



Survey of Bangladesh Public Opinion

May 23 - June 10, 2015

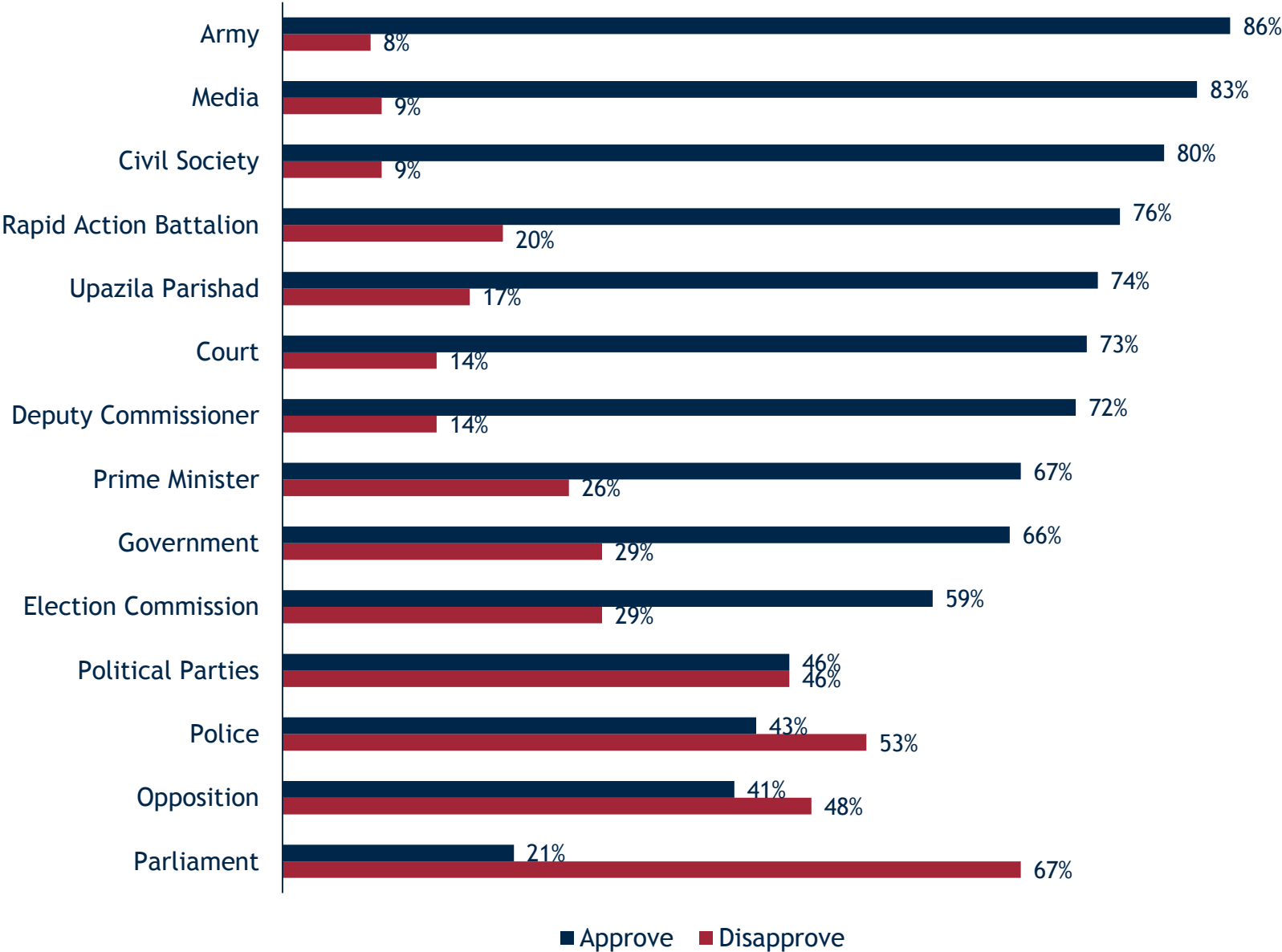
Detailed Methodology

- The survey was conducted by Nielsen-Bangladesh under the supervision of Rob Varsalone of [Global Strategic Partners](#) and the International Republican Institute between May 23 and June 10, 2015.
- Data was collected using a multi-stage stratified probability sample and through in-person, in-home interviews. The sample was stratified by the seven administrative divisions, by district and by urban and rural locations.
- The sample consisted of 2,550 respondents (response rate: 47 percent) aged 18 and older, and was representative of voting-age adults nationally.
- The sample was distributed into 255 primary sampling units (PSU) from all 64 districts of all seven divisions. PSUs were defined as *mouza* in rural areas and as *mahalla* in urban areas.
- The probability-proportional-to-size method was used to select localities. After identifying a centrally located starting point, the Date Method was used to select the first house and then Systematic Random Sampling was used to select the appropriate household. Within each household, the Kish Grid was then used to select respondents 18 years and older.
- Interview teams were comprised of both males and females.
- The margin of error does not exceed plus or minus two percent at the mid-range with a confidence level of 95 percent.
- The information in this report has been compiled in accordance with international standards for market and social research methodologies. Figures in charts and tables may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.

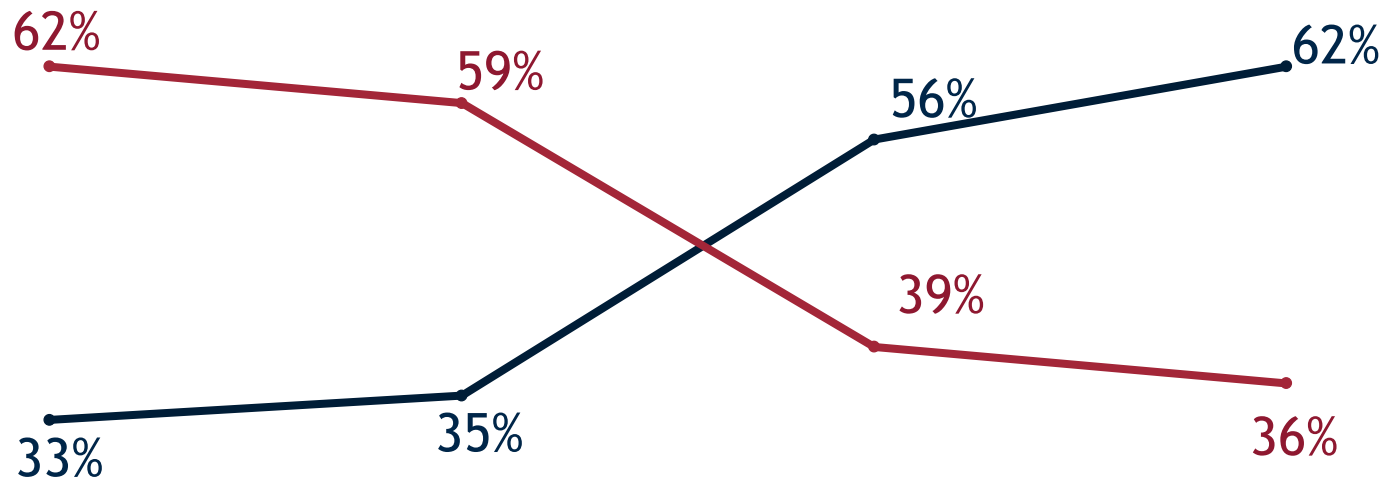


Government Shores Up its Support

Do you approve or disapprove of the job being done by the...?



Do you believe things in Bangladesh are heading in the right direction, or are they heading in the wrong direction?



Nov 2013

Jan 2014

Sept 2014

June 2015

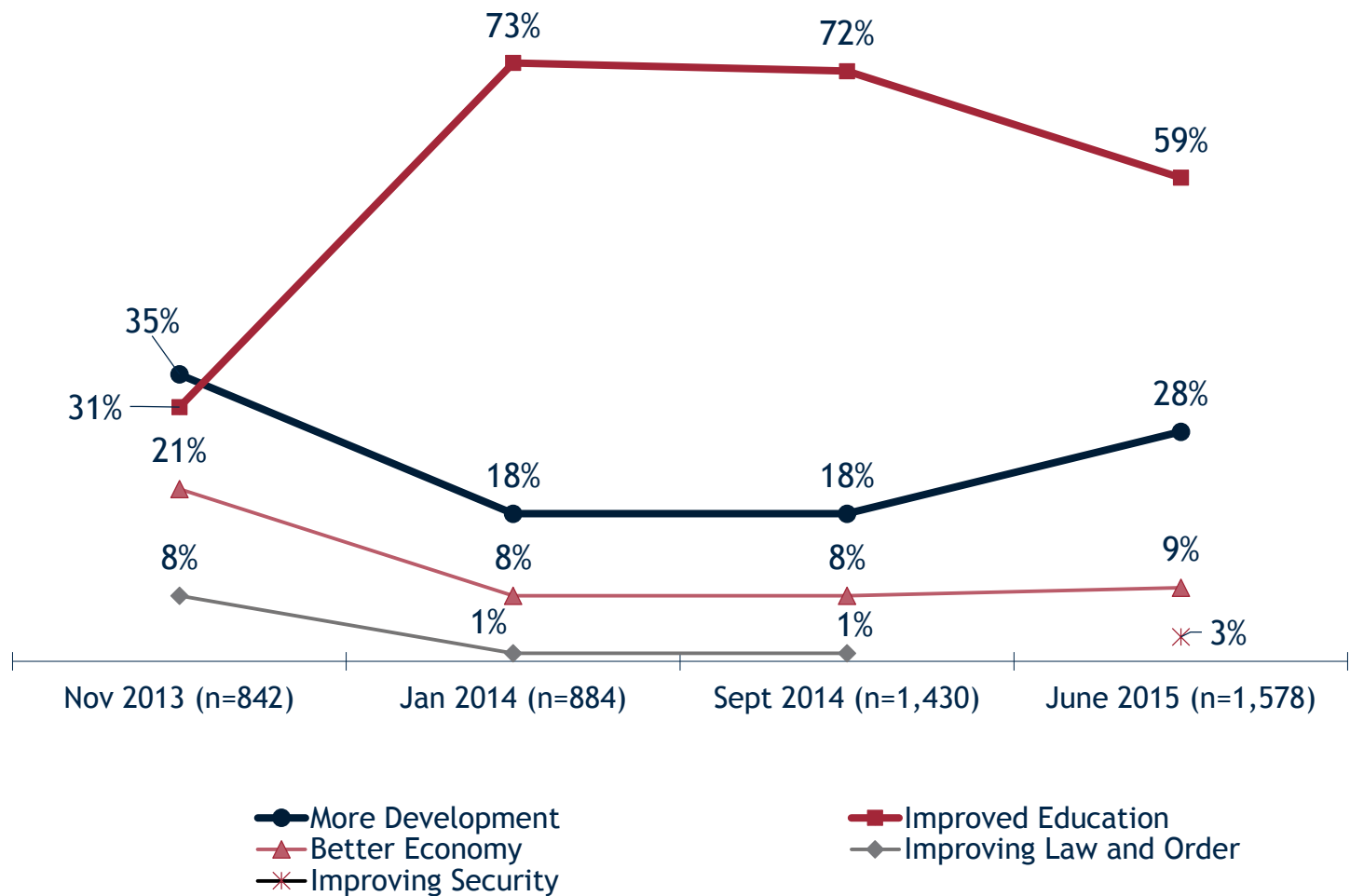
—●— Right Direction

—●— Wrong Direction

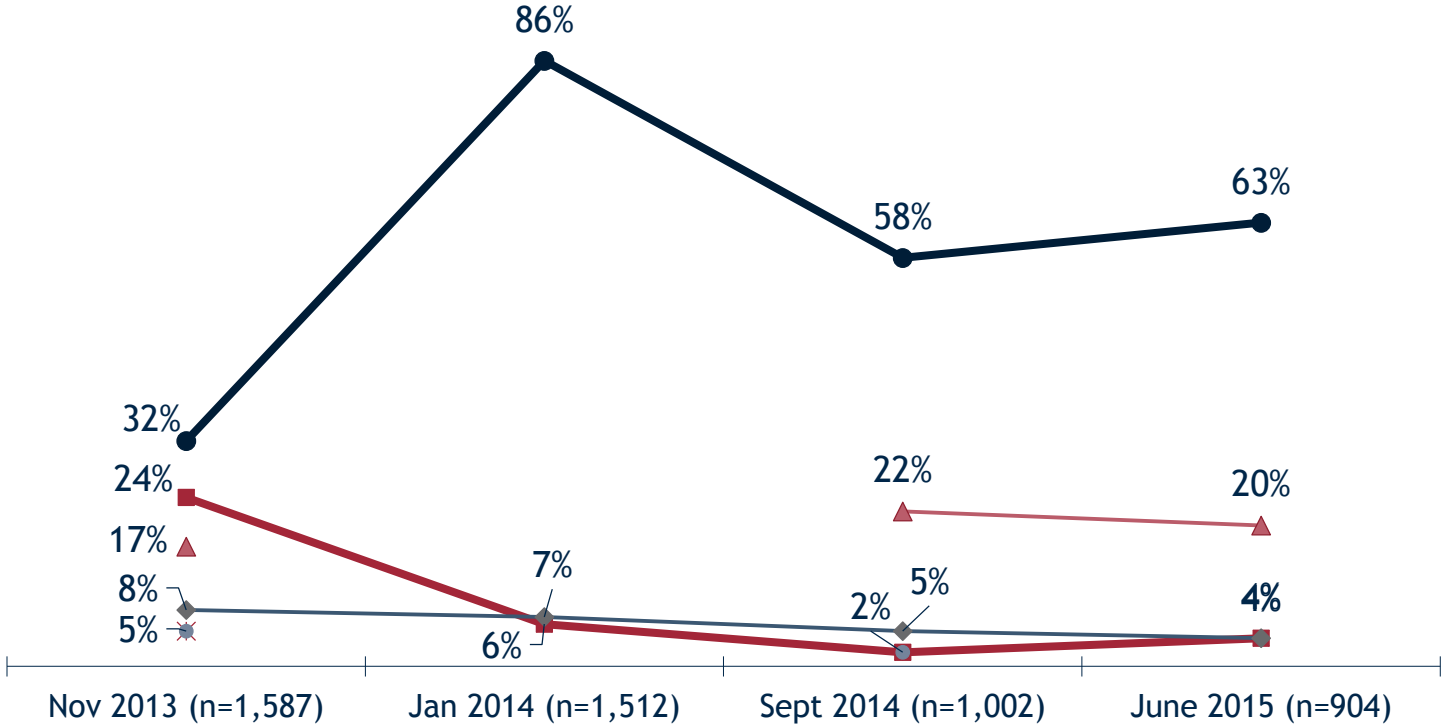
Do you believe things in Bangladesh are heading in the right direction, or are they heading in the wrong direction?
(Right Track by Demographic)

	Jan 2014	Sept 2014	June 2015
Urban	29%	50%	58%
Rural	36%	58%	63%
Division			
Dhaka	37%	55%	66%
Chittagong	20%	57%	55%
Rajshahi	25%	60%	48%
Khulna	45%	49%	60%
Barisal	51%	45%	75%
Sylhet	44%	49%	73%
Rangpur	35%	70%	65%

Top reasons given for why Bangladesh is on the right track. (Open-ended, Pre-coded)

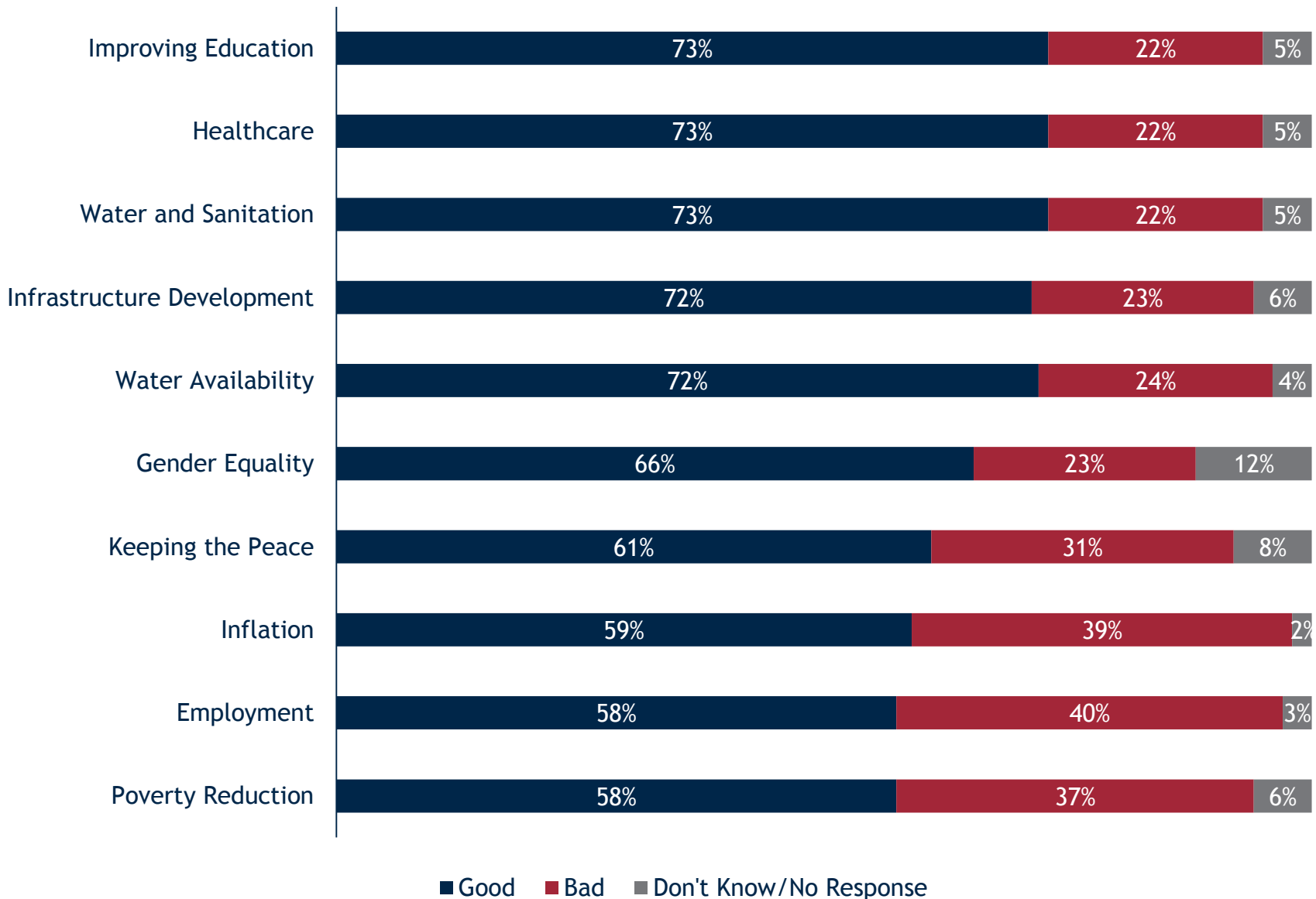


Top reasons given for why Bangladesh is on the wrong track. (Open-ended, Pre-coded)

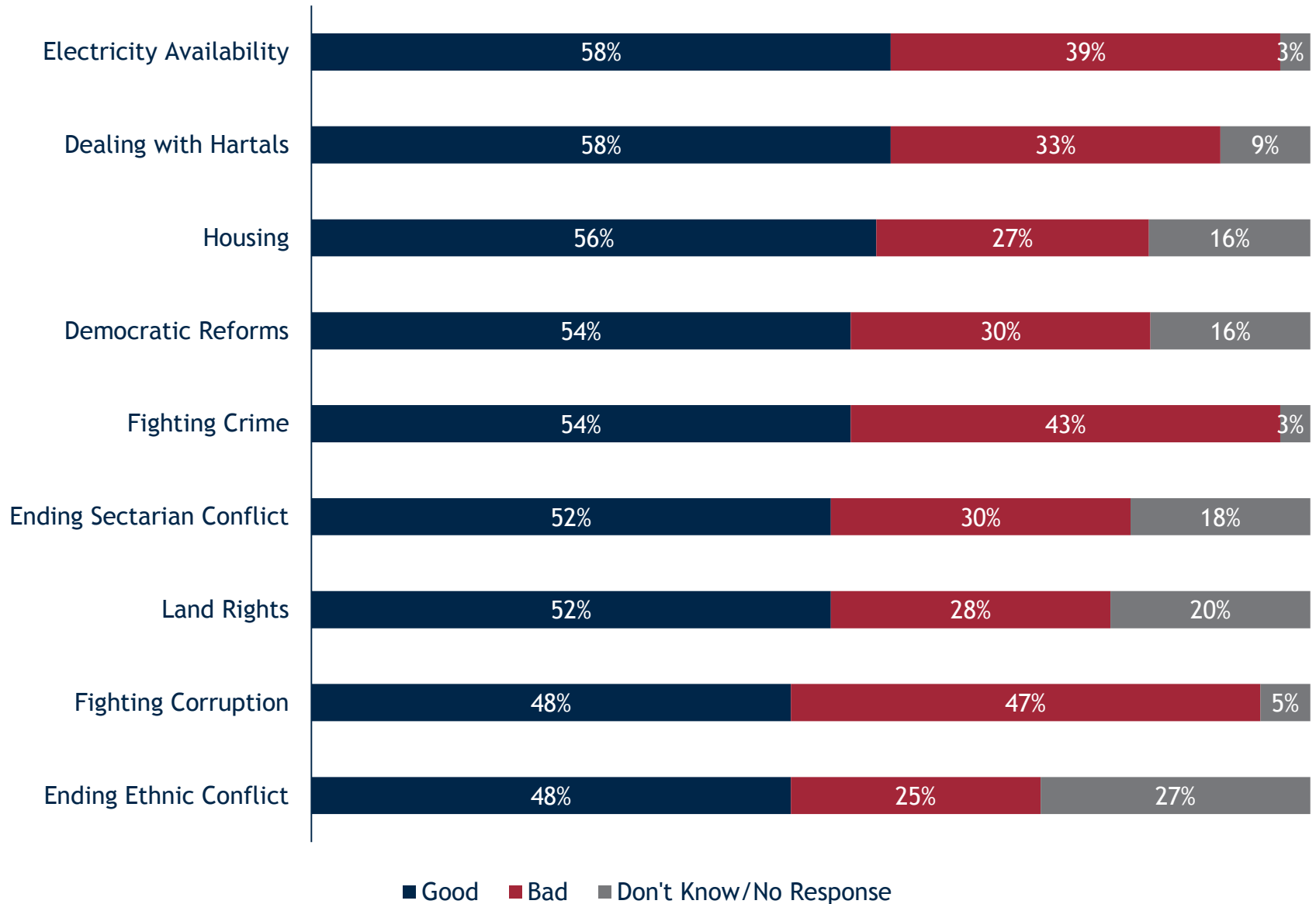


- Political Instability
- ▲ Price Hikes
- ✱ Lack of Development
- Frequent Strikes
- ◆ Poor Economy
- Lack of Law and Order

For each of the following issues, how would you rate the national government's performance?



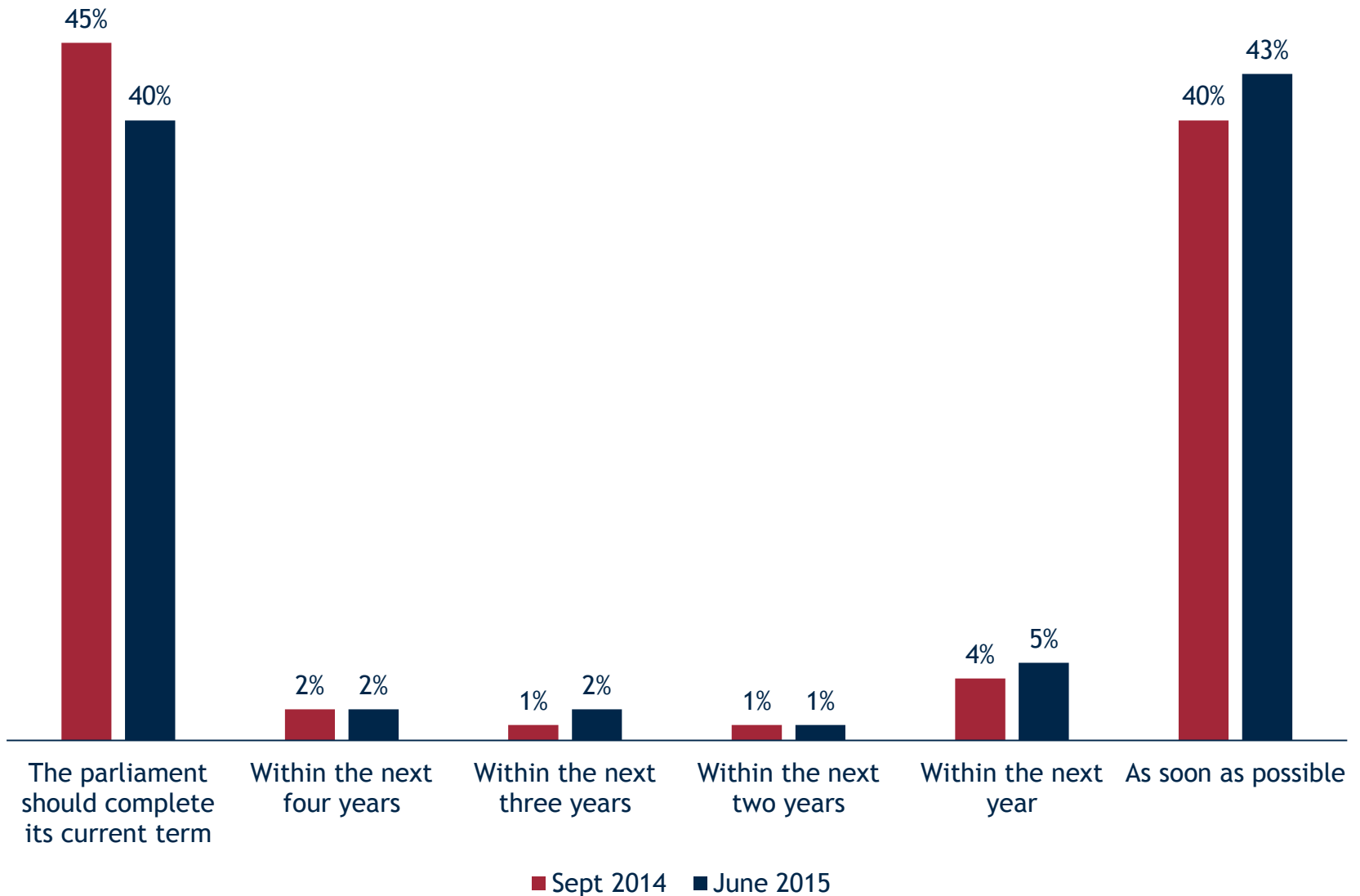
For each of the following issues, how would you rate the national government's performance? (continued)





Sharp Divide Remains

Thinking now about elections, when would you like to see the next national elections occur?





Dominant Concern Over Corruption

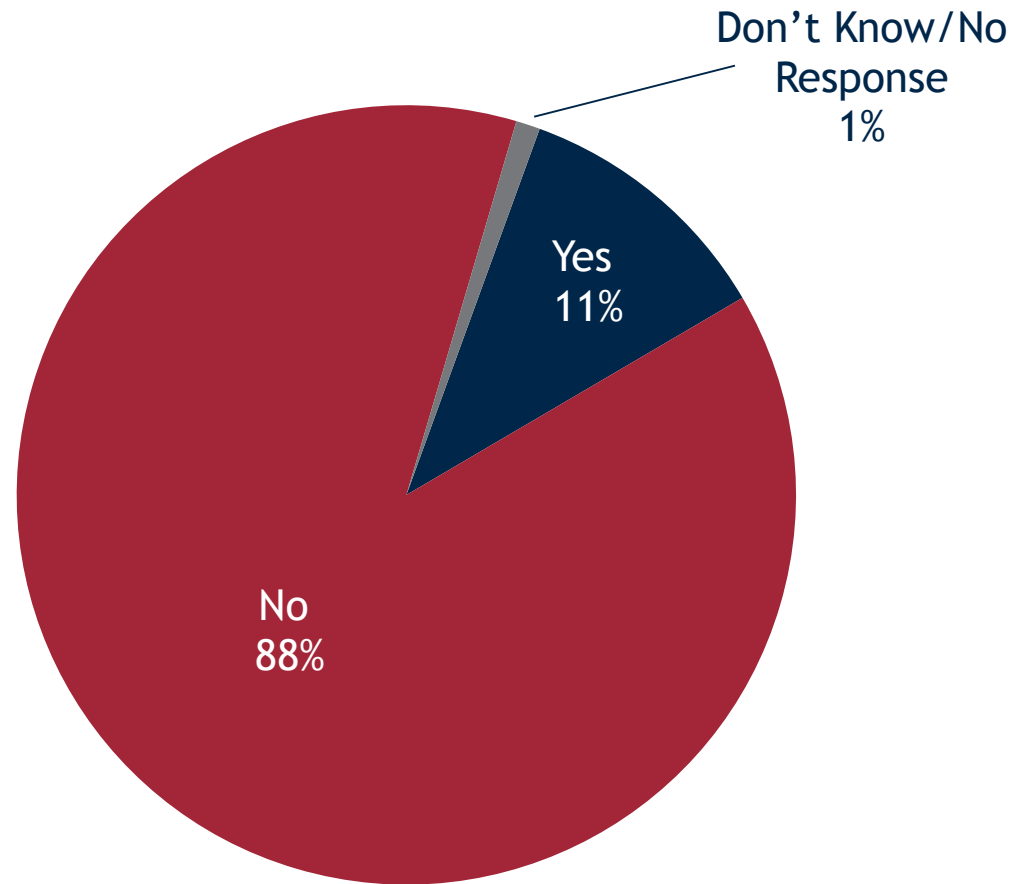
What do you think is the most important problem facing Bangladesh? (Open-ended)

June 2015	
Corruption	24%
Political Instability	16%
Security/Law and Order	15%
Unemployment	7%
Bad Infrastructure	6%
Power/Electricity/Gas	6%
Education	3%
Disaster Relief	3%
Poverty Reduction	2%
Political Reform	2%
Price Inflation	2%
Food Security	2%
Health Care	1%
Water Supply/Sanitation	1%
Religious Extremism	1%

A similar question asked in the Nov 2013, Jan 2014 and Sept 2014 surveys as “What are the top three issues in Bangladesh? (Open-ended)” yielded the following results:

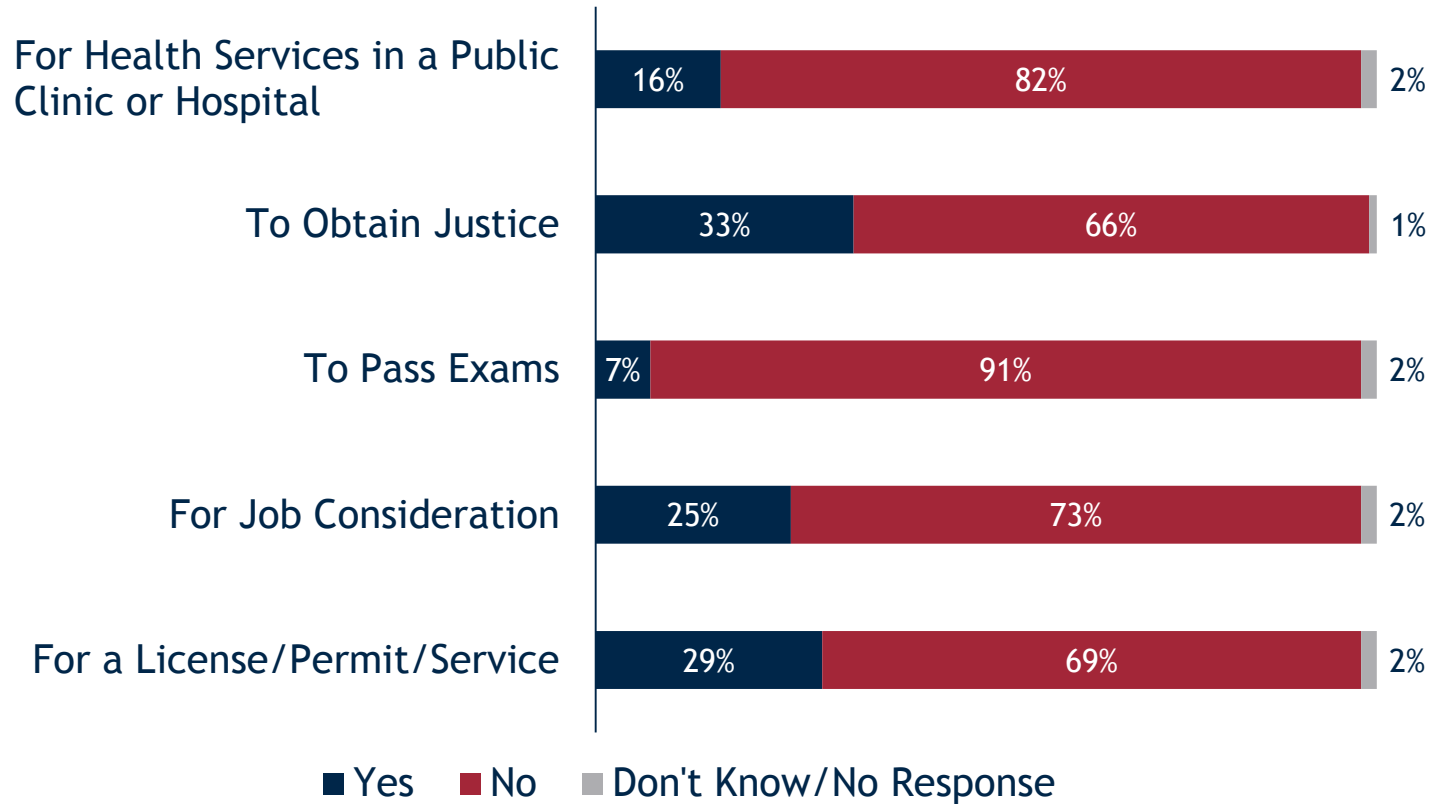
	Nov 2013	Jan 2014	Sept 2014
Corruption	20%	36%	20%
Infrastructure	3%	1%	17%
Political Instability	34%	39%	13%
Economy	23%	7%	13%
Crime	11%	11%	9%

Have you ever paid a bribe or given a gift to a government employee or official in order to obtain government services?

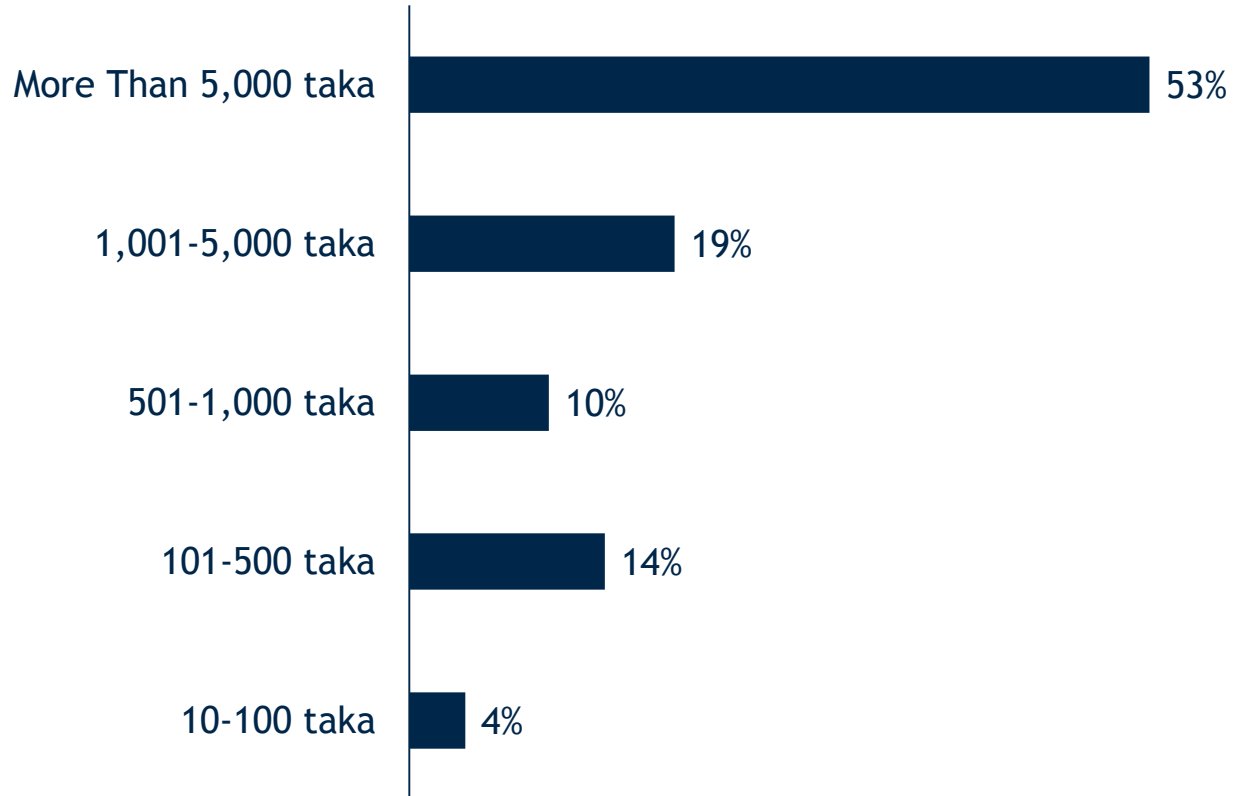


Have you ever paid a bribe or given a gift...

(Of those responding yes in previous question, n=272)



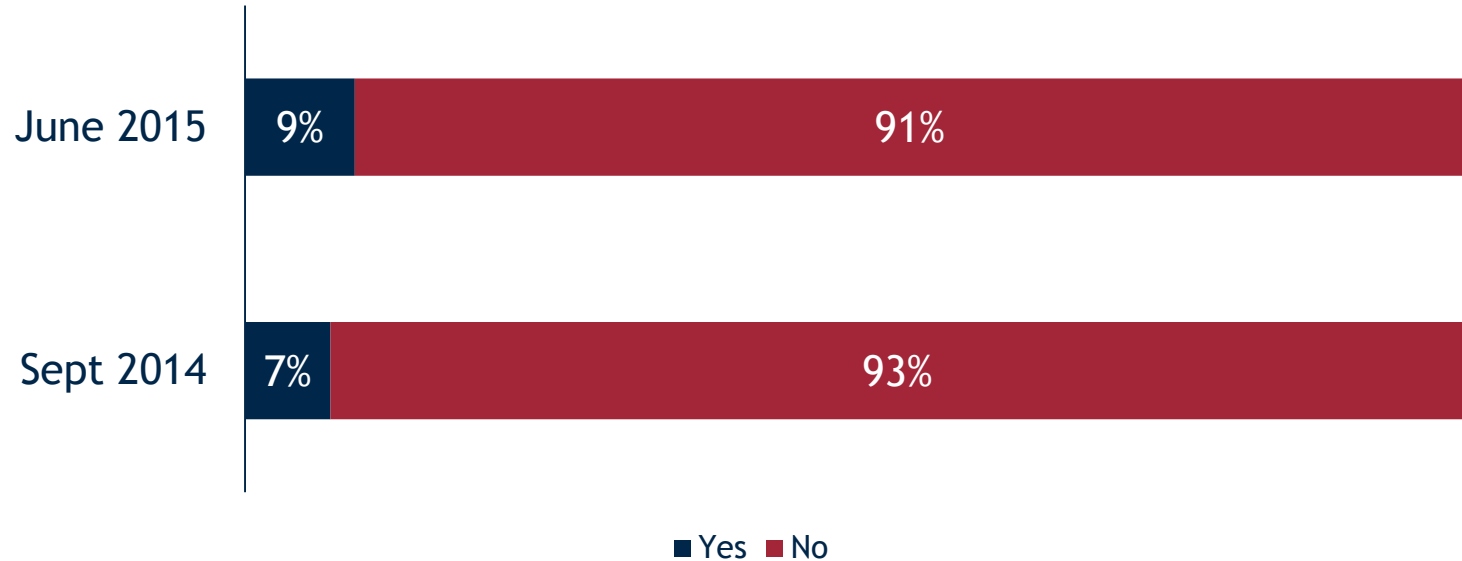
How much have you had to pay? (Of those responding that they have paid a bribe, n=272)





Elections and Campaign Finance

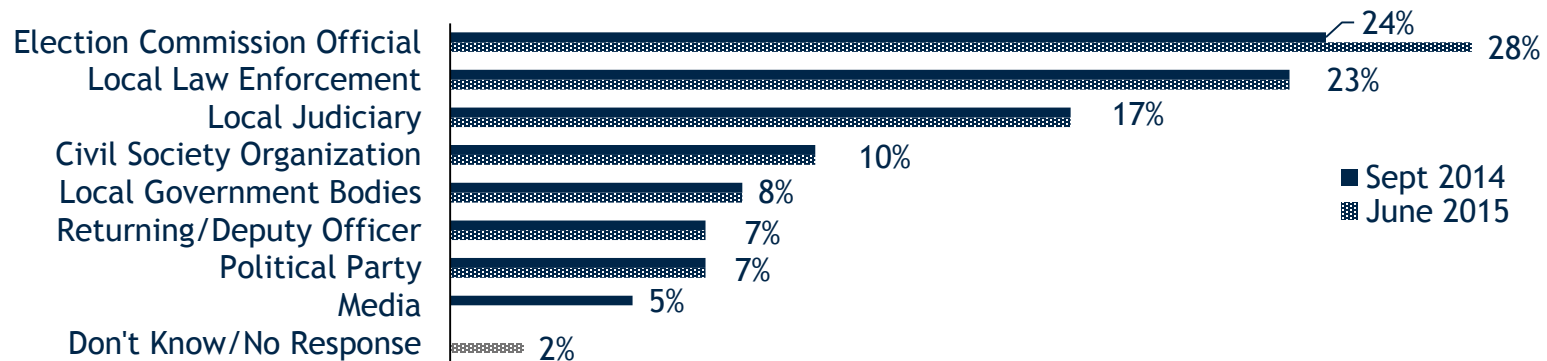
Do you know how to submit an official election complaint?



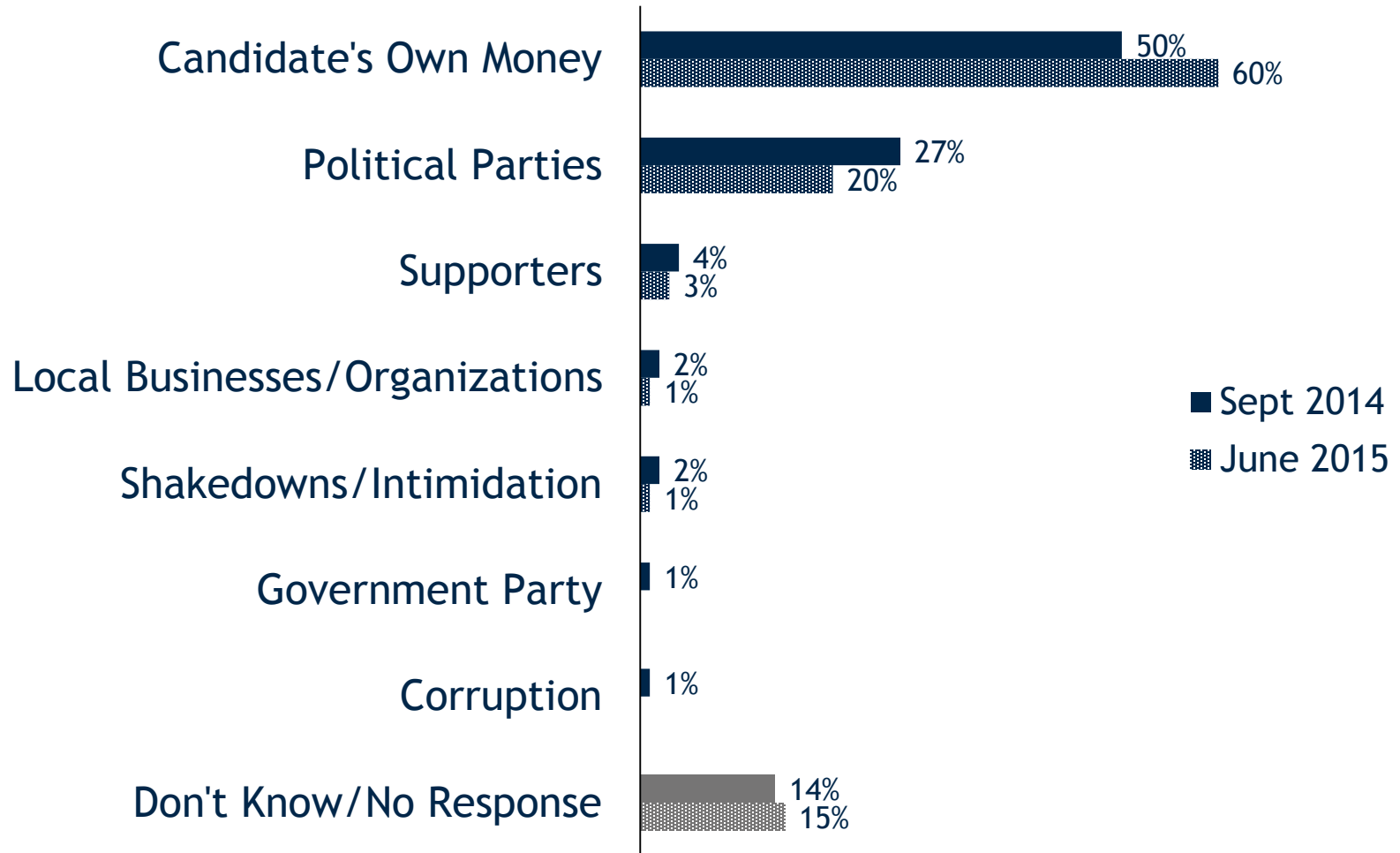
If yes, how did you learn about the process to submit an official complaint?

Sept 2014 n=181

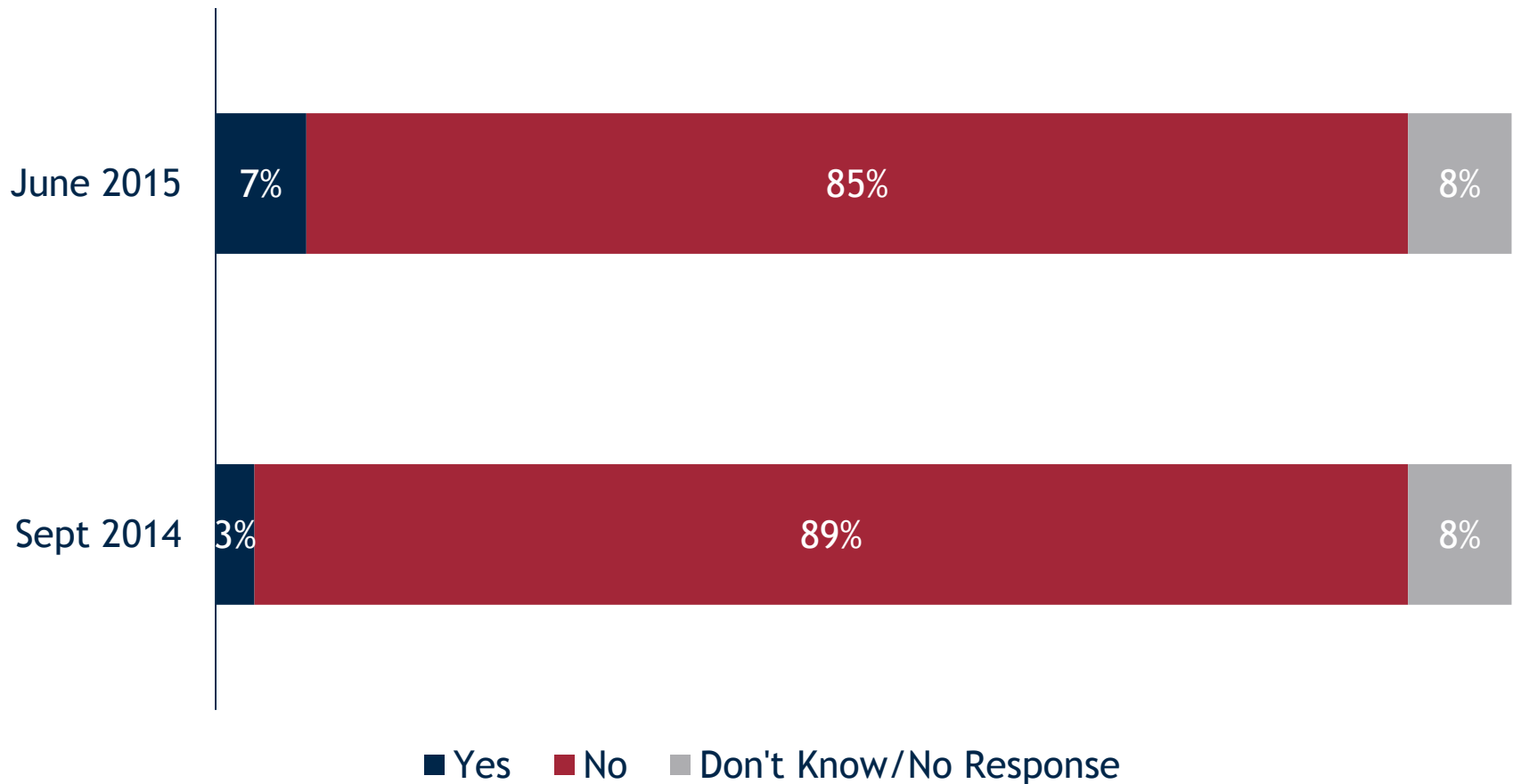
June 2015 n=223



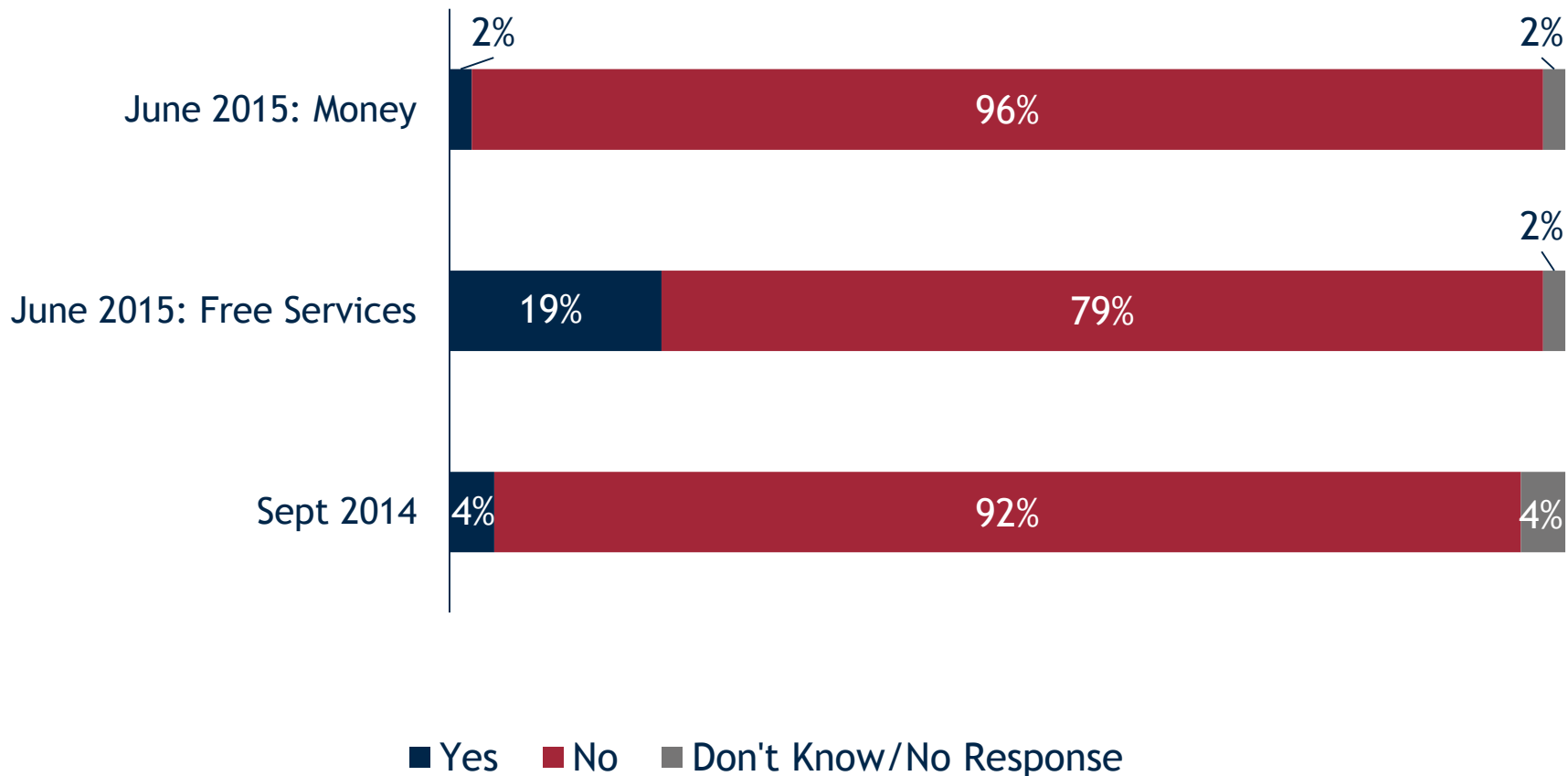
Where do you believe candidates for elections receive most of the money for their campaigns?



Have you ever personally witnessed incumbent candidates using government offices or vehicles during their campaigns?

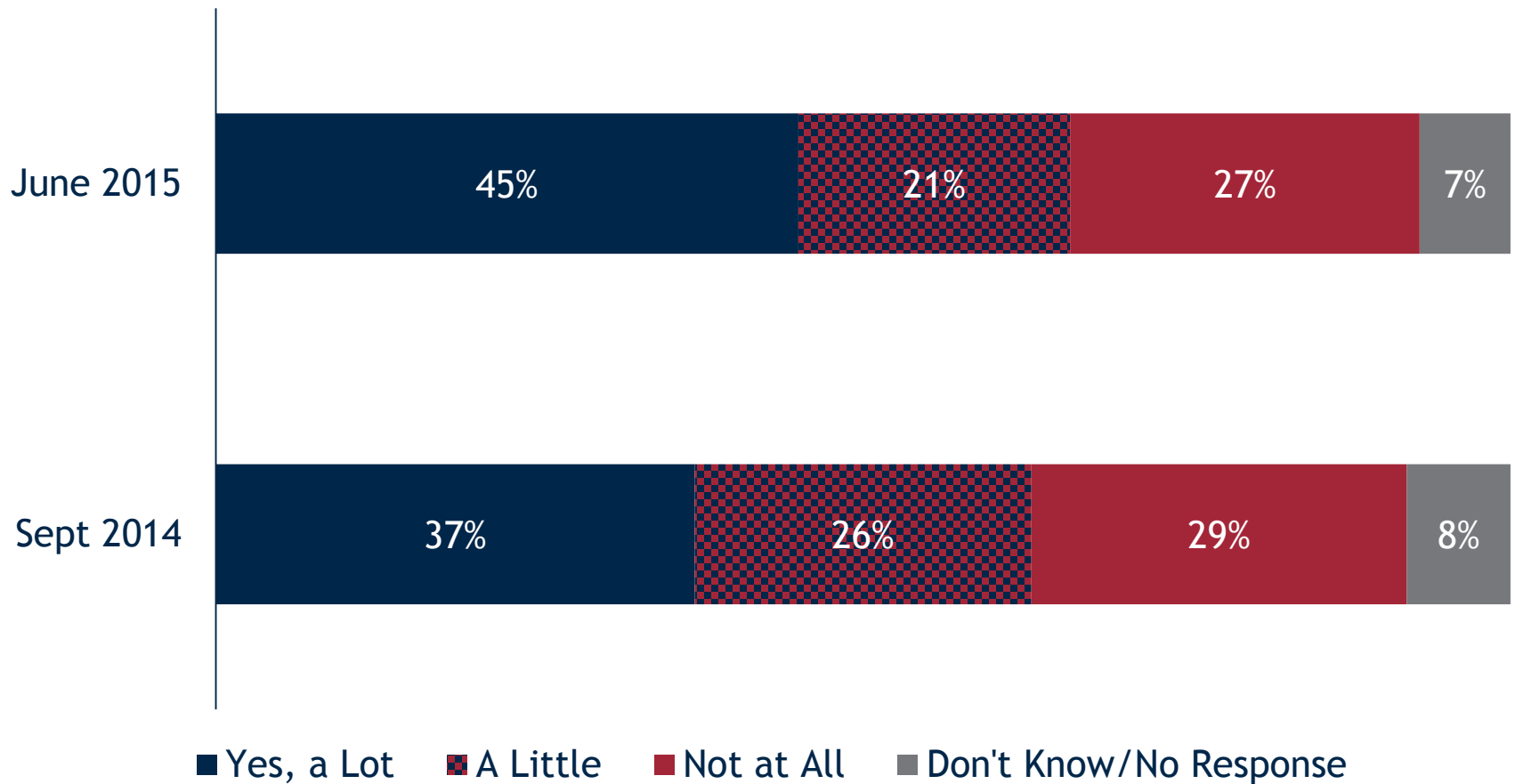


Have you ever been asked to contribute money or free services* to a candidate or political party for an election campaign?

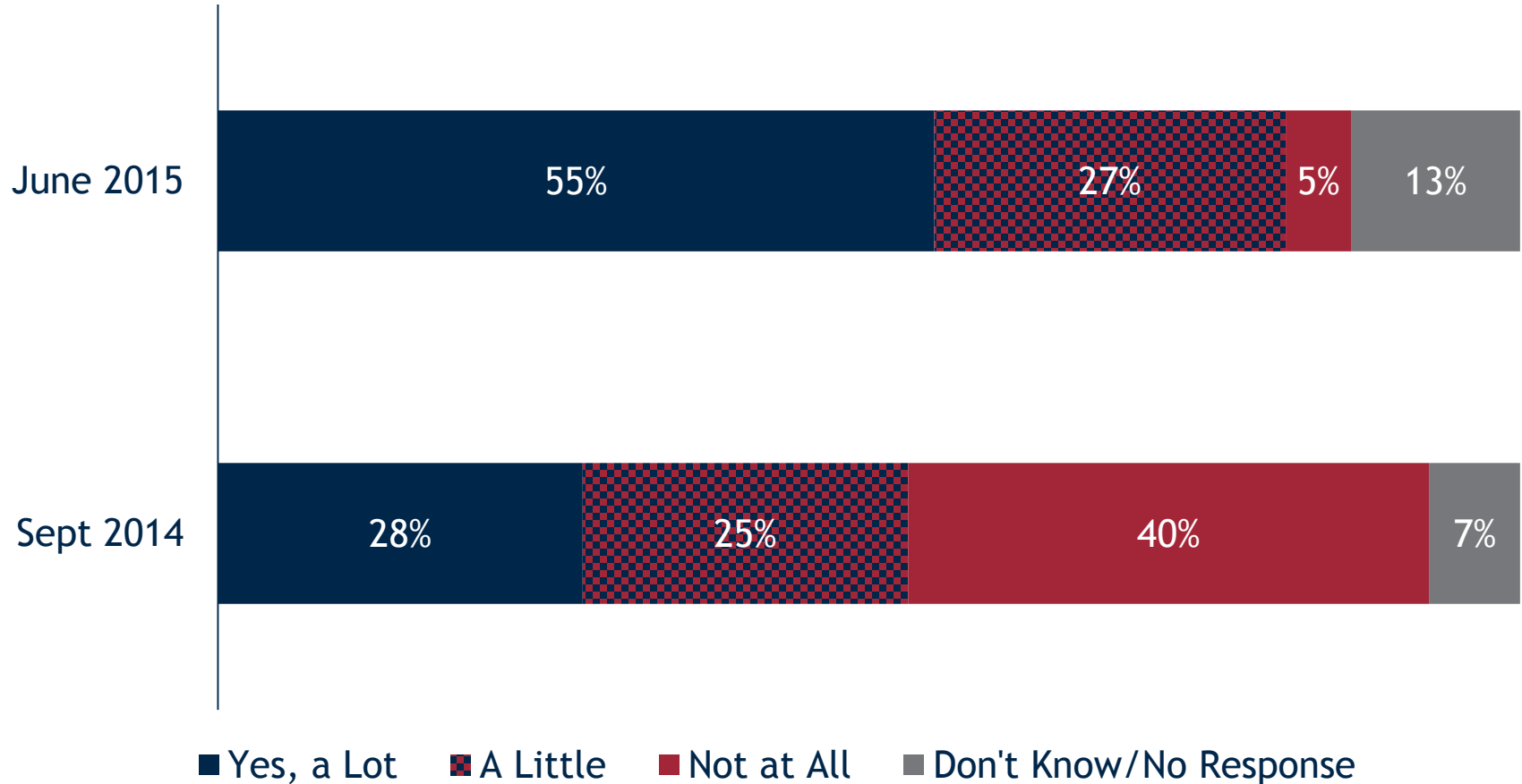


*In September 2014, the question was phrased to include money and free services. In June 2015, money and free services were separated into two questions.

Does it bother you if a candidate spends more money on his/her campaign than is allowed by the law?

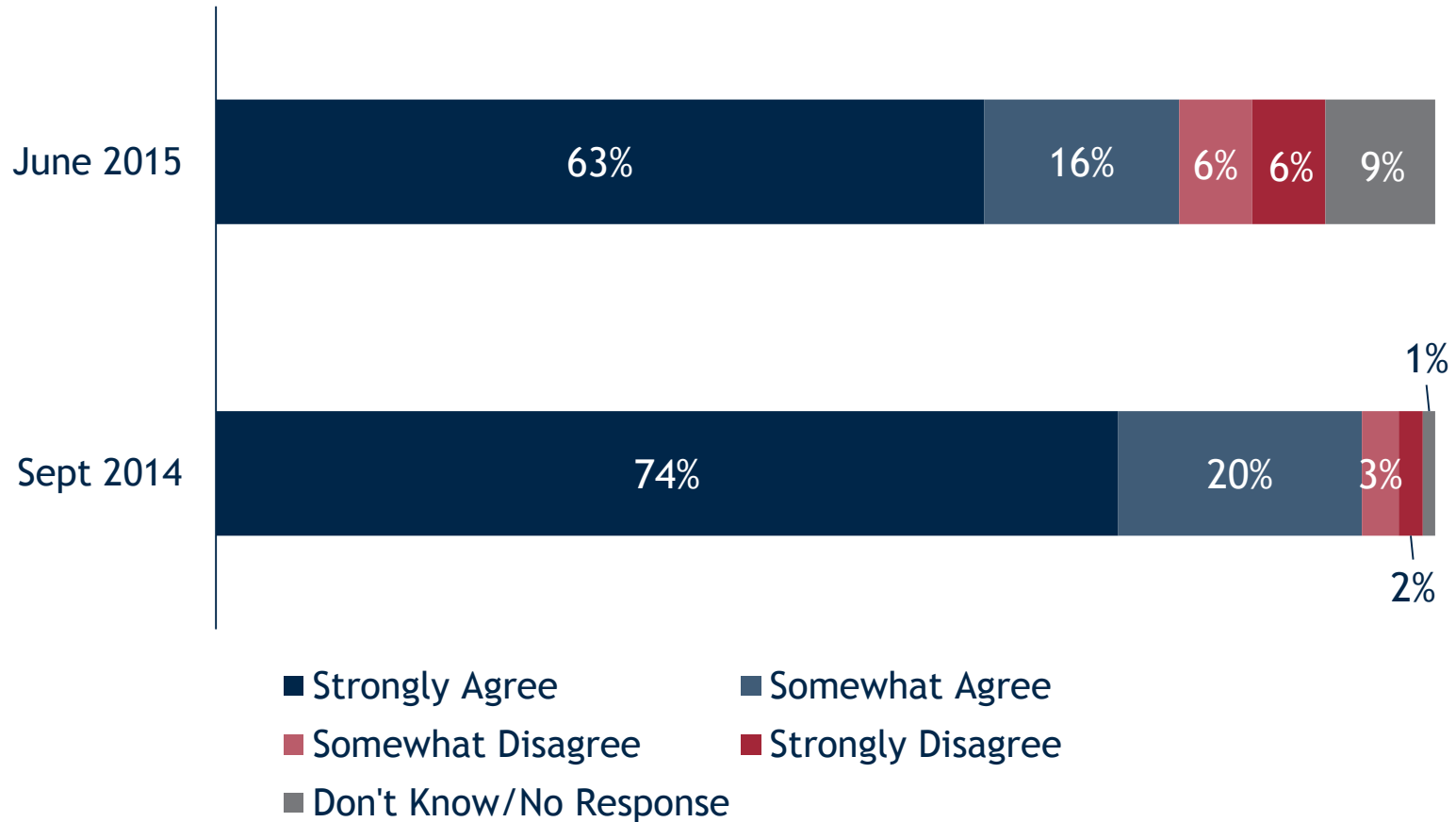


Does it bother you if a candidate spends his/her personal money on campaign expenses?

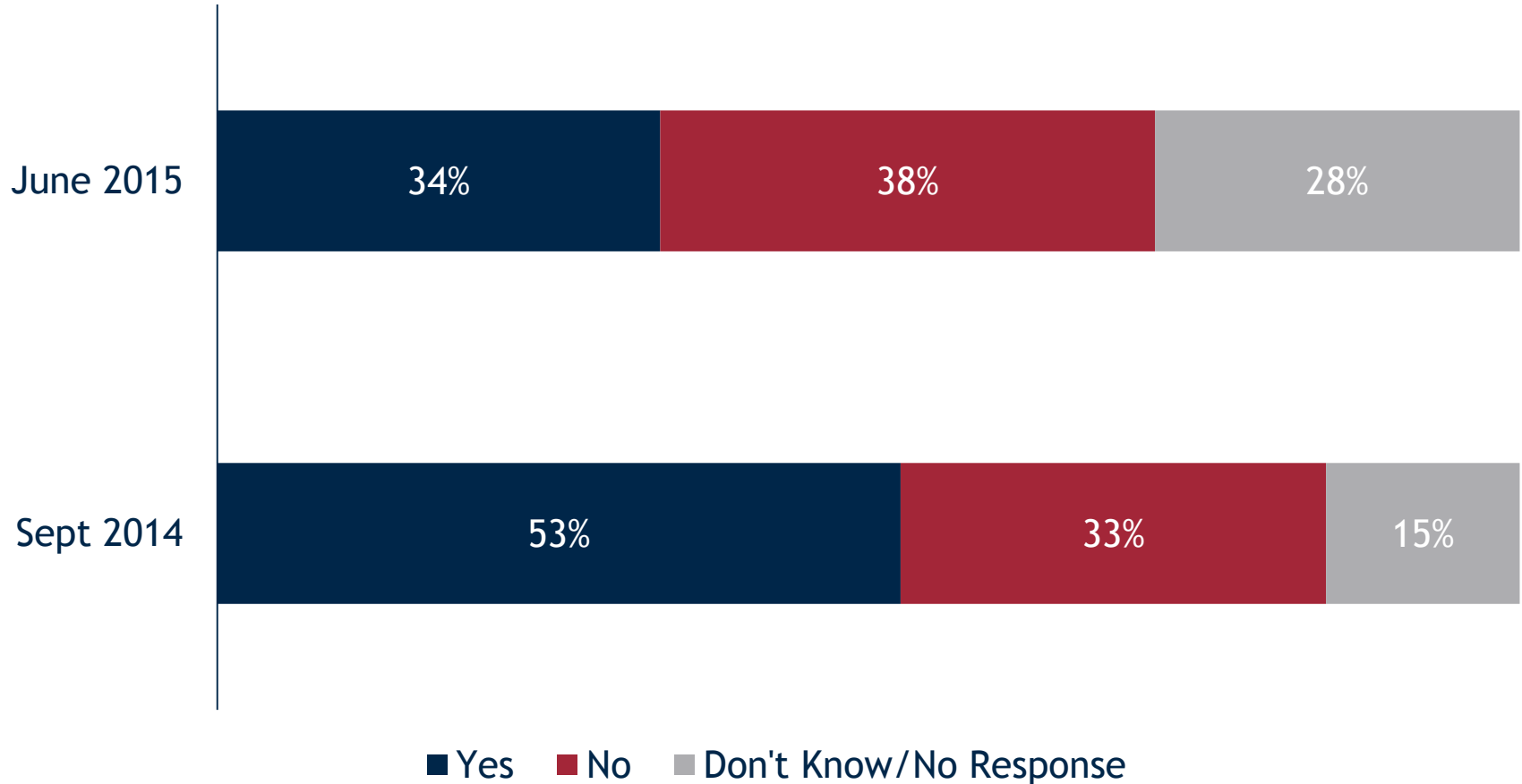


Agree or Disagree?

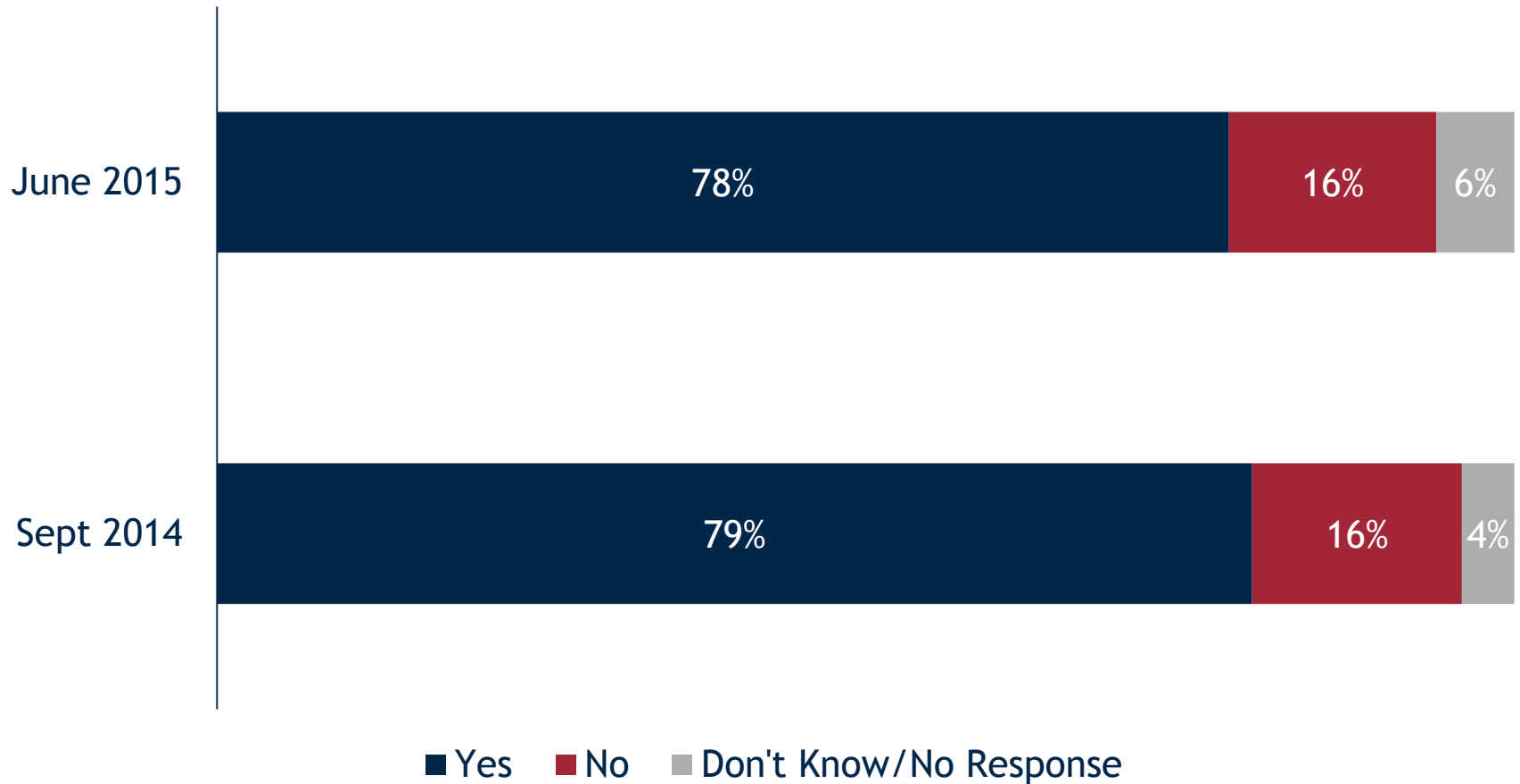
Information on a candidate's assets and his/her campaign expenses should be public knowledge.



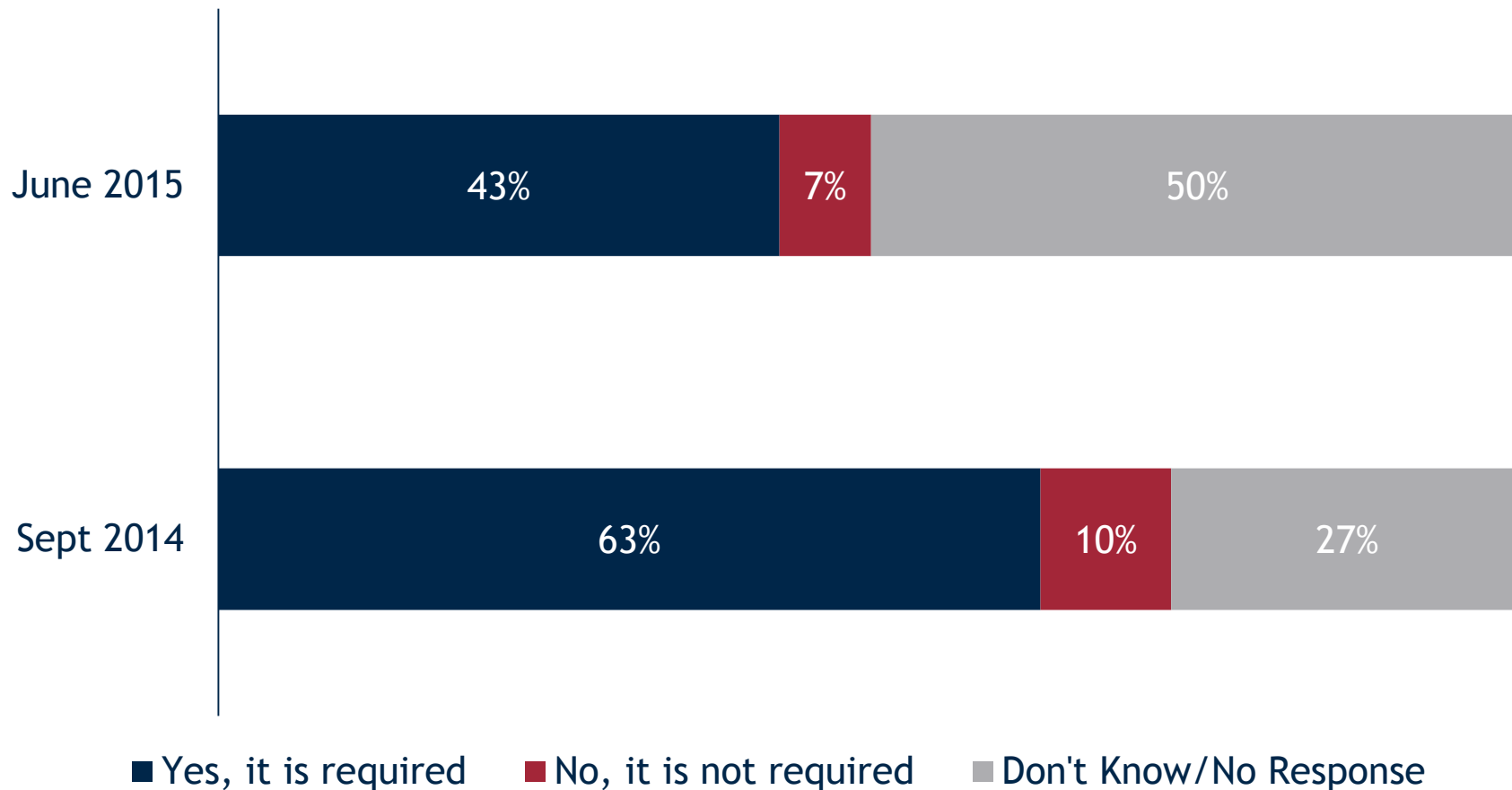
Do you believe the election commission is capable of tracking and regulating money spent on campaigns?



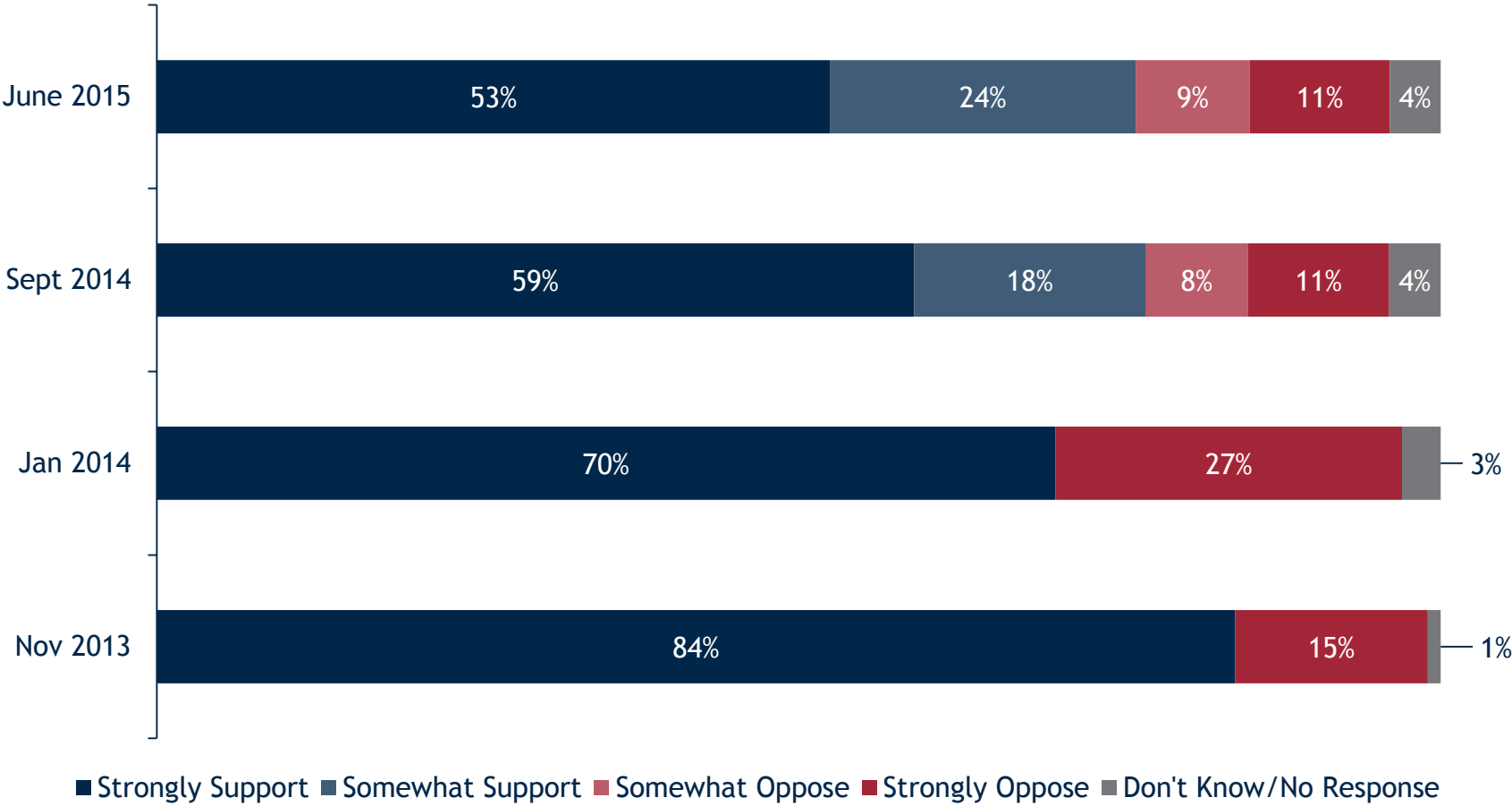
Thinking about the election law, as far as you know, is it illegal for candidates to provide food and small gifts to voters during the campaigns?



Thinking some more about the election law, as far as you know, are candidates required to submit to the returning officer a list of what they spent money on during the campaigns?

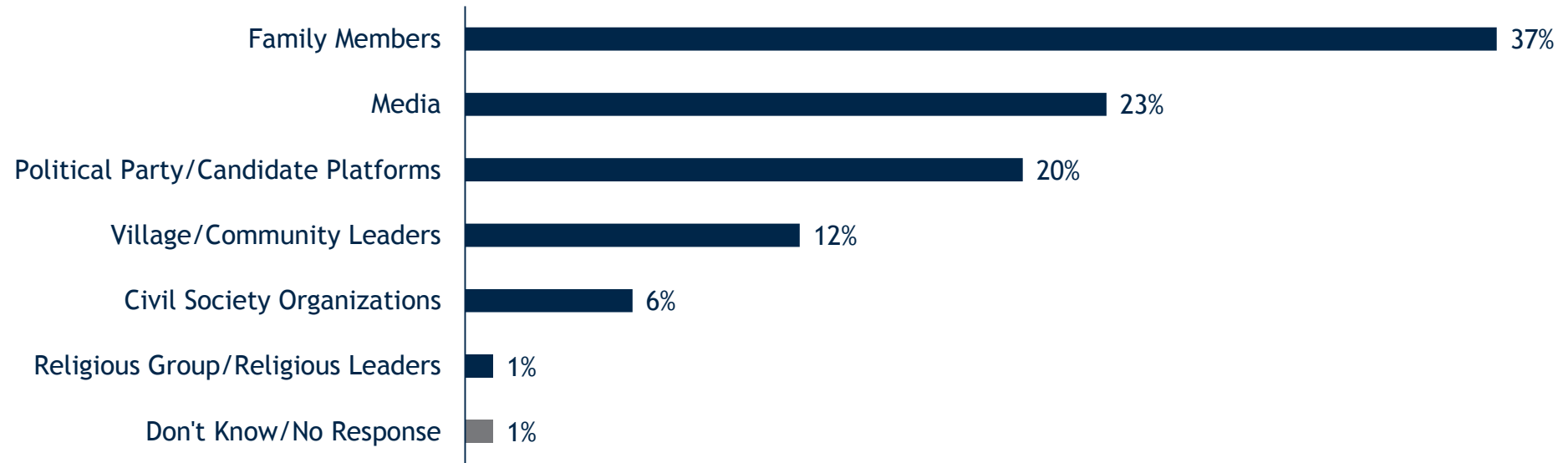


Would you support a law that bans general strikes, blockades and other forms of violent protest?

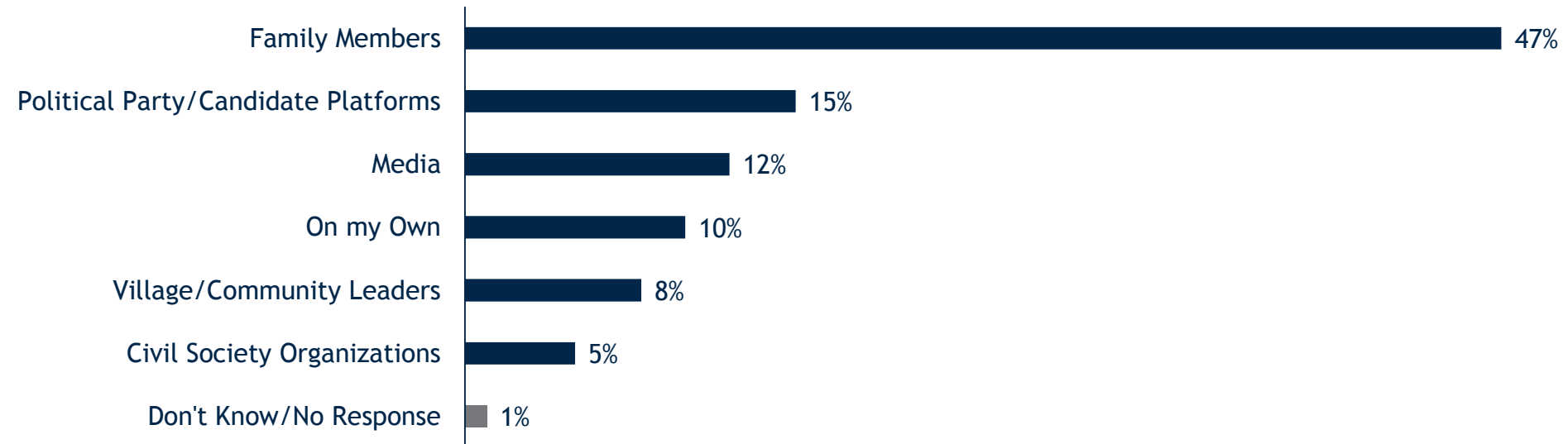


*In November 2013 and January 2014, intensity (“strongly” versus “somewhat”) was not included in the question phrasing.

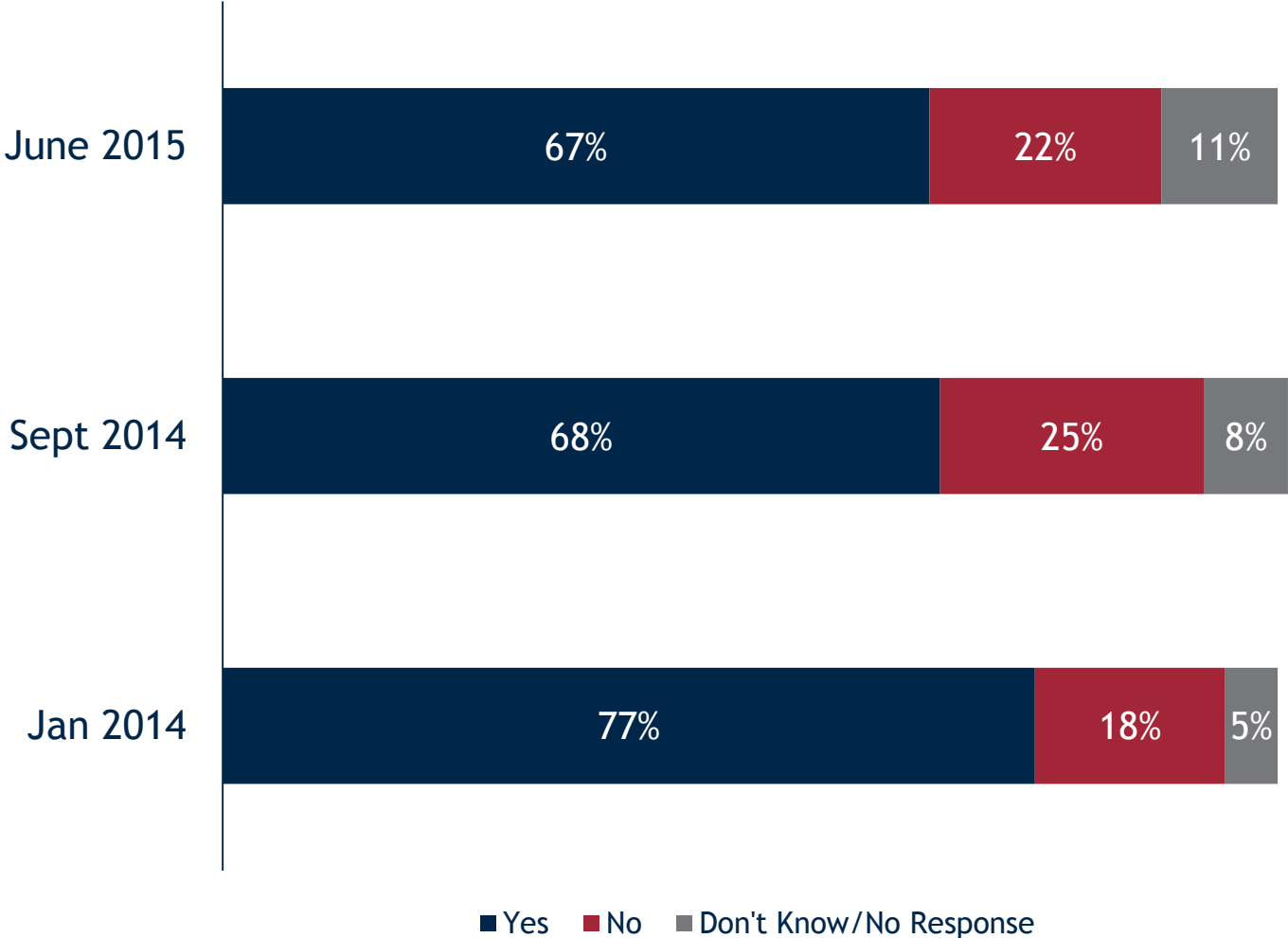
Where do you get information related to candidates and political parties?



What or who influences your voting decision the most?



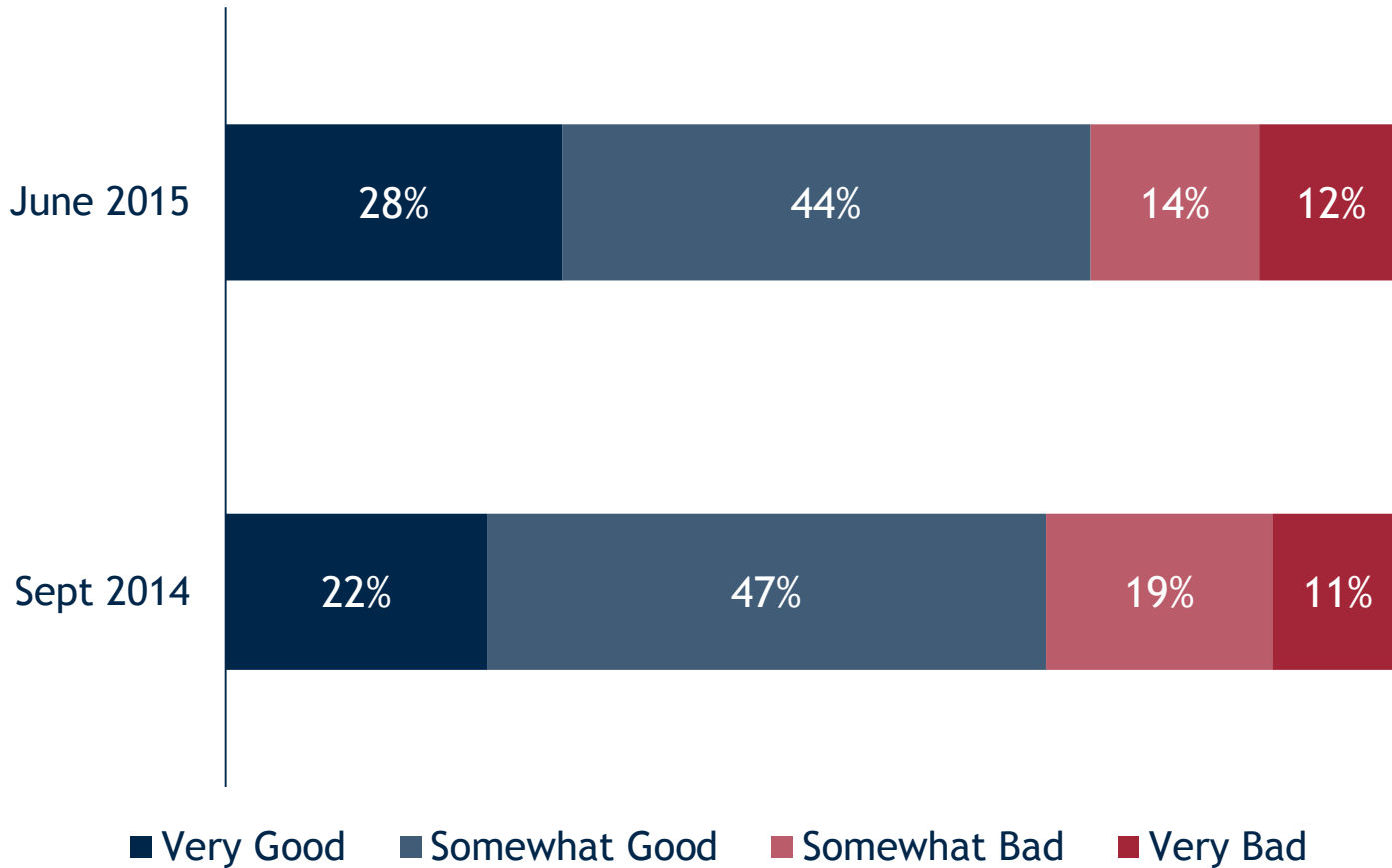
Should a non-party, caretaker government be brought back before the next parliamentary elections?



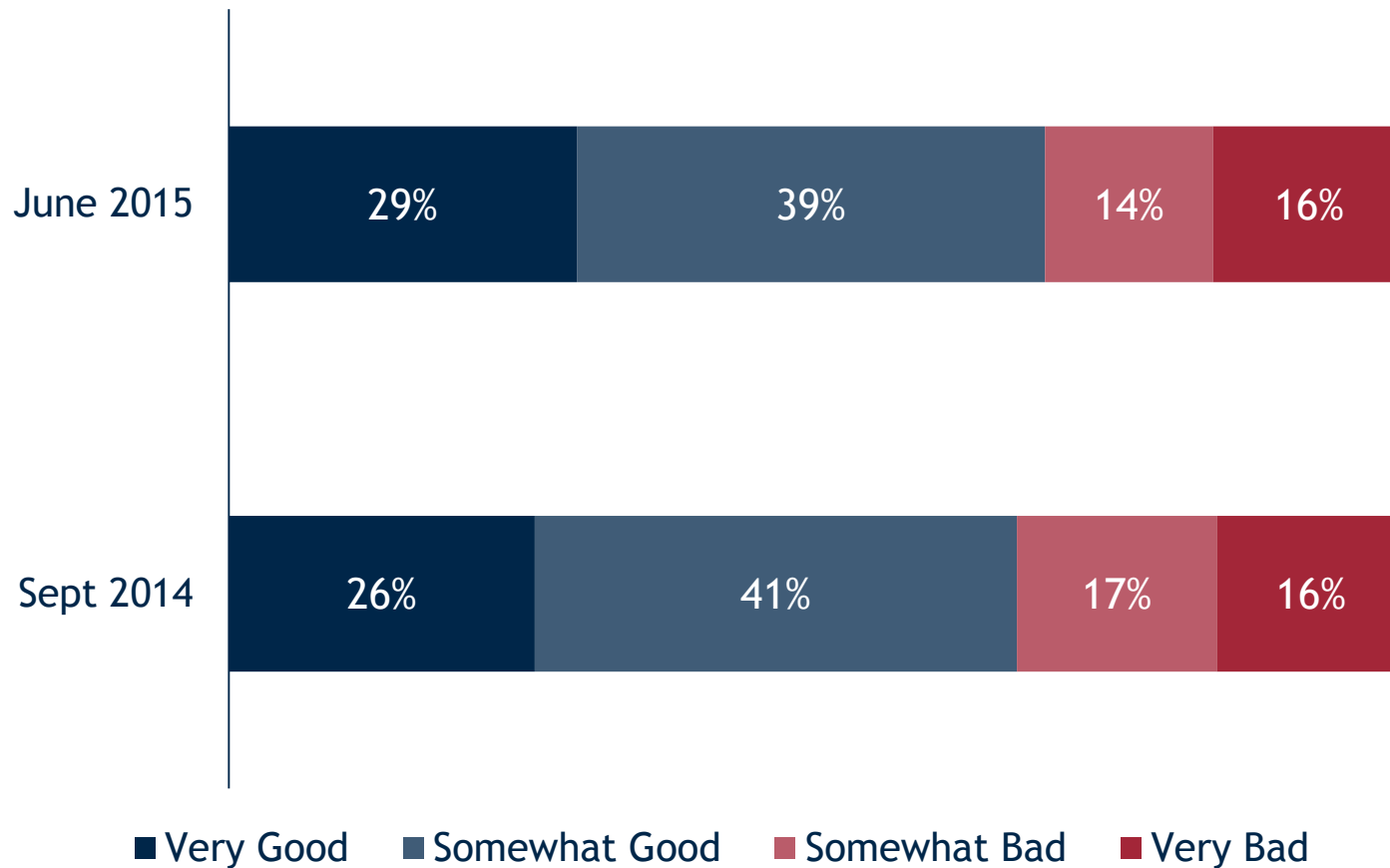


Ratings and Outlooks

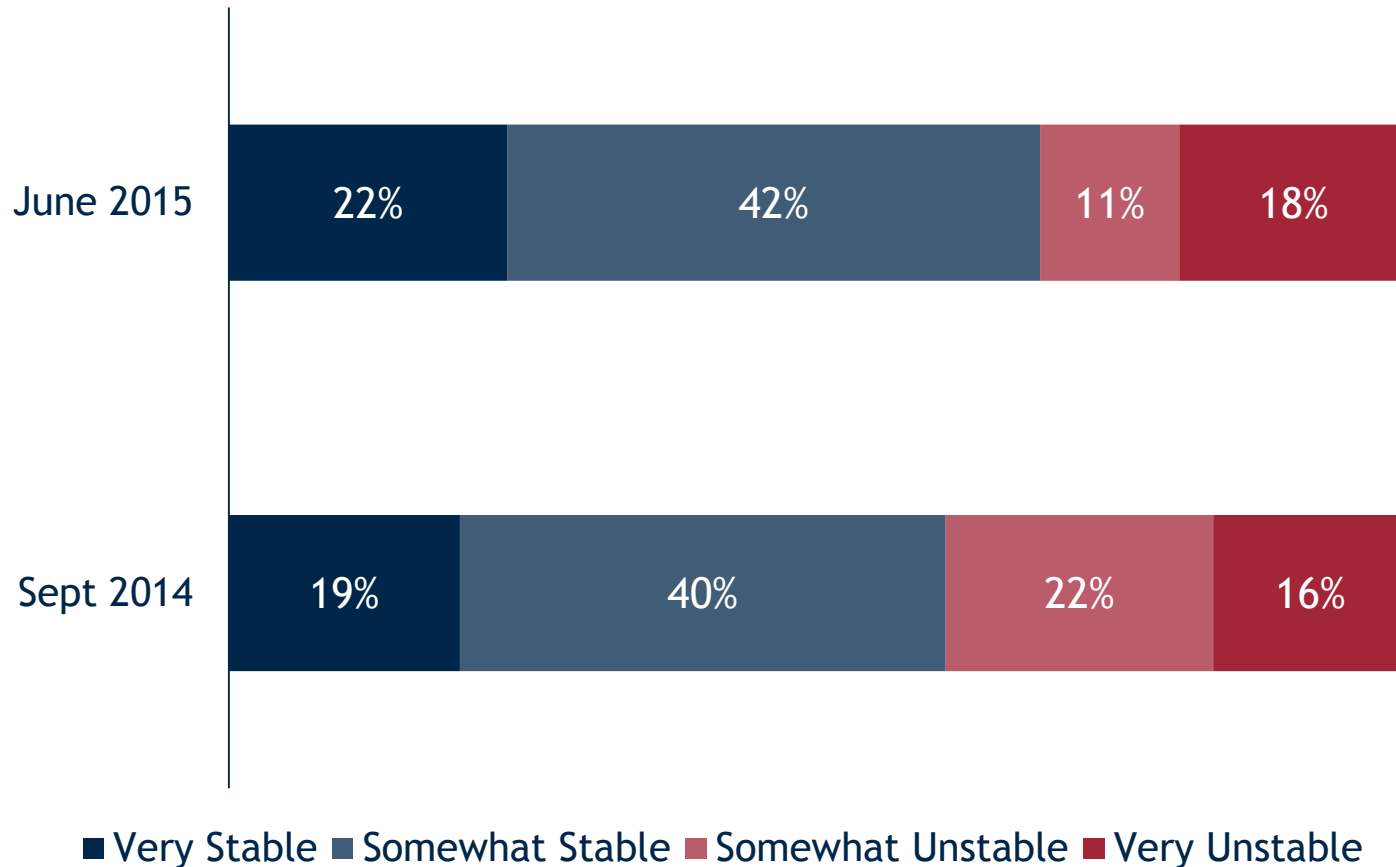
Overall, how would you rate the current economic conditions in Bangladesh?



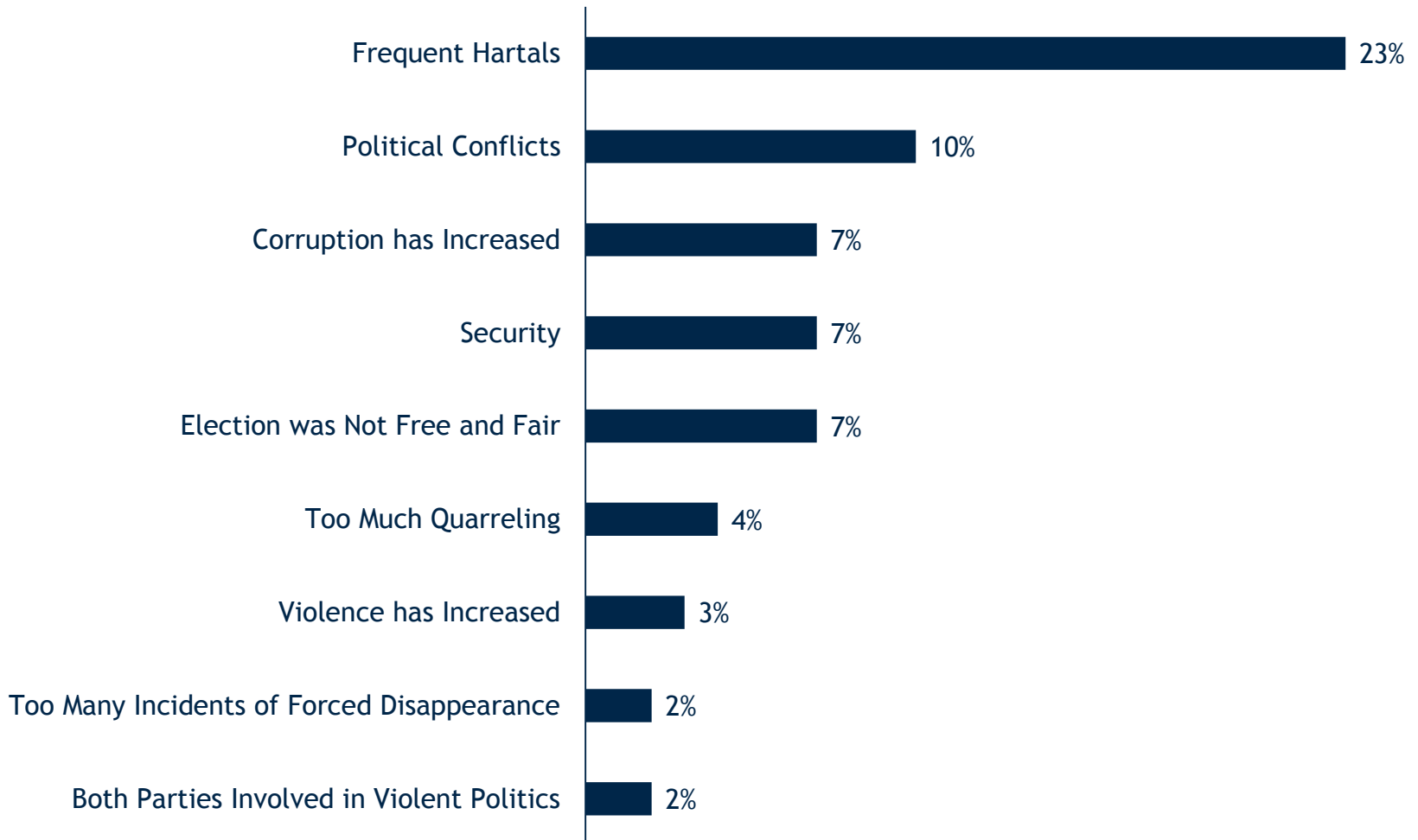
Overall, how would you rate the current security conditions in Bangladesh?



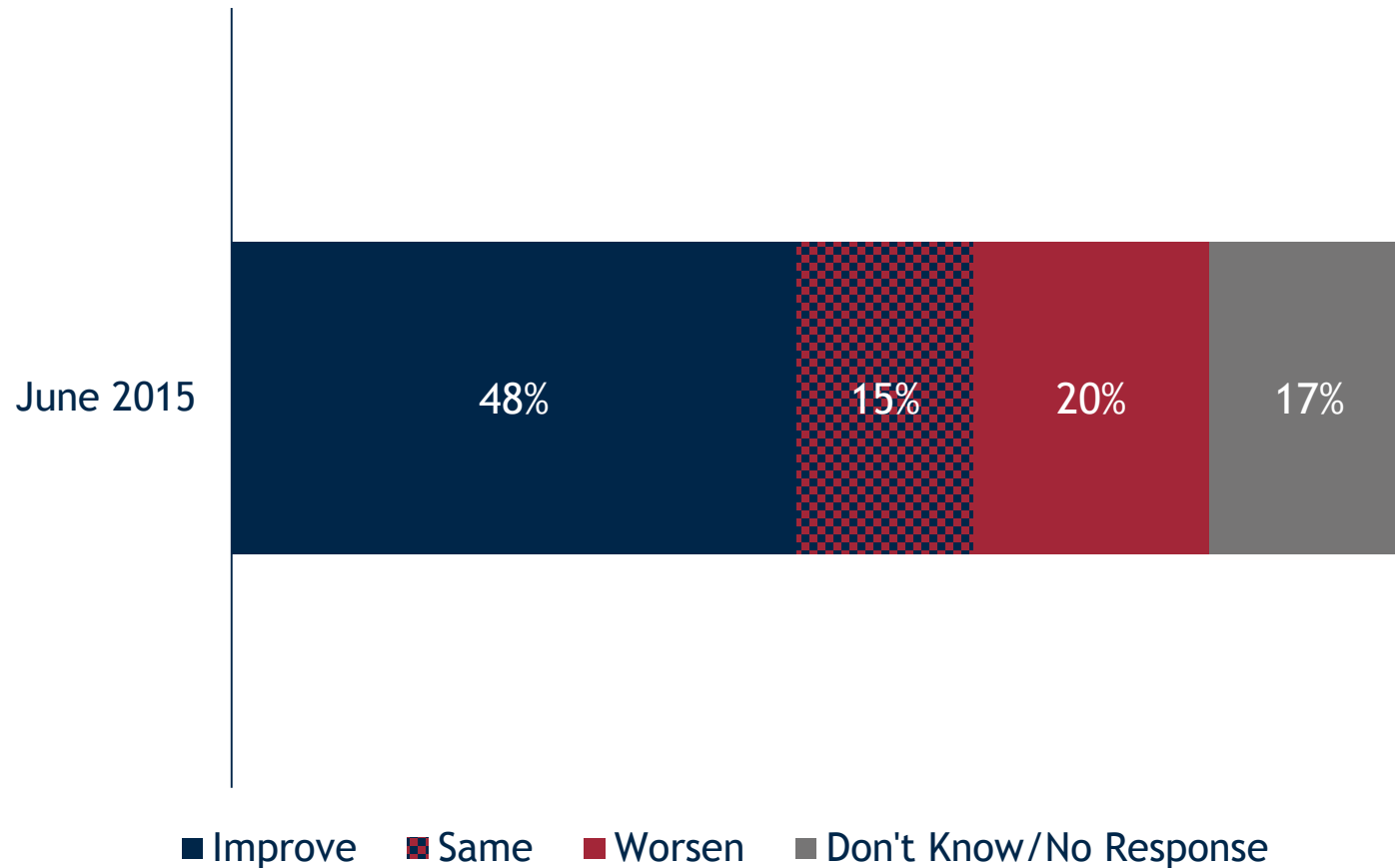
Overall, how would you rate the political stability of Bangladesh?



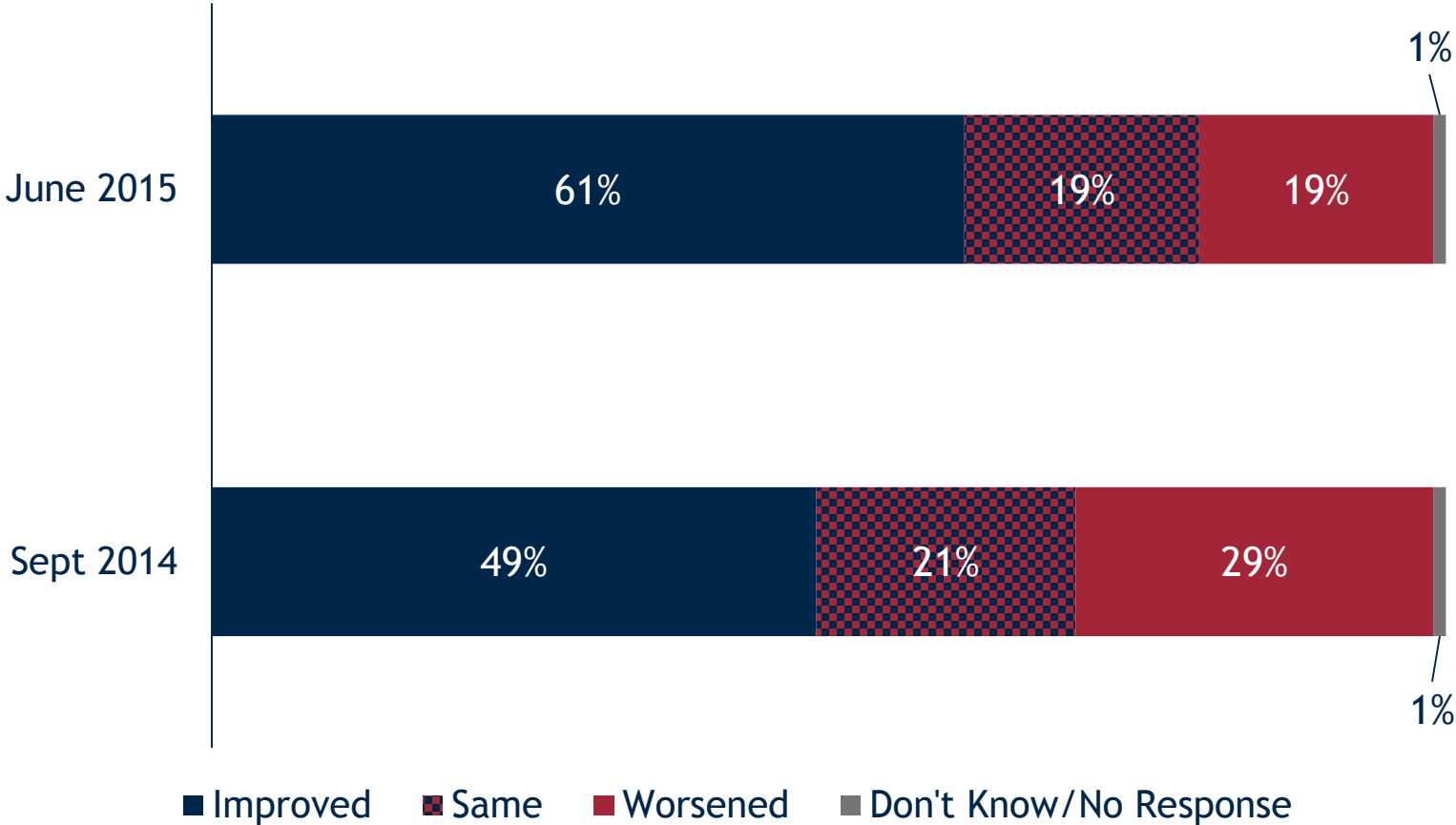
Why do you think the political situation is unstable? (Of those responding unstable in previous question, Open-ended) n=742



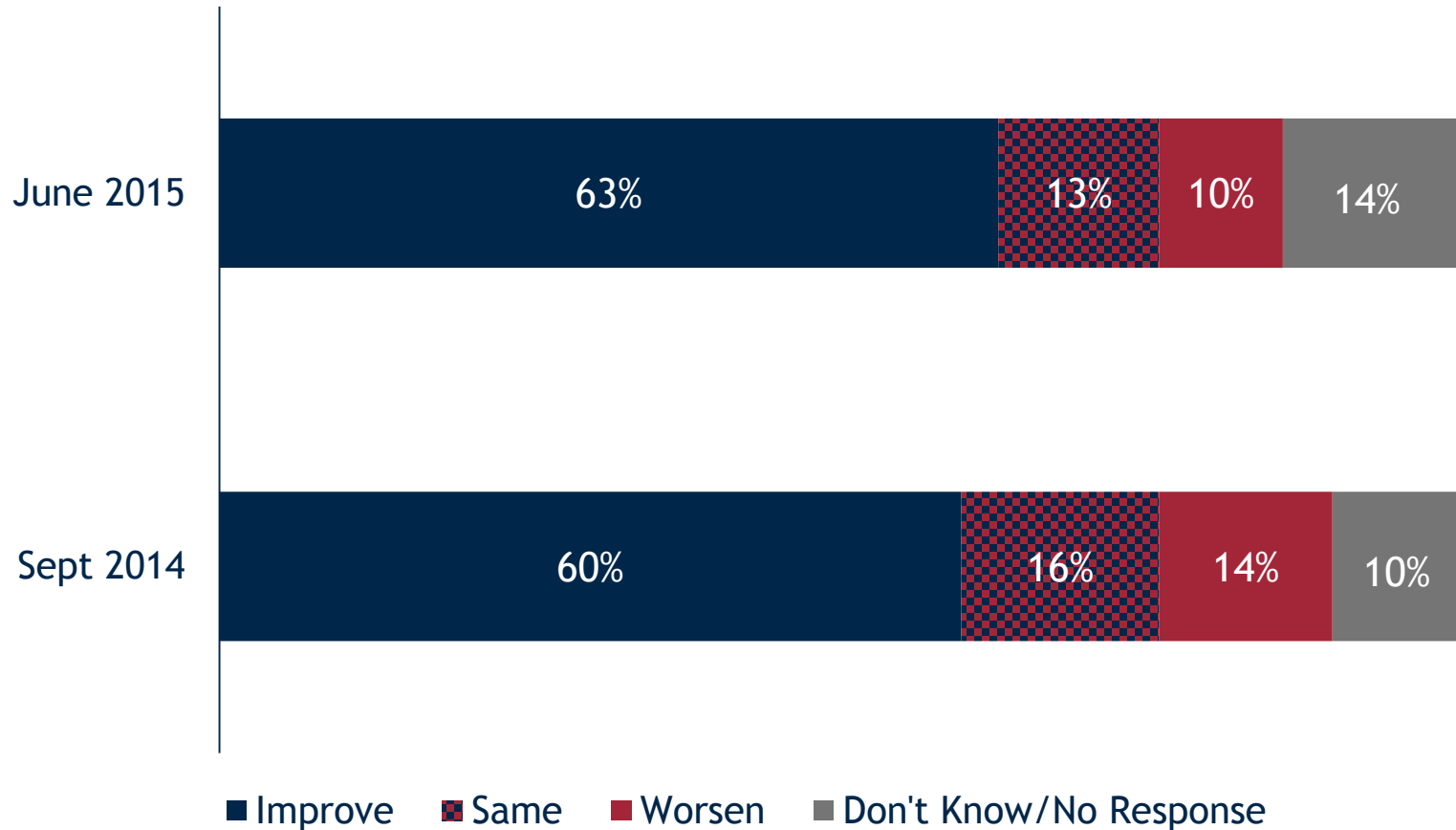
Thinking some more about the political stability of Bangladesh, in the year ahead do you think that it will improve, worsen or stay the same?



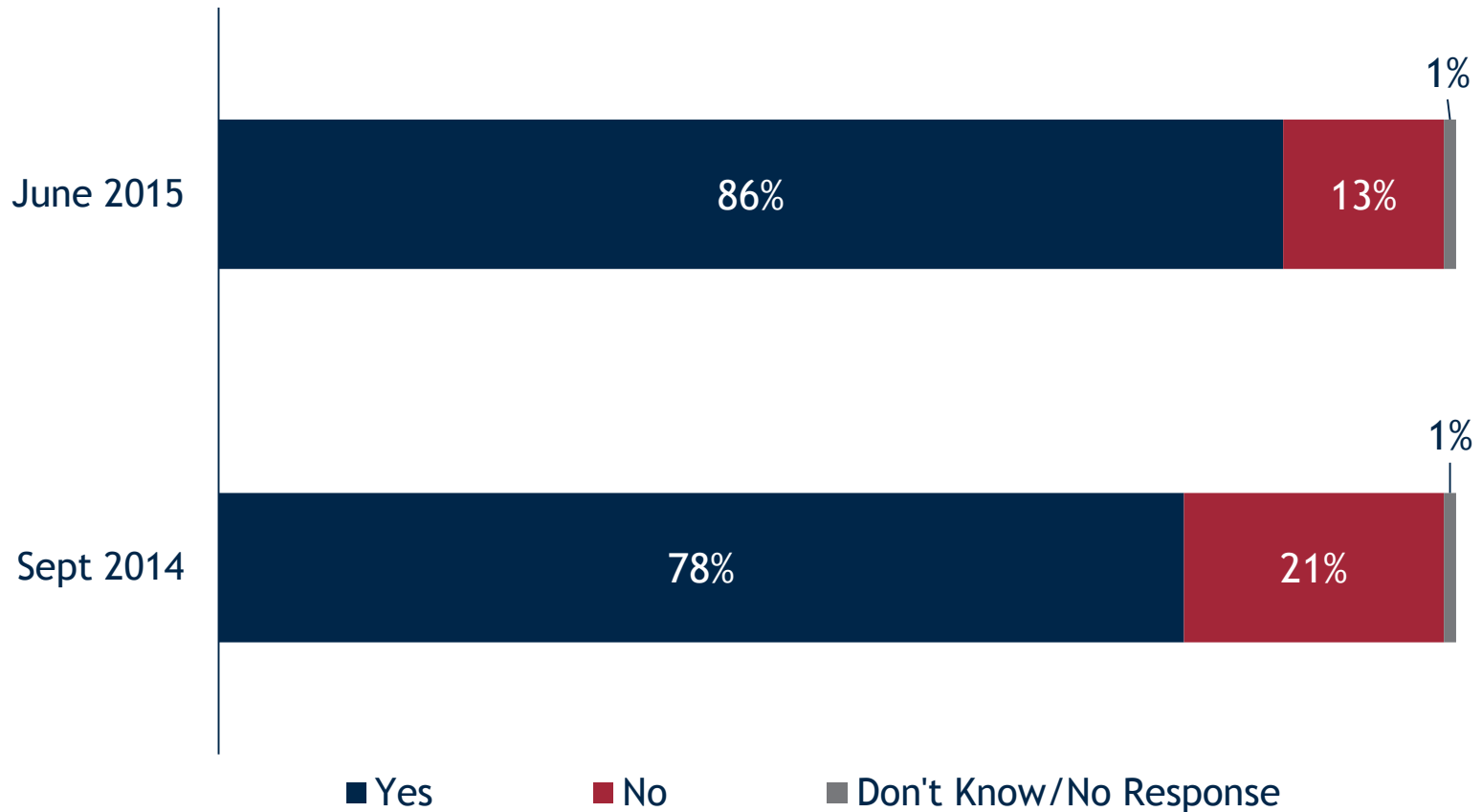
Thinking about the personal economic situation of you and your family, in the past year has it improved, worsened or stayed the same?



Thinking some more about the personal economic situation of you and your family, in the coming year do you think it will improve, worsen or stay the same?

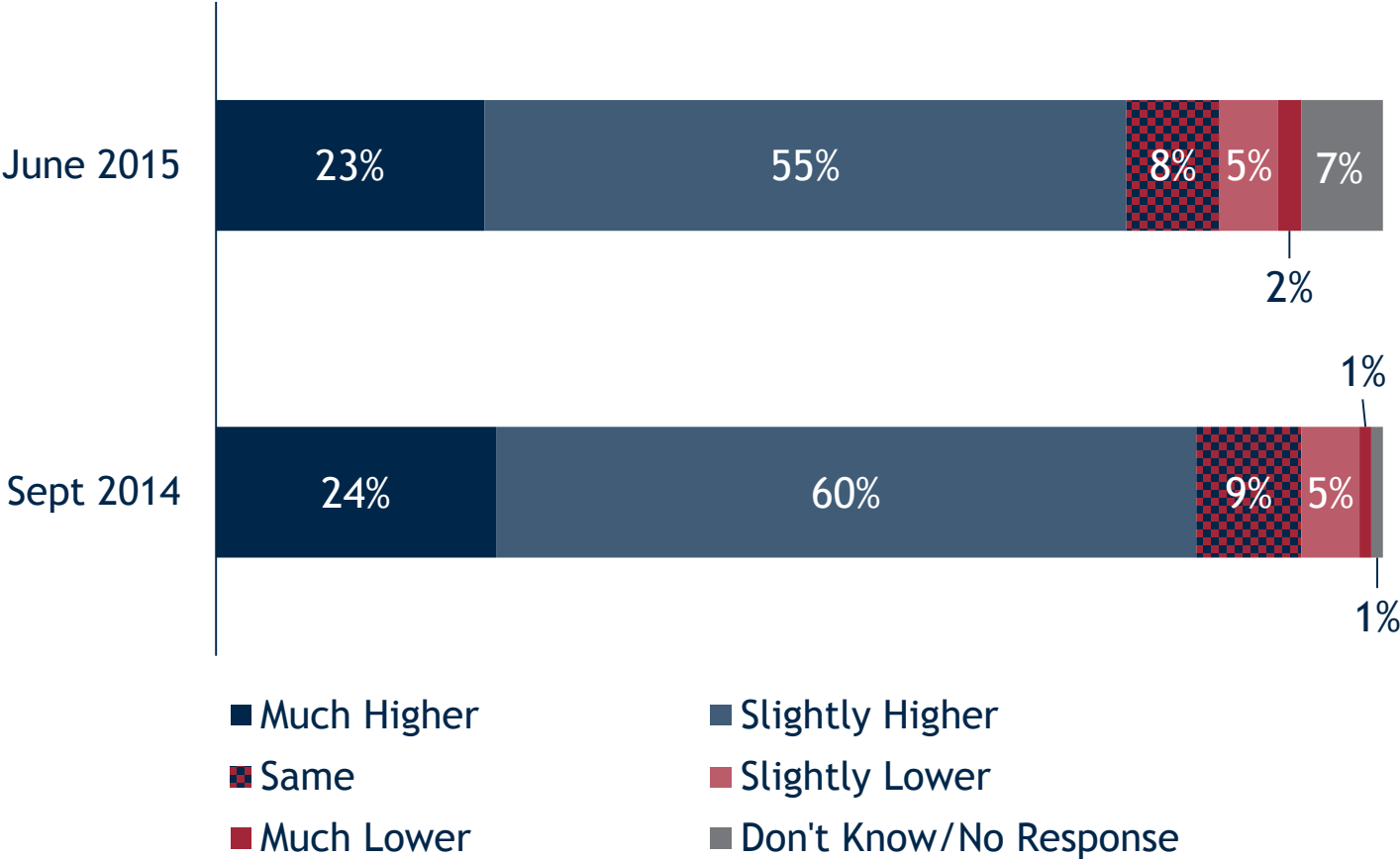


Do you and your family have enough income to afford basic commodities (rice, milk, eggs, fish, *dhal**, etc.) in the market?

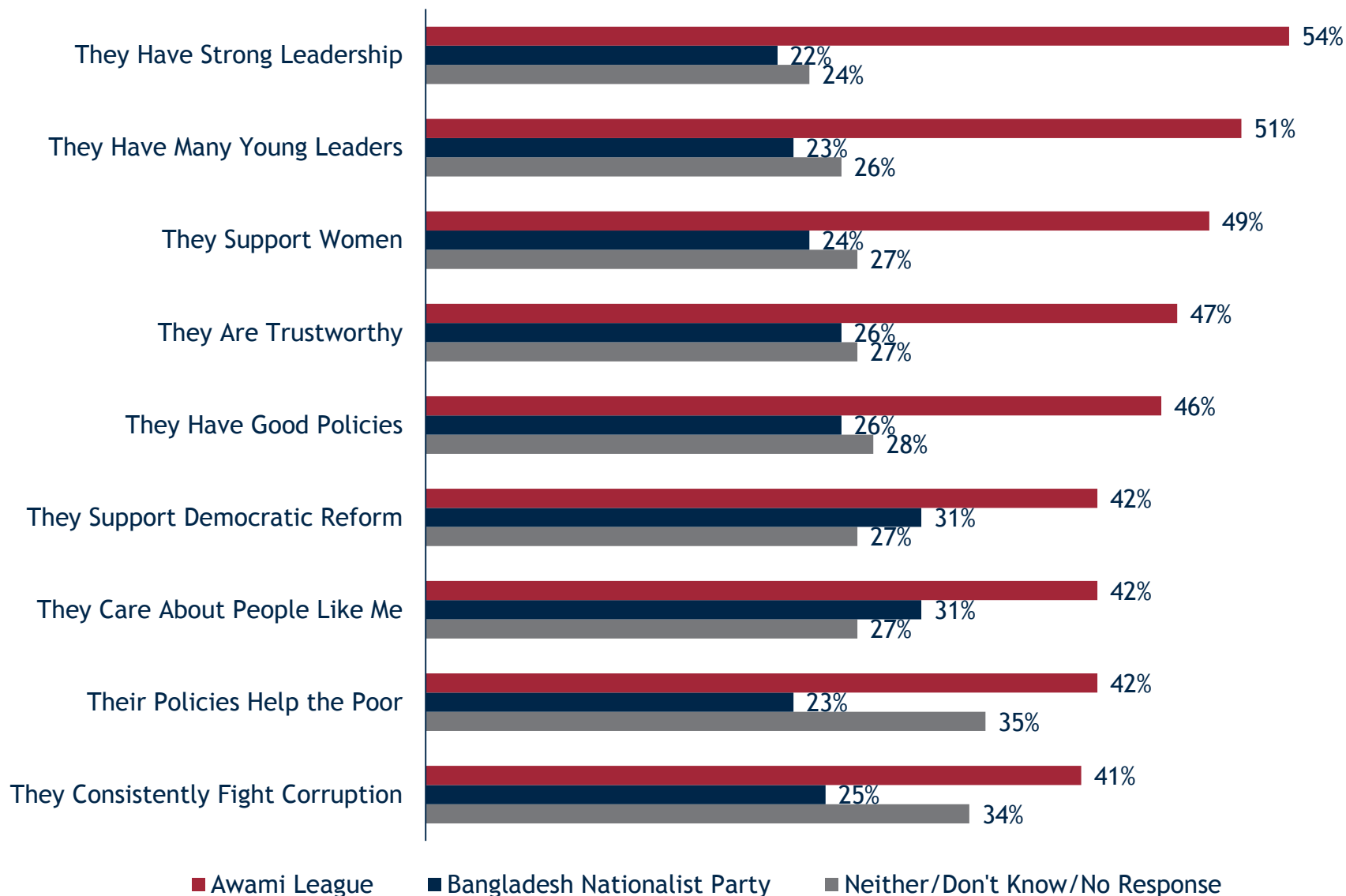


**Dhal* is the Bengali term for lentils, a regional dietary staple.

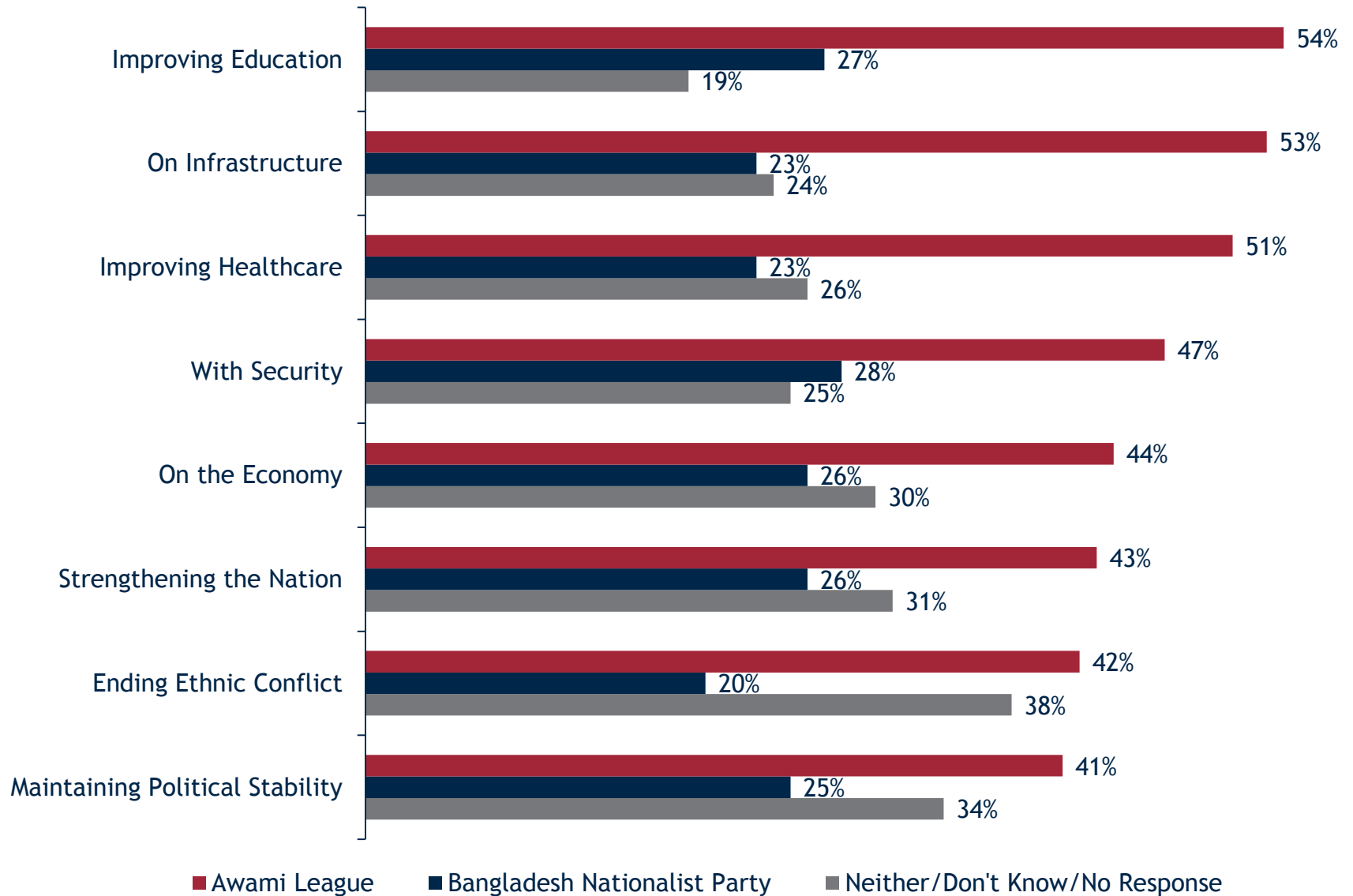
Do you expect the price of basic commodities to be higher or lower six months from now?



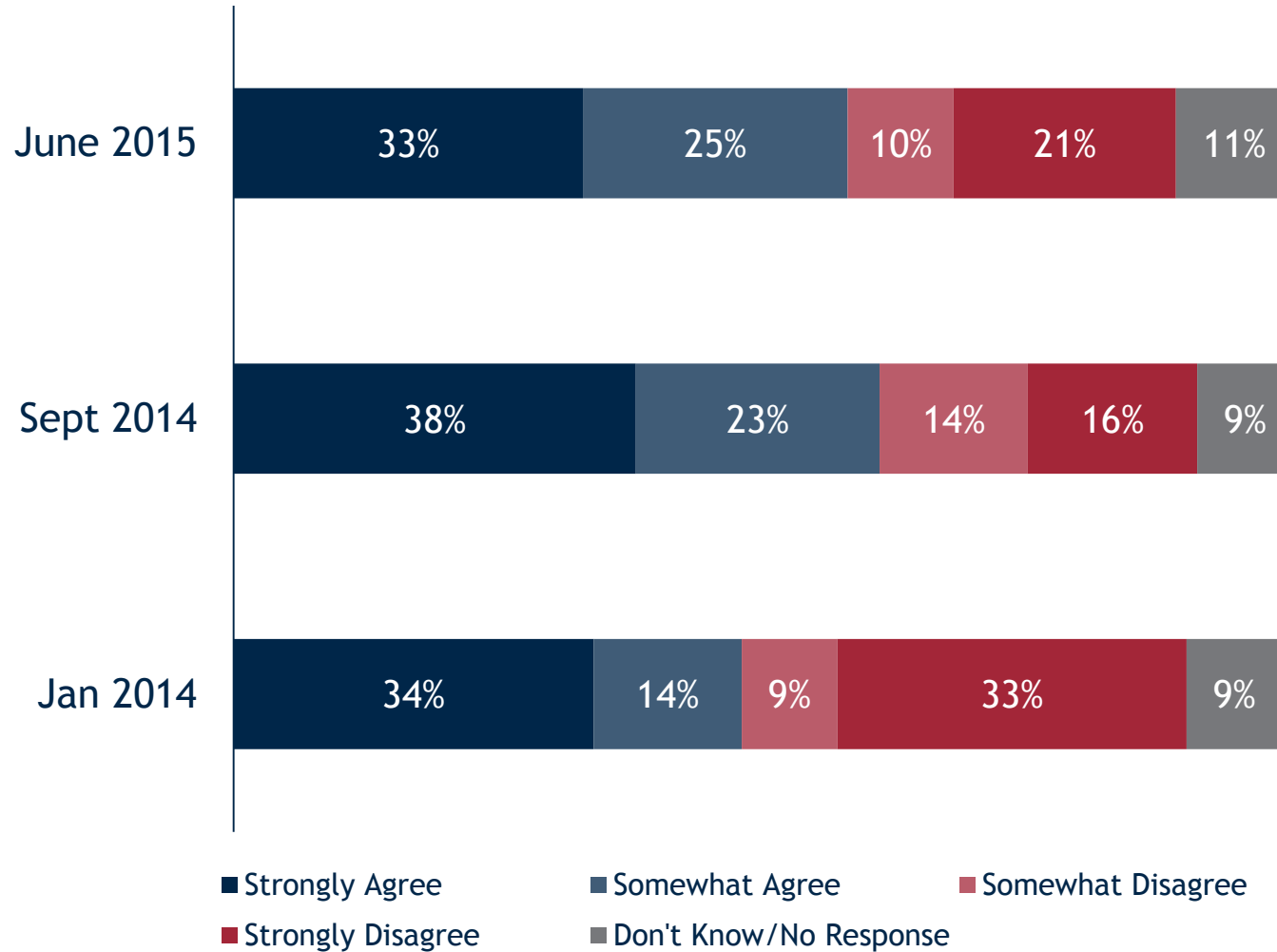
Can you tell me which party best reflects each of the statements below?



Can you tell me which party best reflects each of the statements below? Would do a better job...



Do you believe the Bangladesh Election Commission is completely fair and independent?

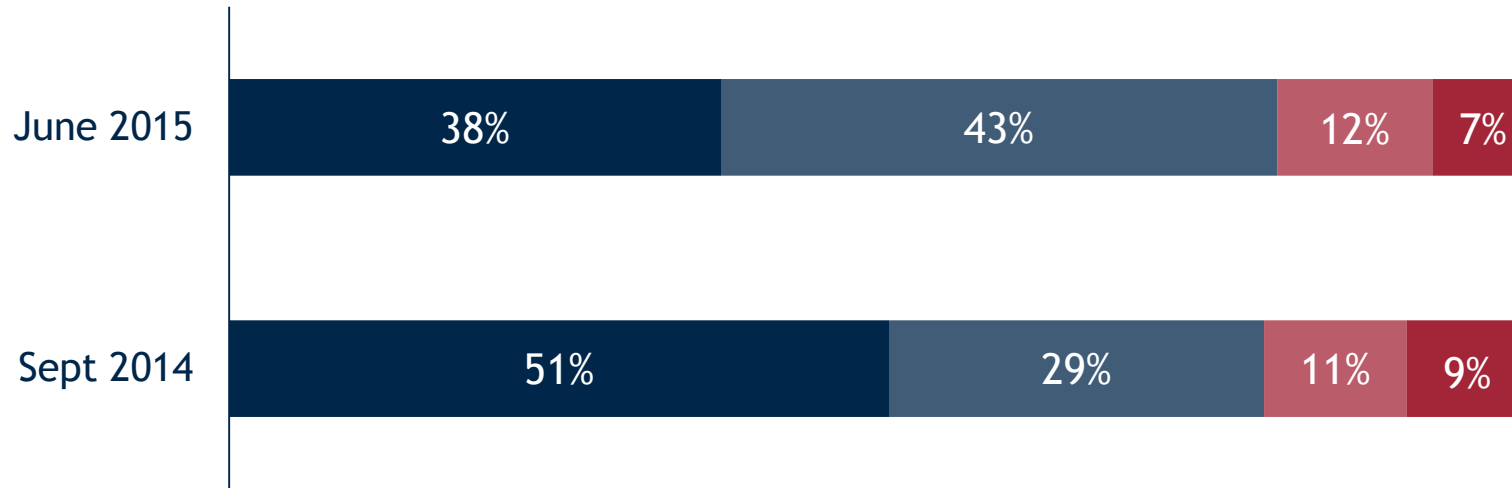




Women and Youth

Agree or Disagree?

Women are equally represented in political decision-making positions in Bangladesh.

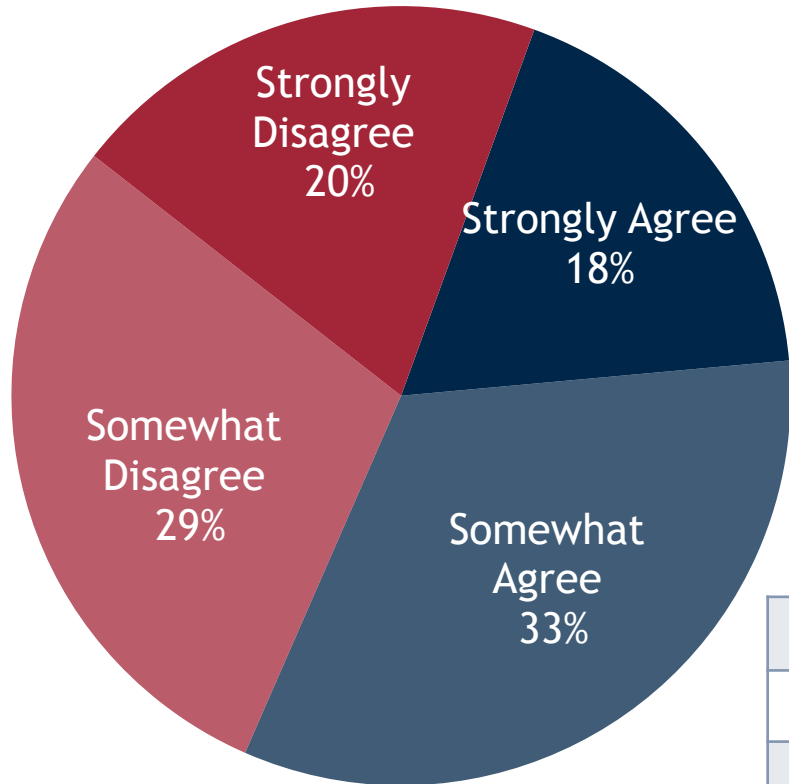


■ Strongly Agree
 ■ Somewhat Agree
 ■ Somewhat Disagree
 ■ Strongly Disagree

June 2015, by Gender	Men	Women
Strongly Agree	44%	33%
Somewhat Agree	37%	48%
Somewhat Disagree	11%	12%
Strongly Disagree	9%	6%

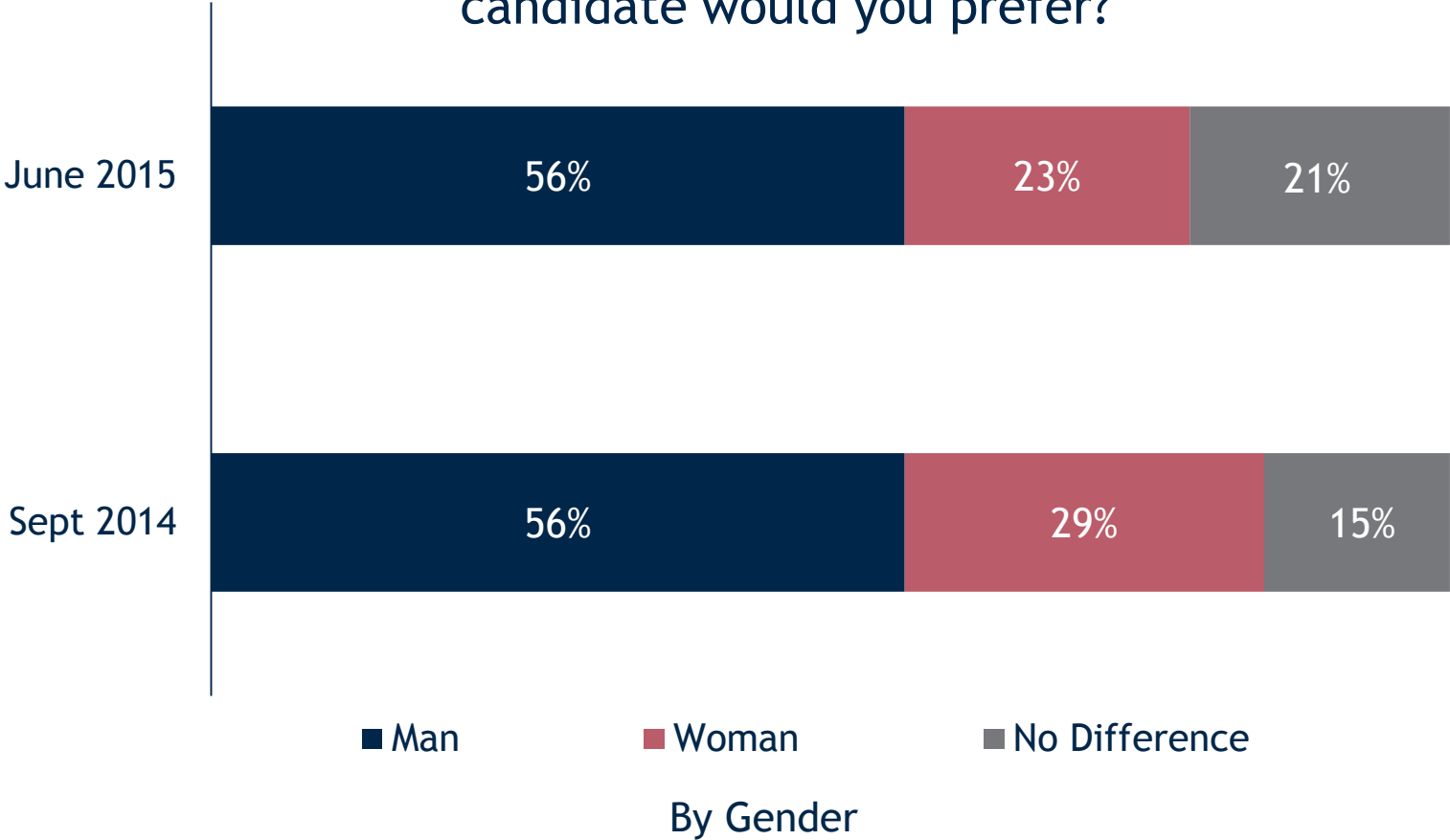
Agree or Disagree?

Politicians listen to the needs and ideas of women.



June 2015, by Gender	Men	Women
Strongly Agree	18%	18%
Somewhat Agree	28%	38%
Somewhat Disagree	28%	29%
Strongly Disagree	26%	14%

If there are two candidates running for office and they are exactly the same aside from the fact that one is a man and one is a woman, which candidate would you prefer?

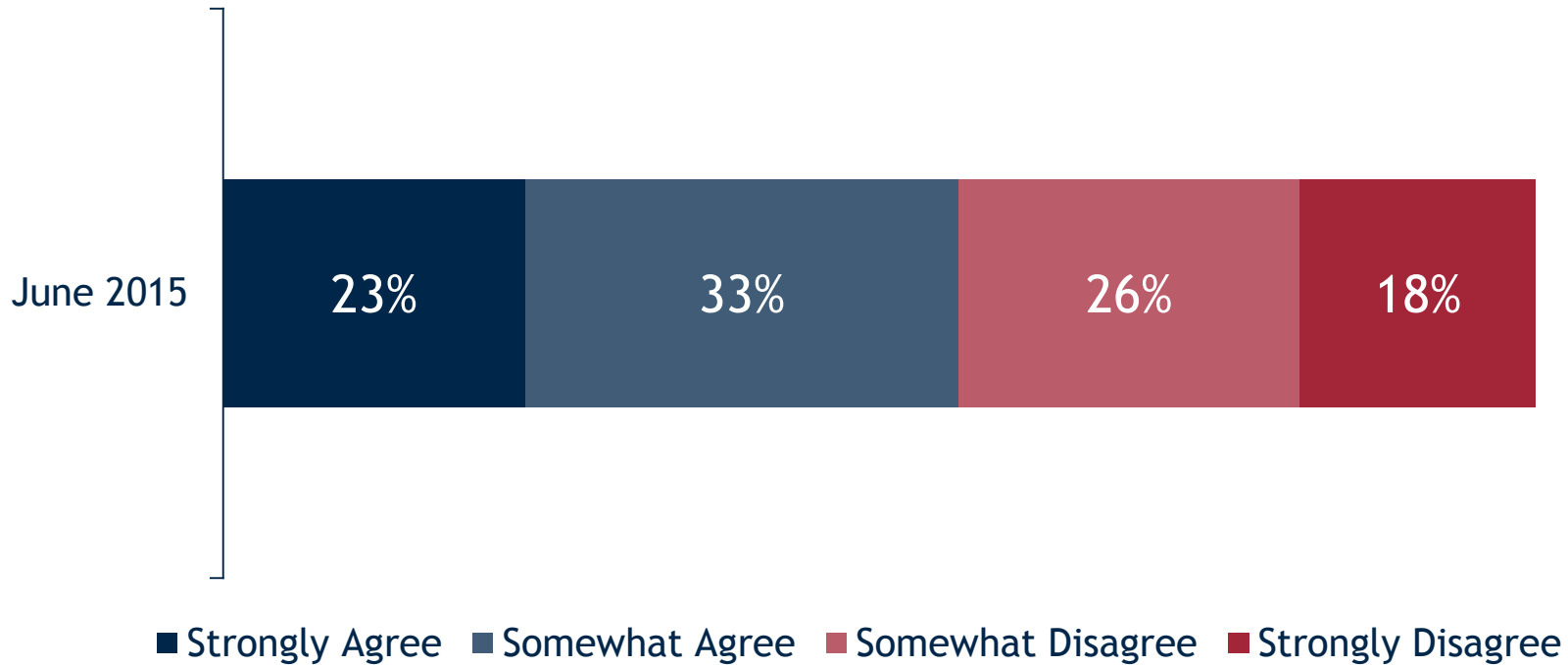


Sept 2014

June 2015

	Prefer Man	Prefer Woman	No Difference		Prefer Man	Prefer Woman	No Difference
Male	79%	7%	14%	Male	69%	10%	21%
Female	34%	51%	16%	Female	42%	37%	22%

Agree or Disagree? Politicians listen to the needs and ideas of young people.



Agree or Disagree?

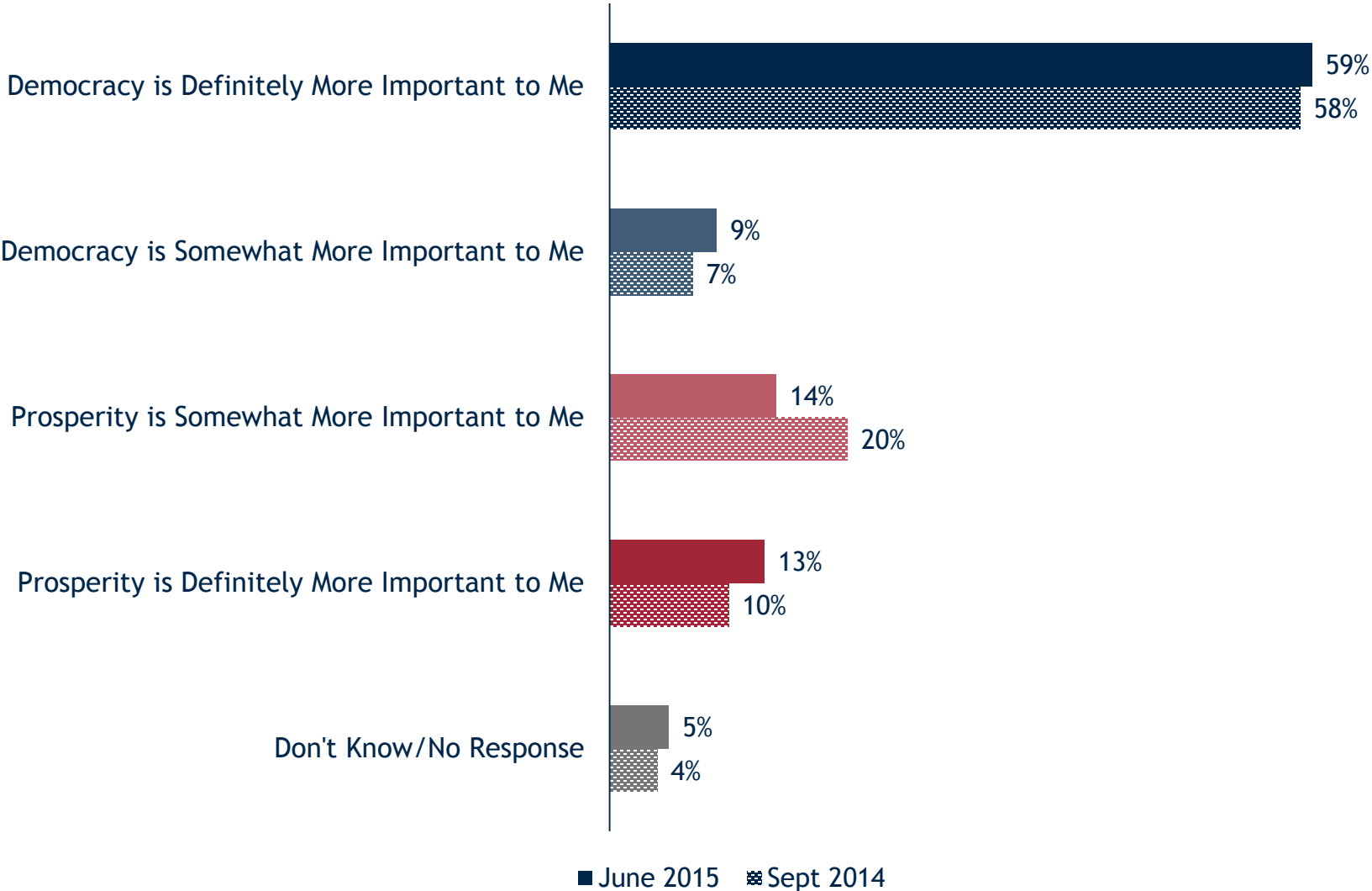
Politicians listen to the needs and ideas of young people. (Cross-Tabulations, June 2015)

Location	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree
Urban	18%	23%	35%	24%
Rural	18%	28%	33%	22%
Gender				
Male	24%	24%	29%	24%
Female	12%	29%	38%	22%
Age				
18-30	15%	27%	34%	24%
31-40	19%	26%	32%	23%
41-50	22%	25%	33%	20%
51-60	17%	26%	34%	23%
61+	21%	25%	34%	20%
Education				
Illiterate	21%	20%	34%	25%
Literate/No Formal				
Schooling	26%	28%	26%	20%
Class 1-4	15%	34%	32%	19%
Class 5-9	15%	26%	37%	22%
Junior High	17%	28%	32%	23%
High School	20%	27%	28%	25%
College	22%	25%	25%	27%
Graduate	10%	28%	24%	38%

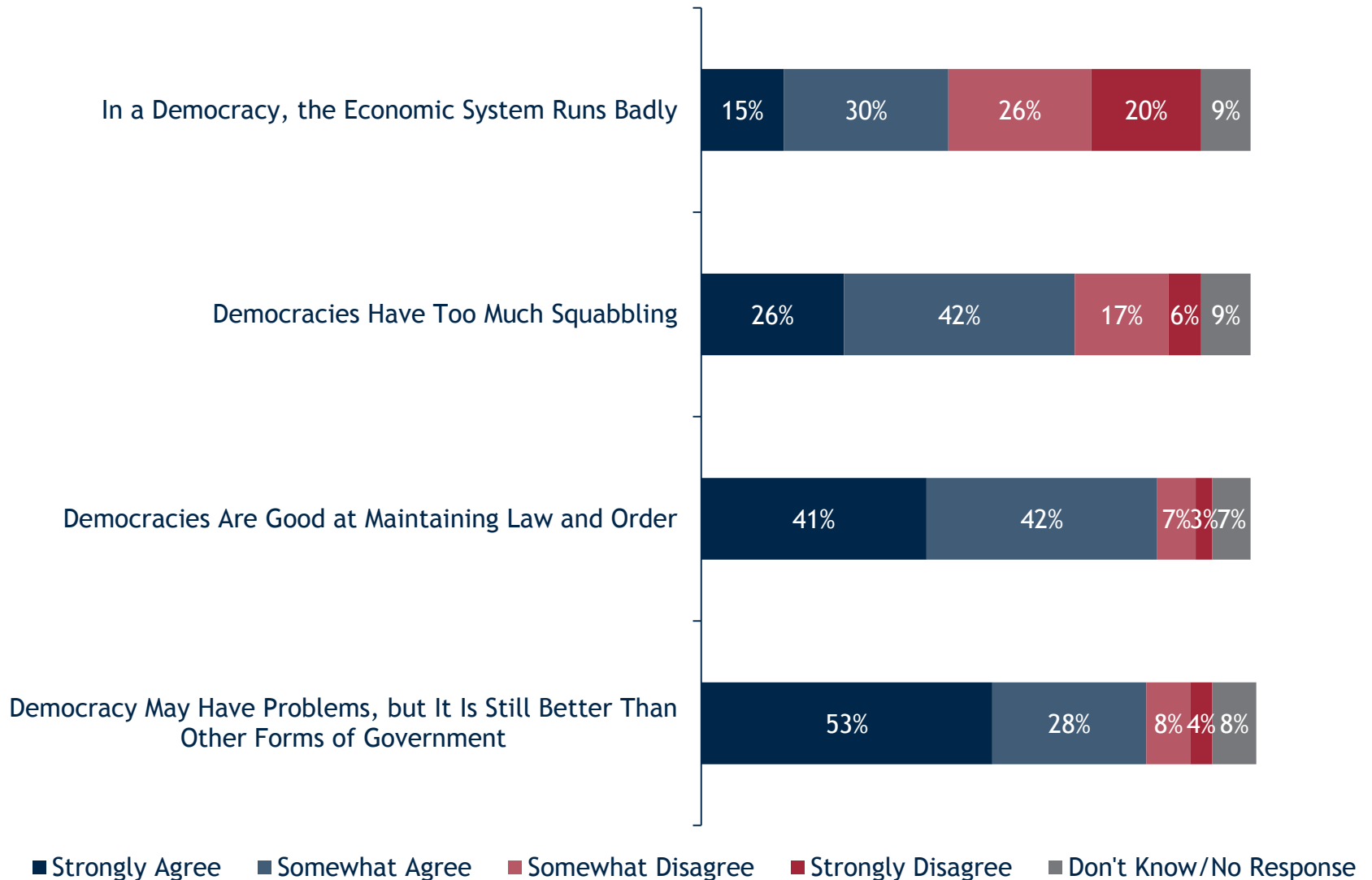


Perspectives on Democracy

In Bangladesh, if you could only have one or the other, which is more important to you: a democratic system of government or a prosperous economy?

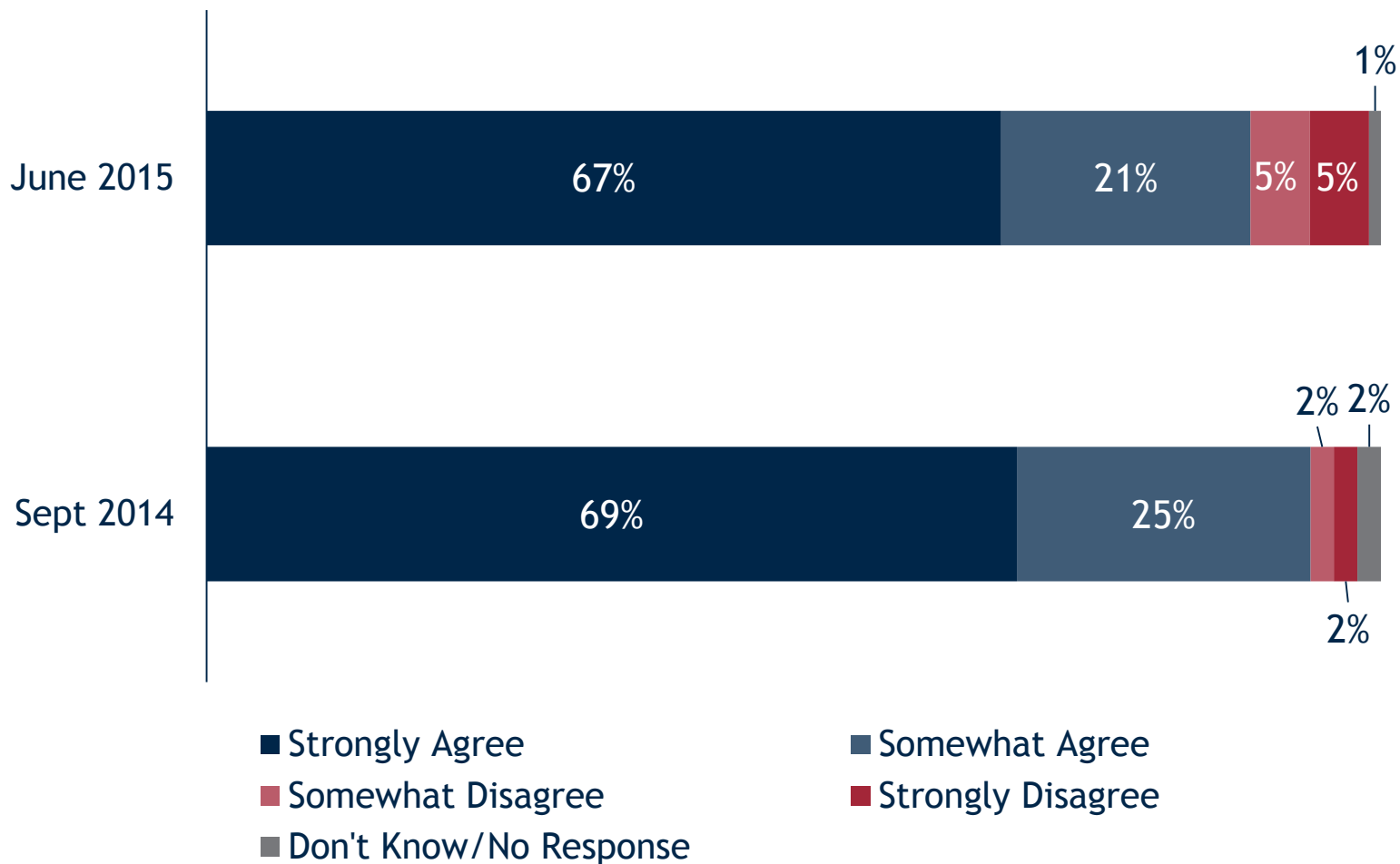


Of the following statements, would you say you agree or disagree?

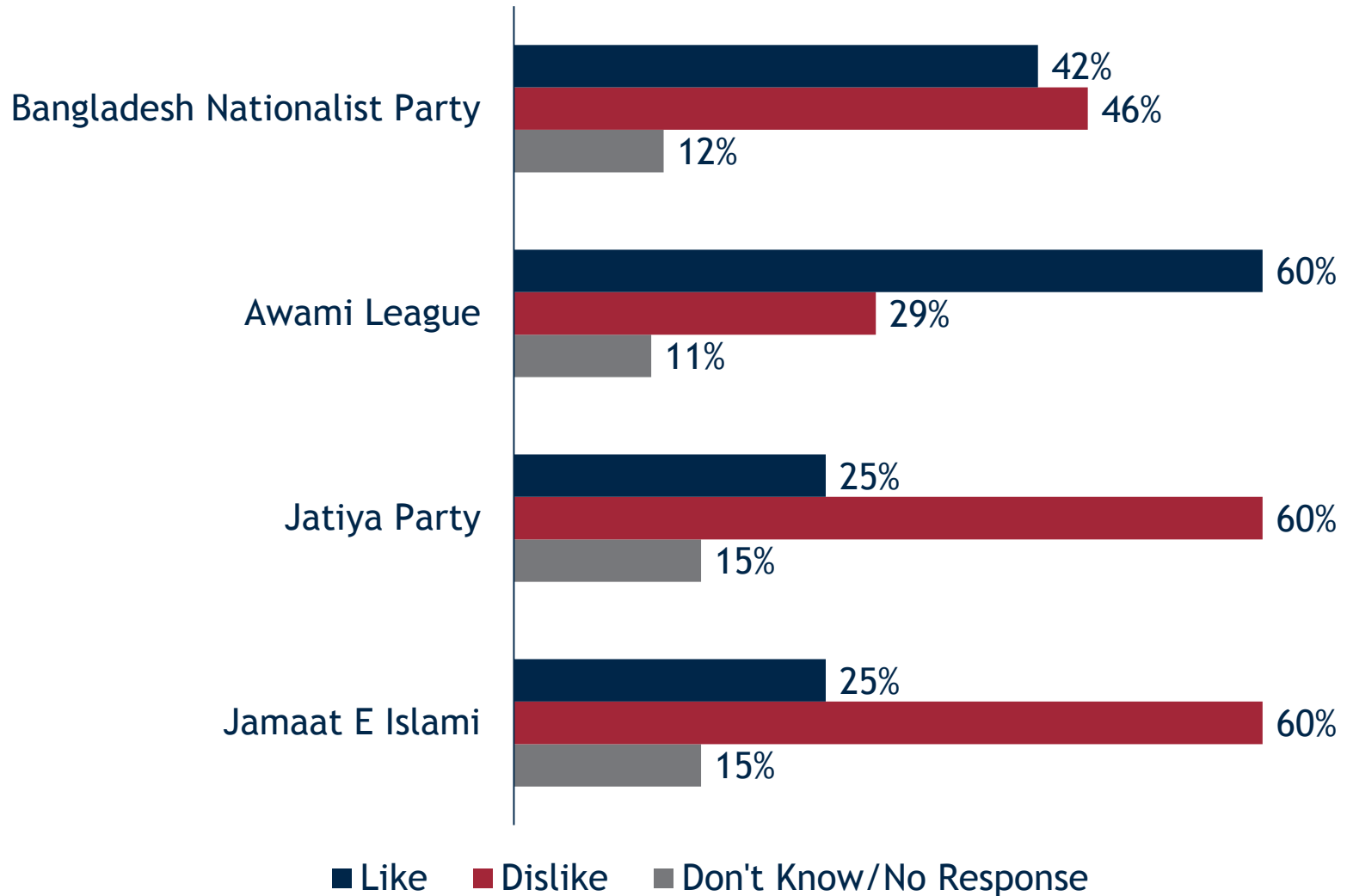


Agree or Disagree?

Voting gives me a chance to influence decision-making in the country.



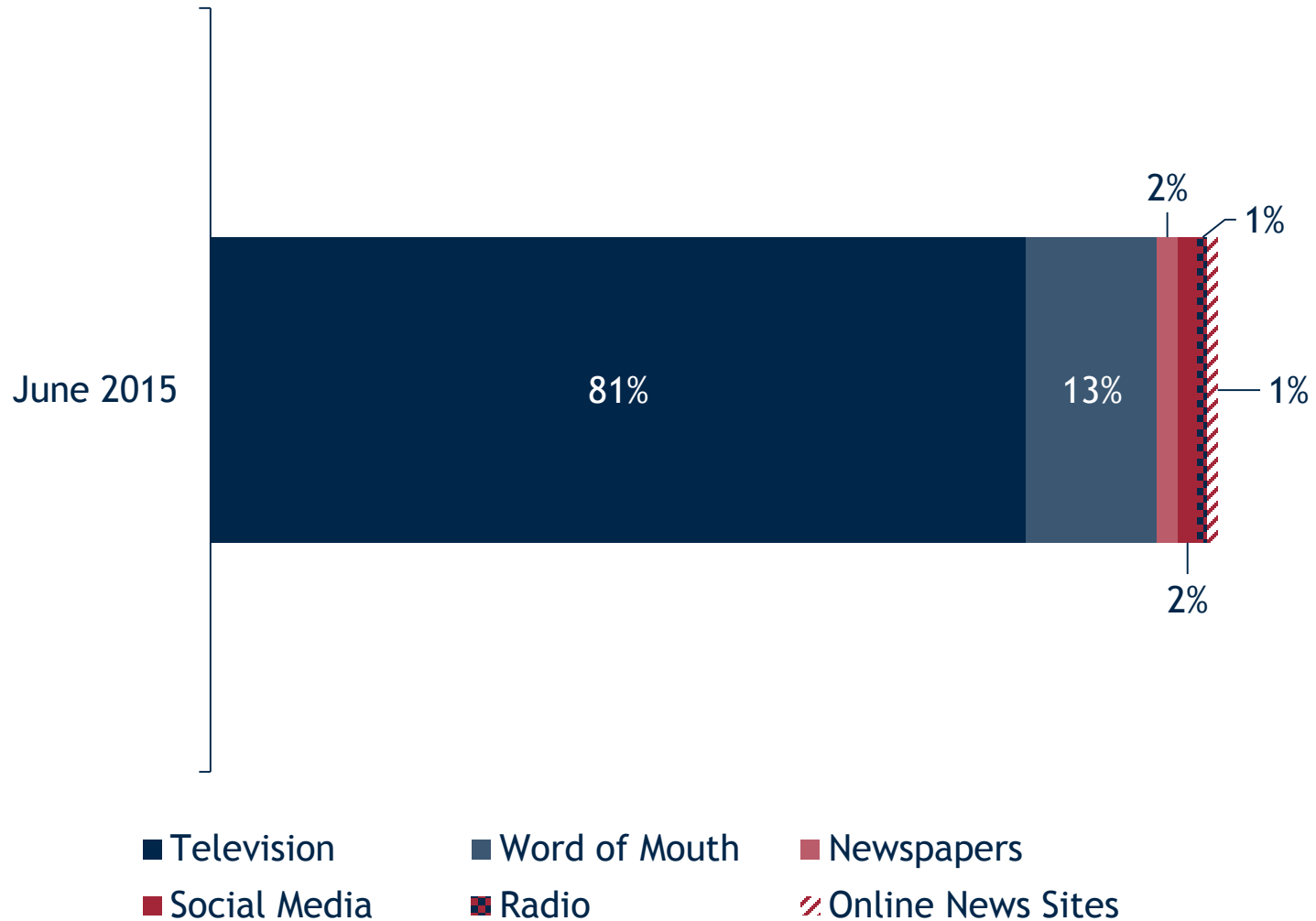
Would you say you like or dislike...?





Media

From which type of media are you most likely to get your news?



Demographics

Monthly Household Income

Less Than 5,000 <i>taka</i> *	7%
5,001-10,000 <i>taka</i>	40%
10,001-15,000 <i>taka</i>	25%
15,001-20,000 <i>taka</i>	14%
20,001-25,000 <i>taka</i>	5%
25,001-30,000 <i>taka</i>	3%
30,001-35,000 <i>taka</i>	1%
35,001 <i>taka</i> or Greater	3%

Division

Dhaka	32%
Chittagong	20%
Rajshahi	13%
Khulna	11%
Rangpur	11%
Sylhet	7%
Barisal	6%

Education

Illiterate	19%
Literate/No Formal Schooling	7%
Class 1-4	13%
Class 5-9	37%
Secondary School	
Certificate/ <i>Dakhil</i>	12%
Higher Secondary Certificate	8%
Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science	3%
Graduate Degree	2%

Age

18-30 years	41%
31-40 years	26%
41-50 years	16%
51-60 years	10%
61 Years and Older	7%

Religion

Muslim	89%
Hindu	10%
Buddhist	1%

Gender

Male	50%
Female	50%

Area

Urban	26%
Rural	74%

*At the time of survey fieldwork, one Bangladeshi *taka* was equivalent to \$0.013 USD.

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