

Wisconsin wolf policy survey

Changing attitudes 2001–2009

Adrian Treves
Tory Shelley
Lisa Naughton

Contact:

550 N. Park Street, RM 70 Science Hall, Madison, WI, 53703
wolfsurveyinfo@gmail.com, (608) 890-1450
<http://www.nelson.wisc.edu/people/treves/Home.html>



THE NELSON INSTITUTE
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
University of Wisconsin-Madison

© A. Treves, V. Shelley, L. Naughton. All rights reserved. The information in this report is the intellectual property of the authors. No reproduction of the information without explicit permission from the authors.



The Carnivore Coexistence Lab

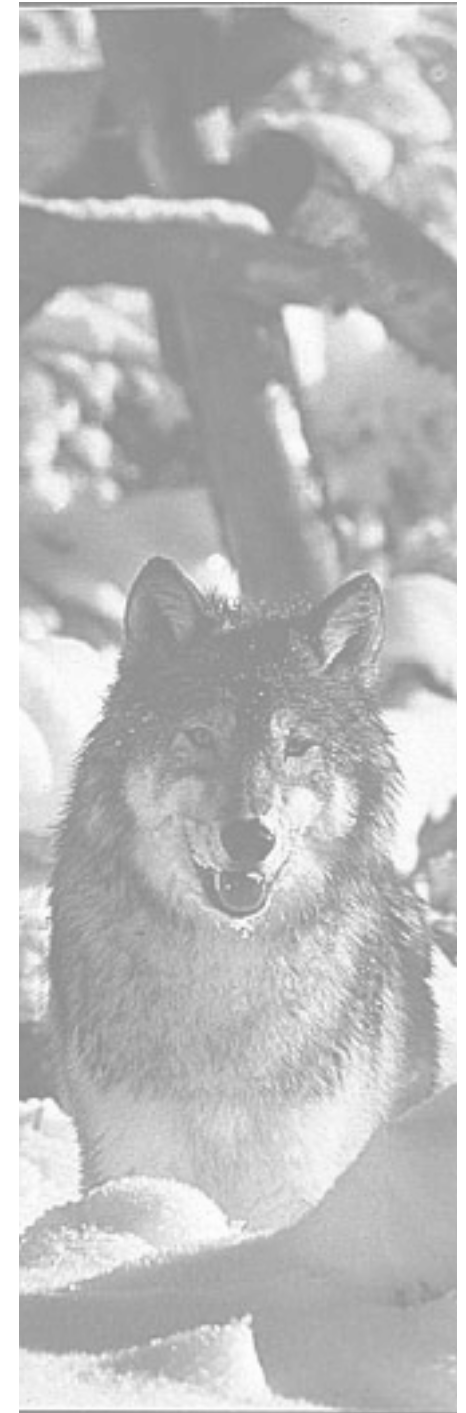


With assistance from

- Rebecca Grossberg, Kerry Martin, Emily Jones, Adrian Wydeven, Randy Jurewicz, Tom Heberlein, David Wilcove, Jordon Peugh, Seth Magle, Peter David, Jack Naughton, Dietram Scheufele, Bad River Natural Resources Department

With financial support from

- Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies
- The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
- National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
- Derse Foundation
- UW-Madison Graduate School
- Berryman Institute East
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- COEX: Sharing the Land with Wildlife, Inc,



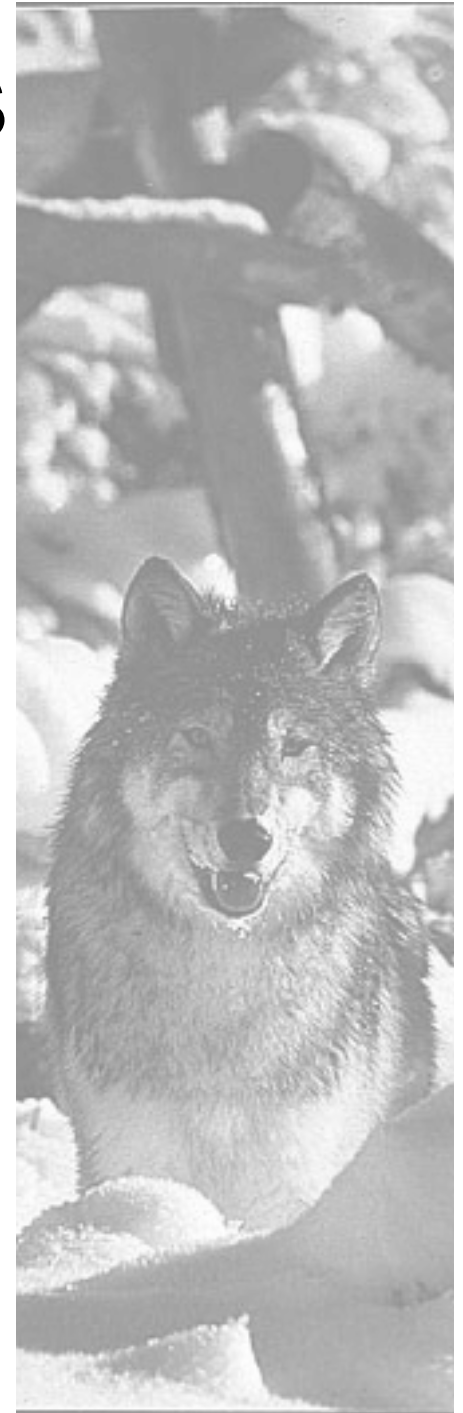
Background to our findings

Goal of the Survey

To measure public attitudes to wolves and wolf policy scenarios

Methods

- *Target population:* Residents of Wisconsin's wolf range who responded to our previous surveys in 2001 and 2004. See next page for further details.
- *Survey instrument:* The initial survey packet included: (1) a copy of the questionnaire, (2) a \$2 incentive, (3) a cover letter explaining the survey goal, respondent confidentiality, and the endorsement of state interest groups; (4) a postage paid return envelope. Two weeks after the initial mailing a reminder postcard was sent out to initial non-responders. Another two weeks later, a second mailing of the questionnaire was sent out to non-responders. There was no \$2 incentive included in the second mailing. Two weeks after that, another reminder postcard was sent out to non-responders.
- *Data presentation:* Survey questions are presented in quotation marks. Answer options are in italics. Sample sizes vary because not all of our respondents answered all of our questions.

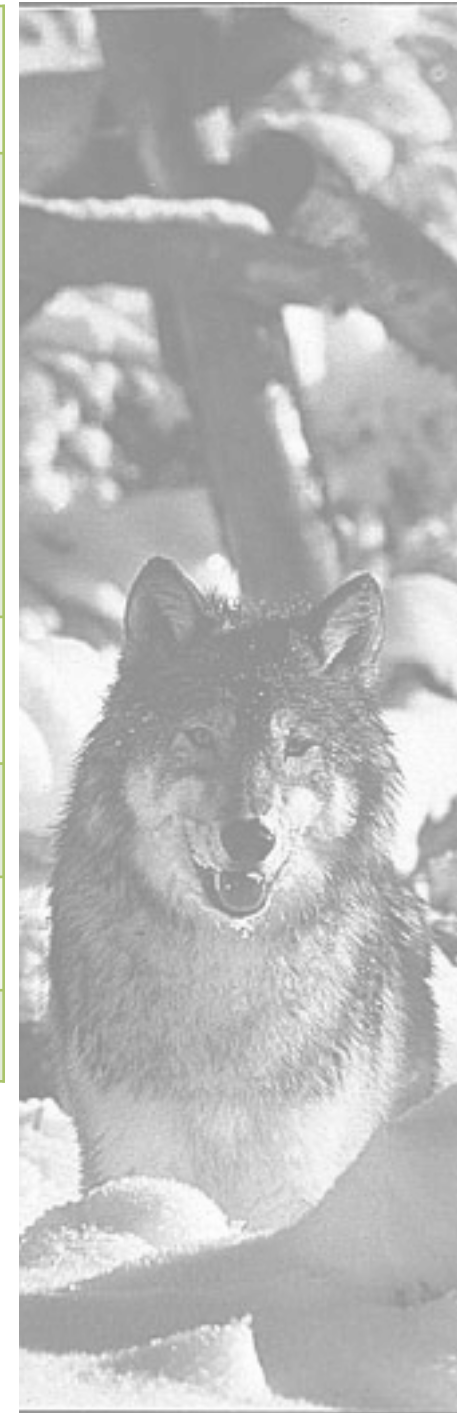


	WI 2009 Respondents to two previous surveys	
Target population	WI 2001: All WI residents with ≥ 1 verified wolf attack on a domestic animal and random residents in their municipalities or random WI Bear Hunters' Association members	WI 2004: Random residents from Butternut, Owen and Wausau zip codes within WI wolf range
Current livestock producers	38%	21%
Bear hunters	49%	21%
N of respondents	252	403
Response rate	77.7%	

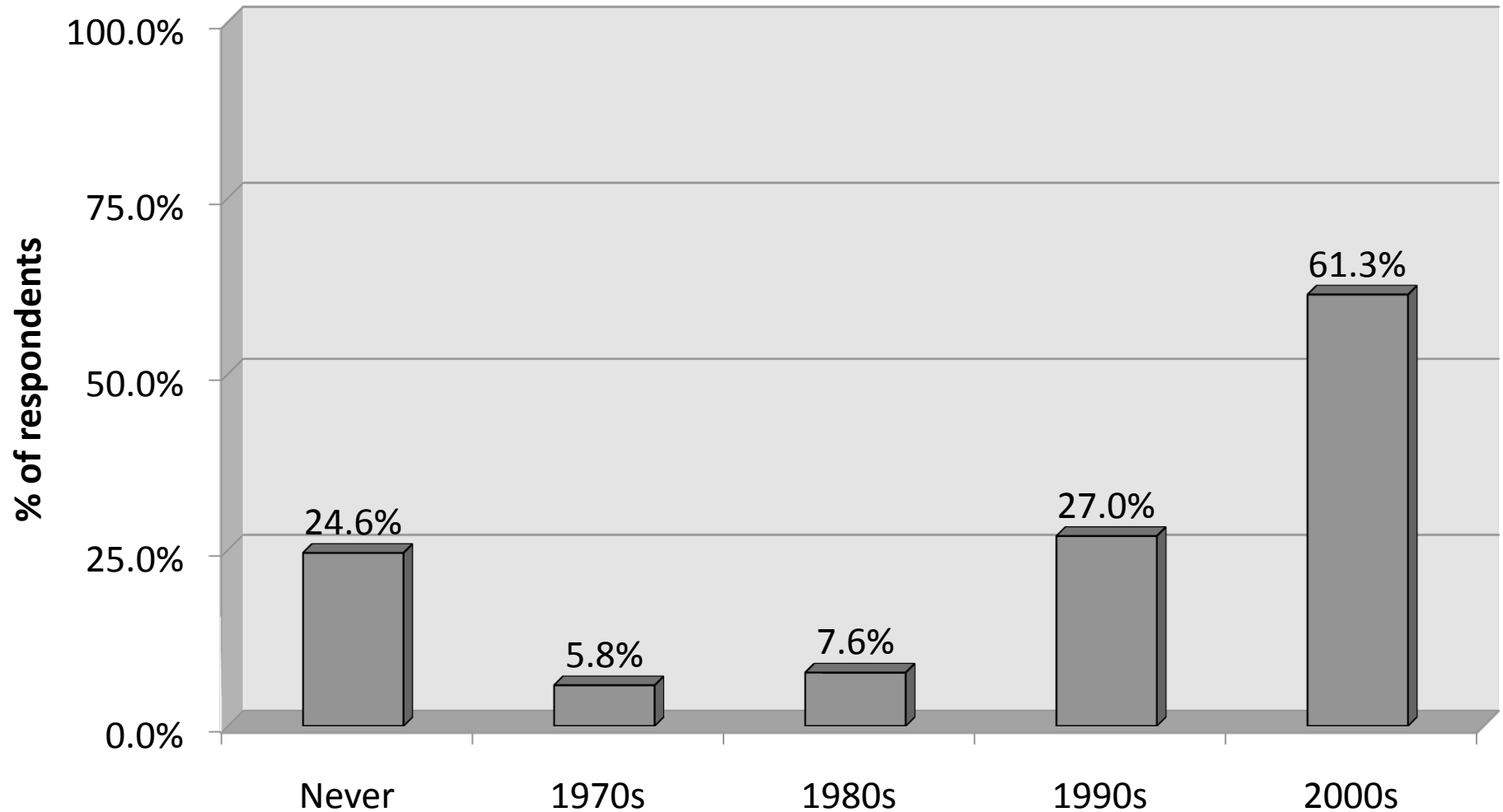
Blue text for WI 2001: Naughton-Treves et al. (2003) Conservation Biology 17: 1500-1511

Green text for WI 2004: Treves et al. (2009) Biodiversity and Conservation DOI 10.1007/s10531-009-9695-2

Orange text for WI2009: This study

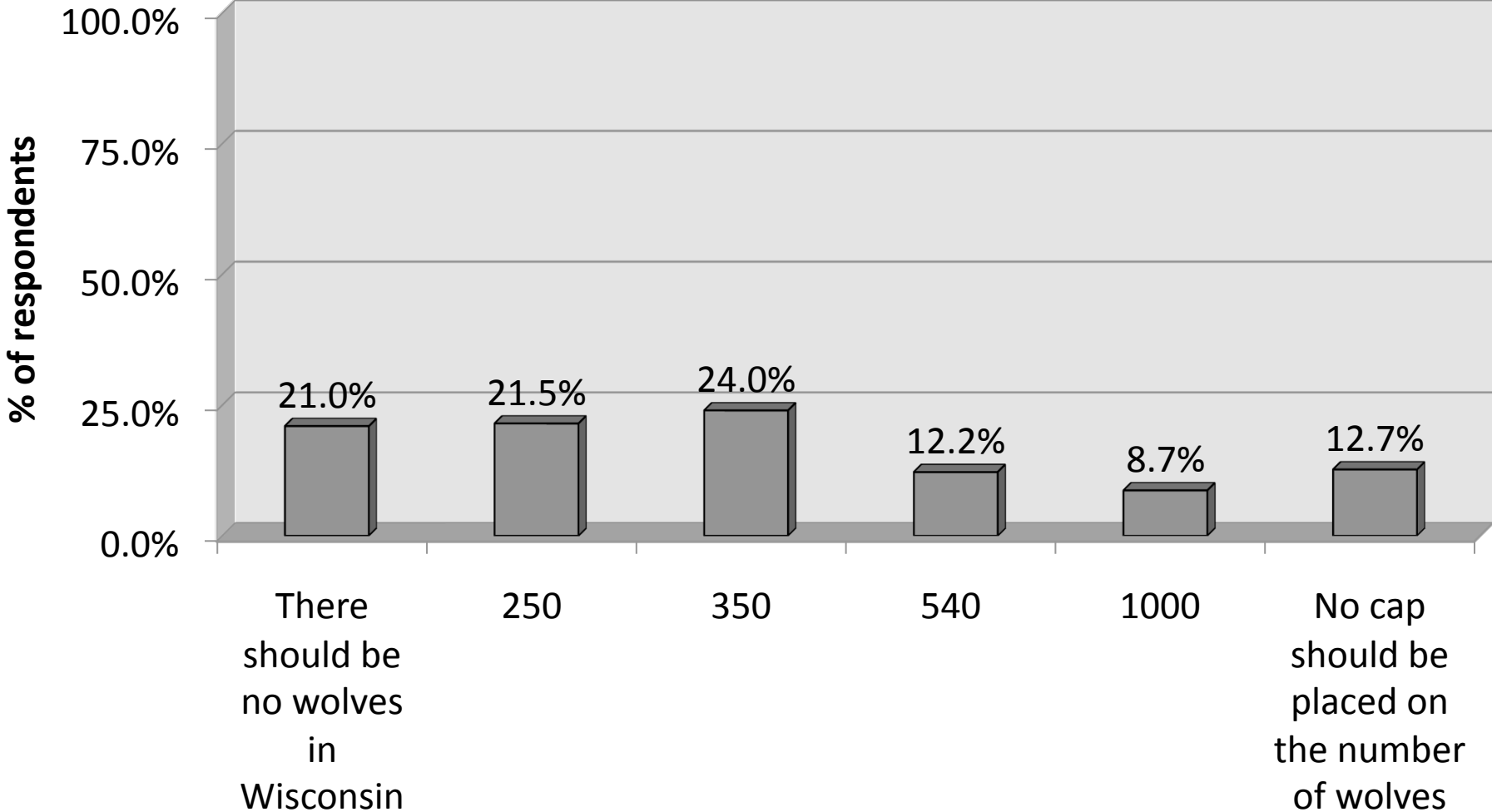


Question: "During which years do you think you have seen or heard wolves around your land?" (Check ALL that apply)



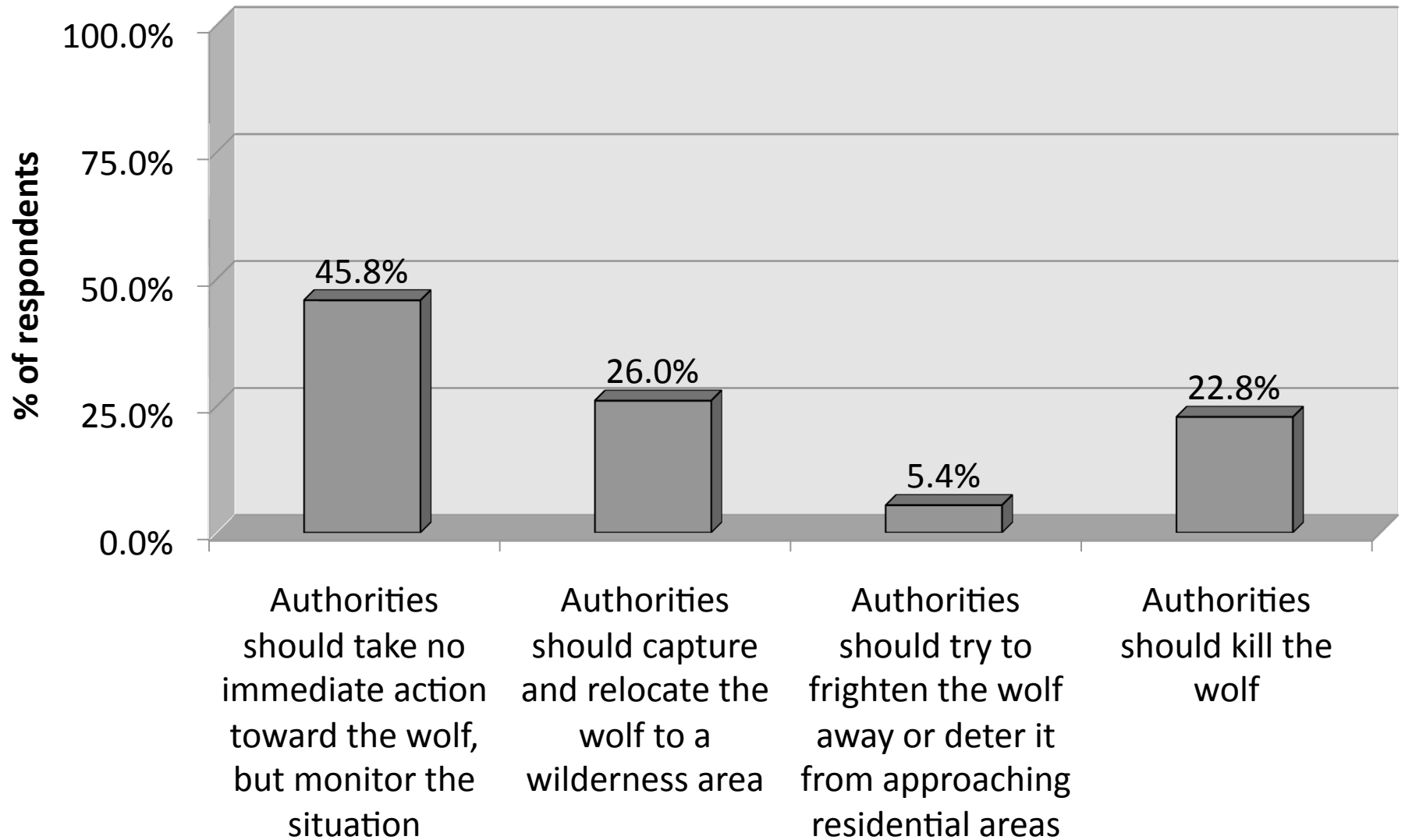
Answers by n = 641 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Question: "In your opinion, the wolf population in Wisconsin should be kept below:" (Check only ONE)



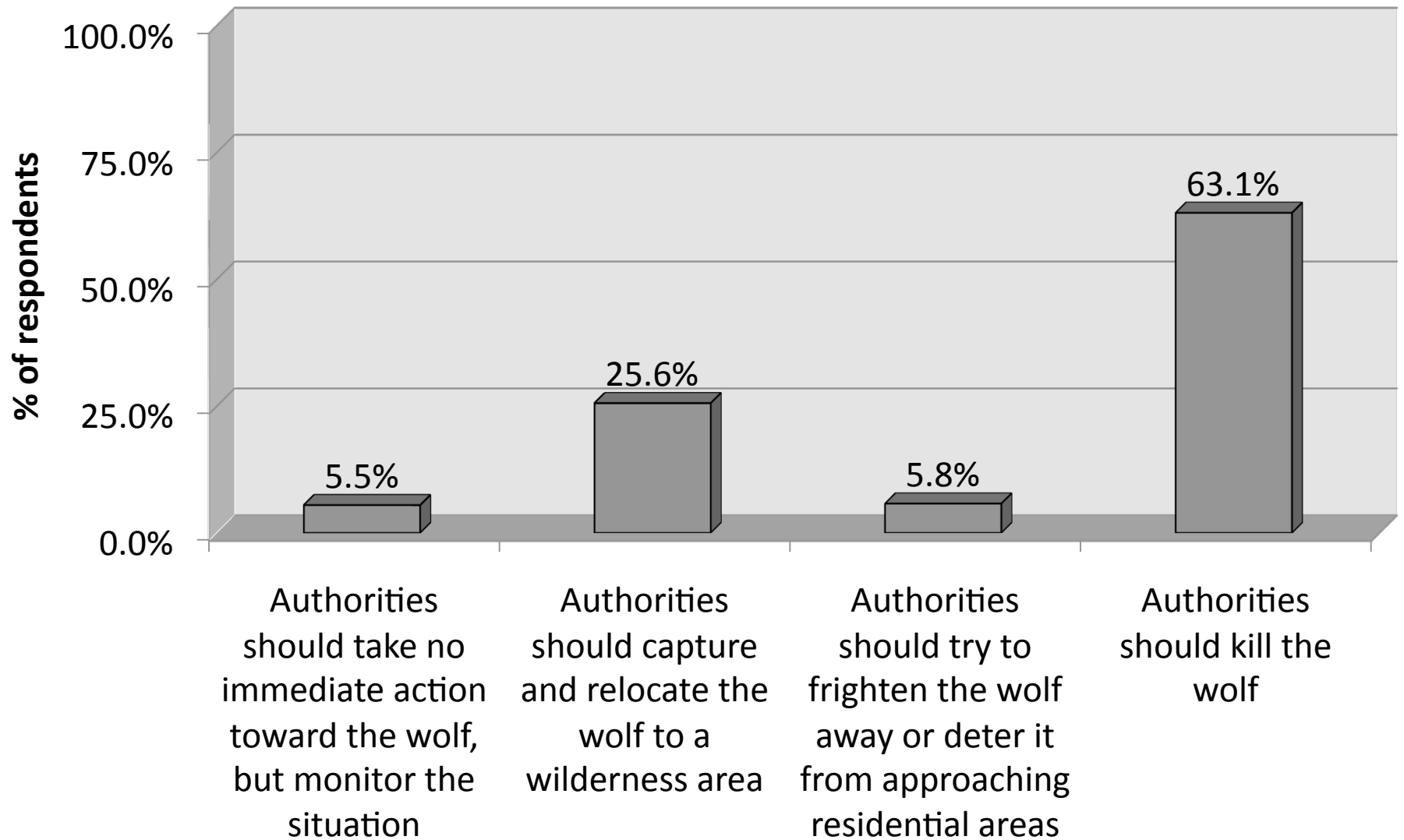
Answers by n = 624 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Question: "If a wolf is sighted in a rural area..." (Check only ONE)



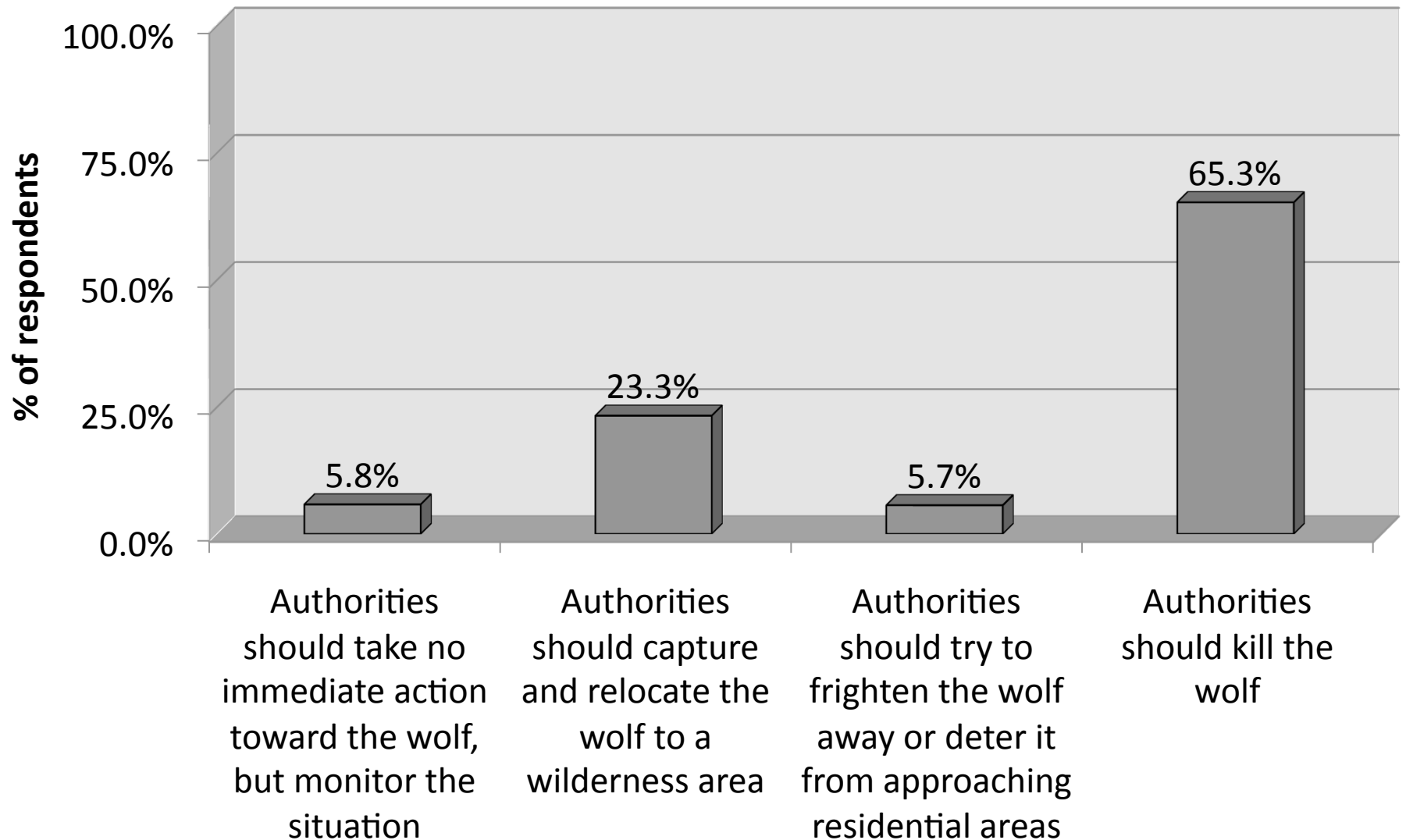
Answers by n = 627 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Question: "If a wolf kills livestock..." (Check only ONE)



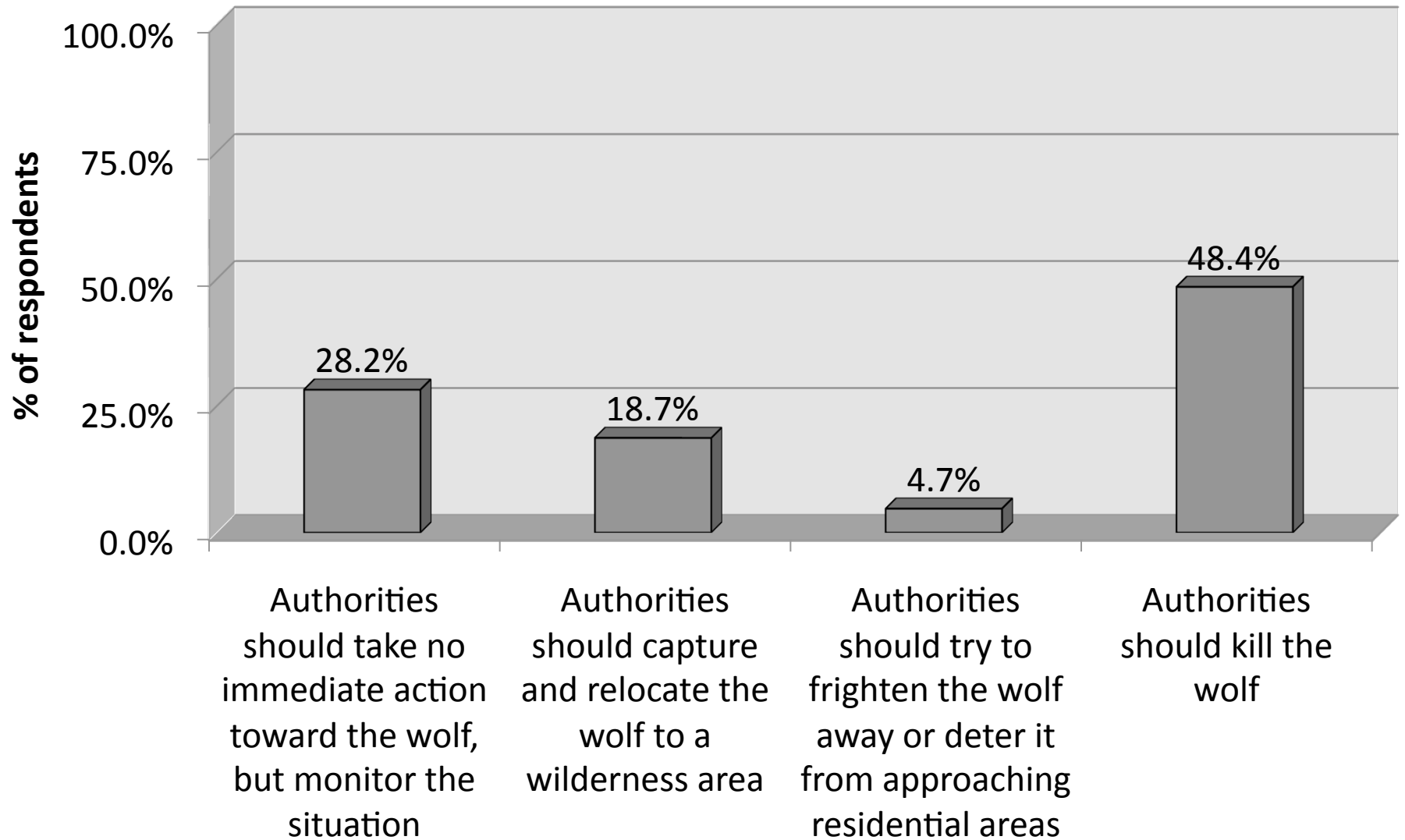
Answers by n = 637 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Question: "If a wolf kills a family pet (e.g. dog or cat)..." (Check only ONE)



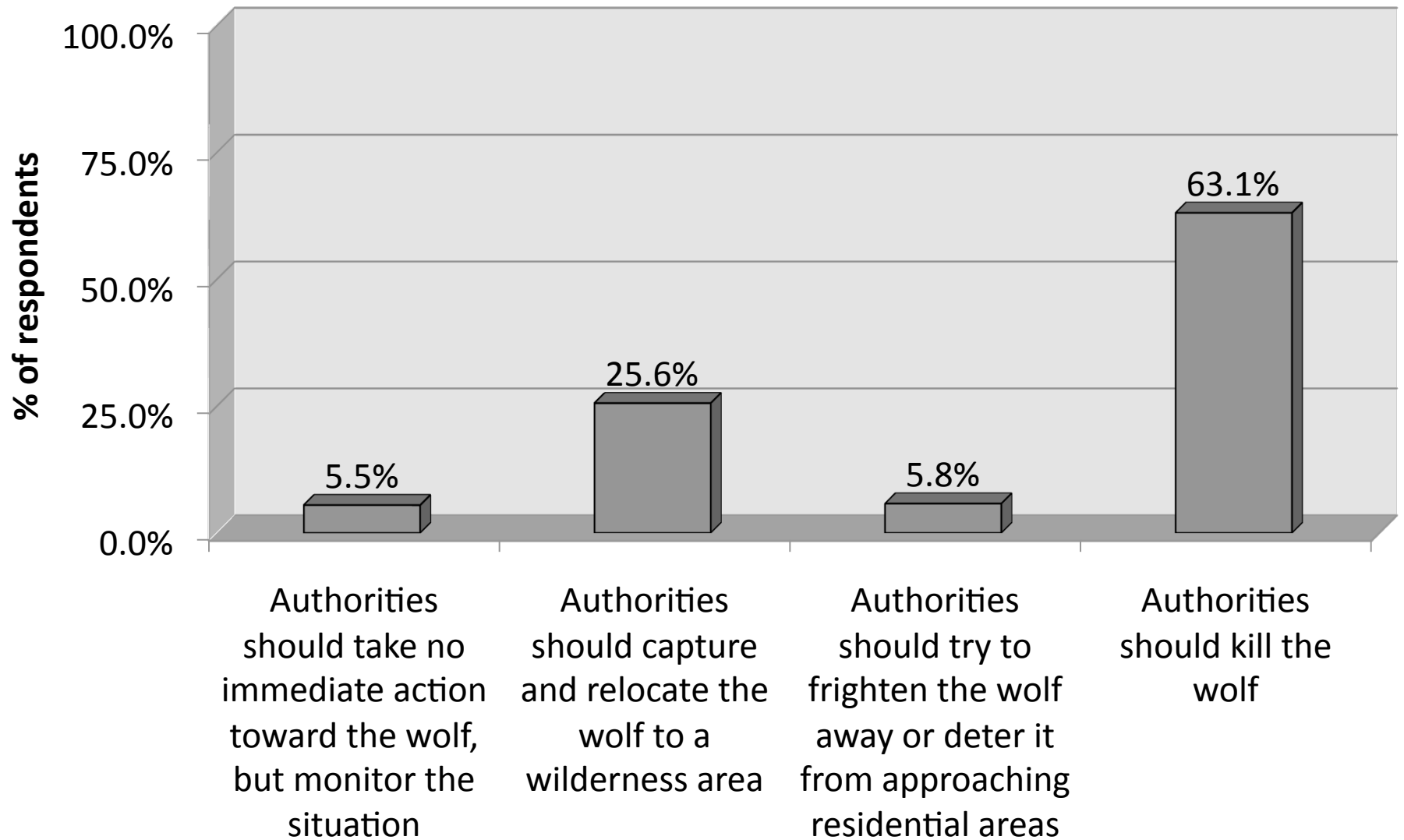
Answers by n = 636 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Question: "If a wolf kills a hunting dog on public land..." (Check only ONE)



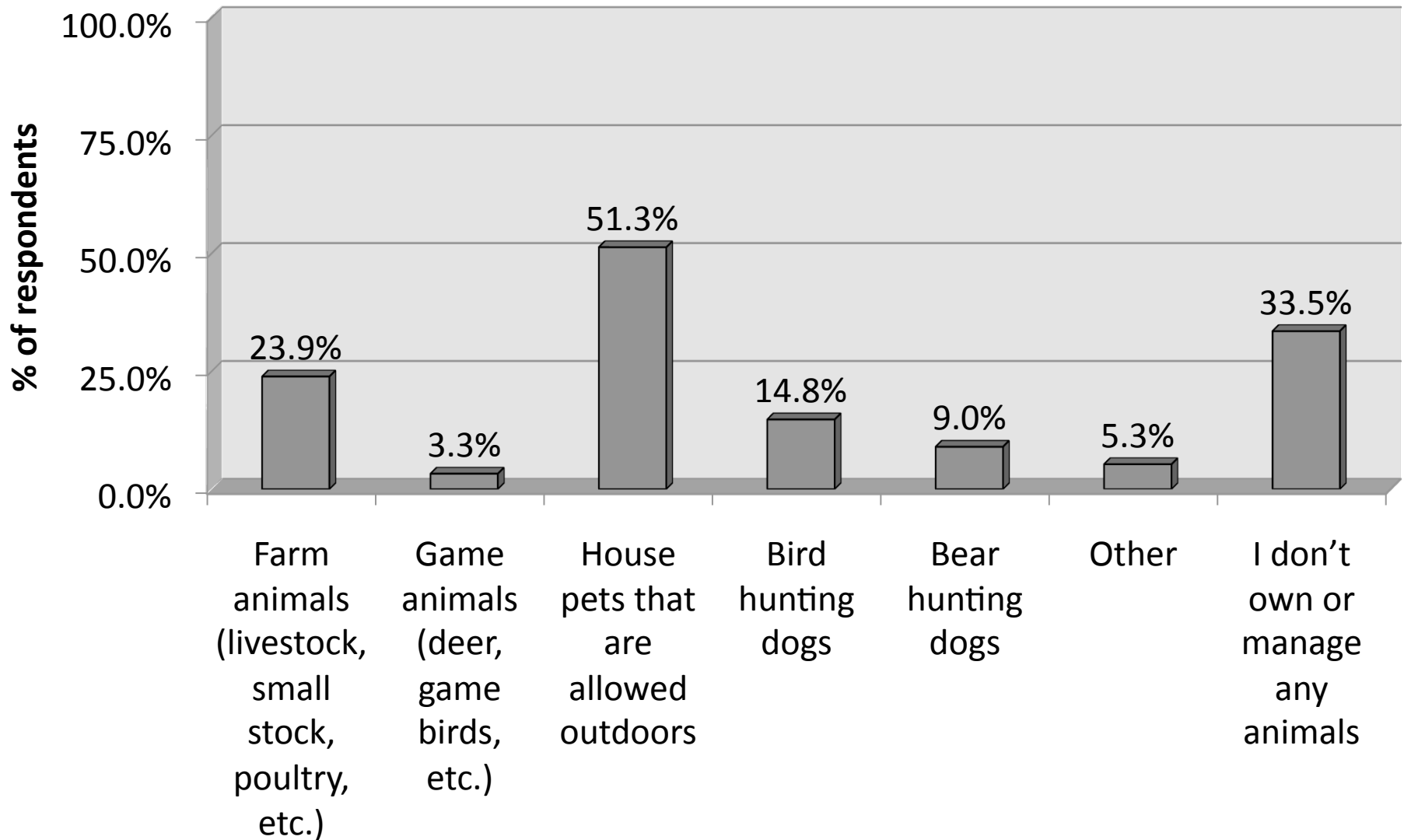
Answers by n = 632 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Question: "If a wolf kills livestock..." (Check only ONE)



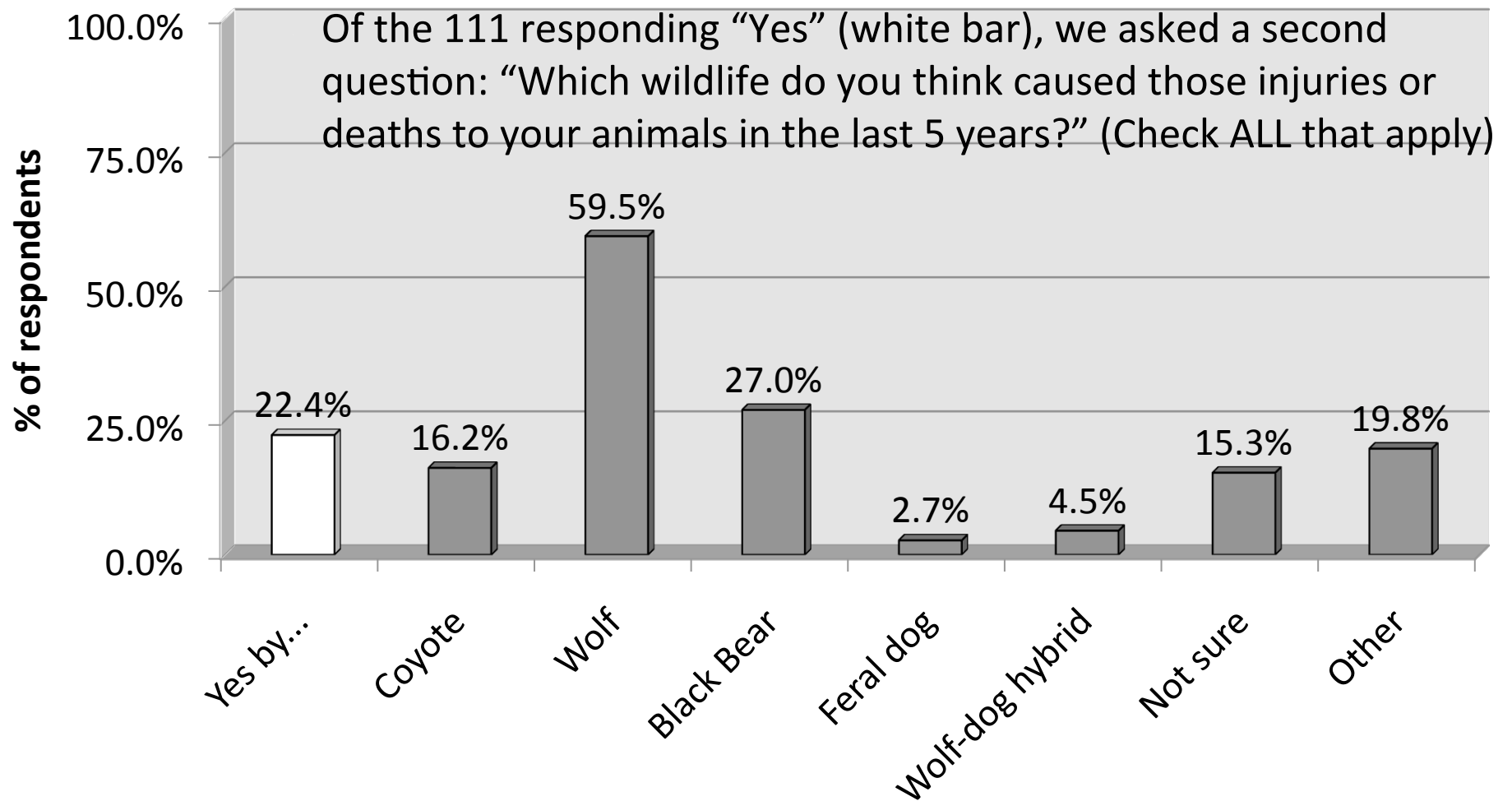
Answers by n = 637 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Question: "Do you own or manage any of the following animals?" (Check ALL that apply)



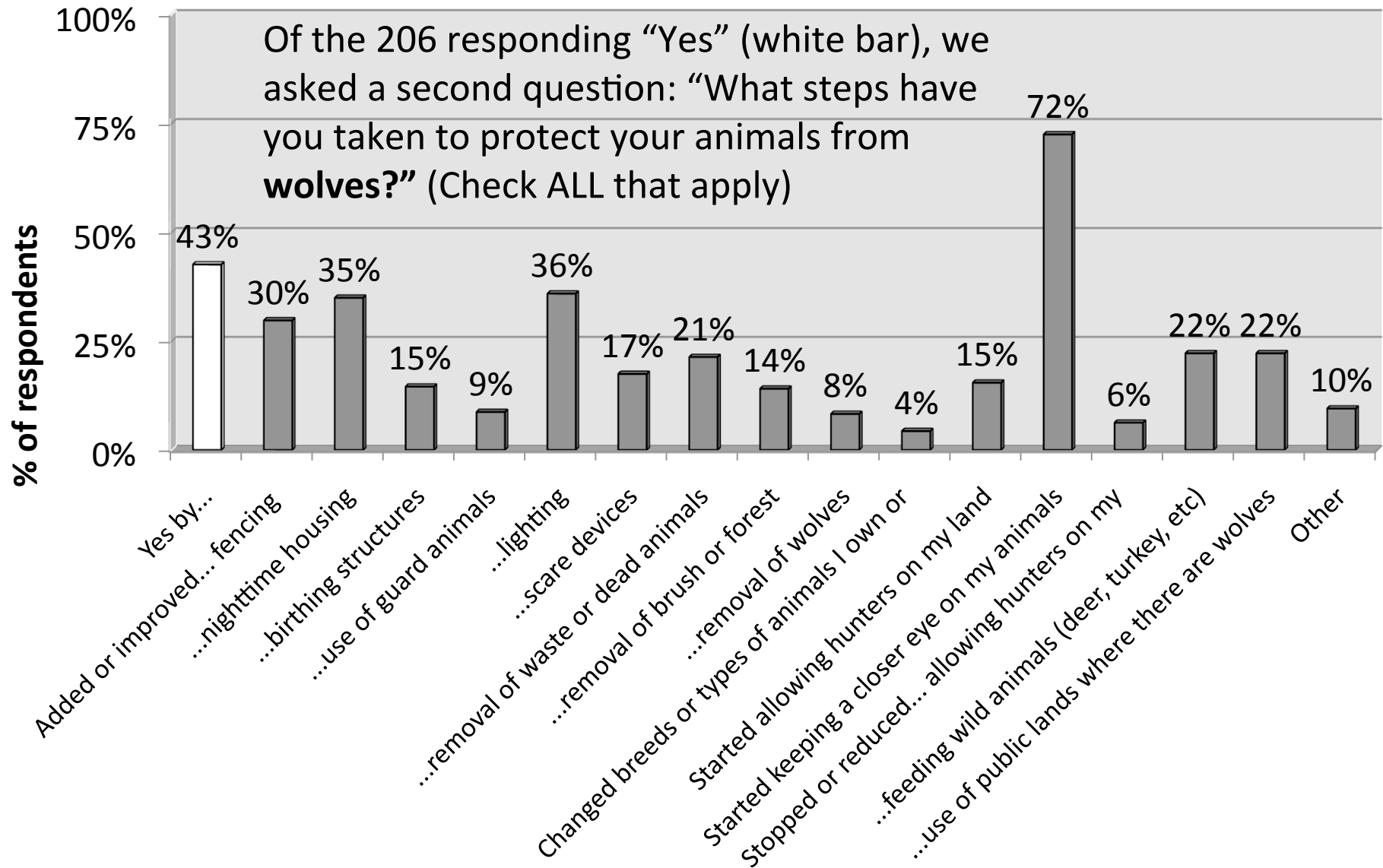
Answers by n = 636 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Question: "Have any of your animals been injured or killed by wildlife in the last 5 years?" (Check only ONE) n = 425 residents of wolf range responded



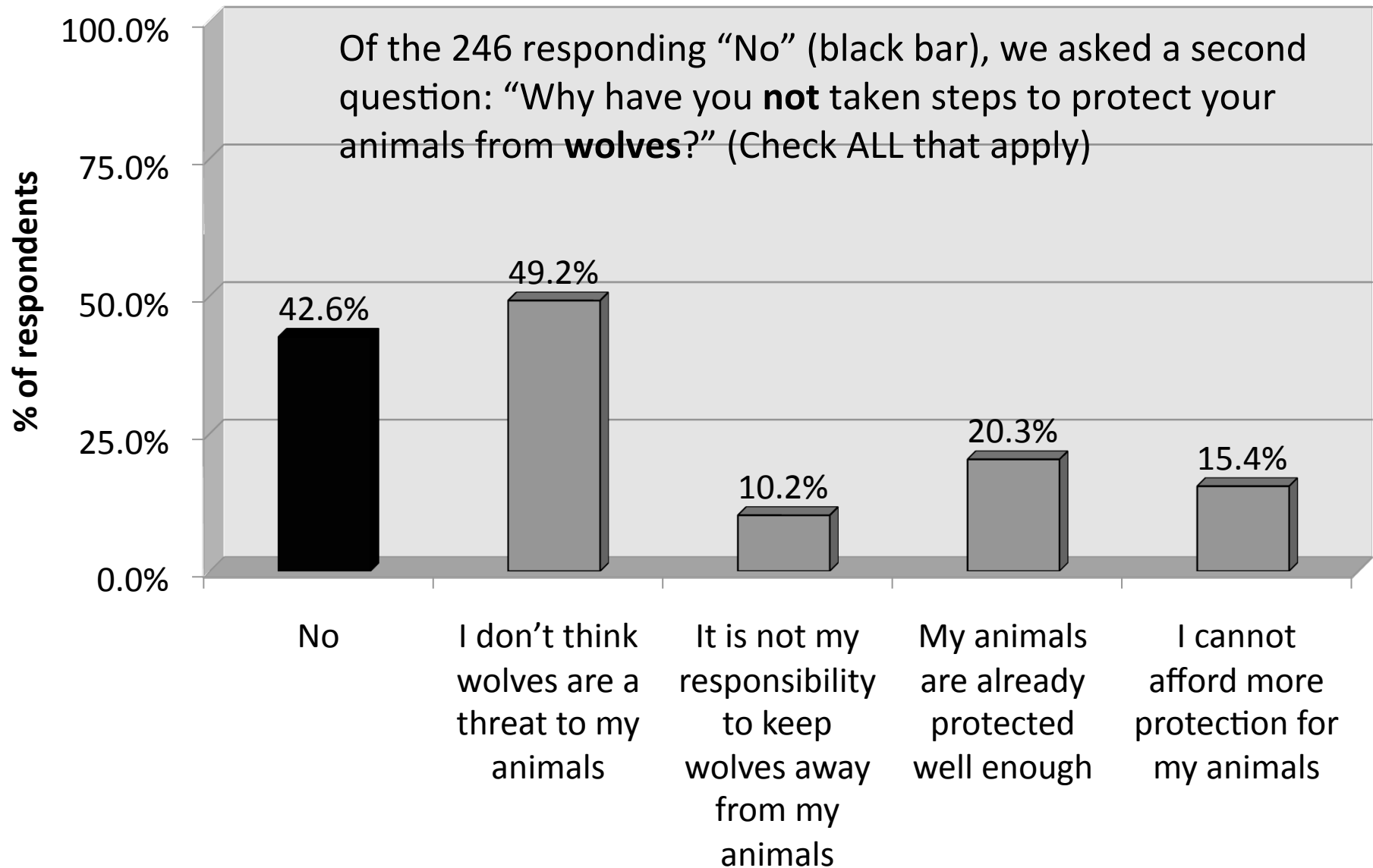
Question: "Have you ever taken steps to protect your animals from wolves?"

(Check only ONE) n = 423 residents of wolf range responded

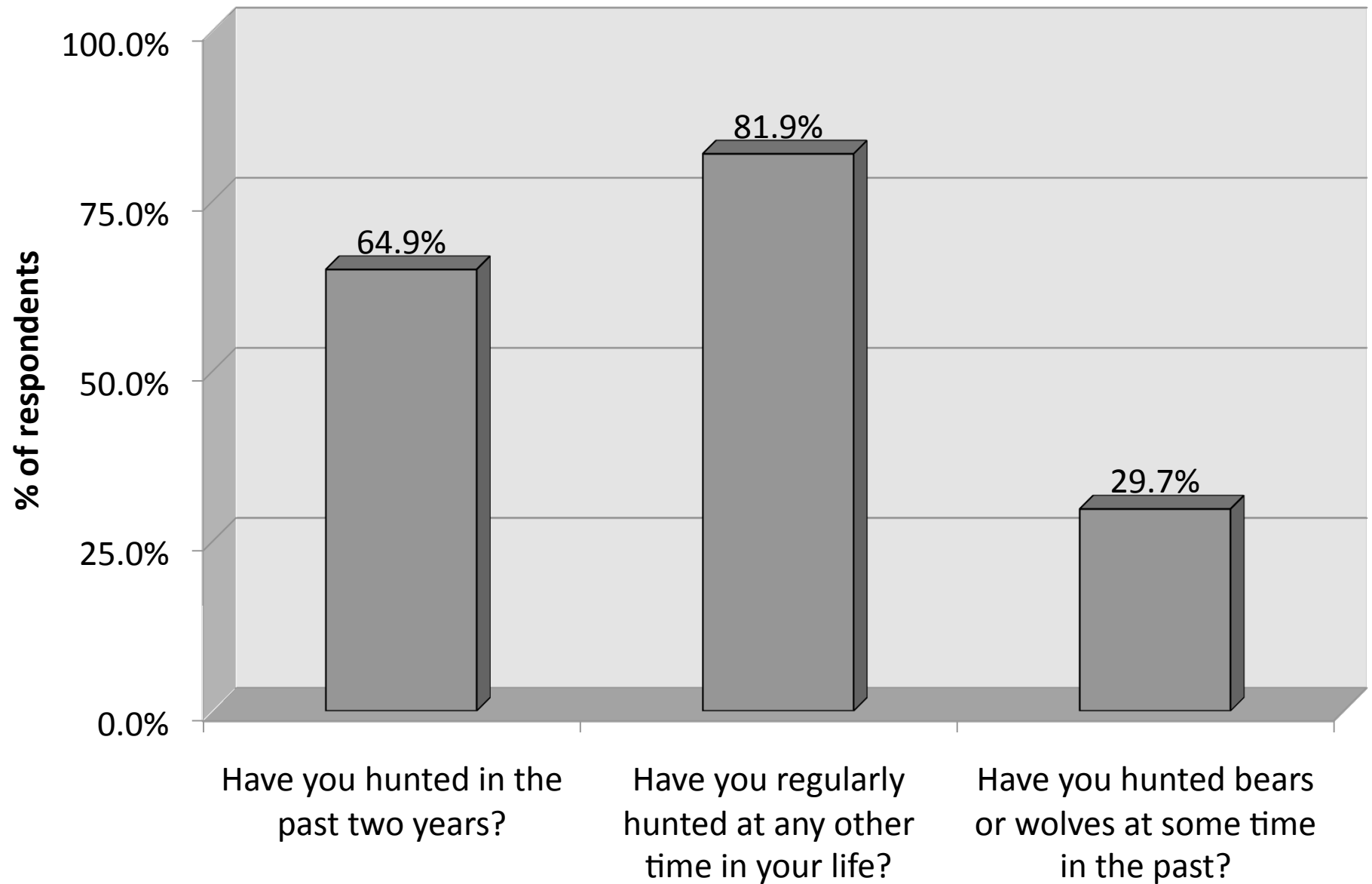


Question: "Have you ever taken steps to protect your animals from wolves?"

(Check only ONE) n = 423 residents of wolf range responded

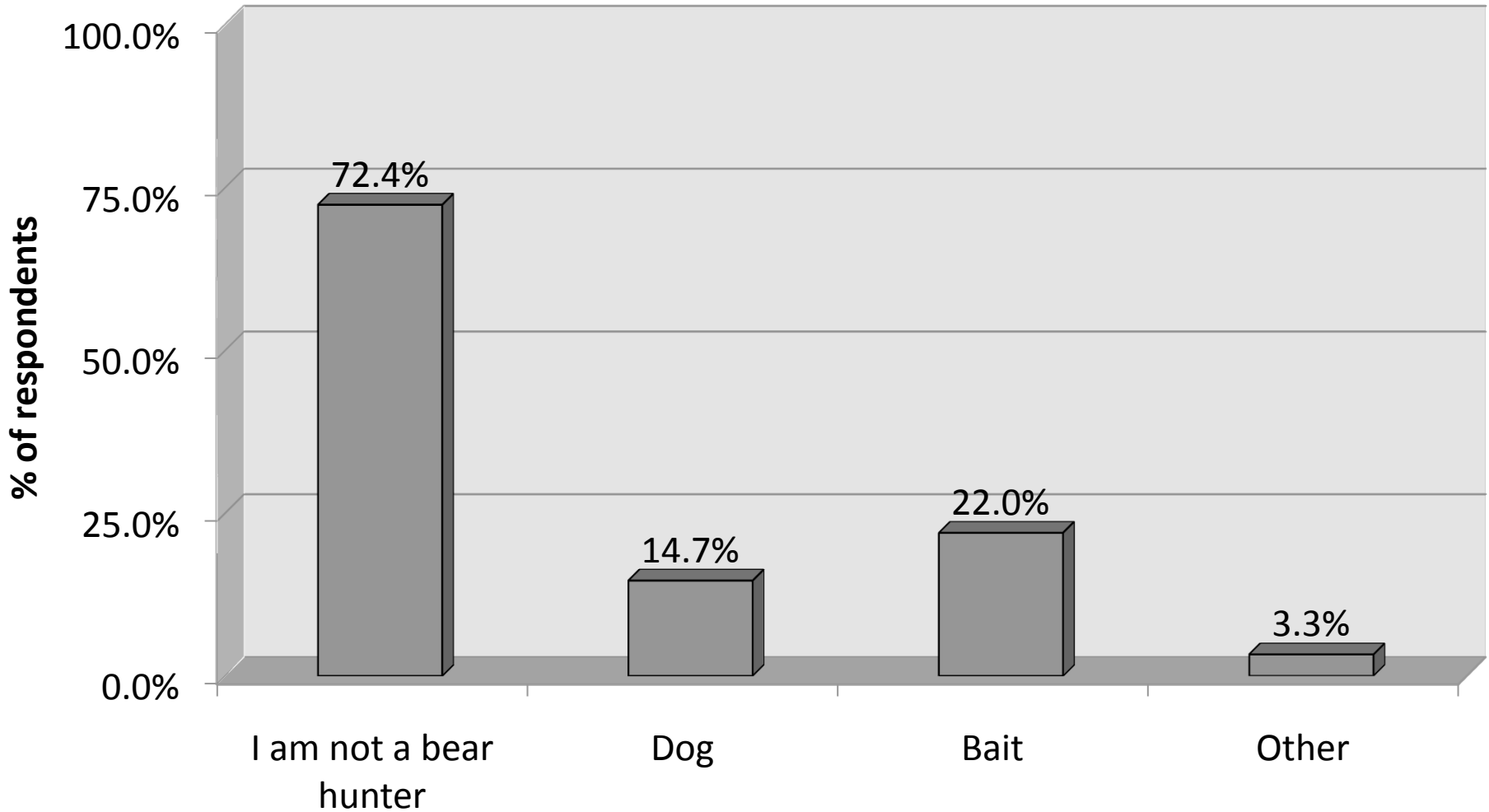


Questions about hunting



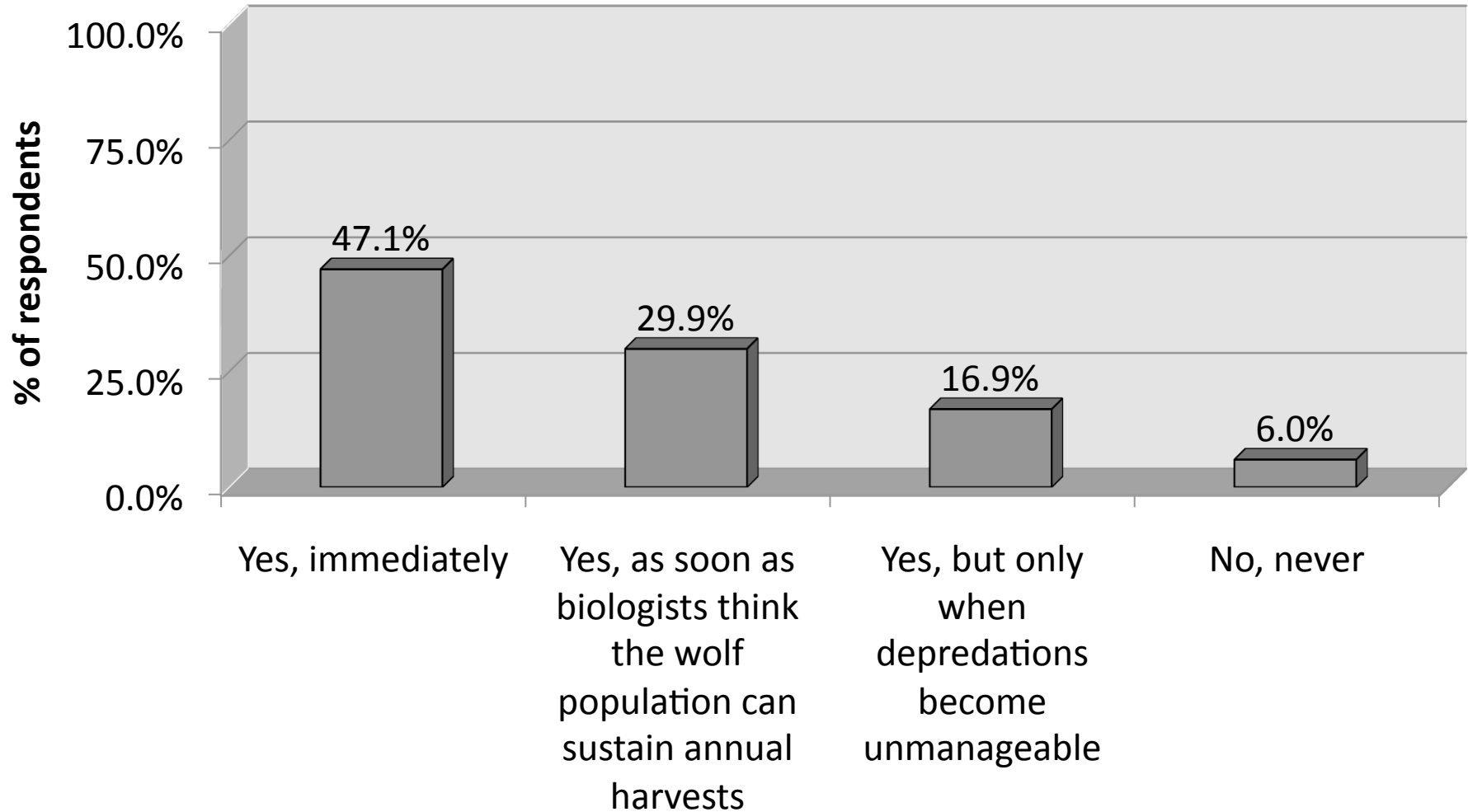
Answers by n = 649-651 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Question: "If you are currently a bear hunter, what hunting methods do you use?" (Check only ONE)



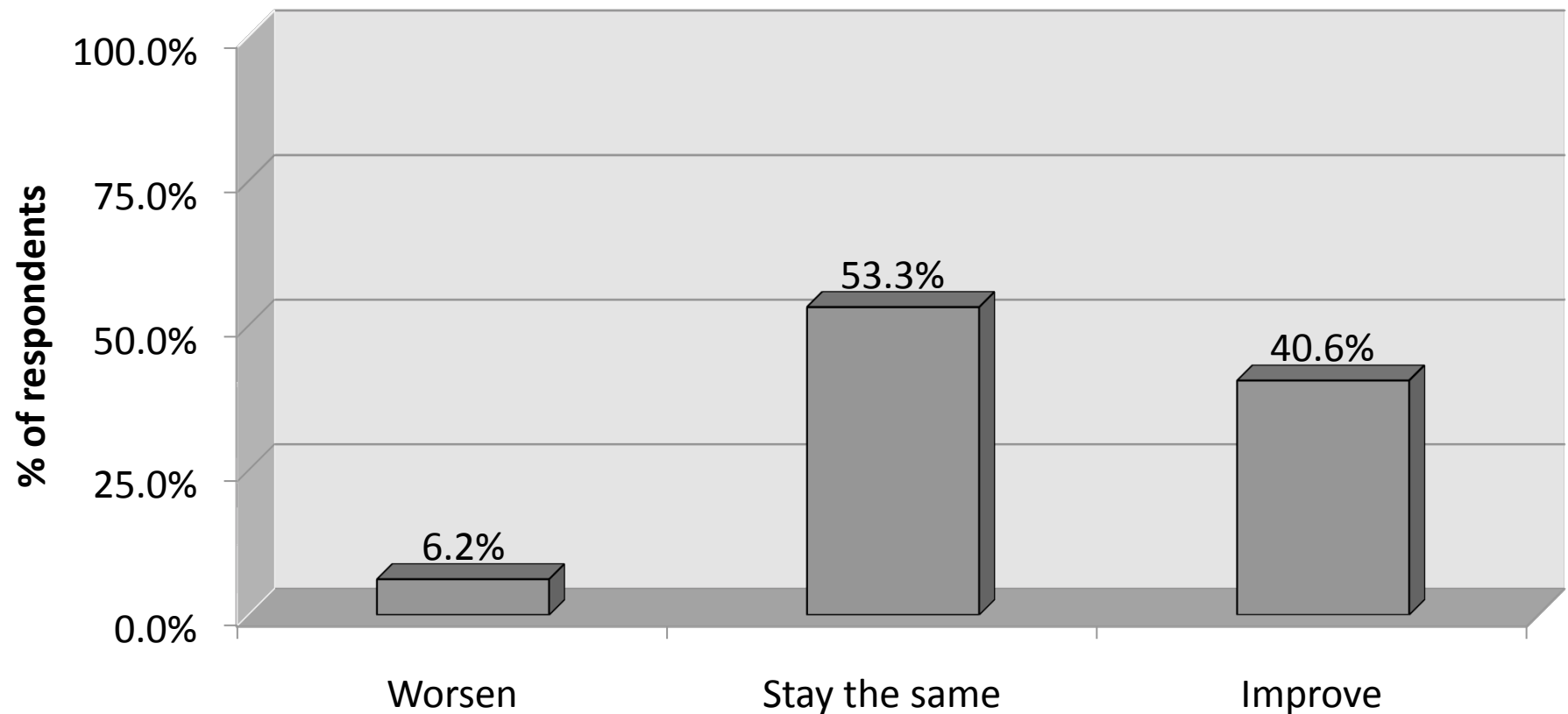
Answers by n = 573 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Question: "Do you believe there should be a public hunting or trapping season on wolves?" (Check only ONE)



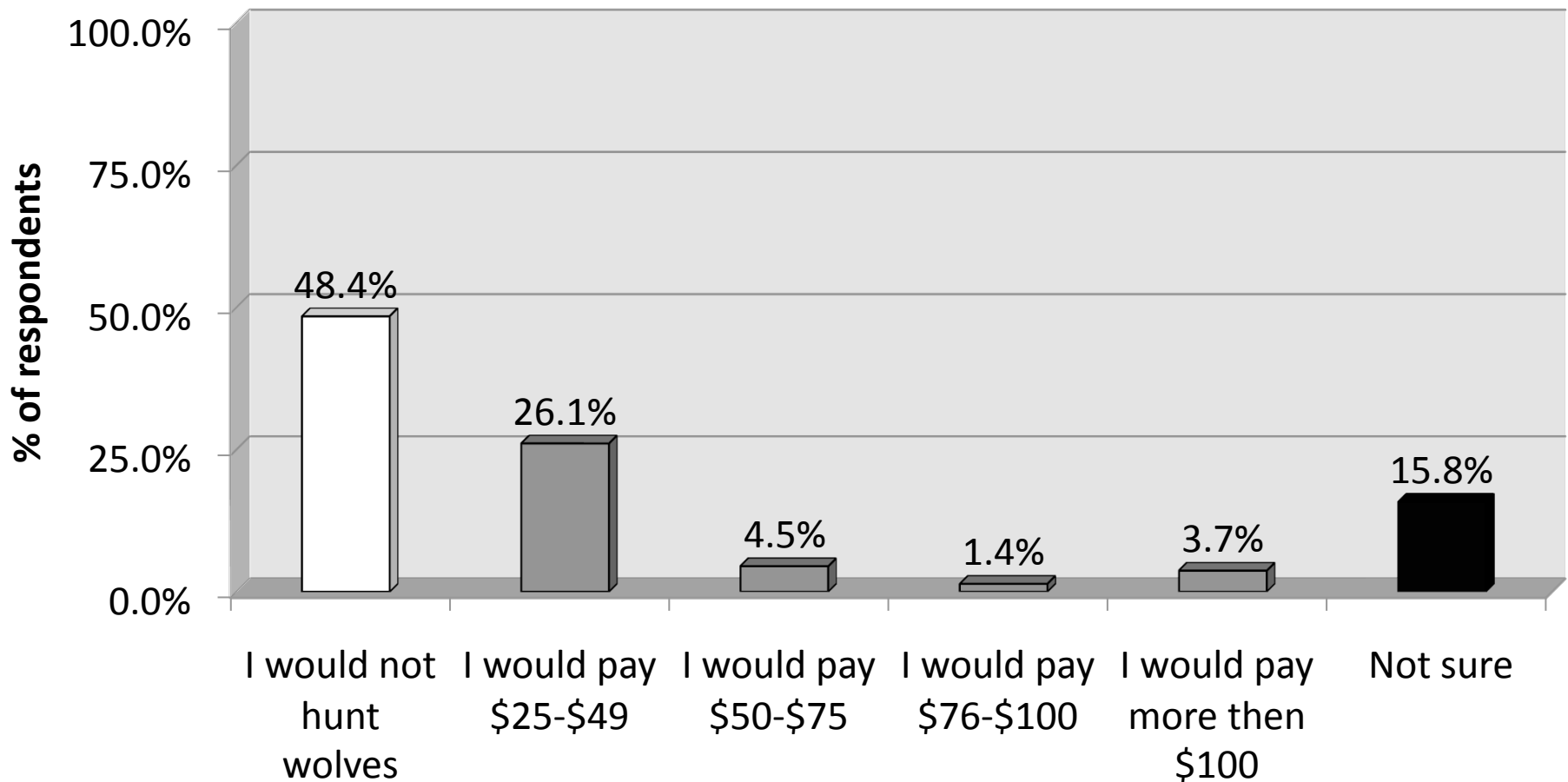
Answers by n =649 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Question: "If the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) opened a hunting or trapping season on wolves in Wisconsin, would this affect you opinion of the WDNR?" (Check only ONE) My opinion of the WDNR would:



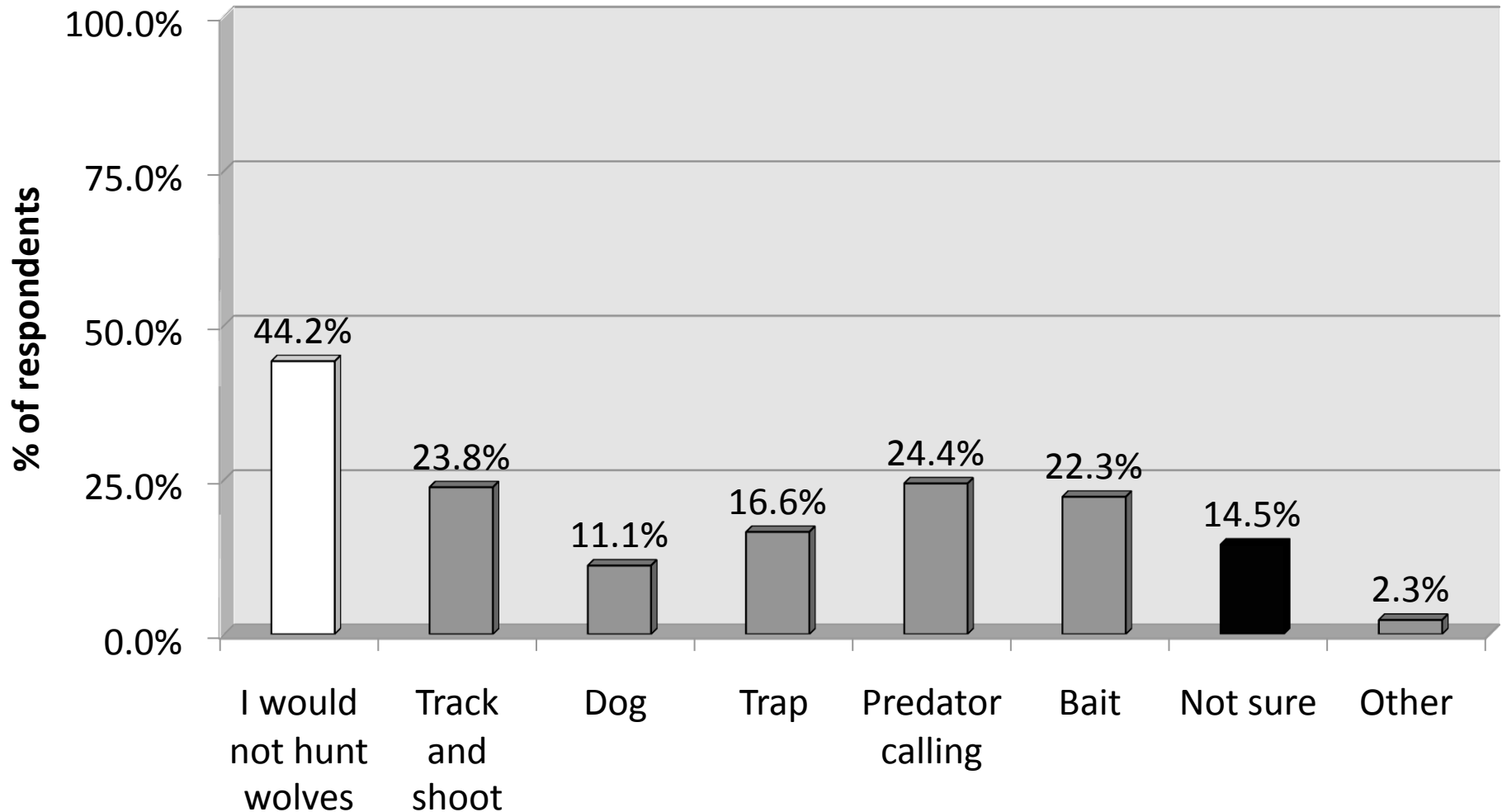
Answers by n = 646 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Question: "How much would you pay for a permit (tag) to hunt a wolf in Wisconsin?" Note: A bear permit costs \$49; a deer permit costs \$24. (Check only ONE)



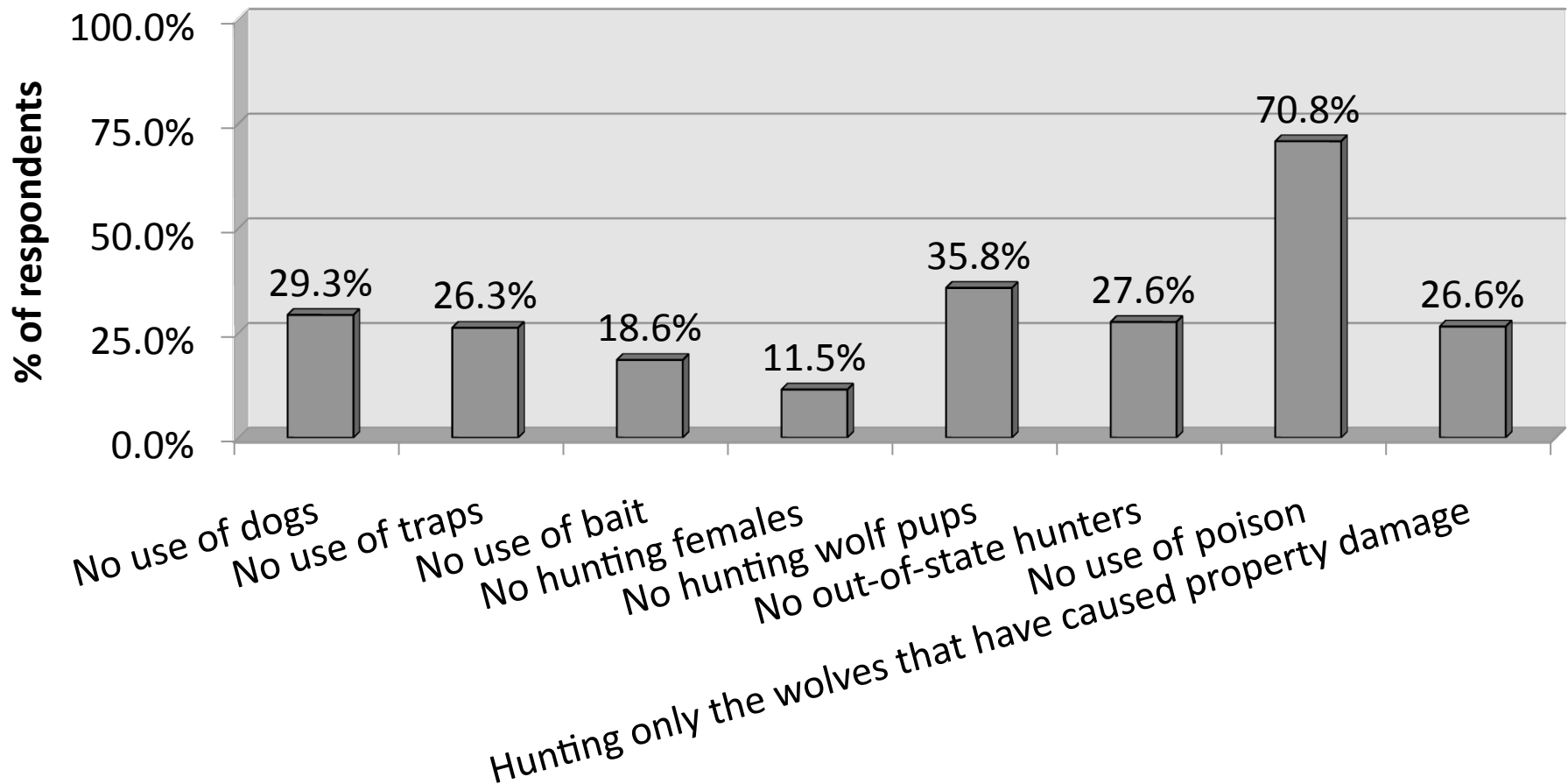
Answers by n = 644 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

**Question: "If you received a wolf permit (tag),
what hunting methods would you want to
use?" (Check ALL that apply)**



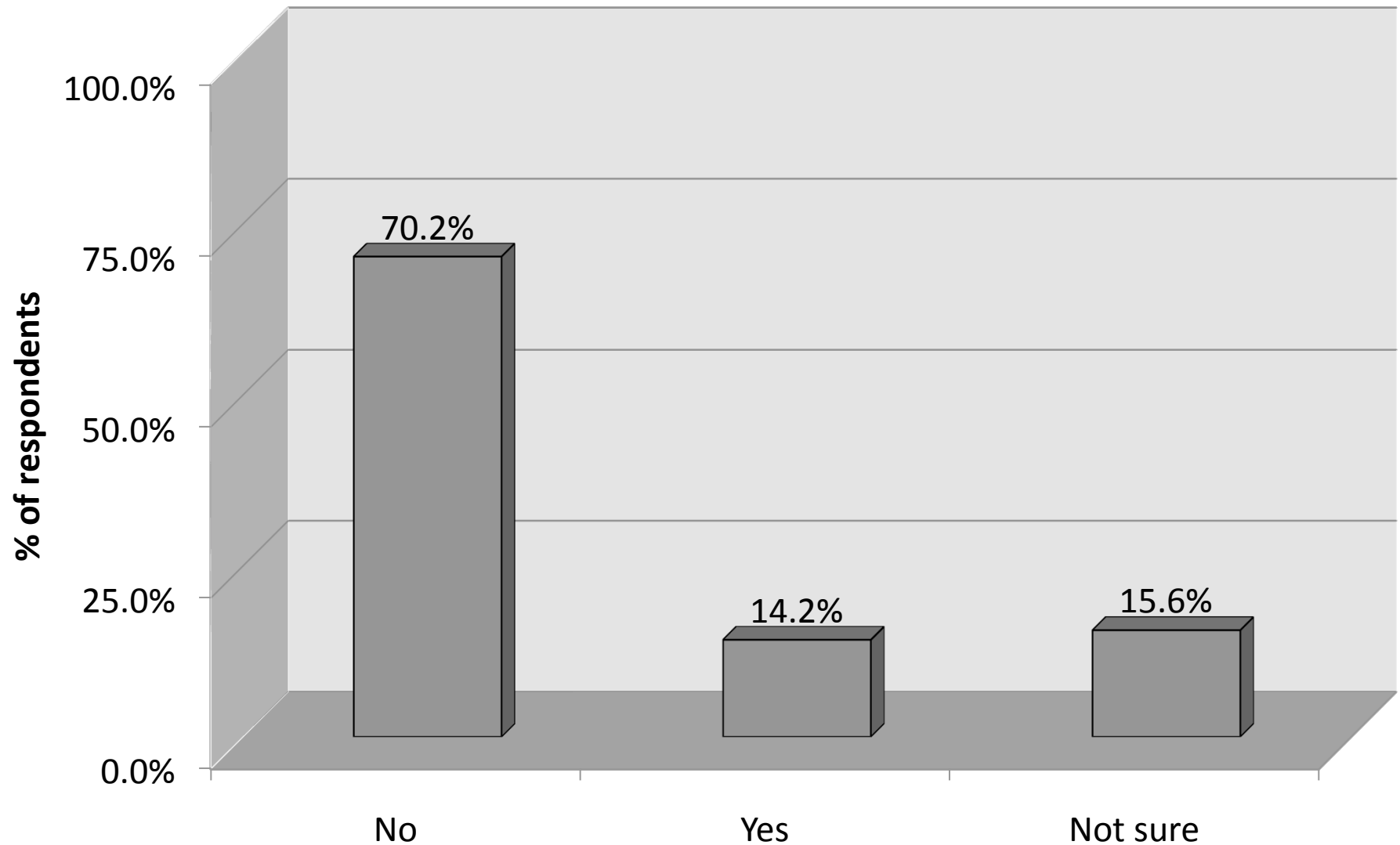
Answers by n = 645 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Question: "If a public hunting or trapping season were planned for Wisconsin wolves, which, if any, of the following rules would you support?" (Check ALL that apply)



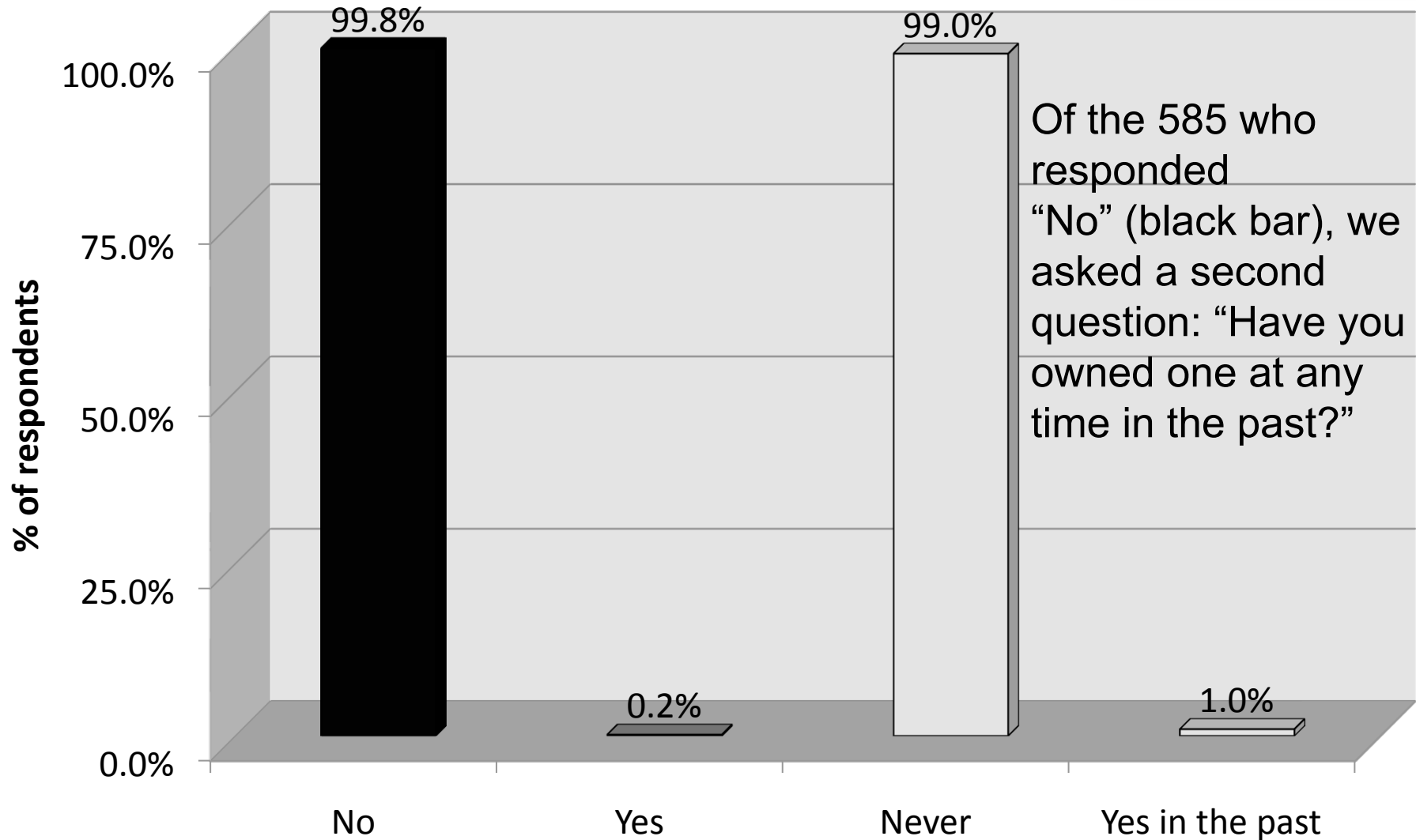
Answers by n = 651 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Question: "Do you know anyone who has ever attempted to kill a wolf in Wisconsin?"



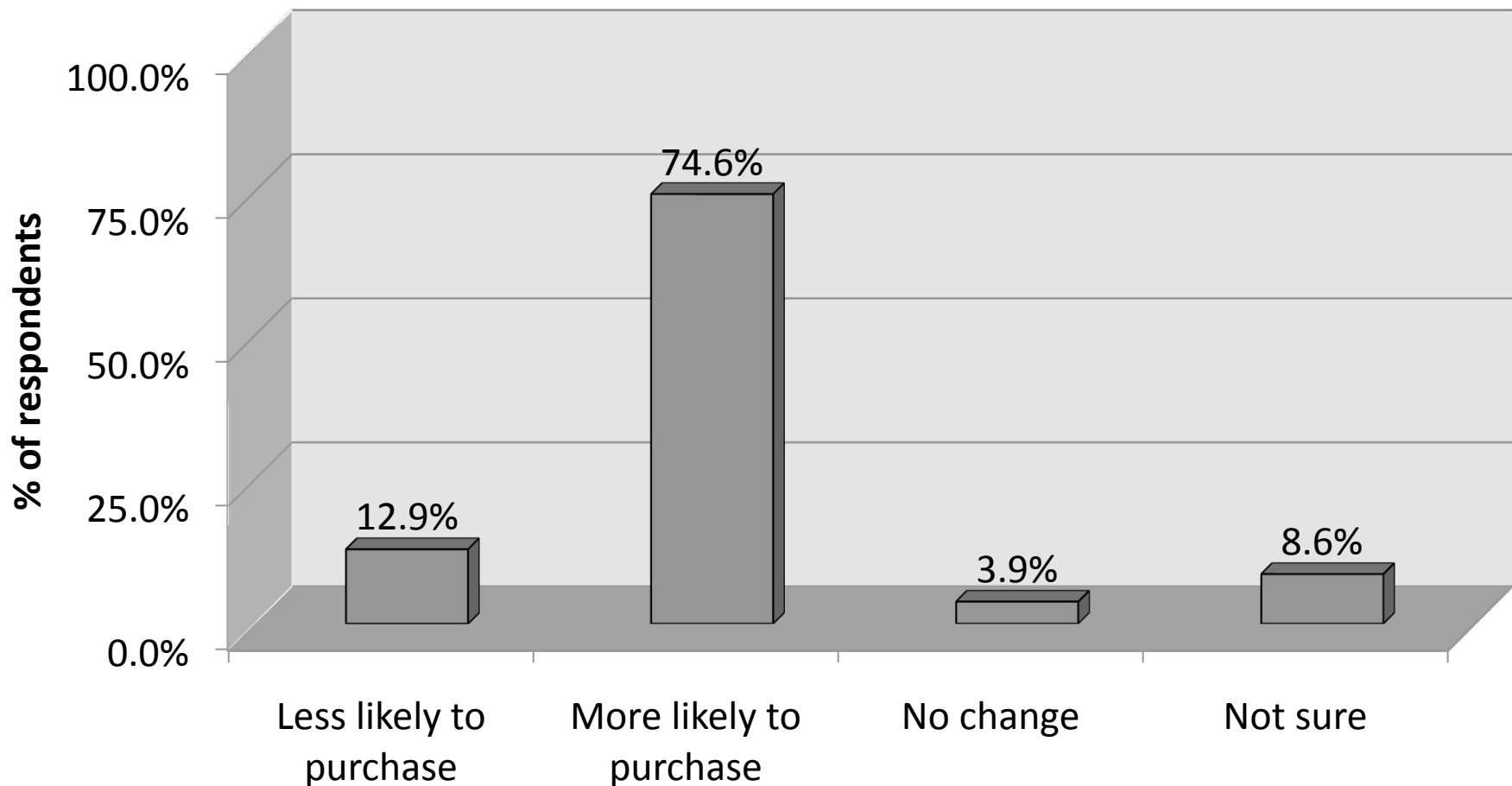
Answers by n = 641 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Question: "Do you currently own a Wisconsin Endangered Resources wolf license plate?"



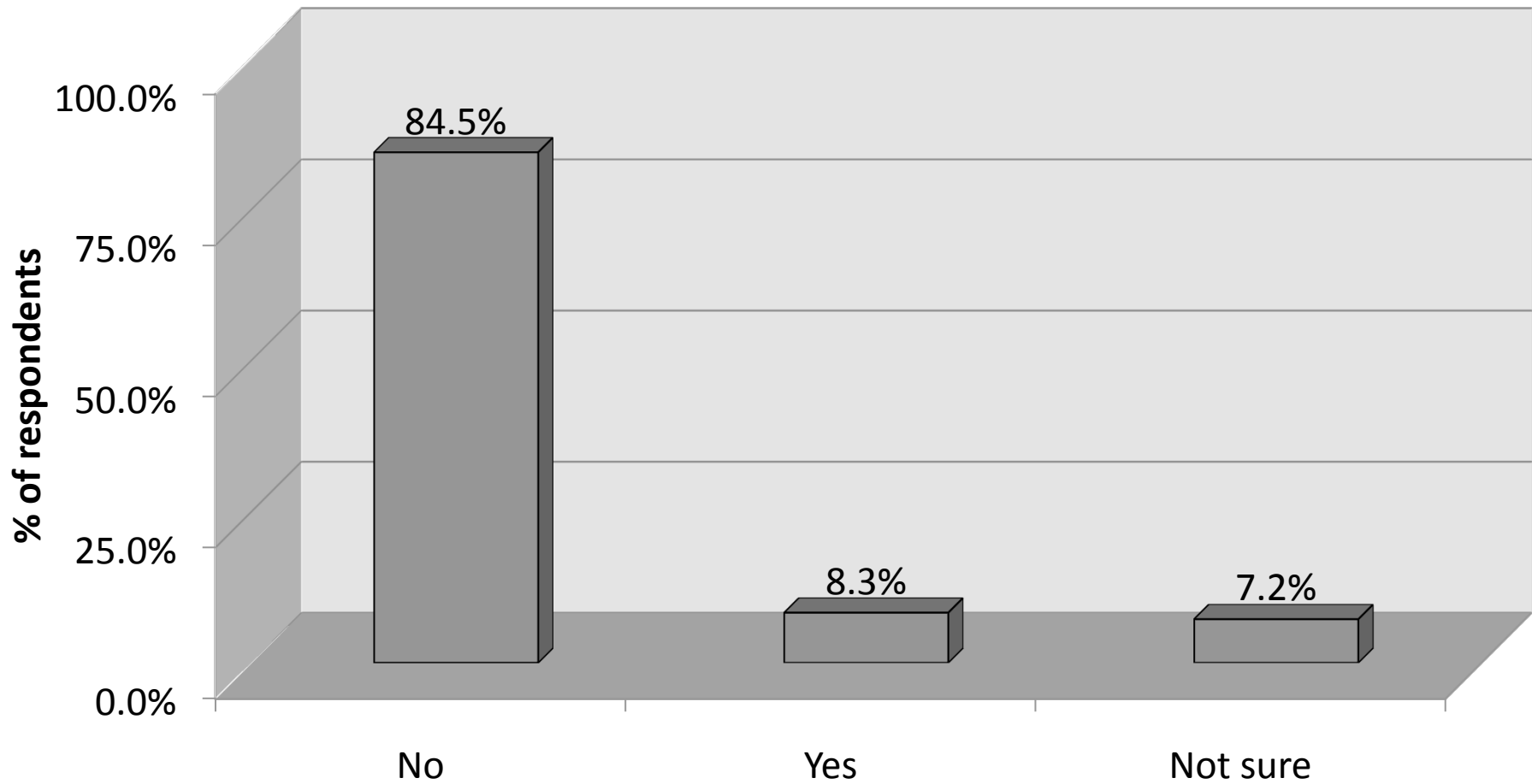
Answers by n = 647 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Question: “If wolf hunting were introduced in Wisconsin, would you be more or less likely to purchase the Endangered Resources Fund license plate?” (Check only ONE)



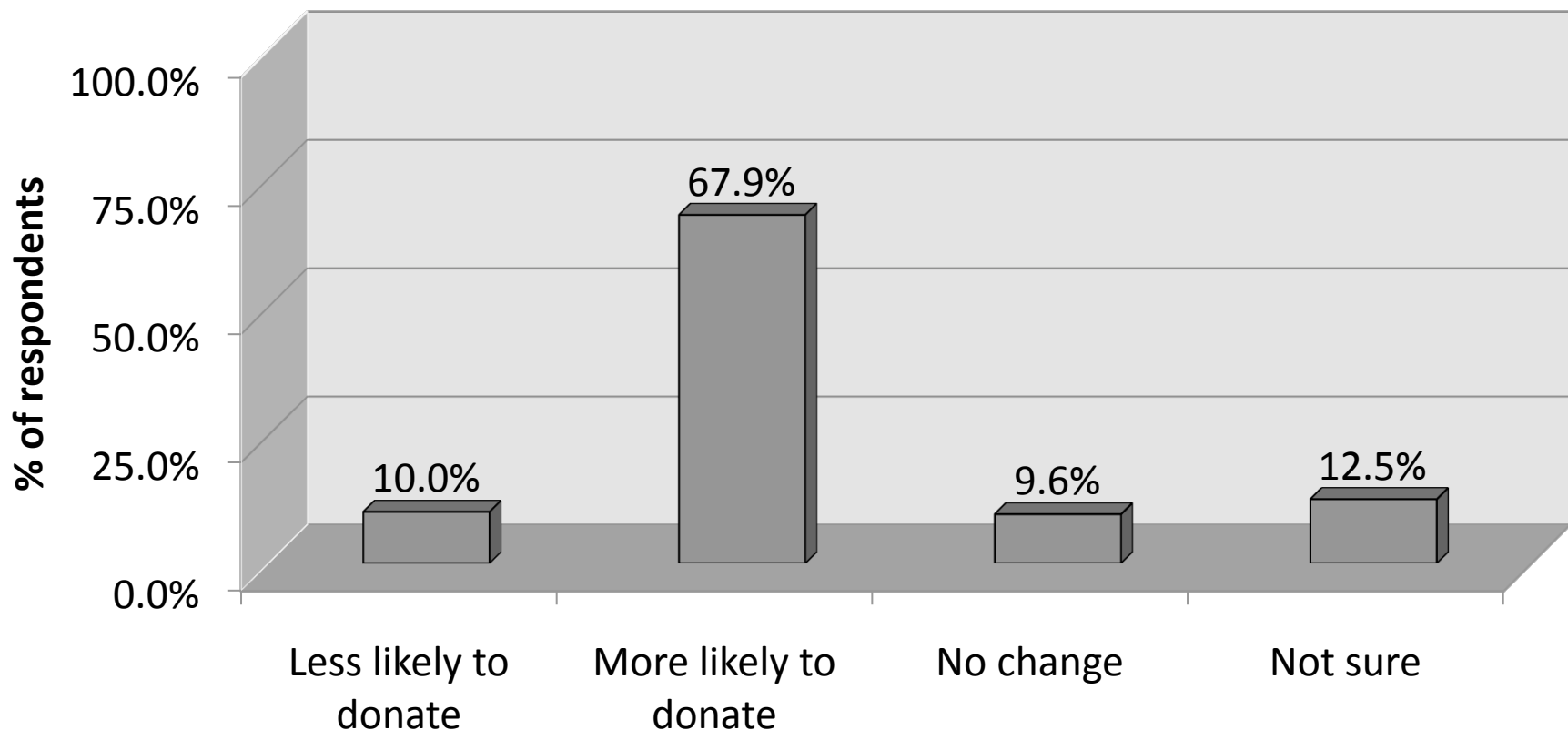
Answers by n = 649 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Question: “In the past five years, have you donated to the Endangered Resources Fund on your state income tax form? (the logo on the tax form looks like this:”



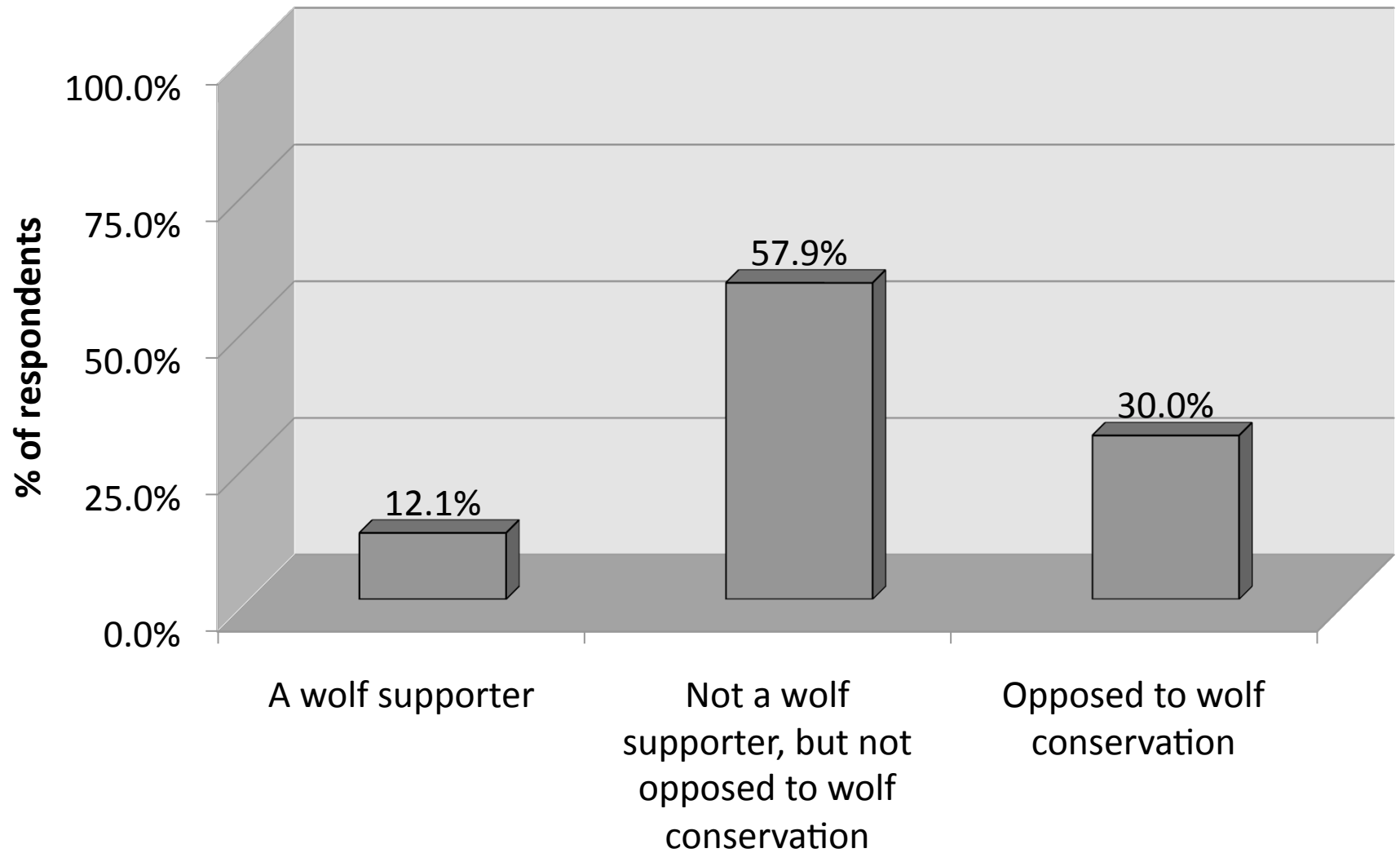
Answers by n = 650 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Question: “If wolf hunting were introduced in Wisconsin, would you be more or less likely to donate to the Endangered Resources Fund on your state income tax form?” (Check only ONE)



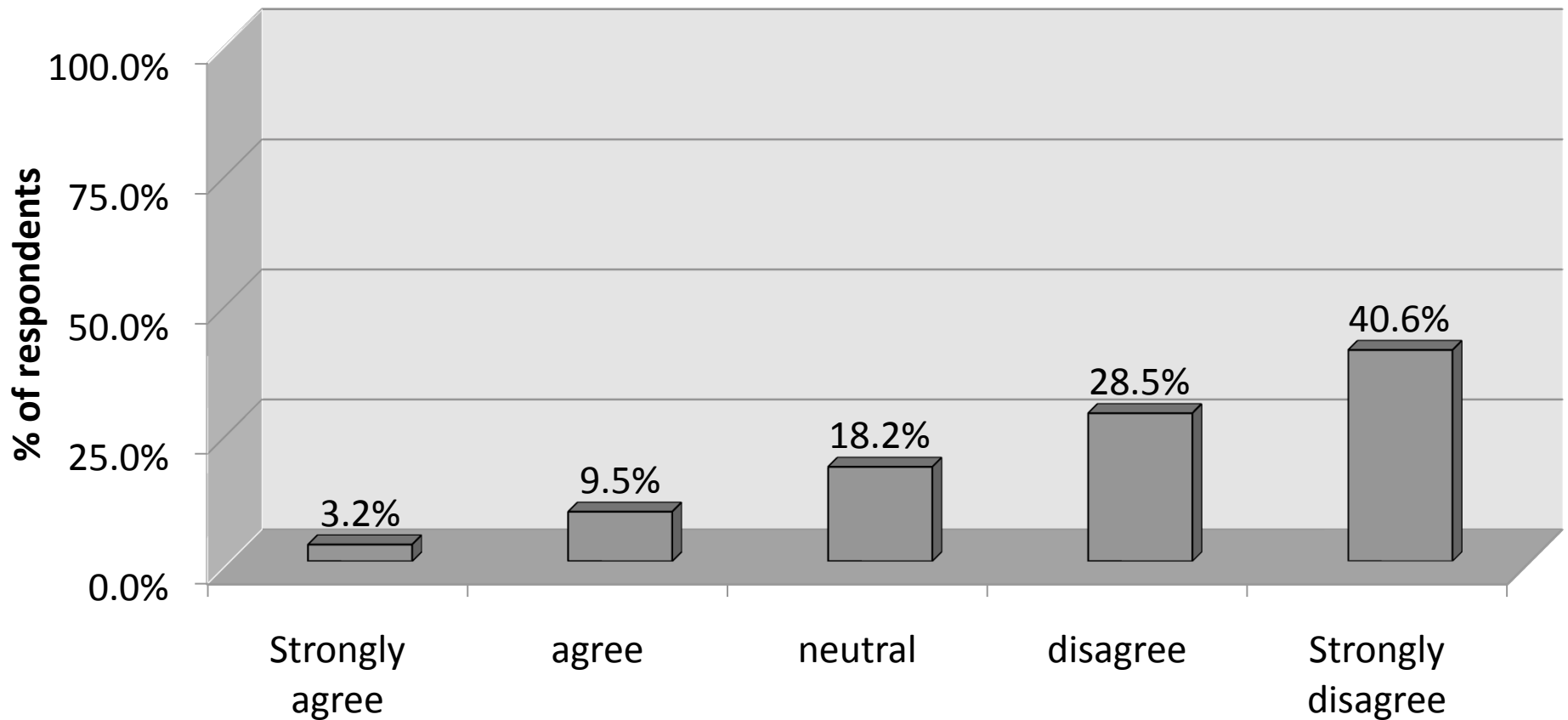
Answers by n = 648 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Question: "Do you consider yourself " (Check only ONE)



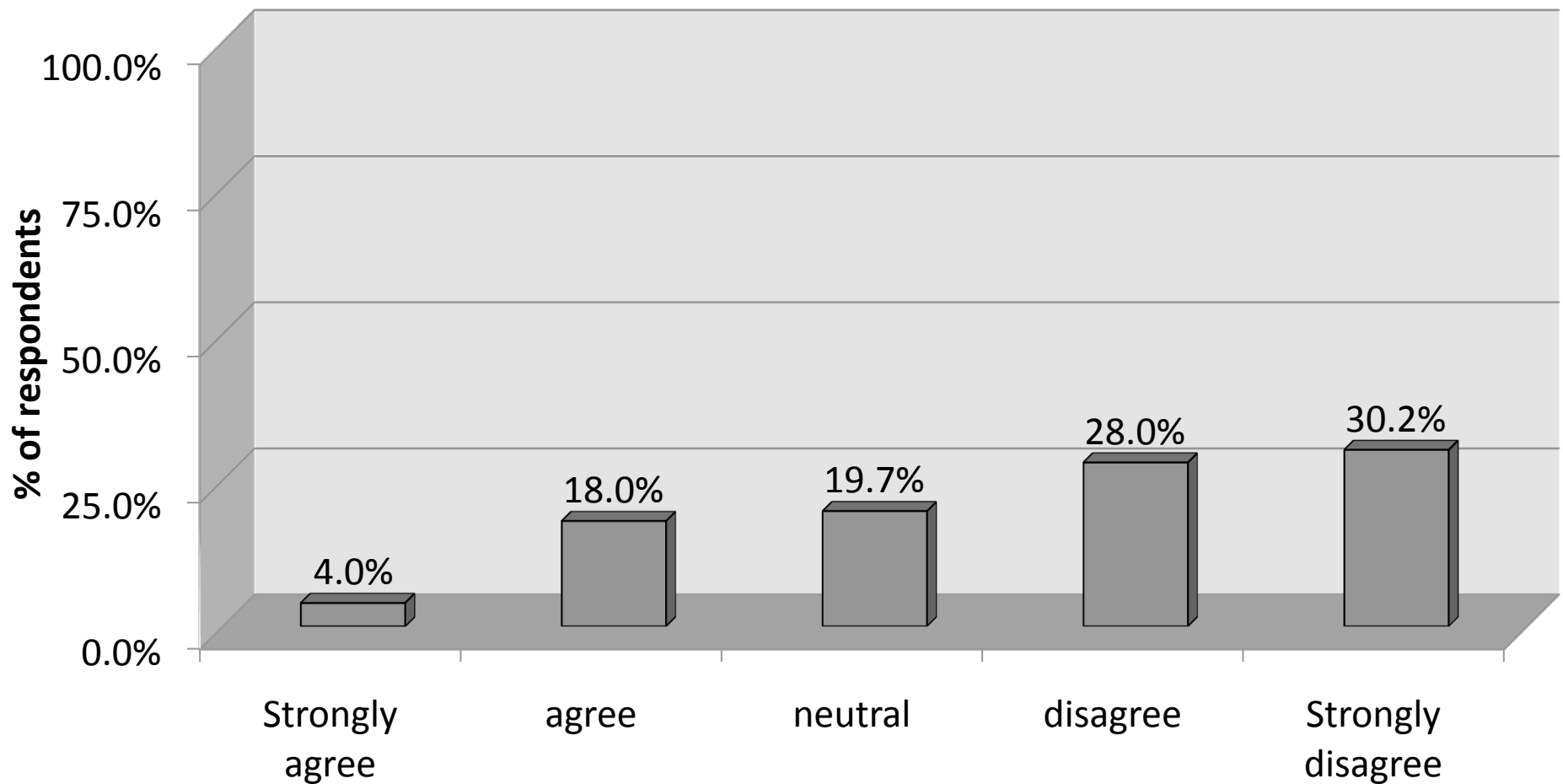
Answers by n = 634 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement:
“Wolves should be protected from hunting and lethal control because of their cultural significance”



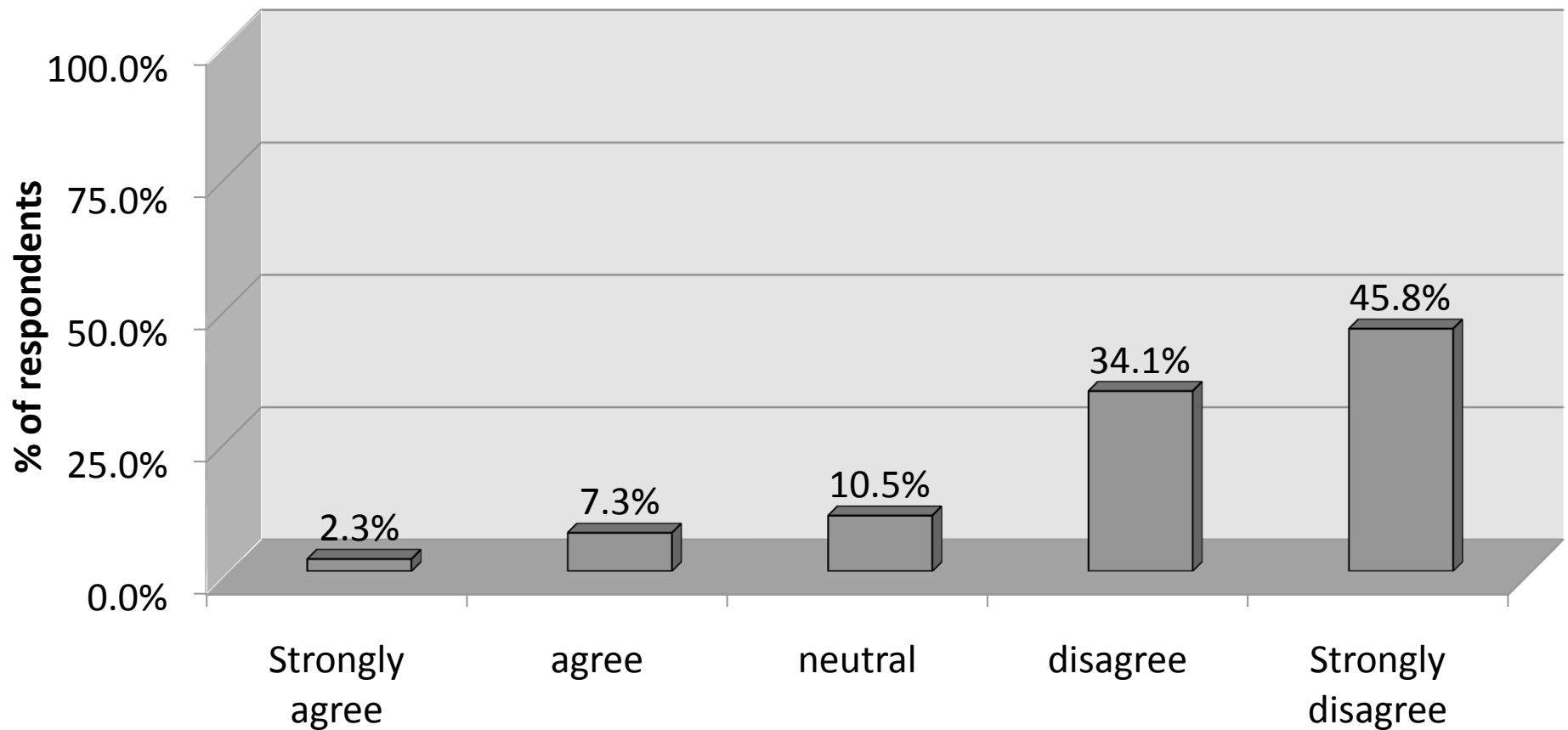
Answers by n = 650 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement:
“All wolves in Wisconsin should be co-managed by U.S. and Tribal governments”



Answers by n = 649 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

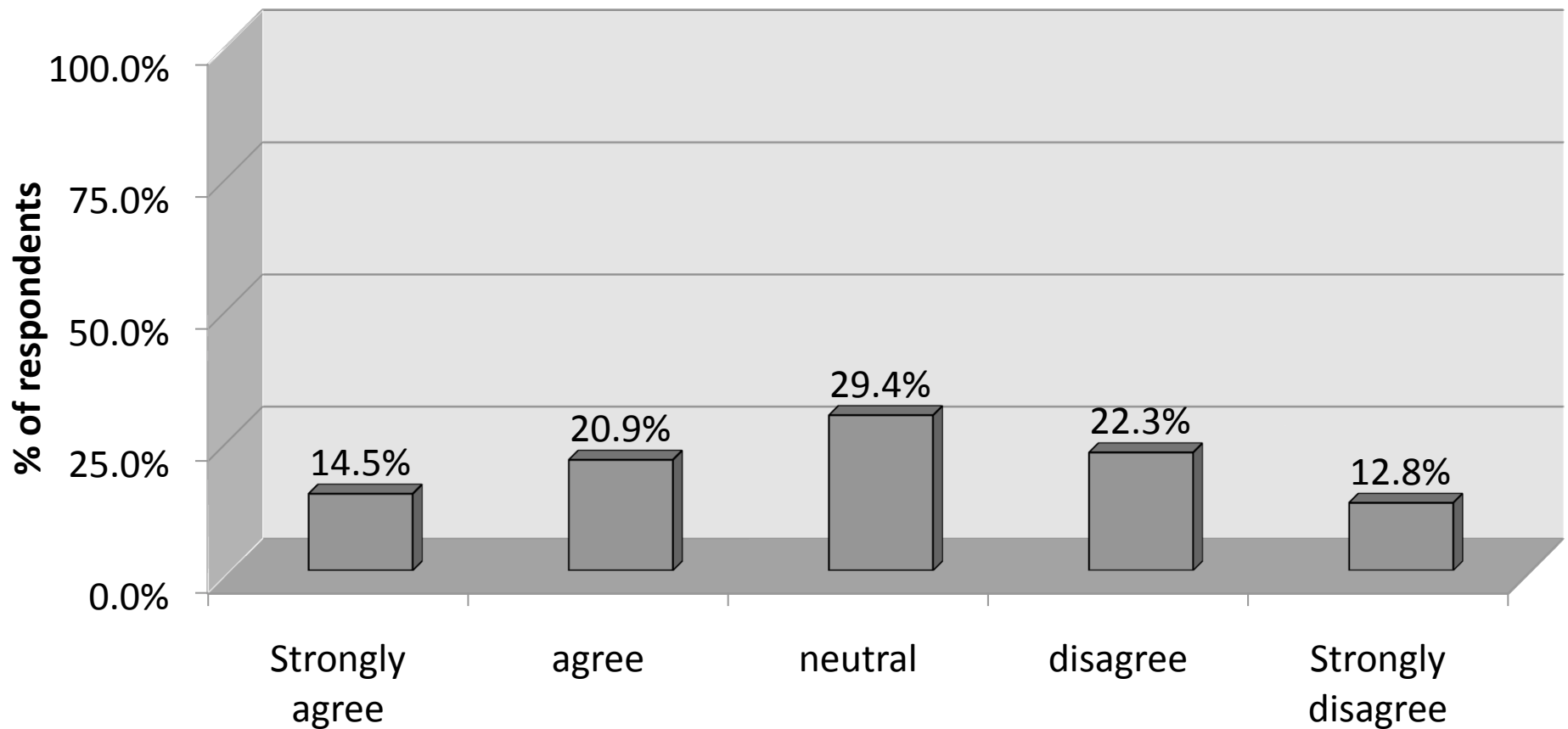
Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement:
“Losses/damages caused by wolves are a part of raising livestock and should not be compensated”



Answers by n = 646 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement:

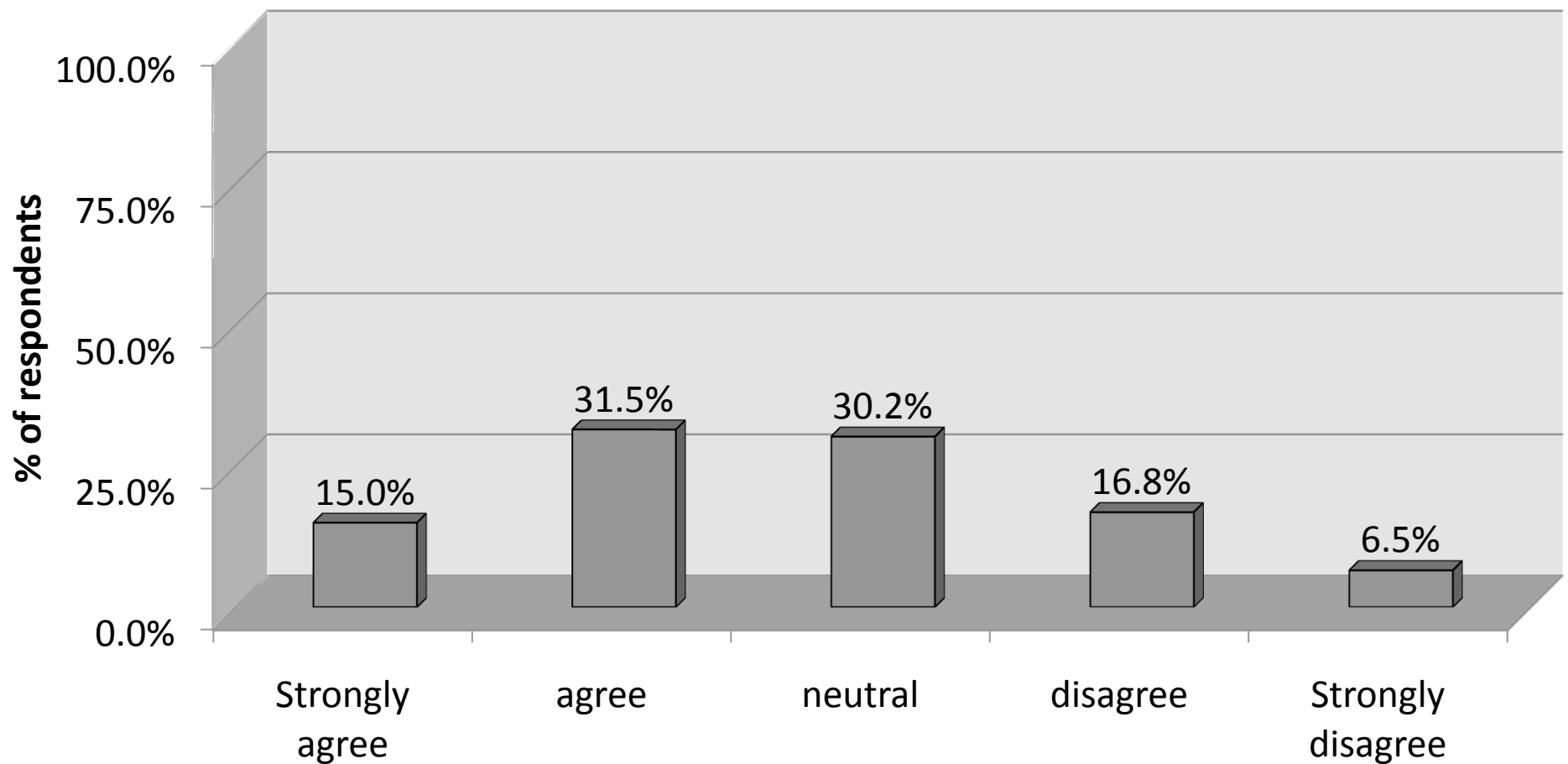
“My tolerance for wolves would decrease if compensation programs were no longer available”



Answers by n = 640 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

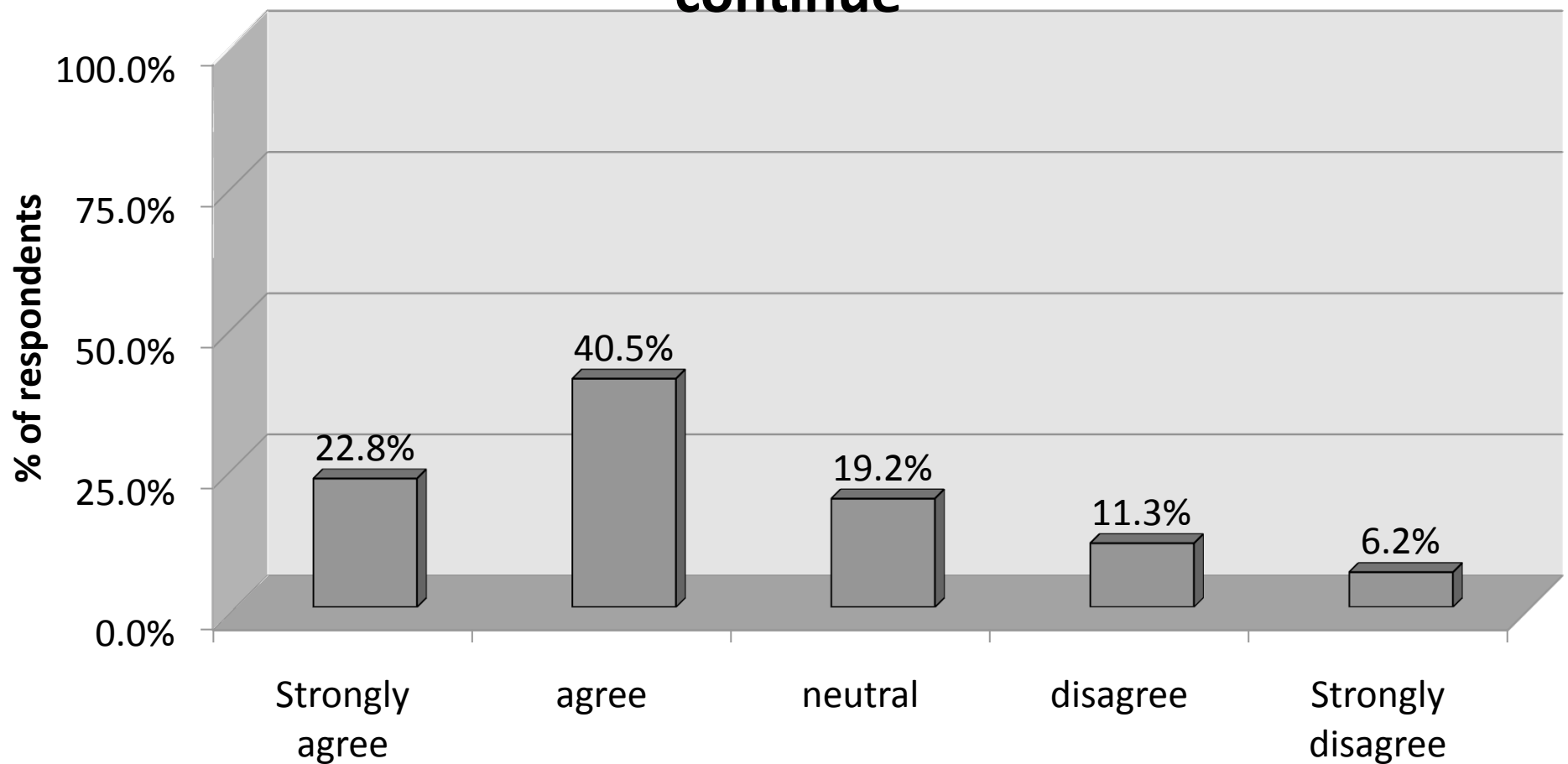
Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement:

“My tolerance for Wisconsin wolves would increase if people could hunt them”



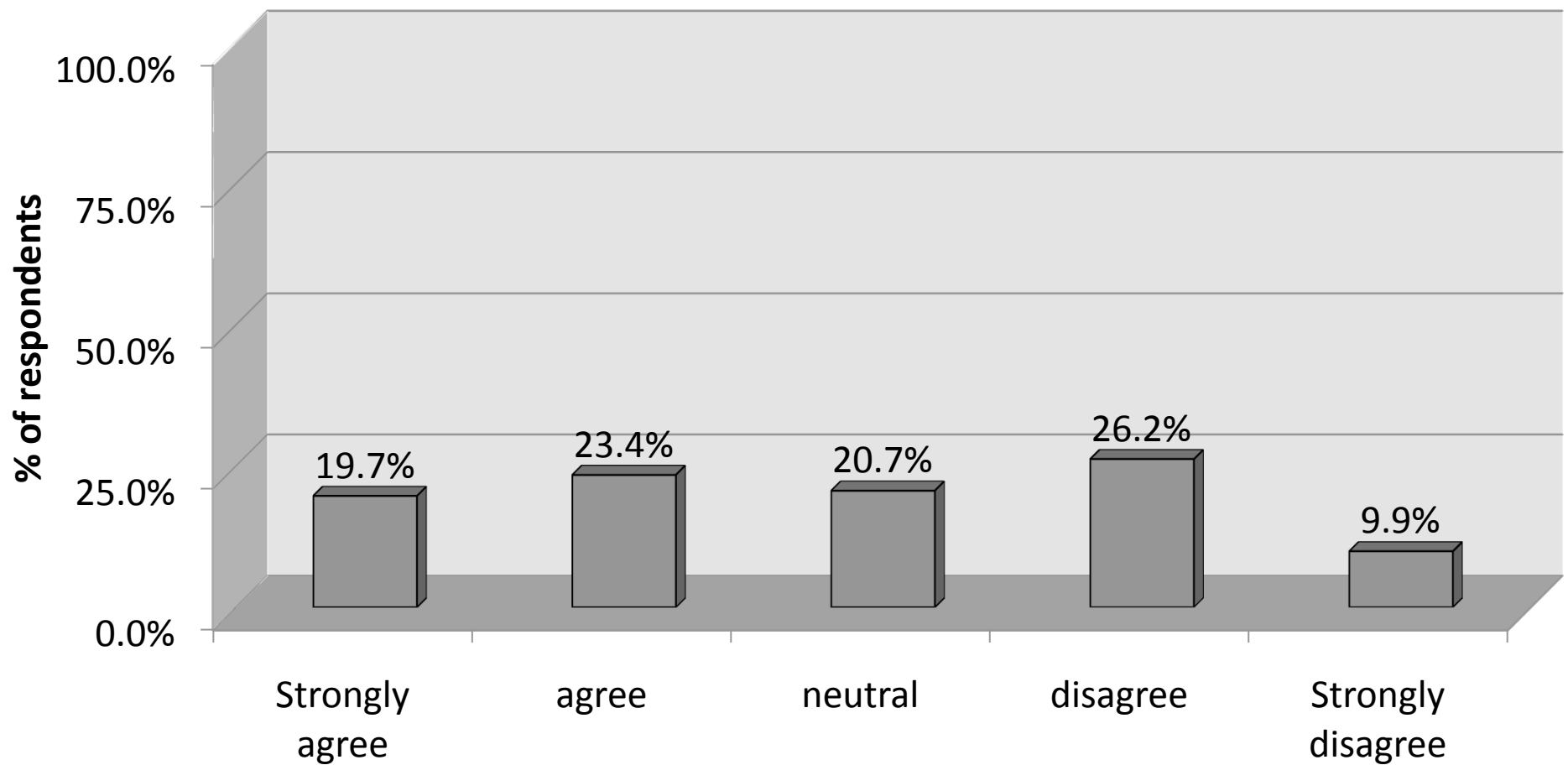
Answers by n = 642 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement:
“Even when wolves are no longer threatened or endangered, compensation programs should continue”



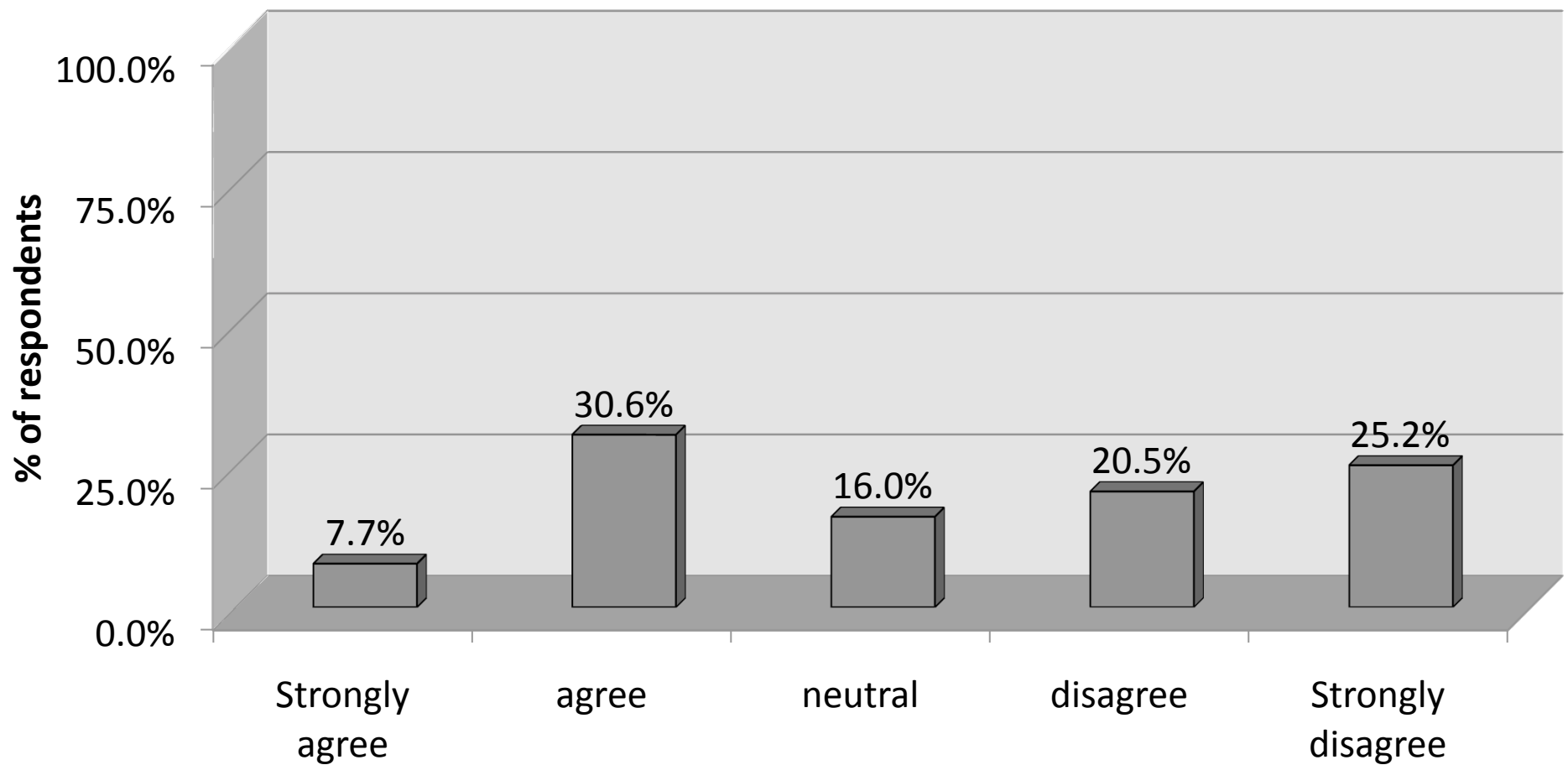
Answers by n = 645 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement:
“I would be afraid if wolves lived near my home”



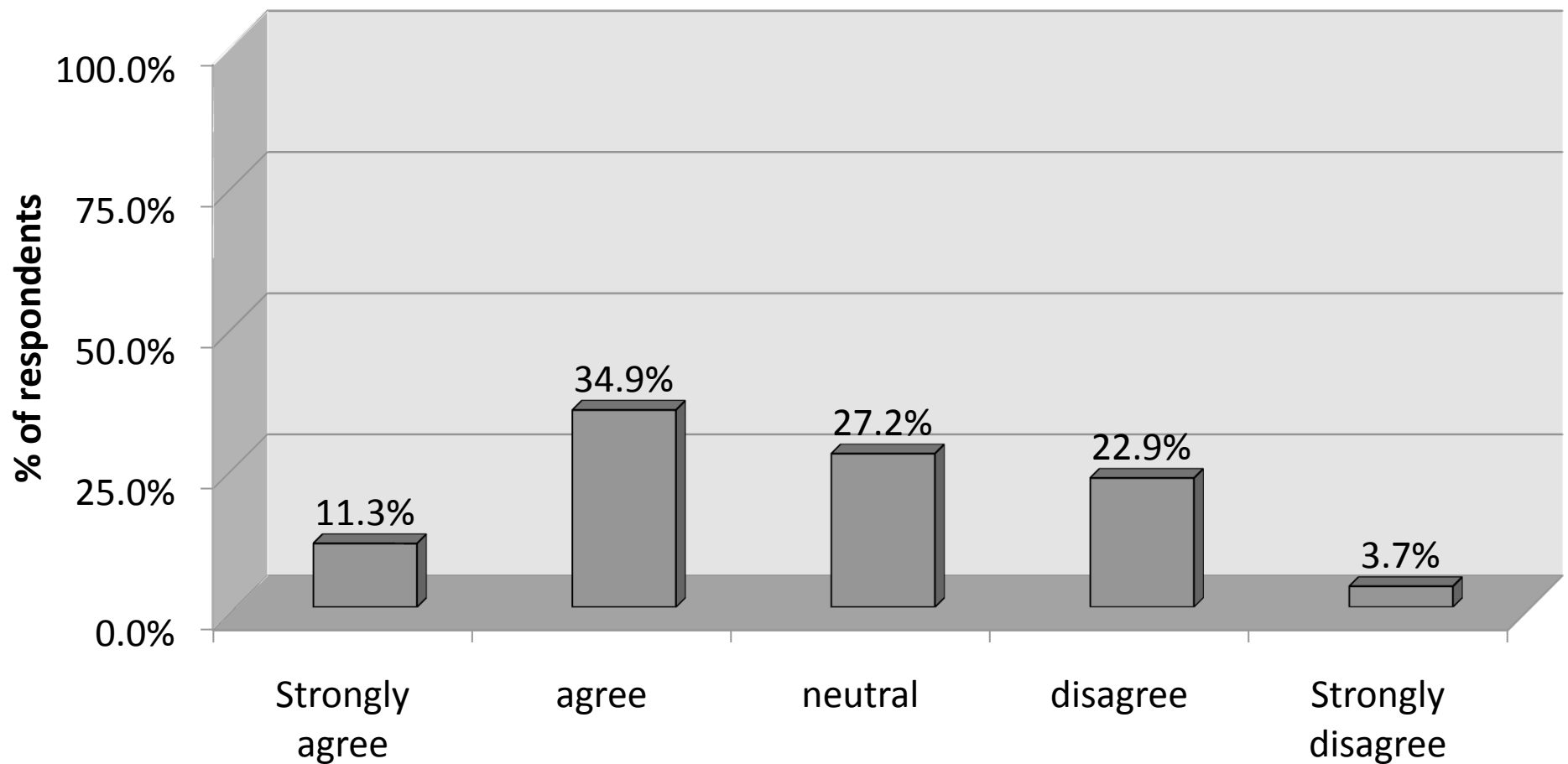
Answers by n = 644 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement:
“Wolves keep deer herds healthy by killing the sick and weak animals”



Answers by n = 648 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

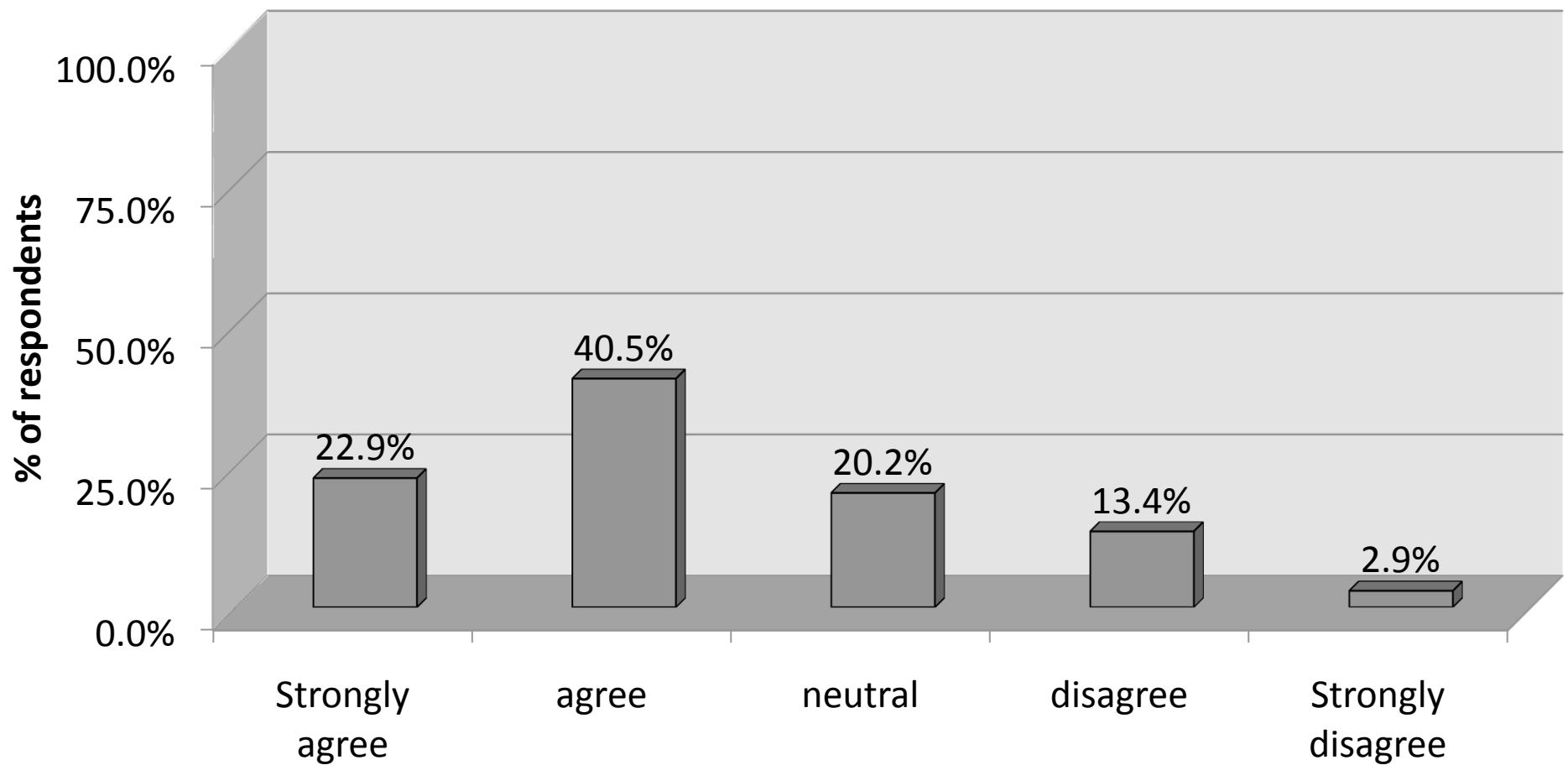
Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement:
“People who own animals would manage them differently if there were no wolves around”



Answers by n = 647 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement:

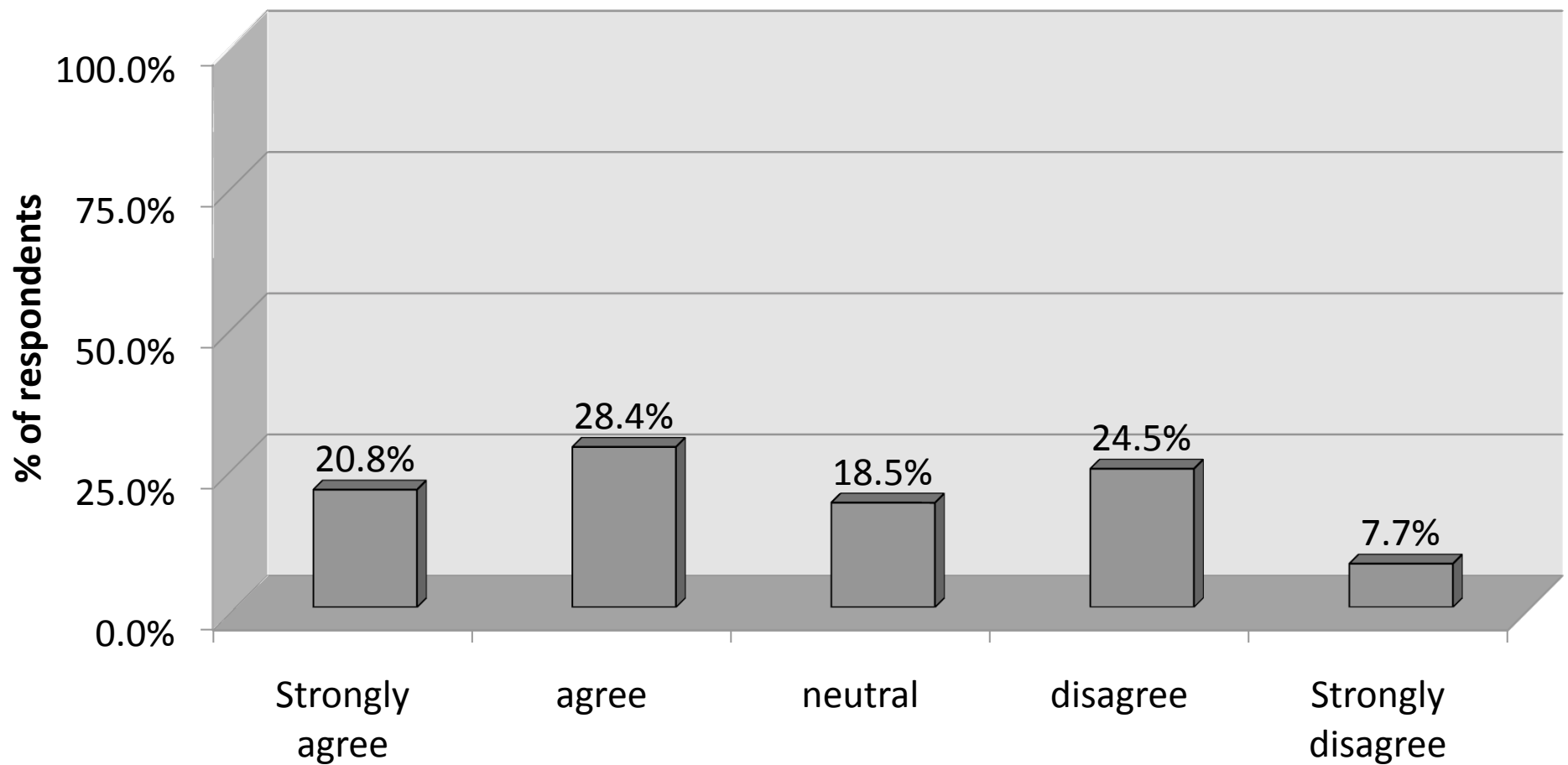
“I think the authorities should keep wolves away from farm animals and pets”



Answers by n = 647 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

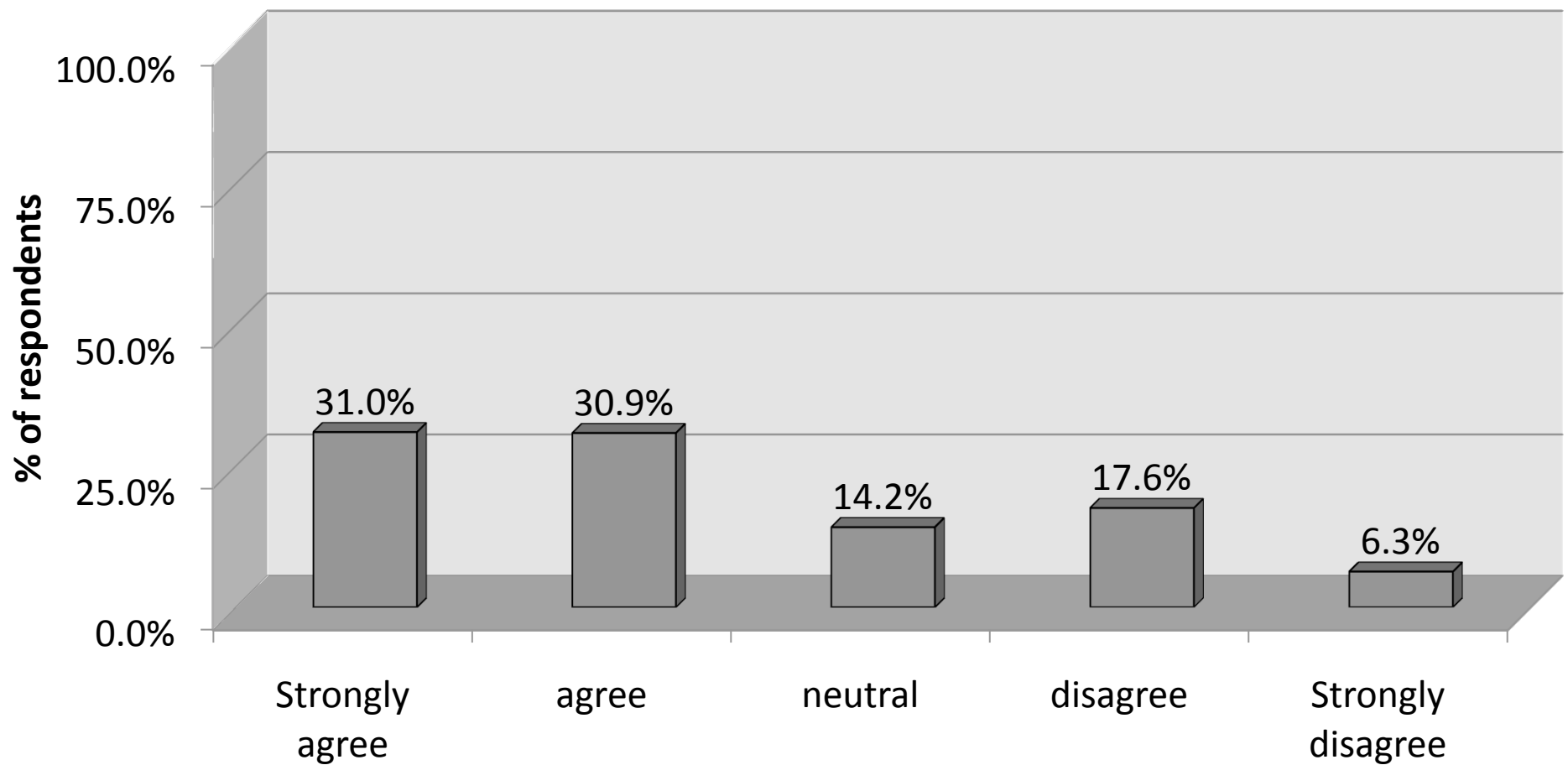
Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement:

“Killing wolves is the only way to stop them from threatening farm animals and pets”



Answers by n = 648 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

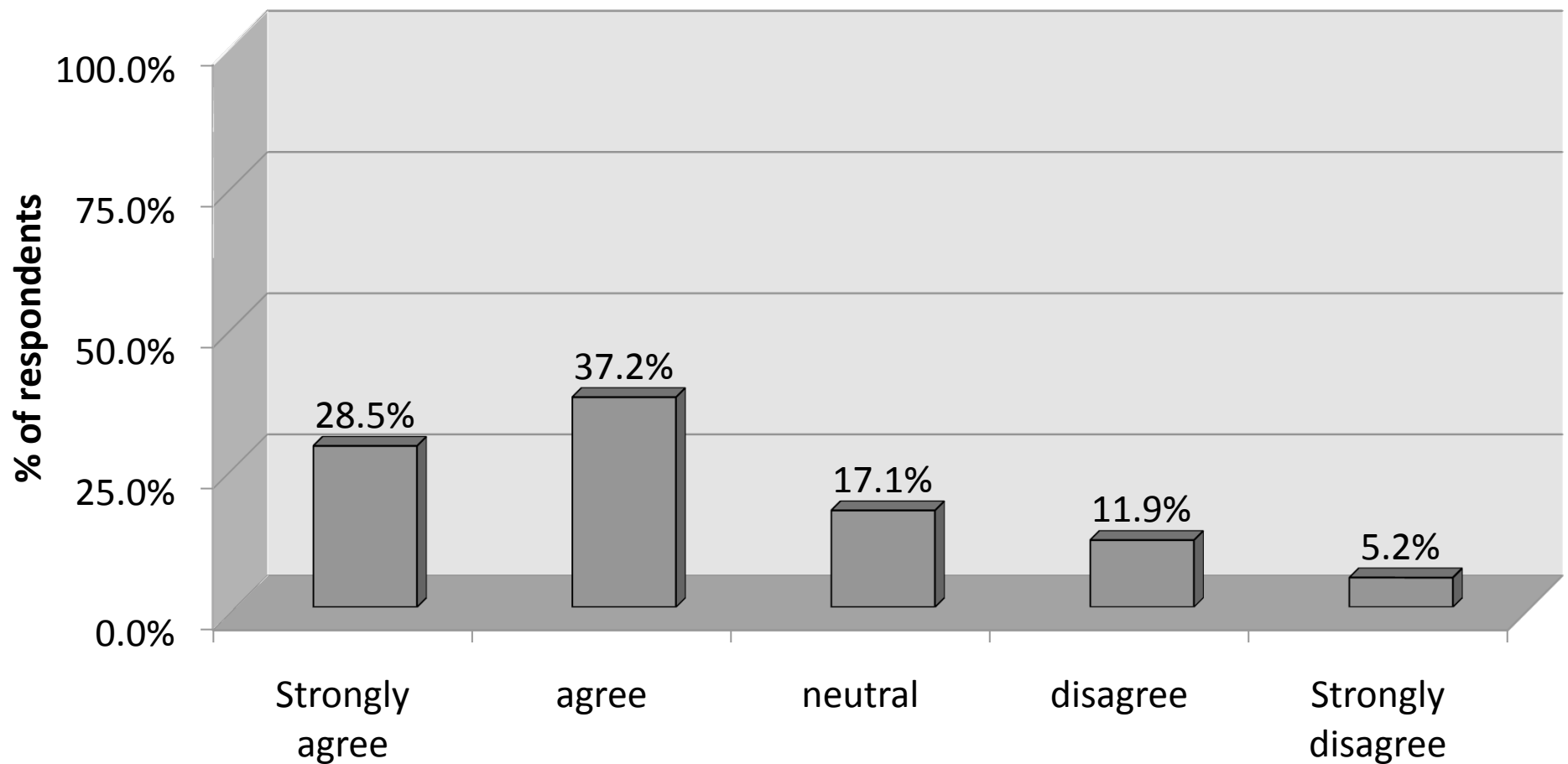
Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement:
“I think Wisconsin’s growing wolf population threatens deer hunting opportunities”



Answers by n = 648 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

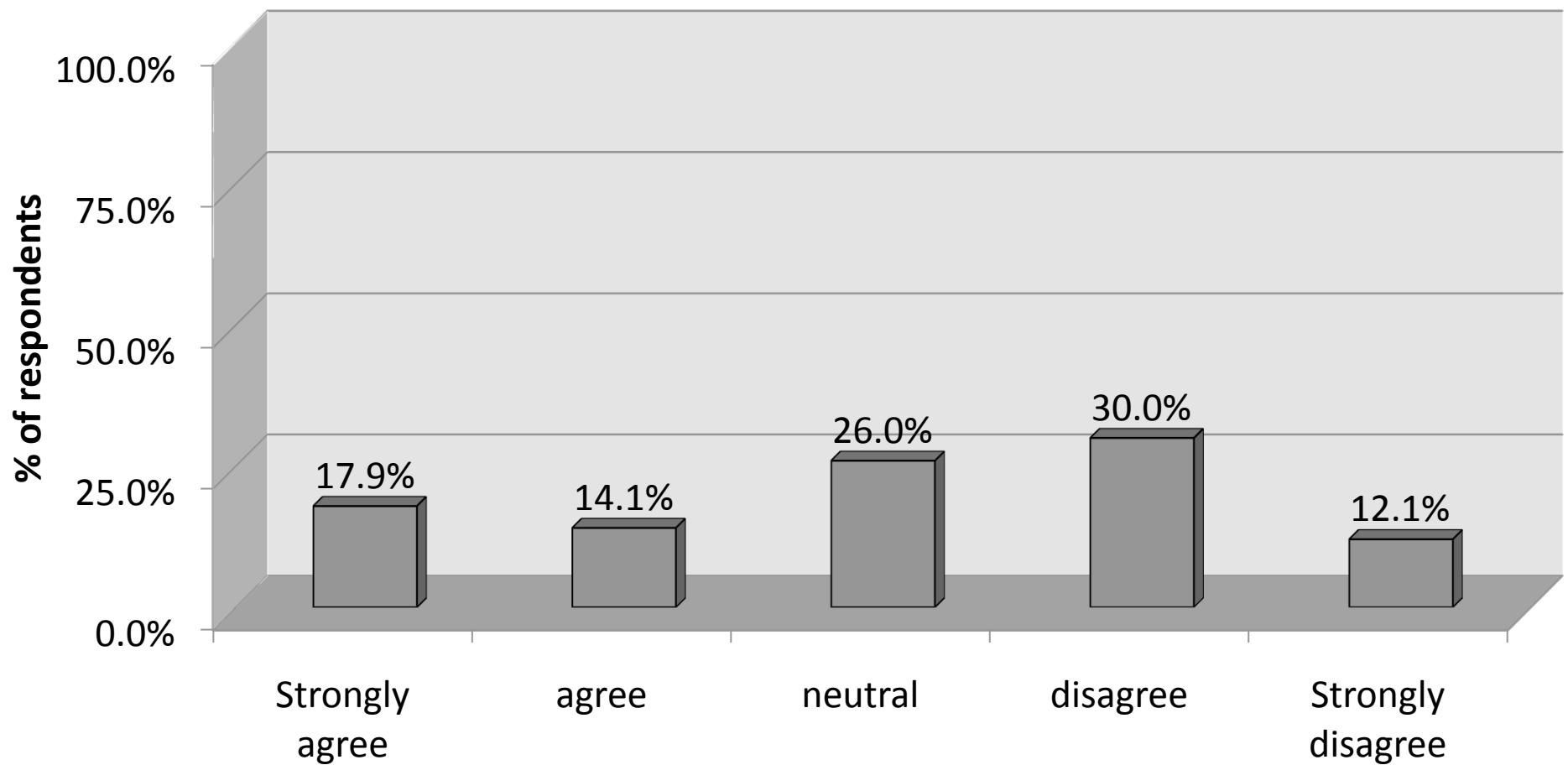
Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement:

“If there are enough wolves, I think we should allow some of them to be killed for their fur”



Answers by n = 648 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

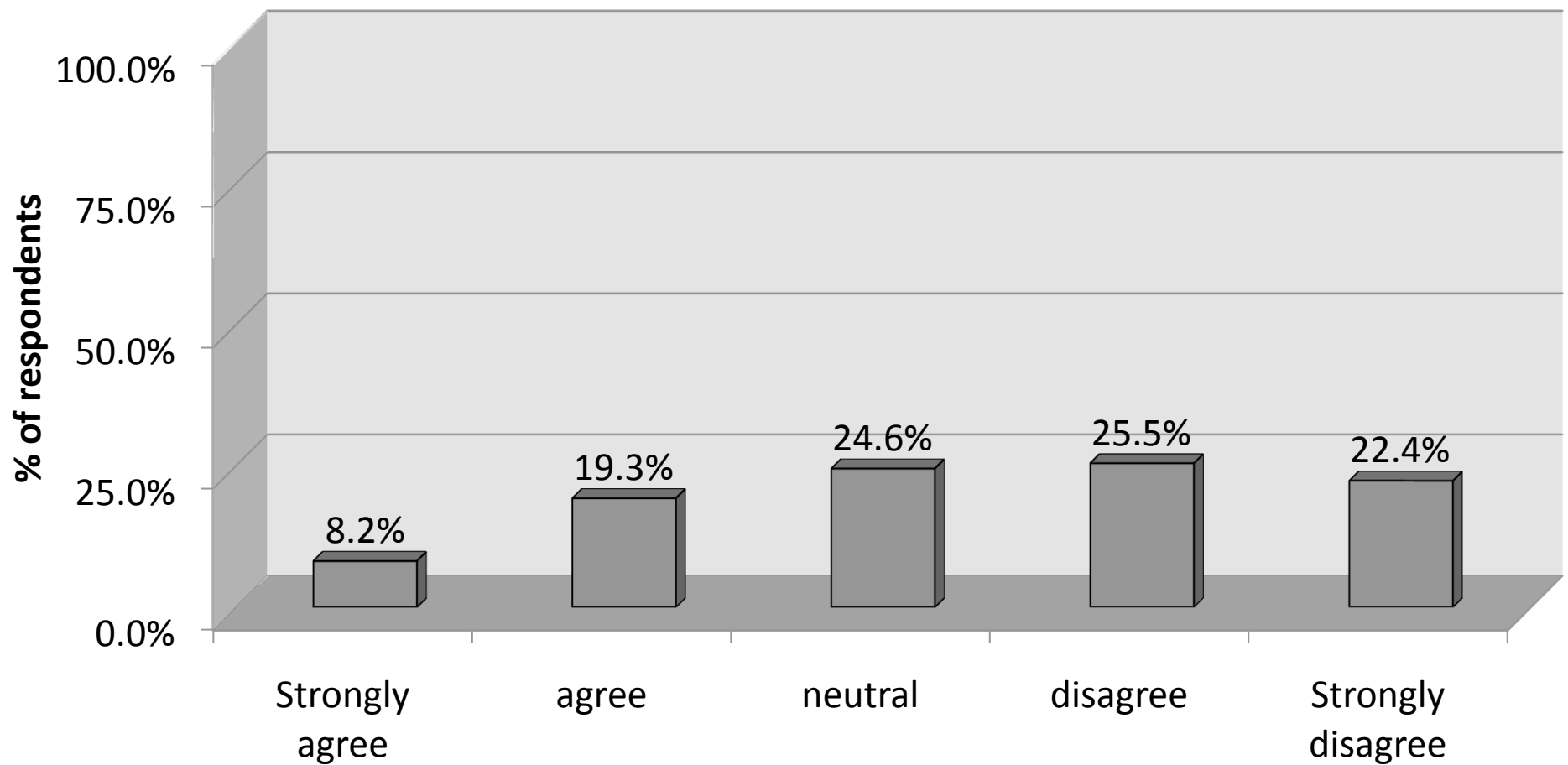
Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement:
“Wolves belong in places like Alaska, not in Wisconsin”



Answers by n = 647 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

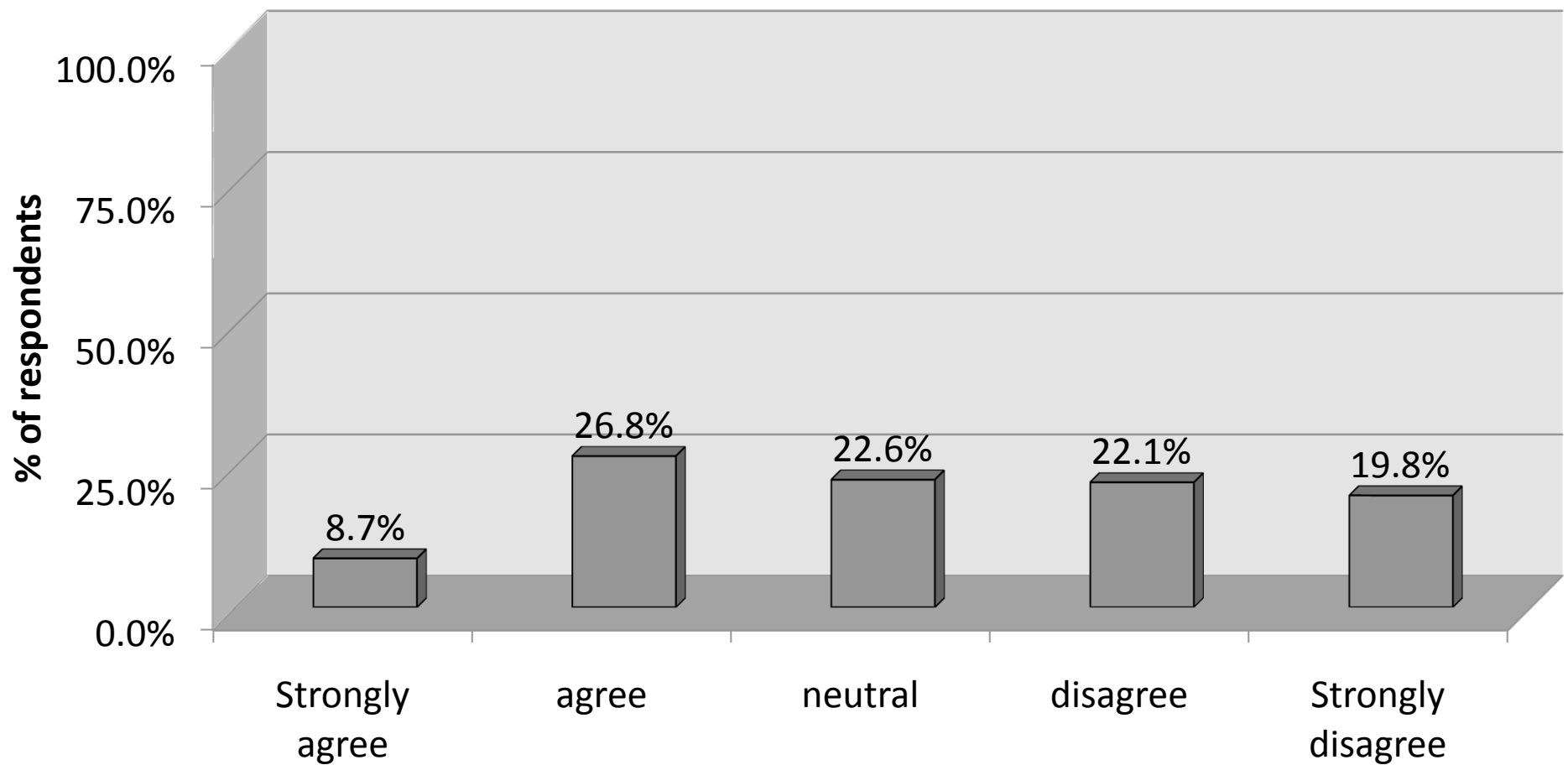
Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement:

“Seeing a wolf in the wild would be one of the greatest outdoor experiences of my life”



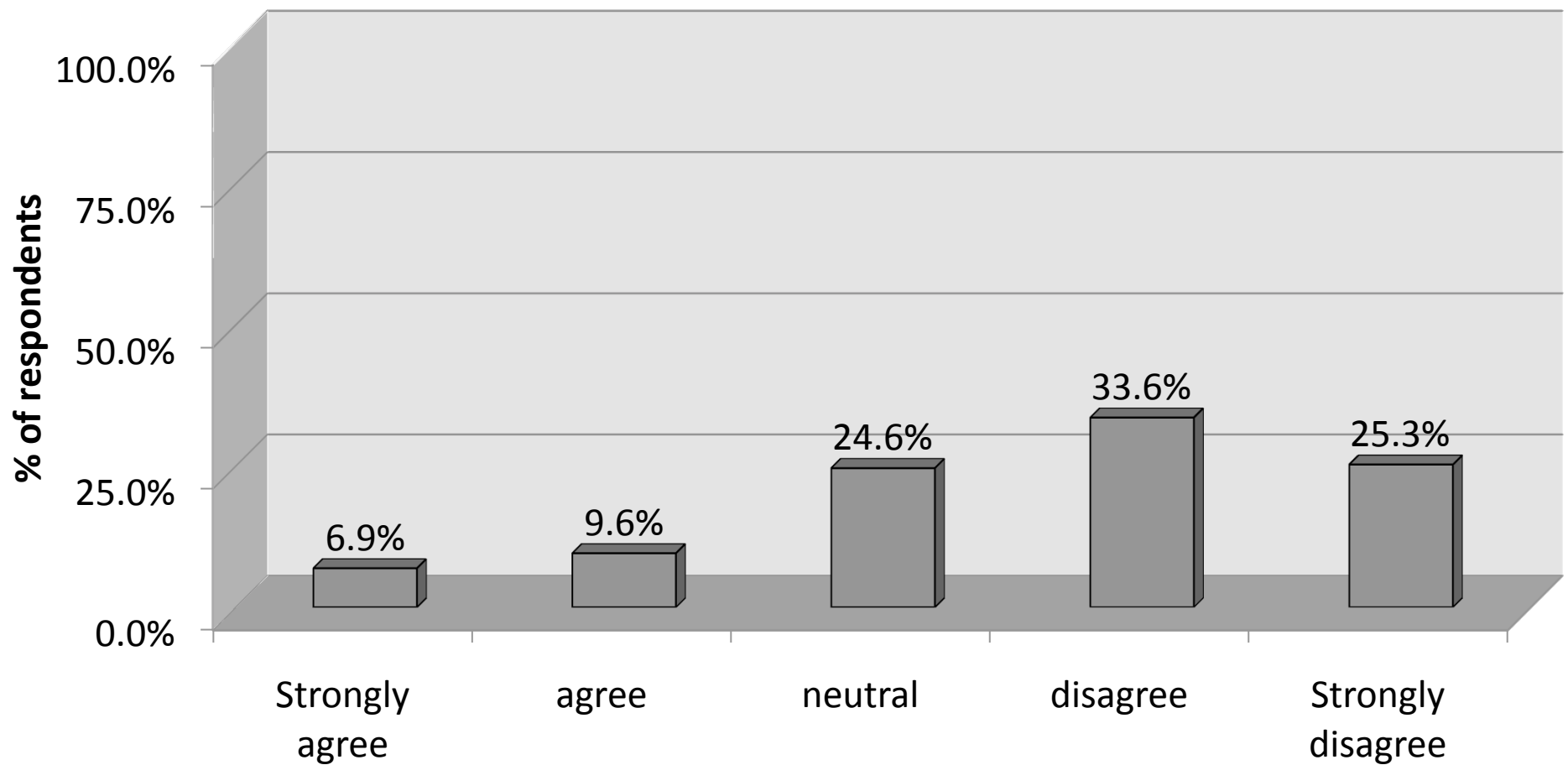
Answers by n = 647 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement:
“I think wolves are essential to maintaining the balance of nature”



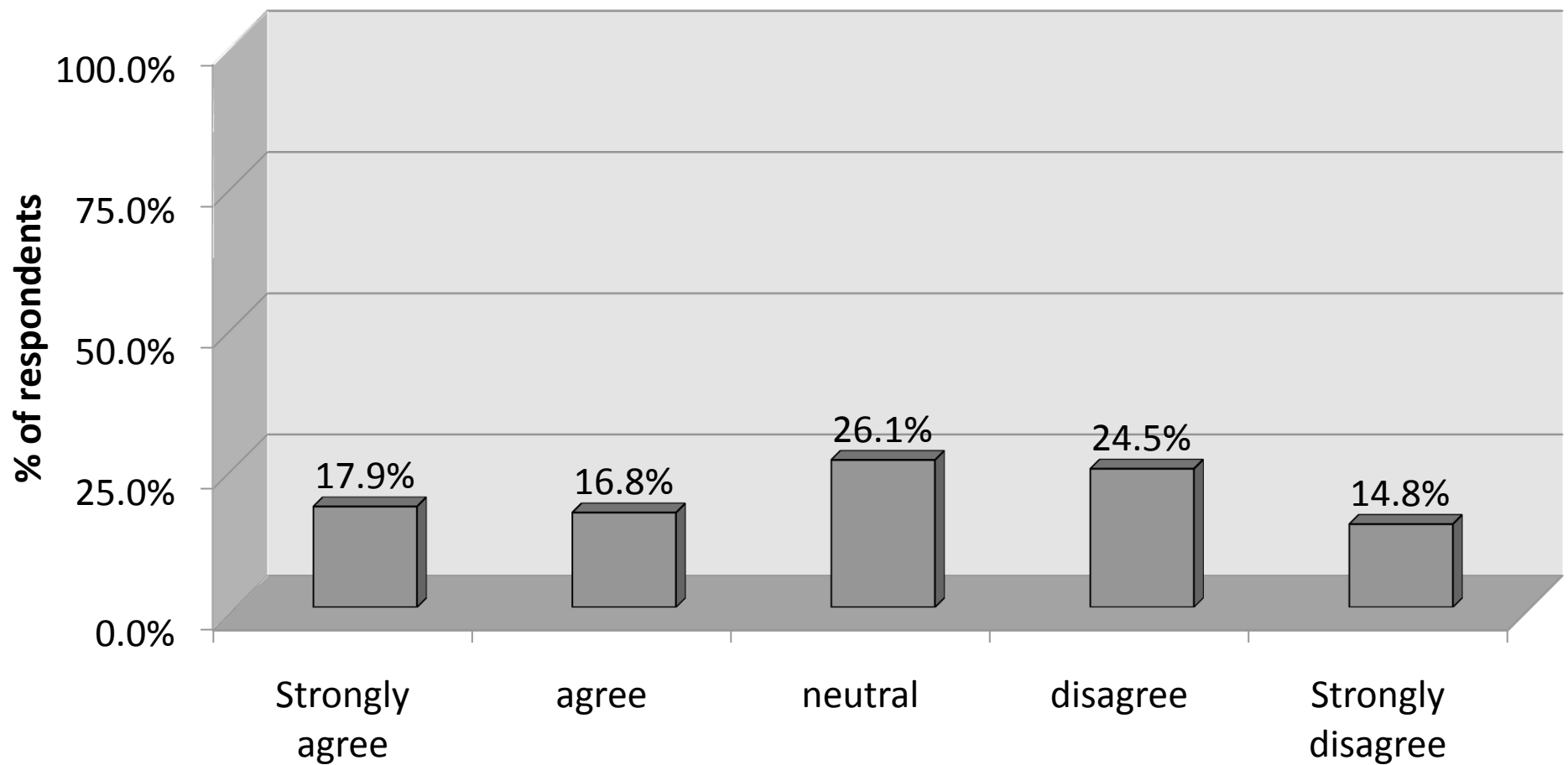
Answers by n = 646 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement:
“If I were out hunting and saw a wolf I might shoot it”



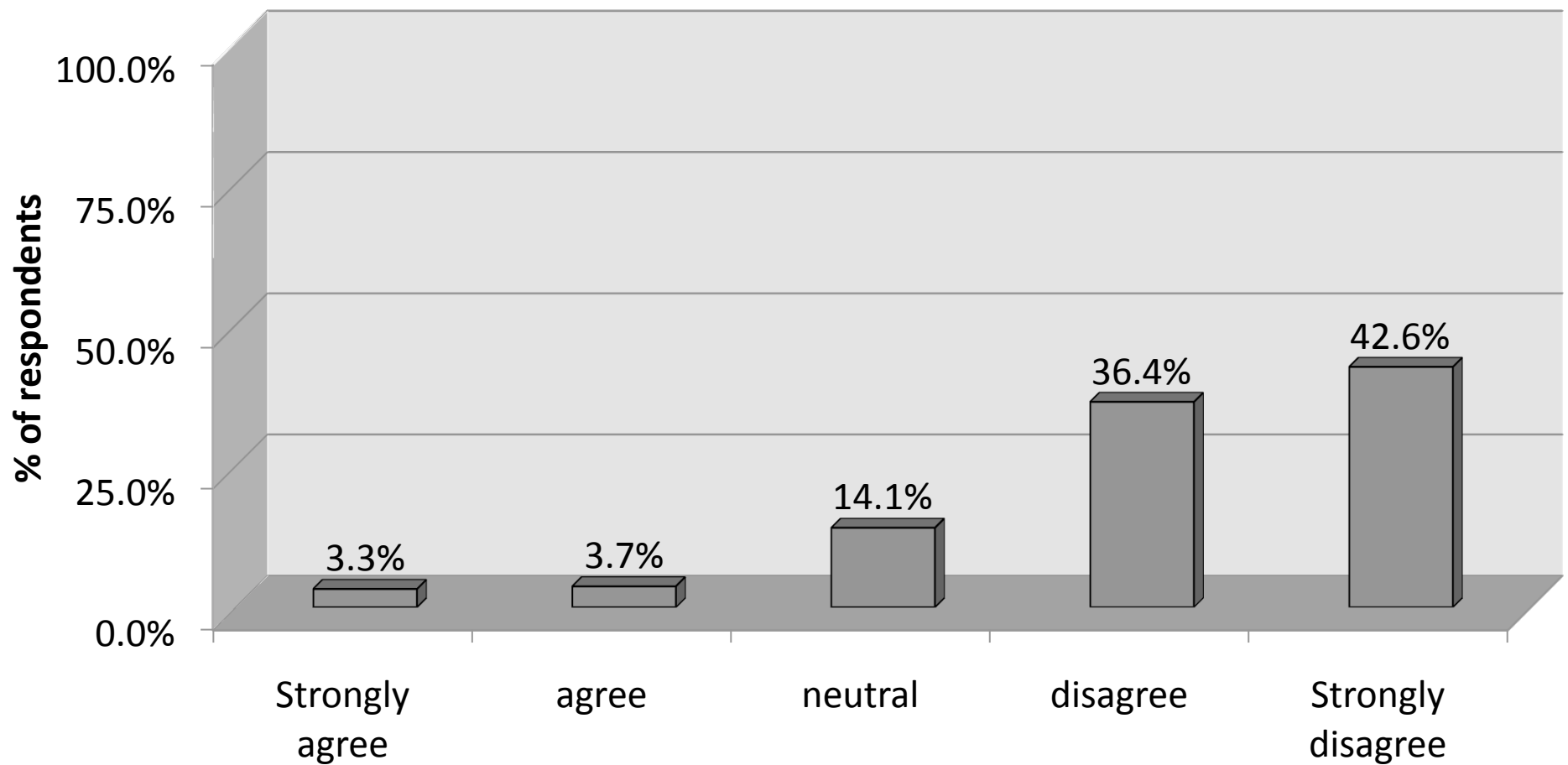
Answers by n = 637 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement:
“I want to be able to hunt wolves in Wisconsin without restrictions”



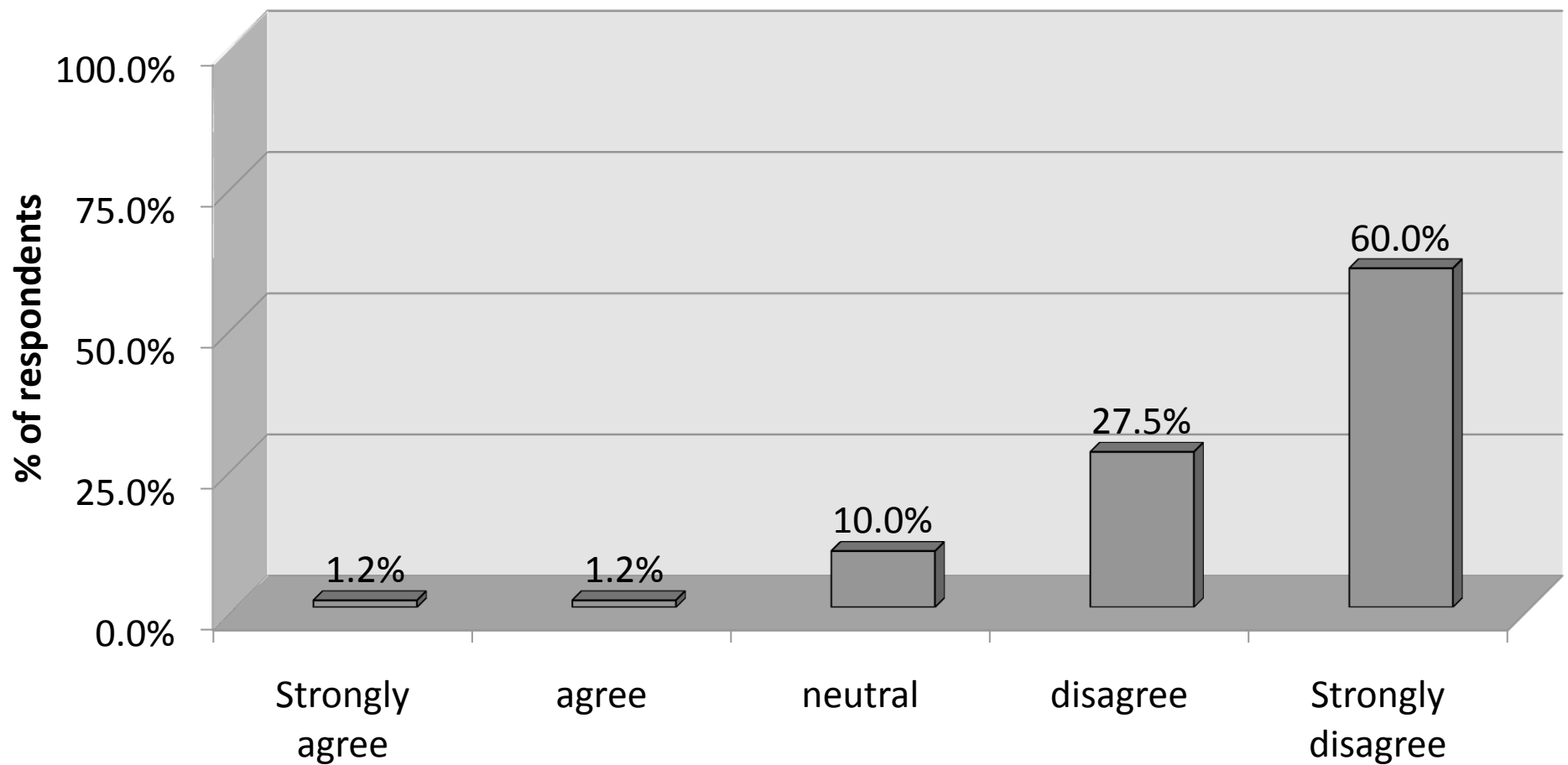
Answers by n = 644 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement:
“I would oppose all hunting of wolves”



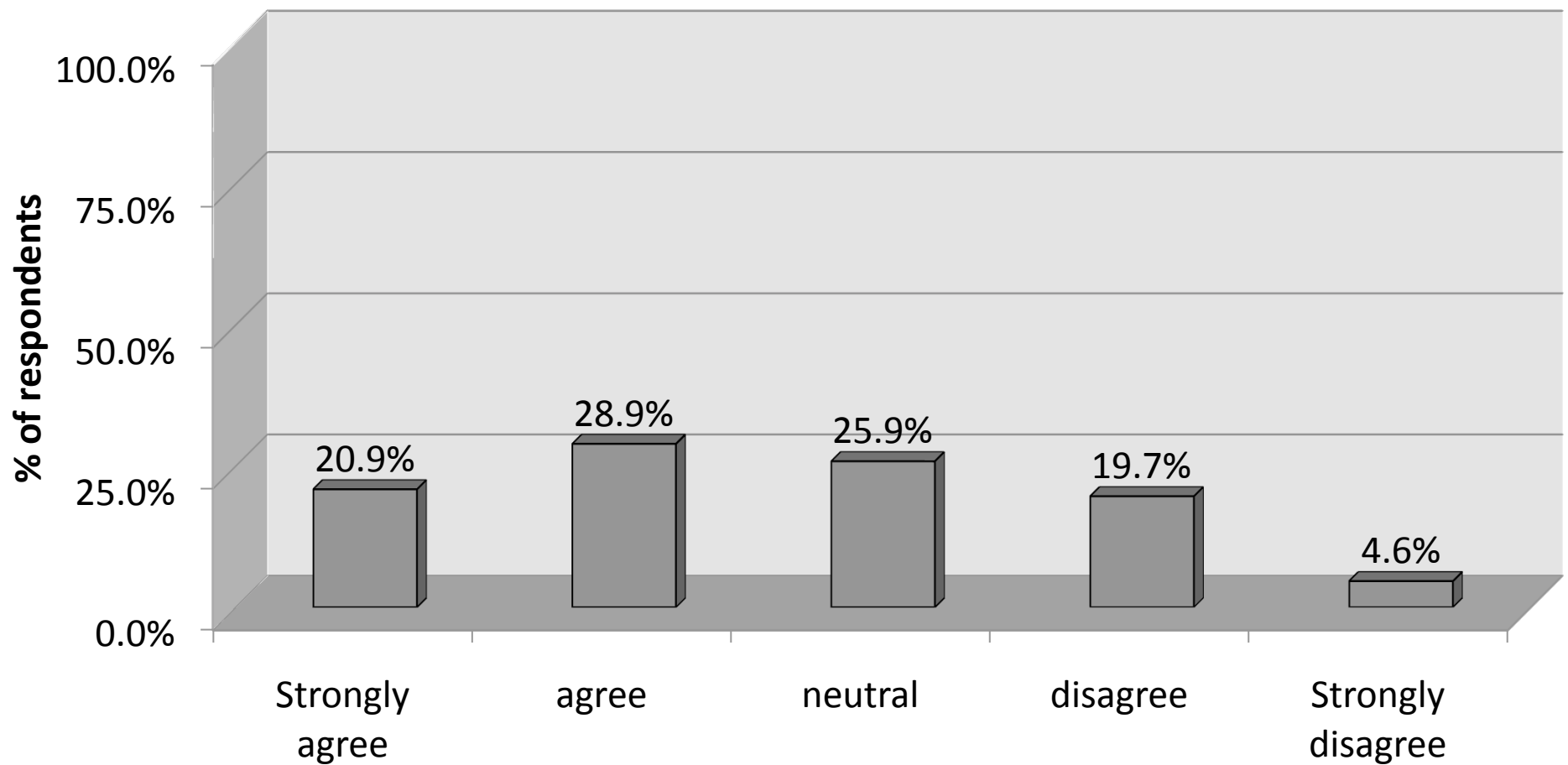
Answers by n = 646 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement:
“Wolves should only be hunted by Native Americans”



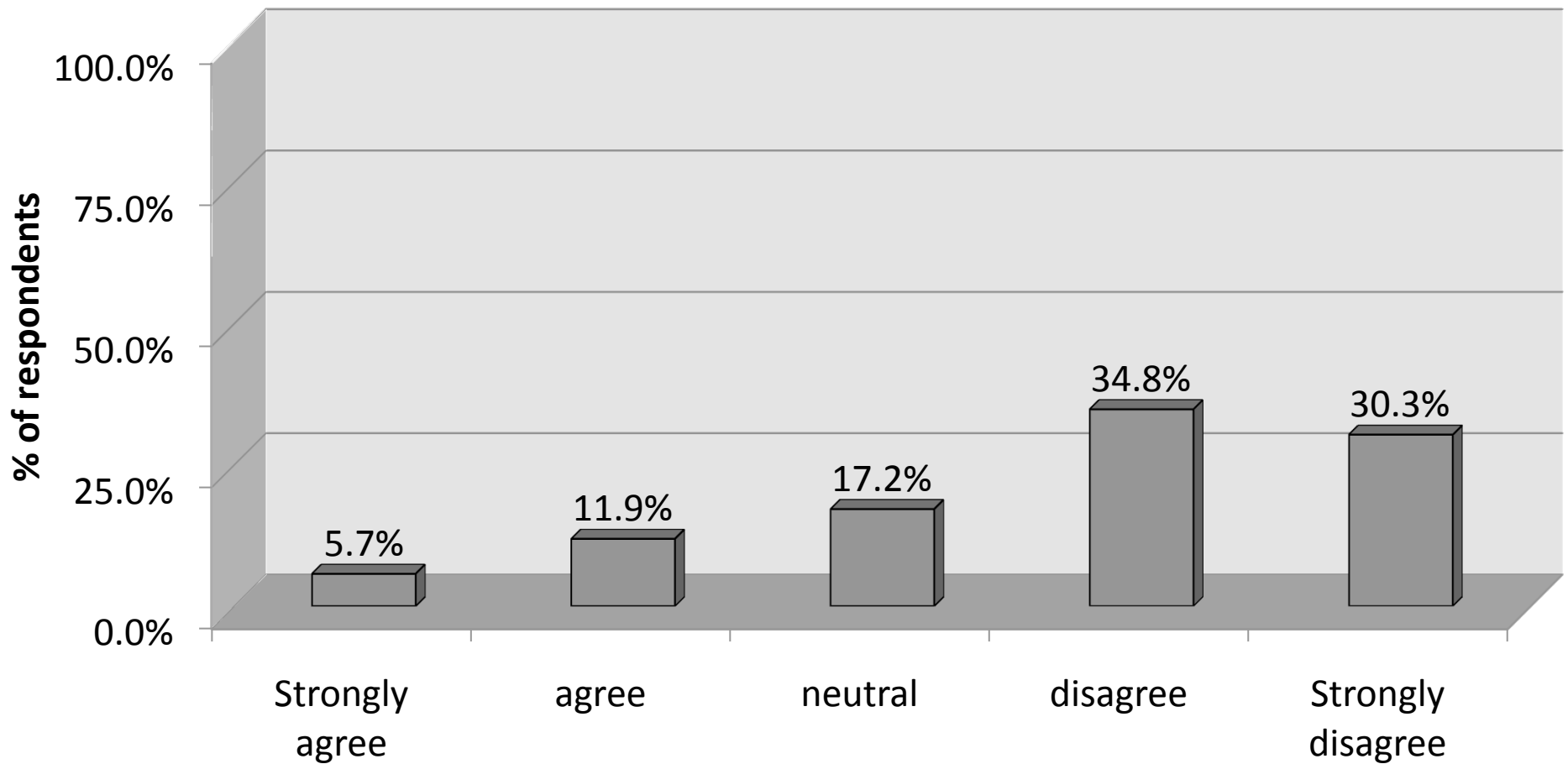
Answers by n = 646 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement:
“Wolves have lost their fear of people”



Answers by n = 646 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement:
“We should let nature determine the number of wolves in Wisconsin”



Answers by n = 646 residents of Wisconsin's wolf range

Respondent characteristics

(n = 656 residents of WI wolf range)

How many years have you lived in Wisconsin? 52 ± 18 years

In what year were you born? 1949 ± 13

Male 85.1% **Female** 14.9%

Native American 1.5%

Did your parents ever raise livestock? 58.3%

Is raising livestock your household's major source of income?

- No, never = 71.5%
- No, not currently but was in the past = 21.5%
- Yes, currently = 7.0%

Please select the highest level of schooling you have completed: (Check the HIGHEST level)

- Some high school = 6.3%
- High school = 38.9%
- Some college = 27.7%
- B.A. or equivalent = 18.0%
- M.A. or equivalent = 6.9%
- Advanced degree (M.D., Ph.D., etc.) = 2.2%

Please estimate your total 2008 household income before taxes:

- Less than \$20,000 = 12.0%
- \$40,000 - \$59,999 = 25.2%
- More than \$80,000 = 16.4%
- \$20,000 - \$39,999 = 21.0%
- \$60,000 - \$79,999 = 0.0%