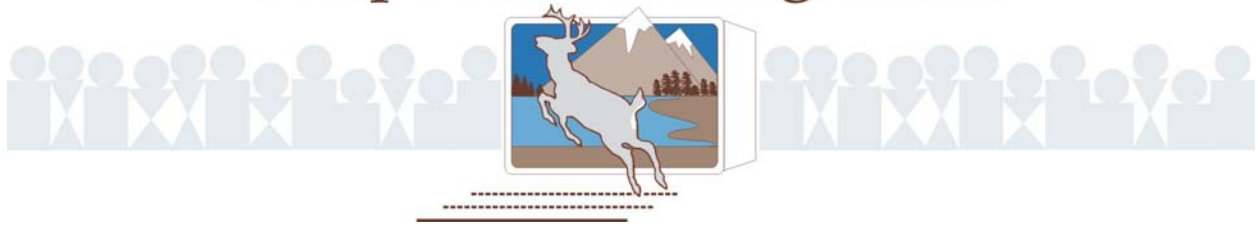


# Responsive Management



## IOWA ANGLER SURVEY

**Conducted for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources**

**by Responsive Management**

**2008**

# **IOWA ANGLER SURVEY**

**2008**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY**

This study was conducted for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to learn about anglers' fishing preferences and behaviors, as well as their opinions on and attitudes toward the IDNR and its programs. The study entailed a survey of Iowa anglers.

For the survey, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the universality of telephone ownership. The telephone survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and the IDNR. Responsive Management conducted a pre-test of the questionnaire and made revisions to the questionnaire based on the pre-test. Interviews were conducted Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday 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 November and December 2007. Responsive Management obtained a total of 1,649 completed interviews. The software used for data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language.

The analysis of data was performed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences software as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management. The results were weighted so that the proportions of the sample among the State's regions matched the distribution of the angler population statewide. The analysis included a crosstabulation of data by type of angler: avid angler (purchased a license all 3 of the past 3 years) and casual angler (purchased a license for only 1 or 2 of the past 3 years).

### **FISHING PARTICIPATION AND AVIDITY**

- The overwhelming majority of anglers in the sample (80%) had fished within the previous 12 months. Additionally, the mean number of years that anglers had fished out of the past 3 years is 2.42 years.
  - The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler shows that avid anglers have a greater measure of avidity: 95% of avid anglers (compared to 74% of casual anglers) had fished in the last 12 months.

- 
- Of those who had fished in the past year, the median number of days they fished was 10 days, and 56% had fished no more than 10 days; nonetheless, a substantial percentage (24%) had fished for more than 20 days.
    - Those who had not fished in the past year were asked about their number of days fishing *in the last year that they fished*, with lower numbers than those who fished in the previous year: their median number of days fishing was 5 days in the last year they fished.
    - The results of this question and the fishing participation question indicate that Iowa anglers fished for 8.30 million days in Iowa in 2007.
    - The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler shows that avid anglers fished for more days in the last year they went fishing compared to casual anglers.
  
  - The survey asked Iowa anglers how many years they had fished in Iowa. The mean is 30.5 years.
    - The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler shows that avid anglers tend to have fished for more years than have casual anglers.
  
  - Nearly all anglers started fishing when they were children, typically prior to the age of 10. Indeed, nearly half of anglers (48%) started when they were from 4 to 6 years old. The mean age at which people first went fishing was 7.25 years old.
    - The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler shows that avid anglers typically started fishing at a slightly younger age relative to casual anglers.
  
  - Those anglers who had fished for at least 10 years were asked about their amount of fishing now compared to 10 years ago. A greater percentage of them currently fish less (44%) than fish more (34%) when compared to 10 years ago.
    - The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler shows that avid anglers have a greater likelihood to say that they now fish *more* than they did 10 years ago.
  
  - Respondents are evenly divided between those who live in a household where only 1 person bought an Iowa fishing license in the past 12 months (44%) and those who live in a

household in which 2 or more people purchased a fishing license (also 44%). Respondents were asked how many people in their household went fishing in the past 12 months (the above question asked only about *purchasing a license*): 32% said 1 person in their household went fishing in the past 12 months, while 55% said 2 or more people went fishing in Iowa in the past 12 months.

- Among married anglers, 58% say that their spouse fishes.
  - In the crosstabulations by avid versus casual angler, the results show that avid anglers are more likely than are casual anglers to live in a household where somebody bought a fishing license and/or went fishing. Interestingly, however, avid anglers and casual anglers are about the same regarding whether their spouse fishes.
- A question that tangentially relates to avidity is skill level. The large majority of Iowa anglers (71%) rate their skill level as medium. Otherwise, a slightly higher percentage rate themselves as beginner (16%) than rate themselves as expert (11%).
- Not surprisingly, avid anglers are more likely to rate themselves as expert at fishing than are casual anglers.

### **SPECIES FISHED AND PREFERRED**

- The most-fished species of fish are catfish/bullhead (51% of anglers fished for these in the previous 12 months or the last year they fished), bass (49%), bluegill (48%), and crappie (47%)—the species that are most popular by far. Next in the ranking is walleye (33%), but with a much lower percentage having fished for that species.
- An analysis was run of the species of fish sought by anglers in various types of water.
    - Catfish, bass, bluegill, walleye, and crappie are the species most fished for in *border rivers*.
    - Catfish, bass, crappie, and walleye are the species most fished for in *inland rivers*.
    - Trout is, by far, the species most fished for in *trout streams*.
    - Walleye, catfish, bass, and crappie are the species most fished for in *natural lakes*.
    - Crappie, catfish, and bass are the species most fished for in *reservoirs*.
    - Bass, crappie, catfish, and bluegill are the species most fished for in *constructed lakes*.

- Bass, catfish, and crappie are the species most fished for in *oxbow lakes*.
  - Bass, crappie, bluegill, and catfish are the species most fished for in *farm ponds/gravel pits*.
- Bass (49%) and catfish/bullhead (43%) are the types of fish that anglers most commonly say they fish for most often in Iowa, distantly followed by crappie (16%), bluegill (12%), walleye (9%), and trout (8%). (Note that the question in the bullet above asked for all fish that anglers had fished for, while this question asked which *single* type of fish they *most often* fished for in Iowa.)
- When anglers were asked which single species of fish they would *prefer* to fish for, their answers closely mirror the fish that they most commonly fish for, with one notable exception: preference for walleye (14% prefer walleye) exceeds actual fishing for it (9% say that walleye is the species they most often fish for).
  - The crosstabulations by avid versus casual angler shows that the two groups are similar in the type of fish they most commonly fish for and the type they prefer, with a couple of exceptions: avid anglers more often than casual anglers say their most-fished type is crappie or walleye, and avid anglers more often say they prefer walleye.

## **METHODS OF FISHING**

- The large majority of Iowa anglers (83%) fished from the shore at least some of the time, while 62% fished from a boat, 46% fished from a pier or dock, and 11% waded while fishing in Iowa in the past 12 months or last year they fished.
- Avid anglers are more likely than casual anglers to have fished from a boat, fished from a pier or dock, or waded while fishing in the past 12 months or last year they fished.
- A large majority of Iowa anglers (72%) did catch-and-release fishing at least some of the time. Smaller amounts went ice fishing (15%) or fly fishing (7%) in Iowa in the past 12 months or last year they fished.
- Avid anglers are more likely than casual anglers to have done catch-and-release, gone ice fishing, and gone fly fishing in the past 12 months or last year they fished in Iowa.

- As indicated above, a large majority of Iowa anglers (72%) had done catch-and-release fishing at least once in the last year they fished. Note that the survey was structured to determine the amount of trout typically released versus non-trout released by those who fished for trout and other species.
  - Those who fished for trout and who indicated having done catch-and-release were asked about the amount of *trout* they release: 66% release about half or more, while 30% release few to none.
  - Those same anglers (who fished for trout *and* other species and who indicated having done catch-and-release) were asked about the amount of non-trout they release: 77% release half or more, while 20% release few to none.
  - Those anglers who did *not* fish for trout and who indicated having done catch-and-release were asked about the amount of fish they release: 84% release half or more, while 15% release few to none.
  - Casual anglers are more likely to release fish—both trout and non-trout—than are avid anglers on all three of these questions.
  
- A previous section indicated that 62% of Iowa anglers had fished from a boat at least once in the last year they fished.
  - The majority of the anglers who had fished from a boat (70%) had done so for 10 days or less in their most recent year of fishing.
  - The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler demonstrates that avid anglers fished more days on a boat than did casual anglers.
  
- Another question asked anglers who had fished from a boat about the amount of their fishing that is done from a boat: 21% said all their fishing is from a boat, another 30% said that most of their fishing is from a boat, and 20% said at least half is done that way, for a total of 71% of “boater-anglers” doing at least half of their fishing from a boat.
  - Avid anglers are more likely to fish from a boat most of their time than are casual anglers.



## FISHING LOCATIONS AND PREFERRED LOCATIONS

- The most commonly fished body of water was not a specific water body but a type of water body: the unnamed farm pond (or gravel pit, although nearly all responses within this category were “farm pond”), in which 27.1% of respondents fished. Otherwise, the Mississippi River (15.6%), the Cedar River (4.4%), Okoboji Lake (4.1%), Lake Red Rock (3.9%), Clear Lake in Cerro Gordo County (3.7%), the Wapsipinicon River (3.6%), Rathbun Lake (3.5%), Spirit Lake and/or Little Spirit Lake (3.4%), the Des Moines River (3.4%), and Big Creek (3.1%) were the most commonly fished bodies of water.
- The questions regarding location of fishing included the county. Note that many anglers did not know the county in which they most often fished. In some cases, the analyst was able to complete the county information because the water body the respondent named was known to be in a certain county; in other cases, however, the county information could not be completed. Nonetheless, the top counties for fishing are Dickinson (8.9% indicated that this was the county in which they most commonly fished), Polk (8.3%), Johnson (6.6%), Marion (5.0%), Linn (4.6%), Scott (4.5%), and Appanoose (4.1%).
- The most commonly fished type of water body was constructed lake (35% named a constructed lake as one of the two most fished bodies of water), followed by farm pond/gravel pit (27%), inland river (21%), border river (17%), natural lake (15%), reservoir (9%), trout stream (2%), and oxbow lake (2%).
- The survey asked Iowa anglers to name their preferred body of water and county in which to fish. Again, the top is a type of water body, not a specific one: 18.0% prefer an unnamed pond or gravel pit. Otherwise, the Mississippi River (10.1%), Clear Lake in Cerro Gordo County (2.6%), the Cedar River (2.5%), Okoboji Lake (2.2%), Spirit Lake or Little Spirit Lake (2.2%), Rathbun Lake (2.1%), and Lake Red Rock (2.0%) are the most preferred bodies of water. The most preferred counties are Dickinson (5.2%), Polk (4.6%), Johnson (4.1%), Marion (2.9%), and Clayton (2.6%).
- The most preferred types of water body are farm pond/gravel pit (20% prefer this) and constructed lake (also 20%), followed by border river (12%), inland river (11%), natural lake (10%), reservoir (6%), trout stream (1%), and oxbow lake (1%).

- While the large majority of Iowa anglers (60%) typically travel no more than 20 miles to fish in Iowa, 16% typically travel more than 50 miles.
  - The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler found that avid anglers tend to drive a little longer than casual anglers to fish in Iowa, but note that the difference is small.

## **MOTIVATIONS FOR FISHING**

- The survey asked anglers about their most important reason for fishing out of a list of seven reasons, and the order of the reasons read to the respondent was randomly changed to eliminate bias in the answers. “For relaxation” was the most common reason for fishing (34%), followed by “to be with family” (26%), and “for the sport” (16%). Note that in general aesthetic reasons exceed utilitarian reasons for fishing.
  - In the crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler, avid anglers are more likely to fish “for the sport” than are casual anglers, while casual anglers are more likely to fish “to be with family.”
- The survey asked anglers whether fourteen specific things would increase their motivation to go fishing. Two motivations stand out: being asked by a child to go fishing (93% said this would increase their motivation to go fishing), and being invited by a friend (92%). Below these is a grouping of items, many of which relate to the health of the fishery and good water quality (all within the range of 67% to 75% saying the item would increase their motivation to go fishing). Within this range also is having fishing offered as part of a vacation. Low down on the ranking is having equipment made available, whether for rent or for free.
  - For nearly every potential motivation, a greater percentage of avid anglers relative to casual anglers say that it would increase their motivation to fish a lot.

## **CONSTRAINTS TO FISHING PARTICIPATION**

- The survey asked anglers about 26 potential constraints on fishing participation, asking if each was a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor causing the respondent not to fish as much as he/she wanted or took away from enjoyment of fishing. The top constraint, by far, was lack of time because of work obligations (45% said this was a major factor), distantly followed by lack of time because of family obligations (22%). Below these were poor water

quality (13%), lack of fish to catch (10%), and the feeling that places outside of Iowa are better for fishing (10%).

- Casual anglers were more likely than avid anglers to say that lack of time because of family obligations was a major factor. On the other hand, avid anglers were more likely to say that poor behavior of other recreationists excluding anglers was a major factor. In looking at major and minor factors combined, casual anglers were more likely than avid anglers to say that lack of skill or lack of interest was a factor. Meanwhile, avid anglers were more likely than casual anglers to say that poor behavior of other recreationists (both anglers and non-anglers) was a factor, that interference from others was a factor, and that lack of access was a factor.
- The survey asked if the price of gas had negatively affected anglers' fishing, and 14% indicated that it negatively affected their fishing participation "a great deal." In total, 29% indicated that it had affected their fishing "a little" or "a great deal."
  - The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler found that avid anglers were more likely to be affected by the price of gas.
  - A crosstabulation found that those who typically travel farther were more likely to be affected by the price of gas.
- In a direct question regarding trends in water quality over the past 10 years, a third of anglers (33%) say that water quality is worse now compared to 10 years ago. For these people, water quality may be a constraint.

#### **RATINGS OF FISHING AND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN IOWA**

- The majority of Iowa anglers (66%) rate fishing in Iowa as excellent or good (most of those saying good), while 32% rate it as fair or poor (most of those saying fair).
- The majority of Iowa anglers (63%) rate public access to Iowa's rivers and streams for fishing as excellent or good (mostly good), while 26% rate such access as fair or poor (mostly fair). Regarding access to lakes, the majority of Iowa anglers (76%) rate public

access to Iowa's lakes for fishing as excellent or good (mostly good), while 15% rate access to lakes as fair or poor (mostly fair).

- The survey asked specifically about public access to the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. For both questions, most anglers indicate that they cannot say/don't know. Otherwise, many more give good or excellent ratings than give fair or poor ratings for both rivers.
- The majority of Iowa anglers (72%) rate the IDNR as excellent or good in managing fishing and fisheries in Iowa (most of those saying good), while 16% rate the IDNR as fair or poor (most of those saying fair).
- The large majority of Iowa anglers (77%) rate Iowa's enforcement of fishing regulations and laws as excellent or good (most of those saying good), while only 14% rate Iowa's enforcement as fair or poor (most of those saying fair).
- In related questions, the majority of Iowa anglers describe fishing management in Iowa as regulated the right amount (77%). Otherwise, more of them said, "Don't know" (12%), than said that fishing was over- or under-regulated. Also, the overwhelming majority of Iowa anglers (84%) describe Iowa's fishing regulations as clear, while only 7% describe them as confusing.
- The survey asked those anglers who have fished in Iowa for at least 10 years to rate whether Iowa's fishing is better or worse now compared to 10 years ago. A greater percentage think that fishing is currently better (30%) than think it is currently worse (23%). The most common answer is that fishing is the same now as compared to 10 years ago (36%).
- The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler found that avid anglers are slightly more likely to say that fishing is better now.
- Anglers were asked about water quality now compared to 10 years ago, and they are about evenly divided: 30% think it is better now than it was 10 years ago, while 33% think it is worse now.
- The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler found that avid anglers are slightly more likely to say that water quality is better now.

- The overwhelming majority of Iowa anglers (78%) agree, after being informed that one of the uses of funds from license fees is to improve Iowa's fishing, that anglers are currently getting their money's worth for those fees; only 11% disagree.

### **RATINGS OF IMPORTANCE OF IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAMS AND EFFORTS**

- The survey asked anglers to rate the importance of eight IDNR efforts related to fishing, on a scale of 0 to 10, with 10 being the most important. All the means are high in importance, ranging from 8.07 to 9.07, with protecting water quality (9.07) and conserving streams and rivers (8.75) at the top. In looking at the percentage giving a rating of 9 or 10, again, protecting water quality (73% of anglers rated it at a 9 or 10) and conserving streams and rivers (62%) are at the top, followed by protecting endangered fish species (55%) and controlling invasive species (52%). Enforcing boating regulations also has a majority rating it a 9 or 10 (51%).

### **OPINIONS ON PANFISH REGULATIONS IN IOWA**

- A large majority of Iowa anglers (65%) support having the IDNR set a daily creel limit on the number of panfish that anglers can take. In a related question, 63% disagree that anglers should be allowed to take *all* the panfish that they can harvest for consumption.
  - In follow-up questions, anglers were asked to name the appropriate amount of panfish that an angler *should* take (not legally limited, but ethically limited) in the absence of a legal limit: the mean was 16.7 panfish, and respondents most commonly gave a limit in the range of 6 to 10 panfish. The results were similar when respondents were asked to name the limit that should be *legally* set, if the IDNR chooses to set a limit.

### **CONTACT WITH DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES' LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL**

- The majority of Iowa anglers (57%) have had contact with an IDNR enforcement officer while fishing. Just more than half (51%) have been checked for a fishing license by an IDNR officer.
  - Avid anglers are more likely than casual anglers to have had contact with an IDNR officer while fishing, and they are more likely to have been checked for a license.

## CONSUMPTION OF FISH CAUGHT IN IOWA

- The large majority of Iowa anglers (80%) eat (or their family members eat) the fish they catch at least some of the time.
  - Most commonly, those who consume fish they have caught have about 3 to 5 meals per year of fish they have caught.
  - Avid anglers more often than casual anglers eat (or their family members more often eat) the fish they catch, and they typically eat more meals in a year of fish they have caught.
  - The results of these questions indicate that Iowa anglers consumed approximately 4.57 million meals of Iowa-caught fish in 2007.
  
- The overwhelming majority of those who consume fish that they have caught (88%) consider Iowa's fish to be safe for eating; however, a small percentage (7%) consider Iowa's fish to be unsafe for eating. Most of those who consume fish that they have caught do *not* limit their consumption based on safety concerns about eating the fish caught in Iowa. Nonetheless, 16% of such anglers limit their consumption at least a little because of safety concerns.
  - In a related question, 49% of Iowa's anglers have been aware of at least one fish advisory about eating fish from Iowa waters.
  - Avid anglers are just slightly more likely to have heard/seen a fish advisory, relative to casual anglers.

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT FISHING IN IOWA

- When asked directly about whether they had ever visited the IDNR's website, 41% of Iowa anglers indicated that they had visited the site. Just more than half of those respondents visited the site for a fishing-related reason.
  - The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler found that avid anglers are more likely to have visited the website.
  - Commonly sought information includes fishing locations and regulations (the two answers markedly higher than the others), as well as the site's fishing reports, license information, fishing survey reports, and stocking reports.
  - About 1 in 10 of those going to the site for a fishing-related reason bought a license on-line.

- Other common sources of information among all anglers include word-of-mouth (34%), IDNR publications (21%), the IDNR website (15%), other publications (12%), magazines not otherwise listed (12%), *Iowa Game & Fish* magazine (10%), newspapers (10%), and *Iowa Outdoors* magazine (8%).
- The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler found that casual anglers more often get information by word-of-mouth relative to avid anglers. On the other hand, avid anglers more often get information from the IDNR website and IDNR publications.
- The regional crosstabulation shows no marked differences among the regions on this question.
- It appears that the river region anglers get information from word-of-mouth more often than do anglers overall. There is little difference between the two river regions.

### **URBAN TROUT FISHERIES**

- Of those who fished for trout, about half (48%) purchased a trout stamp specifically for an urban trout fishery.

### **AWARENESS OF LAKE PROTECTION OR IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS IN IOWA**

- Just more than a third of Iowa anglers (37%) are aware of at least one lake protection or improvement effort undertaken in Iowa by the IDNR.
  - Avid anglers are more aware than are casual anglers of lake protection or improvement efforts undertaken in Iowa by the IDNR.

### **AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES IN IOWA**

- While most Iowa anglers (60%) are *unaware* of any invasive species, a substantial percentage are aware of something: 22% mentioned zebra mussels, 9% mentioned carp or Asian carp, and 8% mentioned milfoil.
  - Avid anglers are more aware of invasive species than are casual anglers, particularly zebra mussels and milfoil.
  - The majority of those who have fished from a boat and are aware of invasive species take steps to prevent the spread of invasive species. Those who did not take preventive steps

most commonly said that they do not believe invasive species are a problem, that they did not boat on infested waters, or that they do not know what to do.

- Avid anglers who have fished from a boat and are aware of invasive species are more likely than their casual angler counterparts to take preventive action regarding spread of invasive species. Additionally, among those who do not take steps, avid anglers are less likely to say that they do *not* believe invasive species are a problem, and they are less likely to say that they do not know what to do, relative to casual anglers who do not take preventive steps.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction and Methodology .....	1
Fishing Participation and Avidity .....	8
Species Fished and Preferred, and Methods of Fishing.....	55
Species Fished and Preferred.....	55
Methods of Fishing.....	84
Methods of Fishing in General.....	84
Catch-and-Release Fishing .....	93
Fishing from a Boat.....	104
Fishing Locations and Preferred Locations .....	115
Motivations for Fishing.....	129
Constraints To Fishing Participation .....	143
Ratings of Fishing and Fisheries Management in Iowa.....	161
Ratings of Importance of Iowa Department of Natural Resources Programs and Efforts.....	223
Opinions on Panfish Regulations in Iowa.....	232
Contact with Department of Natural Resources' Law Enforcement Personnel .....	249
Consumption of Fish Caught in Iowa .....	259
Sources of Information About Fishing in Iowa .....	281
Miscellaneous Issues Pertaining to Fishing in Iowa .....	304
Urban Trout Fisheries.....	304
Awareness of Lake Protection or Improvement Efforts in Iowa.....	308
Aquatic Invasive Species in Iowa.....	313
Demographic Data .....	324
About Responsive Management .....	359

## **INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY**

This study was conducted for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to learn about anglers' fishing preferences and behaviors, as well as their opinions on and attitudes toward the IDNR and its programs. The study entailed a telephone survey of Iowa anglers who had purchased an Iowa fishing license within the 3 years previous to the survey. Specific aspects of the research methodology are discussed below.

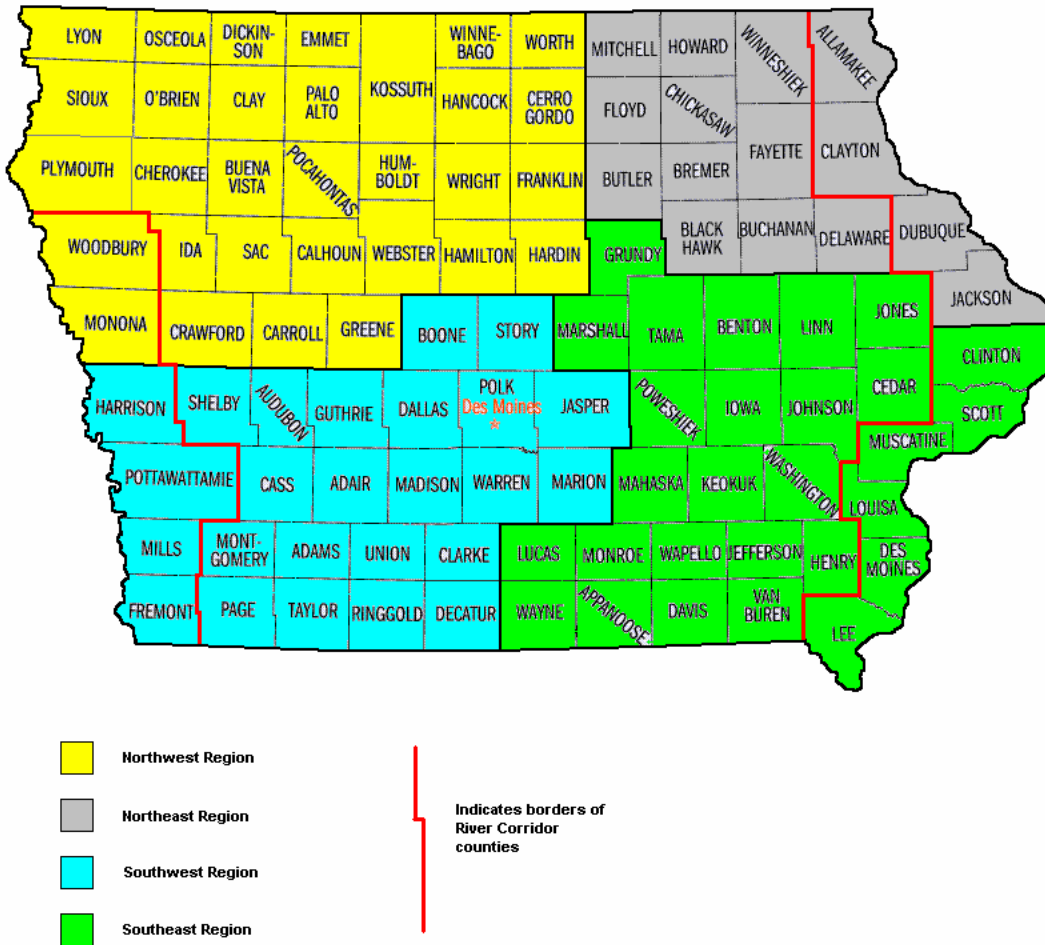
For the survey, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the universality of telephone ownership. In addition, a central polling site at the Responsive Management office allowed for rigorous quality control over the interviews and data collection. Responsive Management maintains its own in-house telephone interviewing facilities. These facilities are staffed by interviewers with experience conducting computer-assisted telephone interviews on the subjects of natural resources and outdoor recreation. The telephone survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and the IDNR. Responsive Management conducted a pre-test of the questionnaire and made revisions to the questionnaire based on the pre-test.

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 project briefings 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 instrument, reading of the survey instrument, skip patterns, and probing and clarifying techniques necessary for specific questions on the survey instrument. 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. After the surveys were obtained by the interviewers, the Survey Center Managers and/or statisticians edited each completed survey to ensure clarity and completeness.

Interviews were conducted Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday 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 people easy to reach by telephone, and to provide an equal opportunity for all to participate. When a respondent 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 November and December 2007. Responsive Management obtained a total of 1,649 completed interviews.

The software used for data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language 4.1 (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 instrument 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 analysis of data was performed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences software as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management.

The results were weighted so that the proportions of the sample among the State's regions (by respondents' counties of residence, not by the locations of respondents' fishing) matched the distribution of the angler population statewide. The IDNR expressed interest in regional data among four state regions, as well as river-specific data for the Missouri and Mississippi River regions. The regions of interest overlapped: portions of the Missouri River Region are in both the Northwest Region and the Southwest Region of the state, and portions of the Mississippi River Region are in both the Northeast Region and the Southeast Region of the state. The map that follows shows the regional breakdowns.



To be able to obtain enough sample in each region for analyses, some regions had to be oversampled; subsequently, their data were weighted down when presenting results of anglers as a whole statewide or as a whole within a particular region. The sampling plan accounted for the four statewide regions as well as the river regions by partitioning the state into eight regions (e.g., “Northwest, Non-Missouri Region” and “Northwest, Missouri Region”). The counties of each of the eight regions are listed on the following page.

## COUNTIES THAT COMPRISE IOWA'S REGIONS

### Northwest Region, Missouri River:

- o Monona
- o Woodbury

### Southwest Region, Missouri River:

- o Fremont
- o Harrison
- o Mills
- o Pottawattamie

### Northeast Region, Mississippi River:

- o Allamakee
- o Clayton
- o Dubuque
- o Jackson

### Southeast Region, Mississippi River:

- o Clinton
- o Des Moines
- o Lee
- o Louisa
- o Muscatine
- o Scott

### Northwest Region, Non-Missouri River:

- o Buena Vista
- o Calhoun
- o Carroll
- o Cerro Gordo
- o Cherokee
- o Clay
- o Crawford
- o Dickinson
- o Emmet
- o Franklin
- o Greene
- o Hamilton
- o Hancock
- o Hardin
- o Humboldt
- o Ida
- o Kossuth
- o Lyon
- o O'Brien
- o Osceola
- o Palo Alto
- o Plymouth
- o Pocahontas
- o Sac
- o Sioux
- o Webster
- o Winnebago
- o Worth
- o Wright

### Southwest Region, Non-Missouri River:

- o Adair
- o Adams
- o Audubon
- o Boone
- o Cass
- o Clarke
- o Dallas
- o Decatur
- o Guthrie
- o Jasper
- o Madison
- o Marion
- o Montgomery
- o Page
- o Polk
- o Ringgold
- o Shelby
- o Story
- o Taylor
- o Union
- o Warren

### Northeast Region, Non-Mississippi River:

- o Black Hawk
- o Bremer
- o Buchanan
- o Butler
- o Chickasaw
- o Delaware
- o Fayette
- o Floyd
- o Howard
- o Mitchell
- o Winneshiek

### Southeast Region, Non-Mississippi River:

- o Appanoose
- o Benton
- o Cedar
- o Davis
- o Grundy
- o Henry
- o Iowa
- o Jefferson
- o Johnson
- o Jones
- o Keokuk
- o Linn
- o Lucas
- o Mahaska
- o Marshall
- o Monroe
- o Poweshiek
- o Tama
- o Van Buren
- o Wapello
- o Washington
- o Wayne

The tabulation below shows the weighting factors. Note that the data were also analyzed by avid angler versus casual angler, with avid anglers being those who bought a license all 3 of the 3 years of data in the database and casual anglers being those who bought a license for only 1 or 2 of the 3 years. (Responsive Management obtained 842 interviews of avid anglers and 807 interviews of casual anglers.) Therefore, the entire sample was broken down into 16 categories according to both avid/casual status and region, and the data were then weighted appropriately based on this breakdown.

### Weighting Factors

Region	Sample Size	Sample Proportion	Weight	Weighted Proportion of Sample	Weighted Proportion of Population
NW Missouri River (Avid)	61	3.70%	0.230	0.85%	0.85%
NW Non-Missouri River (Avid)	128	7.76%	0.726	5.64%	5.64%
SW Missouri River (Avid)	76	4.61%	0.252	1.16%	1.16%
SW Non-Missouri River (Avid)	156	9.46%	0.742	7.02%	7.02%
NE Mississippi River (Avid)	45	2.73%	0.751	2.05%	2.05%
NE Non-Mississippi River (Avid)	86	5.22%	0.767	4.00%	4.00%
SE Mississippi River (Avid)	134	8.13%	0.412	3.35%	3.35%
SE Non-Mississippi River (Avid)	156	9.46%	0.753	7.13%	7.13%
<b>Avid Anglers Total</b>	<b>842</b>	<b>51.07%</b>		<b>31.20%</b>	
NW Missouri River (Casual)	72	4.37%	0.530	2.32%	2.32%
NW Non-Missouri River (Casual)	121	7.34%	1.584	11.62%	11.62%
SW Missouri River (Casual)	93	5.64%	0.552	3.11%	3.11%
SW Non-Missouri River (Casual)	181	10.98%	1.626	17.84%	17.84%
NE Mississippi River (Casual)	37	2.24%	1.651	3.70%	3.70%
NE Non-Mississippi River (Casual)	71	4.31%	1.678	7.23%	7.23%
SE Mississippi River (Casual)	75	4.55%	1.634	7.43%	7.43%
SE Non-Mississippi River (Casual)	157	9.52%	1.633	15.55%	15.55%
<b>Casual Anglers Total</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>48.95%</b>		<b>68.80%</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,649</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>NA</b>

In the report, the data are first presented among anglers overall (i.e., statewide with avid and casual anglers grouped together), and then the data are presented by avid/casual status, by the four statewide regions (by residence), and finally by the individual river regions (again, by residence).

The analysis also included an examination of respondents' most common fishing locations and their preferred locations. The anglers were asked to name the two bodies of water (and counties) in which they most often fished, and then they were asked to name the one body of water (and

county) in which they preferred to fish. These data were captured in an open-ended format, where respondents could name any body of water, and then the answers were later matched to actual bodies of water (using a list provided from various sources of approximately 1,000 bodies of water in Iowa) and the spellings were standardized (e.g., “Miss River” and “MS River” were both renamed in the data as “Mississippi River”; “okobogee” and “okaboji” were renamed in the data as “Okobojo Lake”). In addition, the analysis accounted for names of bodies of water that were used in more than one county (e.g., there is a “Clear Lake” in Cerro Gordo County and one in Pocahontas County). Note that this analysis entailed examining approximately 4,800 entries. Note that many of the bodies of water do not have names (e.g., “farm pond”) and are in the data as “Unnamed pond or gravel pit”; in other cases, respondents did not know the name of the body of water or did not know the county in which a body of water was located. In some cases, the county information could be completed by the analyst (e.g., Belvadeer Lake is known to be in Keokuk County, so for respondents who fished in Belvadeer Lake but did not know the county, the analyst was able to complete the county information in the data set). In other cases, the analyst could not complete the information, and these had to be entered into the data set as “unknown”; note that every attempt was made, however, to complete the data.

The analysis included a look at the types of fish sought and preferred. Again, the data had to be standardized to account for multiple names of the same fish (e.g., silver bass, striped bass, stripers, white bass, and wipers are all considered white bass; drum, white perch, and sheephead are all considered drum).

Note that for this project, two separate nonparametric analyses were performed to examine how the various responses related to behavioral, participatory and demographic characteristics; one analysis was among avid anglers, and the second nonparametric analysis was among casual anglers. These analyses are presented in a separate document that is a companion to this report titled, *Iowa Angler Survey: Nonparametric Analyses*.

Throughout this report, findings of the telephone survey are reported at a 95% confidence interval. For the entire sample of Iowa anglers, the sampling error is at most plus or minus 2.41 percentage points. This means that if the survey were conducted 100 times on different samples

that were selected in the same way, the findings of 95 out of the 100 surveys would fall within plus or minus 2.41 percentage points of each other. Sampling error was calculated using the formula described below, with a sample size of 1,649 and a population size of 506,920 Iowa anglers.

**Sampling error equation:**

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

Where: B = maximum sampling error (as decimal)  
 $N_p$  = population size (i.e., total number who could be surveyed)  
 $N_s$  = 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).

Note that some results may not sum to exactly 100% because of rounding. Additionally, rounding on the graphs may cause apparent discrepancies of 1 percentage point between the graphs and the reported results of combined responses (e.g., when “strongly support” and “moderately support” are summed to determine the total percentage in support).

A note about the layout of the report: some graphs pertain to more than one section, so these graphs are discussed in more than one section of the report. In addition, some of these graphs are shown in multiple sections of the report to facilitate readability. In other instances, a graph may be discussed in more than one section, but the graph is only shown in one section, with a call-out in the other section indicating where the graph is located.



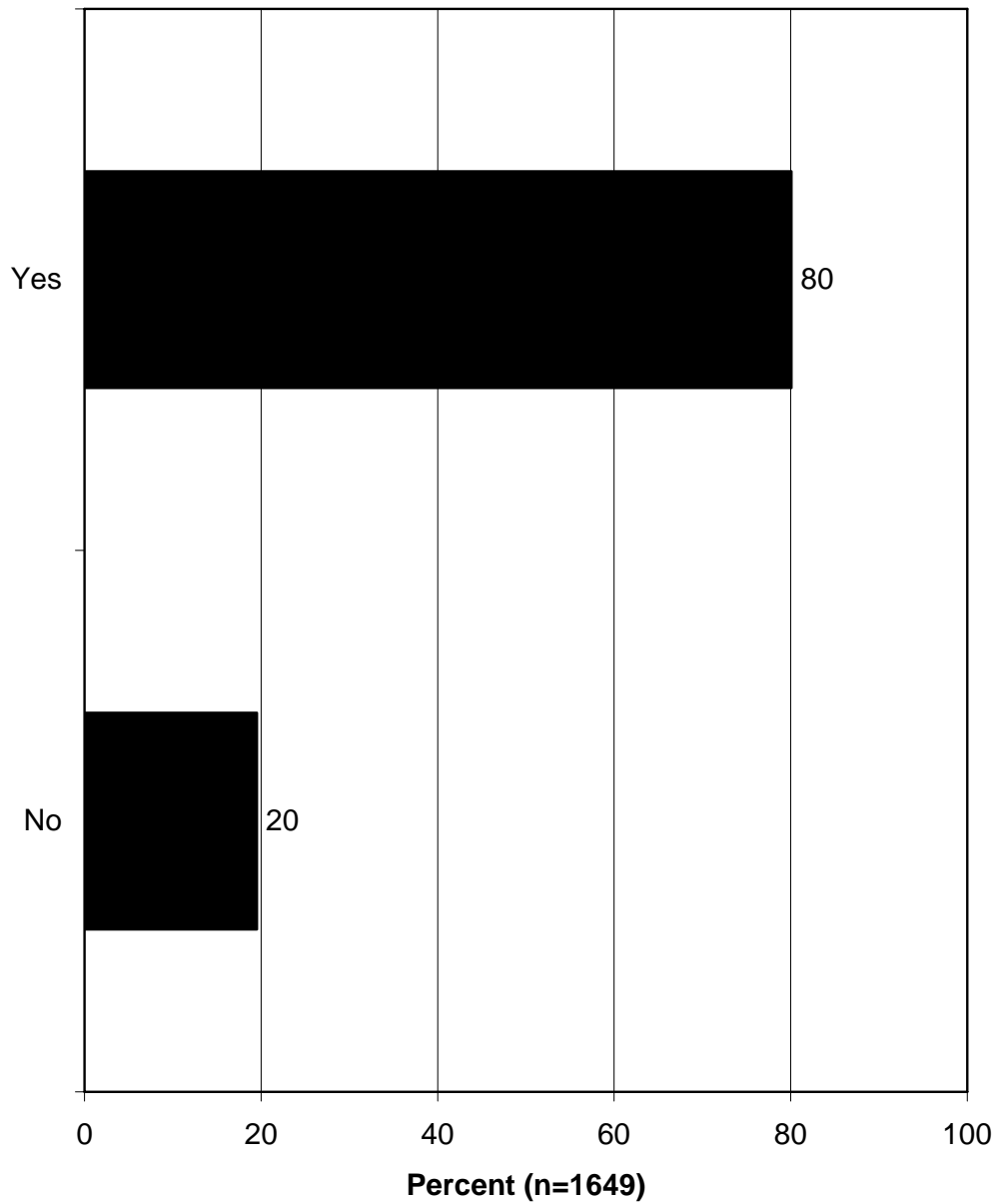
## FISHING PARTICIPATION AND AVIDITY

- The overwhelming majority of anglers in the sample (80%) had fished within the previous 12 months. Additionally, the mean number of years that anglers had fished out of the past 3 years is 2.42 years.
  - The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler shows that avid anglers have a greater measure of avidity: 95% of avid anglers (compared to 74% of casual anglers) had fished in the last 12 months. Also shown is the graph for number of the last 3 years the respondents fished.
  - The regional crosstabulations show no marked differences among the regions on these questions.
  - Anglers from the two river regions are not markedly different than anglers overall regarding whether they had fished in the past 12 months and regarding the number of the past 3 years they had fished.
  
- Of those who had fished in the past year, the median number of days they fished was 10 days, and 56% had fished no more than 10 days; nonetheless, a substantial percentage (24%) had fished for more than 20 days.
  - The results of this question and the fishing participation question indicate that Iowa anglers fished for 8.30 million days in Iowa in 2007.
  - Those who had not fished in the past year were asked about their number of days fishing *in the last year that they fished*, with lower numbers than those who fished in the previous year: 77% fished no more than 10 days, and only 12% fished for more than 20 days, in the last year they fished. Their median number of days fishing was 5 days in the last year they fished.
  - The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler shows that avid anglers fished for more days in the last year they went fishing compared to casual anglers.
  - The regional crosstabulation shows only small differences in the days fished in the last year that the respondent fished.
  - The data analysis by river regions shows that Mississippi River Region anglers are slightly more avid than are Missouri River Region anglers and anglers overall.

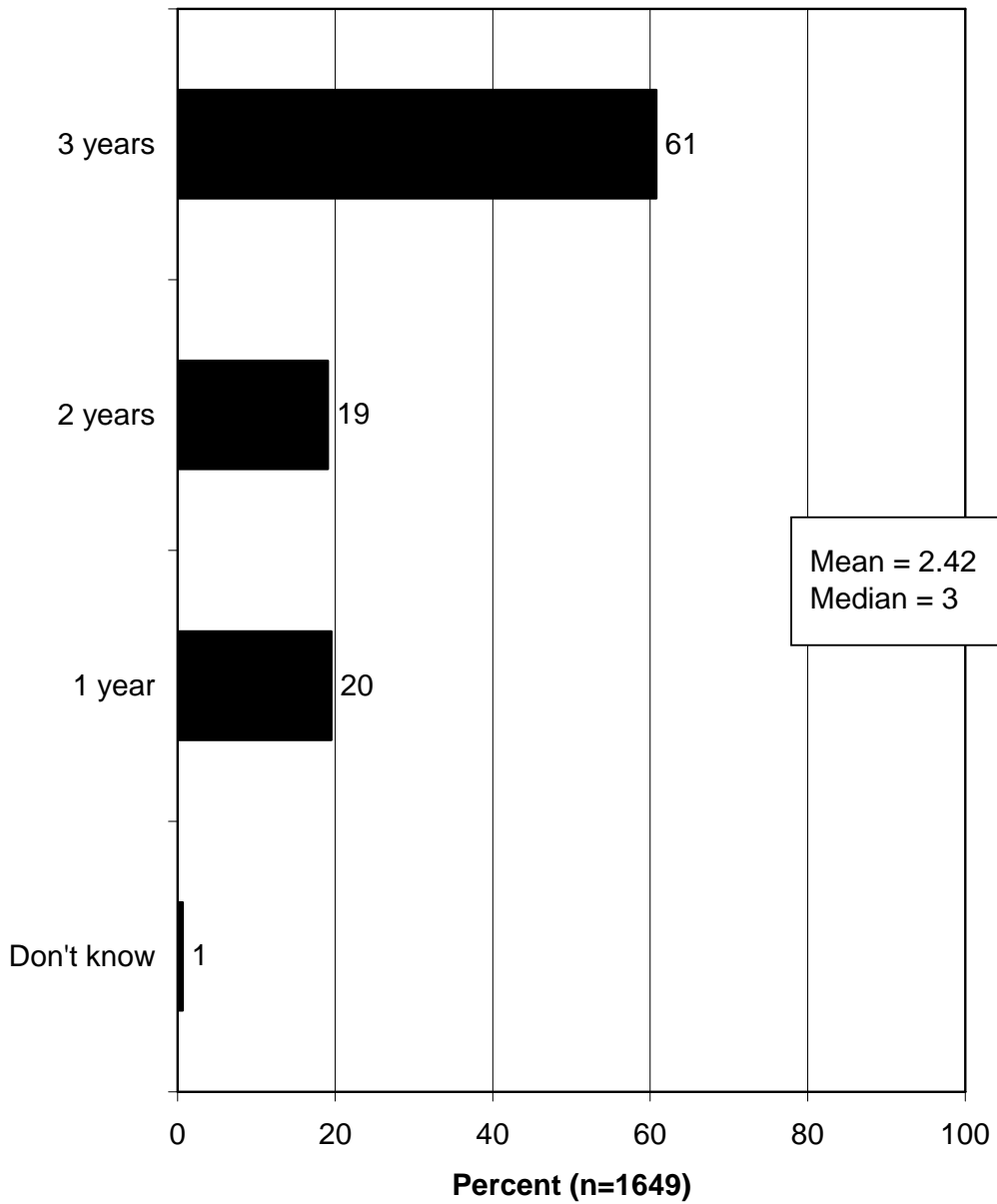
- The survey asked Iowa anglers how many years they had fished in Iowa. The results form a bell curve, with the peak in the 31-40 year timeframe, and the mean is 30.5 years.
  - The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler shows that avid anglers tend to have fished for more years than have casual anglers.
  - The regional crosstabulation shows no marked differences among the regions on this question.
  - Mississippi River Region anglers are more avid, as measured by the number of years having fished, than anglers from the Missouri River Region and anglers overall.
  
- Nearly all anglers started fishing when they were children, typically prior to the age of 10. Indeed, nearly half of anglers (48%) started when they were from 4 to 6 years old. The mean age at which people first went fishing was 7.25 years old.
  - The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler shows that avid anglers typically started fishing at a slightly younger age relative to casual anglers.
  - The crosstabulation by region found that Northeast anglers tended to be just slightly older than other anglers when they first went fishing, but the difference is slight.
  - The results of the data analysis by river regions found that anglers from the Mississippi River and Missouri River Regions are similar to anglers overall.
  
- Those anglers who had fished for at least 10 years were asked about their amount of fishing now compared to 10 years ago. A greater percentage of them currently fish less (44%) than fish more (34%) when compared to 10 years ago.
  - The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler shows that avid anglers have a greater likelihood to say that they now fish *more* than they did 10 years ago.
  - The regional crosstabulation shows no marked differences among the regions on this question.
  - The data analysis by river region found that each river region has a slightly greater percentage of anglers, relative to anglers overall, saying that they now fish *less* than they did 10 years ago. Note that the differences are small, however.

- Respondents are evenly divided between those who live in a household where only 1 person bought an Iowa fishing license in the past 12 months (44%) and those who live in a household in which 2 or more people purchased a fishing license (also 44%). Respondents were asked how many people in their household went fishing in the past 12 months (the above question asked only about *purchasing a license*): 32% said 1 person in their household went fishing in the past 12 months, while 55% said 2 or more people went fishing in Iowa in the past 12 months.
  - Among married anglers, 58% say that their spouse fishes.
  - In the crosstabulations by avid versus casual angler, the results show that avid anglers are more likely than are casual anglers to live in a household where somebody bought a fishing license and/or went fishing. Interestingly, however, avid anglers and casual anglers are about the same regarding whether their spouse fishes.
  - On all these questions, the regional crosstabulation found no marked differences among the regions.
  - The data analysis by river region found no marked differences between the river regions themselves, nor between the river region and the state as a whole, on these questions.
  
- A question that tangentially relates to avidity is skill level. The large majority of Iowa anglers (71%) rate their skill level as medium. Otherwise, a slightly higher percentage rate themselves as beginner (16%) than rate themselves as expert (11%).
  - Not surprisingly, avid anglers are more likely to rate themselves as expert at fishing than are casual anglers.
  - The regional crosstabulation found that anglers' perceptions of their skills are about the same from one region to the next.
  - The data analysis by river region found the river region anglers to be about the same as anglers overall regarding their self-rated skill level.

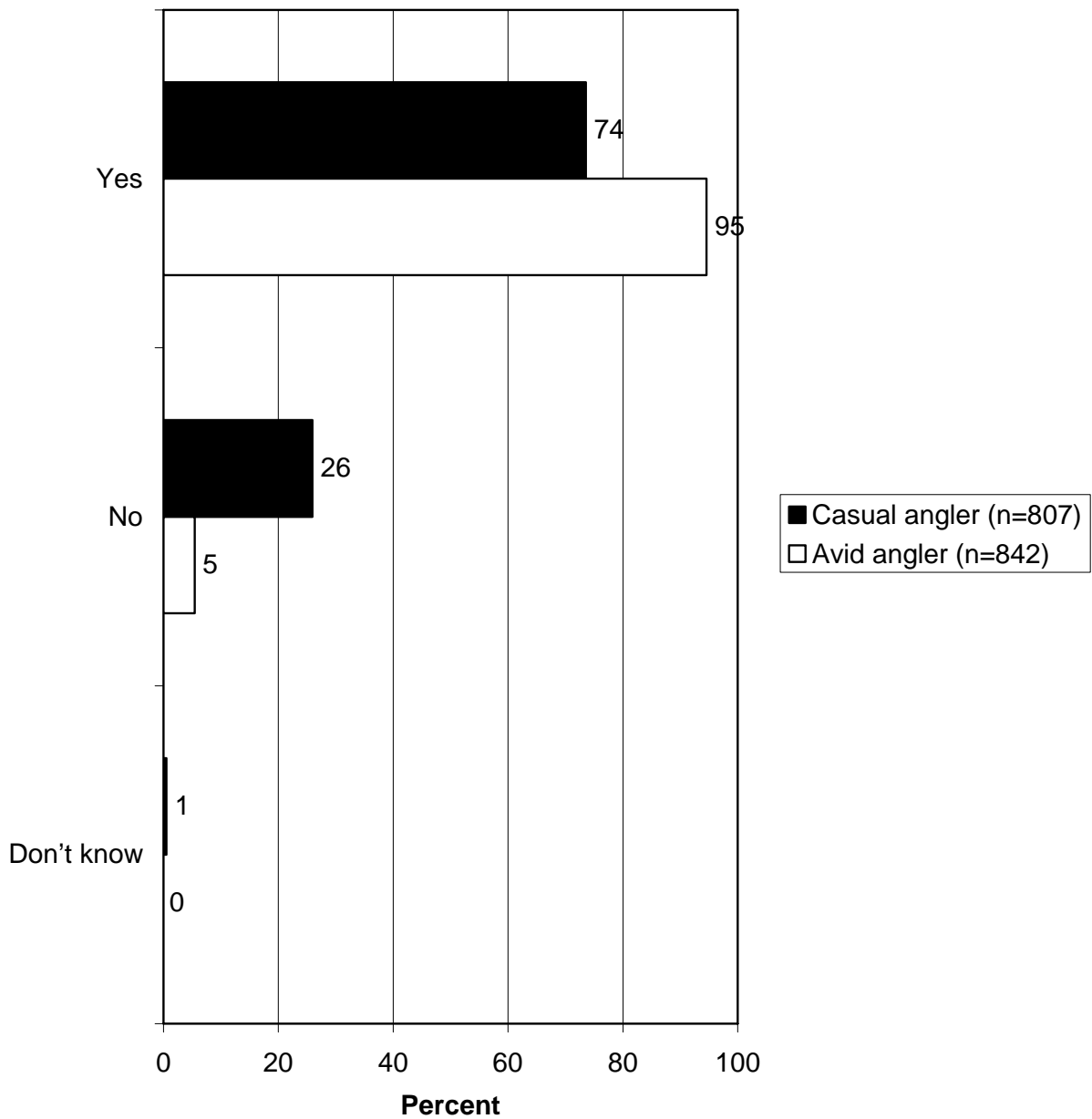
**Q7. Did you go fishing in Iowa in the past 12 months?**



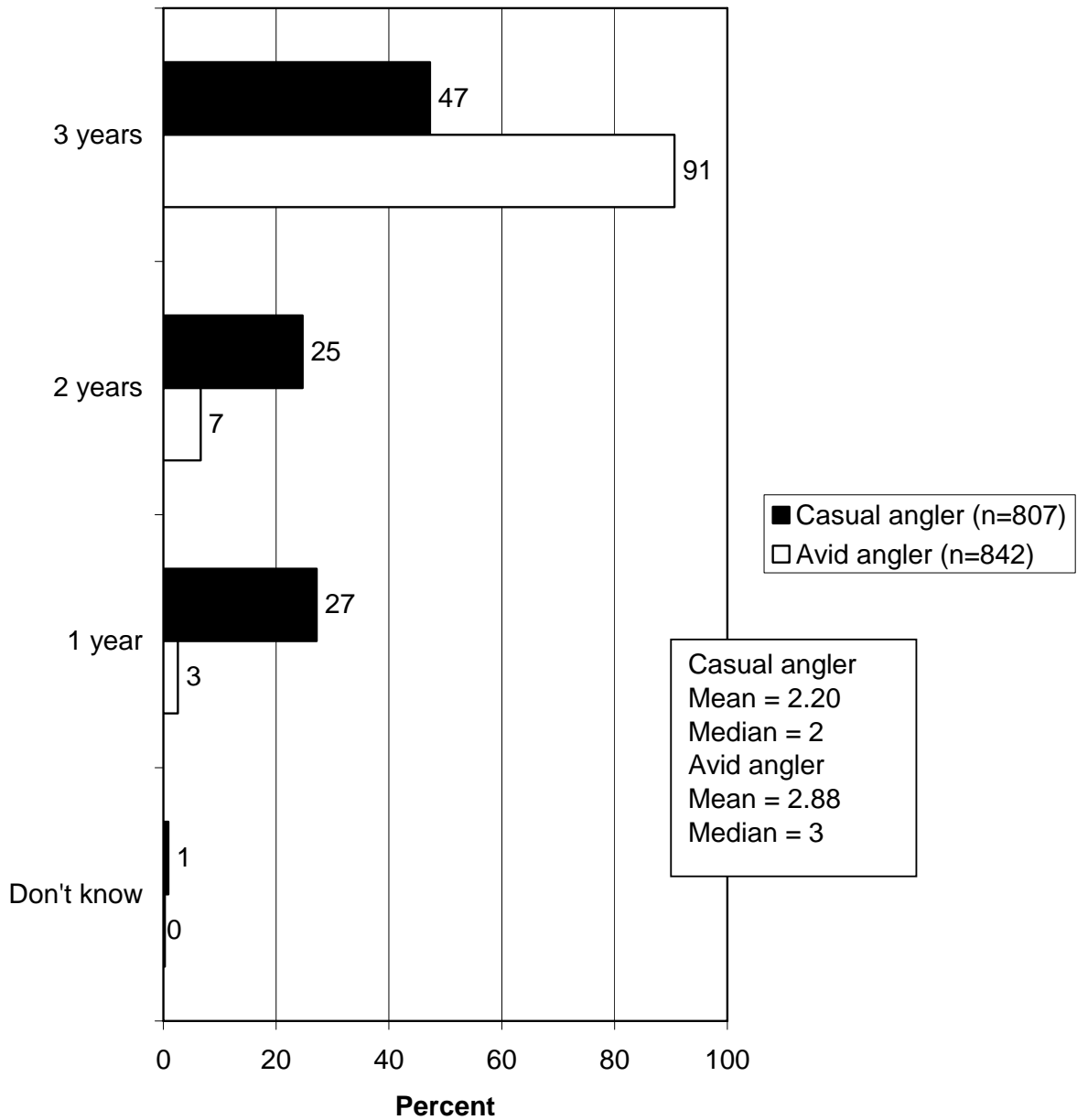
**Q13. How many of the past 3 years have you fished?**



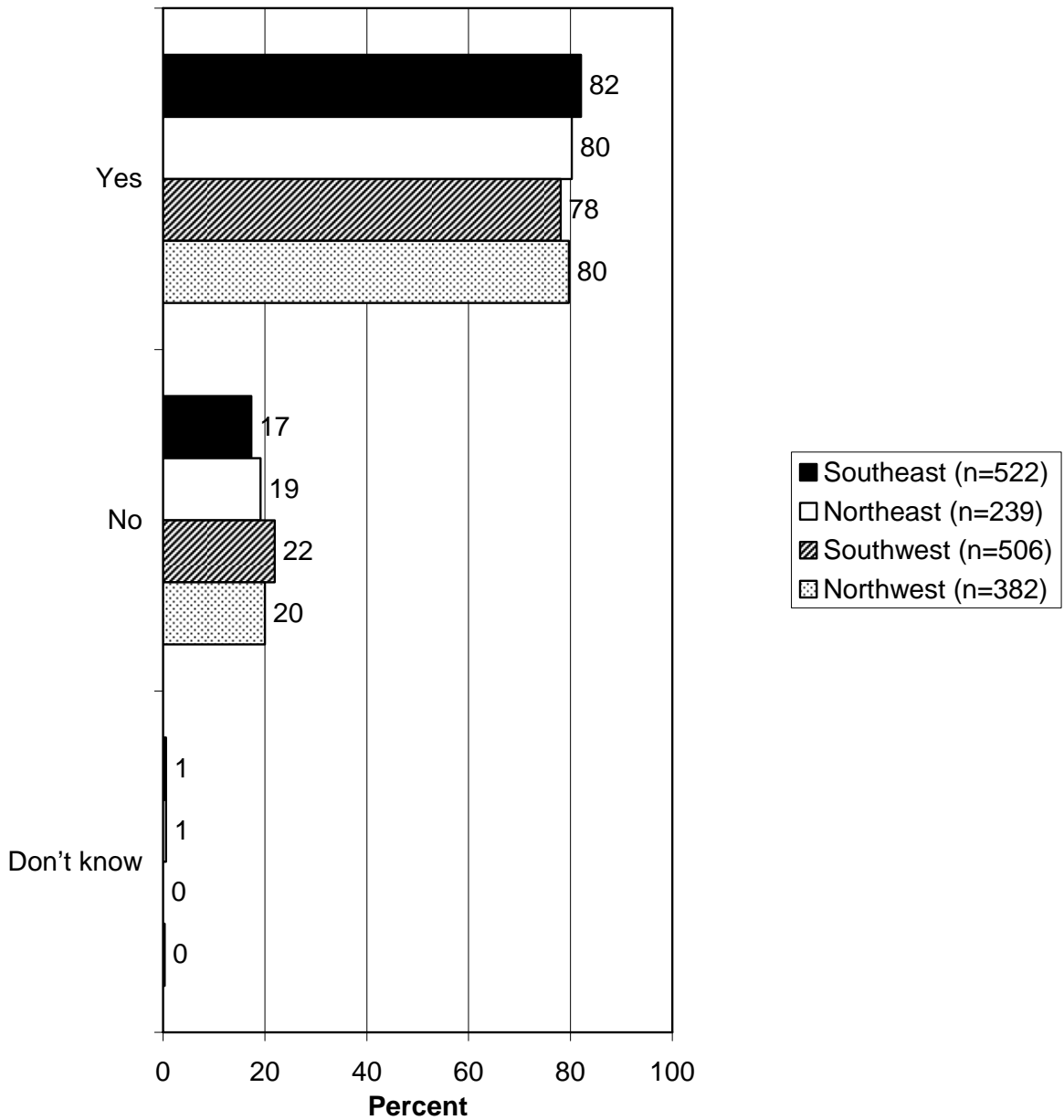
### Q7. Did you go fishing in Iowa in the past 12 months?



**Q13. How many of the past 3 years have you fished?**

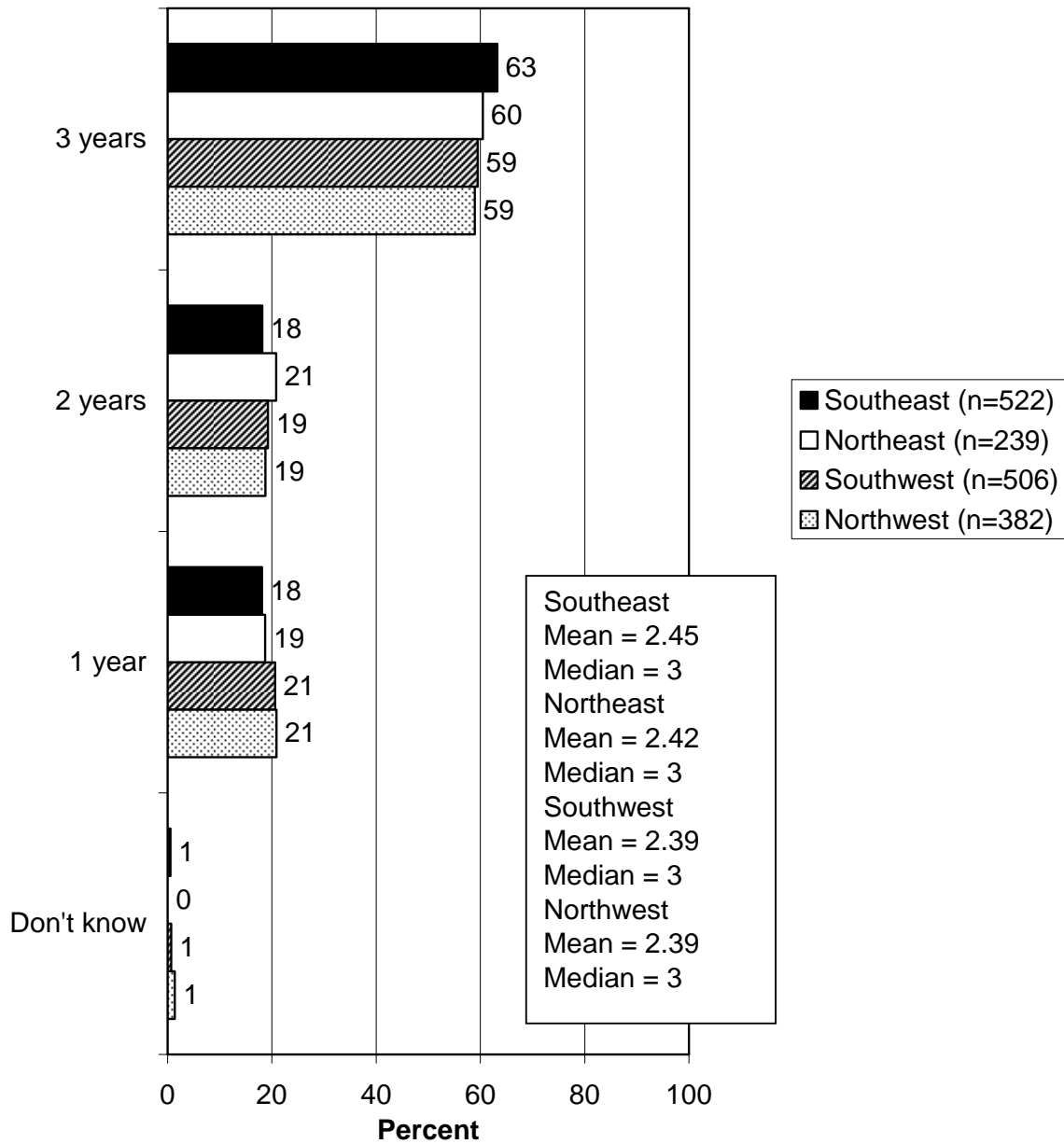


### Q7. Did you go fishing in Iowa in the past 12 months?

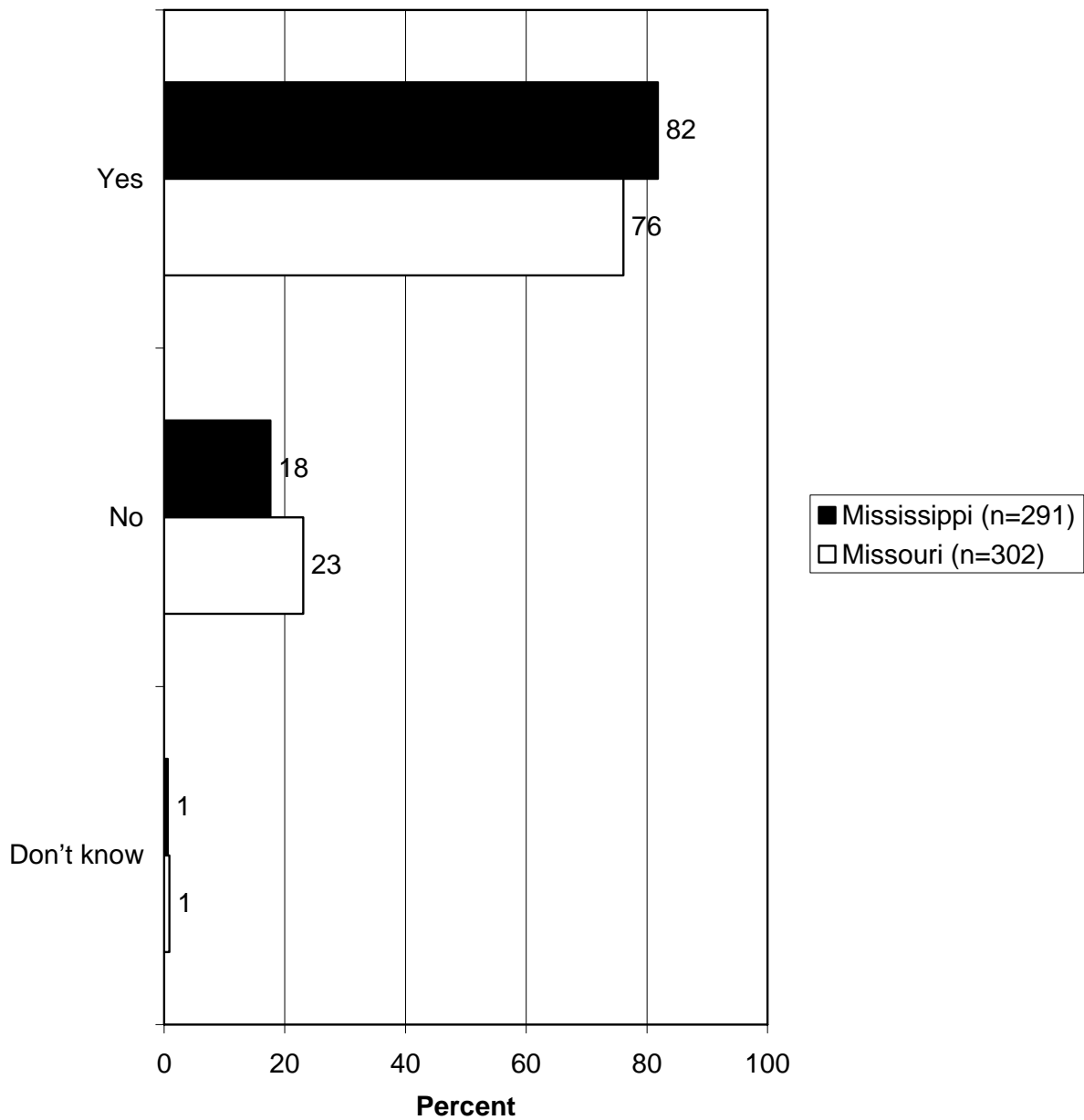




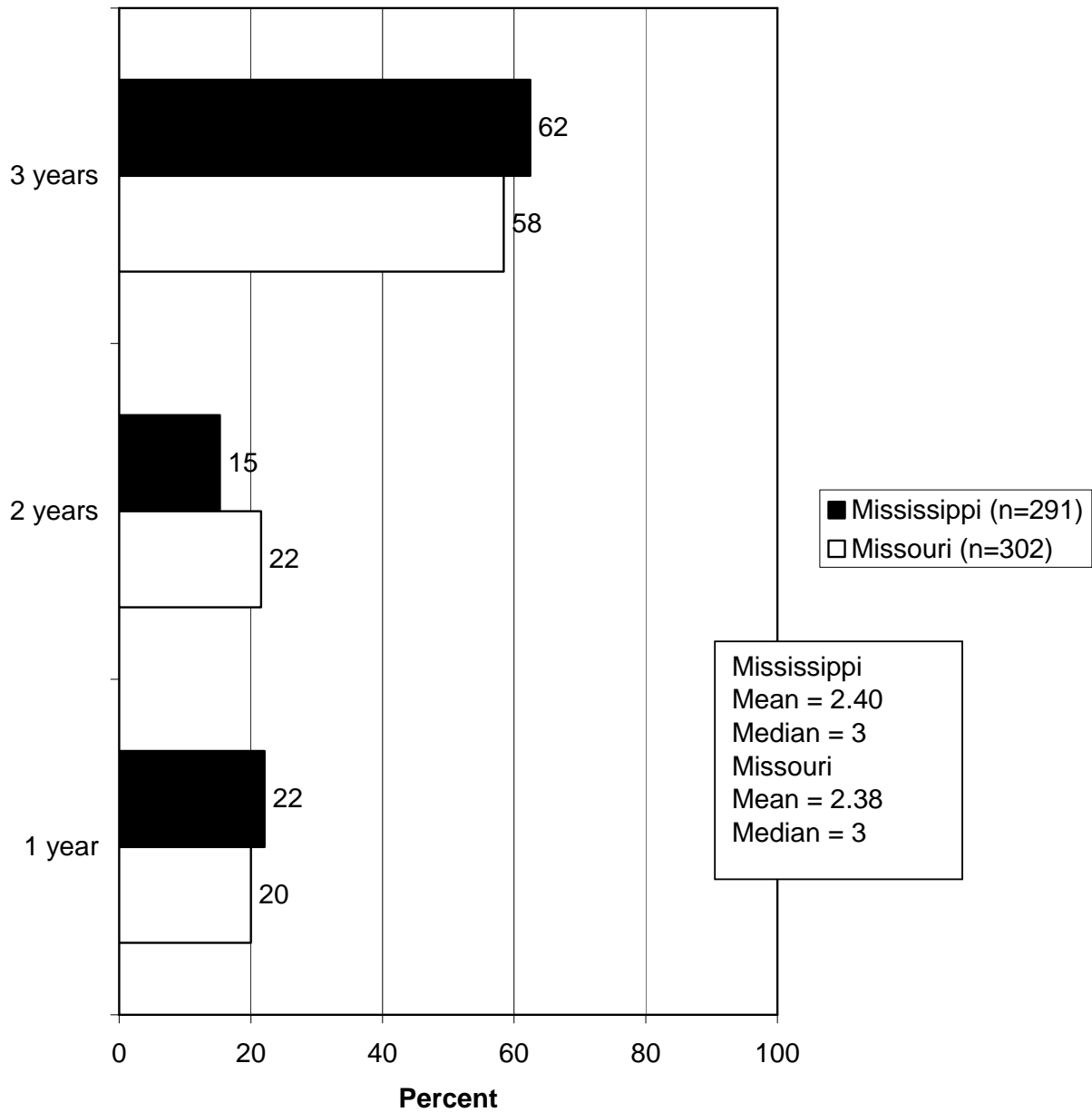
### Q13. How many of the past 3 years have you fished?



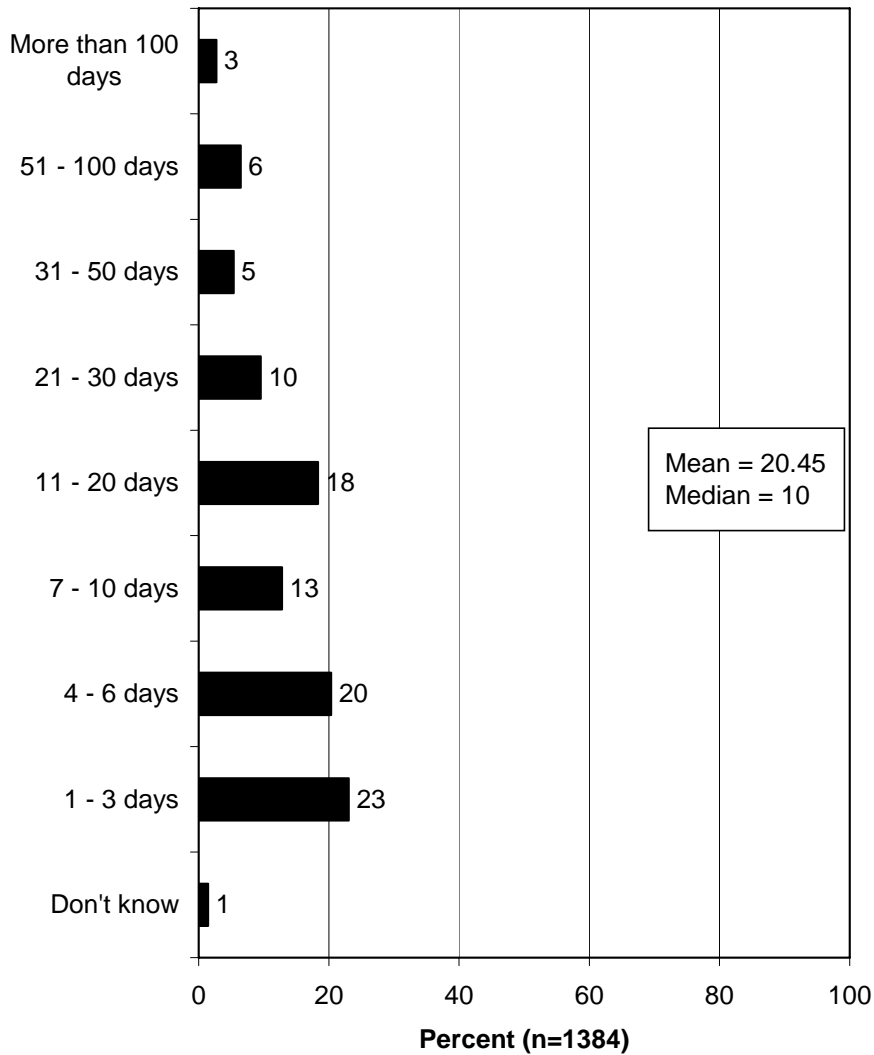
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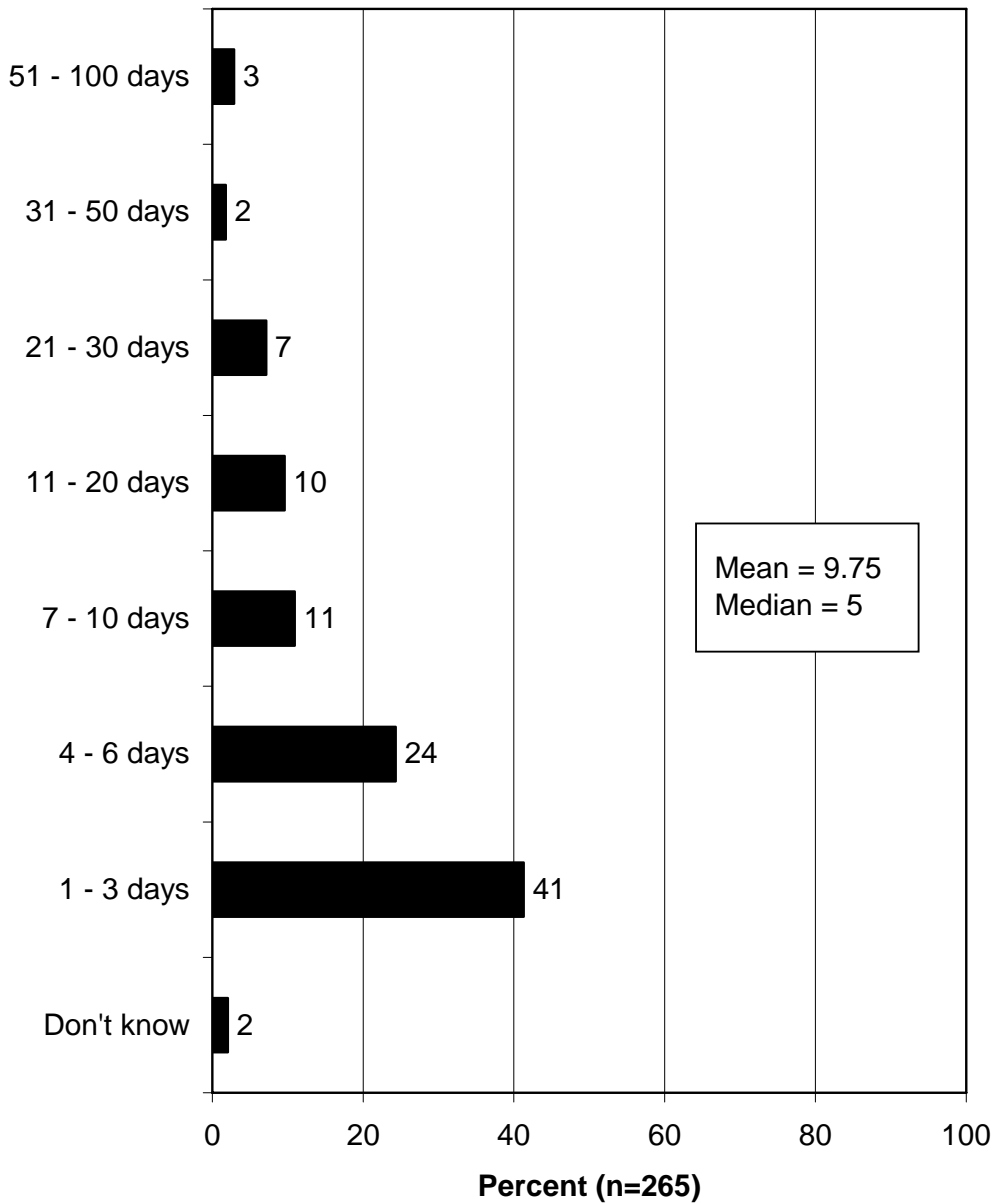
**Q16. How many days do you estimate you fished in Iowa in the past 12 months? (Asked of those who have fished in the past 12 months.)**



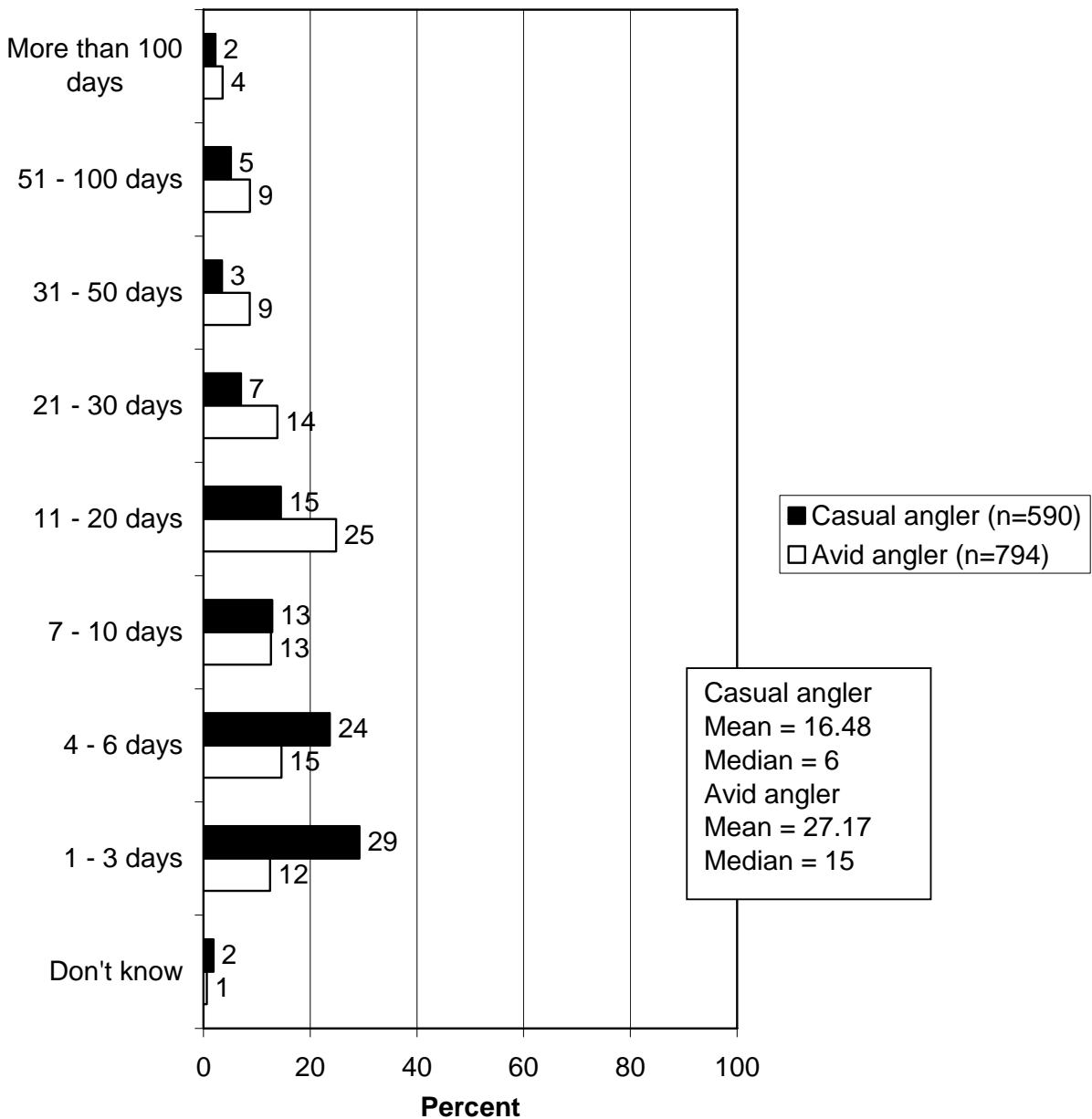
**Calculation of Estimated Total Number of Days Iowa Anglers Fished in Iowa in 2007**

Total number in sample:	506,920
Percent fished in past 12 months (approximates those who fished in 2007):	80.106%
Total number who fished in past 12 months:	406,075
Mean number of days fishing in past 12 months (of those who fished):	20.450
Total number of angler days in 2007:	<b>8,304,330</b>

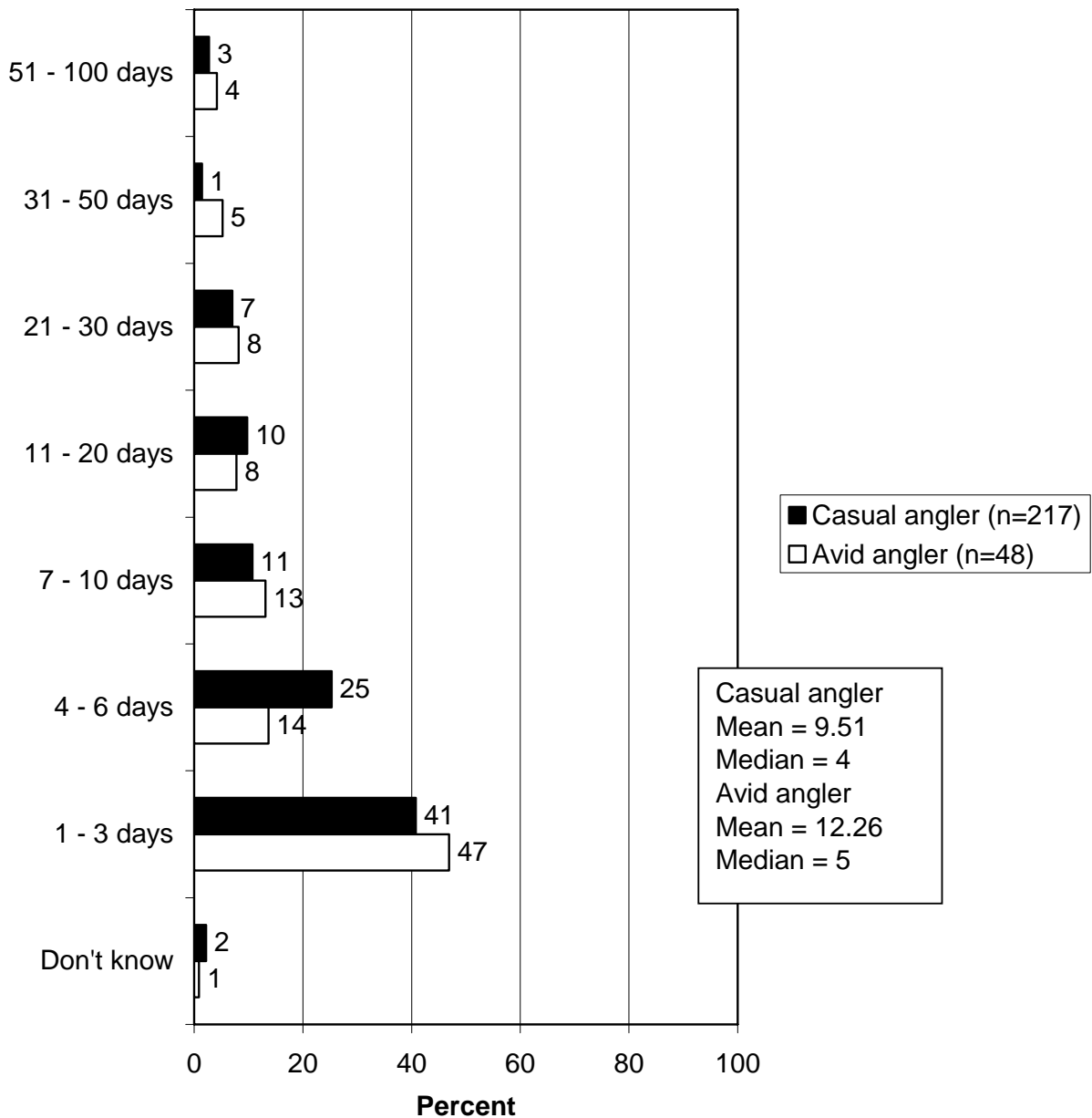
**Q21. How many days did you fish in Iowa that year [last year fished]? (Asked of those who have fished in the past 3 years, but not in the past 12 months.)**



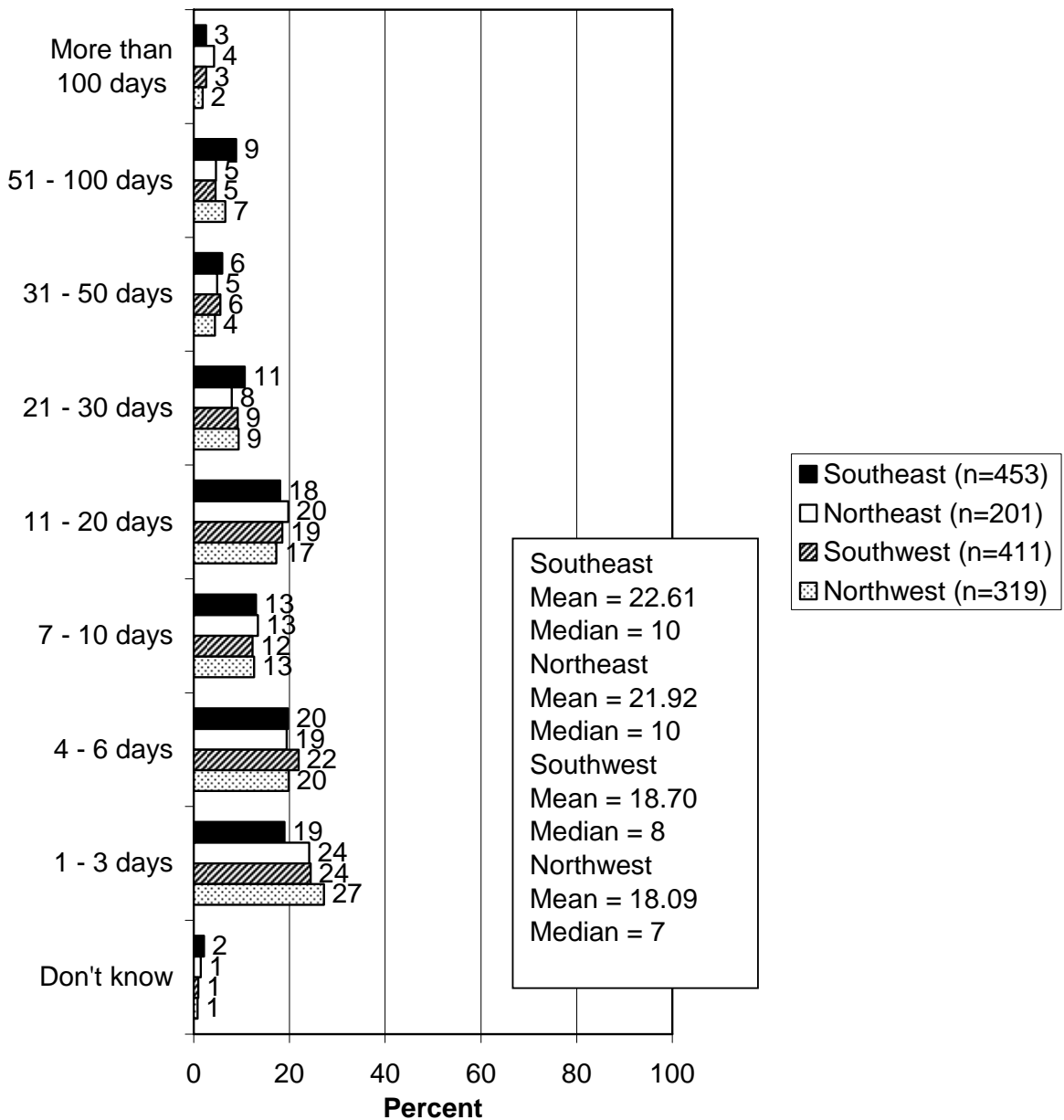
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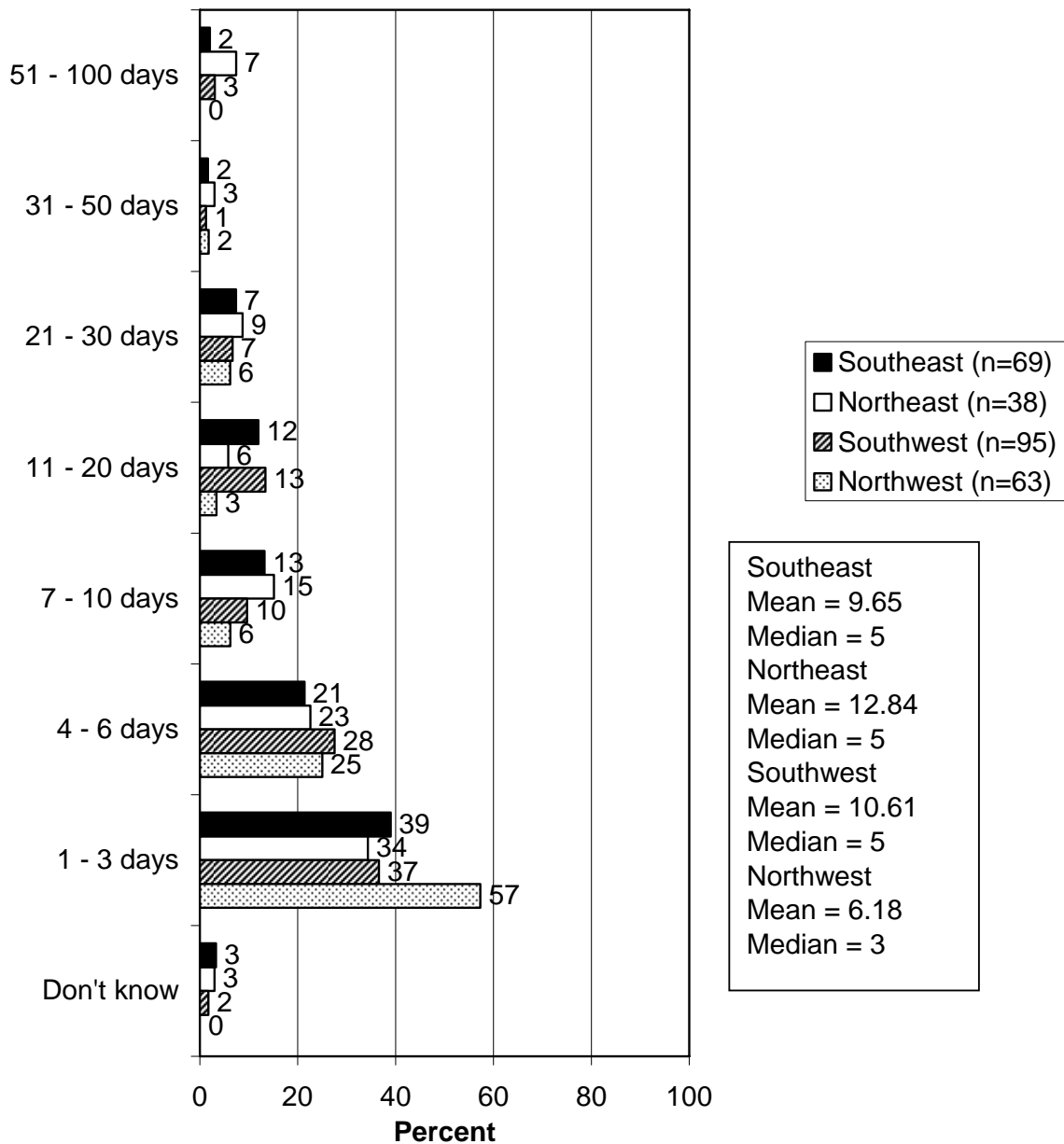


**Q16. How many days do you estimate you fished in Iowa in the past 12 months? (Asked of those who have fished in the past 12 months.)**

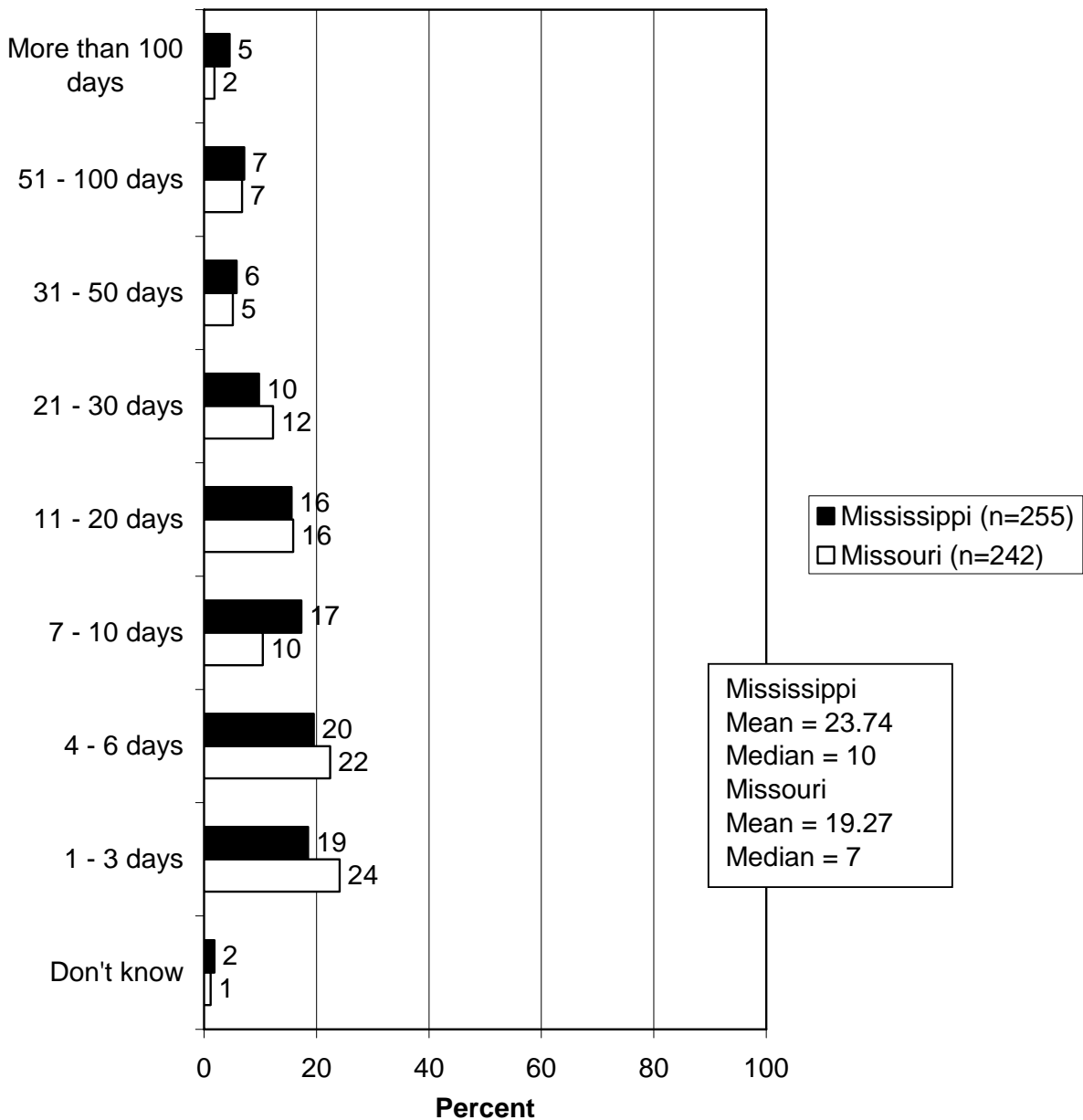




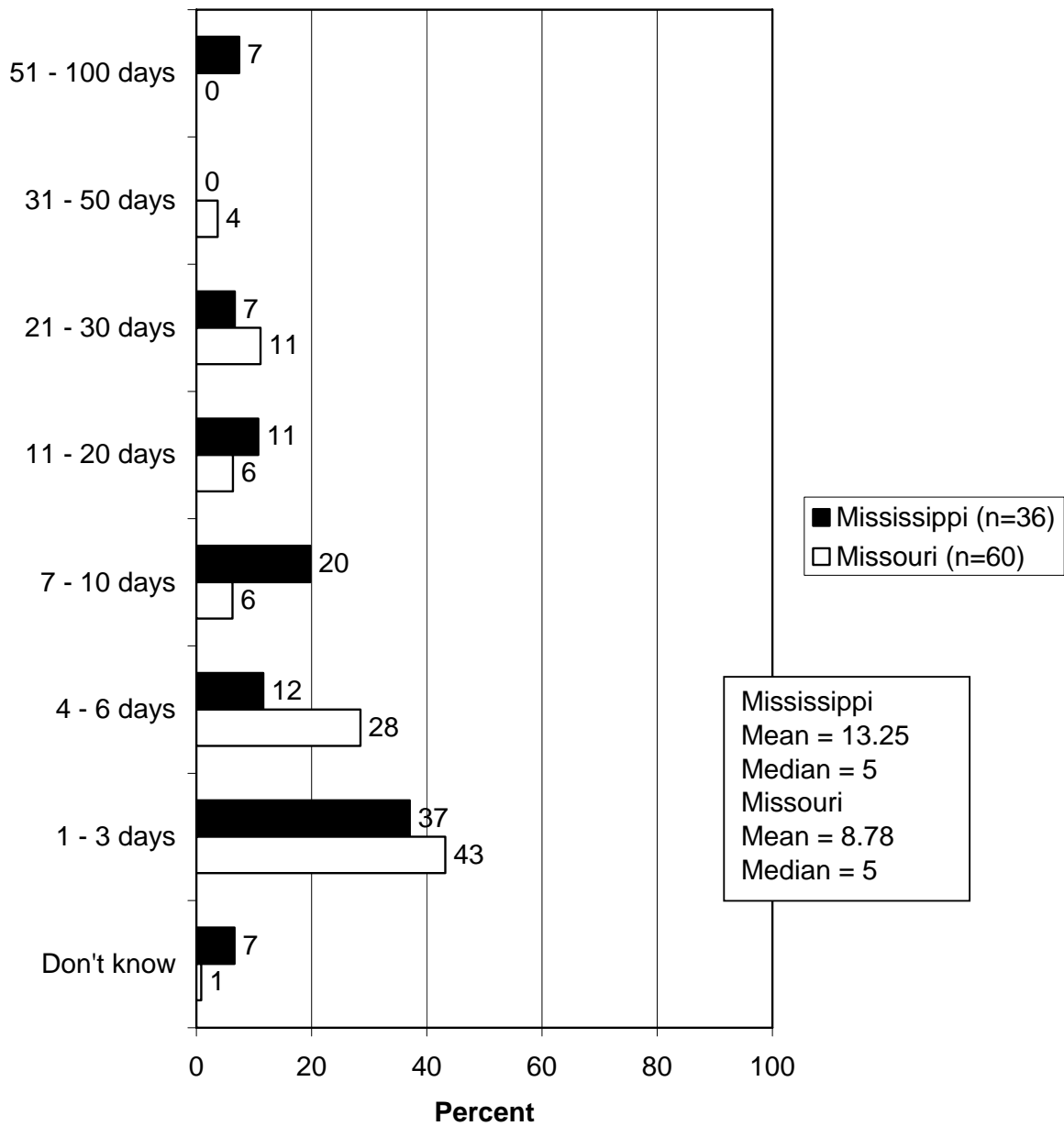
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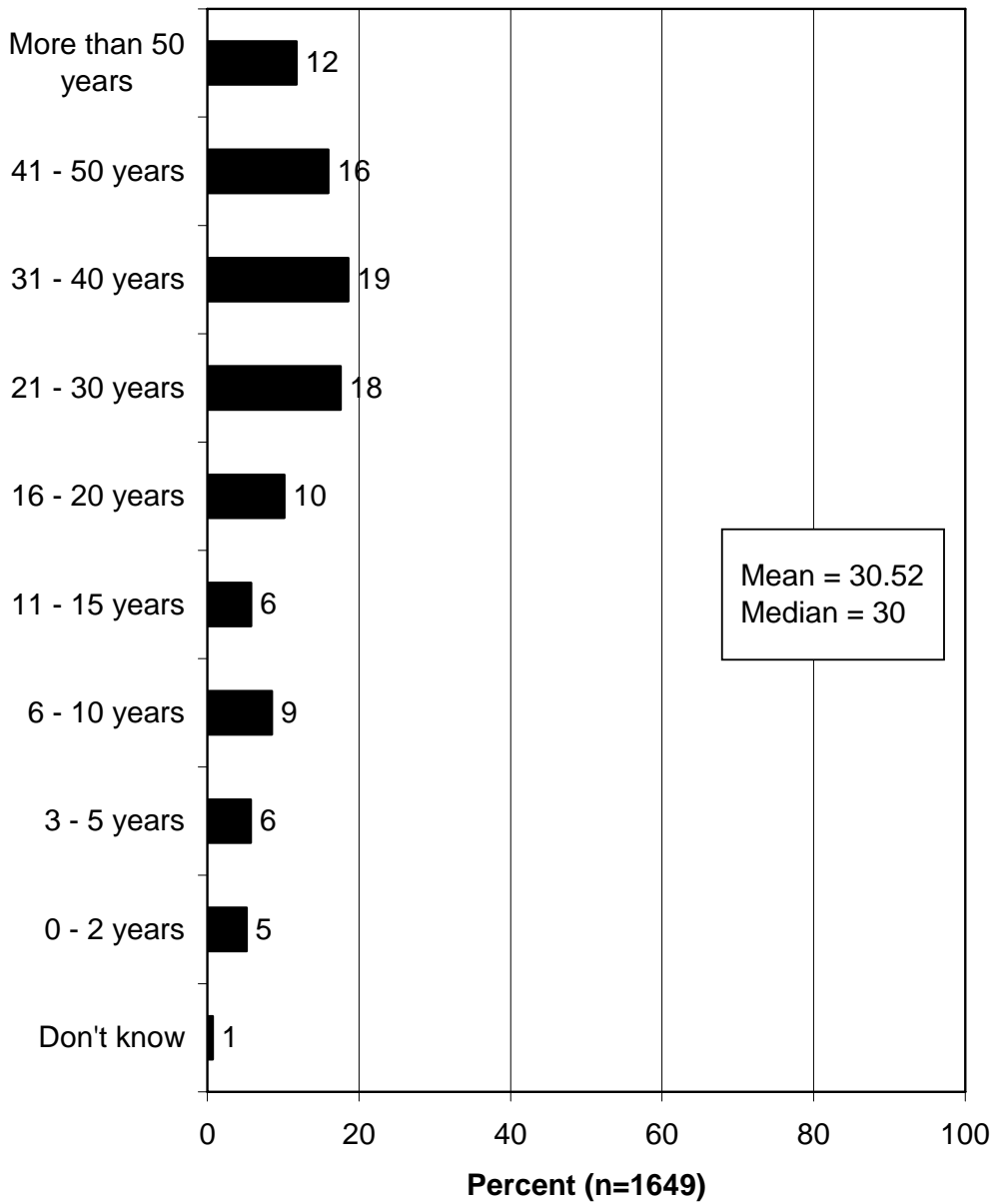
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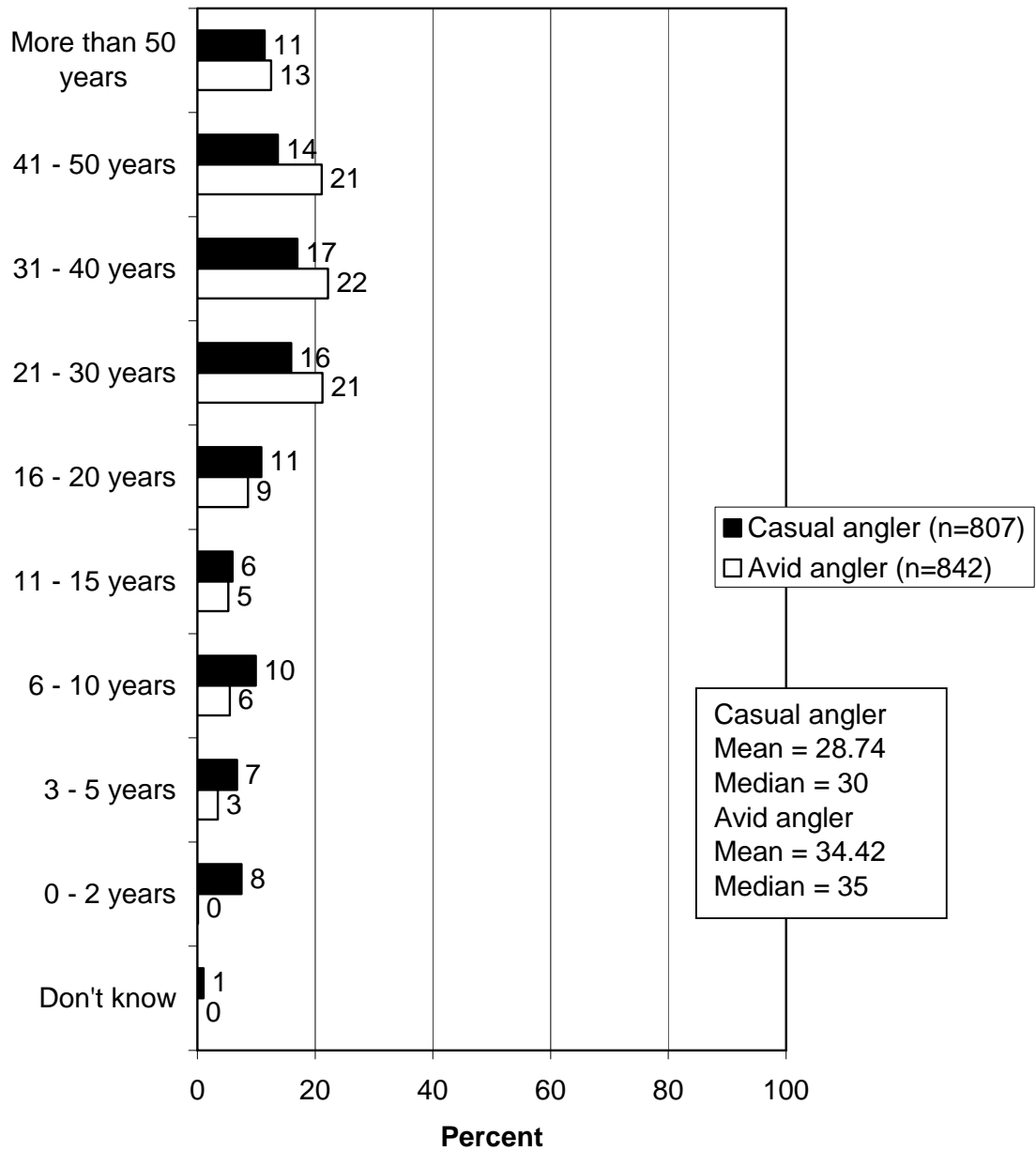
**Q21. How many days did you fish in Iowa that year [last year fished]? (Asked of those who have fished in the past 3 years, but not in the past 12 months.)**



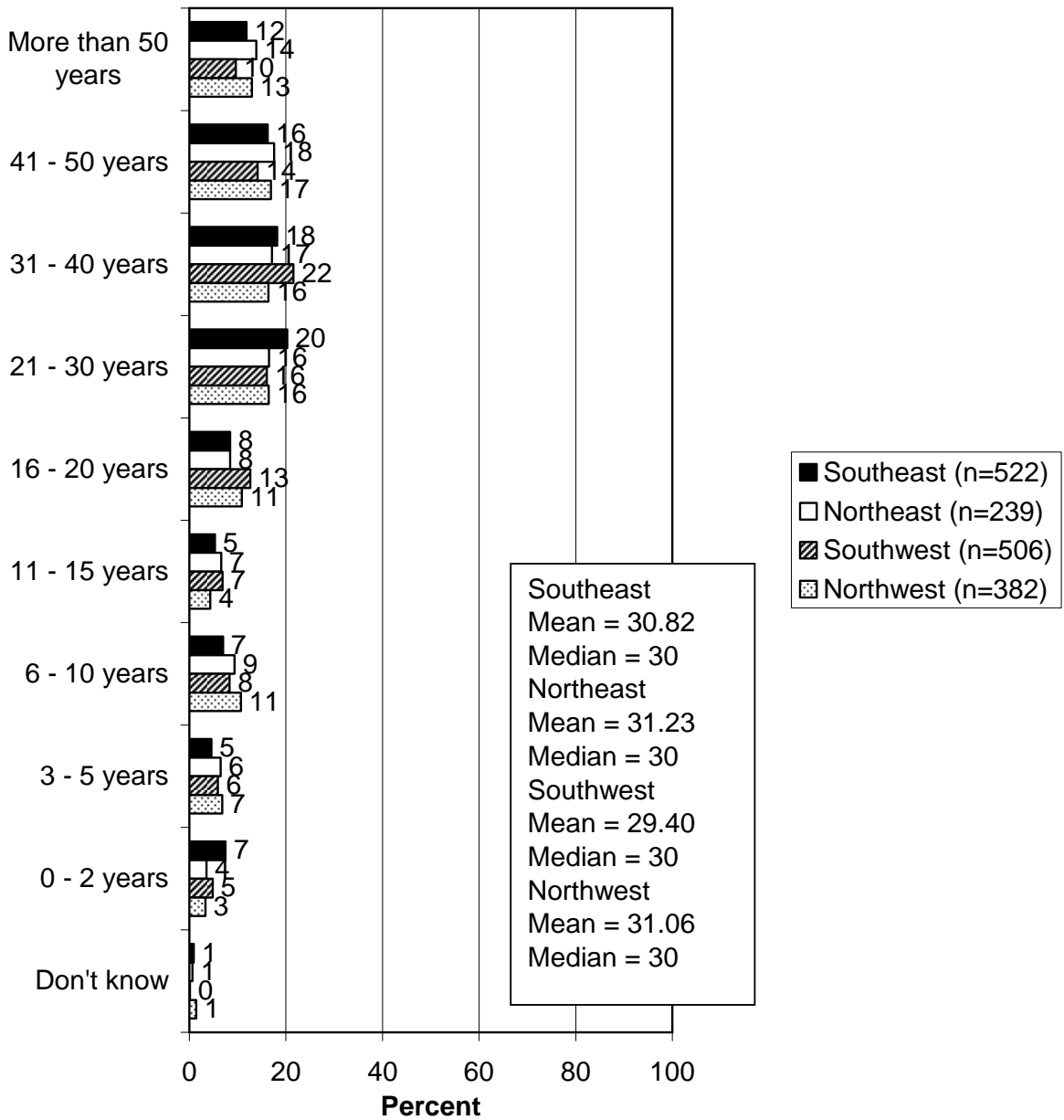
### Q138. How many years do you estimate you've been fishing in Iowa?



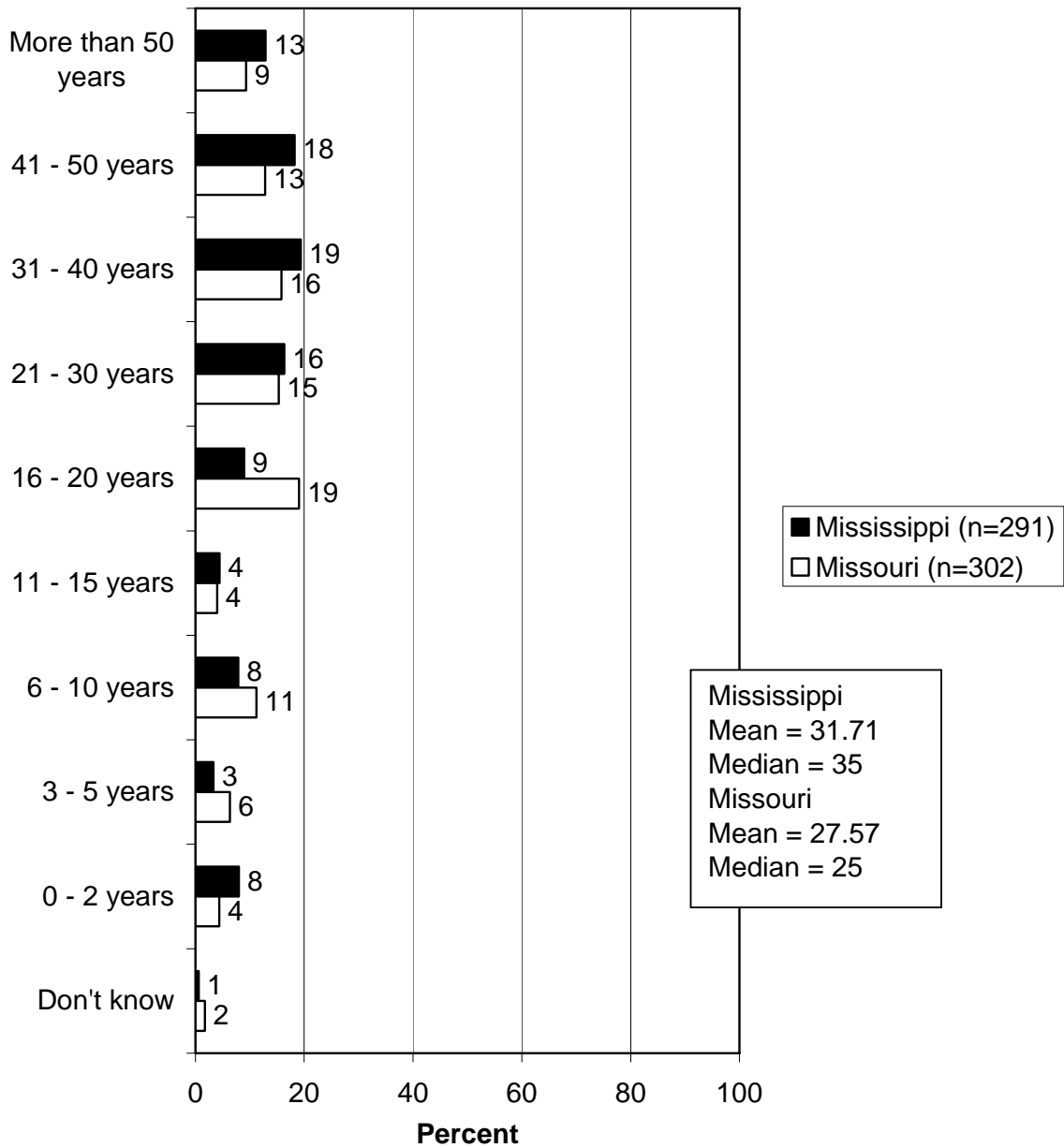
### Q138. How many years do you estimate you've been fishing in Iowa?



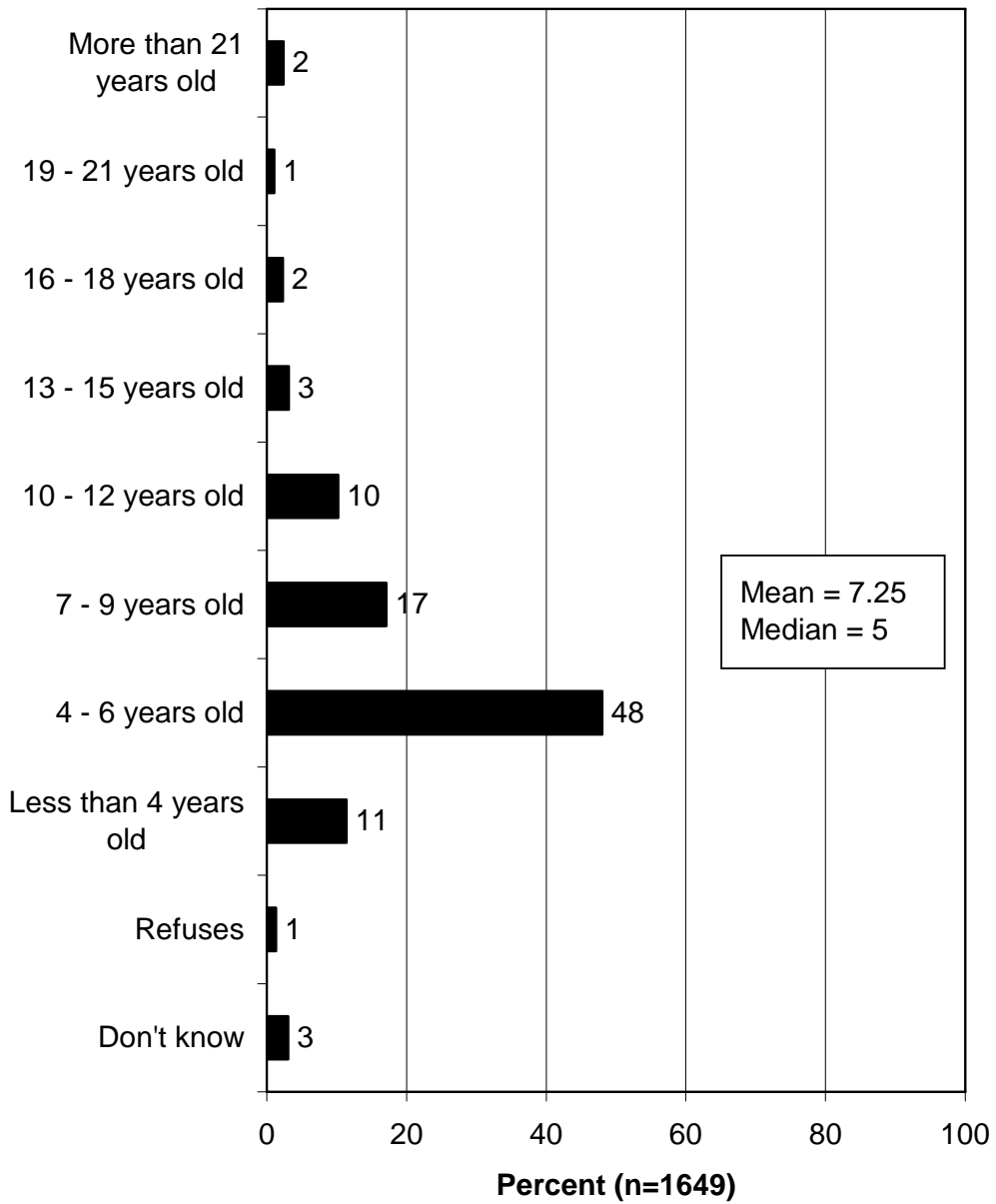
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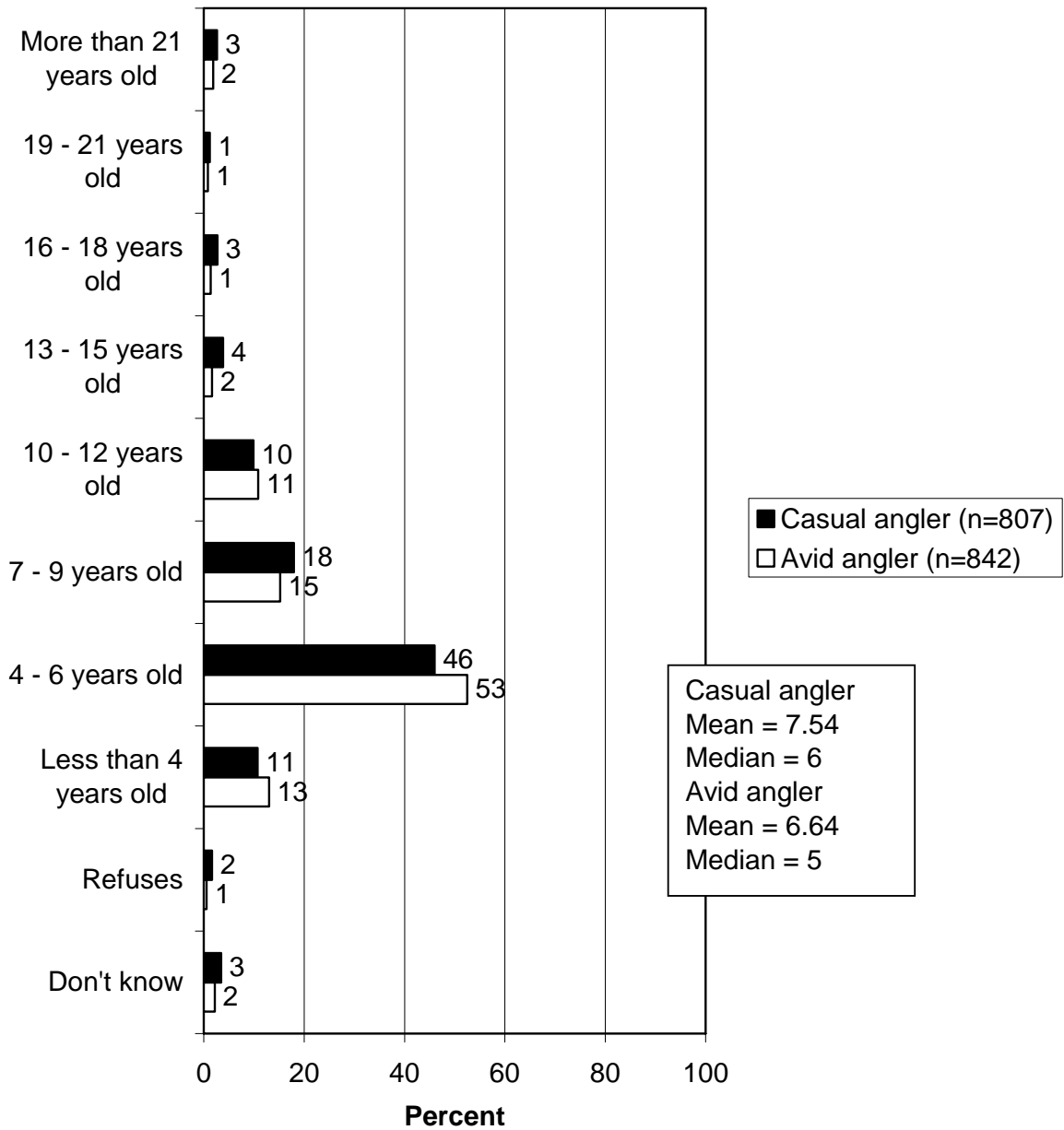


### Q217. How old were you when you first went fishing?

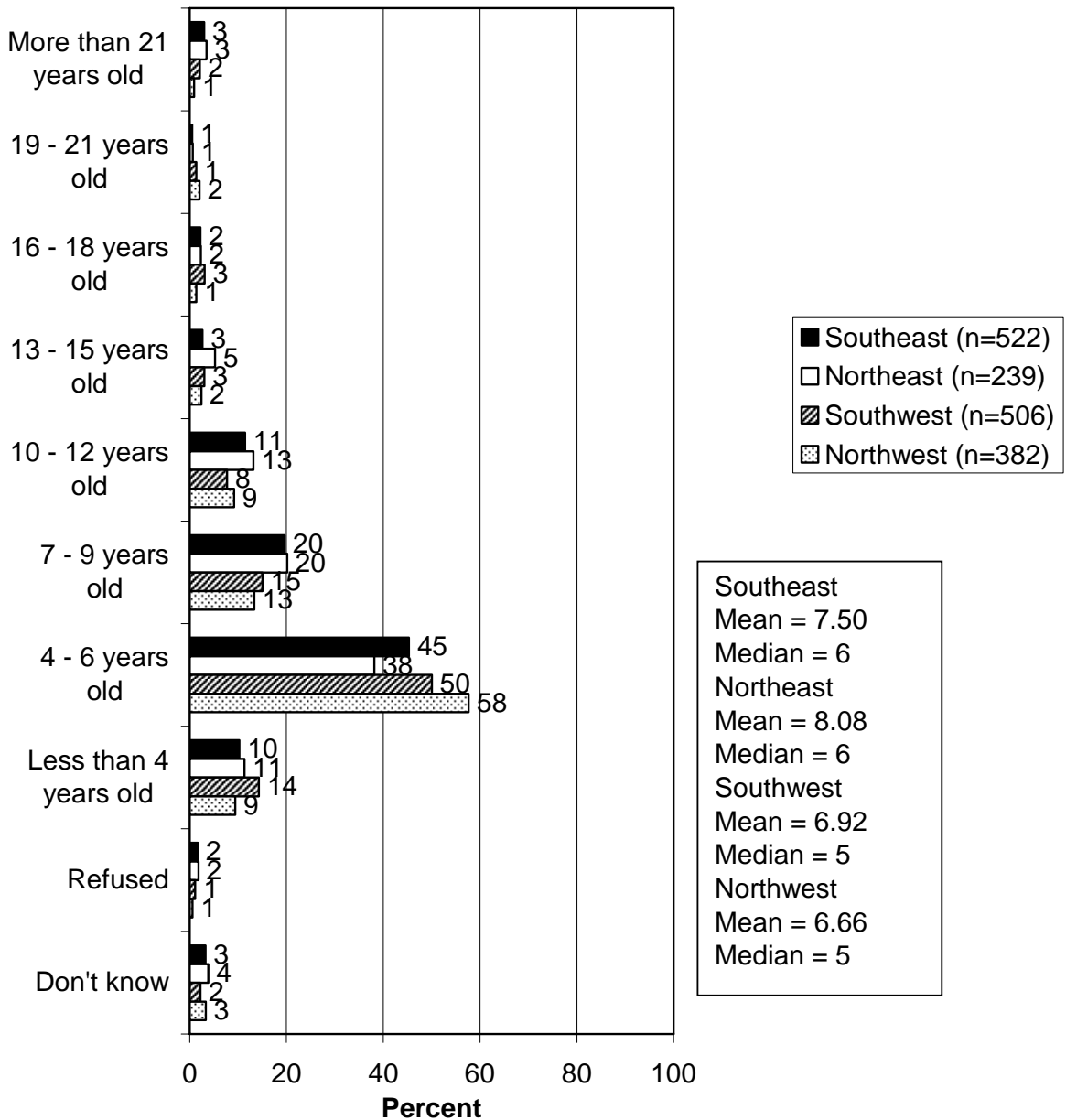




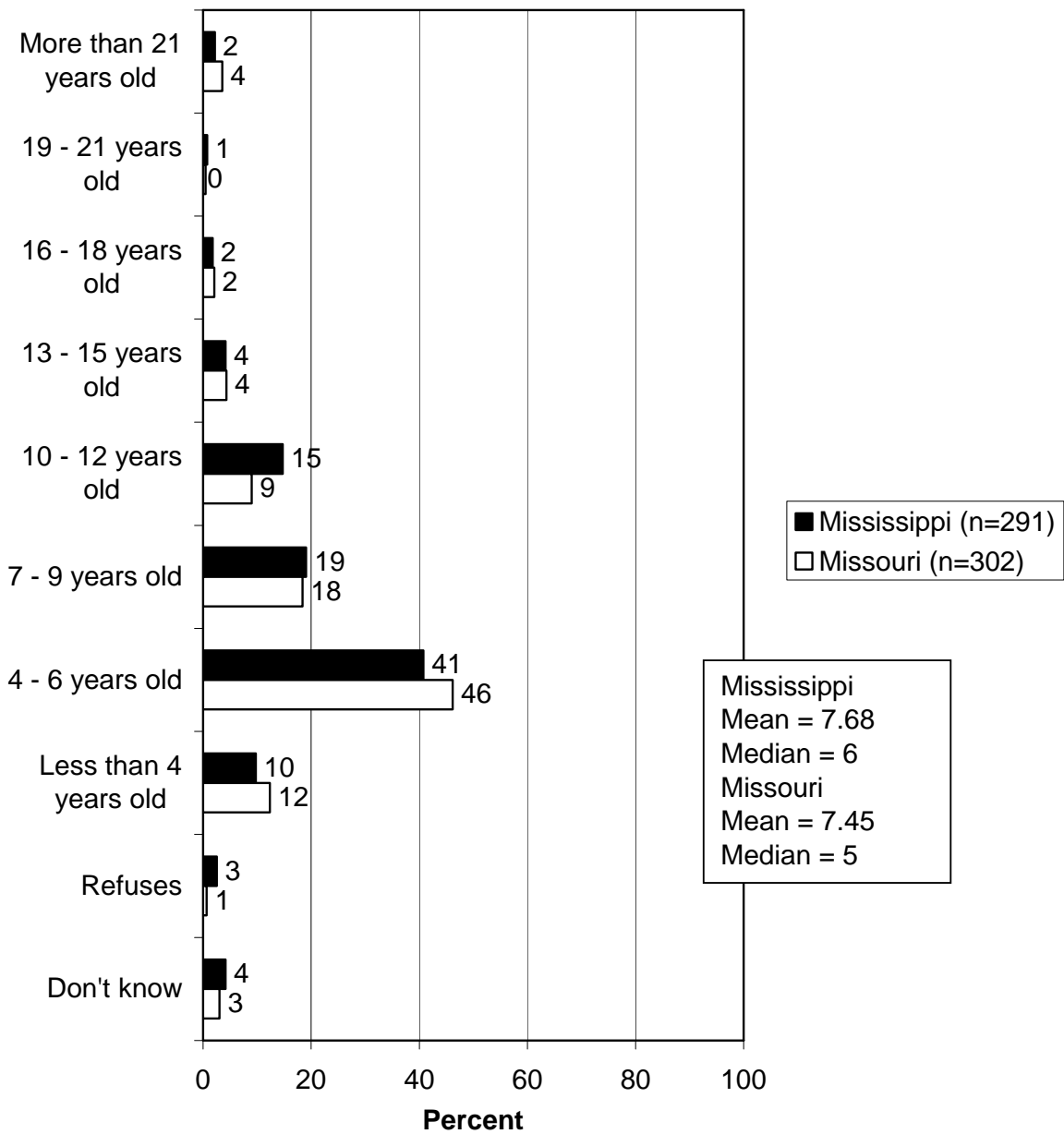
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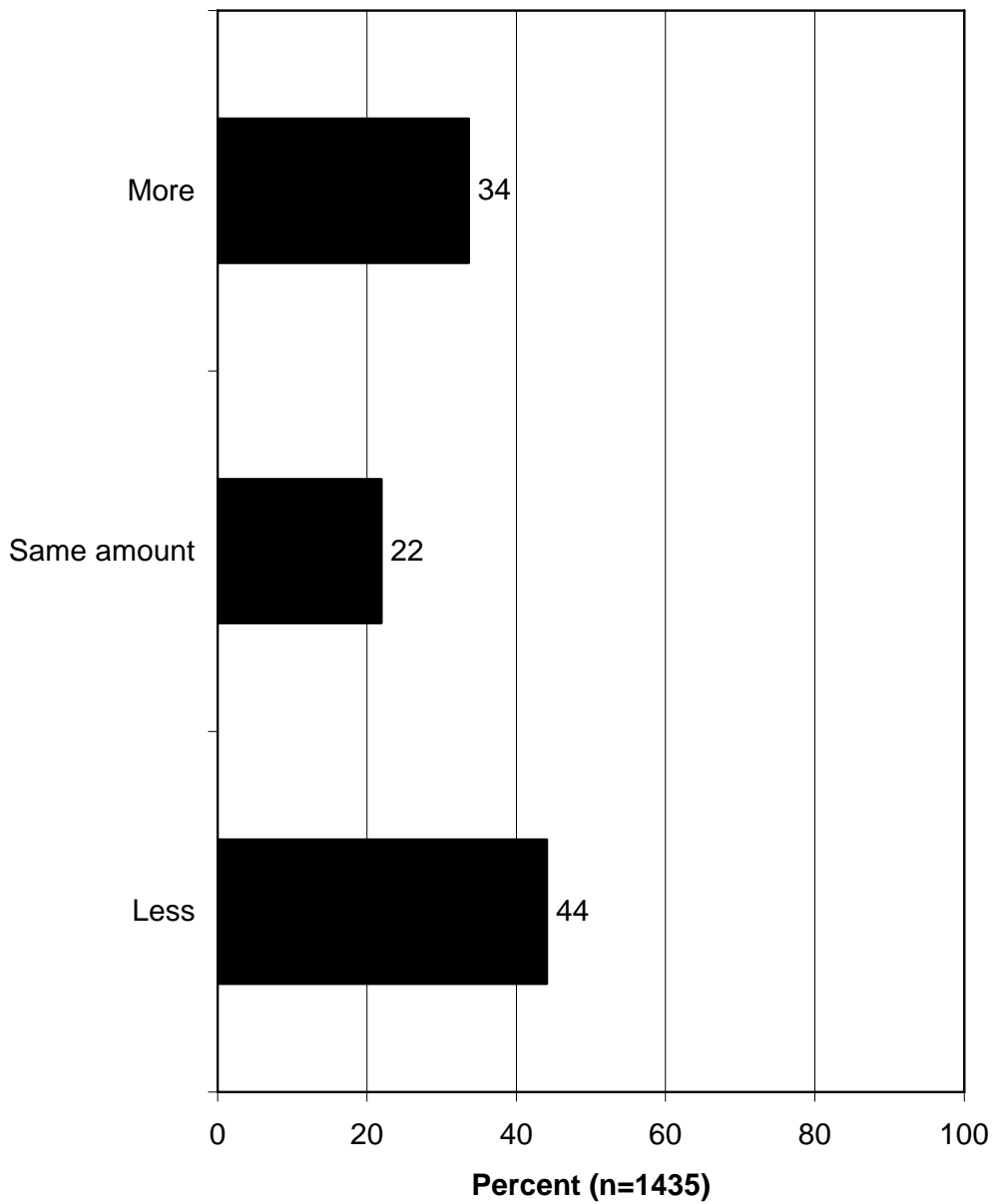
### Q217. How old were you when you first went fishing?



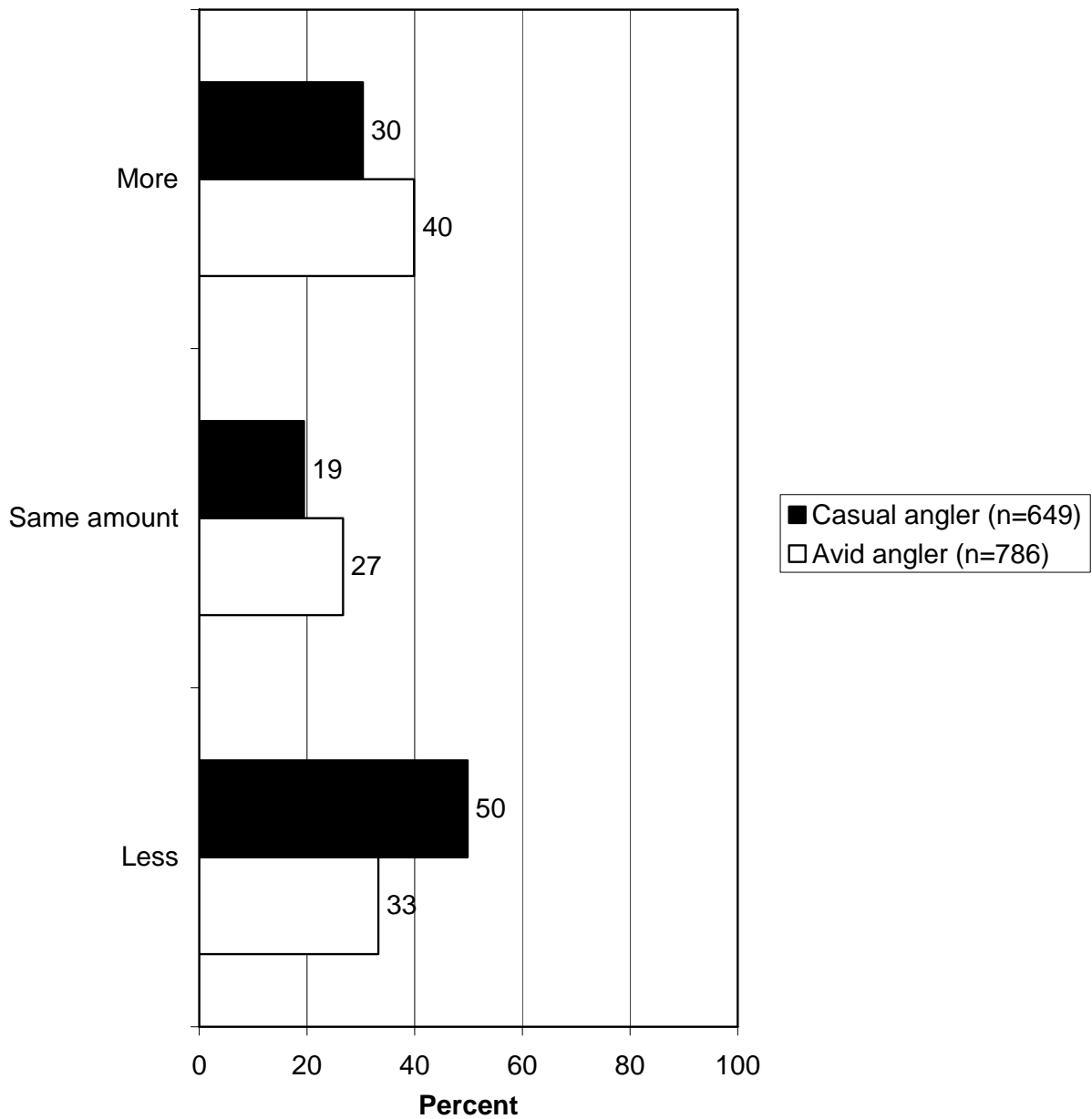
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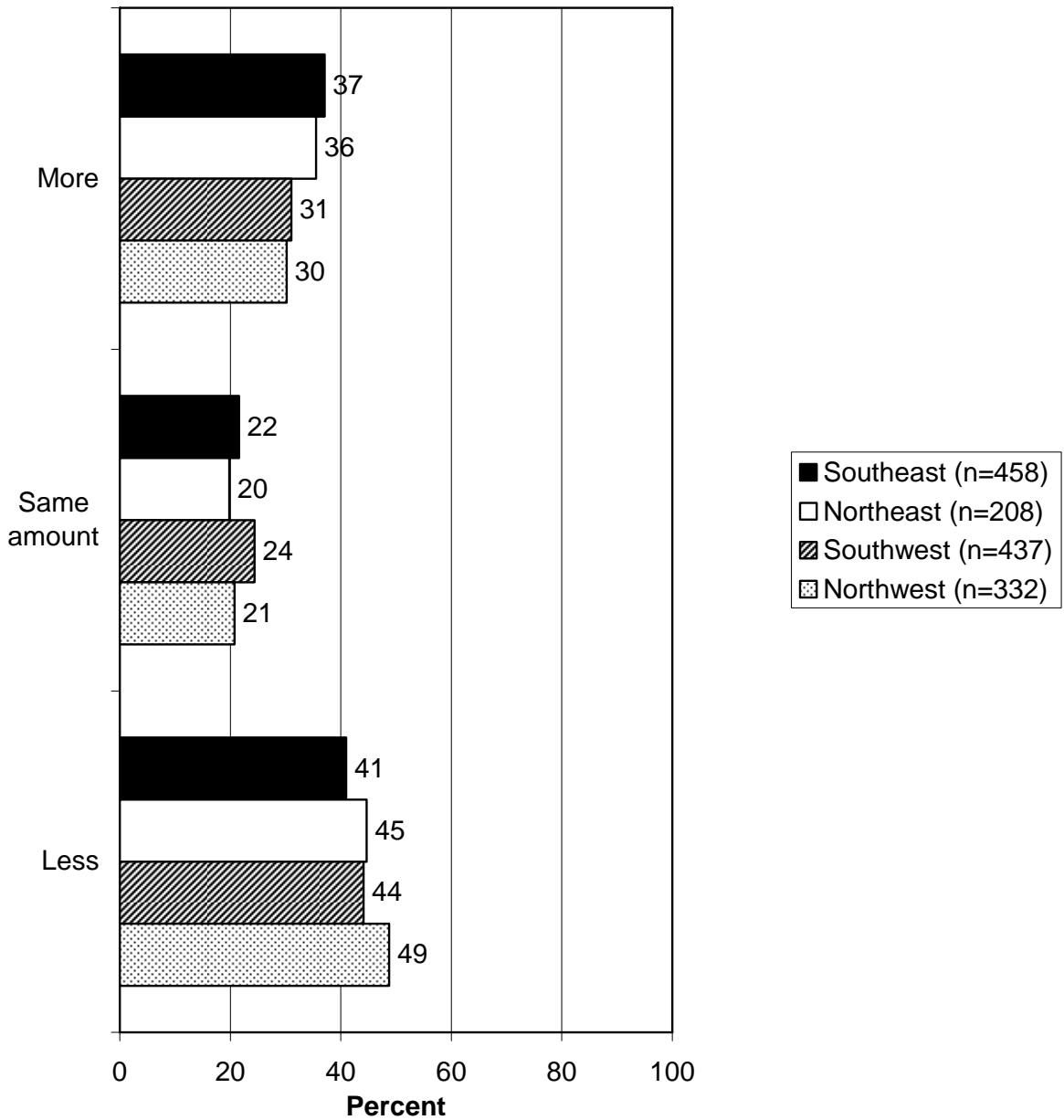
**Q140. Do you fish more or less in Iowa now than you did 10 years ago? (Asked of those who have been fishing in Iowa for 10 or more years.)**



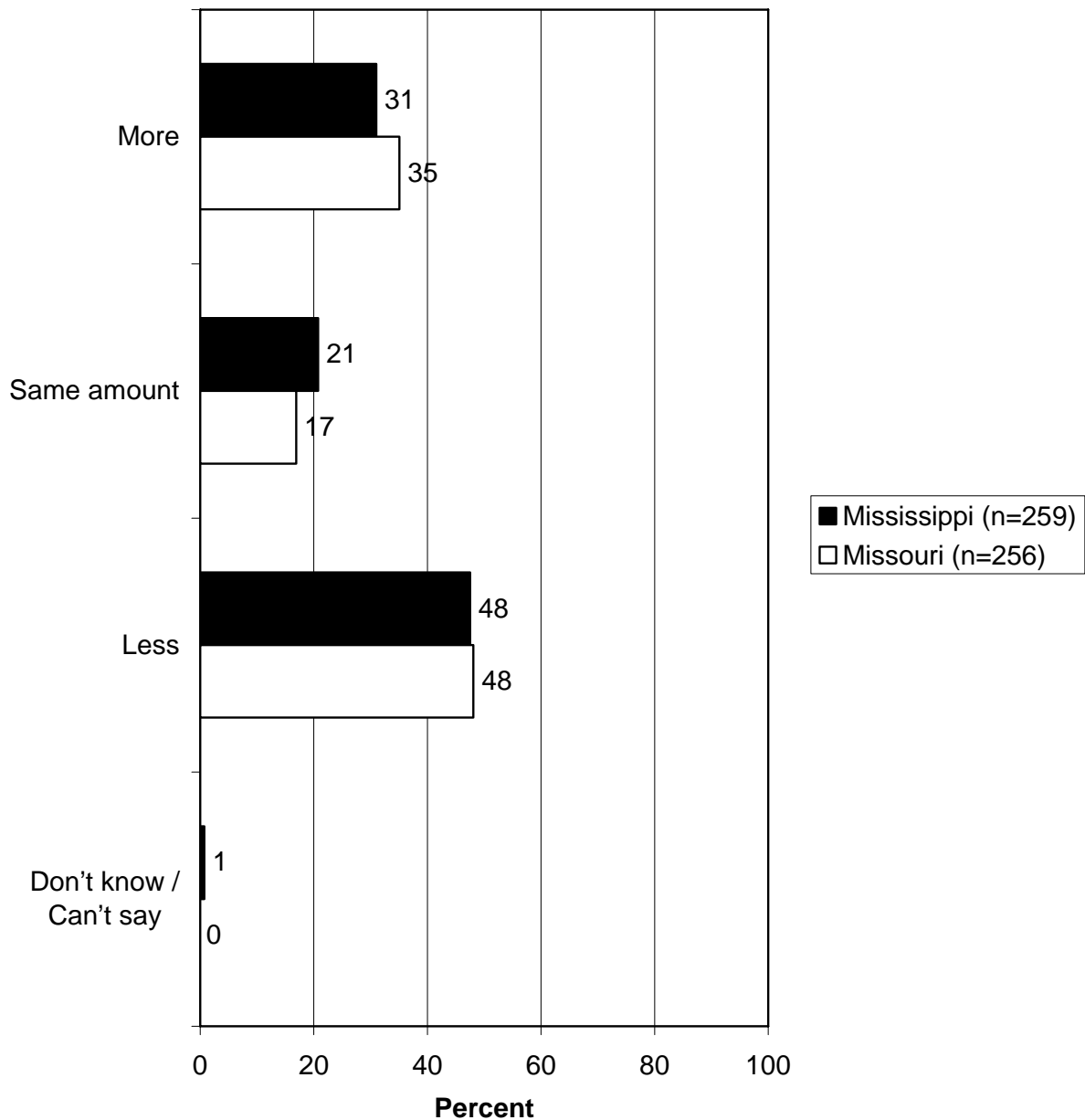
**Q140. Do you fish more or less in Iowa now than you did 10 years ago? (Asked of those who have been fishing in Iowa for 10 or more years.)**



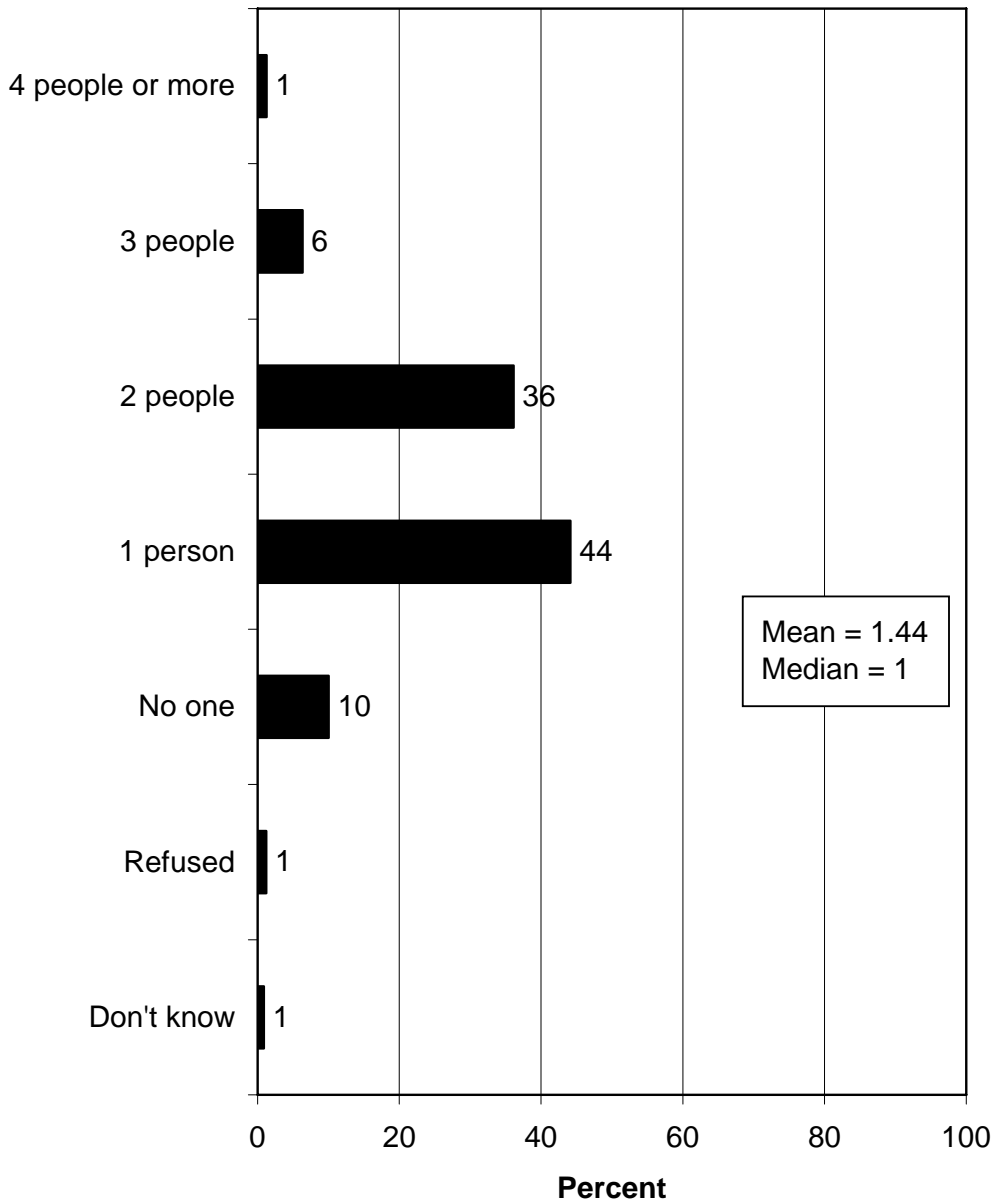
**Q140. Do you fish more or less in Iowa now than you did 10 years ago? (Asked of those who have been fishing in Iowa for 10 or more years.)**



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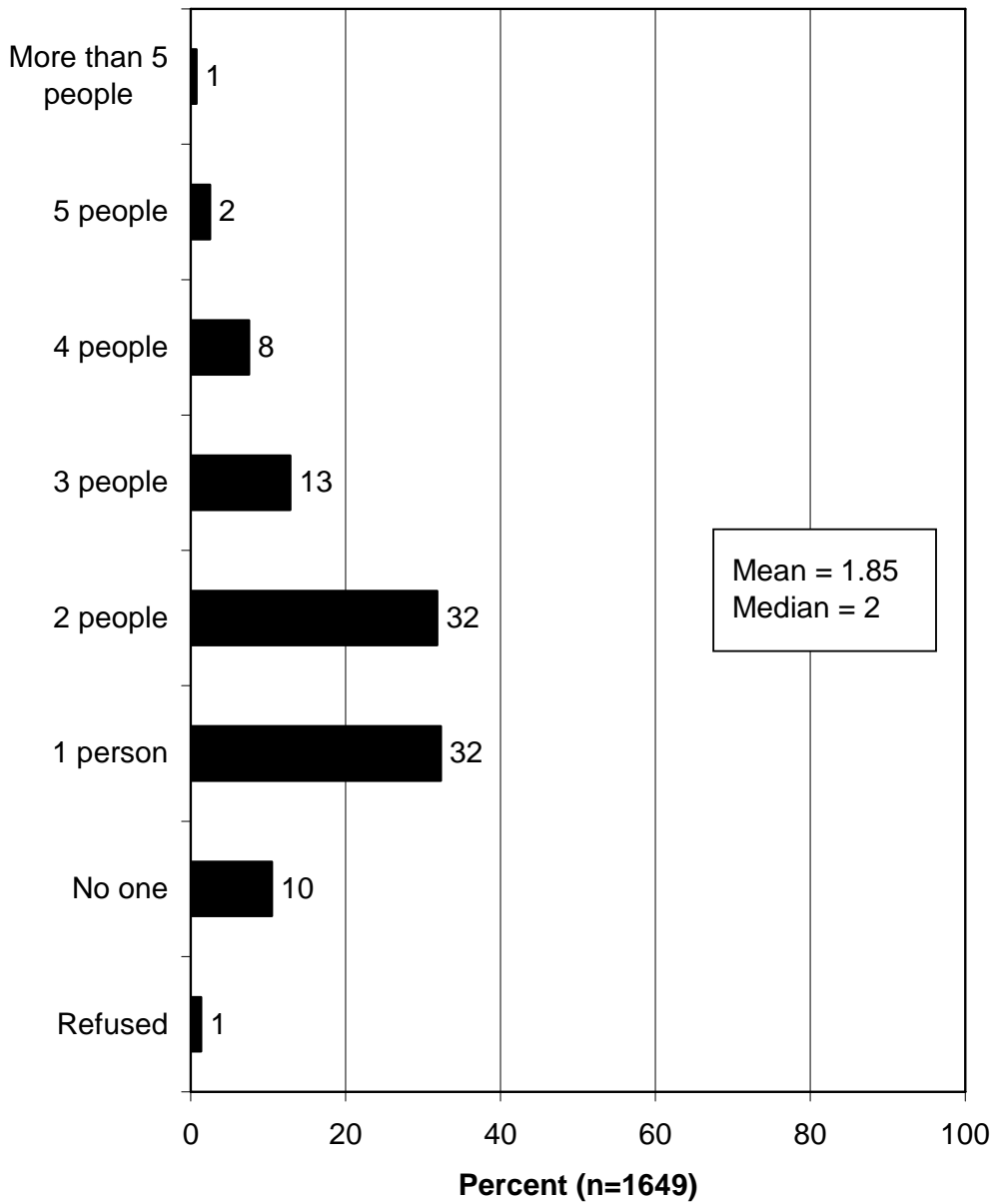


**Q209. How many people in your household purchased an Iowa fishing license in the past 12 months?**

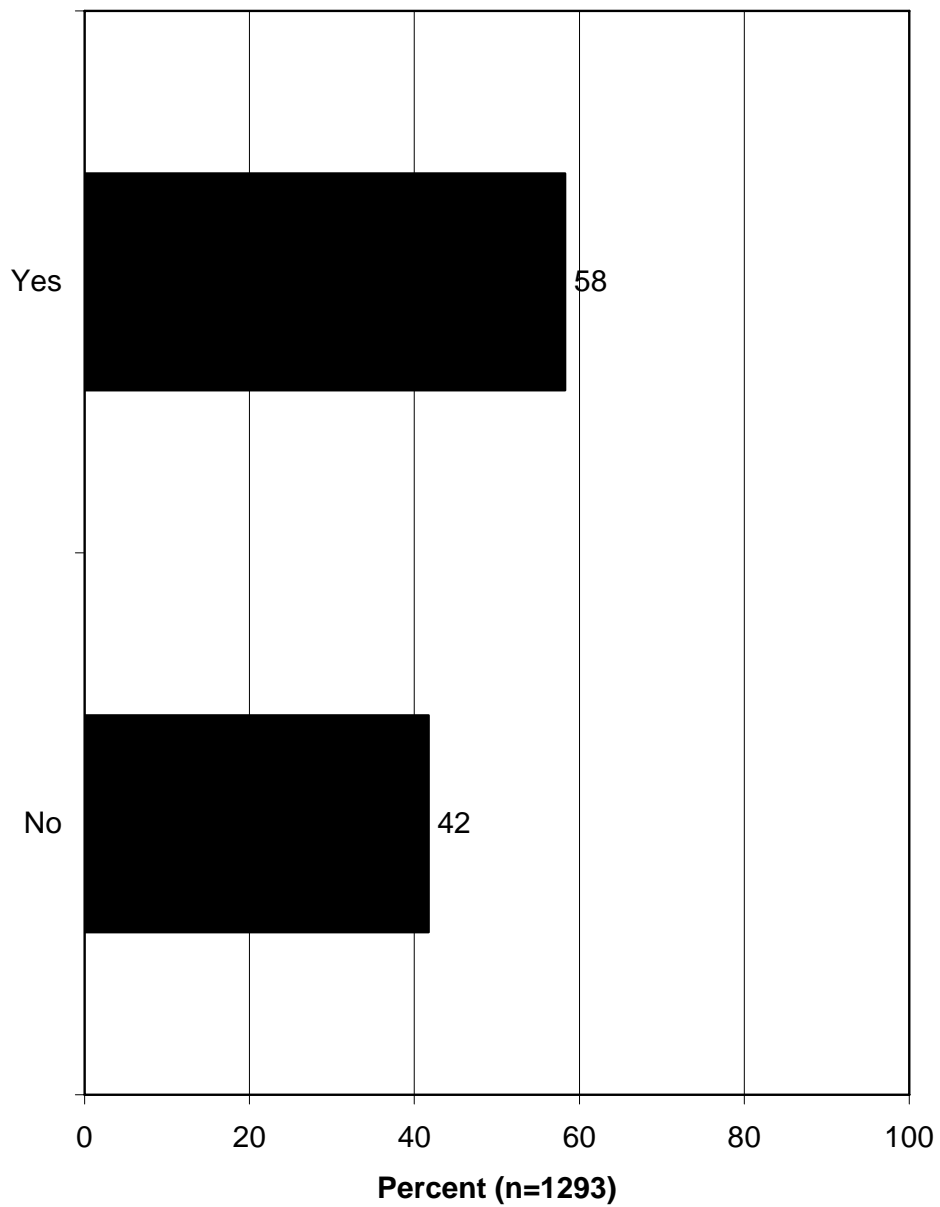




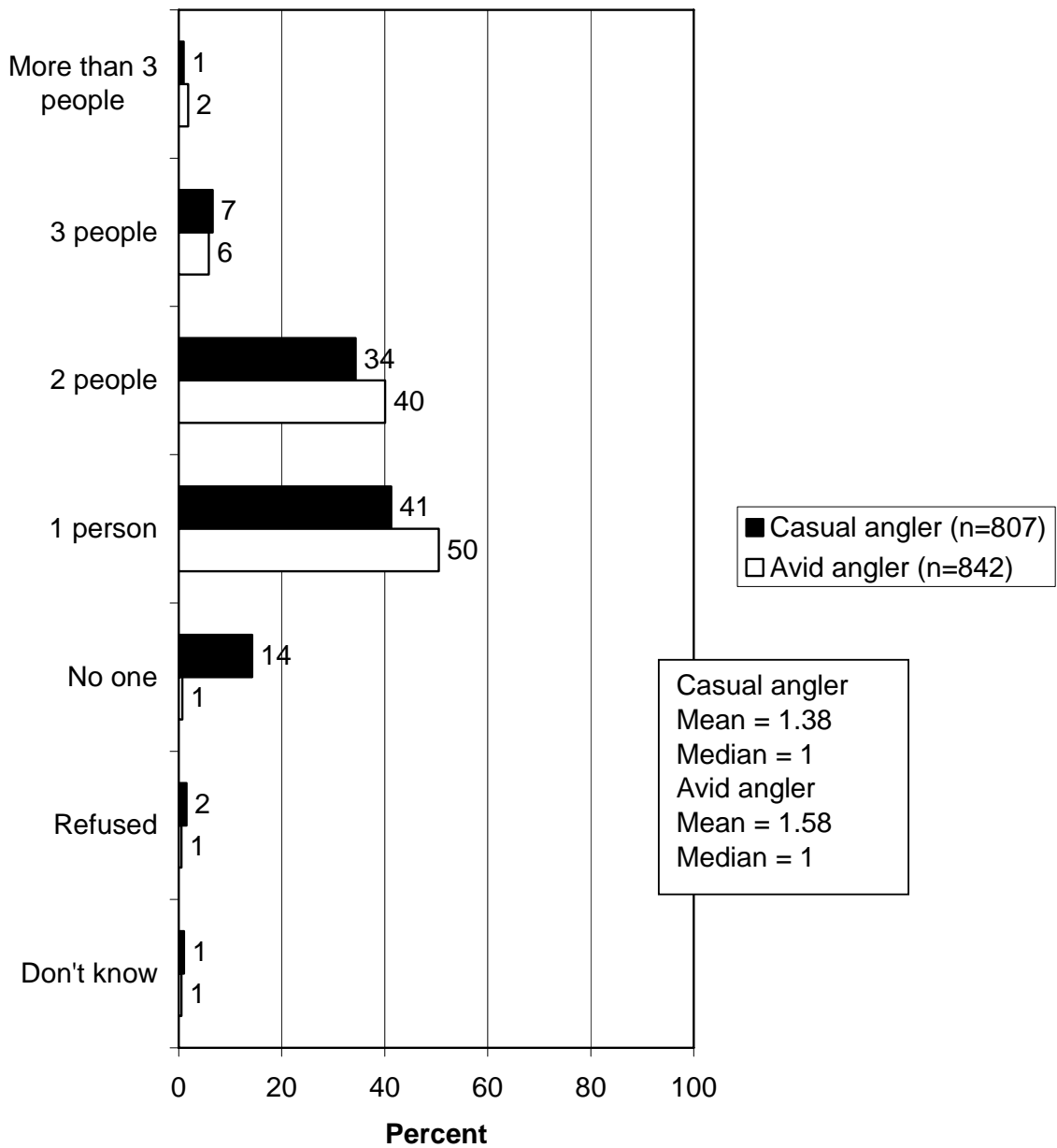
**Q212. How many people in your household went fishing in Iowa in the past 12 months?**



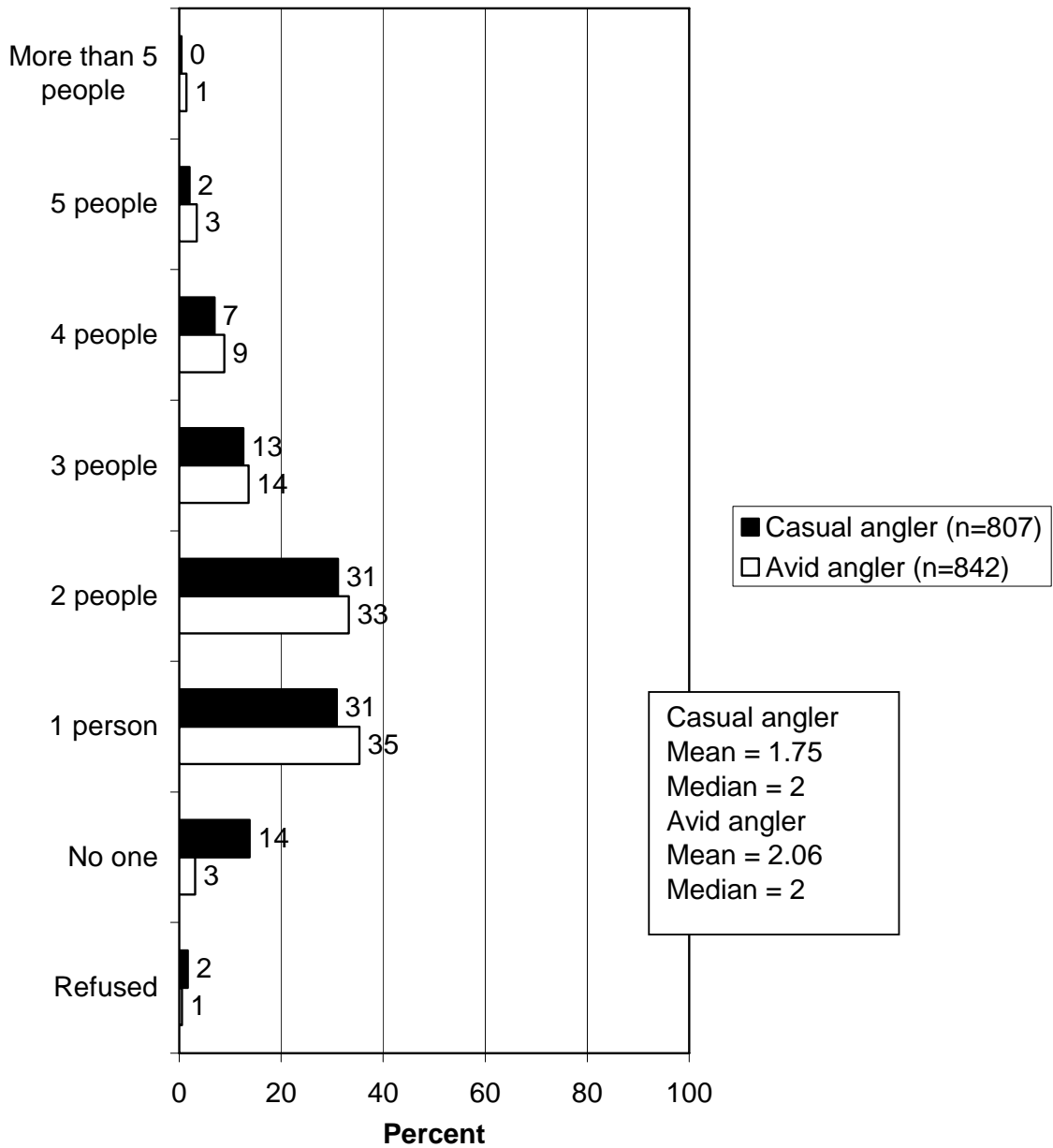
**Q214. Does your spouse fish? (Asked of those who are married.)**



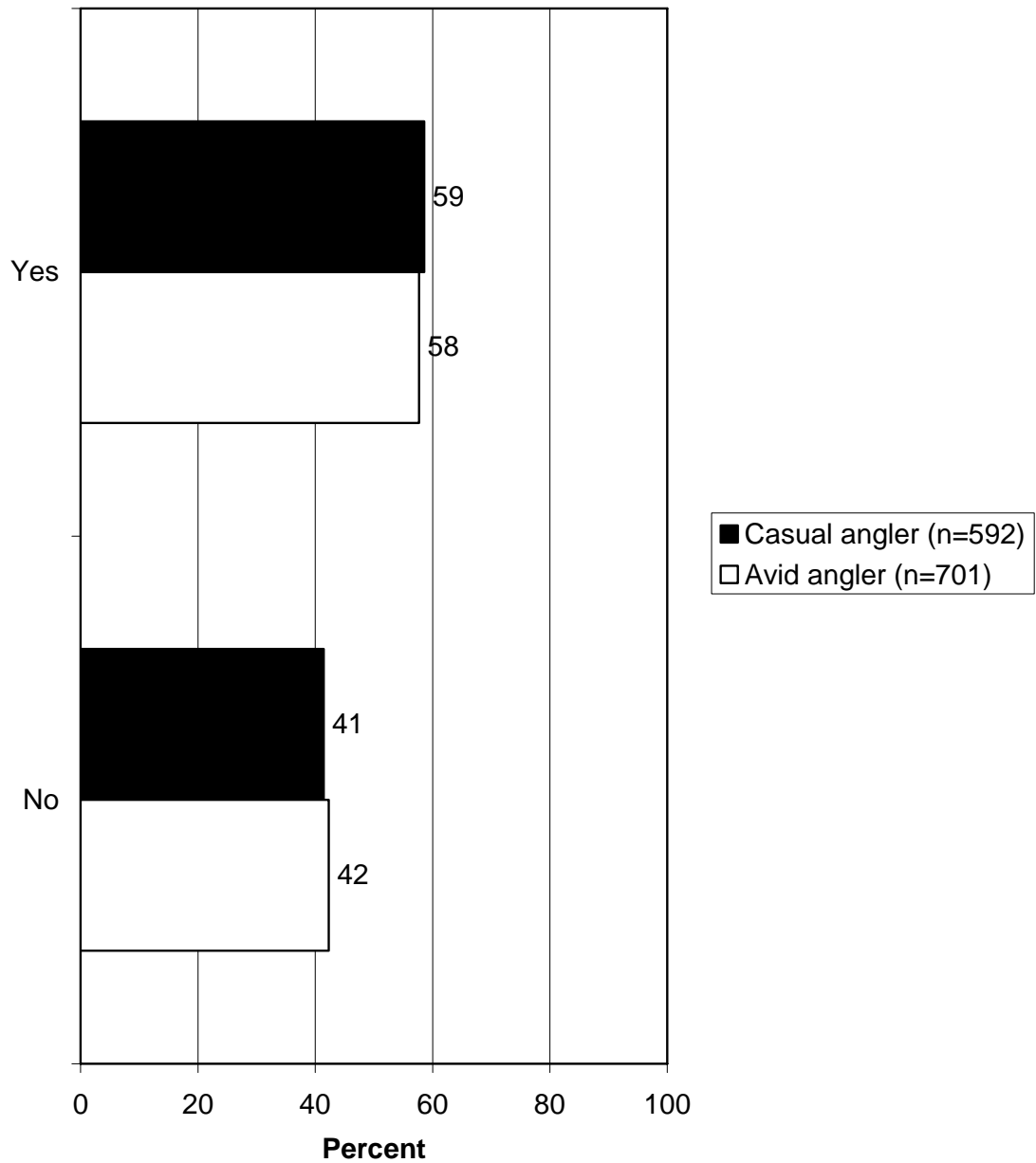
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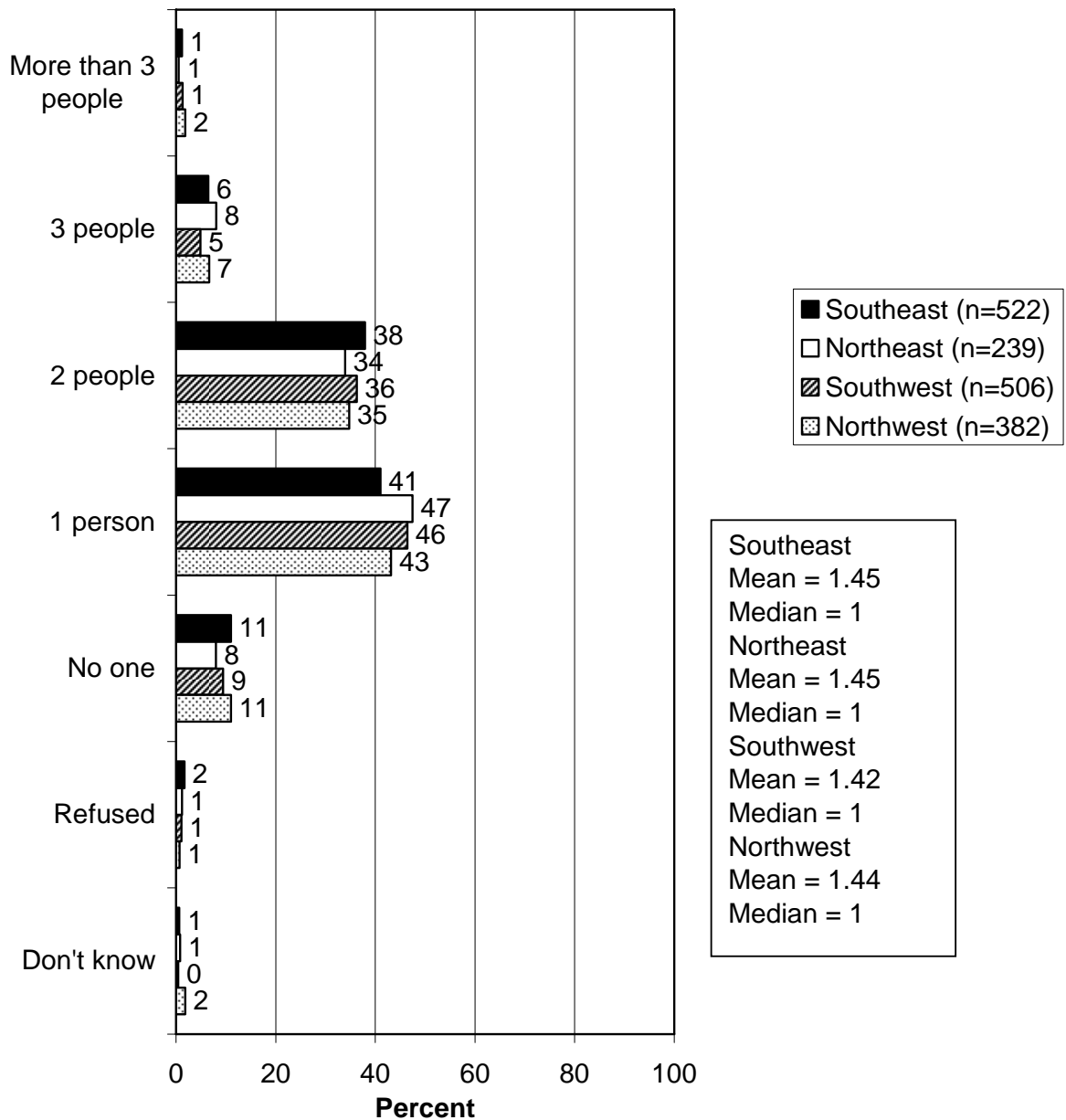
**Q212. How many people in your household went fishing in Iowa in the past 12 months?**



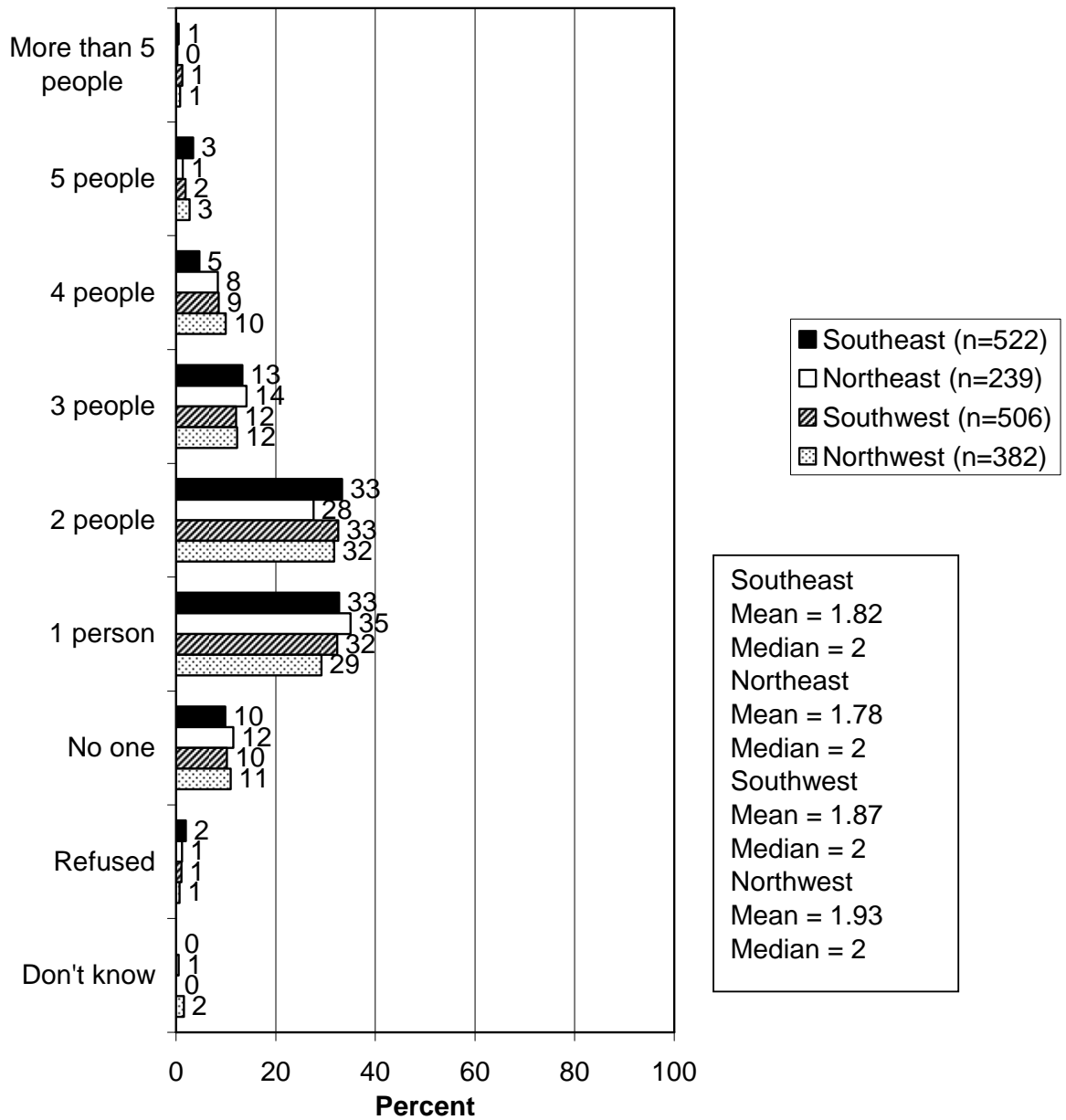
**Q214. Does your spouse fish? (Asked of those who are married.)**



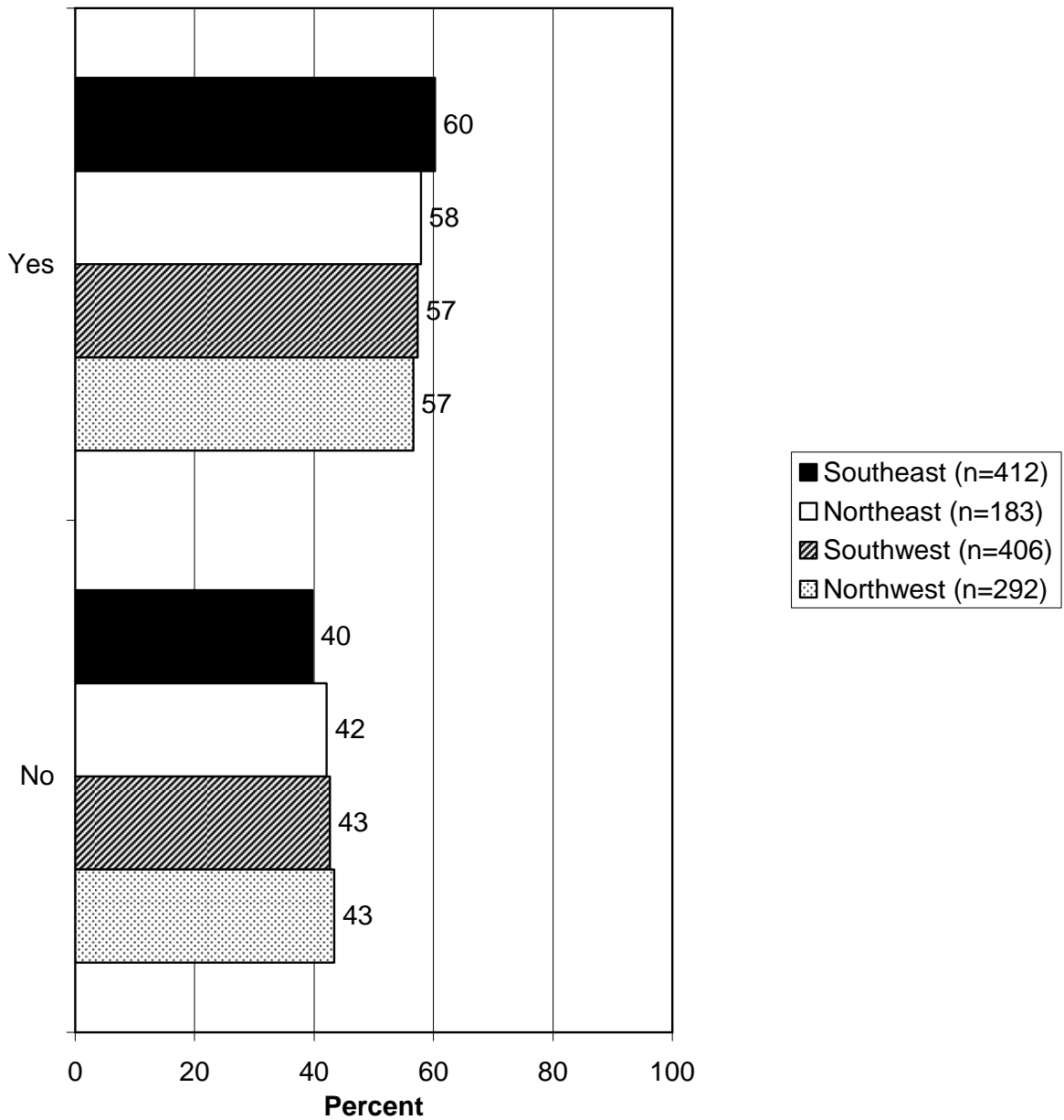
**Q209. How many people in your household purchased an Iowa fishing license in the past 12 months?**



### Q212. How many people in your household went fishing in Iowa in the past 12 months?

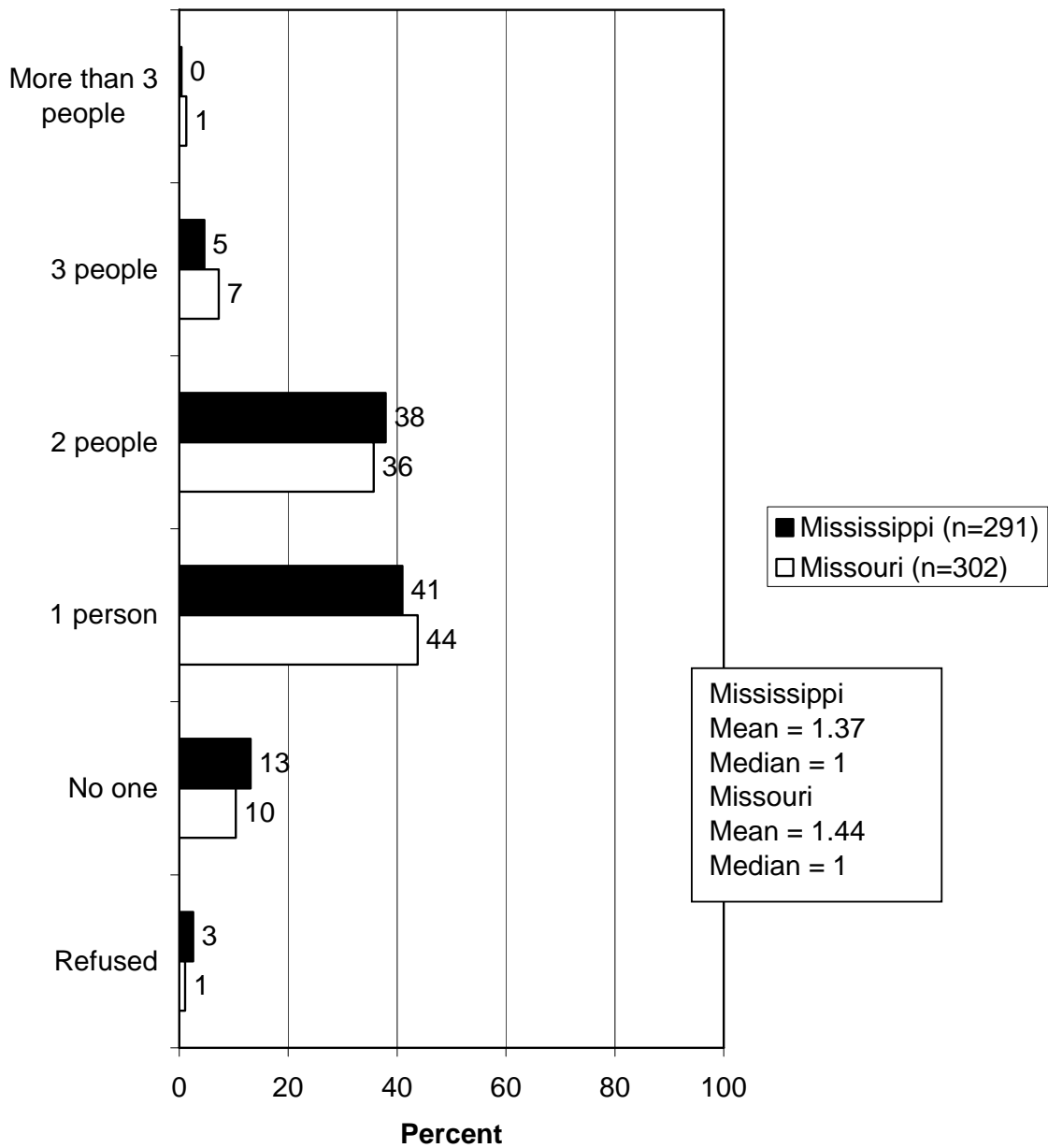


**Q214. Does your spouse fish? (Asked of those who are married.)**

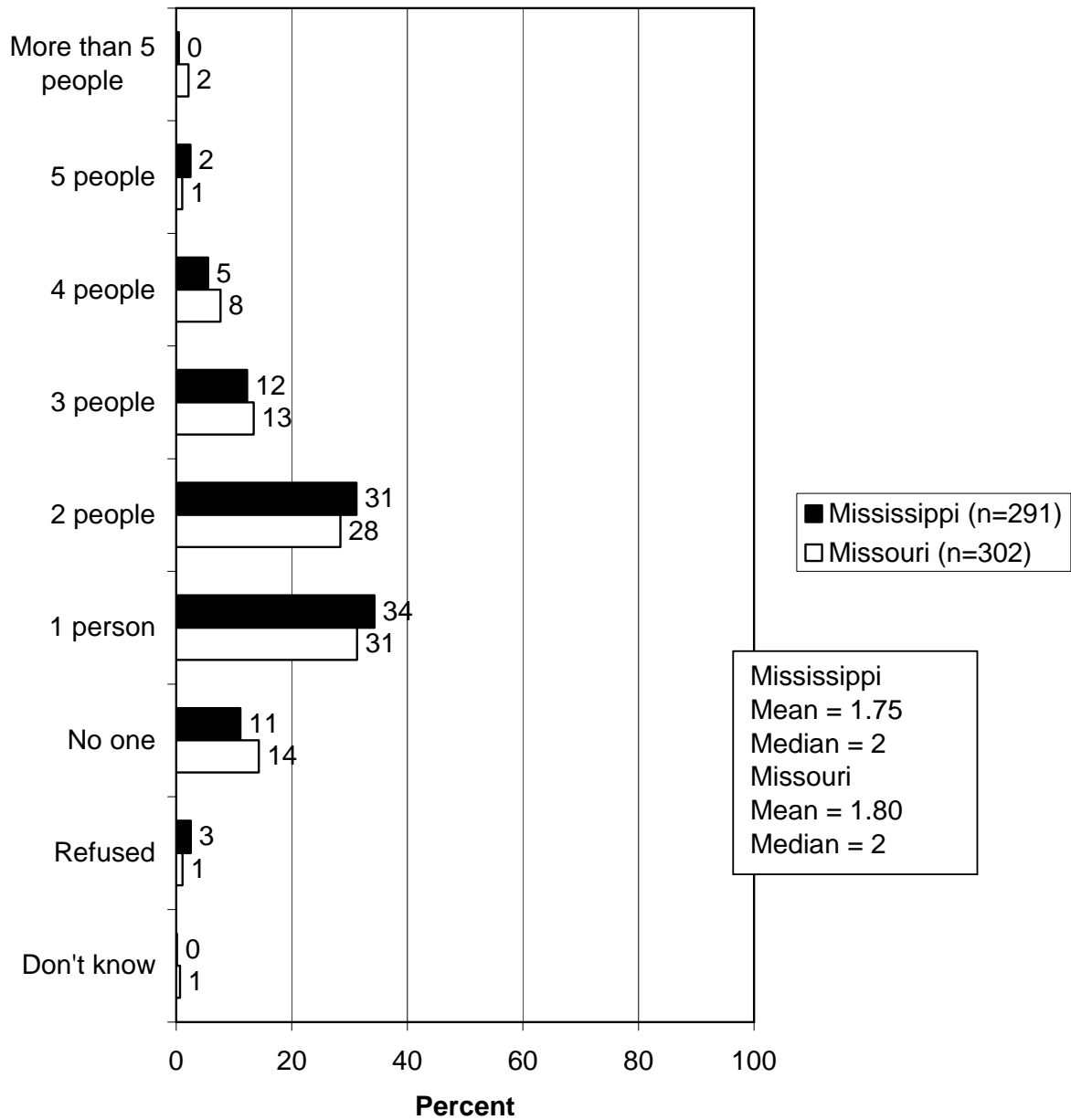




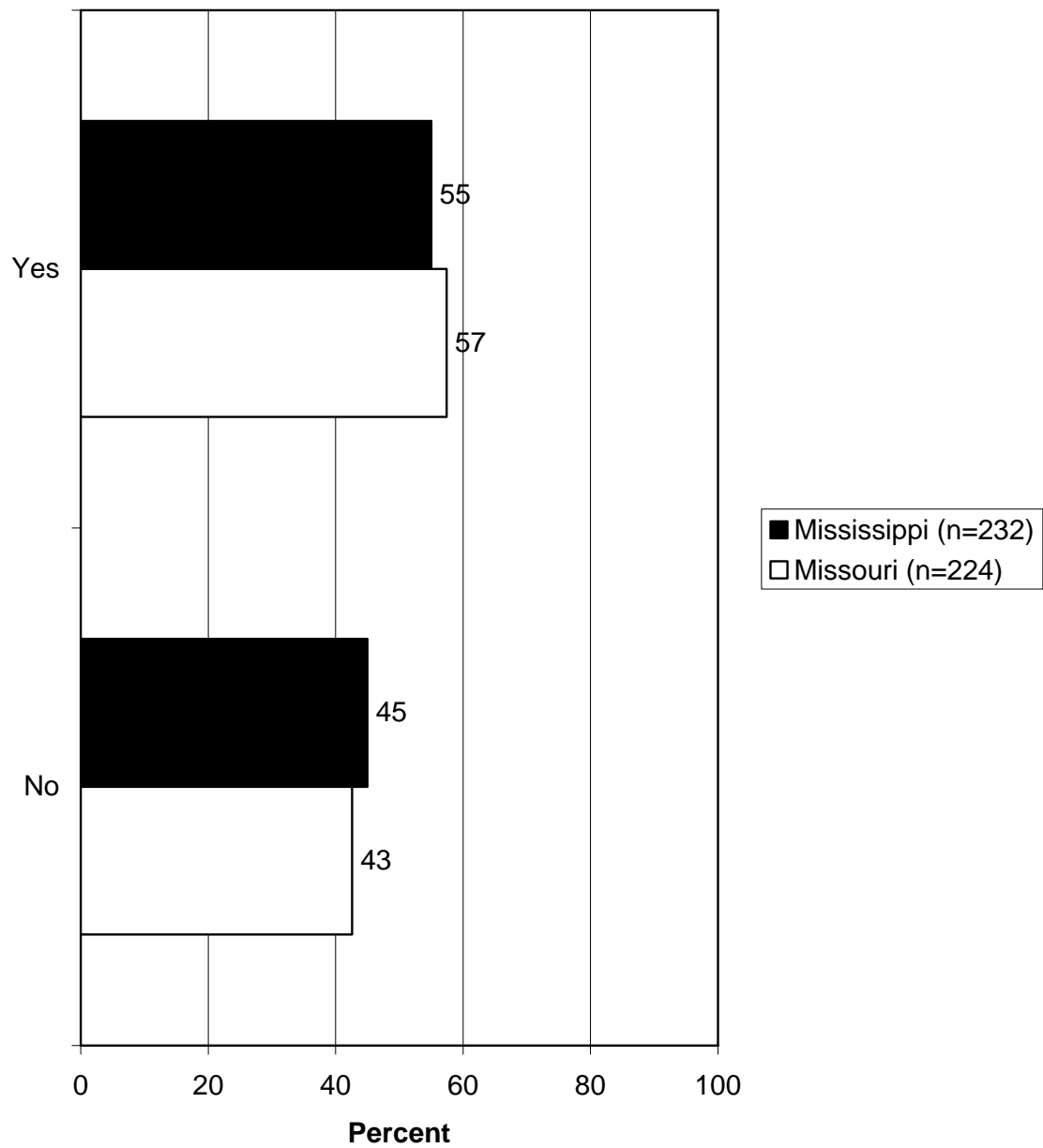
**Q209. How many people in your household purchased an Iowa fishing license in the past 12 months?**



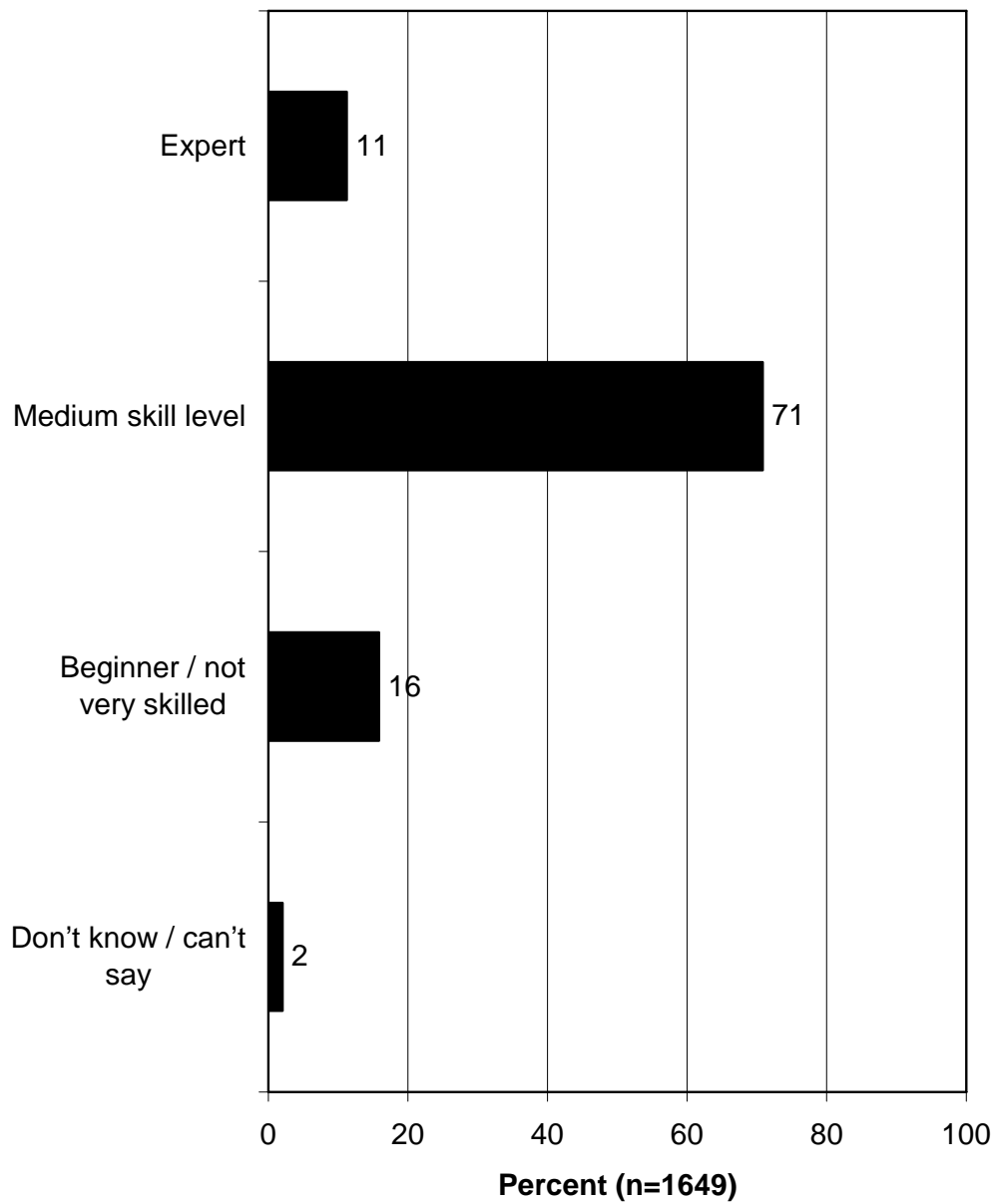
**Q212. How many people in your household went fishing in Iowa in the past 12 months?**



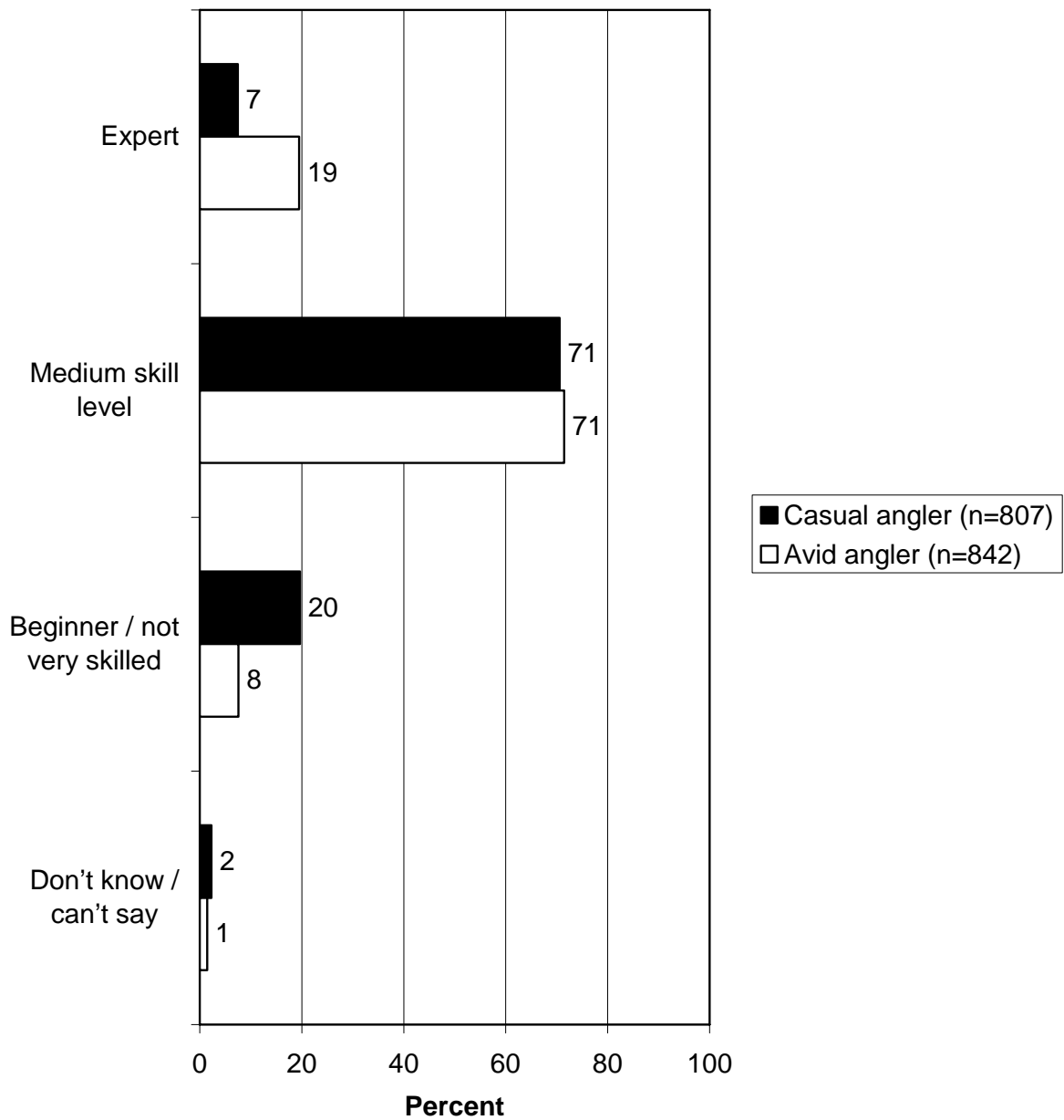
**Q214. Does your spouse fish? (Asked of those who are married.)**



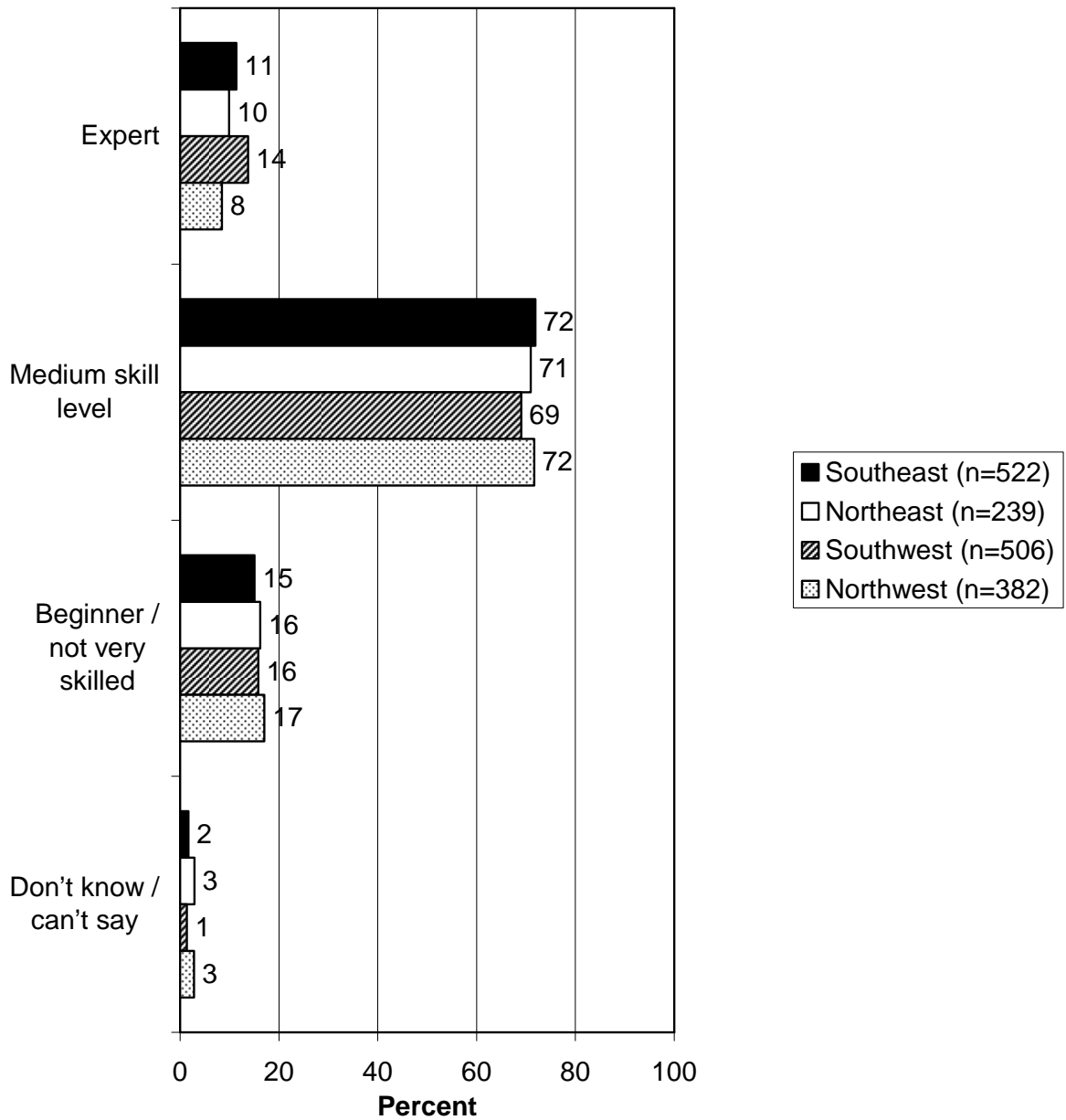
**Q218. How would you rate your skill level as an angler?**



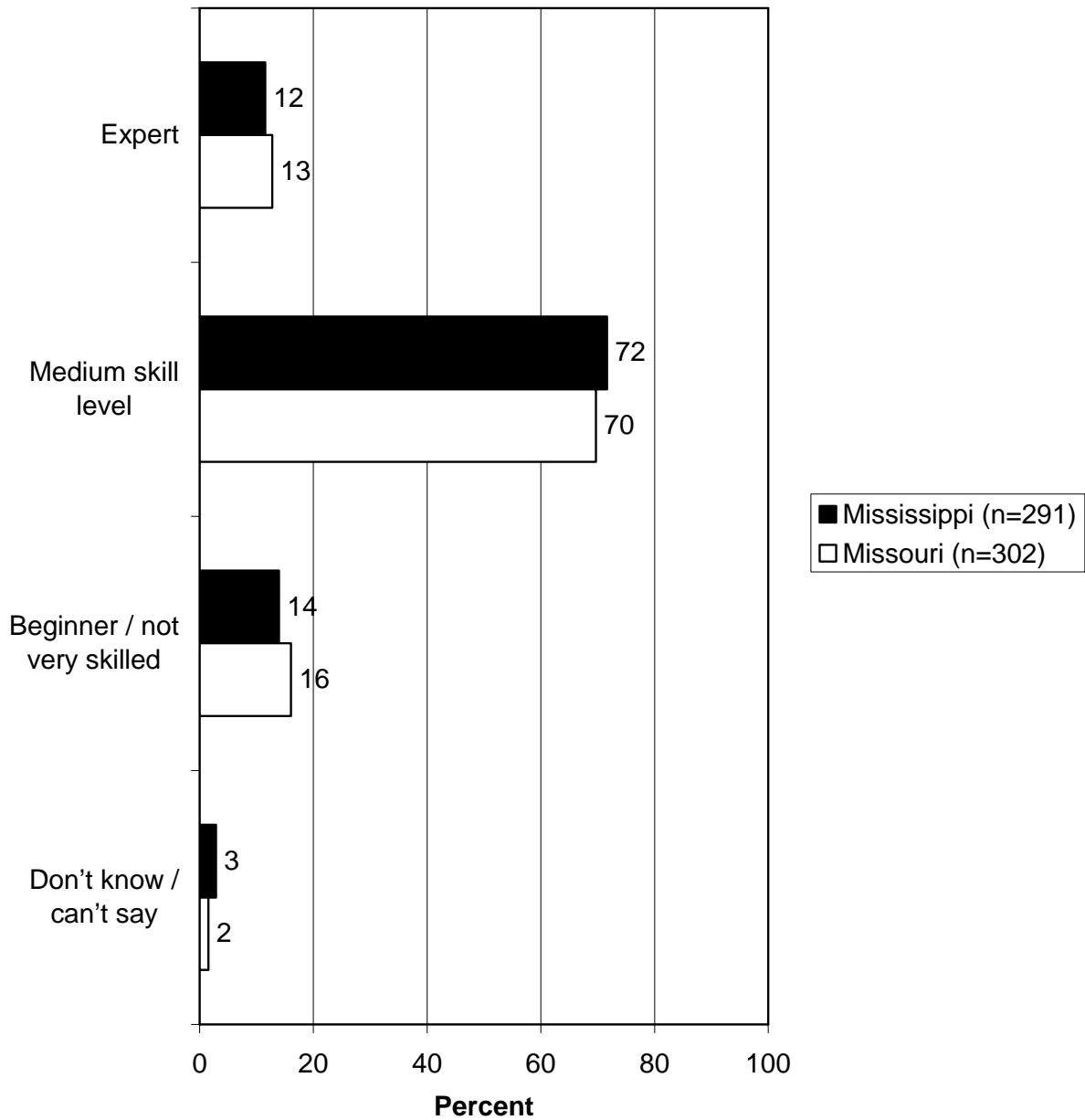
### Q218. How would you rate your skill level as an angler?



### Q218. How would you rate your skill level as an angler?



### Q218. How would you rate your skill level as an angler?



## SPECIES FISHED AND PREFERRED, AND METHODS OF FISHING

### SPECIES FISHED AND PREFERRED

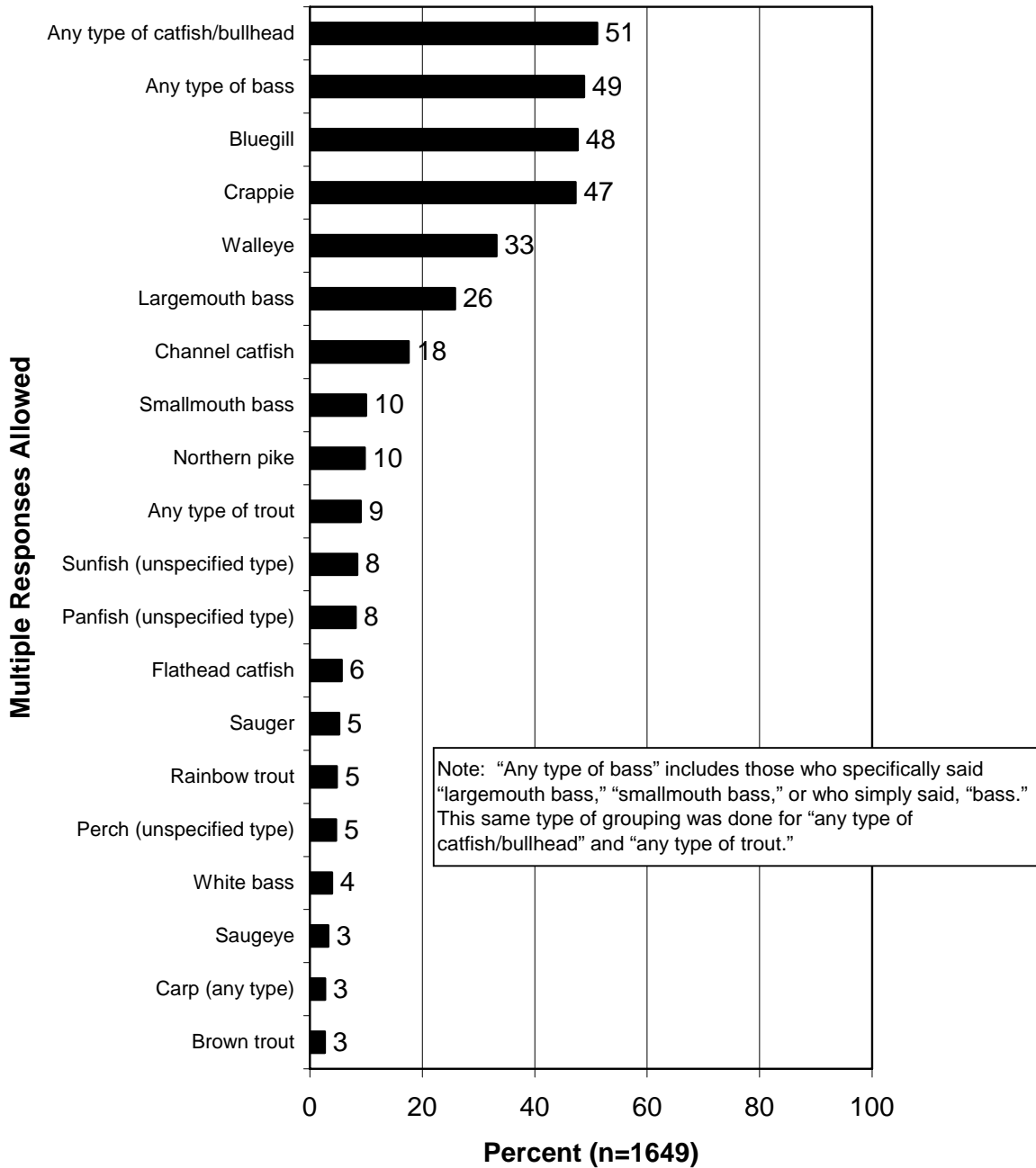
- The most-fished species of fish are catfish/bullhead (51% of anglers fished for these in the previous 12 months or the last year they fished), bass (49%), bluegill (48%), and crappie (47%)—the species that are most popular by far. Next in the ranking is walleye (33%), but with a much lower percentage having fished for that species.
  - An analysis was run of the species of fish sought by anglers in various types of water.
    - Catfish, bass, bluegill, walleye, and crappie are the species most fished for in *border rivers*.
    - Catfish, bass, crappie, and walleye are the species most fished for in *inland rivers*.
    - Trout is, by far, the species most fished for in *trout streams*.
    - Walleye, catfish, bass, and crappie are the species most fished for in *natural lakes*.
    - Crappie, catfish, and bass are the species most fished for in *reservoirs*.
    - Bass, crappie, catfish, and bluegill are the species most fished for in *constructed lakes*.
    - Bass, catfish, and crappie are the species most fished for in *oxbow lakes*.
    - Bass, crappie, bluegill, and catfish are the species most fished for in *farm ponds/gravel pits*.
  - For nearly every species, a greater percentage of avid anglers fished for them relative to casual anglers.
  - The regional crosstabulation found some marked differences among the regions in species fished. In particular, the listing below for each region shows the species that were markedly more commonly fished in that region relative to the other regions.
    - Southeast Region: catfish/bullhead (particularly channel catfish), crappie, and trout.
    - Northeast Region: walleye, northern pike, and trout.
    - Southwest Region: bass (particularly largemouth bass) and crappie.
    - Northwest Region: walleye and northern pike.
  - The data analysis by river region found some differences between river regions in species fished, the most important being that Missouri River Region anglers fished for bass more often than did Mississippi River Region anglers.
- Bass (49%) and catfish/bullhead (43%) are the types of fish that anglers most commonly say they fish for most often in Iowa, distantly followed by crappie (16%), bluegill (12%), walleye (9%), and trout (8%). (Note that the question in the first bullet above asked for all



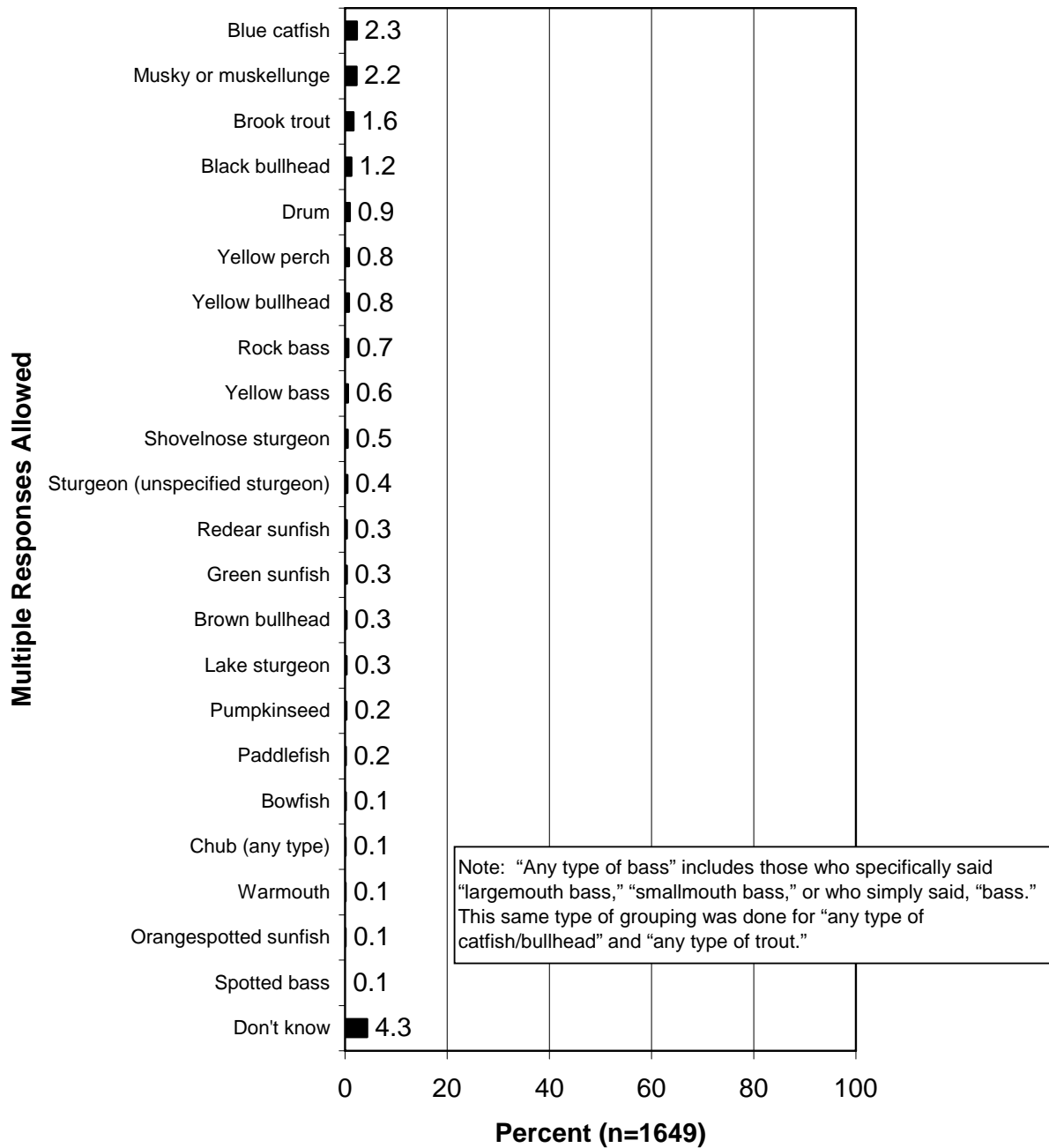
fish that anglers had fished for, while this question asked which *single* type of fish they *most often* fished for in Iowa.)

- When anglers were asked which single species of fish they would *prefer* to fish for, their answers closely mirror the fish that they most commonly fish for, with one notable exception: preference for walleye (14% prefer walleye) exceeds actual fishing for it (9% say that walleye is the species they most often fish for).
- The crosstabulations by avid versus casual angler shows that the two groups are similar in the type of fish they most commonly fish for and the type they prefer, with a couple of exceptions: avid anglers more often than casual anglers say their most-fished type is crappie or walleye, and avid anglers more often say they prefer walleye.
- The regional crosstabulation found some marked differences among the regions in species most commonly fished. In particular, the listing below for each region shows the species that are markedly more common in that region relative to the other regions.
  - Southeast Region: catfish/bullhead.
  - Northeast Region: bass, bluegill, and trout.
  - Southwest Region: bass and crappie.
  - Northwest Region: catfish/bullhead and walleye.
- The regional crosstabulation found some marked differences among the regions in species of fish preferred. In particular, the listing below for each region shows the species that are markedly more preferred in that region relative to the other regions.
  - Southeast Region: catfish/bullhead.
  - Northeast Region: bass, bluegill, and trout.
  - Southwest Region: bass.
  - Northwest Region: catfish/bullhead and walleye.
- The data analysis by river region found that anglers from both the Mississippi River Region and the Missouri River Region more often fish for catfish/bullhead than do anglers overall. Additionally, Mississippi River Region anglers fish for bass *less* often than anglers overall (Missouri River Region anglers are about the same as anglers overall in bass fishing). Regarding fish type that is *preferred*, the river region anglers are more likely to say that they prefer catfish/bullhead. Mississippi River Region anglers are *less* likely than angler overall to prefer bass.

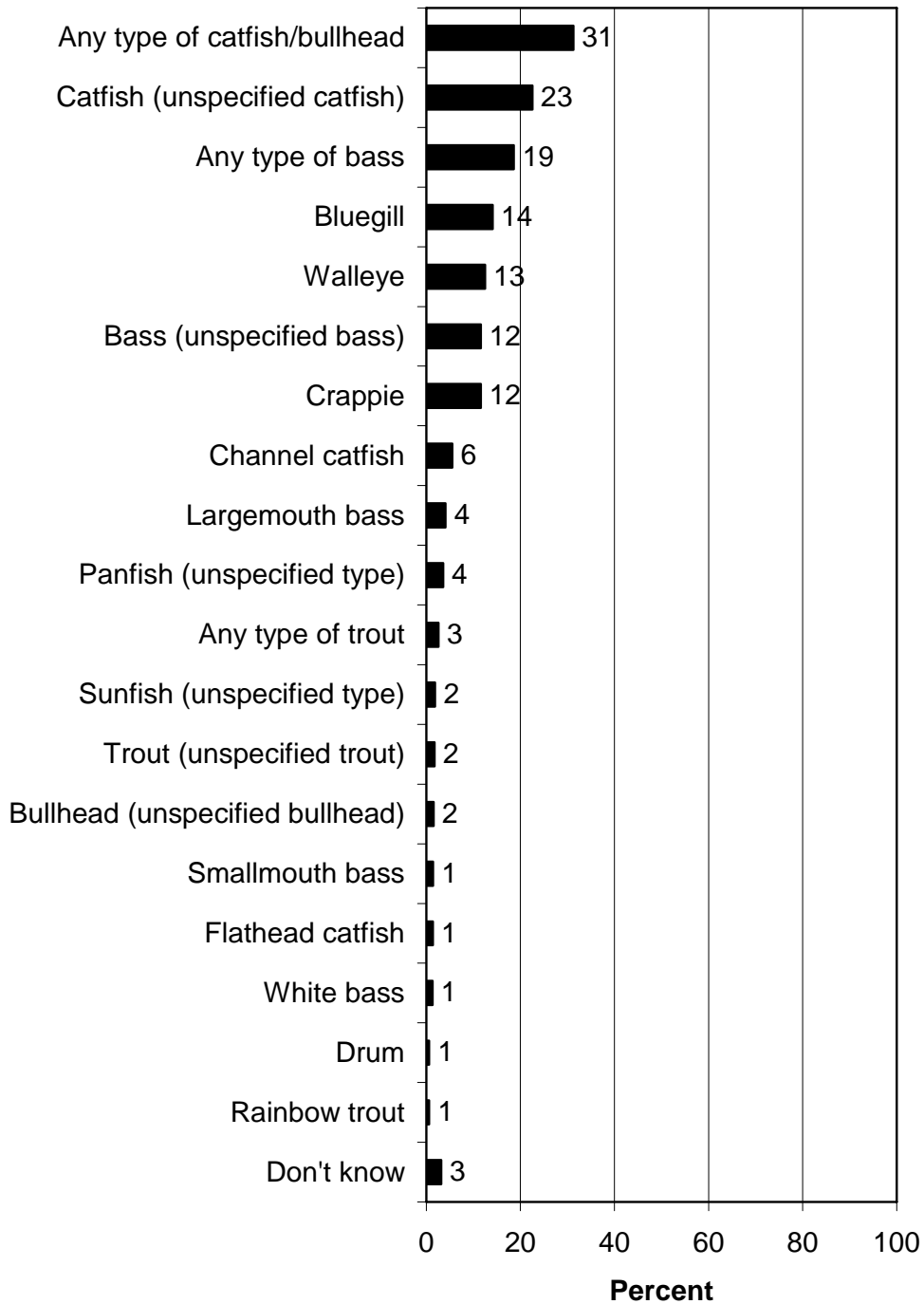
**Q25-47. Species fished for in Iowa in the past 12 months / last year fished.  
(Part 1)**



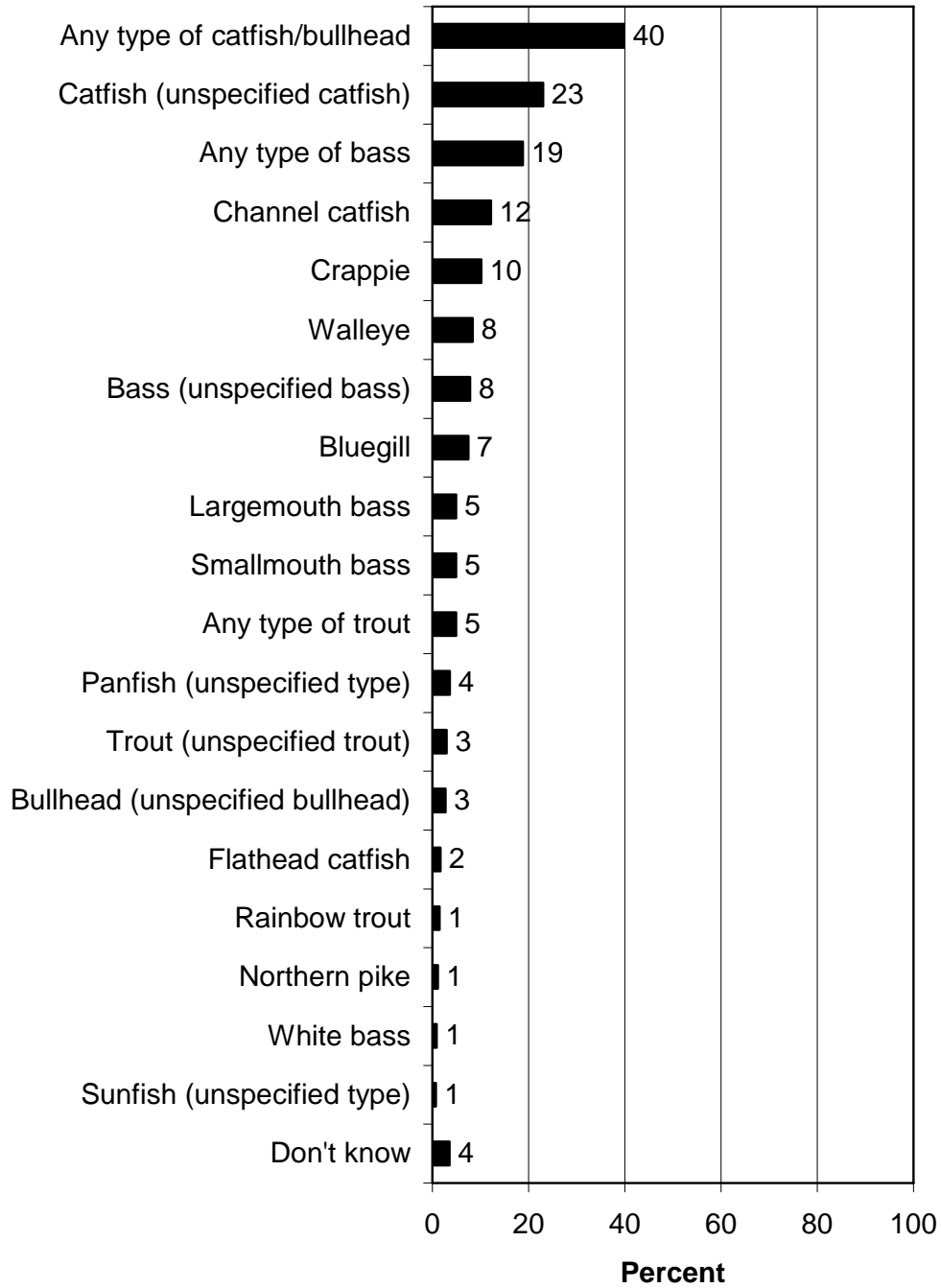
**Q25-47. Species fished for in Iowa in the past 12 months / last year fished.  
(Part 2)**



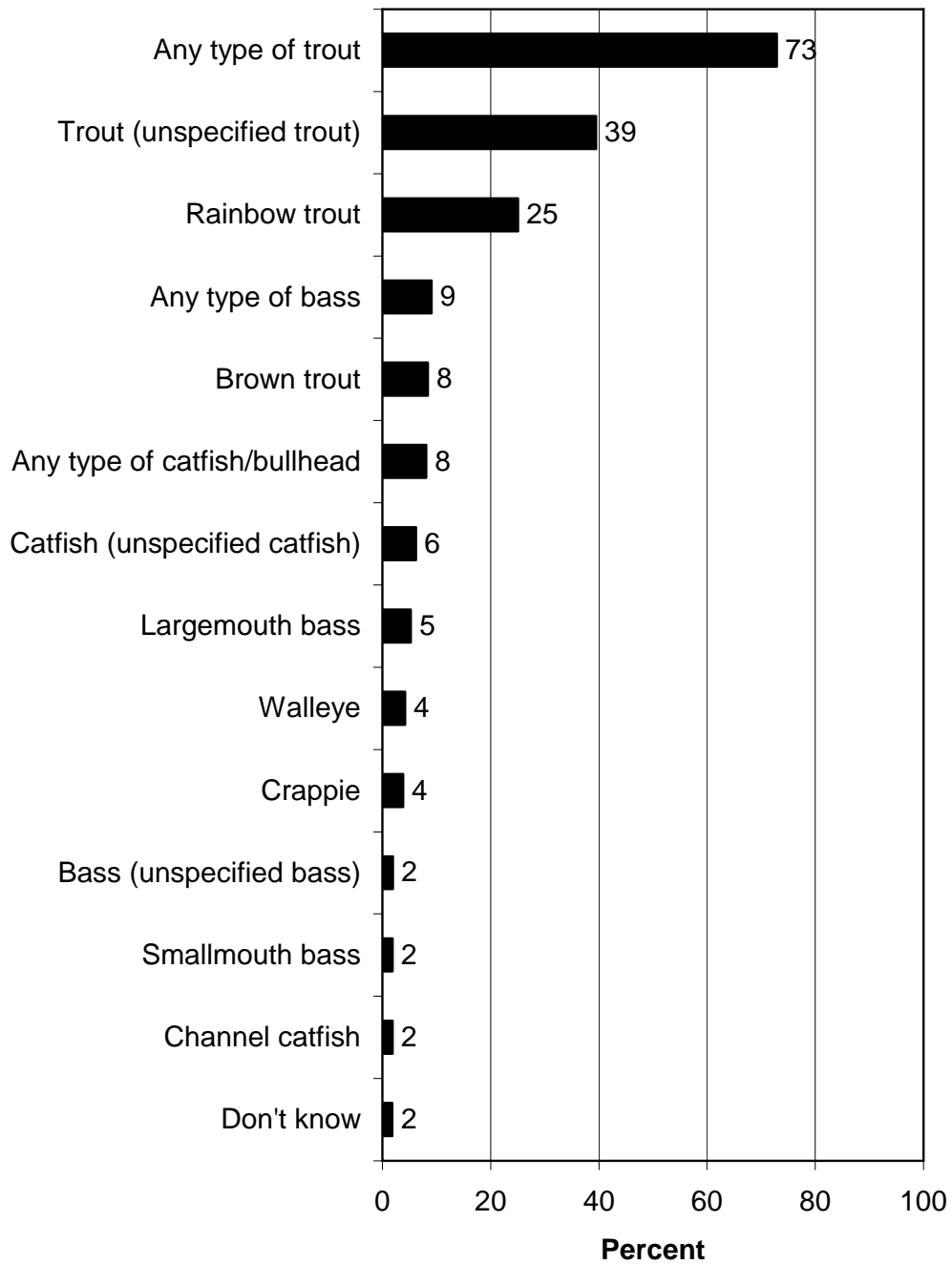
### Types of fish most fished for in border rivers.



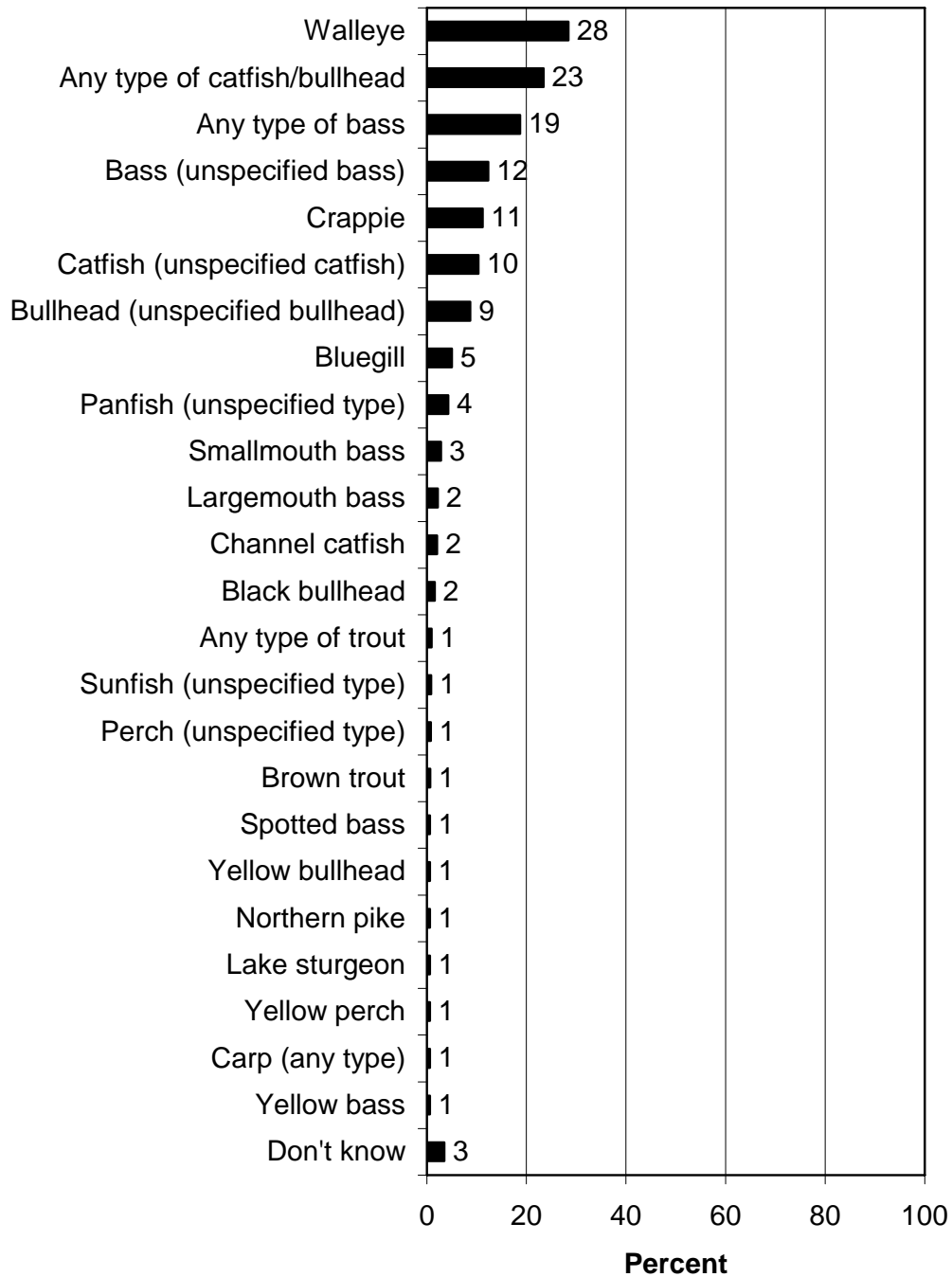
### Types of fish most fished for in inland rivers.



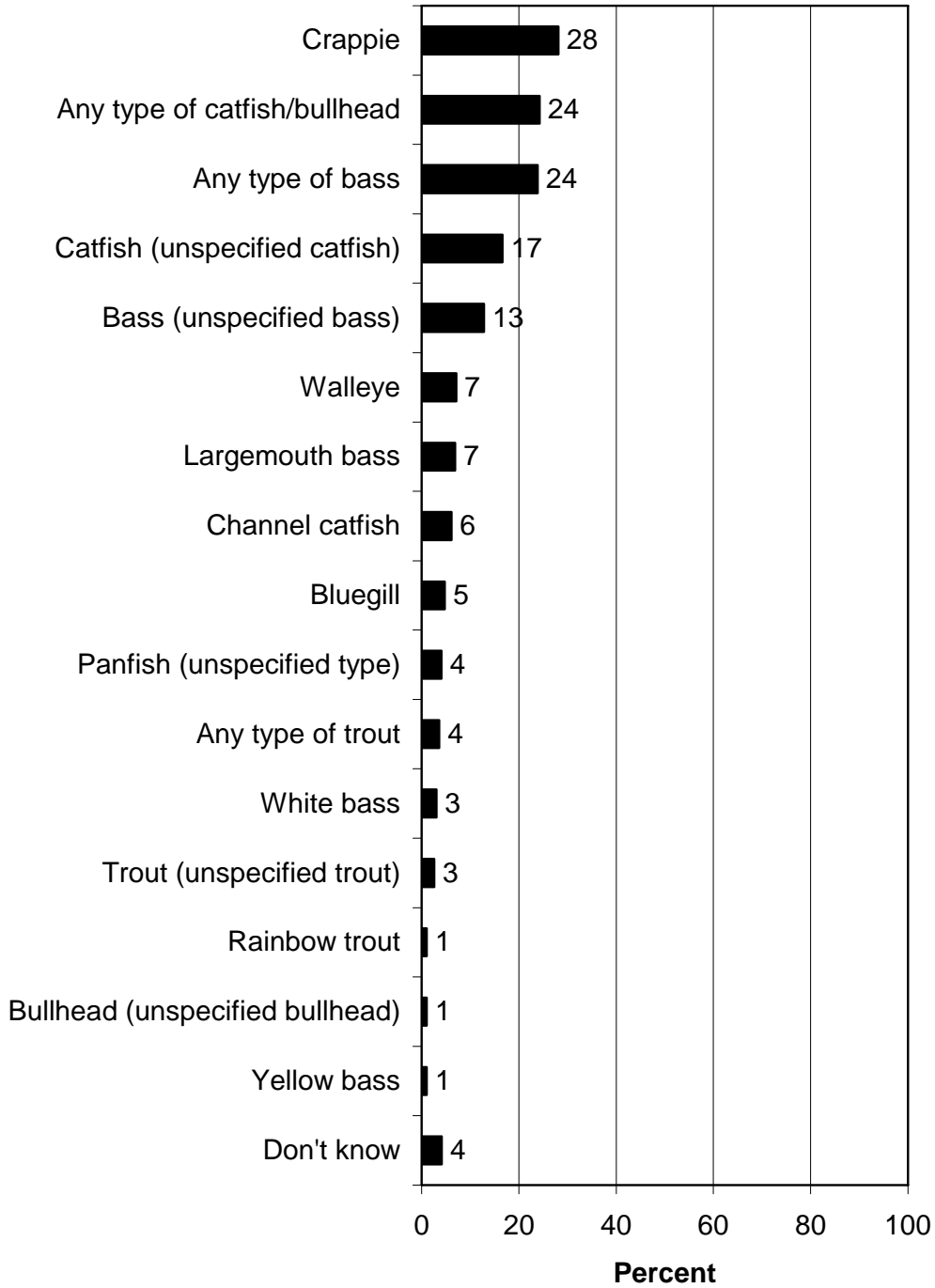
### Types of fish most fished for in trout streams.



### Types of fish most fished for in natural lakes.

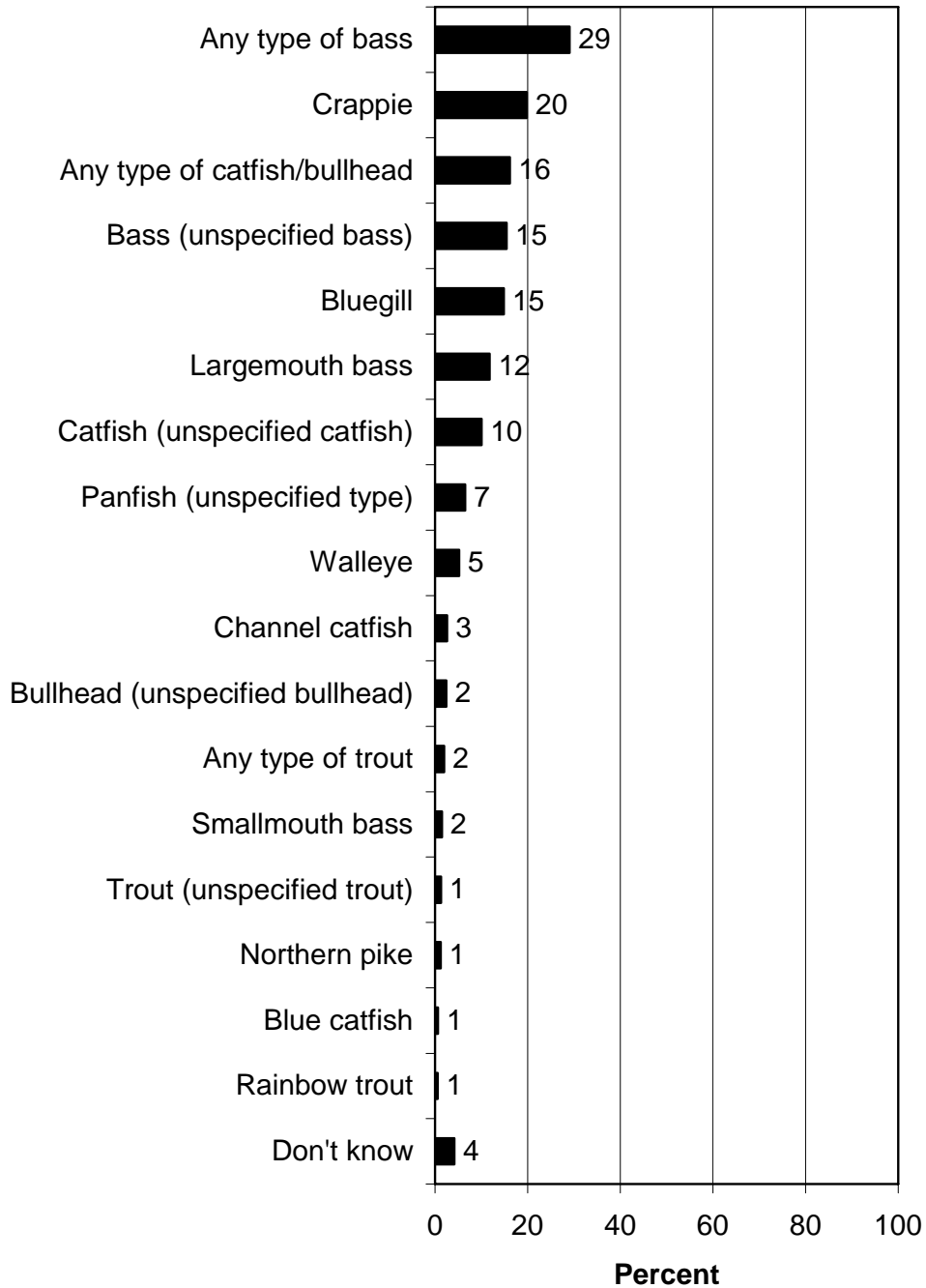


### Types of fish most fished for in reservoirs.

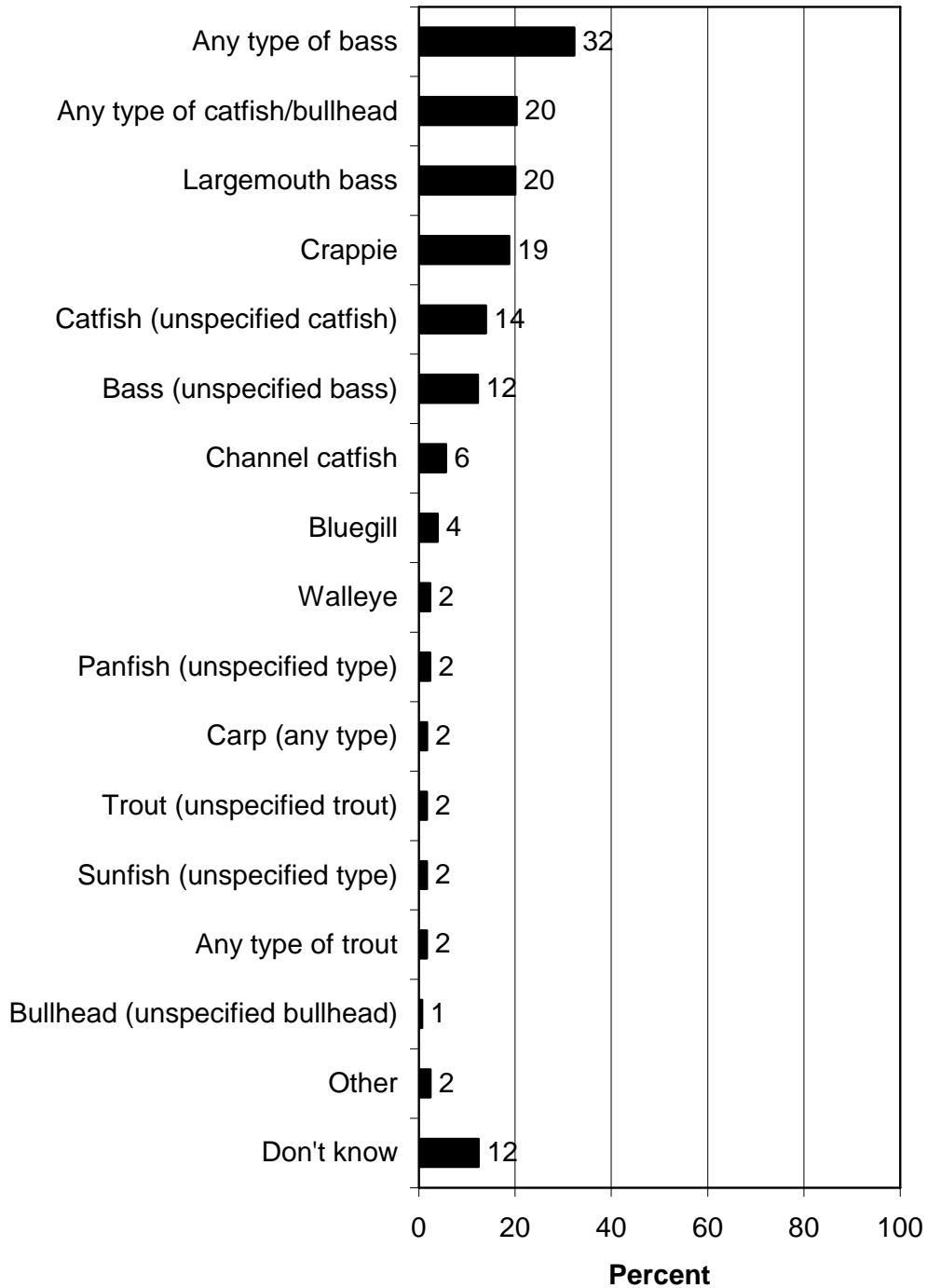




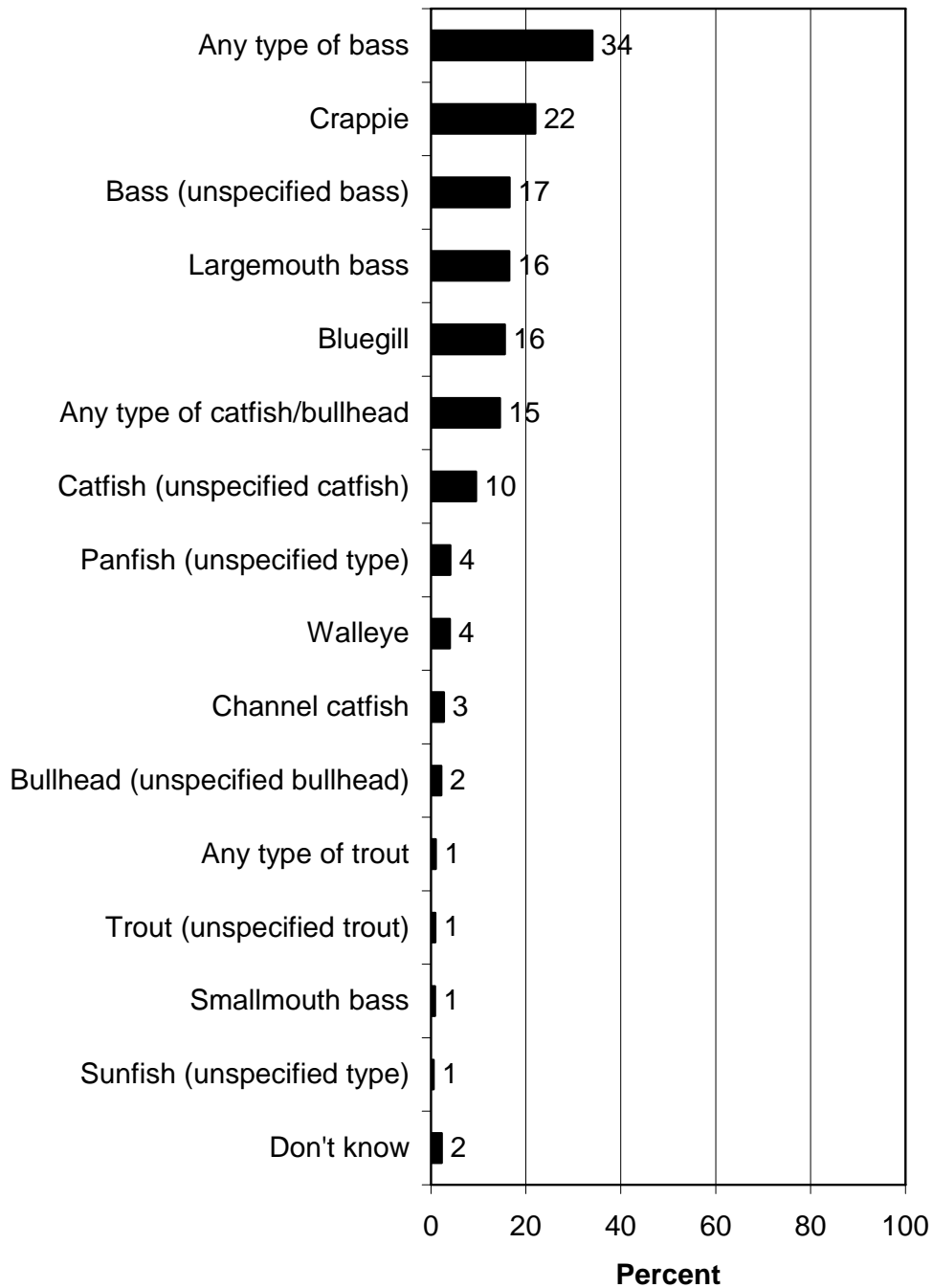
### Types of fish most fished for in constructed lakes.



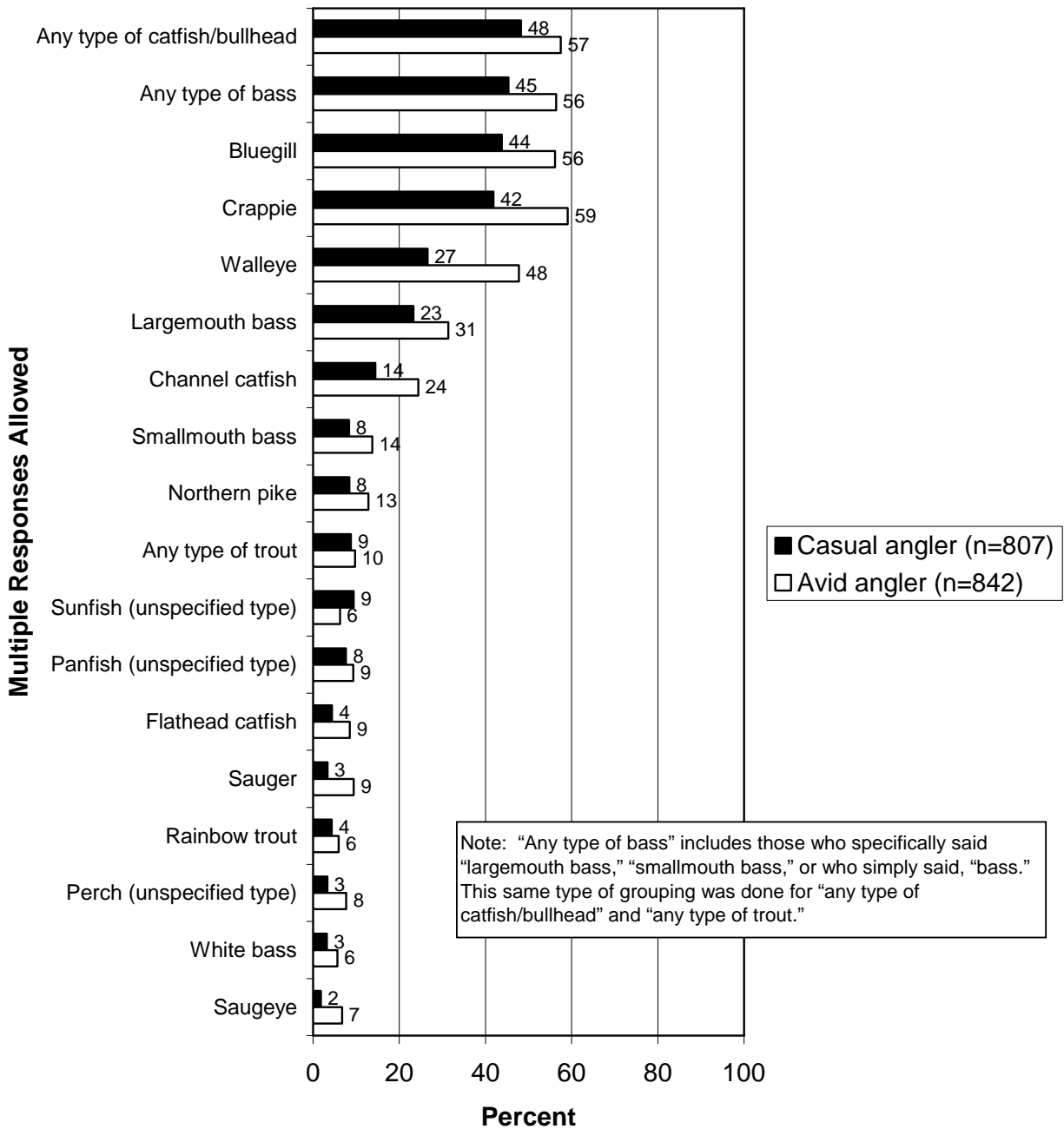
### Types of fish most fished for in oxbow lakes.



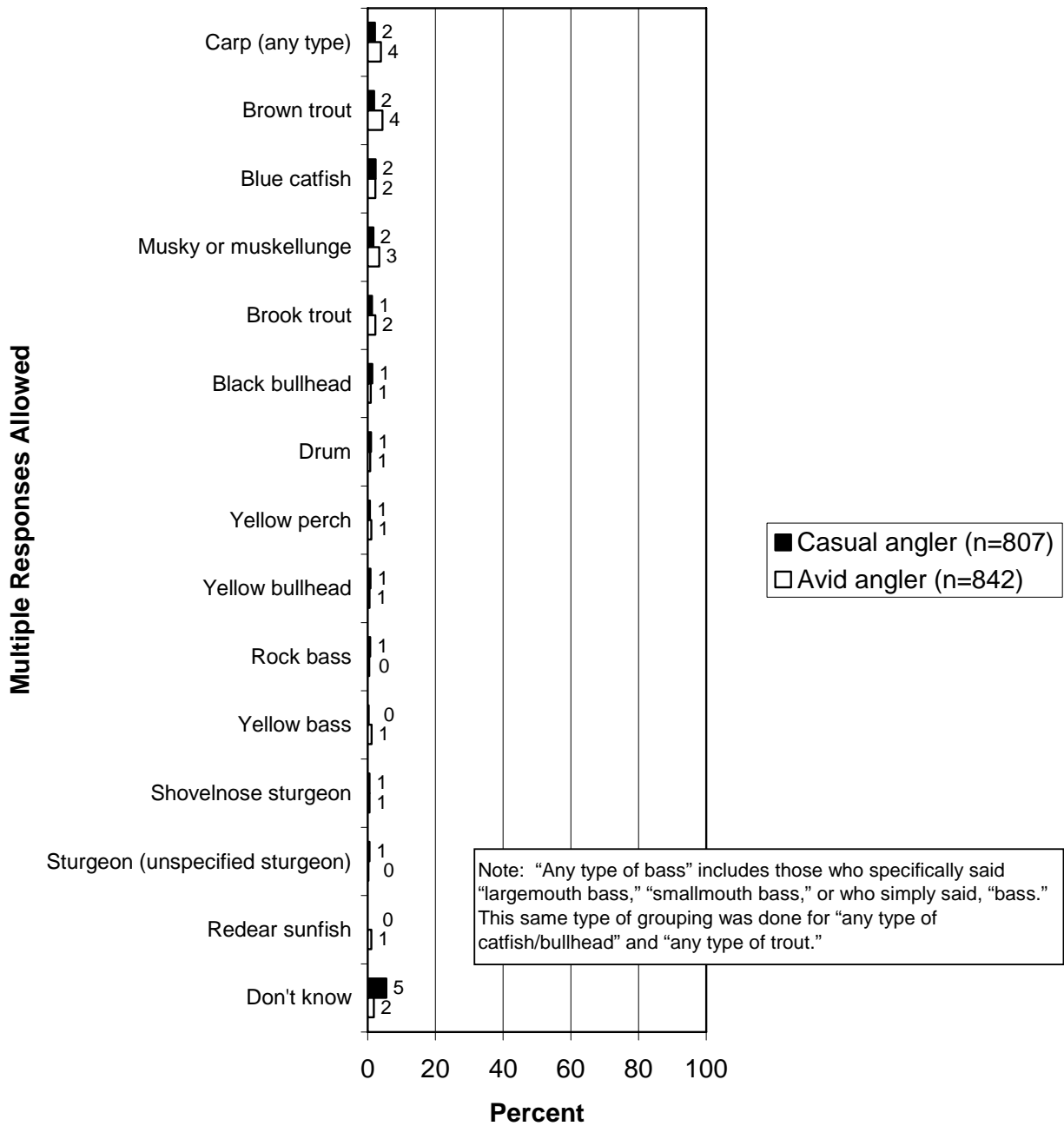
### Types of fish most fished for in farm ponds/gravel pits.



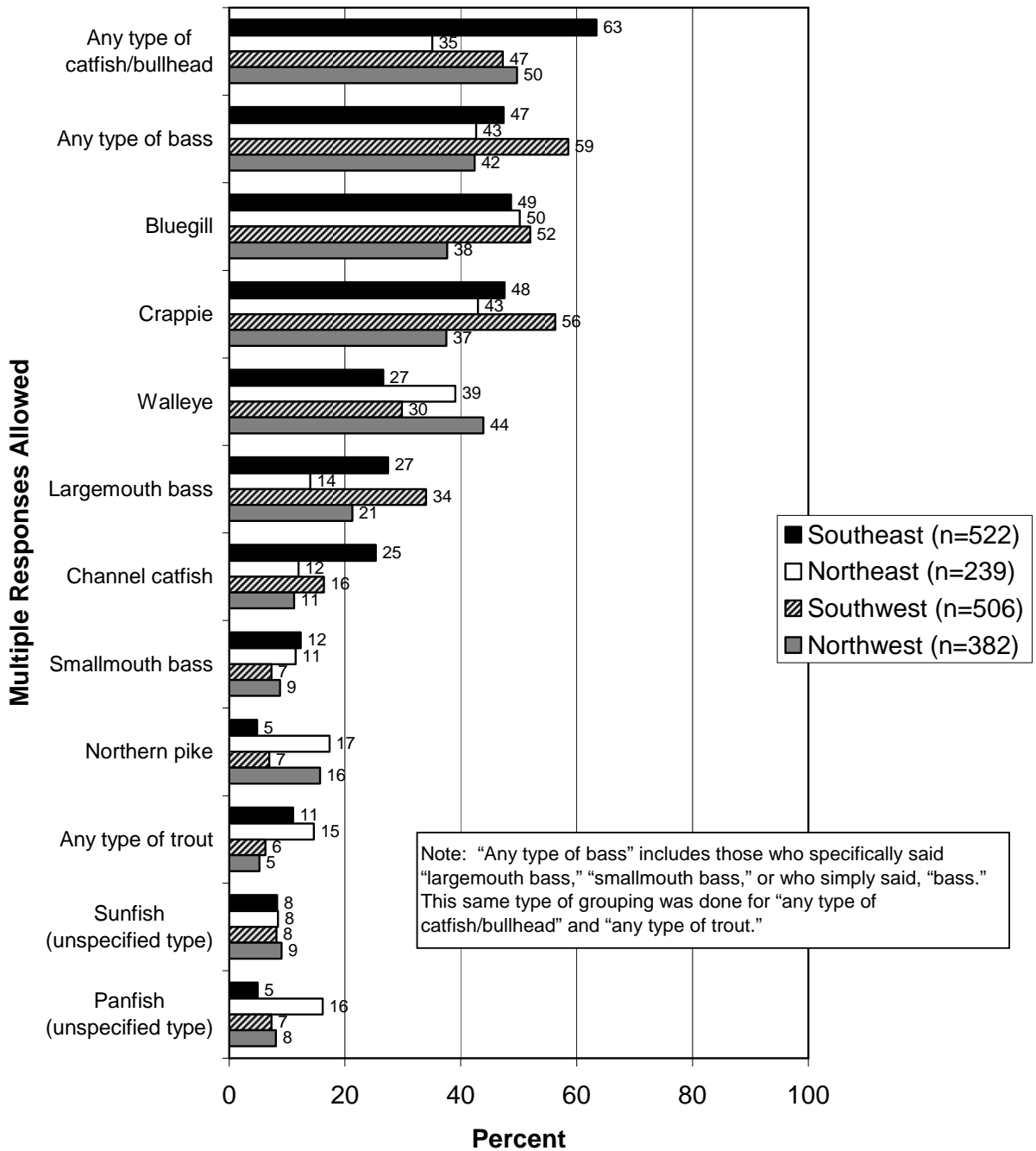
### Q25-47. Species fished for in Iowa in the past 12 months / last year fished. (Part 1)



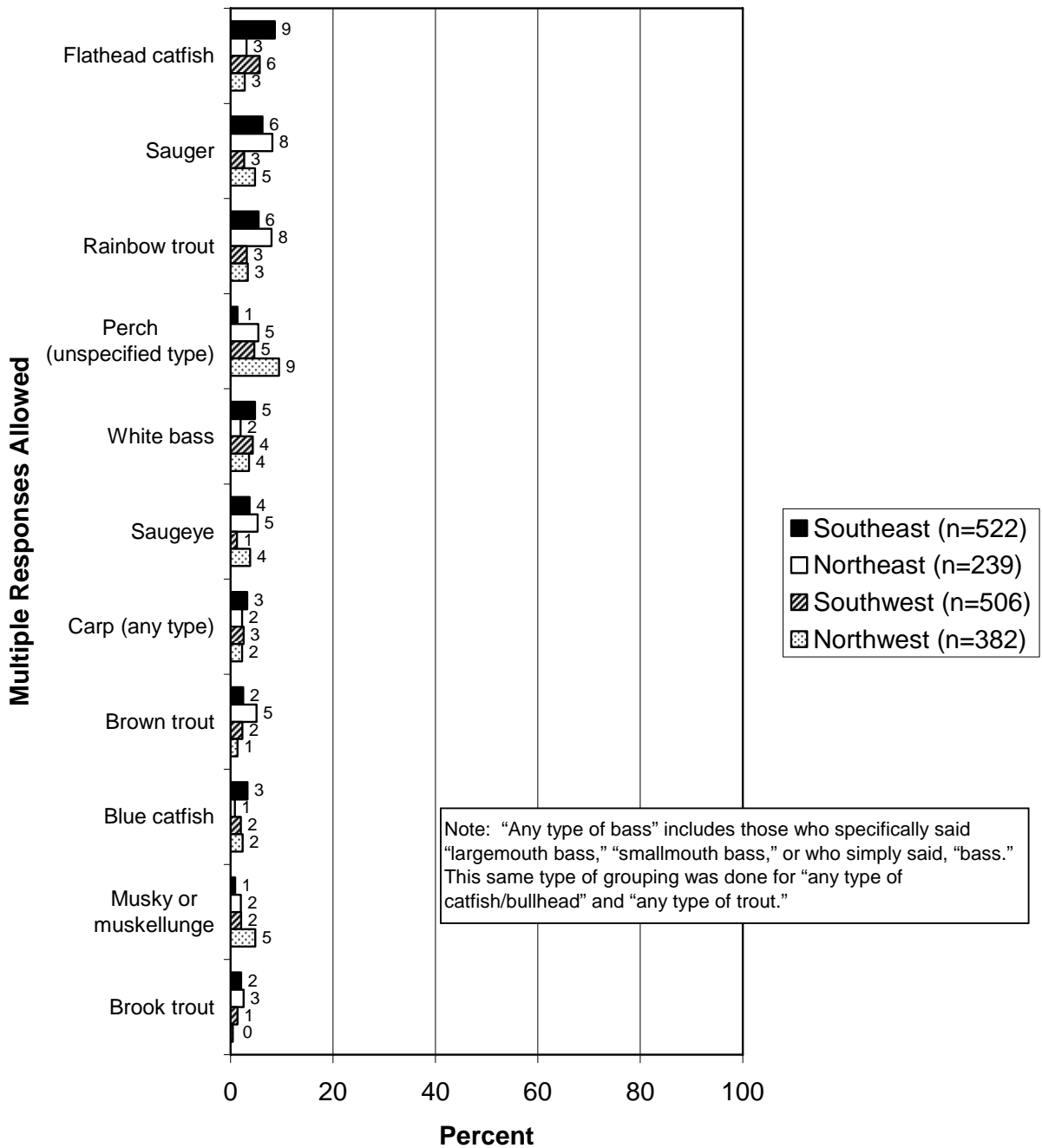
### Q25-47. Species fished for in Iowa in the past 12 months / last year fished. (Part 2)



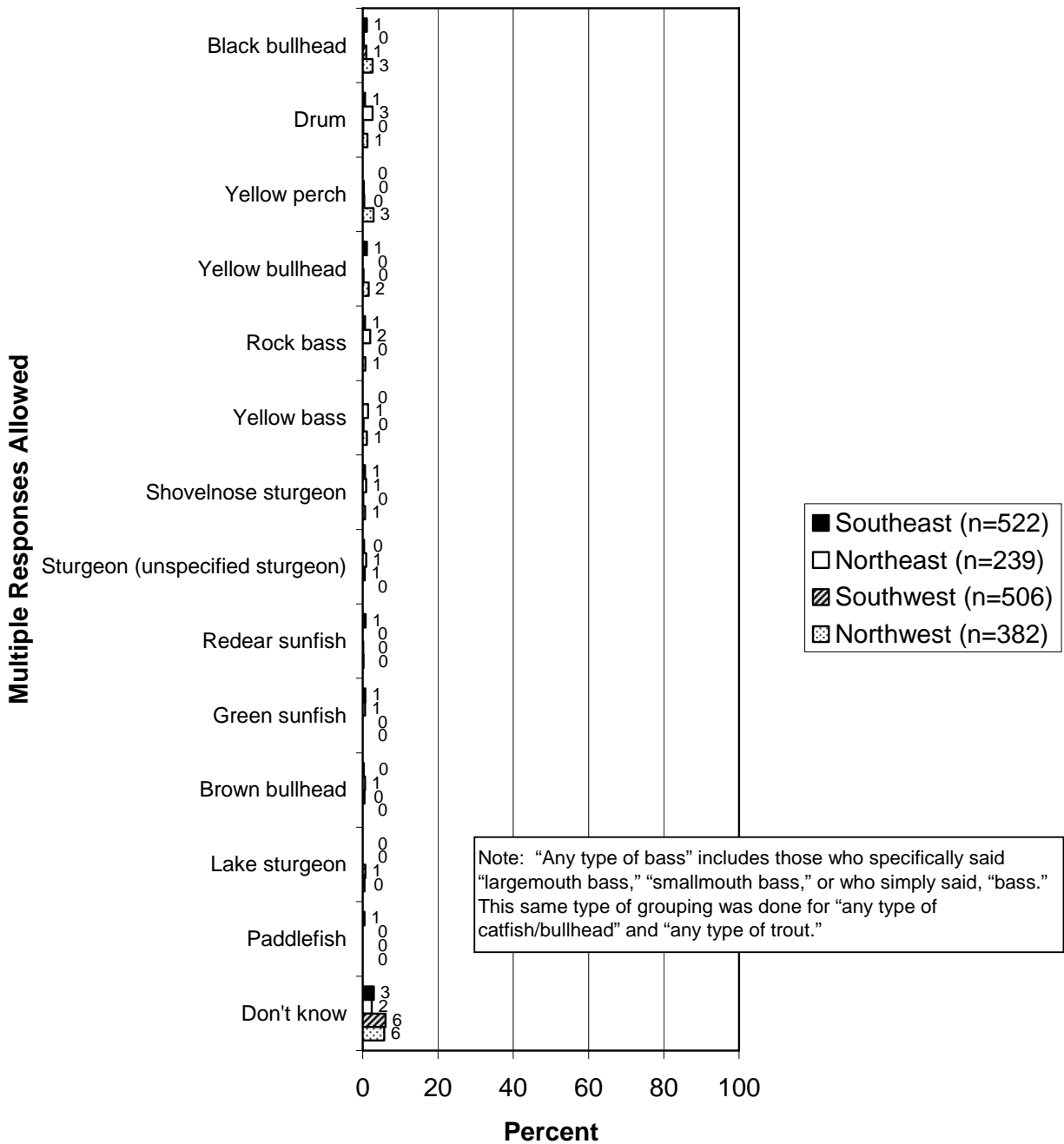
### Q25-47. Species fished for in Iowa in the past 12 months / last year fished. (Part 1)



### Q25-47. Species fished for in Iowa in the past 12 months / last year fished. (Part 2)

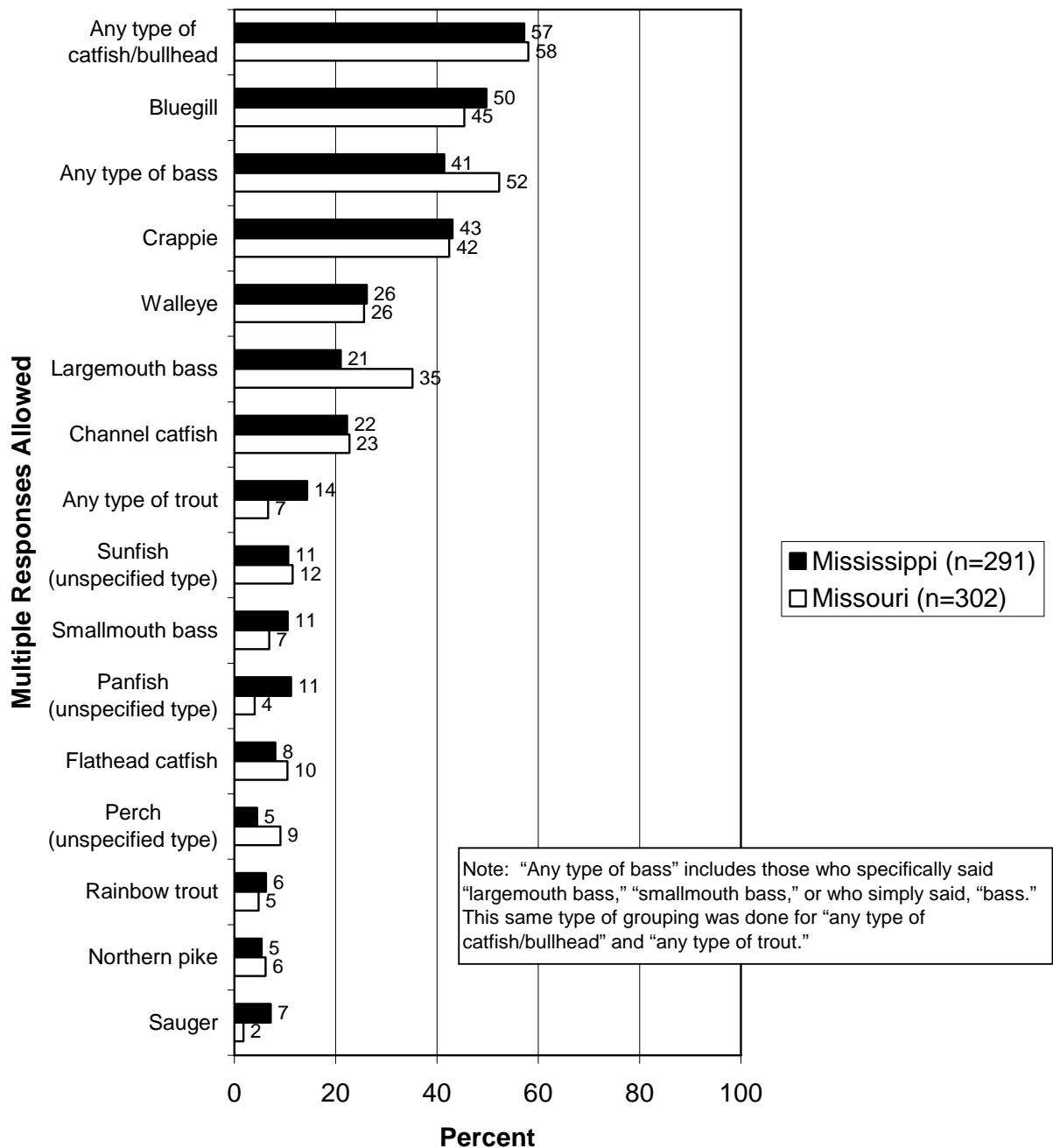


### Q25-47. Species fished for in Iowa in the past 12 months / last year fished. (Part 3)

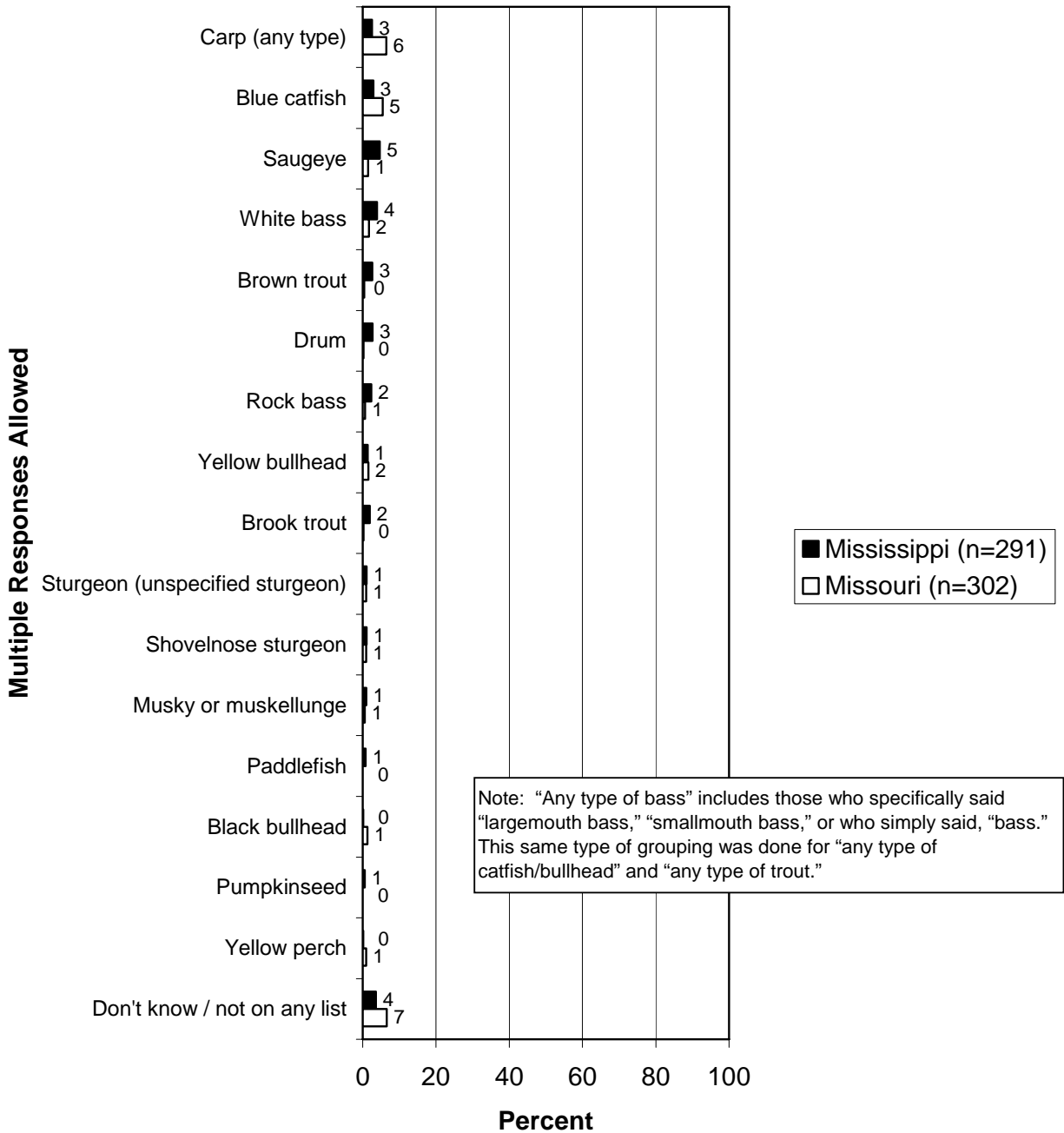




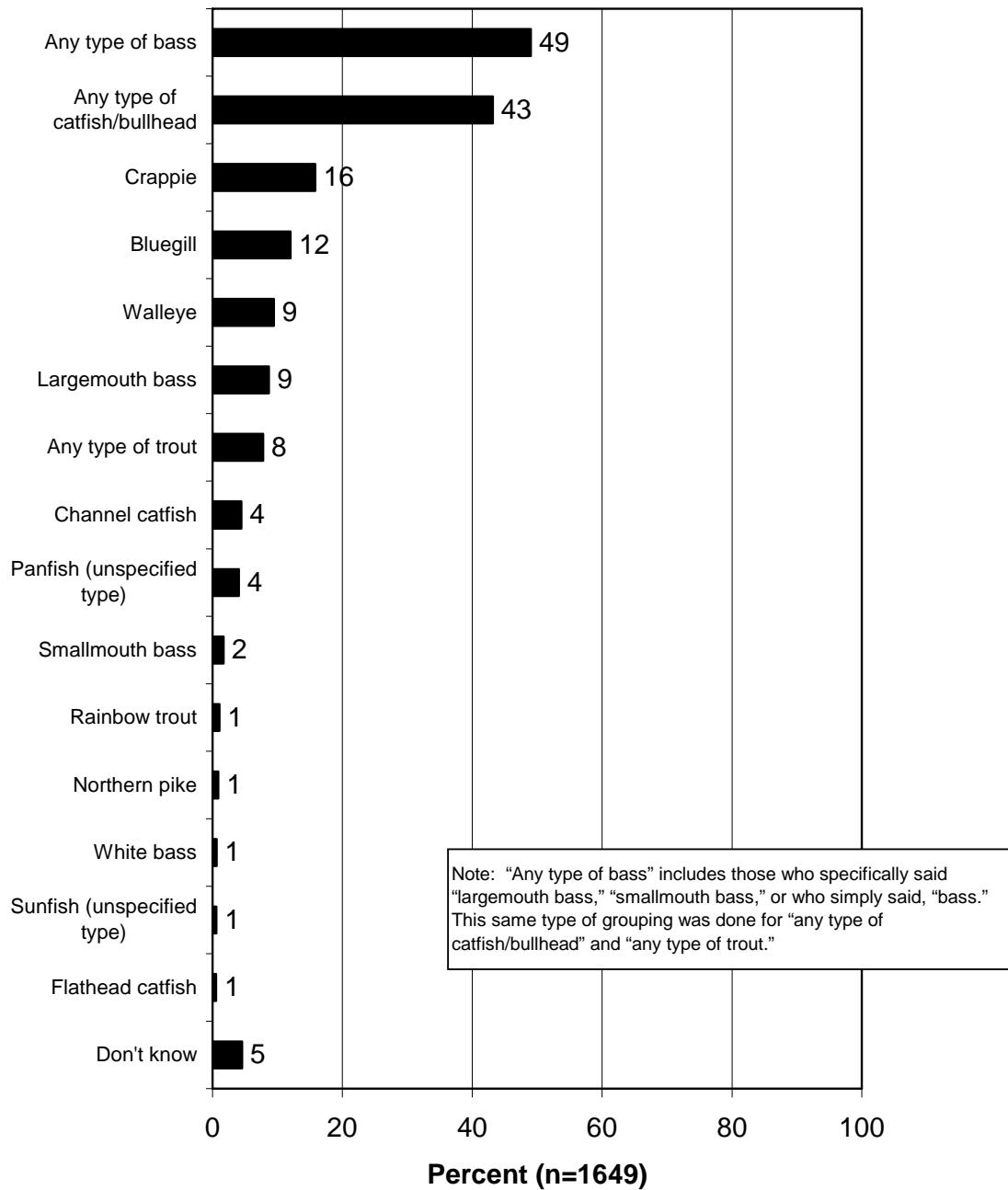
**Q25-47. Species fished for in Iowa in the past 12 months / last year fished.  
(Part 1)**



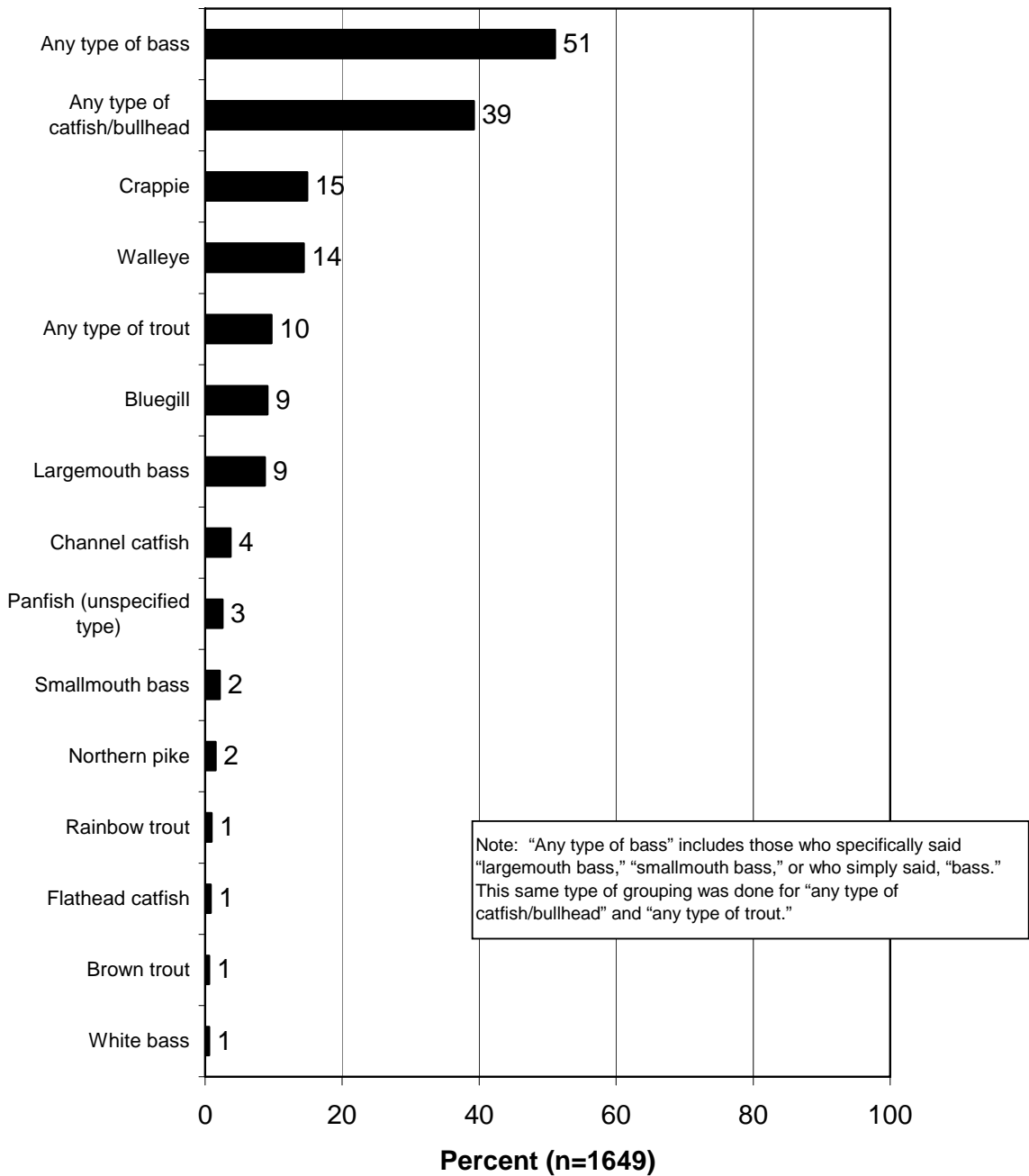
**Q25-47. Species fished for in Iowa in the past 12 months / last year fished.  
(Part 2)**



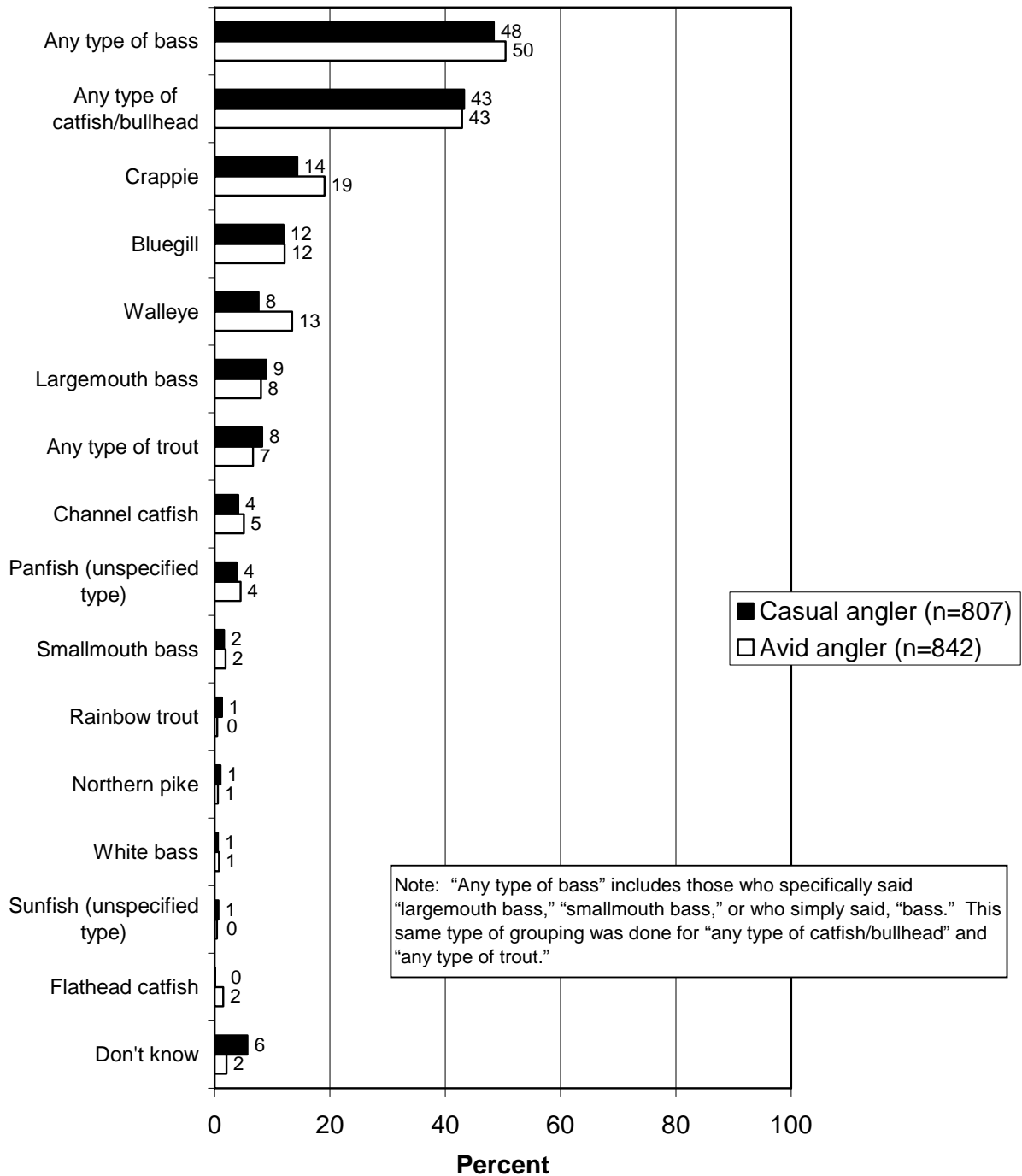
### Q51. Which one species do you most often fish for in Iowa?



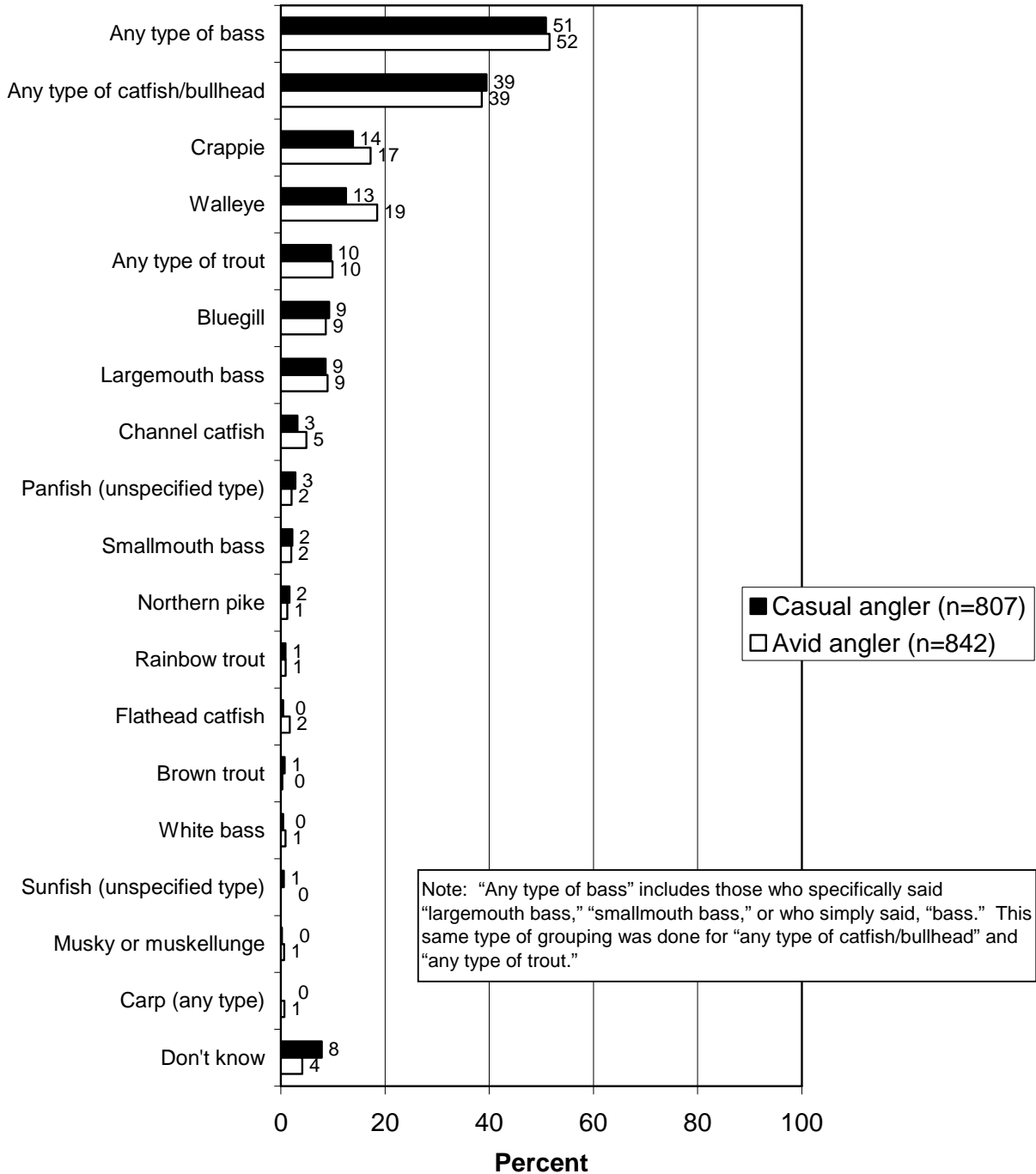
### Q54. Which one species would you most prefer to fish for?



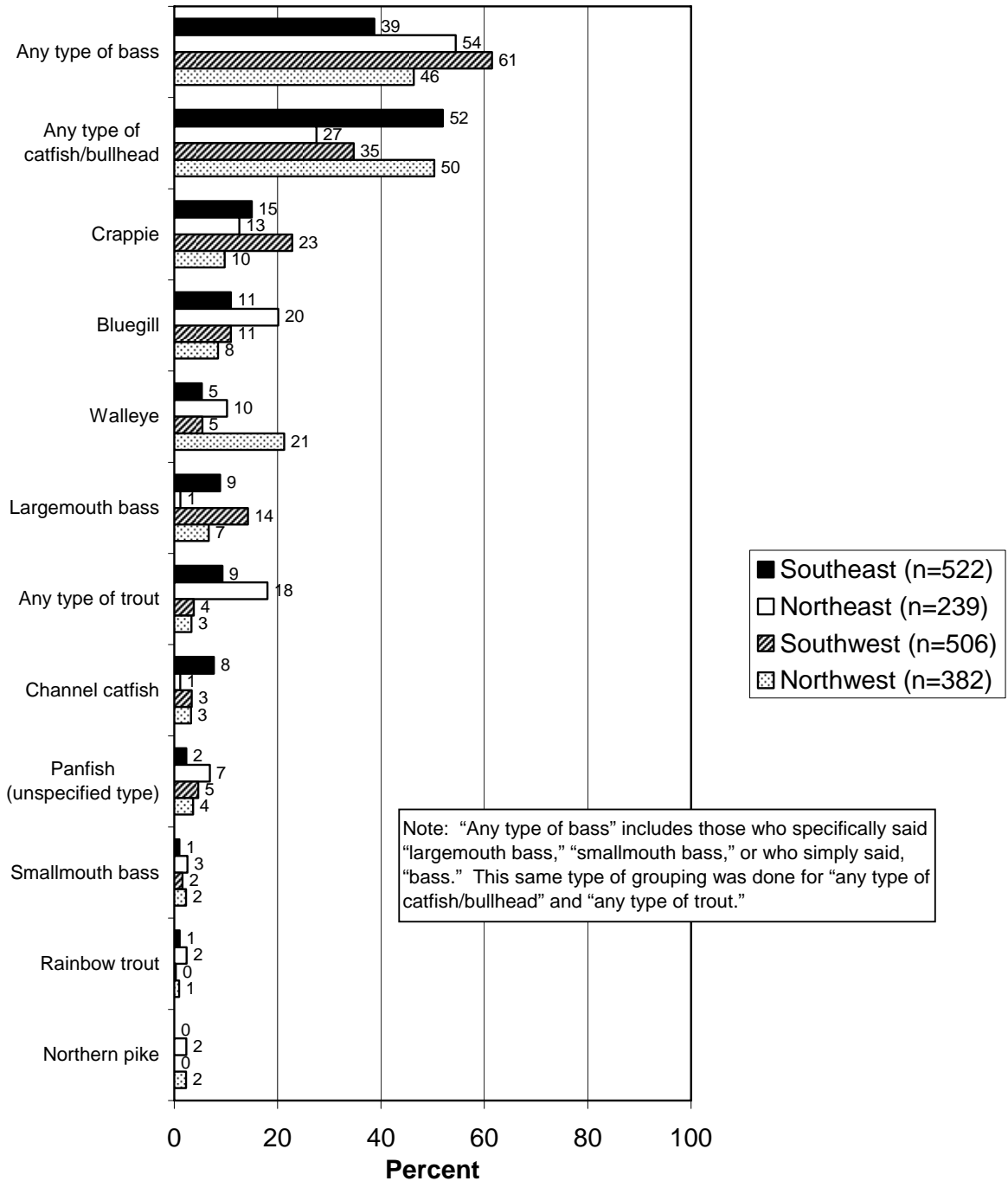
### Q51. Which one species do you most often fish for in Iowa?



### Q54. Which one species would you most prefer to fish for?



### Q51. Which one species do you most often fish for in Iowa? (Part 1)

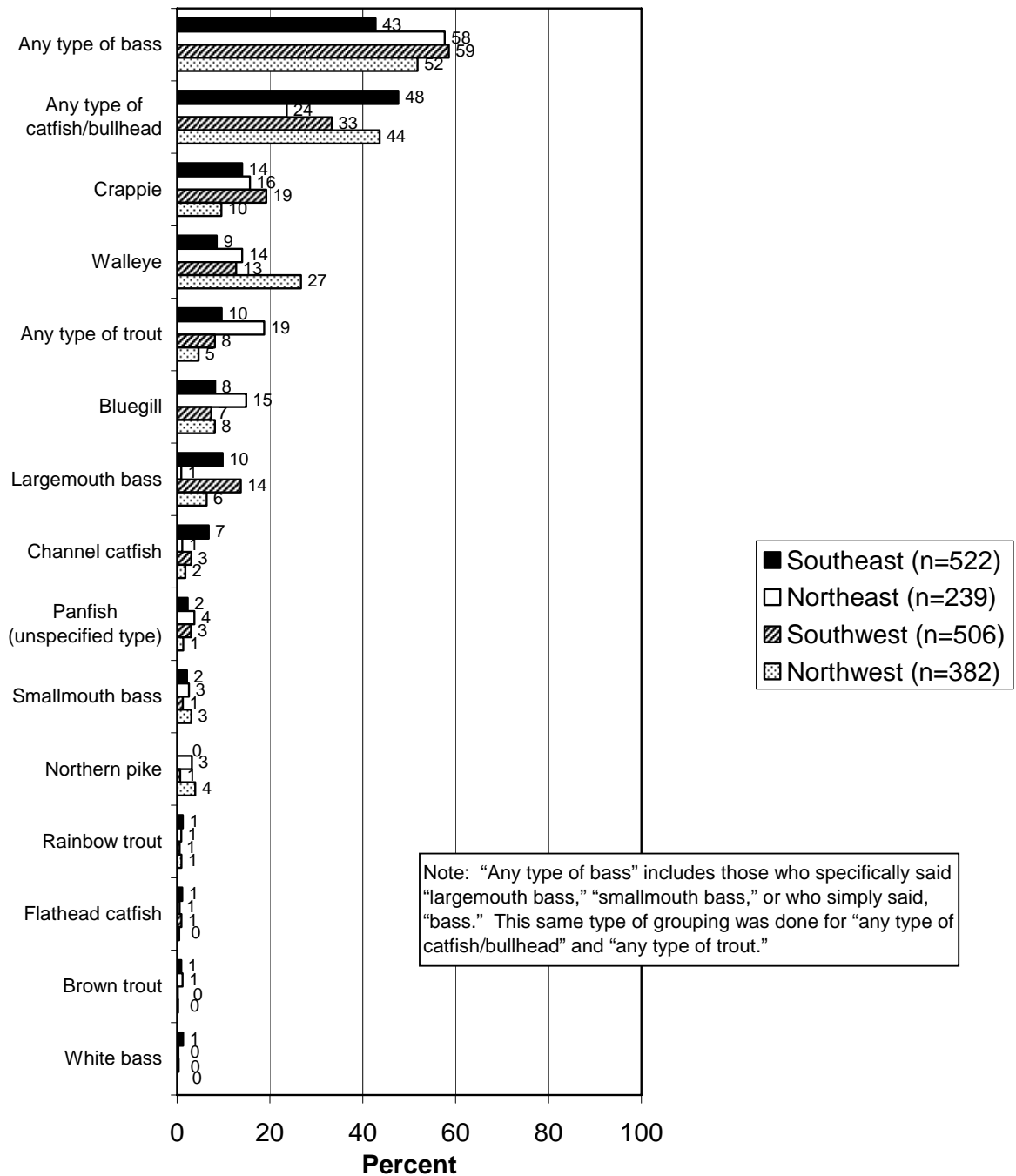


### Q51. Which one species do you most often fish for in Iowa? (Part 2)

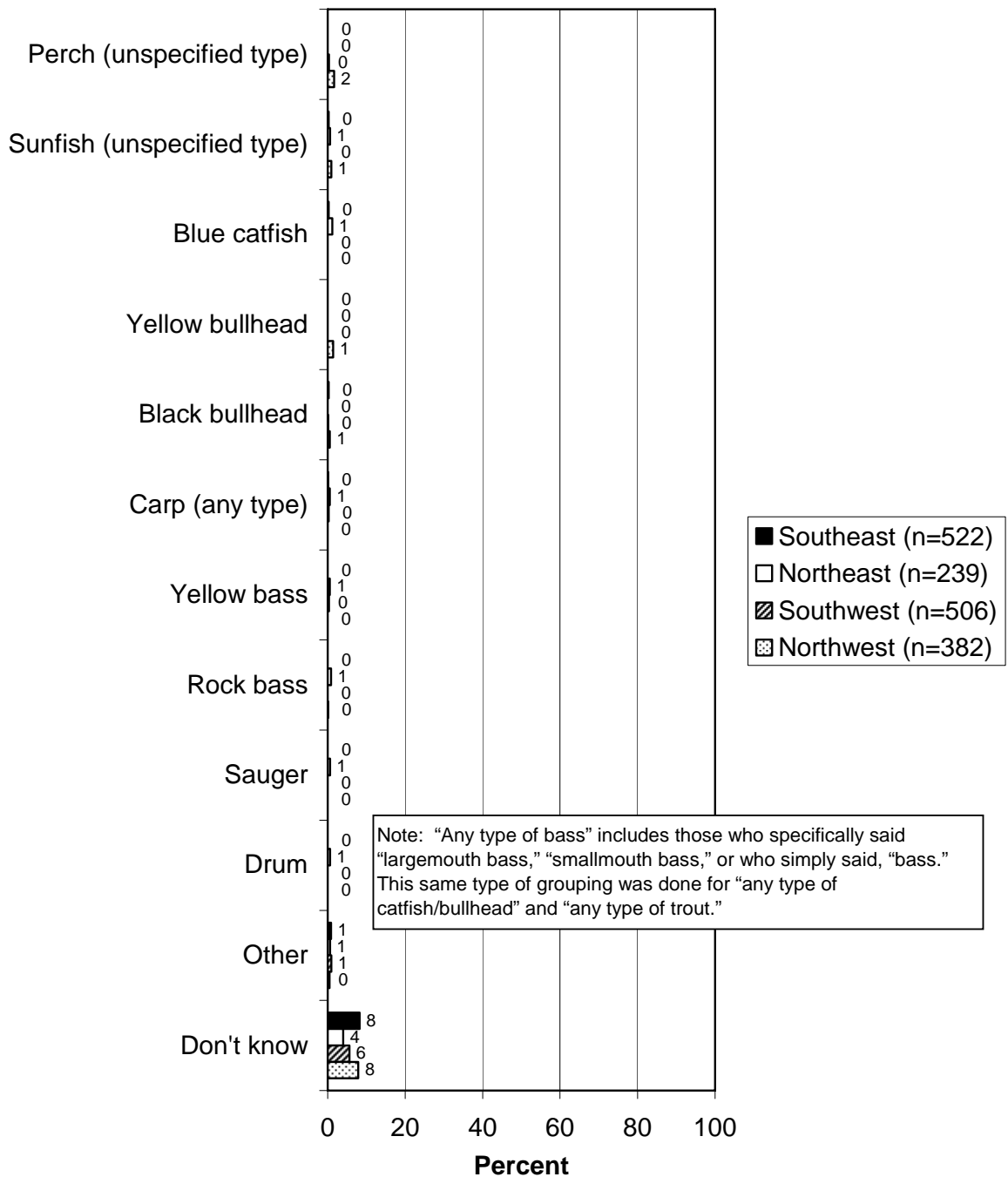




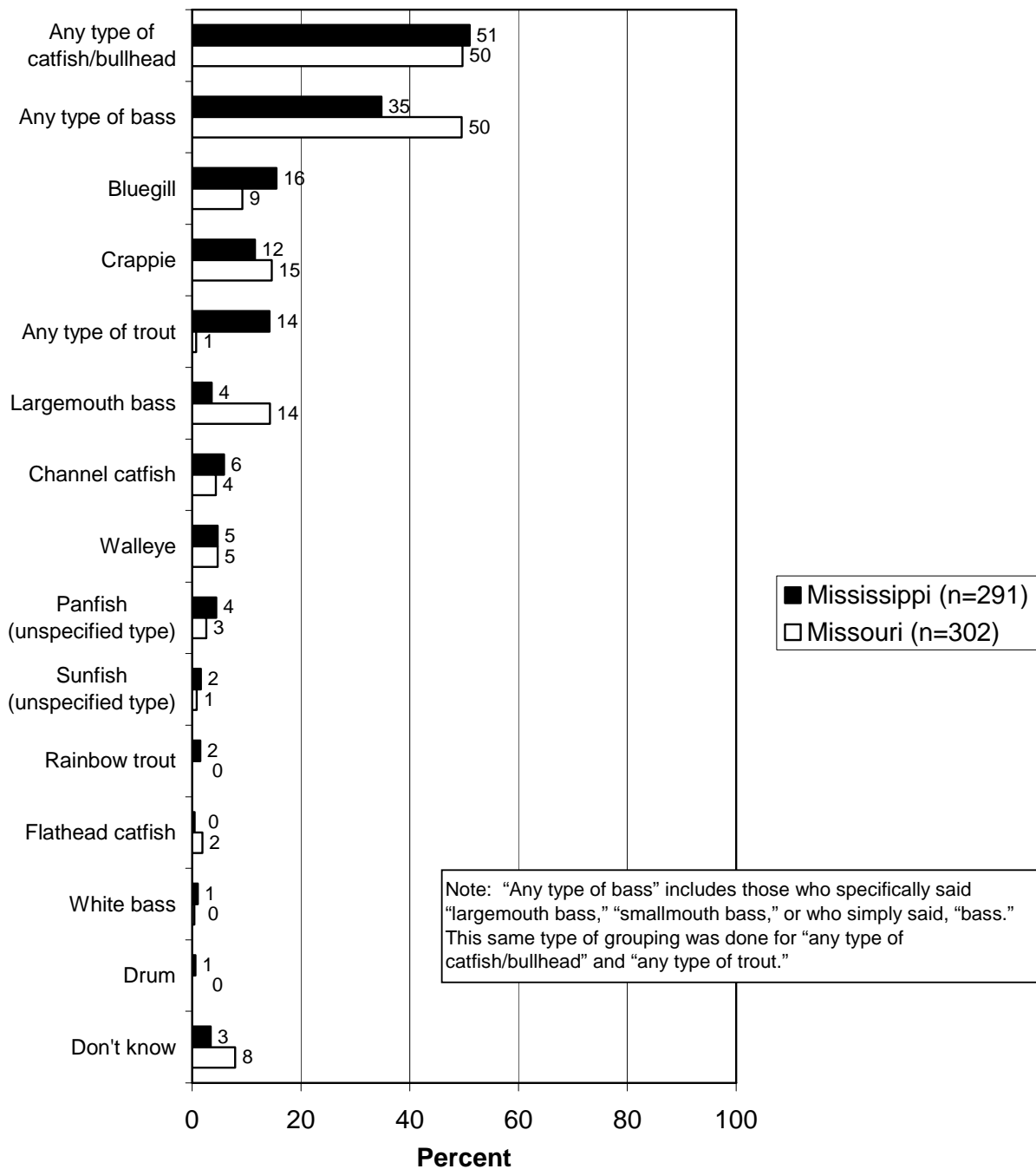
### Q54. Which one species would you most prefer to fish for? (Part 1)



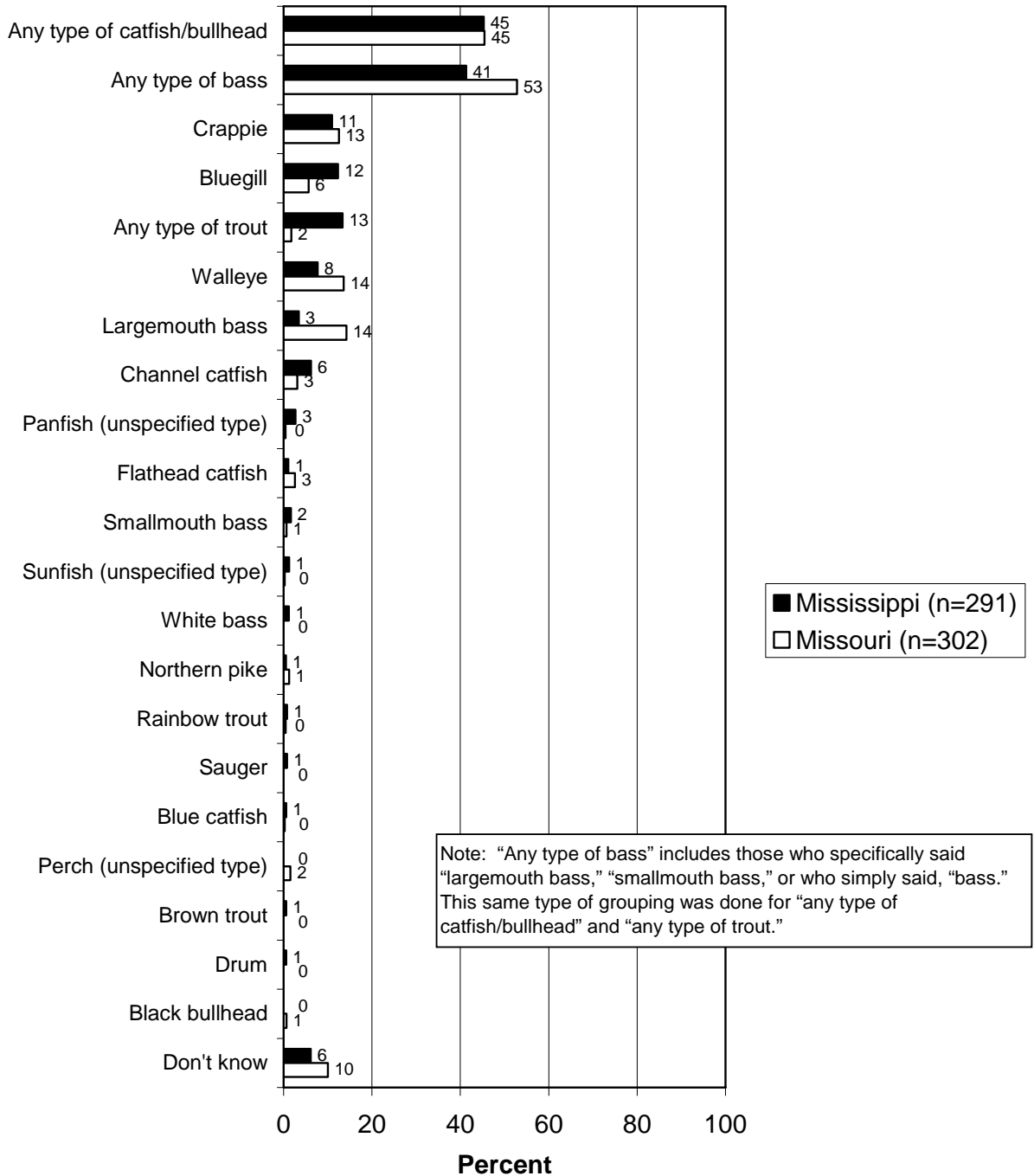
### Q54. Which one species would you most prefer to fish for? (Part 2)



### Q51. Which one species do you most often fish for in Iowa?



### Q54. Which one species would you most prefer to fish for?

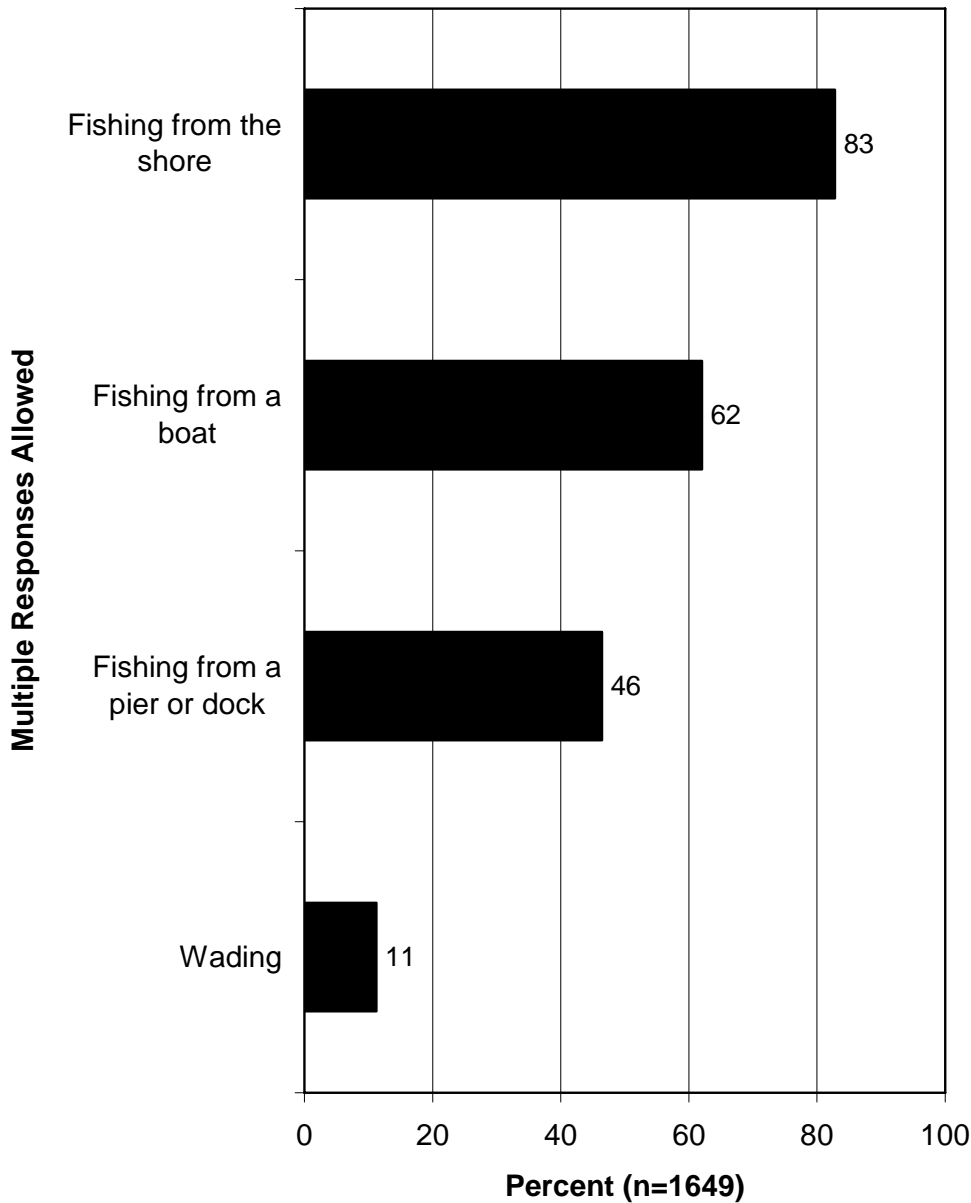


## METHODS OF FISHING

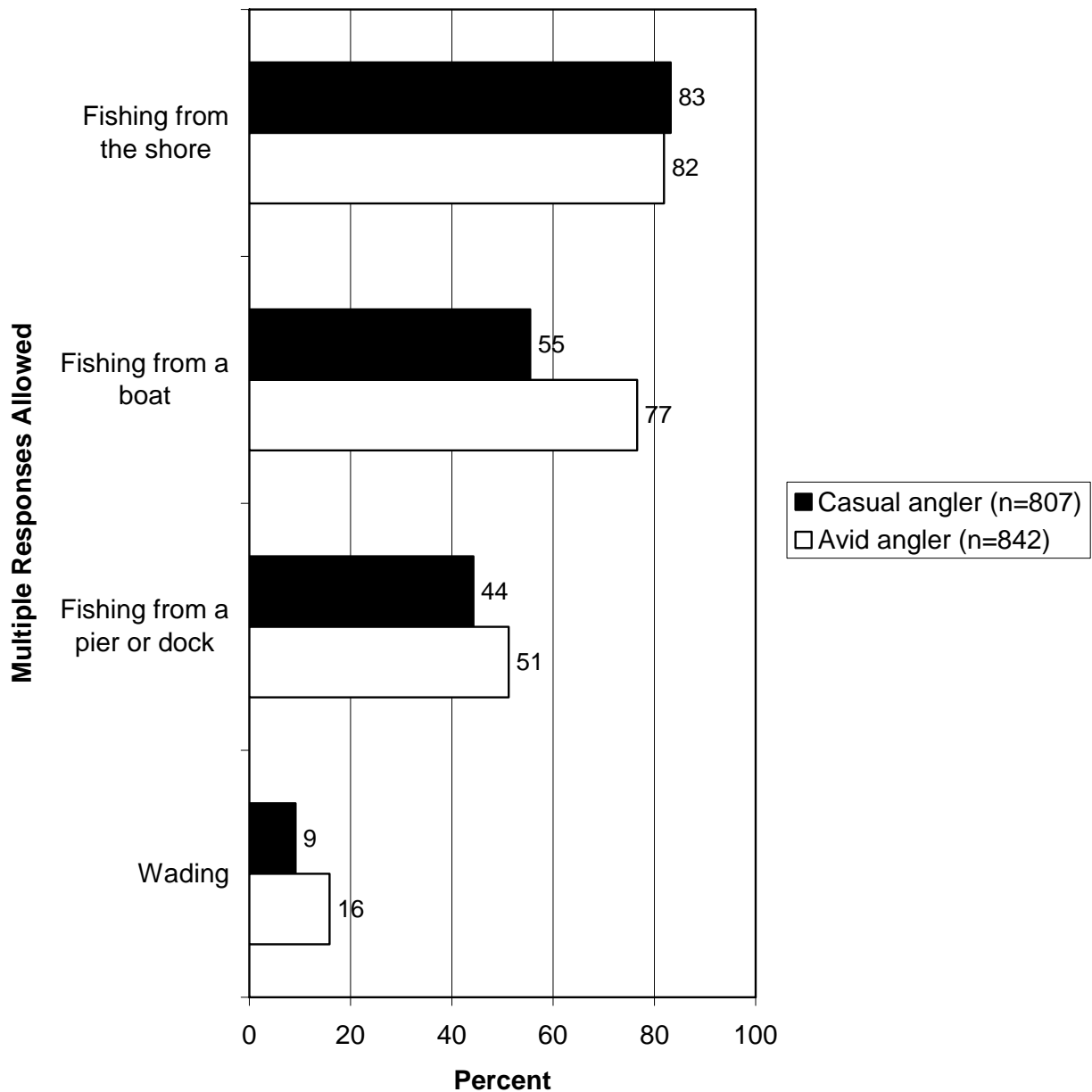
### Methods of Fishing in General

- The large majority of Iowa anglers (83%) fished from the shore at least some of the time, while 62% fished from a boat, 46% fished from a pier or dock, and 11% waded while fishing in Iowa in the past 12 months or last year they fished.
  - Avid anglers are more likely than casual anglers to have fished from a boat, fished from a pier or dock, or waded while fishing in the past 12 months or last year they fished.
  - In the regional crosstabulation, Northeast Region anglers are slightly more likely than the other anglers to have fished from a boat. Meanwhile, Northwest Region anglers are more likely than the other anglers to have fished from a pier or dock.
  - Interestingly, Mississippi River Region anglers are only slightly more likely than anglers overall to have fished from a boat. Mississippi River Region anglers are *less* likely than anglers overall to have fished from a pier or dock. Missouri River Region anglers are slightly less likely to have fished from a boat, when compared to anglers overall, and they are about the same regarding fishing from a pier or dock.
  
- A large majority of Iowa anglers (72%) did catch-and-release fishing at least some of the time. Smaller amounts went ice fishing (15%), fly fishing (7%), or fishing in a tournament (3%) in Iowa in the past 12 months or last year they fished.
  - Avid anglers are more likely than casual anglers to have done catch-and-release, gone ice fishing, gone fly fishing, or fished in a tournament in the past 12 months or last year they fished in Iowa.
  - The regional crosstabulation shows no marked differences among the regions on this question.
  - The data analysis by river region found no marked differences between anglers overall and anglers from either river region on this question.

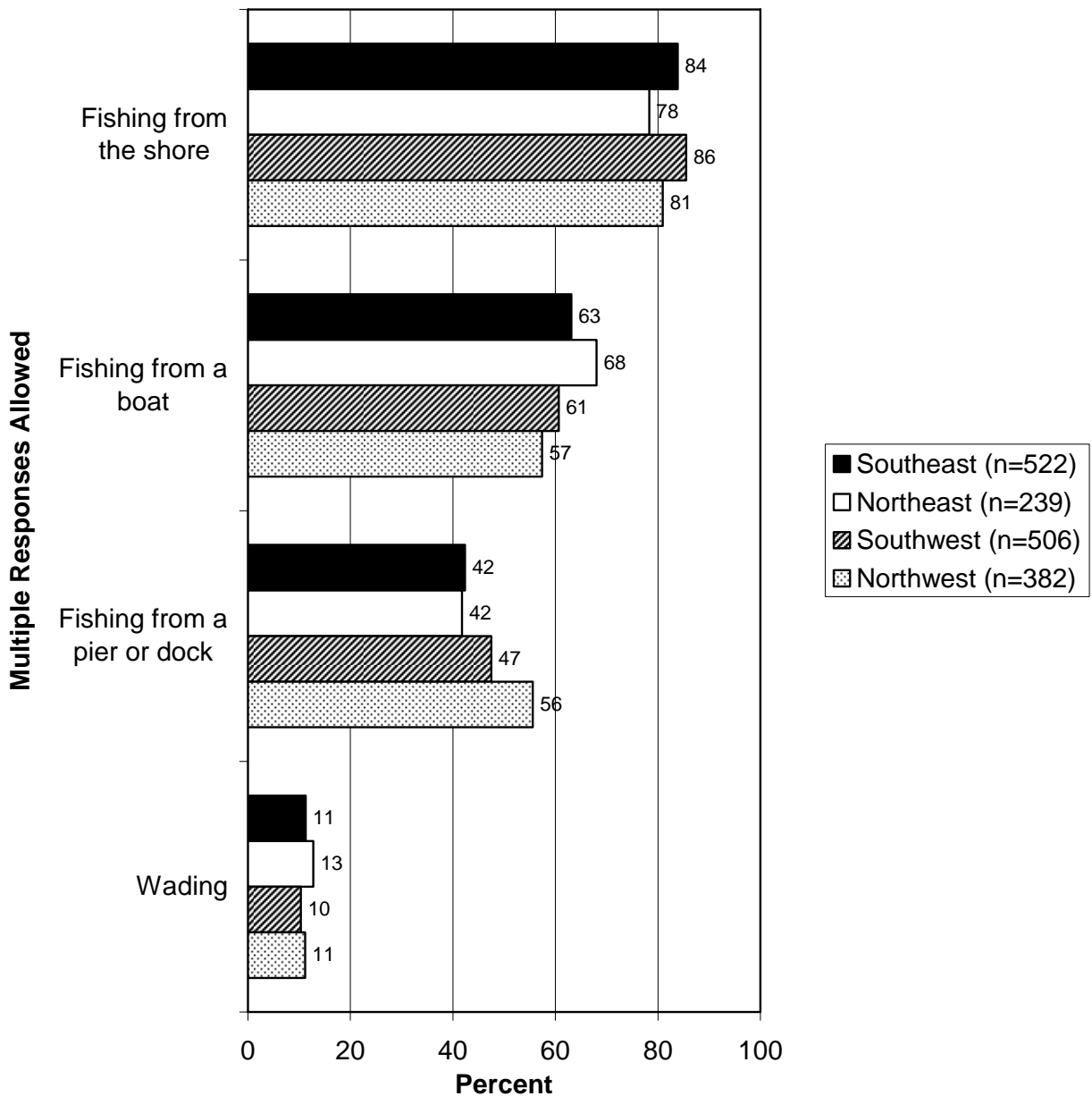
**Q67. I'm going to name several types of fishing, and I'd like you to tell me if you did them in Iowa in the past 12 months/last year you fished. (Type of location for fishing.)**



**Q67. I'm going to name several types of fishing, and I'd like you to tell me if you did them in Iowa in the past 12 months/last year you fished. (Type of location for fishing.)**

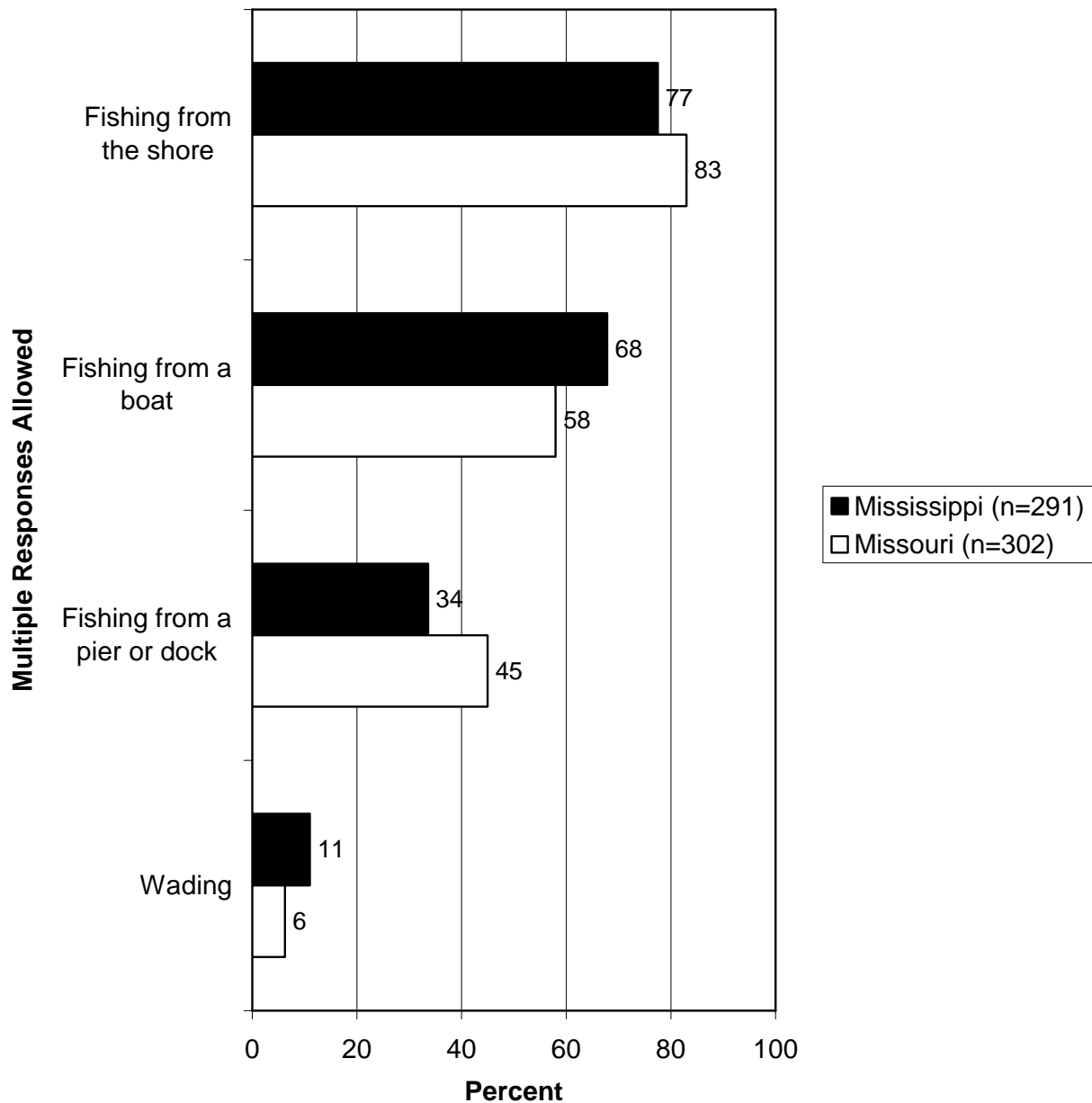


**Q67. I'm going to name several types of fishing, and I'd like you to tell me if you did them in Iowa in the past 12 months/last year you fished.**

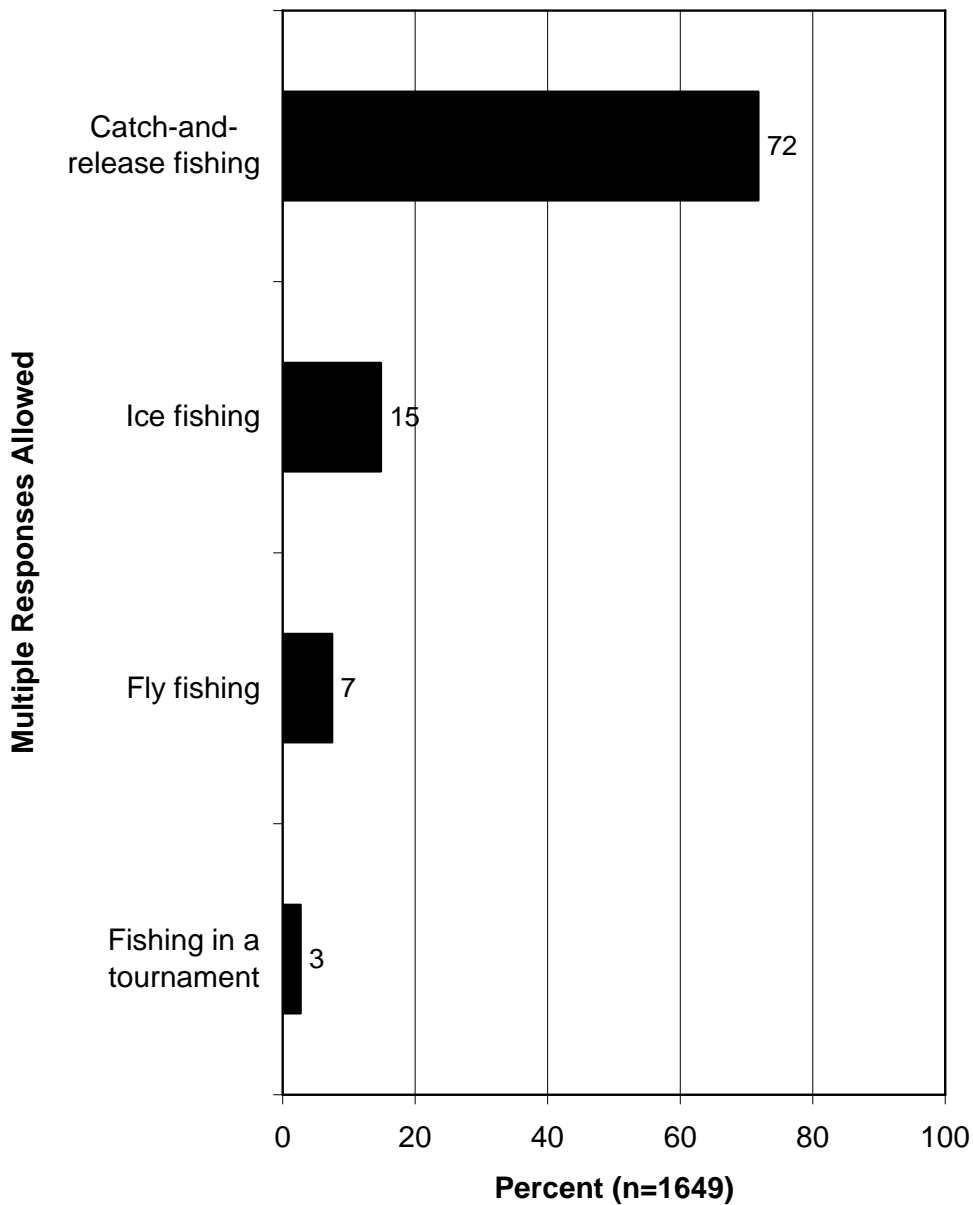




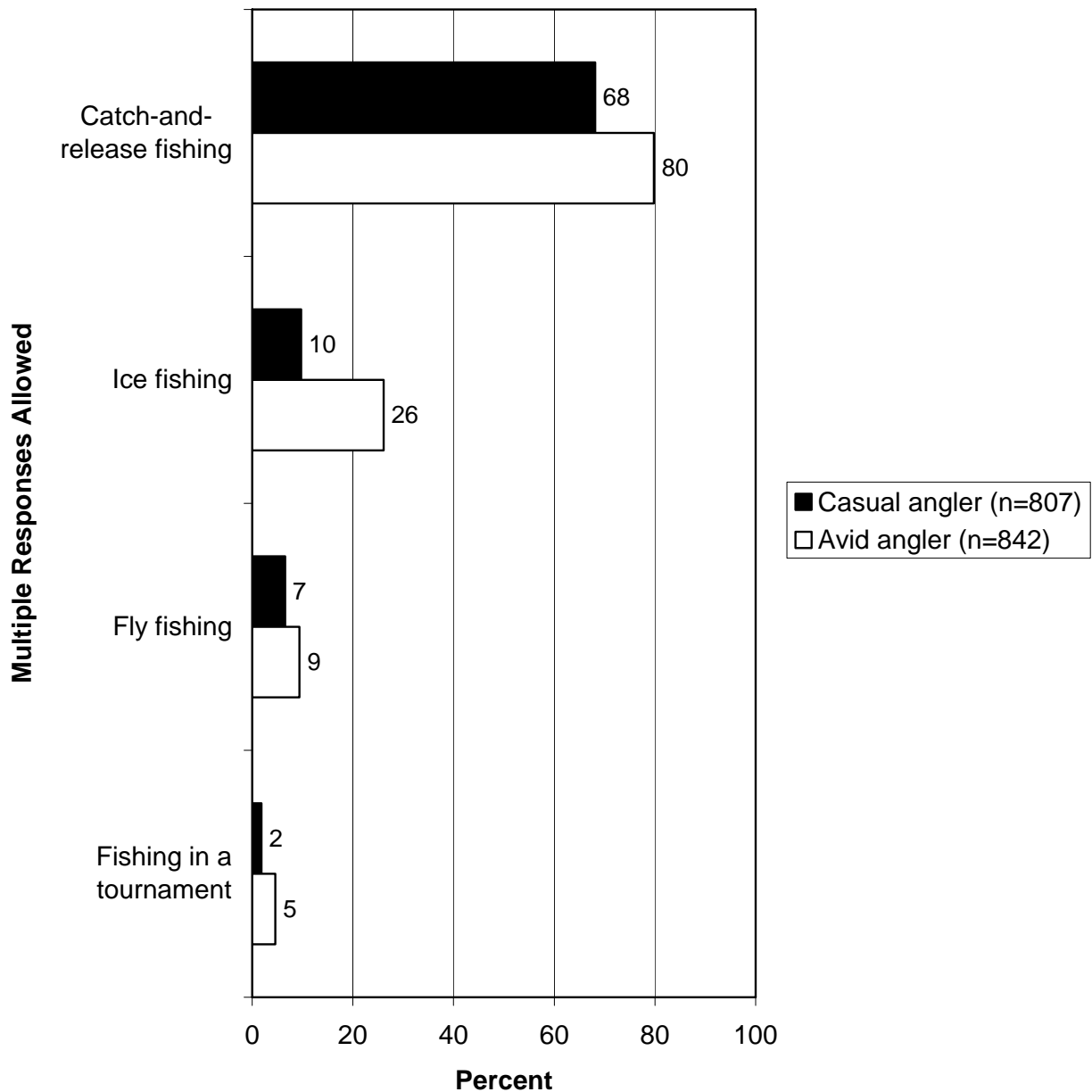
**Q67. I'm going to name several types of fishing, and I'd like you to tell me if you did them in Iowa in the past 12 months/last year you fished.**



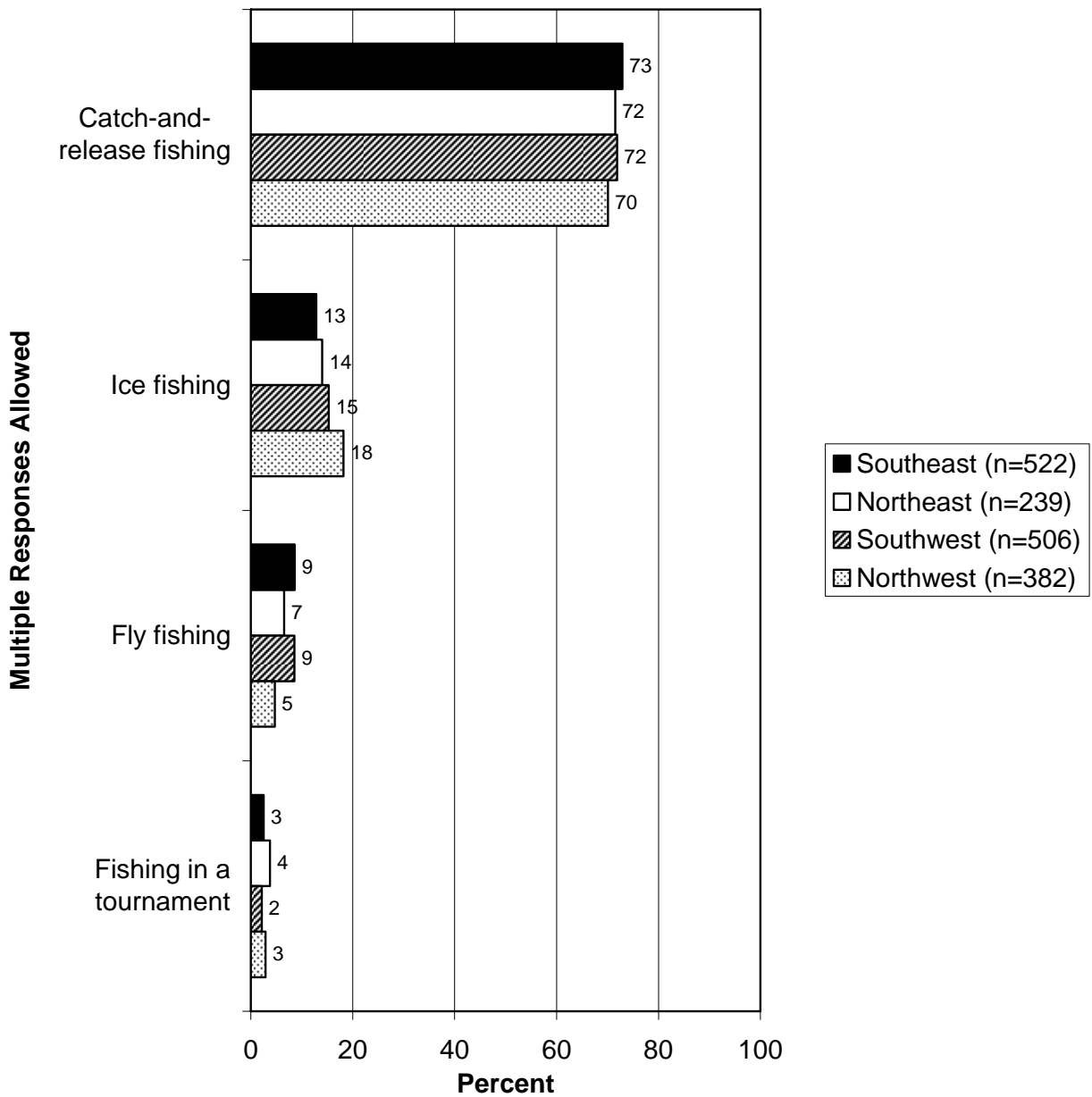
**Q67. I'm going to name several types of fishing, and I'd like you to tell me if you did them in Iowa in the past 12 months/last year you fished. (Types of fishing.)**



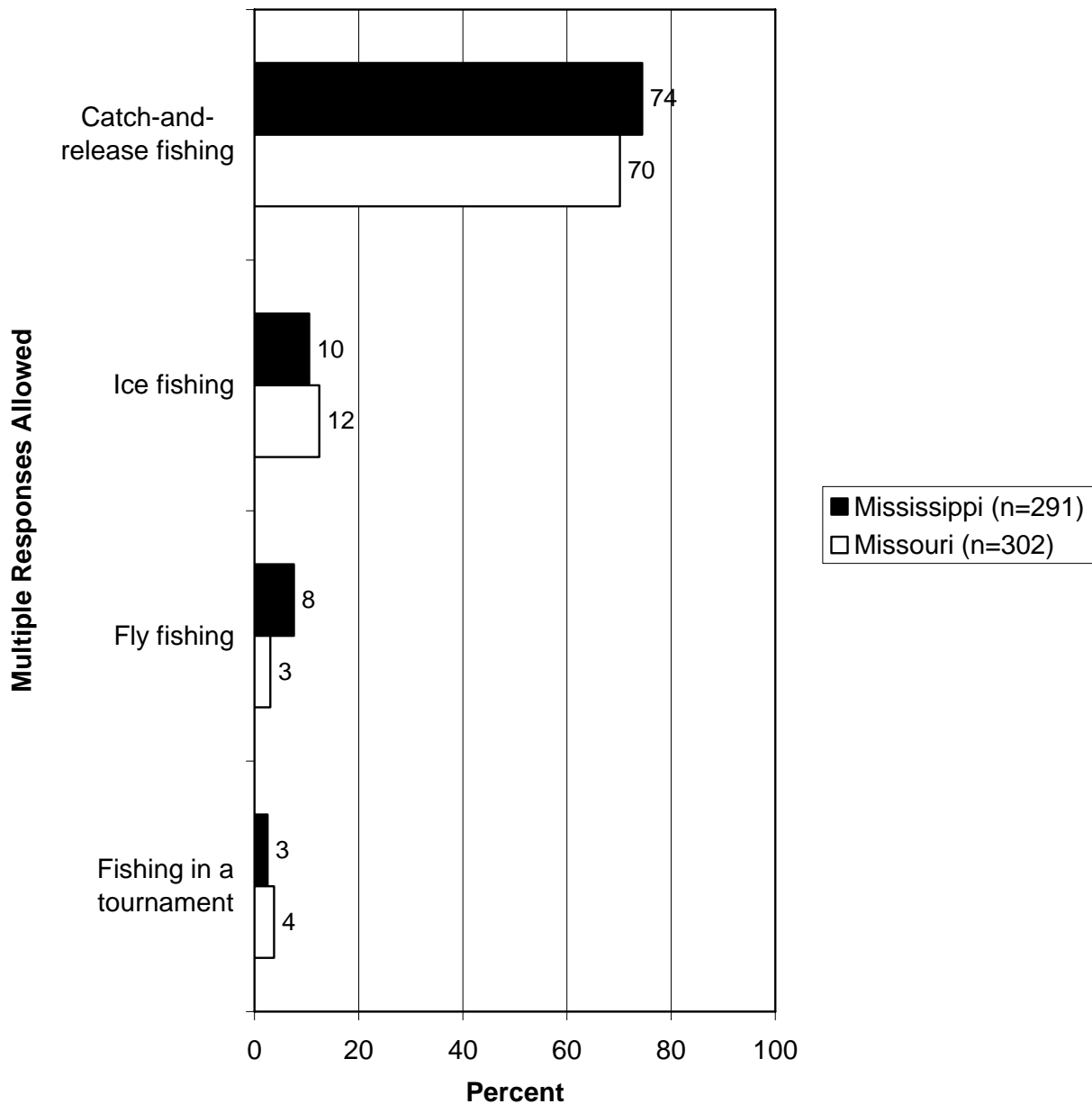
**Q67. I'm going to name several types of fishing, and I'd like you to tell me if you did them in Iowa in the past 12 months/last year you fished. (Type of fishing.)**



**Q67. I'm going to name several types of fishing, and I'd like you to tell me if you did them in Iowa in the past 12 months/last year you fished.**



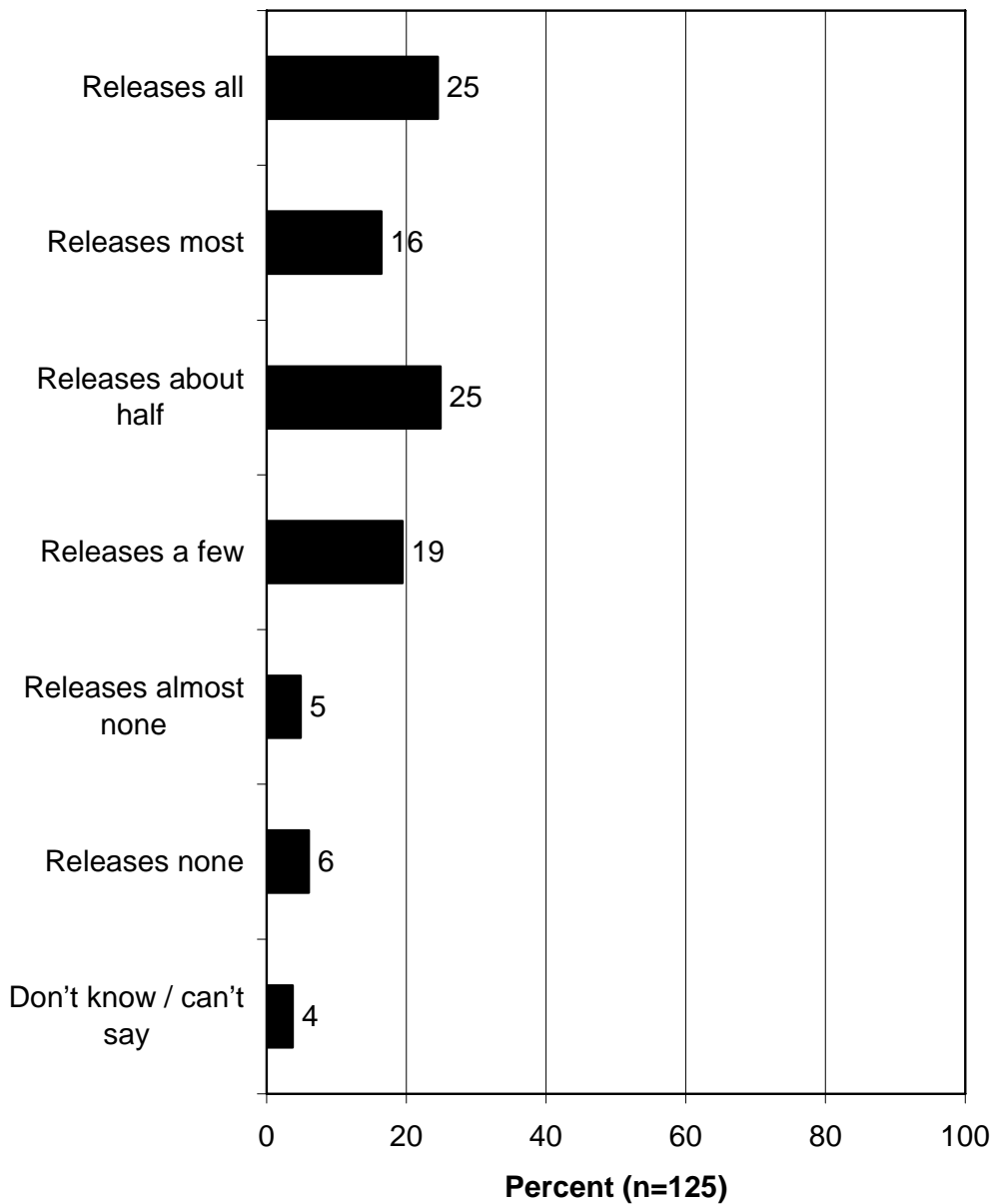
**Q67. I'm going to name several types of fishing, and I'd like you to tell me if you did them in Iowa in the past 12 months/last year you fished.**



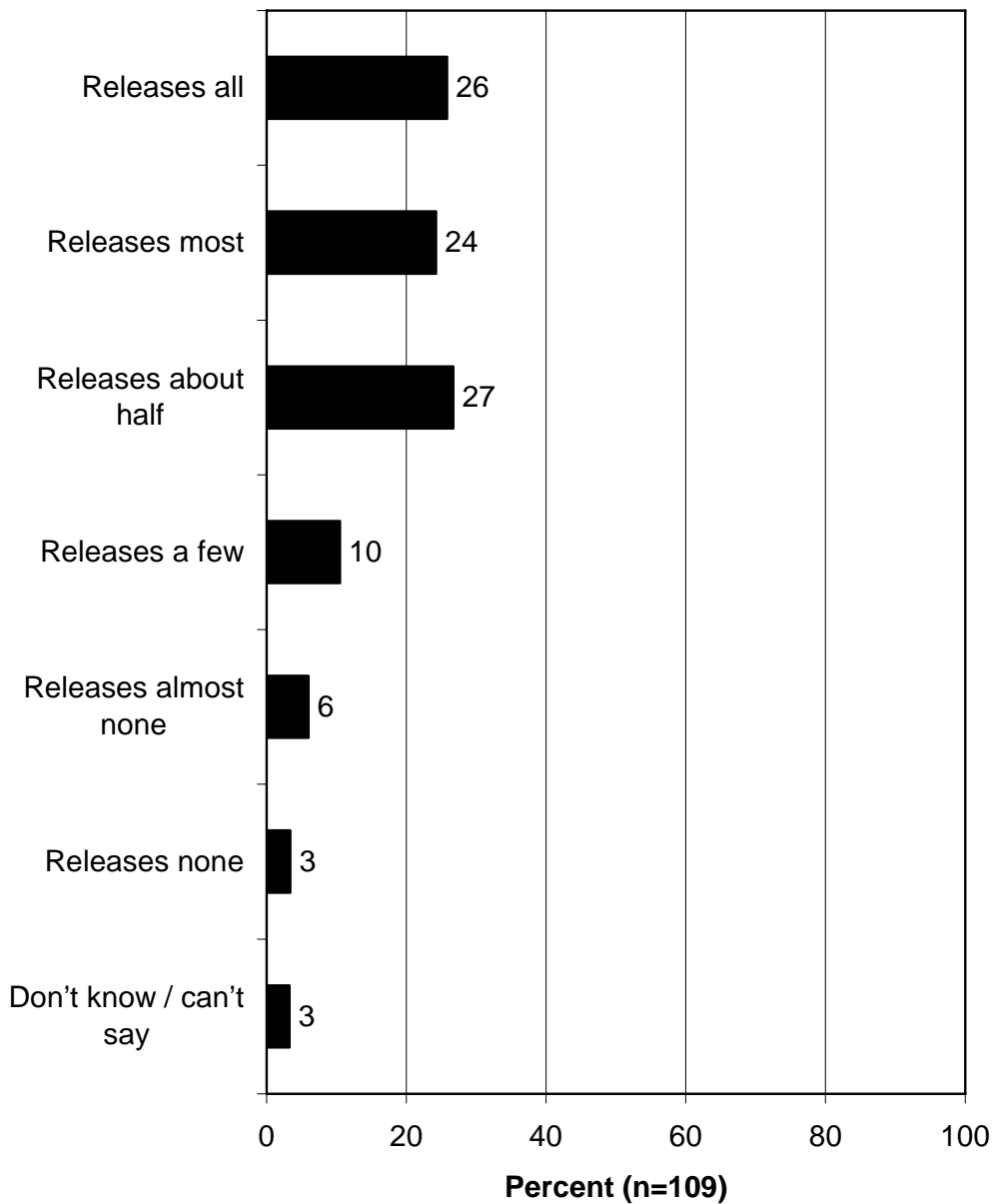
## Catch-and-Release Fishing

- The previous section indicated that a large majority of Iowa anglers (72%) had done catch-and-release fishing at least once in the last year they fished. Note that the survey was structured to determine the amount of trout typically released versus non-trout released by those who fished for trout and other species.
- Those who fished for trout and who indicated having done catch-and-release were asked about the amount of *trout* they release: 66% release about half or more, while 30% release few to none.
  - Those same anglers (who fished for trout *and* other species and who indicated having done catch-and-release) were asked about the amount of non-trout they release: 77% release half or more, while 20% release few to none.
  - Those anglers who did *not* fish for trout and who indicated having done catch-and-release were asked about the amount of fish they release: 84% release half or more, while 15% release few to none.
  - Casual anglers are more likely to release fish—both trout and non-trout—than are avid anglers on all three of these questions.
  - The regional crosstabulations found that Southeast Region and Northwest Region anglers are more likely to say that they release all trout and all other fish that they catch, relative to the other two regions (among anglers who fished for both trout and other species). Those who did *not* fish for trout are about the same from region to region in their catch-and-release behavior.
  - The data analysis compared river region anglers to anglers overall regarding catch-and-release of fish other than trout (this river region analysis did not examine trout fishing because the data indicate that trout is not an important type of fish in the river regions). Missouri River Region anglers are more likely to release all the fish they catch than are either anglers overall or anglers from the Mississippi River Region.

**Q69. You said you did catch-and-release. What portion of the trout you catch do you release?  
(Asked of those who have fished for trout and did catch-and-release fishing.)**

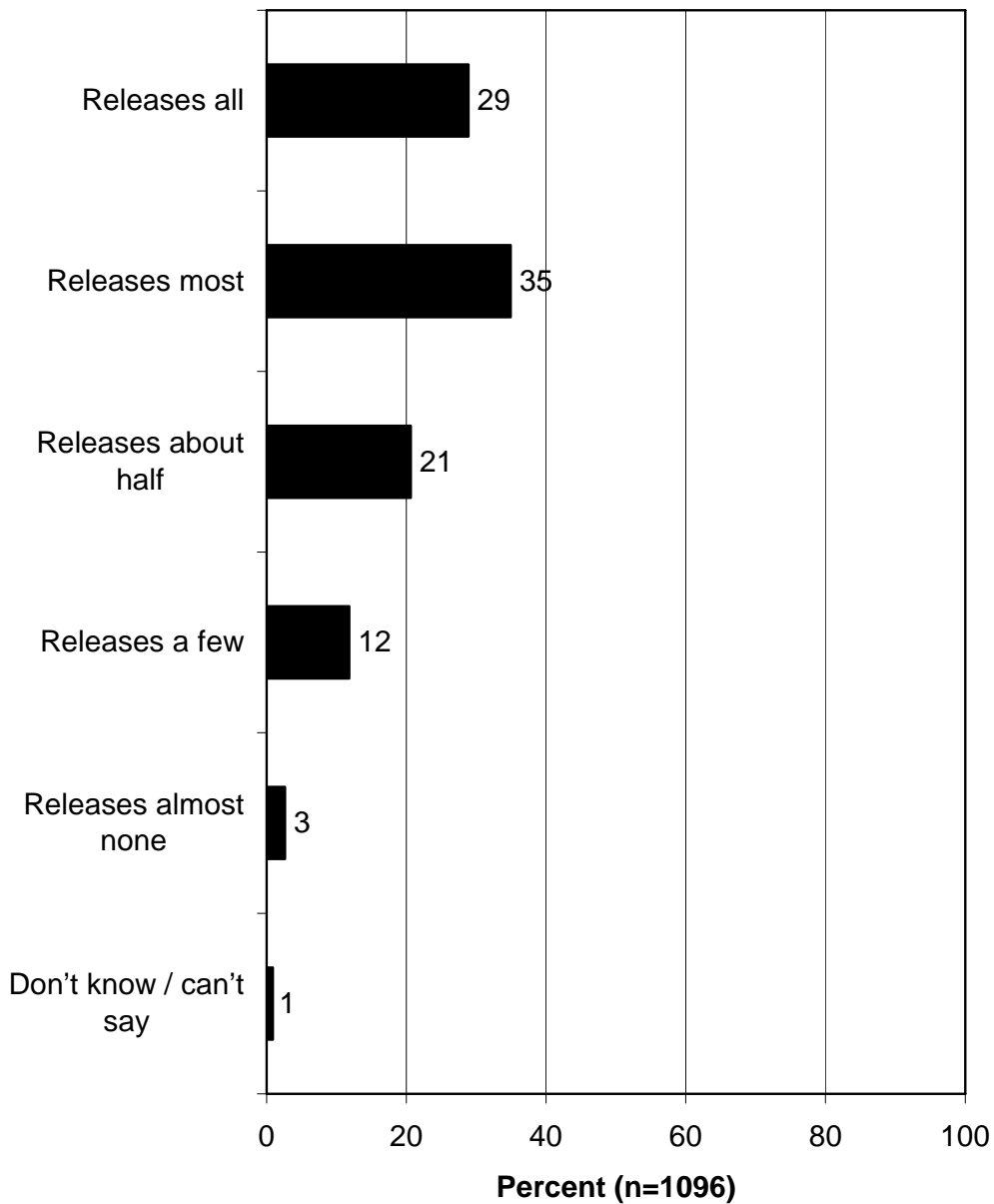


**Q72. What portion of the fish other than trout that you catch do you release? (Asked of those who have fished for trout and other fish species, and did catch-and-release fishing.)**

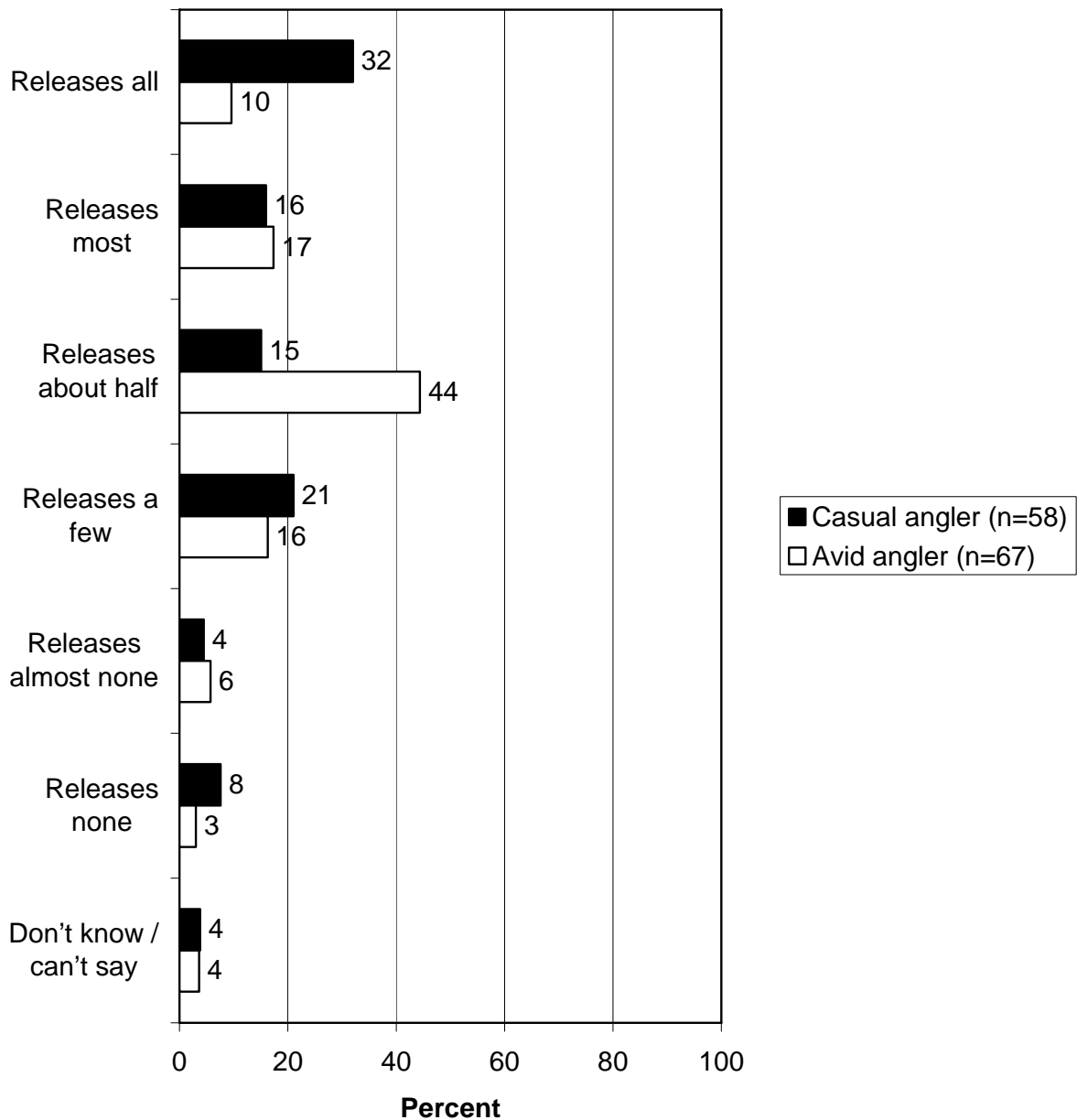




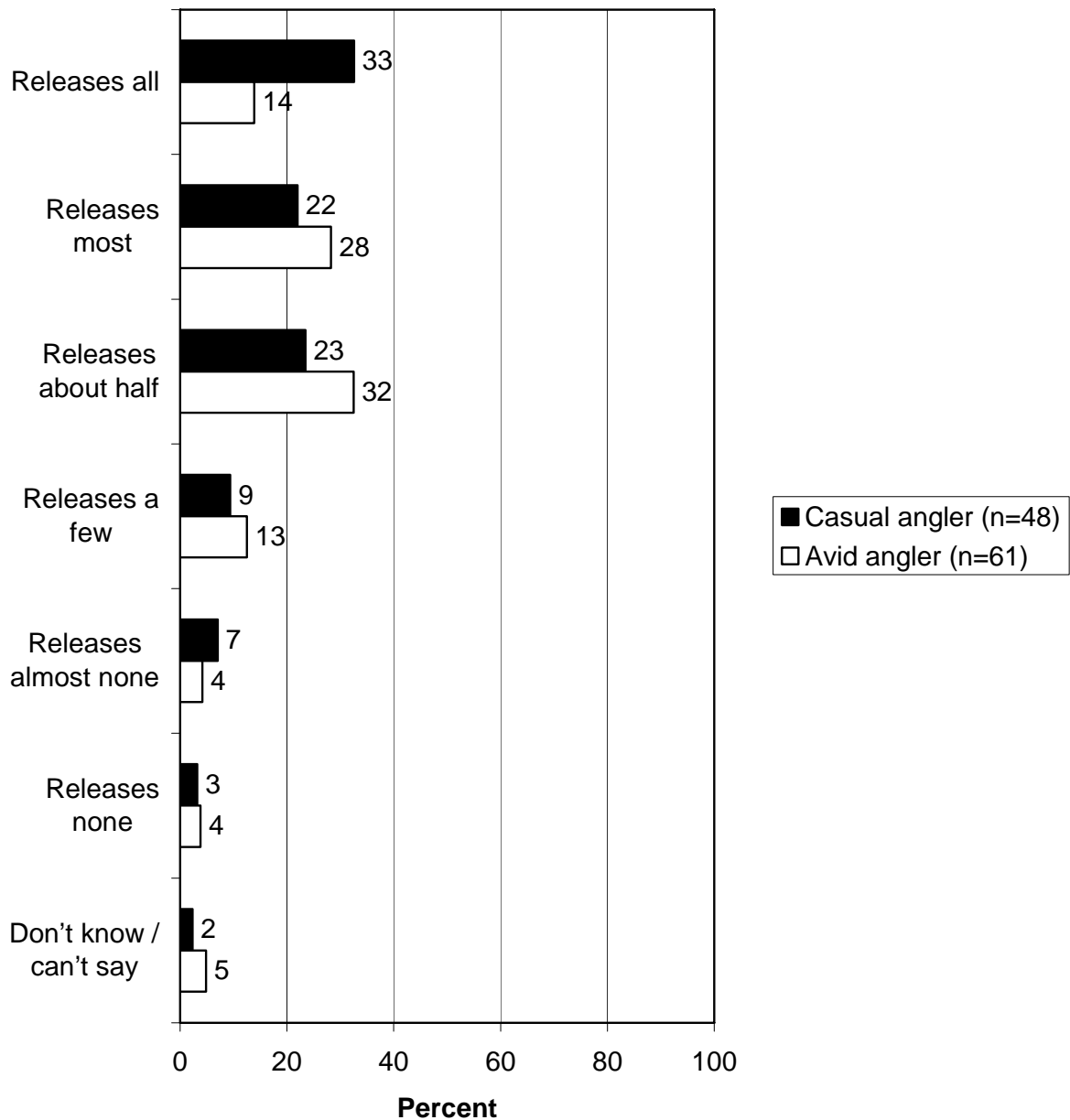
**Q73. You said you did catch-and-release. What portion of the fish you catch do you release? (Asked of those who have fished for other fish species, not including trout, and did catch-and-release fishing.)**



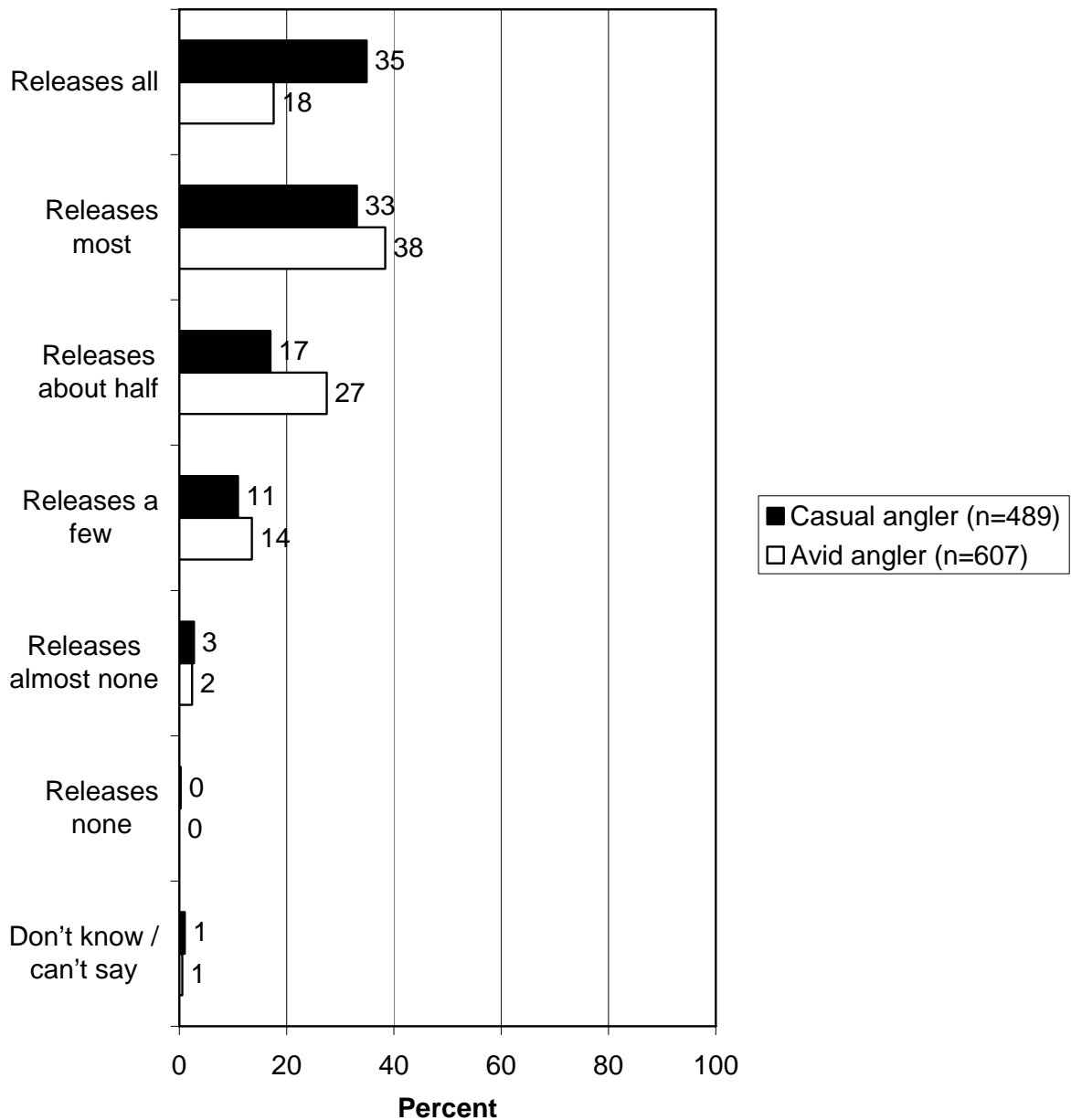
**Q69. You said you did catch-and-release. What portion of the trout you catch do you release? (Asked of those who have fished for trout and did catch-and-release fishing.)**



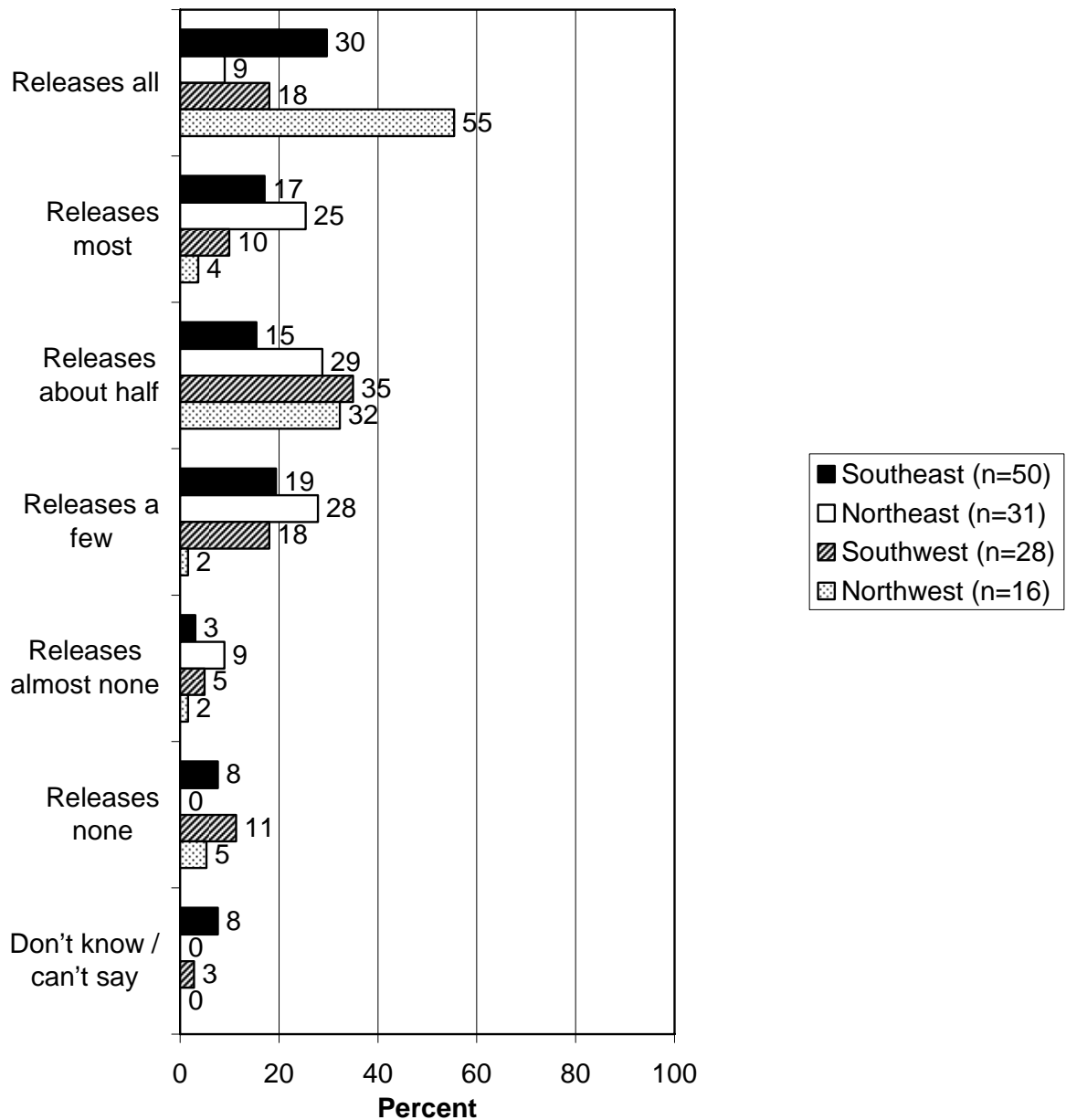
**Q72. What portion of the fish other than trout that you catch do you release? (Asked of those who have fished for trout and other fish species and did catch-and-release fishing.)**



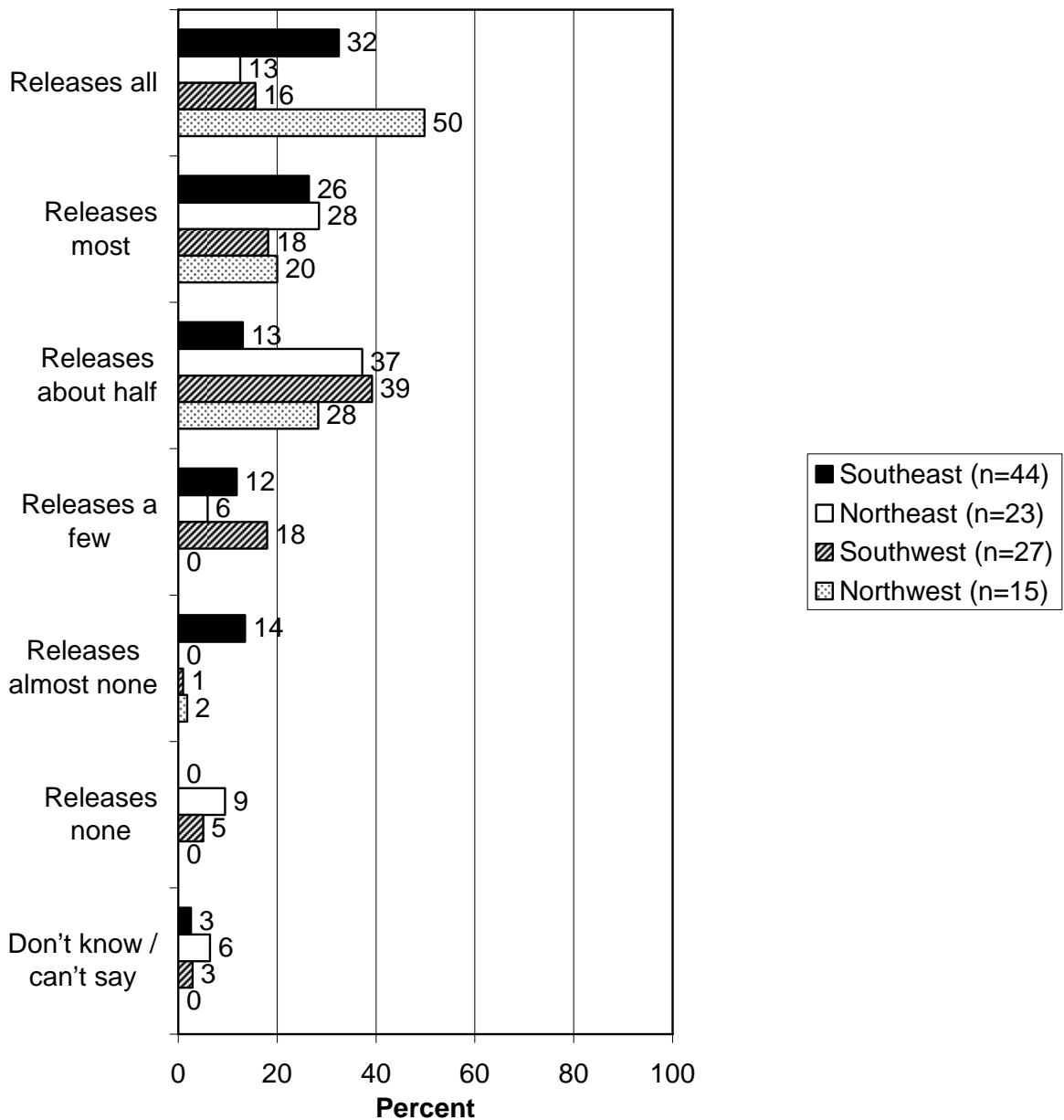
**Q73. You said you did catch-and-release. What portion of the fish you catch do you release? (Asked of those who have fished for other fish species, not including trout, and did catch-and-release fishing.)**



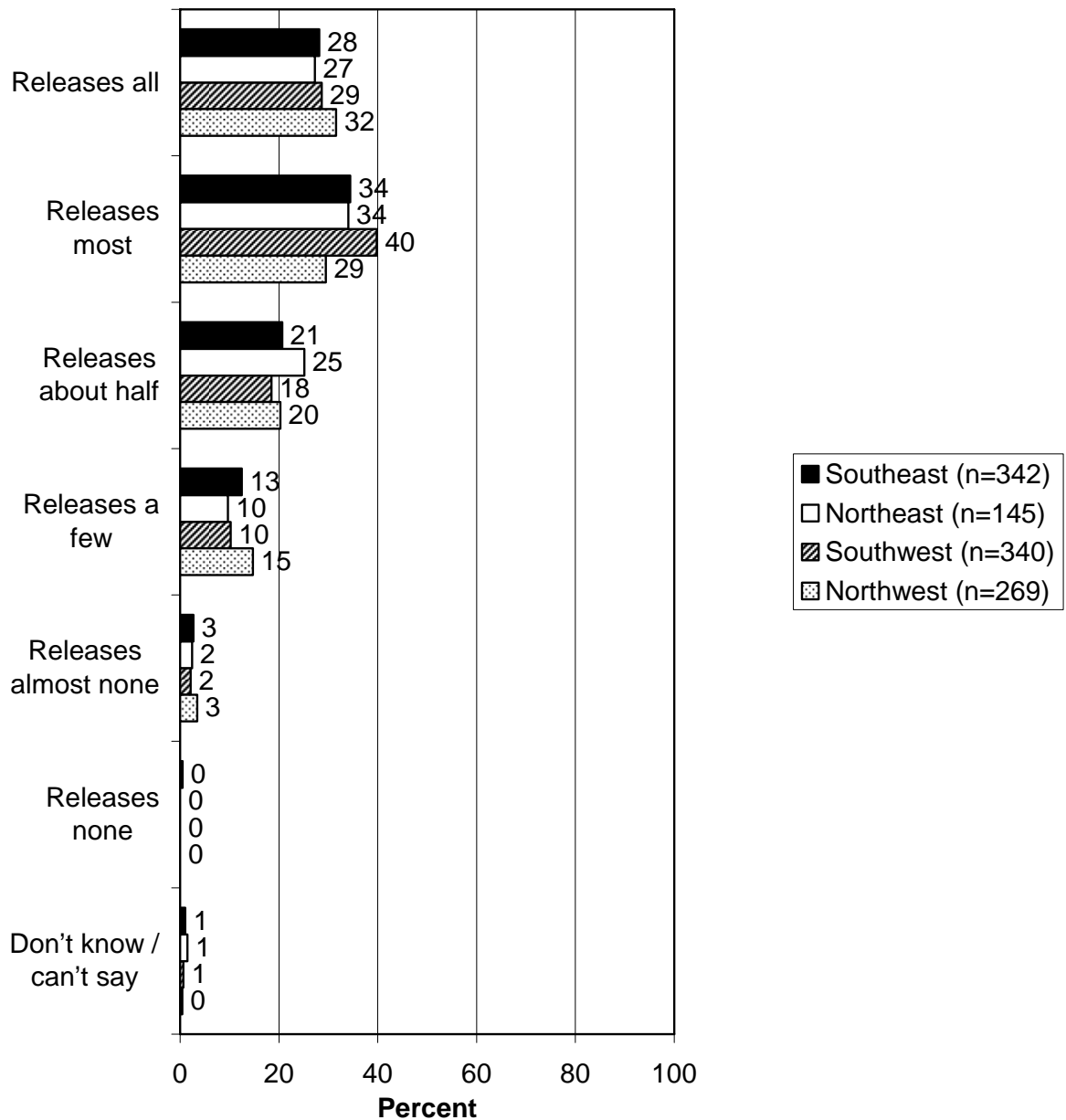
**Q69. You said you did catch-and-release. What portion of the trout you catch do you release? (Asked of those who have fished for trout and did catch-and-release fishing.)**



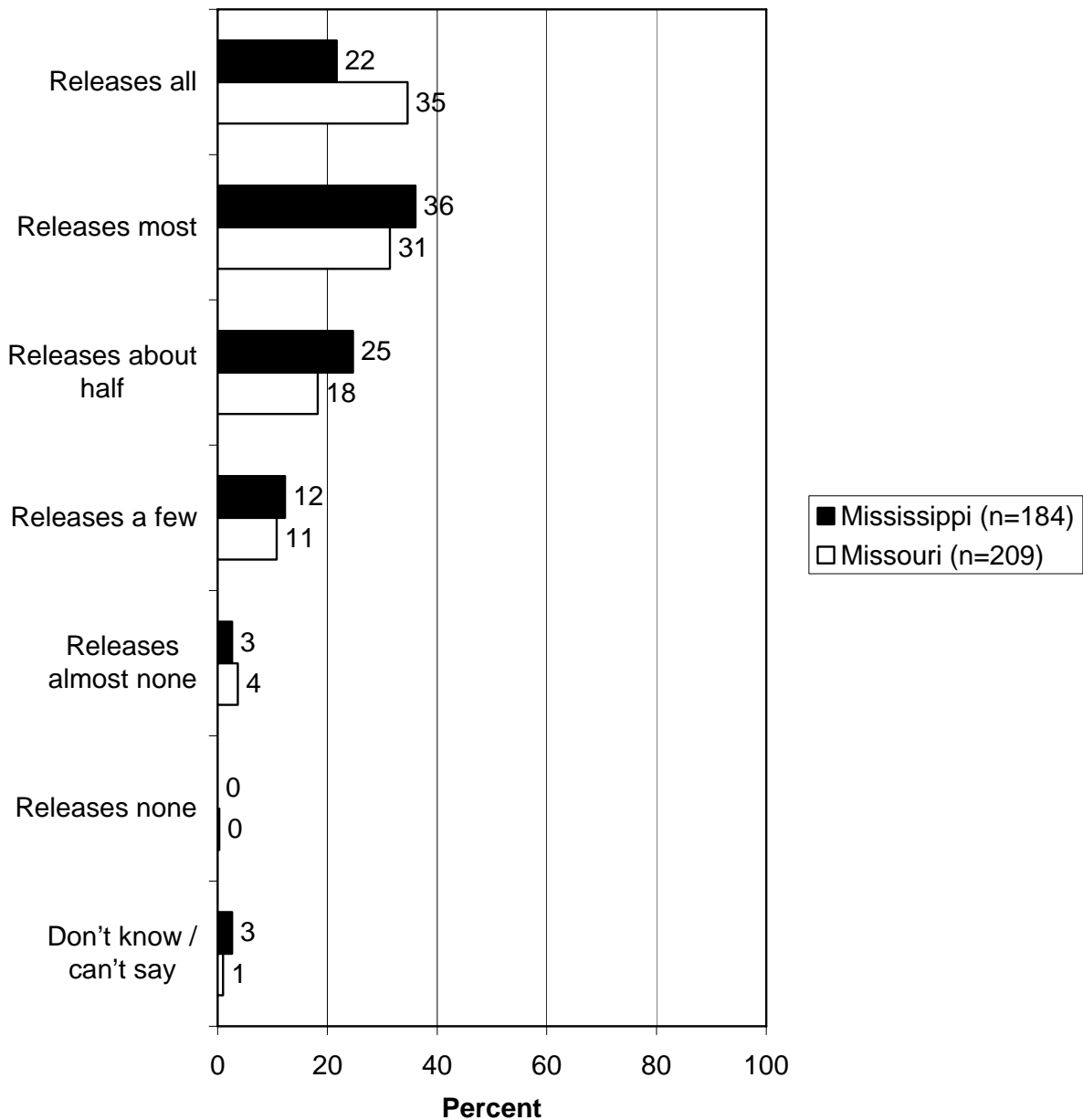
**Q72. What portion of the fish other than trout that you catch do you release? (Asked of those who have fished for trout and other fish species, and did catch-and-release fishing.)**



**Q73. You said you did catch-and-release. What portion of the fish you catch do you release? (Asked of those who have fished for other fish species, not including trout, and did catch-and-release fishing.)**



**Q73. You said you did catch-and-release. What portion of the fish you catch do you release? (Asked of those who have fished for other fish species, not including trout, and did catch-and-release fishing.)**

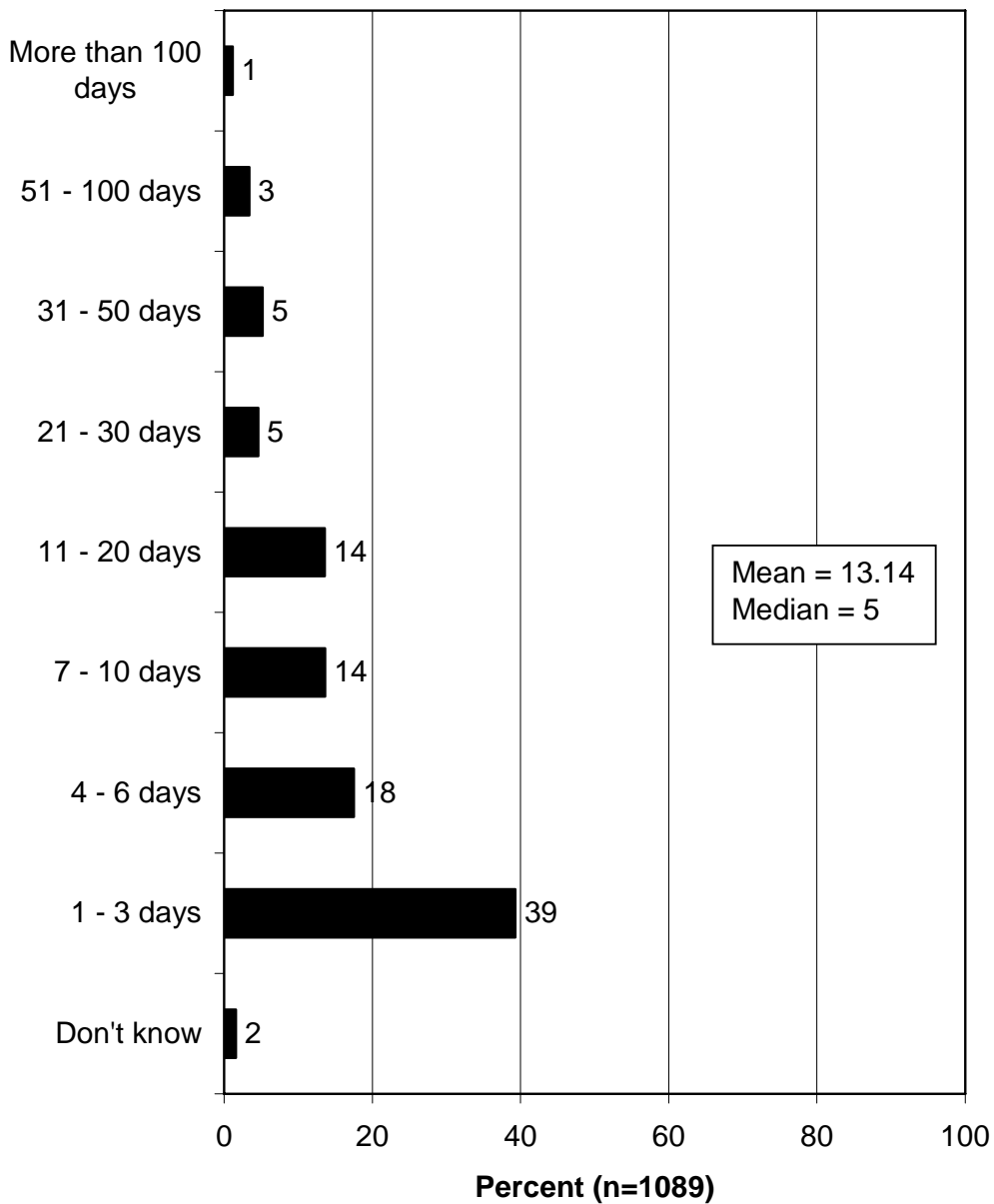




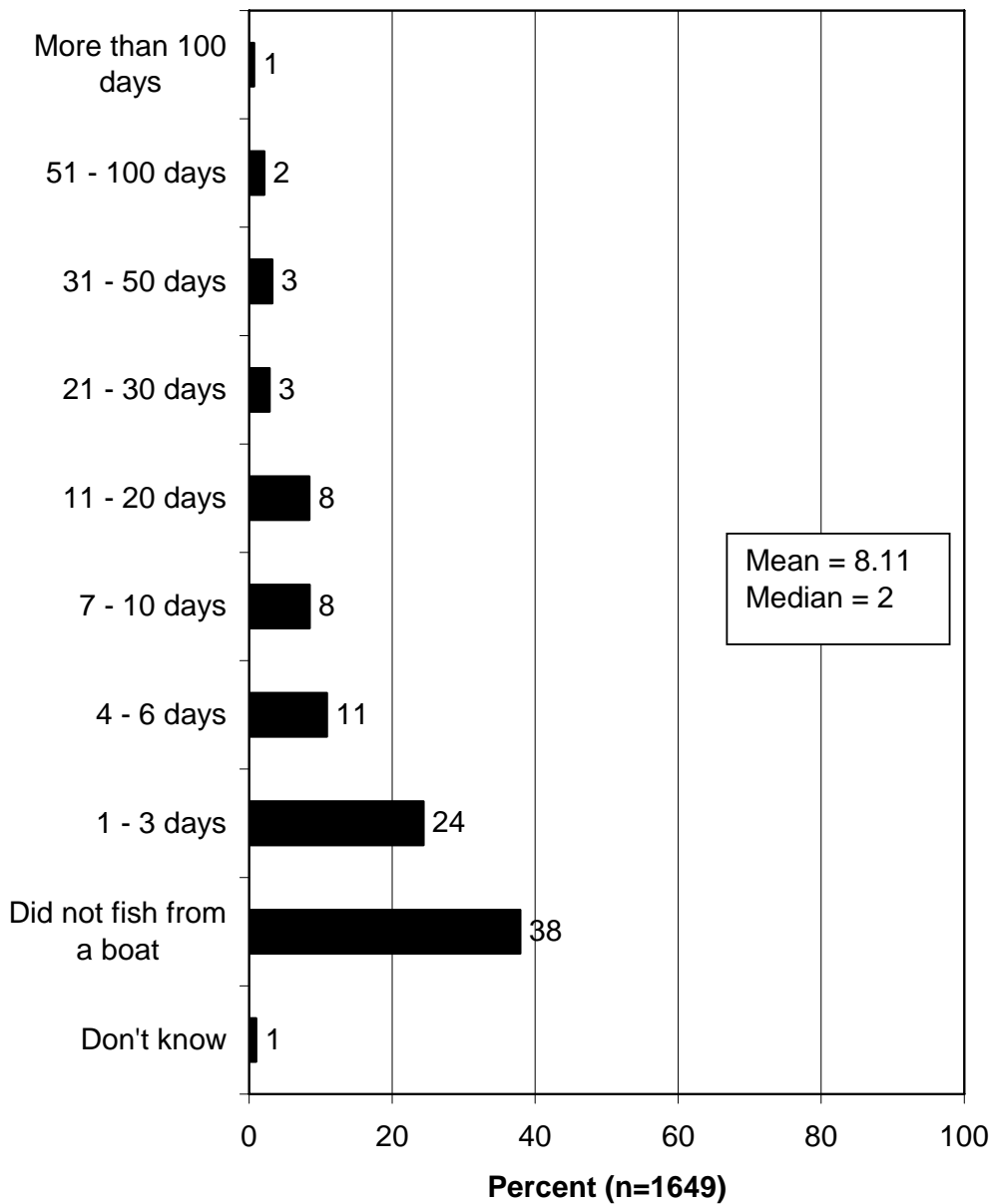
## Fishing from a Boat

- A previous section indicated that 62% of Iowa anglers had fished from a boat at least once in the last year they fished.
  - The majority of the anglers who had fished from a boat (70%) had done so for 10 days or less in their most recent year of fishing. (Another graph shows the days fished from a boat among all anglers.)
  - The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler demonstrates that avid anglers fished more days on a boat than did casual anglers.
  - The regional crosstabulation shows no large differences among the regions on this question regarding days fished on a boat.
  - The data analysis by river region found that anglers from the Mississippi River Region and the Missouri River Region spent more time fishing from a boat than did anglers overall.
  - Another question asked anglers who had fished from a boat about the amount of their fishing that is done from a boat: 21% said all their fishing is from a boat, another 30% said that most of their fishing is from a boat, and 20% said at least half is done that way, for a total of 71% of “boater-anglers” doing at least half of their fishing from a boat. (Another graph shows these results among all anglers.)
  - Avid anglers are more likely to fish from a boat most of their time than are casual anglers.
  - The regional crosstabulation shows no marked differences among the regions on this question about the amount of their fishing done from a boat.
  - The data analysis by river region found that Mississippi River Region anglers are more likely than anglers overall or anglers from the Missouri River Region to do all or most of their fishing from a boat.

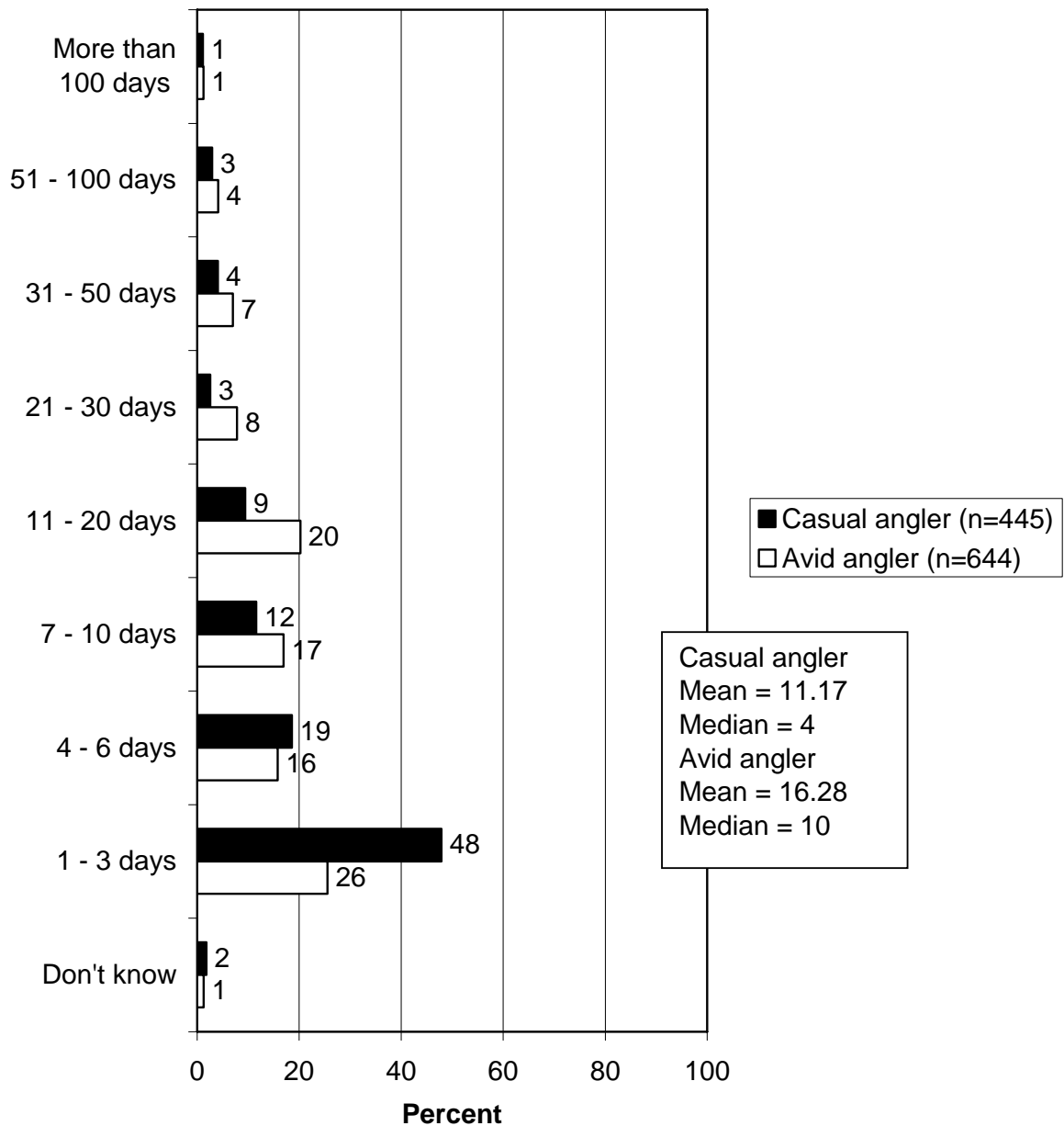
**Q77. You said you fished from a boat. How many days did you fish from a boat in Iowa in the past 12 months / last year you fished? (Asked of those who have fished from a boat.)**



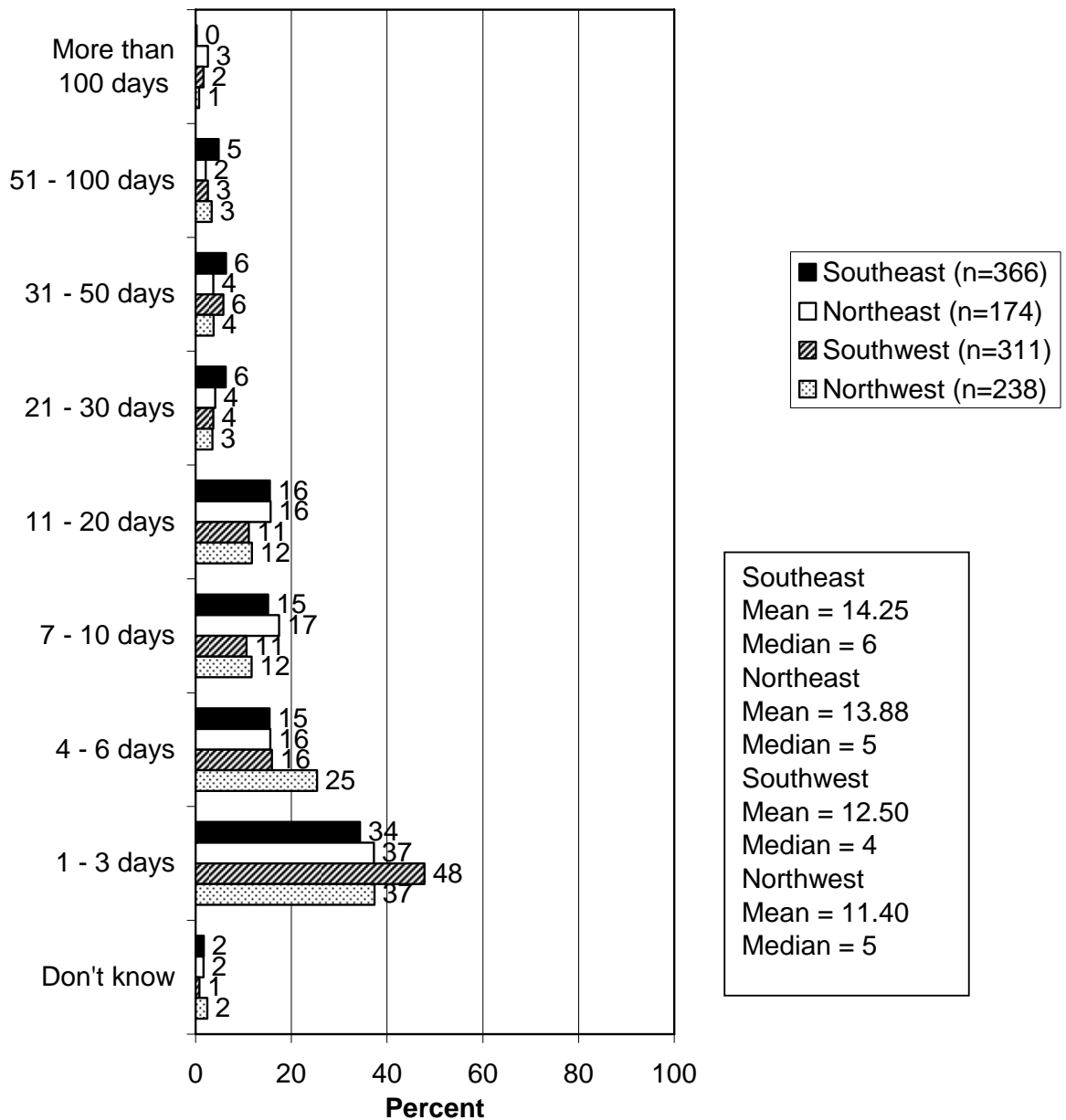
**Q77. How many days did you fish from a boat in Iowa in the past 12 months / last year you fished?  
(Among all anglers.)**



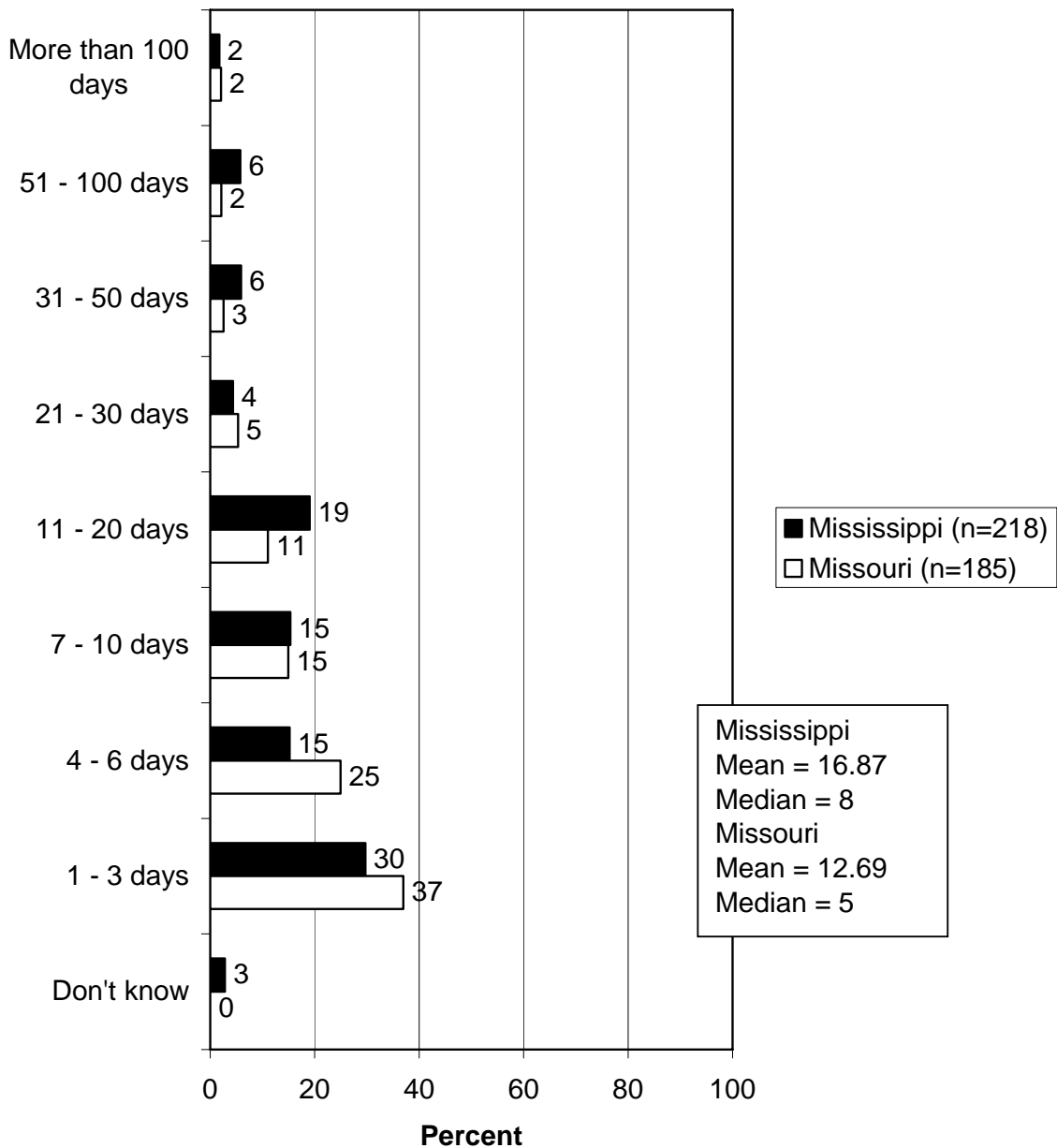
**Q77. You said you fished from a boat. How many days did you fish from a boat in Iowa in the past 12 months / last year you fished? (Asked of those who have fished from a boat.)**



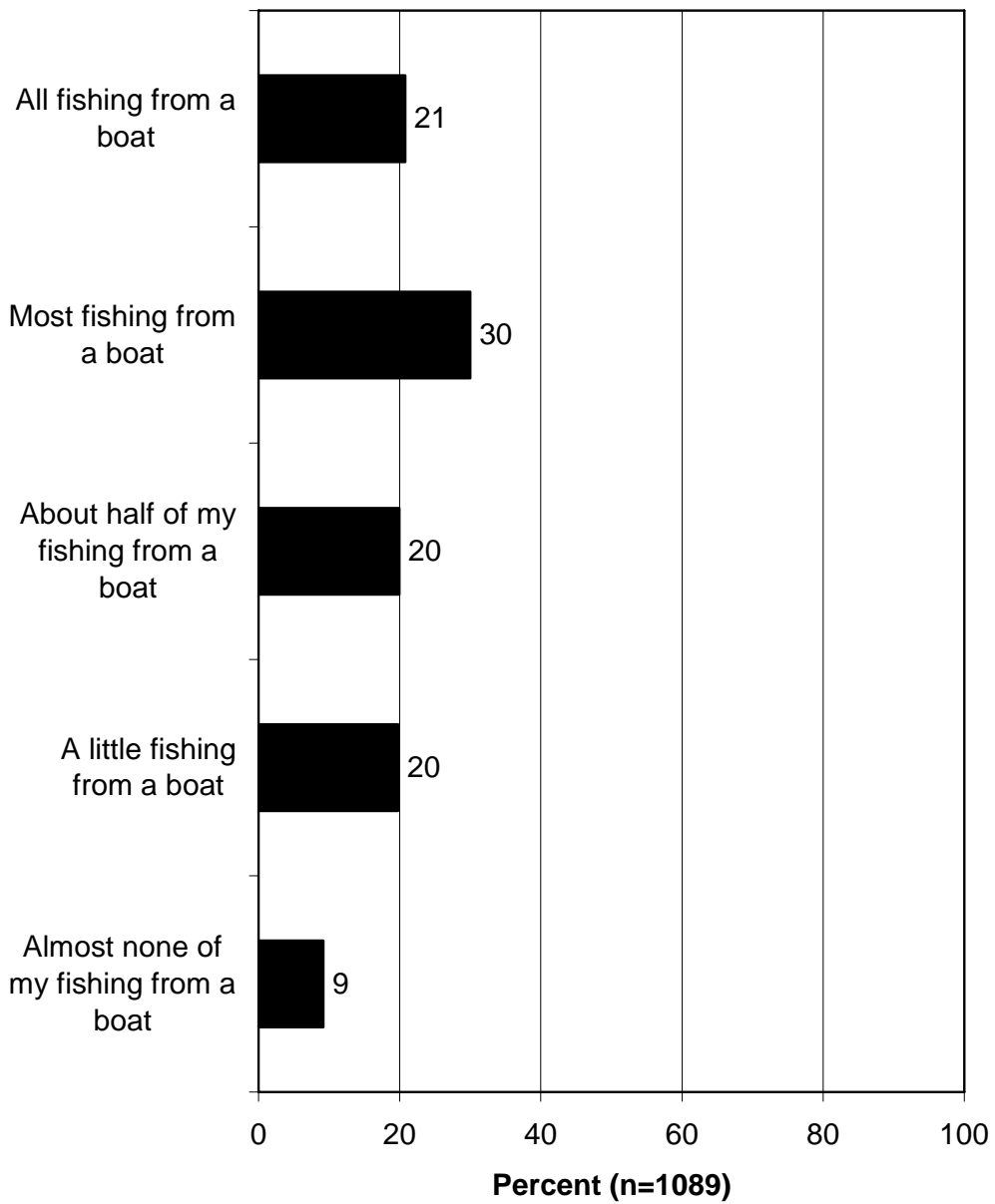
**Q77. You said you fished from a boat. How many days did you fish from a boat in Iowa in the past 12 months / last year you fished? (Asked of those who have fished from a boat.)**



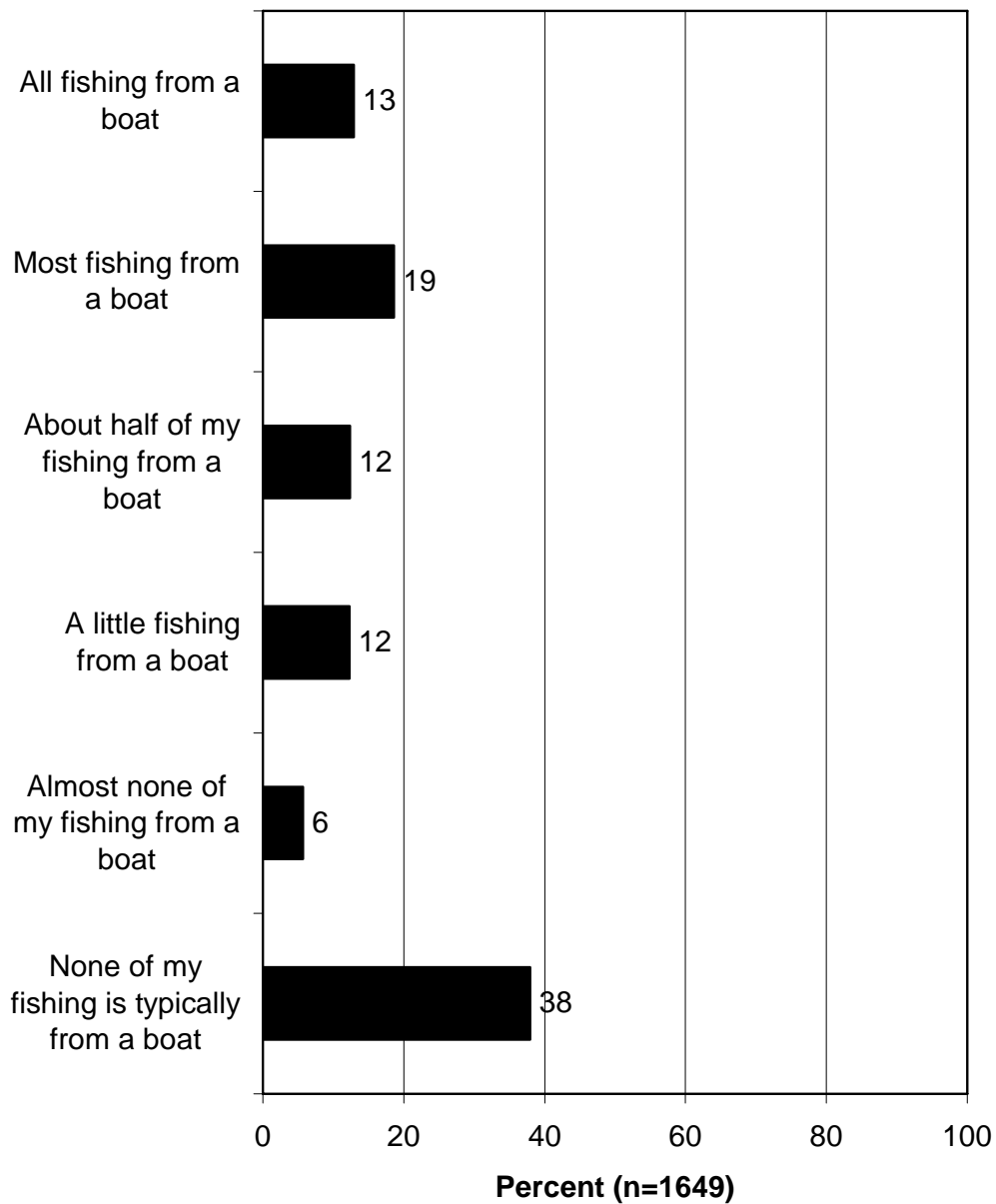
**Q77. You said you fished from a boat. How many days did you fish from a boat in Iowa in the past 12 months / last year you fished? (Asked of those who have fished from a boat.)**



**Q78. About how much of your fishing is typically done from a boat? (Asked of those who have fished from a boat.)**

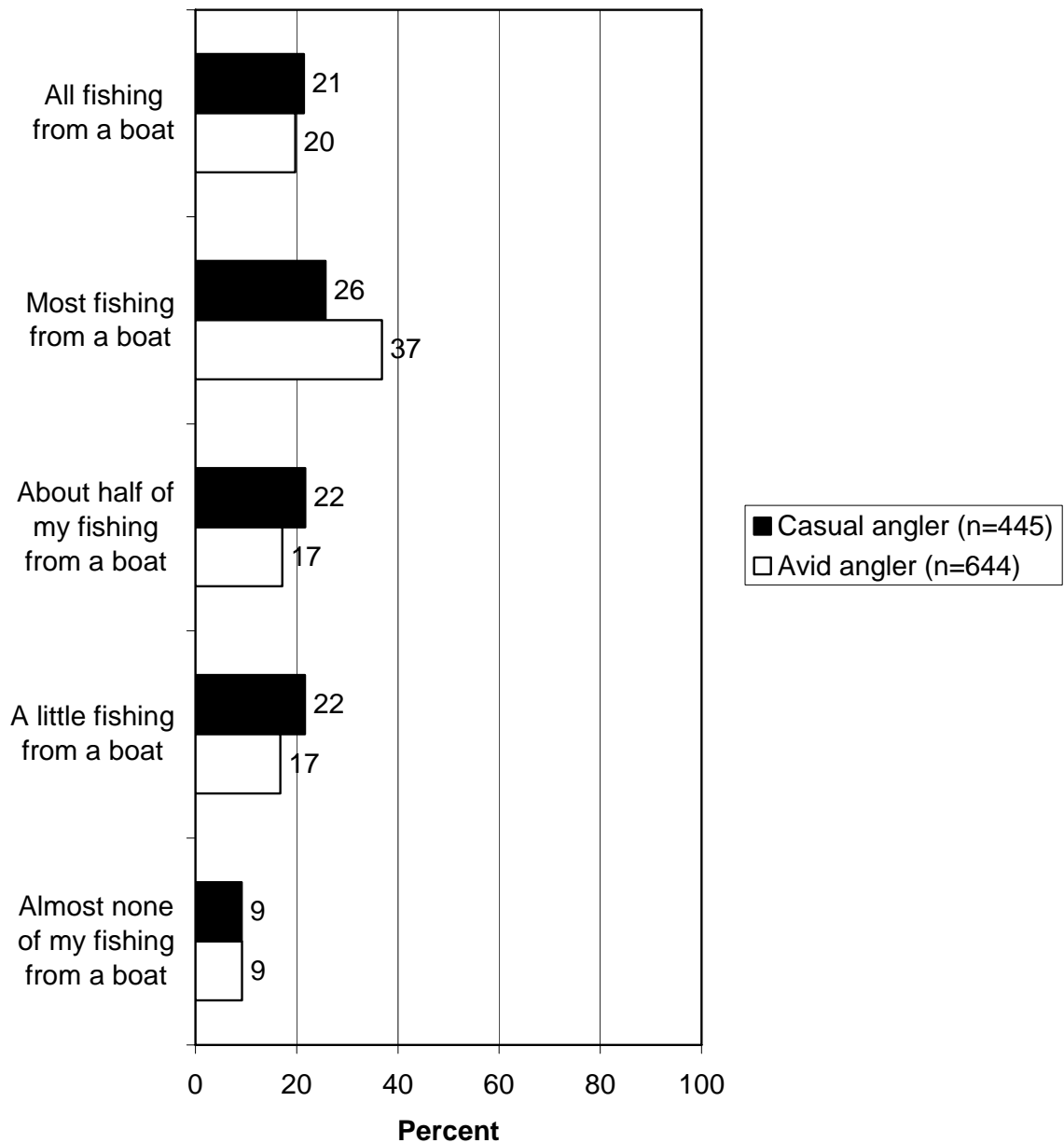


**Q78. About how much of your fishing is typically done from a boat? (Among all anglers.)**

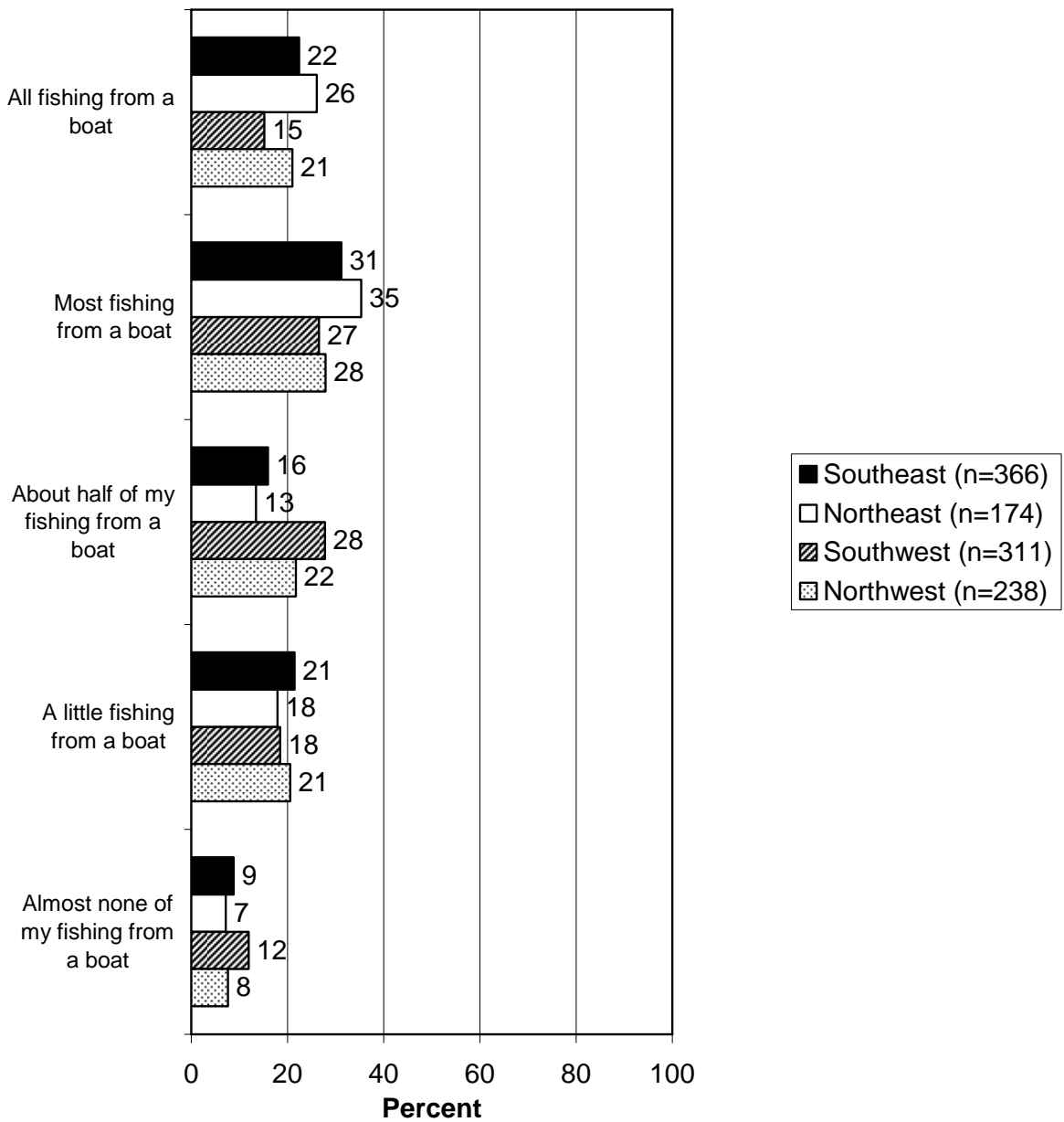




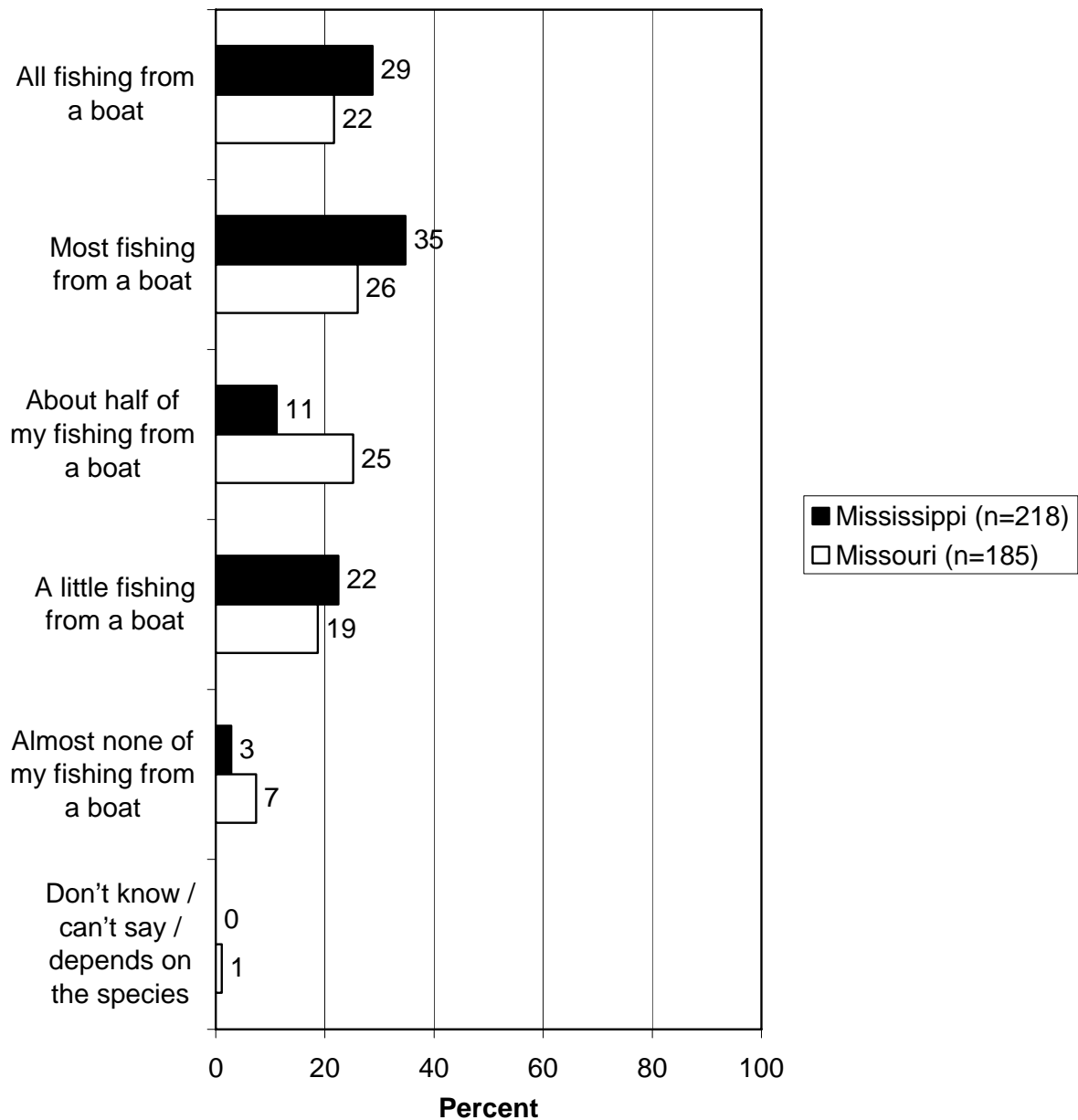
**Q78. About how much of your fishing is typically done from a boat? (Asked of those who have fished from a boat.)**



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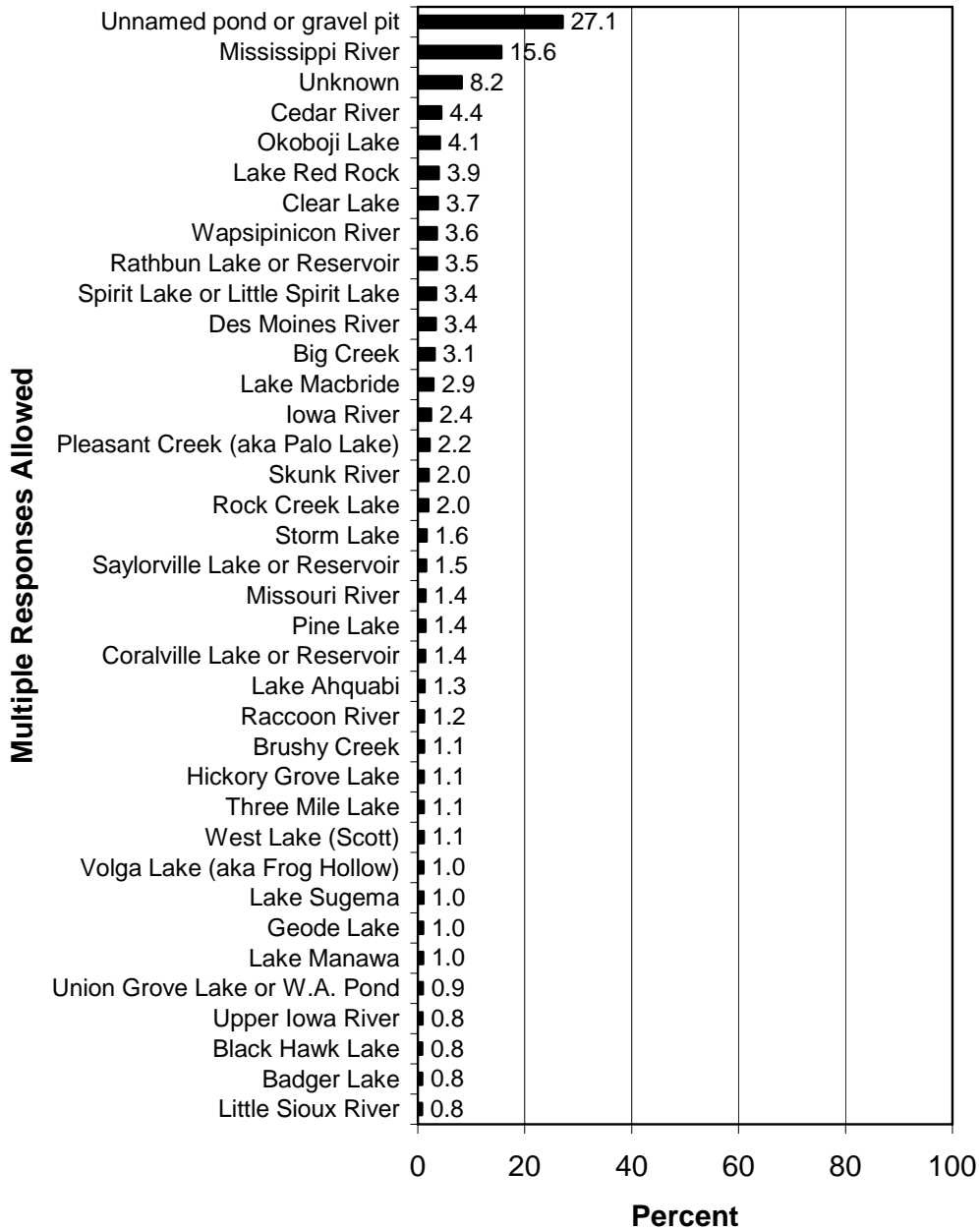
## FISHING LOCATIONS AND PREFERRED LOCATIONS

- The most commonly fished body of water was not a specific water body but a type of water body: the unnamed farm pond (or gravel pit, although nearly all responses within this category were “farm pond”), in which 27.1% of respondents fished. Otherwise, the Mississippi River (15.6%), the Cedar River (4.4%), Okoboji Lake (4.1%), Lake Red Rock (3.9%), Clear Lake (3.7%), the Wapsipinicon River (3.6%), Rathbun Lake (3.5%), Spirit Lake and/or Little Spirit Lake (3.4%), the Des Moines River (3.4%), and Big Creek (3.1%) were the most commonly fished bodies of water. Note that the graph shows only those bodies of water in which at least 0.8% of the anglers fished.
  
- The questions regarding location of fishing included the county. Note that many anglers did not know the county in which they most often fished. In some cases, the analyst was able to complete the county information because the water body the respondent named was known to be in a certain county; in other cases, however, the county information could not be completed. Nonetheless, the top counties for fishing are Dickinson (8.9% indicated that this was the county in which they most commonly fished), Polk (8.3%), Johnson (6.6%), Marion (5.0%), Linn (4.6%), Scott (4.5%), and Appanoose (4.1%). Note that the graph shows only those counties in which at least 1.0% of the anglers fished.
  - A map graphically shows the most commonly fished counties.
  
- The most commonly fished type of water body was constructed lake (35% named a constructed lake as one of the two most fished bodies of water), followed by farm pond/gravel pit (27%), inland river (21%), border river (17%), natural lake (15%), reservoir (9%), trout stream (2%), and oxbow lake (2%).
  
- The survey asked Iowa anglers to name their preferred body of water and county in which to fish. Again, the top is a type of water body, not a specific one: 18.0% prefer an unnamed pond or gravel pit. Otherwise, the Mississippi River (10.1%), Clear Lake in Cerro Gordo County (2.6%), the Cedar River (2.5%), Okoboji Lake (2.2%), Spirit Lake or Little Spirit Lake (2.2%), Rathbun Lake (2.1%), and Lake Red Rock (2.0%) are the most preferred bodies of water. The most preferred counties are Dickinson (5.2%), Polk (4.6%), Johnson (4.1%),

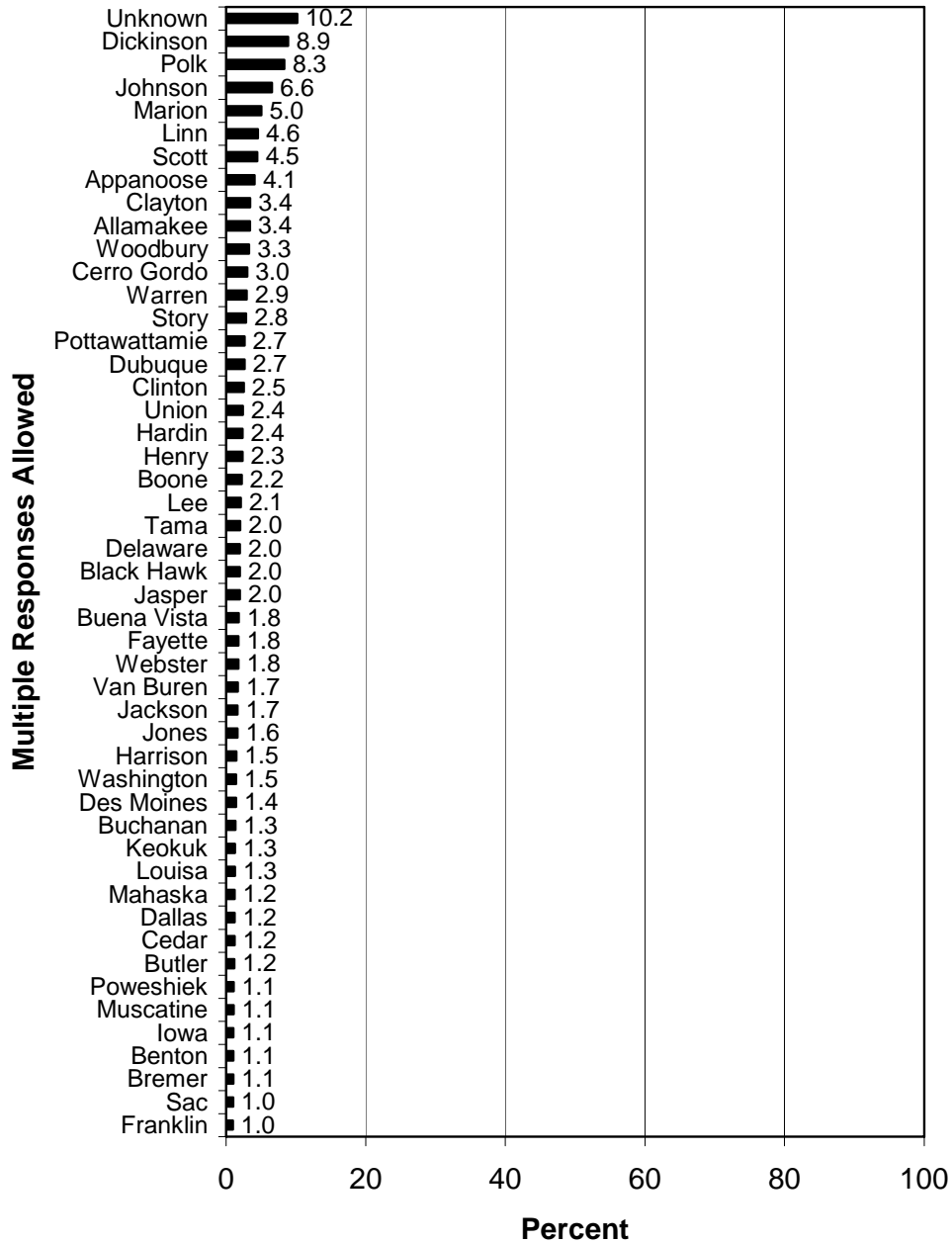
Marion (2.9%), and Clayton (2.6%). Note that the graphs show only those bodies of water in which at least 0.5% of the anglers prefer to fish and those counties in which at least 0.8% of the anglers prefer to fish.

- A map graphically shows the most commonly preferred counties.
- The most preferred types of water body are farm pond/gravel pit (20% prefer this) and constructed lake (also 20%), followed by border river (12%), inland river (11%), natural lake (10%), reservoir (6%), trout stream (1%), and oxbow lake (1%).
- While the large majority of Iowa anglers (60%) typically travel no more than 20 miles to fish in Iowa, 16% typically travel more than 50 miles.
- The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler found that avid anglers tend to drive a little longer than casual anglers to fish in Iowa, but note that the difference is small.
  - The regional crosstabulation shows no marked differences among the regions on this question about distance typically traveled to fish.
  - The data analysis by river region found that Mississippi River Region anglers typically travel a shorter distance to fish in Iowa than do anglers overall or anglers from the Missouri River Region.
- Of those who fished for trout, about half (48%) purchased a trout stamp specifically for an urban trout fishery. (This graph is shown and discussed in the section of this report titled, “Miscellaneous Issues Pertaining To Fishing in Iowa: Urban Trout Fisheries.”)

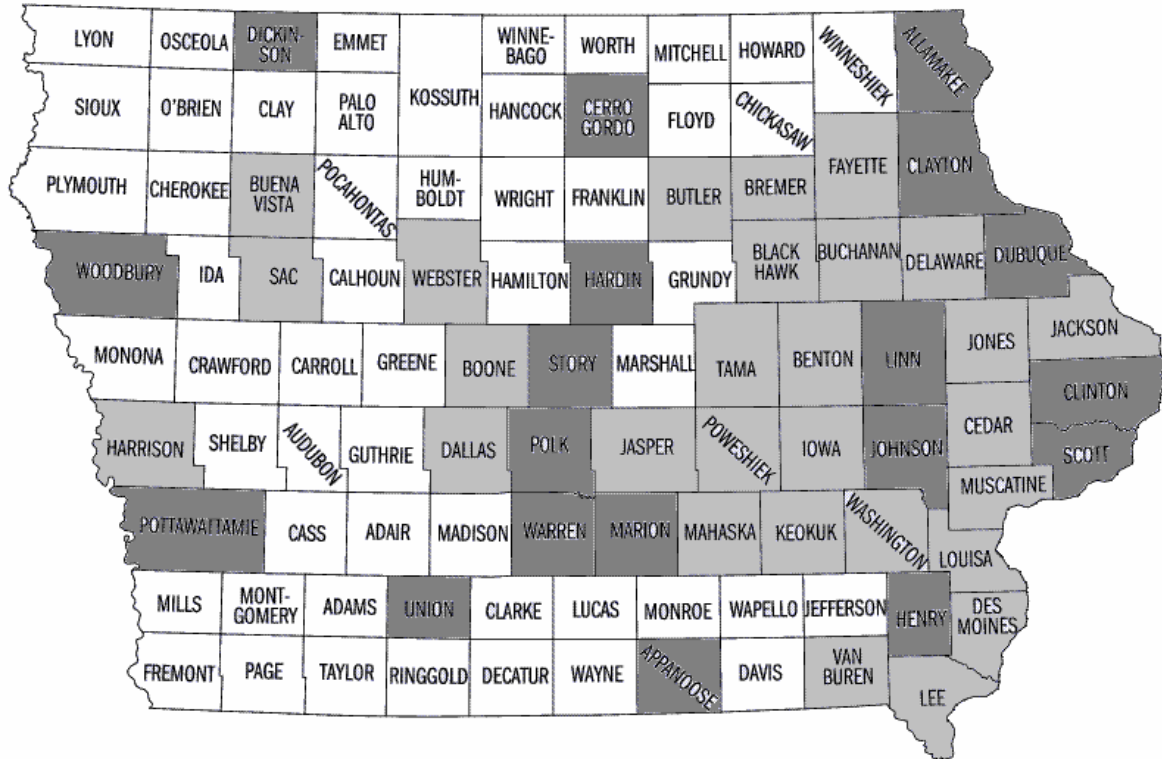
**Bodies of water most often fished in Iowa in the past 12 months / last year fished. (Respondents could name two bodies of water.)  
(Only shows responses that are 0.8% and higher.)**



**Counties most often fished in Iowa in the past 12 months / last year fished.  
(Only shows responses that are 1.0% and higher.)**



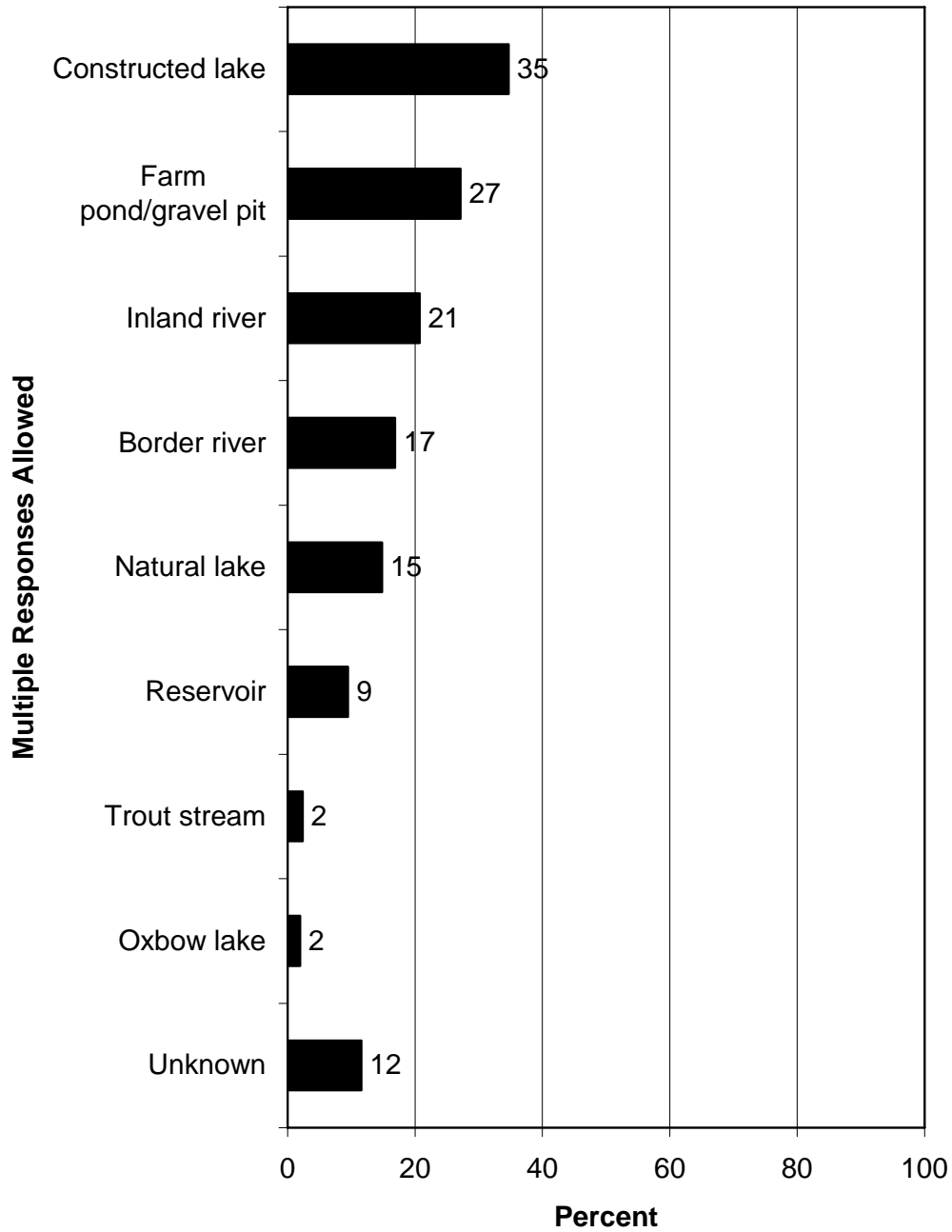
**MOST COMMONLY FISHED COUNTIES**



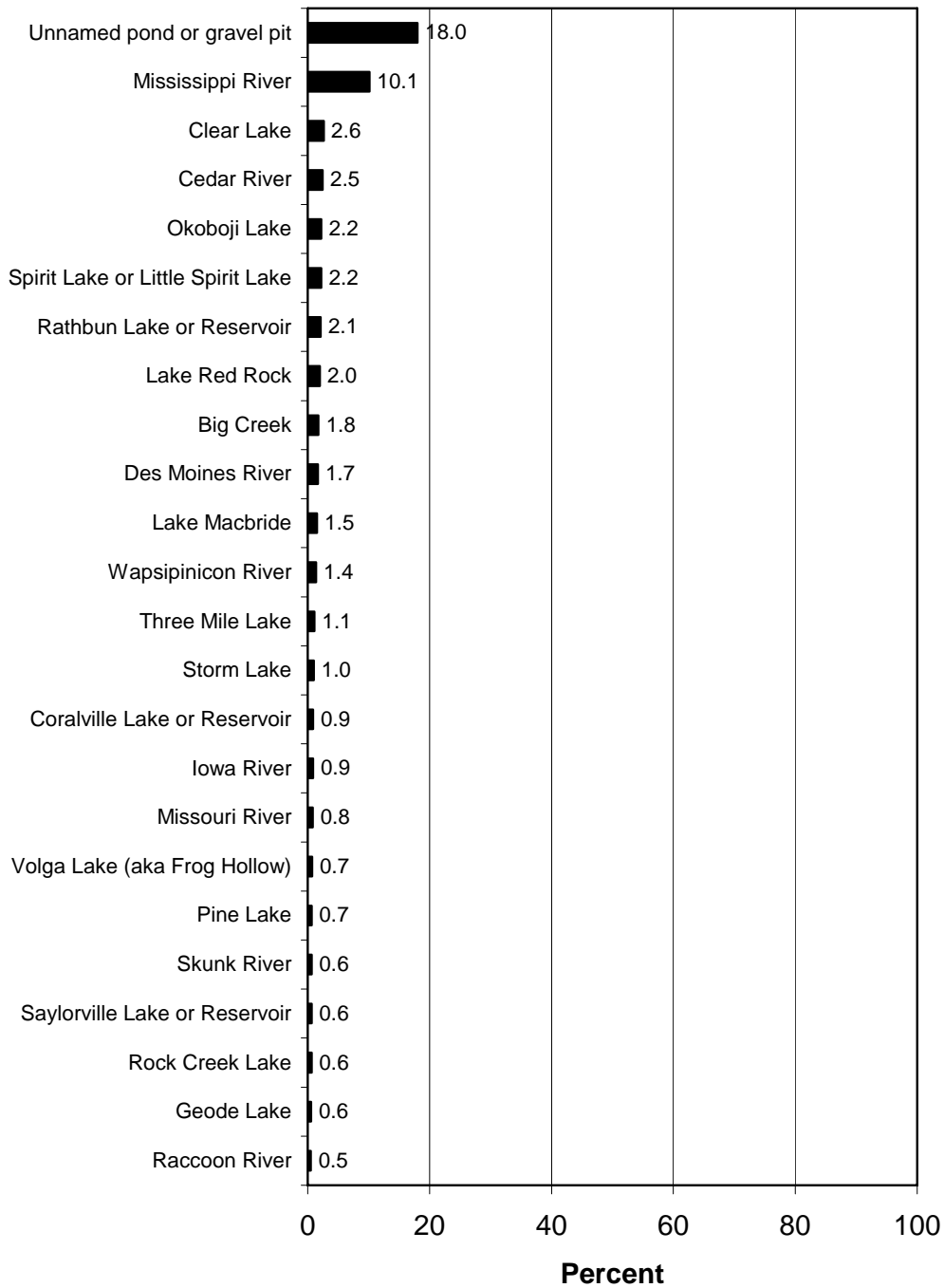
- More than 2.25%
- 1.00% to 2.25%
- Less than 1.00%



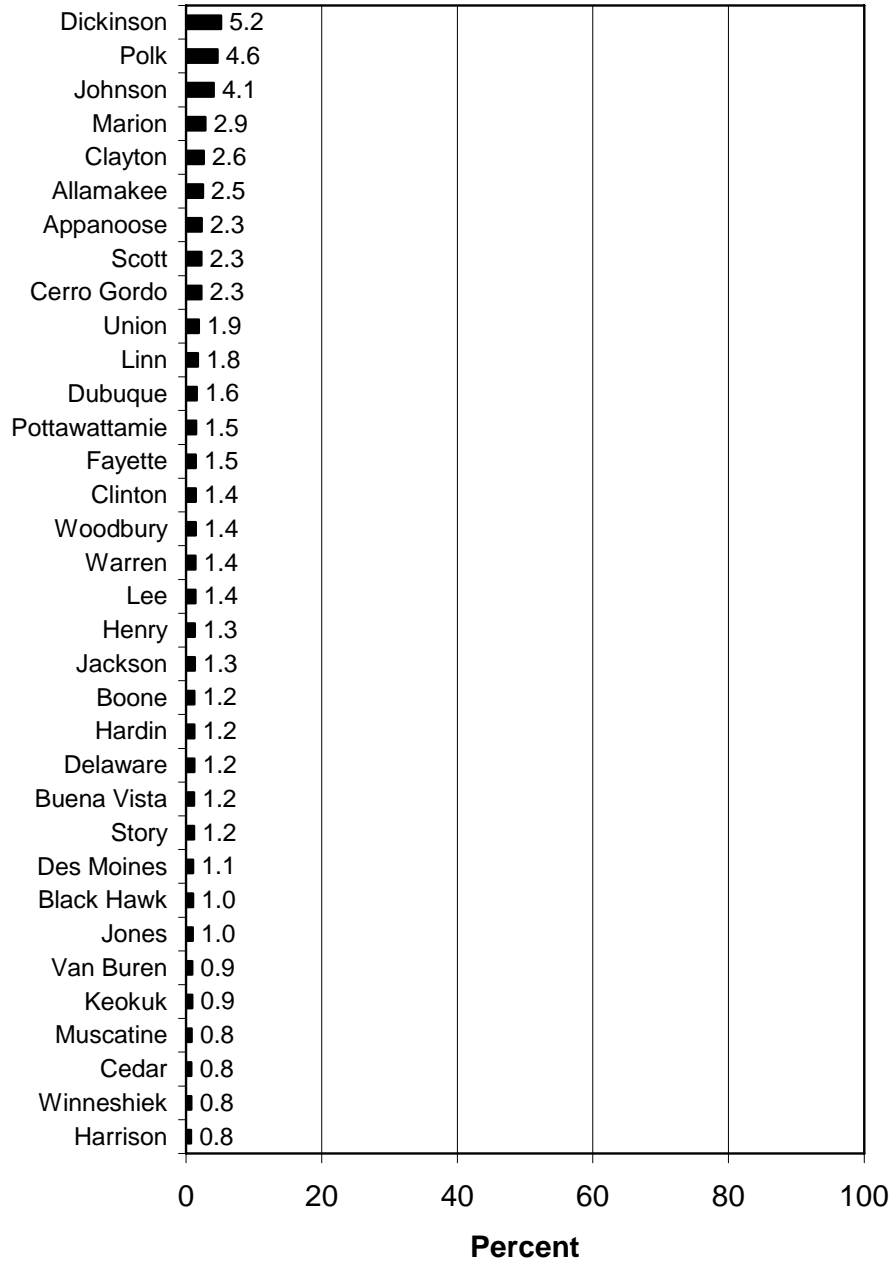
**Type of water body fished on most.  
(Respondent gave top two places fished the most.)**



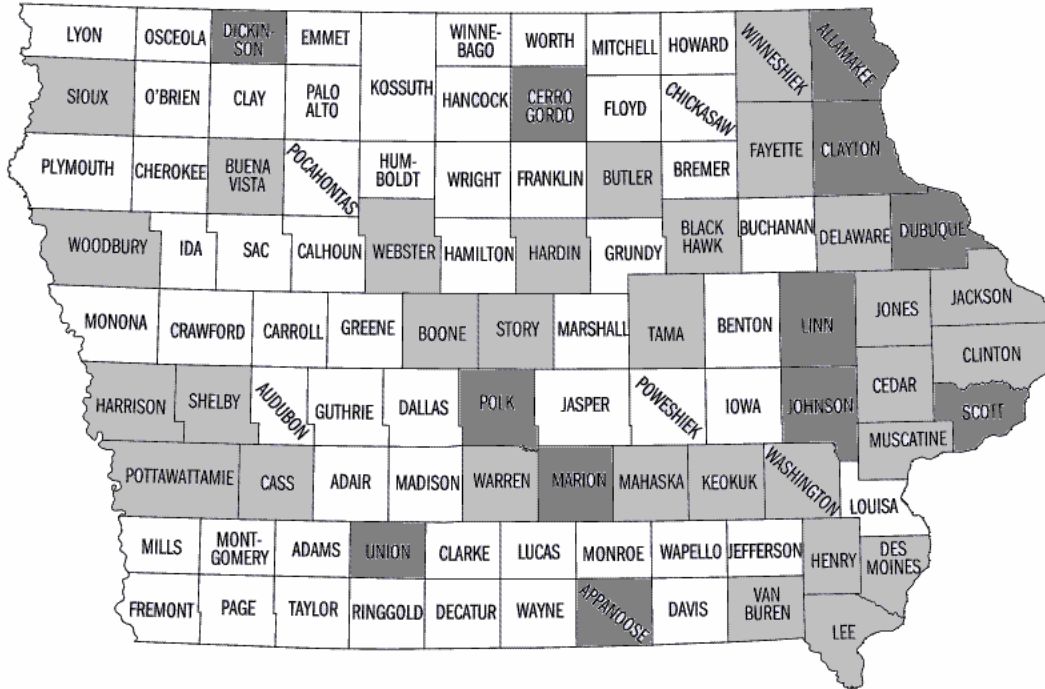
**Preferred body of water to fish on in Iowa.  
(Only showing responses that are 0.5% and higher.)**



**Preferred county in which to fish in Iowa.  
(Only showing responses that are 0.8% and  
higher.)**

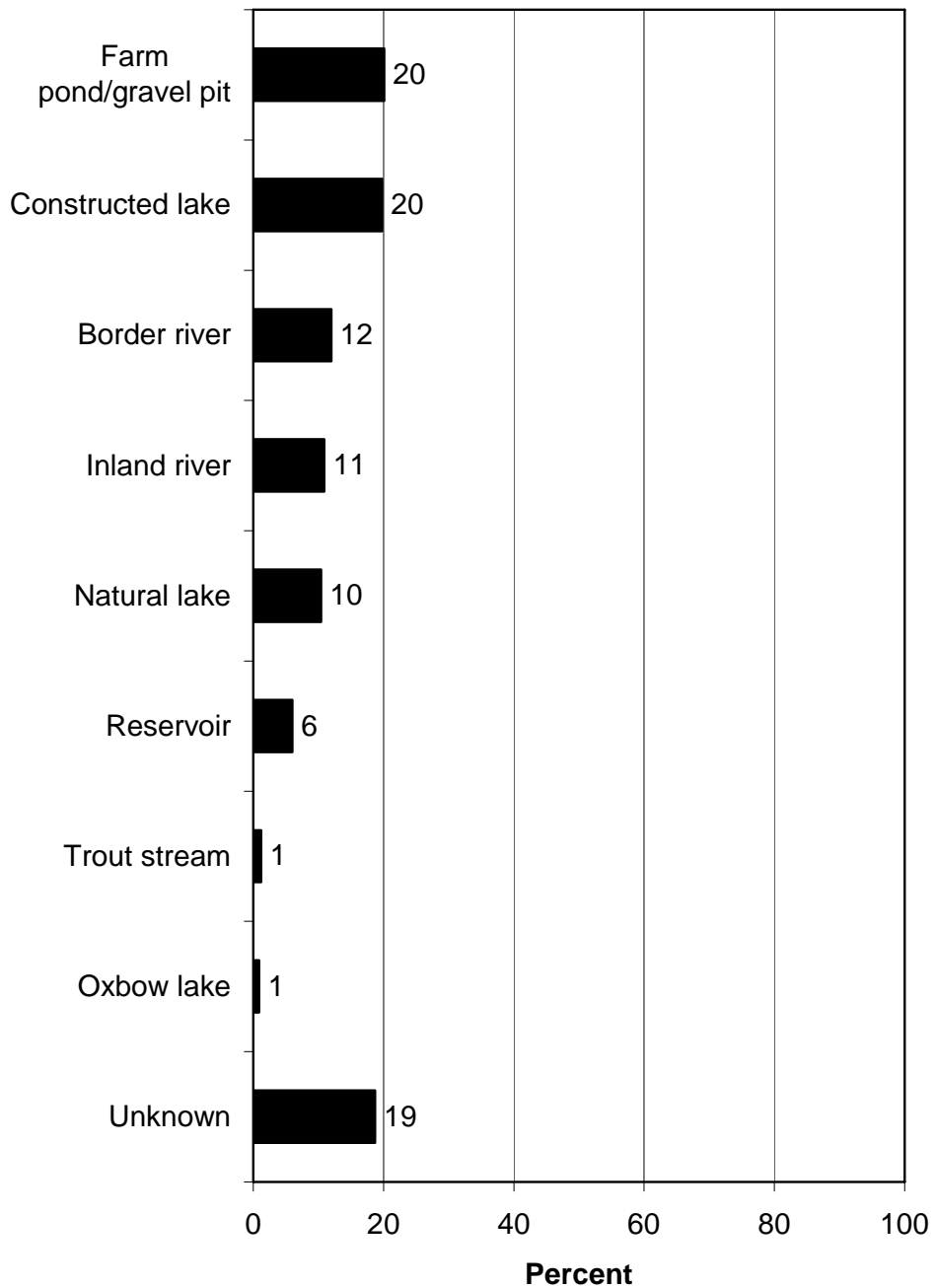


**MOST PREFERRED COUNTIES**

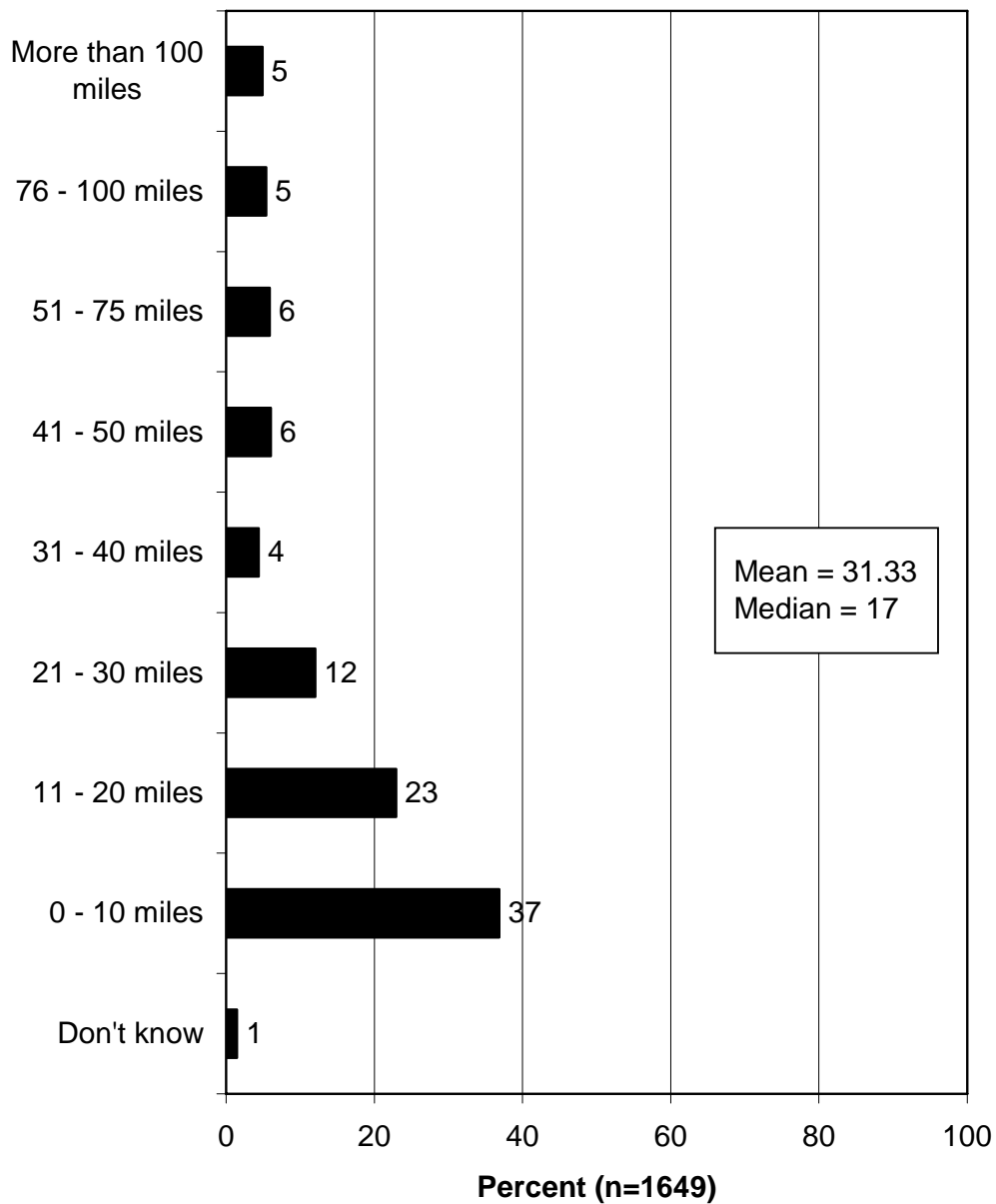


- 1.5% or higher
- 0.6% to 1.4%
- 0.5% or less

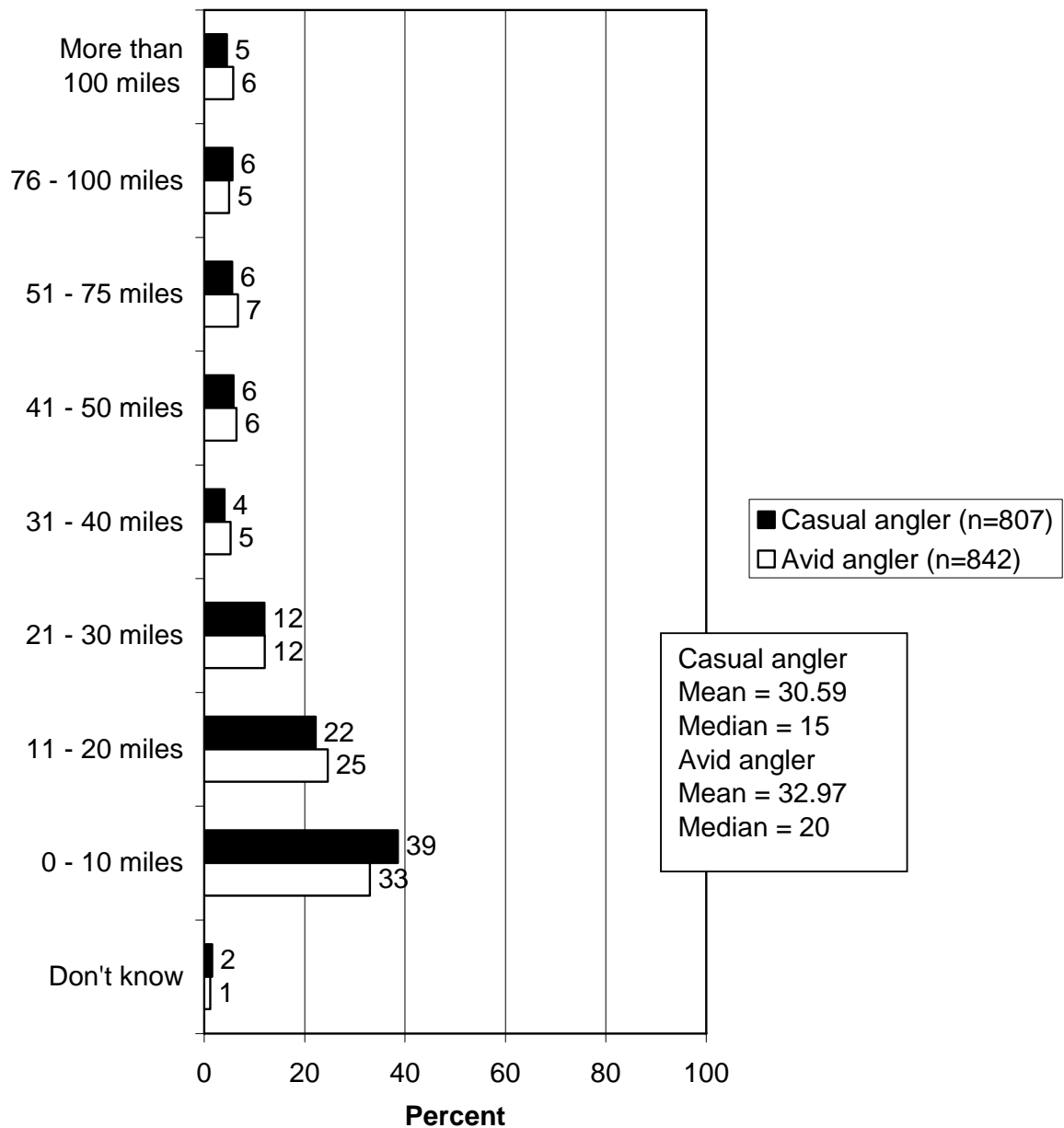
**Type of water body preferred to fish on most.  
(Respondent only gave one place most preferred to  
fish on.)**



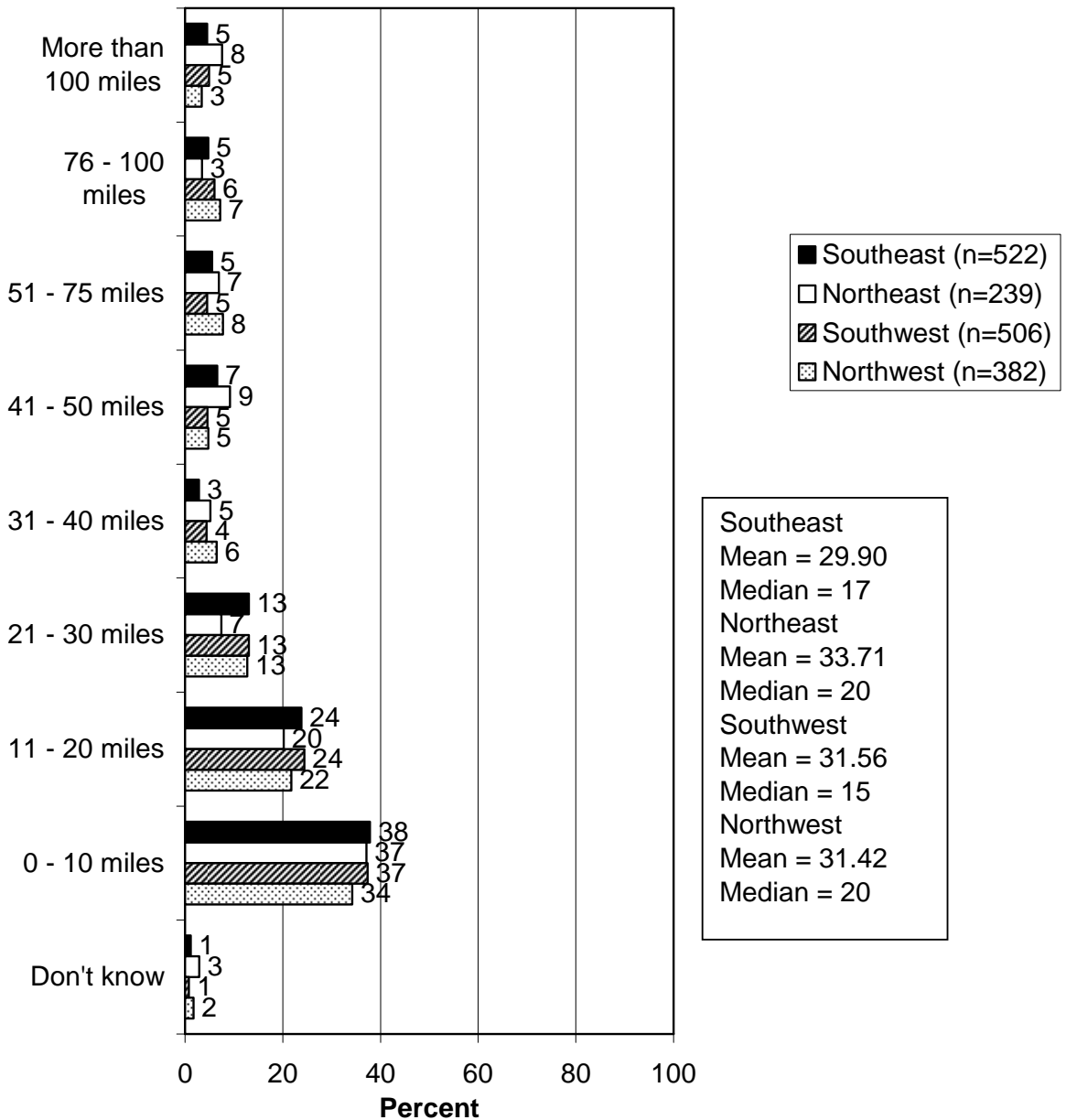
**Q63. How many miles do you/did you typically travel from your home, one-way, to fish in Iowa?**



**Q63. How many miles do you/did you typically travel from your home, one-way, to fish in Iowa?**

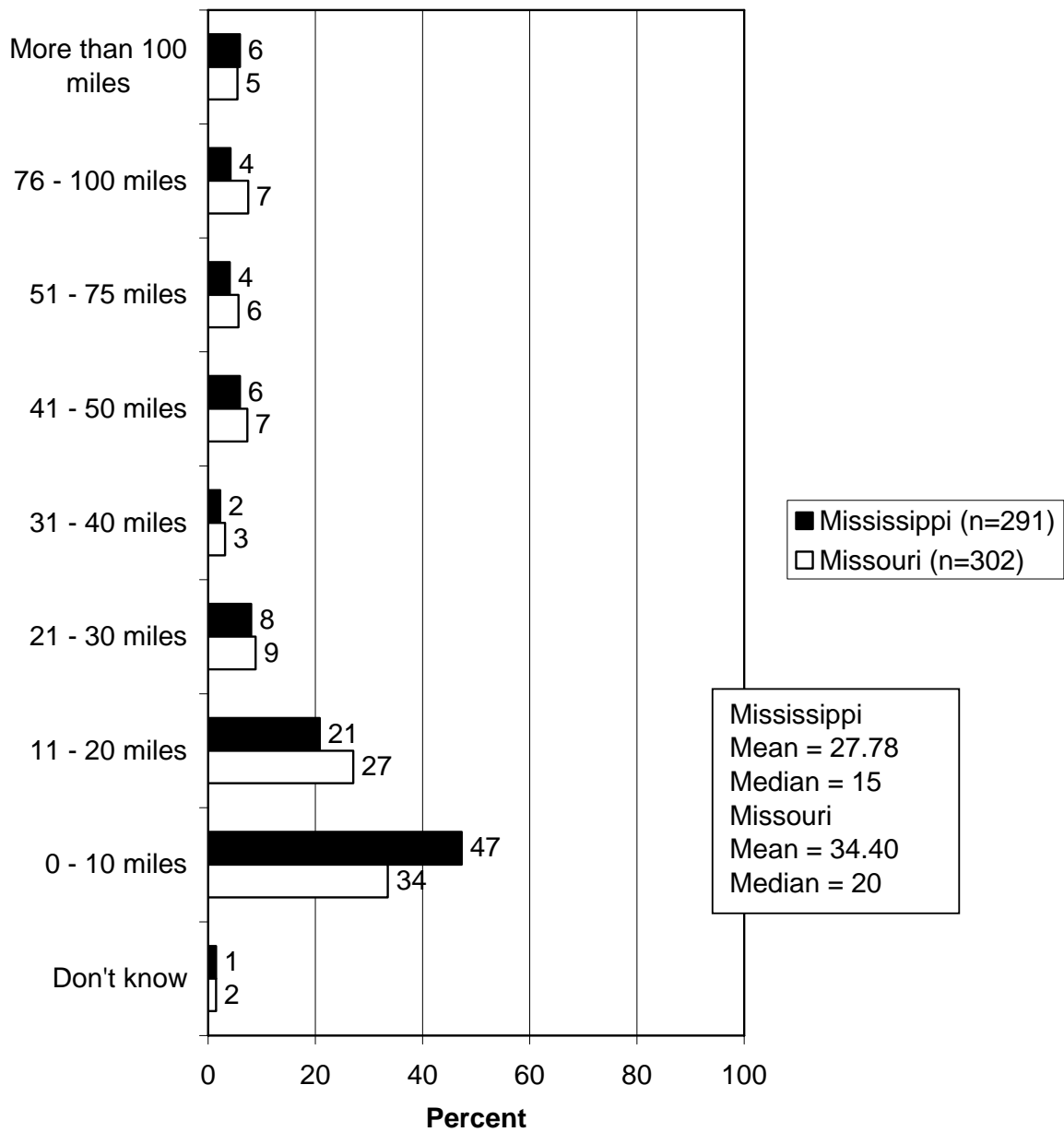


**Q63. How many miles do you/did you typically travel from your home, one-way, to fish in Iowa?**





**Q63. How many miles do you/did you typically travel from your home, one-way, to fish in Iowa?**



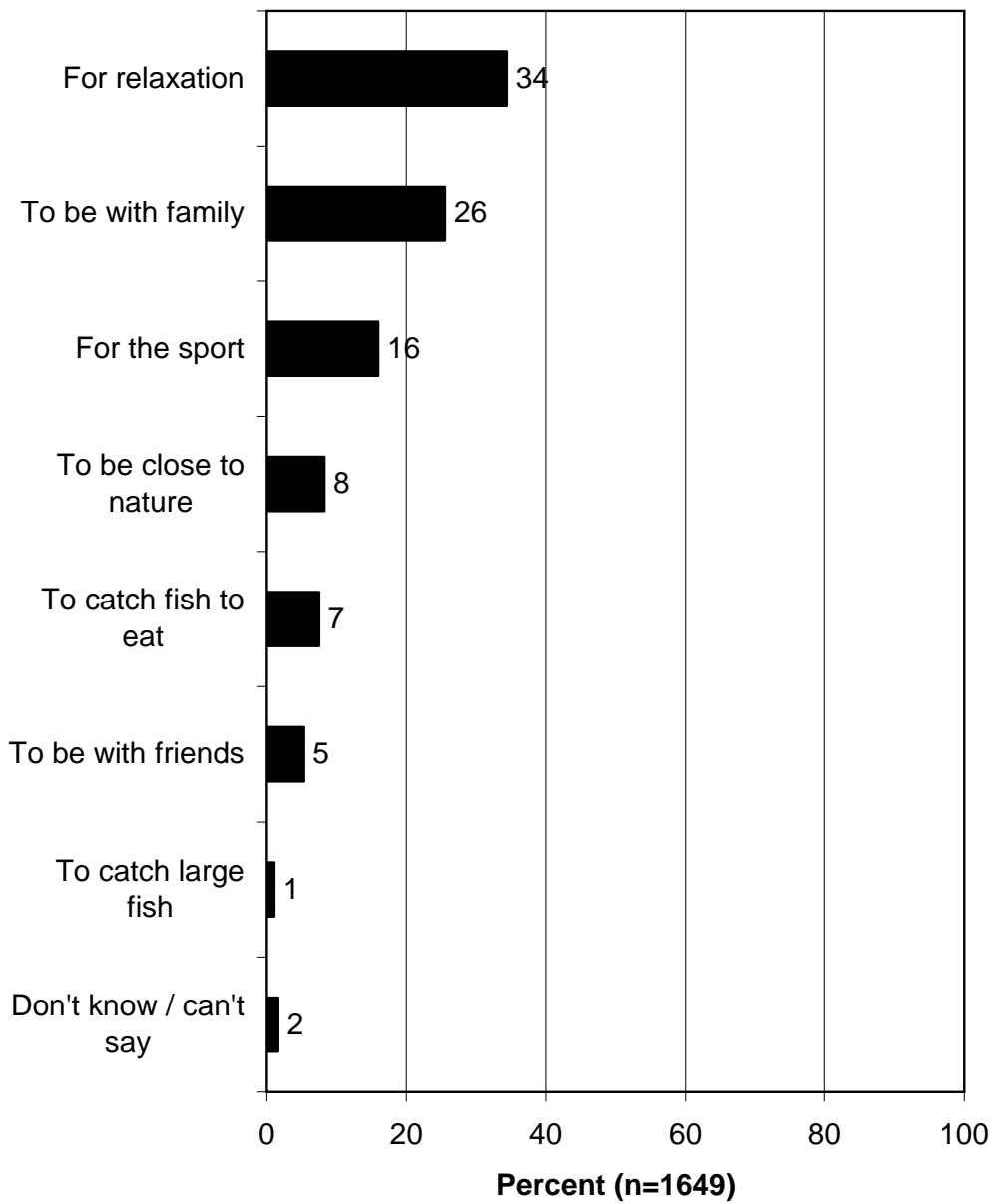
## MOTIVATIONS FOR FISHING

- The survey asked anglers about their most important reason for fishing out of a list of seven reasons, and the order of the reasons read to the respondent was randomly changed to eliminate bias in the answers. “For relaxation” was the most common reason for fishing (34%), followed by “to be with family” (26%), and “for the sport” (16%). Note that in general aesthetic reasons exceed utilitarian reasons for fishing.
  - Note that previous surveys—both Responsive Management surveys as well as those of other researchers—have asked about being with “family and friends,” but it was thought that for some people, the two are completely separate (one focus group participant in another study indicated that his outdoor recreation was with friends and specifically excluded family—he wanted to get away from his family), so this survey separated family and friends: 26% fished primarily to be with family, and 5% did so to be with friends, for a total of 31% who fished primarily to be with family or friends.
  - In the crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler, avid anglers are more likely to fish “for the sport” than are casual anglers, while casual anglers are more likely to fish “to be with family.”
  - The regional crosstabulation shows no marked differences among the regions on this question about motivations for fishing.
  - The data analysis by river region found no marked differences between anglers overall and anglers from either the Mississippi River Region or the Missouri River Region regarding motivations for fishing.
  
- The survey asked anglers whether fourteen specific things would increase their motivation to go fishing. Two motivations stand out: being asked by a child to go fishing (93% said this would increase their motivation to go fishing), and being invited by a friend (92%). Below these is a grouping of items, many of which relate to the health of the fishery and good water quality (all within the range of 67% to 75% saying the item would increase their motivation

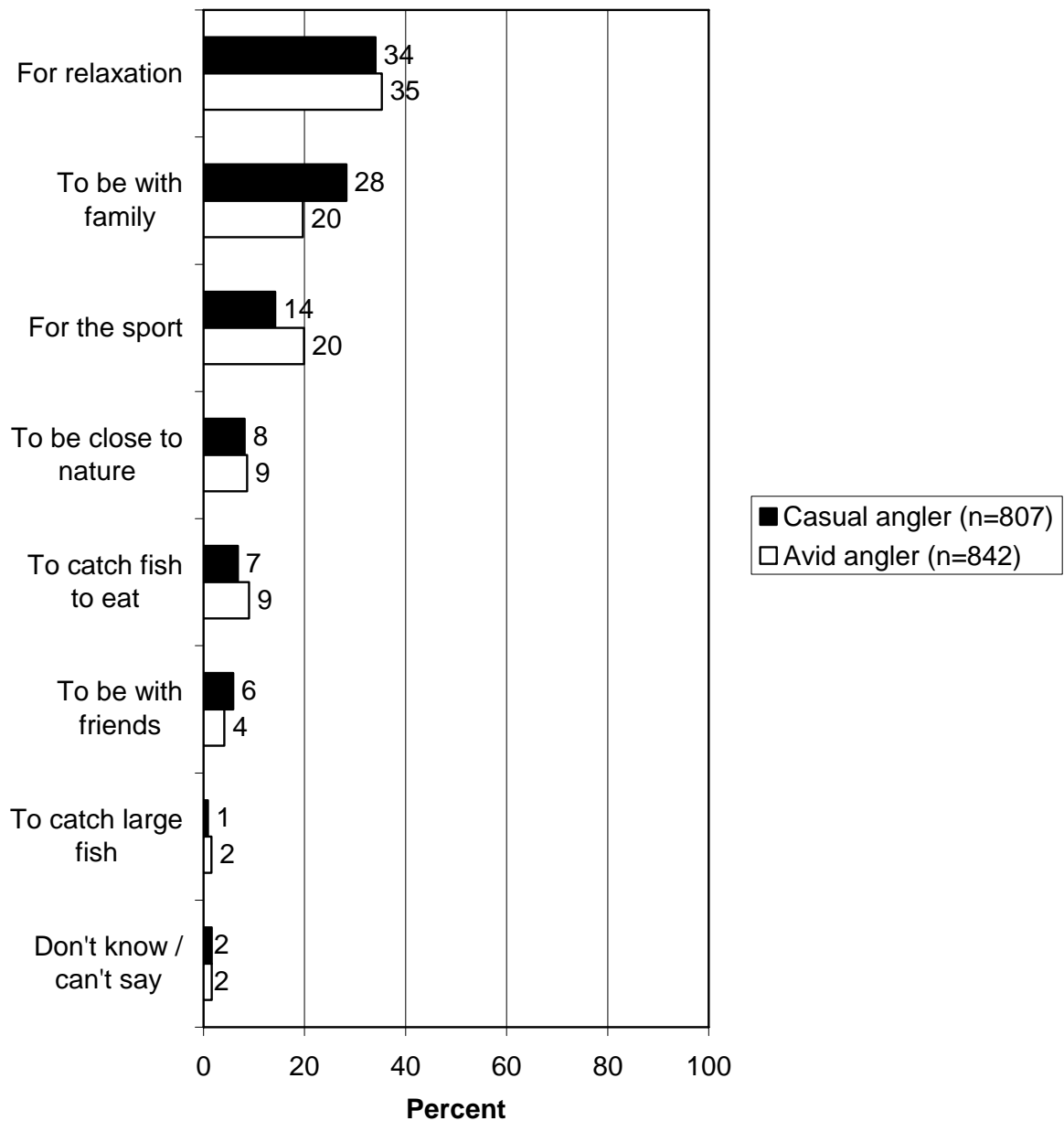
to go fishing). Within this range also is having fishing offered as part of a vacation. Low down on the ranking is having equipment made available, whether for rent or for free.

- For nearly every potential motivation, a greater percentage of avid anglers relative to casual anglers say that it would increase their motivation to fish a lot.
  - There are no marked regional differences on potential motivations.
  - For most potential motivations, a greater percentage of Missouri River Region anglers relative to Mississippi River Region anglers say that it would increase their motivation to fish a lot, particularly knowing that his/her fishing license fee helps pay for habitat protection.
- The survey directly asked about fish consumption. The large majority of Iowa anglers (80%) eat (or their family members eat) the fish they catch at least some of the time. Despite the finding (as discussed above) that utilitarian reasons are not the primary motivations for fishing, this finding about fish consumption suggests that utilitarian reasons certainly play a factor in overall enjoyment of fishing. (This graph is shown in the section of this report titled, “Consumption of Fish Caught in Iowa.”)

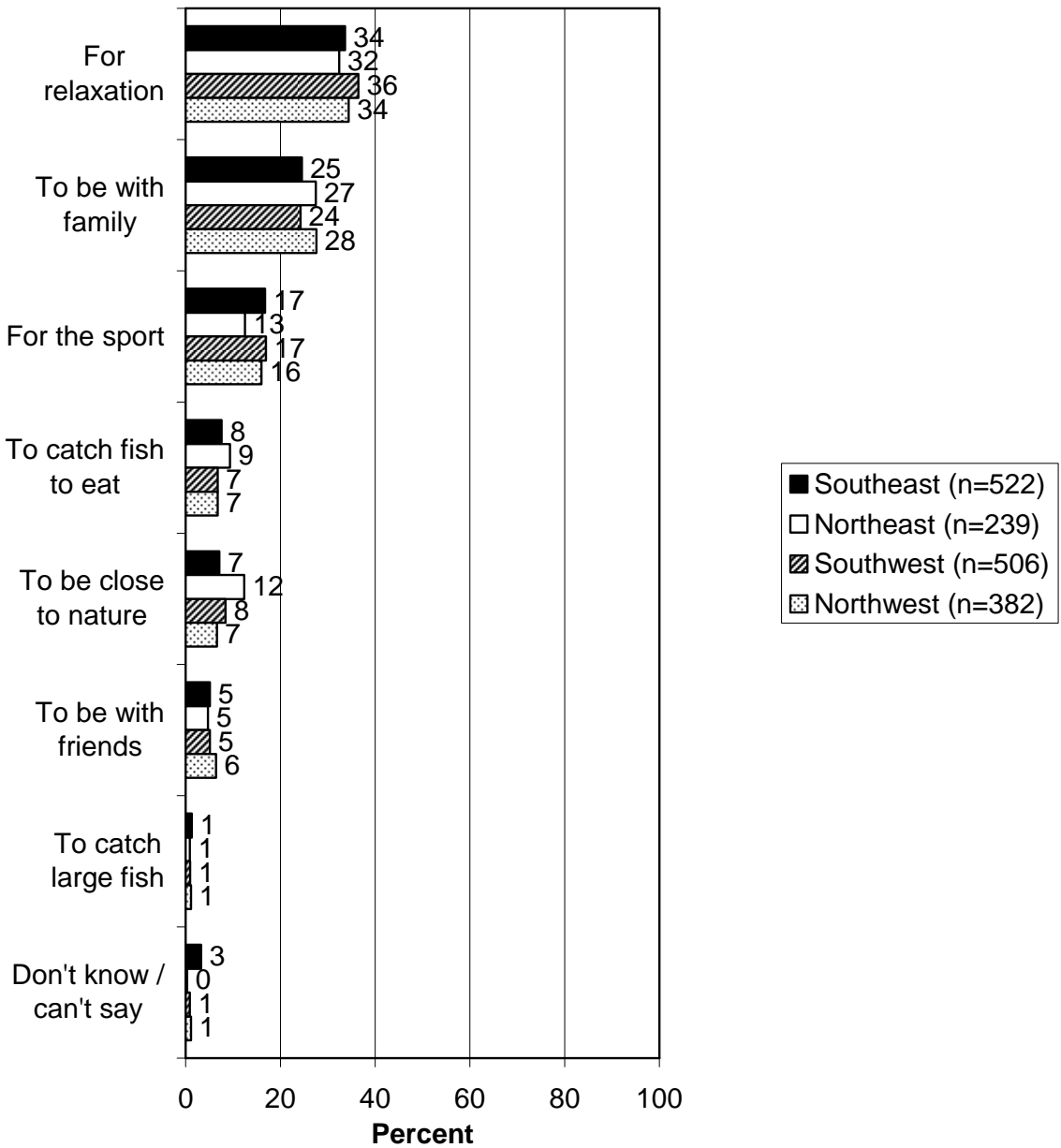
**Q82-84. Which of these is the most important reason that you fish?**



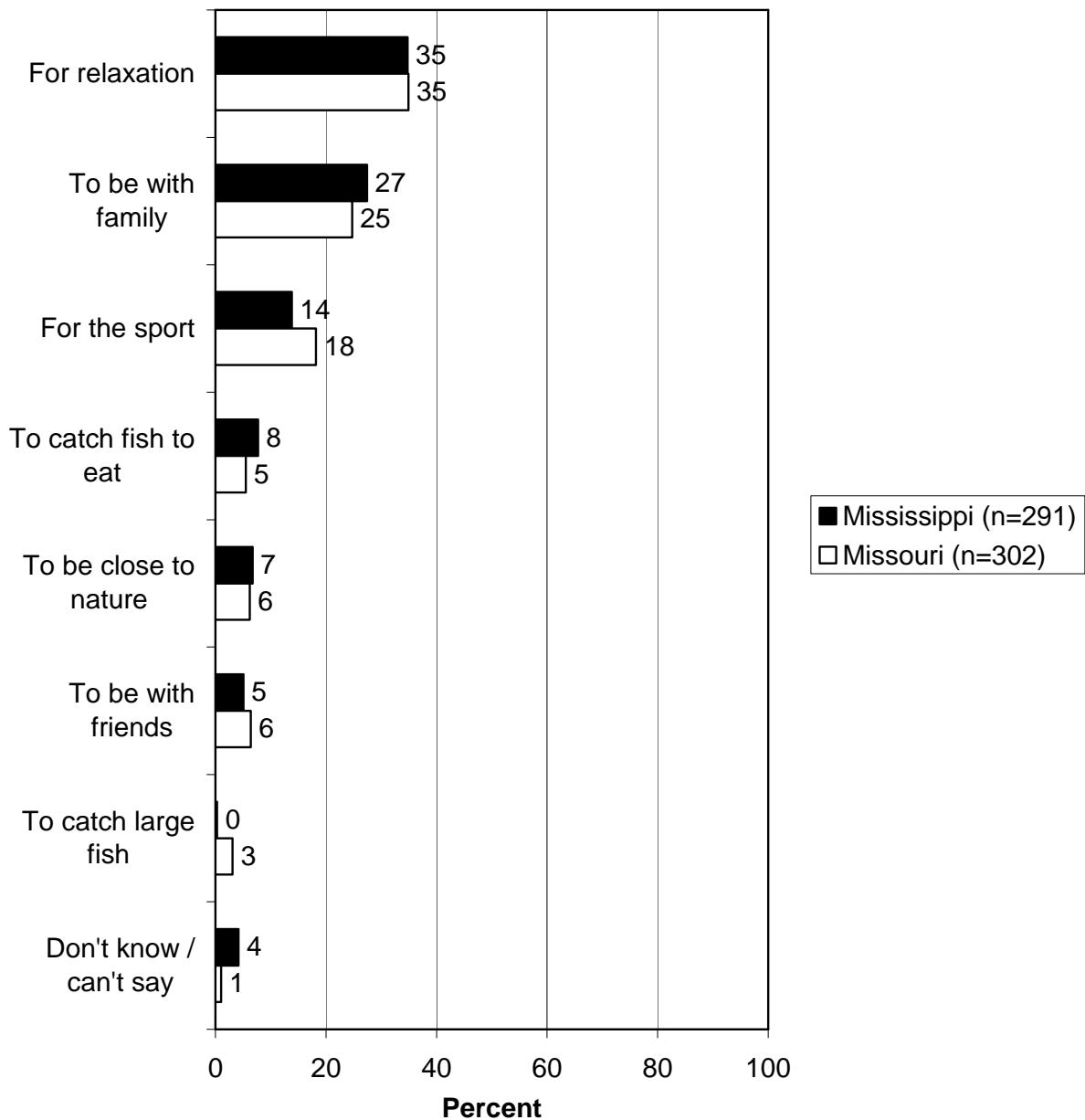
**Q82-84. Which of these is the most important reason that you fish?**



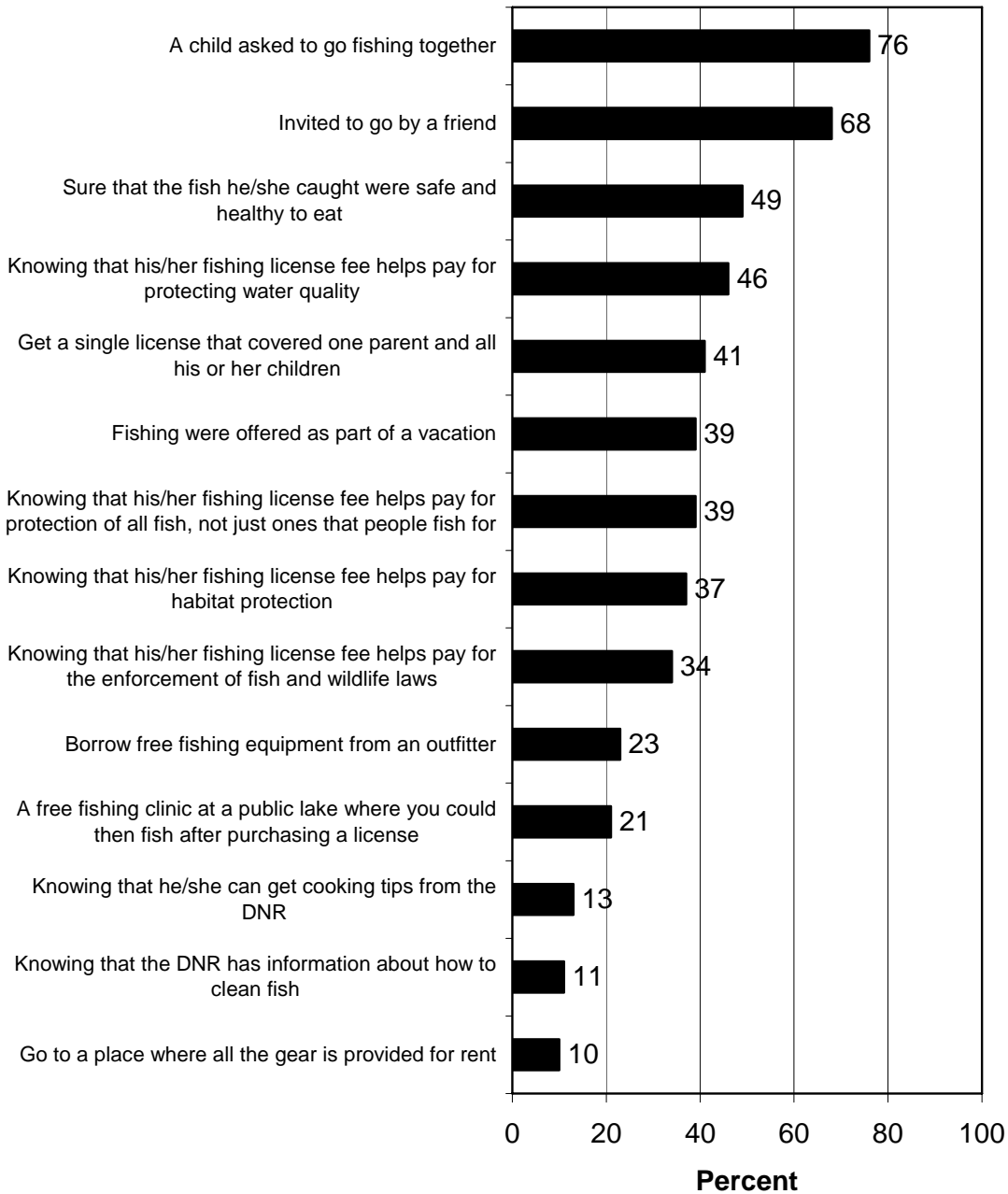
**Q82-84. Which of these is the most important reason that you fish?**



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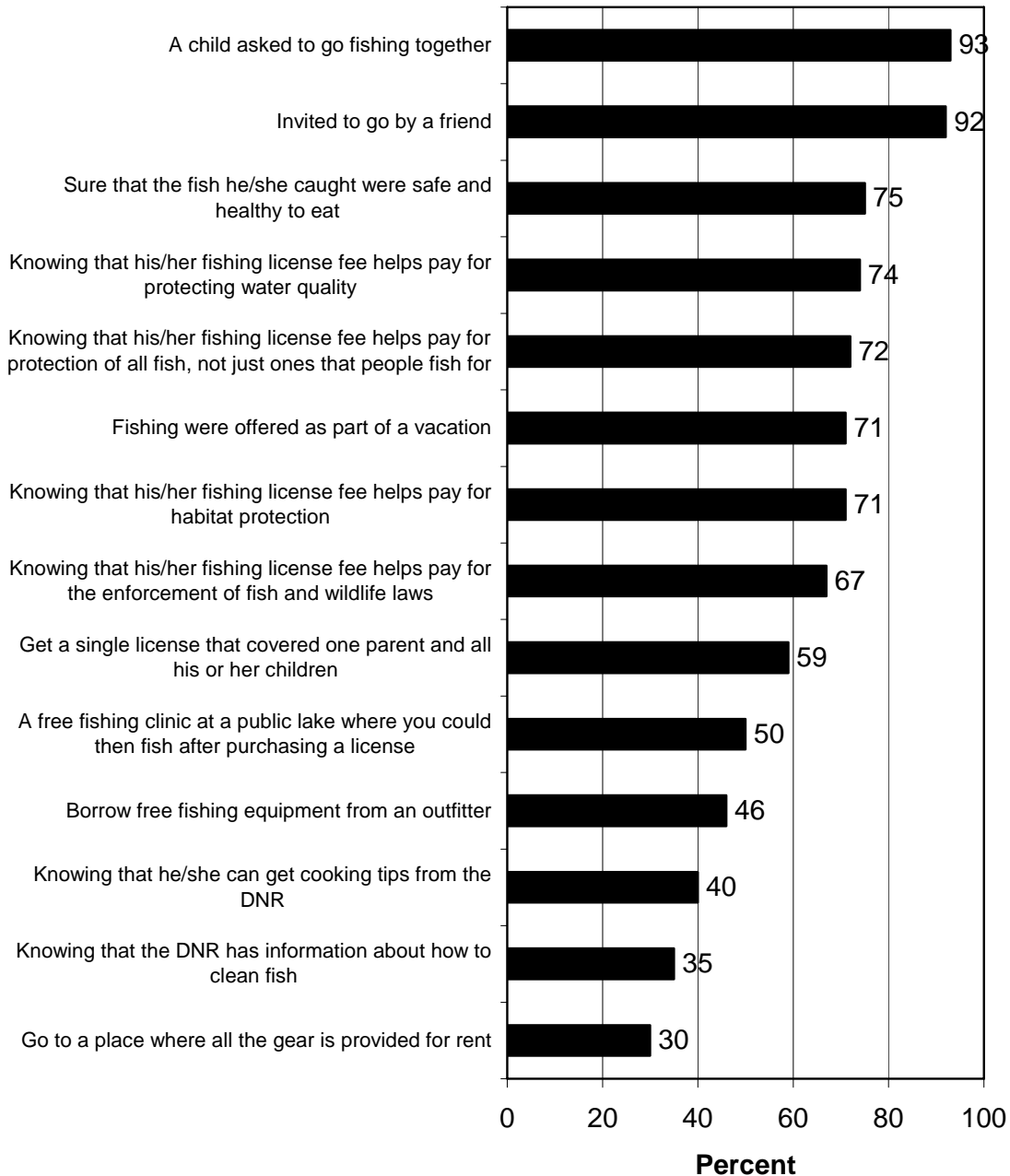


**Q122-135. Percent indicating that the following things would increase his/her motivation to go fishing a lot.**

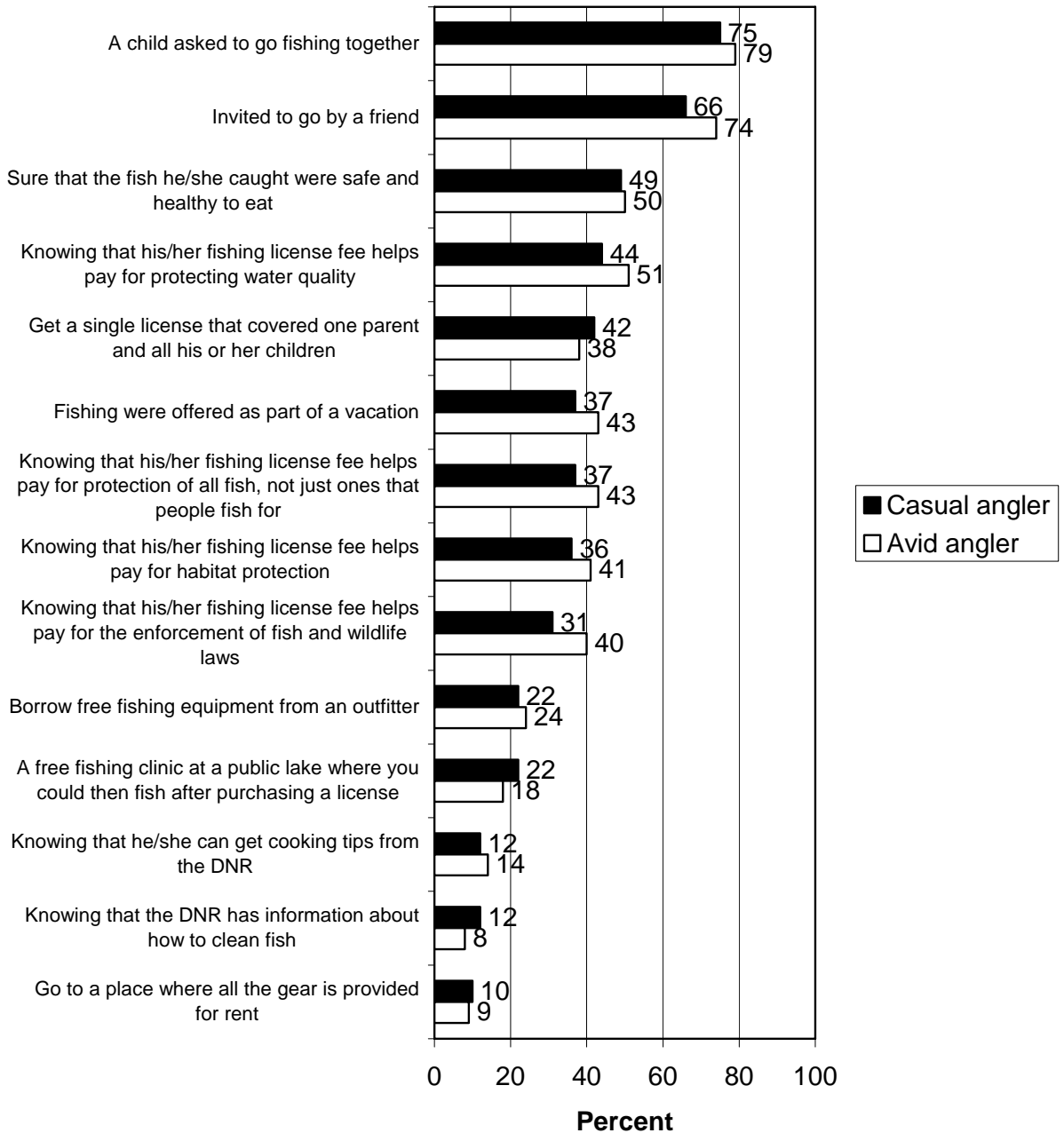




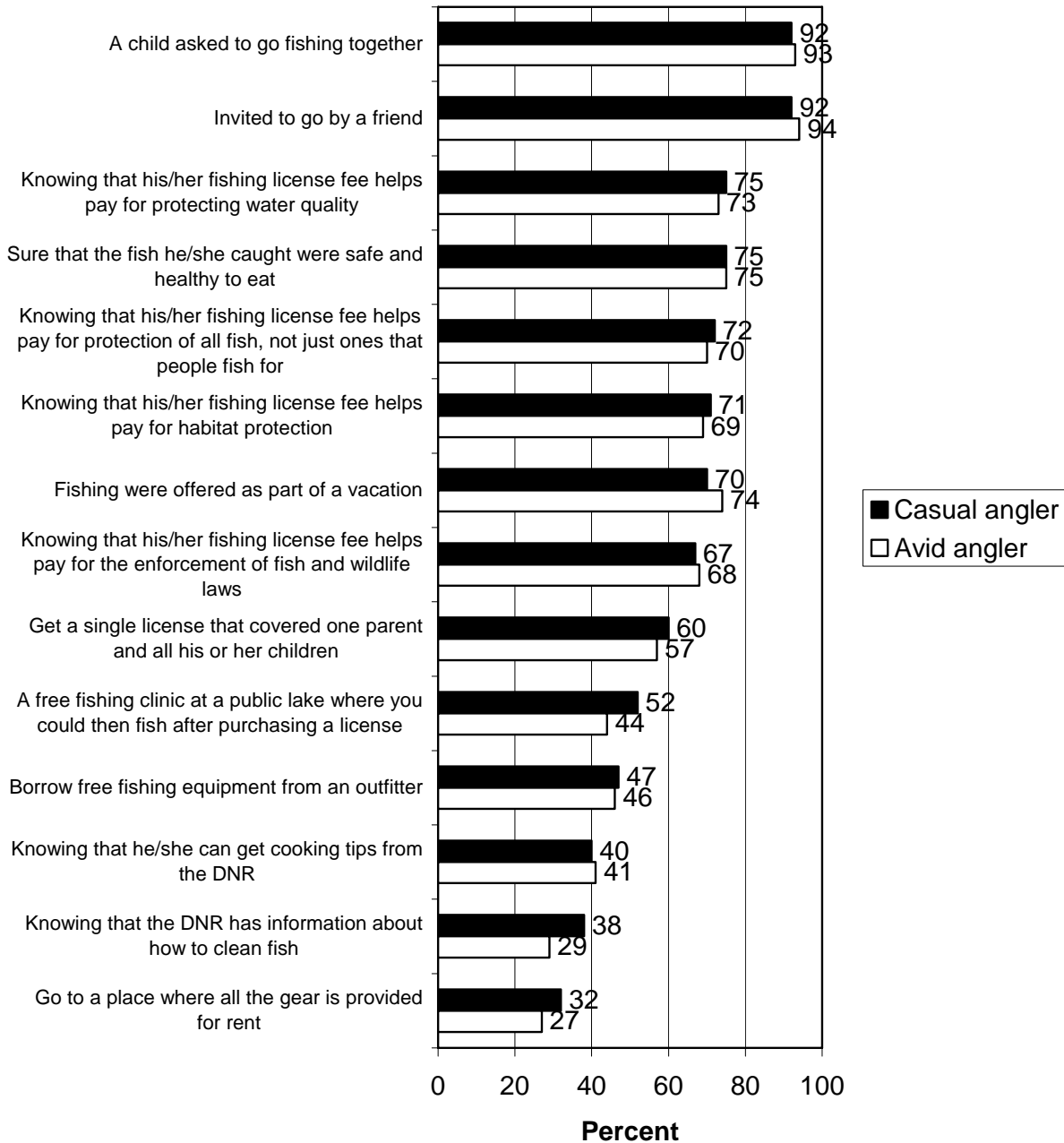
**Q122-135. Percent indicating that the following things would increase his/her motivation to go fishing.**



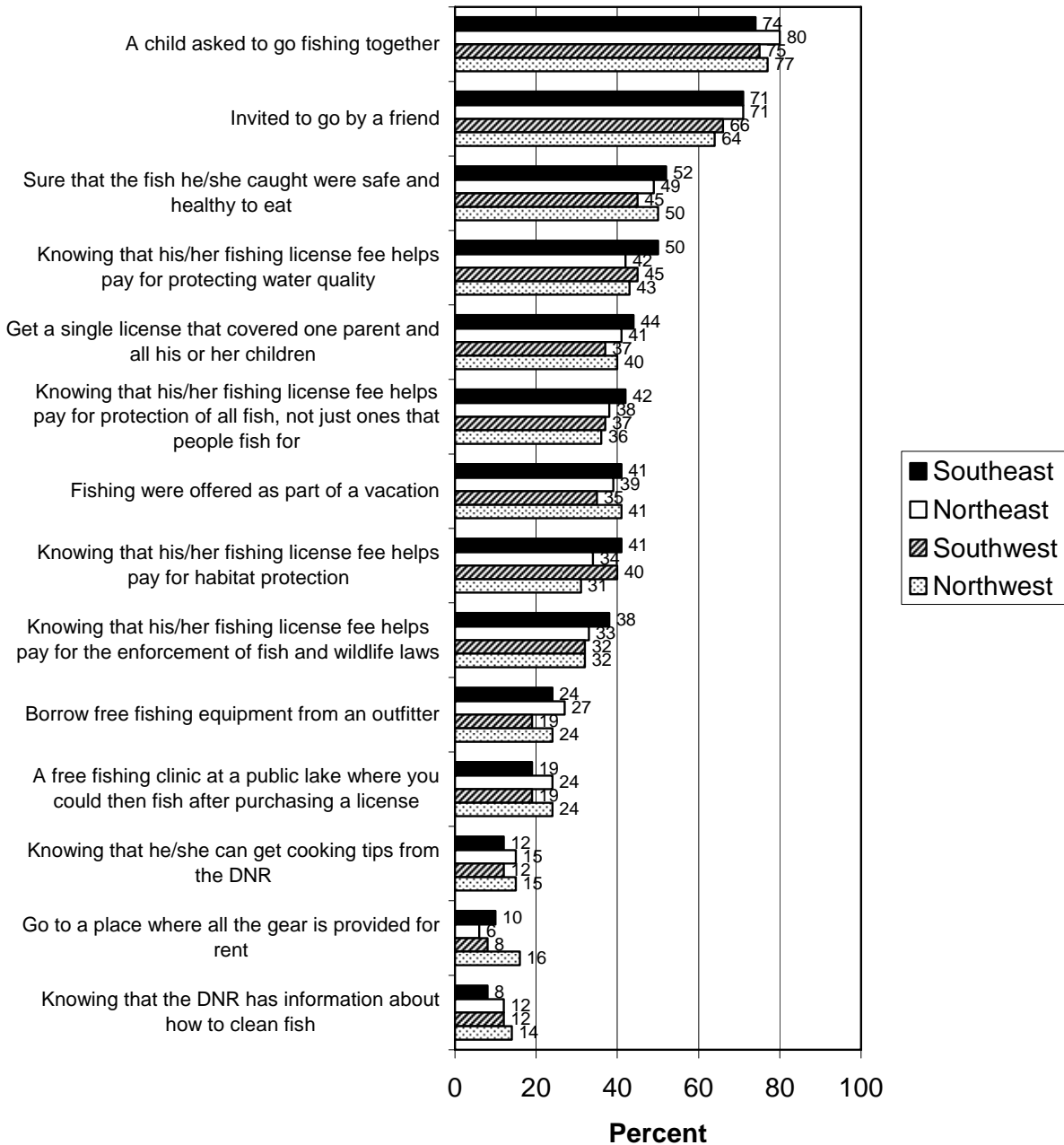
**Q122-135. Percent of those who indicated that the following things would increase his/her motivation to go fishing a lot.**



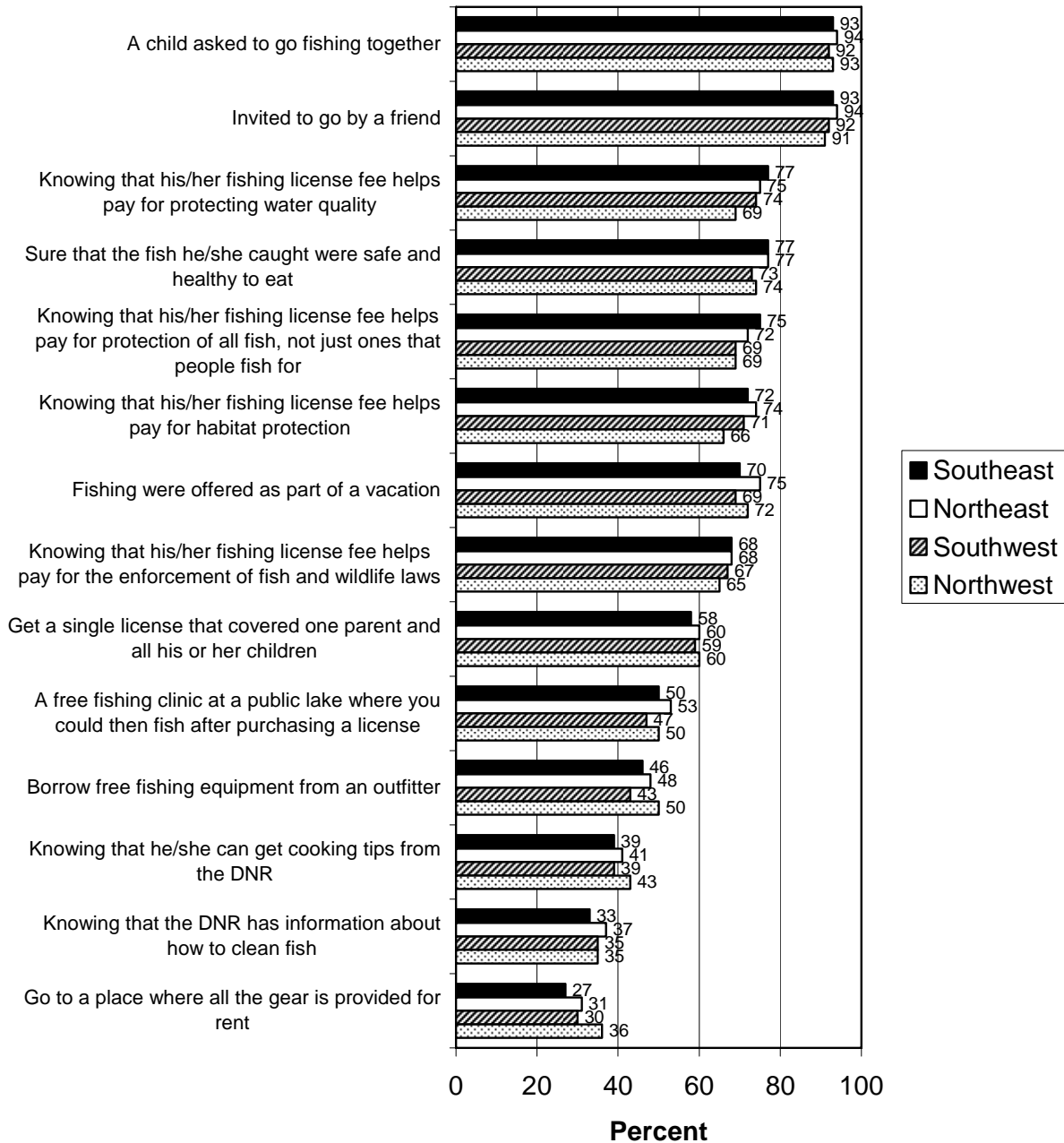
**Q122-135. Percent of those who indicated that the following things would increase his/her motivation to go fishing.**



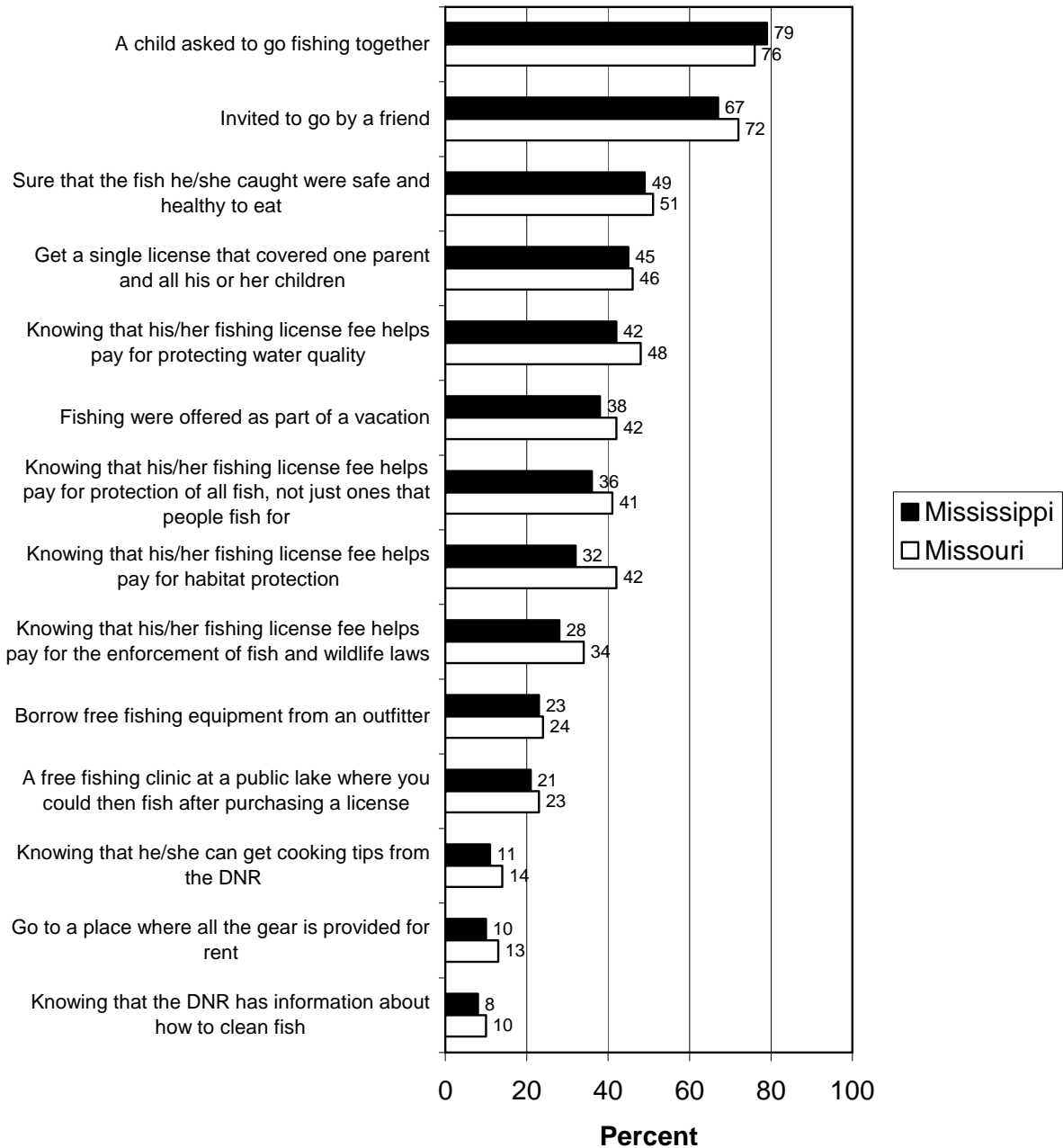
**Q122-135. Percent of those who indicated that the following things would increase his/her motivation to go fishing a lot.**



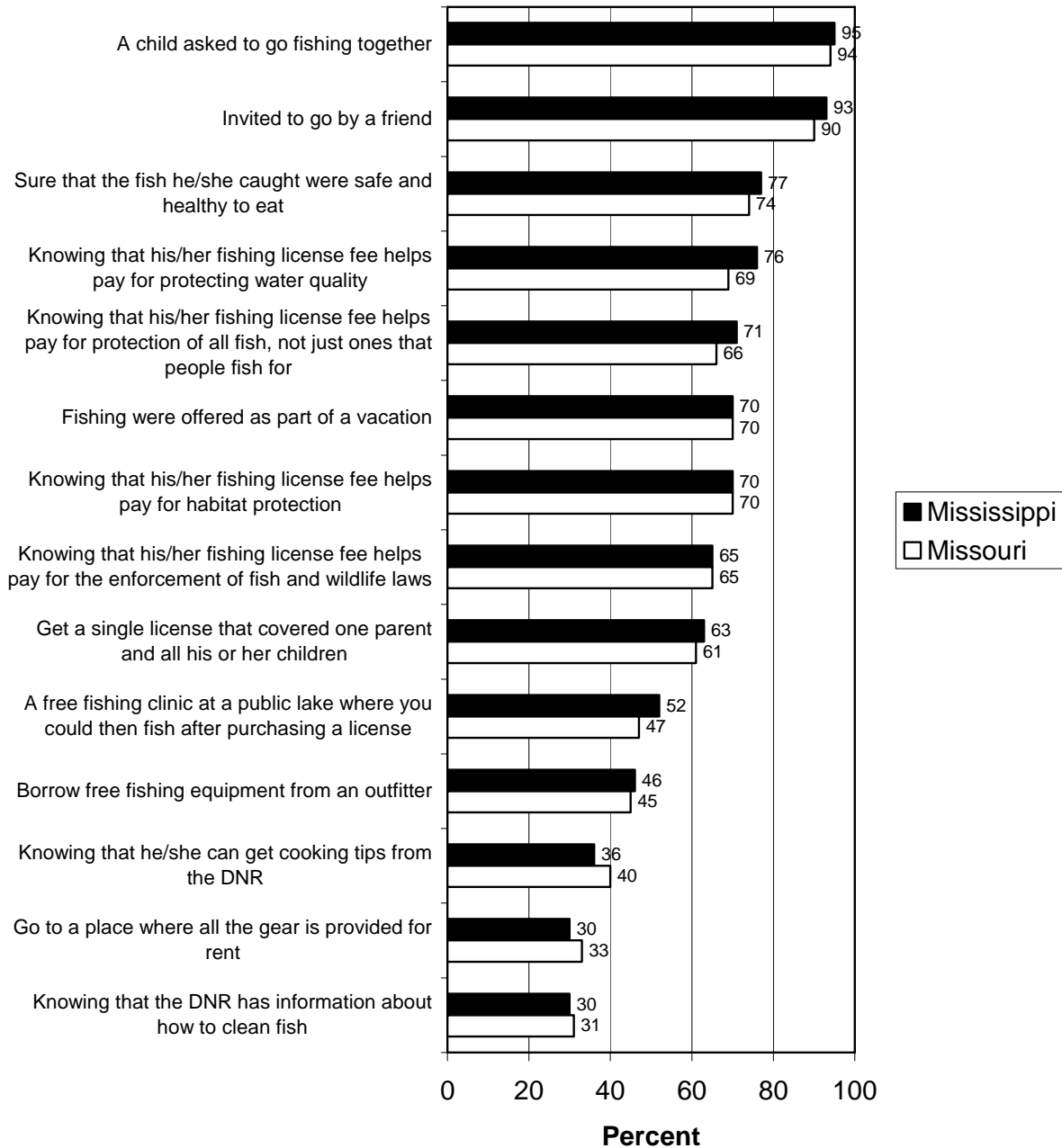
### Q122-135. Percent of those who indicated that the following things would increase his/her motivation to go fishing.



**Q122-135. Percent of those who indicated that the following things would increase his/her motivation to go fishing a lot.**



**Q122-135. Percent of those who indicated that the following things would increase his/her motivation to go fishing.**



## CONSTRAINTS TO FISHING PARTICIPATION

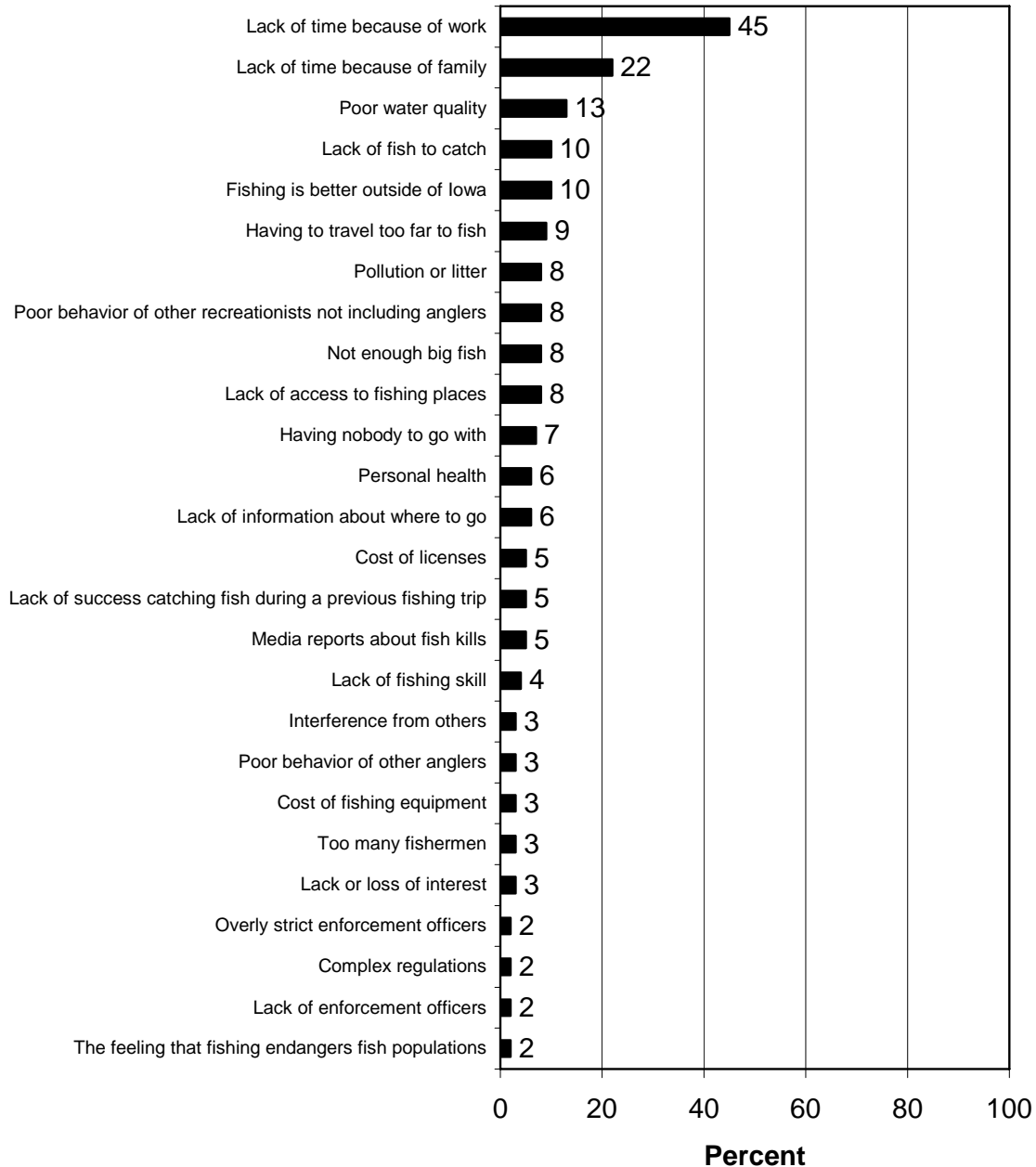
- The survey asked anglers about 26 potential constraints on fishing participation, asking if each was a major factor, a minor factor, or not a factor causing the respondent not to fish as much as he/she wanted or took away from enjoyment of fishing. The top constraint, by far, was lack of time because of work obligations (45% said this was a major factor), distantly followed by lack of time because of family obligations (22%). Below these were poor water quality (13%), lack of fish to catch (10%), and the feeling that places outside of Iowa are better for fishing (10%).
  - Casual anglers were more likely than avid anglers to say that lack of time because of family obligations was a major factor. On the other hand, avid anglers were more likely to say that poor behavior of other recreationists excluding anglers was a major factor. In looking at major and minor factors combined, casual anglers were more likely than avid anglers to say that lack of skill or lack of interest was a factor. Meanwhile, avid anglers were more likely than casual anglers to say that poor behavior of other recreationists (both anglers and non-anglers) was a factor, that interference from others was a factor, and that lack of access was a factor.
  - The crosstabulation by region of the state found little difference among regions on the 26 potential constraints on fishing participation.
  - The data analysis by river region found only a few small differences among each river region regarding potential constraints to fishing participation and/or enjoyment. Missouri River Region anglers were more likely than were Mississippi River Region anglers to cite lack of fish to catch, lack of access to fishing places, and lack of big fish as major factors.
  
- The survey asked if the price of gas had negatively affected anglers' fishing, and 14% indicated that it negatively affected their fishing participation "a great deal." In total, 29% indicated that it had affected their fishing "a little" or "a great deal."
  - The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler found that avid anglers were more likely to be affected by the price of gas.
  - The regional crosstabulation shows no marked differences among the regions on this question about the price of gas.



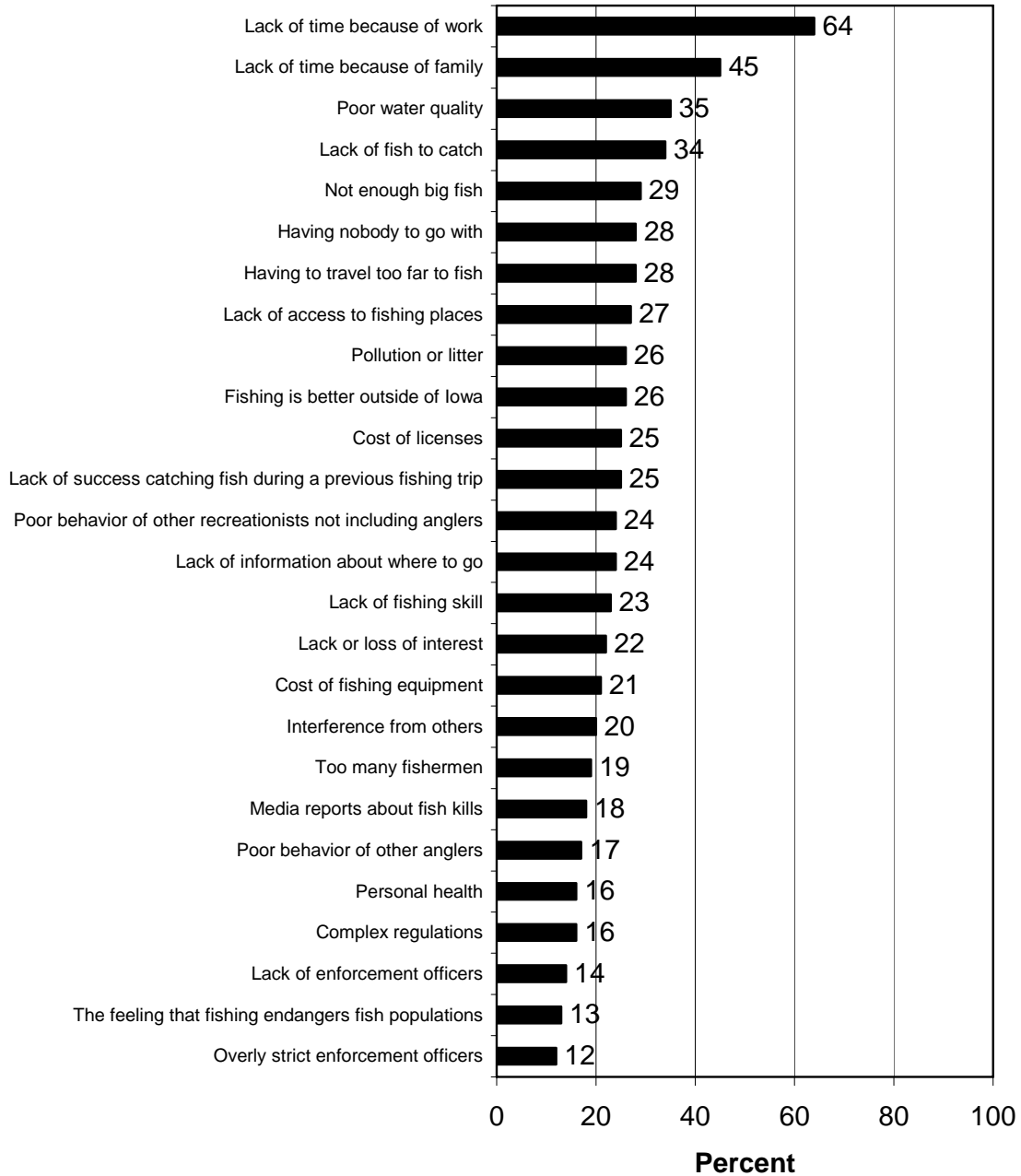
- The data analysis by river region found no marked differences between anglers overall and anglers from either the Mississippi River Region or the Missouri River Region regarding whether gas prices had negatively affected their fishing participation.
  - A crosstabulation shows a correlation to distance typically traveled and whether the price of gas has negatively affected fishing participation: those who typically travel farther were more likely to be affected by the price of gas.
- A very small percentage of Iowa anglers (3%) rate the IDNR as poor in managing fishing and fisheries in Iowa, and 13% rate the IDNR as fair (for a total of 16% in the bottom half of the scale from excellent to poor). Certainly for these anglers, this low perception of fishing management could be a constraint to fishing in Iowa. These anglers who gave a fair or poor rating were asked why they had given a low rating, and lack of fish/poor quality of fishing was the top answer, followed by water quality/pollution. (These graphs are shown in the section of this report titled, “Ratings of Fishing and Fisheries Management in Iowa.”)
- Low percentages of anglers rate public access to fishing as poor in Iowa, as follows: 5% rate access to inland rivers and streams as poor, 2% rate access to lakes as poor, 2% rate access to the Mississippi River as poor, and 2% rate access to the Missouri River as poor. In considering fair and poor ratings combined (i.e., the lower half of the excellent to poor scale), only access to inland rivers and streams has very many anglers giving a low rating (26% rated it fair or poor). Otherwise, 15% rate lake access as fair or poor, and 10% rate access to the Mississippi and 7% rate access to the Missouri River as fair or poor. These findings suggest that lack of access is not a constraint for *most* anglers, but may be a constraint for some. (These graphs are shown in the section of this report titled, “Ratings of Fishing and Fisheries Management in Iowa.”)
- In a direct question regarding trends in water quality over the past 10 years, a third of anglers (33%) say that water quality is worse now compared to 10 years ago. For these people, water quality may be a constraint. (This graph is shown in the section of this report titled, “Ratings of Fishing and Fisheries Management in Iowa.”)

- Several questions in the survey pertained to the safety of consuming fish caught in Iowa. A low percentage of those who consume fish from Iowa waters say that they limit their consumption because of safety concerns—only 16% of those who consume fish. Indeed, among those who consume fish, only 7% consider Iowa’s fish to be somewhat or very unsafe to eat. This suggests that safety concerns are not a primary constraint among anglers overall. (These graphs are shown in the section of this report titled, “Ratings of Fishing and Fisheries Management in Iowa.”)

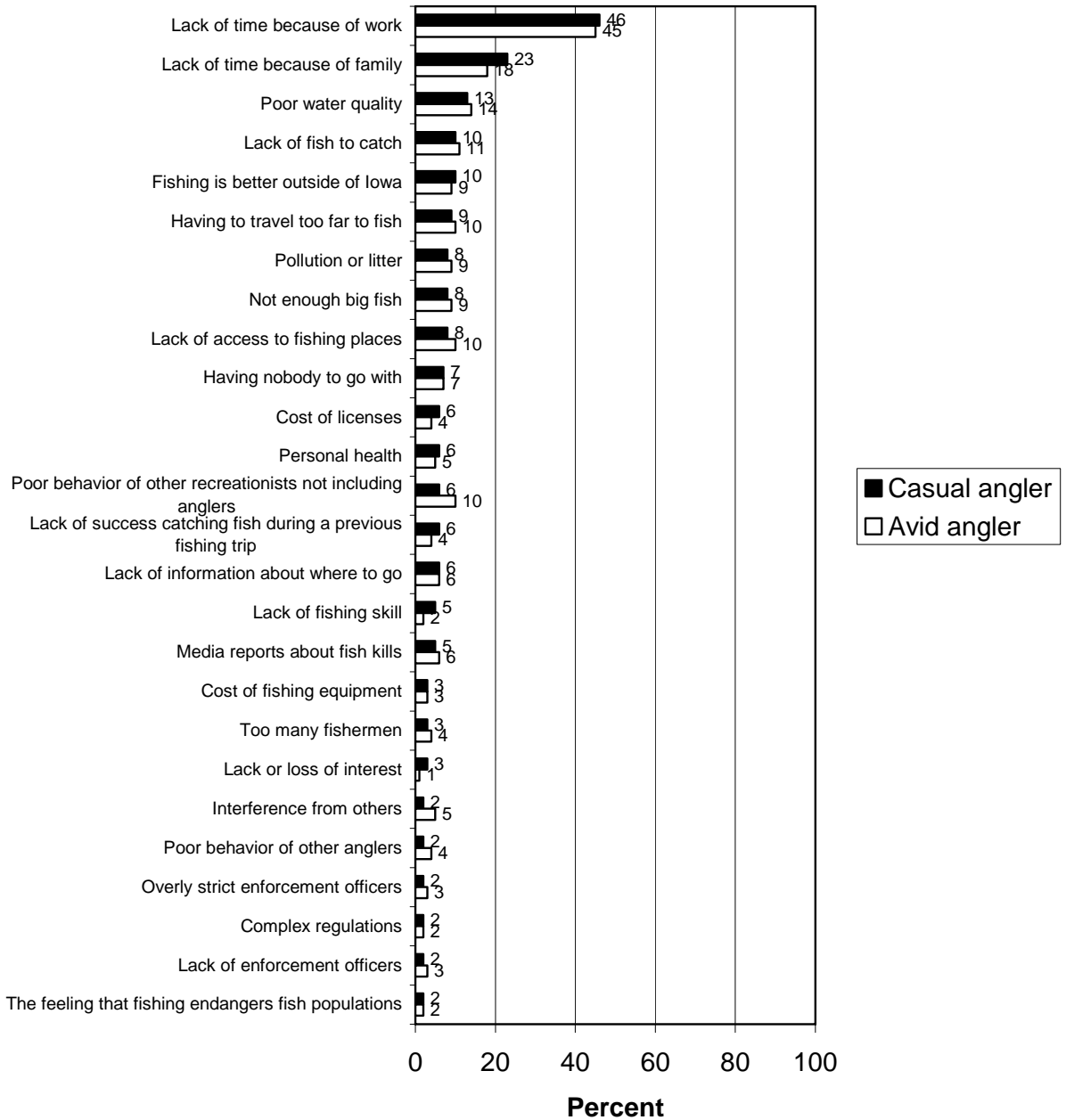
**Q93-119. Percent indicating that the following things were a major factor that caused him/her not to fish as much as he/she wanted or took away from his/her enjoyment of fishing.**



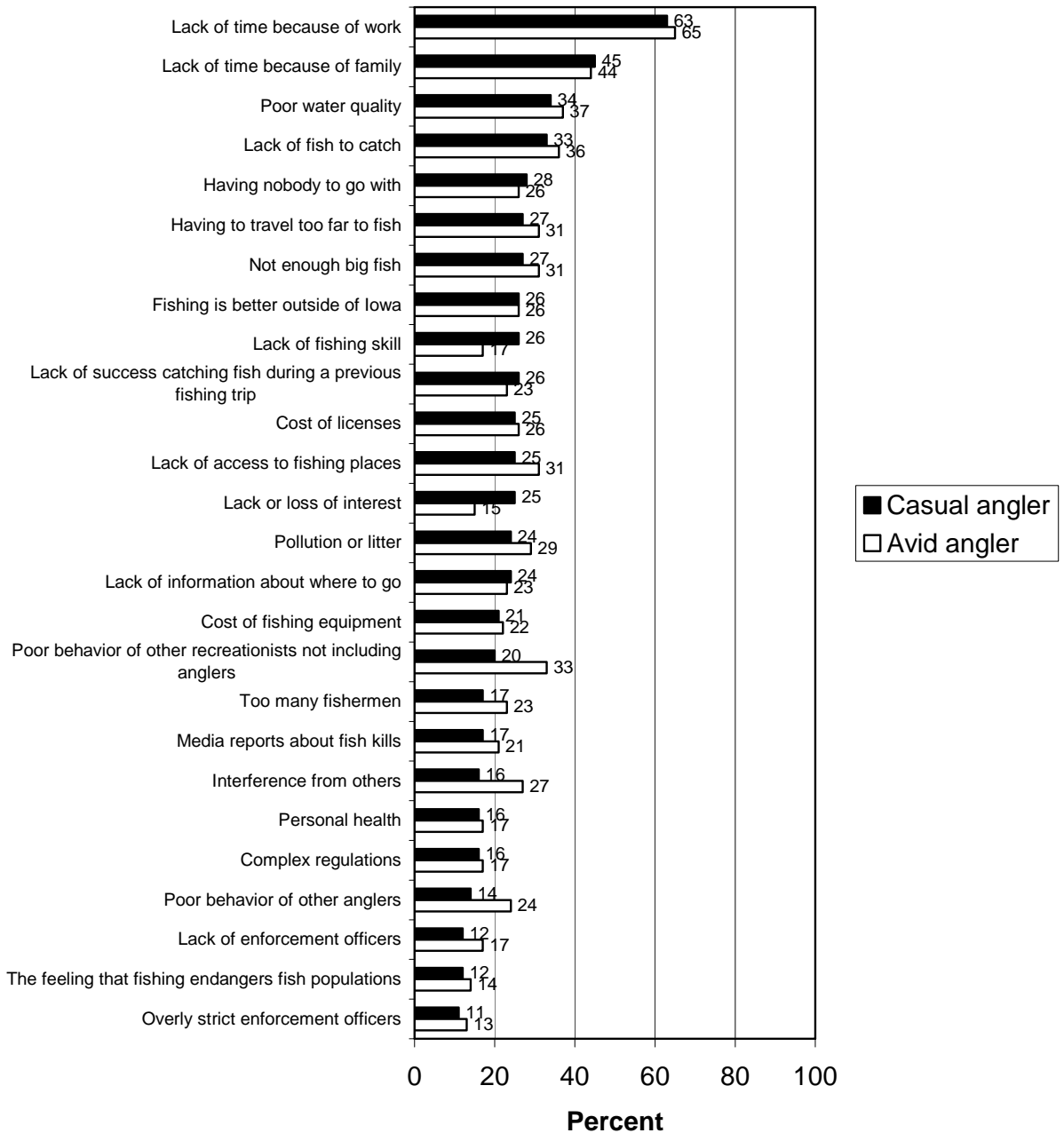
**Q93-119. Percent indicating that the following things were a factor that caused him/her not to fish as much as he/she wanted or took away from his/her enjoyment of fishing.**



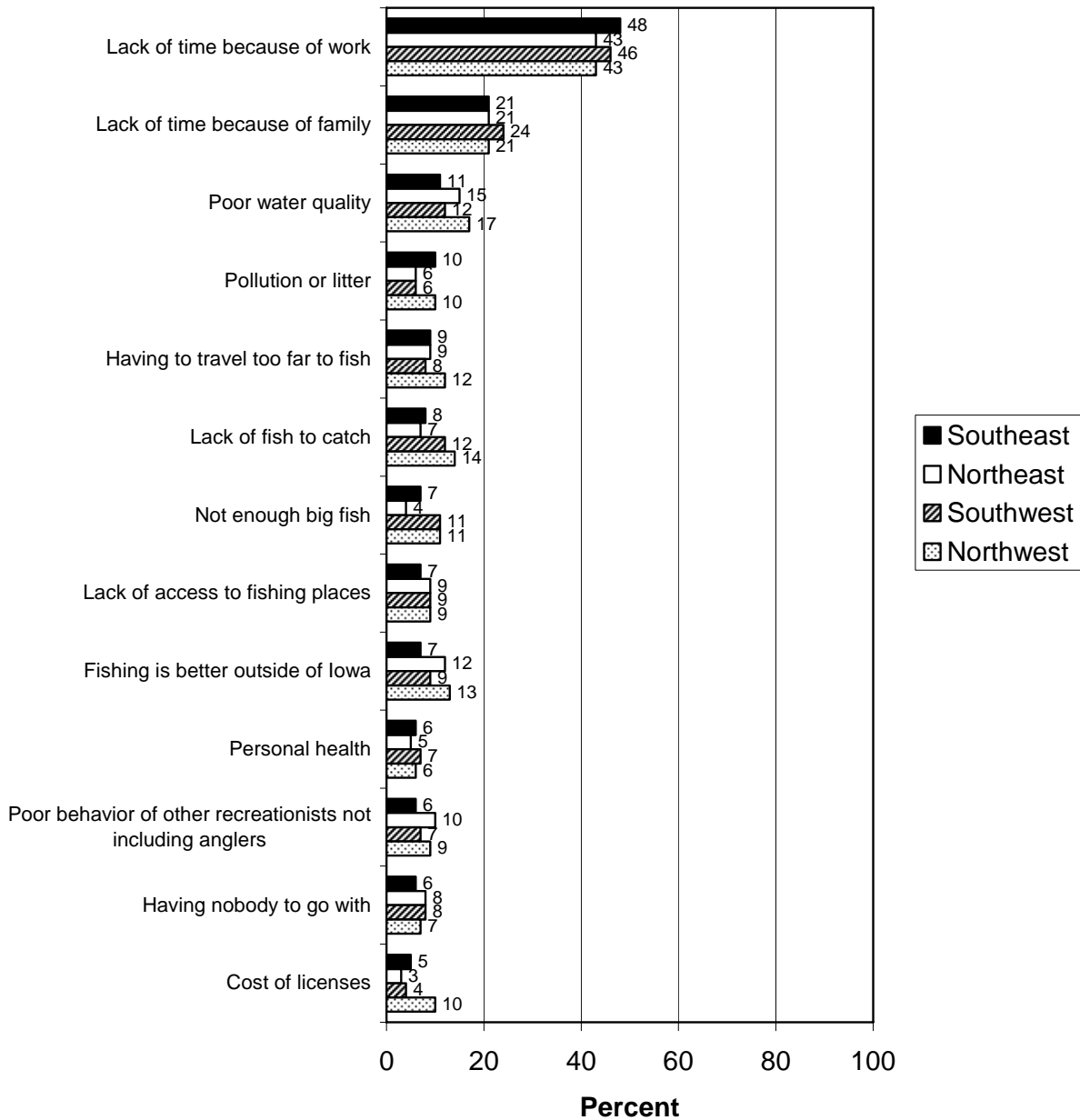
**Q93-119. Percent of those who indicated that the following things were a major factor that caused him/her not to fish as much as he/she wanted or took away from his/her enjoyment of fishing.**



**Q93-119. Percent of those who indicated that the following things were a factor that caused him/her not to fish as much as he/she wanted or took away from his/her enjoyment of fishing.**



**Q93-119. Percent of those who indicated that the following things were a major factor that caused him/her not to fish as much as he/she wanted or took away from his/her enjoyment of fishing. (Part 1)**

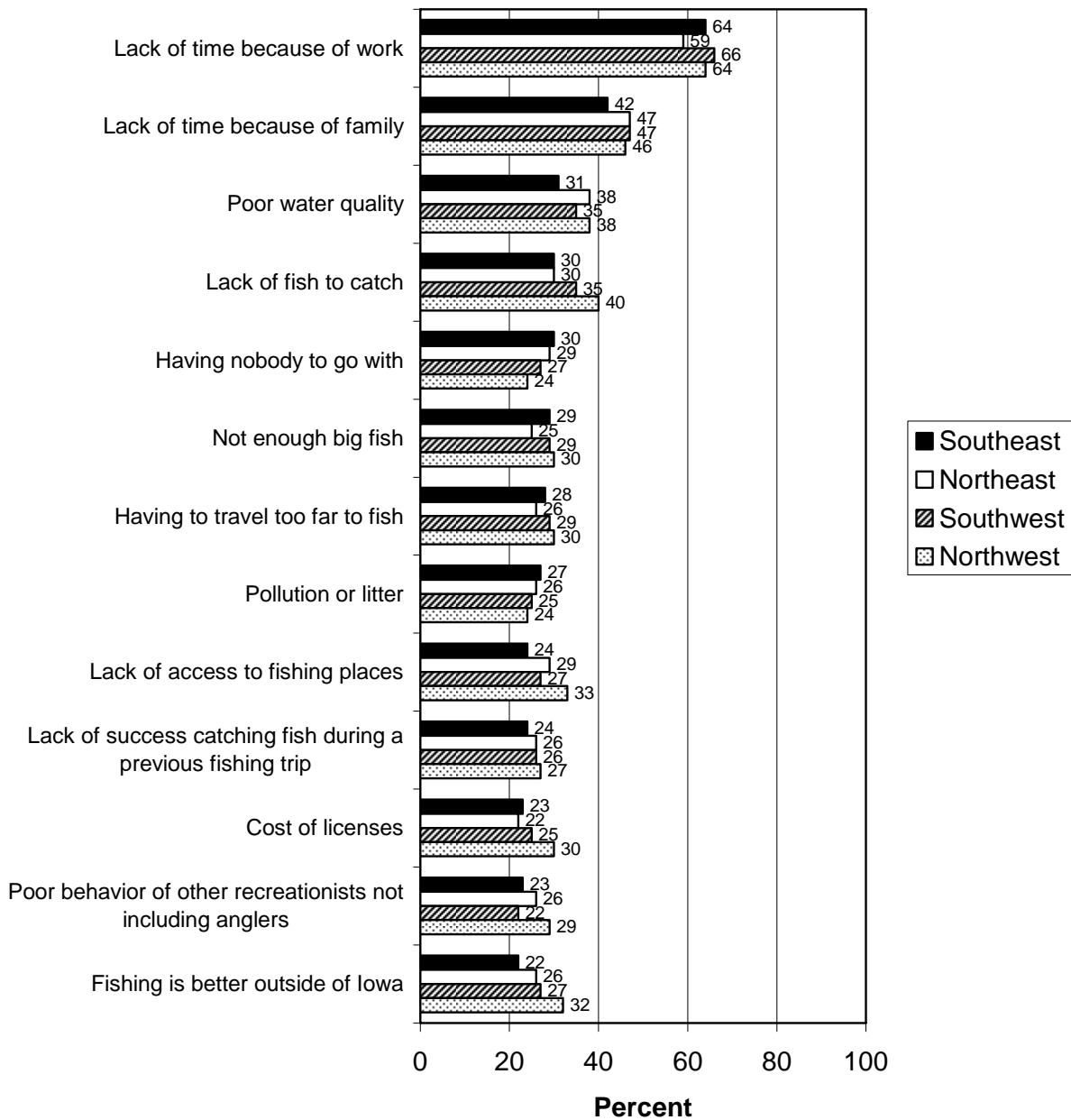


**Q93-119. Percent of those who indicated that the following things were a major factor that caused him/her not to fish as much as he/she wanted or took away from his/her enjoyment of fishing. (Part 2)**

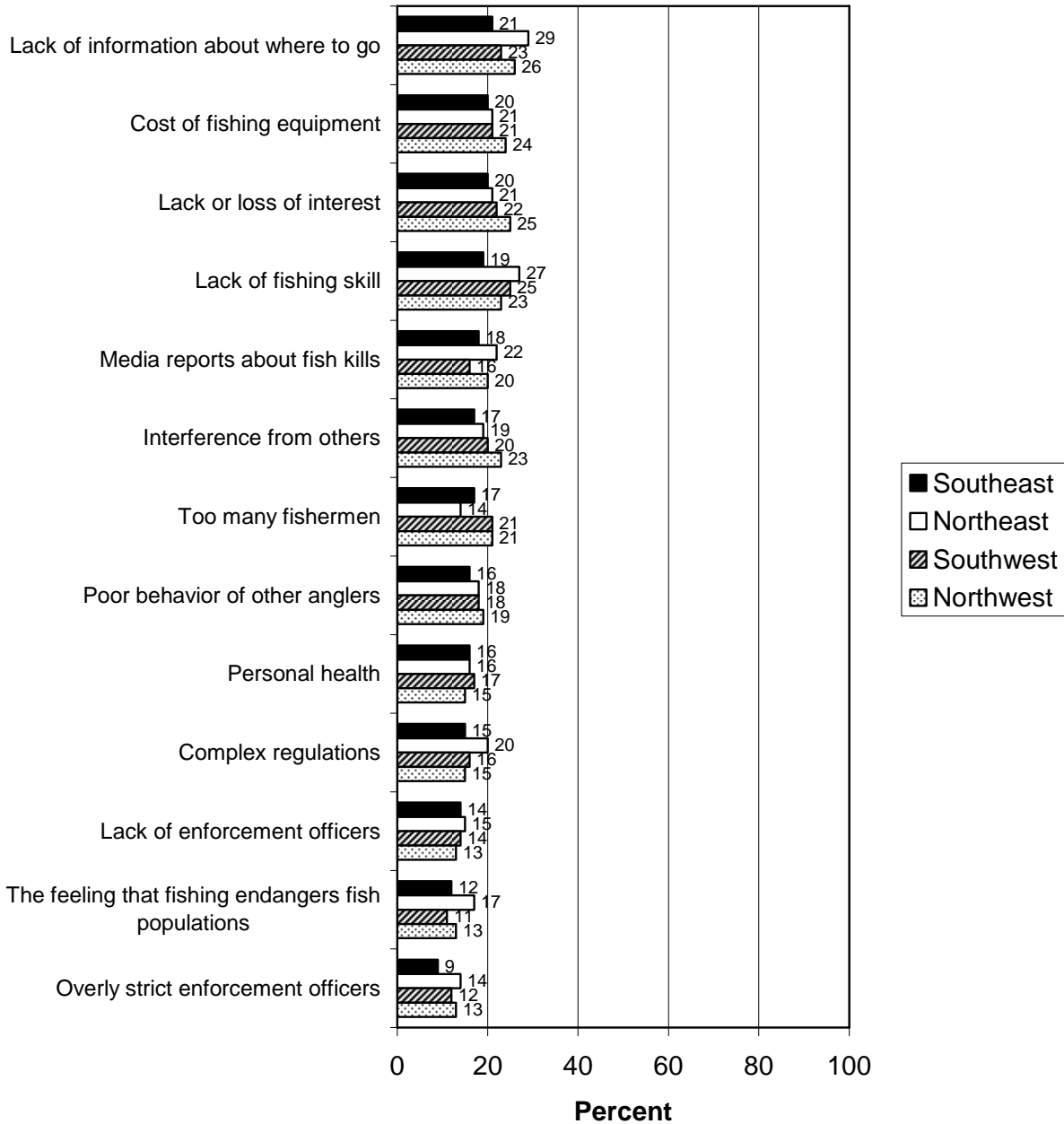




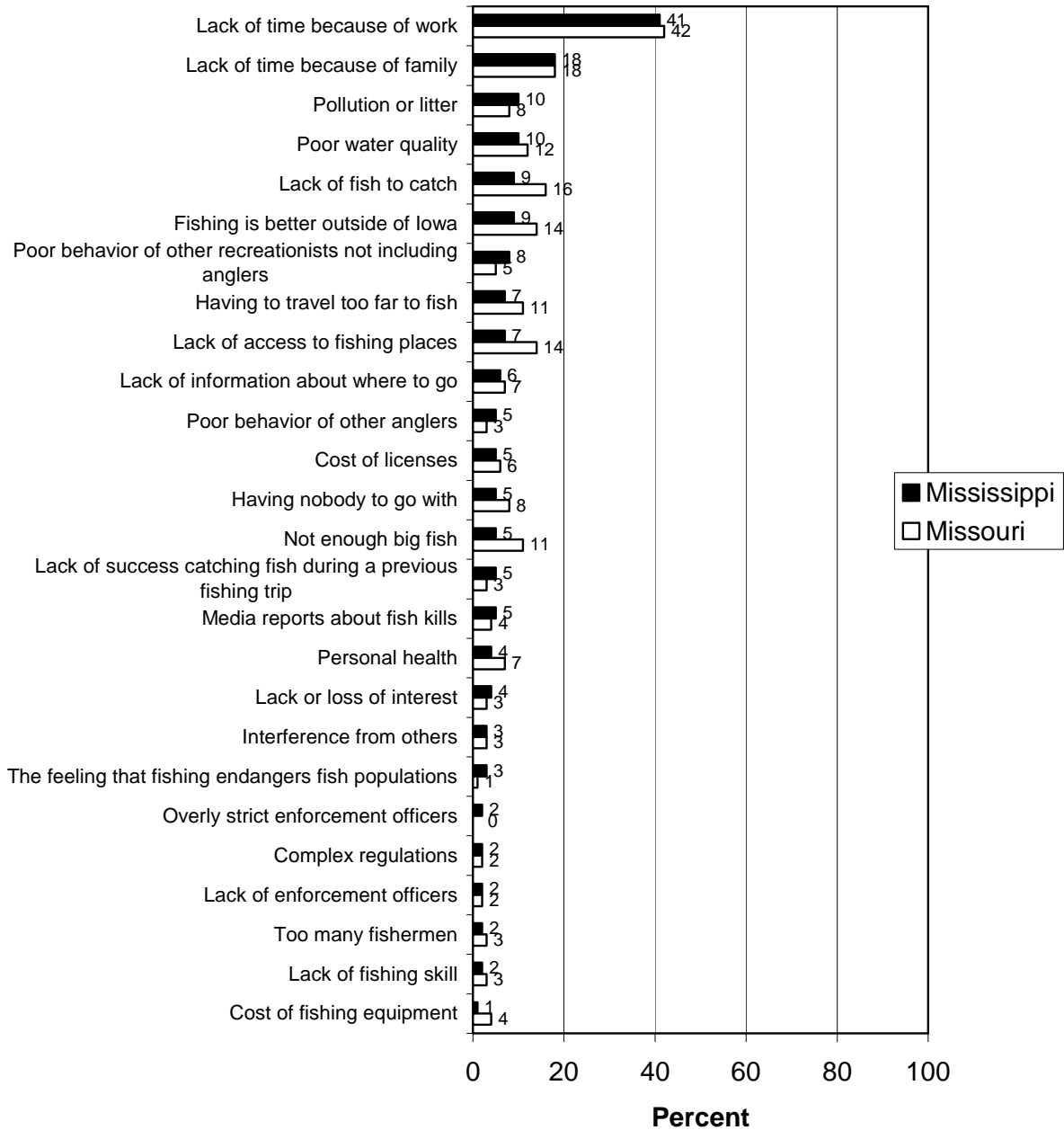
**Q93-119. Percent of those who indicated that the following things were a factor that caused him/her not to fish as much as he/she wanted or took away from his/her enjoyment of fishing. (Part 1)**



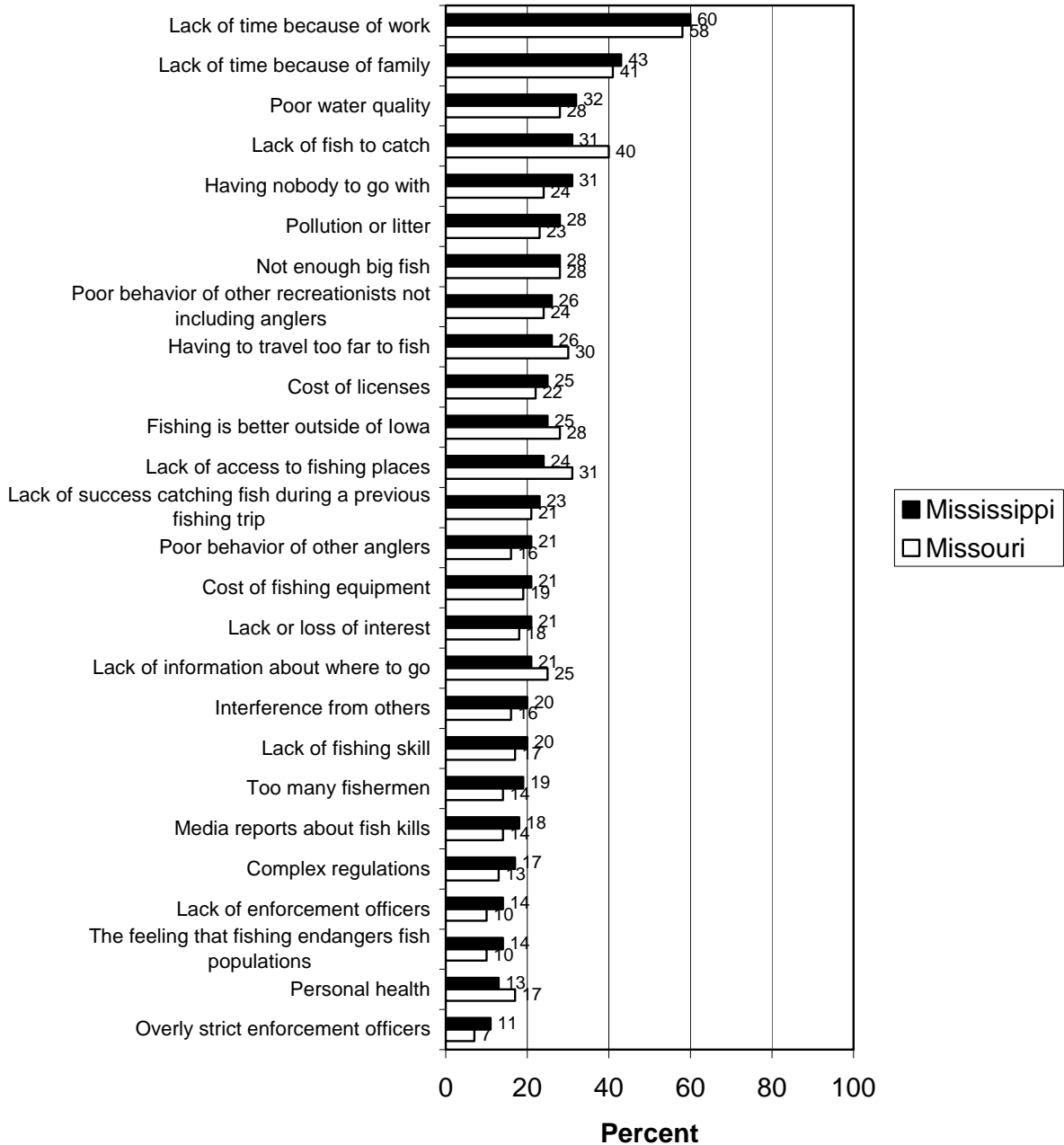
**Q93-119. Percent of those who indicated that the following things were a factor that caused him/her not to fish as much as he/she wanted or took away from his/her enjoyment of fishing. (Part 2)**



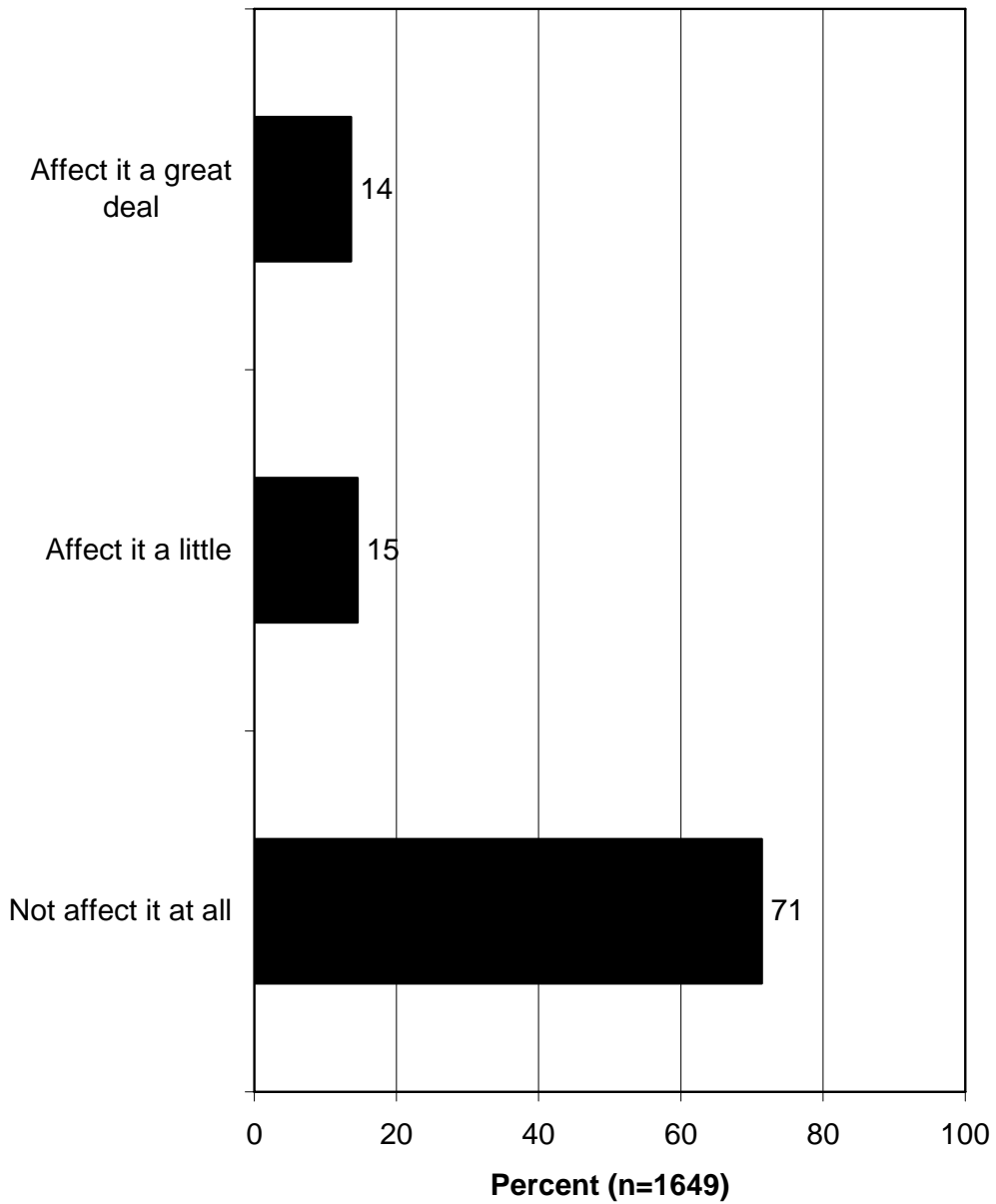
**Q93-119. Percent of those who indicated that the following things were a major factor that caused him/her not to fish as much as he/she wanted or took away from his/her enjoyment of fishing.**



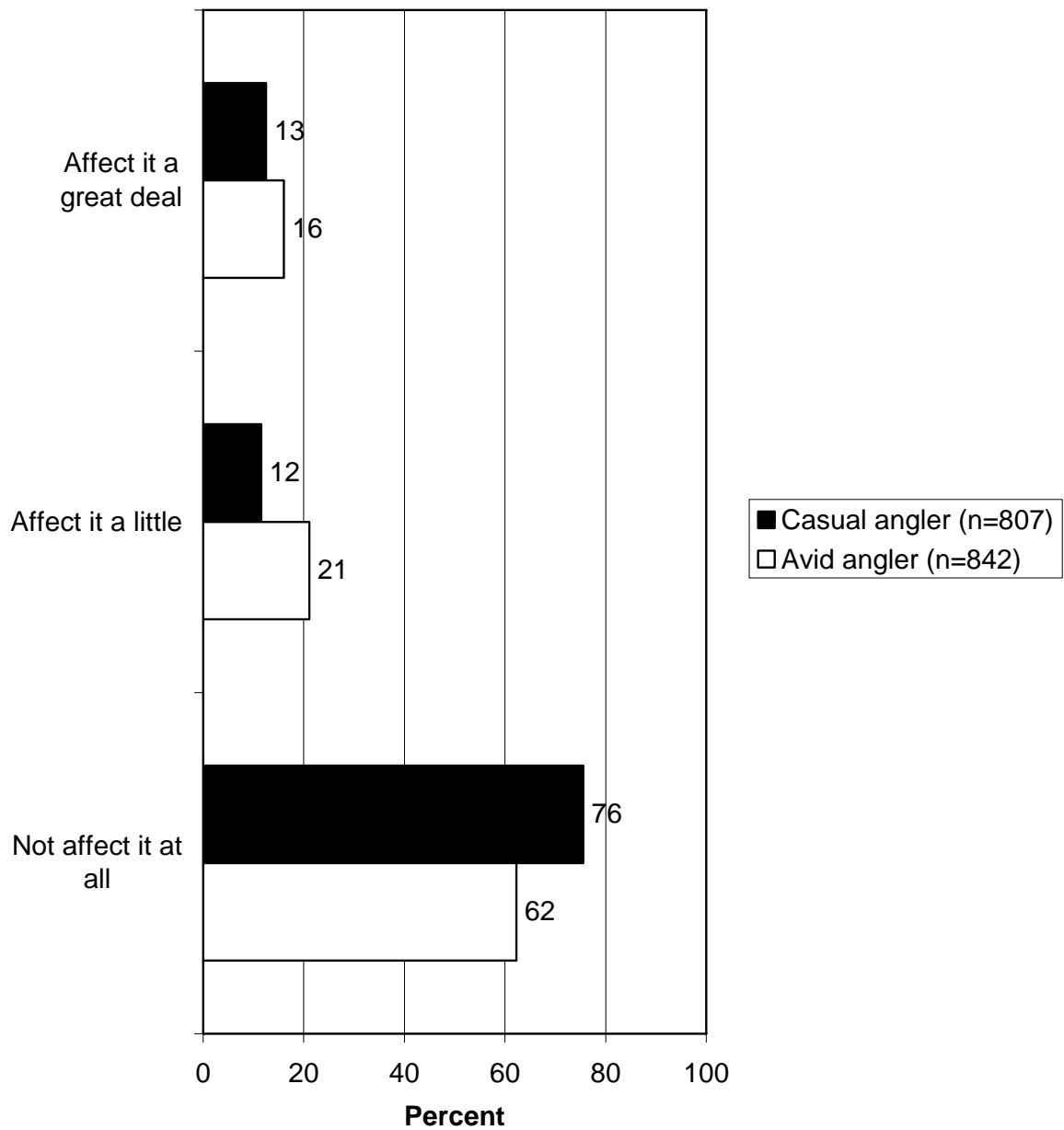
**Q93-119. Percent of those who indicated that the following things were a factor that caused him/her not to fish as much as he/she wanted or took away from his/her enjoyment of fishing.**



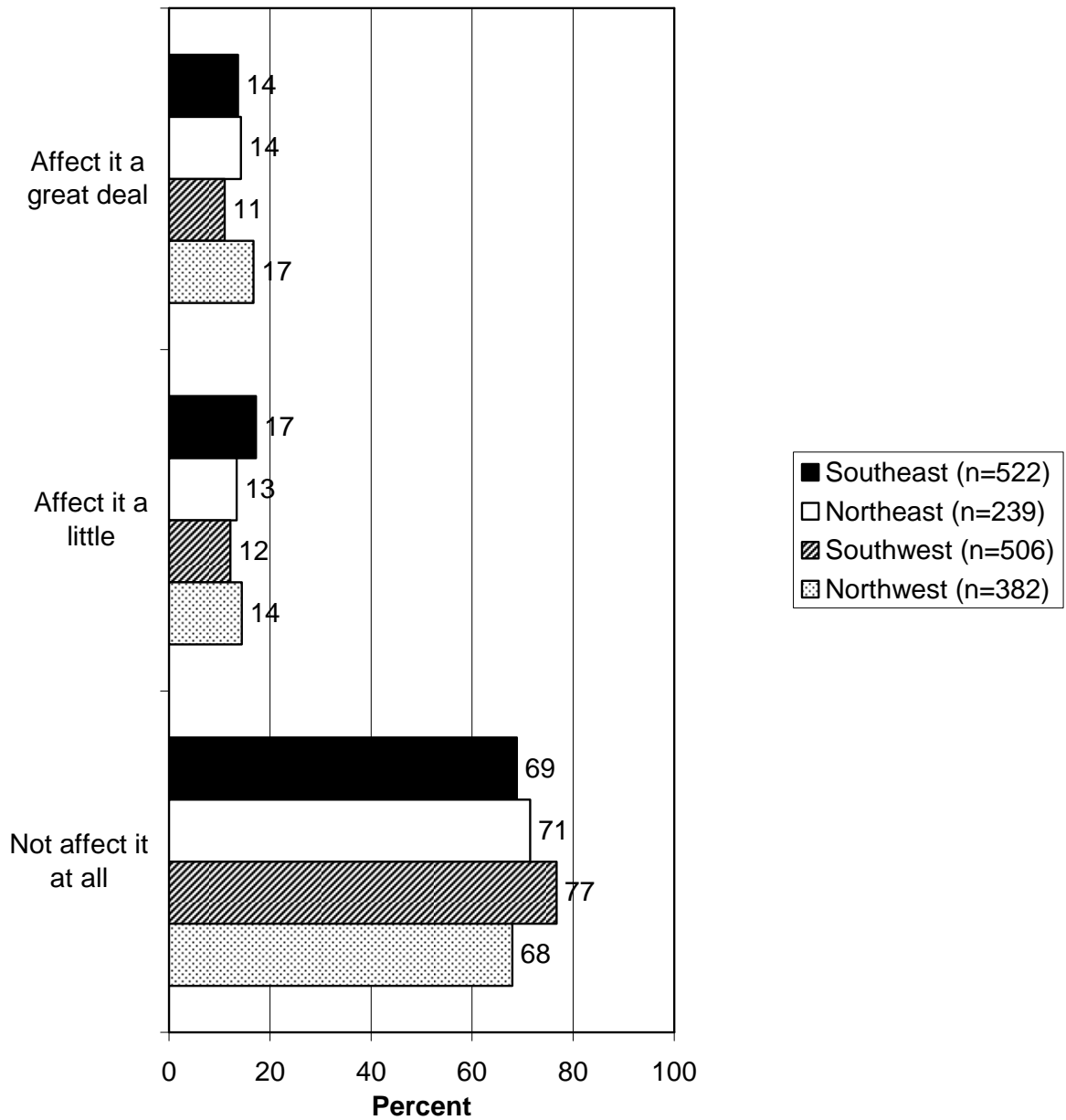
**Q64. Has the price of gas had any negative effect on your fishing?**



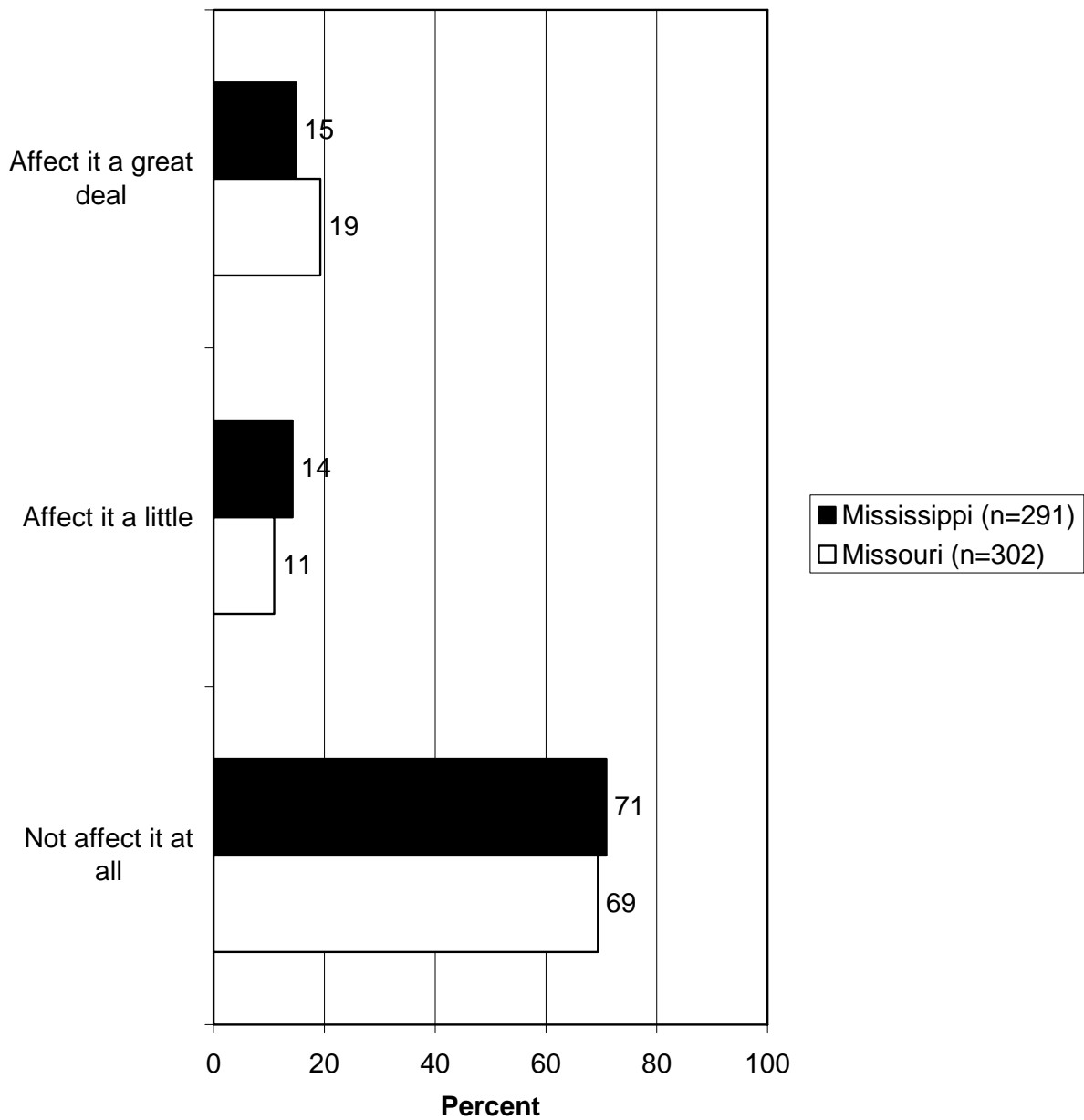
### Q64. Has the price of gas had any negative effect on your fishing?



**Q64. Has the price of gas had any negative effect on your fishing?**

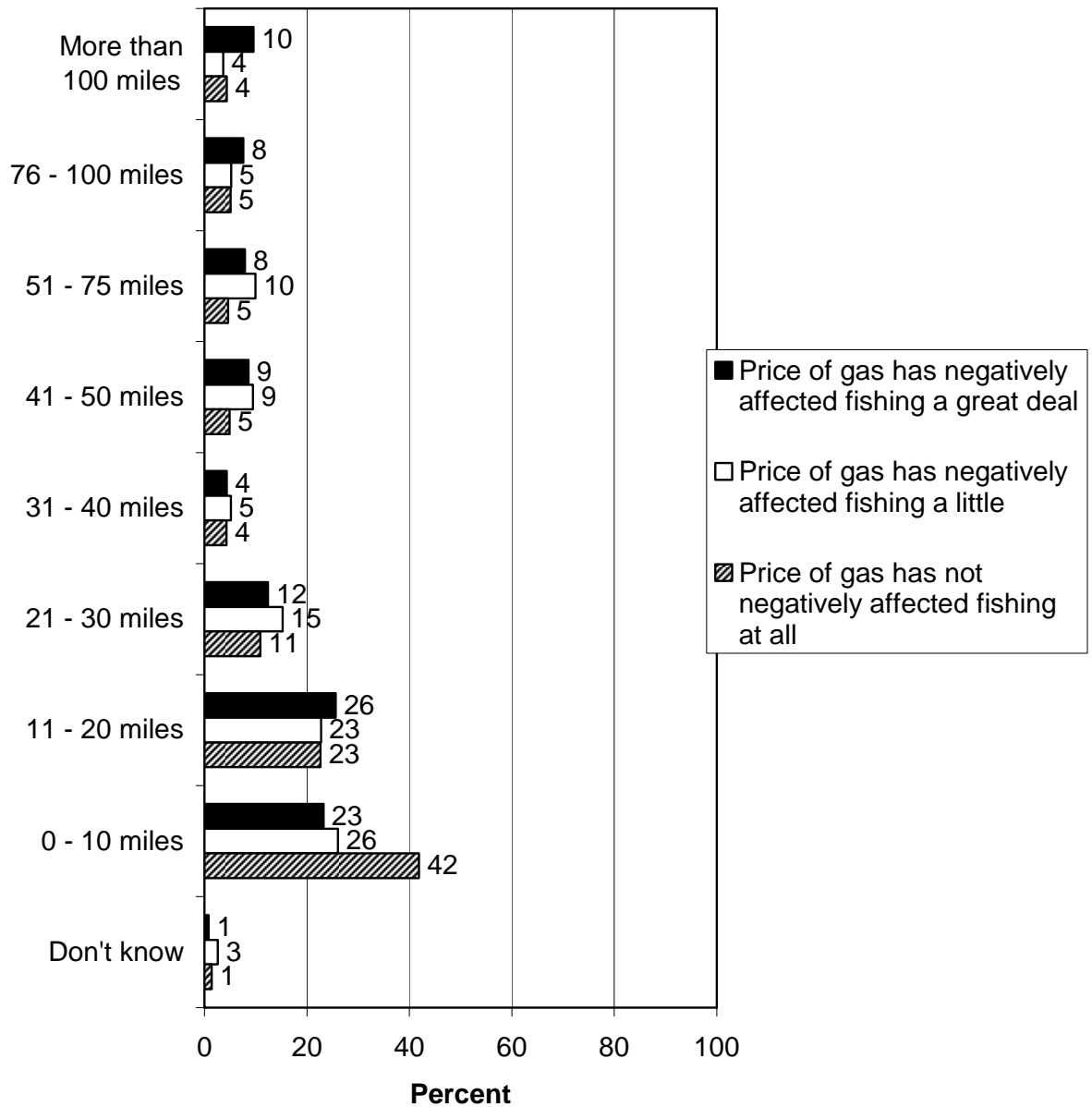


### Q64. Has the price of gas had any negative effect on your fishing?





**Q63. How many miles do you/did you typically travel from your home, one-way, to fish in Iowa?**



## RATINGS OF FISHING AND FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN IOWA

- The majority of Iowa anglers (66%) rate fishing in Iowa as excellent or good (most of those saying good), while 32% rate it as fair or poor (most of those saying fair).
  - There was almost no difference between avid and casual anglers in the crosstabulation on this question.
  - The regional crosstabulation shows no marked differences among the regions on this question.
  - Ratings of fishing in Iowa are not greatly different in the two river regions compared to anglers overall.
  
- The majority of Iowa anglers (63%) rate public access to Iowa's rivers and streams for fishing as excellent or good (mostly good), while 26% rate such access as fair or poor (mostly fair). Regarding access to lakes, the majority of Iowa anglers (76%) rate public access to Iowa's lakes for fishing as excellent or good (mostly good), while 15% rate access to lakes as fair or poor (mostly fair).
  - The survey asked specifically about public access to the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. For both questions, most anglers indicate that they cannot say/don't know. Otherwise, many more give good or excellent ratings than give fair or poor ratings for both rivers.
  - The results of the crosstabulation of avid versus casual anglers on these questions show that the groups are similar in their ratings of access.
  - The crosstabulation by region found that Southeast Region and Northeast Region anglers are more likely, relative to anglers from either western region, to rate access to Iowa's inland rivers and streams as excellent or good. The regions are about the same regarding access to lakes for fishing. Regarding access to the rivers, not surprisingly, western anglers are less knowledgeable about access to the Mississippi River (which is along the east part of the state), and eastern anglers are less knowledgeable about access to the Missouri River.
  - The data analysis by river region found that Mississippi River Region anglers are about the same as anglers overall in their rating of public access to Iowa's inland rivers and

streams; however, Missouri River Region anglers are more likely to give a fair or poor rating than are anglers overall.

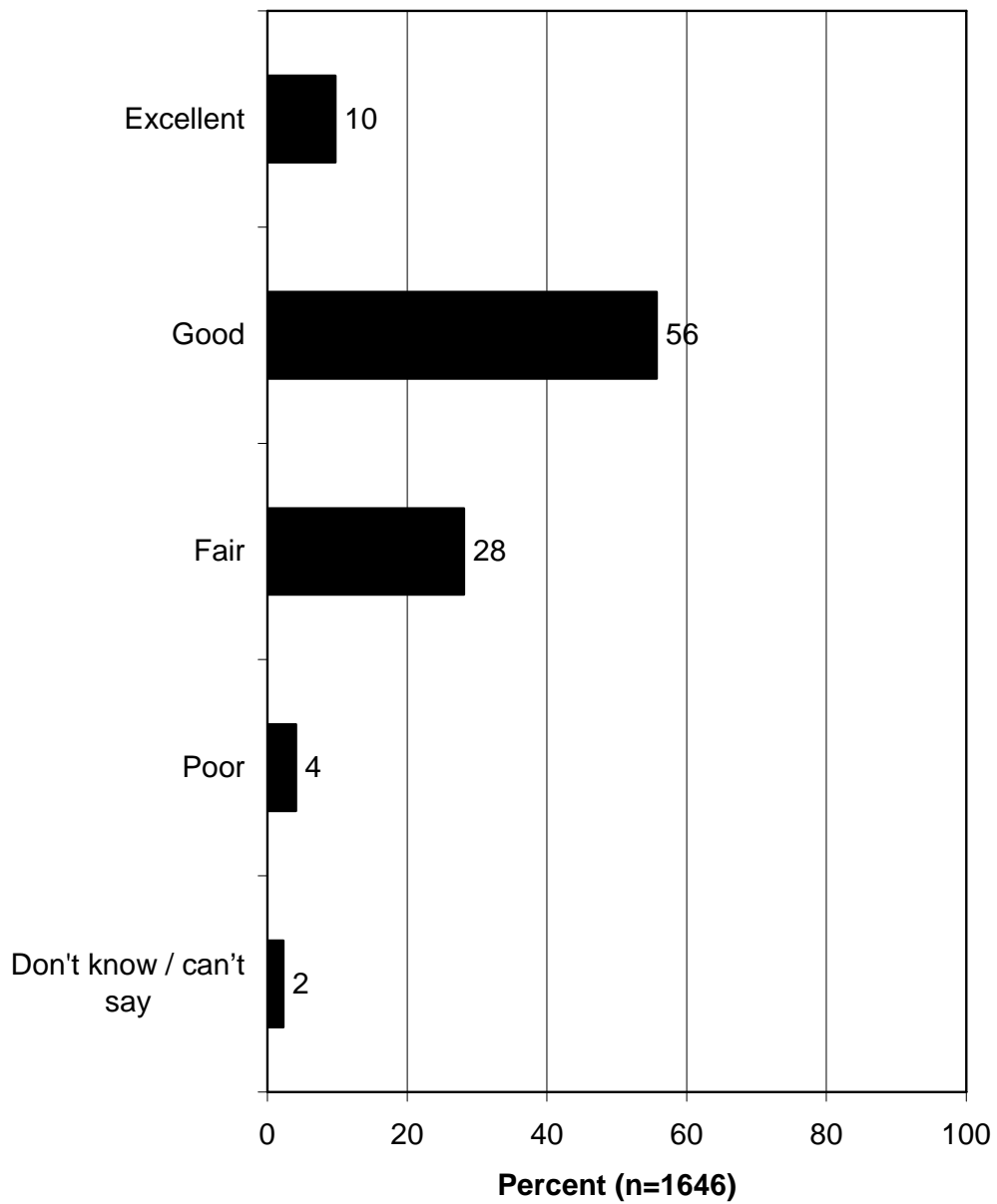
- The data analysis by river region found that Missouri River Region anglers are about the same as anglers overall in their rating of public access to lakes for fishing in Iowa. Mississippi River Region anglers, on the other hand, are *less* likely to give an excellent or good rating because they are more likely to give a “Don’t know” answer, not because they more often give a negative rating—as negative ratings are about the same.
  - Anglers from both river regions are much less likely to say, “Don’t know,” regarding ratings of public access to the Mississippi River and the Missouri River, which makes them more likely to give any other answer, either a positive rating (excellent or good) or negative rating (fair or poor). Fortunately, a majority of Mississippi River Region anglers rate access to the Mississippi River as excellent or good, and a majority of Missouri River Region anglers rate access to the Missouri River as excellent or good.
- The majority of Iowa anglers (72%) rate the IDNR as excellent or good in managing fishing and fisheries in Iowa (most of those saying good), while 16% rate the IDNR as fair or poor (most of those saying fair).
- There was little difference between avid and casual anglers in this crosstabulation of ratings of the IDNR in managing fishing and fisheries.
  - The regional crosstabulation shows no marked differences among the regions on this question regarding rating of fishing and fisheries in Iowa.
  - The data analysis by river region found no large differences between anglers overall and anglers from the river regions, with one exception: Mississippi River Region anglers are more likely to say, “Don’t know,” regarding rating the IDNR at managing fishing and fisheries. Note that *negative* ratings (fair or poor) are about the same among the river regions and anglers overall.
  - Most of those anglers who rated management of fishing and fisheries in the higher end of the scale (excellent or good) gave as their reasoning that the fish, wildlife, and habitat are managed well; a smaller amount said that good people work in fishing management.
  - The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler found no marked differences on this question regarding reasons for giving an excellent or good rating.

- The regional crosstabulation shows no marked differences among the regions on this question regarding reasons for giving an excellent or good rating.
  - The data analysis by river region found no marked differences between anglers overall and anglers from either river region on this question regarding reasons for giving an excellent or good rating.
  - Those anglers who rated management of fishing and fisheries in the lower end of the scale (fair or poor) most commonly gave as their reasoning that there is a lack of fish or that fishing quality is bad, that water quality is bad, or that the agency's priorities are wrong.
  - The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler found no marked differences on this question regarding reasons for giving a fair or poor rating.
  - The regional crosstabulation found a marked difference on this question. Almost none of the Northeast Region anglers indicated that lack of fish/poor quality fishing was a reason to give a low rating, while some anglers from other regions did give this reason.
  - The data analysis by river region found no marked differences between anglers overall and anglers from either river region on this question.
- The large majority of Iowa anglers (77%) rate Iowa's enforcement of fishing regulations and laws as excellent or good (most of those saying good), while only 14% rate Iowa's enforcement as fair or poor (most of those saying fair).
- In related questions, the majority of Iowa anglers describe fishing management in Iowa as regulated the right amount (77%). Otherwise, more of them said, "Don't know" (12%), than said that fishing was over- or under-regulated. Also, the overwhelming majority of Iowa anglers (84%) describe Iowa's fishing regulations as clear, while only 7% describe them as confusing.
  - On all these questions, the crosstabulations by avid versus casual angler show little difference between the groups.
  - On all these questions, the regional crosstabulations show no marked differences among regions.
  - In the data analysis by river region, Mississippi River Region anglers give slightly more negative ratings to Iowa's enforcement of fishing regulations and laws, compared to

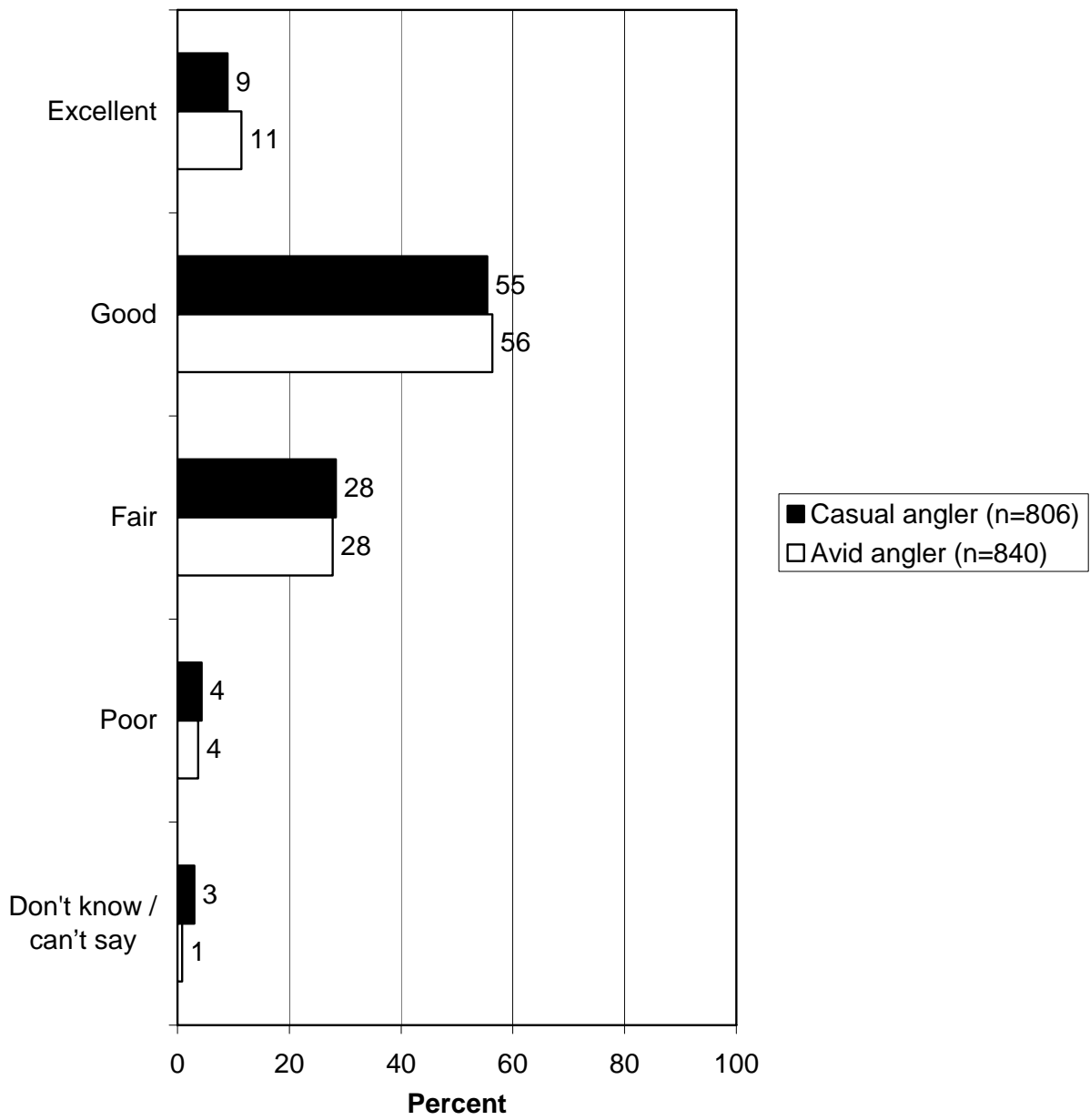
anglers overall (Missouri River Region anglers are about the same as anglers overall). Nonetheless, a majority of Mississippi River Region anglers give an excellent or good rating.

- Regarding how fishing management is described, the data analysis by river region found these anglers to be about the same as anglers overall in whether they think fishing is over-regulated, under-regulated, or regulated the right amount.
  - Regarding the perceived clarity of Iowa's fishing regulations, Missouri River Region anglers are more likely to perceive the regulations as clear than are anglers overall (Mississippi River Region anglers are about the same as anglers overall).
- The survey asked those anglers who have fished in Iowa for at least 10 years to rate whether Iowa's fishing is better or worse now compared to 10 years ago. A greater percentage think that fishing is currently better (30%) than think it is currently worse (23%). The most common answer is that fishing is the same now as compared to 10 years ago (36%).
- The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler found that avid anglers are slightly more likely to say that fishing is better now.
  - The regional crosstabulation shows no marked differences among the regions on this question regarding trends in the quality of fishing in Iowa.
  - The data analysis by river region found that Missouri River Region anglers give slightly worse ratings than do anglers overall regarding whether fishing is better or worse now compared to 10 years previous, but the difference is slight.
- Anglers were asked about water quality now compared to 10 years ago, and they are about evenly divided: 30% think it is better now than it was 10 years ago, while 33% think it is worse now.
- The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler found that avid anglers are slightly more likely to say that water quality is better now.
  - The regional crosstabulation shows no marked differences among the regions on this question regarding water quality now versus 10 years ago.
  - The data analysis by river region found no marked differences between anglers overall and anglers from either river region regarding water quality.

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- In the final question in this section, the overwhelming majority of Iowa anglers (78%) agree, after being informed that one of the uses of funds from license fees is to improve Iowa's fishing, that anglers are currently getting their money's worth for those fees; only 11% disagree.
- There is almost no difference between avid and casual anglers in the crosstabulation on this question.
  - The regional crosstabulation shows no marked differences among the regions on this question regarding whether anglers are getting their money's worth for their license fees.
  - The data analysis by river region found no great differences between anglers overall and anglers from the river regions in agreement overall (in strongly agreeing or moderately agreeing).

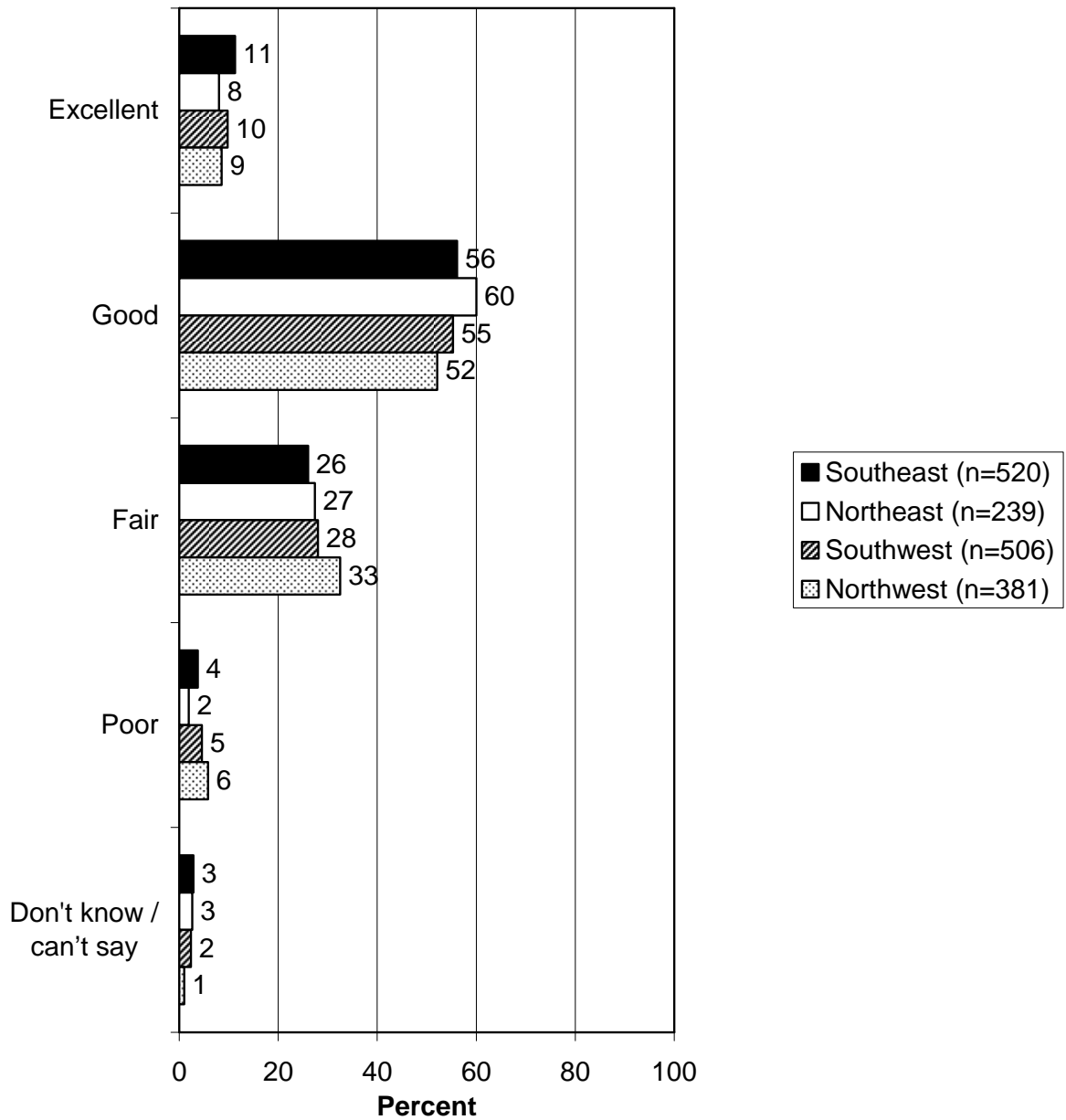
**Q142. How would you rate the fishing in Iowa?**

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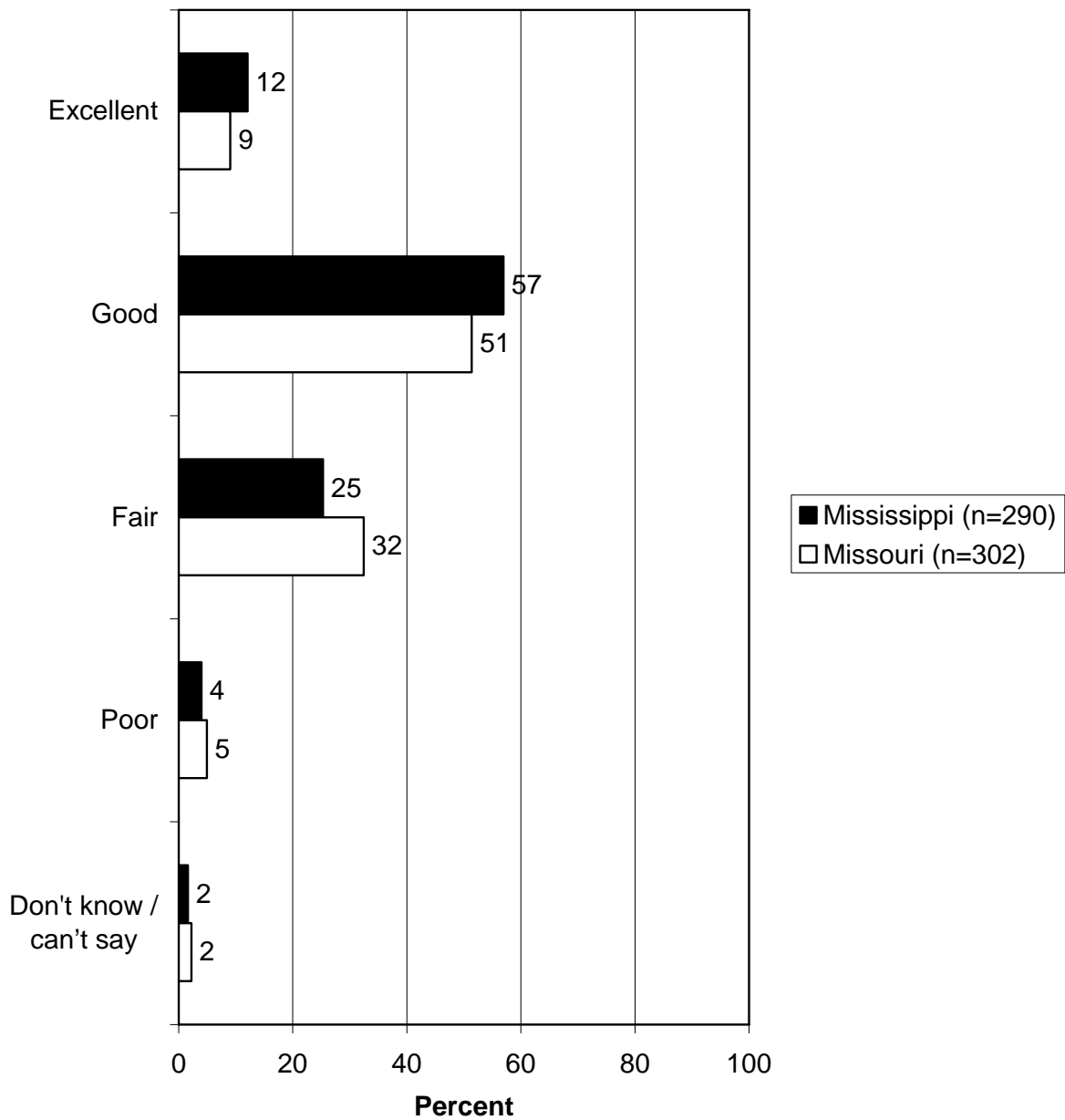




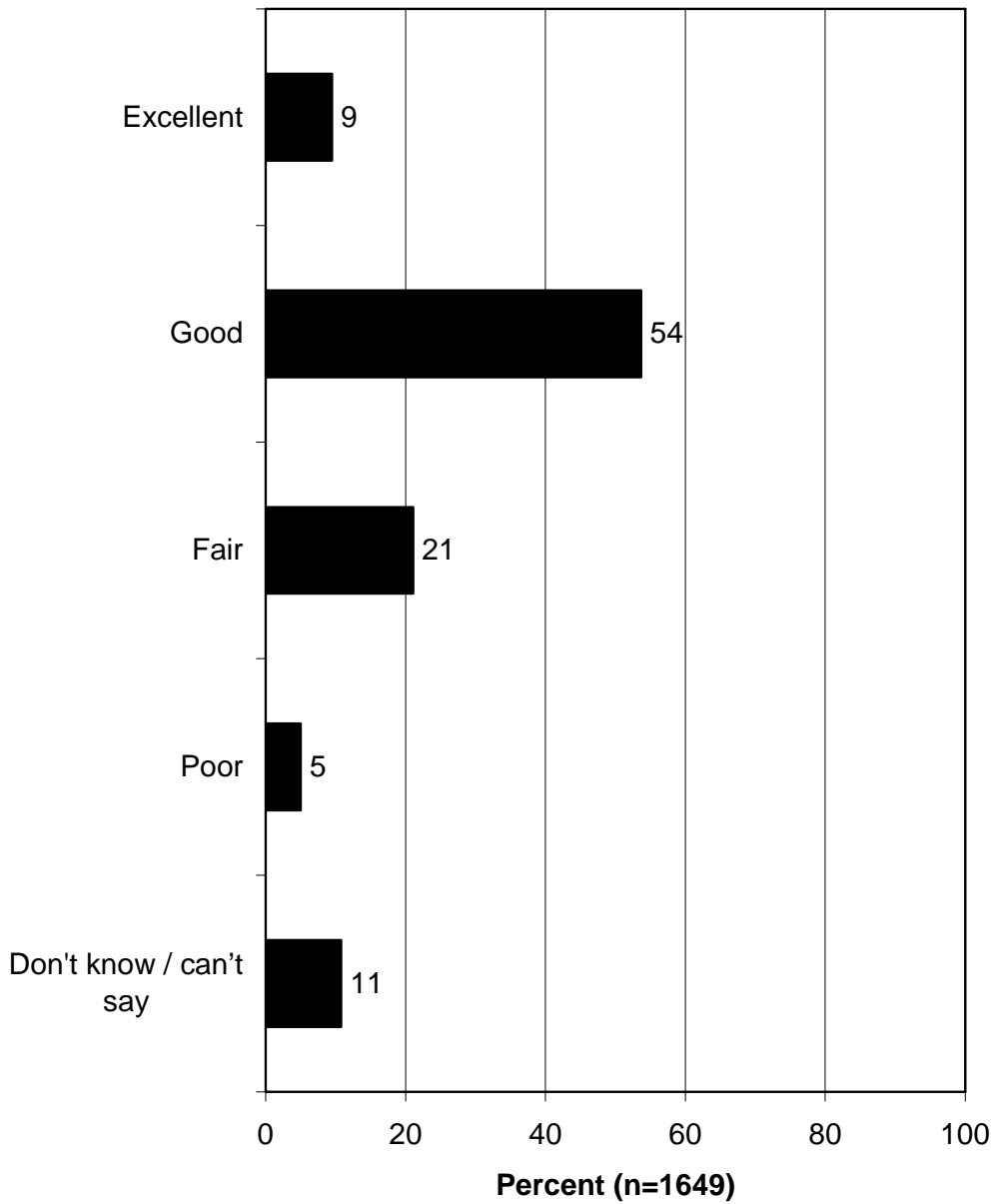
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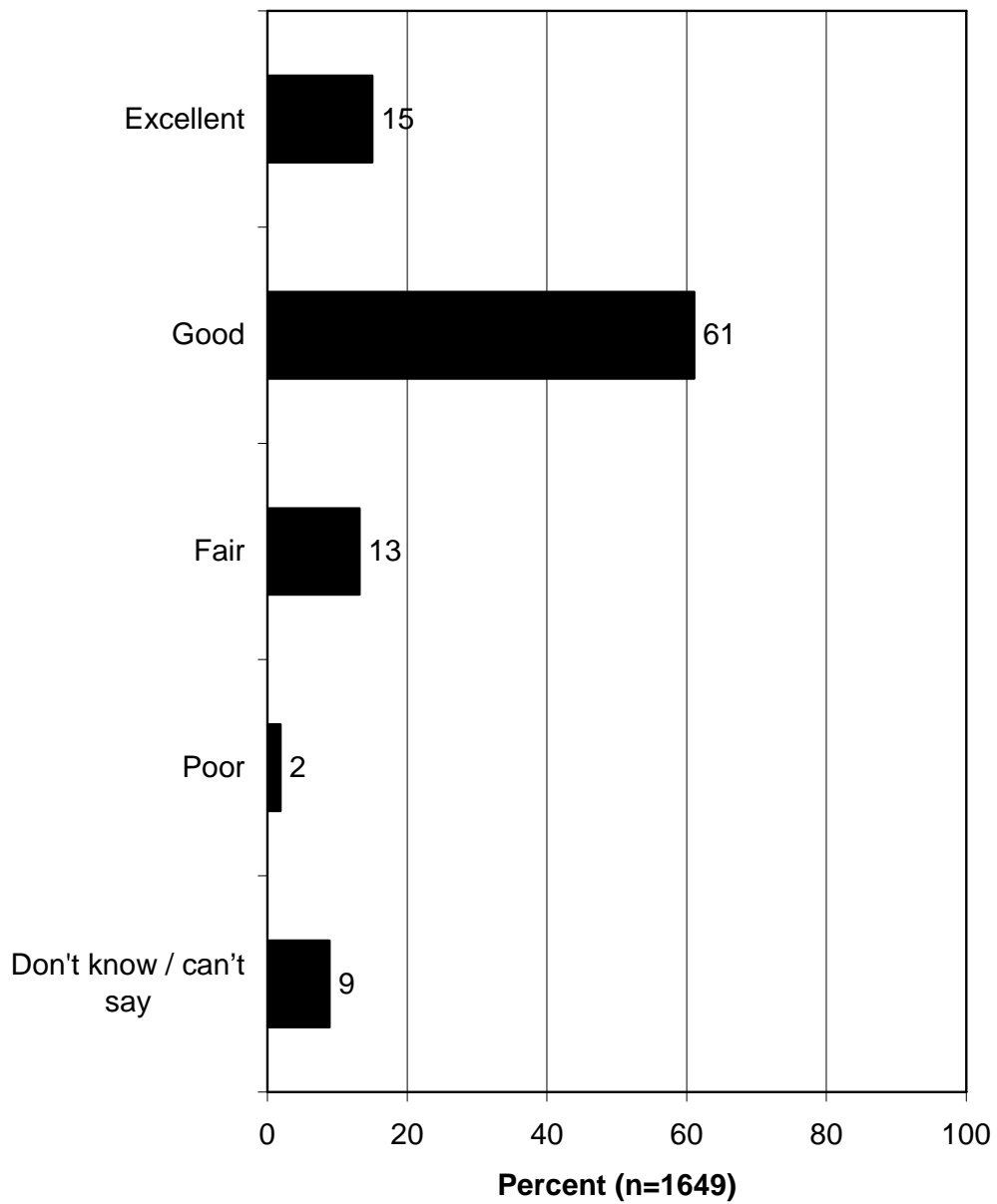
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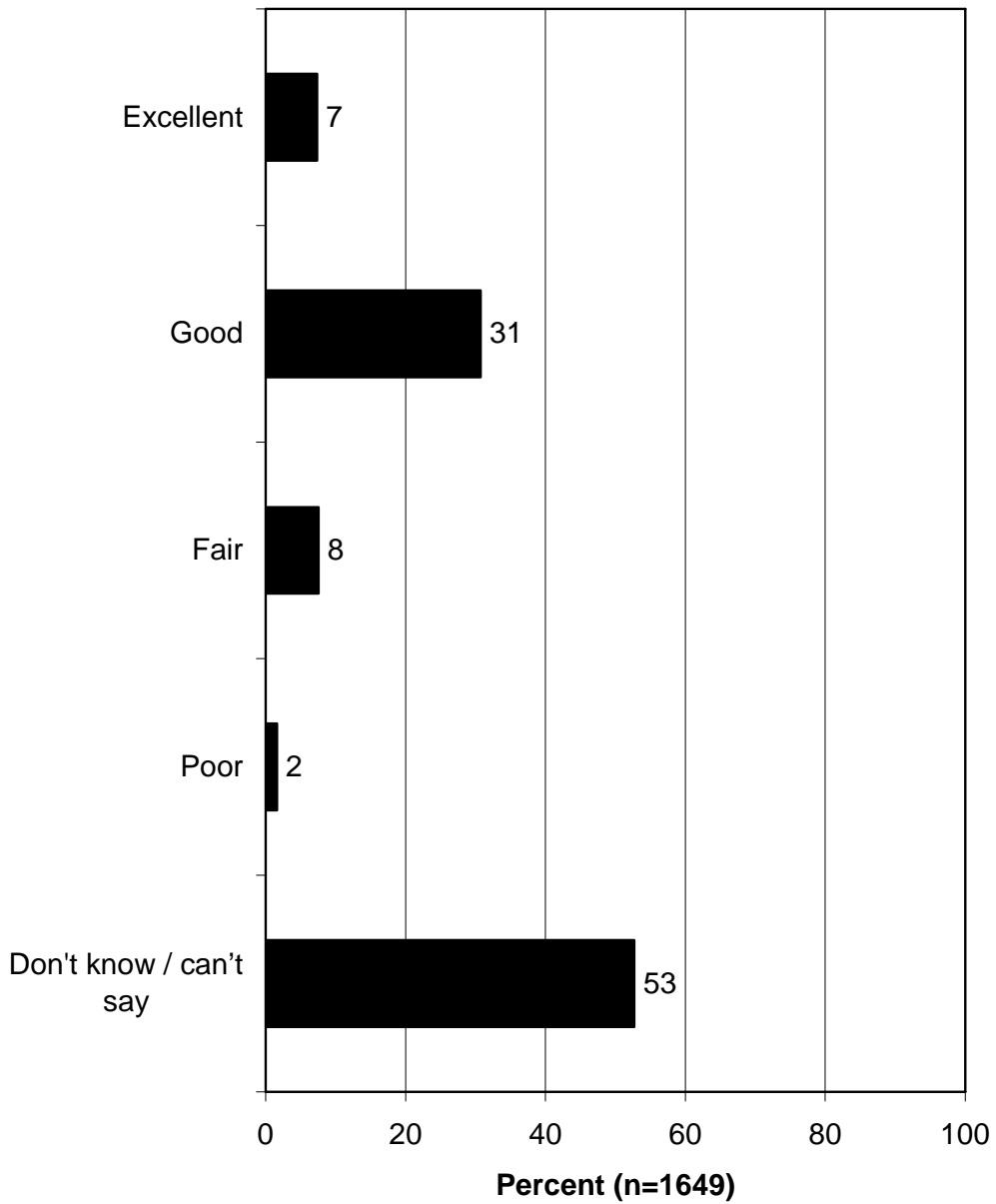
**Q146. How would you rate public access to Iowa's inland rivers and streams for fishing in general?**



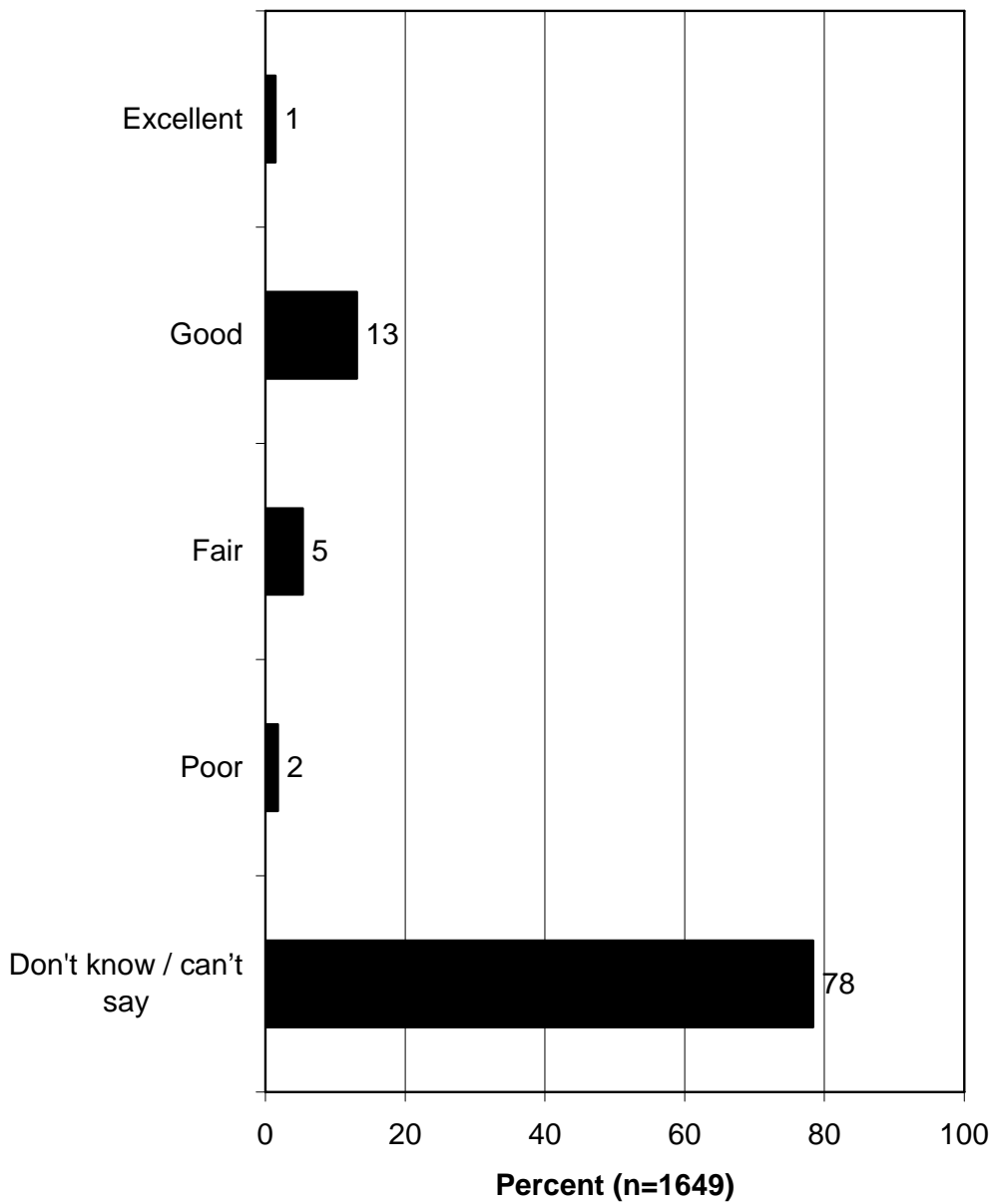
**Q147. How would you rate public access to Iowa's lakes for fishing in general?**



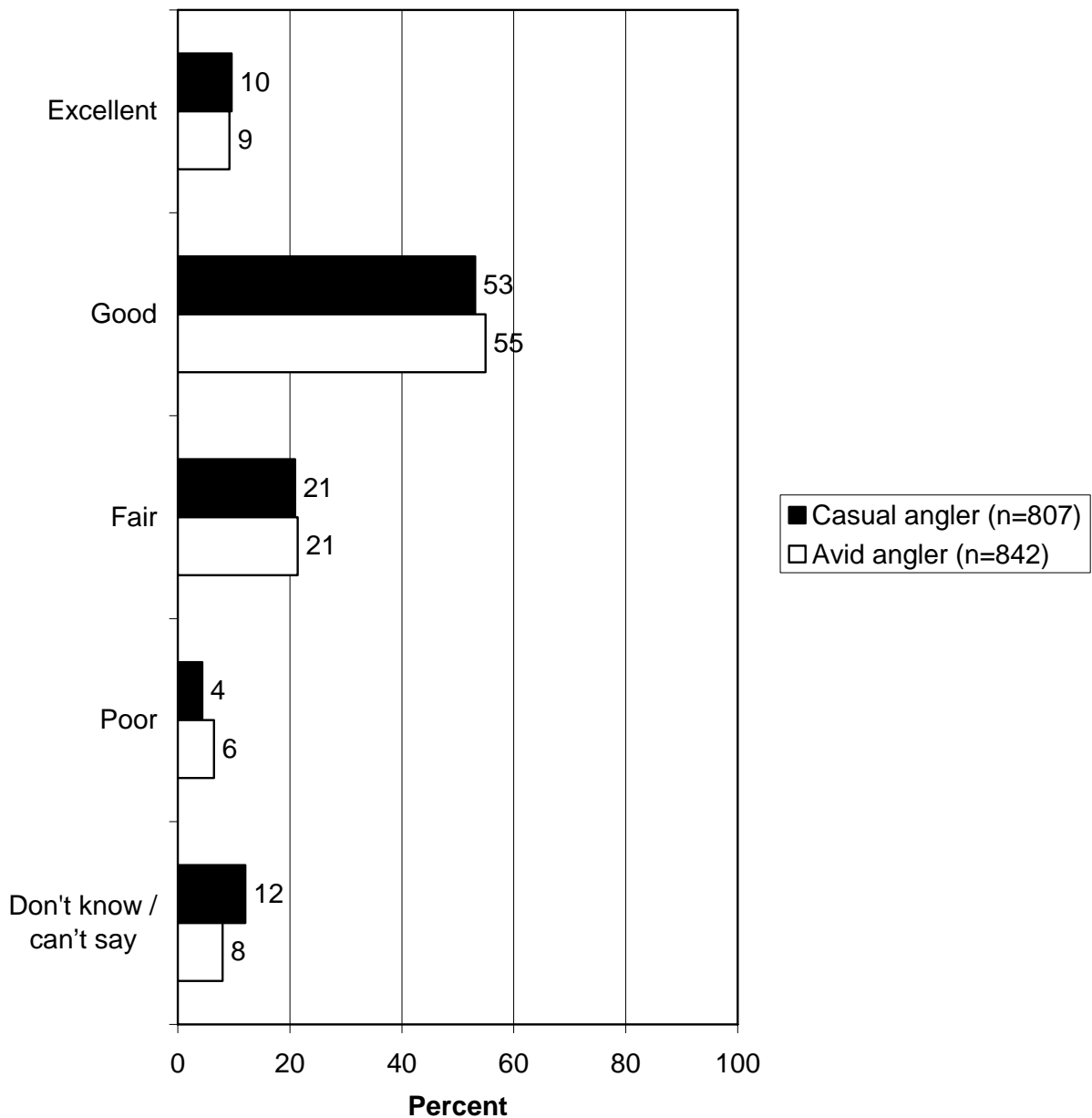
**Q148. How would you rate public access for fishing in the Mississippi River?**



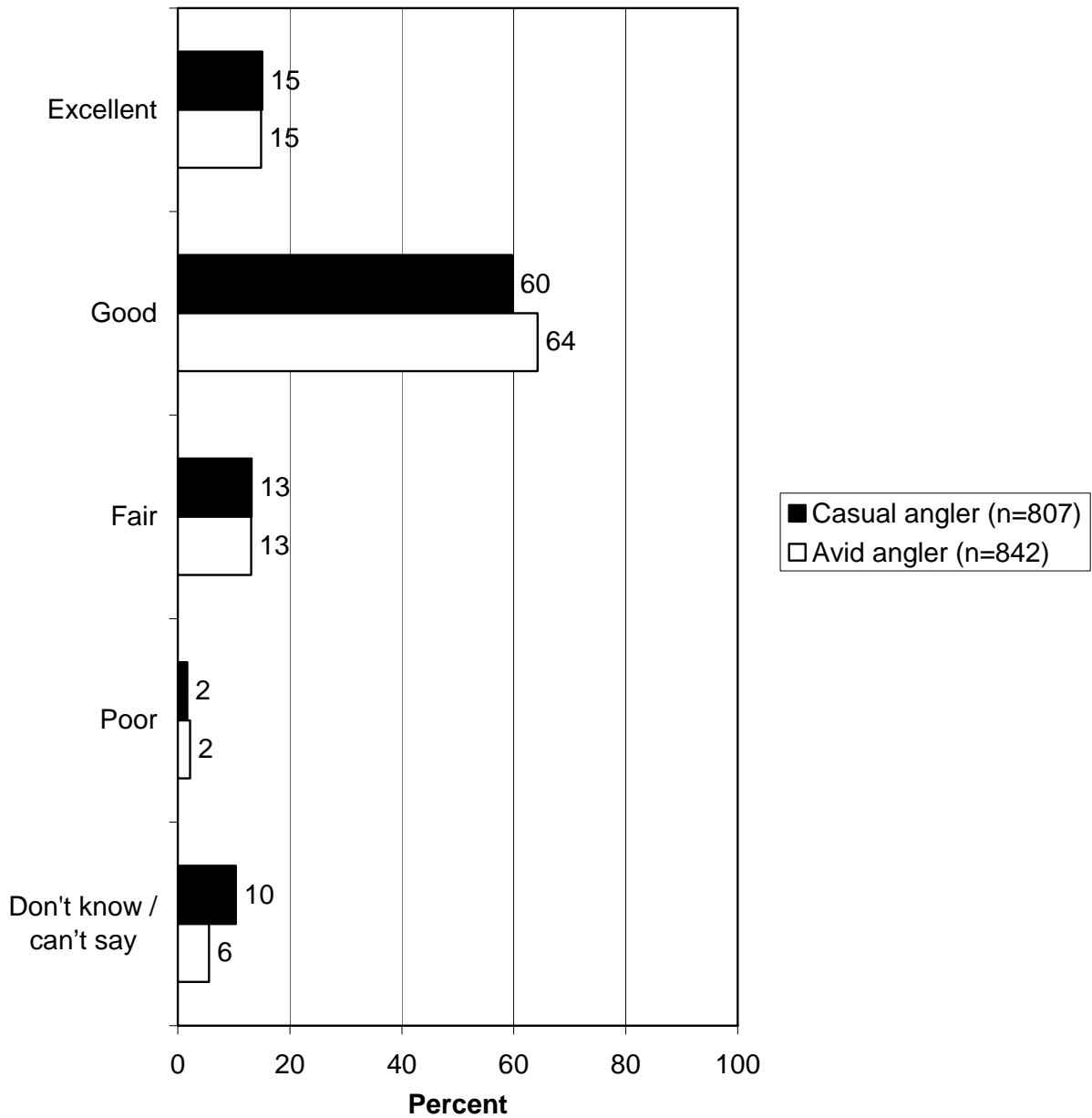
**Q149. How would you rate public access for fishing in the Missouri River?**



**Q146. How would you rate public access to Iowa's inland rivers and streams for fishing in general?**

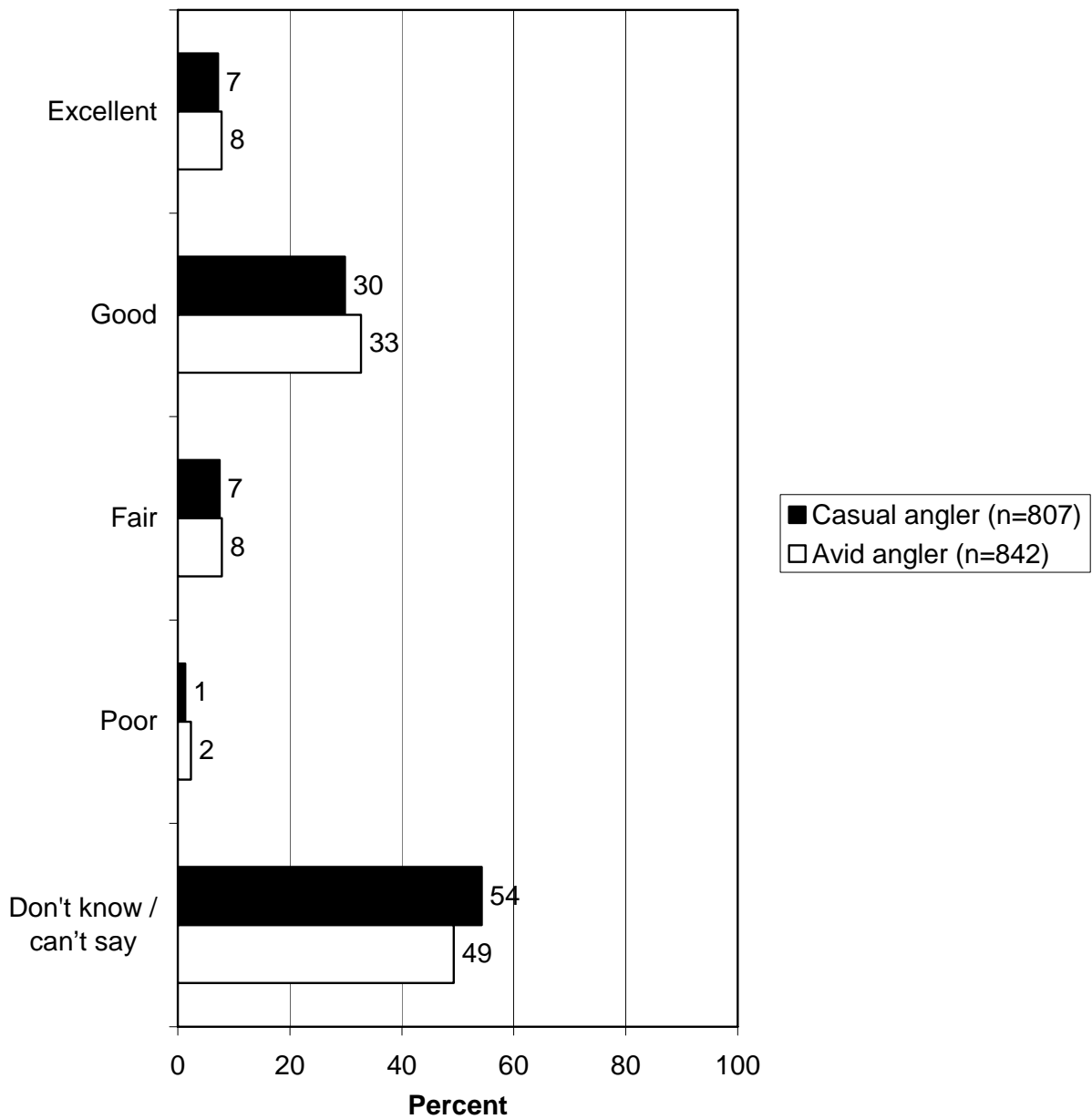


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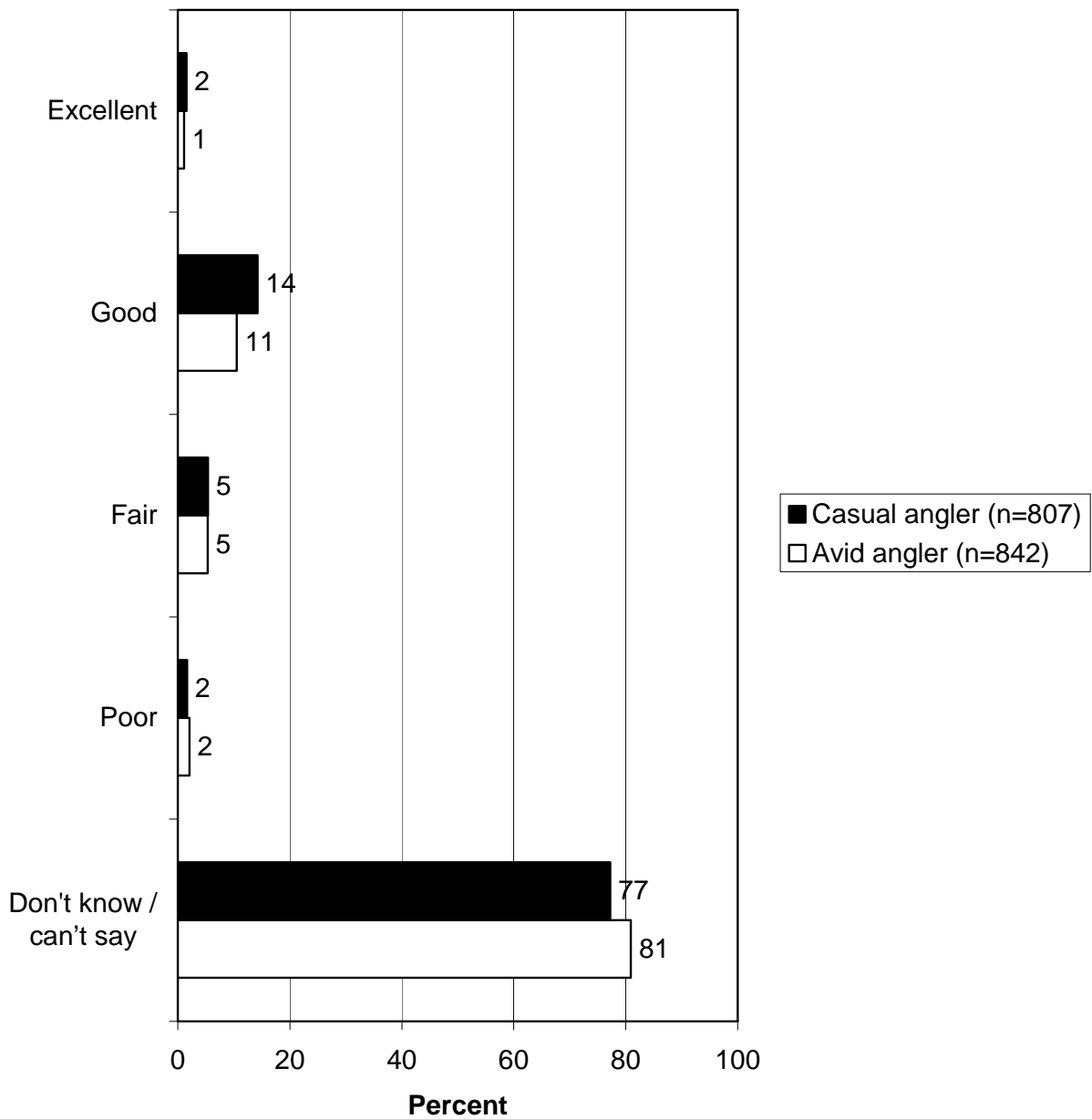




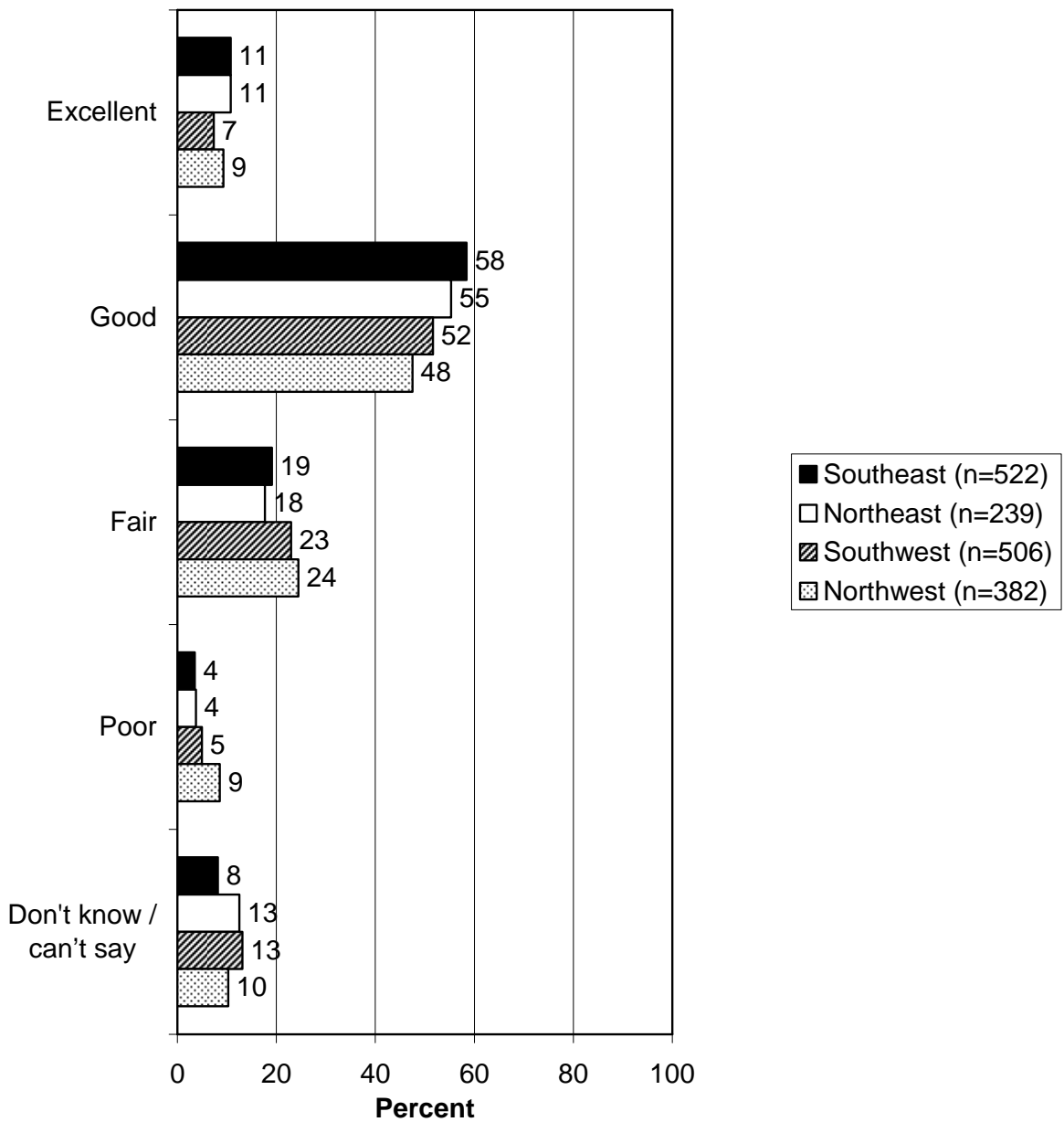
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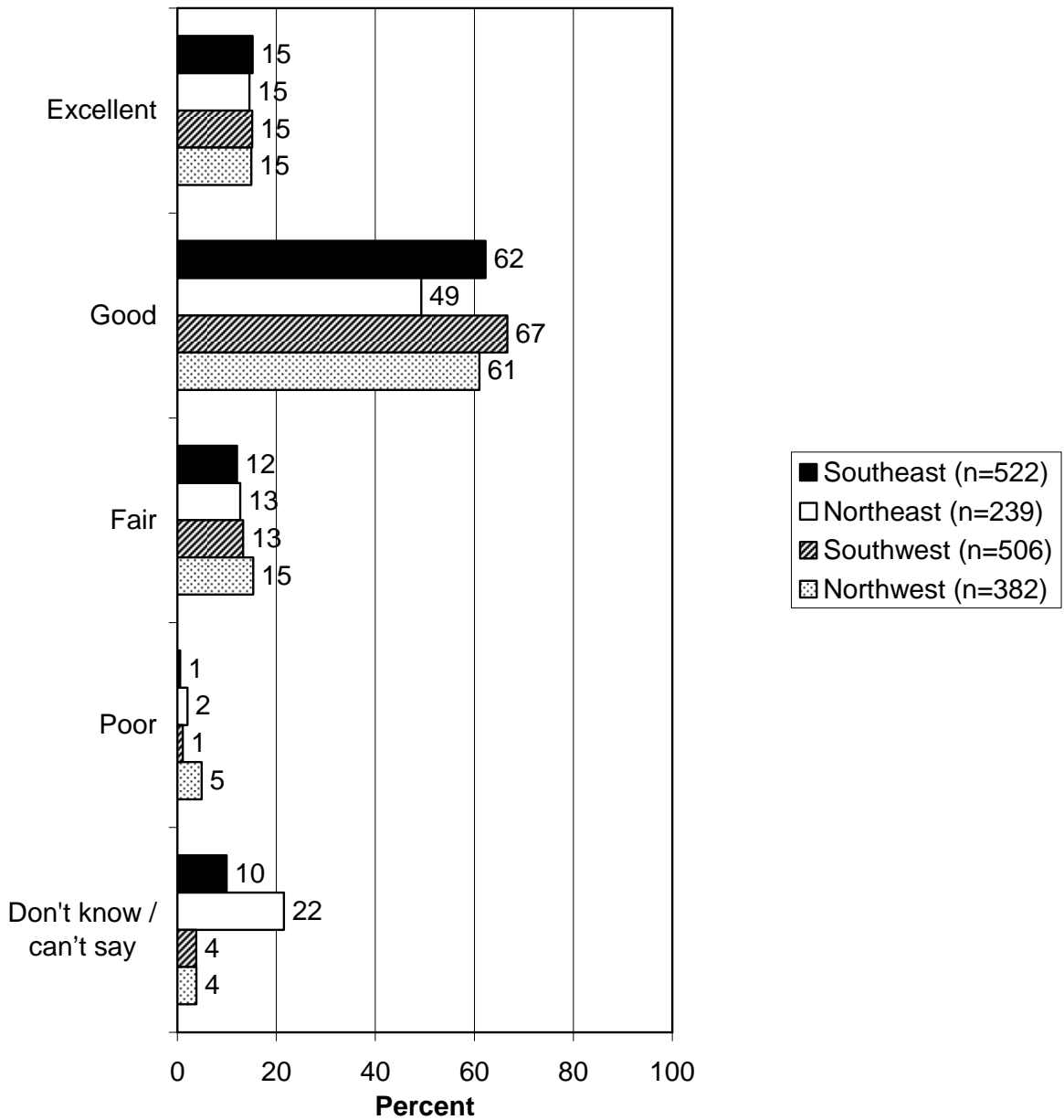
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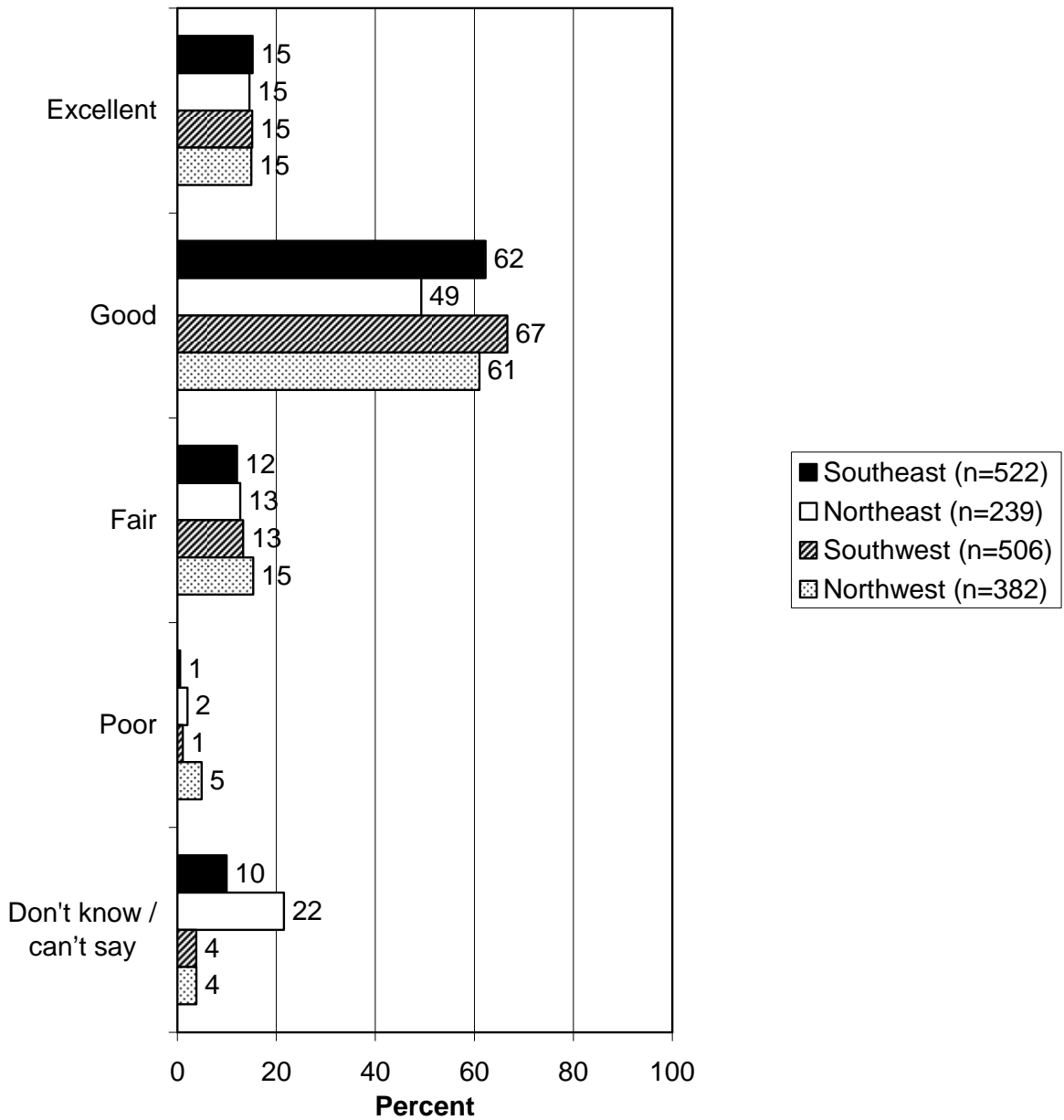
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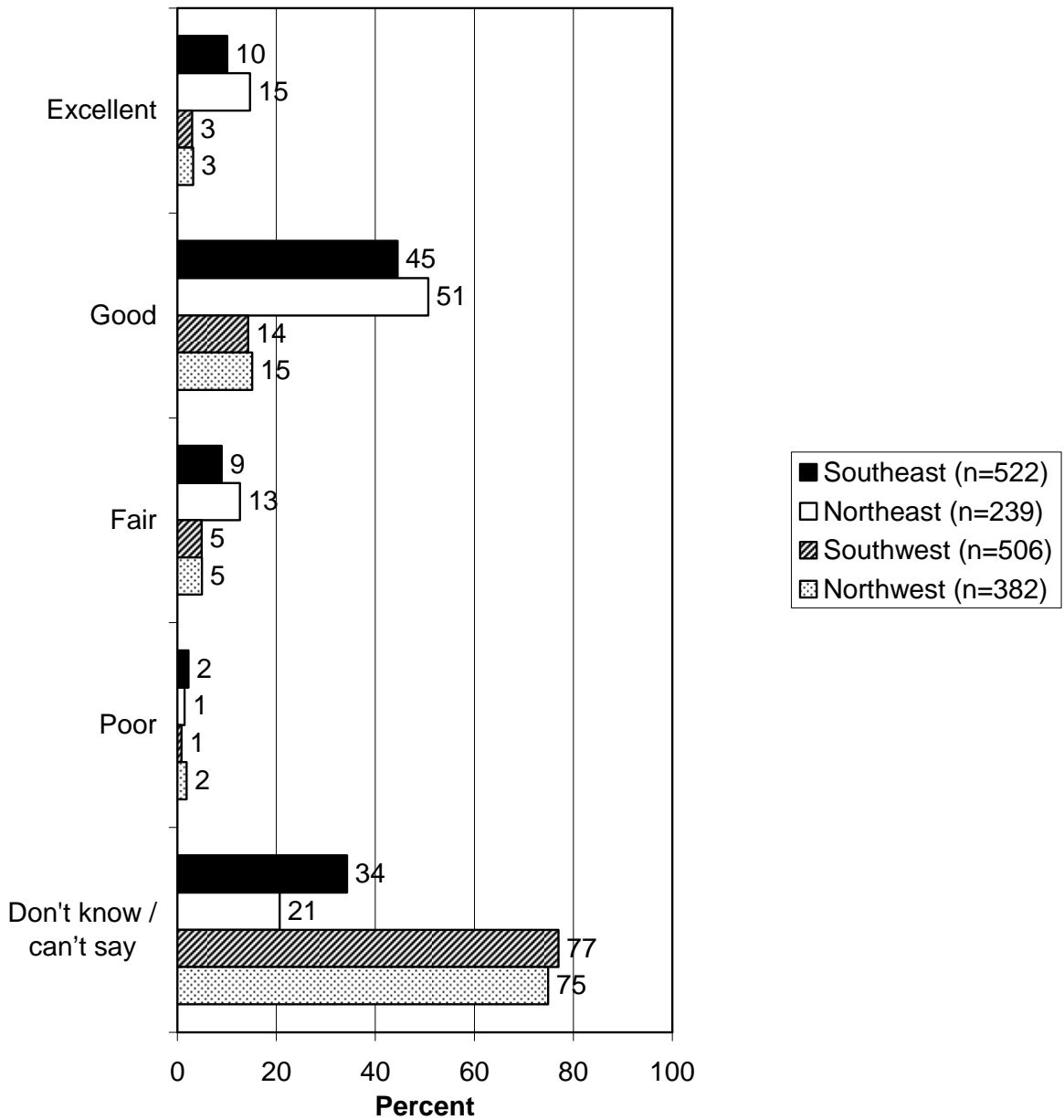
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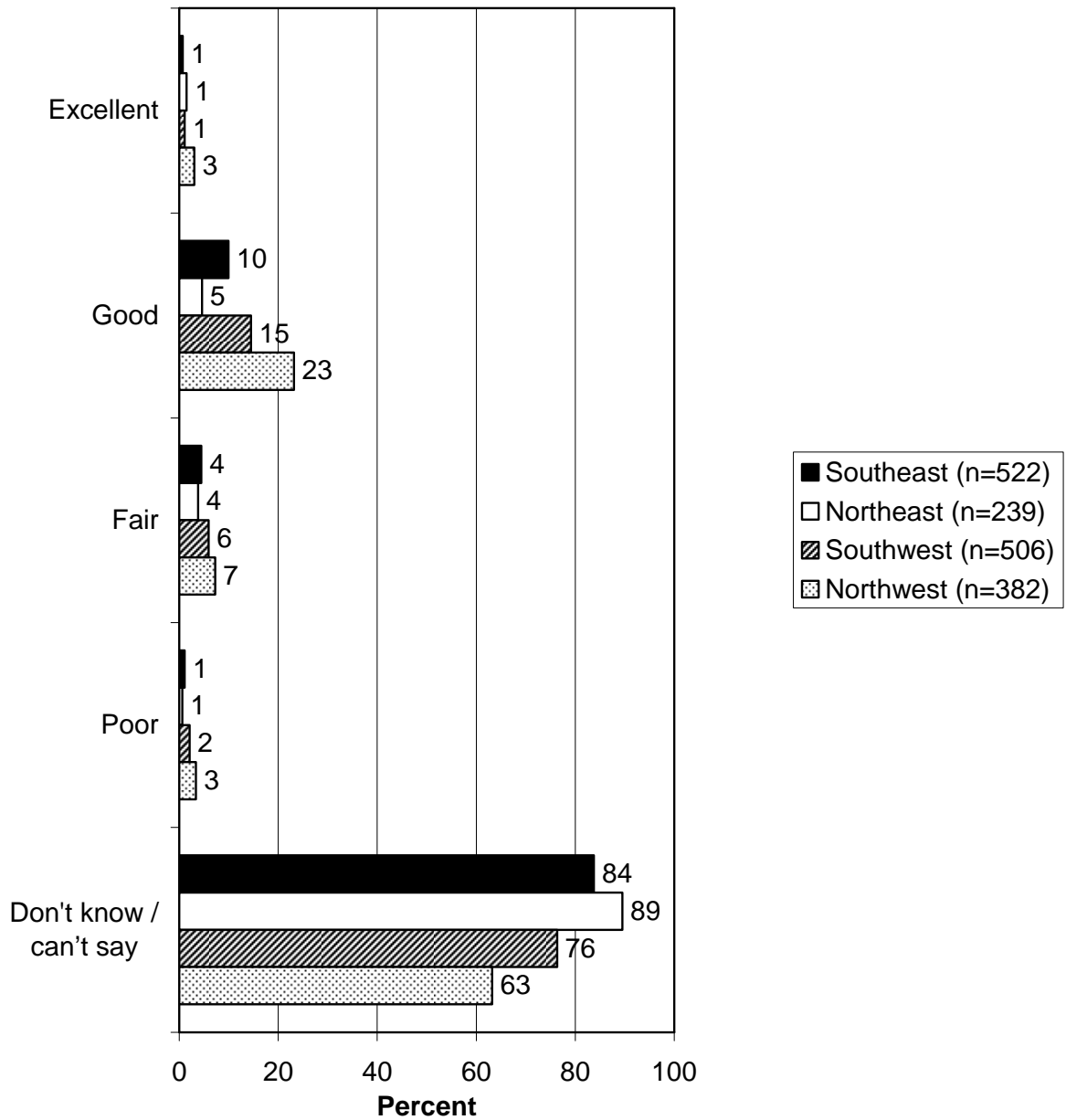
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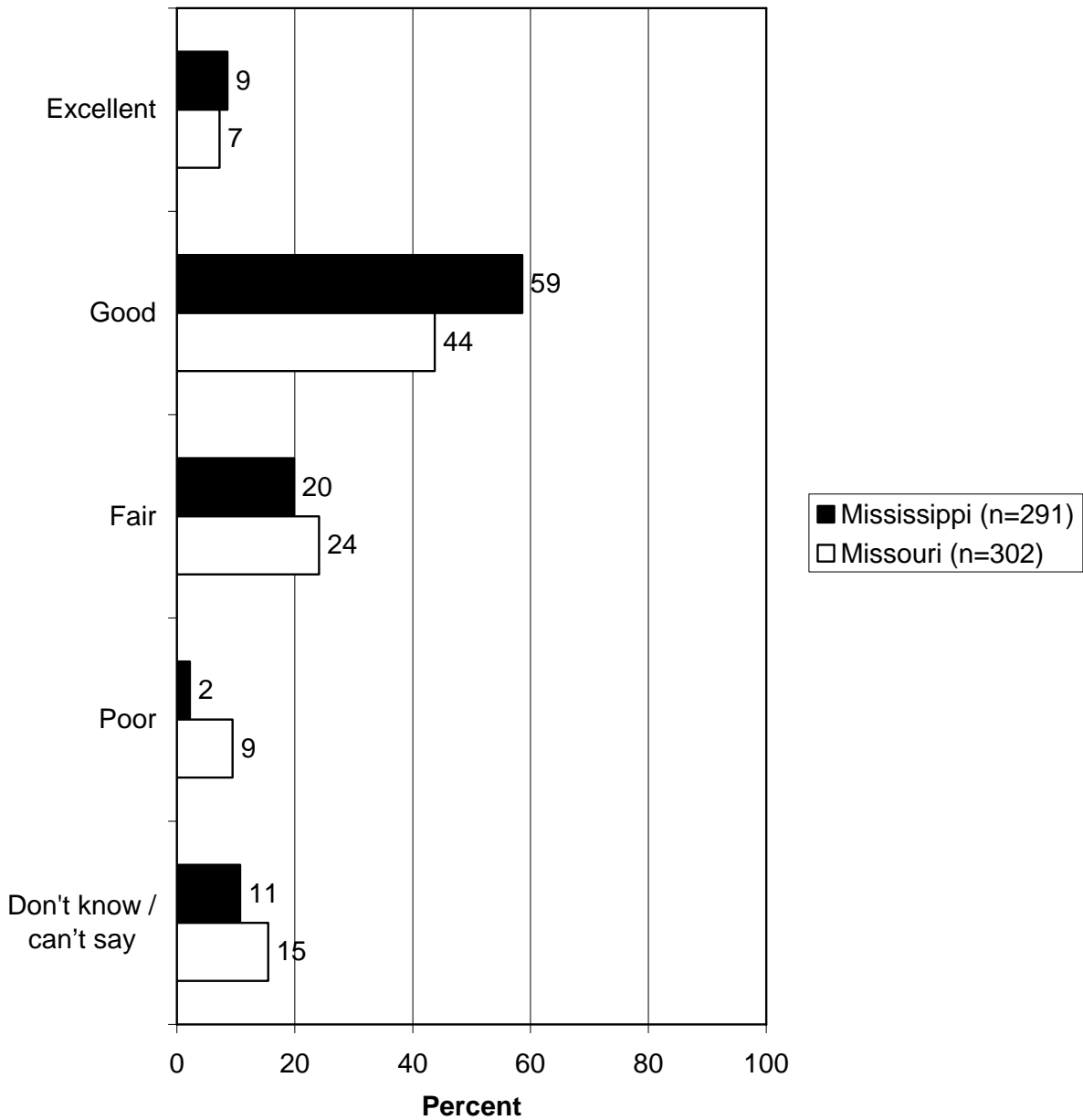
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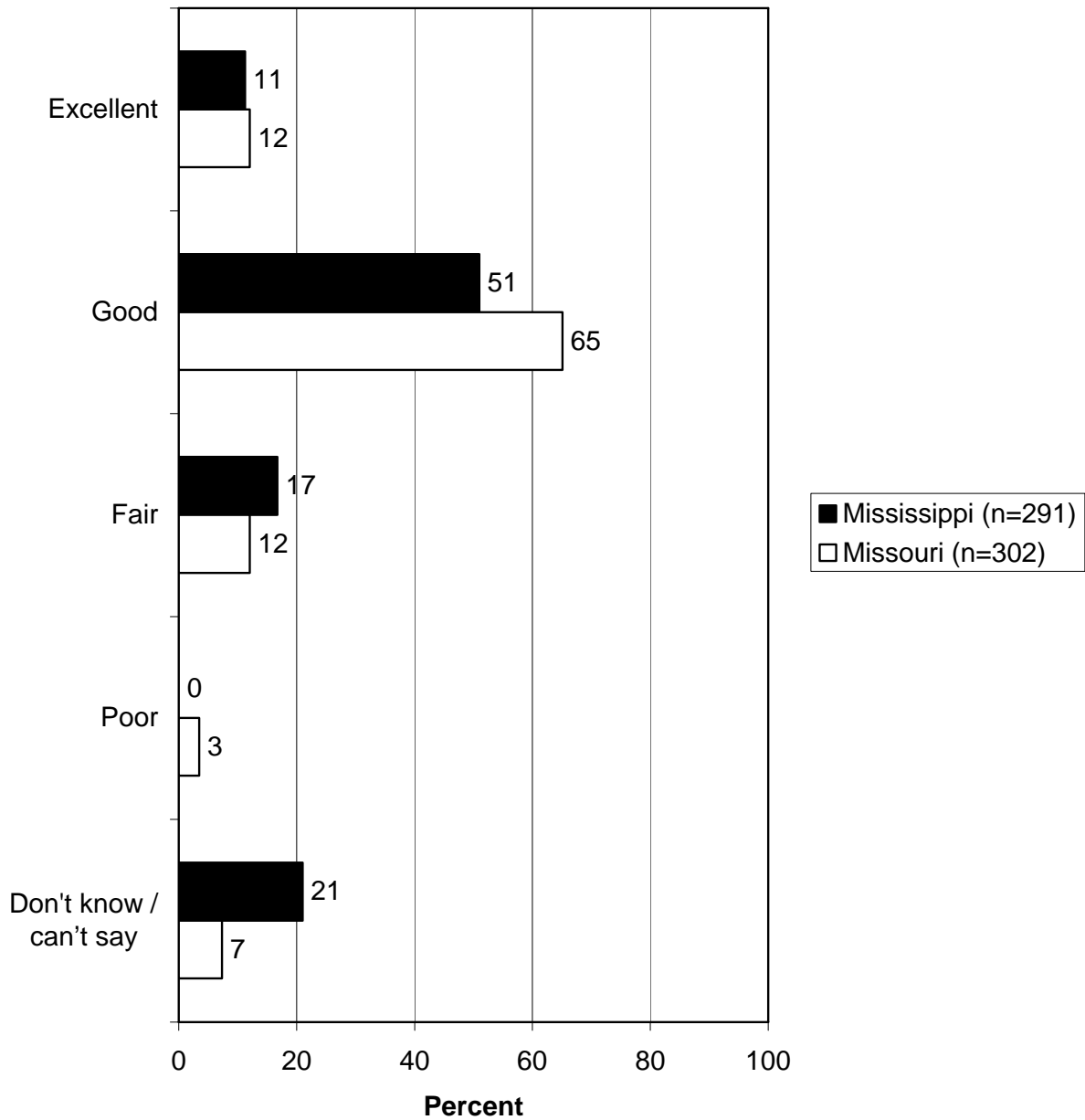


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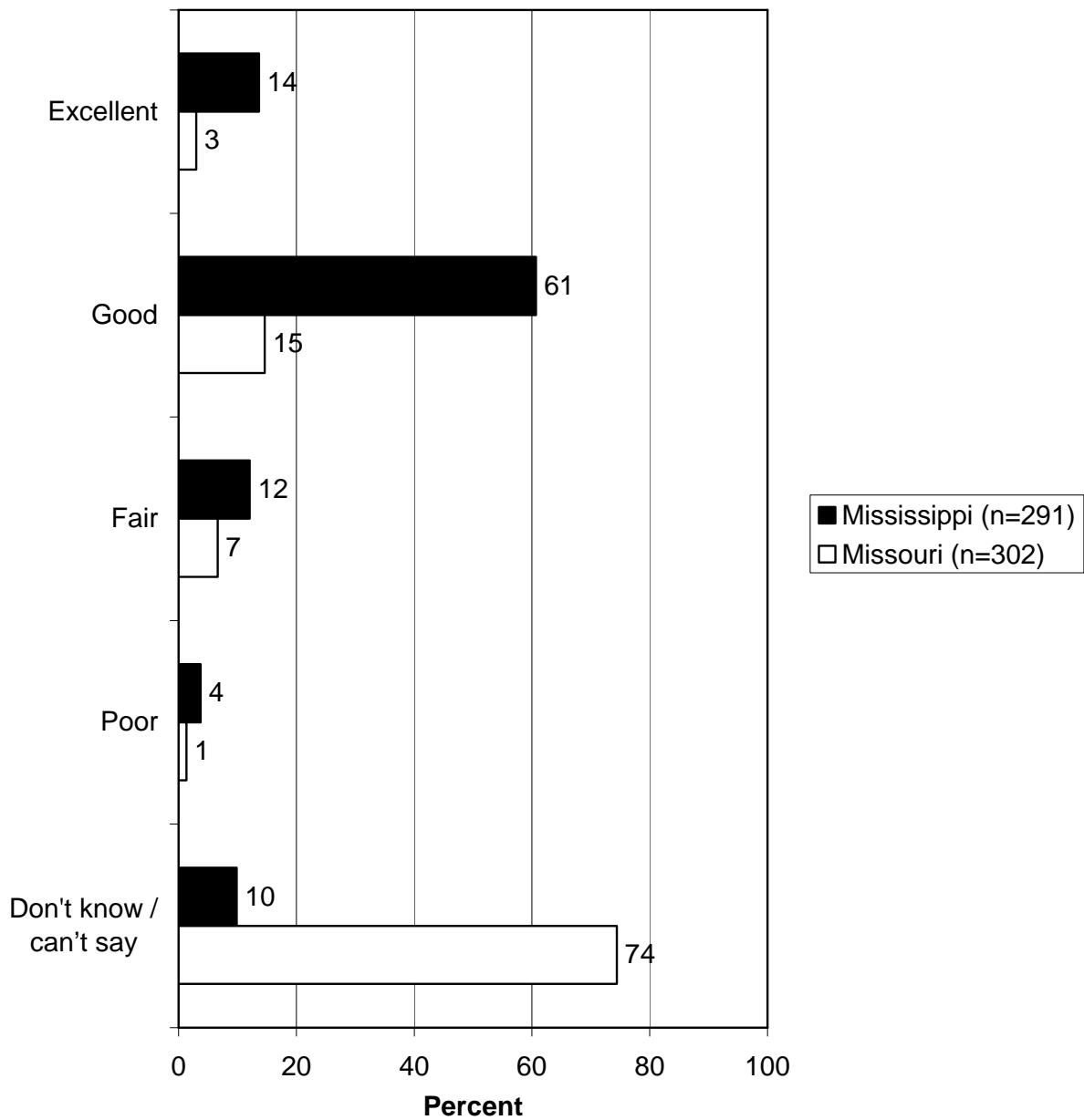




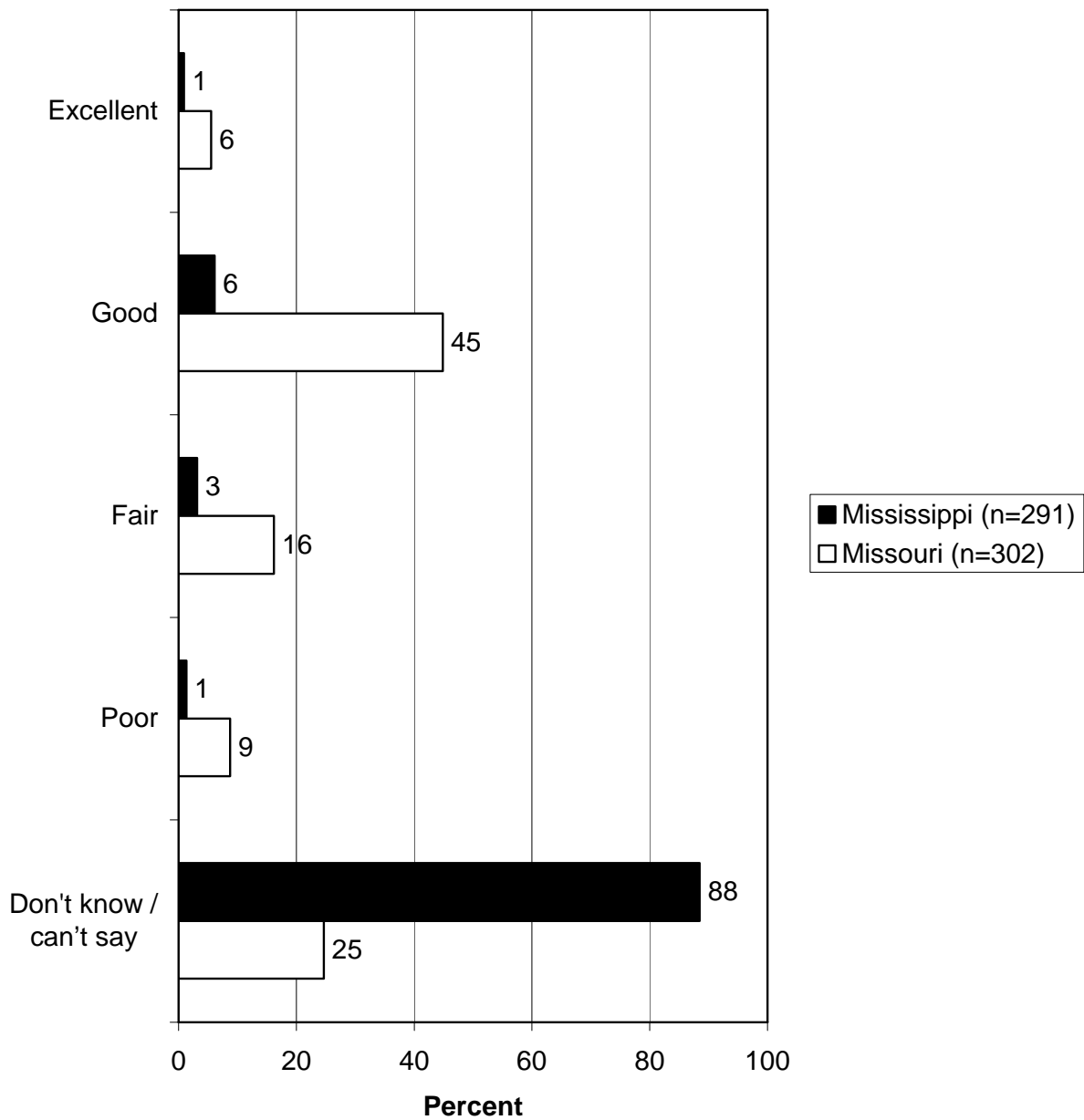
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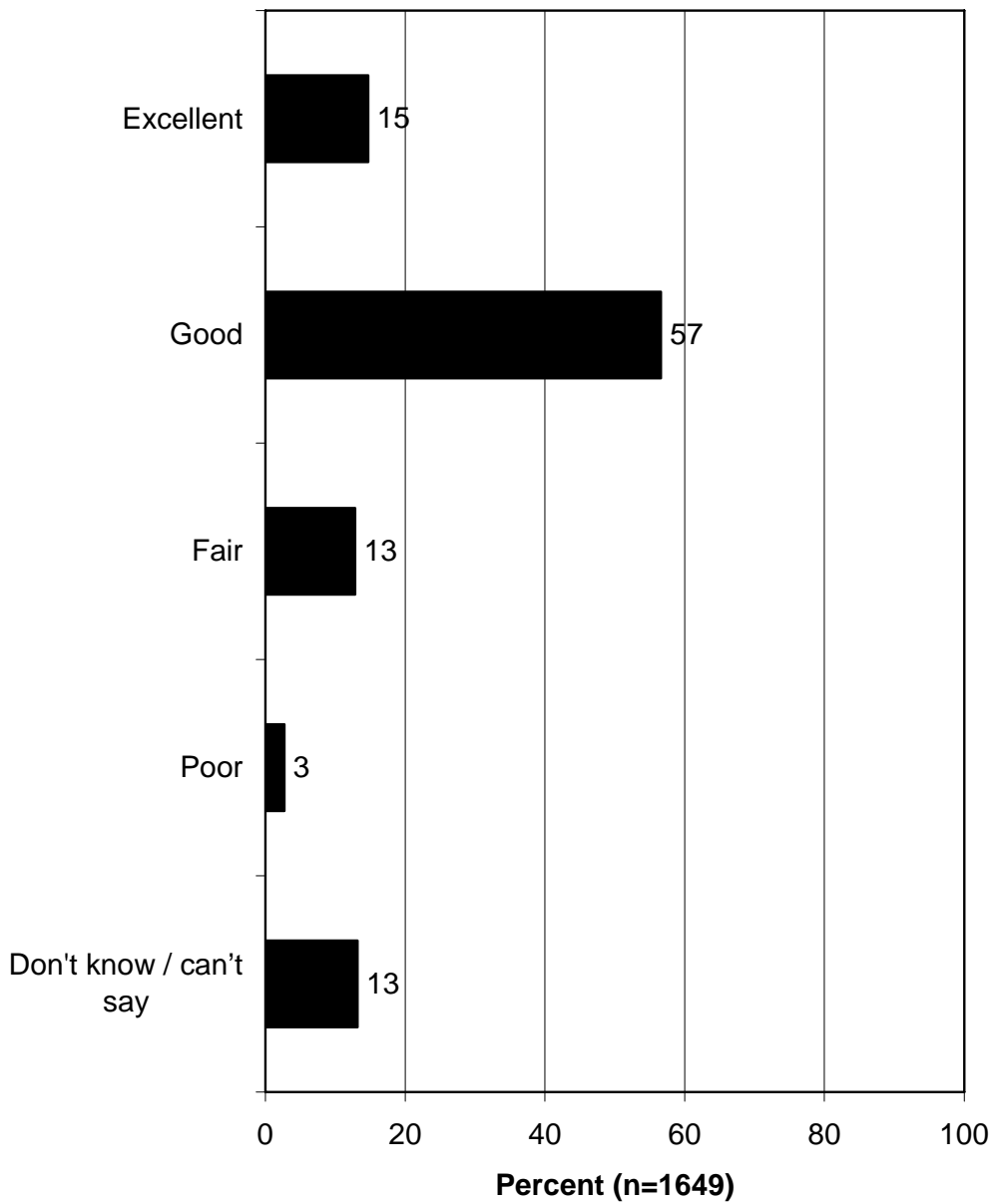
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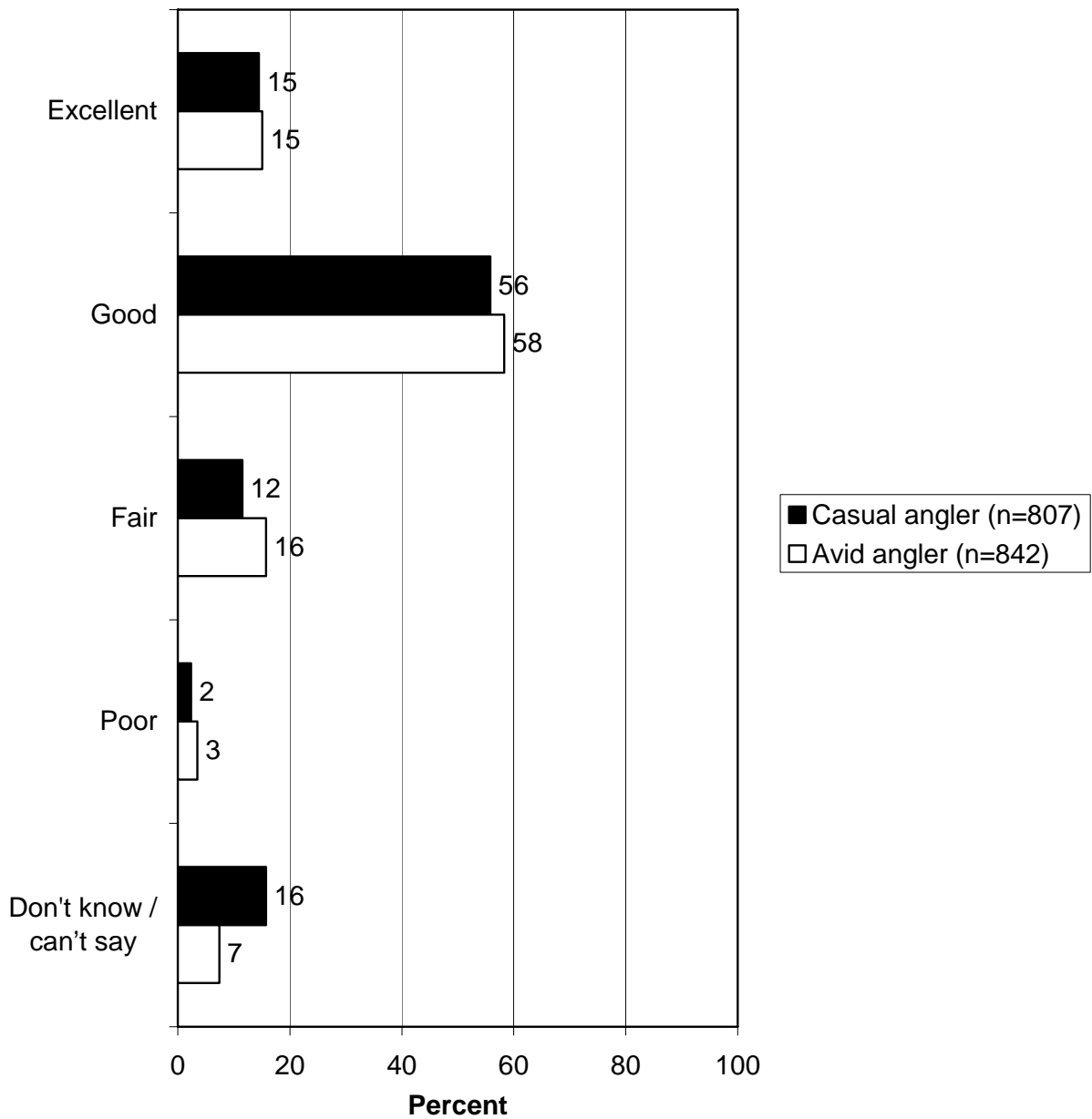
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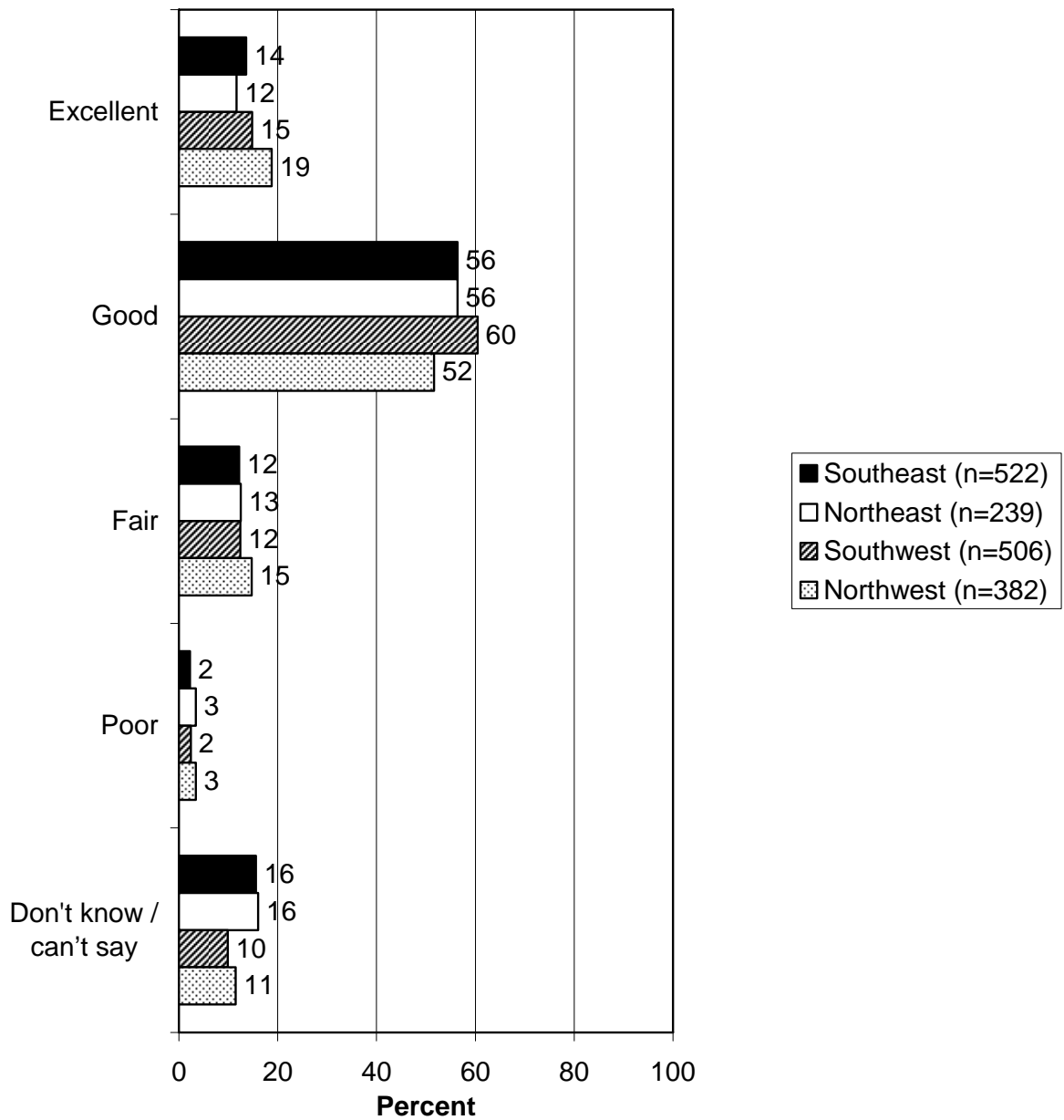
**Q143. How would you rate the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in managing fisheries and fishing?**



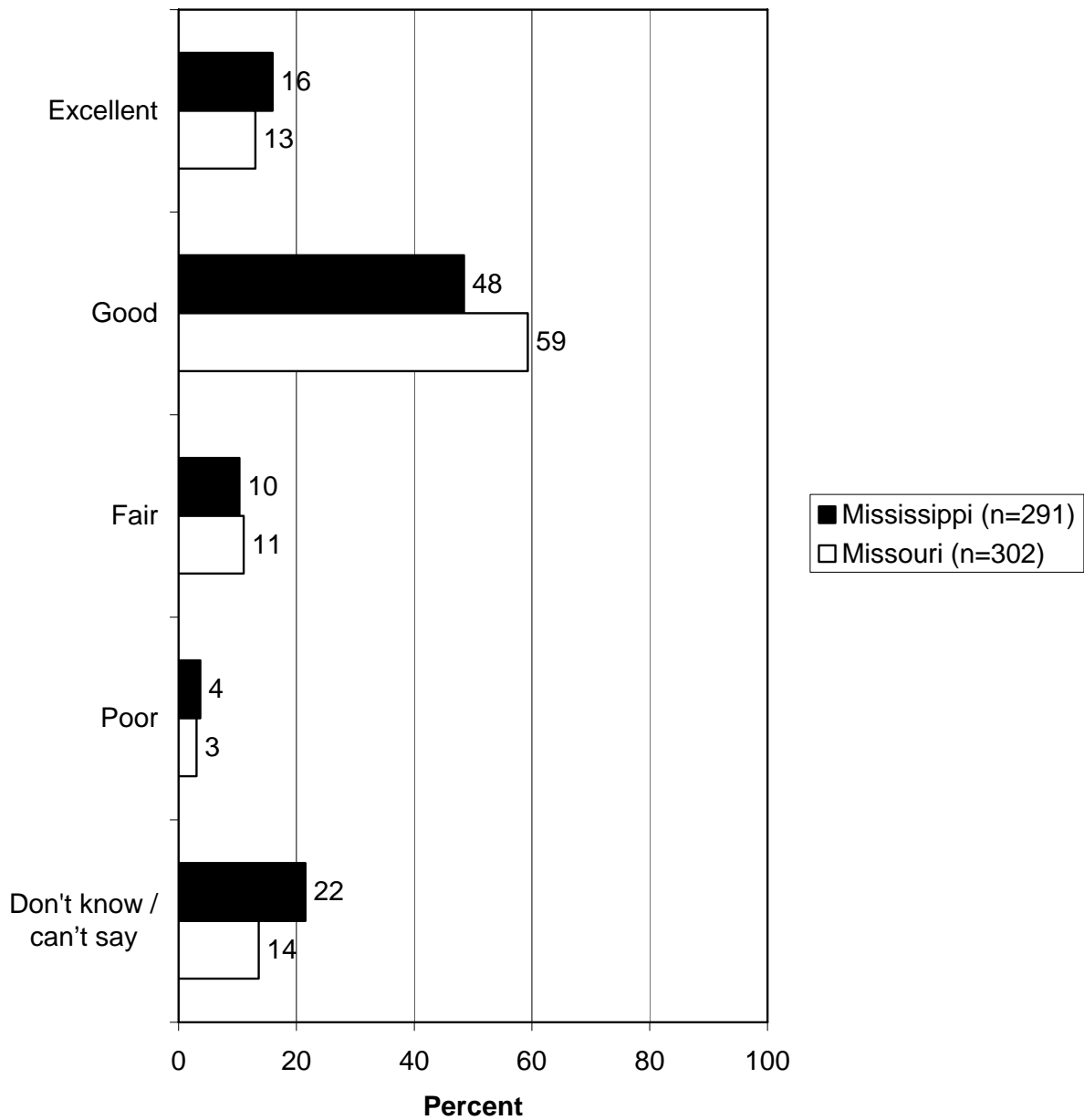
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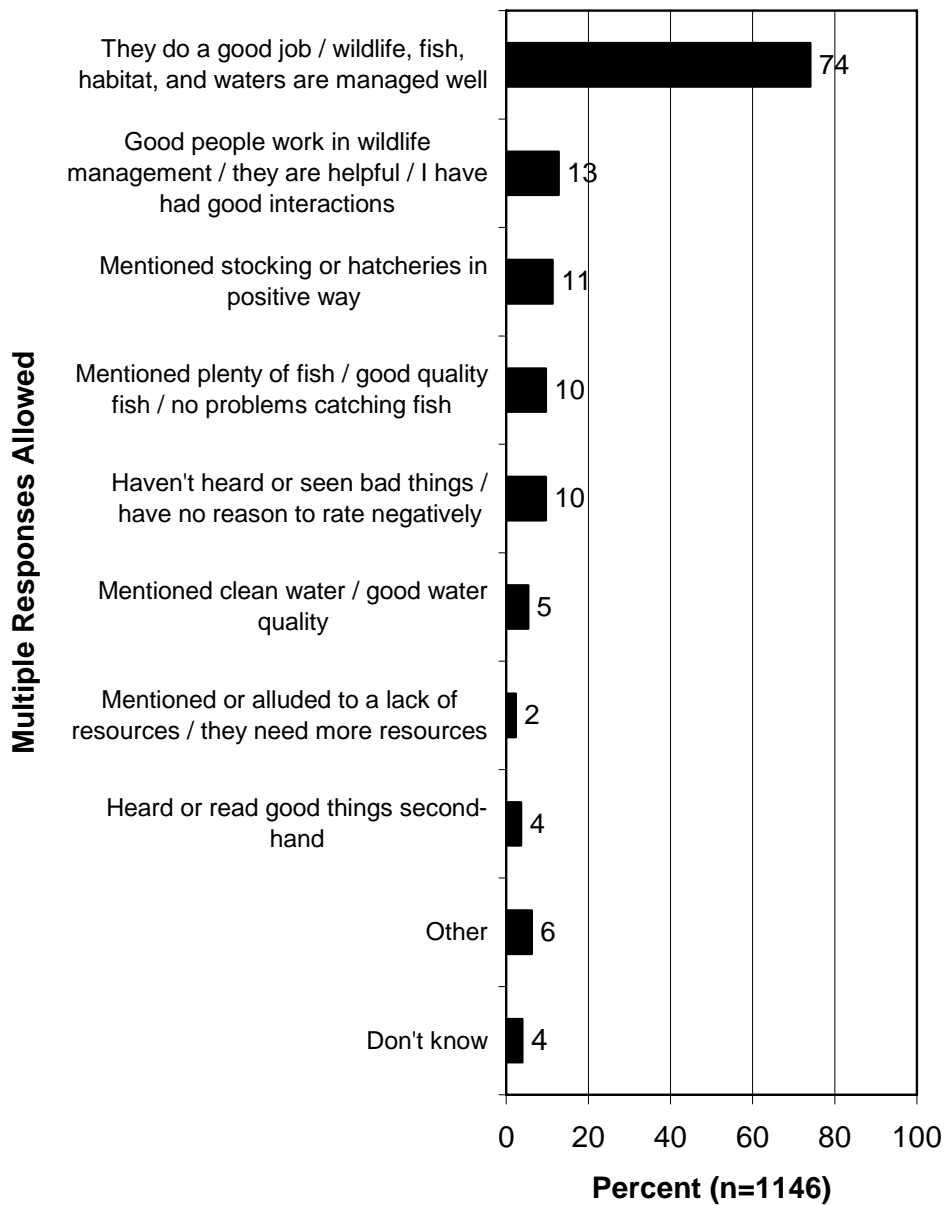
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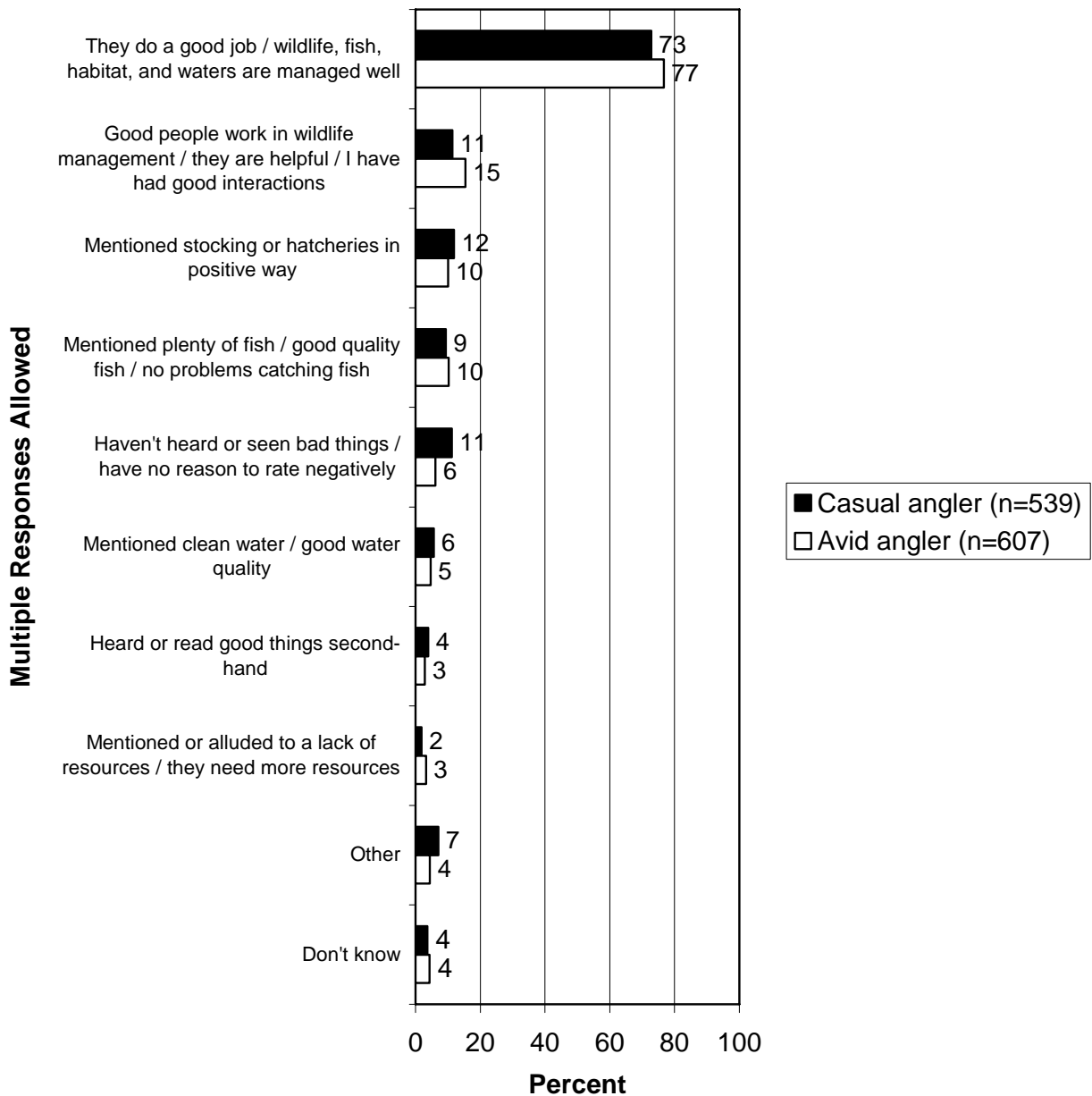


**Q144. Why did you rate the management so high?  
(Asked of those who rated the Iowa Department of  
Natural Resources' management of fisheries and  
fishing as excellent or good.)**

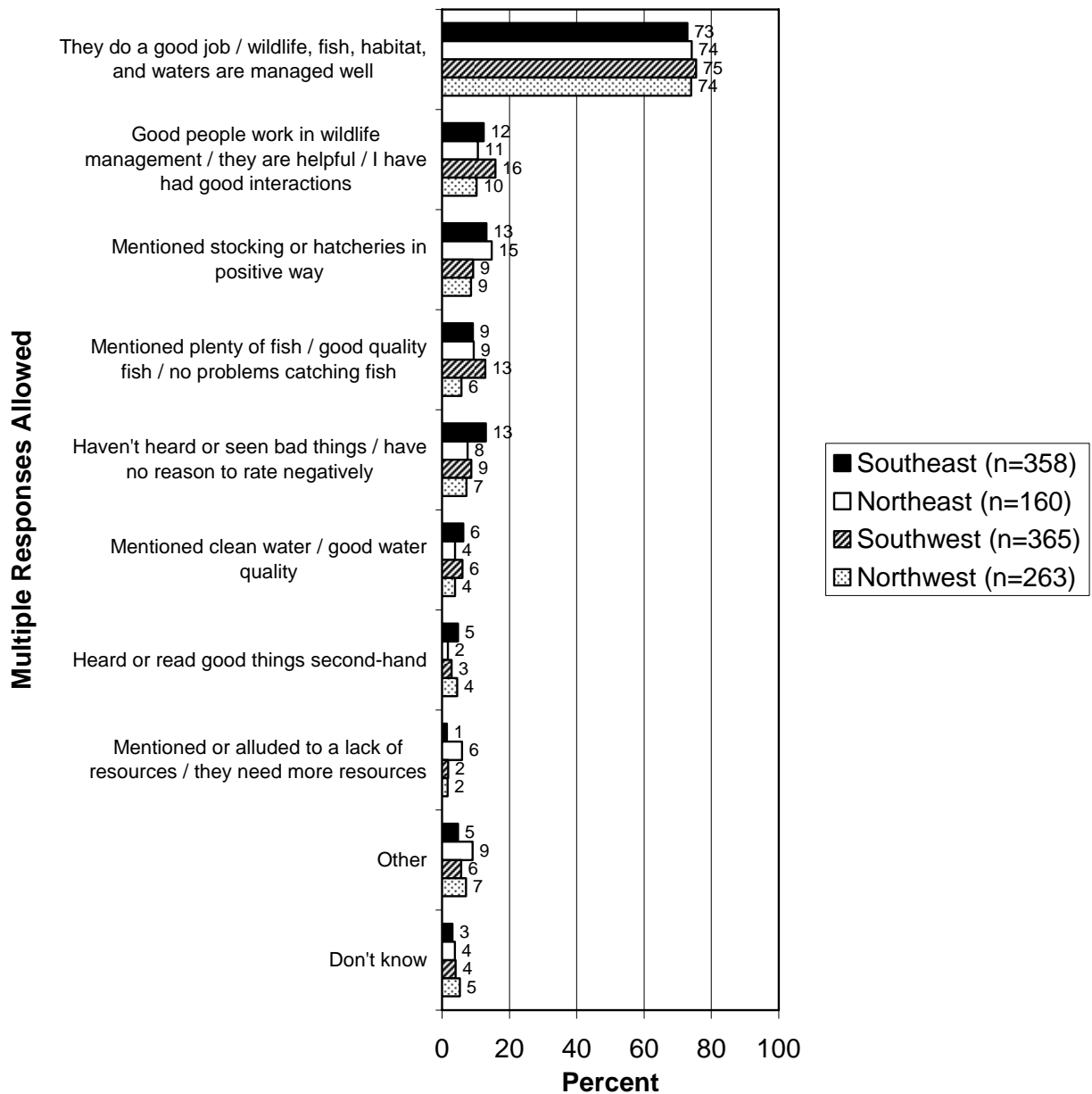




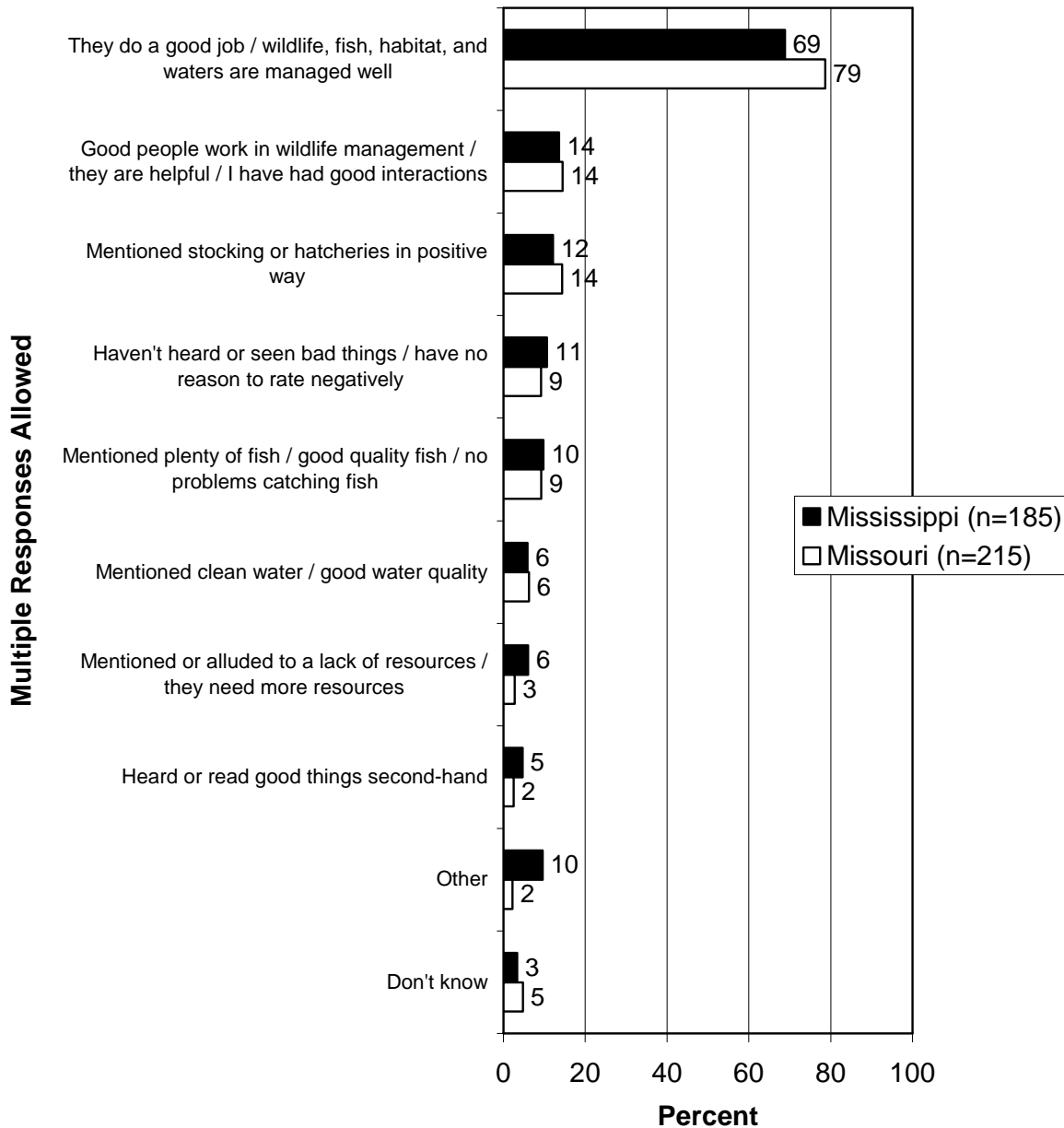
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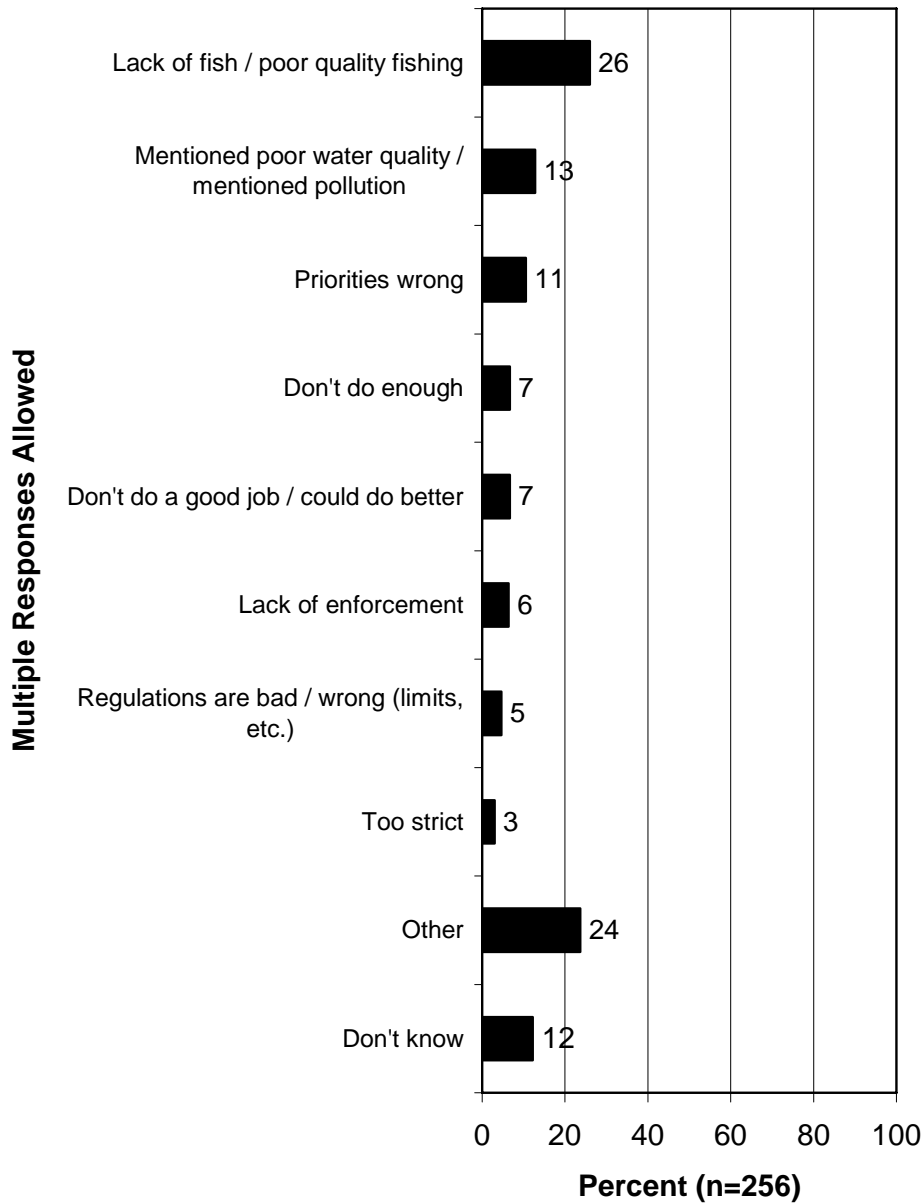
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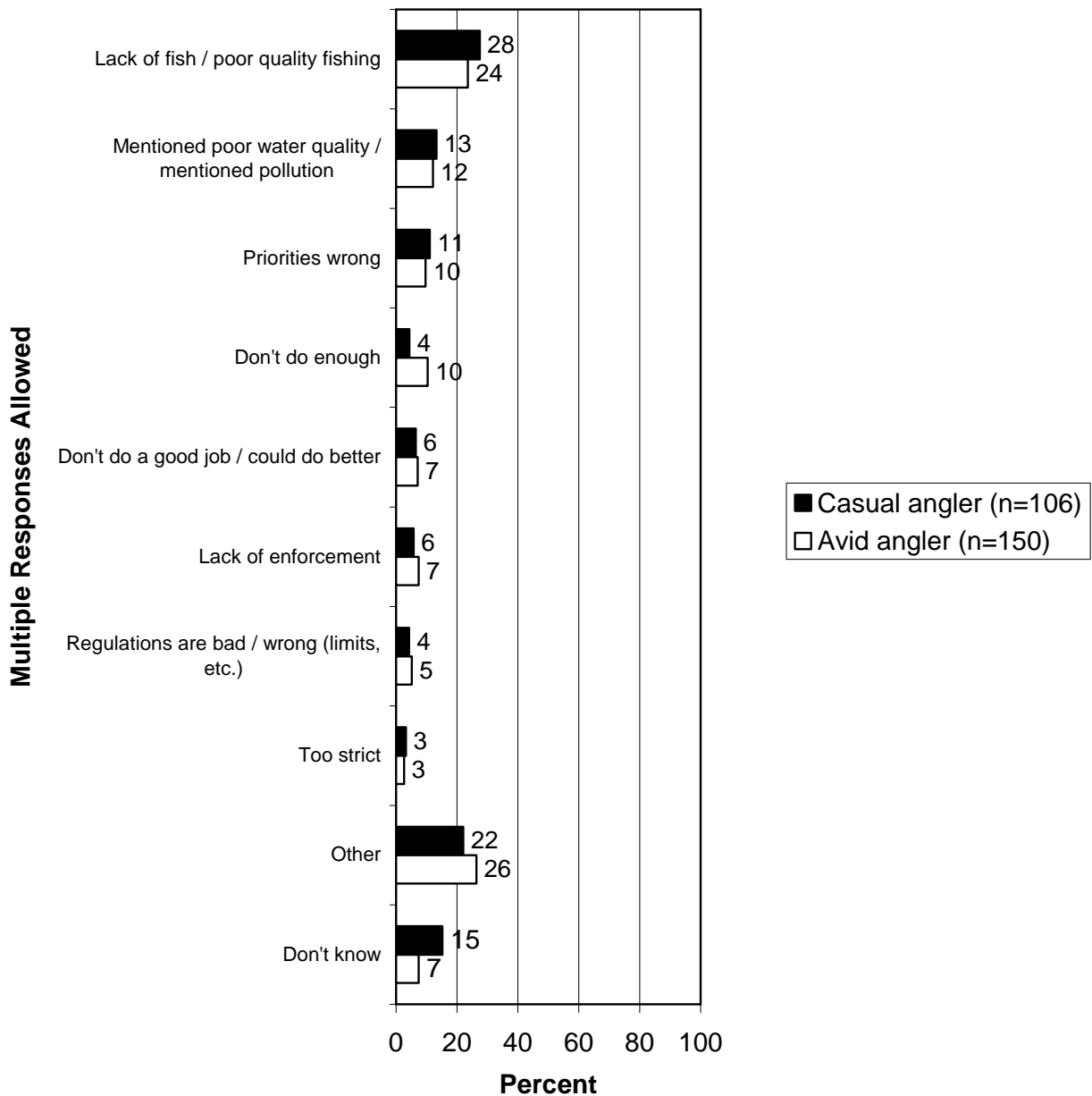
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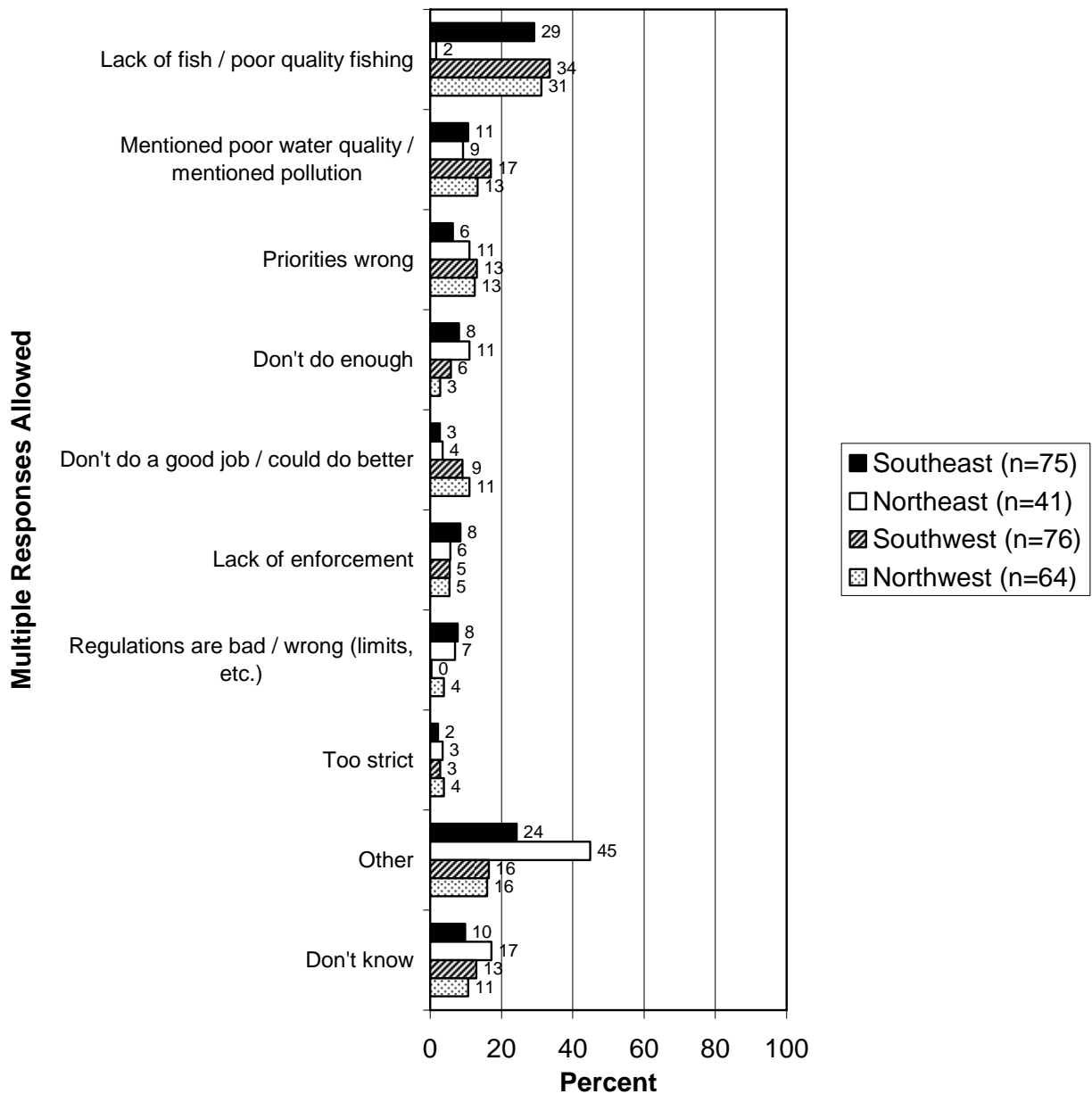
**Q145. Why did you rate the management so low?  
(Asked of those who rated the Iowa Department of  
Natural Resources' management of fisheries and  
fishing as fair or poor.)**



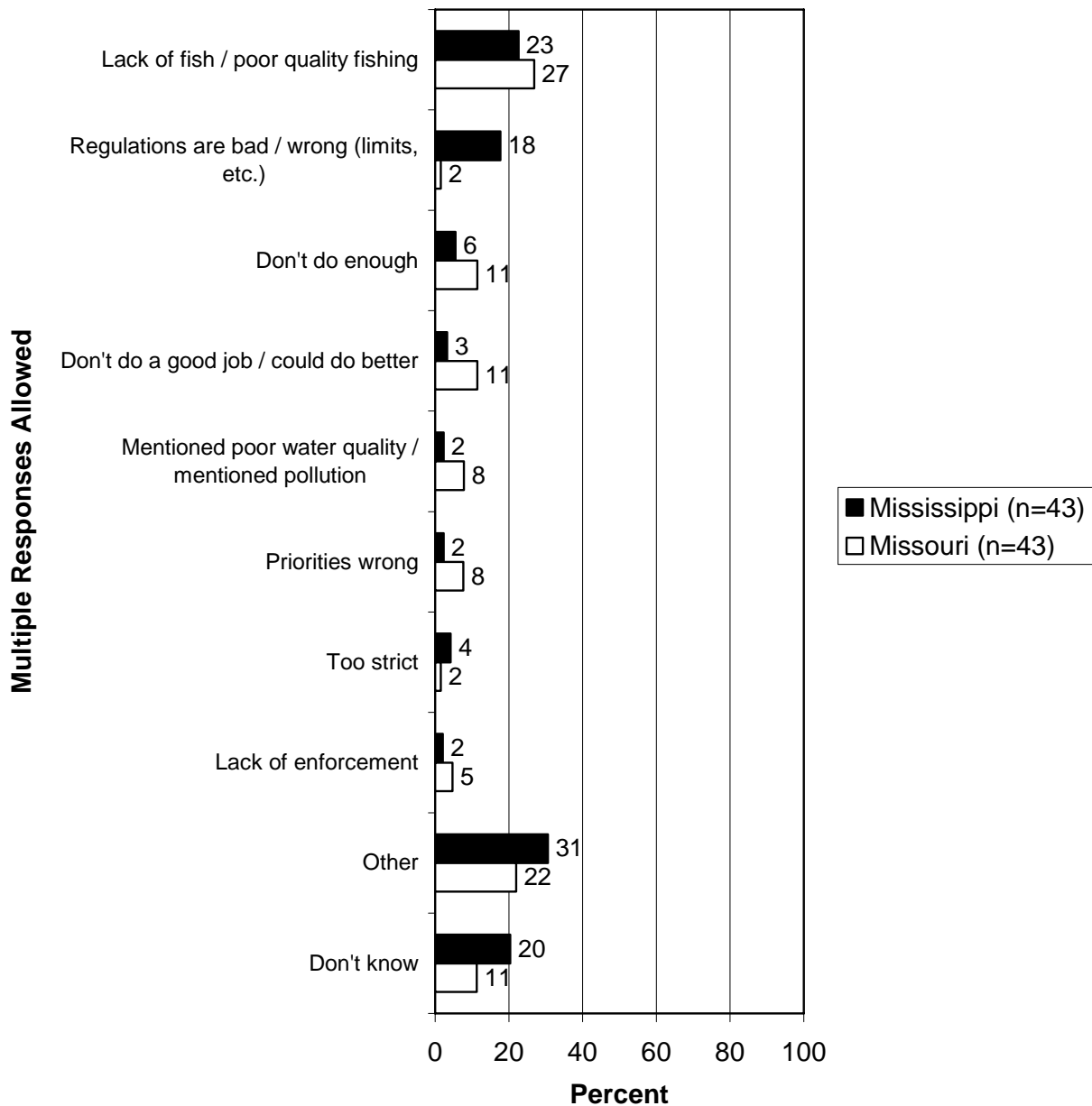
**Q145. Why did you rate the management so low?  
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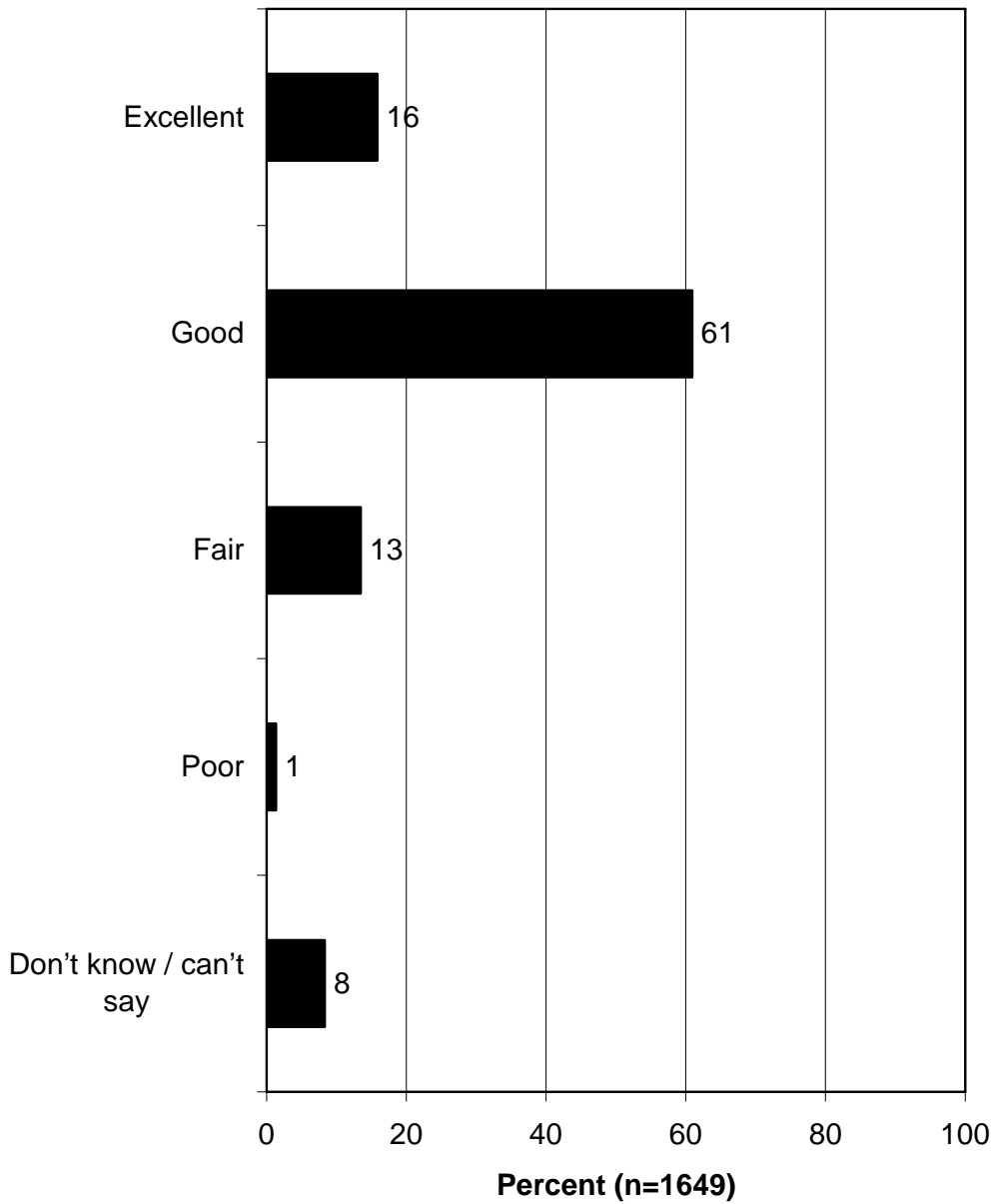
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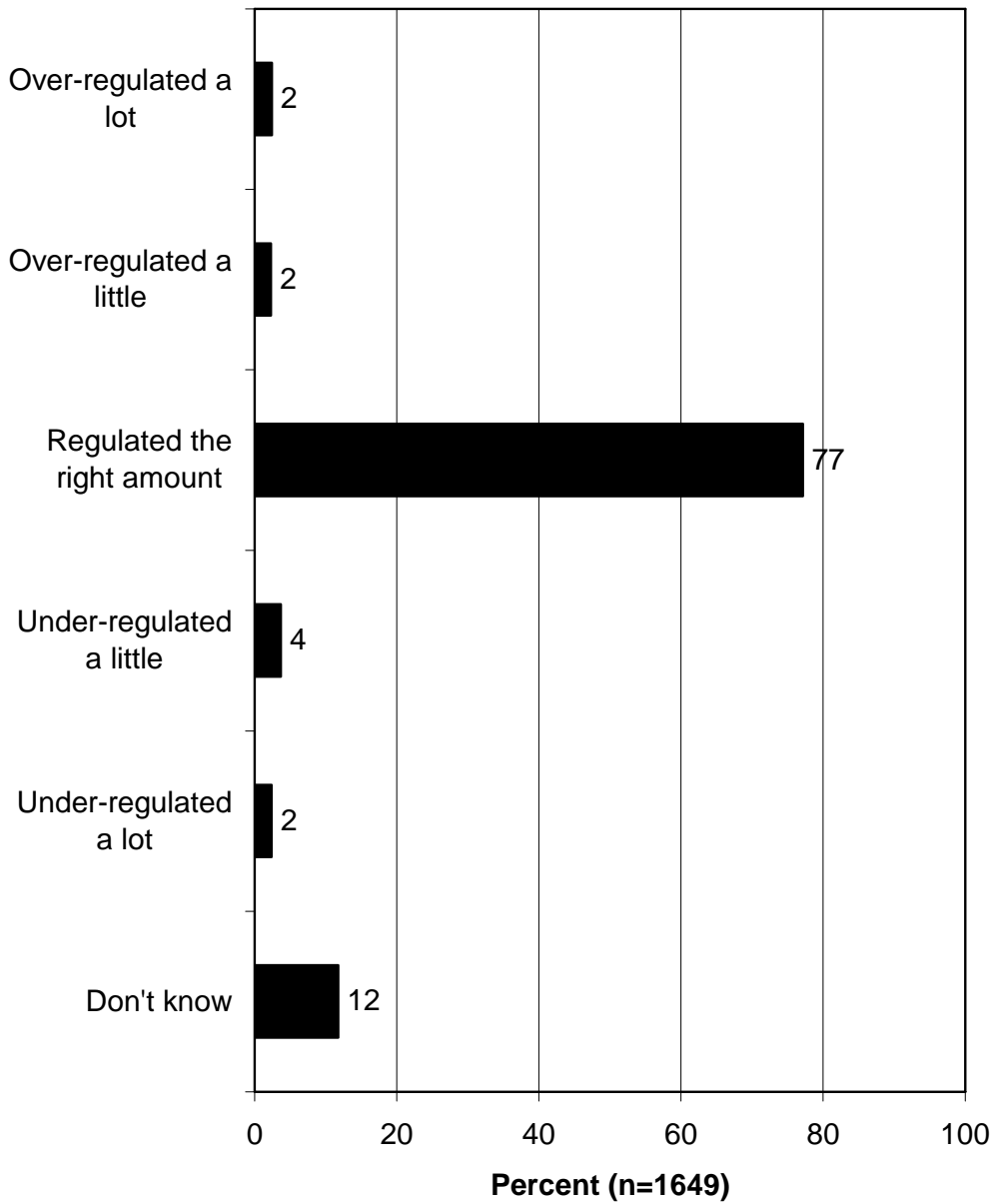


**Q173. How would you rate Iowa's enforcement efforts of fishing regulations and laws?**

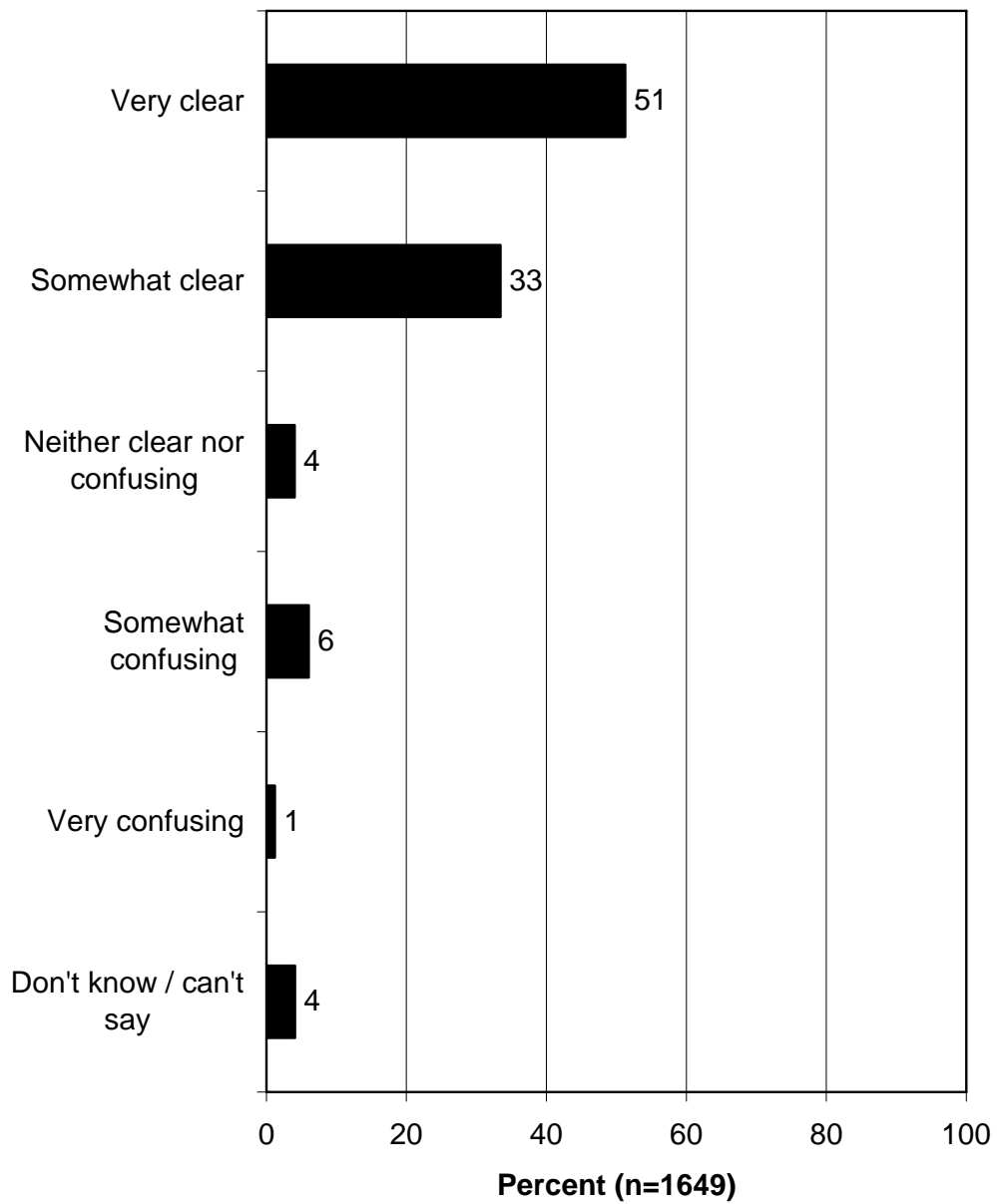




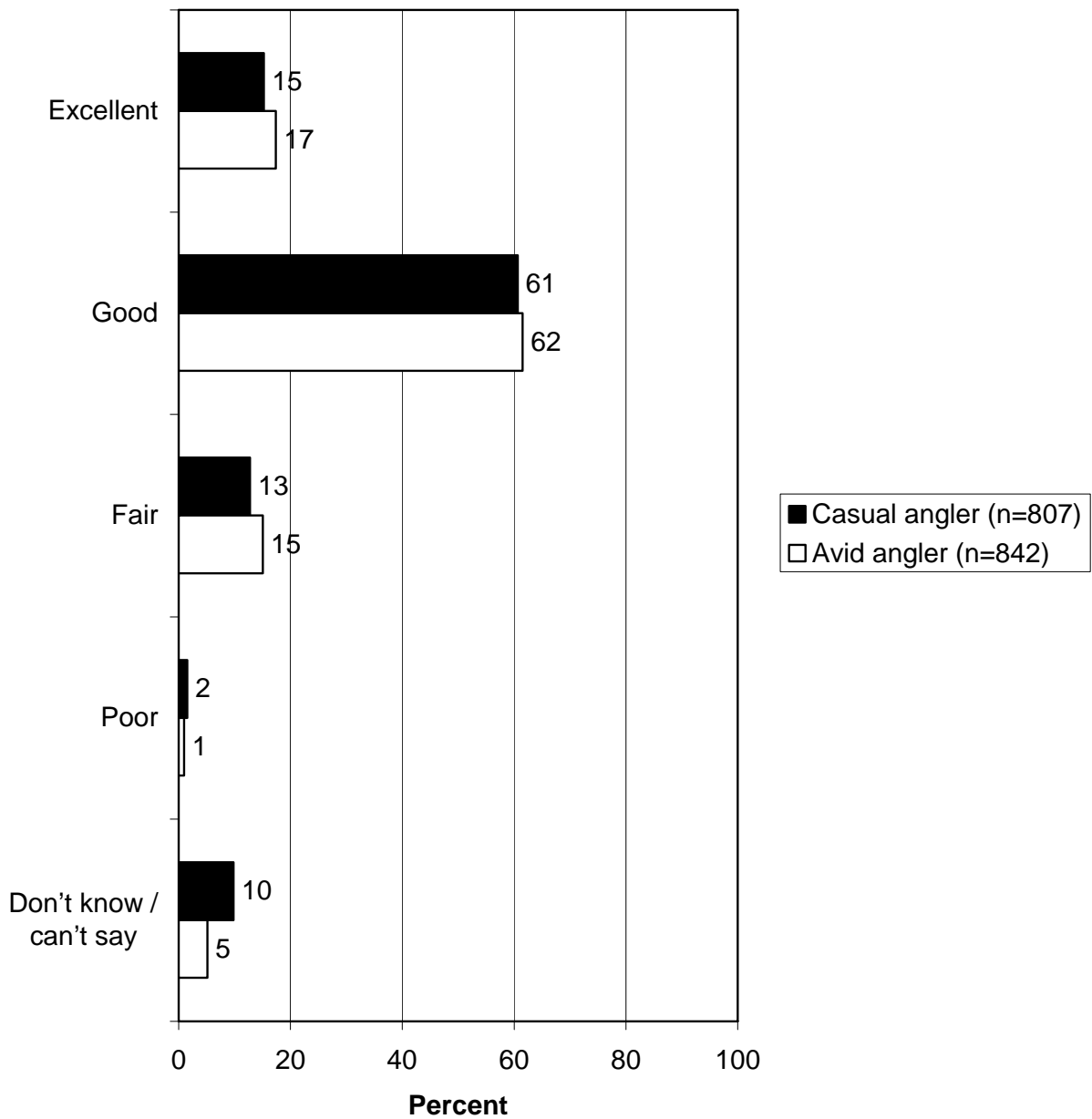
**Q88. How would you describe fishing management in Iowa?**



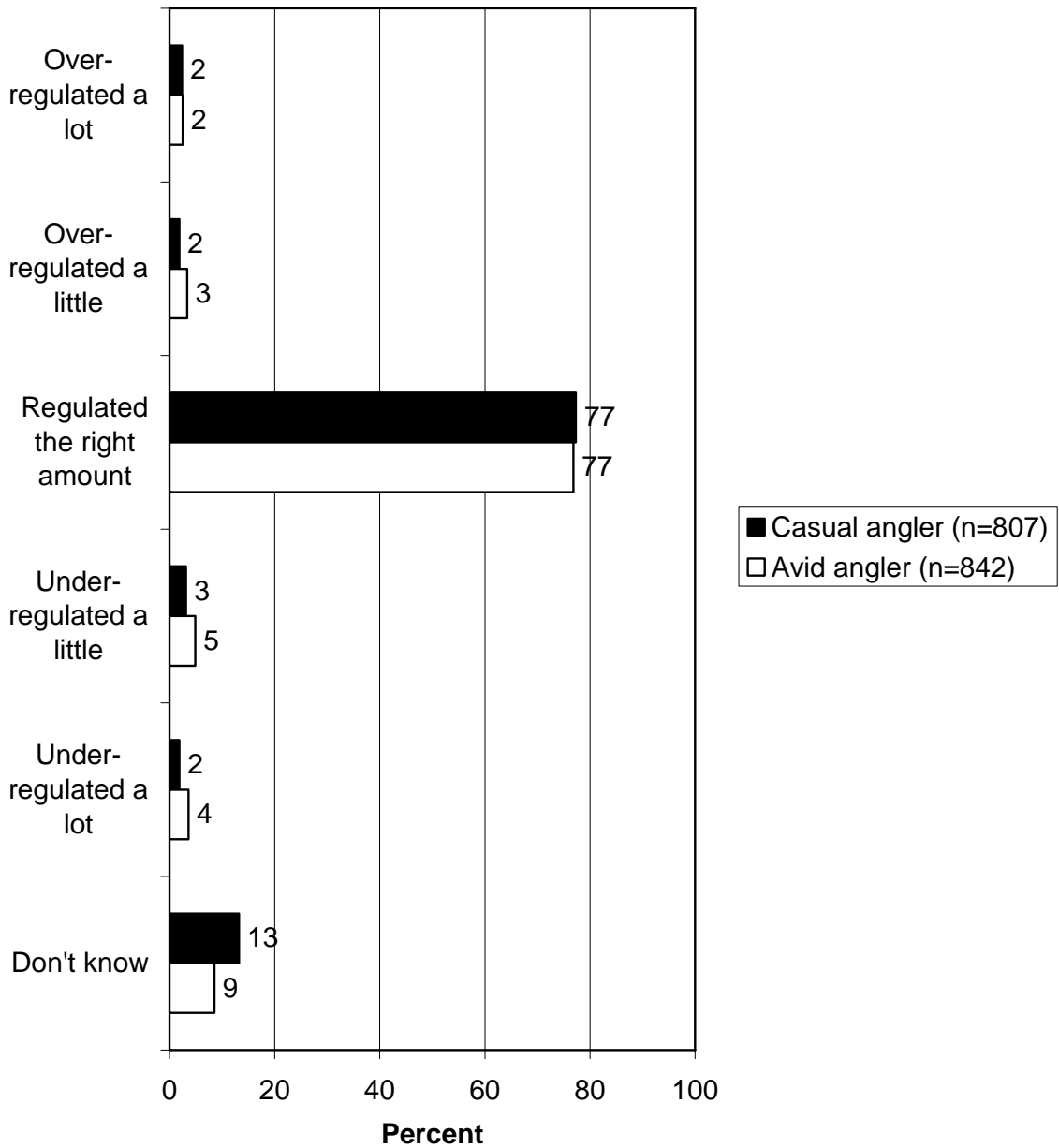
**Q172. How would you describe your feelings about the clarity of Iowa's fishing regulations?**



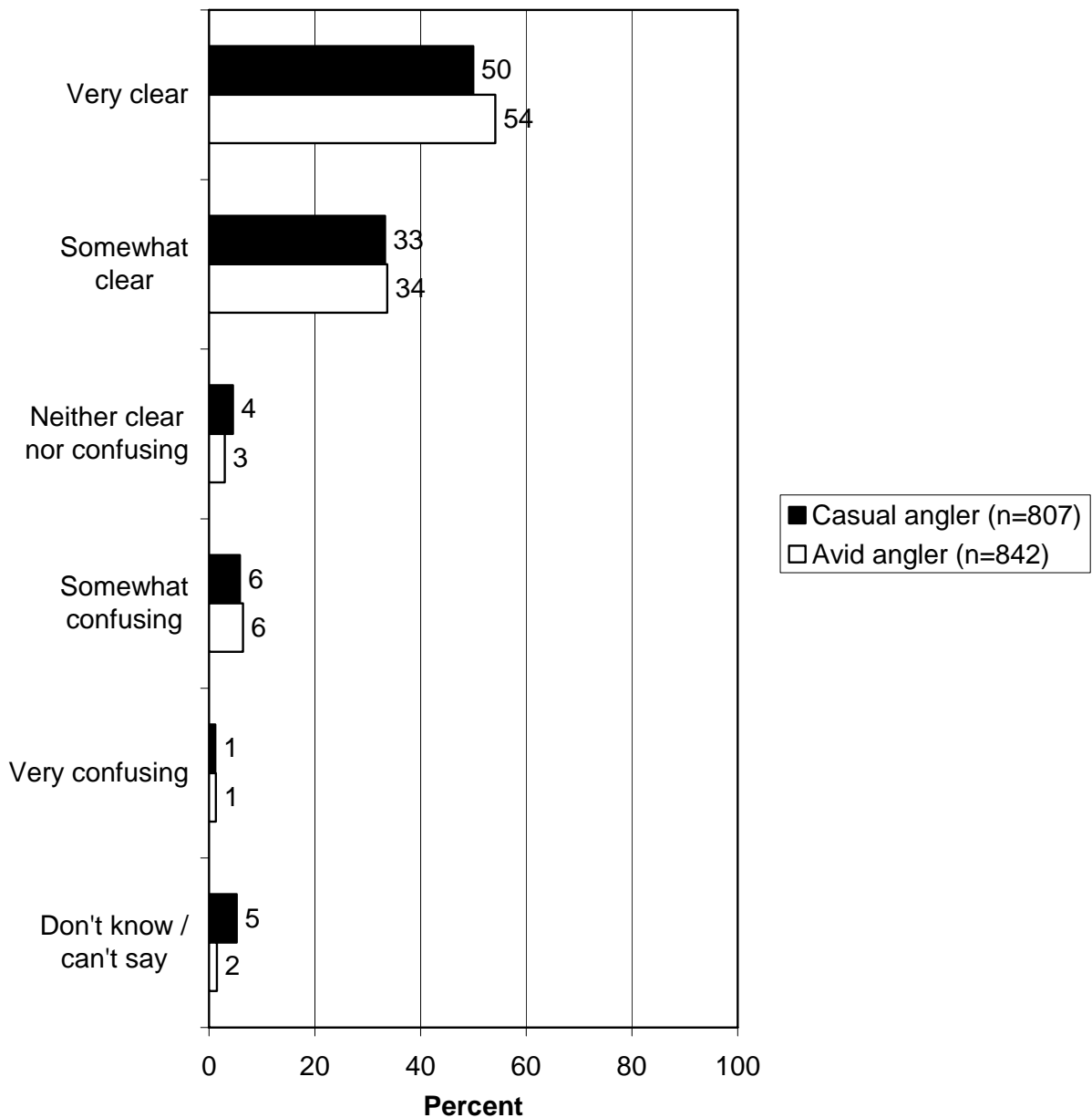
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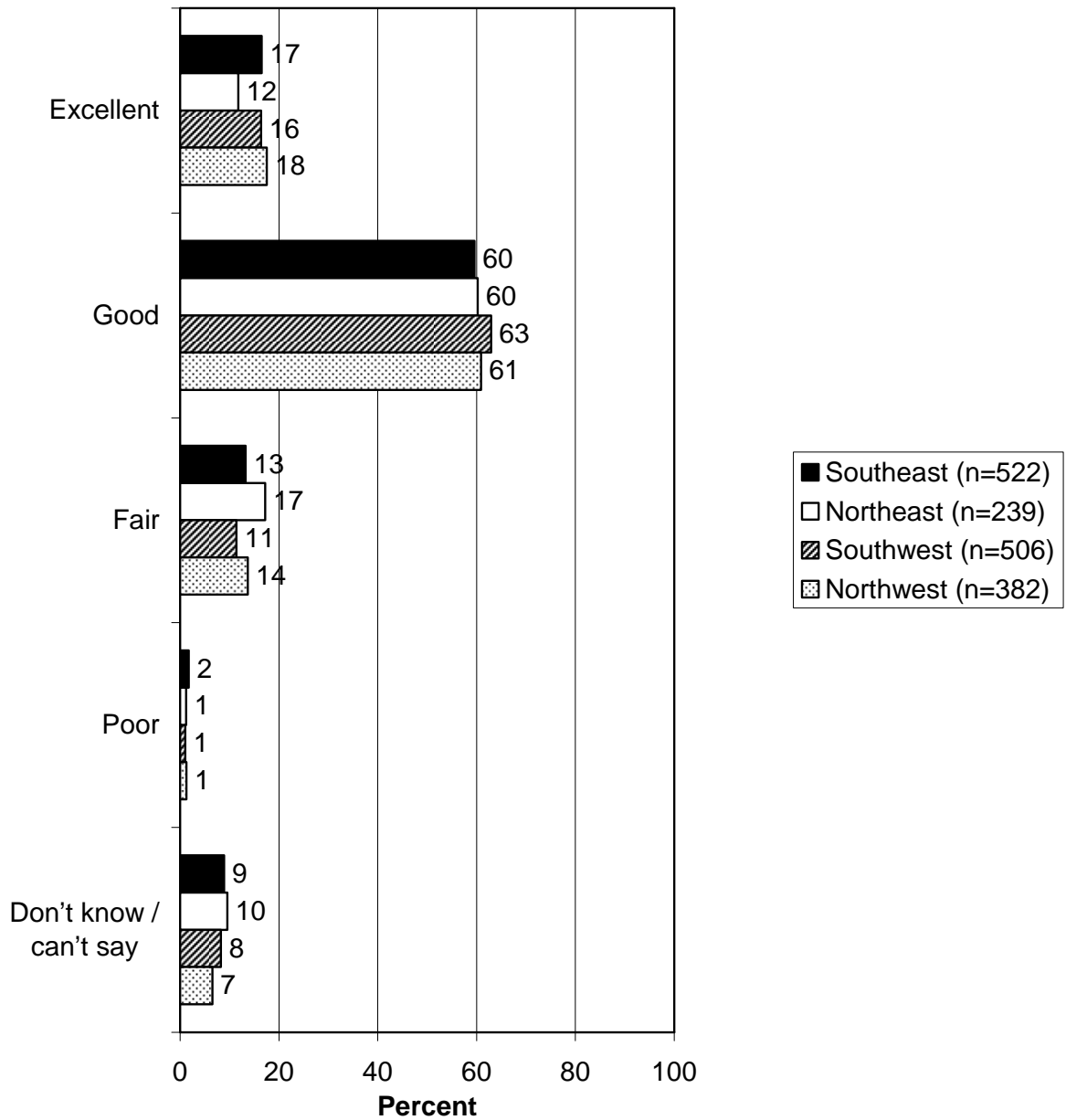
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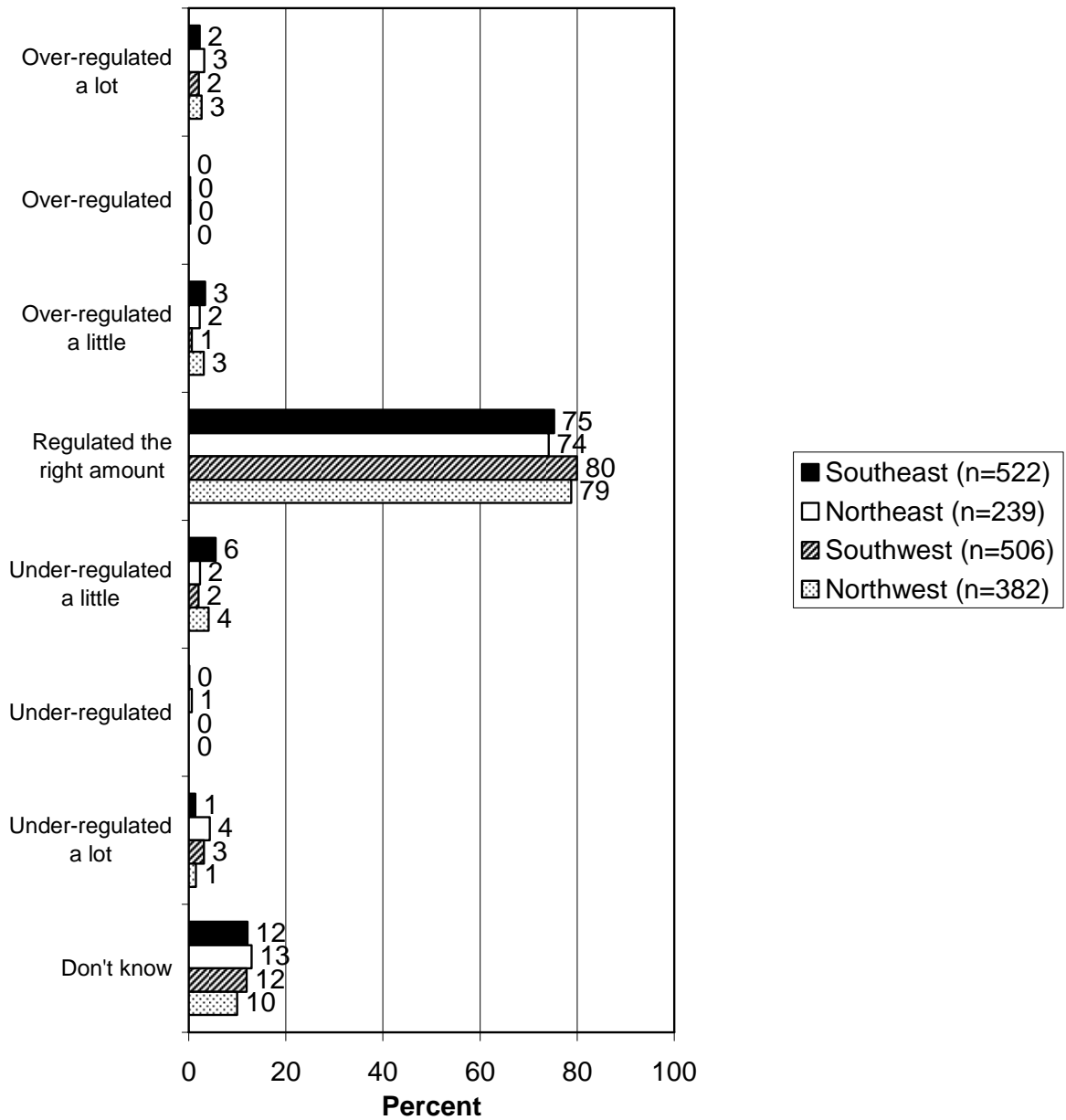
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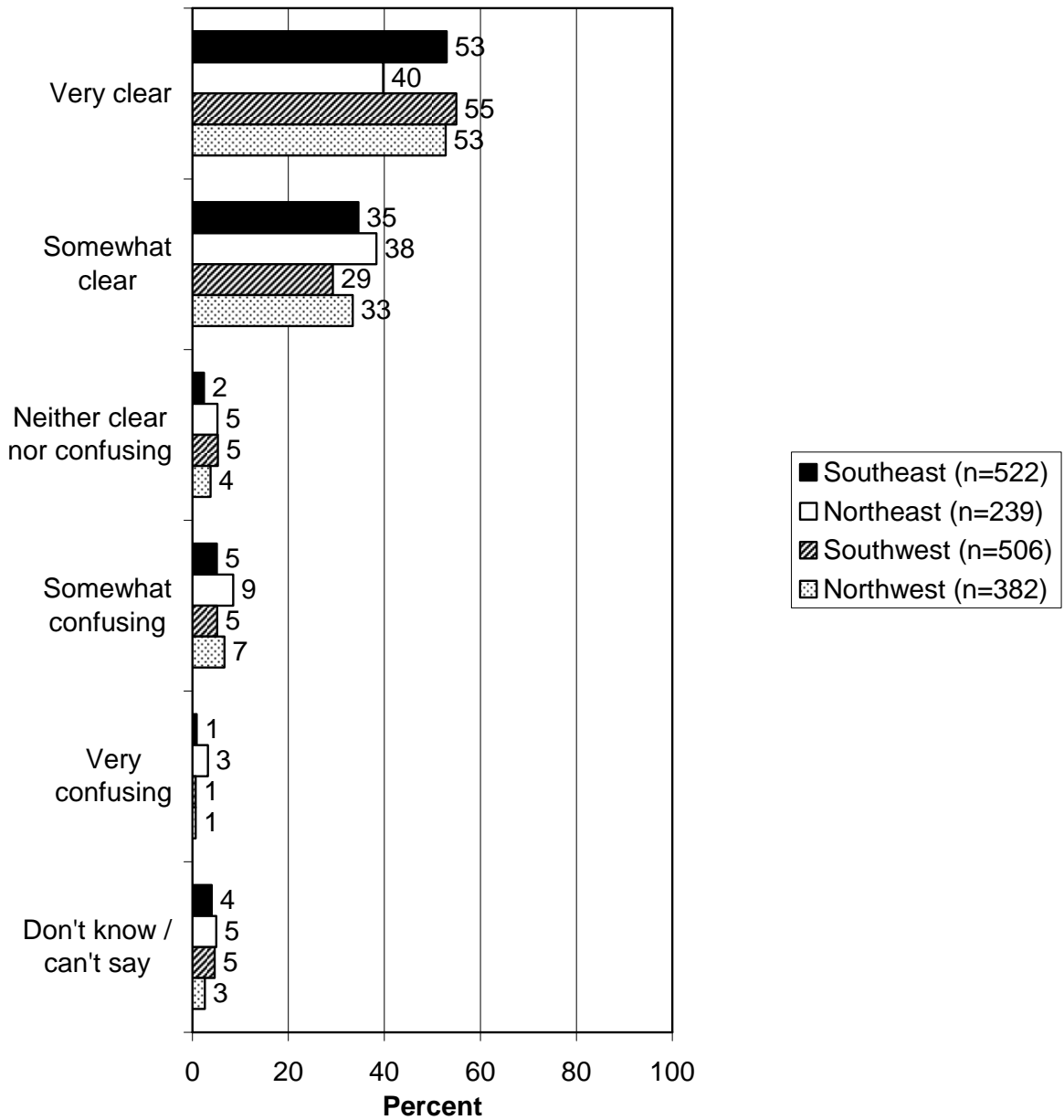
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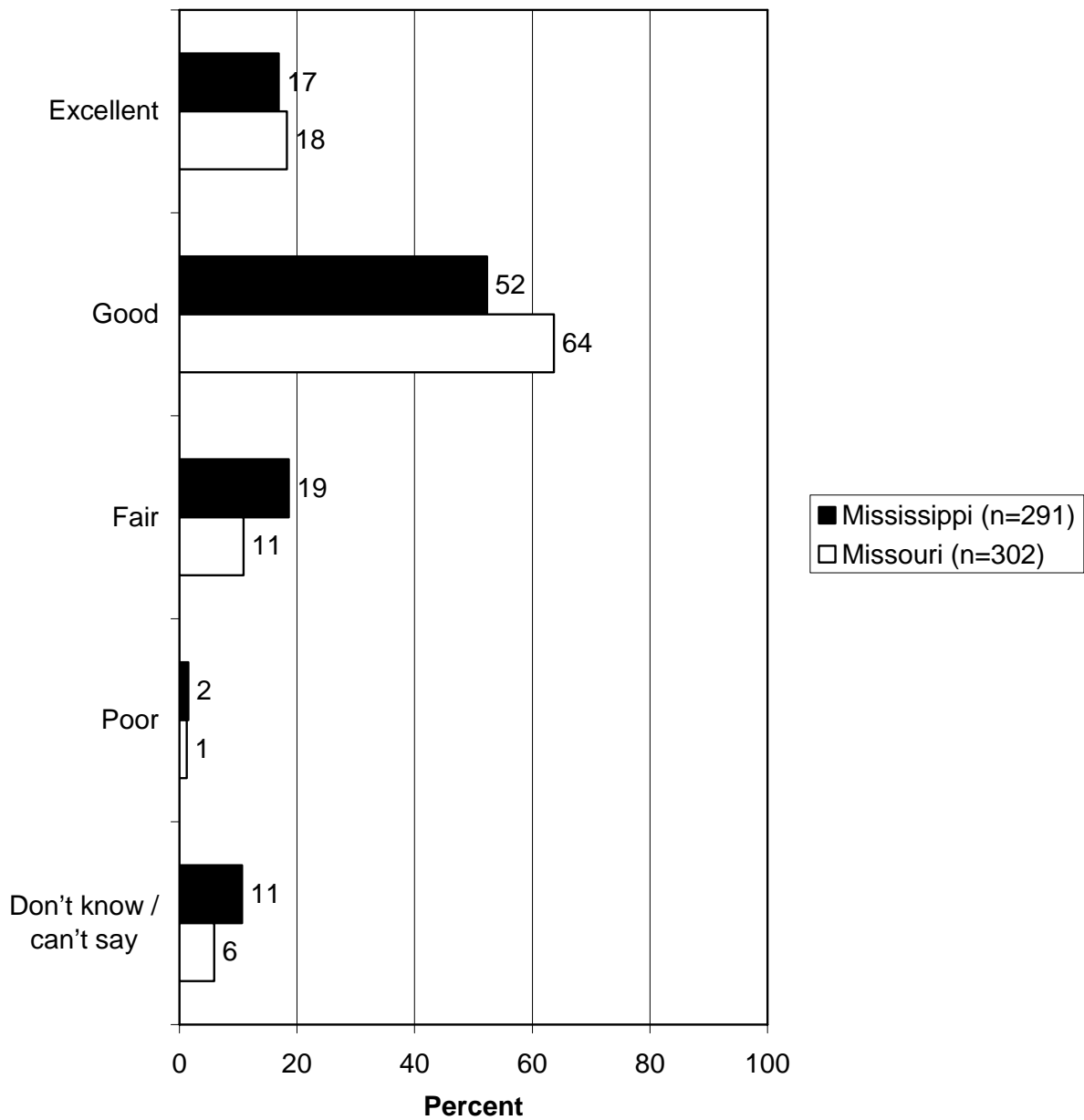


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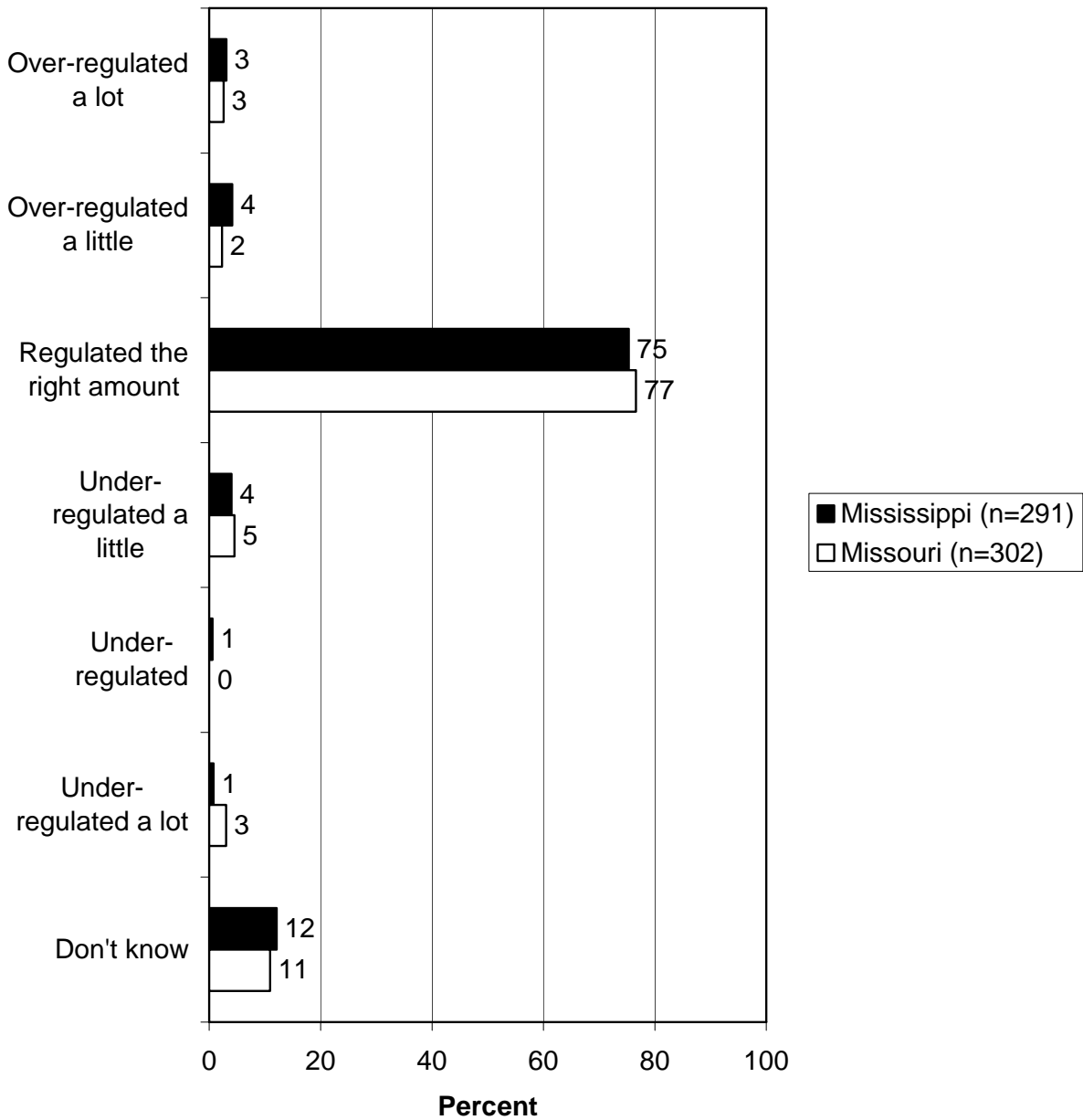




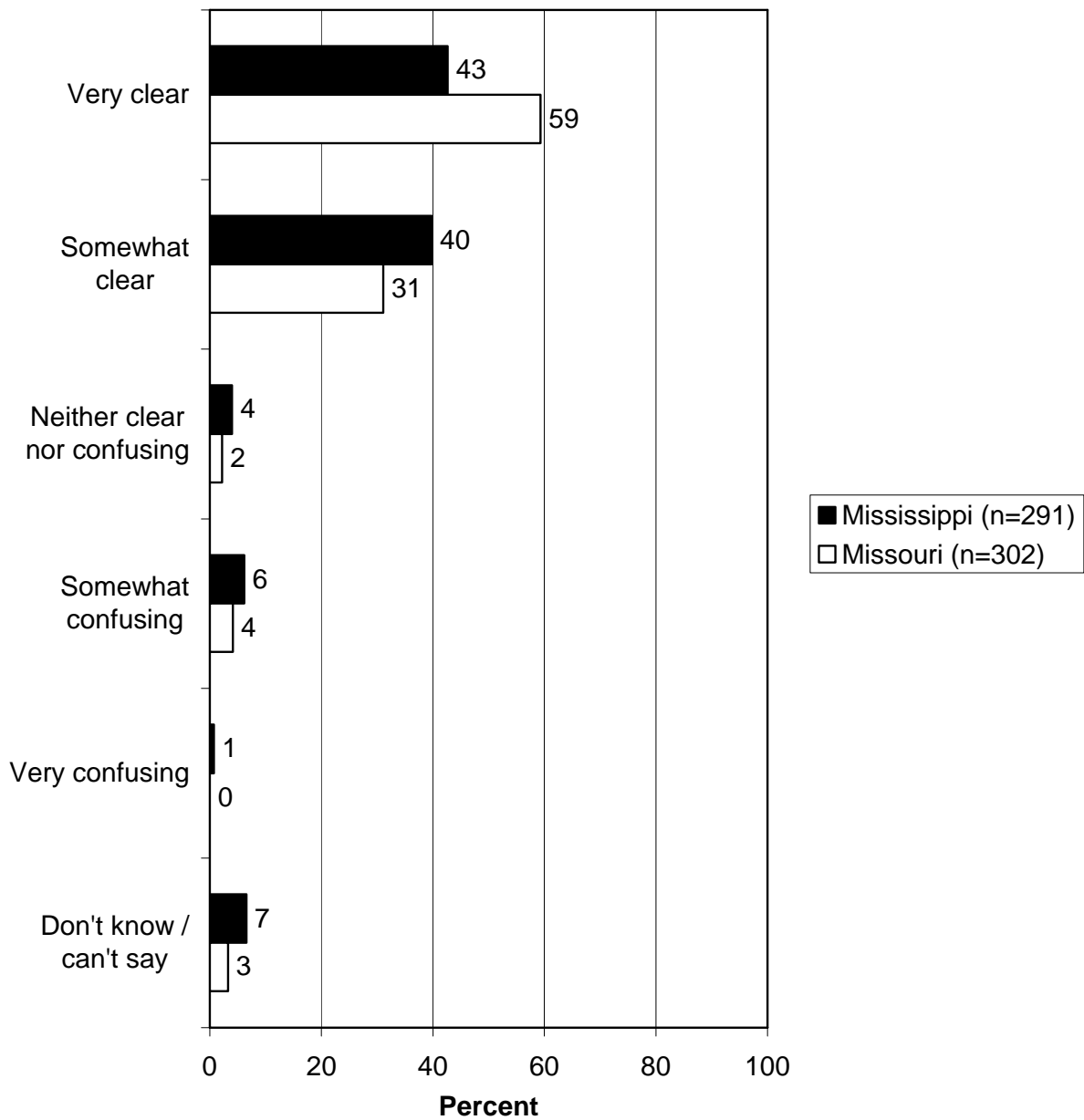
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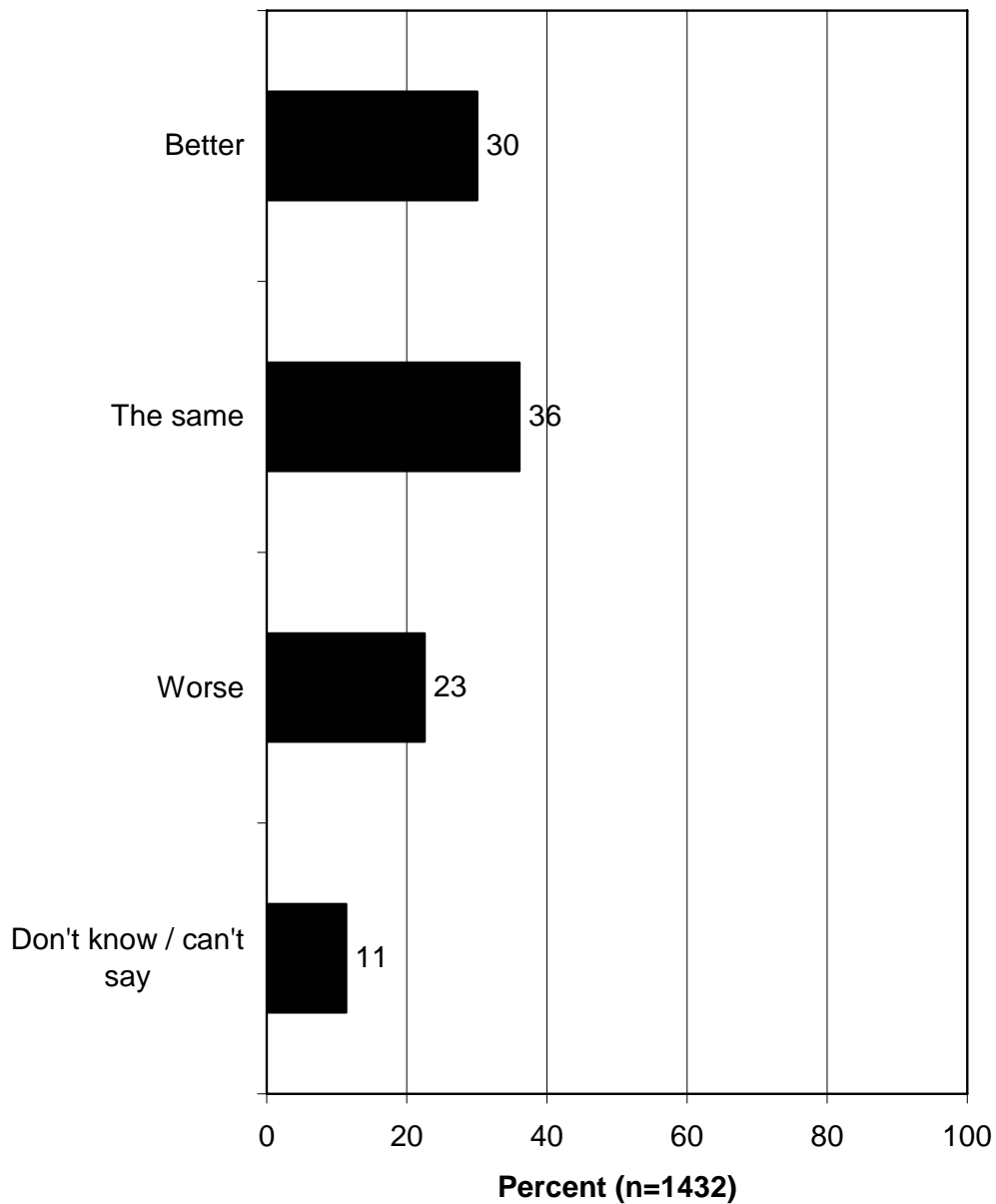
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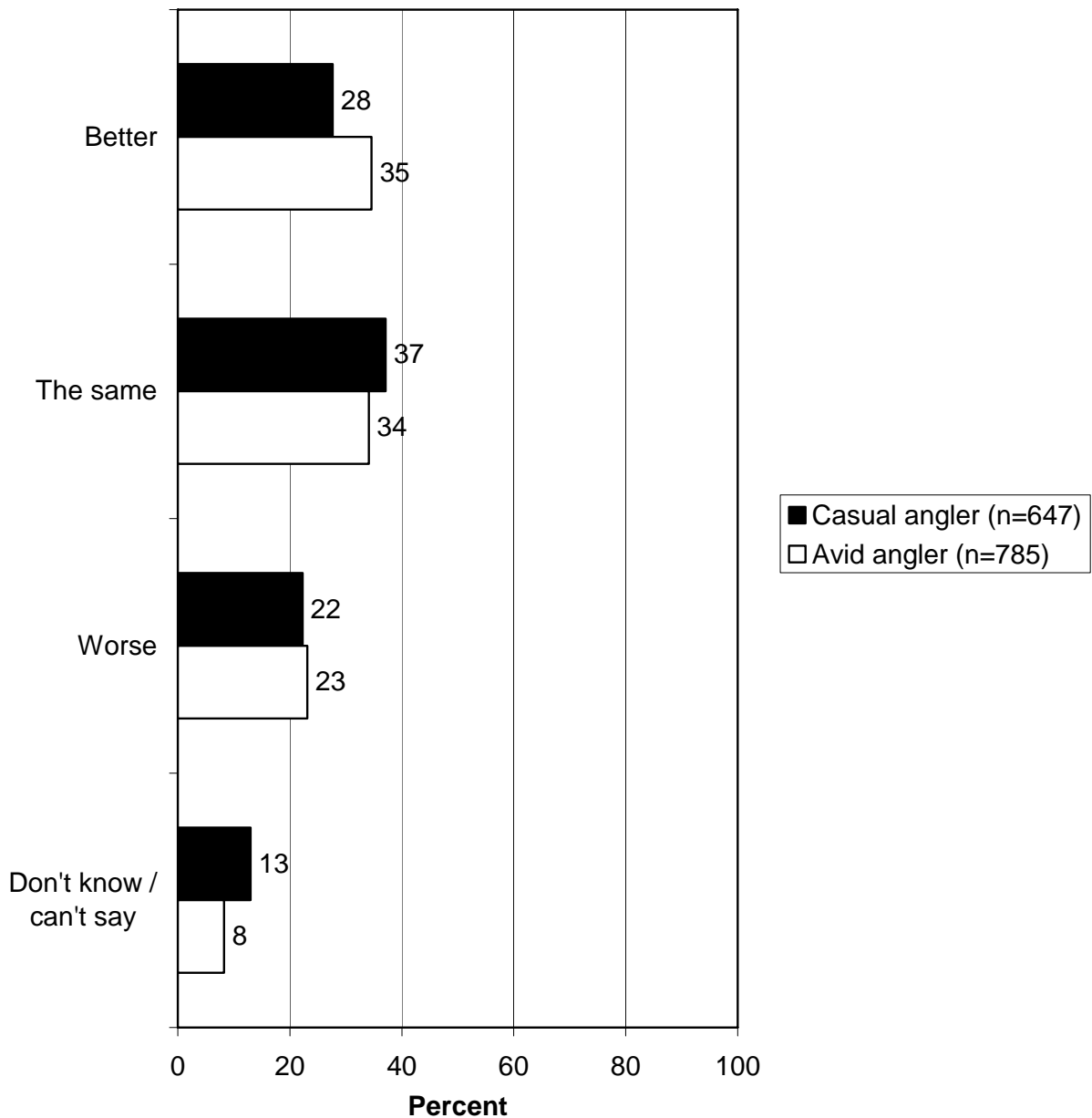
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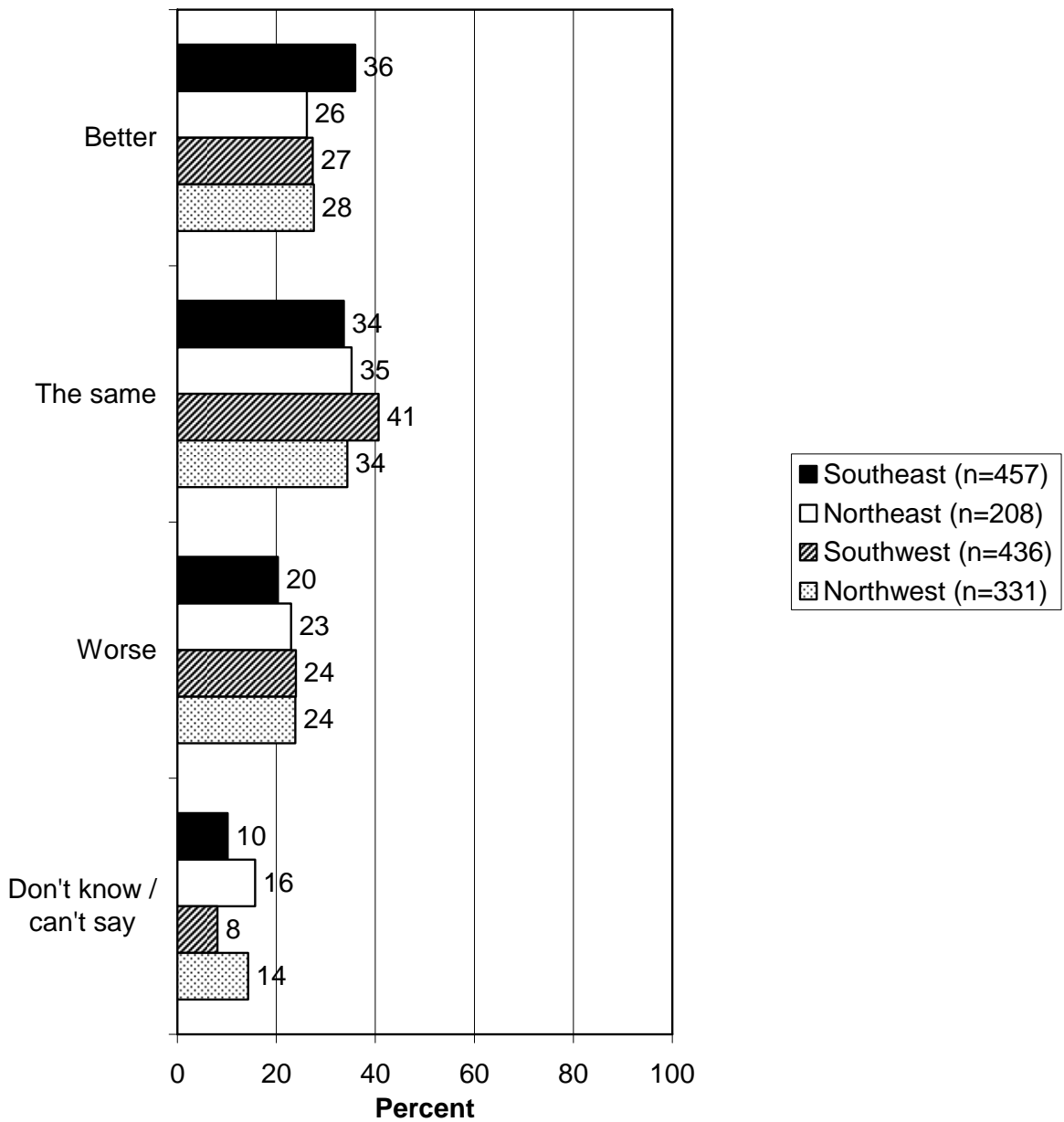
**Q141. Do you think the fishing in Iowa is better or worse now compared to 10 years ago? (Asked of those who have been fishing in Iowa for 10 or more years.)**



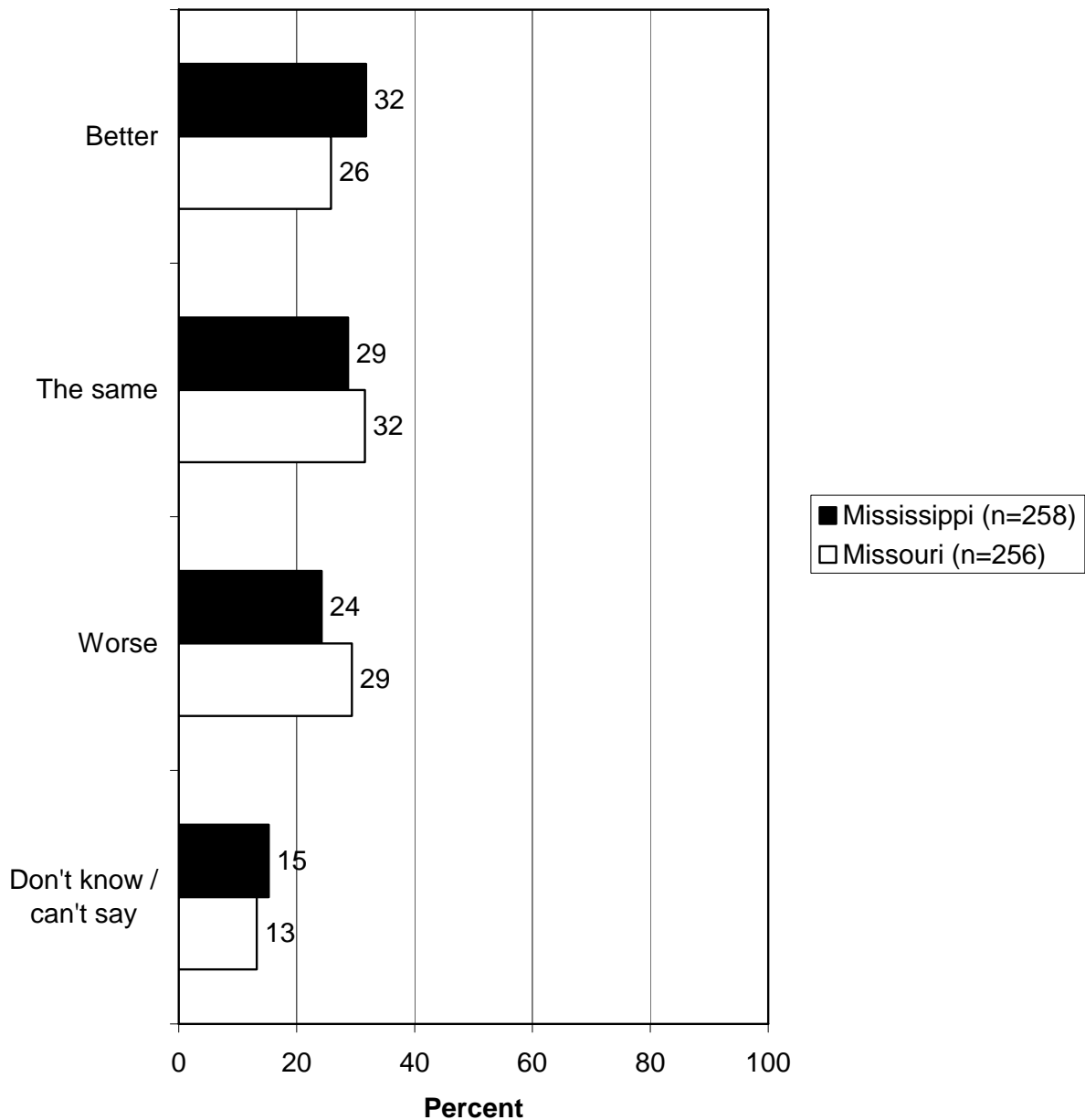
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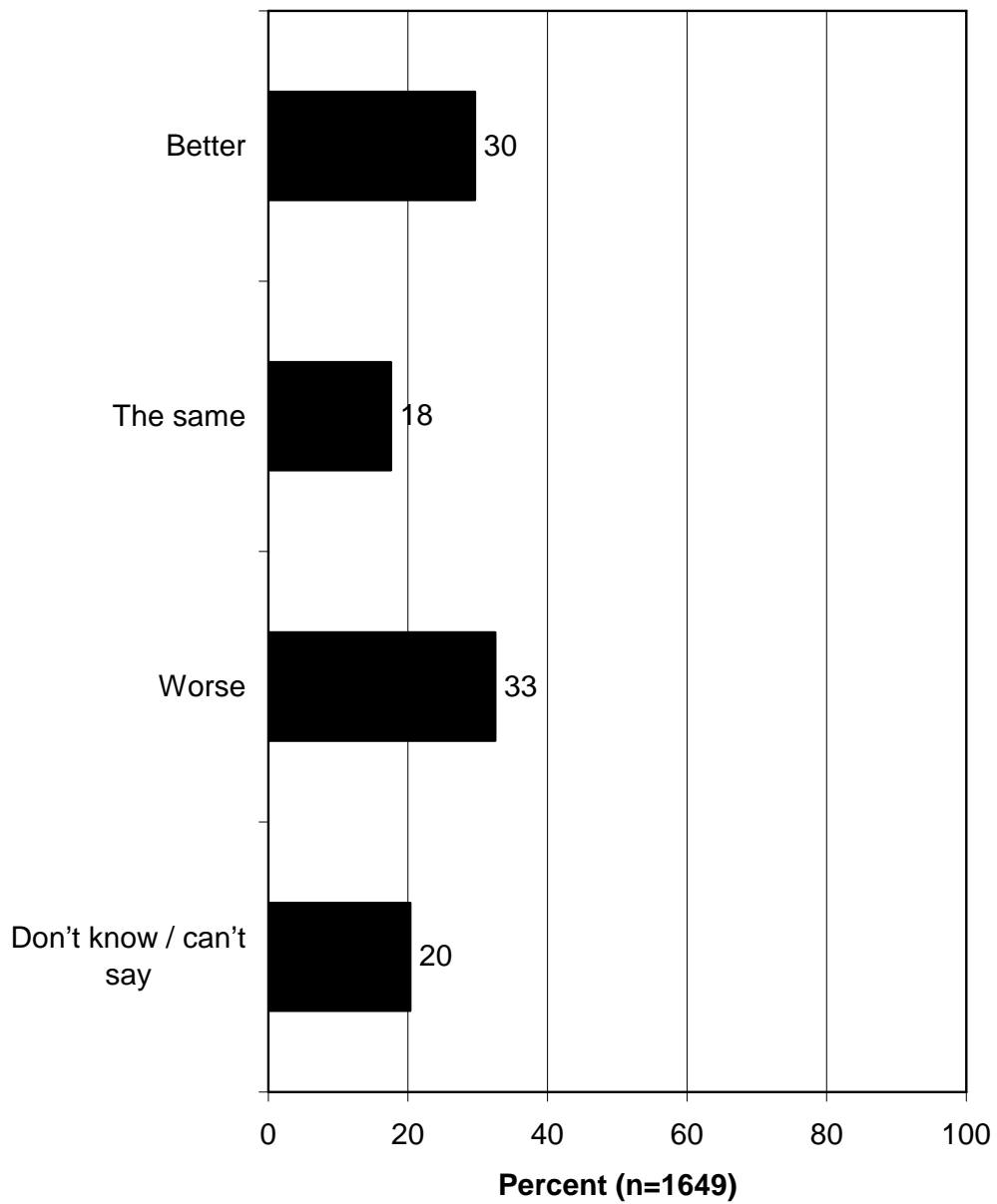
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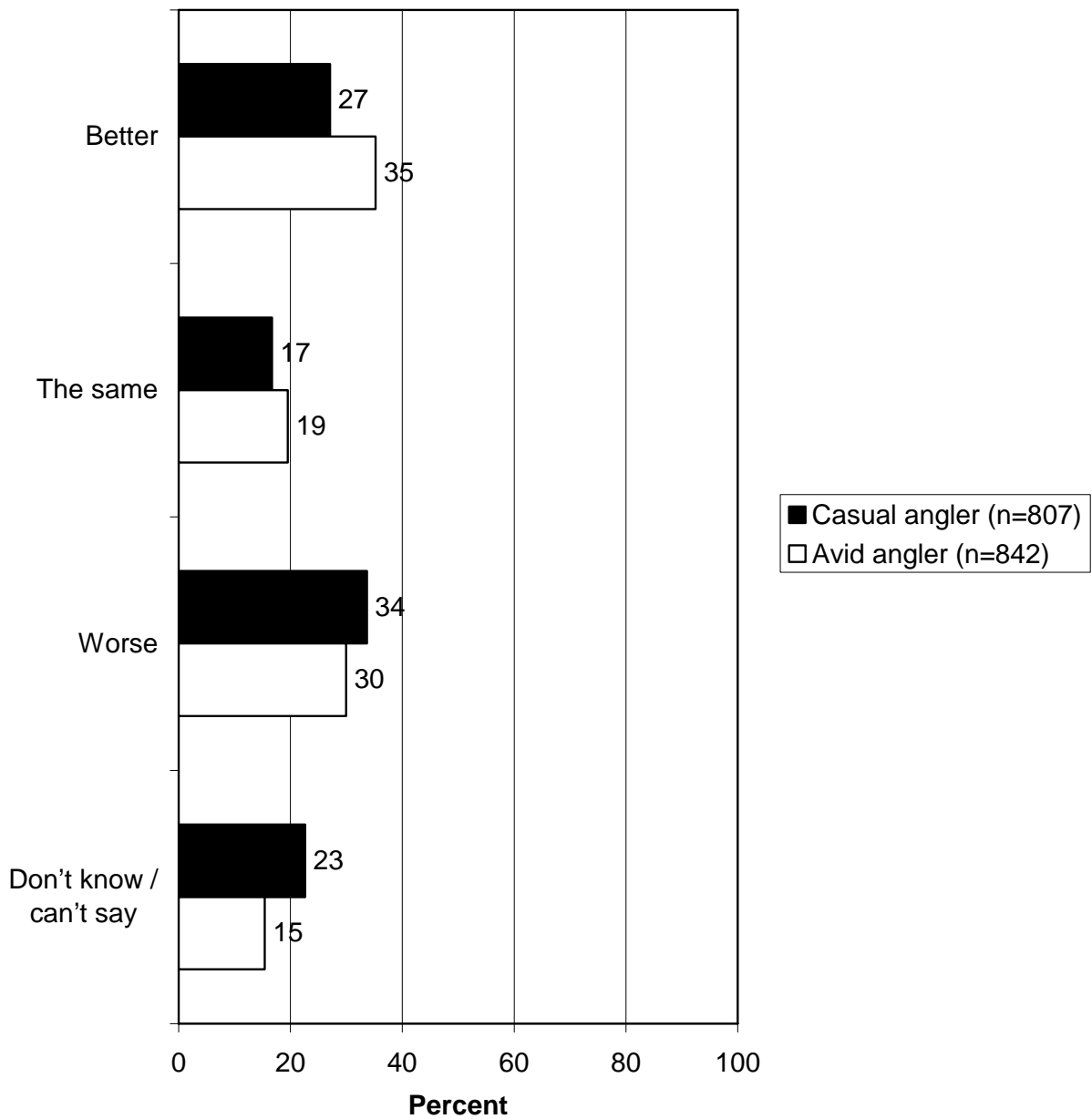


**Q150. Do you think the water quality in Iowa waters is better or worse now compared to 10 years ago?**

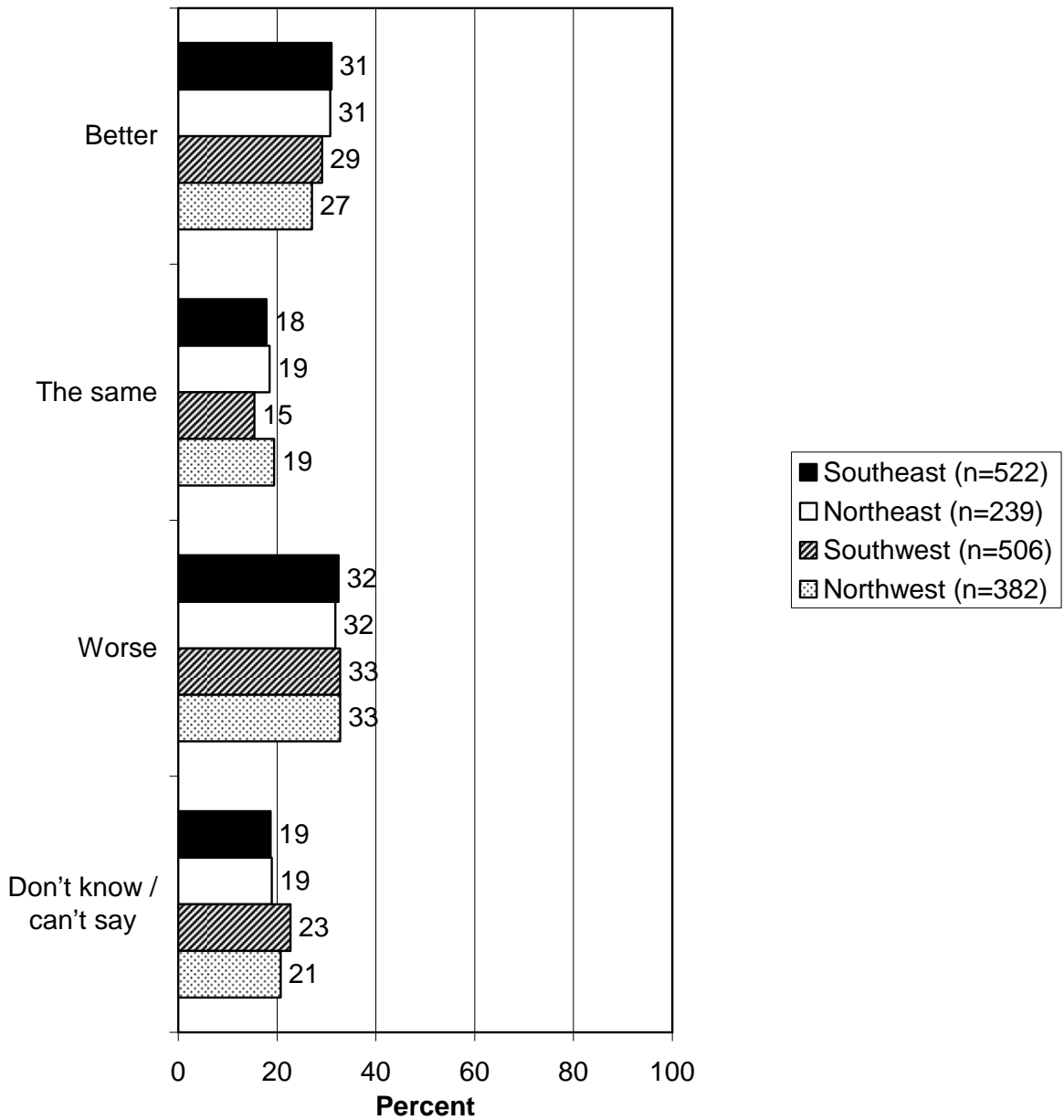




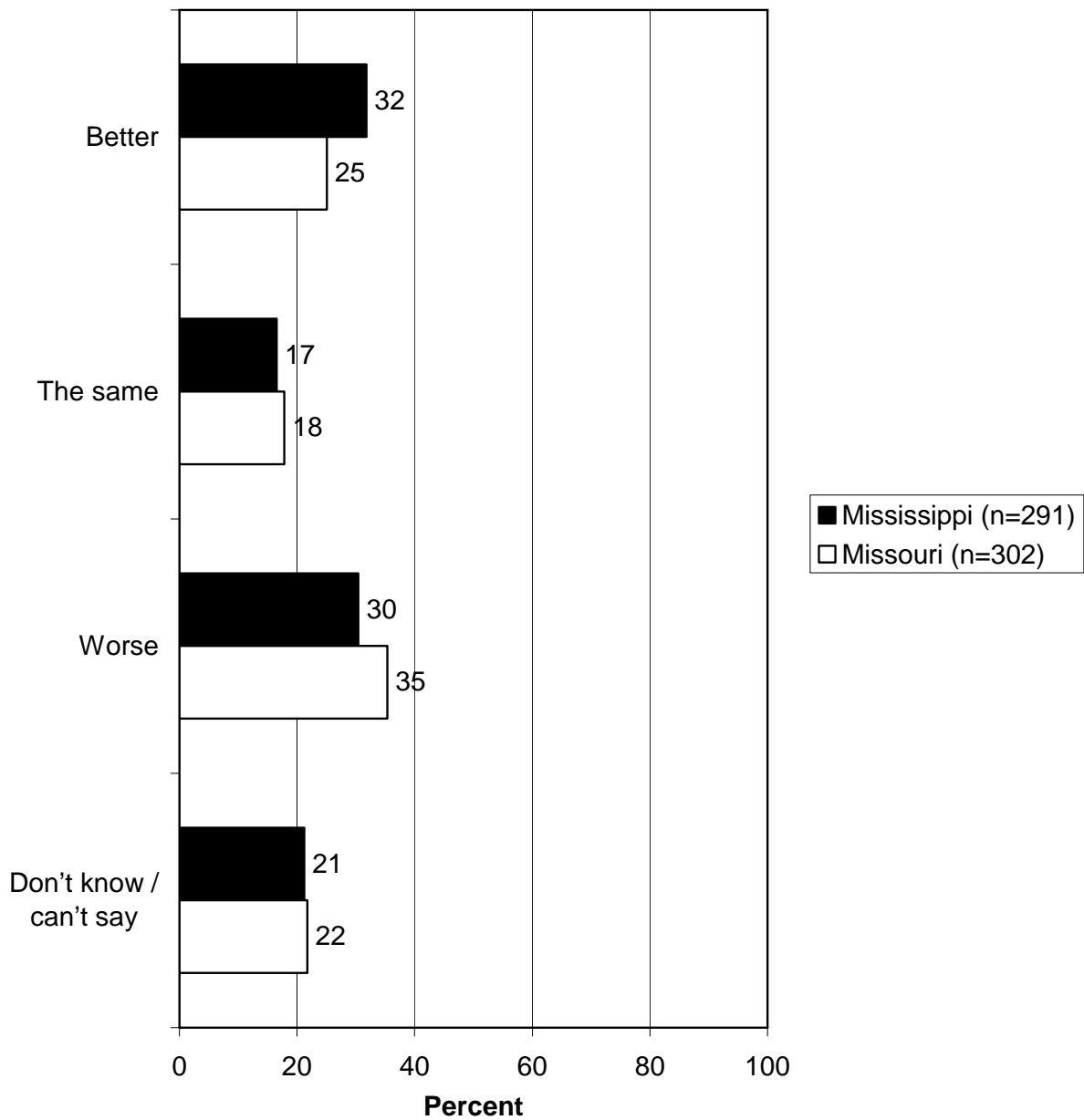
**Q150. Do you think the water quality in Iowa waters is better or worse now compared to 10 years ago?**



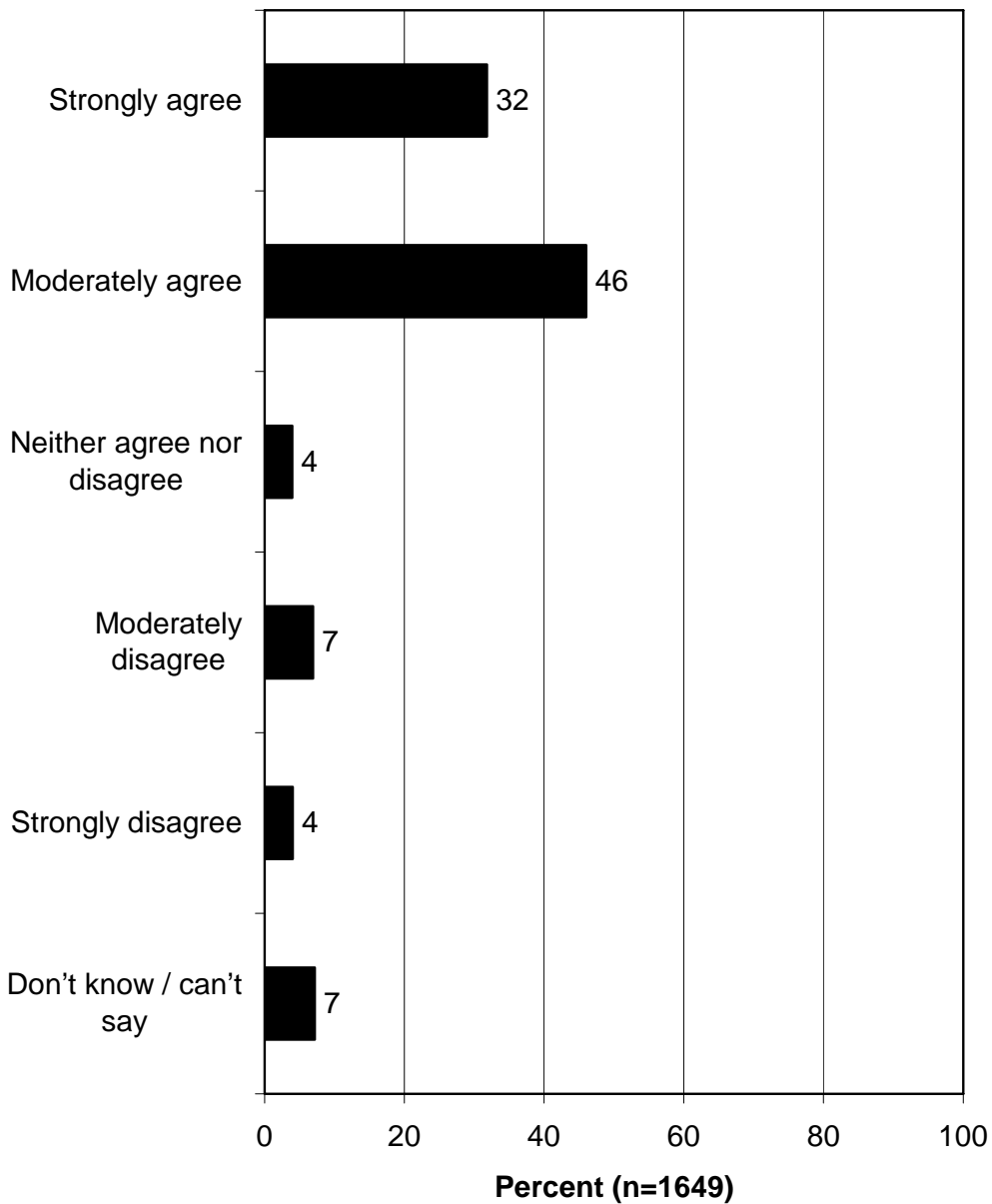
**Q150. Do you think the water quality in Iowa waters is better or worse now compared to 10 years ago?**



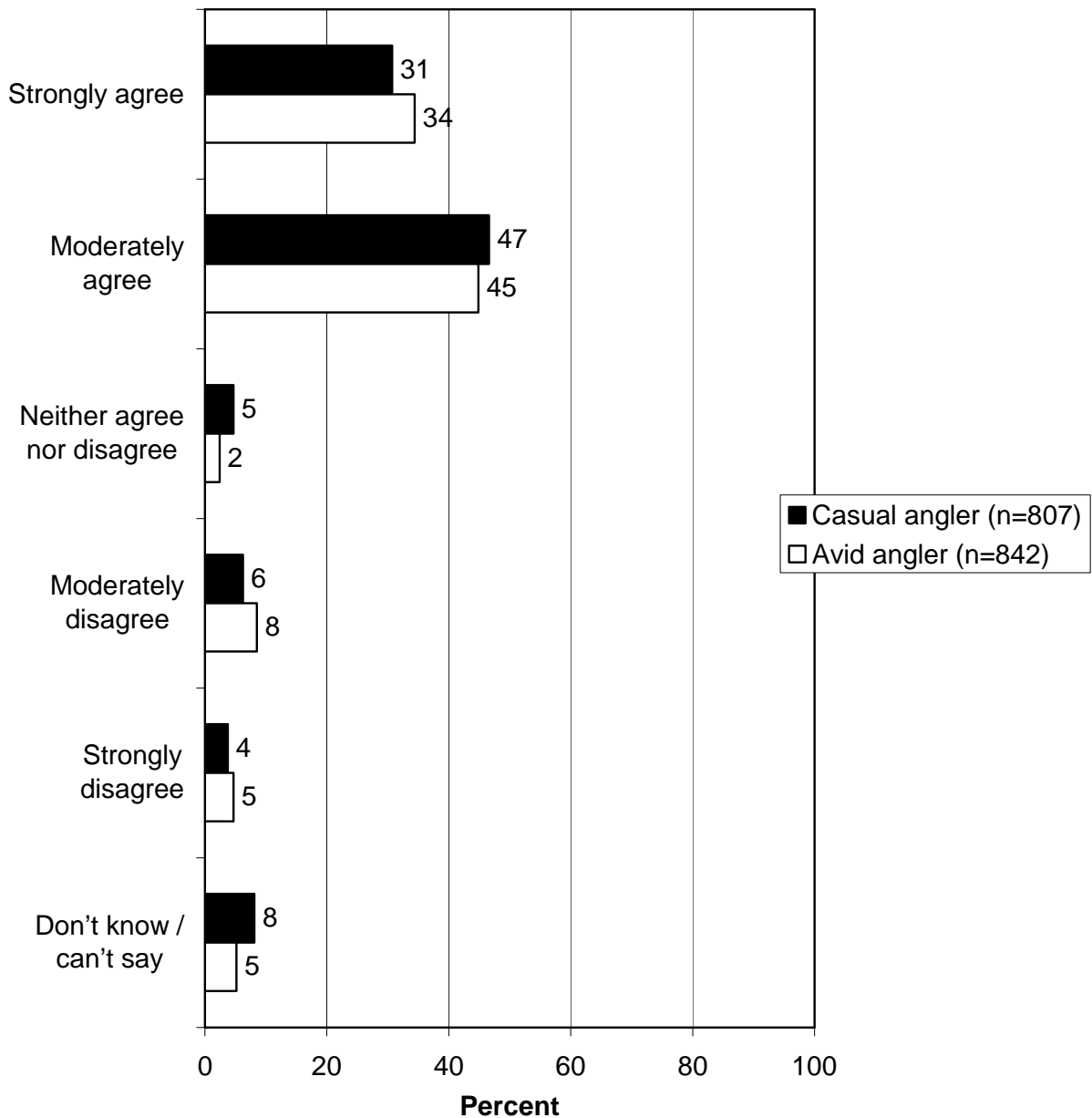
**Q150. Do you think the water quality in Iowa waters is better or worse now compared to 10 years ago?**



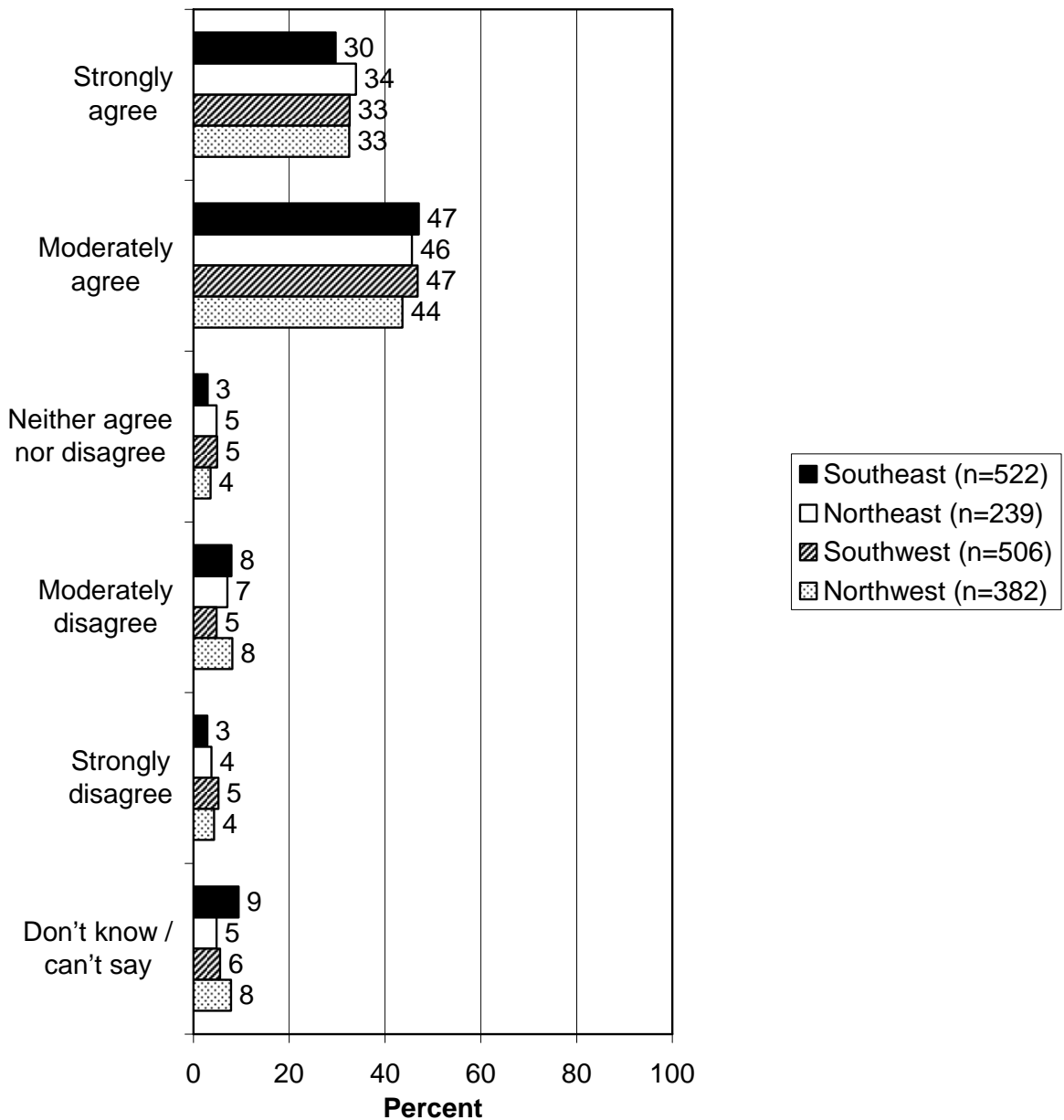
**Q152. One of the uses of fishing license money is to improve fishing in Iowa. Do you agree or disagree that anglers are currently getting their money's worth with the Iowa fishing license fee that they pay?**



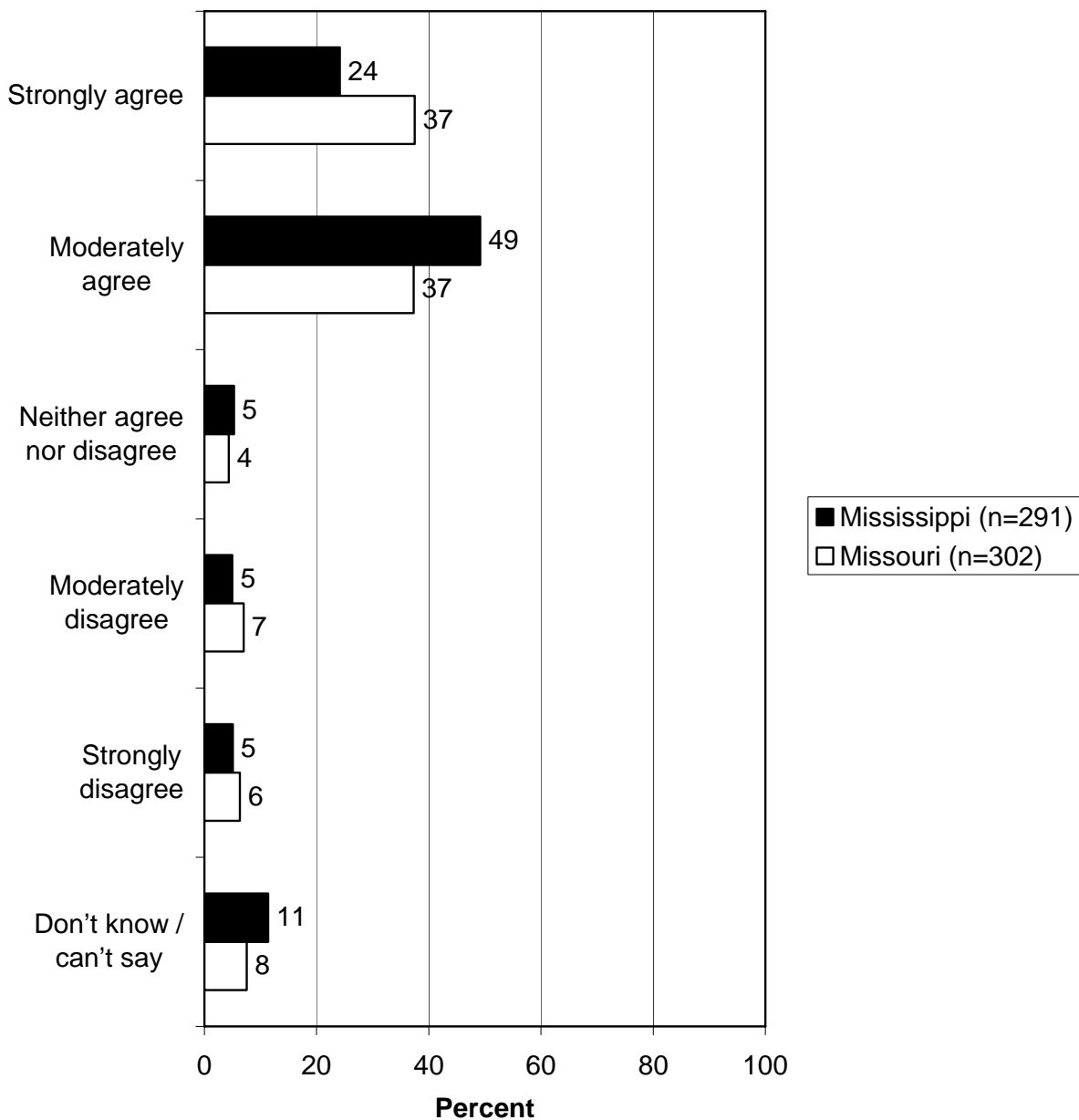
**Q152. One of the uses of fishing license money is to improve fishing in Iowa. Do you agree or disagree that anglers are currently getting their money's worth with the Iowa fishing license fee that they pay?**



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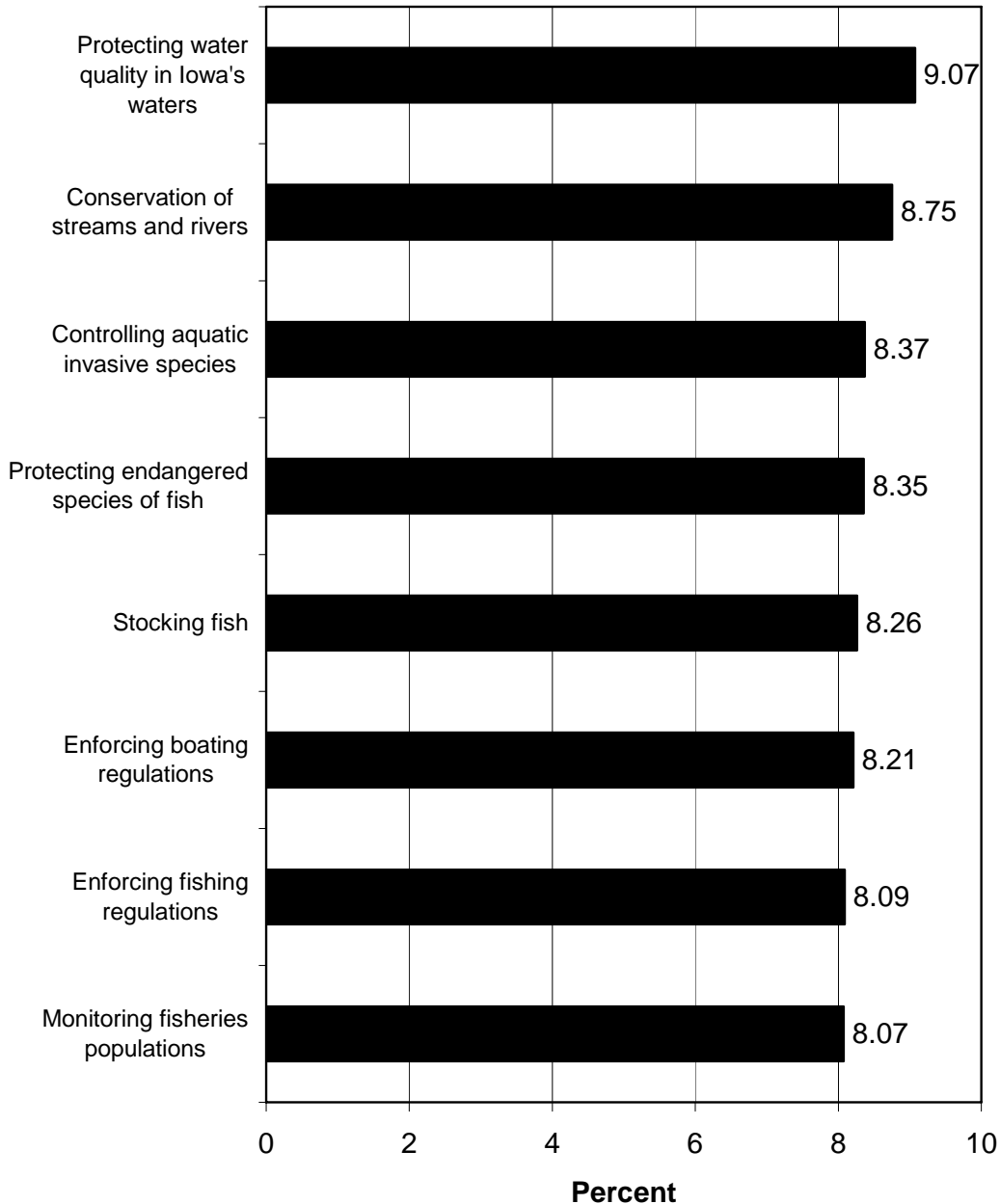


## **RATINGS OF IMPORTANCE OF IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAMS AND EFFORTS**

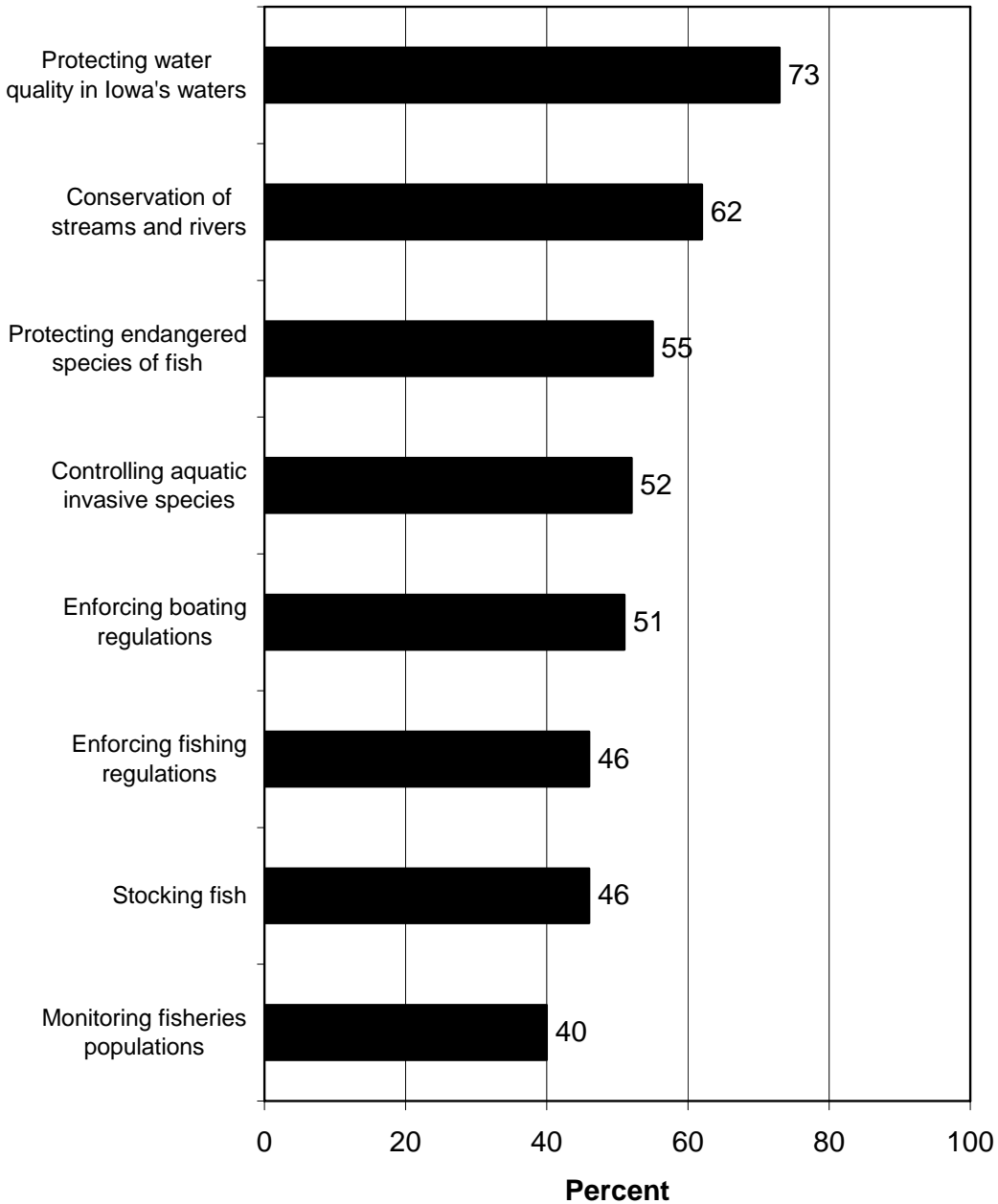
- The survey asked anglers to rate the importance of eight IDNR efforts related to fishing, on a scale of 0 to 10, with 10 being the most important. One graph shows the means, ranked from highest to lowest. All the means are high in importance, ranging from 8.07 to 9.07, with protecting water quality (9.07) and conserving streams and rivers (8.75) at the top. Another graph shows the percentage giving a rating of 9 or 10. Again, protecting water quality (73% of anglers rated it at a 9 or 10) and conserving streams and rivers (62%) are at the top, followed by protecting endangered fish species (55%) and controlling invasive species (52%). Enforcing boating regulations also has a majority rating it a 9 or 10 (51%).
  - The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler found little difference between the groups on their ratings of the importance of the eight IDNR efforts asked about in the survey.
  - The regional crosstabulation found few regional differences in ratings of importance of IDNR efforts, with the following exceptions: a greater percentage of Southeast Region anglers rated protecting water quality at a 9 or 10, relative to the other regions; Northeast Region anglers had a notably lower percentage giving a 9 or 10 rating for conservation of streams and rivers, controlling aquatic invasive species, and monitoring fish populations. Northwest Region anglers had a markedly higher percentage giving a rating of 9 or 10 to stocking fish.
  - Missouri River Region anglers in general gave higher ratings of importance for each item than did Mississippi River Region anglers, particularly for enforcing boating regulations, controlling aquatic invasive species, and stocking fish.



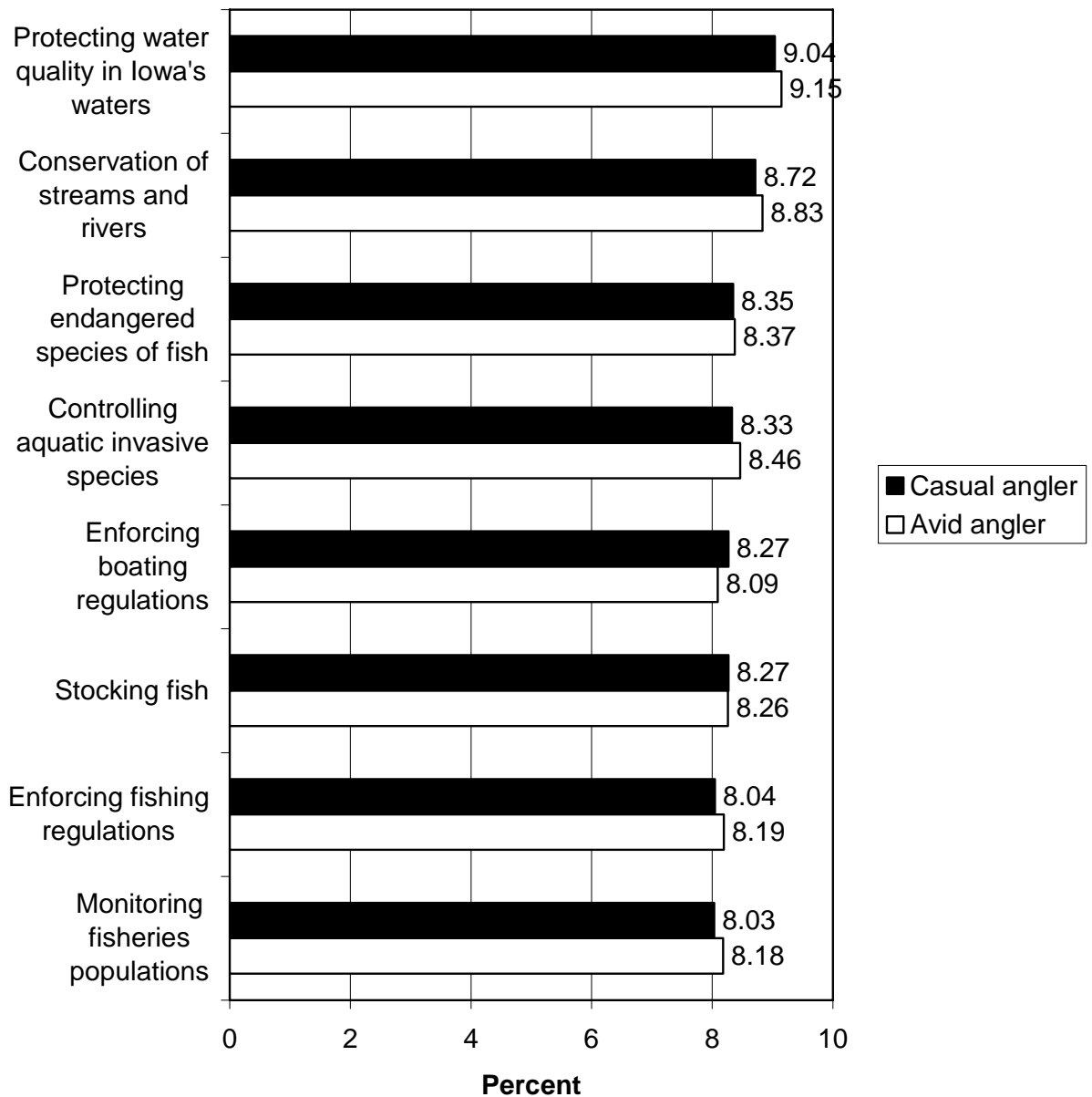
**Q155-162. On a scale of 0 - 10 where 0 is "not at all important" and 10 is "extremely important", the mean rating of importance for the following for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.**



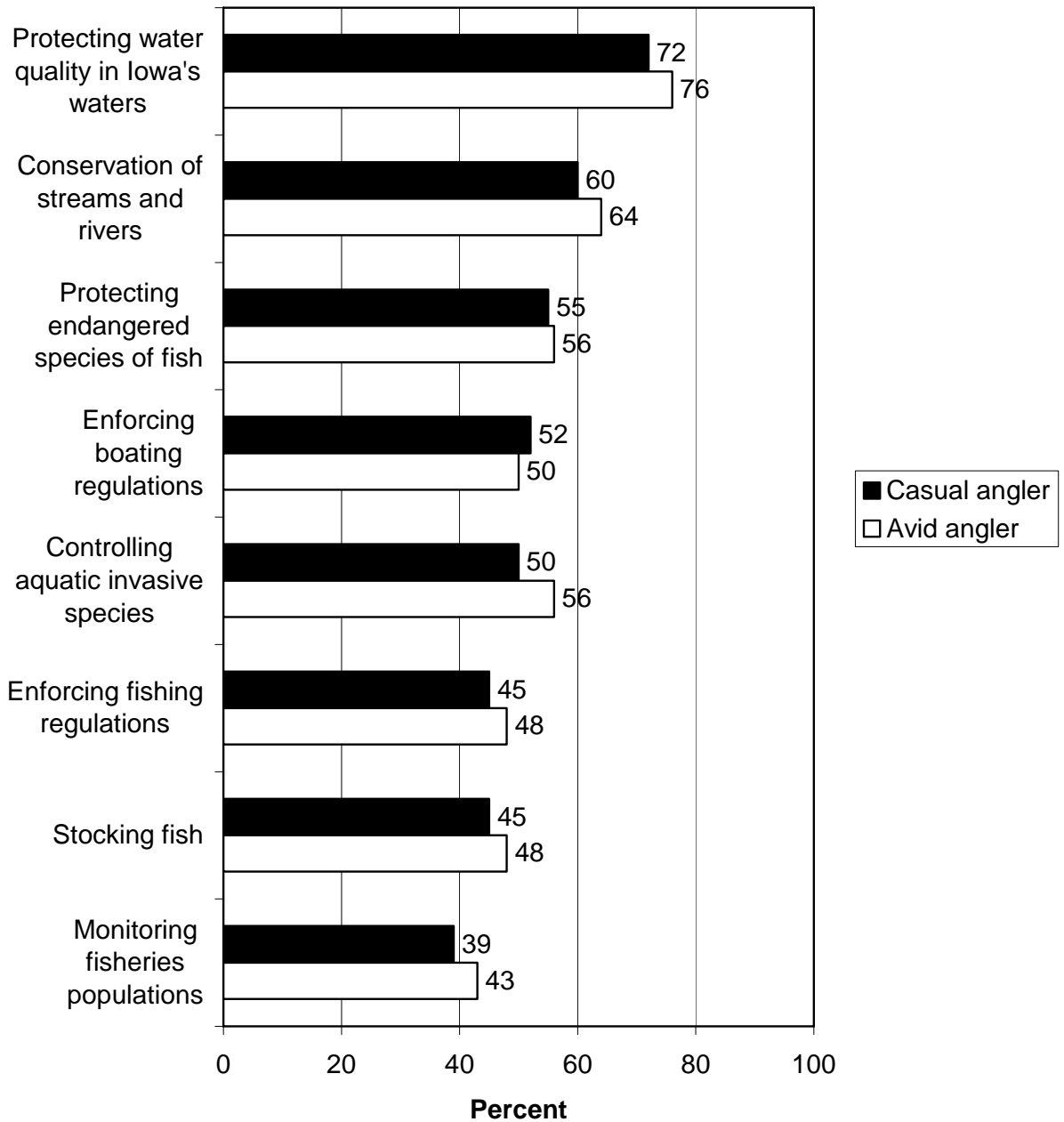
**Q155-162. On a scale of 0 - 10 where 0 is "not at all important" and 10 is "extremely important", those who rated the importance for the following for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources as a 9 or 10.**



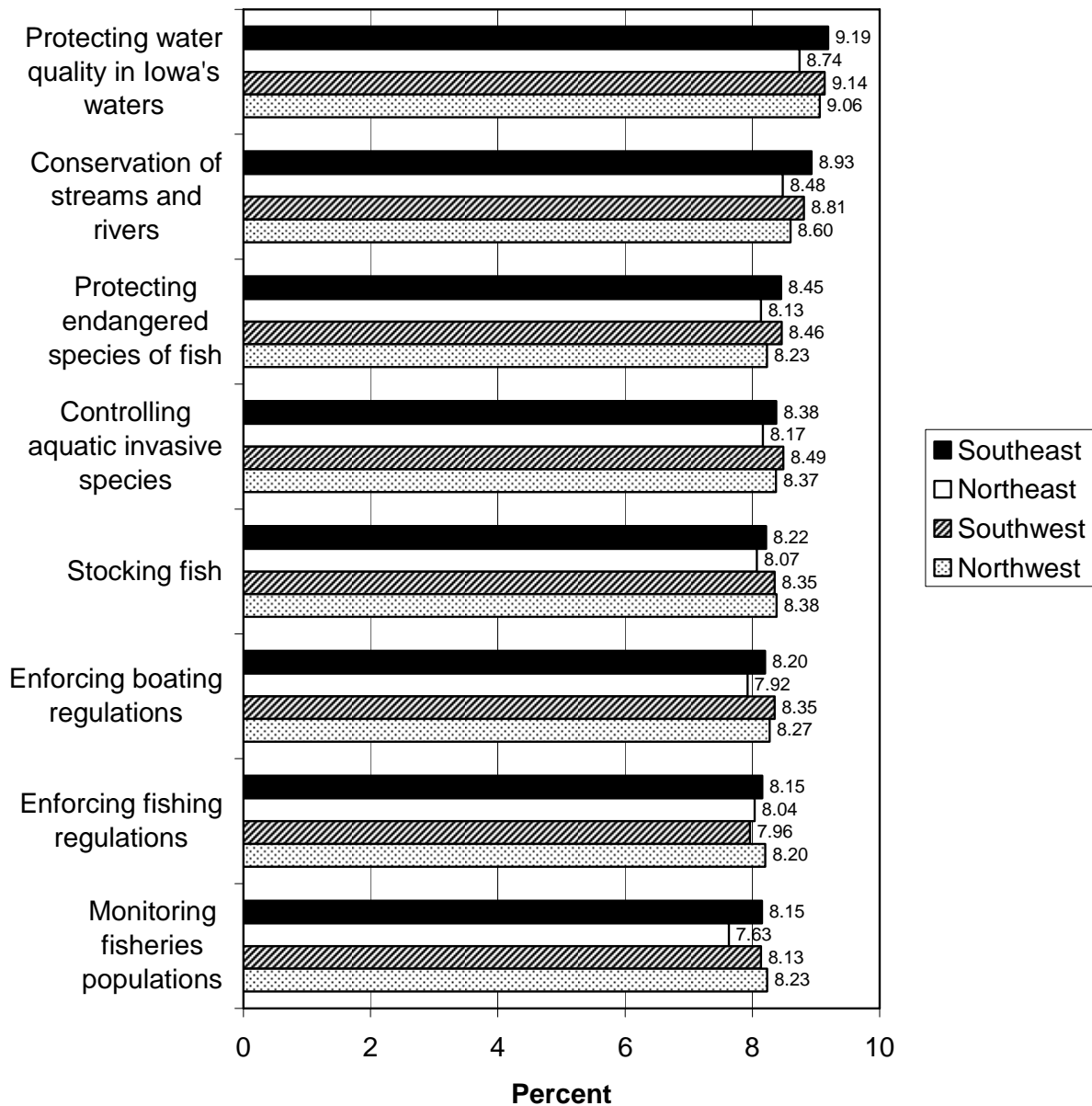
**Q155-162. On a scale of 0 - 10 where 0 is "not at all important" and 10 is "extremely important", the mean rating of importance for the following for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.**



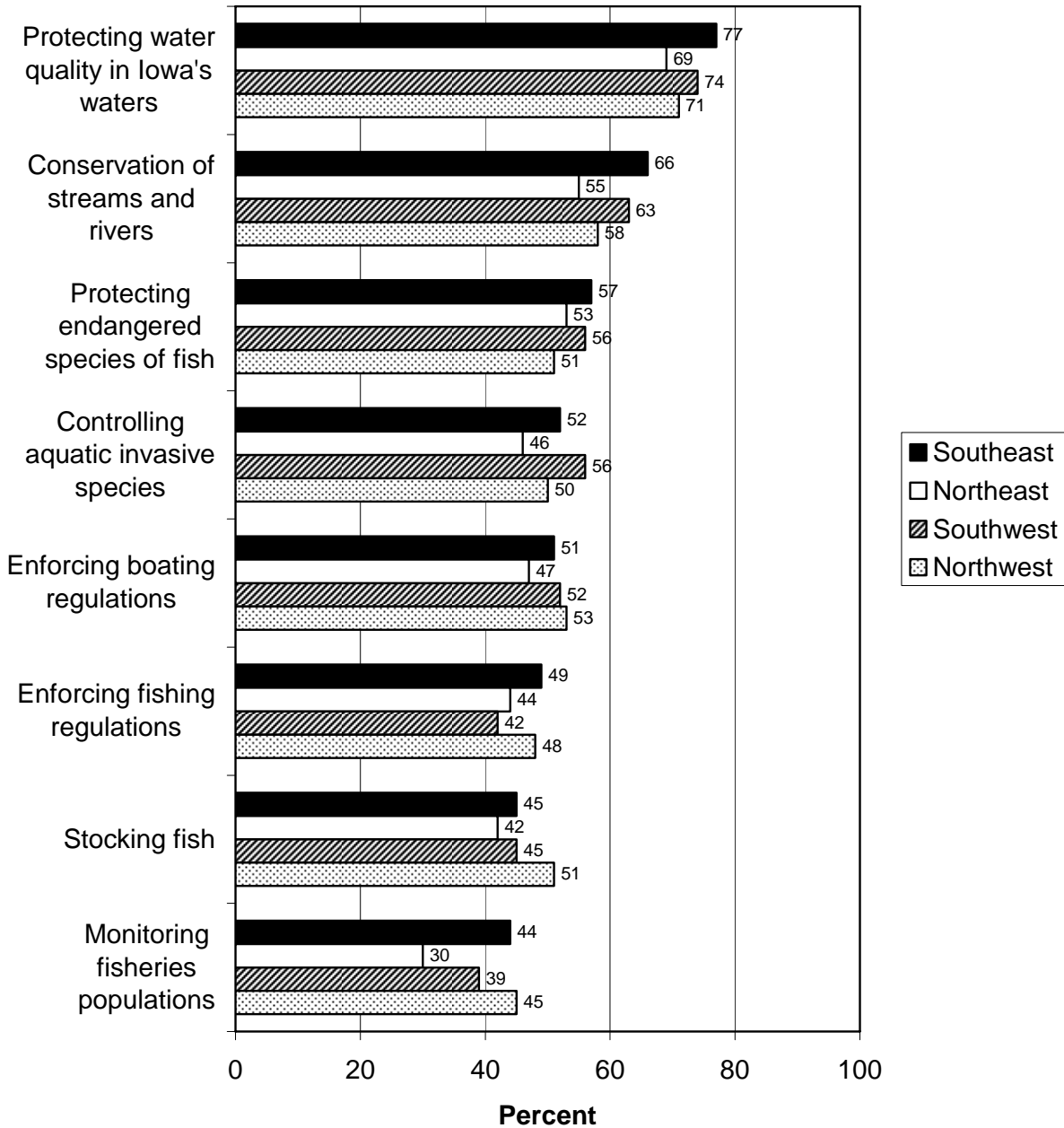
**Q155-162. On a scale of 0 - 10 where 0 is "not at all important" and 10 is "extremely important", those who rated the importance for the following for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources as a 9 or 10.**



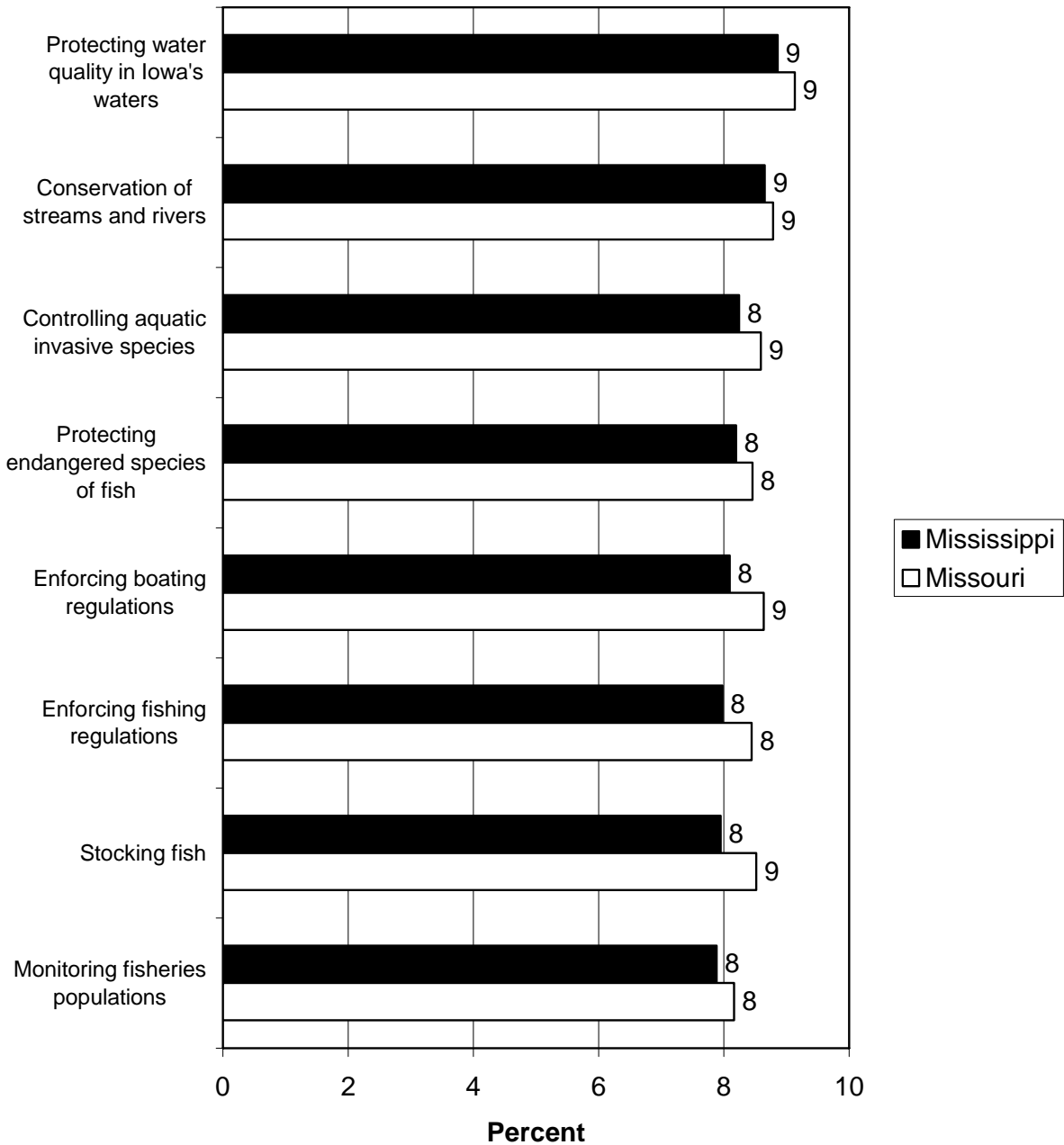
**Q155-162. On a scale of 0 - 10 where 0 is "not at all important" and 10 is "extremely important", the mean rating of importance for the following for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.**



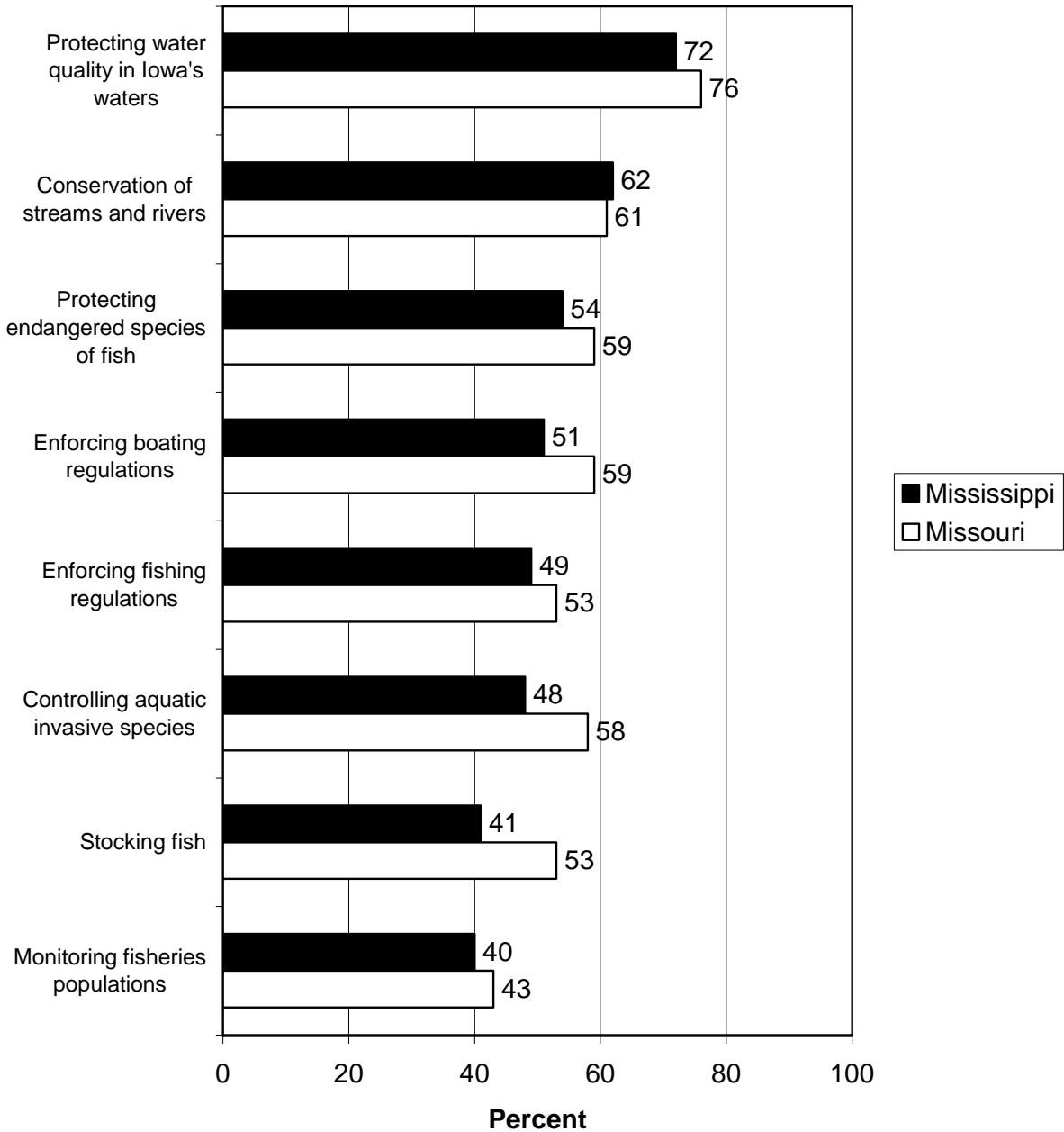
**Q155-162. On a scale of 0 - 10 where 0 is "not at all important" and 10 is "extremely important", those who rated the importance for the following for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources as a 9 or 10.**



**Q155-162. On a scale of 0 - 10 where 0 is "not at all important" and 10 is "extremely important", the mean rating of importance for the following for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.**



**Q155-162. On a scale of 0 - 10 where 0 is "not at all important" and 10 is "extremely important", those who rated the importance for the following for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources as a 9 or 10.**

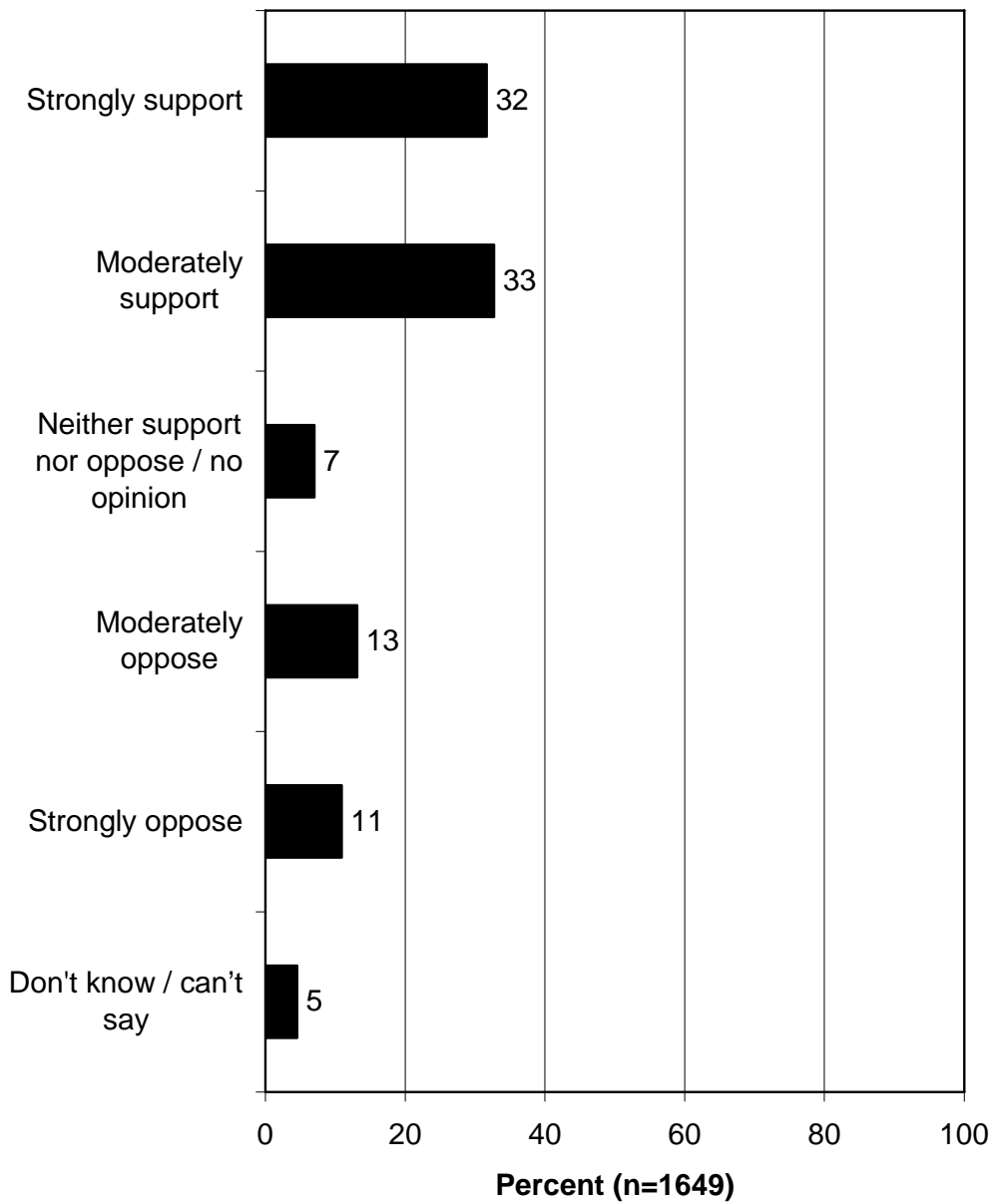




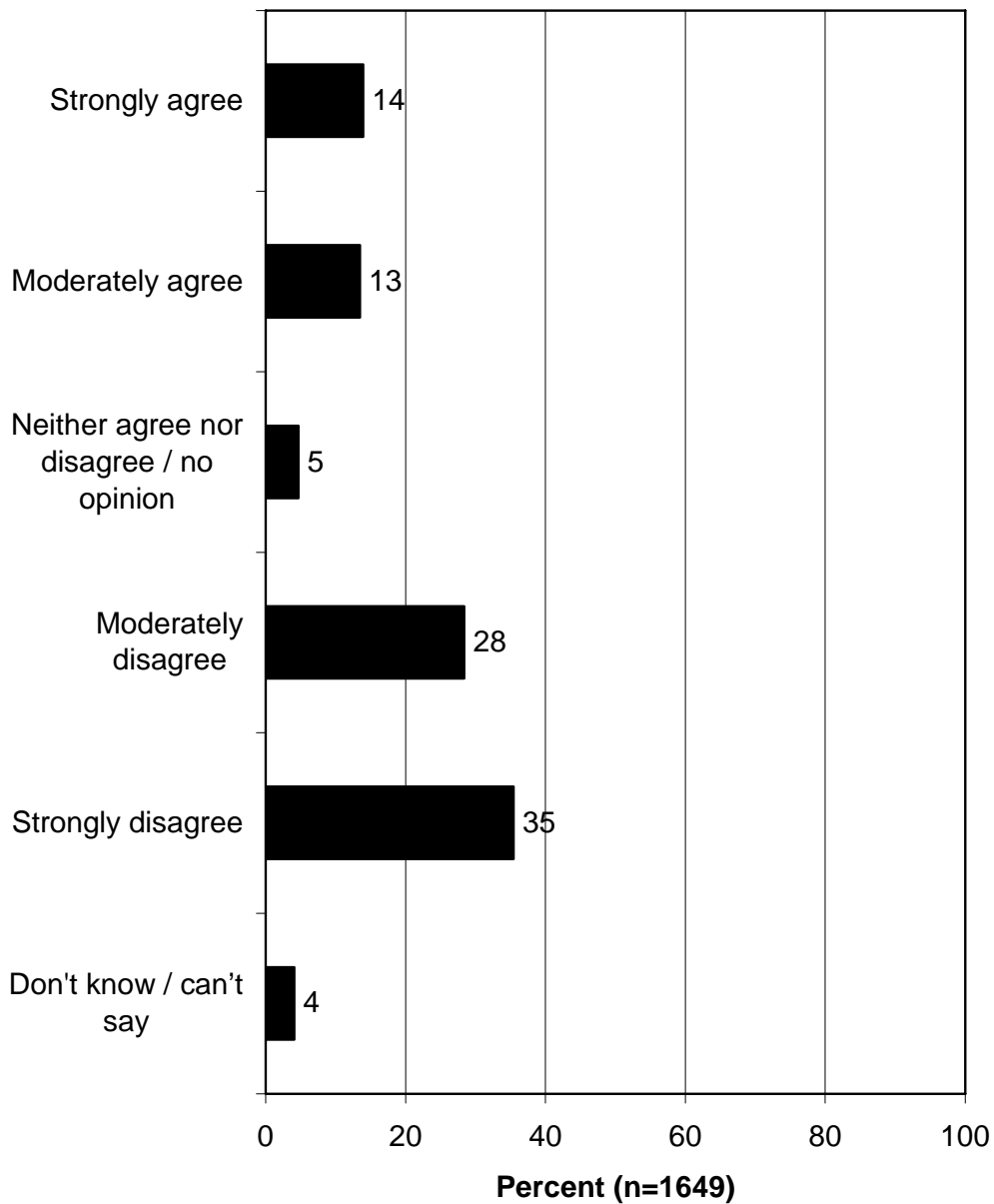
## OPINIONS ON PANFISH REGULATIONS IN IOWA

- A large majority of Iowa anglers (65%) support having the IDNR set a daily creel limit on the number of panfish that anglers can take. In a related question, 63% disagree that anglers should be allowed to take *all* the panfish that they can harvest for consumption.
  - In follow-up questions, anglers were asked to name the appropriate amount of panfish that an angler *should* take (not legally limited, but ethically limited) in the absence of a legal limit: the mean was 16.7 panfish, and respondents most commonly gave a limit in the range of 6 to 10 panfish. The results were similar when respondents were asked to name the limit that should be *legally* set, if the IDNR chooses to set a limit.
  - The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler on support or opposition to a daily creel limit for panfish as well as whether anglers should be allowed to take all the panfish that they can harvest for consumption found that the two groups are similar. However, when asked to name appropriate limits (both “legally set” and “ethically set”), avid anglers tended to give higher limits.
  - The regional crosstabulations show no marked differences among the regions on these questions about panfish creel limits.
  - The data analysis by river region found no marked differences in opinion on daily creel limits for panfish between anglers overall and anglers from the river regions. There were some differences between river region anglers and anglers overall regarding the actual numerical limit for panfish, as shown in the graphs, with Missouri River Region anglers typically choosing a smaller limit.

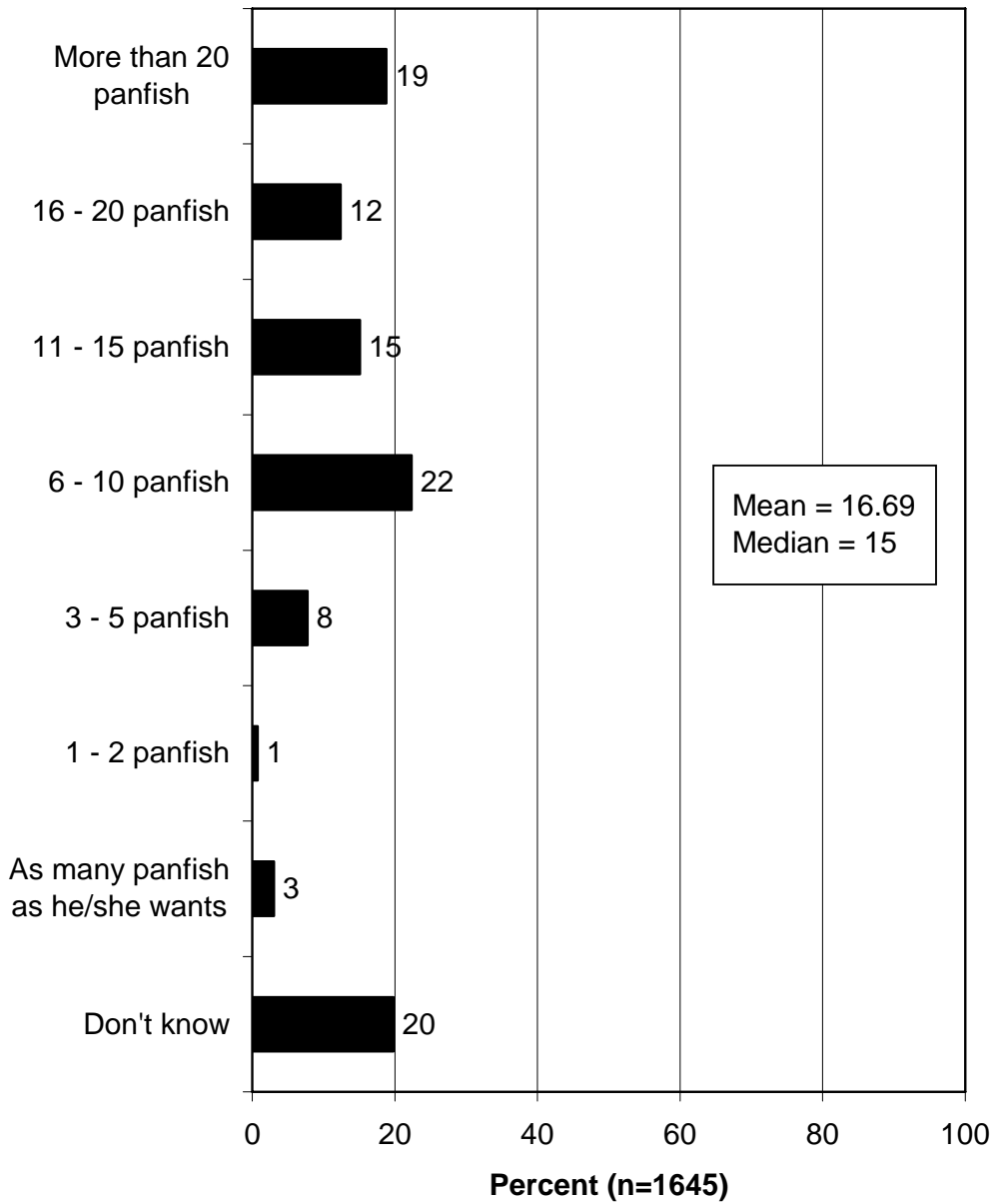
**Q180. Do you support or oppose having the Department set a daily creel limit on the number of panfish that anglers can take?**



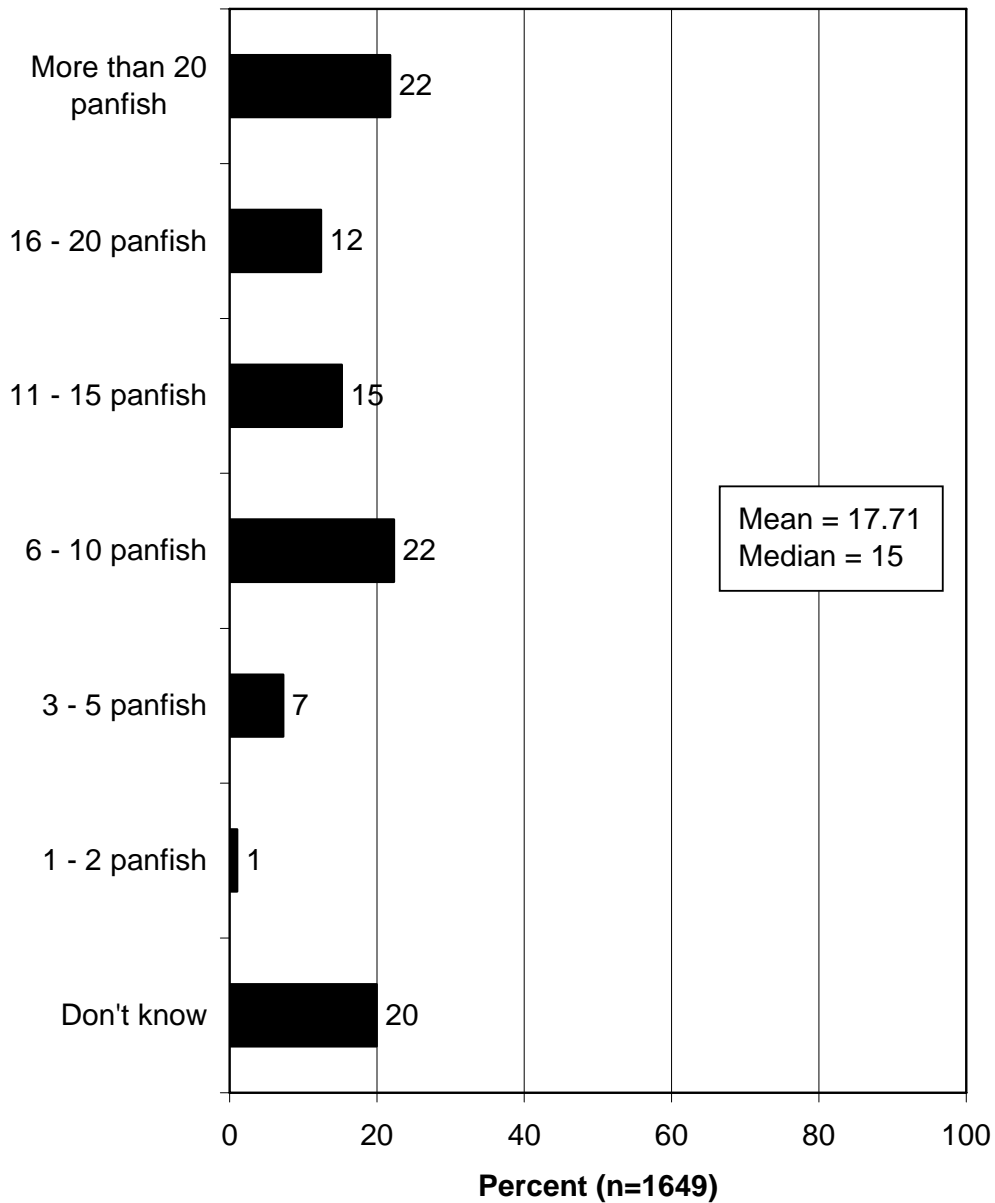
**Q181. Do you agree or disagree that anglers should be allowed to take all the panfish that they can harvest for consumption?**



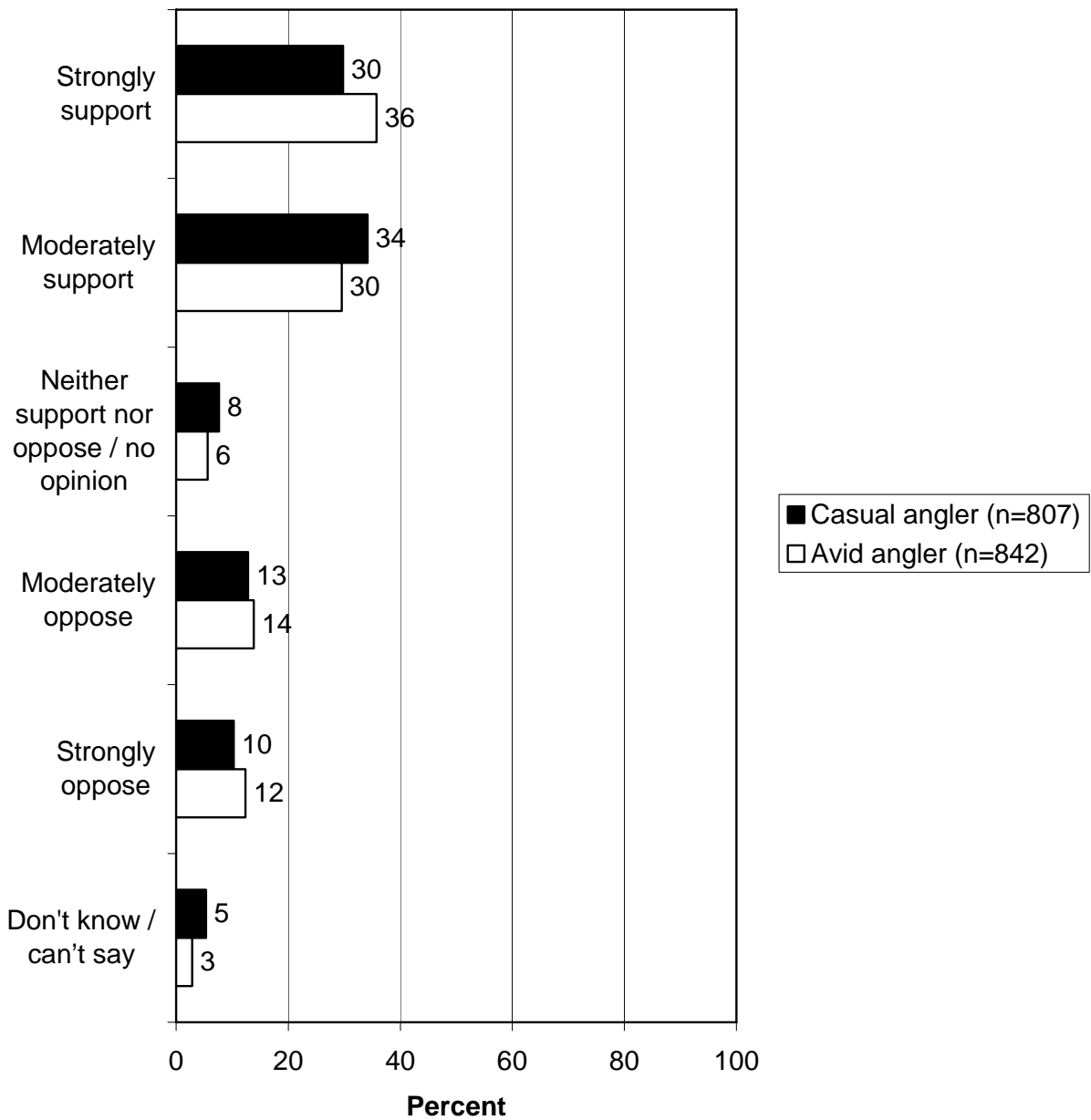
**Q184. If there is no panfish limit, how many panfish do you think is appropriate for a single angler to take?**



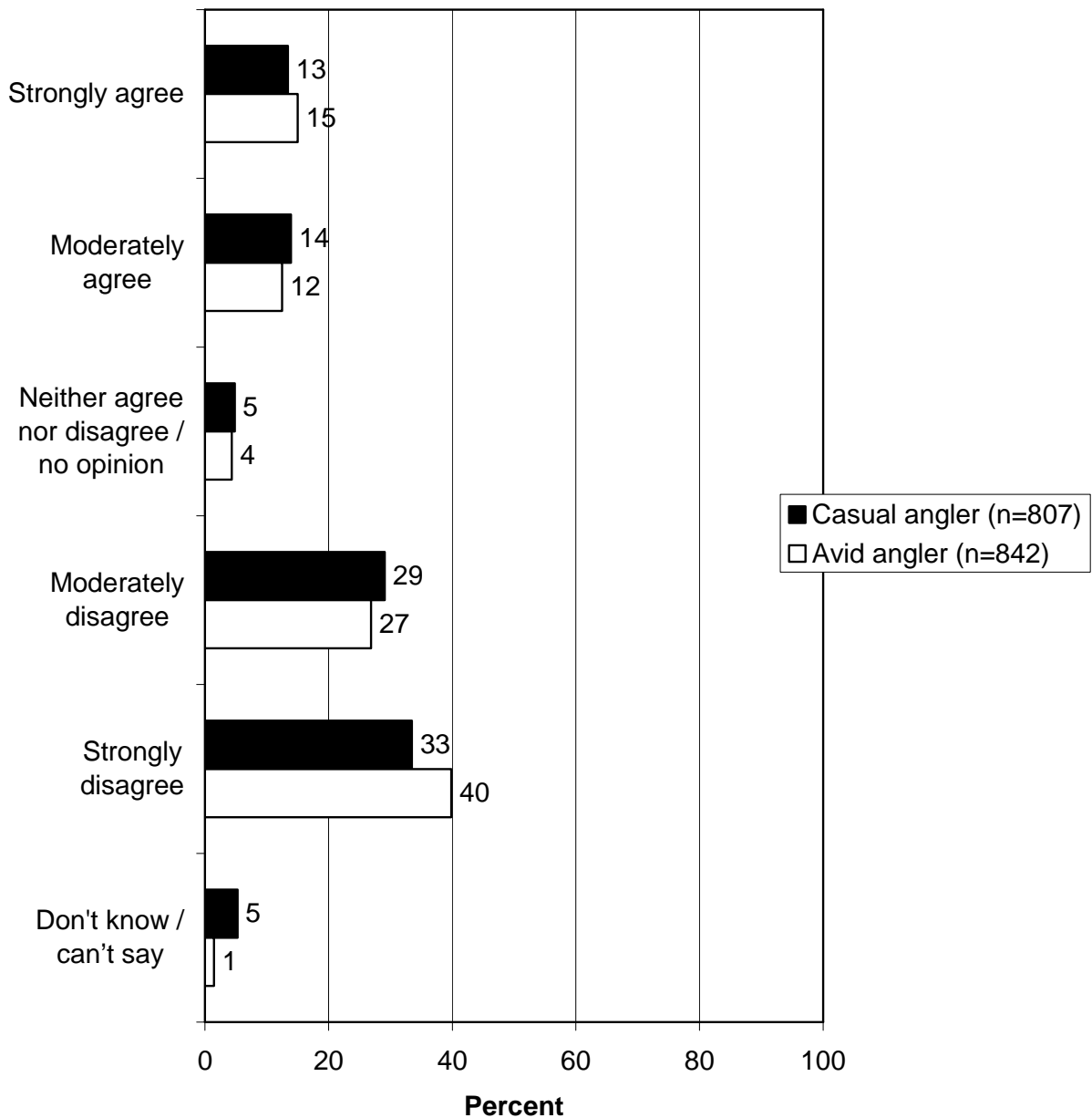
**Q187. If the Department were to set a limit, what do you think the limit should be?**



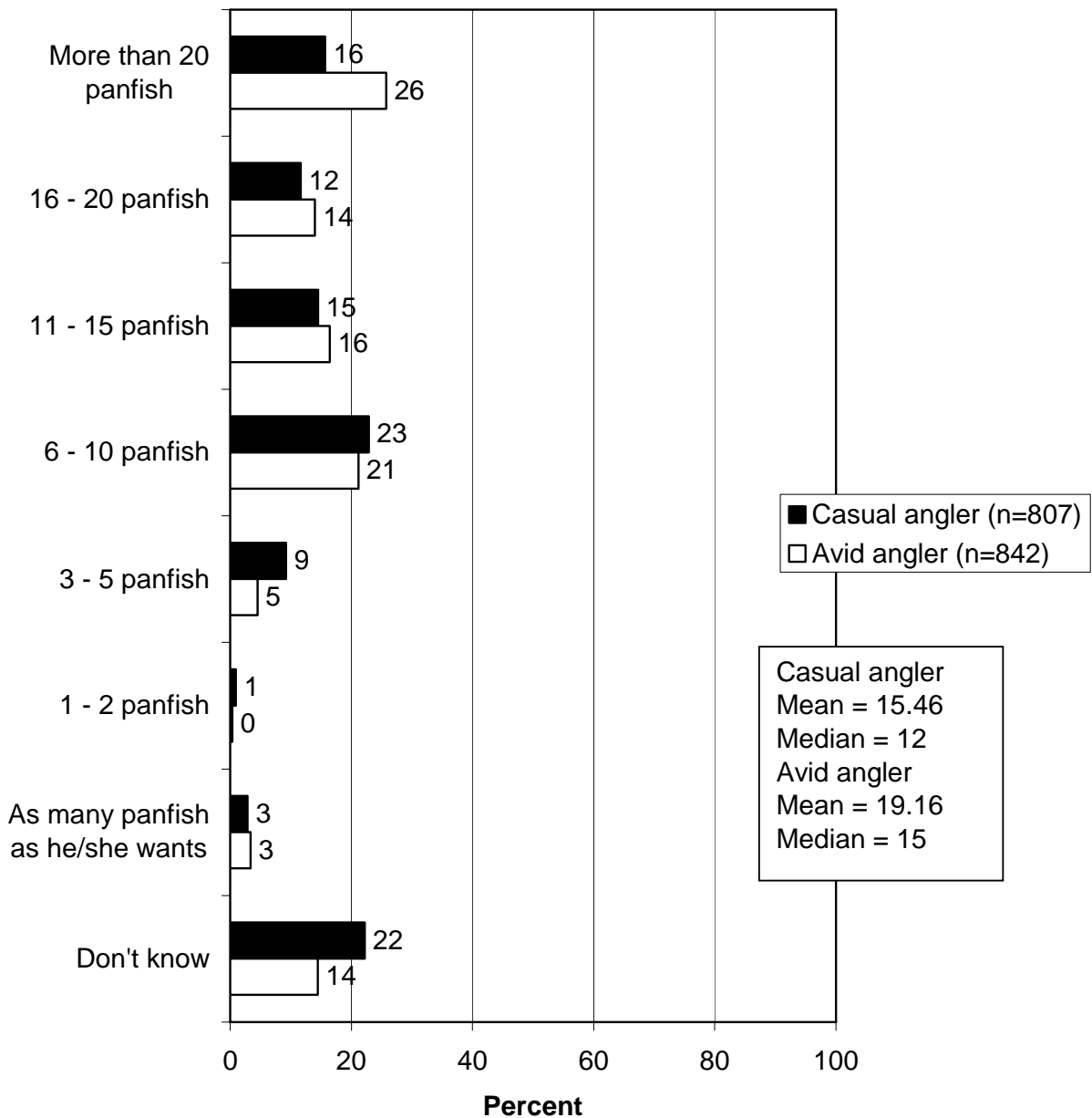
**Q180. Do you support or oppose having the Department set a daily creel limit on the number of panfish that anglers can take?**



**Q181. Do you agree or disagree that anglers should be allowed to take all the panfish that they can harvest for consumption?**

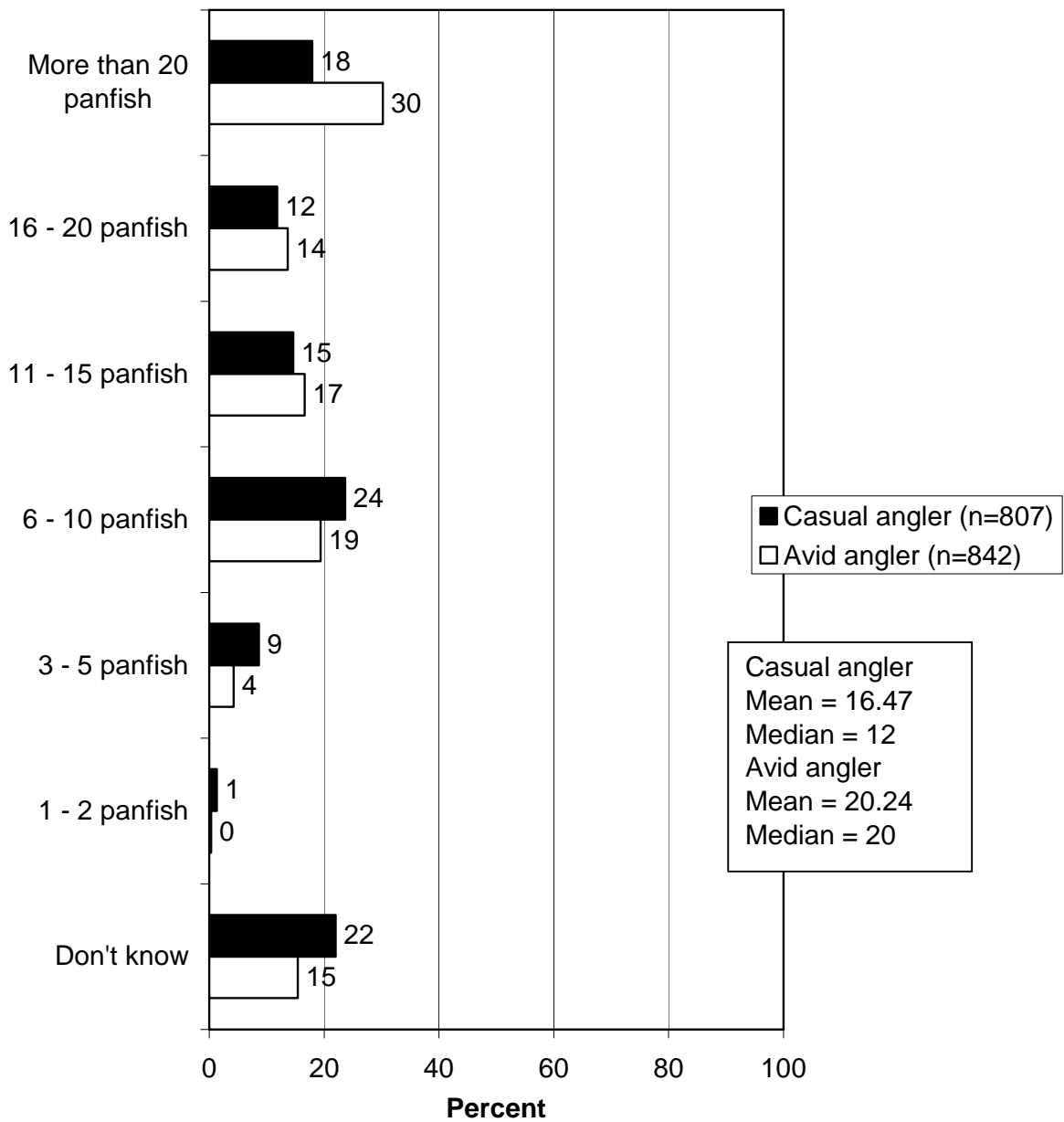


**Q184. If there is no panfish limit, how many panfish do you think is appropriate for a single angler to take?**

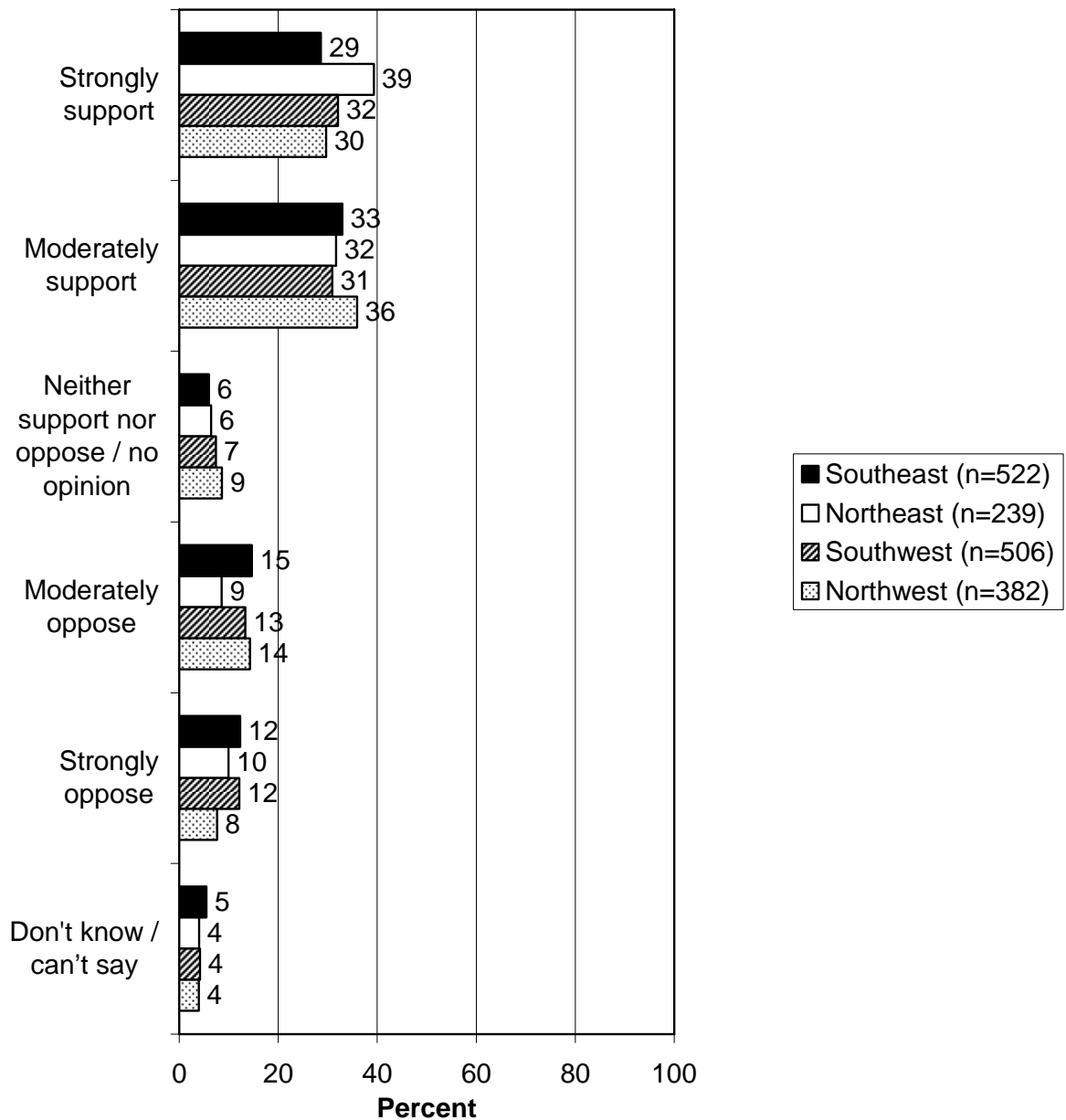




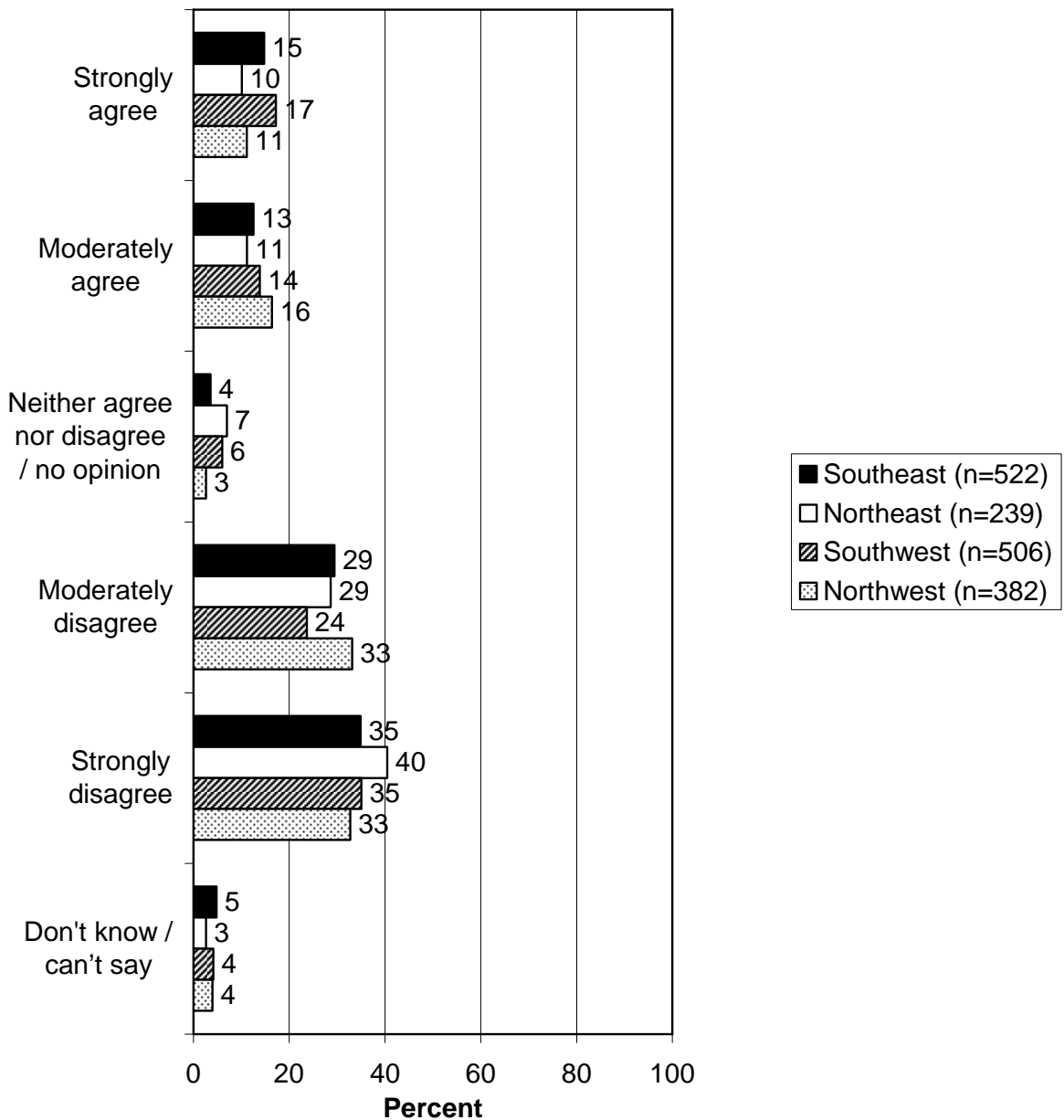
**Q187. If the Department were to set a limit, what do you think the limit should be?**



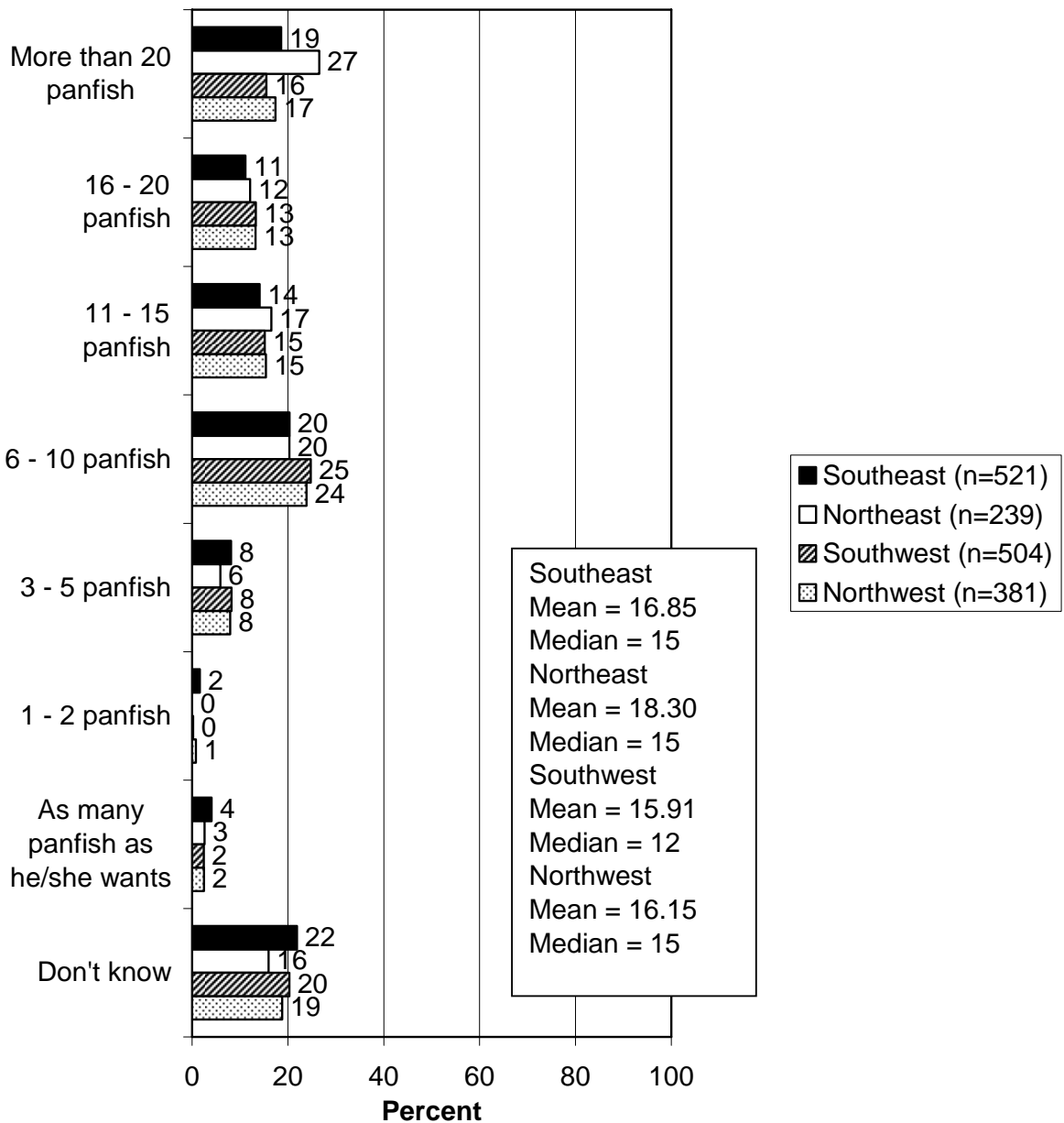
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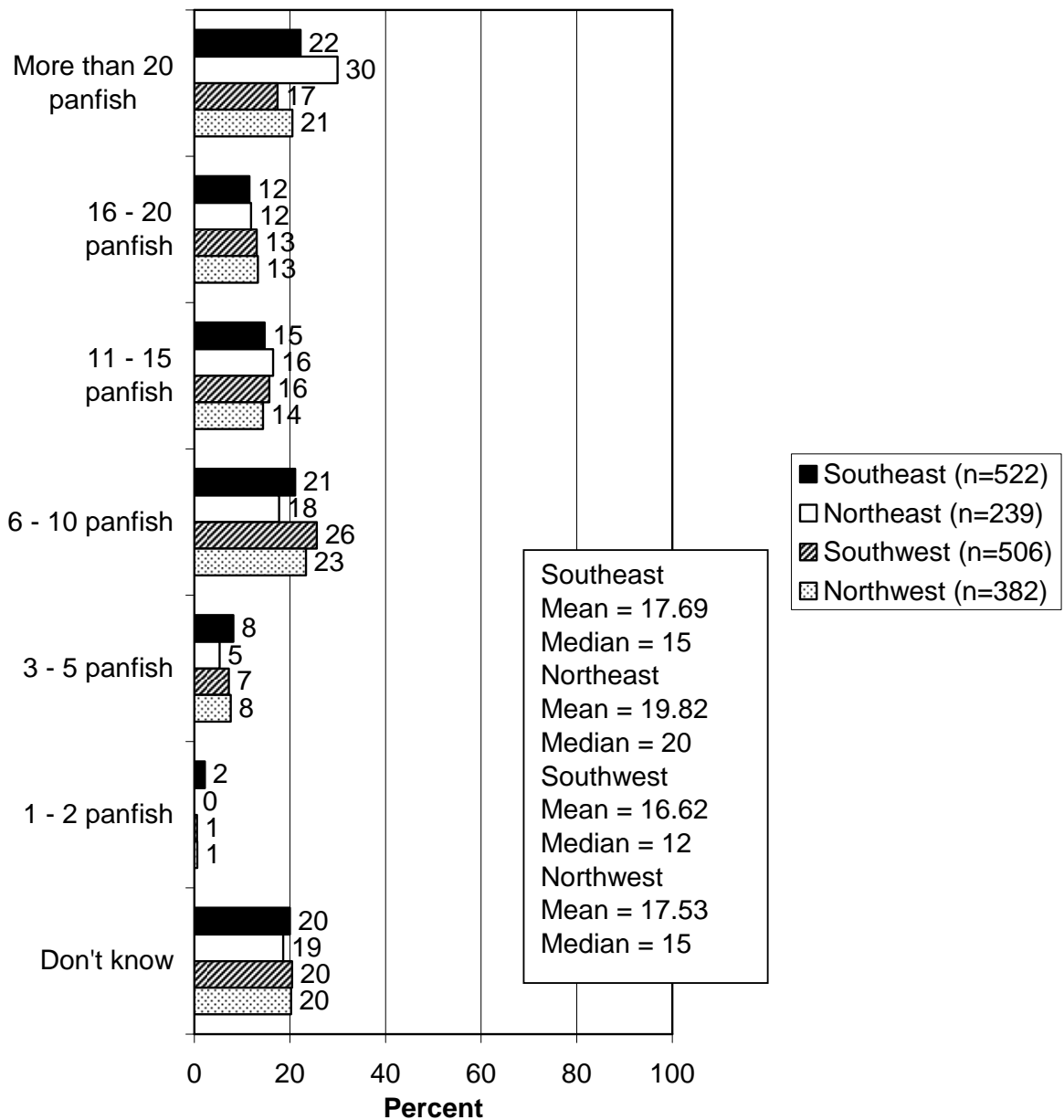
**Q181. Do you agree or disagree that anglers should be allowed to take all the panfish that they can harvest for consumption?**



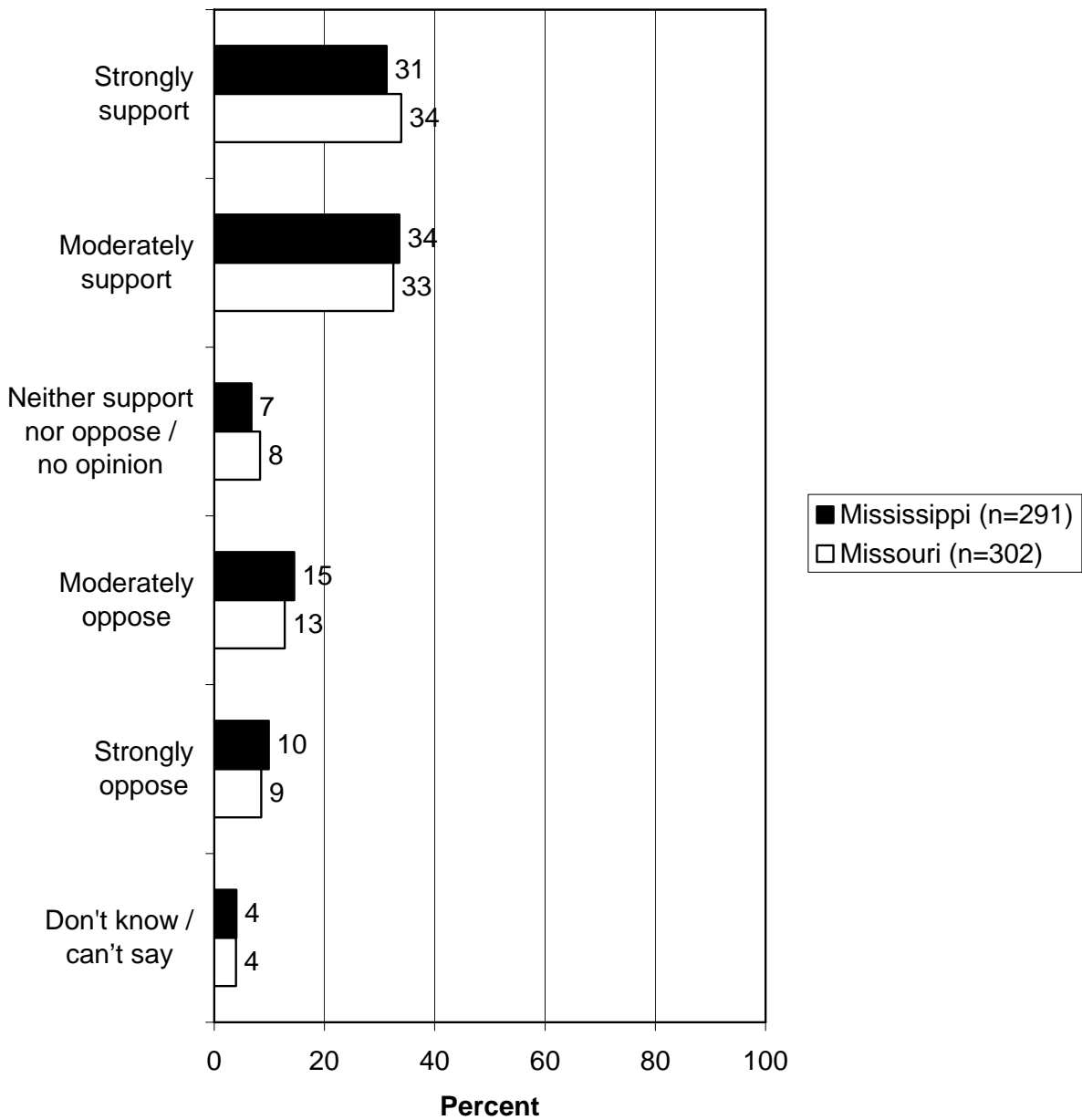
**Q184. If there is no panfish limit, how many panfish do you think is appropriate for a single angler to take?**



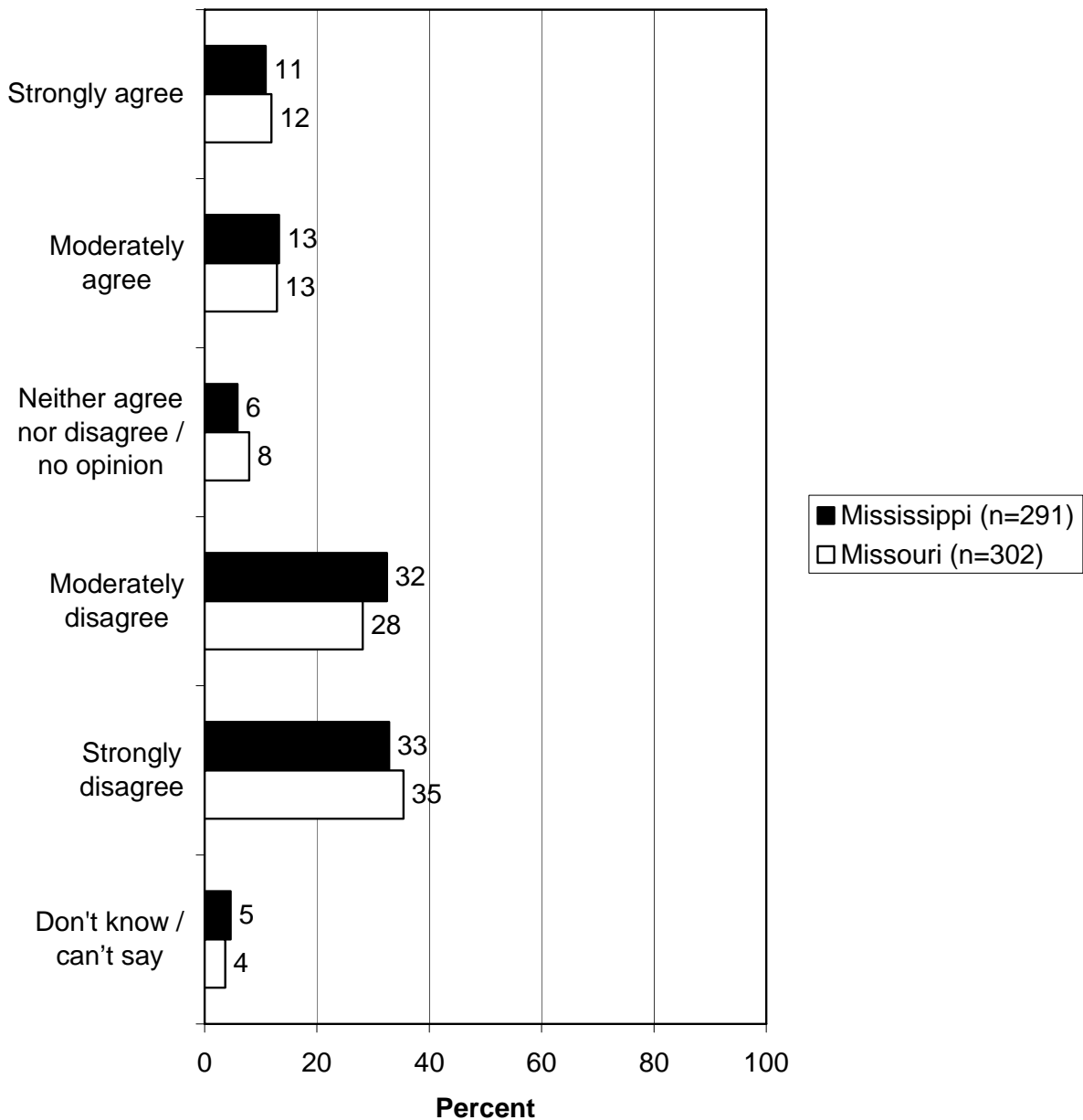
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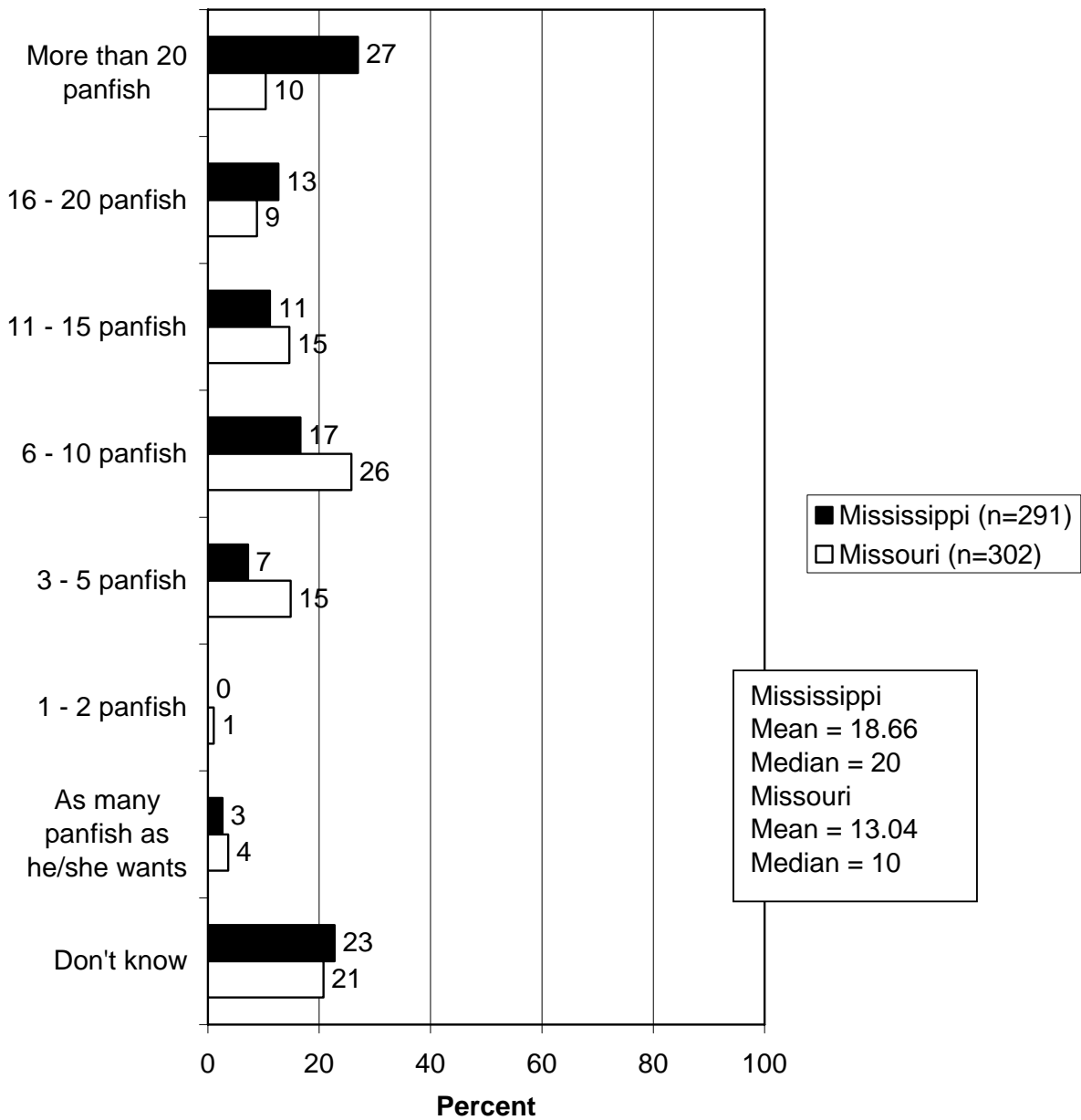
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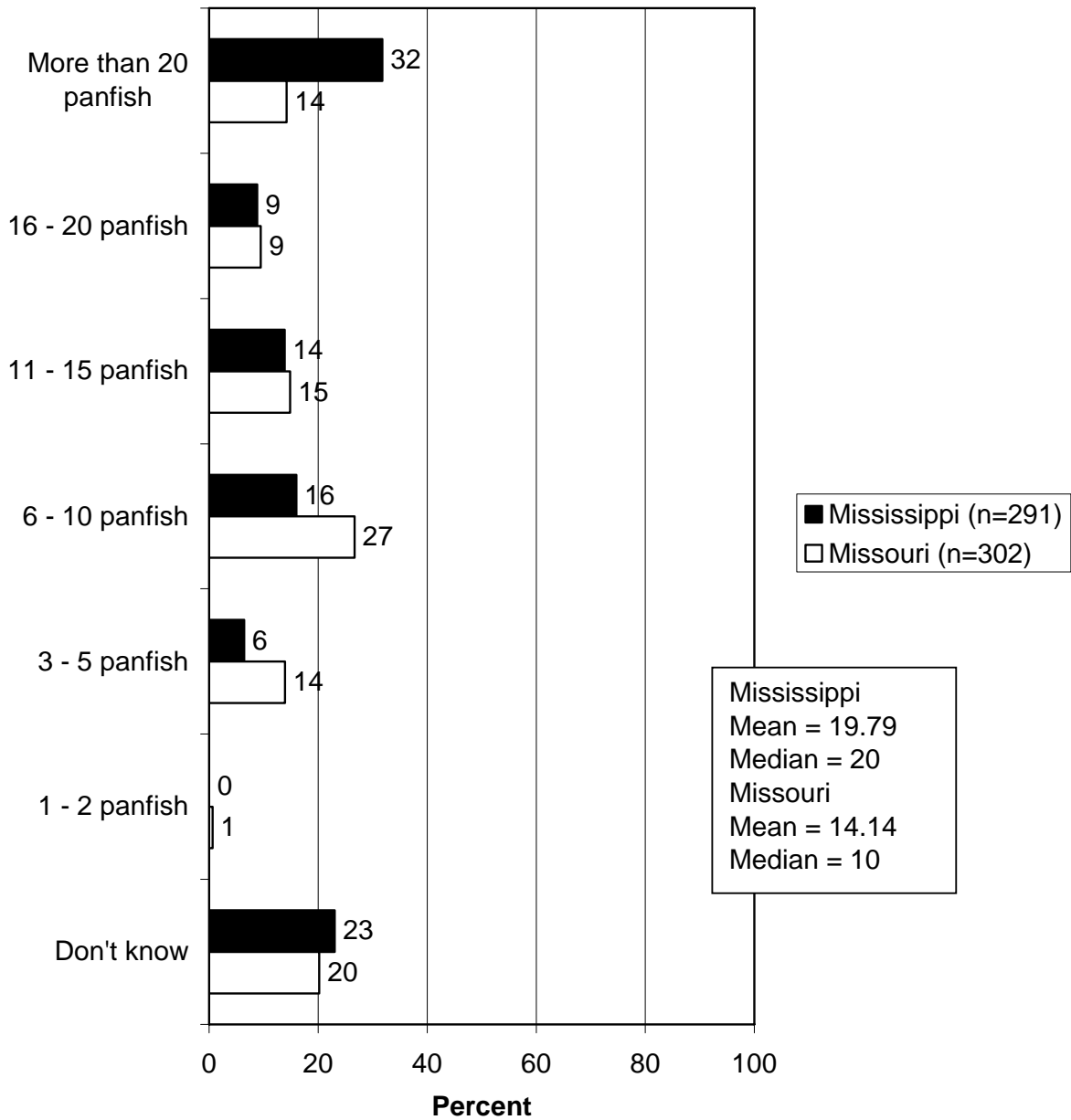


**Q184. If there is no panfish limit, how many panfish do you think is appropriate for a single angler to take?**





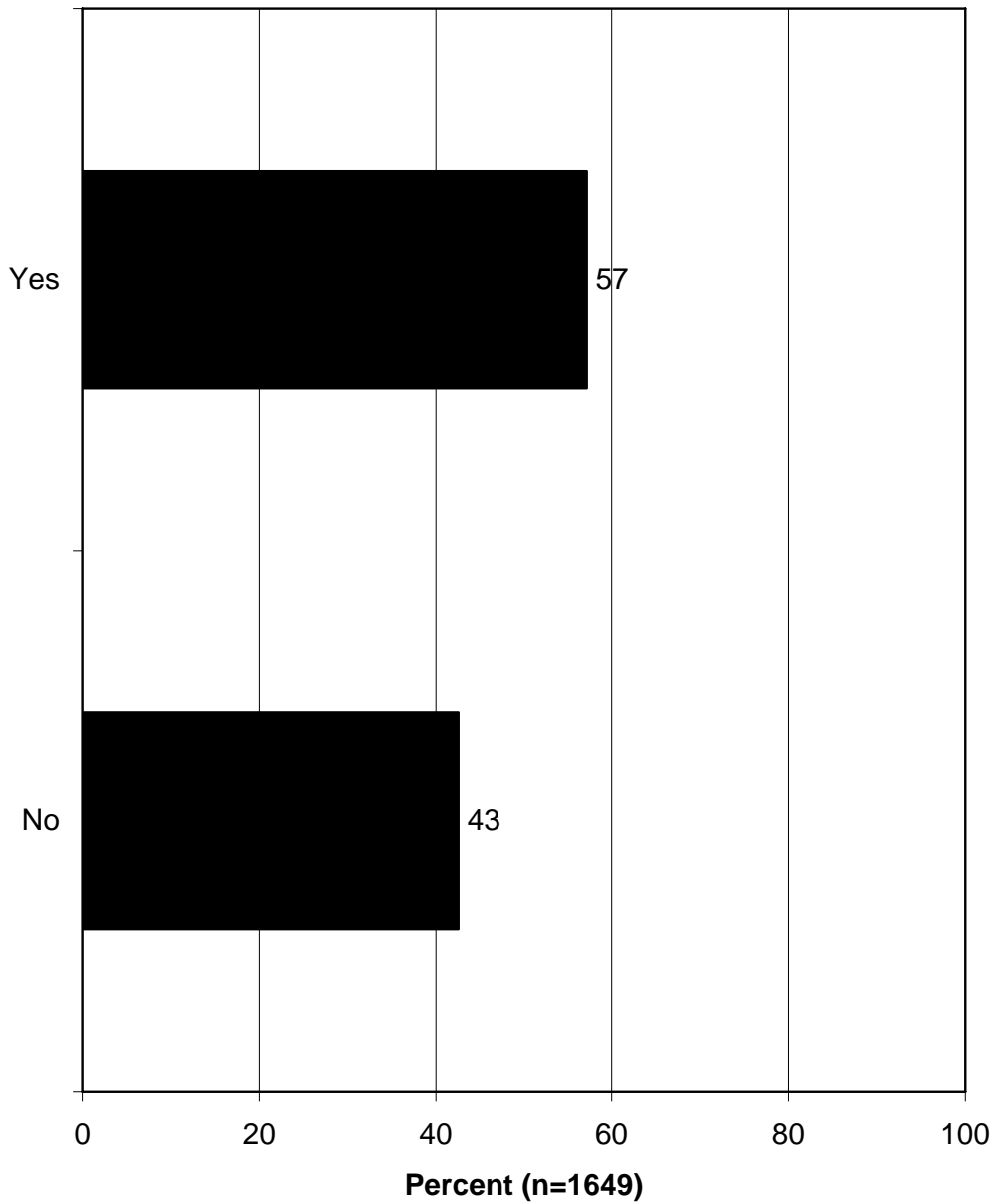
**Q187. If the Department were to set a limit, what do you think the limit should be?**



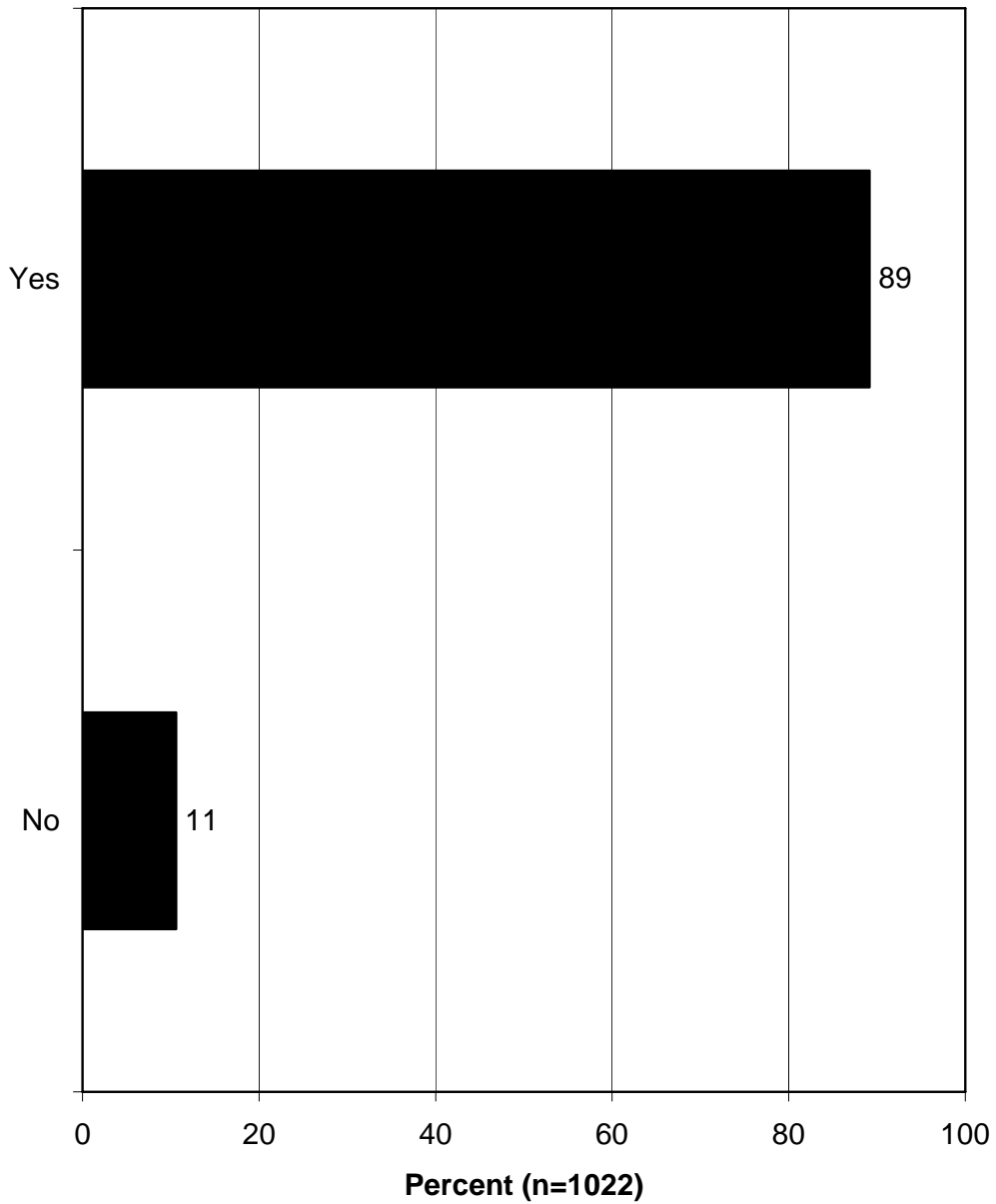
## **CONTACT WITH DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES' LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL**

- The majority of Iowa anglers (57%) have had contact with an IDNR enforcement officer while fishing. Just more than half (51%) have been checked for a fishing license by an IDNR officer.
  - Avid anglers are more likely than casual anglers to have had contact with an IDNR officer while fishing, and they are more likely to have been checked for a license.
  - In the regional crosstabulation, Northeast Region anglers are slightly less likely to have had contact with an IDNR officer while fishing. There are no marked regional differences in having been checked for a license, among those who have had contact with an officer.
  - The data analysis by river region found no marked differences between anglers overall and anglers from either river region on these questions.

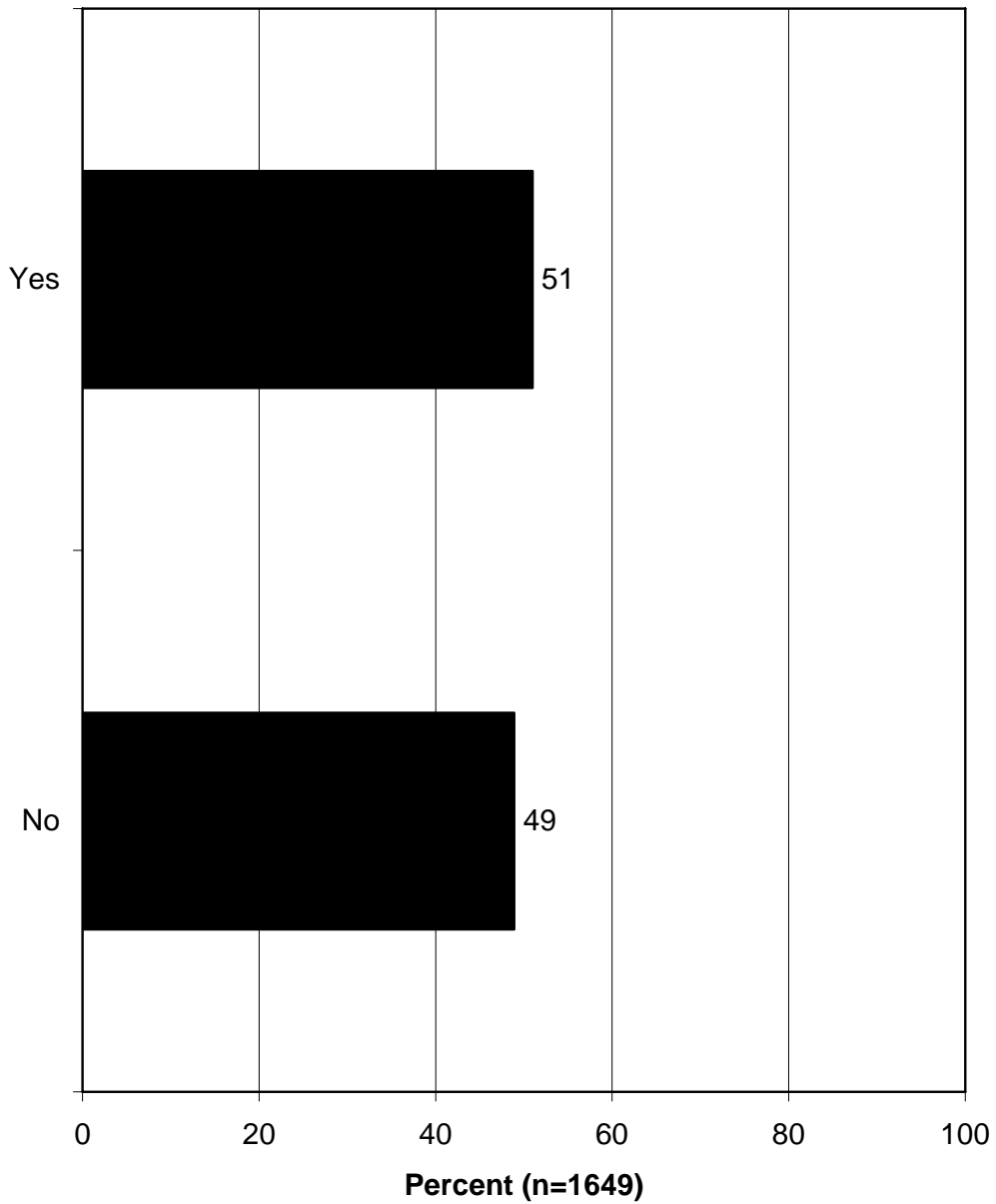
**Q170. Have you ever had contact with a Department of Natural Resources enforcement officer while you were fishing?**



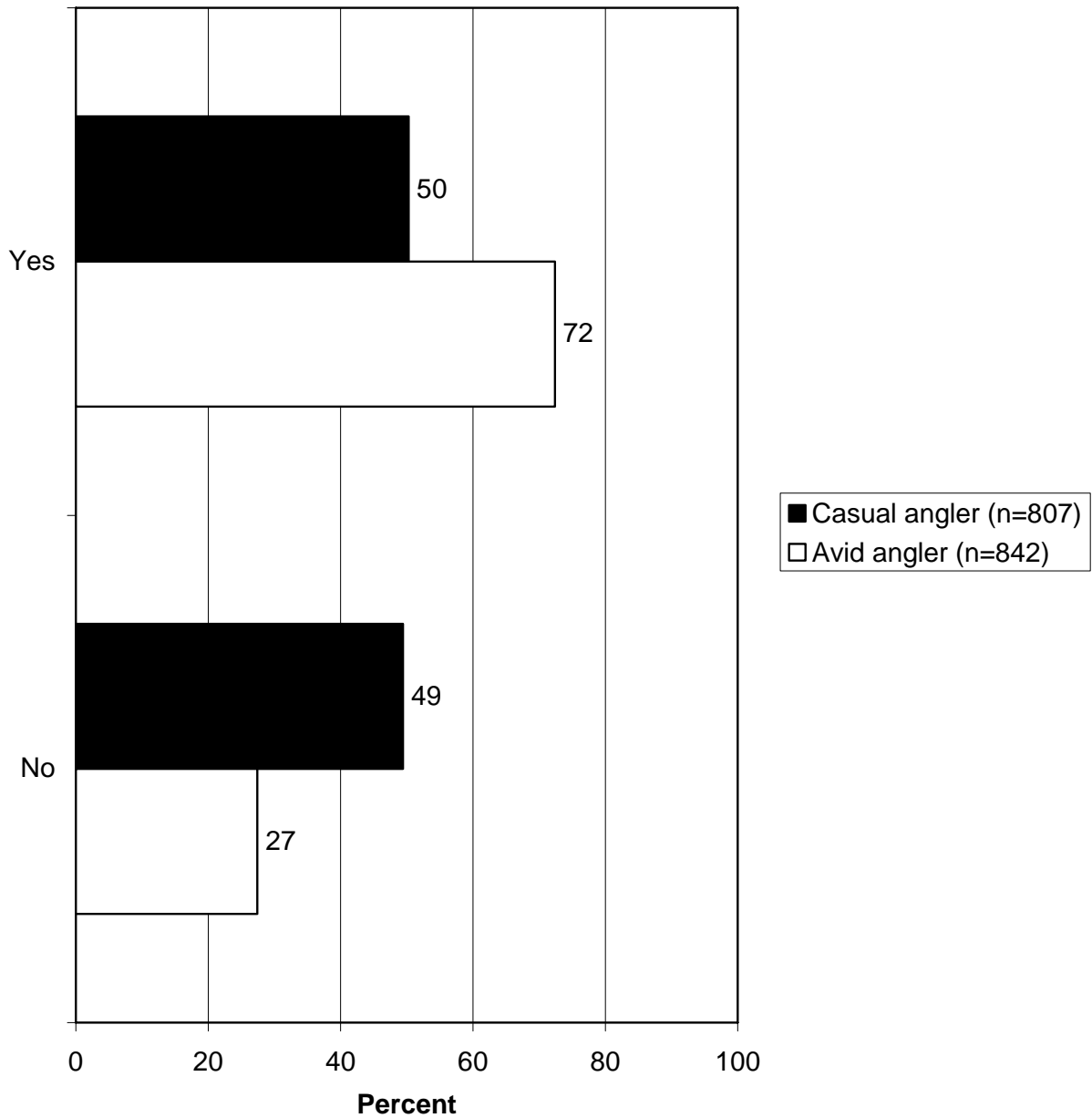
**Q171. Have you ever been checked by a Department of Natural Resources officer for a license when you were fishing? (Asked of those who have ever had contact with a DNR enforcement officer while fishing.)**



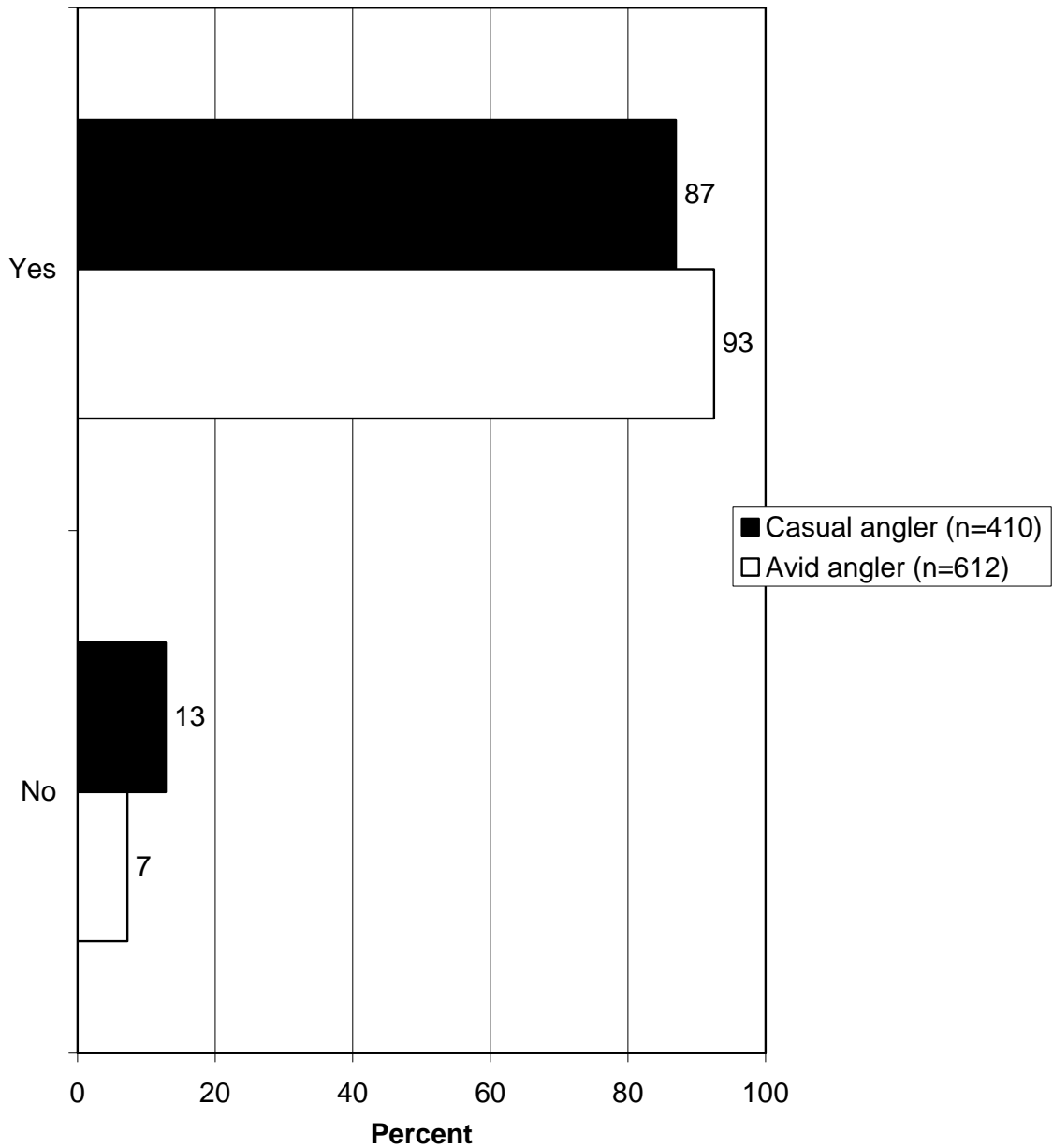
**Q171. Have you ever been checked by a Department of Natural Resources officer for a license when you were fishing? (Among all anglers.)**



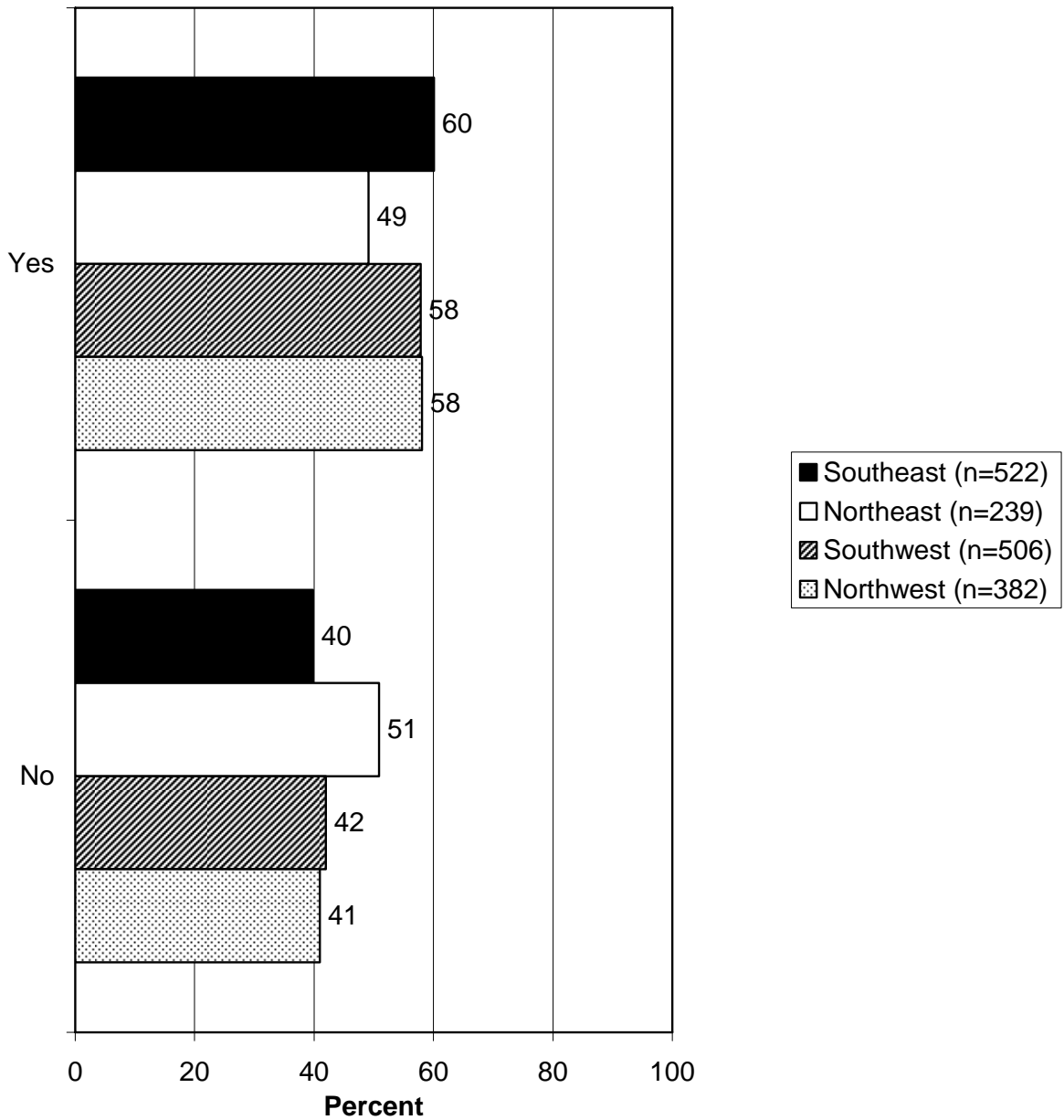
**Q170. Have you ever had contact with a Department of Natural Resources enforcement officer while you were fishing?**



**Q171. Have you ever been checked by a Department of Natural Resources officer for a license when you were fishing? (Asked of those who have ever had contact with a DNR enforcement officer while fishing.)**

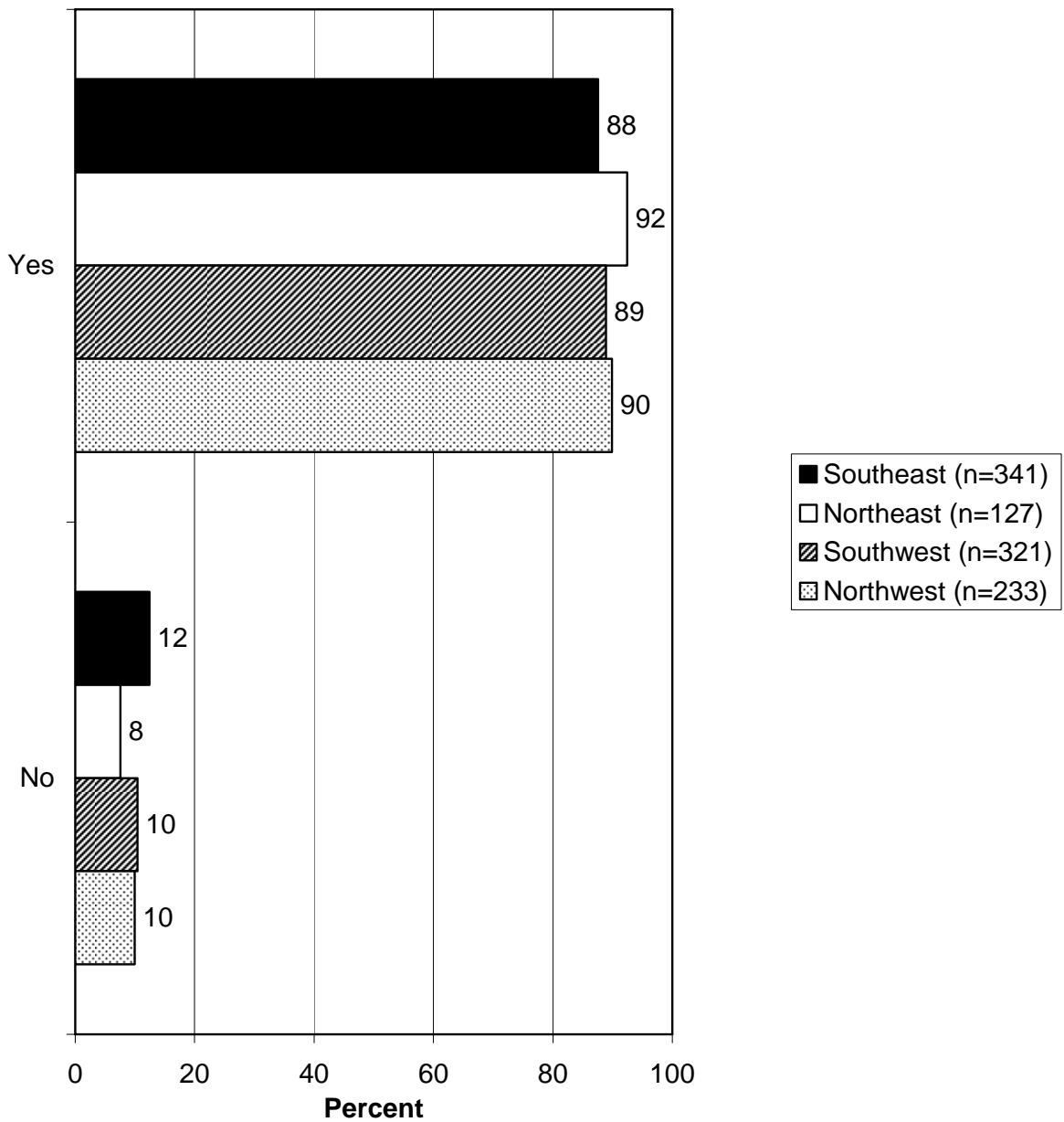


**Q170. Have you ever had contact with a Department of Natural Resources enforcement officer while you were fishing?**

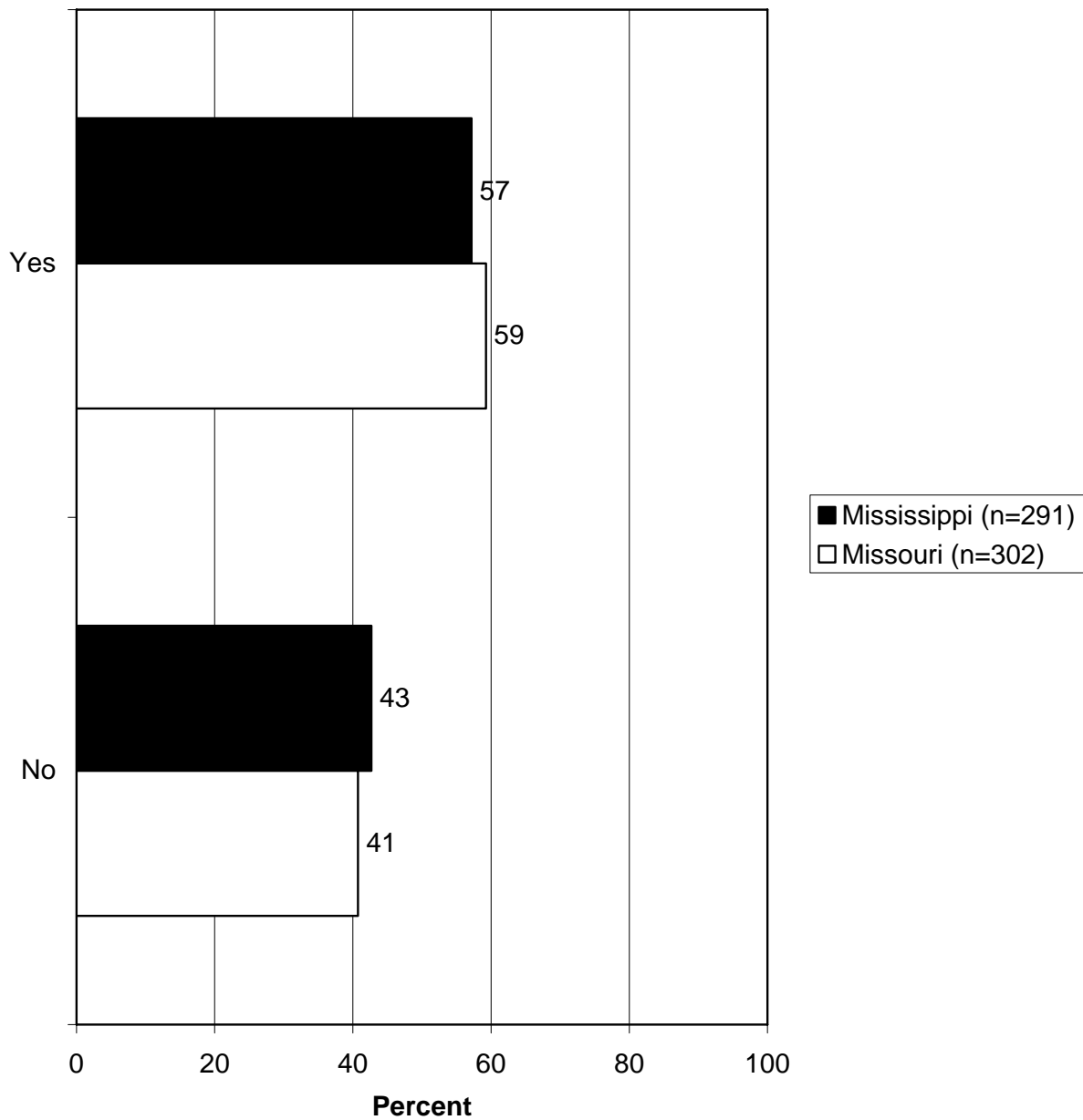




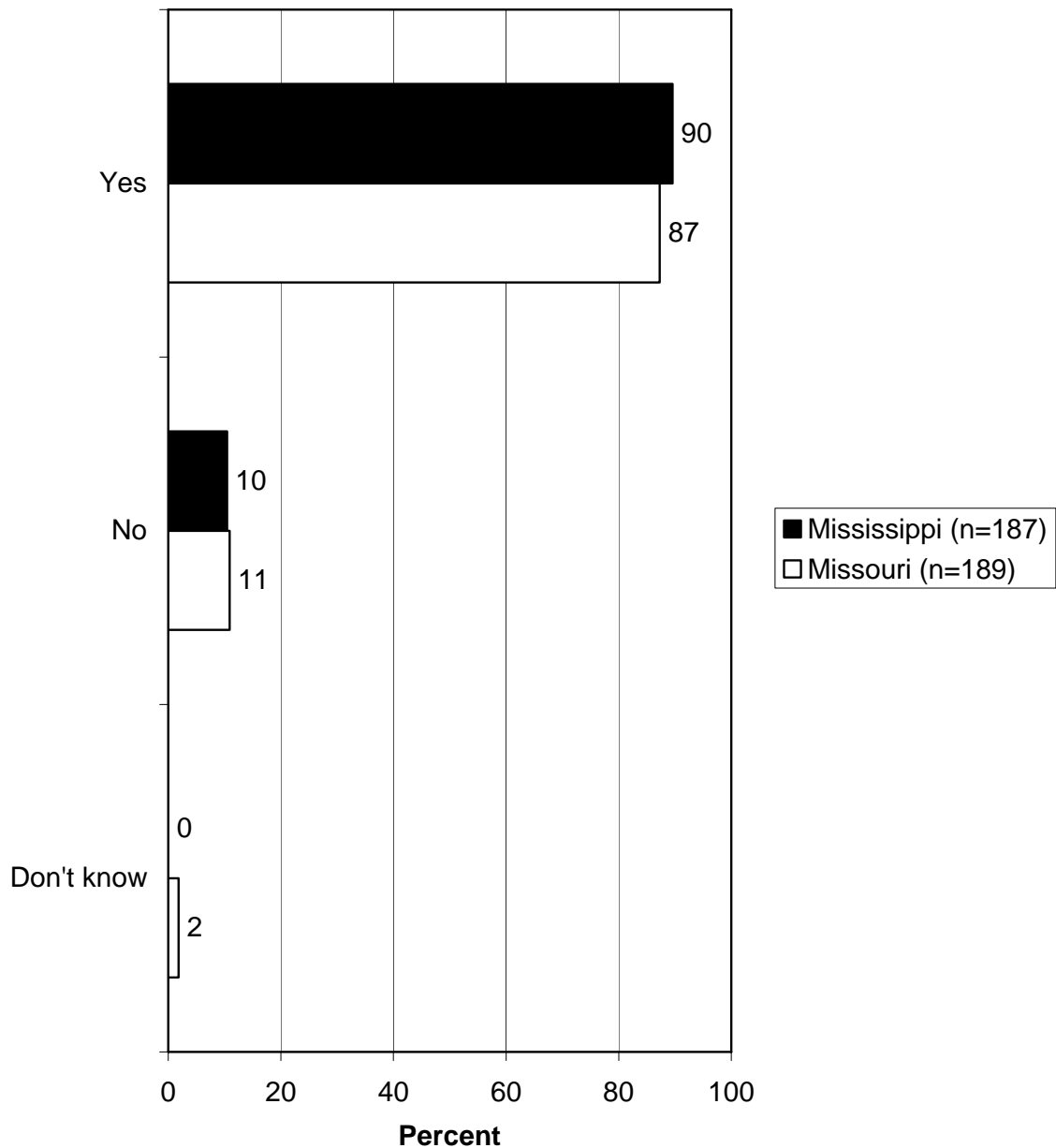
**Q171. Have you ever been checked by a Department of Natural Resources officer for a license when you were fishing? (Asked of those who have ever had contact with a DNR enforcement officer while fishing.)**



**Q170. Have you ever had contact with a Department of Natural Resources enforcement officer while you were fishing?**



**Q171. Have you ever been checked by a Department of Natural Resources officer for a license when you were fishing? (Asked of those who have ever had contact with a DNR enforcement officer while fishing.)**

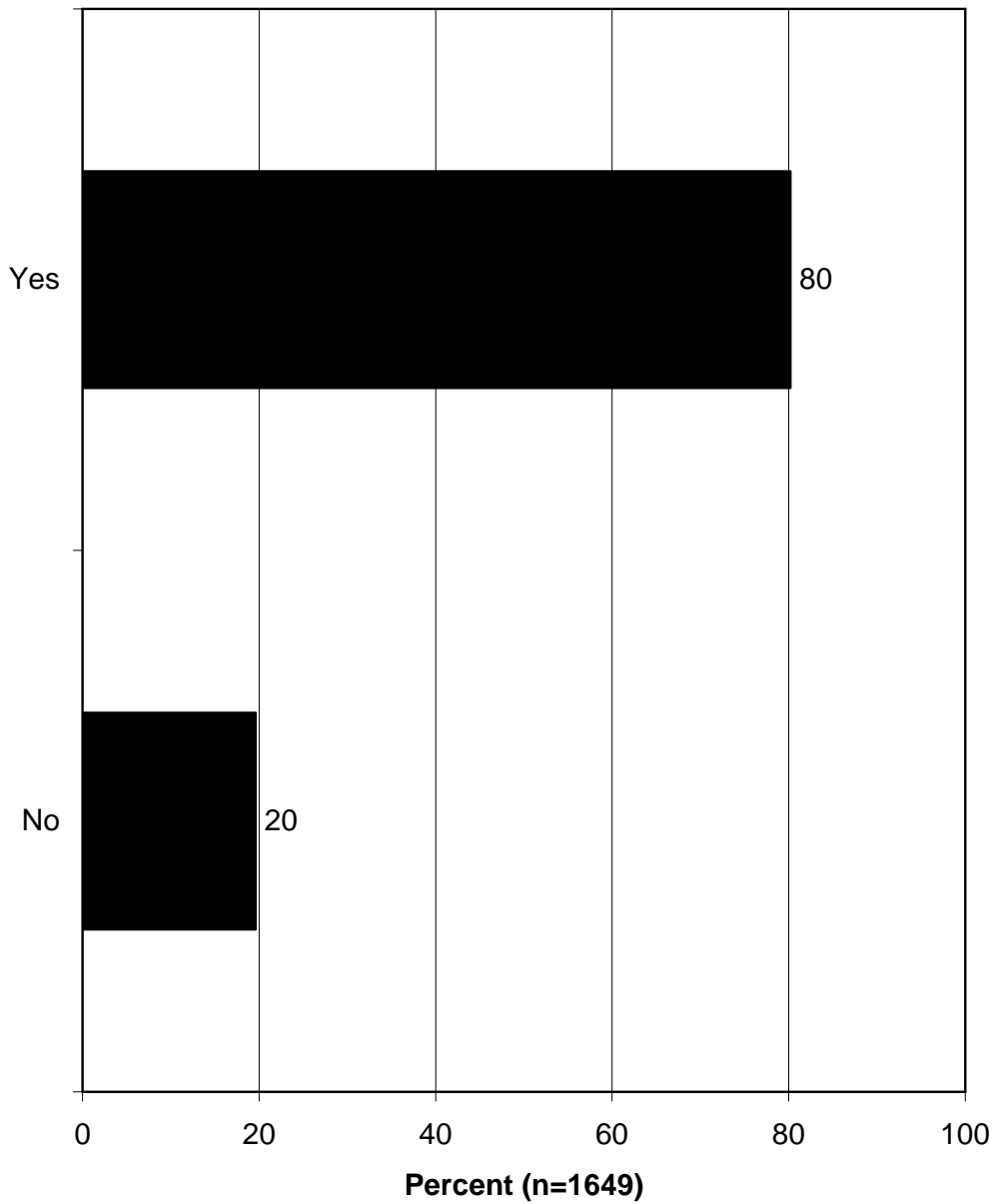


## CONSUMPTION OF FISH CAUGHT IN IOWA

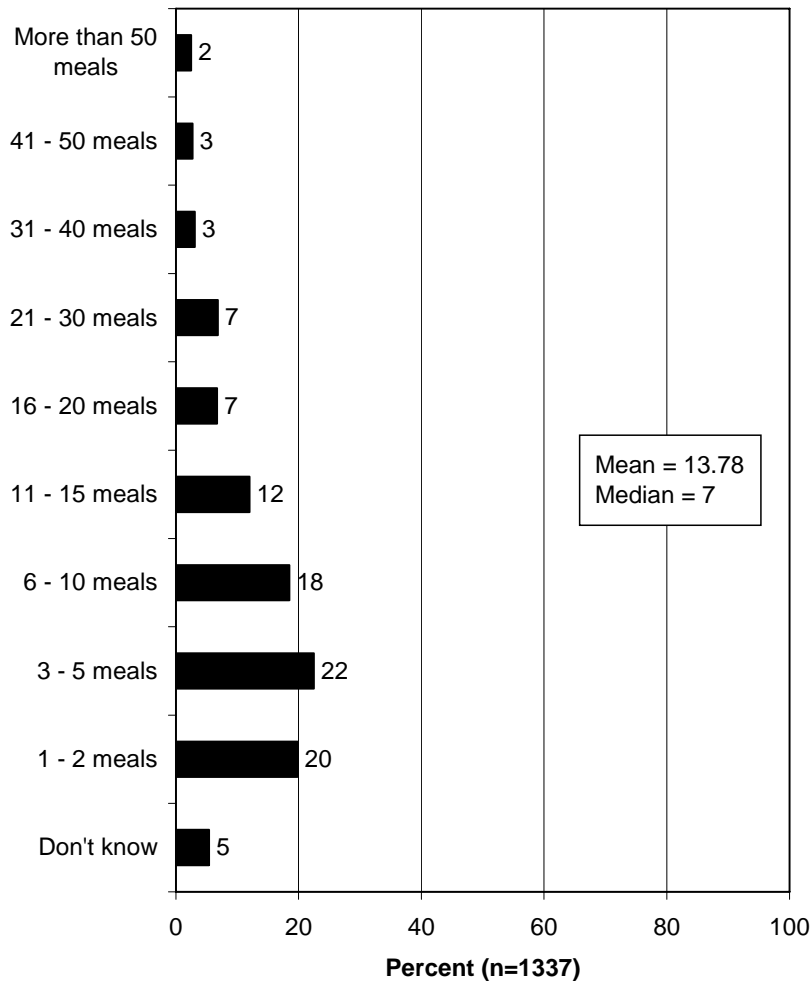
- The large majority of Iowa anglers (80%) eat (or their family members eat) the fish they catch at least some of the time.
  - Most commonly, those who consume fish they have caught have about 3 to 5 meals per year of fish they have caught.
  - The results of these questions indicate that Iowa anglers consumed approximately 4.57 million meals of Iowa-caught fish in 2007.
  - Avid anglers more often than casual anglers eat (or their family members more often eat) the fish they catch, and they typically eat more meals in a year of fish they have caught.
  - The regional crosstabulations show no marked differences among the regions on these questions about consuming fish.
  - The data analysis by river region found no marked differences between anglers overall and anglers from either river region on these questions.
  
- The overwhelming majority of those who consume fish that they have caught (88%) consider Iowa's fish to be safe for eating; however, a small percentage (7%) consider Iowa's fish to be unsafe for eating. Most of those who consume fish that they have caught do *not* limit their consumption based on safety concerns about eating the fish caught in Iowa. Nonetheless, 16% of such anglers limit their consumption at least a little because of safety concerns.
  - The crosstabulations by avid versus casual angler found no marked differences between the two groups on the perceived safety of fish caught in Iowa and on whether they limit their consumption based on safety concerns.
  - The regional crosstabulations show no marked differences among the regions on these questions about the safety of consuming fish or self-imposed limits on consuming fish caught in Iowa.
  - The data analysis by river region found no marked differences between anglers overall and anglers from either river region on these questions about the safety of consuming fish caught in Iowa.
  - In a related question, 49% of Iowa's anglers have been aware of at least one fish advisory about eating fish from Iowa waters.

- Avid anglers are just slightly more likely to have heard/seen a fish advisory, relative to casual anglers.
- The regional crosstabulation found that both eastern regions' anglers are more likely to have been aware of a fish advisory, while western anglers, and Northwest Region anglers in particular, are less likely to have been aware of a fish advisory.
- In the data analysis by river region, Mississippi River Region anglers are *more* likely, and Missouri River Region anglers are *less* likely, than are anglers overall to have been aware of a fish advisory.

**Q163. Do you or your family members ever eat the fish you catch?**



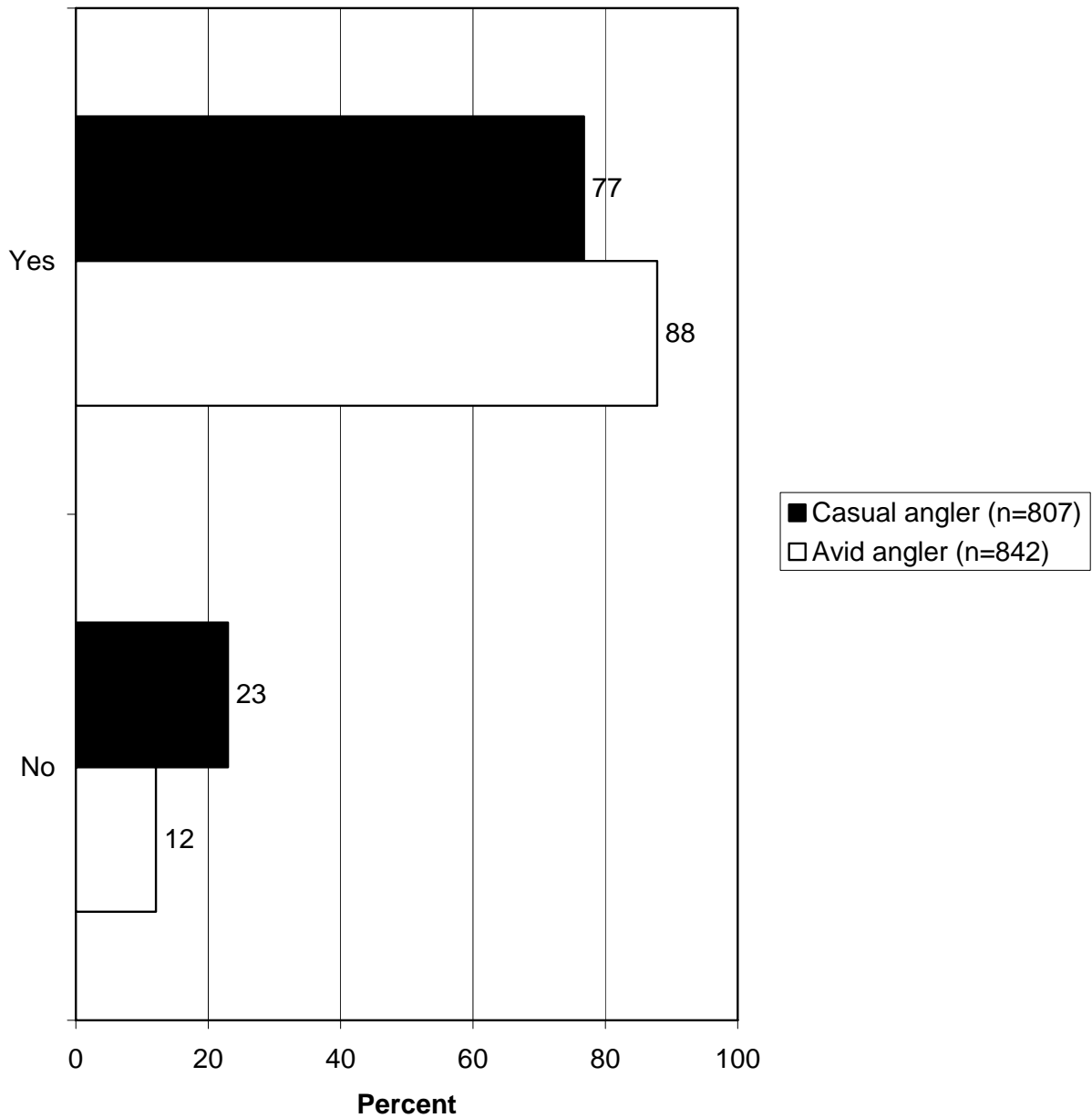
**Q166. How many meals do you typically eat of fish that you've caught in Iowa in a year? (Asked of those who have ever eaten or have had family members who have ever eaten the fish he/she caught.)**



**Calculation of Estimated Number of Meals of Iowa-Caught Fish Consumed in 2007**

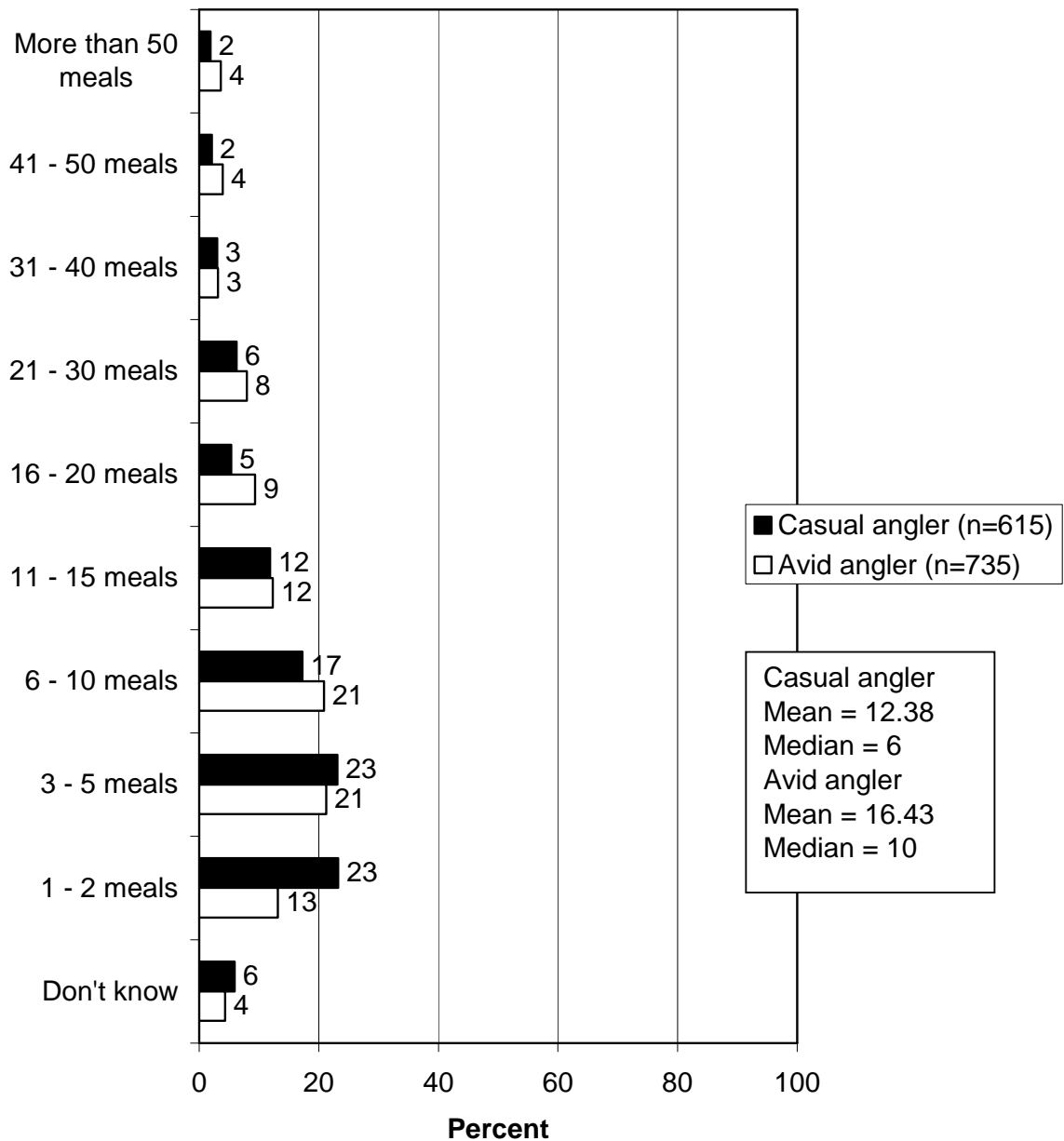
Total number of Iowa anglers:	506,920
Percent fished in past 12 months (approximates those who fished in 2007):	80.106%
Total number who fished in past 12 months:	406,075
Percent of anglers who fished last year who consume Iowa fish:	81.591%
Total number of Iowa anglers who consume fish:	331,320
Mean number of meals typically eaten annually by these anglers:	13.779
Total number of estimated meals of Iowa fish in 2007:	<b>4,565,258</b>

**Q163. Do you or your family members ever eat the fish you catch?**

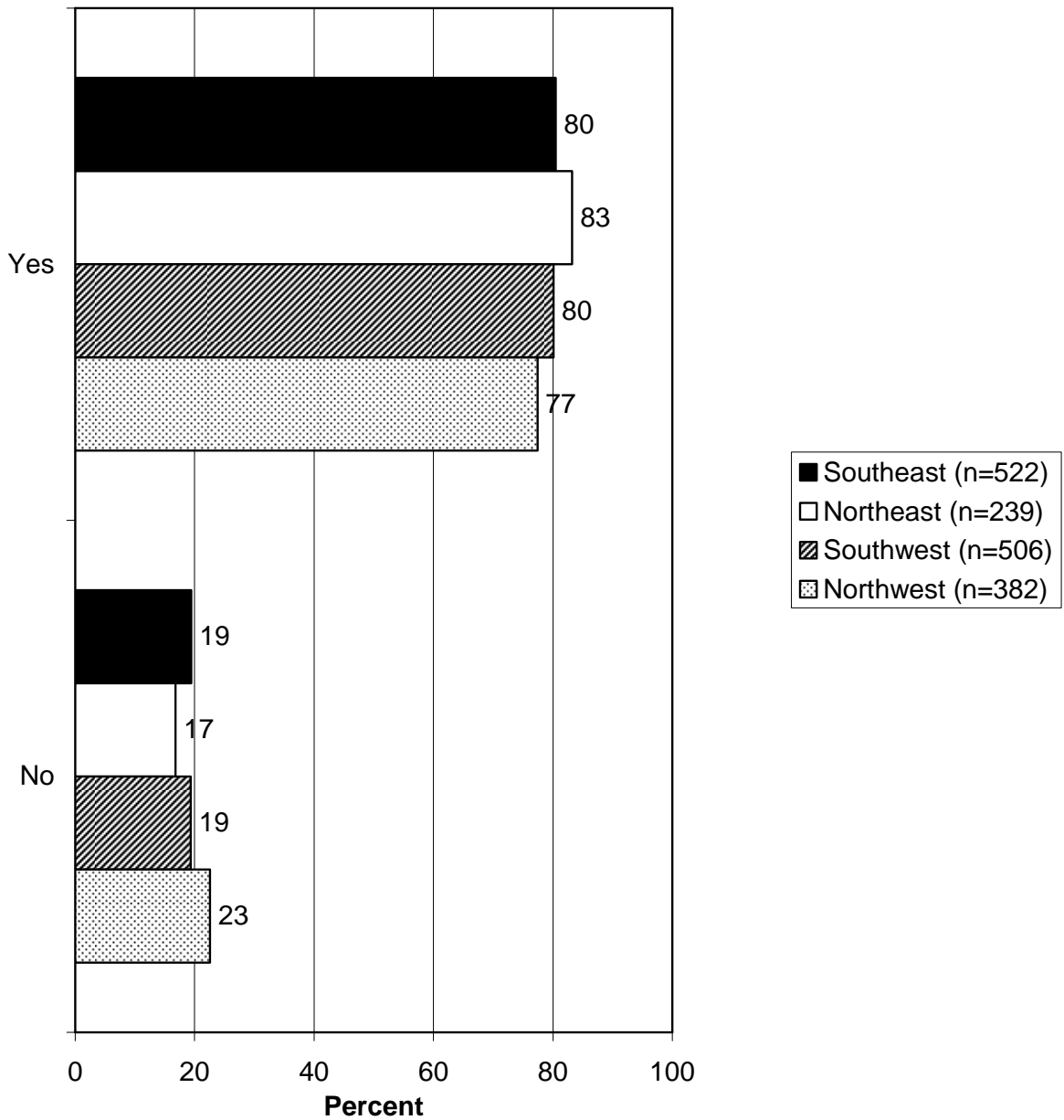




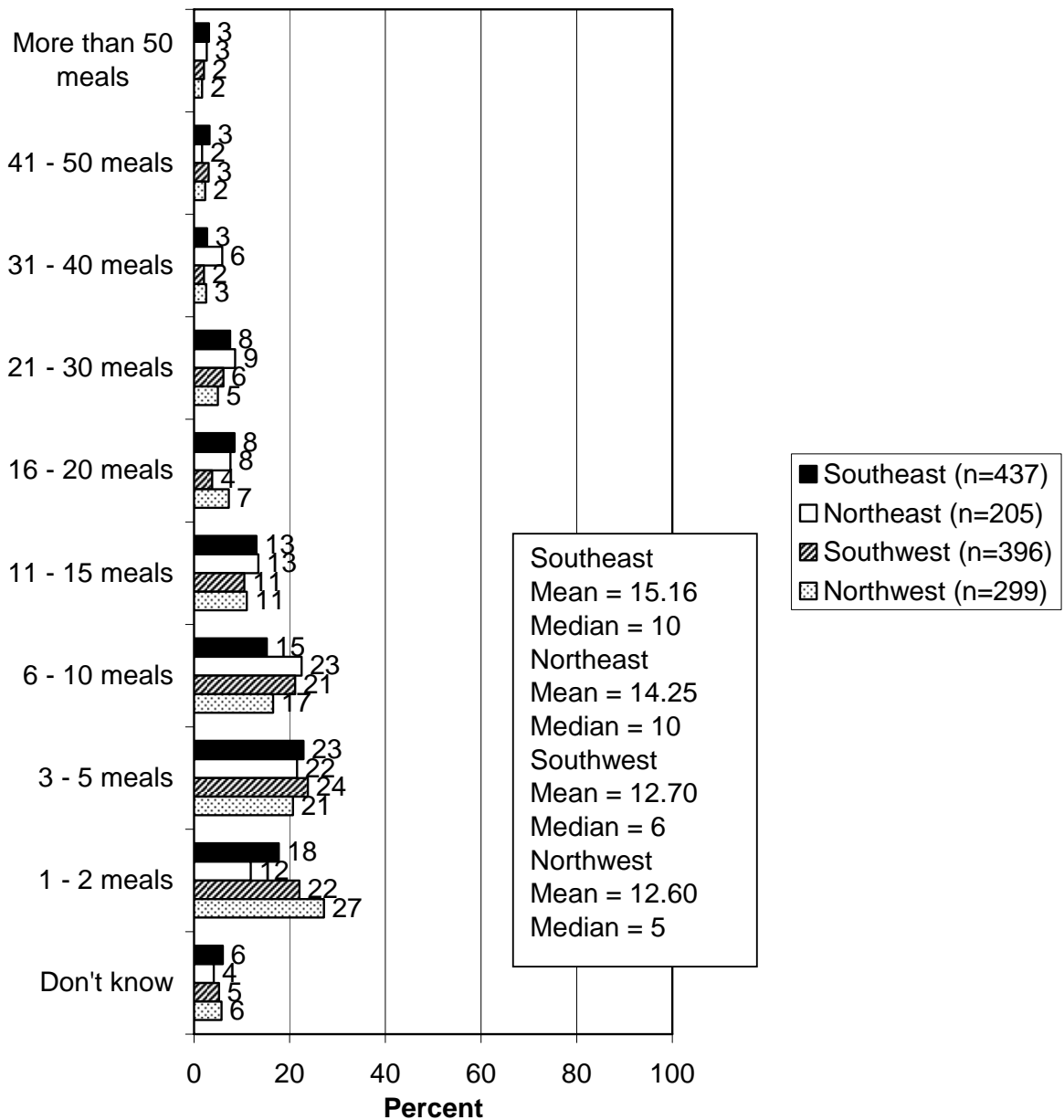
**Q166. How many meals do you typically eat of fish that you've caught in Iowa in a year? (Asked of those who have ever eaten or have had family members who have ever eaten the fish he/she caught.)**



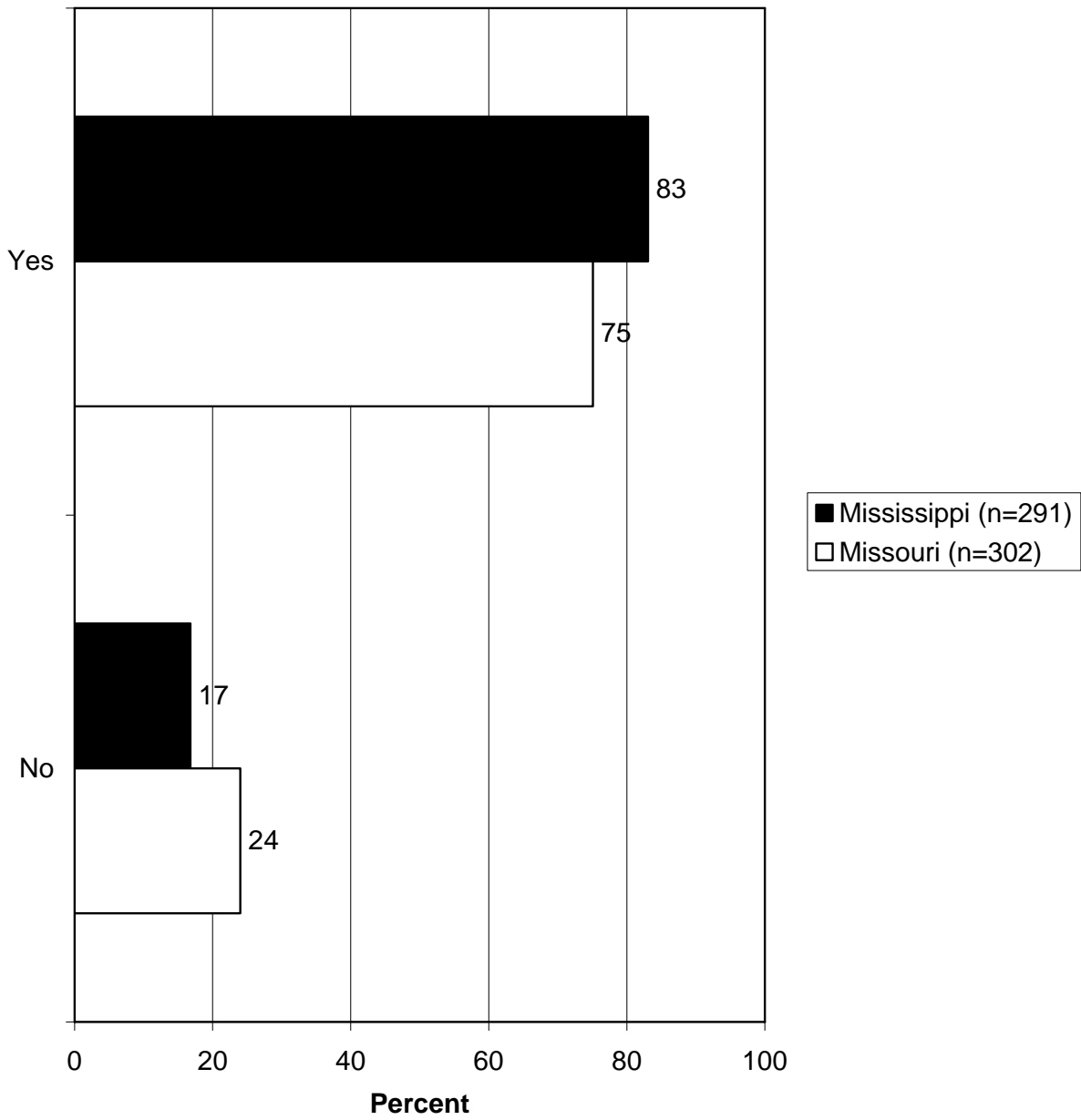
### Q163. Do you or your family members ever eat the fish you catch?



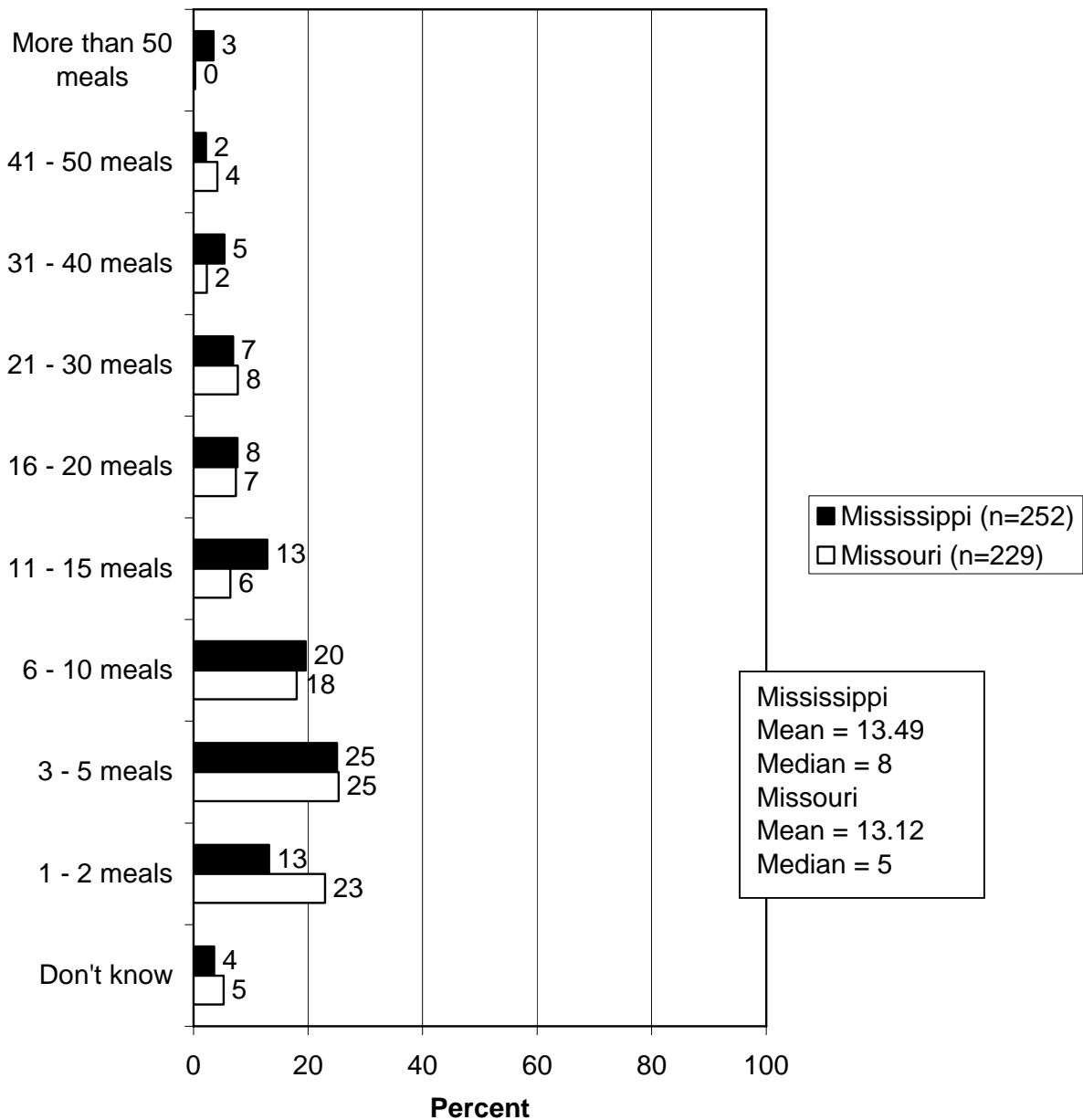
**Q166. How many meals do you typically eat of fish that you've caught in Iowa in a year? (Asked of those who have ever eaten or have had family members who have ever eaten the fish he/she caught.)**



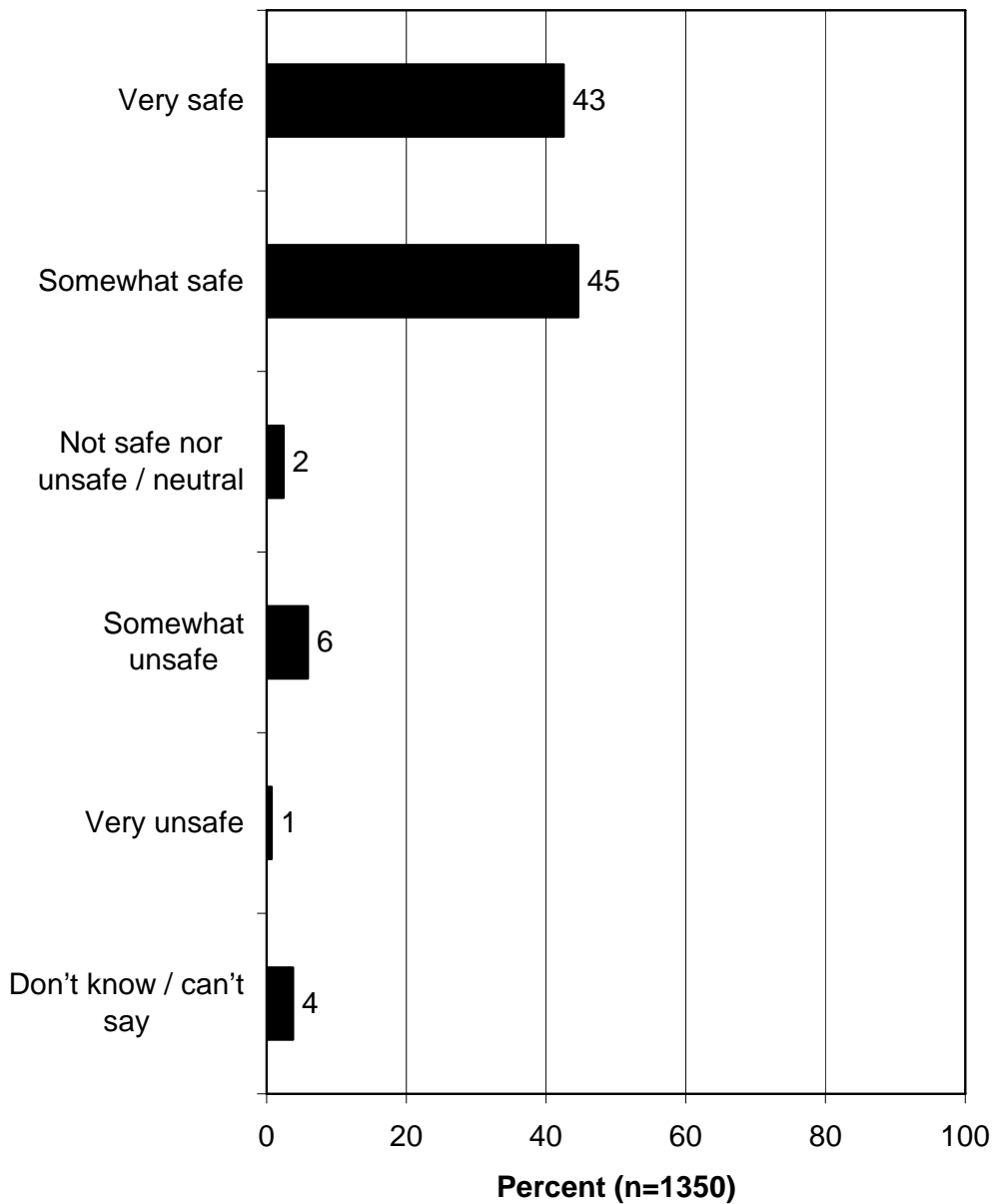
**Q163. Do you or your family members ever eat the fish you catch?**



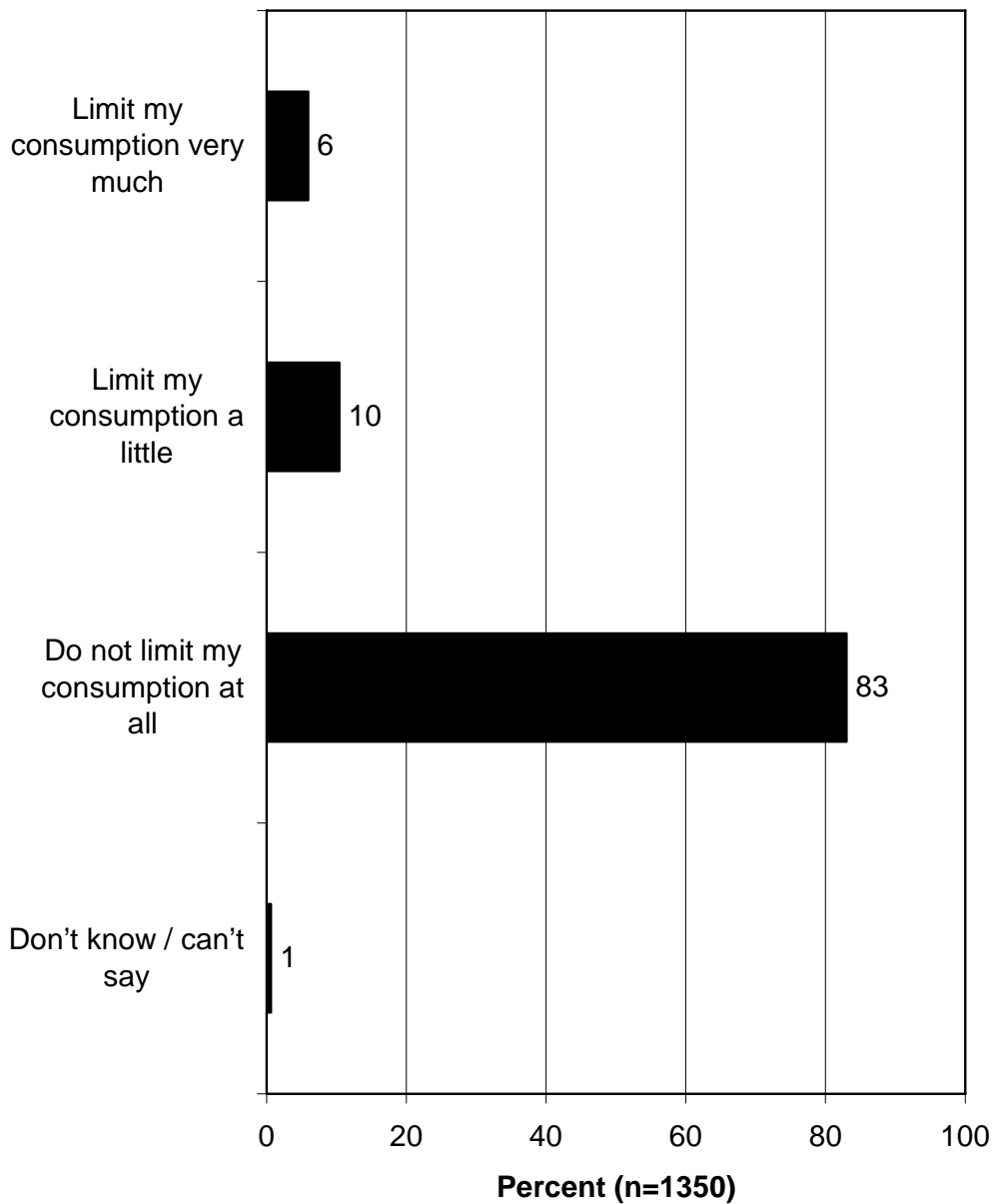
**Q166. How many meals do you typically eat of fish that you've caught in Iowa in a year? (Asked of those who have ever eaten or have had family members who have ever eaten the fish he/she caught.)**



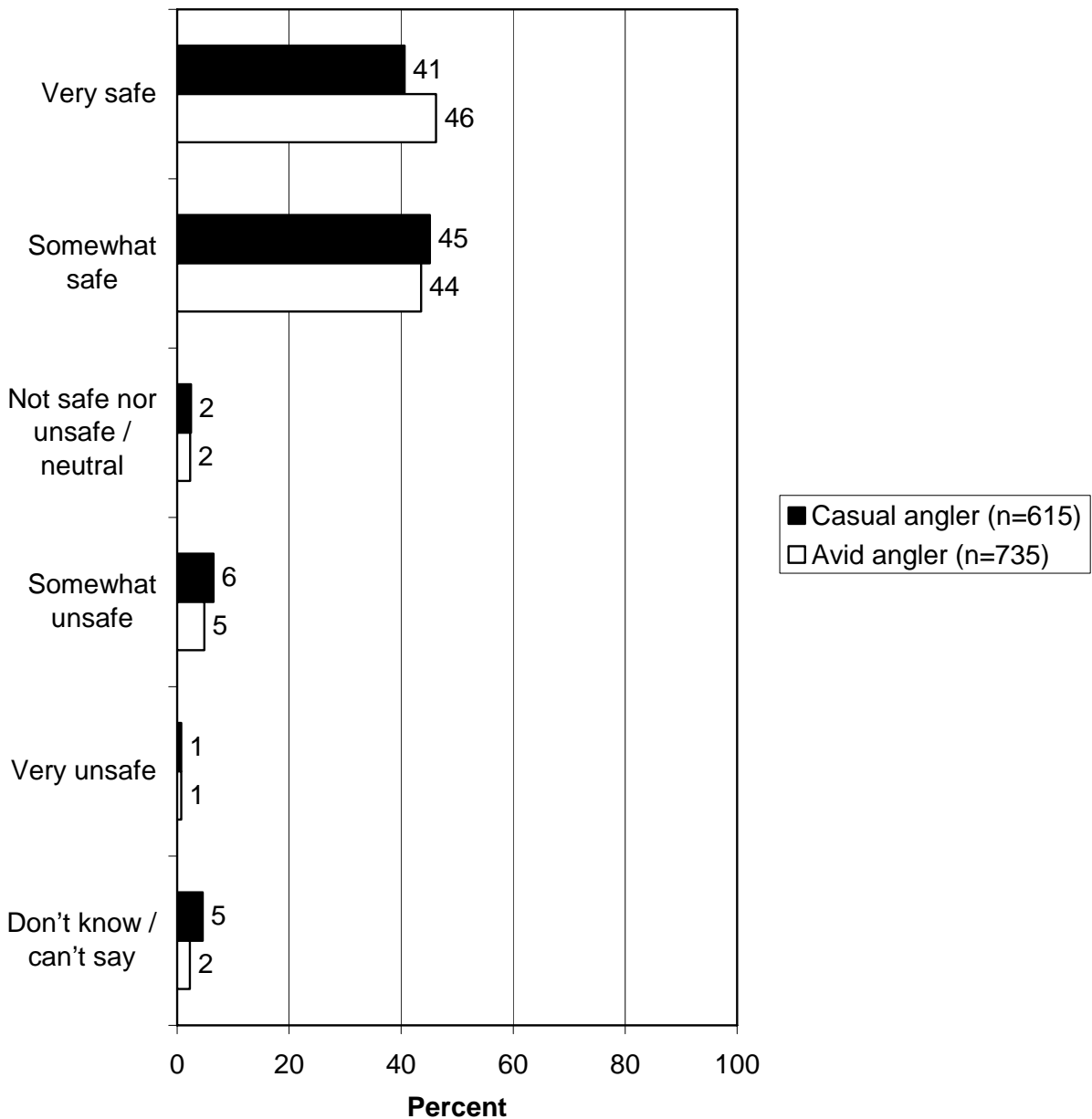
**Q168. How safe from contamination do you consider fish caught in Iowa to be for eating? (Asked of those who have ever eaten or have had family members who have ever eaten the fish he/she caught.)**



**Q167. Do you limit your consumption of fish that you catch in Iowa because of concerns about the safety of eating fish caught in Iowa? (Asked of those who have ever eaten or have had family members who have ever eaten the fish he/she caught.)**

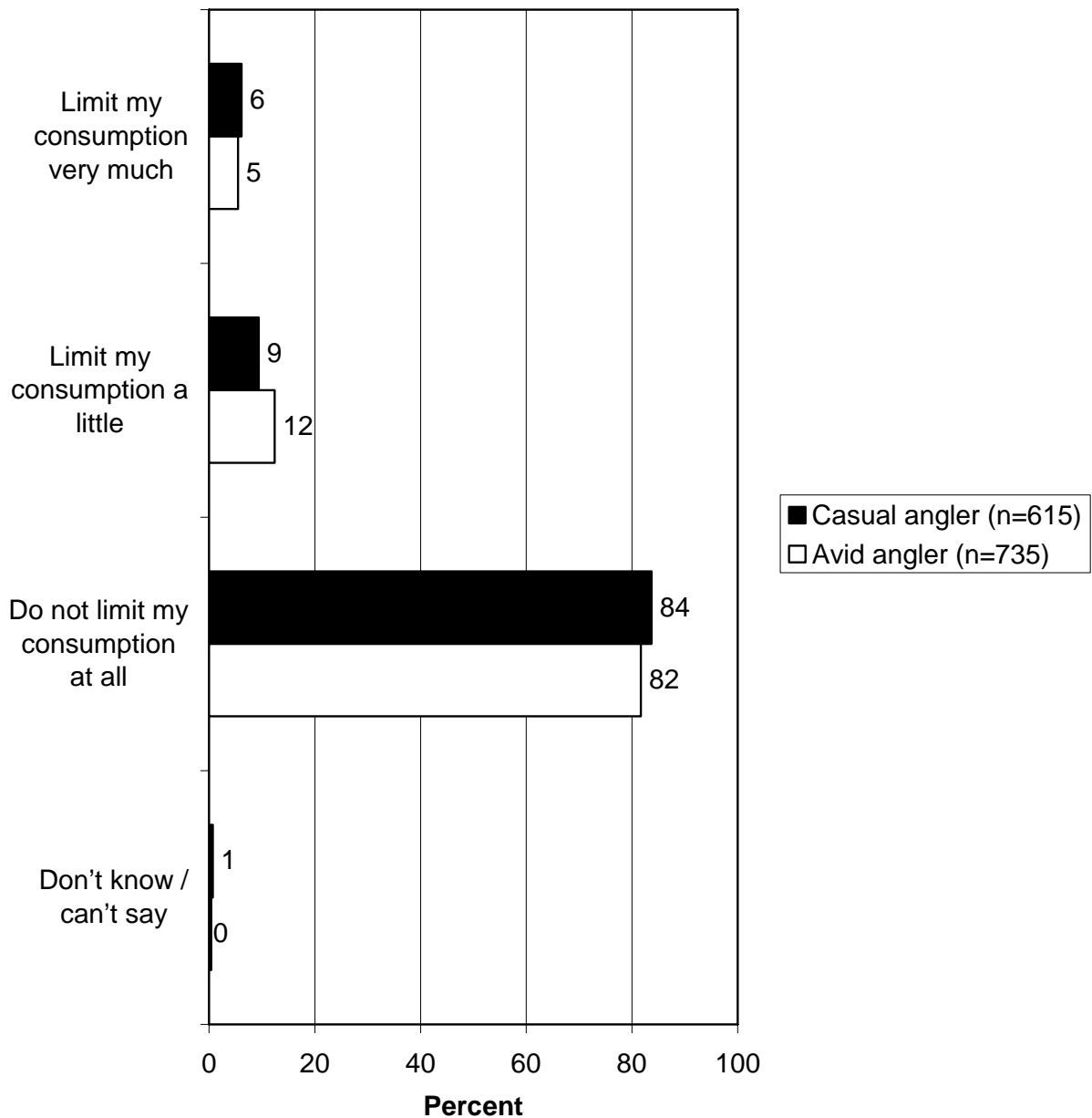


**Q168. How safe from contamination do you consider fish caught in Iowa to be for eating?  
(Asked of those who have ever eaten or have had family members who have ever eaten the fish he/she caught.)**

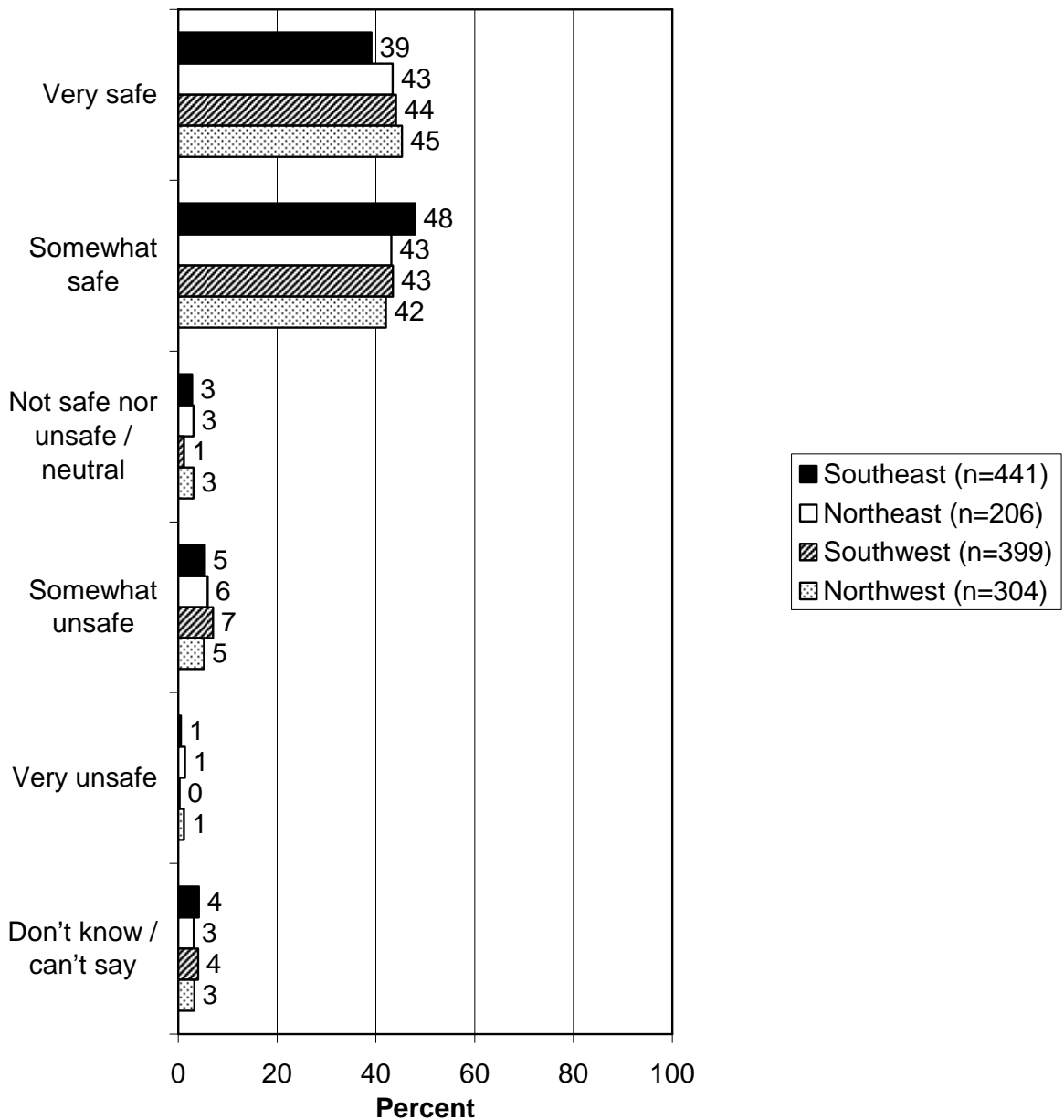




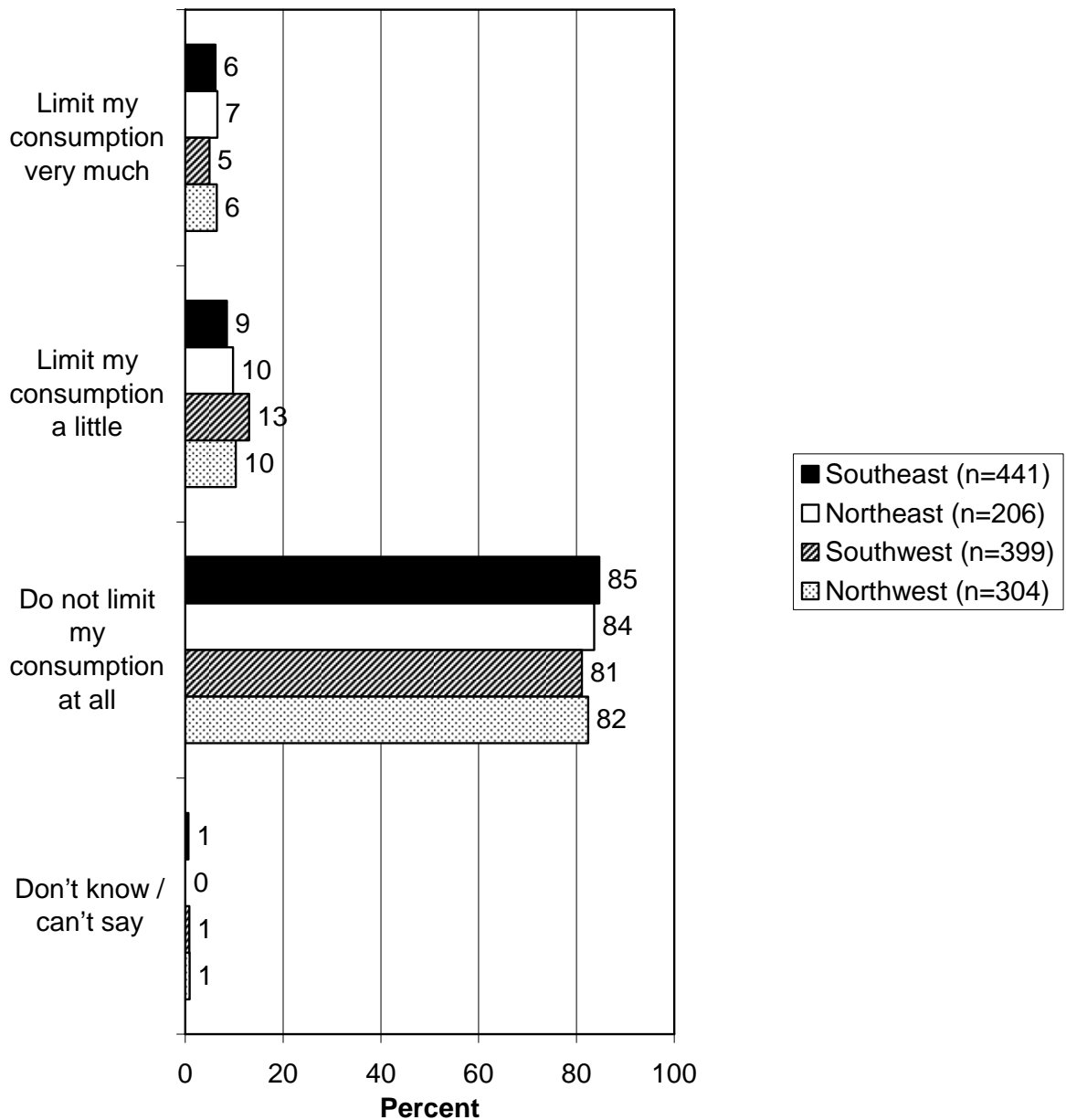
**Q167. Do you limit your consumption of fish that you catch in Iowa because of concerns about the safety of eating fish caught in Iowa? (Asked of those who have ever eaten or have had family members who have ever eaten the fish he/she caught.)**



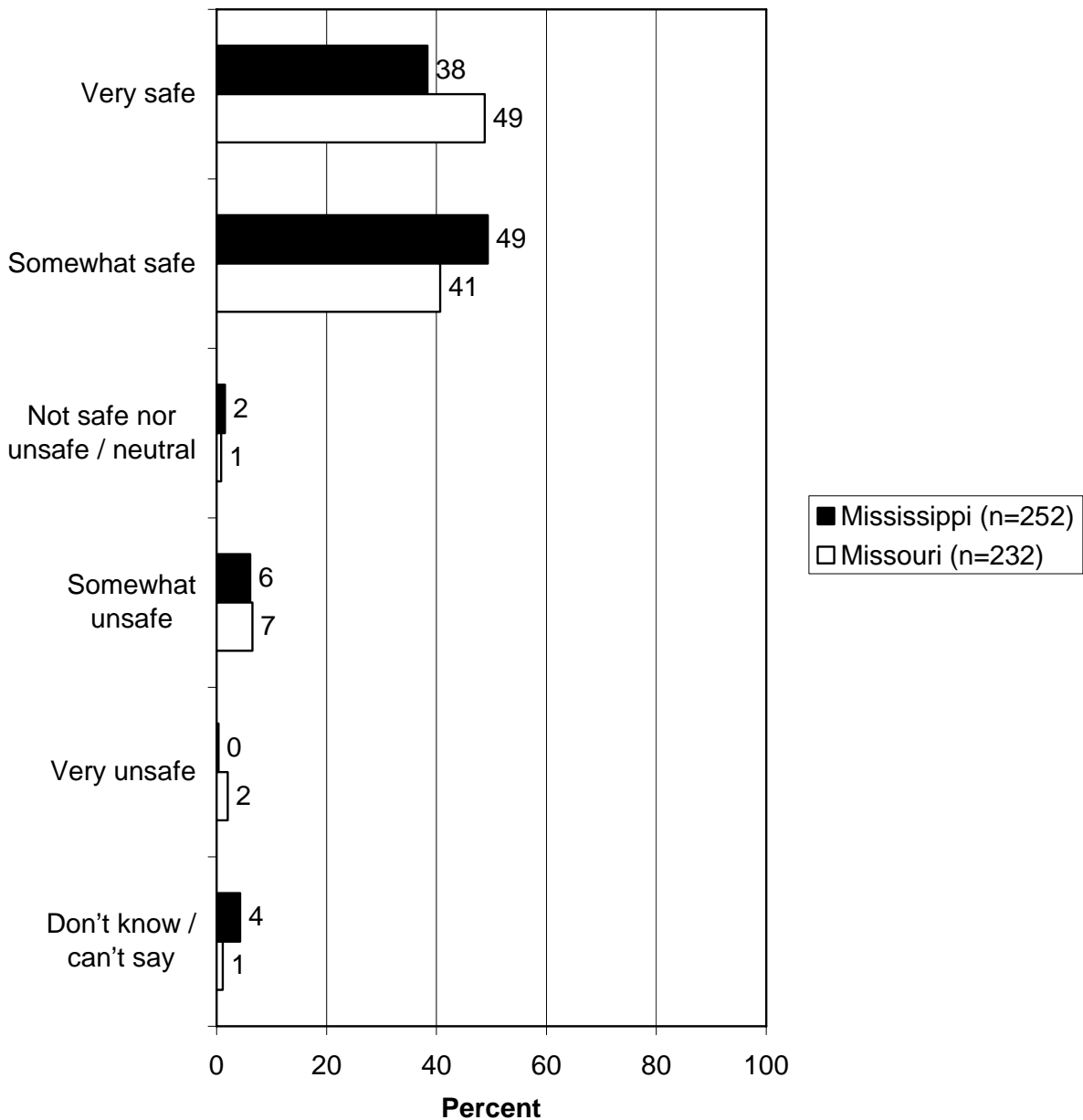
**Q168. How safe from contamination do you consider fish caught in Iowa to be for eating?  
(Asked of those who have ever eaten or have had family members who have ever eaten the fish he/she caught.)**



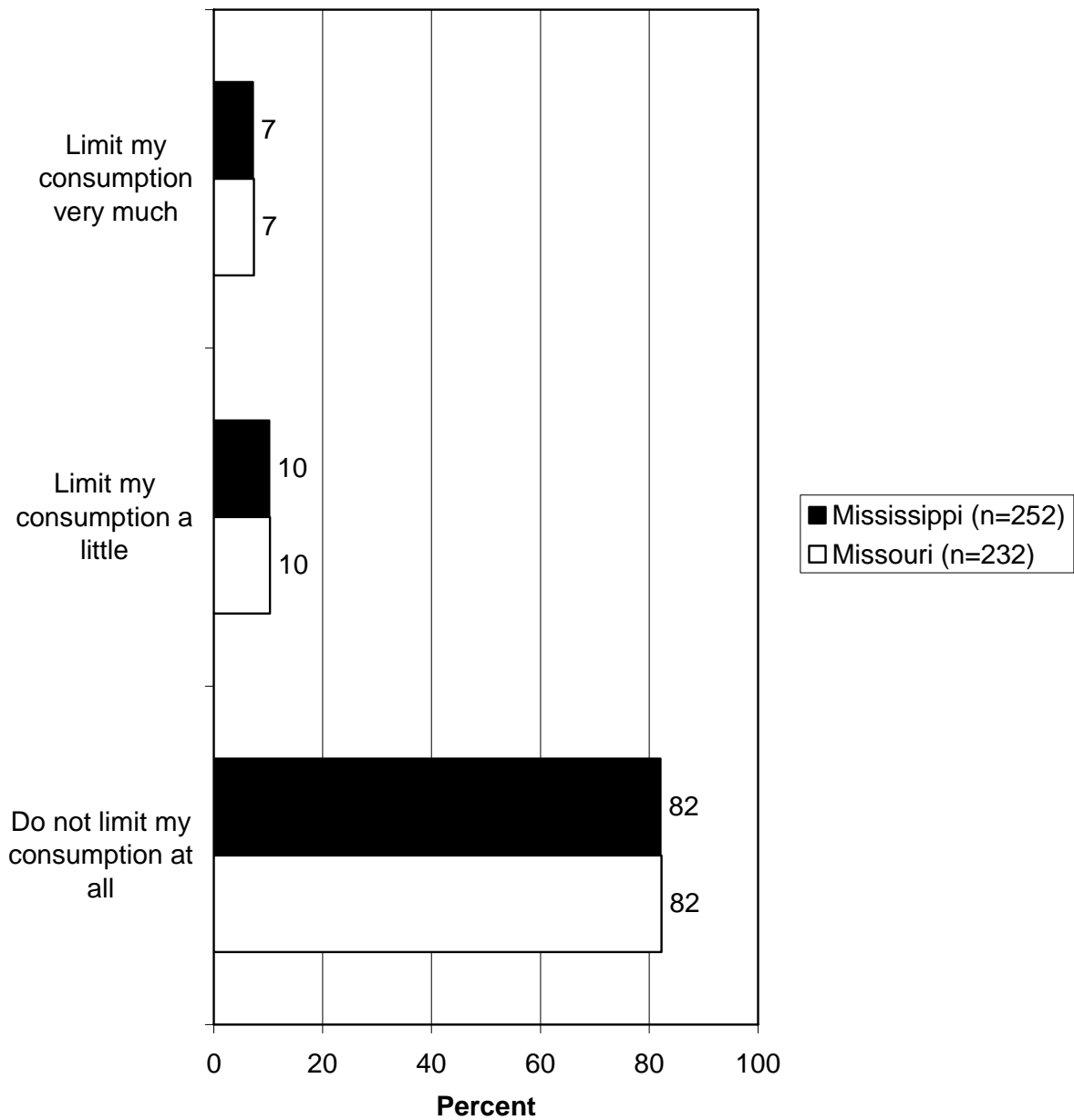
**Q167. Do you limit your consumption of fish that you catch in Iowa because of concerns about the safety of eating fish caught in Iowa? (Asked of those who have ever eaten or have had family members who have ever eaten the fish he/she caught.)**



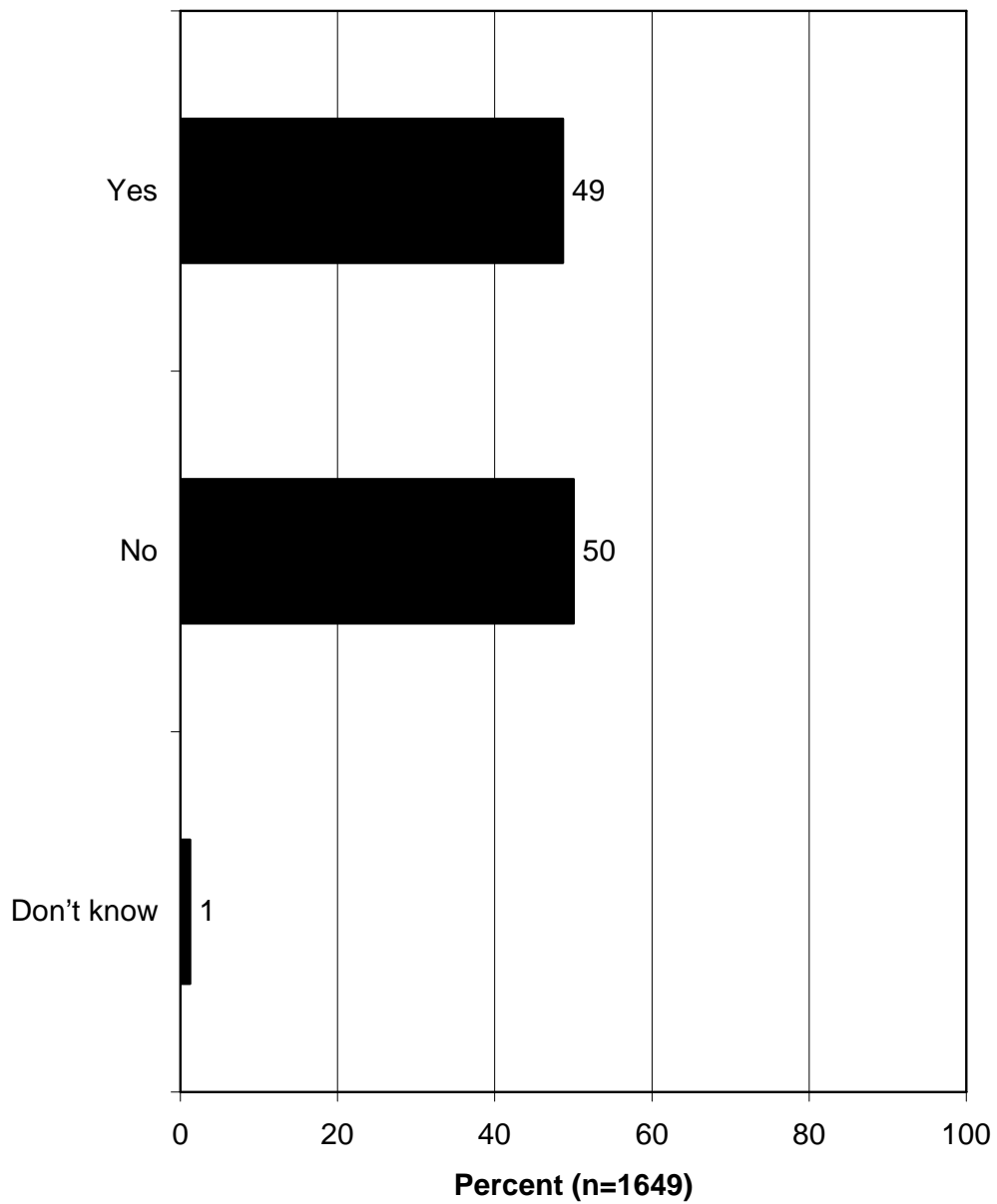
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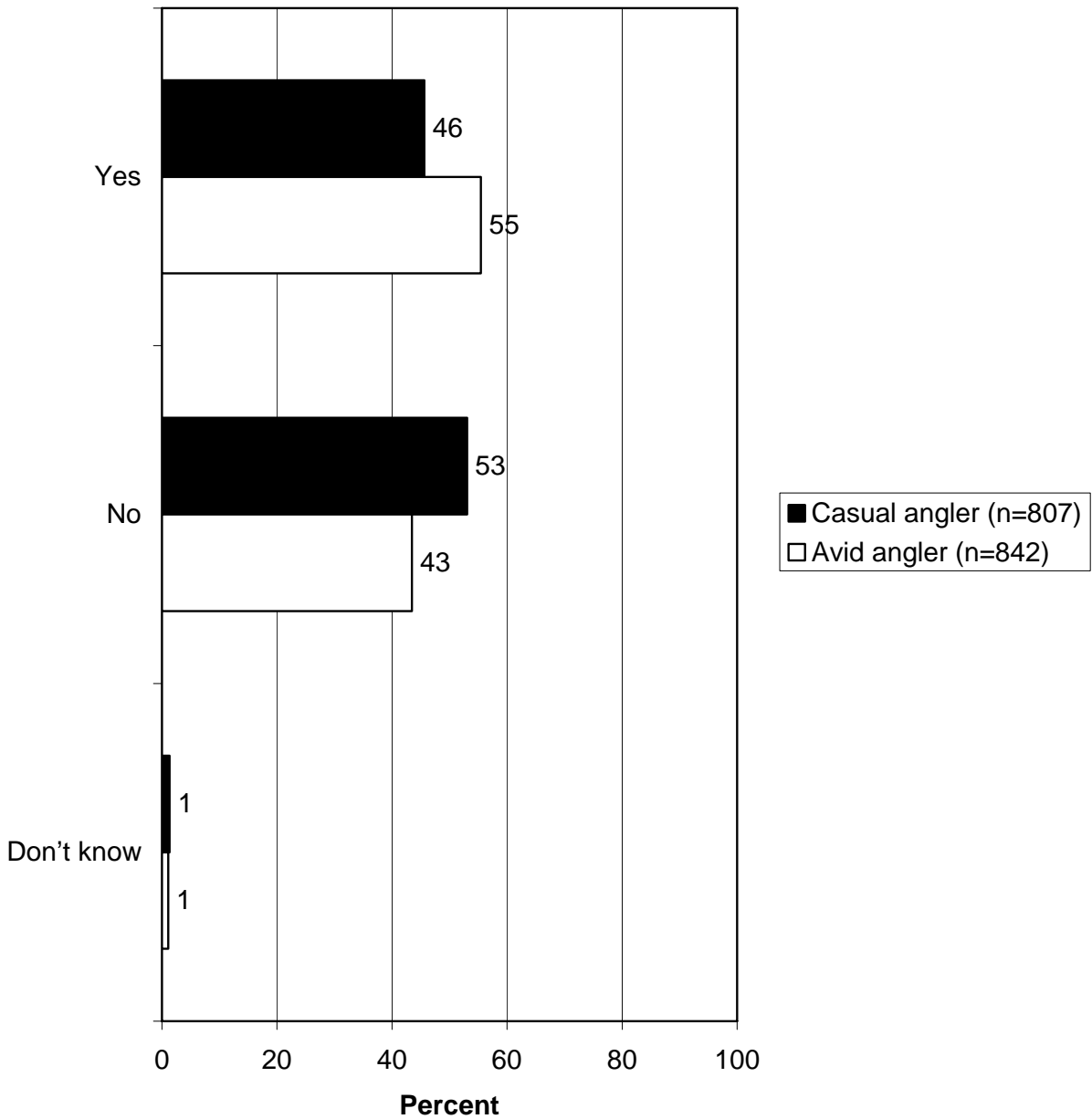
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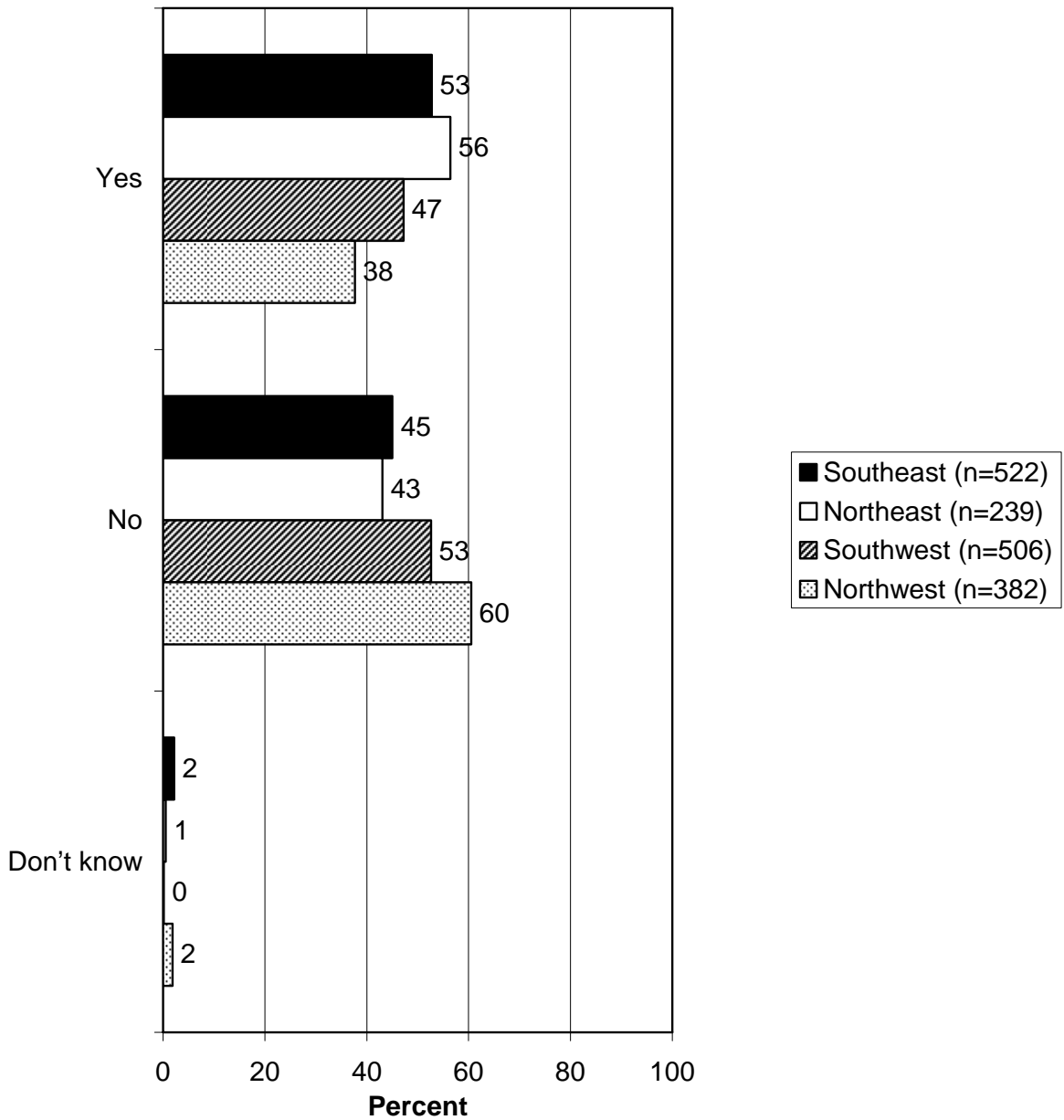
**Q169. Have you ever been aware of any advisories about eating fish from Iowa waters?**



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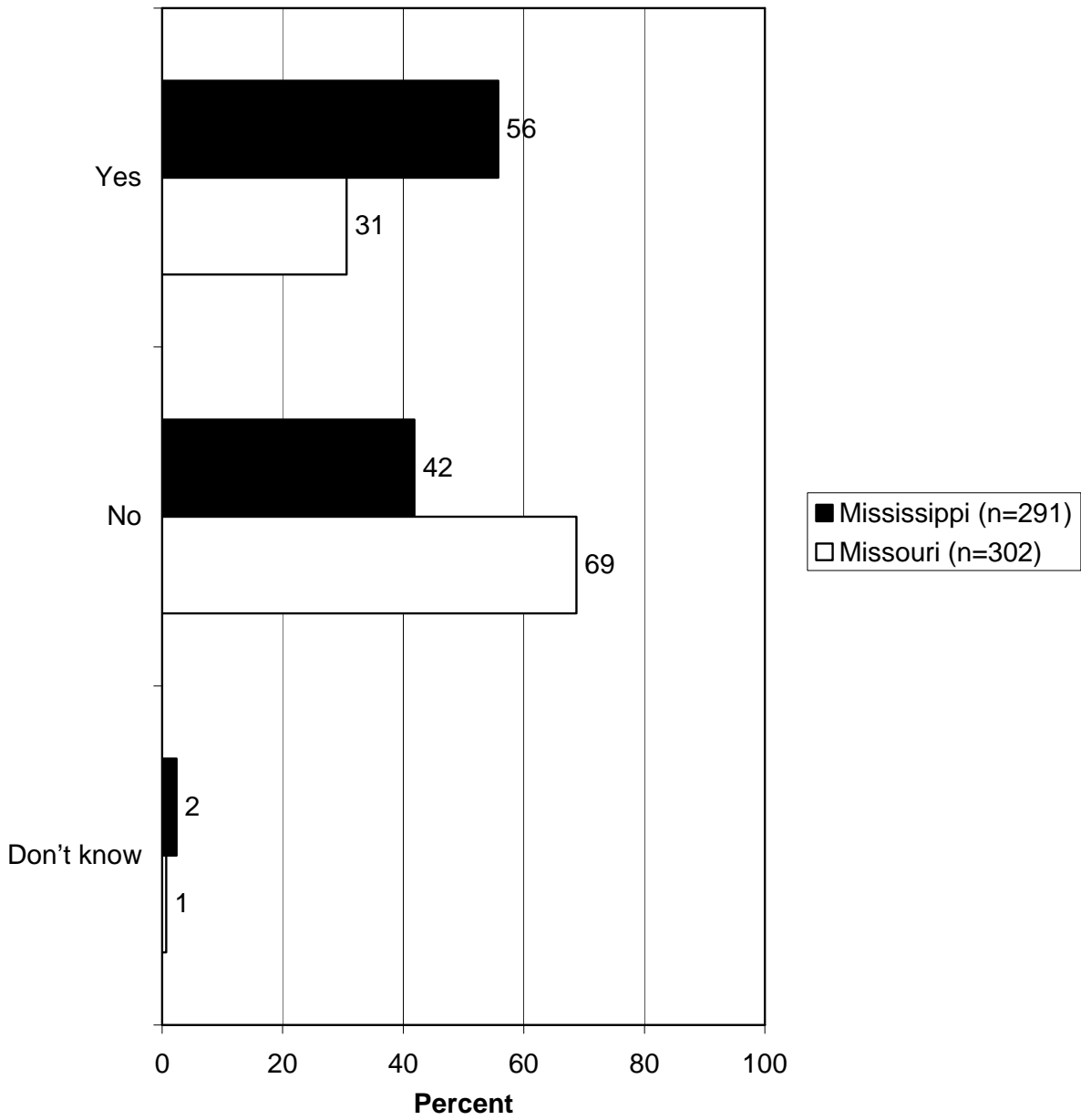


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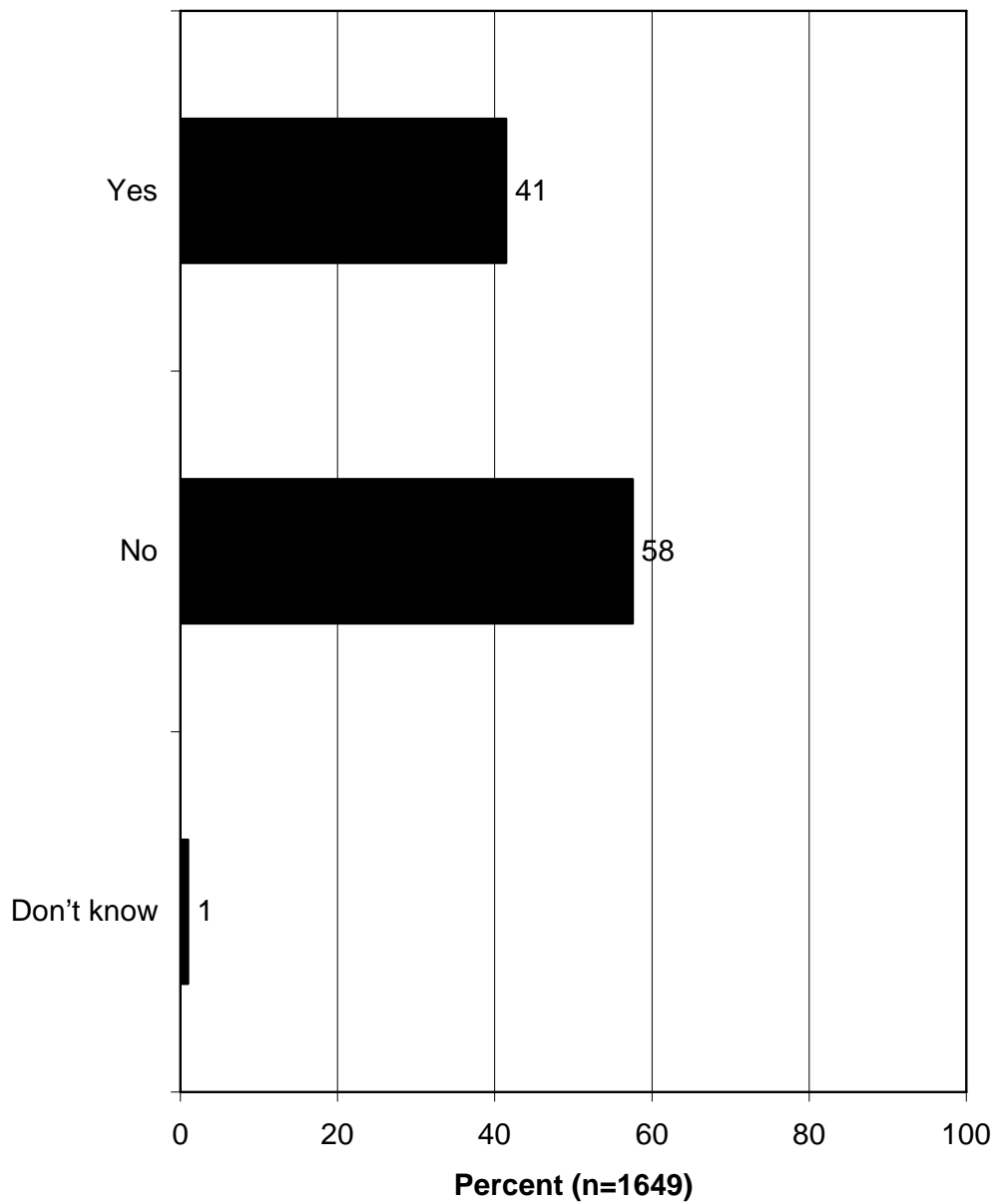


## SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT FISHING IN IOWA

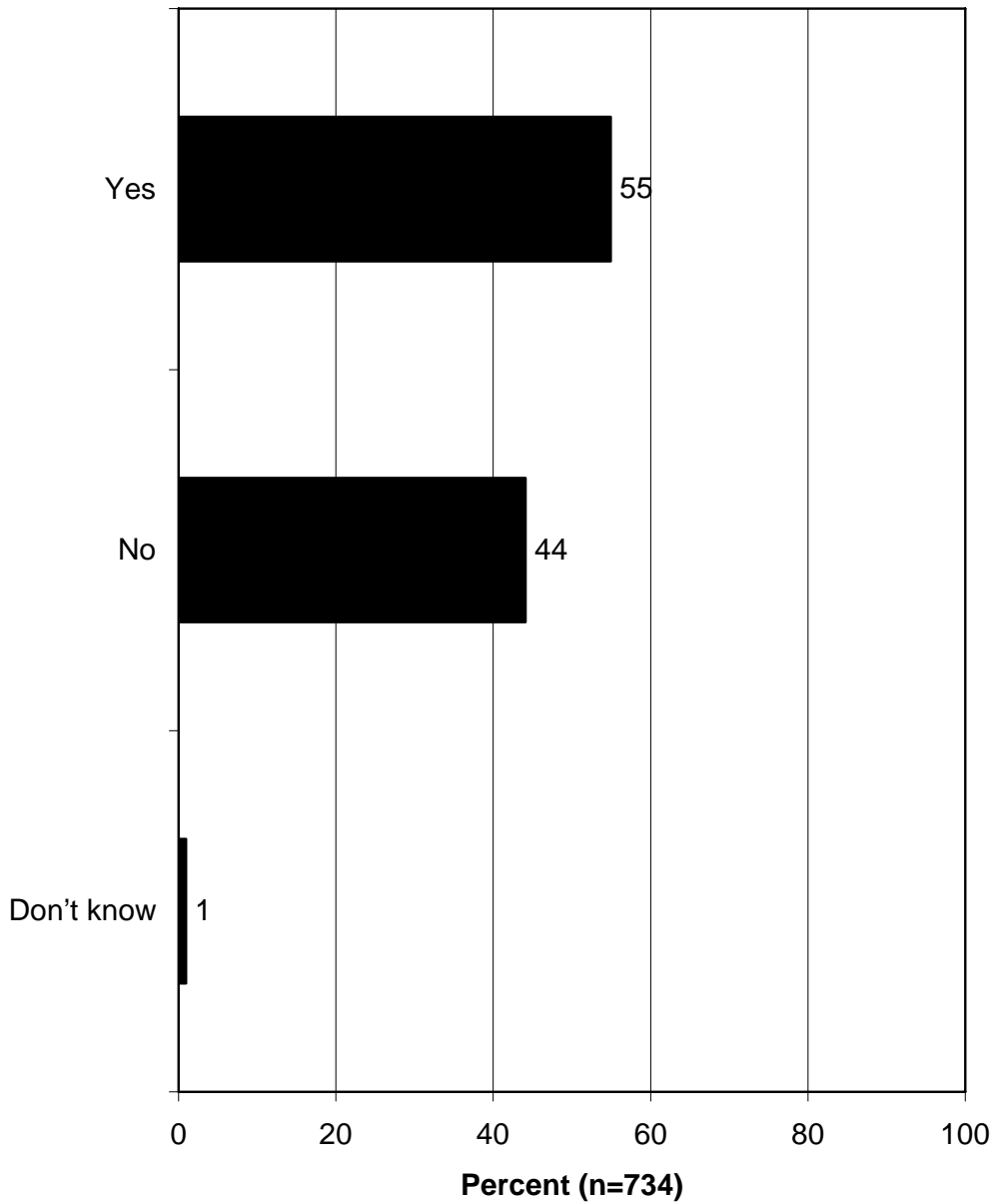
- When asked directly about whether they had ever visited the IDNR's website, 41% of Iowa anglers indicated that they had visited the site. Just more than half of those respondents visited the site for a fishing-related reason.
  - The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler found that avid anglers are more likely to have visited the website, and they are more likely to have done so for a fishing-related reason.
  - The regional crosstabulation found that Southwest Region anglers are the most likely to have visited the IDNR website, and Northwest Region anglers are the least likely. The regional crosstabulation results regarding whether the visit to the website was for something related to fishing is shown, as well.
  - The data analysis by river region found no marked differences in website visiting between anglers overall and anglers from the river regions.
  - Commonly sought information includes fishing locations and regulations (the two answers markedly higher than the others), as well as the site's fishing reports, license information, fishing survey reports, and stocking reports.
  - Relative to casual anglers, avid anglers were more likely to have sought fishing reports on the website.
  - The results of the regional crosstabulation indicate that Northwest Region anglers, relative to other anglers, more often sought information about the regulations. Also, eastern anglers more often sought stocking reports than did western anglers, and western anglers more often sought fishing reports than did eastern anglers.
  - Missouri River Region anglers more often sought information on fishing locations and hotspots than did anglers overall. This is the most marked difference between anglers overall and the river region anglers.
  - About 1 in 10 of those going to the site for a fishing-related reason bought a license on-line.
  - Avid and casual anglers are about the same regarding their purpose for going to the site.
  - Northeast Region and Southwest Region anglers slightly more often bought a fishing license on-line, relative to the other regions' anglers.

- The data analysis by river region found no marked differences between anglers overall and anglers from either river region on this question.
- Other common sources of information among all anglers include word-of-mouth (34%), IDNR publications (21%), the IDNR website (15%), other publications (12%), magazines not otherwise listed (12%), *Iowa Game & Fish* magazine (10%), newspapers (10%), and *Iowa Outdoors* magazine (8%).
- The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler found that casual anglers more often get information by word-of-mouth relative to avid anglers. On the other hand, avid anglers more often get information from the IDNR website and IDNR publications.
- The regional crosstabulation shows no marked differences among the regions on this question.
- It appears that the river region anglers get information from word-of-mouth more often than do anglers overall. There is little difference between the two river regions.

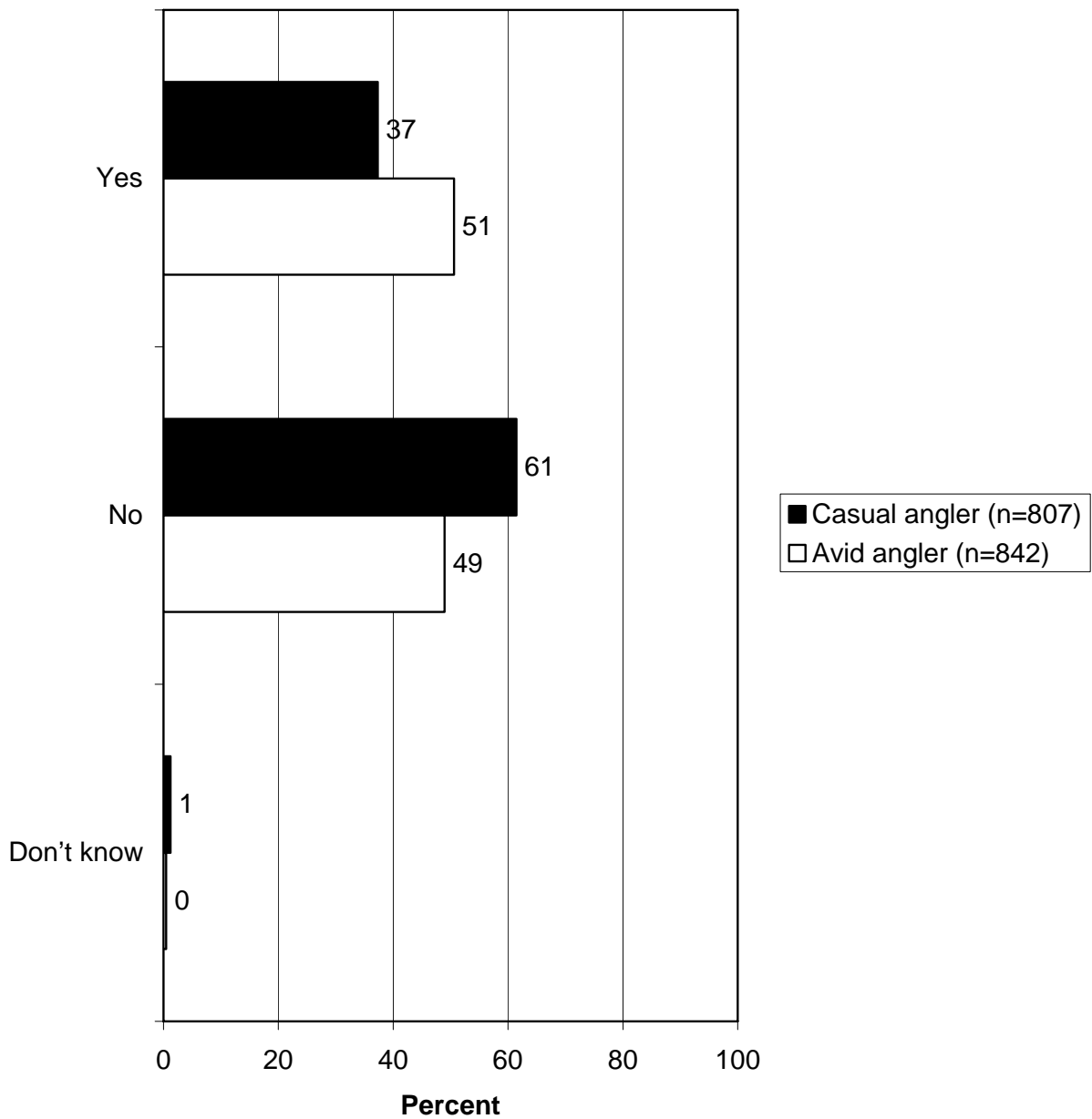
**Q188. Have you ever visited the website of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources?**



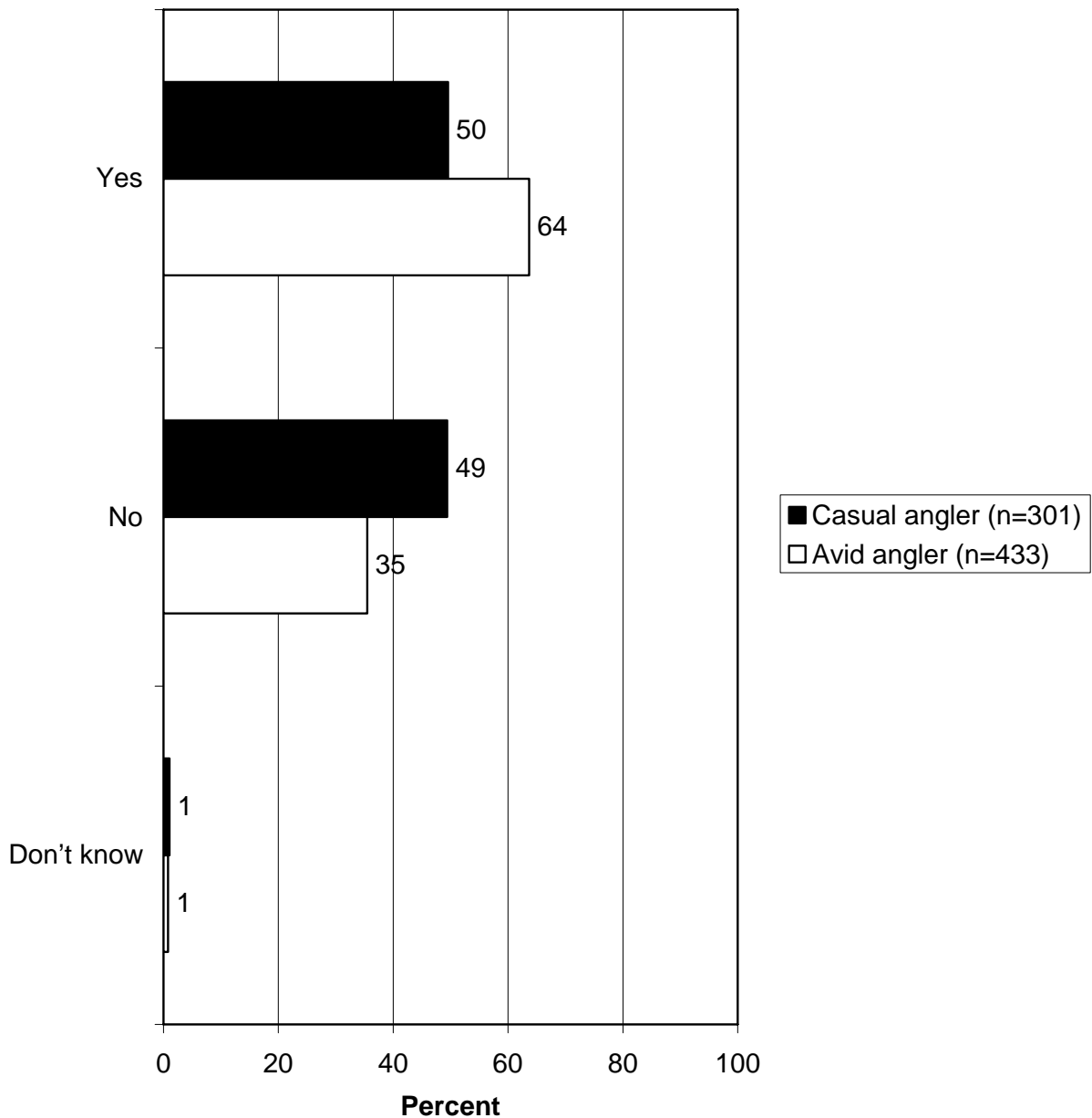
**Q189. Did you visit the site for something related to fishing? (Asked of those who have ever visited the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' website.)**



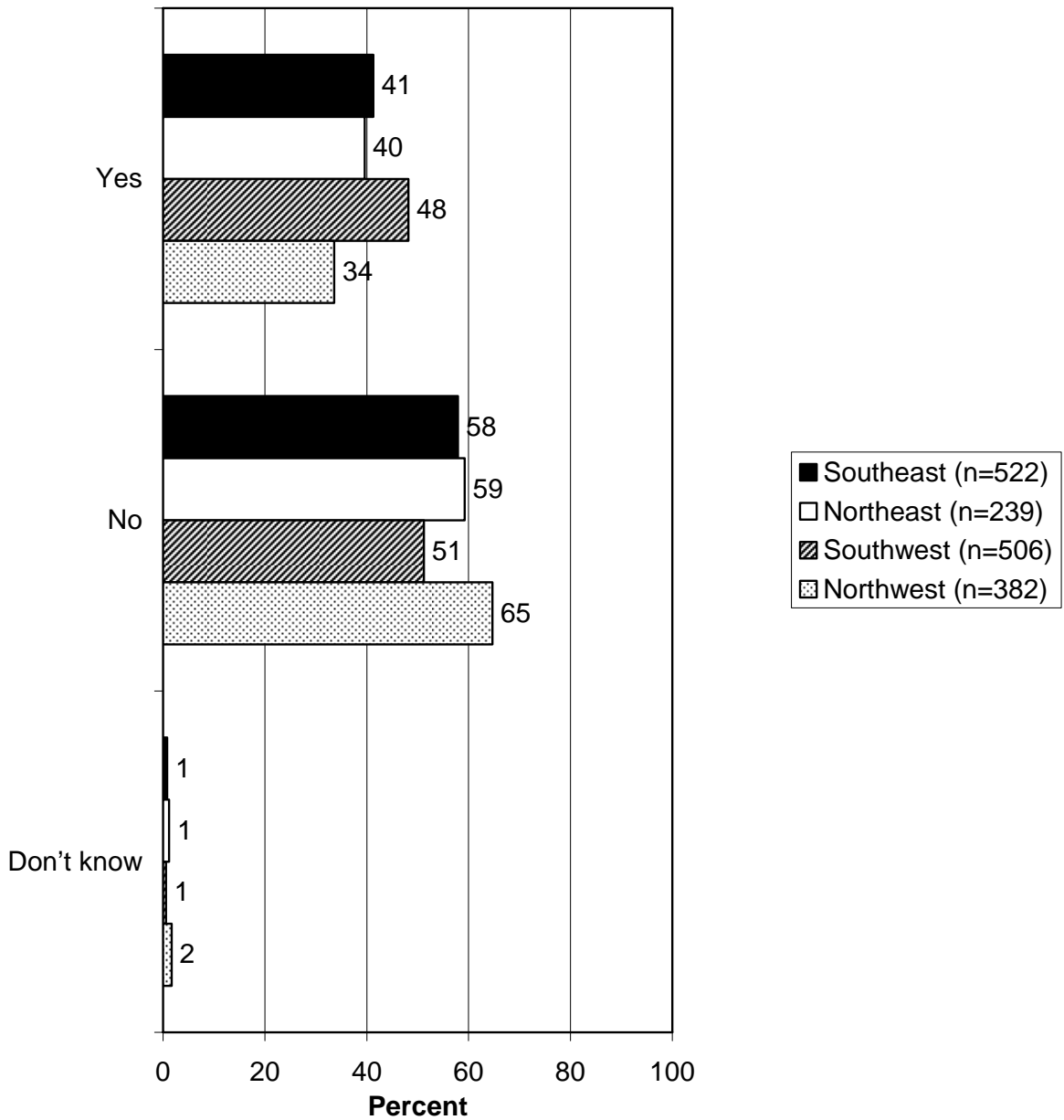
### Q188. Have you ever visited the website of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources?



**Q189. Did you visit the site for something related to fishing? (Asked of those who have ever visited the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' website.)**

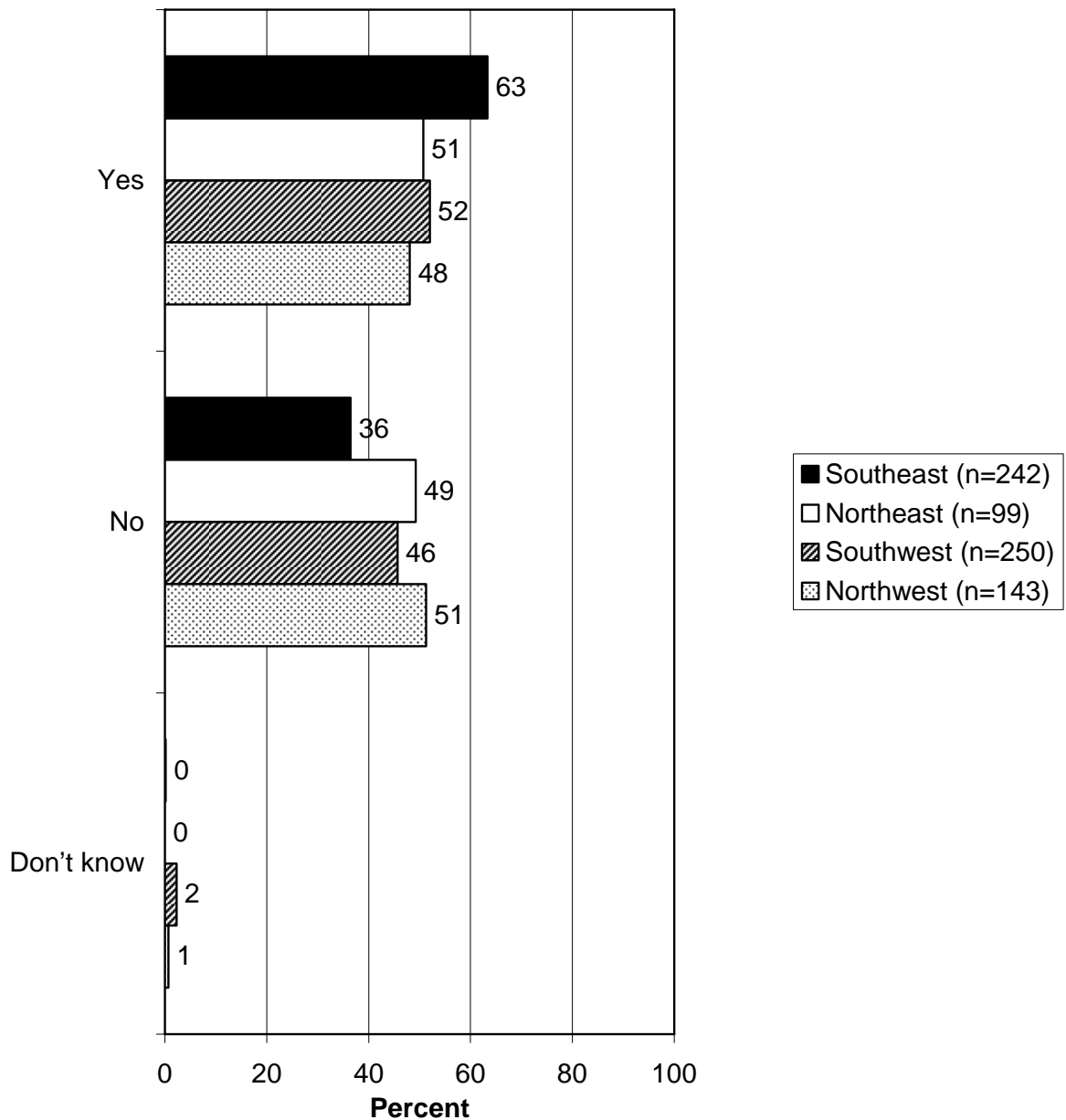


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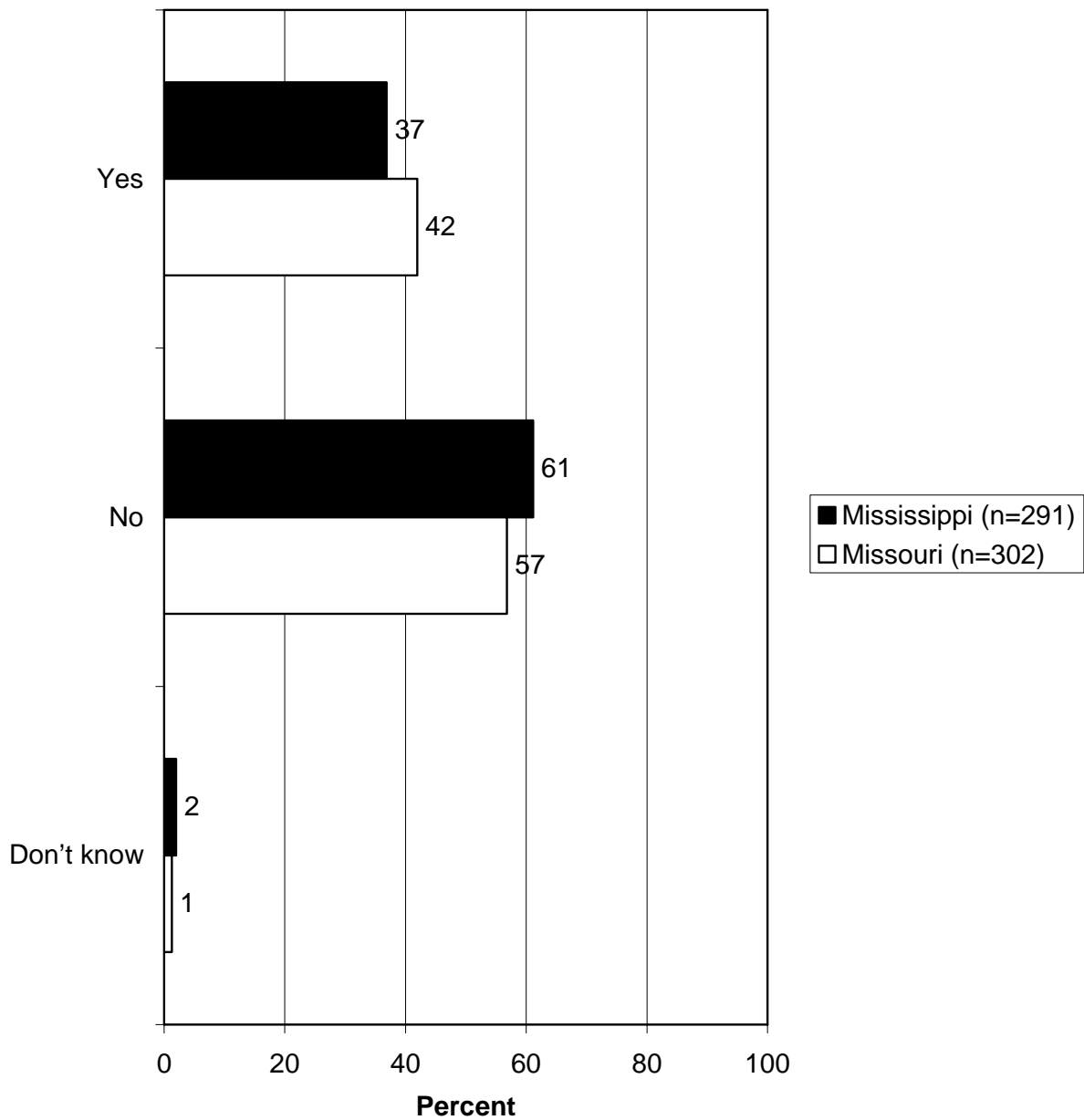




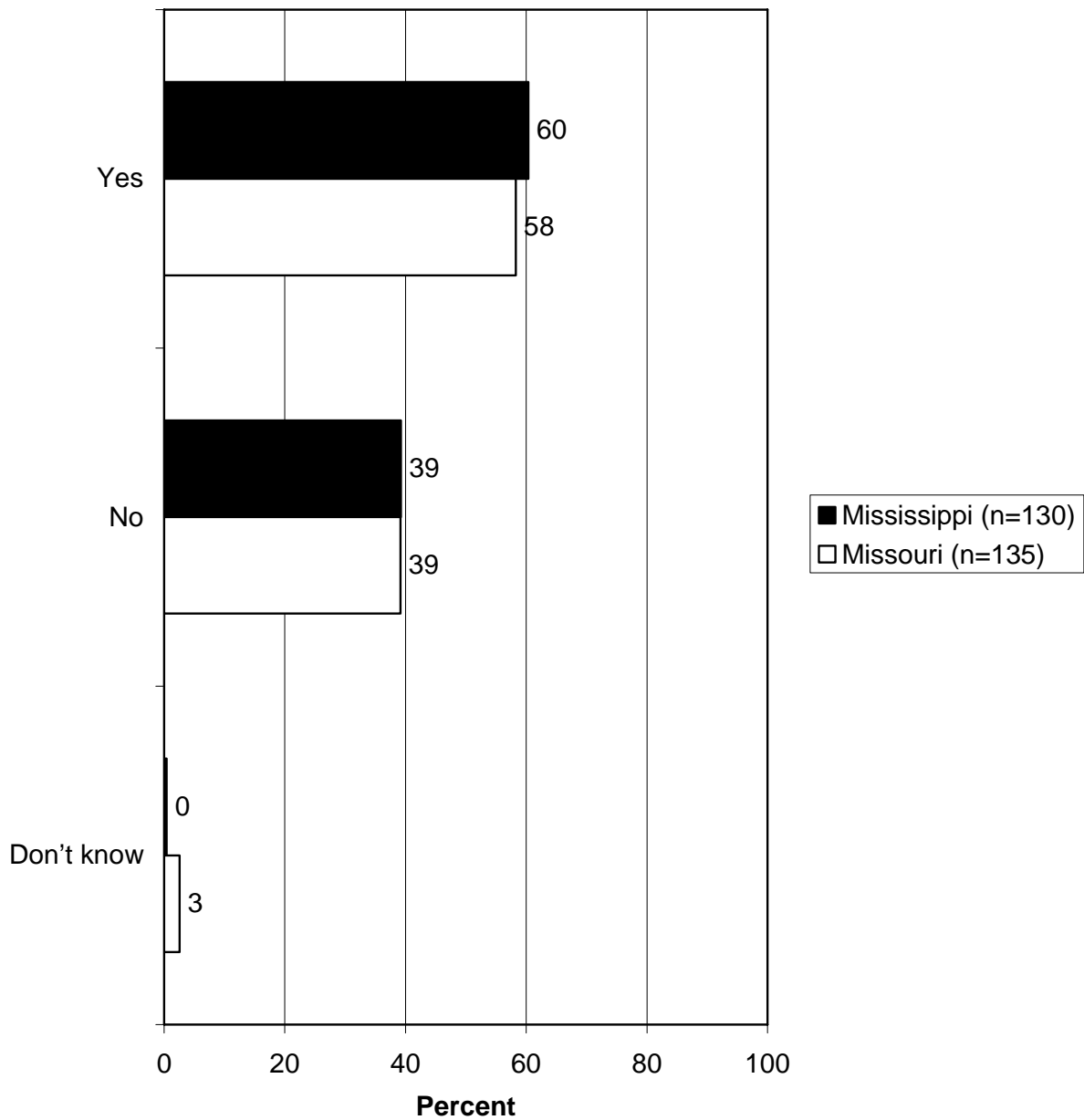
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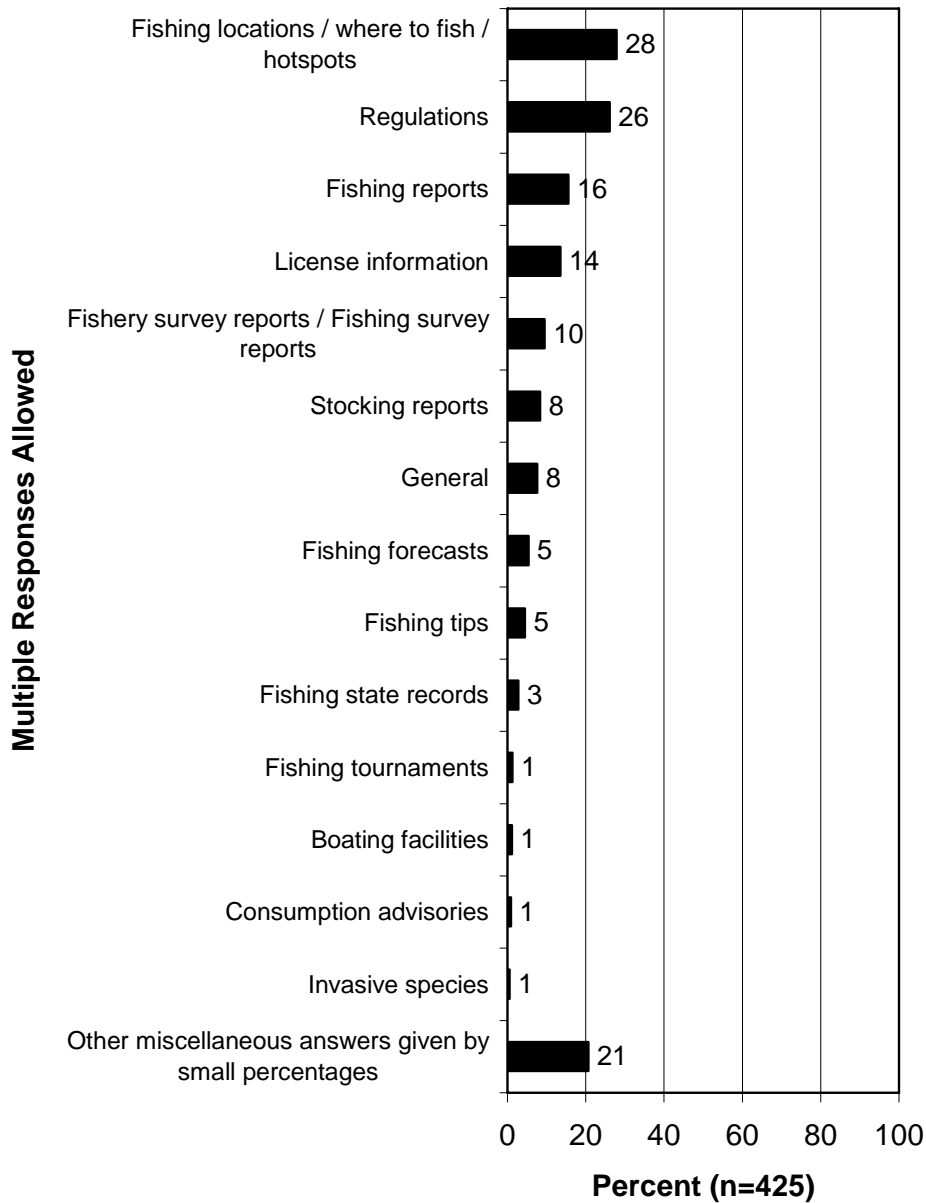
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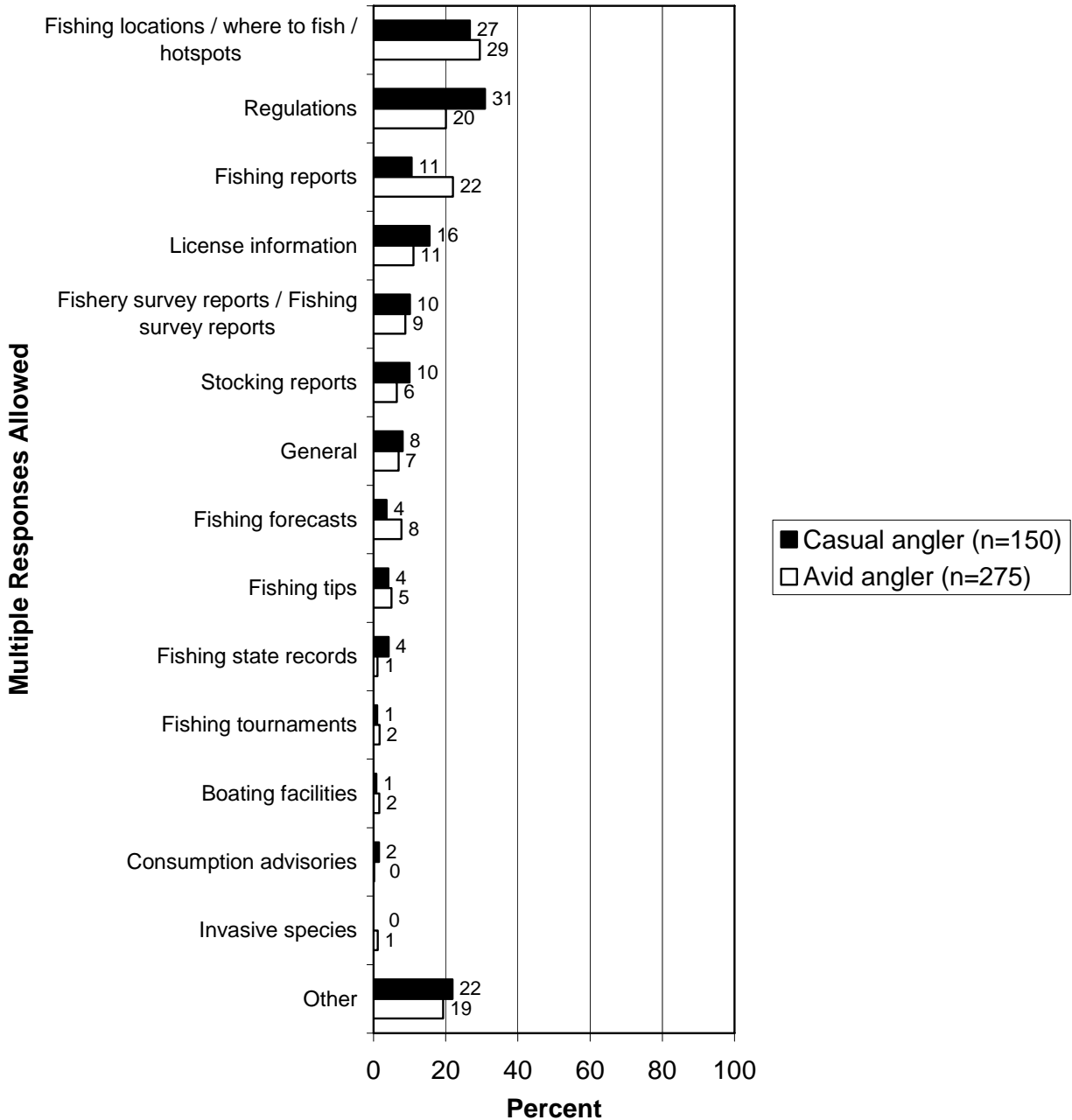
**Q189. Did you visit the site for something related to fishing? (Asked of those who have ever visited the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' website.)**



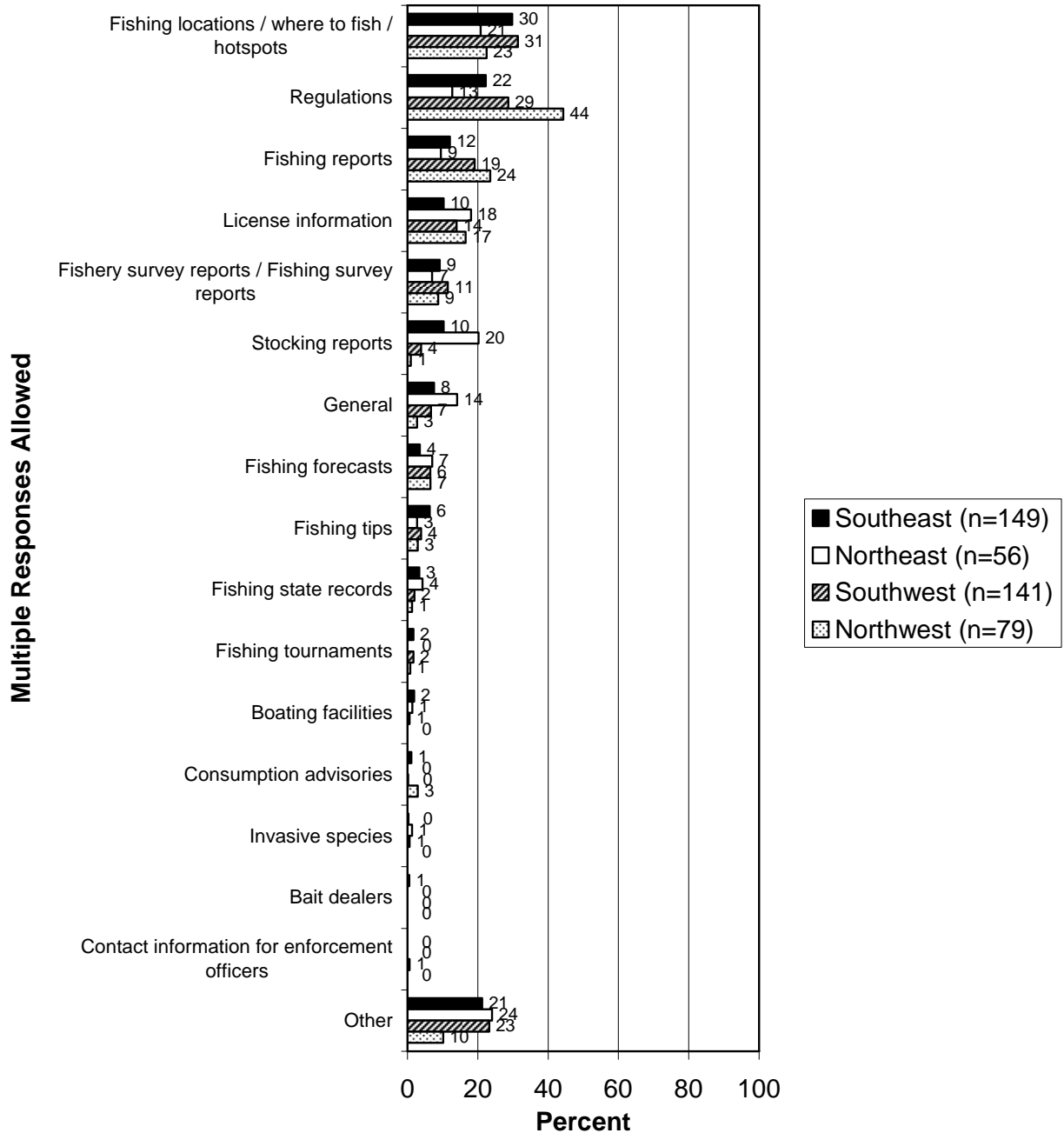
**Q195. What information were you trying to get?  
(Asked of those who have ever visited the Iowa  
Department of Natural Resources' website for  
something related to fishing.)**



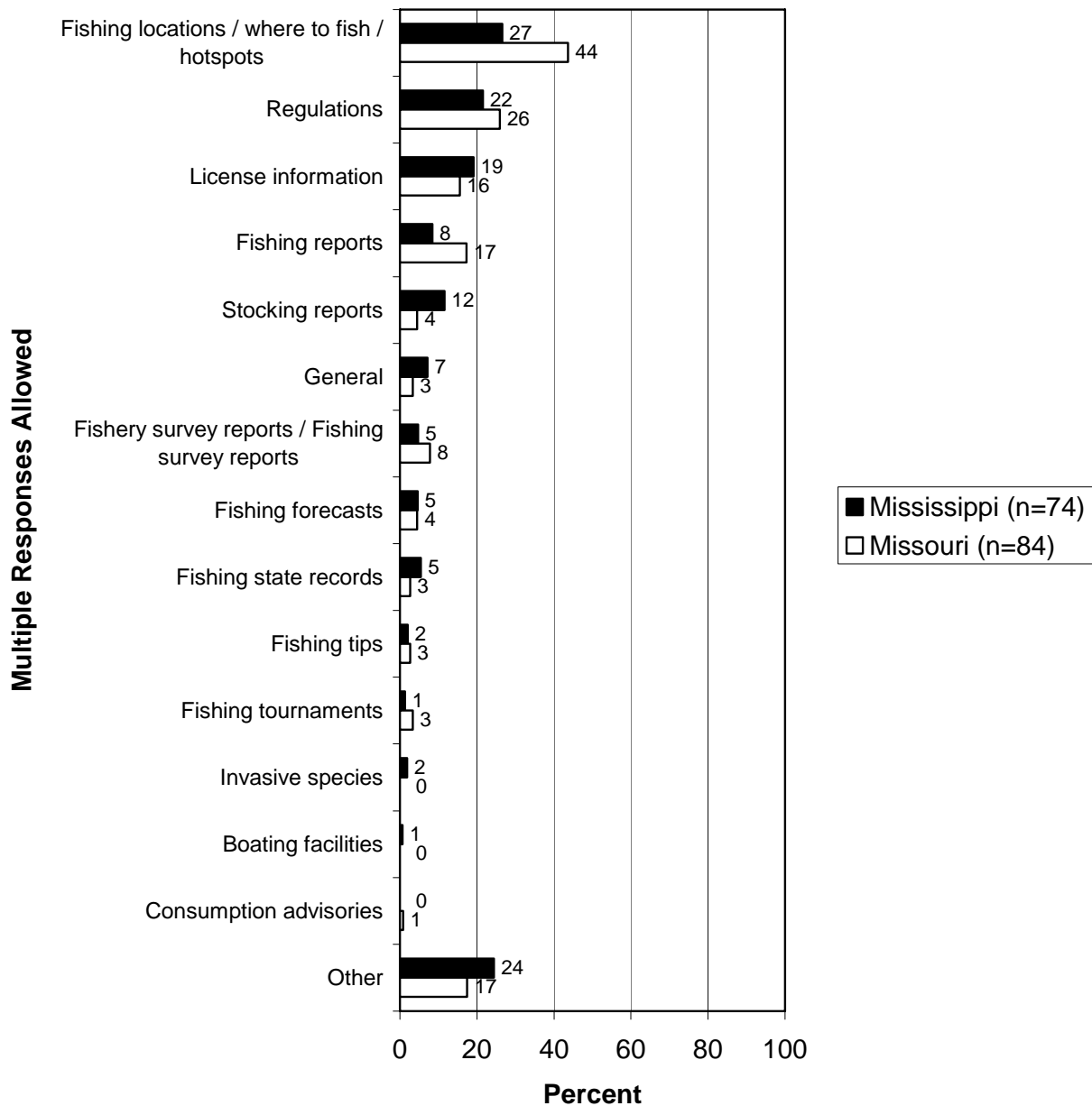
**Q195. What information were you trying to get?  
(Asked of those who have ever visited the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' website for something related to fishing.)**



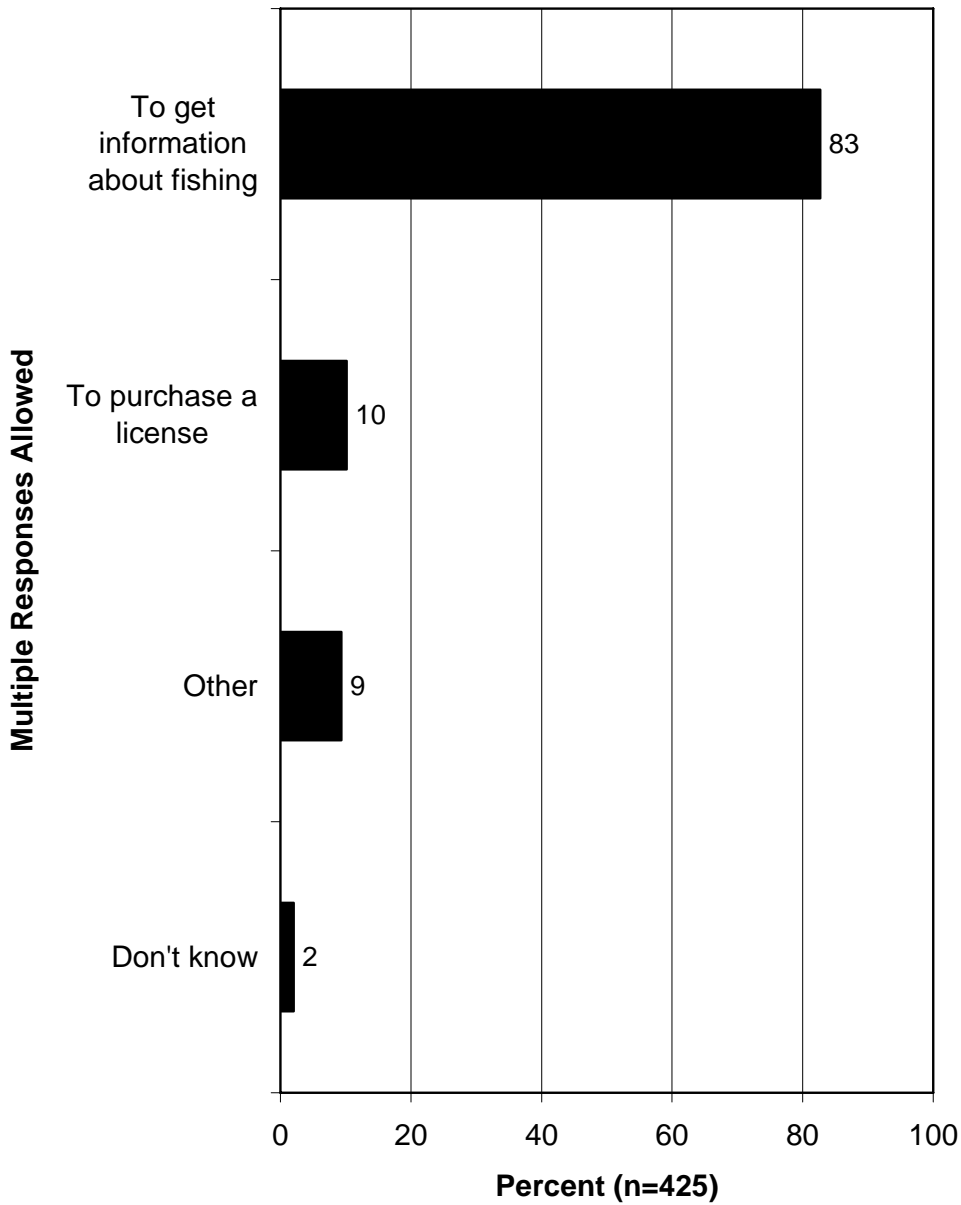
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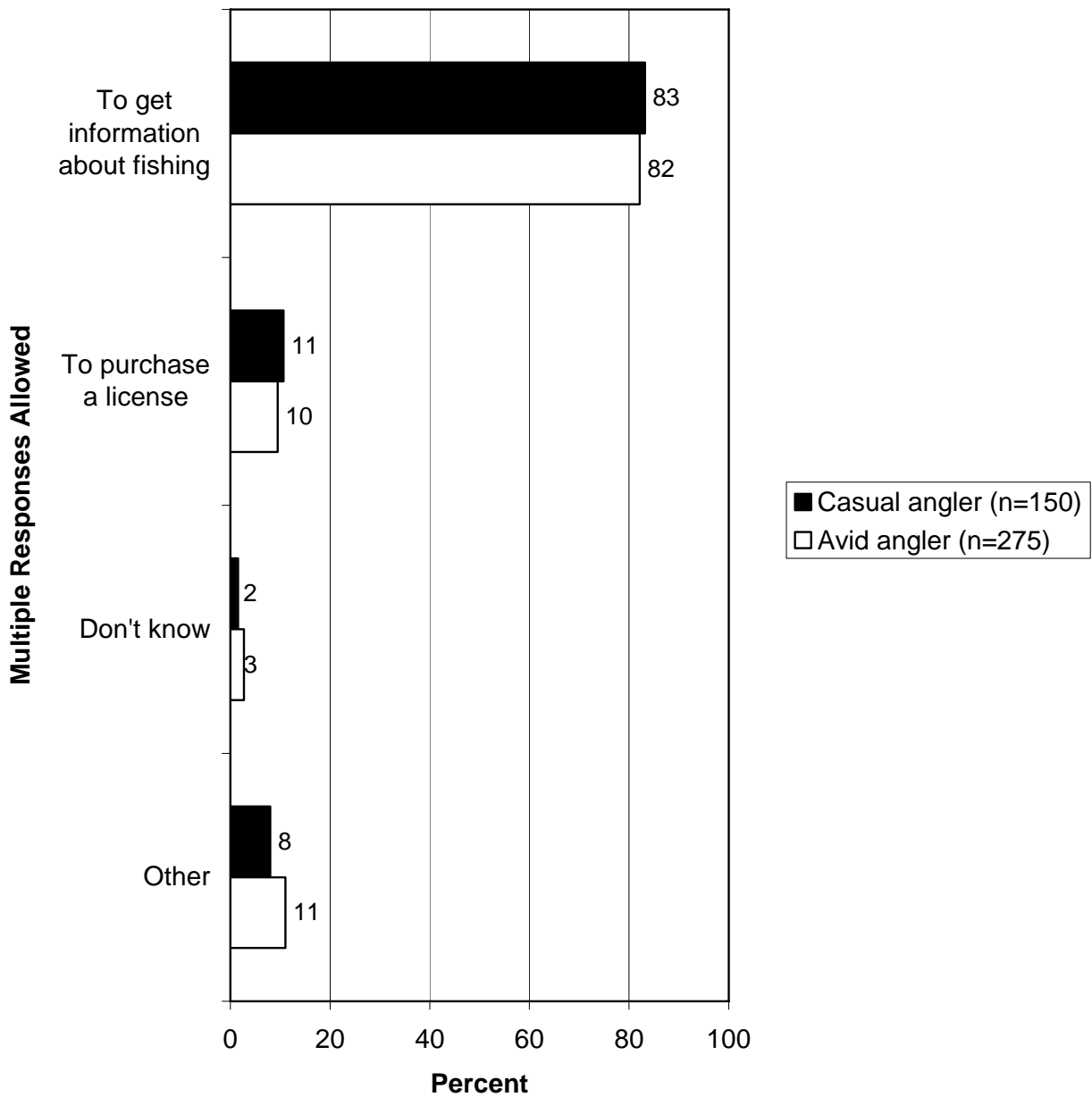


**Q192. Why did you visit the site? (Asked of those who have ever visited the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' website for something related to fishing.)**

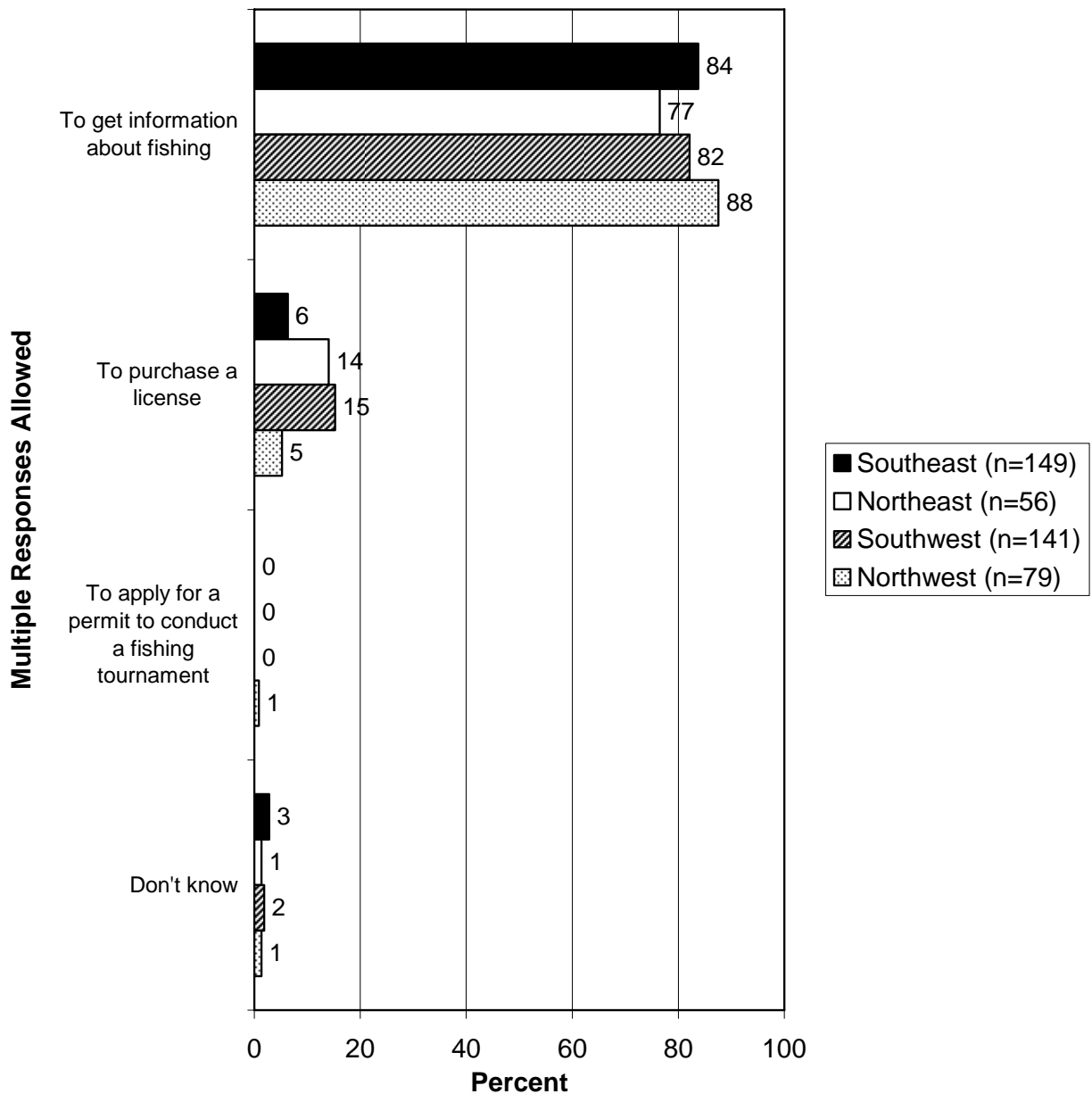




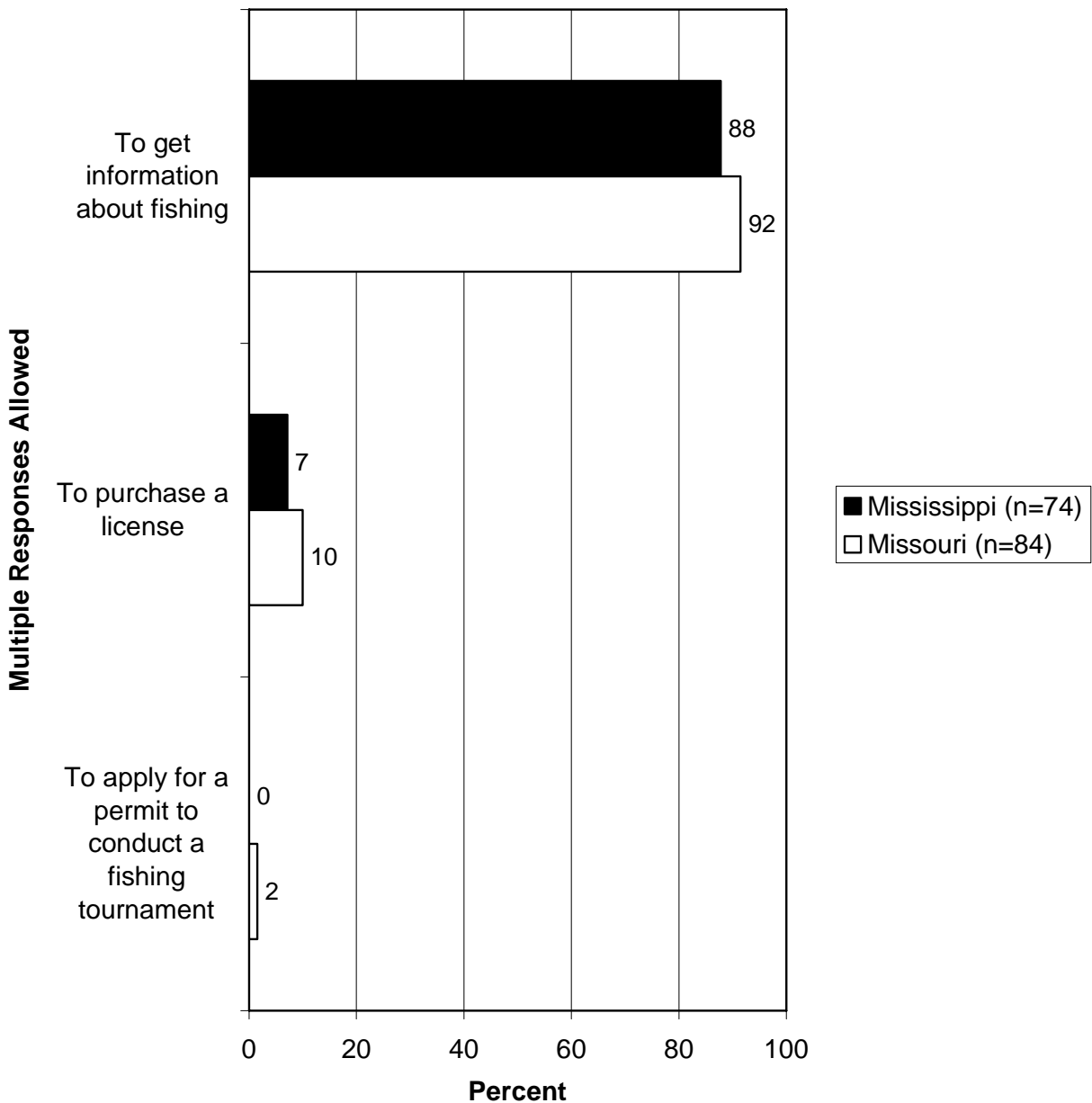
**Q192. Why did you visit the site? (Asked of those who have ever visited the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' website for something related to fishing.)**



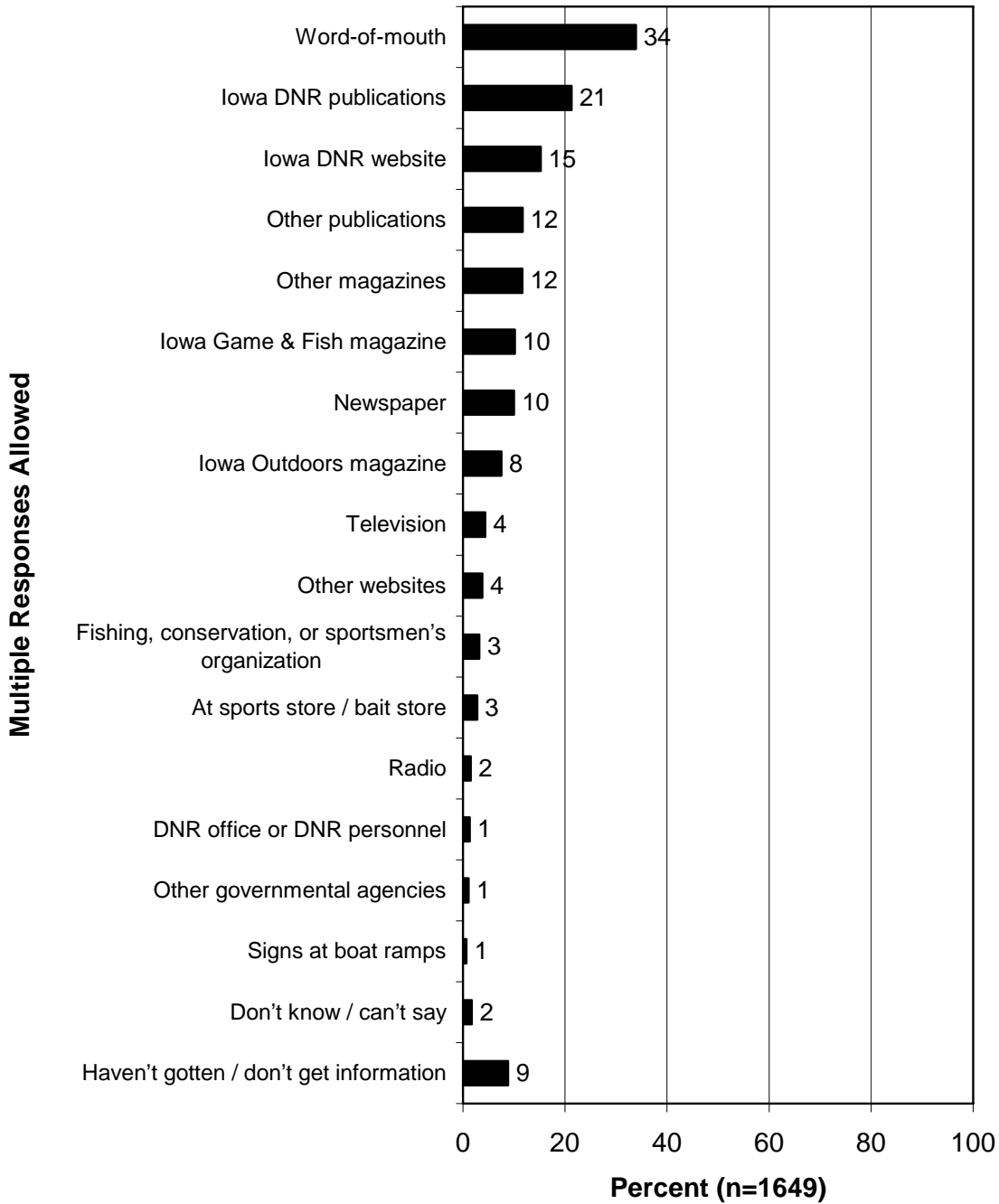
**Q192. Why did you visit the site? (Asked of those who have ever visited the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' website for something related to fishing.)**



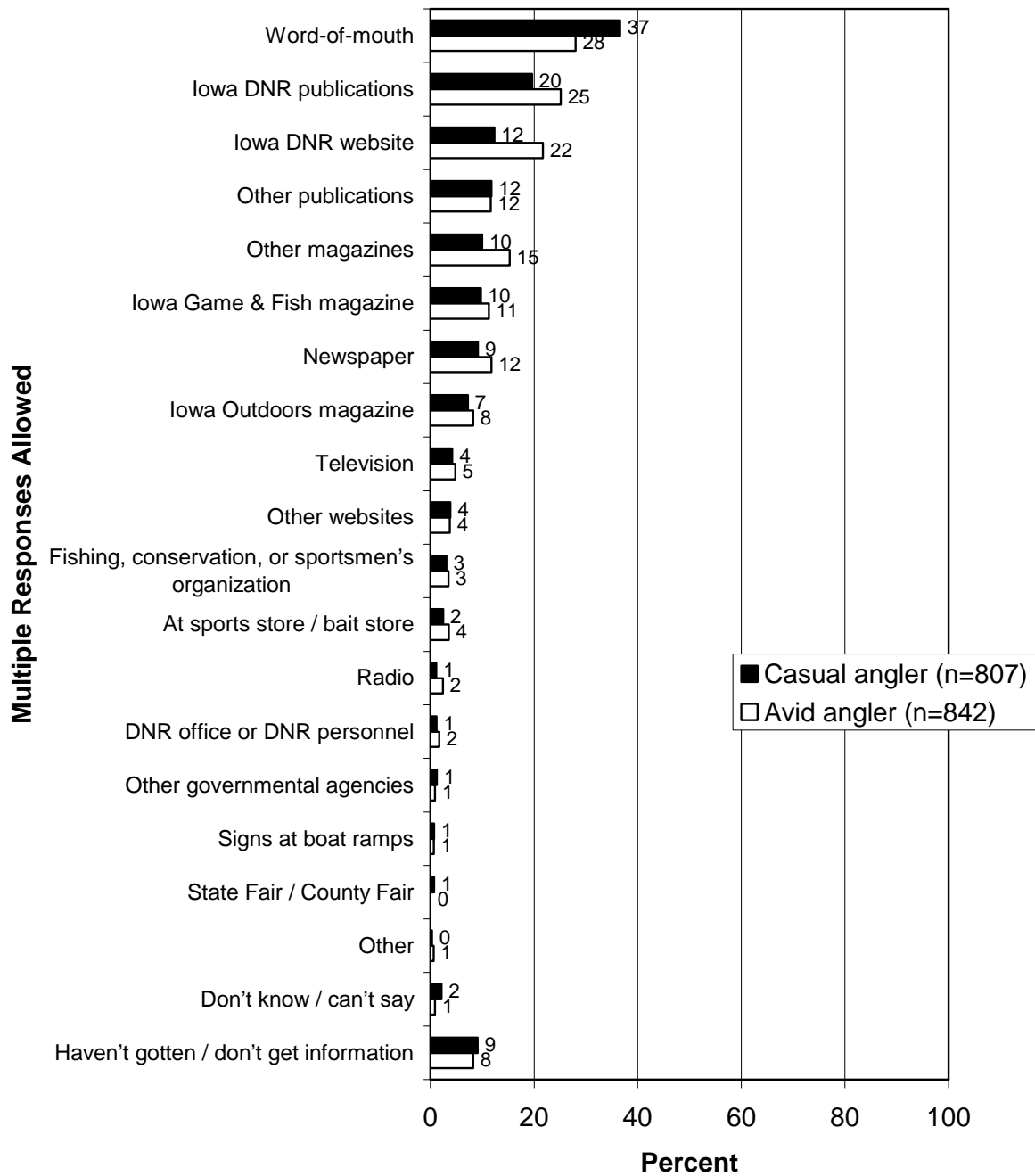
**Q192. Why did you visit the site? (Asked of those who have ever visited the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' website for something related to fishing.)**



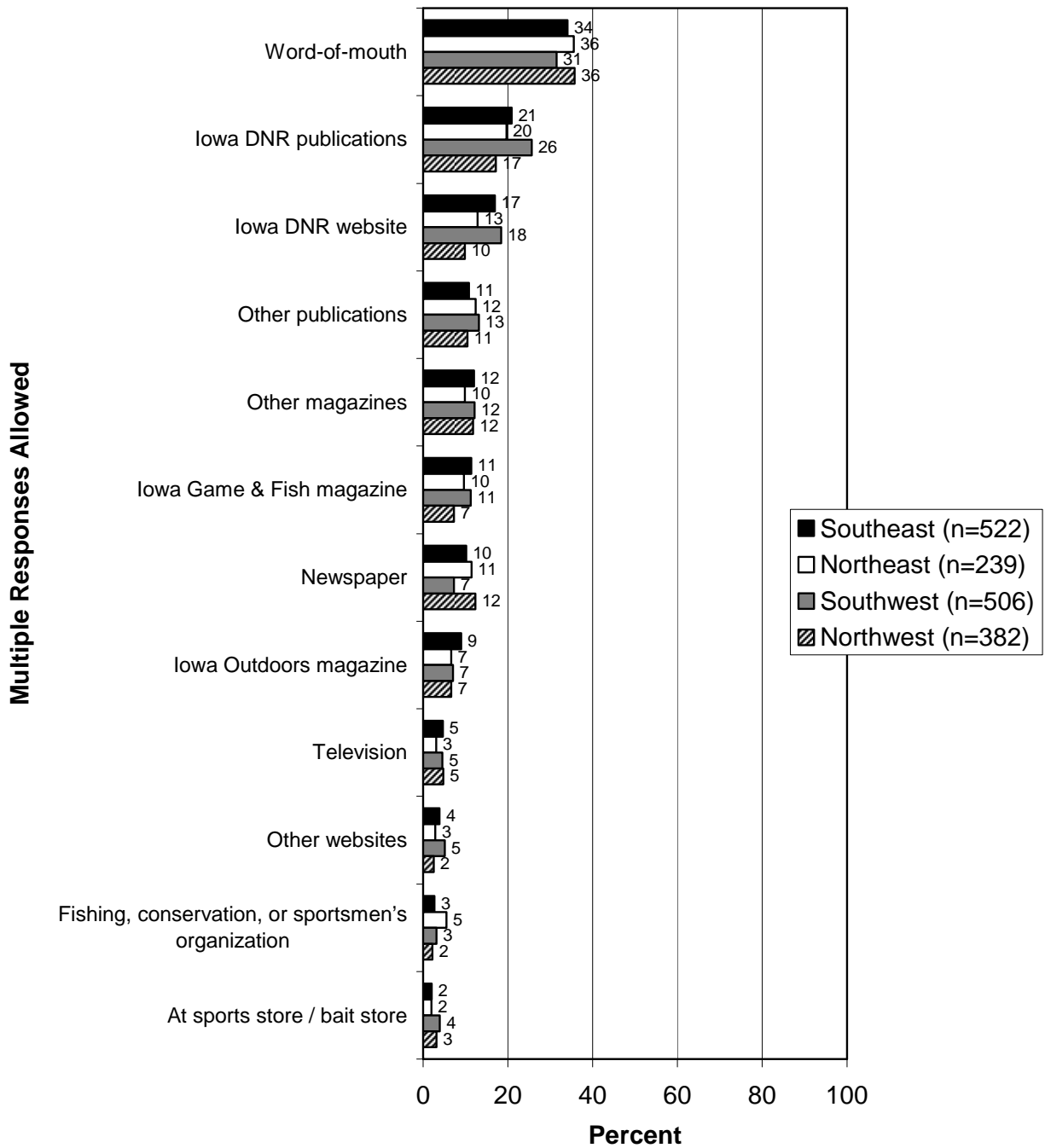
**Q198. From what sources have you gotten or do you get information about fishing?**



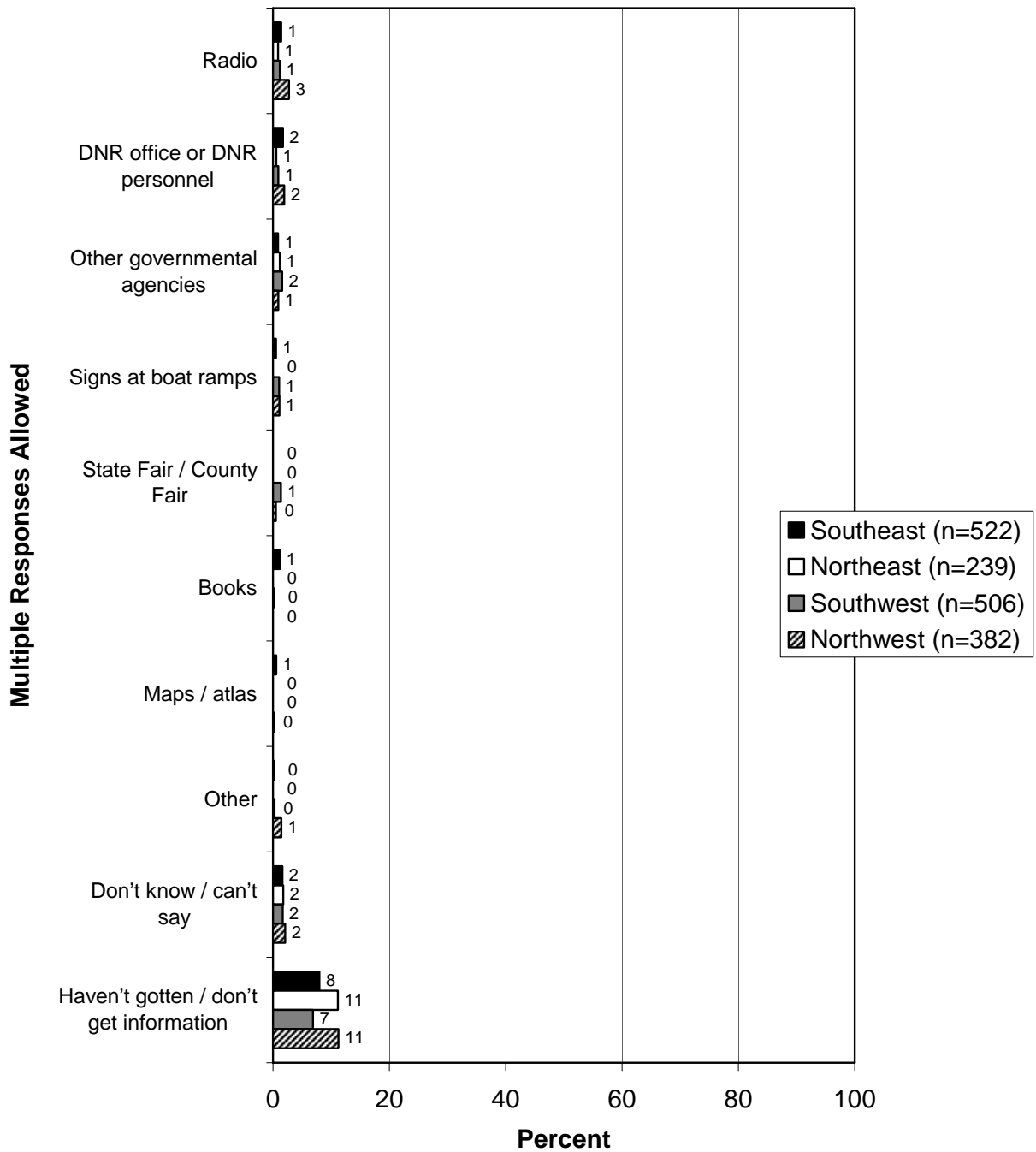
### Q198. From what sources have you gotten or do you get information about fishing?



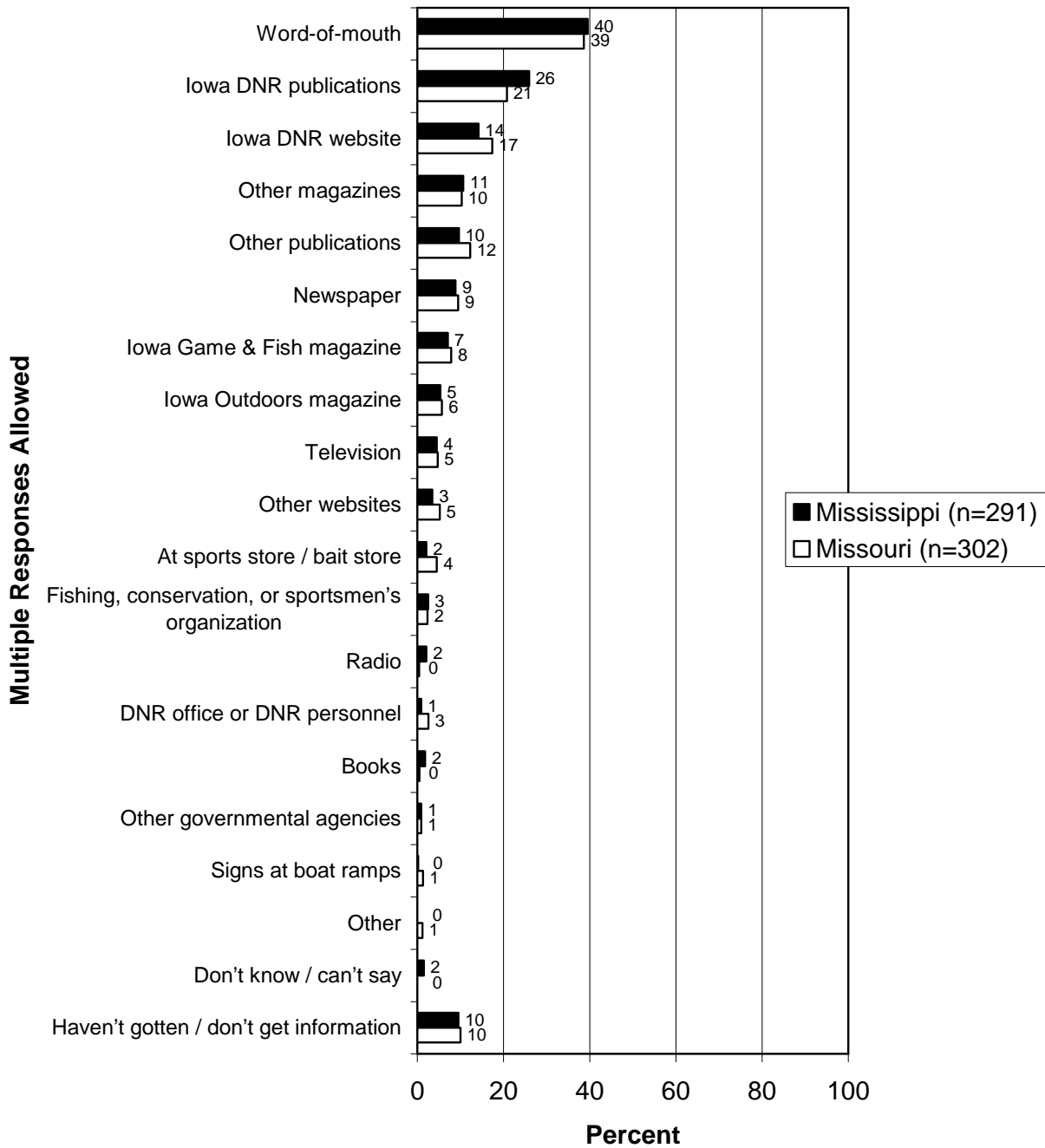
### Q198. From what sources have you gotten or do you get information about fishing? (Part 1)



### Q198. From what sources have you gotten or do you get information about fishing? (Part 2)



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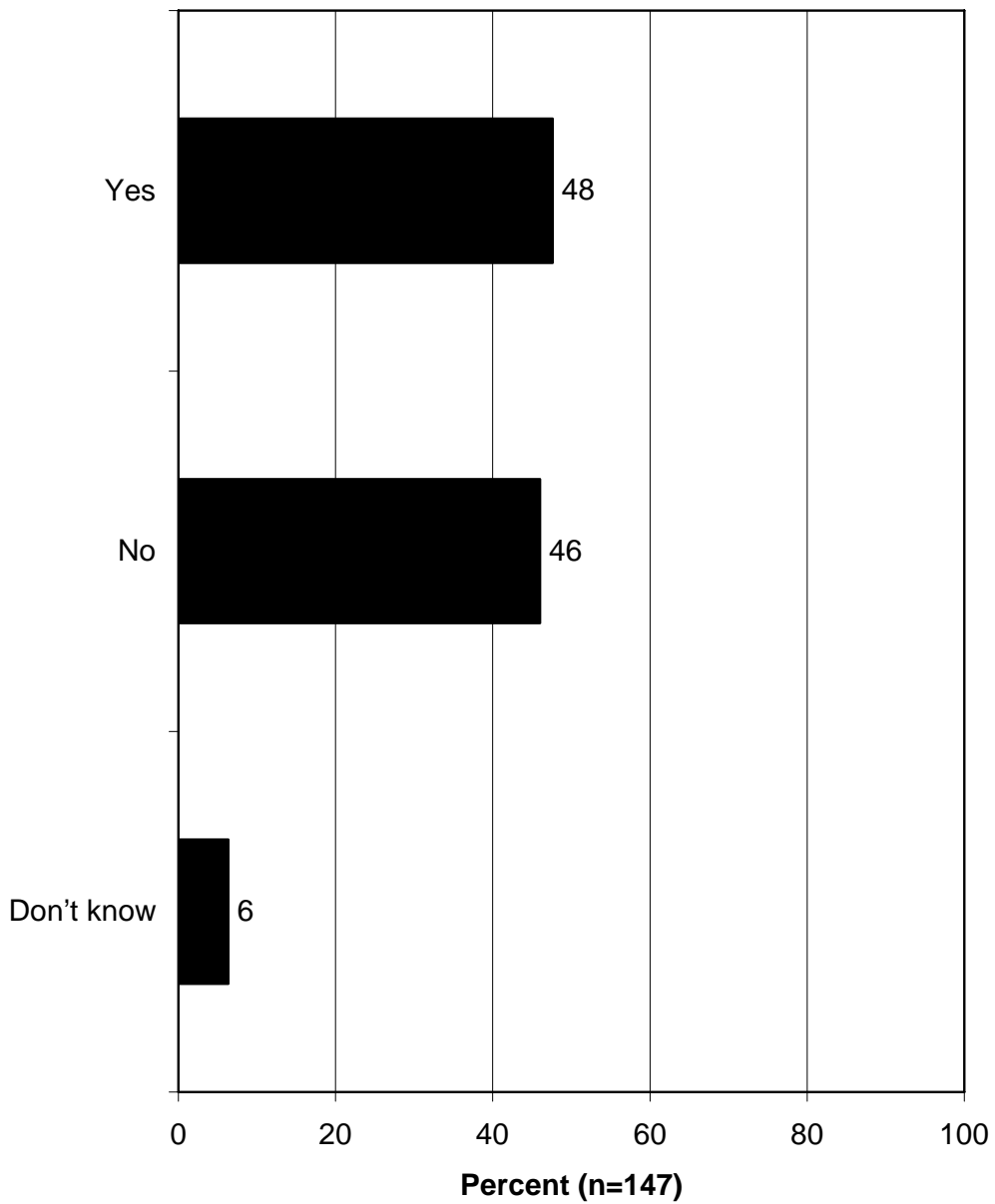


## **MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES PERTAINING TO FISHING IN IOWA**

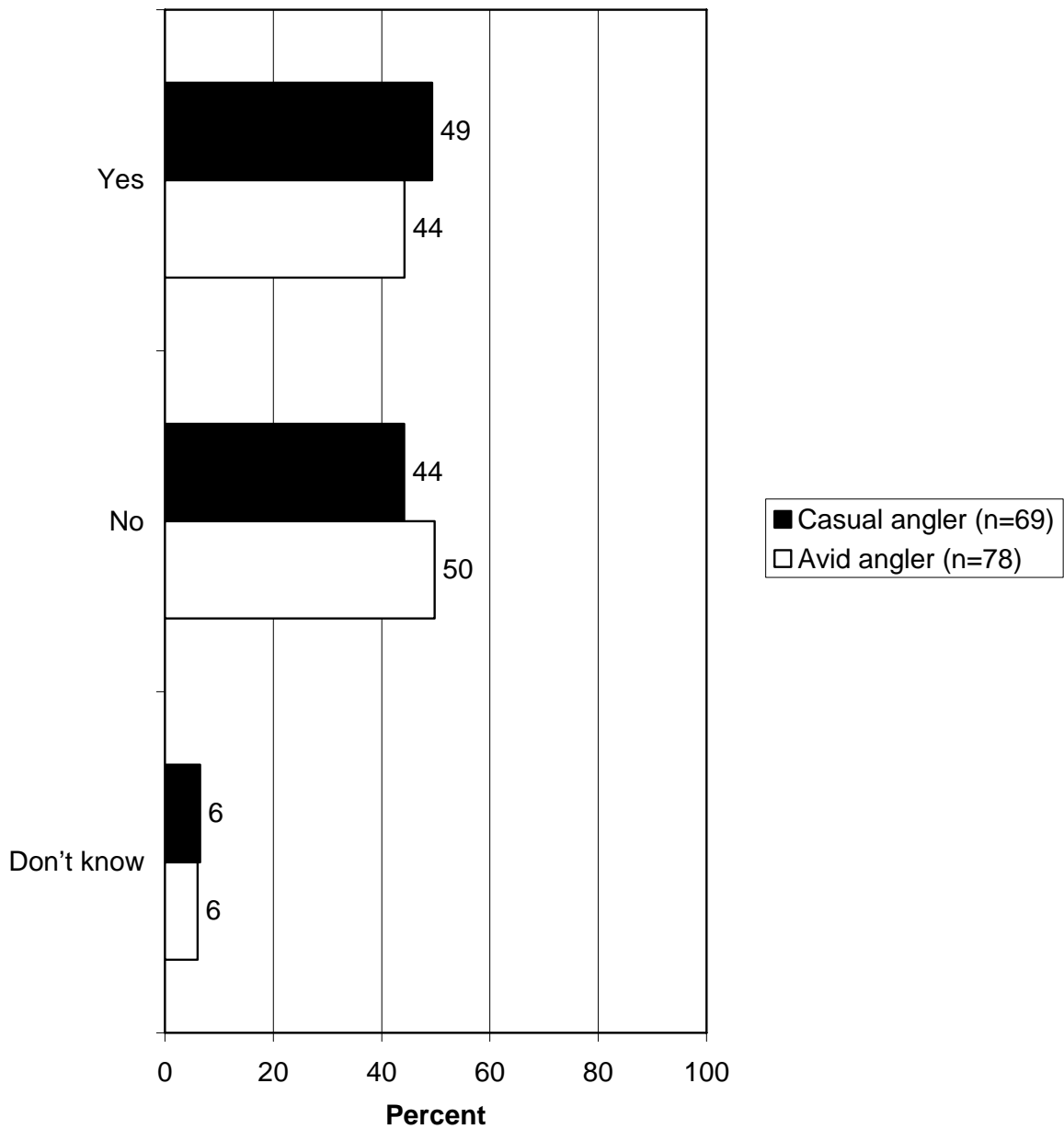
### **URBAN TROUT FISHERIES**

- Of those who fished for trout, about half (48%) purchased a trout stamp specifically for an urban trout fishery.
  - The crosstabulation by avid versus casual angler found almost no difference on this question.
  - In the regional crosstabulation, anglers from both eastern regions are more likely to have bought a trout stamp specifically for an urban trout fishery, relative to the western regions' anglers.

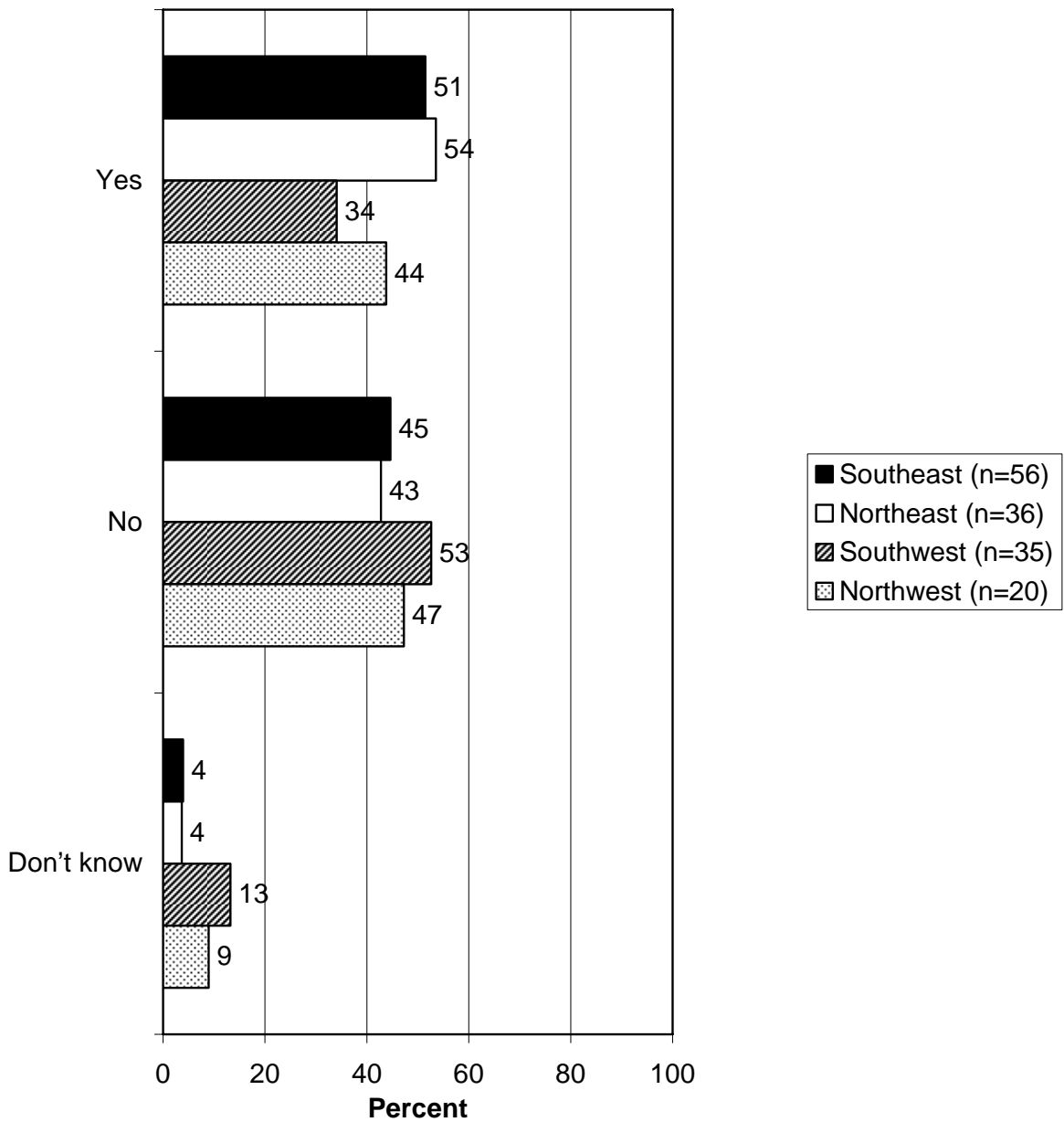
**Q80. Did you purchase a trout stamp specifically for an urban trout fishery? (Asked of those who have fished for trout.)**



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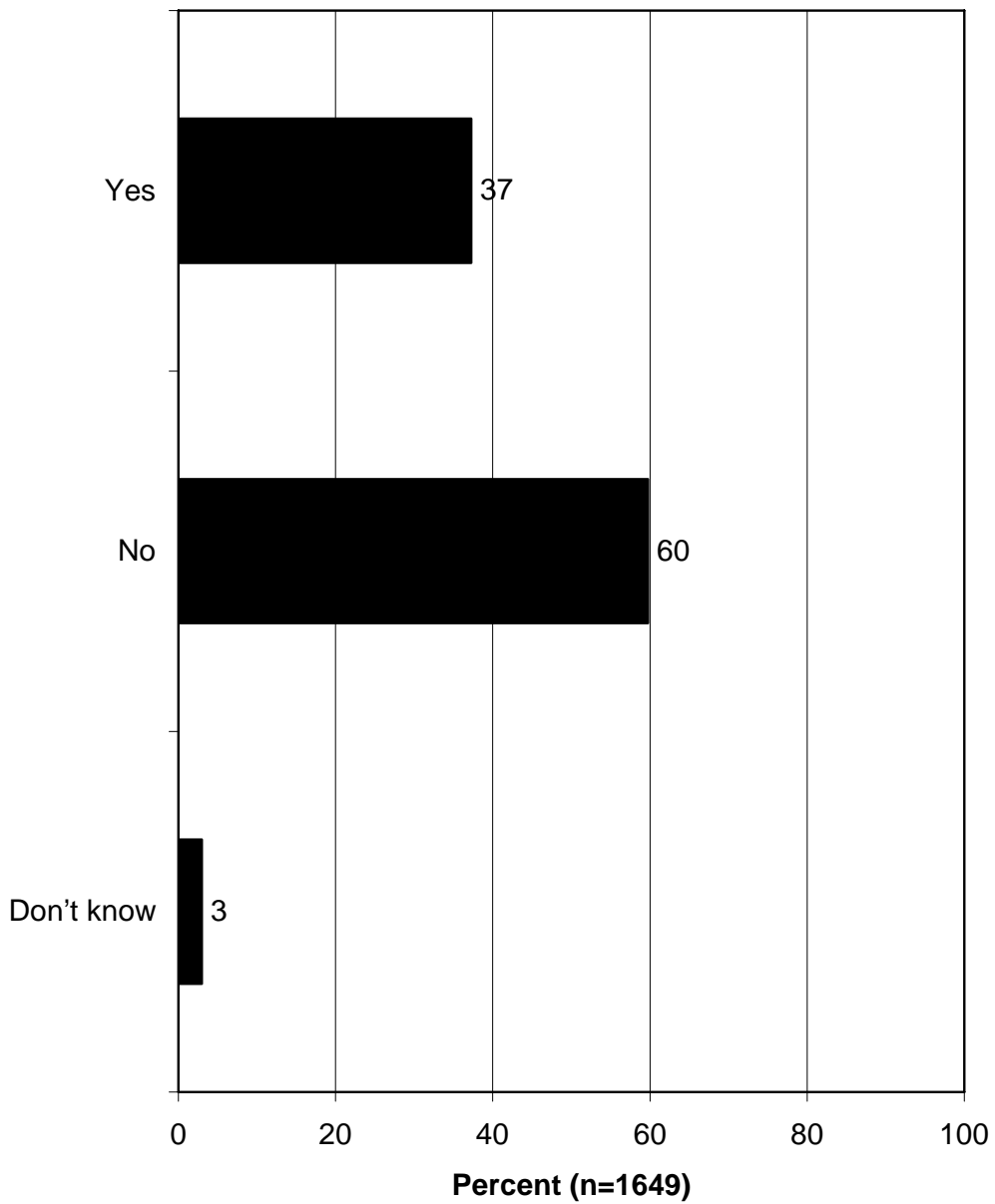
**Q80. Did you purchase a trout stamp specifically for an urban trout fishery? (Asked of those who have fished for trout.)**



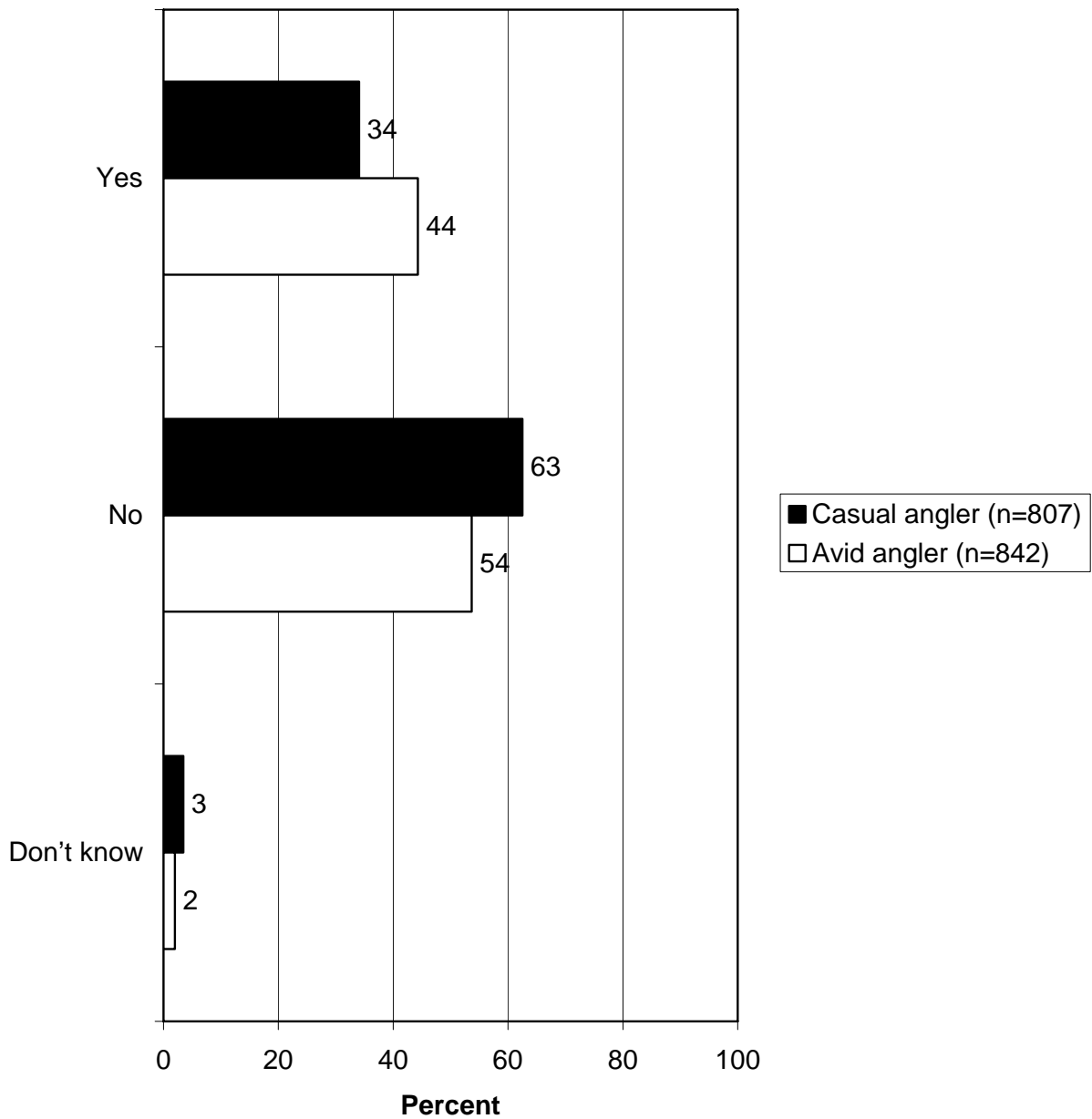
**AWARENESS OF LAKE PROTECTION OR IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS IN IOWA**

- Just more than a third of Iowa anglers (37%) are aware of at least one lake protection or improvement effort undertaken in Iowa by the IDNR.
  - Avid anglers are more aware than are casual anglers of lake protection or improvement efforts undertaken in Iowa by the IDNR.
  - The regional crosstabulation found that Southwest Region anglers are the most aware of lake protection/improvement efforts, while Northeast Region anglers are the least aware.
  - The data analysis by river region found that river region anglers are less aware of lake protection and improvement projects than are anglers overall.

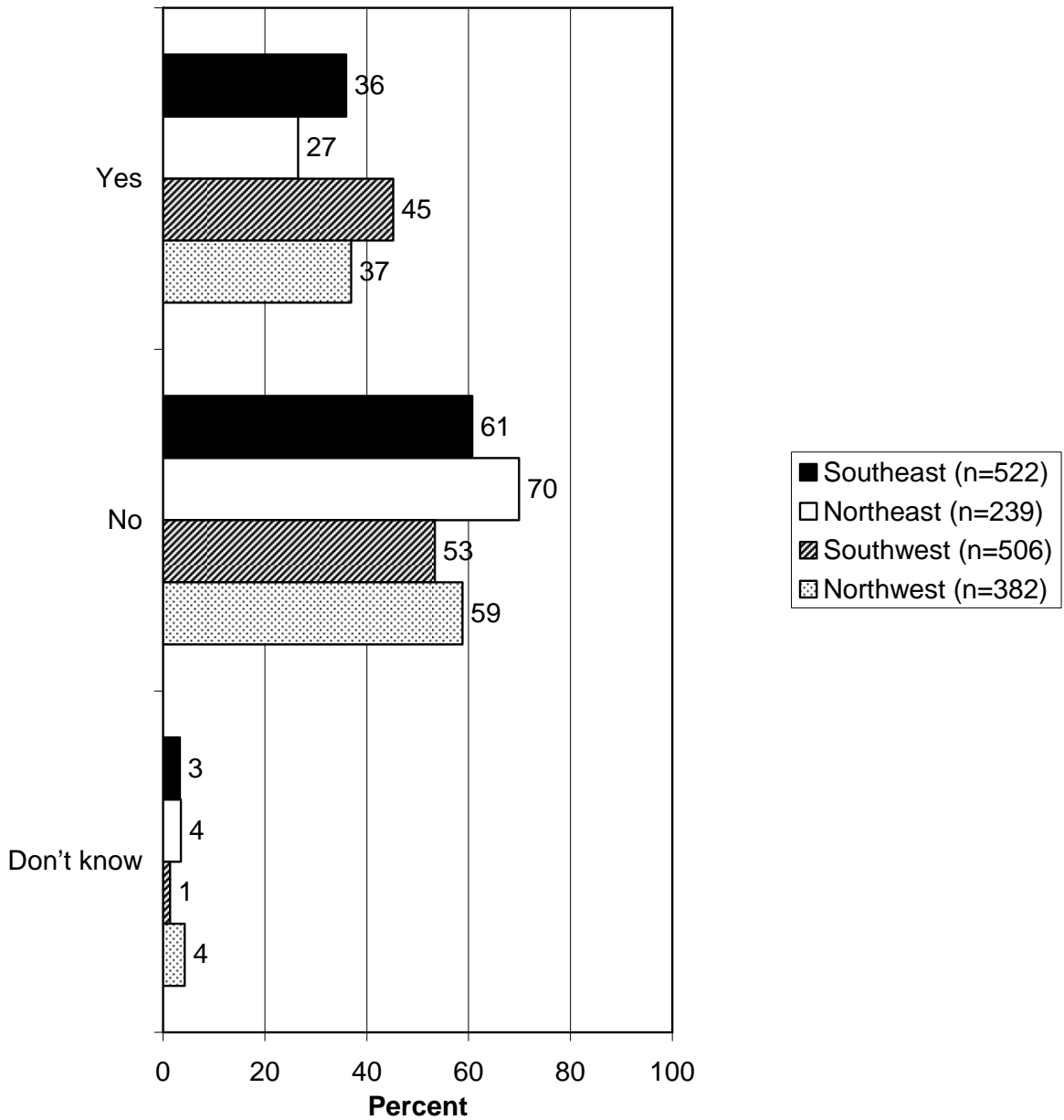
**Q151. Are you aware of any lake protection or improvement efforts undertaken in Iowa by the Department of Natural Resources?**



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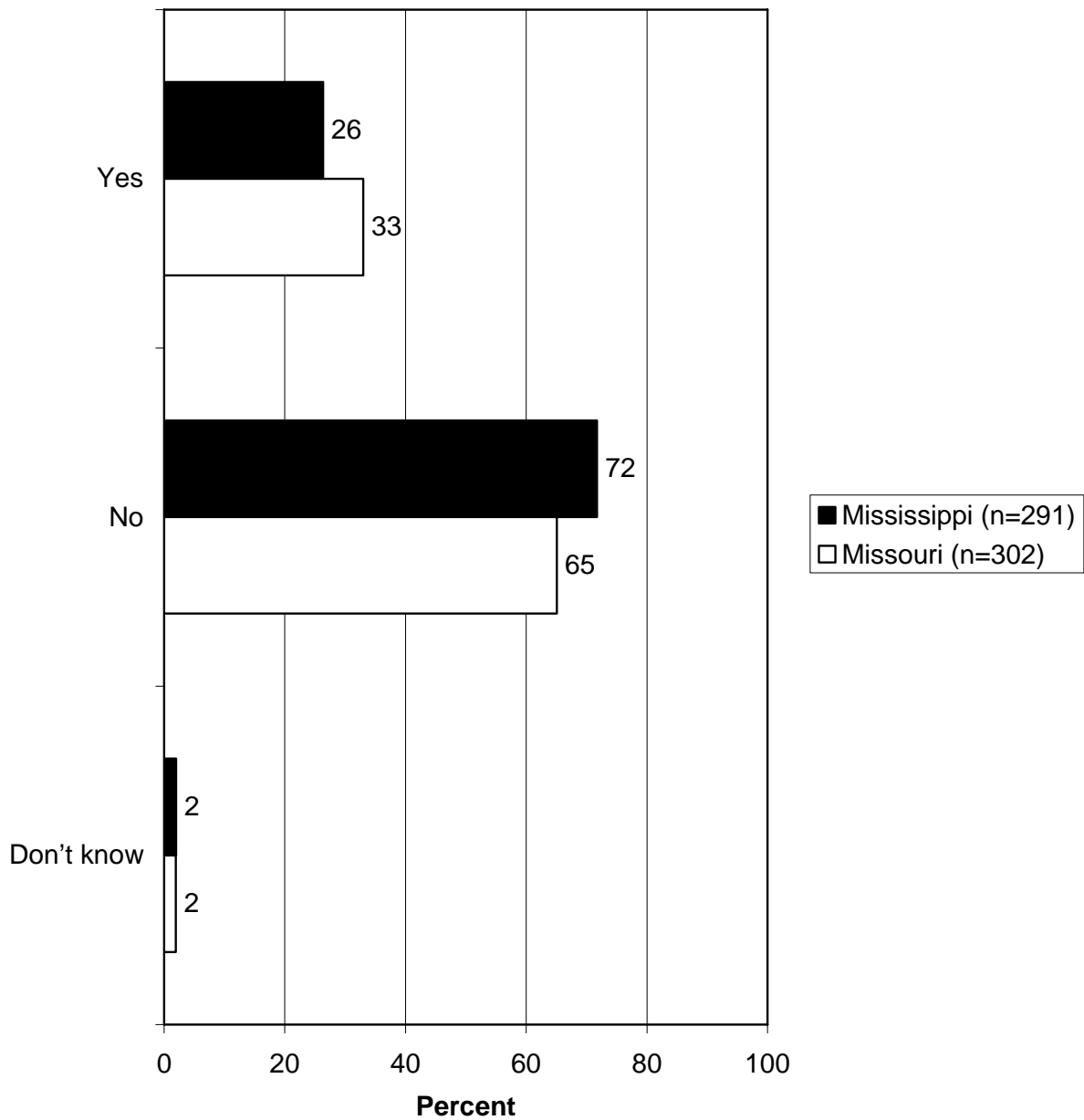


**Q151. Are you aware of any lake protection or improvement efforts undertaken in Iowa by the Department of Natural Resources?**





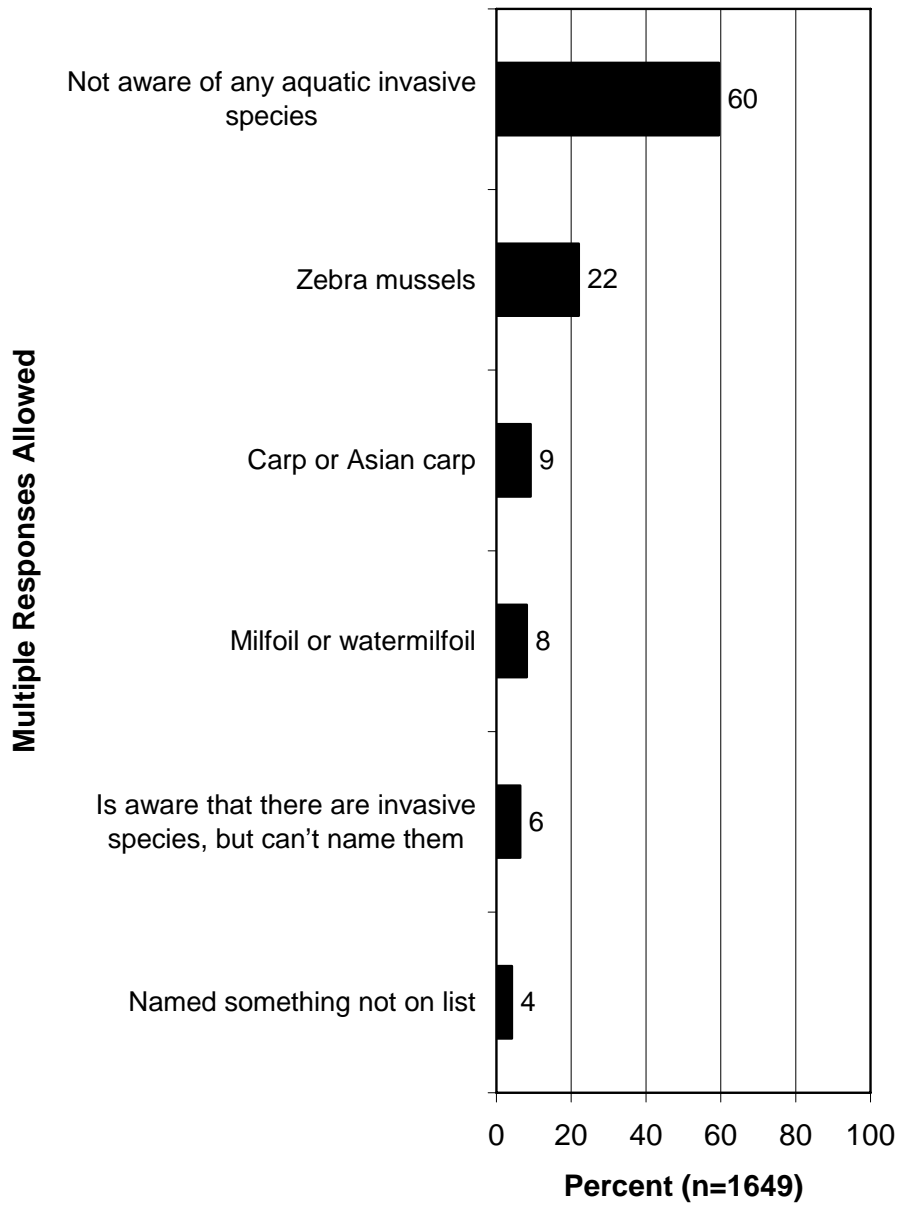
**Q151. Are you aware of any lake protection or improvement efforts undertaken in Iowa by the Department of Natural Resources?**



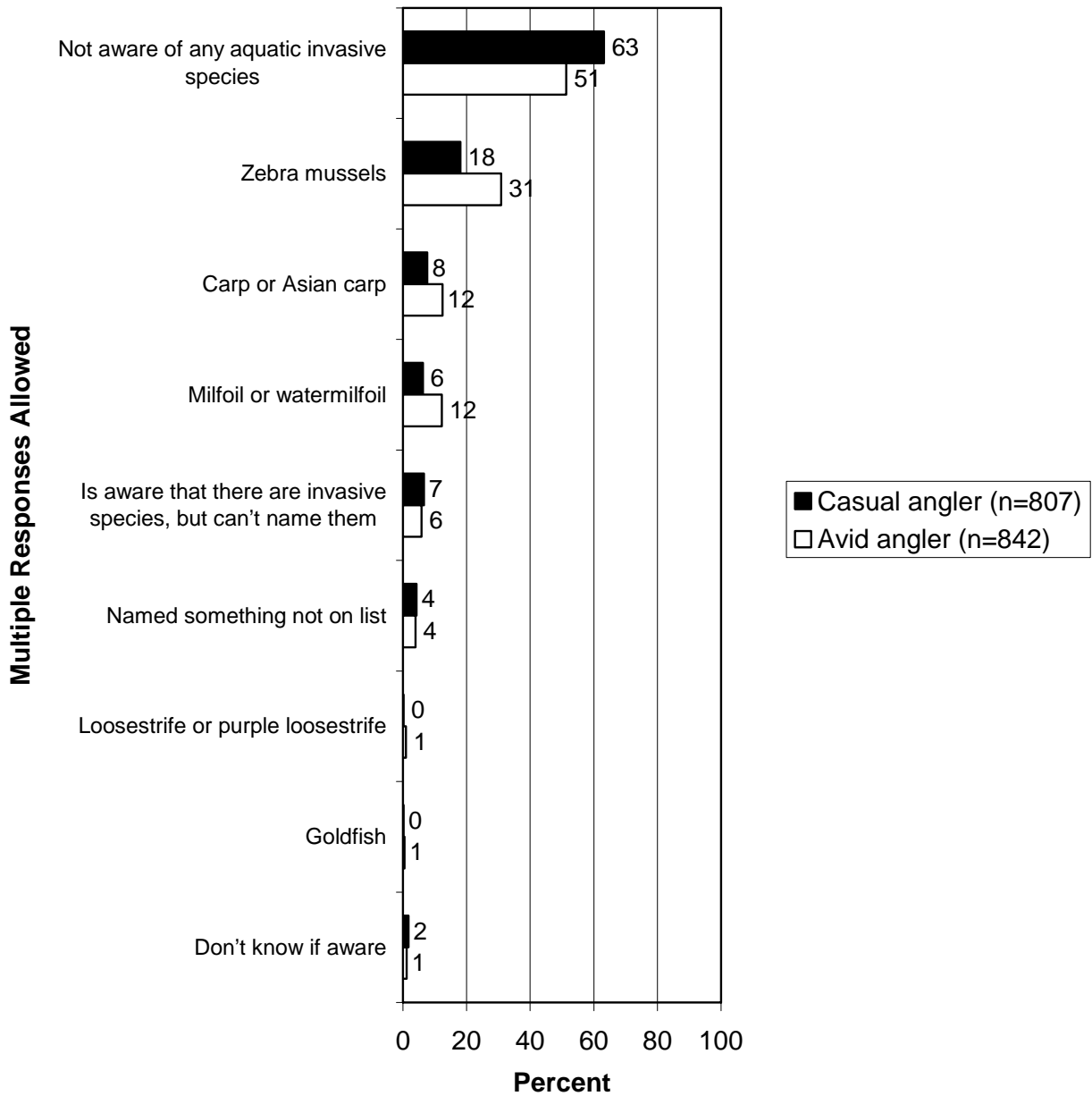
## AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES IN IOWA

- While most Iowa anglers (60%) are *unaware* of any invasive species, a substantial percentage are aware of something: 22% mentioned zebra mussels, 9% mentioned carp or Asian carp, and 8% mentioned milfoil.
  - Avid anglers are more aware of invasive species than are casual anglers, particularly zebra mussels and milfoil.
  - Northwest Region anglers are *less* aware of invasive species than anglers from the other three regions, particularly zebra mussels.
  - Mississippi River Region anglers are *more* aware of zebra mussels than are anglers overall. Missouri River Region anglers are *less* aware of zebra mussels compared to anglers overall.
  - The majority of those who have fished from a boat and are aware of invasive species take steps to prevent the spread of invasive species. Those who did not take preventive steps most commonly said that they do not believe invasive species are a problem, that they did not boat on infested waters (as far as they knew...), or that they do not know what to do.
  - Avid anglers who have fished from a boat and are aware of invasive species are more likely than their casual angler counterparts to take preventive action regarding spread of invasive species. Additionally, among those who do not take steps, avid anglers are less likely to say that they do *not* believe invasive species are a problem, and they are less likely to say that they do not know what to do, relative to casual anglers who do not take preventive steps.
  - The regional crosstabulation results are shown, with only slight differences regarding being aware of invasive species (the second question regarding reasons for *not* taking action had sample sizes that were too low for meaningful analysis).
  - The data analysis by river region found that river region anglers who boat and are aware of invasive species are about the same as anglers overall (who boat and are aware of invasive species) in saying that they do *not* take preventive steps (small percentages for all groups). Regarding taking preventive steps, Mississippi River Region anglers who boat and know about invasive species are less likely than anglers overall to say that they take preventive steps because Mississippi River Region anglers are less likely to move their boats. Missouri River Region anglers who boat and know about invasive species, on the other hand, are more likely than anglers overall to say that they take preventive actions, mostly because they are more likely to move their boats. (The second question regarding reasons for *not* taking action had sample sizes that were too low for meaningful analysis.)

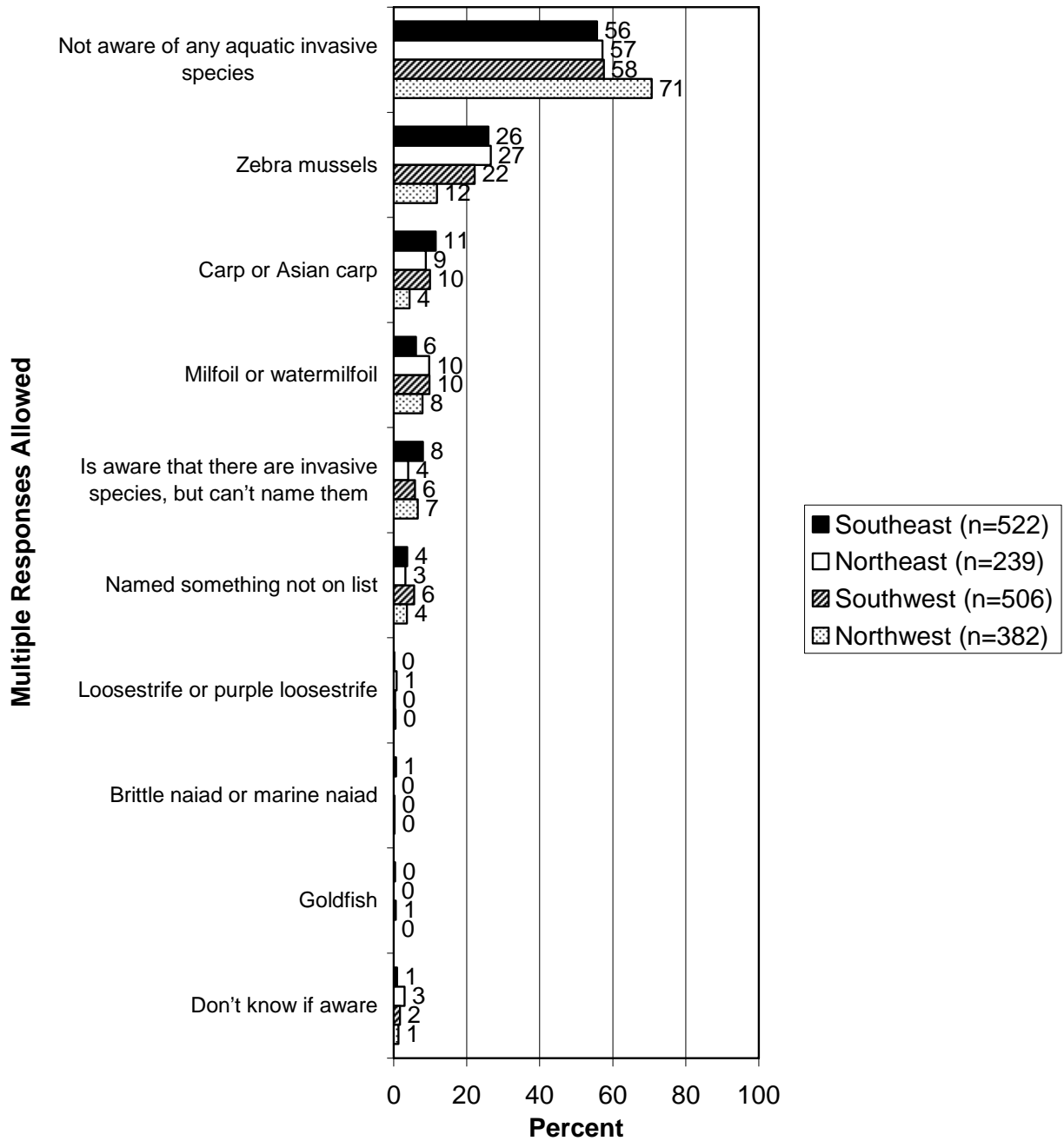
**Q176. Are you aware of any aquatic invasive species in Iowa? If so, which ones?**



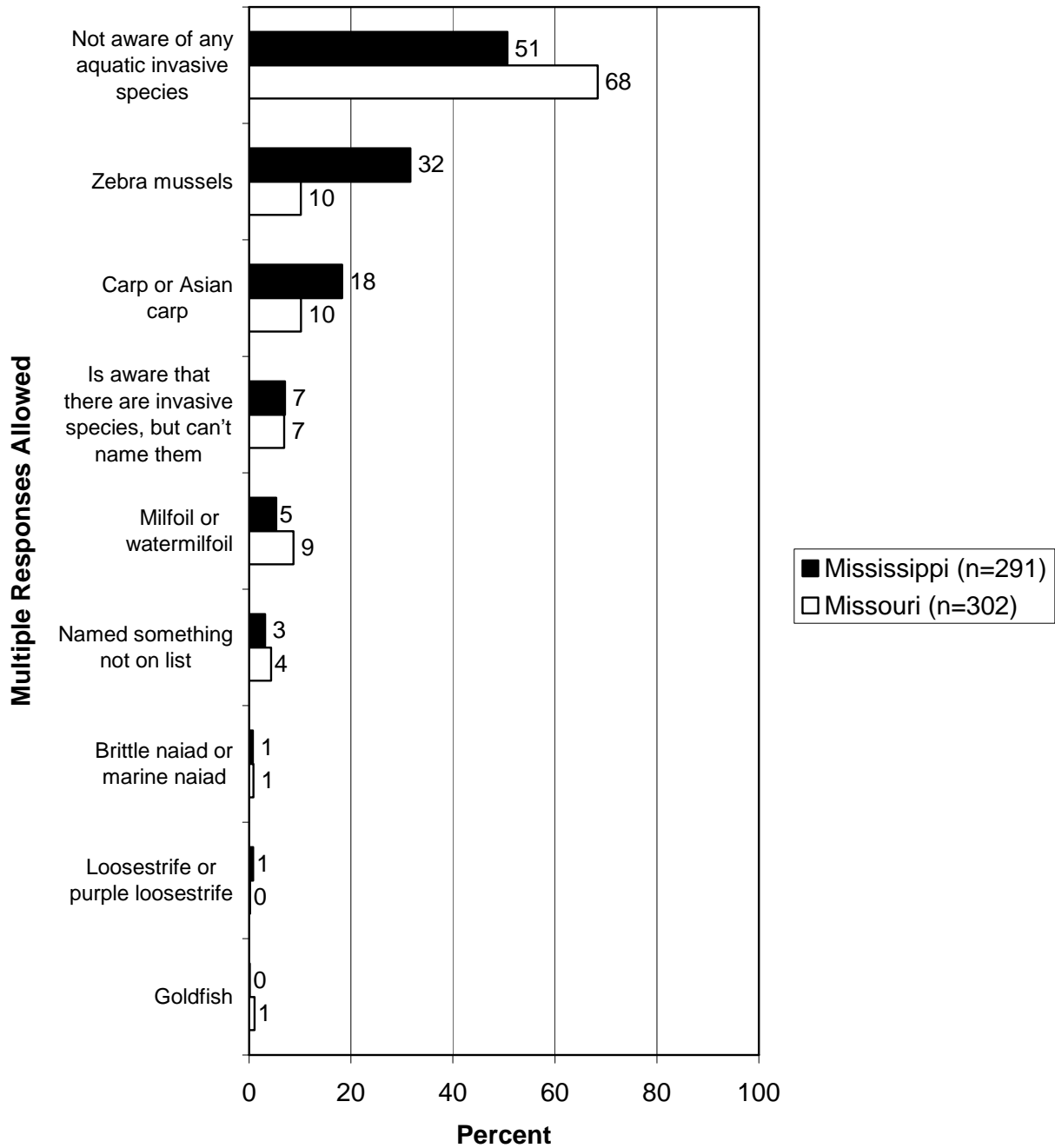
**Q176. Are you aware of any aquatic invasive species in Iowa? If so, which ones?**



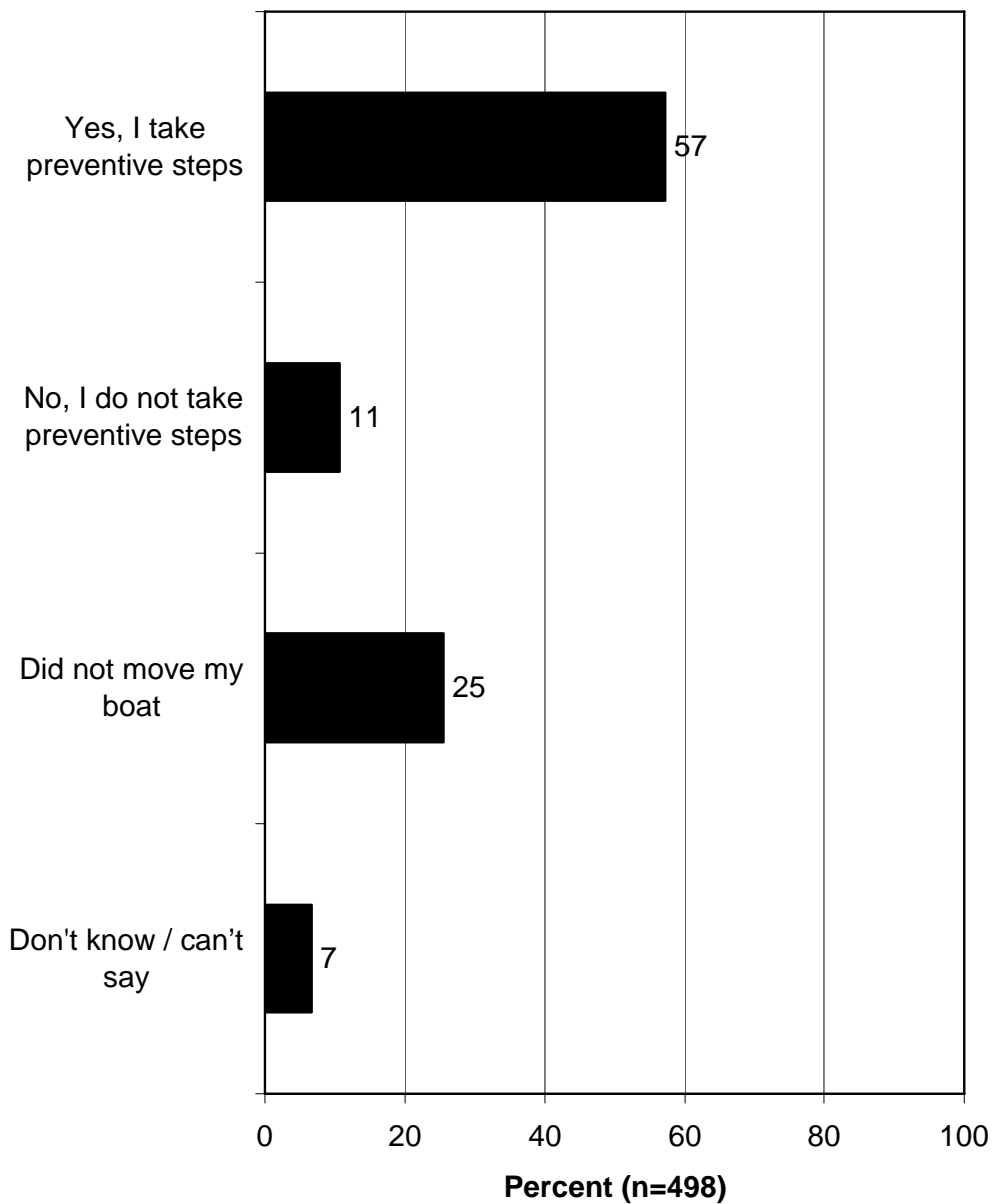
### Q176. Are you aware of any aquatic invasive species in Iowa? If so, which ones?



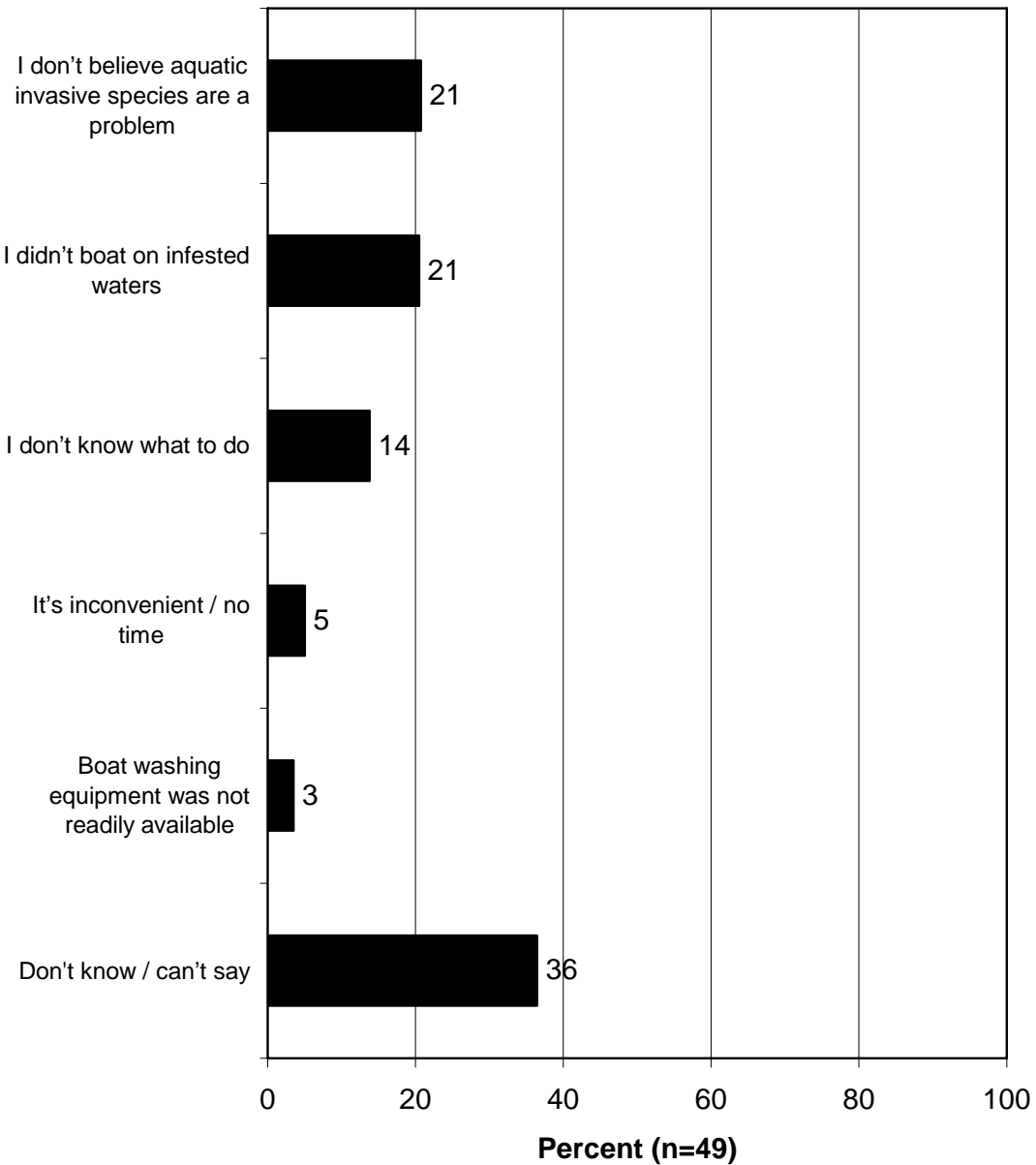
**Q176. Are you aware of any aquatic invasive species in Iowa? If so, which ones?**



**Q178. Do you take any special steps to prevent the transport of aquatic invasive species from one body of water to another, or did you never move your boat between water bodies? (Asked of those who have fished from a boat and are aware of aquatic invasive species in Iowa.)**

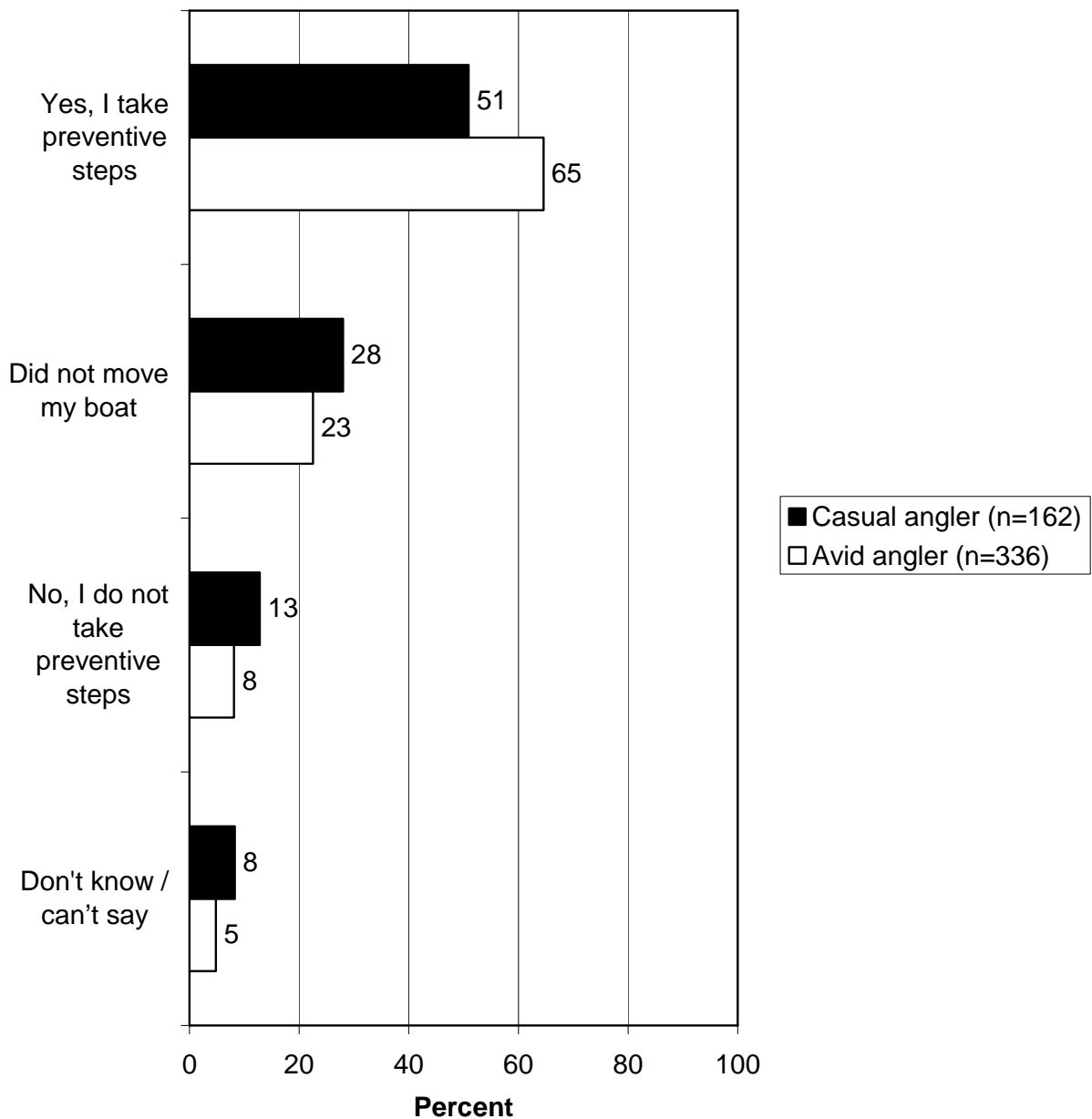


**Q179. Why do you not take preventive steps?  
(Asked of those who have fished from a boat, are aware of aquatic invasive species in Iowa, and do not take special steps to prevent the transport of aquatic invasive species from one body of water to another.)**

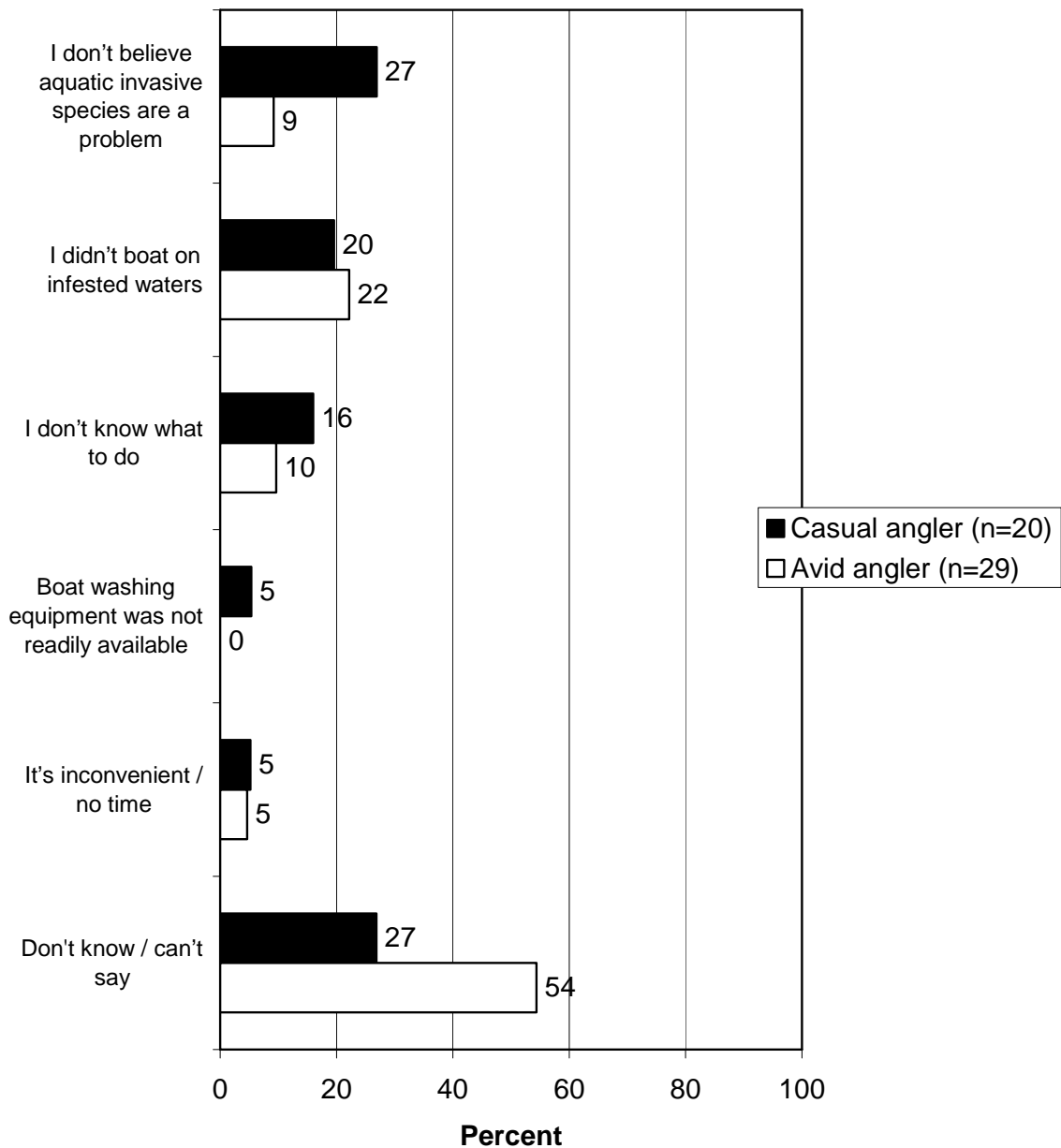




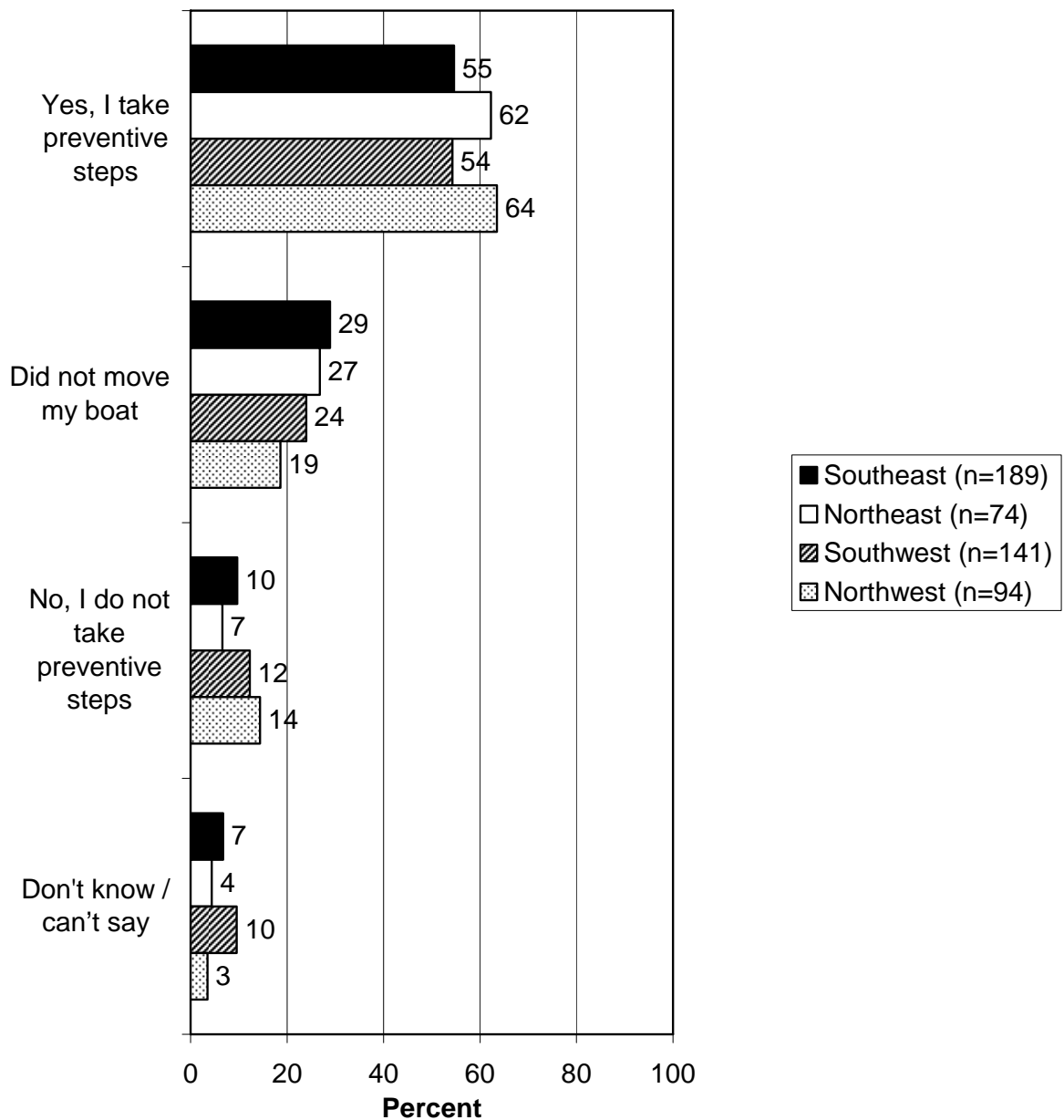
**Q178. Do you take any special steps to prevent the transport of aquatic invasive species from one body of water to another, or did you never move your boat between water bodies? (Asked of those who have fished from a boat and are aware of aquatic invasive species in Iowa.)**



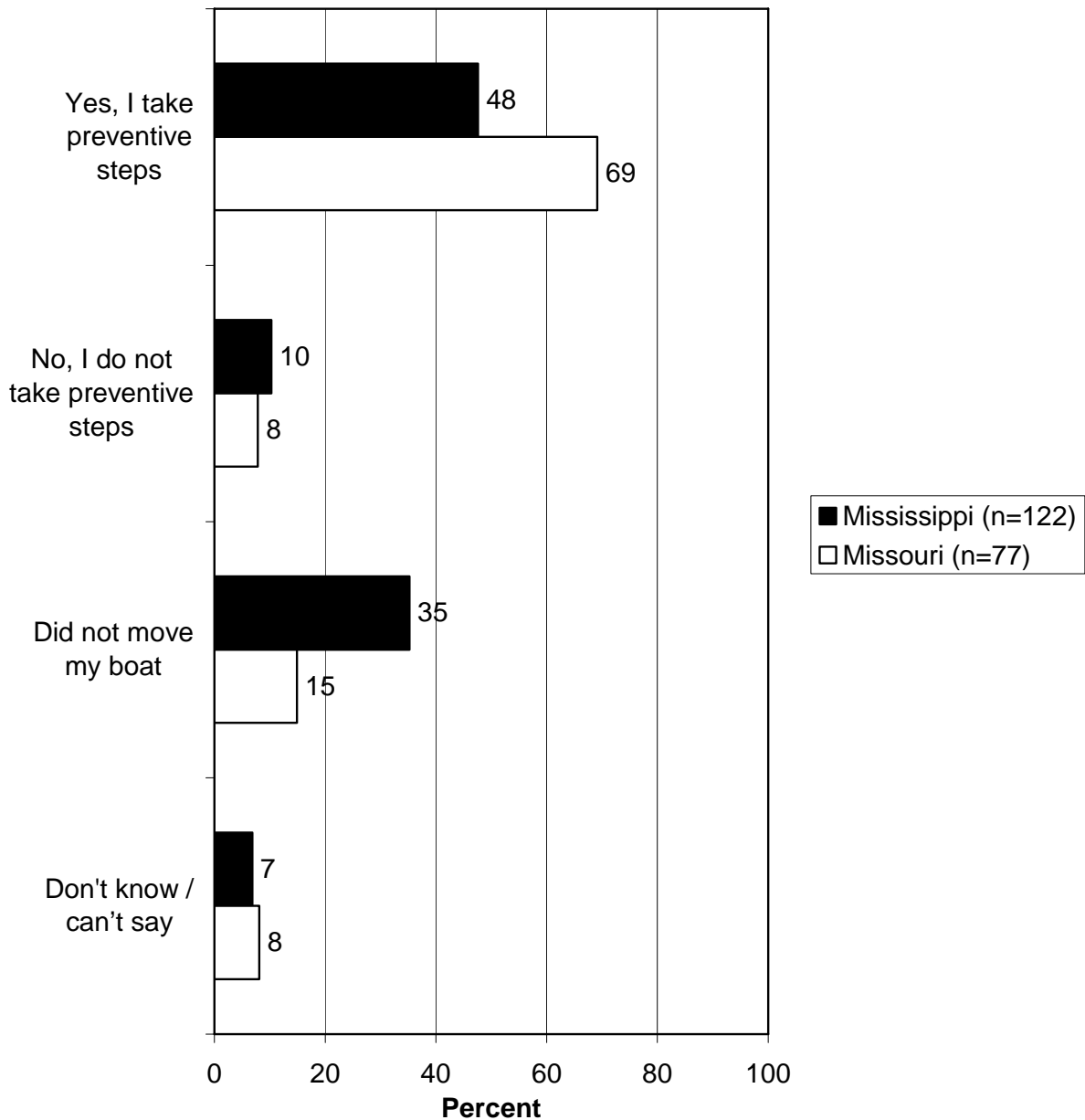
**Q179. Why do you not take preventive steps?  
(Asked of those who have fished from a boat, are aware of aquatic invasive species in Iowa, and do not take special steps to prevent the transport of aquatic invasive species from one body of water to another.)**



**Q178. Do you take any special steps to prevent the transport of aquatic invasive species from one body of water to another, or did you never move your boat between water bodies? (Asked of those who have fished from a boat and are aware of aquatic invasive species in Iowa.)**



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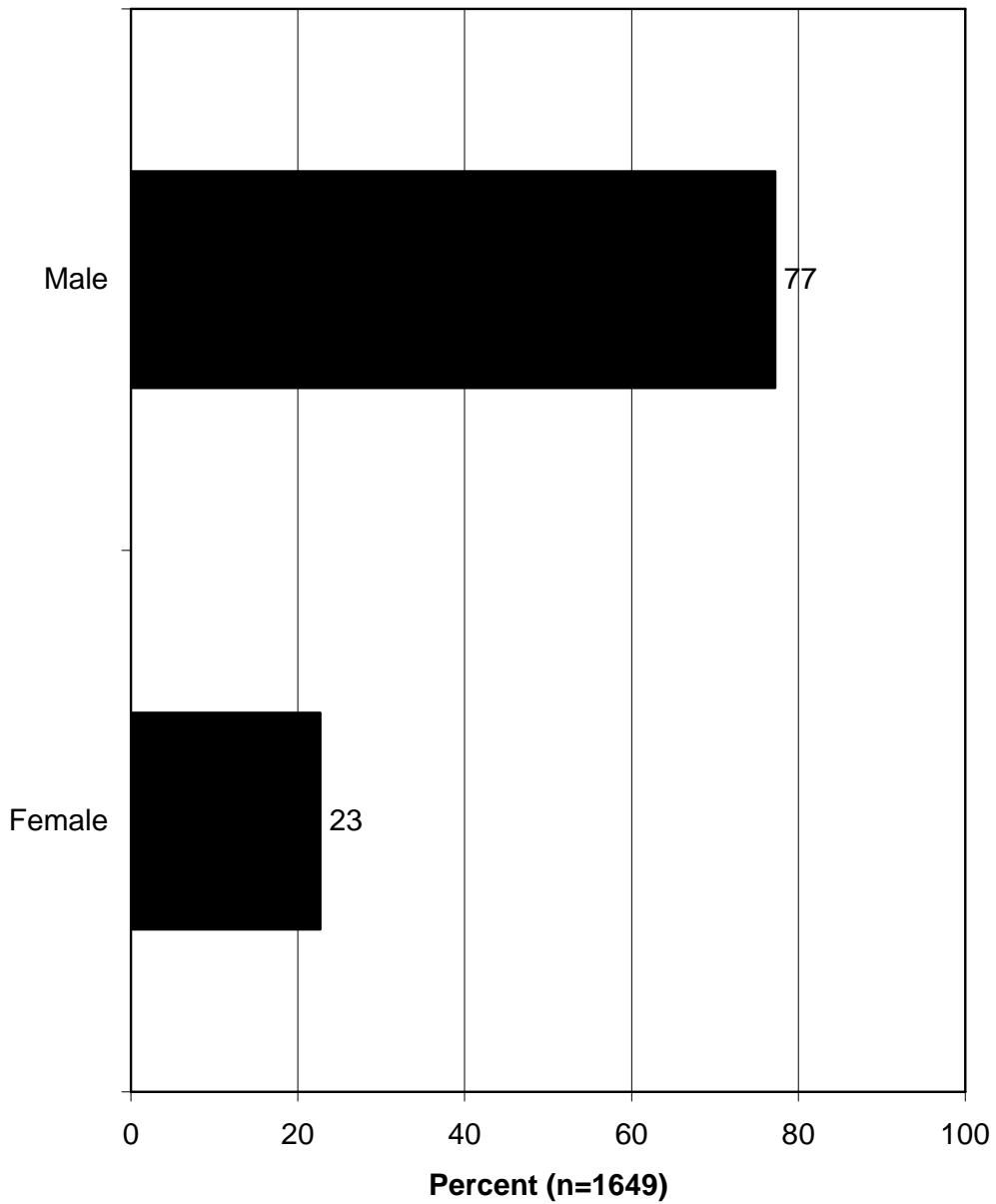


## DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

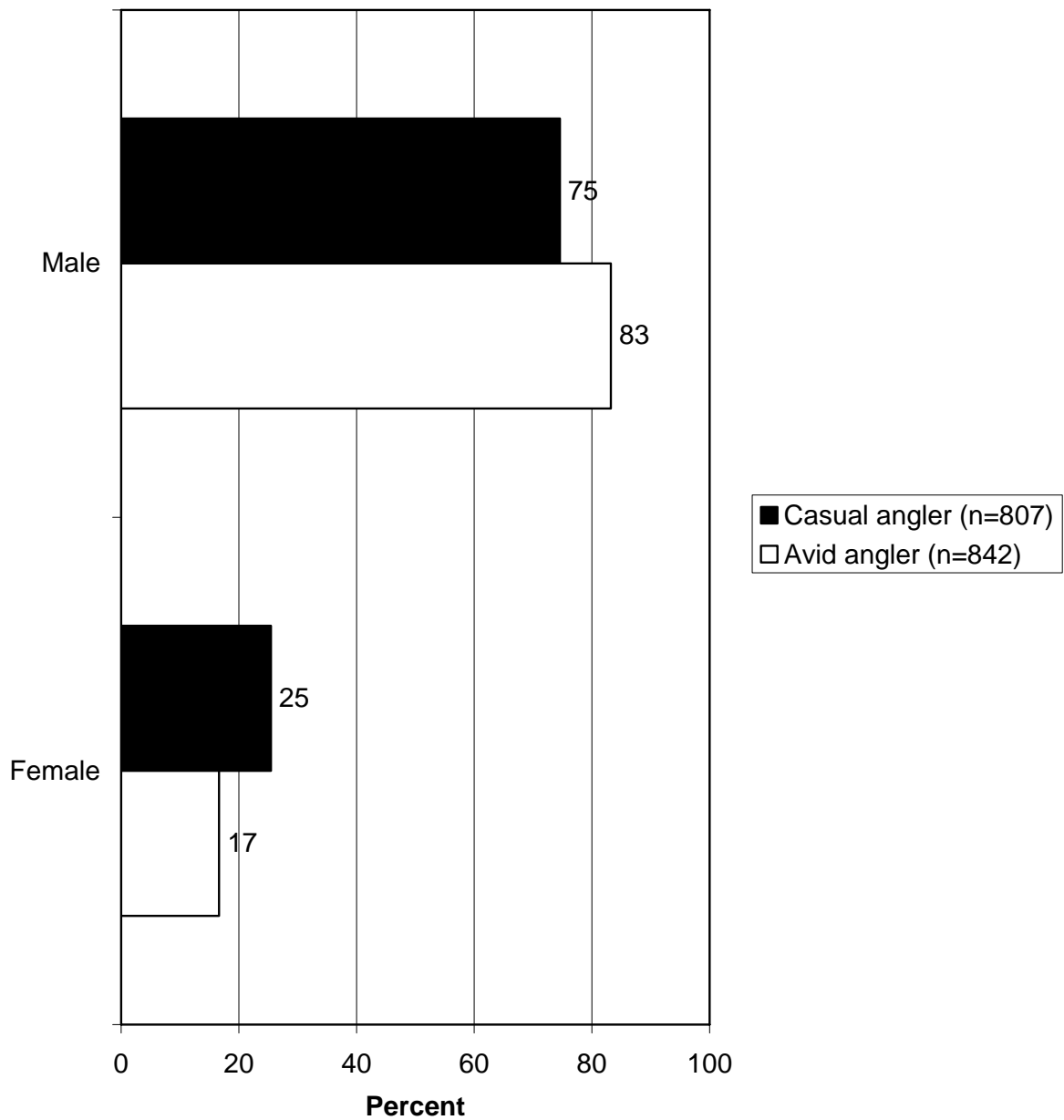
- Most Iowa anglers are male (77%).
  - A greater percentage of avid anglers relative to casual anglers are male.
  - The regional crosstabulation shows no marked differences among the regions on this question regarding gender.
  - The data analysis by river region found no marked differences between anglers overall and anglers from either river region on gender.
  
- The large majority of licensed anglers are white/Caucasian.
  - There is no marked difference between avid and casual anglers on this question.
  - The regional crosstabulation shows almost no differences at all among the regions on this question.
  - The data analysis by river region found no marked differences between anglers overall and anglers from either river region regarding their ethnicity.
  
- Iowa anglers' ages are shown, which form a bell curve with the peak in the 45-54 years old category. The mean age is 47.6 years.
  - The results of the avid versus casual angler crosstabulation suggest that as anglers become very old, they switch from avid to casual status, as a higher percentage of casual anglers than avid anglers are in the oldest age group. Otherwise, casual anglers tend to be slightly younger than avid anglers outside of that oldest of age categories.
  - The regional crosstabulation shows no marked differences among the regions on this question regarding age.
  - In general, Missouri River Region anglers are slightly younger, and Mississippi River Region anglers are slightly older, than anglers overall.
  
- A graph of counties of residence of Iowa anglers is shown, with Polk, Linn, Scott, and Dubuque Counties all contributing more than 3% of the state's anglers. The results are shown alphabetically, as well, to facilitate finding the data about a specific county.
  - A county-by-county breakdown is also shown of avid and casual anglers, with little differences between them.

- 
- Most commonly, Iowa anglers live in 2-person households (39%). On the other hand, in looking at sums of categories, 52% live in households of 3 or more people, and 35% live in households of 4 or more people. In a related question, 82% of those who do not live alone are married (and more than half of those spouses fish).
    - Although casual and avid anglers are about the same regarding the size of their household, avid anglers are more likely to be married than are casual anglers.
    - The regional crosstabulations show no marked differences among the regions on these questions.
    - The data analysis by river region found no marked differences between anglers overall and anglers from either river region on these questions about the size of household and marital status.
  
  - While the majority of Iowa anglers (57%) do not have children living at home, 41% have at least one child, and 28% have 2 or more children.
    - Only slight differences exist between avid and casual anglers on the number of children living at home—avid anglers are just slightly *less* likely to have children living at home.
    - The regional crosstabulation shows no marked differences among the regions on this question.
    - The data analysis by river region found no marked differences between anglers overall and anglers from either river region on this question about children living at home.

**Q231. Respondent's gender (not asked, but observed by interviewer).**

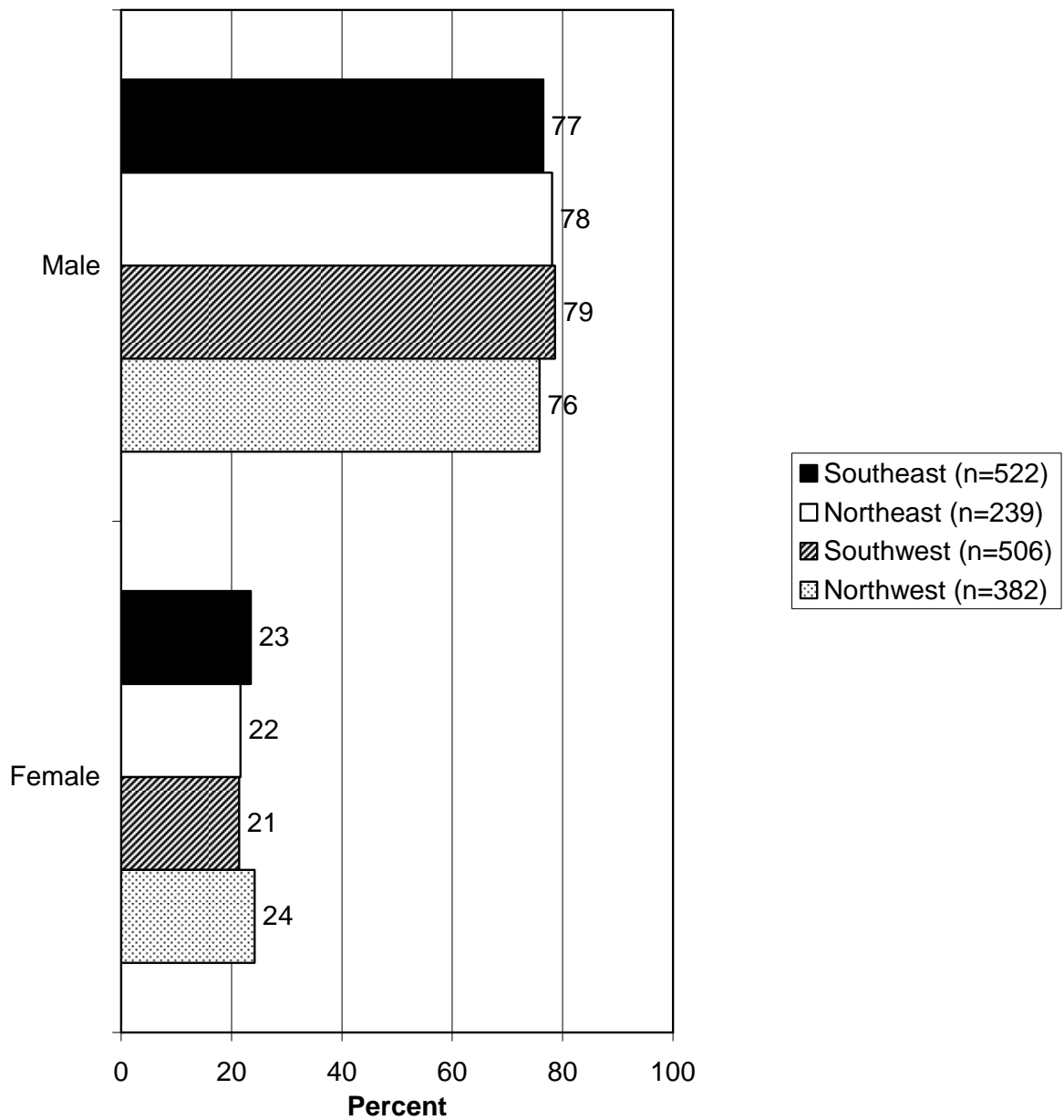


**Q231. Respondent's gender (not asked, but observed by interviewer).**

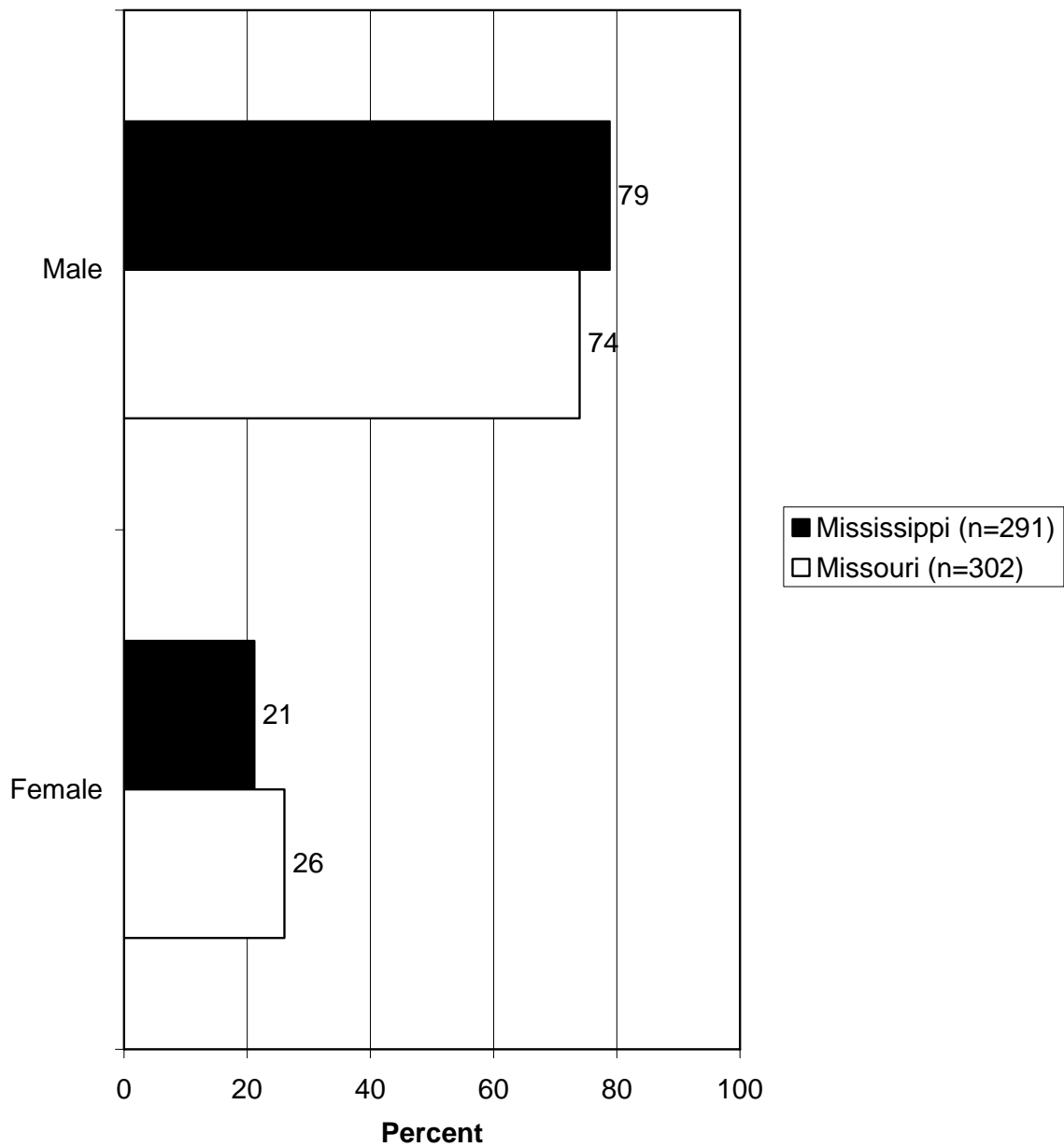




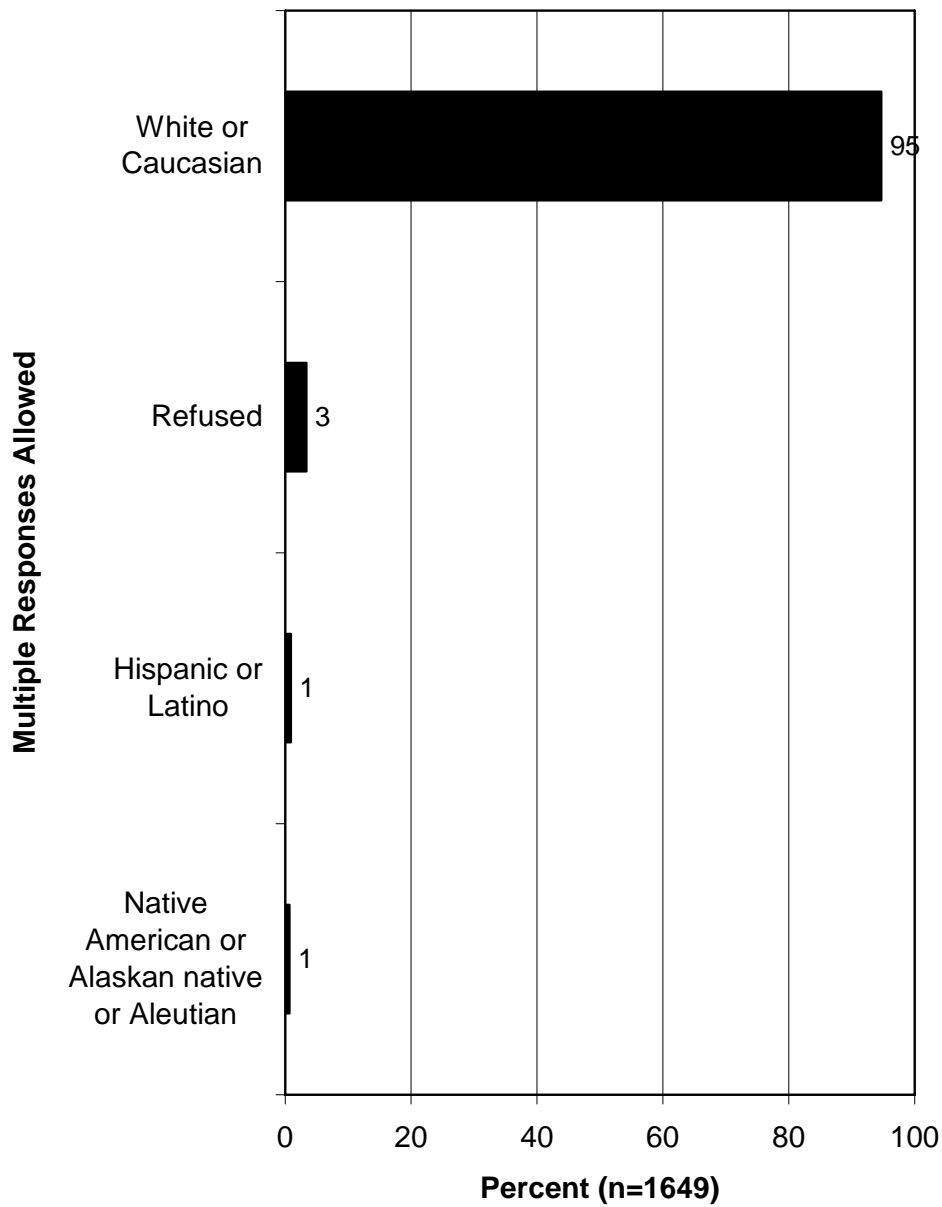
**Q231. Respondent's gender (not asked, but observed by interviewer).**



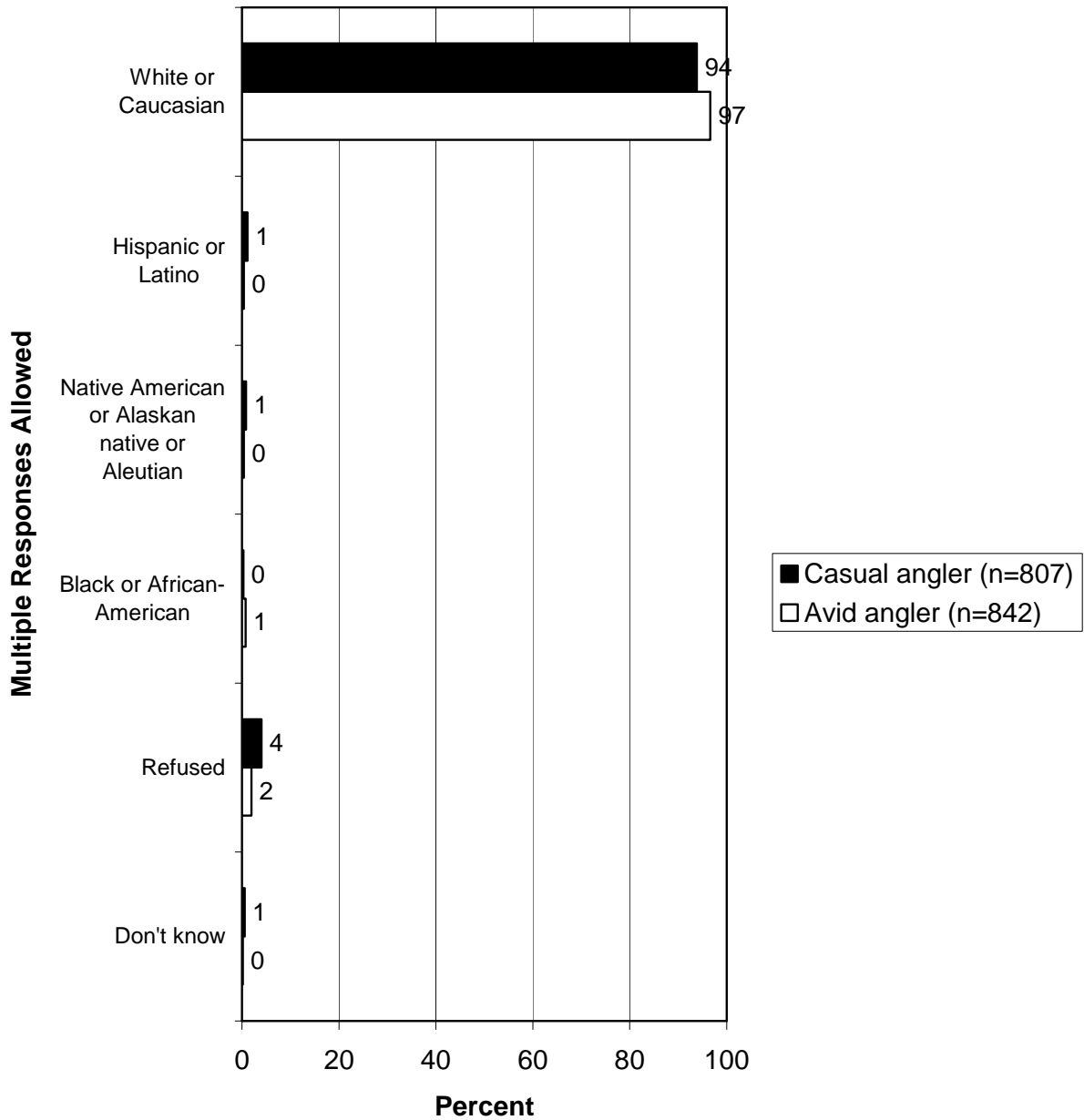
**Q231. Respondent's gender (not asked, but observed by interviewer).**



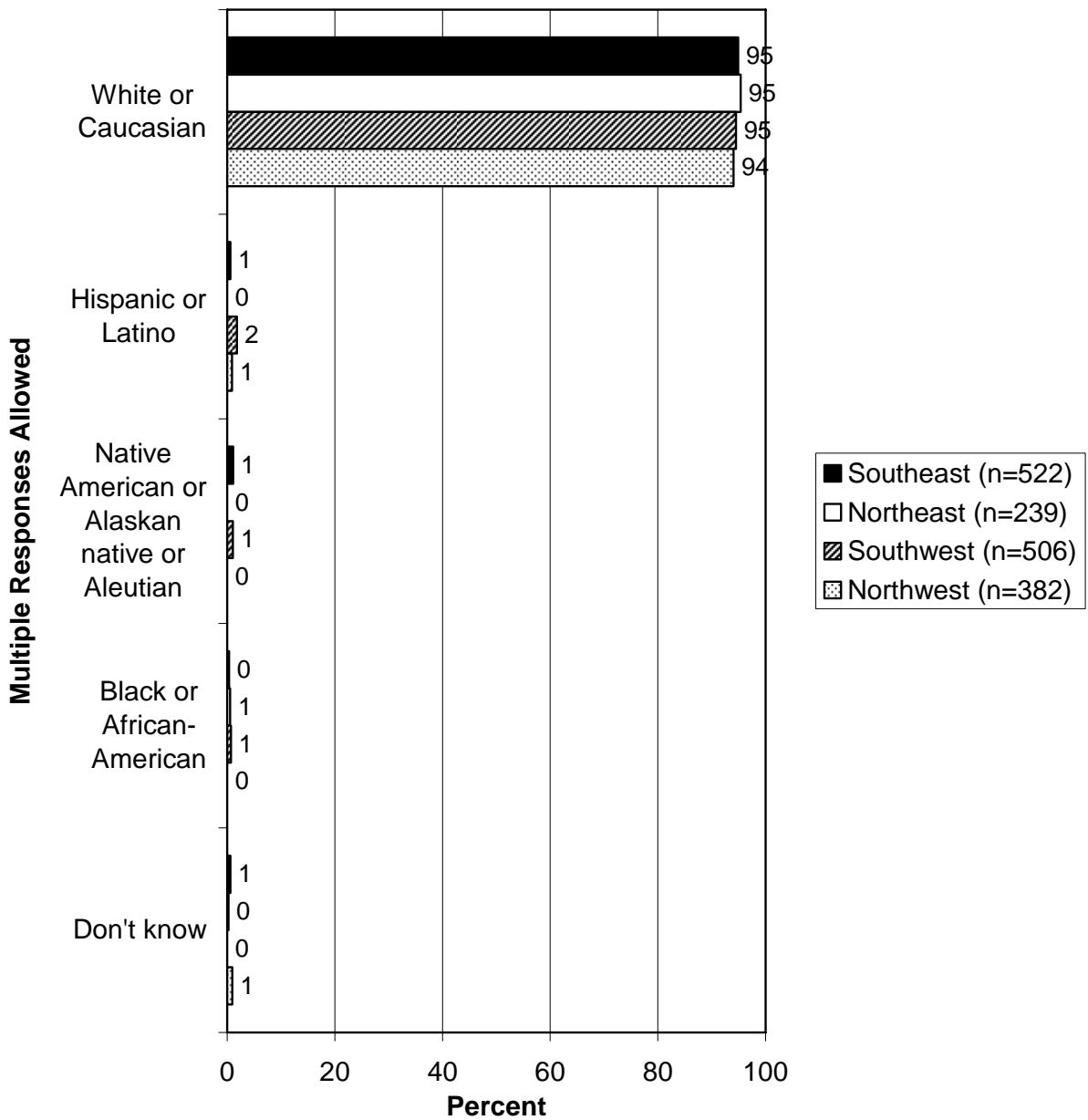
**Q223. What races or ethnic backgrounds do you consider yourself, and please mention all that apply?**



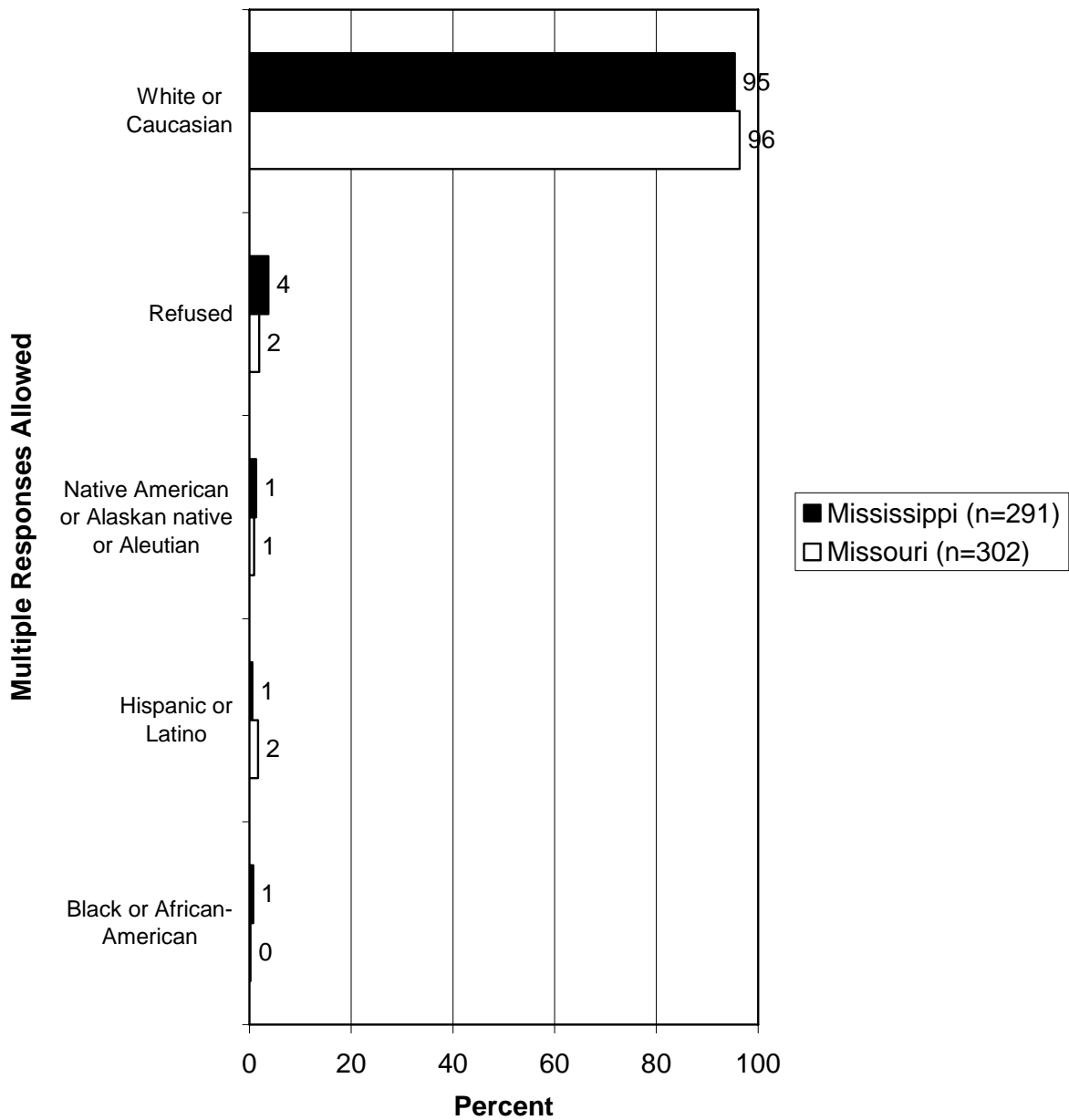
**Q223. What races or ethnic backgrounds do you consider yourself, and please mention all that apply?**

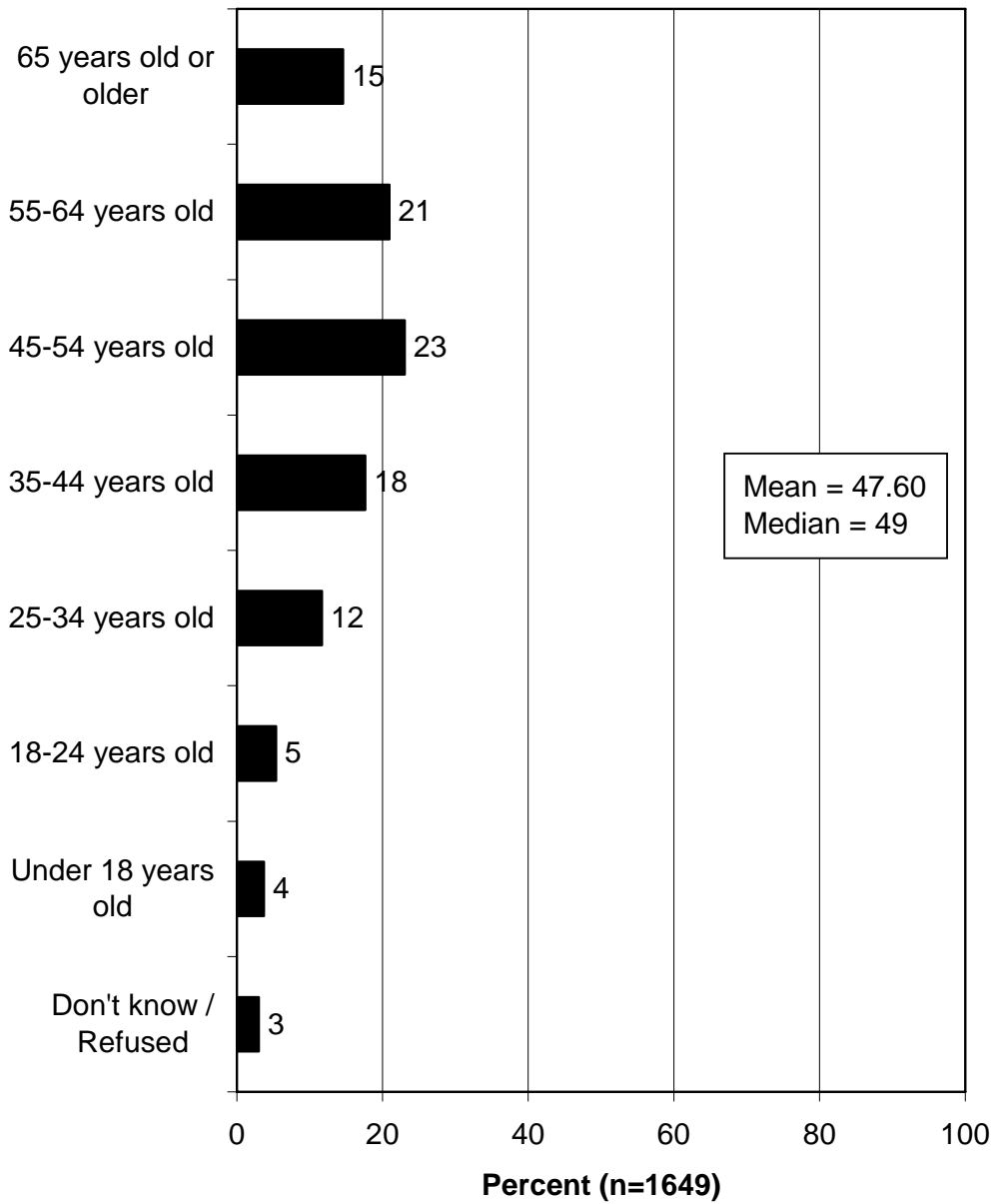


**Q223. What races or ethnic backgrounds do you consider yourself, and please mention all that apply?**

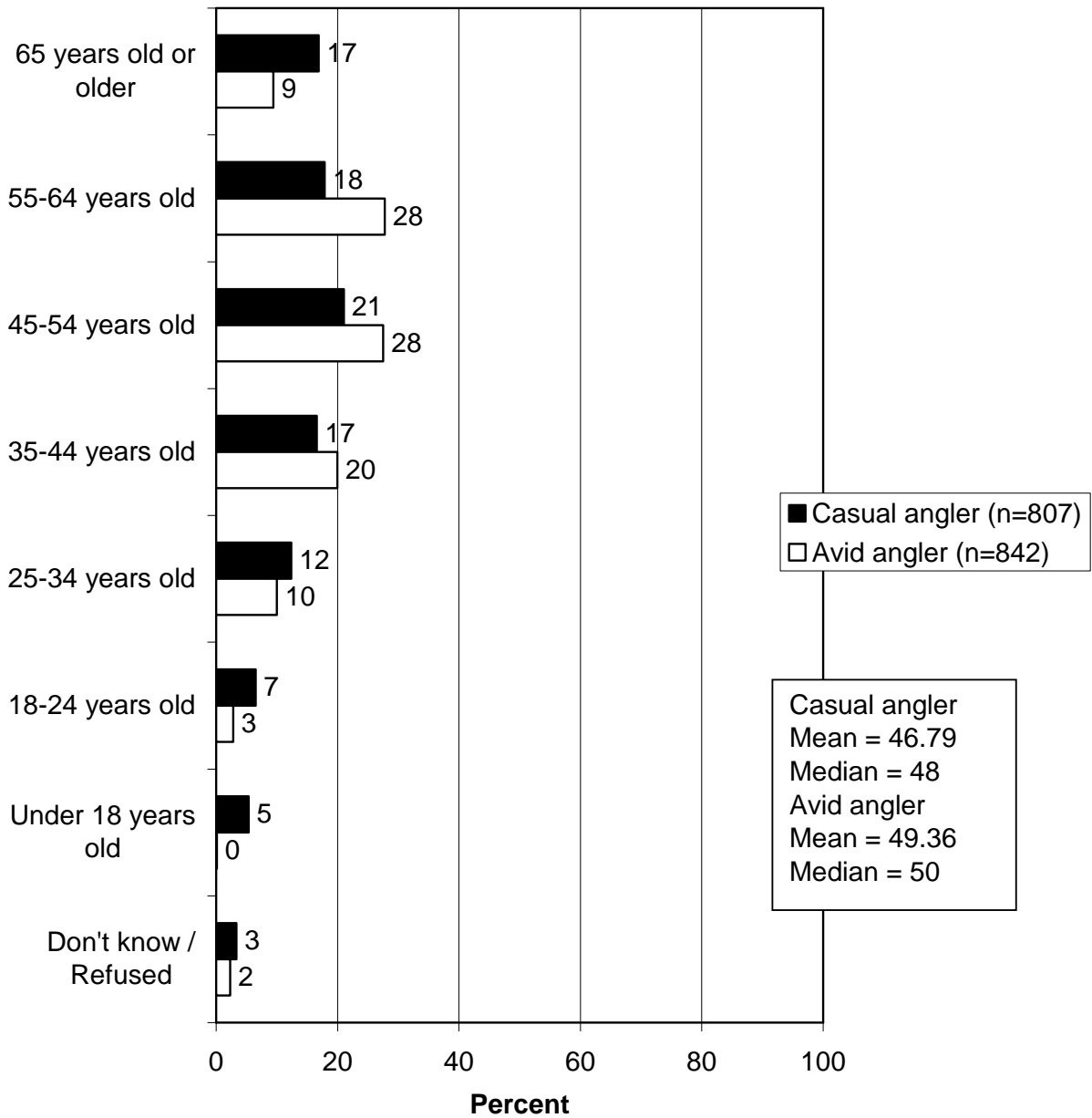


**Q223. What races or ethnic backgrounds do you consider yourself, and please mention all that apply?**



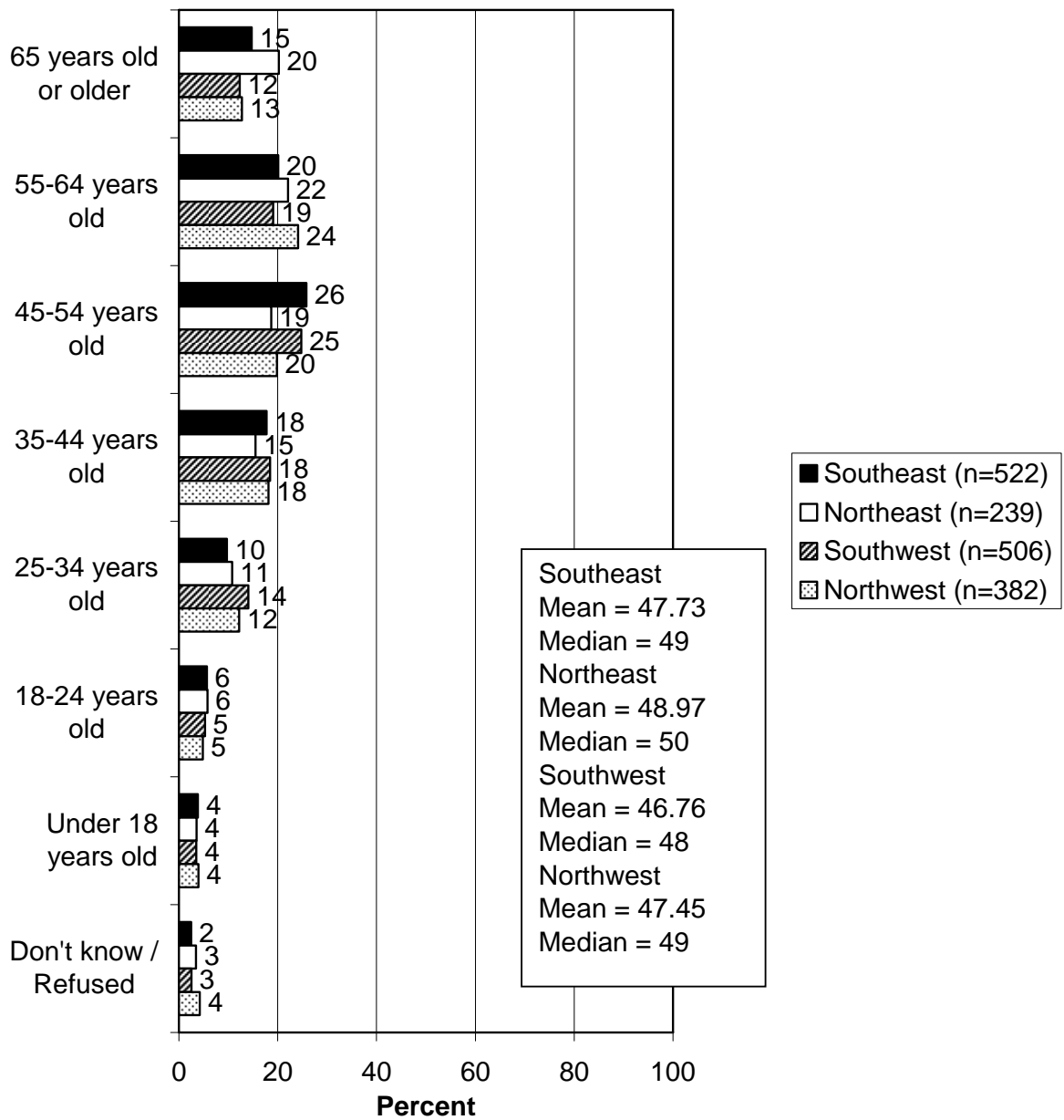
**Q225. Respondent's age.**

**Q225. Respondent's age.**

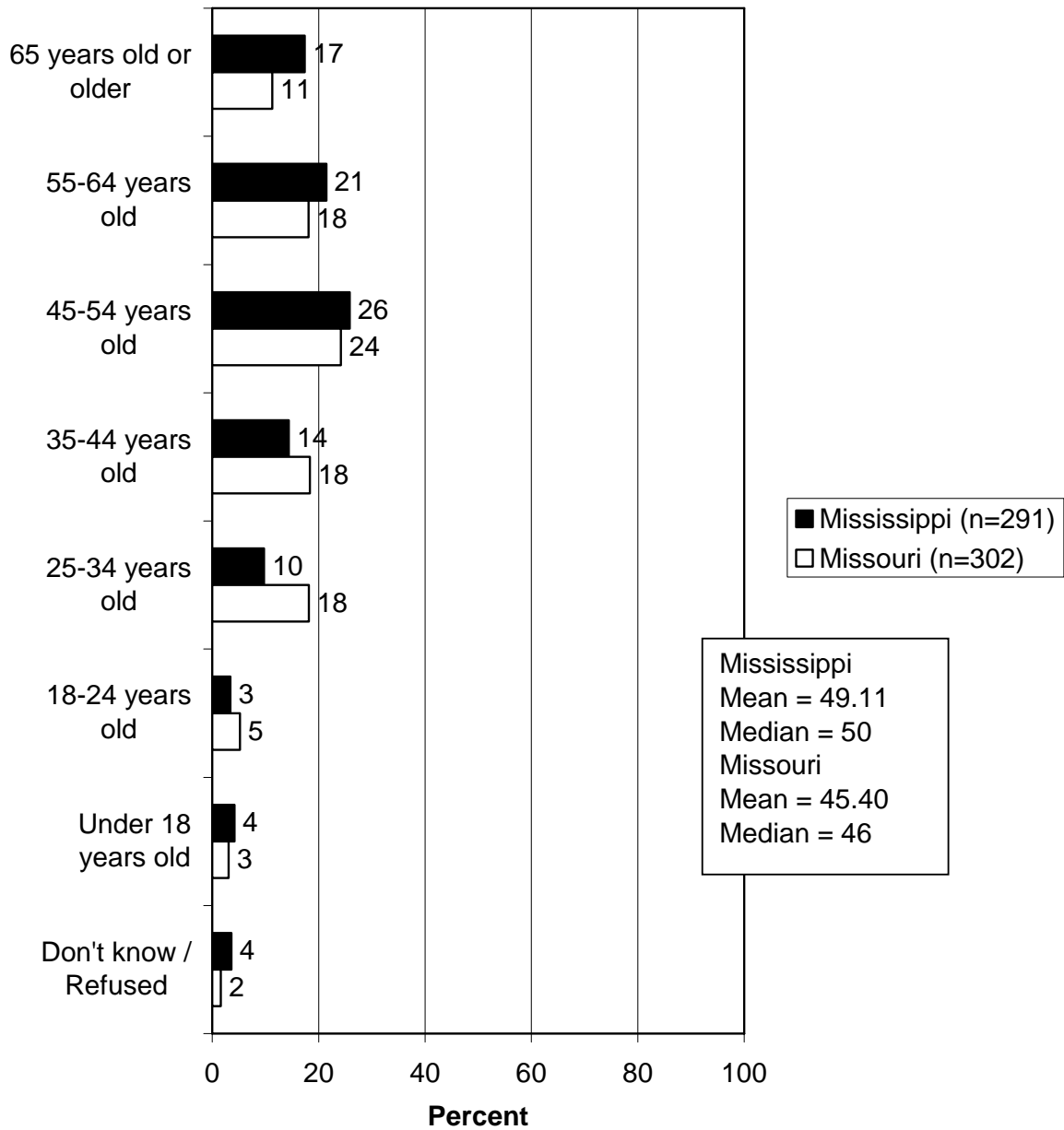




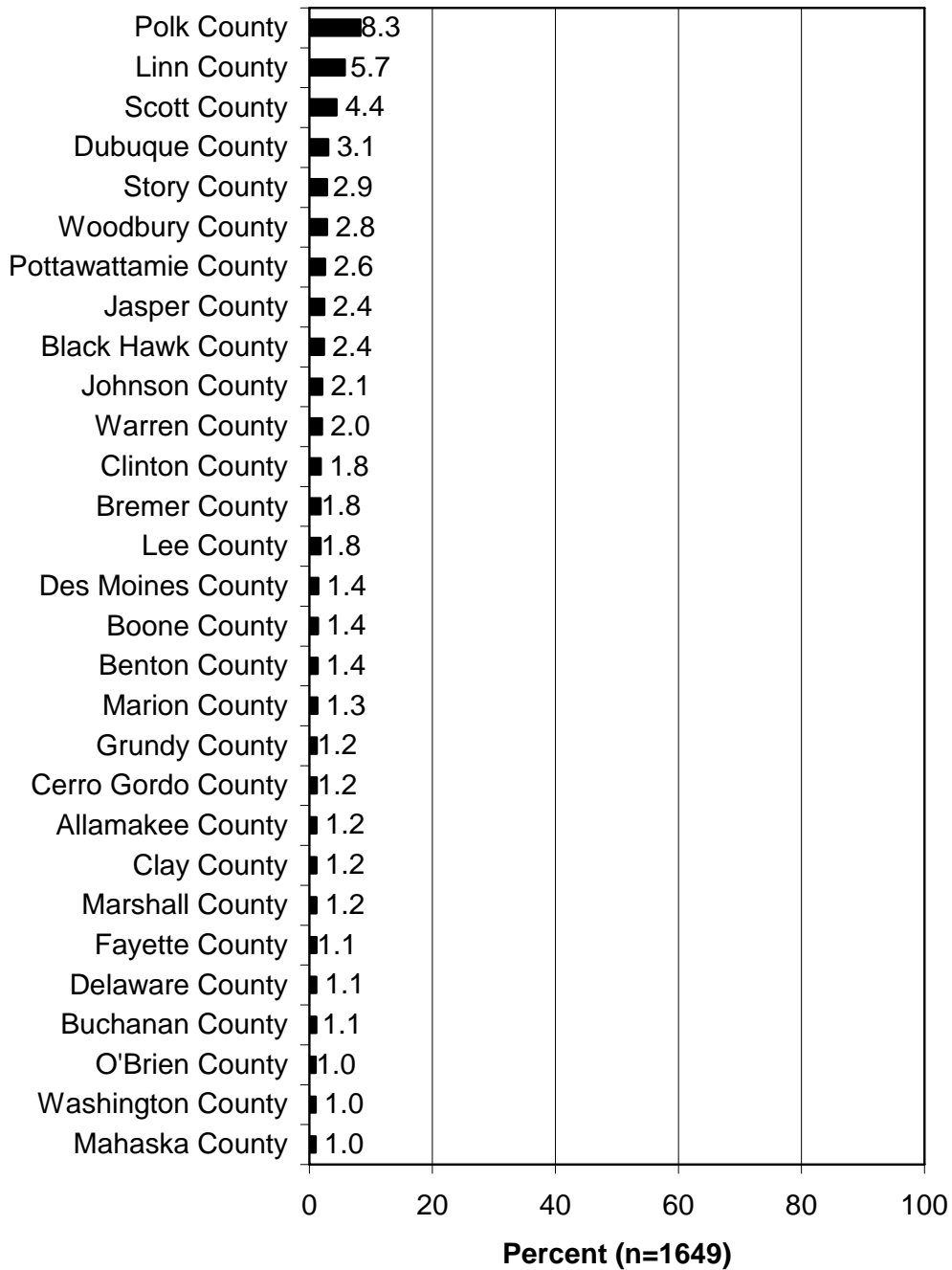
**Q225. Respondent's age.**



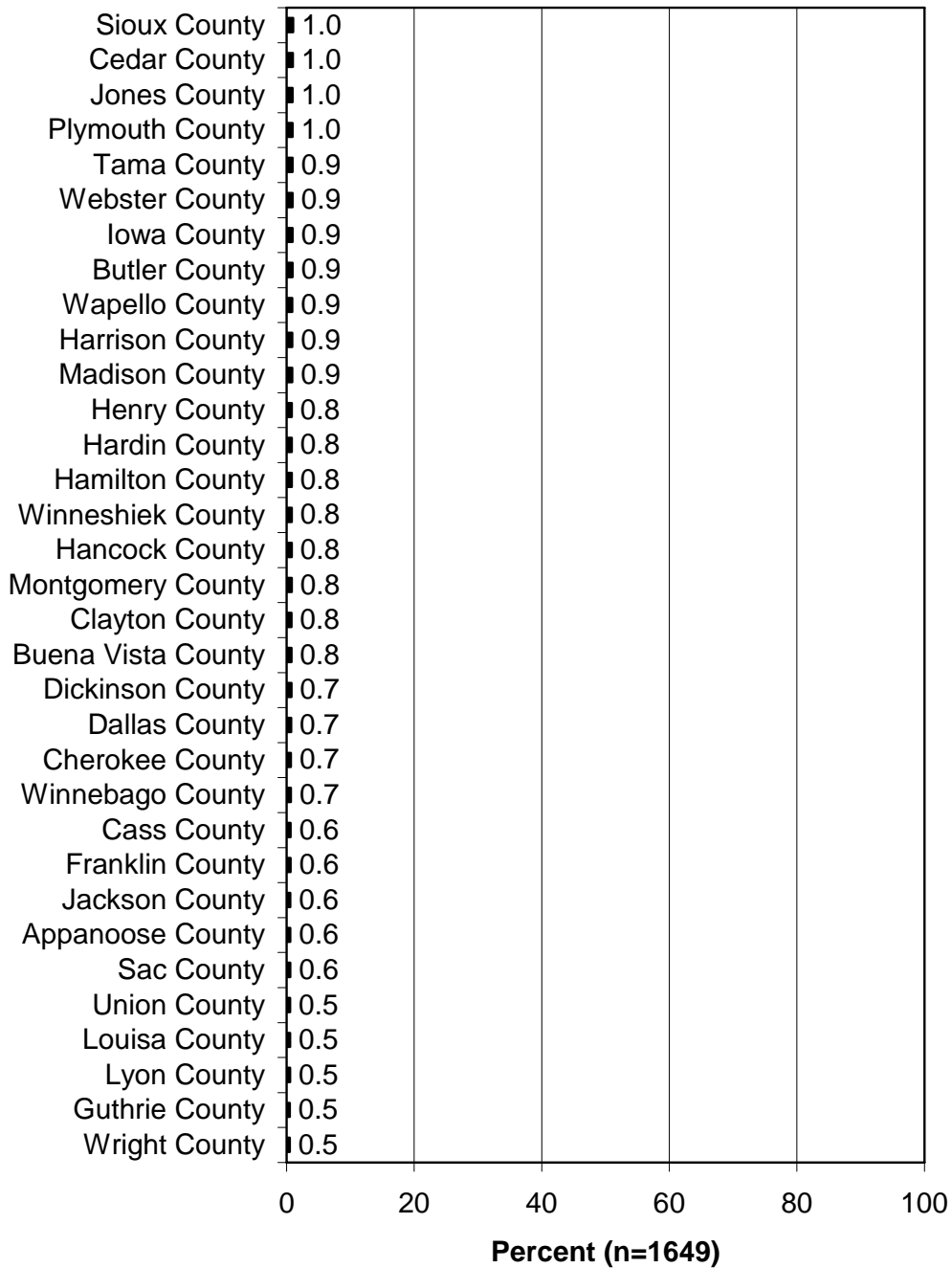
### Q225. Respondent's age.



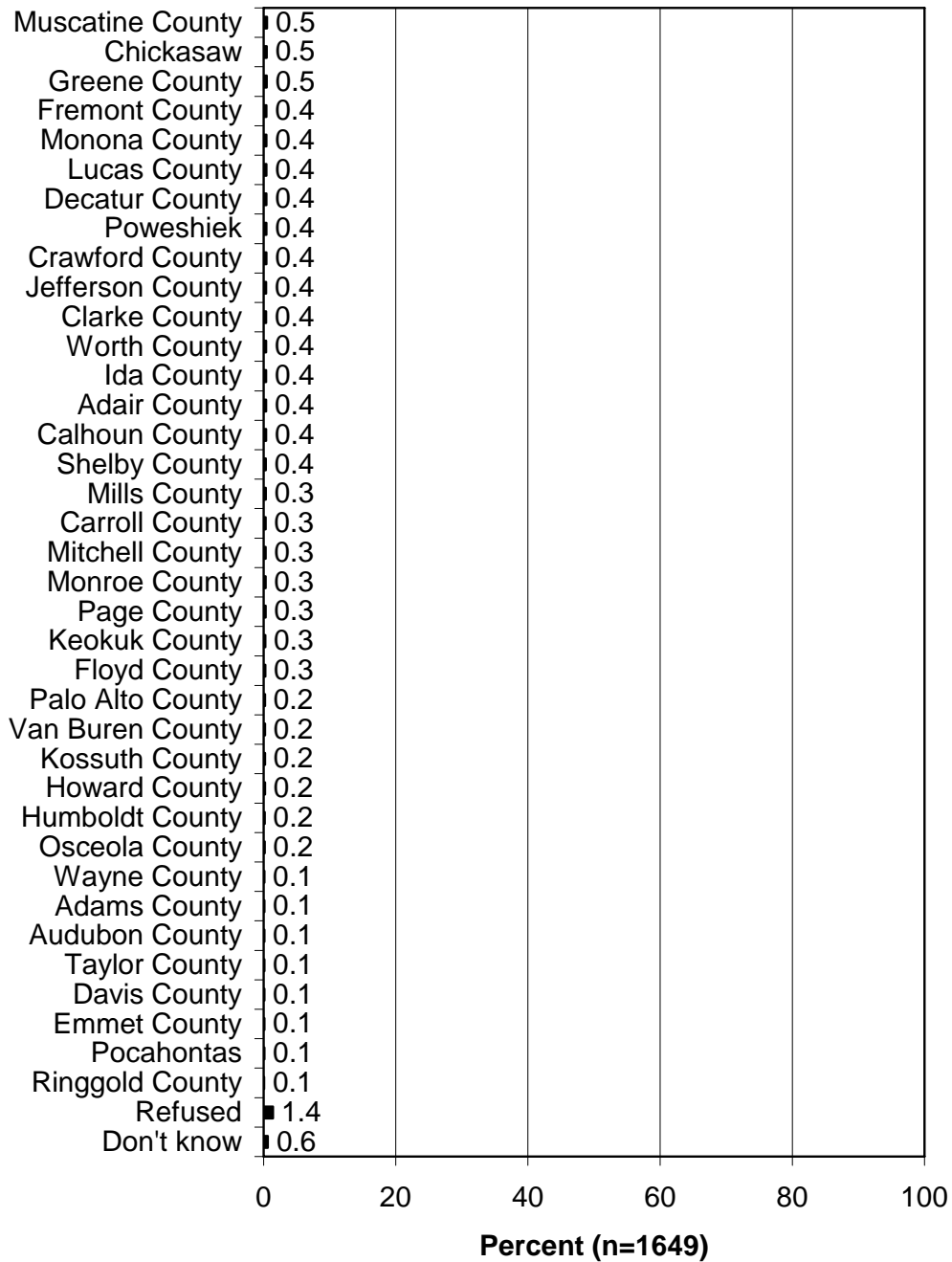
**Q220. In what county do you live?**  
**Part 1**



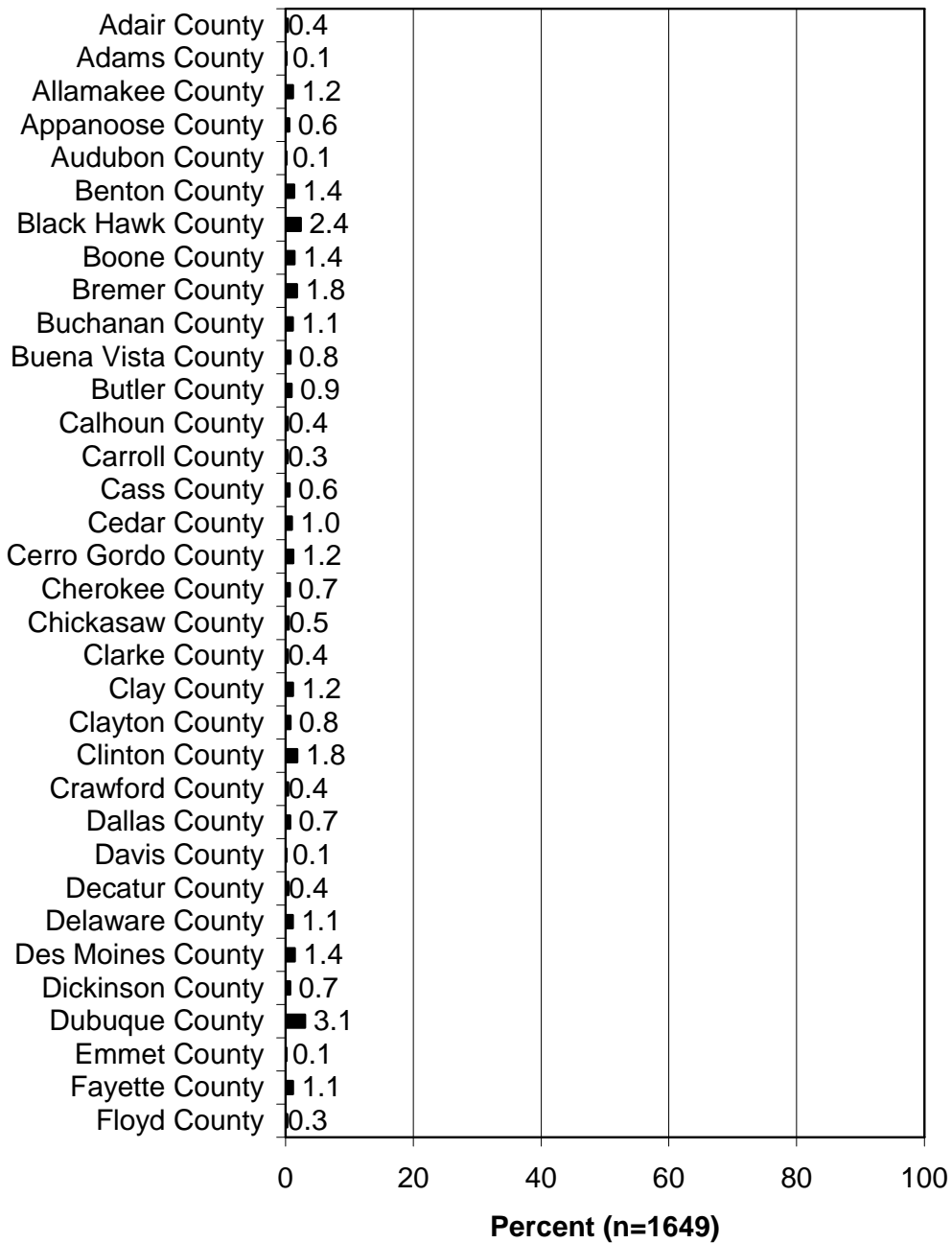
### Q220. In what county do you live? Part 2



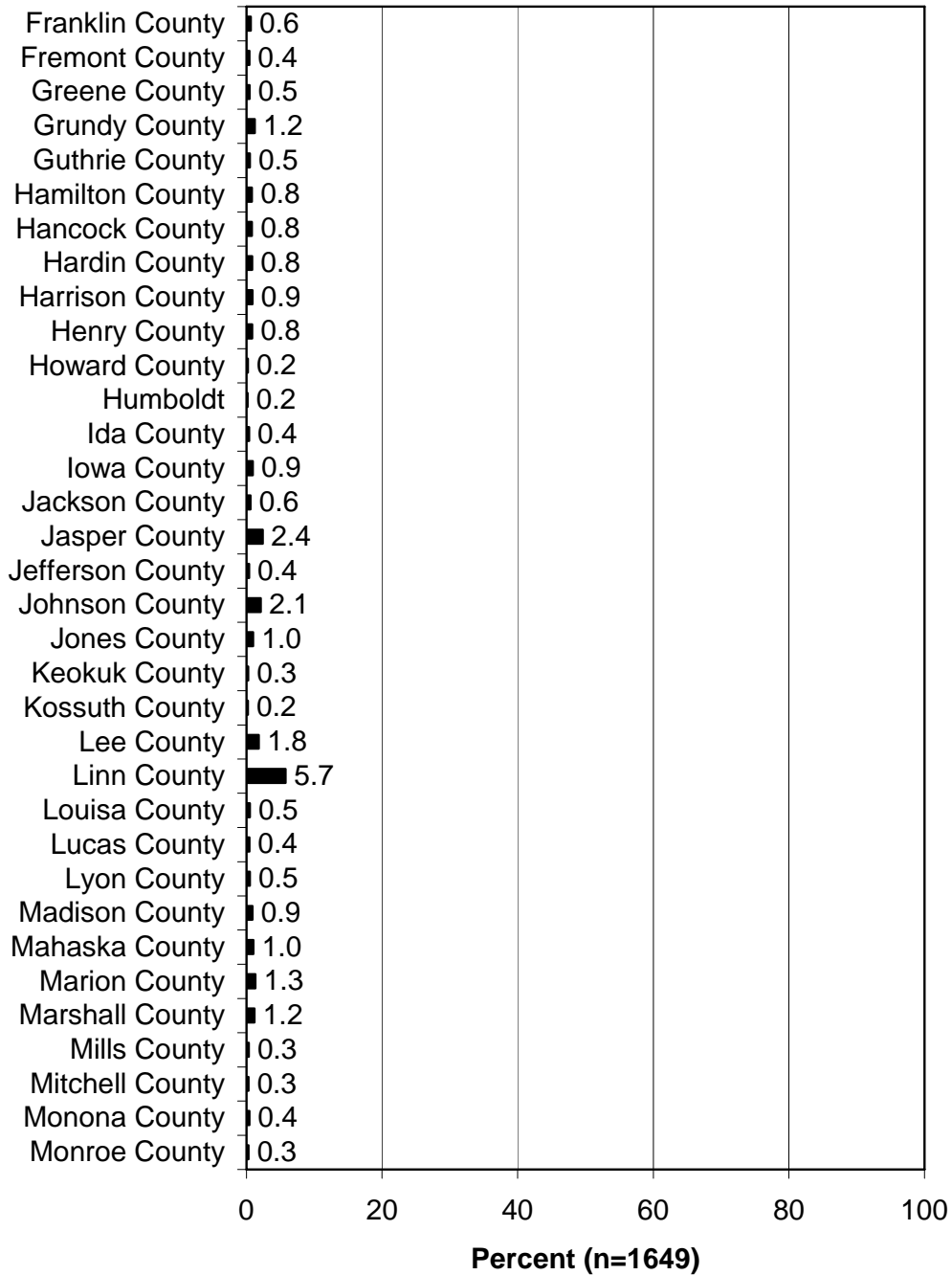
**Q220. In what county do you live?**  
**Part 3**



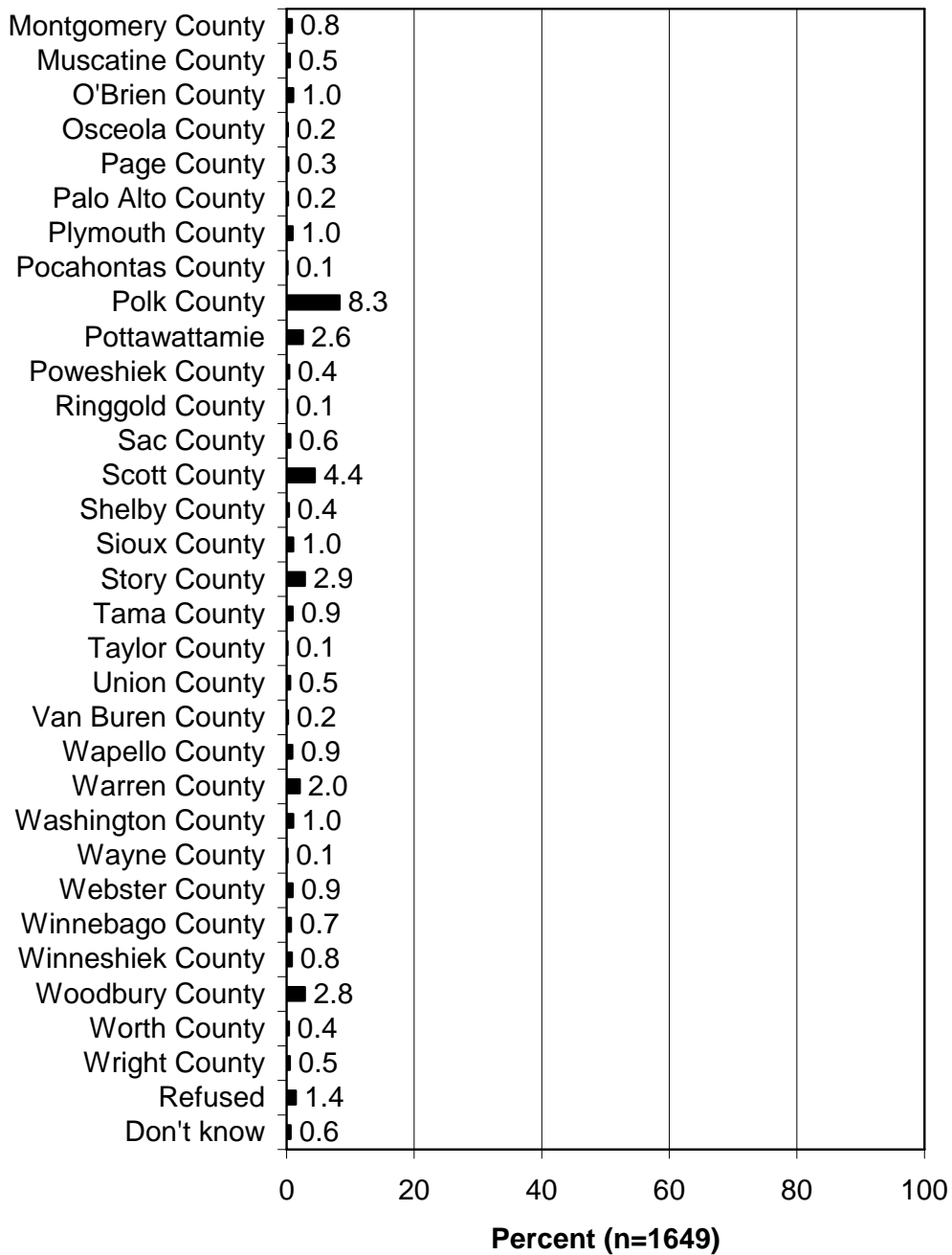
**Q220. In what county do you live?  
Part 1 (Alphabetical)**



**Q220. In what county do you live?  
Part 2 (Alphabetical)**

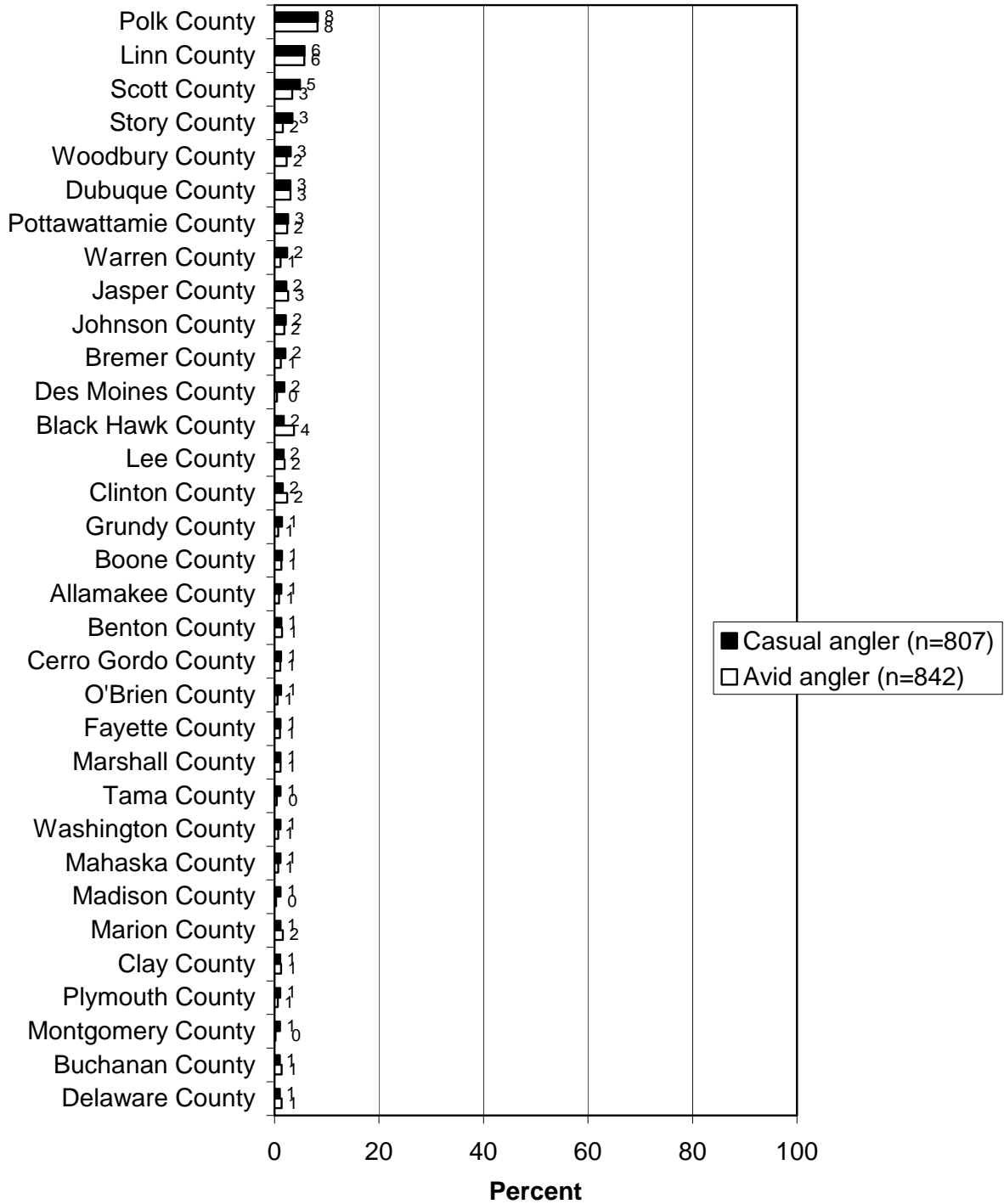


**Q220. In what county do you live?  
Part 3 (Alphabetical)**

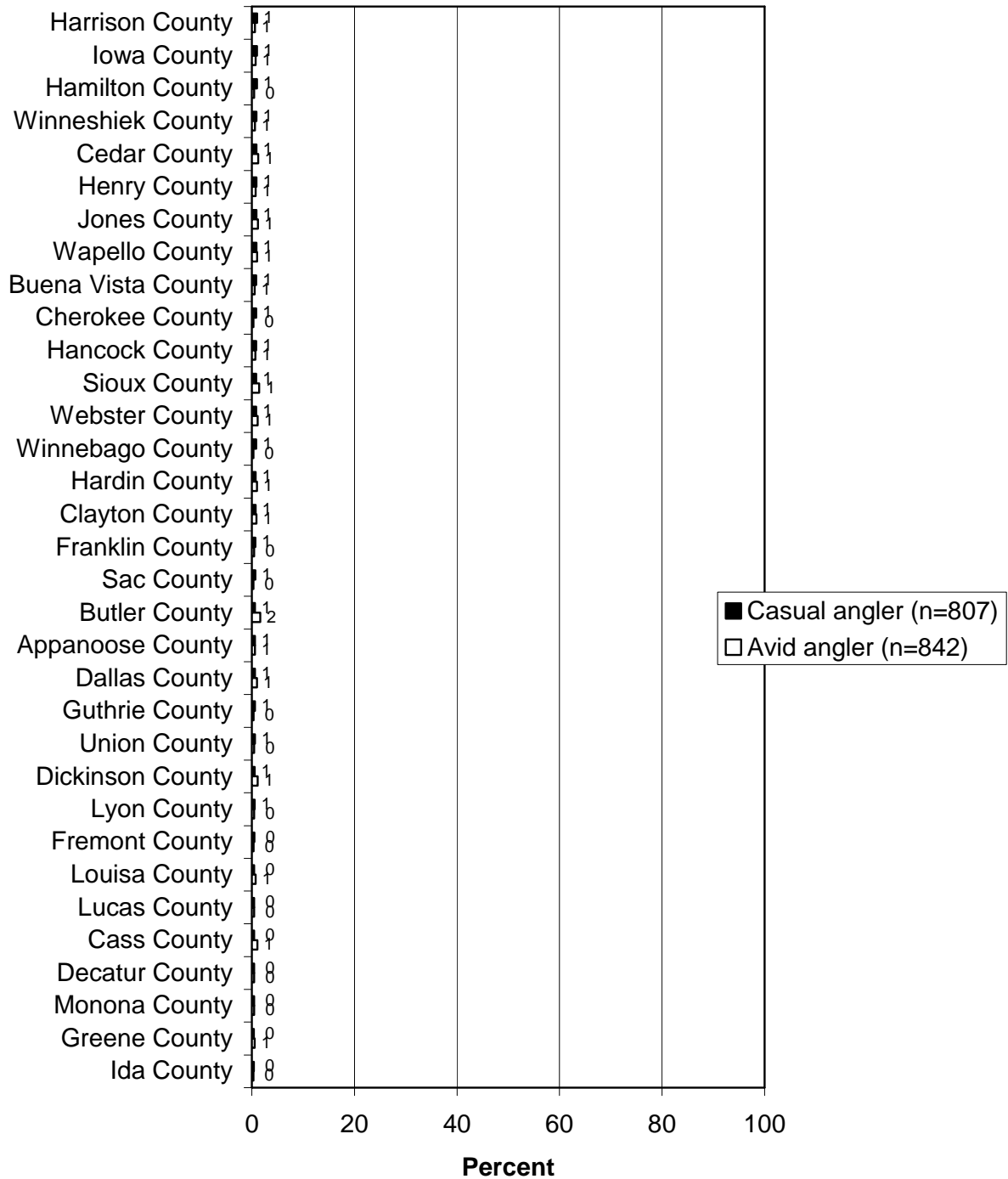




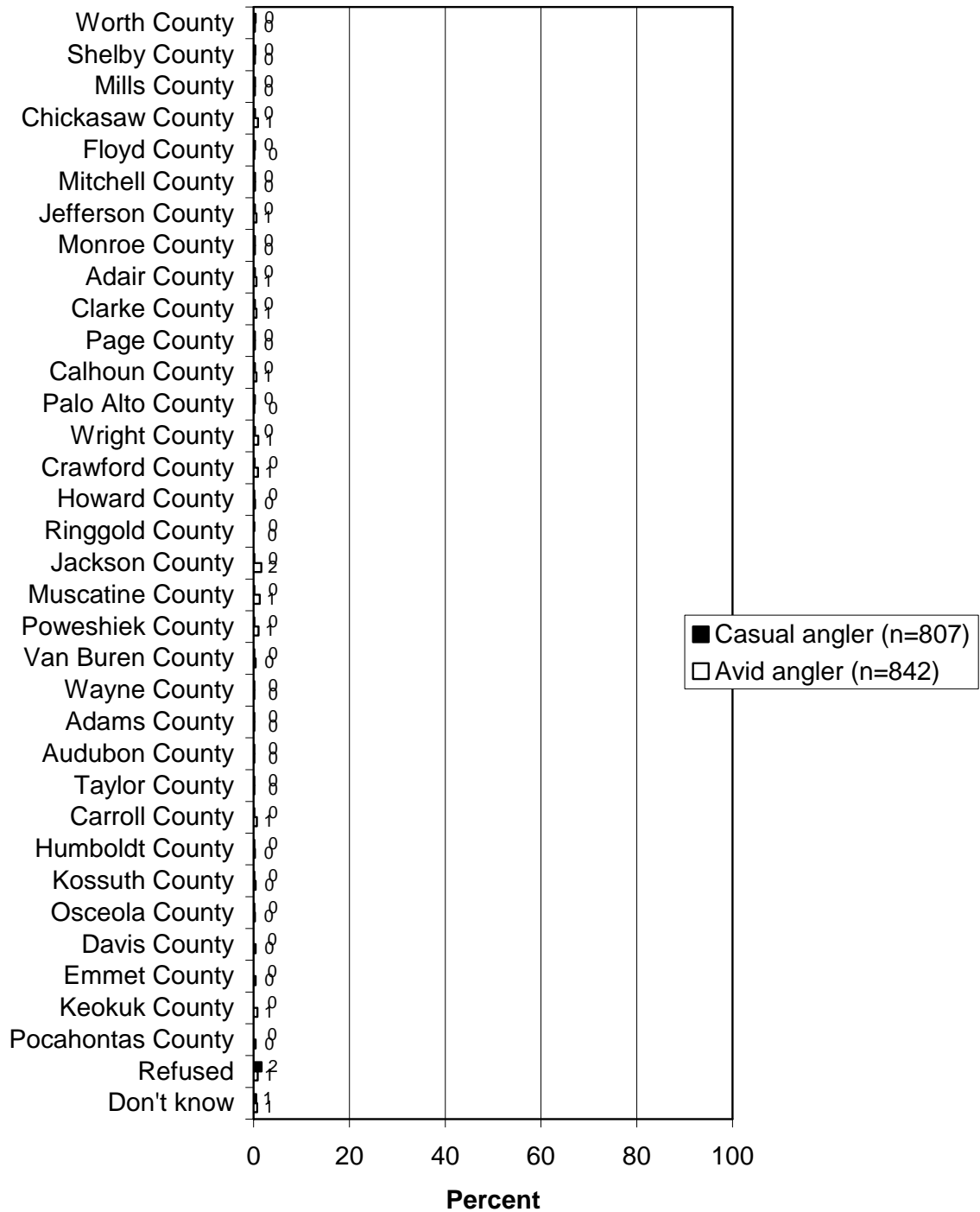
### Q220. In what county do you live? (Part 1)



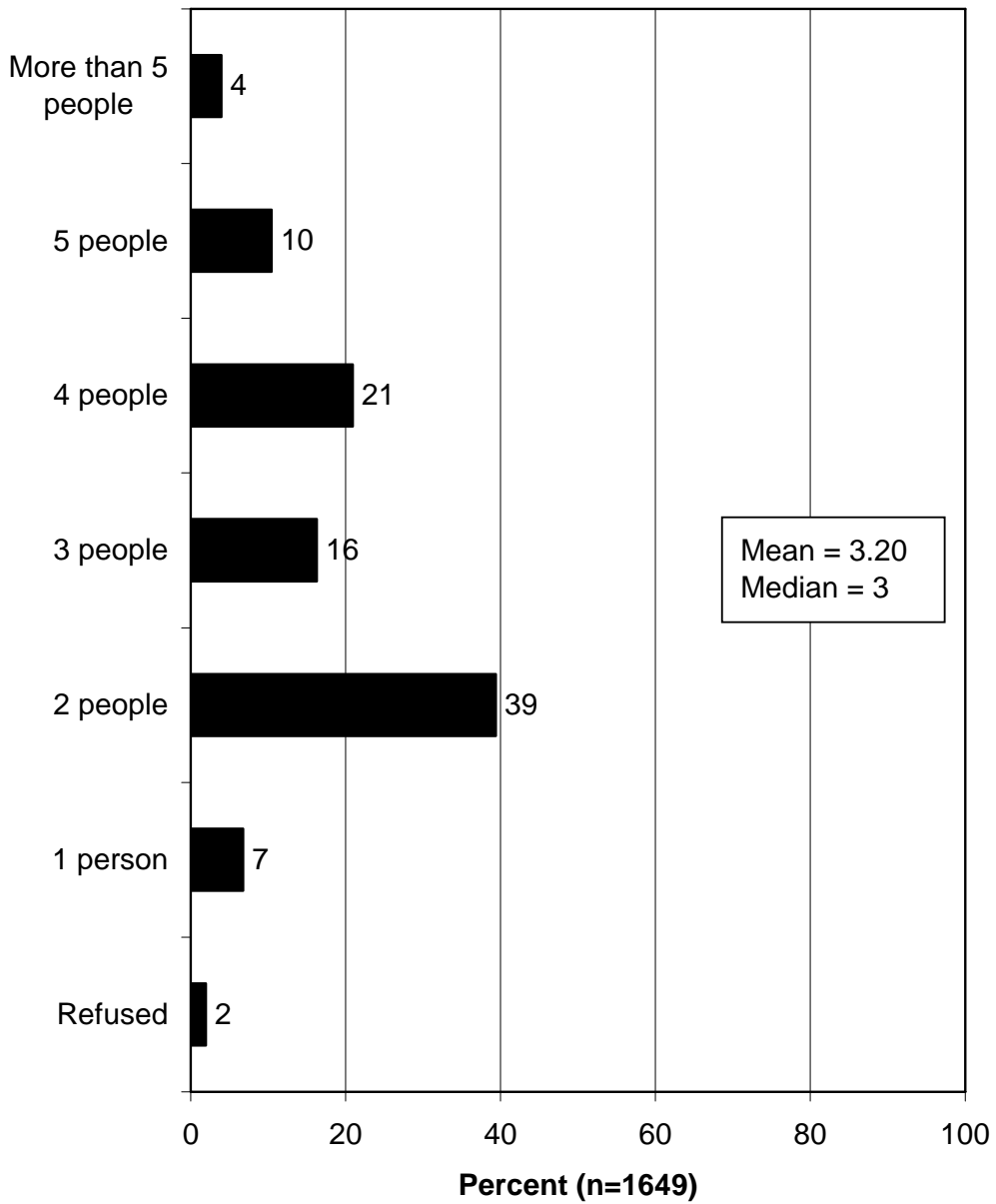
### Q220. In what county do you live? (Part 2)



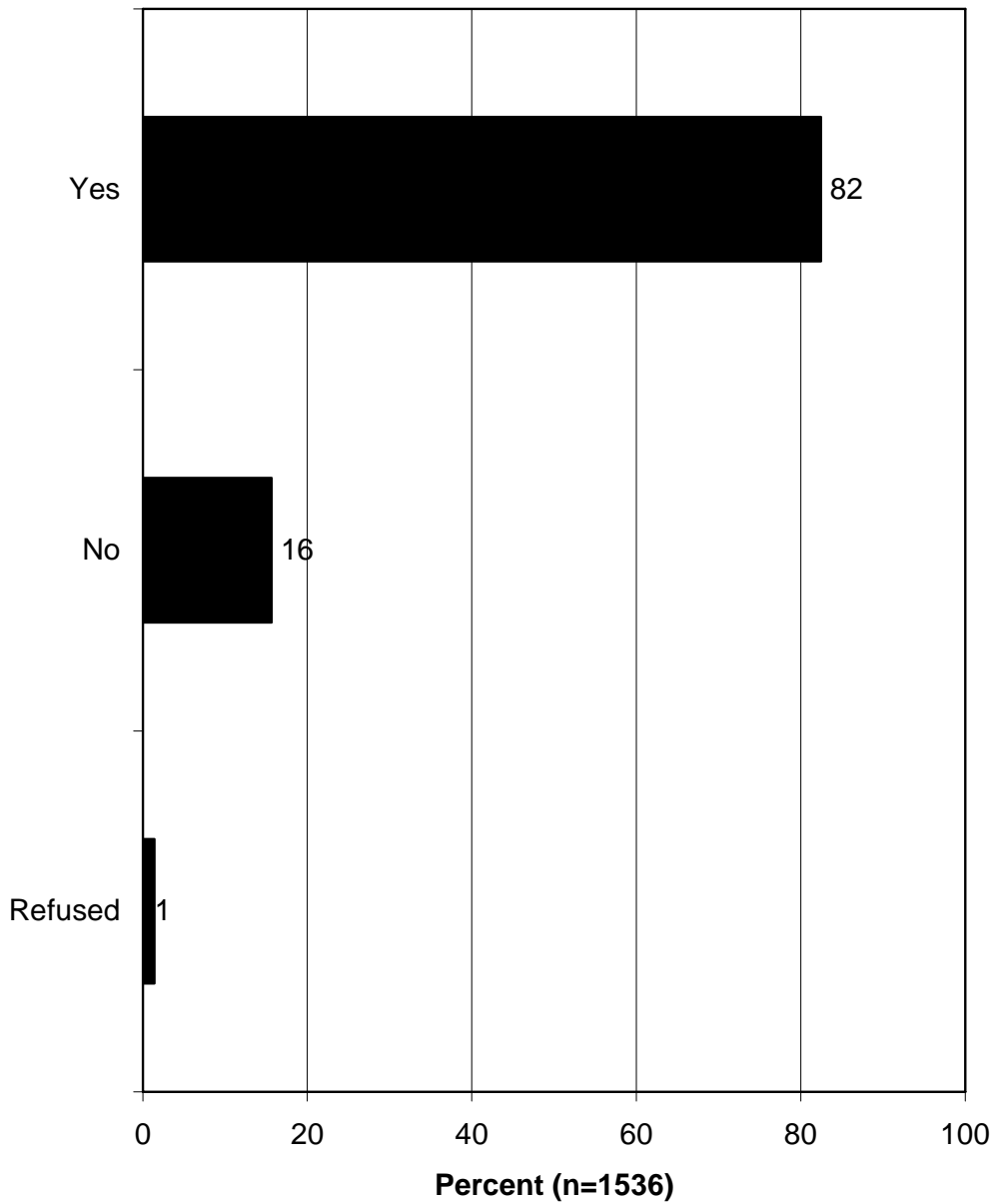
### Q220. In what county do you live? (Part 3)



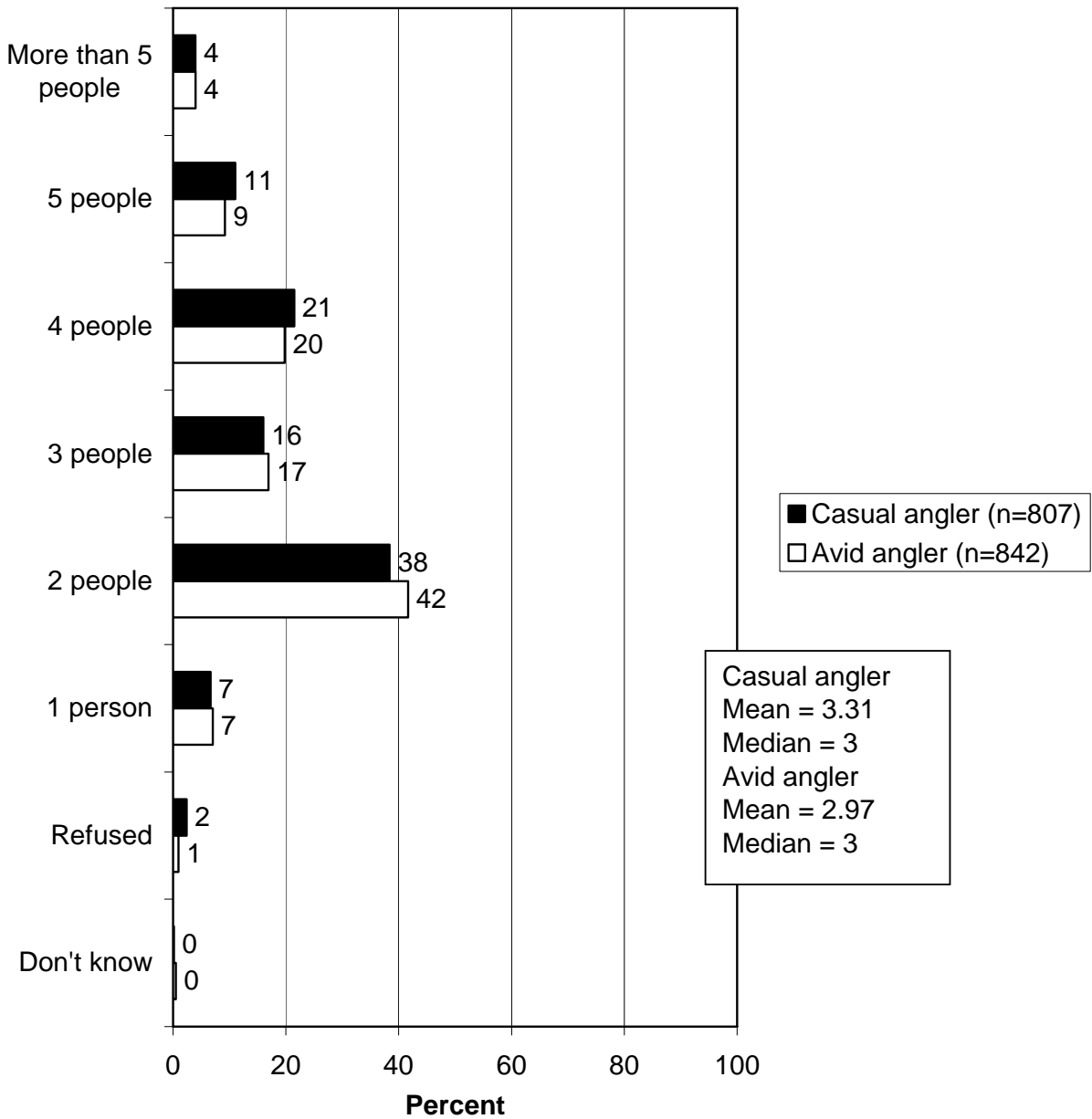
**Q203. How many people live in your household including yourself?**



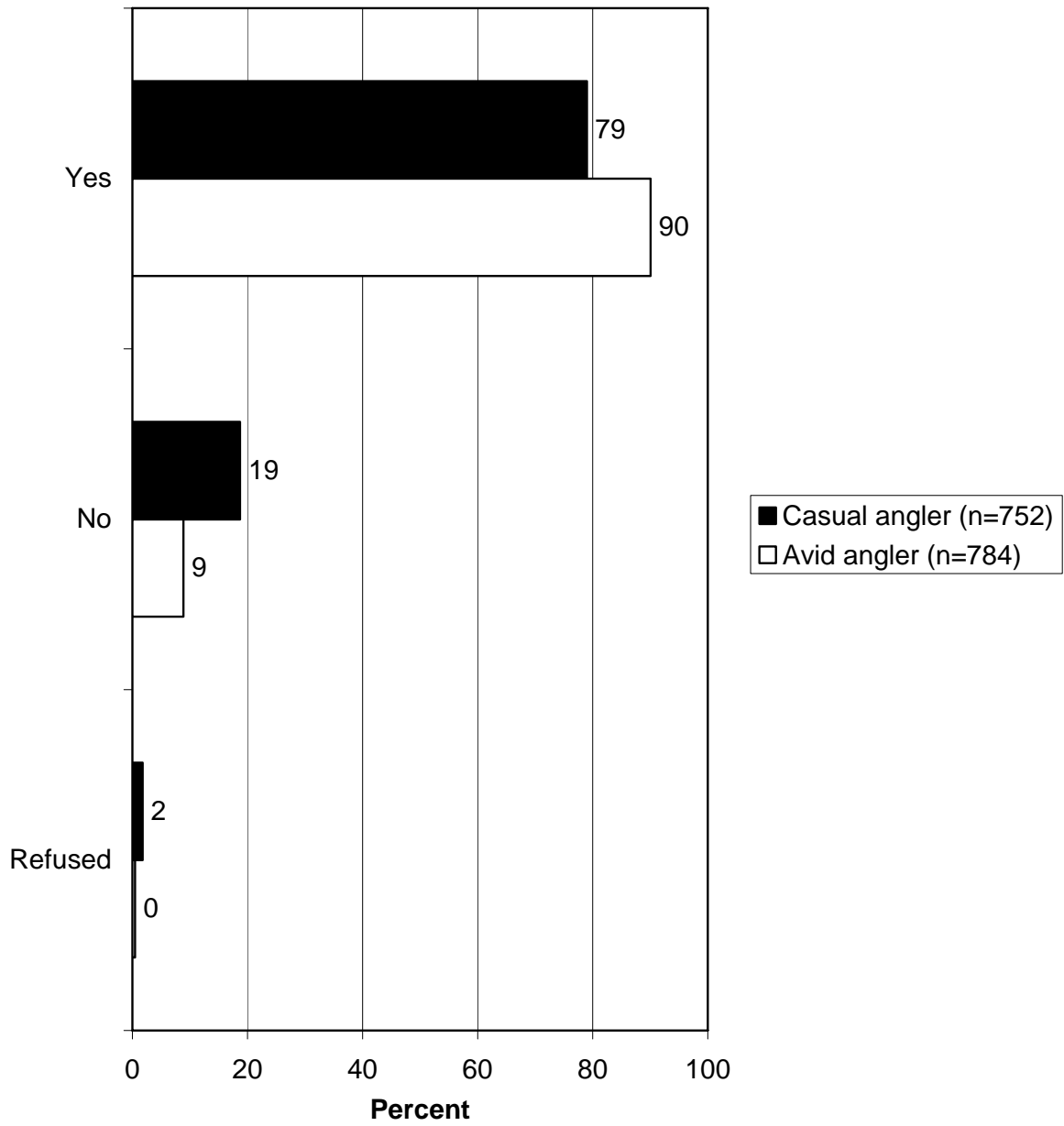
**Q213. Are you married? (Asked of those who do not live alone.)**



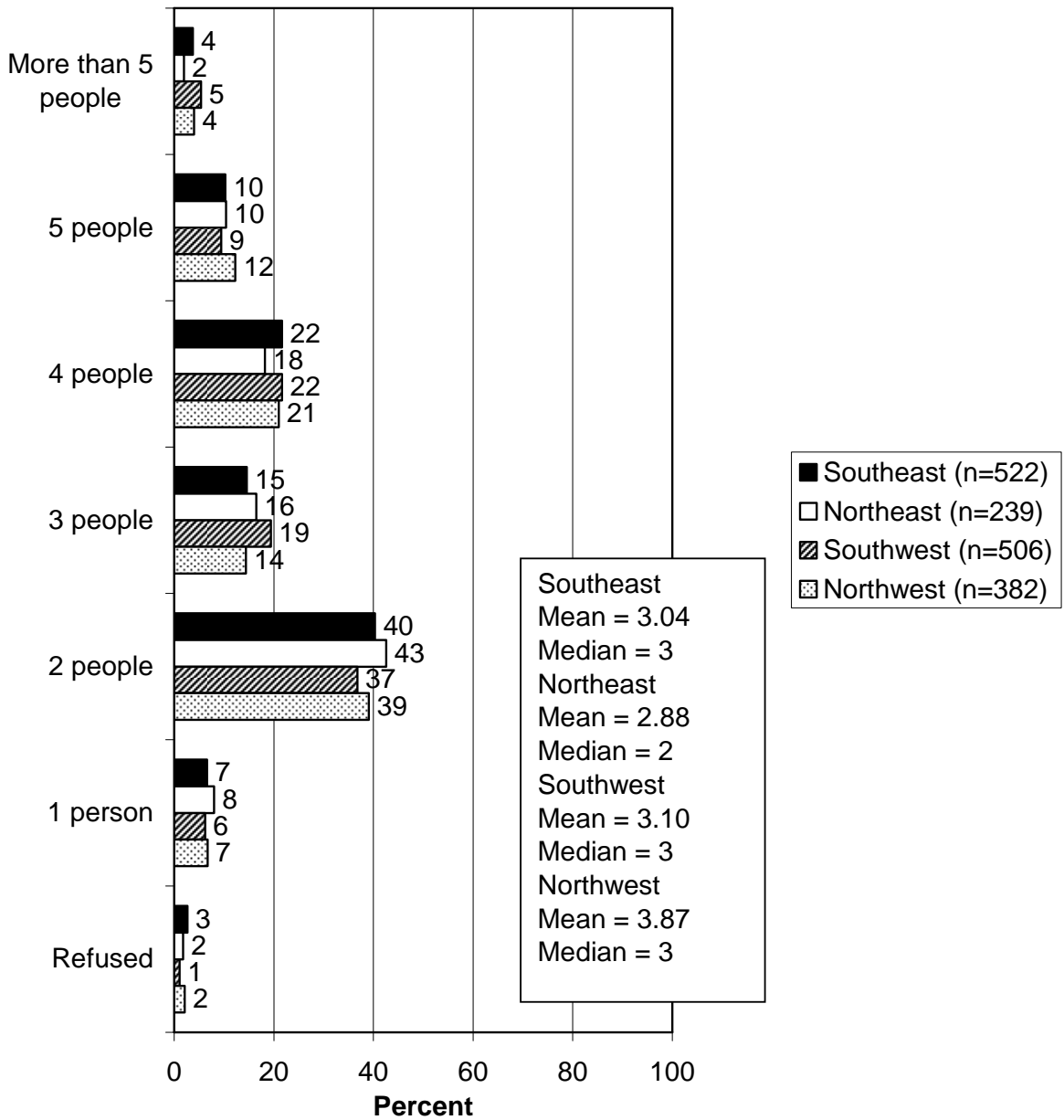
**Q203. How many people live in your household including yourself?**



**Q213. Are you married? (Asked of those who do not live alone.)**

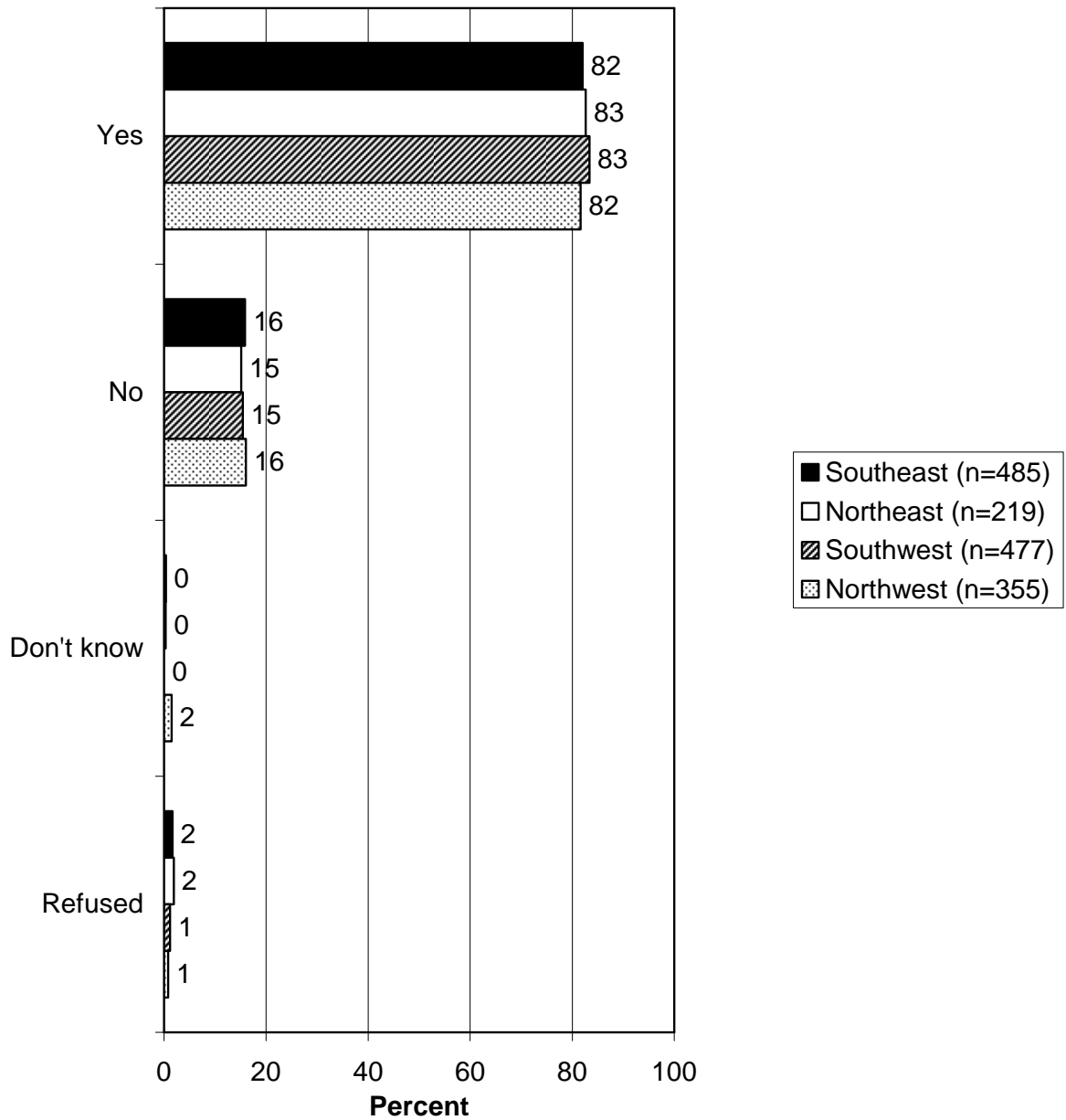


### Q203. How many people live in your household including yourself?

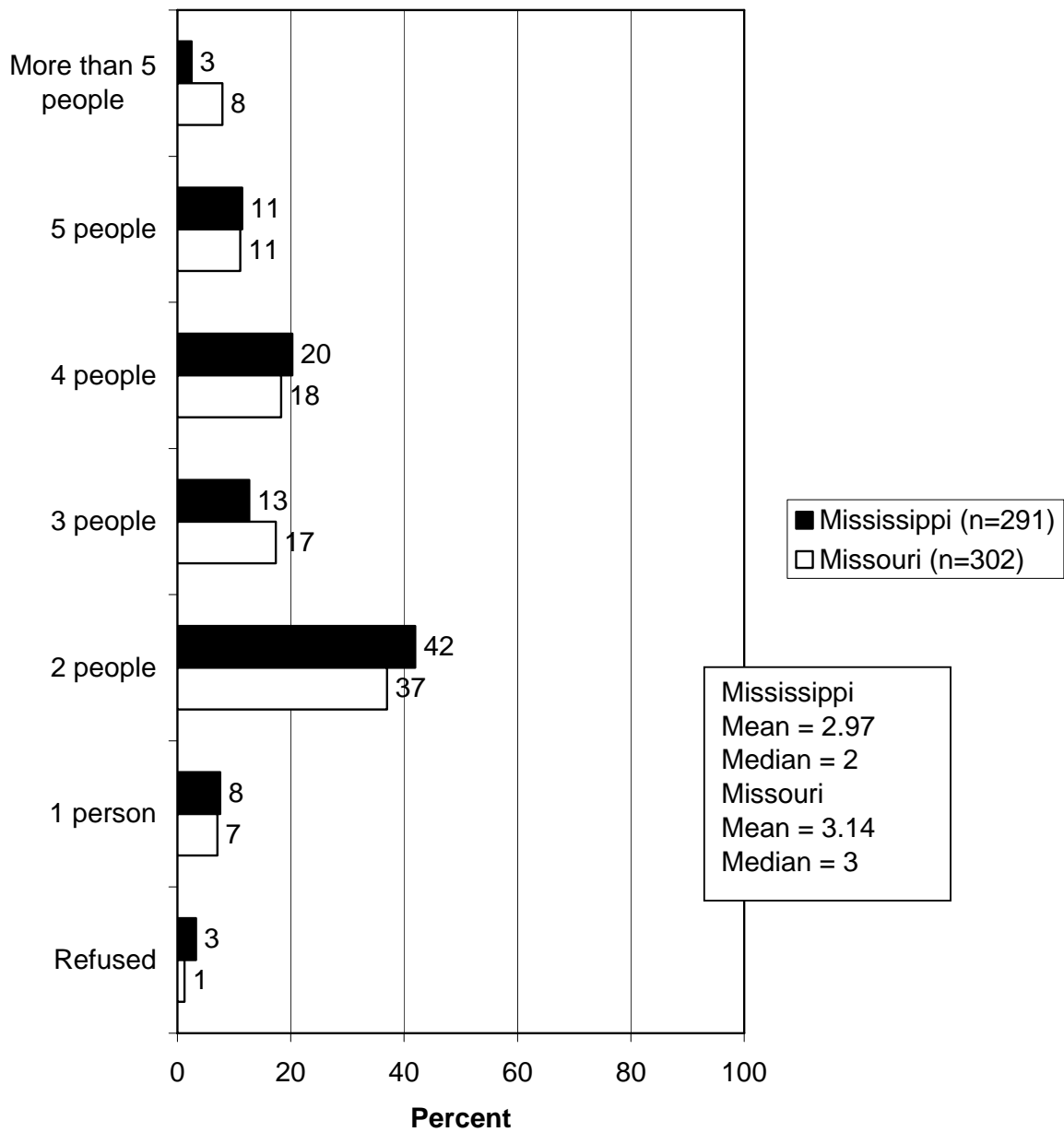




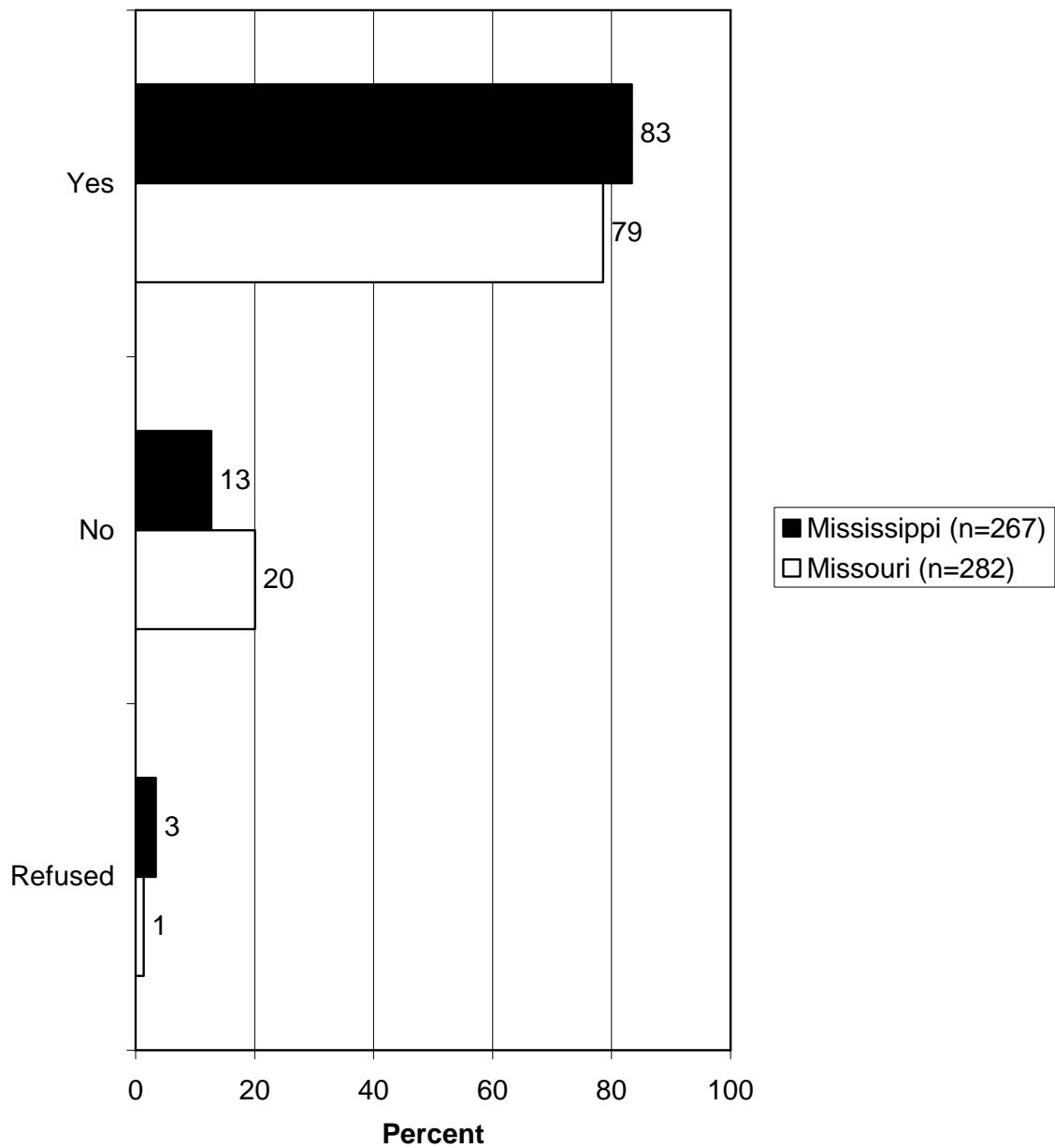
**Q213. Are you married? (Asked of those who do not live alone.)**



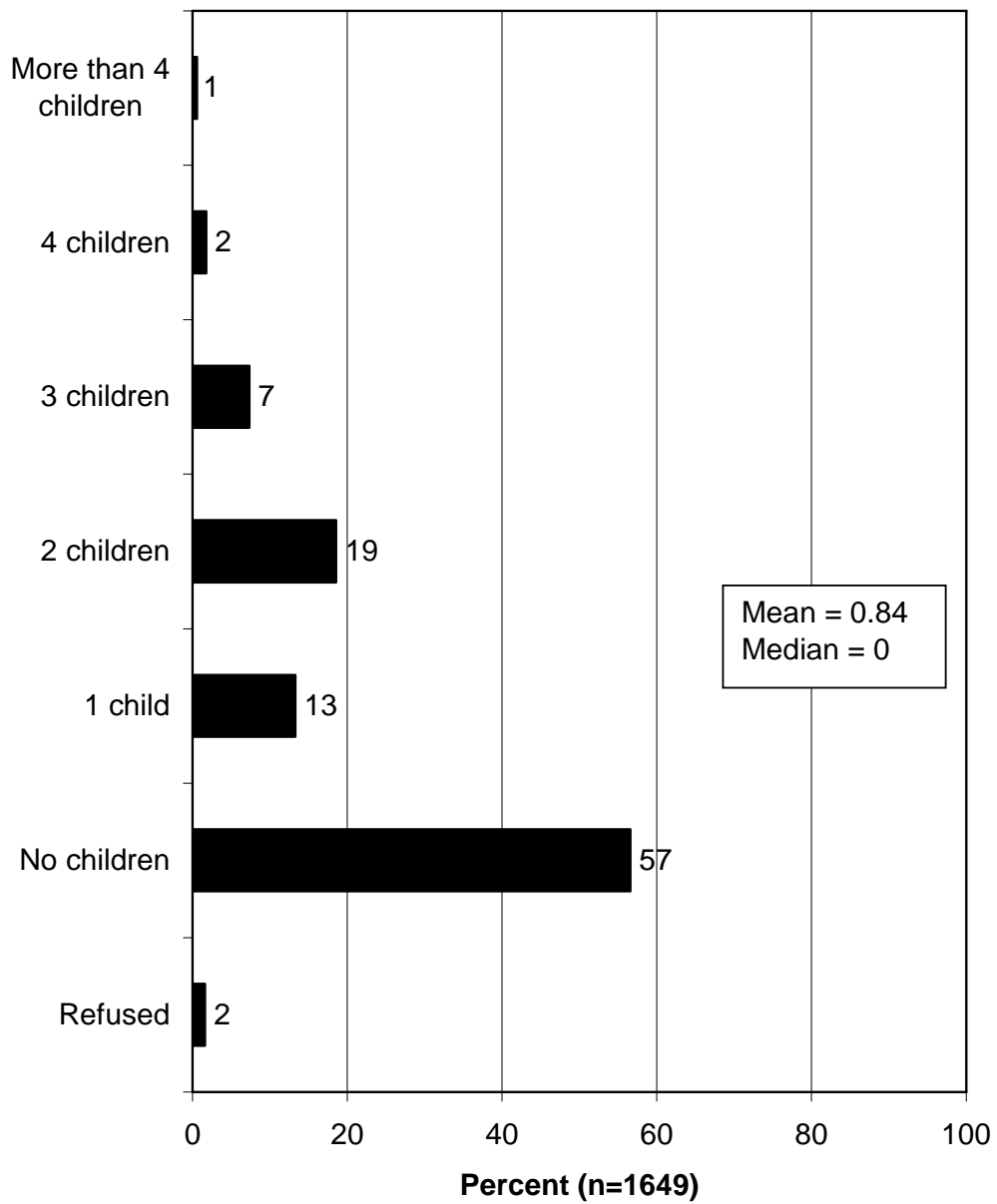
### Q203. How many people live in your household including yourself?



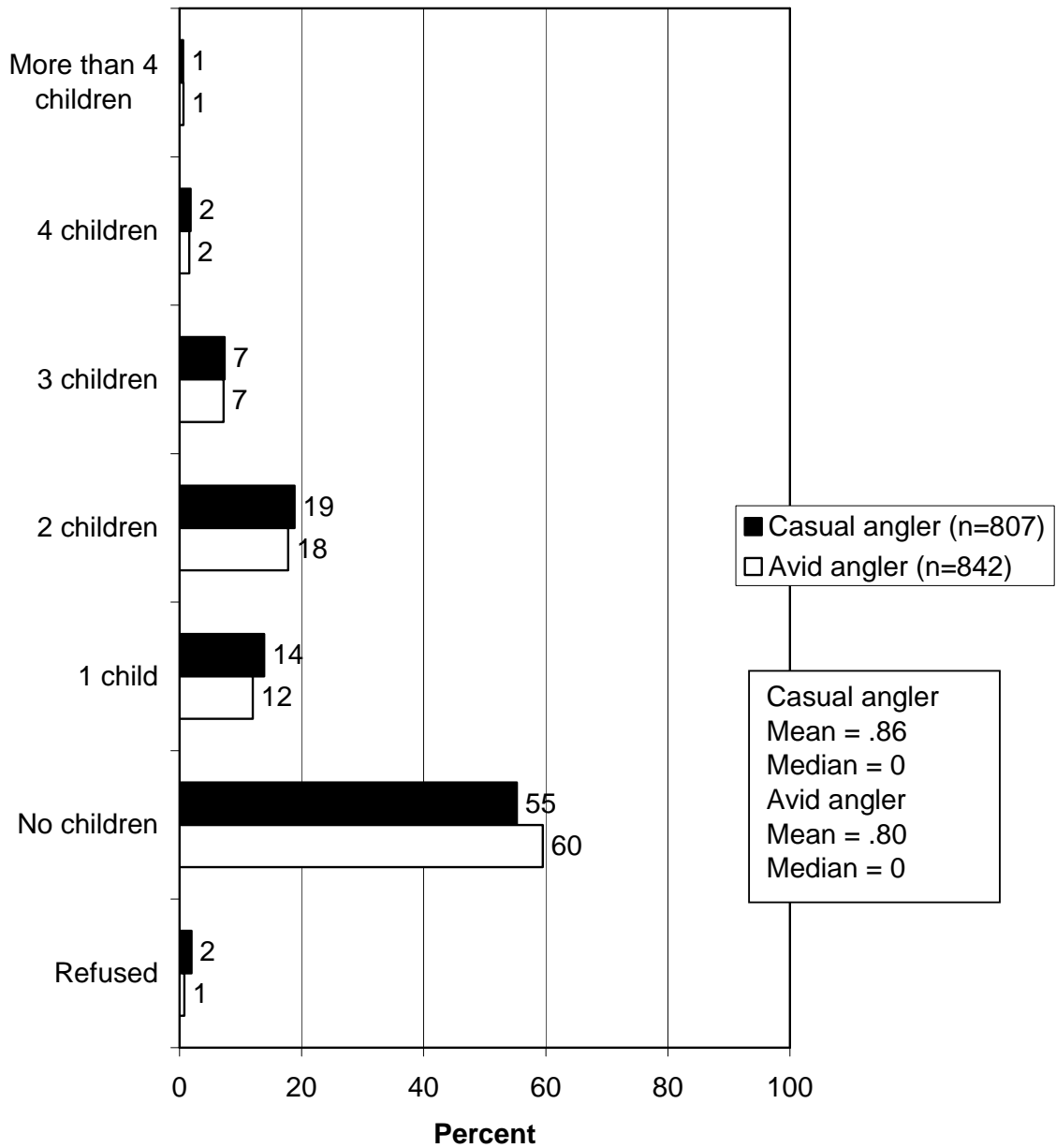
**Q213. Are you married? (Asked of those who do not live alone.)**



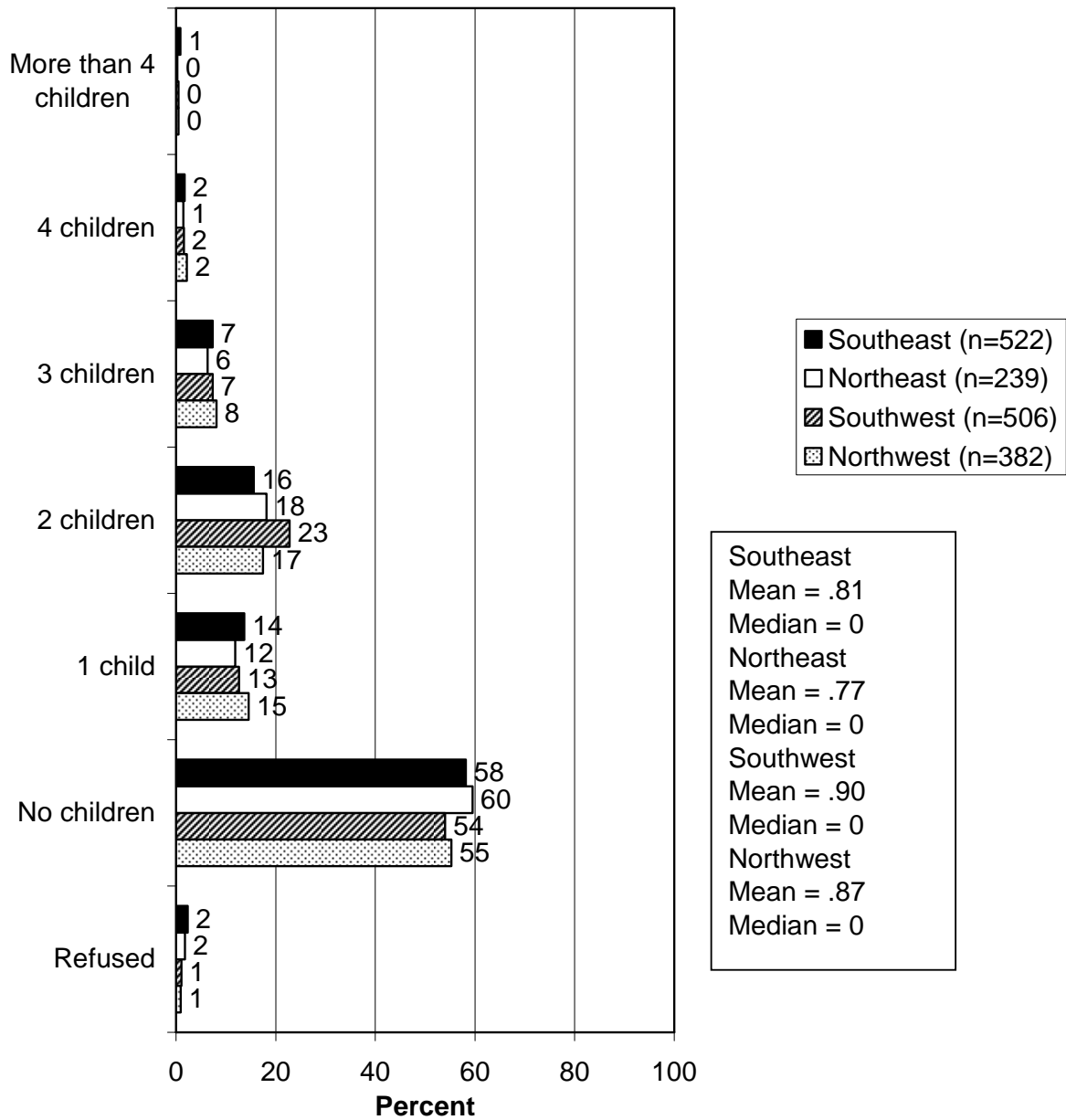
### Q206. How many children under 18 years old live in your household?



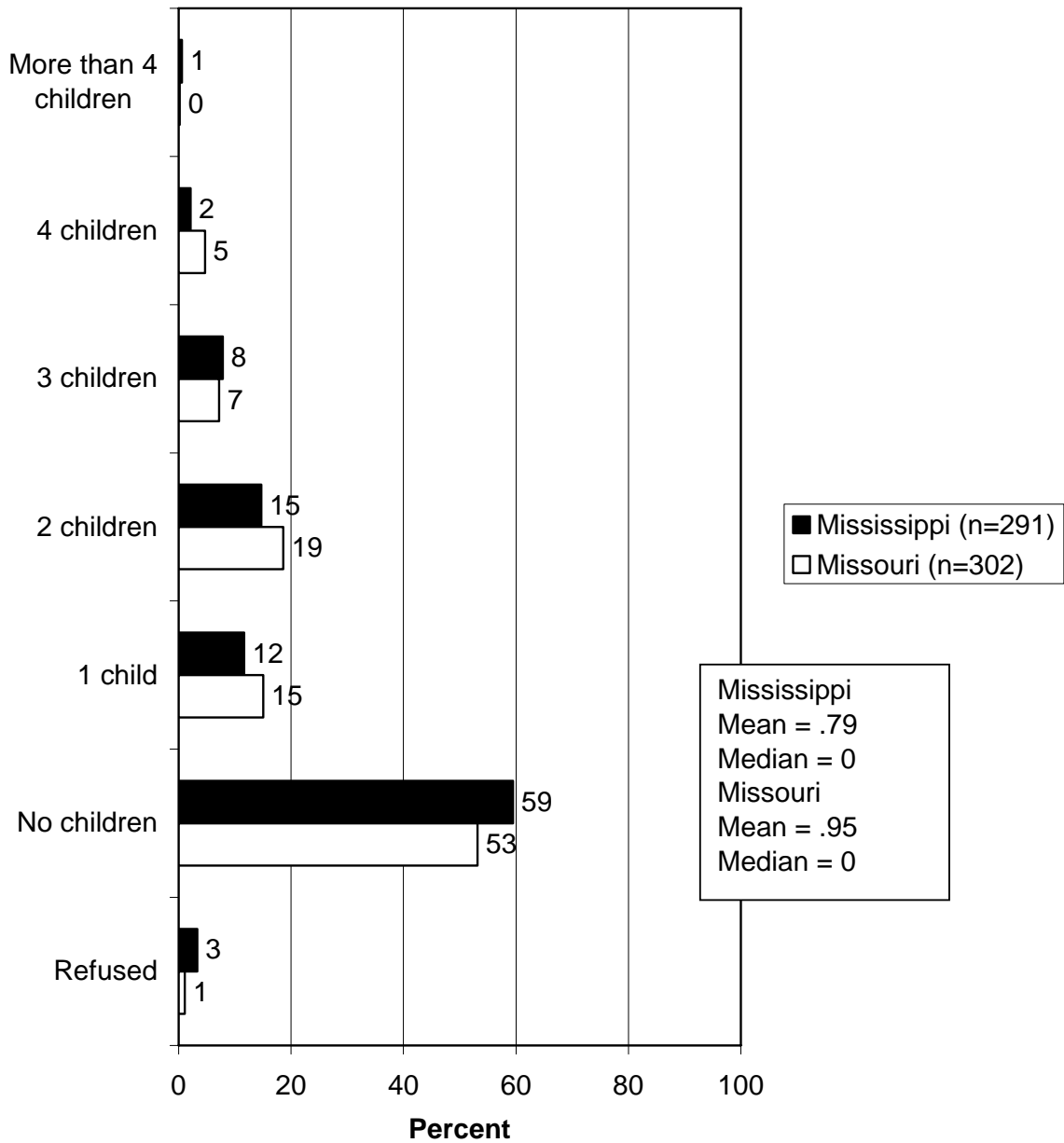
**Q206. How many children under 18 years old live in your household?**



### Q206. How many children under 18 years old live in your household?



**Q206. How many children under 18 years old live in your household?**



## **ABOUT RESPONSIVE MANAGEMENT**

Responsive Management is a nationally recognized public opinion and attitude survey research firm specializing in natural resource and outdoor recreation issues. Its mission is to help natural resource and outdoor recreation agencies and organizations better understand and work with their constituents, customers, and the public.

Utilizing its in-house, full-service, computer-assisted telephone and mail survey center with 45 professional interviewers, Responsive Management has conducted more than 1,000 telephone surveys, mail surveys, personal interviews, and focus groups, as well as numerous marketing and communications plans, need assessments, and program evaluations on natural resource and outdoor recreation issues.

Clients include most of the federal and state natural resource, outdoor recreation, and environmental agencies, and most of the top conservation organizations. Responsive Management also collects attitude and opinion data for many of the nation's top universities, including the University of Southern California, Virginia Tech, Colorado State University, Auburn, Texas Tech, the University of California—Davis, Michigan State University, the University of Florida, North Carolina State University, Penn State, West Virginia University, and others.

Among the wide range of work Responsive Management has completed during the past 20 years are studies on how the general population values natural resources and outdoor recreation, and their opinions on and attitudes toward an array of natural resource-related issues. Responsive Management has conducted dozens of studies of selected groups of outdoor recreationists, including anglers, boaters, hunters, wildlife watchers, birdwatchers, park visitors, historic site visitors, hikers, and campers, as well as selected groups within the general population, such as landowners, farmers, urban and rural residents, women, senior citizens, children, Hispanics, Asians, and African-Americans. Responsive Management has conducted studies on environmental education, endangered species, waterfowl, wetlands, water quality, and the reintroduction of numerous species such as wolves, grizzly bears, the California condor, and the Florida panther.



Responsive Management has conducted research on numerous natural resource ballot initiatives and referenda and helped agencies and organizations find alternative funding and increase their memberships and donations. Responsive Management has conducted major agency and organizational program needs assessments and helped develop more effective programs based upon a solid foundation of fact. Responsive Management has developed Web sites for natural resource organizations, conducted training workshops on the human dimensions of natural resources, and presented numerous studies each year in presentations and as keynote speakers at major natural resource, outdoor recreation, conservation, and environmental conferences and meetings.

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 routinely conducts surveys in Spanish and has also conducted surveys and focus groups in Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and Vietnamese.

Responsive Management's research has been featured in most of the nation's major media, including CNN, ESPN, *The Washington Times*, *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and on the front pages of *The Washington Post* and *USA Today*.

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**[www.responsivemanagement.com](http://www.responsivemanagement.com)**