



NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC OPINION: K-12 EDUCATION



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Address

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The logo for the Siena College Poll. It features the word "SIENA" in large, bold, yellow letters with a dark green outline, set against a dark green background. Below "SIENA" are the words "COLLEGE" and "POLL" in smaller, bold, yellow and white letters, respectively, also on a dark green background. The entire logo is framed by a yellow and green border.

SIENA COLLEGE POLL

INTRODUCTION

GREETING FROM US

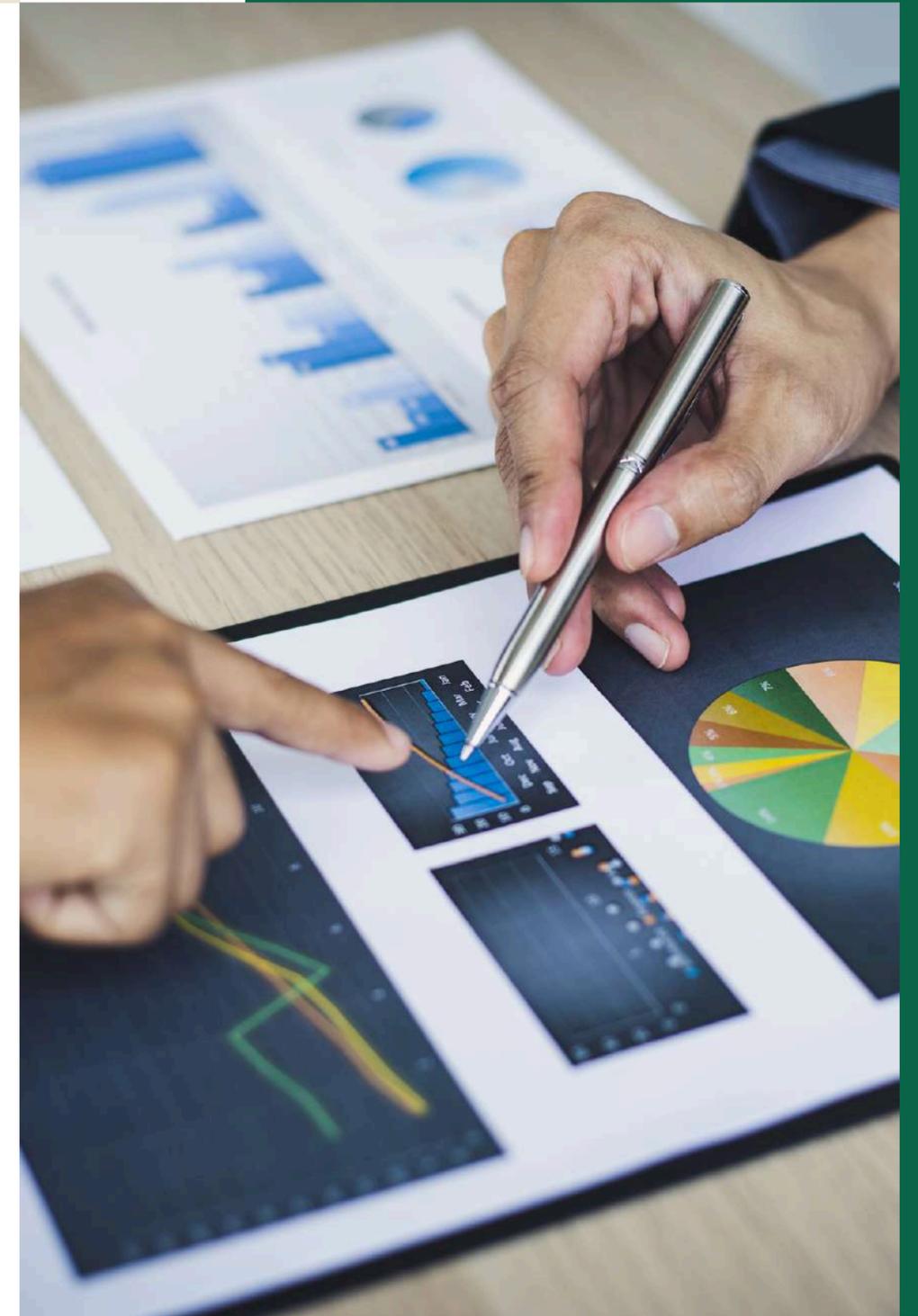
The students of Community Research and Consulting partnered with the Siena College Research Institute in 2025 to collect data via phone surveys on how New Yorkers view K-12 issues. This report summarizes survey results for questions included in the 2025 survey.

Perception

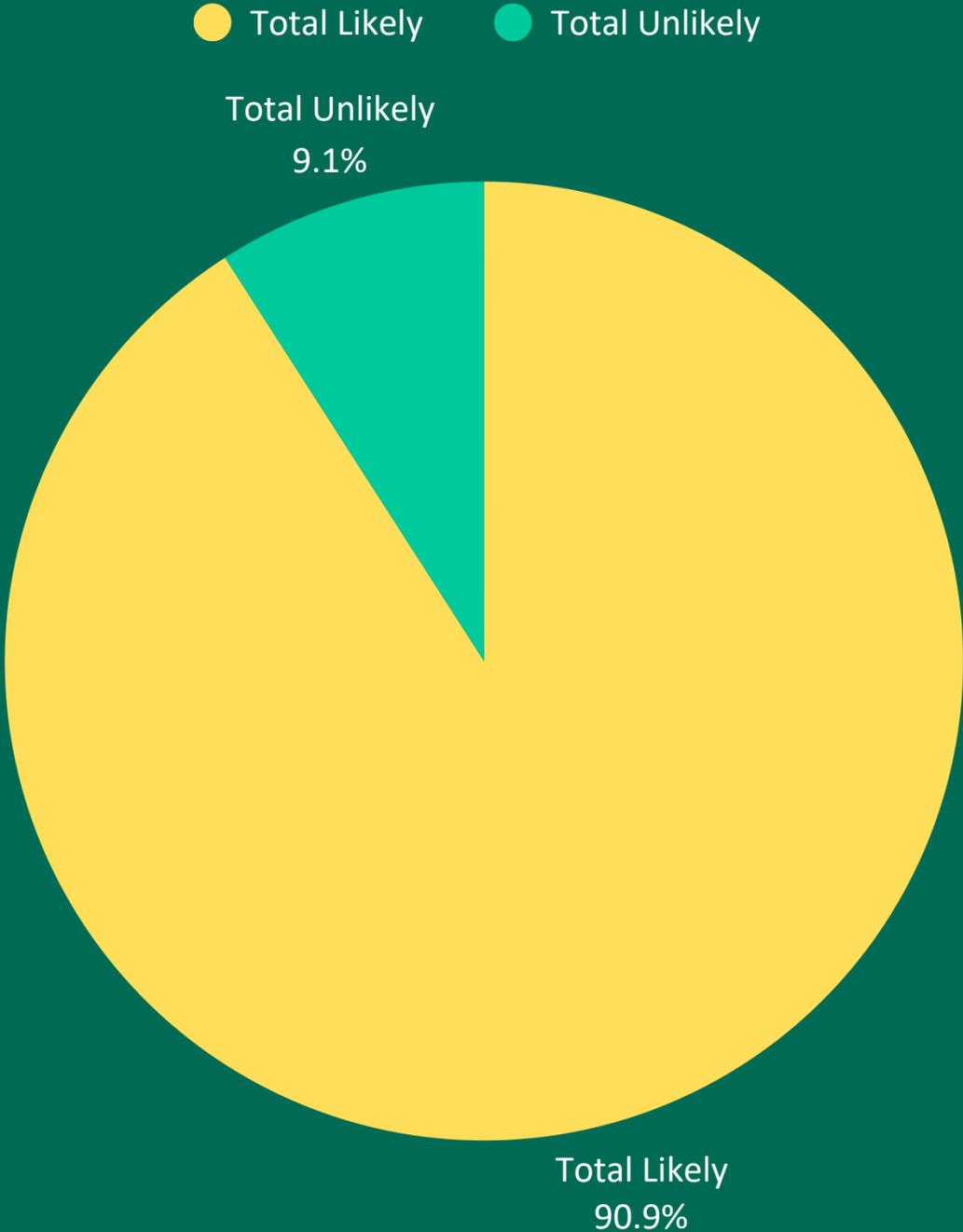
HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION AND BEYOND



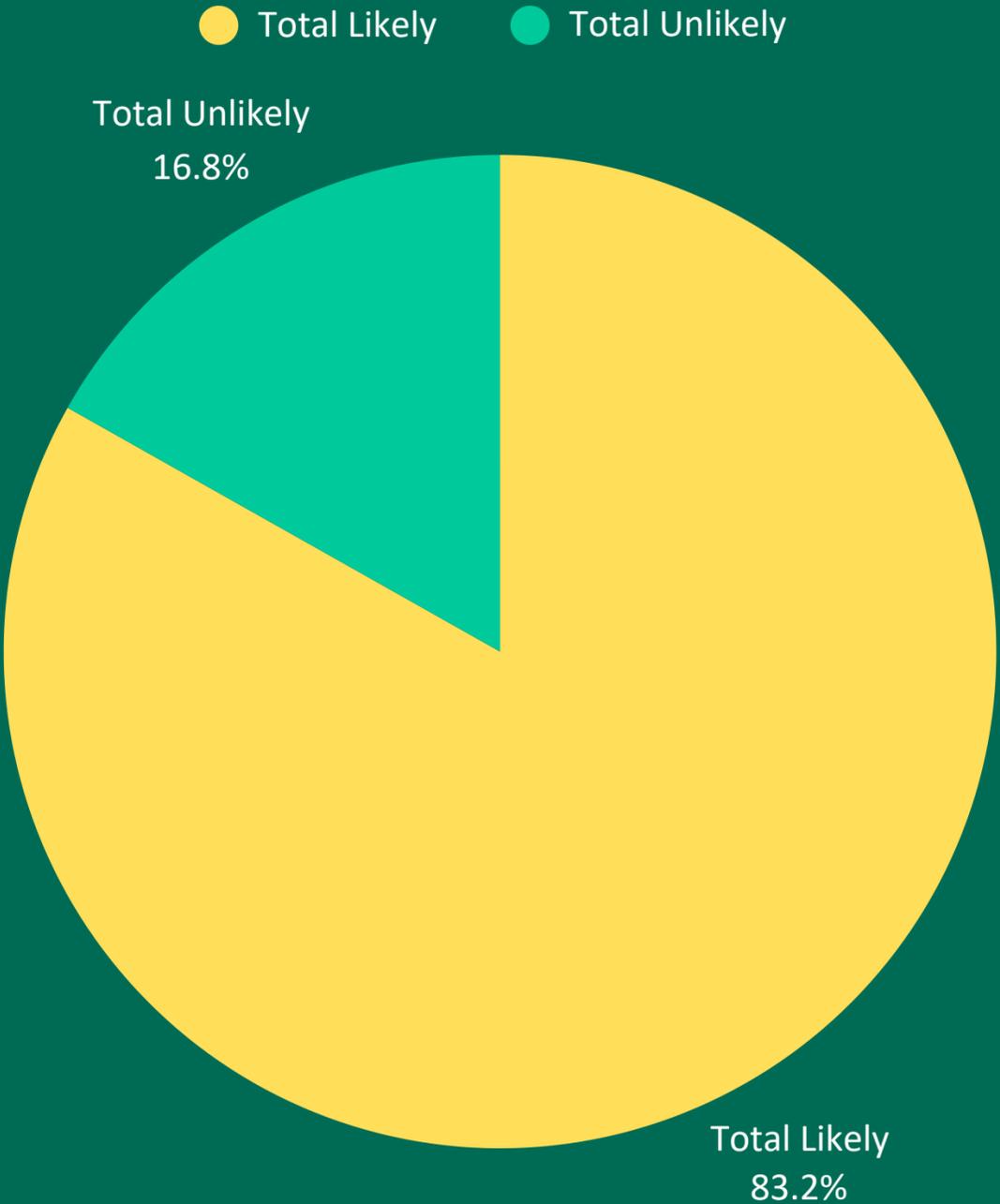
When asked about the probability of young people graduating from high school a disproportionate amount of people (90%) agreed that it is very likely. However, further polling revealed that only 84% said it was likely that young people attend college and or a university. This shows a change in what some might consider essential.



How likely do you think it is that a typical young person in your area will graduate from high school?



How likely do you think it is that a typical young person in your area will attend a college or university?



HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION AND BEYOND

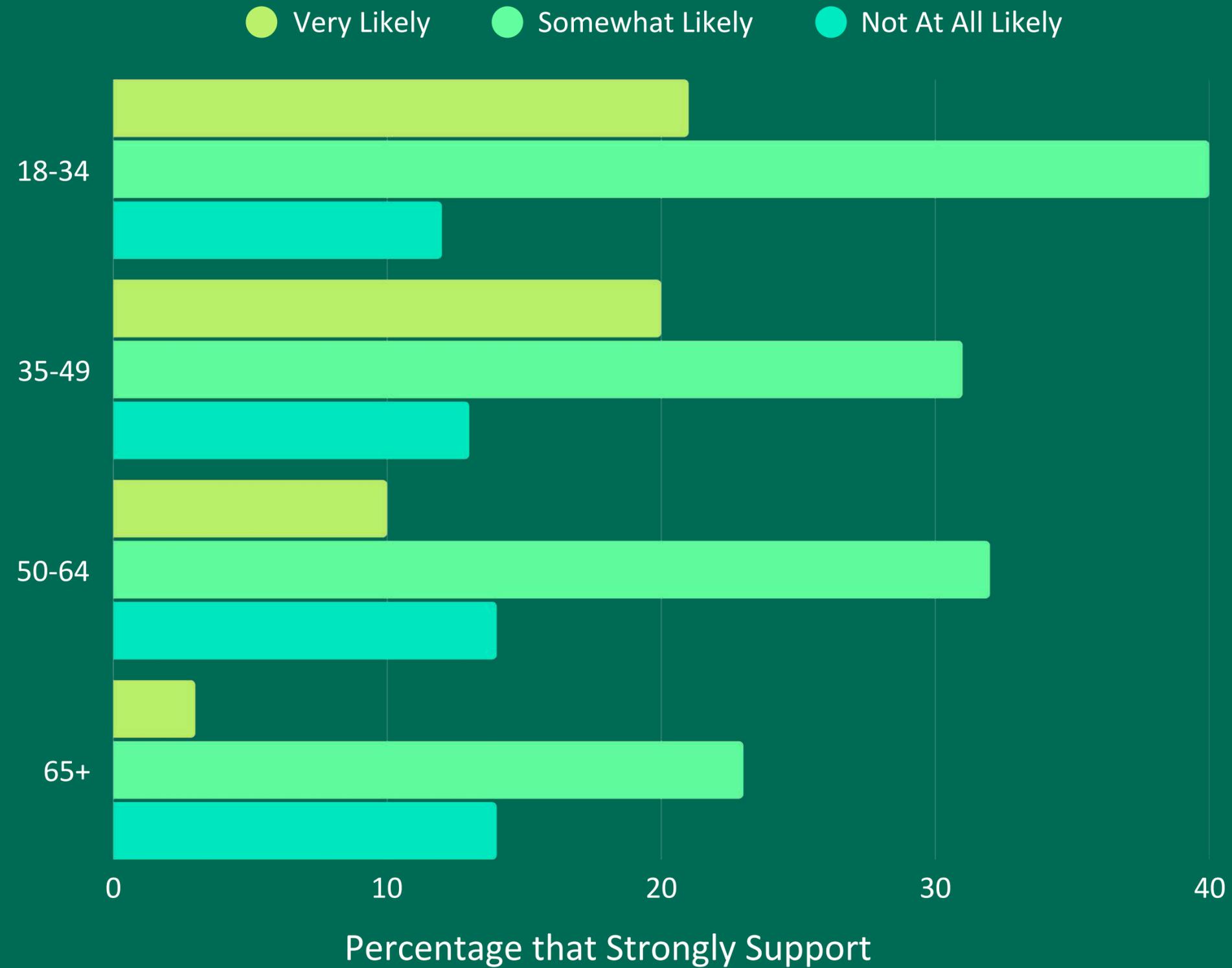
Perception



MISSION

Additionally, there were differences when it comes to the region being asked. Polling showed that 50% NYC found it very likely that young people would graduate from high school whereas 70% of the suburbs found it very likely. This shows a 20% difference between the two regions.

How likely do you think it is that a typical young person drop out of highschool?



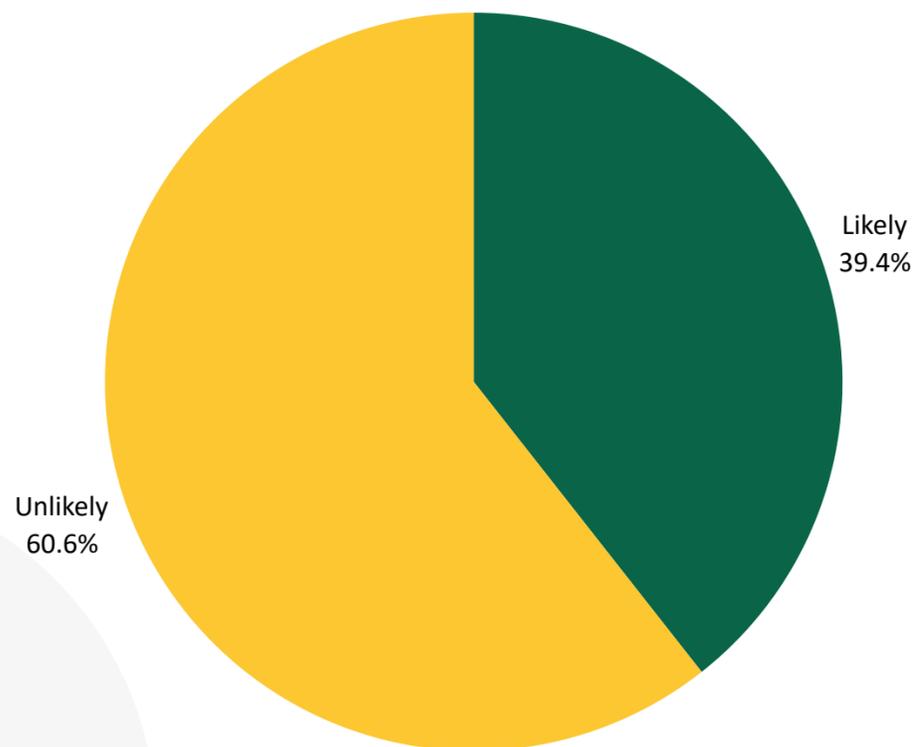
YOUNG PEOPLE AND FELONIES

Perception



Survey question: How likely do you think it is that a typical young person gets arrested for a felony?

Percentage of New Yorkers Polled



Of the responses 39% found it likely that young people would get arrested for a felony, with 60% saying not likely. Further examination of the data reveals a age difference in the data between old and younger generations. Data shows a 50% difference in Millennials and Gen X vs. Baby Boomers. Only 1% of Baby Boomers see it as likely for young people to get arrested, hinting at a changed perception of the prevalence of young people getting felonies.



YOUNG PEOPLE AND GANGS

Perception

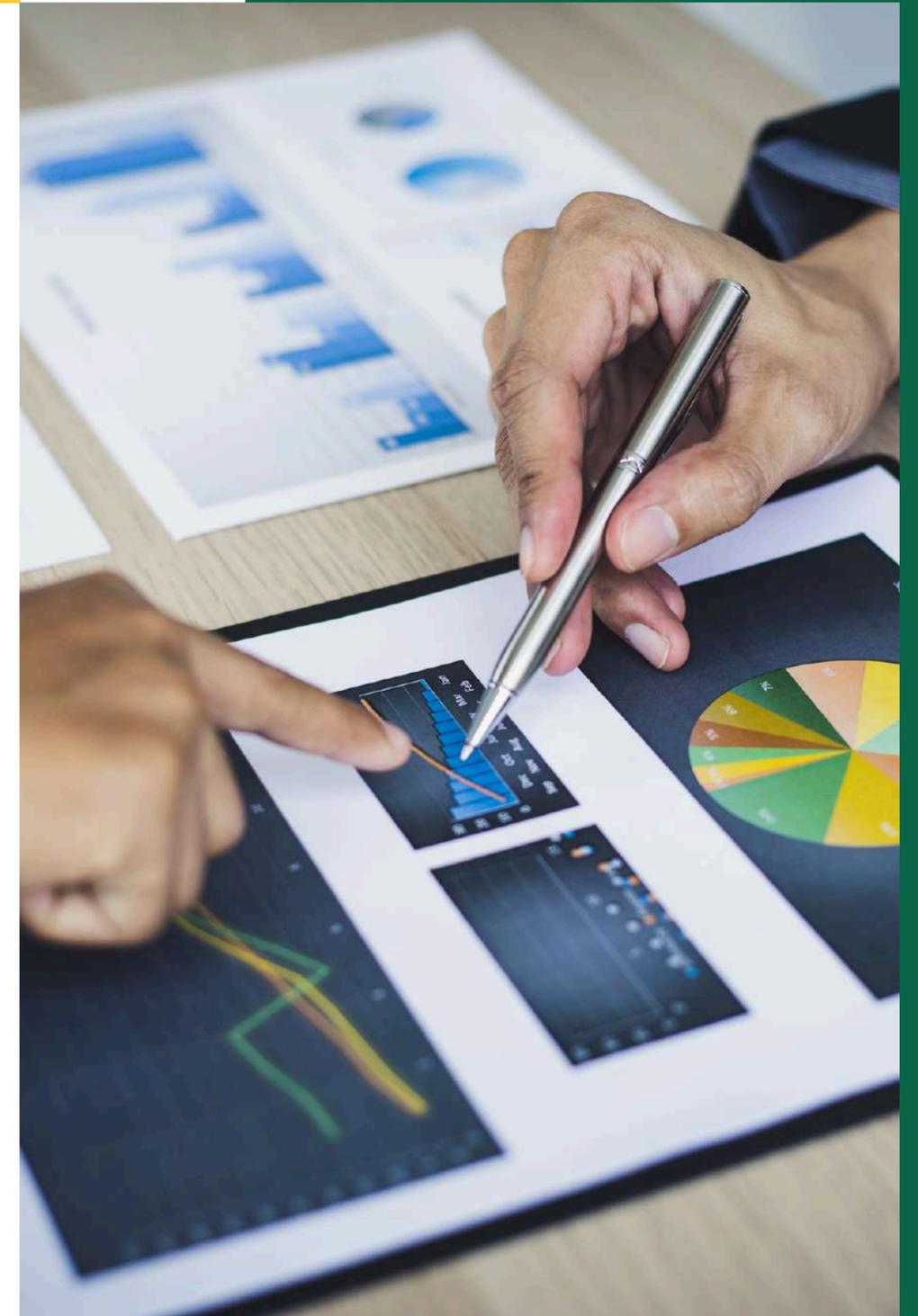
34% polled say likely, with 66% claiming that it was not likely. The same can be seen in public perception of gangs. 38% of Millennials and Gen X thought it was likely. Only 13% of Baby Boomers found it was likely.

Perception

PERCEPTIONS OF SCHOOLS



61% of New Yorkers polled believe that schools are less safe today than they were 50 years ago. This can be attributed to a number of factors, most influential being the increase in school shootings which are frequently covered on the news.



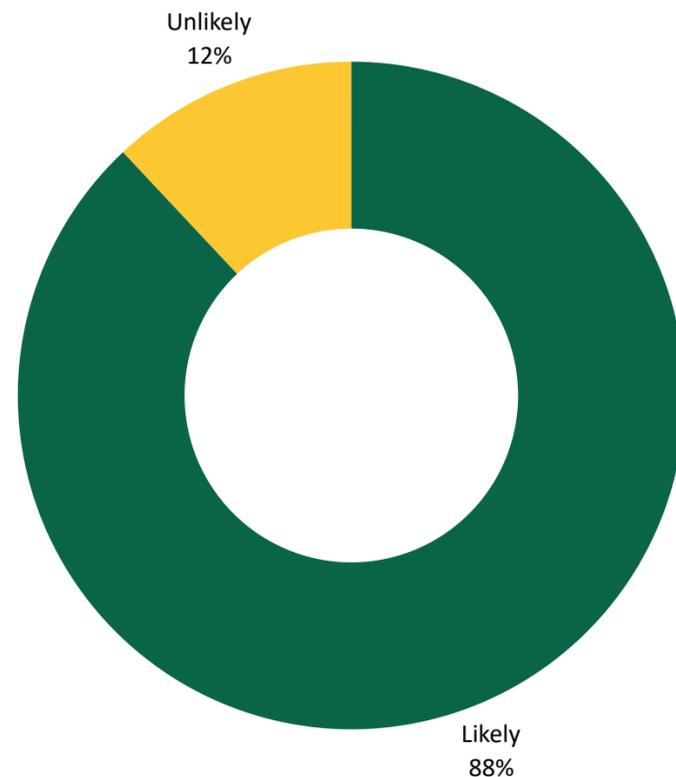
YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION

Perception

Survey question: How likely is it that the typical young person have access to quality public education?

Survey question: How likely is it that the typical young person achieve a higher standard of living than their parents?

Percentage of New Yorkers Polled



88% of respondents responding saying that it was likely that young people have access to quality public education with 12% saying it was not likely. Among Republicans, 17% reported quality education is not likely, the highest percentage of any political group. Suburban respondents are most confident with 93%, while NYC respondents are a lower 86%.

When polled to answer the question on whether or not the typical young person will achieve a higher standard of living than their parents 74% agreed that it was likely to occur, with 26% saying it was not.

K-12 EDUCATIONAL ISSUES

68% said they are familiar with K-12 issues in New York. 31% admitted that they were not familiar with the issues concerning K-12 education.

Overall, respondents think positively of the job that local school districts are doing, with 59% believing that they are doing well based on personal experiences. That being said, 28% reported negative attitudes toward how their local schools.

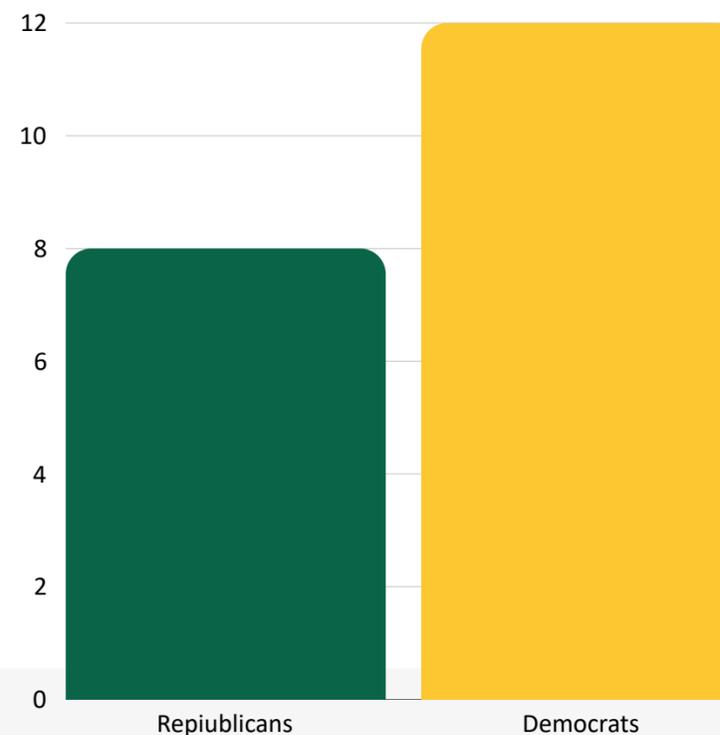


SCHOOL FUNDING AND SALARY

Survey Question: Which of the following comes closest to your view on using taxpayer dollars to fund public K-12 education?

63% of New Yorkers polled reported that although they do not like paying higher taxes, they understand that it is necessary to provide quality public education. 37% disagreed and thought that taxes are too high given the challenges that face K-12 schooling. This again showed a political divide, with 74% of Democrats agreeing with high taxes and 57% of Republicans agreeing.

Percentage of Republicans and Democrats Who Agree with High Taxes for Schools



Survey Question: In your opinion, what is a fair annual salary for a full-time K-12 public school teacher in your area?

23% of New Yorkers reported that a teacher's salary should be \$70,000 to \$84,999.

This was the option with most votes, with the lowest being 3% wanting teachers to have a salary of \$250,000 or above.

What is a Problem?

We wanted to see if New Yorkers knew the ratio between the amount of **teaching jobs** to the number of **qualified teachers**. The numbers were very close: **49% believed it is a problem**, while **41% it is somewhat of a problem**. Overall, all New Yorkers believe there is a problem with this ratio.

What's Better?

New Yorkers were asked which type of schooling provides students the better education: Public or Private Schools. **48%** of New Yorkers believe **private schools** provide the best education, leaving **20%** of New Yorkers believing **public schools** are better.

Then vs. Now

New Yorkers were asked to compare and contrast their quality of education to the quality of education being provided in today's classrooms. **41%** believe education has **improved** and **36%** believe education has **declined**.

01 How Do We Feel About AI?

76% of New Yorkers believe that AI, or Artificial Intelligence, should be used for educational purposes. However, **51%** believe schools should banned or restrict the usage of AI in classrooms. This contradiction is interesting because it shows that New Yorkers are not that familiar with AI being in schools.

02 Social Media

With the media becoming a big part of society, we wanted to know how do New Yorker's feel about teaching students how to use social media responsibly and manage their screen times. **88%** of New Yorkers would condone the teachings of using social media responsibly and **86%** would also condone the teachings on how to manage screen times on electronic devices.

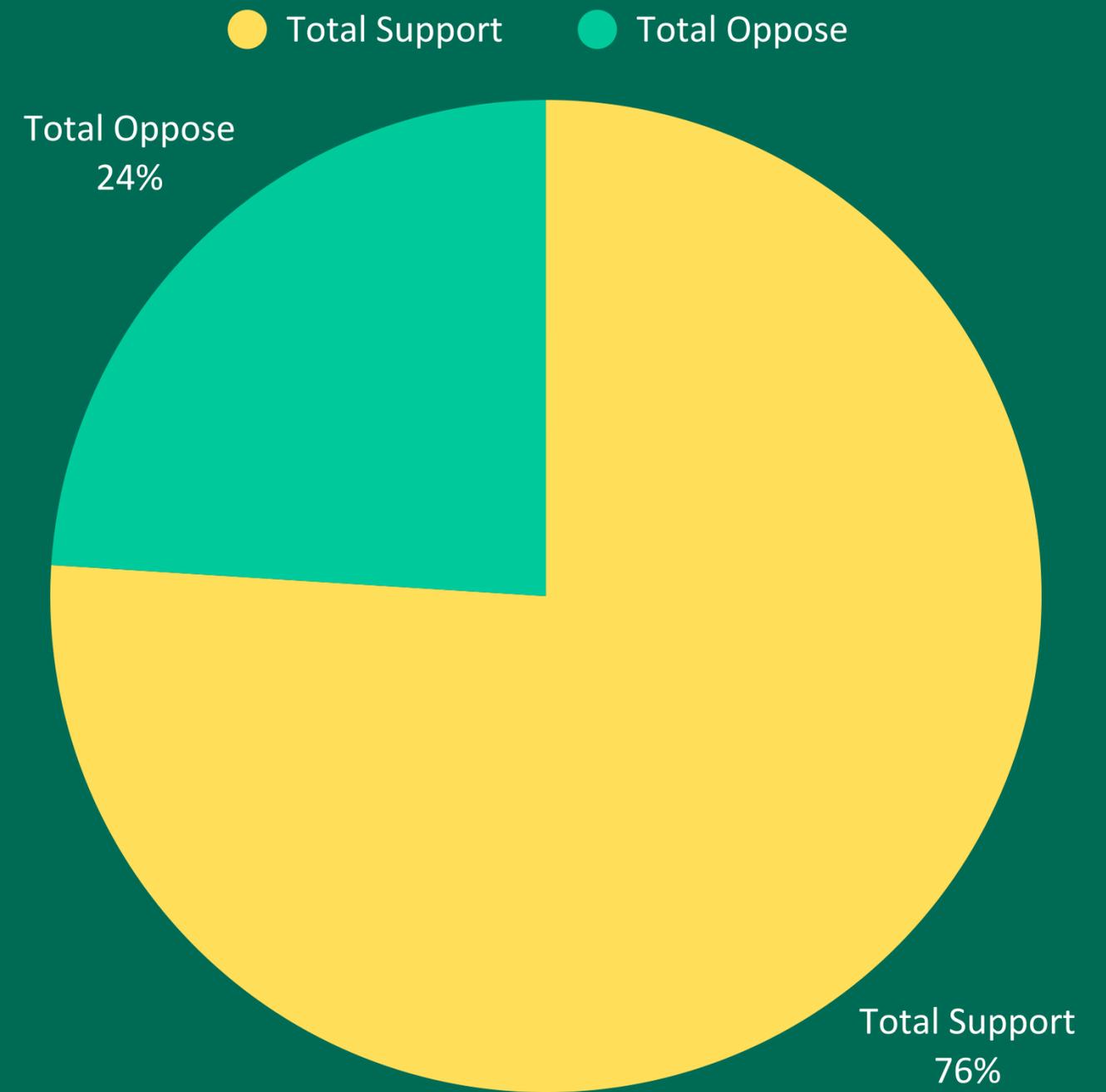
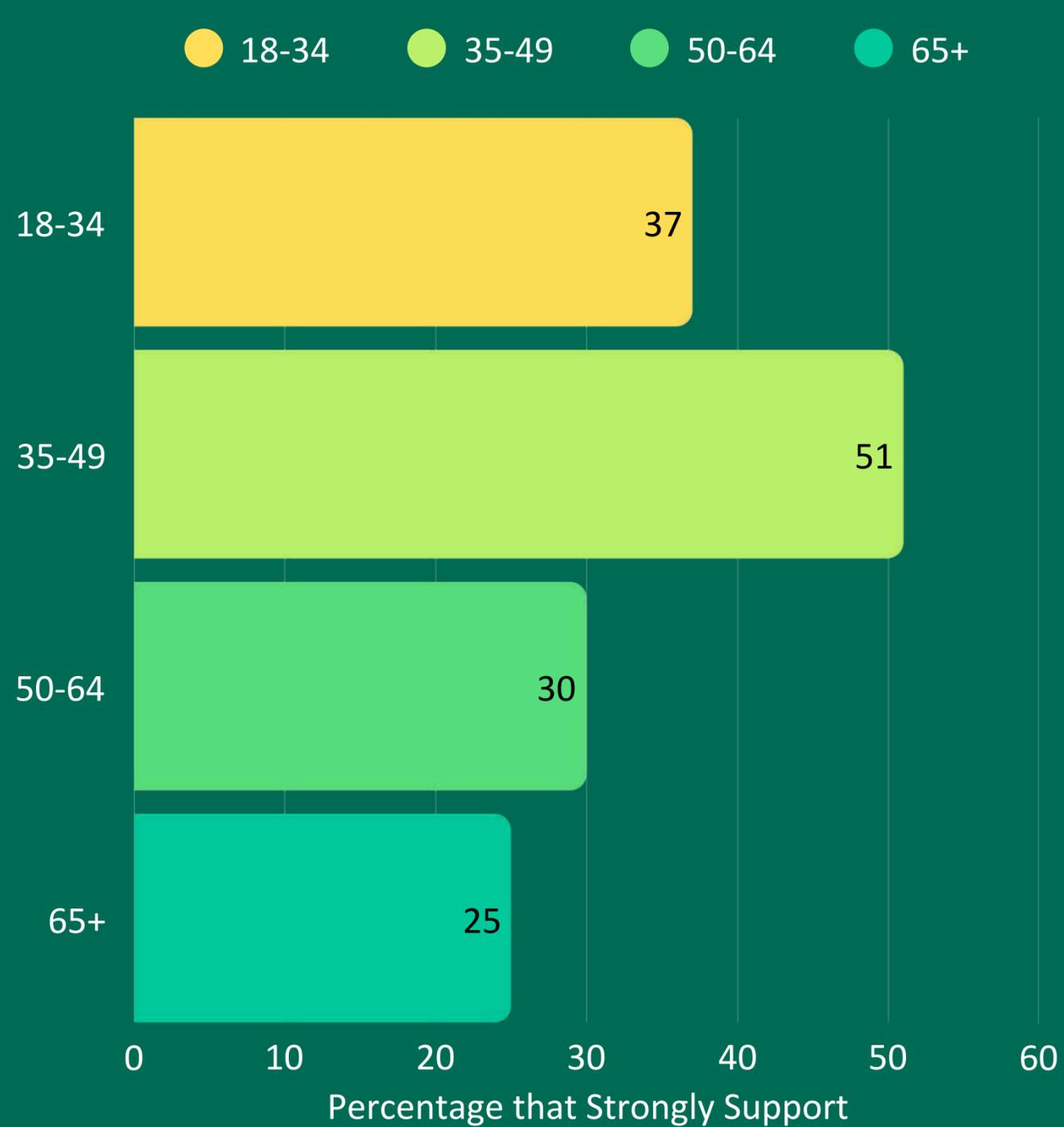
03 Gender Identity

Over the last few years, there has been serious talk about the idea of gender identity—is there more than two genders? We wanted to know how do New Yorkers feel about schools teaching gender identity in classrooms. **44%** of New Yorkers do not believe that the teachings are appropriate; however, **57%** believe classrooms should teach the subject.

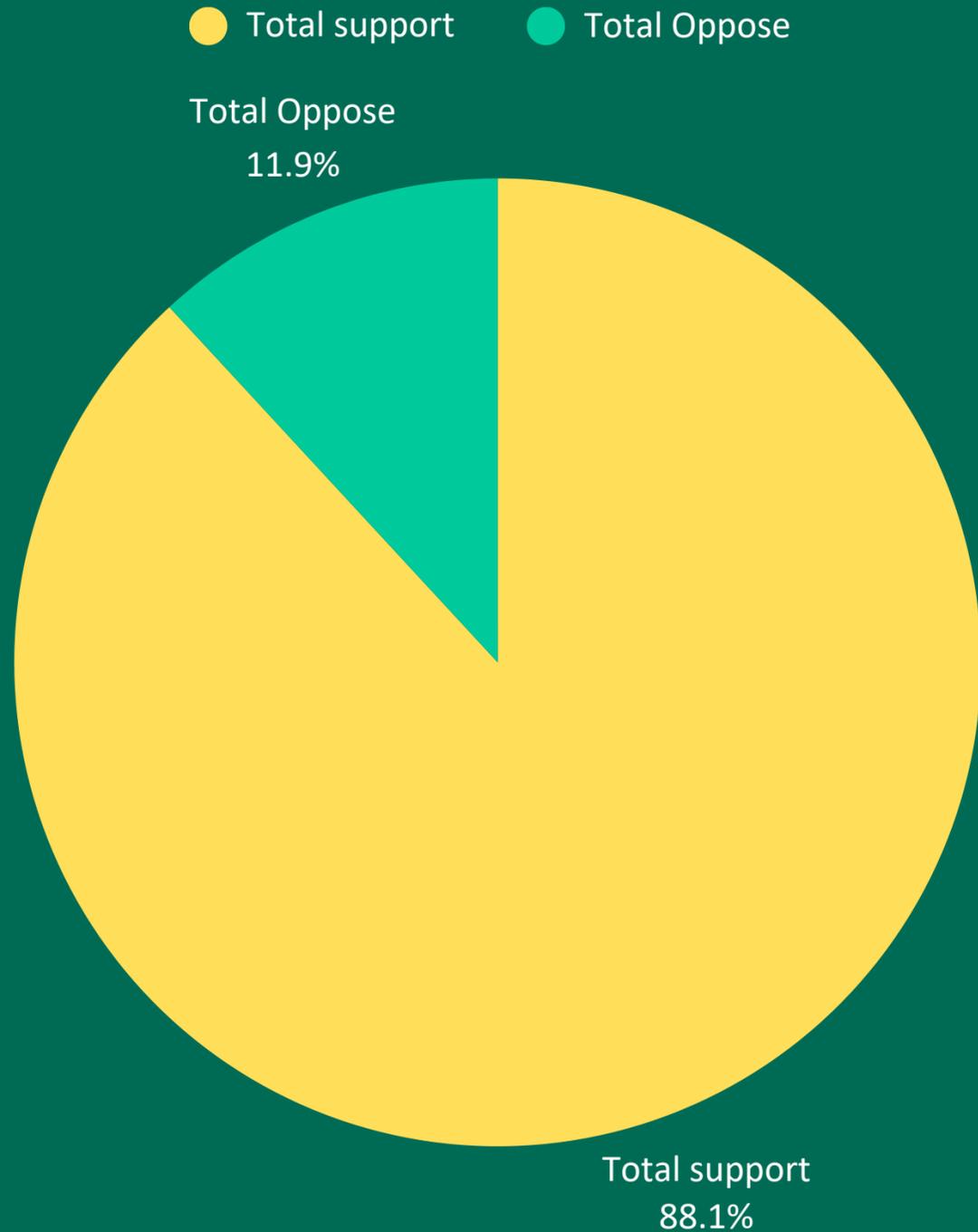
04 Religion in Classrooms

With recent discussion about bringing religion into classrooms, we wanted to see New Yorkers opinions on the matter. As for 'Introducing students to the belief that God created humanity,' **57%** of New Yorkers believe this should be taught in schools. This percentage skyrocketed when asked if they would condone 'Introducing students to the various religions practiced around the world,' at **80%**. This illustrates how wording of questions is important.

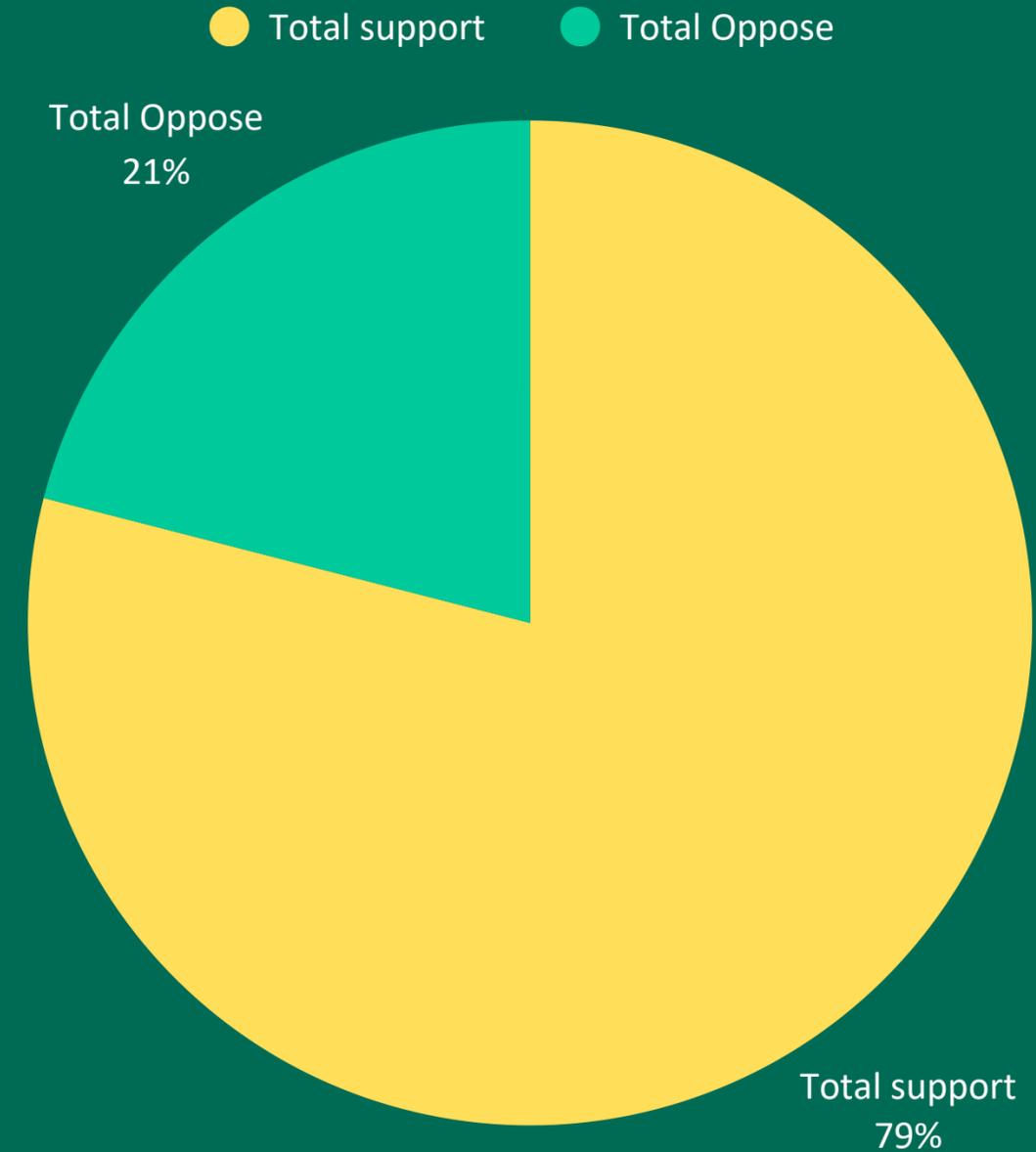
“Do you support or oppose instructing K-12 Students on how to use artificial intelligence (AI) for educational purposes?”



40: Support or Oppose Teaching in K-12 Schools - Helping students understand the role of history and society in shaping race & inequality



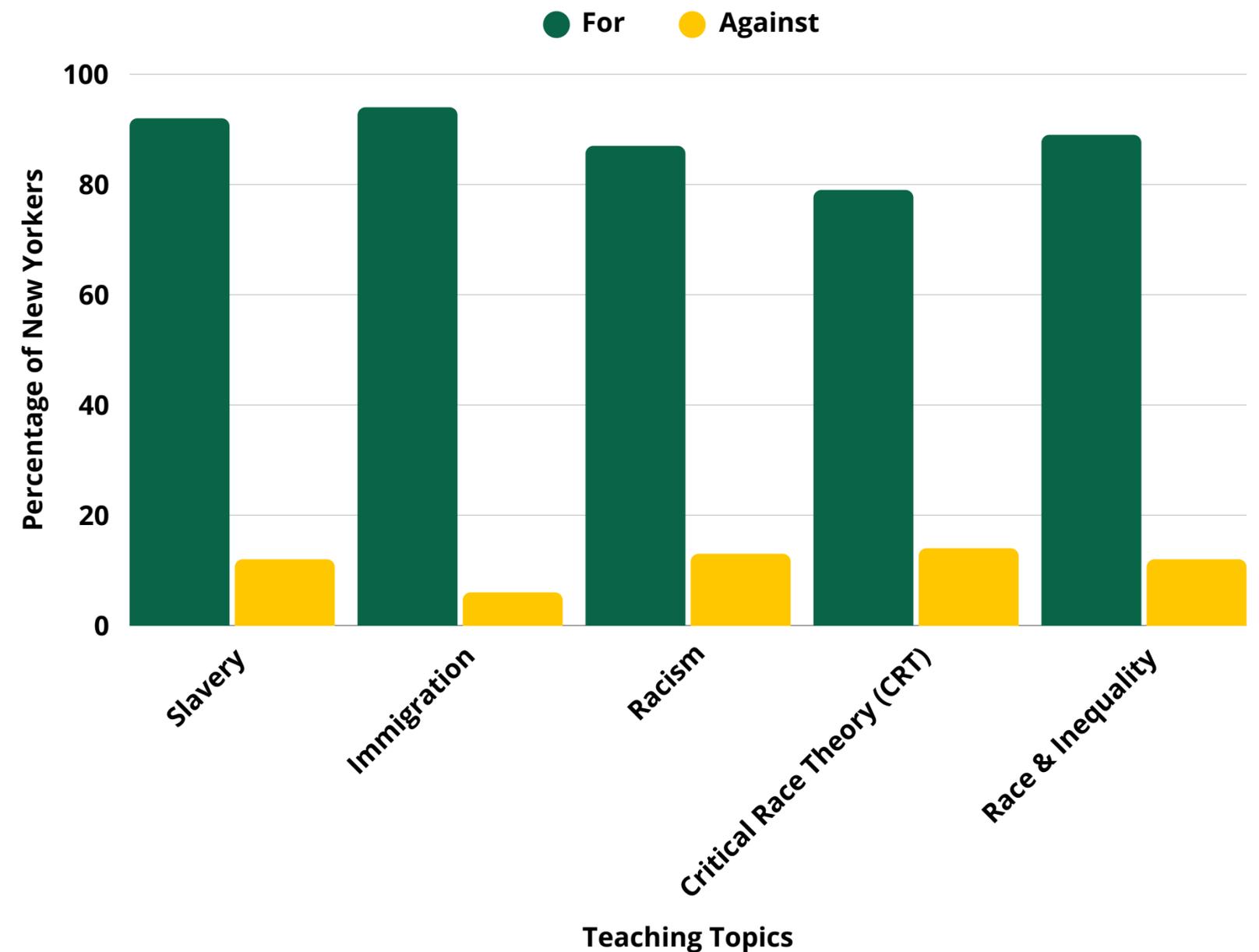
42: Teaching students about how race affects US social, legal, and economic systems, a topic sometimes called critical race theory



HISTORY, SHOULD WE TEACH IT?

WHAT NEW YORKERS THINK...

With the recent discussions about teaching racial history in classrooms, we wanted to see how New Yorkers feel about certain subjects. For the teachings of history and society in shaping race and inequality, **89%** agree with this. However, using the buzz phrase Critical Race Theory (CRT) in our next question—Teaching students about how race affects US social, legal, and economic systems, a topic sometimes called Critical Race Theory—we see that percentage drop to **79%**. Teaching slavery **92%**, immigration **94%**, racism **82%**, CRT **79%**, race and inequality **89%**.



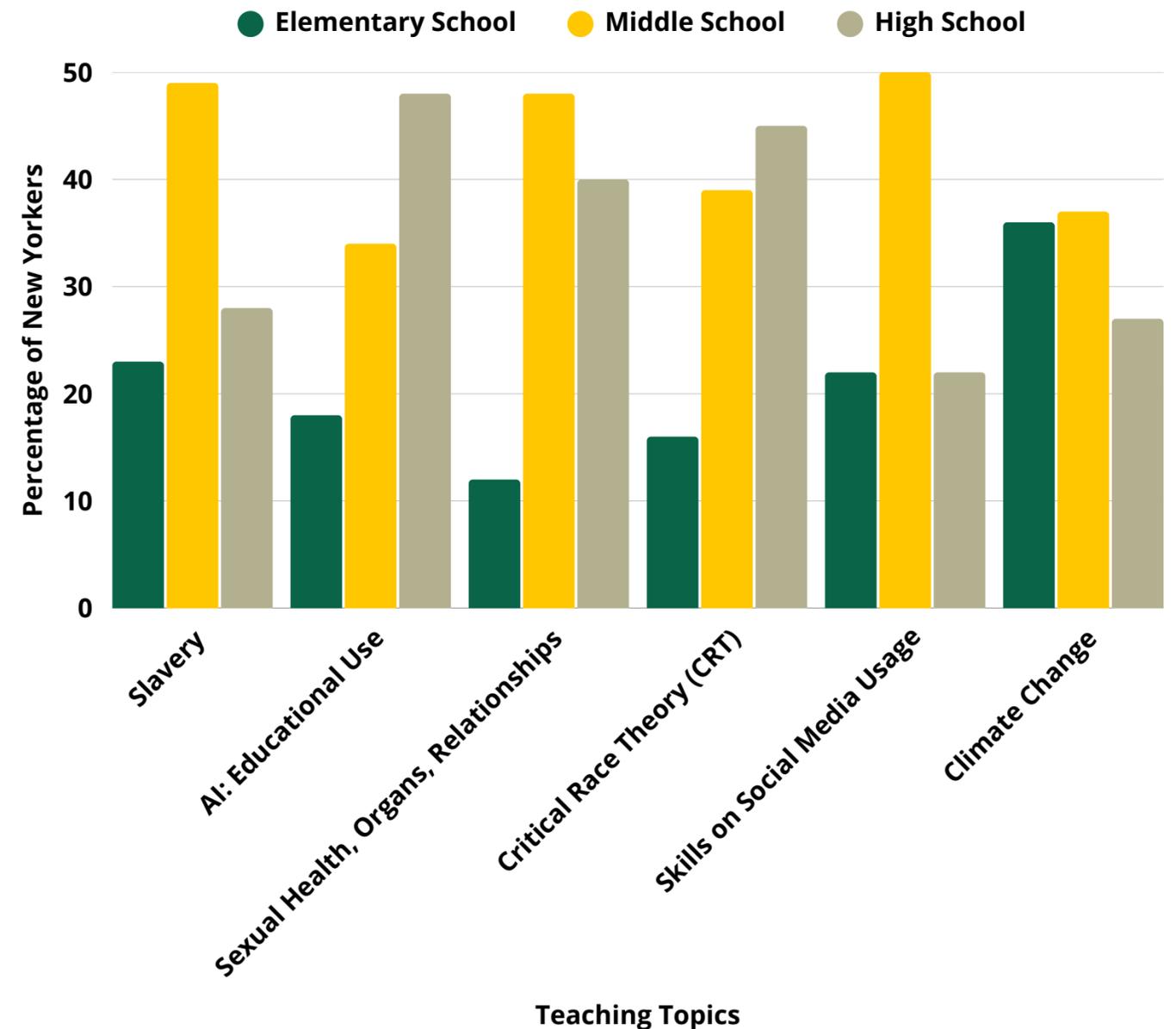


CIRRICULUM

TEACHINGS BASED ON GRADE LEVEL

WHEN SHOULD WE INTRODUCE TOPICS?

We wanted to ask New Yorkers when do they think certain topics should be introduced to students by grade level. The numbers illustrate how majority of New Yorkers believe that **Middle School** is the appropriate grade level to introduce most topics; slavery **48%**, AI **35%**, sexual health (organs and relationships) **48%**, CRT **39%**, social media skills **50%**, and climate change **37%**.



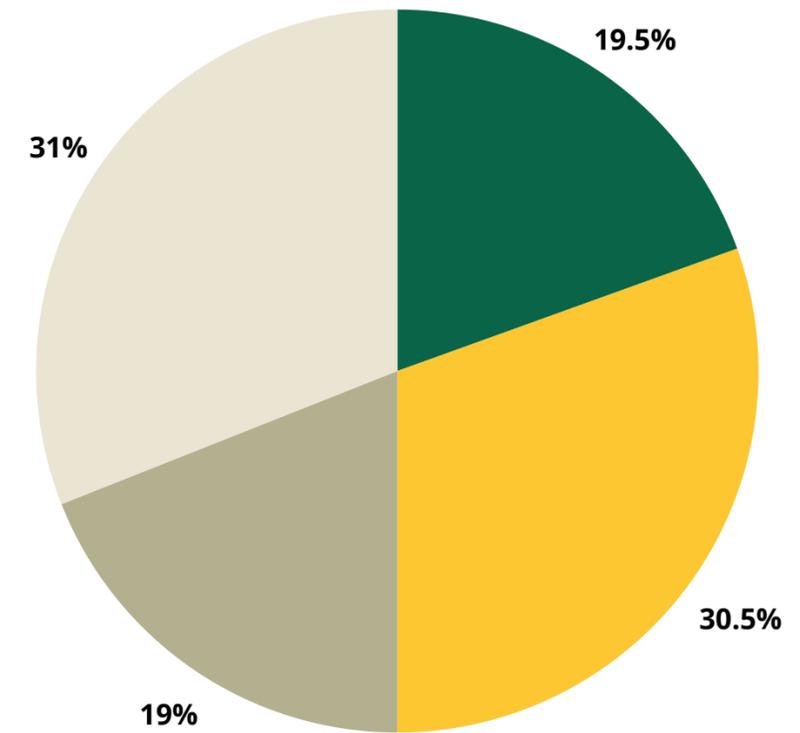
POLICY

BOOK BANNING

With the recent book banning across the United States, we wanted to gather New Yorker's perception on some of the bigger questions regarding book banning.

The survey question stated:

Which of the following comes closest to your view on challenges to books in curriculums and libraries around the nation even if neither exactly fits?



- State government should be responsible for determining which books are in K-12 schools - 19.5%
- Local school boards should be responsible for determining which books are in K-12 schools - 30.5%
- Parents should have the authority to decide which books to use in K-12 schools - 19%
- Schools should have the authority to decide which books to use in K-12 schools - 31%

POLICY

A PROBLEM OR NOT?

To fully understand what New Yorkers know about educational issues, we asked them to indicate whether they believe certain subjects are a problem or not a problem.



Drugs on Campus

Students consuming nicotine products on school grounds

Problem: 86% Not a Problem: 13%

Students using cannabis or marijuana products containing THC on school grounds

Problem: 84% Not a Problem: 15%

Bullying

Physical bullying of students on school grounds.

Problem: 91% Not a Problem: 9%

Students being targeted, bullied, or harassed online, commonly referred to as cyberbullying

Problem: 93% Not a Problem: 7%

Funding

The availability of funding for schools

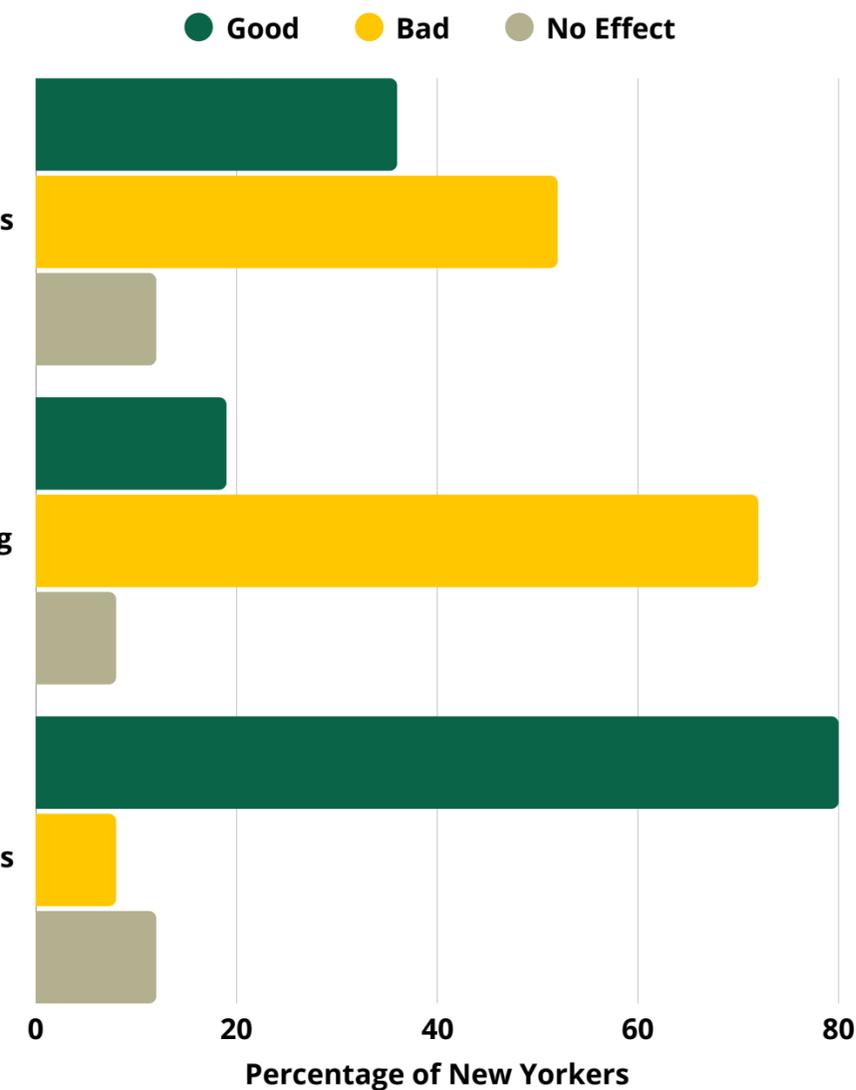
Problem: 83% Not a Problem: 17%

Statements

Reducing or eliminating arts and culture programs, like music and art, to address budget constraints from limited funding

Allowing teachers to be licensed to carry concealed firearms in schools

Raising the minimum salary for public K-12 teachers



WHAT'S GOOD FOR K-12 EDUCATION?

To fully understand what New Yorkers know about educational issues, we asked them to indicate whether they believe certain subjects would be **good**, **bad**, or have **no effect** on K-12 education.

SAFETY IN SCHOOLS

Survey question: Please indicate whether this issue in K-12 schools is:

- Physical bullying of students on school grounds.
- Students being targeted, bullied, or harassed online, commonly referred to as cyberbullying.
- Students using cannabis or marijuana products containing THC on school grounds.

91%

Reported that bullying was a major problem, with just 9% saying that it was not.

93%

Recorded a response that highlighted cyberbullying as a problem with only 7% saying that it was not a problem.

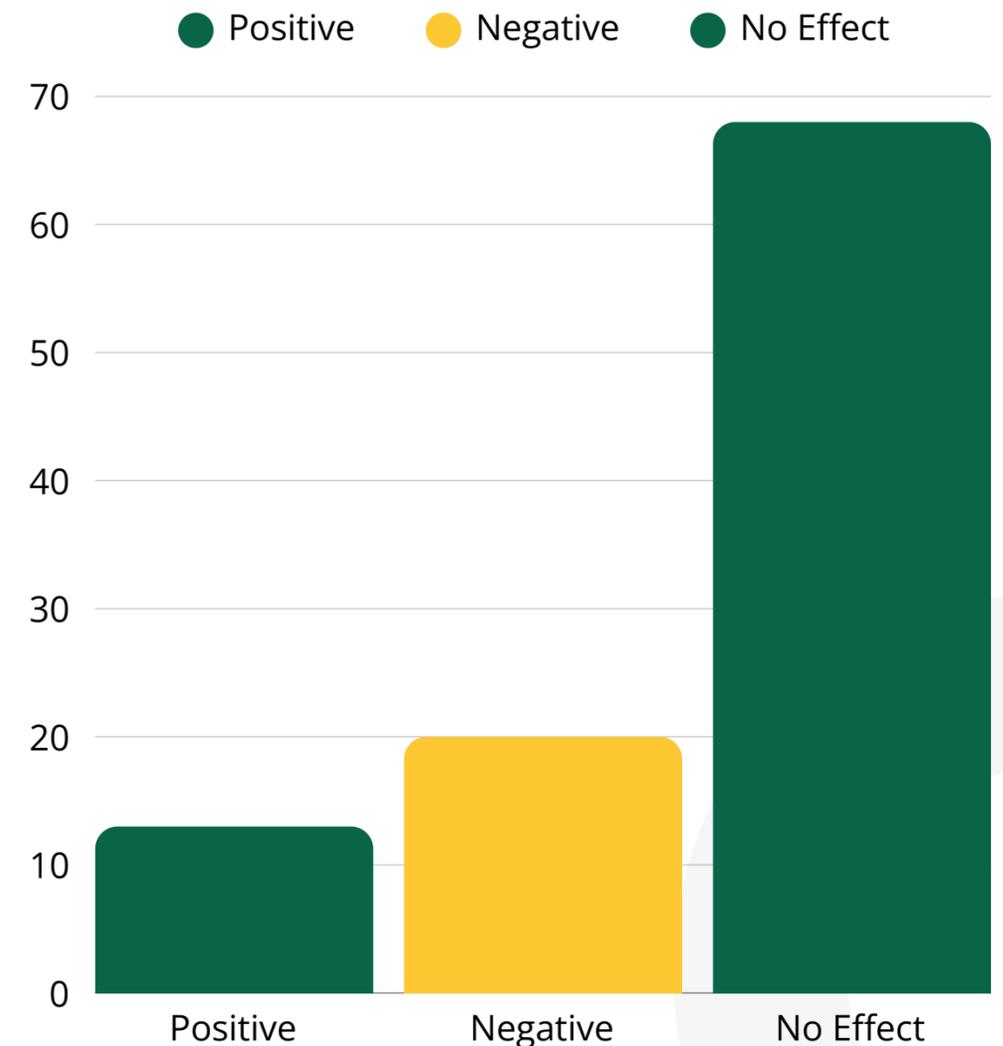
84%

Of people reported that students using cannabis or marijuana products on school grounds was a serious problem, with 15% disagreeing and saying it was not a an issue.

CELL PHONES

Survey Question: Do you think this is good for K-12 schools, bad for K-12 schools, or will have no effect on K-12 schools?
Requiring all school districts to restrict cell phone use by students in K-12 schools throughout the entire school day.

68% of New Yorkers polled responded positively to this idea, with 20% believing it was, and 13% arguing that it would have no effect.



Safety

Survey Question: Do you think this is good for K-12 schools, bad for K-12 schools, or will have no effect on K-12 schools?

Using school funding to hire school counselors and social workers to address students' emotional and personal needs.

81% reported that using school funding to hire counselors was a good idea, with 8% saying it was a bad idea, and 10% reporting that it would have no effect at all.



SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

Survey question: Please indicate how serious this issue is in K-12:
Incidents of school shootings and mass violence on school property.

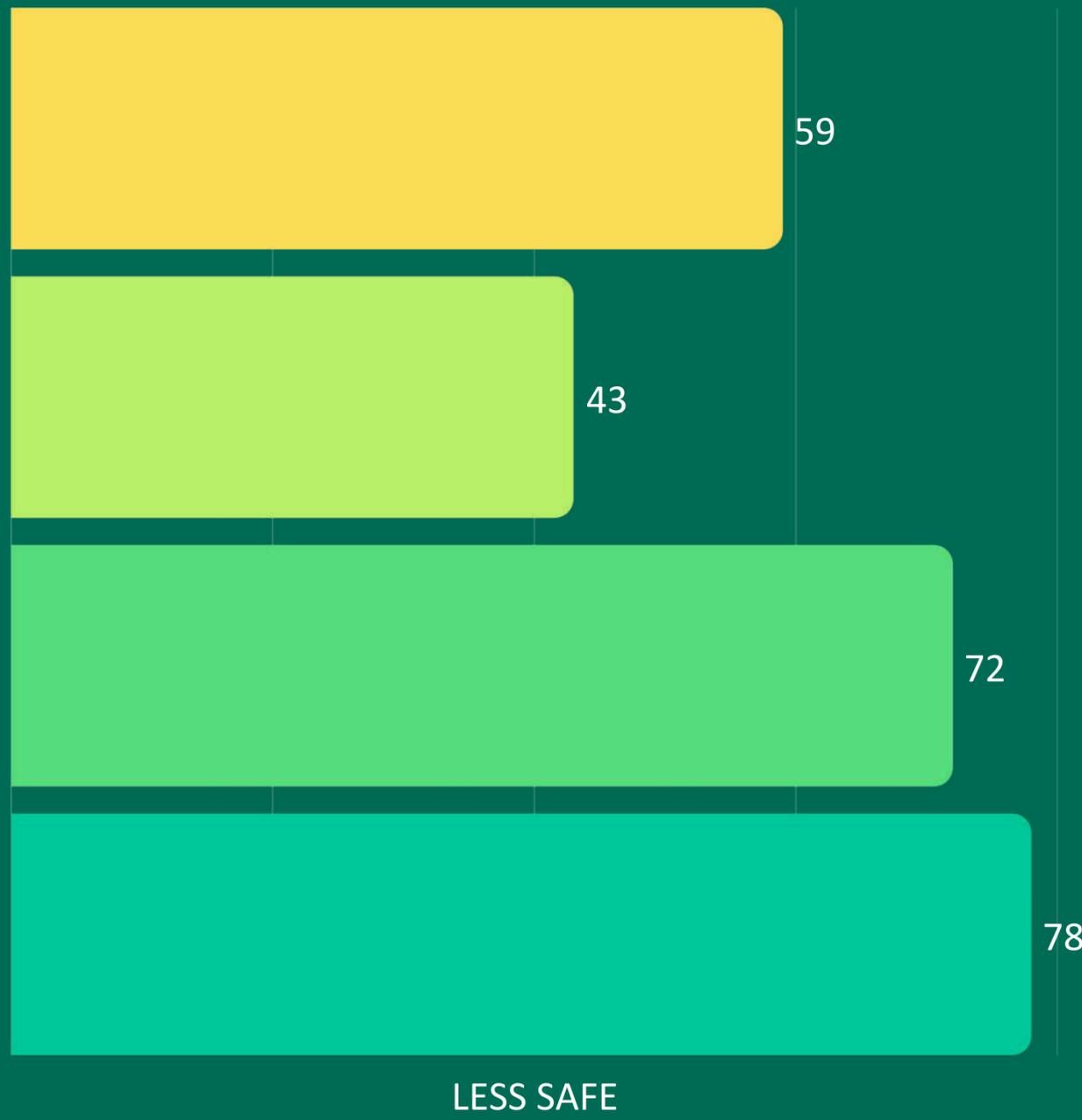
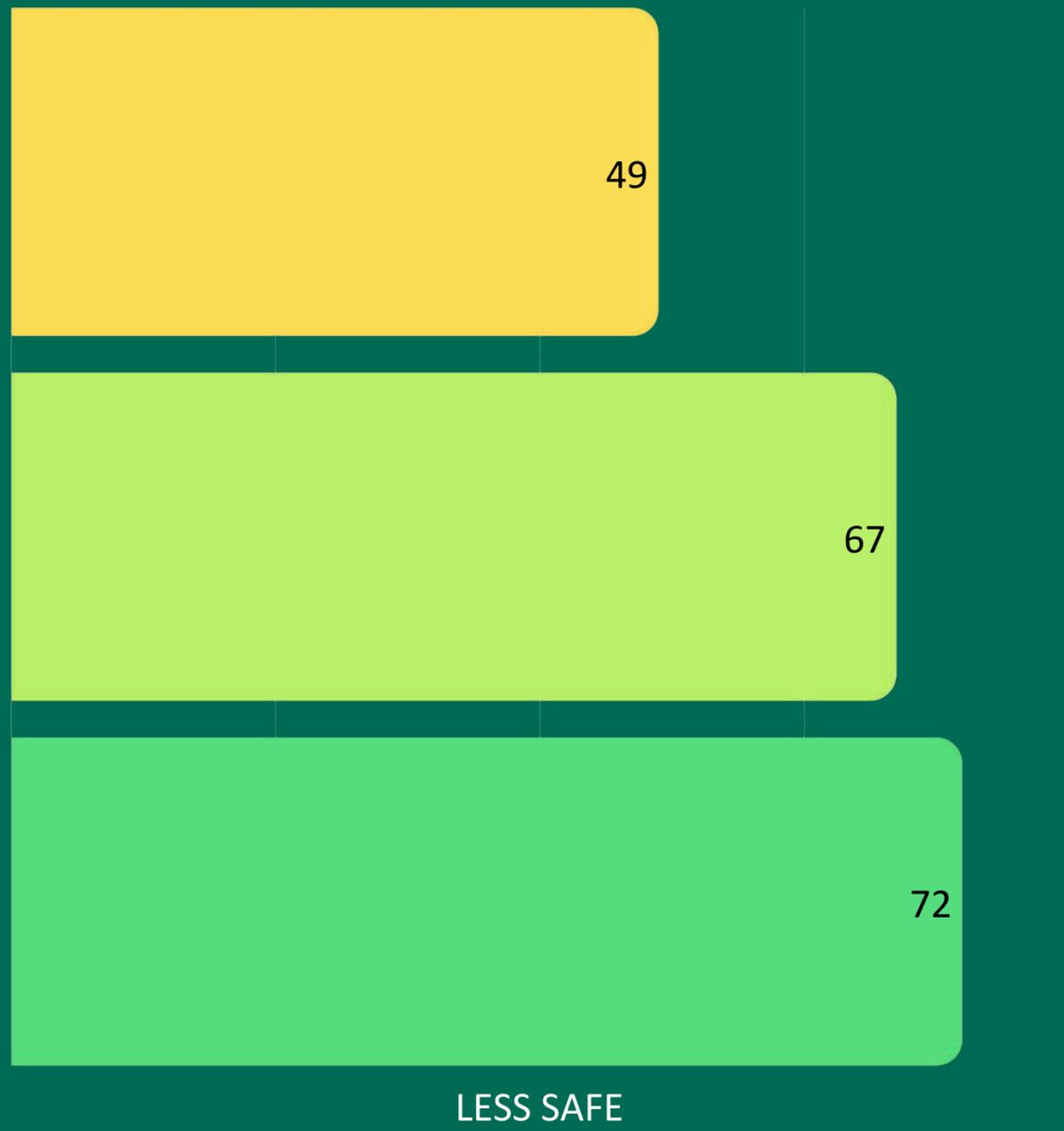
94% of New Yorkers polled saw school shootings and other instances of mass violence on school property as a serious problem. Only 6% of respondents considered it not an issue, highlighting how most people view it.



“Compared to 50 years ago would you say K-12 schools are..”

● NYC ● Suburbs ● Upsate

● 18-34 ● 35-49 ● 50-64 ● 65+



THANK YOU

