

PORI

HONG KONG PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH INSTITUTE

香港民意研究所

Survey on Municipal Solid Waste Charging Bill

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Background

- In December 2020, **ADM Capital Foundation** commissioned Hong Kong Public Opinion Research Institute (**HKPORI**) to conduct this “Survey on Municipal Solid Waste Charging Bill”, with the following objectives:
 - To gauge Hong Kong people’s practices of waste management;
 - To understand their views on waste management and on the key elements of the proposed municipal solid waste charging bill.
- HKPORI worked with ADM Capital Foundation closely when designing the telephone survey questionnaire, but HKPORI retained full autonomy in every aspect of the study and takes full responsibility for all findings reported.

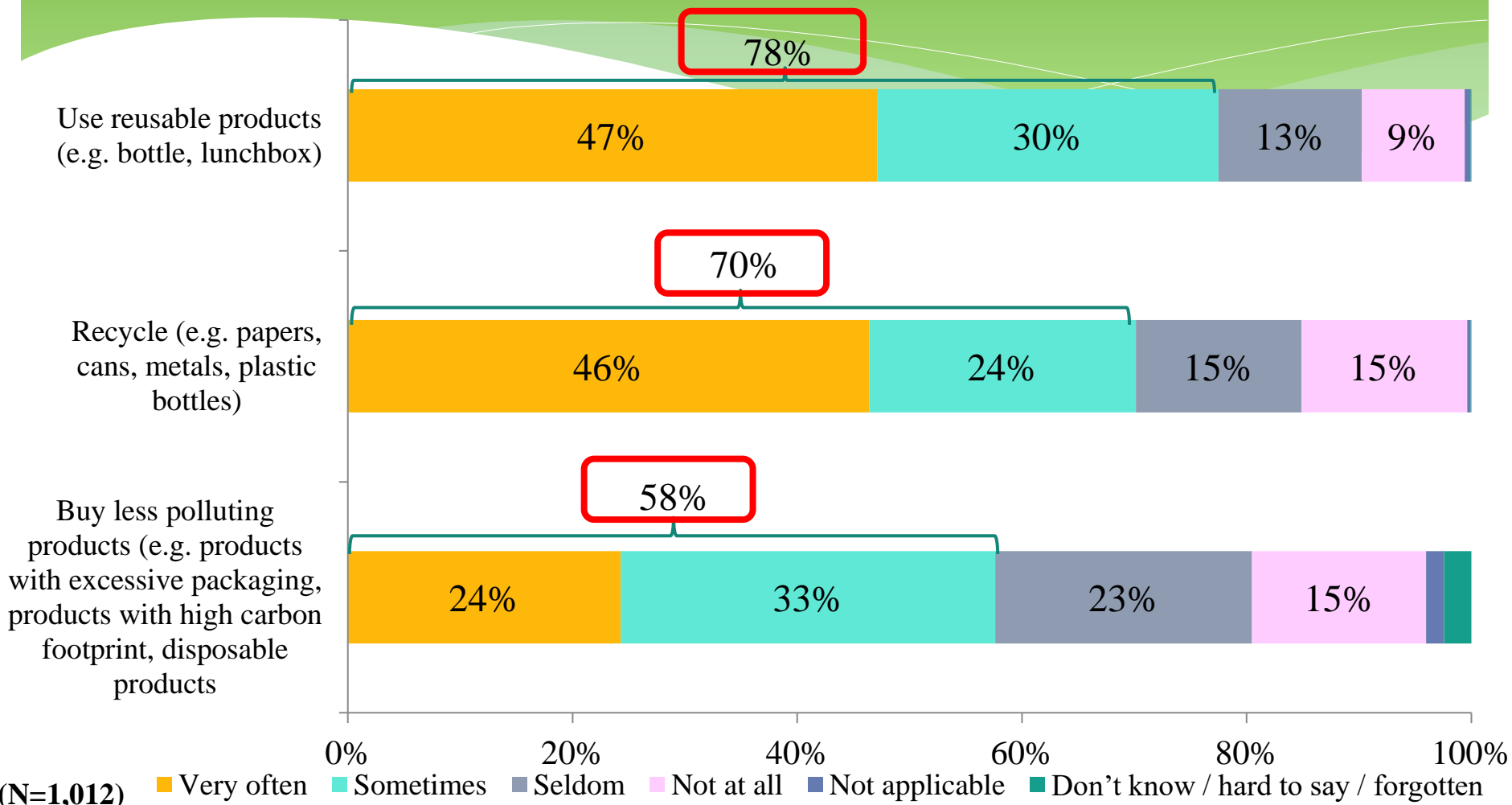
Contact Information of Telephone Survey

Date of survey:	January 14 to 25, 2021
Survey method:	Random telephone survey conducted by real interviewers
Target population:	Cantonese-speaking residents in Hong Kong of age 18 or above
Sample Size:	1,012 (including 505 landline and 507 mobile numbers)
Effective response rate:	74.4%
Sampling error:	Less than 1.6% (no more than +/-3.1% at 95% confidence level)
Weighting adjustment:	The raw figures were statistically weighted according to the latest <i>gender, age, education and economic activity status</i> distributions as reported by the Census & Statistics Department.

Part I.

Practices of waste management

More than half up to 3/4 of respondents have practiced waste reduction, with the use of reusable products being most common

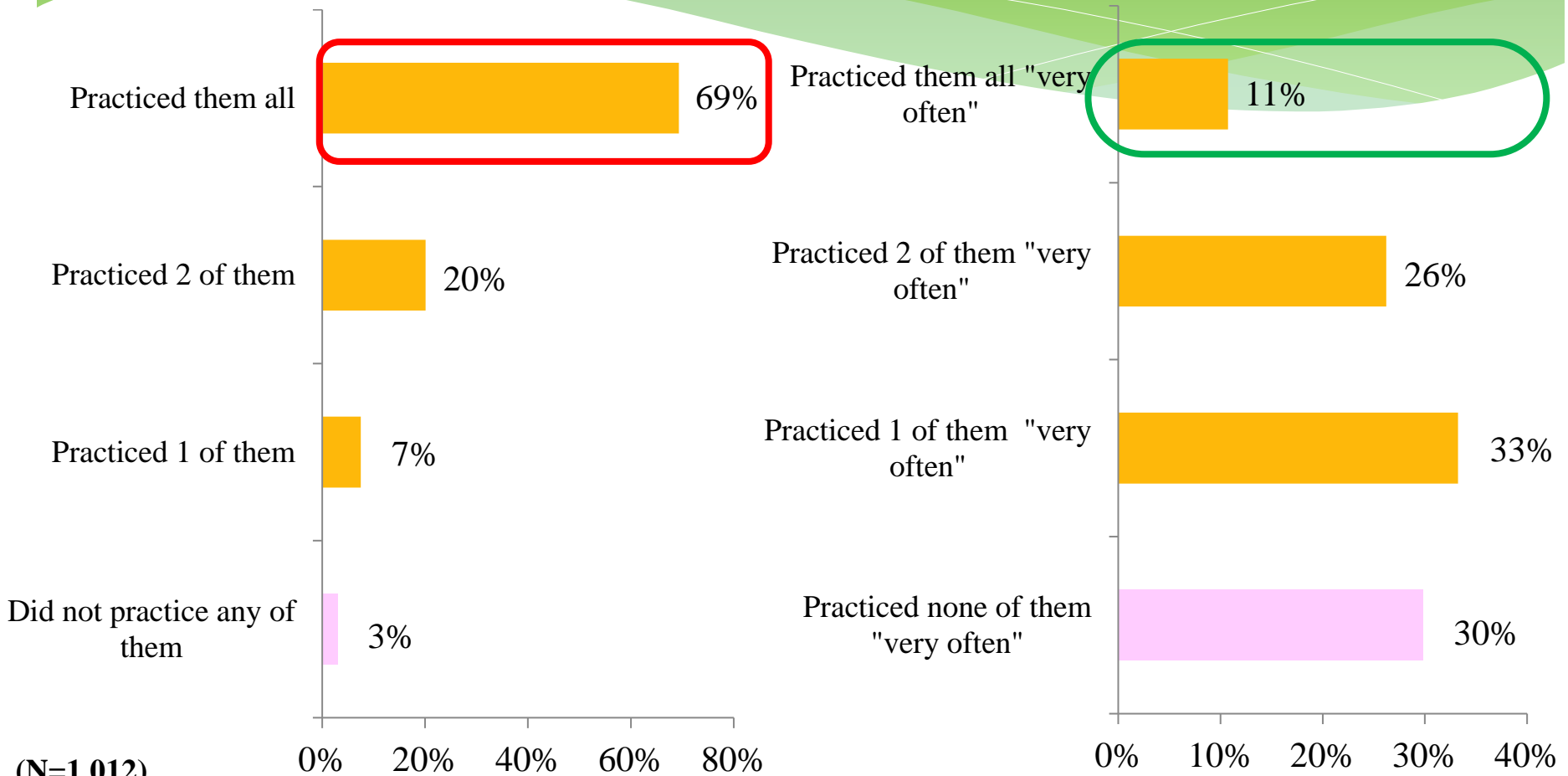


(N=1,012) [Q1-Q3] In the past year, how often did you take the following actions for the purpose of waste reduction? (Read out 3 items below, order to be randomized by computer; interviewer to probe intensity)

Nearly 70% practiced all 3 actions to reduce waste while 1/10 even practiced them all very often

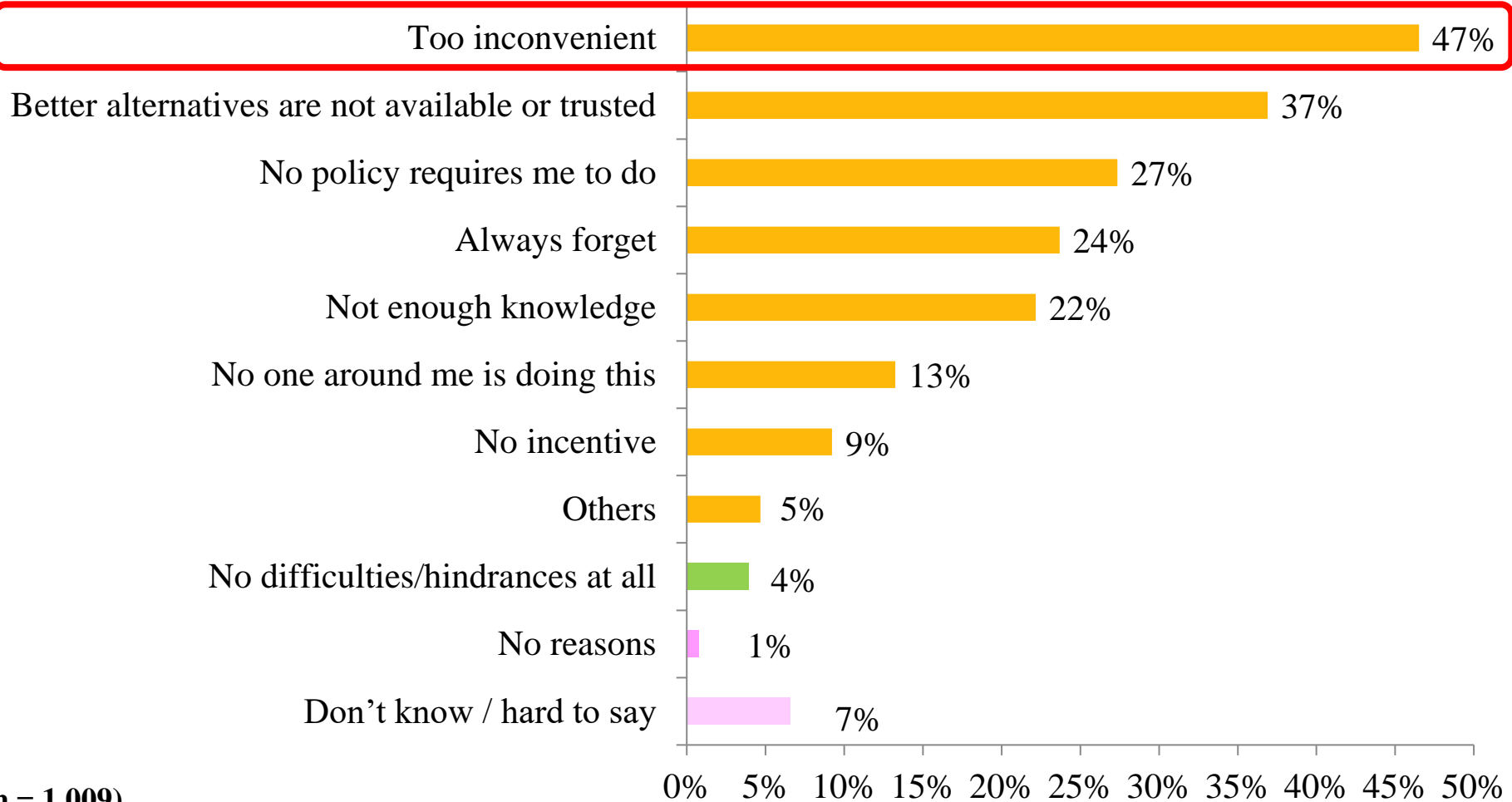
No. of items respondents practiced

No. of items respondents practiced "very often"



[Q1-Q3] In the past year, how often did you take the following actions for the purpose of waste reduction? (Read out 3 items below, order to be randomized by computer; interviewer to probe intensity)

Too inconvenient is the top reason that hinders people from practicing waste reduction

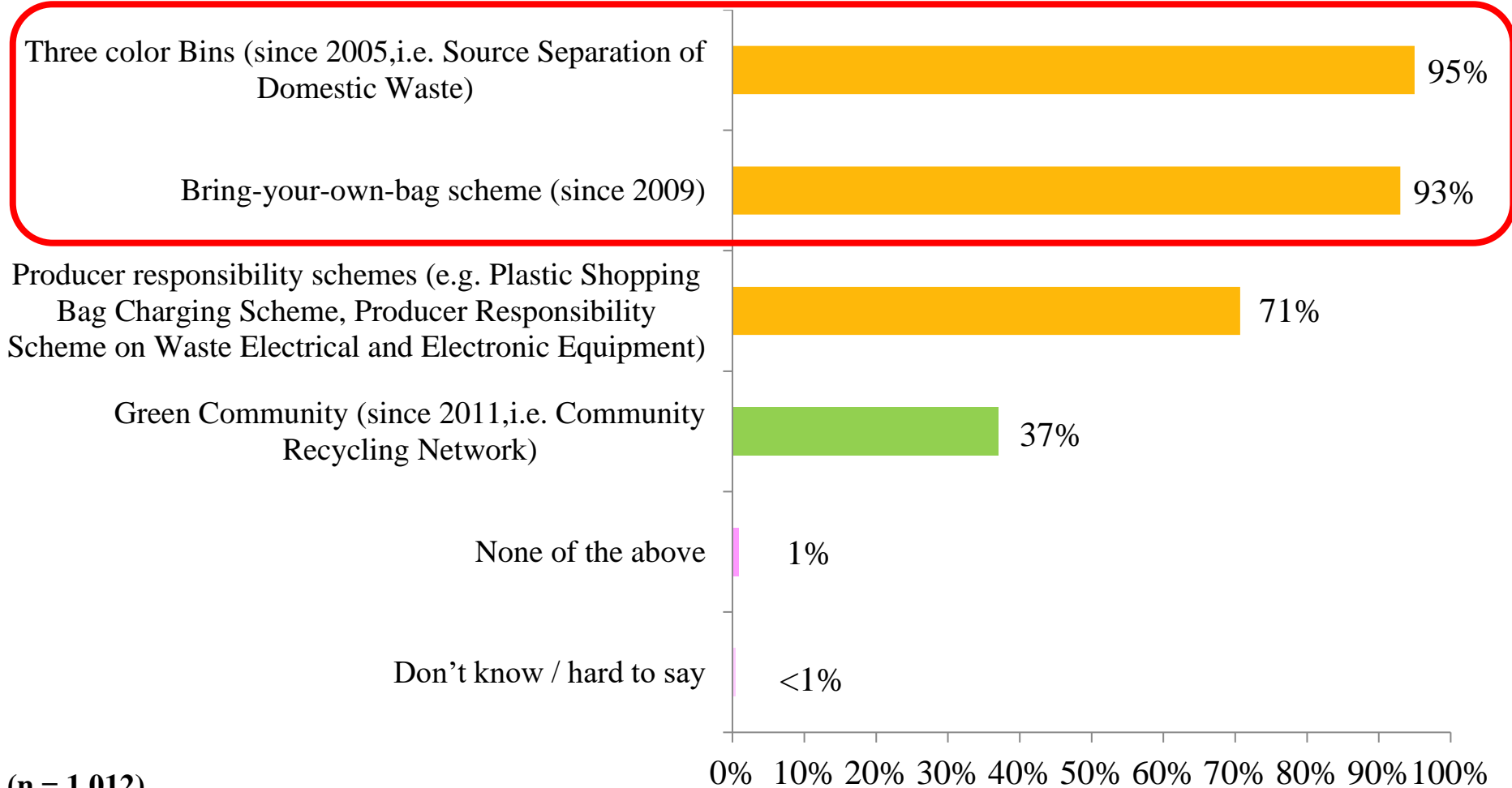


(n = 1,009)

[Q4] What do you think are the major difficulties/hindrances in implementing waste reduction practices in your daily life? (Read out the 7 items below, order to be randomized by computer, multiple answers allowed)

Part II.
**Views on waste management and
municipal solid waste charging bill**

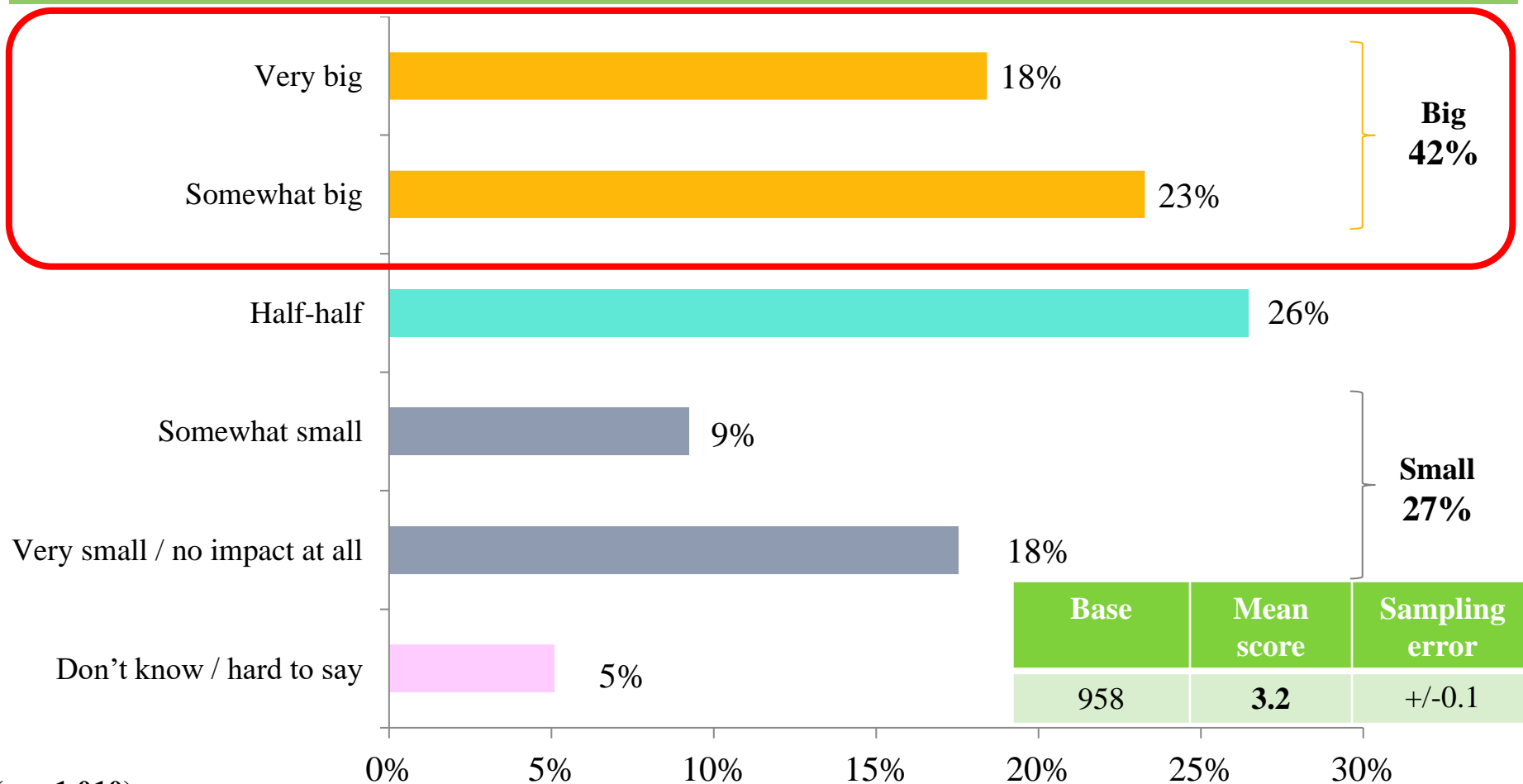
Public awareness of “Three-Color Bins” and “Bring-your-own-bag Scheme” almost reached 100%



(n = 1,012)

[Q5] Are you aware of the following government initiatives on waste management? (Read out the 4 items below, order to be randomized by computer, multiple answers allowed)

Over 40% think the overall waste problem in HK would bring big impacts to their own quality of life in 3 to 5 years



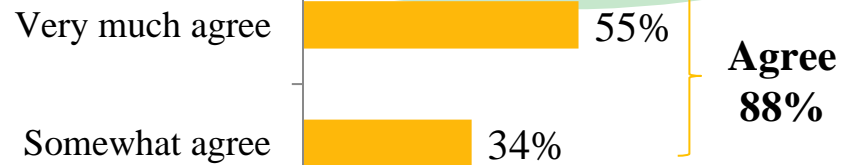
(n = 1,010)

[Q6] How much do you think the overall waste problem in Hong Kong, i.e. municipal solid waste, might impact your own quality of life in 3 to 5 years? (Interviewer to probe the intensity)

Two-thirds agree to the “polluter pays” principle while nearly 90% agree to “reduce waste at source” and “practice clean recycling” in daily life

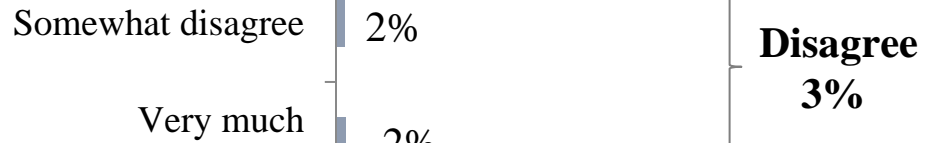
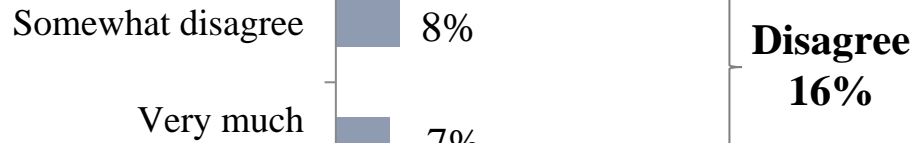
“Polluter pays” principle, instead of covering the waste management budget from general tax, as is the case today (n=1,011)

Encourage the public to “reduce waste at source” and “practice clean recycling” in their daily life (n=1,012)



Half-half 15%

Half-half 6%



Don't know / hard to say 4%

Don't know / hard to say 2%

Base	Mean score	Sampling error
968	3.8	+/-0.1

Base	Mean score	Sampling error
988	4.4	+/-0.1

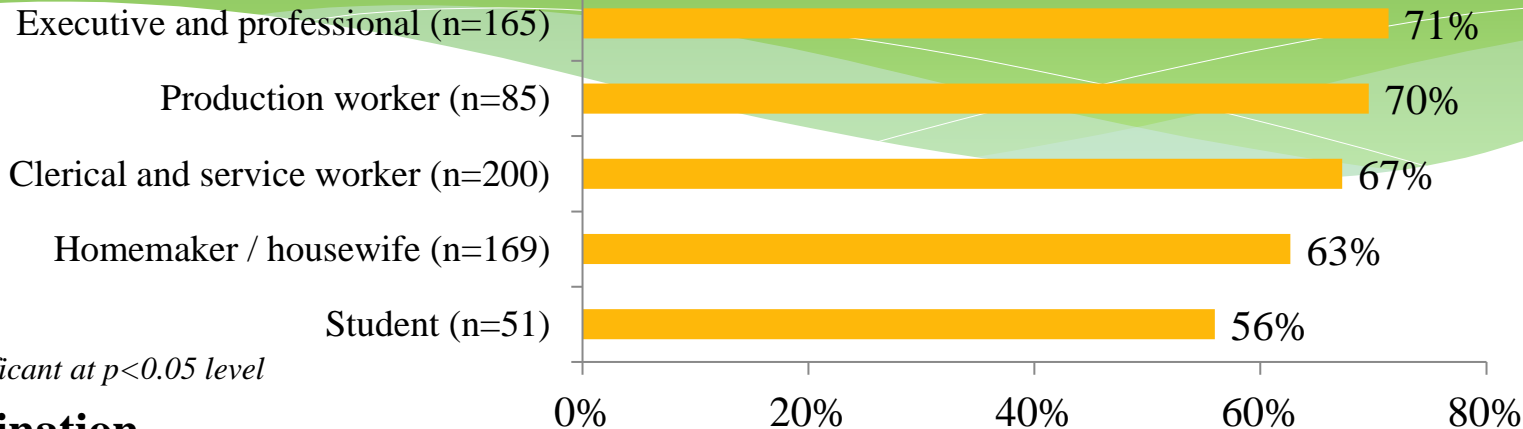
0% 20% 40%

0% 20% 40% 60%

[Q7-Q8] In municipal solid waste charging bill, it is proposed that all waste producers from residential, commercial and industrial sectors will pay based on the quantity of waste. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following two principles of the bill? (Read out the 2 items below, order to be randomized by computer; interviewer to probe intensity)

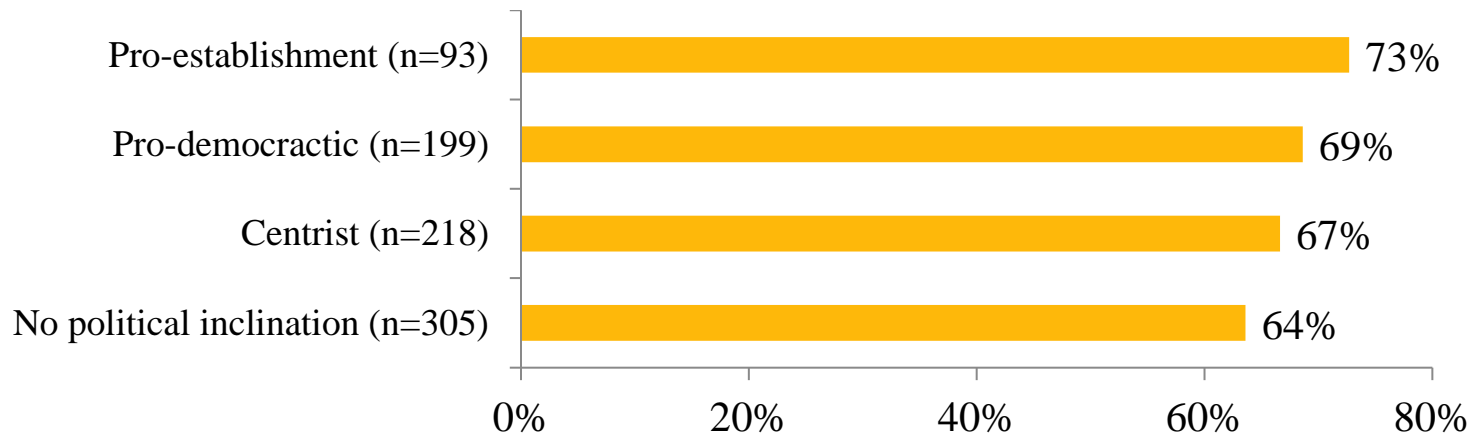
Demo analysis – Level of agreement to the “polluter pays” principle

Occupation



Statistically significant at $p < 0.05$ level

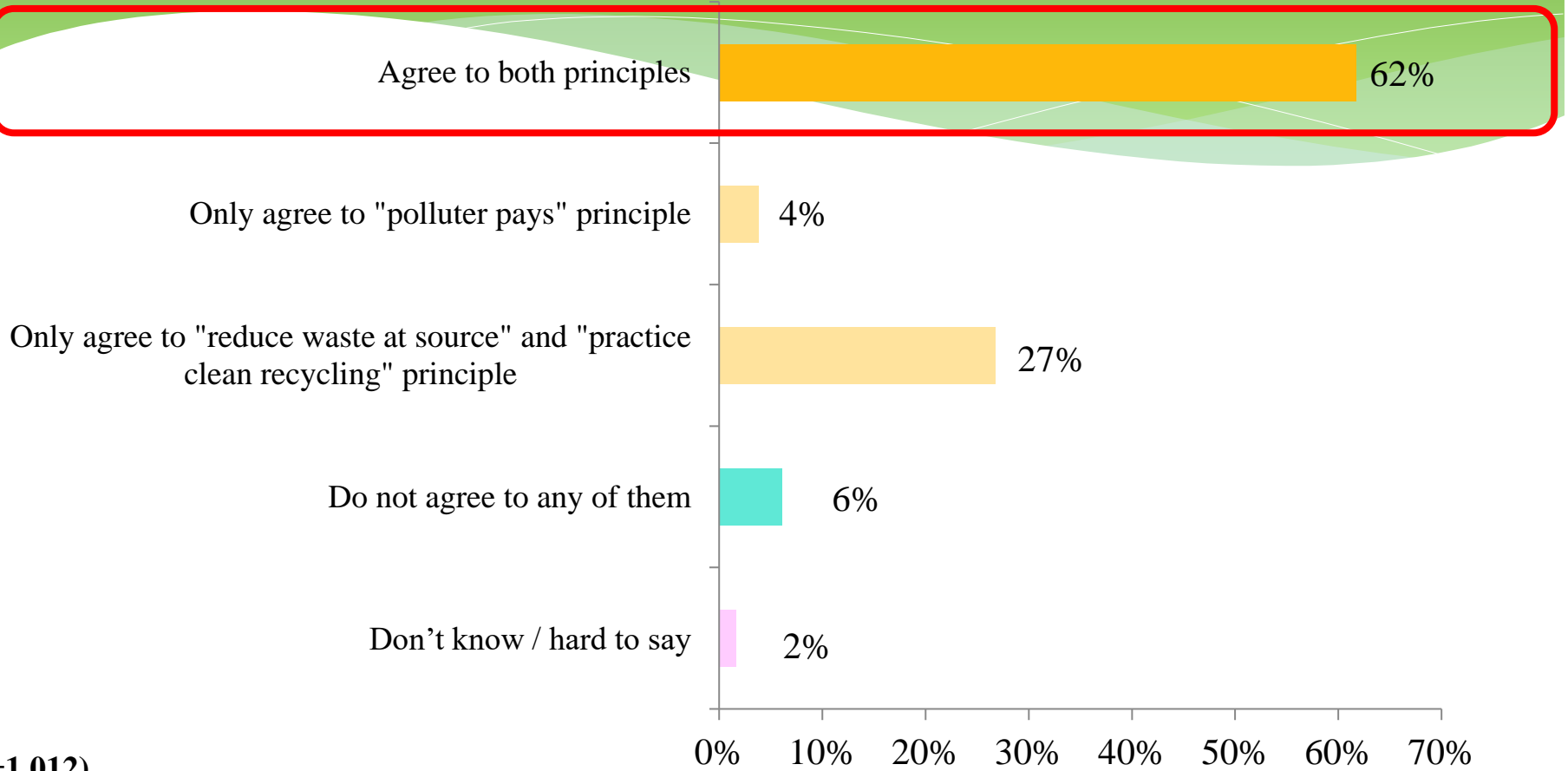
Political inclination



Statistically significant at $p < 0.01$ level

[Q7] “Polluter pays” principle, instead of covering the waste management budget from general tax, as is the case today

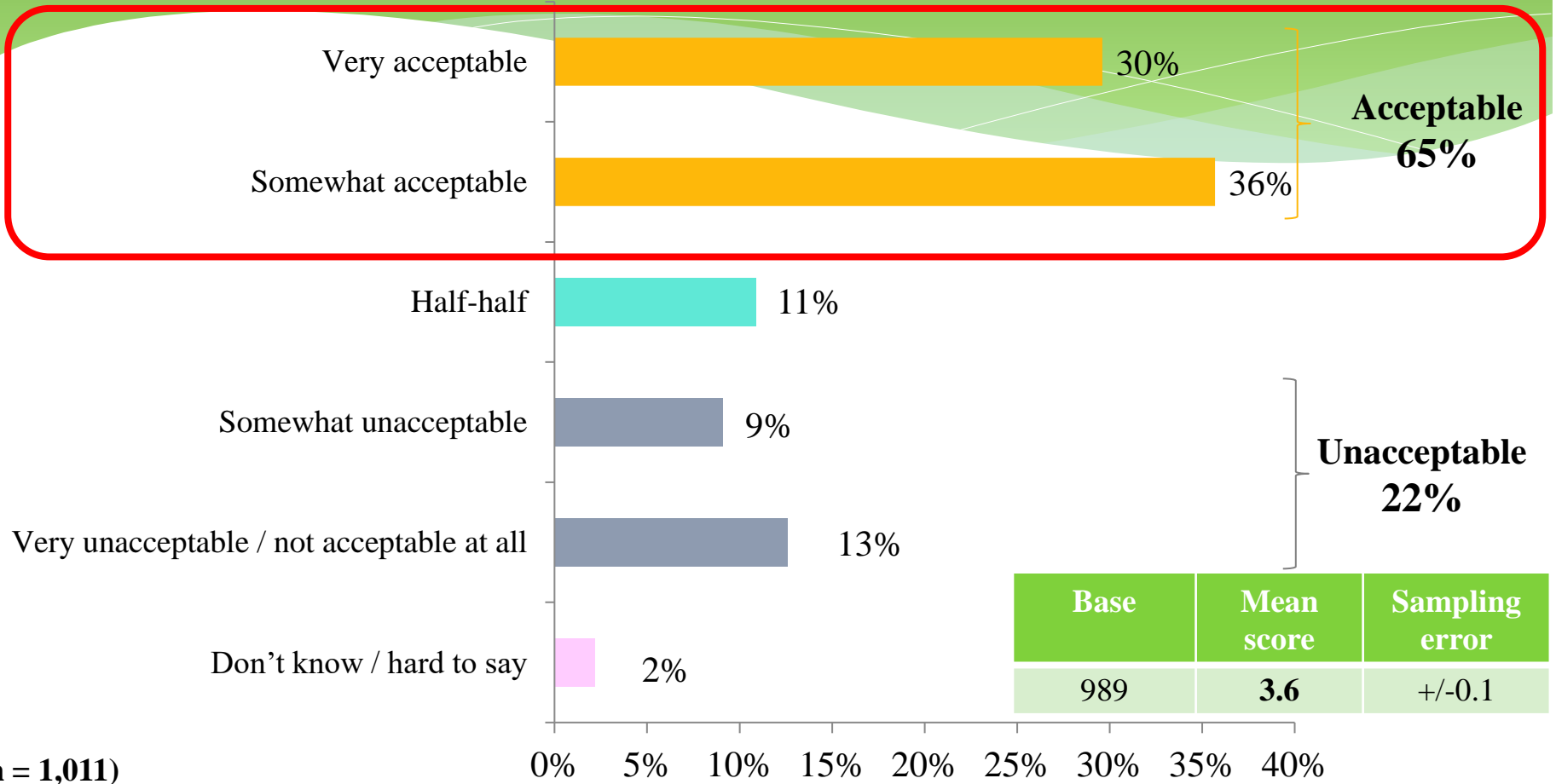
More than 60% agree to both principles



(n=1,012)

[Q7-Q8] In municipal solid waste charging bill, it is proposed that all waste producers from residential, commercial and industrial sectors will pay based on the quantity of waste. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following two principles of the bill? (Read out the 2 items below, order to be randomized by computer; interviewer to probe intensity)

Two-thirds think the proposed charge rate (\$0.11 per liter) of the bill is acceptable

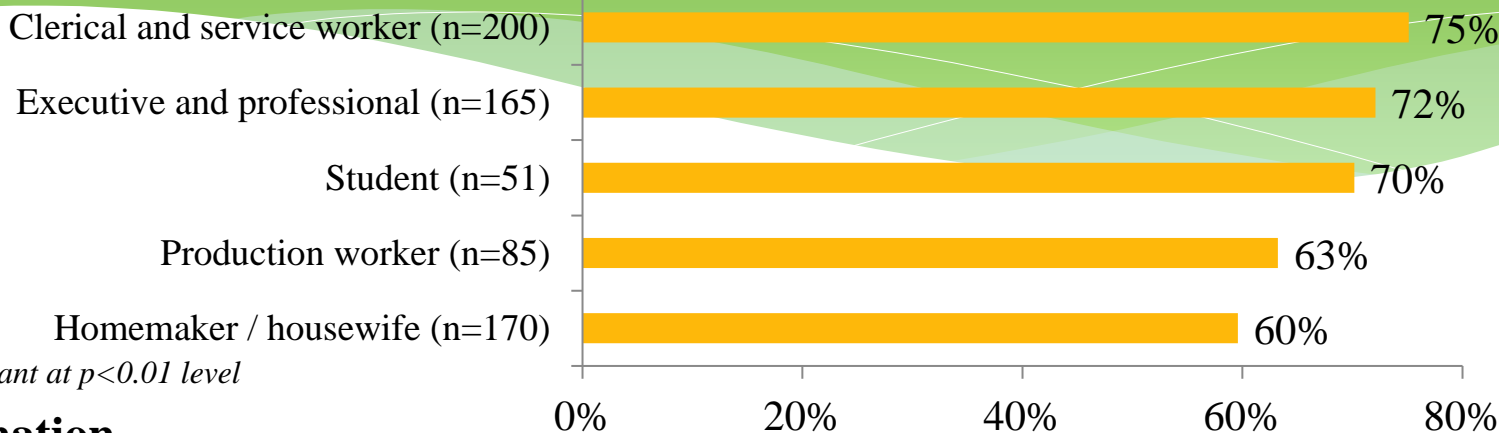


(n = 1,011)

[Q9] Under the bill, pre-paid designated garbage bags have to be used and the proposed charge is \$0.11 per liter. This means an average household with 3 members will have to pay \$1-2 per day. For comparison, today just operating the waste facilities costs the tax payer around \$2.5 dollar per household per day. Do you think this charge rate is acceptable?

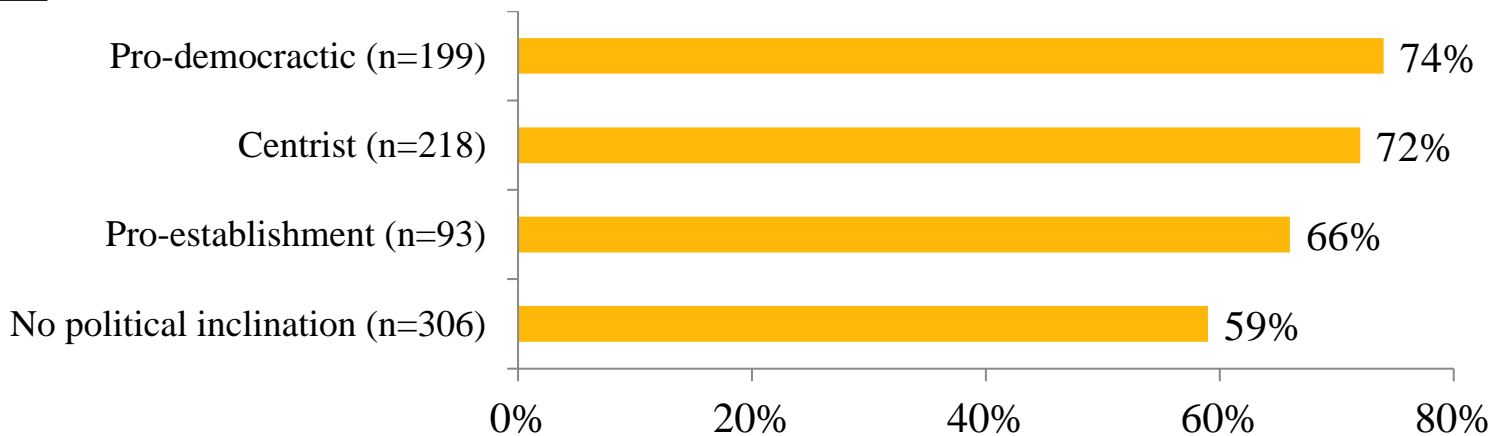
Demo analysis – Level of agreement to the proposed charge rate

Occupation



Statistically significant at $p < 0.01$ level

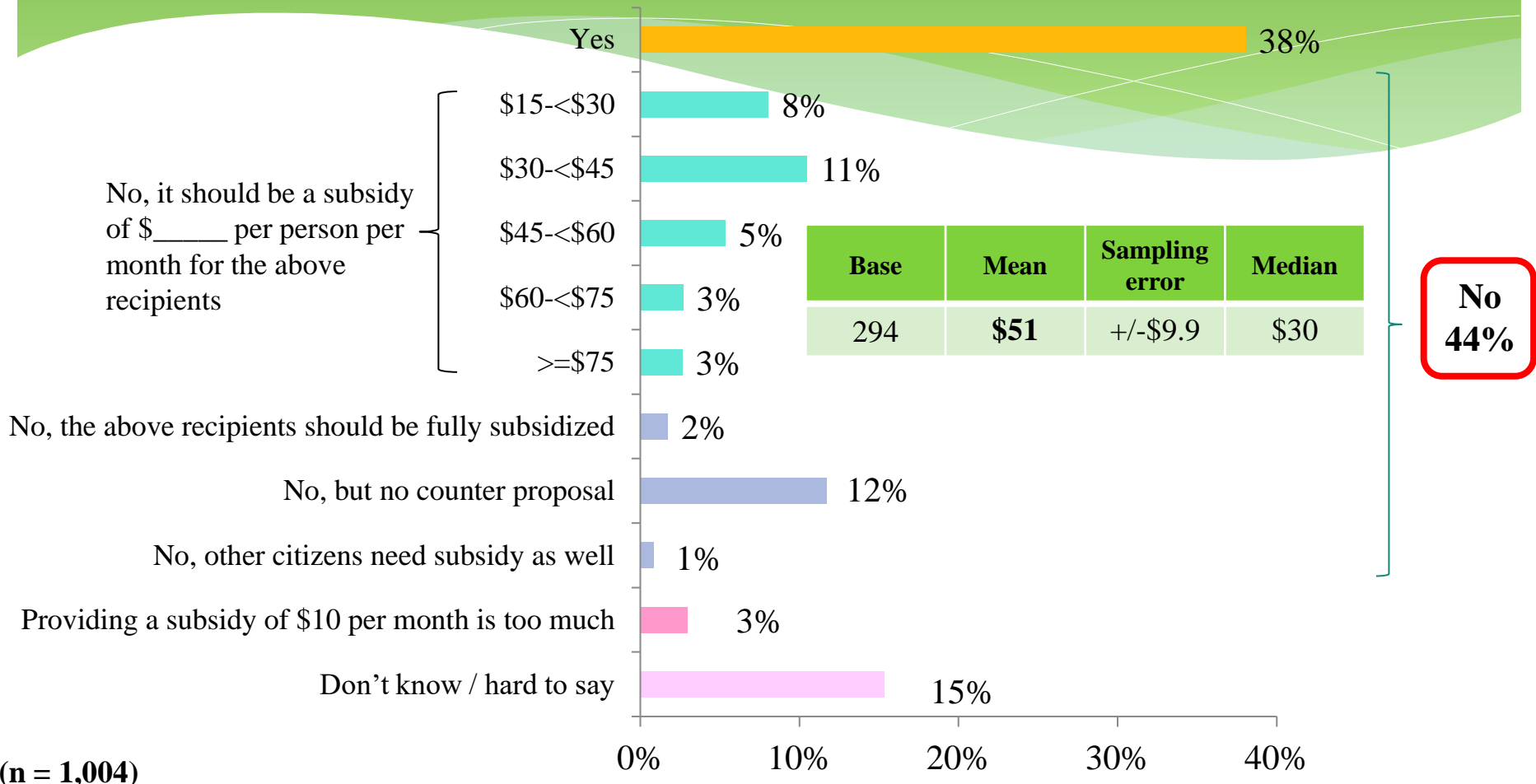
Political inclination



Statistically significant at $p < 0.01$ level

[Q9] Under the bill, pre-paid designated garbage bags have to be used and the proposed charge is \$0.11 per liter. This means an average household with 3 members will have to pay \$1-2 per day. For comparison, today just operating the waste facilities costs the tax payer around \$2.5 dollar per household per day. Do you think this charge rate is acceptable?

Slightly more respondents think the subsidy (\$10/person/month) is not enough

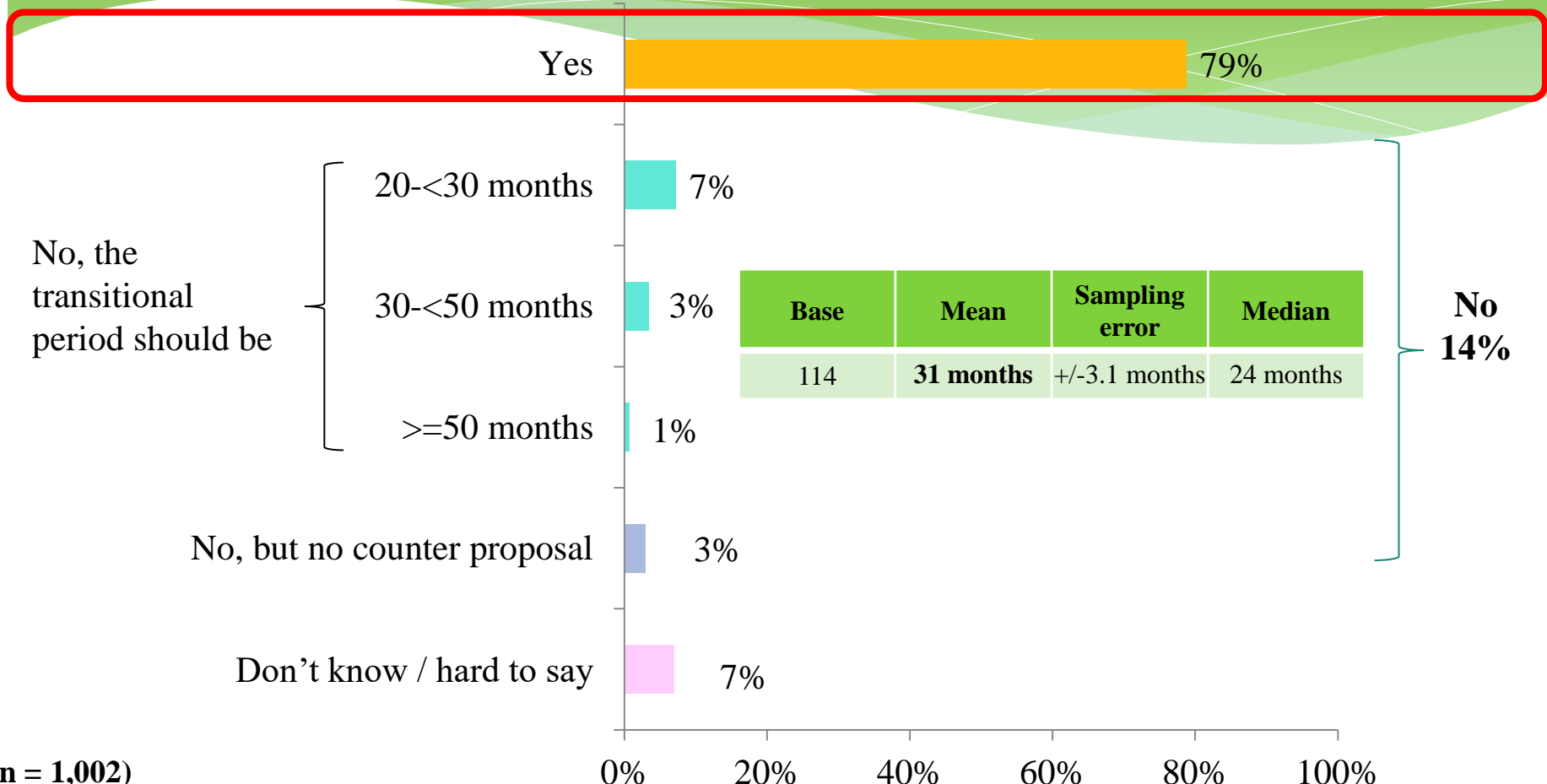


**No
44%**

(n = 1,004)

[Q10] Once the municipal solid waste charging is implemented, the government will provide a subsidy of \$10 per person per month for all recipients of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme and Higher Old Age Living Allowance. Do you think the subsidy is enough? If no, how much would you propose?

Majority agree the transitional period (12-18 months) is long enough

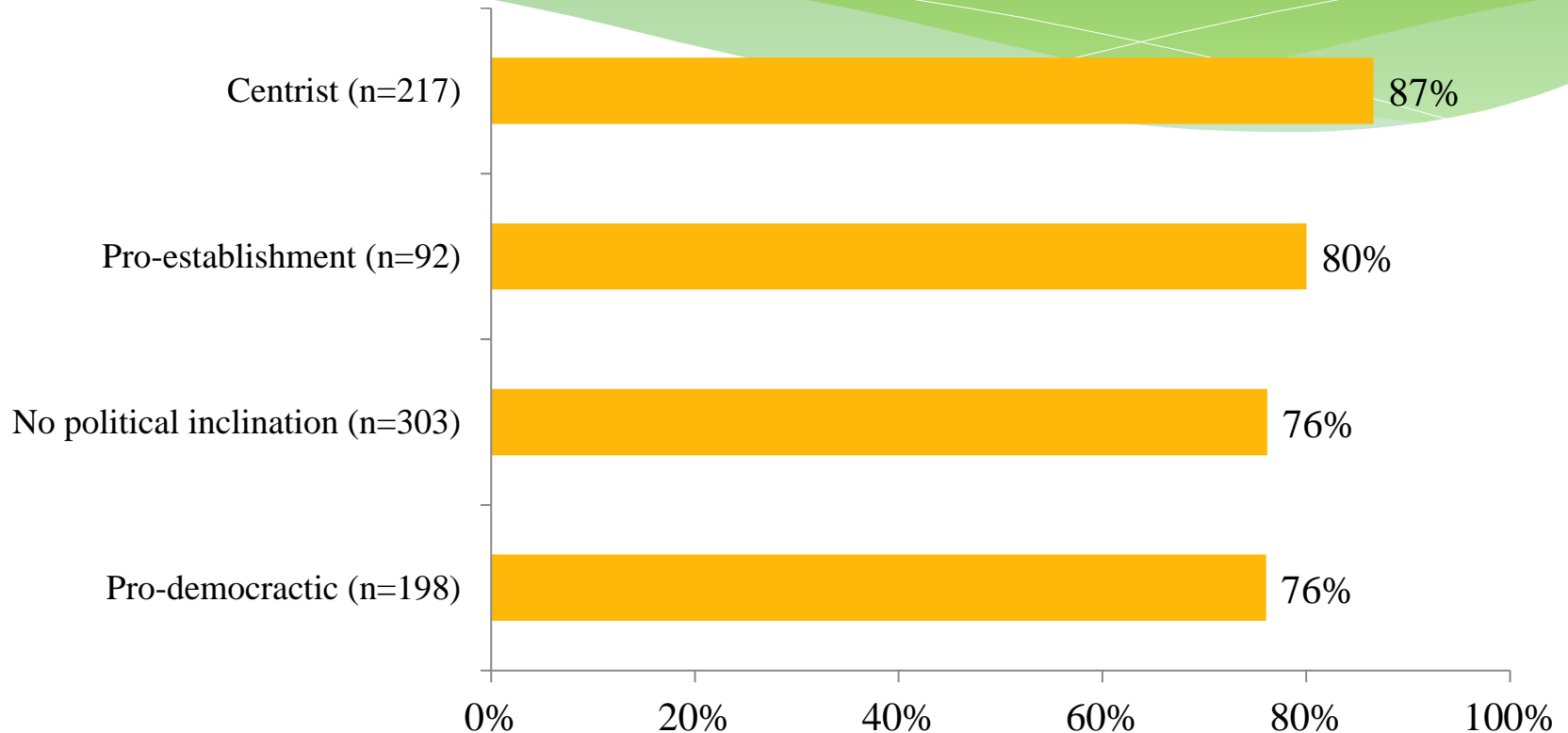


(n = 1,002)

[Q11] Between passing and actual implementation of the charge, there will be a transitional period of 12-18 months for the citizens to get to know and become accustomed to this new waste management style. Do you think this period is long enough? If no, how long would you propose?

Demo analysis – Level of agreement to the transitional period

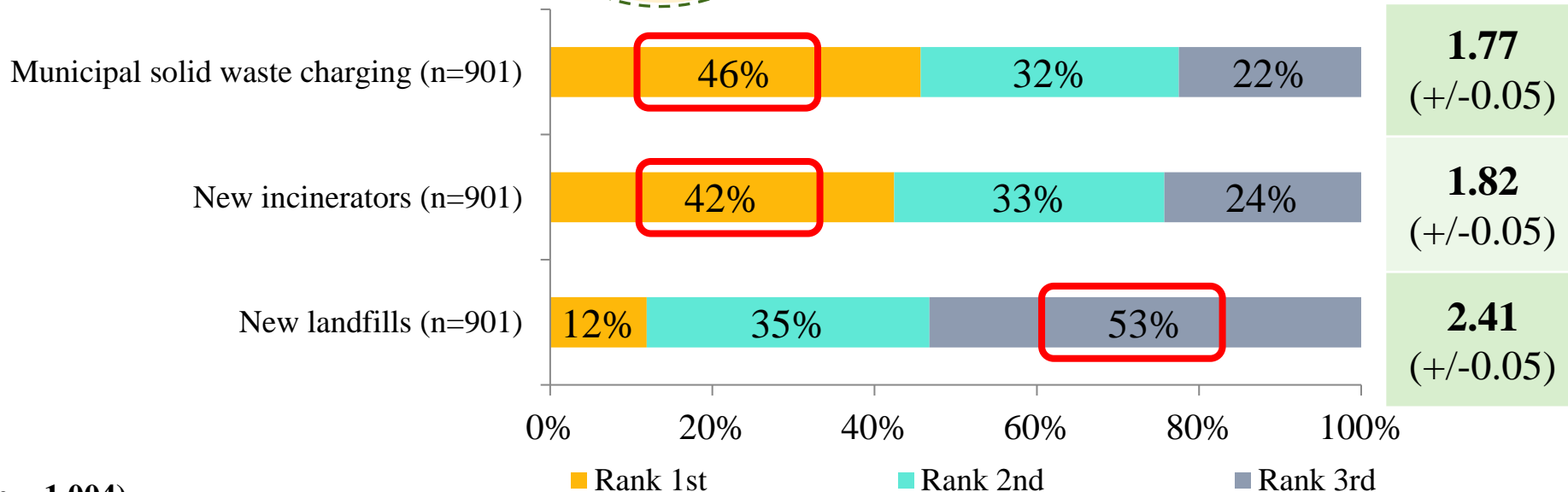
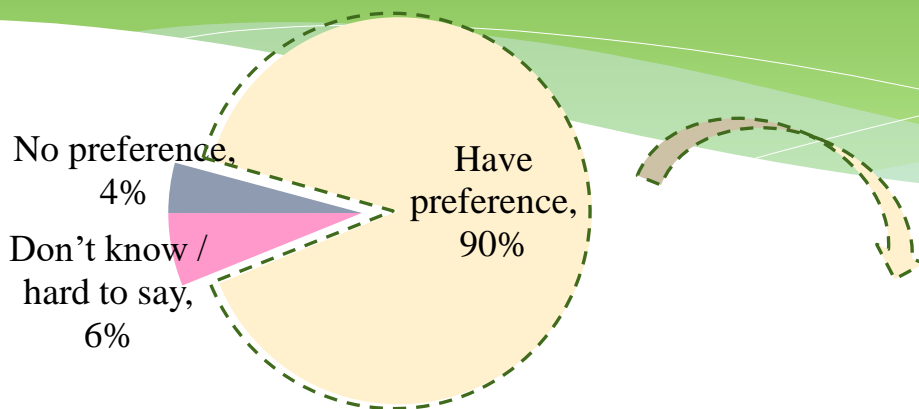
Political inclination



##Statistically significant at $p < 0.01$ level

[Q11] Between passing and actual implementation of the charge, there will be a transitional period of 12-18 months for the citizens to get to know and become accustomed to this new waste management style. Do you think this period is long enough? If no, how long would you propose?

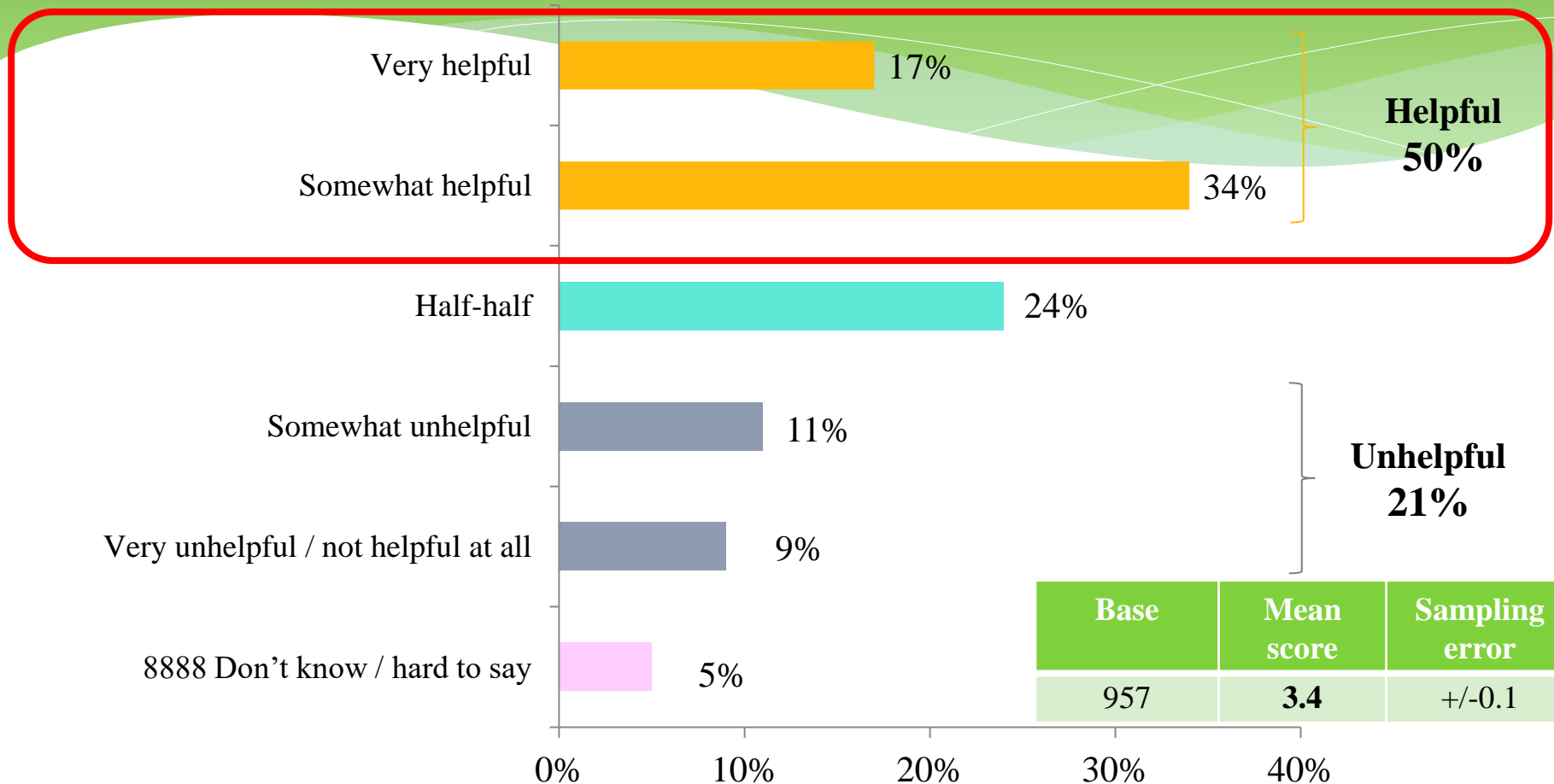
Municipal solid waste charging is most preferred followed closely by new incinerators and new landfills at a large distance



(n = 1,004)

[Q12] To tackle the current problem of municipal solid waste in Hong Kong, which of the following measures do you prefer? Please rank from 1 to 3, 1 meaning the best, and 3 meaning the worst.

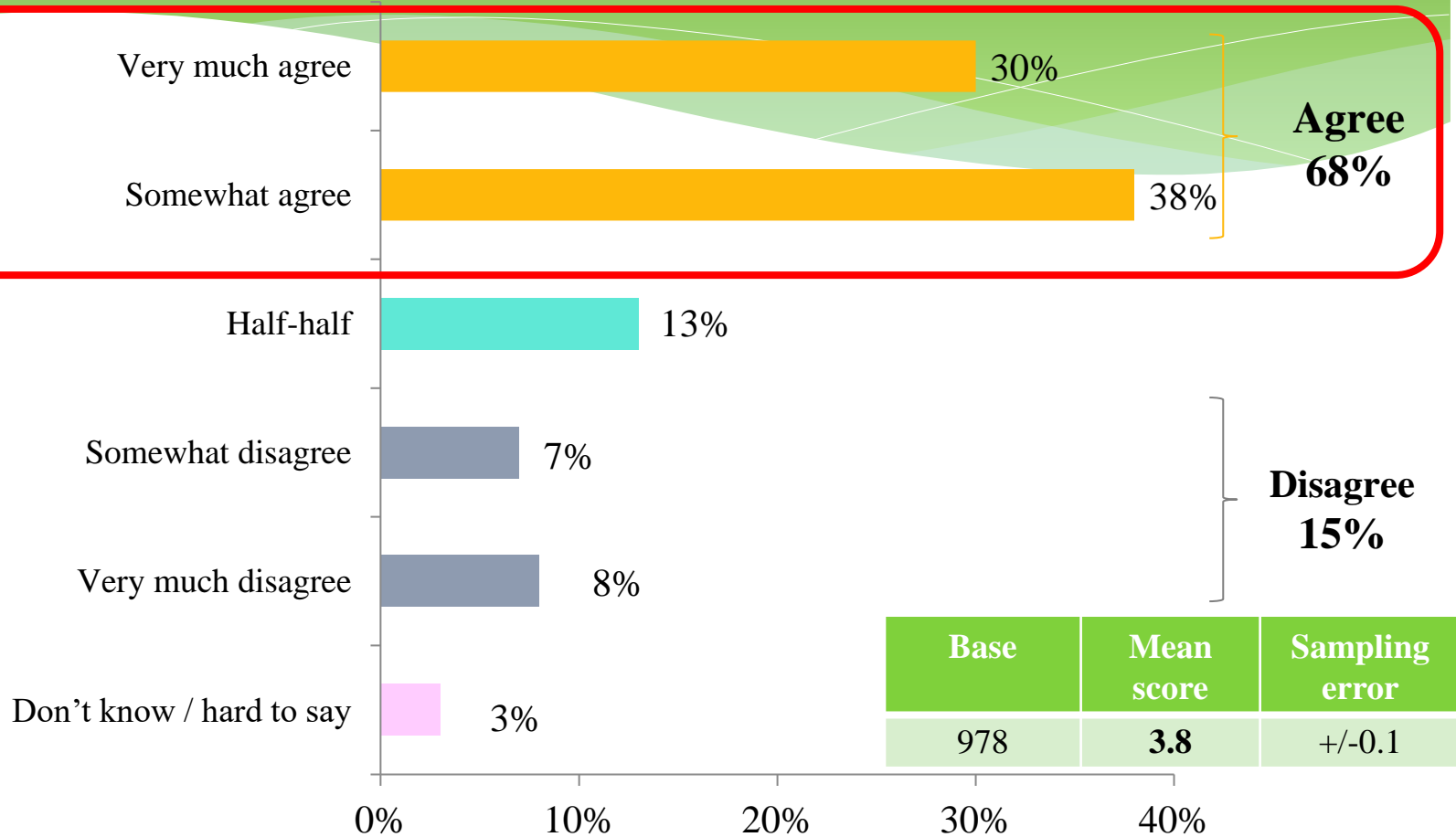
Half of the sample think the bill, if implemented, would be helpful in reducing the overall waste disposal to landfill in Hong Kong



(n = 1,011)

[Q13] If implemented, how helpful do you think the municipal solid waste charging bill in reducing the overall waste disposal to landfill in Hong Kong? (Interviewer to probe intensity)

Nearly 70% agree to implementing municipal solid waste charging in Hong Kong

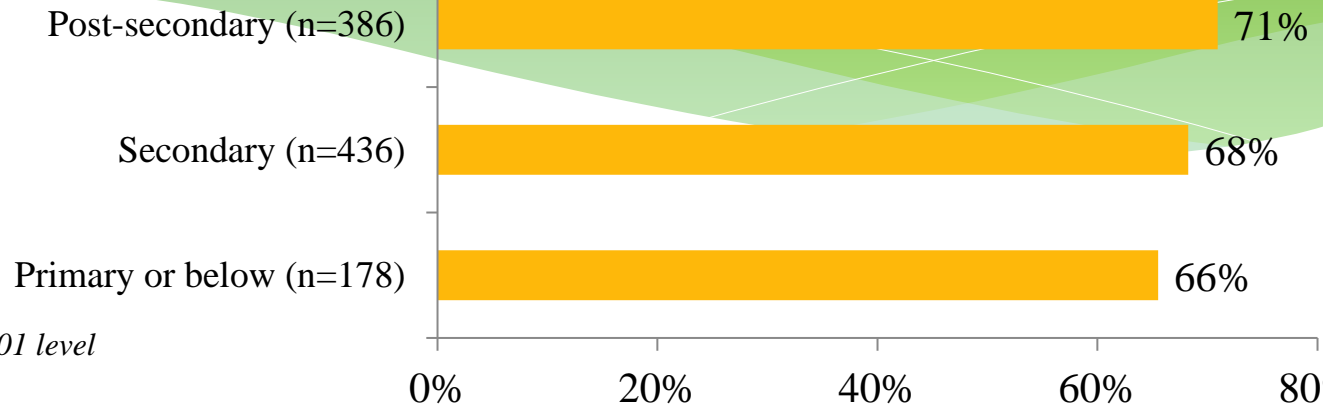


(n = 1,012)

[Q14] Now that you know more details about municipal solid waste charging, to what extent do you agree or disagree to implementing this policy in Hong Kong? (Interviewer to probe intensity)

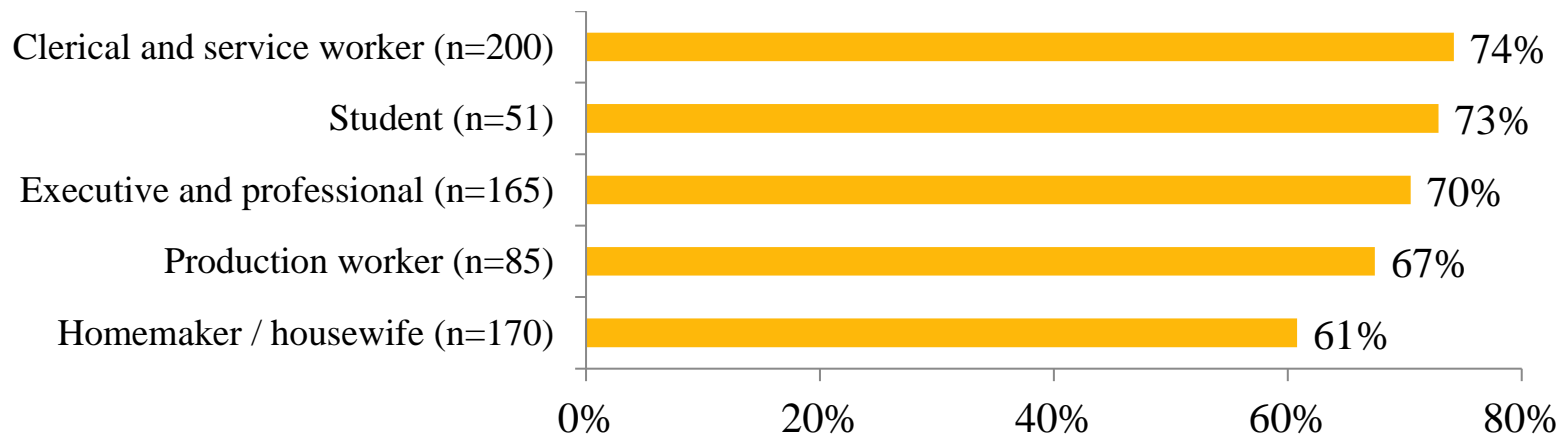
Demo analysis – Level of agreement to municipal solid waste charging

Education



Statistically significant at $p < 0.01$ level

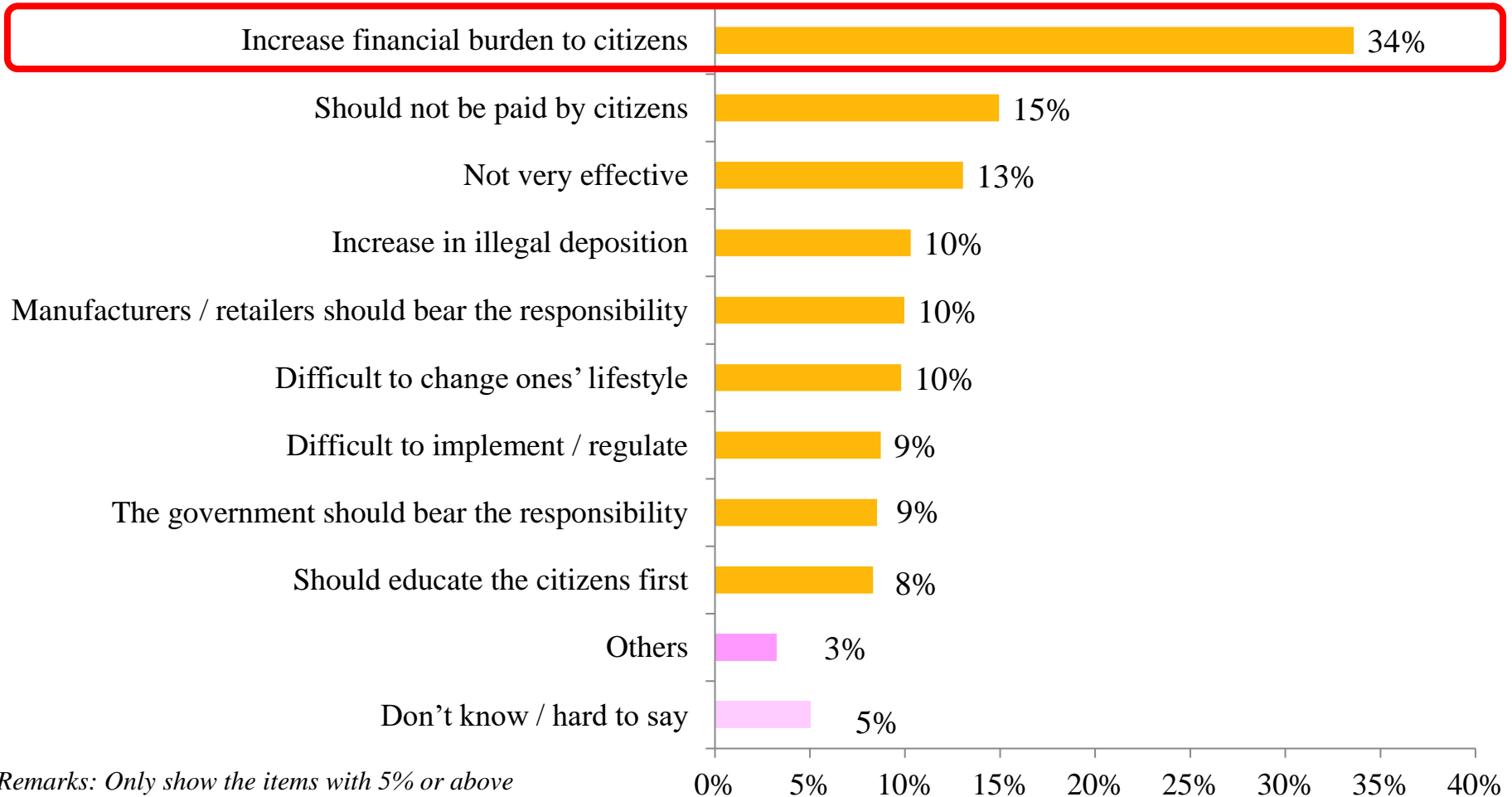
Occupation



Statistically significant at $p < 0.01$ level

[Q14] Now that you know more details about municipal solid waste charging, to what extent do you agree or disagree to implementing this policy in Hong Kong? (Interviewer to probe intensity)

For those who disagree, the main concern is the increased financial burden to citizens



Remarks: Only show the items with 5% or above
(n = 149)

[Q15]] [Only asked those answered “somewhat disagree” or “very much disagree” in Q14, base=156] Why not? (Do not read out the options, multiple answers allowed)

Conclusion

Conclusion

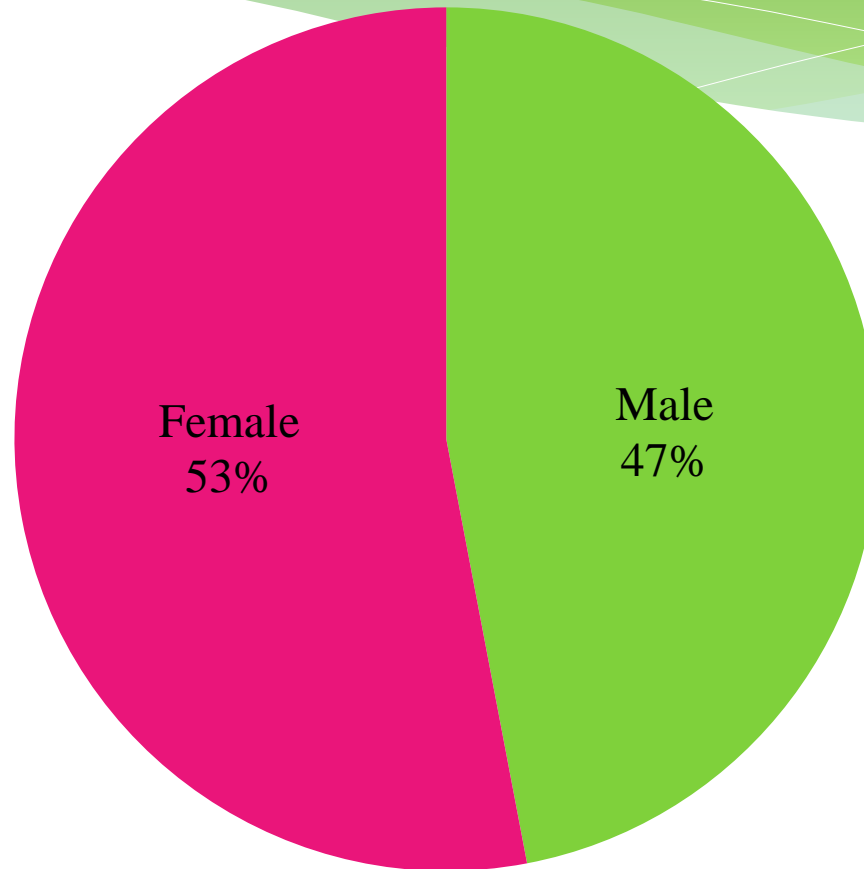
- * Overall speaking, Hong Kong people have practiced waste reduction and they **use reusable products most often** whereas the major hindrance that keeps people from practicing waste reduction is **too inconvenient**.
- * For the government initiatives, nearly all respondents have heard of “**Three-Color Bins**” and “**Bring-your-own-bag Scheme**” prior to the interview.
- * Over 40% think the overall waste problem in Hong Kong would bring a **big impact** to their quality of life in 3 to 5 years.
- * Majority showed agreement to the general principles “**polluter pays**” and “**encouraging the public to ‘reduce waste at source’ and ‘practice clean recycling’ in their daily life**”.
- * For the key elements of the bill, the **proposal charge rate** and **transitional period** are broadly **acceptable** by Hong Kong people. However, only around 40% think the subsidy of \$10 per person per month to the needy people was enough.

Conclusion

- * Re the measures for tackling the municipal solid waste problem, people **prefer implementing municipal solid waste charging** the most, then building new incinerators, and exploring new landfills the least.
- * Lastly, half believed municipal solid waste charging bill will **help reduce** the overall waste disposal to landfill in Hong Kong. Overall speaking, two-thirds of the respondents **agree to implementing** the bill in Hong Kong. For those who disagree, the main concern is the increased **financial burden to the citizens**.

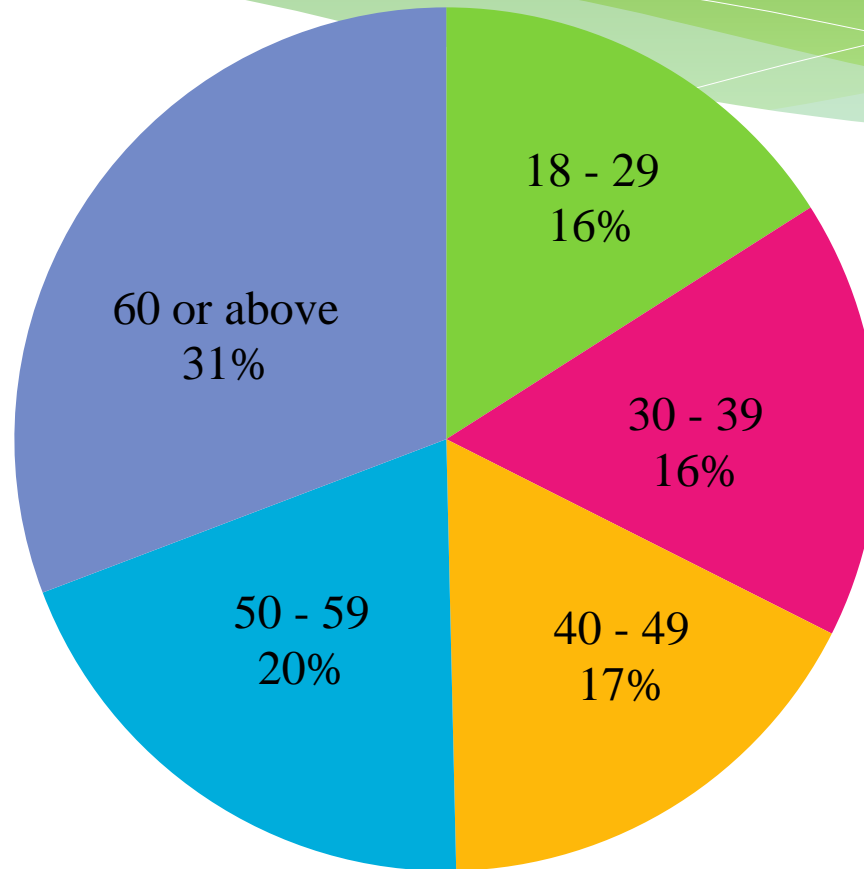
Respondent Profile

Gender



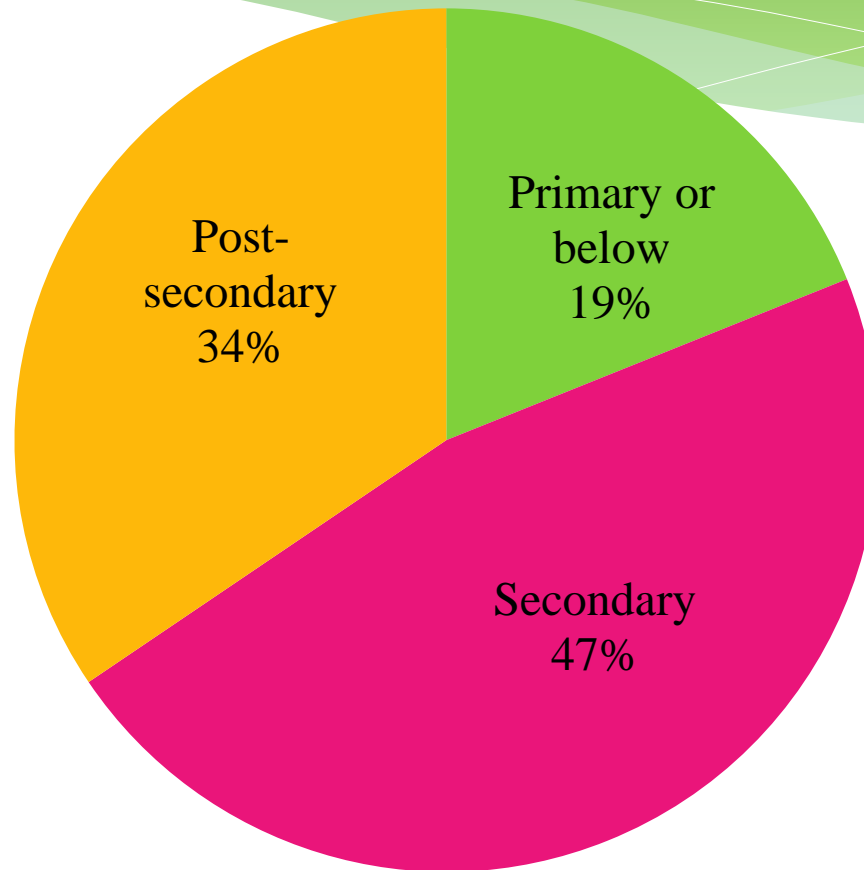
(n = 1,012)

Age



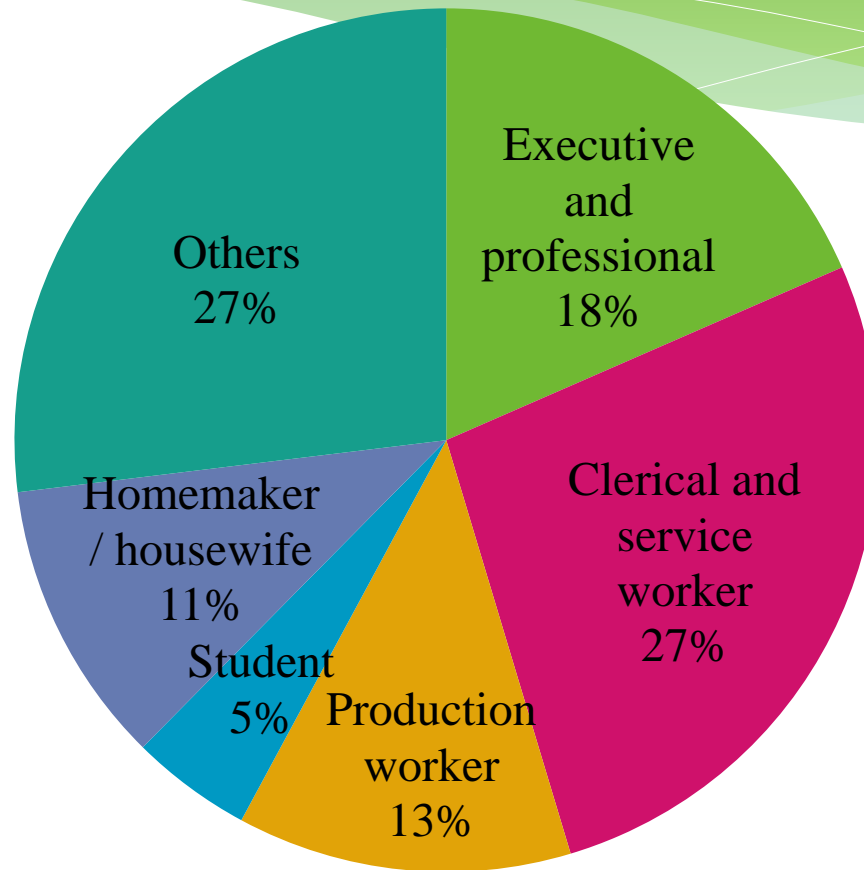
(n = 992)

Educational Attainment



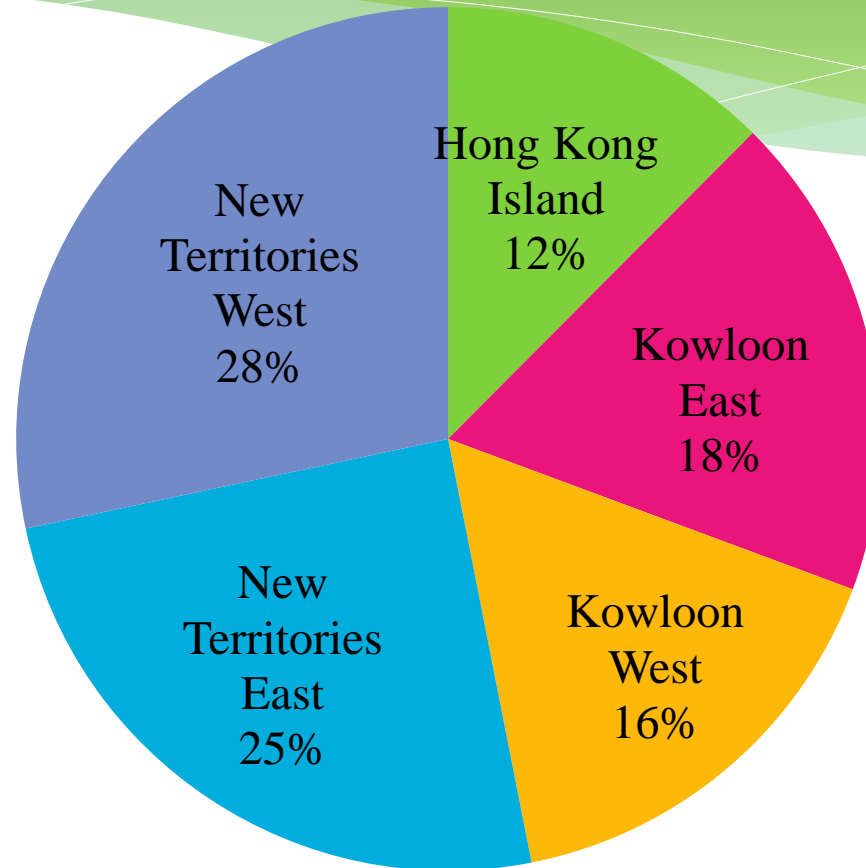
(n = 1,000)

Occupation



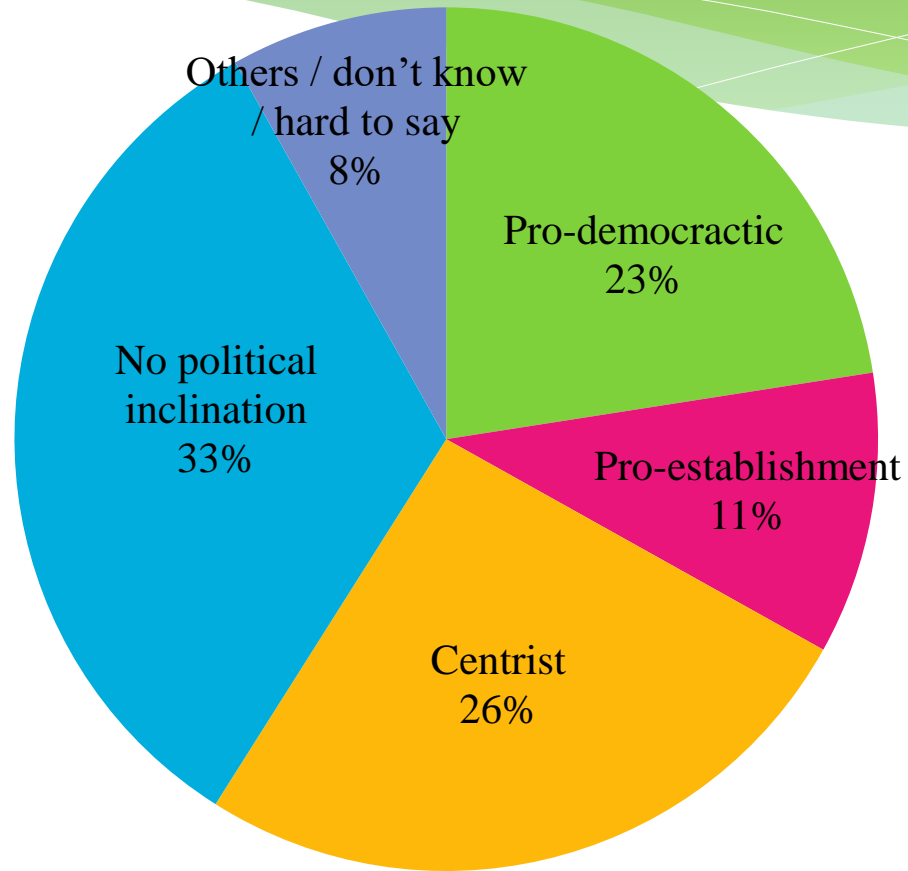
(n = 996)

District



(n = 997)

Political inclination



(n = 895)

End of Presentation