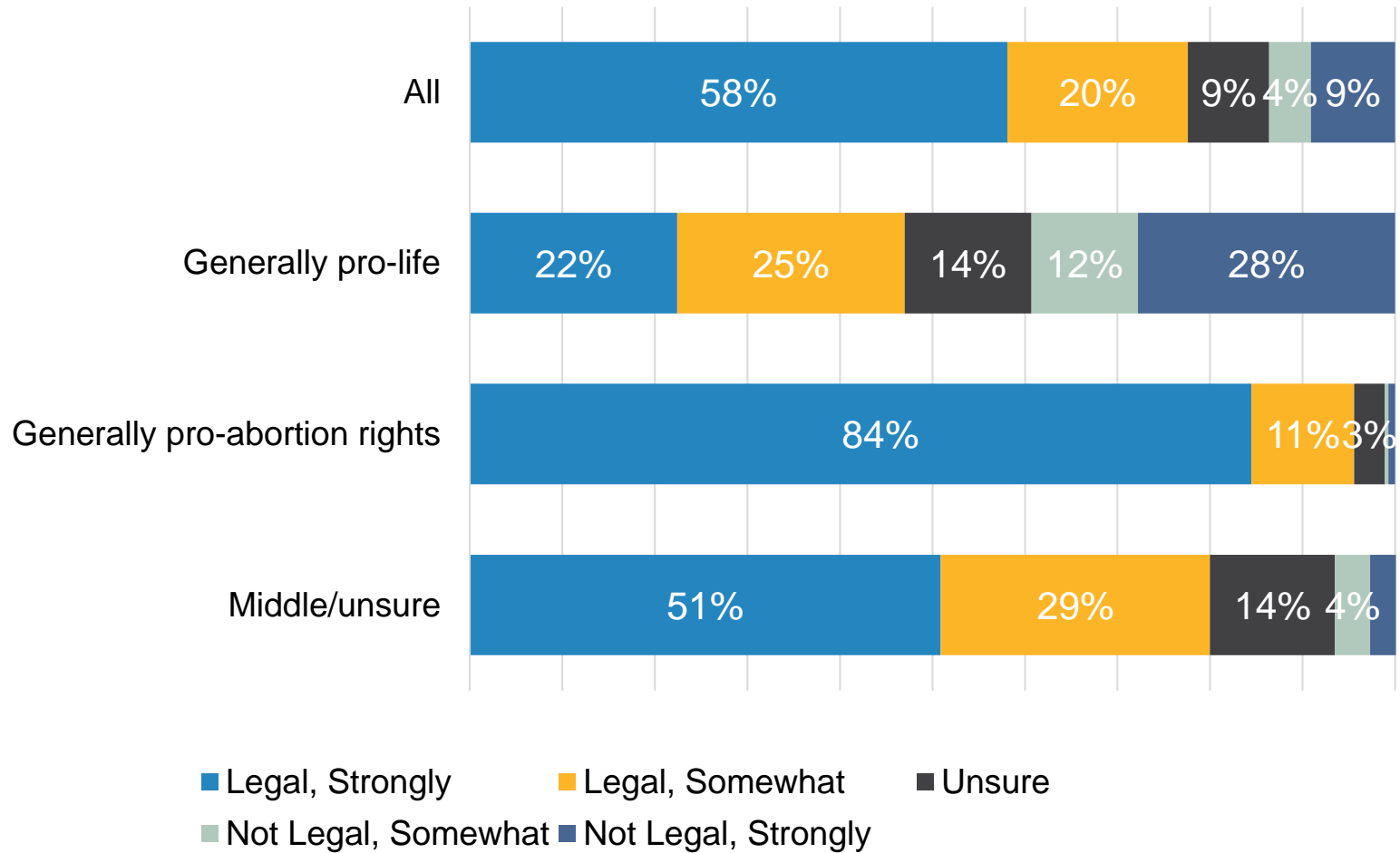
# Time Frame for Legal Abortions





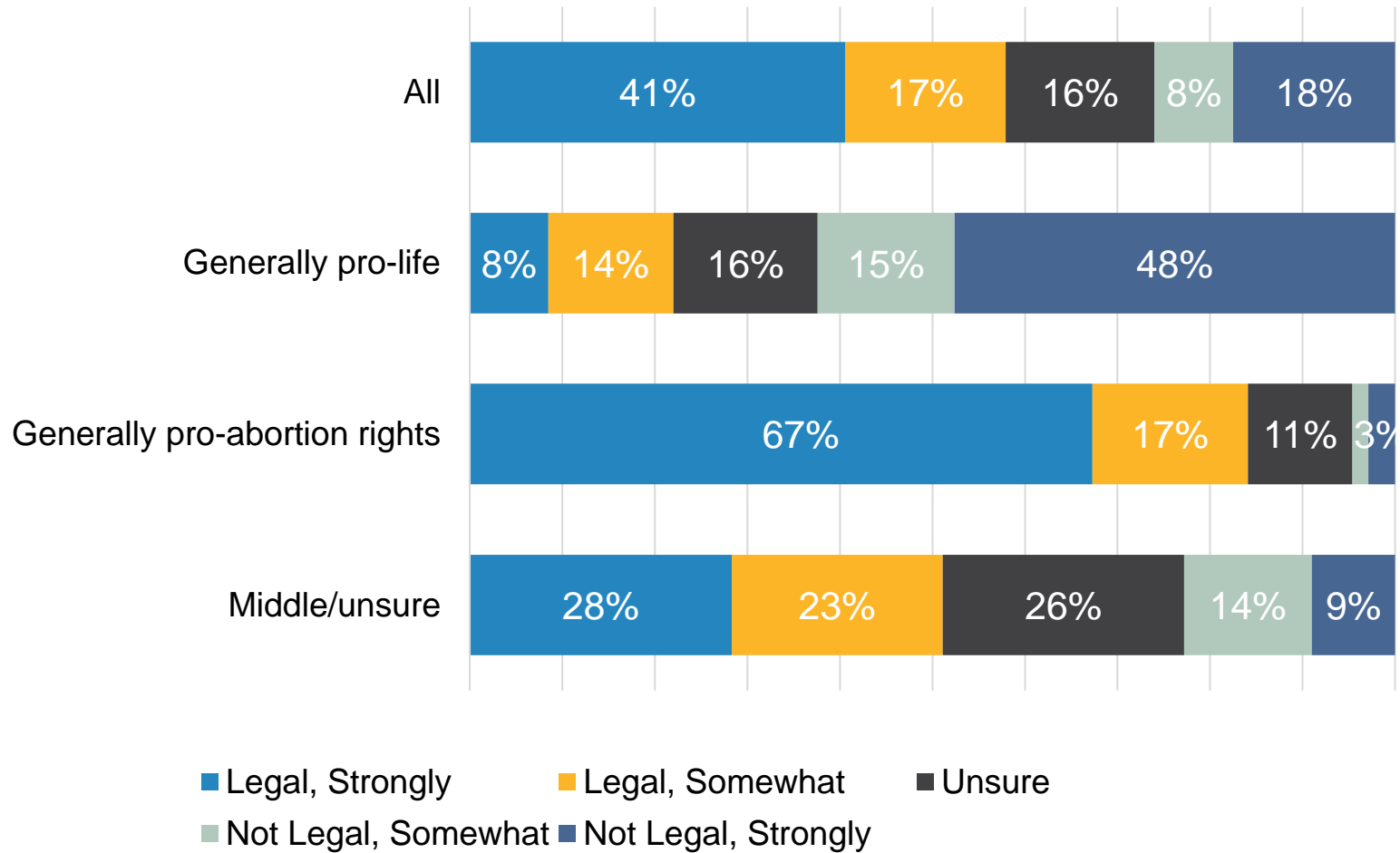
# Should Abortion Be Legal:

“If doctors have determined that the mother’s life is in danger because of the pregnancy”



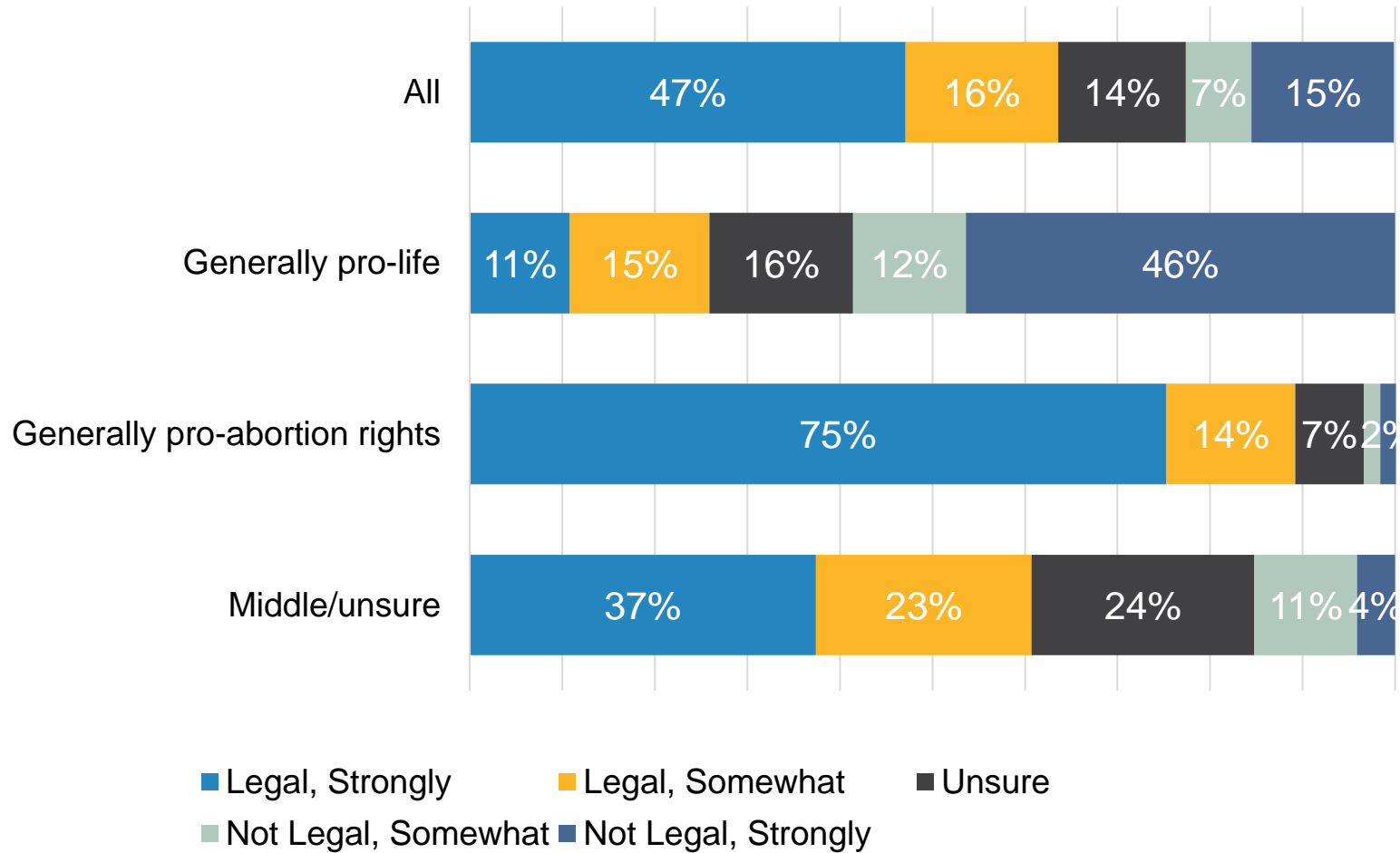
# Should Abortion Be Legal:

“If doctors have determined the child would be born with severe mental or physical defects”



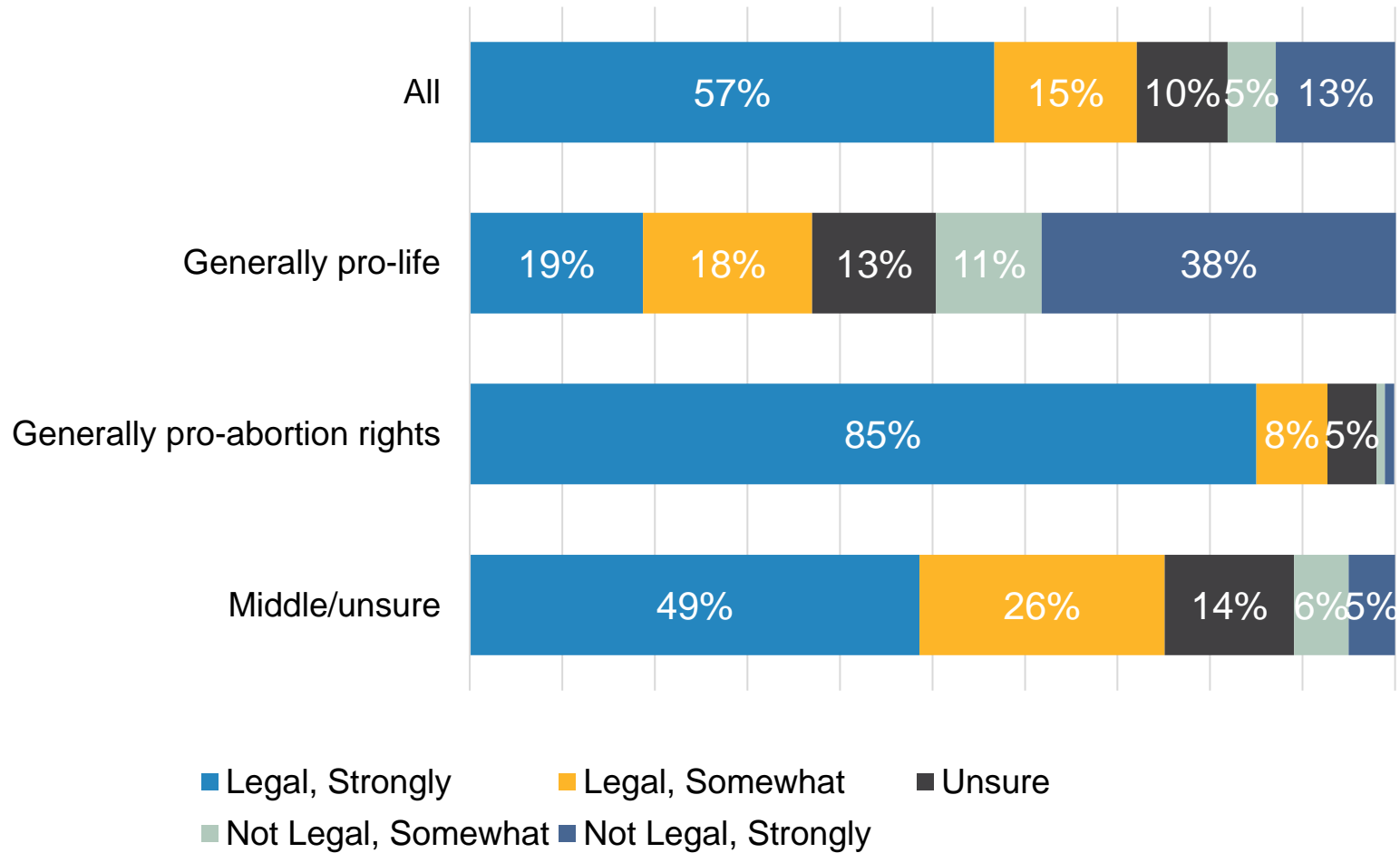
# Should Abortion Be Legal:

“If doctors have determined that the child will not survive long after birth”



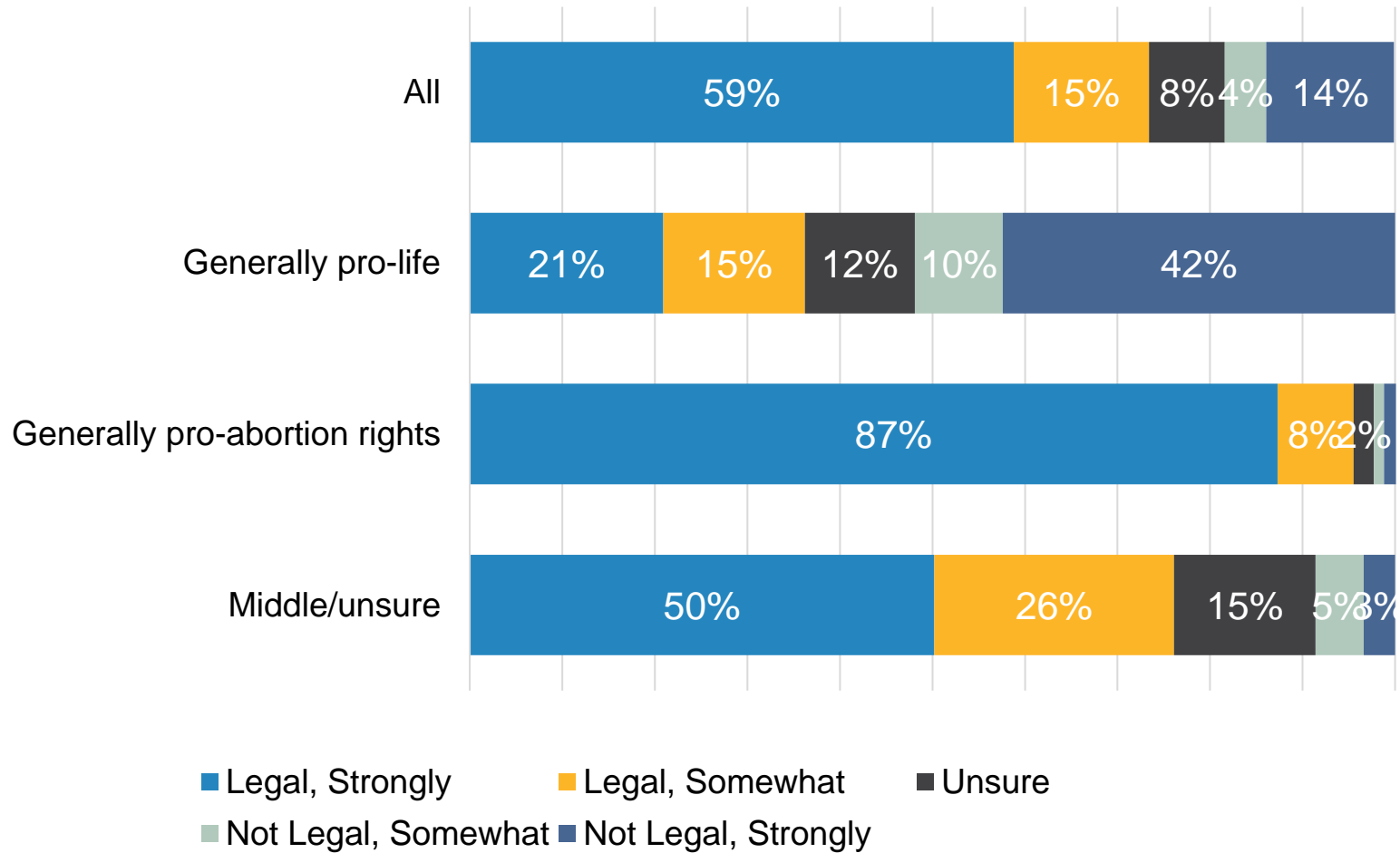
# Should Abortion Be Legal:

“If the pregnancy is because of incest”



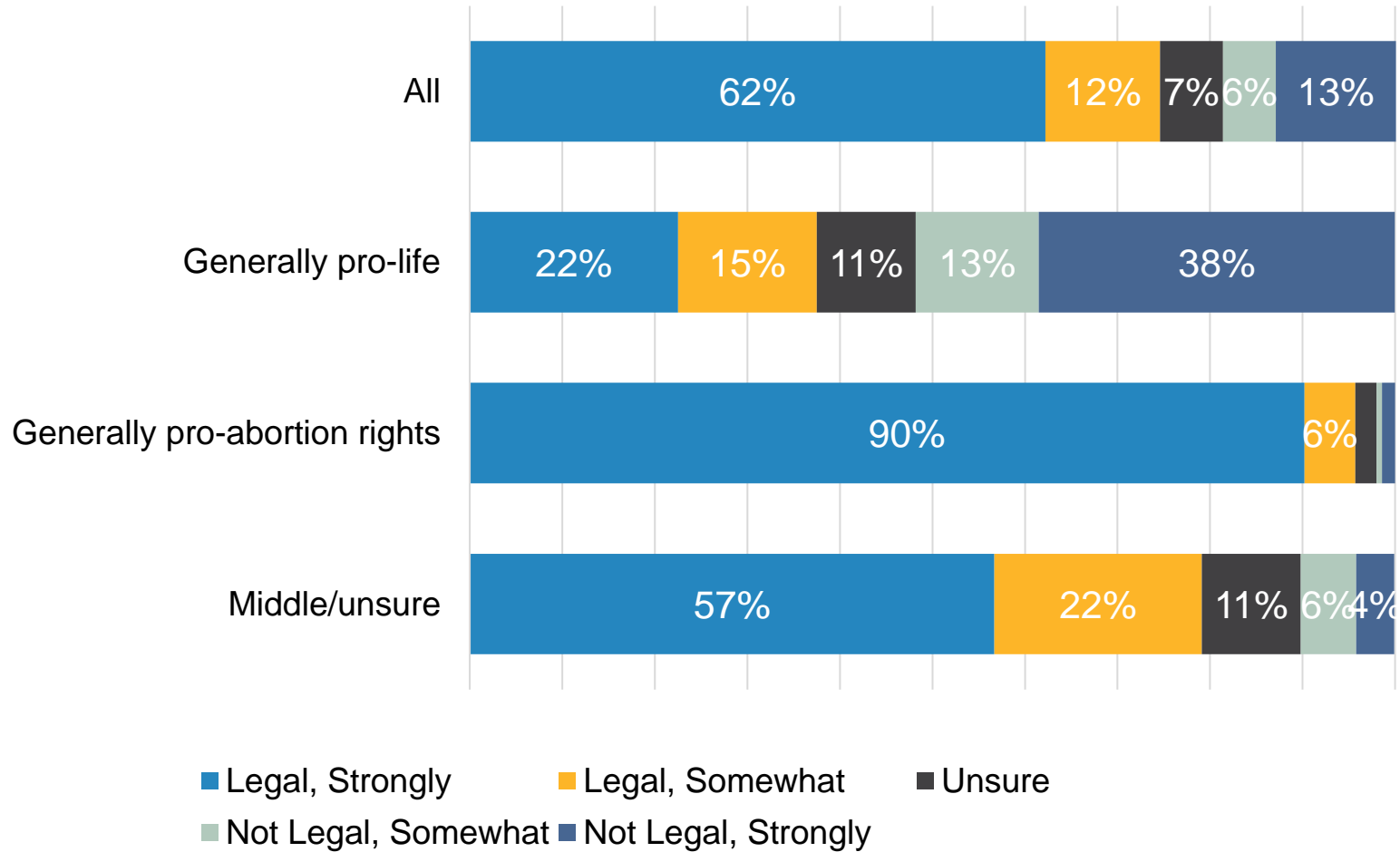
# Should Abortion Be Legal:

“If the pregnancy is because of rape, and the mother is 18 or older”



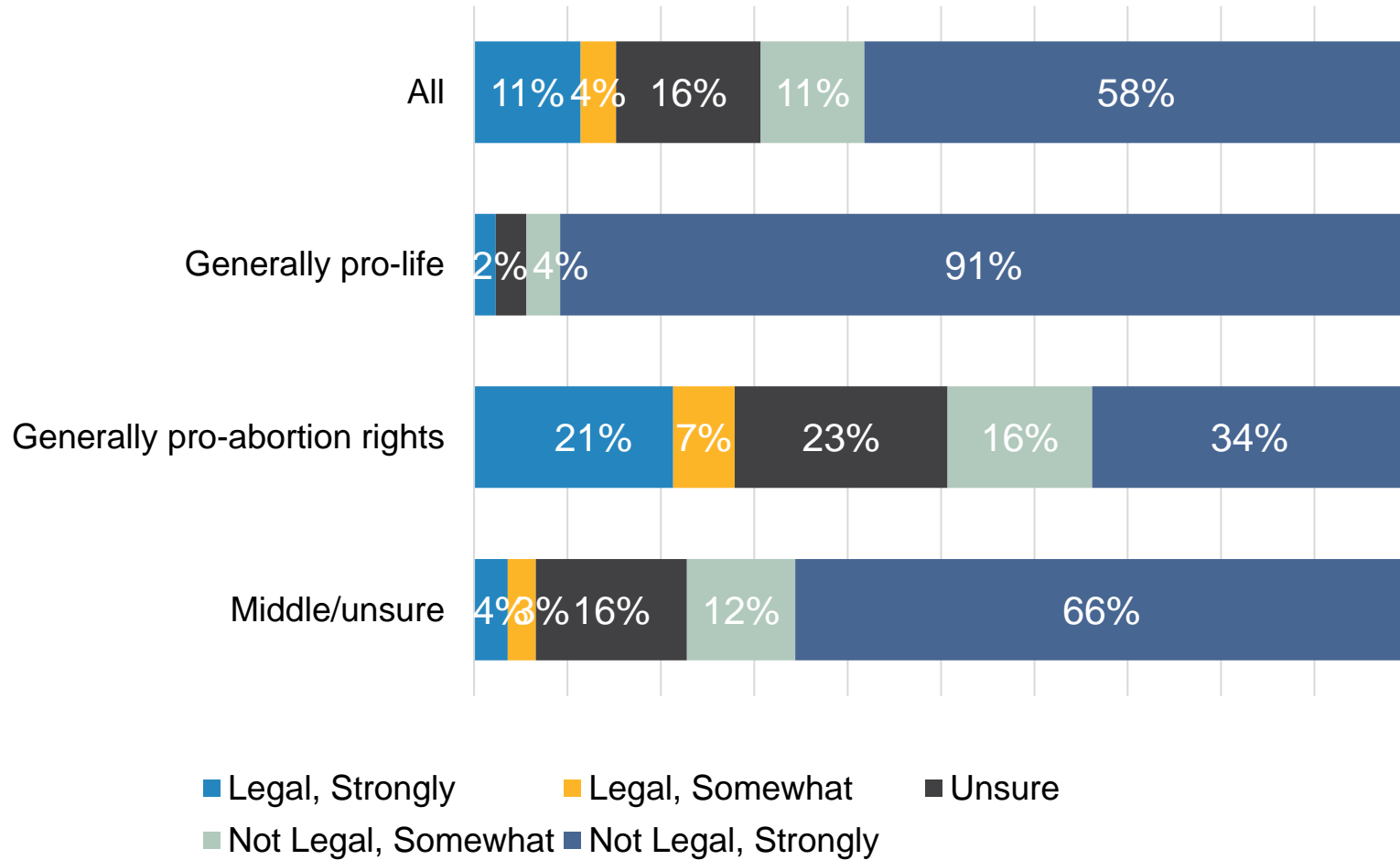
# Should Abortion Be Legal:

“If the pregnancy is because of rape, and the mother is under 18 years old”



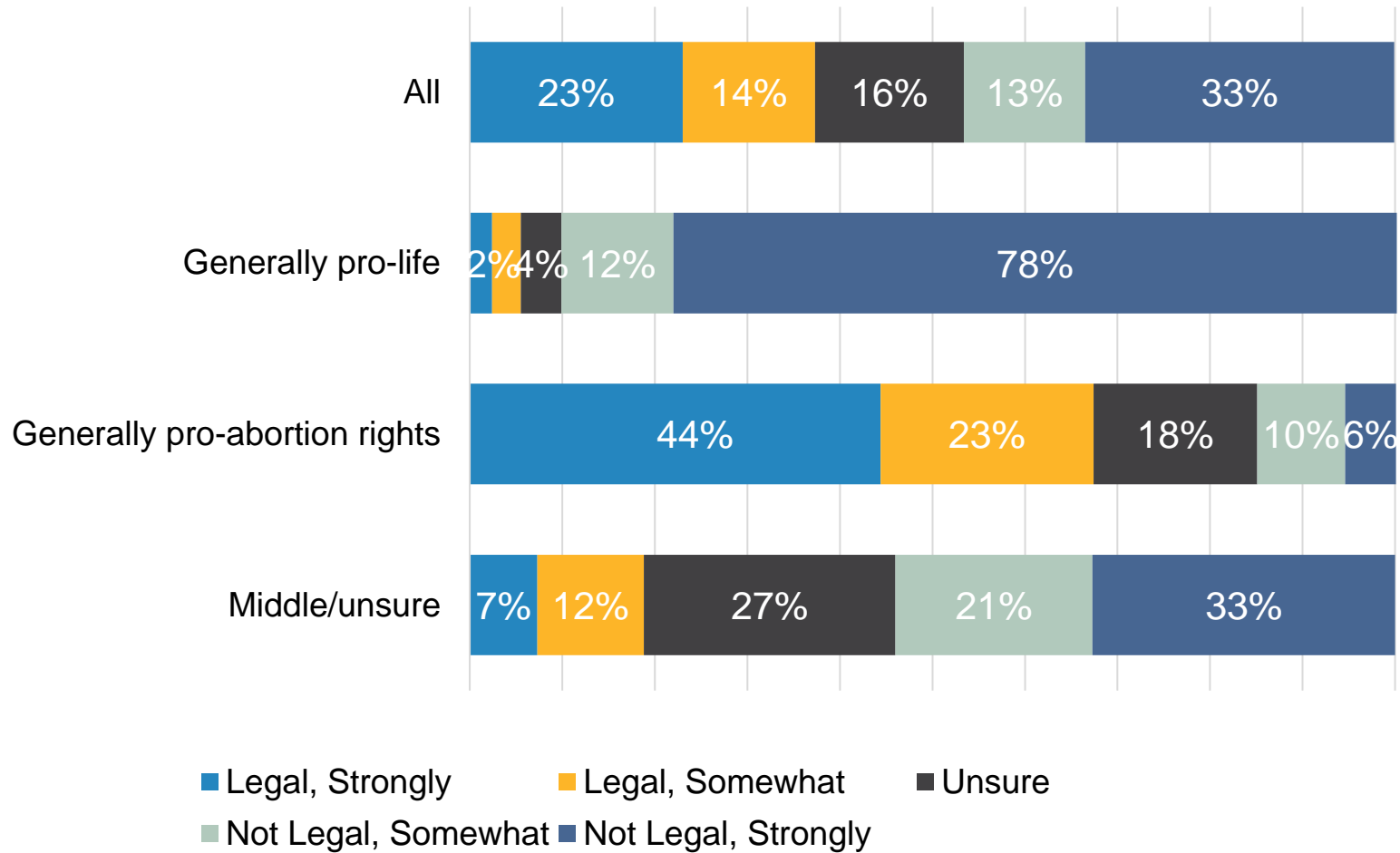
# Should Abortion Be Legal:

“If the mother wants a child of a different gender”



# Should Abortion Be Legal:

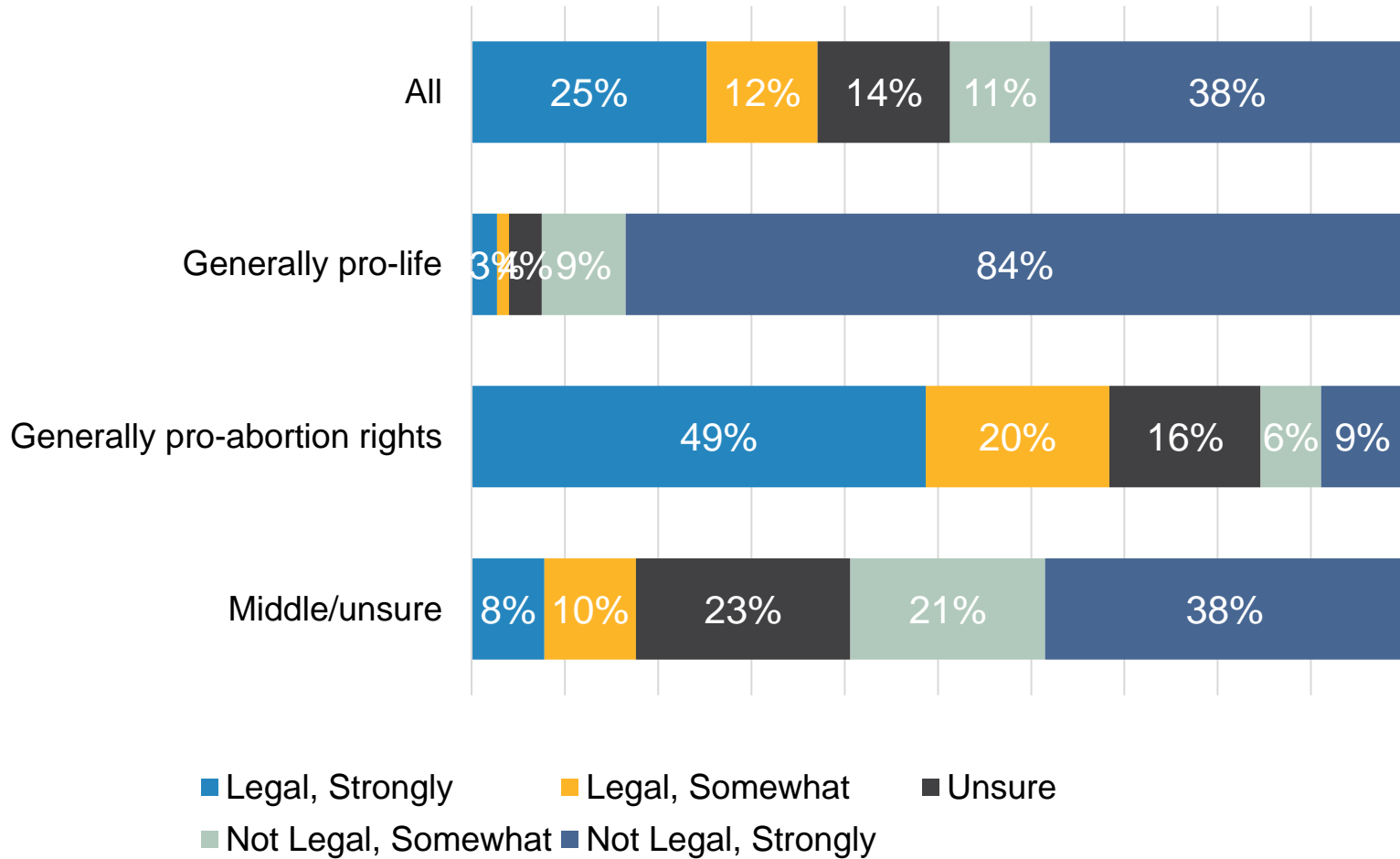
“If raising the child would be a financial hardship to the mother/parents”





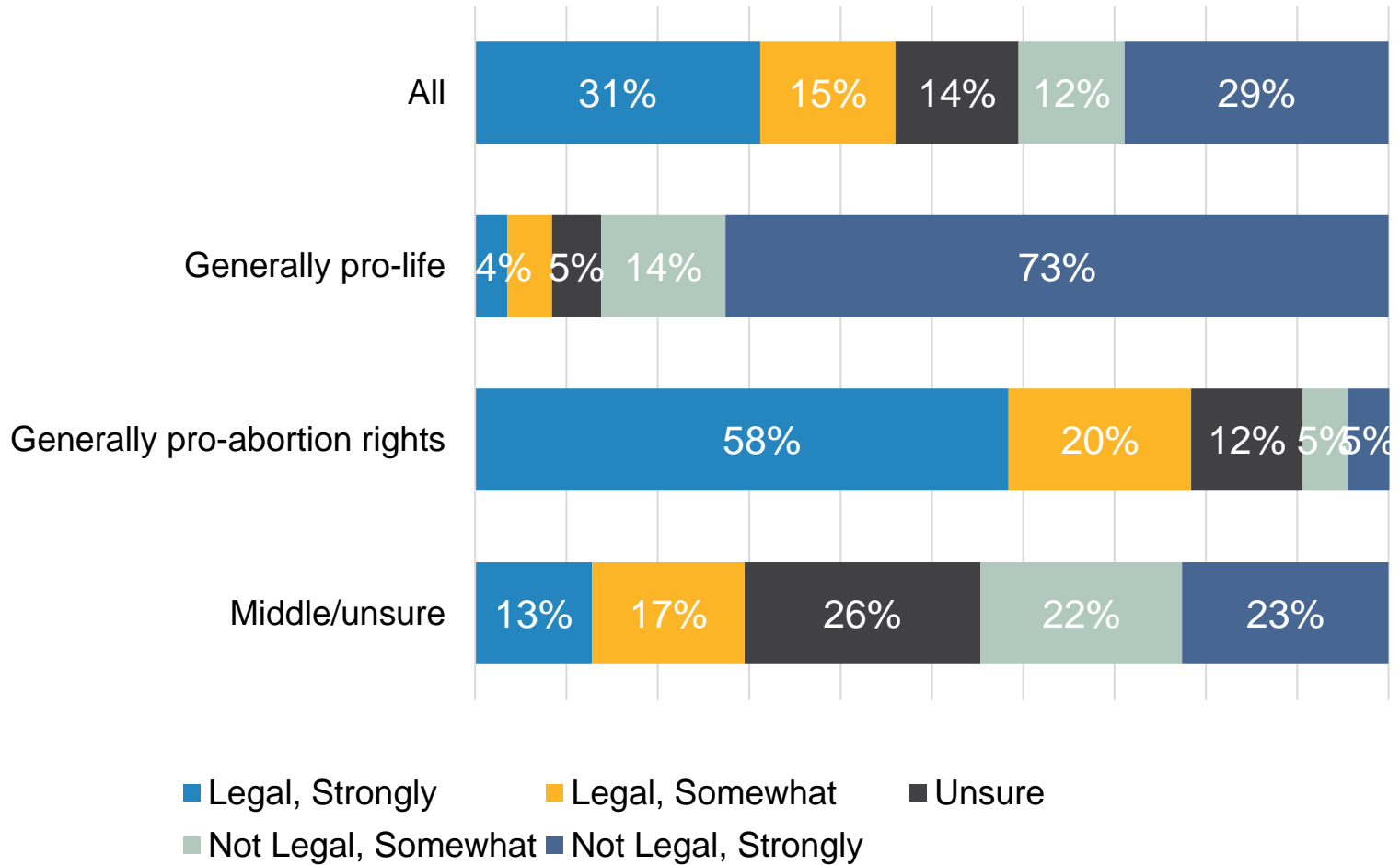
# Should Abortion Be Legal:

“If the mother just does not want to have the child”



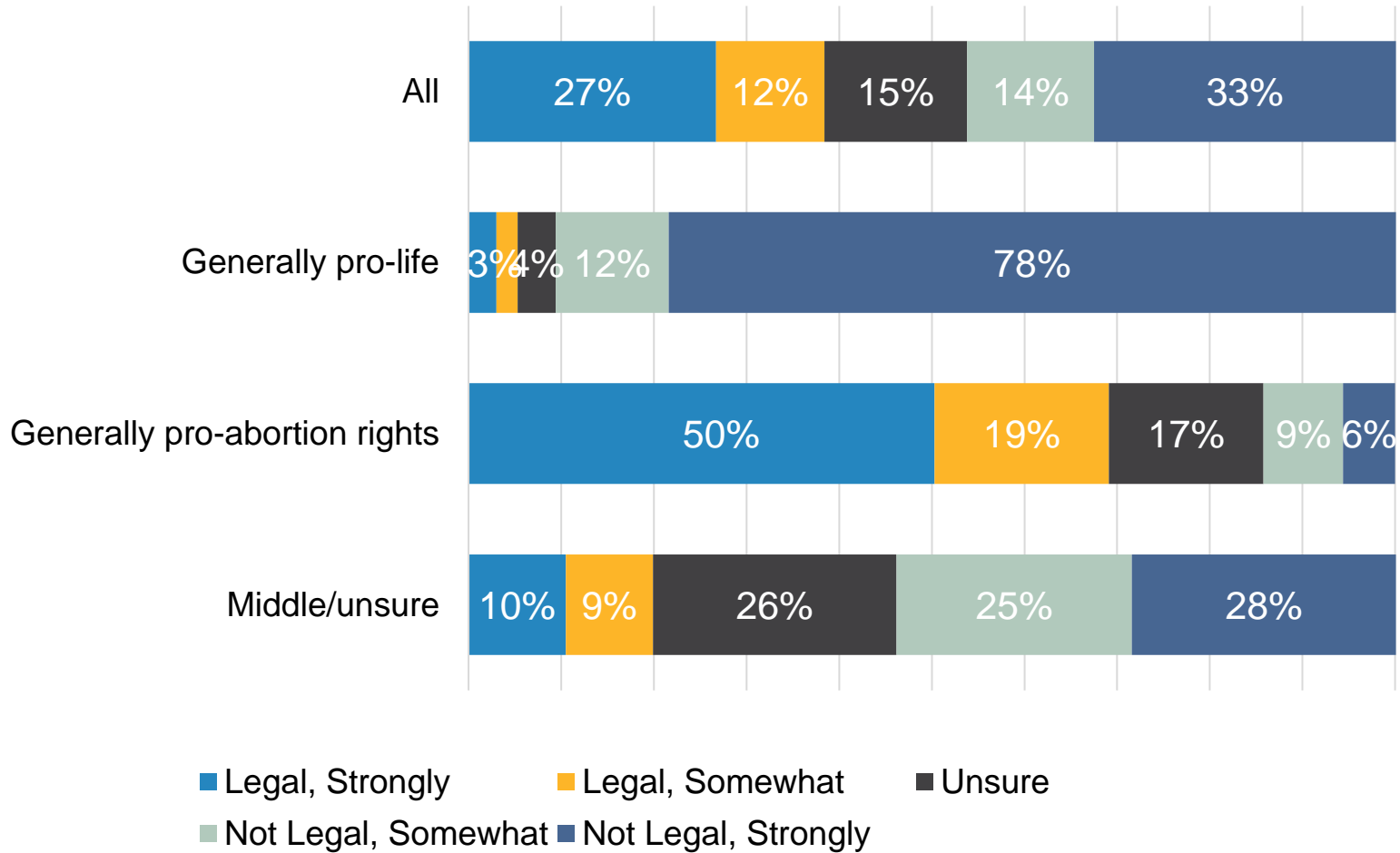
# Should Abortion Be Legal:

“If the mother is under 18 years old and just does not want to have the child”



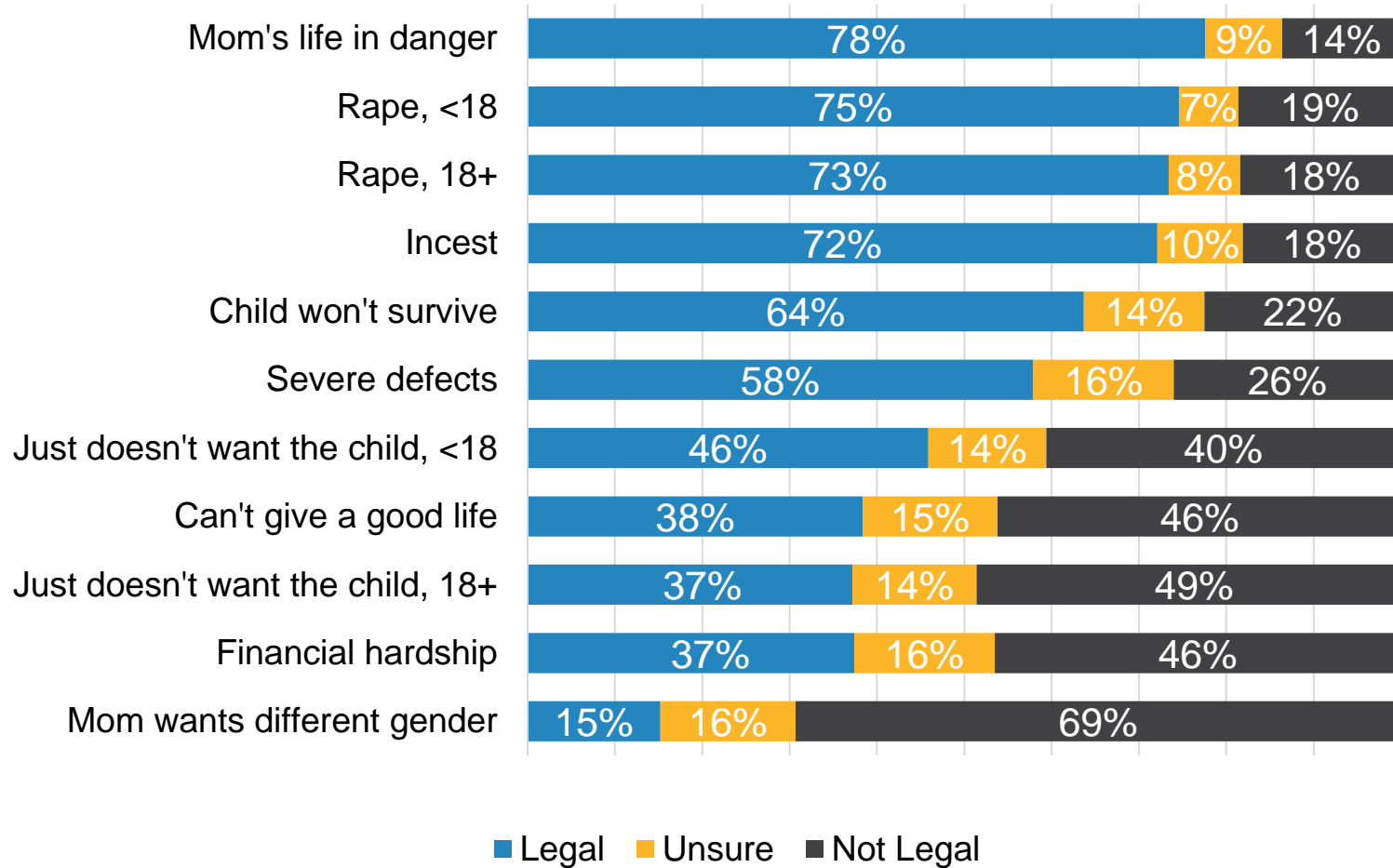
# Should Abortion Be Legal:

“If the mother/parents believe they are not capable of giving the child a good life”



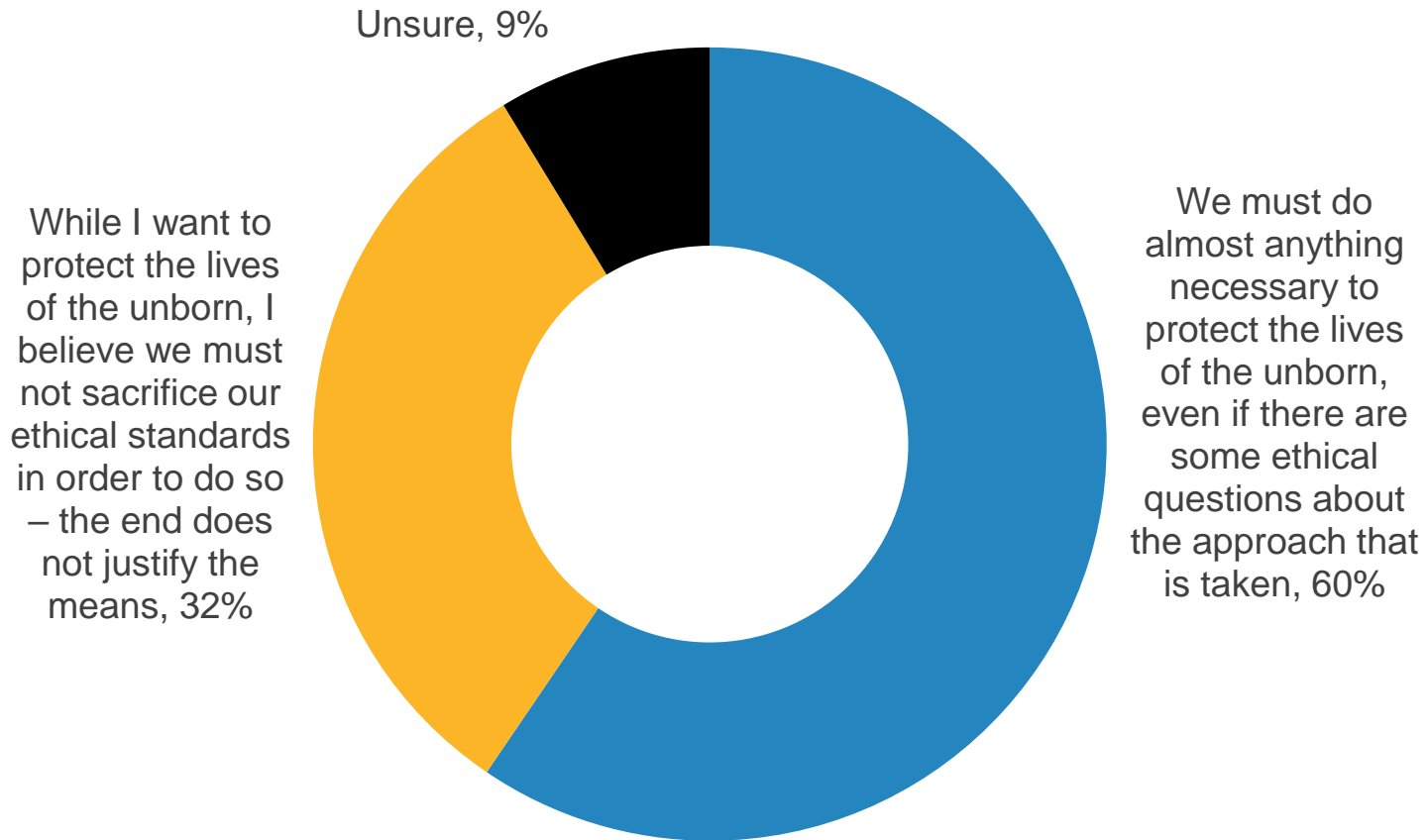
# Should Abortion Be Legal:

Summary of all scenarios

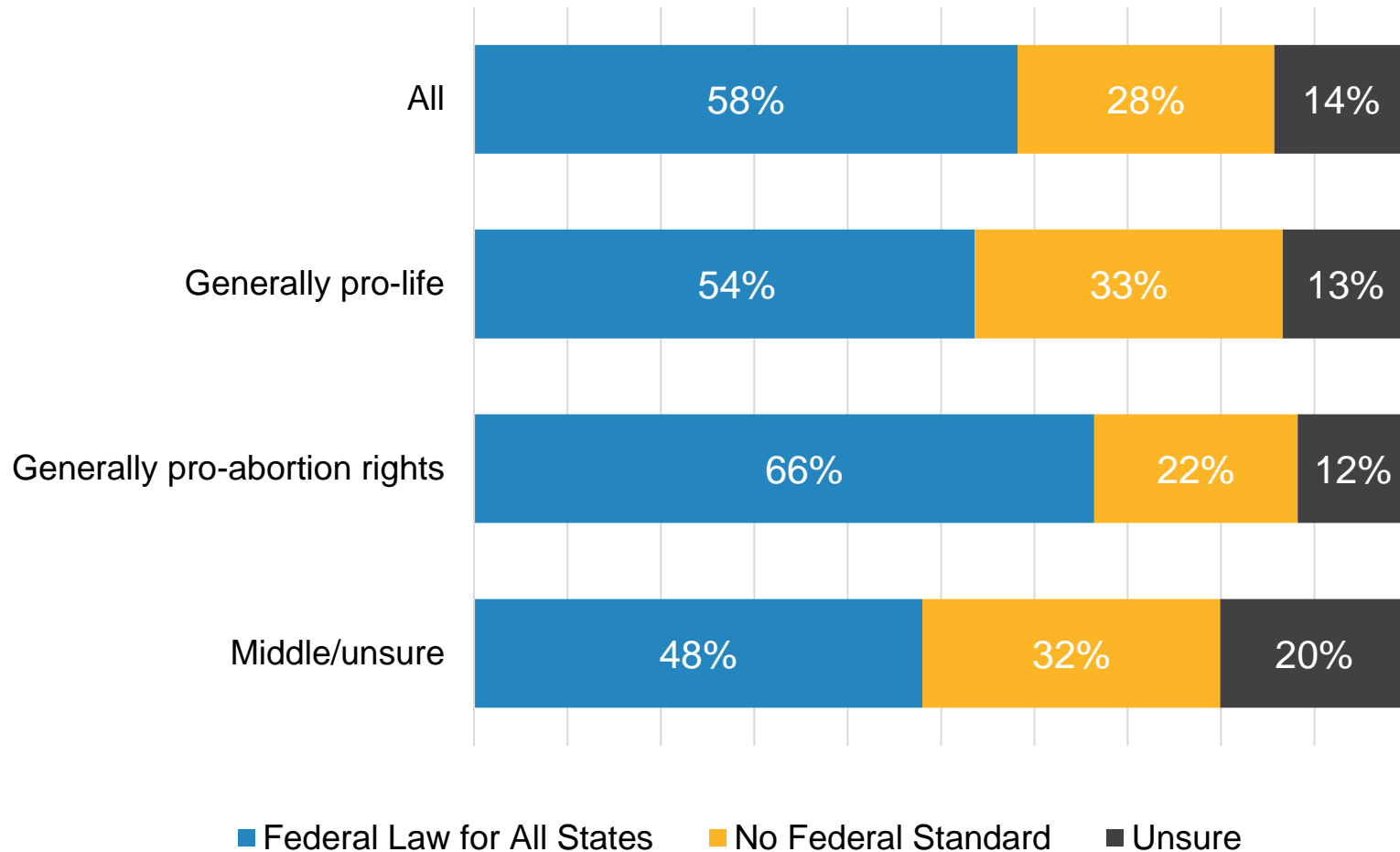


# Does the End Justify the Means?

Among the generally pro-life

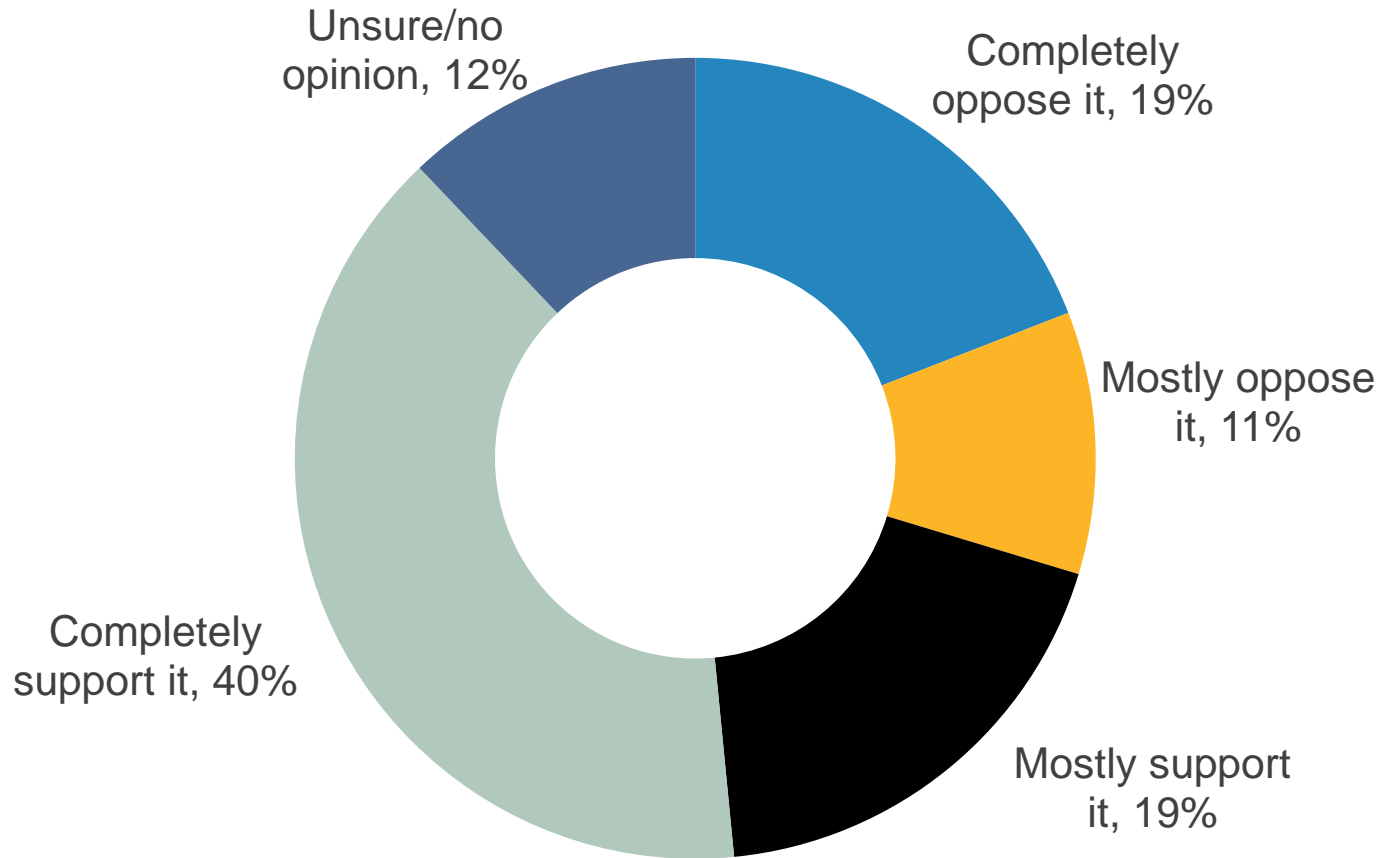


# Should Abortion Laws Be Federal or Left to Individual States?



Q14: "Regardless of your views on abortion itself, which of the following best describes your views about abortion laws? 1) I support having federal laws that apply the same rules in all states, 2) Laws about abortion should be left to individual states; there should be no federal standard, 3) Not sure/no opinion" n= 1,155

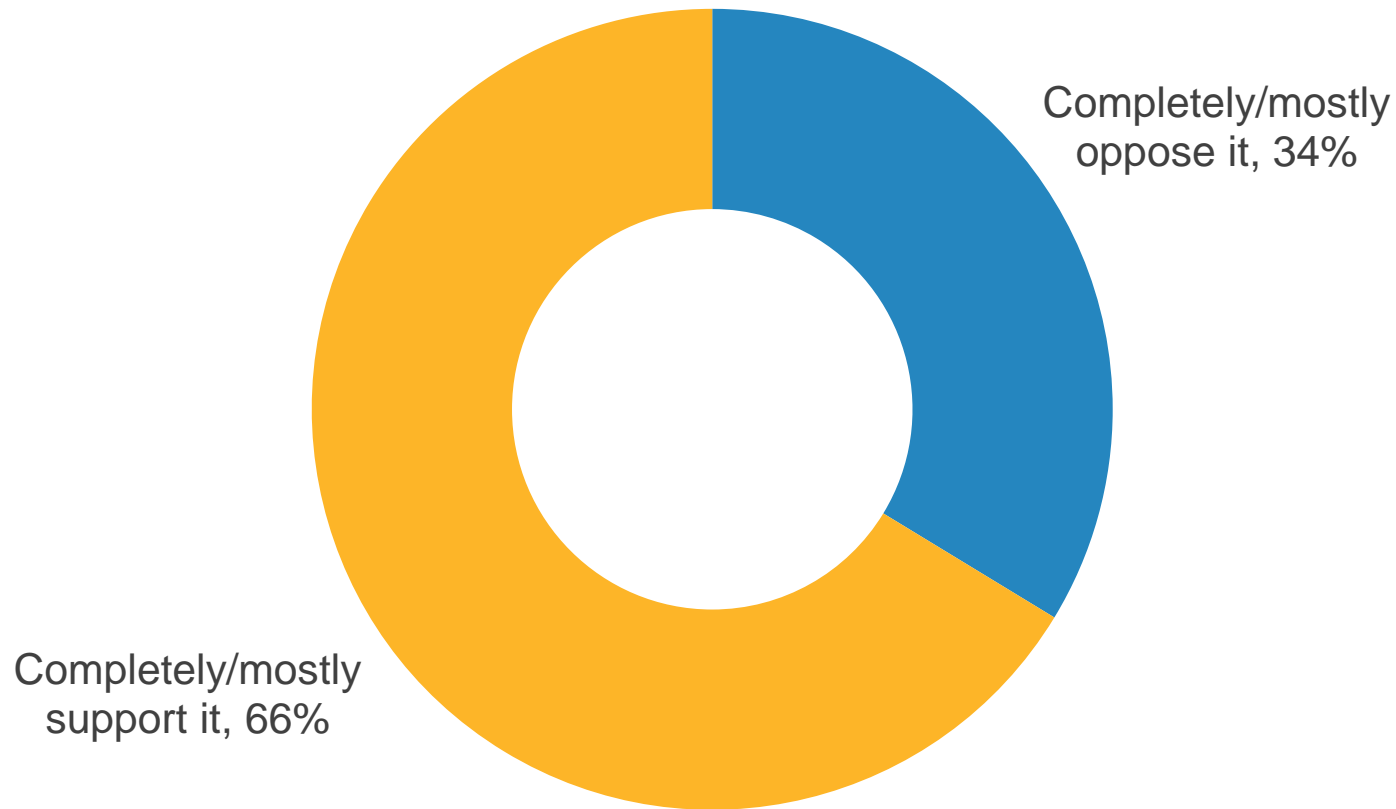
# Views on the *Roe vs. Wade* Decision



Q15: "In the 1973 decision *Roe vs. Wade*, the US Supreme Court ruled that the 14th Amendment provides a right to privacy that protects a pregnant woman's right to choose whether to have an abortion. This decision essentially legalized abortion in the US and does not allow individual states to restrict abortion further than the federal government does. What is your view on the *Roe vs. Wade* decision?" n= 1,155

# Views on the *Roe vs. Wade* Decision

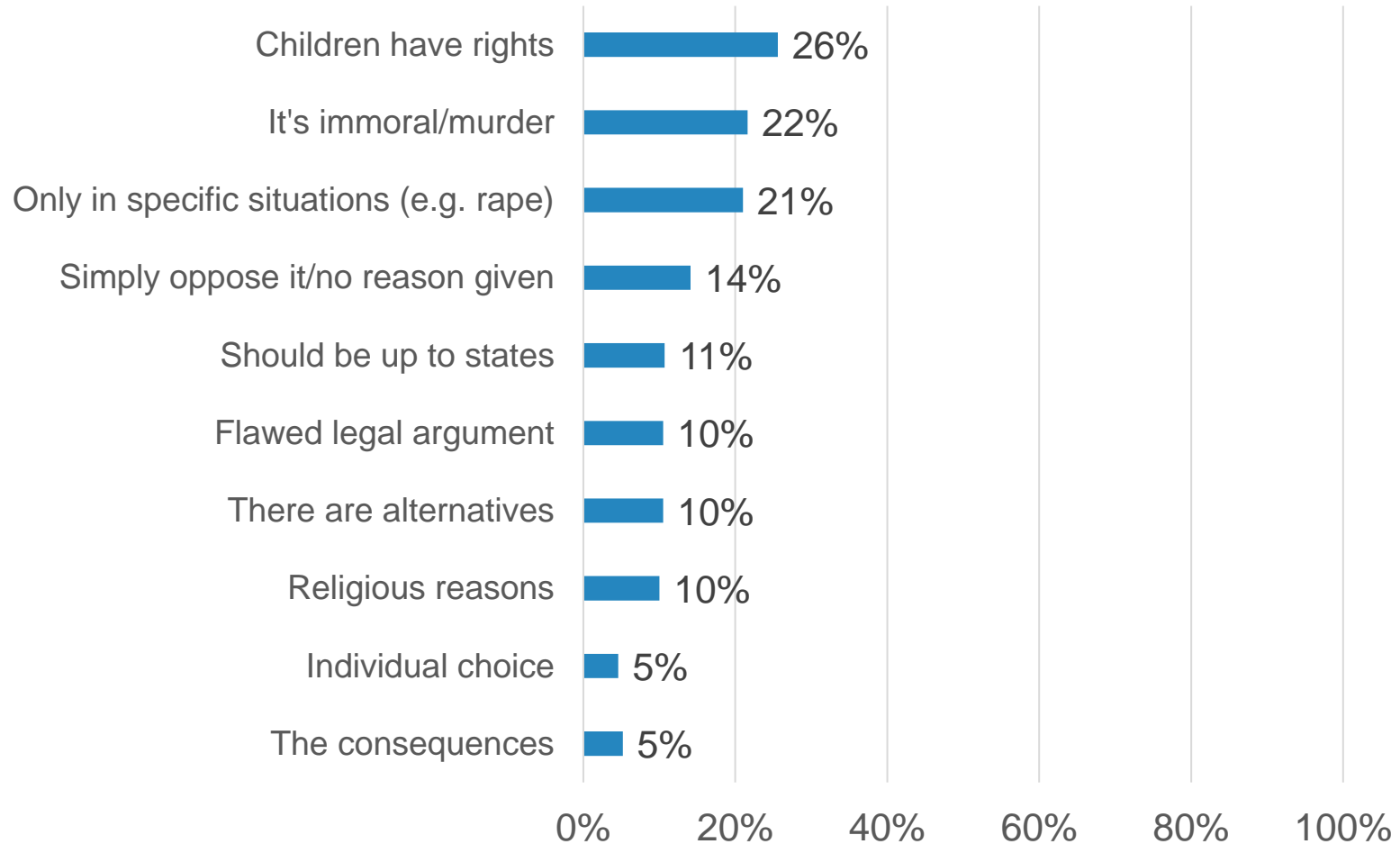
Among those with no opinion





# Reasons People Oppose *Roe vs. Wade*

Among those who completely/mostly oppose the *Roe vs. Wade* decision

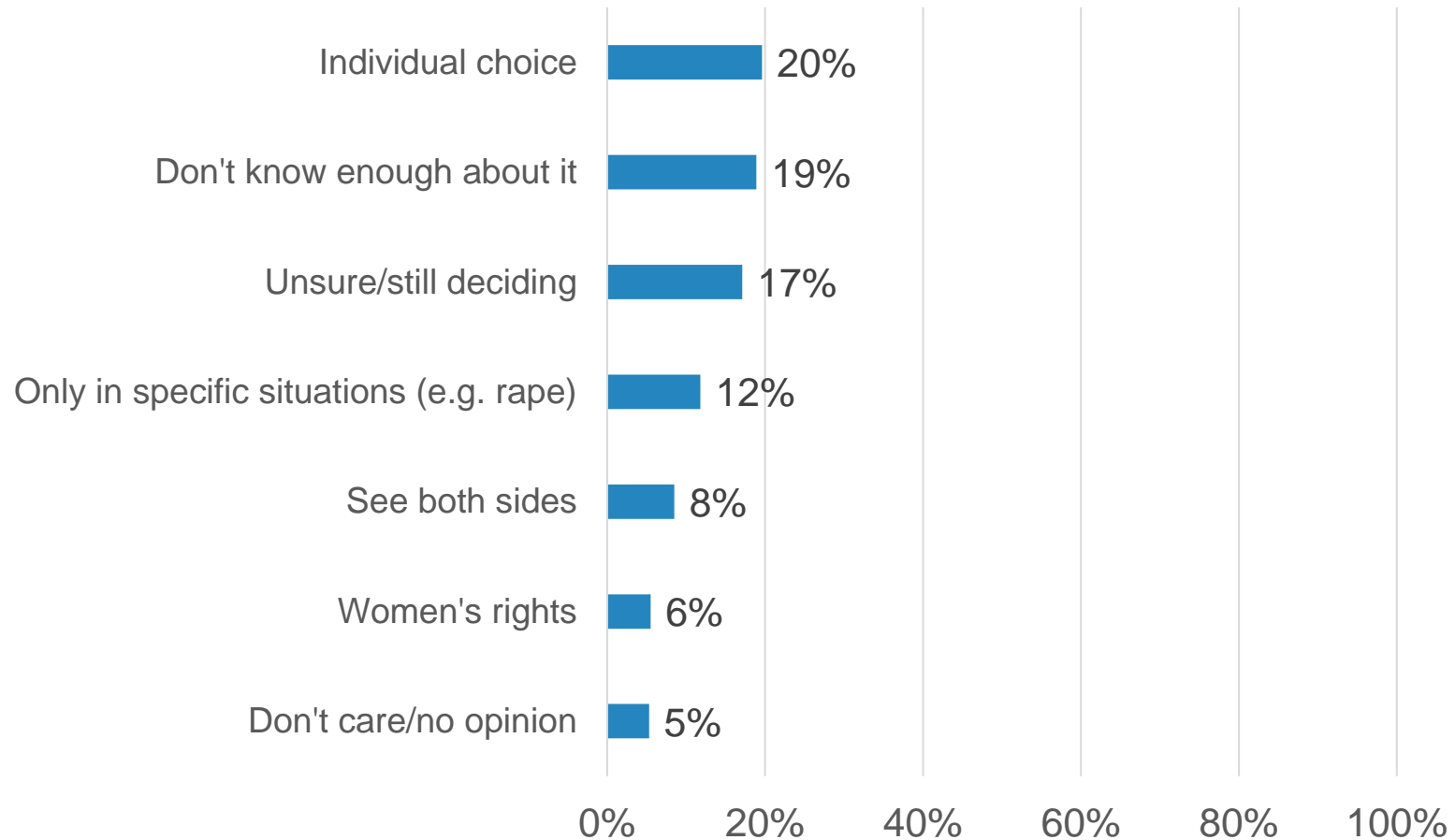


# Why Some Oppose *Roe vs. Wade*

- *“Because it is plainly and simply murder, calling it an abortion or whatever you call it doesn't change the fact that it is killing a human being. And people who get abortions should be held at the same regard and face the same punishments as someone who committed murder.”*
- *“It was a political ruling. It was government sanctioned murder and it still is today. Some 50 million babies have been killed since this ruling. I am a Christian and my God does not want this.”*
- *“Because I feel at no time is it ever the child's fault. Therefore they should not have to have their life ended because of someone else's choice.”*
- *“You are killing an innocent child and taking away all of that child's rights and taking away their opportunity to live. Therefore due to *Roe vs. Wade* allowing abortion to be legal, I entirely oppose it. It has allowed the lives of so many innocent children to be taken. Those kids will never get to grow up and be the incredible person that they were intended to be. They will never have the opportunity to get an education and possibly impact the world.”*
- *“Federal government should not be deciding what is a state's right to decide for the people in that state, it was never the original intent of the Constitution.”*
- *“If a woman doesn't want to have her baby, plenty of people are willing to adopt.”*
- *“The Supreme Court interprets the law and does not make the law because that is the job of Congress.”*
- *“I do not believe a woman should have one unless she is raped, incest, the child will be deformed, or the mother is in danger if she gives birth.”*

# Reasons People Are Unsure about *Roe vs. Wade*

Among those who are not sure/no opinion about the *Roe vs. Wade* decision

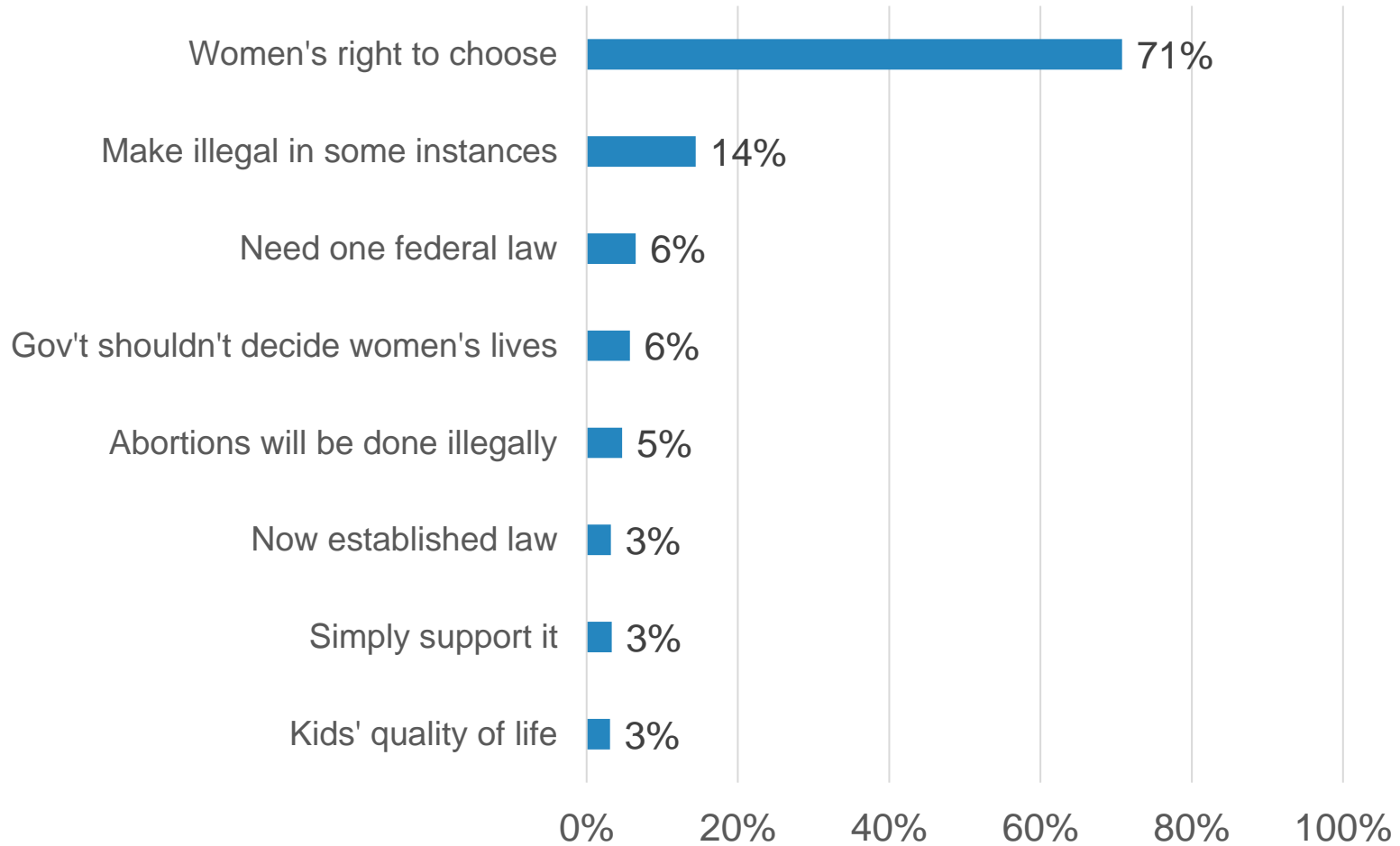


# Why Some Are Unsure about *Roe vs. Wade*

- *“I am torn between what our Heavenly Father says in the Bible, and a woman’s rights.”*
- *“It’s a very complicated issue. A lot of gray area. Not my place to say anything. Every situation is different.”*
- *“I was involved in the abortion issue about 15 years ago and it made me venomous and hateful and now I have other issues to focus my energy on, so I avoid having opinions on abortion.”*
- *“Because some people do abortions just for no reason, not considering the child either way is alive at the end of the day, but there are times an abortion is needed because there are parents who can’t even financially support the child.”*
- *“I’m so conflicted on this issue.”*
- *“I don’t know if individual states should be able to make up their own abortion laws or not.”*
- *“I don’t know the full guidelines in Roe v Wade. And would not like to take the wrong way in a battle this uninformed.”*
- *“Because I am not a female I cannot speak on abortions.”*
- *“I have heard of Roe vs. Wade but I don’t know about what it means or what it’s all about.”*
- *“Because abortion can be looked at from so many scenarios and situations and not everyone experiences life the same.”*
- *“I think it is a more complex issue than the right to life says and I think it is more complex than the pro-choice.”*

# Reasons People Support *Roe vs. Wade*

Among those who completely/mostly support the *Roe vs. Wade* decision



Q16: "Please explain the main reasons you (mostly support/completely support) the *Roe vs. Wade* ruling which essentially legalized abortion." n= 673

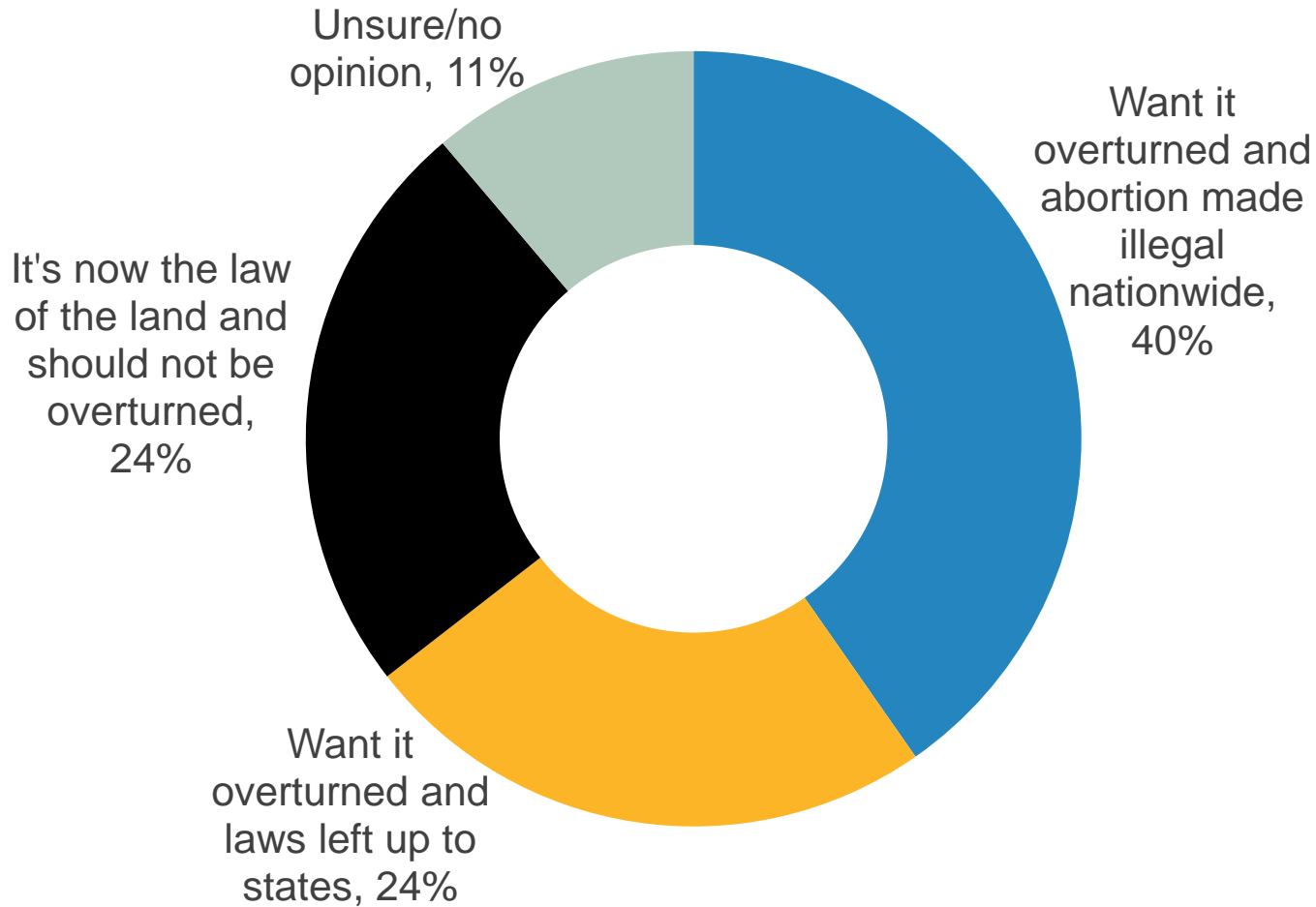
# Why Some Support *Roe vs. Wade*

- *“I believe 100% that abortion should be legal because making it illegal doesn't stop it. Women will find other ways and end up hurting and killing themselves. Children will be born into poverty and unwanted. It's not right to force things on women and children who have no say.”*
- *“I think women should have all the power as far as whether or not they decide to have an abortion.”*
- *“How can the state regulate what woman can do with their bodies? This is not an option; it's my body, my choice. It's sickening to think people in Congress have the right to decided if I should keep my baby or not.”*
- *“I feel like at a certain point abortions should be up to the mother, but if they're doing it for foolish reasons, like if they wanted another gender or just didn't want the child, then I feel like it's wrong and it should be illegal.”*
- *“I think that abortion should be legal nationwide instead of each state determining what it wants to do.”*
- *“I support individual rights, although this particular ruling is against my religious beliefs. Thus, from the perspective of rights, I agree. But, based on my beliefs, I am opposed to abortion.”*
- *“It should always be a personal decision. Government should not have any say on what individuals do with their bodies.”*
- *“Everyone has a right to choose, but it should not be a form of contraception.”*
- *“My body, my rights!”*

Q16: “Please explain the main reasons you (mostly support/completely support) the *Roe vs. Wade* ruling which essentially legalized abortion.” n= 673

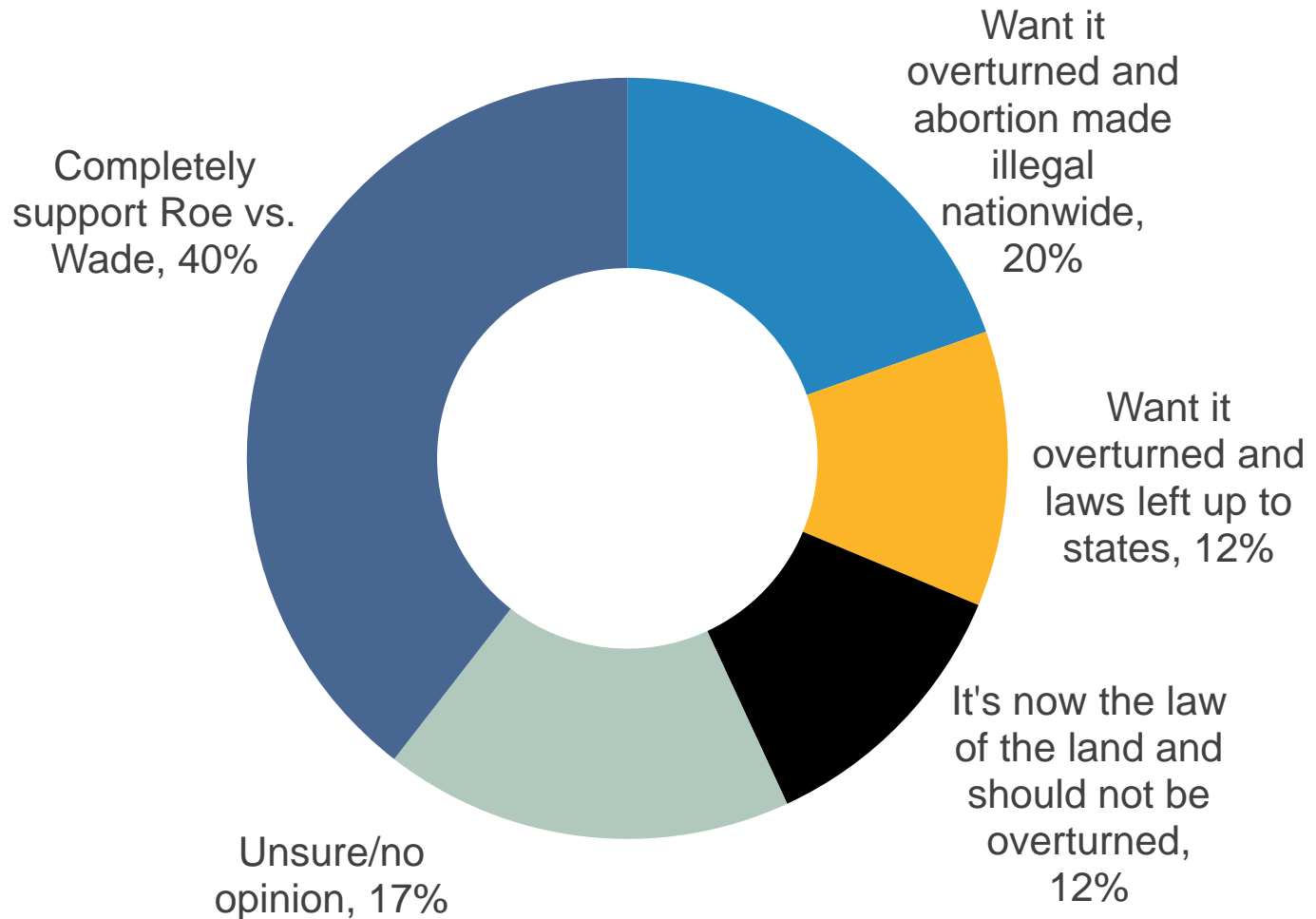
# What People Want to Happen

Among those who do not completely support the *Roe vs. Wade* decision



# What People Want to Happen

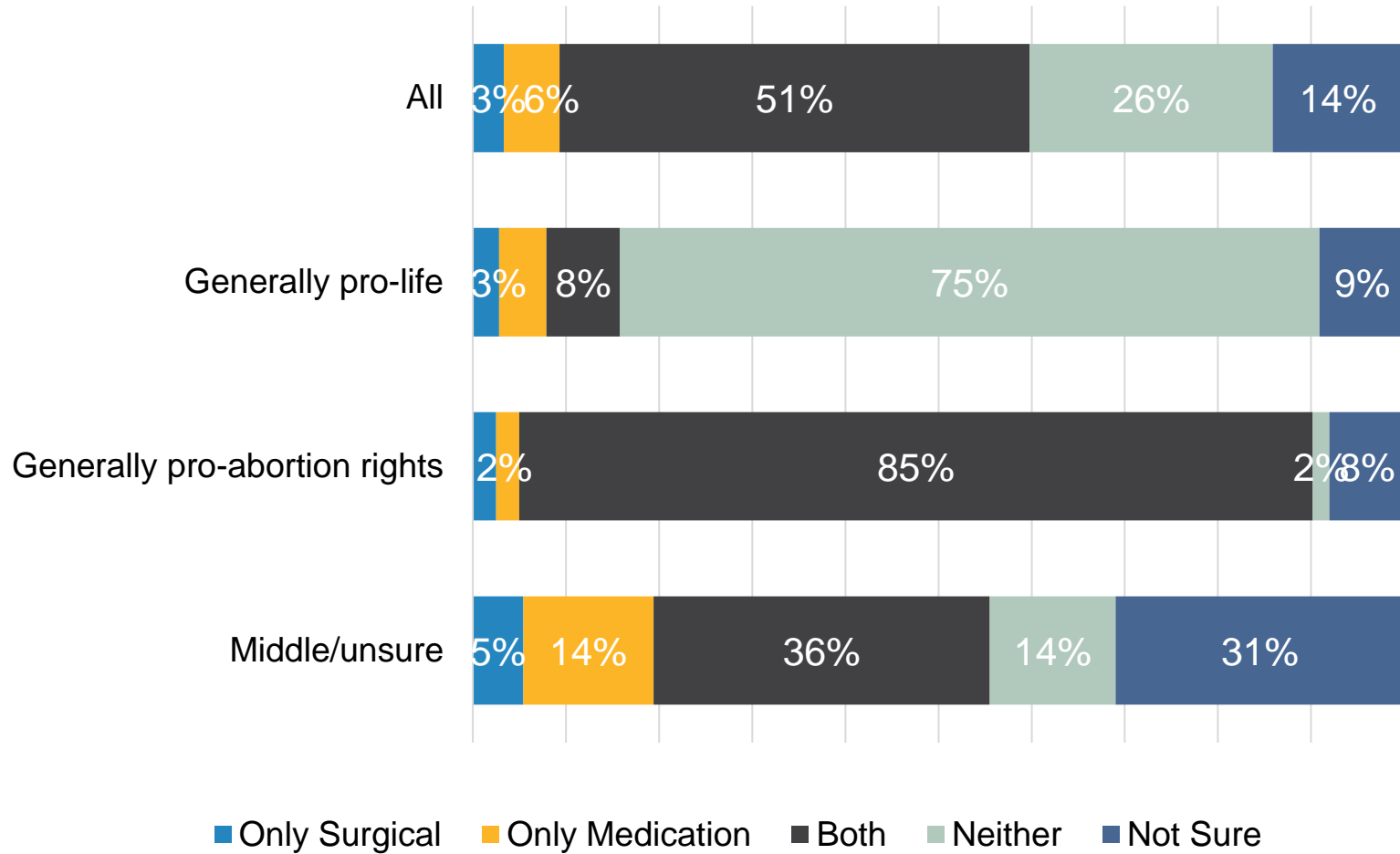
Among all respondents



Q17: "Which of the following best describes your views about the Roe vs. Wade decision?" n= 1,155

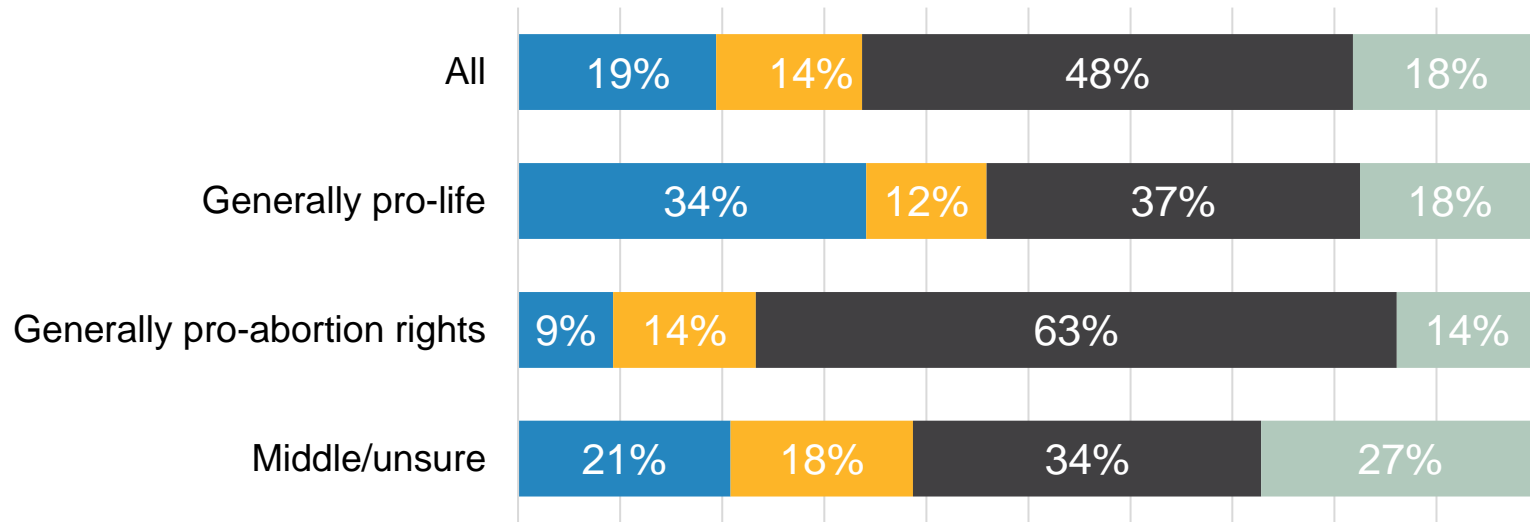


# What Types of Abortion Should Be Legal



Q18: "Abortions can be performed either with a surgical procedure, where the pregnancy is physically extracted from the woman, or through taking oral medication that causes the body to abort the pregnancy. Which of the following best describes your view?" n = 1,155

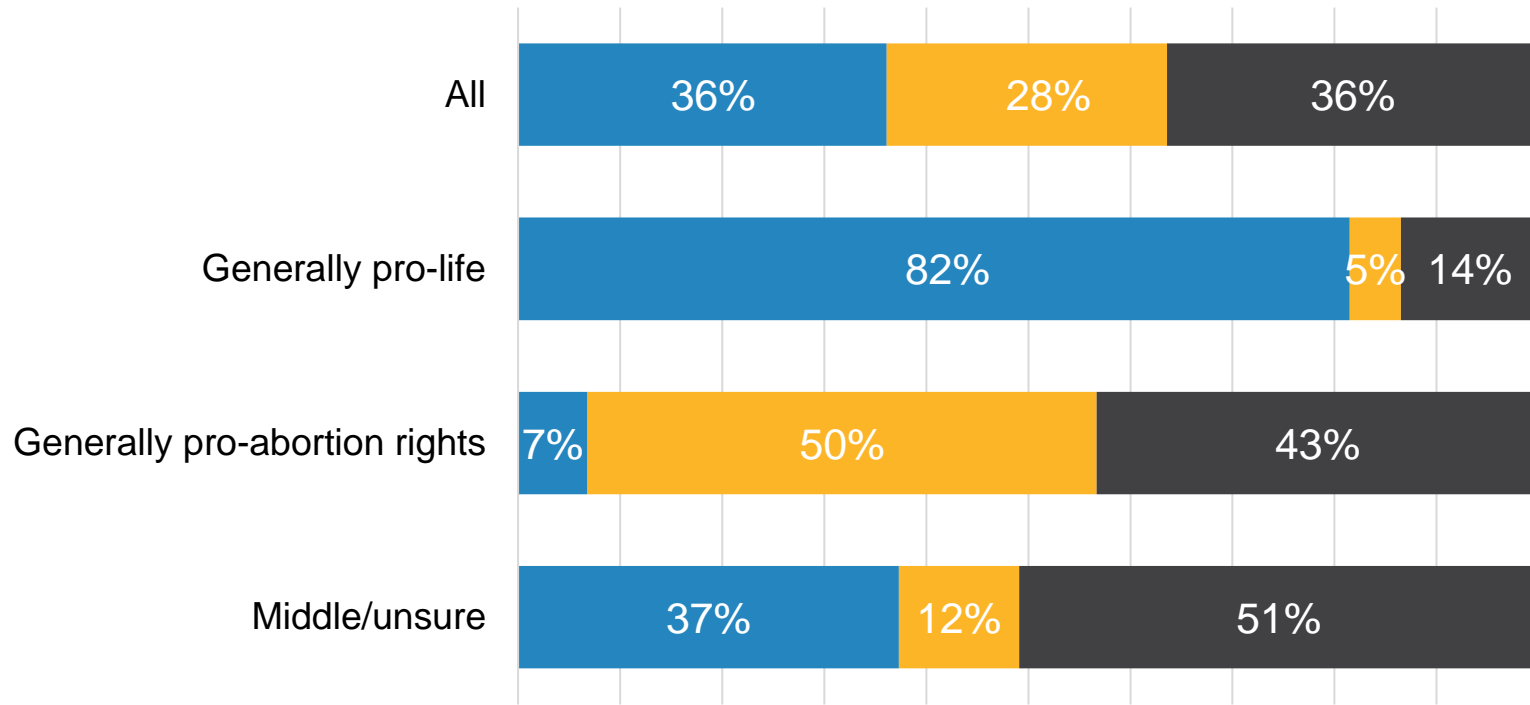
# What States' Rights Should Be



- States Should Have the Right to Pass Abortion Laws, Regardless of SCOTUS' Ruling
- I Wish States Had the Right, but They Don't
- Should Be Only a Federal Law
- Not Sure

Q19: "Various states have passed or tried to pass laws creating different time frames for when abortion is legal and not legal. For example, one state passed a law outlawing abortion after 15 weeks, whereas the federal standard set by the Supreme Court is 23 to 24 weeks. What is your opinion on this?" n = 1,155

# What States Should Do if *Roe vs. Wade* Is Overturned

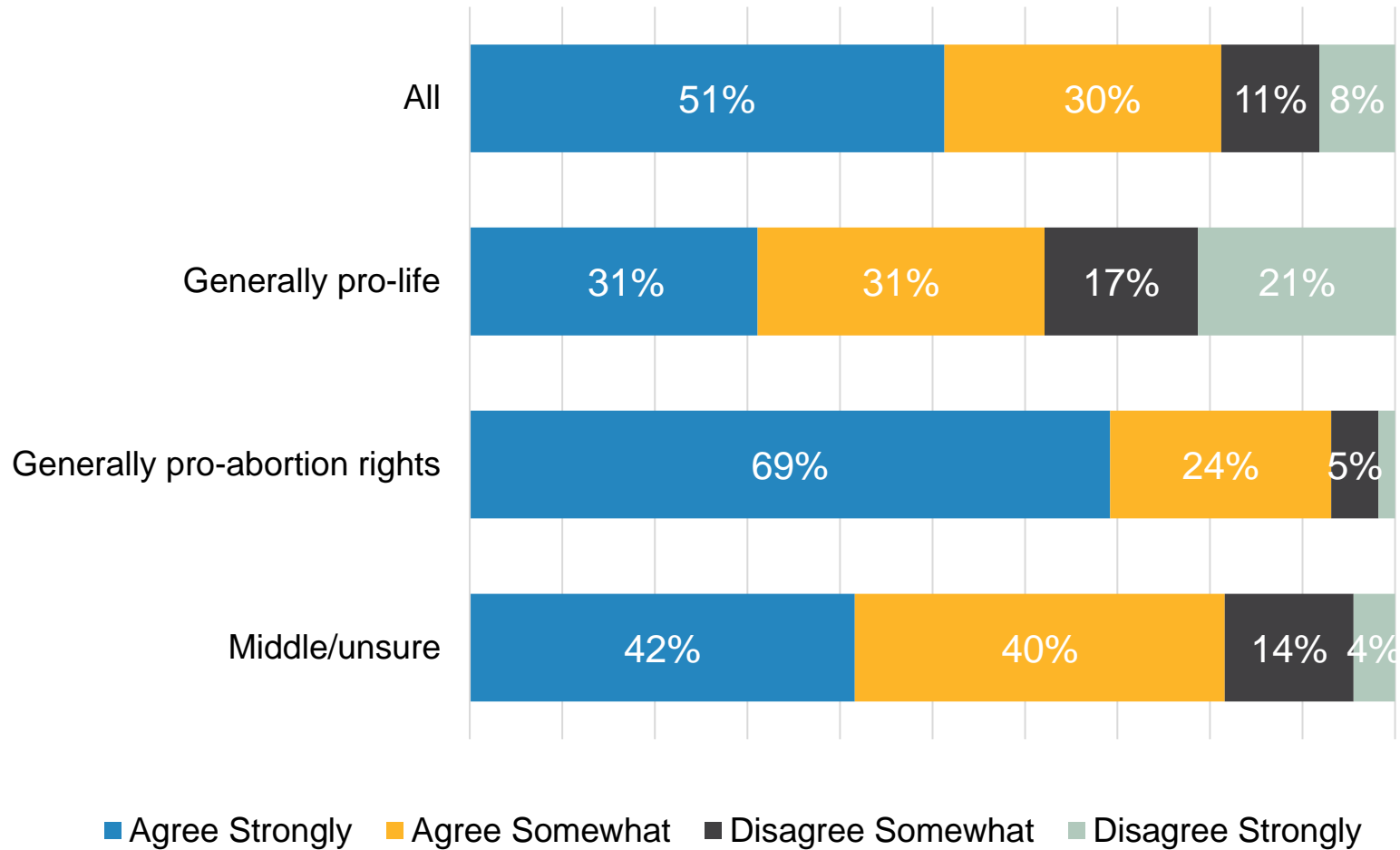


- More Restrictions Than We Have Now
- More/Easier Access to Abortion Than We Have Now
- Keep Things Similar to Current Federal Law

Q20: "There has been talk about whether the *Roe vs. Wade* decision might be overturned in the future by the Supreme Court. If the Court did overturn *Roe vs. Wade* and leave it to individual states to create laws about abortion, which of the following would you want to see in your state?" n= 1,155

# If *Roe vs. Wade* Is Overturned:

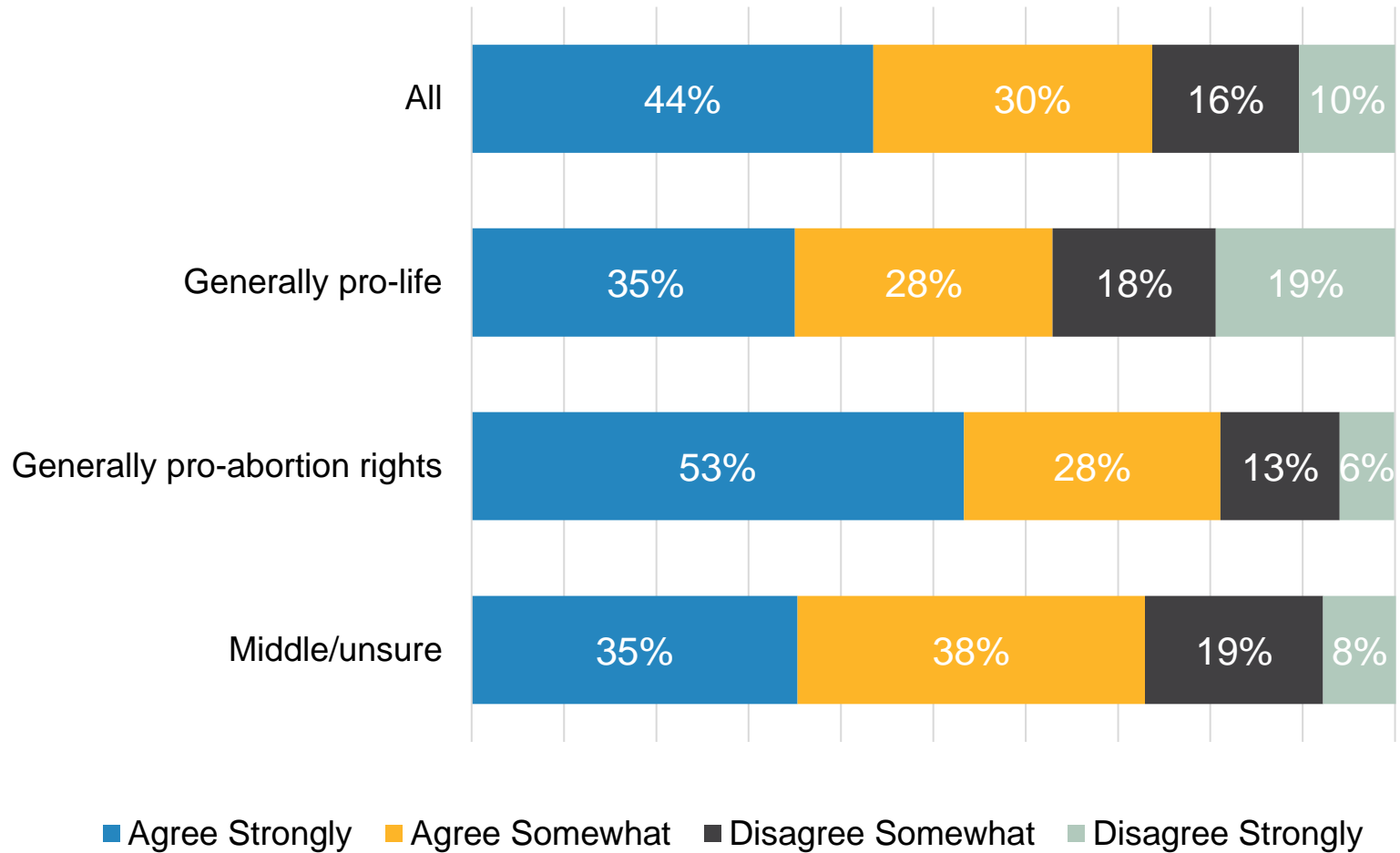
“If a state restricts access to abortion, that state government has a responsibility to increase support/options for women who have unwanted pregnancies”



Q21a: “If the Court did overturn *Roe vs. Wade*, agree/disagree: If a state restricts access to abortion, that state government has a responsibility to increase support/options for women who have unwanted pregnancies?” n= 1,155

# If *Roe vs. Wade* Is Overturned:

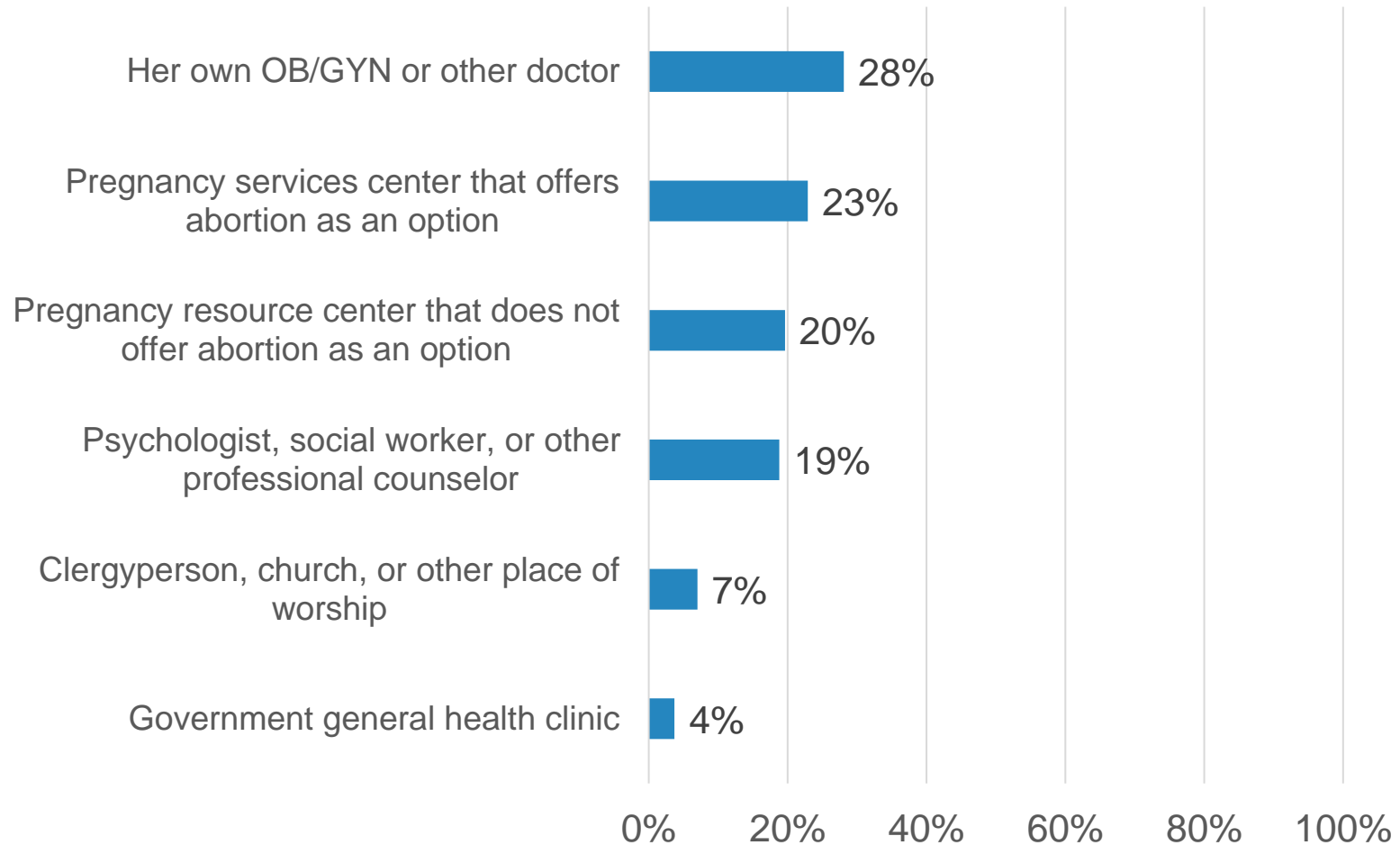
“If a state restricts access to abortion, churches and religious organizations in that state have a responsibility to increase support/options for women who have unwanted pregnancies”



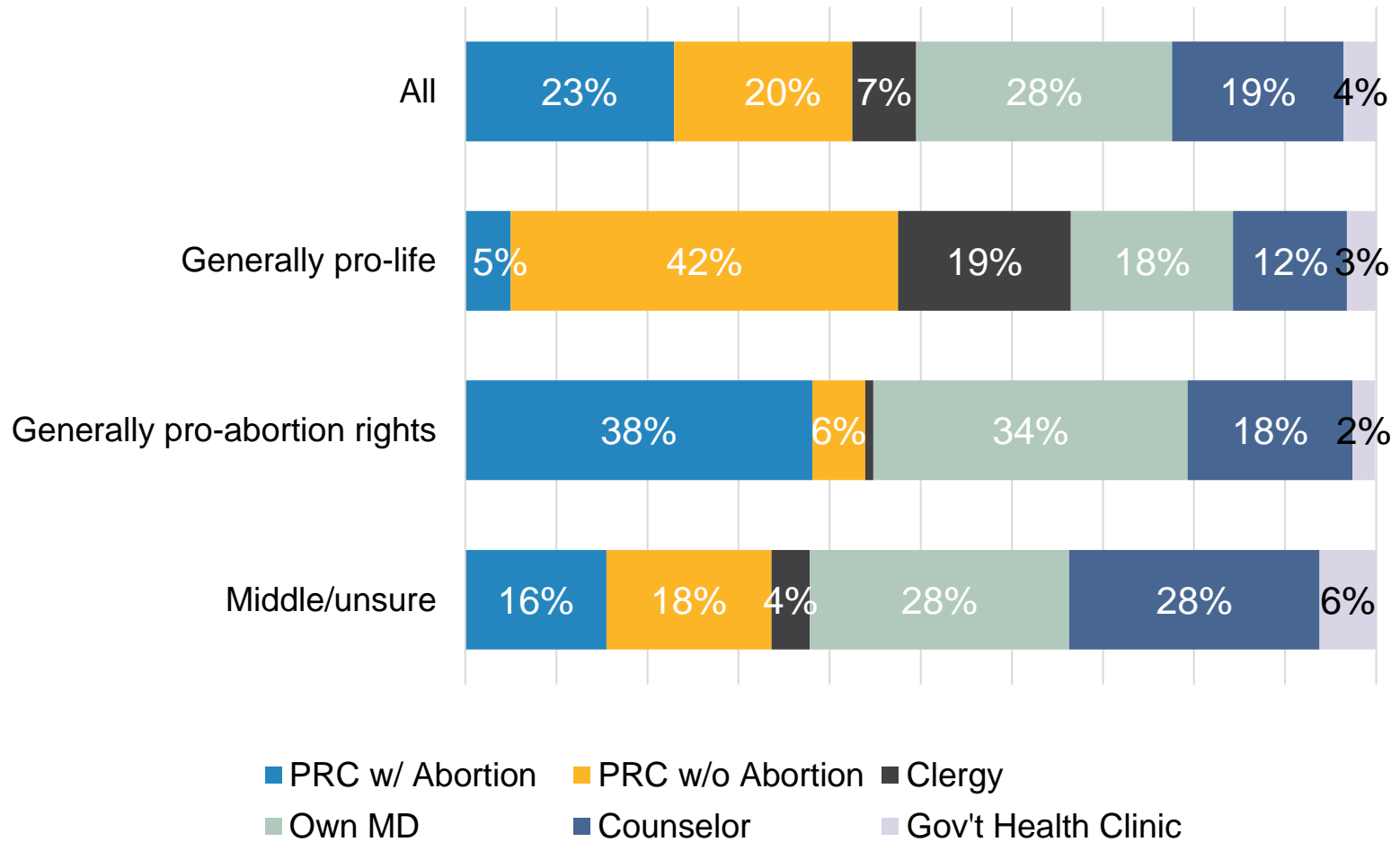
Q21b: “If the Court did overturn *Roe vs. Wade*, agree/disagree: If a state restricts access to abortion, churches and religious organizations in that state have a responsibility to increase support/options for women who have unwanted pregnancies?” n= 1,155

Lifeway research

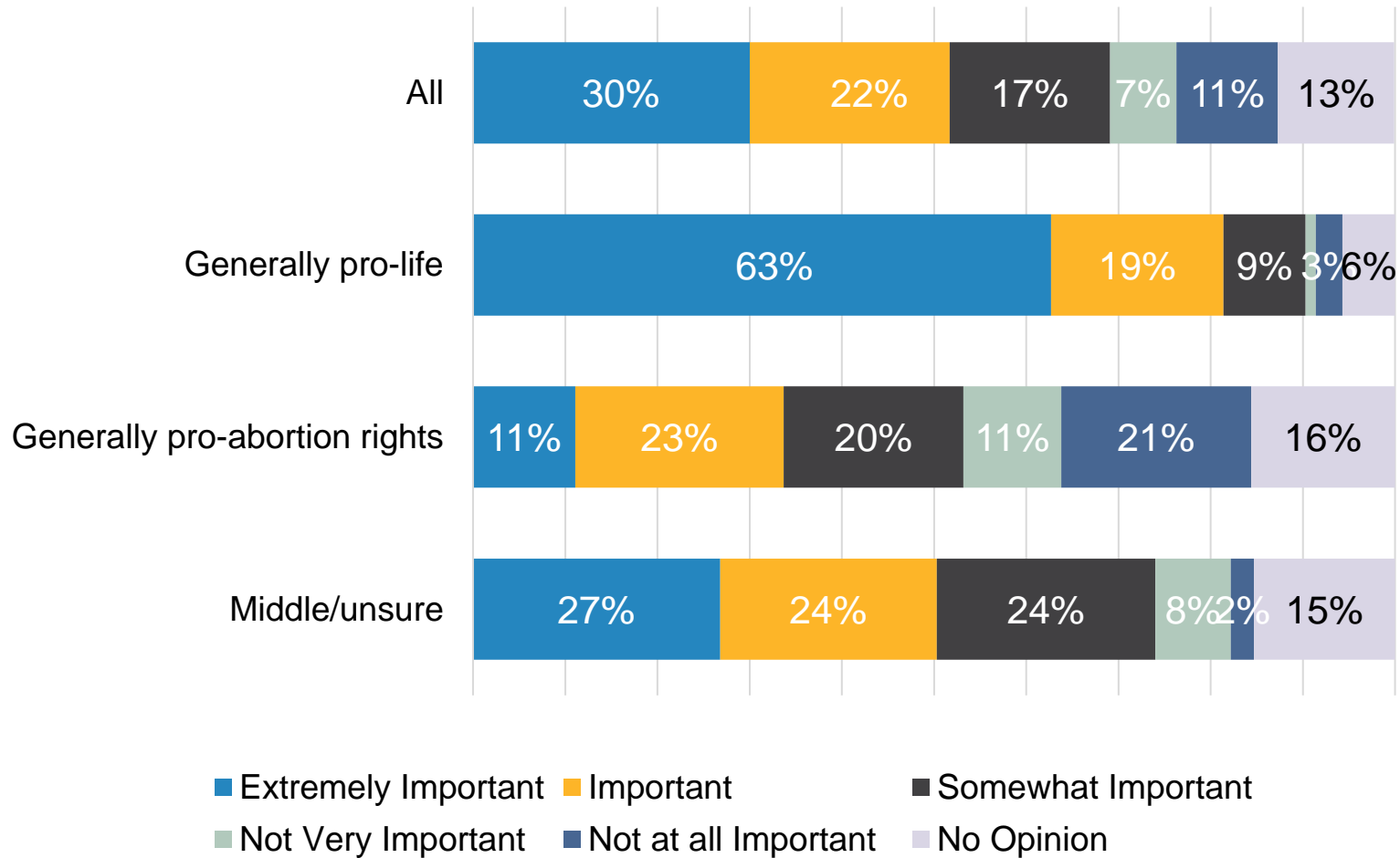
# Recommended Source of Guidance for Pregnant Women



# Recommended Source of Guidance for Pregnant Women

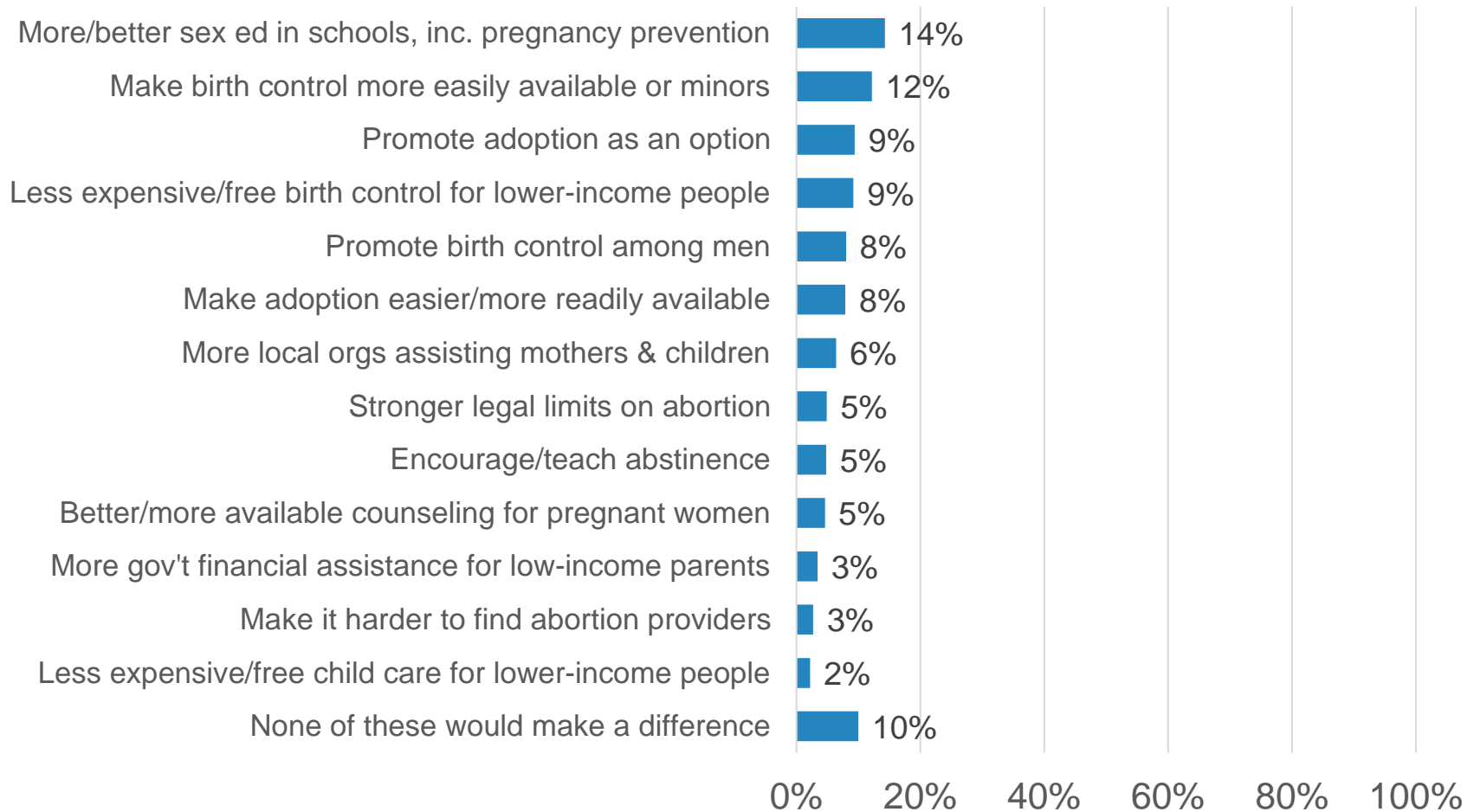


# Importance of Reducing Abortions

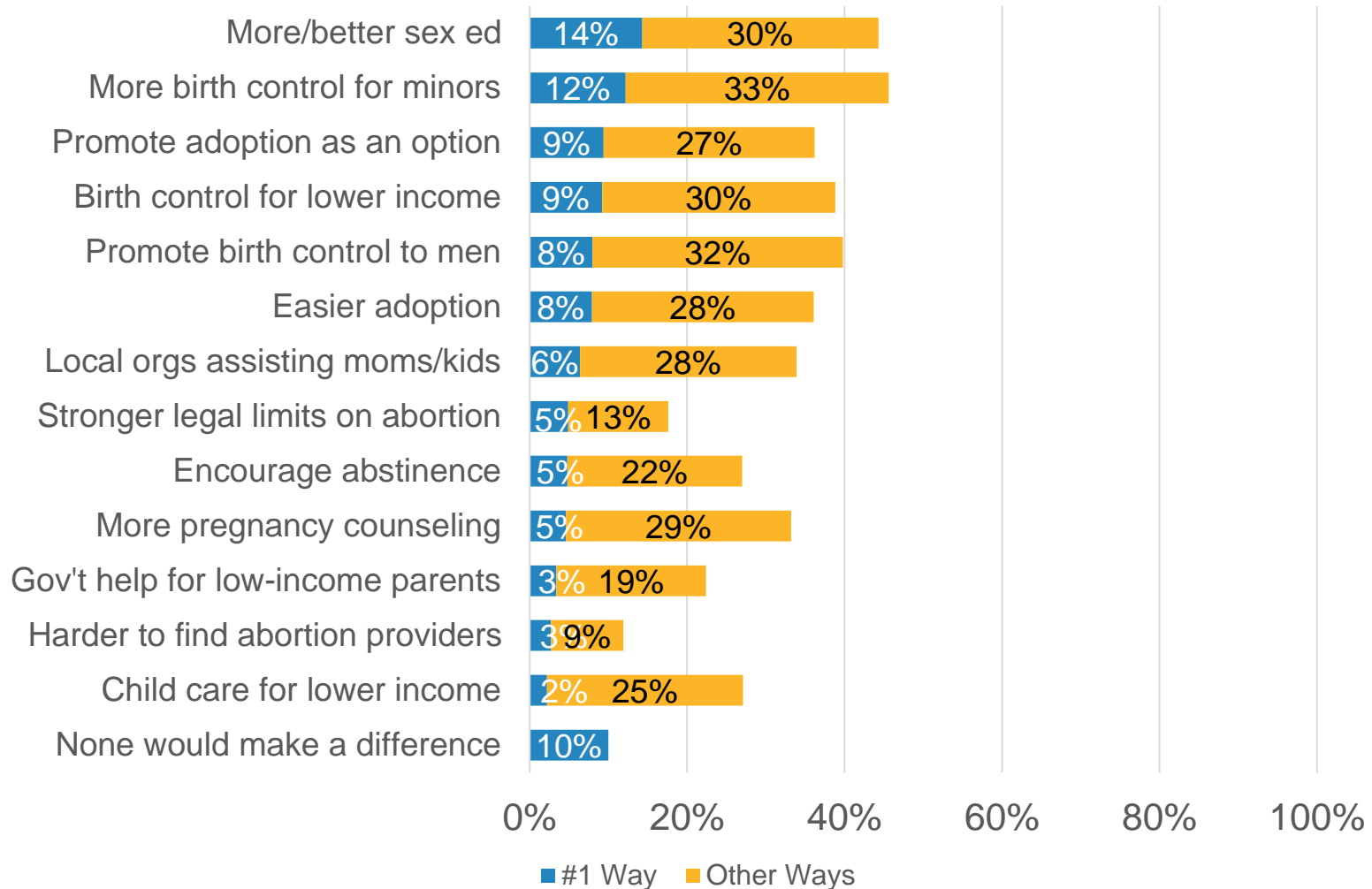




# Most Effective Way to Reduce Abortions

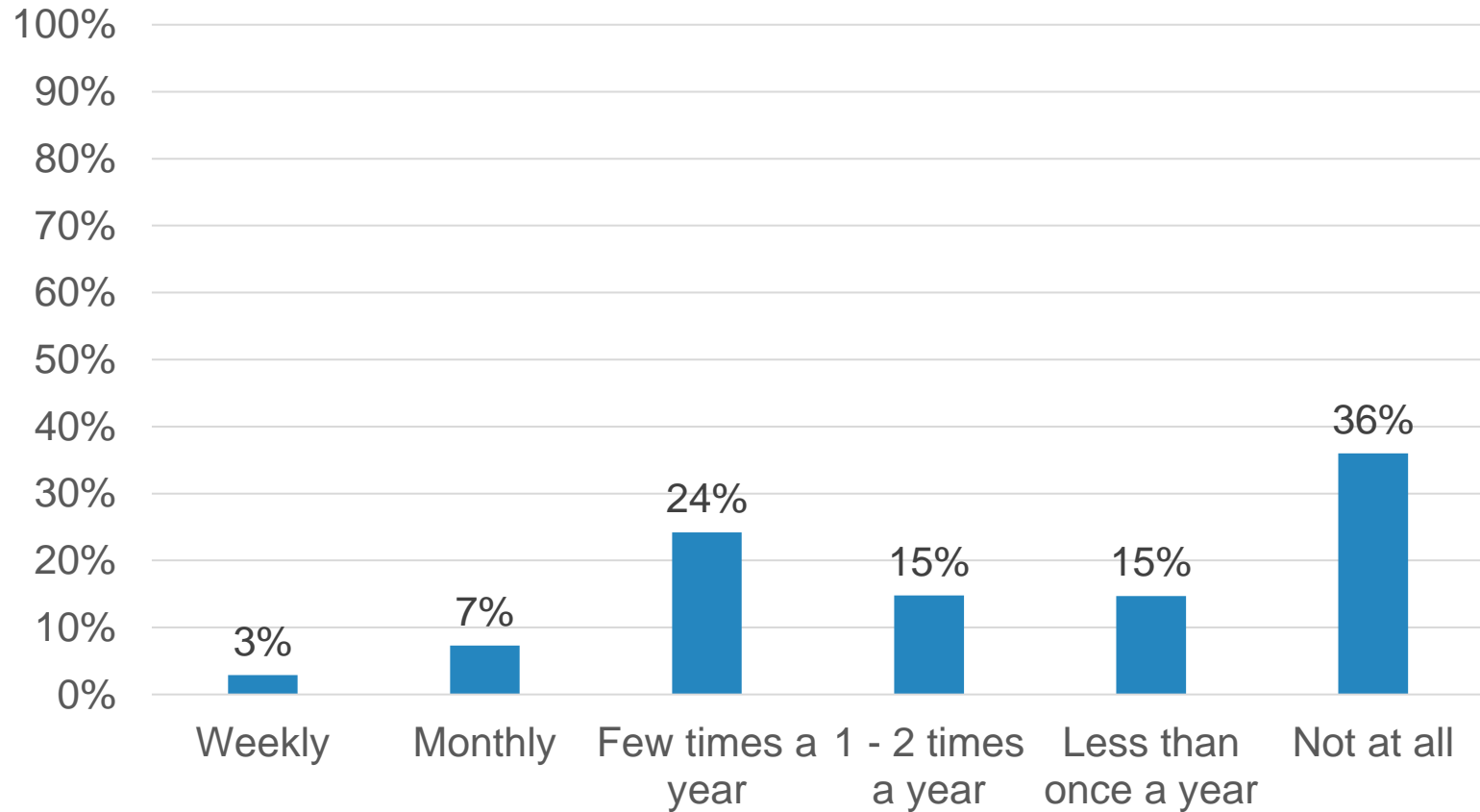


# Effective Ways to Reduce Abortions



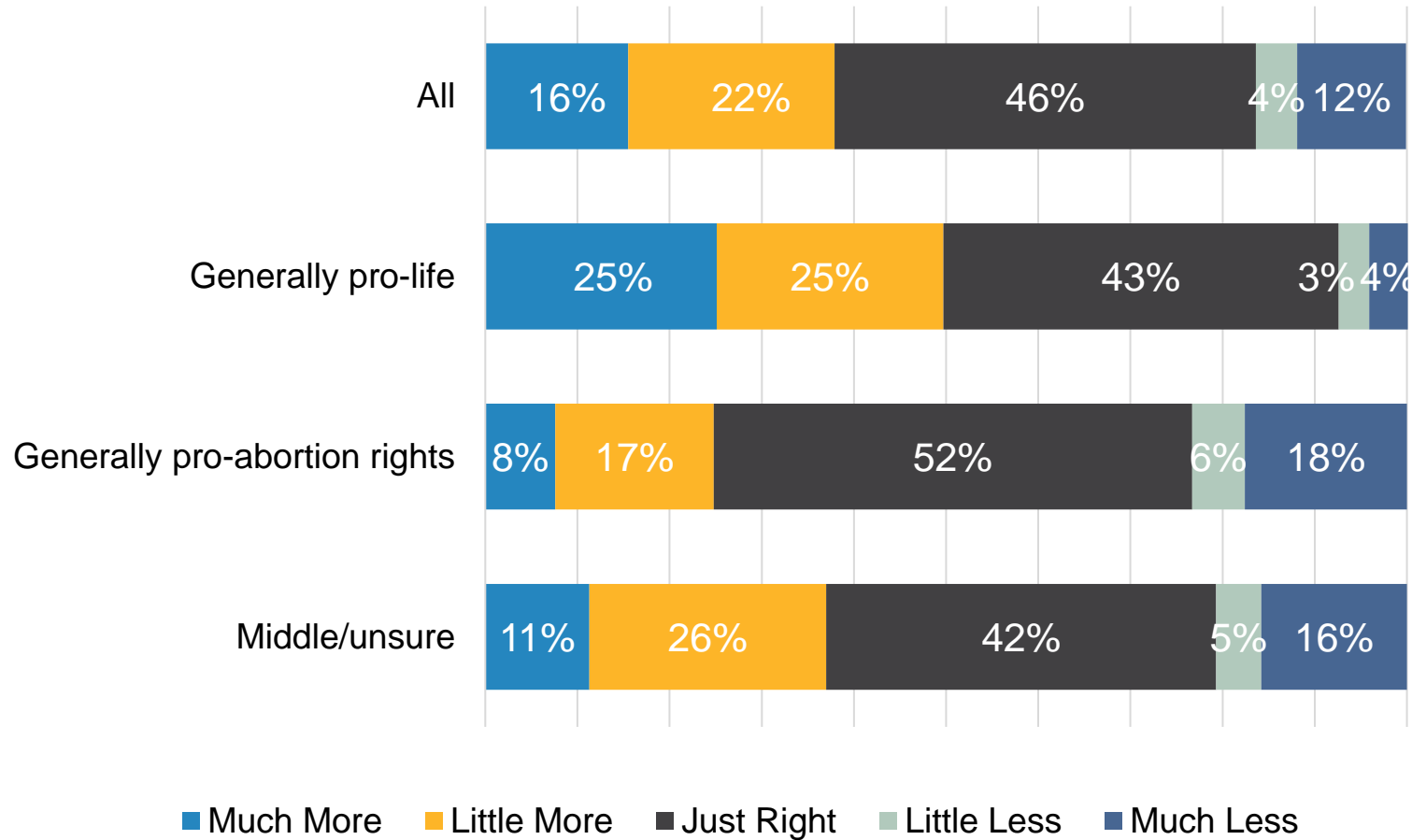
# How Often Abortion is Spoken about in Church

Among those who attend religious worship services a few times a year or more



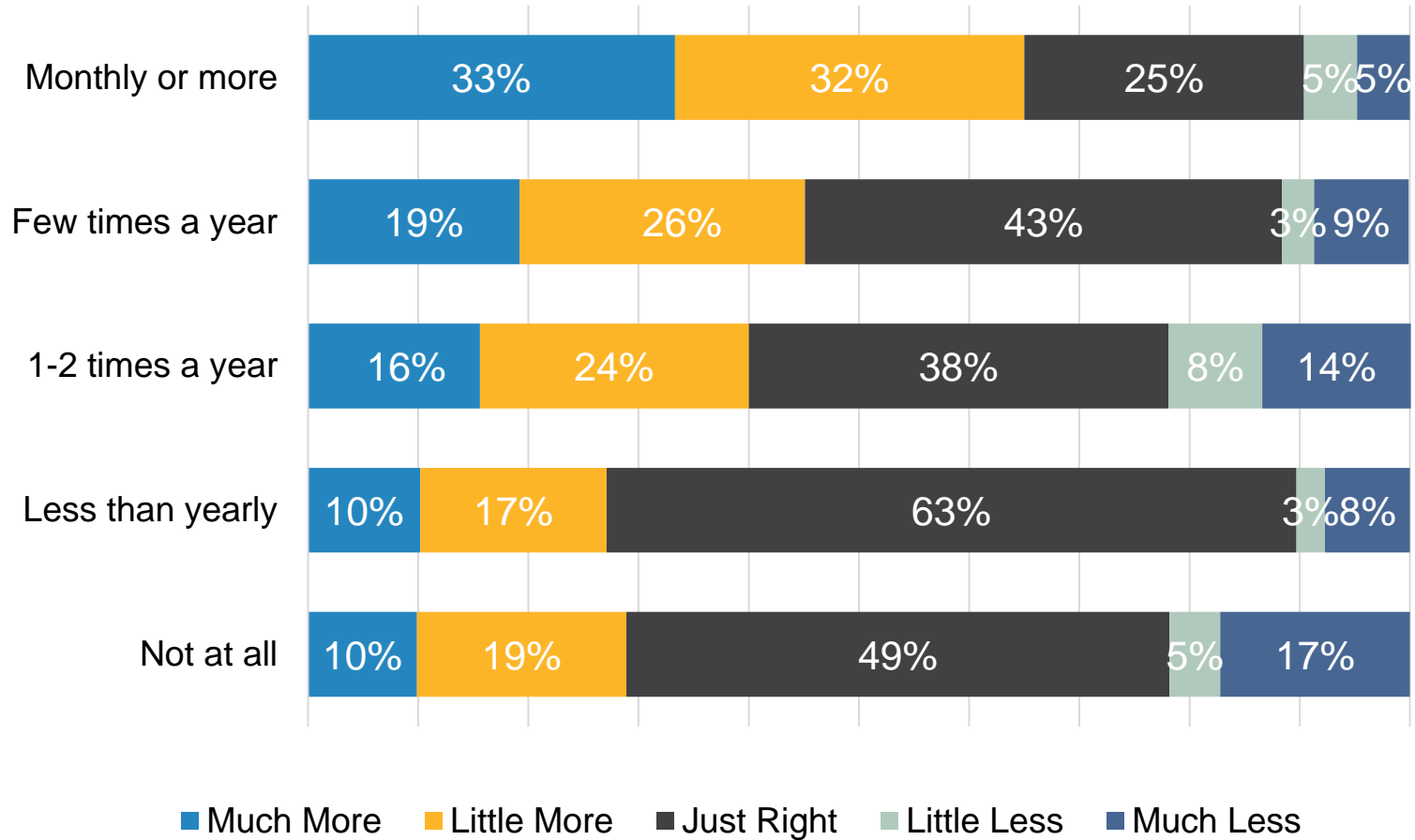
# How Often Abortion Should Be Spoken about in Church

Among those who attend religious worship services a few times a year or more

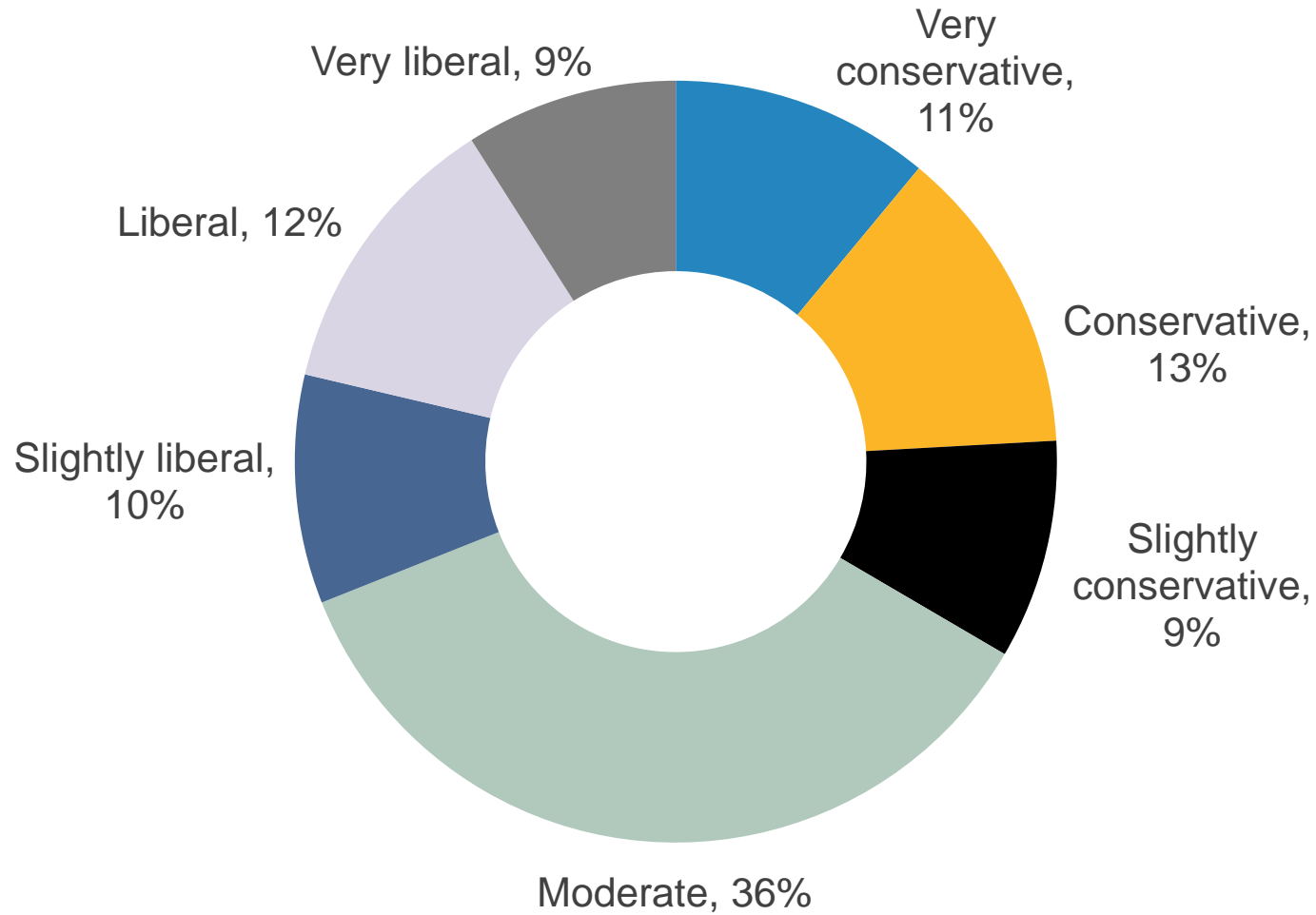


# How Often Abortion Should Be Spoken about in Church (By How Often It Actually Is)

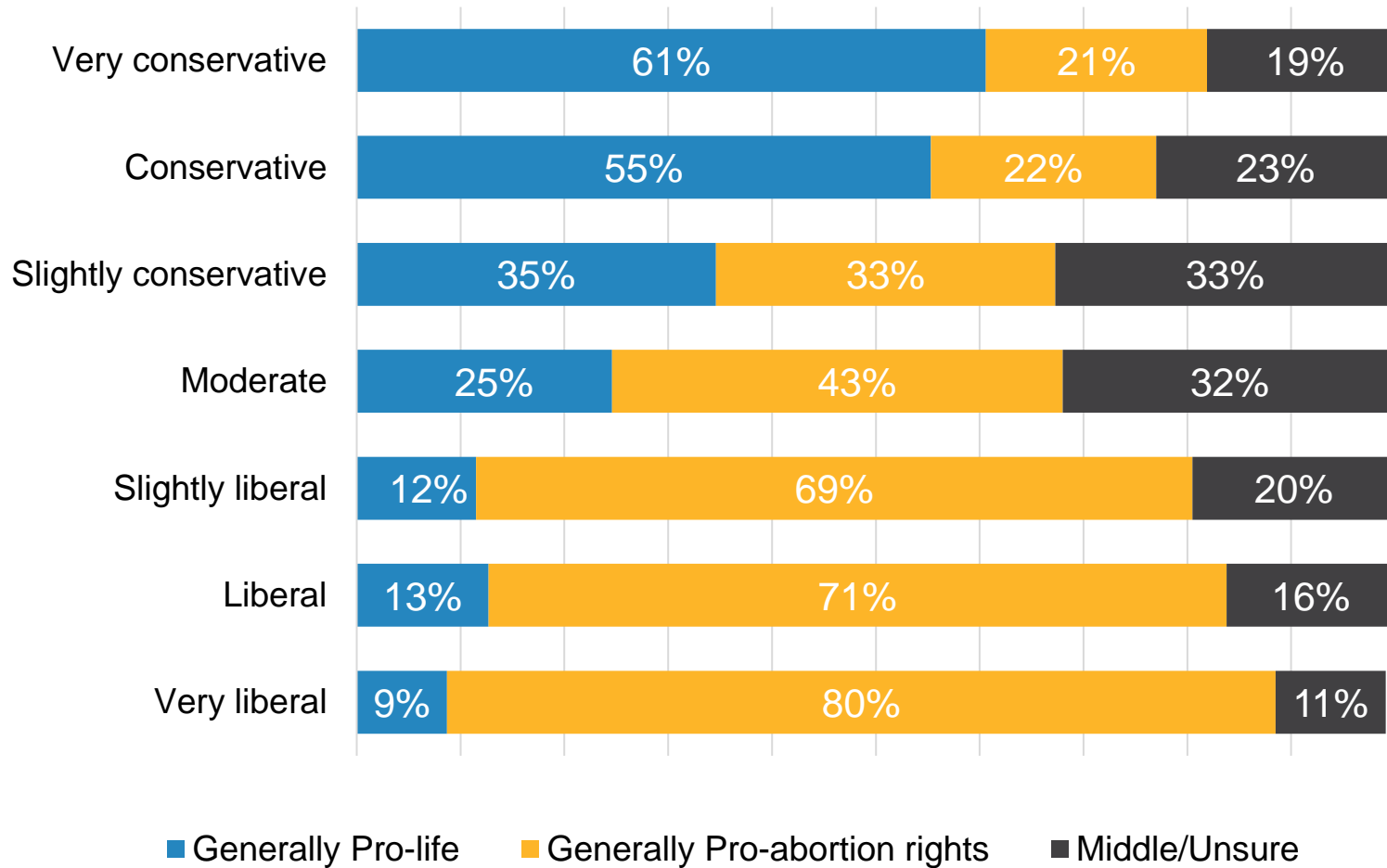
Among those who attend religious worship services a few times a year or more



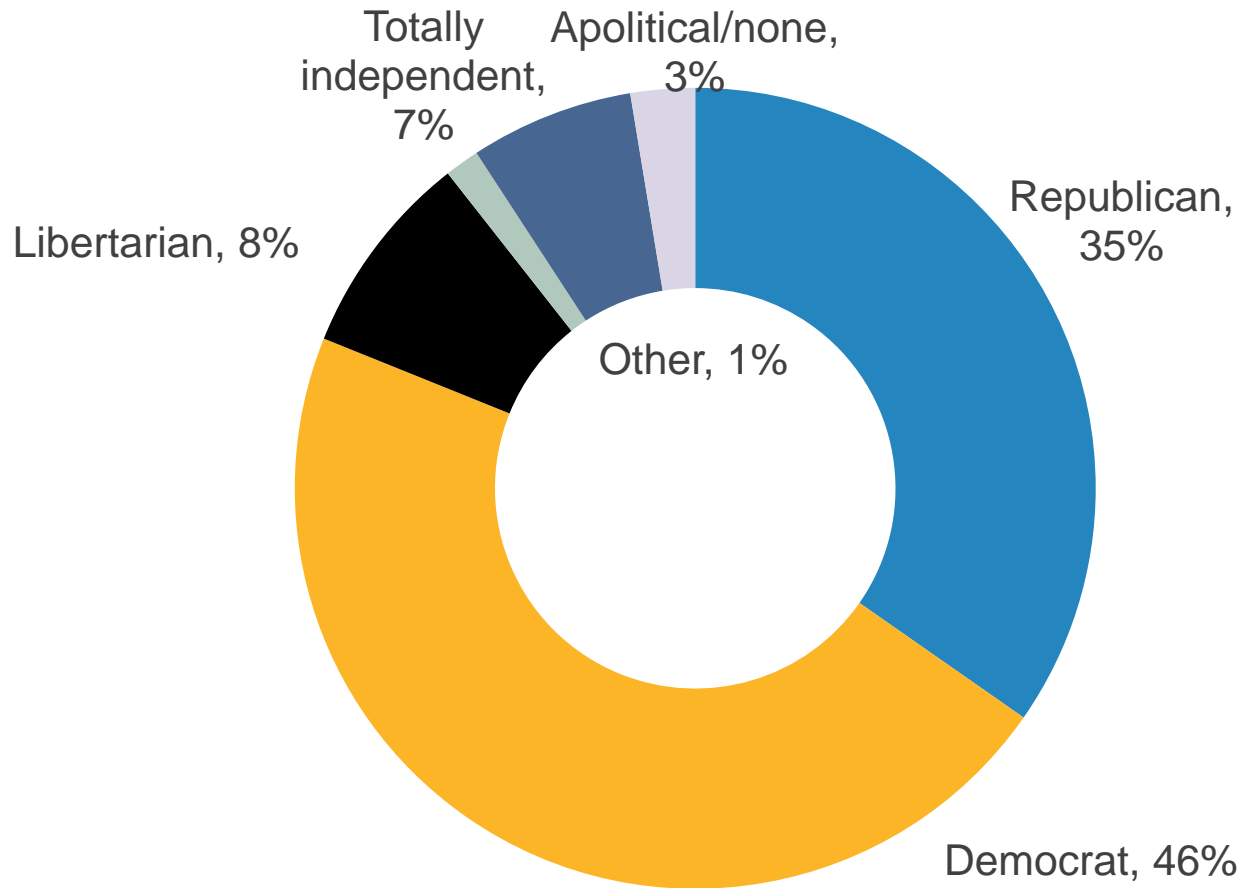
# Political Perspectives



# Abortion Stance, by Political Perspective

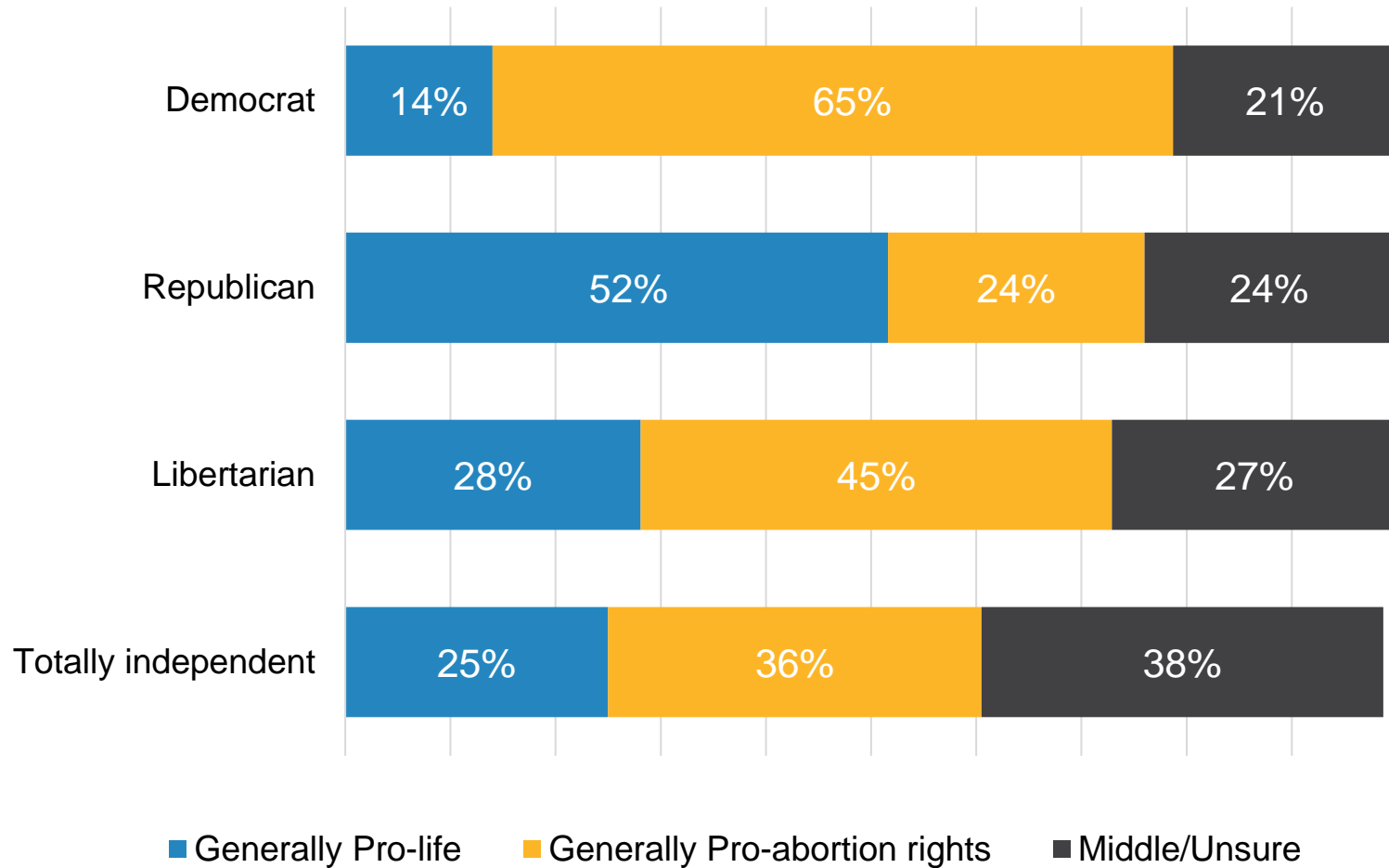


# Political Party

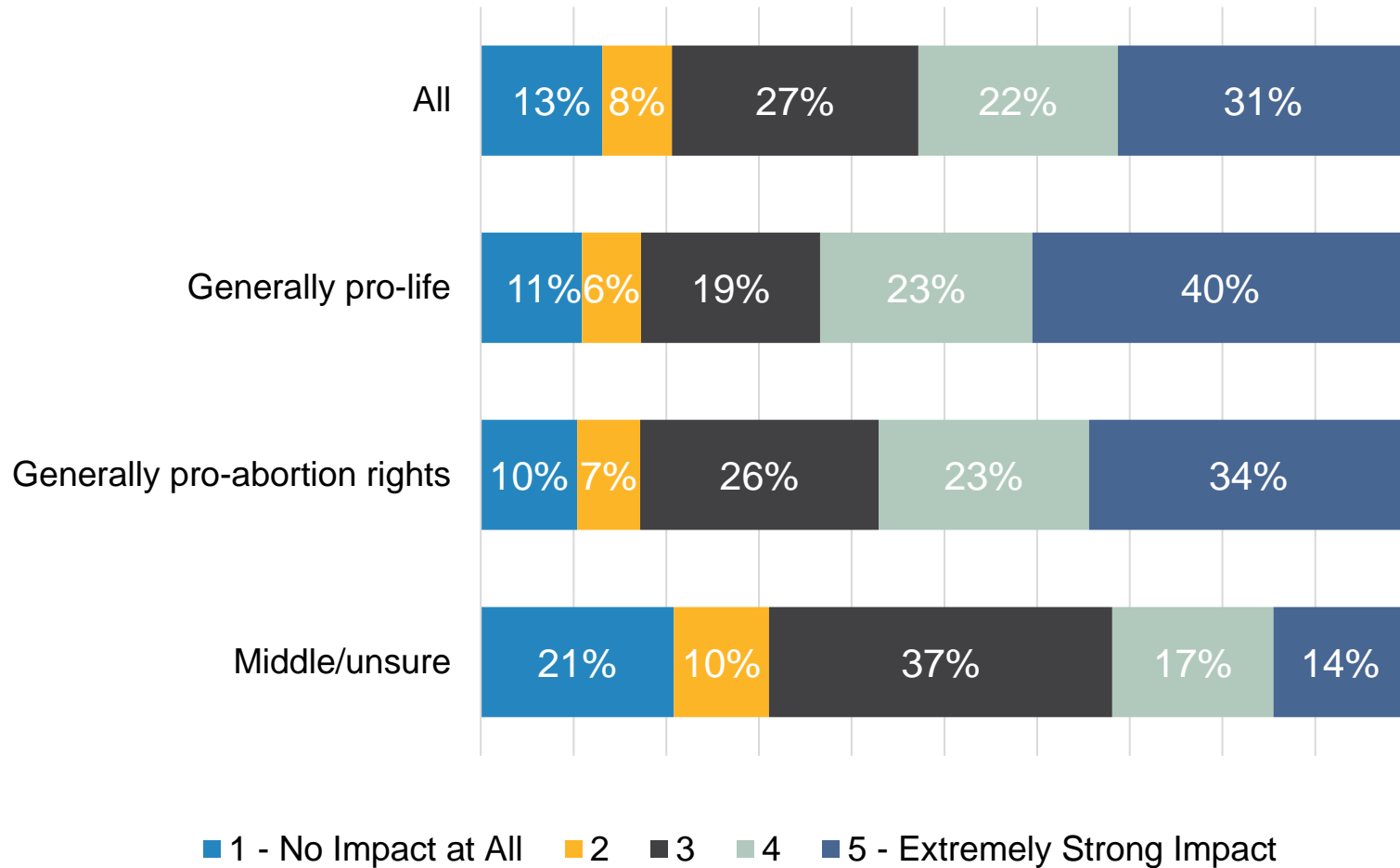




# Abortion Stance, by Political Party



# Effect of a Candidate's Abortion Views on Voting for Him/Her



# Significant Differences

Gender

Age

Ethnicity

Region

Education Level

Have Ever Had Children

Religion

Worship Service Attendance

Evangelical Beliefs

Overall Abortion Stance

# Significant Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, education, and having ever had children.

GENDER	AGE	ETHNICITY	REGION	EDUCATION	HAVE KIDS
Male	18 – 34	White	Northeast	High school or less	<18 or 18+
Female	35 – 49	African American	Midwest	Some college	None
	50 – 64	Hispanic	South	4-year degree	
	65+	Asian	West	Graduate degree	

Note: Region is defined by the US Census regions

# Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among religion, worship service attendance, evangelical beliefs, and overall abortion stance.

RELIGION	WORSHIP*	EVANGELICAL BELIEFS	ABORTION STANCE
Protestant	Weekly	Yes	Pro-life
Catholic	2 – 4 times/month	No	Pro-abortion rights
Other faith	< 1/month or none		Unsure or in the middle
None	*All among those who self-identify as Christian		

## Q6a. “How important to you, personally, is each of the following national issues: abortion?” (extremely important)

- Females are more likely than males to say it’s extremely important (43% v. 33%)
- Asian Americans (26%) are less likely to select than Whites (38%), Hispanics (38%), or African Americans (40%)
- Those with a four-year college degree (44%) or some college (40%) are more likely to select than those with high school only (34%) or a graduate degree (30%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select than others (55% v. 34%)
- Those who attend church weekly or more (45%) are more likely to select than less frequent attenders (33%) or who attend church less than once a month (34%)
- People with a generally pro-life view (52%) are more likely to select than those generally pro-abortion rights (40%), and both compared to those who are unsure or believe there are a variety of situations where abortion should and should not be legal (17%)

## Q7a. “And how well informed do you feel on each of these national issues: abortion?” (extremely informed)

- Americans under age 35 (32%) or 35 – 49 (28%) feel better informed on abortion compared to 50 – 64 (21%) or 65+ (20%)
- Asian Americans (13%) are less likely to select than Whites (25%), Hispanics (27%), or African Americans (28%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select than others (36% v. 23%)
- Weekly churchgoers (30%) are more likely to select than less frequent attenders (22%) or those who rarely/never attend (19%)
- People with either a generally pro-life attitude (32%) or a generally pro-abortion rights attitude (28%) are more likely to select than those who are unsure or believe there are a variety of situations where abortion should and should not be legal (12%)

## Q8. “In general, how would you describe your views on abortion today?”

- People in the Northeast (61%) and West (50%) are more likely to be generally pro-abortion rights than those in the Midwest (42%) or South (40%); those in the Midwest (33%) and South (35%) are more likely to be generally pro-life than are people in the Northeast (16%) or West (27%)
- Pro-life outweighs pro-abortion rights among Protestants (41% v. 31%), but not among Catholics (32% v. 43%), people from other faiths (30% v. 47%), or especially the non-religious (11% v. 70%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are substantially more pro-life (64% v. 15%), while non-evangelicals are the opposite (22% v. 53%)
- Those who attend worship weekly are more pro-life (53% v. 19%), while those who attend 2 – 4 times a month (28% v. 36%) or less (30% v. 46%) lean toward pro-abortion rights



## **Q9. “Which of the following would you say are the strongest factors in how your own views on abortion developed?” (Groups most likely to cite each reason – demographics)**

- Personal religious faith: parents (31%), South (32%), Midwest (31%)
- Views on women’s rights: women (55%), non-parents (57%), 4-year degree (59%) or grad degree (60%), Northeast (58%), West (54%)
- Views on children’s rights: women (38%), <35 (44%) or 35 – 49 (35%), South (37%)
- Personal experience: Northeast (23%)
- Views as a parent: 35 – 49 (26%), parents (28%)
- Views on health/medical issues: women (41%), <35 and 65+ (42% each), grad degree (51%), Midwest (44%)
- Views on social issues: men (29%), <35 (34%), 4-year degree (30%) or grad degree (33%), non-parents (33%)
- Views on morality: men (49%), <35 (57%), 35 – 49 (42%), Asian American (57%), non-parents (51%)
- Views on economic issues: <35 (28%) or 35 – 49 (24%), African American (28%) or Hispanic (28%)

## **Q9. “Which of the following would you say are the strongest factors in how your own views on abortion developed?” (Groups most likely to cite each reason – beliefs/behaviors)**

- Personal religious faith: Protestants (45%), Catholics (32%), other faiths (32%), evangelicals (68%), church weekly (61%) or 2 – 4 times a month (37%)
- Views on women’s rights: other faiths (54%) or no faith (65%), non-evangelicals (56%), church 2 – 4 times a month (48%) or less (50%)
- Views on children’s rights: Protestants (39%) or Catholics (36%), evangelicals (43%), church weekly (42%)
- Personal experience: none
- Views as a parent: Protestants (24%)
- Views on health/medical issues: no faith (41%), non-evangelical (40%)
- Views on social issues: no faith (34%), non-evangelicals (27%)
- Views on morality: Protestants (48%), evangelicals (54%)
- Views on economic issues: no faith (29%), non-evangelicals (25%)

## Q10. “In your view, when does life begin?”

- Males are more likely than females to say they have no idea (12% v. 7%); females more likely to say it's at conception (39% v. 32%)
- Age <35 more likely than 35+ to say it's at birth (20% v. 10%); 65+ and 50 – 64 (15%) more likely than <50 (9%) to say it's upon viability outside the womb; <65 more than 65+ to say it's upon detection of a heartbeat (30% v. 17%); 35 – 49 and 65+ (41% each) more likely than <35 (29%) or 50 – 64 (33%) to say it's at conception; 50+ more likely to have no idea than <50 (13% to 7%)
- Whites are more likely than others to say it's upon viability (15% v. 9%), African Americans (33%) and Hispanics (36%) more than Whites (25%) to feel it's at the first heartbeat
- Parents are more likely than non-parents to say it's at conception (41% v. 25%); those who've never had children are more likely to say at birth (17% v. 11%) or viability (16% v. 11%)
- People with no college courses are less likely to say it's at the first heartbeat (6% v. 12% for some college, 17% for 4-year degree, 22% for grad school)

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## Q10. “In your view, when does life begin?” (continued)

- Those in the Midwest (39%) and South (40%) are more likely than in the Northeast (26%) or West (32%) to say it's conception; West is especially likely to have no idea (15%); Northeast especially likely to say first heartbeat (33%)
- Those with no faith are more likely than others to say it's at birth (28% v. 7%) or viability (20% v. 9%); Protestants (29%) and Catholics (40%) more likely than no faith (18%) to say first heartbeat; Protestants (49%) more likely than any others to say conception, with Catholics (34%) and other faiths (39%) more likely than those of no faith (18%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely than others to say conception (66% v. 29%); less likely to say birth (4% v. 15%), viability (5% v. 14%), or no idea (2% v. 11%)
- Weekly churchgoers more likely than others to say conception (56% v. 37%); less likely to say viability (5% v. 12%)

**Q11. “If it were up to you, for what time period during pregnancy would abortion be legal as an option (assuming no health issues for the woman or the fetus)?” (never/until birth)**

- Males are more likely than females to allow abortion until birth (12% v. 7%)
- Age <35 are more likely than 35+ to allow abortion until birth (16% v. 7%)
- Whites are more likely than others never to allow abortion (29% v. 22%); Asians are more likely than others to allow it until birth (22% v. 9%)
- People who have had children are more likely than non-parents never to allow abortion (31% v. 19%); those who’ve never had children are more likely than parents to allow it up to birth (14% v. 7%)
- Those in the West are more likely than others to allow it until birth (14% v. 8%); those in the Midwest (29%) and South (35%) are more likely than in the Northeast (15%) or West (19%) never to allow abortion

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**Q11. “If it were up to you, for what time period during pregnancy would abortion be legal as an option (assuming no health issues for the woman or the fetus)?” (never/until birth - continued)**

- The most likely never to allow abortion are Protestants (40%), followed by Catholics (26%) and those of another faith (25%), then those of no faith (10%)
- Few Protestants (4%) or Catholics (3%) would allow abortion up to birth, compared to 9% of those with another faith and 22% with no faith
- Those with evangelical beliefs are far more likely than others never to allow abortion (62% v. 19%); non-evangelicals are more likely to allow it until birth (11% v. 3%)
- Weekly churchgoers are more likely than others never to allow abortion (52%) compared to those who attend less frequently (31%) or not at all (23%)

## **Q12a: “In which of these situations, if any, do you feel abortion should be legal: If doctors have determined that the mother’s life is in danger because of the pregnancy”**

- Age 65+ are more likely to feel abortion should be legal in this instance than are those <65 (85% v. 76%)
- Asians (88%) and Whites (80%) are more likely to want abortion legal in this instance than are African Americans (69%) or Hispanics (72%)
- People with a college degree (83%) or graduate degree (88%) are more likely to want it legal than are those with some college (74%) or none (72%)
- Residents of the Northeast (84%) and West (82%) are more likely to want this legal than residents of the Midwest (75%) or South (73%)
- People with no religious faith (87%) are more likely to want this legal than those of any faith (73%)
- Non-evangelicals are more likely to want this legal than those with evangelical beliefs (83% v. 53%)
- Christians who don’t attend church (82%) are more likely to want this legal than those who attend 2 – 4 times a month (74%) or those who attend weekly (61%)

## **Q12b: “In which of these situations, if any, do you feel abortion should be legal: If doctors have determined the child would be born with severe mental or physical defects”**

- African Americans (48%) are less likely to want abortion legal in this circumstance than are Whites (61%), Asians (61%) or Hispanics (57%)
- People with a college degree (65%) or graduate degree (66%) are more likely to want it legal than are those with some college (55%) or none (51%)
- Residents of the Northeast (64%) and West (61%) are more likely to want this legal than residents of the Midwest (58%) or South (53%)
- People with no religious faith (75%) are more likely to want this legal than those of any faith (51%)
- Non-evangelicals are more likely to want this legal than those with evangelical beliefs (64% v. 29%)
- Christians who don't attend church (60%) are more likely to want this legal than those who attend 2 – 4 times a month (52%) or those who attend weekly (36%)



## **Q12c: “In which of these situations, if any, do you feel abortion should be legal: If doctors have determined that the child will not survive long after birth”**

- People with a college degree (69%) or graduate degree (73%) are more likely to want it legal than are those with some college (61%) or none (58%)
- Residents of the Northeast (70%) and West (68%) are more likely to want this legal than residents of the South (58%)
- People with no religious faith (80%) are more likely to want this legal than Catholics (64%) or those of another faith (64%), and especially more than Protestants (52%)
- Non-evangelicals are more likely to want this legal than those with evangelical beliefs (71% v. 32%)
- Christians who don't attend church (68%) or who attend 2 – 4 times a month (62%) are more likely to want this legal than those who attend weekly (37%)

## Q12d: “In which of these situations, if any, do you feel abortion should be legal: If the pregnancy is because of incest”

- People with a college degree (77%) or graduate degree (79%) are more likely to want it legal than are those with some college (69%) or none (68%)
- Residents of the Northeast (79%) and West (76%) are more likely to want this legal than residents of South (66%)
- People with no religious faith (86%) are more likely to want this legal than Catholics (69%) or those of another faith (72%), and especially more than Protestants (63%)
- Non-evangelicals are more likely to want this legal than those with evangelical beliefs (79% v. 39%)
- Christians who don't attend church (77%) or who attend 2 – 4 times a month (76%) are more likely to want this legal than those who attend weekly (47%)

## **Q12e: “In which of these situations, if any, do you feel abortion should be legal: If the pregnancy is because of rape, and the mother is 18 or older”**

- People with a college degree (77%) or graduate degree (81%) are more likely to want abortion legal in this scenario than are those with some college (70%) or none (70%)
- Americans who’ve never had children are more likely to want it legal than are those who’ve had children (77% v. 71%)
- Residents of the Northeast (82%) are more likely to want this legal than residents of the Midwest (72%) or South (68%)
- People with no religious faith (87%) are more likely to want this legal than Catholics (71%), Protestants (64%), or those of some other faith (73%)
- Non-evangelicals are more likely to want this legal than those with evangelical beliefs (80% v. 42%)
- Christians who don’t attend church (77%) or who attend 2 – 4 times a month (74%) are more likely to want this legal than or those who attend weekly (50%)

## **Q12f: “In which of these situations, if any, do you feel abortion should be legal: If the pregnancy is because of rape, and the mother is under 18 years old”**

- Whites (77%) are more likely to call for abortion to be legal in this scenario than are African Americans (71%) or Hispanics (68%)
- People with a college degree (79%) or graduate degree (83%) are more likely to want it legal in this situation than are those with some college (71%) or none (71%)
- Residents of the South (68%) are less likely to want this legal than those in the Northeast (82%), Midwest (78%), and West (76%)
- People with no religious faith (77%) are more likely to want this legal than Catholics (75%) or of another faith (74%), and much more than Protestants (65%)
- Non-evangelicals are more likely to want this legal than those with evangelical beliefs (82% v. 43%)
- Christians who don't attend church (80%) or who attend 2 – 4 times a month (75%) are more likely to want this legal than or those who attend weekly (51%)

## **Q12g: “In which of these situations, if any, do you feel abortion should be legal: If the mother wants a child of a different gender”**

- Younger adults are the most likely to say abortion should be legal in this case (22%), versus 15% in the 35 – 49 group, 11% in the 50 – 64 category, and 10% among those 65+
- People with a college degree (19%) or graduate degree (18%) are more likely to want it legal in this situation than are those with some college (12%) or none (14%)
- People with no religious faith (26%) are more likely to want this legal than those professing any faith (11%)
- Non-evangelicals are more likely to want this legal than those with evangelical beliefs (16% v. 10%)

## Q12h: “In which of these situations, if any, do you feel abortion should be legal: If raising the child would be a financial hardship to the mother/parents”

- Females are slightly more likely to want abortion legal in this instance than are males (40% to 34%)
- Younger adults are by far the most likely to say abortion should be legal in this case (51%), versus 32% in the 35 – 49 group, 33% in the 50 – 64 category, and 28% among those 65+
- People with a college degree (42%) or graduate degree (42%) are more likely to want it legal in this situation than are those with some college (36%) or none (32%)
- Those who’ve never had children are more likely to want this legal than parents (47% v. 32%)
- Residents of the Northeast (44%) and West (42%) are more likely to want this legal than residents of the Midwest (36%) or South (32%)
- People with no religious faith (59%) are more likely to want this legal than Catholics (30%), Protestants (24%) or some other faith (39%)
- Non-evangelicals are more likely to want this legal than those with evangelical beliefs (43% v. 12%)
- Those who don’t attend church (32%) or attend 2 – 4 times a month (33%) are more likely to want this legal than regular churchgoers (16%)

## Q12i: “In which of these situations, if any, do you feel abortion should be legal: If the mother just does not want to have the child”

- The youngest (46%) and oldest (39%) adults are more likely to say abortion should be legal in this case (51%), versus 33% in the 35 – 49 group and 30% in the 50 – 64 category
- People with a college degree (42%) or graduate degree (45%) are more likely to want it legal in this situation than are those with some college (33%) or none (34%)
- Those who’ve never had children are more likely to want this legal than parents (45% v. 33%)
- Residents of the Northeast (47%) are more likely to want this legal than those in the West (40%) or the Midwest (38%), and especially in the South (31%)
- People with no religious faith (59%) are more likely to want this legal than those of another faith (37%), Catholics (33%), and especially Protestants (24%)
- Non-evangelicals are more likely to want this legal than those with evangelical beliefs (43% v. 11%)
- Those who don’t attend church (35%) or attend 2 – 4 times a month (30%) are more likely to want this legal than regular churchgoers (15%)

## **Q12j: “In which of these situations, if any, do you feel abortion should be legal: If the mother is under 18 years old and just does not want to have the child”**

- Those under 35 (56%) are more likely to say abortion should be legal in this instance, versus 42% among all older age groups
- Those who've never had children are more likely to want this legal than parents (54% v. 41%)
- Residents of the Northeast (55%) and West (55%) are more likely to want this legal than in the Midwest (43%) or the South (38%)
- People with no religious faith (66%) are more likely to want this legal than those of another faith (48%), Catholics (39%), and especially Protestants (34%)
- Non-evangelicals are more likely to want this legal than those with evangelical beliefs (52% v. 18%)
- Those who don't attend church (44%) or attend 2 – 4 times a month (42%) are more likely to want this legal than regular churchgoers (22%)



## **Q12k: “In which of these situations, if any, do you feel abortion should be legal: If the mother/parents believe they are not capable of giving the child a good life”**

- Females are more likely than males to say abortion should be legal in this case (42% v. 35%)
- Those <35 are more likely to want this legal than the older ages (50% v. 33%)
- Those who've never had children are more likely to want this legal than parents (48% v. 33%)
- Residents of the Northeast (49%) and West (42%) are more likely to want this legal than in the Midwest (34%) or South (33%)
- People with no religious faith (60%) are more likely to want this legal than those of another faith (45%), and much more than either Catholics (30%) or Protestants (25%)
- Non-evangelicals are more likely to want this legal than those with evangelical beliefs (44% v. 12%)
- Those who don't attend church (35%) or attend 2 – 4 times a month (31%) are more likely to want this legal than regular churchgoers (15%)

**Q13: “Earlier you told us you believe abortion should not be legal. Which of the following best describes your views?”**

- No statistically significant differences to report

## Q14: “Regardless of your views on abortion itself, which of the following best describes your views about abortion laws?”

- Whites are more likely than African Americans to believe in a federal law (61% v. 51%); African Americans (21%) and Hispanics (18%) are more likely than Whites (11%) to be unsure
- Those who’ve had children are more likely than others to want a federal standard (61% v. 54%)
- Residents of the Midwest (62%) and the South (61%) are more likely than those in the West (51%) to call for a federal standard

## Q15: “What is your view on the *Roe vs. Wade* decision?”

- People <35 are less likely than the older ages to oppose the ruling (23% v. 32%) and more likely to be unsure or have no opinion (17% v. 10%)
- Residents of the Northeast (72%) and the West (61%) are more likely to support the decision than those in the Midwest (55%) or the South (52%)
- People with no religious faith (76%) are more likely to support the decision than are Catholics (55%), Protestants (47%), or those of another faith (58%)
- Non-evangelicals are more likely to support it than those with evangelical beliefs (66% v. 25%)
- Support is higher among those who don't attend church (62%) or attend 2 – 4 times a month (60%) than among regular churchgoers (30%)

## Q17: “Which of the following best describes your views about the *Roe vs. Wade* decision?” (all who want it overturned)

- Males are more likely than females to want to see this ruling overturned (36% v. 27%)
- People who have had children are more likely to want this ruling overturned than those who haven't (35% v. 24%)
- Residents of the South (38%) and Midwest (33%) are more likely to want it overturned than those in the Northeast (23%) or West (25%)
- Protestants (42%) and Catholics (37%) are more likely to want this ruling overturned than people of other faiths (26%) or those of no faith (15%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to want this ruling overturned than non-evangelicals (66% v. 24%)
- Regular churchgoers (56%) are more likely to want this ruling overturned than those who don't attend church (28%) or attend 2 – 4 times a month (37%)
- Those who generally identify as pro-life (73%) are more likely to want this ruling overturned than those who are generally pro-abortion rights (7%) or who are in the middle or unsure (28%)

## Q18: “Which of the following best describes your view?”

- Age <35 are more likely than others to say both surgical and medication abortions should be legal (55% v. 48%)
- African Americans (13%) and Hispanics (8%) are more likely than Whites (4%) to say only medication abortions should be legal
- People with a graduate degree (60%) or four-year degree (56%) are more likely to say both should be legal than those with no four-year degree (47%)
- People who haven't had children are more likely than those who haven't to say both should be legal (56% v. 47%)
- Residents of the Northeast (62%) and West (55%) are more likely to say both should be legal than those in the South (43%) and Midwest (49%)
- Protestants (37%) and Catholics (43%) are less likely than people of other faiths (53%) or those of no faith (74%) to say both should be legal
- Non-evangelicals are more likely than those with evangelical beliefs (58% v. 18%) to feel both should be legal
- Those who don't attend church (50%) or attend 2 – 4 times a month (47%) are more likely than regular churchgoers (21%) to want both types legal

**Q19: “Various states have passed or tried to pass laws creating different time frames for when abortion is legal and not legal. What is your opinion on this?” (say states should have the right)**

- Whites (20%) and Hispanics (25%) are more likely than African Americans (12%) to say states should have the right to pass these laws
- Protestants (23%) and Catholics (22%) more likely than those of no faith (13%) to say states should have this right
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to say states should have the right than non-evangelicals (30% v. 17%)
- Those who attend church weekly (27%) are more likely to say states should have the right than those who attend 2 – 4 times a month (22%) or less (19%)

## Q20: “If the Court did overturn *Roe vs. Wade* and leave it to individual states to create laws about abortion, which of the following would you want to see in your state?”

- Age 35 – 49 is more likely than others to want more restrictions (43%), <35 is more likely than others to want easier access to abortion (40%), and 50+ is more likely than others to want things to stay as they are (45%)
- Whites are more likely than others to want more restrictions (39% v. 31%); Hispanics (34%) and Asians (36%) more likely than others (25%) to want more access
- People who’ve had children are more likely than others to want more restrictions (40% v. 29%); those without kids to want more access (36% v. 23%)
- Residents of the Northeast (51%) most likely to want things to stay the same; the West most likely to want more access (35%), and the South (44%) and Midwest (40%) most likely to want more restrictions
- Protestants (50%) and Catholics (38%) more likely to want more restrictions than people of other faiths (31%) or those of no faith (18%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely than non-evangelicals (73% v. 28%) to want more restrictions
- Those who attend church weekly (61%) are more likely than those attending 2 – 4 times a month (45%) or less (34%) to call for more restrictions



**Q21a: “If the Court did overturn *Roe vs. Wade*, agree/disagree: If a state restricts access to abortion, that state government has a responsibility to increase support/options for women who have unwanted pregnancies?” (agree strongly)**

- People who’ve never had children are more likely to agree strongly than are parents (57% v. 48%)
- Residents of the Northeast (58%) more likely to agree strongly than those in other states (50%)
- People with no religious faith (63%) and those from other faiths (57%) more likely to agree strongly than Protestants (46%) and Catholics (41%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs more likely to agree strongly than non-evangelicals (73% v. 28%)
- Those who attend church less than once a month (51%) or 2 – 4 times a month (48%) are more likely to agree strongly than weekly churchgoers (36%)

**Q21b: “If the Court did overturn *Roe vs. Wade*, agree/disagree: If a state restricts access to abortion, churches and religious organizations in that state have a responsibility to increase support/options for women who have unwanted pregnancies?”  
(agree strongly)**

- Whites are more likely than Hispanics (46% v. 38%) to agree strongly with this
- People with graduate degrees more likely to agree strongly than those with no college experience (50% v. 38%)
- People with no religious faith (47%) and those from other faiths (55%) are more likely to agree strongly than Protestants (42%) and Catholics (34%)

## Q22: “If you knew a pregnant woman who had questions or concerns over whether to have the baby, where would you most want her to turn for help or guidance (other than friends and family)?”

- Females more likely than males to recommend a pregnancy services center offering abortion (27% v. 19%)
- Age <35 more than 35+ to recommend a pregnancy services center offering abortion (29% v. 20%); less likely to recommend a PRC not offering abortion (14% v. 22%)
- Asians more likely than others to recommend an MD (40% v. 27%), less likely to recommend a counselor (10% v. 19%); African Americans more likely than others to name a pregnancy services center offering abortion (30% v. 22%)
- People with 4+ years of school more than the less educated suggesting an MD (34% v. 25%)
- Parents more likely than non-parents to recommend a PRC not offering abortion (22% v. 14%)
- Residents of the South (24%) and Midwest (21%) more than those in the Northeast or West (15% each) to suggest a PRC not offering abortion

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## Q22: “If you knew a pregnant woman who had questions or concerns over whether to have the baby, where would you most want her to turn for help or guidance (other than friends and family)?” (continued)

- Protestants (24%) and Catholics (26%) are less likely to suggest an MD than other faiths or no faith (34% each)
- Protestants (27%) and Catholics (23%) are more likely to recommend a PRC not offering abortion than other faiths (7%) or no faith (11%)
- Those of no faith are more likely to name a pregnancy services center offering abortion (31%) than Protestants (17%), Catholics (22%), or other faiths (25%)
- Protestants are more likely to suggest a clergy person (13%) than Catholics (5%), other faiths (6%), or no faith (1%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely than non-evangelicals to suggest a clergy person (21% v. 4%) or a PRC not offering abortion (42% v. 14%); Evangelicals are less likely to suggest a pregnancy services center offering abortion (8% v. 26%), an MD (15% v. 31%), or a counselor (10% v. 21%)
- Weekly churchgoers are more likely than others to recommend a clergy person (17% v. 5%) and less likely to suggest a pregnancy services center offering abortion (8% v. 25%)

## **Q23: “Regardless of your opinions about abortion laws, how important would it be to you to try to reduce the number of abortions in the US in ways other than through the legal or court systems?” (extremely important)**

- Age 35 – 49 (36%) more than other age groups (each at 28%) to say this is extremely important
- People who’ve had children are more likely to select than those who haven’t (32% v. 26%)
- Residents of the South (36%) and Midwest (32%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (25%) or West (22%)
- Protestants (38%), Catholics (35%), and those of other religious faiths (34%) are more likely to select than people with no faith (14%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select than non-evangelicals (62% v. 23%)
- Weekly churchgoers (54%) are more likely to select than the unchurched (27%) or those who attend 2 – 4 times a month (28%)

## Q24: “In your opinion, which one of these would be the most effective way to help reduce how many abortions are performed in the US?”

- Those who attend church less than once a month (17%) are more likely to select Make birth control more easily available to minors than those who attend weekly (5%) or 2-4 times a month (8%)
- Those who attend church 2-4 times a month are more likely to select More/better sex education in schools including pregnancy prevention than those who attend less often (21% v. 11%)
- Those who attend church 2-4 times a month are more likely to select Less expensive/free birth control for lower income people than those who attend weekly (17% v. 5%)
- Those who are generally pro-life are more likely than pro-abortion rights to suggest making adoption easier (13% v. 4%), and promoting adoption (15% v. 5%)
- Those who are generally pro-abortion rights are more likely than pro-life to suggest less expensive birth control for the lower income (14% v. 5%), making birth control more available to minors (17% v. 8%), and more/better sex education in schools (19% v. 7%)

## **Q24/25: Effective ways to help reduce how many abortions are performed in the US: More local organizations offering to assist mothers and children during pregnancy and early childhood years**

- People with a grad degree are more likely than others to say this would be effective (46% v. 32%)
- Protestants (42%) and Catholics (36%) are more likely to select than other faiths (29%) or no faith (26%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select than non-evangelicals (42% v. 32%)
- Those who attend church weekly (43%) or 2 – 4 times a month (44%) are more likely to select than those who attend less often (31%)

## Q24/25: Effective ways to help reduce how many abortions are performed in the US: Stronger legal limits on abortion

- Age 35 – 49 are more likely than 50 – 64 to believe this would be effective (22% v. 14%)
- Protestants (24%) are more likely to select than Catholics (13%) or those of no faith (10%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select than non-evangelicals (33% v. 14%)
- Those who attend church weekly (28%) are more likely to select than those attending 2 – 4 times a month (16%) or the unchurched (15%)
- Pro-life (34%) are more likely to select than mixed (14%) or pro-abortion rights (7%)



## Q24/25: Effective ways to help reduce how many abortions are performed in the US: Making it harder to find abortion providers

- Parents are more likely than non-parents to believe this would have an impact (14% v. 8%)
- Those in the Midwest or South (14% each) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (7%)
- Protestants (18%) are more likely to select than Catholics (11%), those of another faith (8%), or those of no faith (6%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select than non-evangelicals (25% v. 9%)
- Those who attend church weekly (23%) are more likely to select than others (10%)
- Pro-life (25%) are more likely to select than mixed (5%) or pro-abortion rights (6%)

## **Q24/25: Effective ways to help reduce how many abortions are performed in the US: More/better sex education in schools, including pregnancy prevention**

- People with a grad degree (50%) or a 4-year degree (51%) are more likely than those with some college (41%) or no college (40%) to say this would be an effective approach
- Pro-abortion rights (53%) are more likely to select than mixed (41%) or pro-life (36%)

## Q24/25: Effective ways to help reduce how many abortions are performed in the US: Make birth control more easily available for minors

- Age <35 (48%) and 35 – 49 (50%) are more likely than 50 – 64 (40%) or 65+ (43%) to think this would be effective
- People with a grad degree (53%) or a 4-year degree (53%) are more likely to select than those with some college (41%) or no college (41%)
- Non-evangelicals are more likely to select than those with evangelical beliefs (49% v. 31%)
- Those who don't attend church (51%) or who attend 2 – 4 times a month (45%) are more likely to select than weekly churchgoers (32%)
- Pro-abortion rights (60%) are more likely to select than mixed (40%) or pro-life (32%)

## Q24/25: Effective ways to help reduce how many abortions are performed in the US: Less expensive/free birth control for lower-income people

- Females are more likely than males to say this would have an effect (45% v. 33%)
- Age <35 (44%) and 35 – 49 (40%) are more likely to select than 65+ (31%)
- Those who don't attend church (42%) or who attend 2 – 4 times a month (48%) are more likely to select than weekly churchgoers (27%)
- Pro-abortion rights (53%) are more likely to select than mixed (32%) or pro-life (26%)

## Q24/25: Effective ways to help reduce how many abortions are performed in the US: Encourage/teach abstinence

- Age 35 – 49 (34%) are more likely than other ages (25%) to believe this would be effective
- People with at least some college more than those who did not advance past high school (29% v. 20%)
- Parents are more likely to select than non-parents (30% v. 20%)
- Protestants (32%), Catholics (28%), and those of another faith (29%) are more likely to select than those of no faith (18%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select than non-evangelicals (41% v. 24%)
- Those who attend church weekly (39%) are more likely to select than those attending 2 – 4 times monthly (22%) or less (26%)
- Pro-life (37%) are more likely to select than mixed (23%) or pro-abortion rights (22%)

## Q24/25: Effective ways to help reduce how many abortions are performed in the US: Promote birth control among men

- Residents of the Northeast are more likely than residents of other regions to see this as effective (48% v. 38%)
- Pro-abortion rights (49%) are more likely to select than mixed (35%) or pro-life (32%)

## Q24/25: Effective ways to help reduce how many abortions are performed in the US: Make adoption easier/more readily available

- Asians (44%) are more likely than African Americans (29%) or Hispanics (30%) to feel this would be effective
- Protestants (40%) are more likely to select than those of no faith (31%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select than non-evangelicals (50% v. 33%)
- Those who attend church weekly (46%) are more likely to select than those attending 2 – 4 times monthly (35%) or less (32%)
- Pro-life (43%) are more likely to select than mixed (34%) or pro-abortion rights (31%)

## Q24/25: Effective ways to help reduce how many abortions are performed in the US: Encourage/promote adoption as an option

- Asians (43%) and Whites (40%) are more likely than African Americans (26%) or Hispanics (28%) to call this an effective approach
- Protestants (43%) are more likely to select than those of other faiths (32%) or no faith (29%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select than non-evangelicals (51% v. 33%)
- Those who attend church weekly (47%) are more likely to select than those attending 2 – 4 times monthly (37%) or less (35%)
- Pro-life (46%) are more likely to select than mixed (30%) or pro-abortion rights (34%)



## Q24/25: Effective ways to help reduce how many abortions are performed in the US: Less expensive/free child care for lower-income people

- Ages <35 (36%) and 35 – 49 (29%) are more likely than 65+ (16%) to see this as effective
- Catholics (19%) are less likely to select than Protestants (27%), those of other faiths (36%), or of no faith (31%)
- Pro-abortion rights (36%) are more likely to select than mixed (22%) or pro-life (20%)

## Q24/25: Effective ways to help reduce how many abortions are performed in the US: More government financial assistance for lower-income parents

- Ages <35 (29%), 35 – 49 (25%), and 50 – 64 (21%) are more likely than 65+ (11%) to call this effective
- Catholics (19%) are less likely to select than Protestants (27%), those of other faiths (36%), or of no faith (31%)
- Pro-abortion rights (29%) are more likely to select than mixed (20%) or pro-life (16%)

## Q24/25: Effective ways to help reduce how many abortions are performed in the US: Better/more available counseling for pregnant women

- Age <35 are more likely than 35 – 49 to see this as impactful (38% v. 30%)
- Asians (45%) and Whites (35%) are more likely to select than African Americans (23%)
- People with a college or graduate degree are more likely to select than those with high school or some college (40% v. 29%)

## Q30: “How often is the topic of abortion spoken about by clergy or teachers in the religious worship services you attend?”

- Age <35 are more likely than other age groups to say they hear about abortion monthly or more (17% v. 8%)
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely than non-evangelicals to hear about this topic at least a few times a year (45% v. 30%)
- People who are generally pro-life (44%) are more likely to hear about this a few times a year or more than are the generally pro-abortion rights (26%) or those in the middle or unsure (31%), but this is also because the pro-life are often attending worship more frequently than other groups

## Q31: “Do you wish the topic of abortion would be spoken about by clergy or teachers in the religious worship services you attend: (SELECT ONE)” (more often)

- People in the South (44%) are more likely to want abortion spoken about in church more often than are those in the Midwest (35%), West (34%), or Northeast (30%)
- People from faiths other than Catholic or Protestant (22%) are less likely than Protestants (42%) or Catholics (38%) to want this topic covered in their worship services more often
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely than non-evangelicals to want more teaching on abortion (57% v. 30%)
- Weekly Christian churchgoers are more likely to call for more on this topic (49%) than are people who attend 2 – 4 times monthly (33%) or less frequently (29%)
- People who are generally pro-life (50%) are more likely to want more teaching on this than are the generally pro-abortion rights (25%) or those in the middle or unsure (37%)

## Q34: “How much do a political candidate’s views on abortion impact your willingness to vote for that person?” (extremely strong impact)

- Catholics (23%) are less likely than Protestants (32%), those from other faiths (36%) or the non-religious (34%) to say this has an extremely strong impact on their voting
- Those with evangelical beliefs are more likely to select than non-evangelicals (50% v. 27%)
- Weekly Christian churchgoers (35%) are more likely to select than those who attend less than once a month (25%)
- Both pro-life (40%) and pro-abortion rights (34%) are more likely to select than mixed/unsure (14%)



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# American Views on Abortion

A SURVEY OF 1,155 AMERICANS

**Lifeway** research