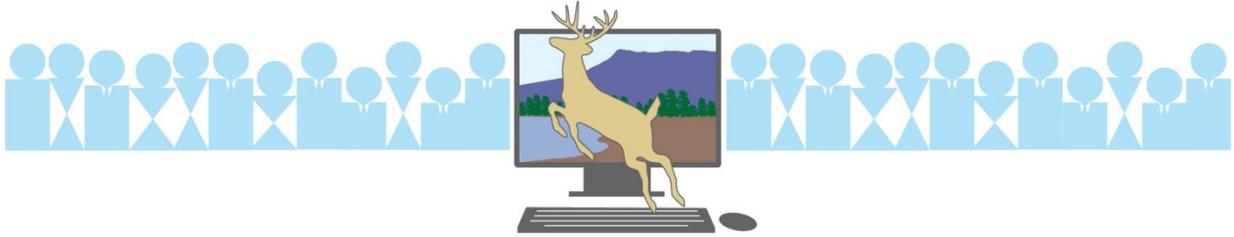


# Responsive Management™



## **HUNTERS' OPINIONS ON SHOOTING DEER OVER SUPPLEMENTAL FEED OR CORN**

**Conducted for the Mississippi Department of  
Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks**

**by Responsive Management**

**2015**

# **HUNTERS' OPINIONS ON SHOOTING DEER OVER SUPPLEMENTAL FEED OR CORN**

**2015**

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## **Acknowledgments**

Responsive Management would like to thank Scott L. Edwards, CWB, of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks for his input, support, and guidance on this project.



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY**

This study was conducted for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (hereinafter referred to as the Department) to determine hunters' opinions on shooting deer over supplemental feed or corn. The study entailed a scientific telephone survey of Mississippi hunting license holders, including residents and nonresidents and including deer hunters and those who did not hunt deer (but may have hunted other species).

Currently, the state's hunting regulations prohibit hunting with the aid of bait. The regulations further state that, when there is supplemental feed or corn in the area, hunters must be at least 100 yards from the feed or feeder and not within the line of sight of the feed or feeder.

For the survey, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the almost universal ownership of telephones among the sample provided to Responsive Management (both landlines and cell phones were called). 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 Department. The sample of Mississippi hunting license holders was obtained from the Department. 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 July 2015. The software used for data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language.

Responsive Management obtained a total of 1,506 completed interviews. The analysis of data was performed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management.

## APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF SHOOTING OVER SUPPLEMENTAL FEED OR CORN

- The most basic question asked hunters if they approve or disapprove of shooting deer over supplemental feed or corn without restrictions in Mississippi, and there is no consensus. While a majority approve (52%), there is a substantial percentage who disapprove (37%). For both those who approve and disapprove, their opinion is more often *strong* than *moderate*, suggesting that hunters are polarized on this issue.
- Those who *approve* of shooting deer over supplemental feed or corn without restrictions were asked, in an open-ended question, why they approve. Most commonly, their responses relate to their feeling that such a regulation would allow hunters to better control wildlife populations (31% of those who approve gave this as a reason), that it would increase harvest success (25%), or that it is an acceptable method to hunt/they have no particular reason against it (21%).
- Another question (that followed the open-ended question above) of those who *approve* specifically asked them about three possible reasons for approving, asking them to select their *most important* reason for approving: that it is an acceptable method to hunt, that it is something the hunter has done in other states, or that it allows hunters to better control wildlife populations (or some other reason). The majority say it is because it allows hunters to better control wildlife populations (56% of those who approve selected this reason).
- Similar to the above line of questioning, those who *disapprove* were asked, in an open-ended question, why they disapprove. The overwhelmingly most common responses concern the perceived lack of fair chase/that it is unsportsmanlike to hunt over feed.
- Those who disapprove were then asked to select their main reason for *disapproving*, from three reasons read to them: it is not fair chase or a fair chance for wildlife, it decreases movement and sighting during hunting hours, or it may increase risk of disease transmission (or some other reason). Again, a concern about fair chase is the overwhelmingly top reason.

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF THOSE WHO APPROVE AND THOSE WHO DISAPPROVE OF SHOOTING OVER FEED OR CORN**

- The following groups are more likely to *approve* than hunters overall: those who hunted mostly in the Southeast Zone, nonresidents, those older than 35 years old, those who hunted mostly on private land.
- The following groups are more likely to *disapprove* than hunters overall: those under 24 years old, those who hunted mostly in the Delta Zone, females, and those who hunted mostly on public land.

### **OPINIONS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF SHOOTING OVER SUPPLEMENTAL FEED OR CORN**

- Hunters were asked, in the scenario where shooting deer over supplemental feed or corn were allowed, if they would agree or disagree that there should be a minimum distance that a hunter should be from the feed/feeder: a majority of hunters agree (60%), most of that being *strong* agreement (46% *strongly* agree). Nonetheless, a substantial percentage disagree (30%), and most of that is *strong* disagreement (21% *strongly* disagree).
  - In follow up, those who agree were asked to indicate that minimum distance; the mean distance is 143 yards overall.
- Another question regarding stipulations that could be part of a regulation concerning shooting over supplemental feed or corn is whether there should be a minimum property size or acreage on which feed or corn is placed. Hunters are about evenly split on this: 45% agree, but 40% disagree. Note that most agreement and disagreement is *strong* rather than *moderate*, suggesting that this issue is highly polarized.
  - Also in follow up, those who agree were asked about the minimum property size. The median amount of acreage in this caveat to the regulation is 40 acres.
- Finally, the survey asked hunters if they would approve or disapprove of the removal of the line of sight restriction from the current supplemental feed regulations. While there is more approval than disapproval, the latter is substantial, suggesting that there is no consensus: 52% approve, but 34% disapprove.

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## **INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY**

This study was conducted for the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (hereinafter referred to as the Department) to determine hunters' opinions on shooting deer over supplemental feed or corn. The study entailed a scientific telephone survey of Mississippi hunting license holders, including residents and nonresidents and including deer hunters and those who did not hunt deer (but may have hunted other species). Specific aspects of the research methodology are discussed below.

### **CURRENT REGULATIONS**

Currently, the state's hunting regulations prohibit hunting with the aid of bait. The regulations further state that, when there is supplemental feed or corn in the area, hunters must be at least 100 yards from the feed or feeder and not within the line of sight of the feed or feeder. Hunters were informed of the current regulations in the survey when they were asked questions about the issue.

### **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 the sample provided to Responsive Management (both landlines and cell phones were called). 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 Department, based on the research team's familiarity with hunting and hunting methods, as well as with natural resources in general. Responsive Management conducted pre-tests of the questionnaire to ensure proper wording, flow, and logic in the survey.

**SURVEY SAMPLE**

The sample of Mississippi hunting license holders was obtained from the Department, and it included residents and nonresidents.

**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 hunting, outdoor recreation, and natural resources.

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**

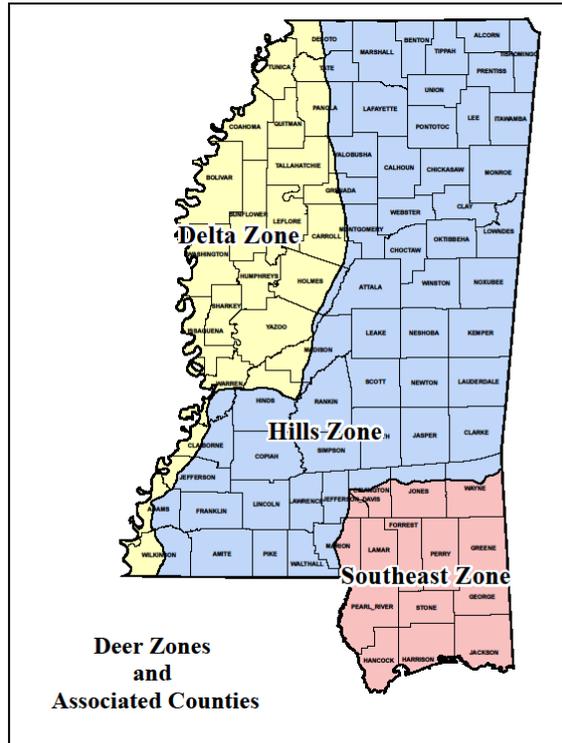
Telephone surveying times are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday from noon to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., local time. A five-callback design was used to maintain the representativeness of the sample, to avoid bias toward hunters easy to reach by telephone, and to provide an equal opportunity for all to participate. When a hunter 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 July 2015.

**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 1,506 completed interviews.

The project had a goal of obtaining at least 300 deer hunters in each Deer Hunt Zone (see map on the following page). Therefore, a random sample of license holders in the database was called statewide until more than 1,100 completed interviews of license holders was obtained. For this statewide sample, ultimately 1,144 license holders were interviewed, 814 who hunted deer. All of the statewide results are run of these 1,144 license holders overall/814 deer hunters. This statewide sample was not evenly distributed in the zones but was distributed in the approximate proportions in which hunters hunt in the zones (i.e., the Hills Zone had well more than 300 deer hunters, while the other zones did not). These results did not need to be weighted, because the proportions in the zones were as they are in the total deer hunter population.



DELTA ZONE is private and open public lands west of I-55 and north of I-20, plus areas south of I-20 and west of U.S. Highway 61.

HILLS ZONE is private and open public lands east of I-55 and north of I-20, plus areas south of I-20 and east of U.S. Highway 61, excluding areas south of U.S. Highway 84 and east of MS Highway 35.

SOUTHEAST ZONE is private and open public lands south of U.S. Highway 84 and east of MS Highway 35.

Because the above effort statewide did not obtain 300 deer hunters in the Delta Zone and the Southeast Zone, additional calls targeting those zones were made in a second round of calling to obtain at least 300 completed interviews of deer hunters in those zones, thereby ensuring statistically robust results in all three zones. Ultimately, completed interviews were obtained from 318 deer hunters in the Delta Zone, 470 deer hunters in the Hills Zone, and 331 deer hunters in the Southeast Zone. All of the crosstabulations by zone were run of these three groups, which include some that were not in the statewide sample from the second round of calling.

## **DATA ANALYSIS**

The analysis of data was performed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management.

Crosstabulations were run on many questions, with respondents categorized into the following groups:

- By zone hunted deer among those who hunted deer in Mississippi.
- By three groupings by hunting participation: those who hunted deer in Mississippi, those who hunted in Mississippi but did not hunt for deer, and those who did not hunt in Mississippi.
- By residence status: residents versus nonresidents.

Two analyses were conducted. The first analysis is of the statewide sample of 1,144 license holders/814 deer hunters. This sample was used for the overall results and the crosstabulations by hunting/deer hunting participation and by resident/nonresident.

The second analysis is of the three groups (one for each zone) that include those called in the second round of calling when specific zones were targeted. This analysis is shown in the crosstabulations by zone.

On questions that asked respondents to provide a number (e.g., number of acres), the graph shows 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.

## SAMPLING ERROR

Throughout this report, findings of the telephone survey are reported at a 95% confidence interval. Sampling errors are shown for the statewide results and for each zone in the tabulation that follows. The sampling error equation is also shown below.

### Sampling Errors

	Sample Size	Population Size	Sampling Error
Statewide	1,144	*232,478	2.89
Statewide deer hunters only	814	**165,417	3.43
Delta Zone deer hunters	318	**41,253	5.47
Hills Zone deer hunters	470	**79,660	4.51
Southeast Zone deer hunters	331	**37,188	5.36

\* Based on number of license holders in entire sample provided.

\*\*Estimated by percentages of respondents who fell into the groups in the survey multiplied by total database (232,478).

### Sampling Error Equation

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

Where: B = maximum sampling error (as decimal)  
 N<sub>p</sub> = population size (i.e., total number who could be surveyed)  
 N<sub>s</sub> = 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.

Some graphs show an average, either the mean or median (or both). The mean is simply the sum of all numbers divided by the number of respondents. Because outliers (extremely high or low numbers relative to most of the other responses) may skew the mean, the median may be shown. The median is the number at which half the sample is above and the other half is below. In other words, a median of 40 acres means that half the sample gave an answer of more than 40 acres and the other half gave an answer of less than 40 acres.

Most 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 approve” and “moderately approve” are summed to determine the total percentage who approve).

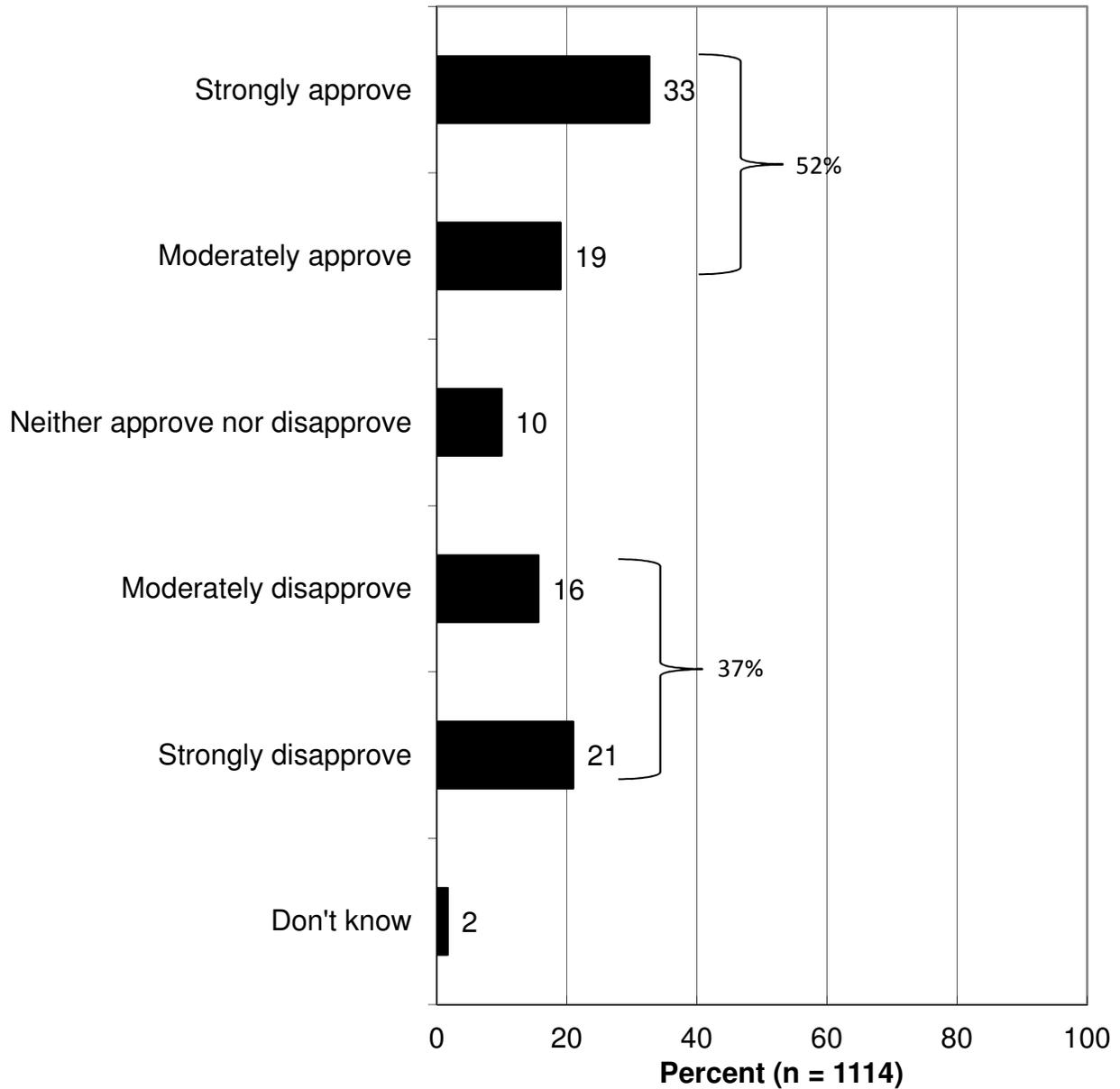
## APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF SHOOTING OVER SUPPLEMENTAL FEED OR CORN

- The most basic question asked hunters if they approve or disapprove of shooting deer over supplemental feed or corn without restrictions in Mississippi, and there is no consensus. While a majority approve (52%), there is a substantial percentage who disapprove (37%). For both those who approve and disapprove, their opinion is more often *strong* than *moderate*, suggesting that hunters are polarized on this issue. (Currently, it is illegal to hunt with the aid of bait in Mississippi. When there is supplemental feed or corn in the area, hunters must be at least 100 yards from the feed or feeder and not within the line of sight of the feed or feeder.)
- Approval is highest in the Southeast Zone (where 63% approve, and 29% disapprove), and approval is lowest in the Delta Zone (45% approve, and 46% disapprove).
  - Those who did not hunt at all, compared to those who hunted deer and those who hunted but did not hunt deer, are more likely to *strongly* disapprove.
  - Nonresidents are more likely than residents to *strongly* approve.

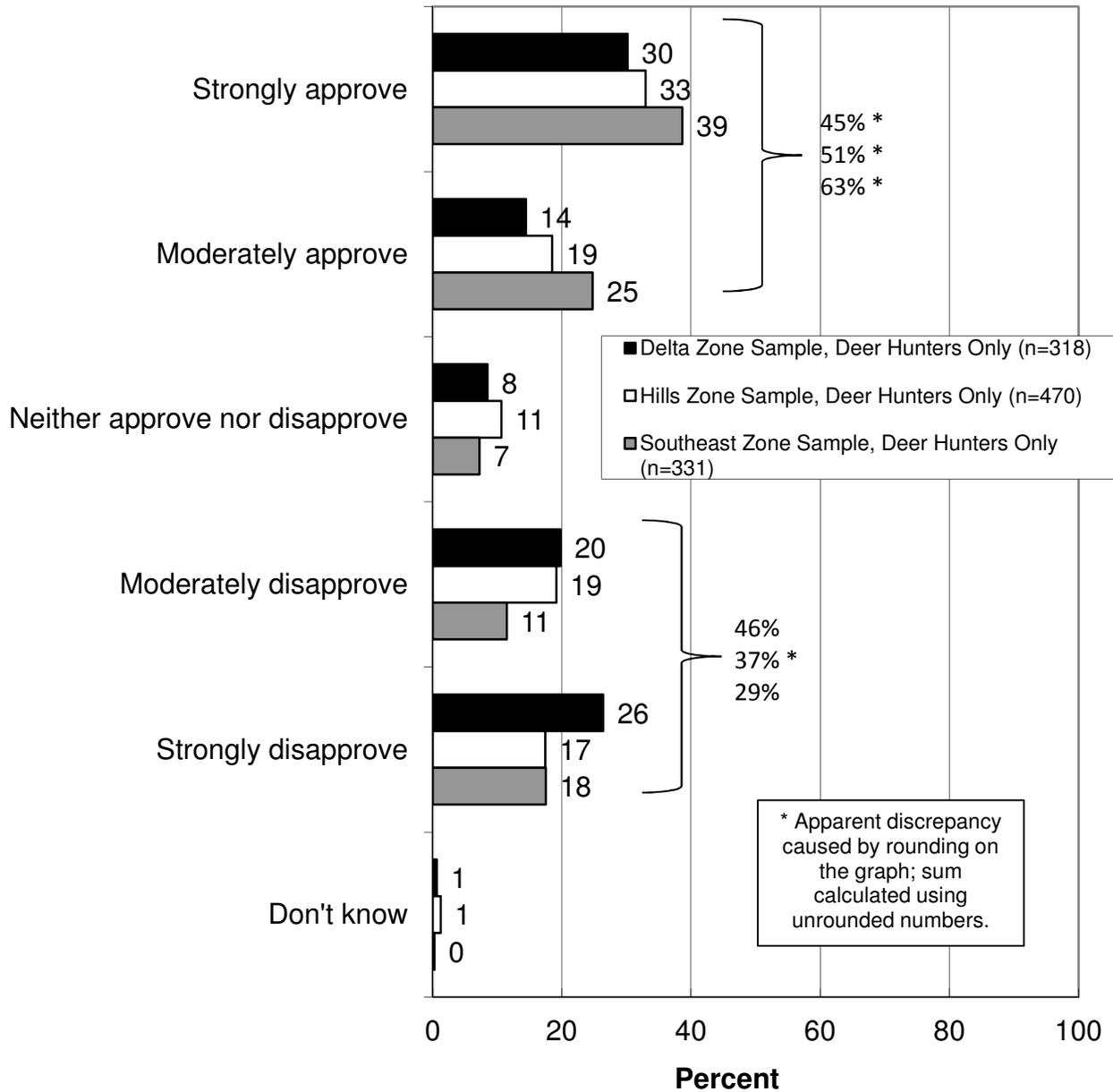
- Those who *approve* of shooting deer over supplemental feed or corn without restrictions were asked, in an open-ended question, why they approve. Most commonly, their responses relate to their feeling that such a regulation would allow hunters to better control wildlife populations (31% of those who approve gave this as a reason), that it would increase harvest success (25%), or that it is an acceptable method to hunt/they have no particular reason against it (21%). The graph shows the full listing.
- The crosstabulation by zones is shown, with only slight variation among zones.
  - The crosstabulation by hunting/deer hunting participation does not have large sample sizes for two of the three groups, which should be taken into consideration when examining the data.
  - The crosstabulation by resident/nonresident shows that reasons that relate to giving hunters better control of wildlife populations were said by residents much more often than nonresidents.
- Another question (that followed the open-ended question above) of those who *approve* specifically asked them about three possible reasons for approving, asking them to select their *most important* reason for approving: that it is an acceptable method to hunt, that it is something the hunter has done in other states, or that it allows hunters to better control wildlife populations (or some other reason). The majority say it is because it allows hunters to better control wildlife populations (56% of those who approve selected this reason).
- The crosstabulation by zones is shown, with only slight variation among zones.
  - The crosstabulation by hunting/deer hunting participation is shown, with only slight variation among the groups.
  - The crosstabulation by resident/nonresident shows that the reason, “it allows hunters to better control wildlife populations,” is chosen by residents much more often than nonresidents.

- 
- Similar to the above line of questioning, those who *disapprove* were asked, in an open-ended question, why they disapprove. The overwhelmingly most common responses concern the perceived lack of fair chase/that it is unsportsmanlike to hunt over feed.
- The crosstabulation by zones is shown, with only slight variation among zones.
  - Although fair chase seemed to be more of concern to those who did not hunt (80% of them giving this response, compared to deer hunters (75%) and hunters who did not hunt deer (69%), the sample sizes are small (because this question was asked only of those who disapproved previously), which should be considered when examining the data.
  - Residents and nonresidents are about the same on this issue.
- Those who *disapprove* were then asked to select their main reason for disapproving, from three reasons read to them: it is not fair chase or a fair chance for wildlife, it decreases movement and sighting during hunting hours, or it may increase risk of disease transmission (or some other reason). Again, a concern about fair chase is the overwhelmingly top reason.
- The crosstabulation by zones is shown, with only slight variation among zones.
  - The crosstabulation by hunting/deer hunting participation does not have large sample sizes for two of the three groups, which should be taken into consideration when examining the data.
  - The crosstabulation by resident/nonresident is shown, with almost no variation in responses between the groups.

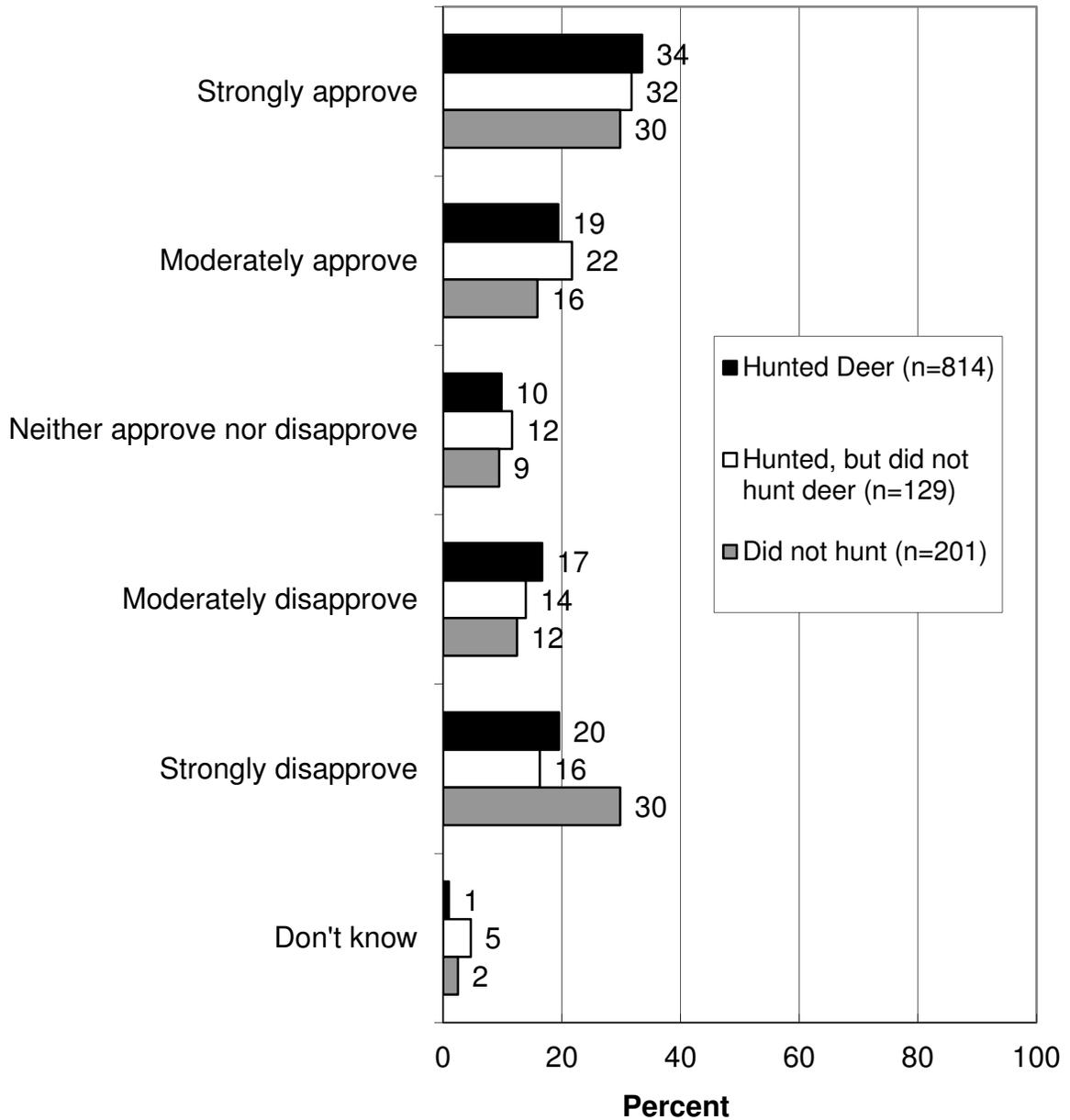
**Q23. In general, do you approve or disapprove of shooting deer over supplemental feed or corn without restrictions in Mississippi?**



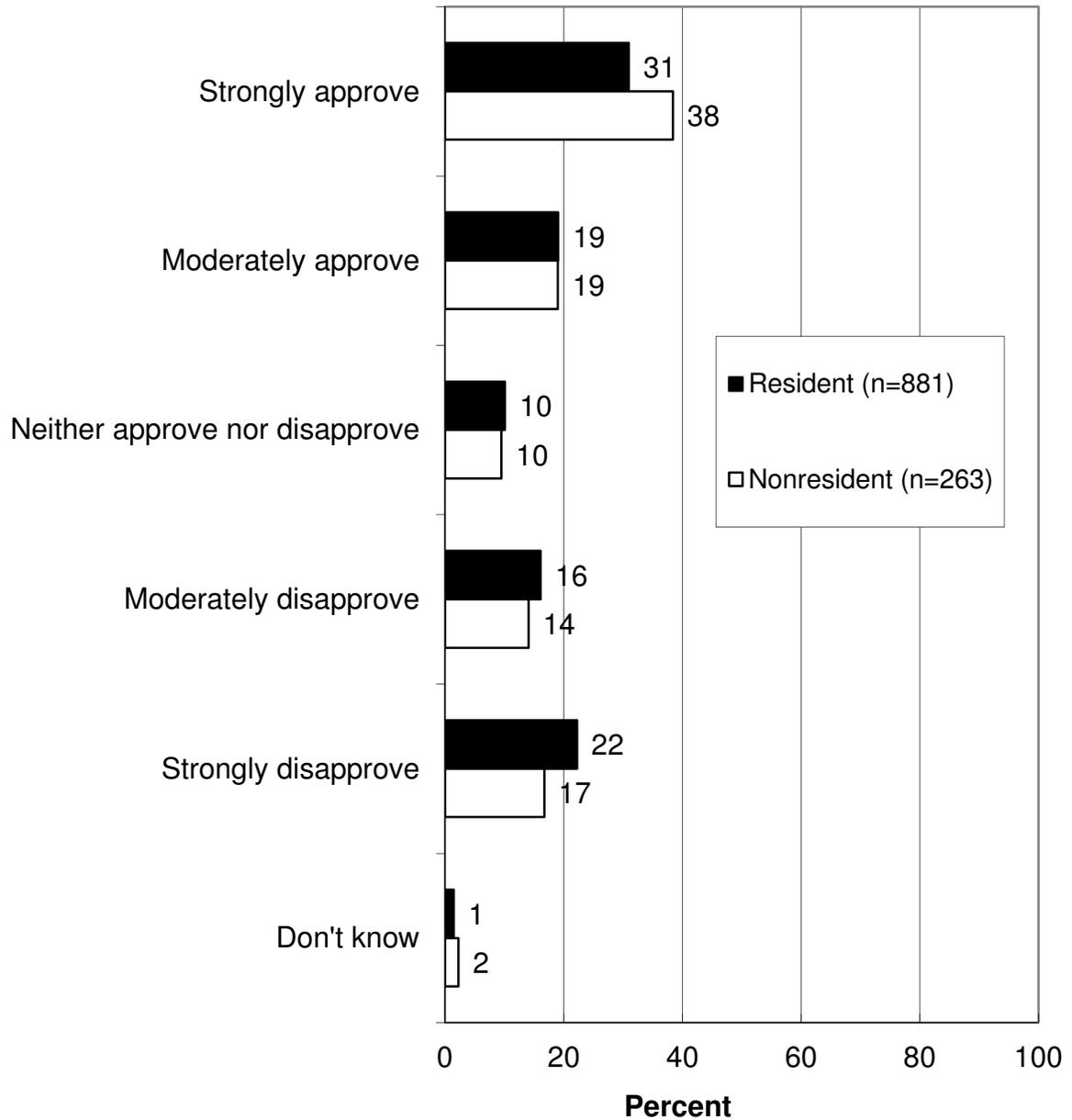
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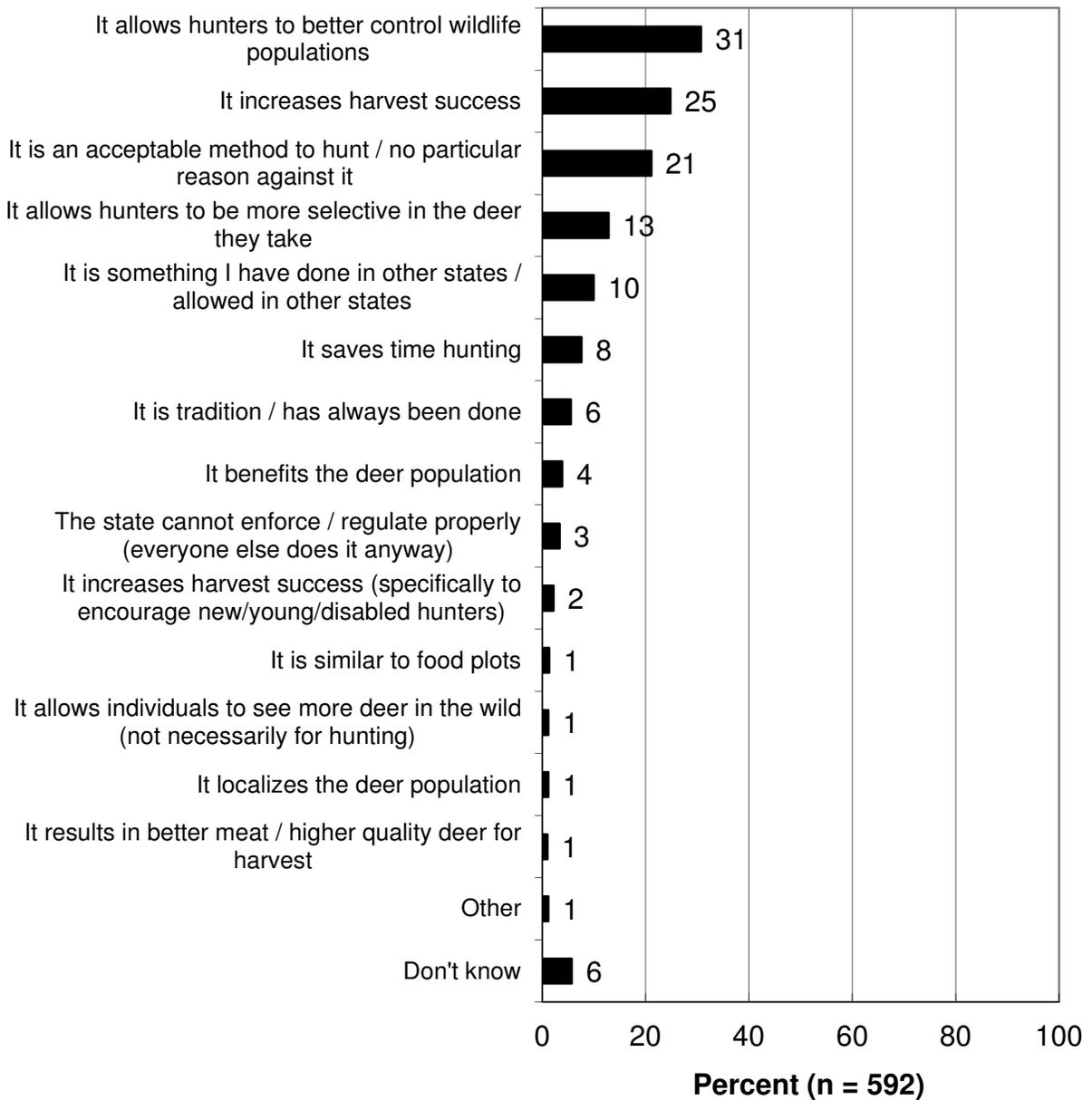
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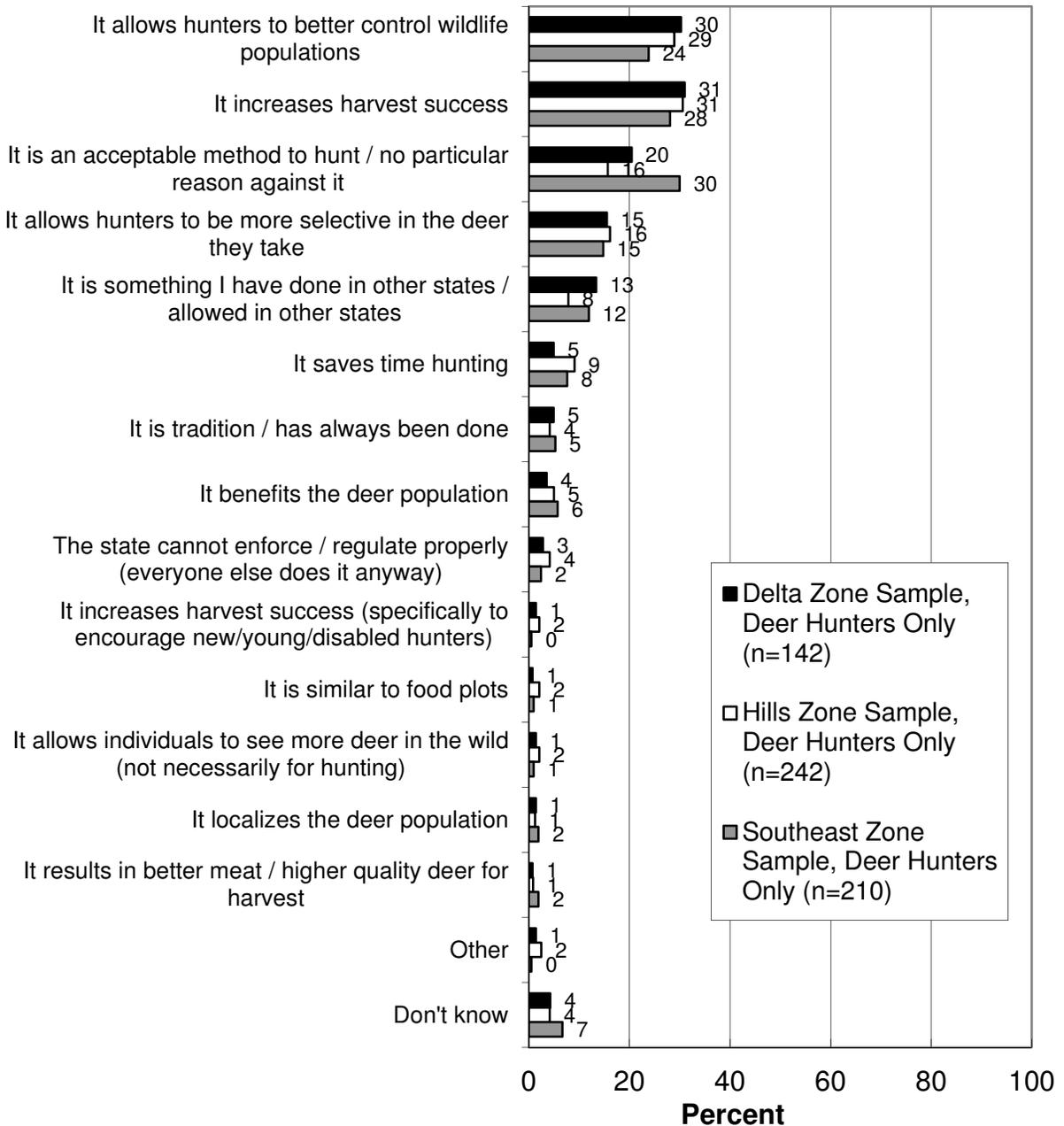
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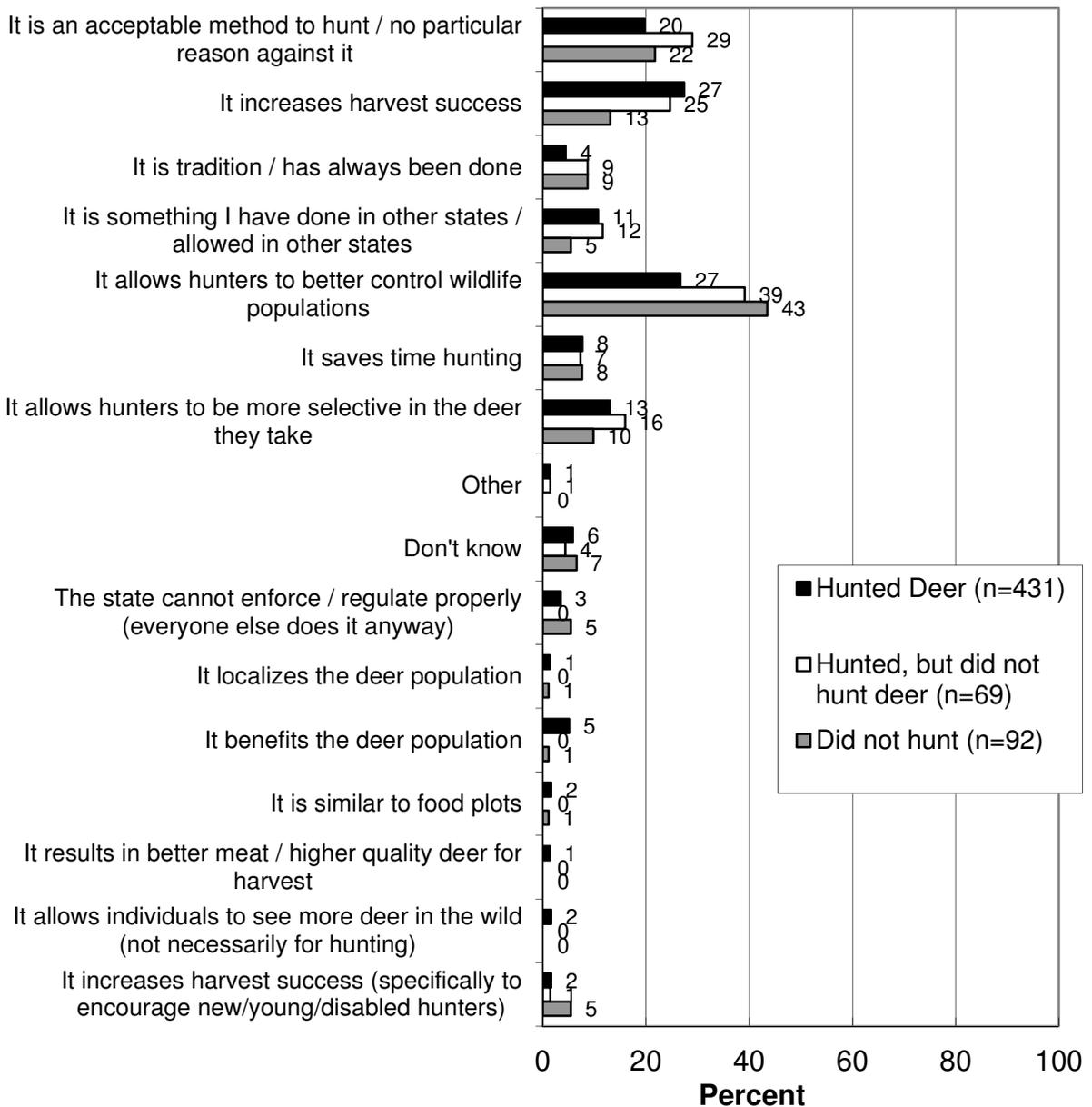
**Q27. What are the main reasons you approve of shooting deer over supplemental feed or corn without restrictions? (Open-ended, asked of those who strongly or moderately approve.)**



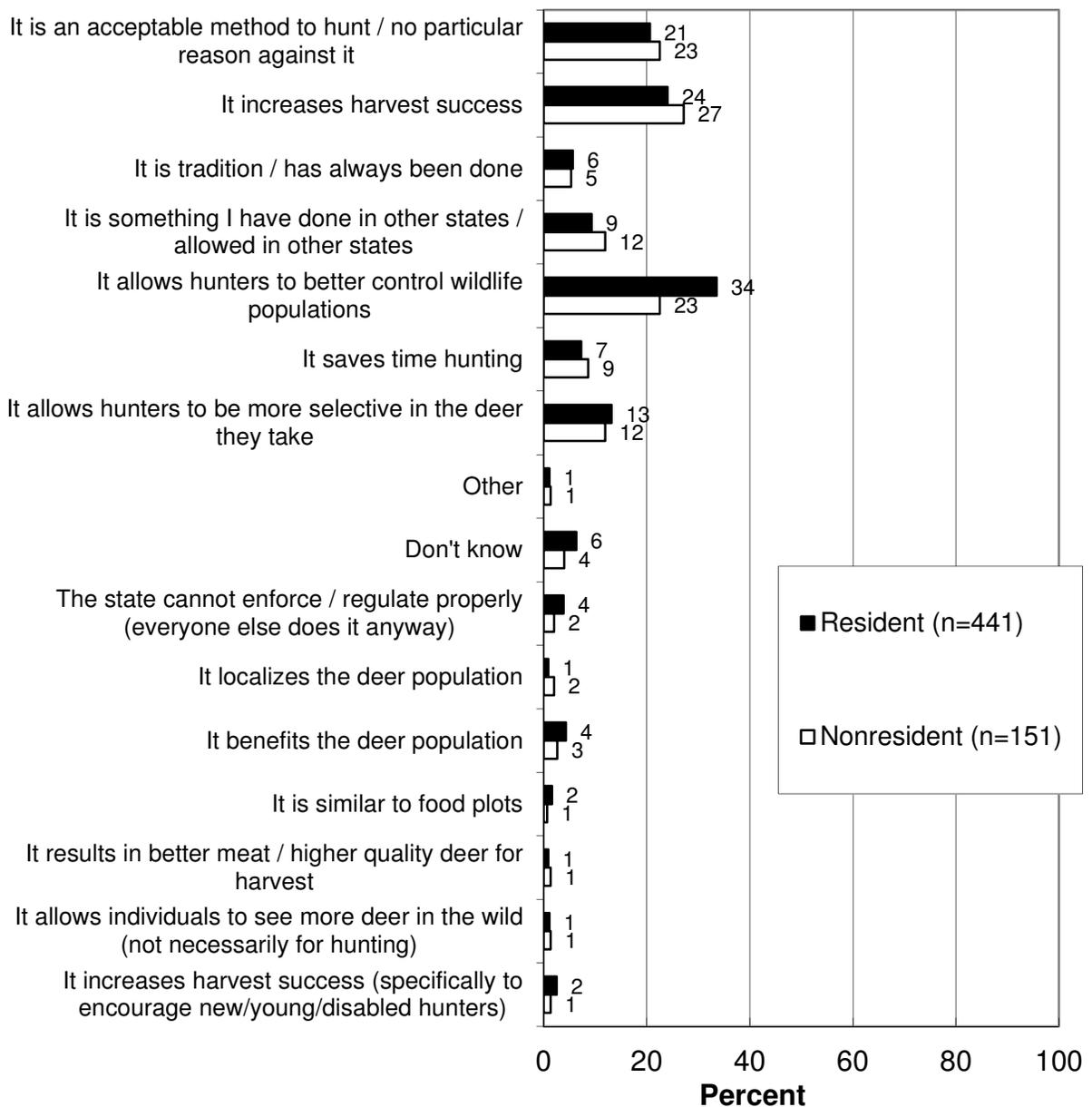
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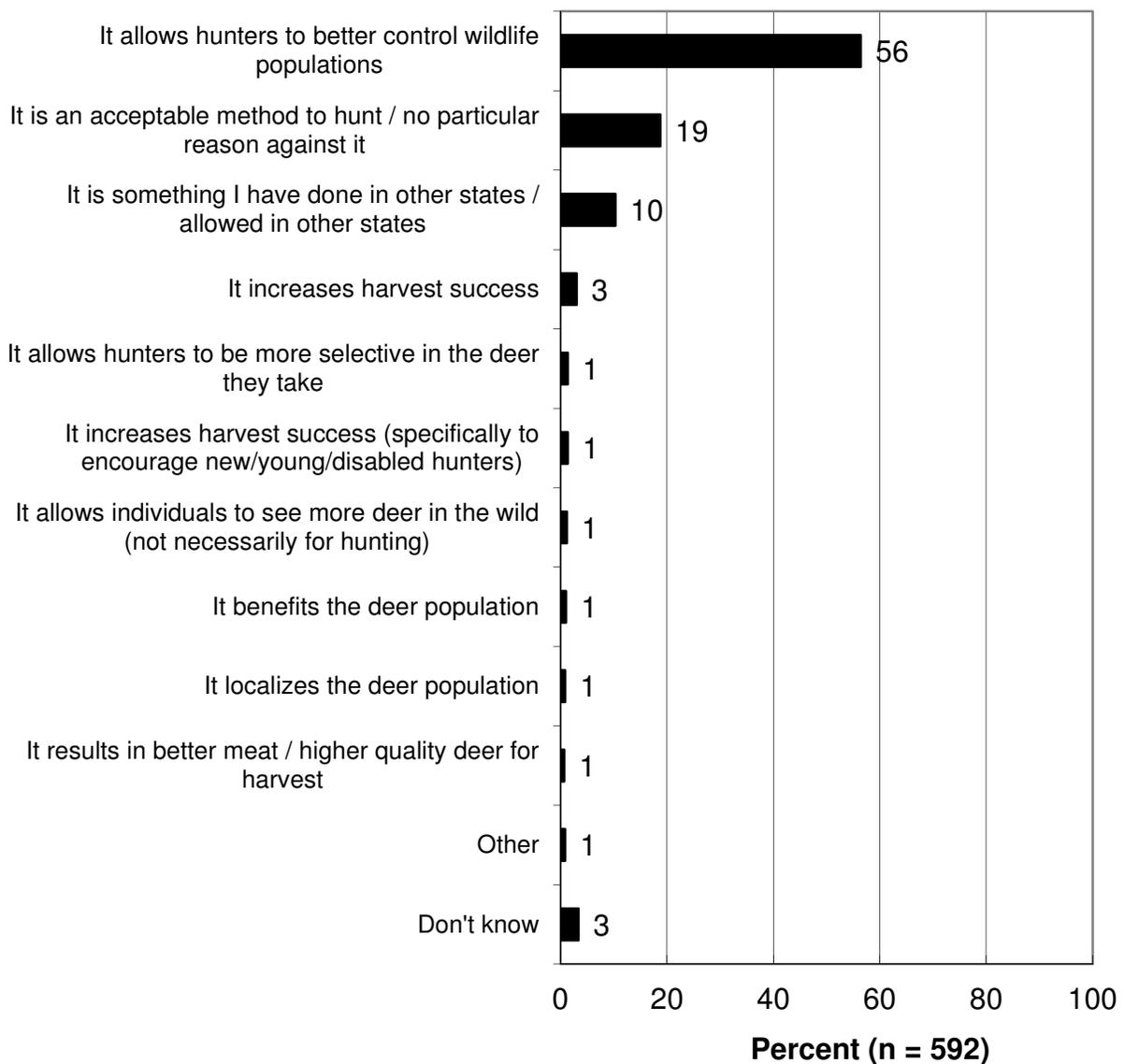
**Q27. What are the main reasons you approve of shooting deer over supplemental feed or corn without restrictions? (Open-ended, asked of those who strongly or moderately approve.)**



**Q29. What is the single most important reason you approve of shooting deer over supplemental feed or corn without restrictions?**

**Would you say it is because it is an acceptable method to hunt, it is something you have done in other states, it allows hunter to better control wildlife populations, or some other reason?**

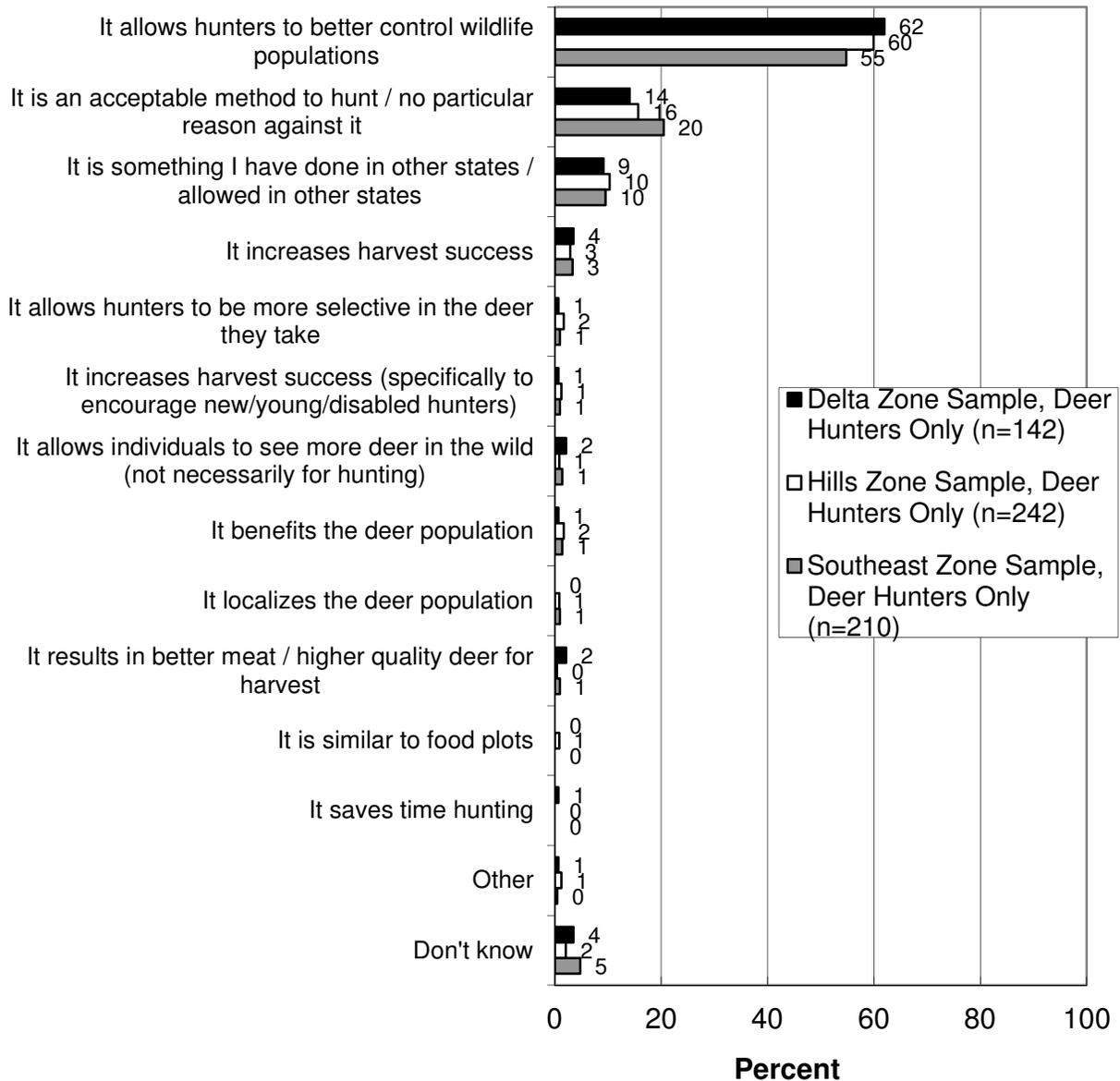
**(Asked of those who approve.)**



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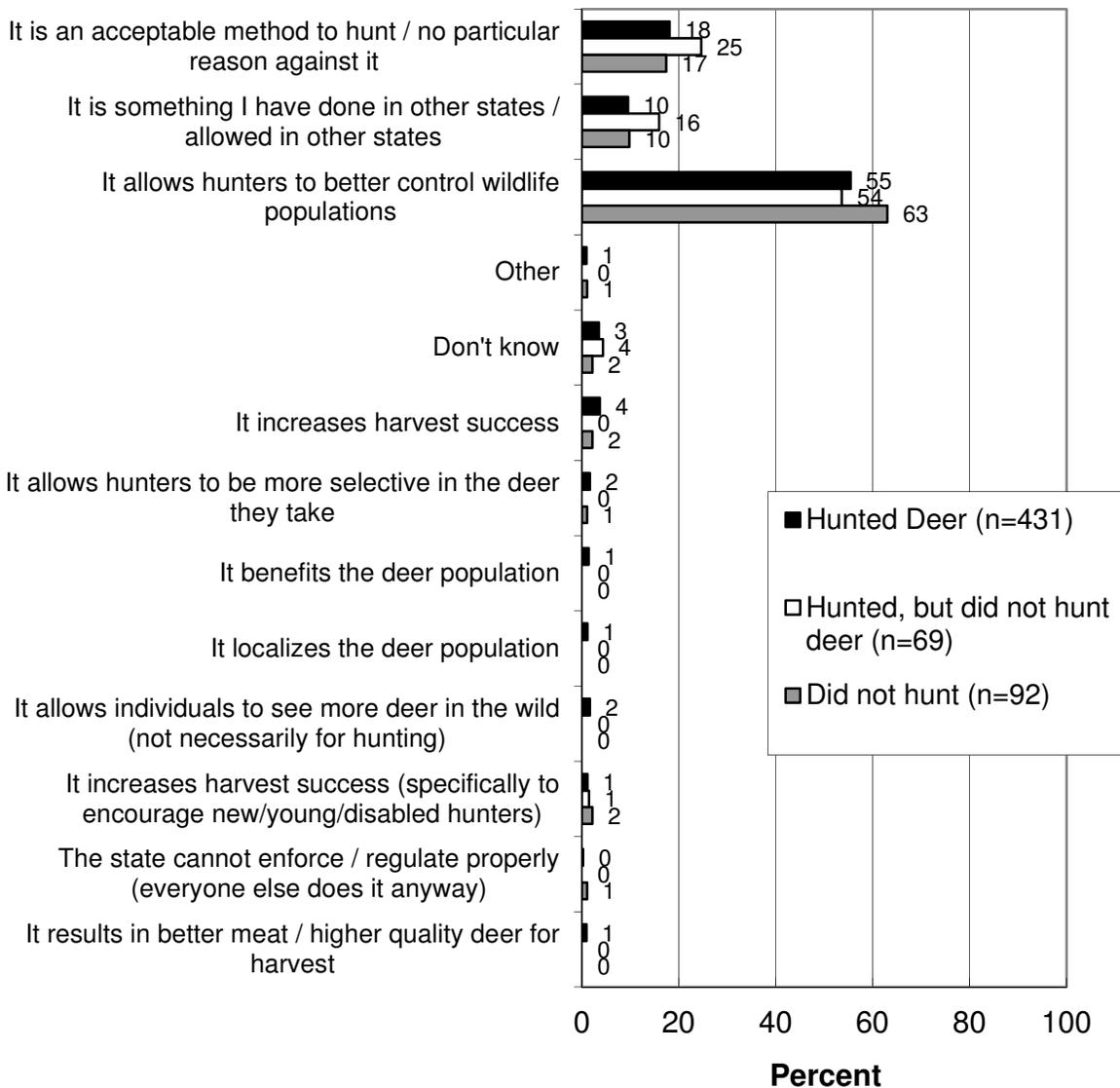
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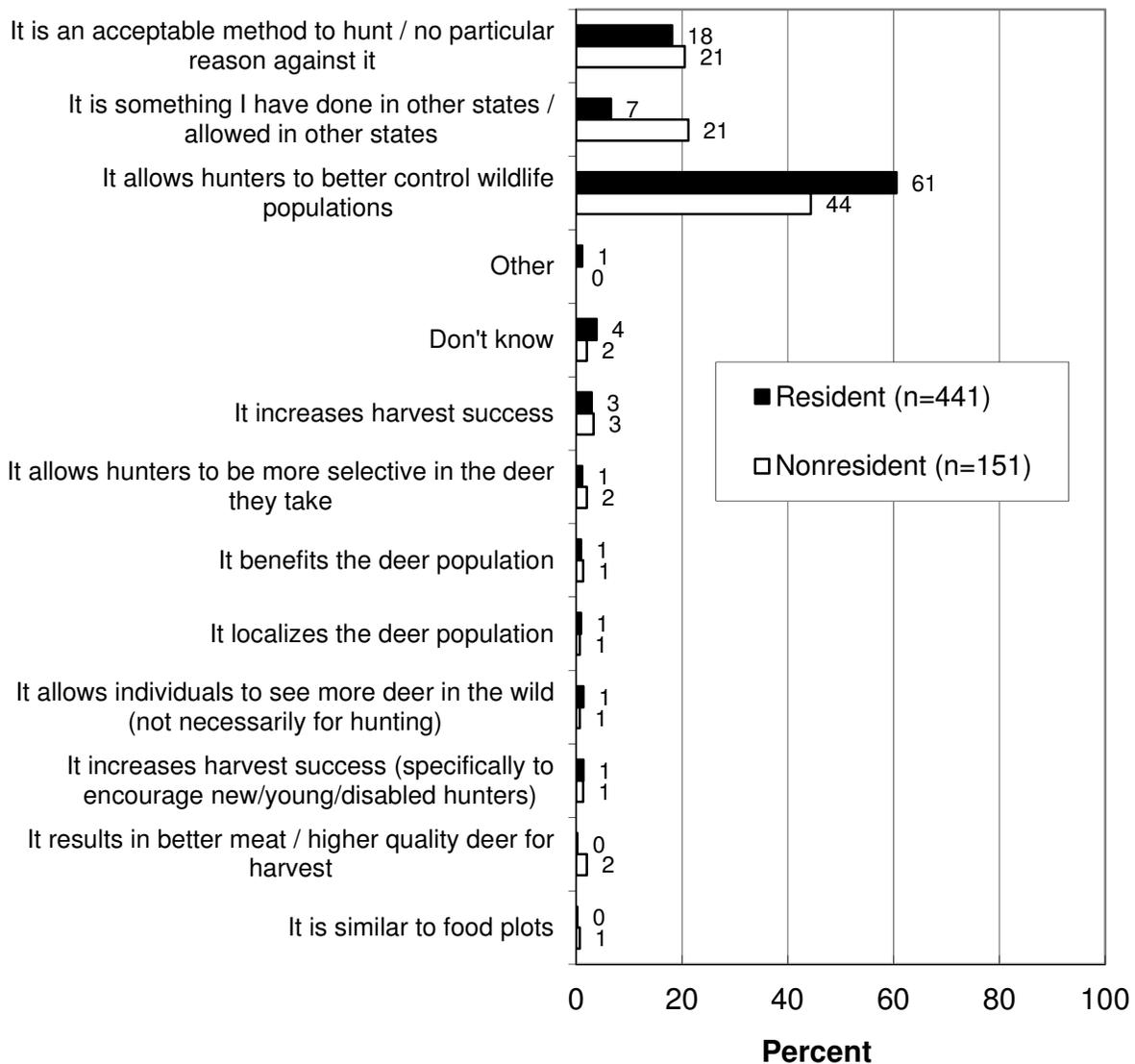
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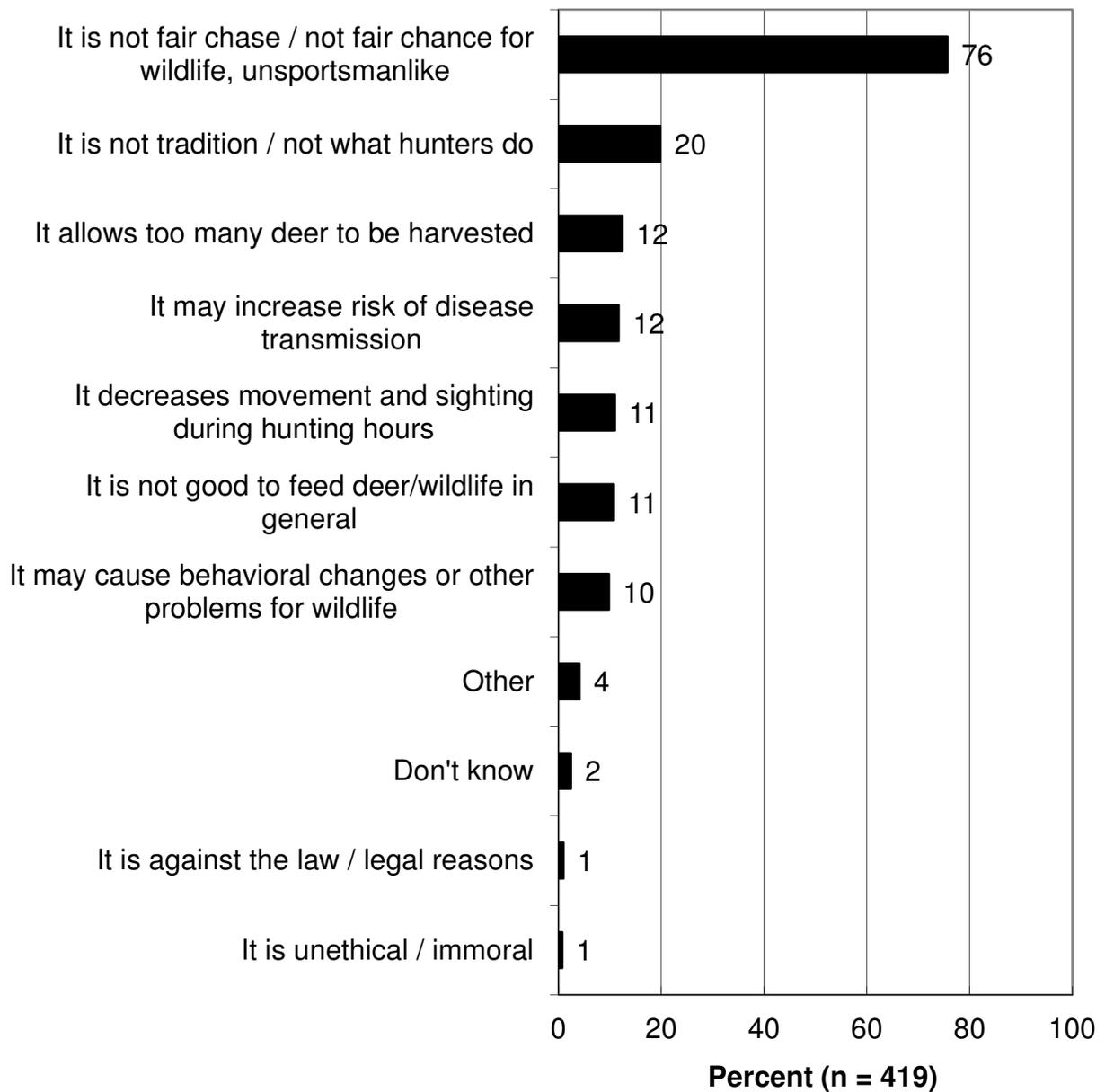
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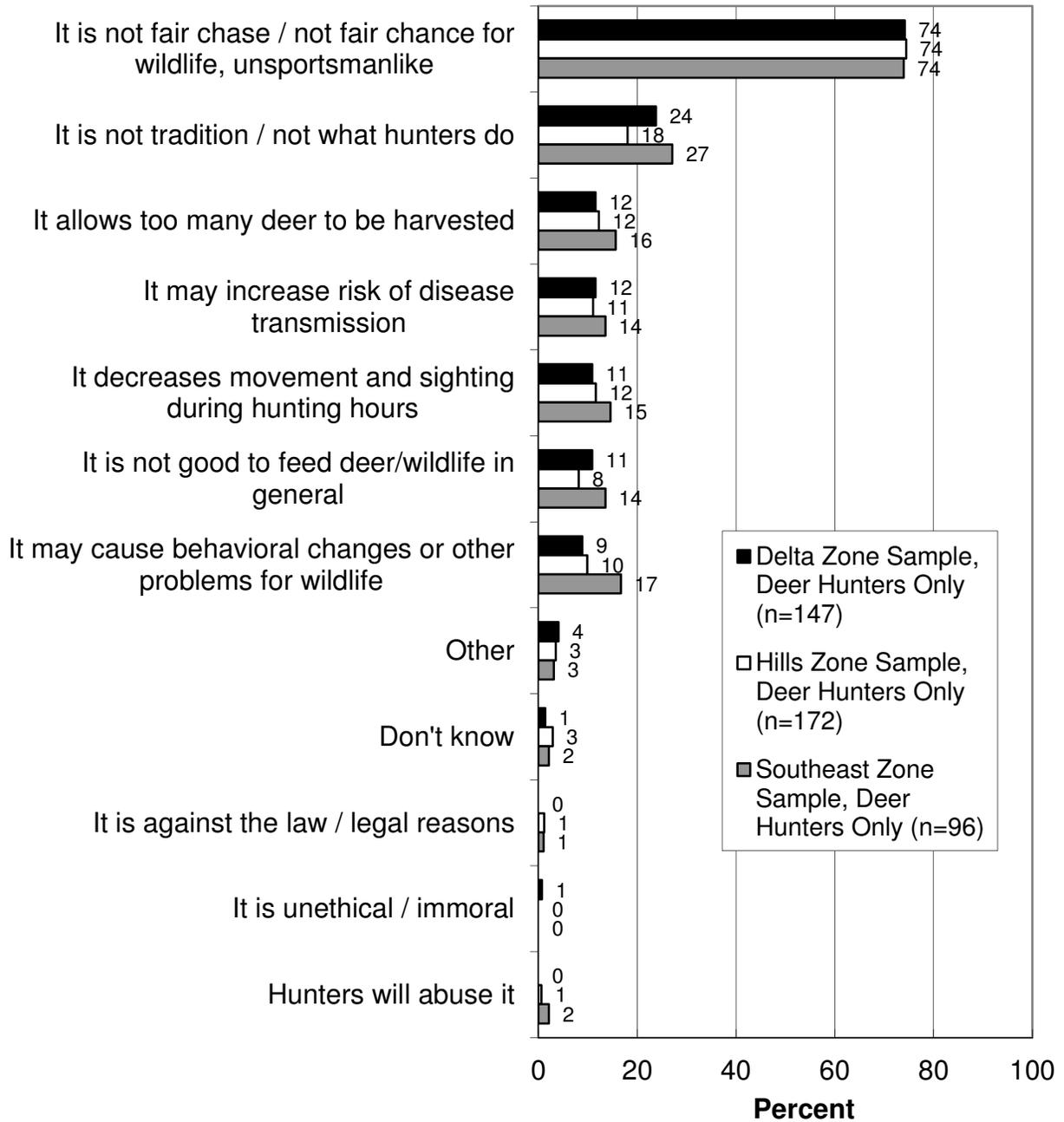
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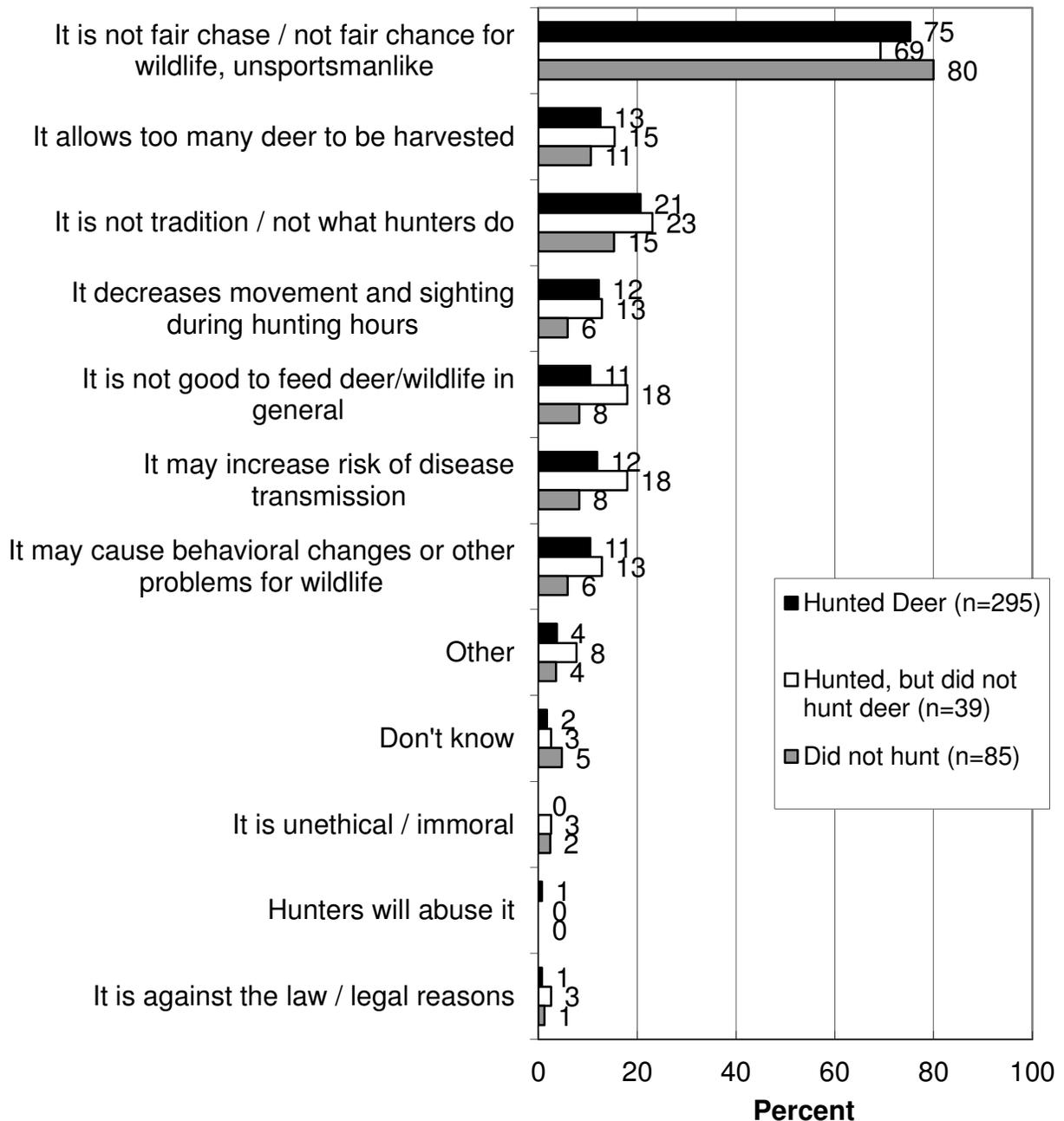
**Q33. What are the main reasons you disapprove of shooting deer over supplemental feed or corn without restrictions? (Asked of those who strongly or moderately disapprove.)**



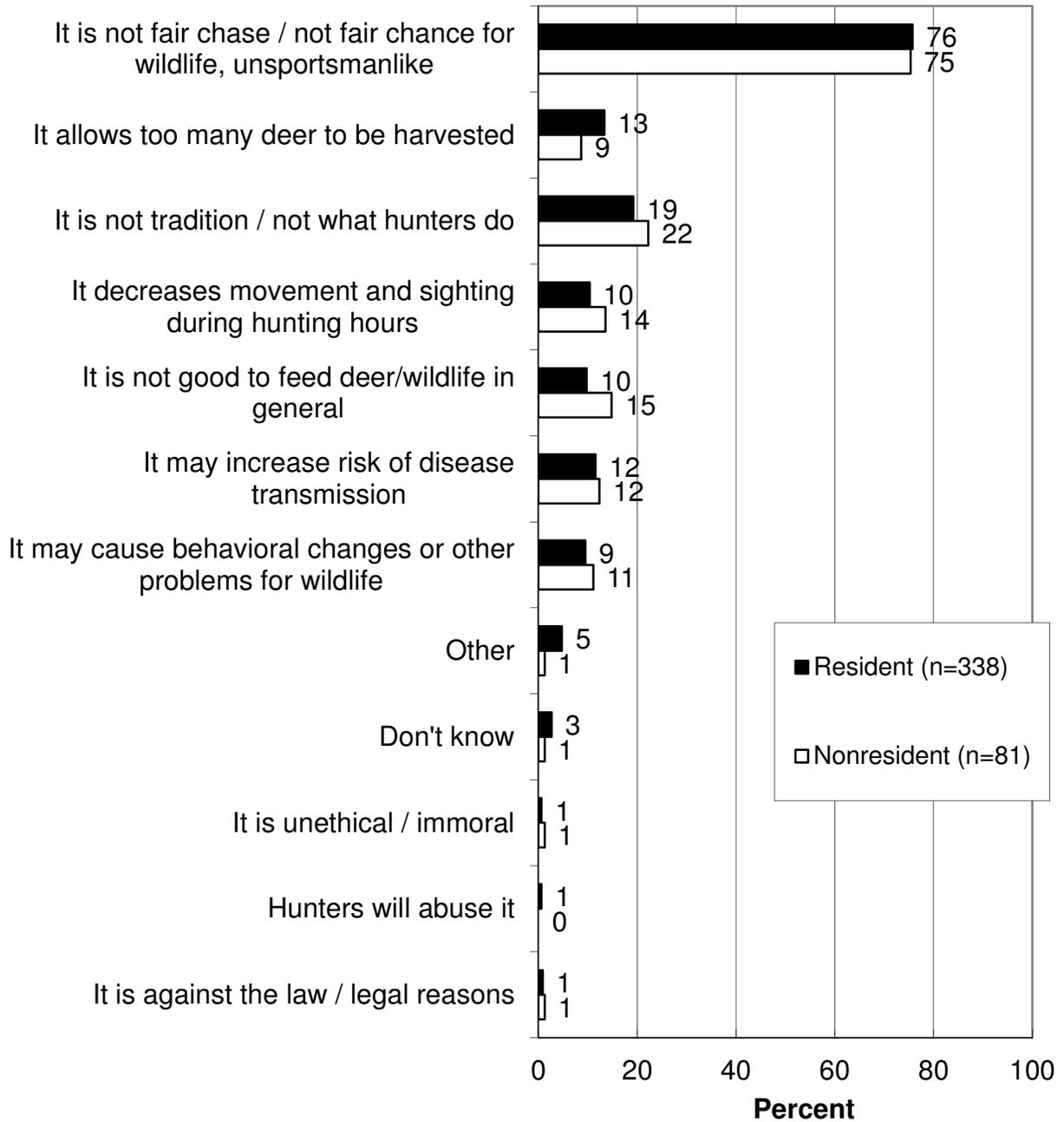
**Q33. What are the main reasons you disapprove of shooting deer over supplemental feed or corn without restrictions? (Asked of those who strongly or moderately disapprove.)**



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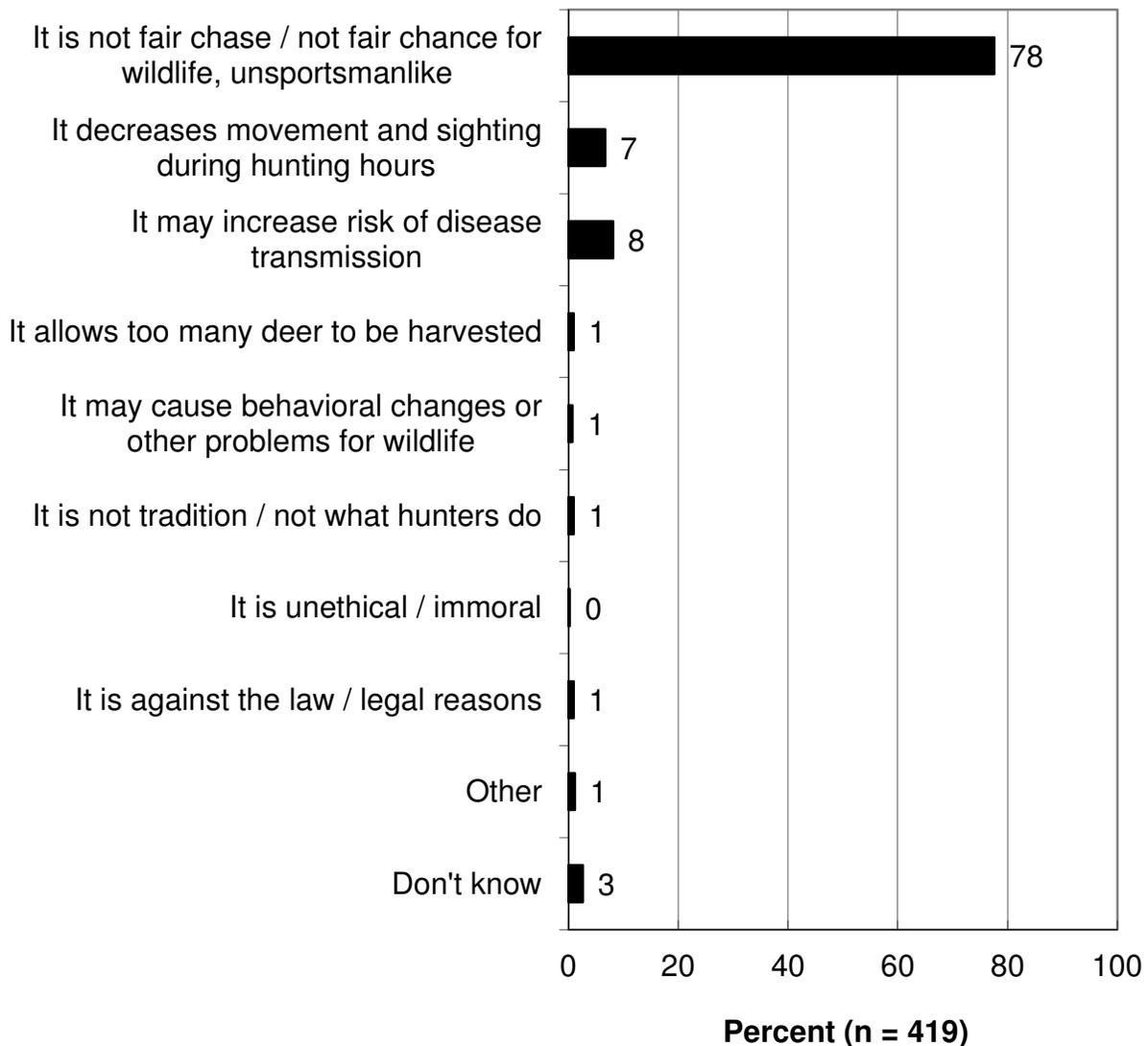
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**Q35. What is the single most important reason you disapprove of shooting deer over supplemental feed or corn without restrictions?**

**Would you say it is because it is not fair chase or a fair chance for wildlife, it decreases movement and sighting during hunting hours, it may increase risk of disease transmission, or some other reason?**

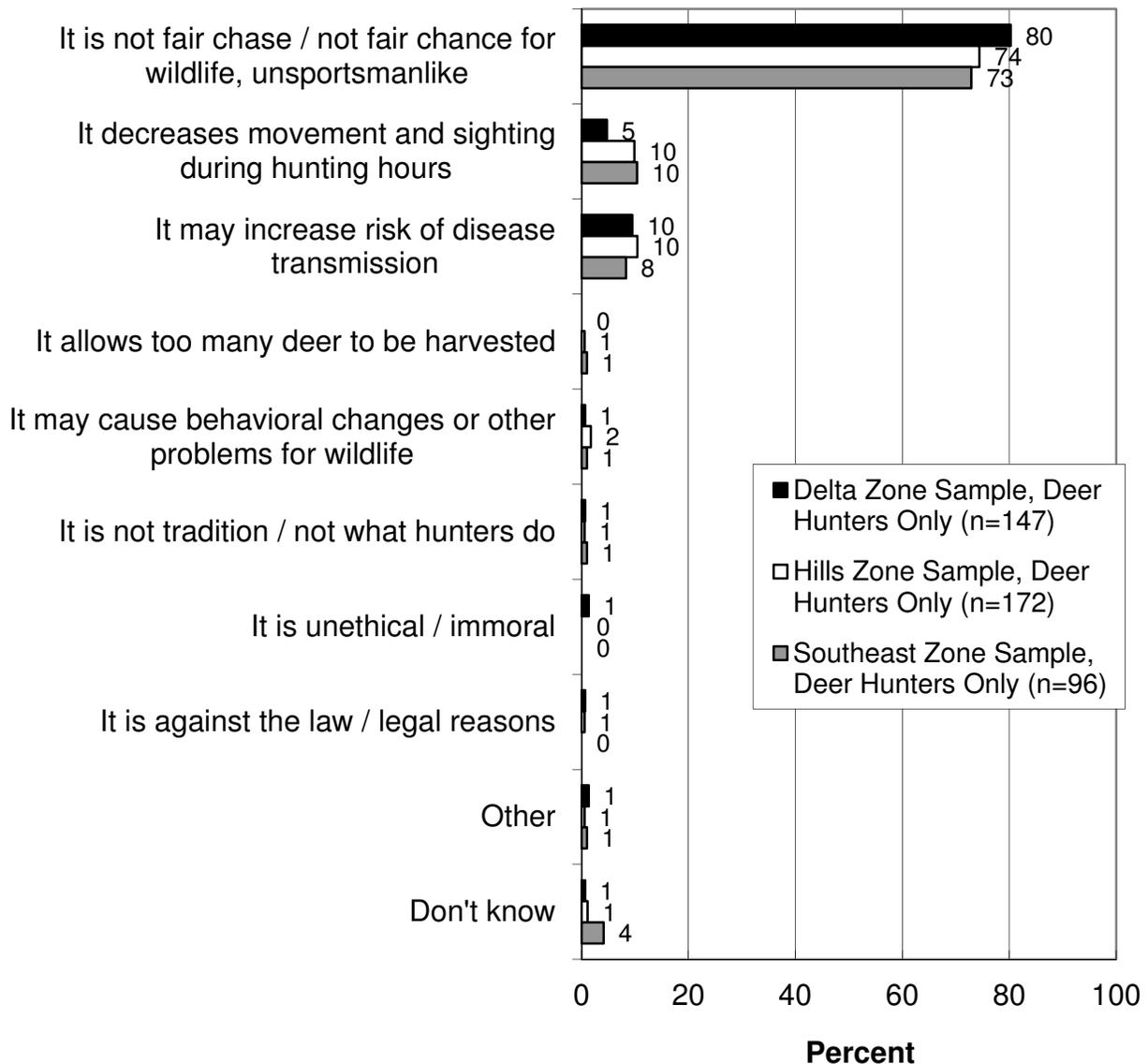
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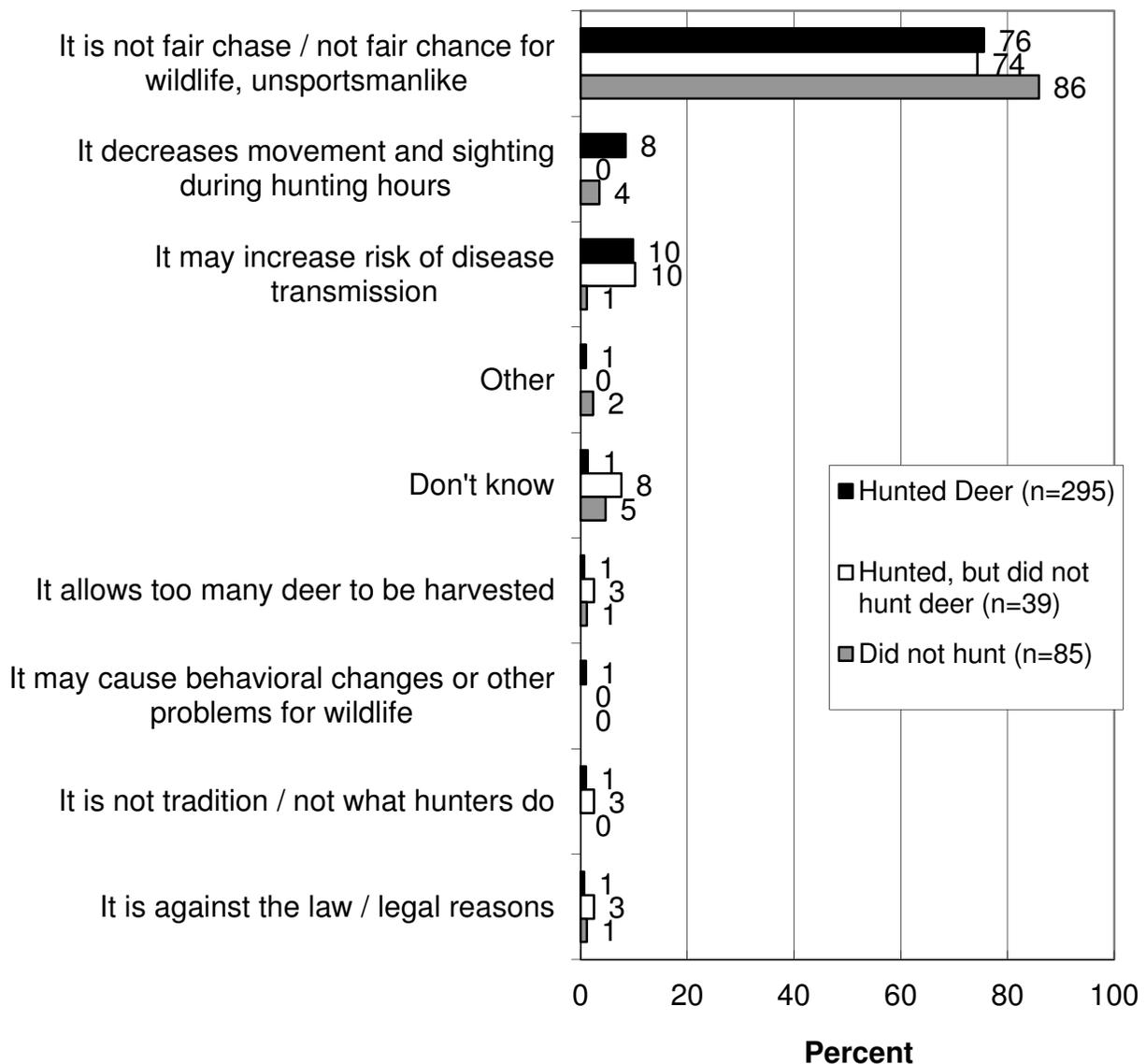
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**Q35. What is the single most important reason you disapprove of shooting deer over supplemental feed or corn without restrictions?**

**Would you say it is because it is not fair chase or a fair chance for wildlife, it decreases movement and sighting during hunting hours, it may increase risk of disease transmission, or some other reason?**

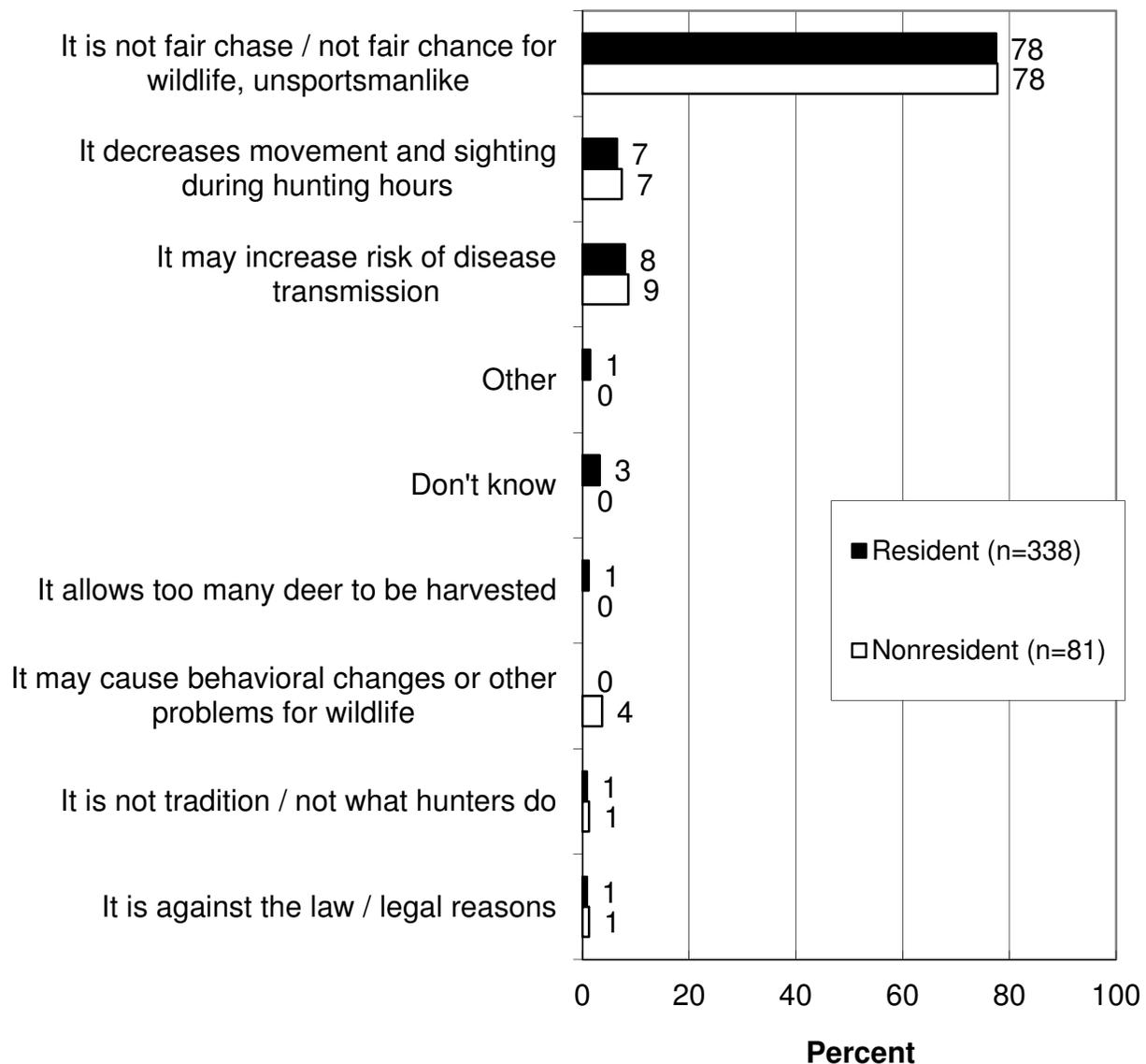
**(Asked of those who disapprove.)**



**Q35. What is the single most important reason you disapprove of shooting deer over supplemental feed or corn without restrictions?**

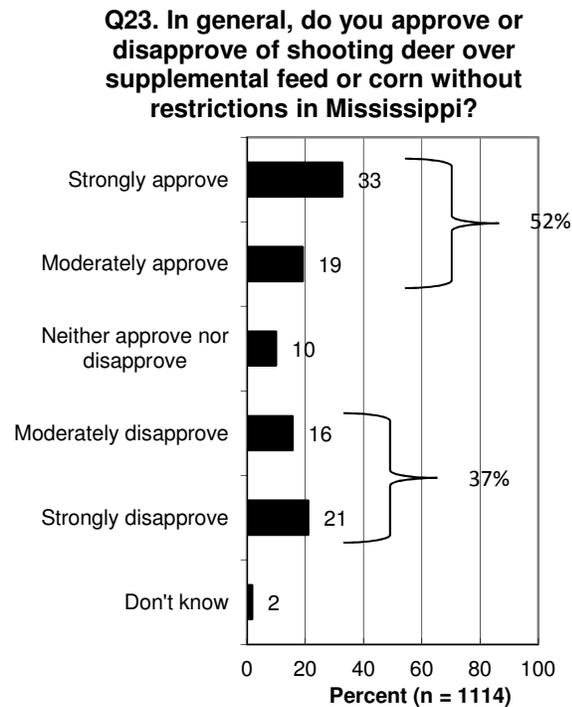
**Would you say it is because it is not fair chase or a fair chance for wildlife, it decreases movement and sighting during hunting hours, it may increase risk of disease transmission, or some other reason?**

**(Asked of those who disapprove.)**



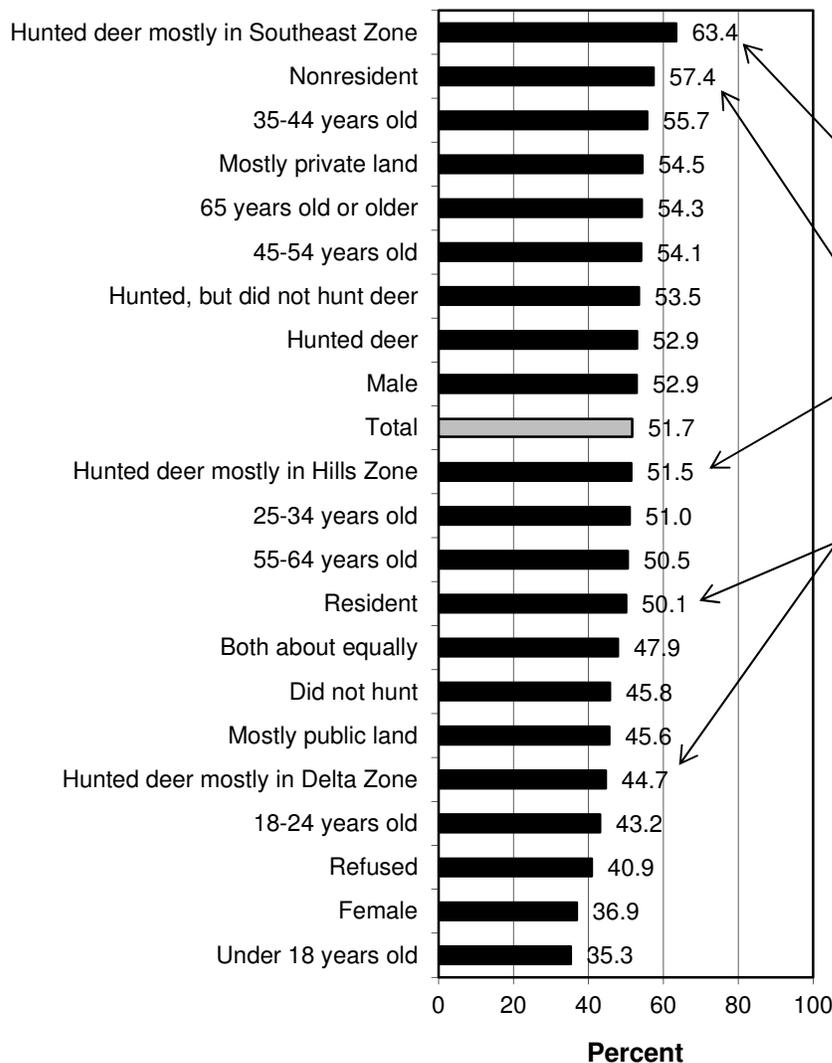
## CHARACTERISTICS OF THOSE WHO APPROVE AND THOSE WHO DISAPPROVE OF SHOOTING OVER FEED OR CORN

- The following graph shows the percentage who approve or who disapprove of the basic question, “In general, do you approve or disapprove of shooting deer over supplemental feed or corn without restrictions in Mississippi?” (The graph is reproduced below at a smaller size; the full-sized graph begins the series of graphs in the above section of the report, “Approval or Disapproval of Shooting Over Supplemental Feed or Corn.”)
  - The graph of the statewide sample shows 52% (actually 51.7%) of license holders approving and 37% (36.6%) disapproving.



- Each of the following two graphs shows the percentage of the given group who approve or disapprove, thereby allowing comparisons among various groups. In the graph below, 51.7% of the entire sample of license holders approve of shooting deer over supplemental feed or corn, as shown by the gray bar (which matches the graph on the previous page). Groups above the gray bar are more likely to approve; groups below the gray bar are less likely to approve. Examples are shown in the text box that accompanies the graph.

**The percent of the following groups who approve of using supplemental feed or corn without restriction in Mississippi.**



The following shows how to read the data in this graph. The groups above the gray bar are more likely than the sample overall to approve, such as Southeast Zone deer hunters, nonresidents, and those who hunt on private land mostly. The groups below the gray bar are less likely to approve, compared to the sample overall.

Southeast Zone deer hunters approve (63.4%) at a greater rate than do Hills Zone deer hunters (51.5%) or Delta Zone deer hunters (44.7%).

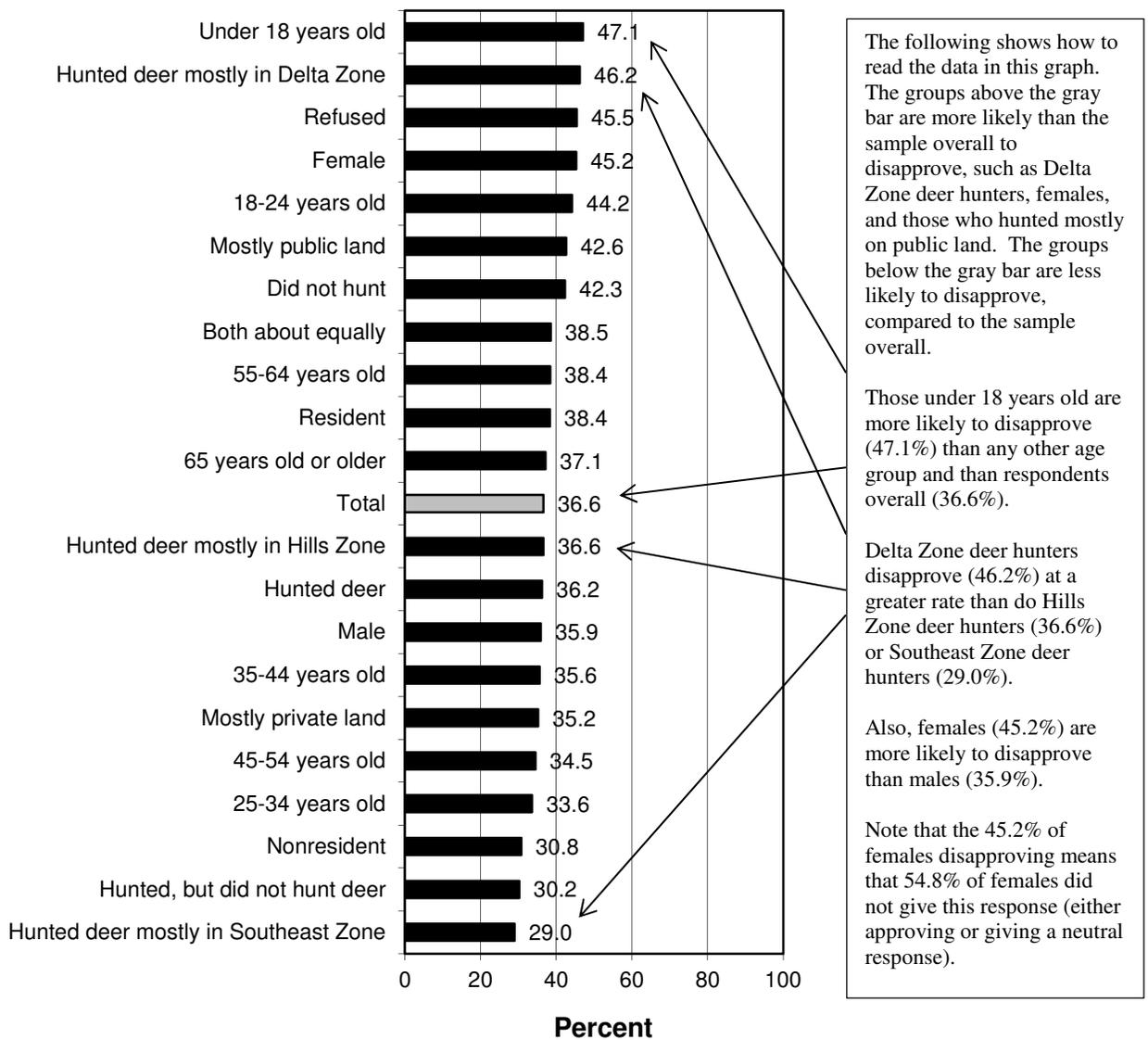
Also, nonresidents (57.4%) are more likely than residents (50.1%) to approve.

In looking at the ages, those who are 35-44 years old are more likely to approve (55.7%) than the other age groups. Note that the 55.7% approving means that 44.3% of that age group did not approve (either disapproving or giving a neutral response).

(“Refused” refers to refusing the age question.)

- In the graph below, 36.6% of the entire sample of license holders disapprove of shooting deer over supplemental feed or corn, as shown by the gray bar (it matches the small graph that starts this section). Groups above the gray bar are more likely to disapprove; groups below the gray bar are less likely to disapprove. Examples are shown in the text box that accompanies the graph.

**The percent of the following groups who disapprove of using supplemental feed or corn without restriction in Mississippi.**



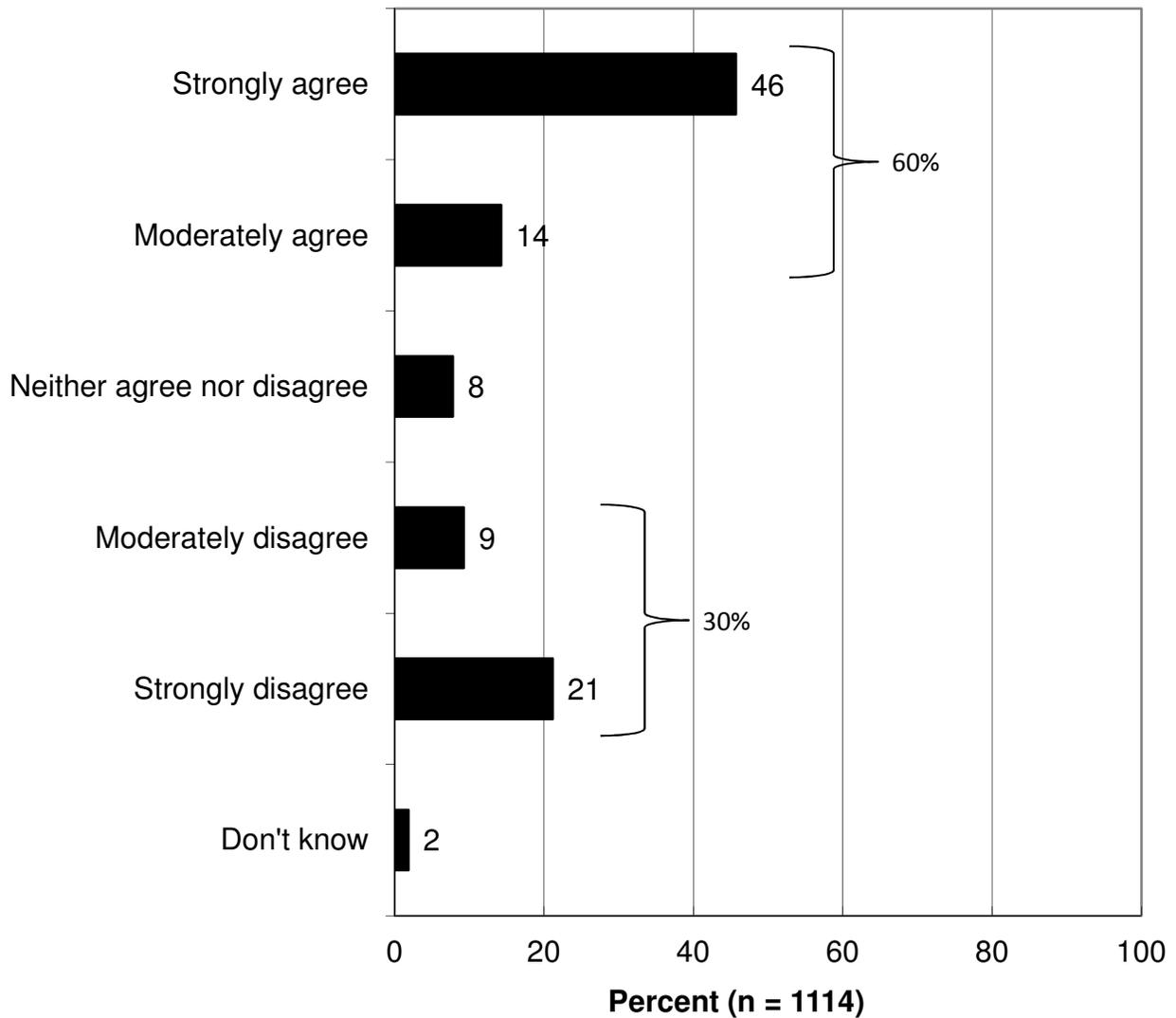
(“Refused” refers to refusing the age question.)

## OPINIONS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF SHOOTING OVER SUPPLEMENTAL FEED OR CORN

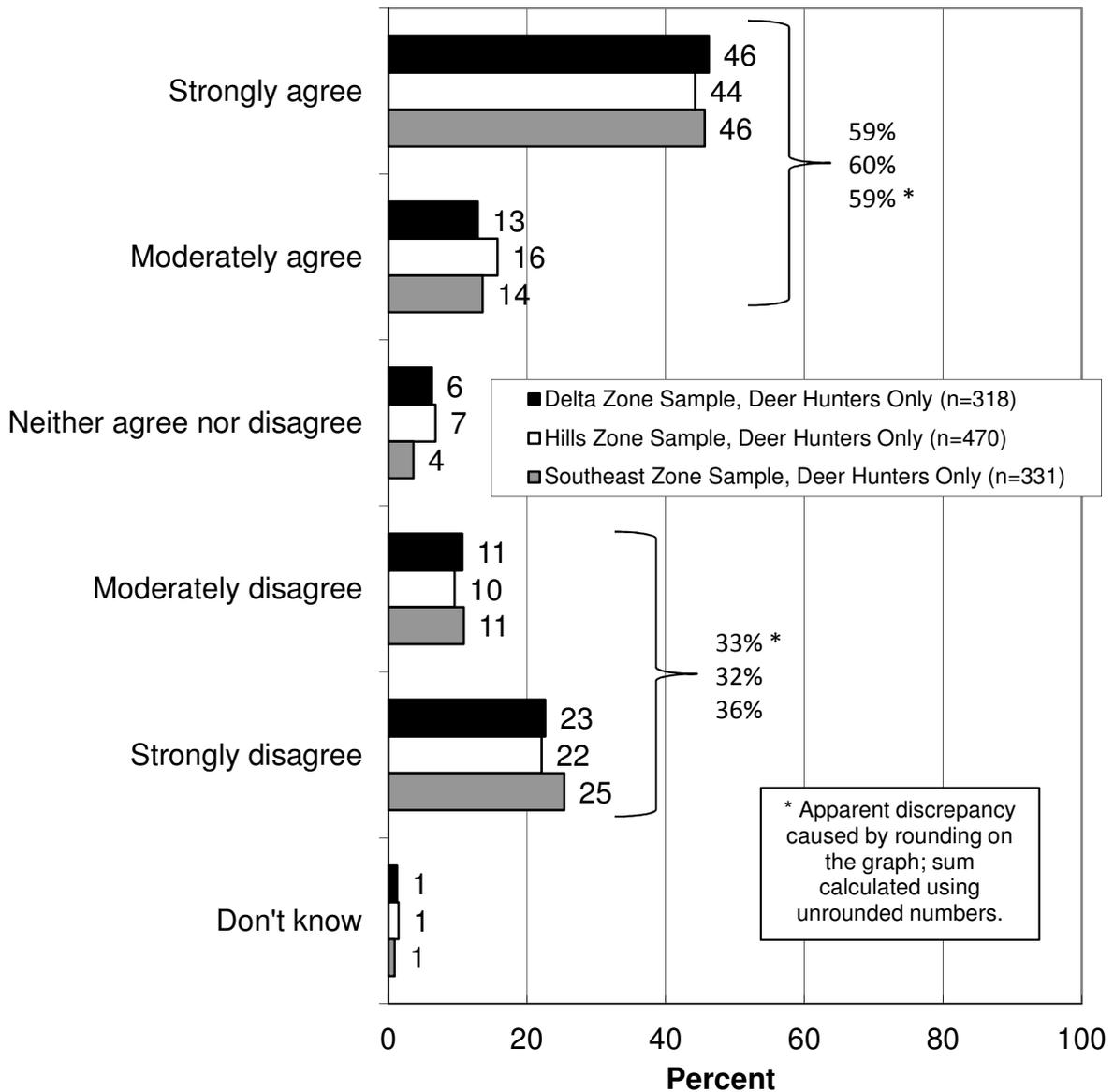
- Hunters were asked, in the scenario where shooting deer over supplemental feed or corn were allowed, if they would agree or disagree that there should be a minimum distance that a hunter should be from the feed/feeder: a majority of hunters agree (60%), most of that being *strong* agreement (46% *strongly* agree). Nonetheless, a substantial percentage disagree (30%), and most of that is *strong* disagreement (21% *strongly* disagree).
  - The crosstabulation by zones is shown, with only slight variation among zones.
  - The crosstabulation by hunting/deer hunting participation shows that those who did not hunt at all in the 2014-2015 season are slightly more likely to agree, compared to the other groups, and less likely to disagree.
  - The crosstabulation by resident/nonresident shows that residents are more likely to *strongly* agree than are nonresidents.
    - In follow up, those who agree were asked to indicate that minimum distance; the mean distance is 143 yards overall.
    - The crosstabulation by zone is also shown, with means ranging from 122 yards to 142 yards. (Note that the zone crosstabulation is of deer hunters only, which is why all of the means can be below the overall results.) Other crosstabulations are also shown.
  
- Another question regarding stipulations that could be part of a regulation concerning shooting over supplemental feed or corn is whether there should be a minimum property size or acreage on which feed or corn is placed. Hunters are about evenly split on this: 45% agree, but 40% disagree. Note that most agreement and disagreement is *strong* rather than *moderate*, suggesting that this issue is highly polarized.
  - The crosstabulation by zones is shown, with only slight variation among zones.
  - Those who did not hunt are more likely to *strongly* agree, compared to the other groups.
  - Residents are more likely to agree than are nonresidents.
    - Also in follow up, those who agree were asked about the minimum property size. Because some of the maximum amounts were relatively high (as much as 10,000 acres, which is well more than a square mile), the mean is relatively high overall and for each zone; for this reason, the median values are shown instead for this question.

- Finally in this section, the survey asked hunters if they would approve or disapprove of the removal of the line of sight restriction from the current supplemental feed regulations. While there is more approval than disapproval, the latter is substantial, suggesting that there is no consensus: 52% approve, but 34% disapprove.
  - The most approval is among deer hunters in the Southeast Zone (62% approve); the least approval is in the Delta Zone (49% approve).
  - The crosstabulation by hunting/deer hunting participation shows that those who hunted deer are the more likely to agree than are those in the other two groups.
  - The crosstabulation by resident/nonresident finds the two groups to be about the same on this issue.

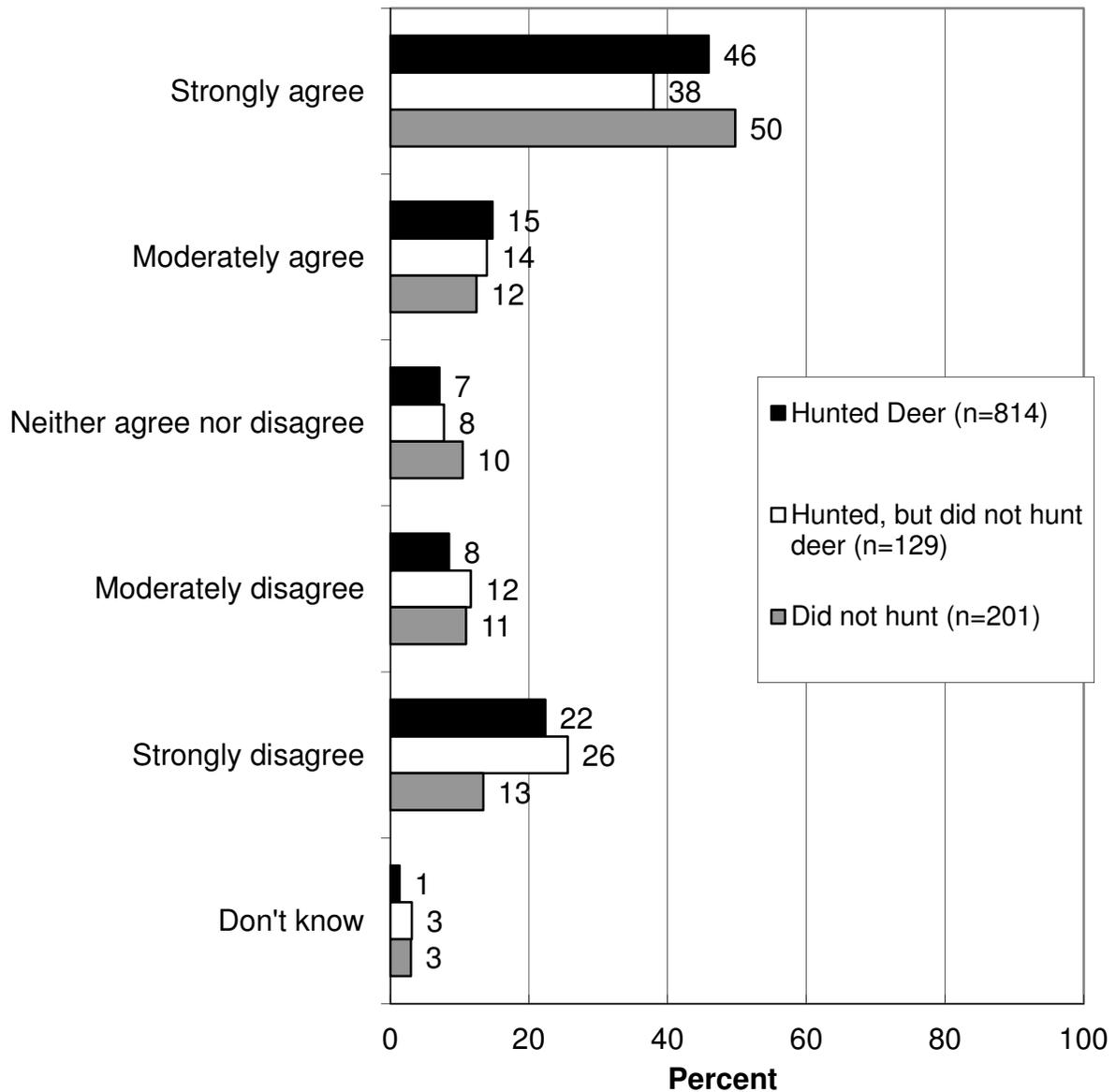
**Q38. If shooting deer over supplemental feed or corn were to be allowed in Mississippi, do you agree or disagree that there should be a minimum distance that a hunter should be required to be from the feed or feeder?**



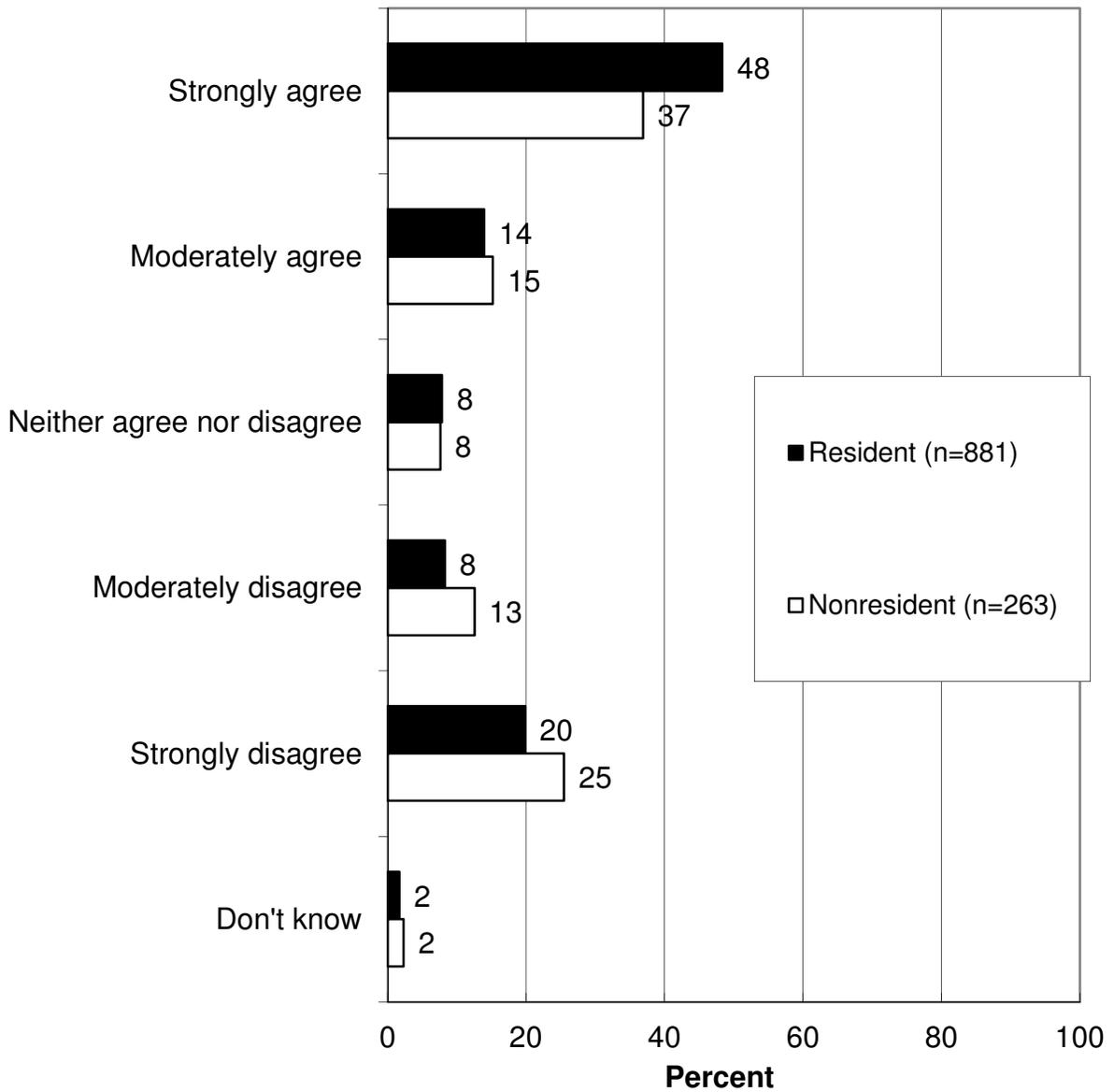
**Q38. If shooting deer over supplemental feed or corn were to be allowed in Mississippi, do you agree or disagree that there should be a minimum distance that a hunter should be required to be from the feed or feeder?**



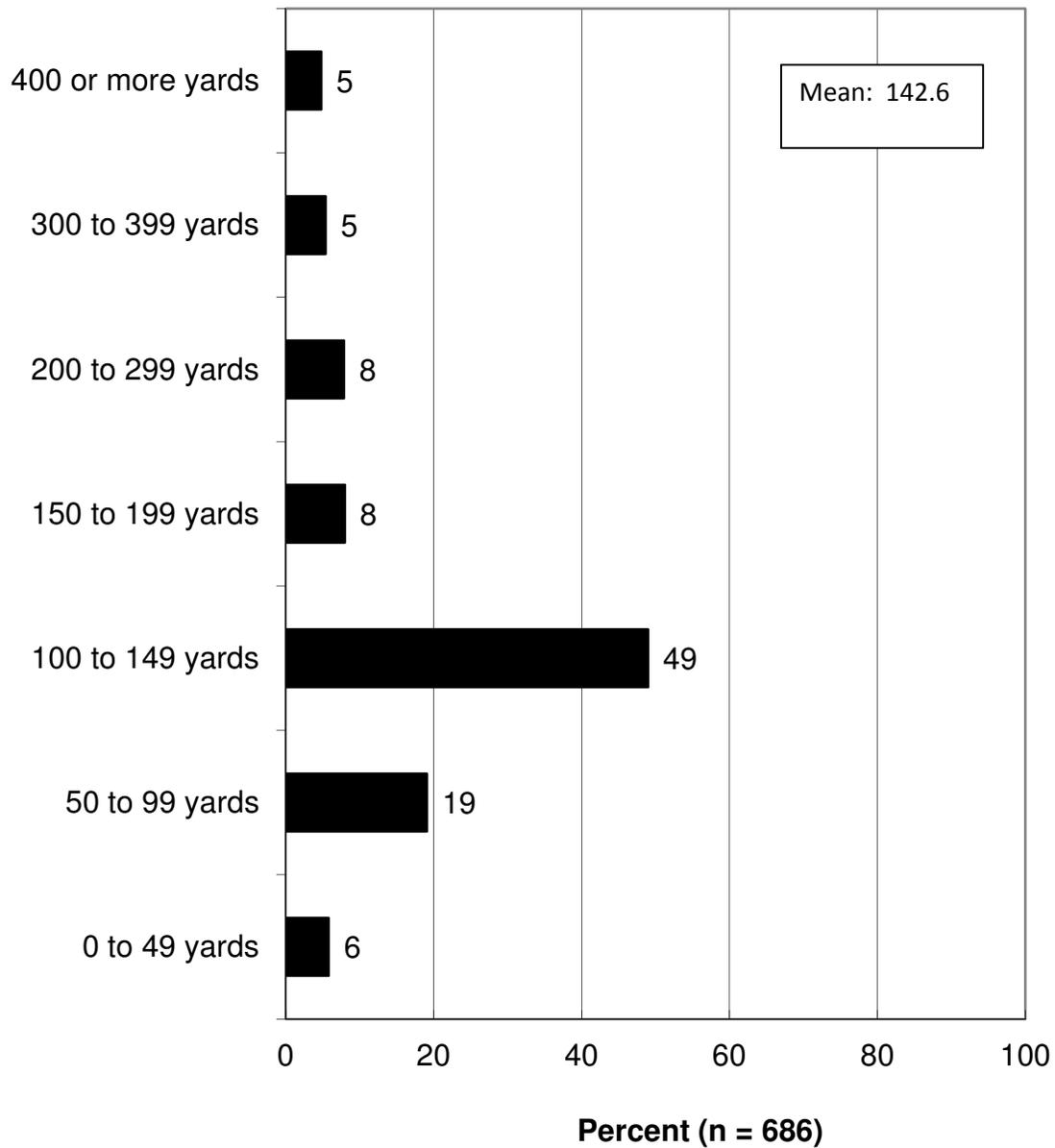
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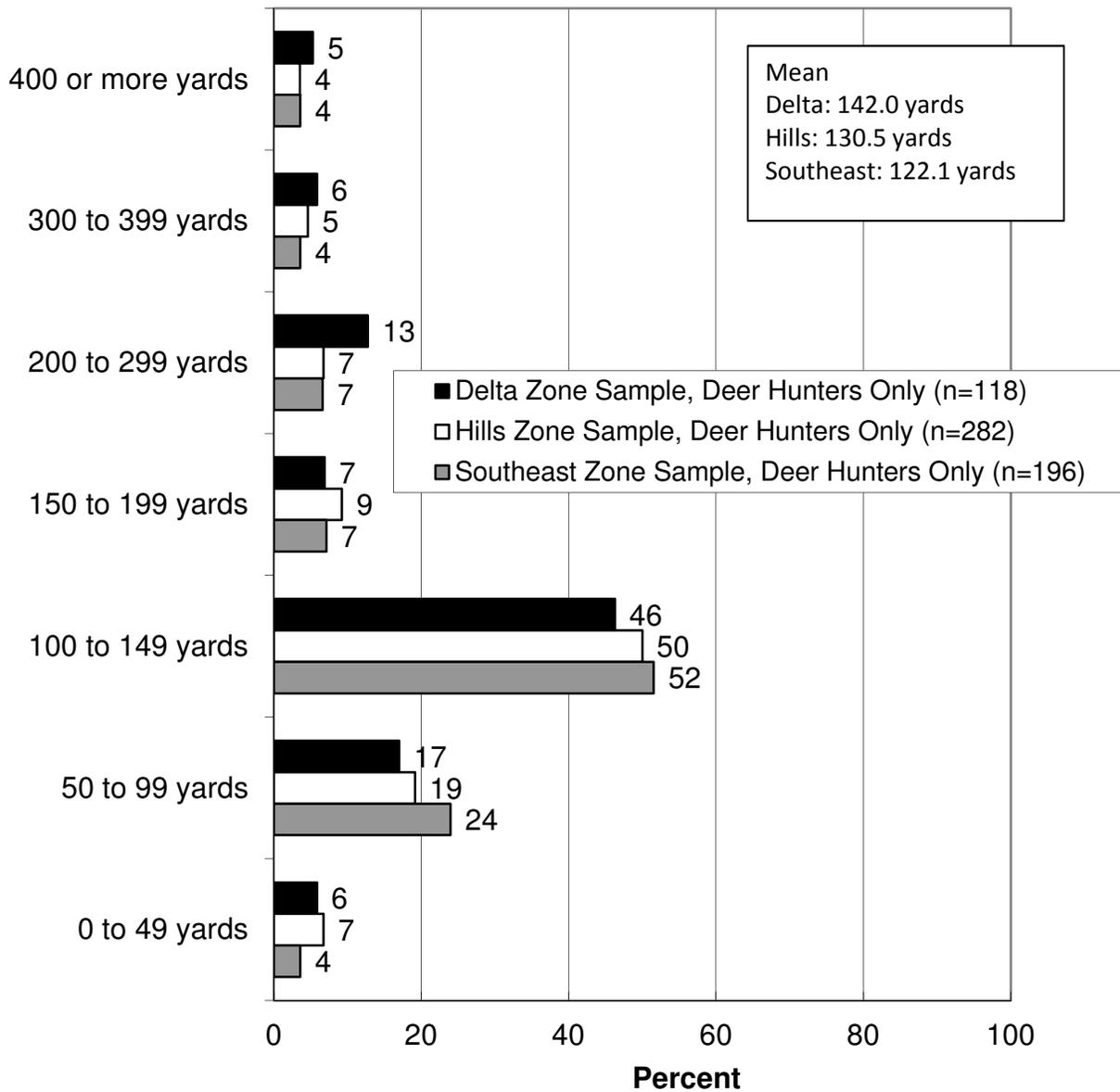
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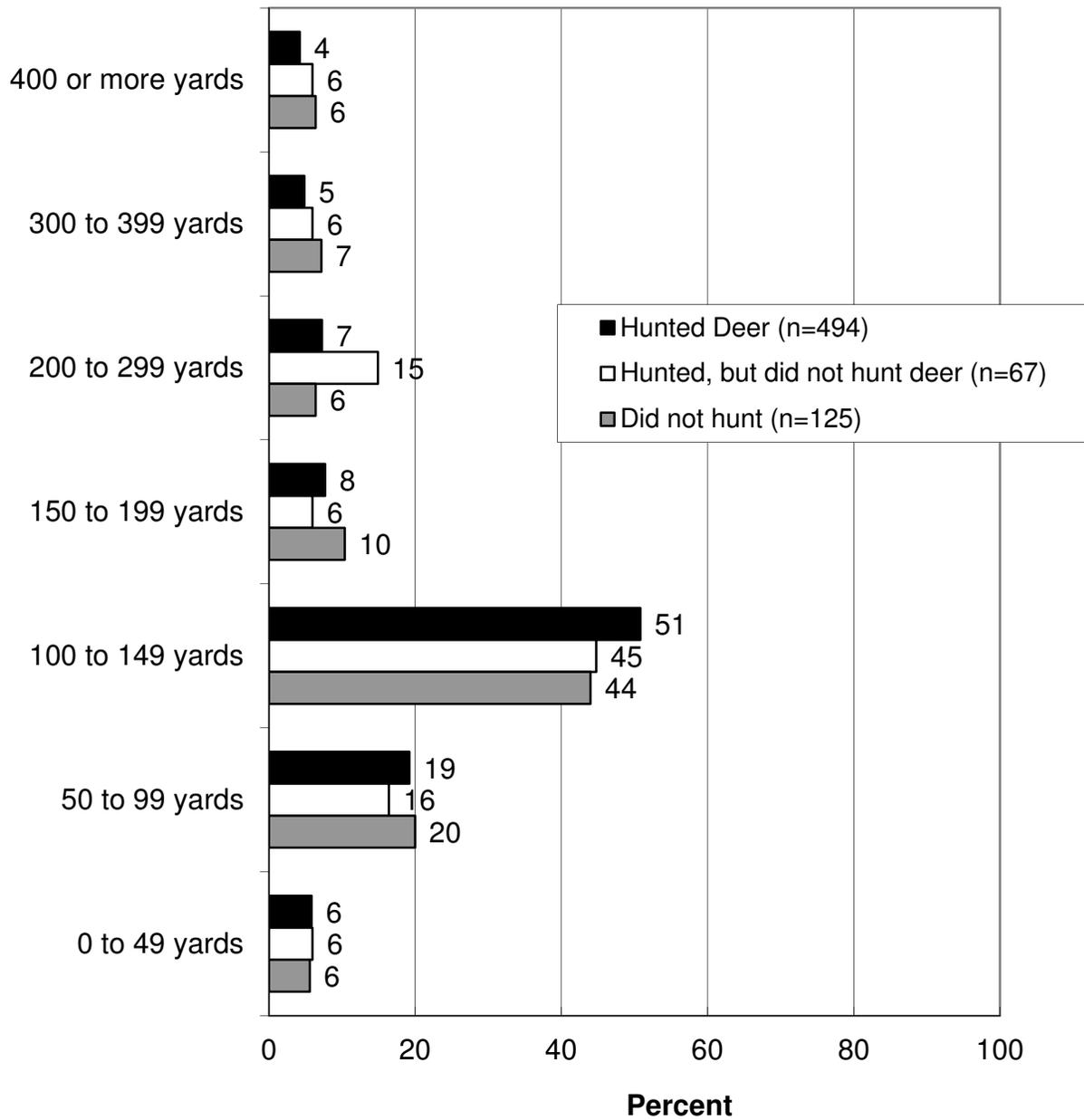
**Q40. What is the minimum distance, in yards, that you think a hunter should be required to be from the feed or feeder? (Asked of those who agree there should be a minimum distance.)**



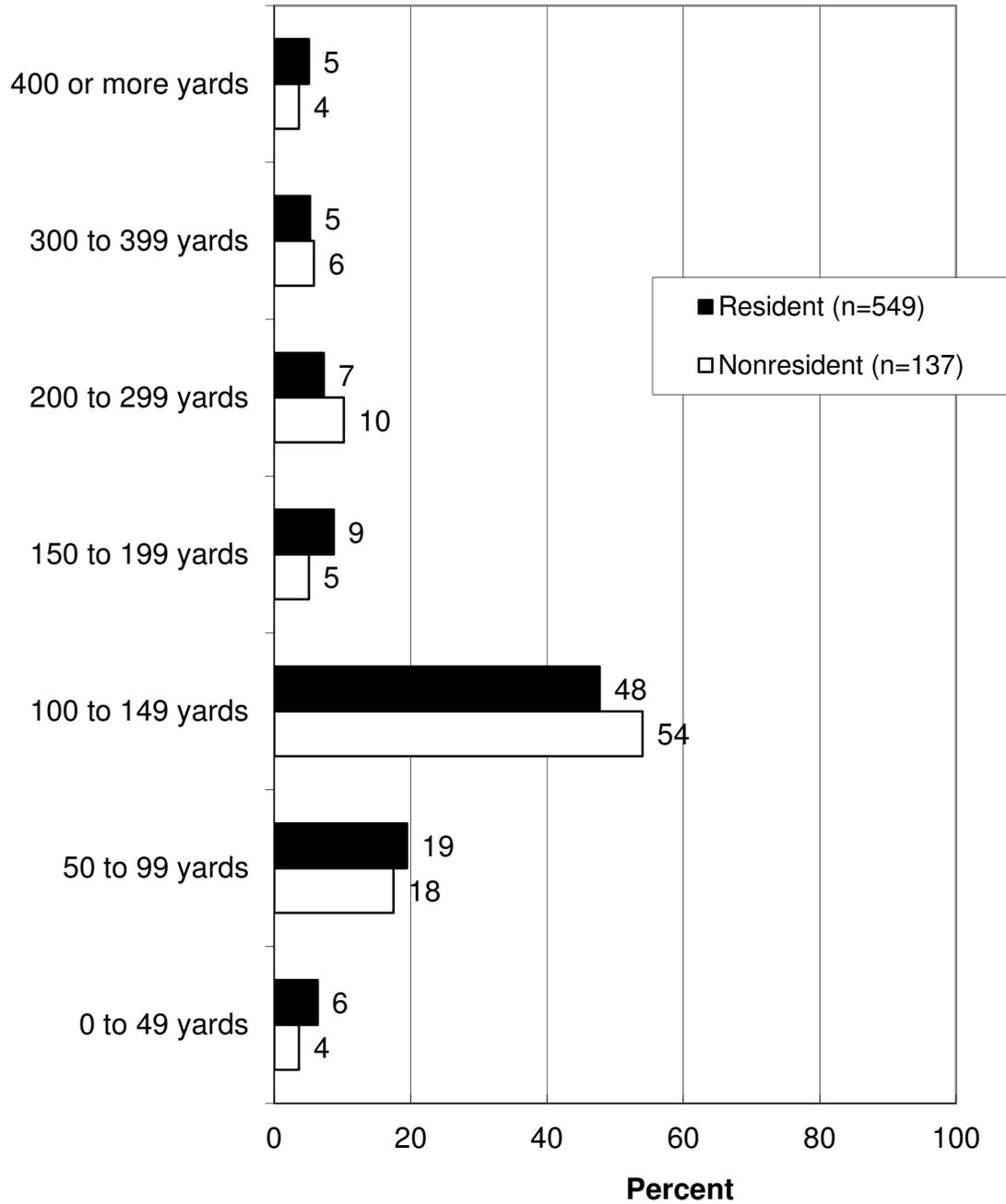
**Q40. What is the minimum distance, in yards, that you think a hunter should be required to be from the feed or feeder? (Asked of those who agree there should be a minimum distance.)**



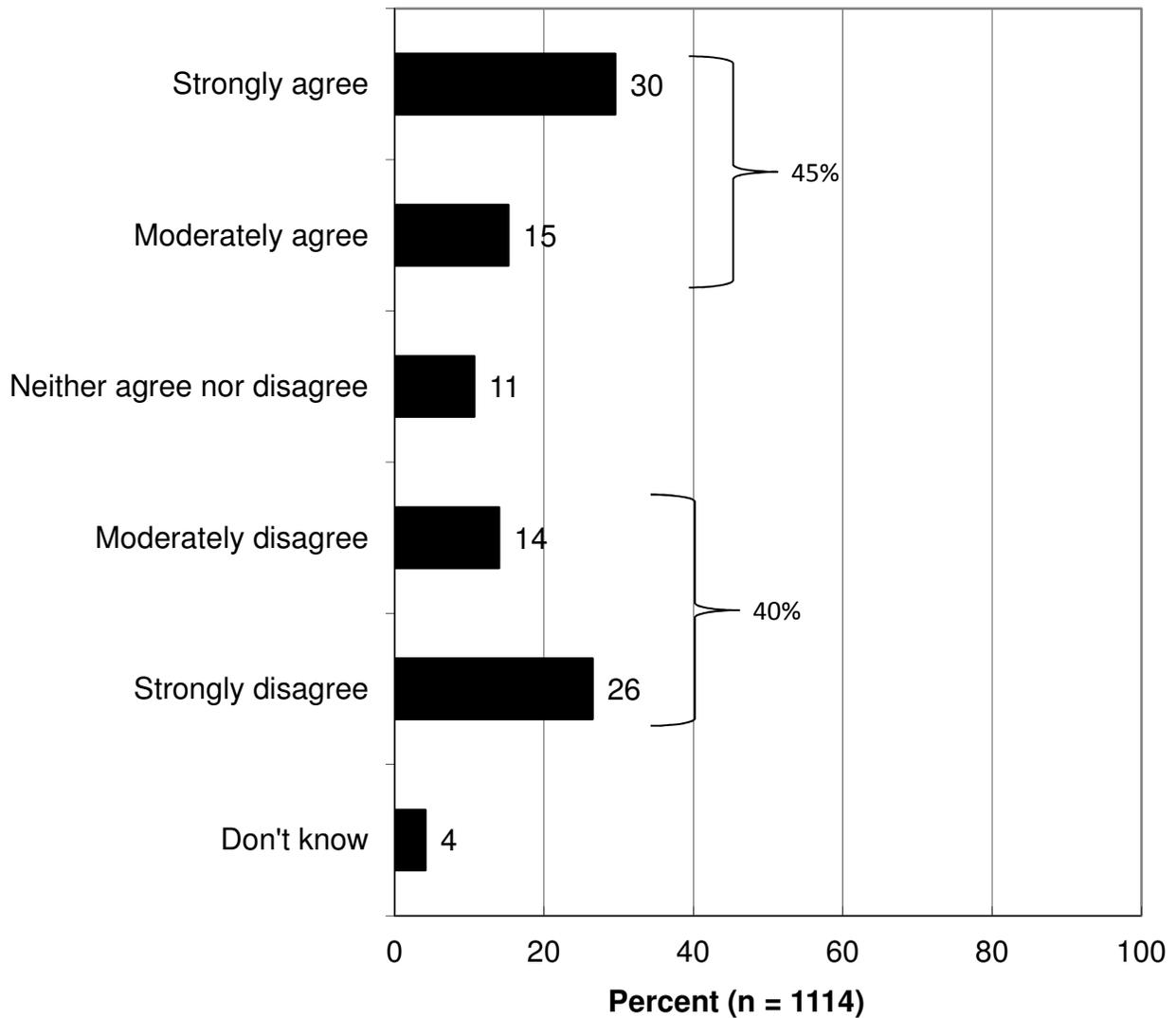
**Q40. What is the minimum distance, in yards, that you think a hunter should be required to be from the feed or feeder? (Asked of those who agree there should be a minimum distance.)**



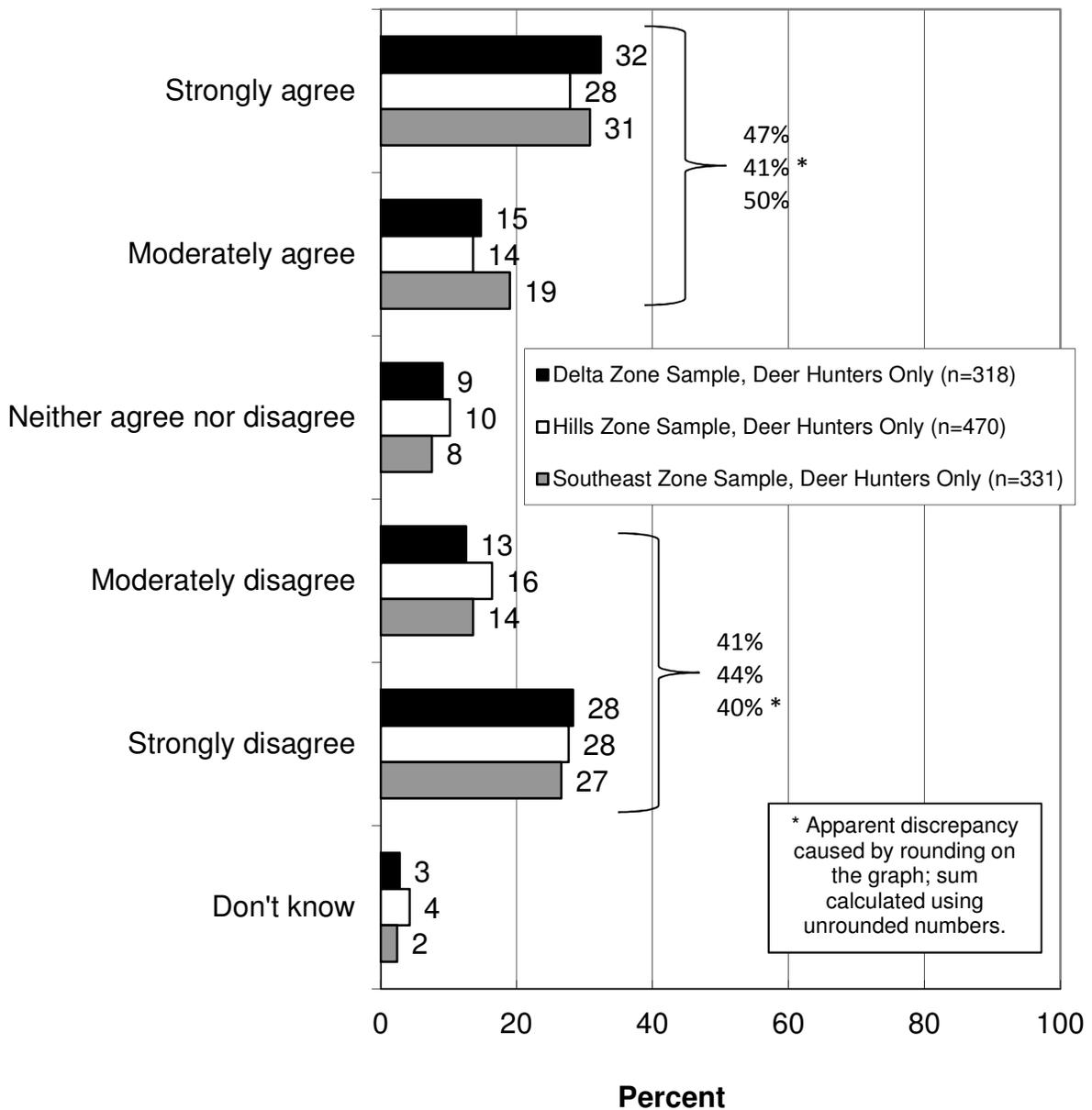
**Q40. What is the minimum distance, in yards, that you think a hunter should be required to be from the feed or feeder? (Asked of those who agree there should be a minimum distance.)**



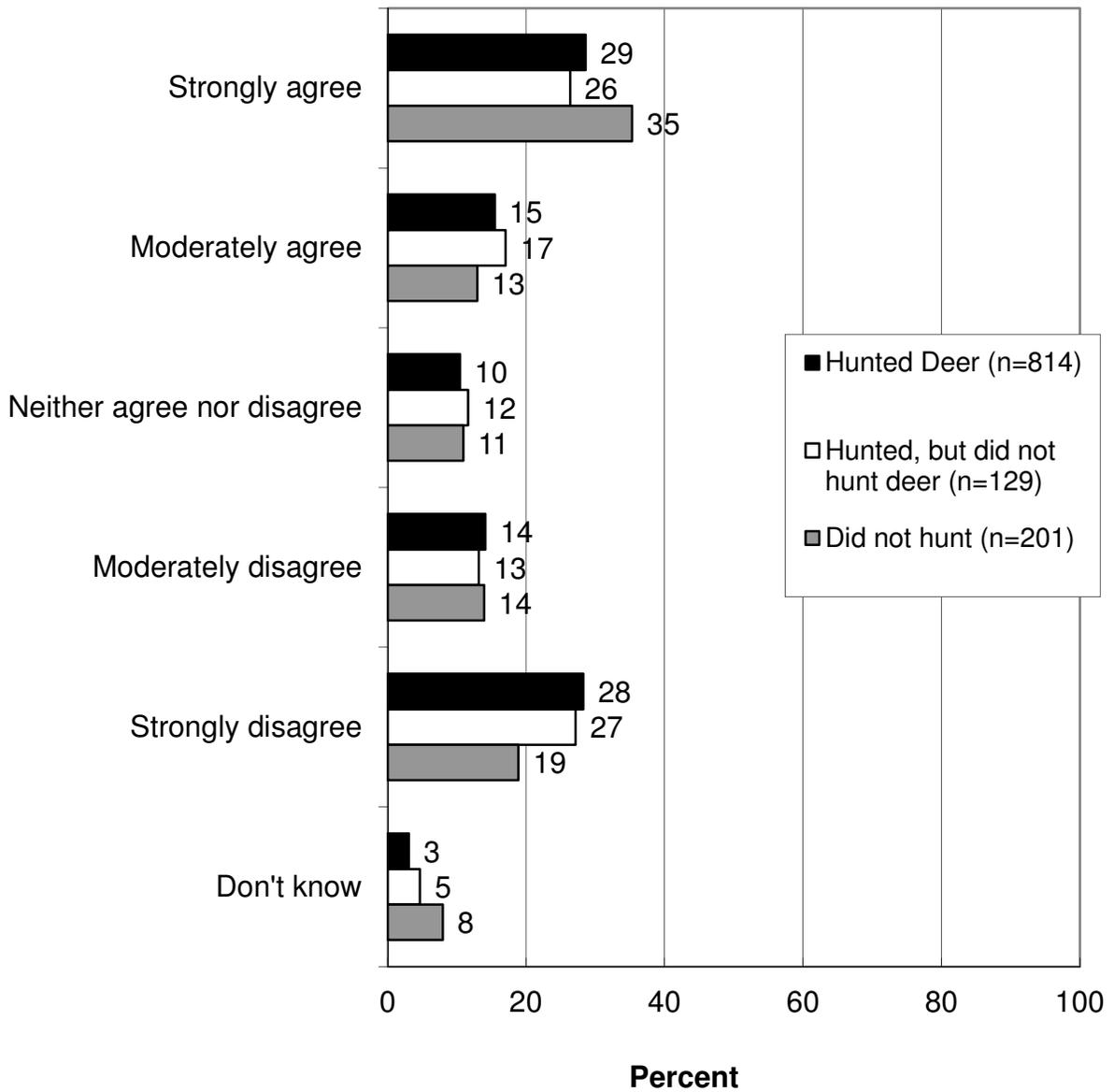
**Q41. If shooting deer over supplemental feed or corn were to be allowed in Mississippi, do you agree or disagree that there should be a minimum property size or acreage on which the feed or corn is placed?**



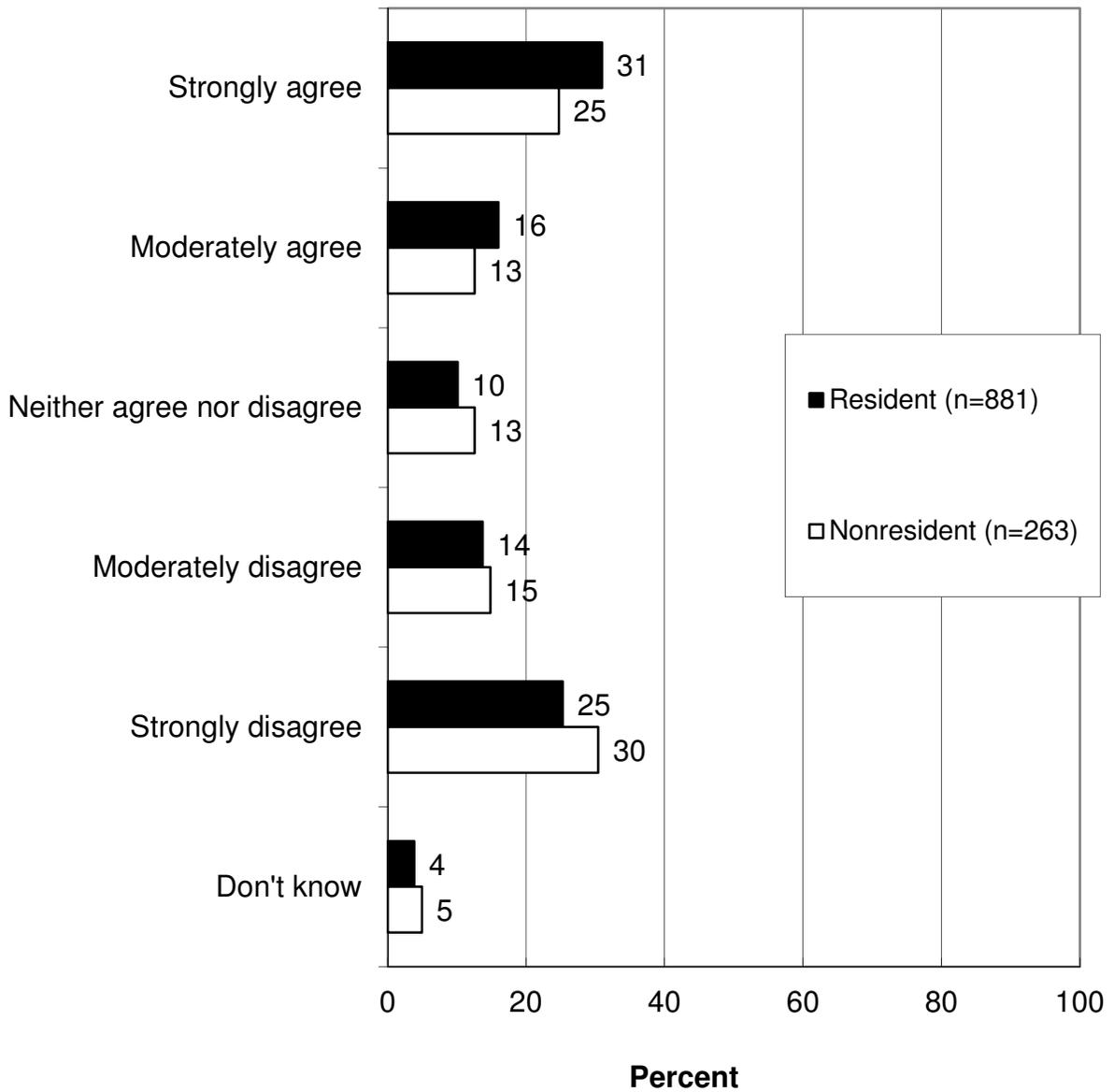
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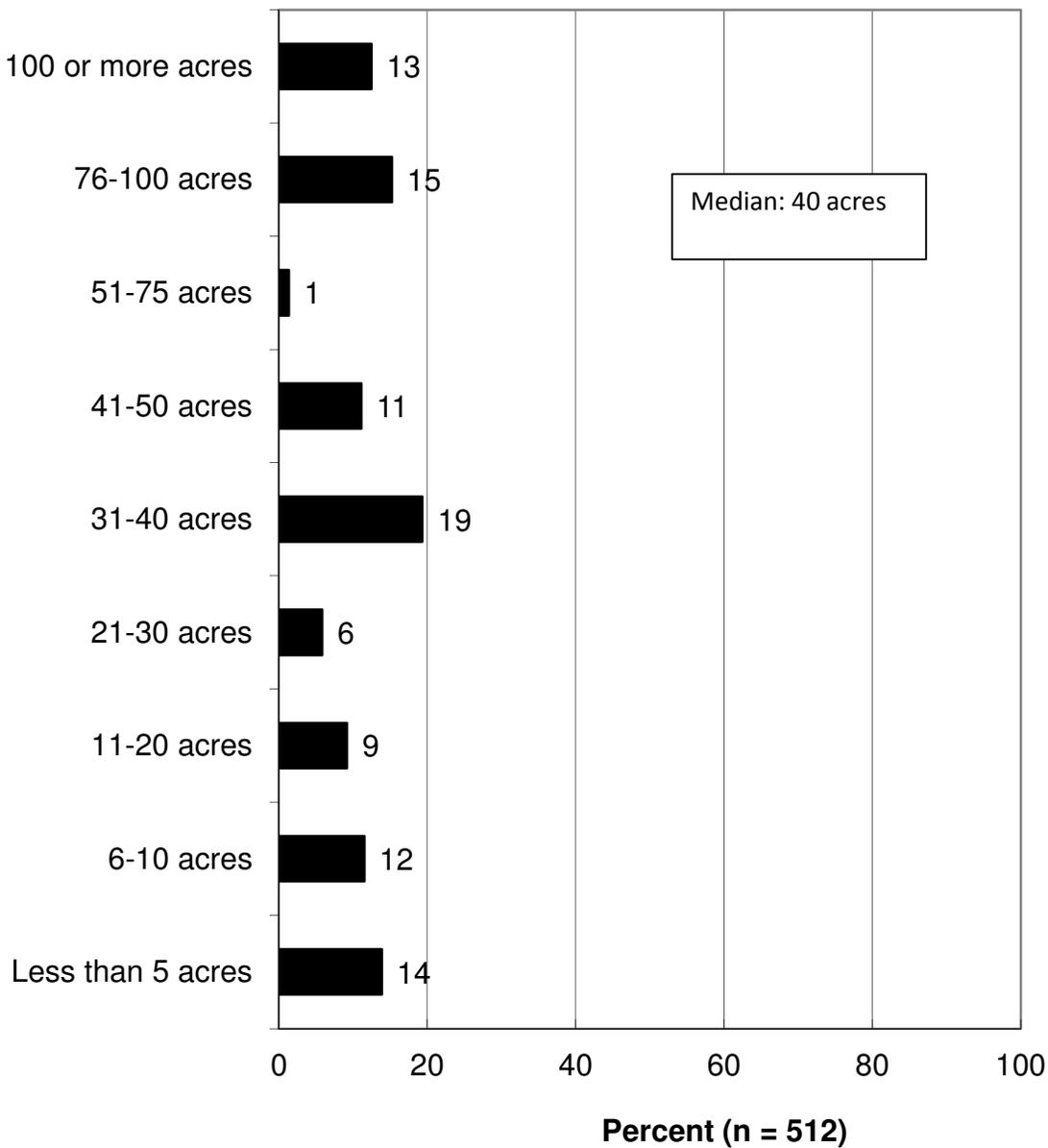
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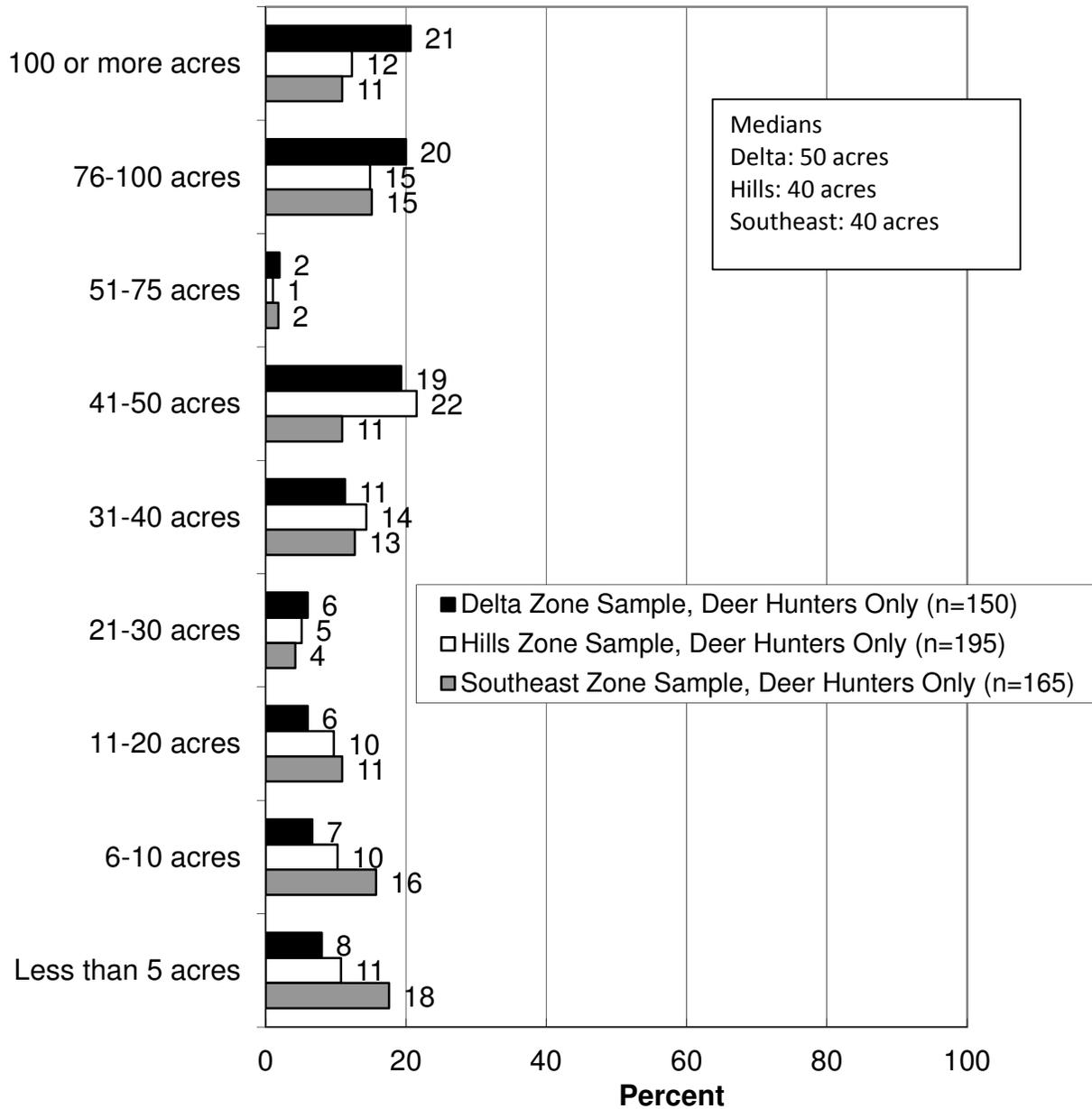
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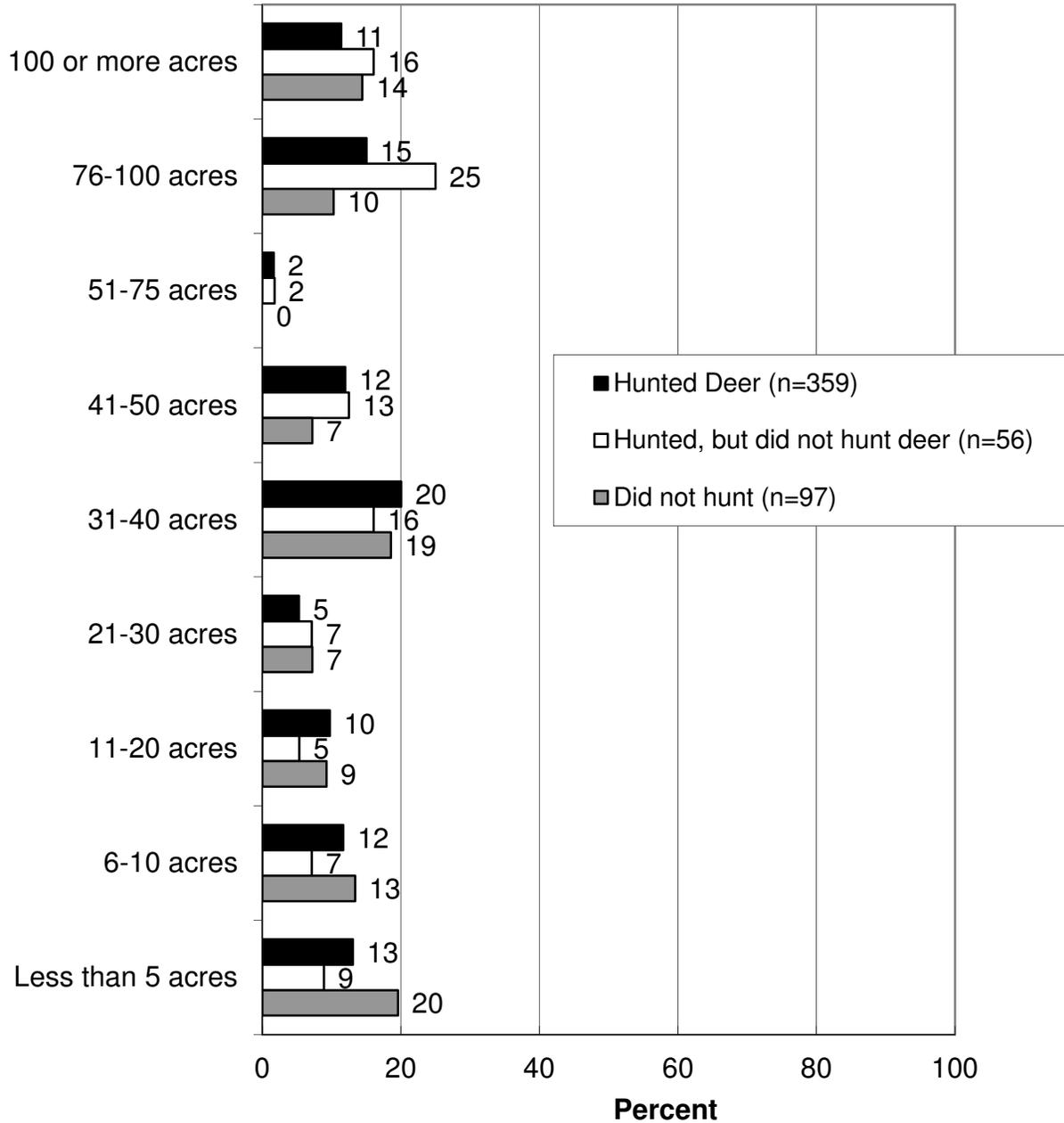
**Q43. What is the minimum size, in acres, that you think a property should be required to be for supplemental feed or corn? (asked of those who agree there should be a minimum size)**



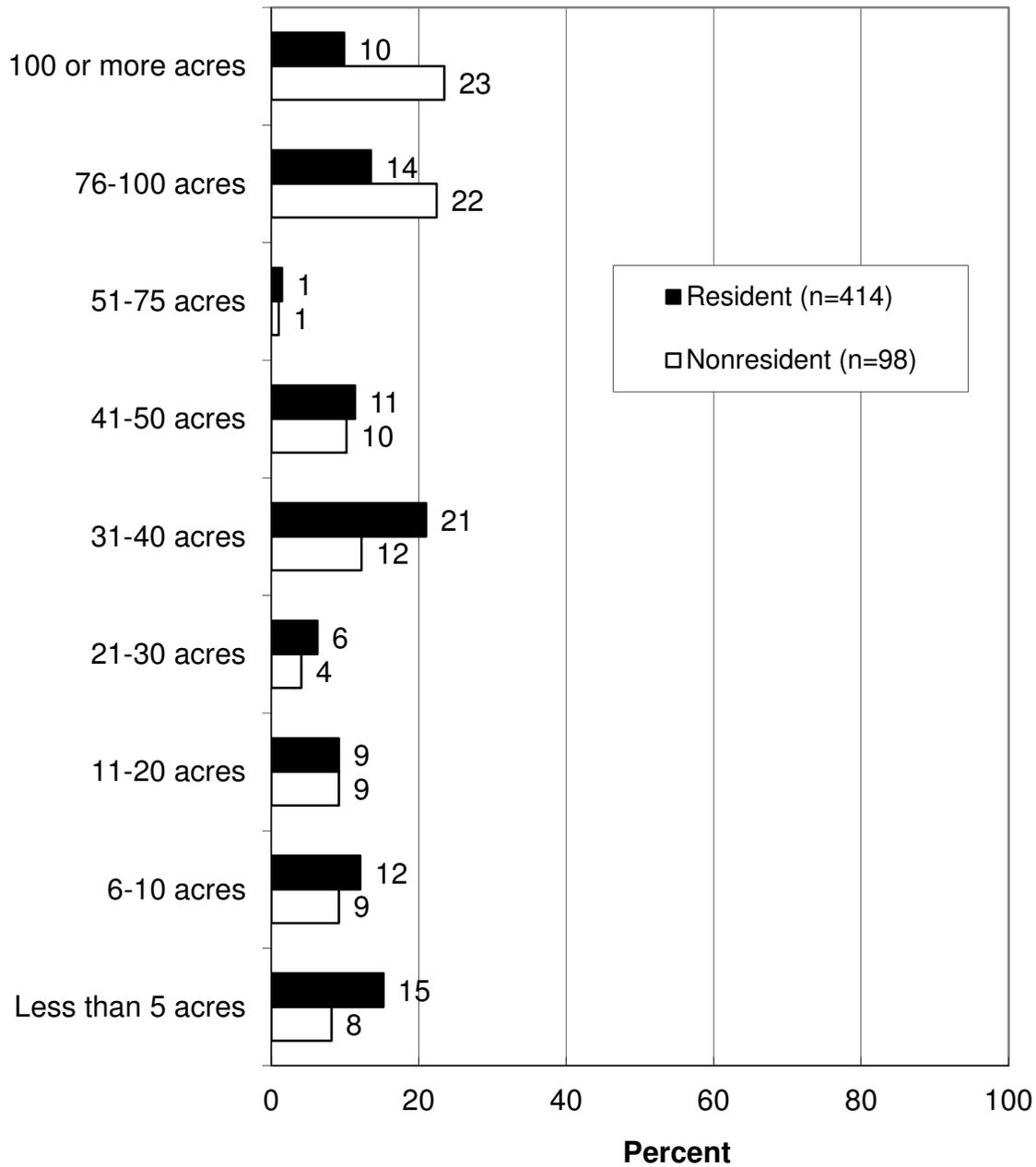
**Q43. What is the minimum size, in acres, that you think a property should be required to be for supplemental feed or corn? (asked of those who agree there should be a minimum size)**



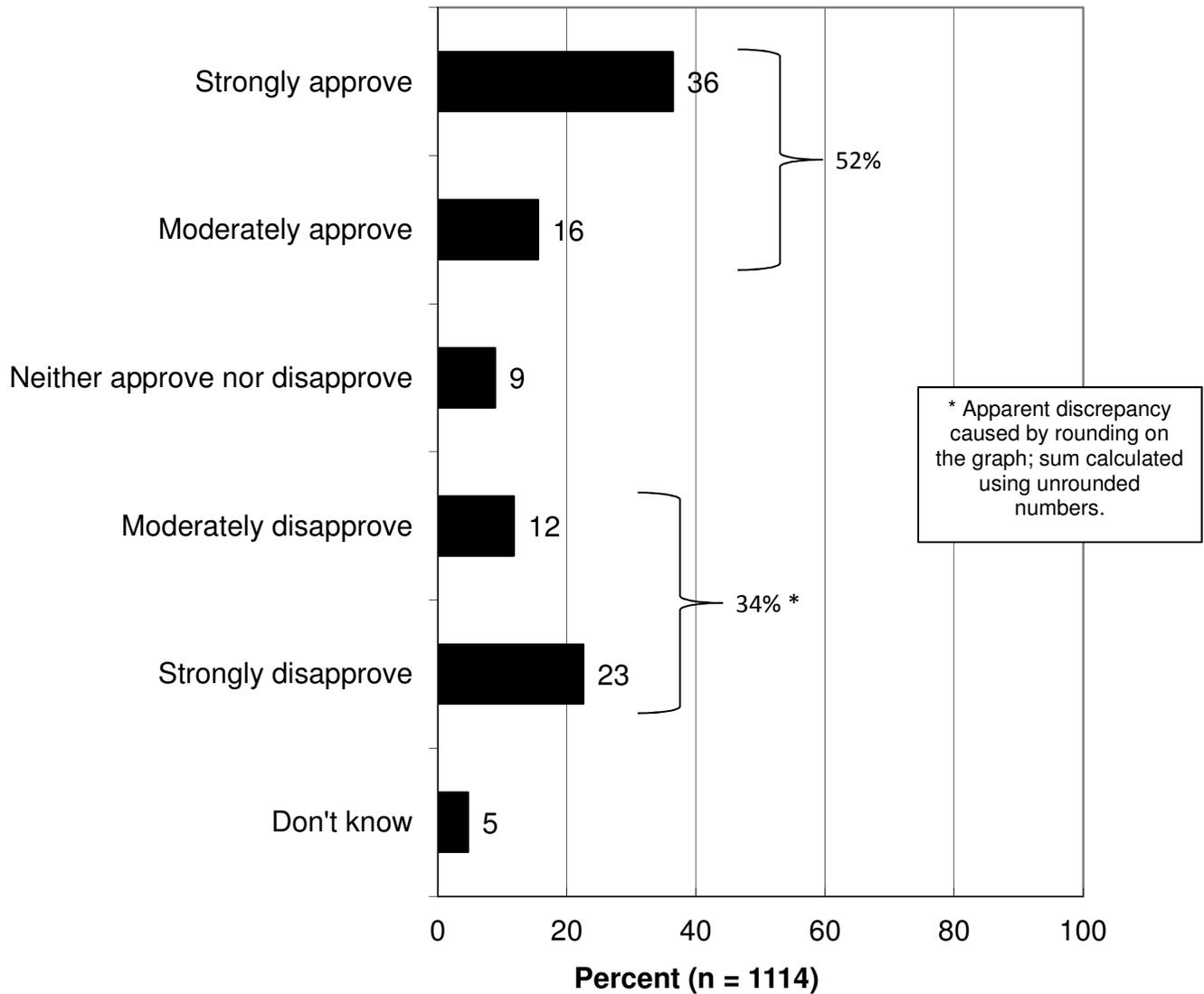
**Q43. What is the minimum size, in acres, that you think a property should be required to be for supplemental feed or corn? (asked of those who agree there should be a minimum size)**



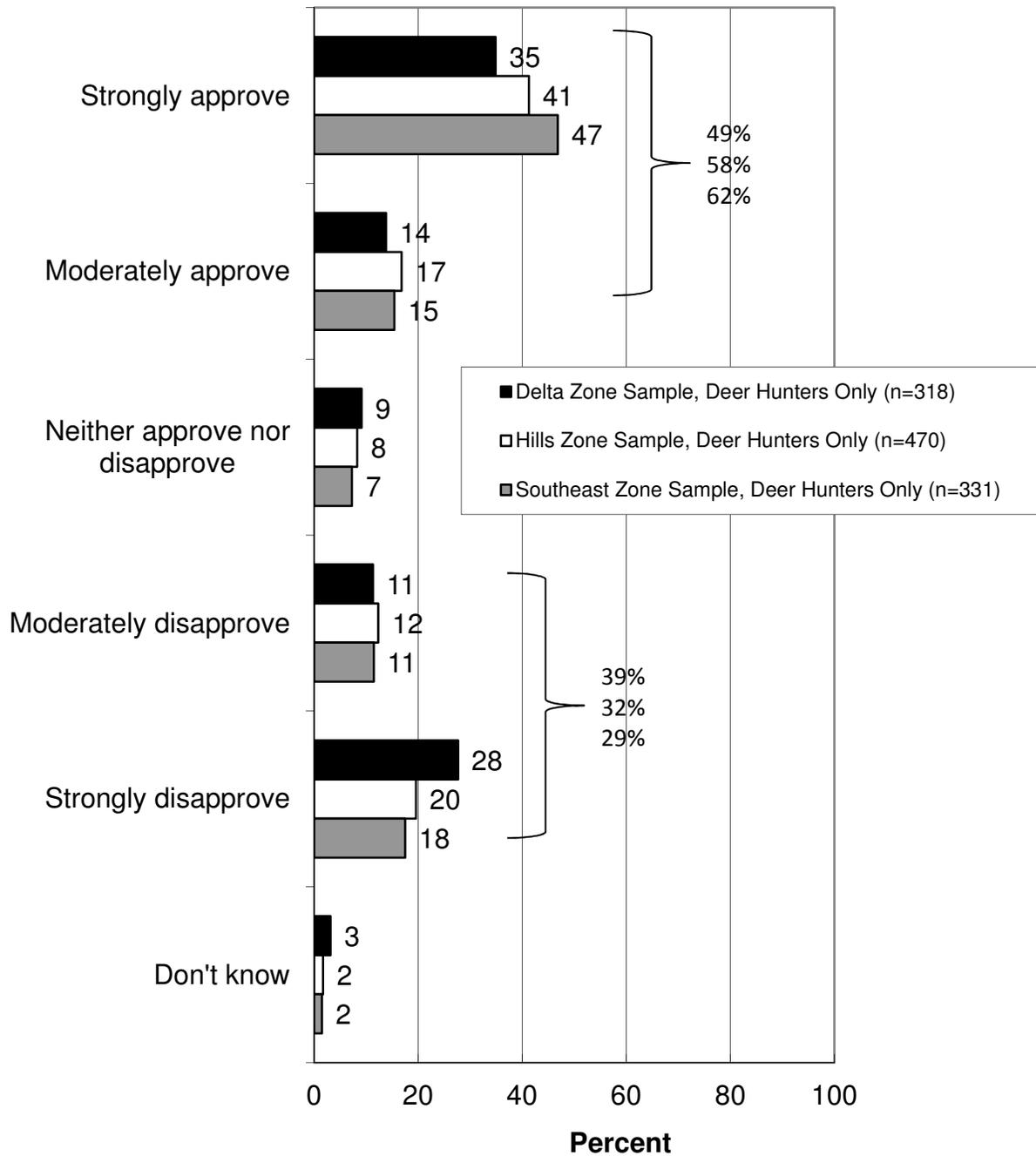
**Q43. What is the minimum size, in acres, that you think a property should be required to be for supplemental feed or corn? (asked of those who agree there should be a minimum size)**



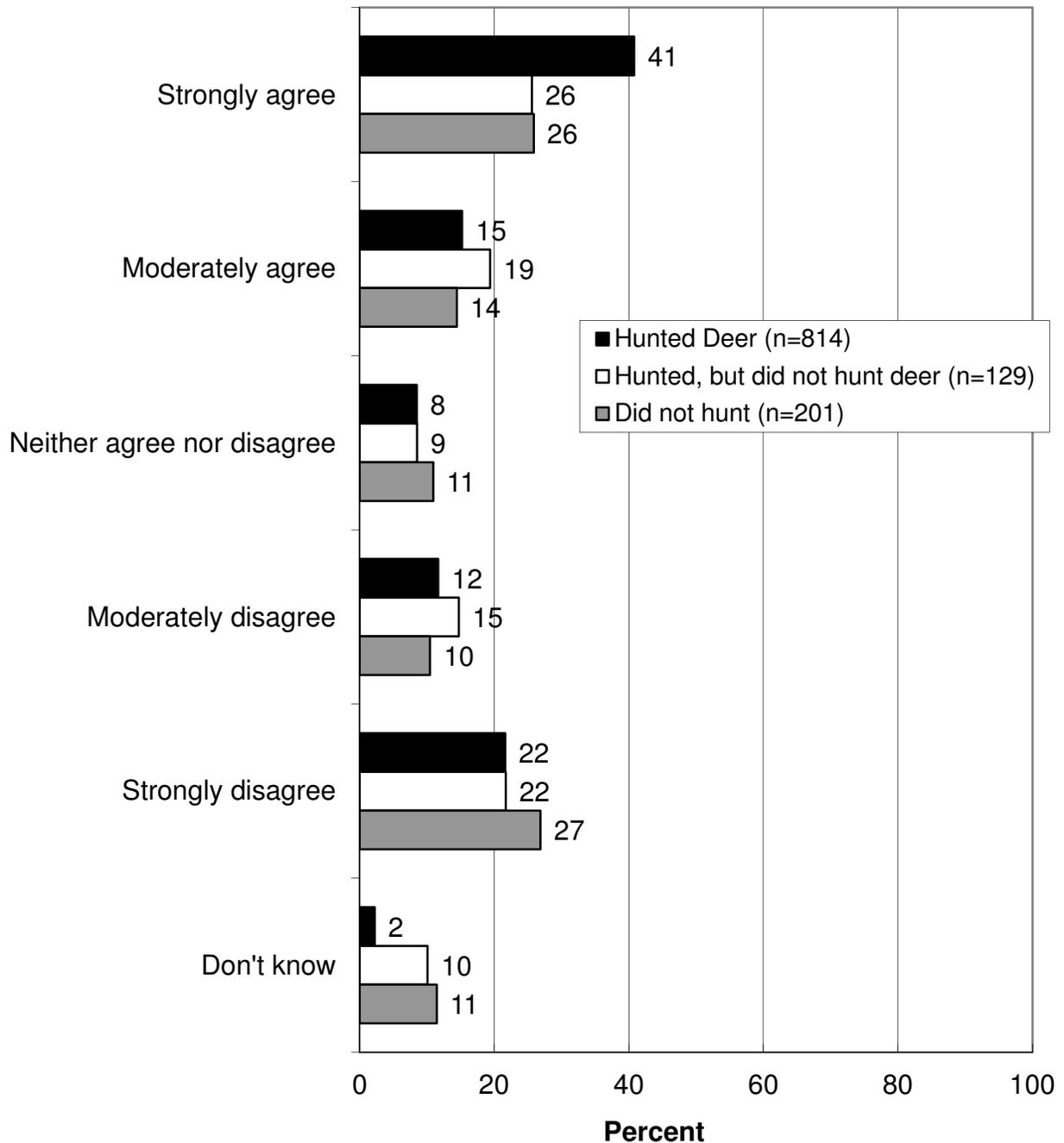
**Q44. Do you approve or disapprove of removing the line of sight restriction from the current supplemental feed regulations?**



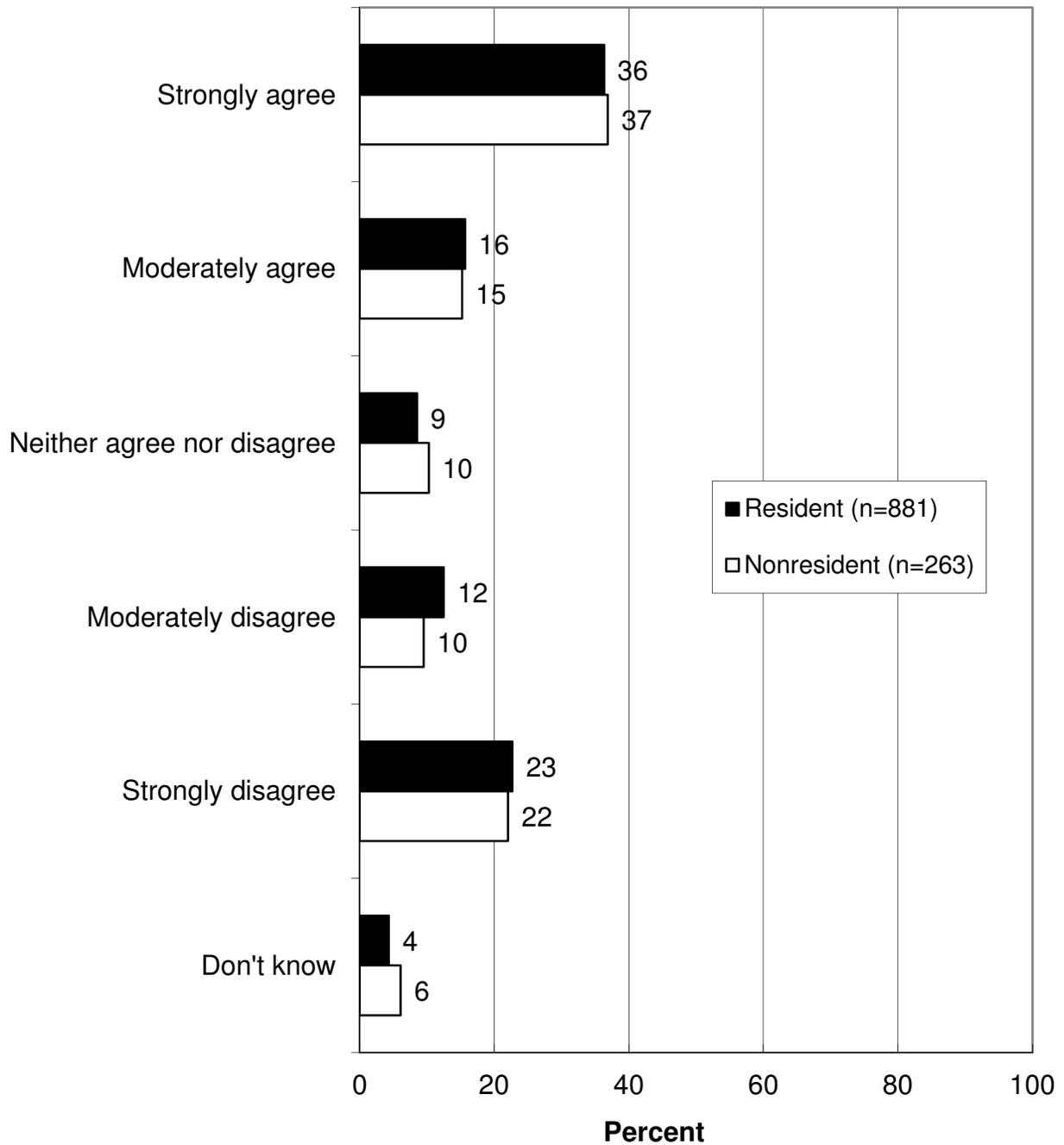
**Q44. Do you approve or disapprove of removing the line of sight restriction from the current supplemental feed regulations?**



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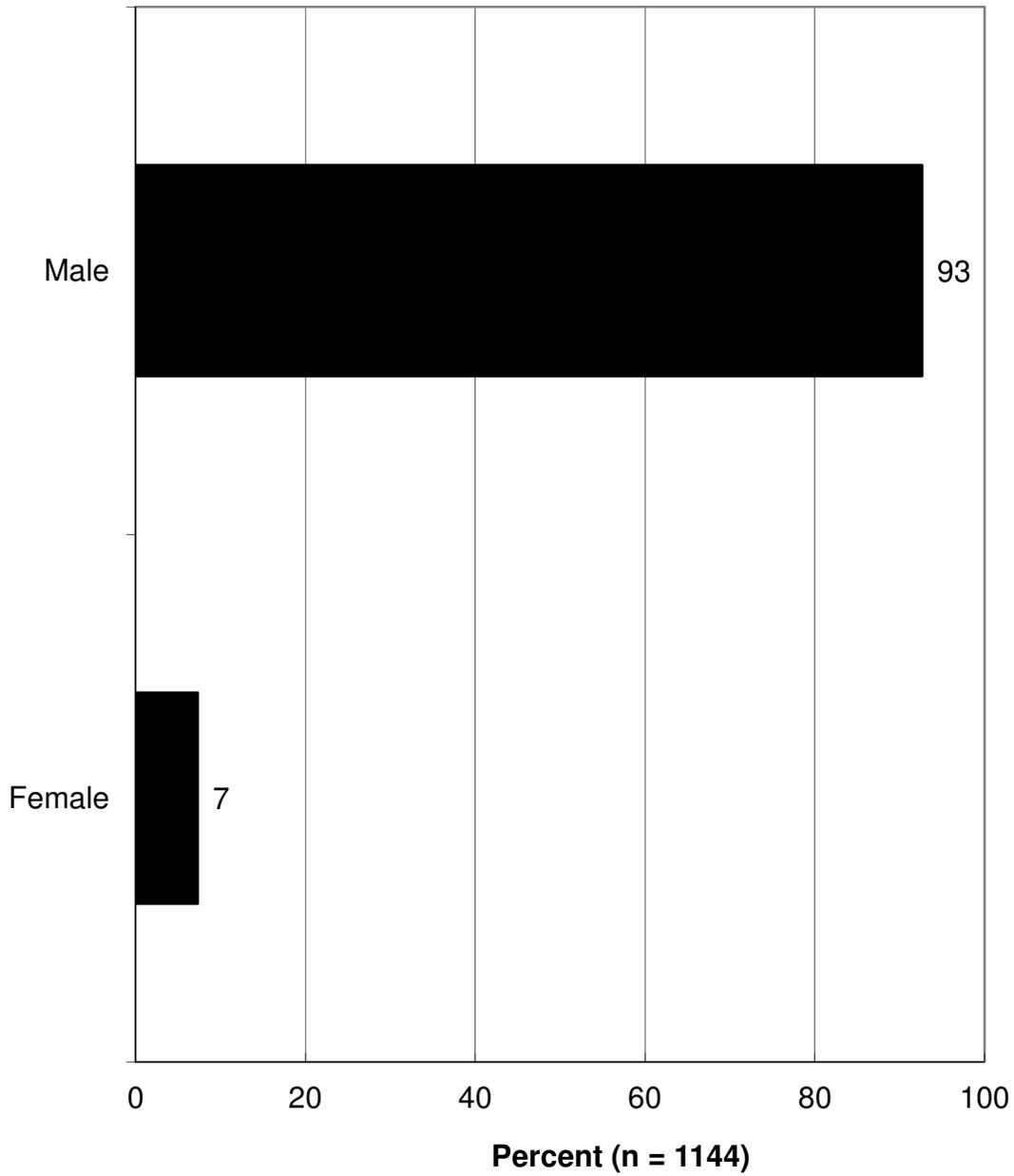
**Q44. Do you approve or disapprove of removing the line of sight restriction from the current supplemental feed regulations?**



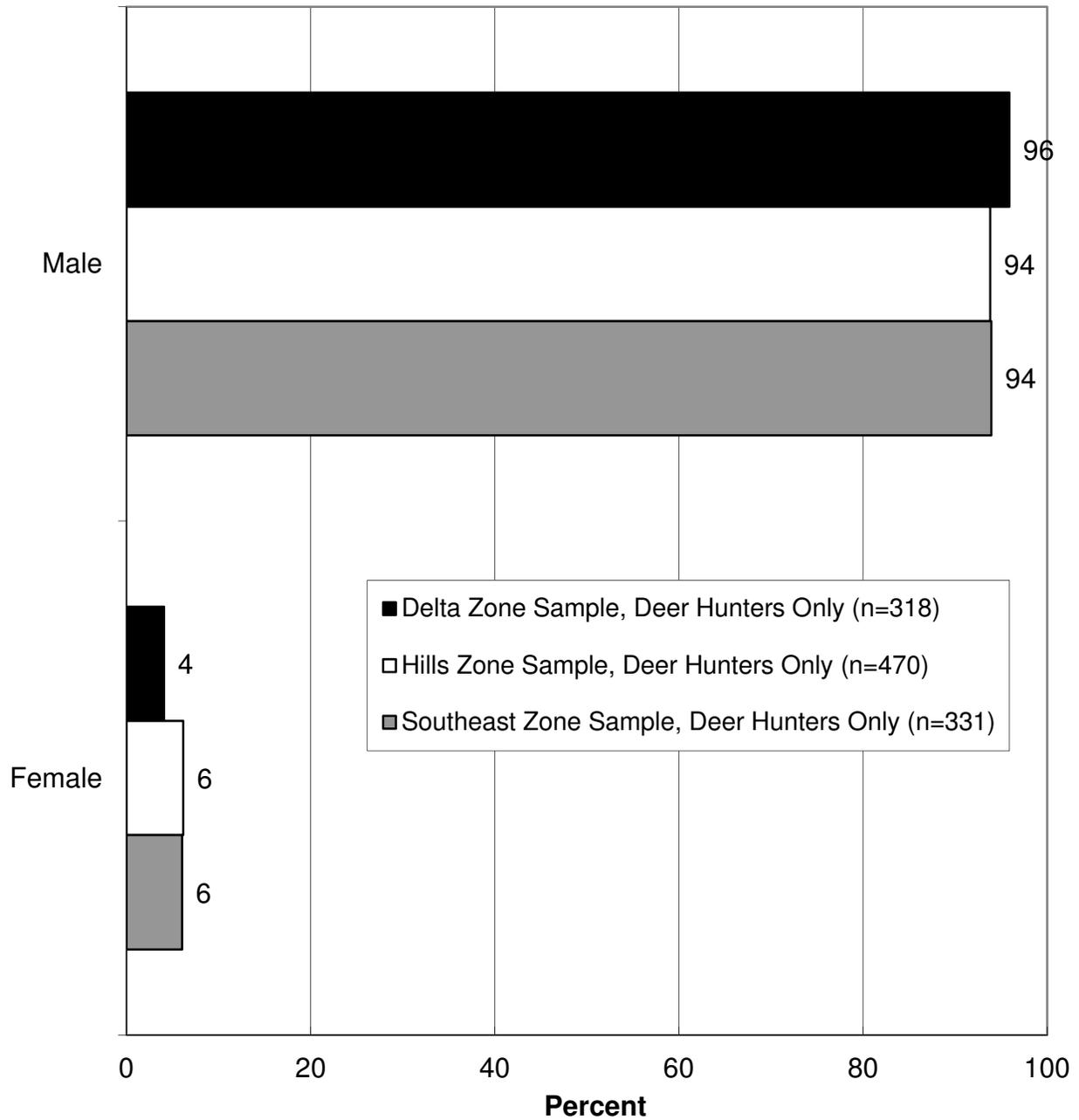
## CHARACTERISTICS OF HUNTERS IN THE SURVEY

- The demographic data obtained in the survey included gender and age.
  - Overall, hunters in the survey statewide were 93% men and 7% women. This proportional breakdown was fairly consistent in the three zones.
  - The age breakdown is also shown, in general following a bell curve, with the peak in the 45-54 year old category, again with a consistent pattern in the crosstabulation by zones.
  - The other crosstabulations are shown, as well.
  
- The survey asked about several aspects of hunting (participation, days, land type, and location).
  - Participation—Of the entire sample of license holders, 82% hunted in Mississippi last season (2014-2015), and 71% hunted for deer.
    - This question was used as the groupings for some of the crosstabulations: those who hunted for deer; those who hunted, but not for deer; and those who did not hunt.
  - Days—The mean among hunters overall is 20.0 days. The means in the zones range from 19.5 days to 21.3 days.
  - Land type—Private land is, by far, the most popular for hunting deer in Mississippi. Overall, 80% of hunters hunt deer mostly on private land, while only 8% say that they do so mostly on public land (the remainder do so on both about equally).
    - While private land predominates in each zone, there are some slight differences by zone, with the most public land hunting being done in the Southeast Zone.
  - Location—The Hills Zone was the most popular zone in which to hunt: 48% of hunters hunted there most often. Otherwise, the Delta Zone (25%) and the Southeast Zone (22%) were hunted most often by similar percentages.

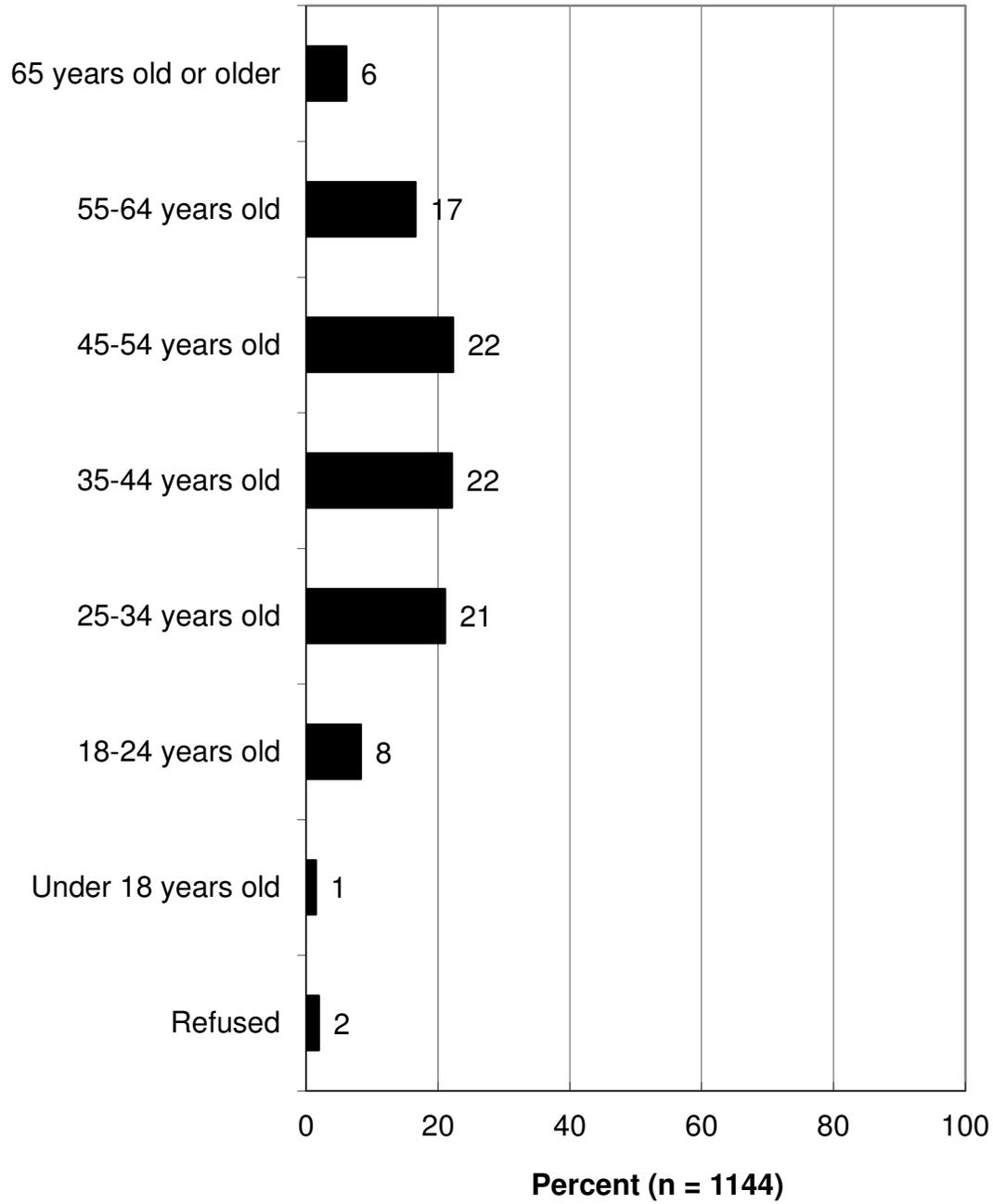
**Q54. Respondent's gender (not asked; observed by interviewer).**



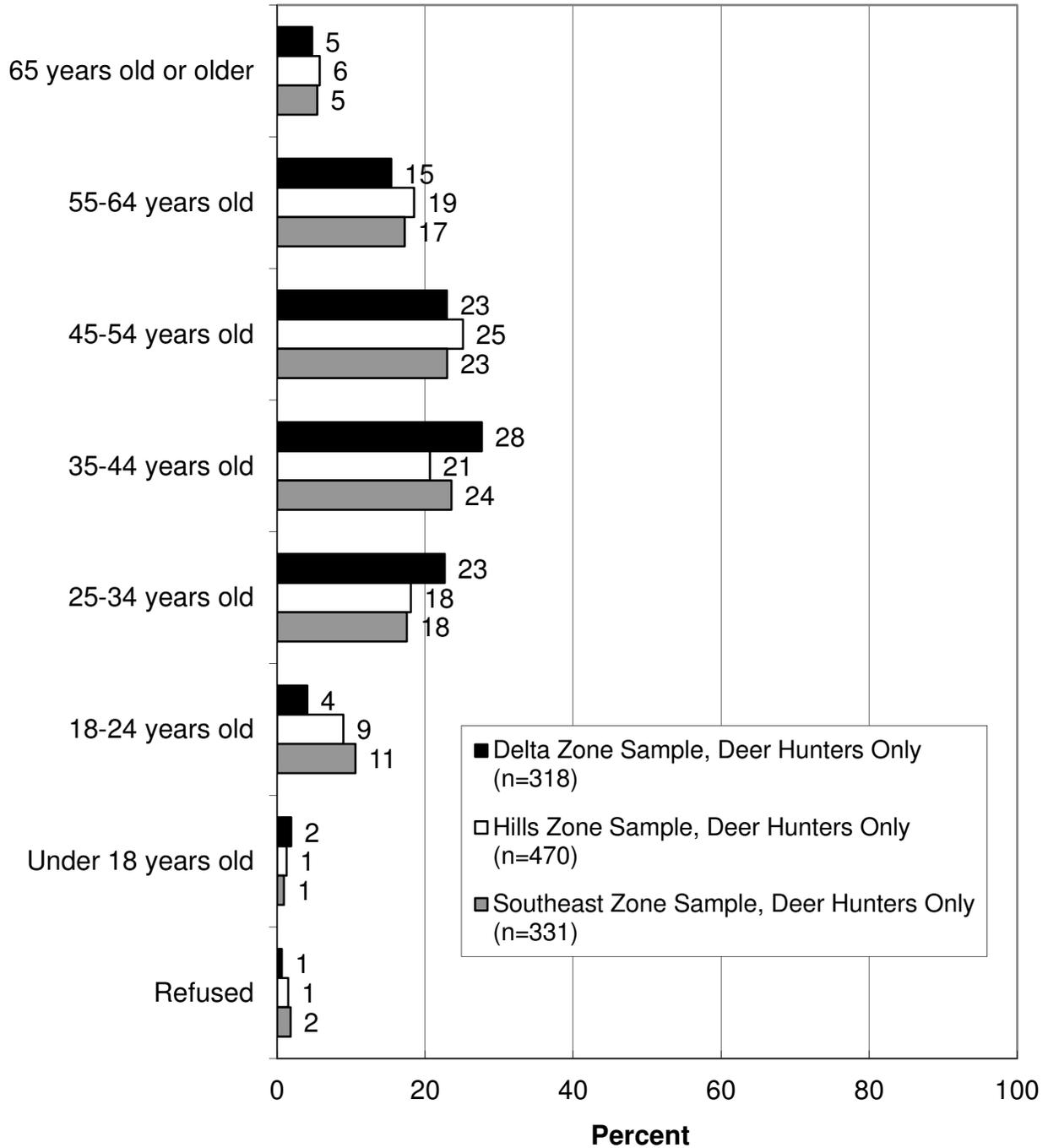
**Q54. Respondent's gender (not asked; observed by interviewer).**



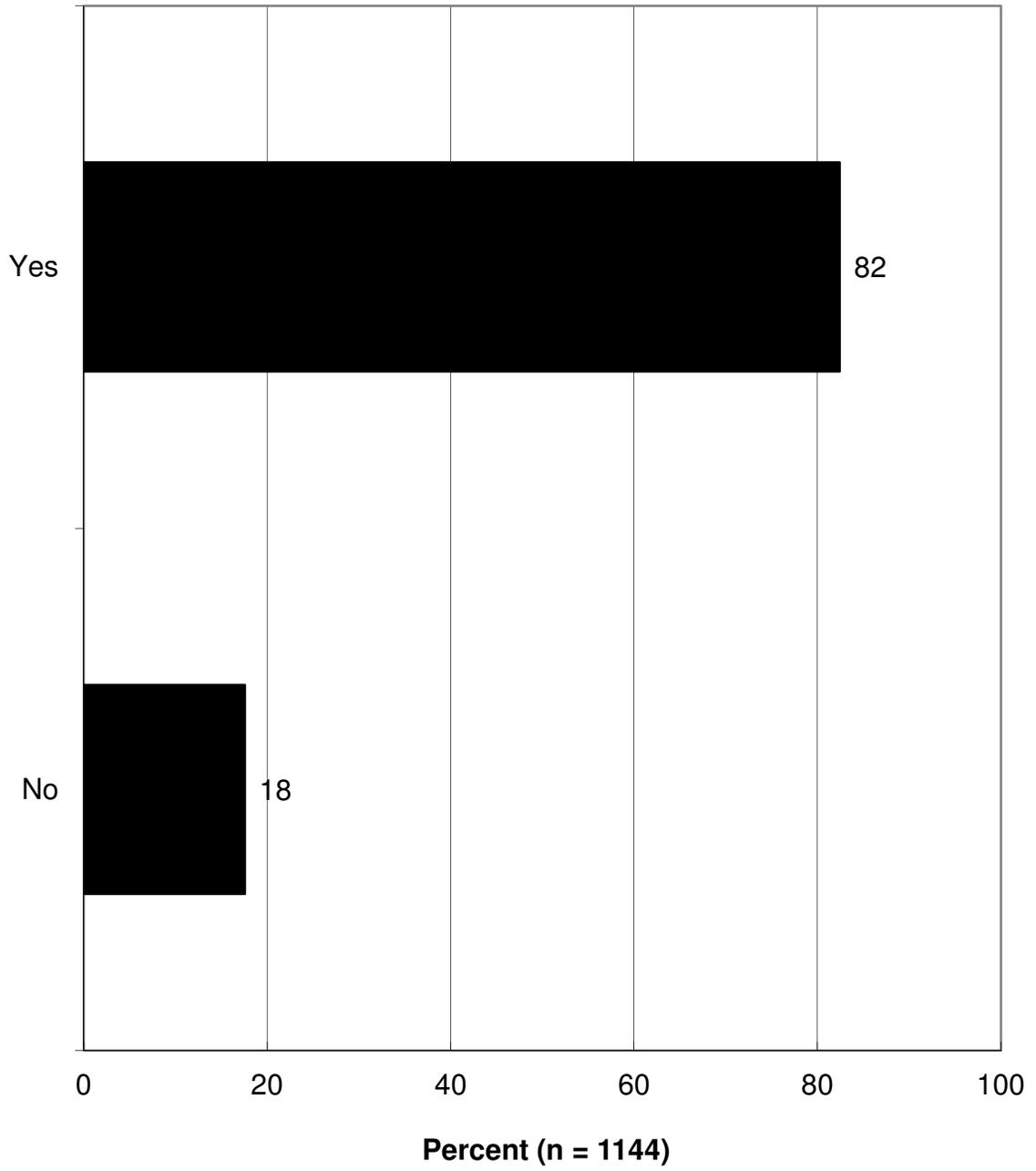
### Q48. May I ask your age?



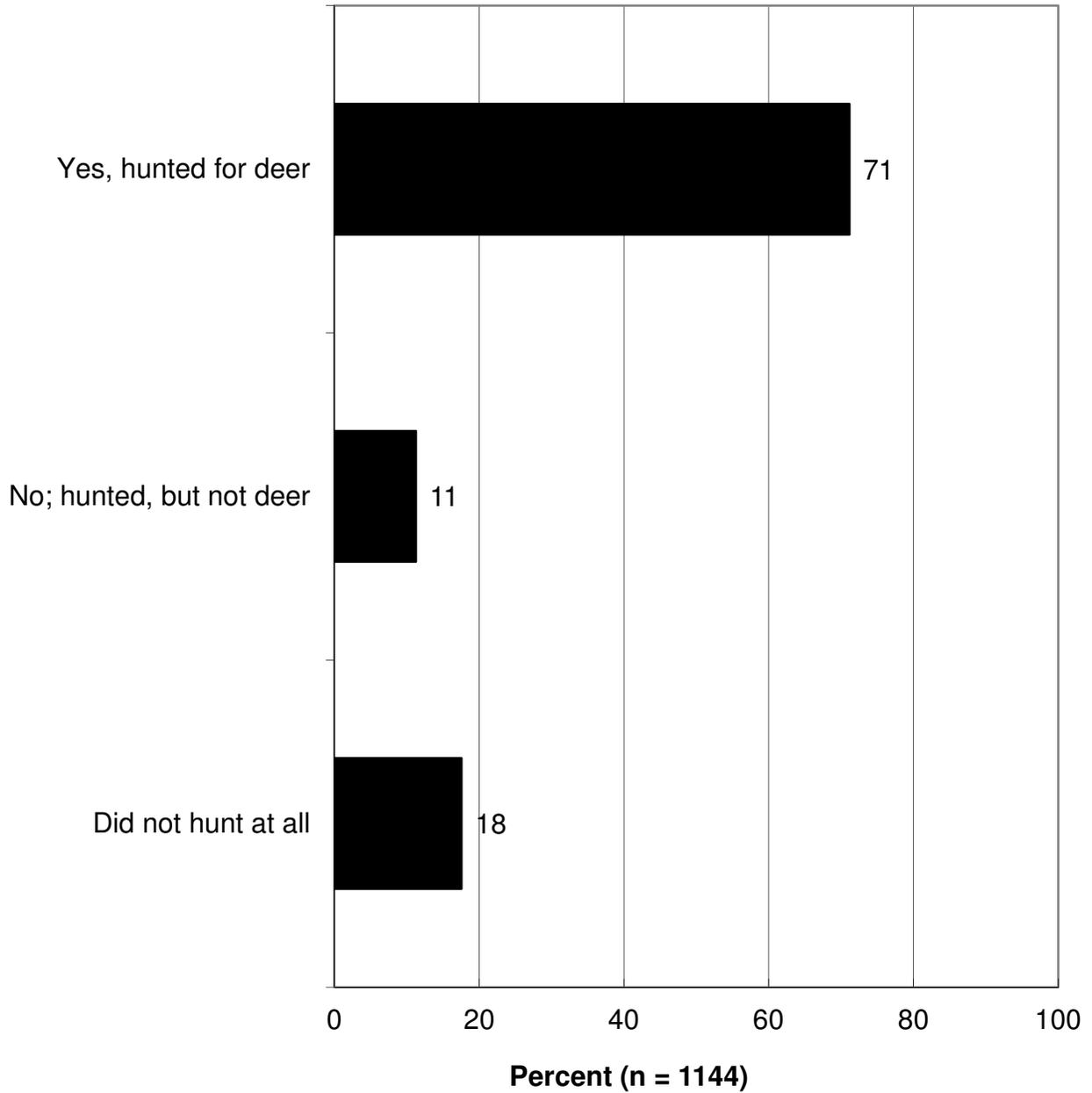
### Q48. May I ask your age?



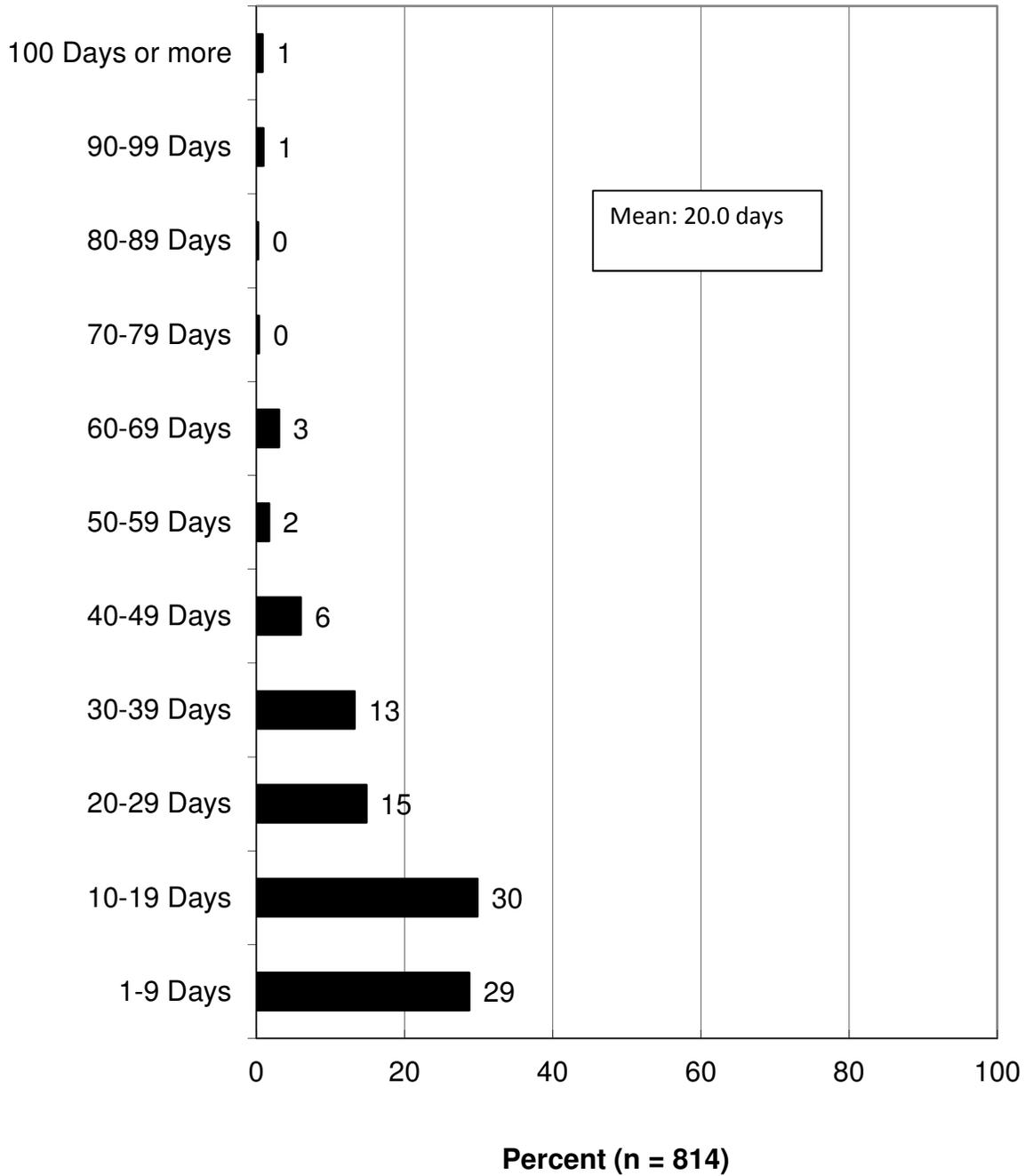
**Q11. Did you hunt in Mississippi last season, that is, during the 2014-2015 hunting season?**



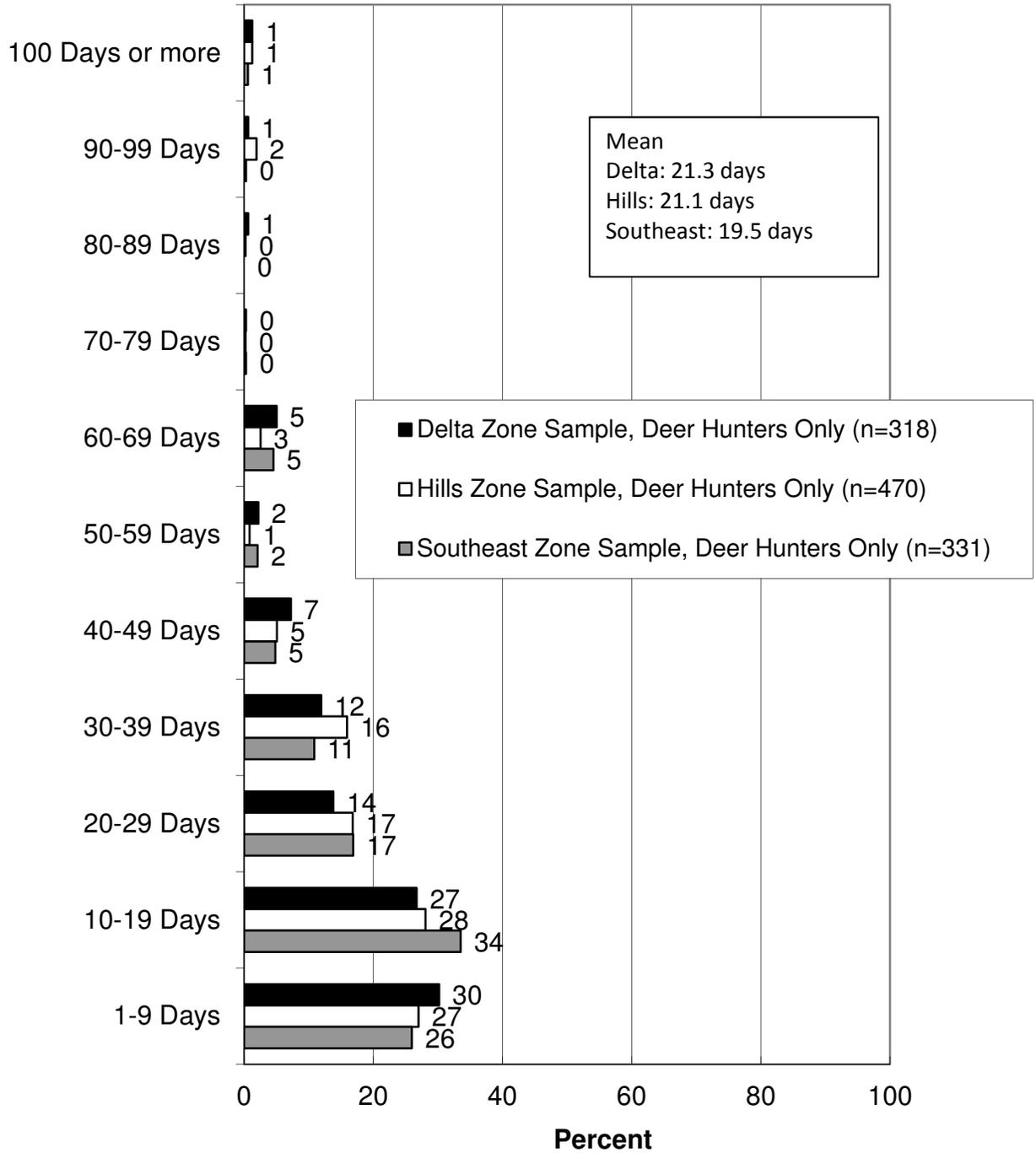
**Q12. Did you hunt deer in Mississippi during the 2014-2015 hunting season?**



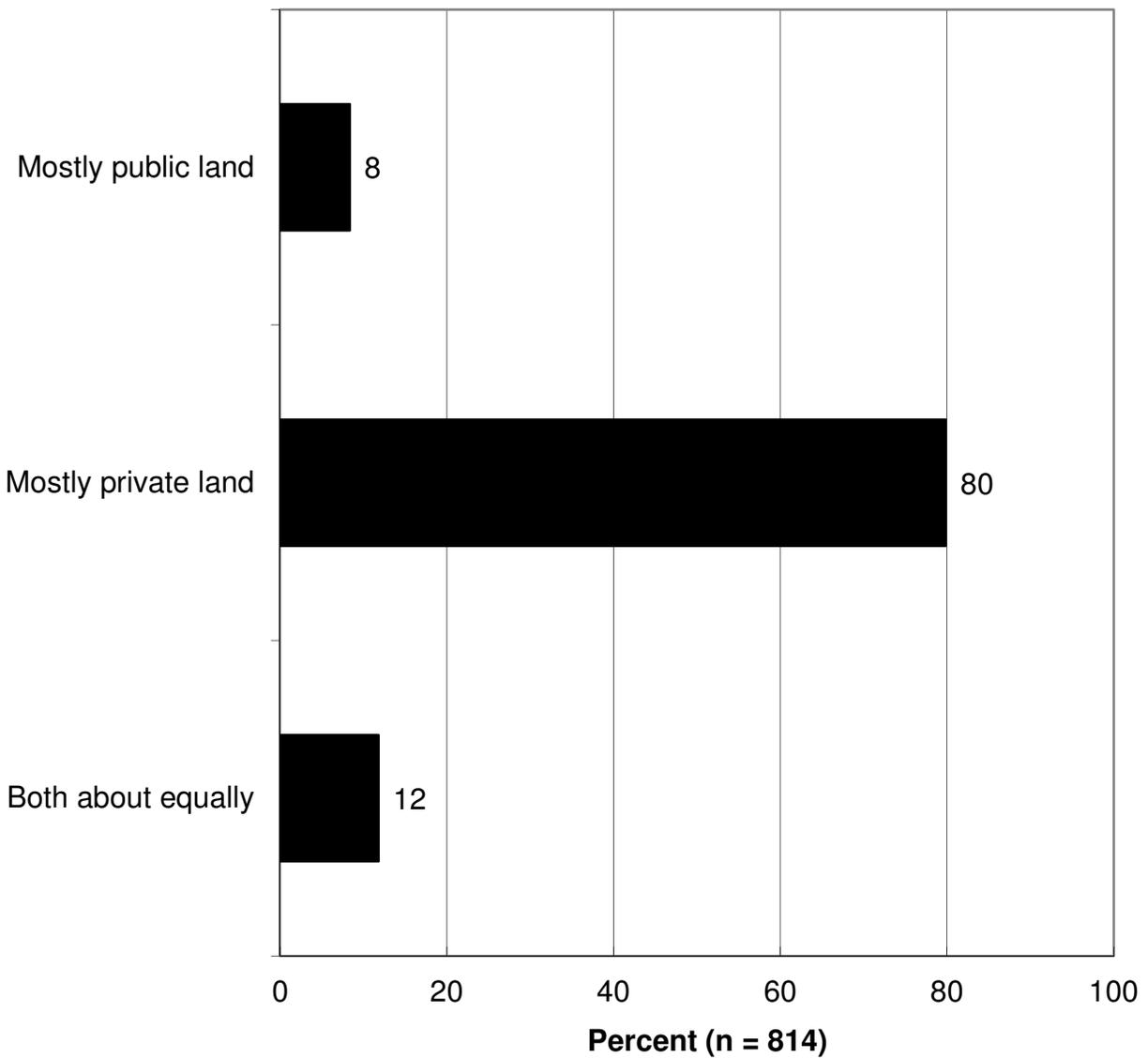
**Q13. How many days did you hunt deer in Mississippi during the 2014-2015 hunting season?**



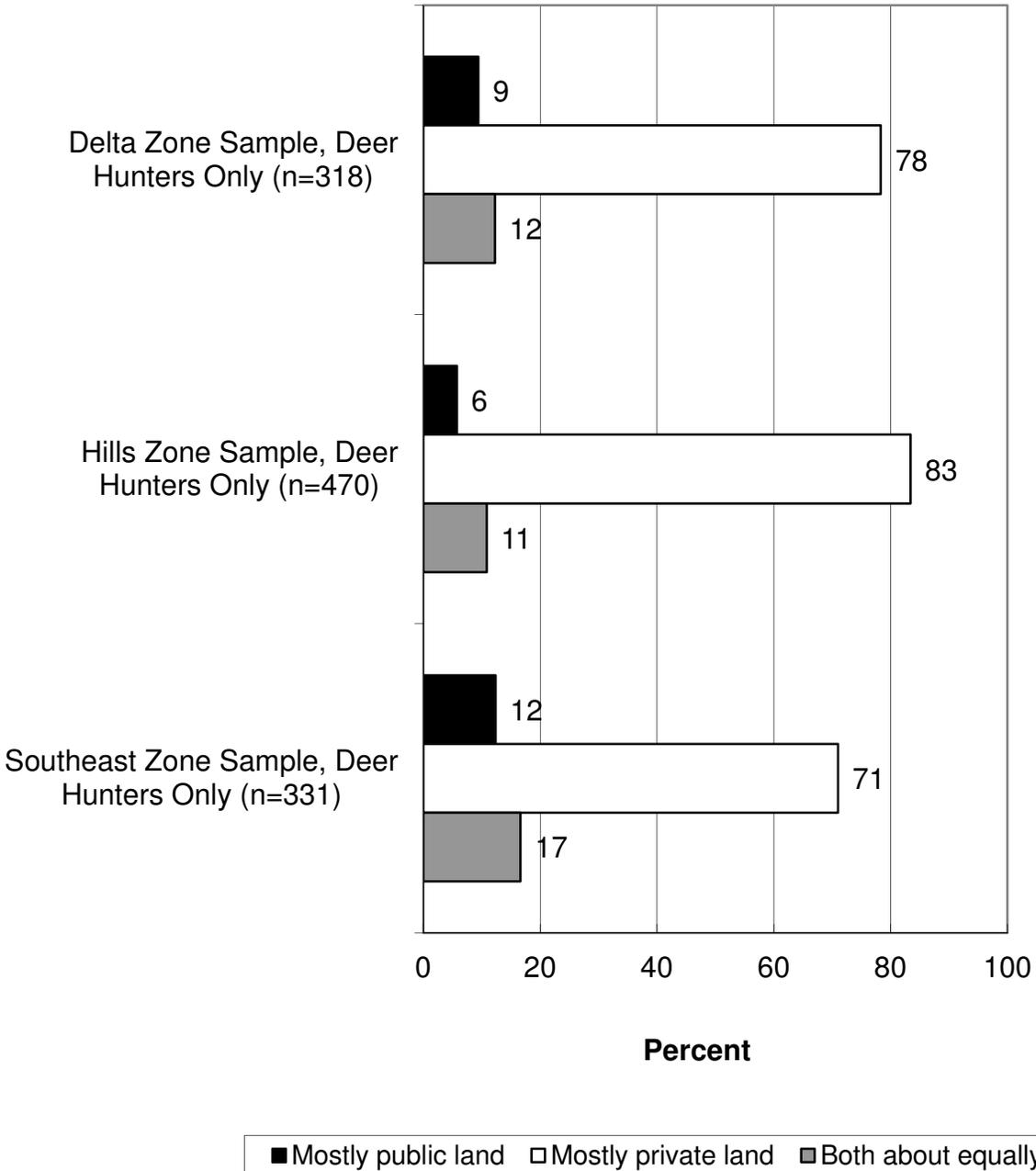
### Q13. How many days did you hunt deer in Mississippi during the 2014-2015 hunting season?



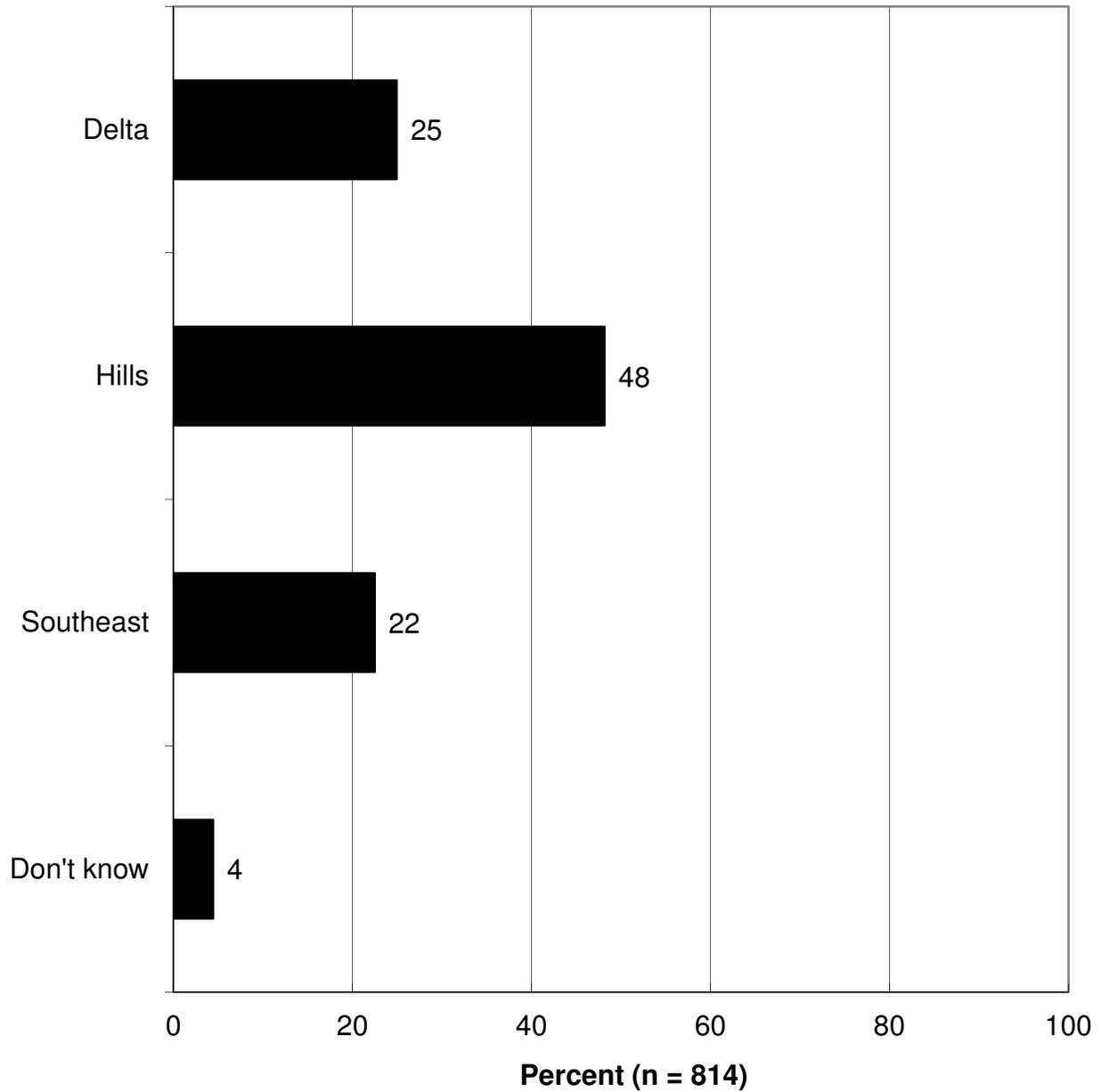
**Q15. Did you hunt deer mostly on public land, mostly on private land, or both about equally during the 2014-2015 hunting season? (Asked of those who hunted deer.)**



**Q15. Did you hunt deer mostly on public land, mostly on private land, or both about equally during the 2014-2015 hunting season? (Asked of those who hunted deer.)**



**Q16. In which deer zone did you hunt deer most often in Mississippi during the 2014-2015 hunting season? (Asked of those who hunted deer.)**



## **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.

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