

Pennsylvanians' Perceptions of the Nature and Extent of Human Trafficking

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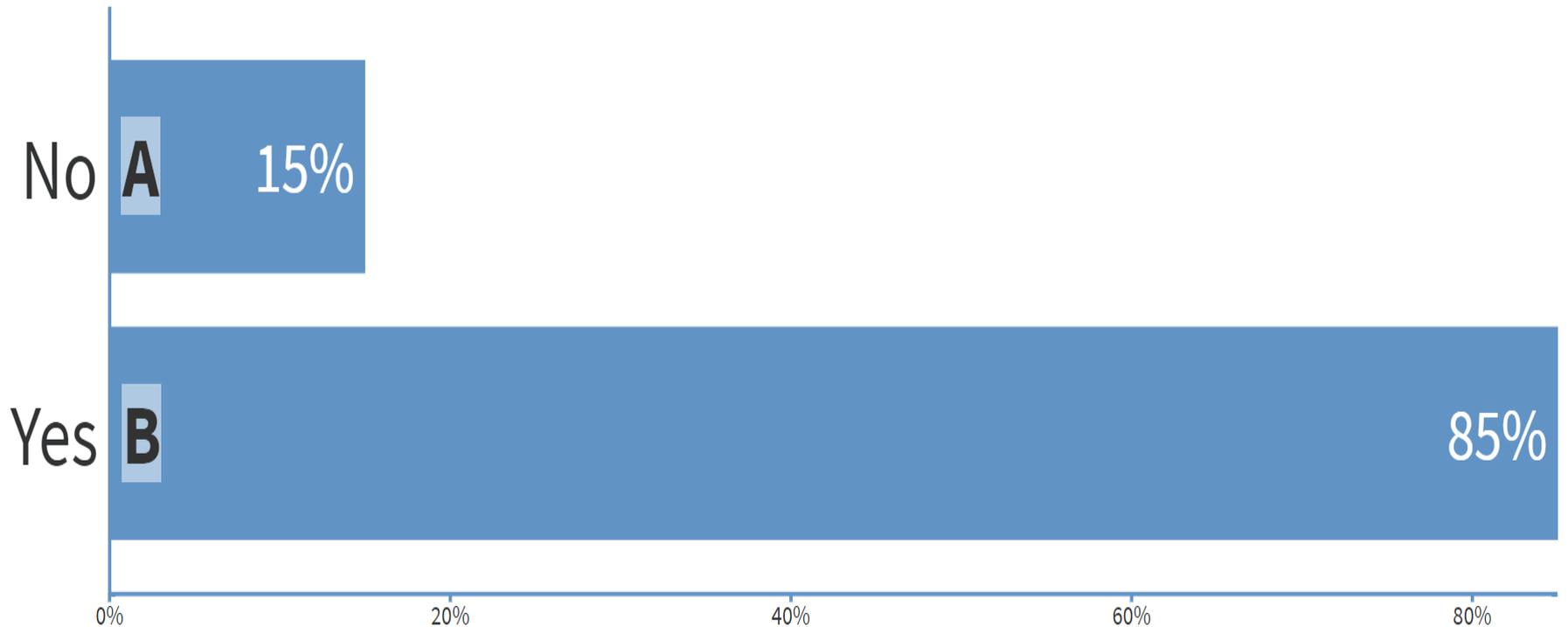
Jennifer Gibbs, Ph.D.



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A 15-year-old runaway in a large city becomes involved with a pimp and is arrested for prostitution. Should she/he be considered a victim of trafficking?

i Poll is full and no longer accepting responses



Two brothers, ages 16 and 20, were recruited from an Asian country to work in an ethnic restaurant in MN. The restaurant owners told them they owe a large debt, force them to work without pay, arranged their housing and threaten to hurt/kill them when they try to leave. Is this HT?

 Poll is full and no longer accepting responses



In a wealthy section of the city, parents hire a nanny from a foreign country to take care of their children. Does this represent trafficking in persons?

i Poll is full and no longer accepting responses



Definition of human trafficking

- the recruitment, harboring, transporting, supplying, or obtaining a person for **labor or services** through the use of **force, fraud, or coercion** for the purpose of **involuntary servitude or slavery**; or
- **sex trafficking** in which a commercial sex act is induced by **force, fraud, or coercion**, or in which the person induced to perform sex acts is under 18 years of age



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Source: Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000

Human trafficking is a problem in Pennsylvania

In Pennsylvania in 2017:

- 562 calls for service to National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH)
- 199 cases reported

Since 2007, in Pennsylvania:

- 4,000 calls about human trafficking to NHTH



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Source: <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/state/pennsylvania>

Public understanding of human trafficking is important

- Citizens can encourage leaders to prioritize developing solutions to respond to and prevent victimization
- Human trafficking is hard to define
 - Often thought of as sex trafficking or new term for prostitution



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Research Questions

1. How do Pennsylvanians define HT?
2. Do Pennsylvanians perceive HT as a problem?
To what extent?
3. Can Pennsylvanians identify HT?



Design:

Online survey (Qualtrics)

- Conducted by PSH **Center for Survey Research**
 - School of Public Affairs Lion Poll
 - Administered August 1-September 2, 2018
 - Quota-based invitation system



LION POLL

CENTER FOR SURVEY RESEARCH AT PENN STATE HARRISBURG

Design: Measures

- “When you think of human trafficking, what comes to mind?” (open-ended)
- “Based on your understanding, how often would you say that human trafficking occurs in Pennsylvania?”
 - Never happens → happens all the time
- After reading definition: “Based on this definition, is human trafficking a problem?”
 - Yes, in my local area → Yes, in PA but not my local area → Yes, in US but not PA → No, doesn’t happen in US



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Sample representative of PA: 1,047 adult PA residents

	Interviewed #	Interviewed %	Census %
Male			
18-24 years	61	5.8%	5.9%
25-34 years	87	8.3%	8.5%
35-44 years	77	7.4%	7.3%
45-54 years	87	8.3%	8.3%
55-64 years	88	8.4%	8.7%
65 years and over	106	10.1%	9.5%
Female			
18-24 years	60	5.7%	5.7%
25-34 years	86	8.2%	8.2%
35-44 years	78	7.4%	7.4%
45-54 years	90	8.6%	8.5%
55-64 years	97	9.3%	9.3%
65 years and over	130	12.4%	12.5%

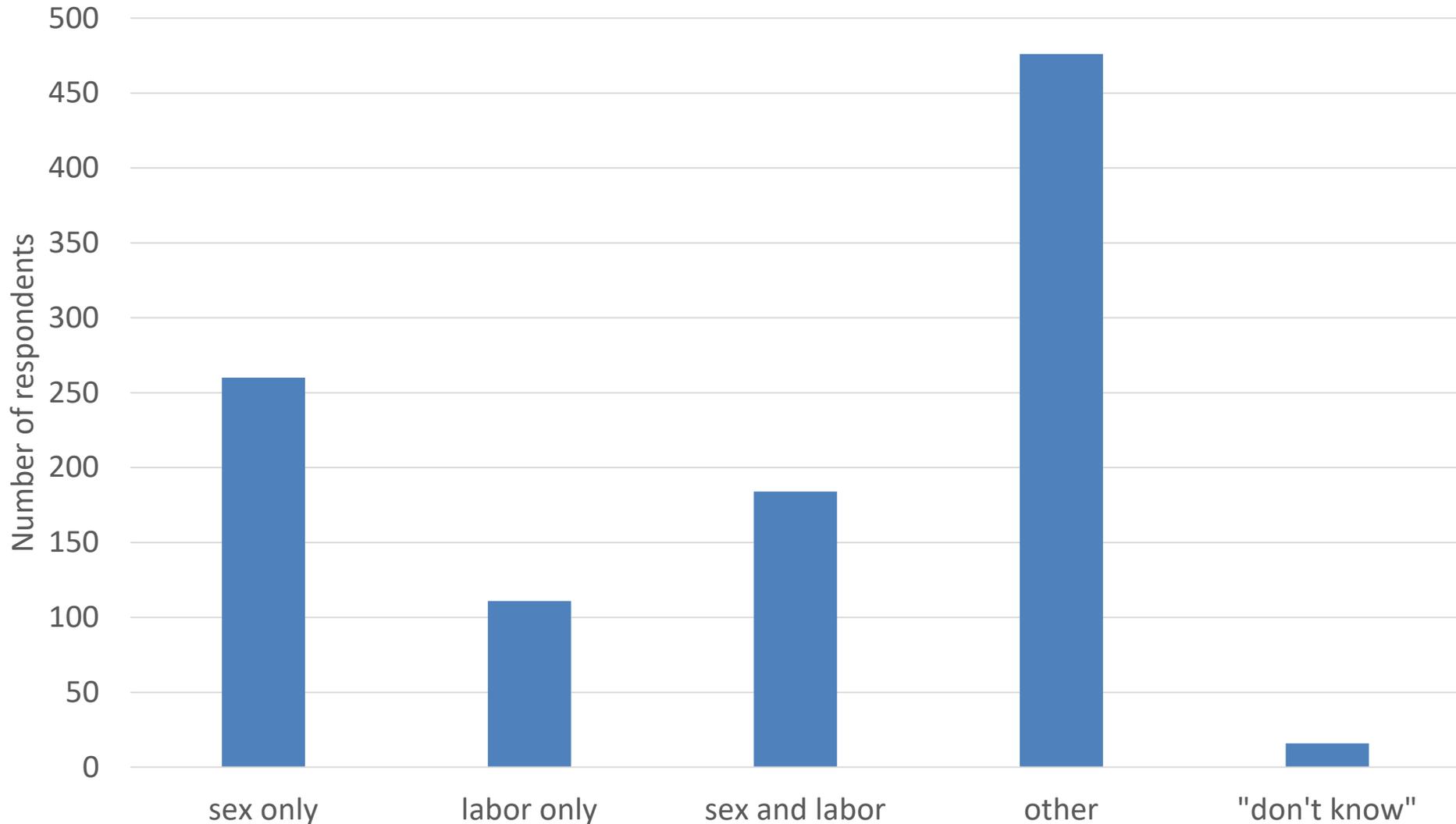
		Number	Percent
Gender			
	Male	506	48.3%
	Female	541	51.7%
Age Category			
	18-34 years	294	28.1%
	35-64 years	517	49.4%
	65 years of age or older	236	22.5%
Race/Ethnicity			
	Hispanic	36	3.4%
	White, non-Hispanic	908	86.7%
	Black or African American, non-Hispanic	72	6.9%
	Something else, non-Hispanic	30	2.9%
	Don't know / Not sure	1	0.1%
Educational Attainment			
	High school diploma/GED or less	282	26.9%
	Some college (including 2-year/technical degree)	382	36.5%
	Four-year college degree	262	25.0%
	Graduate work	121	11.6%

RQ1: HOW DO PENNSYLVANIANS DEFINE HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

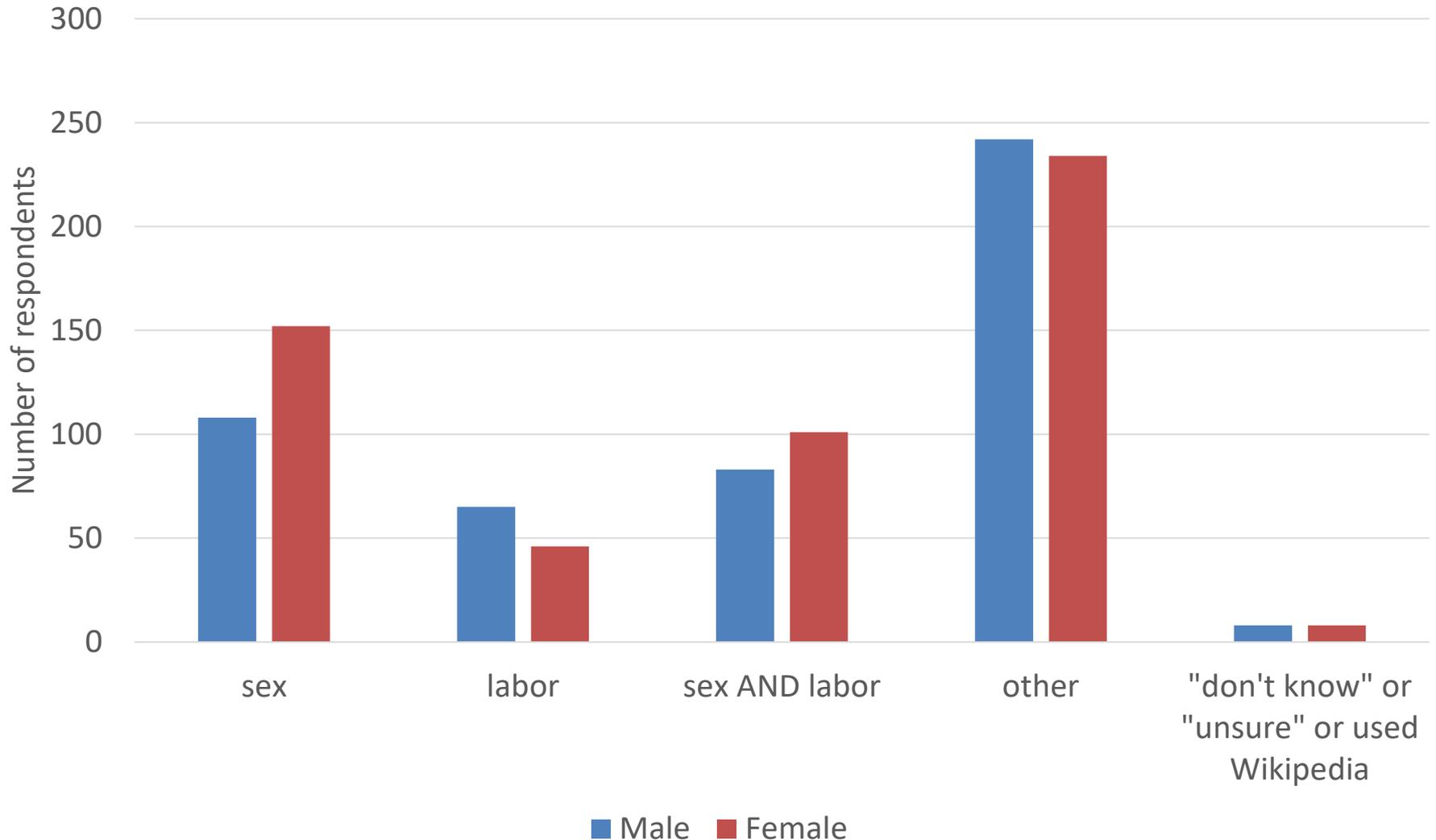


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When you think of human trafficking, what comes to mind?



When you think of human trafficking, what comes to mind?

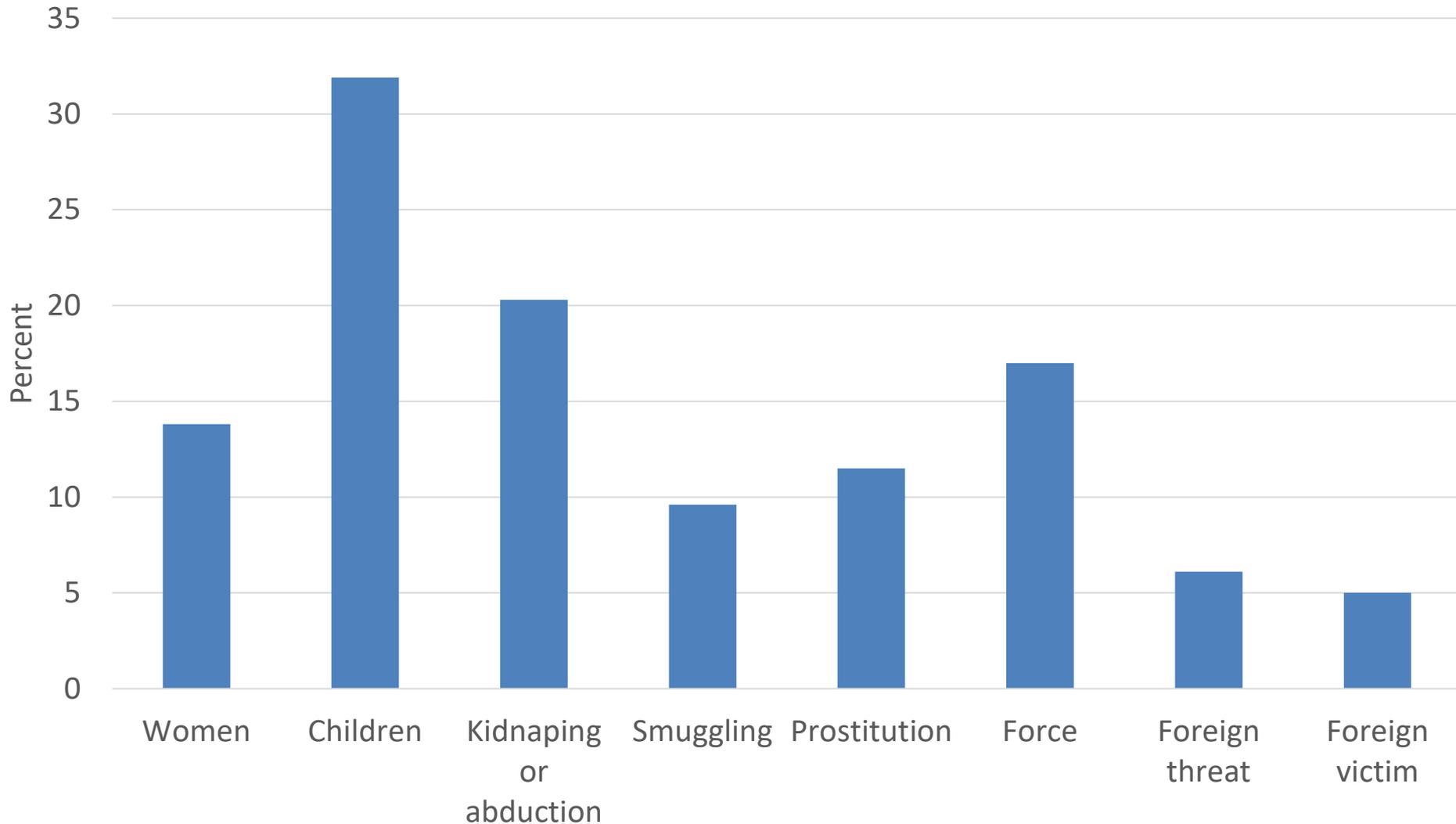


Does the definition of human trafficking mention women & children specifically?

 Poll is full and no longer accepting responses



Items included in respondents' definitions

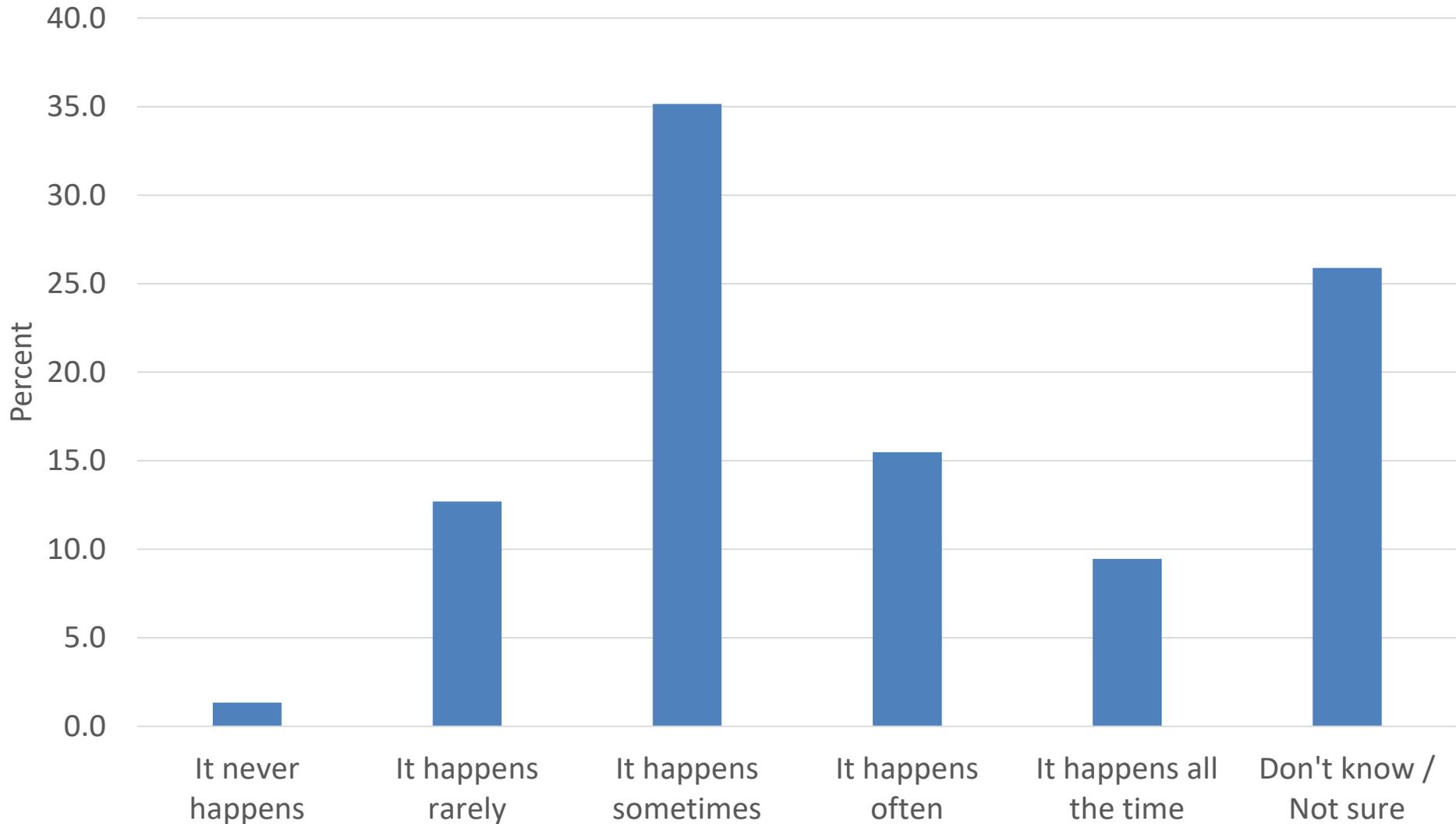


**RQ2: DO PENNSYLVANIANS
PERCEIVE HUMAN TRAFFICKING AS
A PROBLEM? TO WHAT EXTENT?**

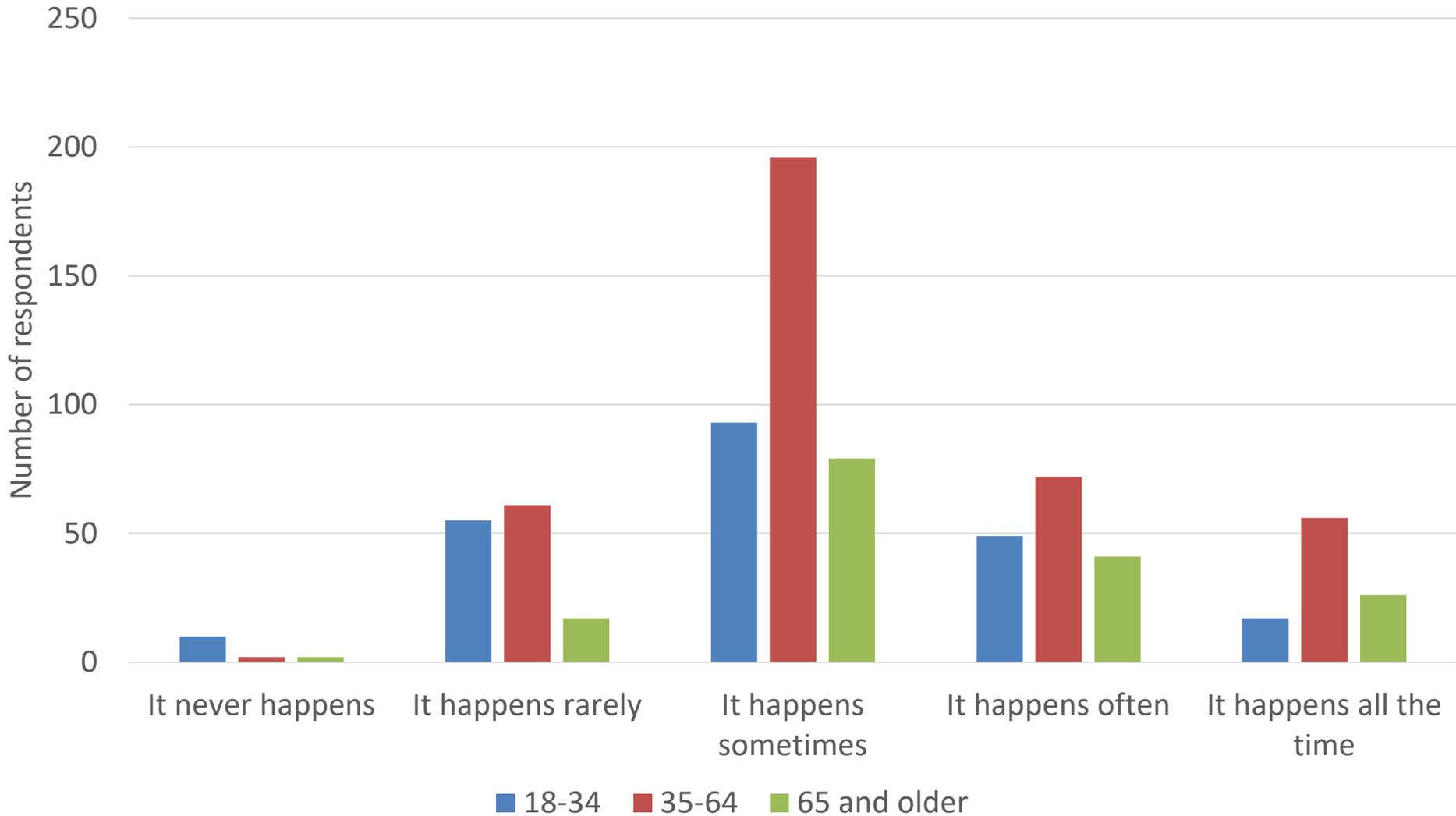


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How often does human trafficking occur in Pennsylvania?



How often does human trafficking occur in Pennsylvania?



Is human trafficking a problem?

i Poll is full and no longer accepting responses

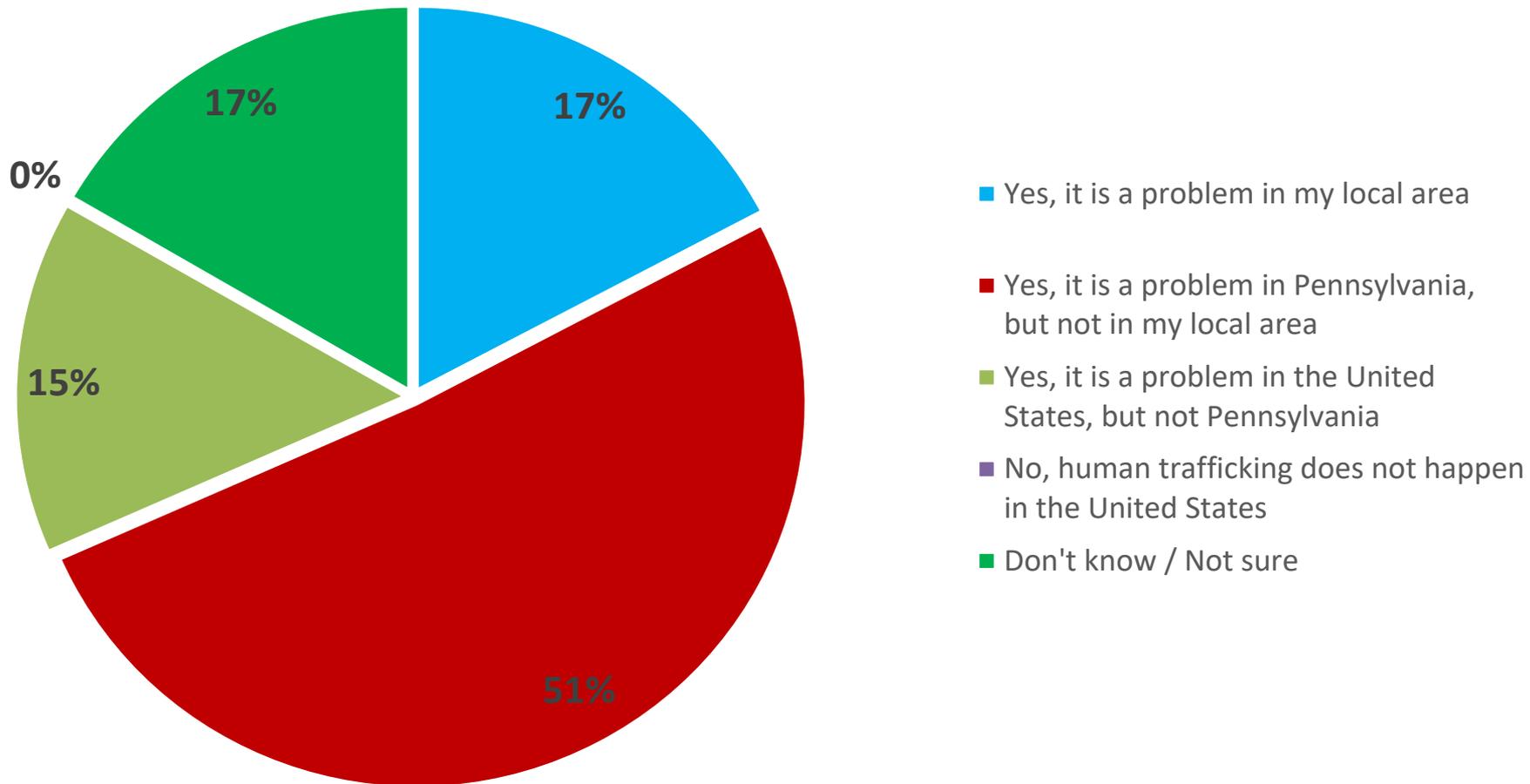
Yes, it is a problem in my local area **A** 78%

Yes, it is a problem in PA, but not my local area **B** 15%

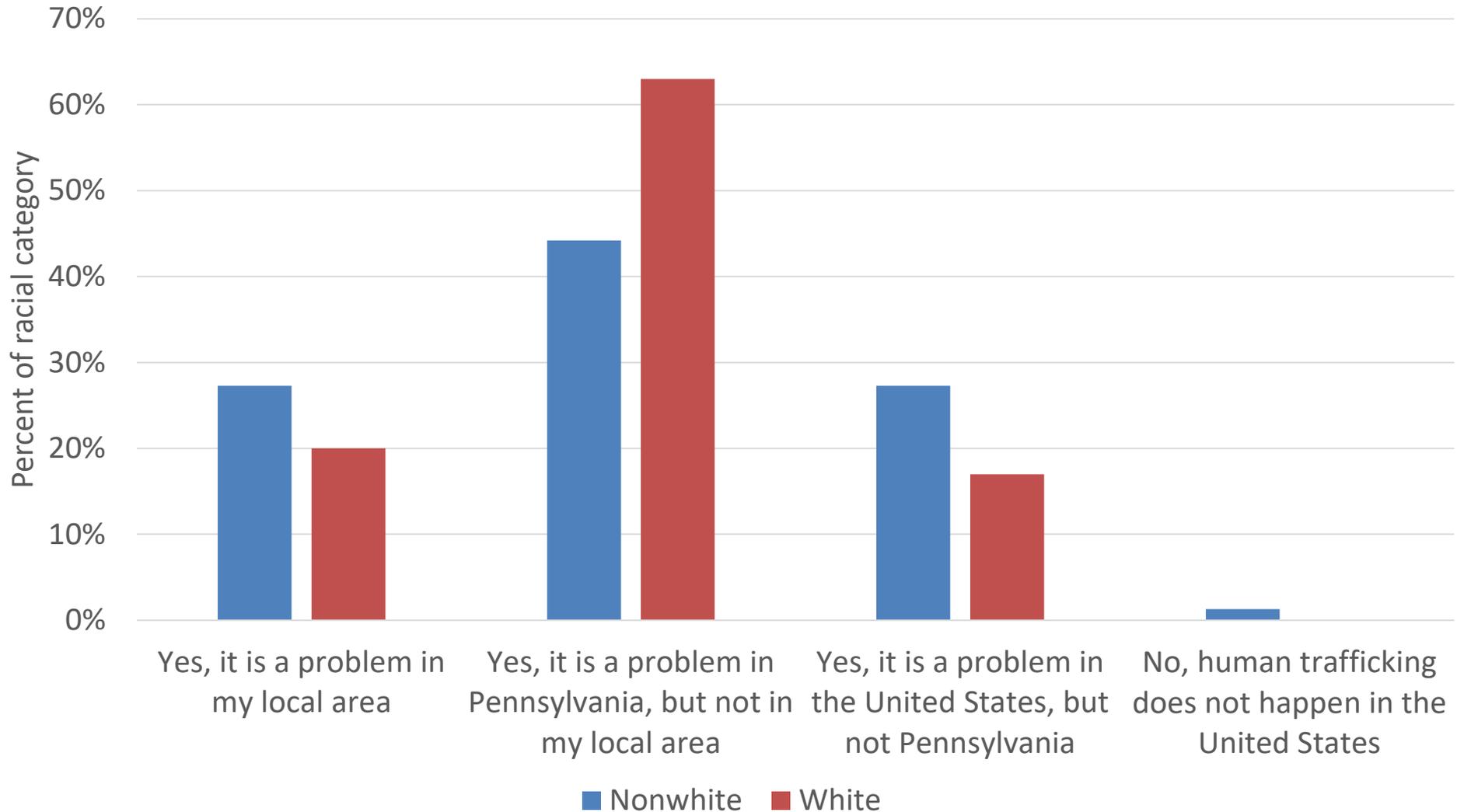
Yes, it is a problem in the US, but not PA **C** 7%

No, HT does not happen in the US **D**

Is human trafficking a problem?



Is human trafficking a problem?



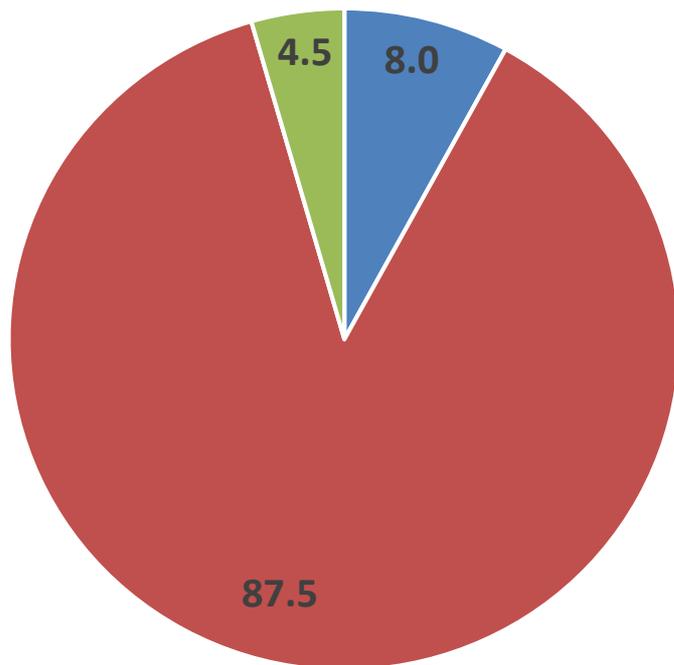
RQ3: CAN PENNSYLVANIANS IDENTIFY HUMAN TRAFFICKING?



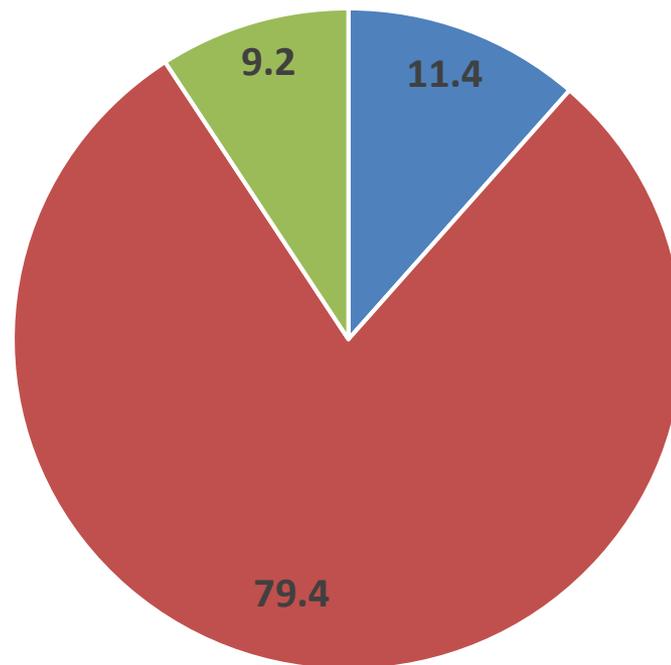
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A woman in a large, urban U.S. city is forced into prostitution routinely by a pimp. Should she be arrested for prostitution, or is this human trafficking?

15-year-old woman (n= 514)



25-year-old woman (n= 533)



- She should be arrested for prostitution
- This is human trafficking
- Not sure

Summary

- Most Pennsylvanians recognize that human trafficking is a problem in PA
- Only half identify human trafficking as sex or labor exploitation
- Public must understand all-encompassing definition of human trafficking
→ better identify potential cases within PA



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Implications for Future Research

- How do police understand HT?
 - Administer survey to police
 - Police understanding of HT has implications for
 - Law enforcement
 - Training



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Kahoot! Quiz

- Open a browser. Go to kahoot.com.
- Click **Enter game PIN!**
- Enter a nickname

