



IDAHO OPHTHALMOLOGIST VOTER OPINION SURVEY OF REGISTERED VOTERS

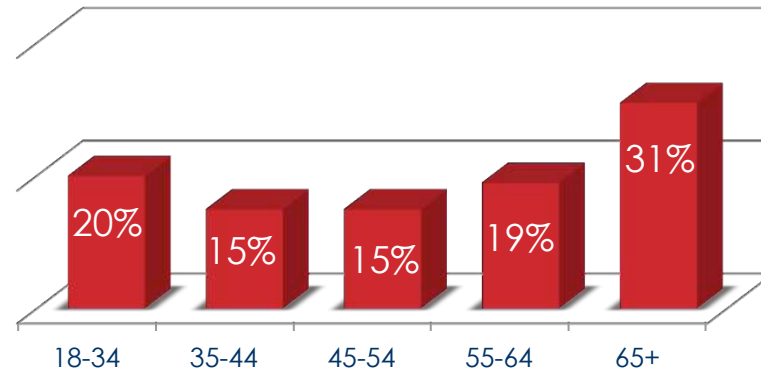
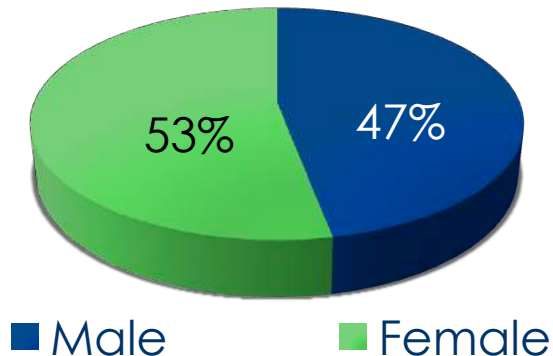
February 4th - 5th, 2020



Methodology

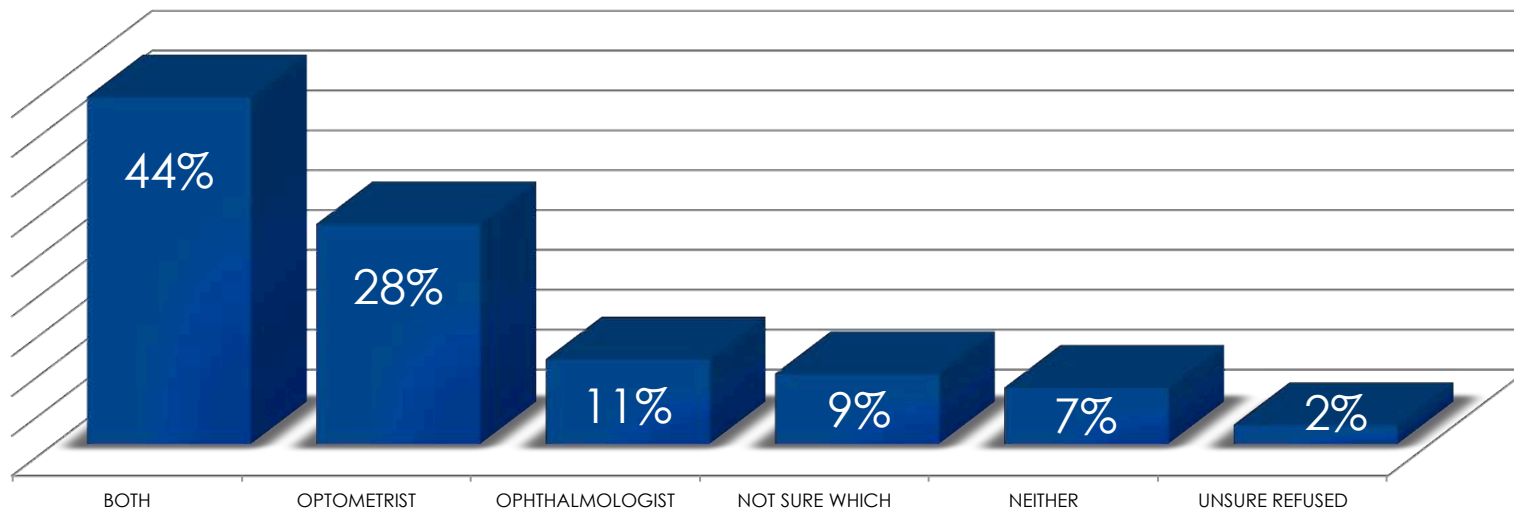
- Magellan Strategies are pleased to present the results for a 500n live survey of registered voters in the state of Idaho.
- The interviews were conducted from February 4th - 5th, 2020.
- The overall survey has a margin of error of +/- 4.38% at the 95% confidence interval. Subgroups of voters will have higher margin of error than the overall population.
- The survey results were weighted based upon the voter registration demographics in the state of Idaho.

Survey Demographics



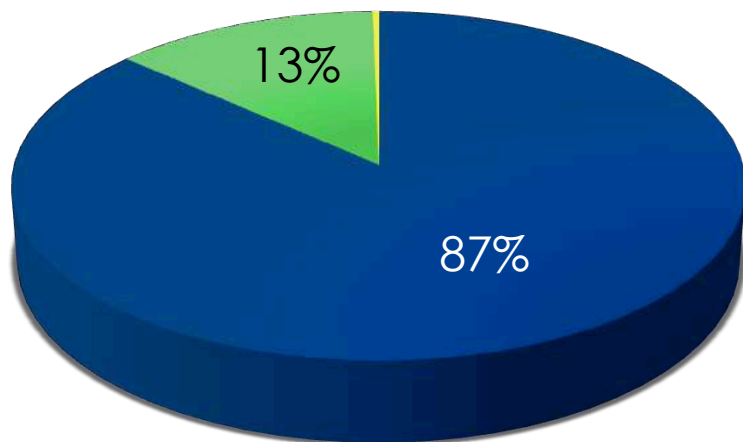
Individual Eye Care Needs

In the past, have you or anyone in your household seen an optometrist, an ophthalmologist, or both for your eye care needs?



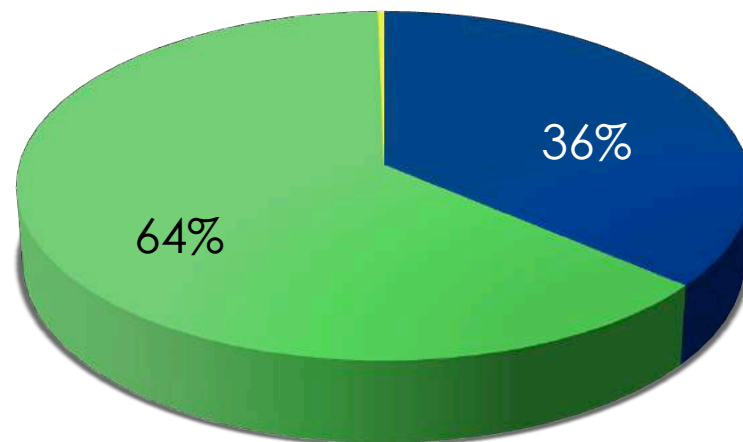
Respondent Household Eye Needs

Do you or anyone in your household wear glasses or contact lenses?



■ YES ■ NO ■ UNSURE REFUSED

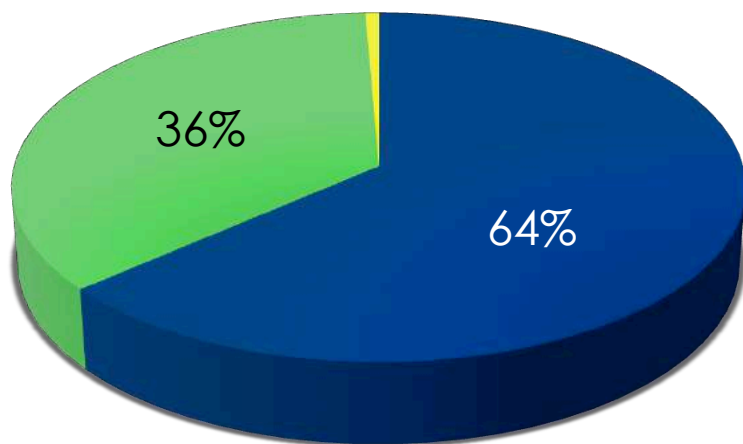
Have you or someone in your household ever had surgery in or around the eye?



■ YES ■ NO ■ UNSURE REFUSED

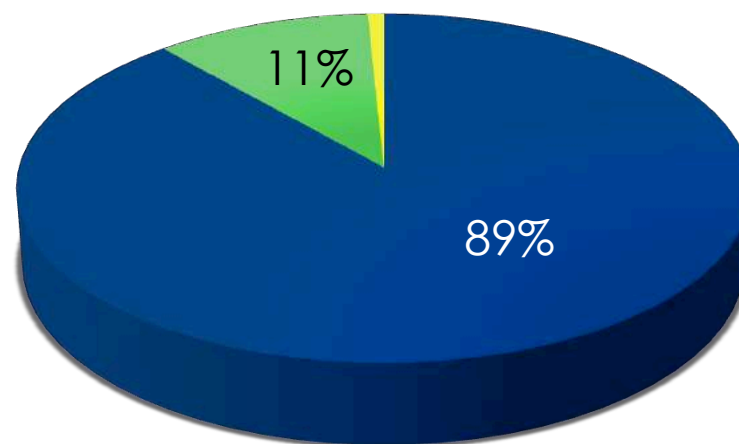
Respondent Household Eye Needs

Do you know the difference between an ophthalmologist and an optometrist?



■ YES ■ NO ■ UNSURE REFUSED

When it comes to eye care needs for you and your family, would you say access to that care is readily available to you?



■ YES ■ NO ■ UNSURE REFUSED



KEY FINDINGS

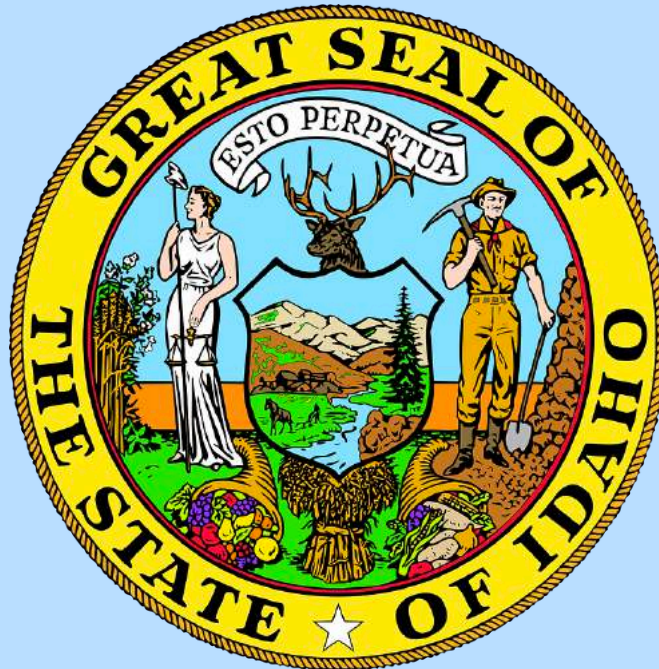


Key Findings:

- Among all respondents, to understand the basic demographics, 87% have someone in their household who wears glasses or contact lenses, and 36% have someone in their household who has had a surgery in or around the eye. Forty-three percent of respondents have seen both an optometrist and an ophthalmologist, 28% have just seen an optometrist and another 11% live in a household that has seen just an ophthalmologist.
- After hearing that current state law allows only ophthalmologists to perform eye surgeries, respondents were asked about a potential change to the Idaho state law that would allow optometrists to perform surgery in and around the eye. Sixty-five percent of respondents oppose changing the law and 43% are strongly opposed.
- When asked which aspect of healthcare is most important, a plurality of 39% of voters chose the cost of healthcare. This was followed by health insurance costs at 23%, the quality of healthcare at 19%, and the availability of healthcare providers at 11%.

Key Findings:

- Asked what is the most important issue that legislators should be looking at when considering changing the law to allow optometrists to perform surgery in and around the eye, 61% of respondents said to first consider the training and surgery experience of optometrists and another 29% said to consider the safety and risk of the procedures.
- The message that resonated the most among all respondents was informing them about a study that had been conducted in Vermont by the Office of Professional Regulation. The study could not conclude that optometrists were properly trained in or could safely perform the proposed advanced procedures. This message caused 77% of respondents to be more likely to oppose the change in legislation, with 58% being much more likely to oppose.
- After hearing the messages, the opposition to changing the state law to allow optometrists to perform eye surgeries with lasers, scalpels or other surgical instruments increases to 76%, with 61% strongly opposed.



ISSUE PREFERENCE



Thinking now about issues facing the people of Idaho...In your own words, being as specific as possible, please tell me what you think the most important issues or problems in Idaho that the state legislature and Governor should be addressing the most.

"That would be the growth of the state and the population growth issue. It is to make sure we have enough infrastructure to handle it."

-Male, 55-64, Ada County

"It is the growth in Idaho. It has exploded, and the infrastructure cannot hold it. They are putting in high-density apartments. The roads and the streets cannot handle the traffic."

-Male, 55-64, Boise County

"That would be education, growth and infrastructure. We need more money for schools and salaries for the teachers. We need more money in the rural areas where they are being left behind. It would be the growth in our state. They should decrease property taxes for the ones who are retired. The working-class people can't afford homes. We need to improve transportation and roads."

-Female, 65+, Ada County

Top Issues

Education – Teacher Salary

Population Growth – Infrastructure, Roads

Population Growth – Affordable Housing

Healthcare – Medicaid Expansion

"It would be the education funding. They should just make sure that the funds and taxes are going toward building schools and teachers' pay."

-Male, 18-34, Kootenai County

"They are education and health care."

-Female, 45-54, Canyon County

"That would be education and health care because I have children."

-Female, 18-34, Valley County

"It is affordable health care. We need to have the Medicaid and Medicare expansion happen. Environmental protection is also important. We need to protect our water supply. Our forest should be protected from commercial logging, mining and pollution."

-Female, 55-64, Latah County

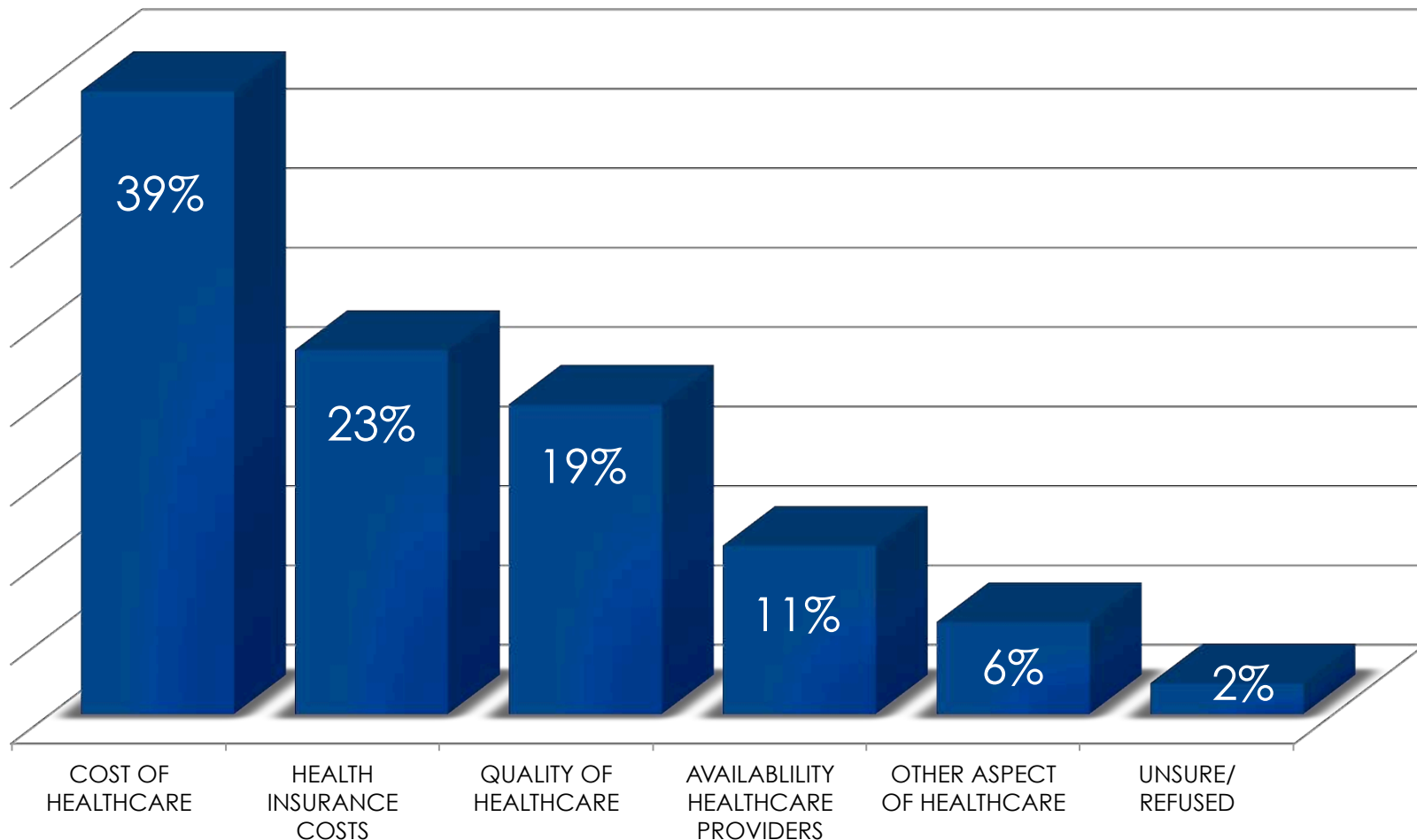
"Probably, it is medical insurance. The economy here is really good, and the people are happy in that regard."

-Male, 65+, Kootenai County

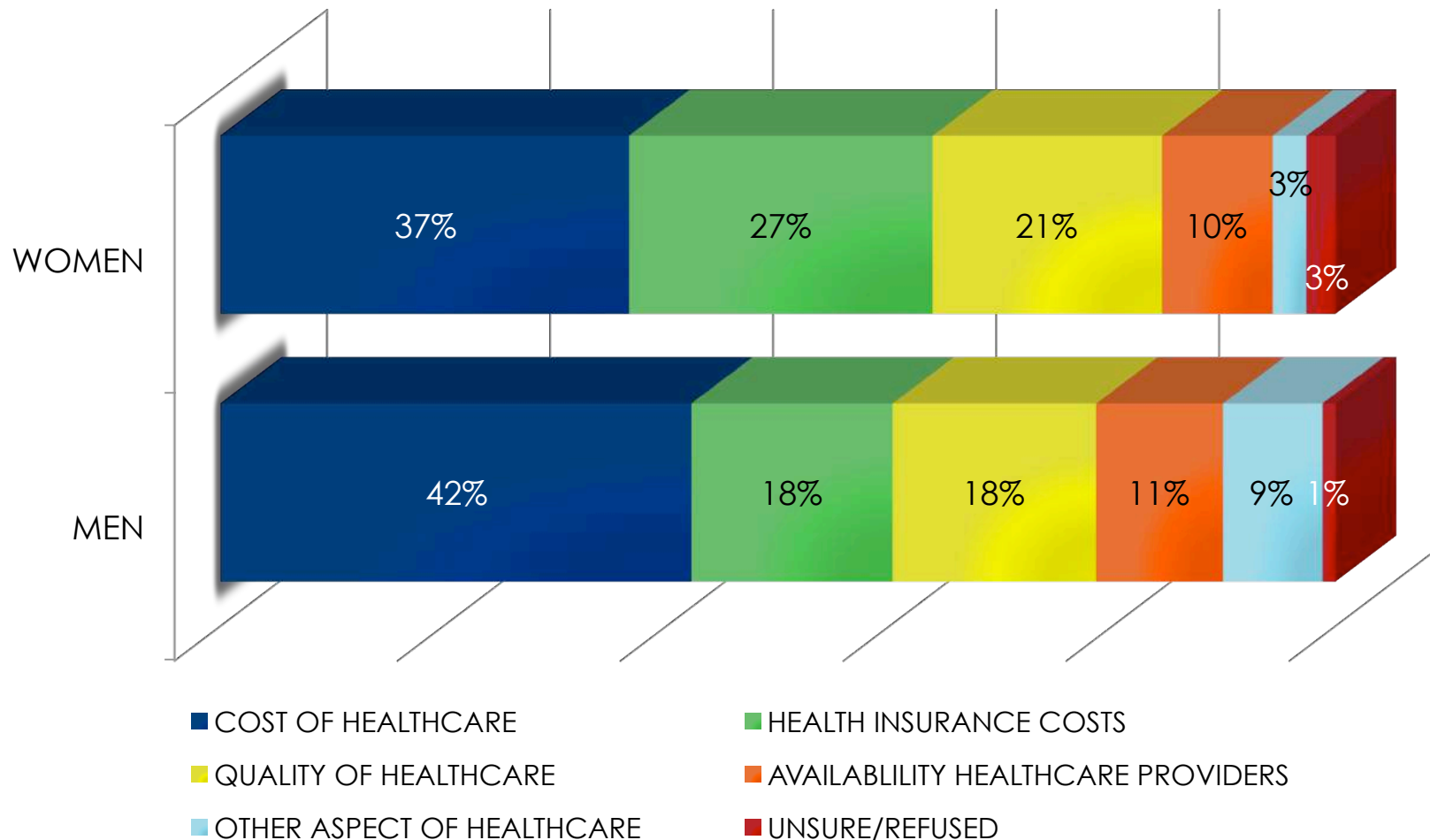


ASPECT OF HEALTHCARE IS
IMPORTANT

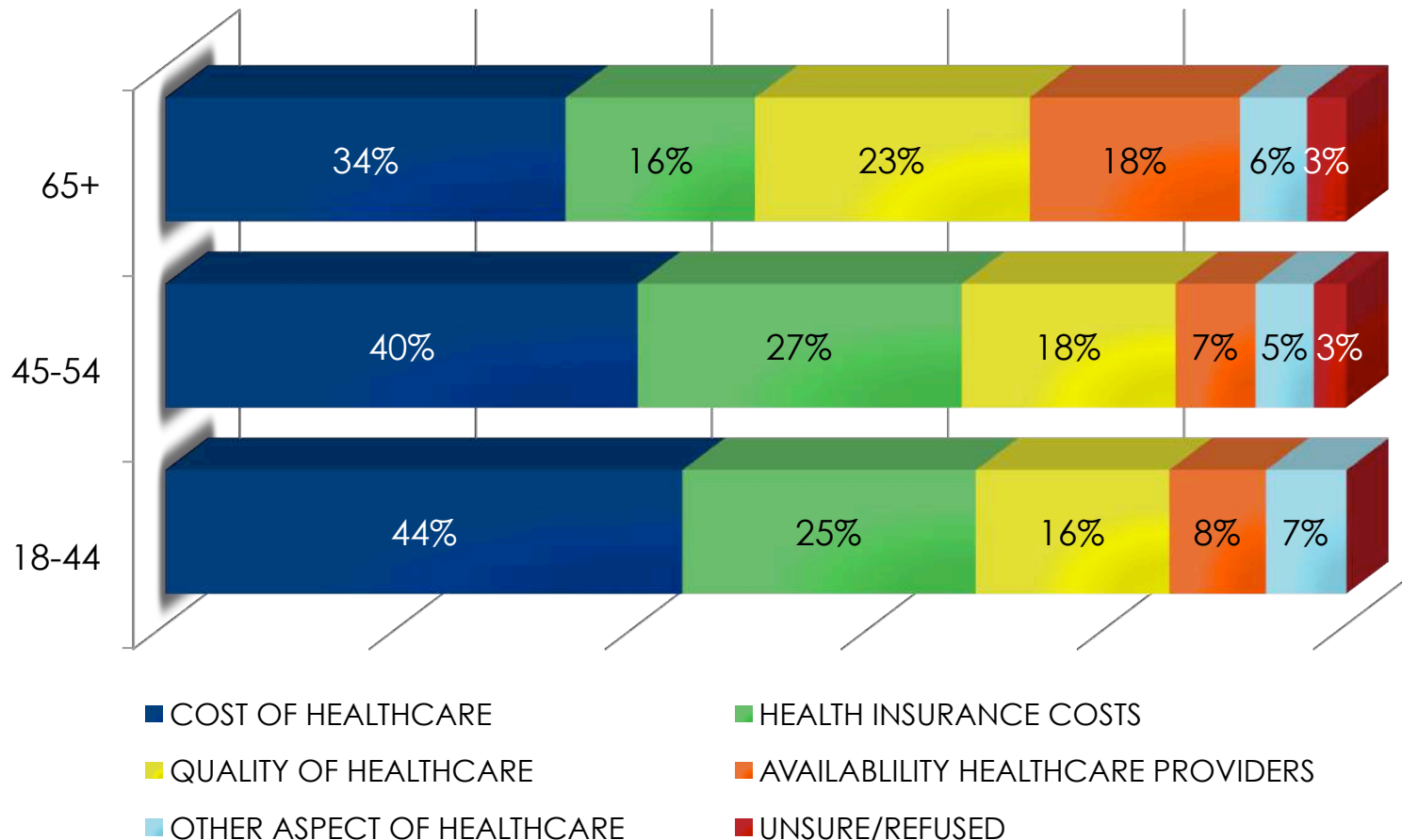
Thinking specifically about you and your family's healthcare, from the following list of options, which aspect of healthcare is most important to you?



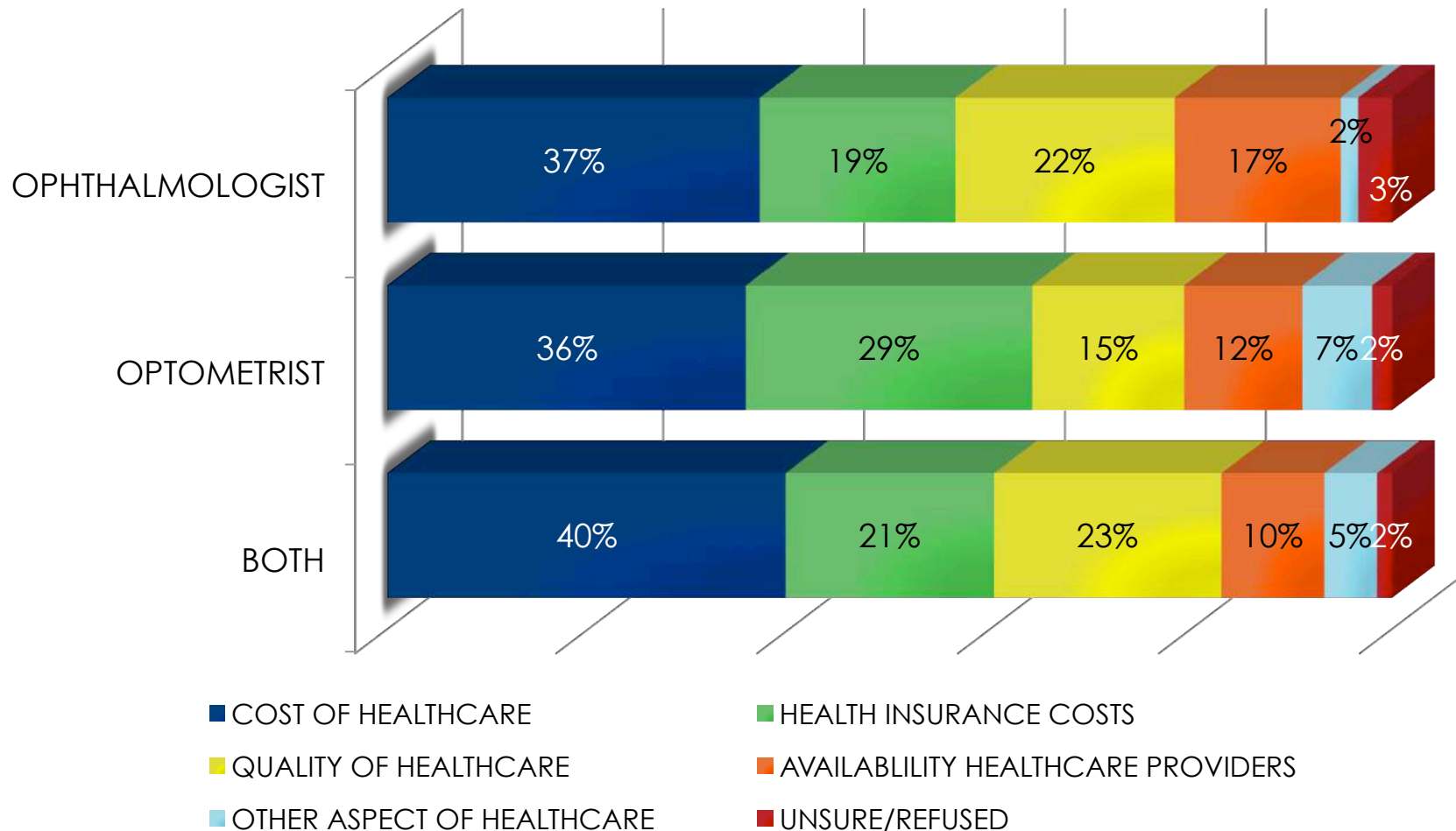
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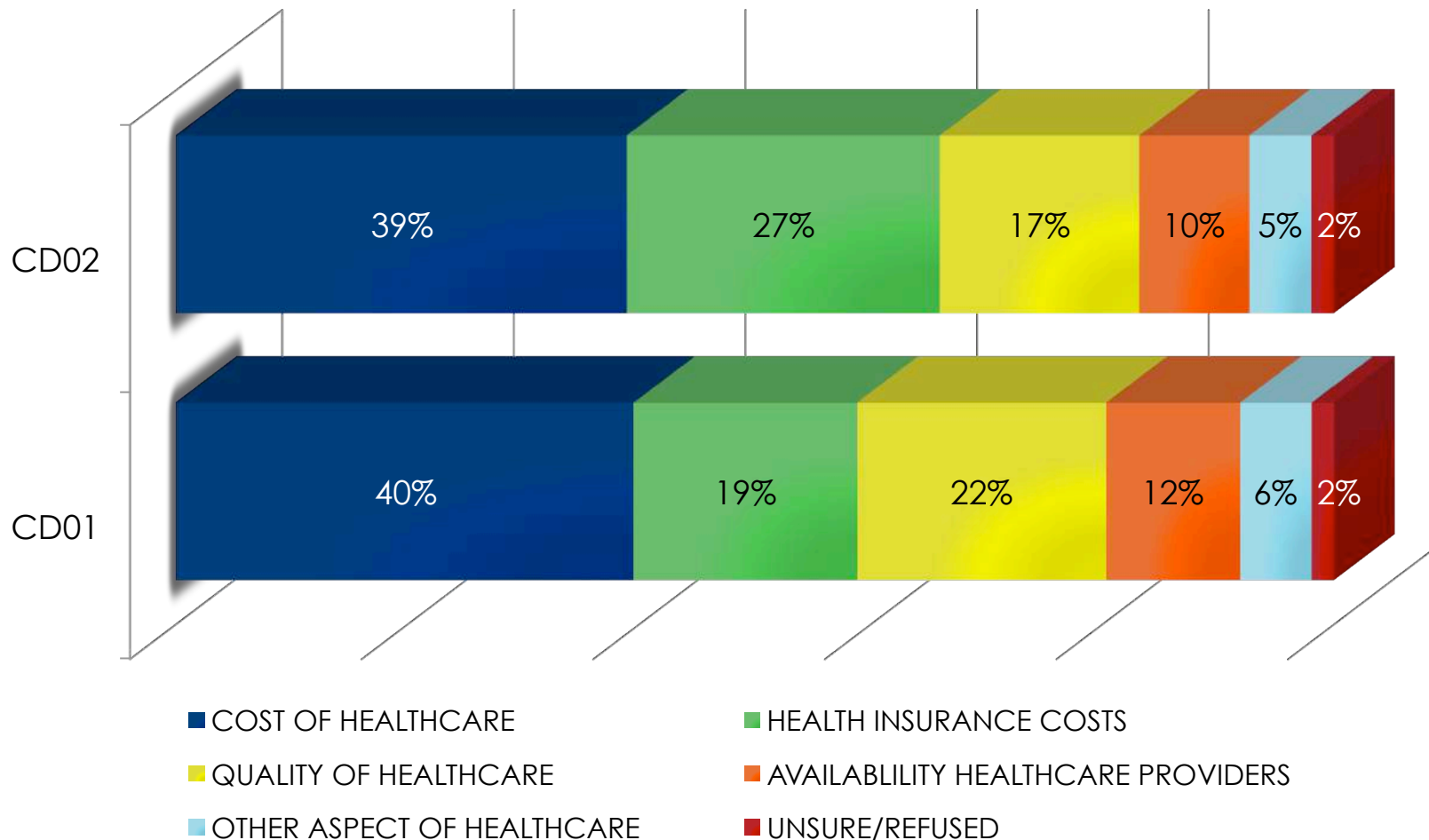
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VOTER OPINION OF OPTOMETRIST EYE SURGERY LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL



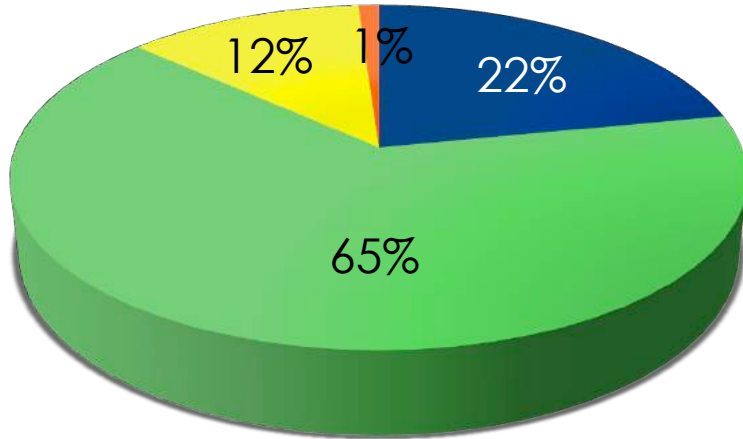
Voter Opinion of Optometrist Eye Surgery Legislative Proposal

“As you may know, current state law allows only ophthalmologists who are trained medical doctors and surgeons to perform any surgery that involves cutting human tissue on or close to the eye with a laser, scalpel, or other surgical instruments.

The Idaho legislature is currently considering a change to the law which would allow optometrists, who are not medical doctors, not trained surgeons, to perform certain surgical procedures in and around the eye.

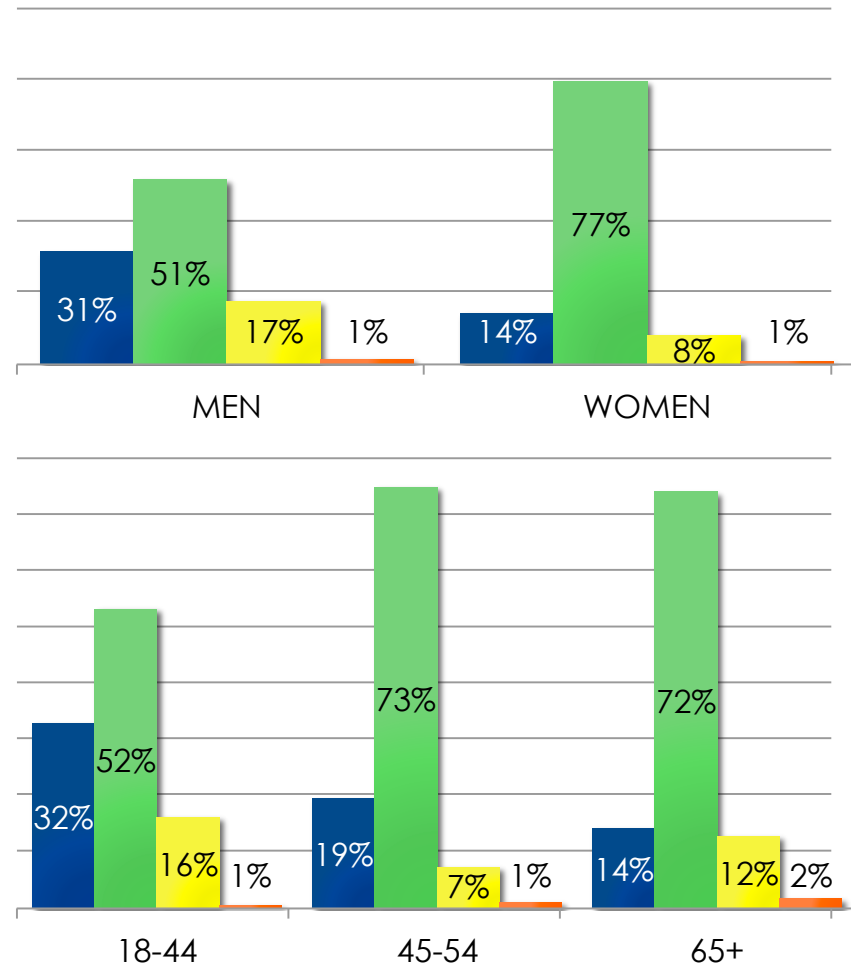
Knowing this information, do you support or oppose changing the state law to allow optometrists to perform eye surgeries with lasers, scalpels, or other surgical instruments? ”

Voter Opinion of Optometrist Eye Surgery Legislative Proposal

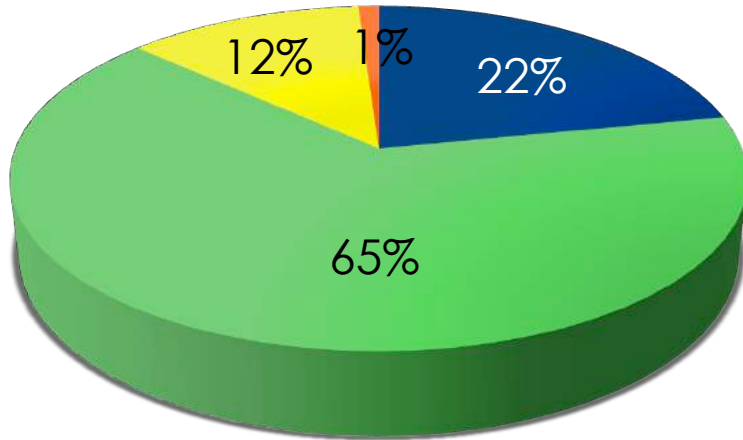


- TOTAL SUPPORT
- TOTAL OPPOSE
- UNSURE NO OPINION
- REFUSED

Strongly Support	7%
Somewhat Support	15%
Strongly Oppose	43%
Somewhat Oppose	22%

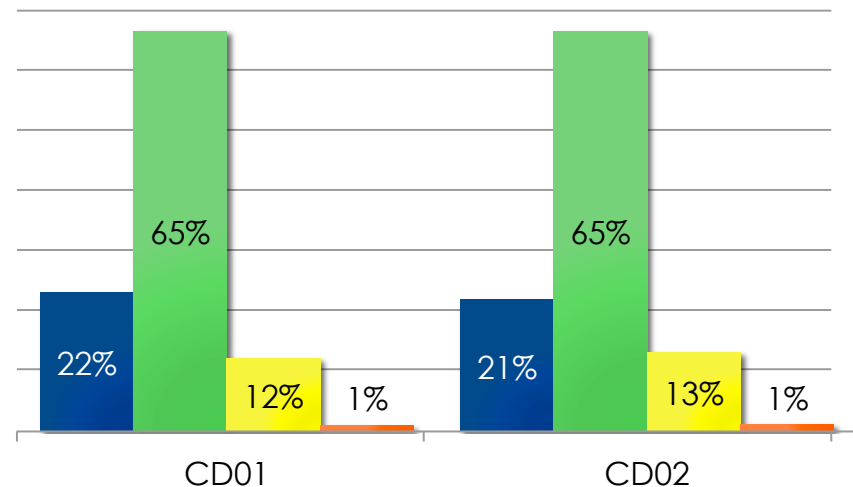
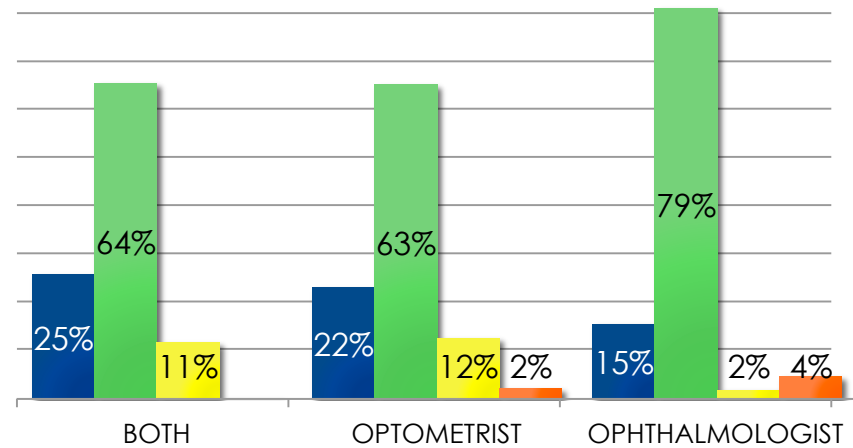


Voter Opinion of Optometrist Eye Surgery Legislative Proposal

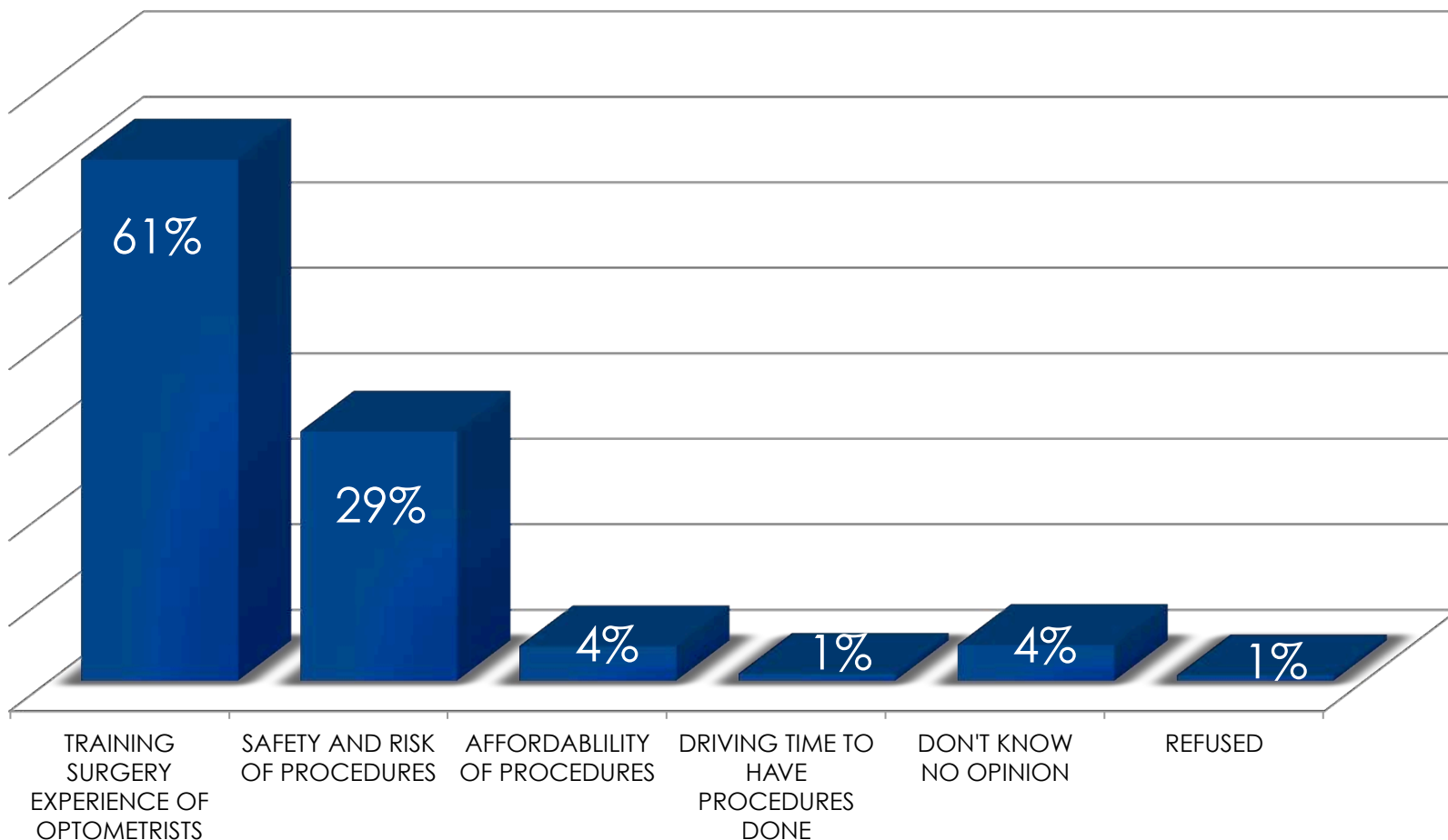


- TOTAL SUPPORT
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- REFUSED

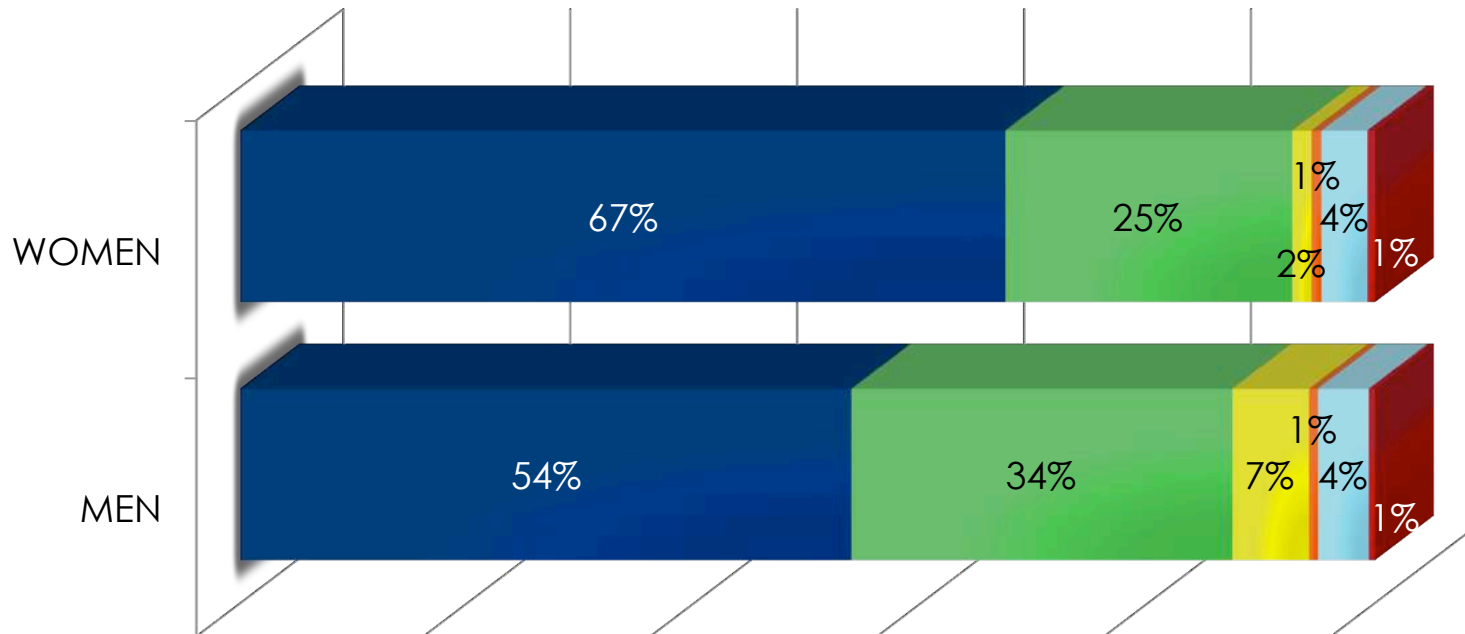
Strongly Support	7%
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Strongly Oppose	43%
Somewhat Oppose	22%



As I mentioned before, currently only licensed medical doctors and surgeons can perform surgery in and around the eye. However, legislators are considering a proposal to allow optometrists, for the first time ever in Idaho, to perform surgery with lasers and scalpels in and around the eyes of patients. Knowing this, which of the following options do you think is the most important issue that legislators should look at when considering this proposal?

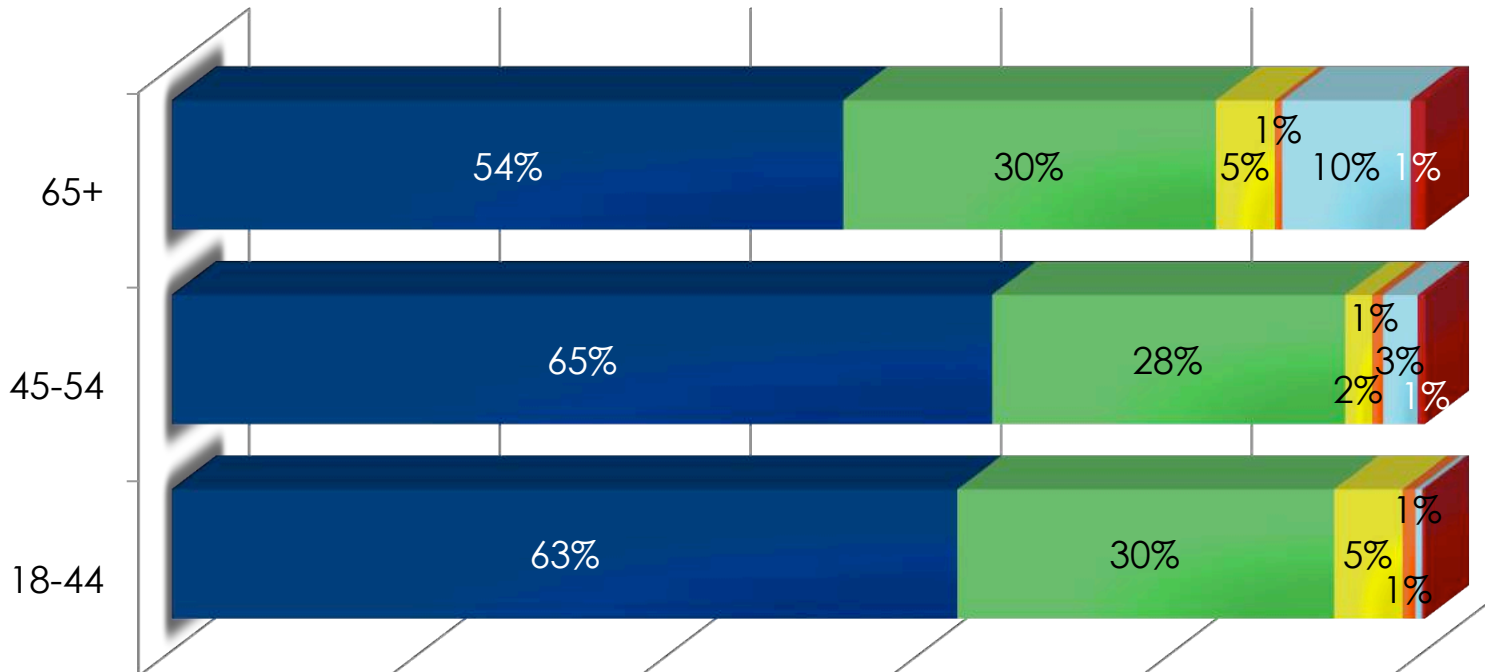


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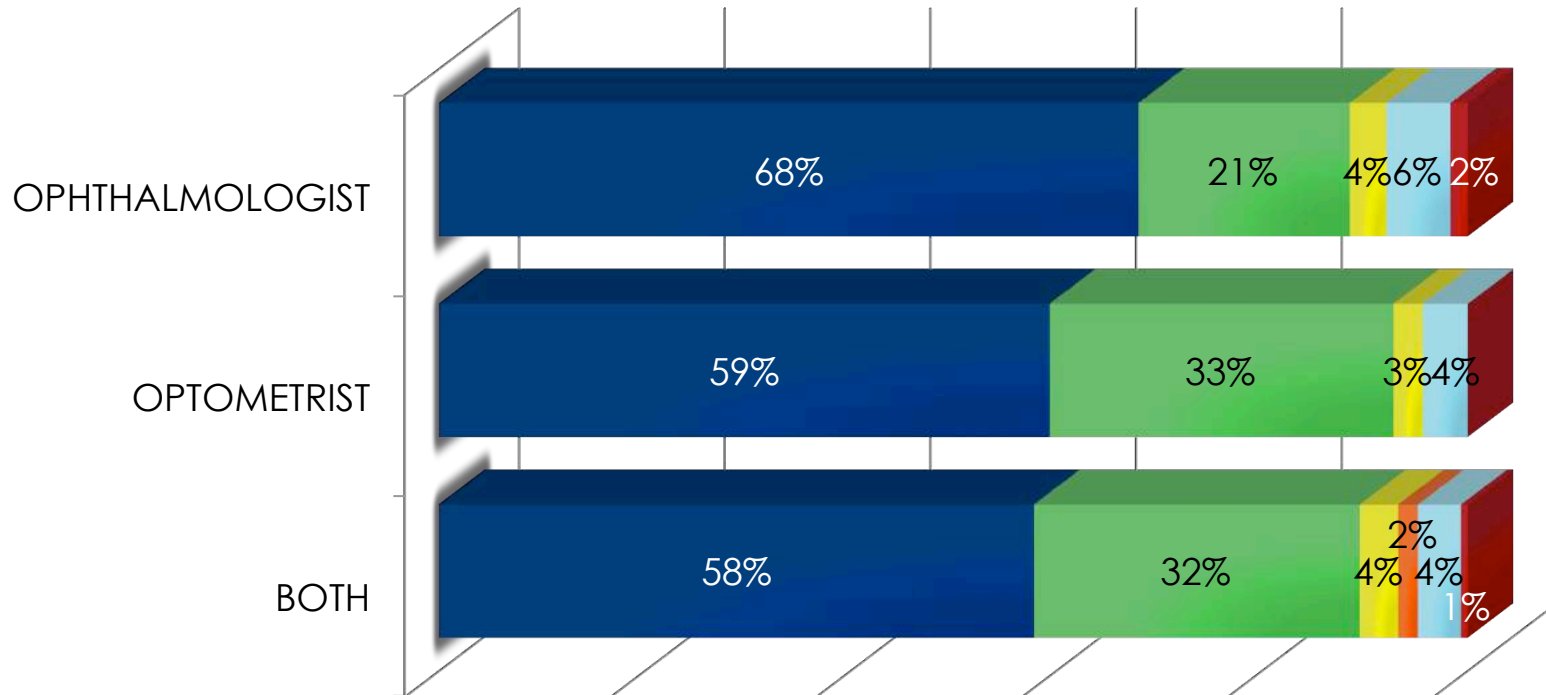
- TRAINING SURGERY EXPERIENCE OF OPTOMETRISTS
- SAFETY AND RISK OF PROCEDURES
- AFFORDABILITY OF PROCEDURES
- DRIVING TIME TO HAVE PROCEDURES DONE
- DON'T KNOW NO OPINION
- REFUSED

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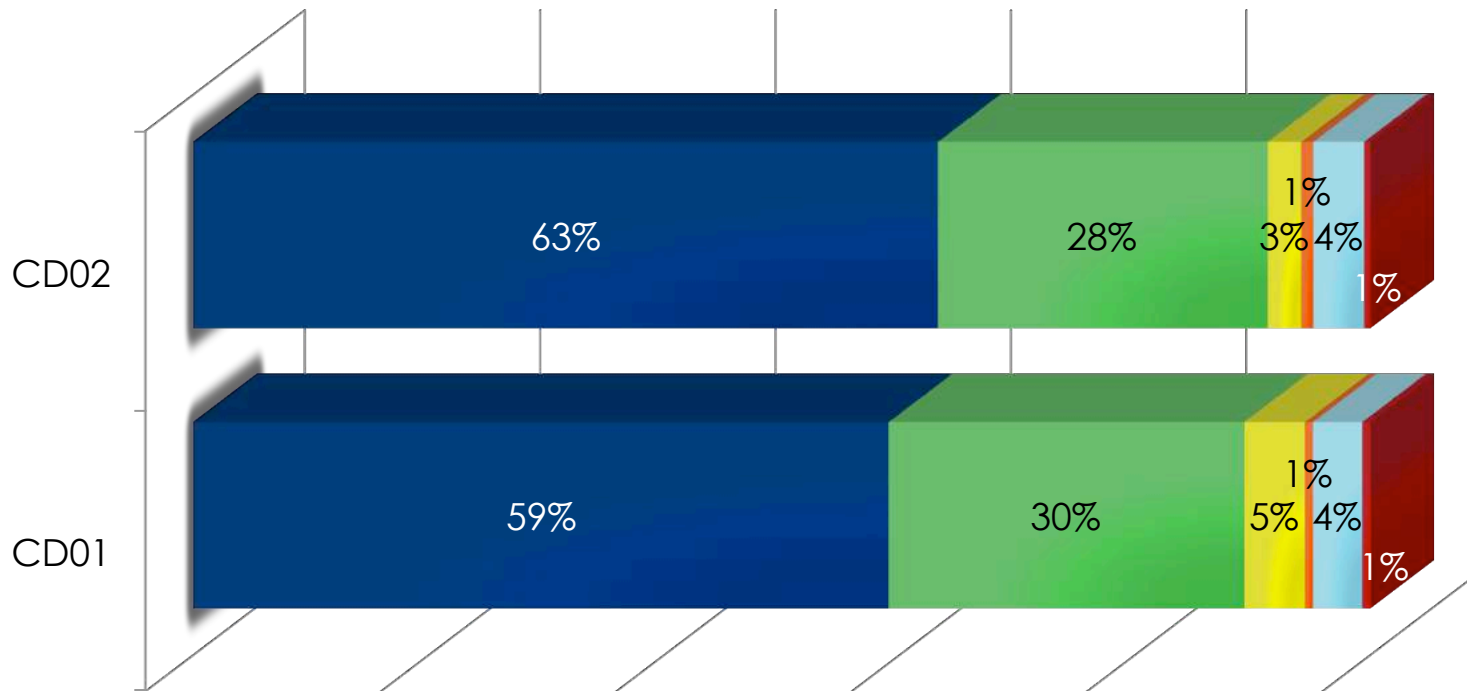
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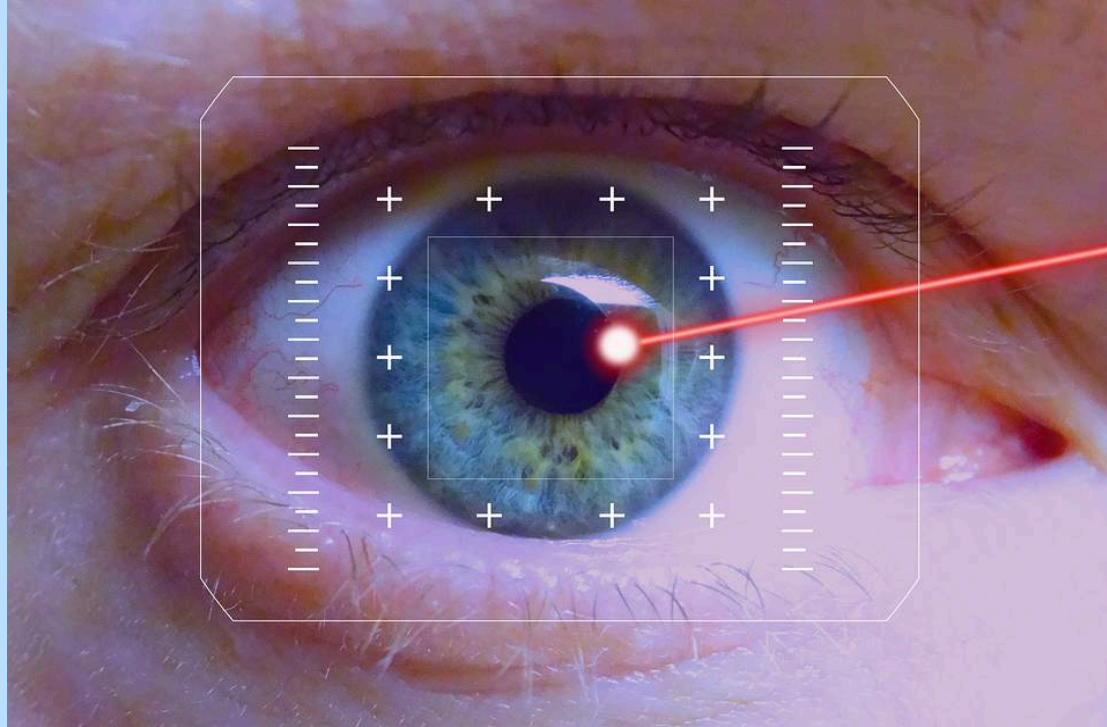


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- DRIVING TIME TO HAVE PROCEDURES DONE
- DON'T KNOW NO OPINION
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- TRAINING SURGERY EXPERIENCE OF OPTOMETRISTS
- SAFETY AND RISK OF PROCEDURES
- AFFORDABILITY OF PROCEDURES
- DRIVING TIME TO HAVE PROCEDURES DONE
- DON'T KNOW NO OPINION
- REFUSED



MORE INFORMED VOTER OPINIONS OF CHANGING THE LAW

Voter Opinion on Optometrist Legislative Proposal Messages

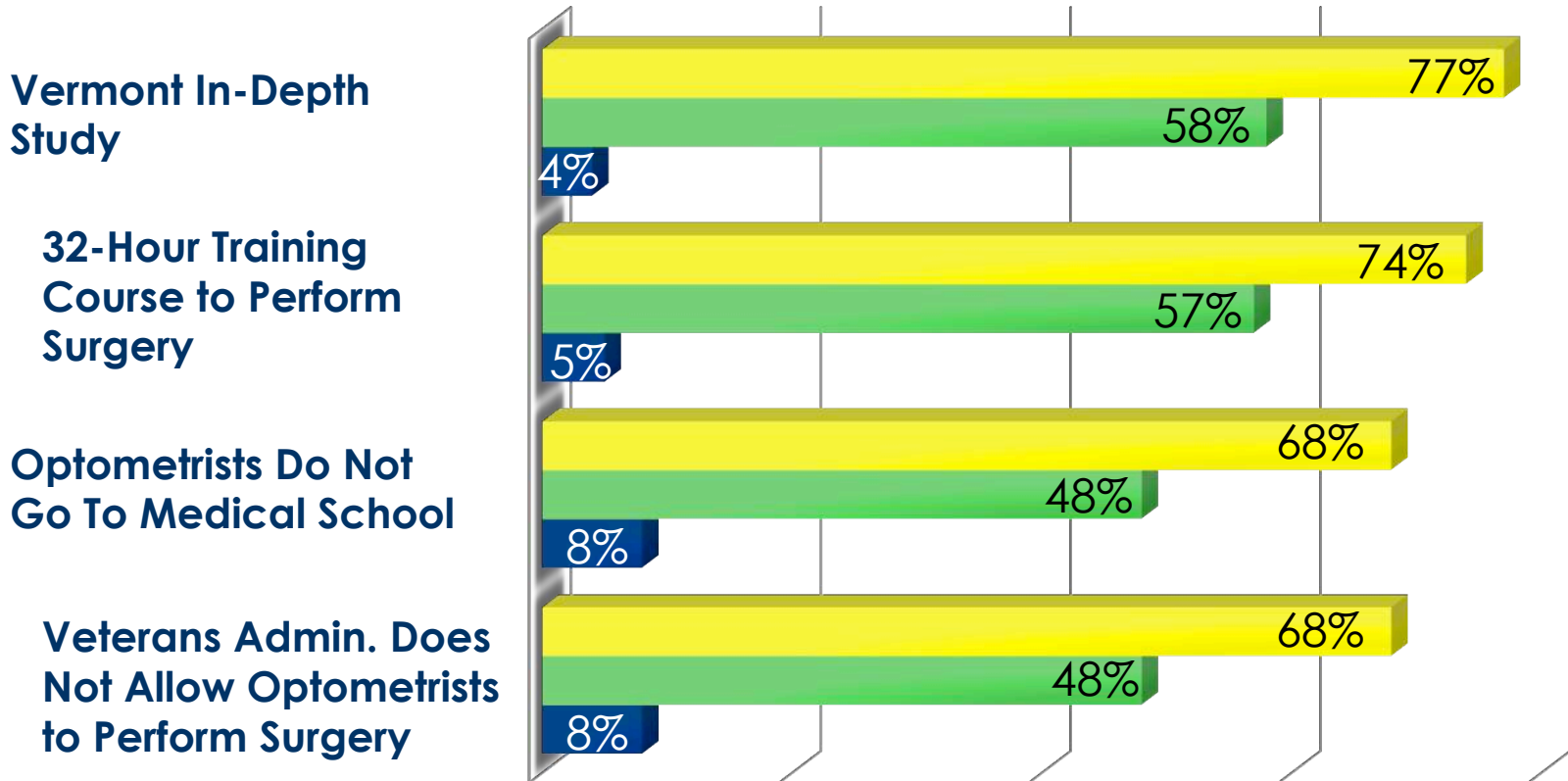
- **Optometrists Do Not Go To Medical School:** For an ophthalmologist to be certified to perform surgery, they must complete 4 years of medical school followed by at least an additional 4-year clinical and surgical residency before performing surgery on their own. Optometrists do not go to medical school. Instead, they attend four years of optometry school where they complete a program studying general eye care, but with limited medical training and no required surgical residency training. Knowing this information, are you more likely to support or oppose changing the law to allow optometrists to perform surgery ?
- **32-Hour Training Course to Perform Surgery:** Optometrists are not trained medical doctors or surgeons and are currently prohibited from performing surgery. However, if the Idaho legislature changes the law, optometrists could be certified to perform laser and scalpel surgeries in and around the eyes by just attending a 32-hour training course. Knowing this information, are you more likely to support or oppose changing the law?
- **Veterans Admin. Does Not Allow Optometrists to Perform Surgery:** The Veterans Administration uses the services of both ophthalmologists and optometrists. However, the VA does not allow optometrists in any VA facility in the United States to perform any type of laser surgery in or around the eyes of their veteran patients. Knowing this information, are you more likely to support or oppose changing the law to allow optometrists in Idaho to perform surgery?

Voter Opinion on Optometrist Legislative Proposal Messages

- **Vermont In-Depth Study:** In 2019 the Vermont state legislature considered a proposal that would have allowed optometrists to perform “advanced procedures”, including various types of surgery on and around the eye. The legislature directed their Office of Professional Regulation to conduct an in-depth study to “*evaluate the safety and public health needs of enlarging the scope of practice of optometrists to include advanced procedures*”. Their report stated “*after consulting with stakeholders and conducting extensive and thorough research, we could not conclude that optometrists were properly trained in or could safely perform the proposed advanced procedures*”, including various types of surgery on and around the eye. The report also stated there was a lack of evidence that optometric education prepares optometrists to perform advanced surgical eye procedures that would be permitted under the new law, and there was minimal cost savings to consumers. For these reasons, the Office of Professional Regulation recommended AGAINST the proposal to allow optometrists to perform “advanced procedures”. Knowing this information, are you more likely to support or oppose changing the law to allow optometrists in Idaho to perform surgery?

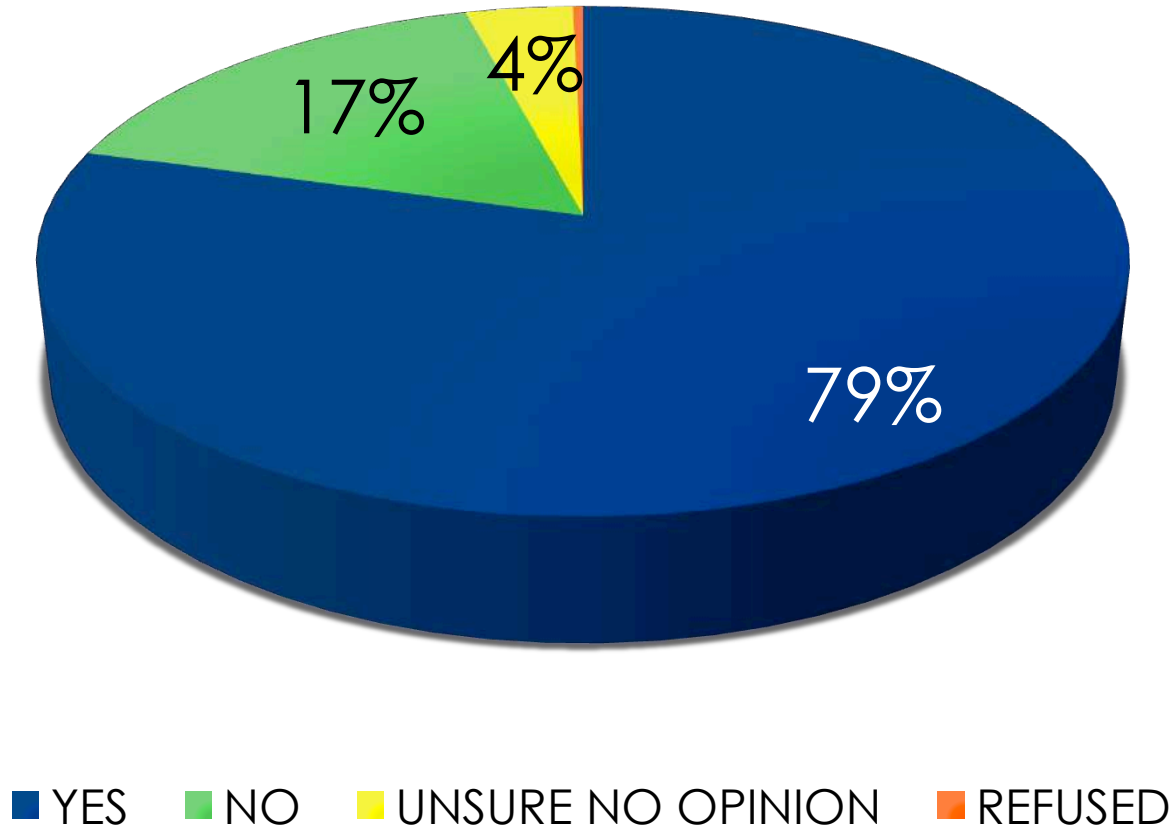
Voter Opinion on Optometrist Legislative Proposal Messages

~Ranked by More Likely to Oppose~



■ TOTAL More Likely to OPPOSE
■ Much More Likely to OPPOSE
■ No Difference

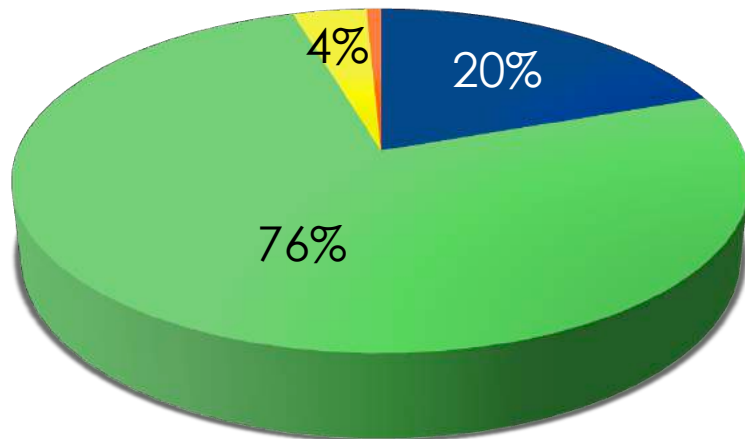
If the state of Idaho were to change the law and allow optometrists to perform surgery, do you think an optometrist should be required to complete four years of clinical and surgical training after optometry school, the same as required for ophthalmologists after they complete medical school?





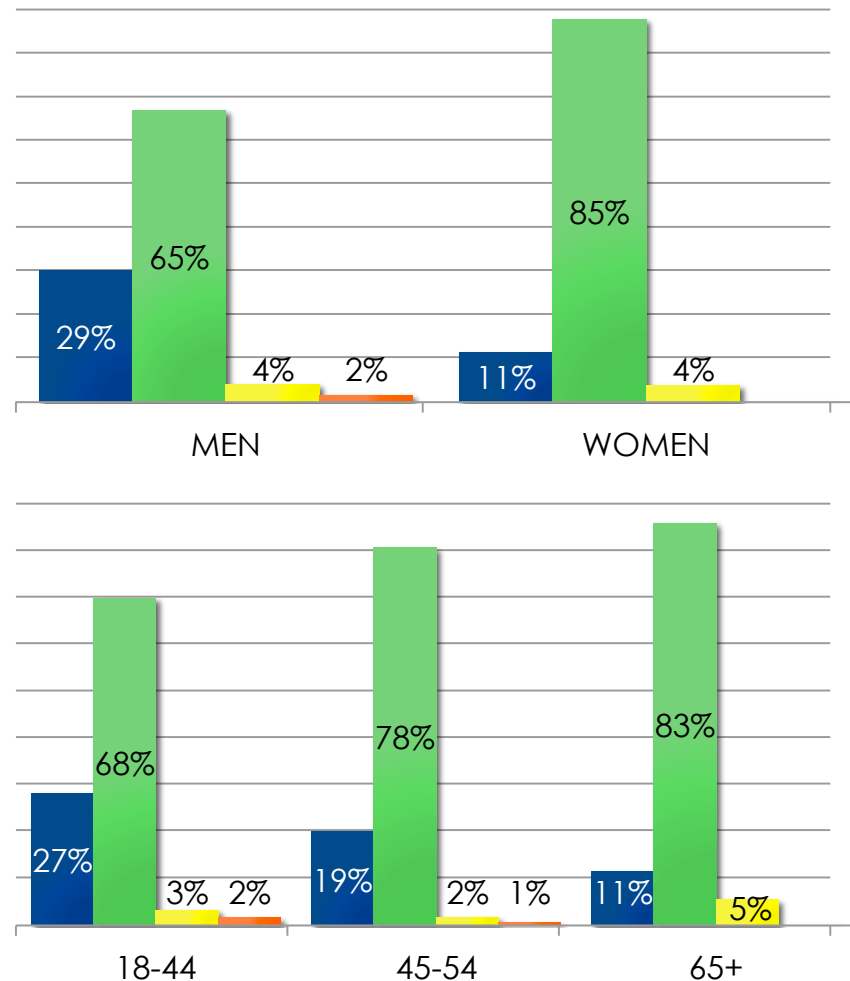
INFORMED VOTER OPINION OF OPTOMETRIST EYE SURGERY LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

Now that you have heard some information about changing the law, do you support or oppose changing state law to allow optometrists to perform eye surgeries with lasers, scalpels, or other surgical instruments?

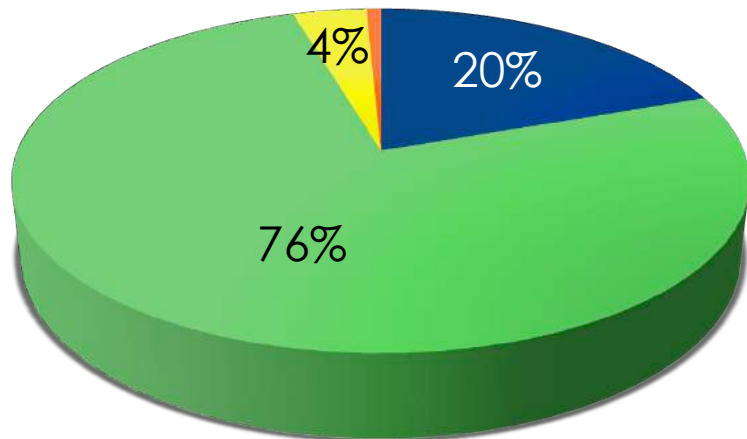


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Strongly Support	10%
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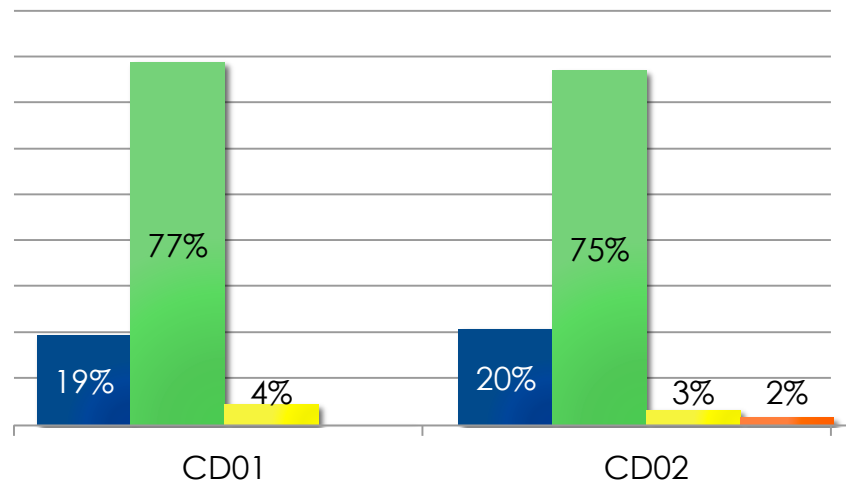
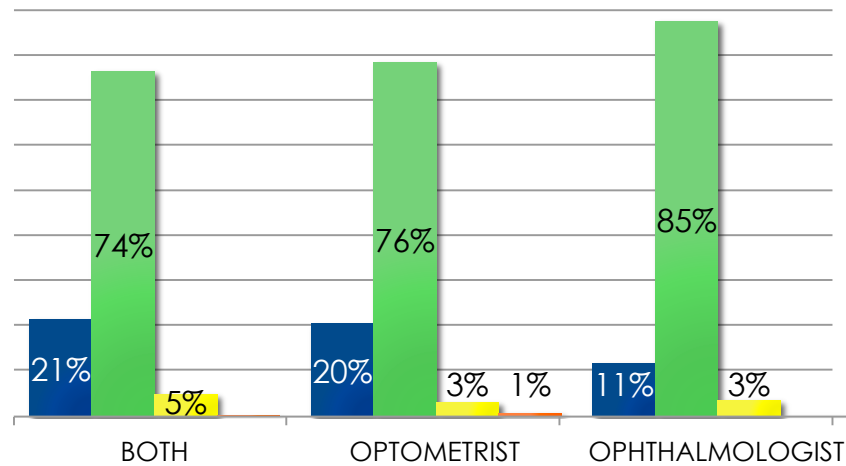


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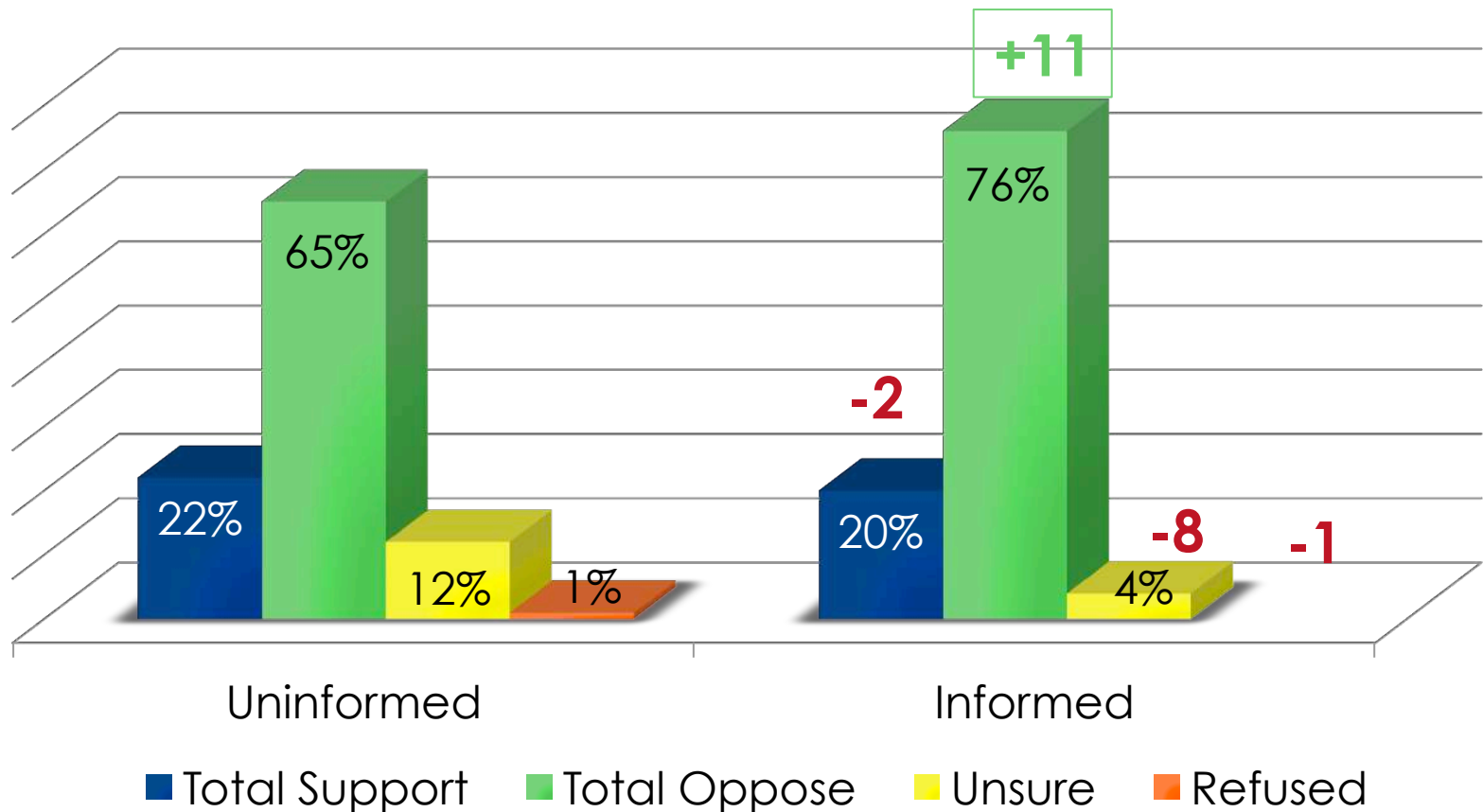
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Voter Opinion of Optometrist Eye Surgery Legislative Proposal

Uninformed vs. Informed



David Flaherty | Courtney Sievers
Ryan Winger



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