

John Jay College of Criminal Justice

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GLOBAL STRATEGY GROUP
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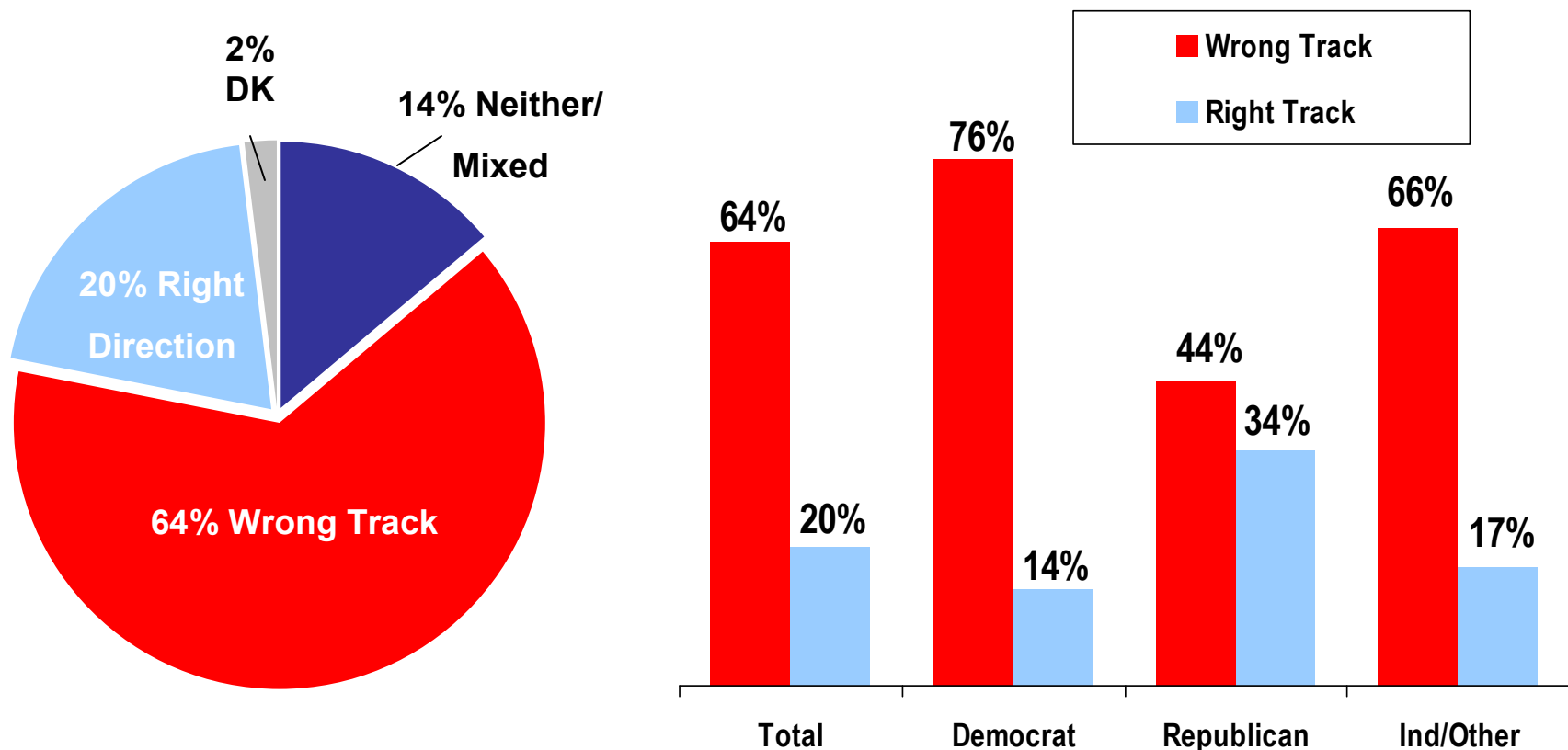


Key Findings

- **Voters view crime as a serious problem in the US today that they want elected officials to address.**
 - Voters view reducing crime as an important issue for the President and Congress to address. Four in five voters (81%) say reducing crime is the most or a very important issue for the President and Congress to address.
 - A majority (53%) of voters believe it is a very serious problem (94% serious problem).
 - Two-thirds (64%) of voters believe crime has increased in America in the past year, including one-third (32%) who believe there is a lot more crime than one year ago.
 - Voters believe the biggest increases in crime have occurred in the areas of youth crime – seven in ten say both school violence (72%) and juvenile crime (70%) has increased in the past year.

Two-thirds of voters believe the country is headed off on the wrong track

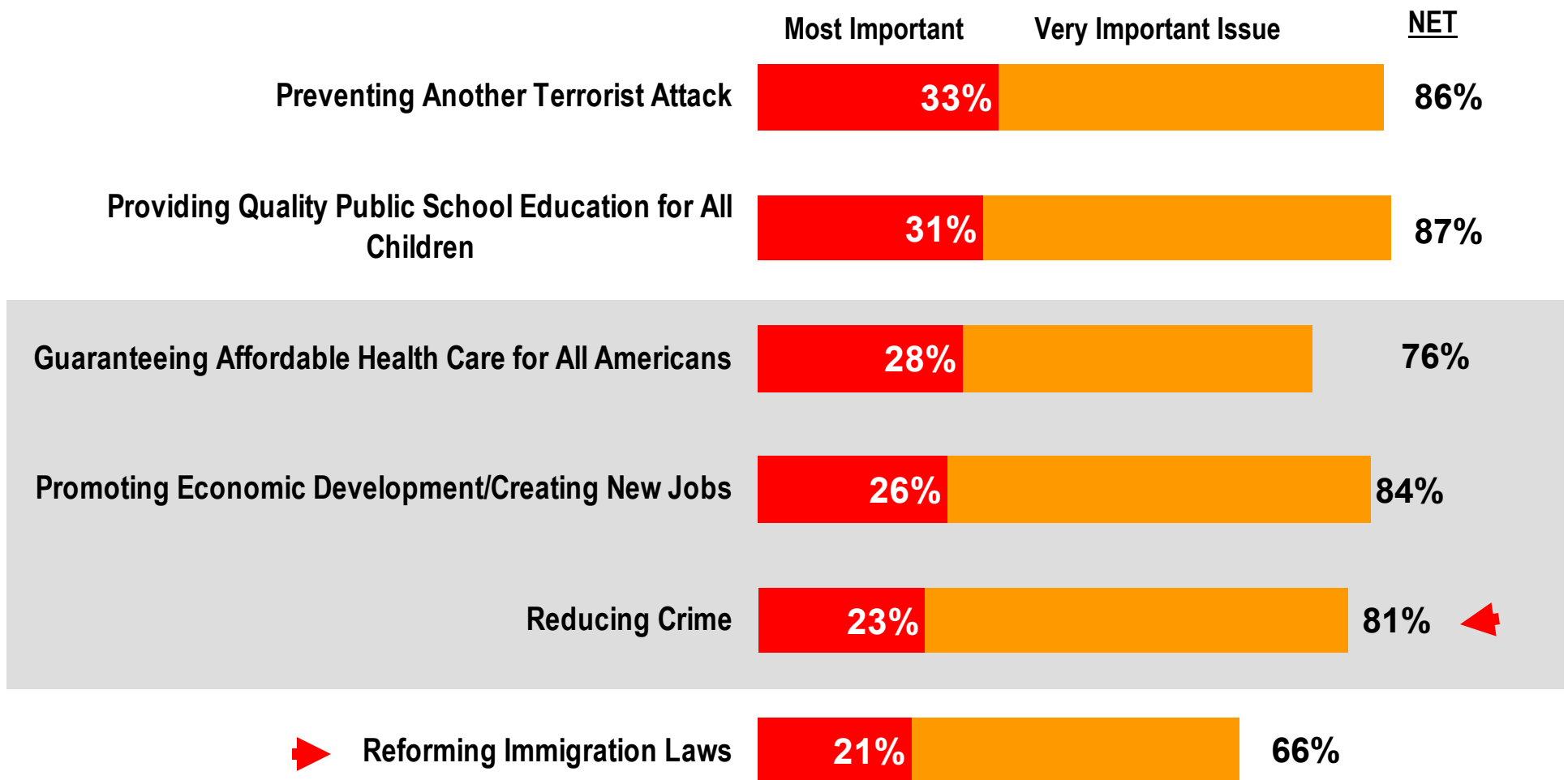
Q.3 In general, would you say that things in this country are heading in the right direction or would you say things in this country are off on the wrong track?



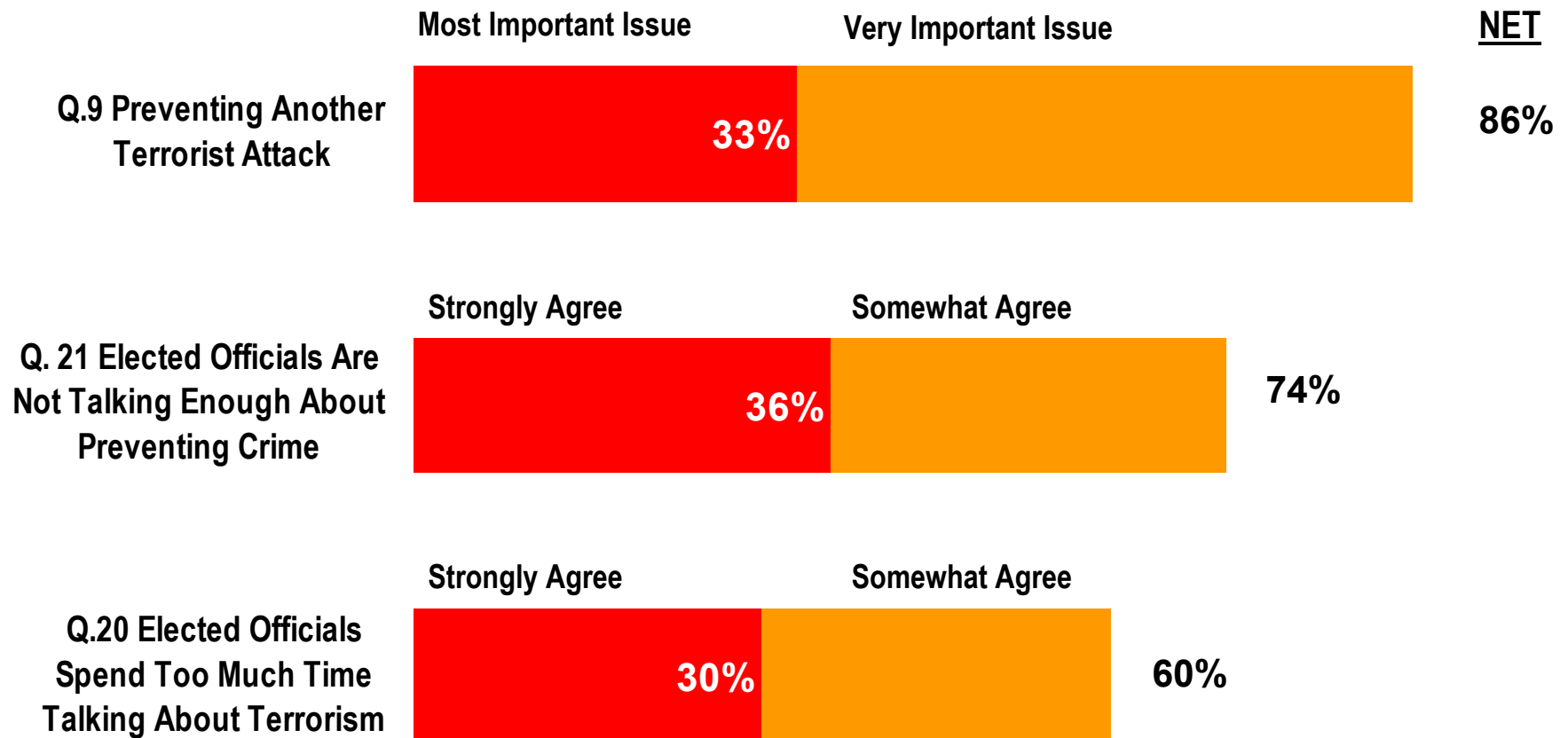
Three in five voters (60%) across demographic groups believe the country is headed off on the wrong track, except for Republicans (44%).

Four in five voters want the President and Congress to focus on reducing crime

Q.4-9 I want to read a list of issues some people have mentioned as important for our President and Congress to address...Please tell me if it is the most important issue for our President and Congress to address, a very important issue, a somewhat important issue, or if it is not an important issue at all...

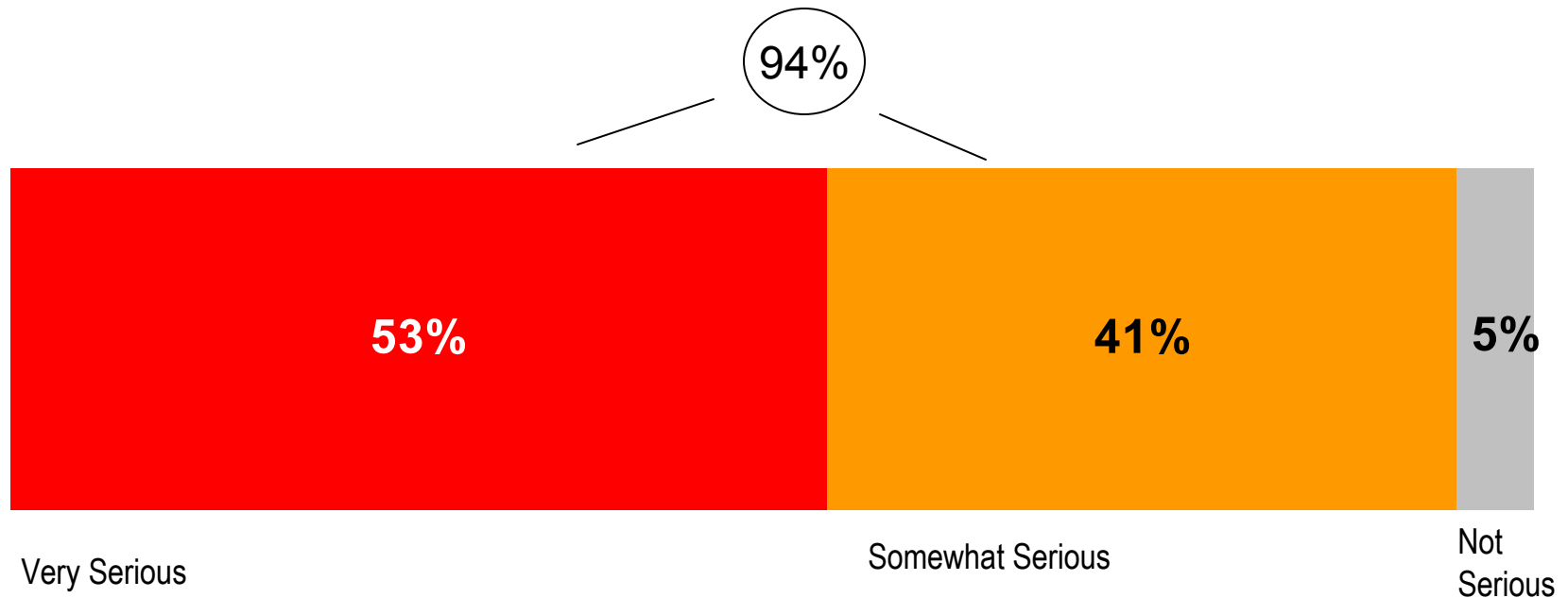


Voters prioritize national security as a top issue but still agree elected officials spend too much time talking about terrorism and not enough time talking about crime prevention



Half of voters believe crime is a very serious problem in America today

Q.10 How big a problem is crime in America today? Is it a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, a not very serious problem, or is it not a serious problem at all?



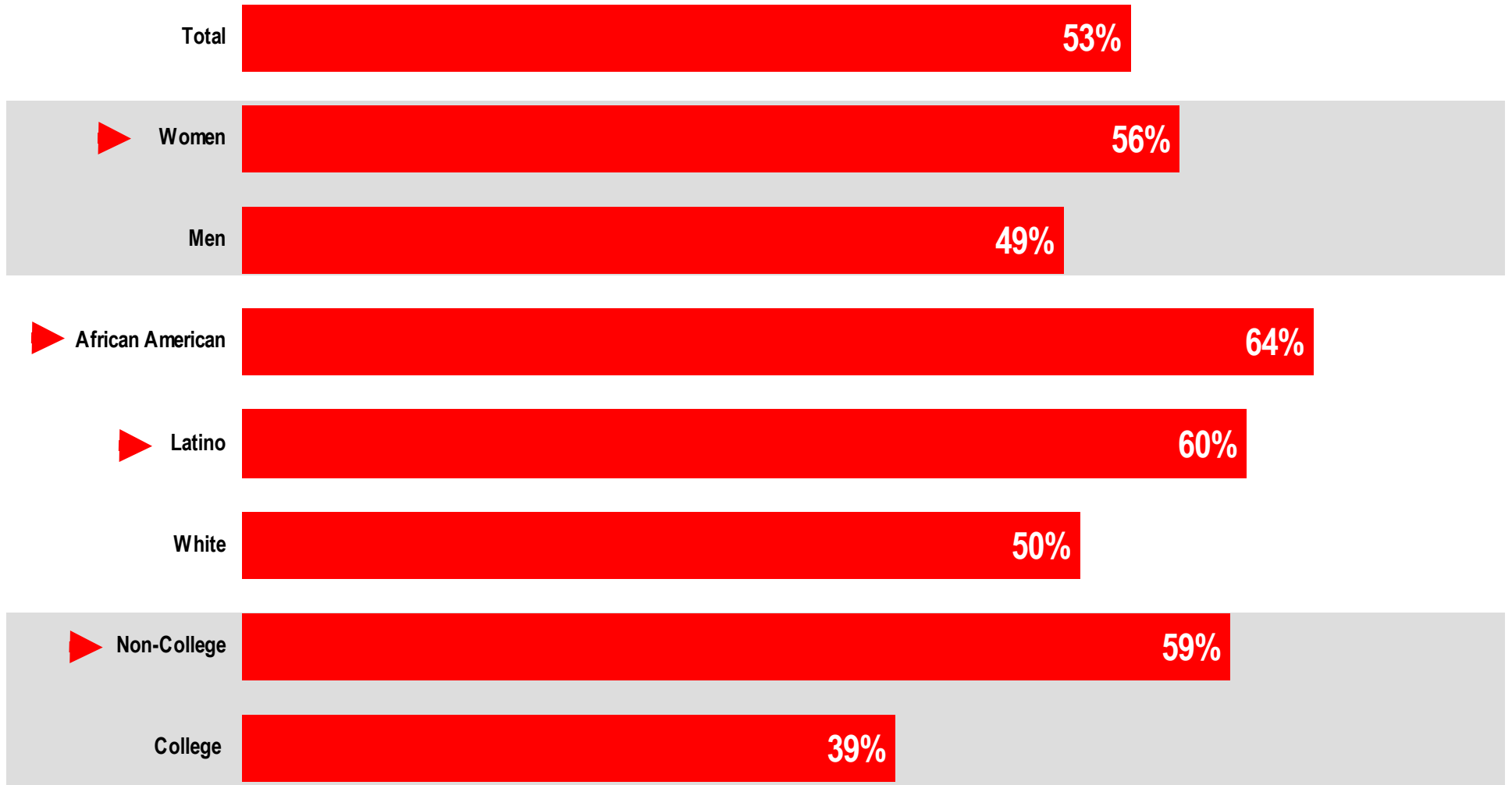
- No less than four in five voters (80%) across demographic groups believe crime is a serious problem in America today

- Women over 55, non-college educated voters, Republican and Democratic women, African-Americans, and Latinos are even more likely than voters as a whole to believe crime is a very serious problem

Who worries more about crime?

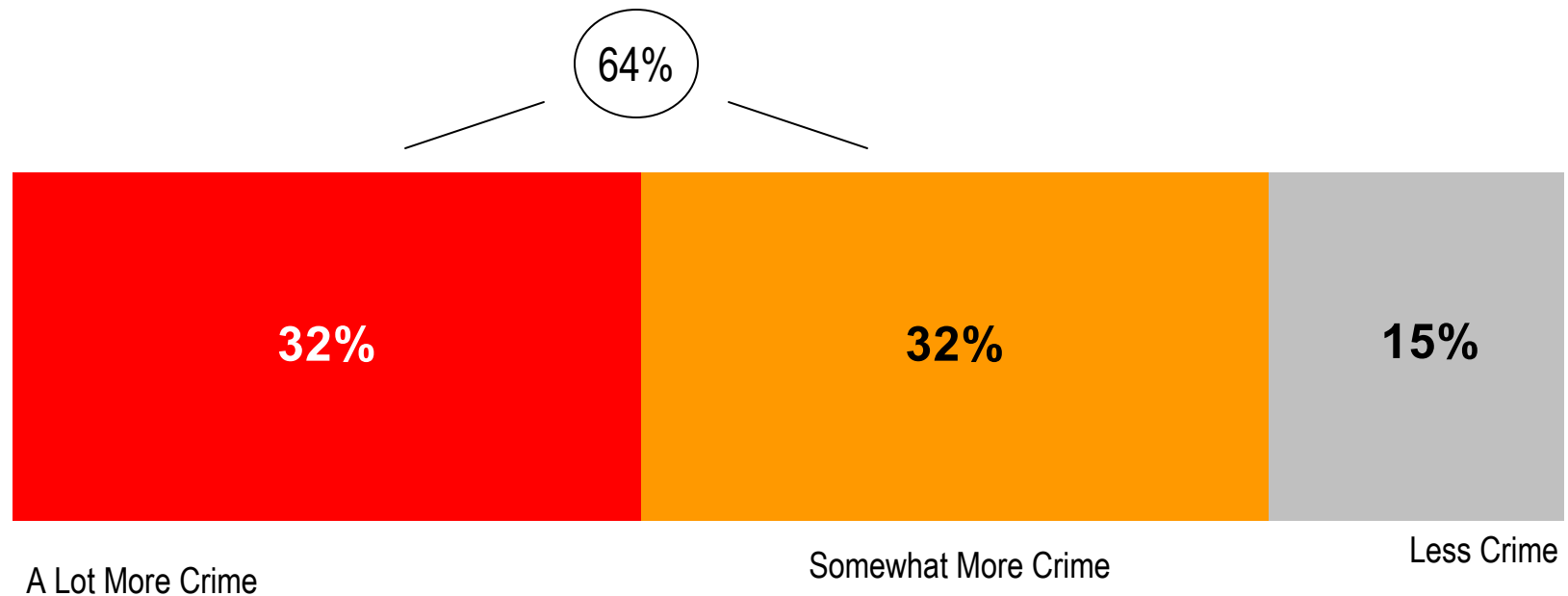
Q.10 How big a problem is crime in America today? Is it a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, a not very serious problem, or is it not a serious problem at all?

% Very Serious Problem



Two-thirds of voters believe crime has increased in America in the past year; one-third believe it has increased a lot

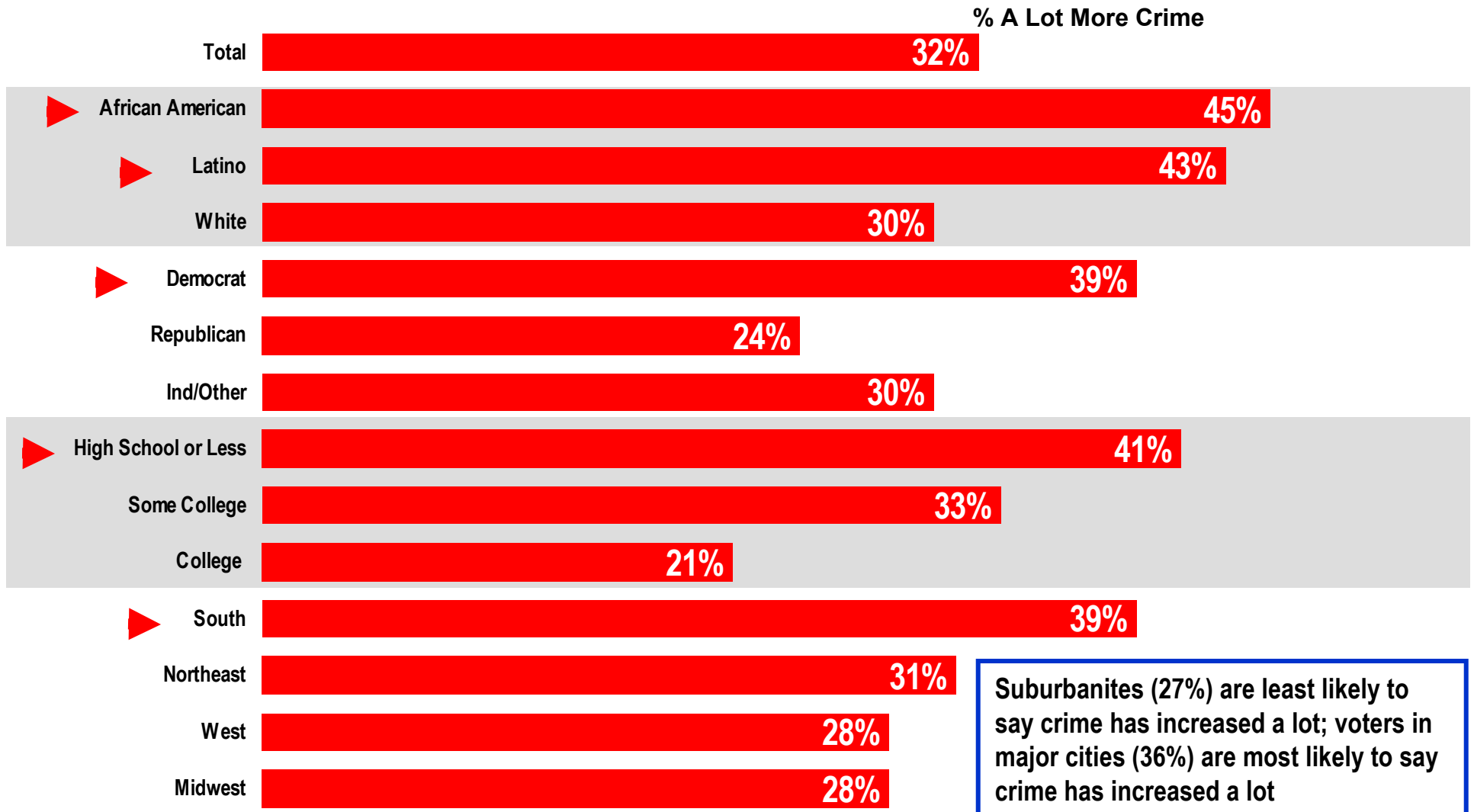
Q.11 As far as you know, is there more or less crime in America than one year ago?



- A majority of voters across all demographic groups say crime has increased, except for Republican men (46%)
- Non-college educated women, voters in the South, Democrats, African Americans, and Latinos are even more likely than voters overall to say crime has increased a lot in the past year

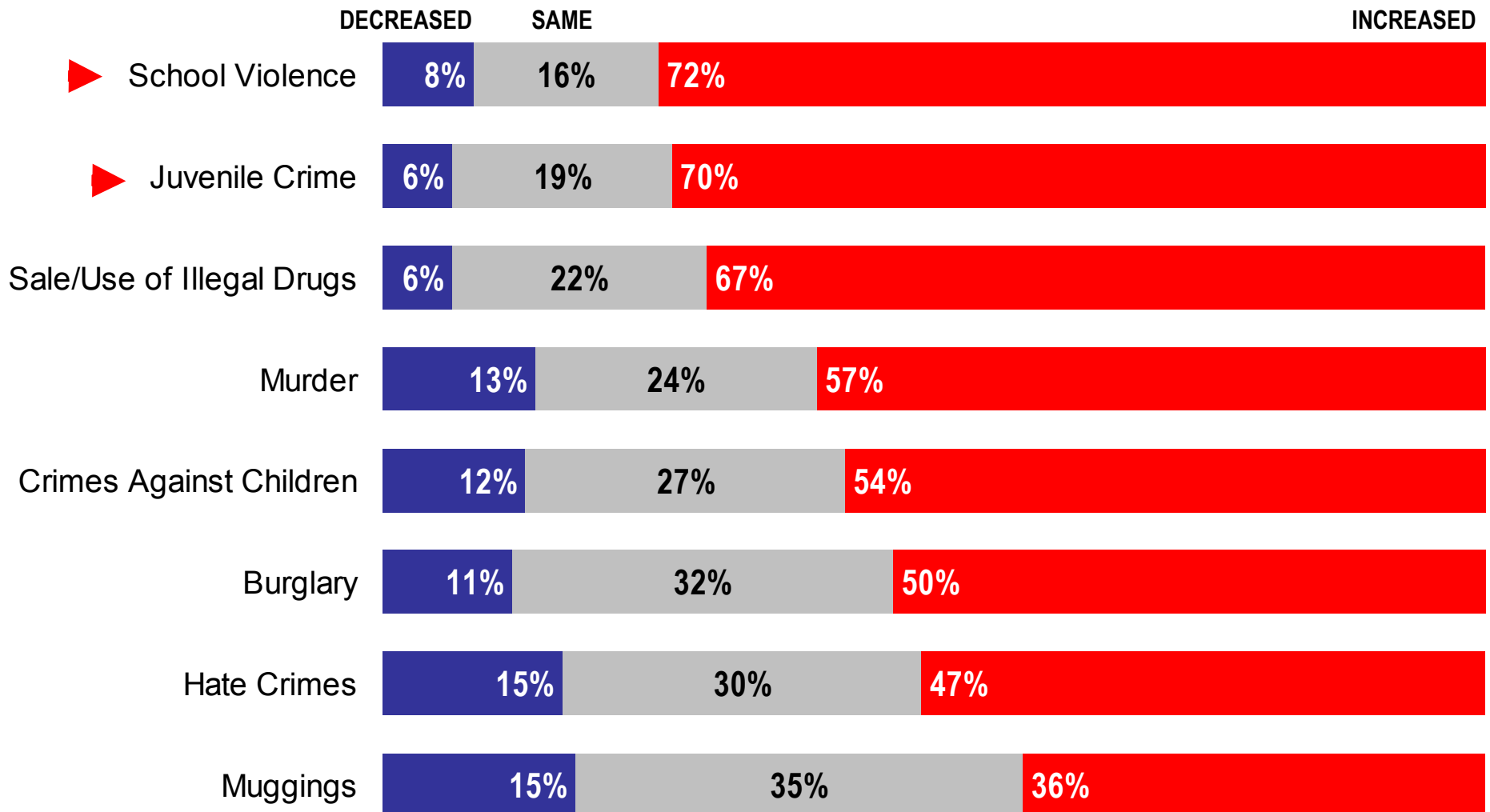
Differences exist across racial, party, and regional lines, as well as by educational attainment

Q.11 As far as you know, is there more or less crime in America than one year ago?
[IF MORE]: Is that a lot more/ somewhat more?



Voters believe all forms of crime tested are on the rise; school violence and juvenile crime top the list

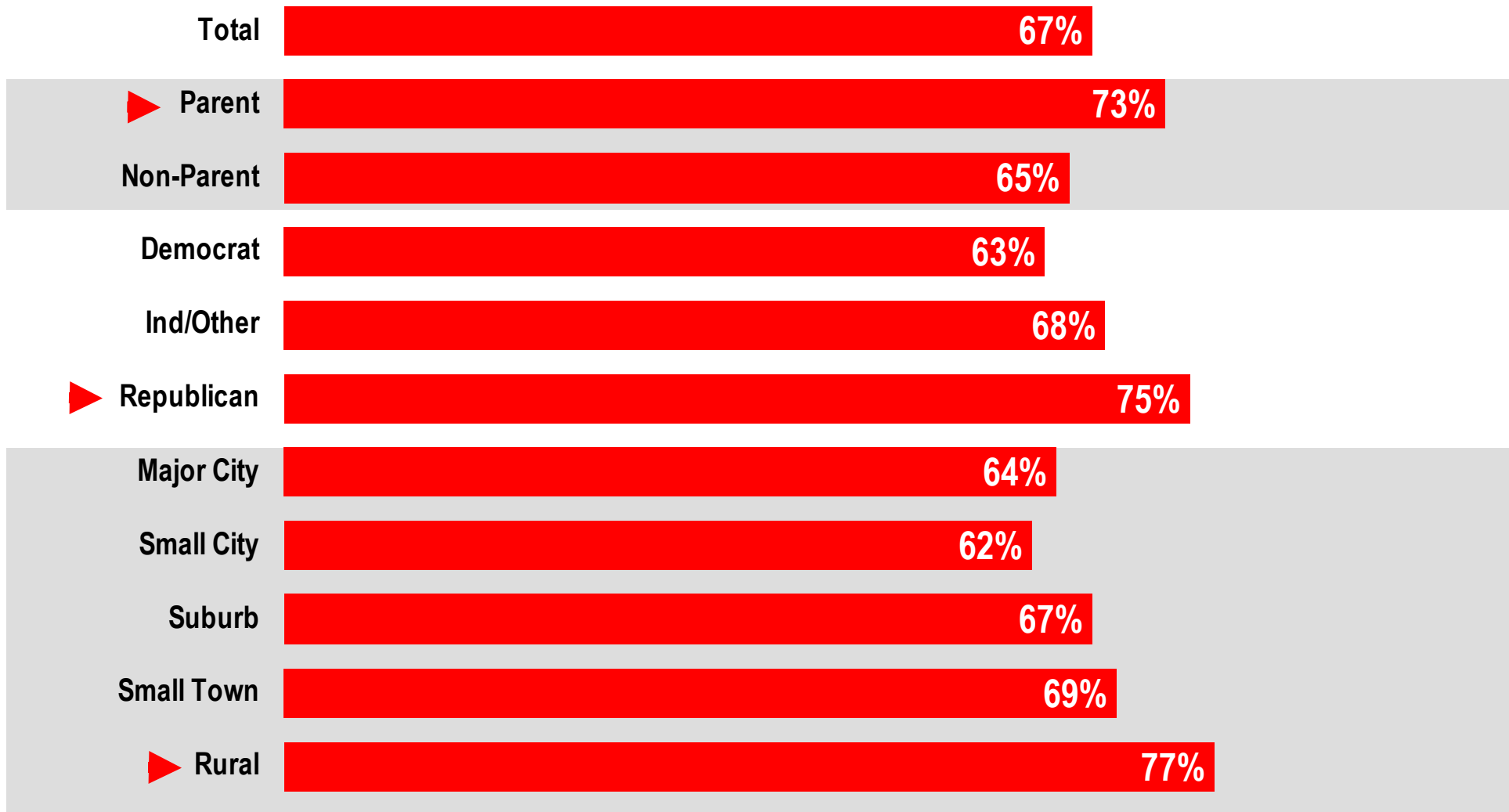
Q.12-19 Now I am going to read you a list of crimes...After each, tell me whether you think this type of crime has increased, decreased, or stayed the same in the past year.



Perceptions of safety (for kids) differ by parental status, party, and area of residence

Q.27 Please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement: The streets are less safe for kids today...

% Strongly Agree



Factors Driving Crime Rates

Voters largely believe drugs and poverty are to blame for problems with crime

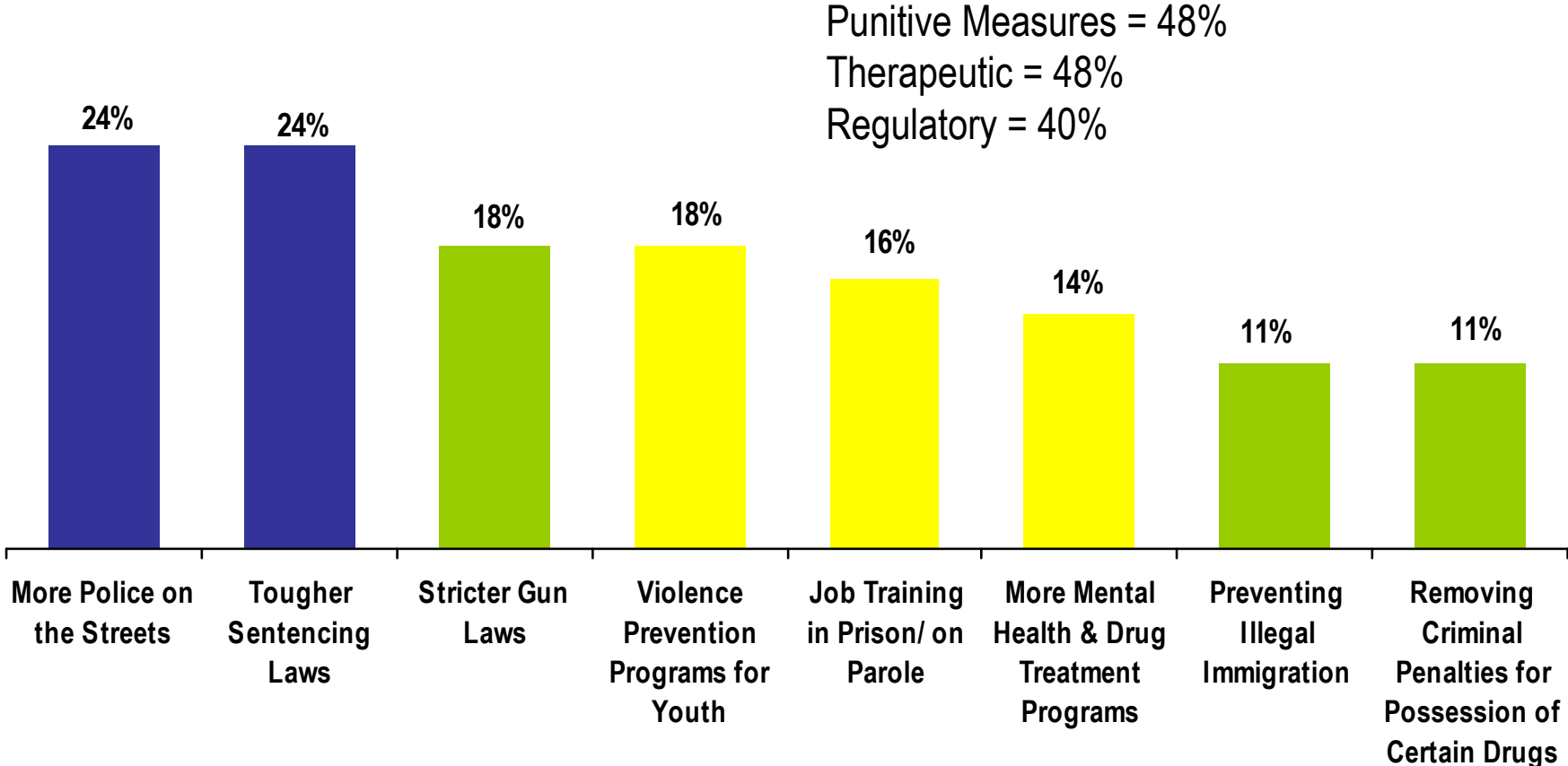
Q.30: Thinking about crime in this country, which of the following do you think is MOST responsible for problems with crime today?

Drugs and alcohol	33%	Drugs/Poverty/ Unemployment	57%
Poverty	17		
Lenient Judges	9		
Availability of Handguns	8		
Unemployment	7	Lenient Judges/ Parole Boards	12%
Illegal Immigration	6		
Not Enough Police on Streets	6	Handguns/Police/ Immigration	20%
Lenient Parole Boards	3		
(None)	1		
(Other)	6		
(DK)	3		

Voters divide on the best measures for reducing crime

Q.31 I am going to read you a list of ways some people have said we can reduce crime in the United States. Please tell me which ONE or TWO of the following you believe would be most effective in reducing crime.

(MULTIPLE RESPONSE QUESTION)





Methodology

- Global Strategy Group conducted a telephone survey of 800 registered voters nationwide with oversamples of 100 African- American and 100 Latino voters.
- The survey was fielded between October 29 and November 13, 2007.
- The base sample was called using a Random Digit Dialing phone methodology; the oversamples were called using targeted RDD sample and listed surname sample.
- The data were weighted by race, age, and gender to ensure the sample population reflects the actual population of registered voters nationwide.
- The overall margin of error is +/- 3.5% at the 95% confidence level. The margin of error varies at the subgroup level.