

# NATIONAL SURVEY OF PUERTO RICANS IN THE UNITED STATES

Center for American Progress Action Fund



Latino  Decisions

September 21, 2020

# Survey Goals

1. Examine Puerto Ricans' voting behavior, civic integration, and interest and participation in U.S. politics
2. Measure how Puerto Ricans of different backgrounds are handling the twin disasters of the coronavirus and the ongoing impact of Hurricane Maria, which devastated the island and the Puerto Rican community three years ago this week
3. Assess Puerto Ricans' views of specific issues facing the country at large, including their opinions about the most important priorities for the upcoming election; and
4. Examine views about the status of Puerto Rico and how Puerto Rican identity interacts with other political and social views.

# Key Findings

3

1. COVID-19 and lack of information on vote-by-mail has potential for a large negative impact on voter participation;
2. Puerto Rican community active in politics and civic participation;
3. Puerto Rican community feeling effects of government corruption;
4. Self-determination in some form is important, 49% of Puerto Ricans say they feel like an outsider;
5. Puerto Ricans have great pride in their identity

# Methods

4

- National survey of 1,000 people of Puerto Rican descent living on the mainland (including oversample of 200 Puerto Ricans in PA)
- Conducted on phones and online from September 4 to 11, 2020. (English & Spanish)
- Results are weighted nationally and have a margin of error of +/- 3.1%

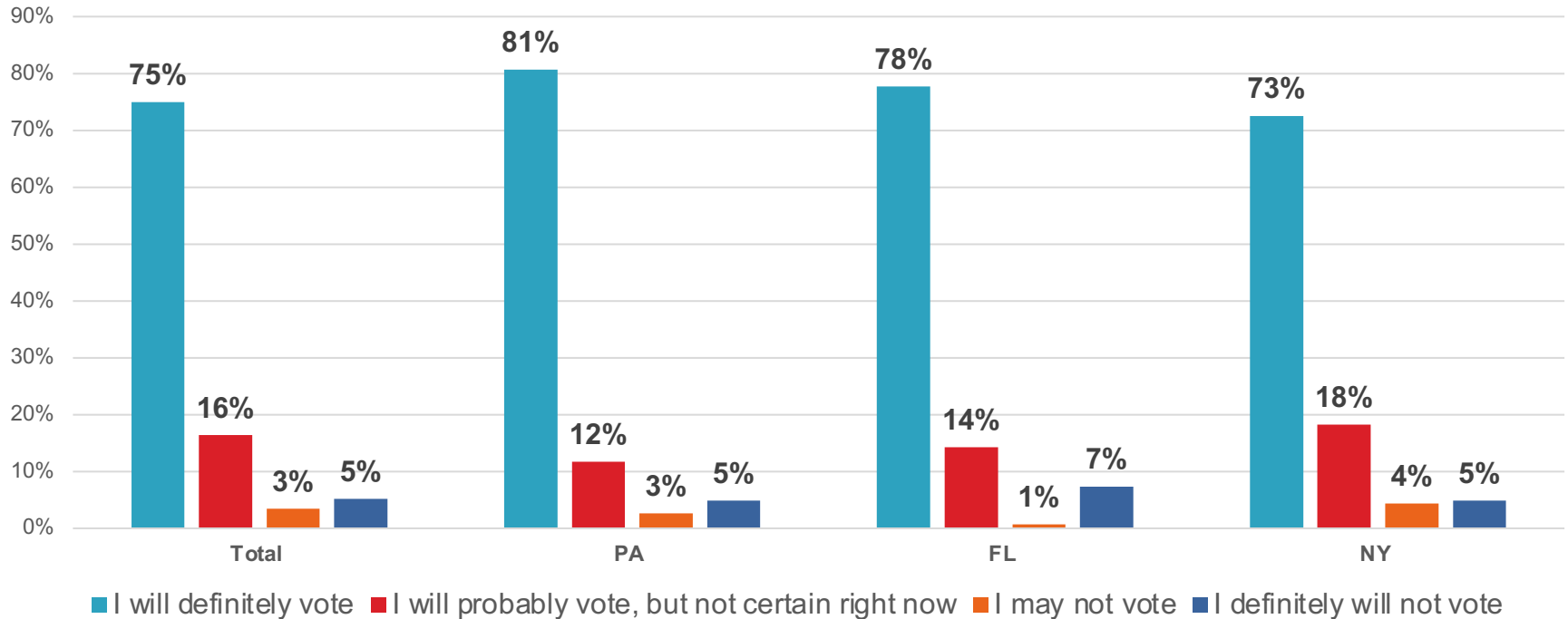
# Demographics

- 71% of respondents were interviewed in English
- 51% identify as Democrats, 17% Republican, 25% independent
- 58% of respondents were born in the U.S; 40% were born on the island of Puerto Rico
- 14% have lived on the mainland for 5 years or less; 23% for 6 to 15 years; and 61% have lived in the mainland U.S. for more than 15 years

## Voting in 2020:

75% of Puerto Ricans say that they will definitely vote in the 2020 presidential election with approximately 15% probably voting and about 1 in 10 saying they will not vote.

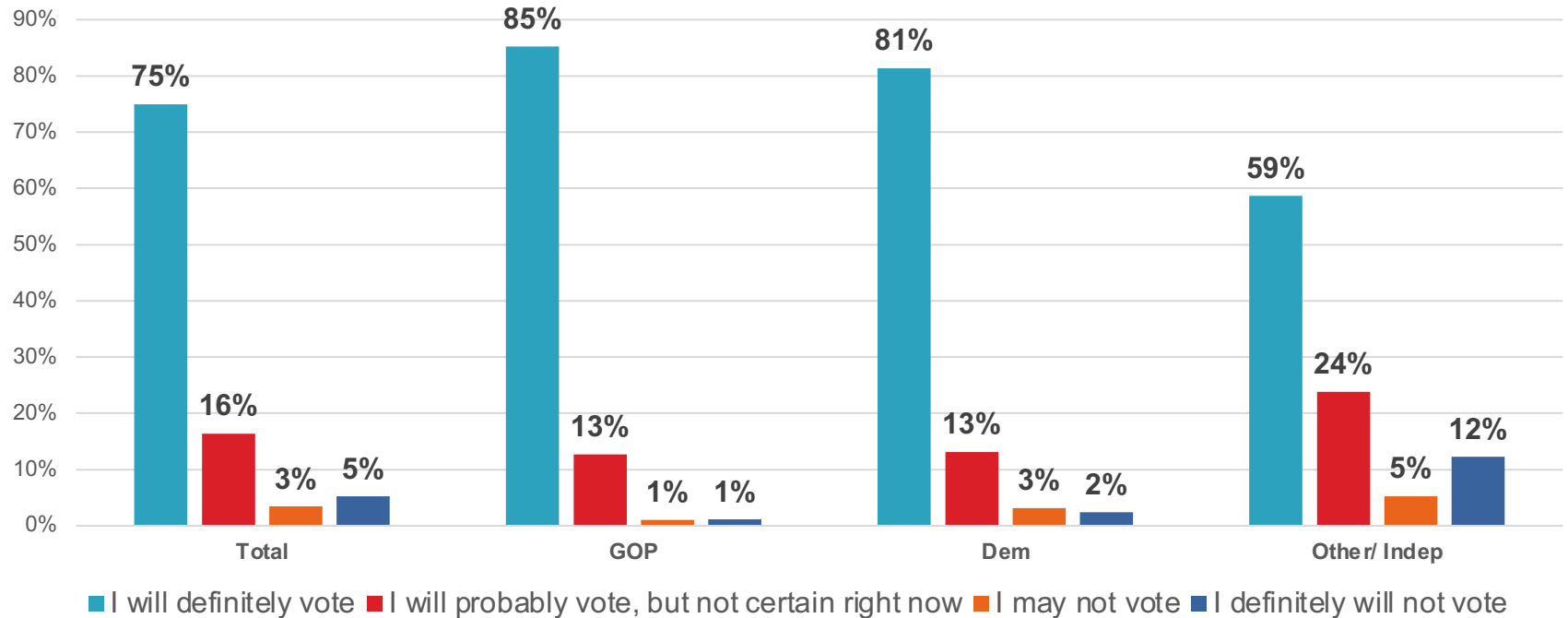
6



## Voting in 2020:

More than 80% of self-identified Republicans & Democrats reporting that they will definitely vote, compared to 59% of independents

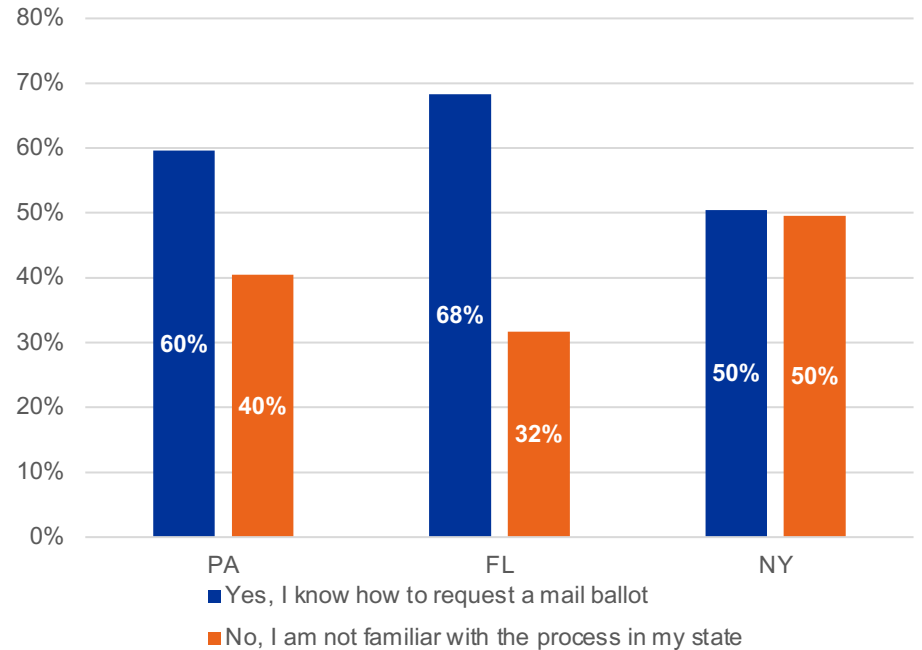
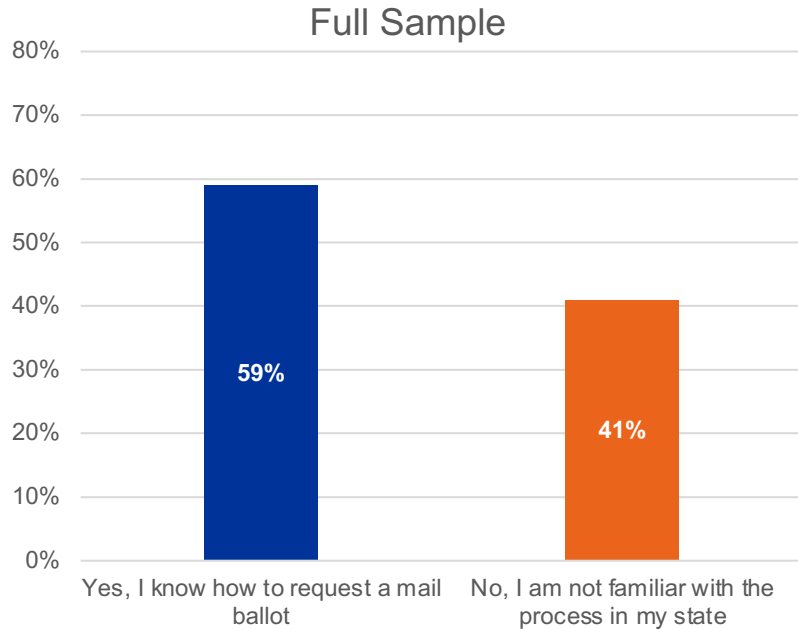
7



## VBM:

In some states they are not automatically sending you a ballot, but you have to request that they send you a mail ballot, if you prefer to vote by mail. Has your state provided you with enough instructions so that you know how to request a mail ballot?

8

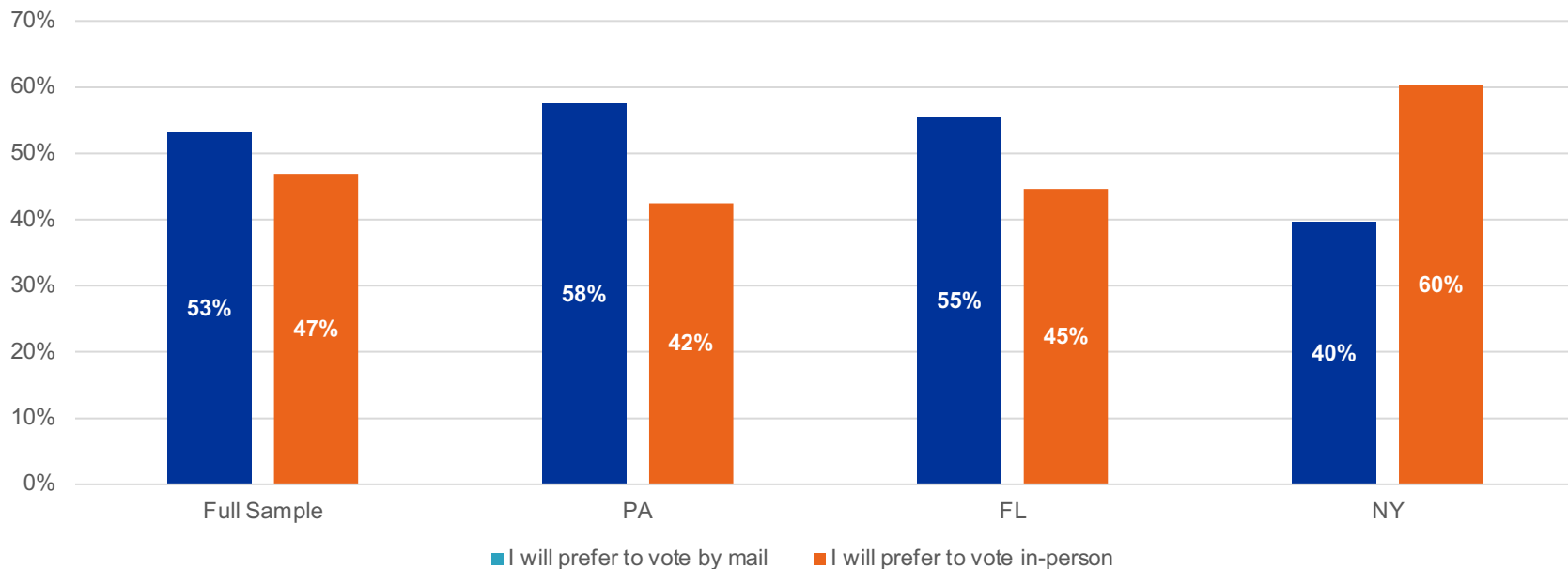




## VBM:

If your state ends up having both mail-in voting and in-person voting options in November, which would you be the most comfortable using to vote in the presidential election?

9

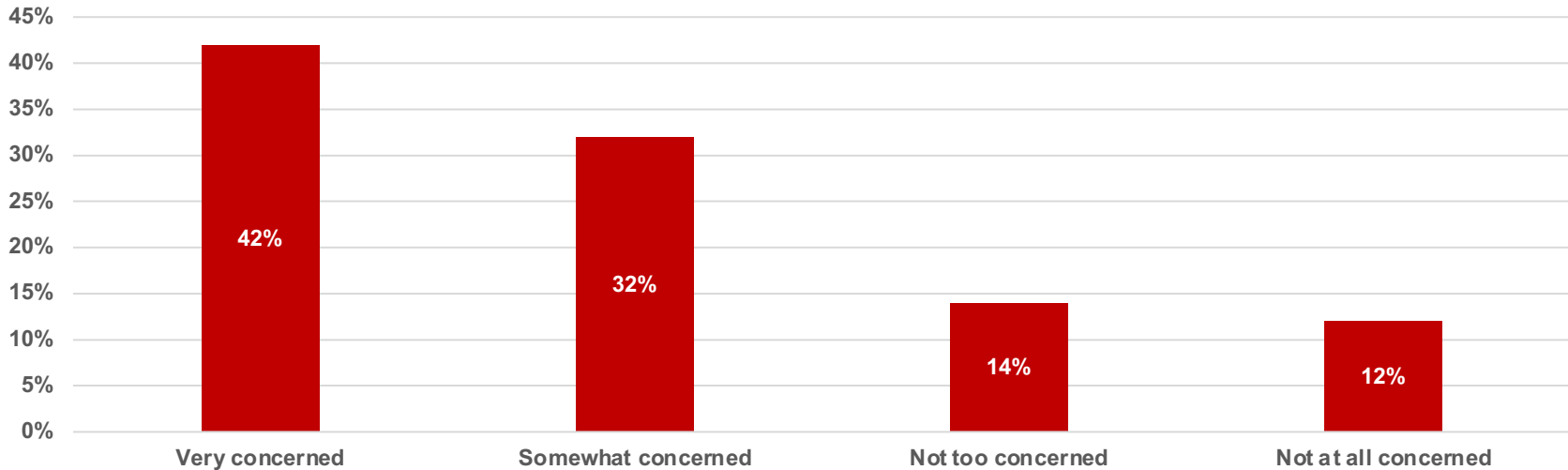


## Voting:

Nearly three quarters of Puerto Ricans express concern about being exposed to Covid-19 if they do vote in person this November.

10

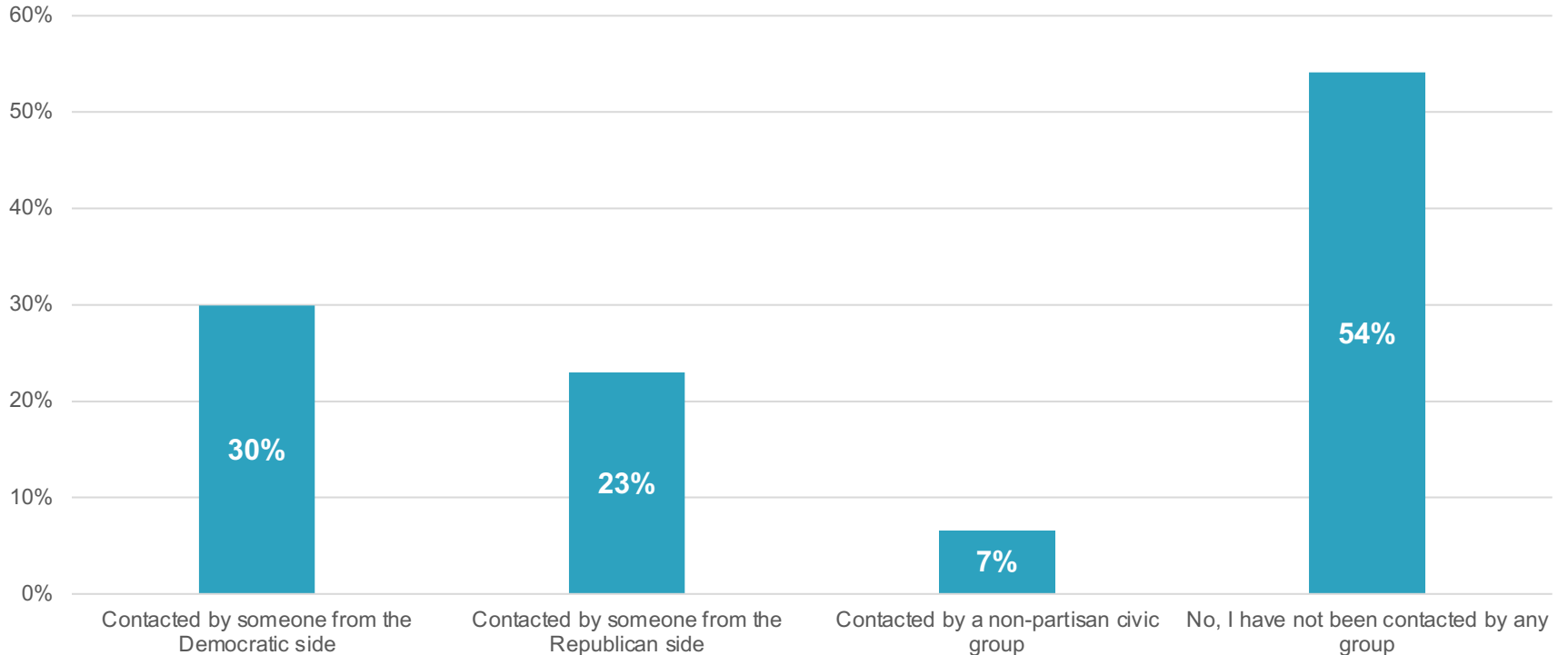
How concerned or not are you that you might be exposed to COVID-19 if you vote in-person during the November election.



## Outreach:

So far in 2020, has anyone from the Democratic or Republican Party, or a non-partisan civic group contacted you by email, text, phone, or in-person and encouraged you to become registered, or to vote in the election this November?

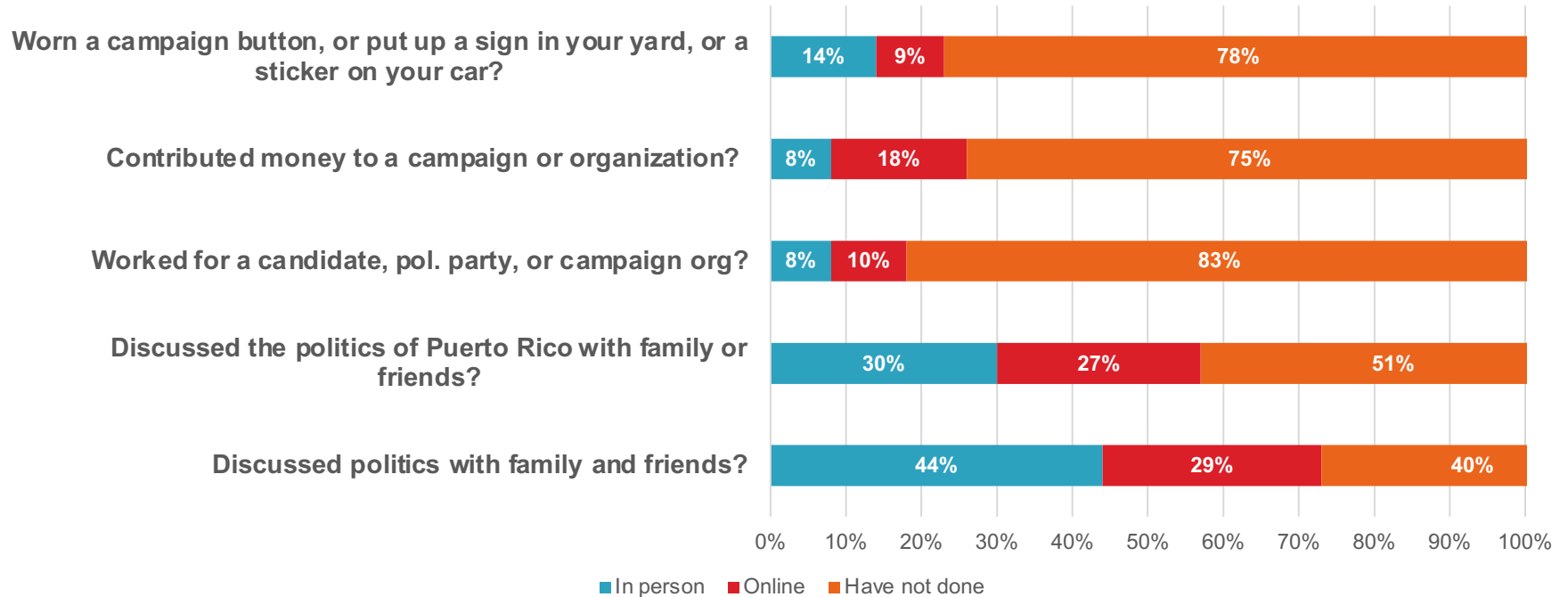
11



# Civic & Political Participation:

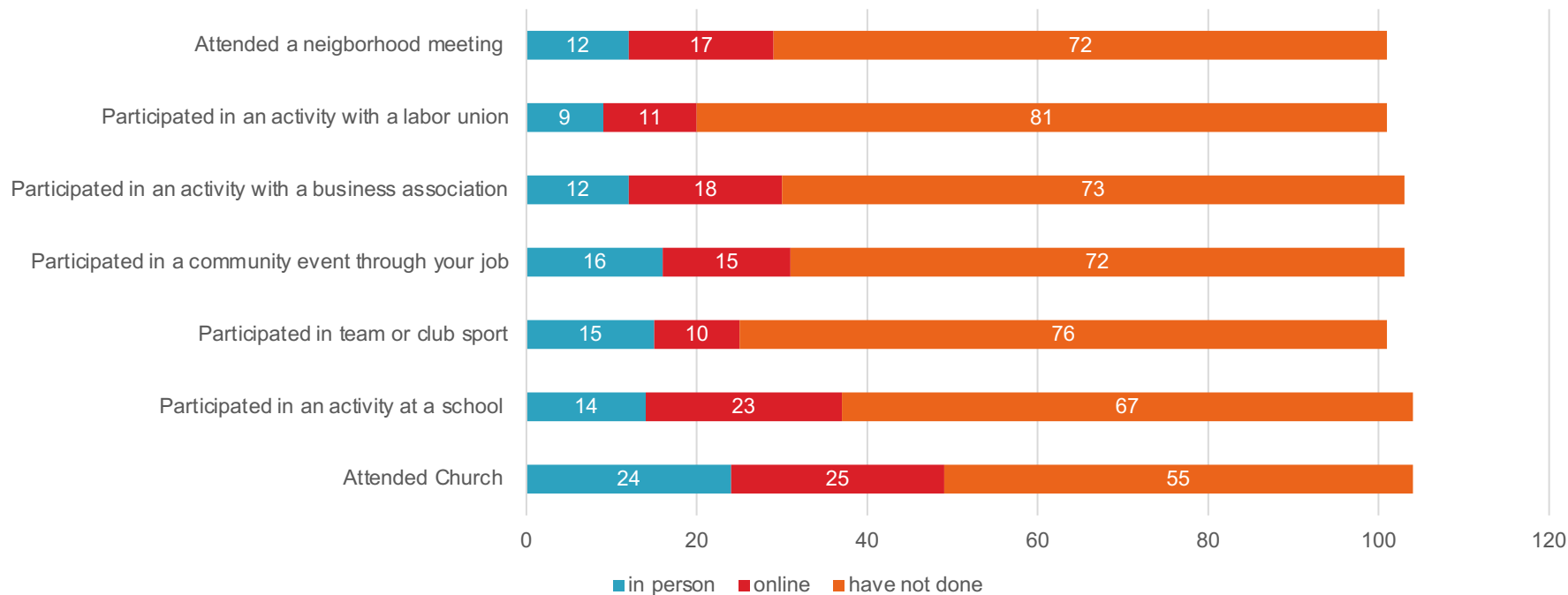
Discussion of political issues with family and friends is prevalent, but other forms of civic and political participation remain low.

12



# Civic Integration

13

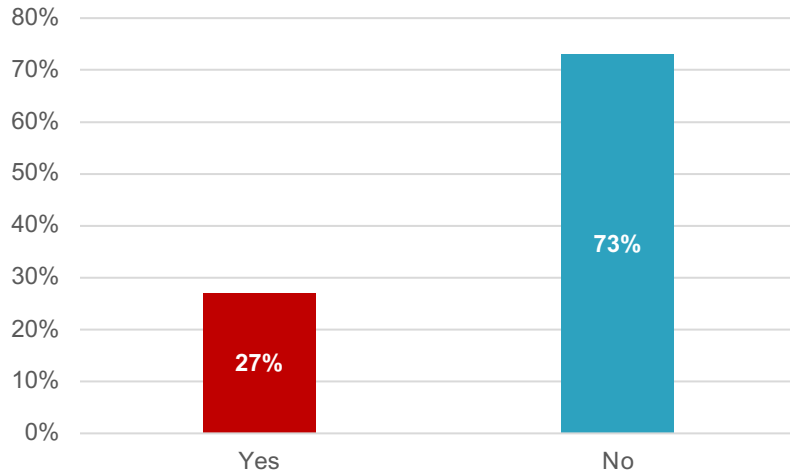


## COVID-19:

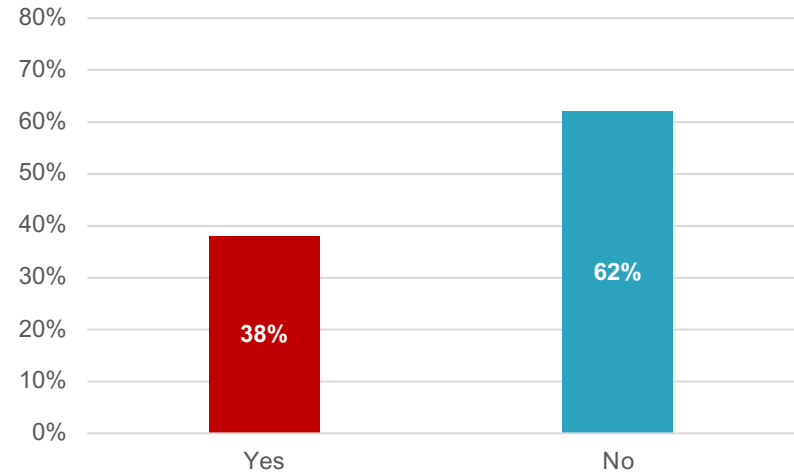
The Puerto Rican community is clearly feeling the effects of the coronavirus pandemic in a personal manner.

14

Do you have any family or friends who have become ill due to the coronavirus on the island?



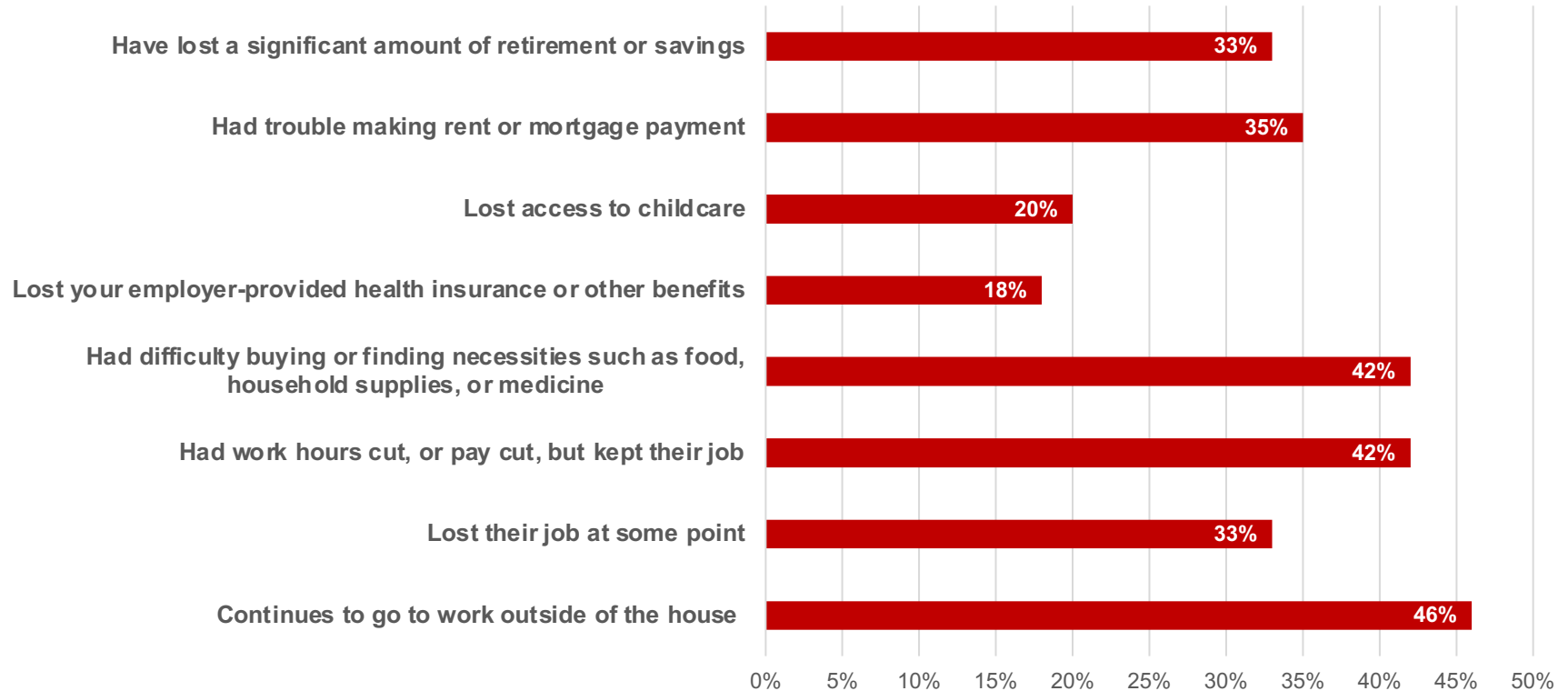
Have you or a family member or friend here in the mainland become ill due to the coronavirus?



# COVID-19:

Please indicate whether any of the circumstances apply to you or someone in your household because of the ongoing coronavirus:

15



## National Issues:

Thinking about the 2020 election, what are the most important issues facing Puerto Ricans and Hispanics that our politicians should address?

16

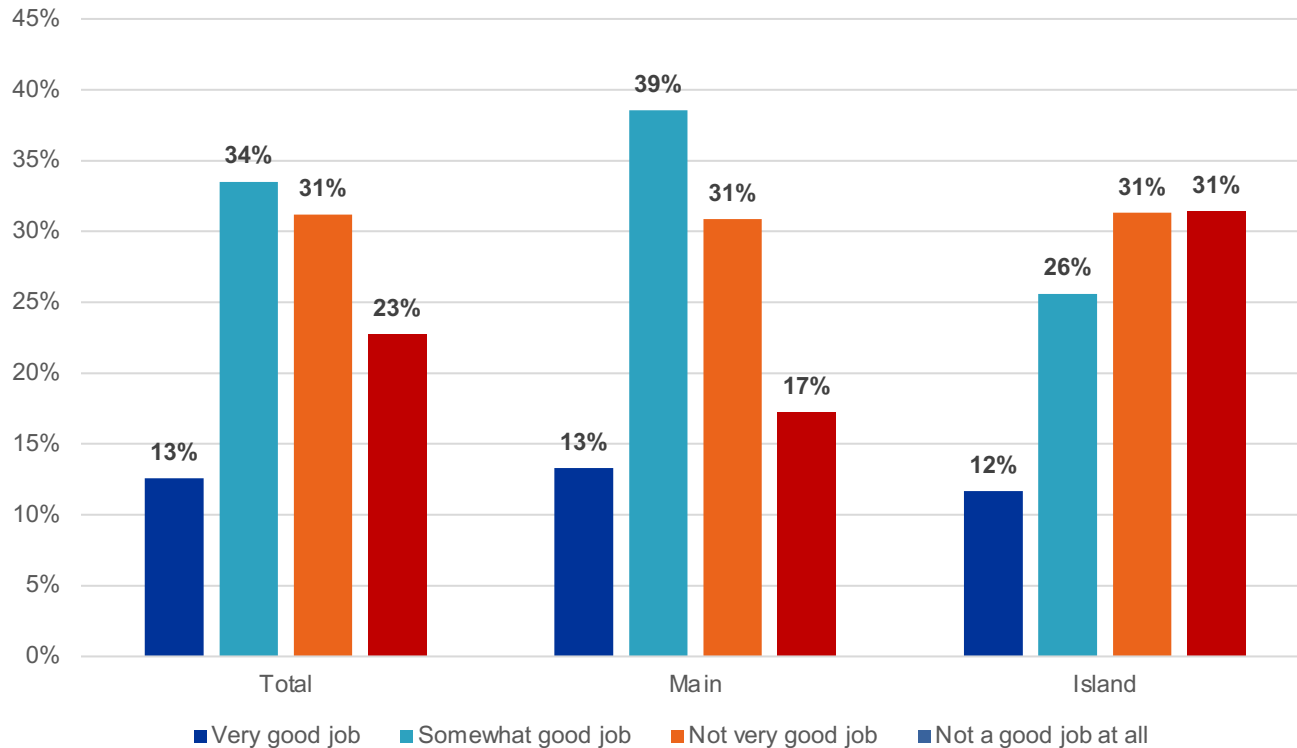
1.Responding to Coronavirus / COVID-19	31%
2.Stopping discrimination against immigrants and Latinos	21%
3.Unemployment / Creating more jobs	19%
4.Lowering the costs of health care	17%
5.Improving wages and incomes	16%
6.Protecting immigrant rights	16%



## Island Politics:

Thinking about the politics on the island of Puerto Rico, are political leaders there doing a good job or a poor job generally?

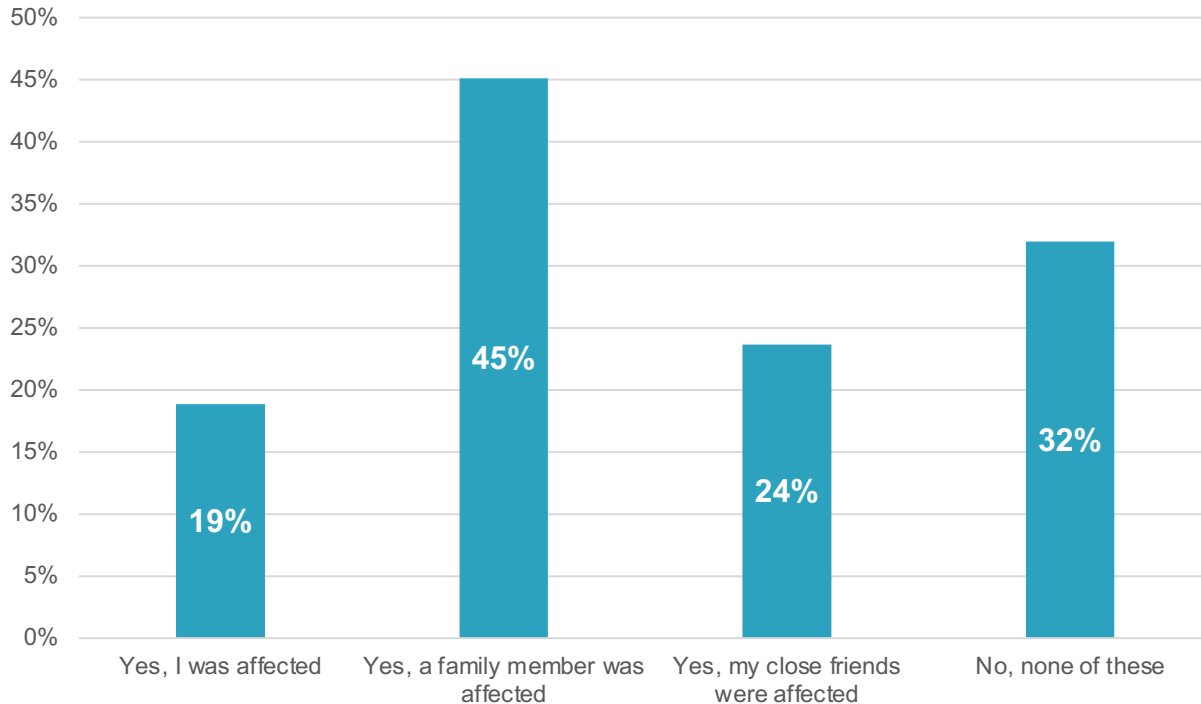
17



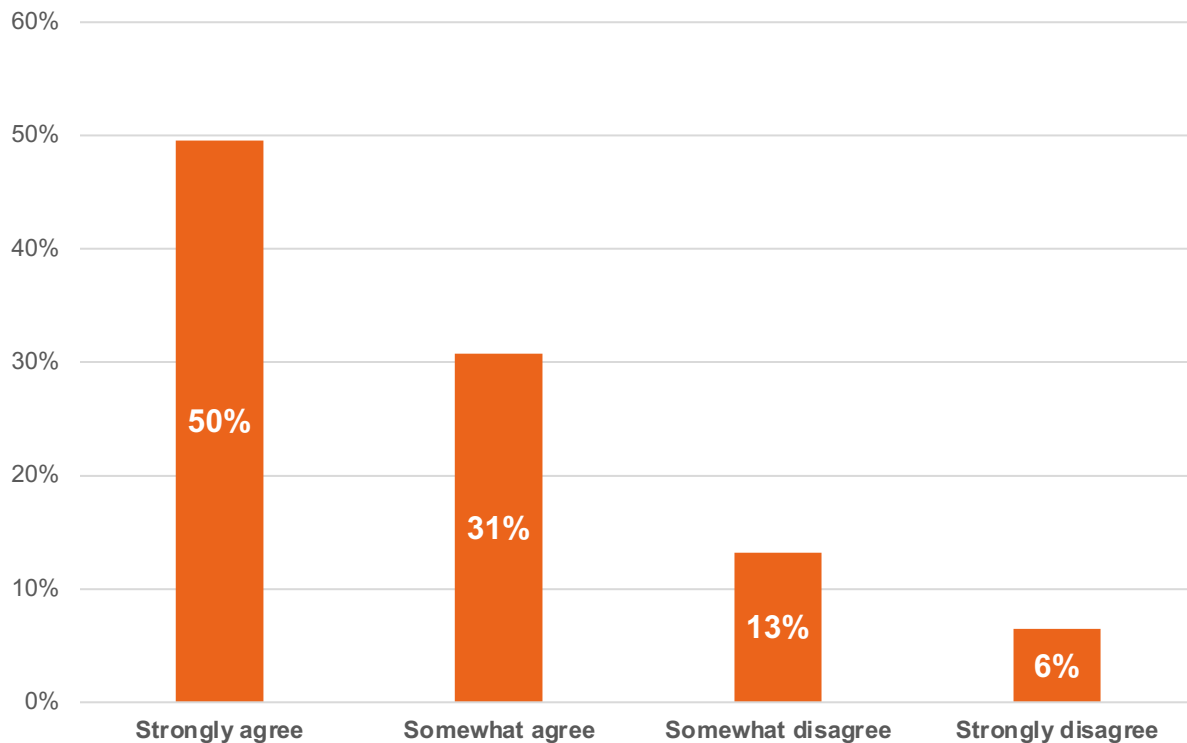
# Hurricane Maria:

Thinking about Hurricane Maria, were you or a family member, or a close friend negatively affected by the hurricane; like damaged property, lost job, lost electricity, or even a death?

18

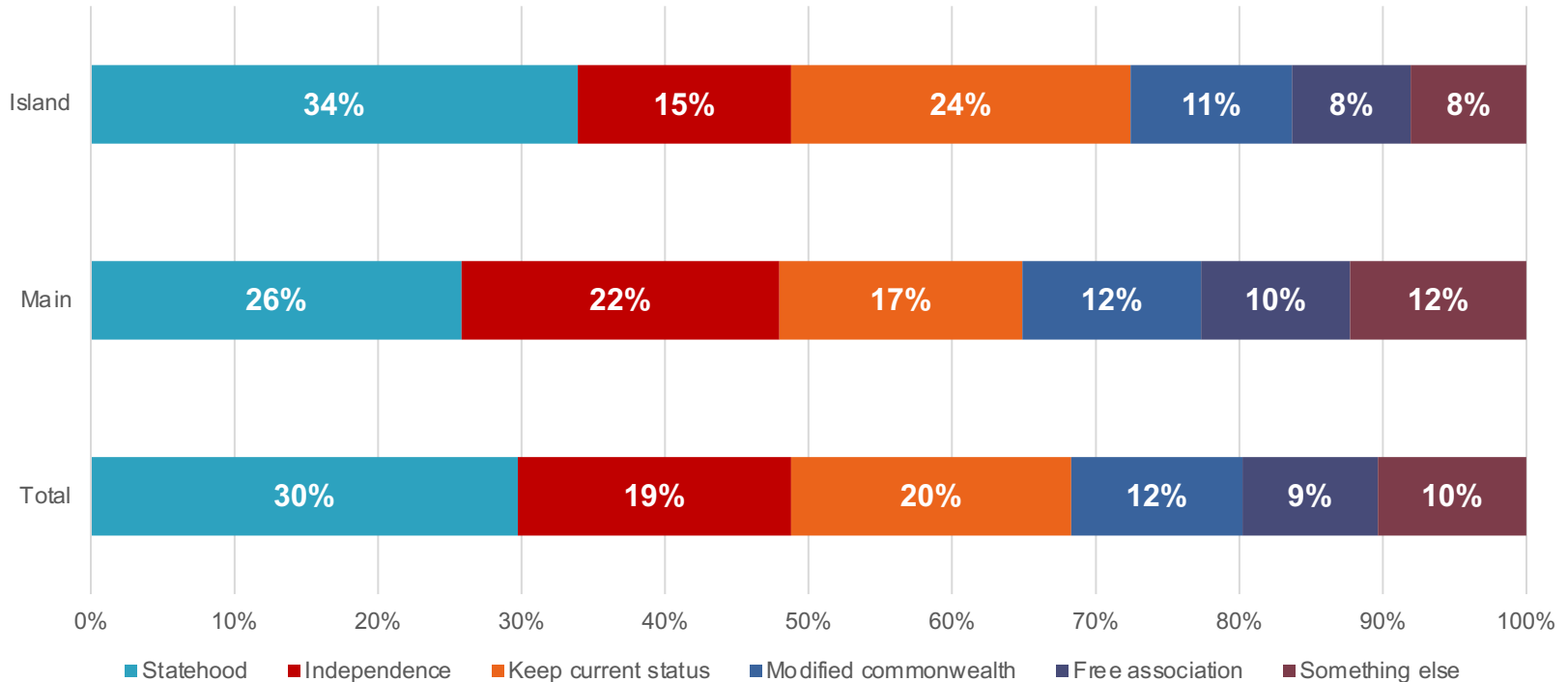


**Hurricane Maria:** The federal government did not do enough to help the people of Puerto Rico during Hurricane Maria, delaying FEMA relief for months. And it has been too slow to help with the pandemic on the island. The federal government and political leaders often forget about and turn their back to Puerto Ricans.



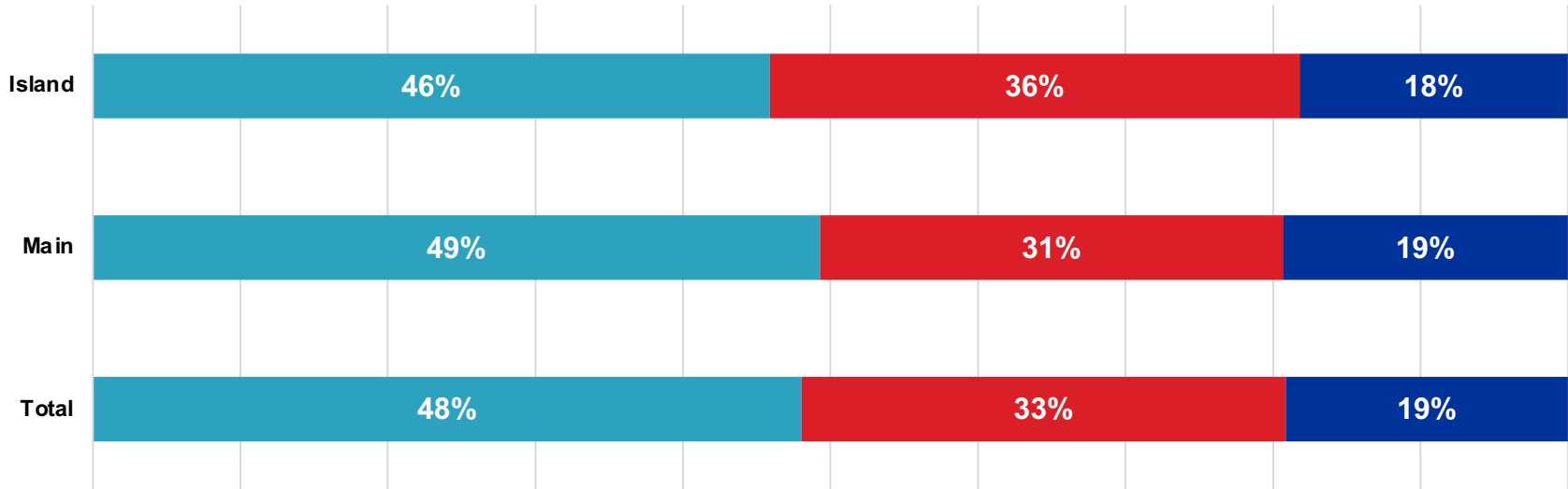
# Puerto Rican Status: Preference when given six options

20



# Puerto Rican Status: Preference when given three options

21



■ Puerto Rico should become a state

■ Puerto Rico should remain in its current status

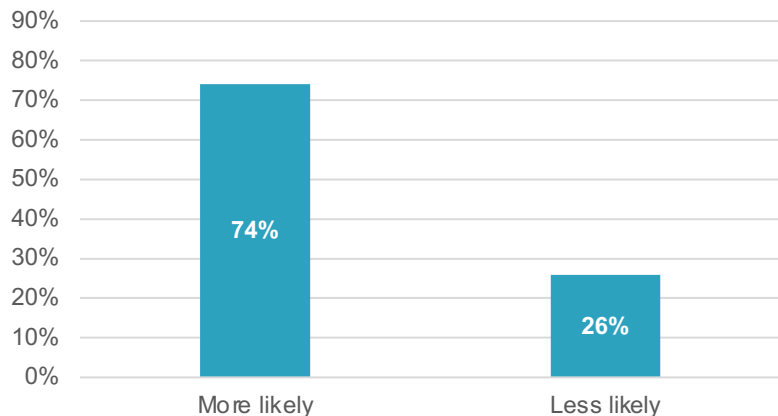
■ Puerto Rico should become an independent country

## Candidate Support:

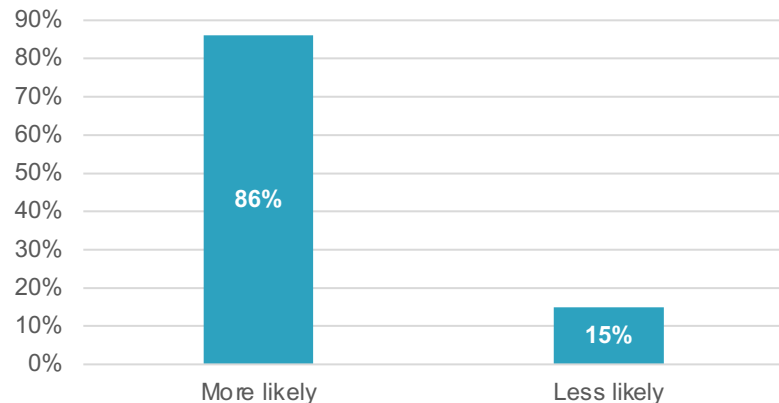
More or less likely to support a candidate who endorses Puerto Rican Statehood (basic and expanded descriptions)

22

If a candidate for office were to endorse statehood for Puerto Rico would that make you more or less likely to support them?



If a candidate for office were to endorse statehood, so that PRs would have the same rights as every American, and have 5 reps and 2 Senators in D.C., would that make you more likely to support that candidate, or less likely?



# Puerto Rican Identity:

How much is being Puerto Rican an important part of how you see yourself?

23

