The Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission

Will Meet at 10:30 AM
On Wed., June 18, 2025
C-4 Conference Room
Department of Natural Resources
Tawes State Office Building
In-person and Google Meet

Meeting Agenda:

Approval of June 18, 2025, Meeting Agenda

Approval of May 21, 2025, Meeting Minutes

WHS Game Program Update (Associate Director Brian Eyler)

Maryland Farm Bureau Update (Tyler Hough)

Natural Resources Police Update (Lieutenant Brian Miller or Lieutenant Bill Davis)

Old Business:
  ➢ **Revamping Trapping Course Update - (Commissioner Kaitlin Rossignuolo)**
  ➢ **License Portal Update (MD Outdoors) - (Associate Director Eyler)**
  ➢ **Maryland Bucks-Bears-Stags Access to Specimens & Designated Storage Area – Director Stonesifer Update**
  ➢ **Non-Lead Ammunition – Deferred to a Later Meeting.**

New Business:

Public Comment:

Adjourn

NOTE: Free Parking will be available on the Navy Stadium Parking Lot, which is the third entrance on right off of Taylor Avenue.

**The Proposed Schedule for the 2025 Meetings
Of the Wildlife Advisory Commission is as follows:**

January 15th	Google Meet
February 19th	Google Meet
March 19th	Google Meet
April 16th	Google Meet
May 21st	Google Meet
June 18th	In-Person Meeting at Tawes State Office Building
July 16th	No Meeting
August 20th	Google Meet
September 17th	Google Meet
October 15th	Google Meet
November 19th	In-Person Meeting at Tawes State Office Building
December 17th	No Meeting

*PLEASE NOTE THAT MEETING DATES ARE HELD
ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH*

Note: Unless notified otherwise, all meetings will be held via Google Meet. When meeting in person, they will be held in the C-4 Conference Room of the Department of Natural Resources—Tawes State Office Building beginning at 10:30 a.m. Available parking is located at the Navy Stadium Parking Lot.

NOTE: Free Parking will be available on the Navy Stadium Parking Lot, which is the third entrance on right off of Taylor Avenue.

THE MARYLAND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES
May 21, 2025

Chair Wagner called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. This meeting was held by teleconference. Chair Wagner requested a roll call from individuals at the virtual meeting. Unfortunately, due to the anonymity of Google Meet callers, it was impossible to determine the identities of every participant.

Approval of May 21, 2025, Meeting Agenda
- Motion:
    1. Commissioner Showalter moved to accept the agenda for the May 21, 2025, Wildlife Advisory Commission meeting.
    2. Commissioner Kullberg seconded.
    3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval of April 16, 2025, Meeting Minutes
- Motion:
    1. Commissioner Schroyer moved to approve the April 16, 2025, meeting minutes.
    2. Vice Chair Keithley seconded.
    3. All in favor. Motion passed.

Morgan State University Bear Hunter Opinion Survey – Dr. Scott Knoche, Morgan State University
- Game Mammal Section Leader Jonathan Trudeau gave a quick update on the Black Bear Project with assistance from the University of Maryland.
    1. The students are working on getting landowner agreements to obtain access to properties to set up the hair snares for the genetic part of the study, which will use them to estimate the abundance or density of bears in the state.
    2. Staff are fortunate that one of our commissioners is granting the students access to his properties for the project.
    3. Five sows have GPS collars. It was interesting to see their movements every hour.
- Dr. Knoche presented Assessing Hunter and Public Opinion Regarding Black Bear Management in Maryland. **[ATTACHMENT A]**
- The Study Objective was outlined in the PowerPoint on slide 3, which indicated, "Better understand Maryland black bear hunter and lottery applicant preferences, satisfaction, expenditures, engagement, and participation related to black bear hunting and management."
- The Likert Scale typically consists of a five-point range and assesses the intensity of agreement, attitude, or opinion.
    1. One of the goals was to understand the lottery system from the hunters' perspective.
    2. The second goal was to under the harvest from the hunters' perspective.
    3. The third goal was to examine the black bear hunting season from the hunters' perspective.
- The Choice Experiment – Black Bear Hunting Scenarios – Economists use this method to understand individuals' preferences and willingness to pay for a product. For example, consider a car; when someone buys a vehicle, it might cost around $40,000 and come with various attributes such as longevity, safety, miles per gallon, and comfort. A person can analyze a product in terms of its attributes. A bear hunting experience can be viewed as a product in a similar way. One might consider the following attributes related to a bear hunting experience: the odds of successfully taking a bear, the chances of obtaining a large bear, the regulations that hunters face, including season length, Sunday hunting, restrictions on the animals one can harvest, and the cost of entering the lottery to acquire a permit. With the Choice Experiment, a person can isolate the effect of each attribute on hunters' preferences and willingness to pay.
- Q&A Section:

1. Commissioner Keithley asked Game Mammal Section Leader Jonathan Trudeau for a comment on the basic approval for expansion, including Sundays, related to the current black bear populations and their trends, because those will be the first questions if DNR decides to expand the Black bear season.
   a. Staff are using the new website from the University of Maryland to examine our populations, as it has been 15 years since DNR conducted an accurate population estimation.
   b. Staff have continued to use other tools to monitor our populations, including conflict calls involving bears and records kept by staff to track the bear population. Additionally, staff have continued with a scent station survey, affectionately called our sardine survey. Both indices indicate that the bear population has mostly stabilized in Garrett County, although it is increasing in some other counties.
   c. Various factors contribute to both of these methods for monitoring the population.
   d. Staff generally see that the bear population is expanding and likely to increase. Commissioner Keithley is correct that before staff make any decision, staff need to know the population numbers and the potential impact on the bear population.
   e. One of the benefits of this project with the University of Maryland is that staff will not only have an estimate of how many bears we have in different parts of the state, but they will also have an estimate of how many sows are in those areas. Therefore, compared to our reproductive surveys that staff conduct every year, this will provide a good idea of what our actual recruitment and reproductive rates look like as a whole, which staff can use to predict what that population might look like if the DNR increases harvest, expands the season, and so on.
2. Chair Wagner inquired about the information in the presentation regarding the $90 per day cost to hunt bears. He also asked if statistics are available for other game species, such as deer, turkey, or goose, as a comparison.
   a. Dr. Knoche indicated that the US Fish and Wildlife Service used to produce these per-day estimates for different species if there were enough responses from the five-year surveys that the USFWS would conduct. Dr. Knoche recalled that deer cost around $50 per day to hunt, and maybe the other species cost around $40-$60, which were not allocated by lottery.
   b. Dr. Knoche pointed out that estimated trip costs for Sika deer were different because the season is so long. From Dr. Knoche's recollection, researchers indeed asked about the spending; therefore, the trip spending information has been developed on Sika deer. Dr. Knoche mentioned that he would be happy to look up the data on the number of days spent on an average trip and then review the per-day spending for the Commission. Dr. Knoche recognized that there is a healthy contingent of out-of-state hunters on Sika deer, and in the Sika Deer Study, there was a divergence in many dimensions between the non-resident hunters and the resident hunters.
3. Chair Wagner asked if there were significant costs associated with bear hunting due to proximity. Given that Maryland's black bear population is in Western Maryland, are the travel and overnight stays driving up the daily cost? Chair Wagner recognized that there are many hunters in Western Maryland.
   a. Regarding spending, not re-spending dollars, that constitutes economic impacts, the average number of nights that a person was away from their primary residence during the black bear hunting season was 2.6.
   b. On average, hunters drive 100 miles to and from their hunting location.
4. Chair Wagner asked another follow-up question related to slide number 22 regarding the $661,000 and whether that figure represents the economic impact on the Western Maryland area, or if we have data on the economic effects of bear hunting in Western Maryland.
   a. Dr. Knoche noted that the problem with economic impact is the extent to which that spending occurred in that region in Garrett and Allegany Counties.
   b. The researchers did not ask specifically about the spending in those counties, presumably

        lodging. Still, other expenditures exist, such as a new piece of equipment that could have been bought elsewhere.

    c. Therefore, $661,000 is the spending, but it does not account for the ripple effects when someone spends money at the local hunting outfitter, hunting shop, or restaurant. There are ripple effects as these establishments spend that money, and that money goes through different industries down the line. Nonetheless, typically, a multiplier would be two or thereabouts. A person may think about a rough guide, doubling that spending when indirect or induced effects occur.

    d. Concerning the spending, not the re-spending of dollars, that constitutes economic impacts, and is it related to your first observation, the average number of nights that a person was away from their primary residence during the hunting season for black bear hunting

5. Chair Wagner said that it is good to have these numbers because the local populations, in general, need to know how much the hunters are contributing economically to the area.

6. Commissioner Showalter thanked Dr. Knoche and Ms. Sommerfeld for the presentation.

7. Commissioner Showalter mentioned that he reviewed the regulations before the presentation to familiarize himself. He thinks that DNR has a nomenclature issue with the point system. Dr. Knoche used the term preference point, and that wording is on the website. It describes applicants as getting one additional entry each year, for which they have a point, which people typically refer to as a bonus point instead of a preference point. In most systems, a preference point is a point that allows you to receive preference over other applicants. The applicants with the highest number of preference points draw tags.

8. Commissioner Showalter expressed interest in learning how the black bear lottery system works. The Commission and staff do not have to resolve this at this meeting. However, DNR may consider changing the term to a bonus point to more accurately describe what people are getting.

    a. Game Mammal Section Leader Jonathan Trudeau agreed with Commissioner Showalter that it is a bonus point. Game Mammal Section Leader Jonathan Trudeau informed the Commission that staff had discussed changing the wording, but the concern about changing at this point is that it could confuse more of the hunters. Staff welcome more discussion about this topic.

    b. Commissioner Showalter suggested dropping the word preference and calling it a point. In doing so, DNR is not misleading future point purchasers by continuing to use the word preference.

    c. Assistant Secretary Paul Peditto informed the Commission that it functions as a preference point because it increases a person's chances of being drawn over time by the number of preference/bonus points a person has.

    d. Commissioner Showalter again added that the Commission and staff do not need to address this at this meeting. However, a preference point is typically guaranteed. If there are a thousand permits and 900 people with 4 points, the 900 people with 4 points will get tags, and the 100 people with 3 points will get tags. No one else below the thousand will receive a tag if it is a bonus point; everyone gets additional entries, so it does increase the odds of drawing. Commissioner Showalter noted that there is a substantive difference between preference points and bonus points. Again, Commissioner Showalter expressed concern about misleading people in the future because he does believe it is a valid preference point.

    e. Director Stonesifer agreed that this can be reviewed and discussed.

    f. Chair Wagner suggested discussing during the regulation review period for staff and the Commission.

    g. Commissioner Parks recommended that maybe there could be a consideration, listening to what Commissioner Showalter had suggested, that a number be added in that once a person achieves X number of preference points, that person automatically gets selected.

    h. Director Stonesifer reiterated that this topic can be added to the summer review process.

9. Chair Wagner thanked Dr. Knoche and Ms. Sommerfeld for their time and update, and mentioned that the Commission looks forward to their next study update.

Maryland Farm Bureau Update (MFB) – Kara Hutchison, Regional Field Manager
- Ms. Kara Hutchison attended the WAC on behalf of Mr. Hough because he had to participate in the Maryland Commission for Climate Change Mitigation Work Group. Unfortunately, the WAC and the Maryland Commission for Climate Change Mitigation Work Group overlap.
- There are no updates from the Maryland Farm Bureau.

Natural Resources Police Update (NRP) – Lieutenant Bill Davis gave an update.
- Lieutenant Brian Miller outlined that there were 573 wildlife contacts for April. There were two wildlife inspections and zero hunting accidents.
- Public land patrols, officers patrolled 5,873 hours
- Boating patrolled 6,088 hours; conducted 34 boating inspections, and 961 boating contacts.
- Total citations and warnings were 1,268
- NRP issued 252 traffic citations and warnings.

Old Business
- Revamping Trapping Course Update— Chair Wagner discussed this topic with Director Stonesifer. Chair Wagner attended a meeting with Bill Dixon, Supervisor of Hunter Education Program, and the hunter safety education group. Chair Wagner informed the Commission that Hunter Safety Education Group **is** working on a course structure for online participation. It seems that the Hunter Safety Education Group is trying to produce more training seminars, such as tree stands, trapping, or other types of hunting, that can be used online for people. Therefore, the Commission will defer to a future meeting where Mr. Bill Dixon may join and provide an update.
- License Portal Update (MD Outdoors)—Licensing and Registration are wrapping up the commercial boating aspects of the new MD Outdoors License Portal. The goal is to launch the new system in mid-June. Fishing and hunting have been taken care of.
  1. Commissioner Rossignuolo asked if docking permits could be issued through the MD Outdoors License Portal.
     a. The MD Outdoor License Portal has multiple phases. We do not have information about the rollout of the different permits.
- The use of drones for deer recovery and hunting will be discussed during the June 18, 2025, meeting.
- Deer Cooperator Permit Sunset Date Discussion has been taken care of. Therefore, no further discussion is necessary.
- Sunday Hunting Discussion – Director Stonesifer informed the Commission that DNR was given an interim homework assignment to bring all of the necessary stakeholders together to try to resolve the Sunday hunting issue once and for all, so the legislatures and DNR do not have to continue to have that conversation during the Legislative Session. There is a stakeholders meeting scheduled for June 4. The Commission will receive an invitation. Staff anticipate there will be at least one other meeting. Chair Wagner requested that the staff compile information related to conflicts, whether it is boundaries, accidents, arguments, interference, conflicts between hunters and non-hunters, to help with the Sunday hunting discussion at the June 4 meeting. Chair Wagner had a conversation on the Sunday hunting topic with Delegate Boyce at the Chesapeake Bay Trust Fundraiser.
- Maryland Bucks-Bears-Stags Access to Specimens & Designated Storage Area—Director Stonesifer met with NRP and will obtain an NRP contact related to this topic.
- Suspension and Restitution Update—Director Stonesifer is wrapping up the suspension from the 2024-2025 hunting and trapping season. Staff will review the fee/fine structure this summer and report to the Commission.
- Non-Lead Ammunition Regulation—Chair Wagner mentioned that the Commission will have to sit down and discuss what it could live with and cannot live with. The Commission represents many stakeholders and areas, and collectively, the input from the Commission is going to be important because the Commission members have thought about this topic a great deal and discussed it with different people. Therefore, the Commission's knowledge will be very valuable.

New Business –
- Commissioner Keithley noticed the lack of wildlife conservation knowledge among the legislators. Commissioner Keithley mentioned that very few of them are hunters. Commissioner Keithley thought it might be a good idea to have the Wildlife and Heritage Service host an online hour-and-a-half seminar and invite all 188 legislators to participate to learn basic conservation. It could be something similar to what people go through for hunter safety to help educate some of these legislators on conservation, whether they are hunters or not. Commissioner Keithley estimated that out of 188 legislators, 8 to 10 of them hunt, which Commissioner Keithley thinks is a pretty pathetic number that are making decisions on things that affect conservation and wildlife in the State. Commission Keithley reiterated the importance of WHS hosting an online seminar and arranging to invite all 188 legislators to a presentation, which might bridge the gap between the Wildlife and Heritage Service hunters and the people voting on hunting and wildlife conservation issues.
  1. Director Stonesifer mentioned that occasionally, over the years, DNR has had some members participate in field days with other units, and it has proven very beneficial. WHS can certainly bring the issue up and see if there is an opportunity to do so. Trying to educate and get the information out to the legislators and the general public has been a problem.
  2. Chair Wagner agreed that more education was necessary. The legislators who serve on the Environmental Committees in both the House and the Senate play a crucial role in making conservation decisions, and focusing on their education should be a priority. Chair Wagner also emphasized that educating hunters is a key component. Chair Wagner noted that hunters are often misinformed and underinformed.
- Chair Wagner received questions from hunters about why WHS did not extend the turkey season to go through Saturday instead of ending on Friday.
  1. Game Bird Section Leader Josh Homyack responded that turkey season has traditionally begun and ended on those dates.
- Chair Wagner asked if the turkey season has to end on that date, or if we can include another Saturday. Chair Wagner recalled when Commissioner Showalter made a great suggestion about changing the dates to accommodate hunters so they can get an extra Saturday to allow more hunters time in the afield.
  1. WHS is not limited to when the turkey season must end.
  2. Every five years, staff sends a survey to turkey hunters, and that is one of the questions on the survey. The survey will be sent out sometime next month.
  3. Once the staff obtains the input from the turkey hunters, they can report back with the results.
  4. Staff have identified about 1,500 people who are turkey hunters. Staff suspects there are more than 1,500 turkey hunters in Maryland.

Public Comment –
- The public may contact the Members of the Commission at wac.dnr@maryland.gov.

Adjournment
- The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.
The next meeting will be in person at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at Tawes State Office Building, 580 Taylor Avenue, C-4 Conference Room, Annapolis, MD 21401.

Attendance

Members:	S. Keithley, K. Kullberg, J. Parks, K. Rossignuolo, J. Schroyer, R. Showalter, M. Smith, and C. Wagner
Absent:	TJ. Jenkins
Guest:	K. Hutchison, S. Knoche, E. Sommerfield, and A. Ward
Staff:	C. Coriell, H. Devine, B. Eyler, J. Homyack, B. Miller, J. McKnight, I. Montañez, J. Moulis, P. Peditto, T. Spencer, K. Stonesifer, and J. Trudeau

ASSESSING HUNTER AND PUBLIC OPINION REGARDING BLACK BEAR MANAGEMENT IN MARYLAND

Maryland Wildlife Advisory Commission Meeting
Wednesday May 21, 2025

Morgan State University

Patuxent Environmental and Aquatic Research Laboratory

Scott Knoche, Ph.D., Morgan PEARL Director
Kaitlynn Ritchie, Morgan PEARL Senior Research Associate
Emily Hoyt, Morgan PEARL Research Associate

Presentation Outline

- Survey Overview
- Key Findings – Likert Scale
  - Lottery
  - Harvest
  - Season
- Choice Experiment
- Hunting Season Expenditures

Survey Details and Methods

Study objective: Better understand Maryland black bear hunter and lottery applicant preferences, satisfaction, expenditures, engagement and participation related to black bear hunting and management.

Web-based survey:

→Distributed to 7,224 hunters who had applied for a black bear preference point, entered the lottery over the past five years, or were sub-permittees (2019-2023)

→Up to three email contacts

→A total of 1,744 responses were received for a response rate of 24.1%.

Black Bear Lottery System

Q10a. The current lottery and preference point system is fair to hunters
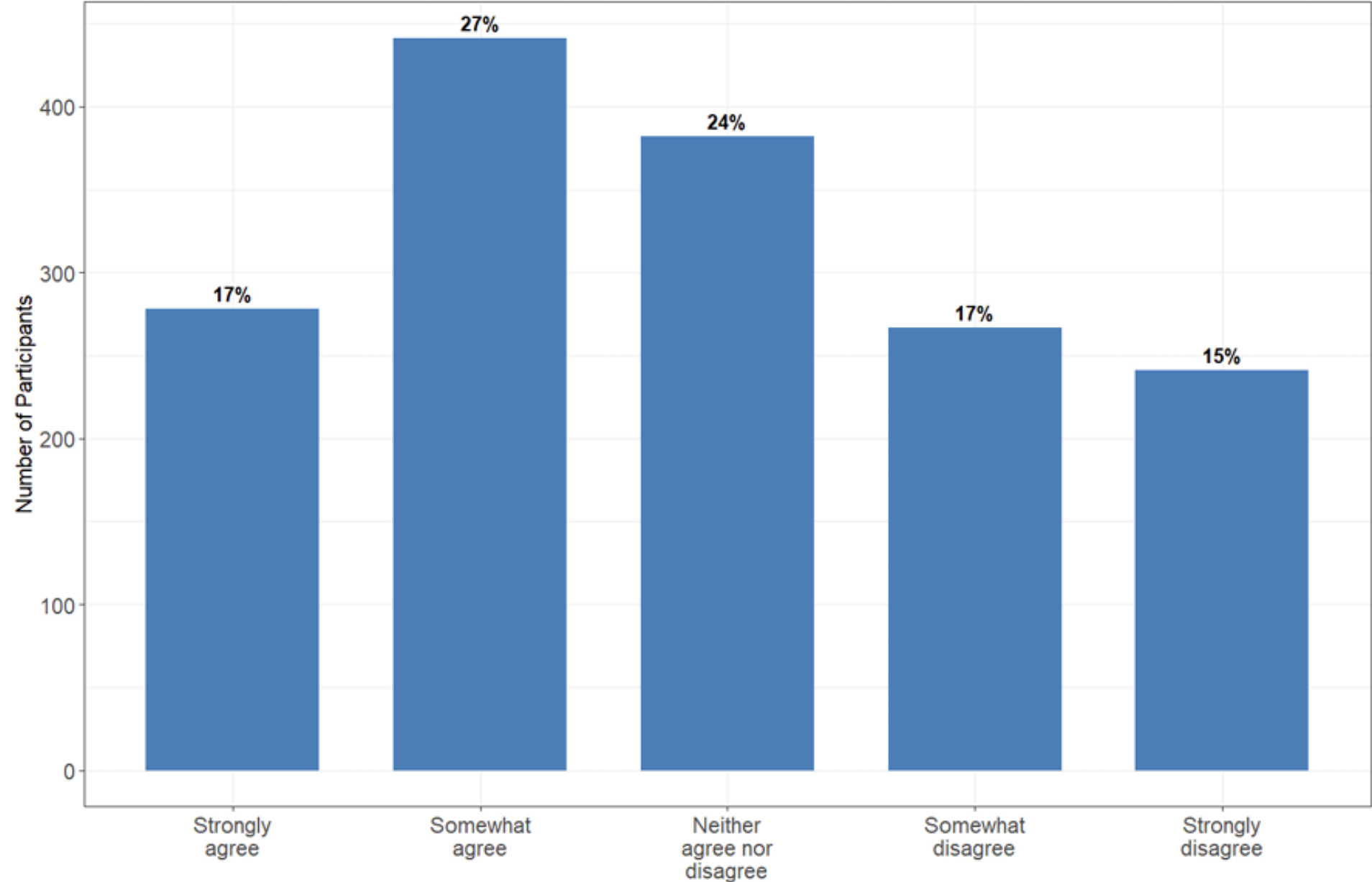
44% agree

32% disagree

Q10b. The rules and requirements of the preference point system are easy to understand
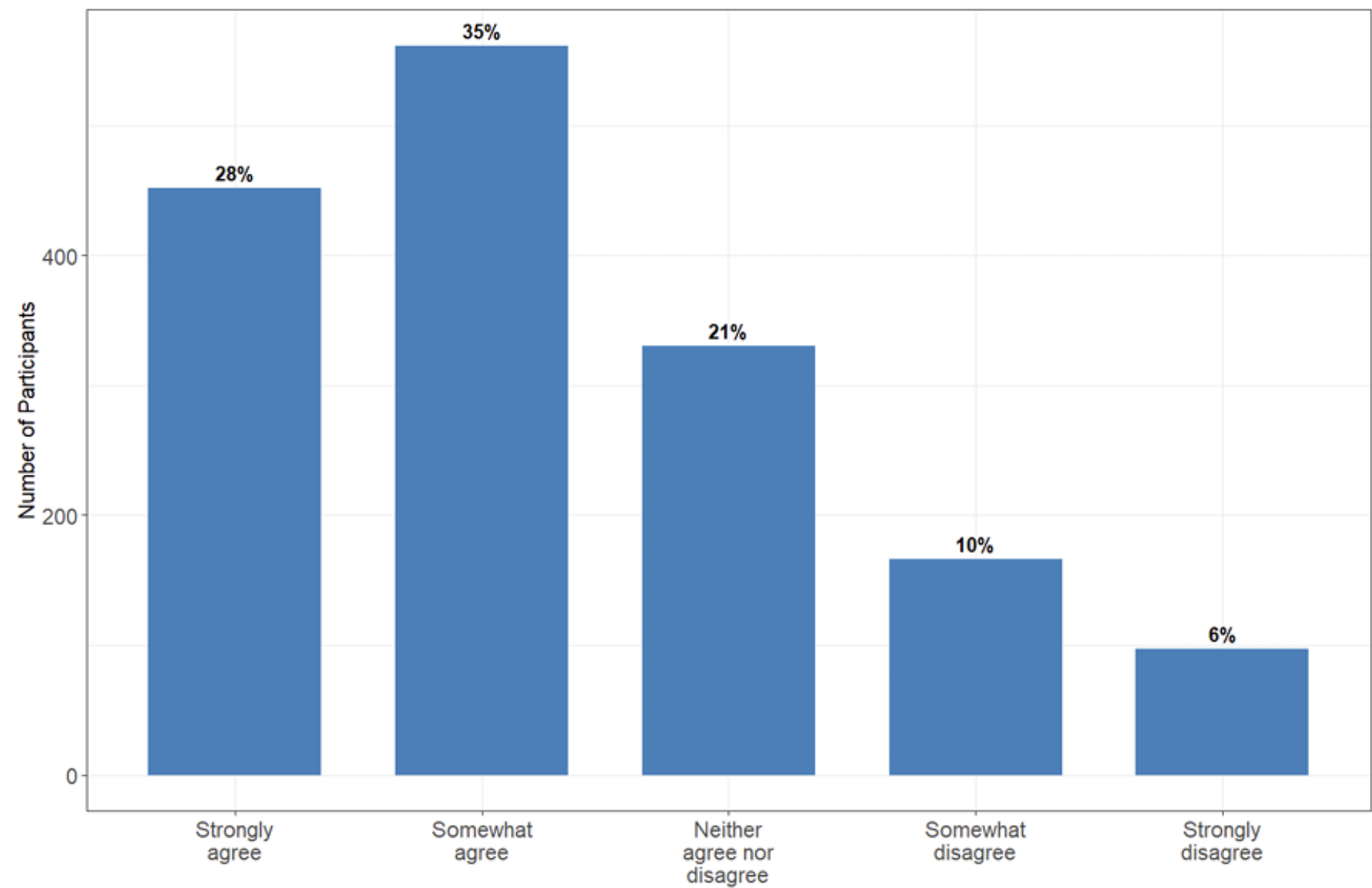
63% agree

16% disagree

Q10d. I'd like to see higher lottery entry/preference point prices, to decrease competition and increase my chance of winning
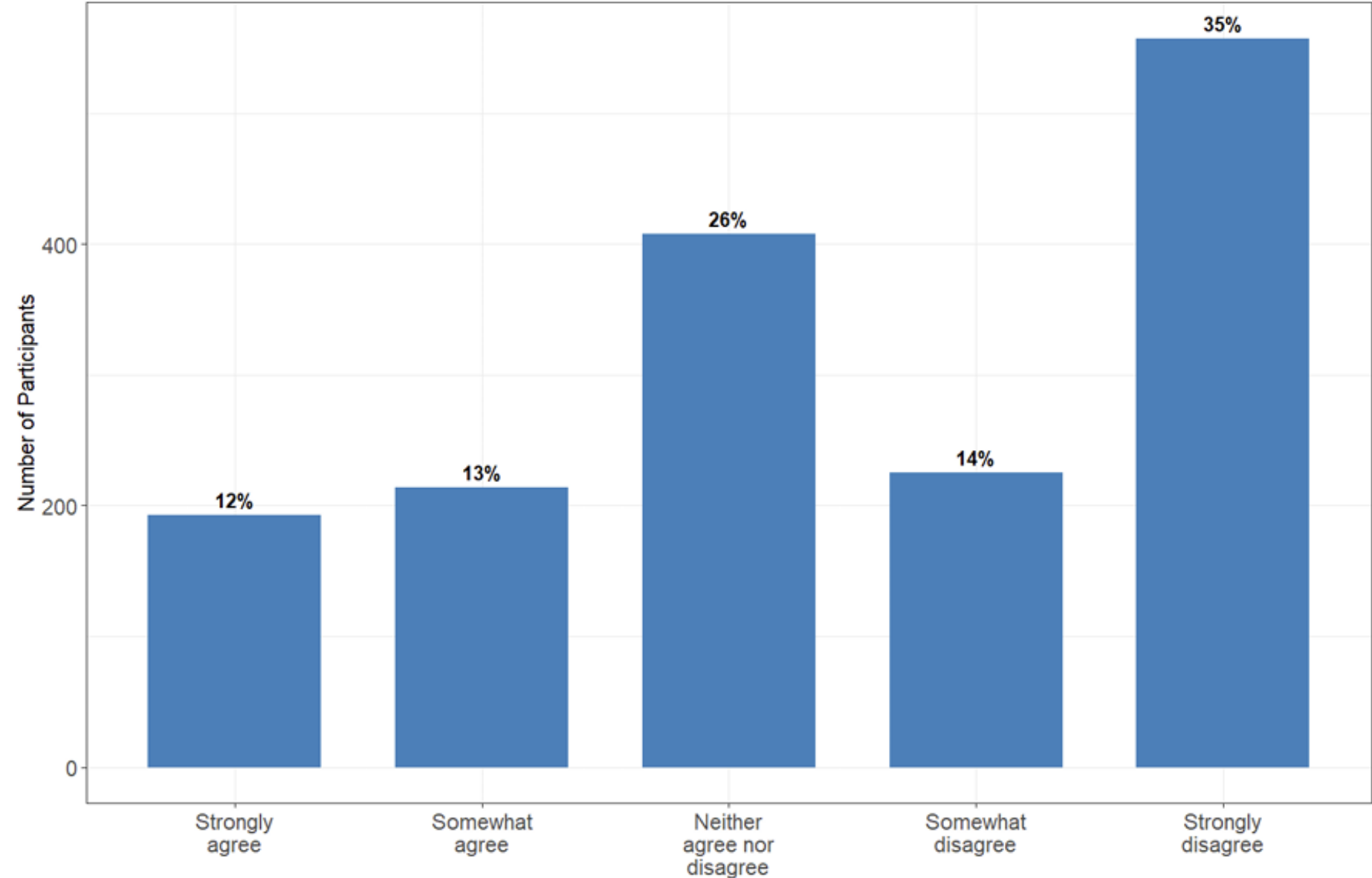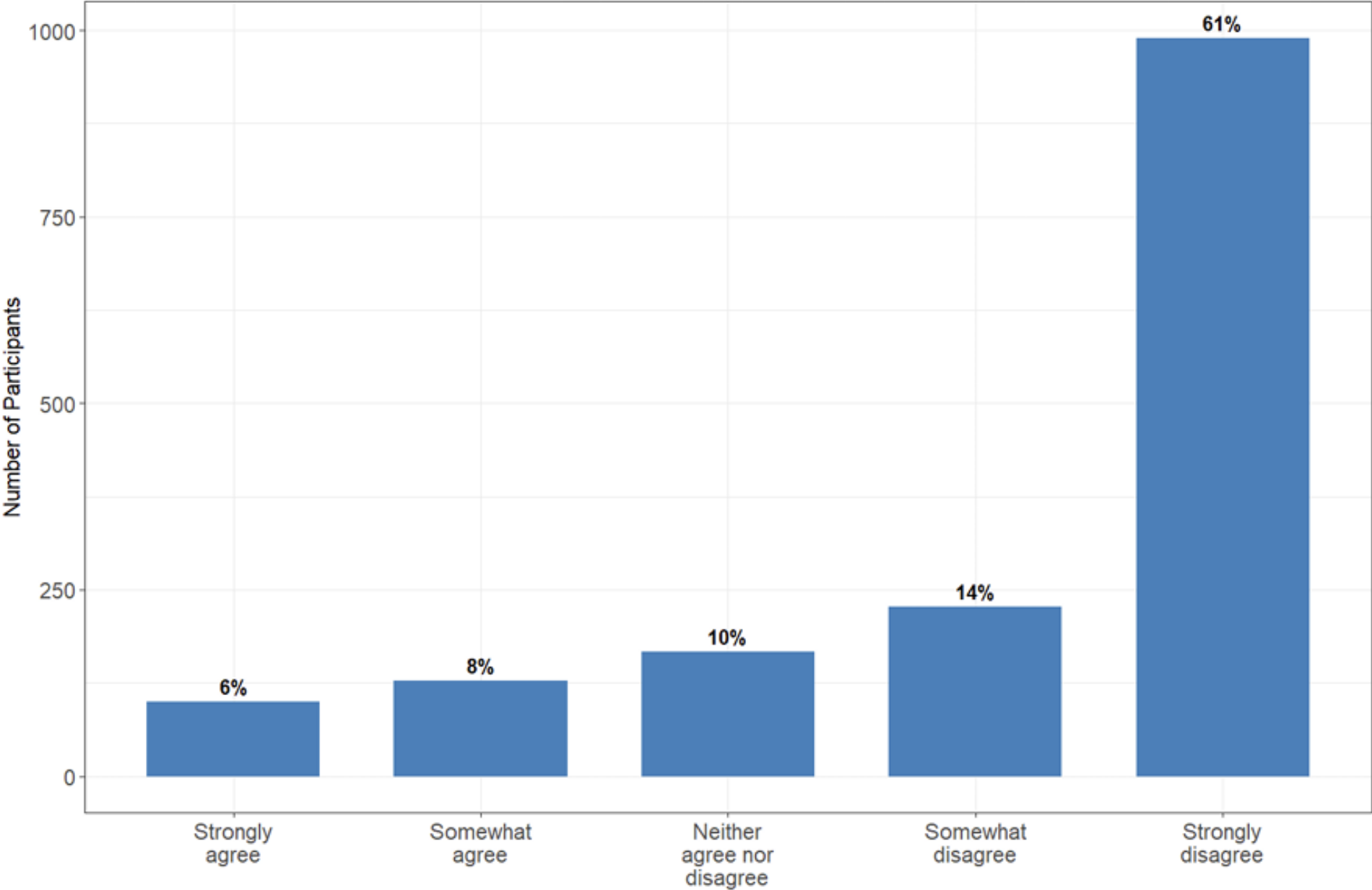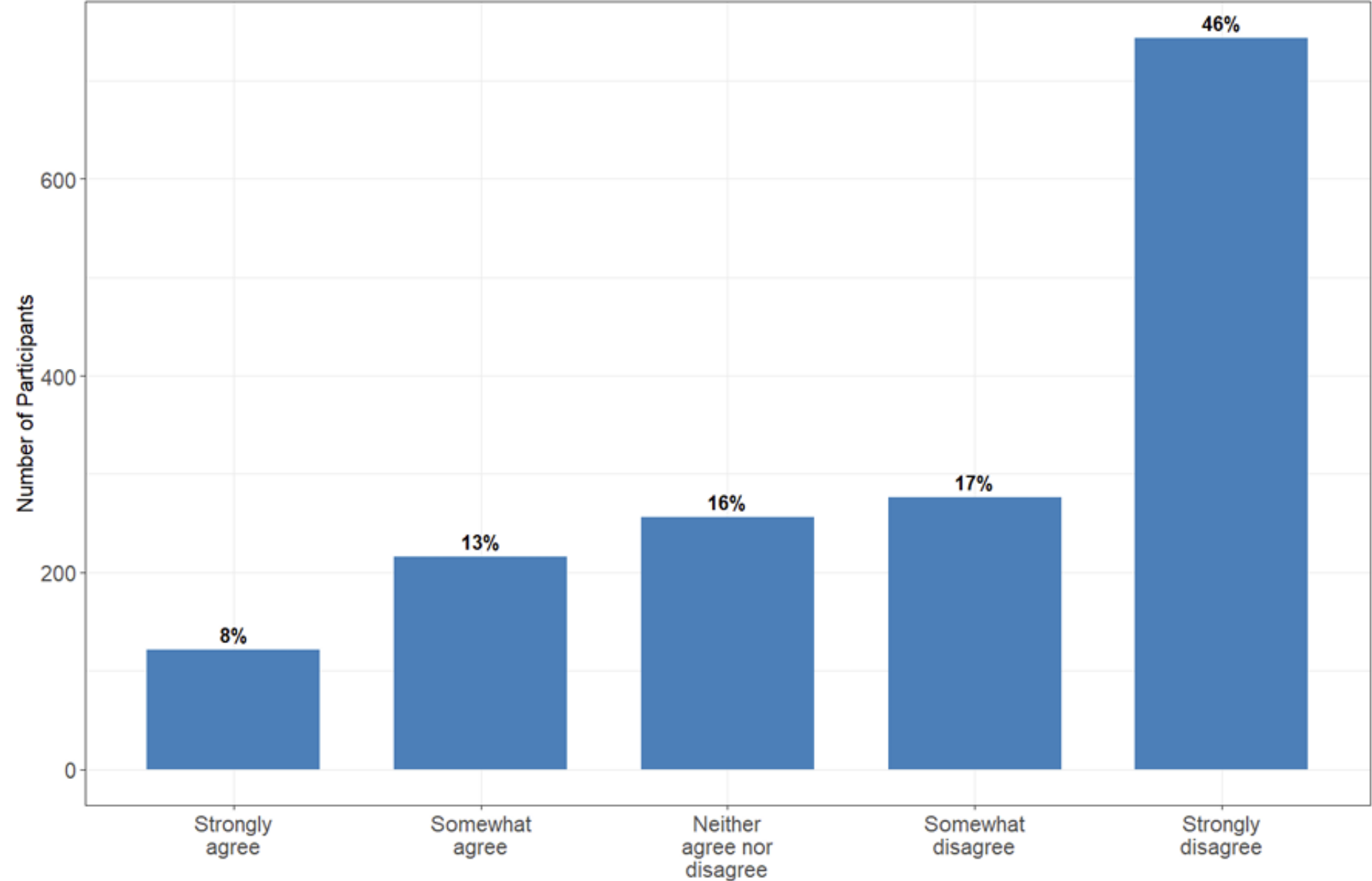

25% agree

49% disagree

Harvest

Q11a. I would harvest a sow with cubs present if I had the opportunity
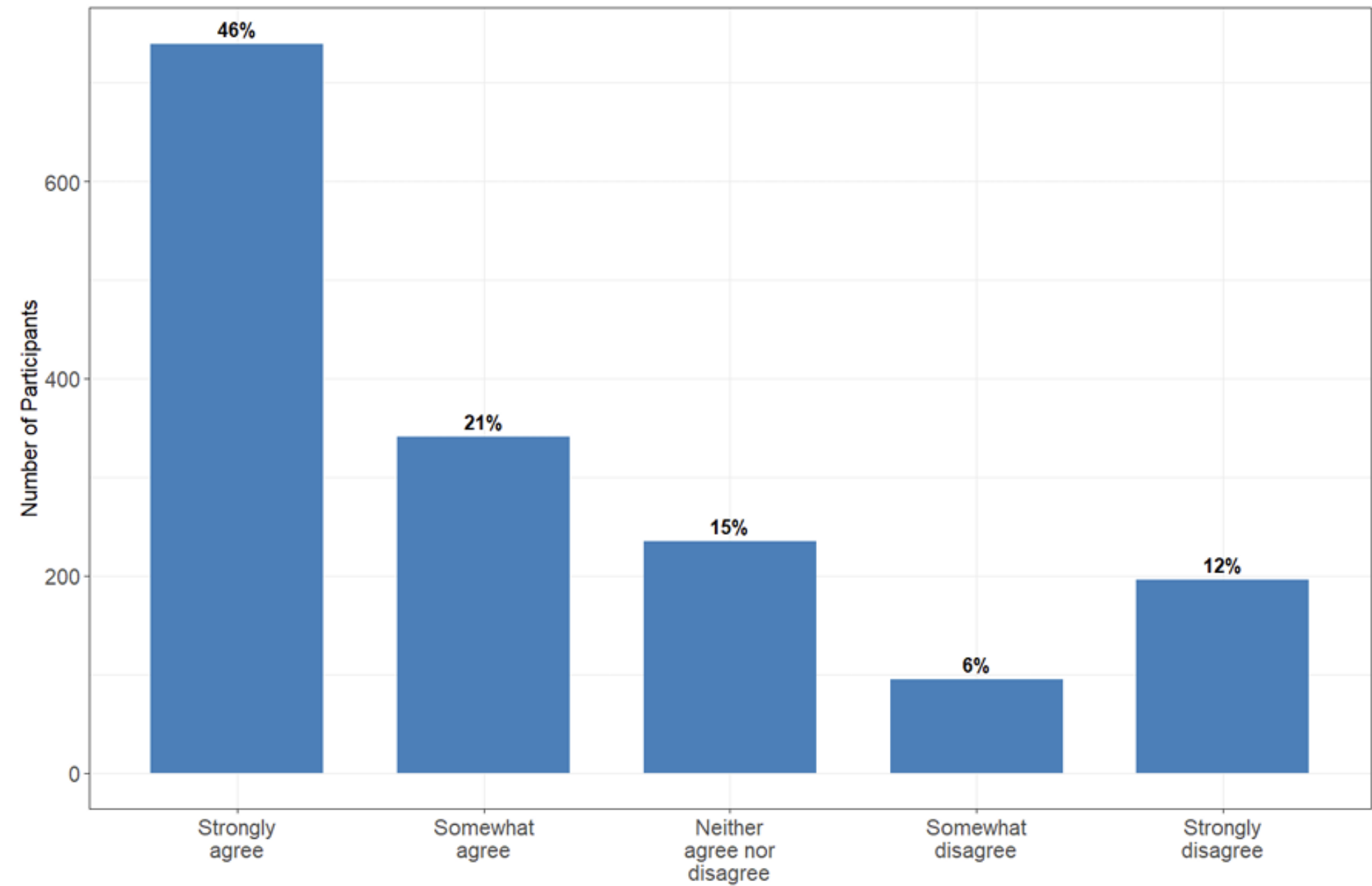
14% agree

75% disagree

Q11b. I would harvest a small bear (<75 lbs) if I had the opportunity

21% agree

63% disagree

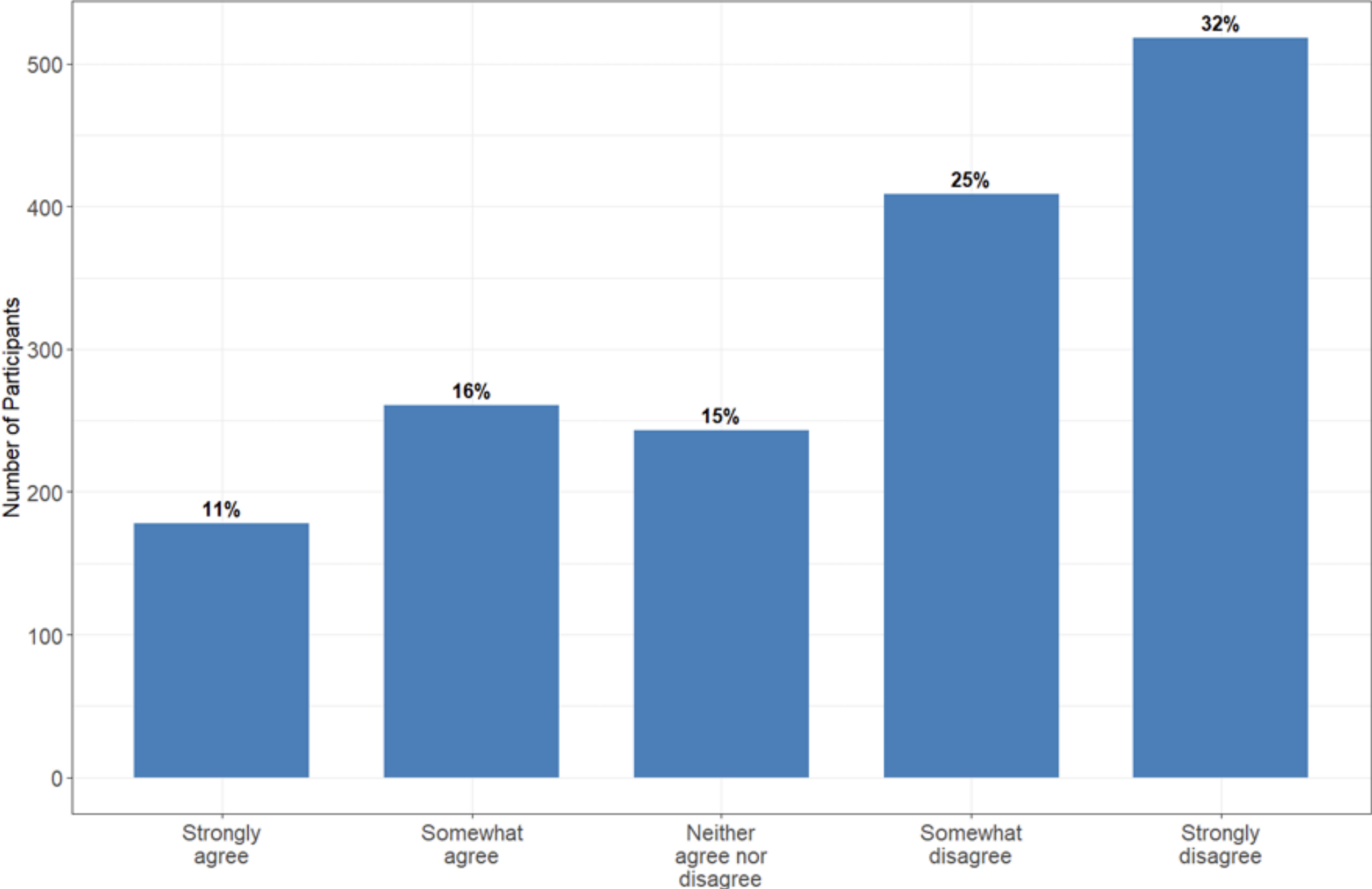## Q11i. I would support removing the restriction on baiting black bear

67% agree
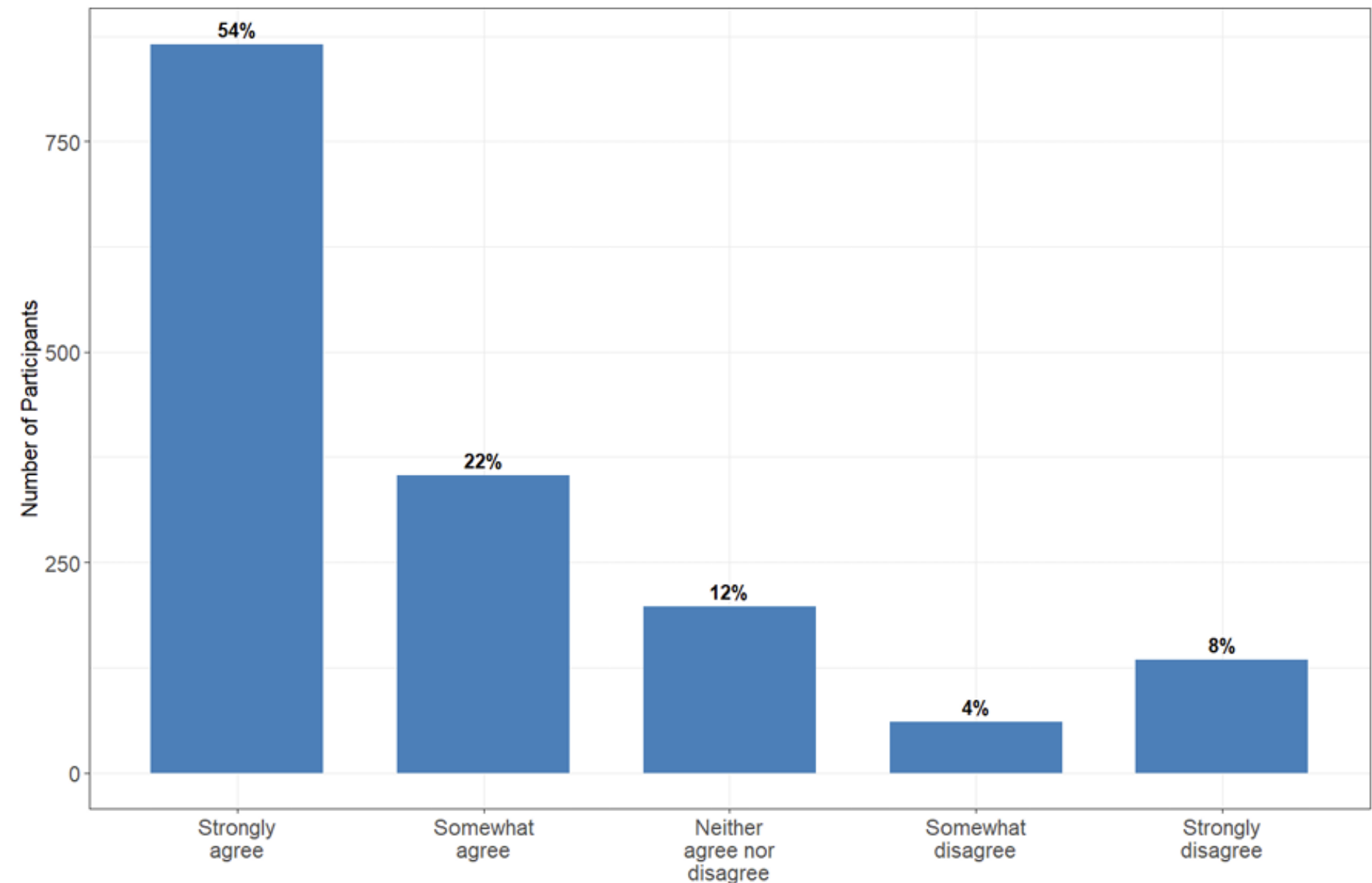
18% disagree

Black Bear Hunting Season

Q11c. The current season length (6 days) is sufficient
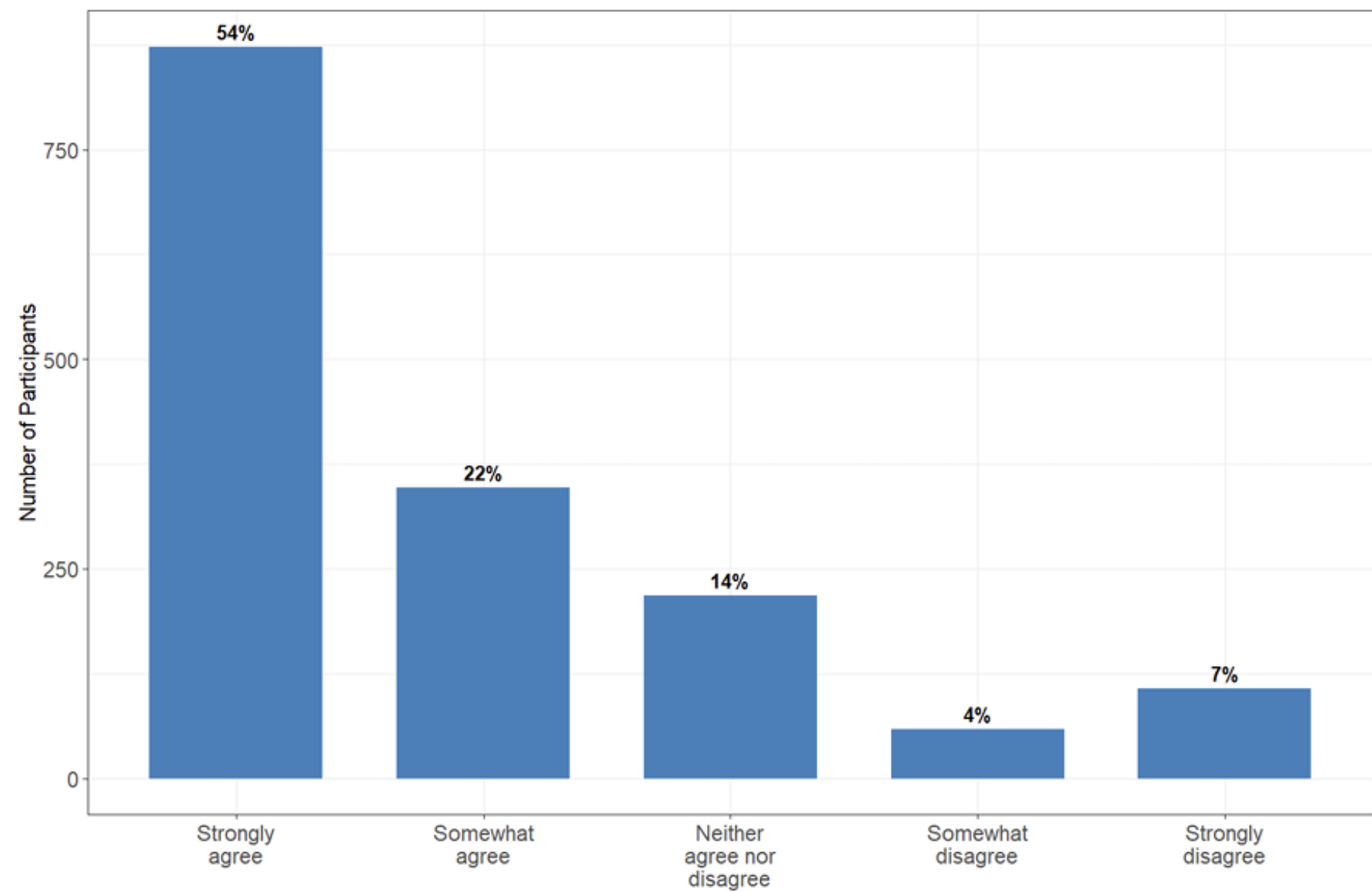

27% agree

57% disagree

Q11d. The current season should be changed to 7 days to include Sunday hunting

76% agree

12% disagree

Q11h. I would support a follow-up black bear archery season for those without a successful harvest during the regular black bear season

76% agree

11% disagree

Choice Experiment – Black Bear Hunting Scenarios

Choice Experiment Description

- Theory: Individuals receive utility from a product
  - Utility is a function of the attributes of a product (price, quality)
- Individuals receive utility from a bear hunting experience
  - Attributes of a bear hunting experience include: harvest (% success, size), regulations (season length, harvest permissions), and cost of lottery entries
- By constructing bear hunting experiences that vary in attribute levels (eg, harvest, regulations, and price), and asking hunters to choose a preferred experience, we can identify preferences and Willingness-to-Pay for specific attributes
- Benefits of this approach include
  - Measuring preferences in terms of dollars (a well-understood measure)
  - Statistical approach holds all other attributes constant; isolates the preferences associated with a specific attribute.

Which black bear hunting experience do you most prefer?

	EXPERIENCE A	EXPERIENCE B
Party Success Rate	10%	20%
# of Parties Harvesting Large Bear (>300lbs)	1 out of 20	1 out of 10
Season Length	5 days	7 days
Lawful to Hunt on Sunday	No	Yes
Lawful to Harvest Small Bear (<75lbs)	No	Yes
Cost to Enter Annual Lottery or Purchase Preference Point	$15	$35
Typical # of Annual Lottery Entries to Win Permit	3 entries	5 entries

Which Black Bear Hunting Experience do you most prefer?

O Experience A

O Experience B

- 72 Unique Choice Scenarios

- Choice Scenarios Produced through Experimental Design Procedures (2-6 attribute levels, depending on attribute)

- Blocked into 18 groups of 4 scenarios

- Each respondent received one of the 18 groups of 4

Attribute	Mean (Direction; Stat.Sig.)	Std. Deviation (Stat.Sig.)
Hunter Harvest		
Party success rate	+*	N/A
# of parties harvesting a large bear (>300lbs)	+*	N/A
Regulations		
Season length	+*	*
Lawful to hunt Sunday	+*	*
Lawful to harvest small bear	-*	*
Lottery		
Total cost	-*	N/A

* = statistically significant at the 1% level (p<0.01)

+ indicates that this attribute is positively influences hunting experience choice

− indicates a negative relationship

Attributes are mostly as expected.

- Harvest measures positive and stat. sig

- Season measures positive and stat. sig.

- Lottery application cost negative

Attribute	Mean WTP per hunter
Hunter Harvest	
Party Success Rate (10 percentage point increase)	$98.19
# of parties harvesting a large bear (>300lbs) (10 percentage point increase)	$67.56
Regulations	
Season length (increase by one day)	$63.72
Making it lawful to hunt Sunday (relative to unlawful)	$126.74
Making it unlawful to harvest small bear (<75 lbs) (relative to keeping it lawful)	$88.20

Key findings – Mean WTP for Attribute Changes

- Party success more valued than increase in large bear harvest

- Allowing Sunday hunting has highest value to hunters

- Increasing the season length by adding a Sunday has value of approx. $190 ($63 + $126)

- Hunters see have WTP to restrict small bear harvest opportunities.

Black Bear Hunter Spending

32. For this season, please enter the dollar amount of your share of expenditures for each category below. Please provide your best estimate. <u>If you made no expenditures for a category, please enter a "0"</u>.

Round-trip vehicle transportation costs (ex: fuel, tolls) [   ]

Public transportation (ex: airplane, car/RV rental) [   ]

Food & drink from restaurants/bars [   ]

Food & drink from grocery/convenience stores [   ]

Lodging (ex: motels, cabins, camping) [   ]

Guide fees or package fees [   ]

Public land use or access fees (excluding leases) [   ]

Equipment (ex: new weapon, gear) [   ]

Other [   ]

➢ Mean total expenditure = $357.63

➢ With mean days hunting = 4.01, avg. per day spending is $89.01

Total estimated seasonal spending for all black bear hunters is 1,848 * $357.63 = $661,000
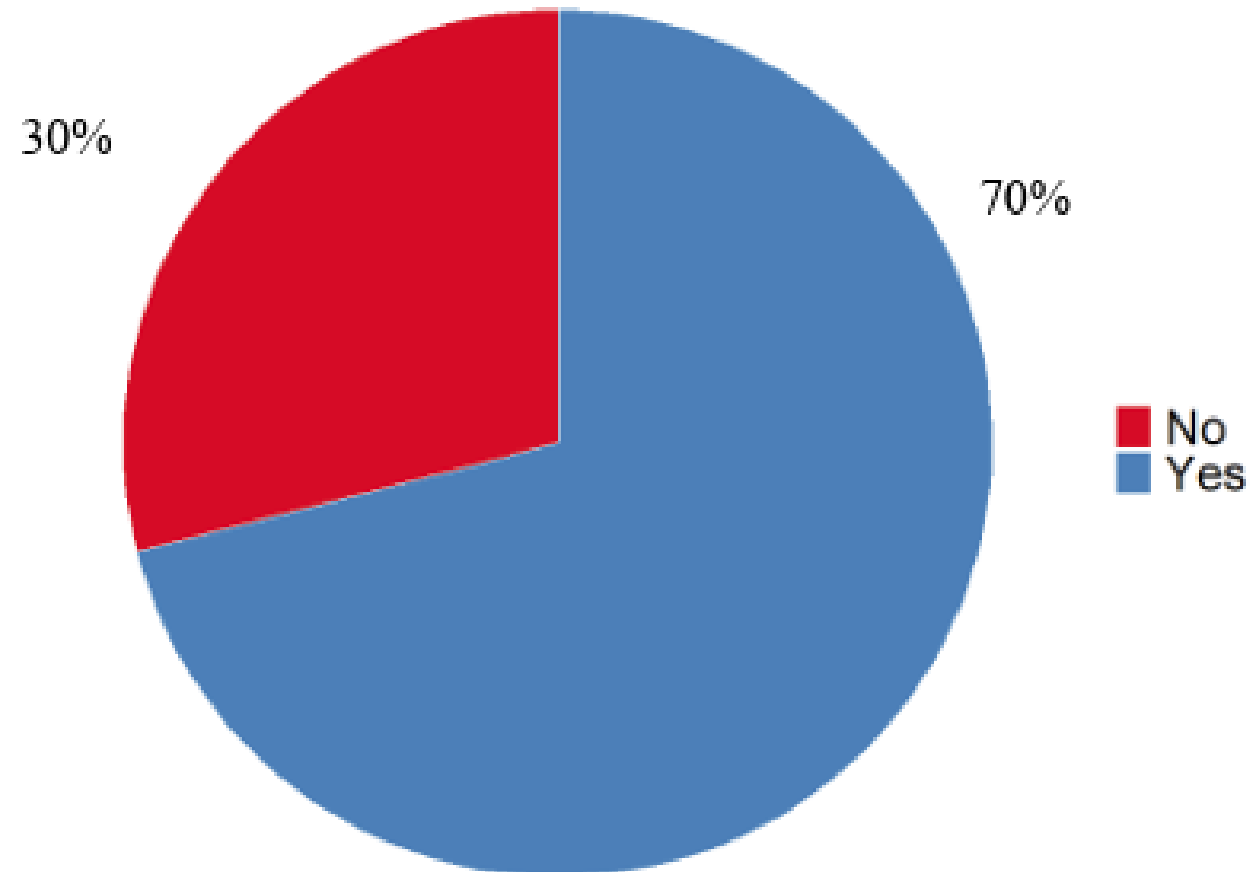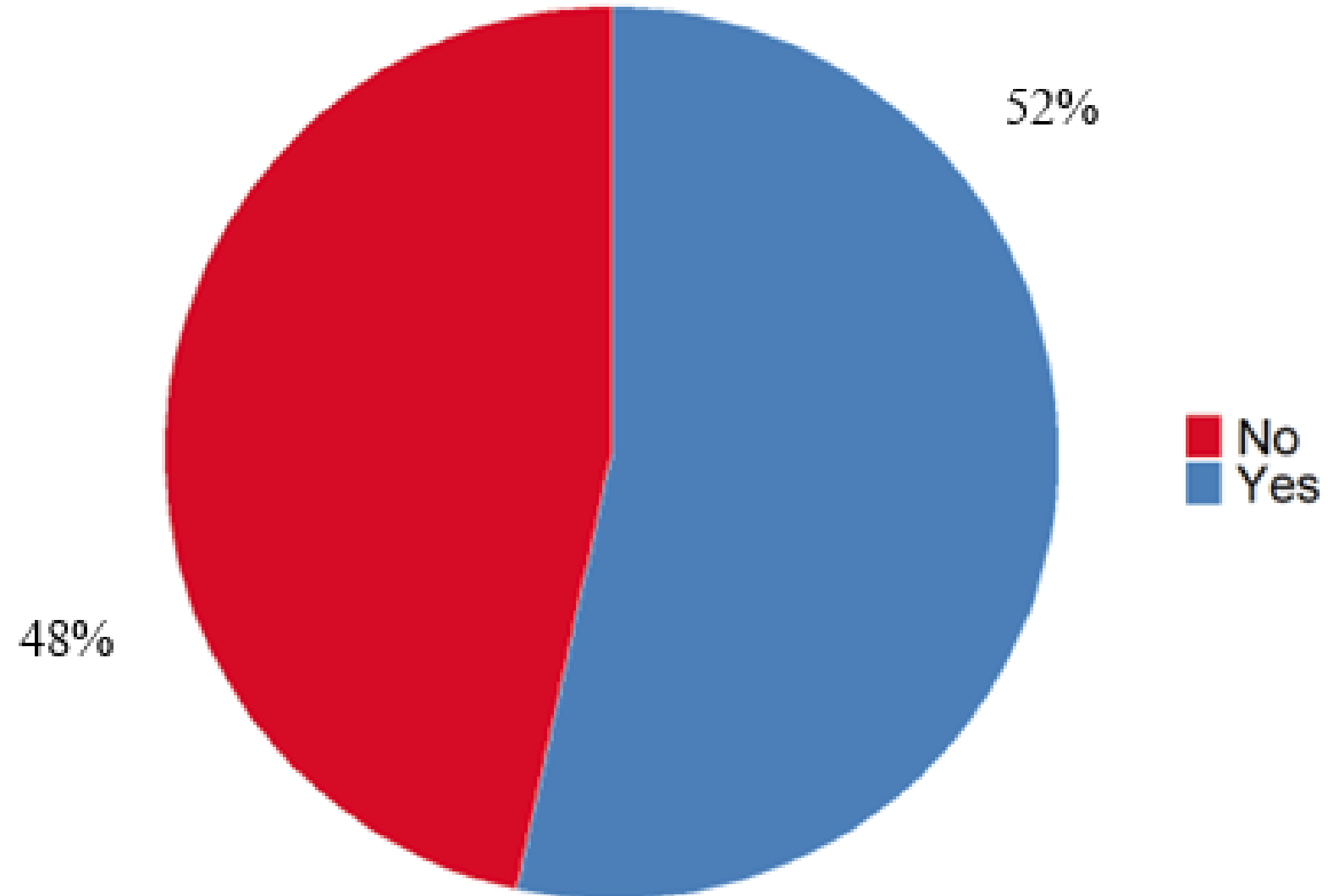
Thank you!

Questions?

Off-Season

Q33. Did you do any of the following off-season activities to prepare for your 2023 black bear hunt?

**Q33a. On-site scouting of potential hunting locations**

30%

70%

■ No
■ Yes

Q33b. Off-site scouting using maps (ex. OnX Hunt app, Google Maps)

52%

48%

■ No
■ Yes

Question	Statistics
Q27. During the hunting season, about how many miles did you drive traveling to and from your hunting location?	Mean= 102.9 25th percentile= 10 50th percentile= 30 75th percentile= 150
Q28. How many nights were you away from your primary residence during this hunting season for the purposes of black bear hunting?	Mean: 2.64 Median: 3
Q29. How many days did you spend hunting black bear during this season?	Mean: 4.01 Median: 4
Q30. How many hours did you spend hunting black bear during this season?	Mean= 30.1 25th percentile= 16 50th percentile= 25 75th percentile= 40
Q32. Per-hunter black bear hunting expenditures during the 2023 season[2]	Mean = $357.63 25th percentile= $40 50th percentile= $150 75th percentile= $350

Q33c. Use trail cameras

55%

45%

No
Yes
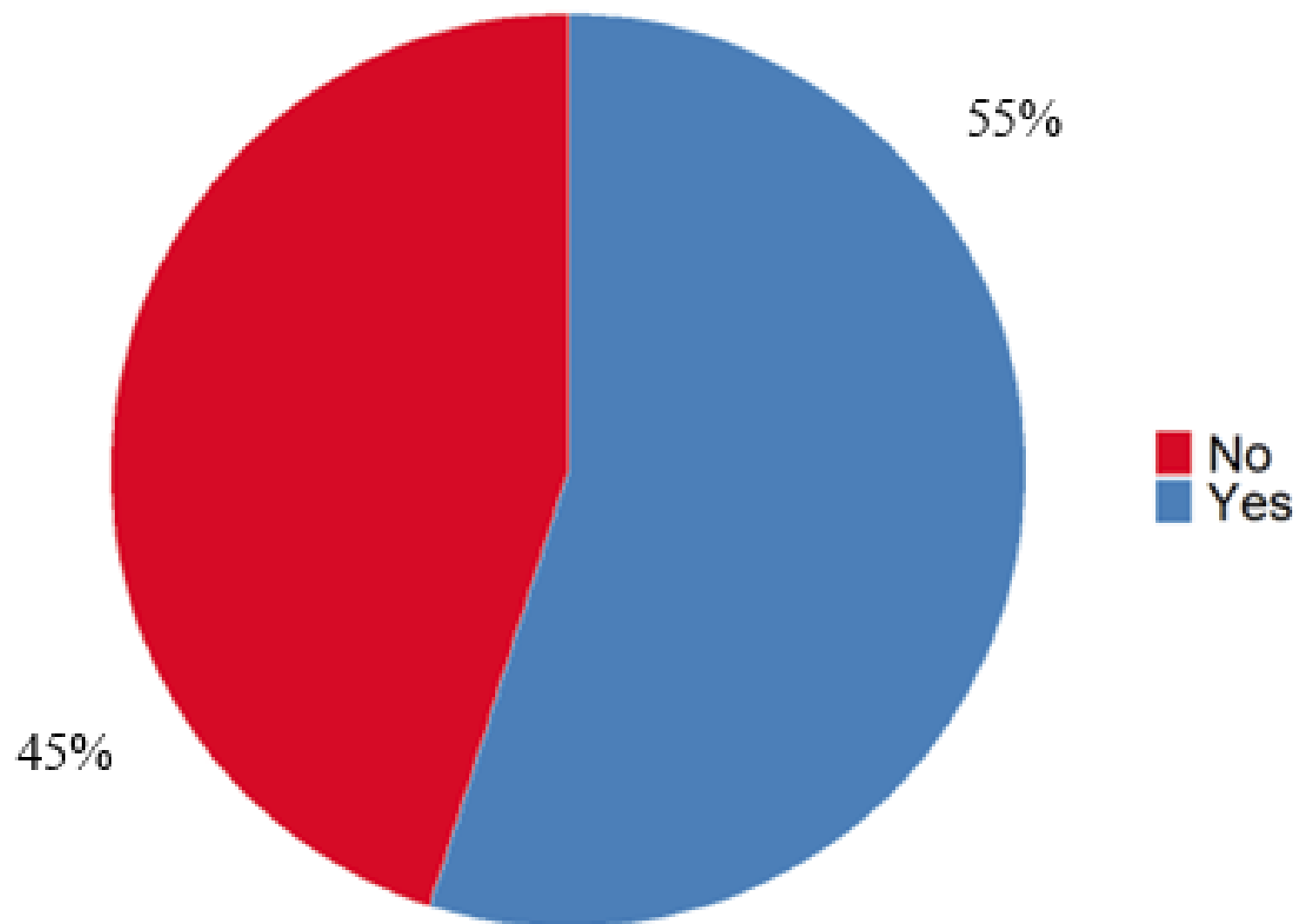
Q37. Considering all aspects of your black bear hunting experience, please rate your satisfaction on a scale from 1 - 10.
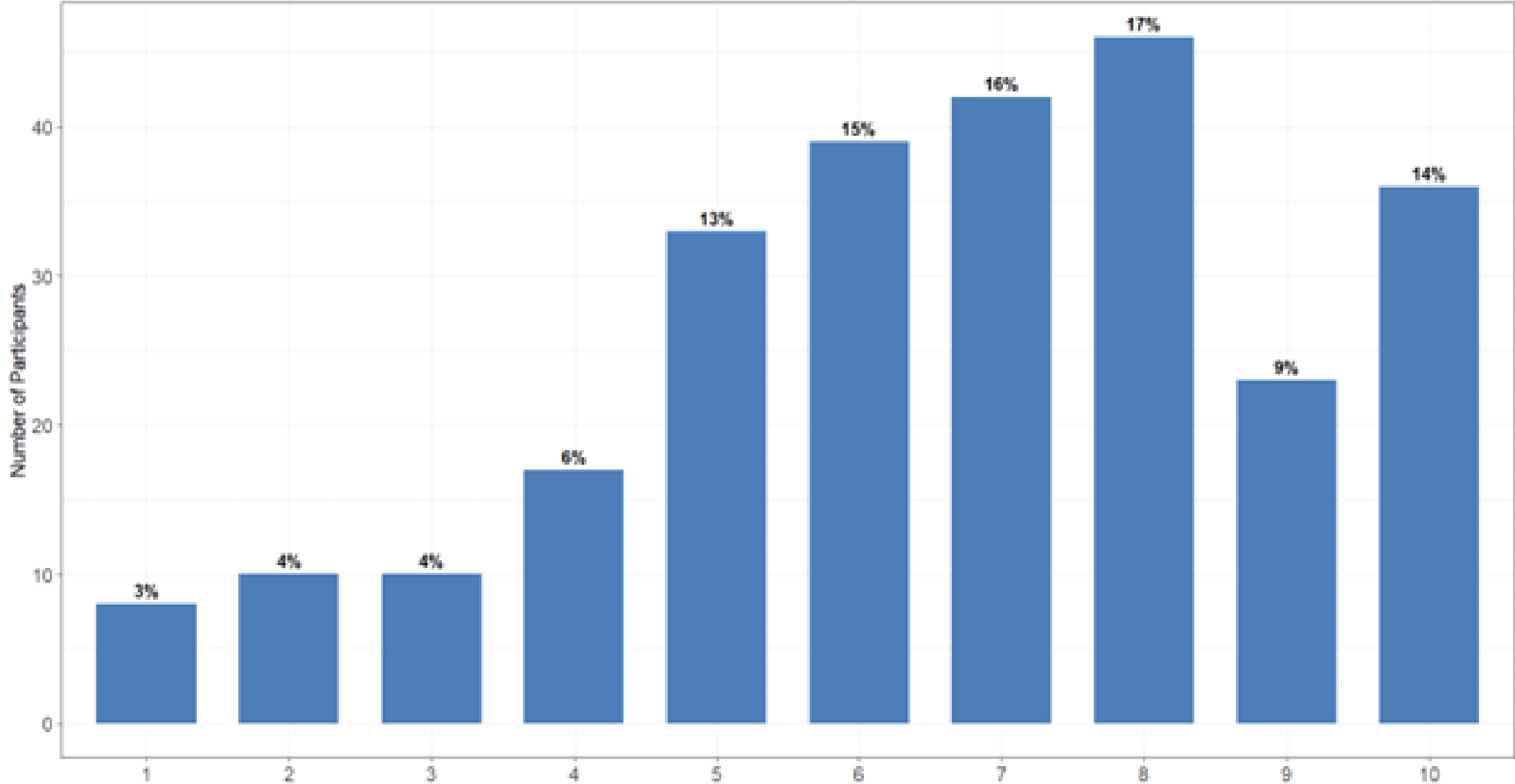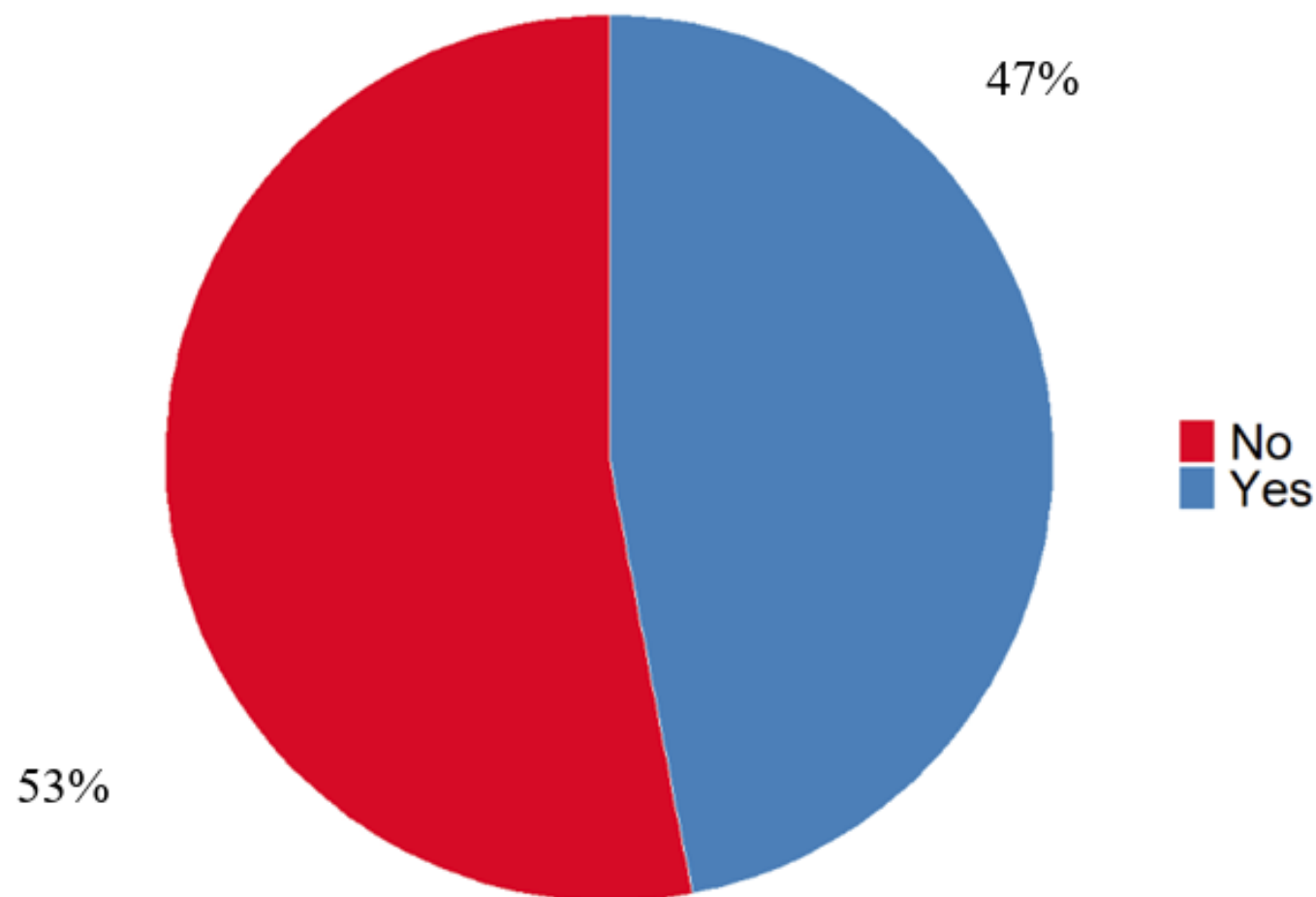

Mean = 6.6

Median = 7
Mode = 8

Q9. Before this survey, were you aware of the Maryland Black Bear Reimbursement Fund stamp? This stamp generates funds to compensate farmers for crop damages caused by black bears.

47%

53%

No
Yes

Extras

Maryland during the 2023 Hunting Season
* Only hunters reporting hunting black bear in 2023 in Q22 saw Q23 - Q28 below

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	Total Responses
Q22. Were you the permit holder or a sub-permittee this season?	59% Permit holder 41% Sub-permittee	371
Q23. How many people were part of your hunting party this season?	13% 1 (Only myself) 35% 2 51% 3	373
Q24. Did your party harvest a black bear this season?	85% No 15% Yes	372
Q25a. What type of land did you hunt this season?	21% Private and Public land 52% Private land 27% Public land	372
Q25b. What type of private land did you hunt on this season (Check all that apply)	38% Private land that I own 56% Private land that I do not own but have access to at no cost 17% Private land that I lease or pay a fee to access	199
Q26. Please provide the name of the county that you hunted this season. (Check all that apply)	59% Garrett 25% Allegany 14% Washington 15% Frederick	280
Q27. During the hunting season, about how many miles did you drive traveling to and from your hunting location?	Mean= 102.9 25th percentile= 10 50th percentile= 30 75th percentile= 150	374
Q28. How many nights were you away from your primary residence during this hunting season for the purposes of black bear hunting?	Mean: 2.64 Median: 3	373

Q29. How many days did you spend hunting black bear during this season?	Mean: 4.01 Median: 4	372
Q30. How many hours did you spend hunting black bear during this season?	Mean= 30.1 25th percentile= 16 50th percentile= 25 75th percentile= 40	374
Q31. During this season, did you see any bears that you did not attempt to harvest? (Check all that apply)	75% No 14% Yes – Too far or didn't have a clear shot. 6% Yes – I passed on a sow with cub(s). 13% Yes – I passed on a small bear (<75 lbs). 3% Yes – I passed for another reason.	280
Q32. Per-hunter black bear hunting expenditures during the 2023 season[2]	Mean = $357.63 25th percentile= $40 50th percentile= $150 75th percentile= $350	336

	% of Hunters _Favorable_ about this Change	% of Hunters _Unfavorable_ about this Change
Regulations		
Increasing Season Length by One Day	71%	29%
Lawful to Hunt Sunday	71%	29%
Unlawful to Harvest Small Bear (<75 lbs)	63%	37%