

What do US Adults Think about Child Sexual Abuse: *Measures of Knowledge and Attitudes Among Six States*



June 29, 2010



Stop It Now!

What do US Adults Think about Child Sexual Abuse: *Measures of Knowledge and Attitudes Among Six States*



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Agenda

- Introduction to Stop It Now!
- Survey methodology and data
- Interpretation
- Implications for Action

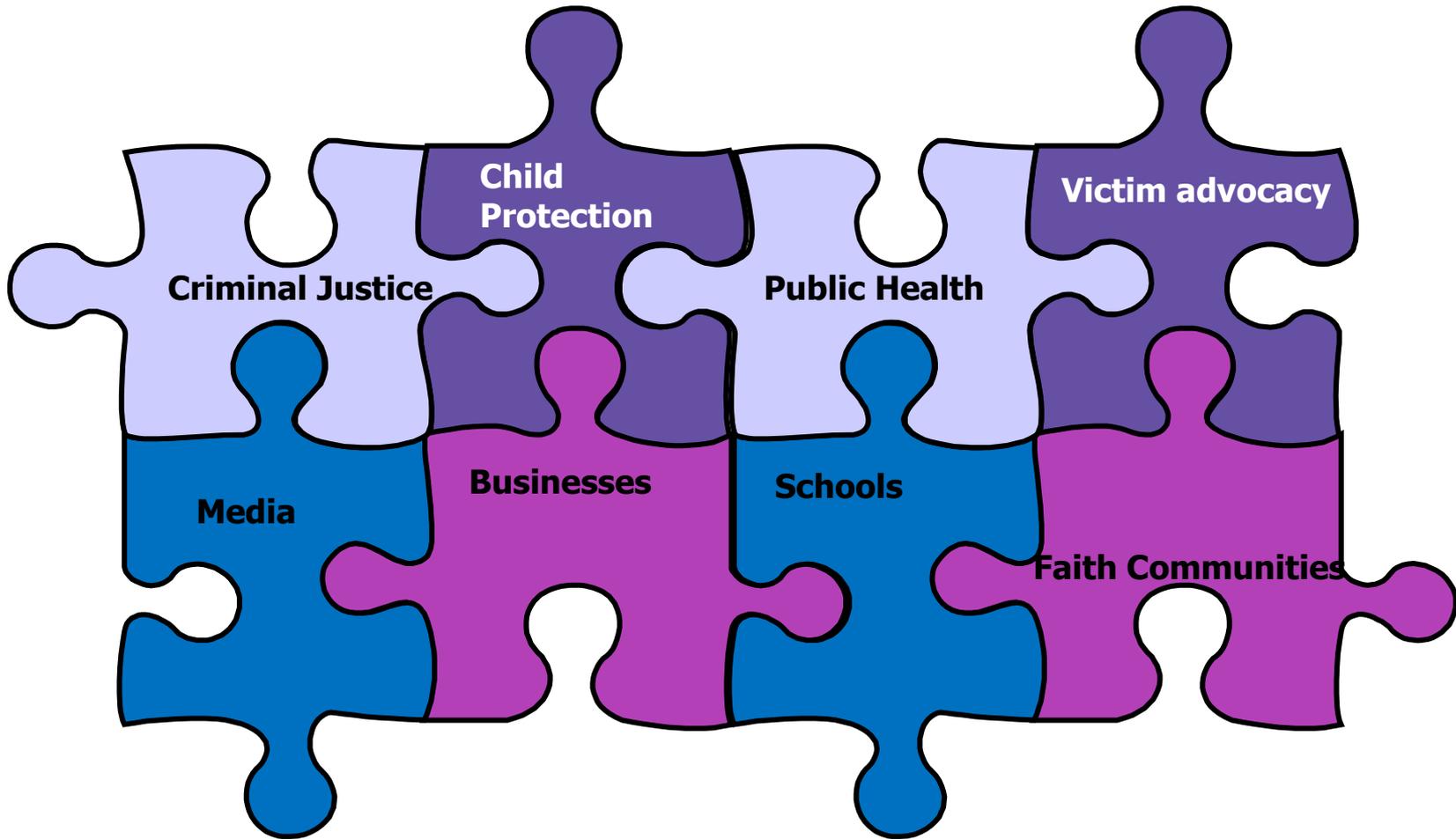


Today's Participants

- Parents
- Child Welfare
- Child Advocacy Center
- Rape Crisis/Sexual Assault Recovery
- Domestic Violence
- Crime Victim Assistance
- People personally impacted by child sexual abuse
- Child Abuse Prevention
- Therapists
- Criminal Justice
- Medical staff
- Faith Communities
- Youth services
- Public Health
- Researchers



Collaboration



Can you name others?



Stop It Now!

Now! Approach

- Public Health/Root causes
- Adults protecting children-focus adult and community responsibility
- Inclusive/Accountability and Understanding
- Hope
- Research-based
- Avoid use of labels if possible



Research Based Programming-- Methods

- Focus groups & individual interviews
- Public opinion surveys (Vermont, Philadelphia, Minnesota, Georgia, UK & Ireland, Wisconsin)
- Process & training evaluation
- Research (Risk Factor project)



Community-based Program Model

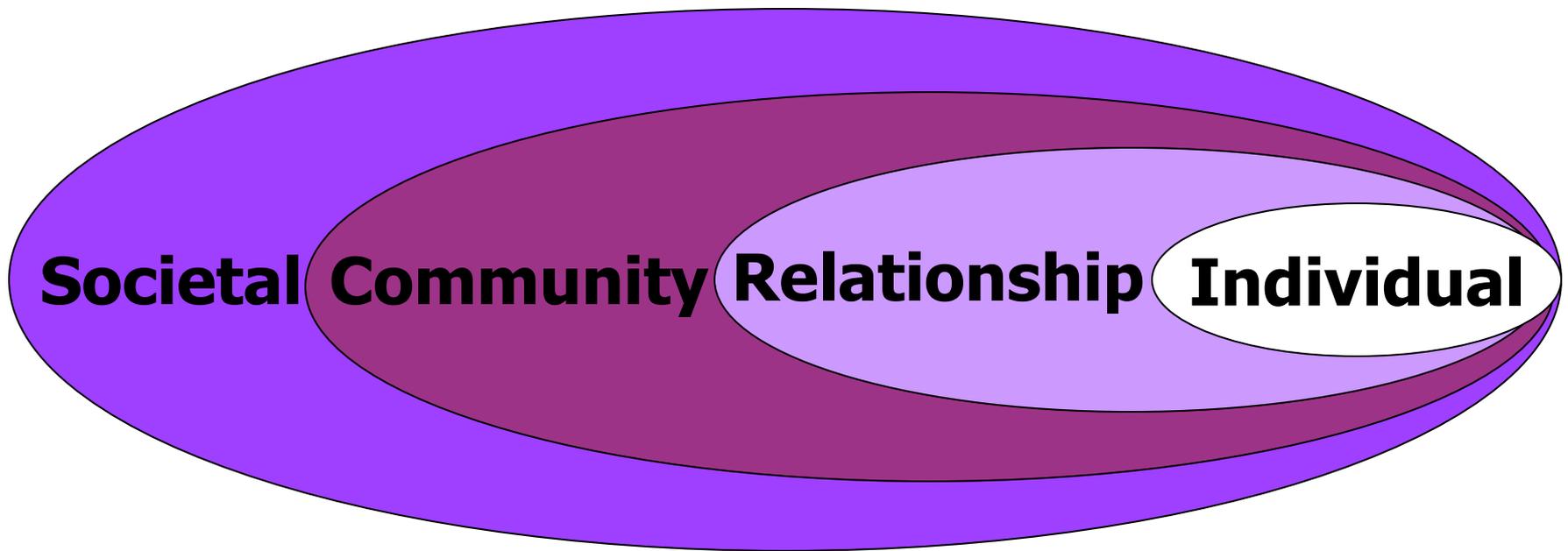
- Sponsoring organization
- Steering committee of local stakeholders
- Social marketing campaign
- Training and community education
- Research and Evaluation
- Public Policy



Level of Prevention	<i>Sample Activities</i>
Strengthening Individual Knowledge and Skills	<i>Helpline, Website, Brochures</i>
Promoting Community Education	<i>Social Marketing, Community presentations and Public Dialogues, op-eds and media interviews,</i>
Educating Providers	<i>Training child protection workers, school counselor, teachers, child care providers, substance abuse counselors etc.</i>
Fostering Coalitions and Networks	<i>Local steering committee, Participation in local, state and national coalitions</i>
Changing Organizational Practices	<i>Training of trainers for child care licensors and other agencies</i>
Influencing Policies and Legislation	<i>State and national advocacy</i>



Ecological Model



Why Survey?

- Understanding your audiences
- Program planning
- Evaluation measure



Survey Data



Your questions...

- *Who was surveyed?*
- *What states were included?*
- *What kind of survey?*
- *What was the time frame?*
- *Are the results statistically valid?*

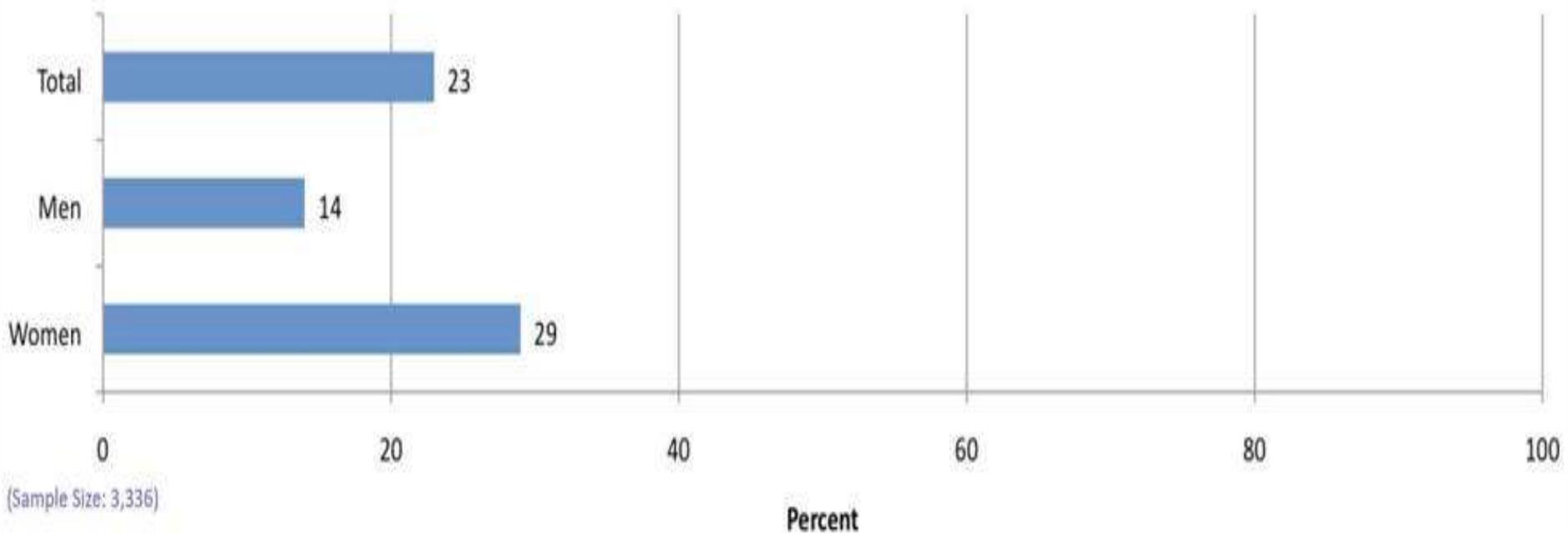


Survey Caveats

- Time between surveys
- Demographic differences between sample sites.
- Surveys by telephone



Prevalence of Child Sexual Abuse Survivorship



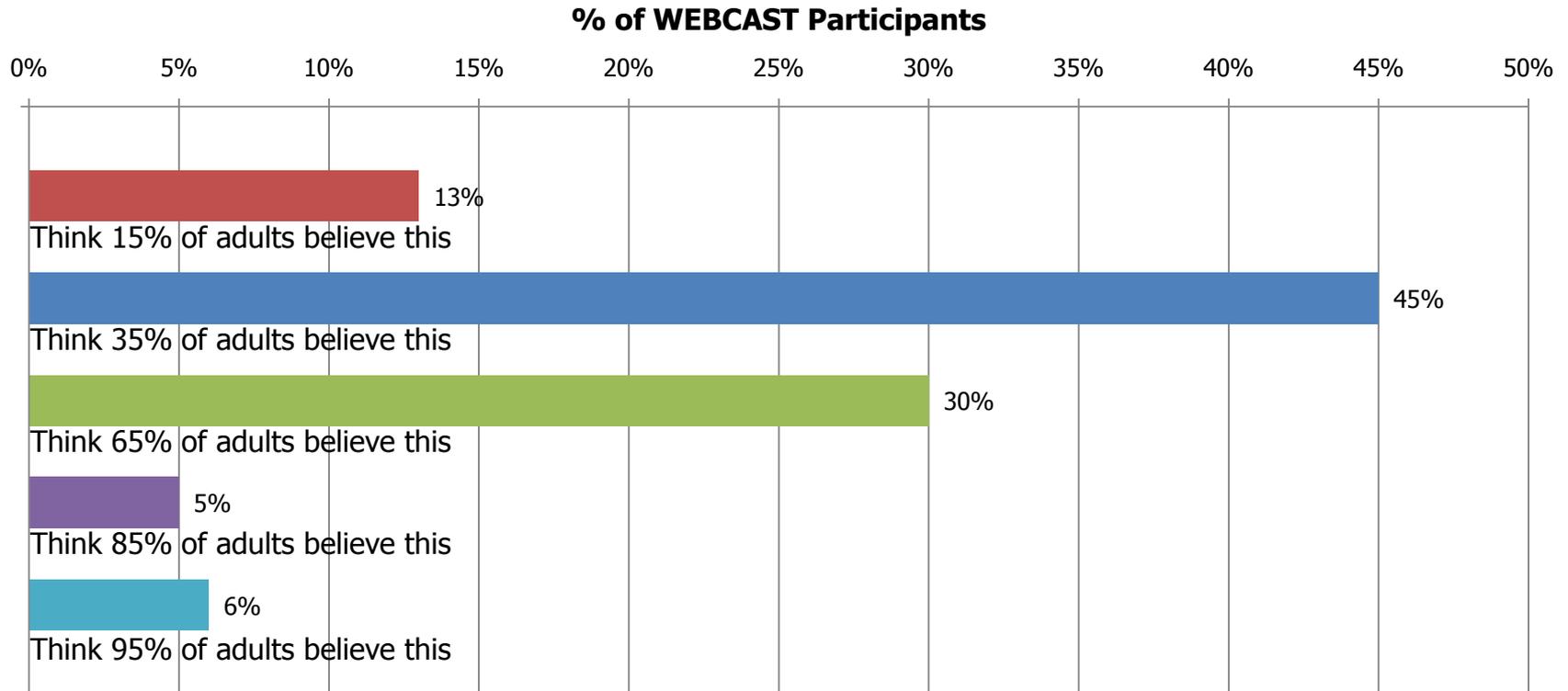
Webcast Poll #1

- What % of US adults surveyed believe that children are sexually abused most often by someone known to the child?
 - *15%*
 - *35%*
 - *65%*
 - *85%*
 - *95%*



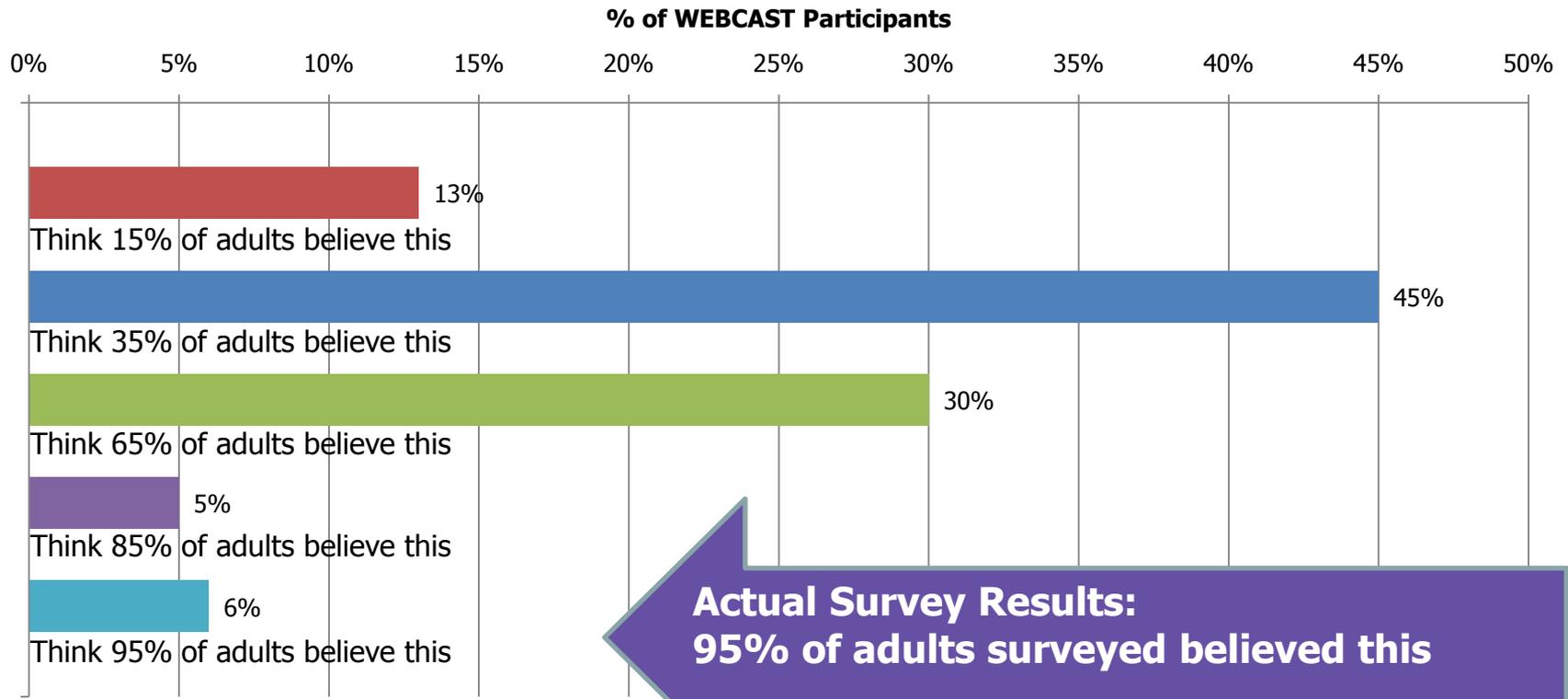
Webcast Participant Poll #1 Results

What % of US adults surveyed believe that children are sexually abused most often by someone known to the child?

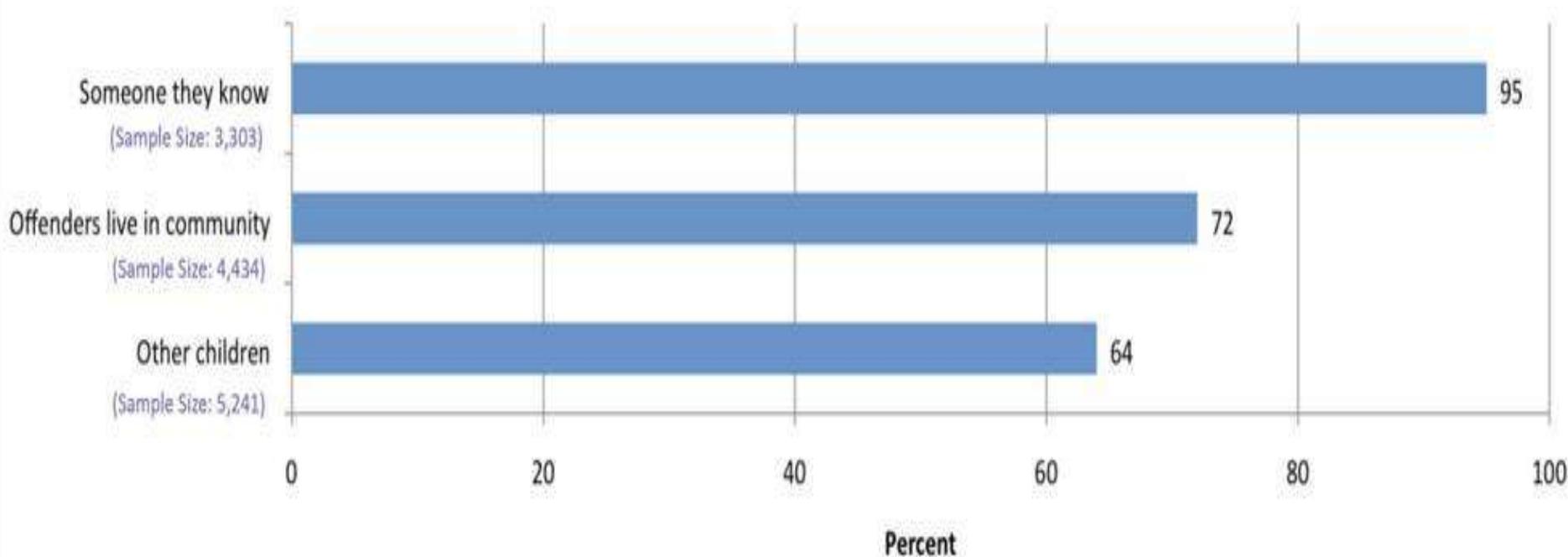


Webcast Participant Poll #1 Results

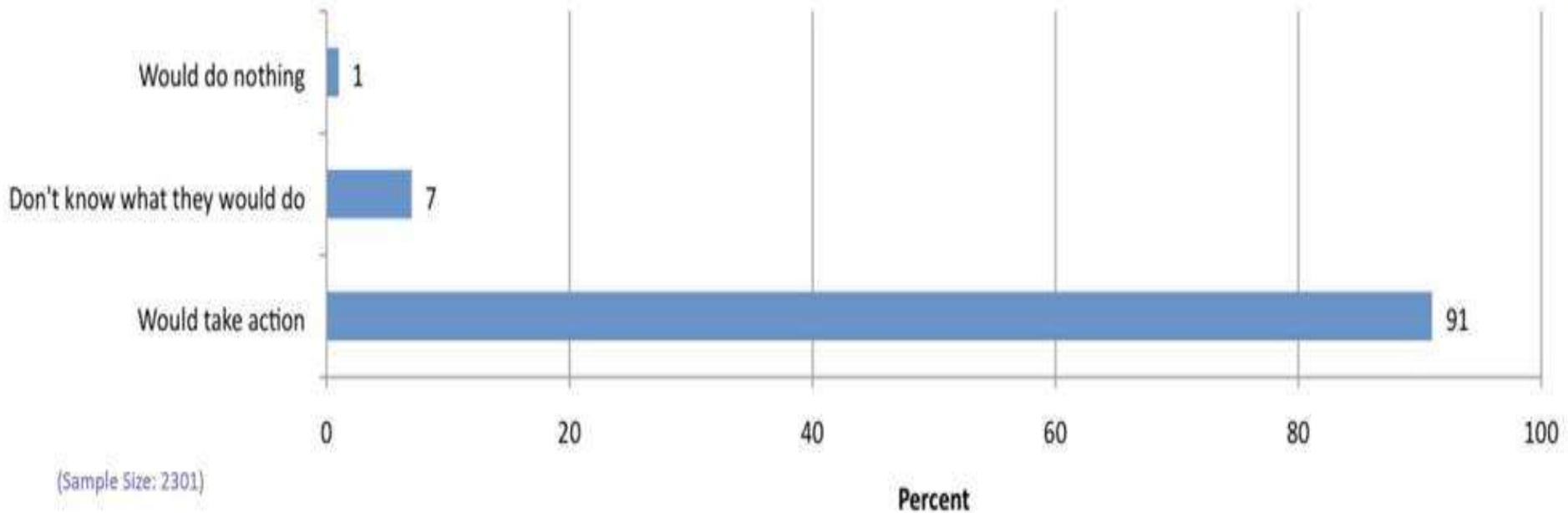
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Knowledge of Who Sexually Abuses Children



Hypothetical Situation of Possible Child Sexual Abuse



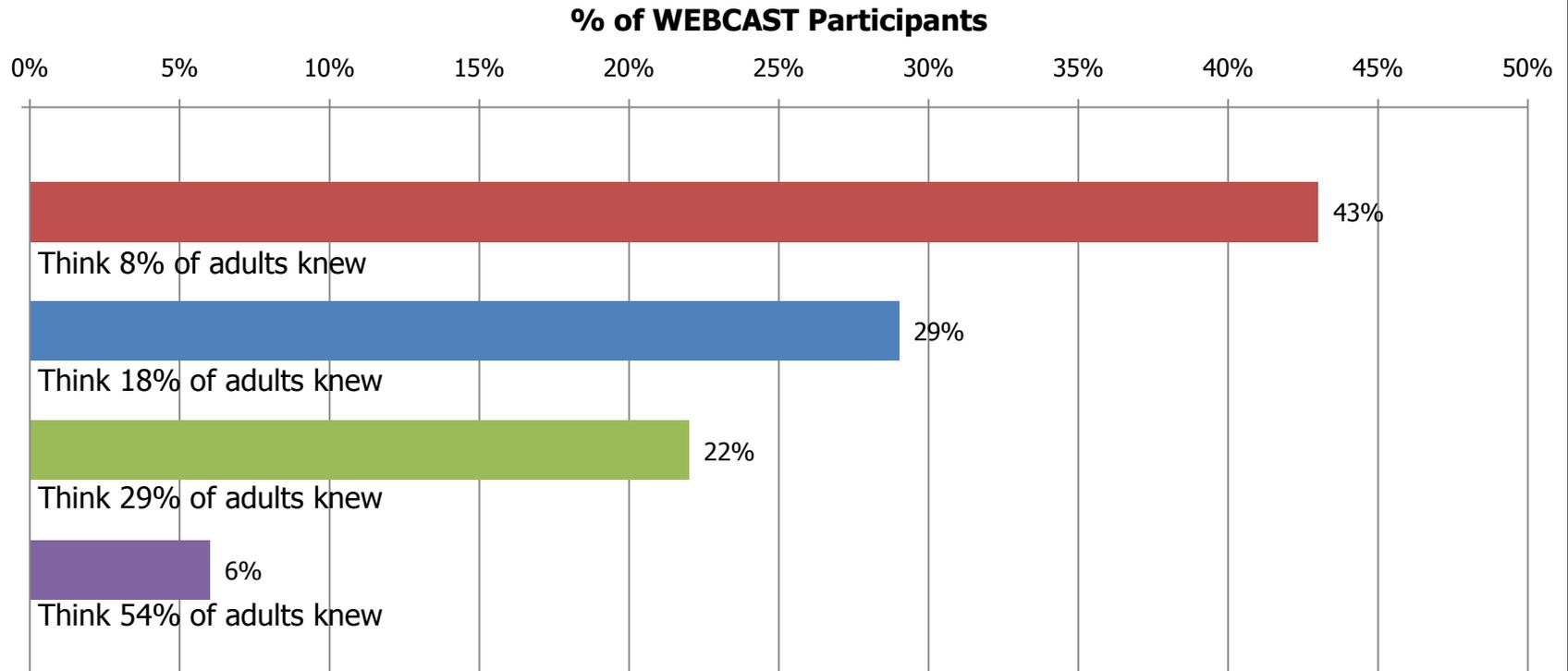
Webcast Poll #2

- What % of US adults surveyed said they knew of another adult who was probably sexually abusing a child in the past year?
 - *8%*
 - *18%*
 - *29%*
 - *54%*



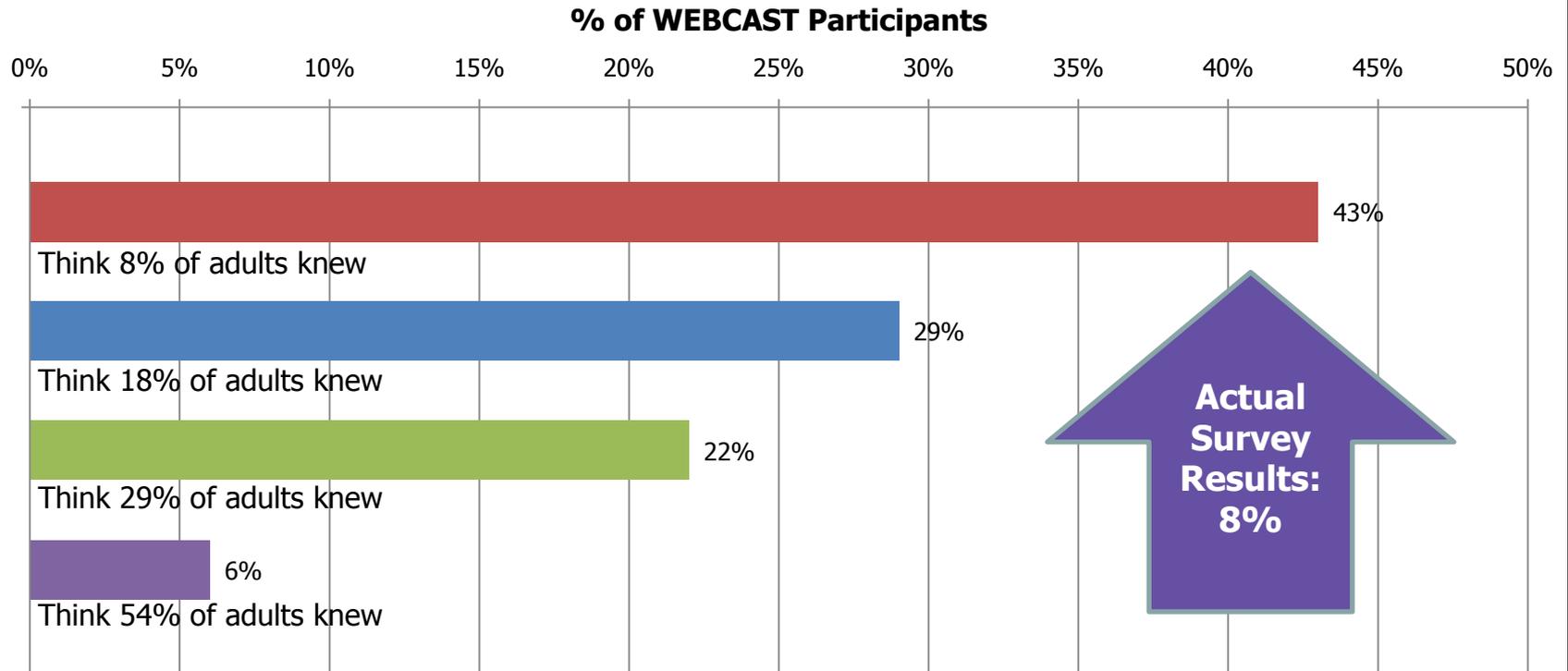
Webcast Participant Poll #2 Results

What % of US adults surveyed said they knew of another adult who was probably sexually abusing a child in the past year?

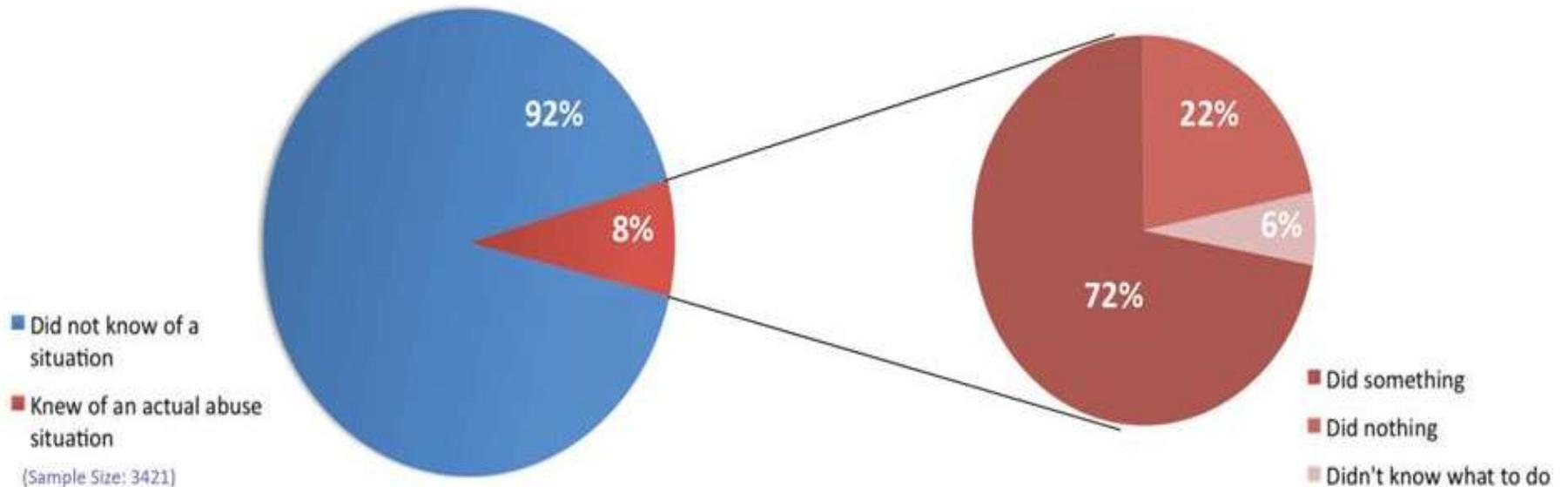


Webcast Participant Poll #2 Results

What % of US adults surveyed said they knew of another adult who was probably sexually abusing a child in the past year?



Actual Situations

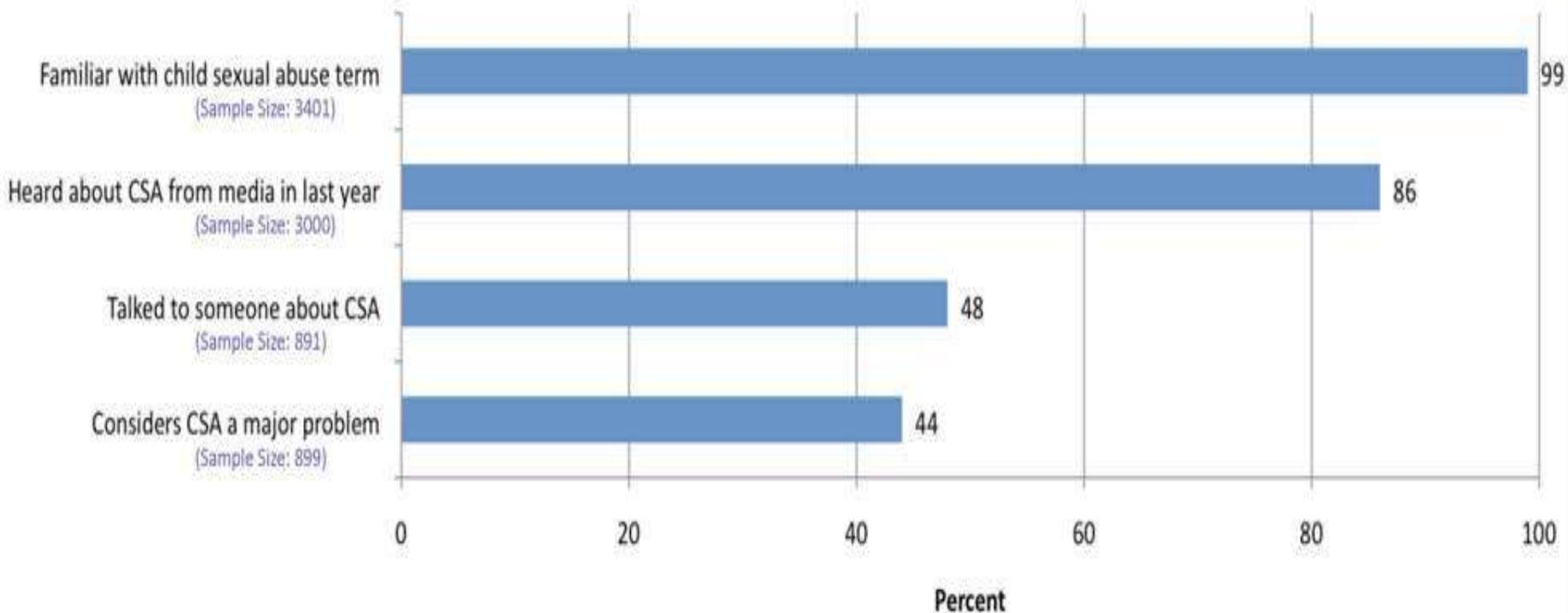


Data from registrants survey

- What did you do when you recognized concerning behaviors?
 - Report 55%
 - Talk with parents, child, ally 21%
 - Confront person with concerning behaviors 14%
 - Refer to therapy 5%
 - Keep child away from person 3%
 - Nothing 3%



Adult Awareness and Concern About Child Sexual Abuse



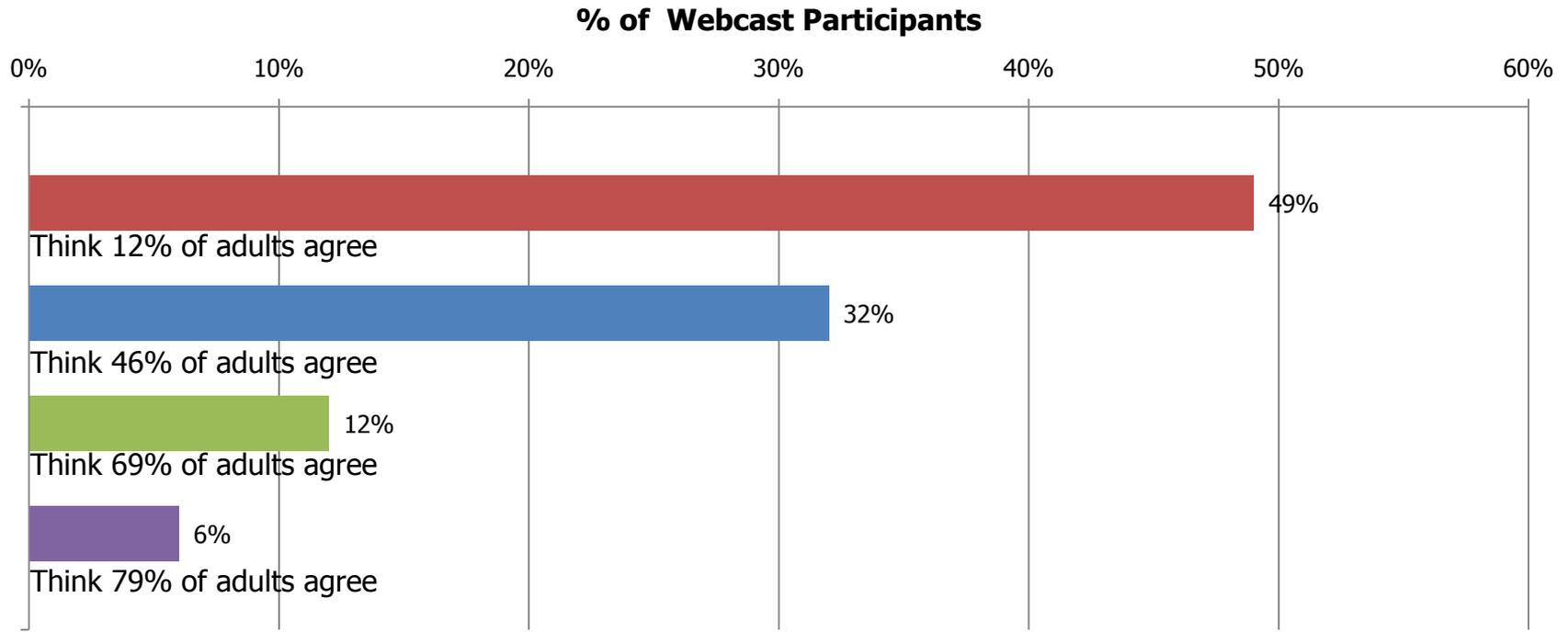
Webcast Poll #3

- What % of US adults agreed that:
“treatment programs can help abusers
stop their sexual abuse of children”?
 - *12%*
 - *46%*
 - *69%*
 - *76%*



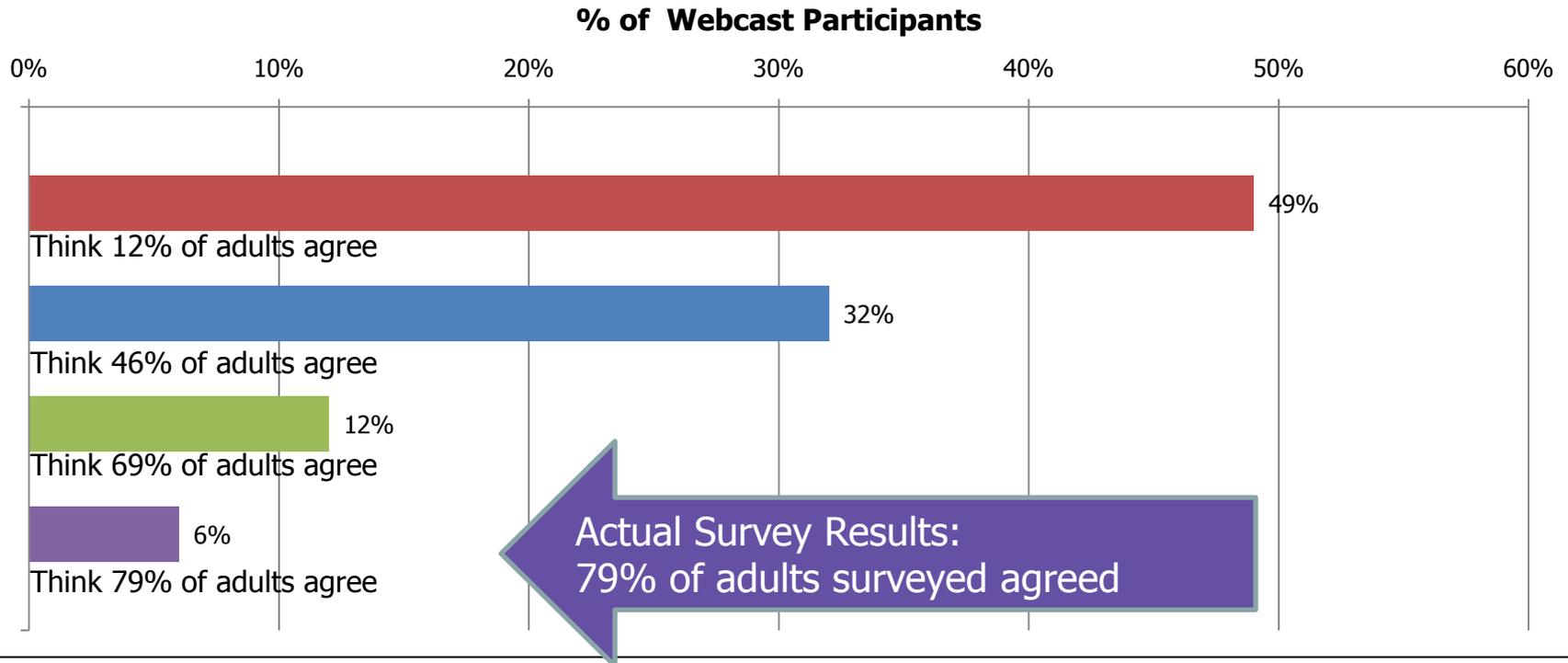
Webcast Participant Poll #3 Results

What % of US adults surveyed agree that treatment programs can help abusers stop their sexual abuse of children?

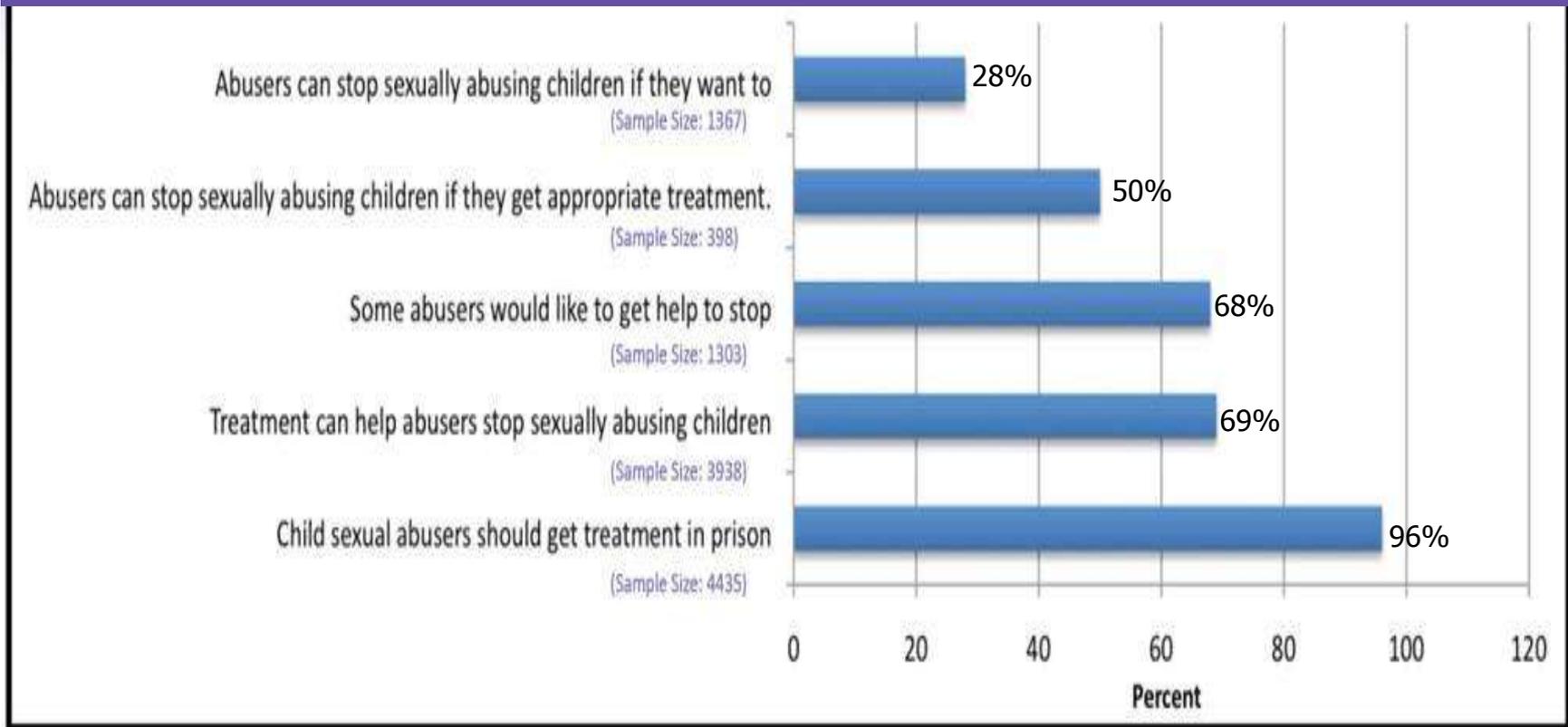


Webcast Participant Poll #3 Results

What % of US adults surveyed agree that treatment programs can help abusers stop their sexual abuse of children?



Views on Treatment for Child Sexual Offending



Views on Sex Offender Management

- **Residency restrictions:** 72% of Philadelphia respondents support residency restrictions
- **Sex offender registry use:** 36% of Georgia respondents report having used the sex offender registry.
- **Perceived effectiveness of sex offender registry:** Most Georgia respondents (68%) feel that sex offender registration policy is at least somewhat effective in preventing child sexual abuse.



Interpretation of Findings



Key Interpretations

1. Prevalence rates consistent with other research.
2. Majority are aware, knowledgeable & concerned about the issue.
3. Higher percentage of adults who have experienced childhood sexual abuse are aware & knowledgeable.
4. Disconnect between informed awareness of the issue & recognition of risk in daily life.
5. Majority support sex offender policies like residency restrictions and sex offender registry.
6. Majority support treatment for those who have offended.



Expanding the Conversation....

- Media and public discourse don't represent privately held views.
- "Stranger danger" myth may not be a major barrier to awareness & action
- Are our prevention efforts well-focused?
- More support for sex offender treatment & innovative policy than assumed?



Areas for Further Research

- Demographic differences
- Language & meaning
- Media framing & policy rhetoric influence on opinions
- Existing policies & systems linked to CSA
- Barriers & opportunities for action



Implications for Action



Implications for action

- Help adults overcome barriers to taking action
- Go beyond the myths-Focus on daily preventive behaviors
- Prevention programs supported on par with sex offender interdiction and management activities
- Treatment for all involved
- Build the case for investing in prevention
- More research



Copies of this report

- Pdf available soon online and printed version in store
- Recording of today's webcast on our site
- You can link to the report on www.StopItNow.org
- Briefing Sheet



Thank you



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