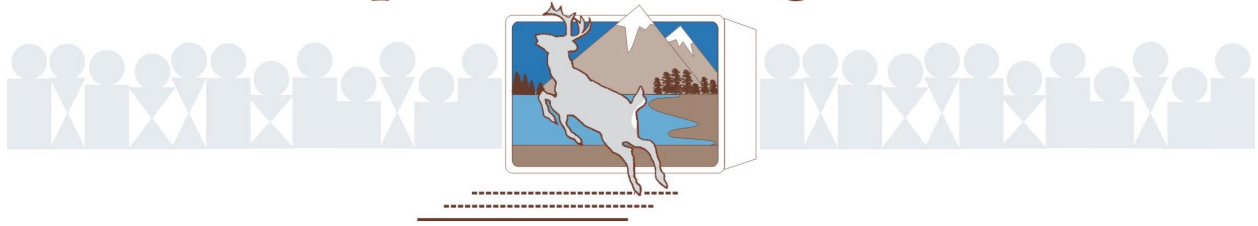


# Responsive Management



## ATTITUDES TOWARD AND AWARENESS OF TRAPPING ISSUES IN CONNECTICUT, INDIANA AND WISCONSIN

Conducted for the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
And the Furbearer Resources Technical Work Group



Conducted by Responsive Management  
May 2001

# **ATTITUDES TOWARD AND AWARENESS OF TRAPPING ISSUES IN CONNECTICUT, INDIANA AND WISCONSIN**

**May 2001**

## **CONDUCTED BY RESPONSIVE MANAGEMENT NATIONAL OFFICE**

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# **EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW**

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## **Executive Overview of Findings, Implications and Conclusions**

The purpose of this project was to assist the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) and the Furbearer Resources Technical Work Group in better understanding public awareness of, opinions on, and attitudes toward trapping.

There were five phases to this project. Phase I was a series of focus groups with members of the general population in Connecticut, Wisconsin, and Indiana (Chapter 1). Phase II consisted of focus groups with two important stakeholder groups: Wildlife professionals (Chapter III), and Veterinarians (Chapter 1).

Phase III consisted of utilizing the focus group results to develop a comprehensive group of questions regarding the most salient issues related to public opinion on, and attitudes toward trapping. These survey questions formed the basis of the development of three separate survey instruments that can be used by wildlife agencies to periodically assess attitudes toward trapping on a local, state or national level (Chapter IV). The three surveys designed include a baseline survey, a trends survey, and questions that could be included in an omnibus survey. The baseline survey is the most comprehensive survey and was designed to provide an agency or organization with a comprehensive baseline level of knowledge regarding public attitudes toward trapping. This instrument was designed to be used in the initiation of a project with the goals of better understanding public opinion on and attitudes toward trapping and communicating the benefits of trapping to the public. The trends survey is a subset of the baseline survey and was designed to monitor public opinion on, and attitudes toward trapping. This trends survey could be used at periodic intervals (2-3 years) to monitor public opinion. The omnibus survey is a further subset

of the trends survey and was designed to allow an agency to keep abreast of public opinion on trapping on an annual basis or when budget constraints limit the amount of information that can be collected.

Phase IV of this project consisted of administering the full baseline survey in three pilot states: Connecticut, Indiana and Wisconsin (Chapter III) (The survey instrument used in the pilot states can be found in Appendix A).

Phase V consisted of identifying the most salient issues regarding the public and trapping in this Executive Overview in order to provide the IAFWA, Furbearer Resources Technical Work Group and the state fish and wildlife agencies with 1) An overview of public opinion on and attitudes toward trapping and 2) The implications of this research for developing effective outreach programs to best communicate the benefits of trapping and increasing public support for trapping.

## **Public Opinion on Trapping**

The survey results in this study suggest that the public may be shedding some of its highly negative opinions on trapping. In this study, 73% of Wisconsin residents, 68% of Indiana residents and 58% of Connecticut residents approved of regulated trapping. Although not directly comparable because of locale and specific question wording, a study conducted in 1994 indicated that nationwide, 34% of Americans approved of trapping while 59% disapproved (Duda et al. 1998). In Illinois in 1994, 22% of Illinois residents approved of trapping while 71% disapproved (Duda et al. 1998).

These findings should not be construed as the public becoming strongly *supportive* of trapping, but rather that the public may be becoming less *negative* towards trapping. Caution should be exhibited in interpreting these results. First, the quantified survey in this study was not

national in scope, but was administered in three pilot states: Connecticut, Indiana and Wisconsin. While the results from Wisconsin and Indiana may not be that surprising given the more rural nature and historical experience with trapping in these Midwestern states, the support for trapping -- at least lower than expected levels of opposition -- in the more urban, Northeastern State of Connecticut, may hint at a fundamental shift in public opinion on trapping. The second caution in interpreting the results of this study as a shift in public tolerance of trapping is that this study placed trapping within the context of, and under the purview of, the state fish and wildlife agency, a factor that was identified in this study as an important variable related to favorable attitudes toward trapping. Finally, this study used the term "regulated" trapping, another variable that was identified in this study that was correlated to positive opinions on trapping. Nevertheless, the overall results of this study indicate that the public appears more supportive, and less opposed to regulated trapping in Connecticut, Indiana and Wisconsin than past studies (that are not directly comparable) have indicated.

There are several possible reasons for this potential shift in public opinion on trapping. The first is the increasing abundance of wildlife inhabiting suburban and urban areas. The focus groups indicated an enhanced awareness of an increased presence of wildlife and the problems they can cause, especially in urban and suburban areas. The telephone survey indicated that more than one-third of respondents had experienced problems with wildlife in their neighborhoods or around their home, such as raccoons getting into garbage cans and garden and lawn damage.

The second possible reason may be due to an overall decrease in the amount of anti-trapping information that is being disseminated to the public by animal rights organizations. During the past few years, animal rights organizations have taken on numerous additional animal

rights causes, including anti-fishing campaigns and others, and there is the possibility that the overall amount of anti-trapping information has been decreased as these organizations have shifted their focus and resources to other animal-rights-related causes. In the survey, only a small minority of respondents had seen or heard any advertising, information or news coverage that showed negative things about trapping (12% in Wisconsin, 7% in Indiana and 16% in Connecticut). Statistical analyses indicated that there was a significant difference between those respondents who disapproved of trapping versus all other respondents in the total amount of negative information about trapping they had seen or heard within the past year. The third reason the public may be shedding some of its highly negative opinions on trapping may be due to increased public awareness that bans on trapping in some states have led to an overabundance of wildlife and an increased number of wildlife-related problems. As one focus group respondent noted, *“One thing in Connecticut that you’re going to see happen is like what they did in Massachusetts. They banned trapping on beavers and they’ve got a real problem in Massachusetts and now the State is spending \$2 million a year trying to regulate beaver problems. You don’t have problems like that here because we allow trapping in the state.”*

The fourth possible reason may be due simply to a more tolerant attitude among the public toward trapping or at least a shedding of the highly negative views of trapping that have been identified in past research.

Overall this study hints that the public may have become slightly more tolerant of trapping. However, because past research is not directly comparable, definitive statements on this possible trend cannot be made. The lack of comparability of survey research points out the importance of a regular public opinion monitoring system using a standardized survey instrument administered using the same methodology at regularly scheduled intervals.

## **The Big Picture**

Any understanding of public attitudes toward trapping must recognize the three underlying fundamental issues regarding public attitudes toward trapping:

- The public cares deeply about America's wildlife resources;
- The public does not take lightly the killing of animals;
- The public is highly uninformed about trapping.

Literally all of the findings in this study come down to these three underlying "truths" regarding public attitudes toward trapping and virtually all of the findings in this study come down to one or more of these core fundamental issues. Any assessment of the public regarding attitudes toward trapping must take these core issues into account and any communications campaign designed to increase public support for trapping must keep in mind these three fundamental underlying values. Everything else appears to flow from these three issues.

The first issue affecting public attitudes toward trapping is that the public cares deeply about America's wildlife resources. Many people are concerned about the impact trapping may have on the wildlife resource and there was a direct statistical correlation between opposition to trapping and agreement with the statement, "Even though trapping is regulated by the state, regulated trapping can still cause wildlife species to become endangered." This is why the terms "regulated" trapping and "legal" trapping are so important when discussing trapping and why the use of these terms can alter public opinion on trapping dramatically. The public wants to be assured that trapping will not harm or endanger America's wildlife resources. The state fish and wildlife agencies play a key role here. They are seen as the most credible source for information

on trapping for many reasons, but one of the more important reasons is that they are legally charged with the protection of the wildlife resource.

The second key to understanding public attitudes toward trapping is that the public does not take lightly the killing of animals. Killing animals is serious business to most people and any motive for killing (trapping) animals that is not seen as serious will be rejected. It should not be taken lightly the survey results that show major swings in public opinion on trapping based on the reasons for trapping. It is remarkable that (using Wisconsin as an example) 88% of Wisconsin residents support trapping for animal population control while 66% of the same people oppose trapping for recreation. Trapping here is not the issue as much as the reason for trapping, and the pattern is crystal clear. Trapping for activities that ultimately help wildlife (trapping for relocation or trapping as part of a biological study) and trapping to protect human health or property (trapping for food, trapping to reduce crop/garden damage and trapping to reduce human property damage) are acceptable while trapping for perceived superfluous reasons (trapping to make money, trapping for fur clothing and trapping for recreation) are rejected. The public does not take lightly the killing of animals; all outreach efforts must take this into account.

The third fundamental issue regarding public attitudes toward trapping is the public is highly uninformed about trapping. In the absence of information on trapping, the public is free to project on to trapping whatever image first comes to mind. And for much of the public, the image of trapping is still one burned in the American psyche so many years ago: that of a helpless animal doing anything it can to escape a “steel-toothed” trap, including chewing off its own leg. To this day, this image of trapping, to many, still exists.



## General Population and Veterinarian Focus Groups Overview

*“Well a trapped animal will do anything to get away, even chewing off it’s own foot...I mean the animal is going to do whatever to get away.”*

-Focus Group Participant, Indianapolis, Indiana

*“I have a perfect example of me flipping on the trapping thing. In our backyard I have a deck. I had this squirrel that would come up to my door and it would stand at my patio door. It got to the point that I was afraid to let my kids go outside because I didn’t know what the squirrel was doing and I didn’t know why it became friendly. It would sit on the rails and a few times I threw some rubber coasters at it and it would just sit there until I hit it. I remember that I was at the point where I was about to call the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or whoever you call because I had some real concerns [that] maybe there was something wrong with this squirrel. I would have been all for trapping then.”*

-Focus Group Participant, Appleton, Wisconsin

*“When you first asked that question I thought, “I don’t like the term renewable, as if we can do what we want now because we can renew it. We can always get more.” I think that’s kind of dangerous to walk into that thinking that we can do what we want just because it is something that can come back. I think without taking care of it in the first place, it is no longer renewable.”*

-Focus Group Participant, Appleton, Wisconsin

*“We just had a little dog in a couple of weeks ago that was attacked by a coyote right on the end of its little run line...That to me is a clear example of what needs to be dealt with; that to me is a problem.*

-Veterinarian, Focus Group Participant, Hartford, Connecticut

The general population and veterinarian focus group findings identified many key issues regarding attitudes toward trapping. Focus group respondents were not very knowledgeable about trapping practices or trapping devices. Respondents somewhat or strongly approved of trapping for food. They also approved of trapping for subsistence, but to a lesser extent. In contrast, respondents strongly disapproved of trapping for recreation and trapping to make money. Trapping for disease control, population control (damage control), biodiversity programs and research also had little support. Focus group respondents did not understand trapping as a management tool within these functions and felt that alternative methods existed.

Focus group respondents did not like discussing wildlife as “renewable” because they felt that this term implied that animals do not need to be protected. The message that most resonated in increasing support for trapping was related to the fact that trapping was regulated by the State in a scientific manner. The humane treatment of animals and the protection of the wildlife resource were of primary concern for the focus group respondents.

The use of the term “natural resource” as it pertains to wildlife is not inherently misunderstood, nor did it have a particularly negative connotation with respondents of the focus groups. However, the use of the term “renewable,” especially as it is applied to wildlife resources does seem to have some negative associations. The concept that wildlife resources, if managed, can be sustained is not the issue. Rather, the term “renewable” seems to indicate, in the minds of some, the idea that wildlife does not need protection in so far as individual animals are concerned.

The notion that people are concerned with the treatment of individual animals and wildlife populations was significant in so far as attitudes toward trapping are concerned. The focus group respondents who were not inherently opposed to trapping *per se* but were influenced by concerns for the treatment of individual animals and the health of the wildlife resource. Thus, arguments that these animals are “renewable” may not be a good approach to influencing those opinions since the term “renewable” has a negative connotation of requiring less protection of individual animals and the connotation that “renewable” indicated that there was no need to conserve wildlife resources as they could always be “renewed.”

Lack of knowledge about trap types and trapping methods was evident in all four focus groups. Several respondents held the perception that foot-hold traps were large and had “teeth.”

Lack of specific knowledge about trapping should not be interpreted to mean a lack of interest or awareness about other wildlife related issues. In all of the focus groups, there was interest in and concern for wildlife and wildlife issues. Trapping is seen as a marginal activity compared to more mainstream issues, such as endangered species, wildlife conservation and hunting and fishing.

A prevailing topic of the groups was the humaneness of traps. For the most part respondents were not aware that foot-hold traps could be made so as not to injure the trapped animal. When told that foot-hold traps did not necessarily injure the animal, respondents expressed skepticism toward the statement. Respondents recognized the conundrum that “kill” traps, while humane in the sense that animal suffering was reduced, also had the problem of occasionally killing non-target species. On the whole, the groups still favored kill traps over foot-hold traps. The exception to this was so-called “drowning” traps. The idea of drowning an animal in a trap was, in general, not accepted.

State agencies are seen as the most credible source of information on trapping and other wildlife related issues. Service organizations, private organizations, and conservation groups have other levels of credibility but are seen as having “an agenda” and therefore not entirely unbiased. The high level of credibility given to state agencies however is fragile. State agencies need to be viewed as unbiased and fair to all sides. State agencies are expected to represent all citizens regardless of their opinions on trapping. If this right to equal representation is impinged upon, then the credibility of the agency will suffer.

The messages tested that produced the strongest response were those related to the regulated nature of trapping by state agencies, the use of scientific information in developing trapping regulations and the fact that these regulations are strictly enforced. Although many of

the focus group respondents disapproved of trapping, they were somewhat mollified by the idea that trapping was closely regulated and that trapping regulations were based on scientific information. Use of such messages should prove effective given the credibility of the agencies so long as they do not sound defensive or negative. Positive messages and information that represents the interests of more than one group would work best.

### **Wildlife Professional's Focus Group Overview**

*I think from the point of view of most of us at the table, it's a matter of minimizing trauma to trapped animals. I think trapping is essential whether it's for damage, recreation, or a population is out of balance. Whether it's because of issues of disease: concern with rabies, distemper, and a whole host of other potentially communicable diseases to the human population, where trapping becomes a best management practice in minimizing disease to humans. So, I don't know if you are going to get a lot of argument against trapping. I think the issue, though, is that a number of organizations have made an issue of suffering by trapped animals; so, it's only prudent to attempt to minimize that.*

- Wisconsin Professional Wildlife Manager Focus Group Participant

There was a consensual support for recreational trapping among the wildlife professionals in this focus group. Given the fact that the group was self-selected from among attendees at the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society, this is not surprising.

This group agreed that there was a need to maintain recreational trapping as a management tool for wildlife professionals. The usage of private, or recreational, trappers was considered to be a necessary aspect of the management of several species and even as a wildlife tool in specific conditions, such as urban nuisance animal complaints.

These wildlife professionals agreed that the humane treatment of animals was an important consideration in modern management programs. However, this was primarily seen as a perception on the part of the public that foot-hold traps were not humane. The group recognized the difficulty of informing the public that foot-hold traps were humane and selective.

The use of trapping in management programs seems best applied to specific situations. Trapping in biodiversity programs and as part of endangered species management programs seemed questionable to the group. However, the group agreed that trapping plays an important role in landowner relations and damage control. Specifically, the group concurred with the message that recreational trapping is a valuable service.

The fiscal value of trapping was not considered to be a major reason to advocate recreational trapping. Rather, the fact that the wildlife professionals believe that trapping is just as legitimate as hunting and fishing as a use of a renewable resource was seen as a major reason to protect recreational trapping. The group felt that the message that recreational trapping saved taxpayers money was not appropriate.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be well received by wildlife professionals if this focus group was an adequate representation of other wildlife professionals. This group was somewhat aware of BMPs and saw implications for wildlife professionals to instruct others about the importance of BMPs.

## Telephone Survey Findings Overview

*“I think that it’s an issue of whether or not it’s humane.”*

-Focus Group Participant, Indianapolis, Indiana

*“I think that a Conservation Officer is the most trained and the most knowledgeable and probably the most unbiased person you could talk to.”*

-Veterinarian Focus Group Participant, Hartford, Connecticut

This quantitative telephone survey was conducted to determine general population awareness, opinions and attitudes toward regulated trapping and regulated trapping-related issues from three test states: Connecticut, Indiana and Wisconsin.

The majority of respondents were aware that residents in their respective states participated in trapping. Similar majorities to those who reported being aware of trappers in their state were also aware that the State regulated trapping. Sixty-five percent, 52% and 48% in Wisconsin, Indiana and Connecticut, respectively, reported they were familiar with the state agency that regulates and manages trapping. However, even though majorities were aware that the State regulated trapping, few knew of any specific programs initiated by the state concerning trapping.

In all three states, more respondents agreed than disagreed that trapping is more humane today than it was ten years ago. However, large percentages of respondents within each state reported they had no knowledge about the improvements, or the lack thereof, in making traps more humane. More than one-third of respondents reported they did not know if they agreed or disagreed that trapping is more humane today than it was ten years ago.

In addition, high percentages did not know how well their state agency regulated and managed trapping. Despite the high percentages of the population in each state that were unable to rate how well trapping was regulated and managed, most respondents indicated they were

either very confident or somewhat confident that their designated state agency properly managed their state's wildlife. Strong majorities also supported the idea of state fish and wildlife agencies working on ways to make trapping more humane.

When asked the straightforward question, "In general, do you approve or disapprove of regulated trapping?" majorities in all three states approved of trapping. Seventy-three percent of Wisconsin residents, 68% of Indiana residents and 58% of Connecticut residents approved of regulated trapping. It is important to note these approval ratings should be taken within the context of the state fish and wildlife agency's role in regulating trapping in the respondent's state, since this question followed a series of questions regarding the respondent's state fish and wildlife agency's management and regulation of trapping. This question taken within the context of a credible and generally supported state fish and wildlife agency may increase the acceptability of trapping in general. It appears that when regulated trapping is associated with state fish and wildlife agencies' efforts to regulate trapping, trapping has a higher approval rating. When respondents were asked, "Given that state fish and wildlife agencies are working on ways to make trapping more humane, do you support or oppose regulated trapping?" higher percentages supported regulated trapping than in the question that asked only, "Do you approve or disapprove of regulated trapping?"

Percentages that approved or disapproved of trapping varied widely when trapping was asked within the context of specific reasons people choose to trap. The type of trapping given the highest approval rating was trapping as part of a restoration program in which wild animals are relocated from where they are abundant to places where they once existed. Other reasons for trapping that received strong approval were trapping as a way to control wildlife populations from destroying wildlife habitats, subsistence trapping and trapping for food. Reasons for

trapping that were given the highest levels of disapproval were trapping as a way to make money, trapping for fur clothing and trapping for recreation.

Although there is widely varying levels of approval for different trapping purposes, there was agreement from surveyed respondents that people should be able to trap if they wish to participate in regulated trapping. Strong agreement existed for the statement, “I think people should have the freedom to choose to participate in regulated trapping if they want to.”

Wisconsin and Indiana respondents strongly agreed with this statement by about a 3 to 1 margin as well as a majority of Connecticut respondents.

Large percentages of residents had heard nothing either positive or negative about trapping in their state in the past 12 months. Of those who have seen or heard any advertising, information or news coverage concerning trapping in the past year, slightly more recalled hearing negative things about trapping. The single most credible sources of information about trapping within each of the three states surveyed were the respective state fish and wildlife agencies of Connecticut, Indiana and Wisconsin.

The state agencies within all three states were seen as the most credible sources of information on trapping. The lack of information about trapping plays a fundamental role in the level of approval or disapproval of trapping. The fact that state agencies are viewed as credible sources of information should be used as a resource to provide unbiased information to the public and help to improve understanding about trapping.



## **Analysis of Data**

Statistical analysis of key survey data revealed a general pattern where knowledge about trapping was significantly related to approval of trapping. This is a pattern of association (i.e., it is not possible to make a statement about cause).

Thirteen analyses were performed to answer two broad questions.

1. What is the underlying cause of attitudes toward trapping?
2. Knowing the answer to #1, what can be done to influence those attitudes?

Several statements about trapping were tested for their level of support among the 254 “disapprovers” (those who either strongly or moderately disapprove of trapping). Statements found acceptable by this group may be effective for increasing support for trapping among those most opposed to trapping. The top of Table 1 shows the statements found most palatable to this group. The statements are listed in order (by Z-value) of highest to lowest support. Most of those people who disapproved of trapping supported the use of trapping for wildlife relocation. Most of these same people also felt that trapping, even when regulated by the state could lead to the extinction of a species.

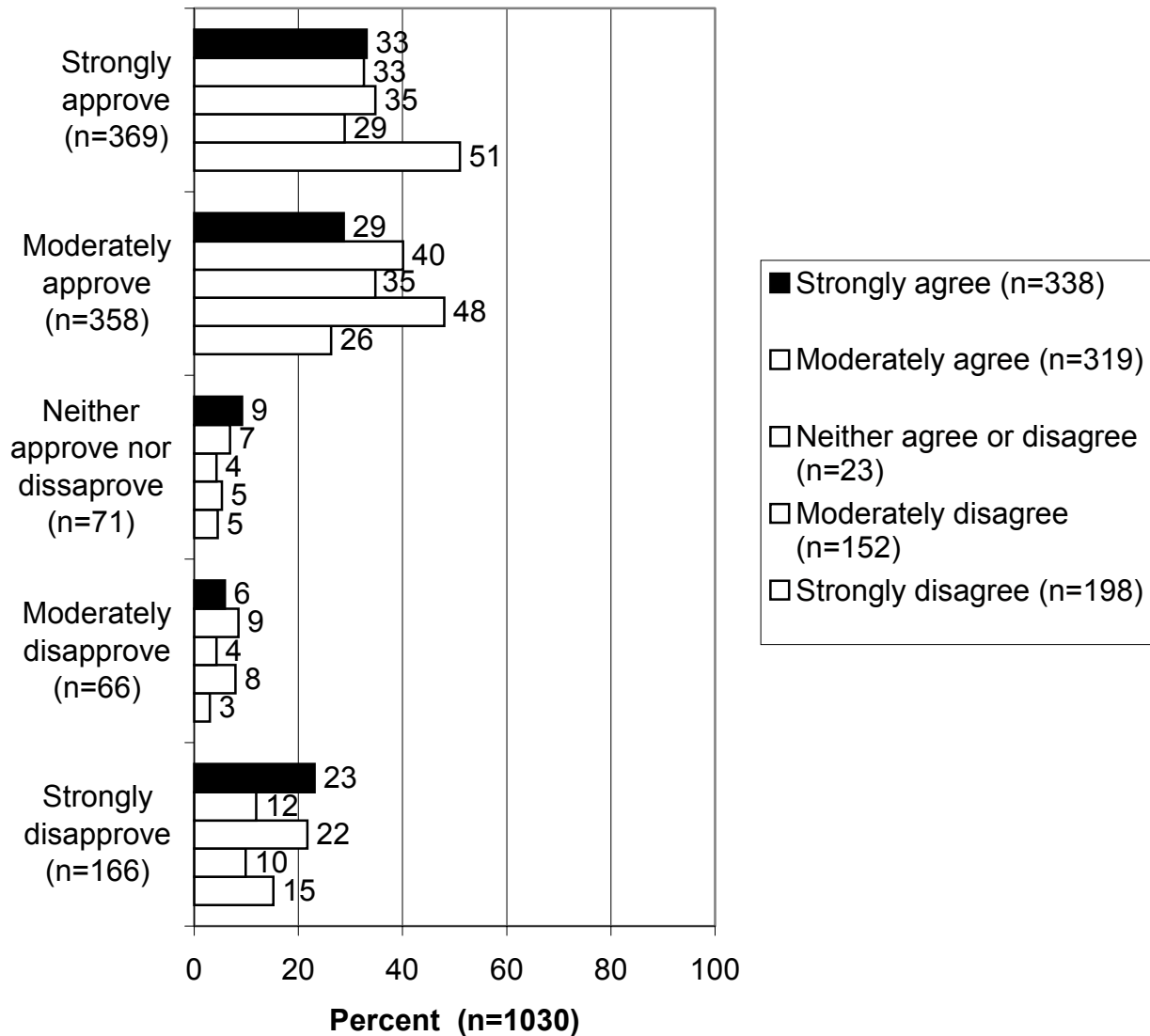
However, among all respondents (i.e., not just those who disapproved of trapping) the degree of agreement to question 43, “Even though trapping is regulated by the state, regulated trapping can still cause wildlife species to become endangered or extinct,” was significantly ( $r_s = -.13$ ,  $p < .001$ ) negatively related to the degree of approval of trapping (Q26). The more individuals agreed with the idea that species could become extinct, the less they approved of trapping (see Graph Q43 by Q26).

The two least acceptable messages (see bottom of Table 1) to those who disapproved of trapping were that trapping is more humane now than it was 10 years ago, and that animals harvested through trapping are not wasted and have several beneficial uses.

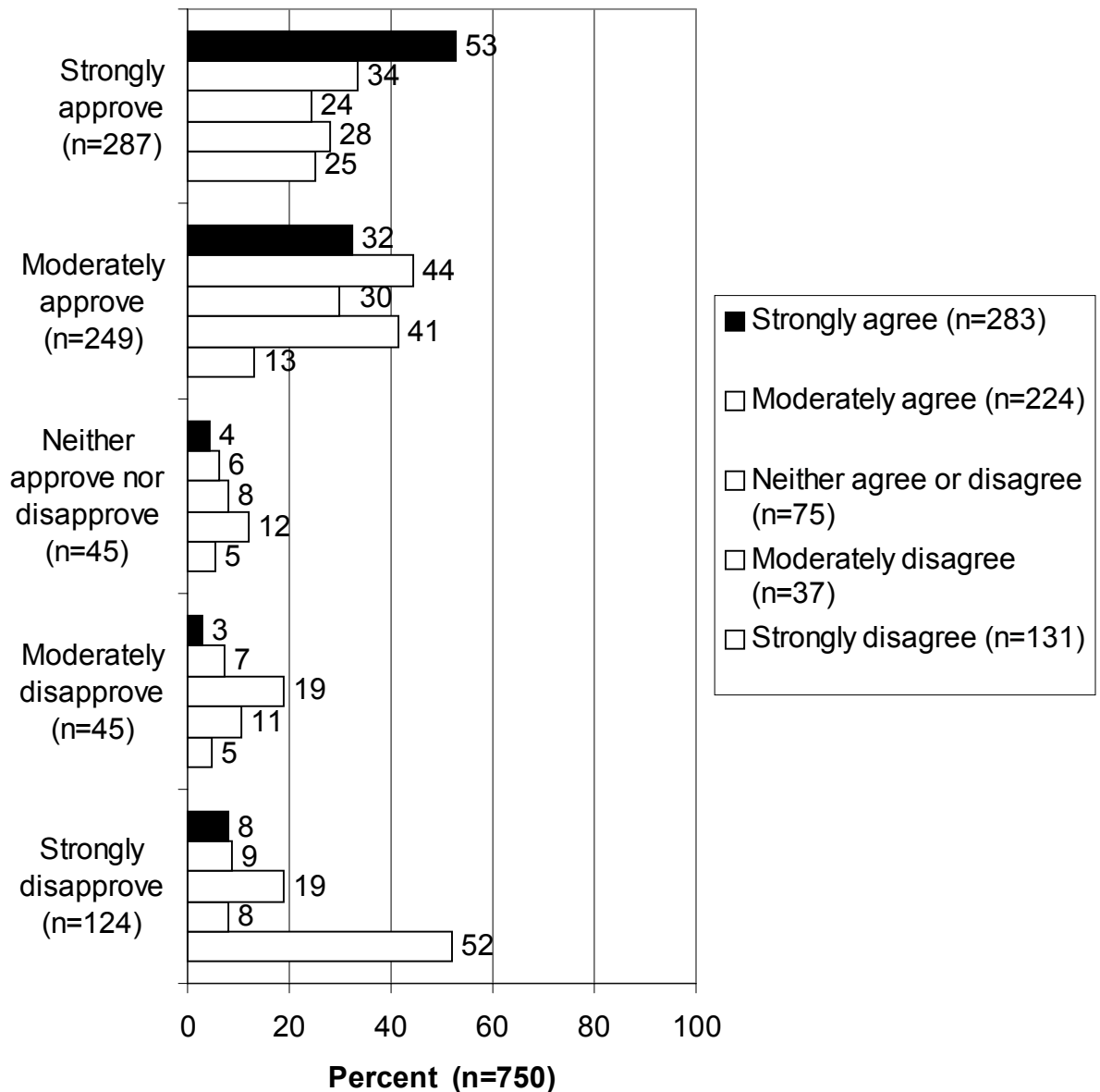
However, among all respondents (i.e., not just those who disapproved of trapping), the more respondents agreed that trapping was more humane today than it was ten years ago [Q41. The fourth statement is: Because of improvements in traps, trapping is more humane today than it was ten years ago] the more respondents approved of trapping. There was a significant ( $r_s=.33$ ,  $p<.001$ ) positive relationship between approval/disapproval of trapping and agreements with Question 41 (see Graph Q41 by Q26).

Also, among all respondents (i.e., not just those who disapproved of trapping) there was a significant ( $r_s=.35$ ,  $p<.001$ ) positive relationship between the level of support for the statement “Q37. For your information, when animals are trapped, the whole animal is usually utilized and there is often little waste. For example, the meat is used for human and pet food and other by-products include soap, perfume and lubricants. Knowing this, do you find trapping more acceptable?” and the level of approval for trapping [Q26. In general, do you approve or disapprove of regulated trapping?]. The more positively an individual responded to the knowledge about beneficial uses of animals harvested by trapping, the more highly they approved of trapping (see Graph Q37 by Q26).

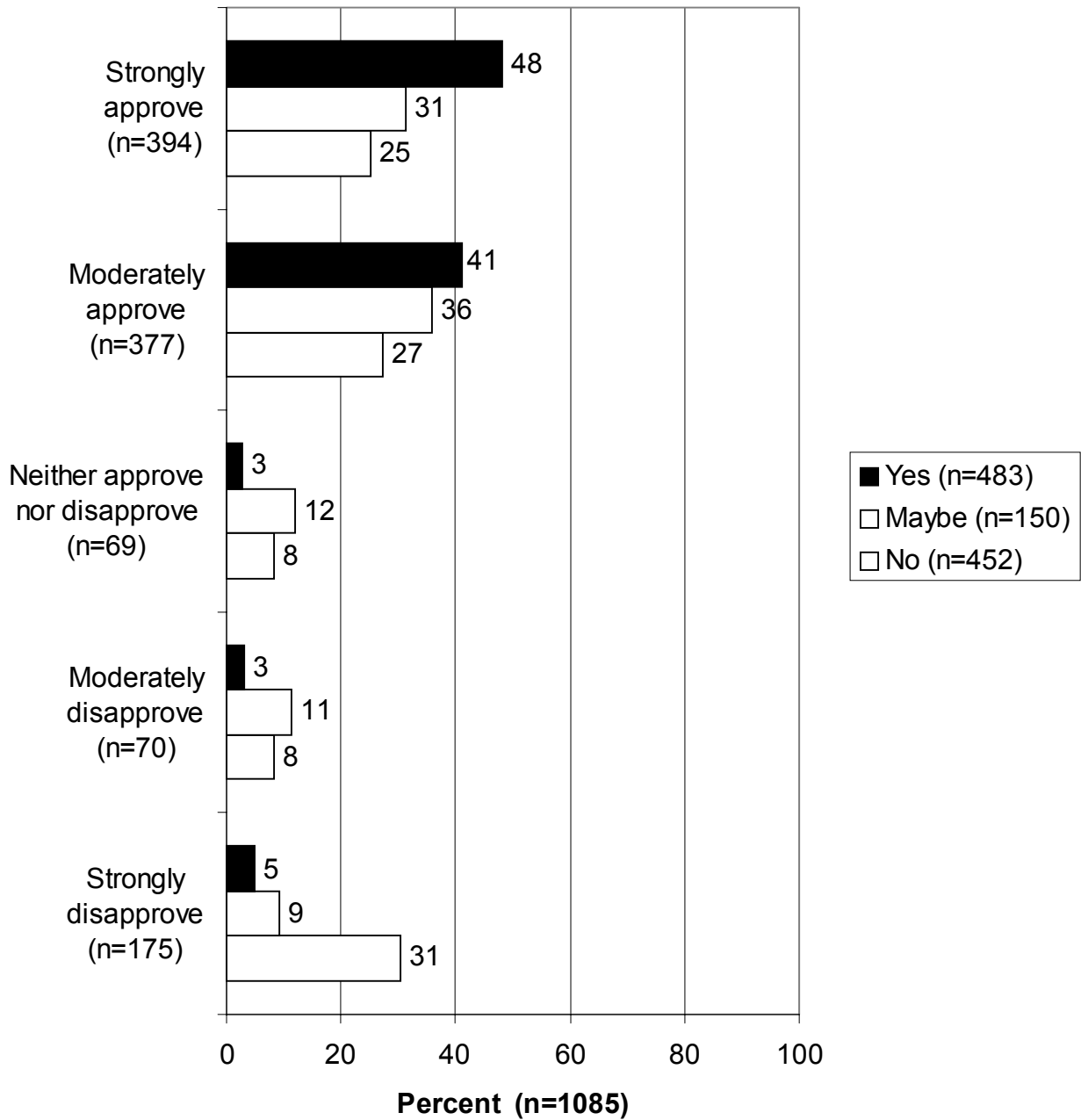
**Q43. The sixth statement is: Even though trapping is regulated by the state, regulated trapping can still cause wildlife species to become endangered or extinct. By Q26. In general, do you approve or disapprove of regulated trapping?**



**Q41. The fourth statement is: Because of improvements in traps, trapping is more humane today than it was ten years ago By Q26. In general, do you approve or disapprove of regulated trapping?**



**Q37. For your information...[list of beneficial uses]. Knowing this, do you find trapping more acceptable? By Q26. In general, do you approve or disapprove of regulated trapping?**



When those who disapproved of trapping were singled out (see Table 1) their results seemed to show that those who disapproved of trapping disapproved of it for its *purpose* (harvesting animals) not its *method* (more humane). When statements indicated a purpose of restoring and/or releasing animals, they were more supportive of the statement.

<b>Table 1. Ranking of Statements (Q36-43; Q47-49) Found Most (Top) and Least (Bottom) Acceptable by Those Who Have Strong or Moderate Disapproval (n=254) of Trapping</b>			
Positive values indicate better than 50% statement agreement/support. Negative values indicate less than 50% statement agreement/support.			
Statement/Message	Disagreement/ Opposition	Agreement/Su pport	Z-Value
Q36. What about trapping as a way to capture and relocate wild animals from where they are abundant to places where they once existed as part of a restoration program?	25.98	74.02	7.65
Q43. Even though trapping is regulated by the state, regulated trapping can still cause wildlife species to become endangered or extinct.	36.61	63.39	4.27
Q39. I think regulated trapping is ok if animals that are accidentally caught could be released. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?	41.34	58.66	2.76
Q47. Do you support or oppose the idea of state fish and wildlife agencies working on ways to make trapping more humane or are you opposed to trapping all together?	62.20	37.80	-3.89
Q48. The state fish and wildlife agencies are currently testing traps to make them more humane. Would you support or oppose trapping if you knew that traps being used have been tested to make them more humane?	62.20	37.80	-3.89
Q40. I think people should have the freedom to choose to participate in regulated trapping.	63.39	36.61	-4.27
Q38. I'm going to read six statements and I'd like for you to tell me if you agree or disagree with each statement. The first statement is: I think regulated trapping is ok if the animals die quickly and without undue pain. Do you agree or disagree with t	68.50	31.50	-5.90
Q49. Given that state fish and wildlife agencies are working on ways to make trapping more humane do you support or oppose regulated trapping?	69.69	30.31	-6.27
Q42. Endangered species are frequently used to make fur clothing.	72.05	27.95	-7.03
Q37. For your information, when animals are trapped, the whole animal is usually utilized and there is often little waste. For example, the meat is used for human and pet food and other byproducts include soap, perfume and lubricants.	74.80	25.20	-7.91
Q41. Because of improvements in traps, trapping is more humane today than it was ten years ago.	77.17	22.83	-8.66

Higher  
SupportLower  
Support

Awareness of trapping, awareness that trapping was regulated and familiarity with the state agency that regulated trapping were related to approval of trapping. Generally, those who were aware approved of trapping more. The top of Table 2 shows a list of those who approve of trapping least. The values are ranked (by Z-value) so that those who approves of trapping most are on the bottom of Table 2. The level of knowledge for each group is listed on the left.

For instance, the two lowest approval ratings for trapping can be seen in the far right-hand column of Table 2. Those values are  $-7.18^*$  and  $-6.86^*$ . The values are negative because they indicate disapproval of trapping. The values have an asterisk beside them to indicate that the attitudes of the people who are in the group (defined by responses to the three questions on the left) are so different from the attitudes of people not in the group that they should be considered a separate entity (i.e., they are not like everyone else).

Tracing left from the z-values to the first three columns of Table 1 shows that people with very high disapproval of trapping were not aware that trapping was regulated (for the  $-7.18^*$  value), and were not aware that people participated in trapping, AND that trapping was regulated (for the  $-6.86^*$  value). The N/A markers mean that responses to that question did not contribute to the value on the right (didn't matter what they said on that question).

The shaded middle section of the table shows the average level of approval/disapproval for all respondents. Values falling above that shaded area are negative and indicate increasingly lower levels of approval of trapping. Values falling below that shaded area are positive and indicate increasingly higher levels of approval of trapping.

Generally, individuals who were unaware of trapping, and/or were unaware that trapping was regulated, and/or were unfamiliar with the state agency responsible for regulating trapping were very disapproving of trapping. Generally, individuals who were aware of trapping, and/or



were aware that trapping was regulated, and/or were familiar with the state agency responsible for regulating trapping were very approving of trapping.

**Table 2. Strength Of Approval Of Trapping (Q26. In General, Do You Approve Or Disapprove Of Regulated Trapping?) By Awareness Of Trapping (Q7), Awareness Of Regulation (Q8) And Familiarity With State Agency (Q9)**

1. People who responded in the way listed on the left had the approval level listed on the right)  
 2. "N/A" means that the Z-score being examined was not related to a particular response on that variable.

Q7. Are you aware that people participate in trapping in [State]	Q8. Are you aware that trapping is regulated by the [State]?	Q9. Before this survey, would you say you were very familiar...that this agency regulates and manages trapping?	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	Z-SCORE Ranked from Lowest to Highest Approval for Trapping (* Means Statistically Significant)
N/A	No	N/A	2.15	1.53	378.00	-7.18*
No	No	N/A	2.04	1.54	237.00	-6.86*
N/A	No	Not at all familiar	2.15	1.51	297.00	-6.4*
No	No	Not at all familiar	2.06	1.52	195.00	-6.08*
No	N/A	N/A	2.22	1.54	343.00	-5.96*
N/A	N/A	Not at all familiar	2.30	1.51	461.00	-5.75*
No	N/A	Not at all familiar	2.20	1.54	246.00	-5.3*
No	N/A	Don't know	1.50	1.87	14.00	-3.09*
No	No	Somewhat familiar	1.85	1.49	27.00	-3.01*
N/A	No	Somewhat familiar	2.14	1.56	59.00	-2.92*
Yes	No	N/A	2.33	1.49	137.00	-2.86*
N/A	N/A	Don't know	1.93	1.63	28.00	-2.78*
Yes	N/A	Not at all familiar	2.41	1.47	211.00	-2.74*
Yes	No	Not at all familiar	2.31	1.48	100.00	-2.57*
No	N/A	Somewhat familiar	2.26	1.48	70.00	-2.46*
No	No	Don't know	1.75	1.91	12.00	-2.26*
Don't Know	Yes	Don't know	0.50	0.71	2.00	-2.16*
Don't Know	N/A	Don't know	0.50	0.71	2.00	-2.16*
N/A	Don't Know	Don't know	1.00	1.00	3.00	-2.04*
N/A	No	Don't know	2.00	1.73	17.00	-1.96
No	Yes	Don't know	0.00	0.00	1.00	-1.88
No	Don't Know	Don't know	0.00	0.00	1.00	-1.88
Don't Know	Don't Know	Not at all familiar	0.00	0.00	1.00	-1.88
Don't Know	Don't Know	N/A	0.00	0.00	1.00	-1.88
Yes	Yes	Not at all familiar	2.50	1.48	100.00	-1.24

Disapproval



**Table 2. Strength Of Approval Of Trapping (Q26. In General, Do You Approve Or Disapprove Of Regulated Trapping?) By Awareness Of Trapping (Q7), Awareness Of Regulation (Q8) And Familiarity With State Agency (Q9)**

1. People who responded in the way listed on the left had the approval level listed on the right)  
 2. "N/A" means that the Z-score being examined was not related to a particular response on that variable.

Q7. Are you aware that people participate in trapping in [State]	Q8. Are you aware that trapping is regulated by the [State]?	Q9. Before this survey, would you say you were very familiar...that this agency regulates and manages trapping?	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	Z-SCORE Ranked from Lowest to Highest Approval for Trapping (* Means Statistically Significant)
No	Don't Know	Somewhat familiar	1.00	0.00	1.00	-1.18
Yes	No	Very familiar	1.50	2.12	2.00	-1.17
Yes	Don't Know	Don't know	1.50	0.71	2.00	-1.17
N/A	Yes	Don't know	2.13	1.64	8.00	-1.10
Yes	No	Somewhat familiar	2.40	1.57	30.00	-1.06
N/A	Yes	Not at all familiar	2.56	1.49	147.00	-1.01
N/A	Don't Know	N/A	2.40	1.35	25.00	-0.97
Don't Know	N/A	N/A	2.31	1.84	13.00	-0.93
Don't Know	No	Somewhat familiar	2.00	2.83	2.00	-0.67
Yes	Don't Know	N/A	2.47	1.18	17.00	-0.60
No	Yes	Somewhat familiar	2.55	1.43	42.00	-0.59
Yes	Don't Know	Not at all familiar	2.45	1.29	11.00	-0.52
No	Yes	N/A	2.62	1.45	99.00	-0.42
Don't Know	Yes	N/A	2.50	1.85	8.00	-0.35
Don't Know	N/A	Somewhat familiar	2.50	1.97	6.00	-0.30
N/A	Don't Know	Not at all familiar	2.59	1.37	17.00	-0.25
Don't Know	No	N/A	2.50	1.91	4.00	-0.25
Don't Know	N/A	Not at all familiar	2.50	1.91	4.00	-0.25
No	Don't Know	N/A	2.57	1.62	7.00	-0.19
Yes	No	Don't know	2.60	1.14	5.00	-0.12
N/A	Don't Know	Somewhat familiar	2.60	1.14	5.00	-0.12
No	Yes	Not at all familiar	2.65	1.52	46.00	-0.11
Yes	N/A	Don't know	2.67	1.07	12.00	-0.02
N/A	N/A	N/A	2.68	1.42	1136.00	0.00
Don't Know	Yes	Somewhat familiar	2.75	1.89	4.00	0.10
Don't Know	No	Not at all familiar	3.00	1.41	2.00	0.32

Continued



Continued

**Table 2. Strength Of Approval Of Trapping (Q26. In General, Do You Approve Or Disapprove Of Regulated Trapping?) By Awareness Of Trapping (Q7), Awareness Of Regulation (Q8) And Familiarity With State Agency (Q9)**

1. People who responded in the way listed on the left had the approval level listed on the right)

2. "N/A" means that the Z-score being examined was not related to a particular response on that variable.

Q7. Are you aware that people participate in trapping in [State]	Q8. Are you aware that trapping is regulated by the [State]?	Q9. Before this survey, would you say you were very familiar...that this agency regulates and manages trapping?	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	Z-SCORE Ranked from Lowest to Highest Approval for Trapping (* Means Statistically Significant)
Yes	Don't Know	Somewhat familiar	3.00	0.82	4.00	0.46
N/A	No	Very familiar	3.00	1.73	5.00	0.51
No	Yes	Very familiar	3.00	0.94	10.00	0.72
Yes	Yes	Don't know	3.20	0.84	5.00	0.82
Don't Know	Yes	Not at all familiar	4.00	0.00	1.00	0.93
Don't Know	Yes	Very familiar	4.00	0.00	1.00	0.93
Don't Know	N/A	Very familiar	4.00	0.00	1.00	0.93
No	Don't Know	Not at all familiar	3.40	0.89	5.00	1.14
No	N/A	Very familiar	3.23	0.93	13.00	1.41
No	No	Very familiar	4.00	0.00	3.00	1.61
N/A	N/A	Somewhat familiar	2.84	1.31	409.00	2.38*
Yes	N/A	Somewhat familiar	2.97	1.22	333.00	3.81*
N/A	Yes	Somewhat familiar	2.97	1.23	345.00	3.81*
Yes	N/A	N/A	2.88	1.31	780.00	4.07*
Yes	Yes	Somewhat familiar	3.03	1.18	299.00	4.3*
N/A	Yes	N/A	2.96	1.29	733.00	5.33*
Yes	N/A	Very familiar	3.21	1.17	224.00	5.62*
Yes	Yes	Very familiar	3.23	1.15	222.00	5.75*
N/A	Yes	Very familiar	3.22	1.14	233.00	5.82*
N/A	N/A	Very familiar	3.21	1.15	238.00	5.84*
Yes	Yes	N/A	3.02	1.24	626.00	5.98*

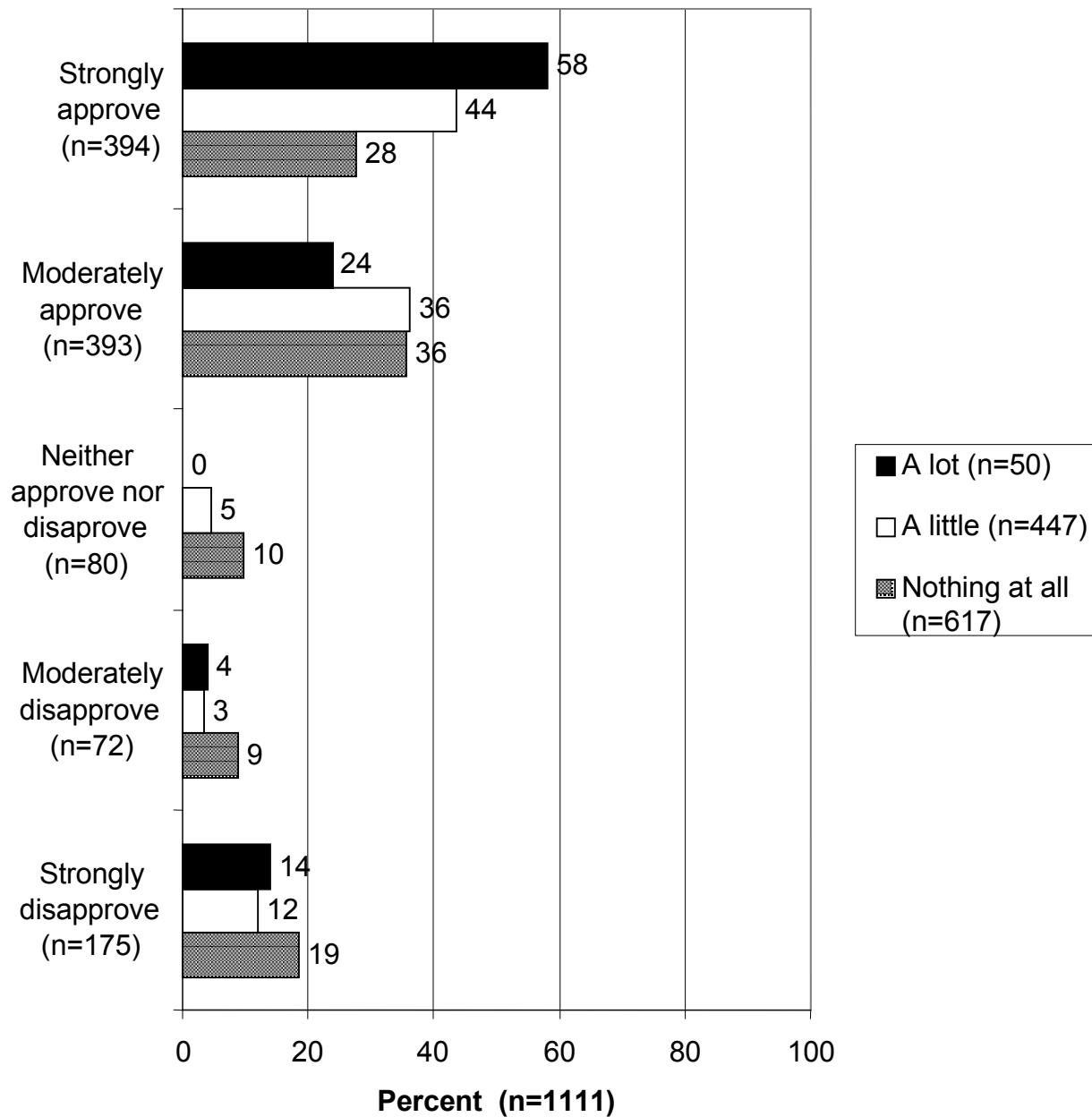
Approval



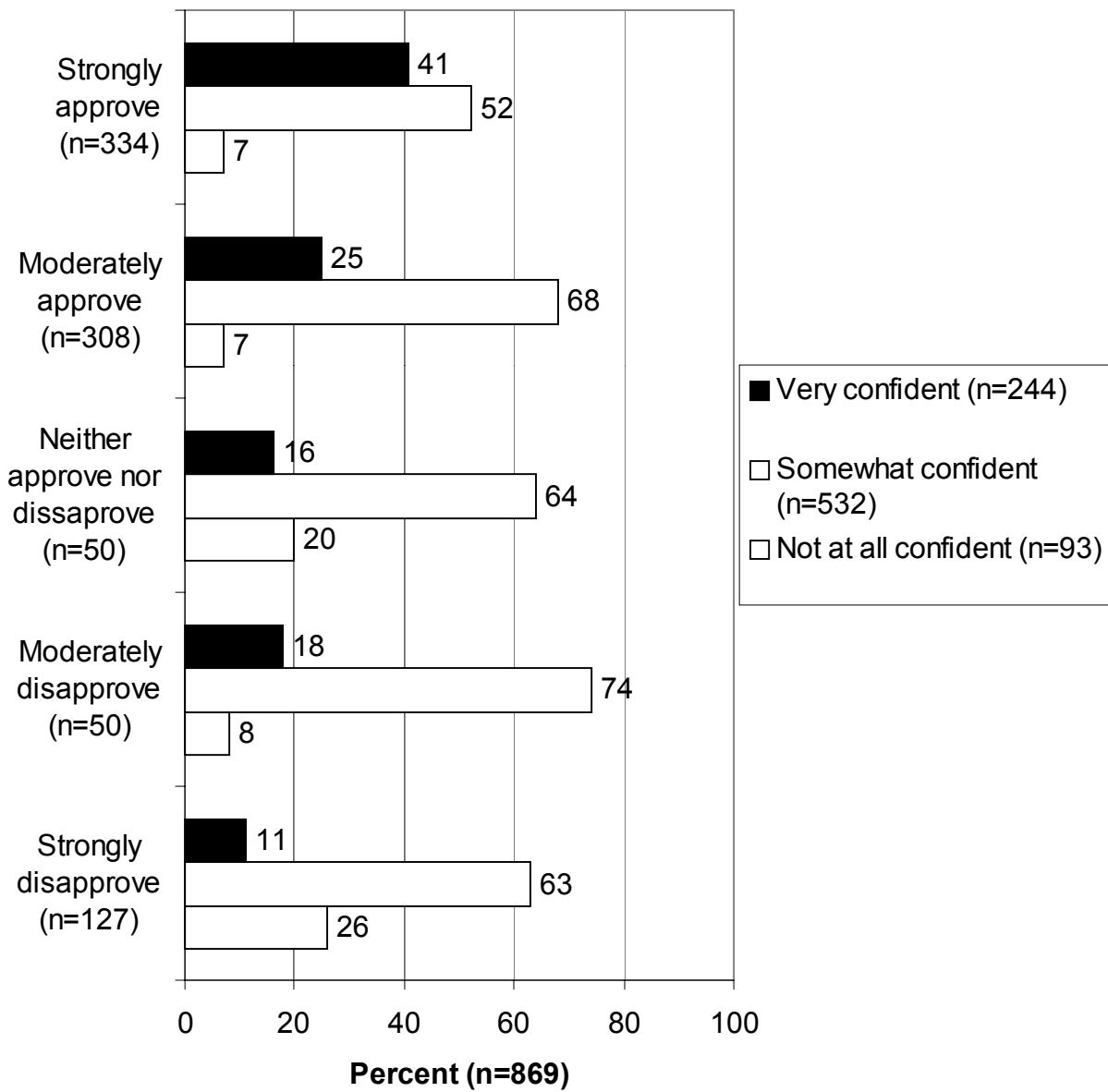
The overall quantity of information heard about trapping [Q13. How much have you heard about trapping in [State] in the past 12 months? Would you say you have heard a lot, a little or nothing at all?] was also related to approval of trapping. It was significantly ( $r_s=.21$ ,  $p<.001$ ) positively associated with approval of trapping. The more information respondents had heard about trapping the higher their approval of trapping (see Graph Q13 by Q26).

Confidence in the way that the state agency was managing wildlife [Q11. Would you say you are very confident, somewhat confident or not at all confident that the [State Agency] is properly managing the state's wildlife?] was examined to see if it was related to levels of approval or disapproval of trapping. Confidence in the agency was significantly ( $r_s=.27$ ,  $p<.001$ ) related to approval of trapping. As confidence increased, so did approval (see Q11 by Q26). This negative relationship is best seen by looking at the how the black bars (high confidence) increase with confidence, but the gray bars (not at all confident) decrease with approval. High values on one variable are related to low values on the other.

**Q13. How much have you heard about trapping in [State] in the past 12 months? Would you say you have heard a lot, a little or nothing at all? By Q26. In general, do you approve or disapprove of regulated trapping?**



**Q11. Would you say you are very confident, somewhat confident or not at all confident that the [State Agency] is properly managing the state's wildlife? by Q26. In general, do you approve or disapprove of regulated trapping?**



Those who indicated on question 21 [Within the past year, do you recall seeing or hearing any advertising, information, or news coverage that showed negative things about trapping? If yes: What were they?] that they had heard that, “trapping was not an honest living,” had significantly lower ( $z=-2.17$ ) approval of trapping (see Table 3). The statement, “trapping is just for fun” neared significance. Both of these statements seem to indicate that trapping, if it is a living, is not an honest one, and if it isn’t a living, serves no good purpose (other than self-gratification). The common thread in both the observations was that trapping seemed to be a “self-serving” act. It seemed that those who disapproved of trapping saw it solely as a selfish act.

**Table 3. Strength Of Approval Of Trapping (Q26. In General, Do You Approve Or Disapprove Of Regulated Trapping?) By Negative Statements About Trapping (Q21).**

People who responded in the way listed on the left had the approval level listed on the right.

Q21. Within the past year, do you recall seeing or hearing any advertising, information, or news coverage that showed negative things about trapping? If yes: What were they?	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	Z-SCORE
Trapping is not an honest living	1.70	1.64	10.00	-2.17*
Trapping just for fun	1.80	1.75	10.00	-1.95
Trapping is inhumane/causes undue pain to animals	2.44	1.57	84.00	-1.52
Trapping is used for biological study	1.50	2.12	2.00	-1.17
Trapping isn't necessary	2.35	1.58	23.00	-1.11
Other	2.42	1.67	24.00	-0.89
Total	2.68	1.42	1136.00	0.00
Trapping is harmful to wildlife populations	2.70	1.66	20.00	0.08
Don't know	2.76	1.42	25.00	0.29
No, I haven't seen or heard anything	2.70	1.40	973.00	0.48
When animals are trapped the animal is wasted	2.90	1.60	10.00	0.50

Lower Approval



Higher Approval



Significantly more males than females heard negative things about trapping through the newspaper. Also, significantly more males than females heard any (total) negative things about trapping. Significantly more females than males heard positive information from a source they could not identify (i.e., “don’t know,” see Tables 4 and 5).

The meaning of this information is that males tend to hear more negative information about trapping, and that they tend to get that information through the newspaper. The newspaper may then be the site best suited for targeting males who oppose trapping. This should not, however, be a primary focus as males already have significantly [ $t(1131)=-6.06, p < .001$ ] higher ( $\underline{M}= 2.9290, \underline{SD}= 1.2955$ ) approval of trapping than females ( $\underline{M}= 2.4246, \underline{SD}= 1.4971$ ). Opposition to trapping is significantly [ $\chi^2(2, n=1208) = 23.63, p < .001$ ] more female (64%) than male (36%). Effective means to reach females should be of higher concern.

Source of Negative Information	Female		Male		Total		Z-SCORE
	n-value	Percent	n-value	Percent	n-value	Percent	
Negative Information: Newspaper	17	24.6	41	41.8	58	34.7	-2.30*
Negative Information: Total	69	41.3	98	58.7	167	100	-2.22*
Negative Information: Hunting/fishing club or organization	0	0	3	3.1	3	1.8	-1.48
Negative Information: Direct mail	0	0	2	2	2	1.2	-1.18
Negative Information: Pamphlet/brochure	0	0	1	1	1	0.6	-0.83
Negative Information: Internet/WWW	0	0	1	1	1	0.6	-0.83
Negative Information: Magazine	8	11.6	15	15.3	23	13.8	-0.68
Negative Information: Game Warden/Park Ranger	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Negative Information: State Parks/Wildlife Management Areas	1	1.4	1	1	2	1.2	0.24
Negative Information: Radio	2	2.9	2	2	4	2.4	0.38
Negative Information: Friend/family/word of mouth	11	15.9	12	12.2	23	13.8	0.68
Negative Information: Television? Nature show	6	8.7	5	5.1	11	6.6	0.92
Negative Information: Television? News program	24	34.8	26	26.5	50	29.9	1.15
Negative Information: Other	5	7.2	3	3.1	8	4.8	1.22
Negative Information: Don't know	8	11.6	6	6.1	14	8.4	1.26

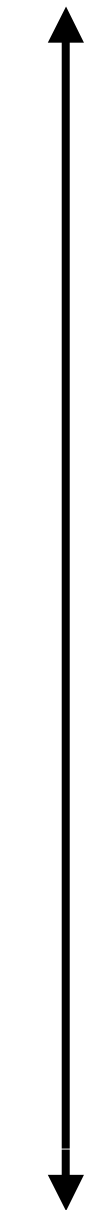
More  
MalesMore  
Females

Table 5. **Q24. And where did you see or hear positive things about trapping? By Q83. Gender**  
 People who responded to the questions on the left had gender-based differences in their responses listed on the right

Source of Positive Information	Female		Male		Total		Z-SCORE
	n-value	Percent	n-value	Percent	n-value	Percent	
Positive Information: Friend/family/word of mouth	2	5.7	9	18.4	11	13.1	-1.7
Positive Information: Total	35	41.7	49	58.3	84	100	-1.5
Positive Information: Radio	0	0	3	6.1	3	3.6	-1.49
Positive Information: Direct mail	0	0	2	4.1	2	2.4	-1.21
Positive Information: Hunting/fishing club	0	0	1	2	1	1.2	-0.84
Positive Information: State Parks/Wildlife	0	0	1	2	1	1.2	-0.84
Positive Information: Television? Nature show	2	5.7	4	8.2	6	7.1	-0.44
Positive Information: Newspaper	9	25.7	13	26.5	22	26.2	-0.08
Positive Information: Game Warden/Park Ranger	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Positive Information: Internet/WWW	1	2.9	1	2	2	2.4	0.27
Positive Information: Pamphlet/brochure	2	5.7	2	4.1	4	4.8	0.34
Positive Information: Other	2	5.7	2	4.1	4	4.8	0.34
Positive Information: Magazine	5	14.3	5	10.2	10	11.9	0.57
Positive Information: Television? News program	7	20	5	10.2	12	14.3	1.27
Positive Information: Don't know	9	25.7	3	6.1	12	14.3	2.53*

More  
Males



More  
Females

Source credibility was significantly related to support for the statements listed below. Source credibility may be viewed as a proxy for approval/disapproval of trapping as the sources one might best associate those who would oppose trapping, are also the sources associated with the least support among all three statements. Below is the table describing the relationship between what respondents considered credible sources [Q73. Which TWO of those sources would you consider to be the MOST CREDIBLE for information about trapping.] and their support/opposition to the following three statements.

- Q47. Do you support or oppose the idea of state fish and wildlife agencies working on ways to make trapping more humane or are you opposed to trapping all together?
- Q48. The state fish and wildlife agencies are currently testing traps to make them more humane. Would you support or oppose trapping if you knew that traps being used have been tested to make them more humane?
- Q49. Given that state fish and wildlife agencies are working on ways to make trapping more humane do you support or oppose regulated trapping?

The sources that respondents found most credible (far left column) were strong indicators of the support/opposition for the three statements at the top of the table. (see Table 6). For instance, those who thought that none of the sources listed would be credible were significantly more opposed to all three statements than any other group (i.e., they had the lowest Z-scores of all of the groups). Of the three statements listed along the tops of the columns they opposed most (had the highest negative Z-score) this statement (Q47), “Do you support or oppose the idea of state fish and wildlife agencies working on ways to make trapping more humane or are you opposed to trapping all together?” That same group opposed least the statement (Q49), “Given

that state fish and wildlife agencies are working on ways to make trapping more humane do you support or oppose regulated trapping?” These results mean that those who think that there are no credible sources about trapping oppose all of these statements, that they oppose most the idea of agencies working toward making trapping more humane (Q47), and that they oppose least regulated trapping given that agencies are working toward making trapping more humane (Q49). These results have application in that they show that this group opposes trapping regardless of agency efforts, and perhaps this group should not receive great efforts toward swaying their opinion. If this group were to be targeted at all, it seems that they oppose *most* the two statements that ask for explicit (Q47) or implicit (Q48) support of the agency engaging in “working on,” (Q47) or “testing,” (Q48) trapping methods, and oppose *least* the statement that does not ask for tacit approval of the improvement of trapping methods, but rather makes it a “given” that this process is already taking place. With this group it seems unwise to ask them for approval of improving a practice they find aversive, but rather to state those improvements as a fact. *Given* (whether they like it or not) that trapping is being made more humane, these highly negative respondents are slightly less negative. As with previous tables, significant results have an asterisk. Unlike previous tables, this table shows the statement for each group that is most supported (or least opposed) as a bolded cell. These bolded cells show where opposition is “softest” and support is strongest. These bolded cells are markers of the best area for persuasion of those who are unsupportive and continued encouragement of those who are supportive.

Credible Sources	Q47. Do you support or oppose the idea of state fish and wildlife agencies working on ways to make trapping more humane or are you opposed to trapping all together?			Q48. The state fish and wildlife agencies are currently testing traps to make them more humane. Would you support or oppose trapping if you knew that traps being used have been tested to make them more humane?			Q49. Given that state fish and wildlife agencies are working on ways to make trapping more humane do you support or oppose regulated trapping?		
	Mean	N	Z-Score	Mean	N	Z-Score	Mean	N	Z-Score
<b>NONE OF THESE ARE CREDIBLE</b>	1.4	15	-4.74*	1.3333	15	-4.17*	1.5333	15	-3.48*
<b>Animal rights organizations like PETA</b>	3.1038	183	-4.03*	2.3867	181	-4.12*	2.3667	180	-4.00*
<b>Don't know</b>	2.9516	62	-3.00*	2.1552	58	-3.62*	2.2692	52	-2.66*
<b>Animal organizations like the Humane Society</b>	3.482	473	-2.00*	2.593	457	-3.31*	2.5948	464	-2.89*
<b>Veterinarians</b>	3.4463	298	-1.92	2.6351	285	-2.09*	2.5739	291	-2.54*
<b>Celebrities</b>	3.5357	28	-0.33	2.7143	28	-0.35	2.6296	27	-0.57
<b>Media (newspapers, television, radio, magazines)</b>	3.6337	202	-0.14	2.8283	198	0.24	2.7716	197	-0.09
<b>Total</b>	3.6512	1167	0.00	2.8046	1136	0.00	2.7809	1141	0.00
<b>Family and friends</b>	3.9157	83	1.31	2.9765	85	1.16	3.0361	83	1.67
<b>State fish and wildlife agency</b>	4.0071	704	5.14*	3.1096	684	5.84*	3.075	693	5.58*
<b>People who trap</b>	4.4379	169	5.56*	3.5266	169	6.87*	3.3832	167	5.61*

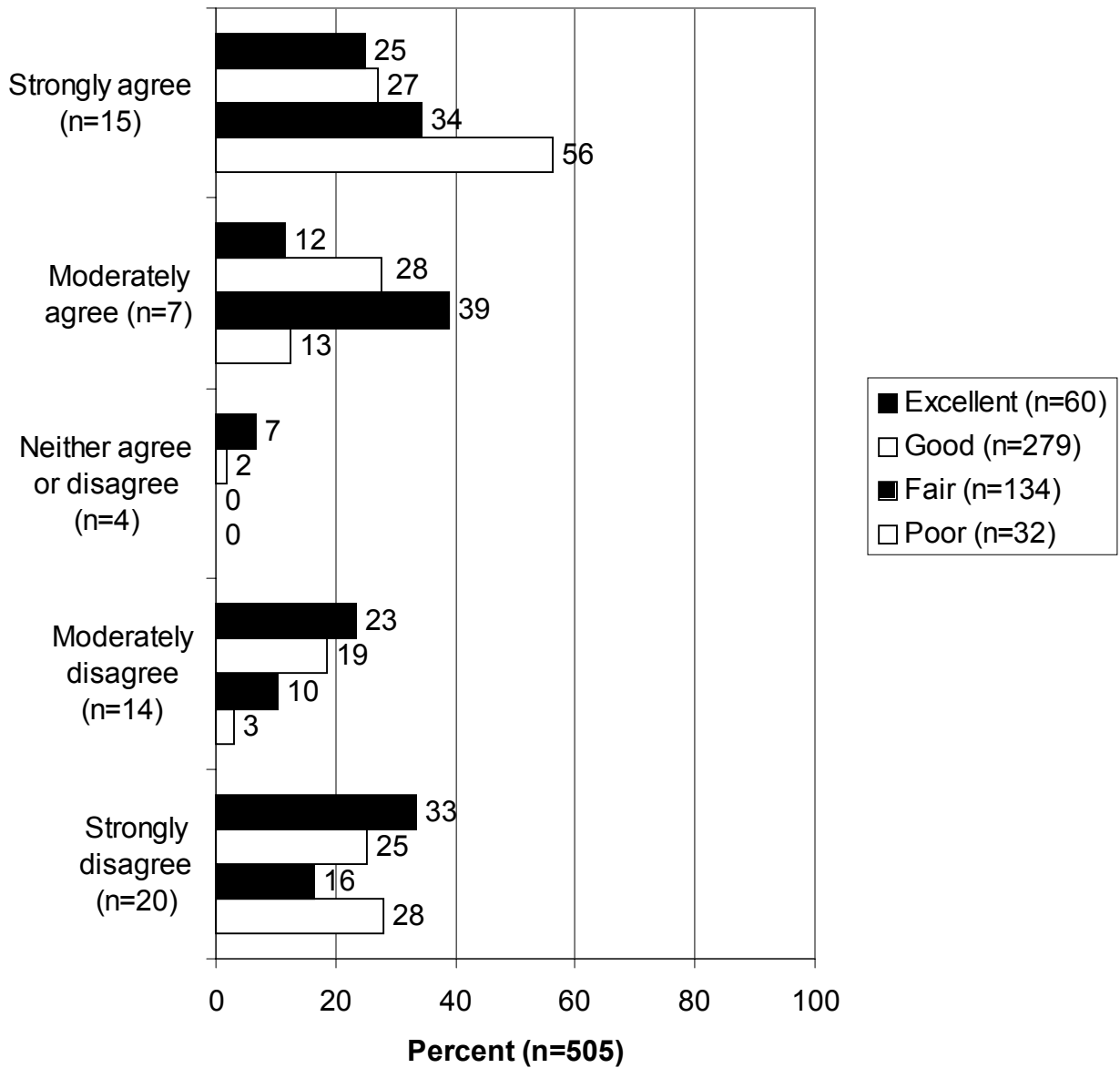
Lower Support



Higher Support

The degree of agreement to question 43, “Even though trapping is regulated by the state, regulated trapping can still cause wildlife species to become endangered or extinct,” was significantly ( $r_s = -.18$ ,  $p < .01$ ), negatively related to the rating in question 10 [Q10. Overall, how would you rate the [State Agency] in regulating and managing trapping in [State]? Would you say excellent, good fair or poor?]. The higher the agency rating, the weaker the belief that trapping, even when regulated, could lead to the extinction or endangerment of a species (see Graph Q43 by Q10).

**Q43. Even though trapping is regulated... [it]...can still cause...species to become endangered or extinct. By Q10. Overall, how would you rate the [State Agency] in regulating and managing trapping in [State] Would you say excellent, good fair or poor?**





There was not a significant difference in the ages [ $t(1124)=-1.56, p = .12$ ] of those who did and those who did not know a trapper [Q50. Do you, or have you ever known anyone who is a trapper or has trapped wild animals?].

### **Possible Causes**

The underlying cause of the general disapproval of trapping appeared to be due to a lack of information. There were significant relationships between approval/disapproval of trapping and: awareness that trapping occurred, awareness that it was regulated, familiarity with the state agency responsible for regulating trapping, confidence in the state agency regulating trapping, familiarity with trappers, knowledge of beneficial uses of animals harvested through trapping, and knowledge of methods used to make trapping more humane. This meant that the more information people had about any of these issues the more approval they had for trapping.

Other flags that would seem to indicate the lack of knowledge as the issue most prevalent in low approval of trapping was the revealing finding that most people (between 54% and 61% depending on the state) either strongly or moderately agreed that trapping *even when regulated by the state*, could still cause a species to become extinct. This meant that the average person did not know what regulation was. The higher people rated the state agency responsible for regulating trapping, the less likely they were to indicate that species could become extinct through trapping even when regulated, indirectly supporting the idea that knowledge (of the state agency) was related to approval of trapping (assuming that those who really knew about regulation would have given the state agency a positive rating).

People, when uninformed, apparently assigned a stereotypical, negative image to trapping. This makes sense, especially in light of the psychological process hypothesized to take place in one model of human thought called Schema theory (Bartlett, 1932). In that theory,

people reduce the cognitive load of processing sensory data by using templates or schemas. Those schemas help organize data into meaningful units. For instance we all know what a dog looks like and a cat looks like and can tell them apart regardless of the size/shape/type of dog or cat. People, when presented with novel information, search for a schema that fits best until they can build a new one. For instance, a child might consider a fox, a type of dog until the schema for a fox has been constructed. People obviously have a schema they are using to assign meaning to trappers and trapping. Trapping, due to lack of information, is seen in terms of an animal chewing off its legs, and trappers are relegated to “self-serving.” Psychologically, the use of stereotypes to interpret the unknown and/or “fill-in-the blanks” about incomplete data is common. The best way to combat this issue is to remove the blanks by supplying more complete information.

## Conclusions and Implications

The solution is to present trapping as a *Sanctioned, Scientific, Solution*. The abstract, negative connotations associated with trapping need to be overcome with concrete positive reasons for trapping. The public needs to know that trapping is *sanctioned* (by the state), *scientific*, (i.e., based on population estimates set by biologists) and a *solution* (i.e., to a problem). The state sanctioning brings credibility through sponsorship; the use of scientific methods brings credibility through reason, and the presentation of trapping as the solution to a well-defined problem gives trapping a reason for being.

Furthermore, it is *not* enough to say that trapping is regulated. A large majority of the public does not understand what regulation *means*. This is evident from the 54% to 61% of the public that believes that species can become extinct due to trapping even if trapping is regulated by their state agency. Regulation needs to have a context. People need to know what regulation

is, who does it, why it is important, where it is done (in the field for monitoring, in an office for setting limits...), and when it is used.



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## **CHAPTER I**

# **GENERAL POPULATION AND VETERINARIAN FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS**



## **CHAPTER I**

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### **General Population And Veterinarian Focus Group Findings**

The general population and veterinarian focus group findings identified many key issues regarding attitudes toward trapping. Focus group respondents were not very knowledgeable about trapping practices or trapping devices. Respondents somewhat or strongly approved of trapping for food. They also approved of trapping for subsistence, but to a lesser extent. In contrast, respondents strongly disapproved of trapping for recreation and trapping to make money. Trapping for disease control, population control (damage control), biodiversity programs and research also had little support. Focus group respondents did not understand trapping as a management tool within these functions and felt that alternative methods existed.

State agencies were seen as the most credible source of information about trapping. Focus group respondents did not like discussing wildlife as “renewable” because they felt that this term implied that animals do not need to be protected. The message that most resonated in increasing support for trapping was related to the fact that trapping was regulated by the State in a scientific manner. The humane treatment of animals and the protection of the wildlife resource were of primary concern for the focus group respondents.

#### ***Focus Group Introduction and Methodology***

This chapter covers four (4) formal focus groups conducted for the purpose of assessing attitudes and awareness of trapping and trapping issues in the United States. Three (3) of these

focus groups were conducted with members of the general population and one with veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

In addition to analysis of general awareness and attitudes, select messages concerning trapping were also tested for reactions and opinions. Very general levels of knowledge about trapping were also investigated.

These focus groups were conducted using standard research methodology for qualitative research. The methodology for these focus groups was formal as described by Krueger (1988: 59-106; Frey and Fontana, 1993). For a complete discussion of the uses of focus group research, see Morgan and Krueger (1997 et seq.). The groups were audio taped and videotaped. Responsive Management has used these techniques in other studies on wildlife conservation and recreation topics (Bissell and Duda 1993; Bissell and Duda 1995; Duda et al., 1998).

The analysis of the focus groups was an iterative process. The moderator took notes and observations during the focus groups. The videotapes of the focus groups were viewed and reviewed a second time. Audiotapes were listened to and verbatim transcripts were made. The transcripts were then reviewed and highlighted for the most relevant comments. Transcripts were sorted into categories and compiled into a draft report and analysis; excerpted transcripts and the final report and analysis were then prepared. Thus, six reviews of the data were completed in the preparation of this report.

Given this rigorous methodology, it is still important to caution that focus groups are a qualitative research method. They produce results with extremely high content validity on the total range of opinions (Babbie, 1989), but are not random survey samples. They are extremely useful in the development of an understanding of attitudes, issues and concerns and for increasing study validity. Thus, focus groups tend to expose issues of high salience or agreement

within groups but do not necessarily show the degree of relevance to other issues. Focus groups will not yield results that can be replicated to any degree of statistical accuracy. In addition, focus group findings should not be used to generalize about respondents. Rather, this study should be used in conjunction with other studies and methodologies to arrive at a comprehensive understanding of the attitudes toward and awareness of trapping in the United States.

Direct quotes in this report will appear in *italics* with the code (AP) for the general population group conducted in Appleton, Wisconsin, (HT) for the general population group conducted in Hartford, Connecticut, (IN) for the general population group conducted in Indianapolis, Indiana, and (VET) for the veterinarians and veterinary technicians focus group conducted in Hartford, Connecticut. Comments within groups are placed together and omissions are noted by ellipses (...). Comments between groups are not combined in any case. In most cases, quotations are written verbatim. Occasionally, for the purpose of clarity, there will be paraphrased comments, which will appear in brackets [ ].

### ***General Population and Veterinarian Focus Group Results***

#### ***Perceptions Of Terminology***

One of the concepts that was tested in the four focus groups was the perception of the terms “natural resources” and “renewable natural resources.” This terminology was examined in order to assess general levels of awareness about wildlife resources as being included under the rubric of “natural” or “renewable” resources. Responsive Management found, in general, that wildlife was included with the general understanding of the terms “natural” and “renewable” resources. However, in most of the groups, other natural resources such as minerals, forest products, and the like were more quickly associated with the terms natural and renewable resources than the idea of wildlife. Also, we found some discomfort with the term “renewable” as applied to wildlife. This was not a discomfort with wildlife as a natural resource *per se*, but

with the connotation that “renewable” could indicate that there was no need to conserve wildlife resources as they could always be “renewed.” Several comments placed stress on the fact that *careful management* of resources and a wise use of resources allowed them to be “renewed.”

The focus groups were specifically asked about whether or not they considered the terms “natural resources” and “renewable natural resources” to have positive or negative connotations. Respondents were also asked if they felt other people would respond negatively or positively to the use of these terms. Focus group respondents viewed the terms in a positive light, but there was the general agreement that others, especially animal rights groups, might view the term “renewable” negatively. However, no clear pattern emerged in the positive or negative connotation of the terms despite the fact that all the focus groups understood the use of the terms.

Comments concerning the term “natural resources” include the following:

*[“Natural Resources”] means all of the environment around me, the water and trees, the animals and birds, how we interact with it, the air, everything. Land, the rocks, adding to what she said about the natural resources. When I hear resource, I think asset. Something that is an asset is the environment that we live in. Mostly growing things. (AP)*

*[Natural Resources means] Nature. The elements, water, land. (HT)*

*[Natural Resources are] wildlife, minerals, resources [and] timber. Yes, as opposed to man-made or recycled. Hydropower, solar power, wind power and stuff like that are considered natural. (VET)*

When asked what they thought of when they heard the term “renewable natural resources” respondents responded with the following:

*[Renewable] to me, that probably has a lot to do with timber. I think of timber when we talk about renewable natural resources, and fish. I think about fish, too. (AP)*

*[Renewable means] planting trees. I don't know, maybe recycle.*

*I would say keeping our lakes and streams clean, and planting trees and taking care of the state parks.*

*Wildlife management. Restocking streams and lakes, and like he said, planting trees.*

*[Protecting natural resources] for our children and future generations. (IN)*

*Trees [are renewable and] water.*

*[Renewable] means that you use it and it comes back.*

*Like, water is a good one, where you consume water but it's always restocking or something; whatever you want to call it. (HT)*

*Basically anything renewable is something we can replace, such as waterpower, fossil fuels and things like that. Anything in the recyclable pathway. Animals are renewable.*

*I don't know if I would consider fossil fuels a renewable natural resource. (VET)*

When asked if they considered wildlife to be a “renewable natural resource” respondents responded with the following:

*There is a conflict going on in Wisconsin and maybe in other states. I talk to people all over the country and I took off last Friday to do a T-zone hunt. ...I told my customers that I was taking the day off because a few of them just get upset about the fact of killing deer. There is a real split now and it's really bad. I don't like to see it. They are a renewable natural resource and a lot of people don't feel good about it.*

*When you first asked that question I thought, “I don't like the term renewable, as if we can do what we want now because we can renew it. We can always get more.” I think that's kind of dangerous to walk into that thinking that we can do what we want just because it is something that can come back. I think without taking care of it in the first place, it is no longer renewable.*

*When I hear the term [renewable] it doesn't always sit well that something is renewable just because it reproduces.*

*I think it comes to the point, what are you renewing? When it's timber, everyone is for it. When you come to timber wolves, there's a big split. I think everyone is looking forward to elk, I think that's a good thing; But, if it gets out of hand then they're going to have seasons for that just like they do for bears. It depends on what the issue is when you say renewable. Everyone is for restoring trees [and] lakes but when you get into hunting and wildlife, then that is where you get that split that you're talking about. If you restore it to its natural state, what is the purpose of doing that? So hunters and fisherman and just wildlife people can go out and paint landscapes. What is the intent? What are you trying to achieve?*

*I'm glad I'm part of this focus group because I've never given it much thought.*

*It's kind of like what she was saying about managing that natural resource. It seems to me that we are going to have to manage it to some degree. Now to answer that question of how do I feel about using that term natural resource, [it] has a negative connotation too. Where I look at it positively is that it is healthier for the deer if you manage the deer population; when they get overpopulated they starve. That seems like a positive thing and if there is a negative spin to it, I guess I lean more to the positive thing. I'm kind of talking in circles but I think that it's partly because of the confusion.*

*If it goes back to what you classify it as, when it's the trees and things, it's no problem, but if you want to take deer as an example, you only have to look at the numbers. You're harvesting 600,000 deer a year, but you have a million deer in the population. It just depends on the winter. There is no natural predator for deer anymore, maybe the timber wolves. But, it's the humans who have to shoot them to control them. But it's the same thing with the trees and talking about reforestation. When you stop the cutting of timber, you're taking jobs away and you're affecting employment, too. Most companies when they go and do a clear cut, they replant a renewable source. (AP)*

*The only thing that comes to my mind is the tree-huggers. The negative connotation would be preserving endangered species to the point that, or in excess that we now harm the human population. I am not against it, but you have to have a balance between man and animal, and sometimes it is out of balance.*

*Some [people] would probably think it, or take it as we were just using it [natural resources] up, just like we use up... whatever, up, and just replace it if we can. Thinking we can kill this and replace this, and it shouldn't be this way. (IN)*

*[Wildlife is renewable] to an extent, I think, yeah.*

*Well this is a stretch, but if you raise livestock or any kind of animal for food or for their hide, or whatever, you're renewing that resource by killing it off and taking whatever it is that you need and making more.*

*Right now you have deer hunting, right? A lot of people are dead set against that. If you go in there and kill the animal with a bullet or an arrow or whatever, not letting the animal suffer. The animal has to be harvested for the fact that it will starve itself if the population gets too great, as it did down in the southern part of Connecticut; the population was so great that it was actually eating itself out of food.*

*Yes, and they had to harvest it but yet there were groups that came in and were dead set against it. Now you weigh it out. Do you want to see the animals starve to death or do you want to harvest the animal and put it to use.*

*I mean, you know, this is the thing, if you don't harvest it, it's going to just keep reproducing and it [the population] becomes too great. (HT)*

*I think when you said natural resources, to me it is caretaker and government that comes into that. Natural resources are given to an area or state that gives a certain connotation of stewardship or caring. Thinking of wildlife as renewable, you can replace species most of the time unless they become extinct, so in that sense, yes. Things do become extinct that you can't always replace.*

*Well, if you take 100 deer and they all have babies, in that sense it is a renewable resource if it is managed properly, if people follow the guidelines and don't kill them all.*

*Unless the environment changes.*

*Well, like a certain type of duck is not a renewable resource if it needs a certain type of habitat that we are not aware of.*

*That implies that you're harvesting it and there are lines of logic that you can follow there that if you're looking at it as something that you harvest, like the deer in the forest, that kind of implies that boars are not so bad either. We may kill half of the population, but it will be back.*

*I have some issues with being a caretaker. Renewable makes it sound cheapened, those things that need to be guarded or protected.*

*If you go in and strip down the forest to the bare rock, it's no longer a renewable resource. If you go in and kill every deer, it's no longer a renewable natural resource. The definition of what you're saying requires management to guarantee a renewable resource. To guarantee a renewable resource, it has to be managed to replenish itself otherwise, the term doesn't fit. When you come to tree cutting and things like that, you come into semantics. What is clear-cutting? You can clear-cut three-acres in the middle of the forest, but because there are many acres around it, it will regenerate. Then again you can clear-cut 1,000 acres and you've damaged the environment.*

*I think that it's a statement that, you've gone in and taken a resource, whatever it might be and maybe a resource that obviously benefits you, whether through animal happiness, environment, etc. Some resources require very little management in order for it to be renewable. But nowadays, with the population of the world and people, most things have to be managed. I recognized it as a fairly positive thing. I think most species and other situations that are damaged are ones that are not being used as a resource so we don't care about them and so they go by the way side.*

*With renewable, I would tend to hesitate to use that too easily because how do we really know that it is renewable. There could come a point that with certain habitats, you might think that it is renewable but there might be factors that you're not aware of.*

*Stable population, if we're talking about hunting. Now if it starts going down, the management shifts and there might actually be a point when you come to that resource and you can't take any. With striper fishing the population dropped and they shut down all striper fishing. It took five or six years but it's back now; but, that was done and they managed it very carefully, and now it's back booming. I agree with you that some things beyond your*

*control can happen and it is no longer a resource for you, but you should continue to manage it. (VET)*

Respondents were asked what the term “furbearer” meant to them. They did not always interpret the term “furbearer” to include only those animals that people would trap. In general, they associated the term with all mammals. However, there were focus group respondents who were aware that the term applied to those mammals usually associated with trapping. Mammals most often mentioned were beaver, raccoon and fox.

Comments concerning what respondents defined as furbearers include:

*[Furbearers are] mammals.*

*Raccoons, fox, beaver.*

*Muskrats.*

*I think of bears when I hear the term furbearer.*

*I think when they think of that, I think about something that you make a coat out of.*

*Well, I think about the same animals that everybody mentioned. I also think about one with a little bit of humor. When I went to Winnipeg, Canada, the police wore buffalo coats. They were the most moth-eaten things. I don't think you put those in the same category that you put mink. I think with the animal rights business, there was always this reaction to people with fur coats. They would get spray painted if they wore those [coats]. I remember that when I lived in Winnipeg, I had a fur coat and I don't think that I would have survived there without it. I had to get out on the corner and wait for a bus to go to work and it was 25 and 35 degrees below [zero] and I had so many layers of clothes on. It wasn't what you would call a fur coat, but it was Mutton, which is sheared sheep. I really think there's a place for fur coats; I can see why the Russians wear them. I think that raising animals strictly for their fur coats is maybe better than going out and trapping the wild ones. (AP)*

*I guess [a furbearer] is some kind of an animal. Right?*

*No, I've never heard of it.*

*I was a furbearer associate when I was in high school when I did trapping and hunting. . . Yes. It is like when you say replenishing natural resources trapping kind of went out with the time and the age, activist against furs and activists against natural resources and all of that well... then trapping gradually halted off... Furbearer is an animal with a bears fur... Raccoon, muskrat, deer.*

*When you are talking about commercial fur, a cat has fur.*

*A dog is a furbearer.*

*I don't know if that would be considered a furbearing animal, because it is more of an economic term. I think of something that can be used commercially.*

*A beaver.*



*I would more agree with the commercial industry of using the fur for goods; things like leather and stuff like that.*

*I agree with the commercial side of it.*

*I believe it is an animal; a bear is a furbearer. (IN)*

*[A furbearer is an] animal that has fur on its body.*

*Like a bear.*

*Beaver.*

*Woodchucks.*

*Foxes.*

*Mink.*

*Raccoon.*

*That would be animals that are primarily sought after for their fur.*

*Turn into coats and stuff like that. (HT)*

*[Furbearer is] a mammal.*

*That is an animal that you can use furs for and you can trap them and use them? ... Such as beaver, otter, fox, raccoon.*

*It wouldn't just be any mammal?*

*Like a deer is considered a fur-bearing animal.*

*Well what else would you use fur for? To me, I think of animals that are trapped and hunted specifically for their fur. I mean we use leather but we don't have cattle because this particular breed has finer leather. (VET)*

### **Trapping and Trappers**

All of the groups were aware of trapping in their state. Some respondents had trapped in the past, but none were currently involved with trapping. Only a few group respondents were personally associated with trappers or had first hand experience trapping. Most respondents possessed a fair awareness of trapping regulations and laws.

When respondents were asked what they knew about trapping in their state respondents responded with the following:

Wisconsin residents responded:

*Yes, I don't think that (trapping) is a big deal anymore in the state.*

*I don't think that anyone really traps.*

*They're loners if they do.*

*It's not very profitable, as I understand it.*

*There's not that many beaver left or that many mink as I understand it because I know a lot of people that used to [trap].*

*They say that it's coming back.*

*I'm afraid that they're using the traps that no one likes.*

*The spring traps.*

*I don't know about Wisconsin, but I do have friends that trap in Minnesota [and] would use a box trap, then you had to be real careful, obviously.*

*The ones [traps] that I know about are the regular ones.*

*Yeah, the spring traps.*

*I don't like the ones that they use on beavers. They put them down in the water in the dams—Well, I don't like the idea of drowning a beaver in its natural habitat. I would say that beavers are a really big problem in some places because they are damming up something that needs to be running. Then they should be relocated, but the idea of drowning them when they're just going into their homes, and sometimes the [trapper] never gets back out to get them. I think that's a really horrible way to do it.*

*Well that's better than them getting their leg caught in a trap.*

*It's suffering both ways; how would you like to drown?*

*They go quicker that way.*

*I think the fur is better if you drown them; that would be the theory behind drowning is that you're not putting a hole in the animal.*

*I don't know anything about trapping besides what I see in shows. I'm not an animal rights person, although I do think that hunting, if it's a sport, should be a fair fight. I think that putting up traps and then having them suffer until someone comes there and checks their trap, I think that's [cruel]. (AP)*

The general consensus in the Indiana group was that trapping was no longer common in their state.

*[Trapping] has declined a lot. The prices are down on the furs. Animal [Rights] activist had a lot to do with that. Like you said, everyone was trying to commercialize furs at the time, mink coats, oh yeah, chinchillas are furbearing animals.*

*You are totally correct. I mean it's gone. Trapping is gone in Indiana; barely anyone traps anymore. It is all commercialized...Sure Chinchilla farms, mink farms.*

*No, I didn't know [trapping was legal]. I probably don't keep up on trapping.*

*I know people who do it or have done it.*

*Not very common.*

*No longer common.*

*There are not too many areas where you can; it is a lot of work. He might have when he was in high school, but it is a lot of work and very time consuming. Not a lot of people are going to—You have to get permission from landowners and then you have to go through all that work to check your traps and etc. I think there would be very few people who would actually do it and there is not a lot of money in it... I don't know anything about trapping, but I know people who shoot to sell the furs. . . Yeah, to sell pelts and all that.*

*There are rules that you have to check your trap every 24 hours. There are types*

*of traps that are humane. I mean maybe not at the point where you are killing the animal, but- . . . There are rules.*

*Oh, yeah. There are federal trapping and hunting regulations.*

*You have to have a trapping license that is like \$850 a year. For bears that is including high power rifles or any weapon that take coyotes that is a predator to cattle and the deer population. You are taking out some predators, too, and like you said there may be some accidental catch of a bobcat or something that you don't intend to catch, cat or dog, but there are ways of humanely releasing them. You don't have to hit them in the head or shoot them.*  
(IN)

In the group from Connecticut they discussed restrictions to trapping, and what the term "trapping" really even meant.

*I'm a former trapper. . . Yeah, I know quite a bit about trapping, uh exactly what do you want to know about it? ...It's legal yes, it's very tightly restricted... You have to go through a course to make sure you know what you're doing. This all came about from amateur trappers causing the animals to suffer when they were caught in the trap. I don't trap anymore. Trapping is unnecessary.*

*Well, you have to get a special license. In order to get the license, you have to prove that you went through the course. Then you have to have written permission from the landowners, or if it's state property, you have to get a state permit to trap on state property.*

*No, I don't. [Trapping is] a very minor amount in comparison to the whole population. As you can see right here, we don't even have a trapper here in the whole group.*

*I'm not even sure what trapping means, so that you can catch an animal alive, is that the point?*

*You can live trap, yes. A live trap is strictly catching them in a cage and not harming them in anyway.* (HT)

Connecticut veterinarian staff respondents felt that that there was a general disliking for trapping in their state.

*I don't think you'll find much trapping.*

*I think there is a general feeling opposed to trapping. . . it's a cruelty standpoint.*

*Any type of trap with padded jaws that doesn't really damage the leg. Also the kind that is quick-kill so that when they get caught in it, they're dead. I think with lake traps, if they get pulled under water they drown within a reasonable amount of time.*

*I've seen domestic animals come into veterinary hospitals that have been the result of being caught in a leg hold trap.*

*Those probably are the illegal traps. I know the Massachusetts Society for the*

*Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA) put a big ban on it in Massachusetts. They just had a dog thing up there in Massachusetts and greyhound racing, and they put on such a hype for both of those that I think that this time around they voted down on that. (VET)*

Only a few focus group respondents were personally associated with trappers, and respondents did not extend their personal feelings of trapping to these trappers. In general, trappers were not viewed negatively.

*I [knew a trapper] quite a few years ago, but the other thing that you have to remember, if someone doesn't go out and trap those animals, they're going to die anyway in a year or two. I don't have any personal experience with that here in Wisconsin. My brother-in-law used to do it, he doesn't do it anymore, there's not any money in it.*

*I don't know about Wisconsin, but I do have friends that trap in Minnesota [and] would use a box trap, then you had to be real careful, obviously. (AP)*

*Couple of people [I know are trappers]. . .this one man I know owns Hoosier Trapper in Greenwood. He is an avid hunter, goes all over the country hunting. He is a good activist, in to church and politics and a farmer. He controls the raccoons on his property; they eat up his crops. Just like deer management had the hunts in Brown County managing the wildlife. They are eating the park to death; they didn't have anything to eat so they had to manage it by taking some of the animals out of population. Disease, raccoons, opossums all those carry rabies. . .He was just using box traps. I had a roommate in college that trapped occasionally.*

*I knew people who did it, but not that well. I never went out with them or anything like that. (IN)*

*[My friends] were fishermen; I don't know anything about trapping.*

*I come from Maine so normal people are trappers too.*

*Well, there was certainly a lot of satisfaction to know that I was able to be smart enough to outwit the animal. Now you don't have to be a smart human being to outwit a dumb animal. That's not true at all. It's surprising to me how smart some of these animals are. (HT)*

*I've been practicing in the state of Connecticut for over 60 years and I can't remember ever coming across a trapper except for those who may have had a mousetrap and I don't remember anyone bringing in an injured mouse.*

*Why would you think a veterinarian would have an interaction with a trapper, they're not going to bring an injured animal in to the vet? I think people who are involved with wildlife and hunting are not necessarily correlated to good owners of pets, which is someone a veterinarian would see, someone who cares for their pet... I'm not saying that being one means that you can't be the other, but I... [am] ...*

*saying that there... [is not] ...necessarily is a connection that if you're a hunter... you take good care of your pets.*  
*No it doesn't. You could have someone who hunts who takes wonderful care of their pets. (VET)*

### **Types Of Traps**

Most of the focus group respondents were aware that there were various types of traps, sizes of traps and methods of trapping used for different purposes. There was very little to no specific knowledge about how the traps worked, where they were used and what types of trapping were legal in their respective states. Nearly all of the group respondents had heard of leg-hold traps and some were familiar with foot-hold traps. There was definitely a lack of detailed knowledge regarding what “jaw,” “leg-hold” and “foot-hold” traps were. Some group respondents thought that “leg-hold” traps were made with “teeth” to hold the animal.

Comments about types of traps and trapping methods include:

*Spring traps are not illegal now are they?*  
*No, I don't think so.*  
*Depends on the size of the animal.*  
*They're different for bear.*  
*Yeah, but that's illegal now, right?*  
*Yeah, I think it's illegal.*  
*They're not [safe].*  
*I mean, if they're large enough to trap and kill a bear, then they're large enough to trap and kill most anything.*  
*We're not talking about the traps with the jaws anymore.*  
*Don't they have ones [traps] with the teeth on them?*  
*No, in Iowa they were outlawed. My father-in-law has done a lot of trapping and I only saw one with jaws and that was for show. He did a lot of trapping but it was the spring trap; it's just the bar that comes across.*  
*I've heard of dogs that were caught [in traps] that were put out for furbearing animals and even people getting caught in them, and they're very painful.*  
*My perception was that [trapping] wasn't happening.*  
*I don't think that it's happening much.*  
*There might have been an article in the paper about somebody [trapping]. I think I remember seeing pictures of some guy that lived in a primitive cabin and was a loner and had a line of traps somewhere, I think that it was in northwestern Wisconsin. Whether it was last year or a little longer than that I can't tell, but I do remember reading an article about that somewhere. (AP)*

*Leg-hold [traps are the most common].*

*In most cases, they have to finish the animal off when they go back and check the trap.*

*A lot of cases depend on what kind of trap setting that you do. You can do a deadfall set or you can do a river run and drown the animal immediately...Raccoon get in it; they get out in the deep water and can't get back. Conibears, which are more like a strangulation trap...I just know about the traps that catch the feet.*

*Leg-holder.*

*I have seen some of them. They vary in size depending on what kind of animal you are getting. It just depends on the type of animal you are trying to trap.*

*Most of them are the size of a baseball.*

*My neighbor [uses a box trap]...In his yard, cats, squirrels and stuff... I think he was counting on someone coming to pick them up, it's not like he could kill them.*

*The city of Greenwood will. . .The Johnson County Humane Society animal shelter will pick them up. I used to have to deal with that a lot when I used to work at Southwood Mobile Home Park. We had to set live traps for possums and raccoons that would get under the mobile homes.*

*I don't know, the big claw grabbing somebody's leg sounds terrible to me, but the box sounds nice.*

*[The trap] breaks the leg and the animal sits there until you club it or whatever.*

*Well a trapped animal will do anything to get away, even chewing off it's own foot, so that won't be any better than if the trap was to break its leg. I mean the animal is going to do whatever to get away. (IN)*

*Foothold traps are [the most common].*

*I thought the bear traps were kind of like you spread it out and it's got a plate and you step on it in the middle and it just clamps down on the thing.*

*Conibear, that's similar to a foothold trap except that it catches the animal by the whole body, it clamps, and it's like a huge mousetrap. It's laid sideways so that when the animal hits the trigger the jaws just crushes him.*

*... I didn't know such a thing happened....*

*There's a group of people, animal rights people that [are] striving to put trapping out of business in Connecticut. The state leases out rights to state property to the highest bidder for trapping and the animal rights groups are successfully outbidding the trappers for rights to trap the state land...Their thoughts are that the animals should be left alone and live their natural normal life. One of the primary reasons why the state has this program, trapping on state property, is to keep the animal population down to a healthy level. As he was saying before, they get overpopulated and they eat all the vegetation in sight. Not only do they destroy the natural vegetation but they also starve each other out.*

*I don't think [foot-hold traps] should be legal.*

*Yeah, the law states that you have to check it.*

*Whether they do it or not is another thing.*

*I've never seen [a foot-hold trap].*

*[They are big] enough for a leg to get in.  
 No, they'd probably get just half of your foot. They're usually spread out; they're about this big. I've seen them on the ground.  
 I would say probably about a 12-inch. Would you say maybe 12 inches?  
 Yeah, the average size would probably be six inches across.  
 That's pretty small. (HT)*

It's interesting to note that the veterinarians and veterinary technicians had not seen many animals injured by traps within their practices. Comments regarding specifically what they knew about trapping in general and trapping in their state include:

*[Leg-hold traps are] legal.  
 I have [seen a few animals that were caught in a trap].  
 I have.  
 Cats.  
 A lot of them.  
 I haven't seen any in 18 years.  
 I haven't.  
 Not that it has been definitely known, suspected, maybe, but never proven.  
 Yeah, it's difficult to tell. Was it a coyote that chewed on the leg or was it—I don't know that I have seen anything that I can definitely say was a trap.  
 They are big, they're not big enough to catch a bear, like you see on TV, but they are big enough to catch a foot I would say.  
 Don't they usually catch them in a cage rather than in a trap?  
 No, I'm talking about bear.  
 Well, for bear they have a big culvert [trap].  
 [Beaver trapping], that's where they drown them underwater right?  
 You can shoot a coyote but you can't trap it. The danger is because of the similarity to domestic dogs, they are worried about catching domestic dogs in the traps.  
 Yeah, there was something in the news a week or two ago earlier this year. An animal rights group was buying up the trapping permits.  
 The state has land and so many permits, and they bid off. Whoever gets the highest amount gets the trapping permits. The people were coming up with money to out bid the people for trapping because you can't pay \$1,000 for a raccoon that is going to give you \$3; there has to be some economic benefit.  
 There are a lot of small groups that feel strongly and I know they go to town meetings and try to influence the issues.  
 I never saw that first kind of a trap (kill trap).  
 But I know in Massachusetts if you trap an animal with a [live] trap on your property, you can't remove the animal or put it somewhere else and kill it or release it somewhere else on your property. You trapped it because you didn't*

*want it on your property and the way they do it is to throw it in a tank of water and drown it.*

*That's only if it's rabies suspected.*

*Well the drowning traps have to be underwater to drown the animal so you can't have it on dry land. (VET)*

### ***Approval and Disapproval of Trapping***

Focus group respondents were asked about their personal feelings of approval or disapproval toward:

- Trapping, in general
- Trapping for food
- Trapping for recreation
- Trapping for subsistence (food and/or money: i.e.: supplemental income)
- Trapping for money
- Trapping for animal damage control (population control), nuisance control
- Trapping for wildlife management efforts in biodiversity projects such as the protection of endangered species or other wildlife/ relocation efforts (population control)
- Trapping for fur products

While there were opinions of both approval and disapproval toward trapping expressed in all of the focus groups, the general sense was disapproval on the grounds that leg-hold and foot-hold traps, the most widely identified traps, were inhumane, that the few benefits of trapping did not justify the activity and that trapping was not highly regulated. All who approved of trapping for any particular purpose did so with the underlying belief that it is done humanely, that the animal does not suffer unnecessarily and that the traps are properly managed and regulated.

All of the groups approved of the idea that foot-hold traps and other traps could be more humane and agreed that attempts to make traps more humane was a legitimate activity for state agencies.



Some of the comments about their general approval or disapproval of trapping include:

*I don't think that [trapping is] a big deal.*

*I don't like [foot-hold traps].*

*My perception is negative for the most part.*

*If they need it to survive, I'm ok with it. If that's all they can do, I guess that I wouldn't have a problem with it.*

*I don't kill things just for the sake of killing. I think that most people kill deer, one, for the sake of the meat, some for the antlers. The other ones are for the fur coats. You're using that resource; you're not just going around and shooting up things just for the natural resource. I think that there is a difference between that. Most sportsmen if they shoot it, they're going to eat it or use it in some way. (AP)*

*I disapprove [of trapping].*

*I don't personally approve of it. I wouldn't do it, but I don't disapprove of other people doing it.*

*I approve of it as a deterrent, like she said, box traps for problems around the neighborhoods. I really don't like the spring traps and open traps because you are never guaranteed that you are going to kill what you want to.*

*I don't approve of it unless you are going to eat it, but like you said they are pretty dangerous.*

*I am okay with it as long as it doesn't harm the animal.*

*Well, I don't know why you would trap an animal unless it was ferocious. If it wouldn't hurt a human being I just don't know why you would do that, truthfully. . .I've fished but never caught anything. . .Well, I don't know I just like animals. I could no more shoot a deer with its great big mountain eyes looking at me. I couldn't do that so I just don't like to kill anything... I just don't know why they would do it. I just don't know why.*

*I don't know, I think it depends. There is a lot that would go into that. Let's say if you were starving or hungry and you were eating it, I could understand that. I ran into a possum before and I thought it was a cat that had gotten into my trash. I was taking the trash out and there was a big possum that would not move just staring at me, and that was a bit scary for me. I would just have to ask why, and I am not a big animal lover.*

*Well, I am an animal lover and I just don't like hurting them [animals]. (IN)*

*I don't know. I guess it's kind of like, you know people can do it if they want to do it, although, why? I mean maybe I'm still not really understanding why someone would want to do it. Is it the sport of it?*

*I think that it depends on what's going to be done with the animal once its caught.*

*Yeah, I guess I do. I mean, I have a problem if you're catching the animal to make a mink stool out of it. I have a real problem with that.*

*I'm against trapping unless it's done in Appalachia or somewhere where they still do it for food, and to supply their families or whatever, I don't know—. (HT)*

*I would rather not see [trapping]. I think that there is a good balance in the*

*forestlands as it is. But where we do see problems are with coyotes moving into residential areas sometimes and they kill cats and dogs and other small animals so they may be a problem. As far as other animals, there doesn't seem to be any problems.*

*I think when you go to trapping it's an even broader range as you see here. I think that the major problem is the cruelty of it. In fact, the hunting creed is, one shot one kill, that's the goal. With trapping, these animals don't always die rapidly and that is the goal of humane hunting. Another problem is that a lot of people feel that, do we have to hunt. Is there a market for this anyway? From the state it's not a huge resource, we don't have a lot of beaver; we don't have a lot of other things. We have them but not a huge resource and secondly, if you're having a problem, why not just assess that situation. I have a beaver family and they're creating dams and they're flooding RT 84. Ok, send in a limited hunt to fix that problem, but why statewide? I think that's a lot of the public opinion about trapping.*

*I'd be opposed to trapping; I think it is a cruel method.*

*Personally, I'm not interested in trapping; I see the cruelty aspect of it. I also know that there would be other things that would be involved with trapping such as the knowledge of the wildlife that could be part of the whole activity.*

*I would rather have a hunt than a trap.*

*The problem with trapping is that it's not selective. It will catch anything that is unfortunate enough to step in the trap.*

*Well personally, I have no interest in trapping although I do have an interest in hunting and fishing. (VET)*

More respondents approved than disapproved of trapping for food. Trapping for food possessed the most support in comparison to the other uses of trapping that were presented.

Veterinarian staff were more likely to approve of trapping as a source of food and/or income than other uses of trapping. When asked how they felt about individuals trapping for food, focus group respondents gave the following comments:

*If someone is trapping for food, they are checking their traps enough so that... I wouldn't have a problem with it. If they're going to eat it, they're not going to overdo it either. They're going to take what they need to eat. (AP)*

*Well, I think that it is fine if you have to eat and I think that is a good reason to use wild animals for food. (IN)*

*That's kind of hard to say, you may be taking away someone's source of food and*

*livelihood. If I had someone come in and tell me that I couldn't drive my car because it was a lethal weapon and I had no way to get to work, I'd have a problem with it.*

*If they're going to starve and the only other way you're going to get food is to trap; I don't have a problem with that.*

*Also we ate what I trapped, too, for the most part. Muskrats are very good eating believe it or not. I'm sure some people cringe at the thought of it but down in Maryland where trapping is still popular, you can buy muskrat in the grocery stores on the meat counter. . . I sold the pelts and ate the meat.*

*Well, if that's the only way they could get meat, yes I agree with it. I mean people that live way in the woods or Alaska.*

*If they're going to starve and the only other way you're going to get food is to trap; I don't have a problem with that. (HT)*

*I don't see any reason for [trapping for food] at this day in age.*

*Actually it is no different than hunting deer; people hunt deer for the meat. It's a managed resource where you're not wiping out a species. Like the deer, you measure the population, you're controlling the birth rate, and you're taking out what you can of that stock. What's wrong with them eating it?*

*Well, we eat animals that have been slaughtered in a slaughterhouse but we don't eat the cattle that have died on the farm. There's a way of doing it so that it's clean. If you trap an animal and it dies there and you come back sometime later in the week, you've got some—.*

*I think that it's a state law that they have to check the trap within 48 hours so that you're not leaving them sitting there for a week. (VET)*

Trapping for recreation was the least favored reason for trapping in all of the groups.

Most respondents strongly disapproved of trapping for recreation. Others felt that if it was what an individual wanted to do then it was their prerogative. In comparison, wildlife professionals felt that if it were not for private trappers who trapped recreationally, wildlife professionals would not have the best techniques available to them, because many wildlife professionals had learned trapping techniques from private trappers.

When asked how they felt about individuals trapping for recreation, focus group respondents gave the following comments:

*If you're doing anything for sport there has to be a challenge involved. Bears and stuff, that's not a challenge unless you're not a good shot. If you're trapping for sport and you're just laying out traps and then you come back by and check them and*

*see what you got - I don't think that's a sport. Therefore, I don't think that's a fair hunt. (AP)*

*I don't see how [trapping is] a form of recreation. (HT)*

*I never really grasped [trapping for recreation].*

*I would be against [trapping for recreation].*

*At least with fishing and people who fish for recreation, if they catch a fish they can throw it back.*

*I guess that that is an activity that gets them out in the forest so there has to be more to it than just trapping animals. It's learning their behaviors and seeing everything else that there is to see when you're out there. (VET)*

Respondents somewhat supported trapping as a way to supplement income or food source. When asked how they felt about individuals trapping for subsistence focus group respondents gave the following comments:

*I think that goes back to your question of subsistence. If someone is trapping and selling the parts of the animal for subsistence, if they are making money off of it and making their living then I would say that that person probably is respectful and efficient. I would think that that person was respectful of the resources that they are using. In which case I would probably say okay. Again my concern would come back to when the fairness is breached between the animals and people. (AP)*

*[Trapping for subsistence in Indiana is] uncommon.*

*You might get a few nutcases up in the hill someplace that want to live that way. (IN)*

*I think that the whole [subsistence] issue is different. If it brings [in] an income and that person doesn't know how to bring an income in, I can understand it more than somebody doing it for pleasure. If there isn't waste and it's eaten, I have more understanding in the sense that there is a bigger picture here. I do think that there are other ways to earn money. I think if they were pests then it's no different than getting rid of mice or rats. It's a matter of survival. If you're depending on a crop and something is destroying it, you've got to have some way of controlling that. (VET)*

*Well, I trapped, primarily to supplement my income. I raised five children and of course my wife couldn't very well work and help out with the family income. Trapping gave me another source of income when it was a kind of popular thing to do. (HT)*

Unlike the telephone survey results, there was not any strong objection against trapping for money. When asked how they felt about individuals trapping for money focus group respondents gave the following comments:

*I don't think that there's enough [trappers] left that they're going to make a great deal of difference to the number of animals out there. . . Usually people who are introverts who like to live alone in the backwoods and don't have much interaction with people—the ones that do it that still do it, to try to make a living. I don't think that they're going to be living high on the hog from it. I think there are people that just generally like to be outdoors. I think that some of them are conscientious and they check their trap lines to make sure that there are no wounded animals in there... Yes, because I think that some people just like this way of life.*

*I think trapping is more work than you want to mess around with just for a joy hunt. I don't think that there are many guys that want to stick around and mess with trapping. It takes a serious person that wants to make some extra money and likes to be outside and is an avid sportsman and outdoorsman. (AP)*

*I did it for a living. I paid for my first vehicle with it. I didn't do it to be cruel; I did it for a livelihood. (IN)*

*If you think about it and you look at it from a farmer's standpoint, that cow is worth a lot of money to him. If you've got a coyote that's going to come over and kill this cow, take his meal out of it, and then he's gone, the farmer just lost an animal that's worth, I don't know \$1000 or \$1500. (HT)*

*If you are actually making money, I don't know what a beaver coat goes for, I don't think you will get a lot of money off that to make a living and pay your rent and utilities with that, trapping. And you were talking about subsistence, God help you if you have to live off the food you are trapping for, especially in Indiana. (IN)*

*It's a labor-intensive thing. There is a guy who lives up the road from where we live and he is a trapper and he spends countless hours doing it and he makes about \$5,000 a year doing it, or he did, it was in Massachusetts.*

*I was going to say that I knew a guy that was doing that up in Massachusetts until they banned it, and he was feeding his kids and you know probably 25% of his whole income was trapping.*

*It used to be that the trappers paid a fee to the state so they made revenue. Then they went out and they made an income trapping beavers, and the beavers were under control and everything was free to everybody. Now they can't trap so the state has to hire someone to go out so it costs the state money to do it. No one is making any money on the beaver. (VET)*

There was a fair amount of support for trapping to control animal damage, animal nuisance and animal population. Those who did not have strong approval for trapping, in general, but who had had an experience with a nuisance animal were more likely to agree to trap for nuisance animals. Much evidence was given for the need to control animal populations, however, some were reserved about the use of trapping to manage wildlife. Some felt that alternative methods, other than trapping, existed to accomplish the same goals.

Comments concerning the use of trapping for animal damage control (population controls) and nuisance animal control were:

*Well it depends on if it's used on nuisance animals or not. We [trap] rabbits in the city, in our neighborhood [and] get them out of there when they're eating our shrubs.*

*I can agree with person X. It depends on if it's a nuisance type animal. If there is some reason like that [trapping is okay]. If it's just for the sports side of it then, come on.*

*I think that they have had serious problems with beavers in Wisconsin damming up streams and causing tremendous problems, and they had to be trapped out of there and gotten out of the area.*

*I think there is nuisance trapping, like raccoons, because they don't want them in the city, then I have a problem with changing opinions because they are so cute to see out in the country. . . I do, so I try to be consistent. It doesn't mean that I always am.*

*I have a perfect example of me flipping on the trapping thing. In our backyard I have a deck. I had this squirrel that would come up to my door and it would stand at my patio door. It got to the point that I was afraid to let my kids go outside because I didn't know what the squirrel was doing and I didn't know why it became friendly. It would sit on the rails and a few times I threw some rubber coasters at it and it would just sit there until I hit it. I remember that I was at the point where I was about to call the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or whoever you call because I had some real concerns [that] maybe there was something wrong with this squirrel. I would have been all for trapping then.  
(AP)*

*I got a skunk underneath my porch I'd like to—  
They have those traps that are very safe that don't kill the skunk. (HT)*

*One thing in Connecticut that you're going to see happen is like what they did in Massachusetts. They banned it [trapping] on beavers and they've got a real problem in Massachusetts and now the state is spending \$2 million a year trying*

*to regulate beaver problems. You don't have problems like that here because we allow trapping in the state. So, it's one of those problems that you're not going to see until you stop it. Conibear traps do kill quickly and that is the only way that you can manage beavers.*

*I think raccoons are good examples of something that needs to be [controlled]— it's a human health threat. I would probably look at that a little differently than I would for other animals. (VET)*

Skepticism was expressed about the use of trapping in the management of endangered species and other wildlife. There was an expressed concern from several respondents that one species should not be “chosen” over another. It was clear that there was not a great deal of understanding as to how these programs are carried out.

Comments regarding trapping for wildlife management efforts such as animal relocation efforts (population controls) and research purposes included:

*I'd prefer them to use a killing trap than a trapping trap. You're just relocating the problem if you're just carrying them away aren't you?  
Well, I think that there is a difference between trapping them to get them out of an area and trapping to kill them. (AP)*

*Yes, safety. I guess it depends on where you are. If you are in a controlled area without kids or something running around it might be ok. I am more concerned with trapping stuff; endangered animals or animals you might not be setting out to trap but that you can't really control.*

*It is better of course, but I have so many “ifs” on that. Are we talking about what is being done on private property? I don't think I want to see it done on state or federal property. I draw a big line between what happens on private property and what happens on state property. . . Well yeah, there is a point. I don't think any 12-year-old kid should be able to lay traps. (IN)*

*Well, I work at the health center so it depends whether it's for a mink coat or if it's for research, you know?*

*Have you hit upon a dog or a child or a person stepping into a vacant trap that's been missed?*

*That's the purpose of the trapping course that you have to go through. You have to learn the habitat and the habits of the animals that you're after. One of the primary concerns is that you don't mistakenly trap a house cat or an animal that you're not after.*

*But I don't think you should trap in town because my neighbor has two cats and*

*you know, I just don't think you should do any.  
If it's being done to protect an endangered animal or species, it should be done as long as it's done humanely. (HT)*

*I think it depends on where you are. If you are in the city or in the suburban area and there are coyotes that are a risk for people then you need to think about trapping or hunting. Whereas, if it's in a situation where you have to think about predators coming in, it is a whole web thing. You get to the point where white-tailed deer are overrunning certain areas and it's a question of balance.*

*Up where we are we get complaints all the time about sheep, but we get about four complaints every month about missing cats. "A coyote ran off with my dog or my cat." We just had a lady in the clinic on Thursday night, she said that she had two new kittens because her cat was eaten by a coyote.*

*I don't think that the coyotes in this state, at least the pure bred coyotes which are a lot milder temper than the coydogs that we have. I think we have a lot more coydogs in this state than coyotes because we don't have huge populations of cattle anymore; we have them but not like they used to be. I don't think that's their object of opportunity, a horse or a cow.*

*Ducks Unlimited and the Delta Society are going back and forth on that in Canada. Apparently the projects for DU that have nesting habitat less than 10% are surviving with the predators. The Delta Waterfowlers have gone in and trapped and they have an 85% survival rate. I think that that makes a difference in controlling predators and really trapping is the efficient way to do it, whether it's coyotes or anything else. Really it is difficult to hunt coyotes, they're smart.*

*Down at the cape they kill a few coyotes to keep them from eating gulls eggs and of course gulls are overpopulated.*

*I think that the public would be a lot more sympathetic with the trapping of predators of endangered species than they would be with the trapping for recreation or even trapping for food. (VET)*

There was a mild objection to trapping for fur to make fur products and an expressed preference of furs produced from fur farms. When asked how they felt about individuals trapping for fur to make fur products focus group respondents gave the following comments:

*Can't they get enough [fur products] from fur farms? ...Or do they collect it from fur farms?*

*No, true, but when you say mink oil, they certainly do raise mink. There are enough available that you just don't need to kill a mink for the mink oil.*

*I think they trap the mink for the fur and then the oils and things are from the farms.*

*My preference as a person who actually wears fur is if I'm purchasing the fur*



*coat, I look for the fur from the farm. That is my own personal preference. I don't have a problem trapping in certain environments, but if I were going to be a consumer of fur, I would be buying it from a farm.*

*I don't [wear furs] anymore because the synthetics are so good at keeping you warm. Although I must admit, down is nice.*

*I've spent a few winters in Europe and 90% of the people there either wear leather or wear fur. In Wisconsin people that wear fur are very few and far between. I think it's a choice of if you've got the money and you want the glamour, or you want the warmth. I have to tell you, when it's 25 degrees or below, if it's between down or fur, fur wins hands down.*

*My first impression is people with money. Right now we can get a lot of money with our synthetics that cost a lot less so I think that people don't have to buy furs. Although when I see someone wearing a fur coat I think, that's a beautiful fur coat. My first thought is not what did they do to that animal to get the fur?*

*I do have some concerns about how much the synthetics are hurting the environment. (AP)*

*I disapprove [of trapping for fur or animal products]; there are too many things on the market that make it more efficient.*

*It is one thing if you are grown and farming—I approve more of farming than of wild trapping. I would prefer that they would be farmed, my concern I guess is people doing it as a living, which I don't have too much of a problem with, is that it is controlled. I'm not sure how easy it is to control stuff taking place in the wild, and I don't think there are enough people to control it in the Department of Natural Resources, and he talked about the controls on limits and I am not sure how well that is managed. How easy is it to control or how is it controlled?*

*Or people really in debt [buy furs]. One or the other, either you got the money or you just go out there and charge it. Personally, I would be pretty surprised that there is enough fur generated through trapping to affect the commercial market. (IN)*

*One thing I want to add to that is people like to buy fur coats because they're fashionable and other people say well you killed an animal just to be fashionable; however, when you buy a leather coat, nobody looks at you twice.*

*They never stop to think it's the same thing.*

*The fur is probably one of the, from a natural standpoint, one of the best things you can wear from an insulation standpoint; they're waterproof. But if you had a fur coat on, you'd probably be very well protected against the elements. The Native Americans would take an animal and everything would get used. Every single bit of that animal was used and that's the intent. (HT)*

### **Humaneness of Trapping**

For some respondents, their perception of the humaneness of trapping is related to what kind of trap is being used, how the trap works and how strictly trapping is being regulated.

While to others, the question of humaneness is simply one of whether or not they accepted any kind of animal death and/or injury. If they did not accept animal death and/or injury then they did not feel that any type of trapping could be humane. Some felt that kill traps, even if non-target species are caught, were more humane because the animal would not suffer if the trap was not properly checked. Others would rather have an opportunity to save a non-target species caught in the trap by using a live trap.

When asked whether they felt trapping was humane focus group respondents gave the following general comments:

*I would rather see a trap that killed them be used than to have them sit and suffer. I think that it's an issue of whether or not it's humane. I won't even comment on trapping because like I said, I don't know anything about it.... My perception is that I think it becomes a sad statement that even though you believe that animals have no soul, there's no emotion left when you're hunting or killing an animal. I think that there should be some emotion, whether it's respect for the animal or you did a fair hunt. In the end, you have respect for this animal. Whether it's my frog or my dog or my fish, I had a hard time when my fish died. There is some connection there just because we're sharing an environment. When you start loosing emotion to it—like I said before, I'm not anti-hunting. There still needs to be some respect for the fact that it's another living thing. You're erasing it. I think we're all part of an inter-dependent web. I think that all the wildlife and all the resources of the earth are part of our world, and they were put there for a purpose and they have rights.... I disapprove of the inhumane type of trapping, and I can't see much point in it when it's possible to raise furbearing animals. I presume that they have some sort of regulations of how they kill them humanely. To go out in the wild and kill some animal that's minding it's own business just for the sake of killing. In terms of furbearing animals, I don't care whether it has a soul or not. It was put on this world for a purpose and I think that we should respect it.*

*No [trapping is not inhumane]!*

*Yes [trapping is inhumane].*

*I would say no that it's not humane.*

*I would say [trapping is inhumane] but I would not vote to stop it.*

*That would make it a little more positive than it was before, but that would lead me to my next question which would be, what is the purpose of making [trapping] more humane? Is this a legitimate hunt? Do we need to control this population? Is this something that is of use to these hunters? Are they really using the fur? If they are caught in the foothold, do they let them [go] free and they are okay, or do they just let them walk around on three legs the rest of its life? ...Okay, well, if*

*there was a foothold trap [where] the animal could be released without damage, I would take that over a killing one.*

*A lot of times the traps are placed under a fence and when the critter goes under the fence head first it—*

*Well what's the matter? One way or the other you're killing them.*

(AP)

*We have plenty of raccoon so it is not an endangered species, and if you are not overtly cruel in killing hundreds of them, I don't see anything wrong with it.*

*I wouldn't have a problem with [knowing the state agency was trying to make trapping more humane]. . . I would feel a little bit better towards it if it were a little more managed, yes. (IN)*

*[Trapping is] humane.*

*[Trapping is] inhumane.*

*Inhumane, yeah.*

*Right, if you have somebody that's putting out the foothold trap and he doesn't come back for two or three days, you have an animal that's either going to do one of two things, he's either going to die there or he's going to chew his leg off to get out of there.*

*As a schoolteacher, I just have a bias because I've shown kids movies where trapping has been done. If you take a book and see a movie out of the book, what they show you about trapping is the kinds of animals that get trapped and the traps that are used. A lot of it is very primitive so my perception of trapping, I have a negative slant on it, only because of the stuff that the kids have read and what I've shown them in movies. So it might not be the kind of trapping that you're talking about here but it definitely has a negative connotation in my mind. . . For example when they trap pandas in China. . . Some of that is pretty crude the way it's done. I realize that it's to preserve an animal that's becoming extinct. I understand all that behind it, but if you watch the way it's done and you watch the way they anesthetize and some of the things that the animal goes through, it's not very nice. So my idea of trapping is colored by the books I've taught and the stuff that the kids have seen. . . I just have to be very honest with you, I don't know if you know the book Call of the Wild, but those people are coming from a different era and a different time so if that's all I know about trapping really, then I have a negative.*

*The thing about a trap is that it doesn't discriminate with what it comes in contact with. A hunter knows what he's going to kill and why he's going to kill though. A trap could be just sitting around for months unattended and anything can [get] locked in there [the trap] and kill it and the guy who doesn't want what got killed in there will just take it out and get rid of it you know. (HT)*

*I feel that there are other more humane ways of hunting compared to trapping.*

*I agree it's inhumane. They are caught and people don't check their traps right away.*

*I think the very idea of a trap is inhumane. It's being contained while you're still*

*aware. No matter how padded and how comfortable it is, it's the mental anguish. No, I think trapping is pretty inhumane as it is and completely unnecessary. I don't think it's much of an issue in a little state like Connecticut. Do you know of any commercial trapping? (VET)*

### **Knowledge of State Agency Programs in Trapping**

Focus group respondents were asked if they were aware of the state agency that managed trapping and if the agency was doing a good job of managing trapping in their state. Most did not identify the exact agency responsible for trapping in their state and there was disagreement as to whether or not the agencies were doing a good job. The general sentiment was that agencies were doing a fair to good job, but most had not heard anything and did not have an opinion on their state agency. Respondents were also asked if they were aware of efforts to make trapping more humane and if they would approve of such efforts. Discussions focused on whether or not “kill traps” were more humane than “leg-hold” traps that would not kill non-target species.

For the most part, most of the focus group respondents showed awareness of their respective state agencies that regulate trapping. The Indiana group seemed to have the lowest level of awareness. As expected, their knowledge of state regulations was not detailed. None of the focus group respondents showed any awareness of efforts to make trapping more humane, nor did they feel it was a major issue. All groups however, approved of more humane trapping efforts and felt it was a valid activity for state agencies.

Knowing that agencies were making efforts to develop more humane traps did not change the respondents' feelings about trapping, if that individual did not accept animal death or injury whatsoever. Fear is in not knowing and many respondents that disapproved of trapping knew very little about it. They do not know how the traps themselves work, that they are regulated and why they are used. Educating the public is necessary to develop an understanding

of the shared benefits of trapping and in gathering the support that the agencies need to back their efforts.

Some of the comments about these issues were;

*As far as I know the DNR (Department of Natural Resources ) does [manages trapping]. I've never heard a complaint [about DNR].*

*I haven't heard anything about it. With deer management they always mention that kind of thing.*

*I guess a good job; I've never heard anything about it.*

*They must be doing a poor job; there must be a lot of things that we don't know about.*

*I do remember one thing coming up though where the DNR had allowed leg traps after people's dogs got hurt and that's the only time I've seen criticism come up, when people's pet dogs got hurt and either had to be destroyed or had to have their leg amputated.*

*I have not read anything about [making traps humane] or seen anything about it.*

*I don't think [humane trapping is] a big concern and I think the DNR is probably watching it close enough in the areas where the trapping is taking place.*

*It doesn't seem to be a problem; that's why they are not bothered with it.*

*Yes, I think if there are trappers out there doing wildlife things [the] DNR should be looking at whether or not what they're doing is humane and if not, looking into what would be more humane. So yes, I think they should be involved although I know nothing about trapping.*

*Maybe the issue should be, if you're looking at being humane, property. Are you looking at public property or private property? If your dog is out and about and running all over and it steps on a trap on private property, maybe you should take better care of your dog. Accidents happen, there is no way to say who is to blame.*

*You're talking about the box trap, where if you catch a rabbit or catch a mink you can let the one go that you didn't want.*

*They can be released but I've heard of animals caught in foothold traps that have chewed their legs off to get away.*

*Then what sort of a chance to survive do they have after they've done that? Some of them can't survive the injuries.*

*For me [the issue] would be killing [the trapped animal] quickly.*

*I think ultimately you're looking at the core and what your main objective is. Whatever actions you have to take to make sure your greatest percentage of catching animal A and animal B is caught, the minimal amount of time, then it doesn't matter if it's quick or slow. The point is you're trying to catch animal A. We're sitting here talking about what if a dog got caught or whatever, it comes down to posting signs or getting information out to people.*

*I'm in favor of [humane trapping] because I don't like to think of the animal suffering. If they are not killed immediately they are going to suffer until a trapper comes along and I don't think—I mean animals do feel. Maybe they don't*

*have souls but they certainly do feel sensation, they feel pain and I don't like the idea of them feeling pain for long periods of time, sometimes days before the trapper gets to the animal.*

*I disagree to a point. I think [with] most trapping, you're required to check those traps daily, if I'm not mistaken.*

*But they don't always do it.*

*You can do it in theory but you can't be certain unless you're out there following the guy everyday to see that he does it.*

*I think if your question is should the DNR be involved with making trapping more humane, I would say yes. I think that that's a wonderful step in the [right] direction that we're going in minimizing pain and suffering. (AP)*

*DNR (Department of Natural Resources) [manages trapping].*

*Federal government.*

*Sure they are a federal office.*

*I thought it was state because state employees work for DNR.*

*The Bureau of Motor Vehicles and I am a Union Stewart and I represent all state agencies when they get in trouble.*

*Every state has a DNR, but it is the federal government that subsidizes over DNR.*

*The Department of the Interior would oversee it.*

*I would have no idea [who manages trapping].*

*I haven't heard anything, no negative feedback.*

*I haven't heard anything about that.*

*Well, a good example is Brown county the deer were overpopulated and diseased, there was not enough underbrush to sustain the population that was there, so the DNR opened special hunts, not just that park but I think like 6 parks in the state that were overpopulated. Also they give you extra bag limits for counties that are overpopulated with deer. Like I said all furbearing coyotes and wild dogs is pretty much shoot to kill because they are a predator. Sure they stock our streams, try to protect the environment, and they regulate it.*

*(Moderator: ) Should the Indiana DNR be figuring out ways to make foothold traps more humane?) Definitely, if they are going to be using them, they should be.*

*It is certain that the animal is going to die anyway. That way the animal is not suffering.*

*Yeah, I mean because you can release them from the trap.*

*Yeah, I just don't now how many foothold traps you can catch something in and it will be released.*

*If that is the case, then yes [foot-hold traps are better] than killing them.*

*But then you got the issue back that a lot of animals will try to harm themselves....So you have defeated your purpose.*

*I think it would be better that the target animals be killed as opposed to losing another otter or something like that.*

*Well, I wouldn't exactly approve of [trapping], [but] I would think it was a whole lot better [if it were more humane].*

*I would feel better, I mean, I personally wouldn't do it myself, but I would feel*

*better about it. It wouldn't bother me if someone was doing that [trapping more humanely]. (IN)*

*The Department of Environmental Protection [manages trapping].*

*Not enough manpower to effectively enforce the laws that are in the books.*

*They do an adequate job for what they're given, but they could do a whole lot better.*

*I would think there are more issues that are more important [than humane trapping]. . . I don't know. We do a lot of kayaking so we go to a lot of the sanctuaries and the beaches and you know off the shore or up the— do they monitor poaching, do they monitor game hunting regulations and this type of thing and what property people are on? Then once they have a particular department that's going to develop humane methods already, I think as you said they're stretched thin so maybe—Well, I wouldn't make it a priority job anyway, but I wouldn't even know if it would fall under their realm.*

*I would say yes [humane trapping research]. . . I think that would be a good idea.*

*Well, they usually hire professional trappers; they don't do their own.*

*I like the professional trappers.*

*Well, the professional trappers know more about the habitat and how to do a better job than the enforcement agency.*

*I would think [kill traps are more humane than foot-hold traps].*

*Yeah, I think those would be more humane than having an animal suffer.*

*Well, I'm against it all. I want you to shoot them, because wrong ones can get in there, for that very purpose.*

*Yeah, really I don't like either [killing or foot-hold traps].*

*It seems like the greater inhumanity would be an animal in there too long or something.*

*I mean if you're thinking about it, put yourself in the animal's position, would you rather die quickly and be the wrong animal or be stuck there for a week and gnaw your leg off or something?*

*Well, if you're hunting for [a pet] in the woods, you'd much rather find him within 24 hours with his foot in the leg trap than coming up on him dead.*

*I've heard of [pets getting caught in traps], yeah. Yeah, I've heard of it. I've never caught one, thank goodness. You know I'd like to retract a statement that I made before— Foothold traps are outlawed in Connecticut only if they're on land. They are allowed when they're under water.*

*If they're going to continue to trap and they're going to get the public sentiment to agree with them and not face legislation that outlaws trapping altogether, then that's one way to do it. If it's still legalized then yes, absolutely find more humane ways. (HT)*

*The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) [manages trapping].*

*I think they're pretty well organized.*

*...If we're looking at what they're set up to do, they cover a wide variety and range of things, just looking at managing the resources they have here. The deer, the duck, the geese, the fish, the conservation of the state land. I think with what*

*they have to work with in the state they're doing a good job. There are so many outside factors on them. I'm not anxious to condemn them.*

*I think it's education to the public of why [humane trapping] is necessary is an important thing.*

*I'm interested in why there is all this stress on trapping.*

*It doesn't seem like trapping is a significant issue here in Connecticut anyway.*

*Can [trapping] ever be humane?*

*I wouldn't want to drown the animal.*

*Unless they bite their foot off.*

*Usually in the area where I work, the people that are going to have their dogs roaming around in an area where they have leg-hold traps, if they have problems with the dog and it needs surgery or whatever, most of those people are not going to have the money to do the work on those dogs; then the dogs are going to suffer.*

*I guess it would depend a lot on the ethics of the trapper. They can make it more specific if they set them in the right places and so forth.*

*It depends on what your goal is and there are two different issues. Humanity is one thing. Whether it's a dog in the trap or a raccoon in the trap, they're going to panic and be stuck there, instant kill are more humane. But issues of pets dying verses wildlife dying and who's affected, that is a totally separate issue; obviously the leg-hold trap is better. If there is a chance that something may be released verses dying then—. (VET)*

### **Credibility**

In all of the focus groups, the respective state agencies including their representatives, such as conservation officers, were seen as the most credible source of information about trapping. Private conservation organizations, associations or groups were seen as possibly having agendas and therefore biased. They were viewed as having less credibility than state agencies.

A few comments on credibility included;

*The people who buy the products, the people who buy the mink oils and the people who buy the furs [are credible]. I think they personally have the most information about trapping because those are the people who are giving them the supplies.*

*The trappers [are credible].*

*I have no idea on how credible they are in relation to trapping.*

*PETA? . . . I wouldn't talk to them.*

*I would have a hard time talking to anyone who is on a side. I would take both sides and form my own opinion so it would be hard for me to find just one person that I find credible.*

*I was going to say that I think that because the [DNR] is an organization made up of*



*people who are concerned about the environment, I would trust them. I felt more favorable to the DNR when it was a freestanding agency and not controlled by the governor with an appointee by the governor. I think that the configuration of the DNR now is less credible than it was before when it was independent. (AP)*

*I would think [DNR is credible].*

*I would probably go somewhere that sells equipment.*

*I don't know but I do have a question. Like your forest rangers, do they come under DNR?*

*Yeah, forest rangers fall under DNR.*

*I think they would have some information on it.*

*It's like she said, the manufacturers. I wouldn't go with the manufacturers. I wouldn't go with PETA because you are going to get extremes. You would want to go somewhere down the middle for credibility.*

*Well fortunate or unfortunate most of the information you get is from the news.*

*For organizations like PETA it's when they do their more violent or extreme things, that is what makes the news. Which doesn't mean that their whole organization is that violent or extreme.*

*Inhumane treatment of animals just because Ringling Brothers are in town.*

*It depends on what—you are going to get some people in the organization who are going to be radically against it, but then that doesn't mean that the entire—over the years I haven't seen a lot on trapping. It hasn't been a big environmental thing to them.*

*DNR and the Department of Interior. Whether people believe it or not, we basically trust our government. (IN)*

*DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) [is credible].*

*DEP or a gun shop.*

*Yeah, sports shop.*

*Maybe a professional organization.*

*At this stage [I would] probably go on line. I really don't know, it's really far from my realm of experience, but I would probably go with the DEP also just because its—Yeah, and we have to be really careful about any subjects that we show. We would have to give all sides to the issue. (HT)*

*Maybe the Department of Agriculture [would be credible].*

*Game Wardens because they are the ones out there supposedly enforcing the rules.*

*Probably the state DEP.*

*I think the individual veterinarian is a better source.*

*The American Veterinarian Medical Association (AVMA) brought it up as an issue with the leg-hold traps.*

*I'm not sure; they have their welfare groups with the American Veterinarian Medical Association (AVMA).*

*The problem is most of those people have an agenda and they'll say things that just are not true.*

*I think that I would trust the World Wildlife Fund.*

*The DEP or a conservation officer. I think that a conservation officer is the most trained and the most knowledgeable and probably the most unbiased person you could talk to.*

*The DEP or a conservation officer.*

*That's who I talked to when I had my incident in Vermont. An officer came out and researched the site and actually told me what the current rules were up there. He told me what was the right hunting time and he knew this person up there and he actually spelled out a lot of stuff for me. (VET)*

### **Message Testing**

Ten messages concerning trapping were tested for public response with the focus group respondents. In general, none of the messages tested were seen as outstanding in terms of changing attitudes toward trapping. The message concerning state agencies using scientific information to regulate trapping seemed to be the most convincing. Given the high credibility given to state agencies, the message, "Trapping is managed through scientifically based regulations that are strictly enforced by conservation officers" is the best message of the ten tested.

The messages and selected responses follow:

1. *Trapping produces dedicated conservationists, that is, someone who holds a land ethic.*

Overall, this message was not well received.

*My reaction is why do we need to have it?*

*Exactly.*

*I wouldn't believe that it's true.*

*I would say, what's the point?*

*I don't know that I would disagree with it that much, I'm sorry.*

*We're not disagreeing with it; we're saying why did they spend money on this?*

*Yeah, it's pointless! Why would they be putting out a message like this? Is it to make us say, "Boy, trappers are wonderful people?" (AP)*

*I respect the land [and I don't trap].*

*Your going to get a big activist—Like you said, you are going to get people who are going to say, "Man, that guy is a killer."*

*Most people would generally disagree.*

*I am not sure they would disagree; due to conservation being in there I don't think they would. (IN)*

*I wouldn't say just by itself.*

*No.*

*No, not really.*

*No, not by itself.*

*Bologna; it sounds like bologna.*

*Just by itself it doesn't create anything.*

*Yeah.*

*I mean we've already talked about, you can just go out and trap for fun; it doesn't make you a dedicated conservationist. (HT)*

*I don't agree with that. No.*

*I don't think it would go over because if you don't understand what conservation is, let's say you've grown up in the city, you're not from the country and you hear a statement like that, most people would not accept that. (VET)*

2. *By helping control some wildlife populations, trappers help save tax money.*

This message was met with considerable skepticism.

*That one doesn't seem [to make sense].*

*I could see some truth to that as far as the [animals] damming up the river.*

*I don't think they'd get it.  
I don't think they'd understand.  
I think if you throw a dollar sign out, they're going to think back to that whole  
"Trap for Dollars" thing and I think that would bring a negative connotation.  
(AP)*

*Bull!  
But they like to hear "Save tax money."  
I think it is a little more down to earth than the first one.  
I think your first statement made more sense, because it is a renewable resource. If  
people want to continually trap they are going to do it more reasonably. In that  
sense they are going to be environmentalist in their own right, but when you start  
talking taxes, come on give me a break.  
That is all I am - a taxpayer; I pay taxes. (IN)*

*How would it save tax money?  
Yeah, how?  
I mean, I can't fathom that one, how would they be saving tax money?  
I would say one way is that the beavers make dams and flood the surrounding  
areas which includes roadways.  
Costs of maintenance and stuff?  
Well, it didn't make sense at first, but I understand what you're talking about. (HT)*

*It's kind of convoluted. How do they help save tax money?  
See to me it makes sense but there's different ways of saying it. Explain the story  
of Massachusetts. People would hear that and go, "Oh yeah, that makes sense."  
But to hear that you go, "Oh that's just more political rhetoric."  
They don't connect. (VET)*

### **3. Trapping is a use of a renewable natural resource.**

This message provoked controversy and is probably not a good choice to promote trapping.

*They would have to understand what renewable and natural resource would mean. (AP)*

*I like that one best out of the three.  
It cuts out the bull.  
I am just sitting here thinking about trapping and what a renewable resource is  
and how they both mesh together. (IN)*

*It's not renewable.  
I think when I think about that phrase it's more like when you think of forestry,  
and whenever they cut down a tree they replant one instantly, right on the same  
spot. But when you trap, I mean, you're not replacing anything.*

*It is a natural resource; it is a use.*

*Why is it renewable?*

*Because there's another animal that's coming along behind it.*

*You're hoping there is. How do you know that?*

*What if the animal you caught is the mother and there are three little babies that are dependant on her, you know, a little ways off?*

*The only time of the year that you can trap is after the animals have raised their young. (HT)*

4. *The need for trapping wild animals for population control is no different than the need for cat or dog population control.*

While the focus groups agreed with this message, it did not seem to influence opinions toward trapping.

*Well, first you would have to prove that there was overpopulation for the species that you were going to trap and so that is the reason you're going to trap them.*

*If there is no overpopulation and imbalance, why would you need to do it?*

*My comment to that would be, yes, if you went a little further to say, "There is an overpopulation here, we need to control it, therefore, just like dogs and cats..."*

*In a lot of ways that sounded defensive with the words that were used. Beyond that it is more of an explanation and not a defensive posture. (AP)*

*That is logical.*

*Definitely, you have to have control.*

*Still when they say humane society, how many animals do you think they [kill]?*

*I mean the pet goes and gets picked up around the neighborhood, it is somebody's pet still. Ten days later if you haven't got the pet then they are going to put the pet to sleep.*

*When I hear that, I think you are trying to sell me on trapping being good and I don't like it. I'd rather hear that I am going to trap to conserve land where the person was versus it is no different from cats and dogs and mice, because it is different. They are pets. (IN)*

*Yeah, I think that's pretty accurate.*

*You do have to control them because if you don't, take the beaver, like we were saying, if you don't control the beaver population, you got some big problems. (HT)*

*No.*

*There is personal responsibility with dog and cat populations. They are domesticated animals.*

*But out of the statements that you've made so far, the general public may be more apt to take that one. They understand the pet population, they see it, they would probably take that more.*

*I think that there is personal responsibility in owning a pet that is different than*

*the concern of the overpopulation of wildlife.*

*There is a great need for it.*

*There is not birth control. There is no spay or neuter, there is just the population control. If you can't do it with cats and dogs where there is personal responsibility; there's no way you can do it with wildlife. (VET)*

5. *The production of synthetic fur is more harmful to the environment than the production of natural fur, because synthetic fur is a petroleum-based product.*

This message was met with a neutral response. The individuals in these focus groups neither disagreed with this statement nor were influenced by this statement.

*I think the message is a good message. Again it sounds a little bit defensive, but I think there is some good in that.*

*All of these statements come from the defensive. I would like a little more positive sounding statement.*

*Okay, well if you take like the [population control] and the synthetic one and change the words around a little bit and make it sound a little more positive. "We're protecting the environment by-" (AP)*

*I am not anymore likely to accept it for fur clothing, no.*

*Green Peace is going to love you.*

*Well, there is certain logic in statement—I don't know how they are going to play with the public. Personally, I would have to see the numbers behind it. (IN)*

*A non-renewable natural resource.*

*I just wouldn't buy any.*

*I don't really see the need to have any kind of furs for people to wear anyway. I just don't think it's necessary; it wouldn't make any difference which way you got it; I don't think it's necessary. (HT)*

*Why do we need synthetic fur?*

*Because there is a demand for it.*

*You would rather burn fossil fuels than kill an animal?*

*No one I know [wears furs].*

*People like them.*

*For that being the only purpose. . . Mink are farmed, no? As a byproduct, sure, I'm wearing leather.*

*Why do you have to trap mink or chinchilla? There are huge farms out in the mid-west where they raise mink.*

*There are alternatives.*

*Some of the alternatives are probably more harmful than synthetics.*

*Fur is a renewable resource; it's functional because it keeps you warm.*

*So in the long-run fur is actually a better product to have.*

*But that is not the only option. Cotton is renewable. To me it's that they are more worried about how they appear. To me appearance and outward status and image is way more important than thinking about why they bought that coat? To me, it's very shallow and superficial. I don't think my wife would accept a cotton coat in the wintertime. . . She got a mink scarf and she's got a—she got that from my mother. (VET)*

6. *People don't have to garden to obtain food anymore but they still do it; it is an important part of their life and something they like to do. for some people trapping is similar. People don't have to do it but still want to; some people look to the woods for the same kind of rewards as gardeners get from gardening.*

This message provoked the widest range of response. While some focus group respondents agreed with it, others had a difficult time accepting that trapping was a “pleasurable” past-time.

*I think that may be true, it sounds a little defensive. You're now hitting a group that is either going to be for hunting or against hunting. So, when I first thought about it my rebuttals were going to be this, this and this. But then I thought about it and that's true. I can see how people can get into that. It doesn't lead with the hunting; it leads with the gardening. I think that that is where the defensive piece of that partially is. Yeah, I think it's alright. I think as a lifestyle there are a few people who want to do it, and I don't think that that [trapping] greatly affects the population of the animal. They are not wiping them out by doing this. (AP)*

*I agree with it, to be honest going to the grocery store, somebody killed all of those animals. As long as they are within the guidelines and regulations of it and they enjoy it. It is fine with me; it is the same as gardening to me. I believe that, it could be like a hobby, “Hey look what I got today.” (IN)*

*I like to garden. I like to go out and plant my tomatoes. Gardening has a lot to do with what you created and what the product is after it comes from a seed and then finally after months of cultivation and all your hard work it has a final product. Trapping is just taking something that's already there and you had nothing to do with the production of it, so to me that statement is like apples and oranges. The word enjoyment kind of doesn't sit well with me much as satisfaction. I can't see where anybody could enjoy killing anything, myself included. I'm a hunter, but I don't enjoy killing anything. If I do kill something I, of course, want to see it die quick. Everybody's got to die, everything's got to die, but you don't want to prolong the agony of it. . . It's a stretch. (HT)*

*It's easy enough to go to a supermarket and buy your vegetables but you don't know what went in to them [with] the pesticides [and] the fertilizer; but when you garden yourself you know. If you have a cow that you've been feeding, you know the pasture it's on and the supplements you've fed it, you know what's in that cow. If you go and trap an animal and you eat it, you don't know where it's been. I don't know how many people have been to a slaughterhouse. It's not a very pleasant place and if you distance yourself from that and go to the supermarket and buy a steak, you don't make the connection that that [steak] came from an animal that was alive; you're just paying someone else to do the dirty work for you. It came from there but you're not willing to take care of it yourself. Certainly along time ago we stopped buying live chickens and having them killed and plucked right in front of us. We don't want to know these things. It connects them to the web of life and being a part of the whole part of being on this planet and whether we want to admit it or not we are all predators and meat eaters for the most part. We've been doing it for millions of years and they can relate to that and it is the same as gardening. You want to go do it yourself because it is the process of nature and it connects you to the outdoors and it connects you to nature. (VET)*

**7. The kinds of wildlife that are trapped are abundant. Regulated trapping does not cause wildlife to become endangered.**

The response to this message was mixed, but in no case did it provoke a strong response from the focus group respondents.

*That is very positive. Before you were comparing vegetables with wildlife. (AP)*

*I agree with that.*

*I don't agree with that.*

*I agreed with your previous one, but I thought gardening was a poor thing, but I do think that coming from back-woods people in Maine that it is very satisfying.*

*I don't want to go out and trap but I like to garden.*

*Yeah, when the produce gets really expensive. (HT)*

*That's probably true.*

*We've tried to exterminate certain animals, wolves for instance. (VET)*



8. *Trapping is managed through scientifically based regulations that are strictly enforced by conservation officers.*

The response to this message was mixed. There was doubt that trapping regulations were enforced and doubts about the scientific basis for trapping regulations. However, this message seemed to provoke a strong response and would probably be worth refining.

*I like it.*

*In my dreams, that is a great theory but nothing is enforced by any officer.*

*I really think most sportsmen, and I have met a few trappers, are conservation-minded, law abiding citizens that try to follow the rules.*

*That is an informational message.*

*That could be a sub-title; you might want to lead with that kind of information. (AP)*

*I don't think you can strictly enforce it.*

*I suppose some of them [conservation officers] are [managing trapping] if they are looking for ways to improve traps and not harm animals and things, but I don't think there is a way to strictly enforce it.*

*I don't think you can strictly enforce hunting deer with a rifle, there is just too much to do and too much space to cover, to strictly enforce [to catch everything that goes on, everything that you see] (IN)*

*I agree with that.*

*I'd go with that.*

*Regulated yes.*

*Well, whatever enforcement officers are there.*

*All six of them for the whole state of Connecticut.*

*It's more awareness, I digress, but yeah, I guess I'm okay with that, but it really is a resource issue. (HT)*

*I don't think that they have or can have scientifically based regulations. It's a political process.*

*Who's going to make the decisions?*

*The people in the wildlife agencies.*

*And the politicians don't have anything to do with this?*

*That's why we got the Striper population back because there were no politicians involved. Why? Because people studied their life cycle and understood where they breed at and made sure that the fisherman stuck to the regulations. If you make sure that the scientists and biologists who understand it run it. I agree. If you let the politicians come in, it's a different—I'm just arguing the point of view that there are no scientific ways to do this and yes there is. Can it be done when people mess with it? I don't know, but yes it can be scientifically done. It's a lot of observation and a lot of study to actually manage that population.*

*It can be done but until the situation gets so bad that they have to do it, they're*

*extinct then.*

*You stated that it couldn't be and I'm stating that it can be scientifically done. Exactly, it still does not address the issues of humanity and ethics and things like that. (VET)*

9. *The State agency continually develops and reviews regulations and educational programs and capture methods to make trapping as humane as possible.*

This message provoked a mild response. There was some doubt that state agencies were, in fact, working on the issue of humane trapping, but overall this message had a positive response.

*Assuming that it is true, [I like it].  
It is a positive message. (AP)*

*Do they?  
They do?  
They do.  
If it's certain that they do then I would agree with it. (HT)*

*That's what people want to hear.  
No, they don't do that.  
But that is what they want to hear.  
I would say that I don't buy it. That is what I would say. (VET)*

10. *Regulated trapping provides many benefits to the state in terms of safety, endangered species management and disease control.*

The response to this message was mild doubt.

*I like benefits and regulated [trapping]. (AP)*

*They are trying to sell you on that one.  
The word benefit is so vague, it is like, what are they? You don't know what it is so you don't have enough information to make a decision. (IN)*

*I don't like the word "many." You can say some or few. (HT)*

**General Population and Veterinarian Staff Focus Group Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations**

The use of the term “natural resource” as it pertains to wildlife is not inherently misunderstood, nor did it have a particularly negative connotation with respondents of the focus groups. However, the use of the term “renewable,” especially as it is applied to wildlife resources does seem to have some negative associations. The concept that wildlife resources, if managed, can be sustained is not the issue. Rather, the term “renewable” seems to indicate, in the minds of some, the idea that wildlife does not need protection in so far as individual animals are concerned.

The notion that people are concerned with the treatment of individual animals and wildlife populations are significant in so far as attitudes toward trapping are concerned. The focus group respondents who were not inherently opposed to trapping *per se* but were influenced by concerns for the treatment of individual animals and the health of the wildlife resource. Thus, arguments that these animals are “renewable” may not be a good approach to influencing those opinions since the term “renewable” has a negative connotation of requiring less protection of individual animals and the connotation that “renewable” indicated that there was no need to conserve wildlife resources as they could always be “renewed.”

Lack of knowledge about trap types and trapping methods was evident in all four focus groups. Several respondents held the perception that foot-hold traps were large and had “teeth.”

Lack of specific knowledge about trapping should not be interpreted to mean a lack of interest or awareness about other wildlife related issues. In all of the focus groups, there was interest in and concern for wildlife and wildlife issues. Trapping is seen, as a marginal activity compared to more mainstream issues, such as endangered species, wildlife conservation and hunting and fishing.

A prevailing topic of the groups was the humaneness of traps. For the most part respondents were not aware that foot-hold traps could be made so as not to injure the trapped animal. When told that foot-hold traps did not necessarily injure the animal, respondents expressed skepticism toward the statement. Respondents recognized the conundrum that “kill” traps, while humane in the sense that animal suffering was reduced, also had the problem of occasionally killing non-target species. On the whole, the groups still favored kill traps over foot-hold traps. The exception to this was so-called “drowning” traps. The idea of drowning an animal in a trap was, in general, not accepted.

State agencies are seen as the most credible source of information on trapping and other wildlife related issues. Service organizations, private organizations, and conservation groups have other levels of credibility but are seen as having “an agenda” and therefore not entirely unbiased. The high level of credibility given to state agencies however is fragile. State agencies need to be viewed as unbiased and fair to all sides. State agencies are expected to represent all citizens regardless of their opinions on trapping. If this right to equal representation is impinged upon, then the credibility of the agency will suffer.

The messages tested that produced the strongest response were those related to the regulated nature of trapping by state agencies, the use of scientific information in developing trapping regulations and the fact that these regulations are strictly enforced. Although many of the focus group respondents disapproved of trapping, they were somewhat mollified by the idea that trapping was closely regulated and that trapping regulations were based on scientific information. Use of such messages should prove effective given the credibility of the agencies so long as they do not sound defensive or negative. Positive messages and information that represents the interests of more than one group would work best.



**CHAPTER II**

**STATEWIDE TELEPHONE SURVEYS  
CONDUCTED IN  
CONNECTICUT, INDIANA AND WISCONSIN**



## CHAPTER II

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### **Telephone Survey Results of Statewide Surveys in Connecticut, Indiana and Wisconsin**

The following chapter details the findings from the telephone survey. Many of the topics highlighted in the focus groups are examined in further detail within the telephone survey. The telephone survey found that, in general, approval of trapping does exist, though state by state differences were apparent. The level of approval for trapping within the three states varied widely. An important finding from the telephone survey, supported by the findings of the focus groups, found that a majority of respondents were aware that state agencies regulated trapping and that when trapping is associated with a state agency as a regulated activity, approval for trapping increases. Though a majority of respondents were aware that trapping is regulated by a state agency, most respondents were not fully aware of what “regulation” meant. The level of approval or disapproval is directly related to the amount of information a person possesses on the subject of trapping. The more information a person hears or knows about trapping, the higher their level of approval of trapping. The converse of this is true as well – the less information a person hears or knows about trapping the higher their level of disapproval of trapping.

Corresponding to the approval or disapproval of various messages tested in the focus groups, similar levels of support or opposition of trapping were found in the telephone survey. Trapping for wildlife restoration efforts was given the highest approval rating in the telephone survey. Trapping for population control (damage control), subsistence trapping and trapping for food also had high approval ratings. Comparable to the focus groups, most telephone survey



respondents did not approve of trapping as a way to make money, for fur clothing and/or for recreation. It is clear that trapping as a way to make money or for recreation is strongly disapproved of by the general population.

## **Telephone Survey Introduction and Methodology**

This quantitative telephone survey was conducted to determine general population awareness, opinions and attitudes toward regulated trapping and regulated trapping related issues from three test states: Connecticut, Indiana and Wisconsin. A total of 1,208 surveys were completed through telephone interviews of adult residents from each of the three states. The individual samples included 403 interviews from Connecticut, 402 interviews from Indiana and 403 interviews from Wisconsin.

The survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively between the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and Responsive Management (RM) and was administered by telephone to randomly selected residents, 18 years old and older, from Wisconsin, Indiana, and Connecticut. The sample was obtained from Survey Sampling, Inc. in Fairfield, Connecticut. Telephones were the preferred medium to conduct this survey since nearly all potential respondents had access to a phone. A central telephone-polling site at Responsive Management headquarters allowed for rigorous quality control over interviewers and over data collection in general. The facility was staffed by interviewers with experience conducting computer-assisted telephone interviews on the subjects of natural resources and outdoor recreation for state fish and wildlife agencies and natural resource organizations. In addition, interviewers were trained according to standards established by the Council of American Survey Research Organizations. Professional staff randomly monitored interviewers

to evaluate each interviewer's performance. Professional staff members conducted project briefings with each interviewer prior to his or her beginning work on this project. Interviewers were briefed and instructed on study goals and objectives, type of study, handling of survey questions, interview length, termination points, qualifiers for participation, reading of interviewer instructions, reading of survey, skip patterns, and probing and clarifying techniques necessary for specific questions on the survey instrument. Professional staff edited each survey to check for clarity, understanding, completeness and form.

Interviews were conducted Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. and on Saturday from noon to 6:00 p.m. local time. A multiple callback design was used to maintain the representativeness of the sample, avoid bias toward people easy to reach by telephone, and to provide an equal opportunity for all to participate. Subsequent calls were placed at different times of the day and on different days of the week.

The software used for data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language (QPL) version 4.1 (National Technical Information Services, 1999). QPL is a comprehensive system for computer-assisted telephone interviewing. The survey data was entered into the computer as the interviews were conducted, eliminating possible errors associated with manual data entry after the completion of the interviews.

Throughout this report, findings are reported at a 95% confidence interval. For the entire sample of general population residents in Wisconsin, Indiana and Connecticut, the sampling error is at most plus or minus 4.9 %. This means that if the survey were administered 100 times to different samples that were selected in the same fashion, 95 of the 100 surveys' findings would fall within plus or minus 4.9% of each other. Due to rounding, percentages depicted in

graphs may vary slightly ( $\leq 0.5\%$ ) from actual data and therefore may not total exactly 100 percent. Questions that allowed for multiple responses will not add up to 100 percent.

## **Telephone Survey Results**

### ***Awareness of and attitudes toward trapping***

Respondents were asked if they were aware people in their state participated in trapping. Majorities in each state were aware that residents of their state participated in trapping. Wisconsin respondents had the highest percentage aware with 76% of residents aware of people trapping in Wisconsin. Sixty-six percent of Indiana residents reported they were aware of people participating in trapping. Among Connecticut residents, 59% of the population reported being aware of people participating in trapping. Nearly a quarter to over a third of respondents reported that they were unaware that residents of their state participated in trapping.

Survey respondents were asked: “Are you aware that trapping is regulated by the state of [respondent’s State]? Regulation means that the state requires respondents to buy licenses and limits how, when, what kind and how many animals can be legally trapped.” Similar majorities to those who reported being aware of people trapping in their state were also aware that the state regulated trapping. Seventy-one percent of Wisconsin residents were aware trapping was regulated by the state, compared to the 76% of Wisconsin residents who were aware people trapped. Sixty percent of Indiana residents were aware trapping was regulated by the state, compared with 66% of Indiana residents who were aware people trapped. Fifty-seven percent of Connecticut residents were aware trapping was regulated by the state, compared with 59% of Connecticut residents who were aware people trapped. Respondents who were unaware that trapping was regulated by their state ranged from 27% in Wisconsin to 40% in Connecticut.

Familiarity with the state agency responsible for regulating and managing trapping was also determined through the survey. After respondents were provided the name of the state agency responsible for trapping, they were asked: “Before this survey, would you say you were very familiar, somewhat familiar or not at all familiar that this agency regulates and manages trapping in [respondent’s State]?” Wisconsin had the largest percentage of respondents who were either very familiar (29%) or somewhat (36%) familiar with its Department of Natural Resources - 65%. Fifty-two percent of Indiana respondents reported they were either very familiar (16%) or somewhat familiar (36%) with the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife. Forty-eight percent of Connecticut respondents said they were either very familiar (15%) or somewhat familiar (33%) with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Smaller percentages were not at all familiar with the agency that regulates trapping in their state. Forty-eight percent of Connecticut residents, 45% of Indiana residents and 34% of Wisconsin residents were not at all familiar that their state agency regulated trapping.

When asked to provide an overall rating of how well their state agency regulates and manages trapping, the most frequent response in each state was “don’t know.” In Connecticut, 63% responded “don’t know,” in Indiana 57% reported “don’t know,” and for Wisconsin 48% said “don’t know” when asked to rate the state agency regulating and managing trapping. The second most frequent response for each state was the rating of good, with 19% from Connecticut and 27% from both Indiana and Wisconsin rating the state agency good. In rank order of frequency, the responses for each state were as follows: Don’t know, good, fair, excellent and poor.

Despite the considerable percentage of the population in each state that was unable to rate how well trapping was being regulated and managed, most respondents indicated they were

either very confident or somewhat confident that their designated state agency is properly managing the state's wildlife. In Wisconsin, 48% of the population responded they did not know how well the Department of Natural Resources regulates and manages trapping; however, 23% were very confident and 48% were somewhat confident the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources was properly managing wildlife. For Indiana, 57% responded that they did not know how well the Division of Fish and Wildlife regulated and managed trapping; however, 22% were very confident and 45% were somewhat confident the Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife properly managed wildlife. In Connecticut, 63% responded they did not know how well the Department of Environmental Protection regulated and managed trapping; however, 17% were very confident and 45% were somewhat confident the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection was properly managing wildlife.

Survey respondents were also asked to rate the responsiveness of their state agency regarding trapping regulation and management. When asked to rate the state agency's "...performance with incorporating the public's wants and needs into the regulation and management of trapping..." within their state, about half of Connecticut and Indiana respondents said they "don't know," and 1 out of 3 Wisconsin respondents said "don't know." Most respondents rated their state agency as good with few poor ratings. Wisconsin respondents provided the following ratings for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources performance in incorporating the public's wants and needs concerning trapping: 7% said excellent, 35% said good, 19% said fair, 5% said poor and 34% said "don't know." Among Indiana respondents, 6% rated the state agency excellent, 30% rated the agency good, 10% rated the agency fair, 5% rated the agency poor and 50% reported "don't know" when asked about the agency performance in incorporating the public's wants and needs into the regulation and management of trapping. In

Connecticut, 4% rated the state agency excellent, 26% rated the agency good, 11% rated the agency fair, 7% rated the agency poor and 52% said they “don’t know” how well the state agency has incorporated the public’s wants and needs into the regulation and management of trapping.

The complete responses for each of these questions about general awareness of trapping and attitudes toward trapping are included in the report graphs, Q7 through Q12.

### **Information Sources About Trapping**

Across each of the three states surveyed, large percentages of residents reported they had heard nothing at all about trapping in their state in the past 12 months. Forty-seven percent of Wisconsin respondents had heard nothing about trapping during the past 12 months, however an almost equal number (48%) of Wisconsin respondents reported hearing a little about trapping in their state in the past 12 months. A majority of Connecticut and Indiana respondents (60% and 61% respectively) had heard nothing at all about trapping in the past 12 months. In contrast, 35% from Indiana and 31% from Connecticut reported hearing “a little” about trapping in the past 12 months.

The vast majority of respondents (over 90%) from each of the three states surveyed had not seen or heard any advertising, information or news coverage within the past year that showed *positive* things about trapping. Similarly, more than 84% of those surveyed from these states have not seen or heard any *negative* advertising, information or news coverage within the past year about trapping. Of those who had seen or heard any advertising, information or news coverage concerning trapping in the past year, slightly more recalled having heard *negative* things about trapping rather than *positive* things.

Smaller percentages recalled having seen or heard *positive* things about trapping. Seven percent of Connecticut residents reported having seen or heard any *positive* things about

trapping, 5% of Wisconsin residents and 5% of Indiana residents reported having seen or heard *positive* things about trapping. Respondents reported having seen or heard various *positive* things about trapping across a range of media. Among this small segment of the population, the most frequently identified sources of *positive* advertising, information or news coverage about trapping were newspapers; television news programs; family, friends, or word of mouth; and magazines. It should be noted that no single medium was identified by more than 30% of those who saw or heard *positive* things about trapping. *Positive* coverage of trapping included the following topics: Trapping helps control wildlife; trapping provides food, clothing, or shelter; and trapping is humane/does not cause undue pain to animals. However, any one of these *positive* messages had been recalled by no more than 4% of the population in each state. It is also noted that very few respondents reported having seen or heard *positive* information about trapping from either State Parks or Wildlife Management Areas, or Game Wardens/Park Rangers.

Of those respondents reporting having seen or heard any *negative* things about trapping, Connecticut had the largest percentage, with 16% who indicated that they had seen or heard any advertising, information or news coverage that showed *negative* things about trapping. Twelve percent of Wisconsin residents and 7% of Indiana residents reported having seen or heard *negative* things about trapping. Respondents having reported seeing or hearing various *negative* things about trapping heard information from the same sources and in nearly the same frequencies across sources as was found for the positive information about trapping. Thus, respondents reported having heard *negative* things about trapping from primarily newspapers; television news programs; family, friends, or word of mouth; and magazines. *Negative* coverage

of trapping was most frequently included the following topics: trapping is inhumane/causes undue pain to animals, trapping is not necessary and trapping is harmful to wildlife populations.

In order to evaluate sources of trapping information valued by the public, respondents were given a randomly ordered list of eight different sources of information about trapping and were then asked to choose the two sources they believed to be the most credible. The most credible source of information about trapping was state fish and wildlife agencies. State fish and wildlife agencies were the only source of information to be selected by a majority of respondents from all states as one of the most credible sources for information about trapping. Other choices for credible information on trapping were organizations like the Humane Society, veterinarians, mass media and animal rights organizations like PETA.

The specific results of these questions about the most credible sources of trapping information indicated a majority of respondents from Connecticut (54%), Indiana (63%) and Wisconsin (61%) identified their state fish and wildlife agency as one of the two most credible sources of trapping information.

Following in rank order of frequency were animal organizations like the Humane Society, with 52% of Connecticut respondents, 33% of Indiana respondents and 35% of Wisconsin respondents, selecting these organizations as one of the two most credible for information on trapping.

The percentage that selected trappers as one of the two most credible sources of information about trapping ranged from a low of 8% of respondents in Connecticut, to 13% of Indiana respondents, and a high of 22% of Wisconsin respondents.



Family and friends, as well as celebrities, were selected by smaller percentages. Very few respondents (2% in Connecticut and Wisconsin, 1% in Indiana) reported none of these sources were credible for information about trapping.

The complete responses for each of these questions about information sources and negative and positive coverage of trapping are included in the report graphs, Q13 through Q24 and Q73, which lists the responses for the most credible sources of trapping information.

### ***Approval of Trapping For Different Purposes***

When respondents were asked in the direct question, “In general, do you approve or disapprove of regulated trapping?” support for trapping was stronger in all three states than was disapproval. Majorities in each state supported regulated trapping. In Wisconsin, nearly three-quarters of the population approved of regulated trapping (36% strongly and 37% moderately approved). In Indiana, 68% approved of regulated trapping (35% strongly and 33% moderately approved). Support, though weakest in Connecticut, was still a majority, 58% (30% strongly and 28% moderately approved). Disapproval of regulated trapping was found among less than a third of the population in each of the three states. Connecticut showed the highest percentage (29%) disapproving regulated trapping. Most of this disapproval was strong disapproval (22%). Wisconsin had the least disapproval of regulated trapping, with 15% of the population disapproving of regulated trapping. Twenty-percent of Indiana residents disapproved of regulated trapping. It is important to note these relatively high approval ratings may reflect the context of the questions about the approval of the state fish and wildlife agency that preceded it. These questions, due to their proximity, may have bestowed an increased favor and/or credibility for trapping (a phenomenon that should be maximized in real-world applications of this data) due to the high approval of the agencies themselves.

After being asked if they approved or disapproved of regulated trapping, respondents were informed of a number of reasons why people trapped and asked if they approved or disapproved of each type of trapping. Of the ten reasons presented to respondents on why people trap, the reason with the most support for trapping animals was trapping as part of a restoration program. Trapping as a way to control wildlife populations from destroying wildlife habitats, subsistence trapping and trapping for food all enjoyed high levels of approval. Trapping as a way to make money, trapping for fur clothing and trapping as recreation all had high levels of disapproval.

When asked if they “approved or disapproved of trapping for food” majorities approved of trapping for food. Eighty percent of Indiana residents, 78% of Wisconsin residents and 59% of Connecticut residents, approved of trapping for food. Disapproval of trapping for food was much lower with nearly one-fifth to slightly over a third of respondents disapproving. Eighteen percent of both Wisconsin and Indiana residents and 39% of Connecticut residents disapproved of trapping for food.

When asked if they “approved or disapproved of trapping for recreation” there was strong disapproval. A majority in each state disapproved of trapping for recreation and less than a third approved of trapping for recreation. Eighty-three percent of Connecticut residents disapproved of trapping for recreation with 73% of the disapproval strong disapproval. Seventy-six percent of Indiana residents and 62% of Wisconsin residents disapproved of trapping for recreation, again with most responses being strong disapproval. Approval of trapping for recreation was strongest in Wisconsin, with about one third (32%) approving of trapping for recreation, with most of this approval being only moderate. Twenty-one percent of Indiana residents and 13% of Connecticut residents approved of trapping for recreation, with most approval only moderate.

When asked if they “approved or disapproved of subsistence trapping” there were high percentages that approved and much smaller percentages that disapproved. Approval for subsistence trapping (defined as trapping for food, clothing and shelter) was greater than approval for regulated trapping in general. Eighty-one percent of Wisconsin residents, 76% of Indiana residents and 68% of Connecticut residents, strongly or moderately approved of subsistence trapping. Slightly more respondents strongly approved of subsistence trapping though it was a close split between strong and moderate approval of subsistence trapping. Just over a quarter (26%) of Connecticut residents disapproved of subsistence trapping; 20% of Indiana residents and 15% of Wisconsin residents disapproved of subsistence trapping.

When asked if they “approve or disapprove of trapping to help control certain wildlife populations so that they do not become too numerous and destroy wildlife habitat,” approval was very strong. Eighty-four percent of Wisconsin residents, 80% of Indiana residents, and 68% of Connecticut residents either strongly or moderately approved of trapping to help control wildlife populations from destroying wildlife habitat. Most approval was strong approval with nearly twice as many respondents strongly approving of trapping compared to respondents who only moderately approved of trapping to control wildlife populations from destroying wildlife habitats. Disapproval was low with slightly more respondents strongly disapproving than moderately disapproving in Indiana and Connecticut. Twelve percent of Wisconsin residents, 15% of Indiana residents and 25% of Connecticut residents disapproved of trapping to control wildlife populations from destroying wildlife habitats.

When asked if they “approve or disapprove of trapping to reduce damage to crops and gardens,” a majority approved. Seventy-two percent of Wisconsin residents, 69% of Indiana residents and 51% of Connecticut residents strongly or moderately approved of trapping to

reduce damage to crops and gardens. However, disapproval of trapping to reduce damage to crops and gardens ranged between 21% in Wisconsin to 43% in Connecticut, with most disapproval strong disapproval.

When asked if they “approve or disapprove of trapping to reduce damage to human property,” similar ratings of approval were found. Slightly fewer respondents approved of trapping to reduce damage to human property than had approved trapping to reduce damage to crops and gardens. Approval and disapproval of trapping to reduce damage to human property was evenly split in Connecticut, with 45% who approved and 47% who disapproved. Seventy percent of Wisconsin residents and 67% of Indiana residents approved of trapping to reduce damage to human property.

When asked if they “approve or disapprove of trapping wild animals for fur clothing” strong majorities in all three states disapproved of trapping for fur clothing. Eighty-one percent of Connecticut residents disapproved of trapping for fur clothing with most disapproval strong disapproval (71%). Seventy-two percent of Indiana residents disapproved of trapping for fur with 59% strongly disapproving. Sixty-one percent of Wisconsin residents disapproved of trapping for fur with 47% strongly disapproving. Support for trapping for fur ranged from 34% in Wisconsin to 15% in Connecticut, with most support moderate approval.

When asked if they “approve or disapprove of trapping as a way for individuals to make money,” majorities in each state disapproved of trapping as a way to make money. Nearly three-quarters of Connecticut residents (73%) disapproved of trapping as a way to make money with 62% reporting strong disapproval. Fifty-nine percent in Indiana and 54% in Wisconsin disapproved of trapping as a way to make money with most respondents reporting strong

disapproval. Approval of trapping as a way to make money was 41% in Wisconsin, 34% in Indiana, and 22% in Connecticut. Most approval was rated only moderate approval.

When asked if they “approve or disapprove of trapping as part of a biological study,” majorities in each state approved of trapping as part of a biological study. Seventy-one percent of Wisconsin residents, 65% of Indiana residents, and 56% of Connecticut residents approved of trapping as part of a biological study. Slightly more approval was moderate approval rather than strong approval. Disapproval for trapping as part of a biological study was found in less than one third of the population in each state. Thirty-two percent of Connecticut residents, 28% of Indiana residents and 19% of Wisconsin residents disapproved of trapping as part of a biological study with slightly more opposition strong disapproval.

When asked if they “approve or disapprove of trapping as a way to capture and relocate wild animals from where they are abundant to places where they once existed as part of a restoration program,” overwhelming majorities supported trapping. Trapping as part of a restoration program received the highest percentages approving trapping than any other reason with most support strong approval. Ninety-one percent of Indiana residents approved of trapping as part of a restoration program; 71% strongly approved. Ninety percent of Wisconsin residents approved of trapping as part of a restoration program; 69% strongly approved. Eighty-six percent of Connecticut residents approved of trapping as part of a restoration program; 67% strongly approved. Disapproval of trapping as part of restoration program was no more than 10% in all three states. Ten percent of Connecticut residents, 7% of Indiana residents and 6% of Wisconsin residents disapproved of trapping as part of a restoration program.

The complete responses for each of these questions about approval or disapproval of trapping and trapping purposes are included in the report graphs, Q26 through Q36, and also Q27

to Q36 combined together for each state, with collapsed approval (strongly and moderately) and disapproval responses.

**Trapping and animal rights, animal welfare and use of animals**

Respondents were informed that when animals are trapped the whole animal is usually utilized and there is little waste. Once respondents were aware that there is usually little waste in trapping, they were asked if: “Knowing this, are you likely to find trapping more acceptable?” For over half of Wisconsin residents (51%) knowing that there is little waste in trapping did make trapping more acceptable. However, for only 29% of Connecticut residents did knowing there is little waste in trapping make trapping more acceptable. Forty-five percent of Indiana residents said knowing there is little waste made trapping more acceptable. For a majority of Connecticut residents (53%) knowing there is little waste did not change their opinion of trapping. Thirty-one percent of Wisconsin residents and 37% of Indiana residents said that knowing there is little waste in trapping did not change their opinion of trapping.

Respondents were read a series of statements regarding the implications of trapping and animal welfare as it pertains to trapping and asked if they agreed or disagreed with the statement.

When respondents were informed, “I think regulated trapping is okay if the animals die quickly and without undue pain,” majorities in all three states agreed. Seventy-six percent of Wisconsin residents, 66% of Indiana residents and 54% of Connecticut residents agreed with this statement. Lower percentages disagreed. Twenty percent of Wisconsin residents, 30% of Indiana residents and 40% of Connecticut residents disagreed that regulated trapping is okay if the animals die quickly and without undue pain.

When respondents were informed, “I think regulated trapping is okay if animals that are accidentally caught could be released,” large majorities agreed with this statement. Nearly three quarters and greater agreed regulated trapping is okay when animals caught accidentally can be released. Eighty-four percent of Indiana residents, 83% of Wisconsin residents and 74% of Connecticut residents agreed with this statement. Most agreement was strong agreement. Less

than a quarter disagreed with this statement. Twenty-two percent of Connecticut residents, 13% of Wisconsin residents and 12% of Indiana residents disagreed that trapping is okay even if animals that are accidentally caught could be released.

When respondents were informed, “Because of improvements in traps, trapping is more humane today than it was ten years ago” roughly 4 out of 10 from each state agreed with this statement and no more than 21% disagreed with this statement. High percentages in all three states responded they “did not know” that improvements in traps had made trapping more humane today than it was ten years ago, with over one third of respondents giving this answer. Forty-six percent of Wisconsin residents, 45% of Indiana residents and 39% of Connecticut residents agreed that improvements had made trapping more humane with an equal distribution between those who strongly and those who moderately agreed. In contrast, a fifth or less of respondents said they disagreed. Twenty-one percent of Connecticut residents, 19% of Indiana residents and 14% of Wisconsin residents disagreed that improvements had made trapping more humane.

In a similar question when respondents were asked, “Do you agree or disagree that trapping is more humane today than it was 10 years ago?” similar responses were given. Again a high percentage responded, “don’t know.” Agreement that trapping was more humane was 49% in Wisconsin, 40% in Indiana and 39% in Connecticut. Disagreement with the statement that “trapping is more humane today than 10 years ago” was 19% in Connecticut, 17% in Indiana and 15% in Wisconsin.

When respondents were informed, “Endangered species are frequently used to make fur clothing” most respondents disagreed with this statement. Sixty percent of Wisconsin residents, 50% of Connecticut residents and 48% of Indiana residents disagreed that endangered species



are frequently used to make fur clothing. Most disagreement was strong disagreement. However, 32% of Indiana residents, 23% of Wisconsin residents and 28% of Connecticut residents agreed with this statement

When respondents were read the statement, “Even though trapping is regulated by the state, regulated trapping can still cause wildlife species to become endangered or extinct,” majorities in each of the three states agreed with this statement. Agreement was evenly divided between those who strongly agreed and those who moderately agreed. Sixty-one percent of Connecticut residents, 59% of Indiana residents and 54% of Wisconsin residents agreed that even though trapping is regulated by the state, trapping might still cause species to become endangered or extinct. Thirty-five percent of Wisconsin residents, 29% of Indiana residents and a quarter of Connecticut residents disagreed with this statement with evenly divided percentages between moderate and strong agreement.

When respondents were told, “I think people should have the freedom to choose to participate in regulated trapping if they want to,” strong agreement existed for this statement. Seventy-five percent of Wisconsin residents either strongly agreed or moderately agreed with this statement. Seventy percent of Indiana residents either moderately or strongly agreed with this statement, and 56% of Connecticut residents either strongly or moderately agreed with this statement. Opposition, although mostly strong, was a much lower percentage. Thirty-seven percent of Connecticut residents, 25% of Indiana residents and 21% of Wisconsin residents disagreed with this statement.

The complete responses for each of these questions about perceptions of animal welfare and the perceived impacts of trapping are included in the report graphs, Q37 through Q44.

***Attitudes Toward State Fish and Wildlife Agency Trapping Initiatives***

Respondents were asked a series of questions regarding their knowledge of fish and wildlife agencies involvement in making trapping more humane. In general, most respondents were unaware that fish and wildlife agencies are working to make trapping more humane.

Respondents were informed that a major project was underway by state fish and wildlife agencies to make trapping more humane. Respondents were then asked if they had heard a lot, a little or nothing at all about the project to make trapping more humane by state fish and wildlife agencies. Nearly three-quarters of all residents in all three states responded that they had heard nothing at all. Seventy-five percent of Indiana residents and 72% of residents in both Wisconsin and Connecticut had heard nothing at all about state fish and wildlife efforts to make trapping more humane. Twenty-six percent, 25% and 20% in Wisconsin, Connecticut and Indiana respectively had heard a little about state fish and wildlife agency initiatives to make trapping more humane. Two percent or less reported hearing a lot about state fish and wildlife agency initiatives to make trapping more humane.

In addition to making trapping more humane, over two thirds of respondents were unaware state fish and wildlife agencies have been specifically working to improve traps to make trapping more humane. The majority of residents, 70% in Wisconsin, 68% in Indiana and 66% in Connecticut were unaware state fish and wildlife agencies had been working to improve traps to make them more humane. The highest percentage of respondents who were aware of state fish and wildlife initiatives to improve traps to make them more humane was in Connecticut, with 29% aware. Twenty-six percent of Indiana residents and 25% of Wisconsin residents were aware state fish and wildlife agencies have been working to improve traps to make them more humane.

In a similar question, respondents were informed that state fish and wildlife agencies were currently testing traps to make them more humane. Respondents were then asked, “Would you support or oppose trapping if you knew that traps being used have been tested to make them more humane?” Majorities in each state supported trapping once they knew traps had been tested to make them more humane. Seventy-eight percent of Wisconsin residents, 74% of Indiana residents and 60% of Connecticut residents would support trapping if they knew traps being used had been tested to make them more humane.

Strong majorities supported the idea of state fish and wildlife agencies working on ways to make trapping more humane. Eighty percent of Wisconsin respondents, 75% of Indiana respondents and 67% of Connecticut respondents supported the idea of state fish and wildlife agencies working on ways to make trapping more humane. Three percent or less opposed state fish and wildlife agencies working on ways to make trapping more humane. Certain respondents reported being opposed to all trapping. Connecticut had the highest percentage of residents opposed to all trapping with just under a quarter of the population (24%). Indiana followed with 18% opposed to all trapping and Wisconsin had 11% opposed to all trapping.

When respondents were asked, “Given that state fish and wildlife agencies are working on ways to make trapping more humane, do you support or oppose regulated trapping?” higher percentages supported regulated trapping compared to the question that asked only, “Do you approve or disapprove of regulated trapping?” It appears that when regulated trapping is associated with state fish and wildlife agency efforts to make trapping more humane, trapping has a higher approval rating. Higher percentages of respondents approved of trapping in the context of state fish and wildlife agencies working on ways to make trapping more humane. In response to this question on state fish and wildlife agencies making trapping more humane, 78%

of Wisconsin residents, 72% of Indiana residents and 61% of Connecticut residents approved of regulated trapping. Strong opposition still remained in Connecticut, with 27% of Connecticut residents opposing trapping despite state fish and wildlife agency efforts to make trapping more humane. Most of this opposition was strong opposition (21%). Nineteen percent of Indiana residents and 13% of Wisconsin residents still oppose trapping despite state fish and wildlife efforts to make trapping more humane.

The complete responses for each of these questions about attitudes toward state fish and wildlife agency trapping initiatives are included in the report graphs, Q45 through Q49.

### ***Familiarity with Trappers***

Over half of residents in Wisconsin and Indiana know or have known someone who trapped wild animals. Fifty-seven percent of Wisconsin residents and 52% of Indiana residents had know someone who had trapped wild animals. The majority of Connecticut residents (62%) had never known anyone who had trapped wild animals. Of those respondents who know or had known someone who trapped wild animals, the majority of respondents knew a friend who is or was a trapper. Thirty-six percent of both Wisconsin and Indiana residents and 35% of Connecticut residents who know or knew a trapper indicated this person was a friend. Other respondents reported knowing an immediate family member, another relative, and/or an acquaintance/coworker who trapped or traps wild animals. Among those knowing or who knew a trapper, 9% of Connecticut respondents, 15% of Indiana respondents and 12% of Wisconsin respondents were trappers themselves.

Familiarity with trappers was found to be statistically associated with awareness of trapping issues and approval of regulated trapping within each of the three states surveyed. Among those who reported knowing, or have ever known, anyone who is a trapper or has trapped wild animals, statistically greater percentages of respondents from each state either

strongly or moderately approved of regulated trapping. Among Connecticut respondents who know trappers, 82% approved (strongly or moderately) of regulated trapping, compared with 58% approval for those who do not know trappers [ $\chi^2 (2, n=403) = 26.006, p < .001$ ]. More Indiana respondents knowing trappers approved of regulated trapping strongly or moderately (88%) than those who do not know trappers (65% strongly or moderately approved) [ $\chi^2 (2, n=402) = 25.730, p < .001$ ]. In Wisconsin, 92% of those knowing trappers either strongly or moderately approved of regulated trapping, and 68% of those who do not know trappers approved of regulated trapping [ $\chi^2 (2, n=403) = 34.417, p < .001$ ]. Thus, for each of these states, those who know trappers are statistically more likely to approve of regulated trapping.

Among those who indicated that they know or have ever known anyone who is a trapper or has trapped wild animals, statistically higher percentages of respondents reported seeing or hearing either negative or positive things about trapping in each of the three states. In Connecticut, 24% of those who know trappers recalled negative information about trapping and 16% of those who do not know trappers recalled negative information. For the recollection of seeing or hearing positive things about trapping, 14% of Connecticut respondents who know trappers reported they recalled positive information, compared to only 5% of those not knowing trappers who reported seeing or hearing positive things about trapping [ $\chi^2 (2, n=403) = 11.087, p < .01$ ]. Among Indiana respondents who know trappers, statistically greater percentages recalled seeing or hearing both negative and positive things about trapping. Thirteen percent of Indiana respondents who know trappers, versus 5% of those who do not know trappers, reported seeing or hearing negative things about trapping [ $\chi^2 (2, n=402) = 7.624, p < .05$ ]. For the recollection of positive things about trapping, 10% of those knowing trappers, compared to 2% of those not knowing trappers, recalled seeing or hearing positive things about trapping [ $\chi^2 (2, n=402) =$

12.297,  $p < .01$ ] In Wisconsin, 19% of those who know trappers reported seeing or hearing negative things about trapping, while 6% of those who did not know trappers reported seeing or hearing negative things about trapping [ $\chi^2 (2, n=403) = 14.296, p < .001$ ].

The complete responses for each of these questions about familiarity with trappers are included in the report graphs, Q50 through Q51.

### ***Nuisance Animals and Trapping***

A minority of respondents had experienced problems with wildlife in their neighborhoods or around their home such as raccoons getting into garbage cans. Forty-one percent of Connecticut residents, 40% of Wisconsin residents and 35% of Indiana residents had experienced problems with wildlife in their neighborhoods or around their home. Of those who had experienced problems with wildlife, most had experienced problems caused by raccoons. Other species that reportedly caused problems around neighborhoods and homes were deer, skunks, opossums, and squirrels. The majority of problems caused by wildlife were with respondents' garbage, garden, yard or structural damage. Despite these problems, few respondents hired anyone to remove the nuisance animal(s). Ninety percent or more did not hire anyone to remove the nuisance animals.

The majority of respondents who reported having experienced problems with wild animals supported trapping for the purpose of solving nuisance animal problems. Seventy-two percent of Wisconsin respondents who had experienced nuisance problems with wild animals supported trapping as a method of solving wild animal problems. Sixty-seven percent of Indiana residents and fifty-three percent of Connecticut residents supported trapping for solving nuisance animal problems. However, the opposition against trapping even for solving nuisance animal problems, was mostly strong opposition despite being close to or below a third of the population.

The complete responses for each of these questions about nuisance animals and trapping are included in the report graphs, Q53 through Q61.

### **Demographics of Survey Respondents**

For each of the three states, males are statistically more likely to approve of trapping than were females. In Connecticut, 73% of males and 61% of females strongly or moderately approved of regulated trapping, which was a statistically significant difference [ $\chi^2$  (2,n=403) = 6.412,  $p < .05$ ]. Among Indiana respondents, 84% of males and 71% of females either strongly or moderately approved of regulated trapping, also a statistically significant difference [ $\chi^2$  (1,n=402) = 8.648,  $p < .01$ ]. Wisconsin respondents also differed by gender, with 90% of males and 75% of females either strongly approving or moderately approving regulated trapping [ $\chi^2$  (2,n=403) = 15.216,  $p < .001$ ].

Respondents were nearly equally divided between men and women, with an even distribution between age groups. Less than 10% of respondents were of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity with 7% in Connecticut and 2% each of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity in Wisconsin and Indiana. Most respondents (more than 3 out of 4) were white, and fewer than 5% in any state were Black/African American. Many (about 1 out of 3) live in a small city/town, followed in frequency by rural areas, suburban areas, and large cities. More Connecticut residents reported living in a suburban area than residents of Wisconsin or Indiana. Total household income before taxes was fairly evenly distributed from among five income ranges, from the lowest range of less than \$19,999, through three middle-income ranges, to the high range of over \$100,000. About 3 out of four respondents reported voting in the last election.

The complete responses for each of the survey questions concerning demographics are included in the report graphs, Q75 through Q83.

## **Additional Analyses and Telephone Survey Conclusions**

Statistical analysis of key survey data revealed a general pattern where knowledge about trapping was significantly related to approval of trapping. This is a pattern of association (i.e., it is not possible to make a statement about cause). Application of the data contained below will be discussed in terms of increasing knowledge among the public. If measures are taken to increase public awareness by state agencies, the effectiveness of those measures may readily be examined by comparing attitudes on these same variables after a passage of time. If attitudes change with the implementation of whatever awareness program is implemented, one may imply that the results are caused by program effectiveness.

### ***Special Analytical Considerations***

In many of the analyses that follow, data on ordinal scales (units or increments of increasing/decreasing quantities) were coded so that parametric (i.e., analyses generally performed on interval data-like age) rather than non-parametric (i.e. analyses generally performed on categorical data-like eye color), analyses could be performed. Statistical tests and their results are all related (e.g., a  $Z^2 = \text{Square Root of } \chi^2$ ) so the main reason for the conversions, when they were used, were to provide the most succinct analysis.

Thirteen analyses were performed to answer two broad questions.

3. What is the underlying cause of attitudes toward trapping?
4. Knowing the answer to #1, what can be done to influence those attitudes?

Several statements about trapping were tested for their level of support among the 254 “disapprovers” (those who either strongly or moderately disapprove of trapping). Statements found acceptable by this group may be effective for increasing support for trapping among those most opposed to trapping. The top of Table 1 shows the statements found most palatable to this



group. The statements are listed in order (by Z-value) of highest to lowest support. Most of those people who disapproved of trapping supported the use of trapping for wildlife relocation. Most of these same people also felt that trapping, even when regulated by the state could lead to the extinction of a species.

However, among all respondents (i.e., not just those who disapproved of trapping) the degree of agreement to question 43, “Even though trapping is regulated by the state, regulated trapping can still cause wildlife species to become endangered or extinct,” was significantly ( $r_s = -.13$ ,  $p < .001$ ) negatively related to the degree of approval of trapping (Q26). The more individuals agreed with the idea that species could become extinct, the less they approved of trapping (see Graph Q43 by Q26).

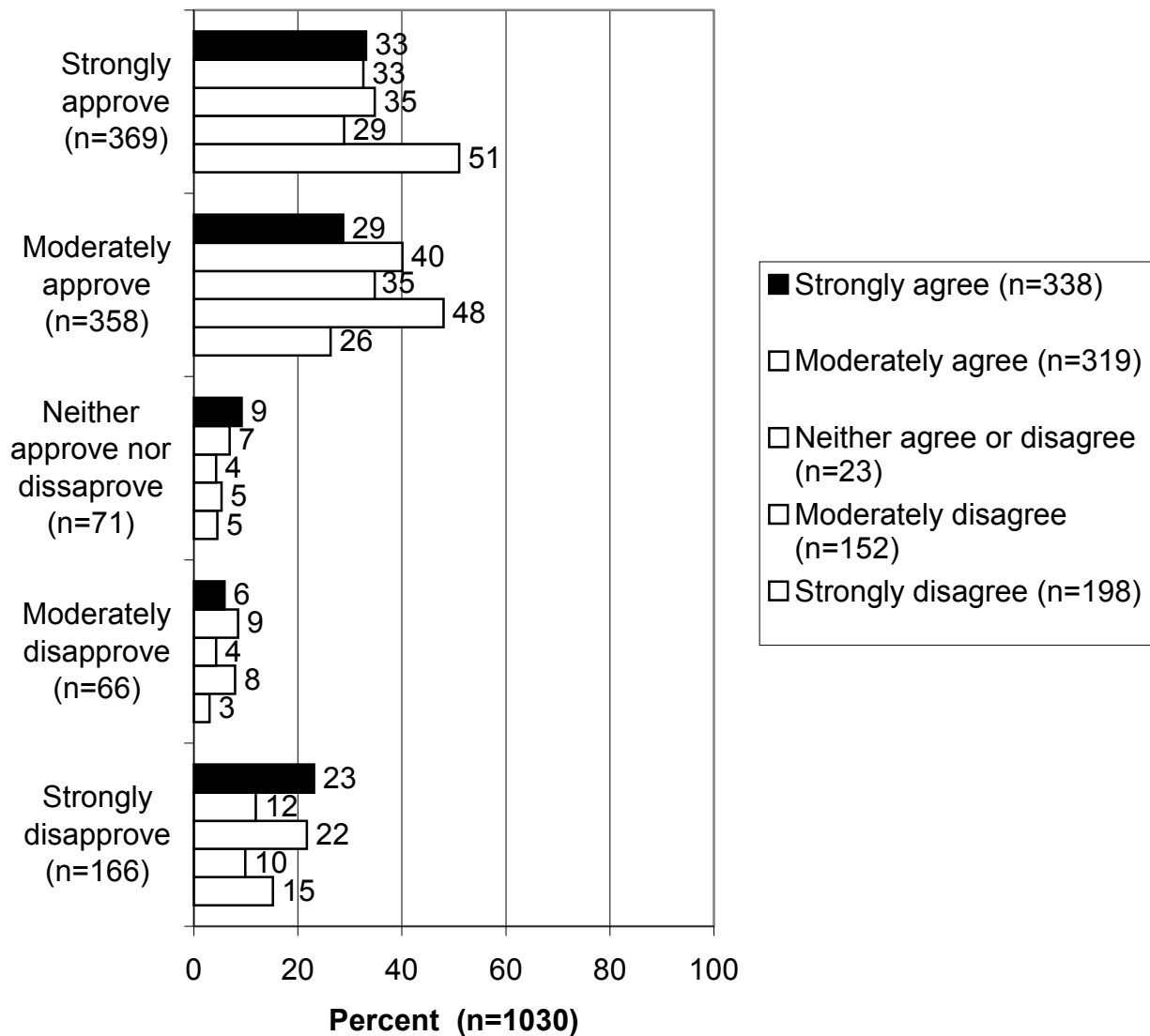
The two least acceptable messages to (see bottom of Table 1) to those who disapproved of trapping were that trapping is more humane now than it was 10 years ago, and that animals harvested through trapping are not wasted and have several beneficial uses.

However, among all respondents (i.e., not just those who disapproved of trapping), the more respondents agreed that trapping was more humane today than it was ten years ago [Q41. The fourth statement is: Because of improvements in traps, trapping is more humane today than it was ten years ago] the more respondents approved of trapping. There was a significant ( $r_s = .33$ ,  $p < .001$ ) positive relationship between approval/disapproval of trapping and agreements with Question 41 (see Graph Q41 by Q26).

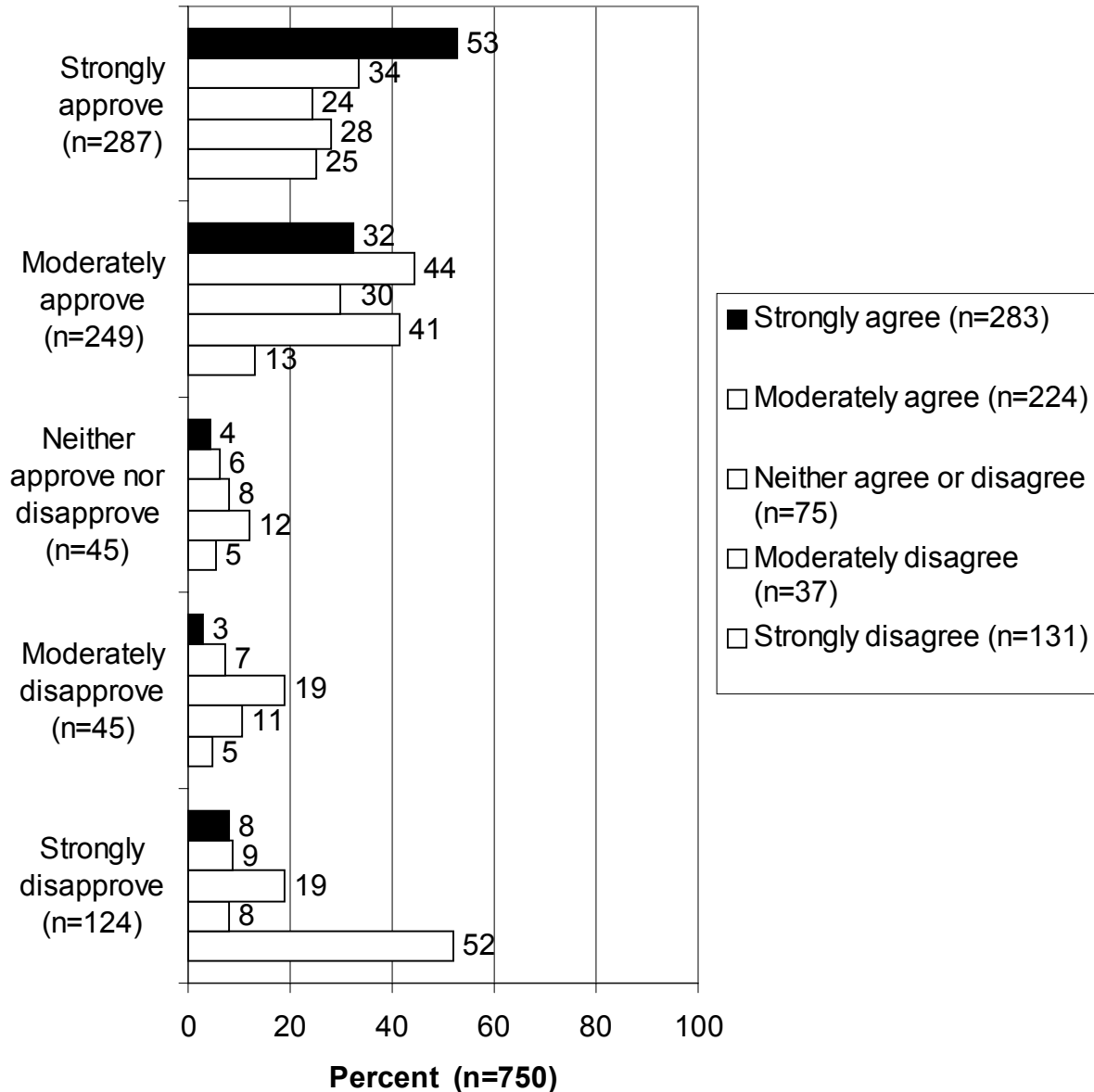
Also, among all respondents (i.e., not just those who disapproved of trapping) there was a significant ( $r_s = .35$ ,  $p < .001$ ) positive relationship between the level of support for the statement “Q37. For your information, when animals are trapped, the whole animal is usually utilized and there is often little waste. For example, the meat is used for human and pet food and other by-

products include soap, perfume and lubricants. Knowing this, do you find trapping more acceptable?" and the level of approval for trapping [Q26. In general, do you approve or disapprove of regulated trapping?]. The more positively an individual responded to the knowledge about beneficial uses of animals harvested by trapping, the more highly they approved of trapping (see Graph Q37 by Q26).

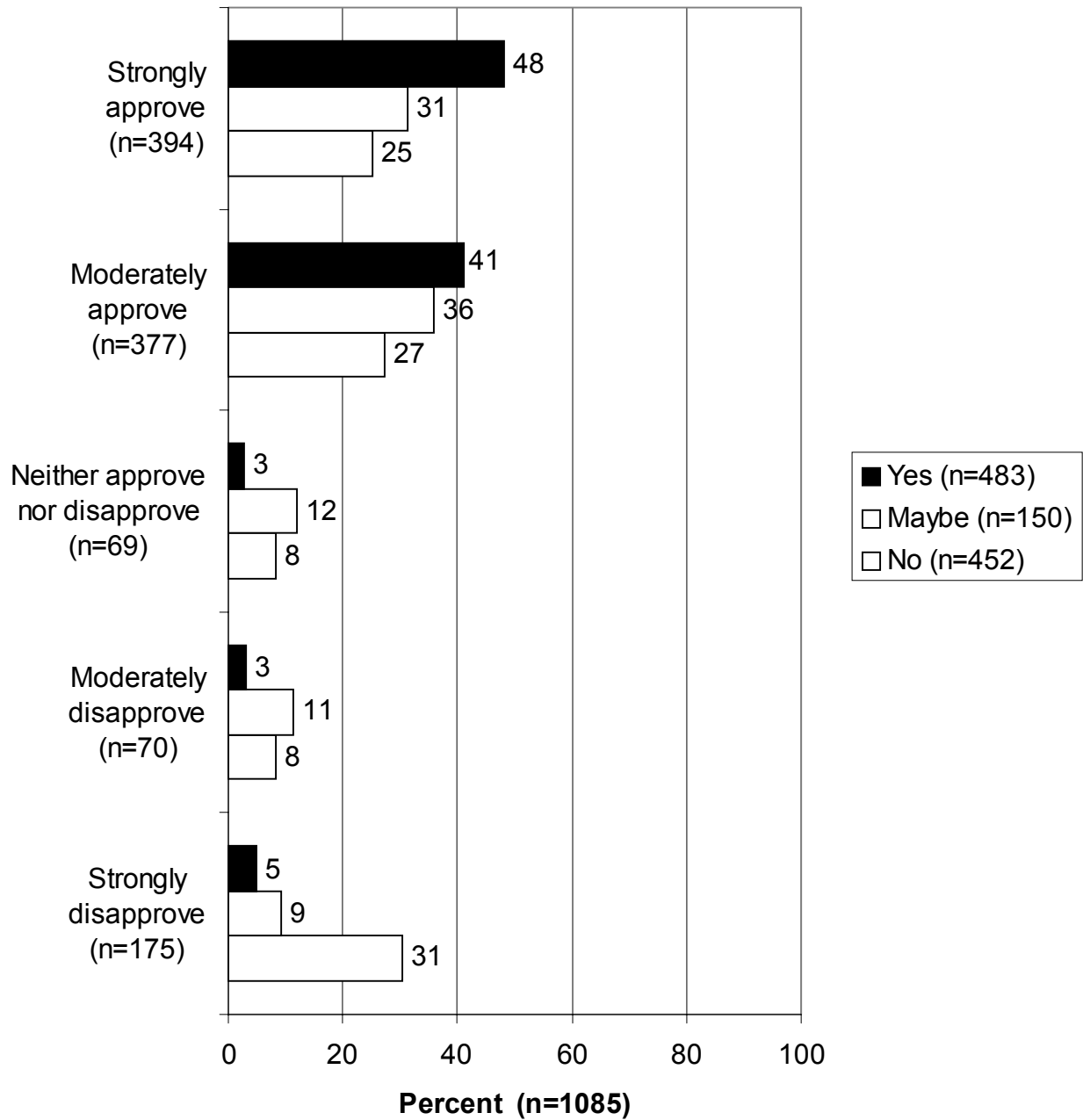
**Q43. The sixth statement is: Even though trapping is regulated by the state, regulated trapping can still cause wildlife species to become endangered or extinct. By Q26. In general, do you approve or disapprove of regulated trapping?**



**Q41. The fourth statement is: Because of improvements in traps, trapping is more humane today than it was ten years ago By Q26. In general, do you approve or disapprove of regulated trapping?**




**Q37. For your information...[list of beneficial uses]. Knowing this, do you find trapping more acceptable? By Q26. In general, do you approve or disapprove of regulated trapping?**



When those who disapproved of trapping were singled out (see Table 1) their results seemed to show that those who disapproved of trapping disapproved of it for its *purpose* (harvesting animals) not its *method* (more humane). When statements indicated a purpose of restoring and/or releasing animals, they were more supportive of the statement.

**Table 1. Ranking of Statements (Q36-43; Q47-49) Found Most (Top) and Least (Bottom) Acceptable by Those Who Have Strong or Moderate Disapproval (n=254) of Trapping**  
Positive values indicate better than 50% statement agreement/support. Negative values indicate less than 50% statement agreement/support.

Statement/Message	Disagreement/ Opposition	Agreement/Su pport	Z-Value	Higher Support	
Q36. What about trapping as a way to capture and relocate wild animals from where they are abundant to places where they once existed as part of a restoration program?	25.98	74.02	7.65		
Q43. Even though trapping is regulated by the state, regulated trapping can still cause wildlife species to become endangered or extinct.	36.61	63.39	4.27		
Q39. I think regulated trapping is ok if animals that are accidentally caught could be released. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?	41.34	58.66	2.76		
Q47. Do you support or oppose the idea of state fish and wildlife agencies working on ways to make trapping more humane or are you opposed to trapping all together?	62.20	37.80	-3.89		
Q48. The state fish and wildlife agencies are currently testing traps to make them more humane. Would you support or oppose trapping if you knew that traps being used have been tested to make them more humane?	62.20	37.80	-3.89		
Q40. I think people should have the freedom to choose to participate in regulated trapping.	63.39	36.61	-4.27		
Q38. I'm going to read six statements and I'd like for you to tell me if you agree or disagree with each statement. The first statement is: I think regulated trapping is ok if the animals die quickly and without undue pain. Do you agree or disagree with t	68.50	31.50	-5.90		
Q49. Given that state fish and wildlife agencies are working on ways to make trapping more humane do you support or oppose regulated trapping?	69.69	30.31	-6.27		
Q42. Endangered species are frequently used to make fur clothing.	72.05	27.95	-7.03		
Q37. For your information, when animals are trapped, the whole animal is usually utilized and there is often little waste. For example, the meat is used for human and pet food and other byproducts include soap, perfume and lubricants.	74.80	25.20	-7.91		
Q41. Because of improvements in traps, trapping is more humane today than it was ten years ago.	77.17	22.83	-8.66		Lower Support

Awareness of trapping, awareness that trapping was regulated and familiarity with the state agency that regulated trapping were related to approval of trapping. Generally, those who were aware approved of trapping more. The top of Table 2 shows a list of those who approve of trapping least. The values are ranked (by Z-value) so that those who approves of trapping most are on the bottom of Table 2. The level of knowledge for each group is listed on the left.

For instance, the two lowest approval ratings for trapping can be seen in the far right-hand column of Table 2. Those values are  $-7.18^*$  and  $-6.86^*$ . The values are negative because they indicate disapproval of trapping. The values have an asterisk beside them to indicate that the attitudes of the people who are in the group (defined by responses to the three questions on the left) are so different from the attitudes of people not in the group that they should be considered a separate entity (i.e., they are not like everyone else).

Tracing left from the z-values to the first three columns of Table 1 shows that people with very high disapproval of trapping were not aware that trapping was regulated (for the  $-7.18^*$  value), and were not aware that people participated in trapping, AND that trapping was regulated (for the  $-6.86^*$  value). The N/A markers mean that responses to that question did not contribute to the value on the right (didn't matter what they said on that question).

The shaded middle section of the table shows the average level of approval/disapproval for all respondents. Values falling above that shaded area are negative and indicate increasingly lower levels of approval of trapping. Values falling below that shaded area are positive and indicate increasingly higher levels of approval of trapping.

Generally, individuals who were unaware of trapping, and/or were unaware that trapping was regulated, and/or were unfamiliar with the state agency responsible for regulating trapping were very disapproving of trapping. Generally, individuals who were aware of trapping, and/or



were aware that trapping was regulated, and/or were familiar with the state agency responsible for regulating trapping were very approving of trapping.

**Table 2. Strength Of Approval Of Trapping (Q26. In General, Do You Approve Or Disapprove Of Regulated Trapping?) By Awareness Of Trapping (Q7), Awareness Of Regulation (Q8) And Familiarity With State Agency (Q9)**

1. People who responded in the way listed on the left had the approval level listed on the right)  
 2. "N/A" means that the Z-score being examined was not related to a particular response on that variable.

Q7. Are you aware that people participate in trapping in [State]	Q8. Are you aware that trapping is regulated by the [State]?	Q9. Before this survey, would you say you were very familiar...that this agency regulates and manages trapping?	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	Z-SCORE Ranked from Lowest to Highest Approval for Trapping (* Means Statistically Significant)
N/A	No	N/A	2.15	1.53	378.00	-7.18*
No	No	N/A	2.04	1.54	237.00	-6.86*
N/A	No	Not at all familiar	2.15	1.51	297.00	-6.4*
No	No	Not at all familiar	2.06	1.52	195.00	-6.08*
No	N/A	N/A	2.22	1.54	343.00	-5.96*
N/A	N/A	Not at all familiar	2.30	1.51	461.00	-5.75*
No	N/A	Not at all familiar	2.20	1.54	246.00	-5.3*
No	N/A	Don't know	1.50	1.87	14.00	-3.09*
No	No	Somewhat familiar	1.85	1.49	27.00	-3.01*
N/A	No	Somewhat familiar	2.14	1.56	59.00	-2.92*
Yes	No	N/A	2.33	1.49	137.00	-2.86*
N/A	N/A	Don't know	1.93	1.63	28.00	-2.78*
Yes	N/A	Not at all familiar	2.41	1.47	211.00	-2.74*
Yes	No	Not at all familiar	2.31	1.48	100.00	-2.57*
No	N/A	Somewhat familiar	2.26	1.48	70.00	-2.46*
No	No	Don't know	1.75	1.91	12.00	-2.26*
Don't Know	Yes	Don't know	0.50	0.71	2.00	-2.16*
Don't Know	N/A	Don't know	0.50	0.71	2.00	-2.16*
N/A	Don't Know	Don't know	1.00	1.00	3.00	-2.04*
N/A	No	Don't know	2.00	1.73	17.00	-1.96
No	Yes	Don't know	0.00	0.00	1.00	-1.88
No	Don't Know	Don't know	0.00	0.00	1.00	-1.88
Don't Know	Don't Know	Not at all familiar	0.00	0.00	1.00	-1.88
Don't Know	Don't Know	N/A	0.00	0.00	1.00	-1.88
Yes	Yes	Not at all familiar	2.50	1.48	100.00	-1.24

Disapproval



**Table 2. Strength Of Approval Of Trapping (Q26. In General, Do You Approve Or Disapprove Of Regulated Trapping?) By Awareness Of Trapping (Q7), Awareness Of Regulation (Q8) And Familiarity With State Agency (Q9)**

1. People who responded in the way listed on the left had the approval level listed on the right)

2. "N/A" means that the Z-score being examined was not related to a particular response on that variable.

Q7. Are you aware that people participate in trapping in [State]	Q8. Are you aware that trapping is regulated by the [State]?	Q9. Before this survey, would you say you were very familiar...that this agency regulates and manages trapping?	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	Z-SCORE Ranked from Lowest to Highest Approval for Trapping (* Means Statistically Significant)
No	Don't Know	Somewhat familiar	1.00	0.00	1.00	-1.18
Yes	No	Very familiar	1.50	2.12	2.00	-1.17
Yes	Don't Know	Don't know	1.50	0.71	2.00	-1.17
N/A	Yes	Don't know	2.13	1.64	8.00	-1.10
Yes	No	Somewhat familiar	2.40	1.57	30.00	-1.06
N/A	Yes	Not at all familiar	2.56	1.49	147.00	-1.01
N/A	Don't Know	N/A	2.40	1.35	25.00	-0.97
Don't Know	N/A	N/A	2.31	1.84	13.00	-0.93
Don't Know	No	Somewhat familiar	2.00	2.83	2.00	-0.67
Yes	Don't Know	N/A	2.47	1.18	17.00	-0.60
No	Yes	Somewhat familiar	2.55	1.43	42.00	-0.59
Yes	Don't Know	Not at all familiar	2.45	1.29	11.00	-0.52
No	Yes	N/A	2.62	1.45	99.00	-0.42
Don't Know	Yes	N/A	2.50	1.85	8.00	-0.35
Don't Know	N/A	Somewhat familiar	2.50	1.97	6.00	-0.30
N/A	Don't Know	Not at all familiar	2.59	1.37	17.00	-0.25
Don't Know	No	N/A	2.50	1.91	4.00	-0.25
Don't Know	N/A	Not at all familiar	2.50	1.91	4.00	-0.25
No	Don't Know	N/A	2.57	1.62	7.00	-0.19
Yes	No	Don't know	2.60	1.14	5.00	-0.12
N/A	Don't Know	Somewhat familiar	2.60	1.14	5.00	-0.12
No	Yes	Not at all familiar	2.65	1.52	46.00	-0.11
Yes	N/A	Don't know	2.67	1.07	12.00	-0.02
N/A	N/A	N/A	2.68	1.42	1136.00	0.00
Don't Know	Yes	Somewhat familiar	2.75	1.89	4.00	0.10
Don't Know	No	Not at all familiar	3.00	1.41	2.00	0.32

Continued



Continued

**Table 2. Strength Of Approval Of Trapping (Q26. In General, Do You Approve Or Disapprove Of Regulated Trapping?) By Awareness Of Trapping (Q7), Awareness Of Regulation (Q8) And Familiarity With State Agency (Q9)**

1. People who responded in the way listed on the left had the approval level listed on the right)

2. "N/A" means that the Z-score being examined was not related to a particular response on that variable.

Q7. Are you aware that people participate in trapping in [State]	Q8. Are you aware that trapping is regulated by the [State]?	Q9. Before this survey, would you say you were very familiar...that this agency regulates and manages trapping?	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	Z-SCORE Ranked from Lowest to Highest Approval for Trapping (* Means Statistically Significant)
Yes	Don't Know	Somewhat familiar	3.00	0.82	4.00	0.46
N/A	No	Very familiar	3.00	1.73	5.00	0.51
No	Yes	Very familiar	3.00	0.94	10.00	0.72
Yes	Yes	Don't know	3.20	0.84	5.00	0.82
Don't Know	Yes	Not at all familiar	4.00	0.00	1.00	0.93
Don't Know	Yes	Very familiar	4.00	0.00	1.00	0.93
Don't Know	N/A	Very familiar	4.00	0.00	1.00	0.93
No	Don't Know	Not at all familiar	3.40	0.89	5.00	1.14
No	N/A	Very familiar	3.23	0.93	13.00	1.41
No	No	Very familiar	4.00	0.00	3.00	1.61
N/A	N/A	Somewhat familiar	2.84	1.31	409.00	2.38*
Yes	N/A	Somewhat familiar	2.97	1.22	333.00	3.81*
N/A	Yes	Somewhat familiar	2.97	1.23	345.00	3.81*
Yes	N/A	N/A	2.88	1.31	780.00	4.07*
Yes	Yes	Somewhat familiar	3.03	1.18	299.00	4.3*
N/A	Yes	N/A	2.96	1.29	733.00	5.33*
Yes	N/A	Very familiar	3.21	1.17	224.00	5.62*
Yes	Yes	Very familiar	3.23	1.15	222.00	5.75*
N/A	Yes	Very familiar	3.22	1.14	233.00	5.82*
N/A	N/A	Very familiar	3.21	1.15	238.00	5.84*
Yes	Yes	N/A	3.02	1.24	626.00	5.98*

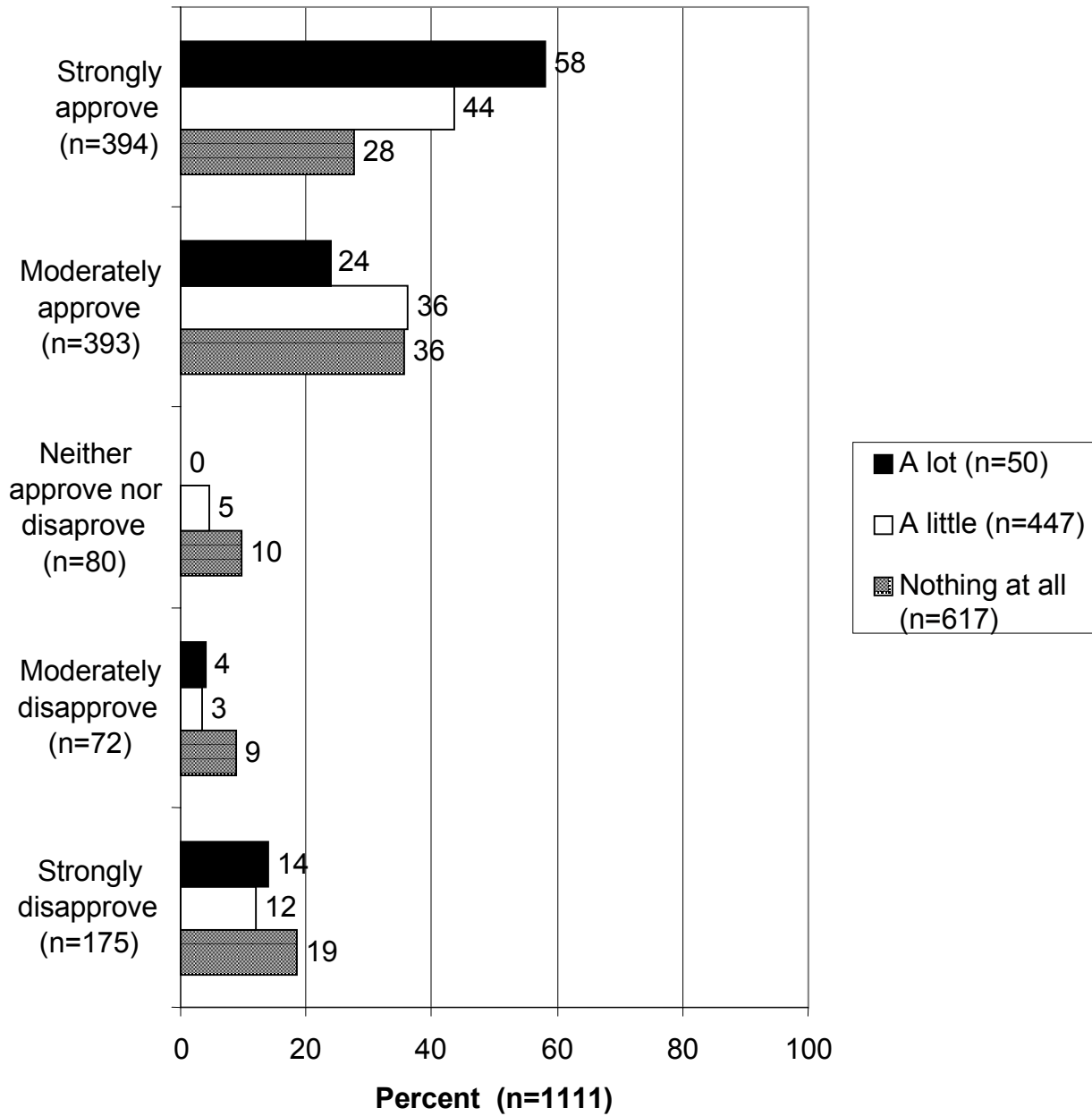
Approval



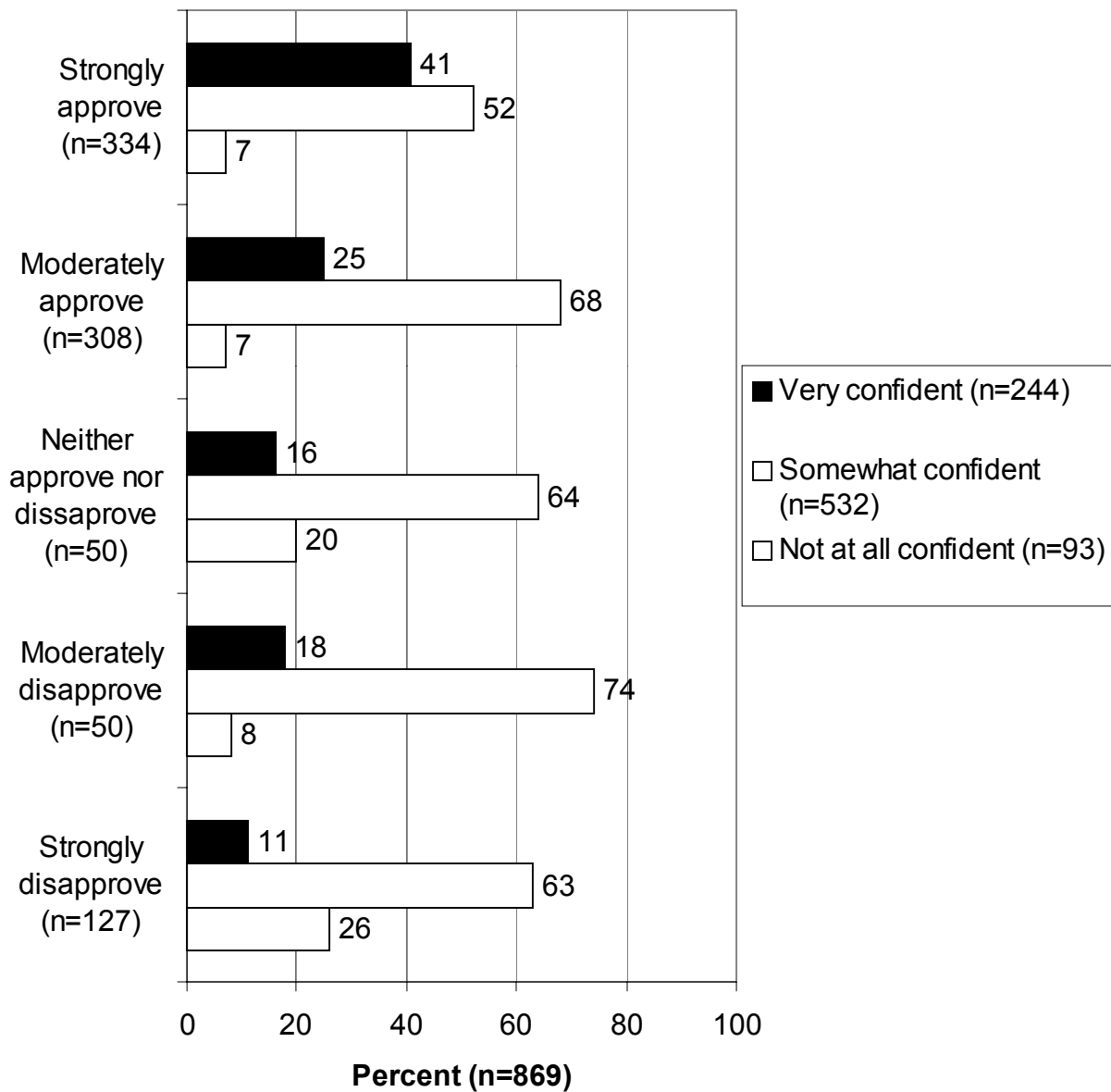
The overall quantity of information heard about trapping [Q13. How much have you heard about trapping in [State] in the past 12 months? Would you say you have heard a lot, a little or nothing at all?] was also related to approval of trapping. It was significantly ( $r_s=.21$ ,  $p<.001$ ) positively associated with approval of trapping. The more information respondents had heard about trapping the higher their approval of trapping (see Graph Q13 by Q26).

Confidence in the way that the state agency was managing wildlife [Q11. Would you say you are very confident, somewhat confident or not at all confident that the [State Agency] is properly managing the state's wildlife?] was examined to see if it was related to levels of approval or disapproval of trapping. Confidence in the agency was significantly ( $r_s=.27$ ,  $p<.001$ ) related to approval of trapping. As confidence increased, so did approval (see Q11 by Q26). This negative relationship is best seen by looking at the how the black bars (high confidence) increase with confidence, but the gray bars (not at all confident) decrease with approval. High values on one variable are related to low values on the other.

**Q13. How much have you heard about trapping in [State] in the past 12 months? Would you say you have heard a lot, a little or nothing at all? By Q26. In general, do you approve or disapprove of regulated trapping?**



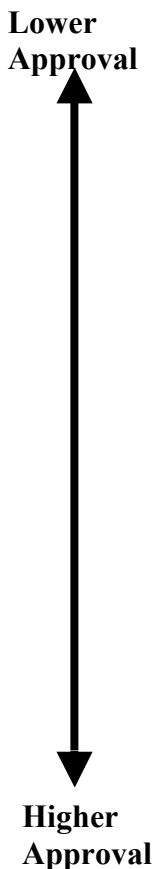
**Q11. Would you say you are very confident, somewhat confident or not at all confident that the [State Agency] is properly managing the state's wildlife? by Q26. In general, do you approve or disapprove of regulated trapping?**



Those who indicated on question 21 [Within the past year, do you recall seeing or hearing any advertising, information, or news coverage that showed negative things about trapping? If yes: What were they?] that they had heard that, “trapping was not an honest living,” had significantly lower ( $z=-2.17$ ) approval of trapping (see Table 3). The statement, “trapping is just for fun” neared significance. Both of these statements seem to indicate that trapping, if it is a living, is not an honest one, and if it isn’t a living, serves no good purpose (other than self-gratification). The common thread in both the observations was that trapping seemed to be a “self-serving” act. It seemed that those who disapproved of trapping saw it solely as a selfish act.

**Table 3. Strength Of Approval Of Trapping (Q26. In General, Do You Approve Or Disapprove Of Regulated Trapping?) By Negative Statements About Trapping (Q21).**  
 People who responded in the way listed on the left had the approval level listed on the right.

Q21. Within the past year, do you recall seeing or hearing any advertising, information, or news coverage that showed negative things about trapping? If yes: What were they?	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	Z-SCORE
Trapping is not an honest living	1.70	1.64	10.00	-2.17*
Trapping just for fun	1.80	1.75	10.00	-1.95
Trapping is inhumane/causes undue pain to animals	2.44	1.57	84.00	-1.52
Trapping is used for biological study	1.50	2.12	2.00	-1.17
Trapping isn't necessary	2.35	1.58	23.00	-1.11
Other	2.42	1.67	24.00	-0.89
Total	2.68	1.42	1136.00	0.00
Trapping is harmful to wildlife populations	2.70	1.66	20.00	0.08
Don't know	2.76	1.42	25.00	0.29
No, I haven't seen or heard anything	2.70	1.40	973.00	0.48
When animals are trapped the animal is wasted	2.90	1.60	10.00	0.50






Significantly more males than females heard negative things about trapping through the newspaper. Also, significantly more males than females heard any (total) negative things about trapping. Significantly more females than males heard positive information from a source they could not identify (i.e., “don’t know,” see Tables 4 and 5).

The meaning of this information is that males tend to hear more negative information about trapping, and that they tend to get that information through the newspaper. The newspaper may then be the site best suited for targeting males who oppose trapping. This should not, however, be a primary focus as males already have significantly [ $t(1131) = -6.06, p < .001$ ] higher ( $M = 2.9290, SD = 1.2955$ ) approval of trapping than females ( $M = 2.4246, SD = 1.4971$ ). Opposition to trapping is significantly [ $\chi^2(2, n = 1208) = 23.63, p < .001$ ] more female (64%) than male (36%). Effective means to reach females should be of higher concern.

**Table 4. Q18. Where did you see or hear negative things about trapping? By Q83. Gender**  
 People who responded to the questions on the left had gender-based differences in their responses listed on the right

Source of Negative Information	Female		Male		Total		Z-SCORE
	n-value	Percent	n-value	Percent	n-value	Percent	
Negative Information: Newspaper	17	24.6	41	41.8	58	34.7	-2.30*
Negative Information: Total	69	41.3	98	58.7	167	100	-2.22*
Negative Information: Hunting/fishing club or organization	0	0	3	3.1	3	1.8	-1.48
Negative Information: Direct mail	0	0	2	2	2	1.2	-1.18
Negative Information: Pamphlet/brochure	0	0	1	1	1	0.6	-0.83
Negative Information: Internet/WWW	0	0	1	1	1	0.6	-0.83
Negative Information: Magazine	8	11.6	15	15.3	23	13.8	-0.68
Negative Information: Game Warden/Park Ranger	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Negative Information: State Parks/Wildlife Management Areas	1	1.4	1	1	2	1.2	0.24
Negative Information: Radio	2	2.9	2	2	4	2.4	0.38
Negative Information: Friend/family/word of mouth	11	15.9	12	12.2	23	13.8	0.68
Negative Information: Television? Nature show	6	8.7	5	5.1	11	6.6	0.92
Negative Information: Television? News program	24	34.8	26	26.5	50	29.9	1.15
Negative Information: Other	5	7.2	3	3.1	8	4.8	1.22
Negative Information: Don't know	8	11.6	6	6.1	14	8.4	1.26

**More Males** ↑



**More Females** ↓

Table 5. **Q24. And where did you see or hear positive things about trapping? By Q83. Gender**  
 People who responded to the questions on the left had gender-based differences in their responses listed on the right

Source of Positive Information	Female		Male		Total		Z-SCORE
	n-value	Percent	n-value	Percent	n-value	Percent	
Positive Information: Friend/family/word of mouth	2	5.7	9	18.4	11	13.1	-1.7
Positive Information: Total	35	41.7	49	58.3	84	100	-1.5
Positive Information: Radio	0	0	3	6.1	3	3.6	-1.49
Positive Information: Direct mail	0	0	2	4.1	2	2.4	-1.21
Positive Information: Hunting/fishing club	0	0	1	2	1	1.2	-0.84
Positive Information: State Parks/Wildlife	0	0	1	2	1	1.2	-0.84
Positive Information: Television? Nature show	2	5.7	4	8.2	6	7.1	-0.44
Positive Information: Newspaper	9	25.7	13	26.5	22	26.2	-0.08
Positive Information: Game Warden/Park Ranger	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Positive Information: Internet/WWW	1	2.9	1	2	2	2.4	0.27
Positive Information: Pamphlet/brochure	2	5.7	2	4.1	4	4.8	0.34
Positive Information: Other	2	5.7	2	4.1	4	4.8	0.34
Positive Information: Magazine	5	14.3	5	10.2	10	11.9	0.57
Positive Information: Television? News program	7	20	5	10.2	12	14.3	1.27
Positive Information: Don't know	9	25.7	3	6.1	12	14.3	2.53*

More Males ↑  
↓ More Females

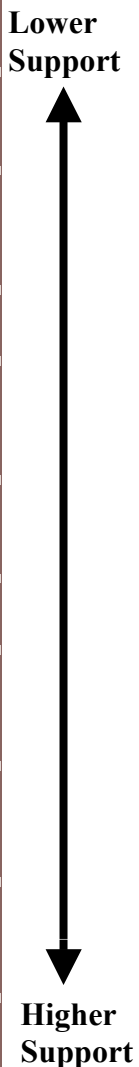
Source credibility was significantly related to support for the statements listed below. Source credibility may be viewed as a proxy for approval/disapproval of trapping as the sources one might best associate those who would oppose trapping, are also the sources associated with the least support among all three statements. Below is the table describing the relationship between what respondents considered credible sources [Q73. Which TWO of those sources would you consider to be the MOST CREDIBLE for information about trapping.] and their support/opposition to the following three statements.

- Q47. Do you support or oppose the idea of state fish and wildlife agencies working on ways to make trapping more humane or are you opposed to trapping all together?
- Q48. The state fish and wildlife agencies are currently testing traps to make them more humane. Would you support or oppose trapping if you knew that traps being used have been tested to make them more humane?
- Q49. Given that state fish and wildlife agencies are working on ways to make trapping more humane do you support or oppose regulated trapping?

The sources that respondents found most credible (far left column) were strong indicators of the support/opposition for the three statements at the top of the table. (see Table 6). For instance, those who thought that none of the sources listed would be credible were significantly more opposed to all three statements than any other group (i.e., they had the lowest Z-scores of all of the groups). Of the three statements listed along the tops of the columns they opposed most (had the highest negative Z-score) this statement (Q47), “Do you support or oppose the idea of state fish and wildlife agencies working on ways to make trapping more humane or are you opposed to trapping all together?” That same group opposed least the statement (Q49), “Given

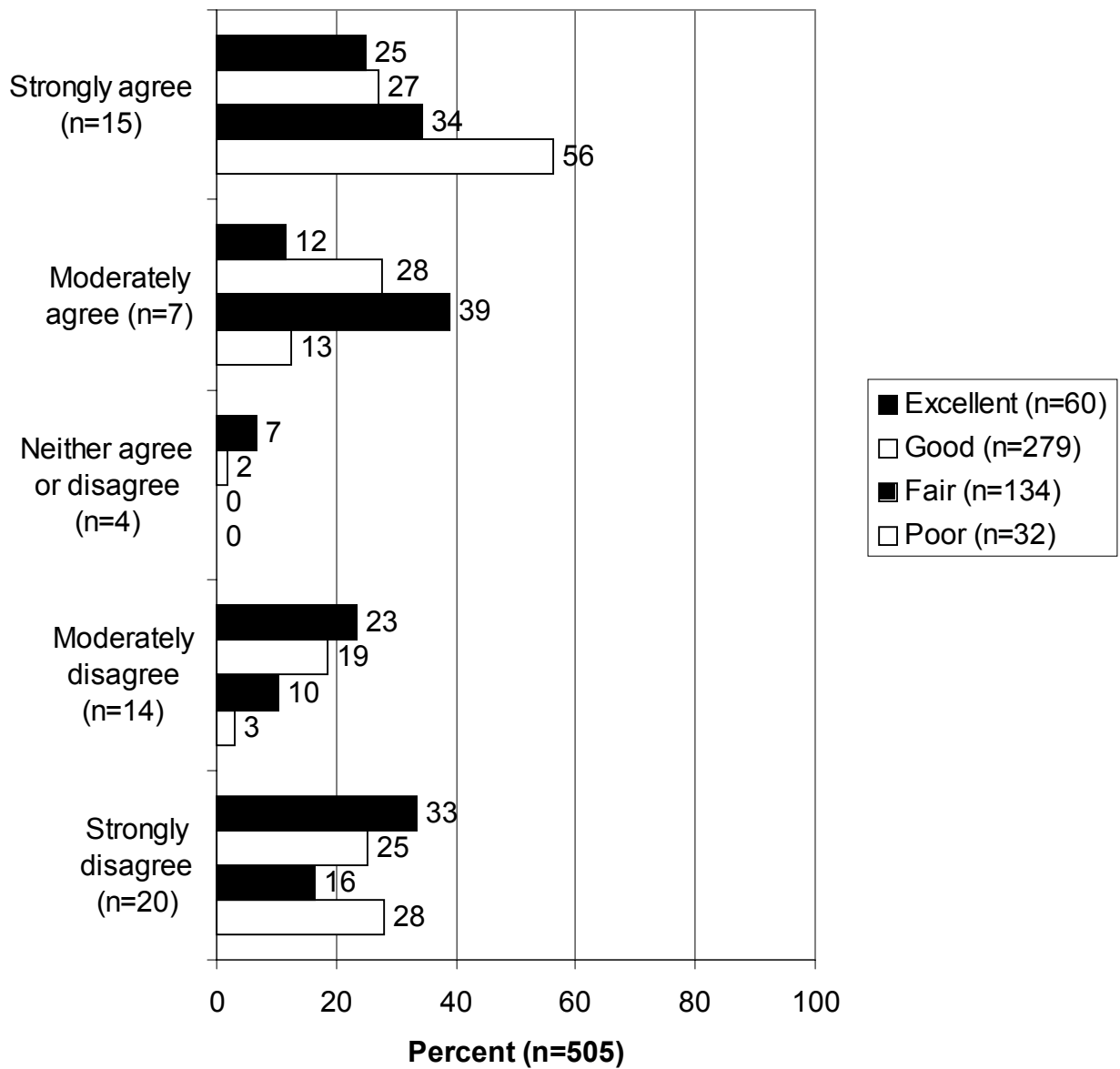
that state fish and wildlife agencies are working on ways to make trapping more humane do you support or oppose regulated trapping?” These results mean that those who think that there are no credible sources about trapping oppose all of these statements, that they oppose most the idea of agencies working toward making trapping more humane (Q47), and that they oppose least regulated trapping given that agencies are working toward making trapping more humane (Q49). These results have application in that they show that this group opposes trapping regardless of agency efforts, and perhaps this group should not receive great efforts toward swaying their opinion. If this group were to be targeted at all, it seems that they oppose *most* the two statements that ask for explicit (Q47) or implicit (Q48) support of the agency engaging in “working on,” (Q47) or “testing,” (Q48) trapping methods, and oppose *least* the statement that does not ask for tacit approval of the improvement of trapping methods, but rather makes it a “given” that this process is already taking place. With this group it seems unwise to ask them for approval of improving a practice they find aversive, but rather to state those improvements as a fact. *Given* (whether they like it or not) that trapping is being made more humane, these highly negative respondents are slightly less negative. As with previous tables, significant results have an asterisk. Unlike previous tables, this table shows the statement for each group that is most supported (or least opposed) as a bolded cell. These bolded cells show where opposition is “softest” and support is strongest. These bolded cells are markers of the best area for persuasion of those who are unsupportive and continued encouragement of those who are supportive.

Table 6.									
	Q47. Do you support or oppose the idea of state fish and wildlife agencies working on ways to make trapping more humane or are you opposed to trapping all together?			Q48. The state fish and wildlife agencies are currently testing traps to make them more humane. Would you support or oppose trapping if you knew that traps being used have been tested to make them more humane?			Q49. Given that state fish and wildlife agencies are working on ways to make trapping more humane do you support or oppose regulated trapping?		
Credible Sources	Mean	N	Z-Score	Mean	N	Z-Score	Mean	N	Z-Score
NONE OF THESE ARE CREDIBLE	1.4	15	-4.74*	1.3333	15	-4.17*	1.5333	15	-3.48*
Animal rights organizations like PETA	3.1038	183	-4.03*	2.3867	181	-4.12*	2.3667	180	-4.00*
Don't know	2.9516	62	-3.00*	2.1552	58	-3.62*	2.2692	52	-2.66*
Animal organizations like the Humane Society	3.482	473	-2.00*	2.593	457	-3.31*	2.5948	464	-2.89*
Veterinarians	3.4463	298	-1.92	2.6351	285	-2.09*	2.5739	291	-2.54*
Celebrities	3.5357	28	-0.33	2.7143	28	-0.35	2.6296	27	-0.57
Media (newspapers, television, radio, magazines)	3.6337	202	-0.14	2.8283	198	0.24	2.7716	197	-0.09
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.6512</b>	<b>1167</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2.8046</b>	<b>1136</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2.7809</b>	<b>1141</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Family and friends	3.9157	83	1.31	2.9765	85	1.16	3.0361	83	1.67
State fish and wildlife agency	4.0071	704	5.14*	3.1096	684	5.84*	3.075	693	5.58*
People who trap	4.4379	169	5.56*	3.5266	169	6.87*	3.3832	167	5.61*



The degree of agreement to question 43, “Even though trapping is regulated by the state, regulated trapping can still cause wildlife species to become endangered or extinct,” was significantly ( $r_s = -.18$ ,  $p < .01$ ), negatively related to the rating in question 10 [Q10. Overall, how would you rate the [State Agency] in regulating and managing trapping in [State]? Would you say excellent, good fair or poor?]. The higher the agency rating, the weaker the belief that trapping, even when regulated, could lead to the extinction or endangerment of a species (see Graph Q43 by Q10).

**Q43. Even though trapping is regulated... [it]...can still cause...species to become endangered or extinct. By Q10. Overall, how would you rate the [State Agency] in regulating and managing trapping in [State] Would you say excellent, good fair or poor?**





There was not a significant difference in the ages [ $t(1124)=-1.56, p = .12$ ] of those who did and those who did not know a trapper [Q50. Do you, or have you ever known anyone who is a trapper or has trapped wild animals?].

### **Possible Causes**

The underlying cause of the general disapproval of trapping appeared to be due to a lack of information. There were significant relationships between approval/disapproval of trapping and: awareness that trapping occurred, awareness that it was regulated, familiarity with the state agency responsible for regulating trapping, confidence in the state agency regulating trapping, familiarity with trappers, knowledge of beneficial uses of animals harvested through trapping, and knowledge of methods used to make trapping more humane. This meant that the more information people had about any of these issues the more approval they had for trapping.

Other flags that would seem to indicate the lack of knowledge as the issue most prevalent in low approval of trapping was the revealing finding that most people (between 54% and 61% depending on the state) either strongly or moderately agreed that trapping *even when regulated by the state*, could still cause a species to become extinct. This meant that the average person did not know what regulation was. The higher people rated the state agency responsible for regulating trapping, the less likely they were to indicate that species could become extinct through trapping even when regulated, indirectly supporting the idea that knowledge (of the state agency) was related to approval of trapping (assuming that those who really knew about regulation would have given the state agency a positive rating).

People, when uninformed, apparently assigned a stereotypical, negative image to trapping. This makes sense, especially in light of the psychological process hypothesized to take place in one model of human thought called Schema theory (Bartlett, 1932). In that theory, people reduce the cognitive load of processing sensory data by using templates or schemas.

Those schemas help organize data into meaningful units. For instance we all know what a dog looks like and a cat looks like and can tell them apart regardless of the size/shape/type of dog or cat. People, when presented with novel information, search for a schema that fits best until they can build a new one. For instance, a child might consider a fox, a type of dog until the schema for a fox has been constructed. People obviously have a schema they are using to assign meaning to trappers and trapping. Trapping, due to lack of information, is seen in terms of an animal chewing off its legs, and trappers are relegated to “self-serving.” Psychologically, the use of stereotypes to interpret the unknown and/or “fill-in-the blanks” about incomplete data is common. The best way to combat this issue is to remove the blanks by supplying more complete information.

### **Conclusions**

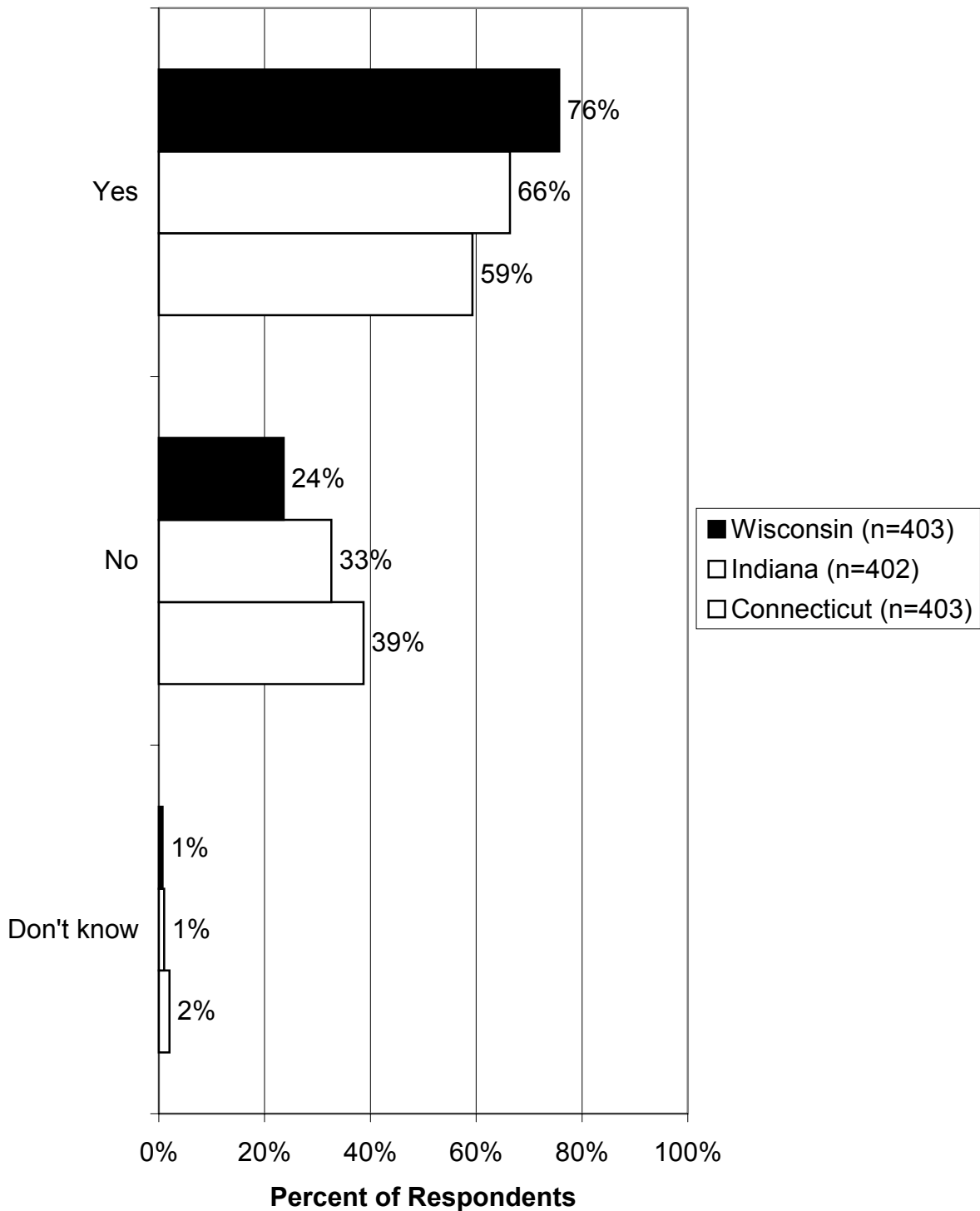
The solution is to present trapping as a *Sanctioned, Scientific, Solution*. The abstract, negative connotations associated with trapping need to be overcome with concrete positive reasons for trapping. The public needs to know that trapping is *sanctioned* (by the state), *scientific*, (i.e., based on population estimates set by biologists) and a *solution* (i.e., to a problem). The state sanctioning brings credibility through sponsorship; the use of scientific methods brings credibility through reason, and the presentation of trapping as the solution to a well-defined problem gives trapping a reason for being.

Furthermore, it is *not* enough to say that trapping is regulated. A large majority of the public does not understand what regulation *means*. This is evident from the 54% to 61% of the public that believes that species can become extinct due to trapping even if trapping is regulated by their state agency. Regulation needs to have a context. People need to know what regulation is, who does it, why it is important, where it is done (in the field for monitoring, in an office for setting limits...), and when it is used.

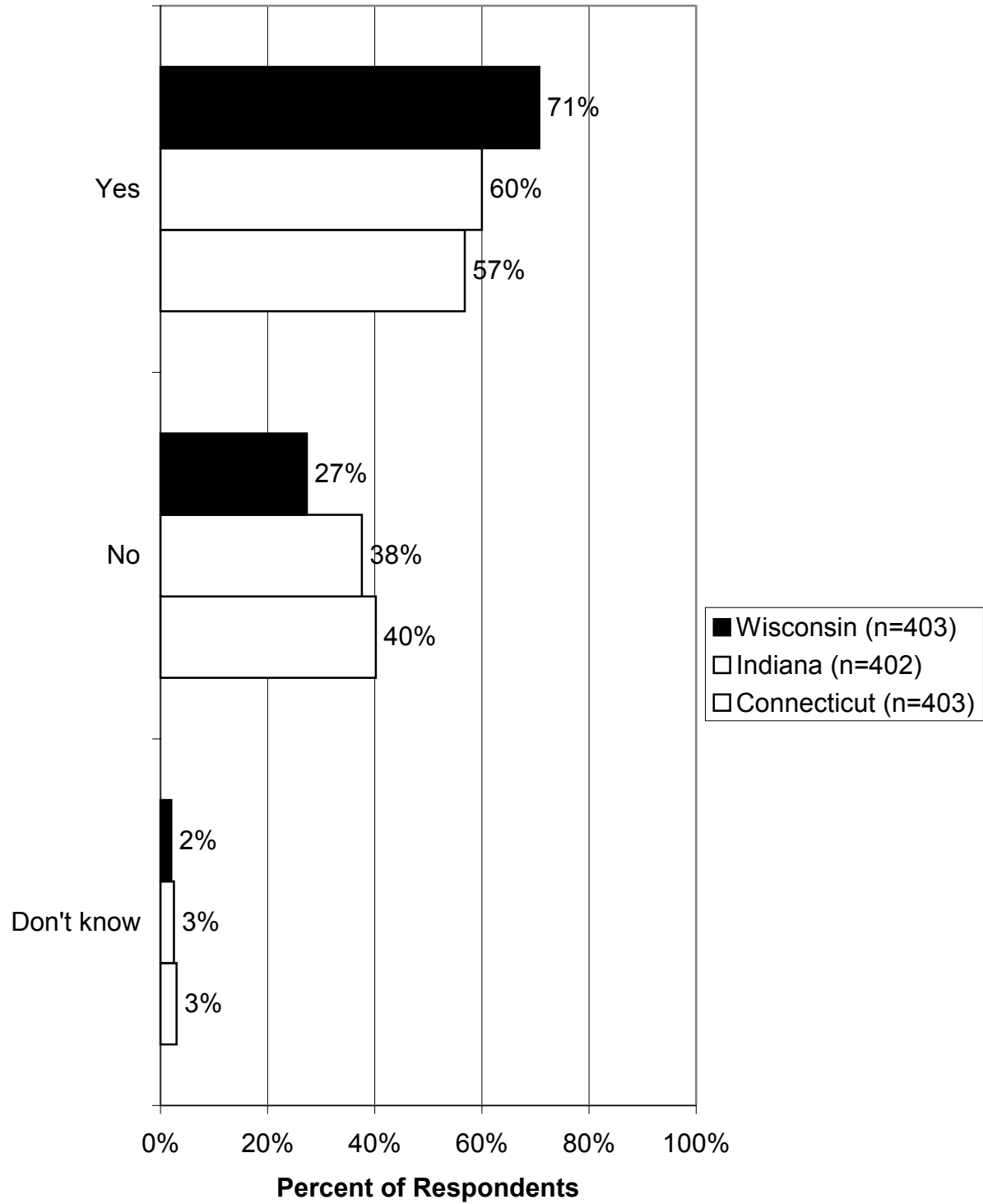
## **Graphs of Survey Results**

The graphs included in this chapter present the results of the IAFWA Public Attitudes Toward Trapping Telephone Survey for each of the three samples for which interviews were obtained among Connecticut, Indiana and Wisconsin adult residents.

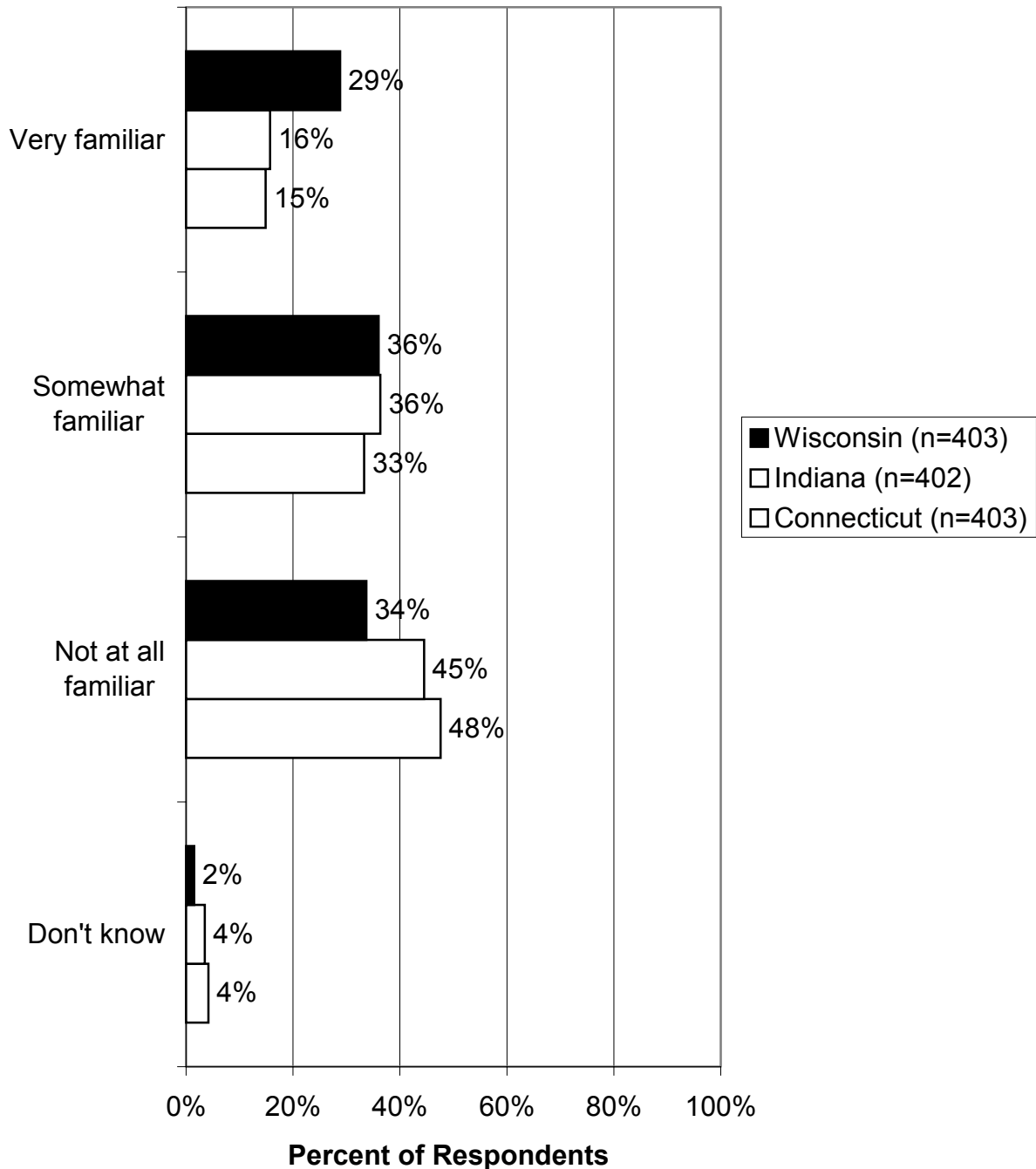
### Q7. Are you aware that people participate in trapping in [respondent's State]?



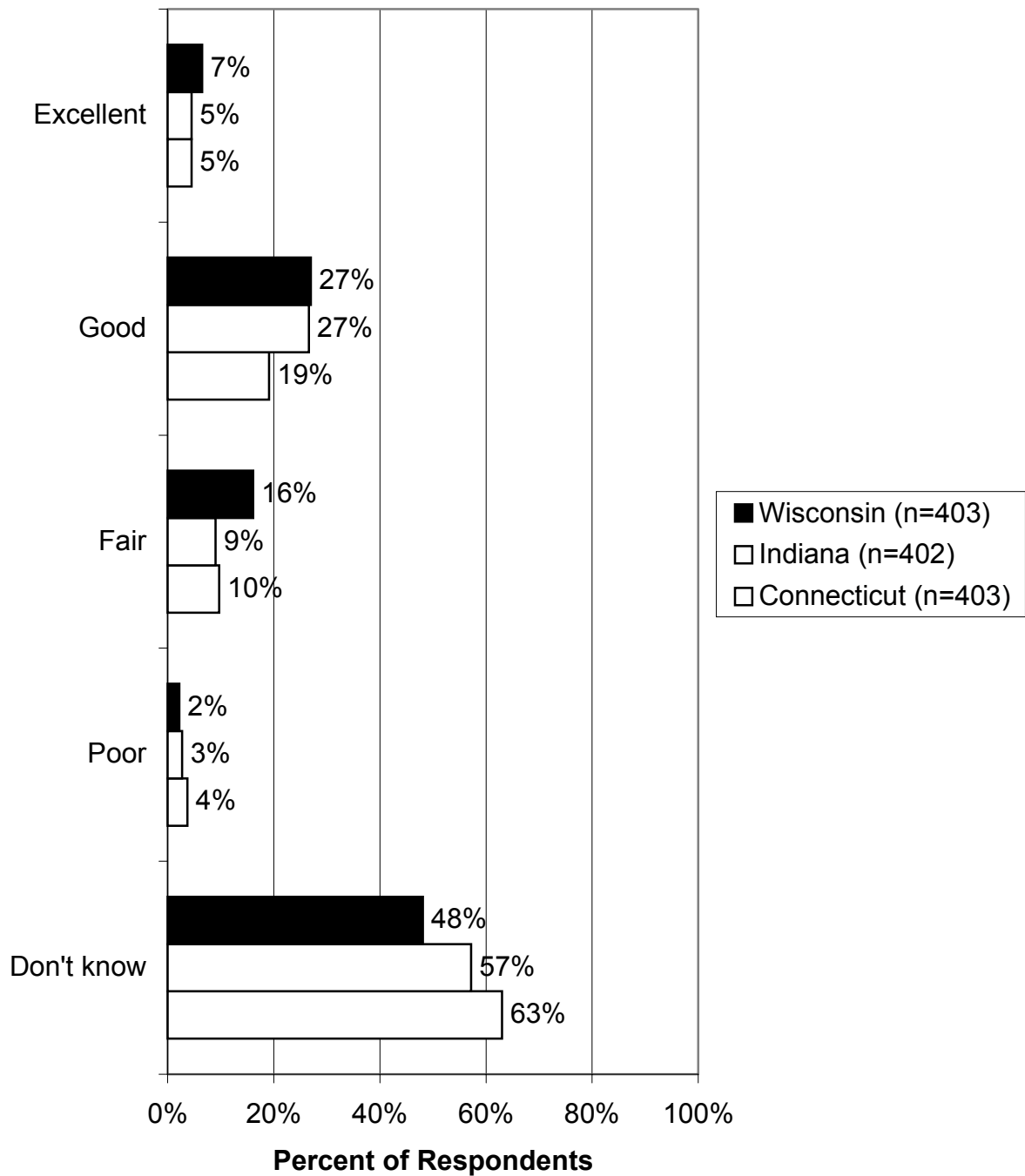
**Q8. Are you aware trapping is regulated by the State of [respondent's State]?**



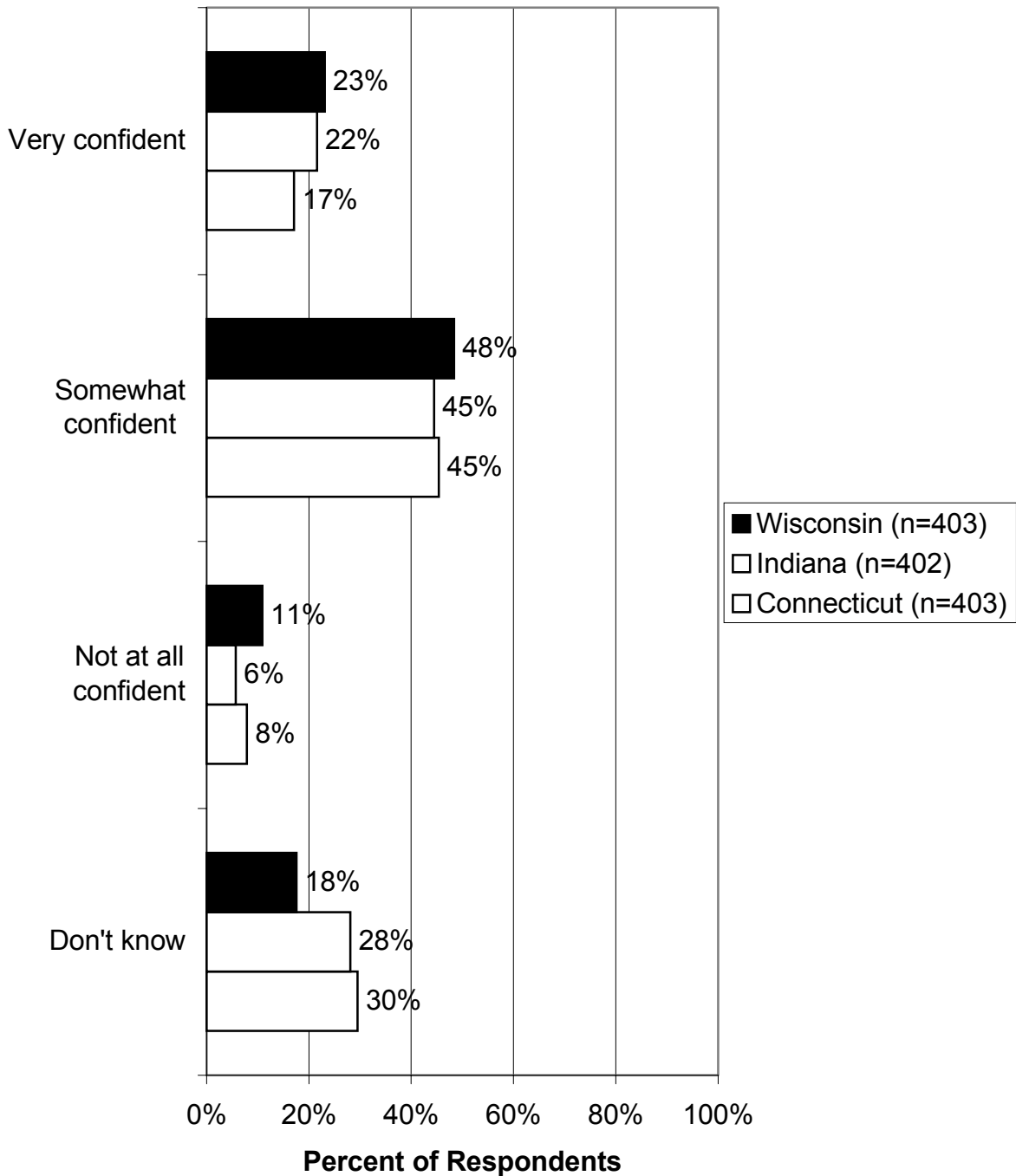
**Q9. Before this survey, would you say you were very familiar, somewhat familiar or not at all familiar that the [Name of the Specific State Agency] regulates and manages trapping in [respondent's State]?**



**Q10. Overall, how would you rate the [Designated State Agency] in regulating and managing trapping in [respondent's State]? Would you say excellent, good, fair or poor?**

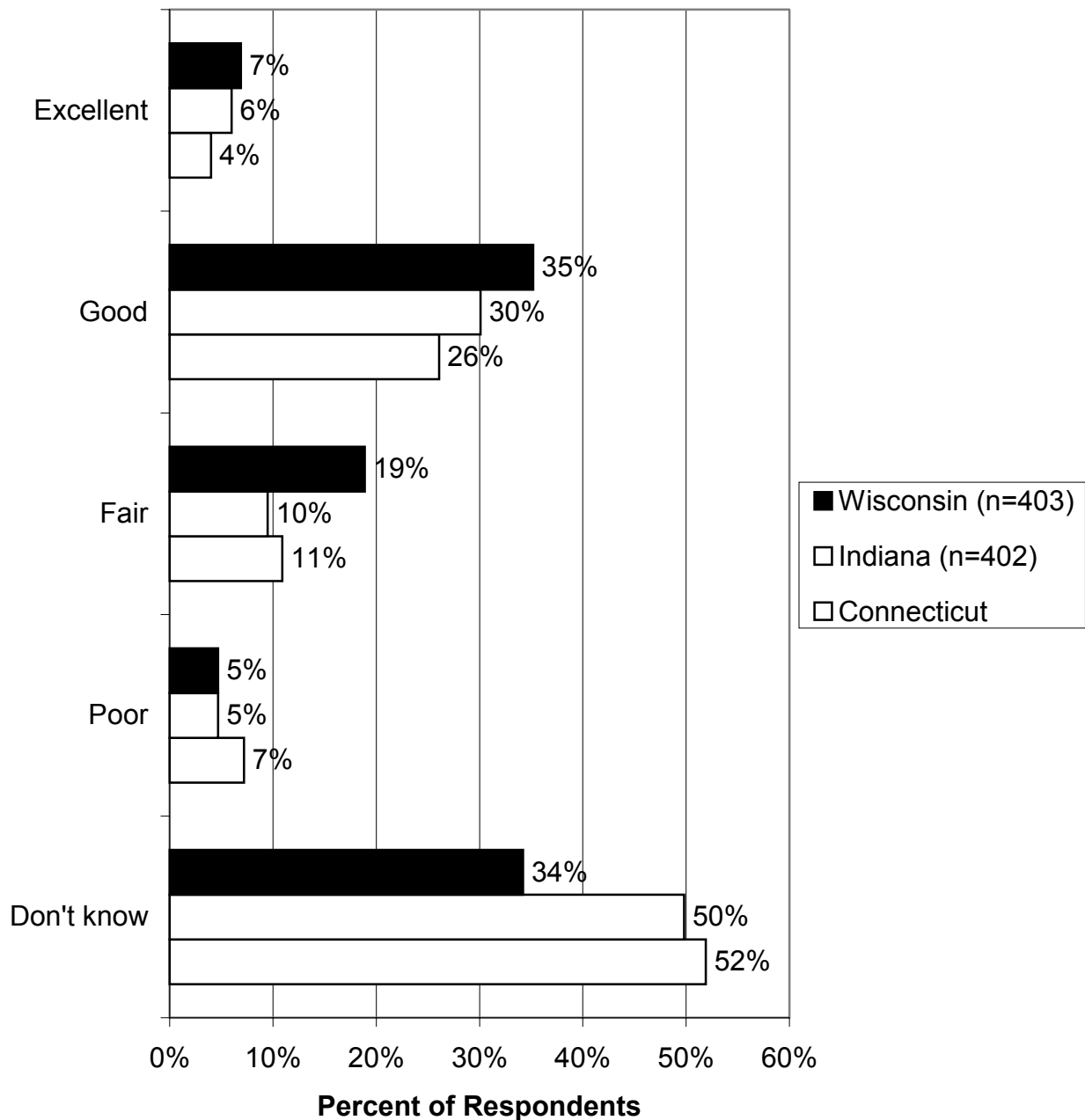


**Q11. Would you say you are very confident, somewhat confident or not at all confident that the [Designated State Agency] is properly managing the state's wildlife?**

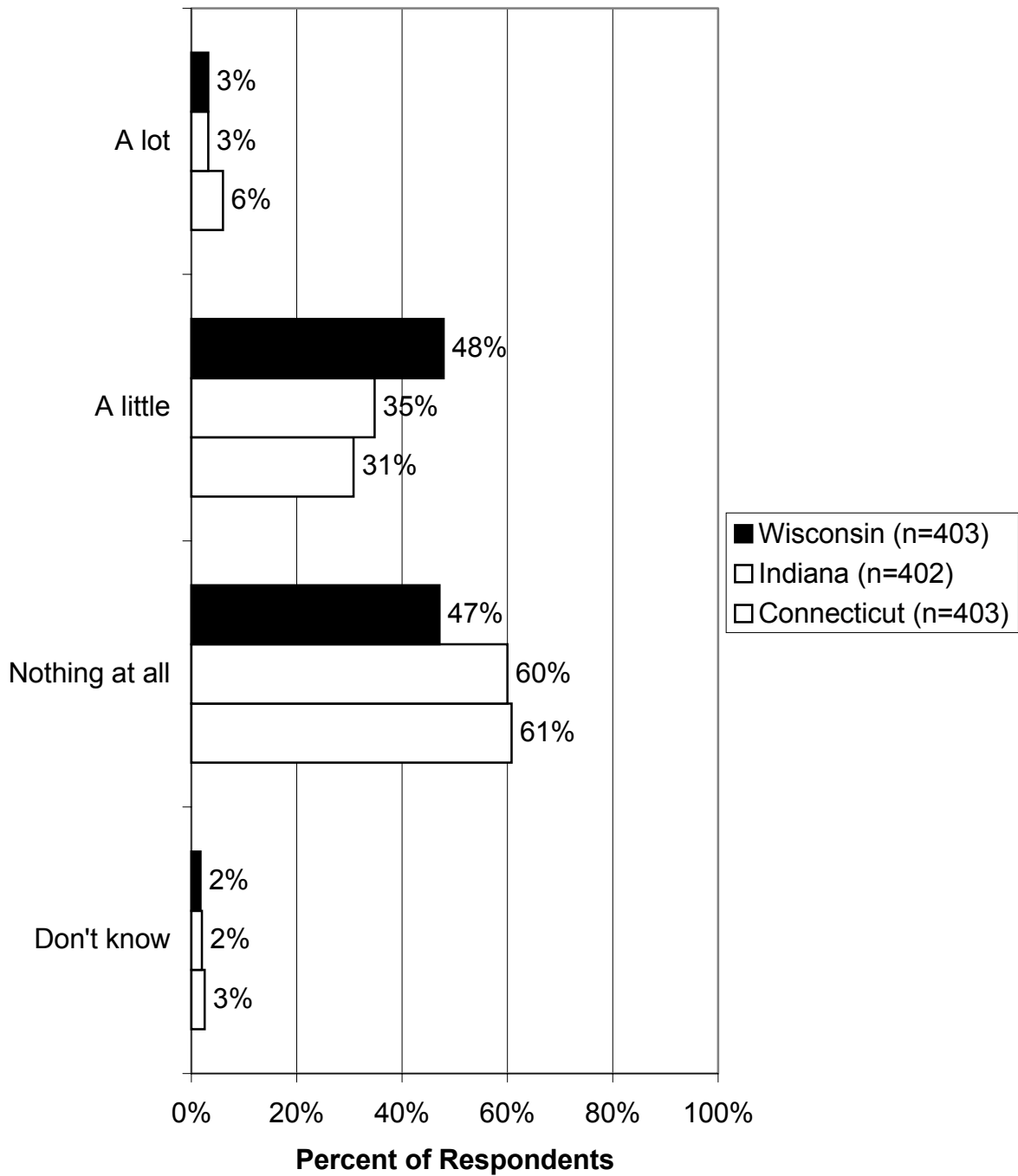




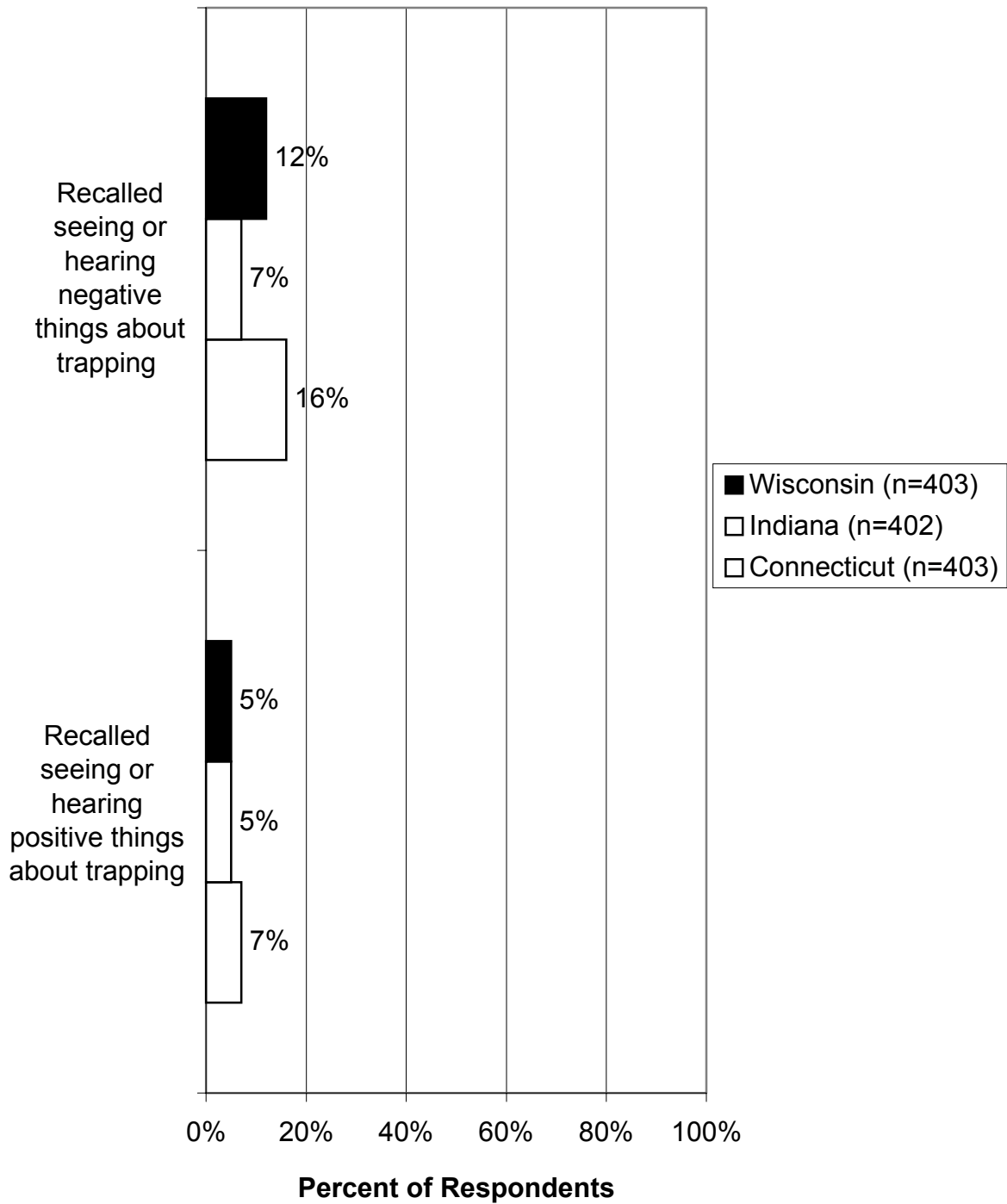
**Q12. In general, how would you rate the [Designated State Agency's] performance with incorporating the public's wants and needs into the regulation and management of trapping in [respondent's State]? Would you say excellent, good, fair or poor?**



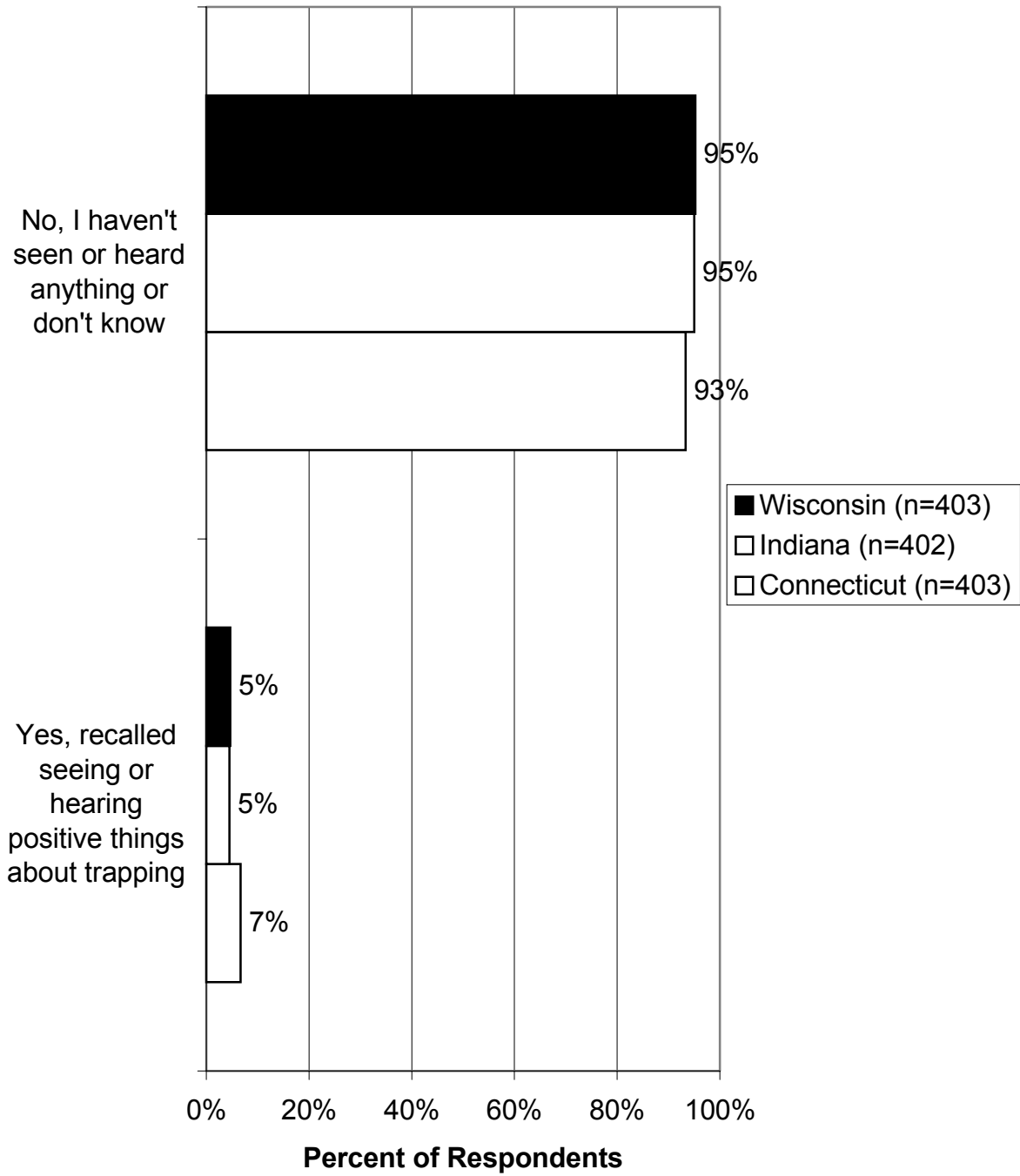
**Q13. How much have you heard about trapping in [respondent's State] in the past 12 months? Would you say you have heard a lot, a little or nothing at all?**



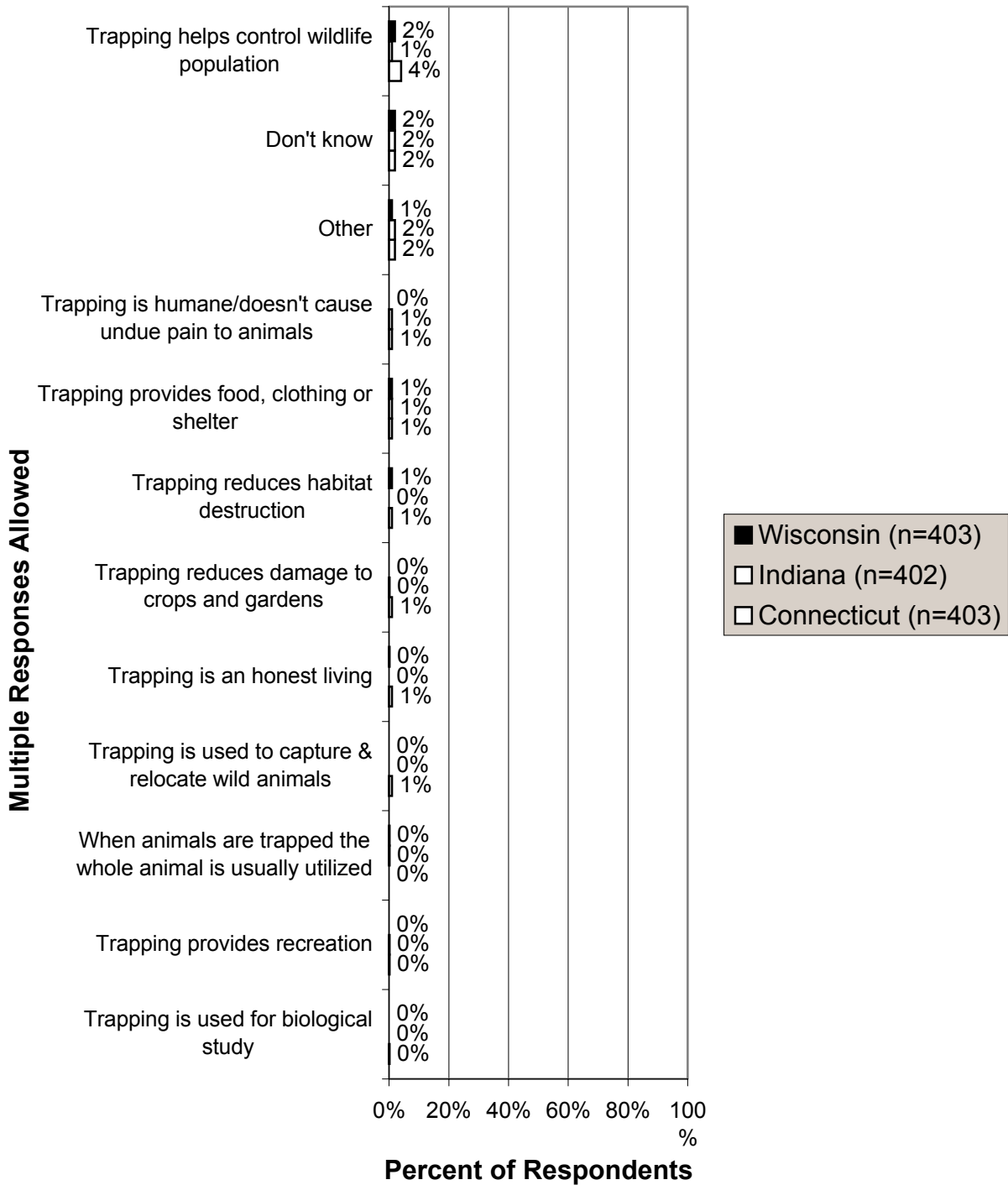
**Q15 and Q21. Within the past year, do you recall seeing or hearing any advertising, information or news coverage that showed [Q15 - positive; Q21 - negative] things about trapping?**



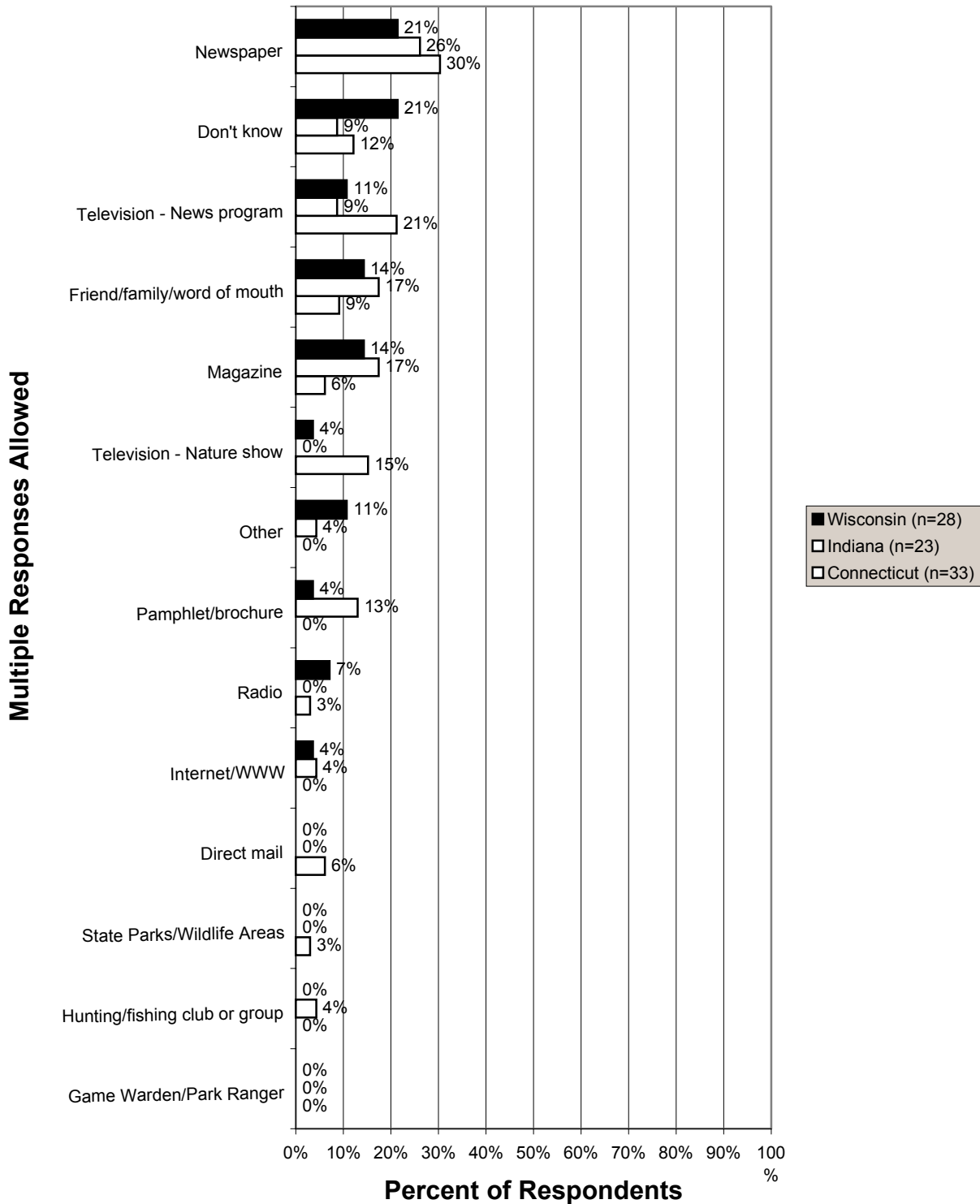
**Q15. Within the past year, do you recall seeing or hearing any advertising, information or news coverage that showed positive things about trapping?**



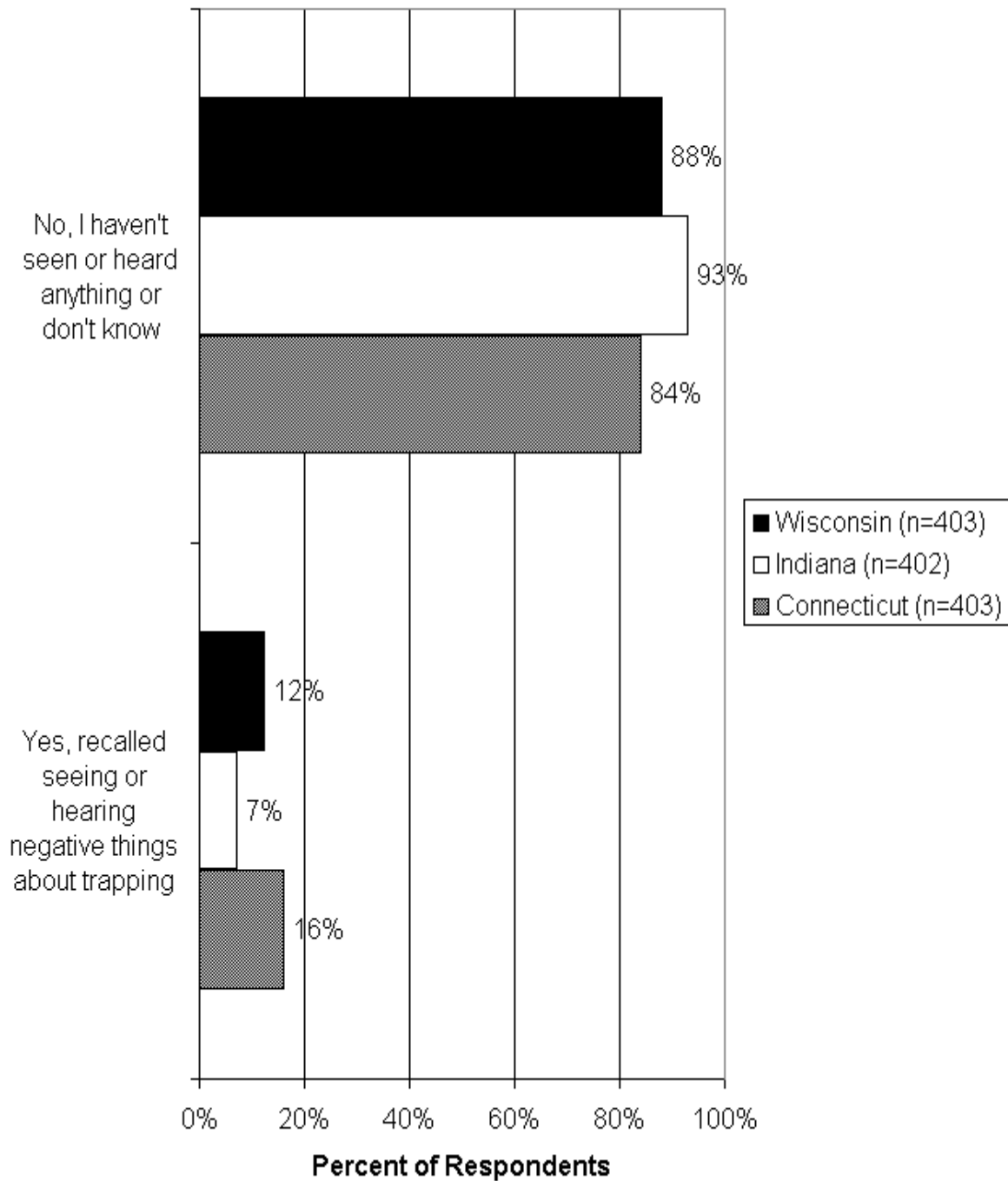
**Q15. (Continued) If Yes: What were they?  
(Any adverstising, information or news  
coverage that showed positive things about  
trapping?)**



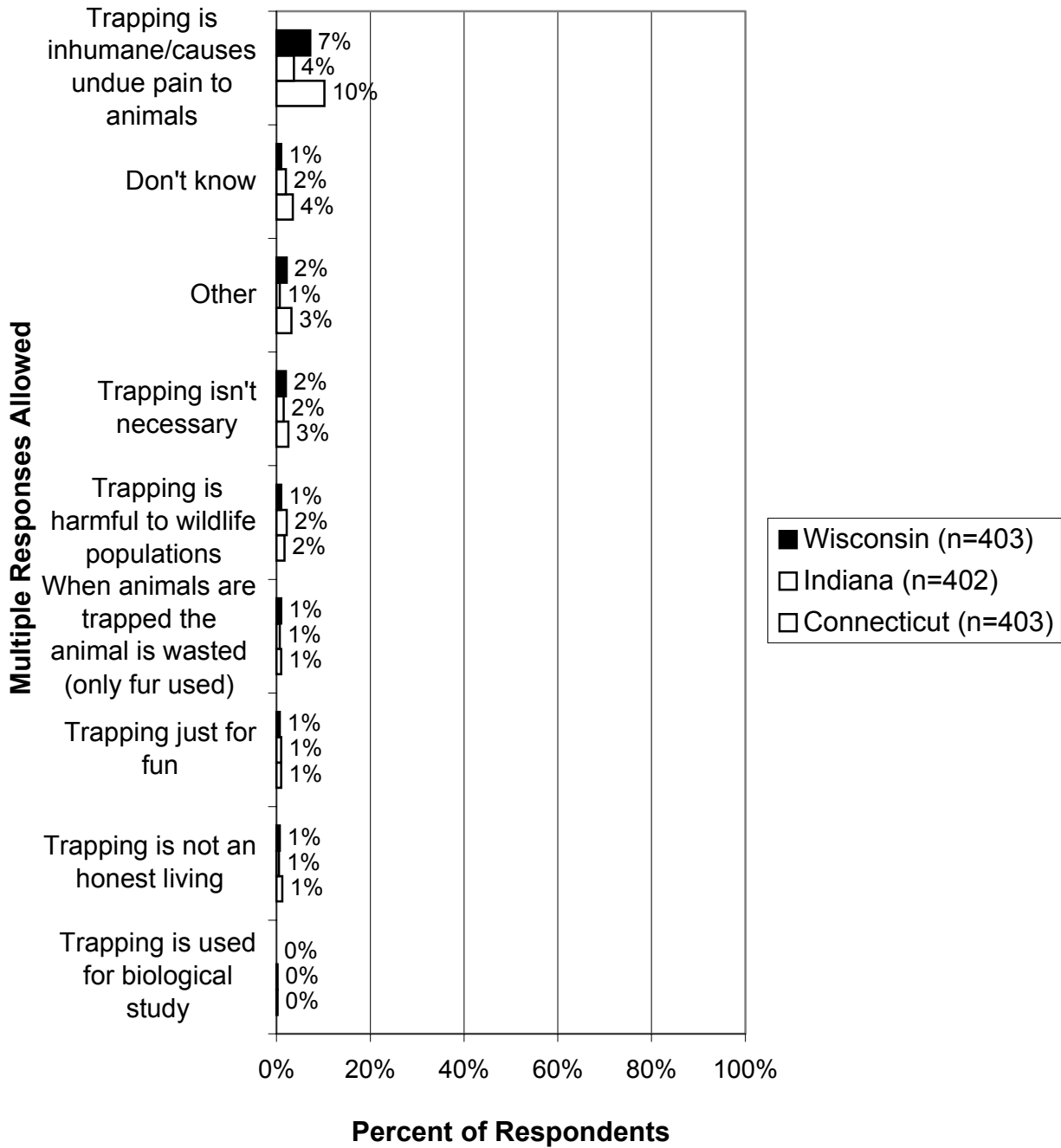
**Q18. Where did you see or hear positive things about trapping? (Asked of respondents seeing or hearing positive things about trapping.)**



**Q21. Within the past year, do you recall seeing or hearing any advertising, information or news coverage that showed negative things about trapping?**

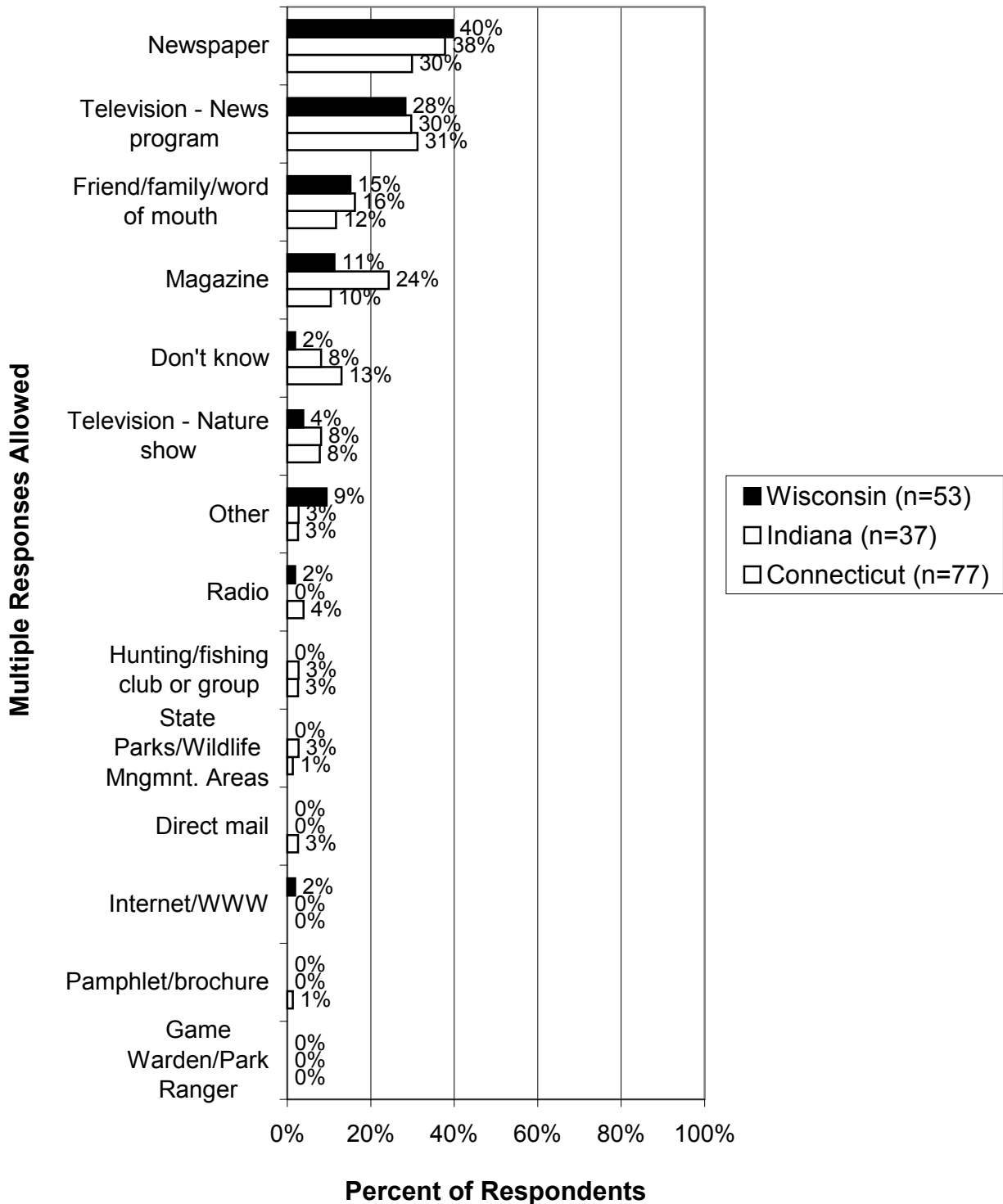


**Q21. (Continued) If Yes: What were they?  
(Any adverstising, information or news  
coverage that showed negative things about  
trapping?)**

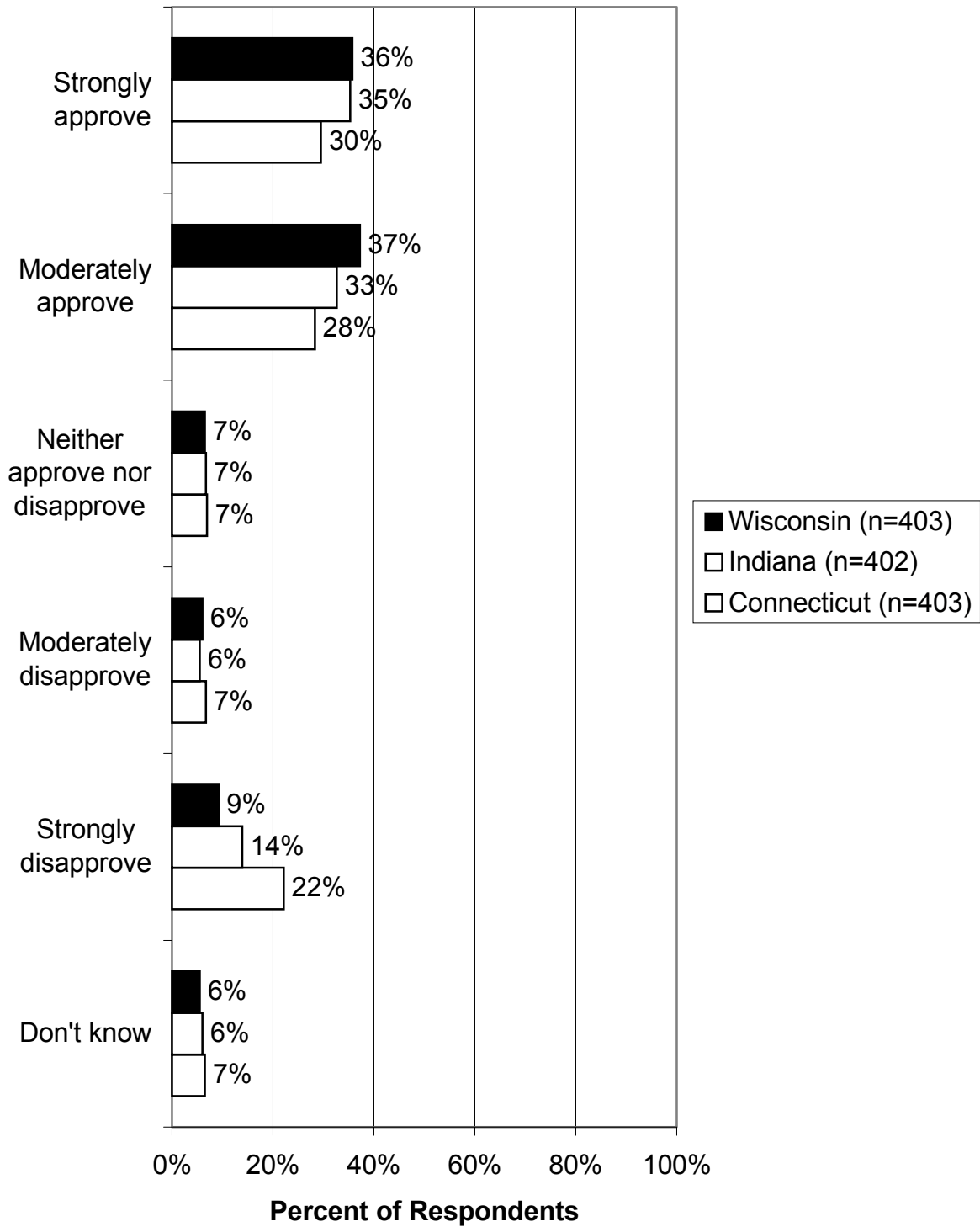




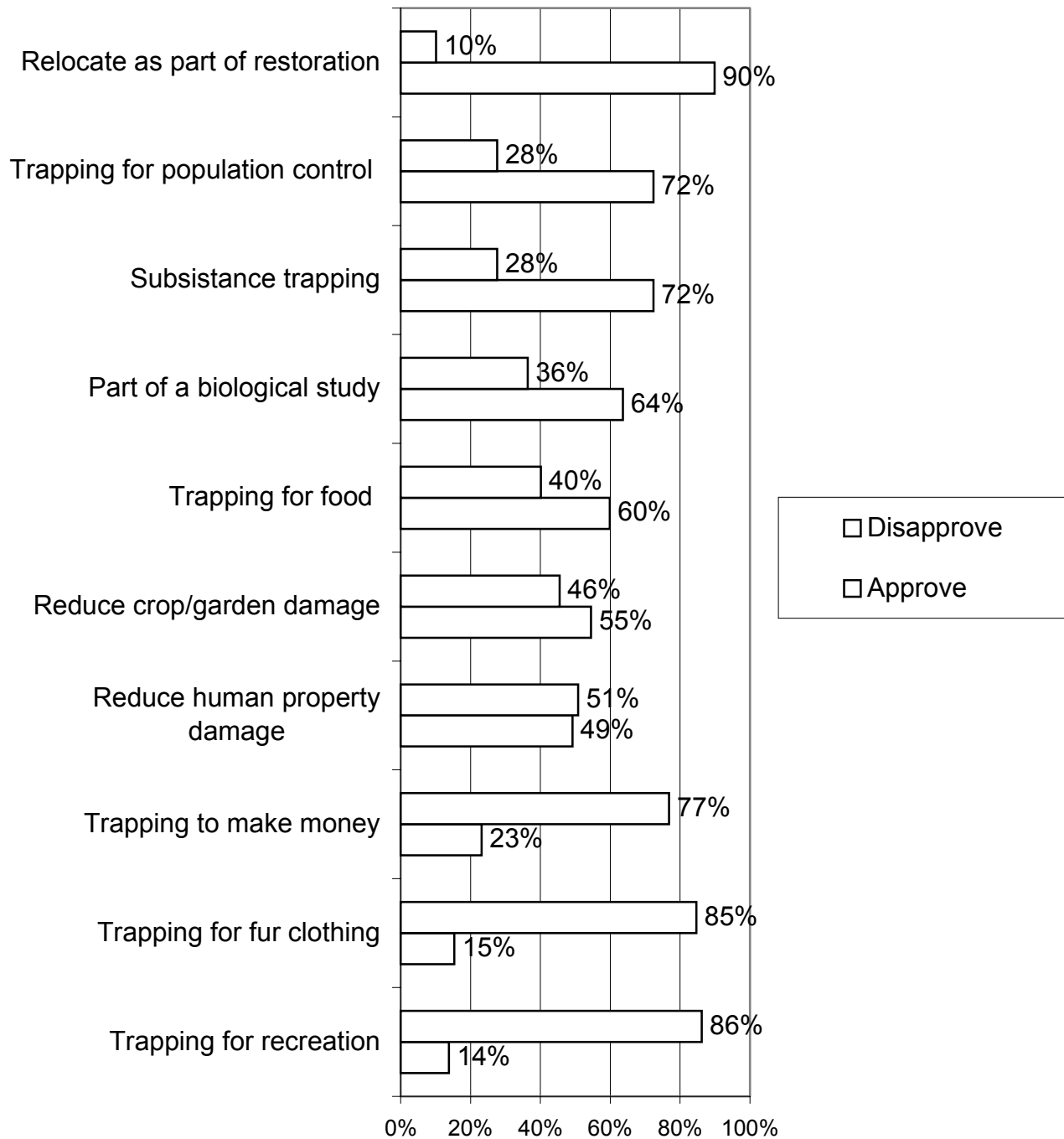
**Q24. Where did you see or hear negative things about trapping? (Asked of respondents seeing or hearing negative things about trapping.)**



### Q26. In general, do you approve or disapprove of regulated trapping?

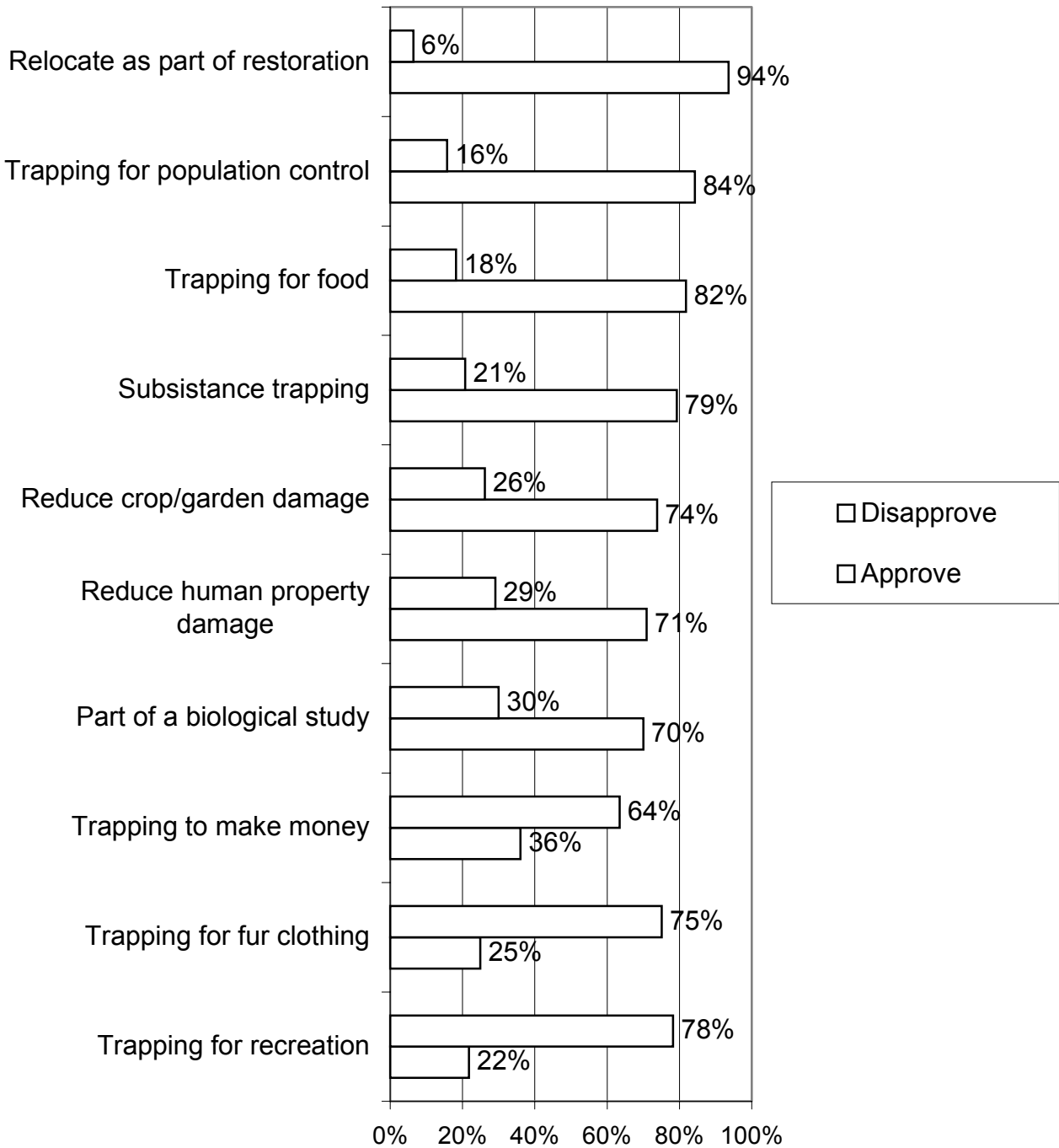


**Q27 to Q36. Ranking of trapping approval and disapproval by trapping purposes. (Connecticut Respondents, excluding "neither approve nor disapprove" and "don't know" responses)**



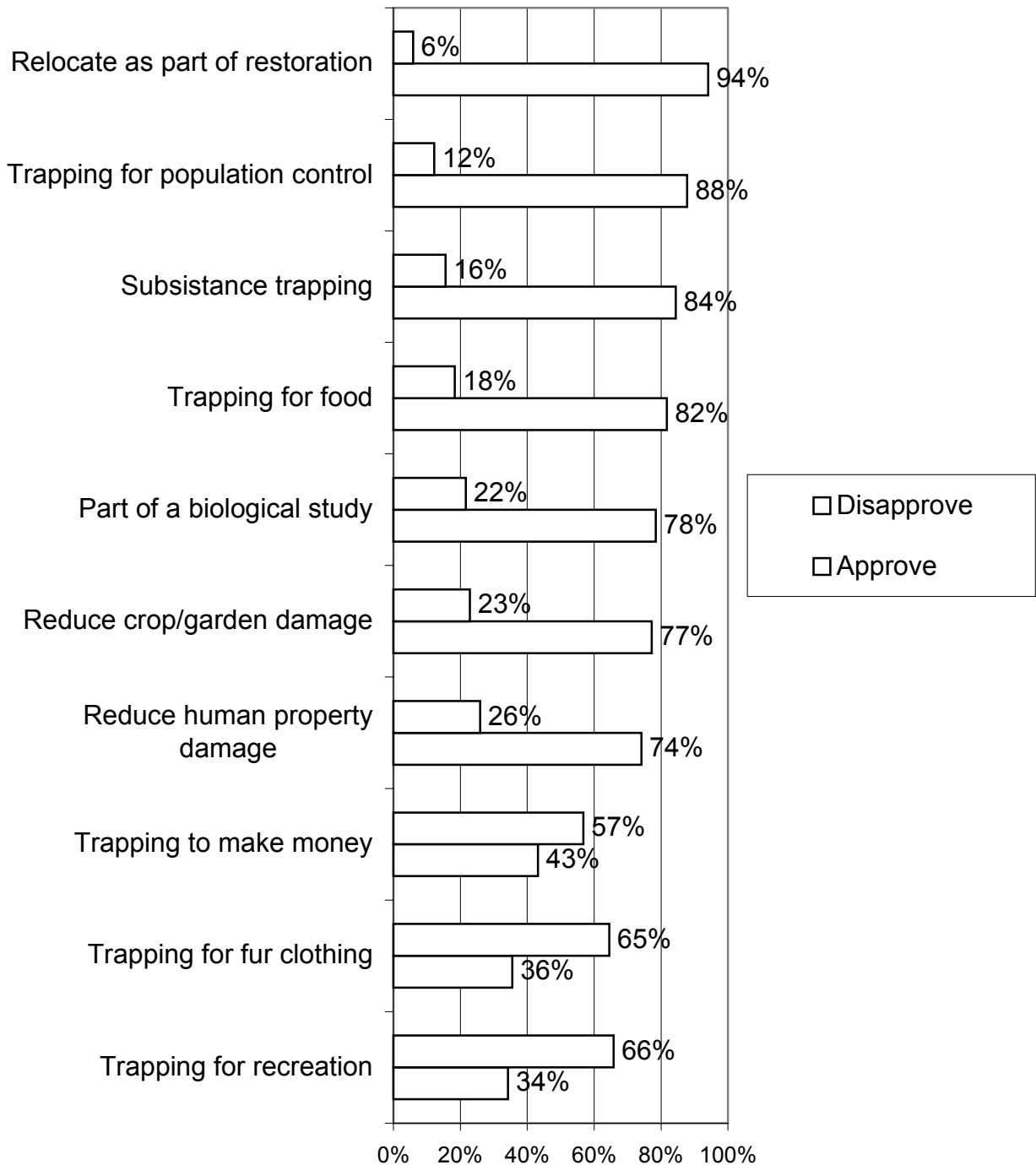
**Percent of Connecticut Respondents (n ranges from 354 to 392)**

**Q27to Q36. Ranking of trapping approval and disapproval by trapping puposes. (Indiana Respondents, excluding "neither approve nor disapprove" and "don't know" responses)**



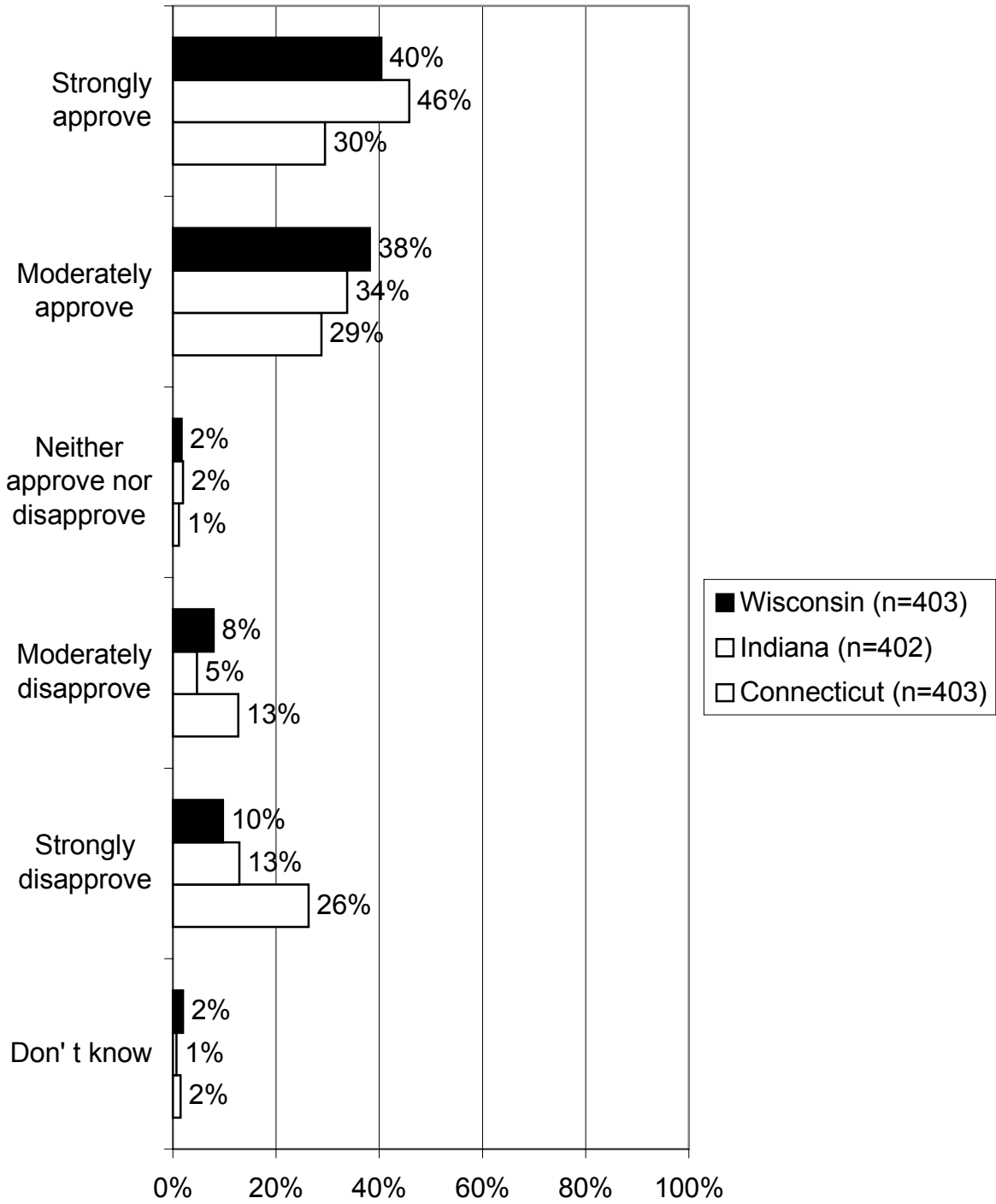
**Percent of Indiana Respondents (n ranges from 370 to 391)**

**Q27 to Q36. Ranking of trapping approval and disapproval by trapping purposes. (Wisconsin Respondents, excluding "neither approve nor disapprove" and "don't know" responses)**



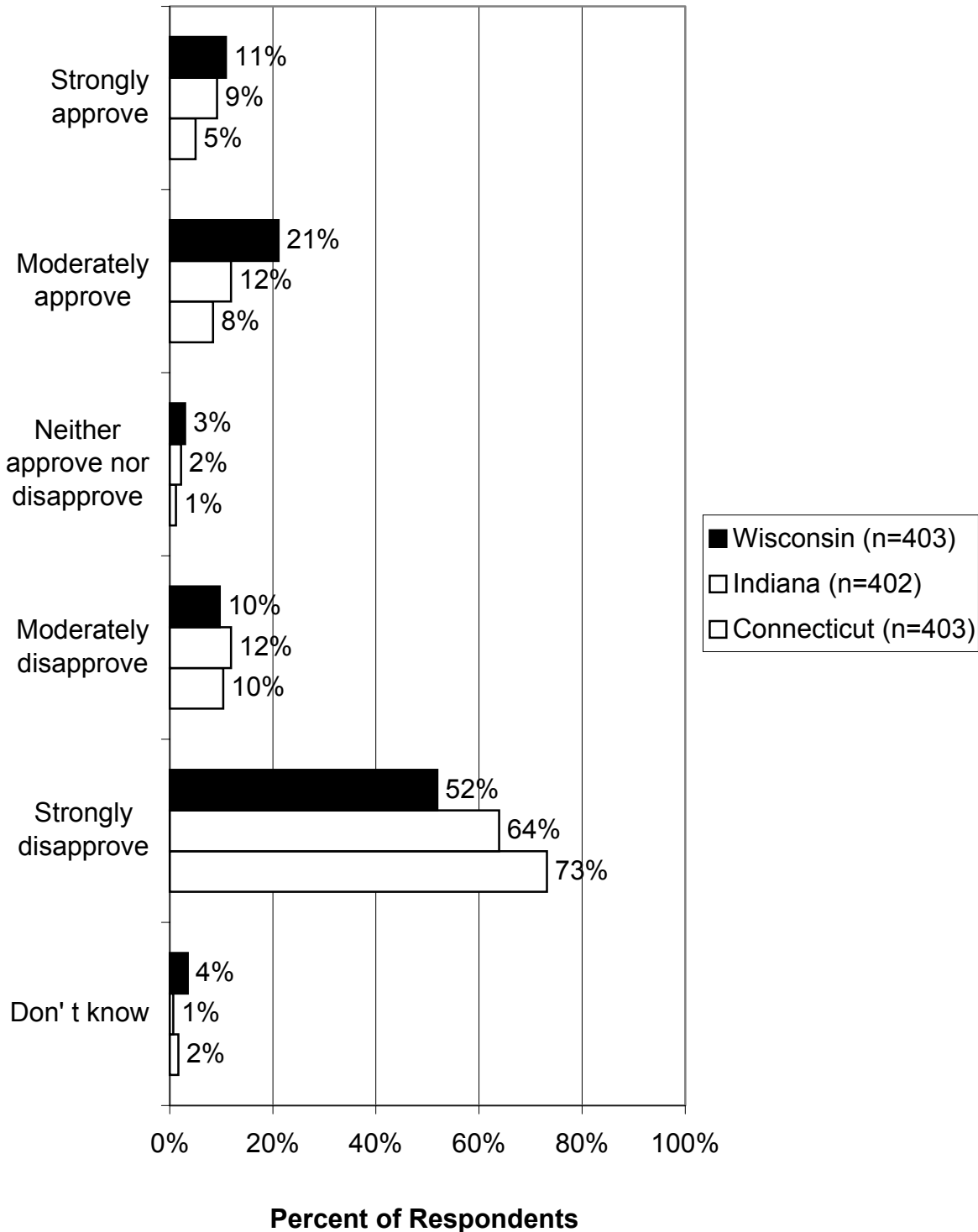
**Percent of Wisconsin Respondents (n ranges from 365 to 388)**

### Q27. Do you approve or disapprove of trapping for food?

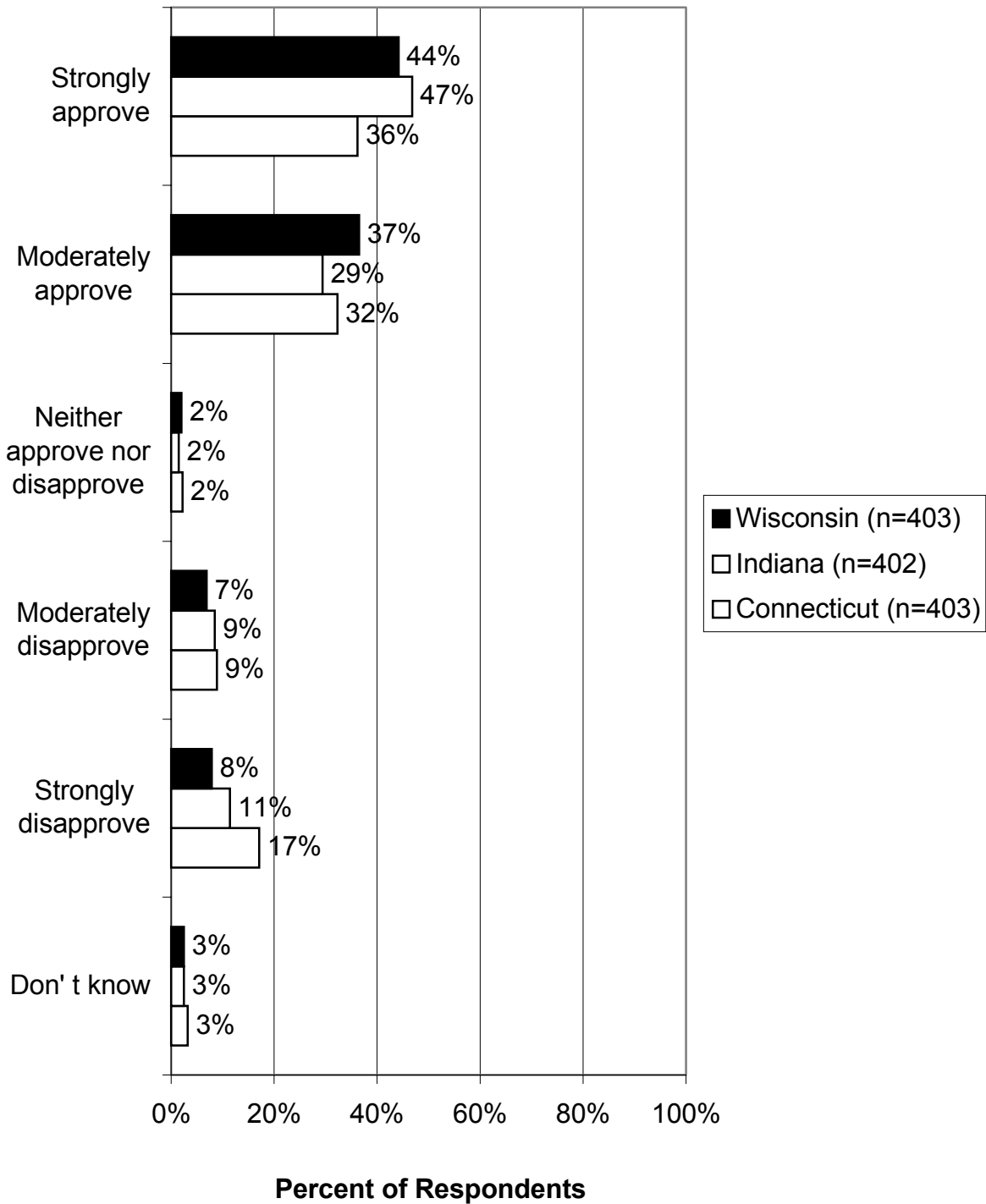


Percent of Respondents

### Q28. Do you approve or disapprove of trapping for recreation?

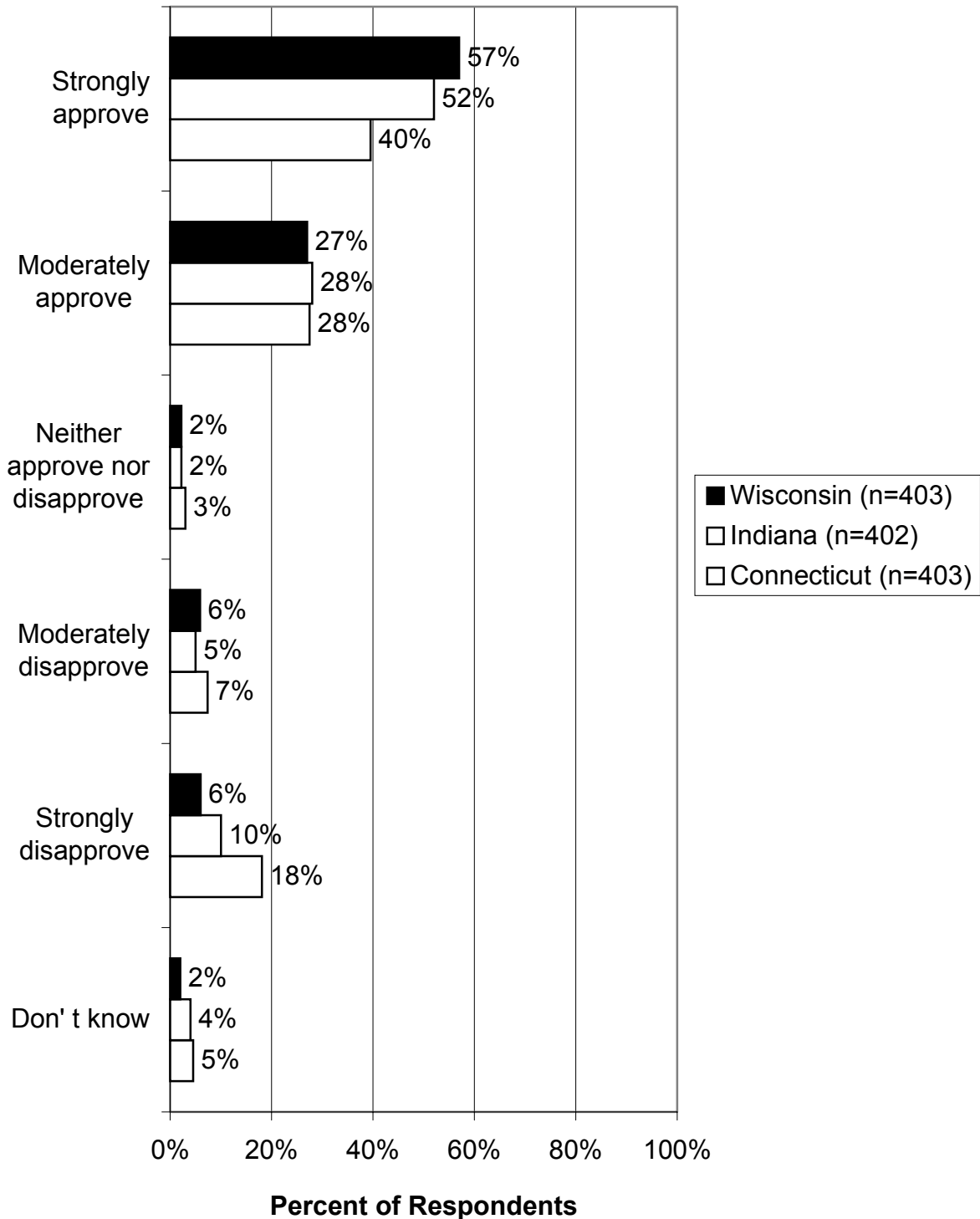


**Q29. Do you approve or disapprove of subsistence trapping? (Trapping for food, clothing and shelter.)**

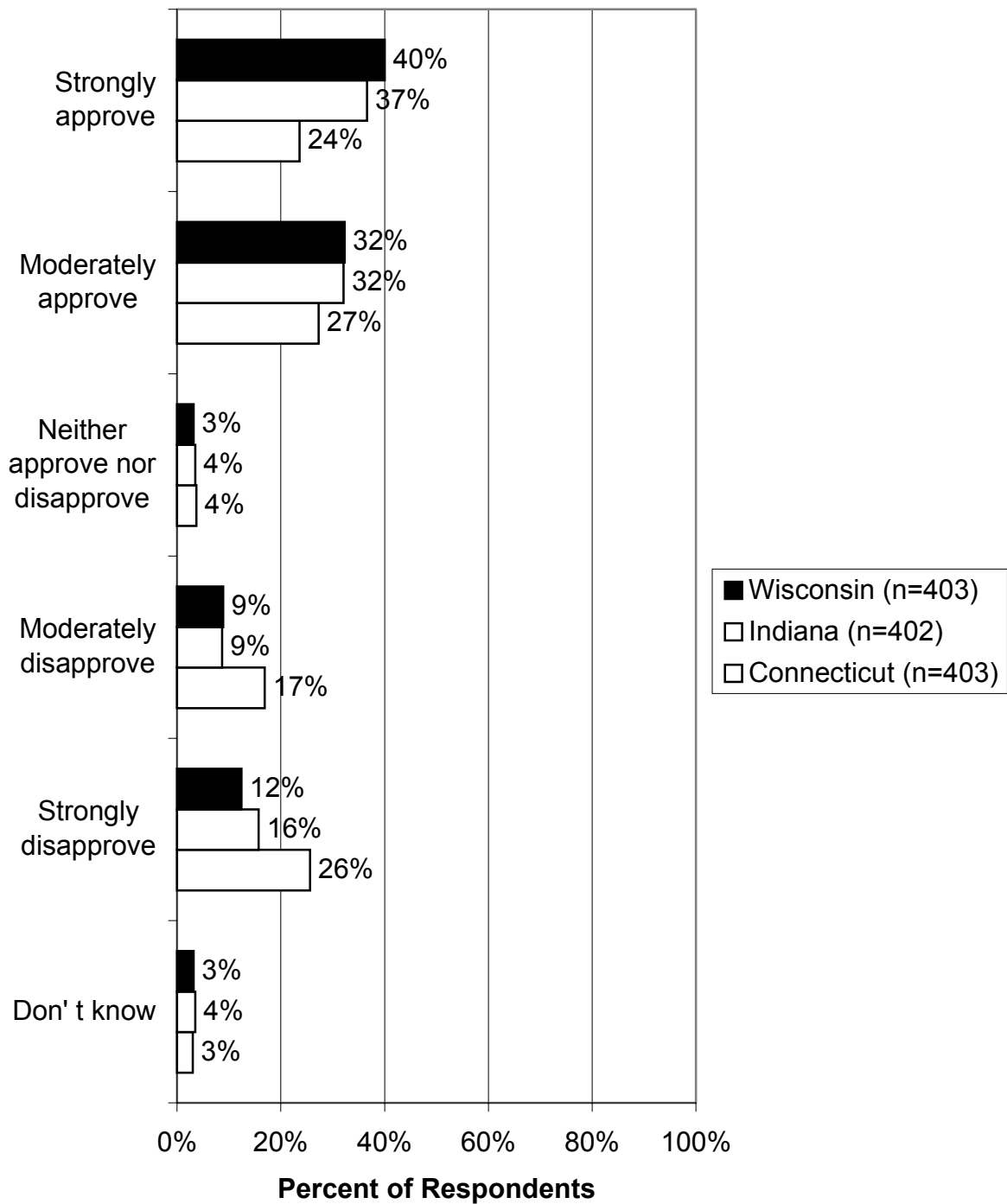




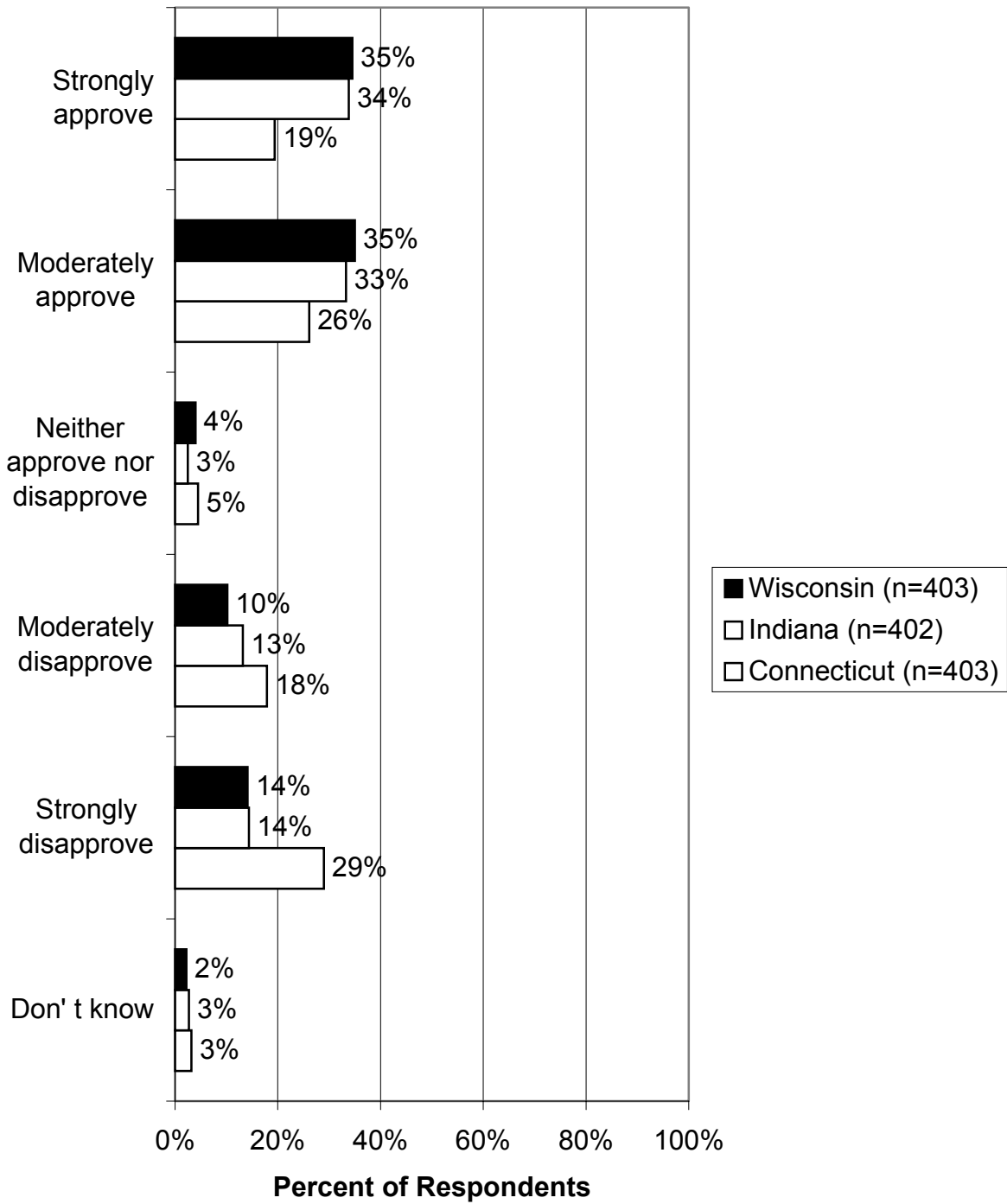
**Q30. Do you approve or disapprove of trapping to help control certain wildlife populations so that they do not become too numerous and destroy wildlife habitat?**



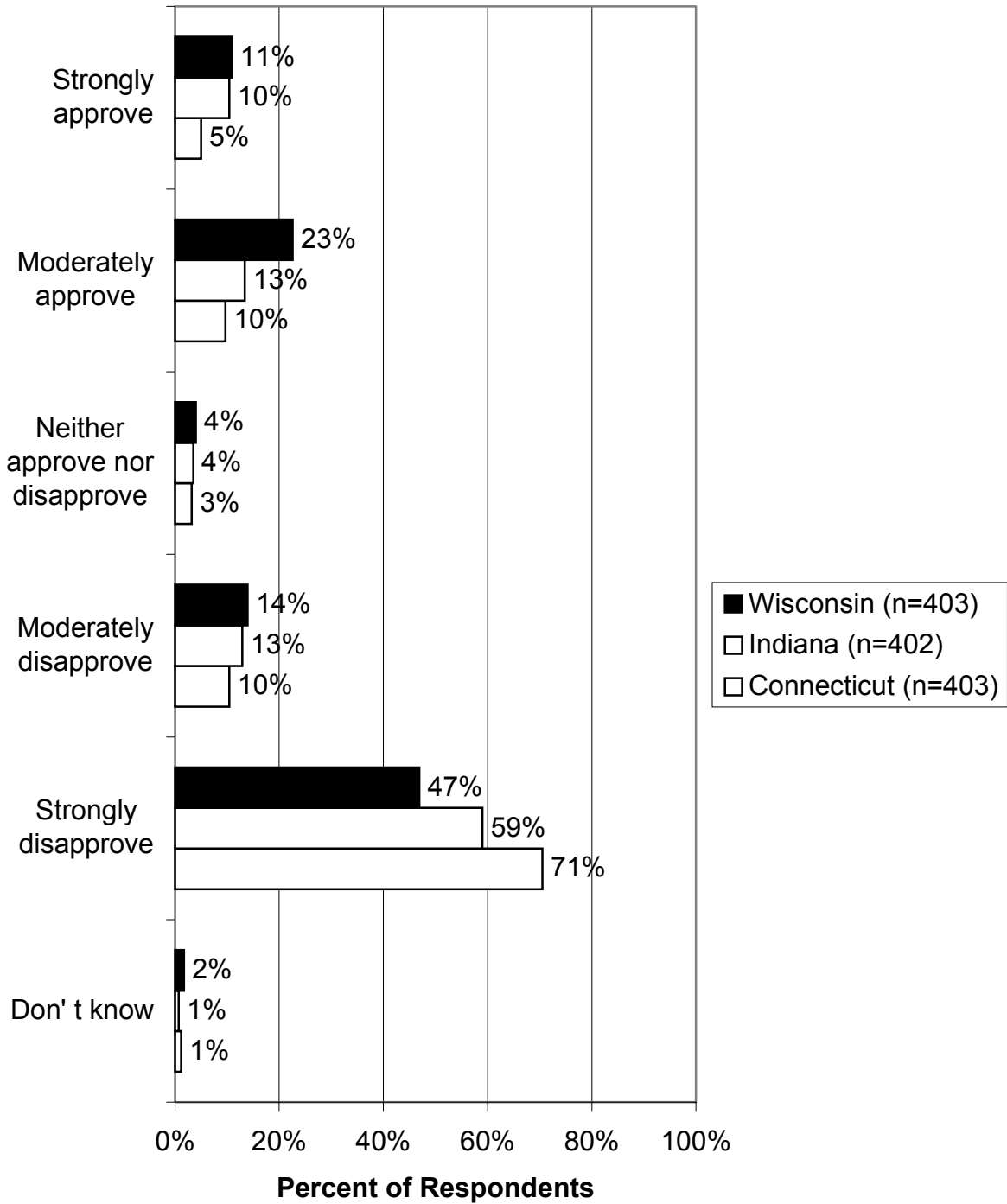
### Q31. Do you approve or disapprove of trapping to reduce damage to crops and gardens?



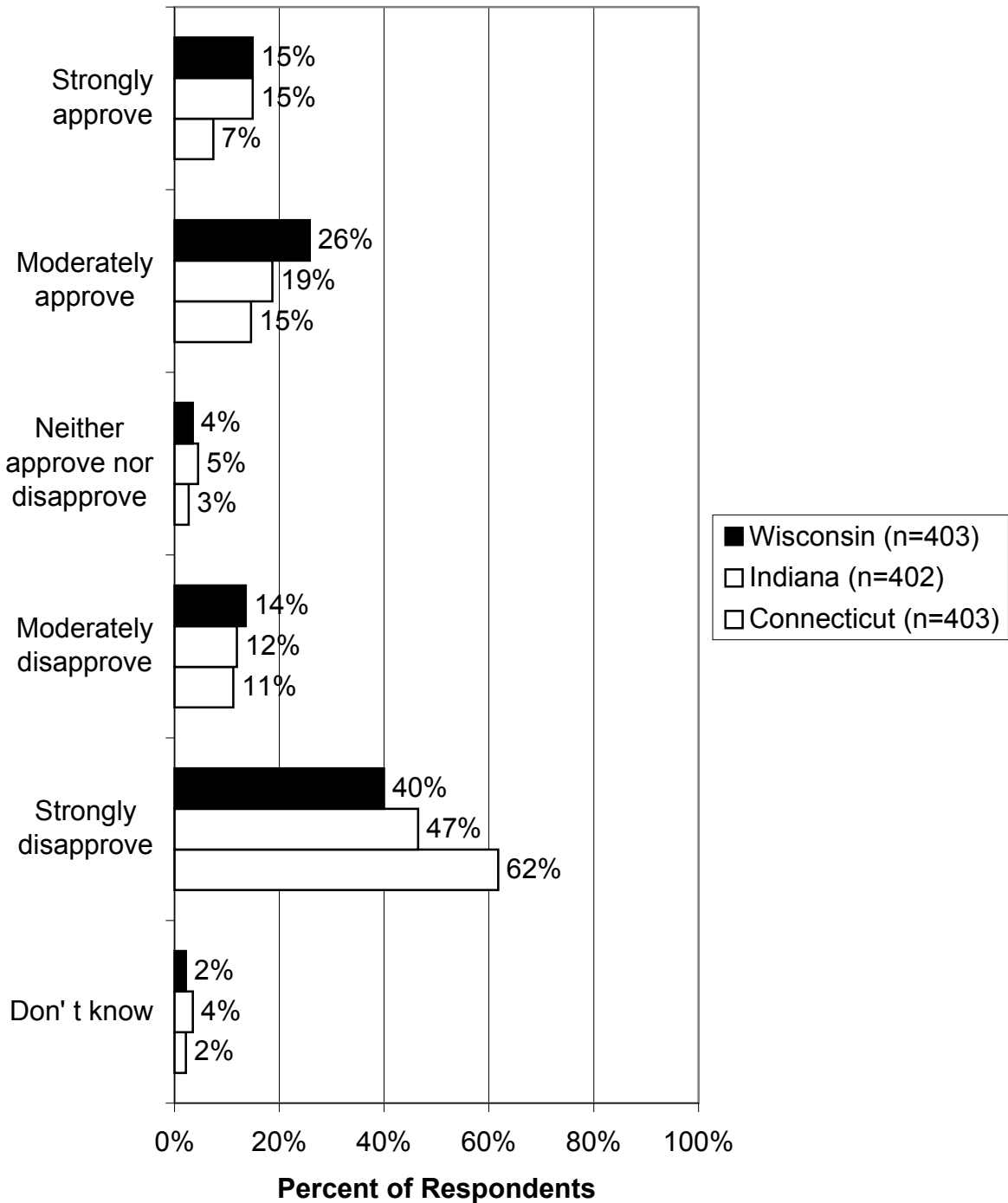
### Q32. Do you approve or disapprove of trapping to reduce damage to human property?



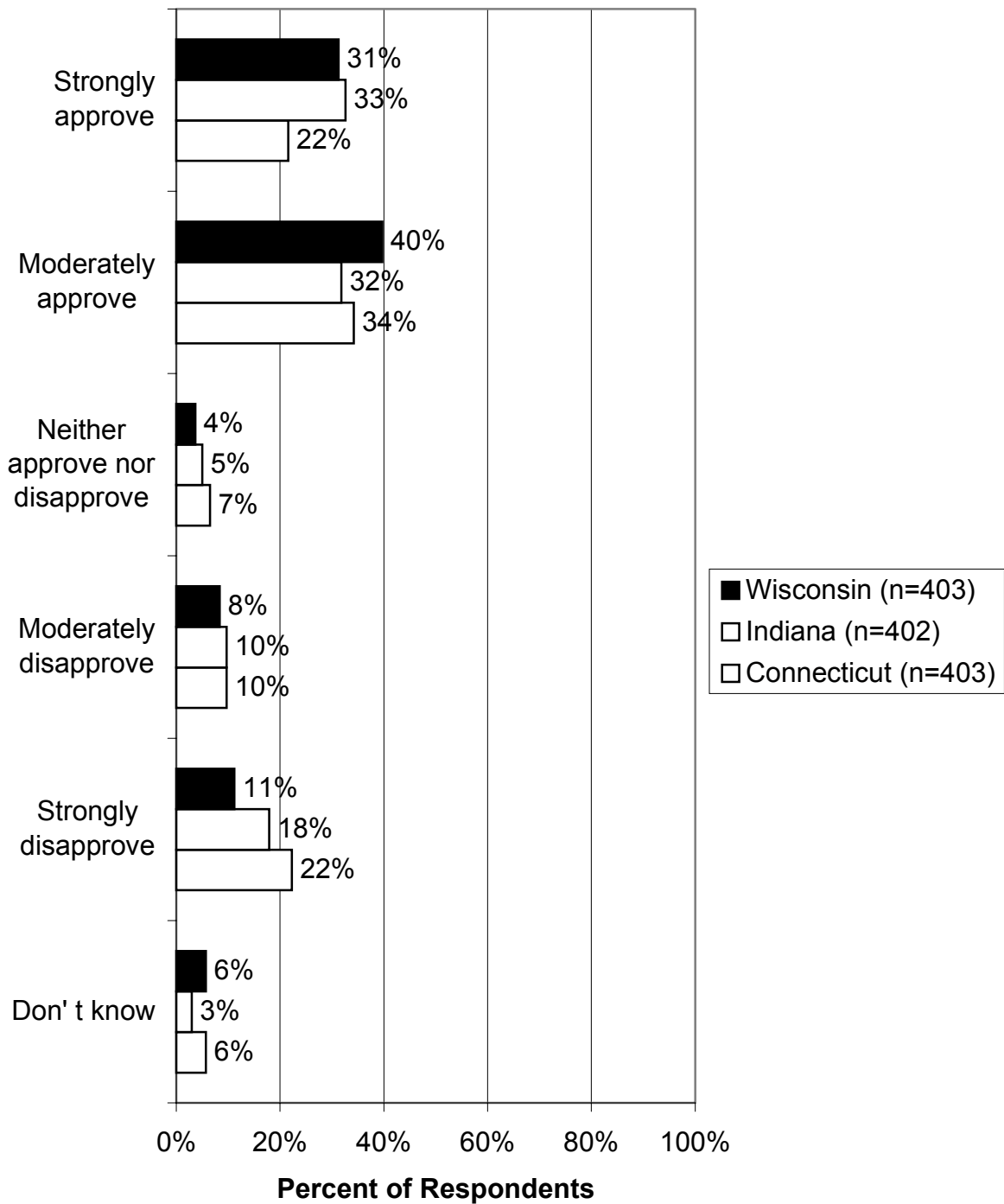
### Q33. Do you approve or disapprove of trapping wild animals for fur clothing?



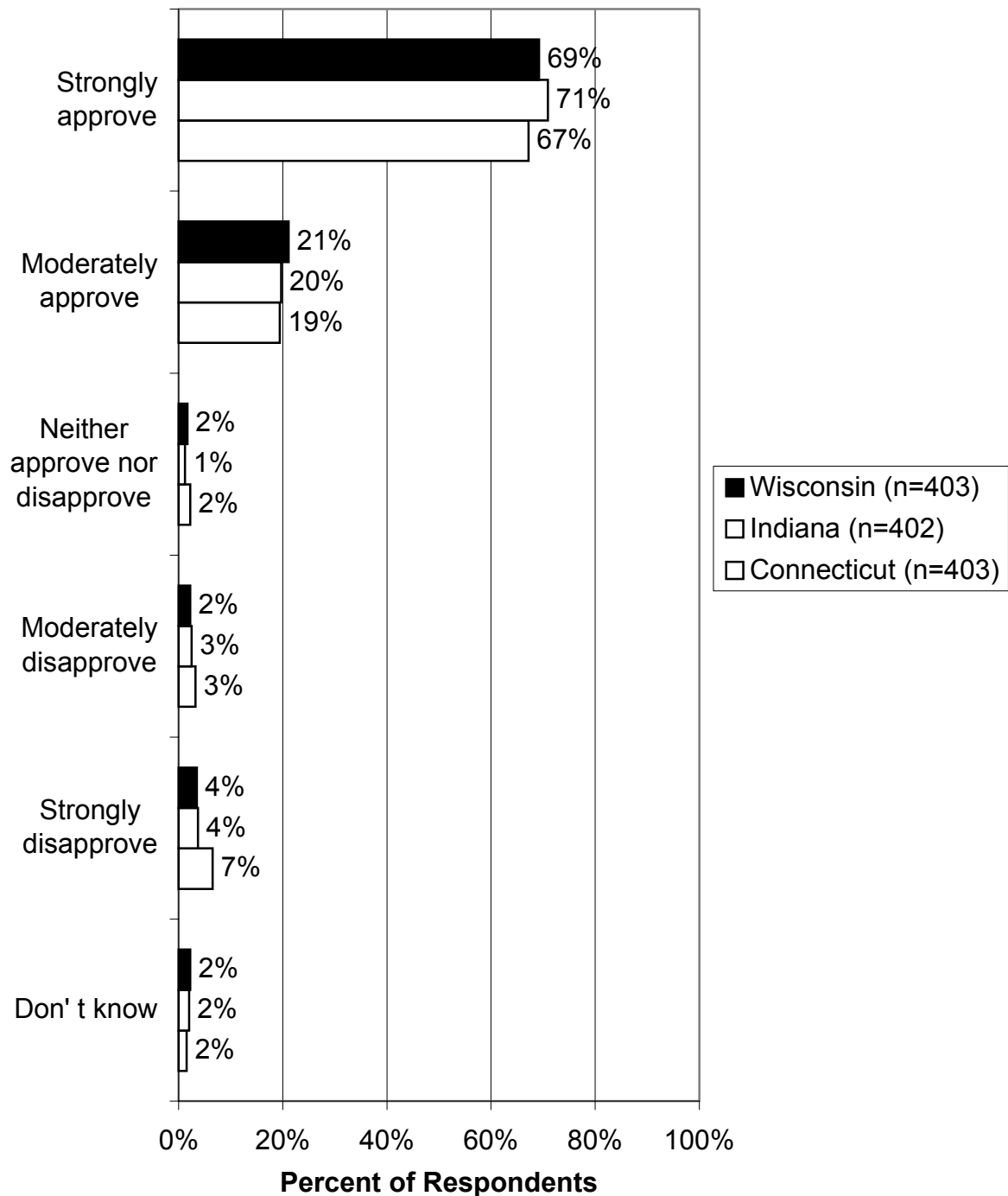
**Q34. What about trapping as a way for individuals to make money?  
(Do you approve or disapprove?)**



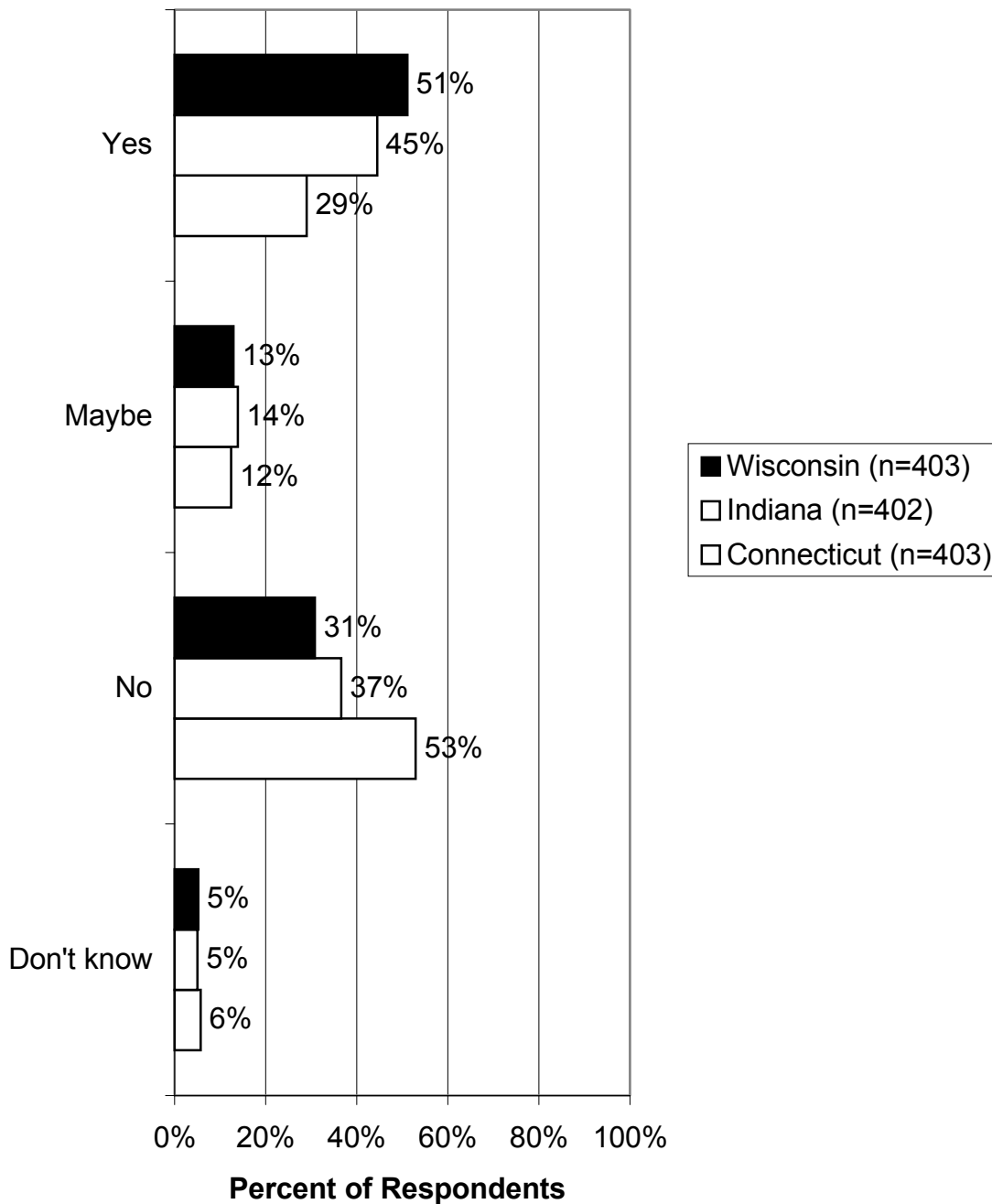
### Q35. What about trapping as part of a biological study? (Do you approve or disapprove?)



**Q36. What about trapping as a way to capture and relocate wild animals from where they are abundant to places where they once existed as part of a restoration program?  
(Do you approve or disapprove?)**

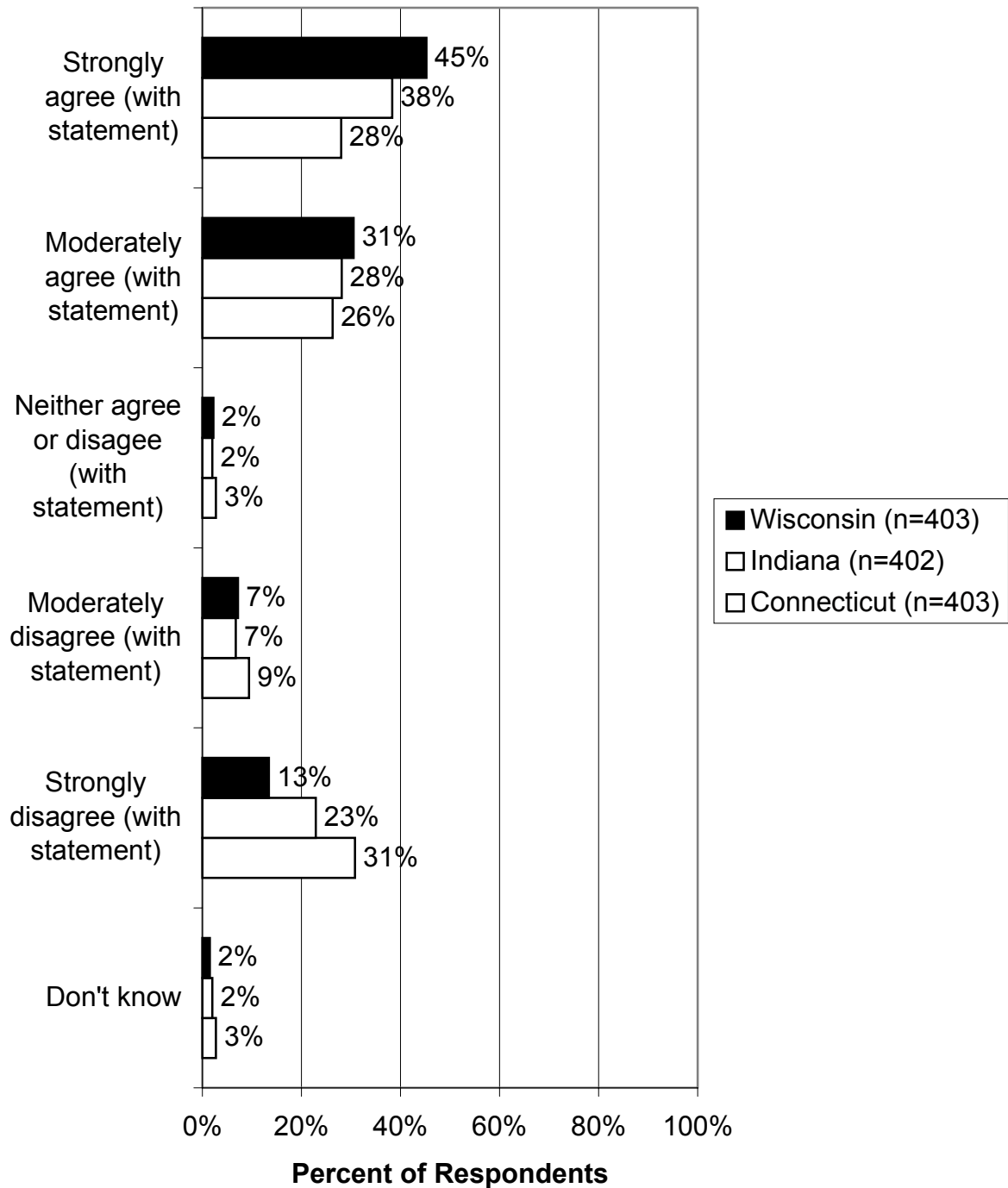


**Q37. FYI, when animals are trapped, the whole animal is usually utilized and there is often little waste. For example, the meat is used for human and pet food and other by-products... Knowing this, are you likely to find trapping more acceptable?**

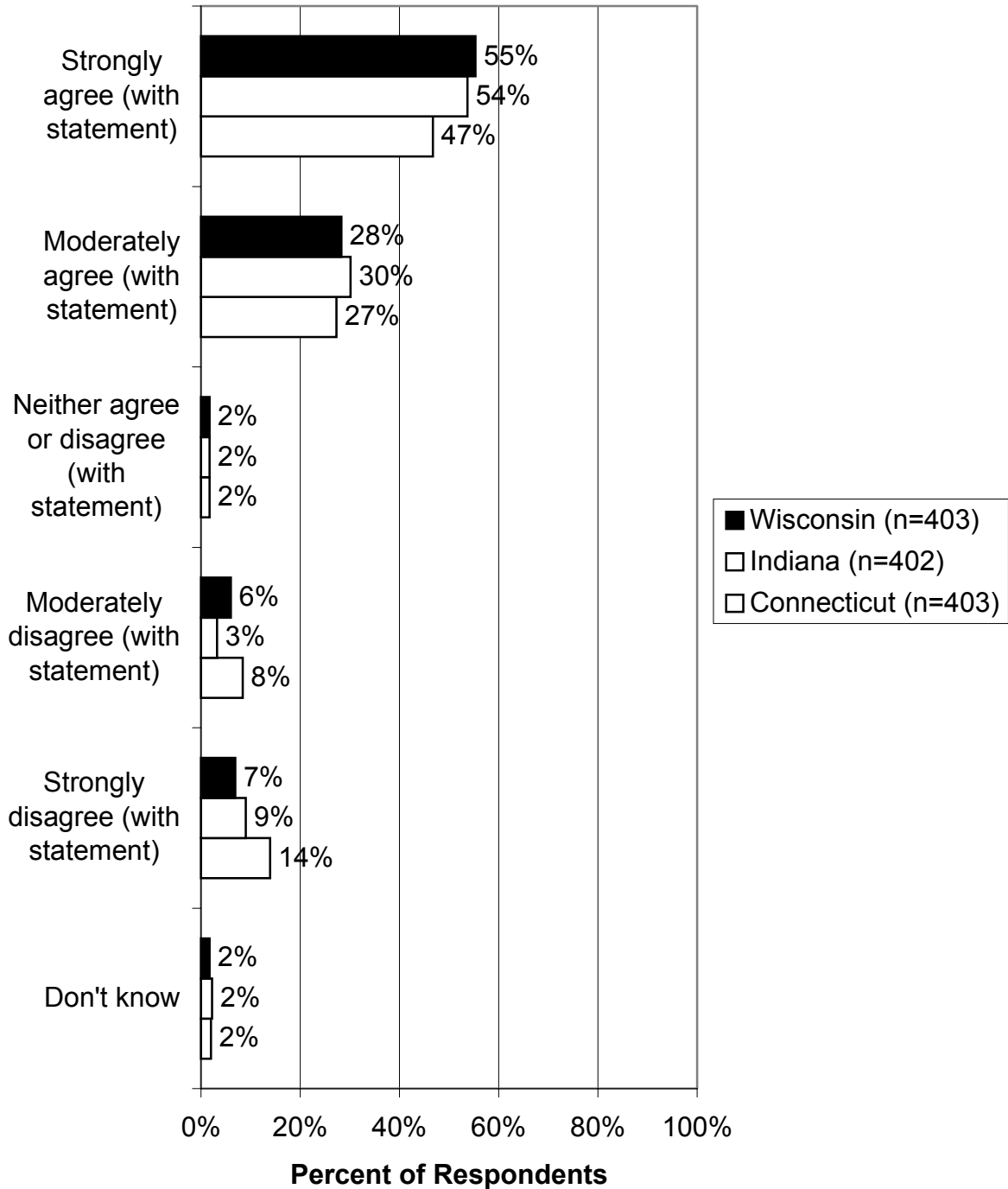




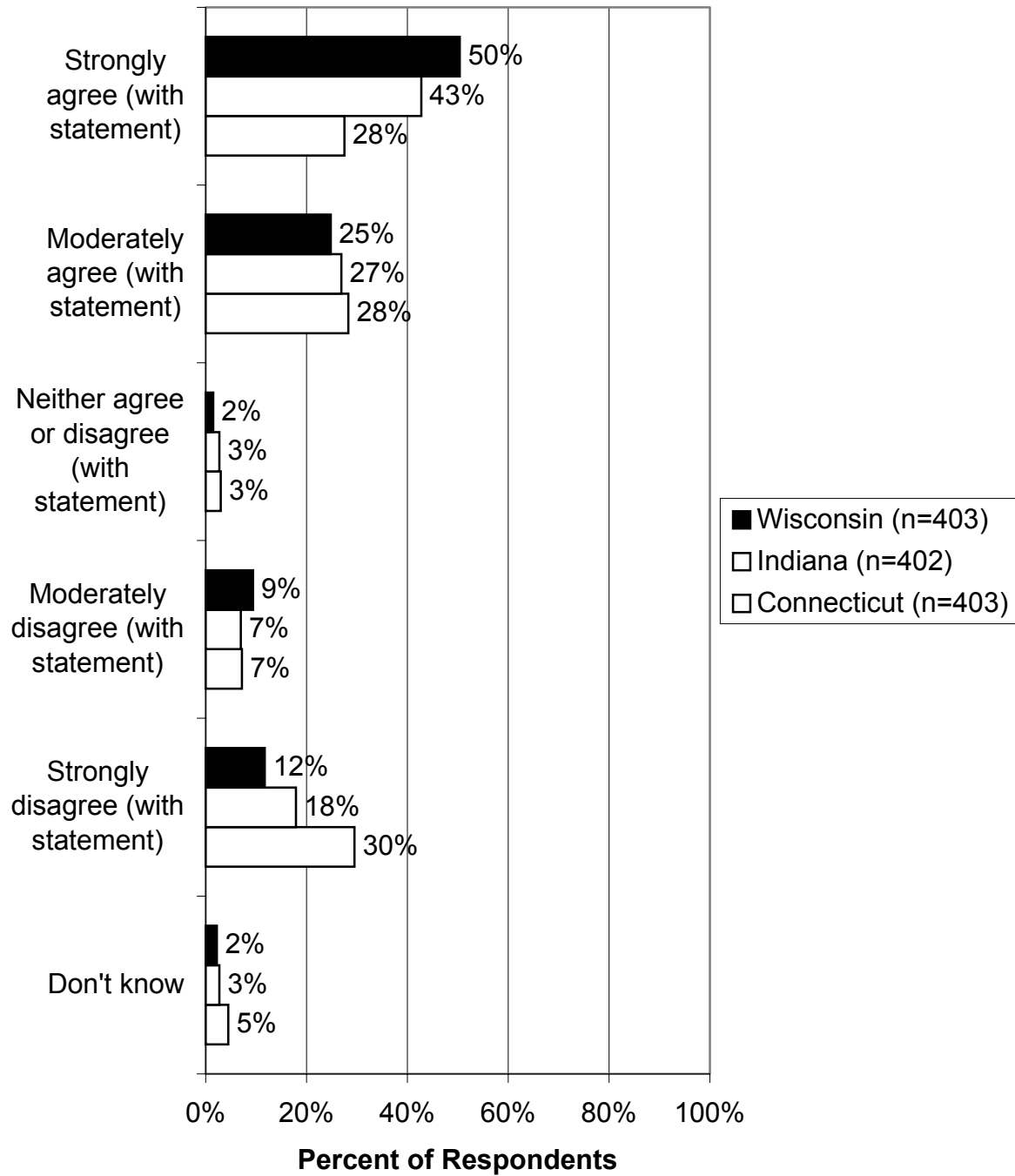
**Q38. I think regulated trapping is ok if the animals die quickly and without undue pain.  
(Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)**



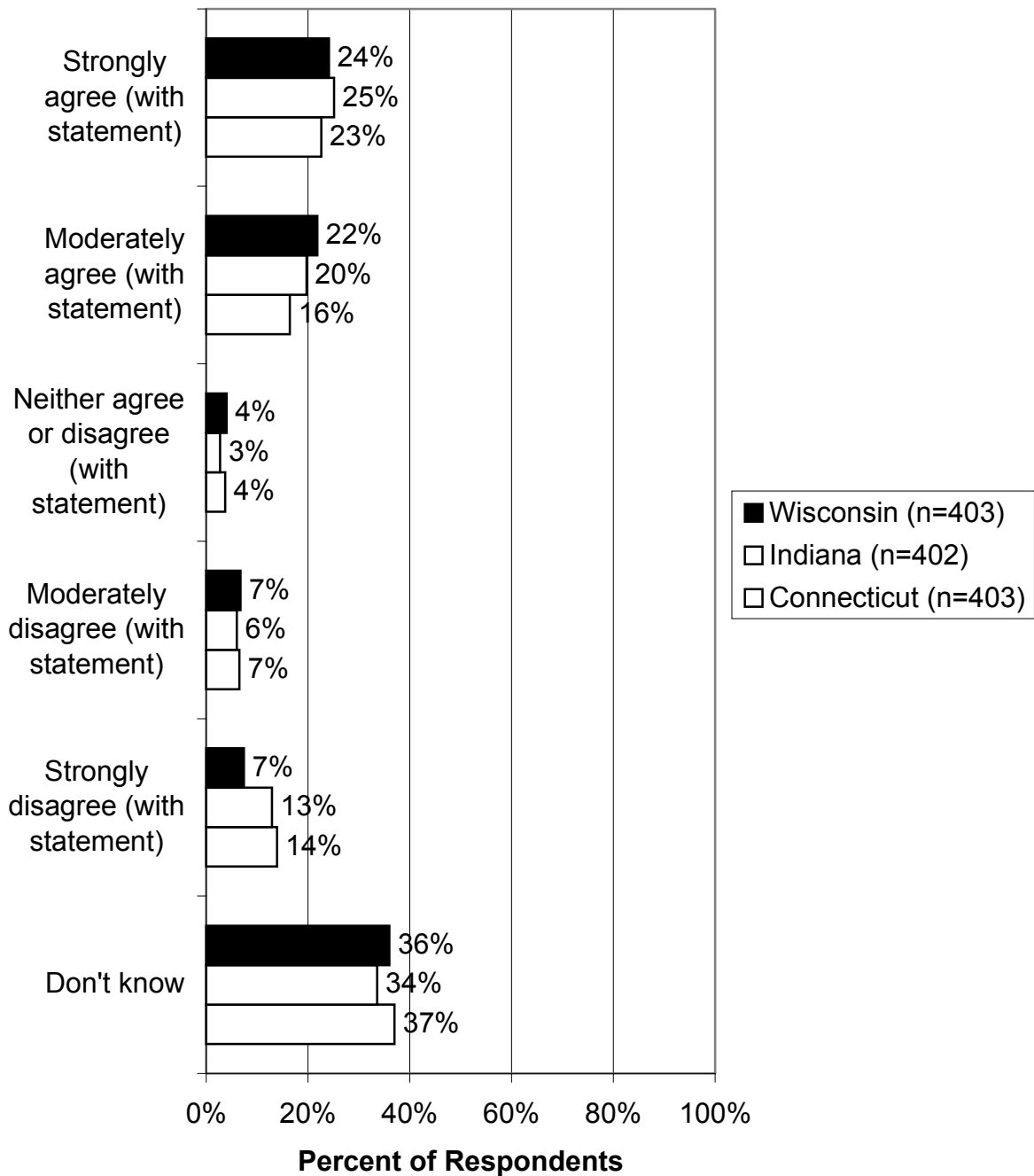
**Q39. I think regulated trapping is ok if animals that are accidently caught could be released. (Do you agree or disagree with this statement?)**



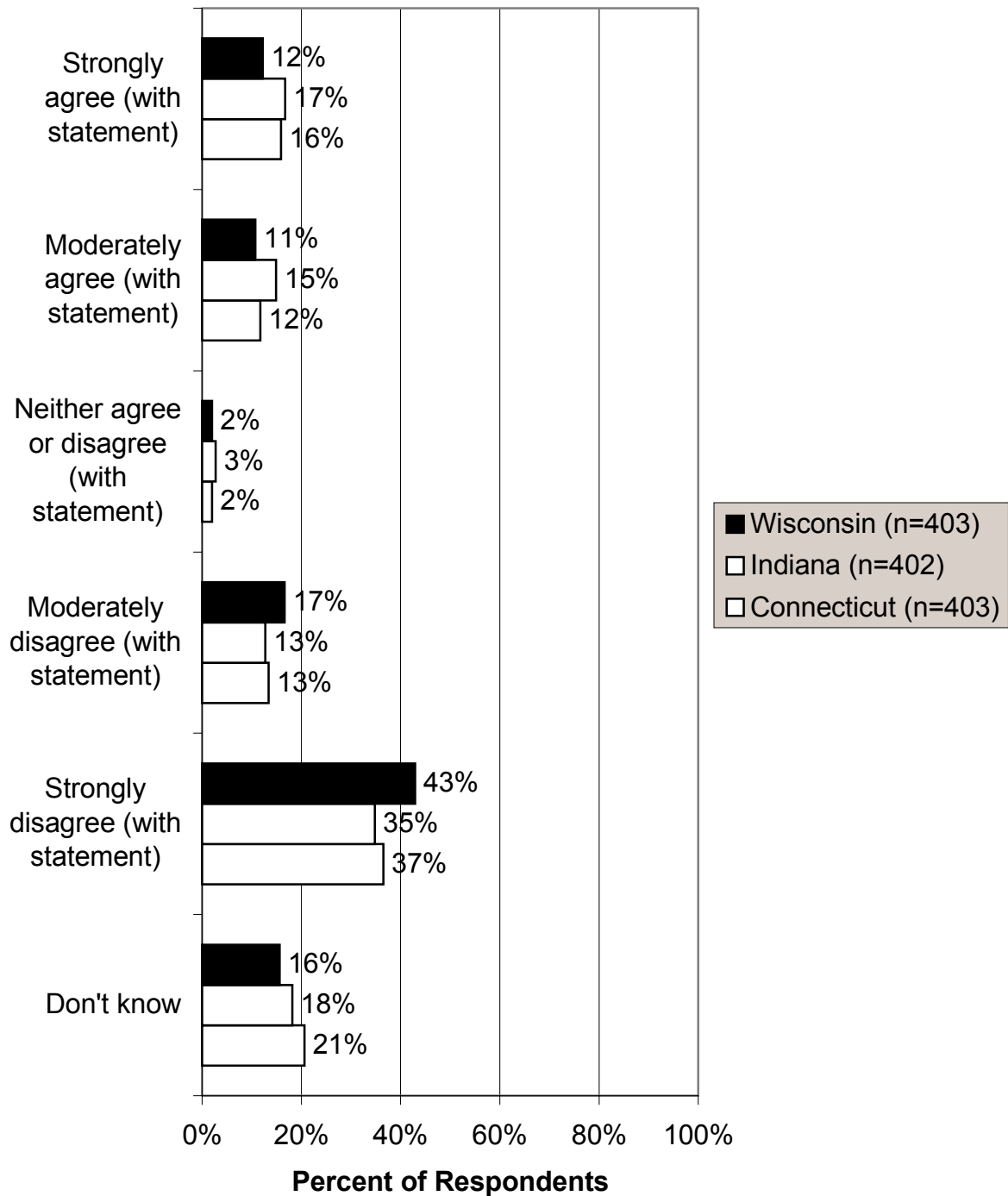
**Q40. I think people should have the freedom to choose to participate in regulated trapping if they want to.**



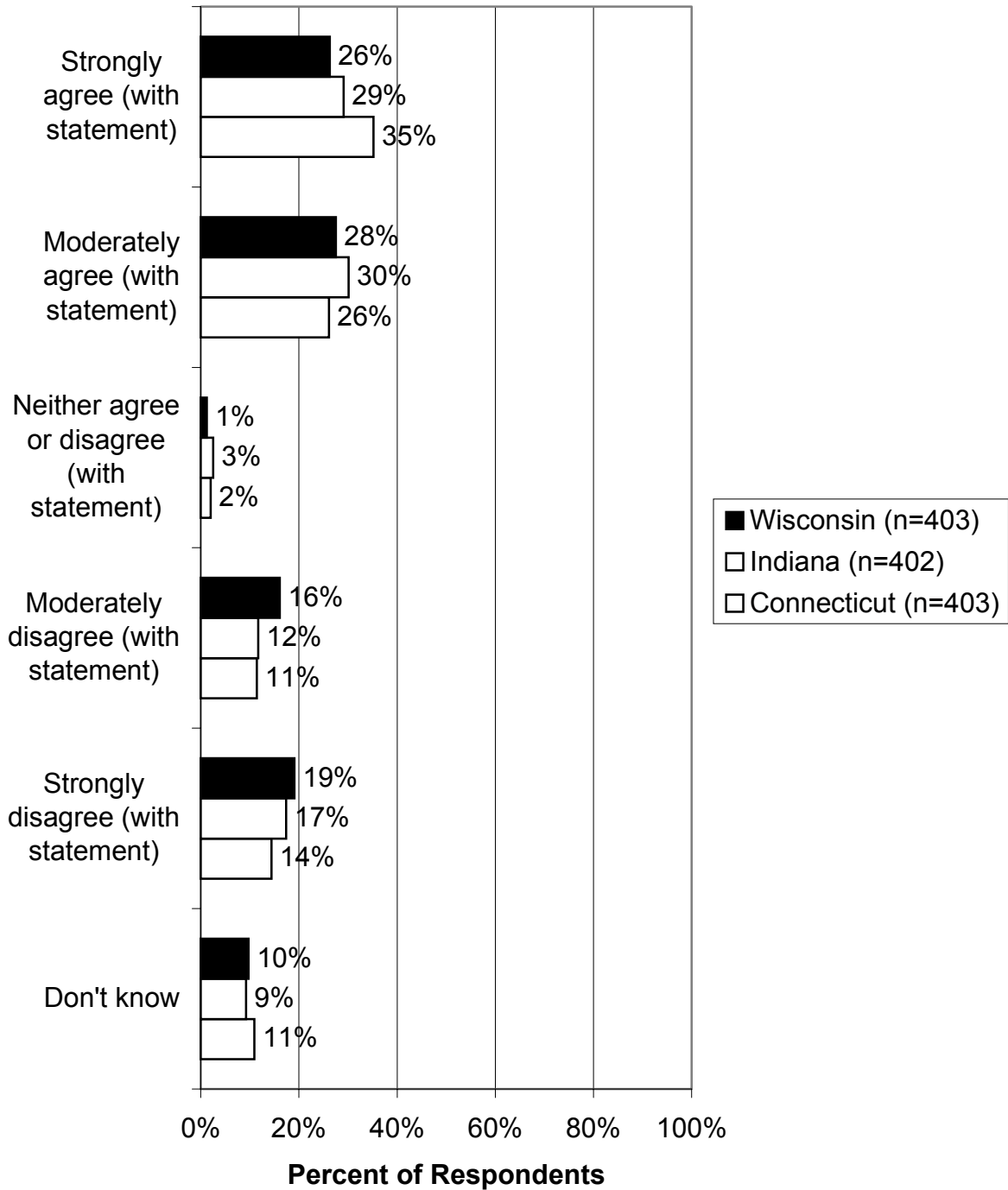
**Q41. Because of improvements in traps, trapping is more humane today than it was ten years ago.**



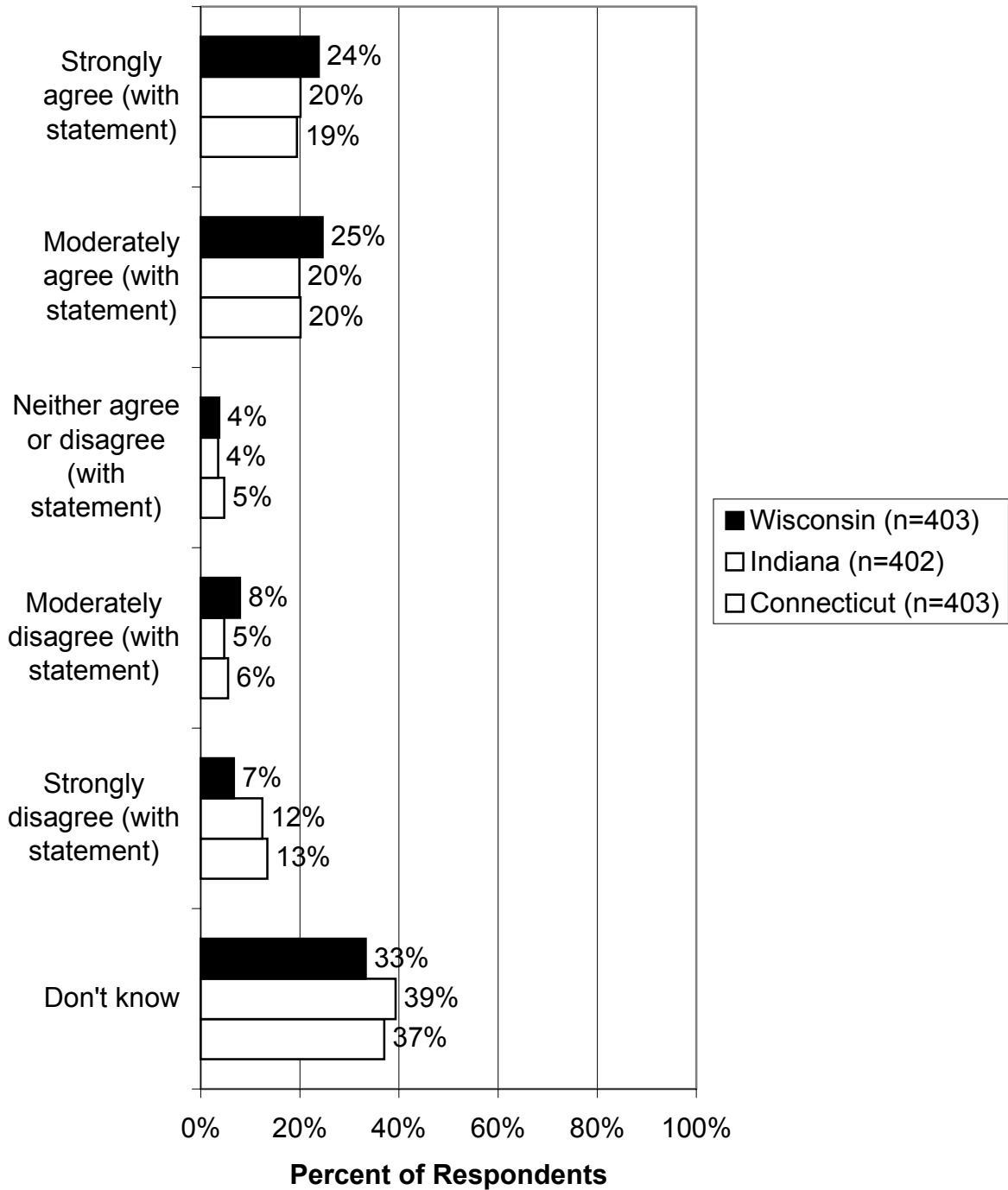
**Q42. Endangered species are frequently used to make fur clothing.**



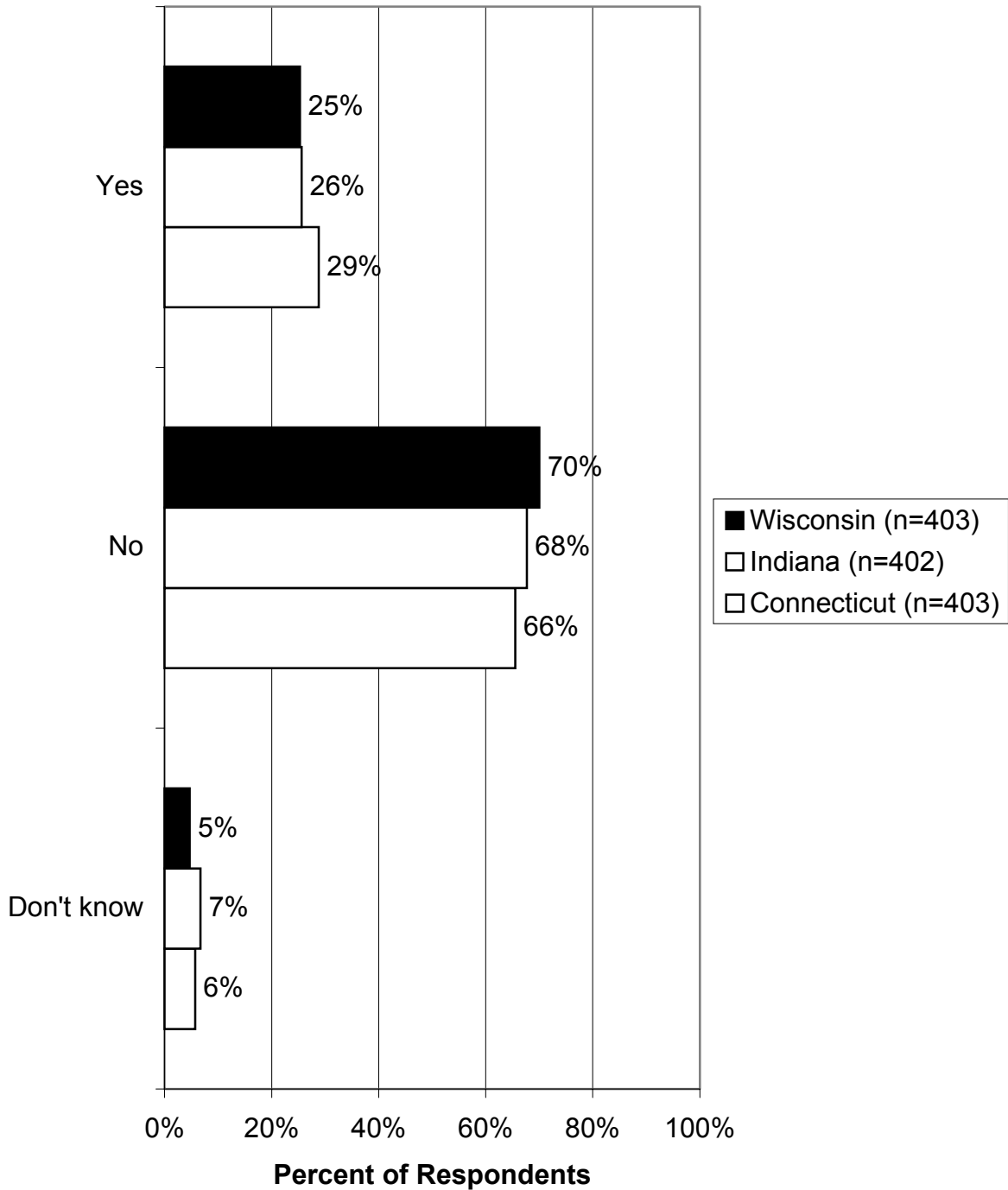
**Q43. Even though trapping is regulated by the state, regulated trapping can still cause wildlife species to become endangered or extinct.**



**Q44. Do you agree or disagree that trapping is more humane today than it was 10 years ago?**

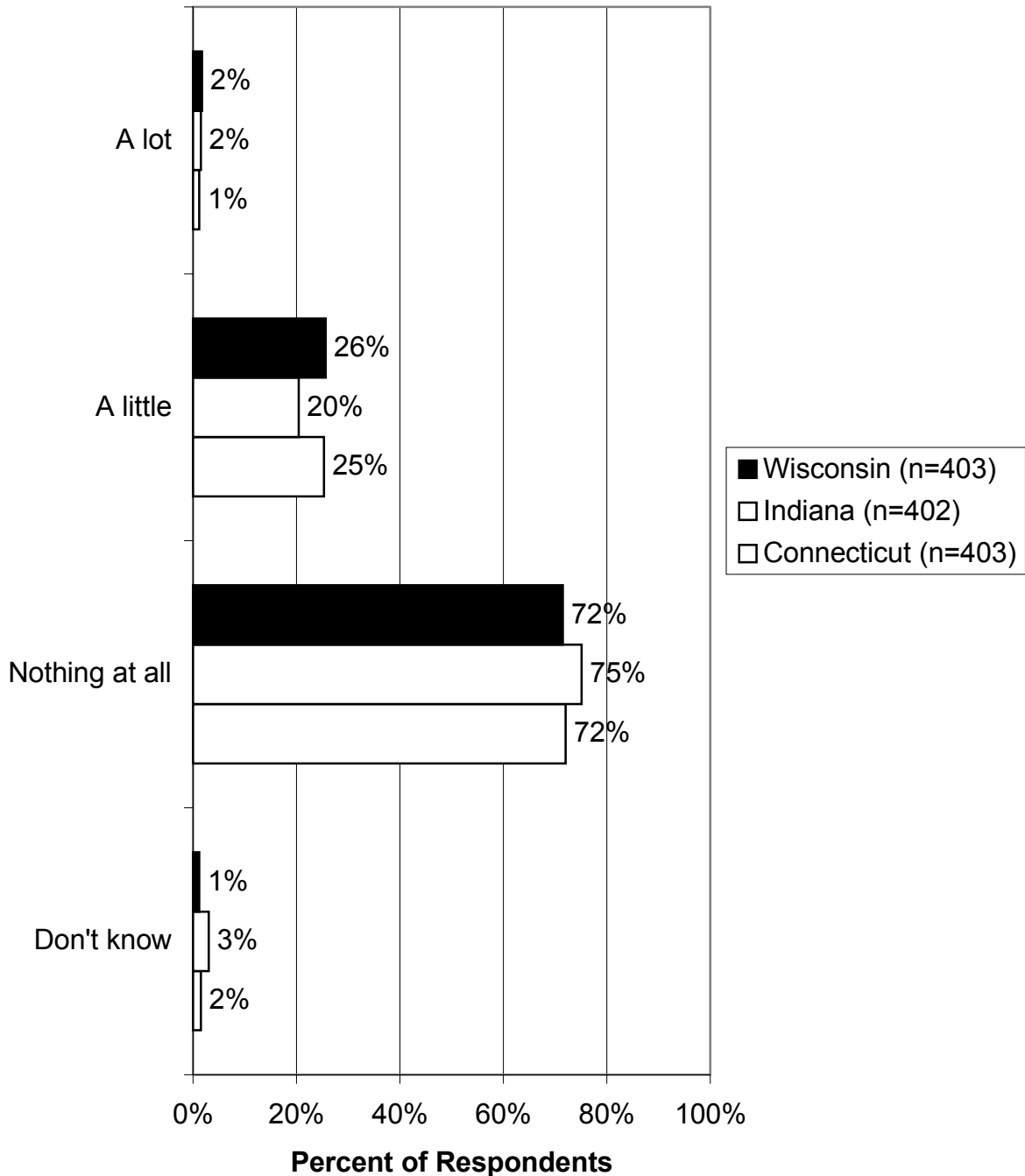


**Q45. Are you aware that state fish and wildlife agencies have been working on ways to improve traps to make trapping more humane?**

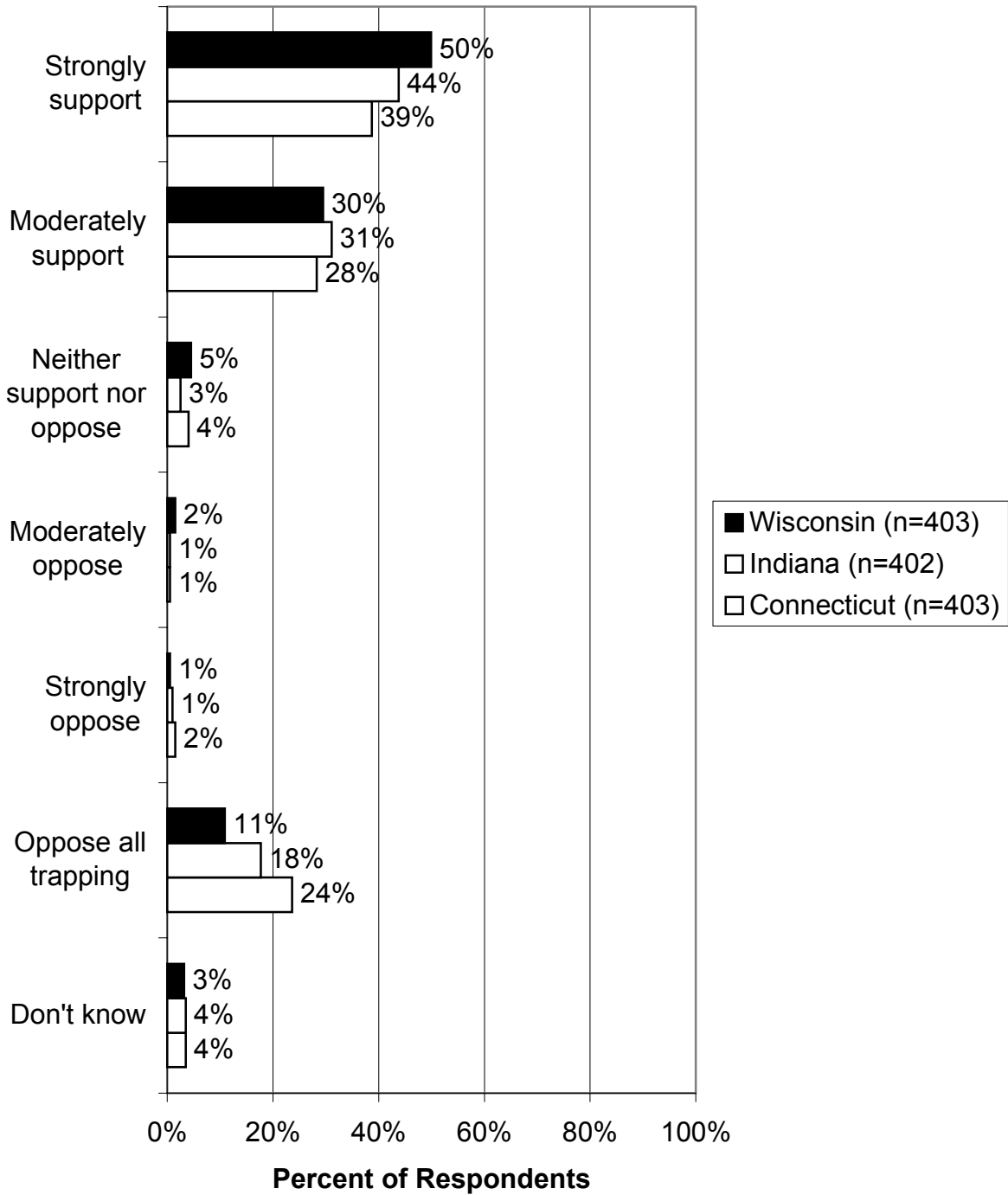




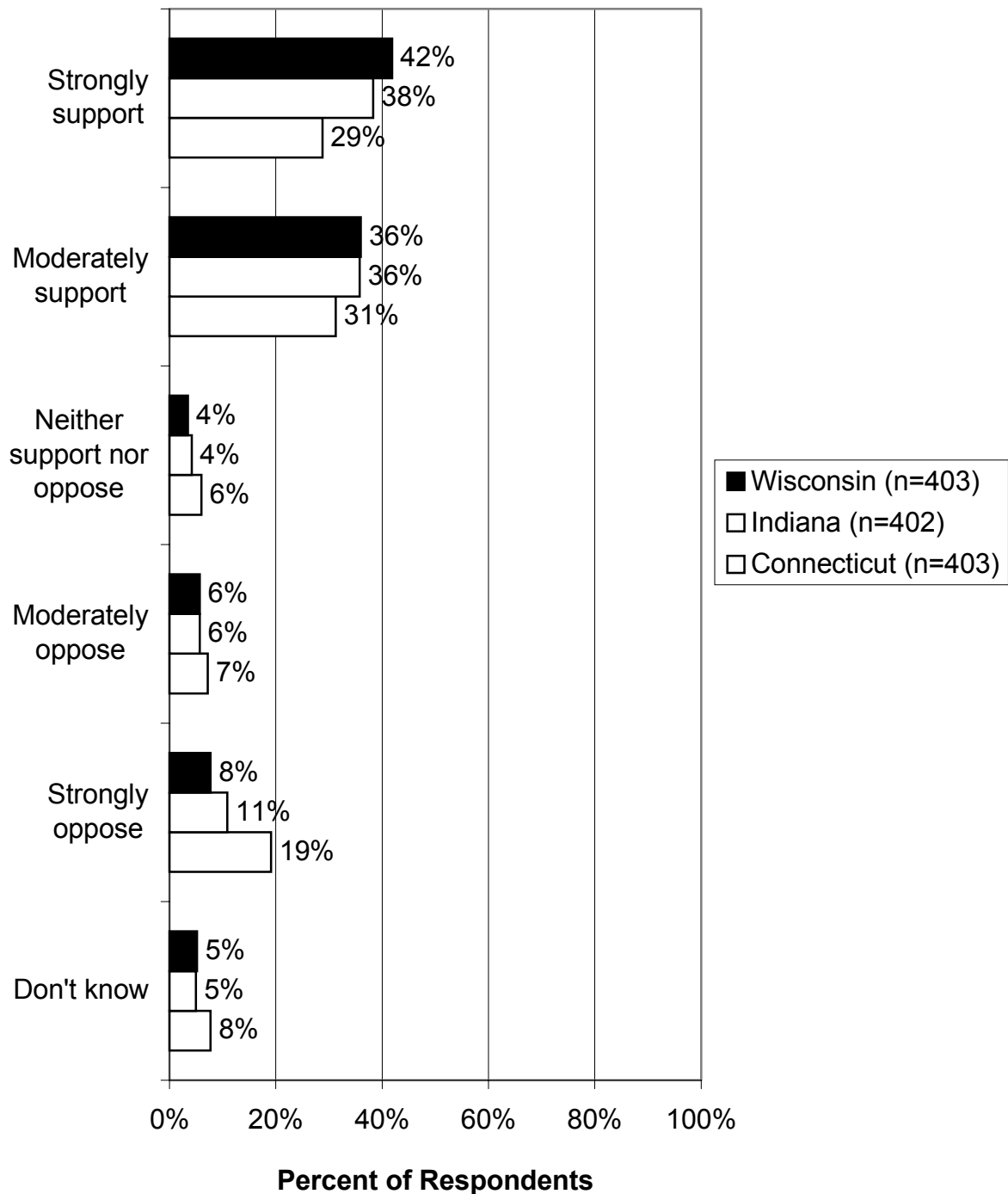
**Q46. For your information, there is a major project underway by state fish and wildlife agencies to make trapping more humane. How much would you say you have heard about these efforts? Would you say you have heard...?**



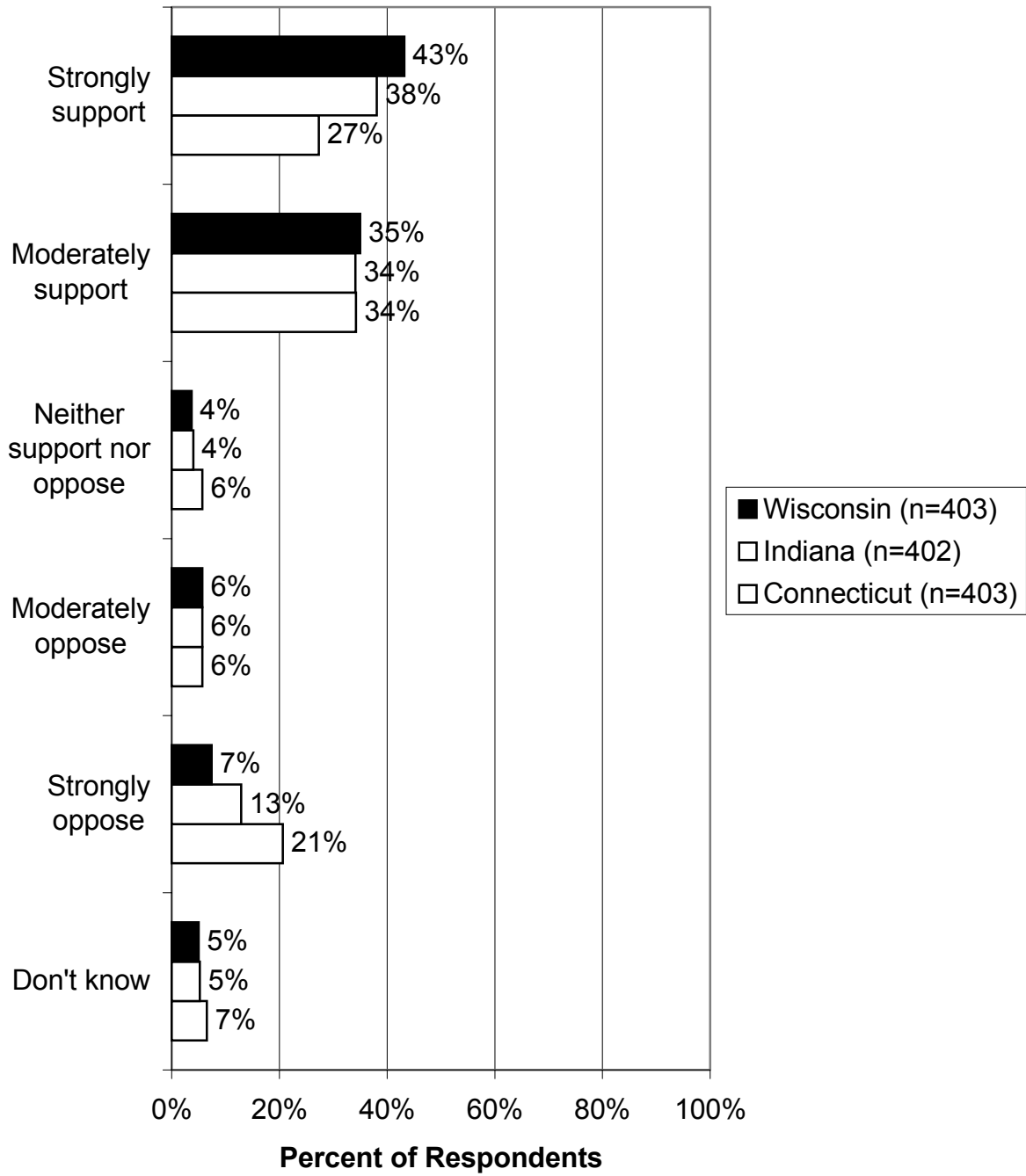
**Q47. Do you support or oppose the idea of state fish and wildlife agencies working on ways to make trapping more humane or are you opposed to trapping all together?**



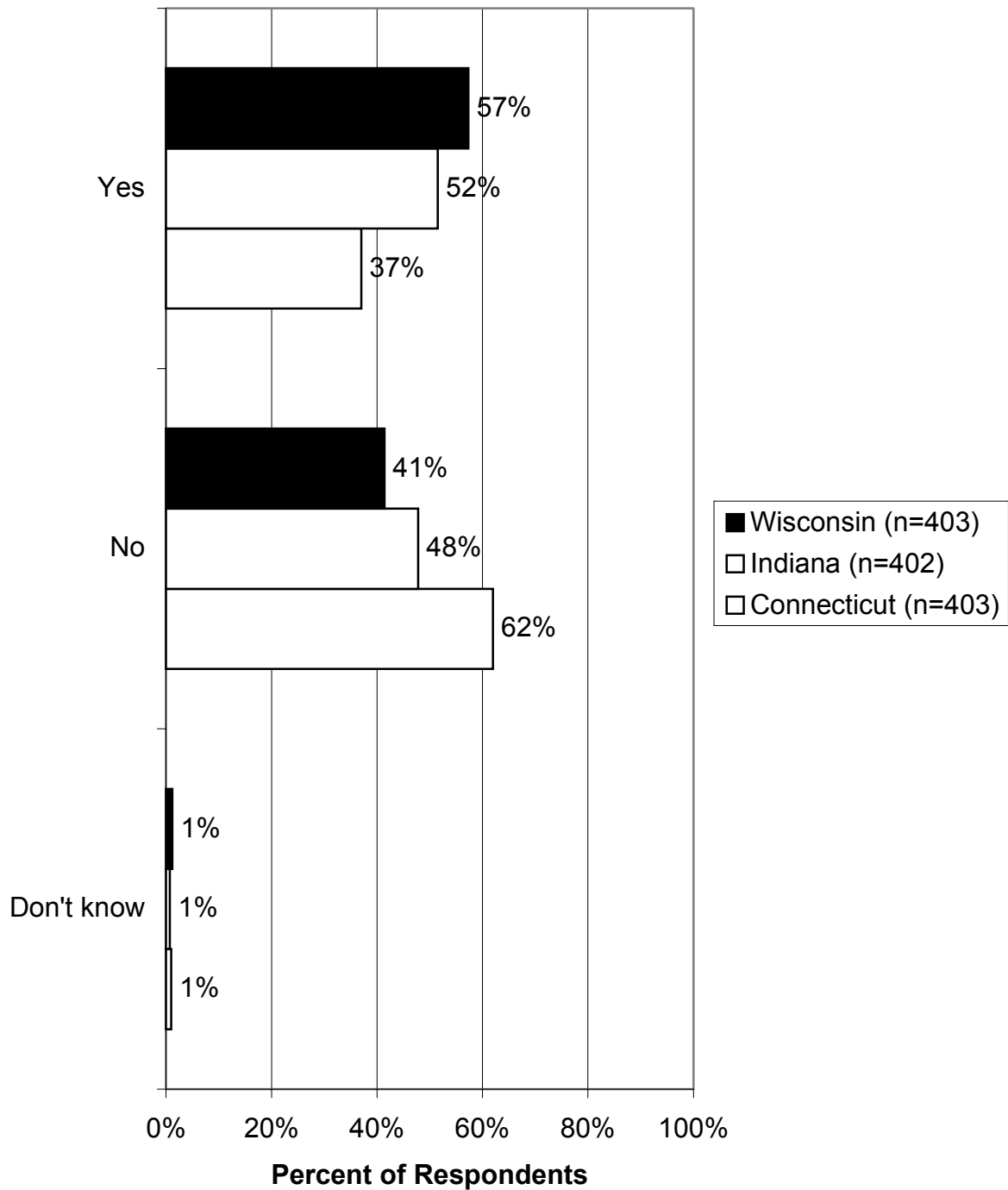
**Q48. The state fish and wildlife agencies are currently testing traps to make them more humane. Would you support or oppose trapping if you knew that traps being used have been tested to make them more humane?**



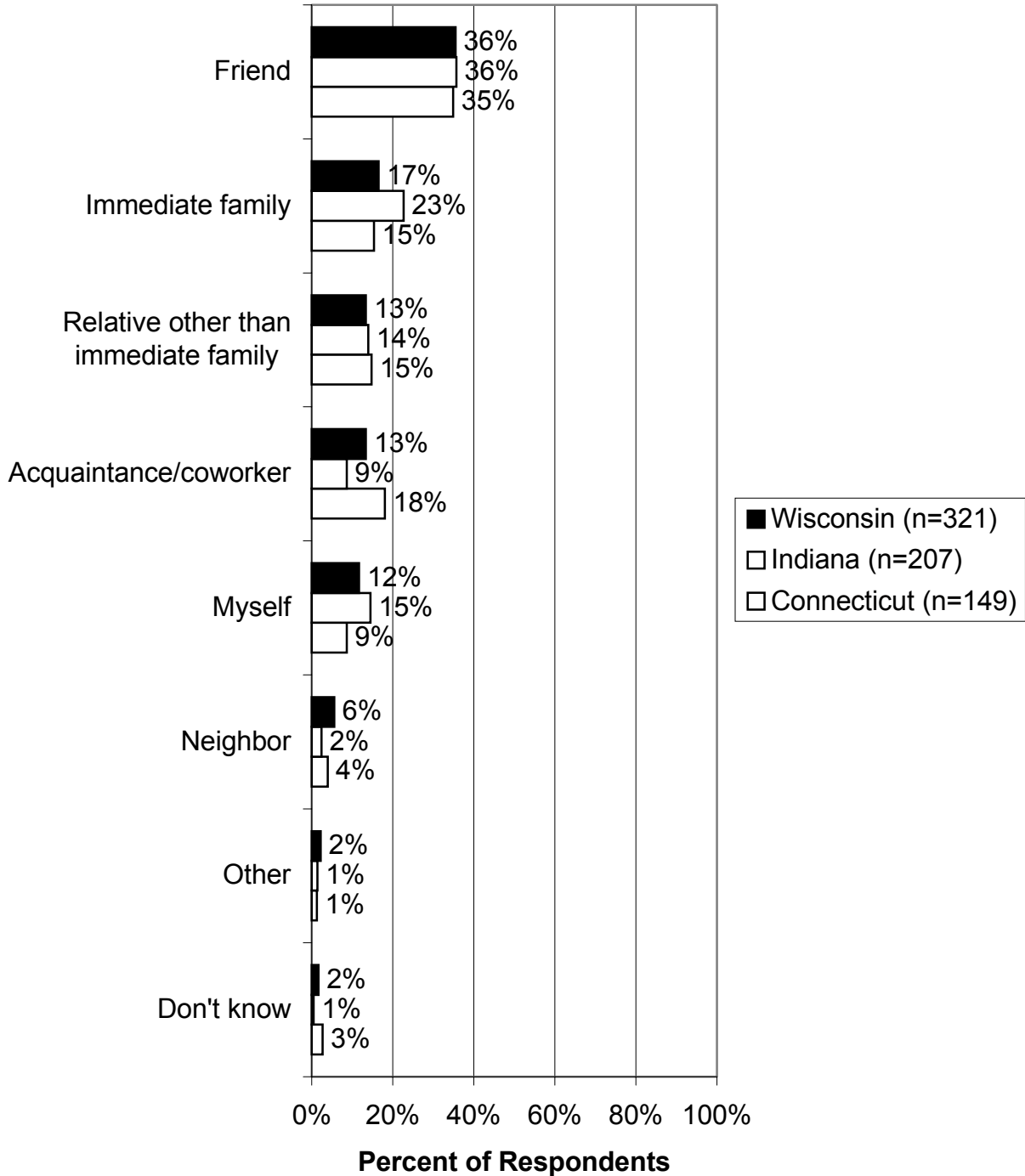
**Q49. Given that state fish and wildlife agencies are working on ways to make trapping more humane do you support or oppose regulated trapping?**



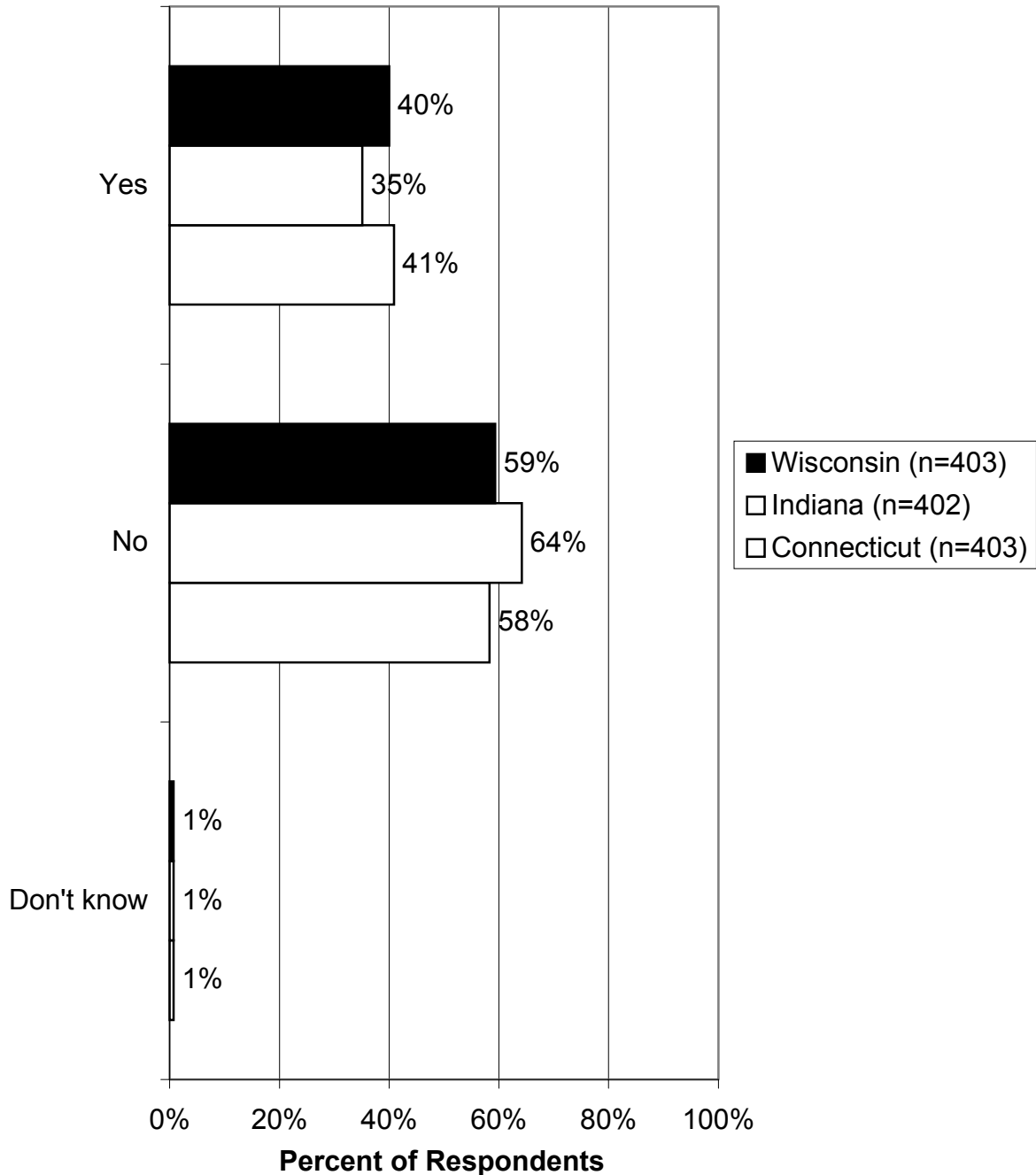
**Q50. Do you, or have you ever known anyone who is a trapper or has trapped wild animals?**



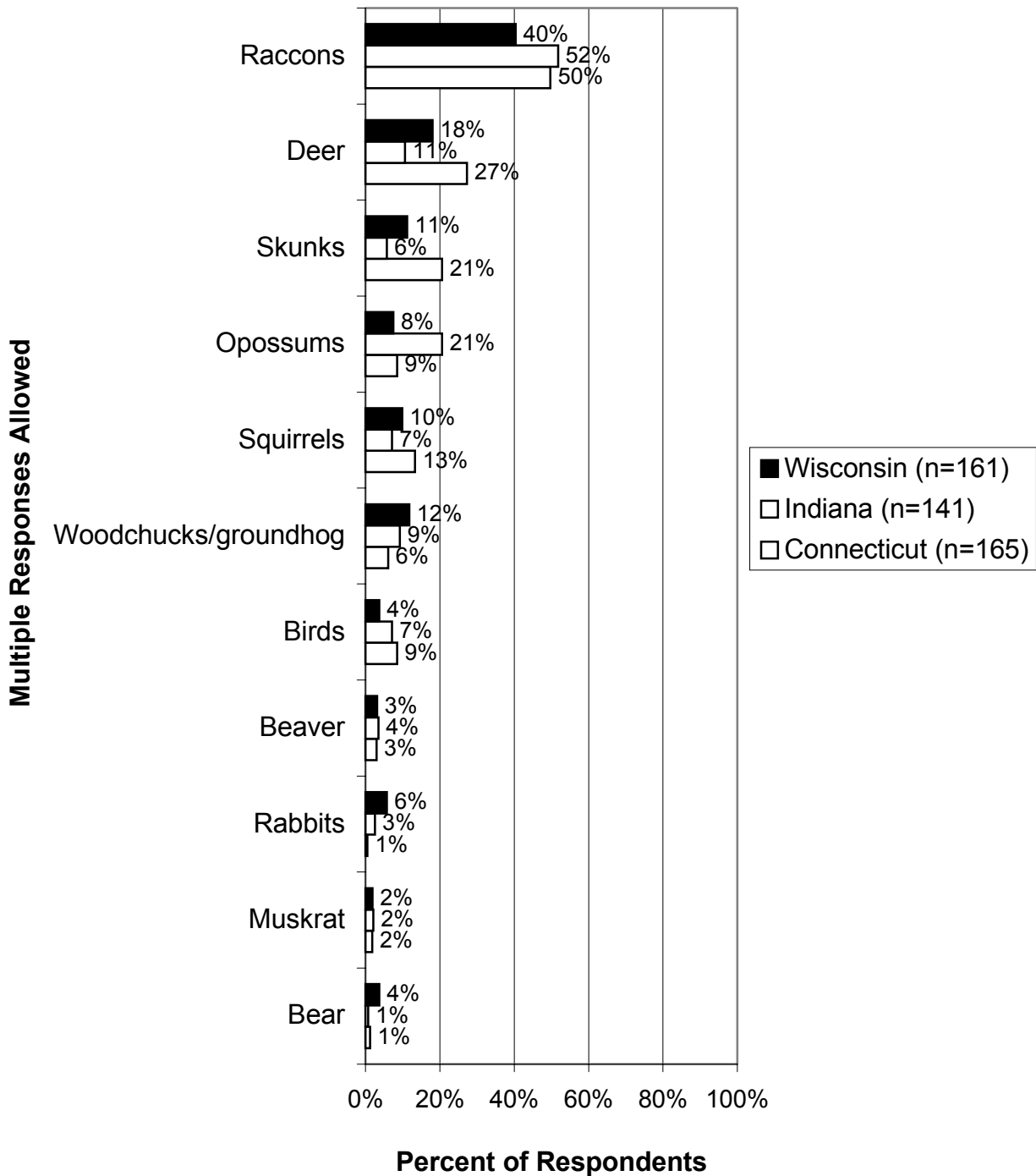
**Q51. What is your relationship to that person?  
(Asked of respondents who know or have ever known anyone who is a trapper or has trapped wild animals.)**



**Q53. Sometimes people have problems with wildlife in their neighborhoods or around their home, such as raccoons getting into garbage cans, (etc.). Have you had any problems with any wild animals or birds within the past two years?**

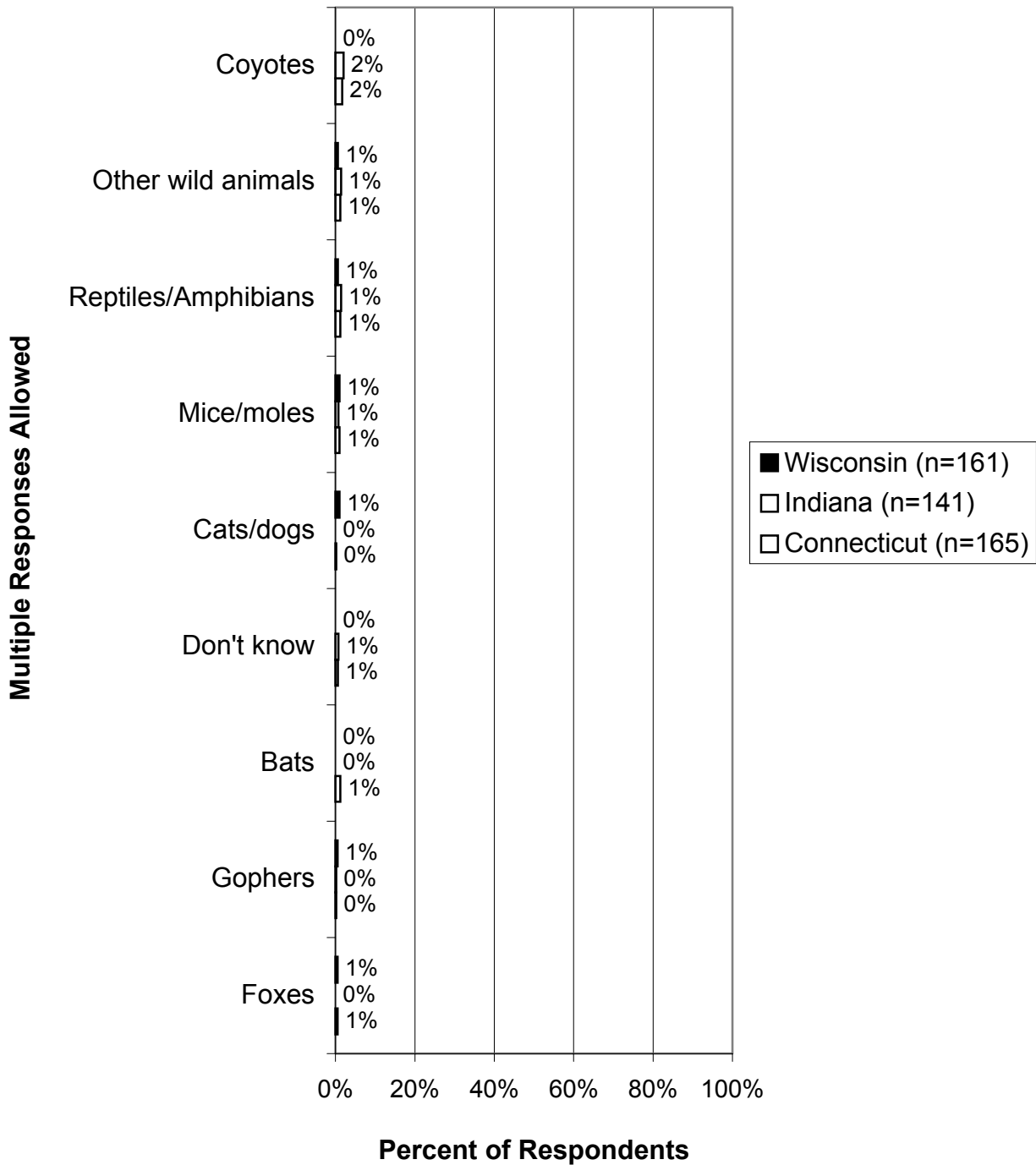


**Q55. Which wild animals have caused you problems? (Asked of those who have had any problems with any wild animals or birds within the past two years.)**

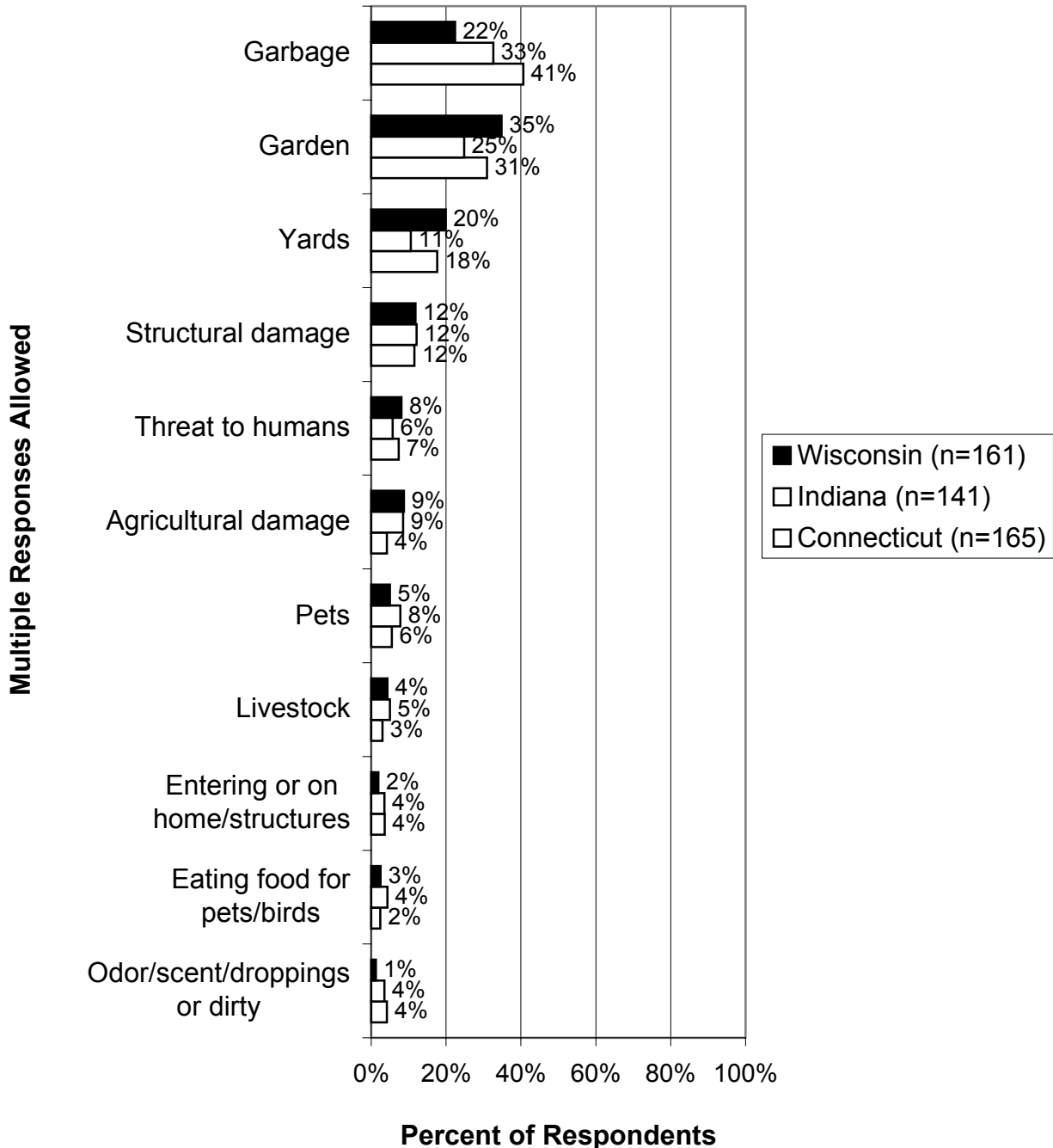




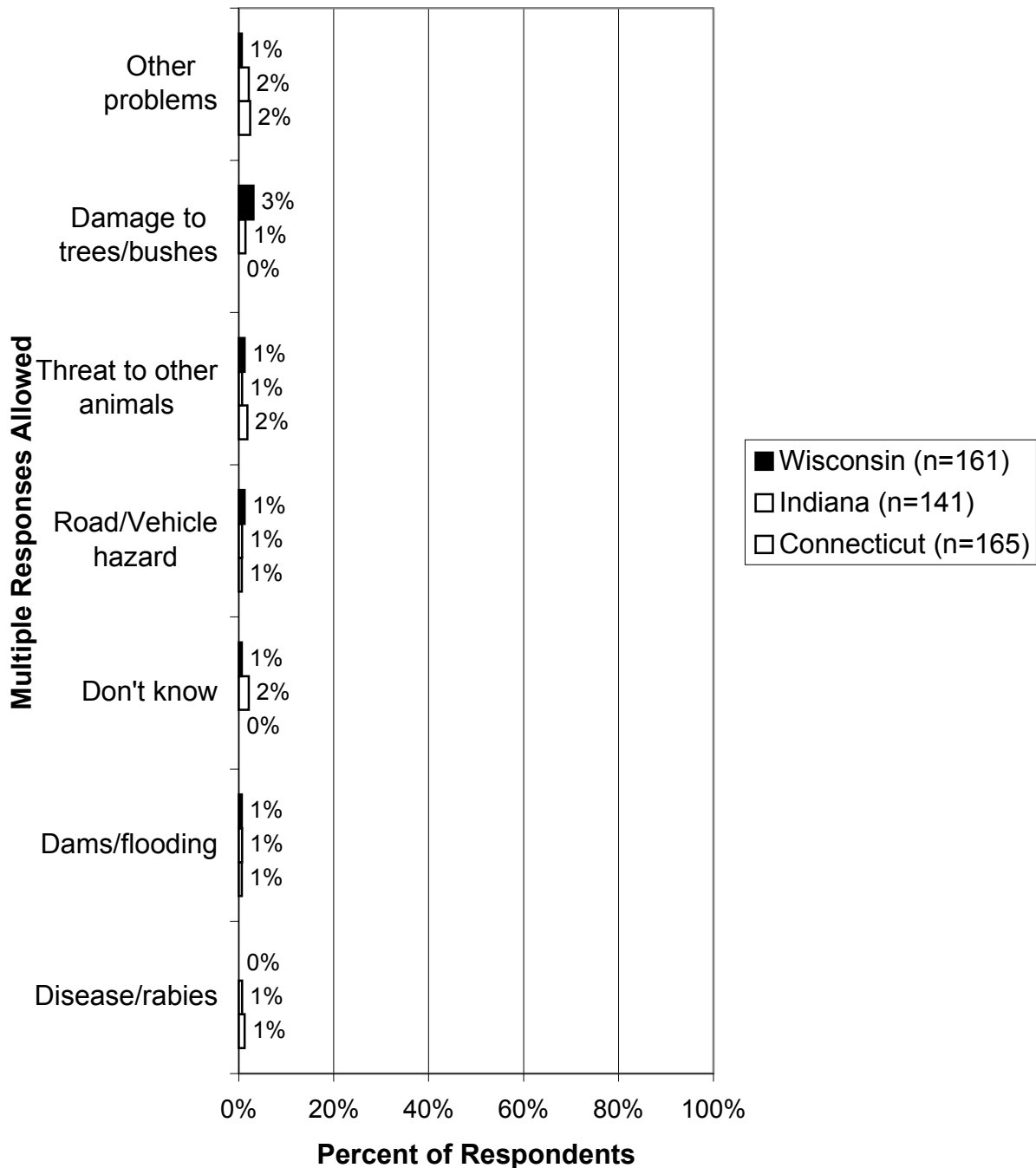
**Q55. (Continued) Which wild animals have caused you problems? (Asked of those who have had any problems with any wild animals or birds within the past two years.)**



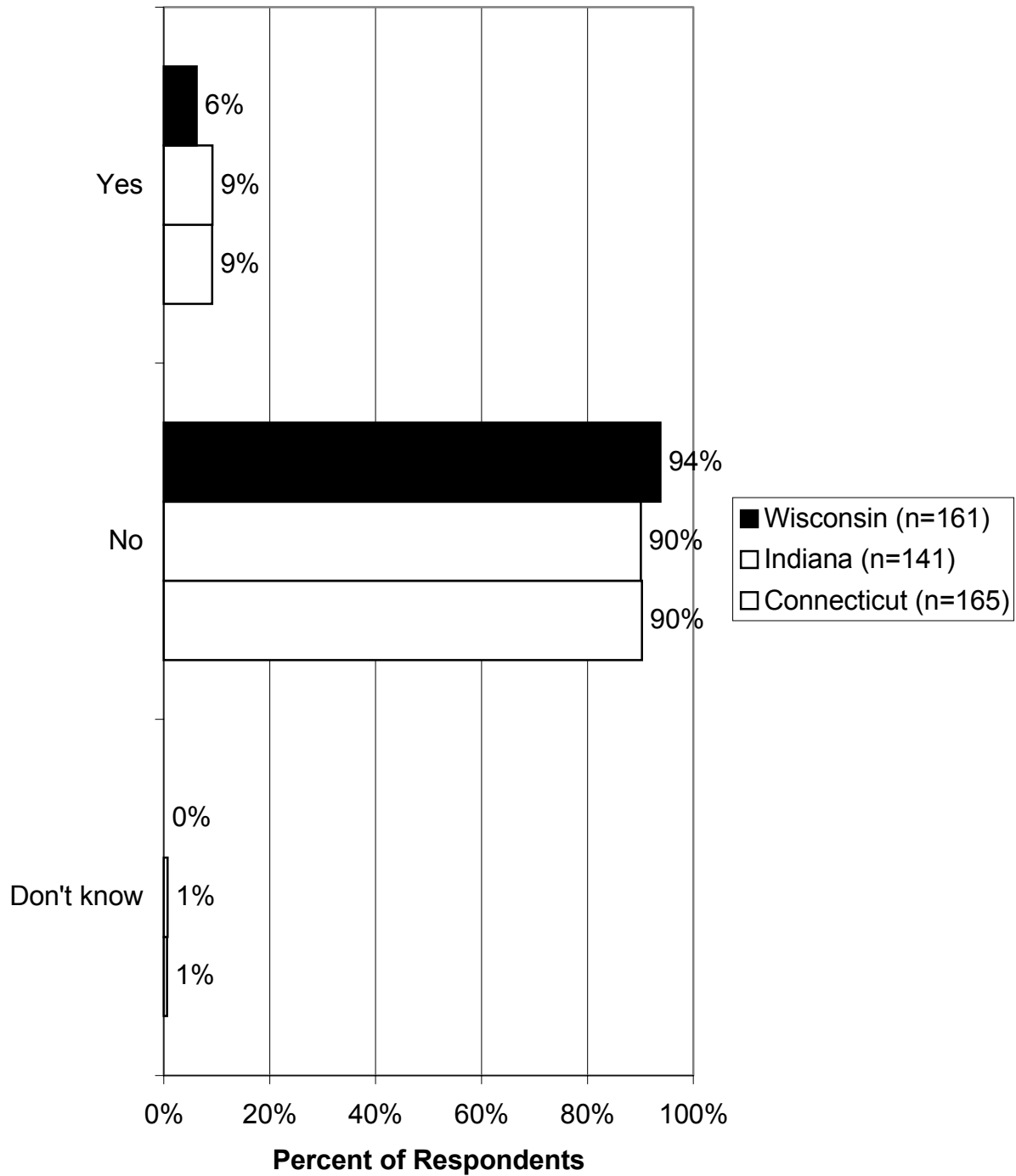
**Q58. What kind of problems did wildlife cause?  
(Asked of those who have had any problems  
with any wild animals or birds within the past  
two years.)**



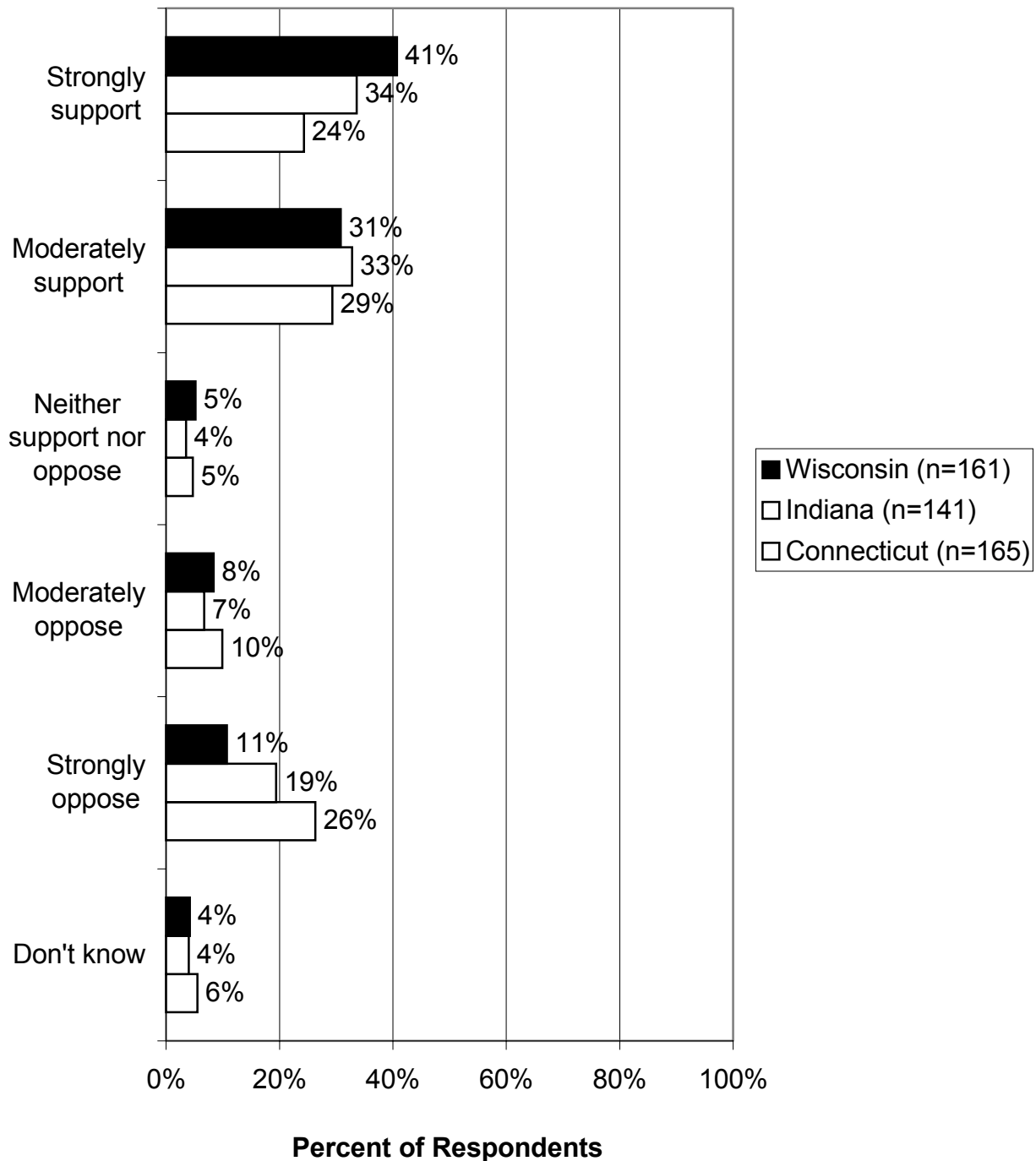
**Q58. (Continued) What kind of problems did wildlife cause? (Asked of those who had any problems with any wild animals or birds within the past two years.)**



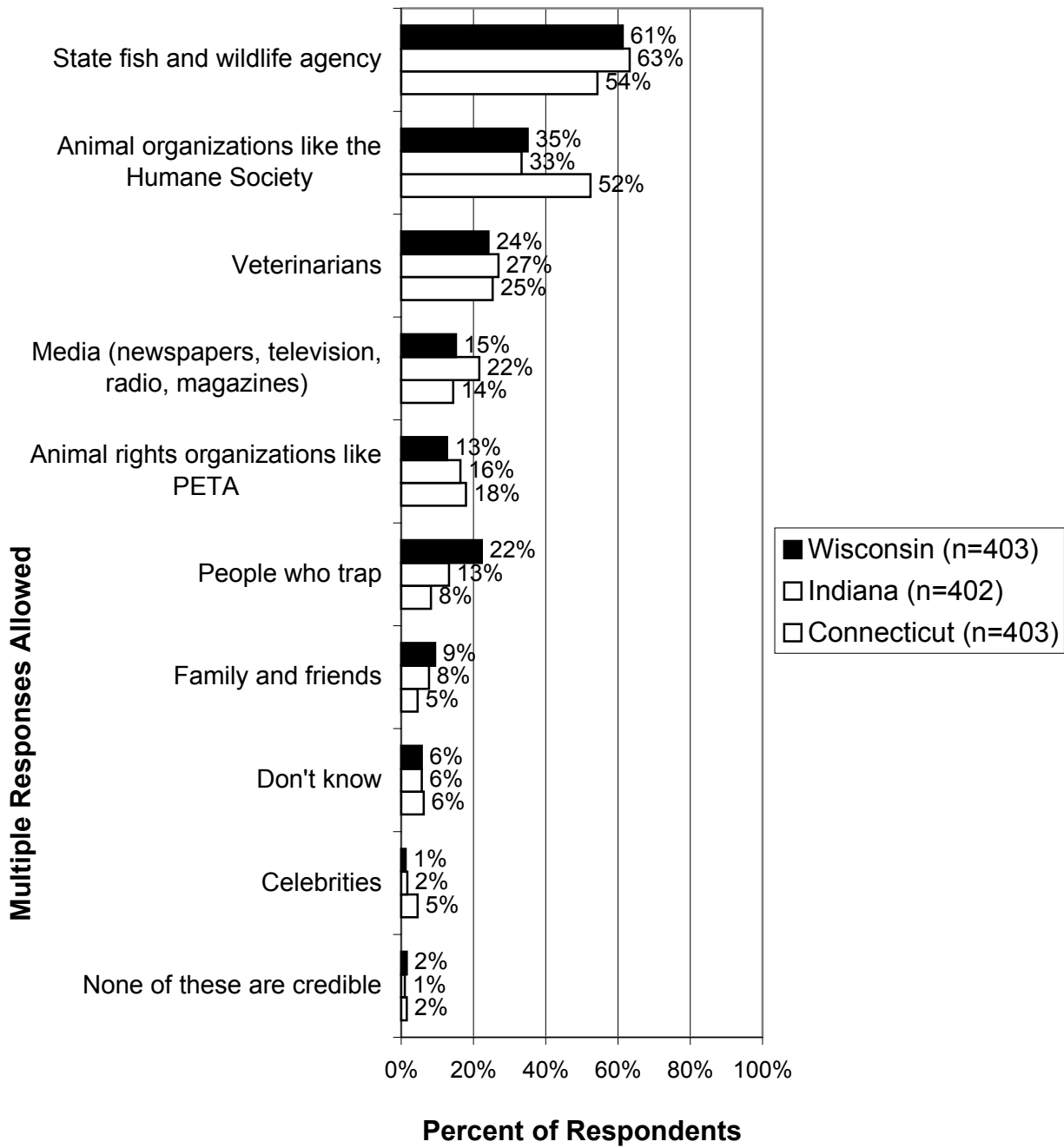
**Q60. Did you hire anyone to remove the nuisance animal? (Asked of those who have had any problems with any wild animals or birds within the past two years.)**



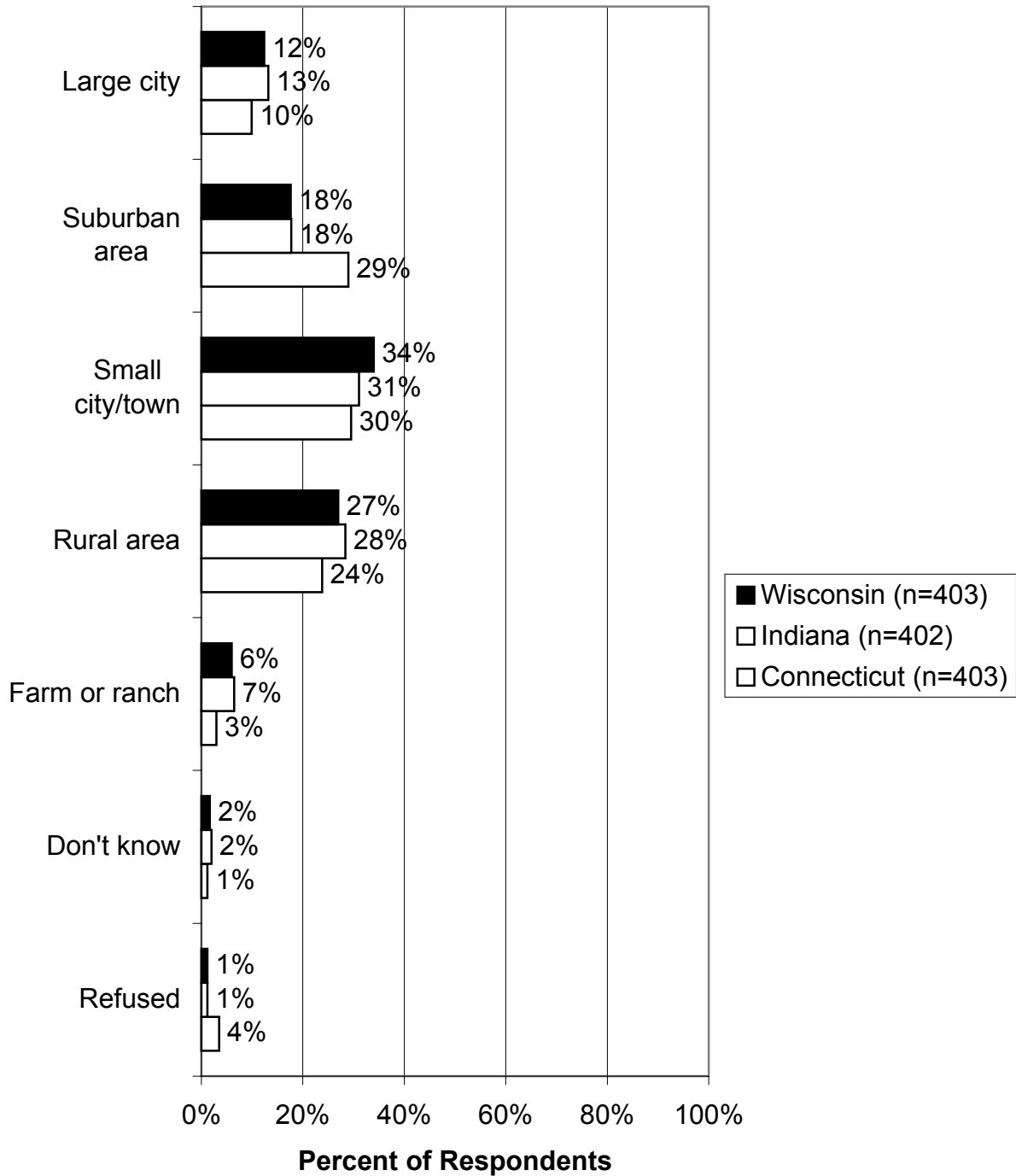
**Q61. Do you support or oppose trapping as a way to solve nuisance animal problems?  
(Asked of those who have had any problems with any wild animals or birds within the past two years.)**



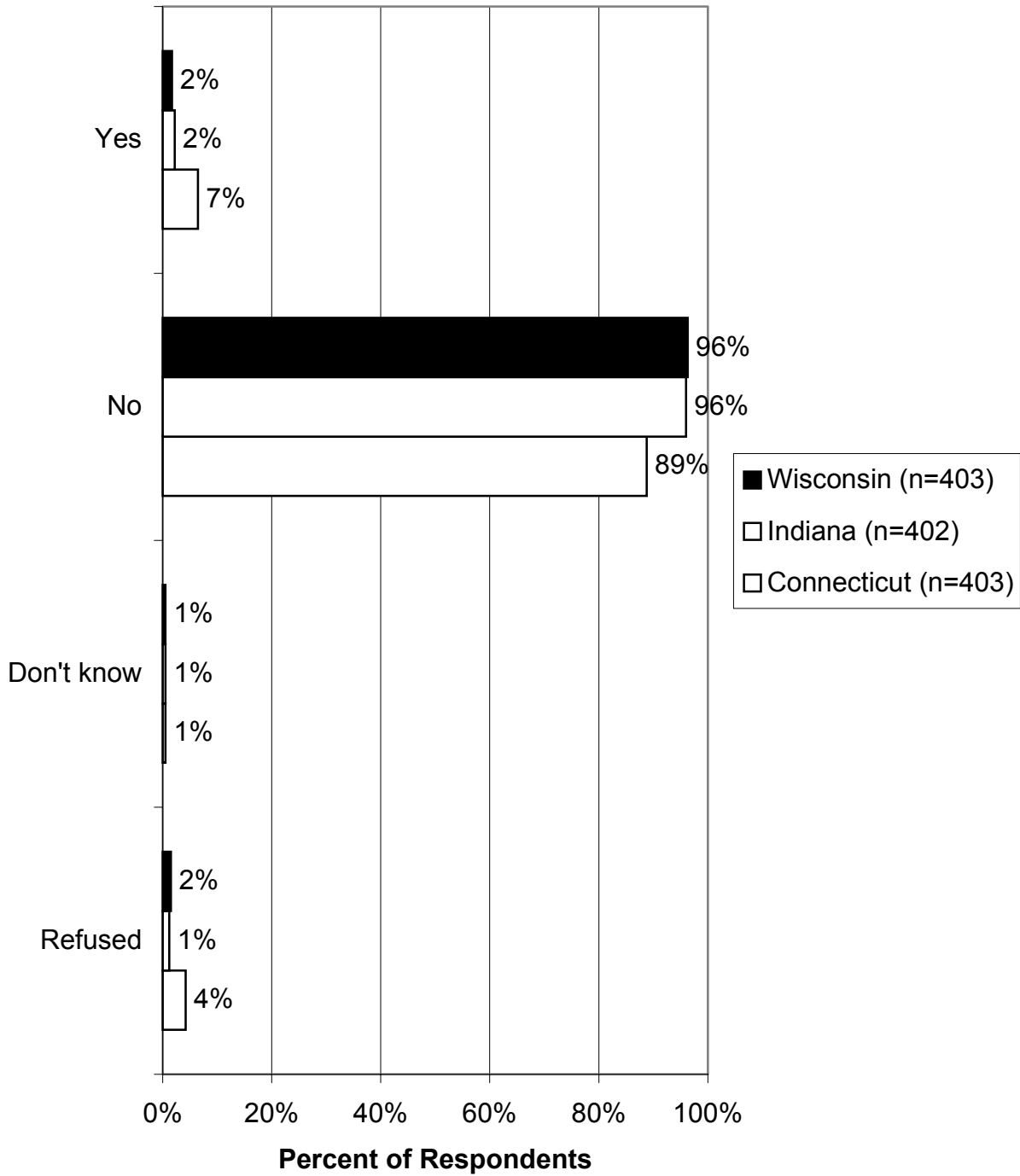
### Q73. Sources of information considered to be the most credible for information about trapping.



### Q75. Place of Residence.

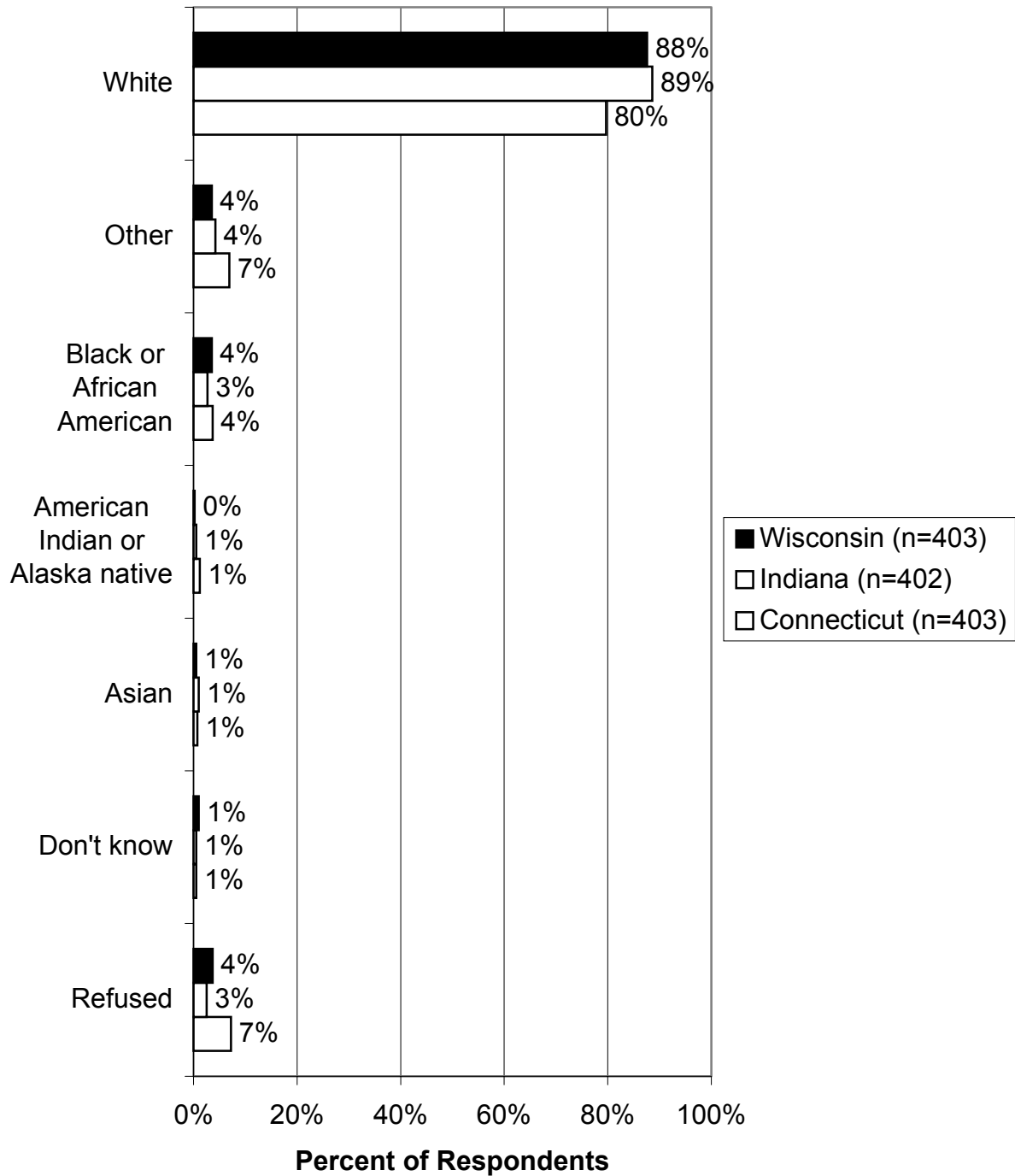


### Q76. Are you of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity?

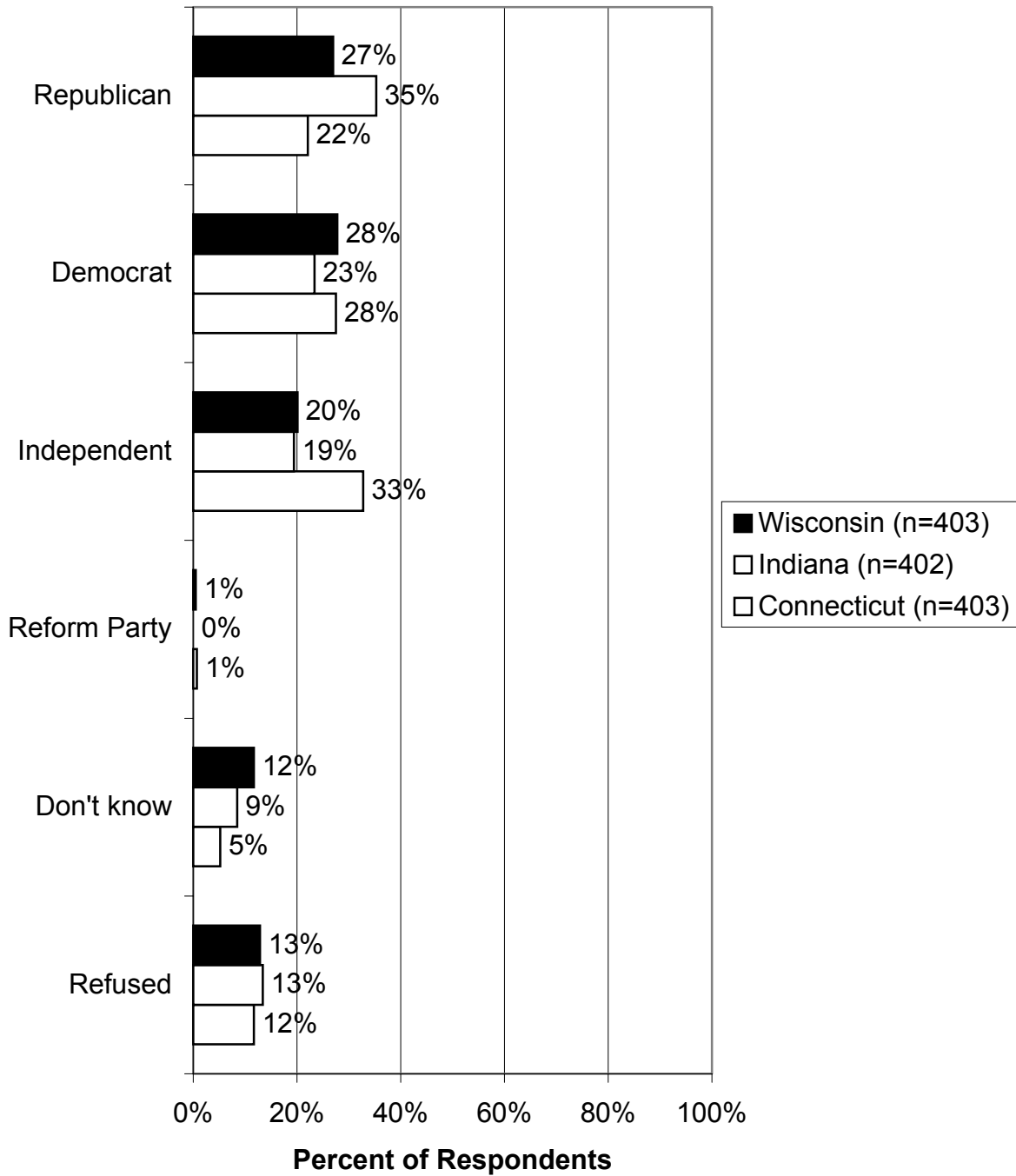


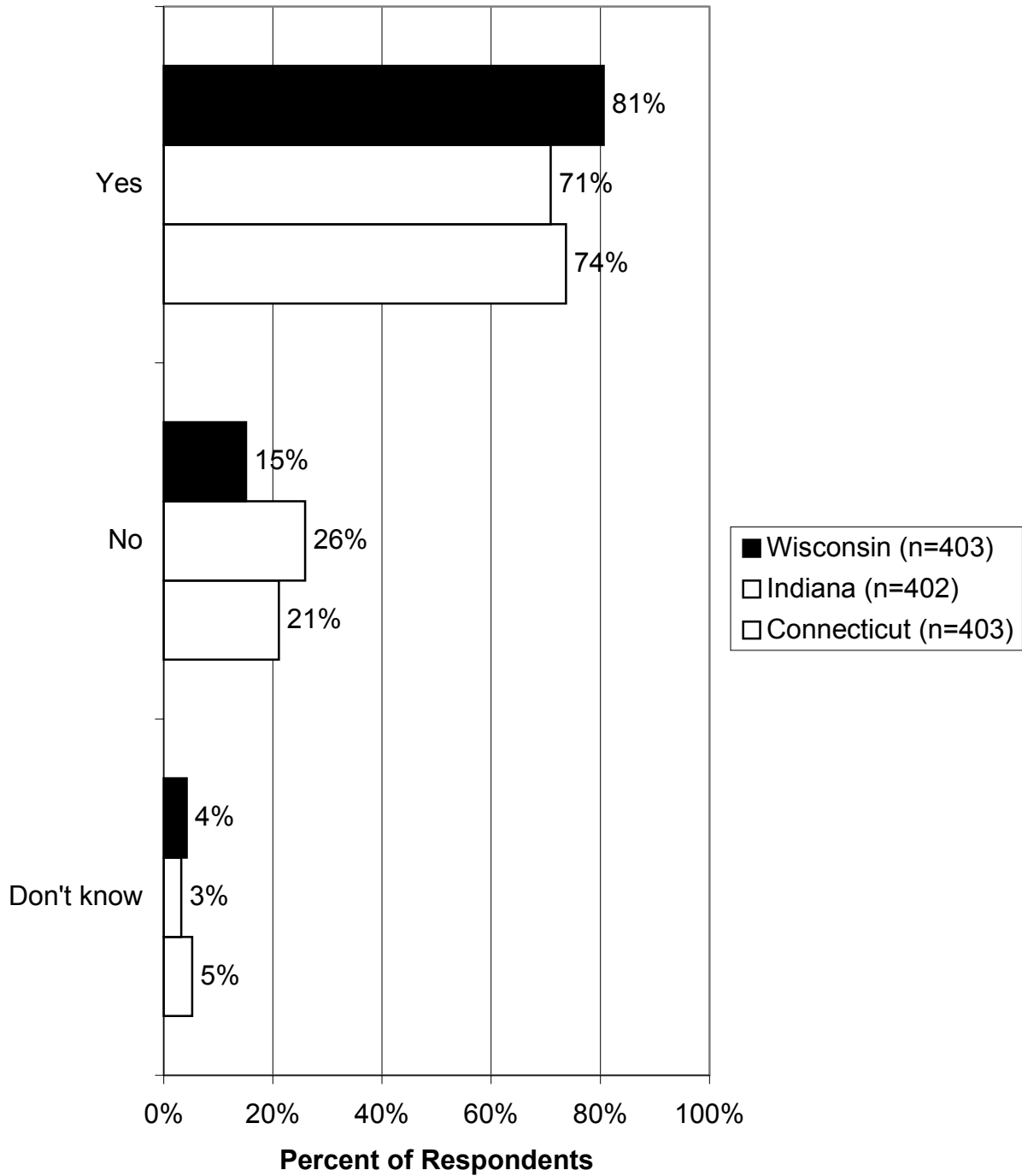


**Q77. What race do you consider yourself?**

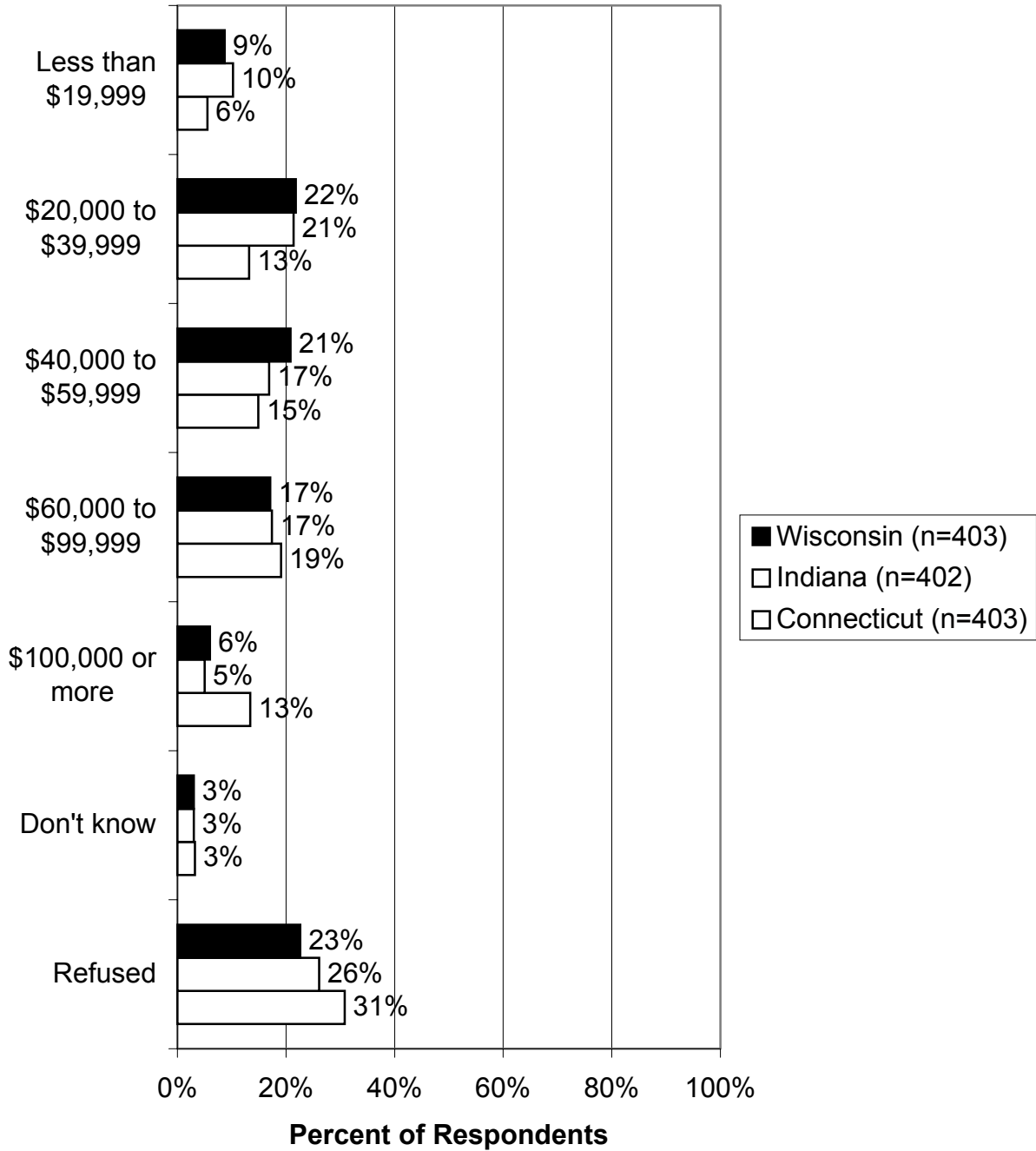


### Q78. Would you consider yourself to be a Republican, Democrat, Independent or a member of the Reform Party?

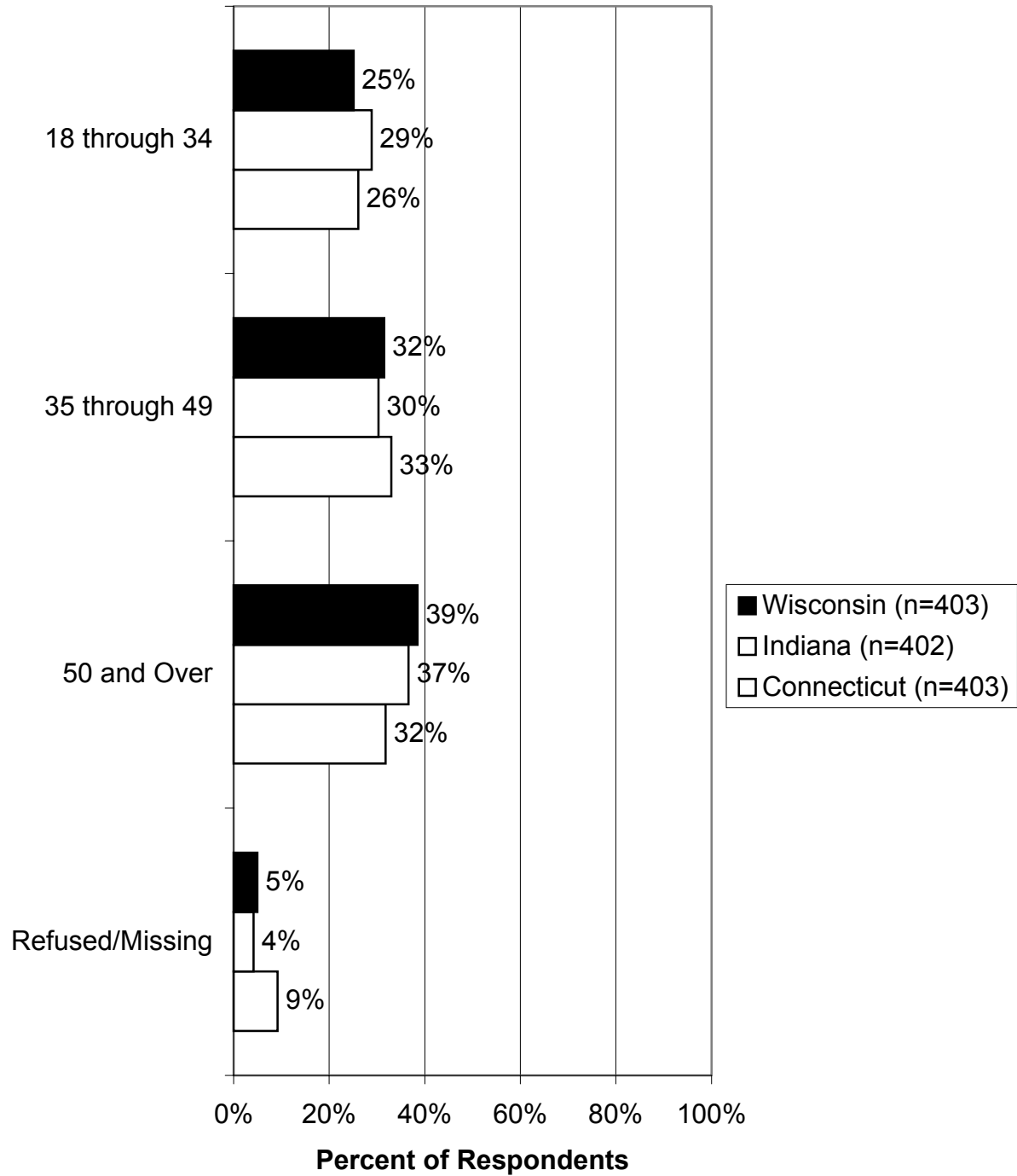


**Q79. Did you vote in the last election?**

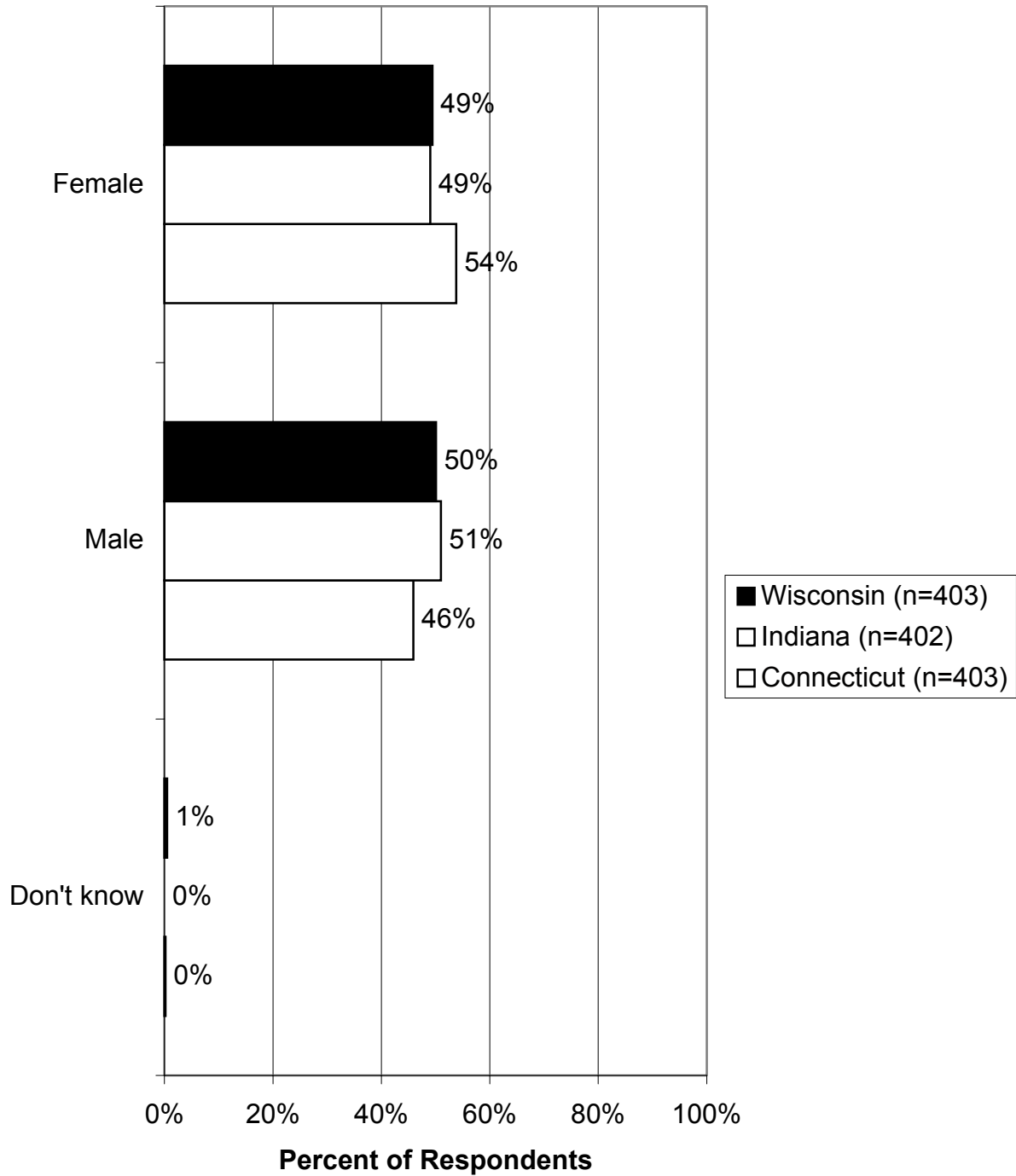
**Q80. Which of these categories best describes your total household income before taxes last year?**



### Q81. Age Range



### Q83. Gender



**CHAPTER III**

**WILDLIFE PROFESSIONALS  
FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS**

## CHAPTER III

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### Wildlife Professionals Focus Group Findings

*I think from the point of view of most of us at the table, it's a matter of minimizing trauma to trapped animals. I think trapping is essential whether it's for damage, recreation, or a population is out of balance. Whether it's because of issues of disease: concern with rabies, distemper, and a whole host of other potentially communicable diseases to the human population, where trapping becomes a best management practice in minimizing disease to humans. So, I don't know if you are going to get a lot of argument against trapping. I think the issue, though, is that a number of organizations have made an issue of suffering by trapped animals; so, it's only prudent to attempt to minimize that.*

--A Wisconsin Professional Wildlife Manager

The following chapter details the results of a focus group with wildlife professionals. As can be expected, the opinions of these wildlife professionals were much different than respondents in the general population focus groups. Professionals viewed wildlife as a renewable resource and understood the management objectives that agencies face and the tools that are available to accomplish these management objectives. They saw trapping as a much needed management tool to control populations, provide a service to landowners experiencing property damage and to assist in research efforts. Additionally, they supported recreational trapping and the need to maintain recreational trapping due to the help that wildlife professionals like themselves receive from recreational trappers in accomplishing agency goals as wildlife managers. There was not as much support for the use of trapping in biodiversity programs.

Wildlife professionals supported the message that trapping is a valuable service. The group saw the benefit of instructing others about the importance of Best Management Practices (BMP). They saw the need to educate the public on the humaneness of modern traps and



understood the public's concern for an animal's welfare. Wildlife professionals saw the public as not being very informed about trapping practices or trap devices and also as being removed from rural life, making it more difficult for them to understand trapping.

## **Focus Group Introduction and Methodology**

This report details the results of a focus group held in Madison, Wisconsin with ten wildlife professionals held at the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society meeting February 18, 2000. The members of the focus group were either all presently employed or recently retired from the wildlife profession. These individuals were recruited from among those wildlife professionals attending the Wildlife Society meetings. The group consisted of nine white, non-Hispanic males and one white, non-Hispanic female. The focus group met for two hours to discuss their individual attitudes toward and opinions of trapping as a management option and the development of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for trapping as well as considering the general public's and other wildlife professionals' stances on the aforementioned issues.

A number of studies show that Americans support trapping for reasons such as damage control, animal population control, and as part of a biological study, but disapprove of trapping for reasons such as to make money, to be close to nature, and for recreation or sport (see Duda et al, 1998: 271-284 for a summary). On the other hand, the opinions and attitudes of wildlife professionals have not been thoroughly examined. This focus group with wildlife professionals is an attempt to begin the process of understanding the opinions and attitudes toward trapping as well as Best Management Practices (BMPs) of wildlife professionals. For the purpose of this focus group, the term "trapping" generally refers to foot-hold traps, not live traps. Furthermore,

this group mainly addressed the issue of private, or recreational, trapping instead of focusing on trapping done by wildlife professionals. Some comments concern live trapping and will be noted.

This focus group was conducted using standard research methodology for qualitative research. The methodology Responsive Management used for these focus groups was informal as described by Krueger (1988: 59-106). For a complete discussion of the uses of focus group research, see Morgan and Krueger (1997 et seq.) and Frey and Fontana (1993). Responsive Management has used these techniques in other studies on wildlife conservation and recreation topics (Bissell and Duda 1993; Bissell and Duda 1995; Duda et al., 1998).

The analysis of the focus groups was an iterative process. The moderator took notes and observations during the focus groups. Audiotapes were listened to and verbatim transcripts were made. The transcripts were then reviewed and highlighted for the most relevant comments. Transcripts were sorted into categories and compiled into a draft report and analysis; excerpted transcripts and the final report and analysis were then prepared. Thus, six reviews of the data were completed in the preparation of this report.

Given the situation of this report and the nature of the research method, it is wise to make a cautionary note. Focus groups are a qualitative research method. They produce results with extremely high content validity, or the total range of opinions (Babbie, 1989: 125), but they are not random survey samples. Focus groups expose issues of high salience or agreement within in the particular group, and help to develop an understanding of attitudes, issues and concerns. This methodology will not yield results that will be replicated to any degree of statistical accuracy. Thus, we caution the use of the conclusions of this focus group to make generalizations about the attitudes of all wildlife professionals. Rather, this study should be used as a comparison with the

general population focus group and the telephone survey to represent the cross-section of opinions about trapping.

Direct quotes in this report will appear in *italics*. Omissions are noted by dashes (---). In most cases, quotations are written verbatim. Occasionally, for the purpose of clarity, there will be paraphrased comments, which will appear in (parentheses).

## **Results**

### **Group Members**

All of the group members were present or retired wildlife management professionals in a variety of positions. Since this group was recruited through self-selection from The Wildlife Society Chapter meeting, the members of this group were expected to have a high level of awareness of and involvement in trapping. All of them were informed about trapping, and most of the group had conducted some trapping either professionally or recreationally.

*I am a wildlife biologist at Spooner. My association with trapping is as a wildlife manager and dealing with trappers' regulations, and I have also done some recreational trapping on my own.*

*I am a retired administrator and wildlife biologist for the DNR. I have had some experience with very peripheral leg-hold trapping, but I have done a lot of live trapping, so I am familiar with some of the behavior. I also was a special conservation officer for twenty-five years, so I have some feel for how the wardens relate to trapping and trappers.*

*I am a population ecologist with the DNR. I consult with the Furbearer Advisory Committee on harvest levels and population monitoring of furbearers. I did use traps during my graduate research on bobcats.*

*I am a Wildlife and Fisheries Instructor at a technical college in Appleton. I am a native of Fox Bailey. I grew up on a farm that had a fur farm license and did some trapping through that. In fact, I lived at home my freshman year of college and paid for part of my tuition through muskrats.*

*I am a Wildlife manager with the DNR in Columbia County. My association with trapping is basically none. I haven't had any real, practical experience myself. In my family, some of my brothers and dad did some trapping when we were growing up on the farm, but that is basically it.*

### **Perceived Needs for Regulated Trapping**

A consensus in the group was reached that managerial and recreational needs existed for regulated trapping. This was seen as a need both in the state of Wisconsin and nationwide.

*There is definitely a need for regulated trapping. We have furbearer populations out there that are going to continue to grow. They are a renewable resource that provides good recreation for people and provides a product in natural resource that is renewable and that can people can utilize. From that standpoint, there is a need. There are people who view that as a very important part of their life, and I guess the other thing, too, is that we do have populations that get out of control and that can become a nuisance. Beavers, especially, can cause problems with roads. People with cranberry marshes and so forth have high populations of muskrats; for instance, there are a hundred mining roads and dikes that cause problems and damage. In that respect, we do need to have some kind of trapping and control some of those animals; and then, recreation aspects are pretty high in my book.*

*I definitely see the need for it in terms of population control and animals that are causing damage. The recreational aspect I guess I see that more as an aid to managers, managing the population rather than recreation, because I don't trap as well.*

*I don't see how the situation nationally is much different than Wisconsin. The east is where you have more perceived opposition to trapping because they tend to be more urban than rural. The West is probably the opposite; we're trapping until you get to California.*

*I think recently reading about Massachusetts where there was a public referendum a few years back that banned trapping, and now, they are experiencing explosions of their beaver populations, a lot of concern that there is a need for some sort of trapping to control, especially beavers.*

These wildlife professionals were aware of the issues concerning public disapproval of foothold trapping. While some members of the group felt that issues of humane treatment of animals were not the primary issues at hand, most of the group agreed that if the issue of humane treatment of animals was raised by the public, agencies were obliged to respond to the public's demands for humane treatment of wildlife.

*If we take them by trapping, it's humanely putting that animal to death, that's one thing. If it dies a slow death because it contracts disease as a result of high populations, they are going to die anyhow. Again, it's a renewable resource that we are dealing with here and the issue of taking animal by a leg-hold trap and that animal incurring pain or suffering as a result of that trapping. That might be, but*

- I don't know how we can measure animal pain in relationship to trapping. Whenever there is death in the natural world, it's never a pretty sight.*
- I think there is a real big perceived difference that one may be less painful to the animal. I think as far as public perception. One is sort of human caused, and the other is natural because of disease. I know in a way it is human caused because of management, but they perceive that as not being human caused. So, I think they take that into consideration as well.*
- We are kind of debating here whether it's instantaneous death or prolonged death, but really the issue of people opposed to trapping is, the fact that they don't sanction death of animals by man. They are using the leg-hold trap or the foothold trap as the issue rather than what they are really trying to articulate and that is that they don't want to see individual animals die.*
- I think that on there is a large spectrum of motives of individuals. From the extreme of people that don't want any animals to die, don't believe in eating meat, and the use of leather. To the other that can accept the fact that animals die and are much more willing to accept humans causing animal death, as long as it was instantaneous and painless. They do have trouble with animals being in traps for some period of time and receiving some degree of injury prior to ultimately being killed. I guess as a researcher I had a fair number of incidental captures in my traps. I was trapping for bobcats, and I had fairly minor injury rates with the bobcats I caught. I occasionally caught foxes or raccoons that suffered substantial injuries, and I didn't enjoy that; it bothered me. If there were better traps that I could use to do my job and cause less injuries to other animals, I would prefer to use them.*
- There's some focus group information where they talked to a number of teachers around the state, and the groups were split roughly down the middle on pro-hunting, fishing, and trapping versus the other side of the coin. Almost all of the teachers were very reluctant to teach trapping. Some would teach hunting and fishing, but proponents of trapping was sort of a hands-off other than the heritage of the furbearer trade in the Mid-west. They were very hands off on the trapping issue. I don't know if that tells you something. I think at least in the educational community, it seems as if they weren't willing to talk openly (at least the majority of them) about trapping other than how it had a cultural impact on the settlement in Wisconsin.*

### **Trapping Applications within the Wildlife Profession**

The group was asked about the application of trapping as a valid management tool in specific programs.

#### **1. Biodiversity**

The group showed some skepticism about the idea that trapping can serve as a tool in protecting biodiversity. They believed trapping was either not practicable or had not been investigated thoroughly enough to make any meaningful conclusions. Interestingly enough, some group members saw that biodiversity programs had not, as yet, been implemented to such a satisfactory extent that the specific management practices of trapping could be tested in a viable manner.

*Well, in certain areas, they have used predator control to maintain waterfowl populations; therefore, they are improving biodiversity by kind of creating an artificial balance between predators and other wildlife.*

*I fail to see where that would be a biodiversity project. I would think that, that would be working the opposite direction. I think it would be favoring one group of species over another. Unless there was a major decrease in one these projects of a top-level predator, I don't know where trapping would really fit it, unless you want the system to run on its own without interference by us.*

*I know a number of organizations that have many plans to use trapping for management purposes other than recreational purposes. I don't really think we do in too many cases.*

*I thought of another example of biodiversity. You take a species like beaver that can actually alter the habitat if it has no natural predation. There might be a role there, if you were looking at a certain old growth forest. You would get a high beaver population that would come in and sort of control the situation. I don't know if that is a biodiversity issue, but I know of species like the beaver that can come in and overwhelm the habitat.*

*I think (biodiversity management has) been talk. There's Barren's Restoration that's underway, and it was \$80,000 for planning and planning is all we have seen so far.*

#### **2. Endangered Species**

The group saw some application for trapping in endangered species management, but there seemed to be virtually no first hand experience with this specific use of trapping in real

programs. The group also seemed unfamiliar with what the private trapper's role is in endangered species management.

*There are a couple where they use to project something like (trapping) with small numbers of endangered species. I know where trapping has been a necessity. I mean (trapping is) involved a lot of times, where traps are used either for species reintroduction purposes or to control predators around release sights. Often times, it is not a recreational trapper doing that trapping.*

### **3. Reintroduction**

Some group members were knowledgeable of the use of trapping in reintroduction programs. The group agreed that trapping is a vital tool of reintroduction, but they were unsure whether recreational, or private, trapping was involved in reintroduction. The group was also aware of potential conflicts in using trapping as a management practice in reintroduction programs.

*There's primarily live trapping like all trapping. However, with out timber wolf program to catch a wolf you use a leg-hold trap. In nuisance situations, you catch and then relocate that animal.*

*I think there is a perception with fisher that we introduced a number of years ago that they could become overly abundant if it weren't for recreational and private trappers. I don't know biologically if that's really so or not. It's certainly a perception among trappers and people that are concerned about the ruffed grouse population and predation on upland game birds in the northern game birds in the northern woods.*

### **4. Research**

Most of the group recognized the need for including private or recreational trappers in research done in the field. Some group members had actually used private trappers, and others were aware of the use of private trappers in research.

*We used to use private contract trappers that were basically good trappers to catch foxes when we were doing our pheasant predation work. They were good at it, and they showed us how to do our own trapping eventually. Right now most of the information we gather is based upon trapping and carcass flesh.*

*Maurice Hornocker has relied upon private trappers to catch the animals he needs for his research efforts. They are pretty specific in terms of means to be able to get them.*

*When I was doing my bobcat work, I ended up buying a third of my cats off of a private trapper that has worked in the same study areas.*

## **5. Landowner Relations**

The group concluded that recreational trapping is a positive factor in landowner relations.

The use of trapping as a site-specific management tool was advocated by all group members.

*That's a really big issue especially with some species, beaver in particular. In my position, landowners have contacted me and said, "I have a beaver problem, how do I deal with it?" My response is often time during the season, we can get a beaver trapper out there or issue permits for that person to take beaver by themselves. But generally, if we can do it during the season when that fur has some value too, that's what I try to do. I try steering trappers to take care of nuisance animal complaints. Private landowners love that situation.*

*I recall a conversation with a trapper when we were talking about Sandhill Crane damage, and he said he actually goes out and does a fair amount of raccoon trapping in corn fields in the summer time and takes as many as 50-60 raccoons out of a field. The farmers had complained about cranes in their fields, and it was actually raccoons. He felt that raccoons were much more of a significant impact on cornfields than cranes, deer, and other species.*

*Now, for the urban people that call up and may have a problem with coyotes or woodchucks, one of the references I keep on hand is the Wisconsin Trappers Association booklet. This is a booklet that has trappers you can refer them to. I will call them up, and there's Critter Control Companies, but there are also some recreational trappers on there.*

*There's that new law that says a municipality can't restrict those activities unless it's a safety issue. Now, they are working on how to develop rules to implement that law. It's very difficult. There's a situation where we may be able to go into a community and say, "You can have trapping here. It is not a safety issue so quit infringing on that right." So far, we haven't been able to figure out how to do that.*

## **6. Generation of Funds**

Overall, the group did not unanimously support the idea that recreational trapping generated funds for wildlife management. Although some felt that the relative funding contribution in Wisconsin was high, most of the group members knew that private trapping license sales did not constitute a major factor in agency funding.



*I think it is pretty small.  
In comparison to some other types of licenses it is relatively small.  
If you compare our state to some of the other mid-western states, I bet we might be pretty high.*

## 7. Public Acceptance of Trapping

The group raised both national and local issues about public acceptance of trapping. Frustration from the group arose that objections to trapping were not realistic. If trapping were taken away, wildlife managers would be placed in the position of not having an important tool to control wildlife. For the most part, the group seemed to have a good understanding of public opinion on trapping both locally and nationally.

- I think there is a lot misunderstanding out there from the general public, especially the urbanized public that has not had exposure to life and death situations involving animals. I don't think they are willing to accept it. Maybe in their own situation, if they have a coyote coming and attacking their dog at their home or causing a nuisance problem. Then, I think they are more readily accepting.*
- I think it is a lot more accepting here (Wisconsin) than in Oregon or Washington. I'm sure there are people that don't accept it, but in general, there's so many more people that trap. I think more people know more about it here simply because they probably know someone that hunts or traps if they do not do it themselves.*
- I think it is becoming more difficult because you have third and fourth generation urbanites who don't have that exposure to the rural life, a balance of nature, or the harsh reality of living in a natural world. Eventually, they come up against a situation where they do have a raccoon or a coyote that's a nuisance. I think they will fall in two categories. Some will say "Okay, I want it gone," even if it means trapping it when that might not have appealed to them before. Or else you will throw that up as an option and they will say, "I want the problem gone, but I don't want trapping."*
- I think that's a big humane killing issue because people don't know that much about it, and people think that trapping is a slow and nasty death. In the general public, I don't think anyone thinks of live trapping. They think usually of leg-hole trapping. They think of the non-humane trapping, and I think that's an education issue. And that may be why a lot of teachers are reluctant to address it because they don't know exactly what that involves.*
- I think there is more people concerned about it now. I don't know whether PETA had that effect. You certainly see the suffering animals in the traps on television and in the papers, and whether that has had the effect or not, I don't know. Whether it's just simply the separation between rural people and urban people, that's increasing all the time. I think it's there and if you held a referendum and you worded it,*

*“should we allow recreational trapping?” it would get voted down by a large majority.*

*Someone said something earlier that struck me. “People have fun doing trapping.” That is really difficult for a lot of other people to accept. That someone can get some enjoyment or satisfaction out of trapping an animal.*

This group admitted that they did not have the full picture of what Wisconsin residents’ opinions and attitudes toward trapping were. Some focus group members felt that more research in this area was needed. The group was aware of work done on hunting and fishing regarding public opinion, but they felt similar information on trapping may be lacking.

*The real question here is you go back to what game managers used to say. You go back to shooting wolves and every hawk that flew. I think there is a whole different feeling about animals out there, and some of that has drifted into the people that were not really sure and never really participated to have somewhat of an idea to leave everything alone. Man shouldn’t be touching anything, but of course, that’s impossible.*

*We haven’t done much asking of the public some of these questions as some of the other states. I’m quite familiar with what’s been done. I don’t recall anything on the trapping issue unless they have done it recently. We do have some feeling from the public on hunting and fishing, but I don’t know about trapping.*

The group was asked to assess two specific messages that the public might see about recreational trapping and to evaluate both messages in terms of their reactions and their reaction of the public.

**Message 1: “Trapping produces dedicated conservationists. The knowledge, understanding, and appreciation trappers gain through their interactions with nature produces dedicated conservationists, a stewardship for wild animals, and a land ethic that translates into support for habitat conservation and protection.”**

In general, the reaction to this was that it might be seen as misleading, regardless of its factuality. Some of the group members felt that the message was not accurate and did not really reflect the development of a stewardship for wildlife or a support for habitat conservation.

- I think of (trappers) as very knowledgeable in terms of ecology and natural history. Not necessarily in terms of habitat, management, or positive steps other than trapping.*
- I think that there are a little smoke and mirrors. There is a kernel of truth to it. Part of it is very true, but I don't know if it translates as part of a land stewardship and the concern about the environment and the habitat.*
- It depends on who the trapper is, too. There is a whole spectrum of difference from old trappers that I know compared to some newer trappers. We have people that are very involved in trapper education programs that are trying to teach this very thing: the stewardship idea and the need for trapping to our young people. Those people are some of the most aware and dedicated folks I have met. They are hardcore trapping.*
- Is that because of trapping or would the public see that as a result of trapping? I think it is very true, but I don't think that one implies the other.*
- Knowledgeable, I'm not arguing with you on. They are some of the most knowledgeable people about what's happening in nature, no question about that. Whether it translates into the stewardship or land ethic, I can't see that correlation.*
- What's the purpose to that message? Is it to convince people that they should accept trapping? I don't think that message is going to do it. One of the things that people have a very difficult time with in regards to trapping is why are we killing these animals to begin with. If it's a nuisance or over population situation, they are much more willing to accept that than if you are taking animals so that you can provide fur for a fashion statement. That's where a lot of people have some really difficult times.*
- I think they're smart people, and you can't give them a wishy-washy thing. The whole conservation effort is a good thing, but there's a whole lot of ways you can get that without trapping an animal. They think that if you're going to convince them you have to put it in terms of, "we have real reasons to do this and this is the best tool that we have to do it."*

**Message 2: "By helping control some wildlife populations, trappers provide a service by saving tax money that would otherwise be paid to remove animals causing damage."**

The majority of the focus group respondents believed that the public might accept a message that communicated that trappers provide a service. However, the idea that saving tax money would convince anyone who objected to trapping to change their opinion was seen as a weak campaign. In other words, the group did not accept the idea that saving tax money was an incentive for anyone to approve trapping.

*That wouldn't sell me either because I would say that I would be willing to pay the taxes.*

*They could put a period after “service.” I think you could sell that better than saying that the few cents it might cost is taxpayers money.*

*I think a lot of times people are much more willing to accept that animals need to be killed for certain purposes as long as people aren't enjoying themselves while they're doing it. I think they would much rather have professional sharp shooters come into a city than to allow a hunter to do the same thing. It's a perception as to whether it's being done by the best-qualified person whose doing it for a particular reason, or if they are trying to enjoy themselves.*

*I don't think that you would have any trouble getting this group to accept that statement, but as for the public, put a period after “service.”*

### **General Concept Message Testing**

The wildlife professionals focus group was asked to evaluate some general concepts that might be used in messages directed toward the public. Again, respondents were asked to evaluate the messages based on their own personal reactions as well as public reaction.

#### **Concept 1: Heritage and Cultural Tradition of Trapping**

The response to this general concept was mixed. Some members of the group felt it would be a valuable message in combination with other messages. Others felt that it was not a good approach and would not receive a good reception from the public.

*I think the cultural part is still worthwhile in identifying for the trapping aspect. It isn't too much different than the cultural aspects of hunting. --- Since we've had regulated trapping and hunting, there has been no real detrimental impact on these species that we can manage.*

*The question I think is, if that message is going to make someone accept trapping as an activity more. Help them to think that trapping is okay. I don't think that message is going change many people's minds. I think it's good information. I think people should be aware that there is a strong cultural heritage involved with trapping. Personally, I don't think it's a strong enough idea that's going to change someone's mind when they already have a problem with it.*

*I think it's dangerous, too, to put the future of trapping on that we're doing it just for population control or just for tradition. I'm still not ready to throw in the towel that it's a legitimate recreational sport along with hunting and fishing. It's just as legitimate as catching a fish or hunting a deer. I mean, it's got its own standpoint.*

*I think there's an attitude at least with some of the people that are drifting towards anti-hunting and anti-trapping and that people use the term atavistic (old-fashioned); it's something that's inherent in people. They don't admire that. They view it more as Neanderthal and perpetuating undeveloped humans rather than the modern man who shouldn't be atavistic anymore. --- that comes onto trapping*

*and deer hunting and various other sports. I don't know that it's a very convincing argument to the general public who's sitting on the fence.*

### **Concept 2: Trapping is a LifeStyle Worth Protecting**

In the opinion of these wildlife professionals, this message is not effective for the general public. This message was compared with other issues, which were found lacking in salience for the general public.

*I guess it's kind of like small farmers. Small farmers have to have a job off the farm to be able to continue to farm. I think trappers have to have another job to continue to trap. I don't know of anyone who is making a living trapping.*

*I'm not sure you can sell it that way. We used to think slavery was okay, but there were enough people that felt strongly that they did away with it. I see trapping going the same route. You have to justify it by some other means.*

*They'll say, "Why doesn't he get another job?"*

*There are a number of people that would love to make their living trapping, but they can't. There's just not enough money in it.*

*Can we go back to the biology of it or the nuisance of it? Somewhere in there is the best way to sell it.*

### **Concept 3: Other Messages**

The wildlife professionals in this group were asked to list what messages they felt were the most effective in an informational program about trapping directed toward the general public. Not unexpectedly, this group of wildlife professionals felt that emphasis needed to be placed on the biological aspects and managerial uses of trapping.

*I think one of the arguments you haven't mentioned that has been tested in public focus groups is that it's a carefully regulated harvest of a renewable, natural resource. I think that there's a lot of misunderstanding. A lot of the activities that are portrayed as horrible by the "antis" are actually illegal. And that those are things that the trapping community and regulatory agencies have outlawed years and years ago and don't occur anymore. I think there's a lot of public misunderstanding as to how regulated trapping actually is. I think that message has tested to be quite effective in other situations.*

*If you were trying to logically argue the justification of trapping, I think it would come on the basis of nuisance, regulating over-populations of organisms against the negative impact it has on other organisms, and the potential for disease transmission to humans. All of those I think are sellable arguments. The other two are not very sellable. I think there's a growing perception that wearing fur*

*coats is not worth the suffering to animals. And they would actively oppose trapping a renewable resource for the purpose of making fur coats out of it. You portray trapping as a regulated activity with a resource that is renewable. It's constantly being renewed on an annual basis, and the population is not being decimated because it is being tightly controlled by governmental agencies that are truly concerned about animal rights, too, and the welfare of populations. I think that is a much better message than saying we are saving tax money.*

Another message suggested by this group was the advancement in trapping techniques that takes into consideration the humane treatment of animals.

*I think one thing that may be effective. I've always argued that trappers themselves as well as the regulatory agencies have been concerned about the pain and suffering aspect of trapping. There has been a development of trapping technology over the last 200-300 years with the intention on minimizing the pain and suffering in the process. That research and development is continuing. There are new products being tested for their effectiveness, and I think that by telling the public that the participants care about this issue as well as the "antis." I think that's an important point.*

*I think making a listing of the advances that have been made is well worthwhile. Somewhere in this process, say that it isn't how it looks in the pictures. That it's not that way anymore, and that it doesn't have to be that way.*

*Maybe part of the message can be that the technology is here, and the expertise is available that you can target specific species so that many of the "antis" are so concerned about their beloved pets accidentally getting caught. A real good trapper can eliminate that pretty well.*

## **Knowledge of Best Management Practices**

Wildlife professionals awareness of and knowledge about Best Management Practices (BMPs), which are being developed at this time, was assessed. Some members of the group, those most closely associated with trapping, were aware of the development of BMPs. Those not directly involved with trapping did not have any awareness of BMPS other than a recognition of the term.

*Yes, I found out about it through the Wildlife Trappers Association and our own state agencies.*

*I don't really believe I was really aware of it until I was contacted for this (focus group).*

All of the group members agreed, however, that wildlife professionals should include information about recreational trapping in their outreach programs, including a proactive role with information programs about BMPs once they are developed.

*I certainly try to put (trapping) into every school talk I go into. I ask them if they know who's paying for me to be there. "The hunters, anglers, and trappers, those are the guys who are paying for me to be in your class today."*

*When we take in furs and talk to a grade school class we talk about trapping at the same time. We talk about over-population, and nuisance, and those types of things. I think that's important to create that type of awareness in young kids, too.*

*With the hunter's safety courses in the county that I work in, they are bringing a trapper in just for about a half-hour segment to expose the students to it that way rather than just purely the hunter's safety aspect. There's little bits of the Trappers Association making an effort to get into more education now too.*

*We should have training on Best Management Practices, so we can experience what we are trying to portray to the people.*

## **Wildlife Professionals Focus Group Conclusions and Observations**

- There was a consensual support for recreational trapping among the wildlife professionals in this focus group. Given the fact that the group was self selected from among attendees at the Wisconsin Chapter of The Wildlife Society, this is not surprising.
- This group agreed that there was a need to maintain recreational trapping as a management tool for wildlife professionals. The usage of private, or recreational, trappers was considered to be a necessary aspect of the management of several species and even as a wildlife tool in specific conditions, such as urban nuisance animal complaints.
- These wildlife professionals agreed that the humane treatment of animals was an important consideration in modern management programs. However, this was

- primarily seen as a perception on the part of the public that foot-hold traps were not humane. The group recognized the difficulty of informing the public that foot-hold traps were humane and selective.
- The use of trapping in management programs seems best applied to specific situations. Trapping in biodiversity programs and as part of endangered species management programs seemed questionable to the group. However, the group agreed that trapping plays an important role in landowner relations and property damage control.
  - The fiscal value of trapping was not considered to be a major reason to advocate recreational trapping. Rather, the fact that the wildlife professionals believe that trapping is just as legitimate as hunting and fishing as a use of a renewable resource was seen as a major reason to protect recreational trapping. The group felt that the message that recreational trapping saved taxpayers money was not appropriate.
  - Specifically, the group concurred with the message that recreational trapping is a valuable service.
  - Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be well received by wildlife professionals if this focus group was an adequate representation of other wildlife professionals. This group was somewhat aware of BMPs and saw implications for wildlife professionals to instruct others about the importance of BMPs.



**CHAPTER IV**

**BASELINE, TREND, AND OMNIBUS SURVEY  
INSTRUMENTS**

## CHAPTER IV

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# BASELINE, TREND, AND OMNIBUS SURVEY INSTRUMENTS

## Baseline Survey Instrument

2000 IAFWA Public Attitudes Toward Trapping:  
Baseline Survey

1. PRESS RETURN WHEN INTERVIEW BEGINS

START

TIMER STARTS AFTER THIS SCREEN

2. Time when interview began

TIME1 1:1-5

|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|

3. Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I'm calling to ask your opinions about wildlife management in. Your answers are entirely confidential. To be most accurate, I need to speak with the adult living in your household who had the most recent birthday (at least 18 years old).

CONPER 1:6

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |\_| 1. Correct person, good time to do survey (GO TO QUESTION 5)  
|\_| 2. Bad time / Schedule recall (CB) (GO TO QUESTION 4)  
|\_| 3. AM, RF, BG, DL, DS, NA, BZ

SKIP TO QUESTION 85

=====

4. When would be a more convenient time to call you back?  
Thank you for your time.

WHENCALL

ENTER DAY AND TIME ON CALLSHEET (CB)

SKIP TO QUESTION 85

=====

5. Are you aware that people participate in trapping  
in (name of state)?

AWARE 1:7

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 5) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Yes  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. No   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Don't know   |

6. Are you aware that trapping is regulated by the State of (name of state)? Regulated means that the state requires participants to buy licenses and limits how, when, what kind and how many animals can be legally trapped.

REGULATE 1:8

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 6)
- 2. Yes
- 3. No
- 4. Don't know

7. For your information, the (state agency) is the state agency responsible for regulating and managing trapping in (name of state).

Before this survey, would you say you were very familiar, somewhat familiar or not at all familiar that this agency regulates and manages trapping in (name of state)?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

INFO 1:9

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 7)
- 2. Very familiar
- 3. Somewhat familiar
- 4. Not at all familiar
- 5. Don't know

8. Overall, how would you rate the (state agency) in regulating and managing trapping in (name of state)? Would you say excellent, good fair or poor?

RATEAG 1:10

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 8)
- 2. Excellent
- 3. Good
- 4. Fair
- 5. Poor
- 6. Don't know

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9. Would you say you are very confident, somewhat confident or not at all confident that the (state agency) is properly managing the state's wildlife?  
(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

MANAGE 1:11

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 9)
- 2. Very confident
- 3. Somewhat confident
- 4. Not at all confident
- 5. Don't know

10. In general, how would you rate the (state agency)'s performance with incorporating the public's wants and needs into the regulation and management of trapping in (name of state)? Would you say excellent, good, fair or poor?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY)

WANTNEED 1:12

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 10)
- 2. Excellent
- 3. Good
- 4. Fair
- 5. Poor
- 6. Don't know

11. How much have you heard about trapping in (name of state) in the past 12 months? Would you say you have heard a lot, a little or nothing at all?

HEARD 1:13

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 11)
- 2. A lot
- 3. A little
- 4. Nothing at all
- 5. Don't know

SKIP TO QUESTION 13

=====

12. YOU DID NOT USE SPACE BAR

NOSPAC1

PRESS ENTER TO TRY AGAIN

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13. Within the past year, do you recall seeing or hearing any advertising, information or news coverage that showed positive things about trapping? If yes: What were they? (DNR LIST; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

POSINF 1:14-26

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1. No, I haven't seen or heard anything
- 2. Trapping is humane/doesn't cause undue pain to animals
- 3. Trapping helps control wildlife populations
- 4. Trapping provides recreation
- 5. Trapping provides food, clothing or shelter
- 6. Trapping reduces habitat destruction
- 7. Trapping reduces damage to crops and gardens
- 8. Trapping is an honest living
- 9. Trapping is used for biological study
- 10. Trapping is used to capture & relocate wild animals
- 11. When animals are trapped the whole animal is usually utilized
- 12. Don't know
- 13. Other

IF (#13 = 0) GO TO #12  
IF (#13 @ 1) GO TO #19  
IF (#13 @ 13) GO TO #14

SKIP TO QUESTION 16

=====

14. ENTER OTHER POSITIVE THINGS SEEN OR HEARD ABOUT TRAPPING. (IN FIRST PERSON; 120 CHAR.)

POSINFST 2:1-120

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SKIP TO QUESTION 16

=====

15. YOU DID NOT USE SPACE BAR

NOSPAC1B

PRESS ENTER TO TRY AGAIN

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16. And where did you see or hear positive things about trapping?  
(DNR LIST; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

WHPOS 3:1-14

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1. Direct mail
- 2. Television - News program
- 3. Television - Nature show
- 4. Newspaper
- 5. Magazine
- 6. Friend/family/word of mouth
- 7. Hunting/fishing club or organization
- 8. Pamphlet/brochure
- 9. Radio
- 10. State Parks/Wildlife Management Areas
- 11. Internet/WWW
- 12. Game Warden/Park Ranger
- 13. Don't know
- 14. Other

IF (#16 = 0) GO TO #15

IF (#16 @ 14) GO TO #17

SKIP TO QUESTION 19

=====

17. ENTER OTHER WAY POSITIVE THINGS WERE SEEN/HEARD ABOUT TRAPPING.

WHPOSST 4:1-120

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SKIP TO QUESTION 19

=====

18. YOU DID NOT USE SPACE BAR

NOSPAC2

PRESS ENTER TO TRY AGAIN

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19. Within the past year, do you recall seeing or hearing any advertising, information or news coverage that showed negative things about trapping? If yes: What were they? (DNR LIST; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

NEGINF 5:1-10

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1. No, I haven't seen or heard anything
- 2. Trapping is inhumane/causes undue pain to animals
- 3. Trapping is harmful to wildlife populations
- 4. Trapping is not an honest living
- 5. Trapping just for fun
- 6. Trapping isn't necessary
- 7. Trapping is used for biological study
- 8. When animals are trapped the animal is wasted (only fur used)
- 9. Don't know
- 10. Other

IF (#19 = 0) GO TO #18  
IF (#19 @ 1) GO TO #24  
IF (#19 @ 10) GO TO #20

SKIP TO QUESTION 22

=====

20. ENTER OTHER NEGATIVE THINGS SEEN OR HEARD ABOUT TRAPPING. (IN FIRST PERSON; 120 CHAR.)

NEGINFST 6:1-120

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SKIP TO QUESTION 22

=====

21. YOU DID NOT USE SPACE BAR

NOSPAC2B

PRESS ENTER TO TRY AGAIN



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22. And where did you see or hear negative things about trapping?  
(DNR LIST; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

WHNEG 7:1-14

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1. Direct mail
- 2. Television - News program
- 3. Television - Nature show
- 4. Newspaper
- 5. Magazine
- 6. Friend/family/word of mouth
- 7. Hunting/fishing club or organization
- 8. Pamphlet/brochure
- 9. Radio
- 10. State Parks/Wildlife Management Areas
- 11. Internet/WWW
- 12. Game Warden/Park Ranger
- 13. Don't know
- 14. Other

IF (#22 = 0) GO TO #21

IF (#22 @ 14) GO TO #23

SKIP TO QUESTION 24

=====

23. ENTER OTHER WAY NEGATIVE THINGS WERE SEEN/HEARD ABOUT TRAPPING.  
WHNEGST 8:1-120

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24. In general, do you approve or disapprove of regulated trapping?  
(READ SCALES AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

APPROVE 9:1

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 24)
- 2. Strongly approve
- 3. Moderately approve
- 4. Neither approve nor disapprove
- 5. Moderately disapprove
- 6. Strongly disapprove
- 7. Don't know

25. Next I have a list of reasons why people trap. I would like to know if you approve or disapprove of trapping for each reason.

The first reason is for food. Do you approve or disapprove of trapping for food?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

FOOD 9:2

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 25)
- 2. Strongly approve
- 3. Moderately approve
- 4. Neither approve nor disapprove
- 5. Moderately disapprove
- 6. Strongly disapprove
- 7. Don't know

26. What about trapping for recreation? Do you approve or disapprove of trapping for recreation?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

REC 9:3

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 26)
- 2. Strongly approve
- 3. Moderately approve
- 4. Neither approve nor disapprove
- 5. Moderately disapprove
- 6. Strongly disapprove
- 7. Don't know

27. Some Americans rely on trapping for food, clothing and shelter, sometimes referred to as subsistence trapping. Do you approve or disapprove of subsistence trapping?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

SUBSIST 9:4

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 27)
- 2. Strongly approve
- 3. Moderately approve
- 4. Neither approve nor disapprove
- 5. Moderately disapprove
- 6. Strongly disapprove
- 7. Don't know

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28. Do you approve or disapprove of trapping to help control certain wildlife populations so that they do not become too numerous and destroy wildlife habitat? For example, some animals can cause coastal wetland erosion which may destroy the habitat of other species.

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

POPULATE 9:5

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 28) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Strongly approve                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Moderately approve                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Neither approve nor disapprove                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Moderately disapprove                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Strongly disapprove                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Don't know  |

29. Do you approve or disapprove of trapping to reduce damage to crops and gardens?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

CROP 9:6

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 29) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Strongly approve                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Moderately approve                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Neither approve nor disapprove                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Moderately disapprove                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Strongly disapprove                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Don't know  |

30. Do you approve or disapprove of trapping to reduce damage to human property?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

PROPERTY 9:7

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 30) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Strongly approve                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Moderately approve                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Neither approve nor disapprove                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Moderately disapprove                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Strongly disapprove                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Don't know  |

31. Do you approve or disapprove of trapping wild animals for fur clothing?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

FUR 9:8

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 31)
- 2. Strongly approve
- 3. Moderately approve
- 4. Neither approve nor disapprove
- 5. Moderately disapprove
- 6. Strongly disapprove
- 7. Don't know

32. What about trapping as a way for individuals to make money?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

MONEY 9:9

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 32)
- 2. Strongly approve
- 3. Moderately approve
- 4. Neither approve nor disapprove
- 5. Moderately disapprove
- 6. Strongly disapprove
- 7. Don't know

33. What about trapping as part of a biological study?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

BIOSTUDY 9:10

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 33)
- 2. Strongly approve
- 3. Moderately approve
- 4. Neither approve nor disapprove
- 5. Moderately disapprove
- 6. Strongly disapprove
- 7. Don't know

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34. What about trapping as a way to capture and relocate wild animals from where they are abundant to places where they once existed as part of a restoration program?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

RELOCATE 9:11

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 34) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Strongly approve                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Moderately approve                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Neither approve nor disapprove                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Moderately disapprove                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Strongly disapprove                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Don't know  |

35. For your information, when animals are trapped, the whole animal is usually utilized and there is often little waste. For example, the meat is used for human and pet food and other by-products include soap, perfume and lubricants. Knowing this, do you find trapping more acceptable?

USEALL 9:12

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 35) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Yes   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Maybe   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. No  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Don't know  |

36. I'm going to read six statements and I'd like for you to tell me if you agree or disagree with each statement.

The first statement is: I think regulated trapping is ok if the animals die quickly and without undue pain. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

NOPAIN 9:13

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 36) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Strongly agree (WITH STATEMENT)                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Moderately agree (WITH STATEMENT)                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Neither agree or disagree (WITH STATEMENT)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Moderately disagree (WITH STATEMENT)                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Strongly disagree (WITH STATEMENT)                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Don't know  |

37. The second statement is: I think regulated trapping is ok if animals that are accidentally caught could be released. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

ACCIDENT 9:14

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 38)
- 2. Strongly agree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 3. Moderately agree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 4. Neither agree or disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 5. Moderately disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 6. Strongly disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 7. Don't know

38. The third statement is: I think people should have the freedom to choose to participate in regulated trapping if they want to.

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

FREEDOM 9:15

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 38)
- 2. Strongly agree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 3. Moderately agree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 4. Neither agree or disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 5. Moderately disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 6. Strongly disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 7. Don't know

39. The fourth statement is: Because of improvements in traps, trapping is more humane today than it was ten years ago.

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

TRAPS 9:16

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 39)
- 2. Strongly agree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 3. Moderately agree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 4. Neither agree or disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 5. Moderately disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 6. Strongly disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 7. Don't know

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40. The fifth statement is: Endangered species are frequently used to make fur clothing.

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

ENDSPC 9:17

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 40)
- 2. Strongly agree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 3. Moderately agree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 4. Neither agree or disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 5. Moderately disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 6. Strongly disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 7. Don't know

41. The sixth statement is: Even though trapping is regulated by the state, regulated trapping can still cause wildlife species to become endangered or extinct.

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

EXTINCT 9:18

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 41)
- 2. Strongly agree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 3. Moderately agree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 4. Neither agree or disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 5. Moderately disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 6. Strongly disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 7. Don't know

42. Do you agree or disagree that trapping is more humane today than it was 10 years ago?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

HUMANE 9:19

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 42)
- 2. Strongly agree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 3. Moderately agree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 4. Neither agree or disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 5. Moderately disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 6. Strongly disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 7. Don't know

43. Are you aware that state fish and wildlife agencies have been working on ways to improve traps to make trapping more humane?

KNOWAG 9:20

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 43)
- 2. Yes
- 3. No
- 4. Don't know

44. For your information, there is a major project underway by state fish and wildlife agencies to make trapping more humane. How much would you say you have heard about these efforts? Would you say you have heard a lot, a little or nothing at all?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

FYI 9:21

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 44)
- 2. A lot
- 3. A little
- 4. Nothing at all
- 5. Don't know

45. Do you support or oppose the idea of state fish and wildlife agencies working on ways to make trapping more humane or are you opposed to trapping all together?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

SUPIDEA 9:22

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 45)
- 2. Strongly support
- 3. Moderately support
- 4. Neither support nor oppose
- 5. Moderately oppose
- 6. Strongly oppose
- 7. OPPOSE ALL TRAPPING
- 8. Don't know



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46. The state fish and wildlife agencies are currently testing traps to make them more humane. Would you support or oppose trapping if you knew that traps being used have been tested to make them more humane?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

NEWTRAPS 9:23

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 46)
- 2. Strongly support
- 3. Moderately support
- 4. Neither support nor oppose
- 5. Moderately oppose
- 6. Strongly oppose
- 7. Don't know

47. Given that state fish and wildlife agencies are working on ways to make trapping more humane do you support or oppose regulated trapping?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

SUPTRAP 9:24

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 47)
- 2. Strongly support
- 3. Moderately support
- 4. Neither support nor oppose
- 5. Moderately oppose
- 6. Strongly oppose
- 7. Don't know

48. Do you, or have you ever known anyone who is a trapper or has trapped wild animals?

KNOWTRAP 9:25

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 48)
- 2. Yes (GO TO QUESTION 49)
- 3. No
- 4. Don't know

SKIP TO QUESTION 51

=====

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49. What is your relationship to that person?

WHOIS 9:26

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 49)
- 2. Myself
- 3. Immediate family
- 4. Relative other than immediate family
- 5. Friend
- 6. Acquaintance/coworker
- 7. Neighbor
- 8. Don't know
- 9. Other (GO TO QUESTION 50)

SKIP TO QUESTION 51

=====

50. ENTER OTHER TYPE OF RELATIONSHIP.

WHOISST 10:1-120

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51. Sometimes people have problems with wildlife in their neighborhoods or around their homes, Have you had any problems with any wild animals within the past two years?

WILDPROB 11:1

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 51)
- 2. Yes (GO TO QUESTION 53)
- 3. No
- 4. Don't know

SKIP TO QUESTION 59

=====

52. YOU DID NOT USE SPACE BAR

NOSPAC3

PRESS ENTER TO TRY AGAIN

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53. Which wild animals have caused you problems?  
 (DNR LIST; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

WHATAN 11:2-15

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1. Squirrels
- 2. Deer
- 3. Bear
- 4. Raccoons
- 5. Opossums
- 6. Beaver
- 7. Birds
- 8. Bats
- 9. Skunks
- 10. Woodchucks/groundhog
- 11. Muskrat
- 12. Reptiles/Amphibians
- 13. Don't know
- 14. Other

IF (#53 = 0) GO TO #52  
 IF (#53 @ 14) GO TO #54

SKIP TO QUESTION 56

=====

54. ENTER OTHER TYPE OF ANIMAL CAUSING PROBLEMS.

WHATANST 12:1-120

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SKIP TO QUESTION 56

=====

55. YOU DID NOT USE SPACE BAR

NOSPAC4

PRESS ENTER TO TRY AGAIN

56. What kind of problems did the wildlife cause?  
(DNR LIST; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

WHTPRB 13:1-10

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1. Garbage
- 2. Yards
- 3. Garden
- 4. Agricultural damage
- 5. Pets
- 6. Livestock
- 7. Structural damage
- 8. Threat to humans
- 9. Don't know
- 10. Other

IF (#56 = 0) GO TO #55  
IF (#56 @ 10) GO TO #57

SKIP TO QUESTION 58

=====

57. ENTER OTHER TYPE OF PROBLEMS CAUSED BY WILDLIFE.

WHTPRBST 14:1-120

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58. Did you hire anyone to remove the nuisance animal?

HIRE 15:1

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 58)
- 2. Yes
- 3. No
- 4. Don't know

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59. Do you support or oppose trapping as a way to solve  
nuisance animal problems?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

NUISANCE 15:2

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 59)
- 2. Strongly support
- 3. Moderately support
- 4. Neither support nor oppose
- 5. Moderately oppose
- 6. Strongly oppose
- 7. Don't know

60. There are many different sources for information about trapping.  
I'm going to list several sources and I want to know which TWO  
you would consider to be the MOST CREDIBLE for information about  
trapping.

INFOSRCE

PRESS ENTER TO BEGIN RANDOM START OF LIST.

61. RANDOM LIST OF INFORMATION SOURCES

INFRAND 15:3

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Media (newspapers, television, radio, magazines) (GO TO QUESTION 62)
- 2. State fish and wildlife agency (GO TO QUESTION 63)
- 3. Celebrities (GO TO QUESTION 64)
- 4. Animal rights organizations like PETA (GO TO QUESTION 65)
- 5. Animal organizations like the Humane Society (GO TO QUESTION 66)
- 6. Veterinarians (GO TO QUESTION 67)
- 7. People who trap (GO TO QUESTION 68)
- 8. Family and friends (GO TO QUESTION 69)

SKIP TO QUESTION 72

=====

62. Media such as newspapers, television, radio, magazines.

MEDIA

PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE

IF (#61 = 2) GO TO #70

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63. The (state agency). STATEAG  
PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE  
IF (#61 = 3) GO TO #70

64. Celebrities. CELEB  
PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE  
IF (#61 = 4) GO TO #70

65. Animal rights organizations like PETA. PETA  
PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE  
IF (#61 = 5) GO TO #70

66. Animal organizations like the Humane Society. HUMSOC  
PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE  
IF (#61 = 6) GO TO #70

67. Veterinarians. VETS  
PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE  
IF (#61 = 7) GO TO #70

68. People who trap. TRAPPERS  
PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE  
IF (#61 = 8) GO TO #70

69. Family and friends. FAMILY  
PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE  
IF (#61 = 1) GO TO #70  
SKIP TO QUESTION 62  
=====

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70. Which of those sources would you consider to be the MOST CREDIBLE for information about trapping?  
(DNR LIST; CHECK ONLY ONE RESPONSE!)

FIRSTINF 15:4-5

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Media (newspapers, television, radio, magazines)
- 2. State fish and wildlife agency
- 3. Celebrities
- 4. Animal rights organizations like PETA
- 5. Animal organizations like the Humane Society
- 6. Veterinarians
- 7. People who trap
- 8. Family and friends
- 9. NONE OF THESE
- 10. Don't know

71. Which of those sources would you consider to be the SECOND MOST CREDIBLE for information about trapping?  
(DNR LIST; CHECK ONLY ONE RESPONSE!)

SECNDINF 15:6-7

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Media (newspapers, television, radio, magazines)
- 2. State fish and wildlife agency
- 3. Celebrities
- 4. Animal rights organizations like PETA
- 5. Animal organizations like the Humane Society
- 6. Veterinarians
- 7. People who trap
- 8. Family and friends
- 9. NONE OF THESE
- 10. Don't know

72. Great, we're just about through. We just have a few more questions to gather background information.

DEMO

Please press ENTER to continue...

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73. Do you consider your place of residence to be a large city, a suburban area, a small city, a rural area, or a farm or ranch?

RESIDE 15:8

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 73)
- 2. Large city
- 3. Suburban area
- 4. Small city/town
- 5. Rural area
- 6. Farm or ranch
- 7. DNR: Don't know
- 8. DNR: Refused

74. Are you of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity?

HISPAN 15:9

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 74)
- 2. Yes
- 3. No
- 4. DNR: Don't know
- 5. DNR: Refused

75. What race do you consider yourself?

(Read list as necessary)

RACE 15:10

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 75)
- 2. American Indian or Alaska native
- 3. Black or African American
- 4. Asian
- 5. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- 6. White
- 7. Other
- 8. DNR: Don't know
- 9. DNR: Refused



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76. Would you consider yourself to be a Republican, Democrat, Independent or a member of the Reform Party?

PARTY 15:11

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 76)
- 2. Republican
- 3. Democrat
- 4. Independent
- 5. Reform Party
- 6. Don't know
- 7. REFUSED

77. Did you vote in the last election?

VOTE 15:12

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 77)
- 2. Yes
- 3. No
- 4. Don't know

78. Which of these categories best describes your total household income before taxes last year?

(READ SCALE)

INCOME 15:13

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. (DNR: Invalid answer. Select another.) (GO TO QUESTION 78)
- 2. Less than \$19,999
- 3. \$20,000 to \$39,999
- 4. \$40,000 to \$59,999
- 5. \$60,000 to \$99,999
- 6. \$100,000 or more
- 7. (DNR: DON'T KNOW)
- 8. (DNR: REFUSED)

79. And finally, may I ask your age?

(ENTER 999 FOR DON'T KNOW; ENTER 888 FOR REFUSED)

AGE 15:14-16

|\_|\_|\_|\_|

LOWEST VALUE = 1

80. That's the end of the questionnaire, thank you very much for your time and cooperation!

(ENTER ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS; IN FIRST PERSON; 120 CHARACTERS)

END 16:1-120

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

81. OBSERVE AND RECORD RESPONDENT'S GENDER

GENDER 17:1

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 81)
- 2. Don't know
- 3. Male
- 4. Female

82. TIME INTERVIEW WAS COMPLETED

ENDTIME 17:2-6

|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|

83. Please enter your initials in LOWERCASE ONLY!

INTVRINT 17:7-9

|\_|\_|\_|\_|

84. Enter the area code and telephone number of number dialed.

TELEPHON 17:10-19

|\_|\_|\_|\_|-|\_|\_|\_|\_|-|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|

LOWEST VALUE = 1

85. SAVE OR ERASE INTERVIEW.

DO NOT ERASE A COMPLETED INTERVIEW!

FINISH 17:20

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Save answers (GO TO QUESTION 87)
- 2. Erase answers
- 3. Review answers (GO TO QUESTION 3)

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86. ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO ERASE THIS INTERVIEW?

ONLY ERASE IF: Terminated (record on back),  
RF, BZ, NA, DS, BG, DL, AM

MAKESURE 17:21

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

1. No, do not erase the answers (GO TO QUESTION 85)  
 2. Yes, erase this interview

87. Date call was made

INTV DAT 17:22-29

|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_| - |\_|\_|\_|\_| - |\_|\_|\_|\_|  
Year                      Month      Day

SAVE IF (#85 = 1)

### Trend Survey Instrument

2001 IAFWA Public Attitudes Toward Trapping:  
Trends Survey

1. PRESS RETURN WHEN INTERVIEW BEGINS

START

TIMER STARTS AFTER THIS SCREEN

2. Time when interview began

TIME1 1:1-5

|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|

3. Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I'm calling to ask your opinions about wildlife management. Your answers are entirely confidential. To be most accurate, I need to speak with the adult living in your household who had the most recent birthday (at least 18 years old).

CONPER 1:6

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |\_|\_| 1. Correct person, good time to do survey (GO TO QUESTION 5)
- |\_|\_| 2. Bad time / Schedule recall (CB) (GO TO QUESTION 4)
- |\_|\_| 3. AM, RF, BG, DL, DS, NA, BZ

SKIP TO QUESTION 41

=====

4. When would be a more convenient time to call you back?  
Thank you for your time.

WHENCALL

ENTER DAY AND TIME ON CALLSHEET (CB)

SKIP TO QUESTION 41

=====

5. Are you aware that people participate in trapping in (name of state)?

AWARE 1:7

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |\_|\_| 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 5)
- |\_|\_| 2. Yes
- |\_|\_| 3. No
- |\_|\_| 4. Don't know

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6. Are you aware that trapping is regulated by the State of (name of state)? Regulated means that the state requires participants to buy licenses and limits how, when, what kind and how many animals can be legally trapped.

REGULATE 1:8

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 6)  
 2. Yes  
 3. No  
 4. Don't know

7. For your information, the (state agency) is the state agency responsible for regulating and managing trapping in (name of state).

Before this survey, would you say you were very familiar, somewhat familiar or not at all familiar that this agency regulates and manages trapping in (name of state)?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

INFO 1:9

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 7)  
 2. Very familiar  
 3. Somewhat familiar  
 4. Not at all familiar  
 5. Don't know

8. Overall, how would you rate the (state agency) in regulating and managing trapping in (name of state)? Would you say excellent, good fair or poor?

RATEAG 1:10

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 8)  
 2. Excellent  
 3. Good  
 4. Fair  
 5. Poor  
 6. Don't know

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9. Would you say you are very confident, somewhat confident or not at all confident that the (state agency) is properly managing the state's wildlife?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

MANAGE 1:11

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 9)
- 2. Very confident
- 3. Somewhat confident
- 4. Not at all confident
- 5. Don't know

10. How much have you heard about trapping in (name of state) in the past 12 months? Would you say you have heard a lot, a little or nothing at all?

HEARD 1:12

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 10)
- 2. A lot
- 3. A little
- 4. Nothing at all
- 5. Don't know

SKIP TO QUESTION 12

=====

11. YOU DID NOT USE SPACE BAR

NOSPAC1

PRESS ENTER TO TRY AGAIN

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12. Within the past year, do you recall seeing or hearing any advertising, information or news coverage that showed positive things about trapping? If yes: What were they?  
(DNR LIST; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

POSINF 1:13-25

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1. No, I haven't seen or heard anything
- 2. Trapping is humane/doesn't cause undue pain to animals
- 3. Trapping helps control wildlife populations
- 4. Trapping provides recreation
- 5. Trapping provides food, clothing or shelter
- 6. Trapping reduces habitat destruction
- 7. Trapping reduces damage to crops and gardens
- 8. Trapping is an honest living
- 9. Trapping is used for biological study
- 10. Trapping is used to capture & relocate wild animals
- 11. When animals are trapped the whole animal is usually utilized
- 12. Don't know
- 13. Other

IF (#12 = 0) GO TO #11  
IF (#12 @ 1) GO TO #18  
IF (#12 @ 13) GO TO #13

SKIP TO QUESTION 15

=====

13. ENTER OTHER POSITIVE THINGS SEEN OR HEARD ABOUT TRAPPING.  
(IN FIRST PERSON; 120 CHAR.)

POSINFST 2:1-120

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SKIP TO QUESTION 15

=====

14. YOU DID NOT USE SPACE BAR

NOSPAC1B

PRESS ENTER TO TRY AGAIN

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15. And where did you see or hear positive things about trapping?  
(DNR LIST; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

WHPOS 3:1-14

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1. Direct mail
- 2. Television - News program
- 3. Television - Nature show
- 4. Newspaper
- 5. Magazine
- 6. Friend/family/word of mouth
- 7. Hunting/fishing club or organization
- 8. Pamphlet/brochure
- 9. Radio
- 10. State Parks/Wildlife Management Areas
- 11. Internet/WWW
- 12. Game Warden/Park Ranger
- 13. Don't know
- 14. Other

IF (#15 = 0) GO TO #14  
IF (#15 @ 14) GO TO #16

SKIP TO QUESTION 18

=====

16. ENTER OTHER WAY POSITIVE THINGS WERE SEEN/HEARD ABOUT TRAPPING.

WHPOSST 4:1-120

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SKIP TO QUESTION 18

=====

17. YOU DID NOT USE SPACE BAR

NOSPAC2

PRESS ENTER TO TRY AGAIN



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18. Within the past year, do you recall seeing or hearing any advertising, information or news coverage that showed negative things about trapping? If yes: What were they?  
(DNR LIST; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

NEGINF 5:1-10

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

1. No, I haven't seen or heard anything  
 2. Trapping is inhumane/causes undue pain to animals  
 3. Trapping is harmful to wildlife populations  
 4. Trapping is not an honest living  
 5. Trapping just for fun  
 6. Trapping isn't necessary  
 7. Trapping is used for biological study  
 8. When animals are trapped the animal is wasted (only fur used)  
 9. Don't know  
 10. Other

IF (#18 = 0) GO TO #17  
 IF (#18 @ 1) GO TO #23  
 IF (#18 @ 10) GO TO #19

SKIP TO QUESTION 21

=====

19. ENTER OTHER NEGATIVE THINGS SEEN OR HEARD ABOUT TRAPPING.  
(IN FIRST PERSON; 120 CHAR.)

NEGINFST 6:1-120

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SKIP TO QUESTION 21

=====

20. YOU DID NOT USE SPACE BAR

NOSPAC2B

PRESS ENTER TO TRY AGAIN

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21. And where did you see or hear negative things about trapping?  
(DNR LIST; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

WHNEG 7:1-14

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1. Direct mail
- 2. Television - News program
- 3. Television - Nature show
- 4. Newspaper
- 5. Magazine
- 6. Friend/family/word of mouth
- 7. Hunting/fishing club or organization
- 8. Pamphlet/brochure
- 9. Radio
- 10. State Parks/Wildlife Management Areas
- 11. Internet/WWW
- 12. Game Warden/Park Ranger
- 13. Don't know
- 14. Other

IF (#21 = 0) GO TO #20  
IF (#21 @ 14) GO TO #22

SKIP TO QUESTION 23

=====

22. ENTER OTHER WAY NEGATIVE THINGS WERE SEEN/HEARD ABOUT TRAPPING.  
WHNEGST 8:1-120

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23. In general, do you approve or disapprove of regulated trapping?  
(READ SCALES AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

APPROVE 9:1

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 23)
- 2. Strongly approve
- 3. Moderately approve
- 4. Neither approve nor disapprove
- 5. Moderately disapprove
- 6. Strongly disapprove
- 7. Don't know

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24. There are many different sources for information about trapping. I'm going to list several sources and I want to know which TWO you would consider to be the MOST CREDIBLE for information about trapping.

INFOSRCE

PRESS ENTER TO BEGIN RANDOM START OF LIST.

25. RANDOM LIST OF INFORMATION SOURCES

INFRAND 9:2

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Media (newspapers, television, radio, magazines) (GO TO QUESTION 26)
- 2. State fish and wildlife agency (GO TO QUESTION 27)
- 3. Celebrities (GO TO QUESTION 28)
- 4. Animal rights organizations like PETA (GO TO QUESTION 29)
- 5. Animal organizations like the Humane Society (GO TO QUESTION 30)
- 6. Veterinarians (GO TO QUESTION 31)
- 7. People who trap (GO TO QUESTION 32)
- 8. Family and friends (GO TO QUESTION 33)

SKIP TO QUESTION 34

=====

26. Media such as newspapers, television, radio, magazines.

MEDIA

PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE

IF (#25 = 2) GO TO #34

27. The (state agency).

STATEAG

PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE

IF (#25 = 3) GO TO #34

28. Celebrities.

CELEB

PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE

IF (#25 = 4) GO TO #34

29. Animal rights organizations like PETA.

PETA

PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE

IF (#25 = 5) GO TO #34

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30. Animal organizations like the Humane Society. HUMSOC

PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE

IF (#25 = 6) GO TO #34

31. Veterinarians. VETS

PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE

IF (#25 = 7) GO TO #34

32. People who trap. TRAPPERS

PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE

IF (#25 = 8) GO TO #34

33. Family and friends. FAMILY

PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE

IF (#25 = 1) GO TO #34

SKIP TO QUESTION 26

=====

34. Which of those sources would you consider to be the MOST CREDIBLE for information about trapping? (DNR LIST; CHECK ONLY ONE RESPONSE!)

FIRSTINF 9:3-4

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Media (newspapers, television, radio, magazines)
- 2. State fish and wildlife agency
- 3. Celebrities
- 4. Animal rights organizations like PETA
- 5. Animal organizations like the Humane Society
- 6. Veterinarians
- 7. People who trap
- 8. Family and friends
- 9. NONE OF THESE
- 10. Don't know

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35. Which of those sources would you consider to be the  
SECOND MOST CREDIBLE for information about trapping?  
(DNR LIST; CHECK ONLY ONE RESPONSE!)

SECNDINF 9:5-6

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

1. Media (newspapers, television, radio, magazines)  
 2. State fish and wildlife agency  
 3. Celebrities  
 4. Animal rights organizations like PETA  
 5. Animal organizations like the Humane Society  
 6. Veterinarians  
 7. People who trap  
 8. Family and friends  
 9. NONE OF THESE  
 10. Don't know

36. That's the end of the questionnaire, thank you very much for your  
time and cooperation!

(ENTER ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS; IN FIRST PERSON; 120 CHARACTERS)

END 10:1-120

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37. OBSERVE AND RECORD RESPONDENT'S GENDER

GENDER 11:1

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 37)  
 2. Don't know  
 3. Male  
 4. Female

38. TIME INTERVIEW WAS COMPLETED

ENDTIME 11:2-6

|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|

39. Please enter your initials in LOWERCASE ONLY!

INTVRINT 11:7-9

|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|

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40. Enter the area code and telephone number of number dialed.  
TELEPHON 11:10-19

|\_|\_|\_|\_|-|\_|\_|\_|\_|-|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|

LOWEST VALUE = 1

41. SAVE OR ERASE INTERVIEW.  
DO NOT ERASE A COMPLETED INTERVIEW!

FINISH 11:20

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |\_| 1. Save answers (GO TO QUESTION 43)
- |\_| 2. Erase answers
- |\_| 3. Review answers (GO TO QUESTION 3)

42. ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO ERASE THIS INTERVIEW?  
ONLY ERASE IF: Terminated (record on back),  
RF, BZ, NA, DS, BG, DL, AM

MAKESURE 11:21

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |\_| 1. No, do not erase the answers (GO TO QUESTION 41)
- |\_| 2. Yes, erase this interview

43. Date call was made

INTVDAT 11:22-29

|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|-|\_|\_|\_|\_|-|\_|\_|\_|\_|  
Year Month Day

SAVE IF (#41 = 1)

## Omnibus Survey Instrument

2001 IAFWA Public Attitudes Toward Trapping:  
Omnibus Survey

1. PRESS RETURN WHEN INTERVIEW BEGINS

START

TIMER STARTS AFTER THIS SCREEN

2. Time when interview began

TIME1 1:1-5

|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|

3. Are you aware that trapping is regulated by the State of (name of state)? Regulated means that the state requires participants to buy licenses and limits how, when, what kind and how many animals can be legally trapped.

REGULATE 1:6

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |\_| 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 3)  
 |\_| 2. Yes  
 |\_| 3. No  
 |\_| 4. Don't know

4. In general, do you approve or disapprove of regulated trapping?  
(READ SCALES AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

APPROVE 1:7

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |\_| 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 4)  
 |\_| 2. Strongly approve  
 |\_| 3. Moderately approve  
 |\_| 4. Neither approve nor disapprove  
 |\_| 5. Moderately disapprove  
 |\_| 6. Strongly disapprove  
 |\_| 7. Don't know

5. TIME INTERVIEW WAS COMPLETED

ENDTIME 1:8-12

|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|

6. Please enter your initials in LOWERCASE ONLY!

INTVPRINT 1:13-15

|\_|\_|\_|\_|

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7. Enter the area code and telephone number of number dialed.

TELEPHON 1:16-25

|\_|\_|\_|\_|-|\_|\_|\_|\_|-|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|

LOWEST VALUE = 1

8. SAVE OR ERASE INTERVIEW.

DO NOT ERASE A COMPLETED INTERVIEW!

FINISH 1:26

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |\_| 1. Save answers (GO TO QUESTION 10)
- |\_| 2. Erase answers
- |\_| 3. Review answers (GO TO QUESTION 3)

9. ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO ERASE THIS INTERVIEW?

ONLY ERASE IF: Terminated (record on back),  
RF, BZ, NA, DS, BG, DL, AM

MAKESURE 1:27

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |\_| 1. No, do not erase the answers (GO TO QUESTION 8)
- |\_| 2. Yes, erase this interview

10. Date call was made

INTVDAT 1:28-35

|\_|\_|\_|\_|-|\_|\_|\_|-|\_|\_|\_|  
Year Month Day

SAVE IF (#8 = 1)



## **Appendices**

# APPENDICES

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## Actual Survey

2000 IAFWA Public Attitudes Toward Trapping Survey  
U.S. General Accounting Office

1. PRESS RETURN WHEN INTERVIEW BEGINS

START

TIMER STARTS AFTER THIS SCREEN

2. Time when interview began

TIME1 1:1-5

|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|

3. ENTER STATE FROM CALLSHEET

STATE 1:6

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |\_| 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 3)
- |\_| 2. Connecticut
- |\_| 3. Indiana
- |\_| 4. Wisconsin
- |\_| 5. MISSING: Notify Manager

4. ENTER STATE AGENCY NAME FROM CALLSHEET

AGENCY 1:7

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |\_| 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 4)
- |\_| 2. Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
- |\_| 3. Indiana Division of Fish and Wildlife
- |\_| 4. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- |\_| 5. MISSING: Notify Manager

5. Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I'm calling to ask your opinions about wildlife management in #3 through a grant made possible by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Your answers are entirely confidential. To be most accurate, I need to speak with the adult living in your household who had the most recent birthday (at least 18 years old).

CONPER 1:8

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

1. Correct person, good time to do survey (GO TO QUESTION 7)  
 2. Bad time / Schedule recall (CB) (GO TO QUESTION 6)  
 3. AM, RF, BG, DL, DS, NA, BZ

SKIP TO QUESTION 87

=====

6. When would be a more convenient time to call you back?  
 Thank you for your time.

WHENCALL

ENTER DAY AND TIME ON CALLSHEET (CB)

SKIP TO QUESTION 87

=====

7. Are you aware that people participate in trapping in #3?

AWARE 1:9

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 7)  
 2. Yes  
 3. No  
 4. Don't know

8. Are you aware that trapping is regulated by the State of #3? Regulated means that the state requires participants to buy licenses and limits how, when, what kind and how many animals can be legally trapped.

REGULATE 1:10

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 8)  
 2. Yes  
 3. No  
 4. Don't know

9. For your information, the #4 is the state agency responsible for regulating and managing trapping in #3.

Before this survey, would you say you were very familiar, somewhat familiar or not at all familiar that this agency regulates and manages trapping in #3?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

INFO 1:11

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 9)
2. Very familiar
3. Somewhat familiar
4. Not at all familiar
5. Don't know

10. Overall, how would you rate the #4 in regulating and managing trapping in #3? Would you say excellent, good fair or poor?

RATEAG 1:12

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 10)
2. Excellent
3. Good
4. Fair
5. Poor
6. Don't know

11. Would you say you are very confident, somewhat confident or not at all confident that the #4 is properly managing the state's wildlife?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

MANAGE 1:13

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 11)
2. Very confident
3. Somewhat confident
4. Not at all confident
5. Don't know

12. In general, how would you rate the #4's performance with incorporating the public's wants and needs into the regulation and management of trapping in #3? Would you say excellent, good, fair or poor?  
(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY)

WANTNEED 1:14

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 12) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Excellent   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Good  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Fair  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Poor  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Don't know  |

13. How much have you heard about trapping in #3 in the past 12 months? Would you say you have heard a lot, a little or nothing at all?

HEARD 1:15

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 13) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. A lot   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. A little  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Nothing at all                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Don't know  |

SKIP TO QUESTION 15

=====

14. YOU DID NOT USE SPACE BAR

NOSPAC1

PRESS ENTER TO TRY AGAIN

15. Within the past year, do you recall seeing or hearing any advertising, information or news coverage that showed positive things about trapping? If yes: What were they? (DNR LIST; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

POSINF 1:16-28

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1. No, I haven't seen or heard anything
2. Trapping is humane/doesn't cause undue pain to animals
3. Trapping helps control wildlife populations
4. Trapping provides recreation
5. Trapping provides food, clothing or shelter
6. Trapping reduces habitat destruction
7. Trapping reduces damage to crops and gardens
8. Trapping is an honest living
9. Trapping is used for biological study
10. Trapping is used to capture & relocate wild animals
11. When animals are trapped the whole animal is usually utilized
12. Don't know
13. Other

IF (#15 = 0) GO TO #14
IF (#15 @ 1) GO TO #21
IF (#15 @ 13) GO TO #16

SKIP TO QUESTION 18

=====

16. ENTER OTHER POSITIVE THINGS SEEN OR HEARD ABOUT TRAPPING. (IN FIRST PERSON; 120 CHAR.)

POSINFST 2:1-120

Three horizontal lines for text entry.

SKIP TO QUESTION 18

=====

17. YOU DID NOT USE SPACE BAR

NOSPAC1B

PRESS ENTER TO TRY AGAIN

18. And where did you see or hear positive things about trapping?  
(DNR LIST; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

WHPOS 3:1-14

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1. Direct mail
- 2. Television - News program
- 3. Television - Nature show
- 4. Newspaper
- 5. Magazine
- 6. Friend/family/word of mouth
- 7. Hunting/fishing club or organization
- 8. Pamphlet/brochure
- 9. Radio
- 10. State Parks/Wildlife Management Areas
- 11. Internet/WWW
- 12. Game Warden/Park Ranger
- 13. Don't know
- 14. Other

IF (#18 = 0) GO TO #17  
IF (#18 @ 14) GO TO #19

SKIP TO QUESTION 21

=====

19. ENTER OTHER WAY POSITIVE THINGS WERE SEEN/HEARD ABOUT TRAPPING.

WHPOSST 4:1-120

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SKIP TO QUESTION 21

=====

20. YOU DID NOT USE SPACE BAR

NOSPAC2

PRESS ENTER TO TRY AGAIN

21. Within the past year, do you recall seeing or hearing any advertising, information or news coverage that showed negative things about trapping? If yes: What were they? (DNR LIST; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

NEGINF 5:1-10

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1. No, I haven't seen or heard anything
- 2. Trapping is inhumane/causes undue pain to animals
- 3. Trapping is harmful to wildlife populations
- 4. Trapping is not an honest living
- 5. Trapping just for fun
- 6. Trapping isn't necessary
- 7. Trapping is used for biological study
- 8. When animals are trapped the animal is wasted (only fur used)
- 9. Don't know
- 10. Other

IF (#21 = 0) GO TO #20  
IF (#21 @ 1) GO TO #26  
IF (#21 @ 10) GO TO #22

SKIP TO QUESTION 24

=====

22. ENTER OTHER NEGATIVE THINGS SEEN OR HEARD ABOUT TRAPPING. (IN FIRST PERSON; 120 CHAR.)

NEGINFST 6:1-120

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---

SKIP TO QUESTION 24

=====

23. YOU DID NOT USE SPACE BAR

NOSPAC2B

PRESS ENTER TO TRY AGAIN



24. And where did you see or hear negative things about trapping?  
(DNR LIST; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

WHNEG 7:1-14

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1. Direct mail
- 2. Television - News program
- 3. Television - Nature show
- 4. Newspaper
- 5. Magazine
- 6. Friend/family/word of mouth
- 7. Hunting/fishing club or organization
- 8. Pamphlet/brochure
- 9. Radio
- 10. State Parks/Wildlife Management Areas
- 11. Internet/WWW
- 12. Game Warden/Park Ranger
- 13. Don't know
- 14. Other

IF (#24 = 0) GO TO #23

IF (#24 @ 14) GO TO #25

SKIP TO QUESTION 26

=====

25. ENTER OTHER WAY NEGATIVE THINGS WERE SEEN/HEARD ABOUT TRAPPING.  
WHNEGST 8:1-120

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26. In general, do you approve or disapprove of regulated trapping?  
(READ SCALES AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

APPROVE 9:1

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 26)
- 2. Strongly approve
- 3. Moderately approve
- 4. Neither approve nor disapprove
- 5. Moderately disapprove
- 6. Strongly disapprove
- 7. Don't know

27. Next I have a list of reasons why people trap. I would like to know if you approve or disapprove of trapping for each reason.

The first reason is for food. Do you approve or disapprove of trapping for food?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

FOOD 9:2

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 27)
- 2. Strongly approve
- 3. Moderately approve
- 4. Neither approve nor disapprove
- 5. Moderately disapprove
- 6. Strongly disapprove
- 7. Don't know

28. What about trapping for recreation? Do you approve or disapprove of trapping for recreation?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

REC 9:3

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 28)
- 2. Strongly approve
- 3. Moderately approve
- 4. Neither approve nor disapprove
- 5. Moderately disapprove
- 6. Strongly disapprove
- 7. Don't know

29. Some Americans rely on trapping for food, clothing and shelter, sometimes referred to as subsistence trapping. Do you approve or disapprove of subsistence trapping?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

SUBSIST 9:4

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 29)
- 2. Strongly approve
- 3. Moderately approve
- 4. Neither approve nor disapprove
- 5. Moderately disapprove
- 6. Strongly disapprove
- 7. Don't know

30. Do you approve or disapprove of trapping to help control certain wildlife populations so that they do not become too numerous and destroy wildlife habitat? For example, some animals can cause coastal wetland erosion which may destroy the habitat of other species.

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

POPULATE 9:5

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 30) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Strongly approve                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Moderately approve                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Neither approve nor disapprove                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Moderately disapprove                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Strongly disapprove                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Don't know  |

31. Do you approve or disapprove of trapping to reduce damage to crops and gardens?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

CROP 9:6

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 31) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Strongly approve                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Moderately approve                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Neither approve nor disapprove                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Moderately disapprove                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Strongly disapprove                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Don't know  |

32. Do you approve or disapprove of trapping to reduce damage to human property?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

PROPERTY 9:7

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 32) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Strongly approve                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Moderately approve                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Neither approve nor disapprove                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Moderately disapprove                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Strongly disapprove                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Don't know  |

33. Do you approve or disapprove of trapping wild animals for fur clothing?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

FUR 9:8

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 33)
- 2. Strongly approve
- 3. Moderately approve
- 4. Neither approve nor disapprove
- 5. Moderately disapprove
- 6. Strongly disapprove
- 7. Don't know

34. What about trapping as a way for individuals to make money?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

MONEY 9:9

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 34)
- 2. Strongly approve
- 3. Moderately approve
- 4. Neither approve nor disapprove
- 5. Moderately disapprove
- 6. Strongly disapprove
- 7. Don't know

35. What about trapping as part of a biological study?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

BIOSTUDY 9:10

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 35)
- 2. Strongly approve
- 3. Moderately approve
- 4. Neither approve nor disapprove
- 5. Moderately disapprove
- 6. Strongly disapprove
- 7. Don't know

36. What about trapping as a way to capture and relocate wild animals from where they are abundant to places where they once existed as part of a restoration program?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

RELOCATE 9:11

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 36) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Strongly approve                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Moderately approve                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Neither approve nor disapprove                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Moderately disapprove                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Strongly disapprove                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Don't know  |

37. For your information, when animals are trapped, the whole animal is usually utilized and there is often little waste. For example, the meat is used for human and pet food and other by-products include soap, perfume and lubricants. Knowing this, do you find trapping more acceptable?

USEALL 9:12

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 37) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Yes   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Maybe   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. No  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Don't know  |

38. I'm going to read six statements and I'd like for you to tell me if you agree or disagree with each statement.

The first statement is: I think regulated trapping is ok if the animals die quickly and without undue pain. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

NOPAIN 9:13

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 38) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Strongly agree (WITH STATEMENT)                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Moderately agree (WITH STATEMENT)                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Neither agree or disagree (WITH STATEMENT)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Moderately disagree (WITH STATEMENT)                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Strongly disagree (WITH STATEMENT)                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Don't know  |

39. The second statement is: I think regulated trapping is ok if animals that are accidentally caught could be released. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

ACCIDENT 9:14

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 40)
- 2. Strongly agree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 3. Moderately agree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 4. Neither agree or disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 5. Moderately disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 6. Strongly disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 7. Don't know

40. The third statement is: I think people should have the freedom to choose to participate in regulated trapping if they want to.

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

FREEDOM 9:15

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 40)
- 2. Strongly agree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 3. Moderately agree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 4. Neither agree or disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 5. Moderately disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 6. Strongly disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 7. Don't know

41. The fourth statement is: Because of improvements in traps, trapping is more humane today than it was ten years ago.

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

TRAPS 9:16

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 41)
- 2. Strongly agree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 3. Moderately agree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 4. Neither agree or disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 5. Moderately disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 6. Strongly disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 7. Don't know

42. The fifth statement is: Endangered species are frequently used to make fur clothing.

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

ENDSPC 9:17

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 42)
- 2. Strongly agree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 3. Moderately agree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 4. Neither agree or disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 5. Moderately disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 6. Strongly disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 7. Don't know

43. The sixth statement is: Even though trapping is regulated by the state, regulated trapping can still cause wildlife species to become endangered or extinct.

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

EXTINCT 9:18

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 43)
- 2. Strongly agree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 3. Moderately agree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 4. Neither agree or disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 5. Moderately disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 6. Strongly disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 7. Don't know

44. Do you agree or disagree that trapping is more humane today than it was 10 years ago?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

HUMANE 9:19

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 44)
- 2. Strongly agree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 3. Moderately agree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 4. Neither agree or disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 5. Moderately disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 6. Strongly disagree (WITH STATEMENT)
- 7. Don't know

45. Are you aware that state fish and wildlife agencies have been working on ways to improve traps to make trapping more humane?

KNOWAG 9:20

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 45)
- 2. Yes
- 3. No
- 4. Don't know

46. For your information, there is a major project underway by state fish and wildlife agencies to make trapping more humane. How much would you say you have heard about these efforts? Would you say you have heard a lot, a little or nothing at all?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

FYI 9:21

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 46)
- 2. A lot
- 3. A little
- 4. Nothing at all
- 5. Don't know

47. Do you support or oppose the idea of state fish and wildlife agencies working on ways to make trapping more humane or are you opposed to trapping all together?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

SUPIDEA 9:22

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 47)
- 2. Strongly support
- 3. Moderately support
- 4. Neither support nor oppose
- 5. Moderately oppose
- 6. Strongly oppose
- 7. OPPOSE ALL TRAPPING
- 8. Don't know



48. The state fish and wildlife agencies are currently testing traps to make them more humane. Would you support or oppose trapping if you knew that traps being used have been tested to make them more humane?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

NEWTRAPS 9:23

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 48) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Strongly support                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Moderately support                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Neither support nor oppose                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Moderately oppose                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Strongly oppose                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Don't know  |

49. Given that state fish and wildlife agencies are working on ways to make trapping more humane do you support or oppose regulated trapping?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

SUPTRAP 9:24

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 49) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Strongly support                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Moderately support                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Neither support nor oppose                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Moderately oppose                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Strongly oppose                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Don't know  |

50. Do you, or have you ever known anyone who is a trapper or has trapped wild animals?

KNOWTRAP 9:25

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 50) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Yes (GO TO QUESTION 51)                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. No  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Don't know  |

SKIP TO QUESTION 53

=====

51. What is your relationship to that person?

WHOIS 9:26

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 51)
- 2. Myself
- 3. Immediate family
- 4. Relative other than immediate family
- 5. Friend
- 6. Acquaintance/coworker
- 7. Neighbor
- 8. Don't know
- 9. Other (GO TO QUESTION 52)

SKIP TO QUESTION 53

=====

52. ENTER OTHER TYPE OF RELATIONSHIP.

WHOISST 10:1-120

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53. Sometimes people have problems with wildlife in their neighborhoods or around their homes, such as raccoons getting into garbage cans, animals getting in gardens or beavers causing flooding. Have you had any problems with any wild animals or birds within the past two years?

WILDPROB 11:1

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 53)
- 2. Yes (GO TO QUESTION 55)
- 3. No
- 4. Don't know

SKIP TO QUESTION 61

=====

54. YOU DID NOT USE SPACE BAR

NOSPAC3

PRESS ENTER TO TRY AGAIN

55. Which wild animals have caused you problems?  
(DNR LIST; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

WHATAN 11:2-15

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1. Squirrels
- 2. Deer
- 3. Bear
- 4. Raccoons
- 5. Opossums
- 6. Beaver
- 7. Birds
- 8. Bats
- 9. Skunks
- 10. Woodchucks/groundhog
- 11. Muskrat
- 12. Reptiles/Amphibians
- 13. Don't know
- 14. Other

IF (#55 = 0) GO TO #54  
IF (#55 @ 14) GO TO #56

SKIP TO QUESTION 58

=====

56. ENTER OTHER TYPE OF ANIMAL CAUSING PROBLEMS.

WHATANST 12:1-120

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SKIP TO QUESTION 58

=====

57. YOU DID NOT USE SPACE BAR

NOSPAC4

PRESS ENTER TO TRY AGAIN

58. What kind of problems did the wildlife cause?  
(DNR LIST; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

WHTPRB 13:1-10

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1. Garbage
- 2. Yards
- 3. Garden
- 4. Agricultural damage
- 5. Pets
- 6. Livestock
- 7. Structural damage
- 8. Threat to humans
- 9. Don't know
- 10. Other

IF (#58 = 0) GO TO #57  
IF (#58 @ 10) GO TO #59

SKIP TO QUESTION 60

=====

59. ENTER OTHER TYPE OF PROBLEMS CAUSED BY WILDLIFE.

WHTPRBST 14:1-120

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60. Did you hire anyone to remove the nuisance animal?

HIRE 15:1

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 60)
- 2. Yes
- 3. No
- 4. Don't know

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61. Do you support or oppose trapping as a way to solve  
nuisance animal problems?

(READ SCALE AS NECESSARY; PROMPT FOR DEGREE)

NUISANCE 15:2

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 61)
- 2. Strongly support
- 3. Moderately support
- 4. Neither support nor oppose
- 5. Moderately oppose
- 6. Strongly oppose
- 7. Don't know

62. There are many different sources for information about trapping.  
I'm going to list several sources and I want to know which TWO  
you would consider to be the MOST CREDIBLE for information about  
trapping.

INFOSRCE

PRESS ENTER TO BEGIN RANDOM START OF LIST.

63. RANDOM LIST OF INFORMATION SOURCES

INFRAND 15:3

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Media (newspapers, television, radio, magazines) (GO TO  
QUESTION 64)
- 2. State fish and wildlife agency (GO TO QUESTION 65)
- 3. Celebrities (GO TO QUESTION 66)
- 4. Animal rights organizations like PETA (GO TO QUESTION 67)
- 5. Animal organizations like the Humane Society (GO TO  
QUESTION 68)
- 6. Veterinarians (GO TO QUESTION 69)
- 7. People who trap (GO TO QUESTION 70)
- 8. Family and friends (GO TO QUESTION 71)

SKIP TO QUESTION 74

=====

64. Media such as newspapers, television, radio, magazines.

MEDIA

PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE

IF (#63 = 2) GO TO #73

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65. The #4.

STATEAG

PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE

IF (#63 = 3) GO TO #73

66. Celebrities.

CELEB

PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE

IF (#63 = 4) GO TO #73

67. Animal rights organizations like PETA.

PETA

PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE

IF (#63 = 5) GO TO #73

68. Animal organizations like the Humane Society.

HUMSOC

PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE

IF (#63 = 6) GO TO #73

69. Veterinarians.

VETS

PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE

IF (#63 = 7) GO TO #73

70. People who trap.

TRAPPERS

PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE

IF (#63 = 8) GO TO #73

71. Family and friends.

FAMILY

PRESS ENTER TO CONTINUE

IF (#63 = 1) GO TO #73

SKIP TO QUESTION 64

=====

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72. YOU DID NOT USE SPACE BAR

NOSPAC5

PRESS ENTER TO TRY AGAIN

73. Which TWO of those sources would you consider to be the MOST CREDIBLE for information about trapping.

(DNR LIST; CHECK ONLY TWO RESPONSES!)

WCHINF 15:4-13

(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1. Media (newspapers, television, radio, magazines)
- 2. State fish and wildlife agency
- 3. Celebrities
- 4. Animal rights organizations like PETA
- 5. Animal organizations like the Humane Society
- 6. Veterinarians
- 7. People who trap
- 8. Family and friends
- 9. NONE OF THESE ARE CREDIBLE
- 10. Don't know

IF (#73 = 0) GO TO #72

74. Great, we're just about through. We just have a few more questions to gather background information.

DEMO

Please press ENTER to continue...

75. Do you consider your place of residence to be a large city, a suburban area, a small city, a rural area, or a farm or ranch?

RESIDE 15:14

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 75)
- 2. Large city
- 3. Suburban area
- 4. Small city/town
- 5. Rural area
- 6. Farm or ranch
- 7. DNR: Don't know
- 8. DNR: Refused

76. Are you of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity?

HISPAN 15:15

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 76)
- 2. Yes
- 3. No
- 4. DNR: Don't know
- 5. DNR: Refused

77. What race do you consider yourself?

(Read list as necessary)

RACE 15:16

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 77)
- 2. American Indian or Alaska native
- 3. Black or African American
- 4. Asian
- 5. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- 6. White
- 7. Other
- 8. DNR: Don't know
- 9. DNR: Refused

78. Would you consider yourself to be a Republican, Democrat, Independent or a member of the Reform Party?

PARTY 15:17

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 78)
- 2. Republican
- 3. Democrat
- 4. Independent
- 5. Reform Party
- 6. Don't know
- 7. REFUSED

79. Did you vote in the last election?

VOTE 15:18

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 79)
- 2. Yes
- 3. No
- 4. Don't know



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80. Which of these categories best describes your total household income before taxes last year?

(READ SCALE)

INCOME 15:19

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. (DNR: Invalid answer. Select another.) (GO TO QUESTION 80) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Less than \$19,999   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. \$20,000 to \$39,999                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. \$40,000 to \$59,999                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. \$60,000 to \$99,999                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. \$100,000 or more  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. (DNR: DON'T KNOW)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. (DNR: REFUSED)   |

81. And finally, may I ask your age?

(ENTER 999 FOR DON'T KNOW; ENTER 888 FOR REFUSED)

AGE 15:20-22

|\_|\_|\_|

LOWEST VALUE = 1

82. That's the end of the questionnaire, thank you very much for your time and cooperation!

(ENTER ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS; IN FIRST PERSON; 120 CHARACTERS)

END 16:1-120

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83. OBSERVE AND RECORD RESPONDENT'S GENDER

GENDER 17:1

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Invalid answer. Select another. (GO TO QUESTION 83) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Don't know  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Male  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Female  |

84. TIME INTERVIEW WAS COMPLETED

ENDTIME 17:2-6

|\_|\_|\_|\_|

85. Please enter your initials in LOWERCASE ONLY!

INTVPRINT 17:7-9

|\_|\_|\_|\_|

86. Enter the area code and telephone number of number dialed.

TELEPHON 17:10-19

|\_|\_|\_|\_|-|\_|\_|\_|\_|-|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|

LOWEST VALUE = 1

87. SAVE OR ERASE INTERVIEW.  
DO NOT ERASE A COMPLETED INTERVIEW!

FINISH 17:20

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |\_| 1. Save answers (GO TO QUESTION 89)
- |\_| 2. Erase answers
- |\_| 3. Review answers (GO TO QUESTION 5)

88. ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO ERASE THIS INTERVIEW?  
ONLY ERASE IF: Terminated (record on back),  
RF, BZ, NA, DS, BG, DL, AM

MAKESURE 17:21

(CHECK ONLY ONE ANSWER)

- |\_| 1. No, do not erase the answers (GO TO QUESTION 87)
- |\_| 2. Yes, erase this interview

89. Date call was made

INTVDATE 17:22-29

|\_|\_|\_|\_|\_|-|\_|\_|\_|\_|-|\_|\_|\_|\_|  
Year Month Day

SAVE IF (#87 = 1)

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