



Protests, Racism, and Policing by Race and Ethnicity

August 2020

Interviews:

7/24 – 08/06/2020

Total N: 3,115 adults

Age Range: 18-36



Survey Overview

The GenForward Survey, founded by Dr. Cathy Cohen at the University of Chicago, is the first of its kind—a nationally representative survey of over 3,100 young adults ages 18-36 conducted bimonthly that pays special attention to the ways race and ethnicity influence how young adults, both Millennials and Gen-Zers, experience and think about the world.

Given the importance of race and ethnicity in shaping the diverse perspectives and lived experiences of young people, we believe researchers make a mistake when they present data on young adults in a manner that assumes a monolithic Millennial generation and young adult vote.

In this slide deck, we present an empirical overview of young adults' views on the recent protests over racism and policing in the United States. A total of 3,115 interviews were conducted between July 24th and August 6th, 2020 with adults ages 18-36, including completed interviews with 807 African American young adults, 448 Asian American young adults, 789 Latinx young adults, 1018 White young adults, and 53 young adults with other racial and ethnic backgrounds.



Key Findings: Economy and Most Important Issues

- When asked about the most important problem facing the country, African American young adults were the only group where a plurality of respondents named racism (24%) as the most pressing issue, followed by the coronavirus pandemic (21%).
- The coronavirus pandemic continues to be the top issue most often selected among Asian American (35%), Latinx (28%), and White (23%) young adults. Racism was the second most selected issue among Asian American (12%) and Latinx (15%) young adults and the third most popular choice among young White (9%).
- Majorities across race and ethnicity say that things in this country today “are off on the wrong track.” Similarly, majorities of young adults across race and ethnicity describe the economy today as somewhat or very poor.
- A majority of Asian American (54%) and pluralities of Latinx (44%) and White (46%) young adults say the economy is either headed to or already in a recession. African American young adults are split with equal numbers (42%) saying the US is either headed to or already in a recession and either headed to or already in a depression.
 - Among other young adults, 35% Asian Americans, 41% Latinxs, and 38% of Whites say the US is either headed to or already in a depression.



Key Findings: Economy and Most Important Issues

- The financial lives of young adults are also impacted considerably by economic worries.
 - When asked how worried they are about the ability to pay an unexpected bill of \$1,000 right away, 44% of African American, 27% of Asian American, 40% of Latinx, and 34% of White young adults say they are very or extremely worried.
 - Young adults are less worried about their ability to pay for housing, with 28% of African American, 16% of Asian American, 25% of Latinx, and 18% of White young adults saying they are very or extremely worried.
 - When asked about keeping their current job or finding a good job in the future, 31% of African Americans, 28% of Asian Americans, 35% of Latinxs, and 25% of Whites say they are very or extremely worried.
 - Despite their concern over the economy, majorities of African American (52%) and White (53%) of young adults and near majorities of Asian American (45%) and Latinx (45%) continue to be very or somewhat optimistic about their personal future.



Key Findings: Politics and the 2020 Election

- A majority of African American (52%), Asian American (57%), Latinx (54%), and White (51%) young adults say they have a great deal or quite a bit of interest in following news about the 2020 presidential election.
 - Compared to our June 2020 GenForward survey, interest has risen slightly or remained steady across race and ethnicity among young adults (50% African American, 57% Asian American, 47% Latinx, and 48% White).
- Majorities of African American (59%), Asian American (56%), and White (57%) young adults, and a plurality of Latinx (49%) young adults say they definitely will vote in the presidential election being held in November 2020.
- A near majority of White (49%) young adults believe Donald Trump will win re-election in 2020, while clear majorities of African American (76%), Asian American (67%), and Latinx (65%) young adults believe Trump will lose.
- Majorities of African American (63%), Asian American (66%), Latinx (53%) young adults, and a plurality of White (43%) young adults say they would vote for Joe Biden if the 2020 presidential election were being held today.
- Joe Biden is significantly more favorable among African American (57%), Asian American (53%), and Latinx (49%) young adults compared to Donald Trump (12% African American, 16% Asian American, 20% Latinx).
 - White young adults are split in terms of their favorability of Joe Biden (36%) and Donald Trump (32%).



Key Findings: Politics and the 2020 Election

- When asked about who young adults trust more to handle some current crises facing the United States...
 - Majorities of African American (61%), Asian American (70%), and Latinx (54%) young adults and a plurality of White (46%) young adults say they trust Joe Biden to handle **the coronavirus pandemic**, compared to Donald Trump.
 - Majorities of African American (65%), Asian American (71%), and Latinx (61%) young adults and a plurality of White (49%) young adults say they trust Joe Biden to handle **protests over racism**, compared to Donald Trump.
 - Majorities of African American (56%) and Asian American (56%) young adults and a plurality of Latinx (47%) young adults say they trust Joe Biden to handle **the recovery of the economy**, compared to Donald Trump.
 - White young adults are more split in whether they trust Joe Biden (38%) or Donald Trump (40%) more.
 - Majorities of African American (61%), Asian American (62%), and Latinx (52%) young adults and a plurality of White (41%) young adults say they trust Joe Biden to handle **providing law and order throughout the country**, compared to Donald Trump.



Key Findings: Racial Progress and Protests

- When asked about the best way to make racial progress in the United States, revolution was the answer most often chosen among African American young adults (19%), compared to 9% of Asian American, 13% of Latinx, and 11% of White young adults.
 - Voting in local elections was the strategy to make racial progress chosen most often by Asian American 18% young adults, compared to 13% of African American, 14% of Latinx, and 14% of White young adults.
 - Non-violent protests and demonstrations were the strategies to make racial progress chosen most often by Latinx (18%) and White (15%) young adults, along with 17% of African American and 17% of Asian American young adults.
 - Organizing in communities was another popular choice with 14% of African American, 15% of Asian American, 13% of Latinx, and 11% of White young adults selecting such an approach to racial progress.
 - Among White young adults, 12% said racial progress is not needed, compared to 9% of Latinx, 5% of Asian American, and 5% of African American young adults.



Key Findings: Racial Progress and Protests

- Almost a quarter of African American young adults (24%) report participating in recent and ongoing protests and demonstrations in cities across the country, compared to 14% of Asian American, 12% of Latinx, and 17% of White young adults.
- Pluralities of African American (49%), Asian American (46%), and White (40%) young adults say most of the protesters are peaceful, while a plurality of Latinx (41%) young adults say many are peaceful, but significant numbers want to incite violence or destroy property.
- Majorities of young adults across race and ethnicity say the recent protests are strongly or somewhat justified (75% African American, 78% Asian American, 65% Latinx, and 68% White).
- Majorities of African American (64%), Asian American (63%), Latinx (52%), and White (55%) young adults say the movement sparked by the killing of George Floyd will have a long-term impact.



Key Findings: Racial Progress and Protests

- Majorities of young adults across race and ethnicity say racism remains a major problem in our society, but more African American (76%), Asian American (66%), and Latinx (68%) young adults say so compared to White (59%) young adults.
- Police killings of Black Americans are seen across race and ethnicity as part of a larger pattern and not isolated incidents by 69% of African American, 71% of Asian American, 59% of Latinx, and 52% of White young adults.
- Majorities of African American (81%), Asian American (69%), Latinx (63%) and White (58%) young adults say the killing of Black people by the police is extremely or very serious.
- A majority of African American (64%) young adults say they strongly support the Black Lives Matter movement, compared to pluralities of Asian American (46%), Latinx (45%), and White (38%) young adults.
- Majorities of African American (80%), Asian American (62%), and Latinx (57%) young adults say the United States should provide reparations to African Americans, compared to 41% of White young adults.



Key Findings: Racial Progress and Protests

- When asked whether the Confederate flag is more a symbol of Southern pride or more as a symbol of racism, majorities of young adults believe the flag is a symbol of racism (77% African American, 71% Asian American, 67% Latinx, and 59% White).
- Majorities of young adults strongly or somewhat support efforts to remove Confederate statues and symbols from public places (77% African American, 73% Asian American, 64% Latinx, and 59% White).
- Majorities of young adults also support renaming military bases named after Confederate leaders (69% African American, 66% Asian American, 58% Latinx, and 53% White).
- Majorities of young adults across race and ethnicity strongly or somewhat agree with the statement “police are necessary for safe communities,” (66% African American, 84% Asian American, 79% Latinx, and 82% White).
- A plurality of African American (47%) young adults, and majorities of Asian American (62%), Latinx (54%), and White (55%) young adults say their community has the right number of police officers.



Key Findings: Policing and Safety

- When asked about funding for their **“local police department,”** pluralities of African American and Asian American young adults are split between keeping funding the same or decreasing funding. (Among African American 40% want funding kept the same and 39% want funding decreased. Among Asian American young adults 46% want funding kept the same and 42% want it decreased.
 - Pluralities of Latinx (42%) and White (42%) young adults say funding should be kept the same. Decreasing the funding for their local police department is the second most common answer among Latinx and White young adults at 34%.
- When asked about funding for **“the police,”** a majority of African Americans (52%), and a plurality of Asian American (47%) chose decreasing the funding for the police. Latinx and White young adults are largely split between keeping the funding for “the police” the same or decreasing their funding. Among Latinx young adults, 39% want to keep funding for the police the same, while 41% want to decrease their funding. Among young adult Whites, 36% say funding should remain the same, while 39% say funding should be decreased.



Key Findings: Policing and Safety

- Large majorities of young adults across race and ethnicity strongly or somewhat support creating a new agency of first responders that specialize in de-escalation of violence, providing mental health support, and other social services that would take over these responsibilities from the police (77% African American, 85% Asian American, 76% Latinx, and 77% White).
- Majorities or near majorities of young adults support putting the budgets of police departments entirely or partly toward other areas such as healthcare, education or housing.
 - Majorities of African American (60%), Asian American (75%) and Latinx (50%) and 47% of White young adults support putting **the entire budget** of the police toward social services.
 - Majorities of African American (60%), Asian American (72%), Latinx (64%) and White (55%) young adults support putting **part of the budgets** of police departments toward healthcare, education and housing.



Key Findings: Policing and Safety

- When asked if police departments in the United States should be defunded, pluralities of African American (38%) and Asian American (44%) young adults say the police **should be defunded**. In contrast pluralities of Latinx (48%) and White (51%) young adults say we should **not** defund the police.
- When asked if police departments **should be “abolished,”** only 21% of African American, 10% of Asian American, 9% of Latinx, and 13% of White young adults responded yes, abolish the police.



Key Findings: Policing and Safety

- Majorities of African American (58%) and Asian American (55%) young adults strongly or somewhat support **high schools** cutting ties with the police, compared to majorities of Latinx (56%) and White (52%) young adults who oppose high schools cutting ties with the police.
- Majorities of African American (62%) and Asian American (53%) young adults strongly or somewhat support **universities** cutting ties with the police, compared to majorities of Latinx (52%) and White (52%) young adults who oppose universities cutting ties with the police.
- When asked about experiences with the police, 26% of African American, 8% of Asian American, 17% of Latinx, and 17% of White young adults say they have experienced harassment or violence at the hands of the police.
 - When asked if they know someone who has experienced harassment or violence at the hands of the police, the numbers increase with 42% of African American, 23% of Asian American, 30% of Latinx and 25% of White young adults indicating they know someone with such experiences.

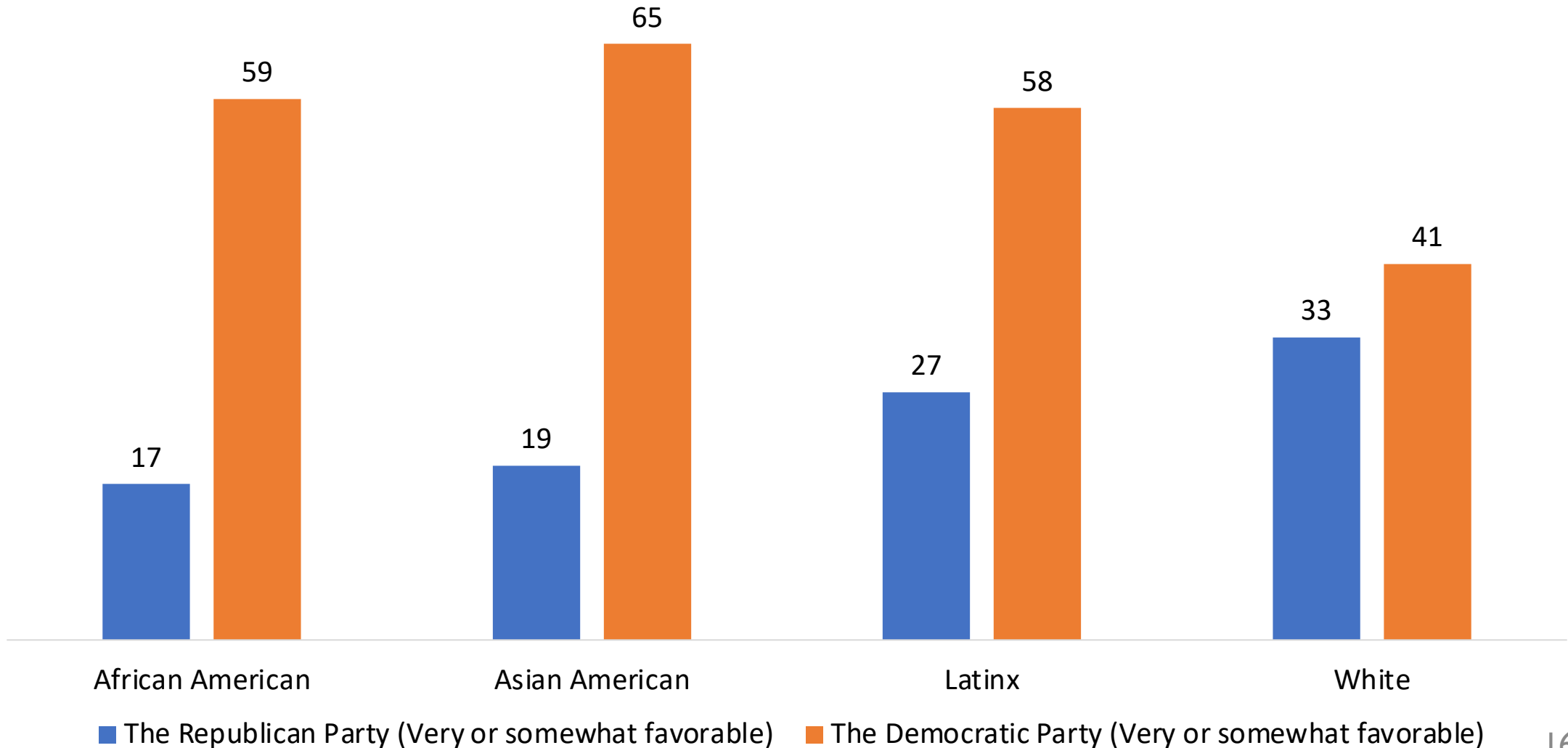


Key Findings: Coronavirus

- Large majorities of African American (75%), Asian American (87%), Latinx (75%), and White (72%) young adults say they are worried or very worried about the spread of the coronavirus.
- Significant majorities of young adults say the current surge in cases of the coronavirus in many states is the result of opening up those states too soon (82% African American, 92% Asian American, 83% Latinx, and 76% White).
- Majorities of young adults across race and ethnicity say it is a bad idea to have students return to school in person in the fall (64% African American, 74% Asian American, 68% Latinx, and 55% White).
- Majorities of African American (64%), Asian American (67%), and Latinx (53%), as well as a plurality of White (48%) young adults say Donald Trump is doing a poor job in responding to the coronavirus pandemic in their community.



For both parties, please select if you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of that party. If you don't know enough about the party to have an opinion, you can say that too.



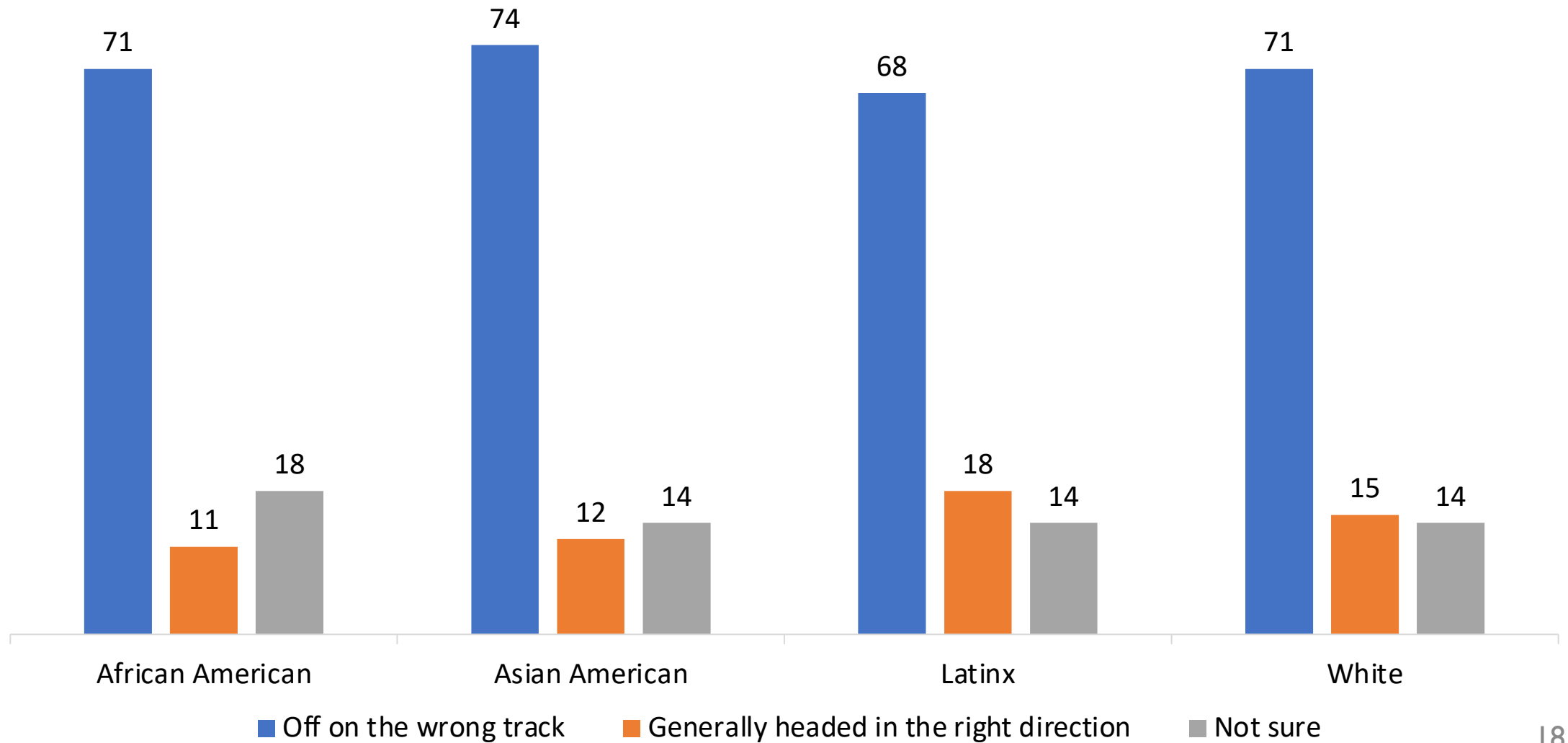


What do you think is the most important problem facing this country today? Please select which one of these is the most important. (Top 3 Choices)

	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinxs	Whites
1 st	Racism (24%)	The coronavirus pandemic (35%)	The coronavirus pandemic (28%)	The coronavirus pandemic (23%)
2 nd	The coronavirus pandemic (21%)	Racism (12%)	Racism (15%)	Health care (10%)
3 rd	Police brutality (8%)	Income inequality (10%)	Health care (10%)	Racism (9%)

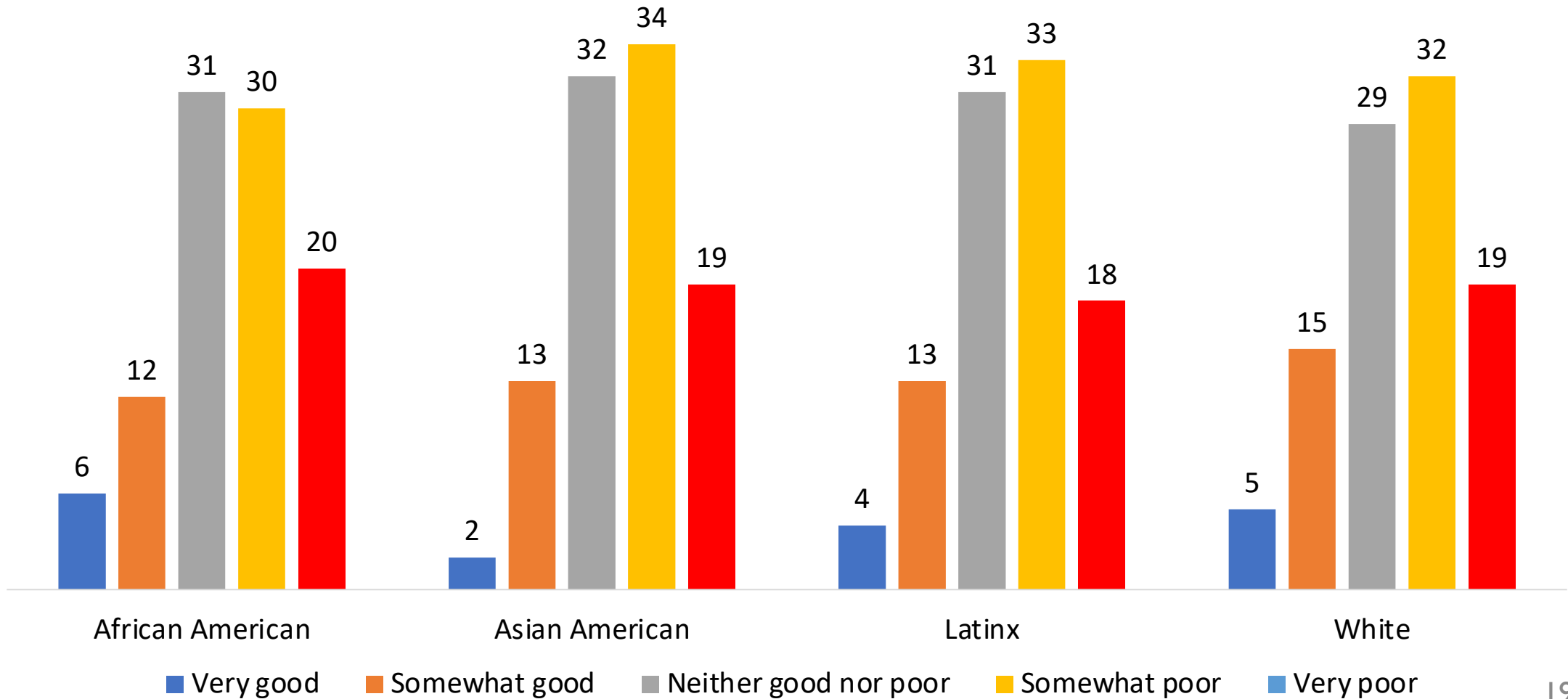


Would you say things in this country today are...?



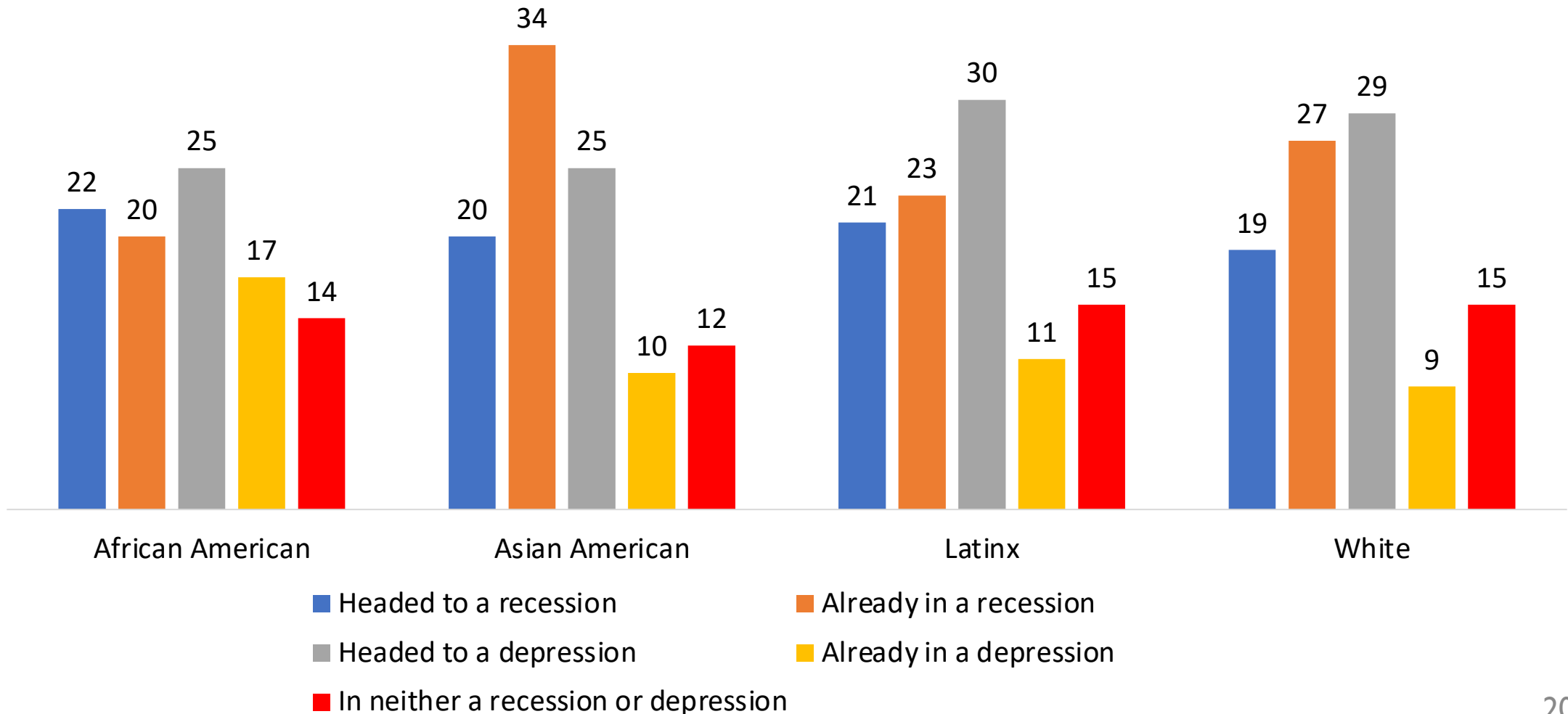


How would you describe the nation's economy these days?



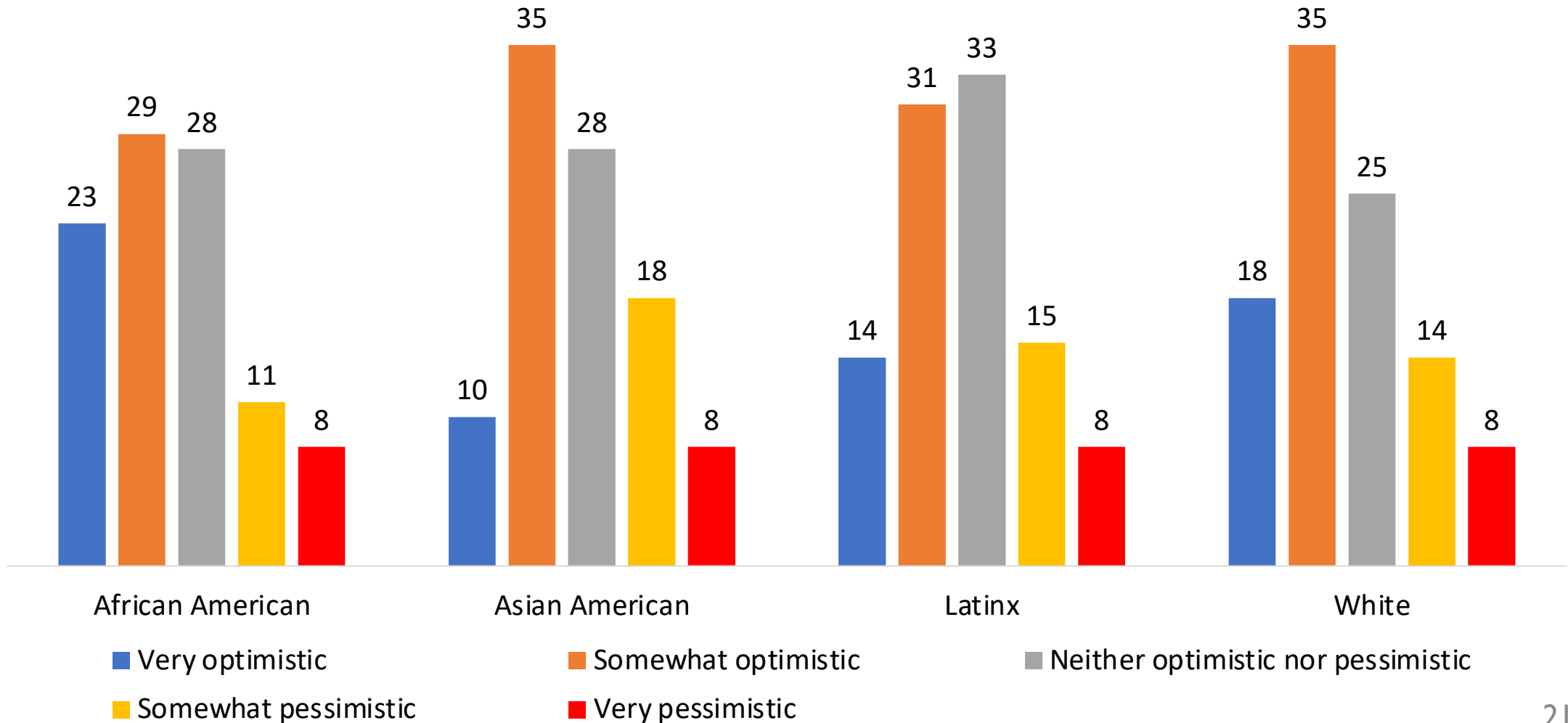


Do you believe the United States is currently in or headed to an economic recession, depression, or not?



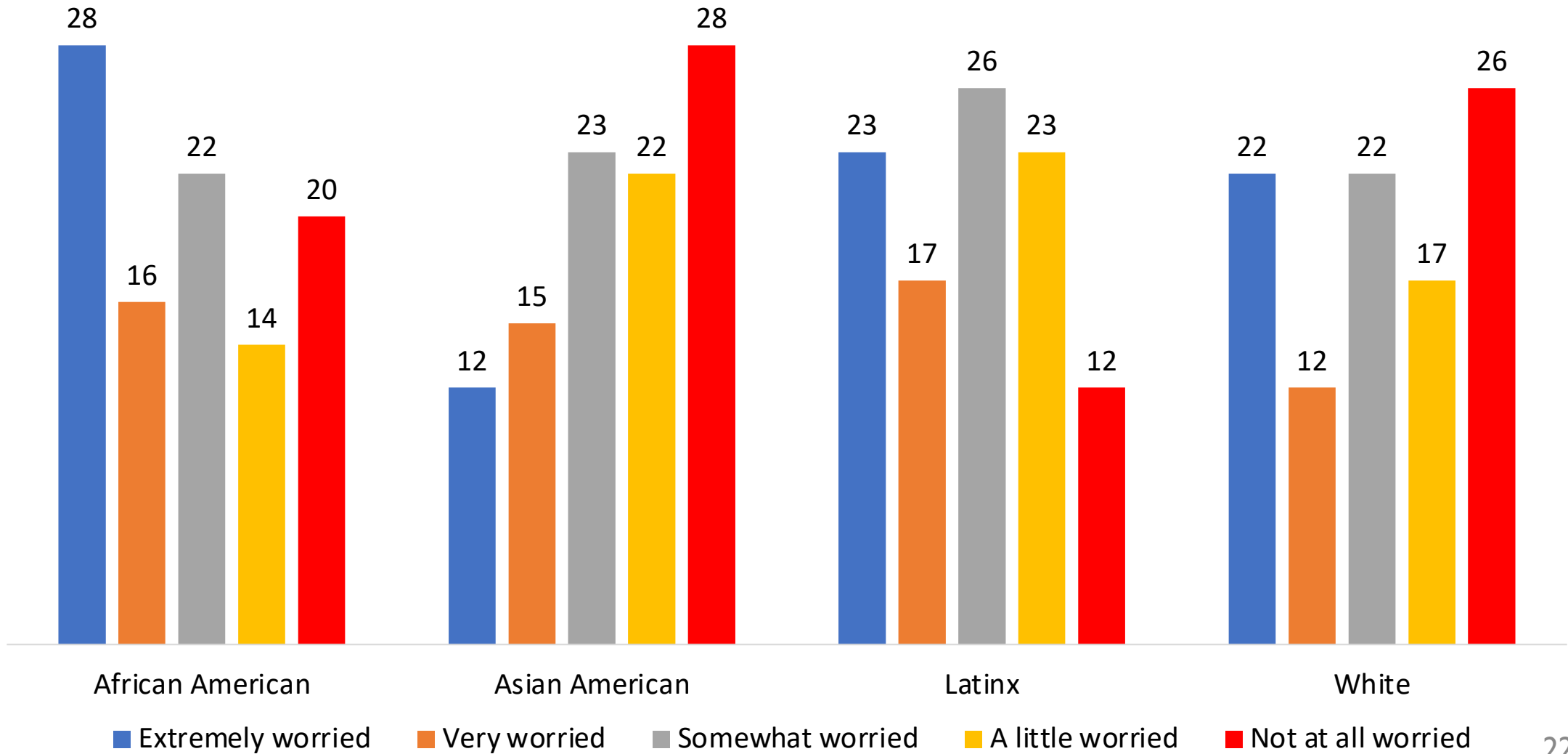


Generally speaking, how optimistic are you about your personal future—think about things like finding and keeping a good job, paying off your student loan debt, and being able to afford the lifestyle you want?



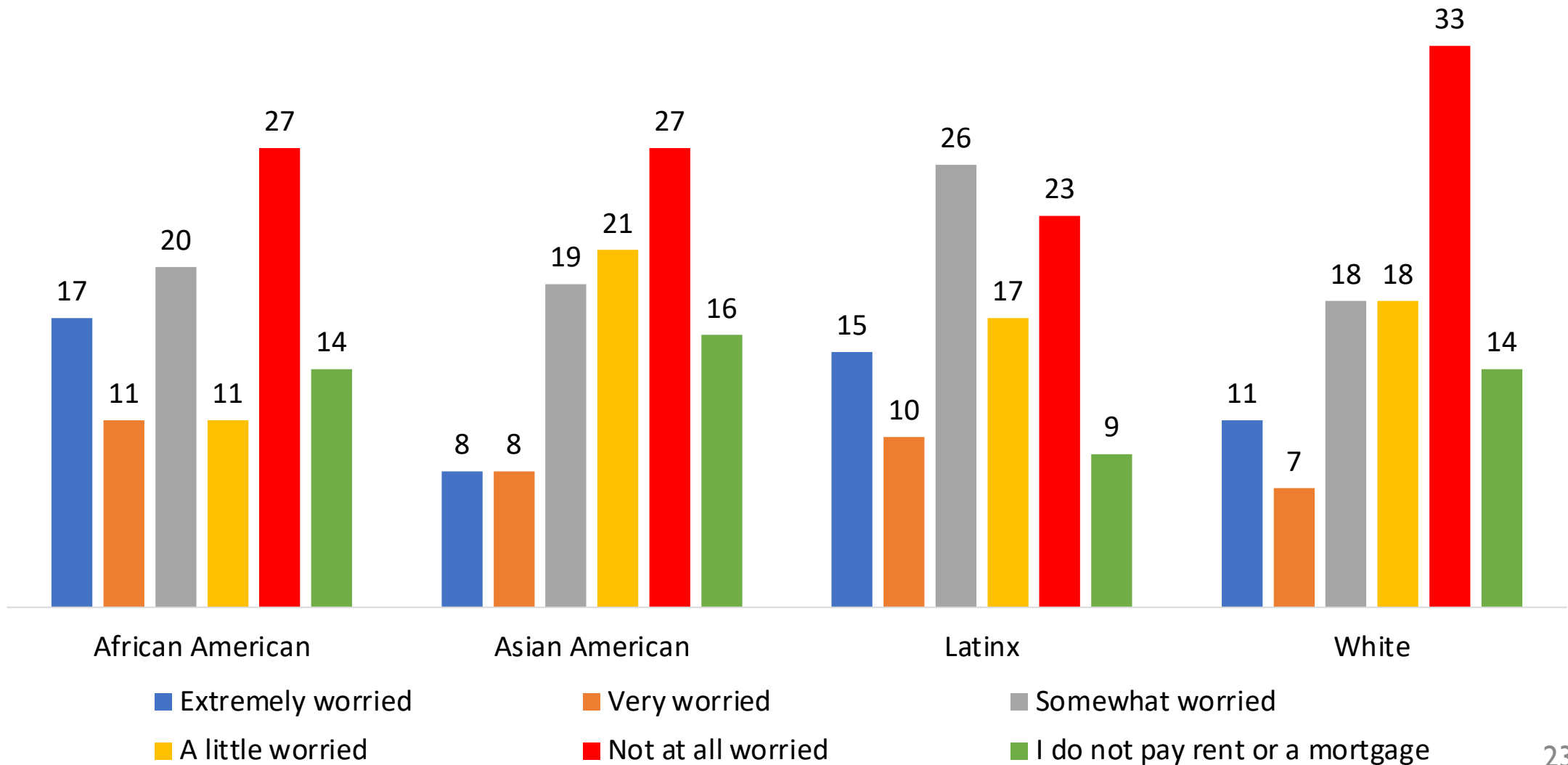


How worried are you about being able to pay an unexpected bill of \$1,000 right away?



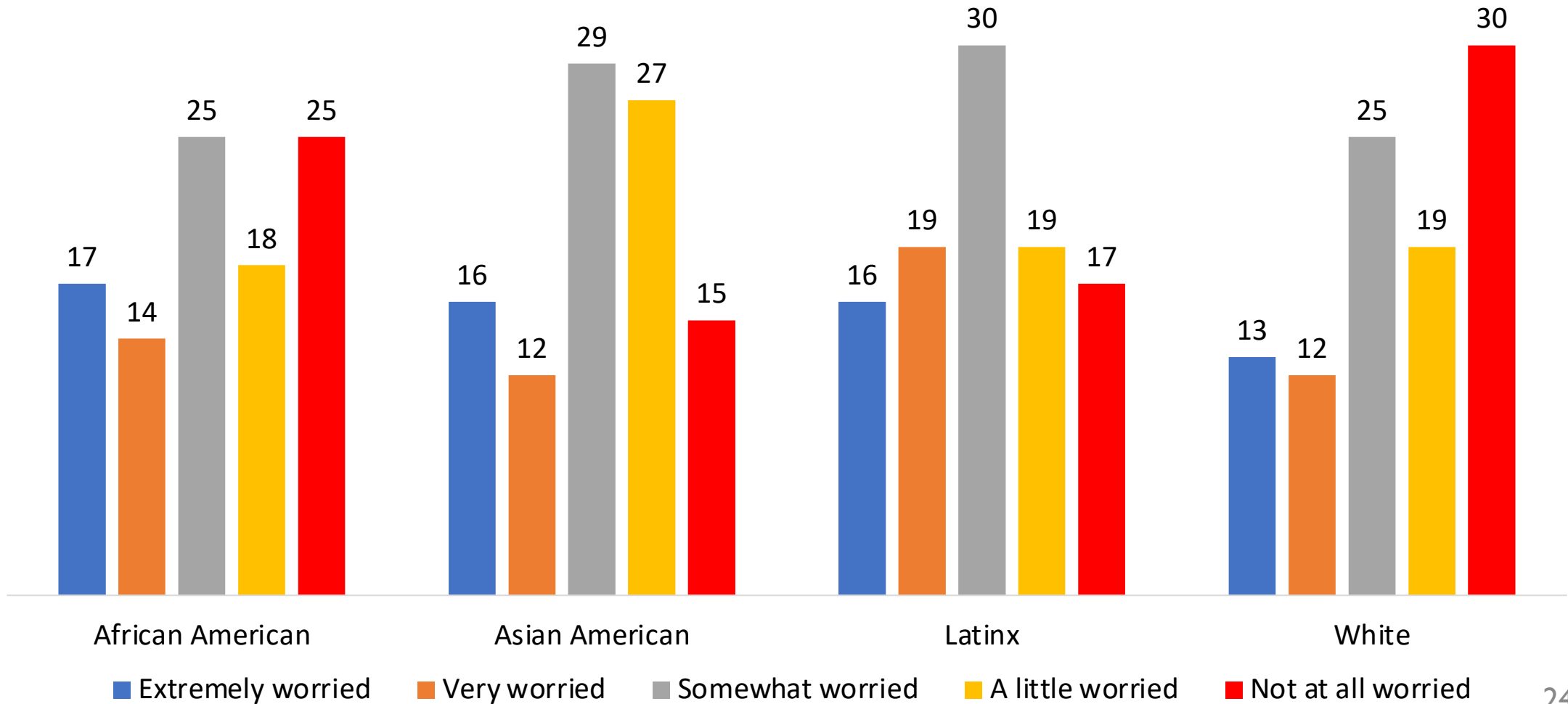


How worried are you about being able to pay your rent or mortgage?



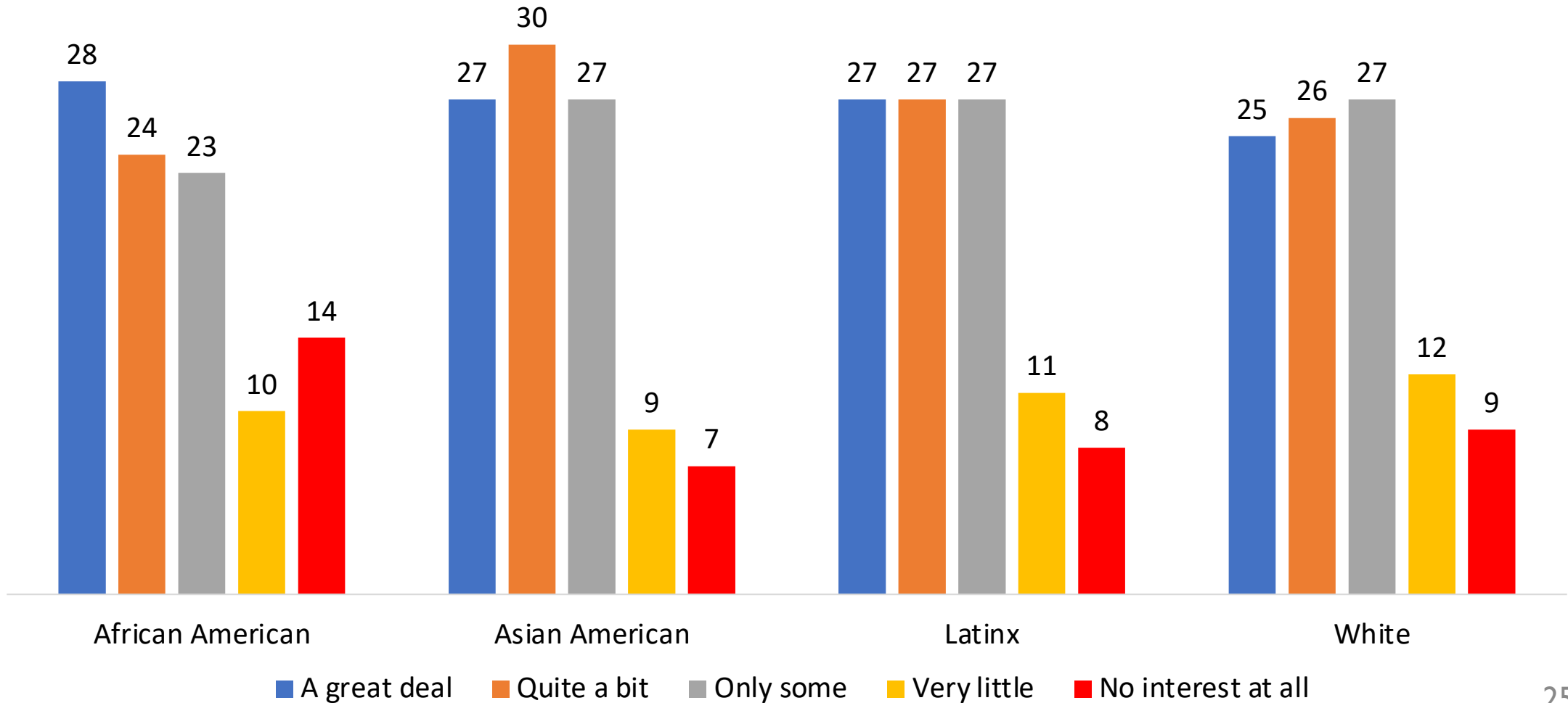


How worried are you about keeping your current job or finding a good job in the future?



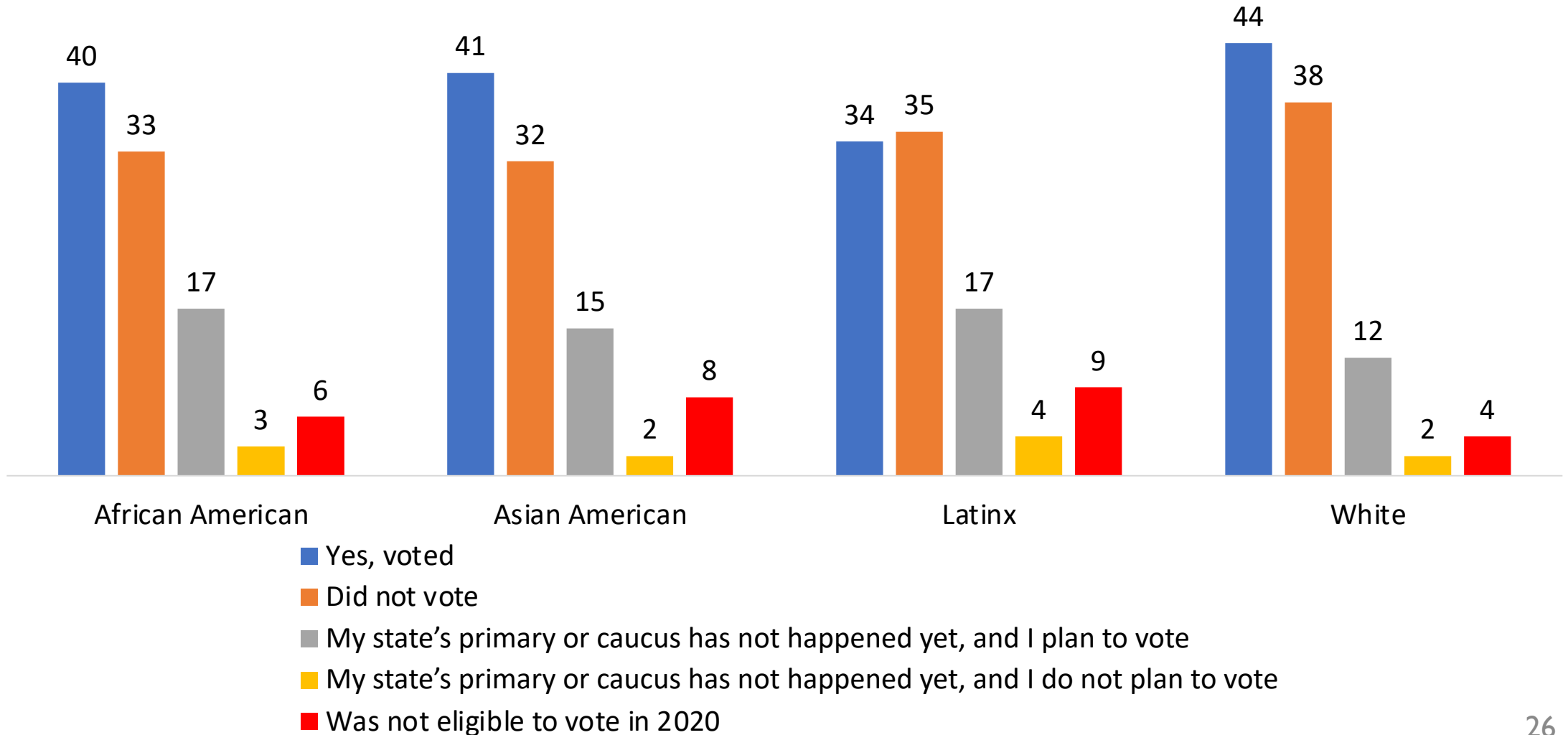


Interest in Following News about 2020 Presidential Election



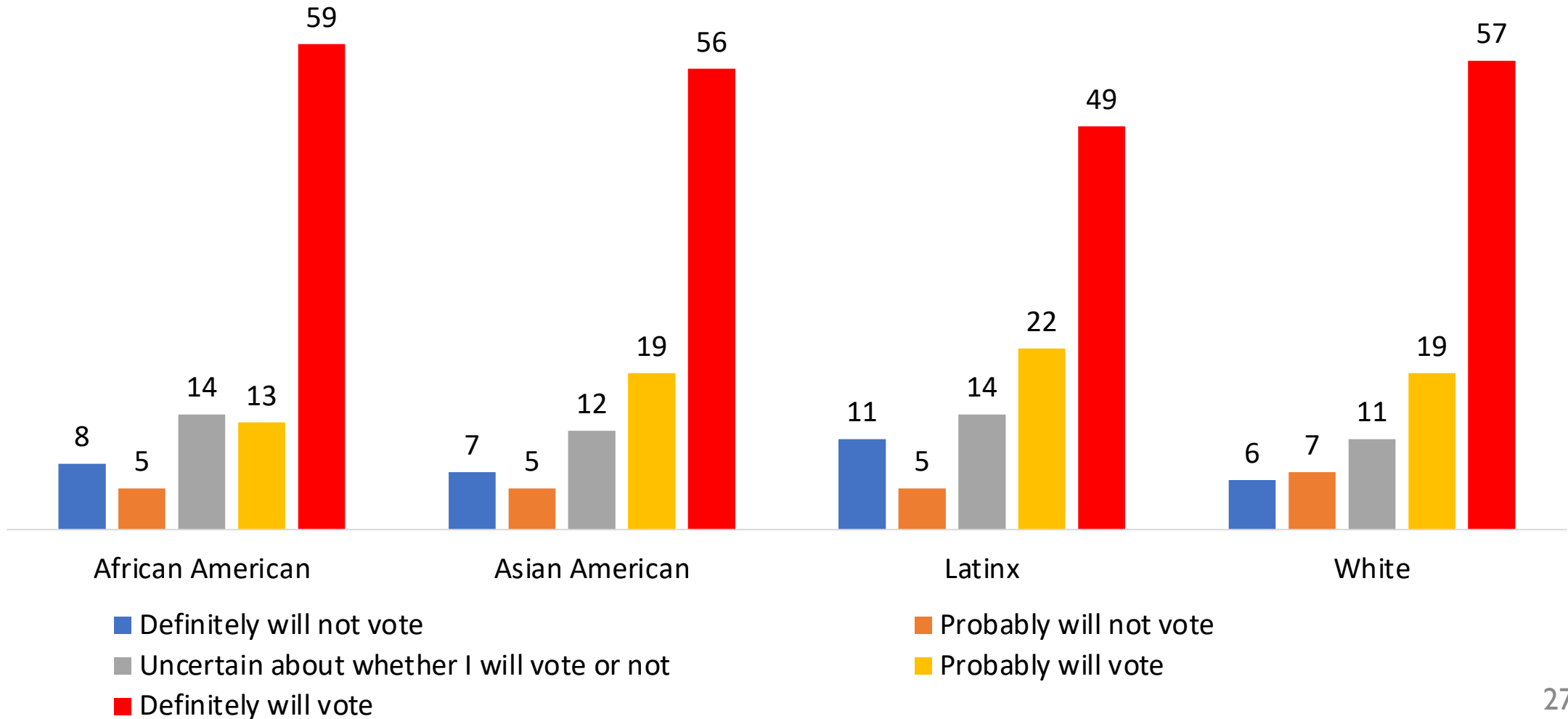


Vote in 2020 Primaries and Caucuses



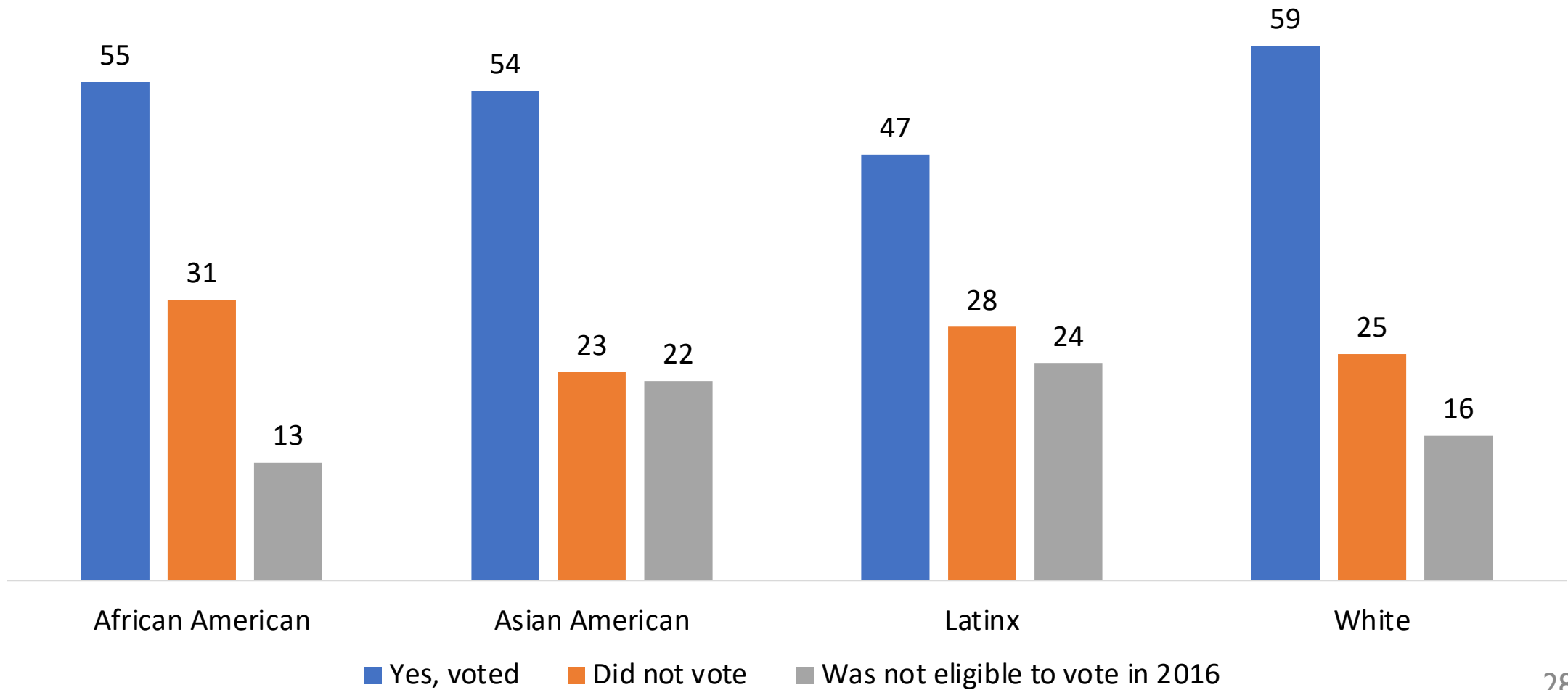


Voting Participation Intention in 2020 Presidential General Election



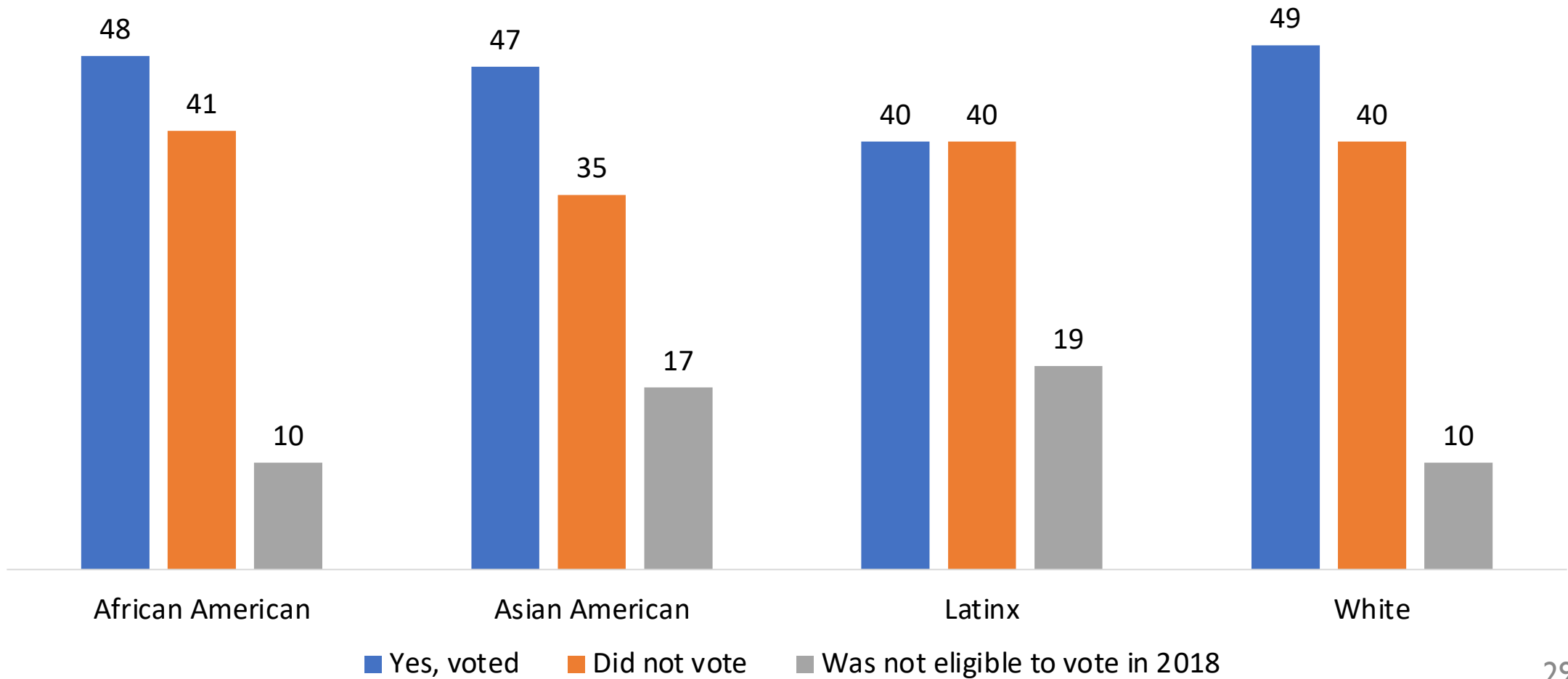


Vote History (2016)



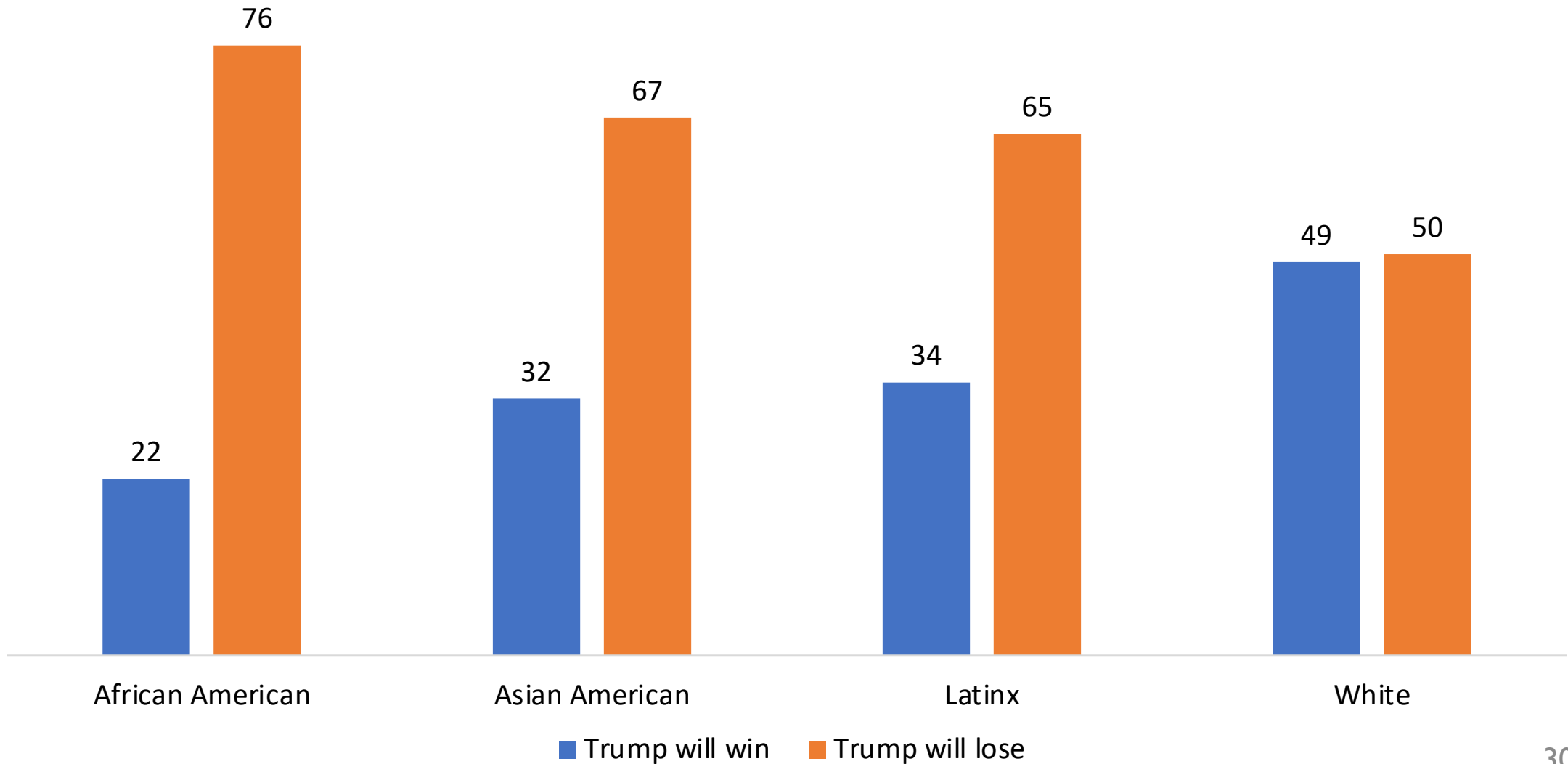


Vote History (2018)



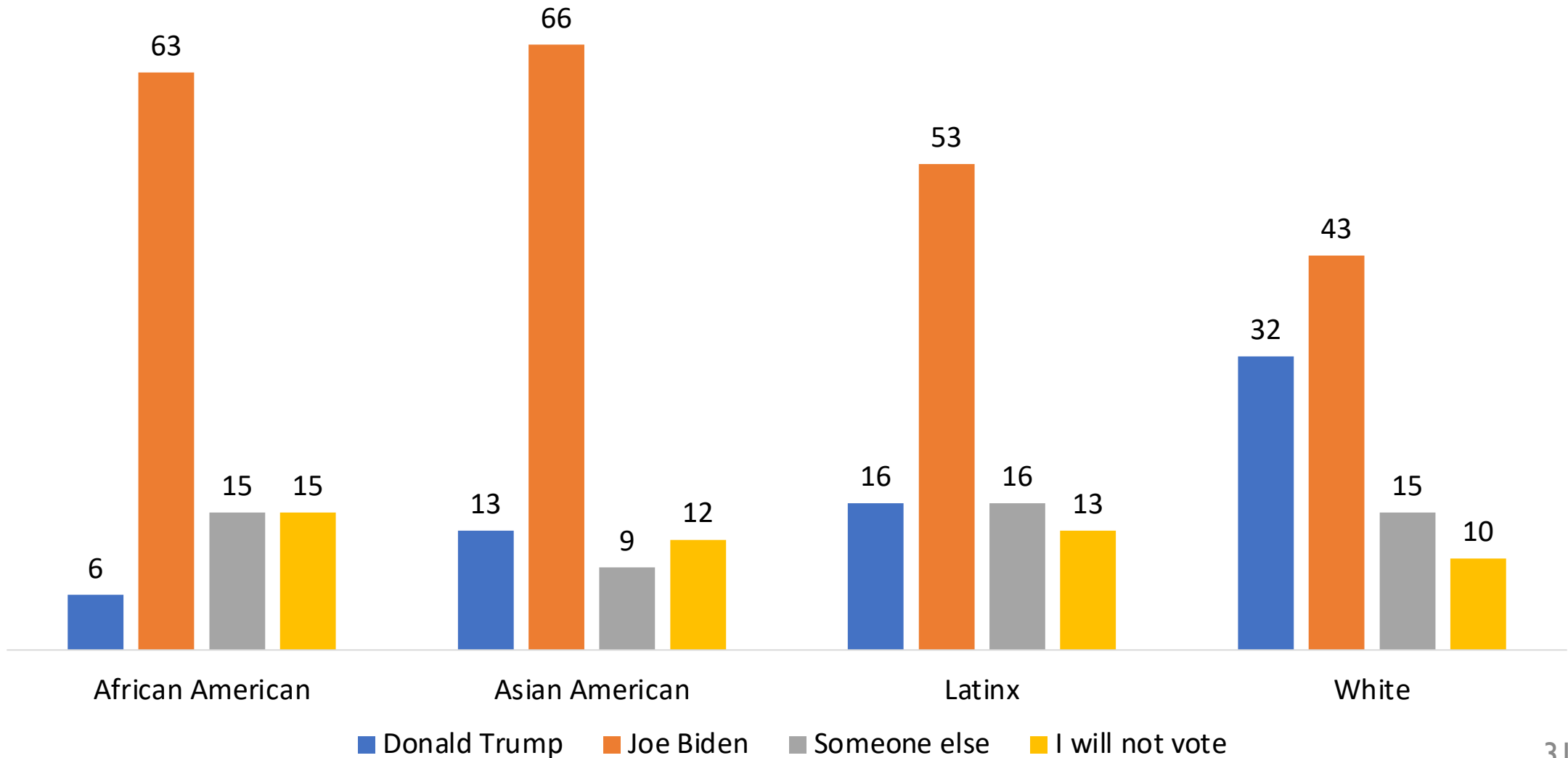


Trump Win Perceptions for 2020 General Election



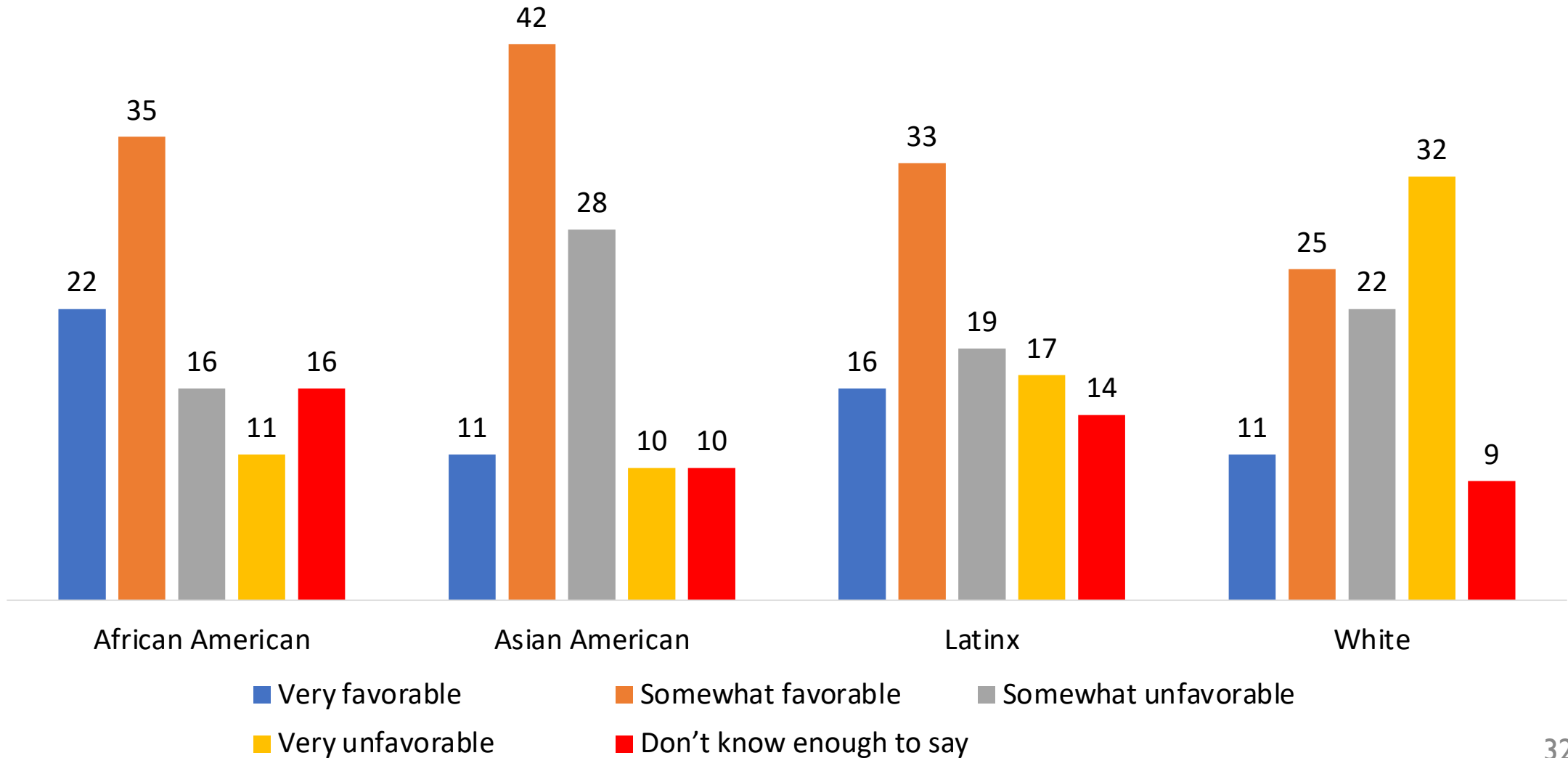


Vote Choice for 2020 Presidential General Election



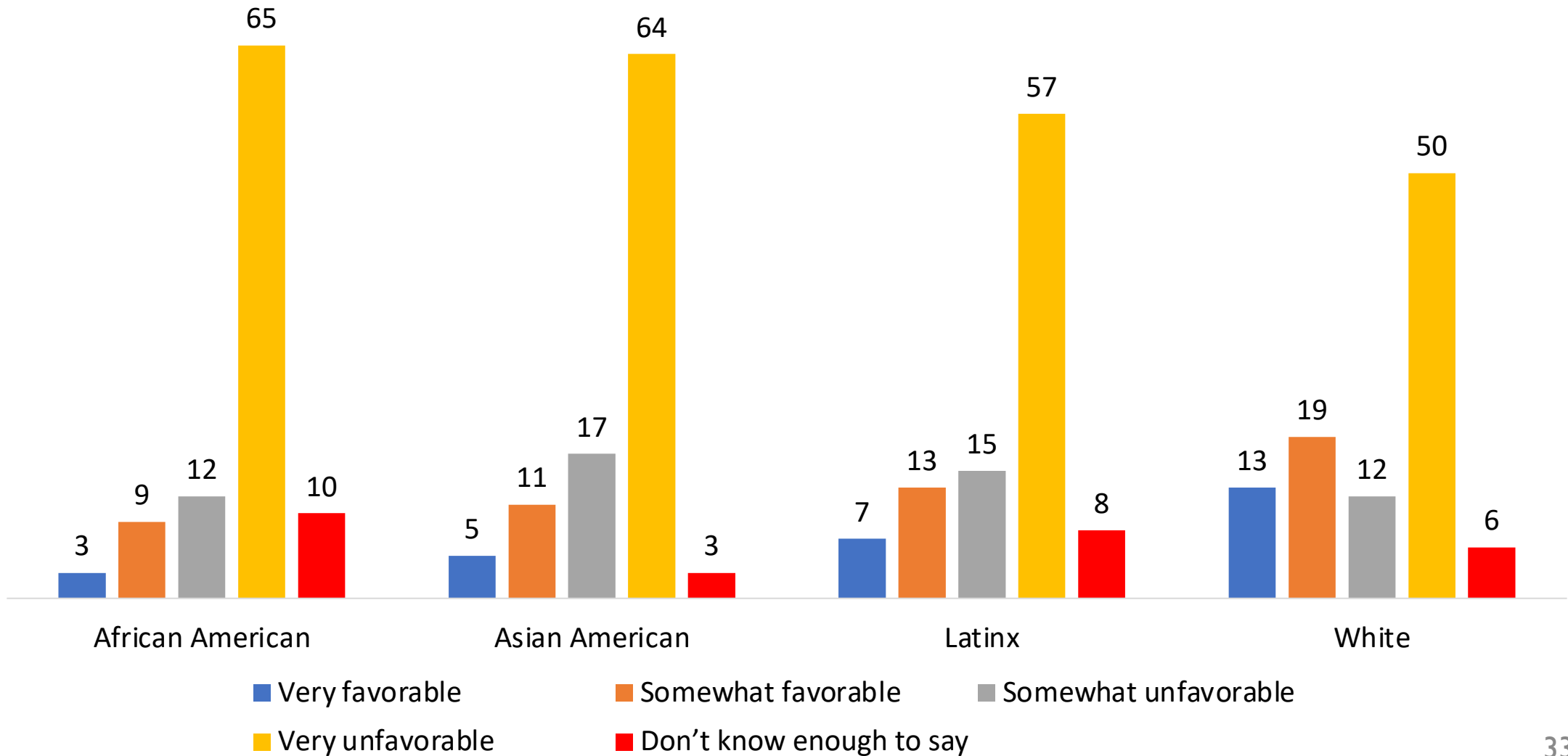


Biden Favorability



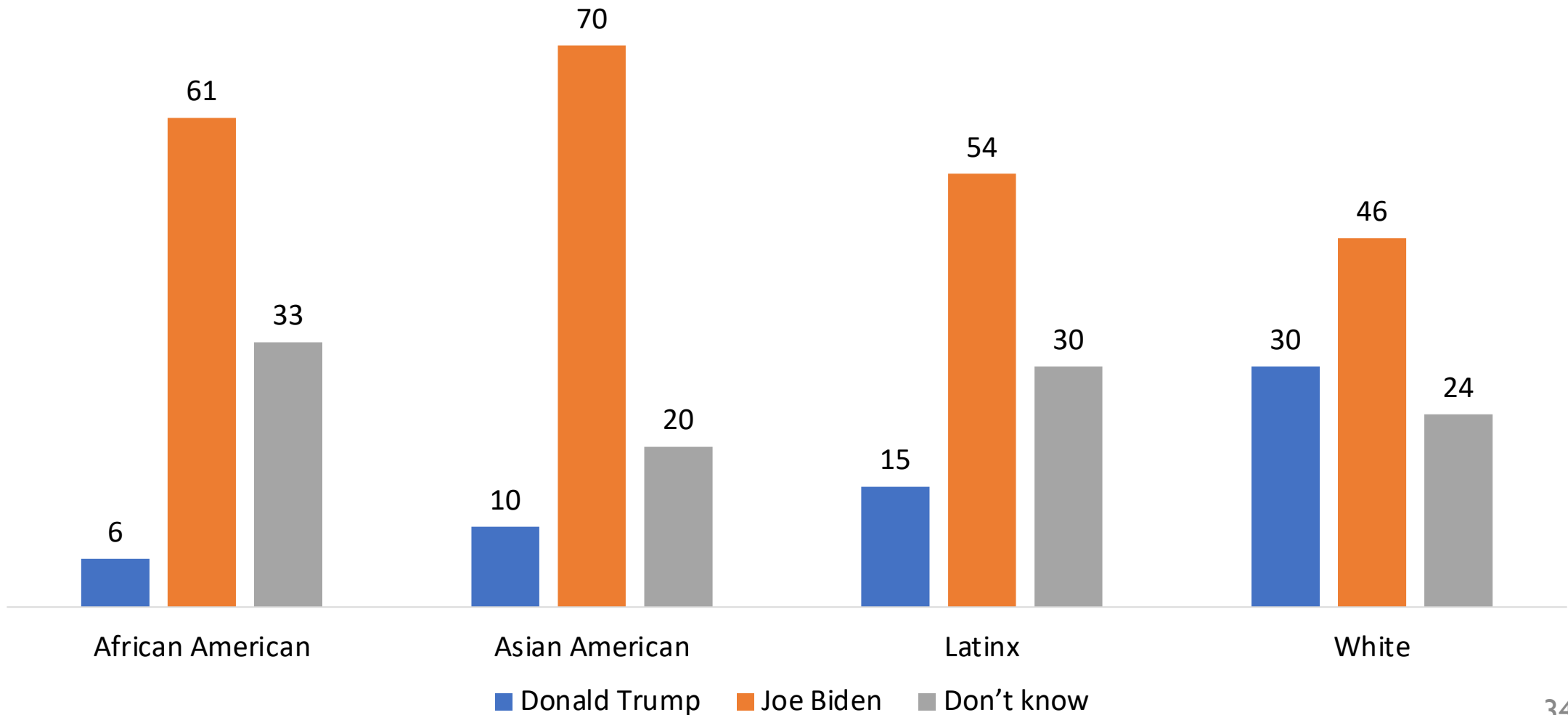


Trump Favorability



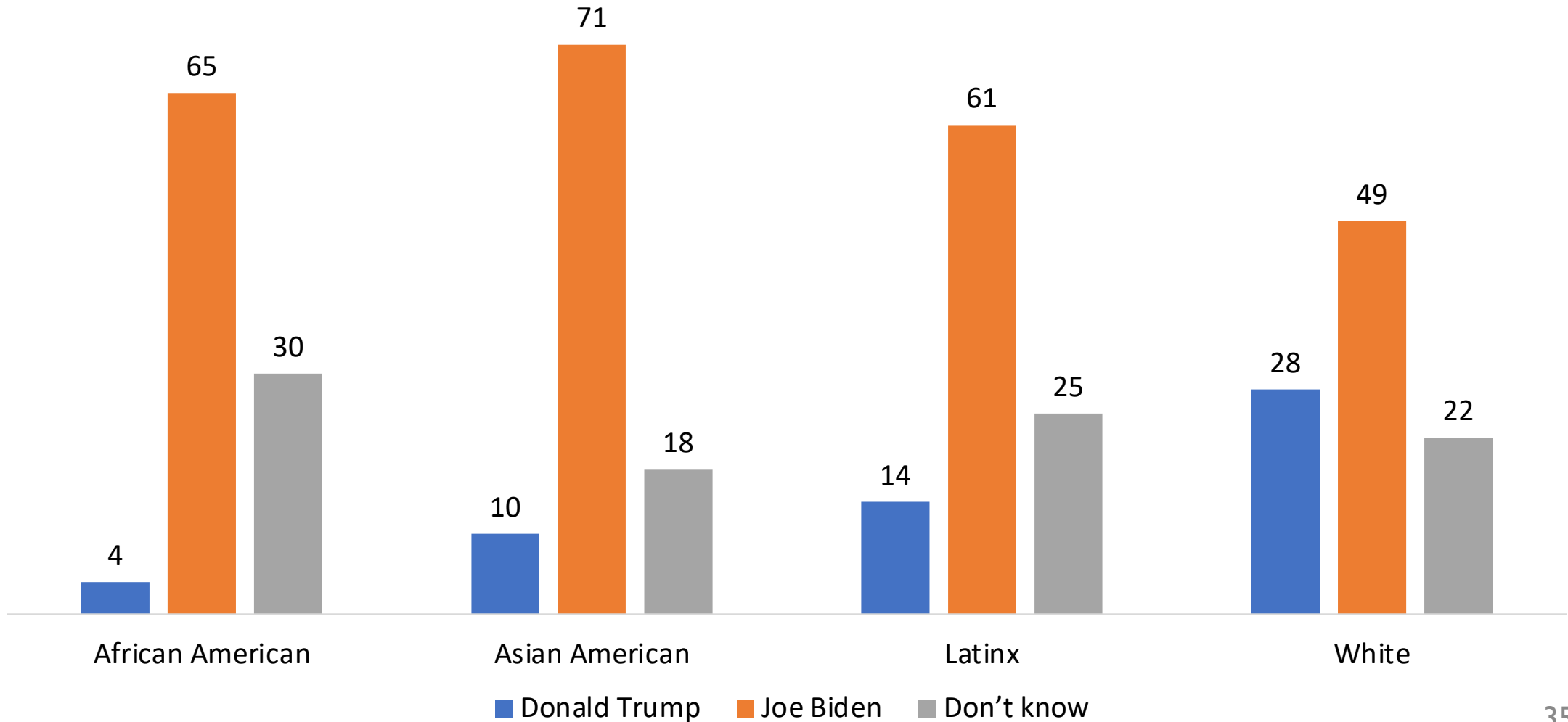


Who do you trust more to handle the coronavirus pandemic--Donald Trump or Joe Biden?



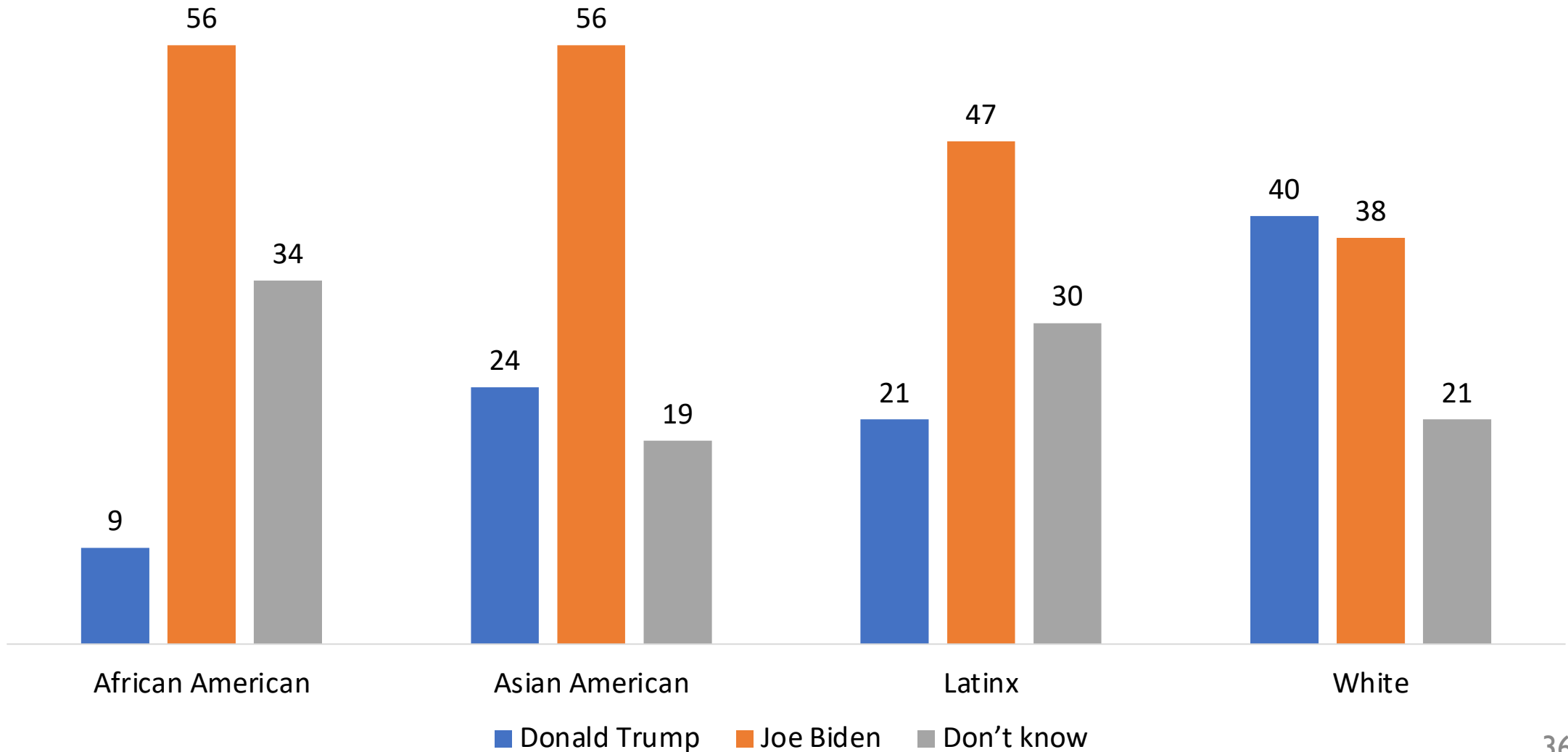


Who do you trust more to handle protests over racism-- Donald Trump or Joe Biden?



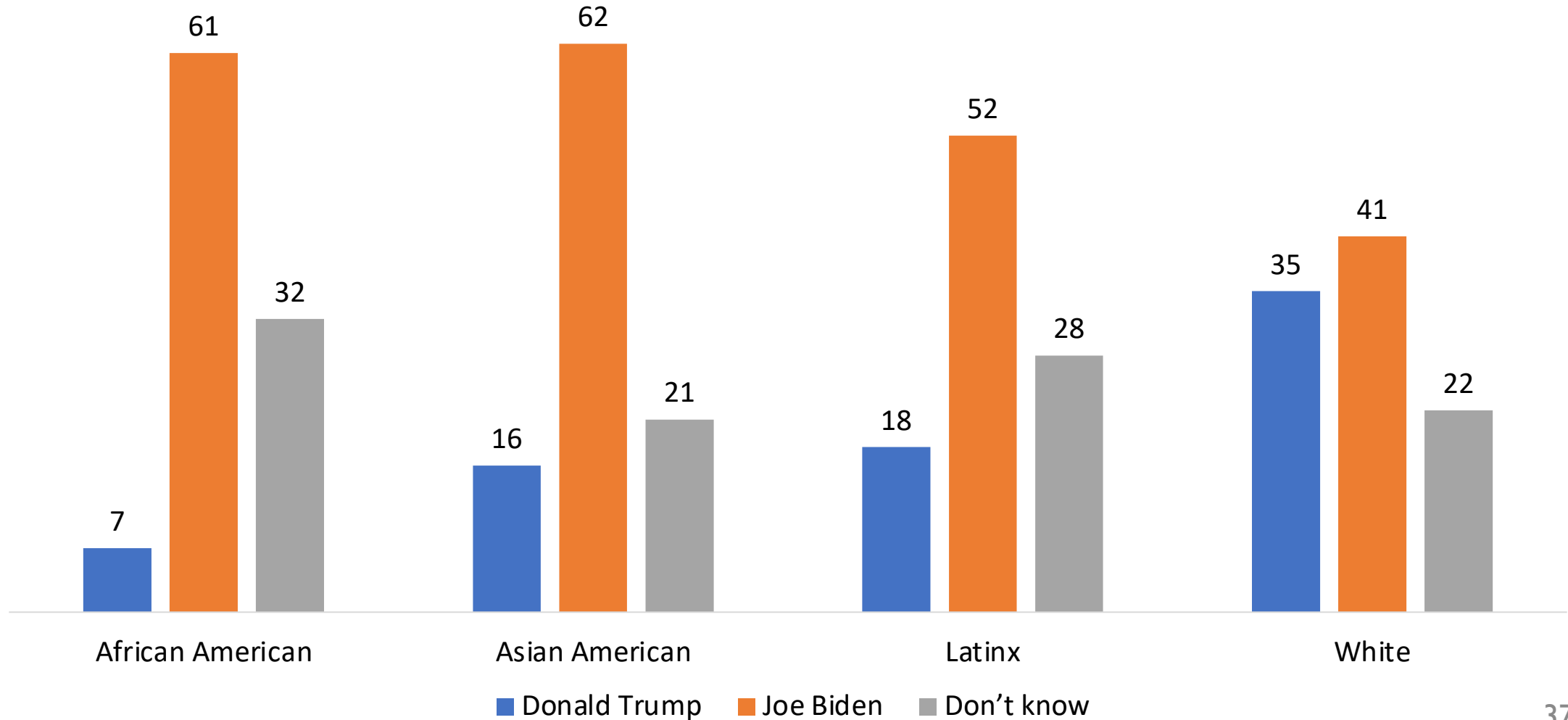


Who do you trust more to handle the recovery of the economy--Donald Trump or Joe Biden?





Who do you trust more to handle providing law and order throughout the country--Donald Trump or Joe Biden?





Preferred Biden Vice Presidential Running Mate (*Top 3 Choices*)

	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinxs	Whites
1 st	Someone else (30%)	Someone else (25%)	Someone else (29%)	Someone else (36%)
2 nd	Kamala Harris (15%)	Elizabeth Warren (20%)	Elizabeth Warren (16%)	Elizabeth Warren (18%)
3 rd	Keisha Lance Bottoms / Elizabeth Warren (10%)	Kamala Harris (16%)	Kamala Harris (15%)	Kamala Harris (12%)

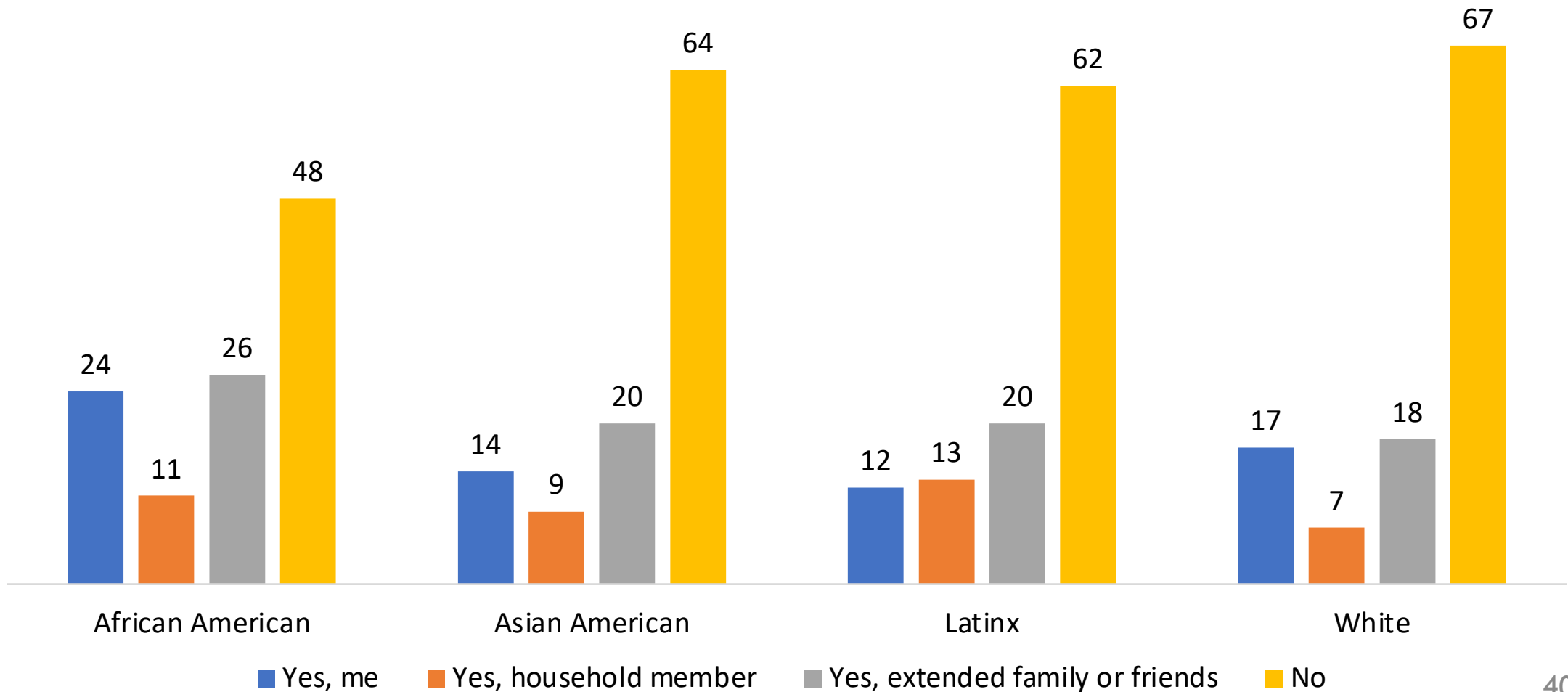


In your opinion, what is the best way to make racial progress in the United States? (*Top 3 Choices*)

	African Americans	Asian Americans	Latinxs	Whites
1 st	Revolution (19%)	Voting in state and local elections (18%)	Non-violent protests and demonstrations (18%)	Non-violent protests and demonstrations (15%)
2 nd	Non-violent protests and demonstrations (17%)	Non-violent protests and demonstrations (17%)	Voting in state and local elections (14%)	Voting in state and local elections (14%)
3 rd	Organizing in communities (14%)	Organizing in communities (15%)	Organizing in communities / Revolution (13%)	Racial progress is not needed (12%)

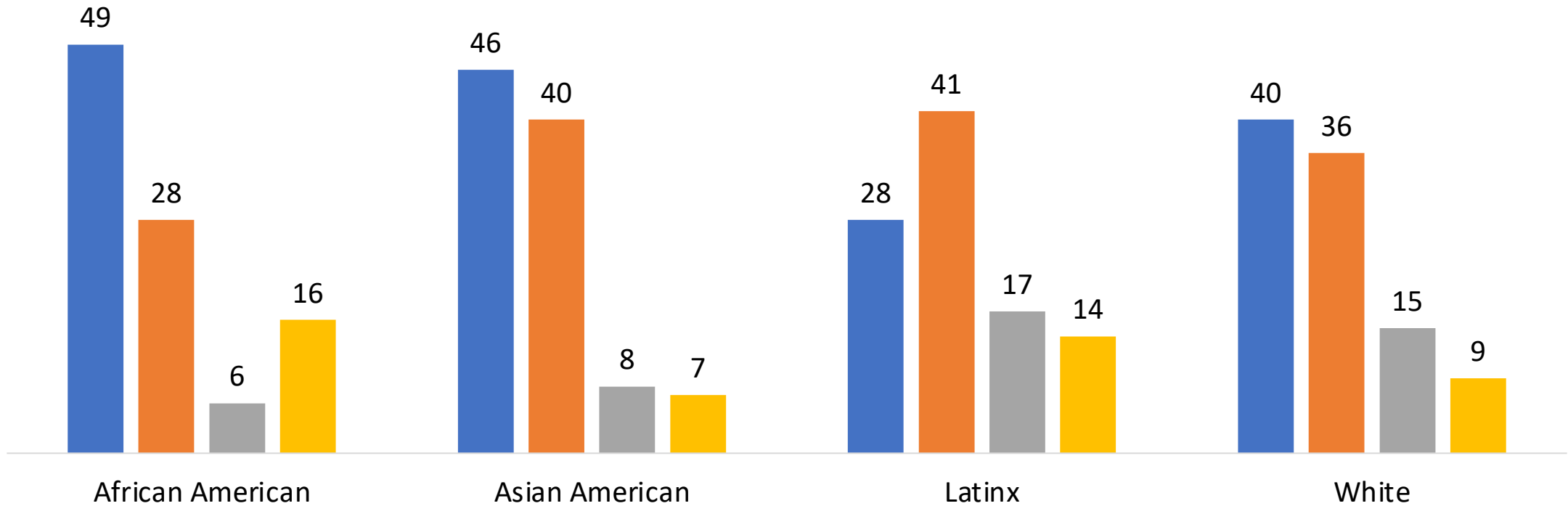


Have you, a member of your household, or a member of your extended family or friends been involved in recent and ongoing protests and demonstrations in cities across the country? *(Select all that apply)*





Which of the following comes closest to your view of the protesters?



■ Most of the protesters are peaceful

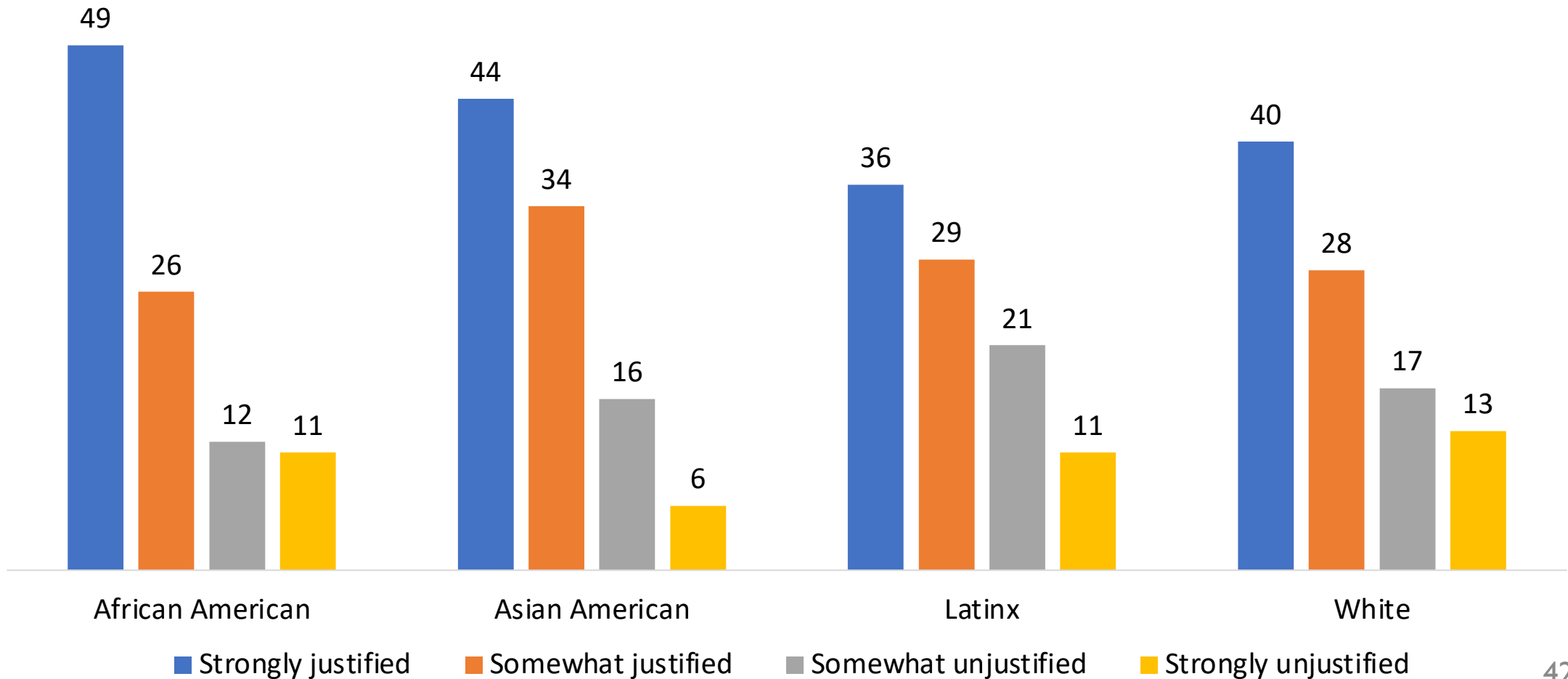
■ Many of the protesters are peaceful, but significant numbers of them want to incite violence or destroy property

■ Most of the protesters are trying to incite violence or destroy property

■ Unsure

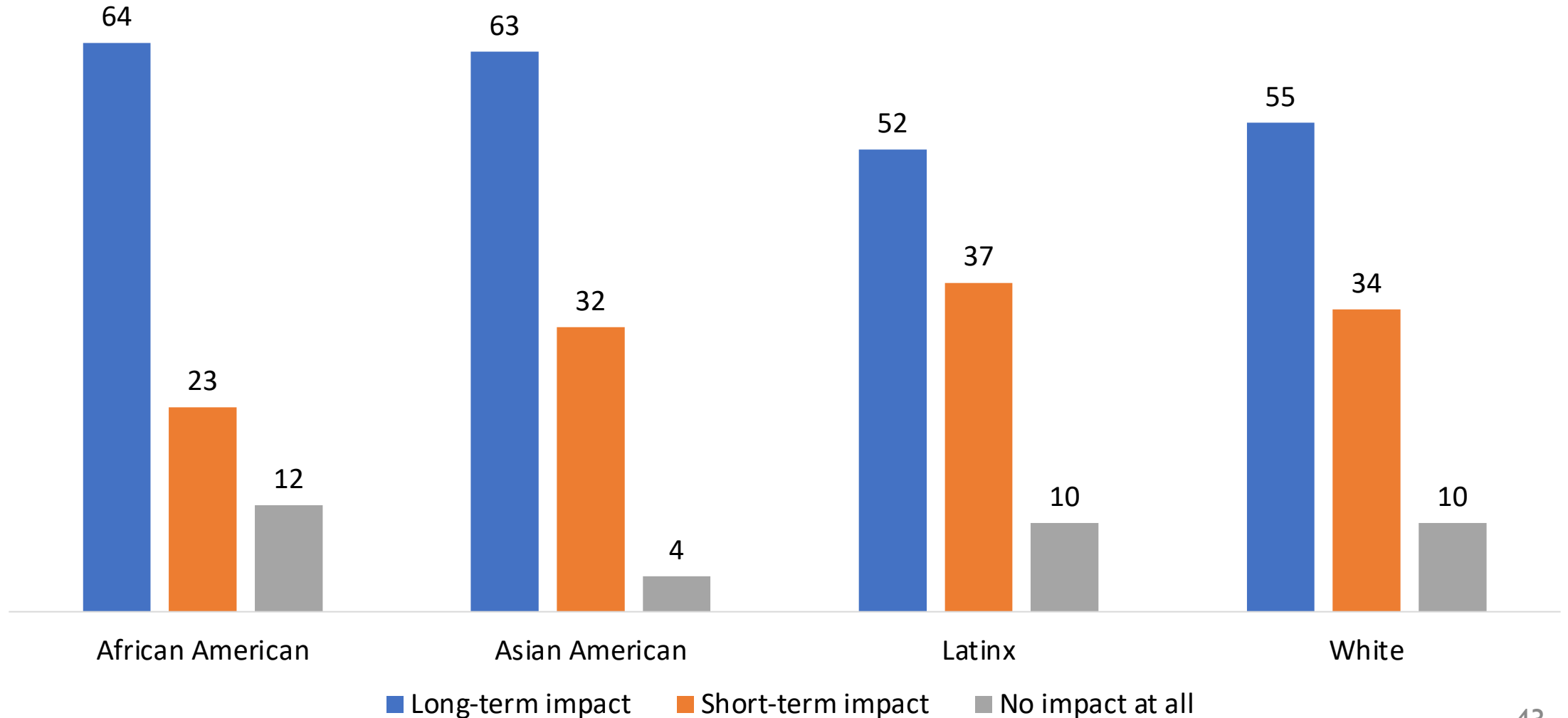


Do you think the recent protests across the country are justified?



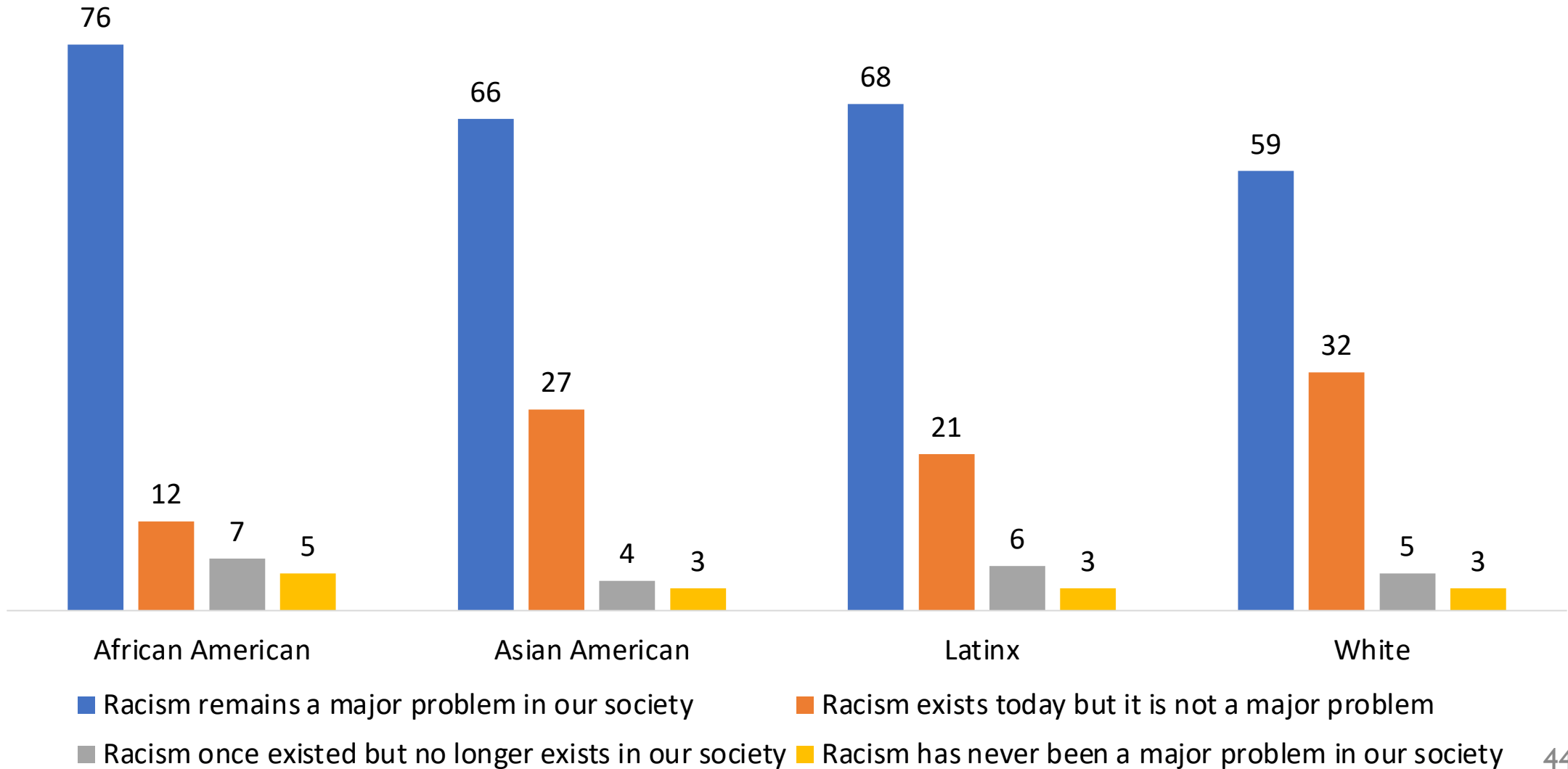


Do you think the movement sparked by the killing of George Floyd will have a long-term impact on race relations in the United States, a short-term impact, or no impact at all?



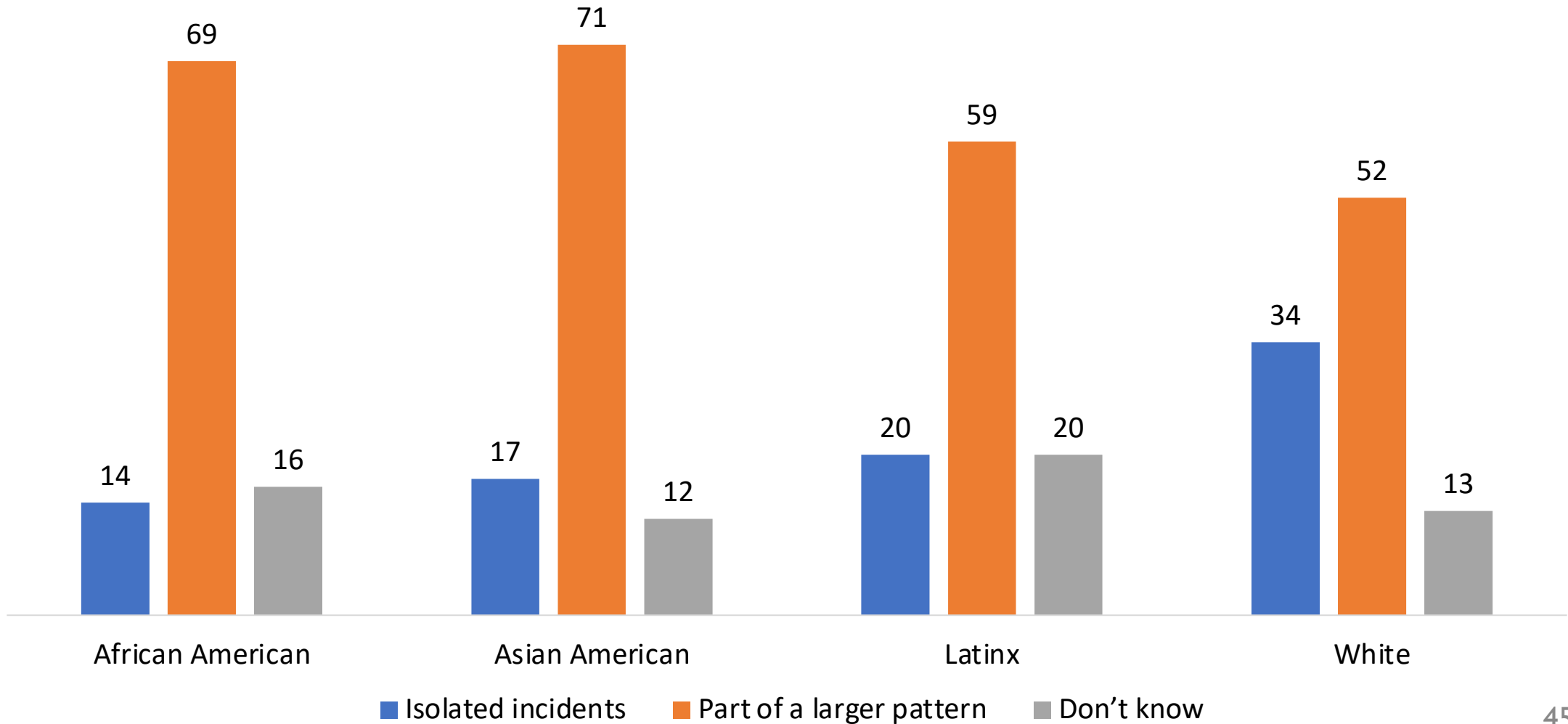


Some people say that racism no longer exists in American society and politics. Would you say that...?



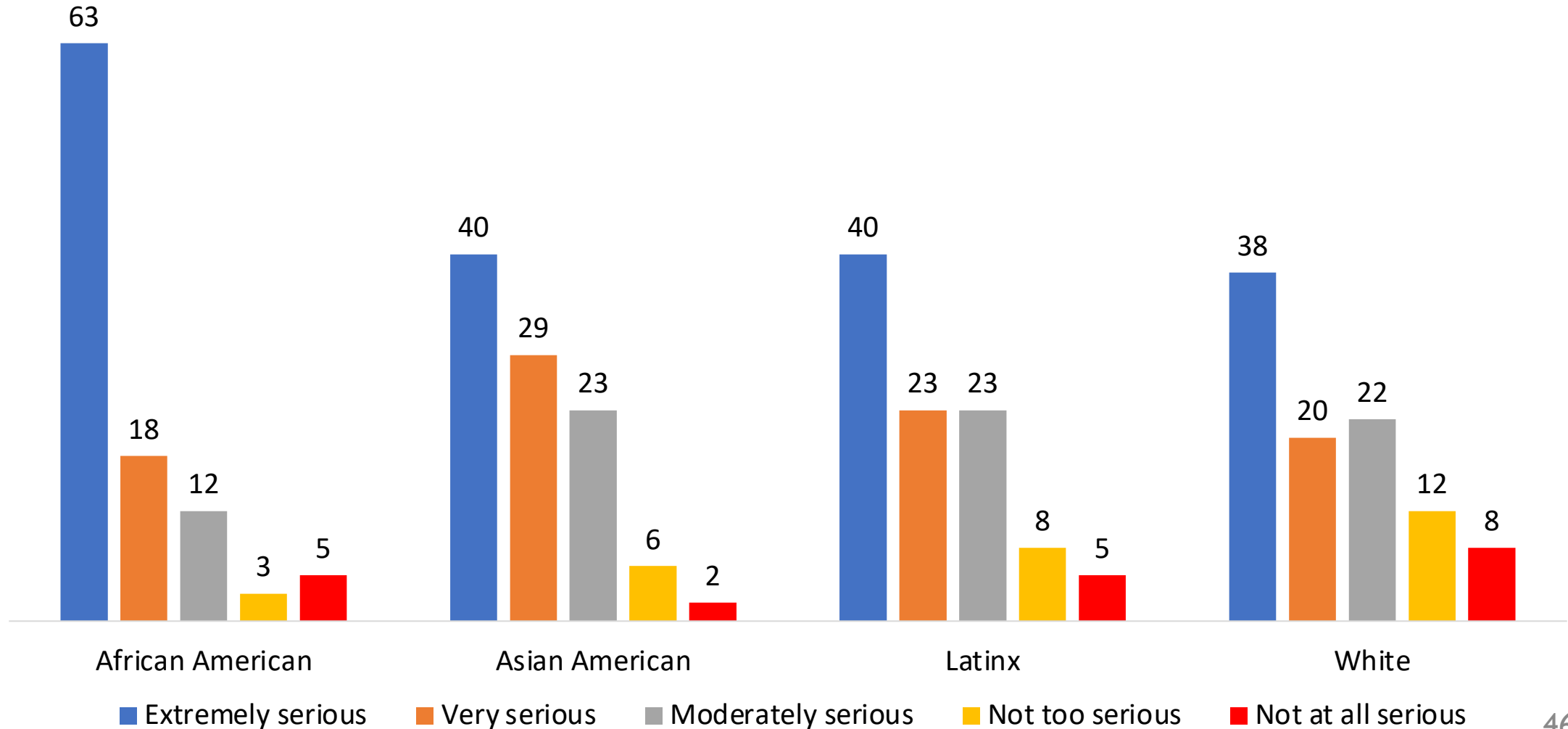


Do you think recent killings of Black Americans by police are isolated incidents or part of a larger pattern in the police's treatment of Black Americans?



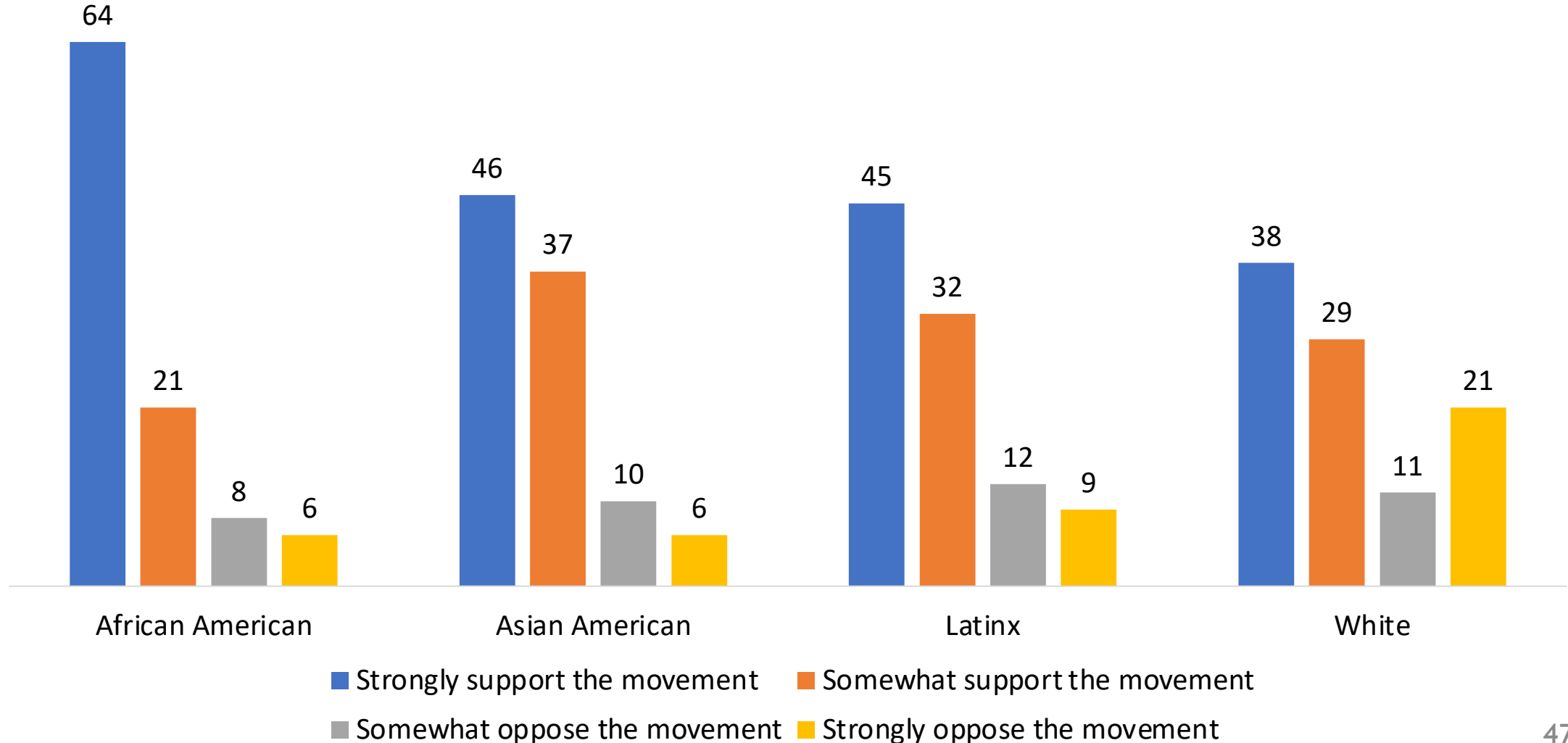


How serious a problem do you think the killing of Black people by the police is in the United States?



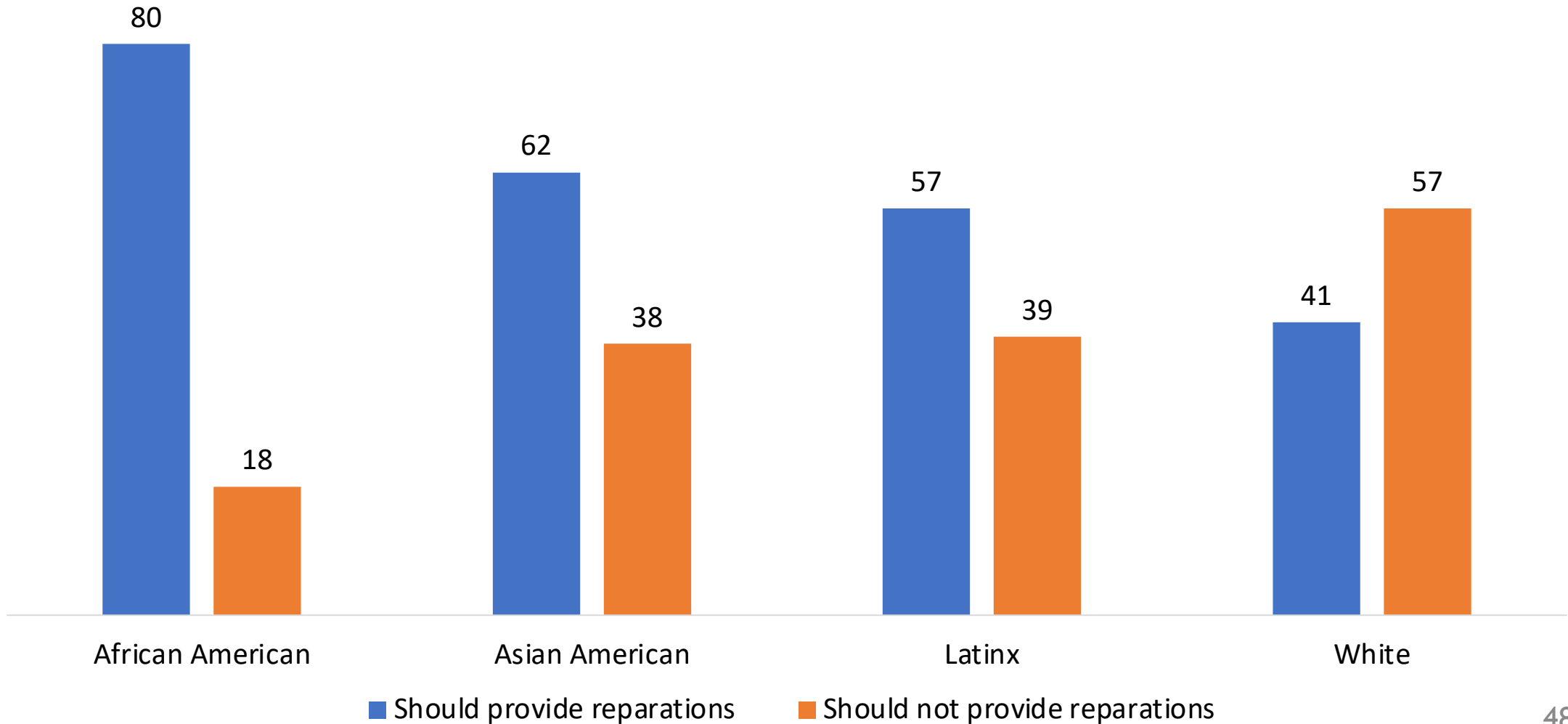


From what you have heard or read about the movement called #BlackLivesMatter, do you...



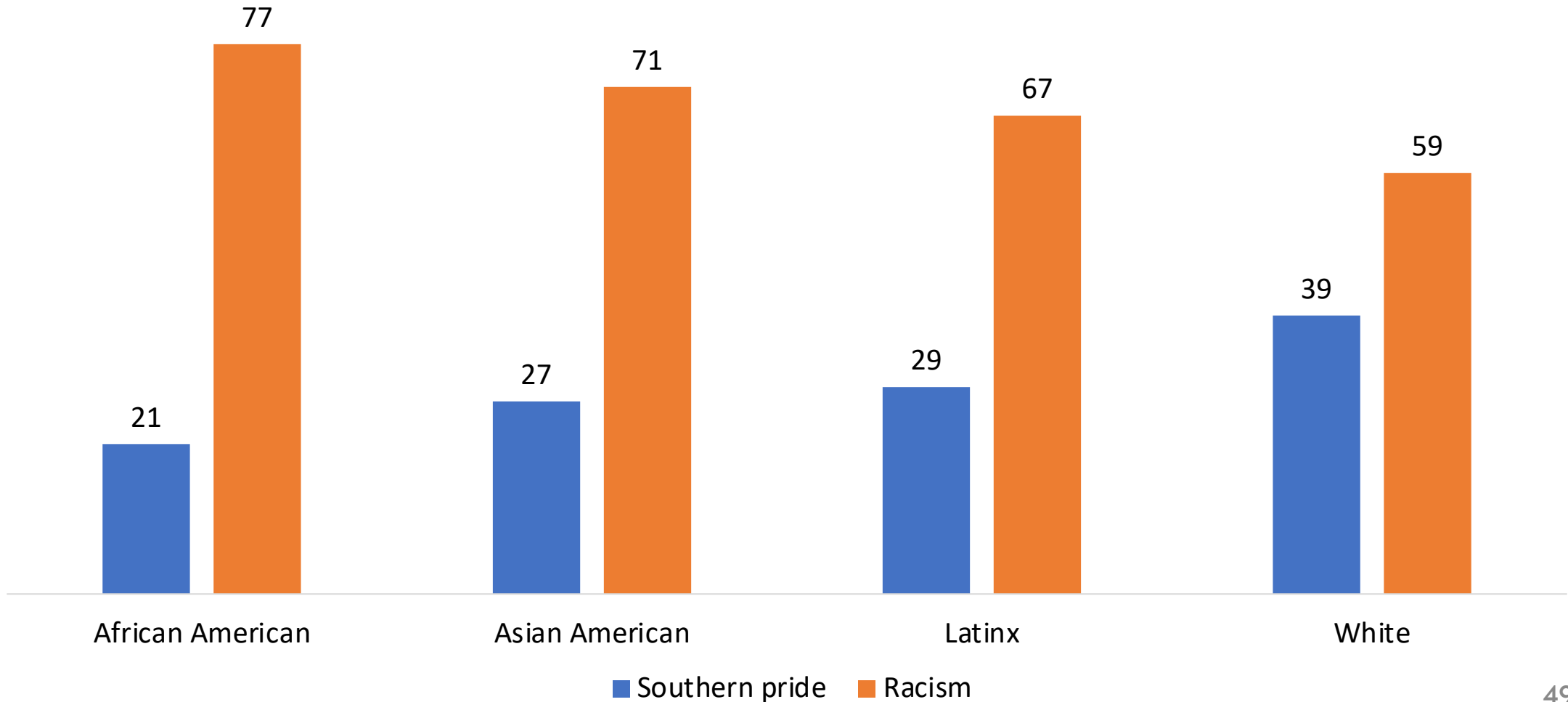


As a way to make up for the harm caused by slavery and other forms of racial discrimination, do you think the United States should or should not provide reparations to African Americans?



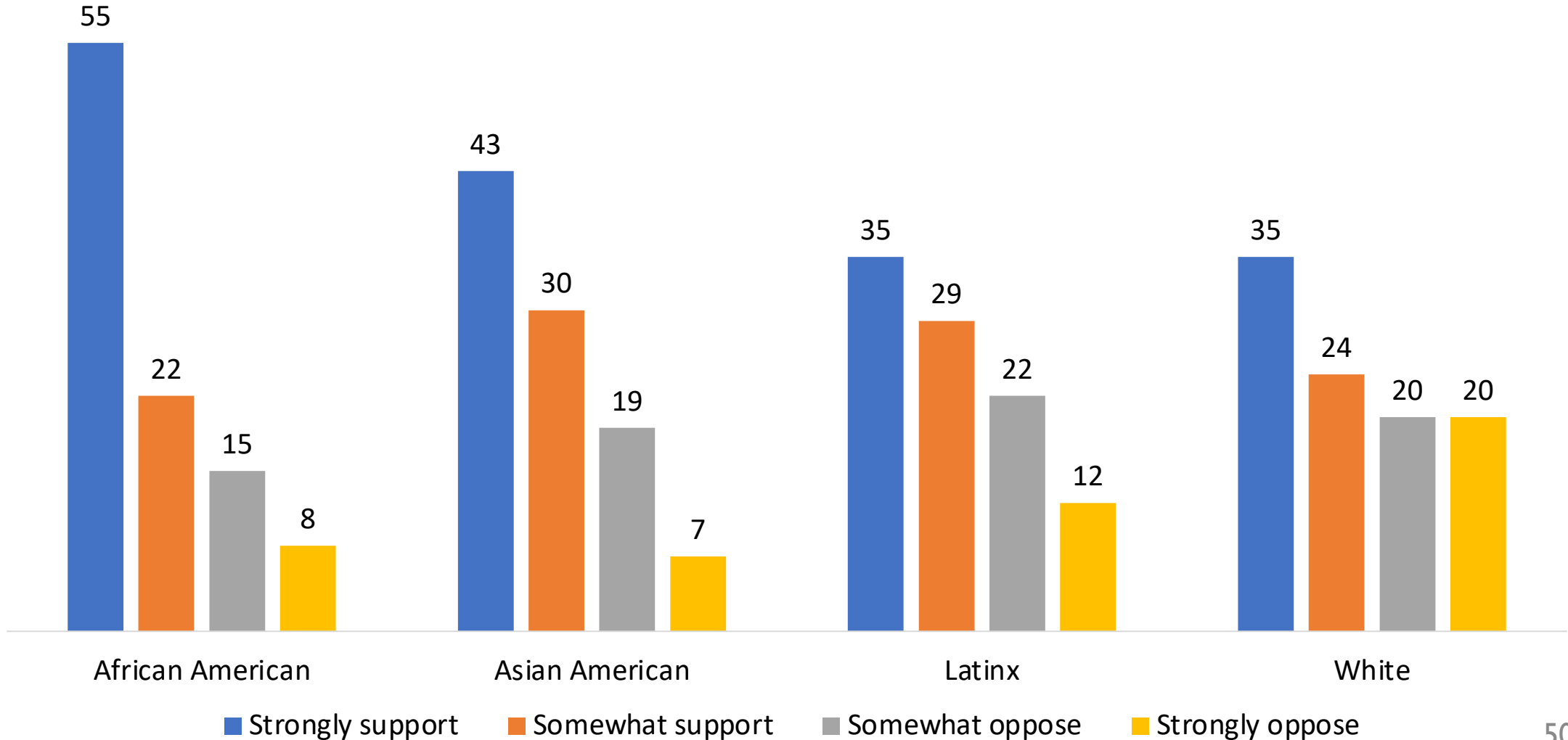


Do you personally see the Confederate flag more as a symbol of Southern pride or more as a symbol of racism?



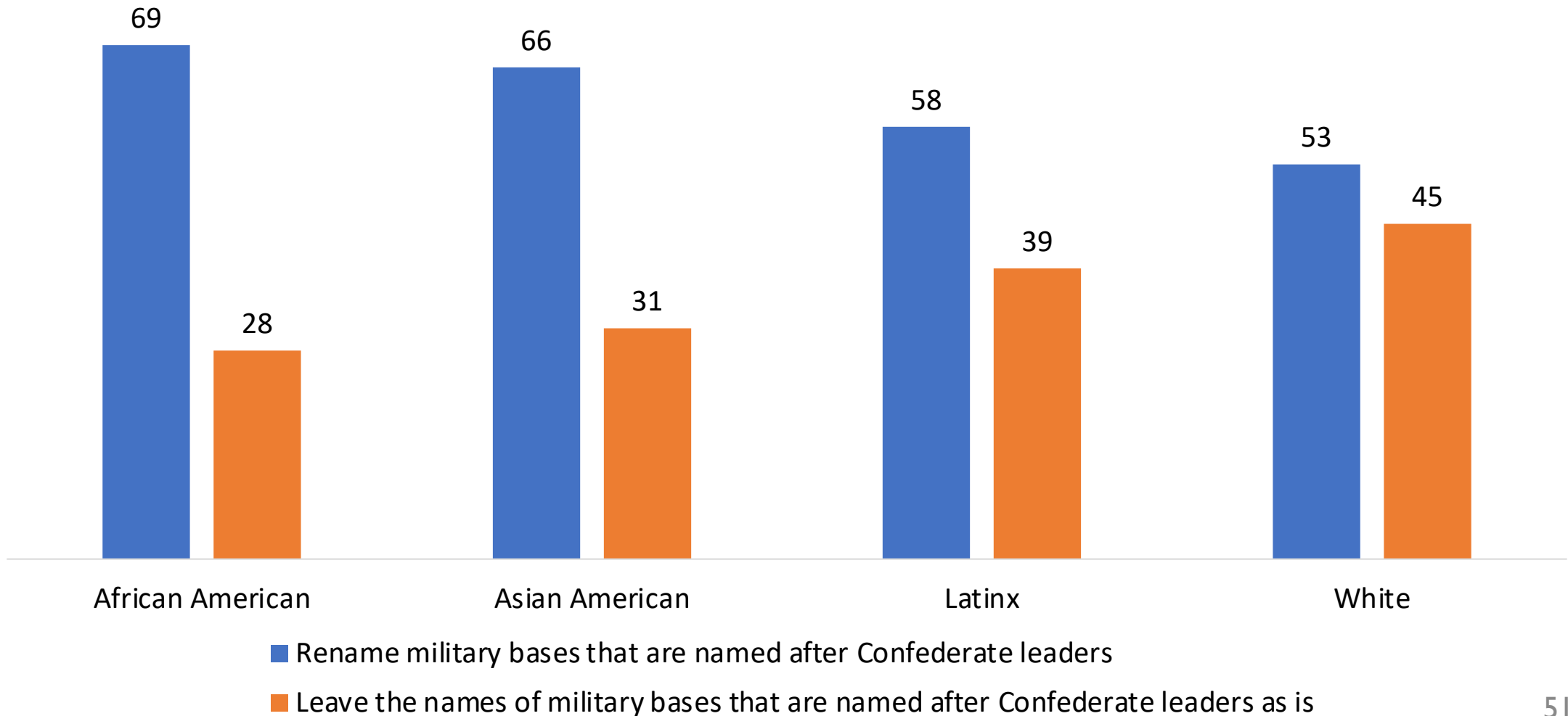


Do you support or oppose efforts to remove Confederate statues and symbols from public places such as government buildings and parks?



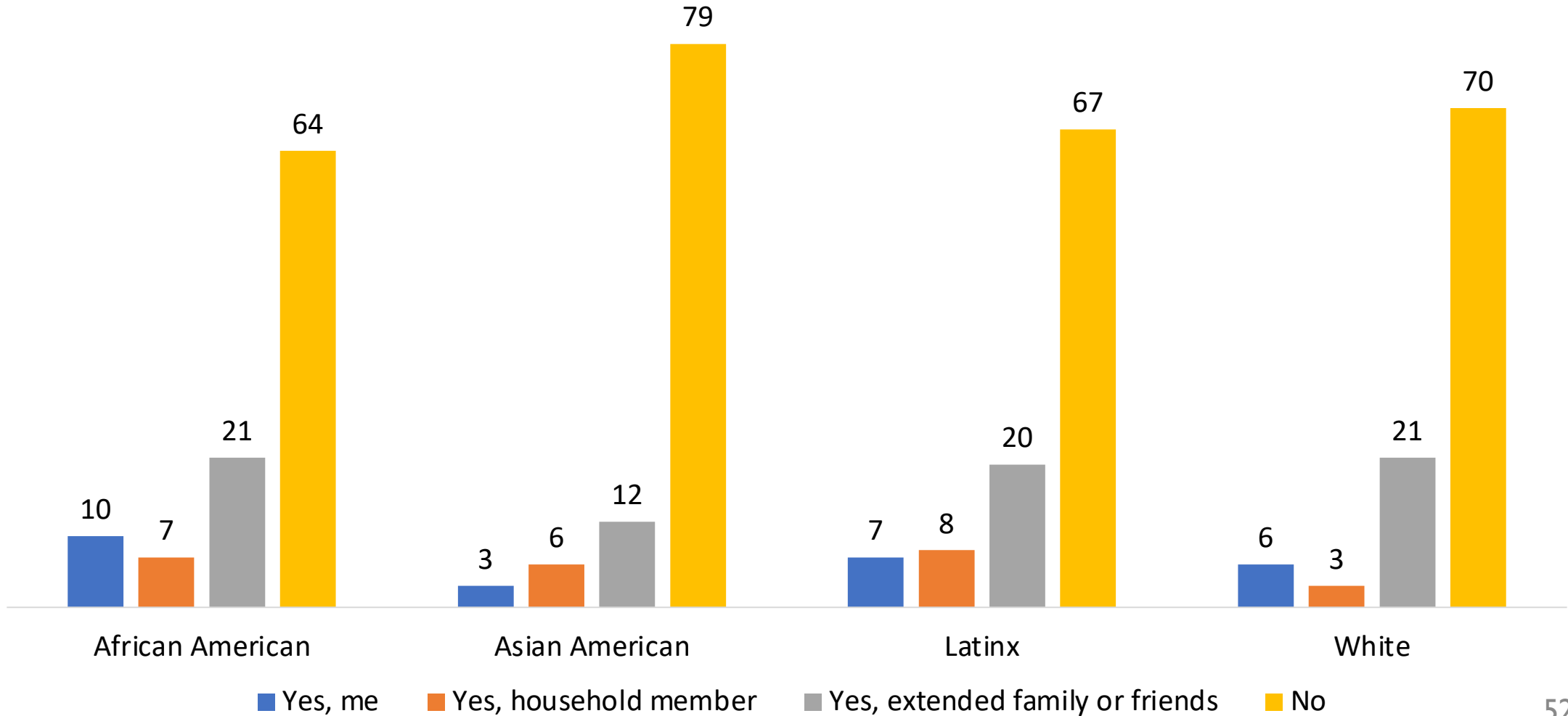


As you may know, the Senate has added an amendment to the defense policy bill that would require the Pentagon to rename military bases that are named after Confederate leaders. In your opinion, should the Pentagon...?



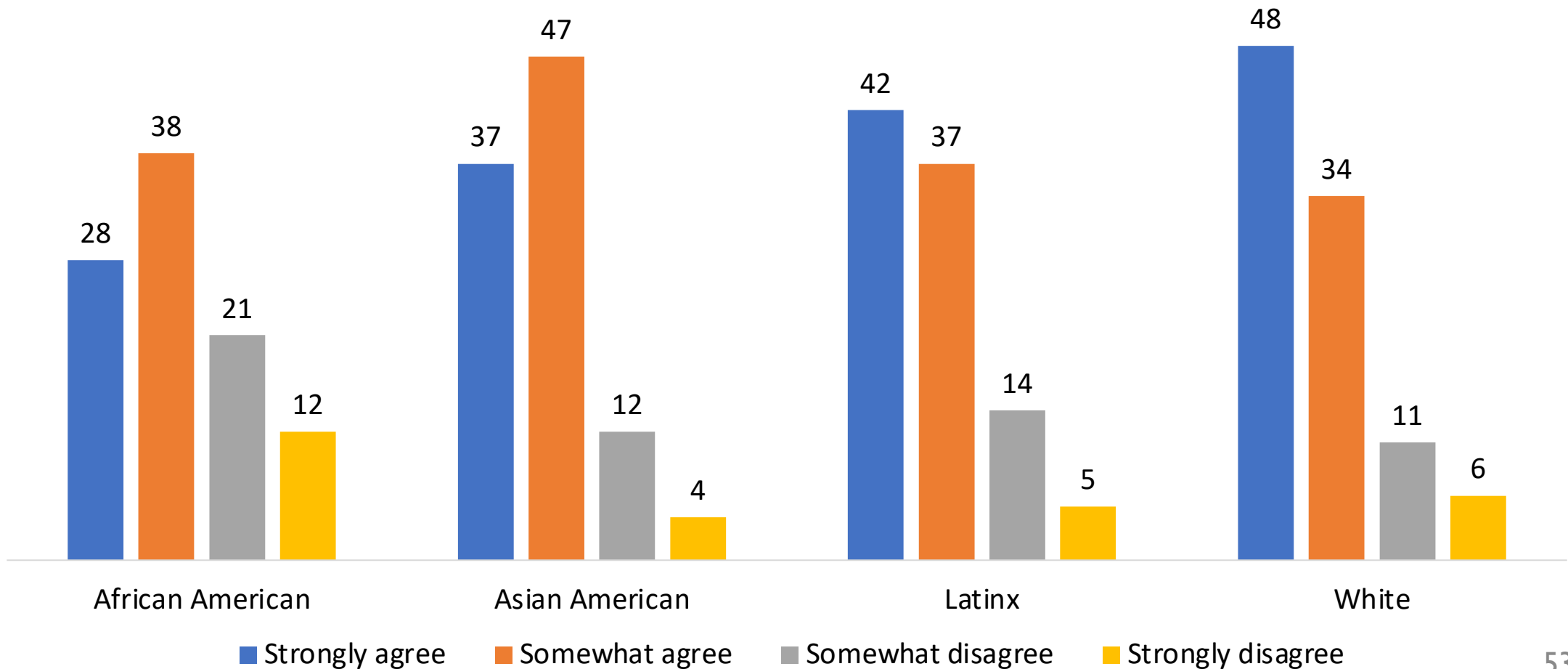


Are you, or is a member of your household, or a member of your extended family or friends a member of any local, state, or federal police force? *(Select all that apply)*



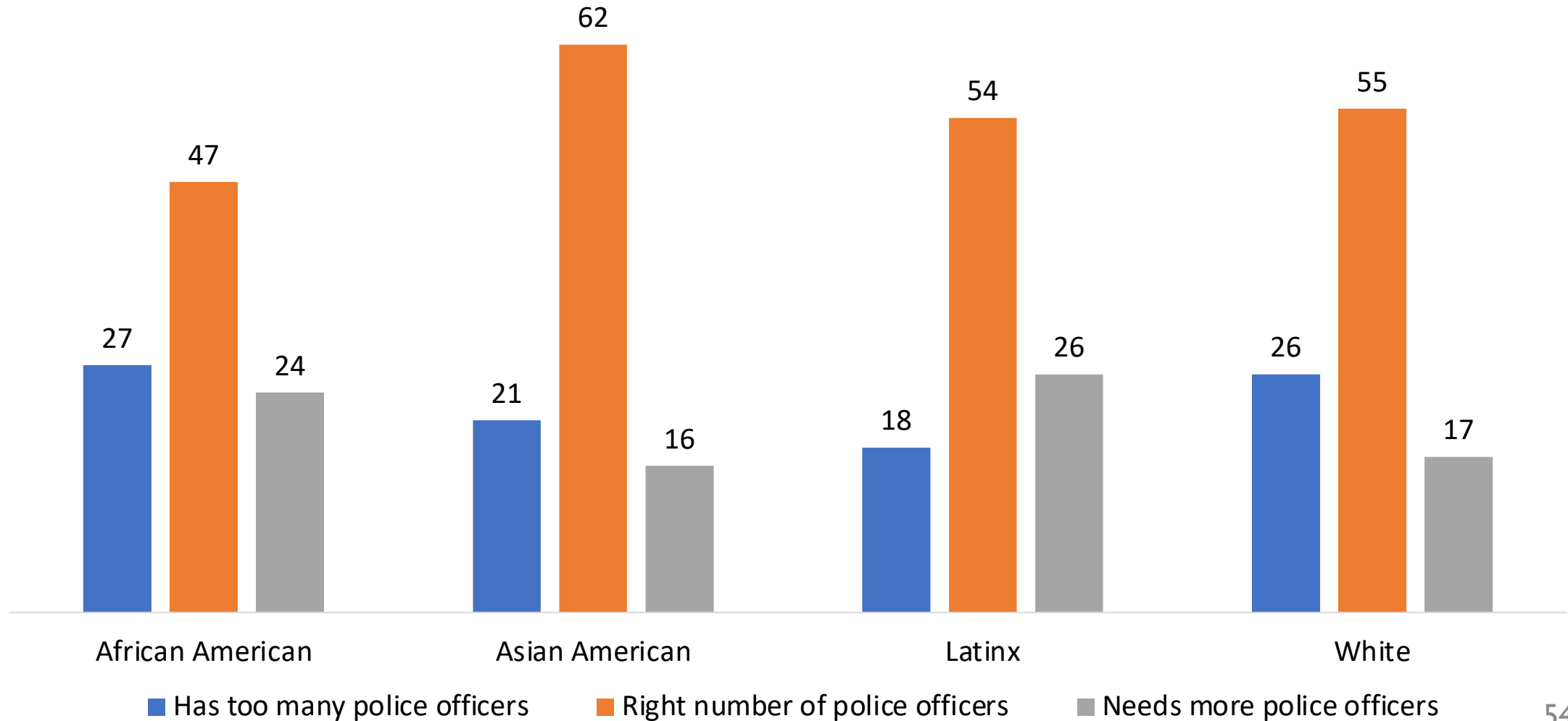


To what degree do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Police are necessary for safe communities.



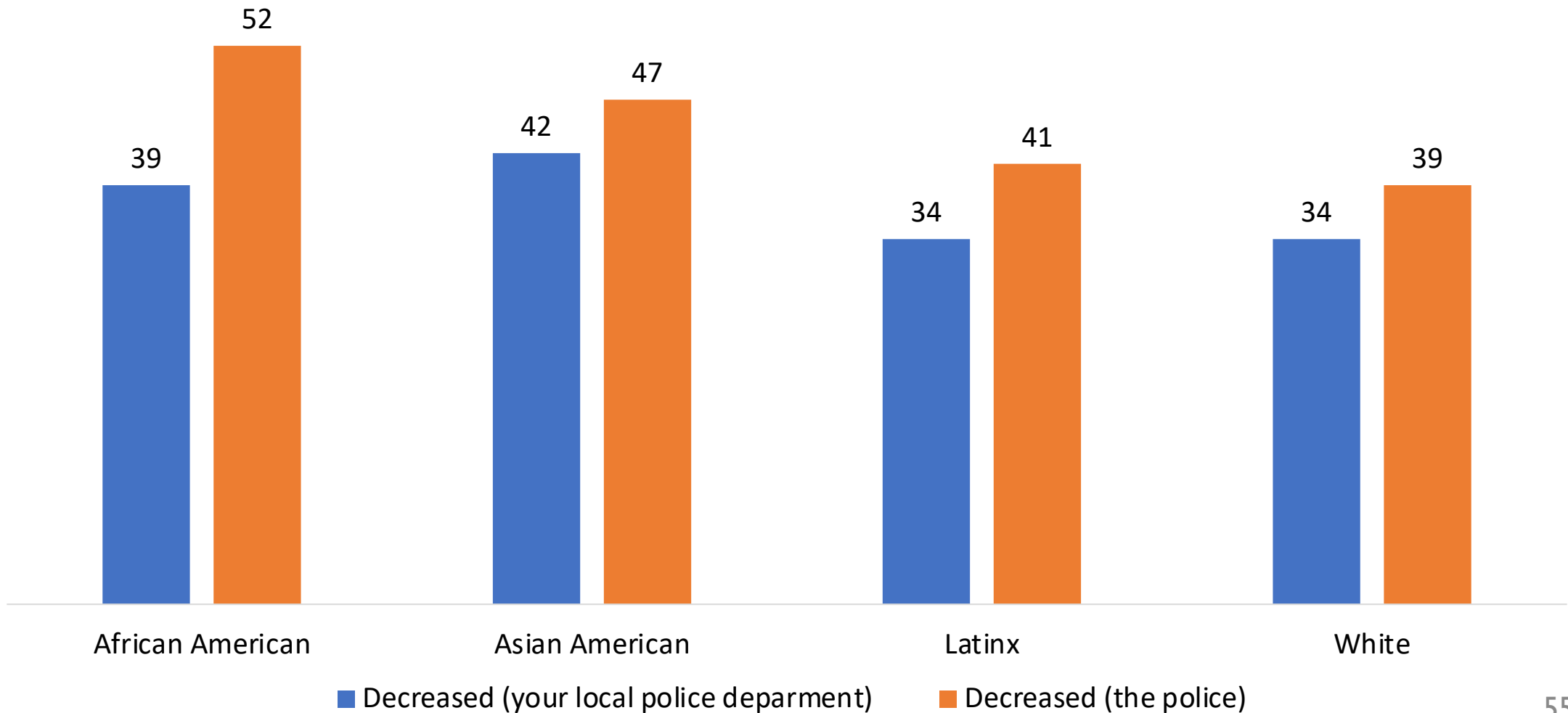


Do you think your community has the right number of police officers, needs more police officers, or has too many police officers?



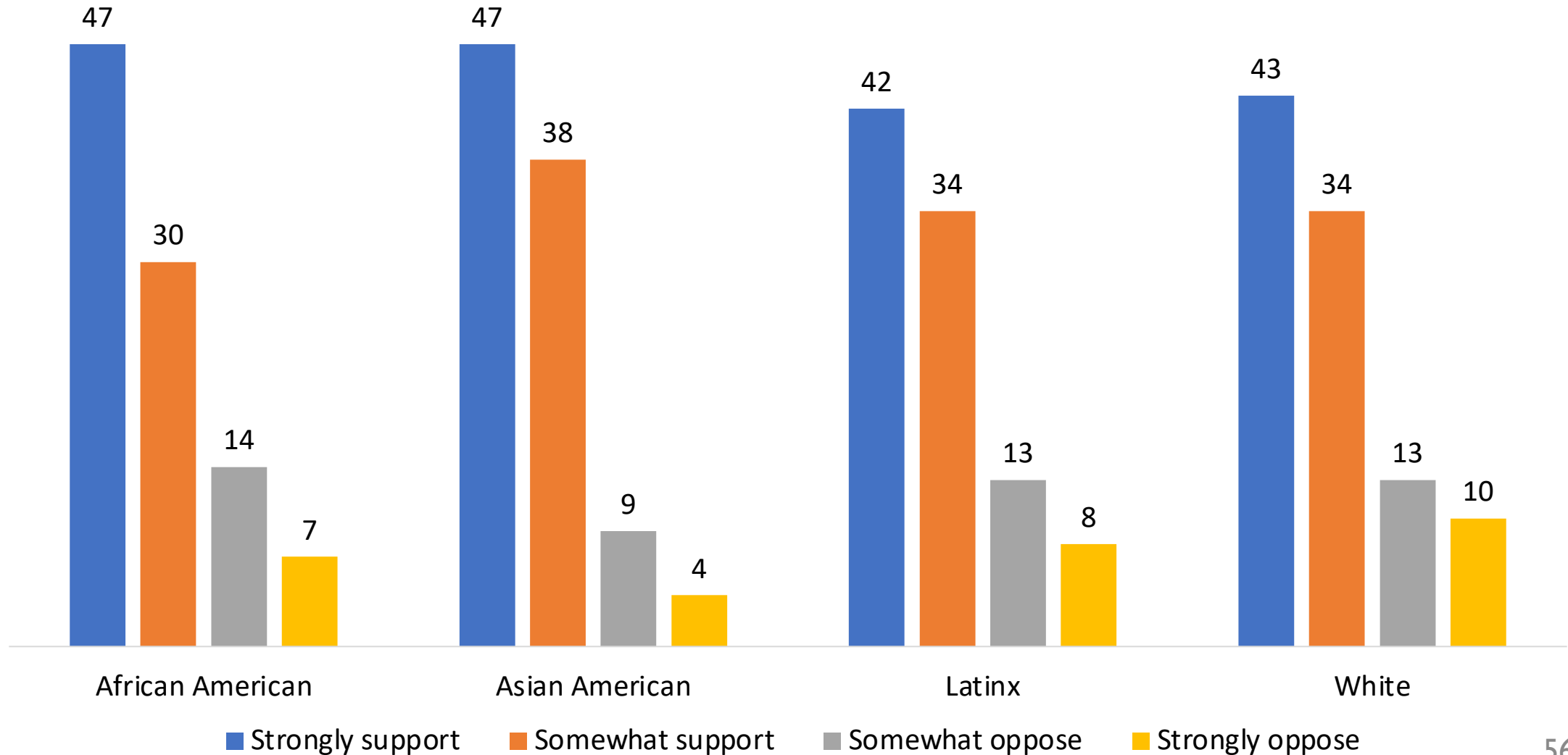


Do you believe the funding for [your local police department / the police] should be increased, decreased, or kept the same?



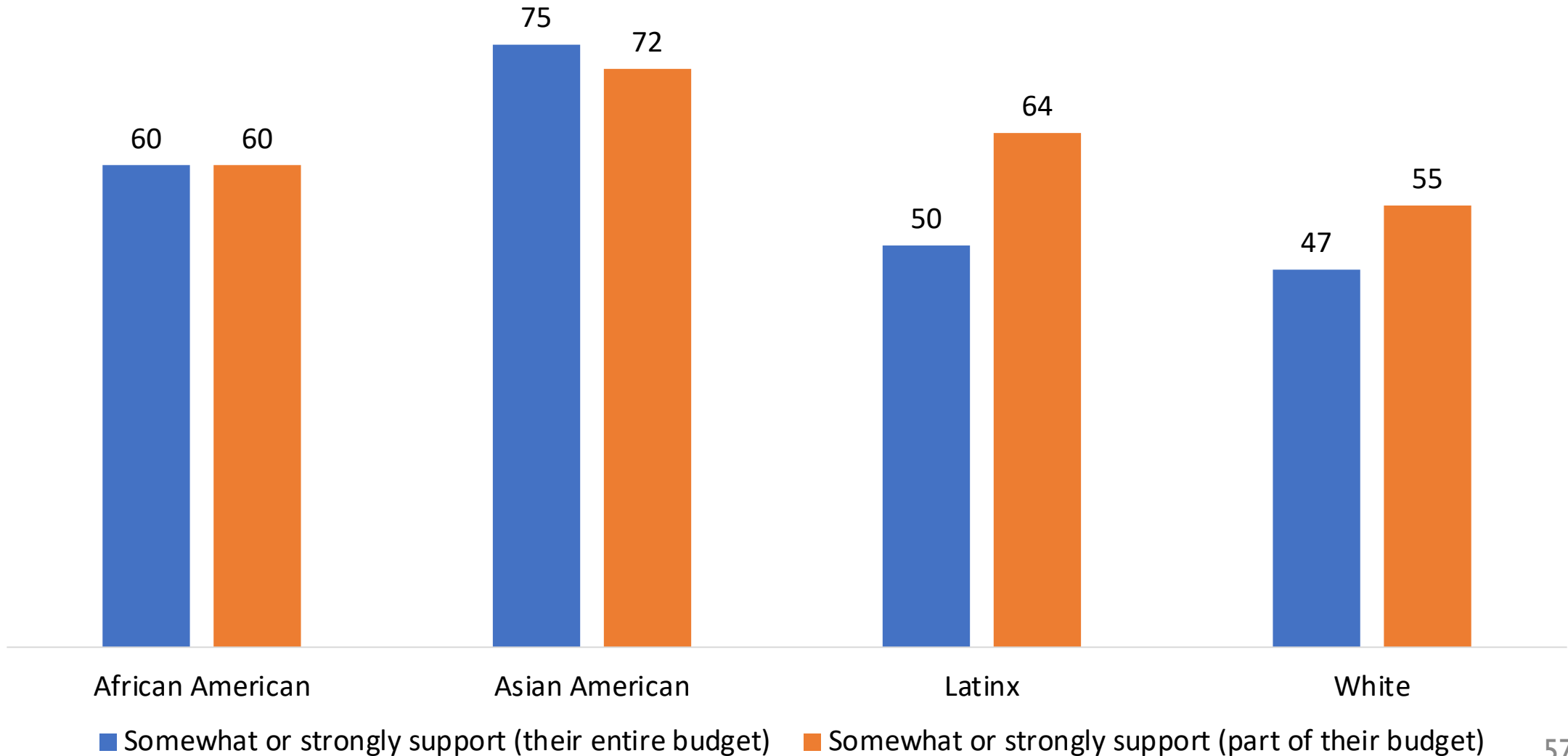


Would you support or oppose creating a new agency of first responders that specialize in de-escalation of violence, providing mental health support, and other social services that would take over these responsibilities from the police?



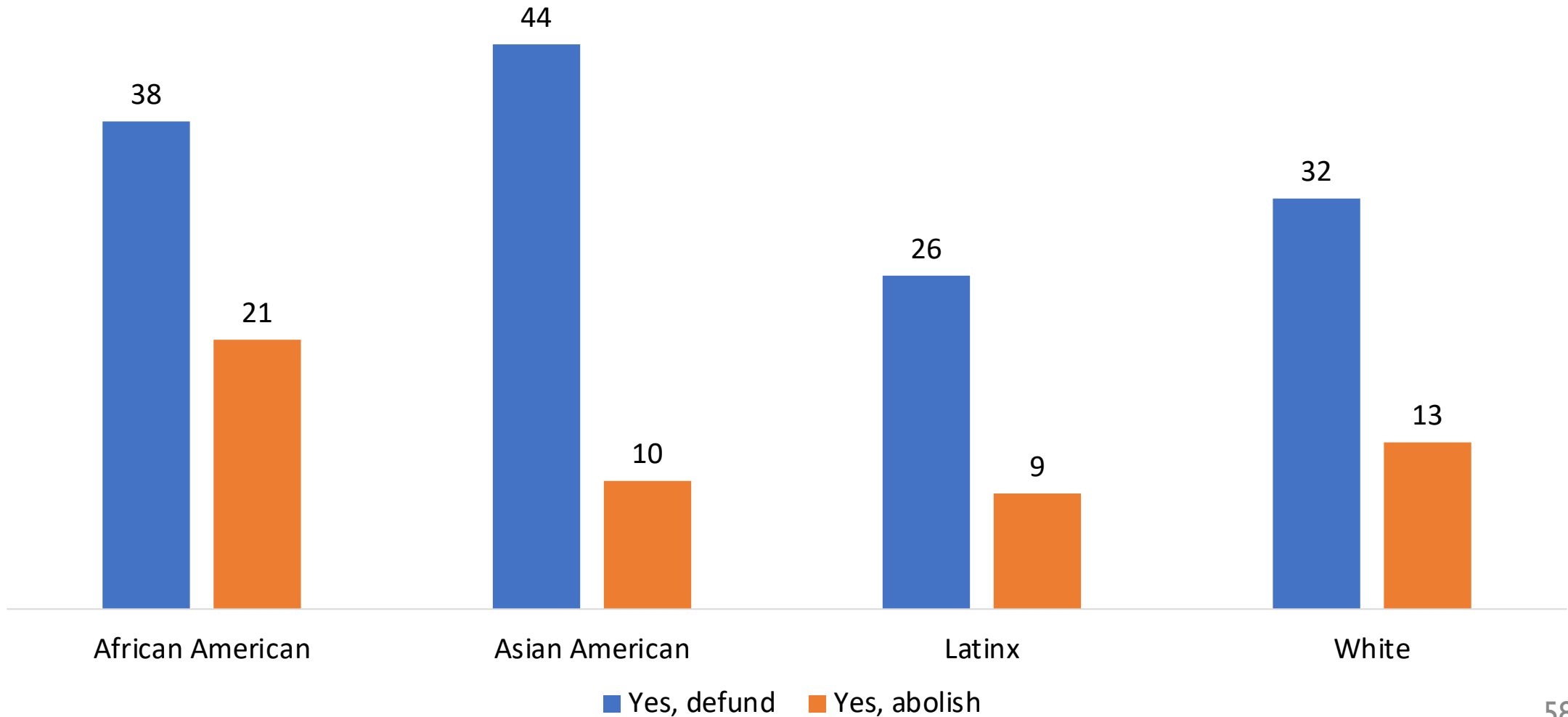


Would you support or oppose divesting from police departments and putting [their entire / part of their] budgets toward investments into other areas such as healthcare, education and housing?



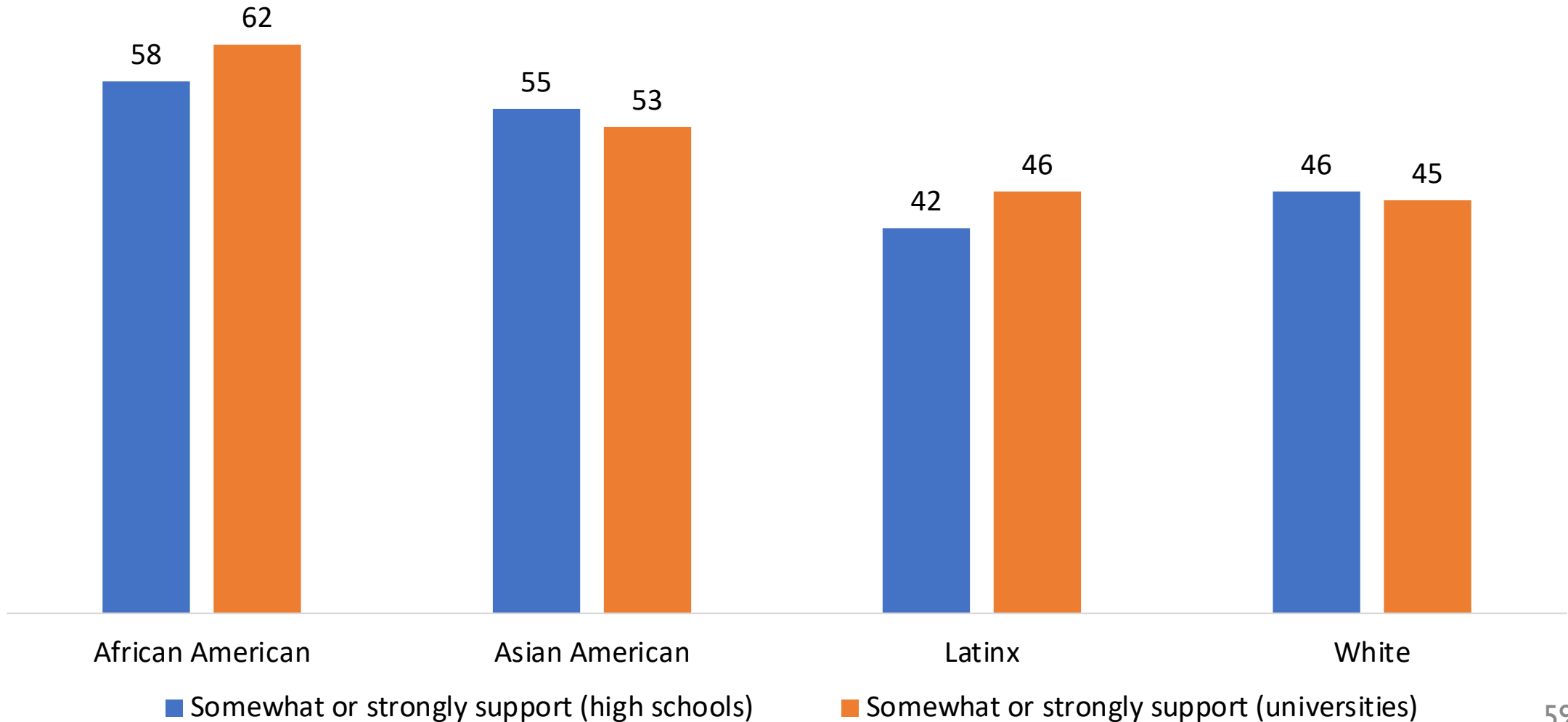


Do you think police departments in the United States should be [defunded / abolished]?



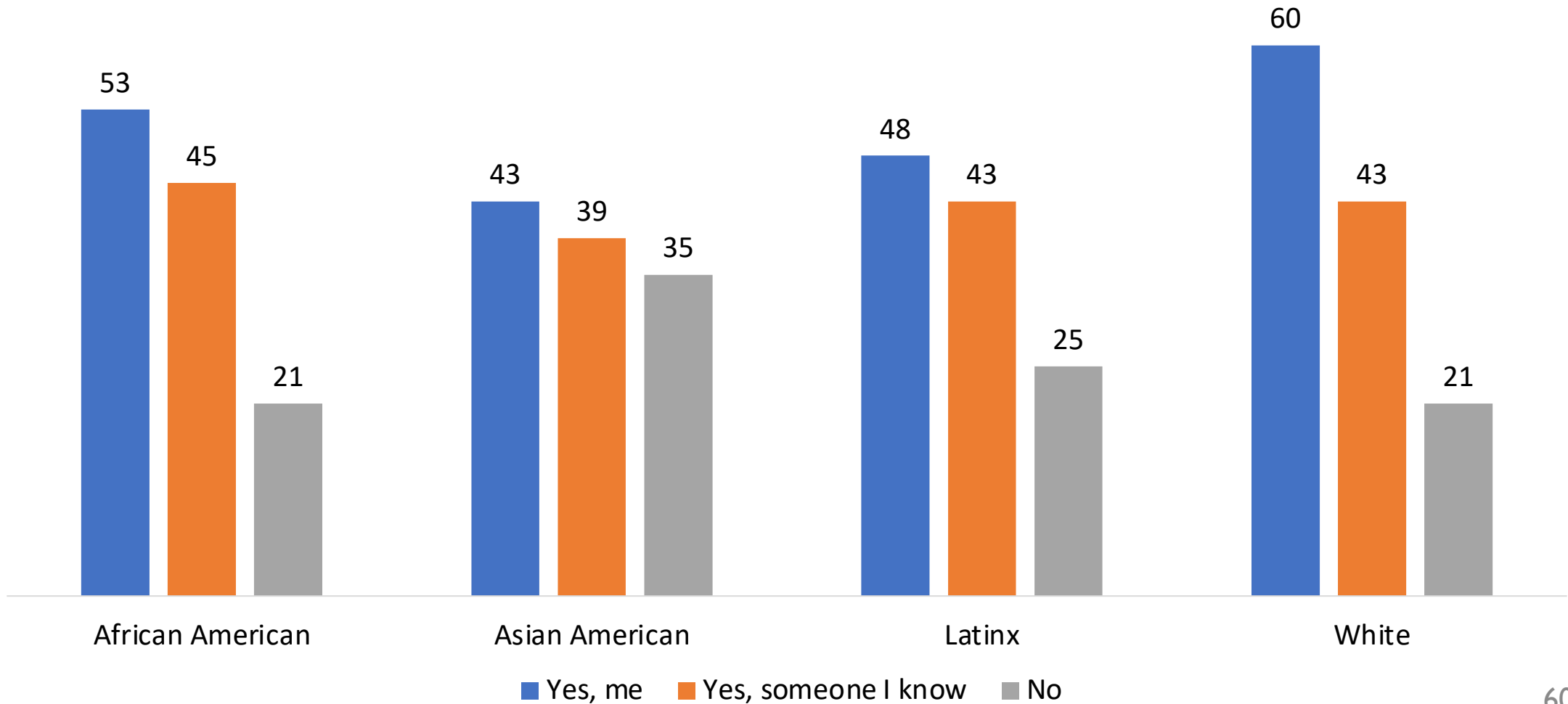


Do you support or oppose [high schools / universities] cutting ties with the police?



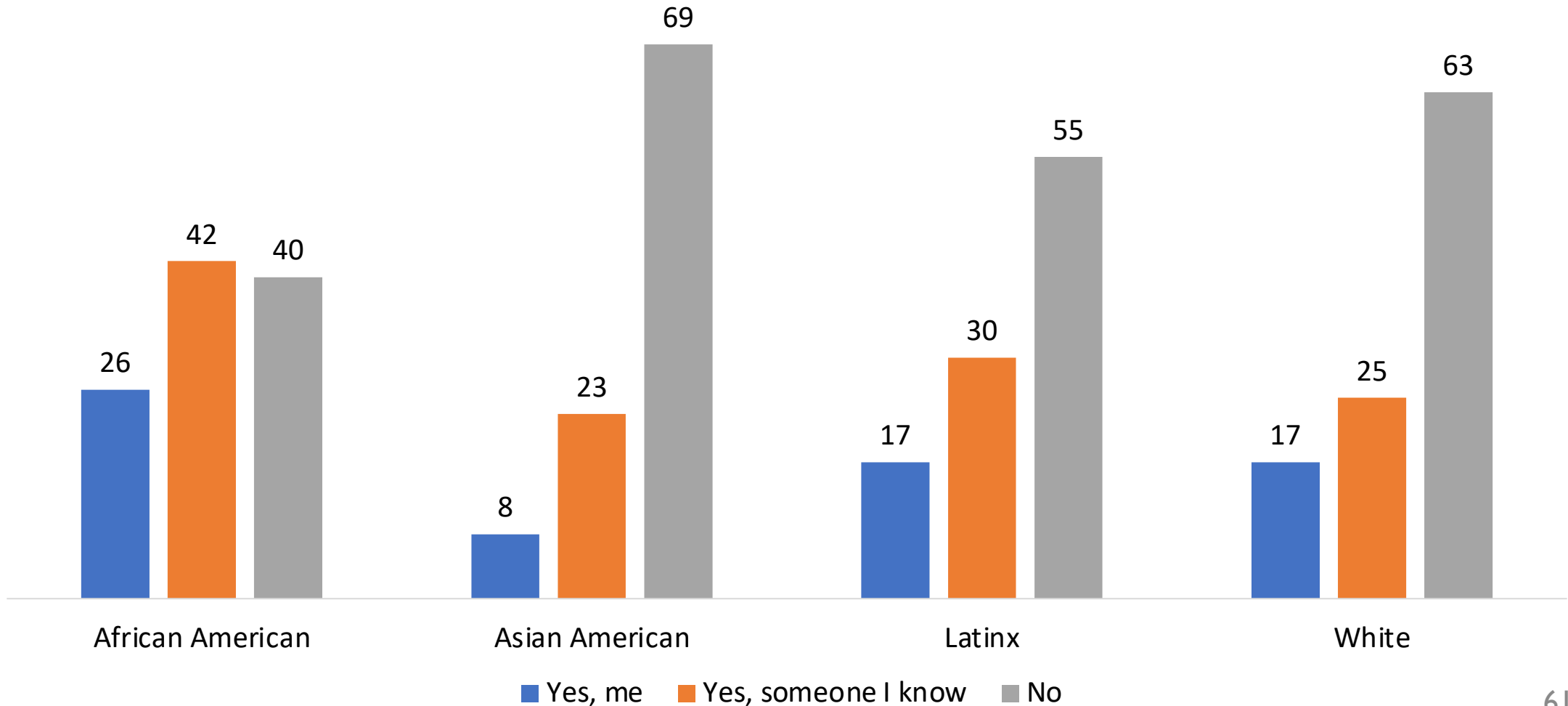


Have you or someone you know ever been stopped by the police? *(Select all that apply)*



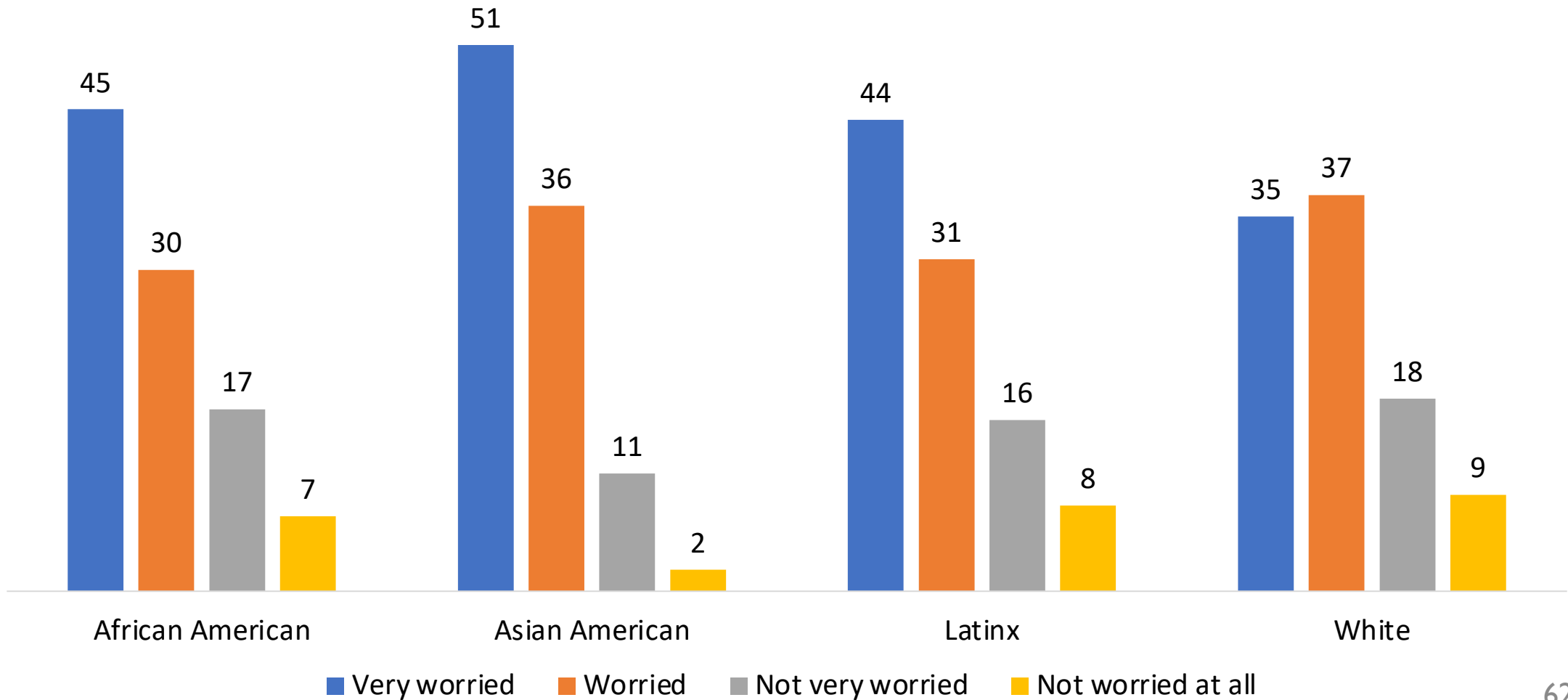


Have you or someone you know experienced harassment or violence at the hands of the police? *(Select all that apply)*



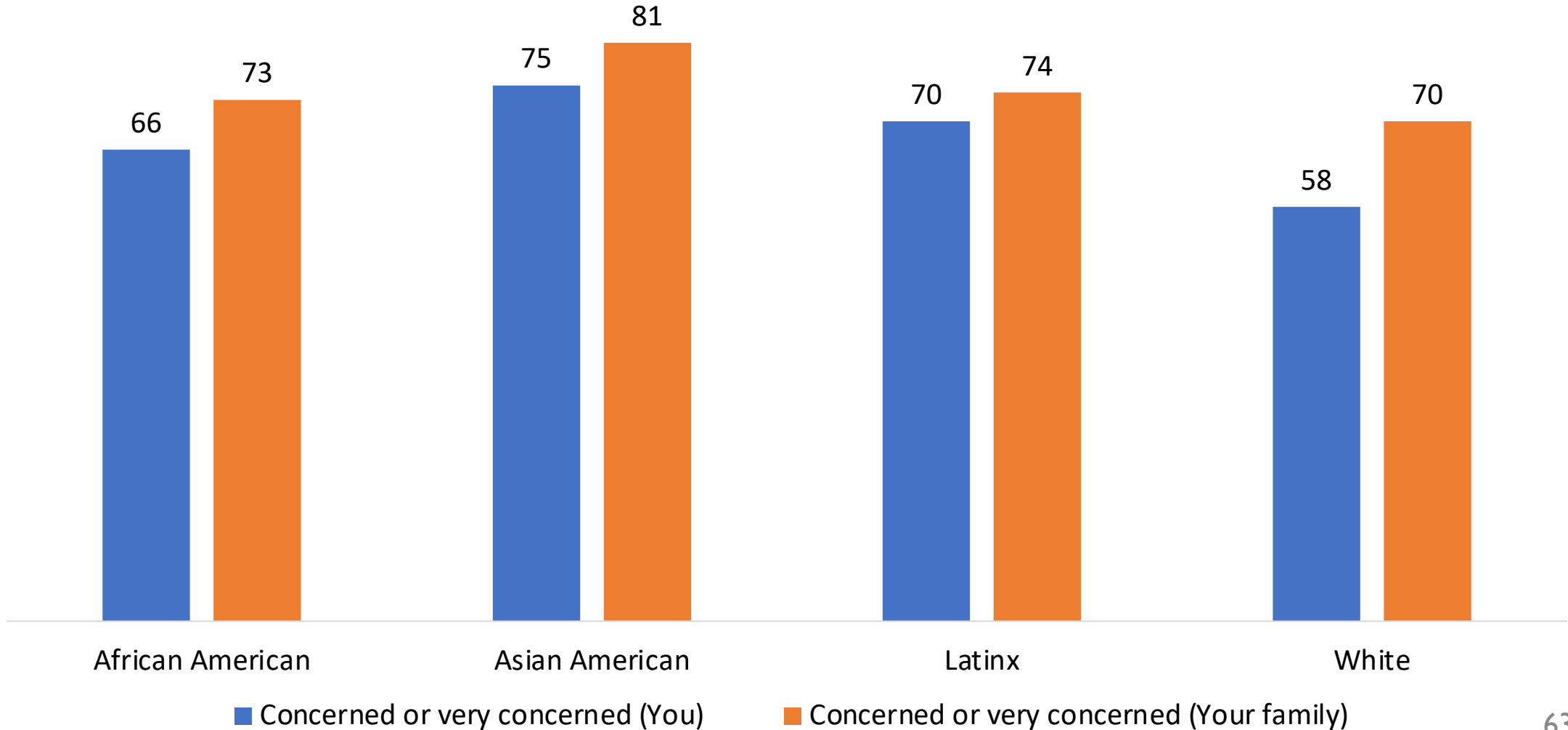


How worried are you about the spread of the coronavirus?



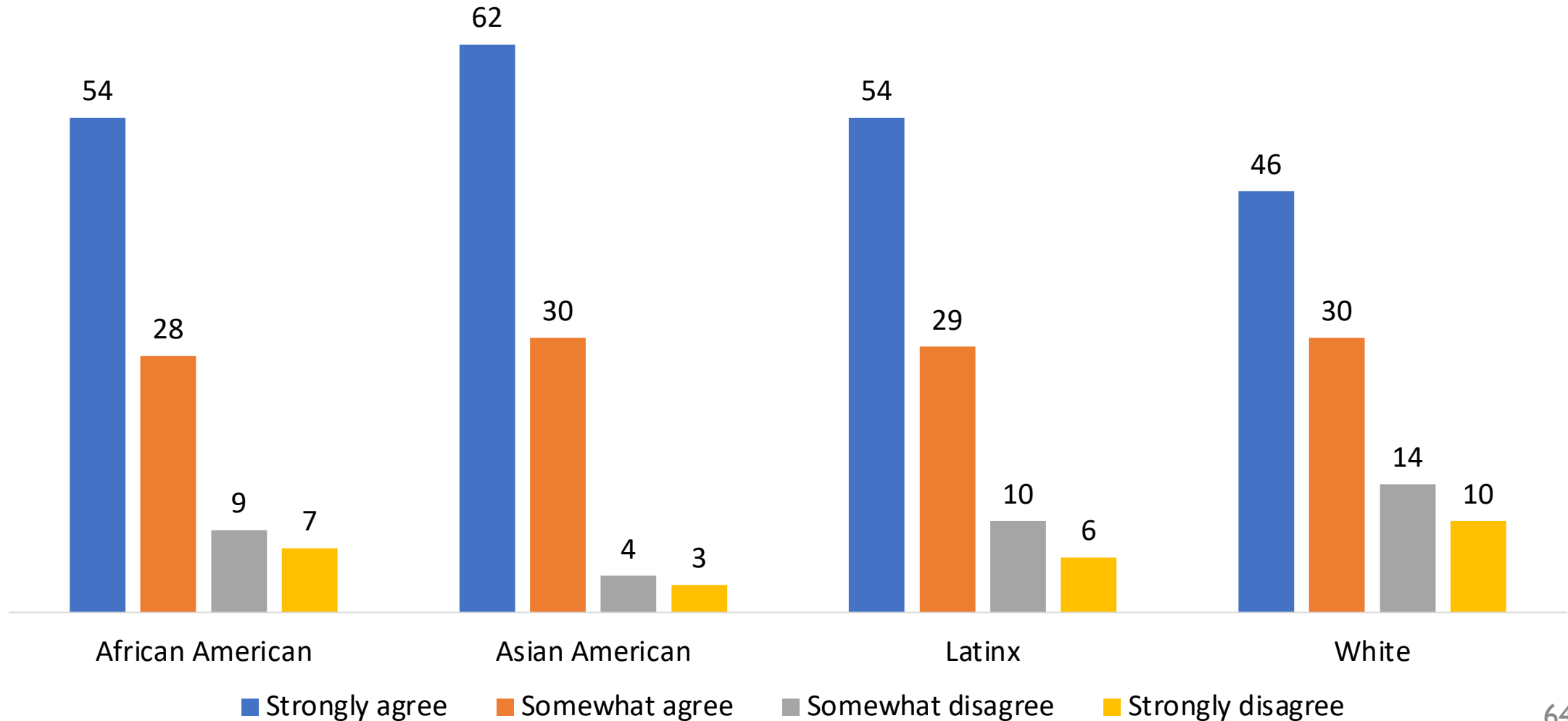


How concerned are you about [you / your family] getting seriously sick due to the coronavirus?



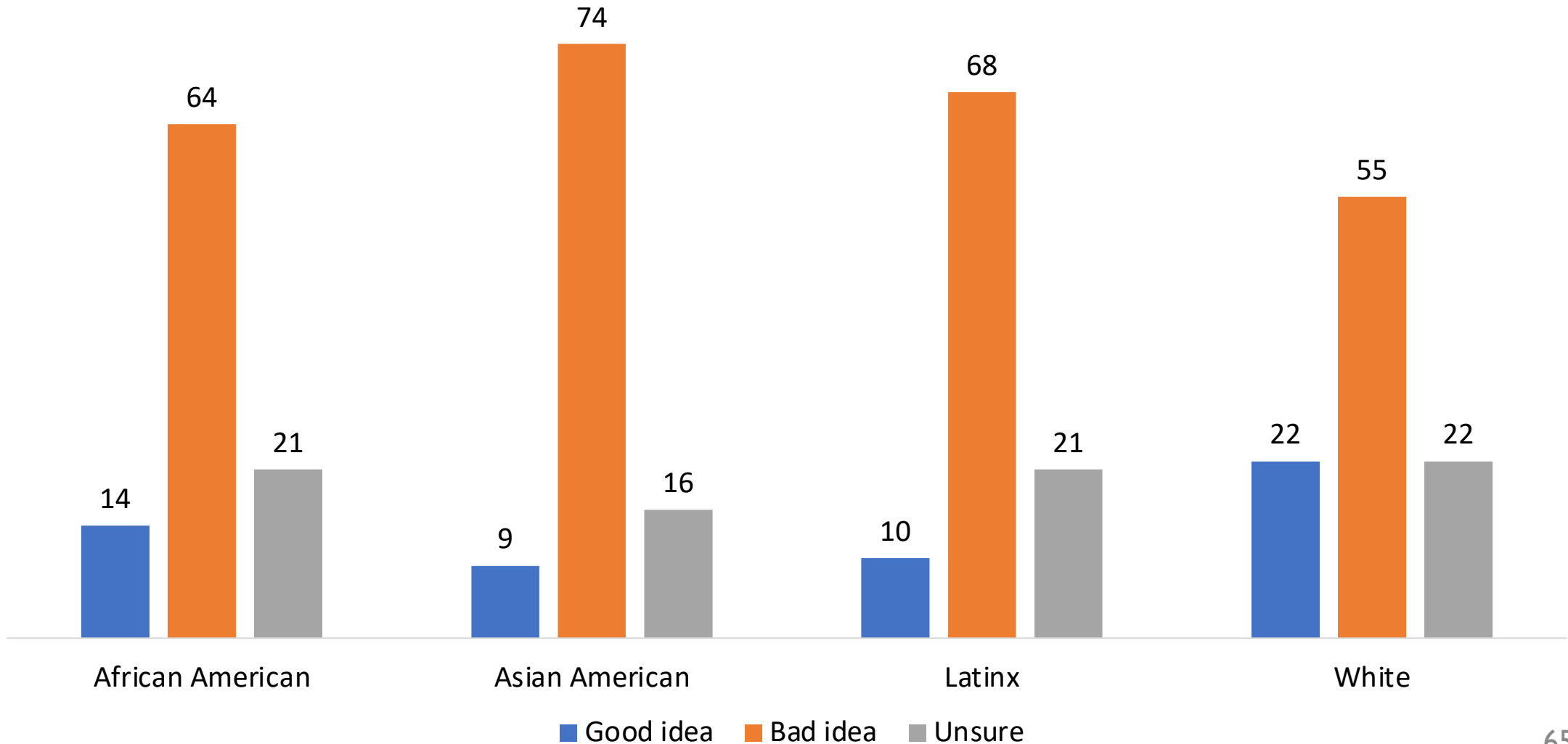


The current surge in cases of the coronavirus being experienced in many states is the result of opening up those states too soon.



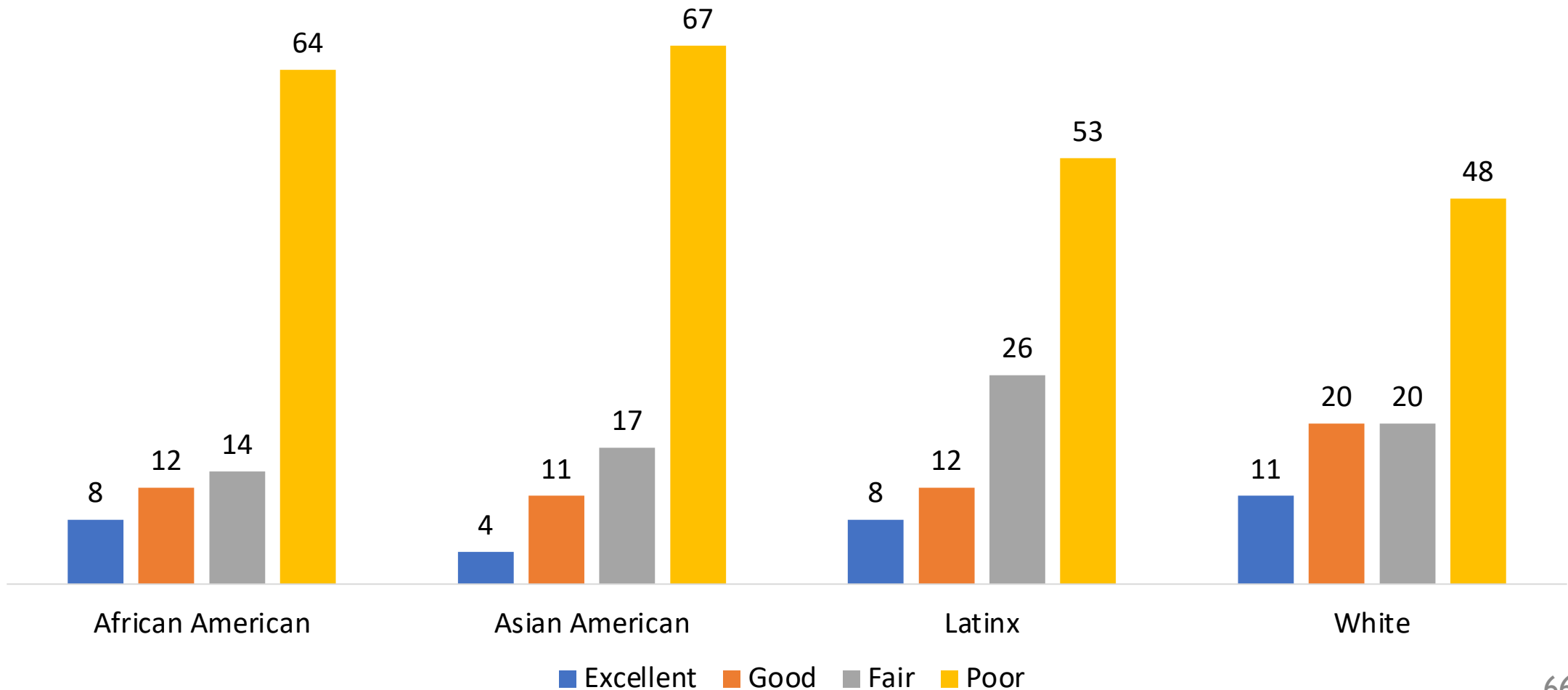


Given what you know about the spread of the coronavirus currently, do you think it is a good or bad idea to have students return to school in person in the fall?



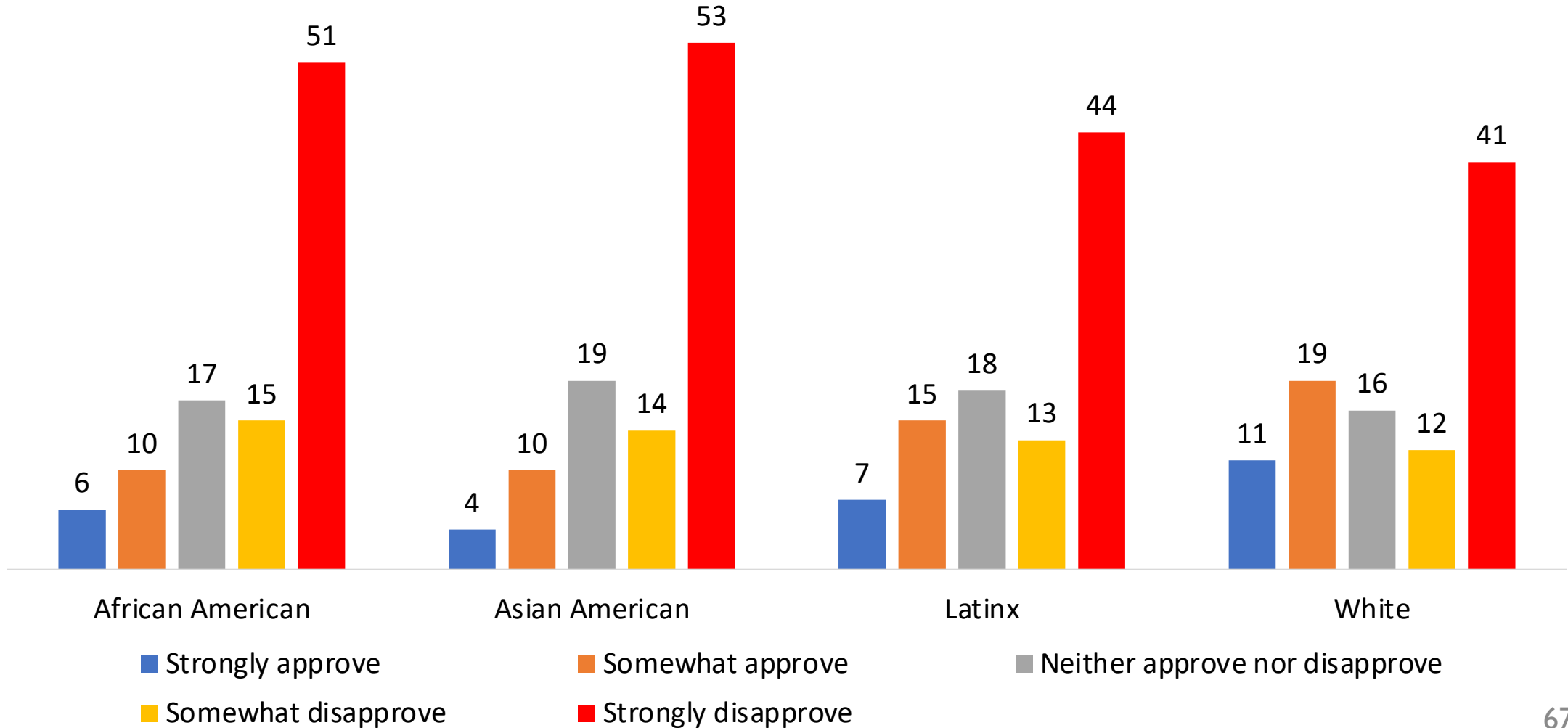


How well do you think President Donald Trump is doing in responding to the coronavirus pandemic in your community?





Trump Presidential Approval





Survey Methodology (1 of 3)

The GenForward August survey is a project of Professor Cathy J. Cohen at the University of Chicago. Interviews were conducted with a representative sample from GenForwardSM, a nationally representative survey panel of adults ages 18-36 recruited and administered by NORC at the University of Chicago.

A total of 3,115 interviews were conducted between July 24th and August 6th, 2020 with adults ages 18-36, including completed interviews with 807 African American young adults, 448 Asian American young adults, 789 Latinx young adults, 1018 White young adults, and 53 young adults with other racial and ethnic backgrounds. The survey was offered in English and Spanish and via telephone and web modes.

The GenForward survey was built from two sample sources:

Fifty-five percent of the completed interviews are sourced from NORC's AmeriSpeak® Panel and from the Black Youth Project (BYP) panel of young adults recruited by NORC. AmeriSpeak is a probability-based panel that also uses address-based sample but sourced from the NORC National Frame with enhanced sample coverage. During the initial recruitment phase of the AmeriSpeak panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face). The BYP sample is from a probability-based household panel that uses an address-based sample from a registered voter database of the entire U.S. Households were selected using stratified random sampling to support over-sampling of households with African Americans, Latinxs, and Asian Americans ages 18-36. NORC contacted sampled households by U.S. mail and by telephone, inviting them to register and participate in public opinion surveys twice a month.



Survey Methodology (2 of 3)

The AmeriSpeak panel sample was supplemented with respondents from the Dynata nonprobability online opt-in panel. Forty-five percent of the completed interviews are sourced from the Dynata panel. To help to reduce potential bias in the nonprobability sample, Dynata attempted to balance the nonprobability respondent sample by age, race and ethnicity, gender, and partisanship. In order to incorporate the nonprobability sample, NORC used TrueNorth calibration services, an innovative hybrid calibration approach developed at NORC based on small area estimation methods in order to explicitly account for potential bias associated with the nonprobability sample. The purpose of TrueNorth calibration is to adjust the weights for the nonprobability sample so as to bring weighted distributions of the nonprobability sample in line with the population distribution for characteristics correlated with the survey variables. Such calibration adjustments help to reduce potential bias, yielding more accurate population estimates.

Panelists on both the BYP and AmeriSpeak panels are invited to register for the panel via the web or by telephone to participate in public opinion surveys.

Of the 3,115 completed interviews in the GenForward August survey, 95 percent were completed by web and 5 percent by telephone. The survey completion rate is 18.0 percent. The weighted AAPOR RR3 panel recruitment rate is 11.2 percent and the weighted household panel retention rate is 88.3 percent, for a cumulative AAPOR Response Rate 3 of 1.8 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 2.54 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. Among subgroups, the margin of sampling error at the 95 percent confidence level is +/- 4.50 percentage points for African Americans, +/- 5.66 percentage points for Asian Americans, +/- 5.27 percentage points for Latinxs, and +/- 3.85 percentage points for Whites. The margin of sampling error at the 95 percent confidence level is +/- 3.40 percentage points for Democrats, +/- 5.02 percentage points for Republicans, +/- 5.71 percentage points for Independents.

To encourage cooperation, respondents were offered incentives for completing the survey that ranged from the cash-equivalent of \$3 to the cash-equivalent of \$10.



Survey Methodology (3 of 3)

The interviews from the two probability-based sample sources were combined for statistical weighting and analysis. The combined panel samples provide sample coverage of approximately 97% of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings. The statistical weights incorporate the appropriate probability of selection for the BYP and AmeriSpeak samples, nonresponse adjustments, and also, raking ratio adjustments to population benchmarks for 18-64-year-old adults. A poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any non-coverage or under- and over-sampling resulting from the study-specific sample design. The poststratification process was done separately for each racial/ethnic group and involved the following variables: age, gender, education, and census region. The weighted data, which reflect the U.S. population of adults ages 18-36, and the 18-36-year-old populations for African Americans, Latinxs, Asian Americans, and non-Latinx whites, were used for all analyses.