



VERMONT YANKEE: HOW VERMONT RESIDENTS SEE IT

**A Survey Conducted for
Civil Society Institute**

March 1, 2010

The survey was conducted February 19-22, 2010 among a sample of 802 adults comprising 399 men and 403 women 18 years of age and older living in the state of Vermont.

- Completed interviews are weighted by two variables: age and gender, to ensure reliable and accurate representation of the total state population, 18 years of age and older.
- The margin of error for results based on the total sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Executive Summary

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Did the Vermont Senate reflect the will of the Vermont general public when it voted to shut down the Yankee Reactor nuclear reactor in 2012? How are state residents likely to vote on similar resolutions at more than a dozen Town Meetings across Vermont on March 2, 2010? A February 2010 Civil Society Institute opinion survey conducted by Opinion Research Corporation (ORC) of a scientific sample of 800 Vermont residents finds that:

- **71 percent of state residents say they are “less supportive now of Vermont Yankee, the nuclear reactor, than [they] were six months ago.” That includes 57 percent of Republicans, 82 percent of Democrats and two thirds of Independents.**
- **About two thirds of Vermont residents (65 percent) say “reports about Vermont Yankee leaking radioactive tritium into testing wells and surrounding water” make them “more likely to support the 2012 closure of the reactor.” That includes 44 percent of Republicans, 80 percent of Democrats and 60 percent of Independents.**

- **Given a choice, fewer than one in 10 Vermont residents (9 percent) would ask their power company to use nuclear energy to power their homes, compared to 71 percent who selected “wind, solar and other clean-energy technologies.”**
- **Of those Vermont residents who heard about the radioactive tritium leak at Vermont Yankee, nearly four in five (79 percent) said they are concerned about it, including more than half (52 percent) who are “very concerned.” Only about one in five (21 percent) of this group said that they were not concerned, with just 6 percent saying they were “not concerned at all.” Even when the 20 percent of state residents who have not heard about the tritium leak are added, the percentage of all state residents who are concerned about the tritium leaks at Vermont Yankee still accounts for 63 percent of the state’s adult population.**

- **68 percent of Vermont residents would support closure of Vermont Yankee in 2012 “assuming that a combination of increased energy efficiency, clean energy, such as hydroelectric, wind and solar, and natural gas could be used to offset the electricity from the reactor.” That includes 48 percent of Republicans, 82 percent of Democrats and 63 percent of Independents.**
- **71 percent of Vermont residents would support closure of Vermont Yankee in 2012 “assuming that many new jobs could be created through investments in new clean energy technologies, such as hydroelectric, wind and solar.” That includes 47 percent of Republicans, 86 percent of Democrats and 72 percent of Independents.**

- **Nearly half of Vermont residents (49 percent) see nuclear power as a “power source of yesterday,” compared to compared to 94 percent for solar, 92 percent for wind and 78 percent for hydroelectric as “power sources of tomorrow” that should play a bigger, rather than smaller, role in the U.S. energy supply picture.**
- **Nine out of 10 Vermont residents (89 percent) say that Entergy – not Vermont taxpayers - “should have to foot the bill for decommissioning Vermont Yankee.” That includes 83 percent of Republicans, 94 percent of Democrats and 90 percent of Independents.**
- **Only 46 percent of state residents trust Entergy to clean up the tritium leaks at Vermont Yankee, compared to 47 percent who do not.**

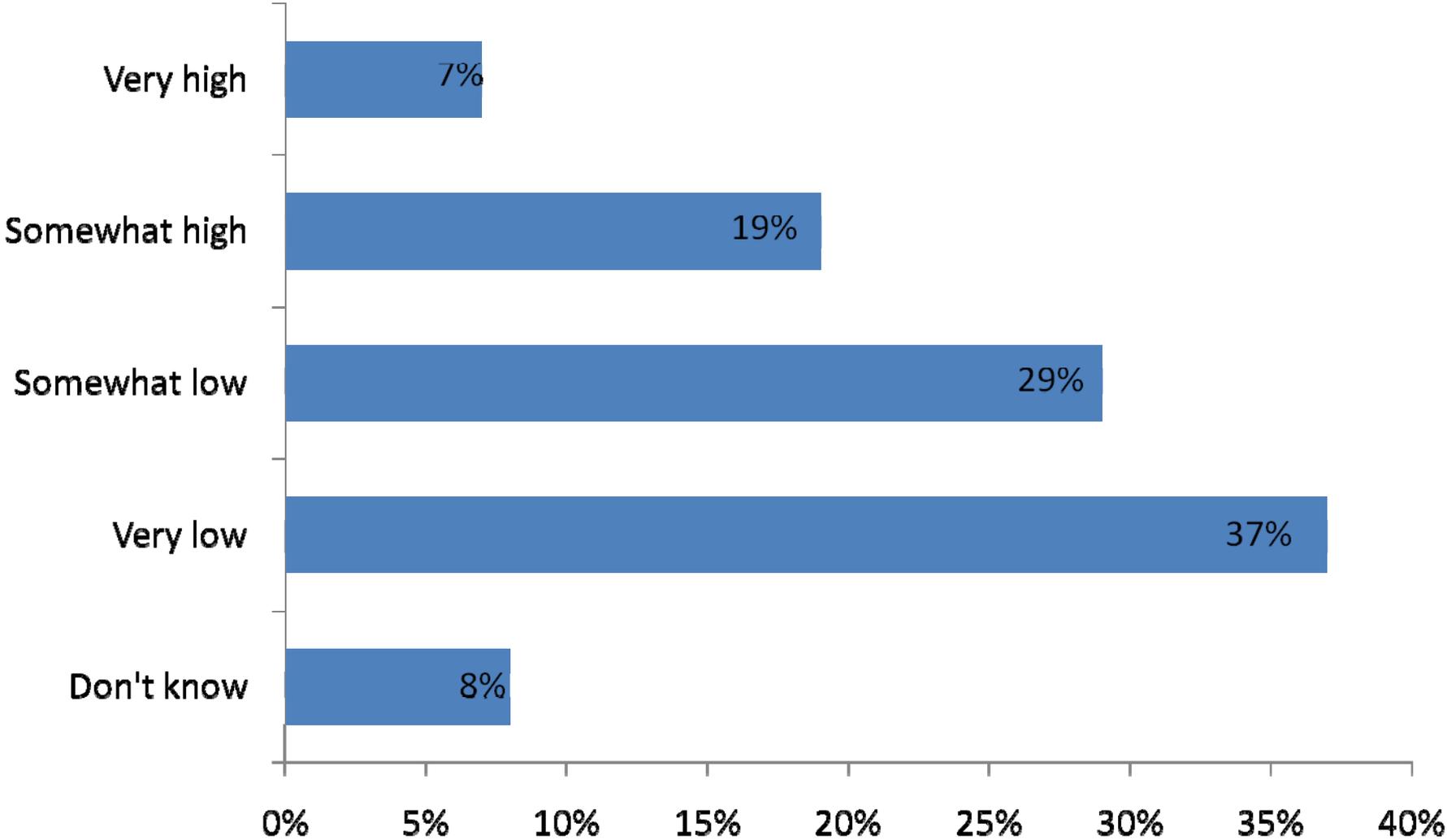
- **Two thirds of Vermonters now give Entergy a low rating for “trustworthiness” – with 37 percent saying “very low” and 29 percent “somewhat low.” Only about one in four state residents (26 percent) give Entergy high marks for trustworthiness.**
- **Nearly three out five state residents (58 percent) give Entergy low marks for “competence” – 26 percent saying “very low” and 33 percent “somewhat low.” Fewer than one in three (29 percent) give Entergy high marks for competence.**
- **Four out of five state residents (79 percent) have heard about the tritium leaks at Vermont Yankee. Only 20 percent have not.**

Detailed Findings

Twenty-six percent of Vermont adults rate Entergy's trustworthiness as high, while 66% rate it low.

- The following types of Vermont residents are more likely to rate Entergy's trustworthiness as low:
 - Those with a college degree or post-graduate degree (78%), Democrats (75%), Independents (74%), those who have heard of leaks at the reactor (73%), those who are very or somewhat concerned about the leaks (82%), those who are less supportive of the reactor now than they were six months ago (83%), and those who would prefer a clean source of energy for their home if given the choice (72%).

Trustworthiness of Entergy

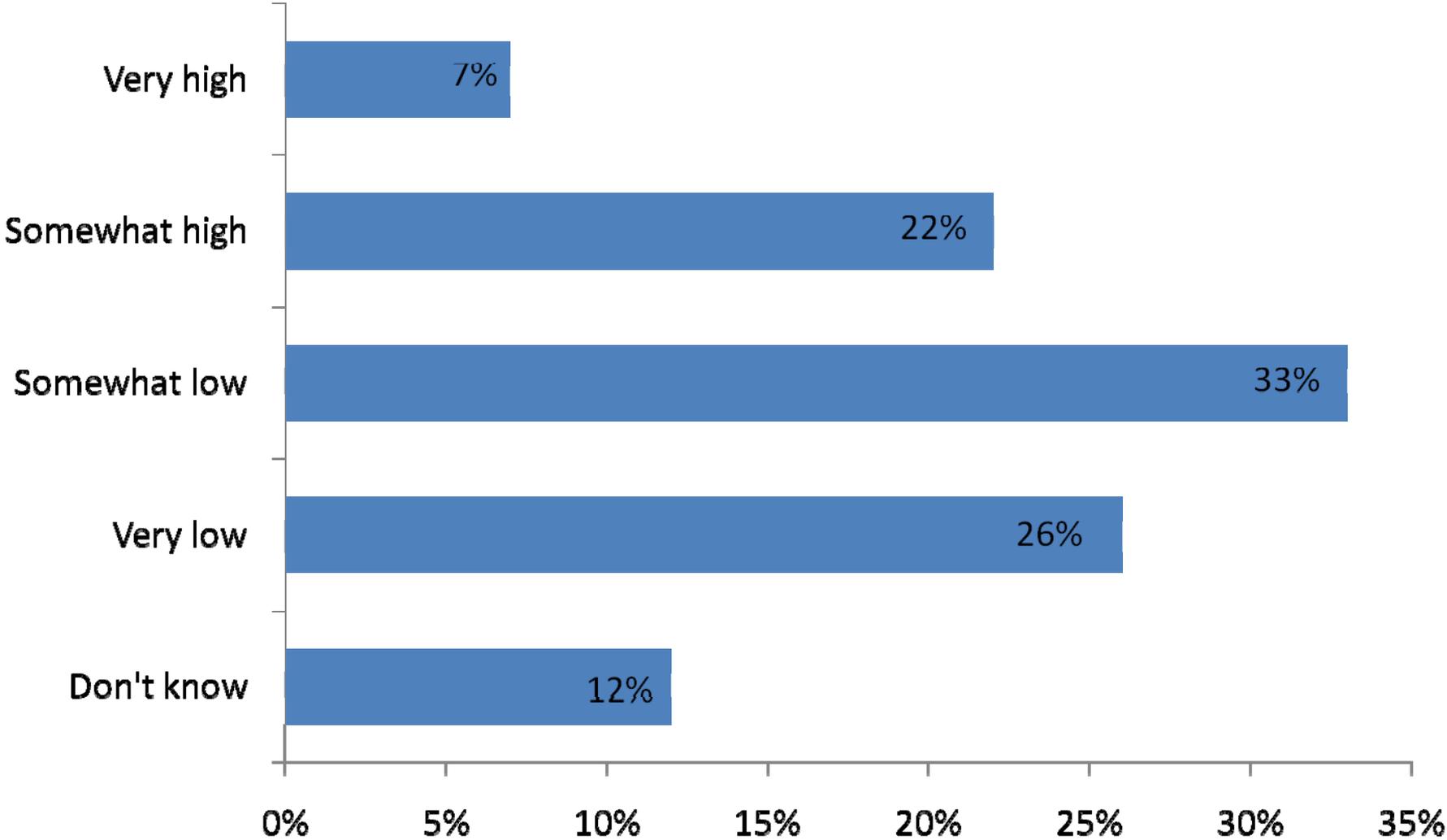


Q1A: The nuclear reactor Vermont Yankee is managed by the company Entergy. Based on what you know about Vermont Yankee how would you rate each of the following? Base = 802 Vermont residents.

Similarly, 29% rate Entergy's competence as high, while 58% say it is low. Twelve percent did not give a rating.

- Those Vermont adults who are more likely to rate Entergy's competence as low include: those age 55-64 (67%), those with a college or post graduate degree (71%), Democrats (67%), Independents (62%), those who have heard of the leaks (65%) and those who are concerned about them (75%), and those who are less supportive of the reactor than they were six months ago (74%). Respondents who would choose a form of clean energy for their home if they could, were also more likely to rate Entergy's competence as low (65%).

Competence of Entergy

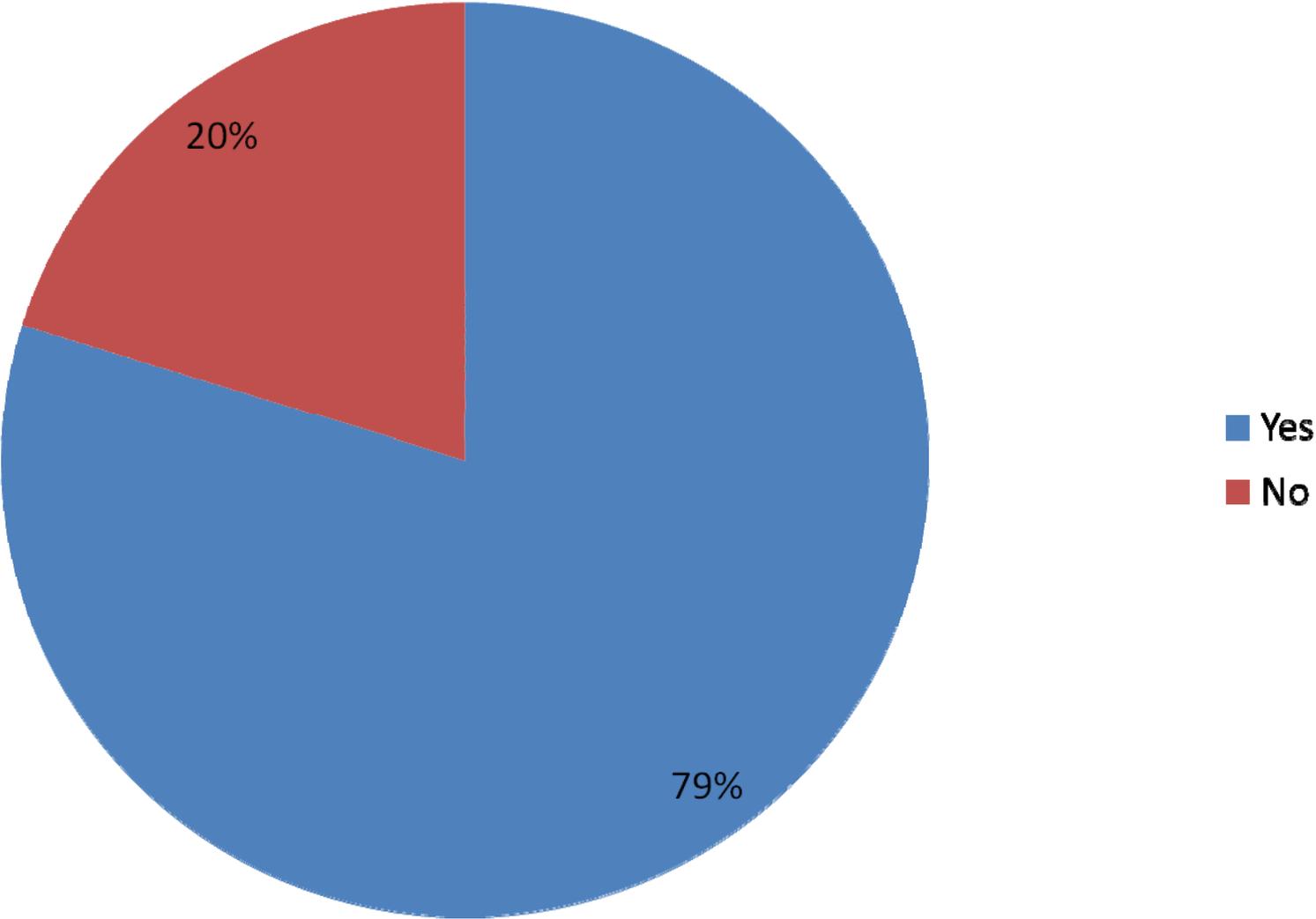


Q1B: The nuclear reactor Vermont Yankee is managed by the company Entergy. Based on what you know about Vermont Yankee how would you rate each of the following? Base = 802 Vermont residents.

Most Vermont residents (79%) have heard of leaks of radioactive tritium into testing wells and surrounding water at the reactor.

- Those age 40-64 are the most likely age group to say they have heard of the leaks (87%).
- The higher the income level of the respondent, the more likely they are to have heard: 70% of those with a household income of less than \$30,000 have heard compared to 88% of those with incomes of \$75,000 or more.
- 90% of those with a college degree or post graduate degree have heard of the leaks compared to 71% of those with something less than a college degree.
- 84% of those who are less supportive of the reactor now than they were six months ago have heard of the leaks.
- And 90% of those who would choose nuclear energy to power their home if they could tell the utility company what energy source to use, say they have heard of the leaks.

Heard of Tritium Leaks at Vermont Yankee



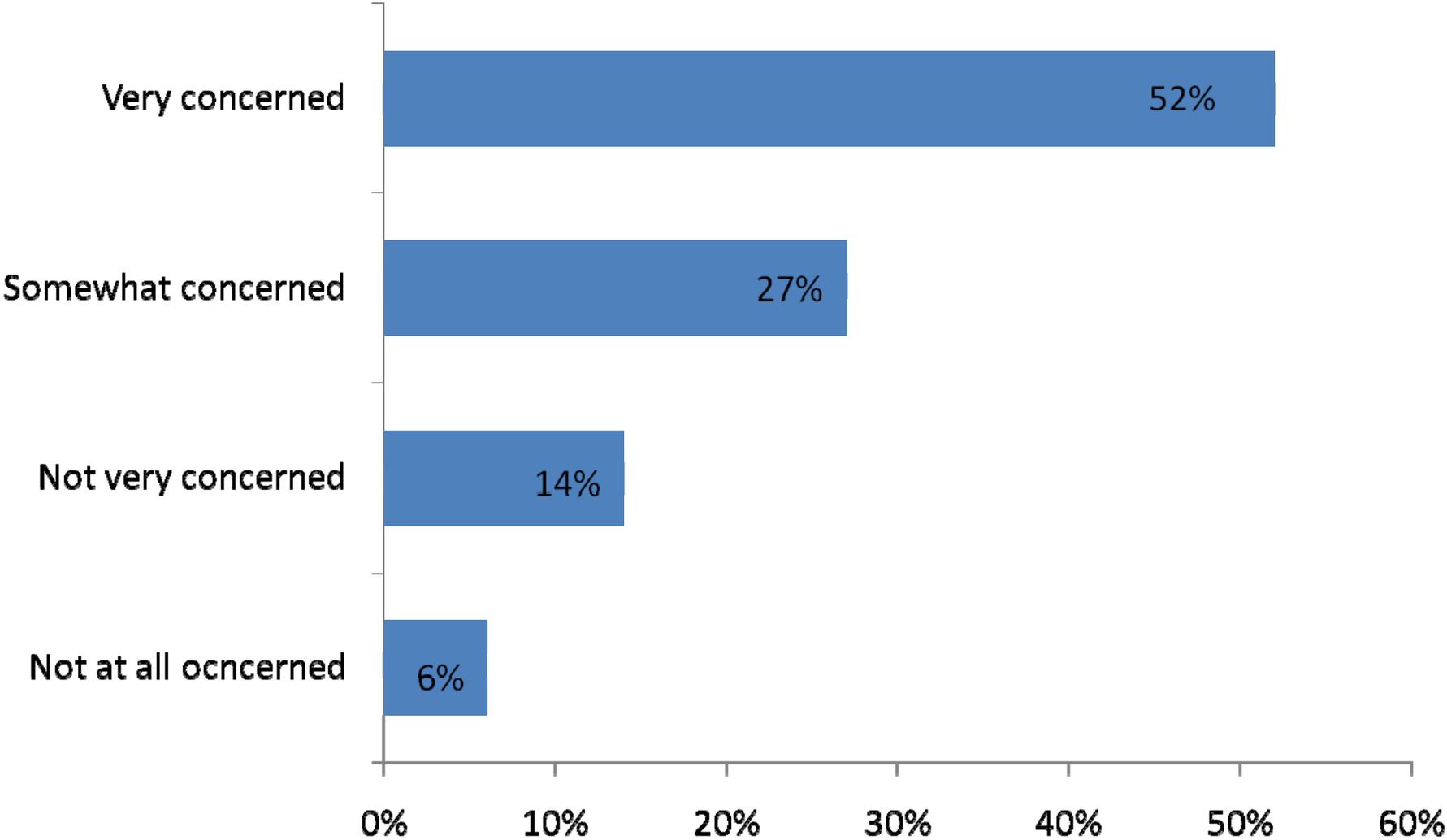
Concern About Tritium Leaks (Among those aware)

Among those who have heard of tritium leaks at the reactor, concern is at 79%. Twenty-one percent of those who have heard say they are not concerned.

Among all respondents, 63% have heard of the leaks and are concerned, 16% have heard of them but are not concerned and 20% have not heard of the leaks.

- Concern is higher among the following types of Vermont residents who have heard of the leaks: women (86%), those 40-54 years of age (86%), those who are not registered to vote (86%), those with a college or post-graduate degree (83%).
- It is also higher among Democrats (89%), those who do not trust Entergy to fix the leaks (97%), those who are less supportive of the reactor now than they were six months ago (91%), and those who would pick a clean source of energy for their home if they had the choice (87%).

Concern About Tritium Leaks (Among those aware)



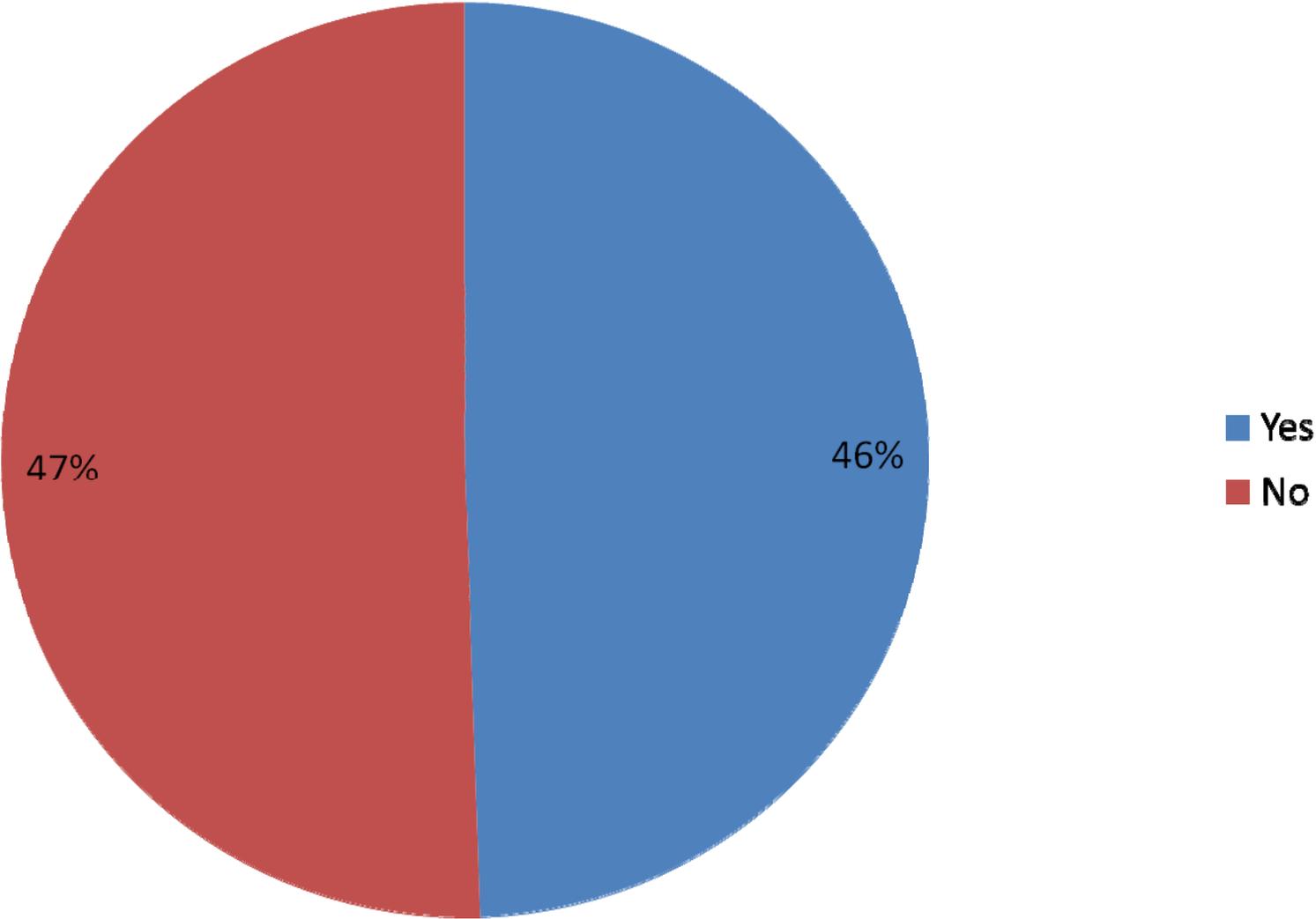
Q3: How concerned are you by reports of the radioactive leaks of tritium from Vermont Yankee into such areas as testing wells and surrounding water? (Base = 661 Vermont residents who have heard of leaks.)

Trust Vermont Yankee and Entergy to Fix Tritium Leaks?

Vermont adults are split on whether they trust Entergy to fix the leaks: 46% trust them to do so and 47% do not.

- Trust is at or above 50% among the following types of Vermont residents: those 18-39 years of age (54%), those with incomes of \$30,000 to less than \$50,000 (54%), those with an associate degree or less (54%),
- Trust is quite high among Republicans (67%), those who aren't concerned about the leaks (97%), those who are more supportive of the reactor now than six months ago (94%) and those who would choose coal (71%), or nuclear power (68%) for their home if they had the choice.

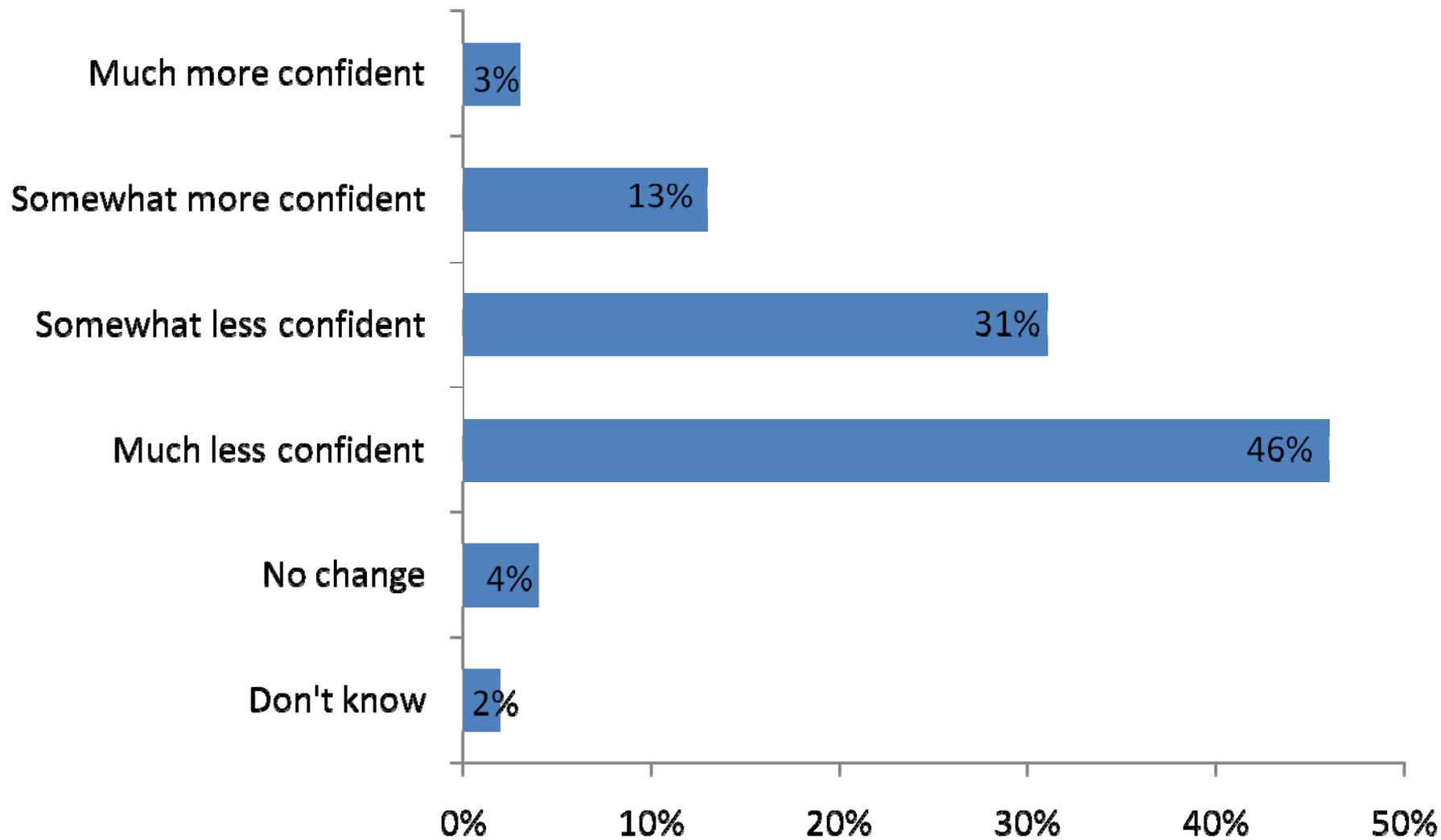
Trust Vermont Yankee and Entergy to Fix Tritium Leaks?



The fact that Entergy has been unable to find the source of the tritium leaks makes 76% of Vermont residents say they are less confident in the company's ability to safely manage a nuclear reactor. Seventeen percent say those activities have made them more confident.

- Those who say they have less confidence as a result of the leaks include: women (80%), those age 40-54 (82%), or those with a college or post-graduate degree (82%).
- Democrats (86%) say the leaks have made them less confident, and this is true for those who are concerned about the leaks (88%), those who are less supportive of the reactor now than they were six months ago (94%), and those who would choose a clean source of energy for their home if they had the chance (85%).

Energy's Ability to Safely Manage Vermont Yankee

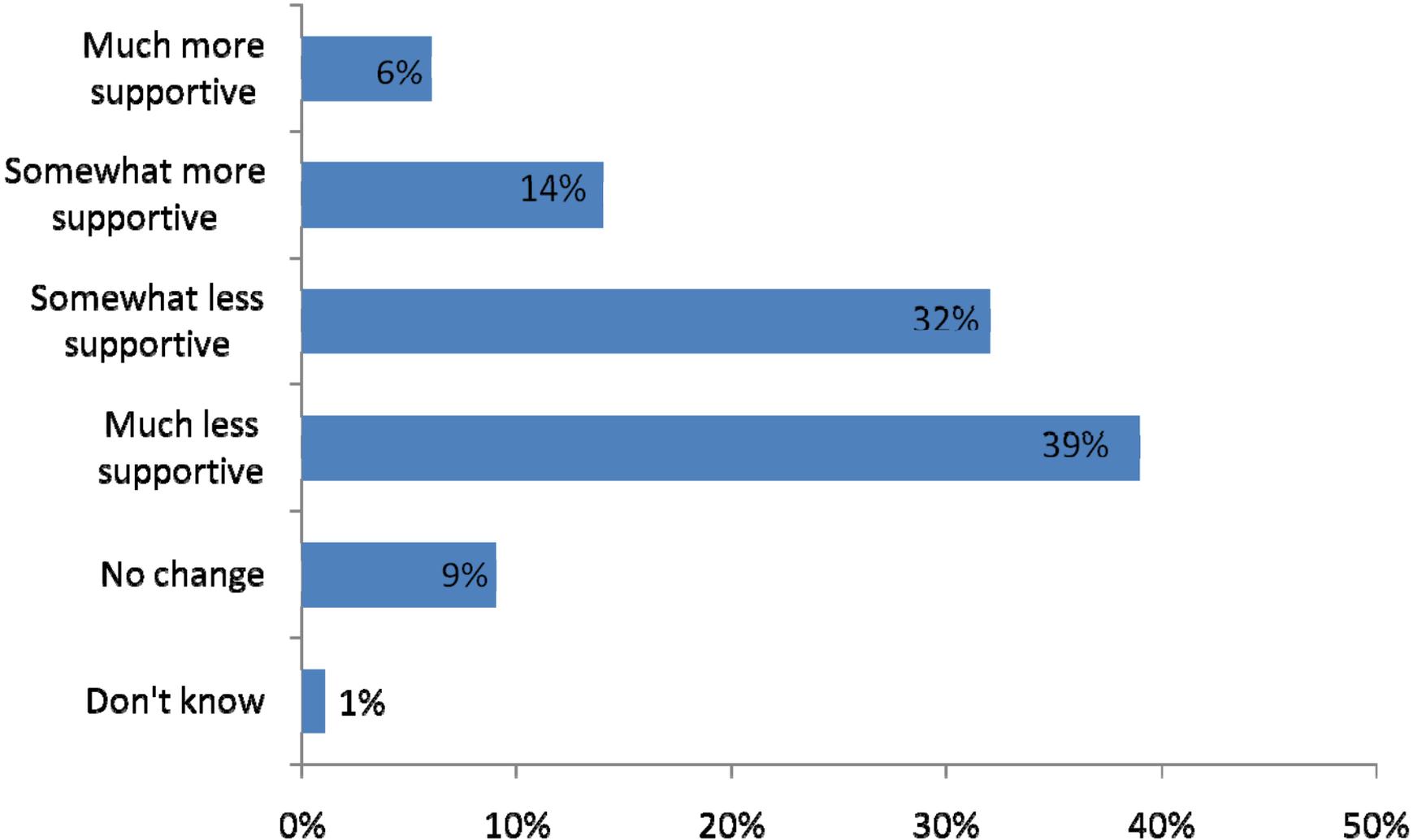


Support for Vermont Yankee Compared to Six Months Ago

Support for the reactor Vermont Yankee has seriously declined in the last 6 months. Seventy-one percent of Vermont residents say they are less supportive now than six months ago. Nineteen percent say they are more supportive and 9% have had no change in their level of support.

- Men are more likely than women to say they are more supportive now (24% vs. 15%) and women are more likely than men to say they are less supportive (73% vs. 68%).
- Those with a college or post-graduate degree are less supportive (78%), as are Democrats (82%), those who do not trust Entergy to fix the leaks (92%), or those who are concerned about the leaks (85%).

Support for Vermont Yankee Compared to Six Months Ago



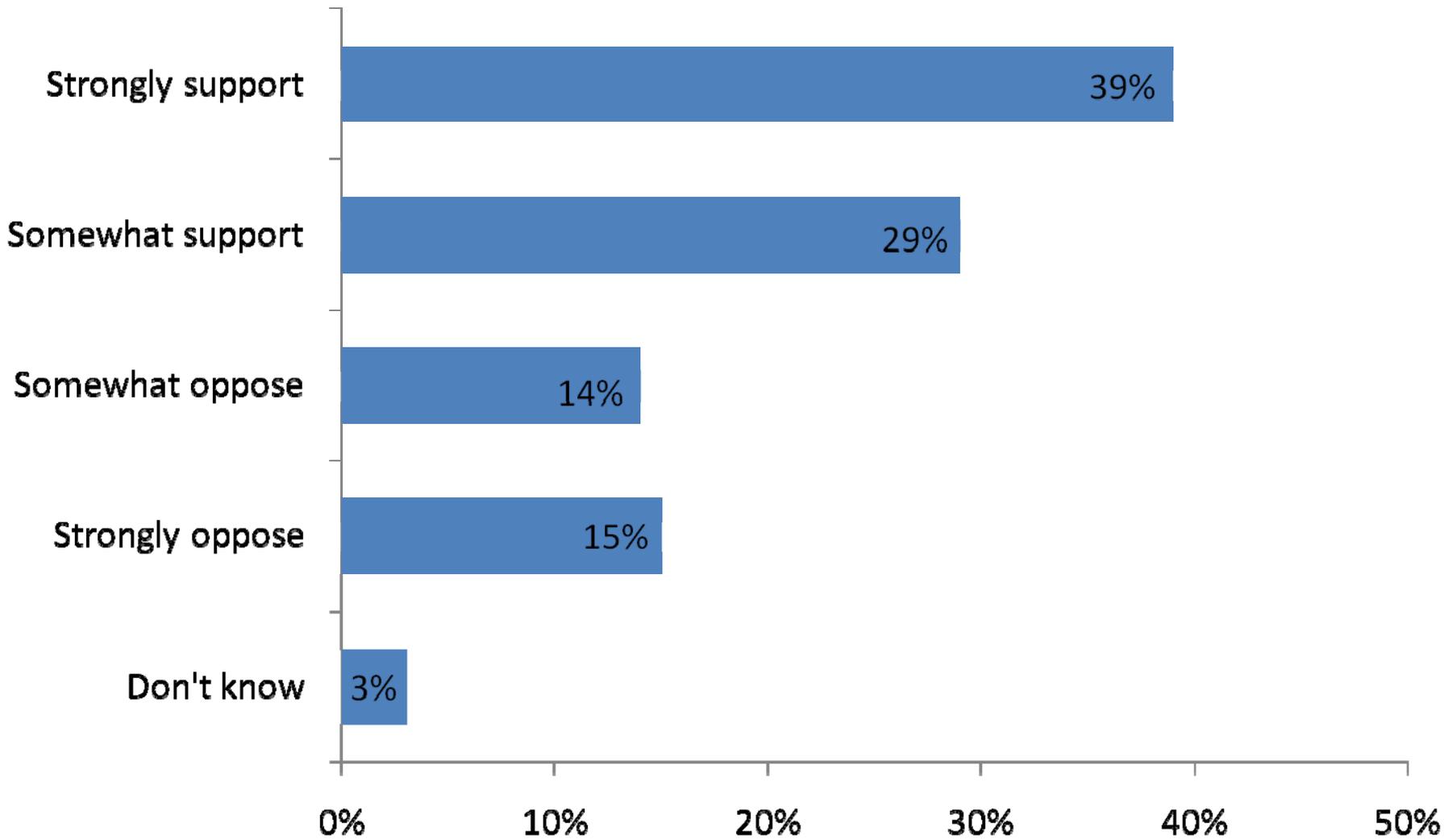
Q6: Do you consider yourself more or less supportive now of Vermont Yankee, the nuclear reactor, than you were six months ago. Are you...? Base = 802 Vermont residents.

Support Closing Vermont Yankee if Energy Could be Replaced

Two-thirds of Vermont residents support closing the reactor if a combination of energy efficiency and alternative clean sources could be used to replace the energy currently generated by the reactor. Three-in-10 do not support closing it under those conditions.

- Women are more likely to support closing the reactor under these conditions than men (75% vs. 60%.)
- There is also strong support for closing the reactor under these conditions from Democrats (82%), those who do not trust Entergy to fix the leaks (85%), those who are less supportive of the reactor than they were six months ago (82%), and those who prefer a clean source of energy for their home if they could choose (81%).

Support Closing Vermont Yankee if Energy Could be Replaced

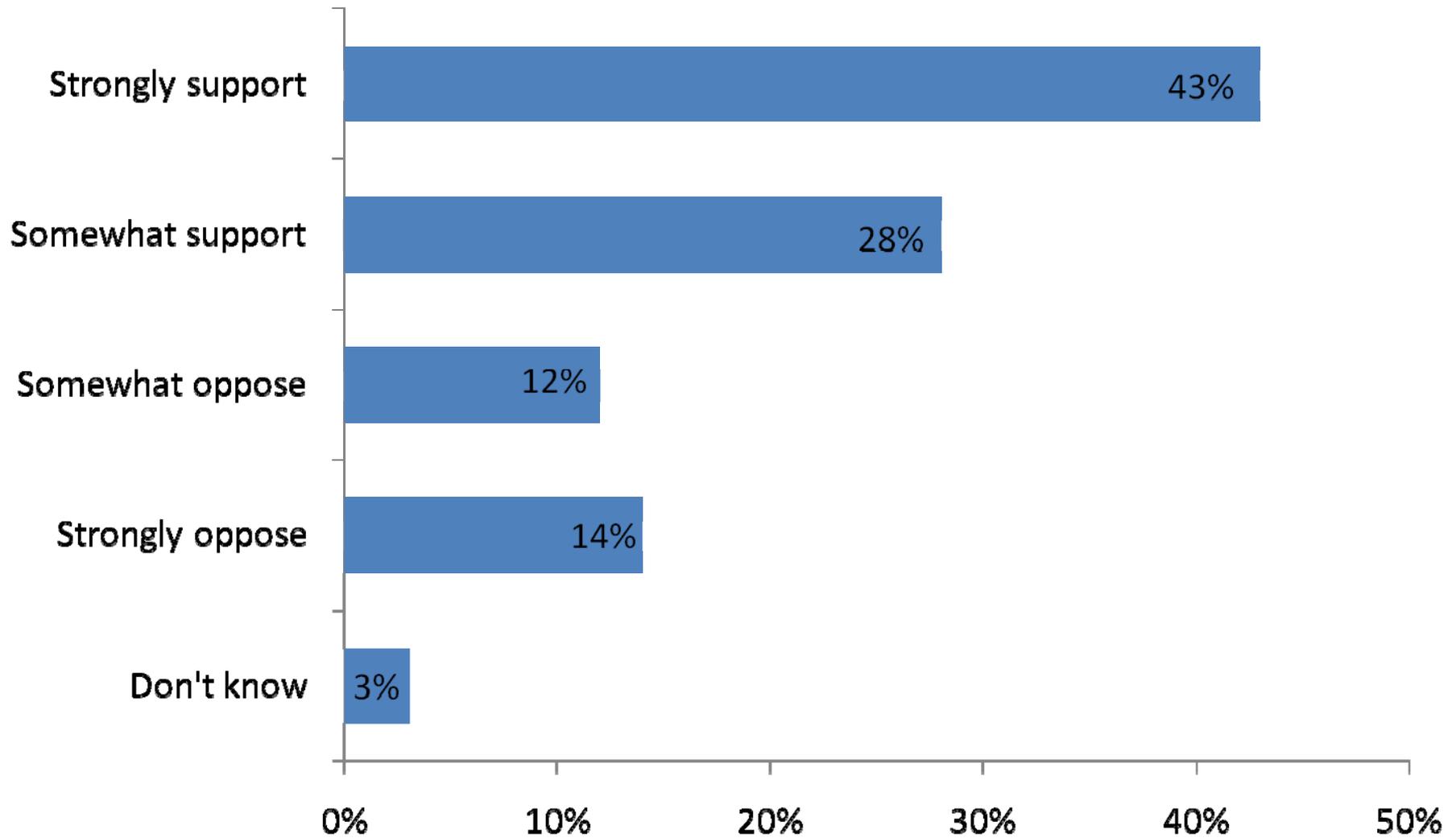


Q7: Assuming that a combination of increased energy efficiency, clean energy, such as hydroelectric, wind and solar and natural gas could be used to offset the electricity created by Vermont Yankee, would you support or oppose the 2012 closure of the reactor? Base = 802 Vermont residents.

Seventy-one percent support closing the reactor if new jobs could be created through investments in new clean energy technologies. Twenty-six percent do not support the reactor's closing under these circumstances.

- Women are more supportive of this idea than men (77% vs. 63%).
- Younger residents age 18-39 are also more supportive of this idea than those who are older (76% vs. 68%).
- Democrats support closing the reactor under this condition (86%), as do those who do not trust Entergy to fix the leaks (87%), those who are concerned about the leaks (82%), those who are less supportive of the reactor now than they were six months ago (84%), and those who would choose a clean source of energy for their home if they had the choice (84%).

Support Closing Vermont Yankee if Jobs are Created Through Replacement Energies



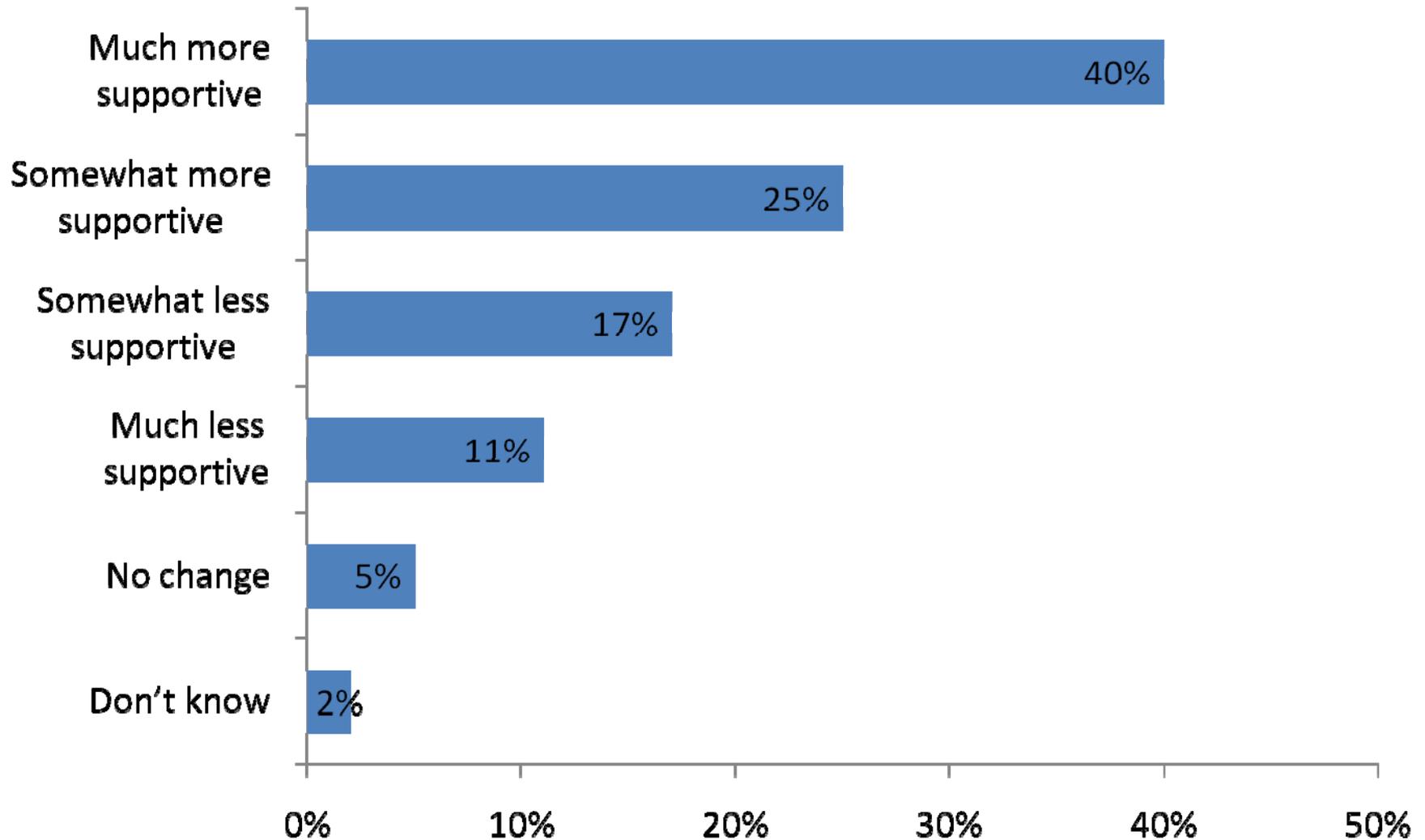
Q8: Assuming that many new jobs could be created through investments in new clean energy technologies, such as hydroelectric, wind and solar, would you support or oppose the 2010 closure of the reactor? Base = 802 Vermont residents.

Effect of Tritium Leaks on Support for Closing Vermont Yankee

Two-thirds of Vermont residents (65%) say that the tritium leaks make them more supportive of closing the reactor. Surprisingly 28% say the leaks make them less supportive of a closing and 5% say there has been no change as a result of the leaks.

- Those who are more supportive of closing the reactor as a result of the leaks are those with a college or post-graduate degree (71%), Democrats (80%), those who do not trust Entergy to fix the leaks (83%), those who are less supportive of the reactor now than six months ago (78%), and those who would choose clean energy for their home if given the choice (77%).

Effect of Tritium Leaks on Support for Closing Vermont Yankee

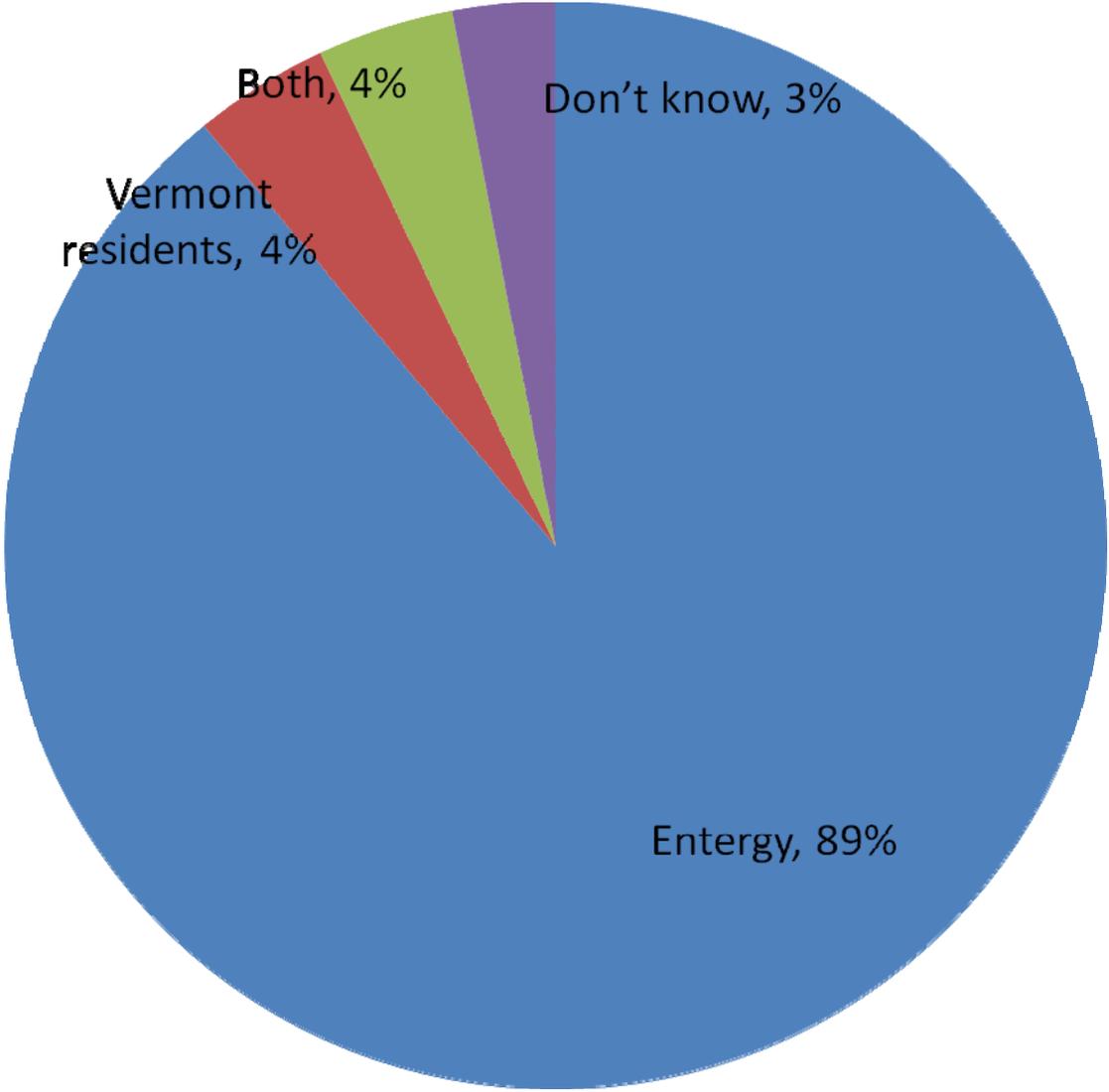


Q9: Do reports about Vermont Yankee leaking radioactive tritium, into testing wells and surrounding water make you more or less likely to support the 2012 closure of the reactor? Would you say... Base = 802 Vermont residents.

Who Should Pay for Vermont Yankee Decommissioning?

Vermont tax payers are clear in wanting the decommissioning costs of the reactor to be borne by Entergy (89%), and not by Vermont taxpayers (4%). Four percent think both should bear the costs.

Who Should Pay for Vermont Yankee Decommissioning?



Q10: Who do you think should have to foot the bill for decommissioning Vermont Yankee? Base = 802 Vermont residents.

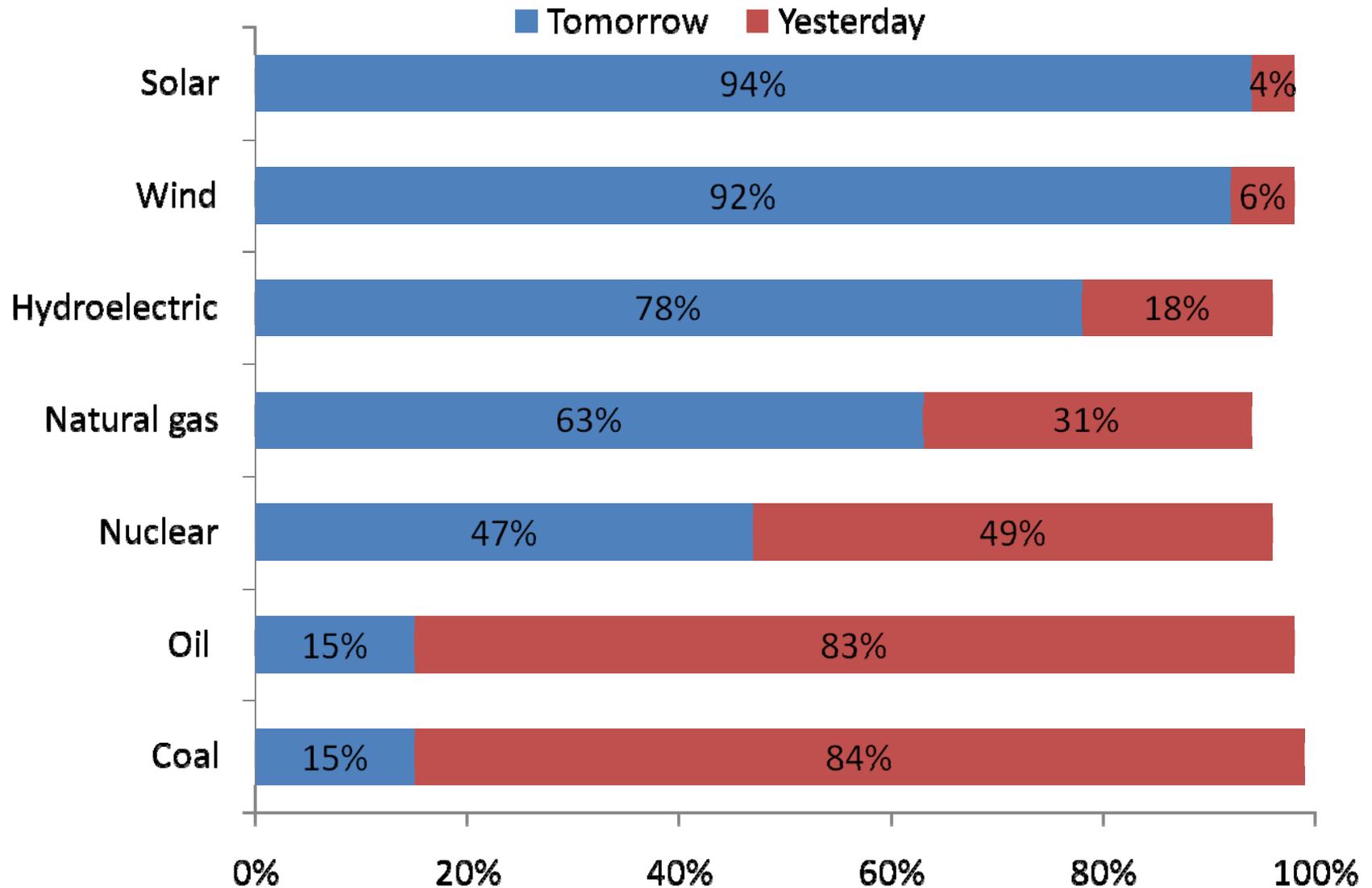
Power Source of Tomorrow or the Past?

More than half think of the following as a power source of tomorrow: solar (94%), wind (92%), hydroelectric (78%), and natural gas (63%).

More than half think coal (84%) or oil (83%) are power sources of yesterday.

When it comes to nuclear power, Vermonters are split: 47% think it is a power source of tomorrow while 49% think it is a power source of yesterday.

Power Source of Tomorrow or Yesterday?



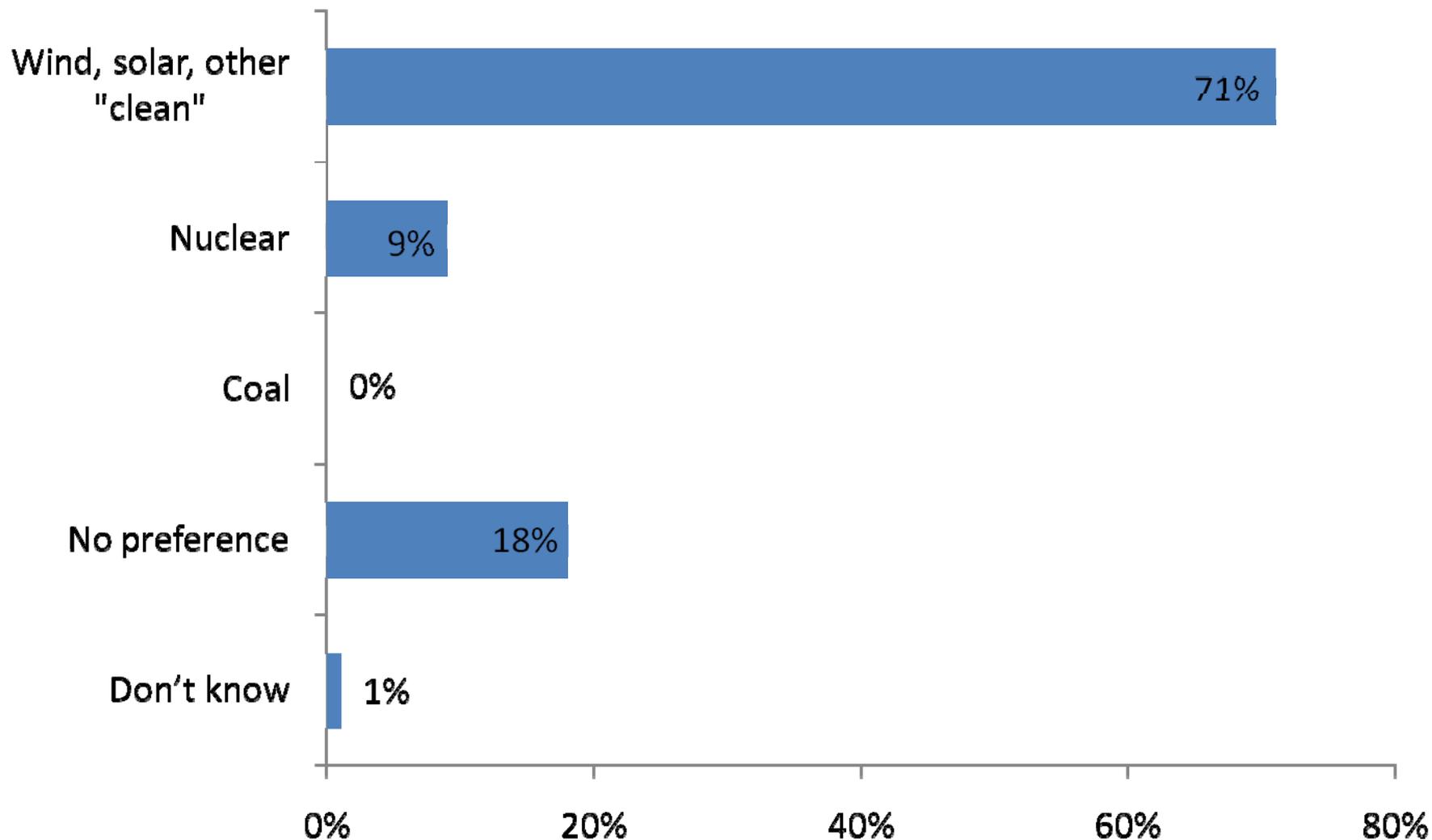
Q: 11 I am going to read you a list of energy sources. In each case, please indicate which ones you think are power sources of tomorrow that should play a bigger role in the U.S. energy picture and which are a power source of yesterday. Base = 802 residents of Vermont.

Preferred Source of Power for Home

81% of Vermont adults have a preference for the energy source they would like to use for their home. Eighteen percent have no preference and 1% do not know.

Wind, solar or other clean energy sources are the most preferred type by 71%. Nuclear would be chosen by 9% and none chose coal as their preferred source.

Preferred Source of Power for Home



Q12: The cost of solar and wind power is now becoming increasingly competitive with other energy sources. If you could tell your energy company or utility where to get the power to run your home, what would you say? Base = 802 Vermont residents.

VERMONT YANKEE POLL
Questionnaire

*Topline results of telephone interviews with 802 adult residents of the state of Vermont,
conducted February 19-22, 2010*

N=800

AIM FOR 50/50 GENDER SPLIT

INTRODUCTION

Hello. My name is ____ from Opinion Research Corporation. We're conducting a survey of Vermont residents and would like to include your opinions. Please be assured that we are in no way attempting to sell you anything. Your responses are strictly for research purposes and will be kept strictly confidential. This call may be monitored or recorded for quality purposes.

May I please speak to the youngest adult (male/female) 18 or older who lives in this household?

48% Male
52% Female

Q1 The nuclear reactor Vermont Yankee is managed by the company Entergy. Based on what you know about Vermont Yankee how would you rate each of the following?

Would you rate it very high, somewhat high, somewhat low or very low?

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

(Weighted Base N=802)

A. Trustworthiness of Entergy

7% Very high
19% Somewhat high
29% Somewhat low
37% Very low
8% DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

B. Competence of Entergy

7% Very high
22% Somewhat high
33% Somewhat low
26% Very low
12% DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

Q2 Have you heard of any reports of the radioactive leaks of tritium (TRIH-TEE-UM) from Vermont Yankee into such areas as testing wells and surrounding water?

79% YES
20% NO
* DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

ASK IF HEARD REPORTS, Q2 [01], ONLY. ALL OTHERS SKIP TO Q4

Q3 How concerned are you by reports of the radioactive leaks of tritium (TRIH-TEE-UM) from Vermont Yankee into such areas as testing wells and surrounding water? Are you . . .

(READ LIST. RECORD ONE ANSWER)

(Weighted Base N=637)

52% Very concerned
27% Somewhat concerned
14% Not very concerned
6% Not concerned at all
* DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

3

Q4 Do you trust Vermont Yankee manager Entergy to fix the leaks of radioactive tritium (TRIH-TEE-UM) from the nuclear reactor into testing wells and surrounding water? (Weighted Base N=802)

46% YES
 47% NO
 6% DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

Q5 Given that Entergy has been unable for weeks to locate the source of the radioactive tritium (TRIH-TEE-UM) leaks at Vermont Yankee, do you now feel more or less confident in the company's ability to safely manage a nuclear reactor? Would you say . . . (READ LIST. RECORD ONE ANSWER)

3% Much more confident
 13% Somewhat more confident
 31% Somewhat less confident
 46% Much less confident
 4% NO CHANGE
 2% DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

Q6 Do you consider yourself more or less supportive now of Vermont Yankee, the nuclear reactor, than you were SIX MONTHS AGO? Are you . . . (READ LIST. RECORD ONE ANSWER)

6% Much more supportive
 14% Somewhat more supportive
 32% Somewhat less supportive
 39% Much less supportive
 9% NO CHANGE
 1% DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

Q7 Assuming that a combination of increased energy efficiency, clean energy, such as hydroelectric, wind and solar, and natural gas could be used to offset the electricity created by Vermont Yankee, would you support or oppose the 2012 closure of the reactor? Would you say you . . . (READ LIST. RECORD ONE ANSWER)

39% Strongly support
 29% Somewhat support
 14% Somewhat oppose
 15% Strongly oppose
 3% DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

4

Q8 Assuming that many new jobs could be created through investments in new clean energy technologies, such as hydroelectric, wind and solar, would you support or oppose the 2012 closure of the reactor? Would you say you...

43% Strongly support
28% Somewhat support
12% Somewhat oppose
14% Strongly oppose
3% DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

Q9 Do reports about Vermont Yankee leaking radioactive tritium (TRIH-TEE-UM) into testing wells and surrounding water make you more or less likely to support the 2012 closure of the reactor? Would you say . . .
(READ LIST. RECORD ONE ANSWER)

40% Much more supportive
25% Somewhat more supportive
17% Somewhat less supportive
11% Much less supportive
5% NO CHANGE
2% DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

Q10 Who do you think should have to foot the bill for decommissioning Vermont Yankee?
Would you say . . .
(READ ENTIRE LIST BEFORE RECORDING ONE ANSWER)
[ROTATE]

89% Entergy, the company that owns Vermont Yankee (OR)
4% Vermont taxpayers (OR)
4% BOTH
3% DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

Q11 I am going to read you a list of power sources. In each case, please indicate which ones you think are “power sources of tomorrow” that should play a bigger role in the U.S. energy picture and which are a “power source of yesterday”.

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

A. Oil

15% Power source of tomorrow
83% Power source of yesterday
2% DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

B. Coal

15% Power source of tomorrow
84% Power source of yesterday
1% DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

C. Nuclear

47% Power source of tomorrow
49% Power source of yesterday
4% DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

D. Natural Gas

63% Power source of tomorrow
31% Power source of yesterday
6% DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

E. Wind

92% Power source of tomorrow
6% Power source of yesterday
2% DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

F. Solar

94% Power source of tomorrow
4% Power source of yesterday
2% DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

G. Hydroelectric

78% Power source of tomorrow
18% Power source of yesterday
4% DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

Q12 The cost of solar and wind power is now becoming increasingly competitive with other energy sources. If you could tell your power company or utility where to get the power to run your house, what would you say?

(RANDOMIZE 01-03. READ ENTIRE LIST BEFORE RECORDING ONE ANSWER)

- 71% Use wind, solar and other clean-energy technologies
- * Use coal-generated power
- 9% Use nuclear power
- 18% Or, you have no preference
- 1% DON'T KNOW/NOT SURE

Now a few questions for background purposes . . .

SP1 In politics, as of today, do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?

- 16% REPUBLICAN
- 26% DEMOCRAT
- 52% INDEPENDENT
- 2% OTHER PARTY
- 5% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

[ASK IF SP1 (03-99)]

SP2 As of today, do you lean more to the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?
(Weighted Base N=467)

- 44% DEMOCRATIC
- 23% REPUBLICAN
- 27% NEITHER/OTHER
- 6% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED

SP2A POLITICAL PARTY IDENTIFICATION [TO BE SET UP FOR DATA FILE]

(Weighted Base N=802)

- 16% REPUBLICAN [SP1 (01)]
- 13% INDEPENDENT-LEAN REPUBLICAN [SP2 (01)]
- 15% INDEPENDENT [SP1 (03) THAT ARE SP2 (98, 99)]
- 26% INDEPENDENT-LEAN DEMOCRATIC [SP2 (02)]
- 26% DEMOCRAT [SP1 (02)]
- 3% OTHER PARTY [SP1 (98) THAT ARE SP2 (98) OR SP1 (99) THAT ARE SP2 (98)]
- 2% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED [SP1 (99) THAT ARE SP2 (99) OR SP1 (98) THAT ARE SP2 (99)]

7

S4 Altogether, including you and any others, how many people regularly live in this household?

17% ONE
35% TWO
19% THREE
16% FOUR
9% FIVE
3% SIX
* SEVEN
* EIGHT
0% NINE
0% TEN OR MORE
1% REFUSED/NR

[IF MORE THAN ONE PERSON IN S4, ASK S5A THROUGH S6]

S5A Are there any children living in your household under 6 years of age?
(Weighted Base N=661)

21% YES
79% NO
* REFUSED/NR

S5B Are there any children living in your household aged 6 through 11?

21% YES
79% NO
* REFUSED/NR

S6 Are there any children living in your household aged 12 through 17?

19% YES
81% NO
* REFUSED/NR

S7 What was the last grade in school you completed?
(Weighted Base N=802)

* 8TH GRADE OR LESS
4% HIGH SCHOOL INCOMPLETE [GRADES 9, 10, 11]
27% HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETE [GRADE 12]
14% SOME COLLEGE, BUT NO DEGREE
9% ASSOCIATES DEGREE
28% COLLEGE GRADUATE/BACHELORS DEGREE
16% POSTGRADUATE DEGREE, SUCH AS MASTER'S, PH.D., MD, JD
1% REFUSED/NR

S8QUAN What is your age? [RECORD NUMBER FROM 18-98, -1 FOR REFUSED]

[IF S8QUAN REFUSED, ASK]

S8 Please tell me, which of the following ranges best fits your age? [READ LIST]

3%	18-20
4%	21-24
10%	25-29
9%	30-34
7%	35-39
10%	40-44
7%	45-49
12%	50-54
10%	55-59
9%	60-64
6%	65-69
5%	70-74
7%	75 or older
1%	REFUSED/NR

S10 Was your TOTAL household income BEFORE taxes for 2009 less than \$50,000 or \$50,000 or more?

37% LESS THAN \$50,000 -Was that . . . ? [READ CHOICES]

14% Under \$25,000

5% \$25,000 but less than \$30,000

6% \$30,000 but less than \$35,000

3% \$35,000 but less than \$40,000

8% \$40,000 but less than \$50,000

2% REFUSED [UNSPECIFIED AFTER LESS THAN \$50,000]

46% \$50,000 OR MORE -Was that . . . ? [READ CHOICES]

11% \$50,000 but less than \$60,000

10% \$60,000 but less than \$75,000

11% \$75,000 but less than \$100,000

6% \$100,000 but less than \$125,000

7% \$125,000 or more

5% REFUSED [UNSPECIFIED AFTER \$50,000 OR MORE]

12% DON'T KNOW/REFUSED/NR

S11 Are you currently registered to vote in the State of Vermont?

89% YES

9% NO

2% DON'T KNOW/ NOT SURE