



National Sports Public Opinion Pulse Update

May 2021

Project Objectives

Identify

- Identify how much the general public knows about transgender people and issues facing the transgender community

1

Discover

- Discover the opinions of the public, in general, regarding transgender athletes

2

Determine

- Determine the overall consensus regarding how transgender and non-transgender athletes should interact

3

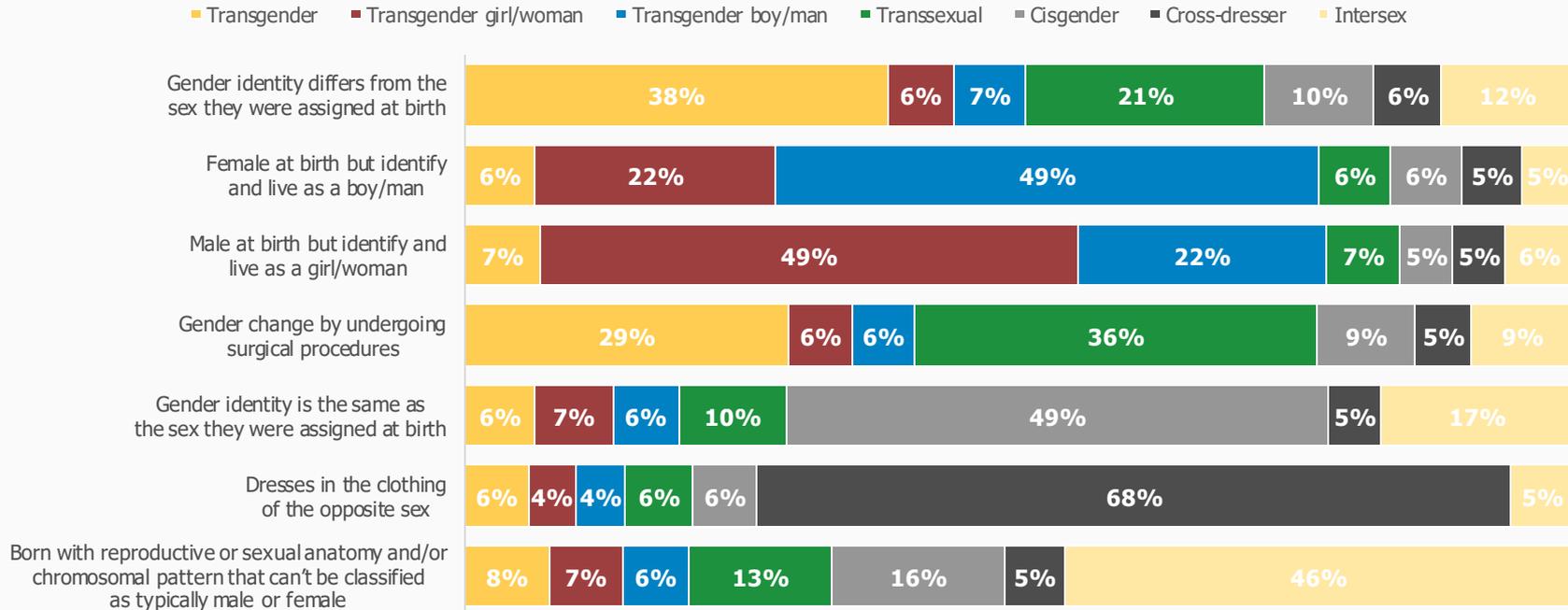
Knowledge of the Transgender Community

Identify how much the general public knows about transgender people and
issues facing the transgender community



Respondents were able to correctly match the proper definition to the term with varying degrees of success

Matching Definitions to the Correct Term

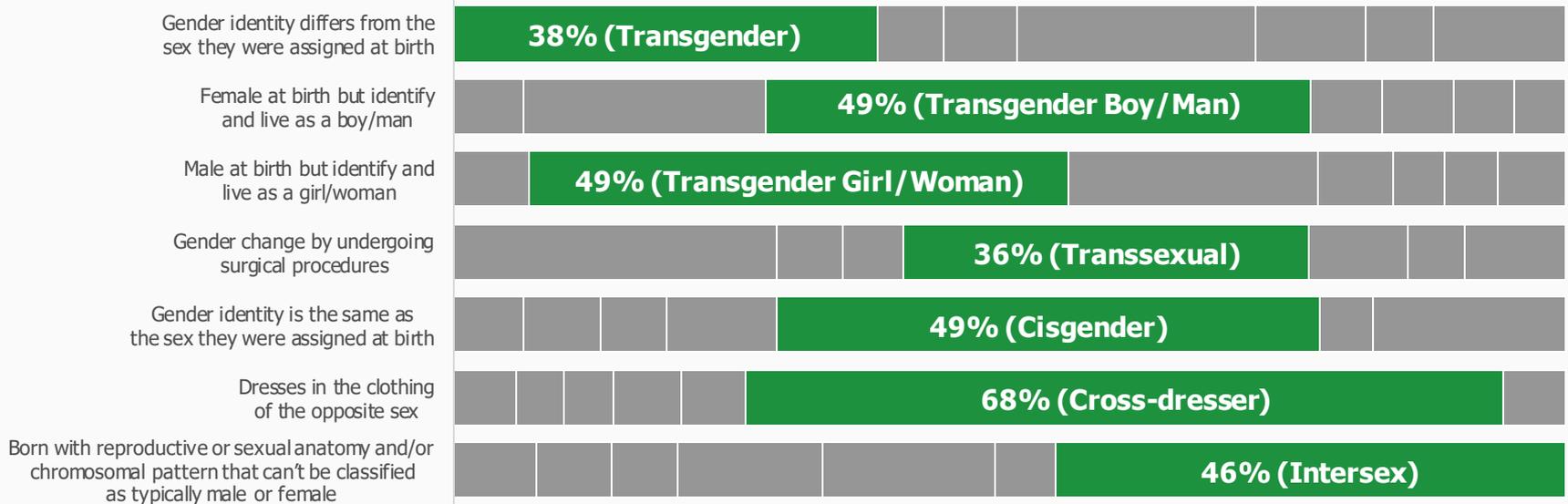


Q) Select your understanding of the definition for each of these terms. A) People whose gender identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth. B) People who were assigned female at birth but identify and live as a boy/man. C) People who were assigned male at birth but identify and live as a girl/woman. D) A person who changes gender by undergoing surgical procedures. E) A person who is not transgender, or whose gender identity is the same as the sex they were assigned at birth. F) A person who dresses in the clothing of the opposite sex. G) People born with reproductive or sexual anatomy and/or chromosomal pattern that can't be classified as typically male or female. (n = 1800)
 † Note: Some numbers (on the chart or elsewhere) may not appear to be totaled correctly. This is due to rounding. All numbers are correct.

Although a *plurality* of respondents were able to correctly match the term to its definition, a *majority* only did once

Matching Definitions to the Correct Term

- Transgender
- Transgender girl/woman
- Transgender boy/man
- Transsexual
- Cisgender
- Cross-dresser
- Intersex



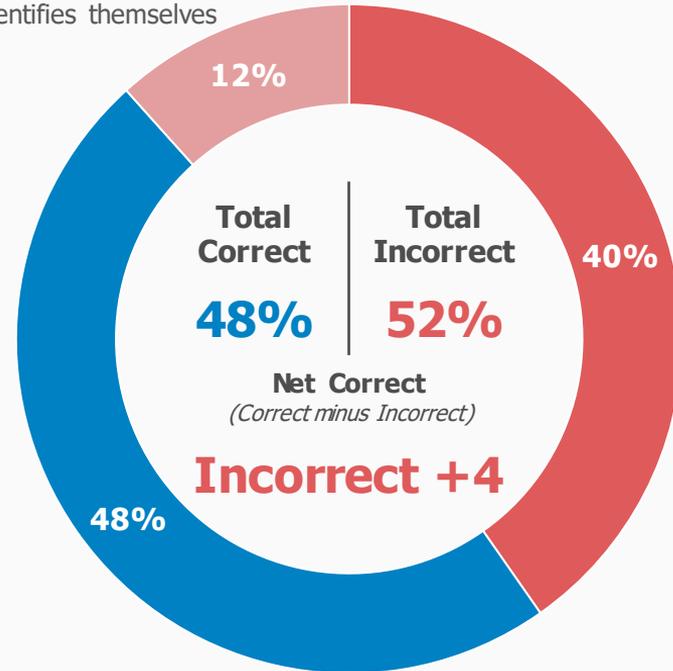
Q) Select your understanding of the definition for each of these terms. A) People whose gender identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth. B) People who were assigned female at birth but identify and live as a boy/man. C) People who were assigned male at birth but identify and live as a girl/woman. D) A person who changes gender by undergoing surgical procedures. E) A person who is not transgender, or whose gender identity is the same as the sex they were assigned at birth. F) A person who dresses in the clothing of the opposite sex. G) People born with reproductive or sexual anatomy and/or chromosomal pattern that can't be classified as typically male or female. (n = 1800)
 † Note: Some numbers (on the chart or elsewhere) may not appear to be totaled correctly. This is due to rounding. All numbers are correct.

People are not knowledgeable about the differences between "sex" and "gender"

- A plurality but not a majority identified the correct answer
- Those with higher levels of **educational attainment** and **women** were most likely to identify the correct answer

Difference Between Sex and Gender

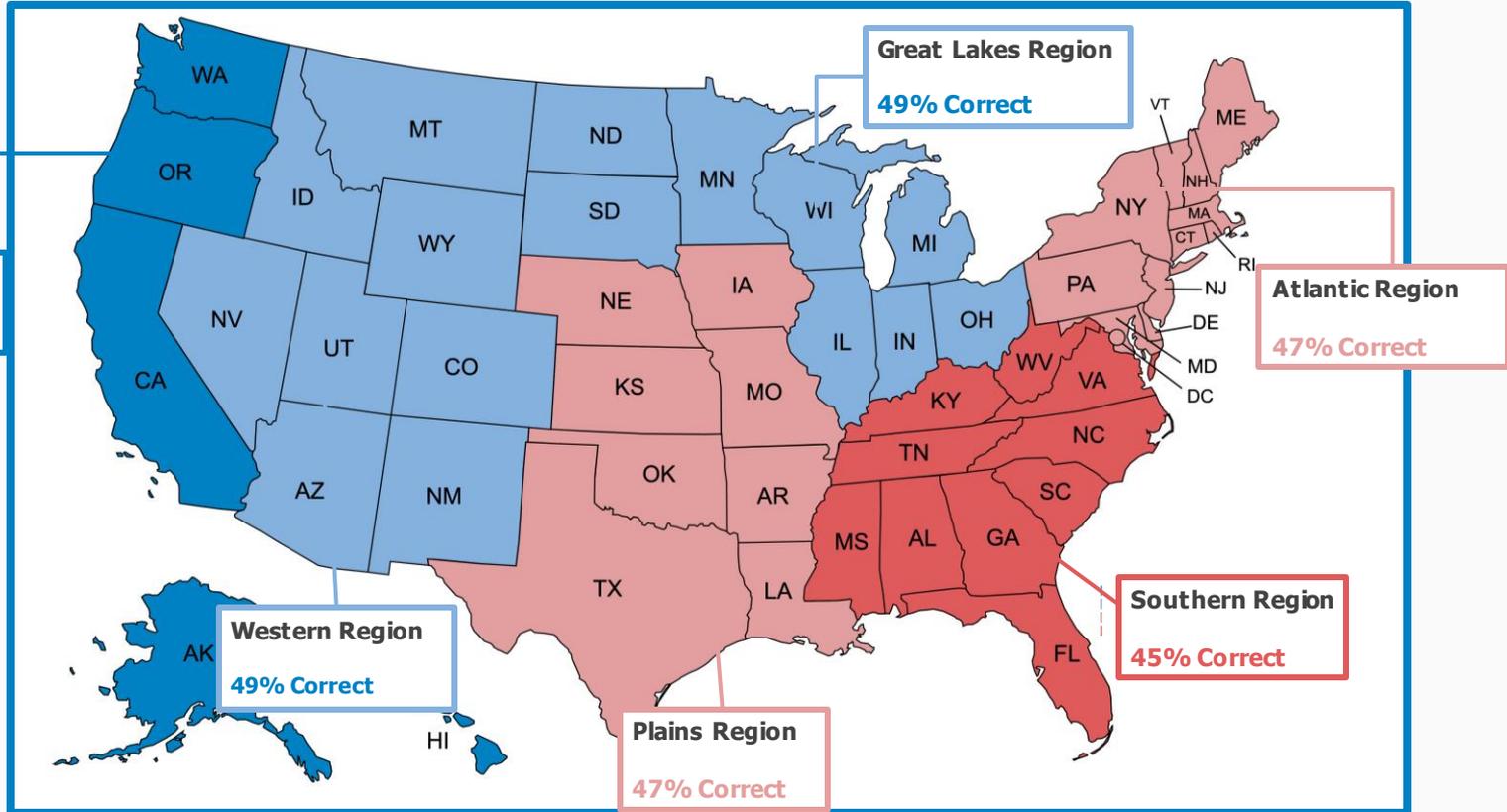
- "Sex" and "gender" are the same
- "Sex" has to do with physical and anatomical characteristics while "gender" refers to the way someone identifies themselves
- "Gender" has to do with physical and anatomical characteristics while "sex" refers to the way someone identifies themselves



Q) What is your understanding of "sex" and "gender"(n = 1800)

† Note: Some numbers (on the chart or elsewhere) may not appear to be totaled correctly. This is due to rounding. All numbers are correct.

Regional Breakout of Correct Answer to the Difference Between Sex and Gender



Q) What is your understanding of "sex" and "gender" (n = 1800).

Subset: (n = 300 per region). Regions are shaded to the degree they were more/less correct than the US average (48%)

† Note: Some numbers (on the chart or elsewhere) may not appear to be totaled correctly. This is due to rounding. All numbers are correct.

23%

Only one quarter of respondents believe that there *is no* such a thing as being transgender

Q) Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statements. There is no such thing as being transgender. (n = 1800)

† Note: Some numbers (on the chart or elsewhere) may not appear to be totaled correctly. This is due to rounding. All numbers are correct.

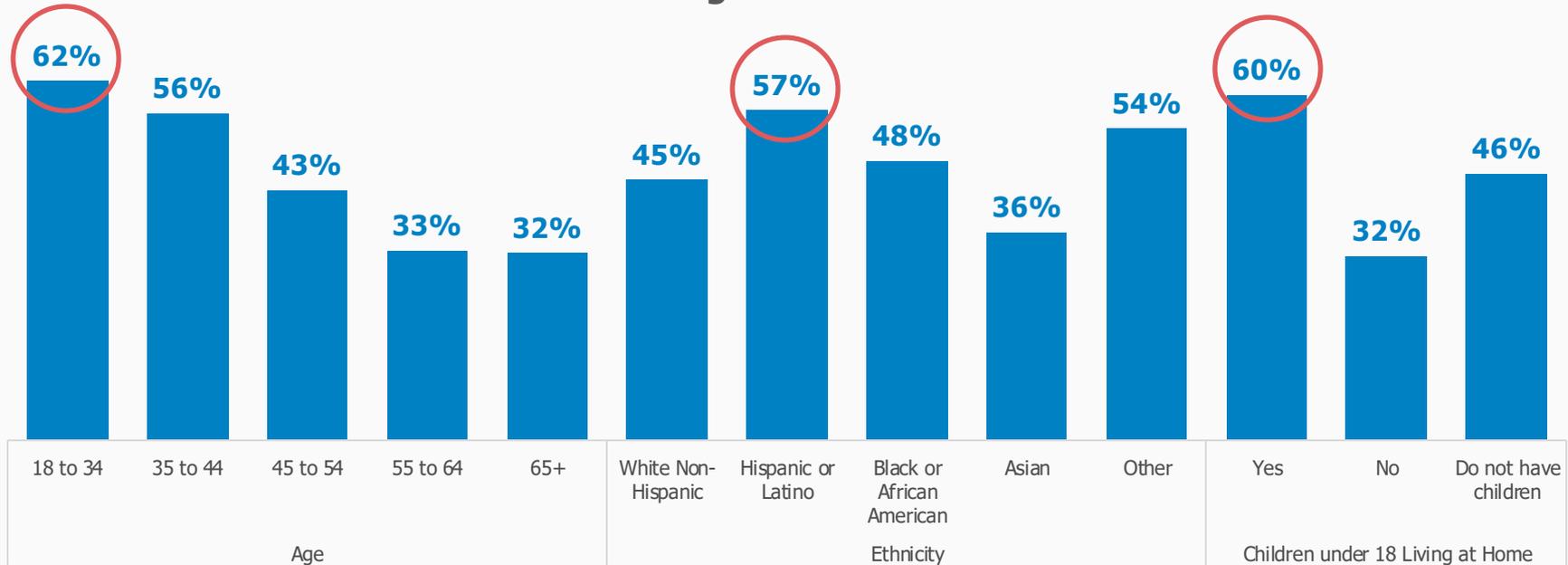
Key Takeaway

Many people who think they have a good understanding of transgender issues likely do not



Respondents with the highest belief that they have a good understanding of transgender issues

Agreement with the Statement "I have a good understanding of transgender issues"



Q) Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statements. I have a good understanding of transgender issues. (n = 1800)

Subset: Q) What is your current age? 18-34 (n = 537), 35-44 (n=294), 45-54 (n=288), 55-64 (n=299), 65+ (n=382).

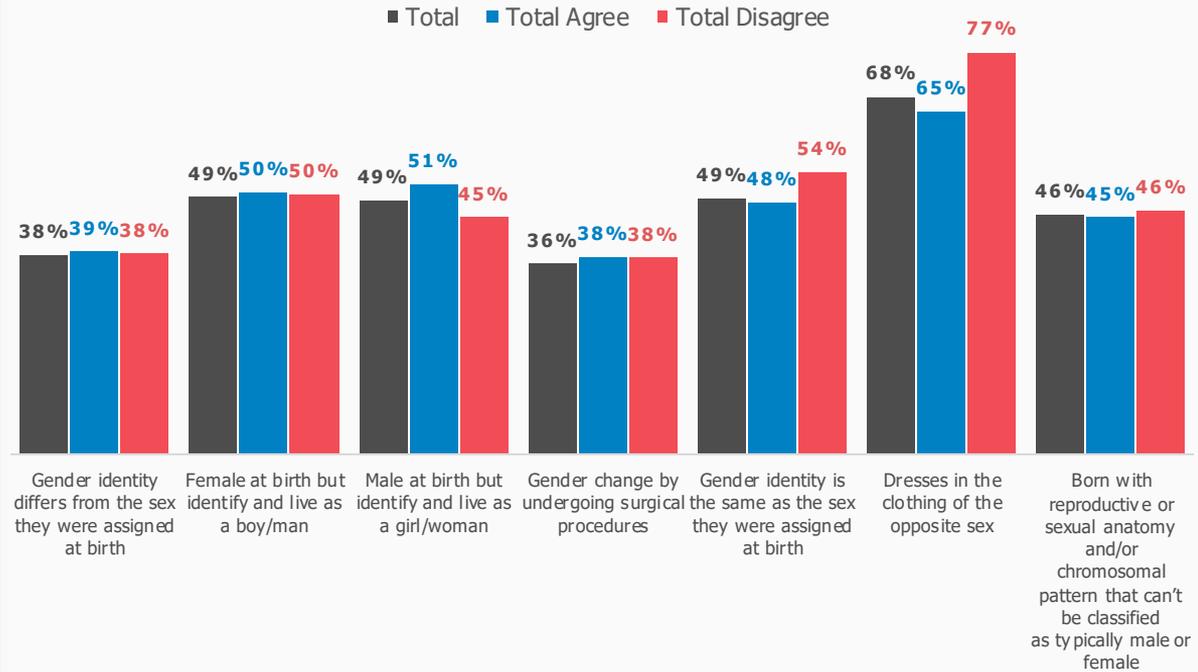
Q) Which of the following best describes your ethnicity? White Non-Hispanic (n=1131), Hispanic or Latino (n=296), Black or African American (n=219), Asian (n=111), Other (n=44).

Q) Do you have children living at home? Yes (n=602), No (n=464), Do not have children (n=735).

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Respondents who agreed that they have a “good understanding” of issues faced by transgender people did not perform significantly better at identifying terms related to sex and gender correctly

Agreement with the Statement “I have a good understanding of transgender issues” by Correctly Identifying Gender-Related Terms



Q) Select your understanding of the definition for each of these terms. A) People whose gender identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth. B) People who were assigned female at birth but identify and live as a boy/man. C) People who were assigned male at birth but identify and live as a girl/woman. D) A person who changes gender by undergoing surgical procedures. E) A person who is not transgender, or whose gender identity is the same as the sex they were assigned at birth. F) A person who dresses in the clothing of the opposite sex. G) People born with reproductive or sexual anatomy and/or chromosomal pattern that can't be classified as typically male or female.

Q) Q) Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statements. I have a good understanding of transgender issues. (n = 1800)

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ASU
Global Sport
Institute
Arizona State
University

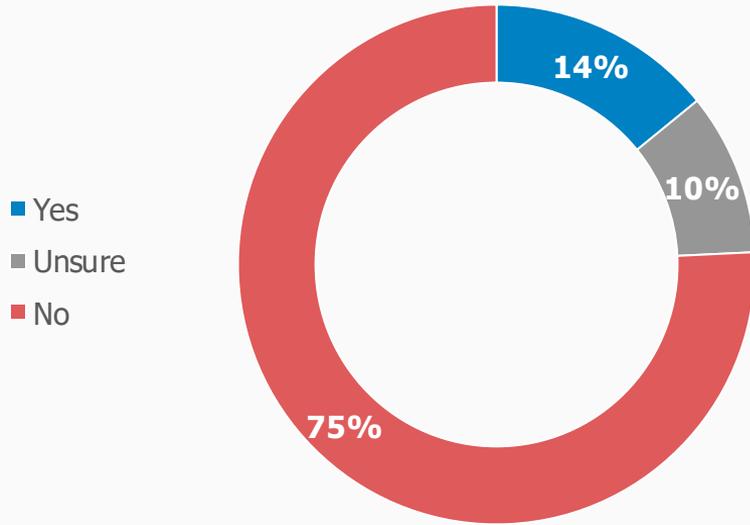
Opinions Regarding Transgender Athletes

Discover the opinions of the public, in general, regarding transgender athletes



Most people do not have personal experience with transgender athletes. Those who do are younger, more affluent, and urban.

Personal Experience with Transgender Athletes



Demographic	Yes	No
18-44	25%	59%
45-54	13%	80%
55+	2%	92%
Urban	23%	66%
Suburban	10%	78%
Rural	8%	85%
Income of \$100k+	20%	72%
Income of <\$50k	12%	75%
Parents of Younger Children (0-17 y/o)	25%	60%
Parents of Older Children (18+ y/o)	3%	92%
Non-parents	13%	77%

Q) Do you personally know someone (rather than hearing about it online or in the media) who has competed against, or chosen not to compete against, a transgender athlete? (n = 1800)

Q) What is your current age? 18-44 (n = 831), 45-54 (n = 288), 55+ (n = 681).

Q) Which of the following best describes the area in which you live? Urban (n = 629), Suburban (n = 848), Rural (n = 323).

Q) Do you have children living at home? Parents of Younger Children (n=602), Parents of Older Children (n=464), Non-parents (n=735).

Q) Which of the following best represents your gross annual household income. Income of \$100k+ (n = 553), Income of <\$50k (n = 601)

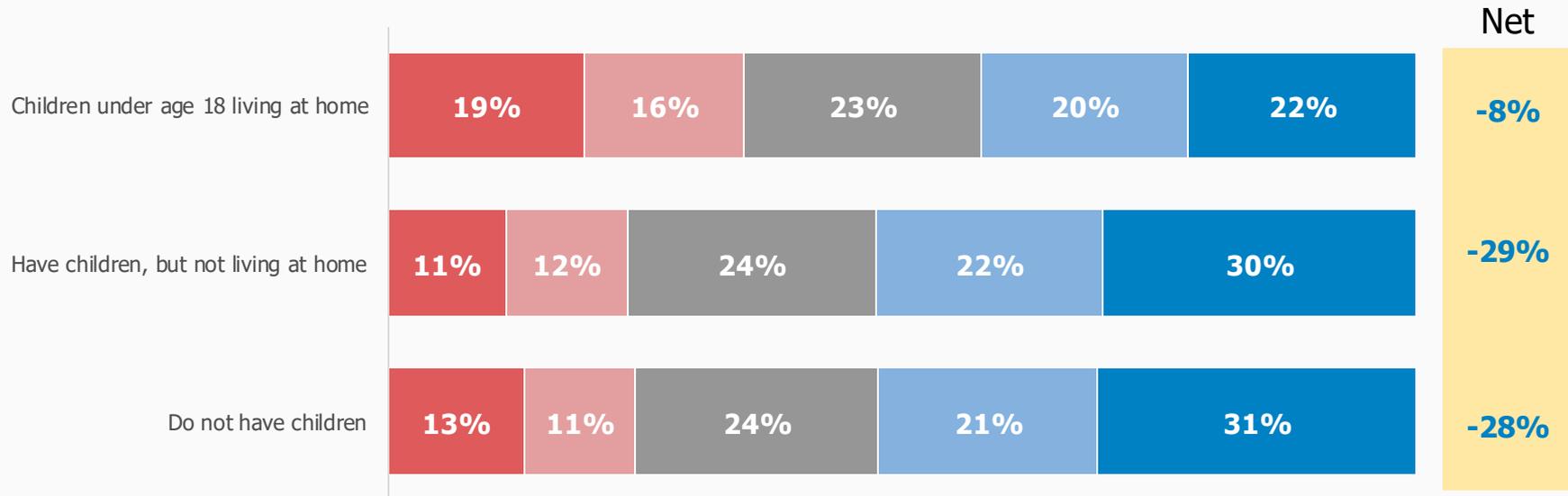
† Note: Some numbers (on the chart or elsewhere) may not appear to be totaled correctly. This is due to rounding. All numbers are correct.

Parents of young children believe that transgender athletes competing in youth sports is more prevalent of an issue than those with adult children or no children



Prevalence of Transgender Athletes Competing in Youth Sports by Parental Status

- I feel this is an extremely widespread issue
- I feel this is a very widespread issue
- I feel this is a moderately widespread issue
- I feel this is a mildly widespread issue
- I feel this is not a widespread issue at all



Q) Please indicate how prevalent you feel the issue is of transgender athletes competing in youth sports? (n = 1800)

Q) Do you have children living at home? Children under age 18 living at home (n = 602), Have children, but not living at home (n = 464), Do not have children (n = 735)

† Note: Some numbers (on the chart or elsewhere) may not appear to be totaled correctly. This is due to rounding. All numbers are correct.

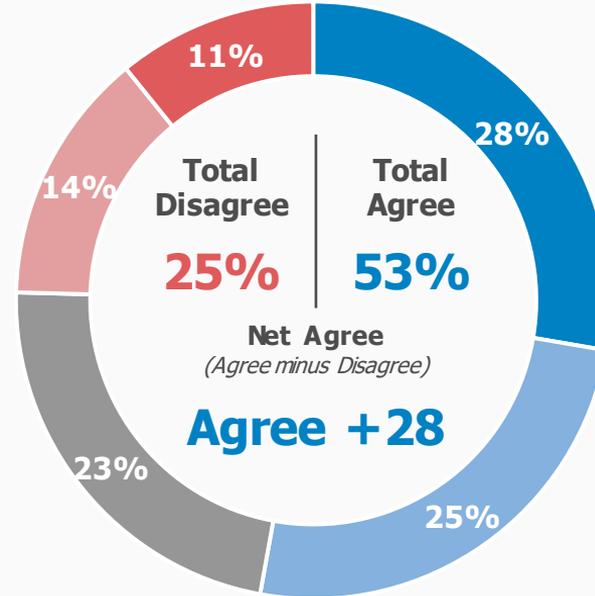
Parents of young children believe that the media is influencing children to believe they are transgender

- Regardless of parental status, white respondents, males, and respondents over the age of 35 years old are more likely to agree with the statement

Agreement with the statement “Children are being influenced by the media and other outside entities to think that they are transgender”

(only among those with young children)

■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ No Opinion ■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree



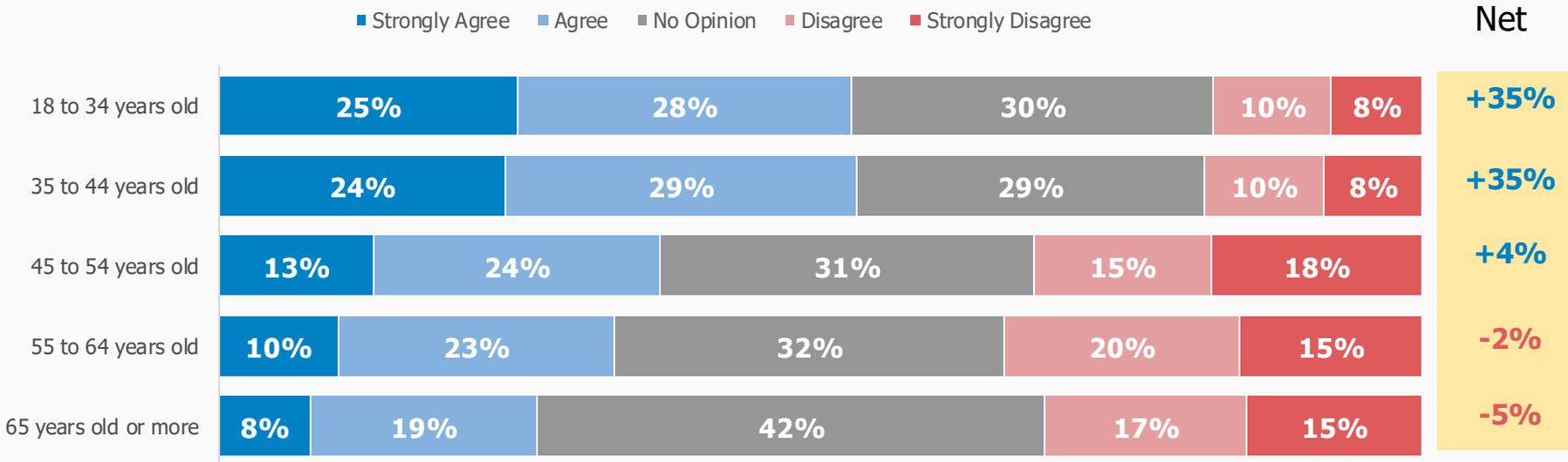
Q) Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statements. Children are being influenced by the media and other outside entities to think that they are transgender. Q) Do you have children living at home? (n = 602)

† Note: Some numbers (on the chart or elsewhere) may not appear to be totaled correctly. This is due to rounding. All numbers are correct.

Younger respondents believe that refusing to allow transgender athletes to compete in the category of their gender identity would harm them mentally or emotionally



Agreement with the Statement "If transgender boys and girls are not given the opportunity to compete in the gender category with which they identify, they will suffer mental and emotional harm"

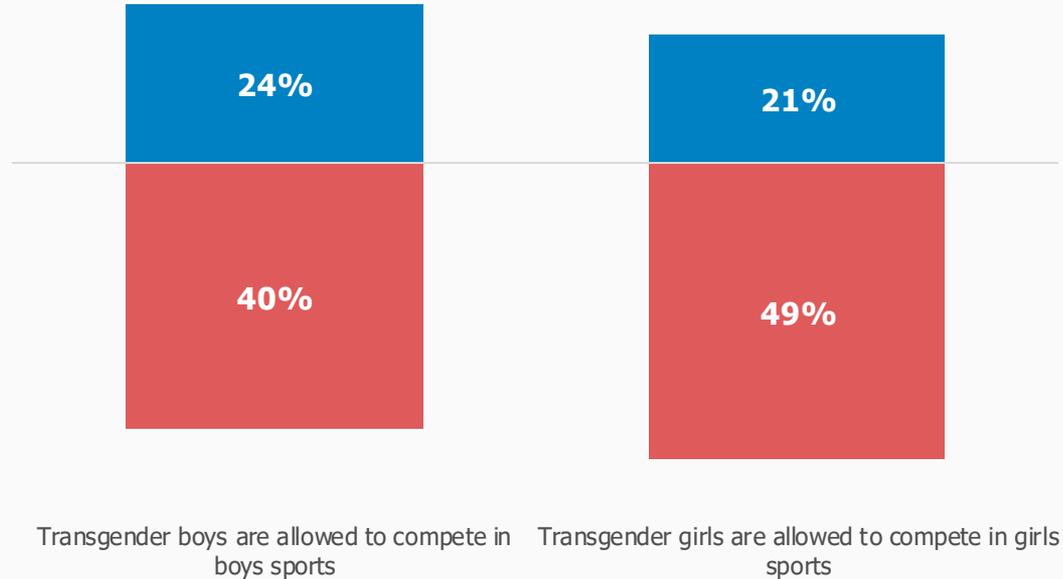


Q) Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statements. If transgender boys and girls are not given the opportunity to compete in the gender category with which they identify, they will suffer mental and emotional harm (n = 1800).
 Q) What is your current age? 18-34 years old (n = 537), 35-44 years old (n=294), 45-54 years old (n=288), 55-64 years old (n=299), 65+ years old or more (n=382).
 † Note: Some numbers (on the chart or elsewhere) may not appear to be totaled correctly. This is due to rounding. All numbers are correct.

More respondents were worried about the impact that allowing transgender girls to compete in girls' sports would have than transgender boys' impact on boys' sports

Impact of the Following Scenarios on Boys'/Girls' Sports

■ Total Positive ■ Total Negative



Q) If transgender girls are allowed to compete in girl's sports, please indicate any impact you feel this will have. Q) If transgender boys are allowed to compete in boy's sports, please indicate any impact you feel this will have. (n = 1800)

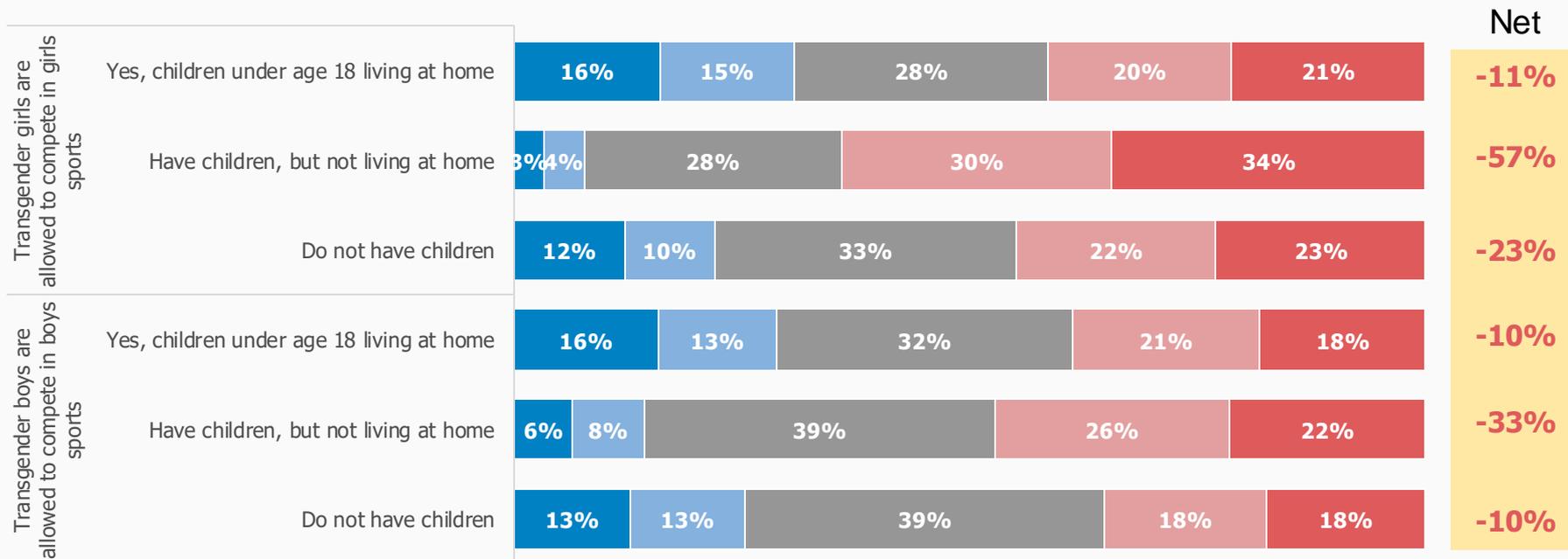
† Note: Some numbers (on the chart or elsewhere) may not appear to be totaled correctly. This is due to rounding. All numbers are correct.

Parents of young children are not as concerned about the impact of transgender athletes on sports as parents whose children no longer live at home



Impact of the Following Scenarios on Sports by Parental Status

■ Strongly positive impact ■ Positive impact ■ Neutral impact ■ Negative impact ■ Strongly negative impact



Q) If transgender girls are allowed to compete in girls' sports, please indicate any impact you feel this will have. Q) If transgender boys are allowed to compete in boy's sports, please indicate any impact you feel this will have. (n = 1800)

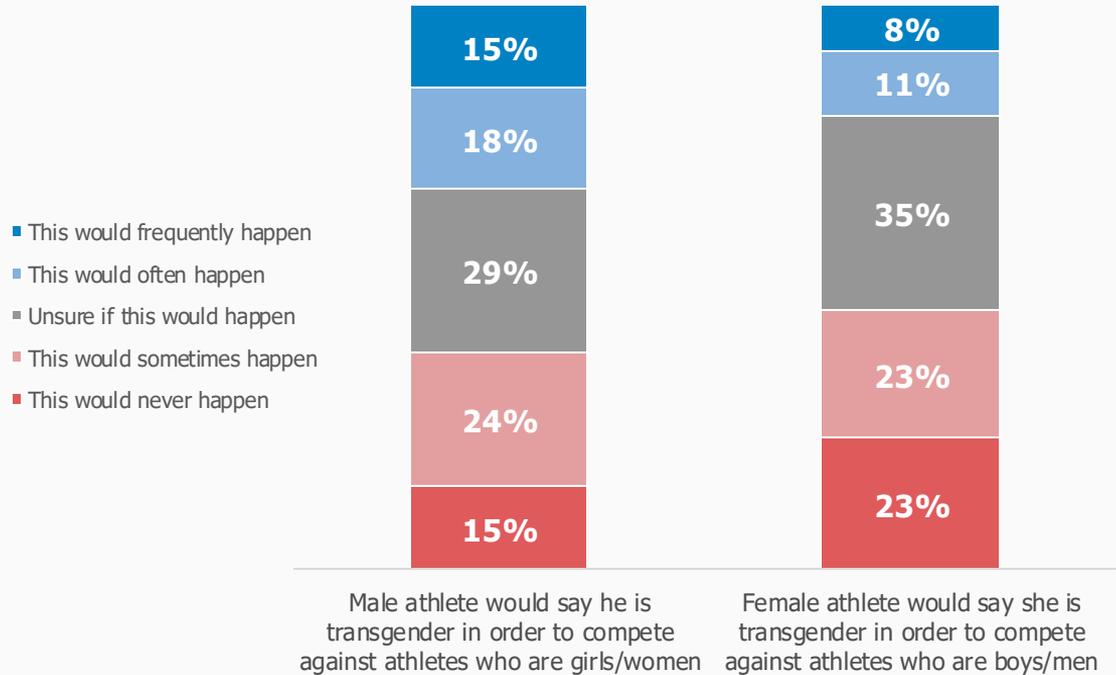
Q) Do you have children living at home: Children under age 18 living at home (n = 602), Have children, but not living at home (n = 464), Do not have children (n = 735)

† Note: Some numbers (on the chart or elsewhere) may not appear to be totaled correctly. This is due to rounding. All numbers are correct.

Respondents are not convinced that athletes would claim to be transgender in order to compete in other categories

- However, more respondents believe that a male athlete would say he is transgender to compete against women than a female athlete would say she is transgender in order to compete against men

How often do you believe the following scenarios would happen?



Q) Do you feel that a female athlete would say she is transgender in order to compete against athletes who are boys/men? Q) Do you feel that a male athlete would say he is transgender in order to compete against athletes who are girls/women? (n = 1800)

† Note: Some numbers (on the chart or elsewhere) may not appear to be totaled correctly. This is due to rounding. All numbers are correct.

Interaction between Transgender and Non- Transgender Athletes

Determine the overall consensus regarding how transgender and non-transgender athletes should interact

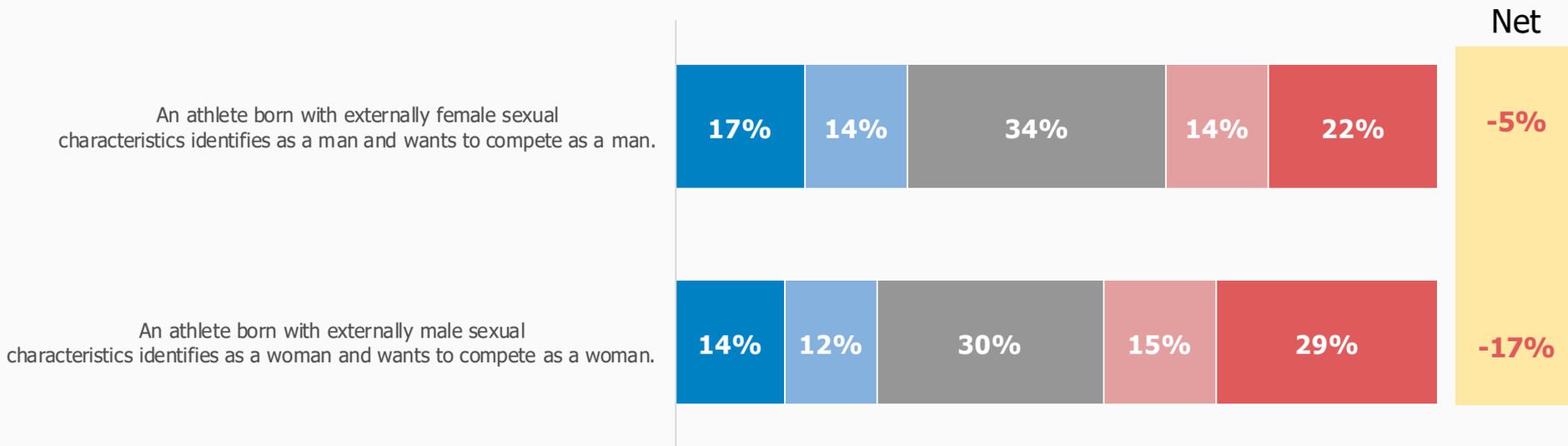


More respondents were supportive of athletes who were born female but identify as male competing against biological males, than the other way around



Support for Transgender Athletes Competing in the Category that Matches their Gender Identity

■ Strongly support it ■ Somewhat support it ■ Neutral ■ Somewhat against it ■ Strongly against it



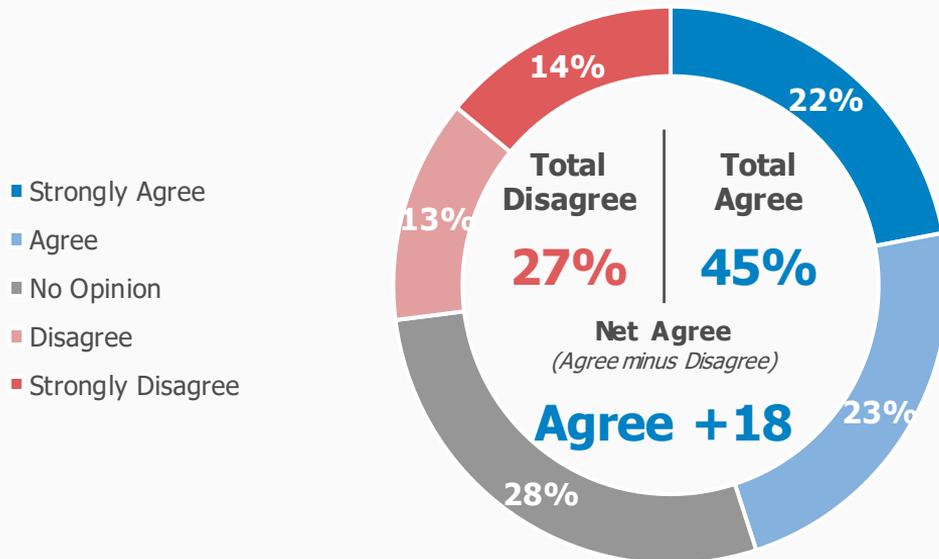
Q) Consider the following scenario: An athlete who was born with externally female sexual characteristics identifies as a man and wants to compete as a man. Should this be allowed? Q) Consider the following scenario: An athlete who was born with externally male sexual characteristics identifies as a woman and wants to compete as a woman. Should this be allowed? (n = 1800)

† Note: Some numbers (on the chart or elsewhere) may not appear to be totaled correctly. This is due to rounding. All numbers are correct.

Respondents are concerned about the presence of transgender athletes in locker rooms – parents in particular are more concerned than average



Agreement with the Statement "I am concerned about transgender athletes' presence in the locker room"



Demographic	Total Agree	Total Disagree
Parents of Younger Children (0-17 y/o)	53%	24%
Parents of Older Children (18+ y/o)	50%	22%
Non-parents	37%	33%
Males 18-54	53%	22%
Males 55+	49%	26%
Rural	48%	21%
Those who exercised in a Micro gym, boutique fitness gym, or traditional gym before the pandemic started	47%	29%

Q) Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statements. I am concerned about transgender athletes' presence in the locker room. (n = 1800)
 Q) What is your current age? Q) What sex were you assigned at birth. Males 18-54 (n = 536), Males 55+ (n = 341) Q) Which of the following best describes the area in which you live. Rural (n = 323) Do you have children living at home: Parents of Younger Children (n=602), Parents of Older Children (n=464), Non-parents (n=735).
 Q) Before the pandemic started, at which of the following locations have you exercised? Select all that apply. Those who exercised in a Micro gym, boutique fitness gym, or traditional gym before the pandemic started (n = 612)
 † Note: Some numbers (on the chart or elsewhere) may not appear to be totaled correctly. This is due to rounding. All numbers are correct.

60%

Of those who are **not** concerned about transgender athletes' presence in locker rooms worry that transgender athletes will **suffer mentally/emotionally** if they cannot compete among those who share their gender identity

Q) Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statements. I am concerned about transgender athletes' presence in the locker room. Q)If transgender boys and girls are not given the opportunity to compete in the gender category with which they identify, they will suffer mental and emotional harm. (n = 486)

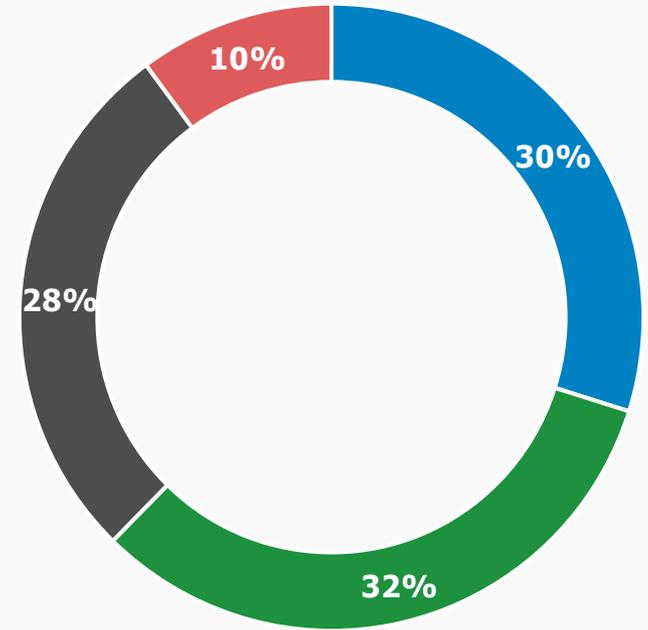
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Respondents were united in the belief that transgender people should be allowed to compete in sports but divided on where they should compete

- Younger respondents (18-34 y/o) were more likely to allow transgender athletes to compete with their gender identity as opposed to their sex assigned at birth, as were women, Hispanics, Asians, non-specified ethnicities, and respondents without children

Opinions on How Sports Should Address Transgender Athletes

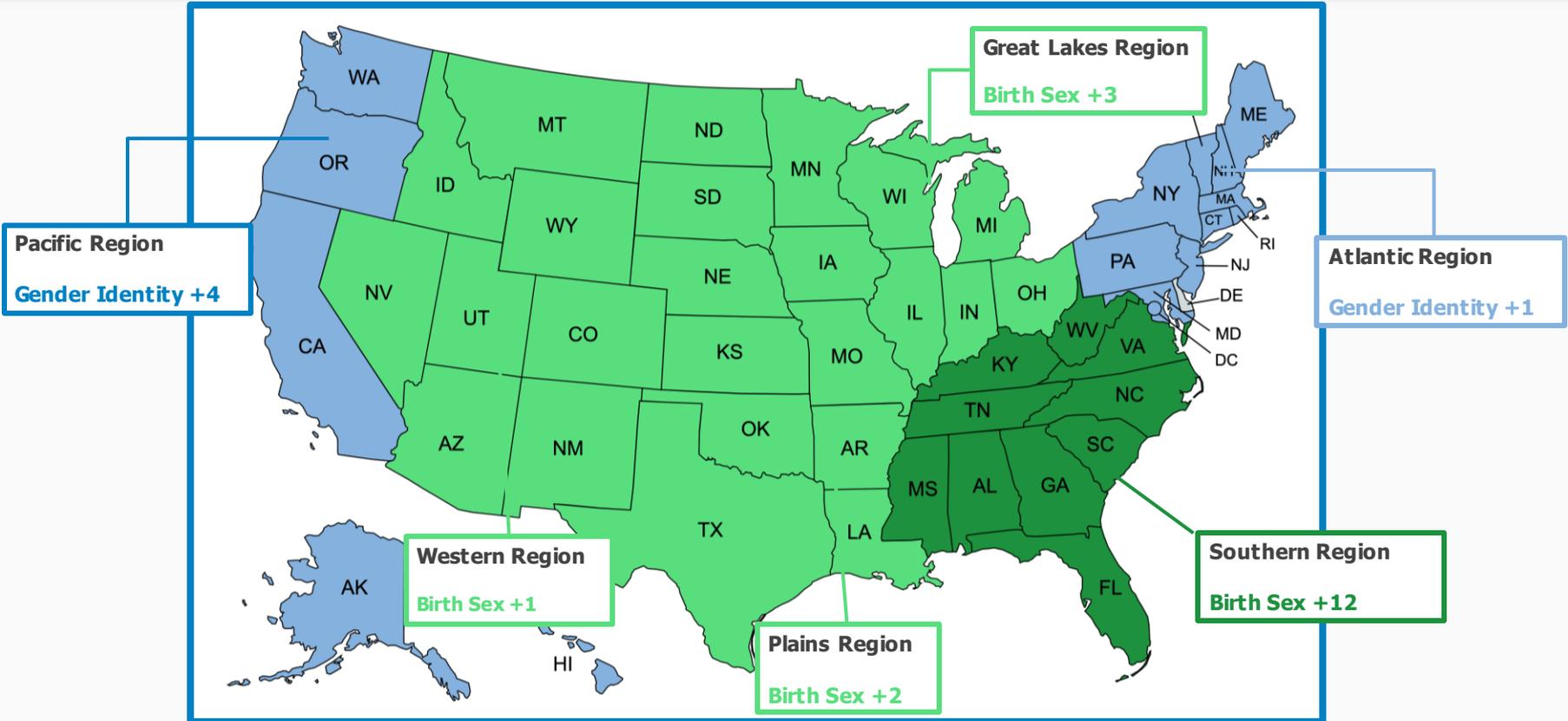
- Transgender athletes should be able to compete in the category that matches their gender identity, regardless of the sex assigned at birth.
- Transgender athletes should be required to compete in the category of their sex assigned at birth, regardless of their gender identity.
- There should be two additional competition categories created, one for transgender boys/men and one for transgender girls/women.
- Transgender athletes should not be allowed to compete in sports.



Q) Which of these sentiments most closely matches your own? (n=1800)

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Regional Breakout of Preference for Transgender Athletes to Compete in the Category of their Gender Identity or Birth Sex



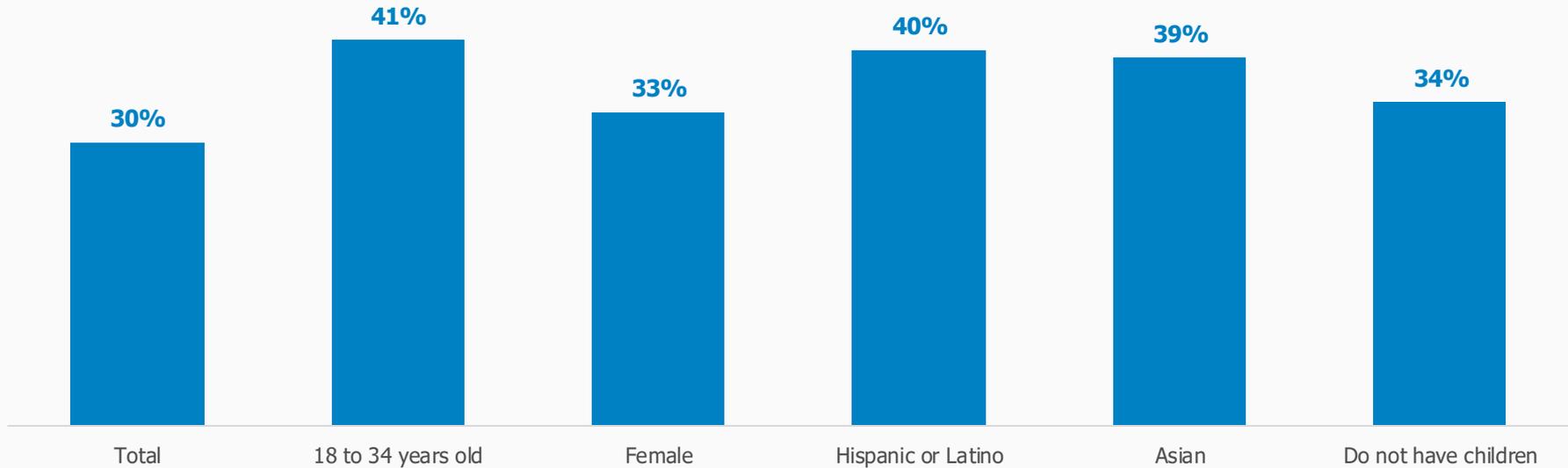
Q) Which of these sentiments most closely matches your own? (n = 1800).

Subset: (n = 300 per region). Regions are shaded to the degree their margin of birth sex minus gender identity was positive or negative

† Note: Some numbers (on the chart or elsewhere) may not appear to be totaled correctly. This is due to rounding. All numbers are correct.

Demographics Who are Among the Most Supportive of Transgender Athletes Competing in the Category of Their Gender Identity

"Transgender athletes should be able to compete in the category that matches their gender identity, regardless of the sex assigned at birth"



Q) Which of these sentiments most closely matches your own? (n = 1800), (n = 537 Respondents who said "Transgender athletes should be able to compete in the category that matches their gender identity, regardless of the sex assigned at birth"). Q) What is your current age? 18-44 (n = 831). What sex were you assigned at birth? Female (n = 923), Q) Which of the following best describes your ethnicity? Hispanic or Latino (n=296), Asian (n = 111). Q) Do you have children living at home. Do not have children (n=735).

† Note: Some numbers (on the chart or elsewhere) may not appear to be totaled correctly. This is due to rounding. All numbers are correct.

Key Takeaway

Respondents themselves are not entirely sure of what should be done with transgender athletes. There is little consistency in respondents' opinions, indicating that respondents are not certain in their beliefs.

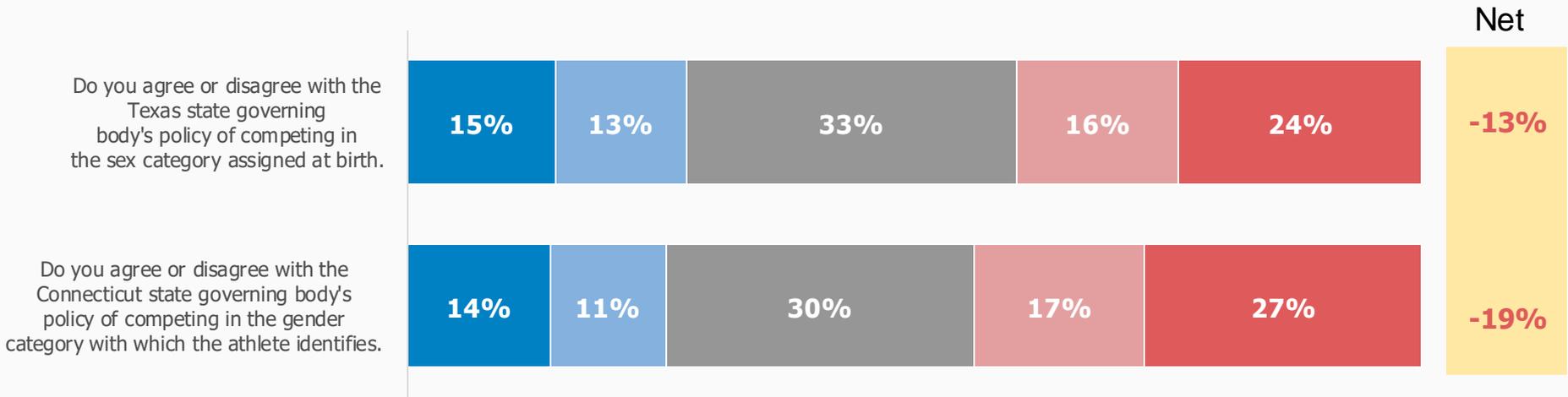


When presented with real-life examples of transgender athletes competing in the categories of their gender identities and birth sexes, respondents were not overwhelmingly satisfied with either option



Support for "real-life" examples of transgender athletes competing in different sport categories

■ I strongly support it ■ I somewhat support it ■ I am neutral ■ I am somewhat against it ■ I am strongly against it



Q) By definition, a transgender boy is a person who was assigned female at birth but identifies as a boy. In 2017, a high school-aged transgender boy wrestler competed against high school-aged female wrestlers in the Texas State Championships in line with the state governing body's policy of competing in the sex category assigned at birth. Do you agree or disagree with this decision? (n=1800)

Q) By definition, a transgender girl is a person who was assigned male at birth but identifies as a girl. In 2020, two high school-aged transgender girl track athletes competed against high school-aged female track athletes in the Connecticut state championships in line with the state governing body's policy of completing in the gender category with which the athlete identifies. Do you agree or disagree with this decision? (n=1800)

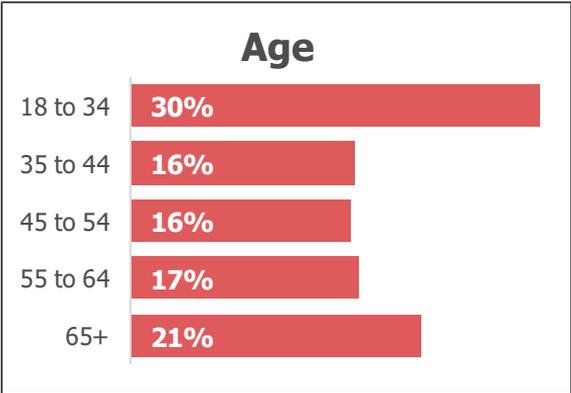
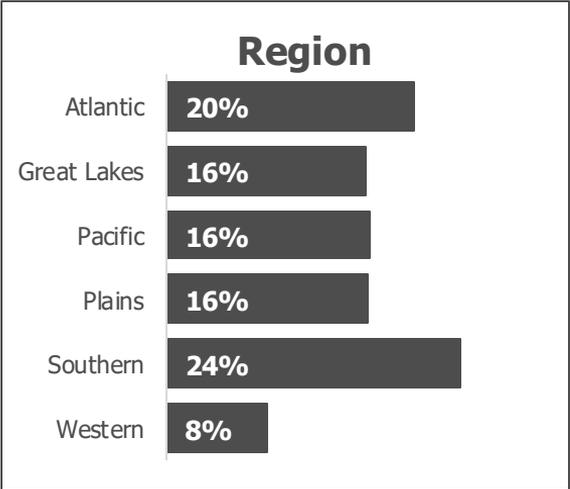
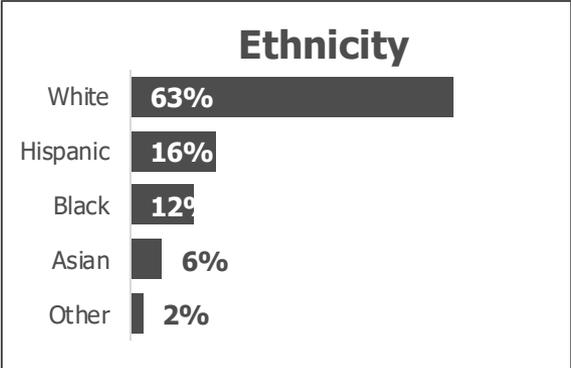
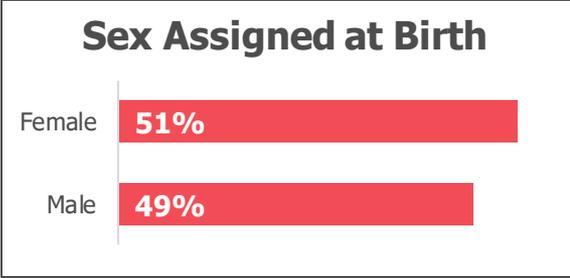
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Methodology

This national survey was conducted by OH Predictive Insights between May 19th – May 27th, 2021 from a nationwide general population (18+ year old) sample. The sample size was 1,800 completed surveys, with a MoE of $\pm 2.31\%$. All respondents were given the option to take the survey in English or Spanish. Of the 1,800 respondents in total, 16 respondents opted to take the survey in Spanish, while the remaining respondents chose to take the survey in English. The sample demographics accurately reflected the target population's age, gender, region and ethnicity according to population statistics derived from recent US Census data for US adults. This survey was conducted via opt-in online panel.

*Numbers may not total 100%, due to rounding.

Research Methodology – Sample Summary



Research Methodology - Regional Sample Summaries

	Demographics	Atlantic	Great Lakes	Pacific	Plains	Southern	Western
Sex Assigned at Birth	Male	48%	49%	49%	49%	48%	50%
	Female	52%	51%	51%	51%	52%	50%
	Other	0%	NA	NA	NA	0%	0%
Age	18-34	29%	29%	31%	31%	29%	31%
	35-44	16%	16%	17%	17%	16%	17%
	45-54	16%	16%	16%	16%	16%	15%
	55-64	17%	17%	16%	16%	17%	16%
	65+	22%	22%	20%	19%	23%	21%
Ethnicity	White	65%	76%	47%	59%	64%	67%
	Hispanic	13%	7%	29%	22%	12%	21%
	African American	13%	11%	5%	12%	20%	4%
	Asian	7%	4%	15%	4%	3%	3%
	Other	2%	2%	4%	3%	2%	5%



Thank You

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