

The Public Opinion Context for the 87th Texas Legislature

James Henson

March 4, 2021



Overarching conditions

COVID-19 conditions and response (institutional and social)

Responses to economic impact

Persistence of partisan polarization

Budget factors

The session-state election cycle dynamic



UT/Texas Tribune Poll data set

40+ surveys of registered voters in Texas (3-4 per year), most with media partner (The Texas Tribune) for public release.

N = 1200 since 2013, 800 before then.

Most recent: February 12-18, 2021

Overall margin of error for today's data: +/- 2.83

Collected by YouGov using matched sampling over the Internet.

Data, Codebook, Methodology Statements, Toplines & Crosstabs available at <https://texaspolitics.utexas.edu/polling-data-archive>

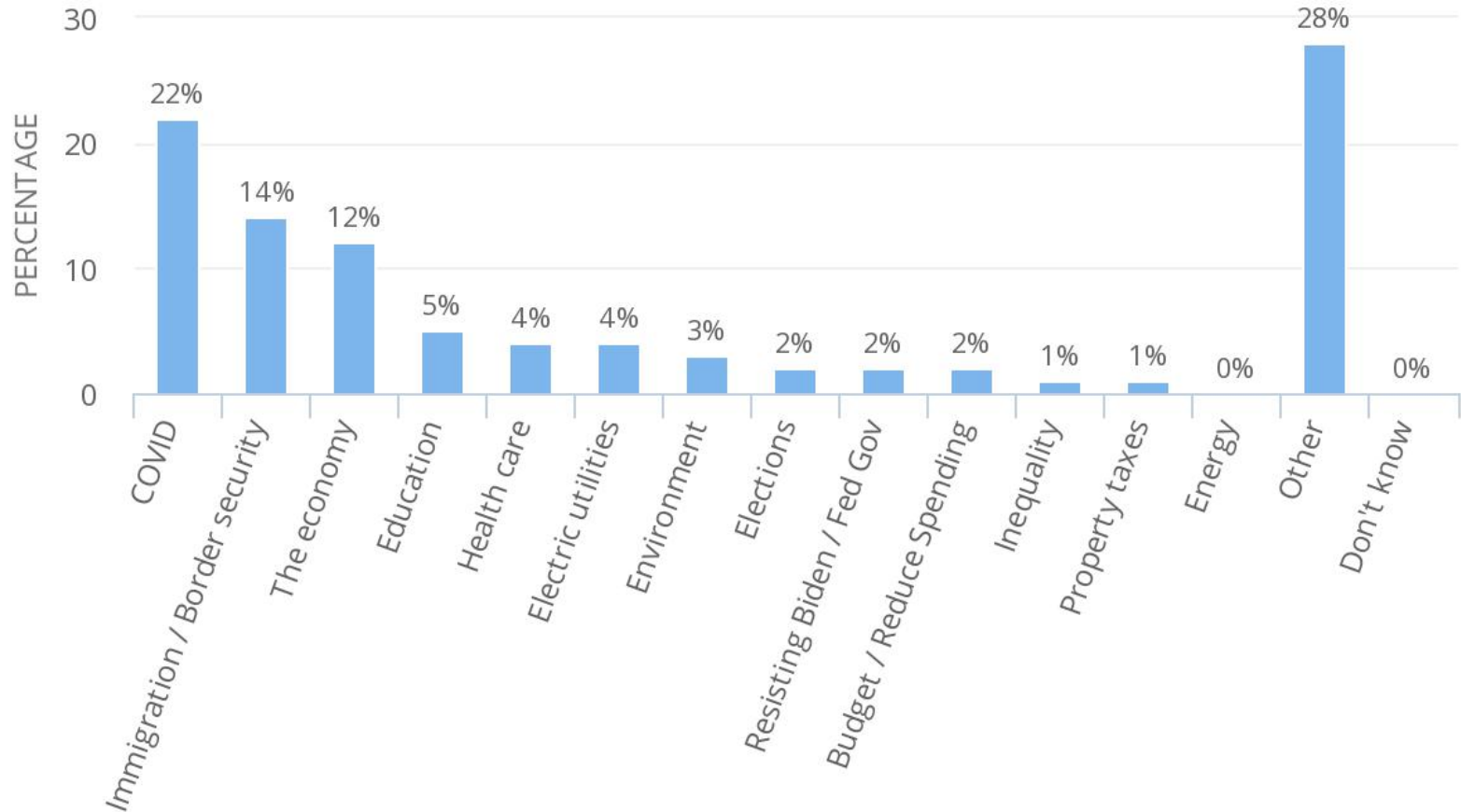


What issues and problems are salient?



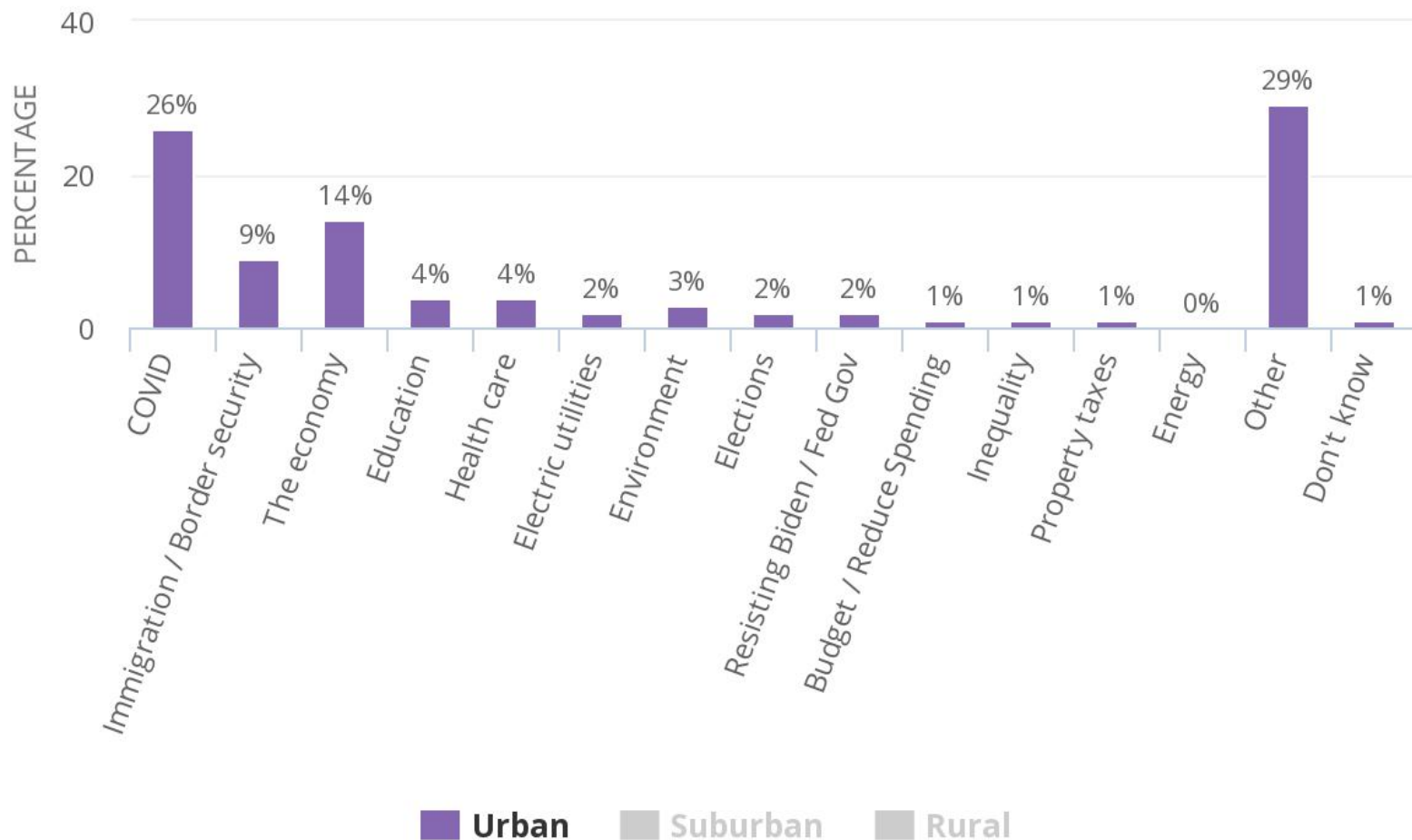
WHAT DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE THE LEGISLATURE'S TOP PRIORITY? (FEBRUARY 2021)

The Margin of Error for this Graphic is +/- 2.89%



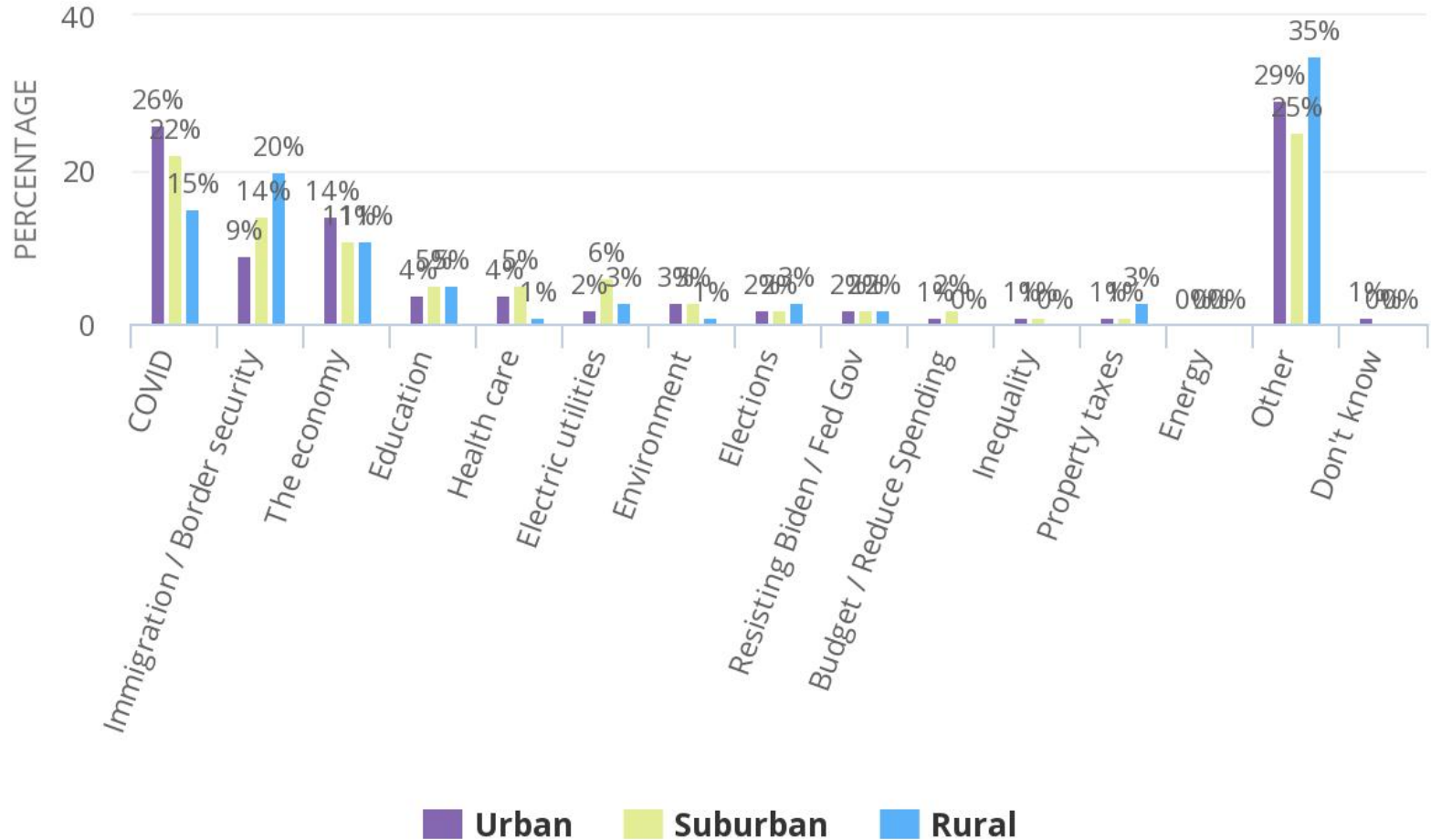
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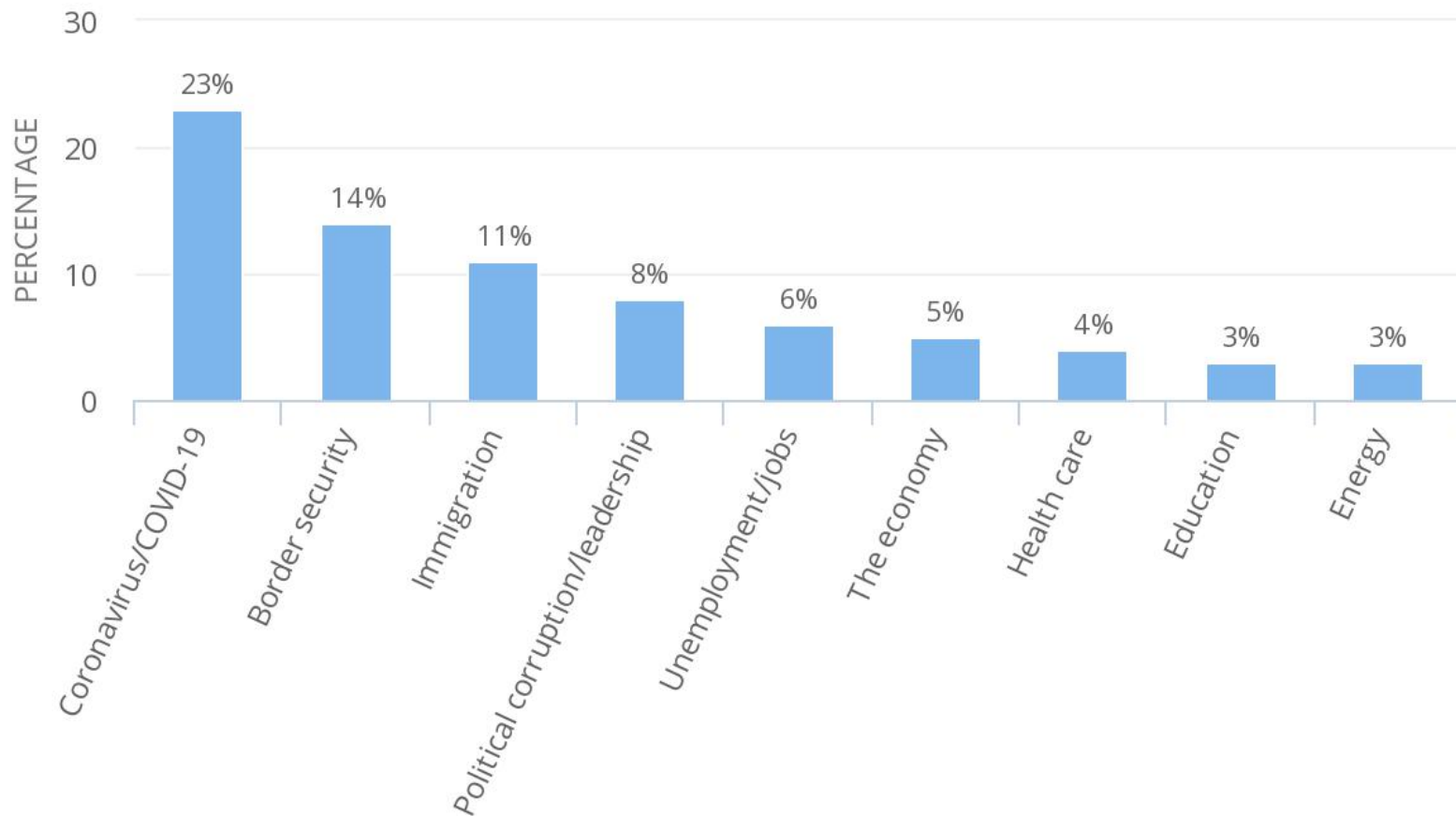
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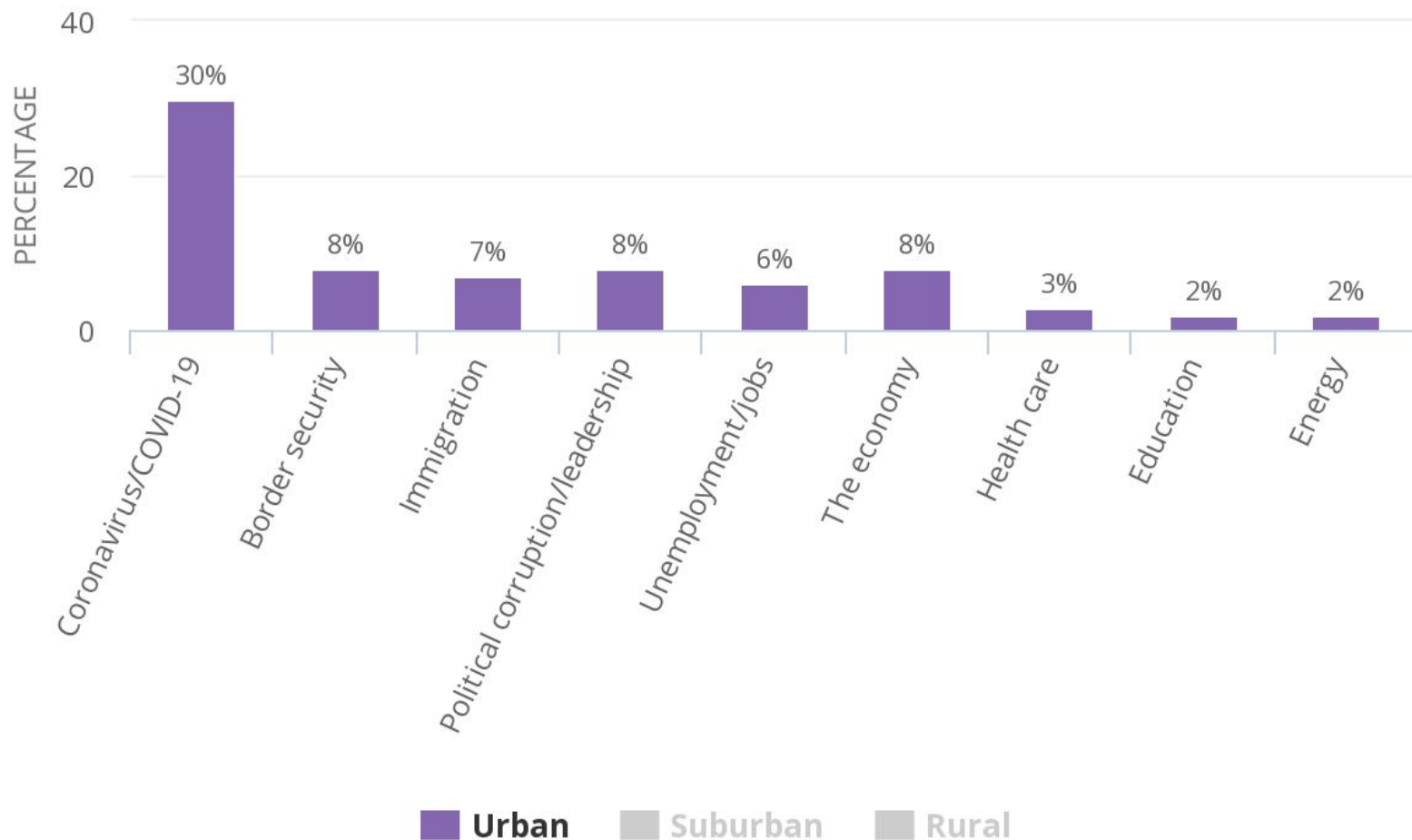
MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE FACING TEXAS (FEBRUARY 2021)

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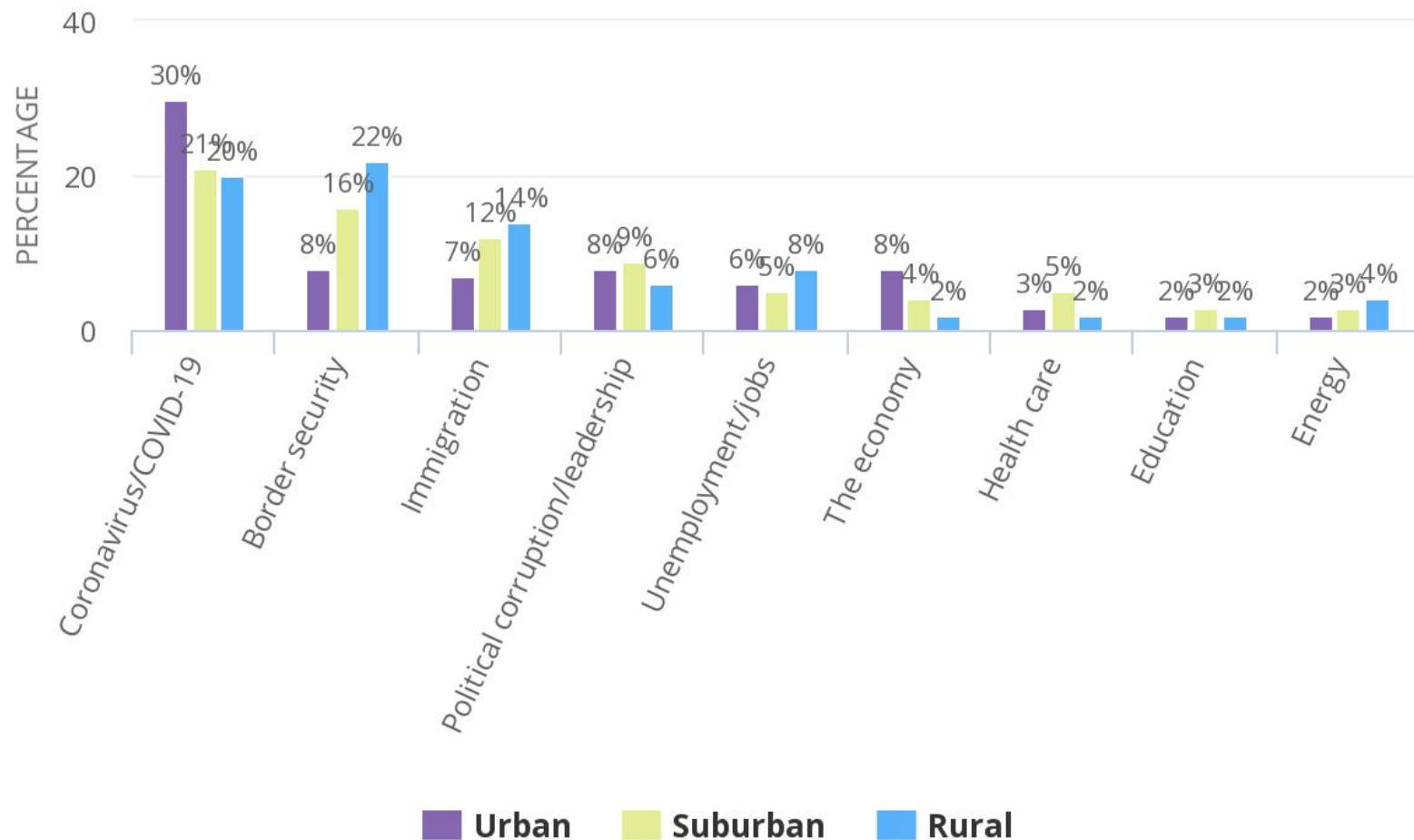
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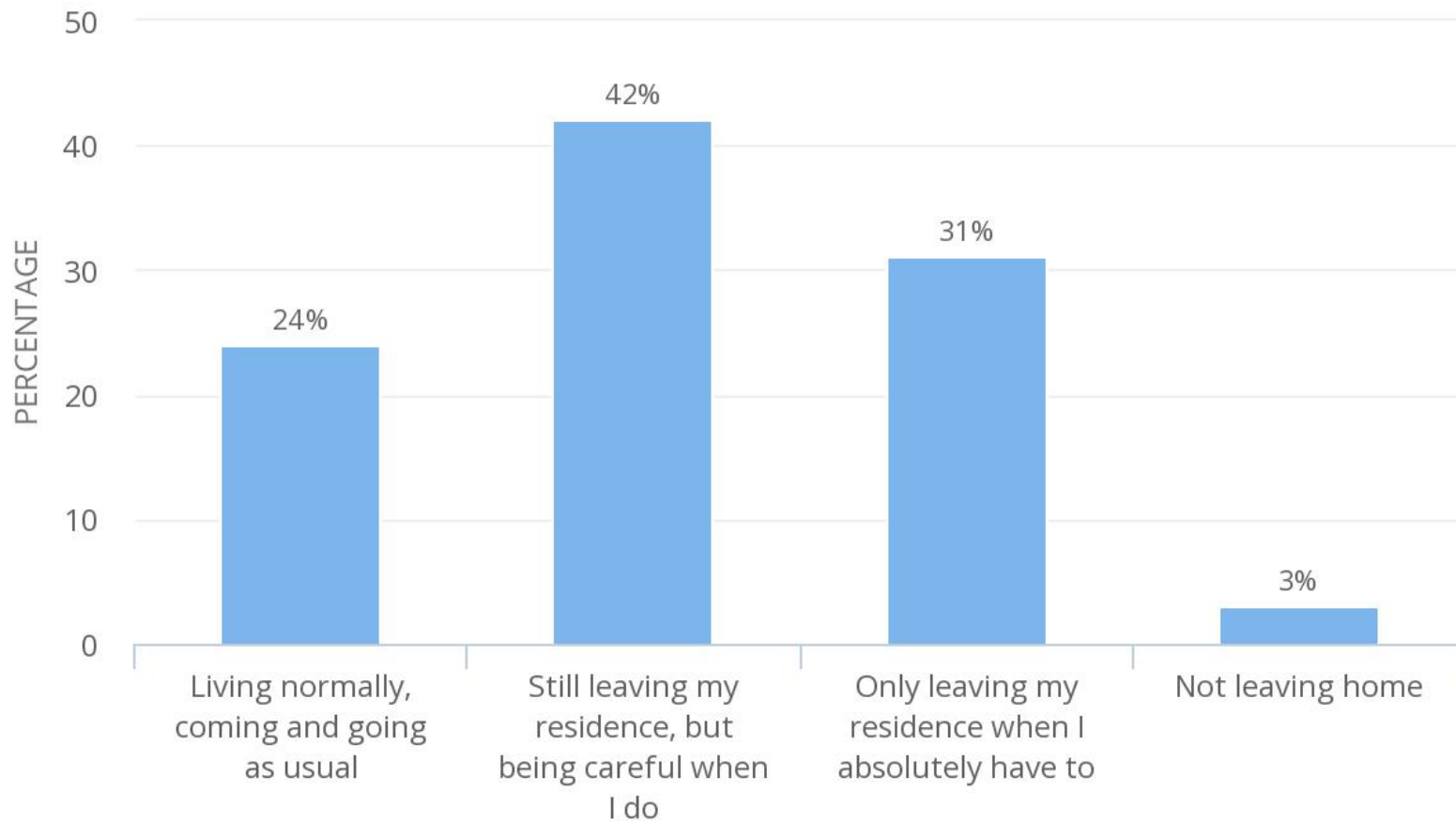
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Pandemic attitudes & reported behavior



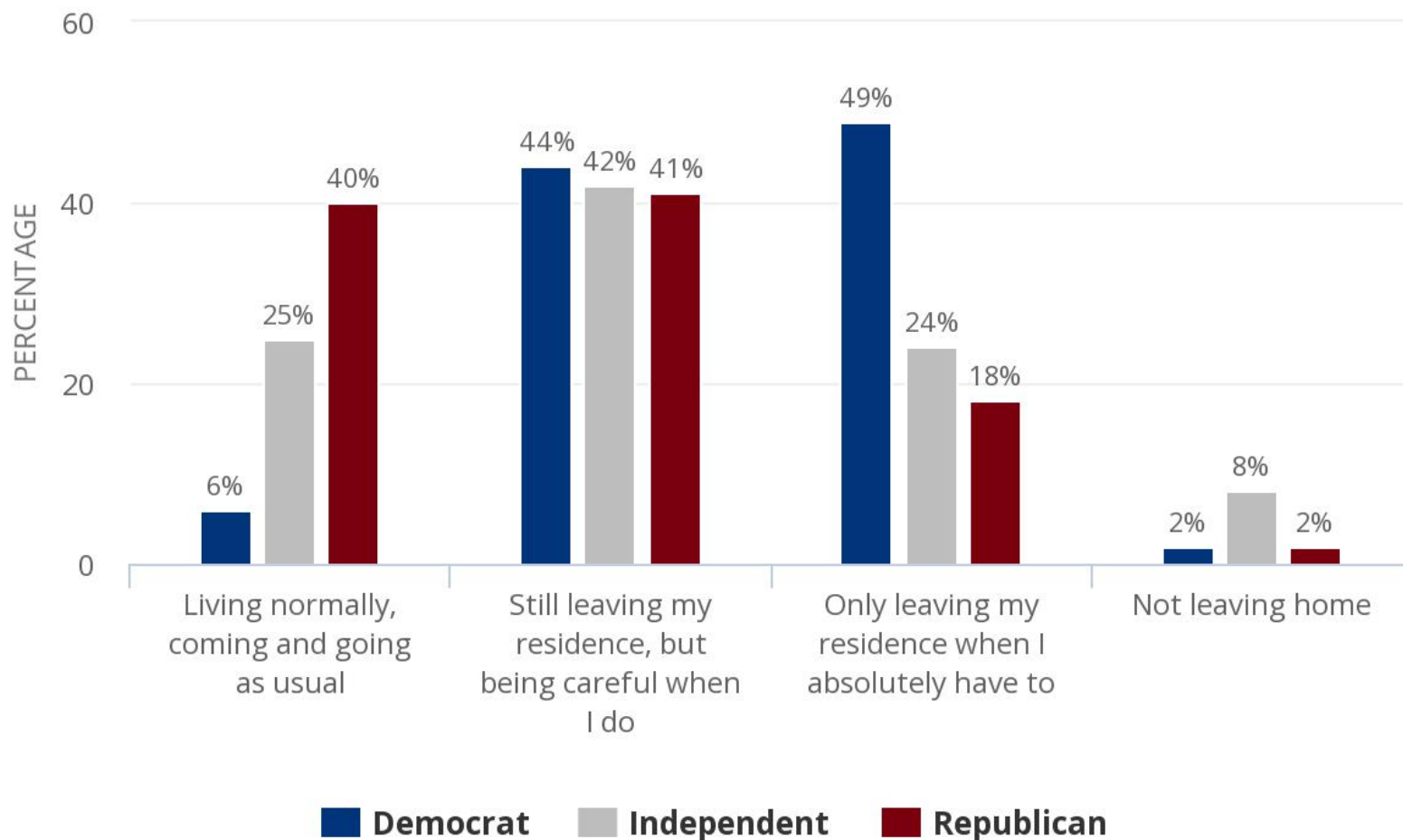
BEHAVIOR DUE TO CORONAVIRUS (FEBRUARY 2021)

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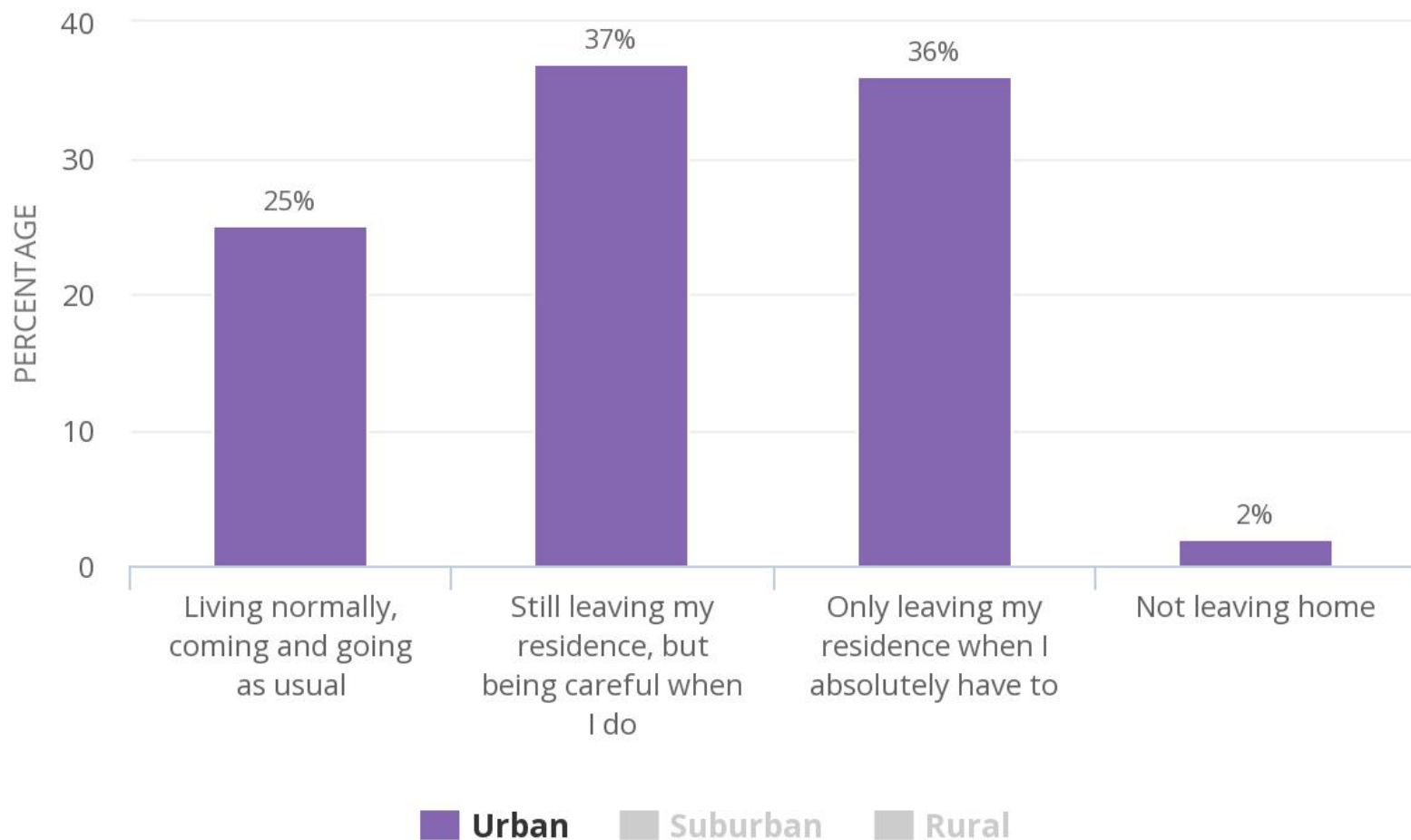
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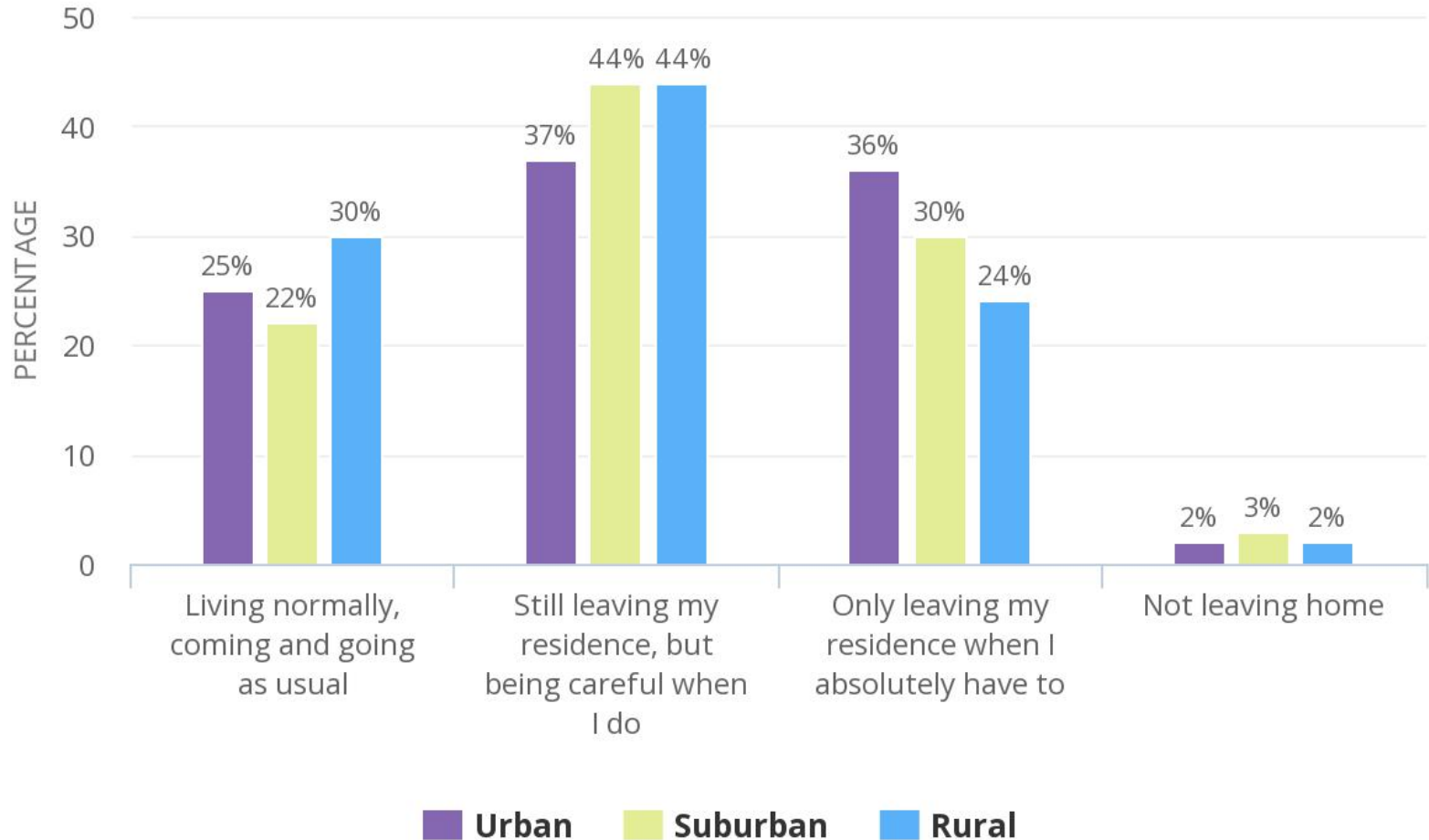
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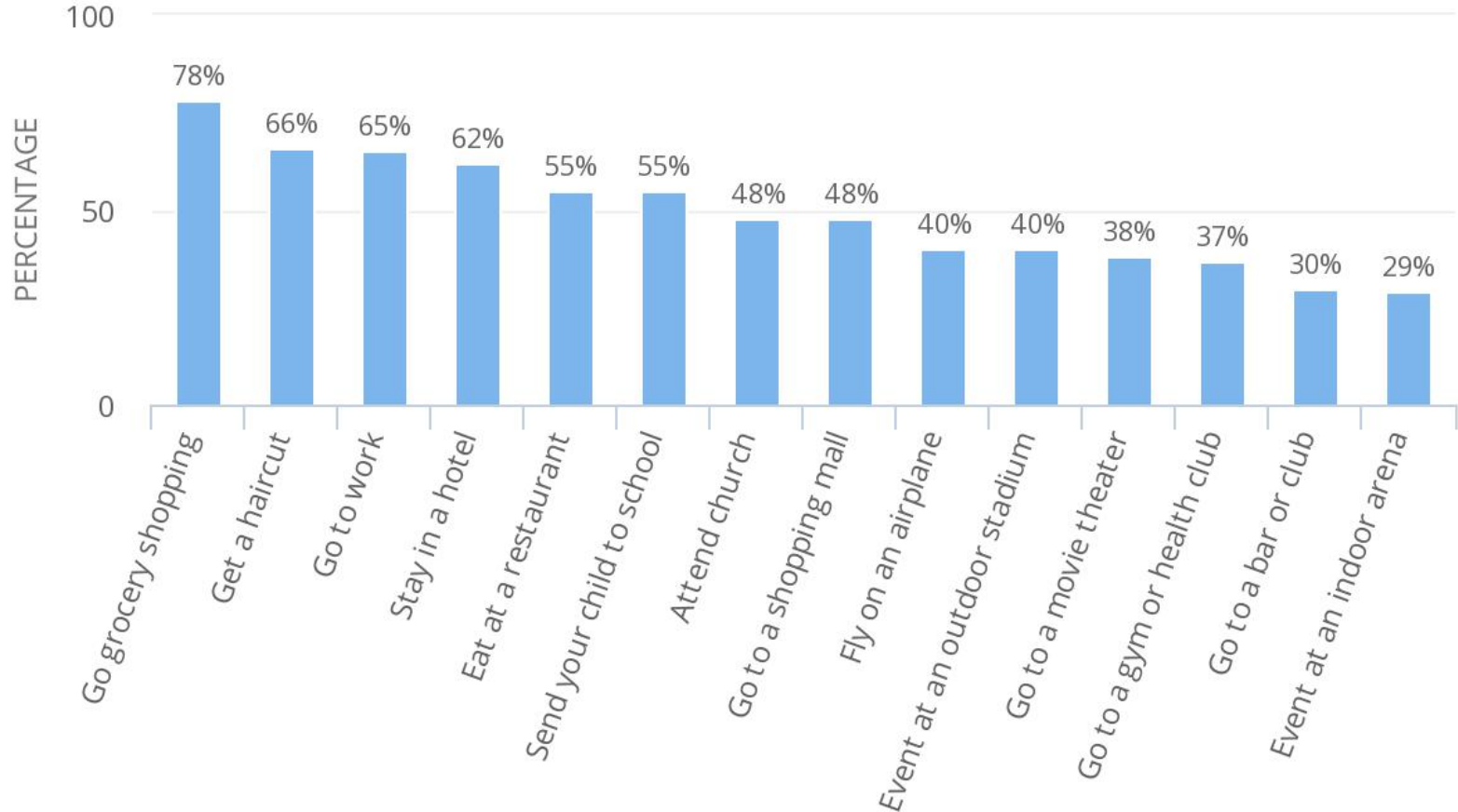
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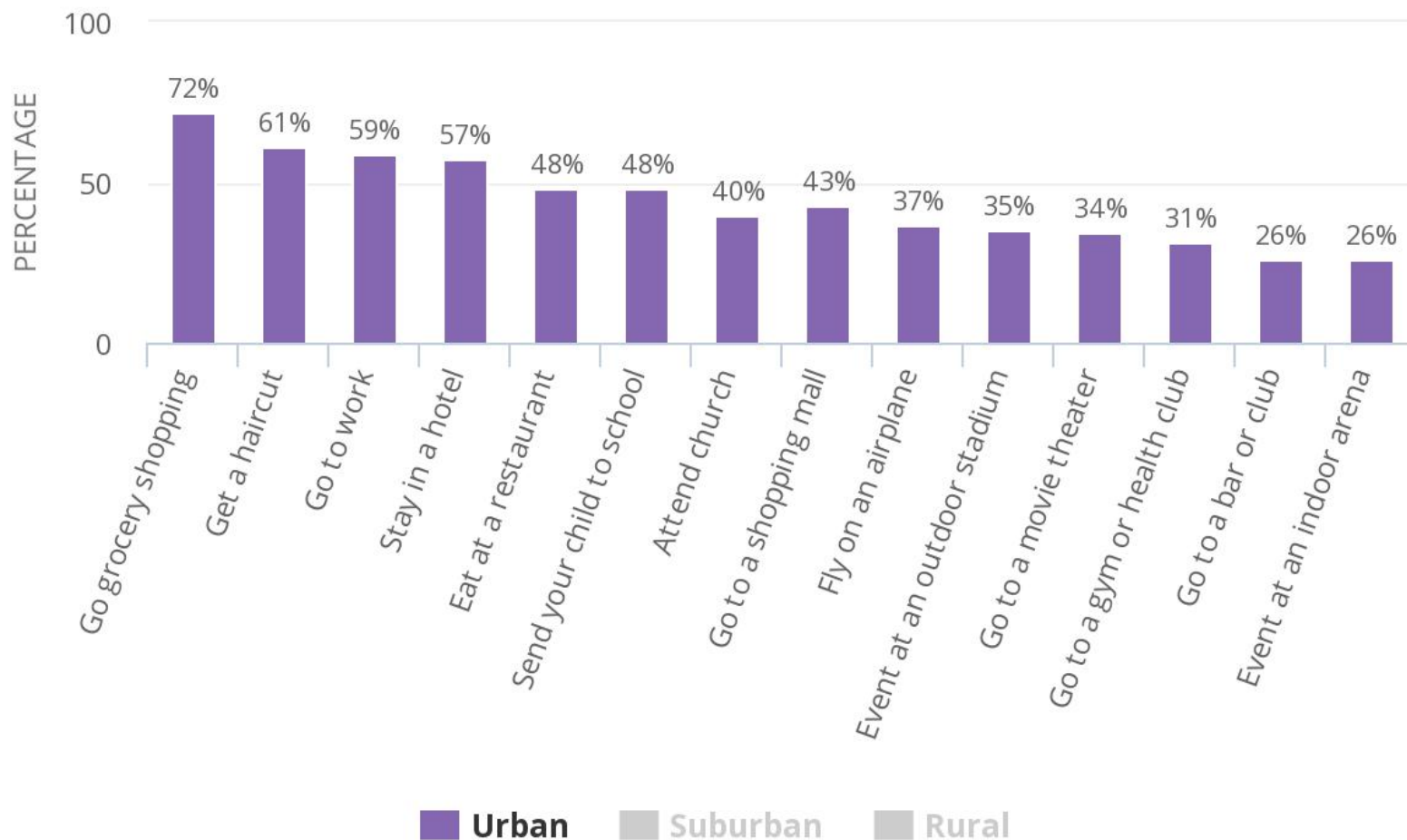
IS IT SAFE OR UNSAFE TO DO EACH OF THE FOLLOWING? (FEBRUARY 2021)

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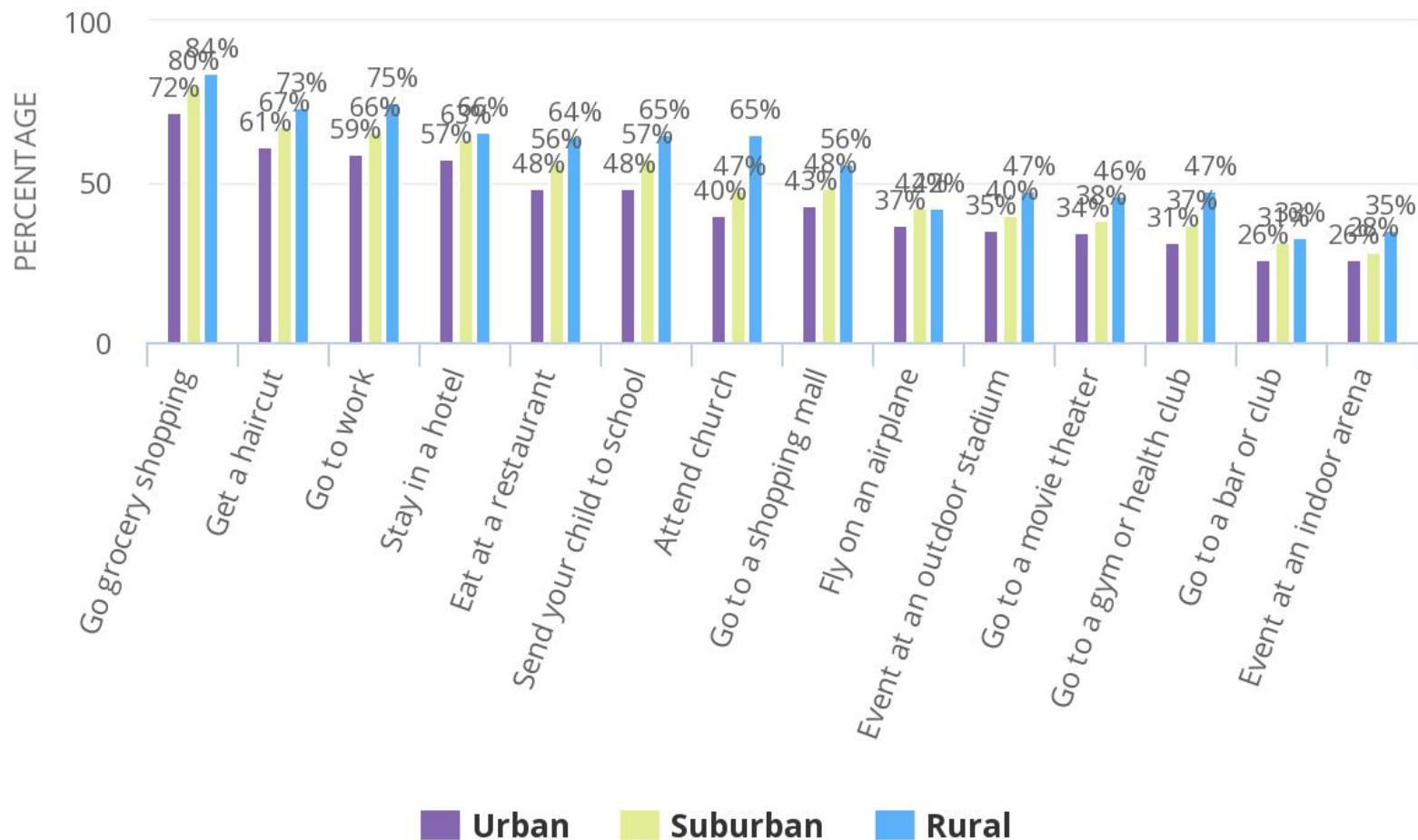
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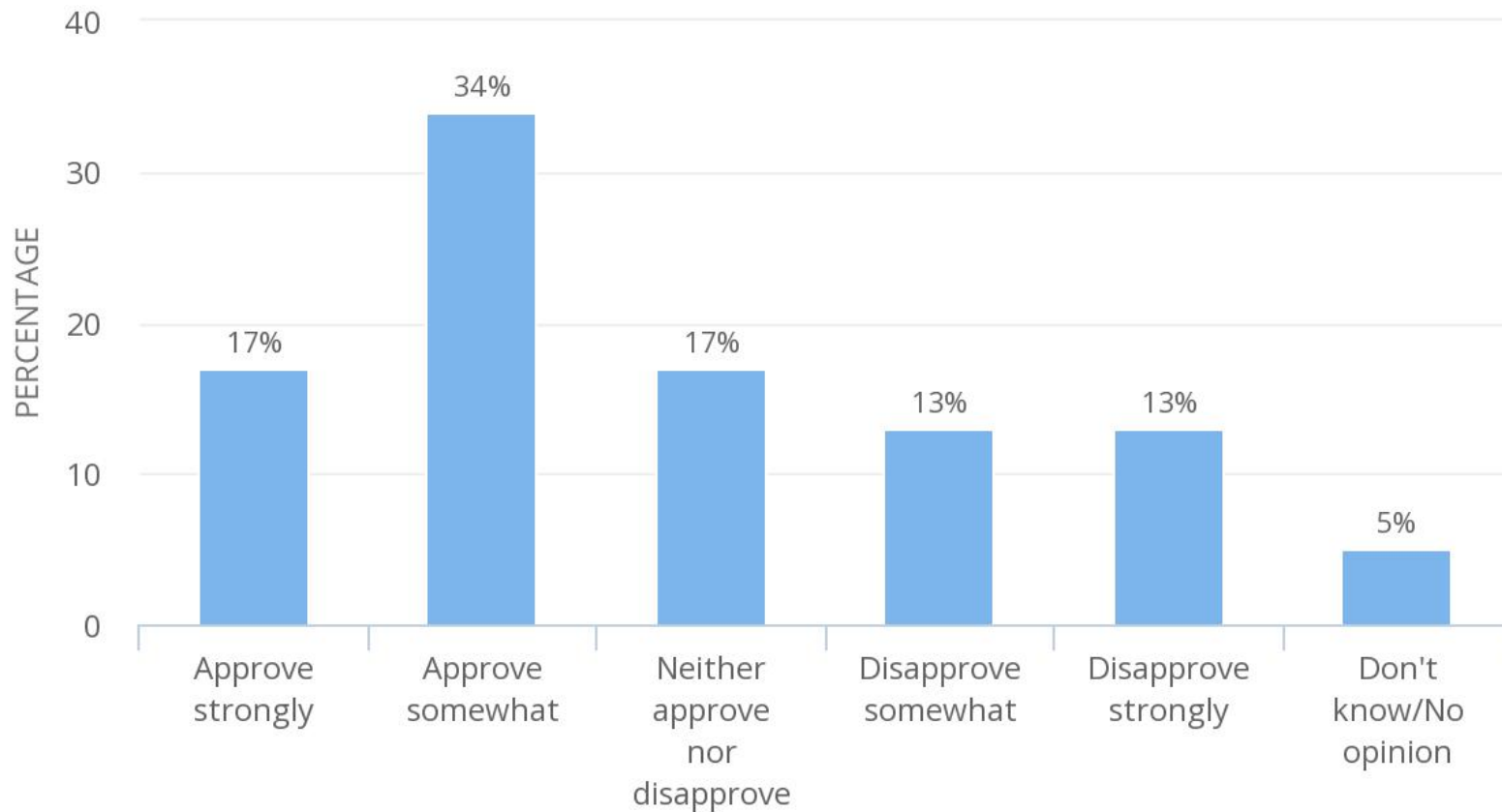
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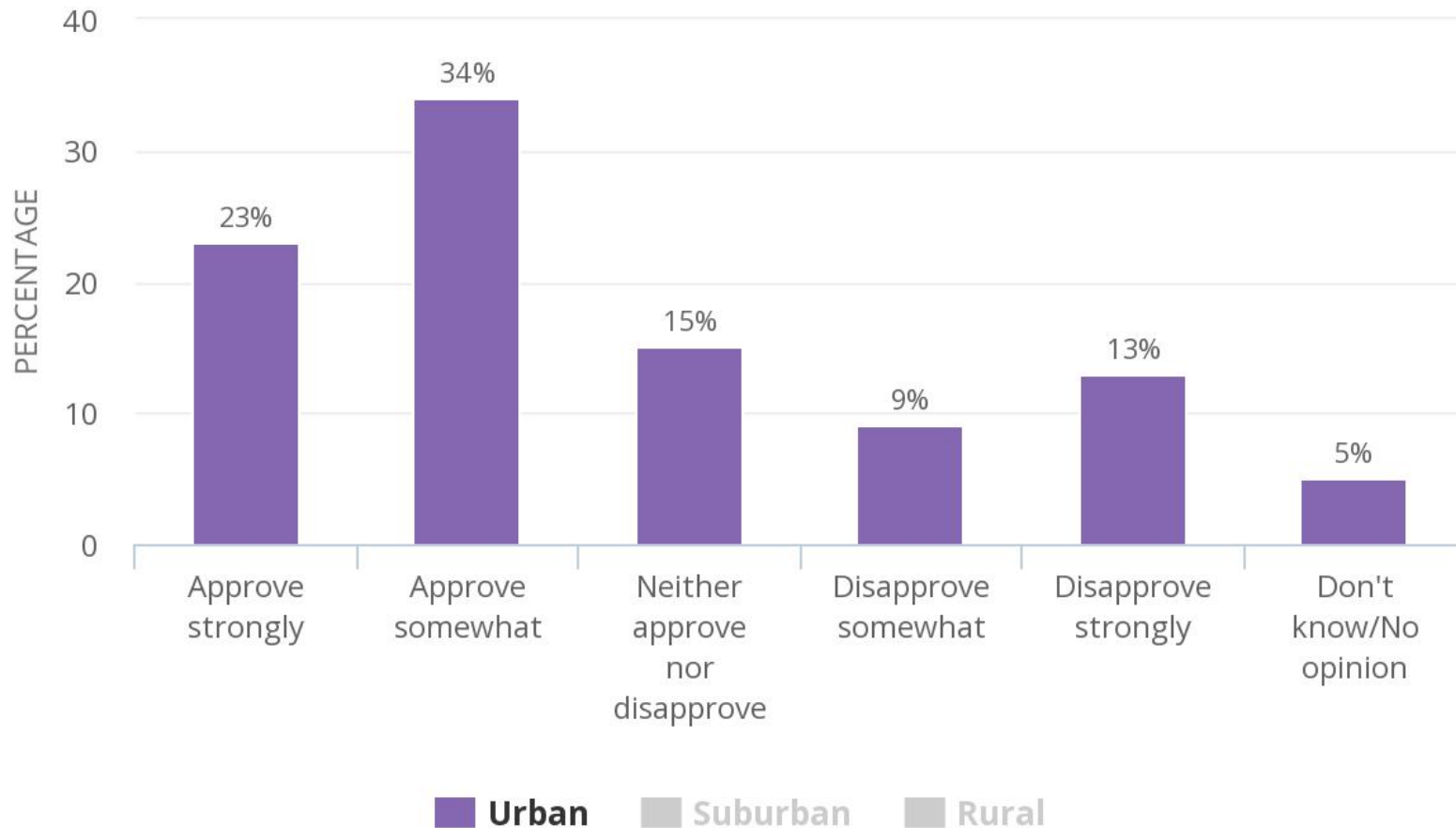
LOCAL GOVERNMENT APPROVAL: HANDLING OF THE RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS (FEBRUARY 2021)

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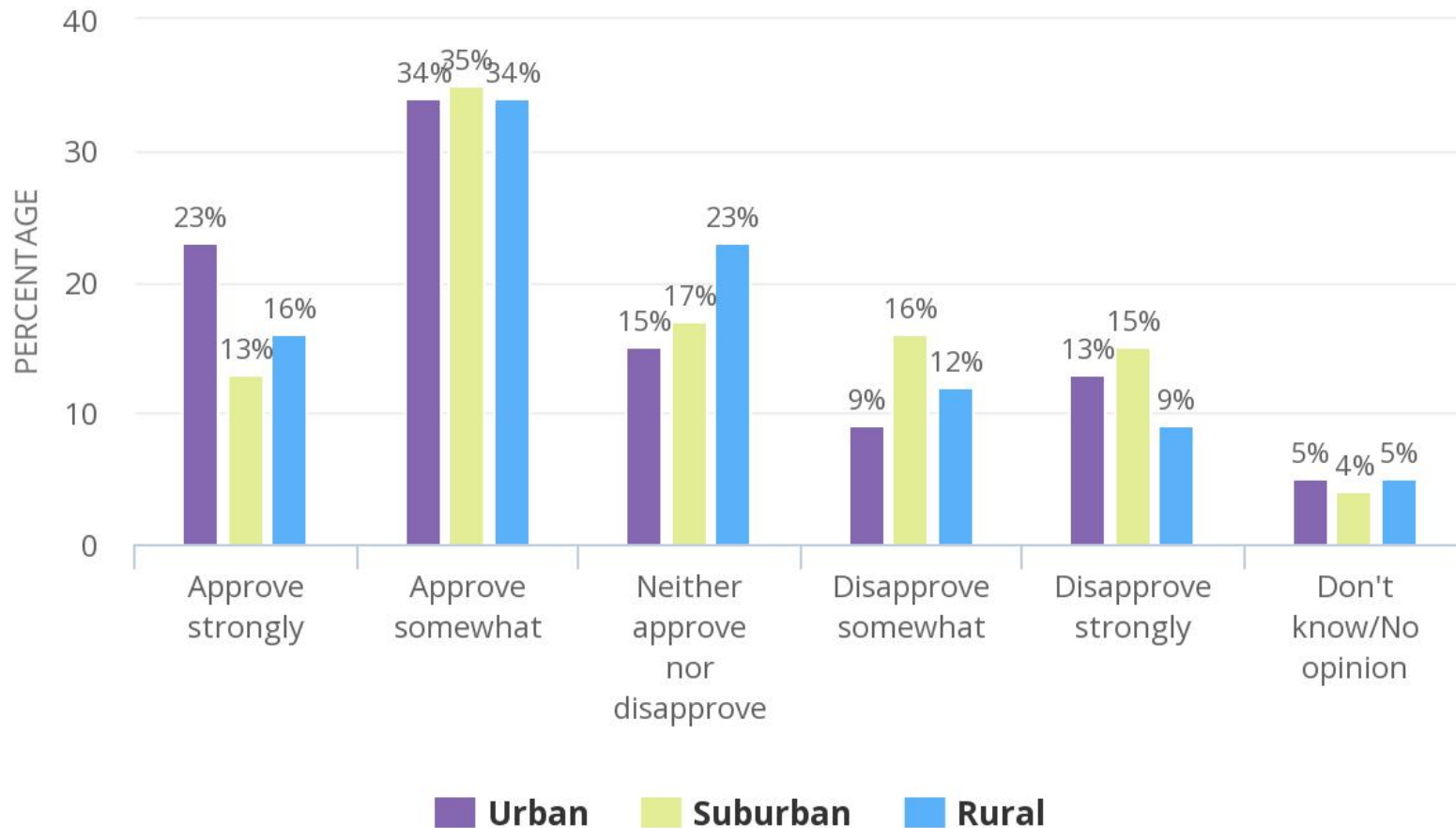
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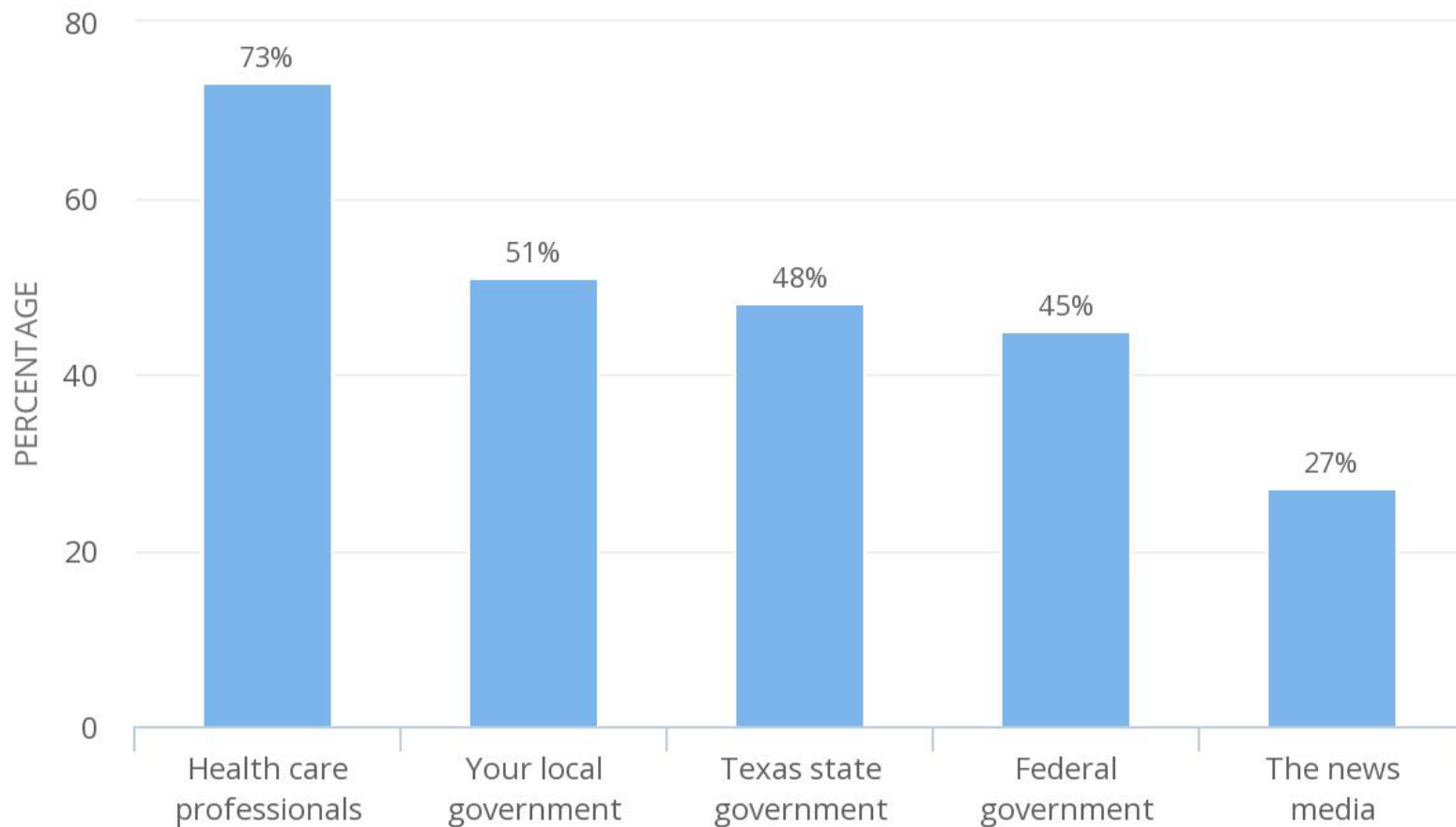
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RATING RESPONSES TO THE CORONAVIRUS (FEBRUARY 2021)

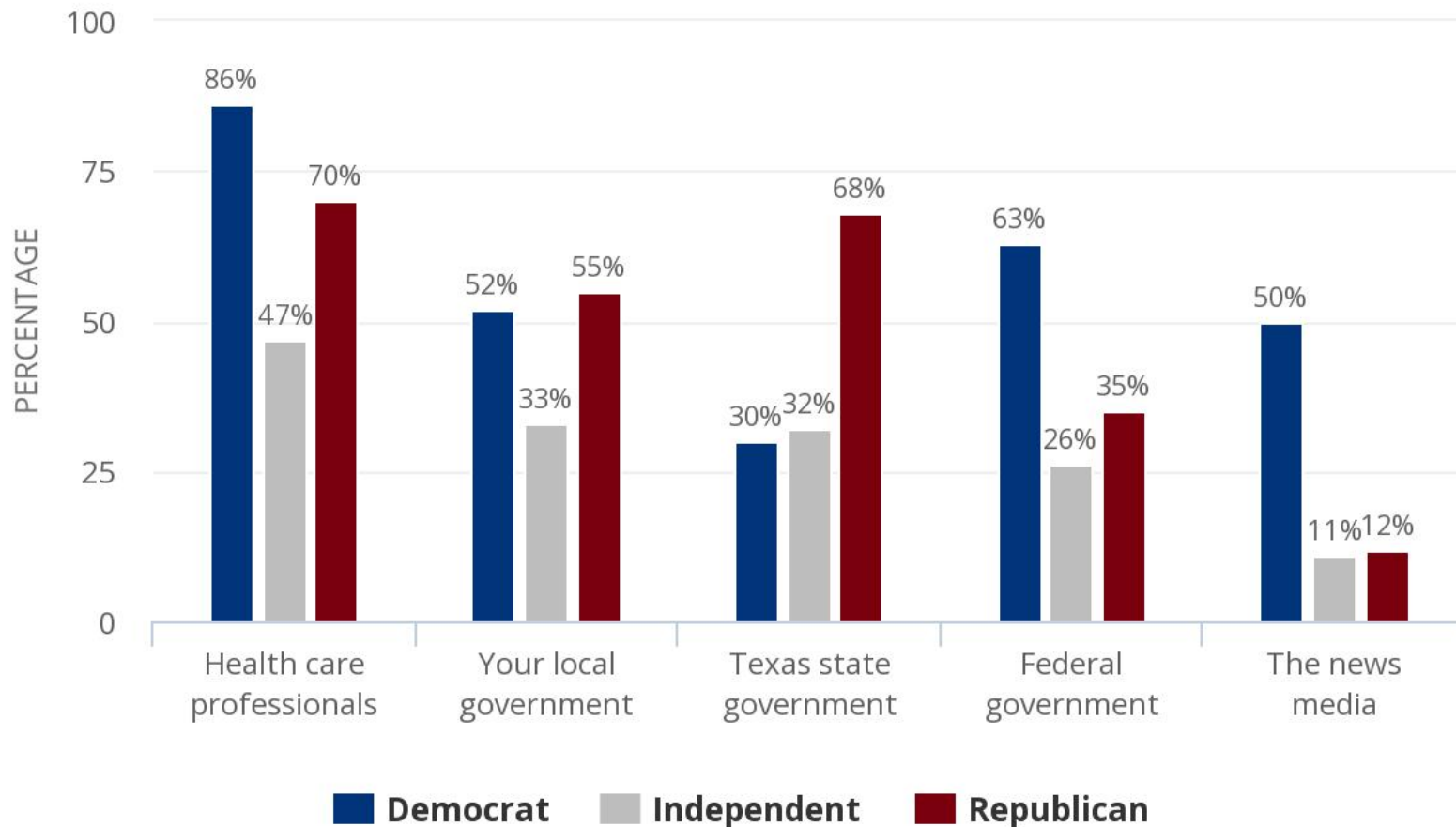
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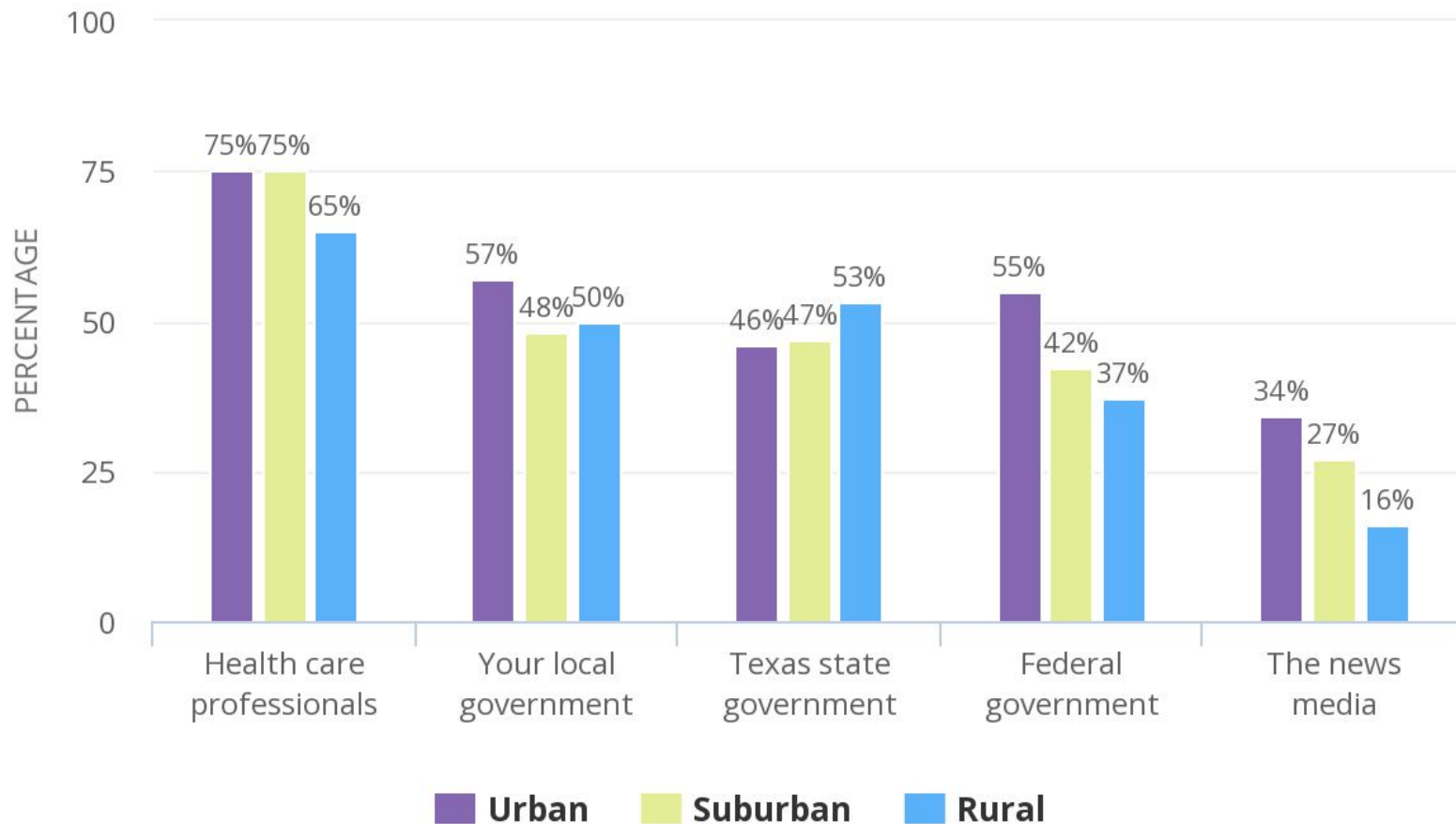
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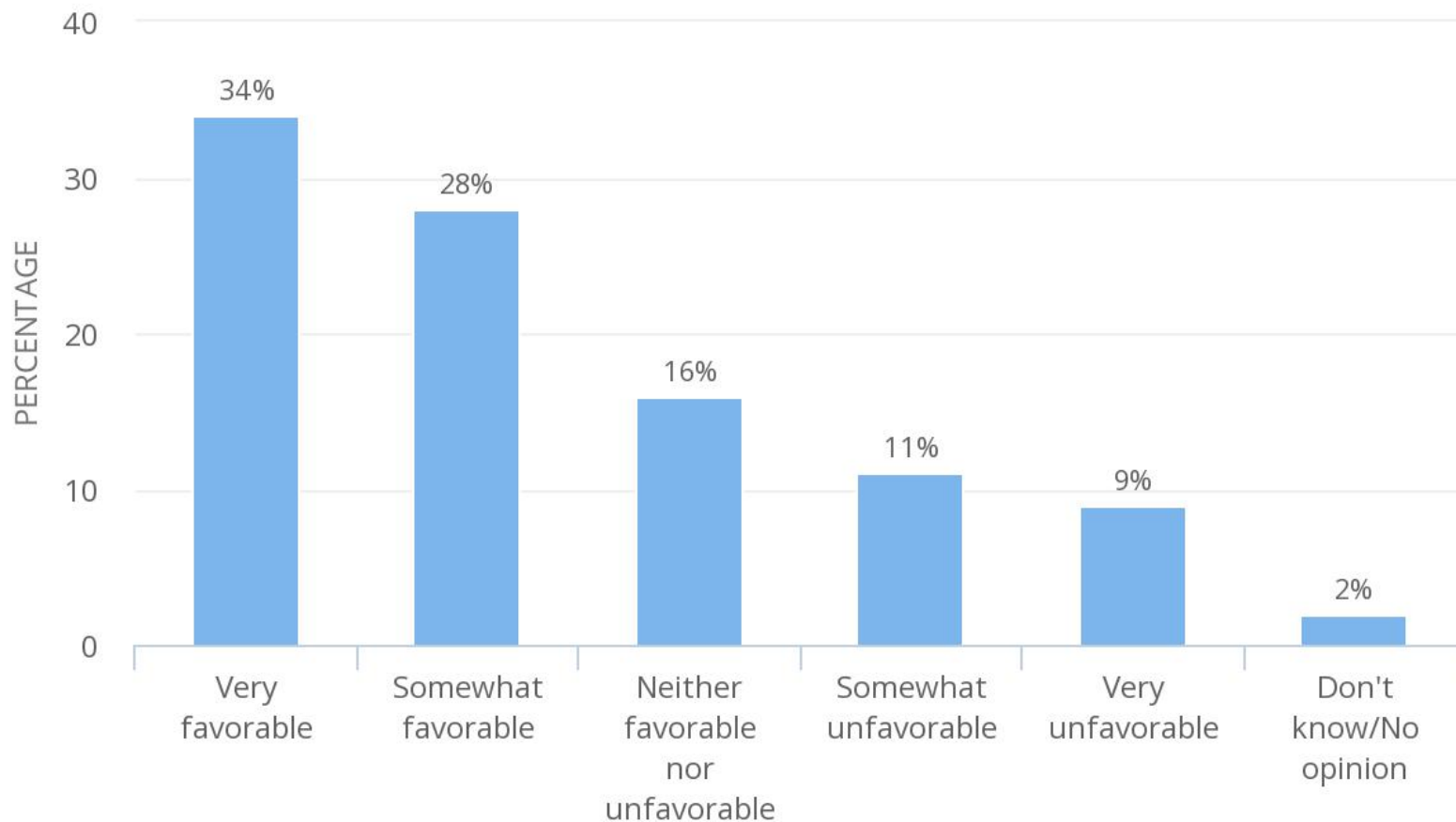
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Policing, public safety, race



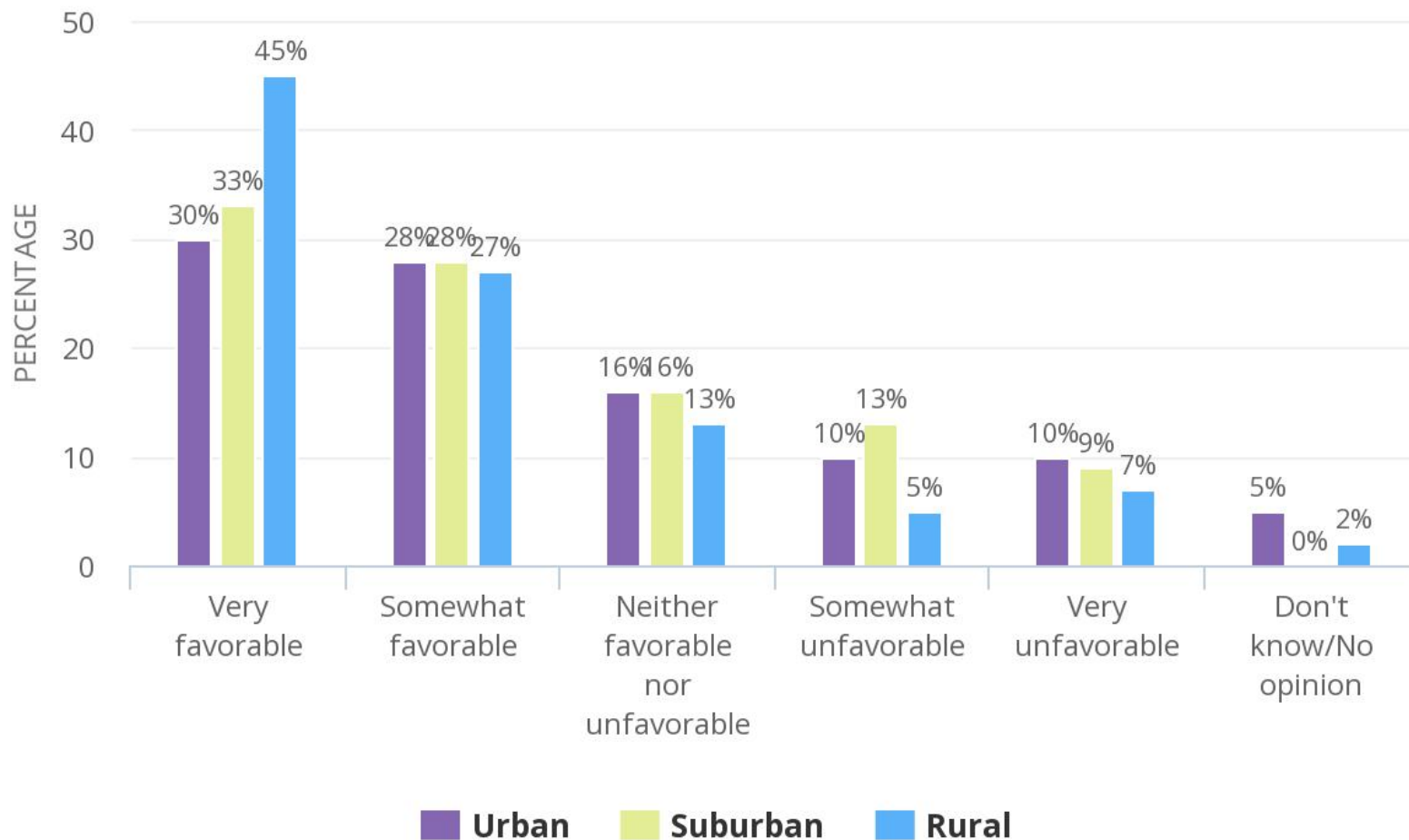
POLICE FAVORABILITY (FEBRUARY 2021)

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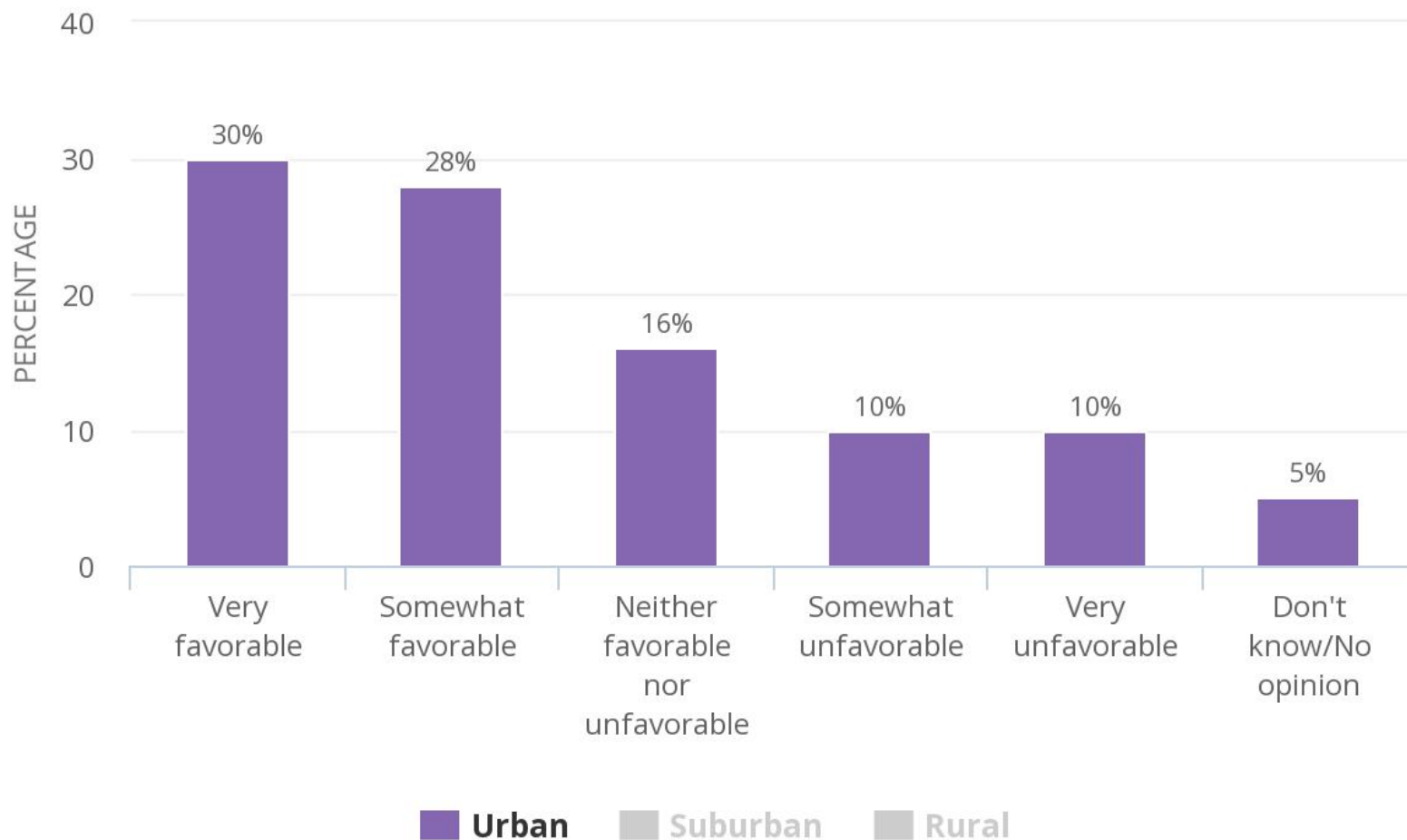
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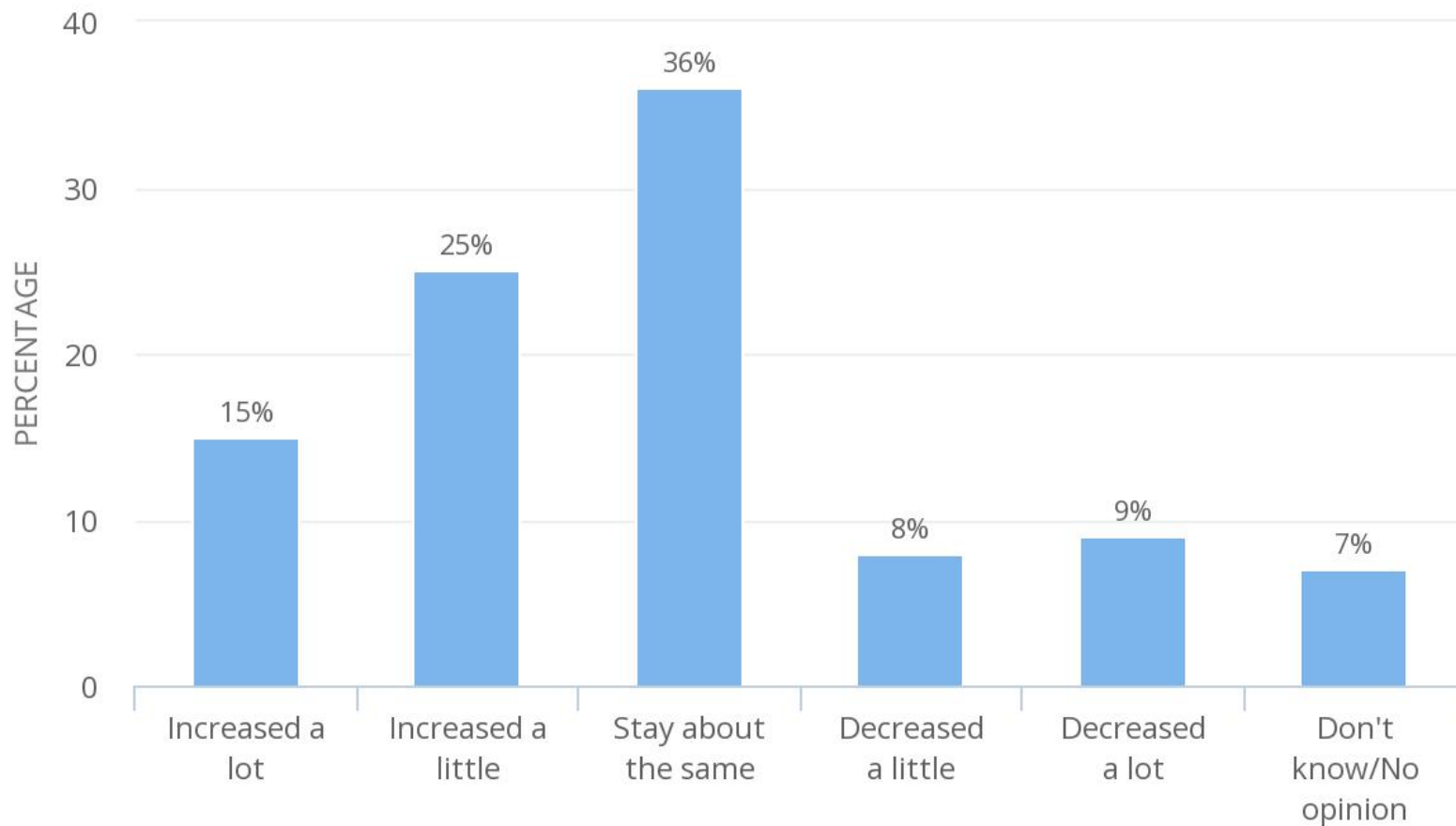
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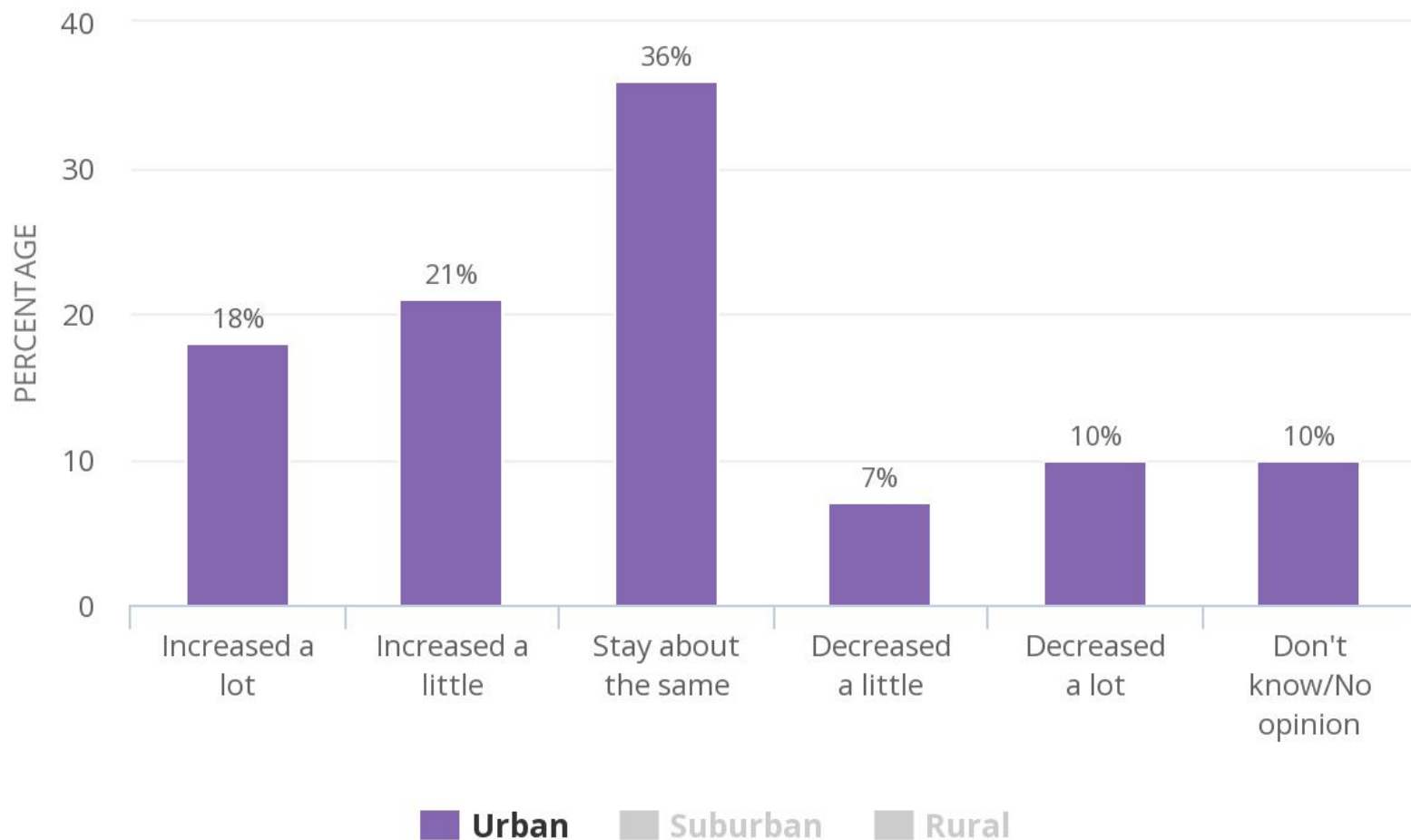
SPENDING ON POLICING (FEBRUARY 2021)

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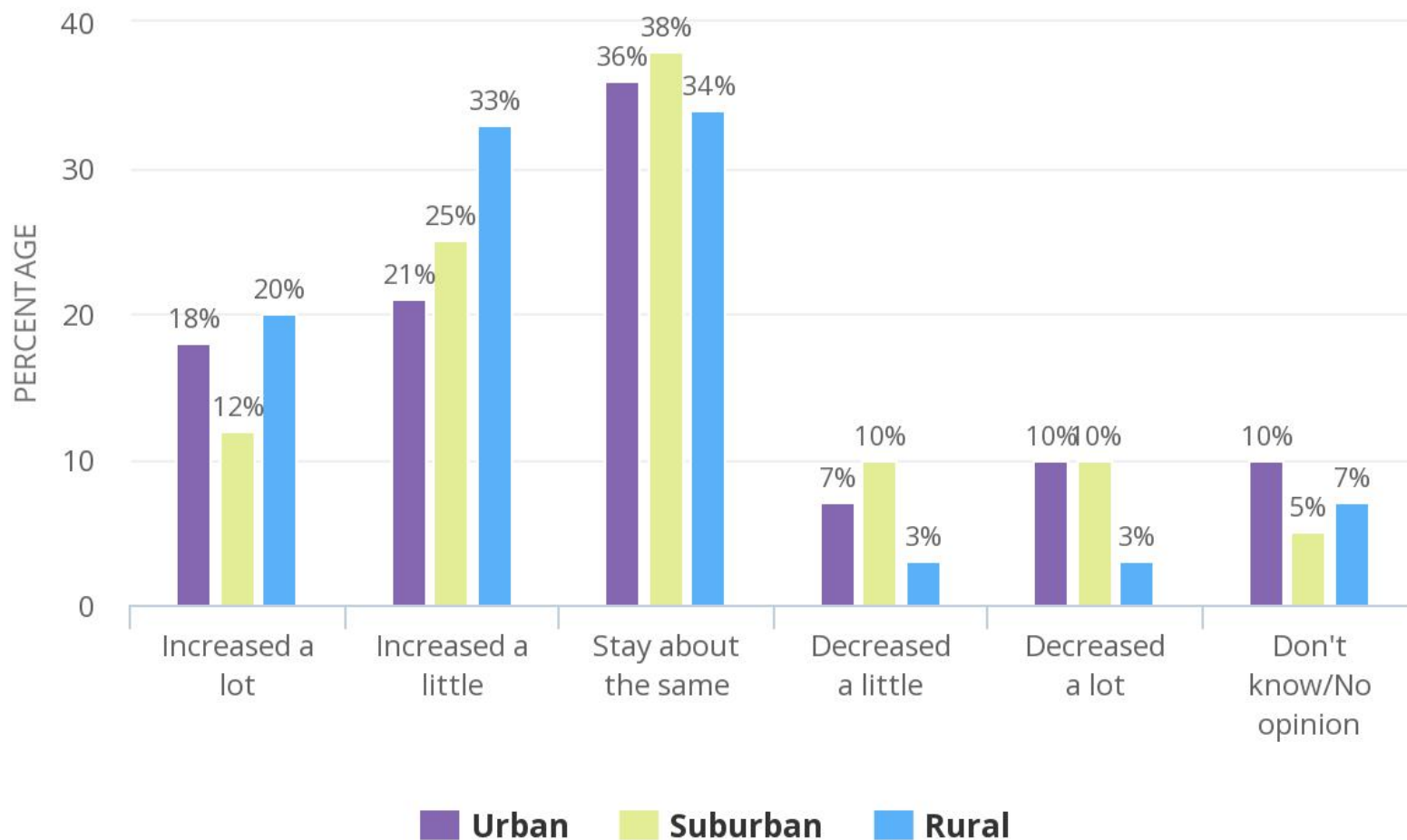
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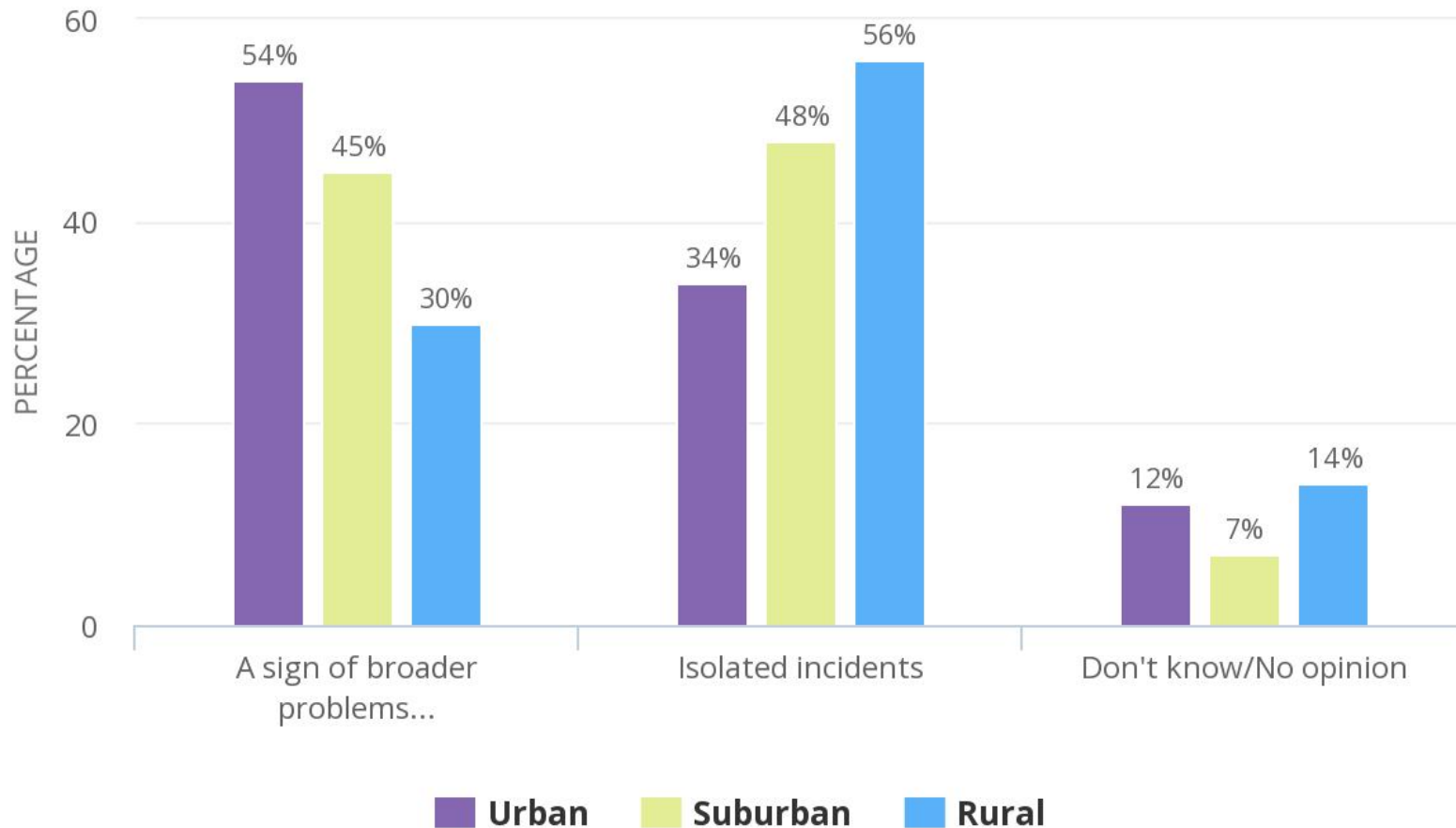
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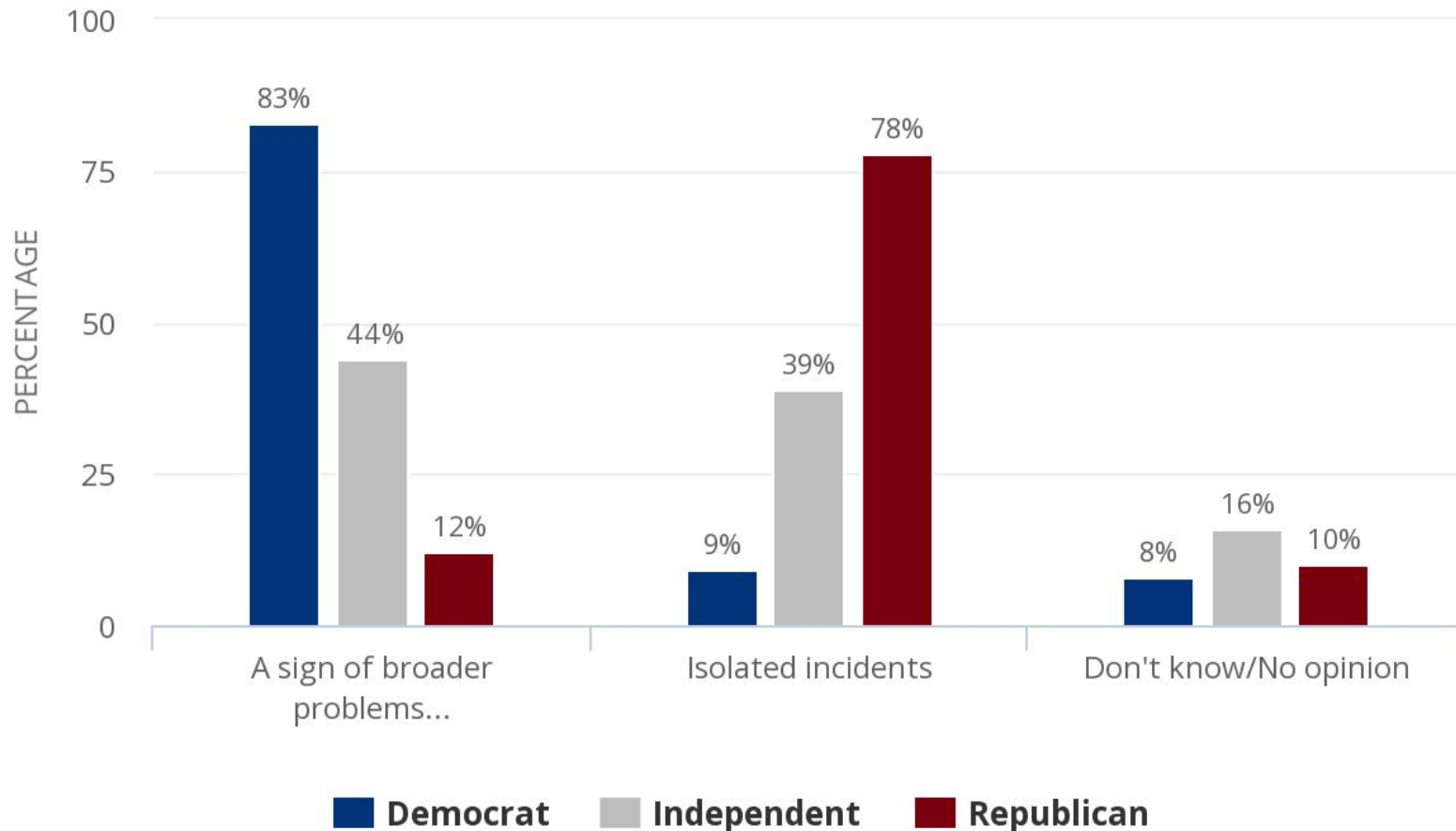
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DO YOU THINK THE DEATHS OF AFRICAN AMERICANS DURING ENCOUNTERS WITH POLICE IN RECENT YEARS ARE... (FEBRUARY 2021)



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So what should we expect?

Limited real efforts by state to attack pandemic, instead relying on federal efforts even as they are relentlessly criticized or ignored. (See governor's comments yesterday about the release of migrants with COVID-19 in response to Biden criticism.)

The emergence of unified federal govt under D control will help reinforce "same as it ever was" tone & approach among GOP majority/leadership. See: election integrity, policing, border security.

More incremental government from center-right, with guardrails of pandemic conditions and traditional GOP business establishment.

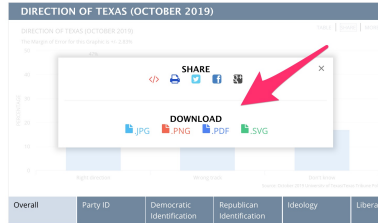
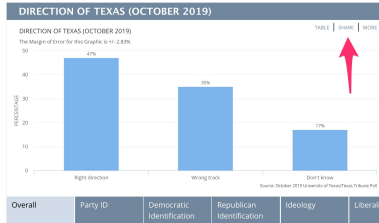
Wild card now: dealing with utility crisis.



Thanks – and keep in touch.

Polling data with thousands of downloadable graphics and raw data:

<https://texaspolitics.utexas.edu/polling-data-archive>



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