

League Of Conservation Voters Education Fund

**Presentation Of Findings From A New England
Survey Of 926 Likely Voters**

The Mellman Group

June 2000

Methodology

- **926 likely general election voters surveyed in 5 states**
 - Massachusetts (N=502)
 - Maine (N=148)
 - New Hampshire (N=72)
 - Rhode Island (N=54)
 - Vermont (N=150)
- **Interviews completed June 12-18, 2000**
- **Margin of error is +/- 3.2% at a 95% confidence level**
 - Margin of error is larger for subgroups and states
 - Massachusetts +/- 4.4% at a 95% confidence level
 - Maine +/- 8.1%
 - New Hampshire +/- 11.5%
 - Rhode Island +/- 13.3%
 - Vermont +/- 8.0%

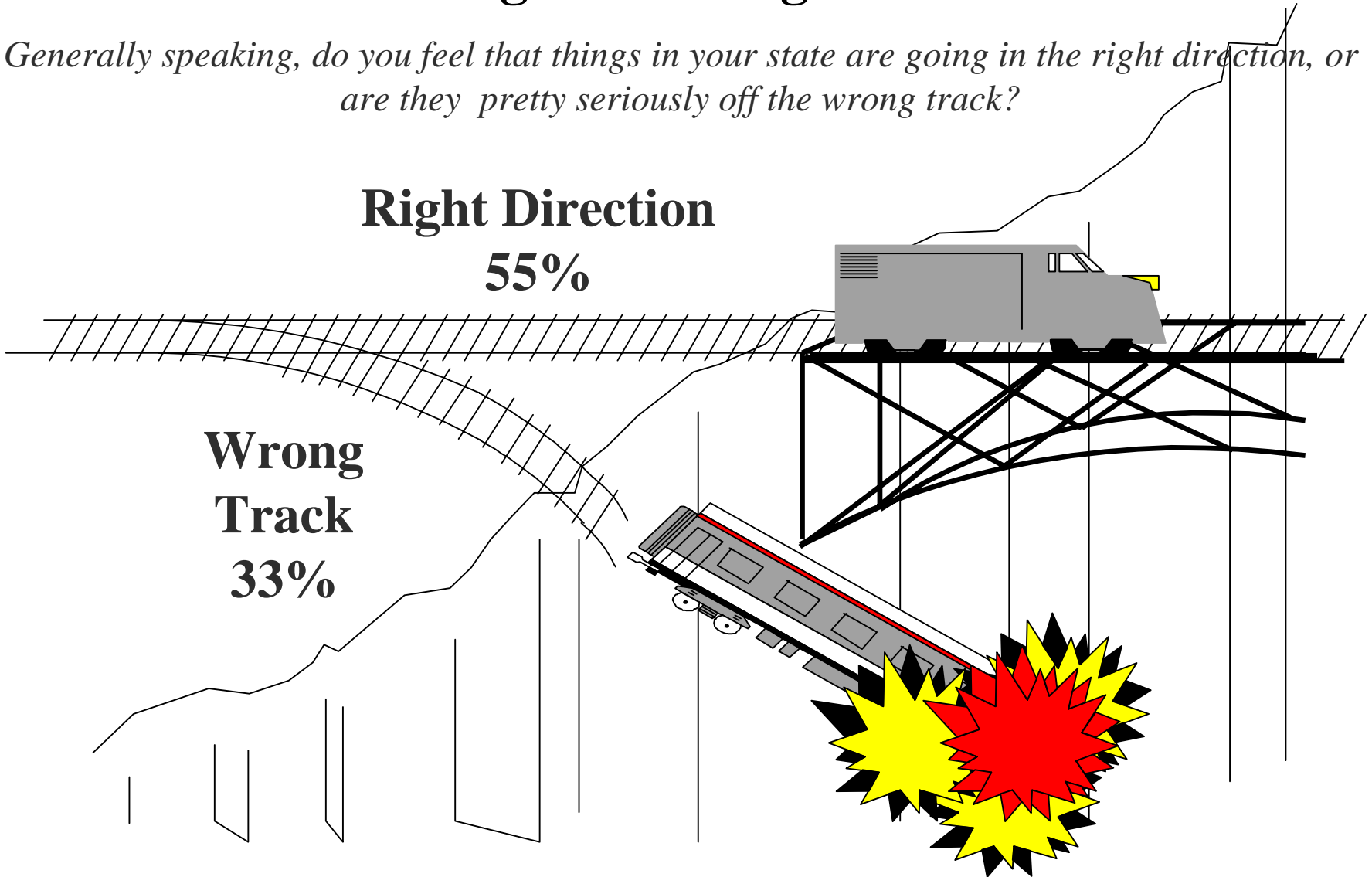
A Majority Of Citizens Feel That Things In Their State Are Going In The Right Direction

Generally speaking, do you feel that things in your state are going in the right direction, or are they pretty seriously off the wrong track?

Right Direction

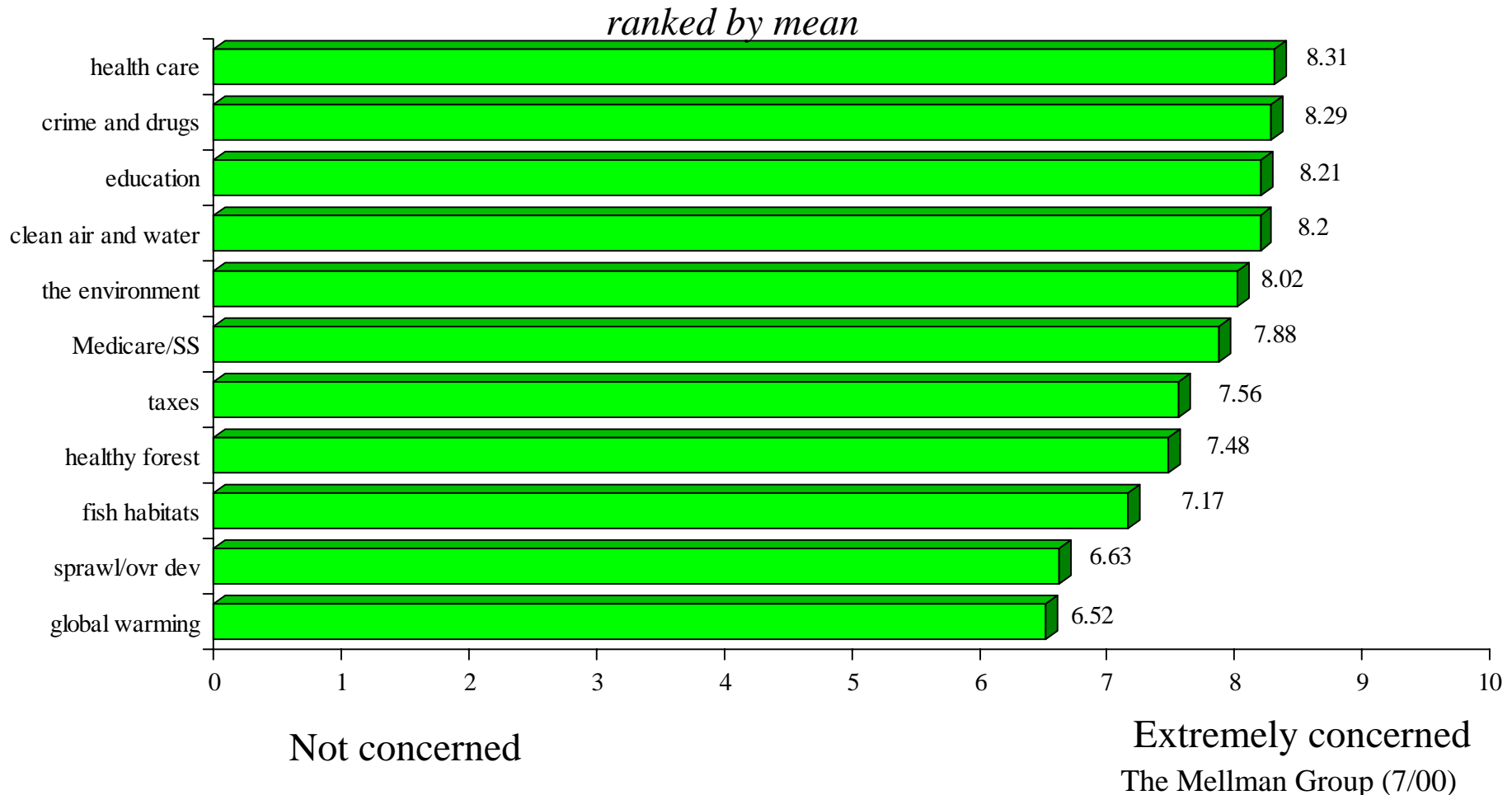
55%

**Wrong
Track
33%**



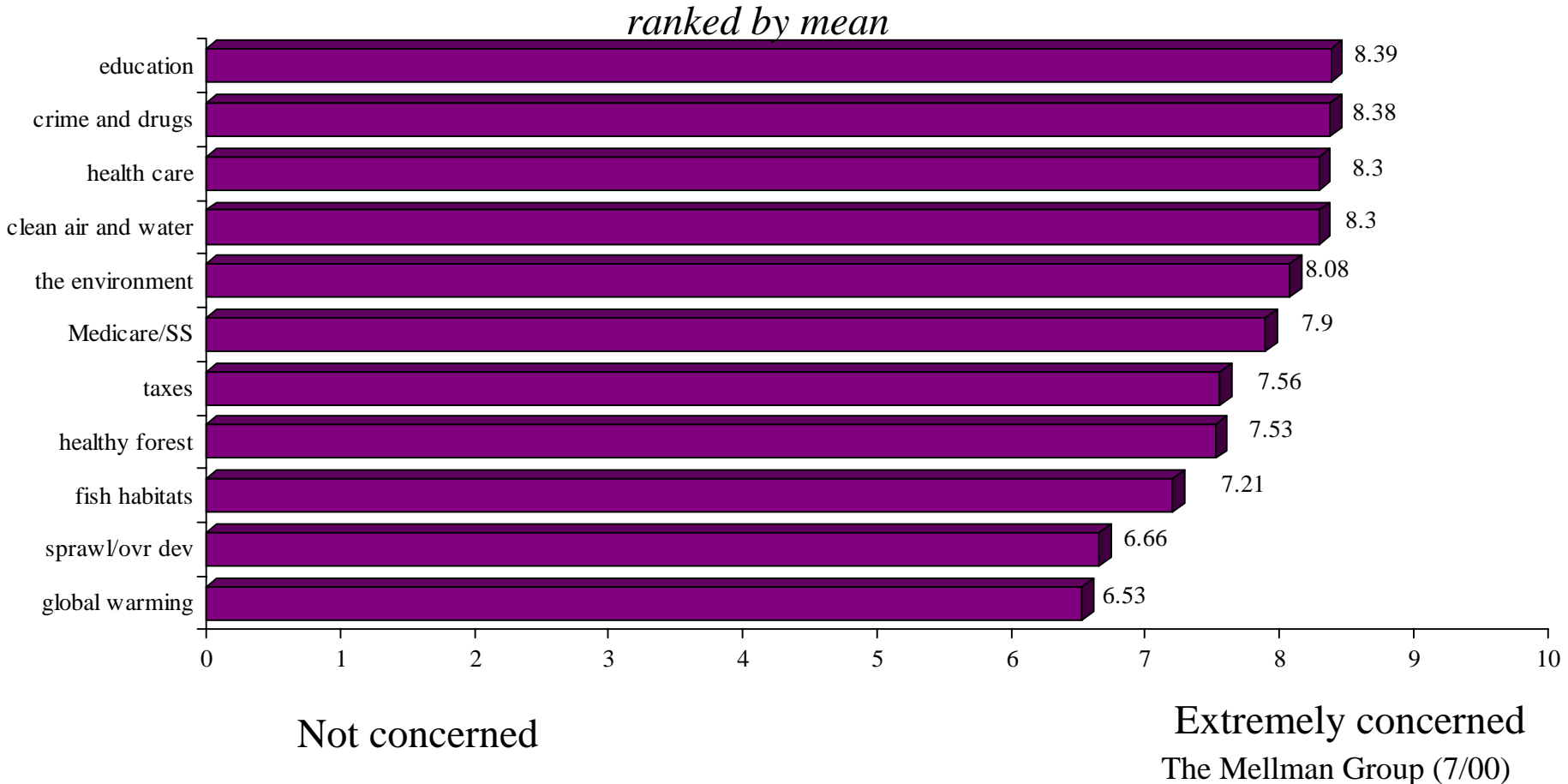
Health Care, Crime & Drugs, Education, And Clean Air And Water Are New England Citizens' Biggest Concerns Overall

I'm going to read you a short list of issues. For each one, please tell me how concerned you are about that issue on a scale of 0 to 10, in which 10 means you are extremely concerned about the issue, 5 means you are somewhat concerned, and 0 means you are not concerned at all.



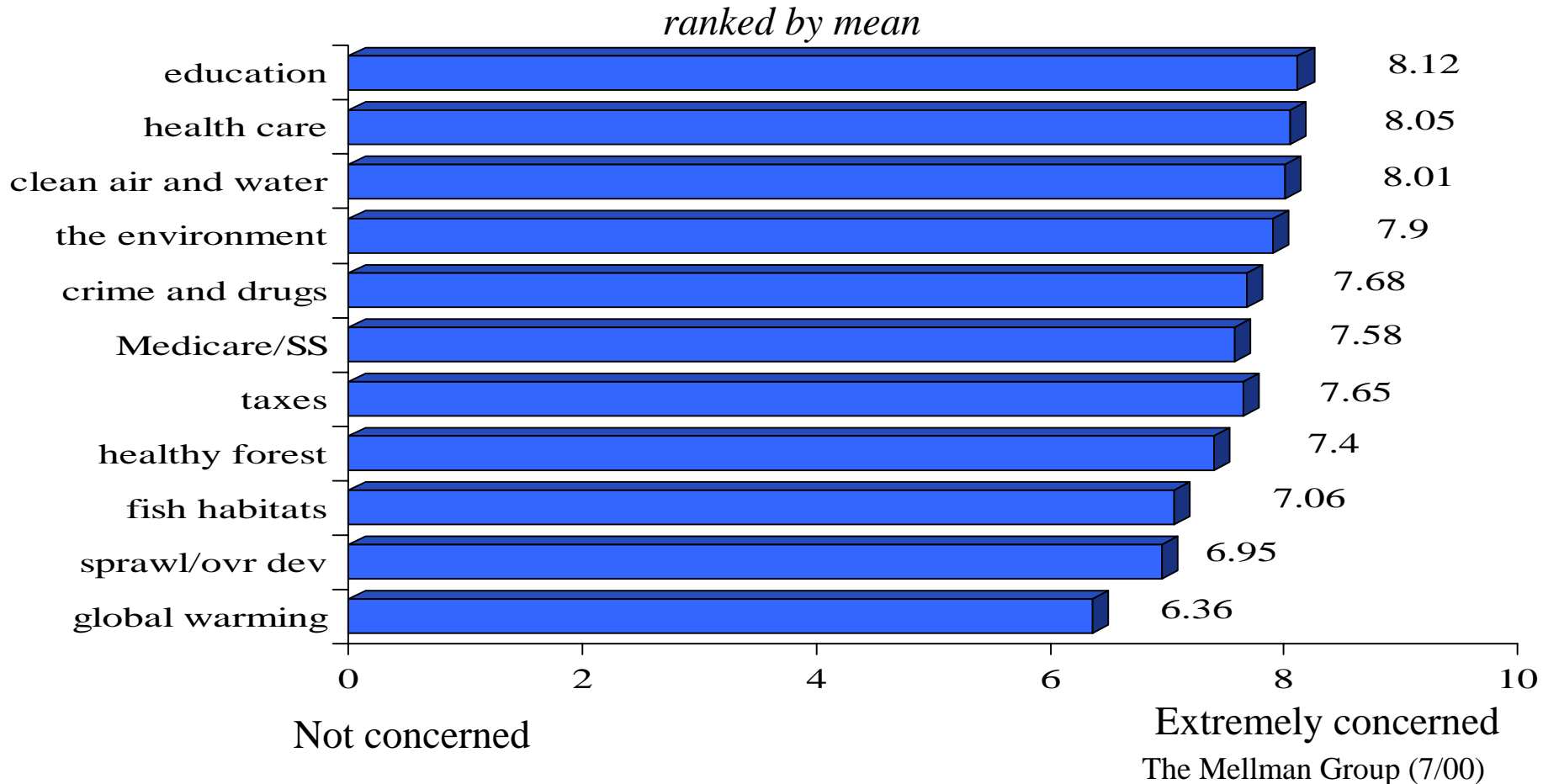
Education Is The Top Concern Among Massachusetts Citizens, Followed By Health Care, Crime/Drugs, And Clean Air And Water

I'm going to read you a short list of issues. For each one, please tell me how concerned you are about that issue on a scale of 0 to 10, in which 10 means you are extremely concerned about the issue, 5 means you are somewhat concerned, and 0 means you are not concerned at all.



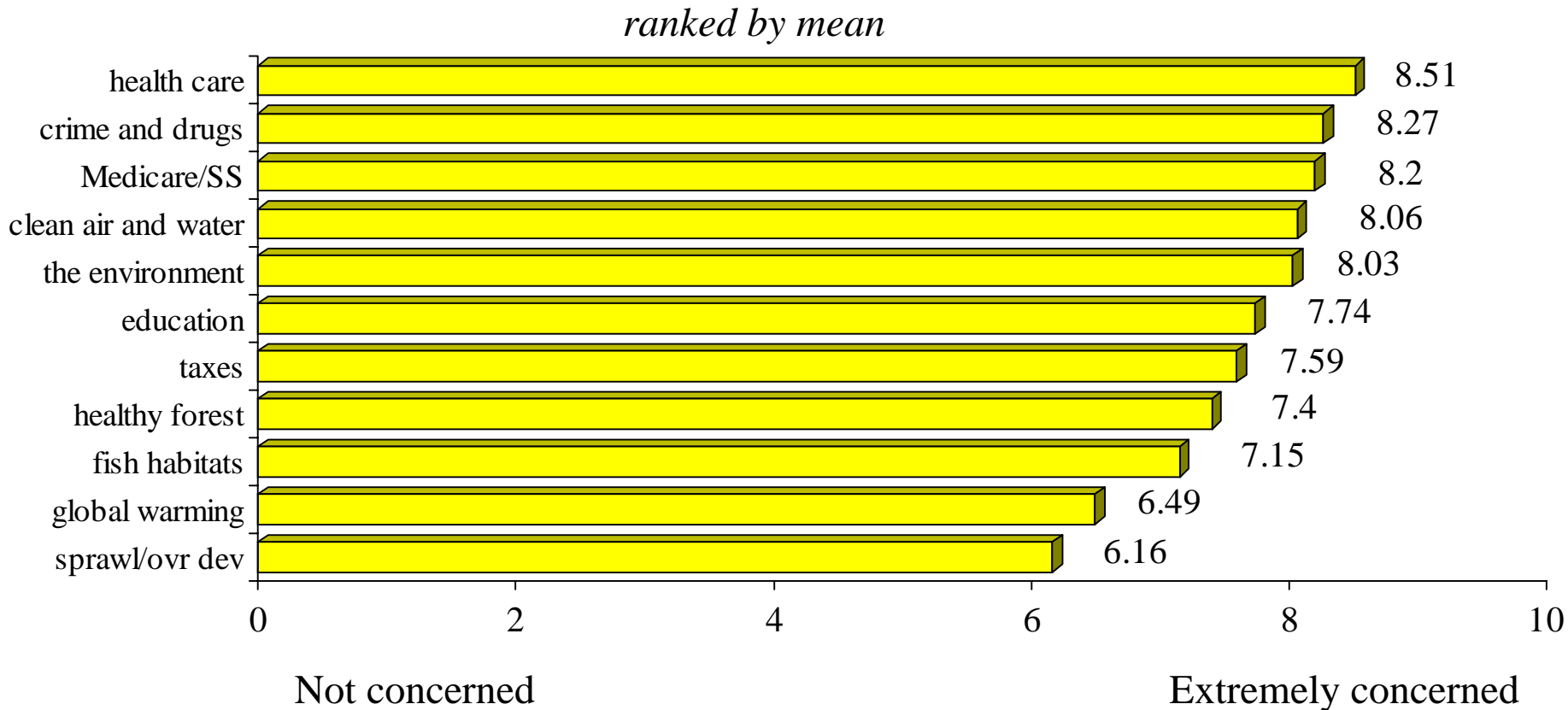
Education Is Also The Top Concern Among New Hampshire Citizens, Followed By Health Care, Clean Air And Water, And Crime/Drugs

I'm going to read you a short list of issues. For each one, please tell me how concerned you are about that issue on a scale of 0 to 10, in which 10 means you are extremely concerned about the issue, 5 means you are somewhat concerned, and 0 means you are not concerned at all.



Health Care Tops The List Of Concerns Among Maine Citizens, Followed By Crime/Drugs, Medicare/Social Security, And Clean Air And Water

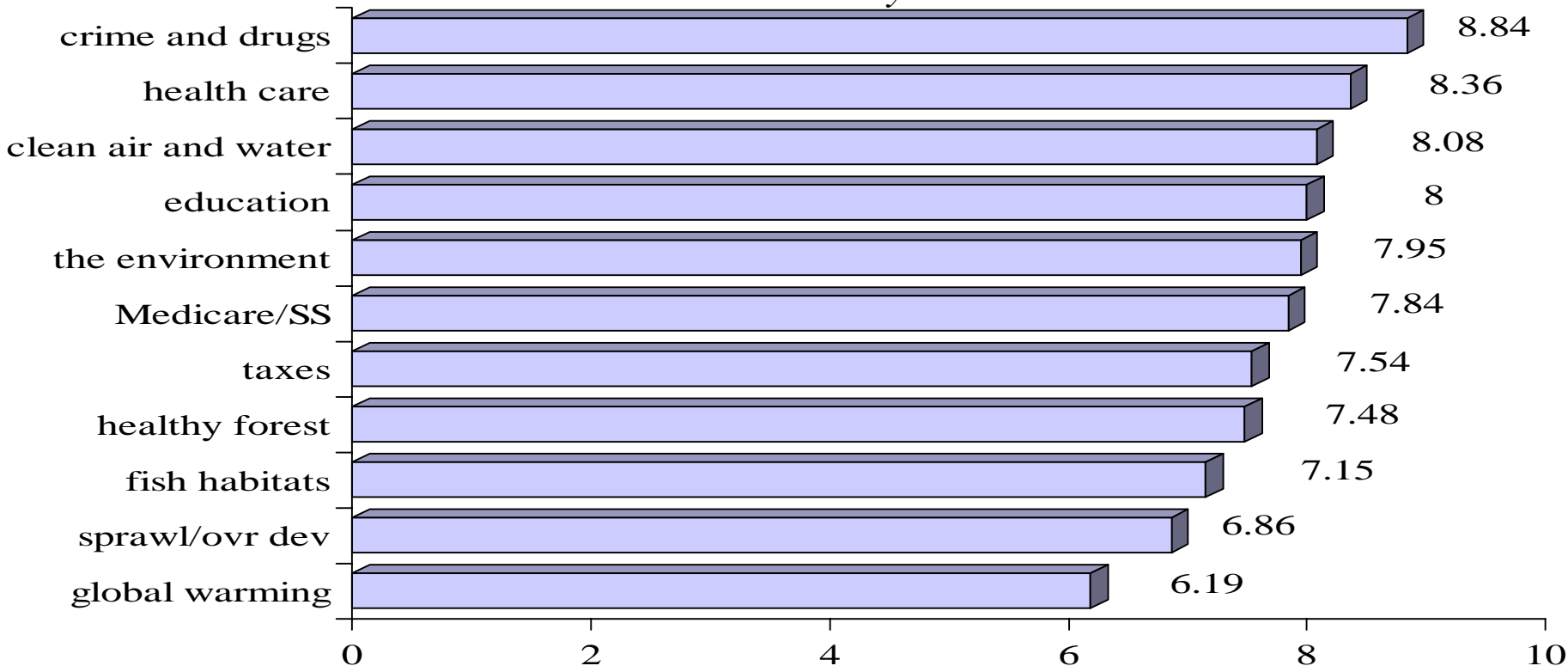
I'm going to read you a short list of issues. For each one, please tell me how concerned you are about that issue on a scale of 0 to 10, in which 10 means you are extremely concerned about the issue, 5 means you are somewhat concerned, and 0 means you are not concerned at all.



Rhode Islanders Are Most Concerned About Crime/Drugs, Followed By Health Care, Clean Air/Water, And Education

I'm going to read you a short list of issues. For each one, please tell me how concerned you are about that issue on a scale of 0 to 10, in which 10 means you are extremely concerned about the issue, 5 means you are somewhat concerned, and 0 means you are not concerned at all.

ranked by mean



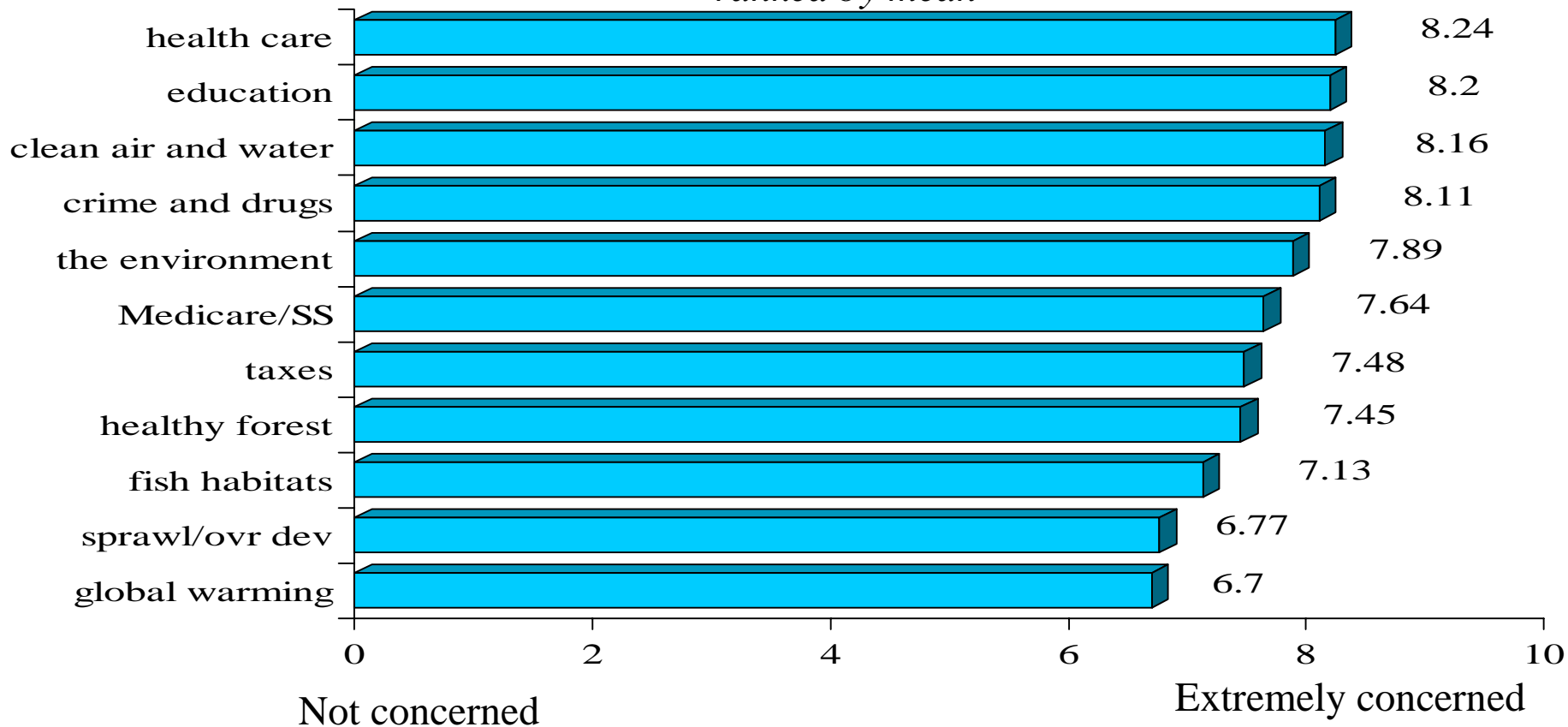
Not concerned

Extremely concerned

Health Care And Education Top The List Of Concerns For Vermonters, Followed By Clean Air/Water And Crime/Drugs

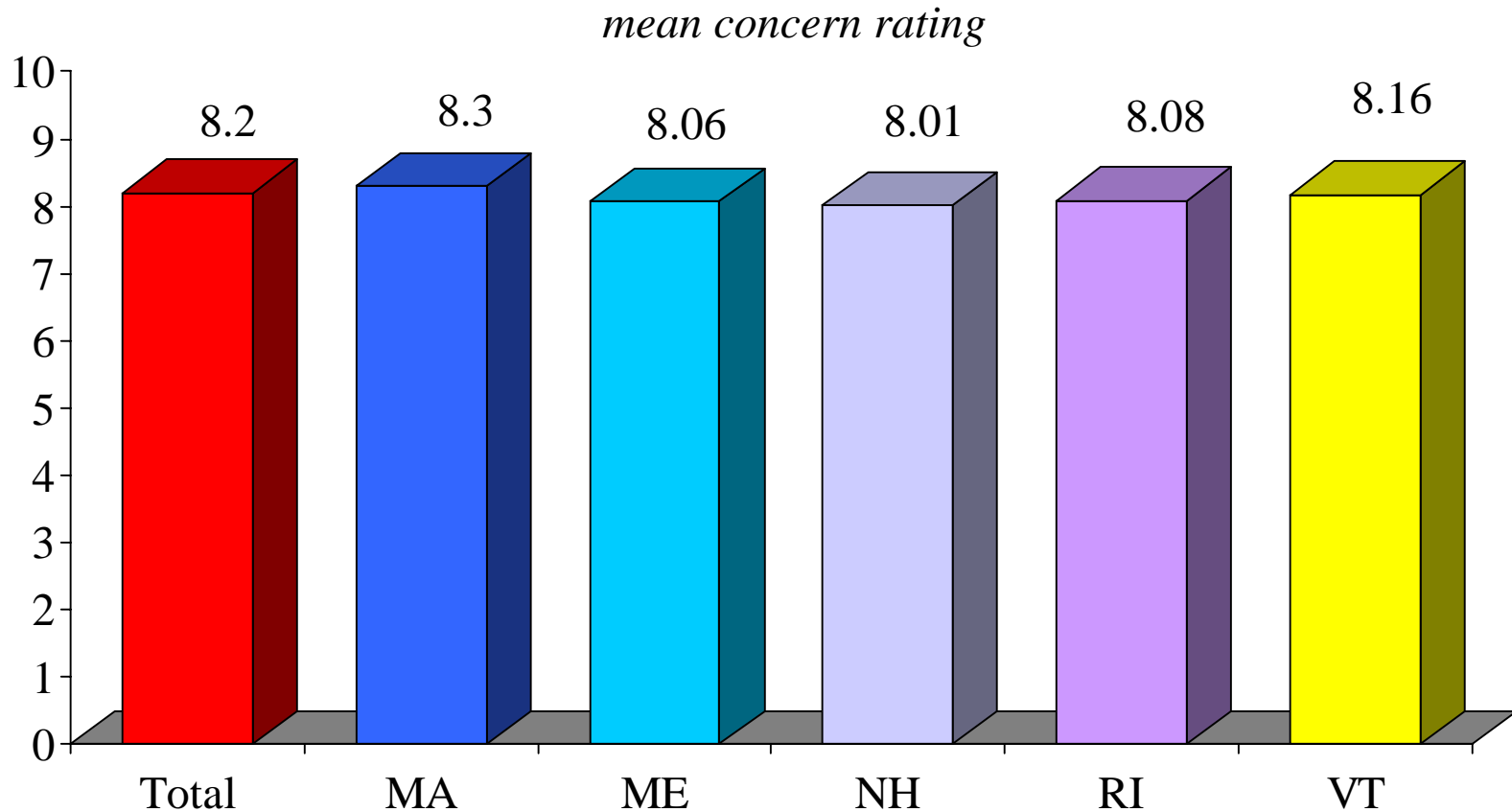
I'm going to read you a short list of issues. For each one, please tell me how concerned you are about that issue on a scale of 0 to 10, in which 10 means you are extremely concerned about the issue, 5 means you are somewhat concerned, and 0 means you are not concerned at all.

ranked by mean



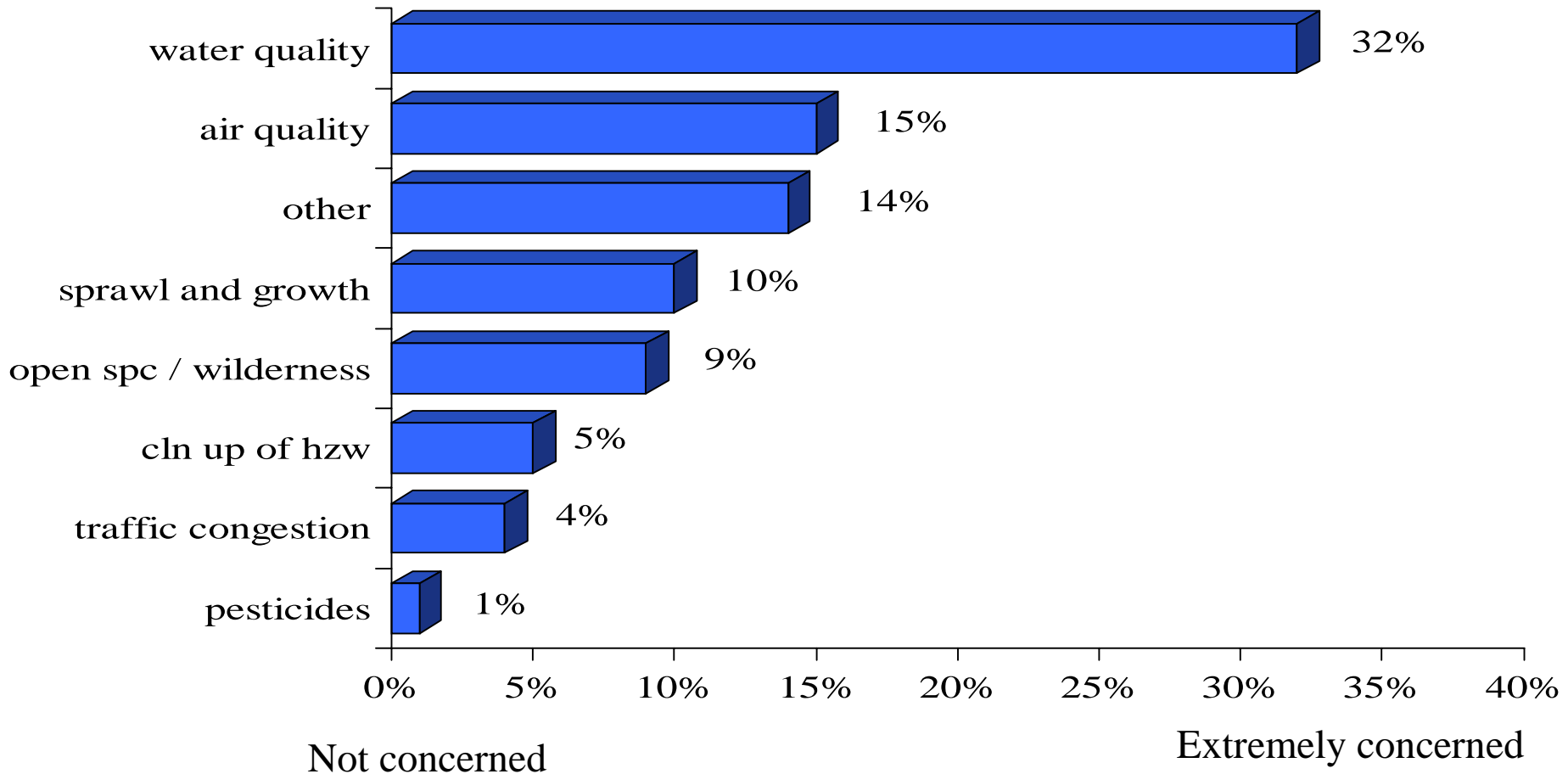
Citizens In All Five States Are Very Concerned About Clean Air And Water

I'm going to read you a short list of issues. For each one, please tell me how concerned you are about that issue on a scale of 0 to 10, in which 10 means you are extremely concerned about the issue, 5 means you are somewhat concerned, and 0 means you are not concerned at all...clean air and water?



Water Quality Is Citizens' Leading Environmental Concern

Thinking specifically about your state, what if any, conservation or environmental concerns do you worry about most?

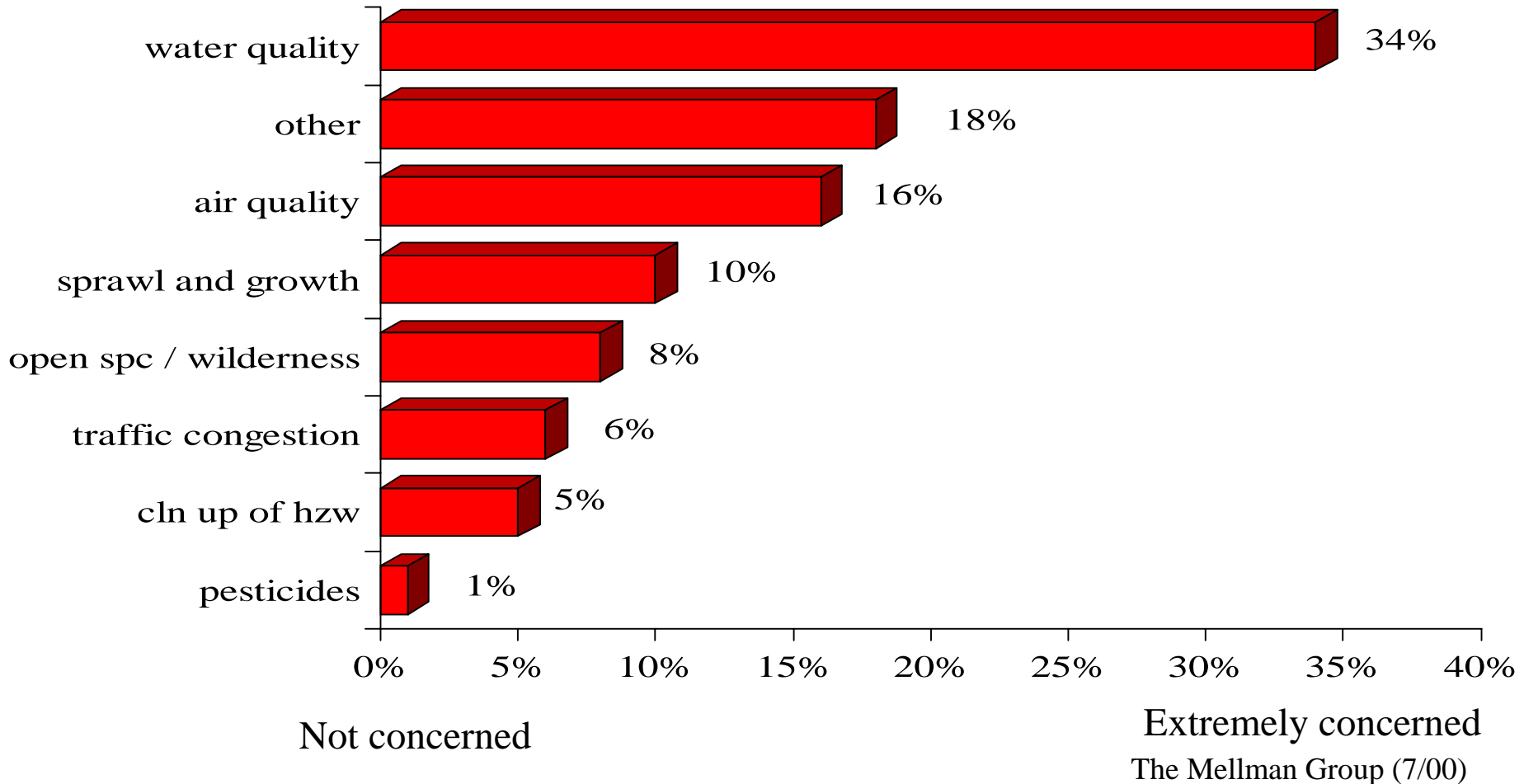


Not concerned

Extremely concerned
The Mellman Group (7/00)

Water Quality Is Also The Leading Environmental Concern In Massachusetts

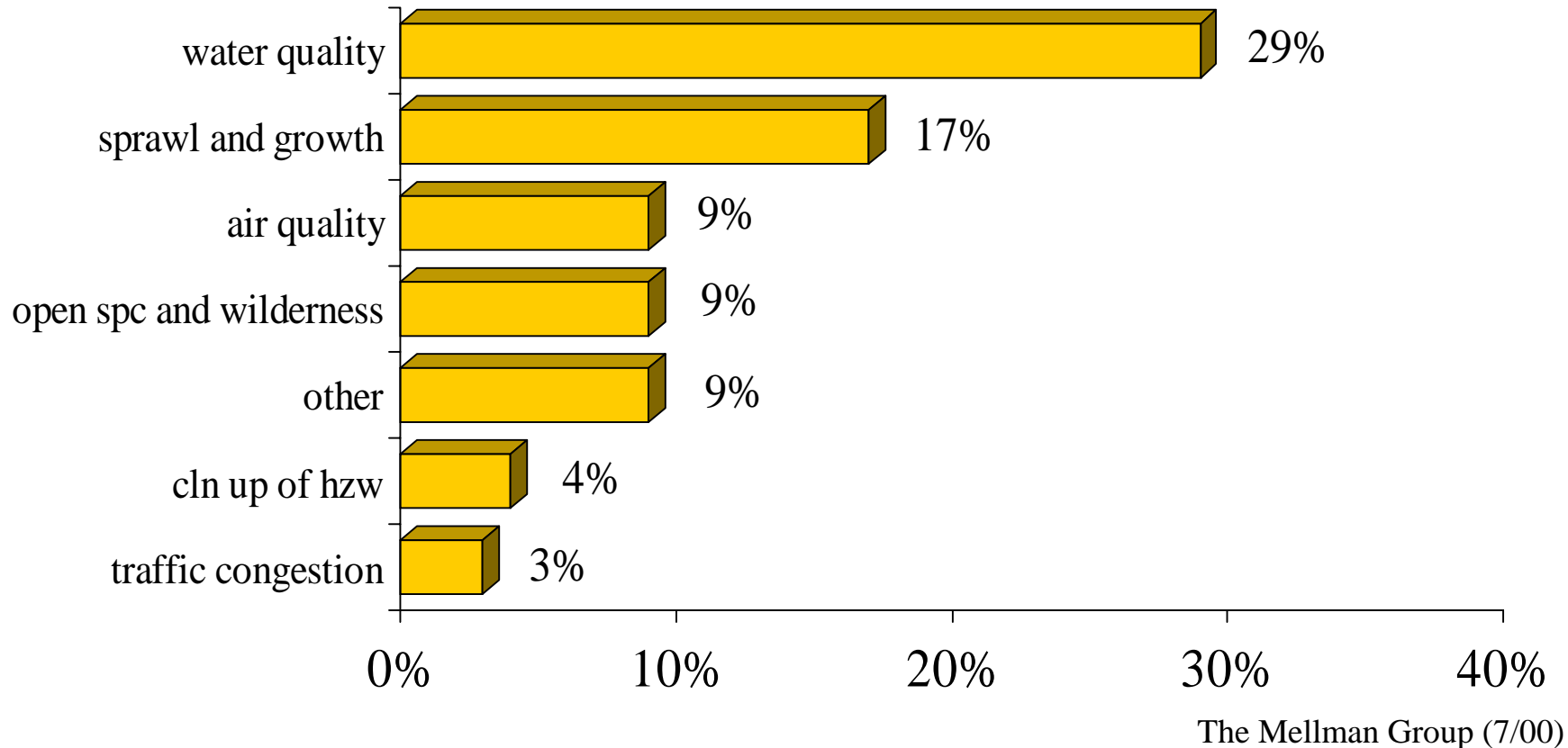
Thinking specifically about your state, what if any, conservation or environmental concerns do you worry about most?



Water Quality Is The Top Environmental Concern In New Hampshire

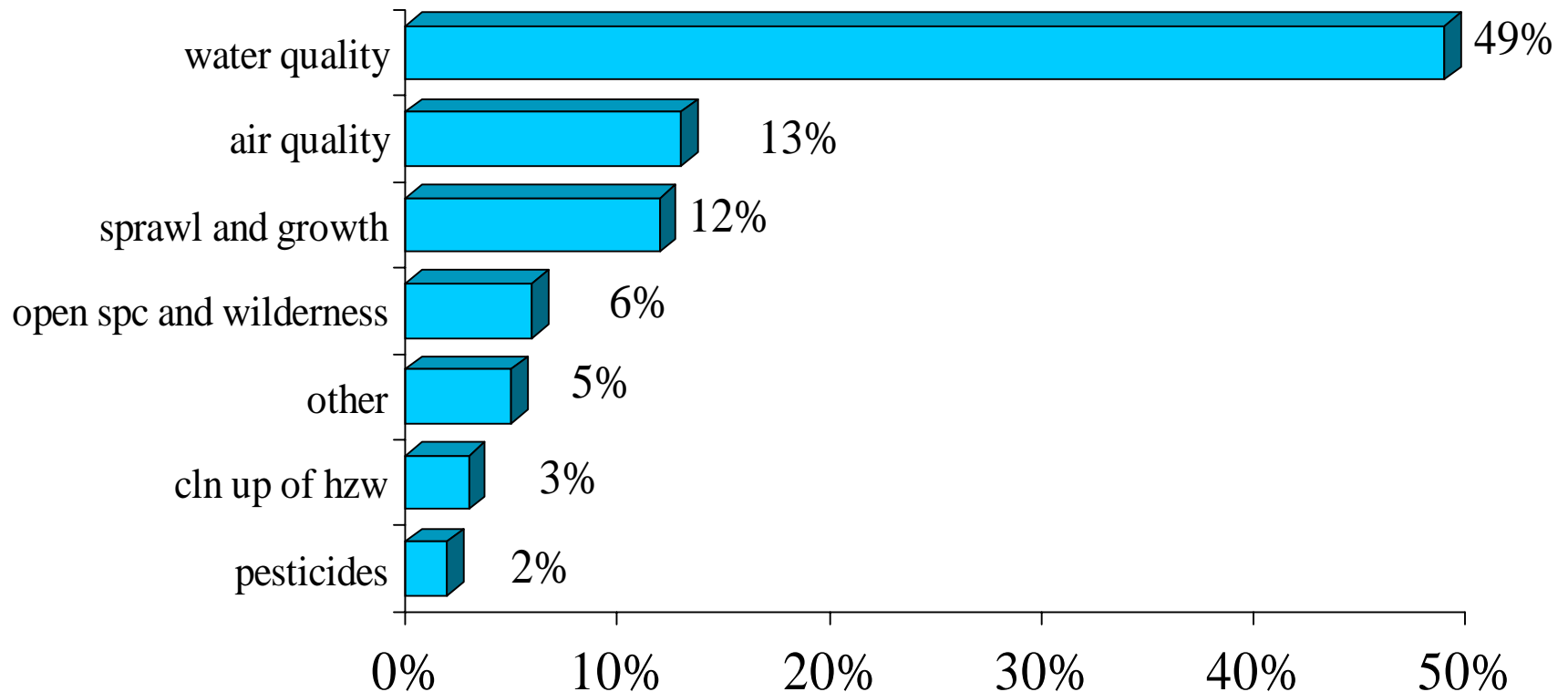
Sprawl Has A Bit More Saliency Here

Thinking specifically about your state, what if any, conservation or environmental concerns do you worry about most?



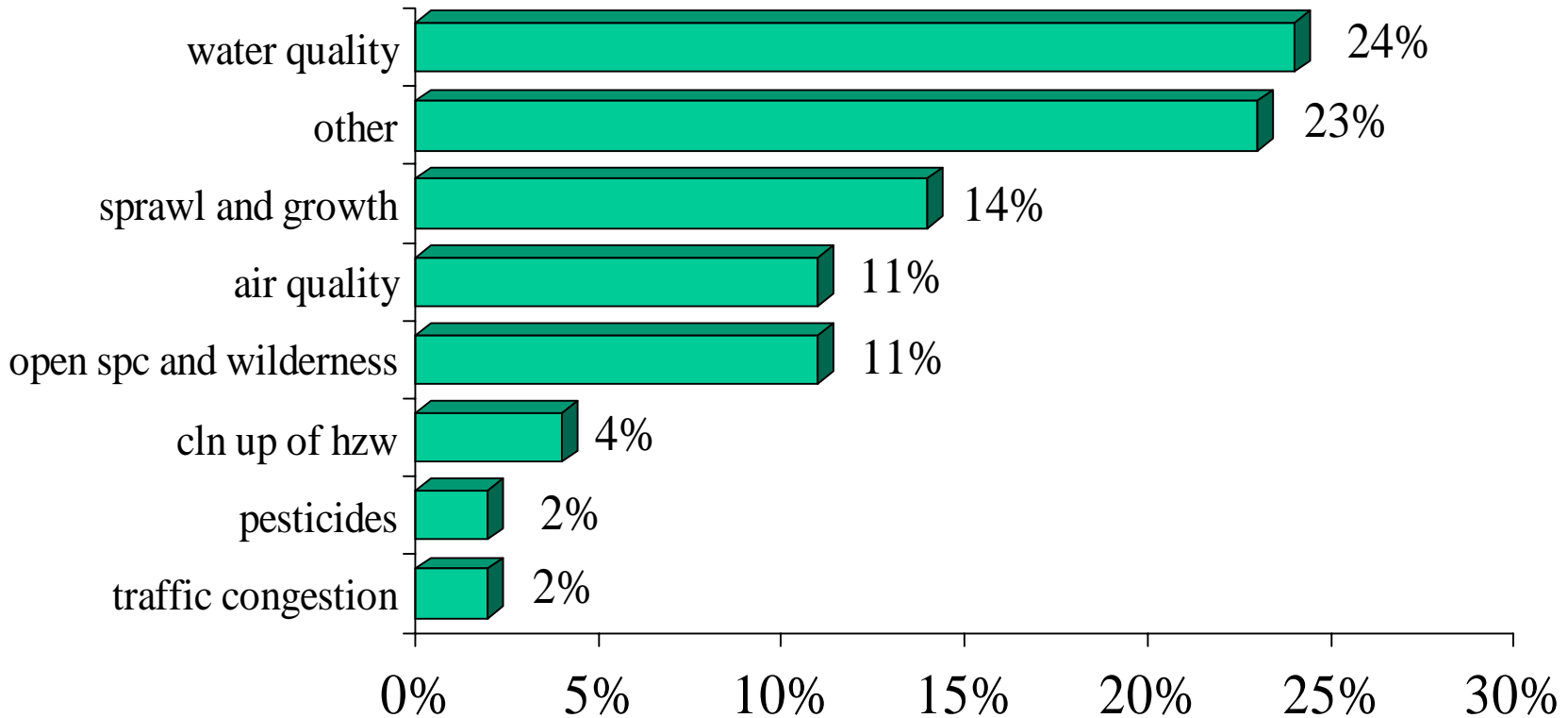
Water Quality Is By Far The Most Important Environmental Concern In Rhode Island

Thinking specifically about your state, what if any, conservation or environmental concerns do you worry about most?



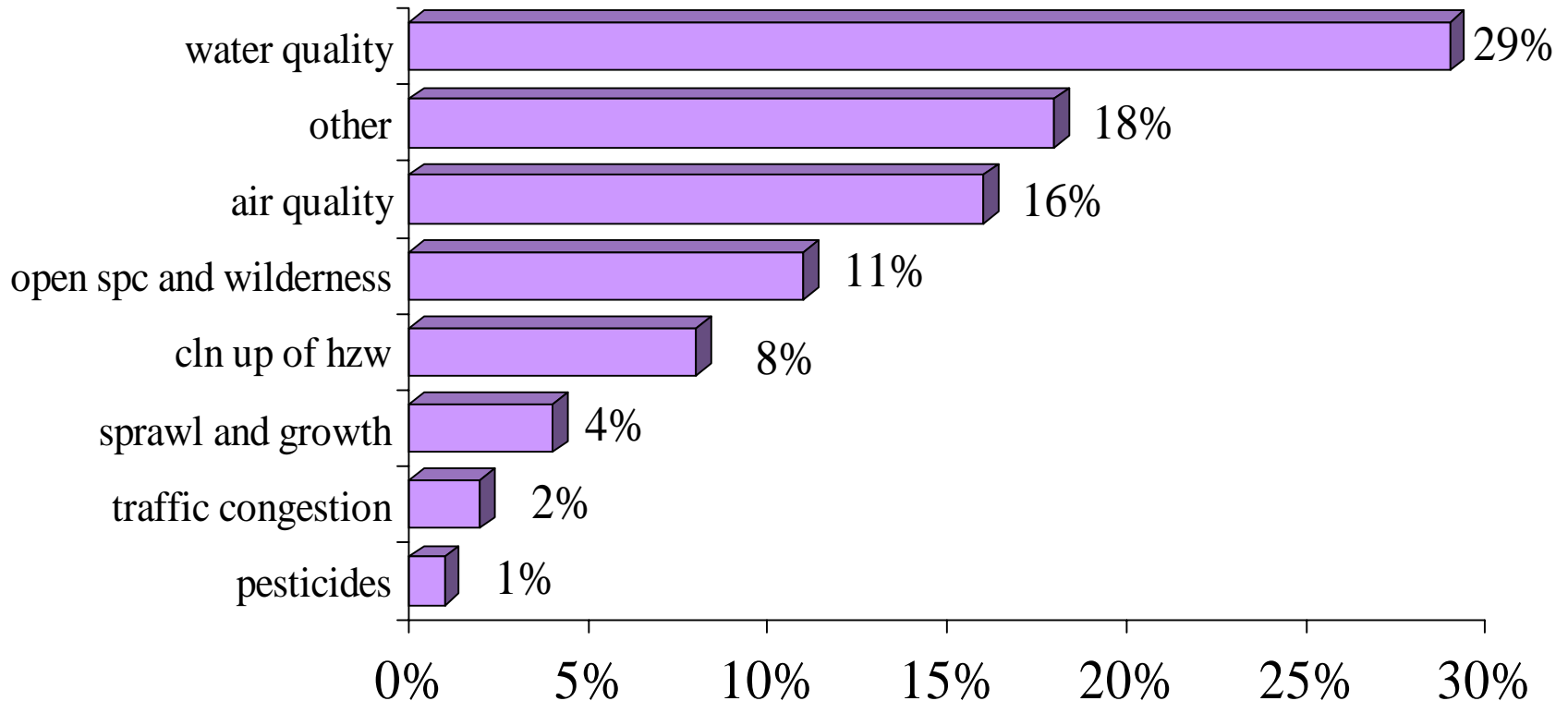
Water Quality Also Tops The List Of Environmental Concerns In Vermont

Thinking specifically about your state, what if any, conservation or environmental concerns do you worry about most?



Maine Voters Are Also Most Concerned About Water Quality

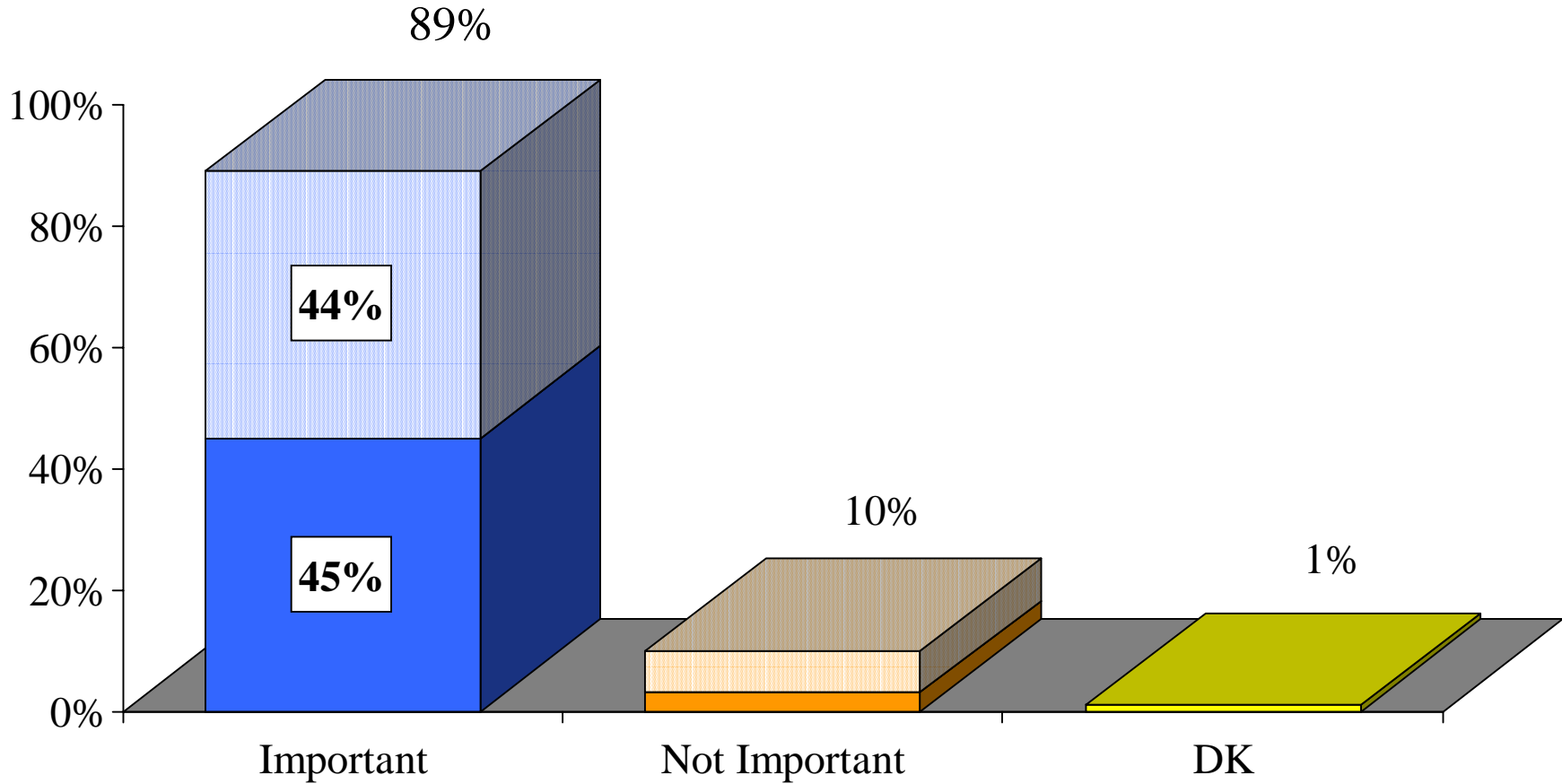
Thinking specifically about your state, what if any, conservation or environmental concerns do you worry about most?



An Overwhelming Majority Say Environmental Issues Are An Important Factor In Their Voting Decisions

More Than 4-in-10 Say Environmental Issues Are A “Very Important” Factor Determining Their Vote

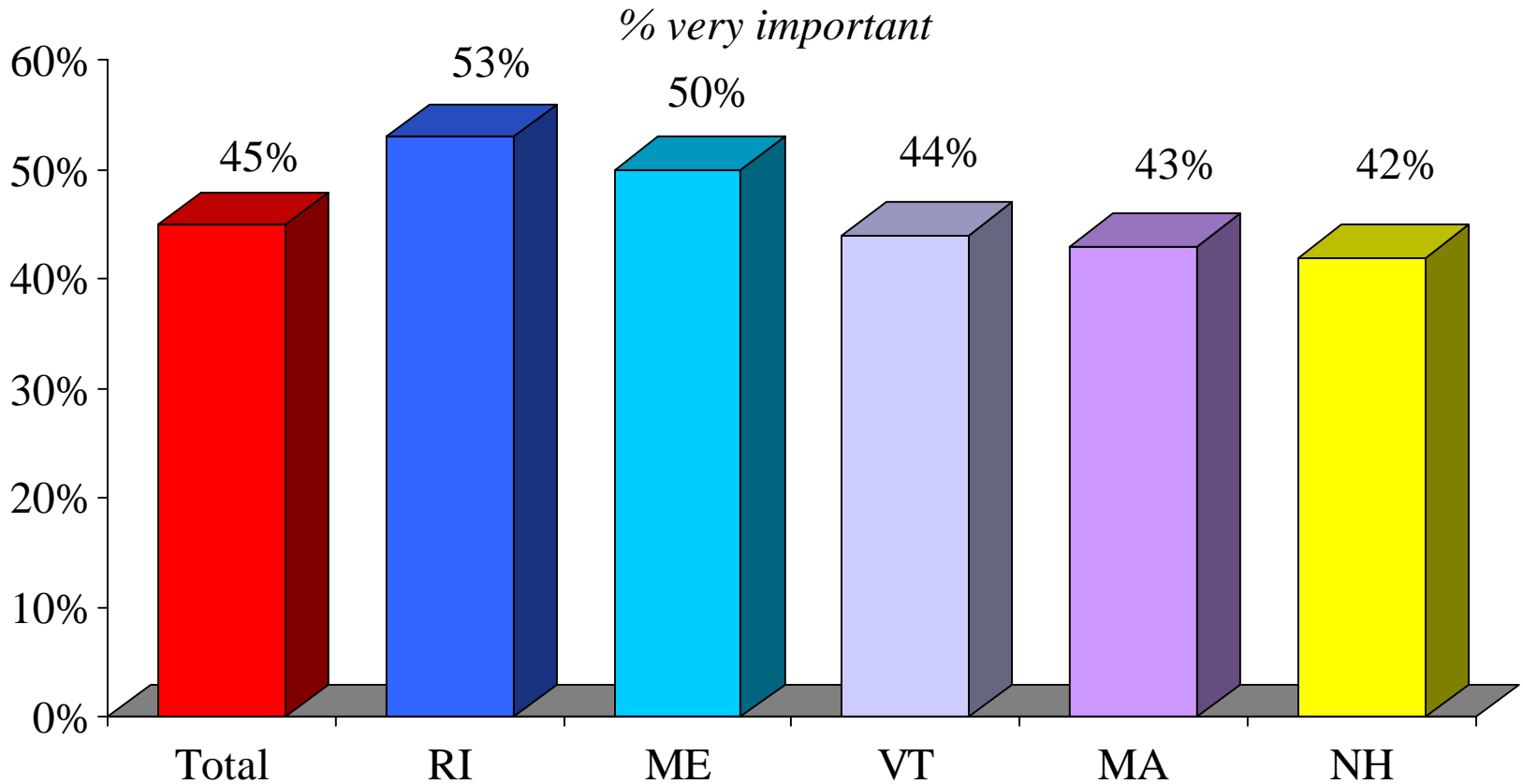
In making a voting decision, how important are conservation or environmental issues/issues involving clean water, clean air and open spaces for you in deciding how to vote?



Darker Shading = Stronger Intensity

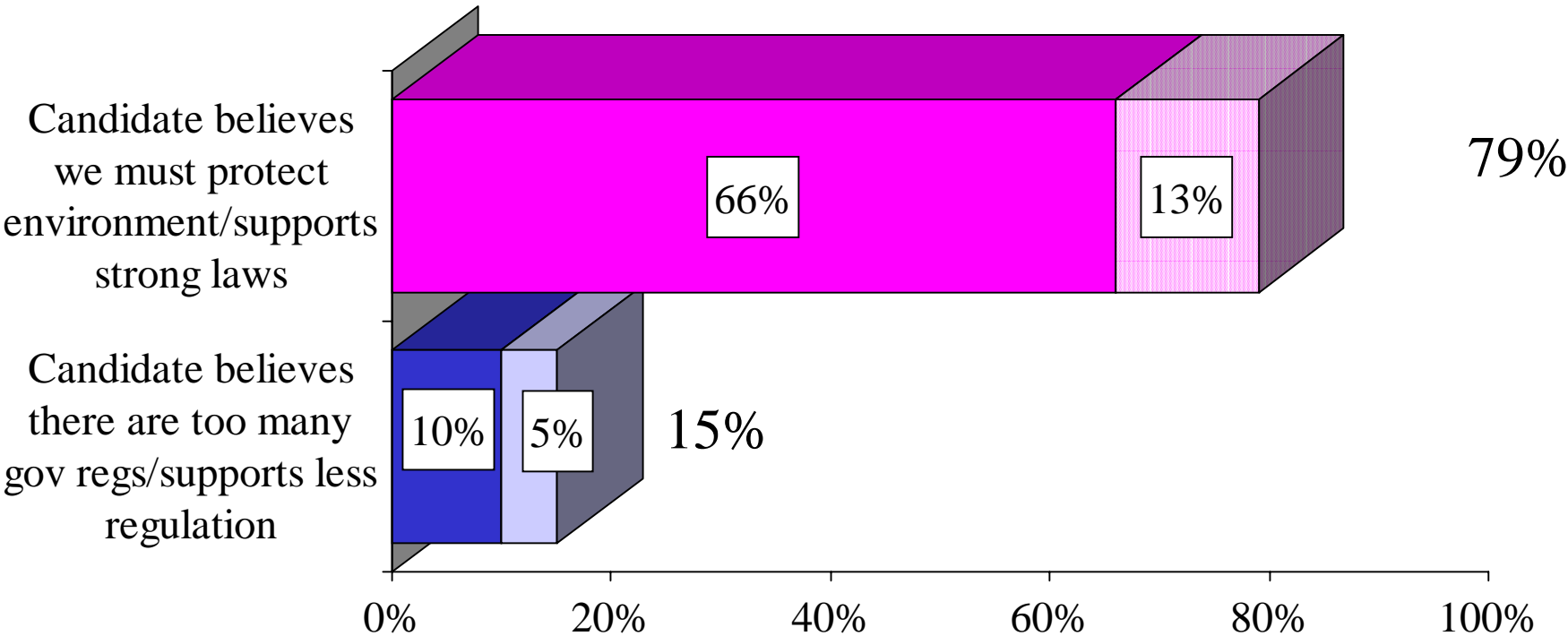
The Environment Is A “Very Important” Voting Issue In All Five States

In making a voting decision, how important are conservation or environmental issues/issues involving clean water, clean air and open spaces for you in deciding how to vote?



By More Than 5 To 1, Citizens Prefer A Candidate Who Favors Strong Environmental Laws Over One Who Wants To Reduce Regulation On Business

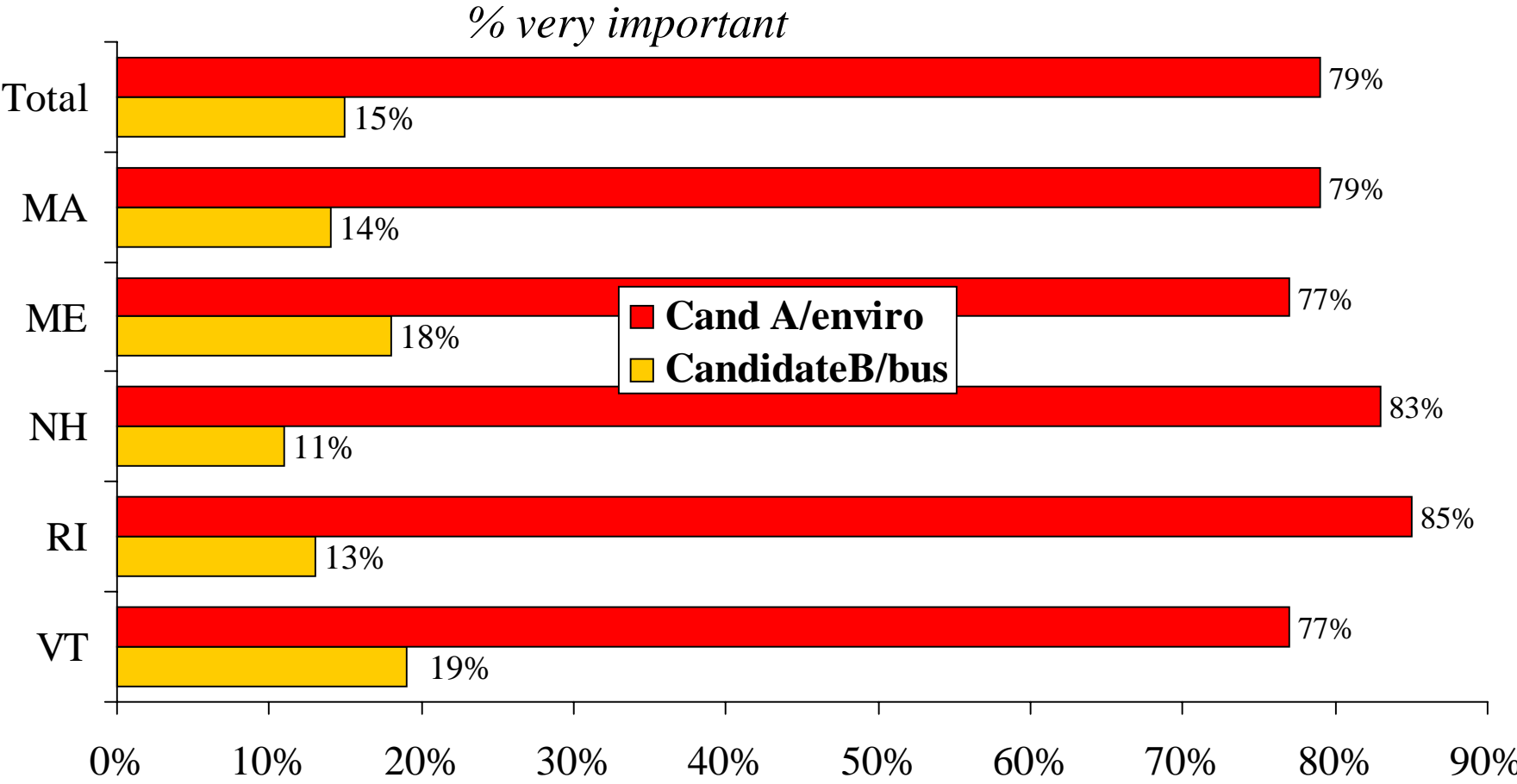
Please tell me which candidate you favor:



Darker Shading = Stronger Intensity

Overwhelming Preference For The Environmental Candidate Is Evident In All Five States

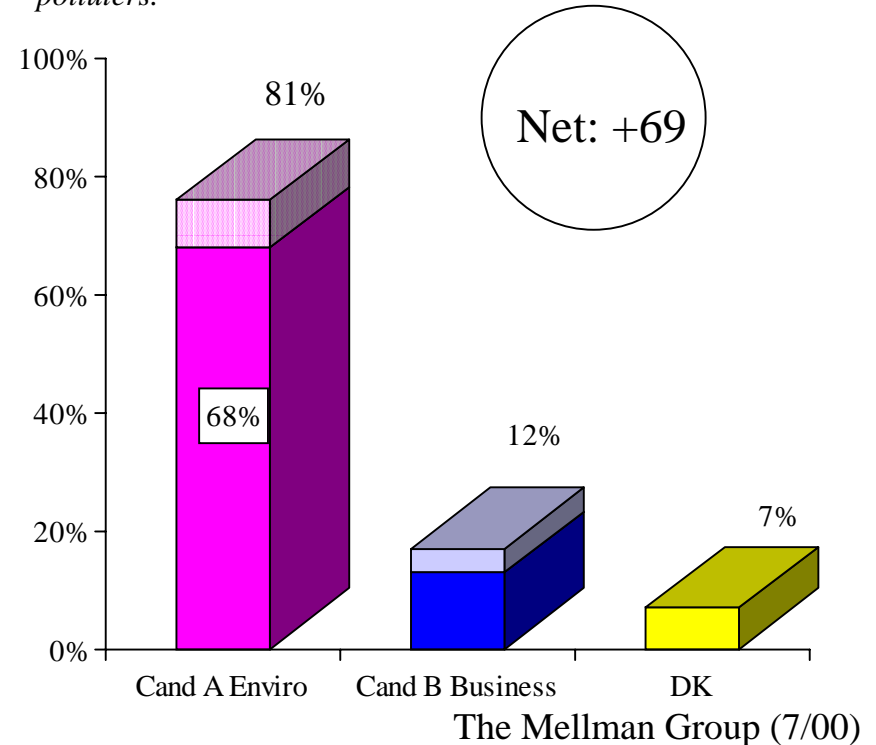
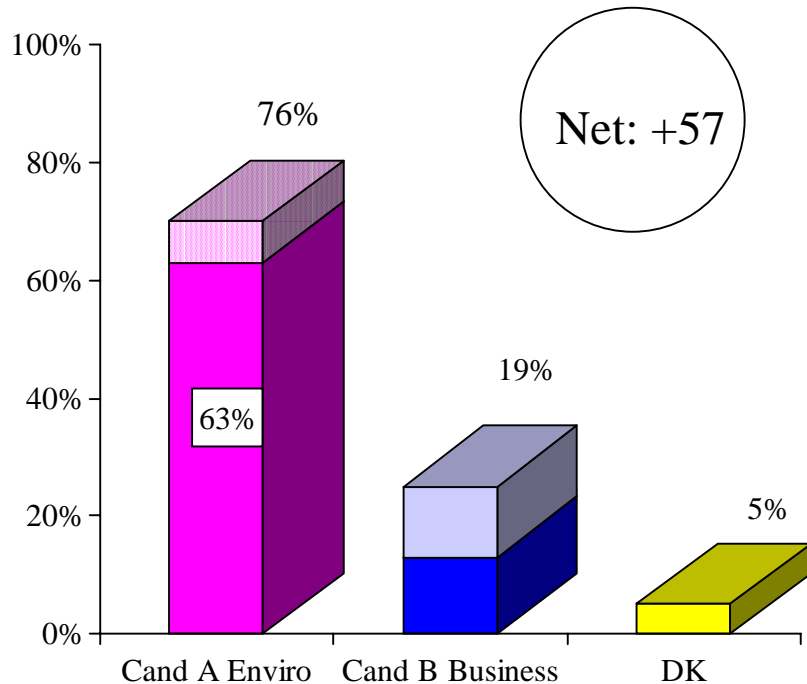
Please tell me which candidate you favor:



Mentioning Campaign Contributions From Polluters Further Decreases Support For The Anti-Environment Candidate

Candidate A believes we must protect the environment and supports strong laws and enforcement of those laws. Candidate B believes there are too many government regulations and supports efforts to relieve the burden of regulation on business.

Candidate A believes we must protect the environment and supports strong laws and enforcement of those laws. Candidate A has been endorsed by and has taken campaign contributions from environmental groups. Candidate B believes there are too many government regulations and supports efforts to relieve the burden of regulations on business. Candidate B has also taken campaign contributions from developers and corporations that are known polluters.



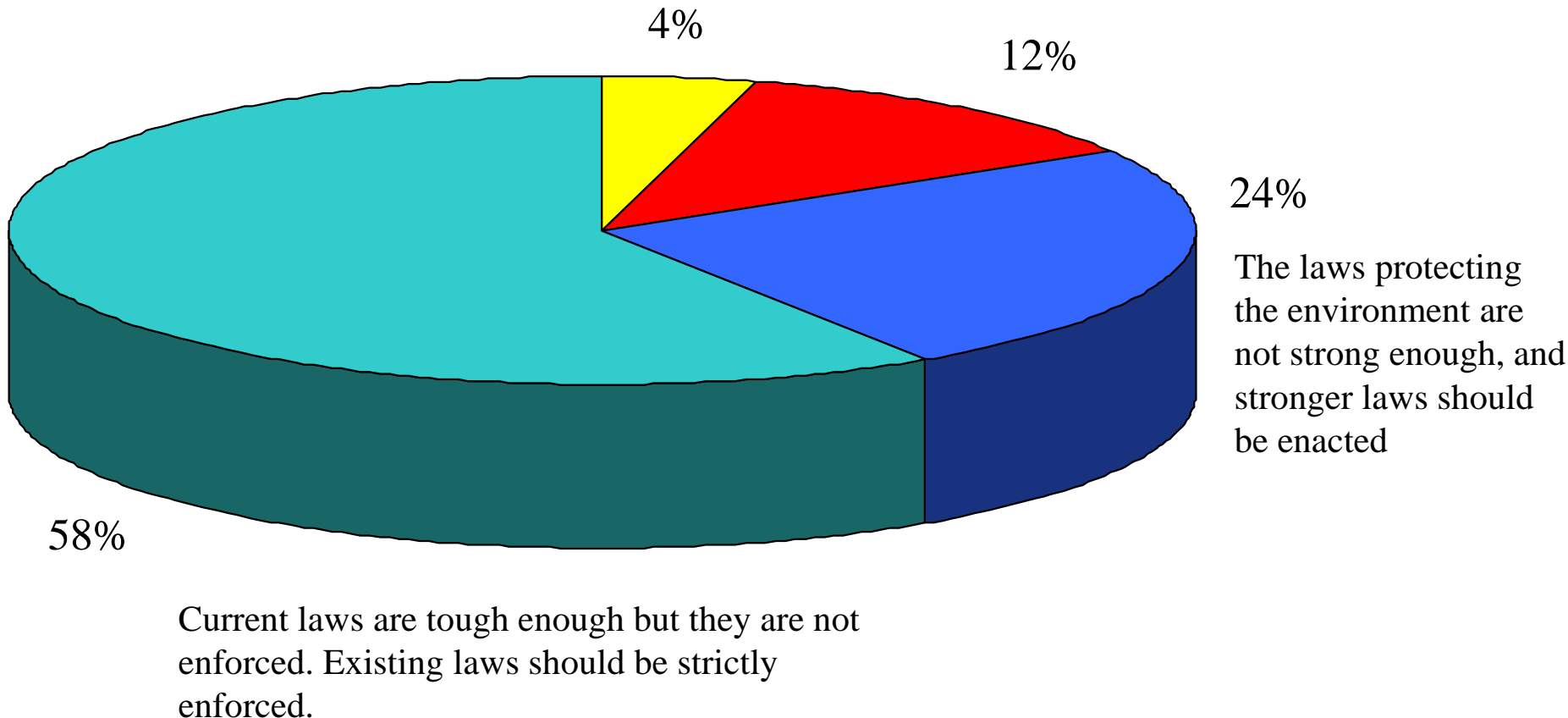
Almost 6 in 10 Believe Environmental Laws Need To Be More Strictly Enforced

Few Support Either The Status Quo Or Relaxed Standards

Which of the following comes closer to your own view?

Current laws protecting the environment are too strict and should be relaxed

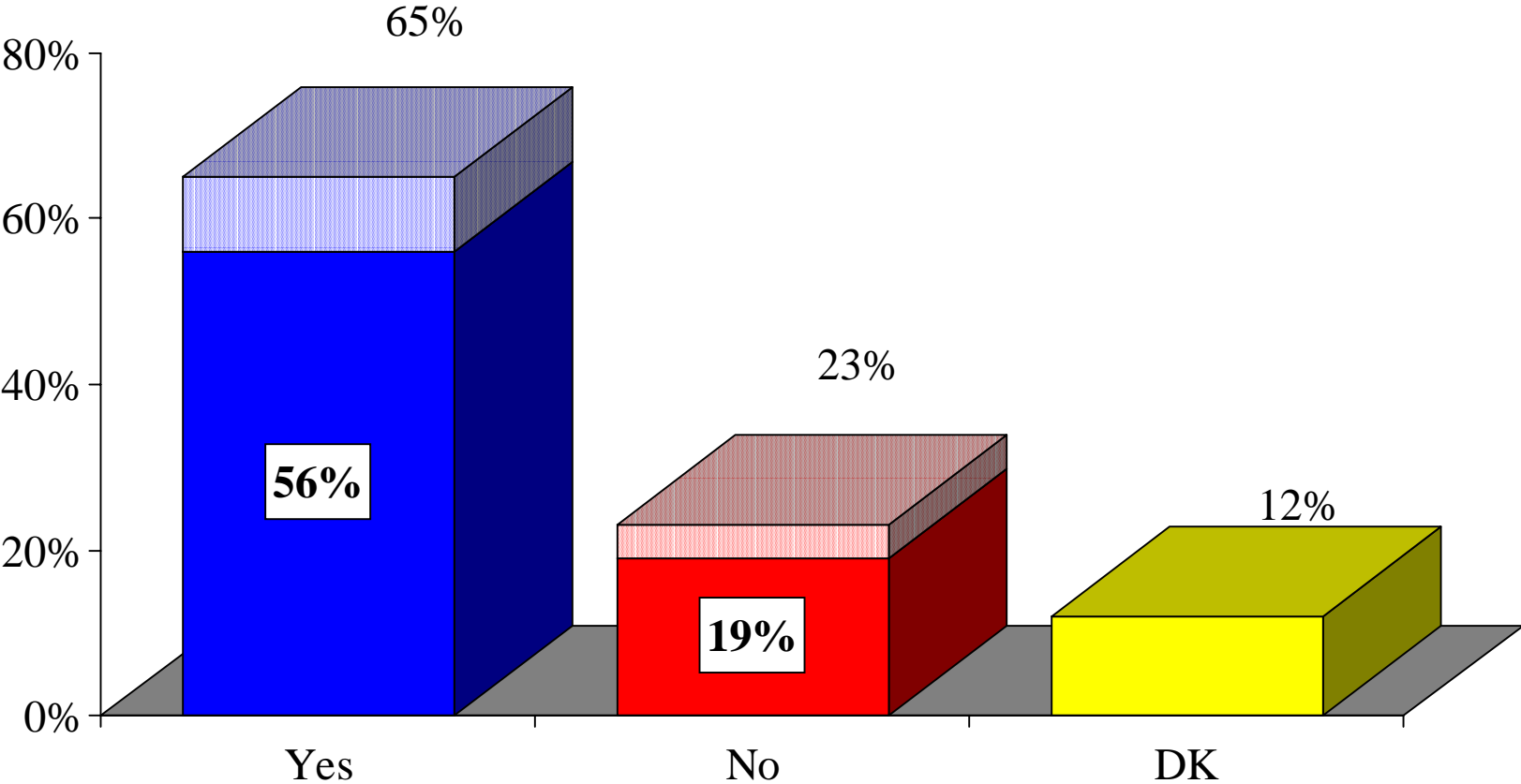
The current laws and enforcement are fine and should be left alone



Current laws are tough enough but they are not enforced. Existing laws should be strictly enforced.

Nearly Two-Thirds Believe Current Levels Of Air Pollution Are Enough To Damage Human Health

As far as you know, are the levels of pollution that currently exist in the air enough to damage human health or not – or don't you have an opinion on this?

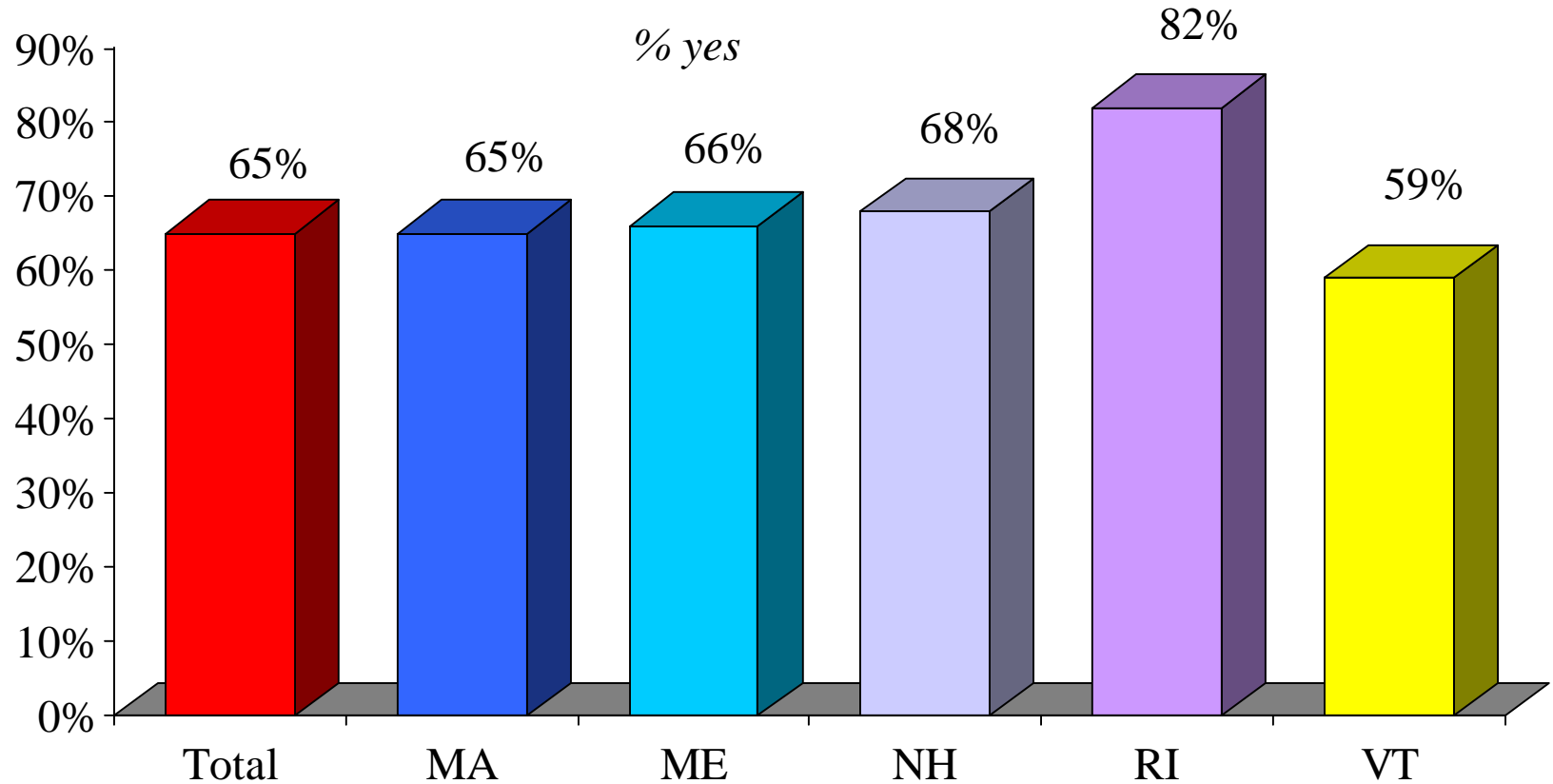


Darker Shading = Stronger Intensity

Majorities In Each State Say Current Air Pollution Levels Are A Threat To Health

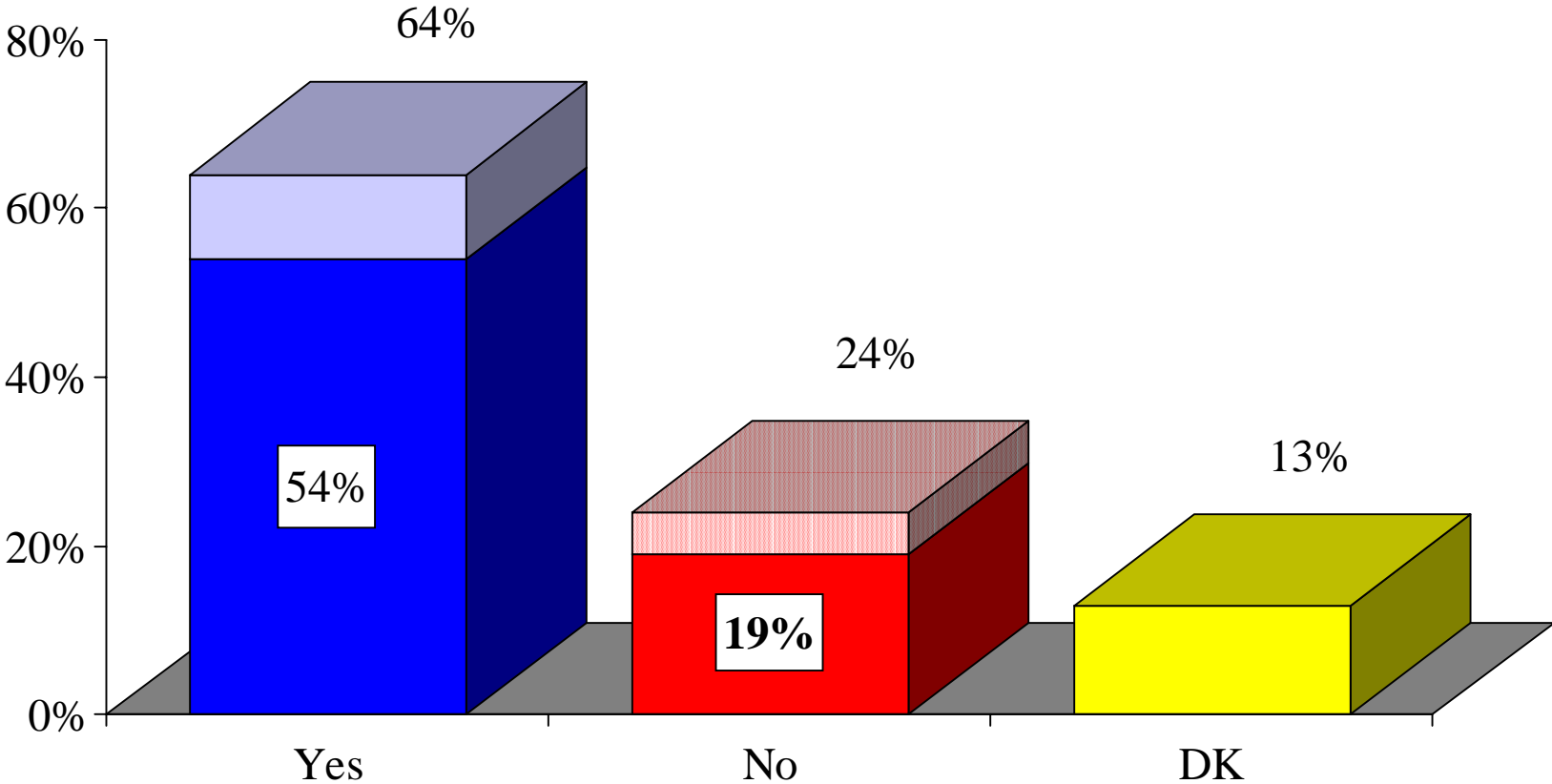
Rhode Islanders Are Particularly Concerned

As far as you know, are the levels of pollution that currently exist in the air enough to damage human health or not – or don't you have an opinion on this?



Nearly Two-Thirds Also Believe Current Levels Of Water Pollution Are Enough To Damage Human Health

As far as you know, are the levels of pollution that currently exist in the water enough to damage human health or not – or don't you have an opinion on this?

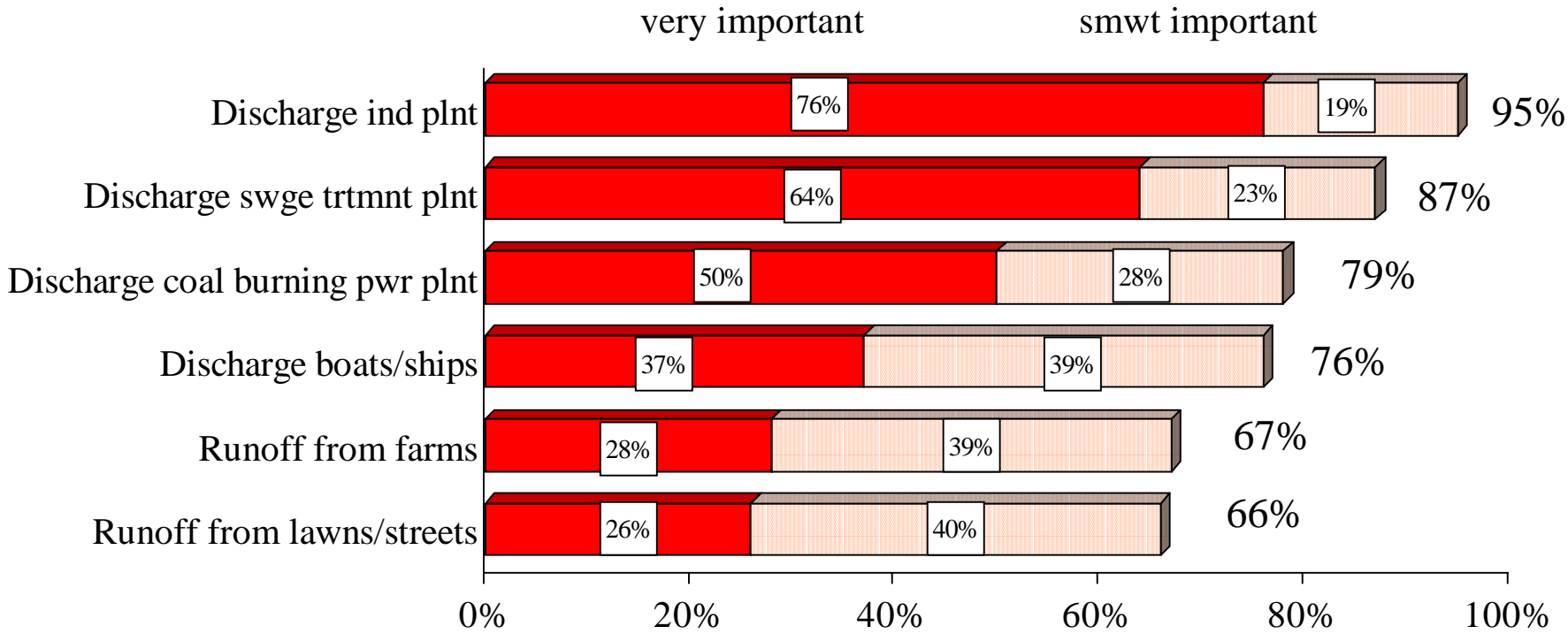


Darker Shading = Stronger Intensity

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Discharges From Industrial, Sewage Treatment, And Coal Burning Power Plants Are The Most Important Perceived Sources Of Water Pollution

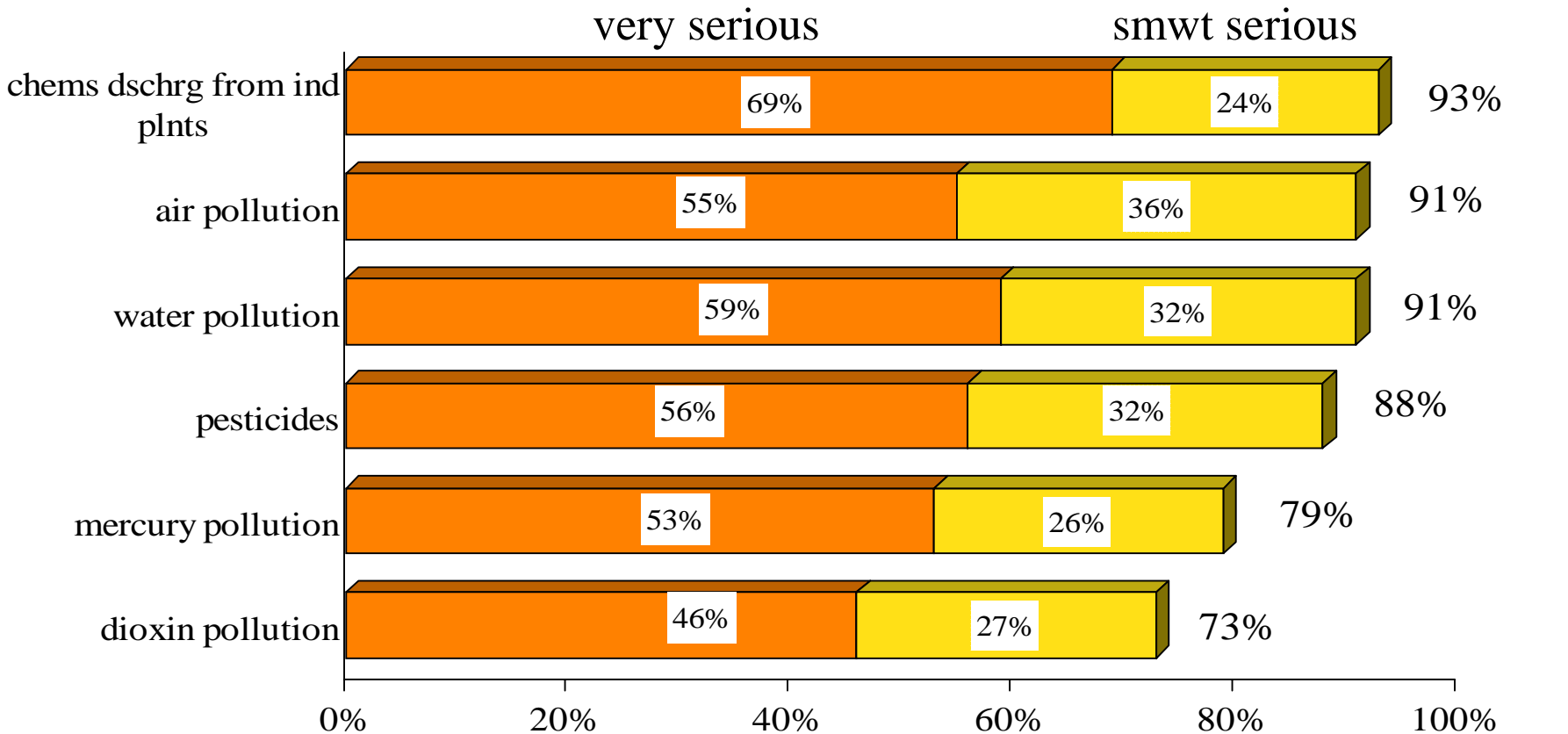
% important source of water pollution



darker shading=stronger intensity

All The Environmental Threats We Examined Are Considered Serious Health Threats By Almost All Voters

Chemical Discharges From Industrial Plants Are Deemed Very Serious By The Largest Number



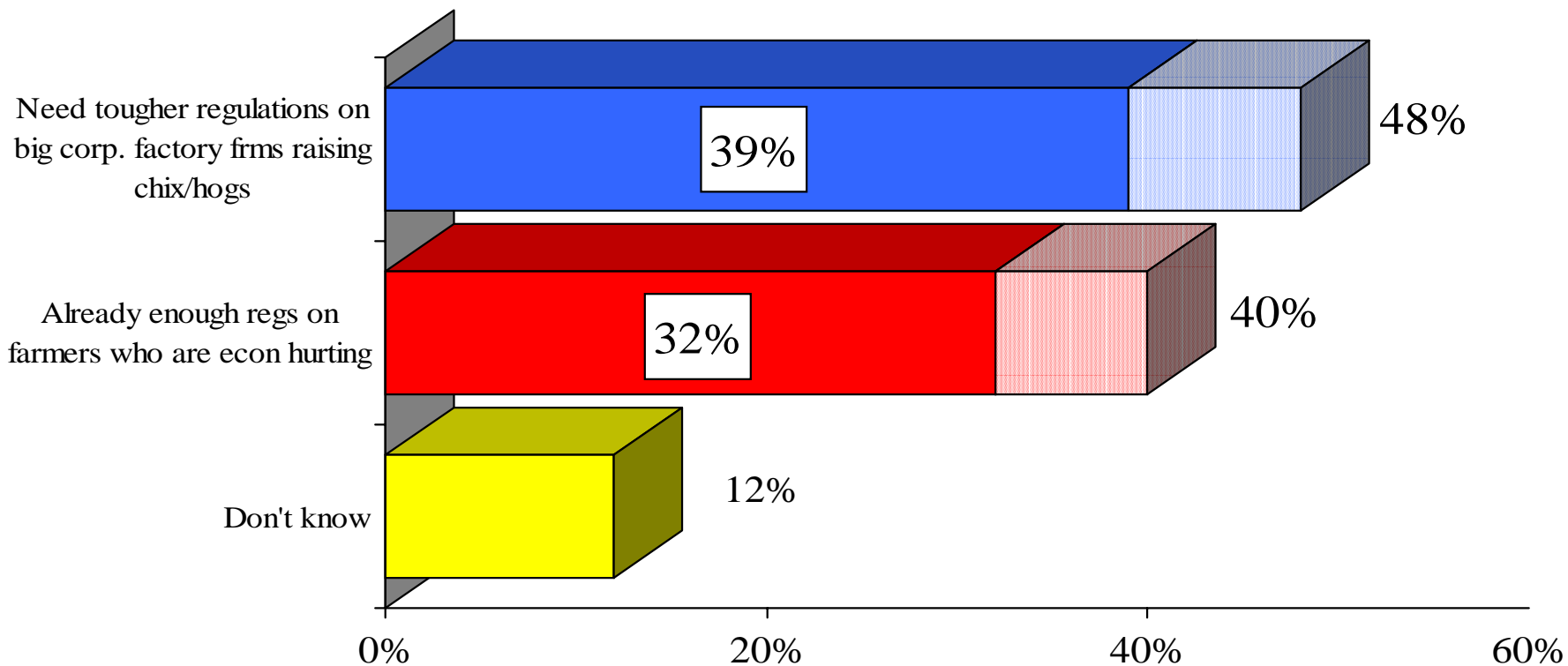
darker shading = stronger intensity

The Mellman Group (7/00)

A Plurality Favor Tougher Regulations On Corporate Hog Farms

But A Significant Minority Believe Regulations Would Hurt Struggling Farmers

Which of the following statements come closest to your view:

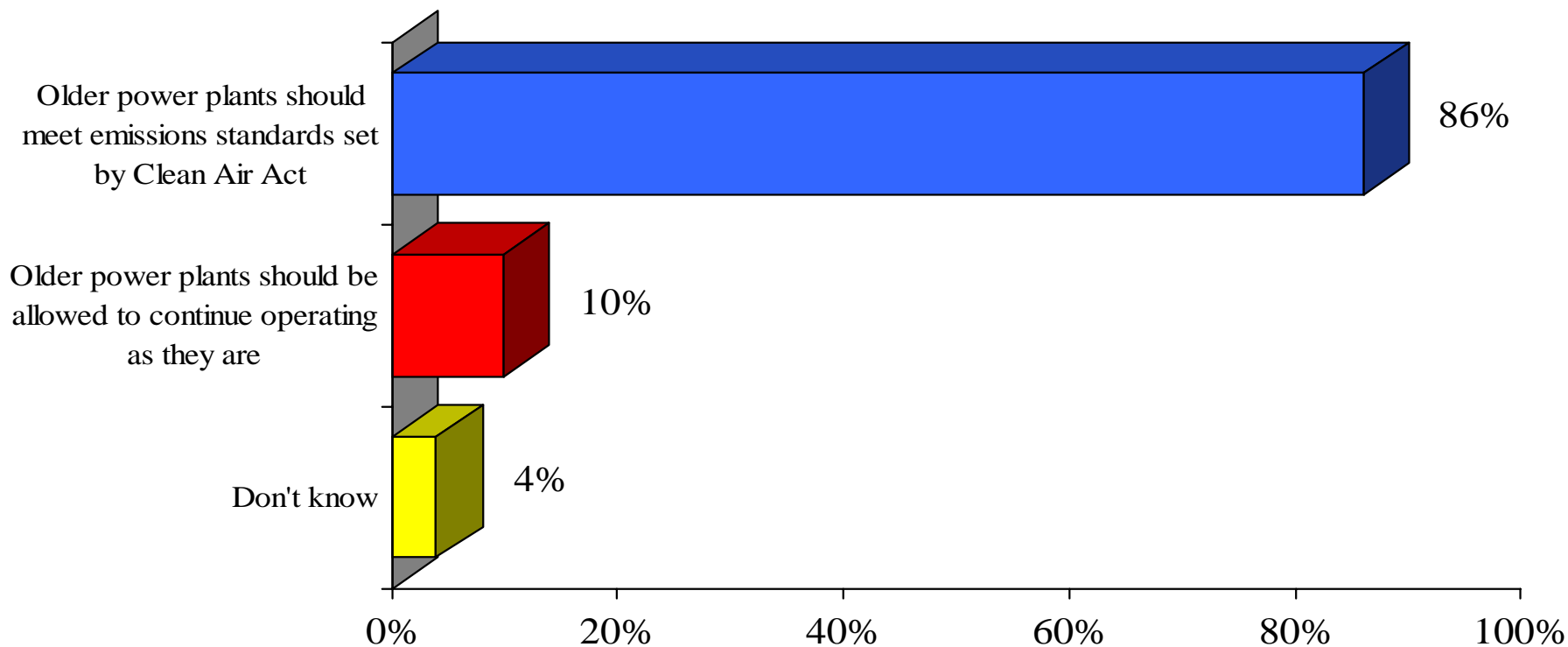


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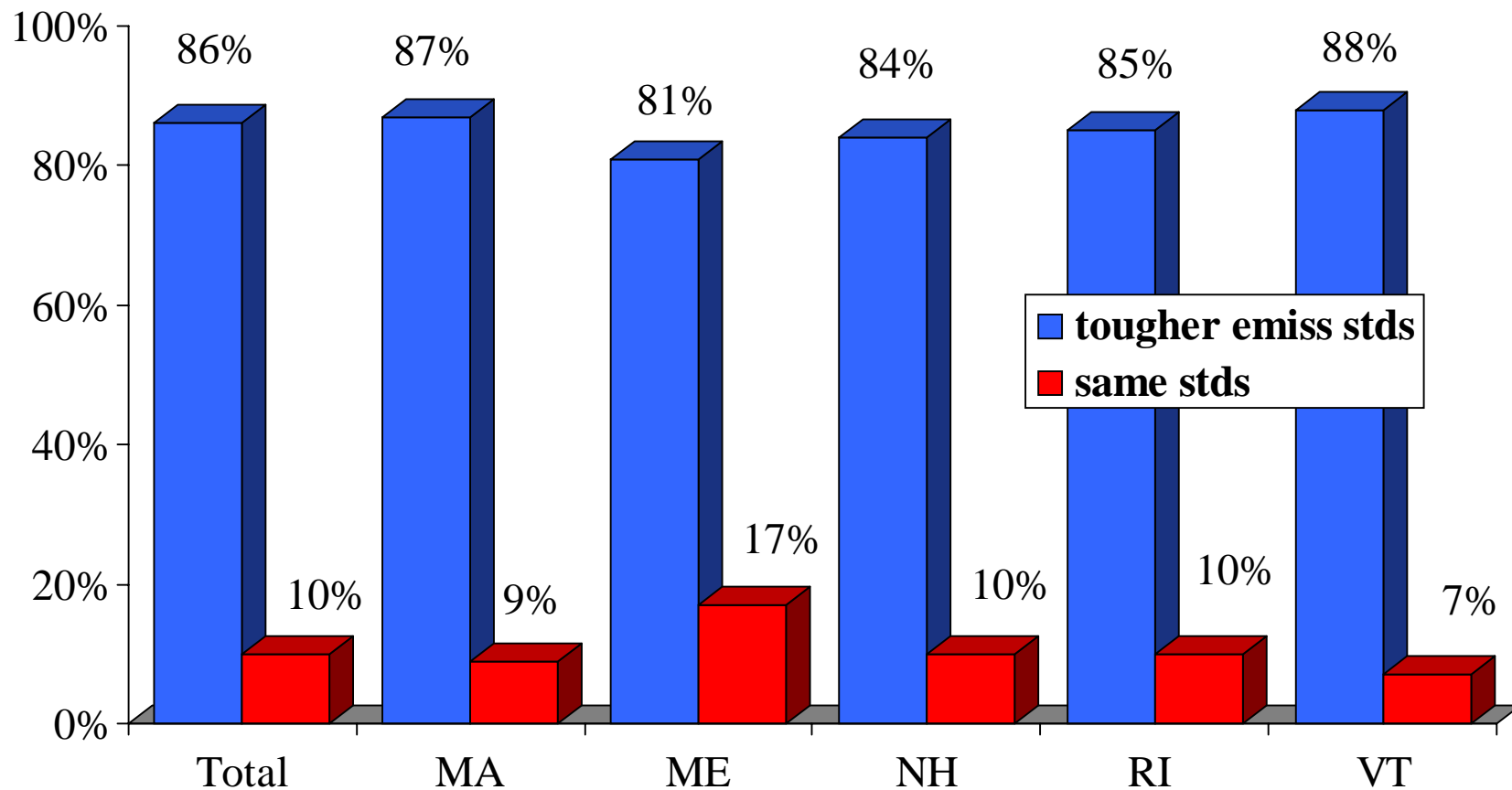
The Mellman Group (7/00)

Citizens Are Nearly Unanimous In Wanting Older Power Plants To Meet Clean Air Standards

As you may know, the Clean Air Act set standards for air pollution. In 1977, the nation's older coal and oil burning power plants were exempted from many of the emissions standards of the Clean Air Act. As a result, these power plants still operate today under standards that are less strict than plants built in the 20 years since. Which comes closest to your view about these power plants:



Universal Compliance With Clean Air Standards Is Favored By Overwhelming Majorities In All Five States

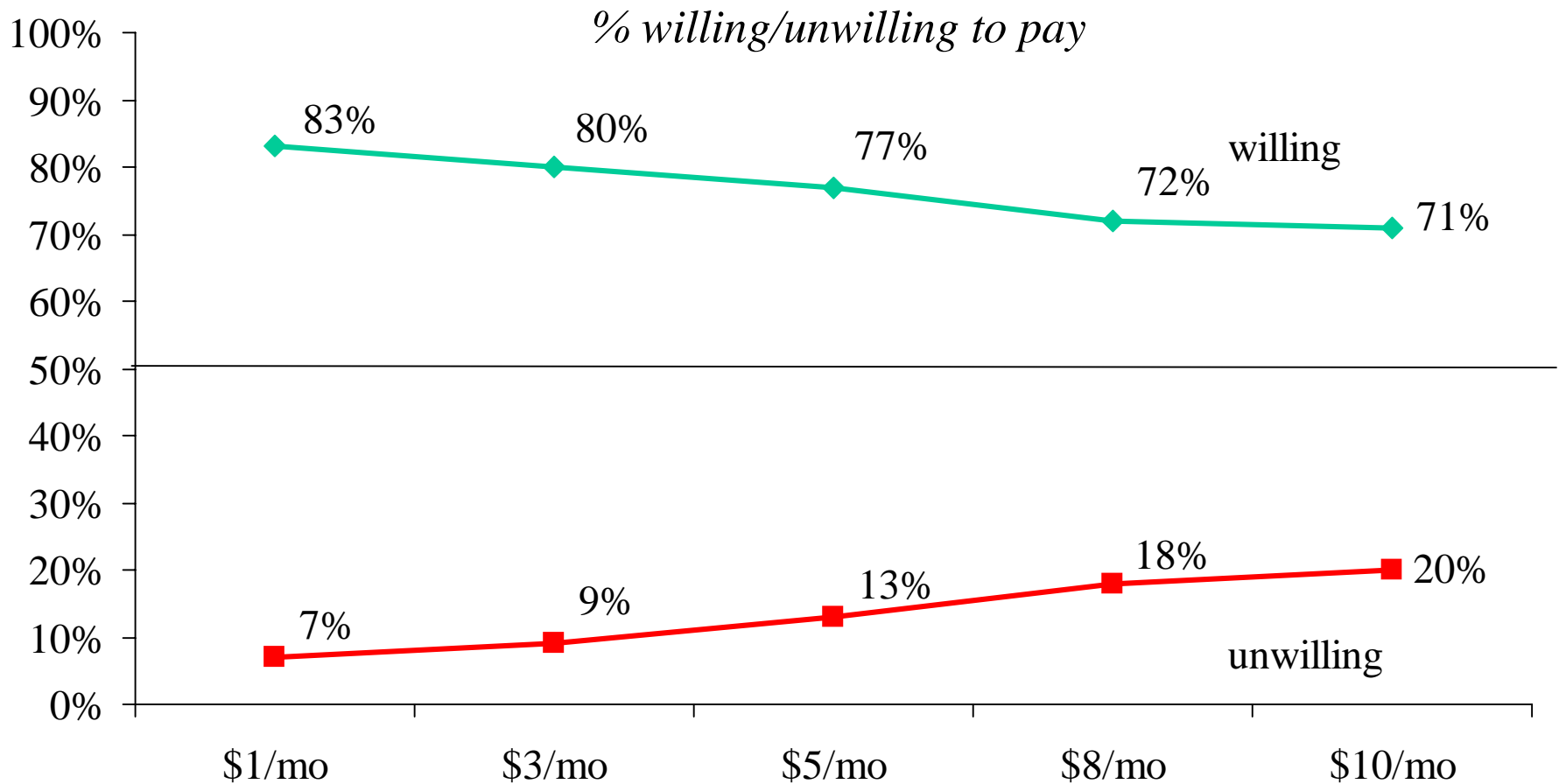


Darker Shading = Stronger Intensity

The Mellman Group (7/00)

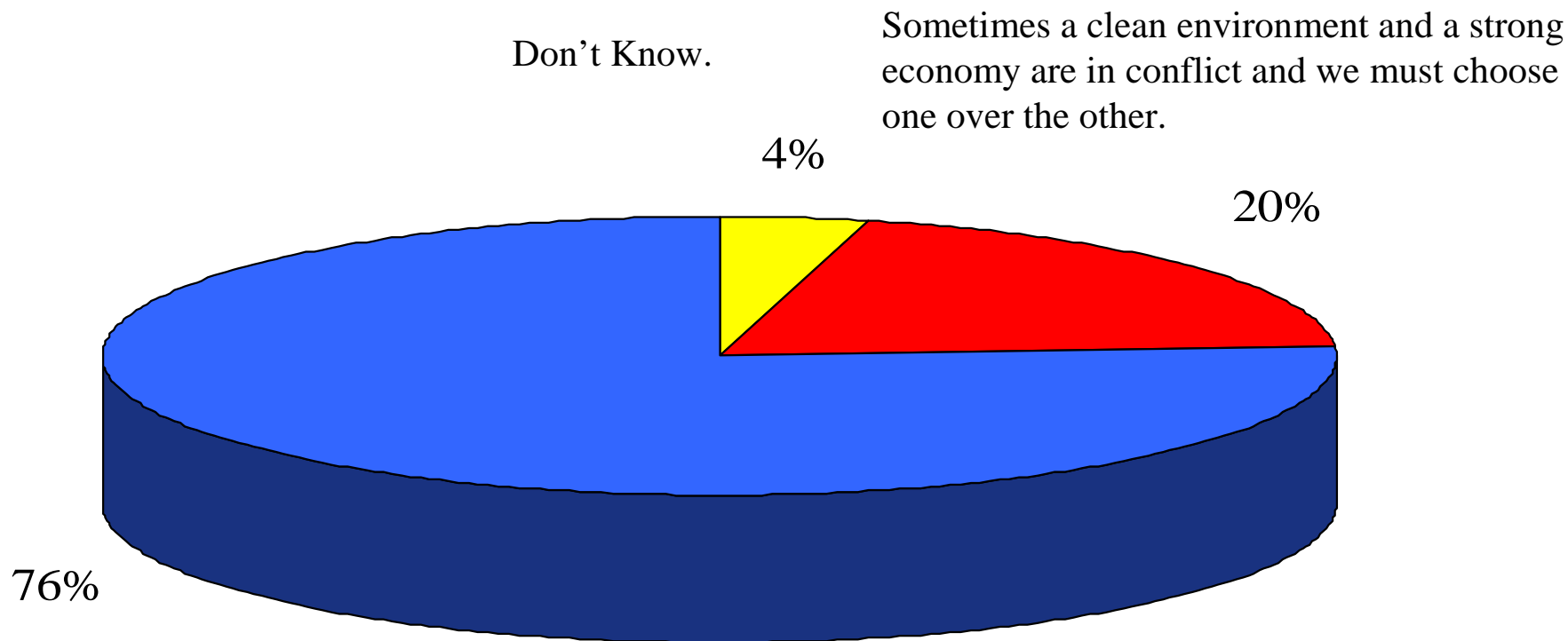
Citizens Are Even Willing To Pay More For Cleaner Energy

Nearly Three-Quarters Are Willing To Pay \$10 More Per Month



Three-Quarters Believe There Is No Conflict Between A Strong Economy And A Clean Environment

Which of the following statements comes closer to your own view?



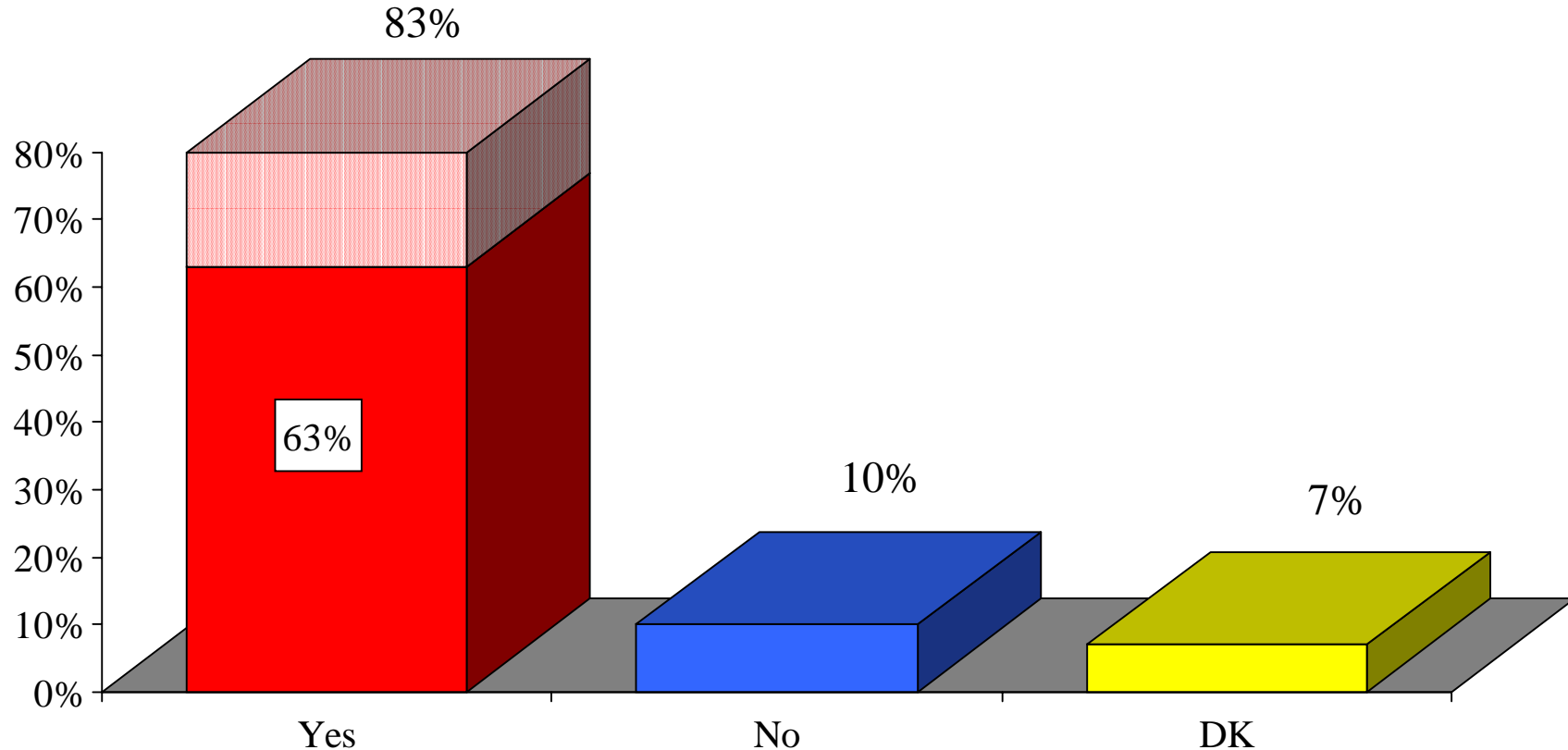
We can have a clean environment and a strong economy at the same time without having to choose one over the other.

Sometimes a clean environment and a strong economy are in conflict and we must choose one over the other.

Don't Know.

Most Believe Campaign Contributions Influence Elected Officials' Votes On Environmental Issues

When you think about campaign contributions to candidates, do you think campaign contributions influence how elected officials vote on environmental issues? [IF YES: Would you say contributions influence how elected officials vote a lot or a little?]



Darker Shading = Stronger Intensity

The Mellman Group (7/00)