

NEW ENGLAND ENERGY ALLIANCE 2016 NEW ENGLAND CONSUMER ENERGY SURVEY

April 2016

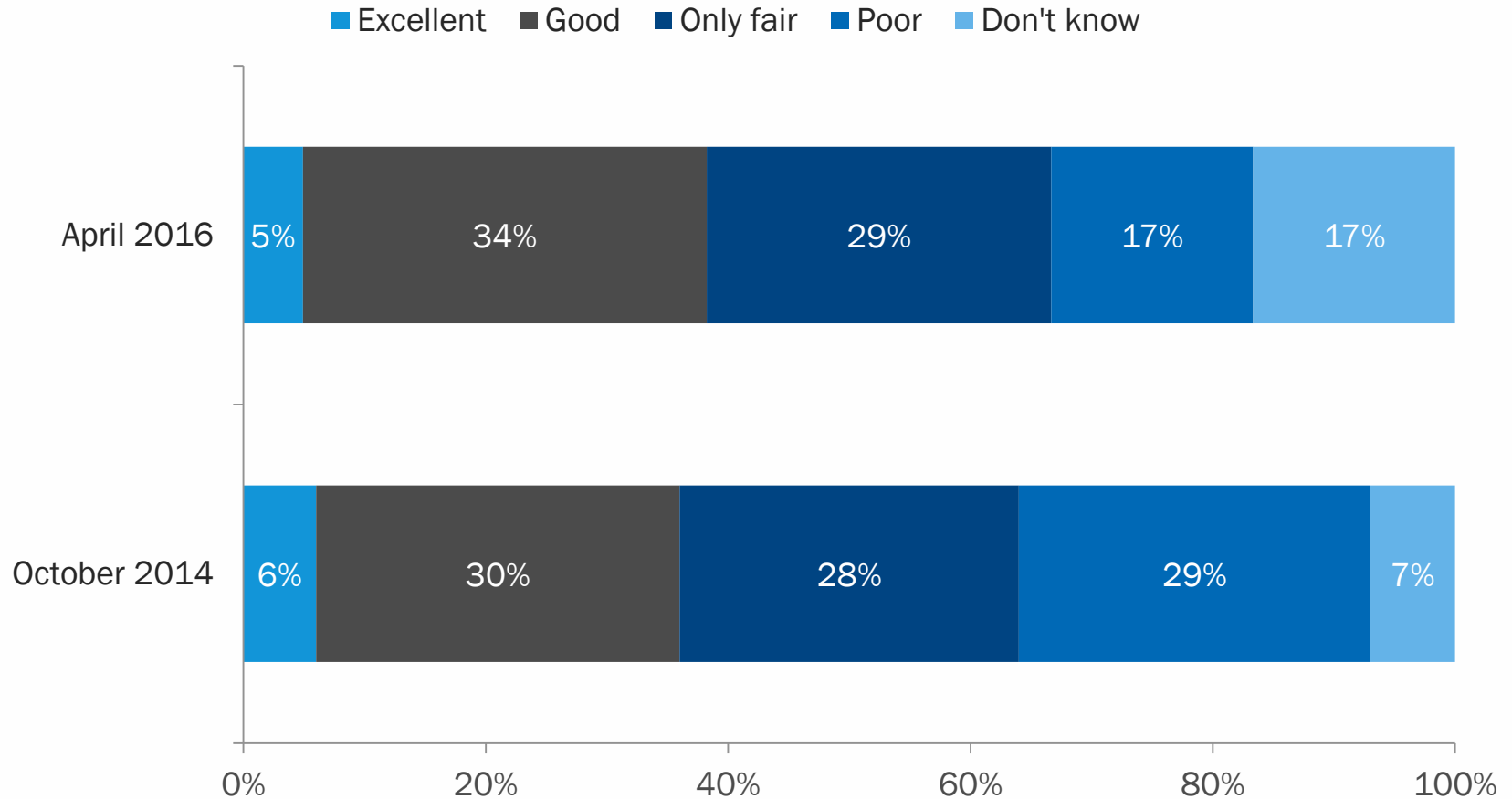


About the Survey

- Telephone Interview Dates: April 14th – April 23rd , 2016
 - 500 interviews completed in New England
 - Margin of error is $\pm 4.4\%$
 - Connecticut – 118
 - Maine – 56
 - Massachusetts – 219
 - New Hampshire – 51
 - Rhode Island – 33
 - Vermont – 23
- Tracking data shown for past surveys conducted in New England in October 2014, April 2013, April 2012, May 2011, April 2010, January 2009, April 2008, and March 2007

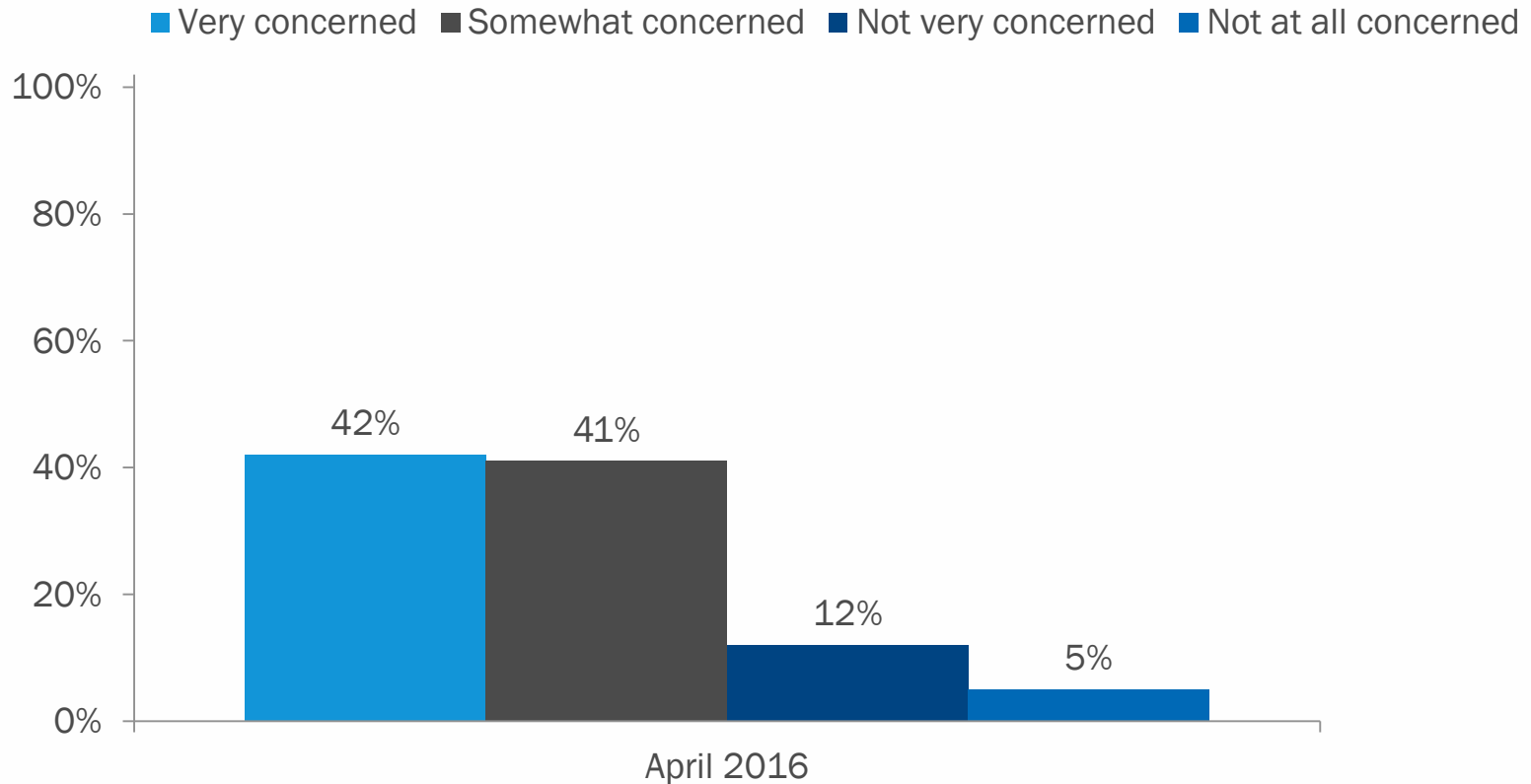


How would you rate the job your Governor is doing on energy policy in general?

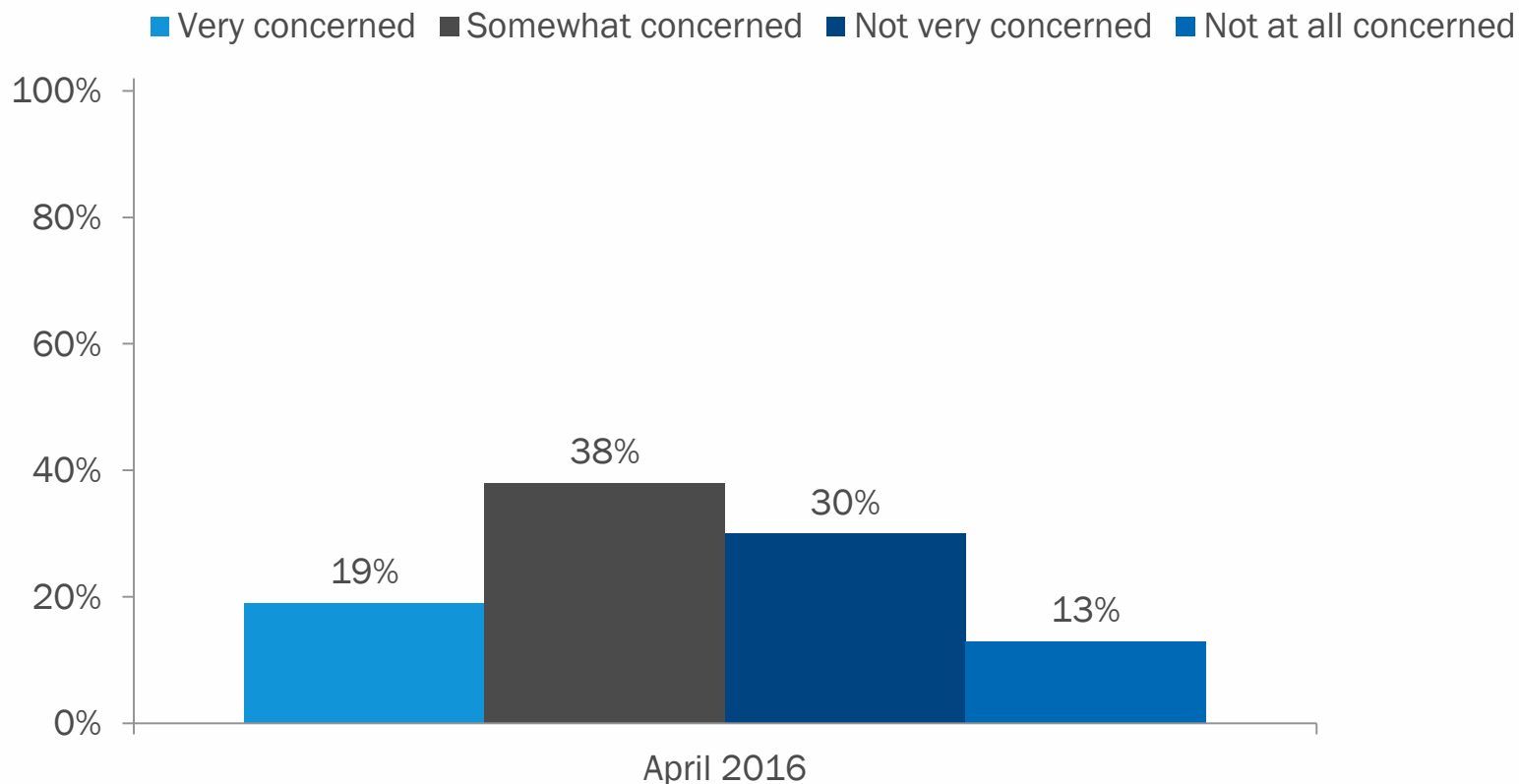


**Wording difference: How would you rate the job your current Governor is doing on assuring an adequate supply of affordable energy for your state?*

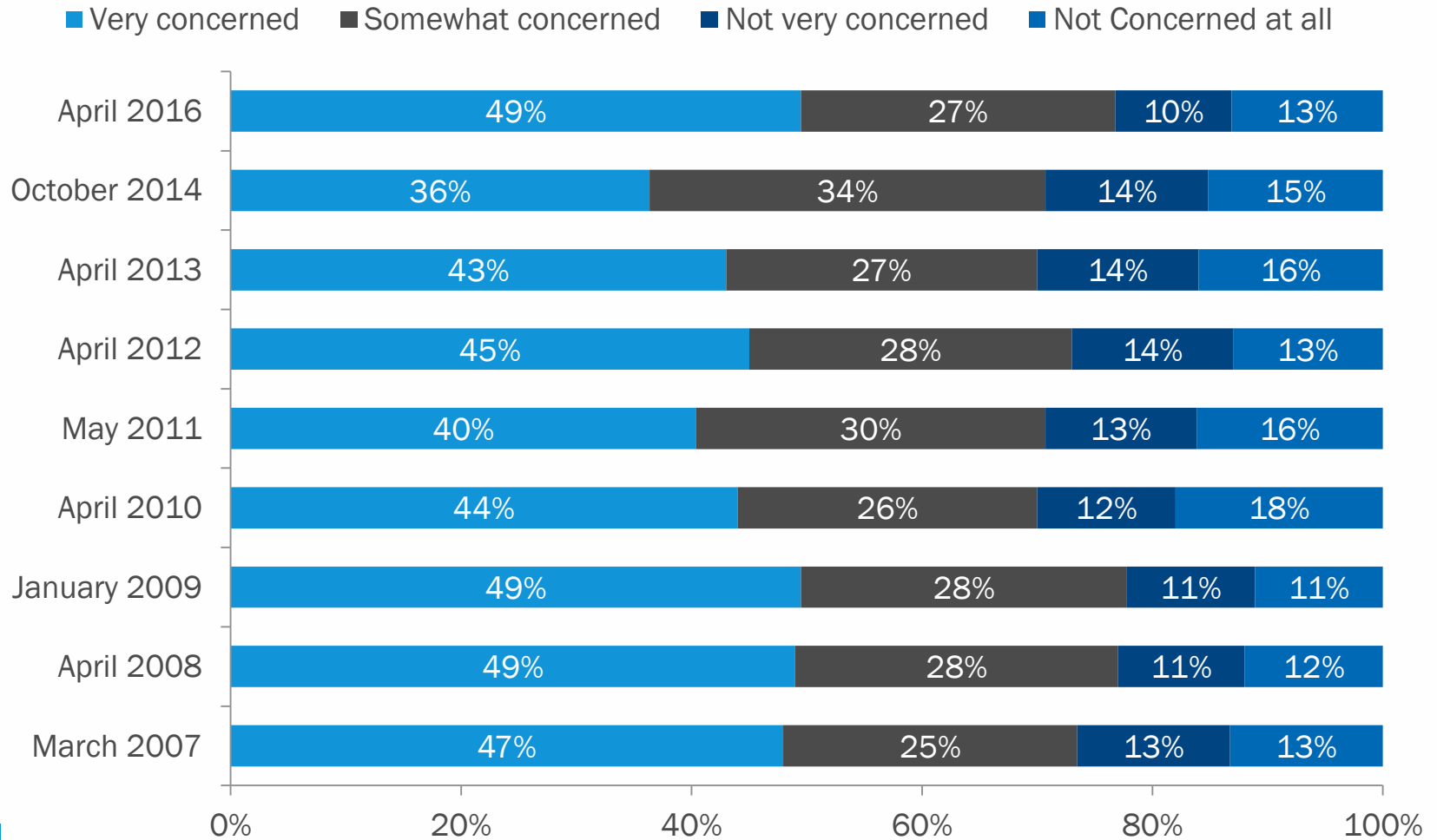
How concerned are you personally about the affordability of energy here in New England?



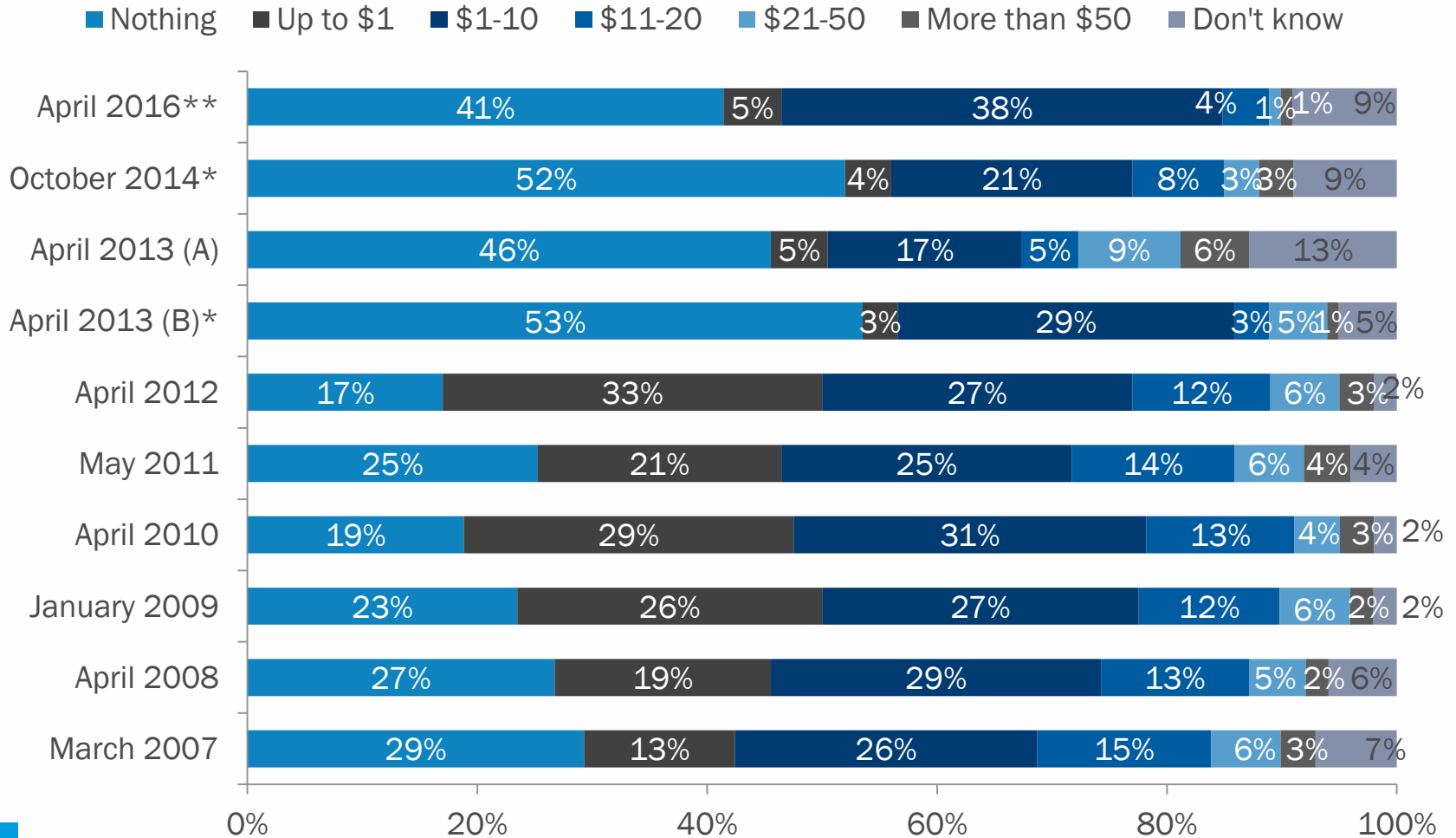
How concerned are you personally about the reliability of energy here in New England?



In general, how concerned are you about the effects of climate change?



About how much more per month (beyond the five dollars you already pay) would you be willing to pay on your electric bill to fund state government efforts to limit the effects of climate change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions from power plants?

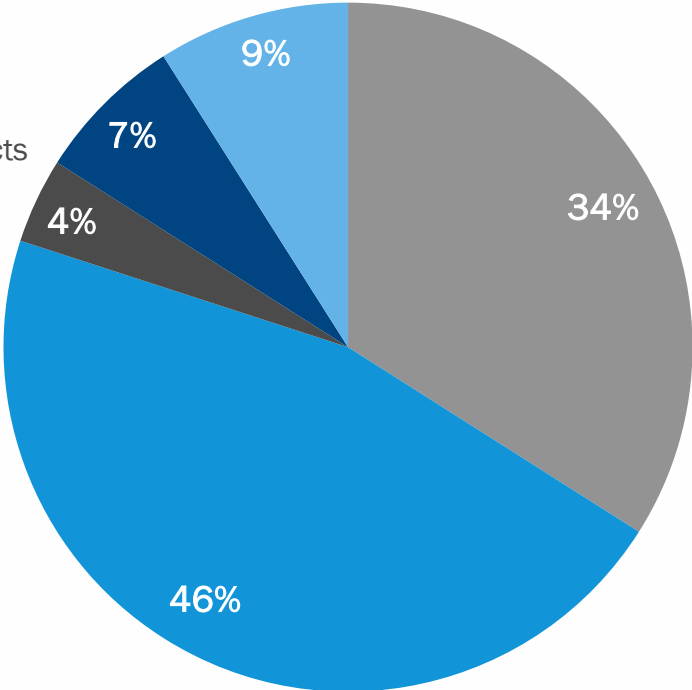


*Note added language: "beyond the \$5 you already pay"

**Adjusted to fit into categories

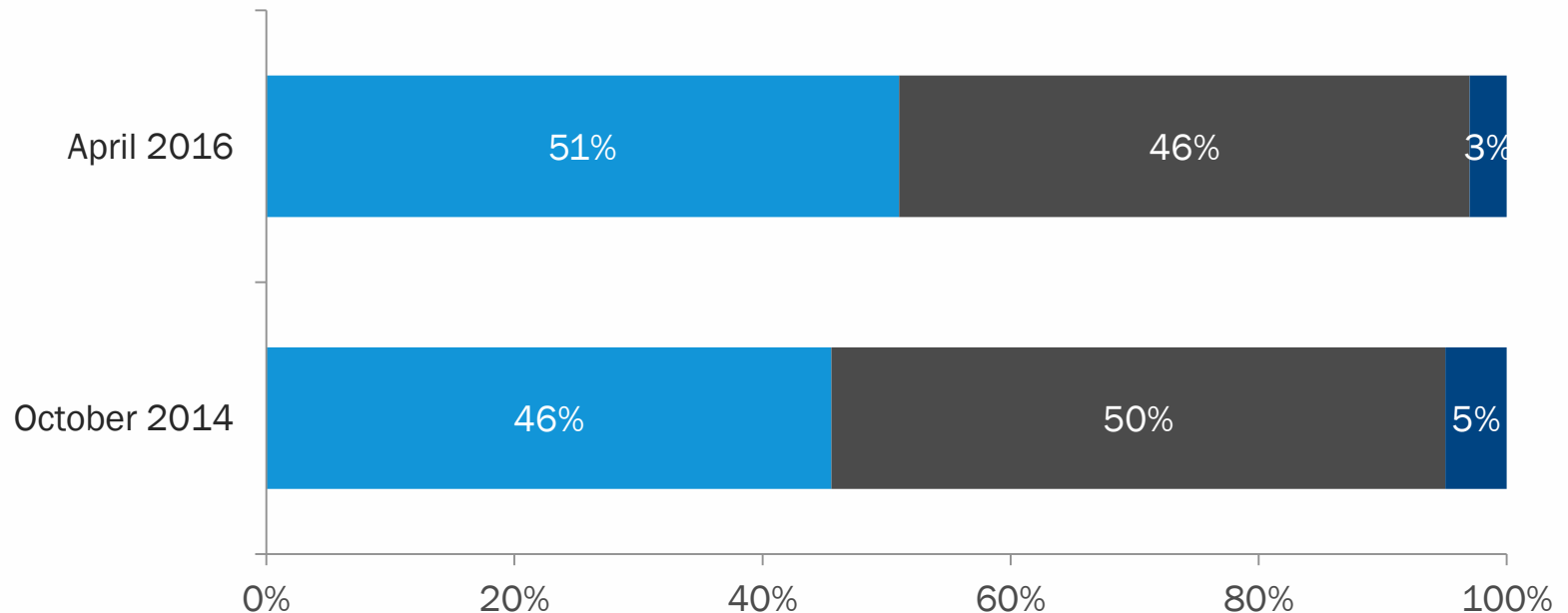
One way to reduce carbon emissions is to import renewable Canadian hydropower to the region. This would require the construction of transmission lines paid for by a surcharge on electric bills. New England utilities would also have to enter into long-term contracts for the hydropower—lasting up to 25 years. Some people say that it’s worth the extra cost to build transmission lines that deliver clean, renewable energy like Canadian hydropower. Others say that it’s not worth the cost—especially if long-term contracts lock utilities into potentially higher electricity prices. Which of these positions is closer to your own?

- Worth the cost to import clean, renewable hydropower
- Not worth the cost of locking into expensive long-term contracts
- Combination
- Neither
- Don't know/Refused



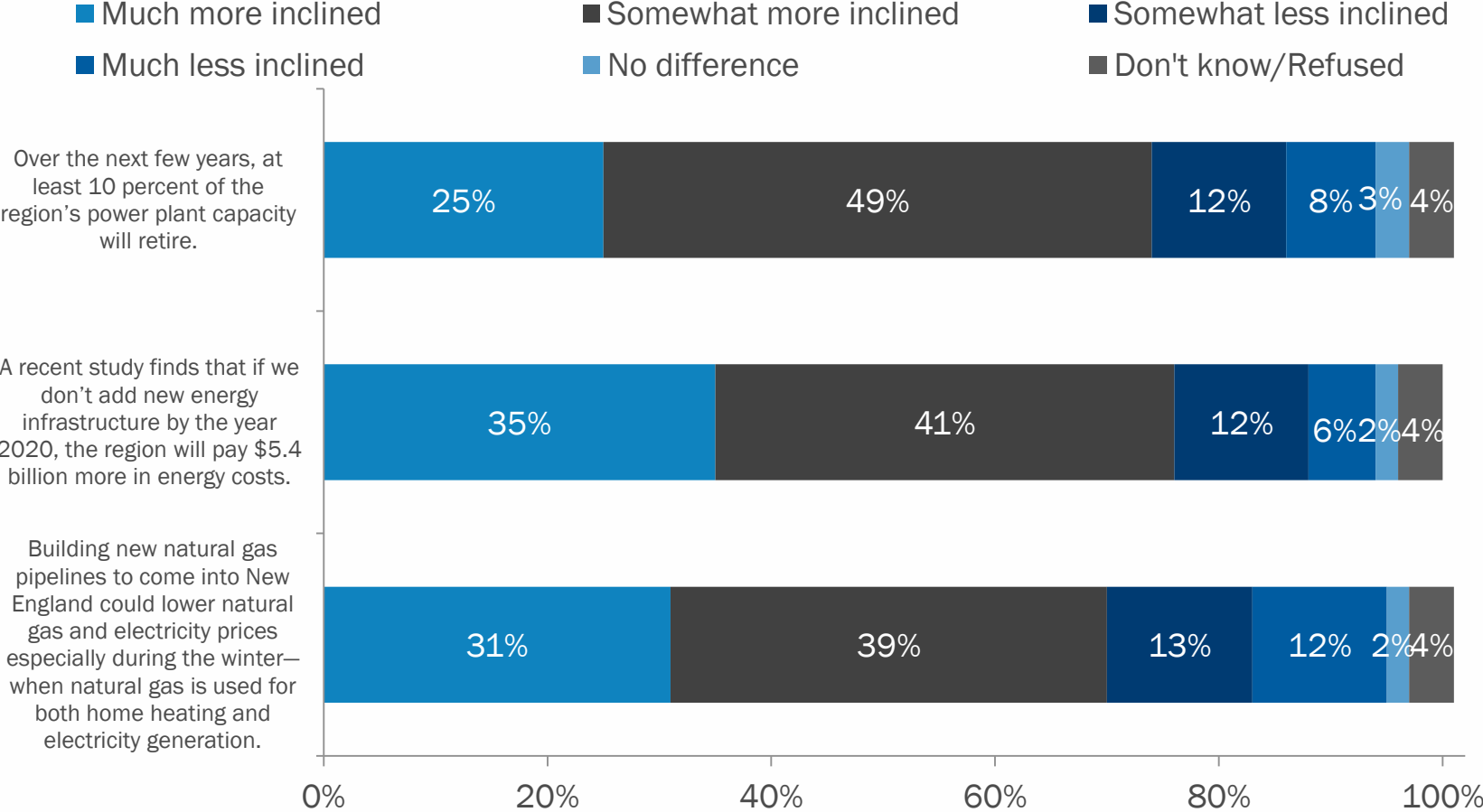
Because renewable energy plants such as wind, solar and hydro do not produce any carbon emissions, states mandate that utilities purchase a certain percentage of electricity from these resources. Nuclear power plants also do not release any carbon emissions into the atmosphere. Based on this information, do you think nuclear power plants should be included in clean energy policymaking as well?

- Yes, nuclear plants should be included in clean energy policymaking
- No, nuclear plants should not be included in clean energy policymaking
- Don't know/Refused



Wording difference:* As you may know, renewable energy plants such as wind, solar and hydro **do not release any fossil-fuel emissions into the atmosphere and therefore some call them “clean energy” facilities. Nuclear power plants **also** do not release any fossil-fuel emissions into the atmosphere. Based on this information, do you think nuclear power plants should also be considered as “clean energy” facilities, or not?

After each statement, please indicate whether hearing it makes you much more inclined to support building new energy infrastructure, somewhat more inclined to support it, somewhat less inclined, or much less inclined to support building new energy infrastructure.



Continued on next slide

■ Much more inclined

■ Somewhat more inclined

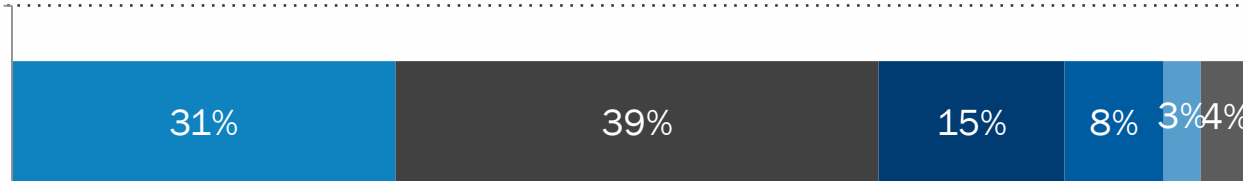
■ Somewhat less inclined

■ Much less inclined

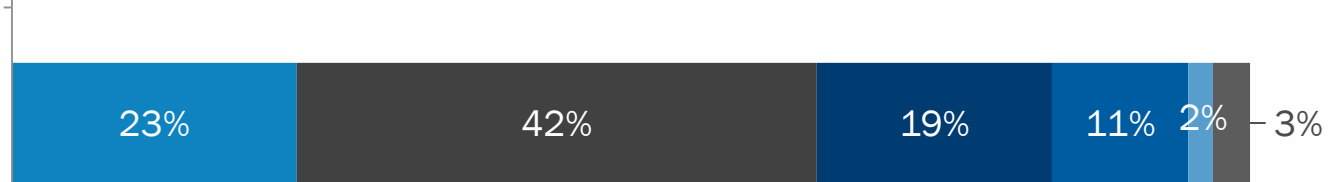
■ No difference

■ Don't know/Refused

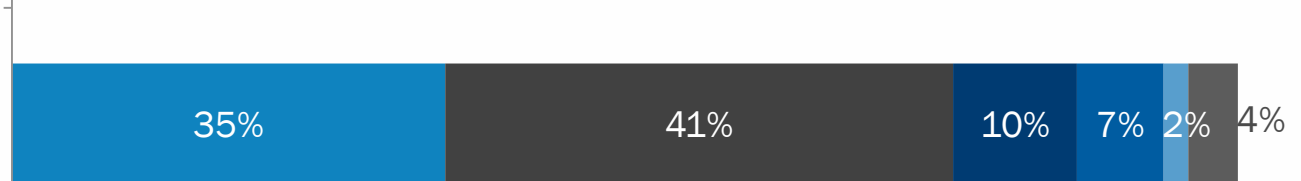
Due to inadequate energy infrastructure, New England's electricity costs are more than 50% higher than the national average, making it difficult to attract good paying jobs to the region.



New England needs reliable back-up energy plants—like natural gas and nuclear— to compensate for greater use of renewable resources like wind and solar, which operate less than half the time.



A recent study finds that New England consumers could lose \$12.5 million of disposable income and the region could lose 165,000 jobs over the next four years unless we add new energy...



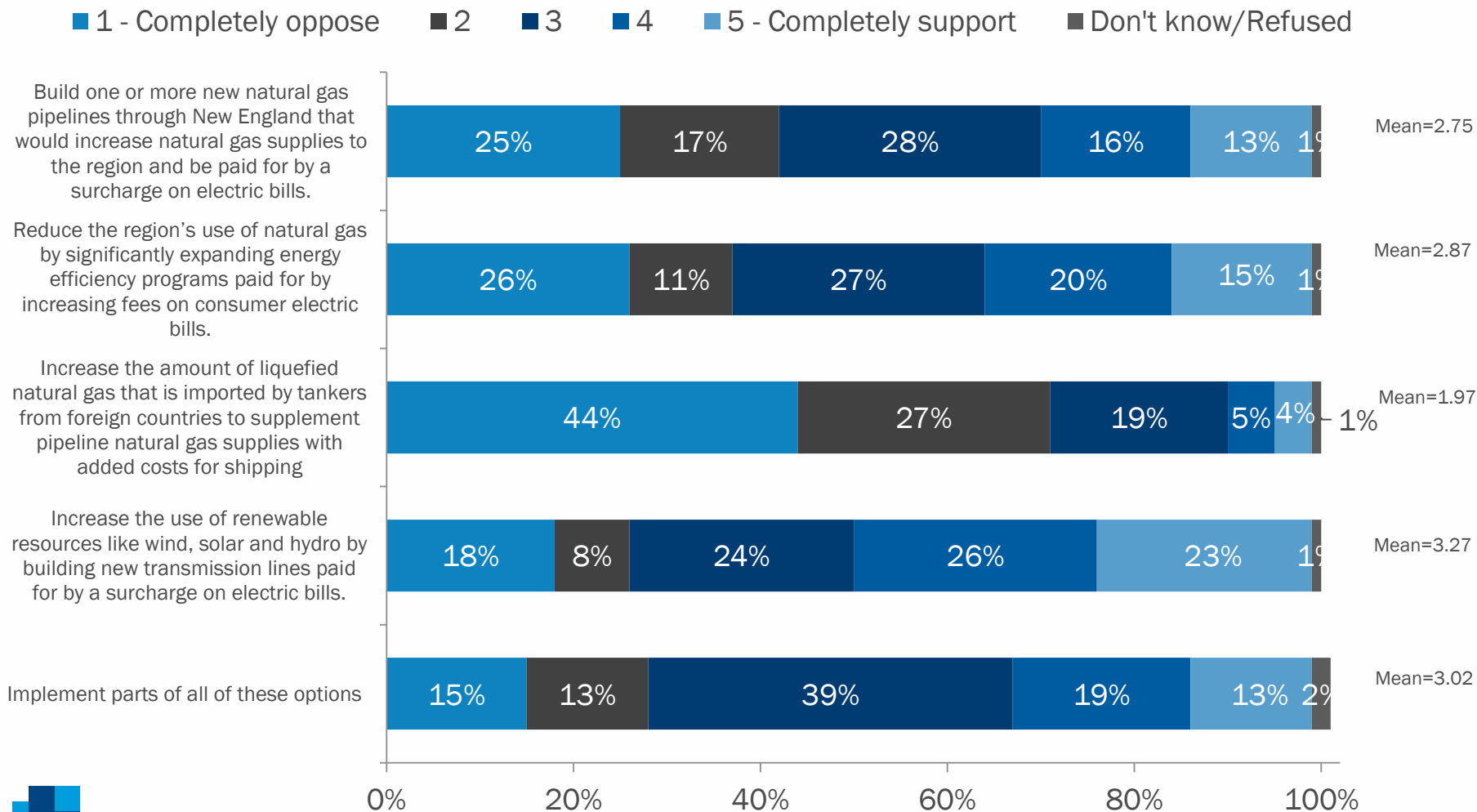
There's no need to rush into building a natural gas pipeline in New England, since it could lock us into higher utility rates for the next twenty years.



0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

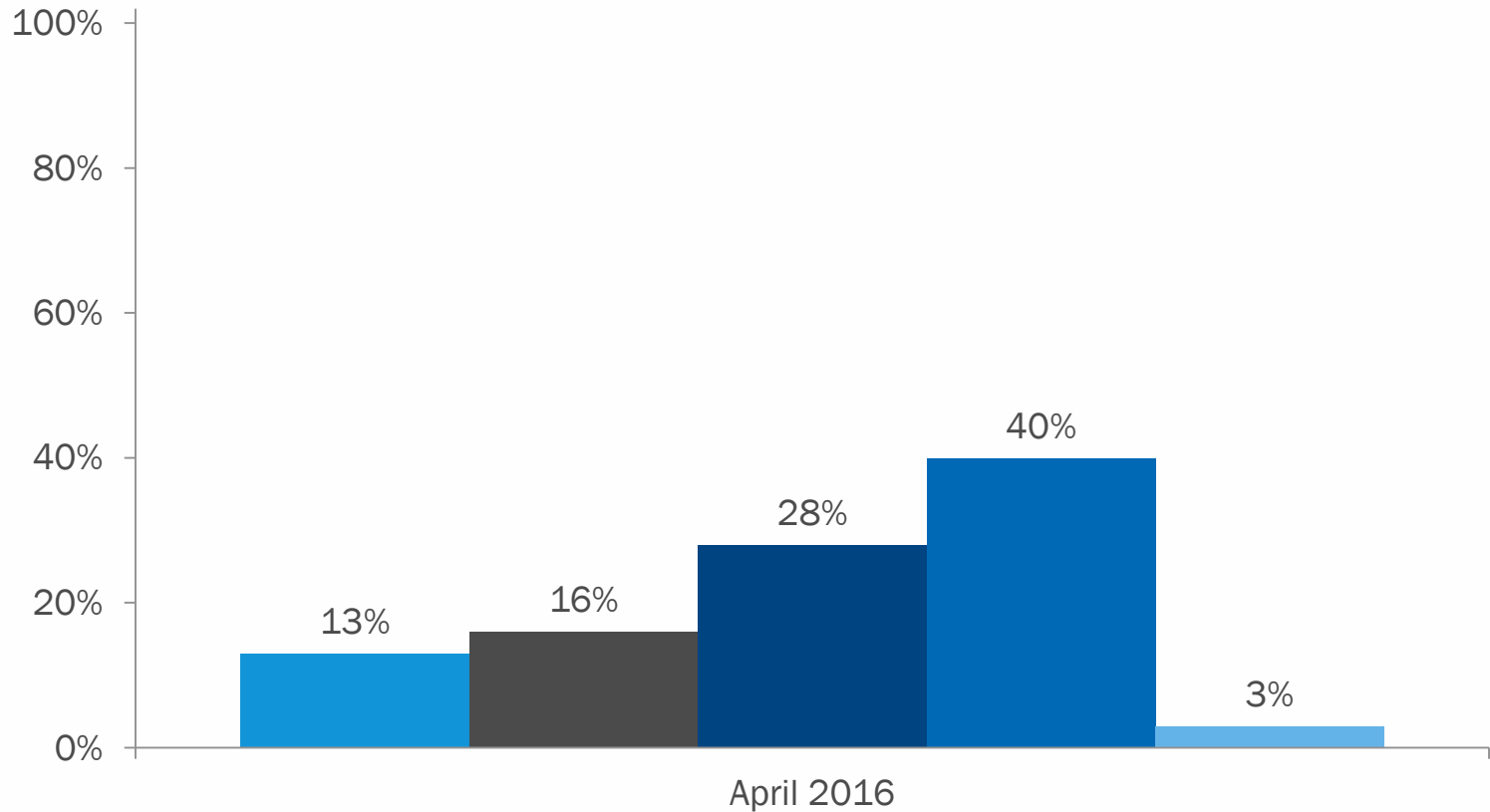


Over half of New England’s electricity is generated by natural gas—resulting in some of the highest electricity prices in the country. Part of the reason for this is that the transport of natural gas from outside the region is hampered by an inadequate pipeline system that limits the flow of low cost gas into the region. On a scale of “1” to “5”, where “1” means “completely oppose” and “5” means “completely support”, please rate your position on each of these policy options.

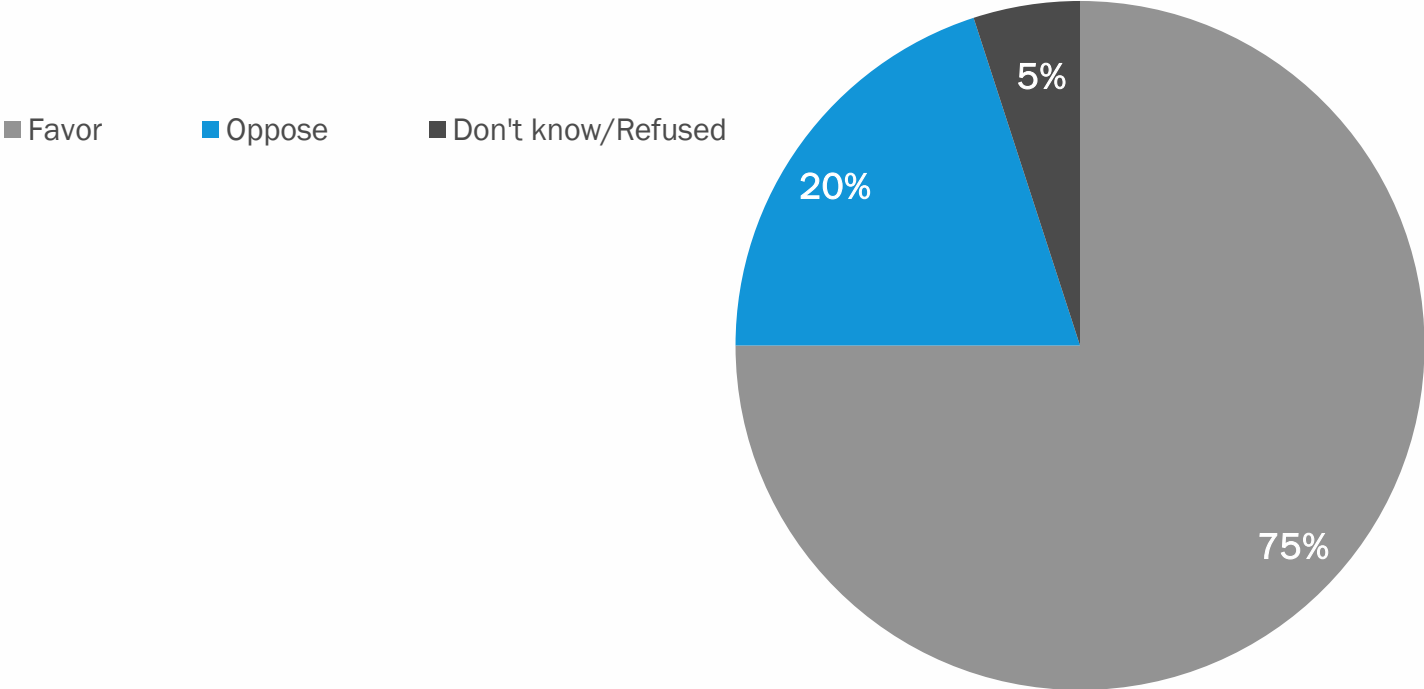


Two New England nuclear plants—Vermont Yankee and Pilgrim— have shut down or soon will. Three other nuclear plants still operate in the region—Millstone II, Millstone III and Seabrook—which together reliably and economically generate 20% of the New England's electricity—while producing no carbon emissions. Knowing this, would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose shutting down New England's remaining nuclear plants?

■ Strongly favor ■ Somewhat favor ■ Somewhat oppose ■ Strongly oppose ■ Don't know

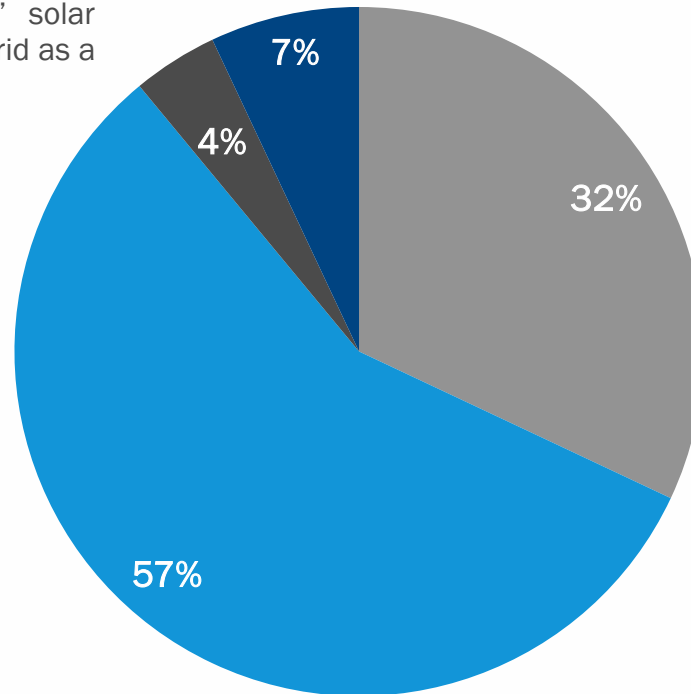


Some New England states have a system called “net metering” that allows rooftop solar customers to sell any excess electricity they generate back to their utility. Electric companies are required to buy back this power—even if they can get cheaper power from other sources. In general, do you favor or oppose this “net metering” system?



Which one of the following statements comes closest to your view on “net metering”:

- We should continue to encourage “net metering” for solar—even if the added costs that utilities have to pay are passed on to all consumers
- We should update “net metering” to ensure that some consumers are not forced to pay for other peoples’ solar systems—systems that still use the traditional electricity grid as a back-up
- Combination/Depends
- Don't know/Refused

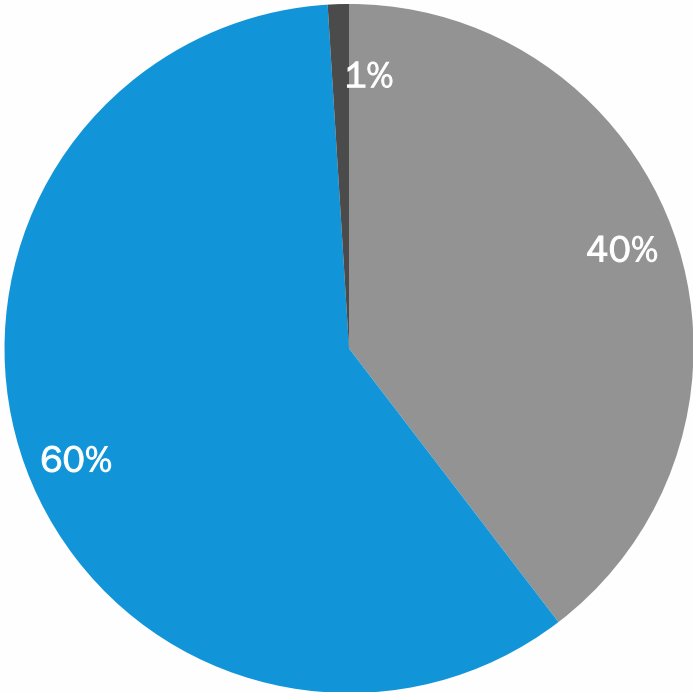


In some states, electric customers pay a surcharge to fund energy efficiency programs sponsored by their utility. These programs provide customers with rebates and incentives for purchasing energy efficient equipment and for making changes to their homes and businesses to make them more energy efficient. First, have you ever participated in one of these energy efficiency programs?

■ Yes, have participated

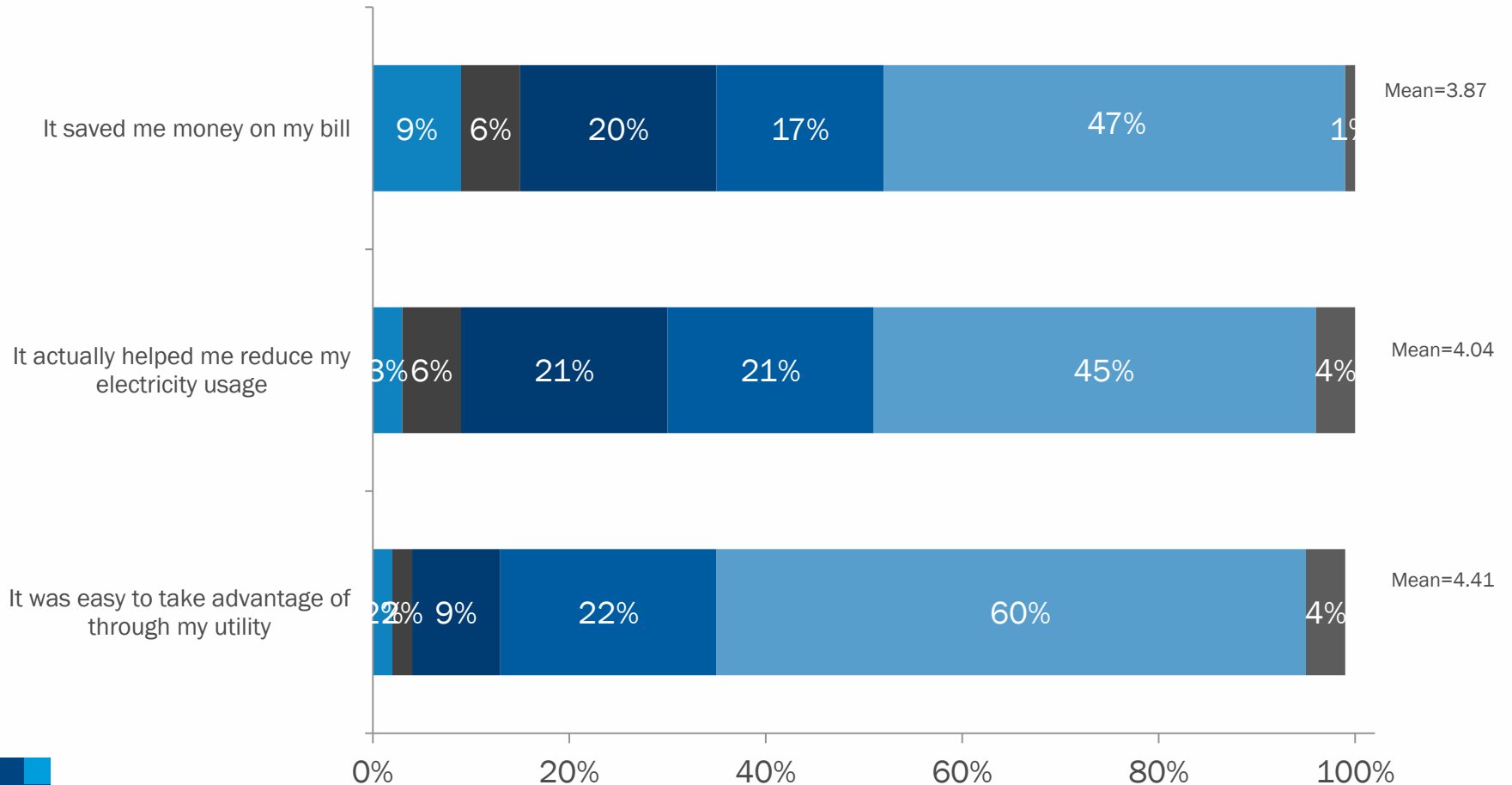
■ No, have no participated

■ Don't know/Refused

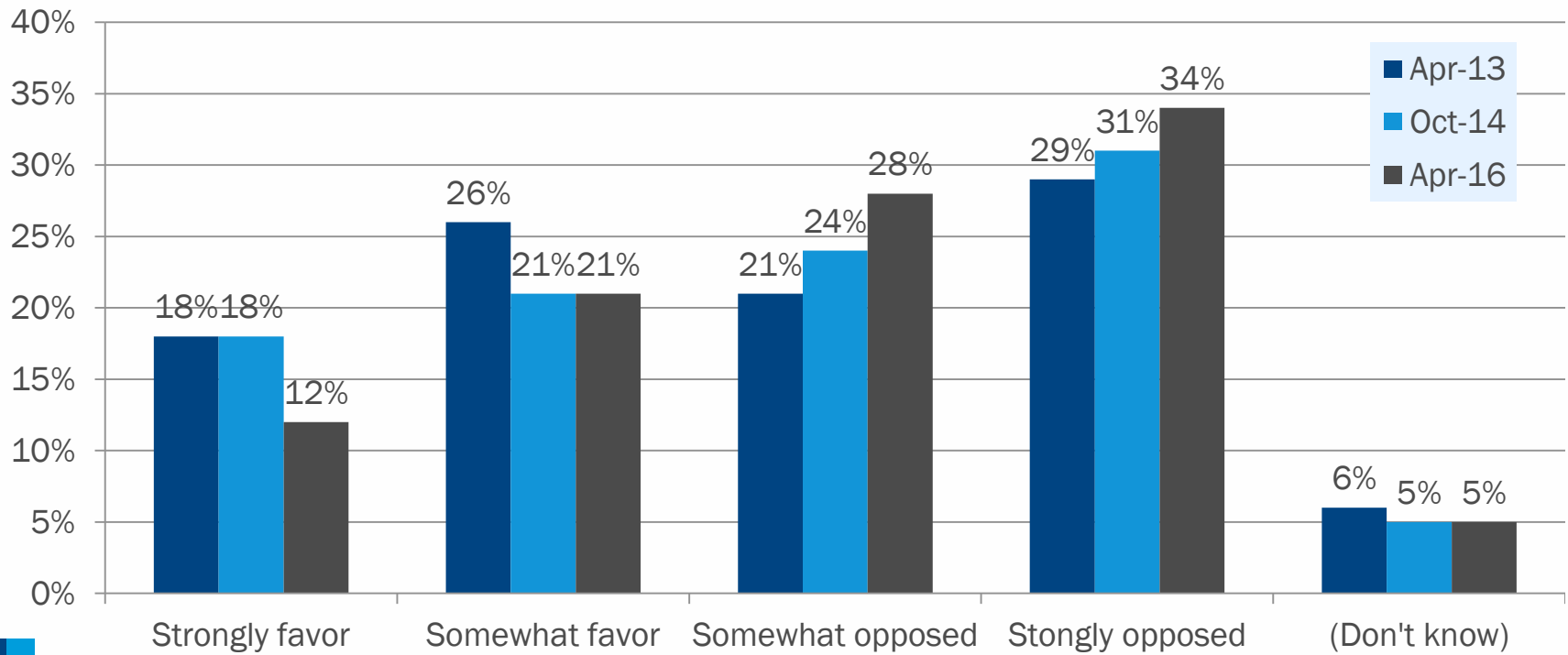


Now, please think about the energy efficiency program you have participated in most recently. On a scale from 1 to 5, where “1” means “completely disagree” and “5” means “completely agree”, please tell me your level of agreement with each of the following statements about that particular energy efficiency program.

■ 1 - Completely disagree ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4 ■ 5 - Completely agree ■ Don't know/Refused



As you may know, a technique known as "fracking" uses pressurized water to extract energy resources from rock formations. In the United States, it has mostly been used to get natural gas from underground shale formations. Some people say that 'fracking' has dramatically increased the supply of natural gas in the United States, lowered energy costs and revitalized the economies of many states by adding hundreds of thousands of new jobs. Others say 'fracking' can potentially lead to groundwater contamination, cause earthquakes and lead to oil spills. Based on this information, would you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the use of 'fracking' to produce some or all natural gas or electricity supplied to New England?



Demographics

Gender:	Female	51%	Less than high school (1-11)	2%
	Male	49	Graduated high school (12)	18
Age:	18-25	6%	Some college/Tech./Voc.	21
	26-35	10	Graduated college	35
	36-45	22	Completed graduate/professional school	23
	46-55	22	(Don't know/Refused)	1
	56-64	16	Democrat	35%
	65+	22	Republican	18
	(Refused)	2	(Independent/Unenrolled)	32
HHI:	\$0-19,999	6%	(Other)	14
	\$20-34,999	6	(Don't know/Refused)	2
	\$35-49,999	8		
	\$50-\$74,999	17		
	\$75-\$99,999	8		
	\$100-\$150,000	22		
	Over \$150,000	18		
	(Refused/Don't know)	15		

