

IDAHO PUBLIC POLICY SURVEY

Number Eight

David F. Scudder, Ph.D.

The research presented in this monograph was supported by the 1997 participants of the Idaho Public Policy Survey Group.

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Printed in the United States of America

ISBN 0-932129-30-7

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INTRODUCTION

The Idaho State Board of Education has designated public affairs as a primary emphasis area for Boise State University. One of the ways that BSU fulfills this mission is by conducting timely, high-quality research that can assist Idaho citizens and policy makers to deepen their understanding of the needs and concerns of Idahoans and to further their efforts to address the key issues confronting Idaho. The Idaho Public Policy Survey is an annual project in the College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs at Boise State University. It is designed to examine public opinion on issues that are the subject of current debate among Idahoans and civic leaders.

In 1994, the university expanded public participation in developing the survey questions by inviting the public to form the Idaho Public Policy Survey Group (IPPSG). A consortium of interested state and local government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector, the IPPSG provides a mechanism whereby community organizations can sponsor individual questions and collectively fund surveys that otherwise would not be possible. The survey results meet the individual needs of the participants for less cost and far greater public impact than if any single participant attempted to conduct a survey on its own. The IPPSG also provides a forum in which interested organizations can have direct input into how the questions are asked. In addition, the participants are helping to provide an important public service by sponsoring questions that will help inform all Idahoans. The participants of the IPPSG may vary from year to year. The participants of the 1997 Idaho Public Policy Survey Group are:

Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Idaho Division of Vocational Education
BSU Public Affairs Program

Saint Alphonsus Hospital
BSU Public Affairs Program
BSU College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs

METHODOLOGY

A random digit dialing telephone technique was used to conduct this survey. The survey sample was stratified by telephone exchange within counties and region to ensure that every Idaho household with a telephone had a chance to participate. In order to minimize bias in the sample resulting from the known greater likelihood of certain sorts of people to answer phones in households (for example, women and older persons), interviewers asked for the person in the household 18 or older with the most recent birthday.

With five-point rating scale measures¹ like those predominantly used in this survey, approximately 600 completed interviews are needed to produce statewide confidence intervals of approximately plus or minus three to four percent for the average with the most extreme being plus or minus four to five percent. Confidence intervals are larger (less accurate) for subsets of the state population, such as

¹Values for these five-point scales range from, for example, strongly agree to strongly disagree, with the third or middle value used to record the responses "neither agree nor disagree."

regions or specific types of Idahoans, and for estimates of the influence of demographic factors on opinions. The Center completed 653 interviews.

A small set of core questions that have been asked on Public Policy Surveys over the last five years were retained. The remainder of the questions represent the interests and concerns of the IPPSG participants. Professional staff at the Social Science Research Center edited the draft questions provided by the participants to produce a polished telephone questionnaire. A standard set of demographic questions were included at the end of the survey. Telephone interviewing for the survey was conducted during February 1997.

PRESENTATION OF SURVEY RESULTS

The demographic information collected in the survey includes respondent's age, gender, education, racial/ethnic group, income, length of residence in Idaho, county and rural region of residence. The county of residence was used to assign the respondents into one of six regions commonly used for purposes of service delivery and public policy planning (Figure 1). In the discussion of the results, regions are referred to as follows: I—Panhandle, II—North Central, III—Southwest, IV—South Central, V—Southeast, and VI—Central Mountain. The determination of a difference according to demographic grouping requires some judgement. In general, the Center uses a 95% level of statistical

confidence. That is, based on the sample size, there is a five percent or less chance that any observed differences could have occurred by chance alone. A 95% confidence level means that if we conducted the same survey 100 times with the same sample size we would have obtained results outside of the confidence interval no more than five times. However, since the Center asked over fifty questions some of those questions could produce statistically significant results by chance alone. Obtaining the same findings over multiple years is the best way to make firm conclusions about differences among Idahoans on specific issues. In subsequent publications, the Center is planning to compare Idahoans attitudes across some of the core items that are asked every year in order to provide a better picture of fundamental differences among different types of Idahoans.

The ordering of questions in this report does not necessarily reflect the order in which they were asked in the survey. Instead, they are grouped thematically to present a variety of perspectives

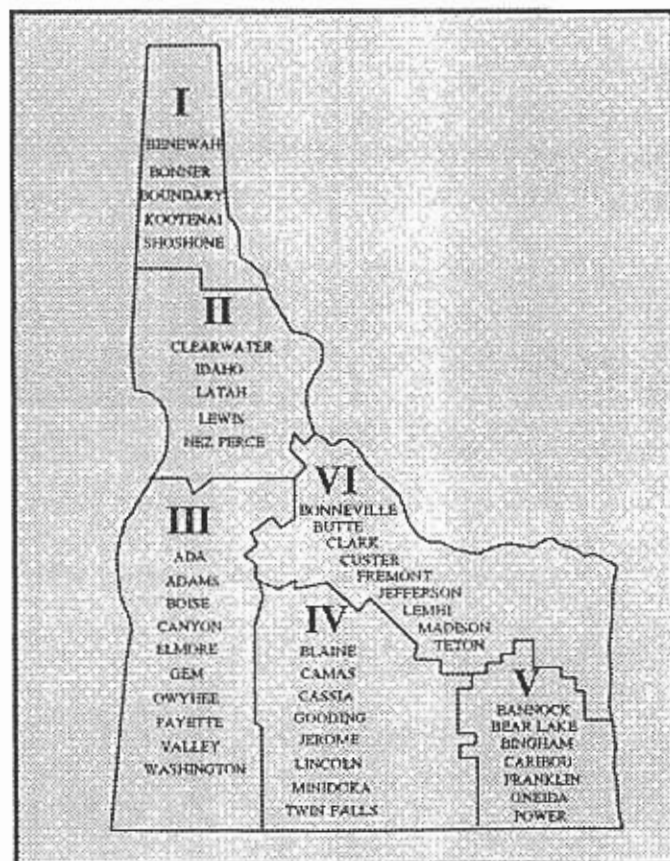


FIGURE 1: Regions of Idaho

on several core issues. The statewide distributions of responses are given in graphs, together with information on number of respondents, missing data, and confidence intervals. A summary of the analysis of the effects of demographic variables follows each statewide distribution.

<i>Demographic Item</i>	<i>Number of Respondents</i>	<i>Percentage of Respondents</i>
Region		
<i>I—Panhandle</i>	84	12.90%
<i>II—North Central</i>	74	11.40%
<i>III—Southwest</i>	252	38.80%
<i>IV—South Central</i>	76	11.70%
<i>V—Southeast</i>	89	13.70%
<i>VI—Central Mountain</i>	74	11.40%
Gender		
<i>Male</i>	264	40.70%
<i>Female</i>	385	59.30%
Ethnicity		
<i>White Non-Hispanic</i>	596	93.10%
<i>Minority Group Members</i>	44	6.90%

TABLE 1: *Demographic Items**(table continues)*

<i>Demographic Item</i>	<i>Number of Respondents</i>	<i>Percentage of Respondents</i>
<i>Highest Level of Formal Education</i>		
<i>High School or Less</i>	215	33.10%
<i>Vocational Certificate or Some College</i>	286	44.20%
<i>College Degree or More</i>	148	22.80%
<i>Annual Household Income</i>		
<i>\$20,000 or Less</i>	150	25.00%
<i>\$20,000 to \$30,000</i>	140	23.40%
<i>\$30,000 to \$50,000</i>	171	28.50%
<i>\$50,000 or more</i>	138	22.90%
<i>Residential Setting (as reported by respondent)</i>		
<i>Rural</i>	162	25.00%
<i>Small Town</i>	233	35.90%
<i>City or Suburb</i>	254	39.20%
<i>Political Orientation on Economic Issues</i>		
<i>Conservative</i>	384	59.50%
<i>Moderate</i>	189	29.30%
<i>Liberal</i>	72	11.20%
<i>Political Orientation on Social Issues</i>		
<i>Conservative</i>	305	47.40%
<i>Moderate</i>	220	34.20%
<i>Liberal</i>	118	18.30%

TABLE 1: (continued)

SURVEY RESULTS

QUALITY OF LIFE

The questions in this section have been asked on the annual survey every year. As in previous years, nearly nine out of ten survey respondents said they were satisfied with their overall quality of life as Idaho residents (Figure 2).

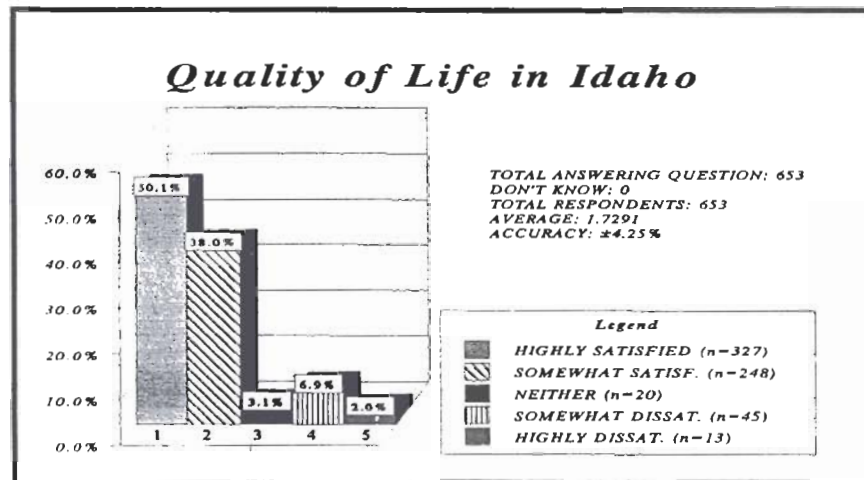


FIGURE 2: *How Satisfied Are You about Your Overall Quality of Life as a Resident of Idaho?*

- Idahoans with higher incomes are more likely to be satisfied with their overall quality of life than those with lower incomes.
- Idahoans who belong to minority groups are less likely than others to be satisfied with their overall quality of life.
- Older Idahoans and those with longer residence in Idaho tend to be more satisfied with their overall quality of life.
- Idahoans in the North and Central regions tend to have less satisfaction than those in the Southeast and Southwest.
- Women tend to be slightly more satisfied than men.

Figure 3 shows that Idahoans are nearly equally divided about whether the remainder of the 1990s will become more difficult or easier for them personally.

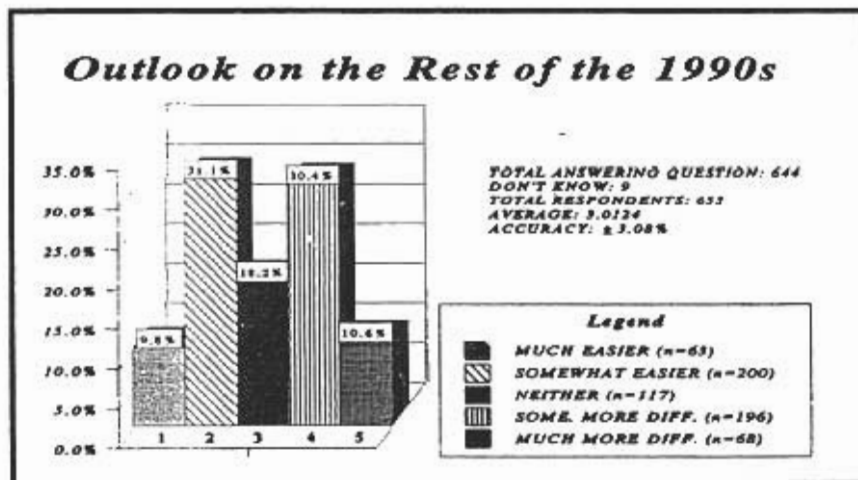


FIGURE 3: *Do You Expect the Rest of the 1990's to Be a Decade When Life Gets Easier or More Difficult for You Personally?*

- With increasing income, there is a slight tendency for Idahoans to be more likely to say that life will get easier for them personally during the rest of the 1990's.
- Younger Idahoans and those with shorter residence in Idaho are more likely to say that the rest of the 1990's will be a decade when life gets easier for them personally.
- Women are slightly more optimistic than men about the rest of the 1990's.

Numerous areas were given as the most important problem facing Idaho, as seen in Figure 4. The greatest number of Idahoans surveyed cited the rapid pace of growth and education.

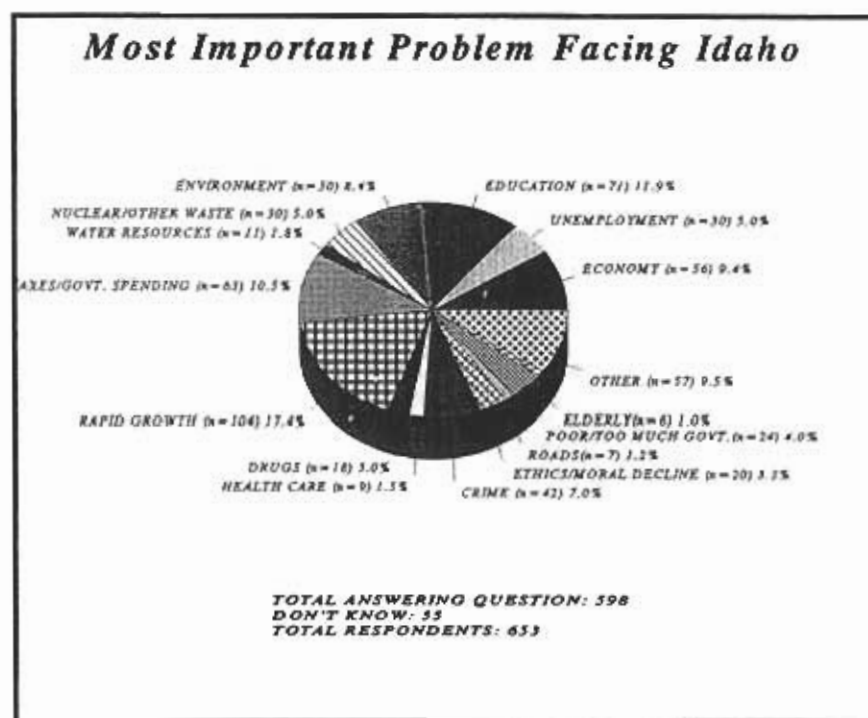


FIGURE 4: *In Your Opinion, What Is the Most Important Problem Facing Idaho Today, the One That Concerns You the Most?*

- Older Idahoans were more likely to name health care, roads, poor or too much government, or the elderly as the most important problems than younger Idahoans. Younger Idahoans were more likely than older Idahoans to name taxes, unemployment, nuclear, or education and the most important problem facing Idaho.
- Idahoans with higher than average income were more likely than others to name education, water resources, or growth, while those with less education were more likely to name health care, poor or too much government, the elderly or drugs as the most important problems.
- Urban Idahoans were more likely than rural to name unemployment, growth, or water resources as the most important problem, while rural Idahoans were more likely to name drugs, health care, or roads as the most important problem.
- Idahoans with higher than average incomes were more likely to name taxes and growth as the most important problems, while those with lower incomes were more likely to name drugs health care, and roads as the most important problem.
- Idahoans who are liberal on economic issues were more likely to name education, the environment, nuclear wastes and water resources as the most important problem, while more conservative Idahoans were more likely to name taxes, drugs, moral decline, and poor or too much government as the most important. Idahoans who are liberal or conservative on social and economic issues name similar problems, but those who are liberal or conservative

on social issues do not differ with respect to the most important problem if they are the same on economic issues.

THE GOVERNOR'S AGREEMENT ON NUCLEAR WASTE

One issue has been in the news repeatedly during the last year; whether the Governor's agreement with the U. S. Department of Energy regarding the storage and elimination of nuclear waste is in the best interest of Idaho. As shown in the figure below, Idahoans are sharply divided on this issue.

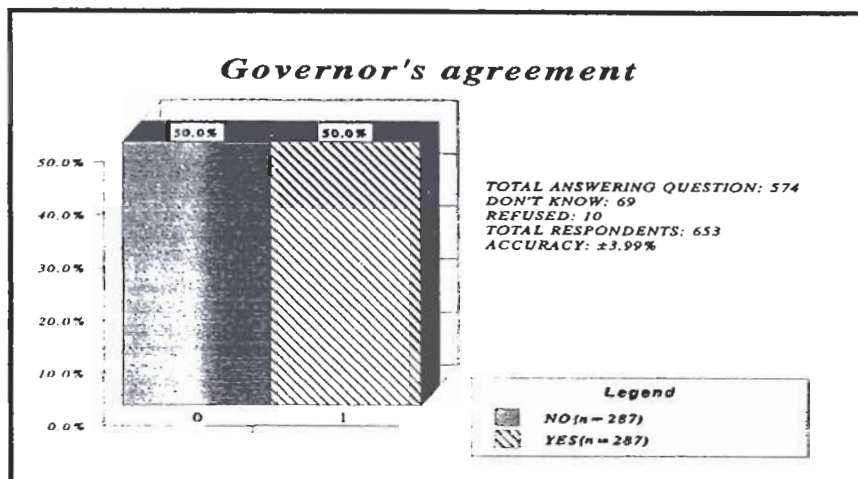


FIGURE 5: Do you believe the Governor's agreement with the U.S. Department of Energy regarding the storage and elimination of nuclear waste is in the best interest of Idaho?

- Men are more likely than women to agree that the governor's agreement is in the best interest of the state.
- Older Idahoans with higher income and education are more likely to agree than are those who are younger and have lower education and income.
- Idahoans who are members of minority groups are more likely to disagree than those who are not.
- Those from the Central Mountain region are most likely to agree while those from Northern Idaho are most likely to disagree.
- Conservative Idahoans are more likely to agree than their more liberal counterparts.

GOVERNMENT AND TAXES

The first few questions in this section on taxes and spending have been asked every year. The questions on the appropriate level of government to implement and fund public programs were last asked in 1994.

As indicated in Figure 6, the highest percentage of those surveyed said that, in general, they have most trust and confidence in the local level of government. The next most trusted level is the state, followed by none of the levels, and finally the federal government.

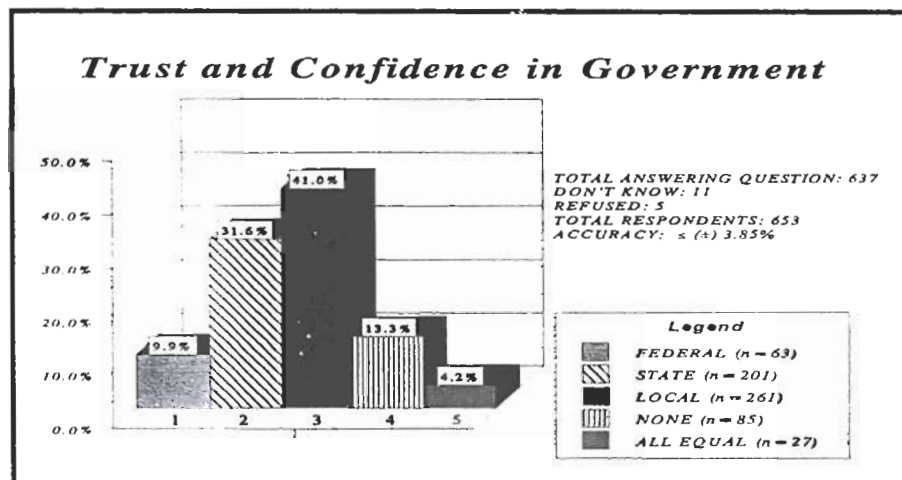


FIGURE 6: *In General, In Which Level of Government Do You Have Most Trust and Confidence?*

- As income increases, there is a slight tendency for Idahoans to have most trust and confidence in local government, whereas lower income Idahoans are slightly more likely to cite the federal government.
- With increasing education, however, Idahoans are slightly more likely to put most trust in the federal government or all levels equally than either the state or the local levels.
- Minorities are slightly more likely to place most trust in the federal government.
- Older Idahoans are more likely to place most trust in the state level or all levels equally.
- Those with longer residence in Idaho are the most likely to have most trust and confidence in the state government or all levels equally.
- Respondents in the North Central region were the most likely to report federal government and the least likely to report the local government as the levels of government in which they have most trust and confidence.
- The more liberal the respondent on social and economic issues the more likely they were to put most trust in the federal government. More conservative Idahoans favored the state and local levels about equally.

About half of all Idahoans surveyed chose the local level of government as that which best responds to their needs, as reflected in Figure 7. State government was the next most frequently indicated with the federal government chosen by about one in ten Idahoans.

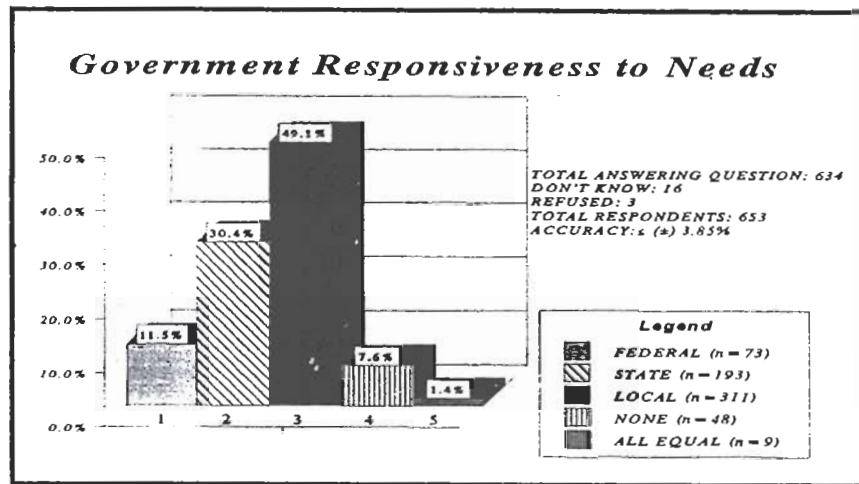


FIGURE 7: Which Level of Government Do You Think Best Responds to Your Needs?

- Idahoans who cite the state level as most responsive tend to have higher incomes than those citing other levels while those citing the local level tended to have higher incomes than those citing the federal
- Idahoans citing the federal government as most responsive tend to be older than those citing the state level while those citing the state level tend to be older than those citing the local level.
- Idahoans who believe the federal government is most responsive tend to be more liberal than other Idahoans. Idahoans who believe that the state level is most responsive do not tend to be more or less conservative than those who believe the local level is most responsive.

Survey respondents most frequently selected the local level of government as the one from which they receive the most for their taxes (Figure 8). State government was ranked second and the federal level was named by about one in six respondents.

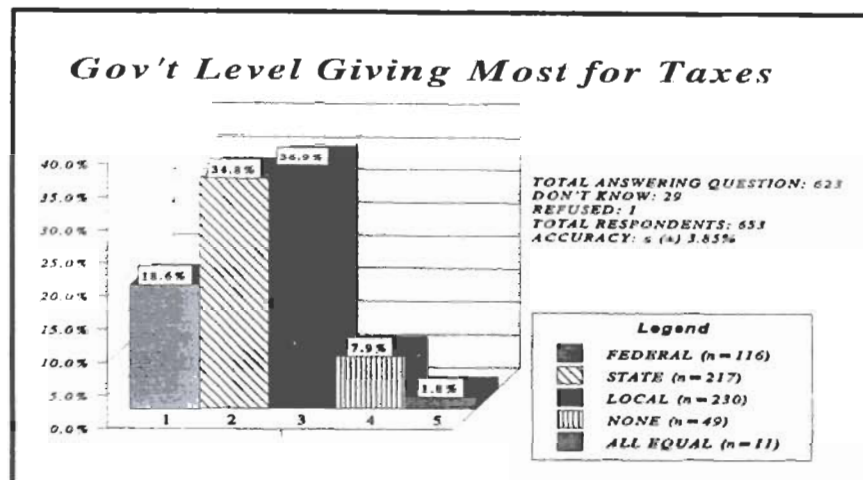


FIGURE 8: *From Which Level of Government Do You Think You Get the Most for Your Tax Money?*

- Idahoans with higher incomes were more likely to think they get the most for their tax money from local government. The lower the income, the more likely Idahoans were to say the federal government. However, those who cited no level of government have the highest incomes while those citing all levels equally had the lowest.
- Those Idahoans with a college education or higher were more likely to cite the federal government. Those citing all levels equally were most likely to have a college or higher education while those citing no level were the least likely.
- Idahoans who are members of minority groups were most likely to cite the federal government while other Idahoans are most likely to cite local government.
- There is a very slight tendency for urban Idahoans to say they get the most for their tax money from federal government and for rural Idahoans to indicate local government. Urban Idahoans were more likely to cite all levels equally and no level.
- Idahoans who have lived in Idaho longer tend to cite local government most frequently while those with the shortest residency tend to cite the federal government more often. However, those who cite all levels equally tend to have the longest residency.
- Idahoans who cited the federal government tended to be more liberal than the those who cited other levels, but those who cited the local level do not tend to be more conservative than those who cited the state government.

As shown in Figure 9, survey respondents most frequently cited the local property tax as the least fair, followed closely by those indicating federal income tax. State sales and income taxes were each selected by fewer than one in ten respondents.

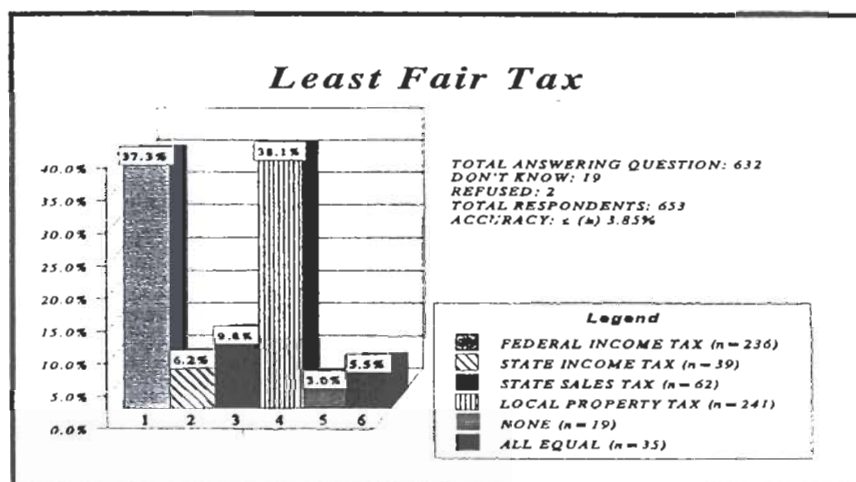


FIGURE 9: Which Tax Do You Think Is the Least Fair?

- Idahoans citing federal income tax as least fair had the highest incomes. Those citing local property taxes and state income taxes tended to have the lowest incomes.
- Those Idahoans citing local property taxes tend to be older than those citing federal income, state income, or state sales tax as least fair.
- Idahoans who believe that local property taxes are the least fair have on average 30 years of residency in the state, about two years longer than the average for the survey, while those that cited federal income taxes had lived in the state significantly less time (25 years), and those that cited state income taxes as least fair have lived in the state only about 20 years. However, those who cited state sales tax as least fair have lived in Idaho 31 years, those that cited no tax as least fair have on average 39 years of residency, and those that said all were equal averaged 37 years.
- Minority group members are more likely to cite property and state income taxes as least fair and much less likely to cite federal income tax as least fair than are other Idahoans.
- Respondents in the North Central region were the most likely to cite federal income tax as the least fair. Those in the Southwest region were the most likely to name state income tax and, together with the South Central region, to cite state sales tax. Respondents in the Panhandle region were the most likely to indicate local property tax.
- Urban Idahoans are more likely to cite state sales tax as least fair while rural people are more likely to cite federal income tax.

The next few questions asked Idahoans whether they believe the level of public spending on a variety of public programs should be increased, maintained at current levels, or decreased. Figure 10 shows that nearly two-thirds of Idahoans believe the level of spending for public education should be increased.

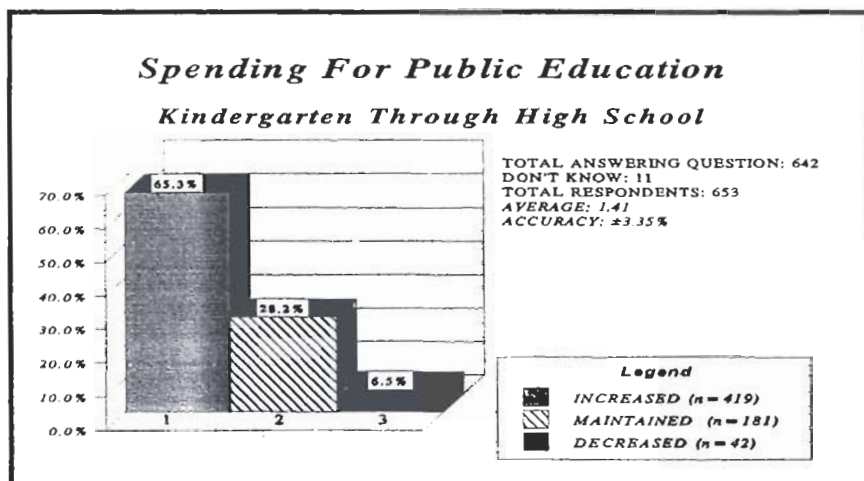


FIGURE 10: Do you think the amount Idaho now spends on public education, meaning kindergarten through high school, should be increased, maintained at present level, or decreased?

- The younger the Idahoan the more likely is the belief that spending should be increased.
- The higher the education of an Idahoan the more likely is the belief that spending should be increased.
- Idahoans in the Southwest and South Central regions are least likely to think spending should be increased while those in the Southeast and Central Mountain regions are the most likely. Northern Idaho residents fall in between.
- The more liberal an Idahoan the more likely is the belief that spending should be increased.

About half of Idahoans believe spending for higher education should be increased. They are followed closely by those who believe funding should be maintained at current levels.

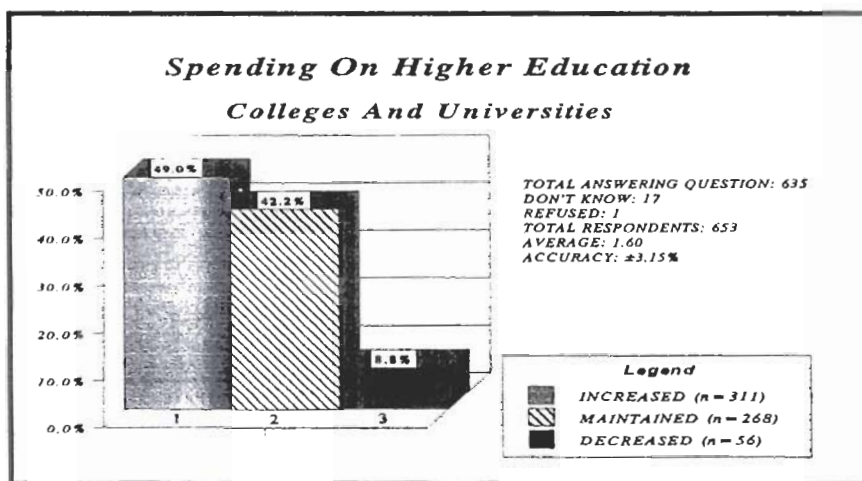


FIGURE 11: Do you think the amount Idaho now spends on higher education, meaning colleges and universities, should be increased, maintained at present level, or decreased?

- The younger the Idahoan the more likely is the belief that spending on higher education should be increased.
- Those Idahoans with college or higher education are more likely to believe spending should be increased.
- More liberal Idahoans are more likely to favor increased spending.

Idahoans are most likely to believe that spending on environmental programs should be maintained at current levels. About one-third believe spending should be increased and about one-quarter believe it should be decreased.

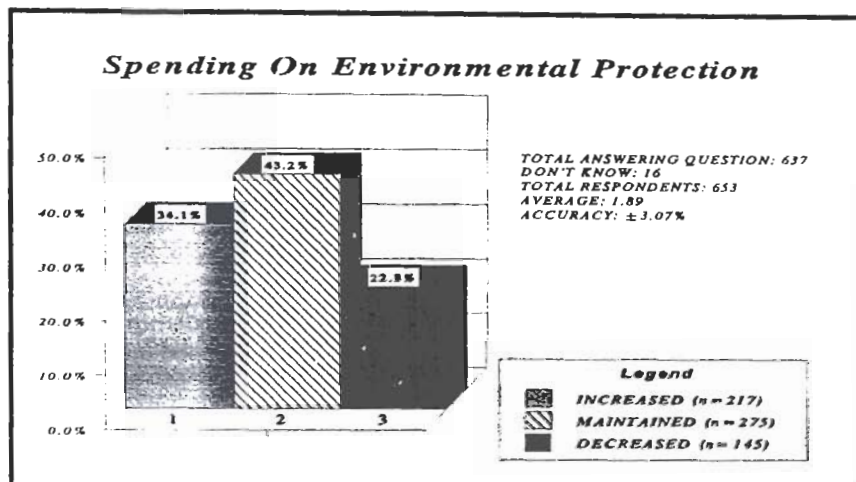


FIGURE 12: Do you think the amount Idaho now spends on environmental protection, should be increased, maintained at present level, or decreased?

- Younger Idahoans are more likely to favor increased spending on environmental protection.
- More educated Idahoans are more likely to favor increased spending on the environment.
- Idahoans who belong to minority groups are more likely to favor increased spending.
- Those with longer residence in the state tend to favor decreased spending.
- Idahoans from small towns and rural areas are more likely to favor decreased spending than those from urban and suburban areas.
- Idahoans from the Southwest, South Central and Southeast regions are more likely to favor increased spending than those from other parts of the state.
- More liberal Idahoans are more likely to favor increased spending.

More than half of Idahoans believe spending on roads should be increased, as reflected in Figure 13

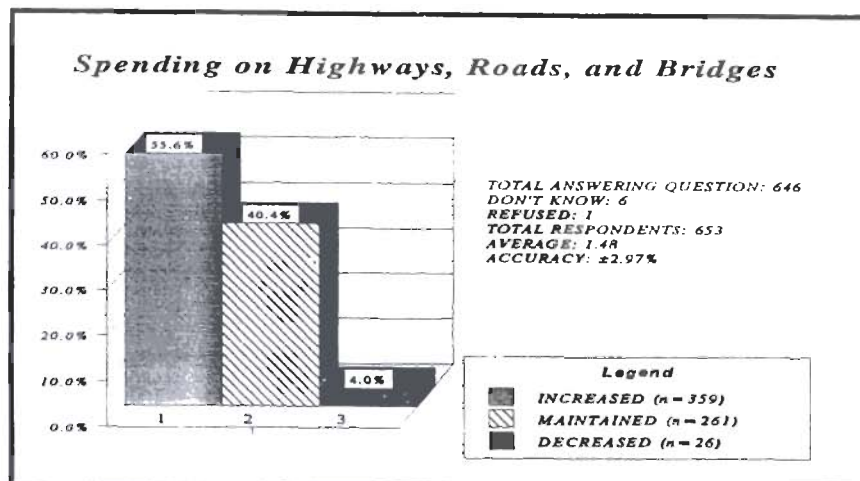


FIGURE 13: Do you think the amount Idaho now spends on highways, roads, and bridges should be increased, maintained at present levels, or decreased?

- Idahoans who favor increased spending on roads tend to be older than those who do not.
- Idahoans with higher incomes tend to favor decreased spending.
- Those with higher education favor maintaining current levels or increasing, rather than decreasing spending.
- Idahoans from small towns and rural areas tend to favor increased spending more than those from urban and suburban areas.
- Those from Northern Idaho favor increased spending more than those from other parts of the state.

Idahoans most frequently cited maintaining the current level of spending for law enforcement, as reflected in Figure 14.

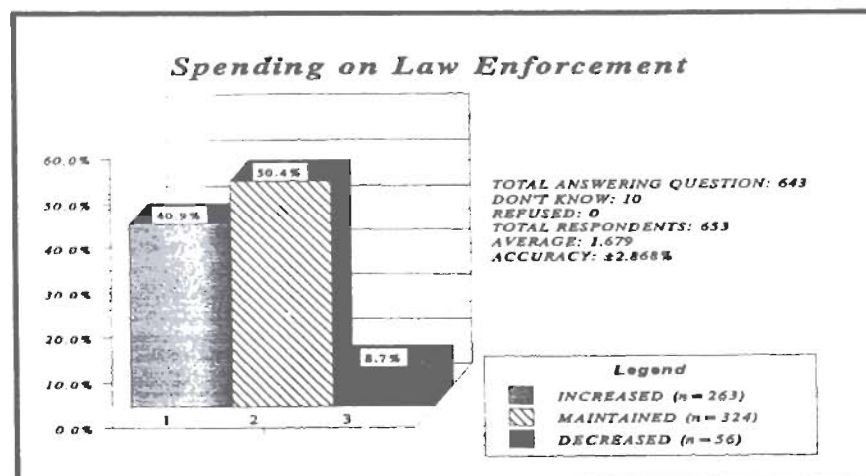


FIGURE 14: Do you think the amount Idaho now spends on Law Enforcement should be increased, maintained at present levels, or decreased?

- Women are more likely than men to favor increased spending on law enforcement.
- Idahoans with higher incomes are more likely to favor maintaining or increasing, rather than decreasing spending.
- Those with higher education are more likely to favor maintaining or decreasing, rather than increasing spending.
- Idahoans from the Southwest, South Central, and Southeast regions are more likely to favor increased spending than those from other parts of the state.
- Liberal Idahoans are more likely to favor decreased spending than those who are more conservative

About half of Idahoans favor maintaining current spending on health care for the uninsured, as reflected in Figure 15. Over twice as many favor increased spending (36 percent) as favor decreased spending (17 percent).

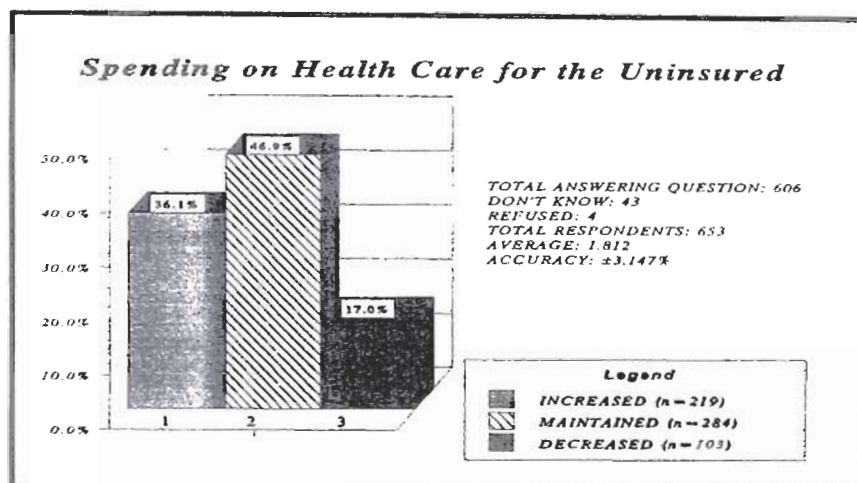


FIGURE 15: Do you think the amount Idaho spends on health care for the uninsured should be increased, maintained at present levels; or decreased?

- Women are more likely than men to favor increased spending on health care for the uninsured.
- Younger Idahoans tend to favor increased spending while older residents favor decreased spending.
- Idahoans with higher incomes are more likely to favor decreased spending and more likely to favor maintaining current spending over increased spending.
- Idahoans who are members of minority groups are more likely than others to favor increased spending.
- Those with longer residency in Idaho are more likely to favor decreased spending.
- Idahoans in the North Central and Southwest regions are more likely than others to favor increased spending. Those in the Southeast and Central Mountain regions are most likely to favor decreased spending.
- More conservative Idahoans are more likely to favor decreased spending.

The majority of Idahoans favor maintaining current levels of spending on economic development, as shown in Figure 16. Just over a quarter favor increased spending while about one in six favors decreased spending.

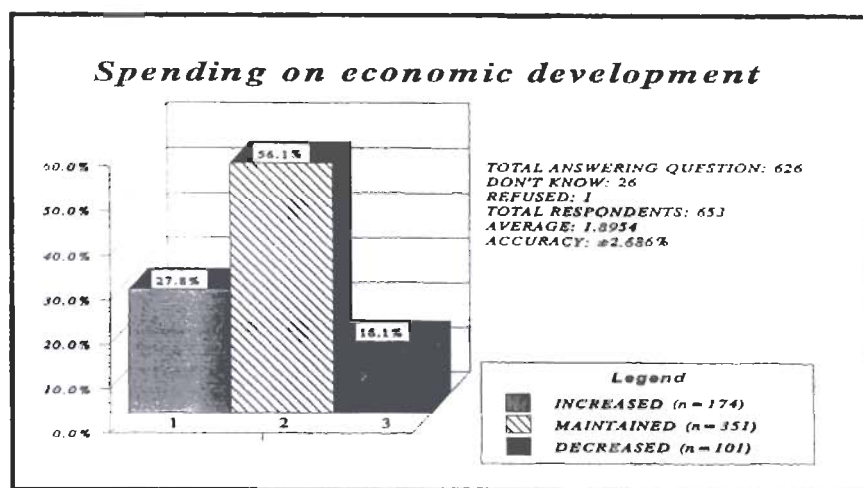


FIGURE 16: Do you think the amount Idaho spends on economic development should be increased, maintained at present levels, or decreased?

- Idahoans who believe spending on economic development should be decreased tend to have higher incomes than those who think spending should be maintained or increased. However, those who believe spending should be increased have higher incomes than those who think it should be maintained at current levels.
- Similarly, those with more education or college degrees tend to be more likely to believe spending should be decreased, but they are also more likely to favor increased spending over maintaining current spending.
- Idahoans who are members of minority groups are more likely to favor increased spending.
- Those in the North Central and Central Mountain regions are more likely to favor increased spending.

Just over half of Idahoans believe spending on aid to low income families should be maintained at current levels. The remainder of Idahoans are fairly evenly divided between increased and decreased spending (see Figure 17).

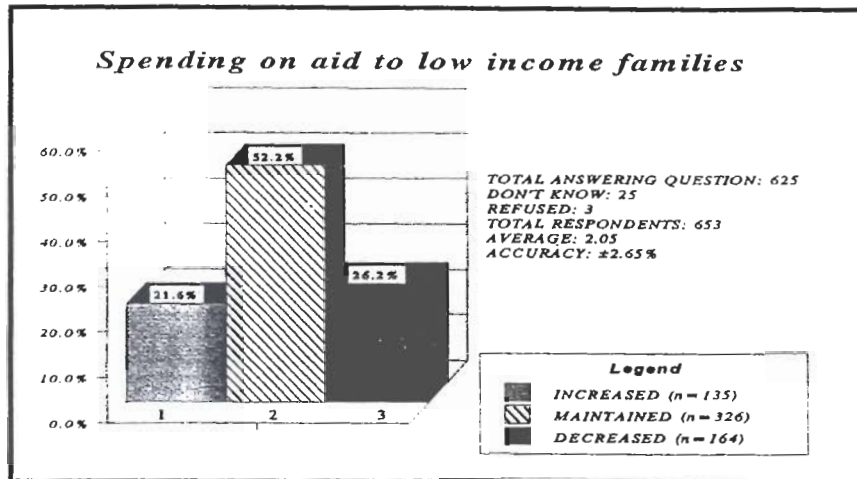


FIGURE 17: Do you think the amount Idaho now spends on aid to low income families should be increased, maintained at present levels, or decreased?

- Idahoans with higher incomes are most likely to favor decreased spending on aid to families with low incomes and least likely to favor increased spending.
- Those who favor maintaining current levels tend to have the highest education while those who favor increased spending tend to have the lowest.
- Idahoans who are minority group members tend to favor increased spending more than others.
- More conservative Idahoans are more likely to favor decreased spending

Over half of Idahoans favor maintaining current levels of spending on programs for senior citizens (see Figure 18). Slightly more than a third favor increased spending and less than one in ten favors decreased spending.

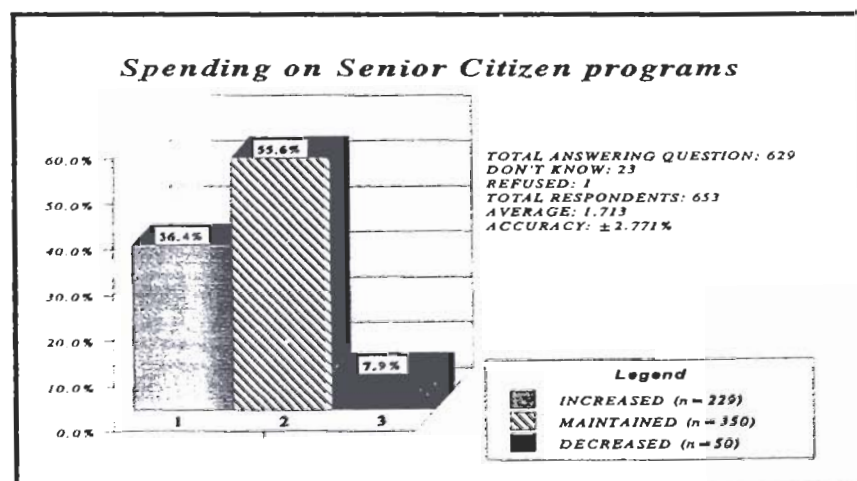


FIGURE 18: Do you think the amount Idaho now spends on Senior Citizen programs should be increased, maintained at current levels, or decreased?

- Older Idahoans are more likely to favor decreased spending on senior citizen programs.
- Wealthier Idahoans are more likely to favor decreased spending.

- More educated Idahoans are more likely to favor decreased spending.
- Idahoans who are members of minority groups are more likely to favor increased spending.
- More conservative Idahoans are more likely to favor decreased spending.

About half of Idahoans favor increased spending for child protective services (see Figure 19). Less than one in ten Idahoans favor decreased spending.

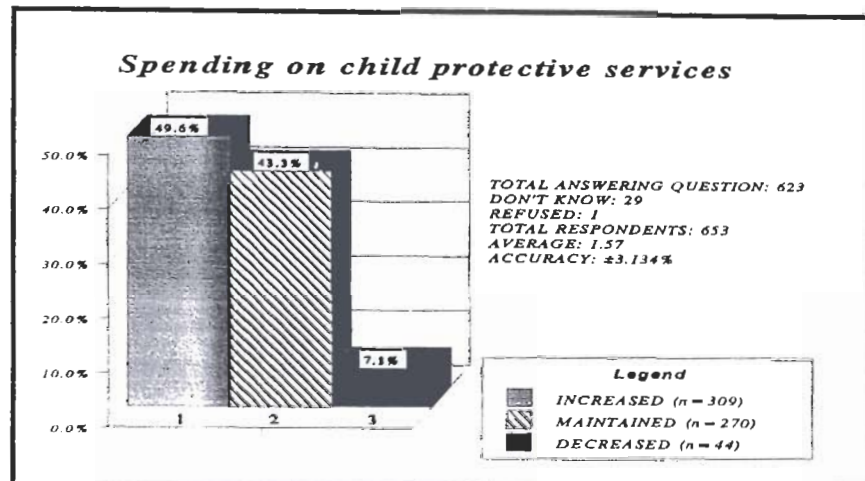


FIGURE 19: Do you think the amount Idaho now spends on child protective services should be increased, maintained at present levels, or decreased?

- Women are more likely than men to believe spending should be increased for child protective services.
- Older Idahoans are more likely to believe spending should be decreased.
- Idahoans with higher incomes are more likely to believe that spending should be decreased.
- Idahoans with higher education tend to believe spending should be maintained or reduced. Those believing that spending should be increased tend to have the least education.
- More conservative Idahoans are more likely to believe spending should be decreased.

Half of Idahoans favor maintaining current levels of spending on jails and prisons (see Figure 20). The other half of Idahoans are evenly divided between increased and decreased spending.

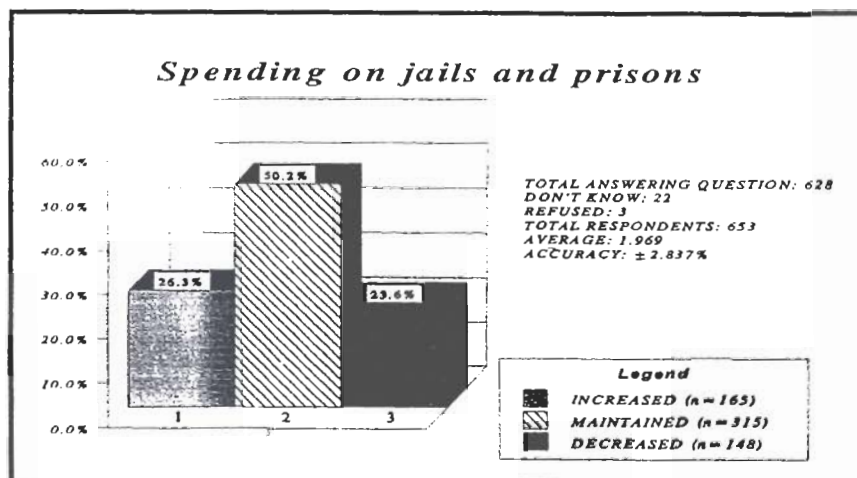


FIGURE 20: Do you think the amount Idaho now spends on jails and prisons should be increased, maintained at present levels, or decreased?

- Older Idahoans tend to believe spending on prisons should be increased.
- More conservative Idahoans tend to believe spending on prisons should be increased.

The next few questions ask about the most appropriate level of government to implement and to fund a variety of programs. As indicated in Figure 21, Idahoans are fairly evenly divided on whether the state or the federal government should implement Medicare. Few Idahoans believe that Medicare should be implemented at the local level of government.

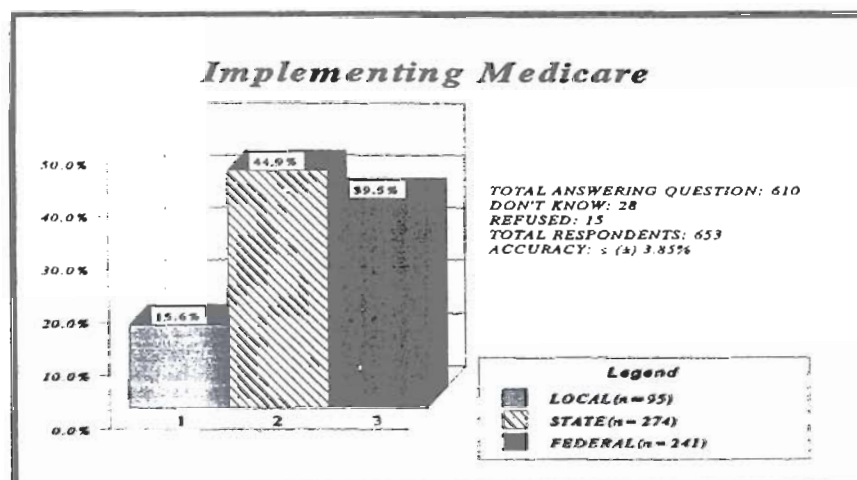


FIGURE 21: In your opinion, which level of government should have the primary responsibility for implementing Medicare?

- Men are most likely to believe that state government should implement Medicare while women were most likely to prefer the local level and they were more likely than men to prefer the federal level.
- Idahoans who indicated that the federal level of government should implement Medicare tend to be older than those who preferred other levels of government.

- Idahoans from urban locales are more likely to prefer the federal level, while those from rural locales are slightly more likely than other locales to prefer the local level.
- Idahoans who are conservative on social issues are more likely than their more liberal counterparts to prefer the local level. Given an Idahoans level of social conservatism or liberalism, however, there is no difference in preference according to the level of economic conservatism or liberalism.

A substantial majority of Idahoans believe that the state government should implement welfare programs, as shown in Figure 22.

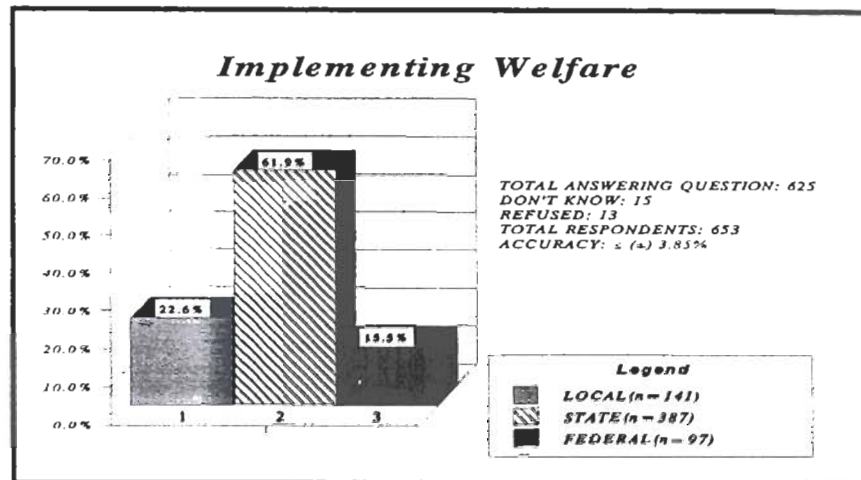


FIGURE 22: In your opinion, which level of government should have the primary responsibility for implementing Welfare?

- There is a slight tendency for women to prefer the federal level more than men and state and local government less than men.
- Older Idahoans prefer the local level most while younger Idahoans tend to prefer the federal level.
- Those with college educations are more likely than those without to prefer the federal level.
- Idahoans who are conservative on social issues are more likely than their more liberal counterparts to prefer the local level. Given an Idahoans level of social conservatism or liberalism, however, there is no difference in preference according to the level of economic conservatism or liberalism.

A substantial majority of Idahoans believe that the state government should implement public lands programs, as indicated in Figure 23.

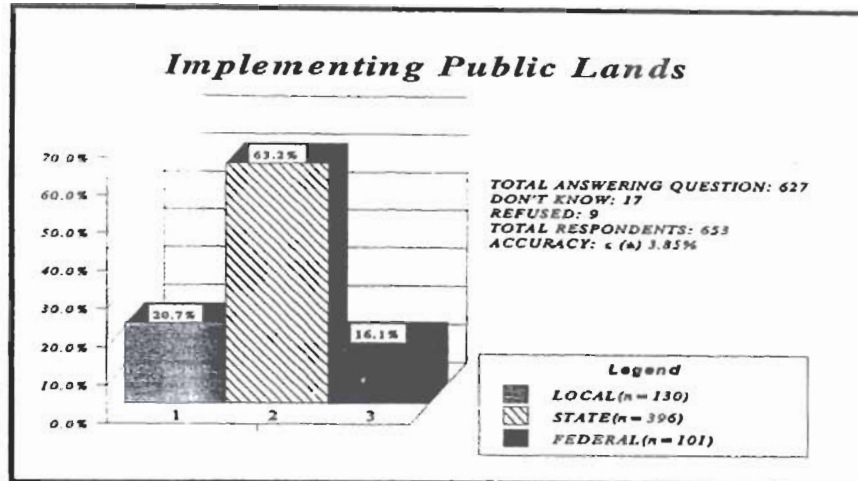


FIGURE 23: *In your opinion, which level of government should have the primary responsibility for implementing Public Lands?*

- Women are twice as likely to prefer the local level as men and almost half as likely as men to prefer the federal level.
- Older Idahoans tend to prefer the federal level.
- Idahoans with higher education tend to prefer the federal level while those with lower education tend to prefer the local level.
- Idahoans from urban locales are more likely to prefer the federal level while those from rural locales are more likely to favor the local level.
- More conservative Idahoans tend to prefer the local level while their more liberal counterparts tend to prefer the federal level.

A majority of Idahoans reported a preference for the state level of government to implement public education, as shown in Figure 24. Nearly a third preferred the federal government. Less than one in seven Idahoans preferred the local level of government.

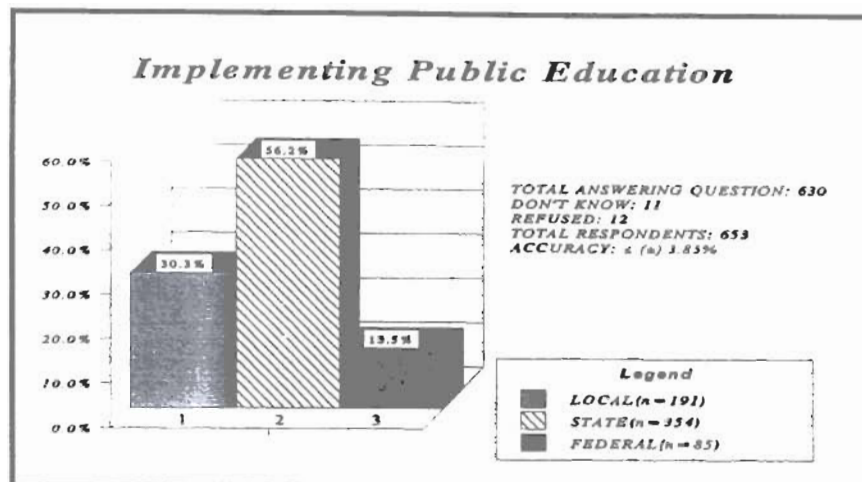


FIGURE 24: In your opinion, which level of government should have the primary responsibility for implementing Public Education?

- There is a weak tendency for women to prefer the local level more than men and for men to prefer the federal level more than women.
- Those Idahoans who prefer the state level are on average older than those who prefer the local level who in turn are older than those who prefer the federal level.
- Those with higher incomes tend to prefer the state level followed by the federal level. Those who prefer the local level tend to have less income.
- Idahoans from urban locales tend to favor the federal level while those from rural locales are more likely to favor the local level.
- Those with the longest residence and the same age tend to favor the state level more than other levels.
- Idahoans who are conservative on social issues are more likely than their more liberal counterparts to prefer the local level. Given an Idahoans level of social conservatism or liberalism, however, there is no difference in preference according to their level of economic conservatism or liberalism.

A substantial majority of Idahoans believe the federal government should fund Medicare, as indicated in Figure 25.

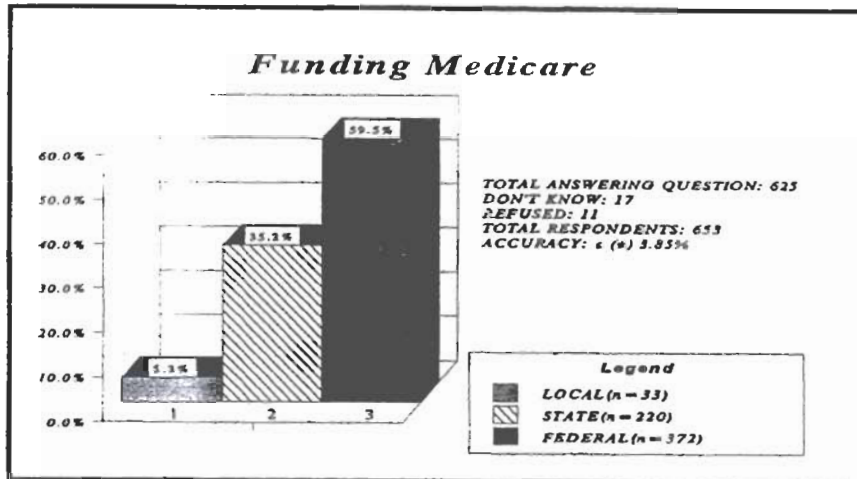


FIGURE 25: *In your opinion, which level of government should have the primary responsibility for funding Medicare?*

- Women are more likely than men to prefer the local level while men are more likely than women to select the state level.
- Older Idahoans are more likely to prefer the local level while those who prefer the state level tend to be the youngest.
- Those from urban areas are more likely than those from more rural areas to prefer the federal level while those who prefer the local level are more likely to be from rural locales.
- Those from the North Central region are most likely to prefer the federal level and least likely to prefer the local level while those from the Panhandle are least likely to prefer the federal level and most likely to prefer the local level.
- Idahoans with longer residence in the state are more likely to prefer the federal level, while those with the shortest residence are more likely to prefer the local level.
- Idahoans who are conservative on social issues are more likely than their more liberal counterparts to prefer the local level. Given an Idahoans level of social conservatism or liberalism, however, there is no difference in preference according to the level of economic conservatism or liberalism.

A majority of Idahoans believe that the state government should have the primary role in funding welfare programs, as reflected in Figure 26.

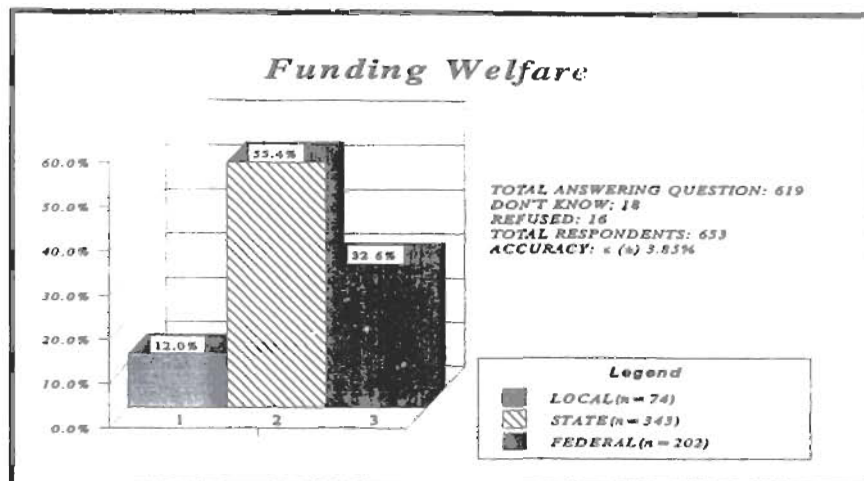


FIGURE 26: In your opinion, which level of government should have the primary responsibility for funding Welfare?

- Older Idahoans are more likely to prefer the local level while those who prefer the federal level tend to be the youngest.
- Those from urban areas are more likely than those from more rural areas to prefer the federal level while those who prefer the local level are more likely to be from rural locales.
- Those from the North Central region are most likely to prefer the federal level and least likely to prefer the local level while those from the Panhandle are least likely to prefer the federal level and most likely to prefer the local level.
- Idahoans who are conservative are more likely than their more liberal counterparts to prefer the local level while more liberal Idahoans are more likely to prefer the federal government.

As shown in Figure 27, a substantial majority of Idahoans believe that the state government should fund public lands programs.

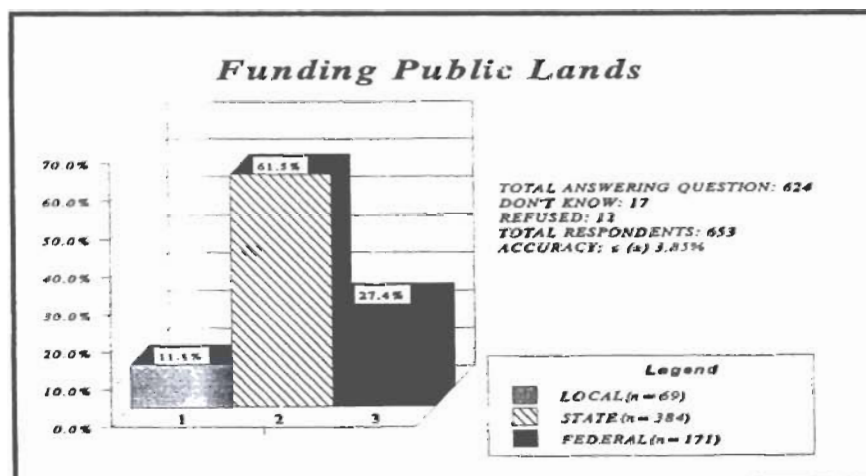


FIGURE 27: In your opinion, which level of government should have the primary responsibility for funding Public Lands?

- Women are more likely than men to prefer the local level while men are more likely to prefer the federal level.
- Older Idahoans are more likely to prefer the federal level while those who prefer the local level tend to be the youngest.
- Those with higher education are more likely to prefer the federal level while those who prefer the local level tend to have the least education.
- Those from urban areas are more likely than those from more rural areas to prefer the federal level while those who prefer the local level are more likely to be from rural locales.
- Idahoans who are conservative on social issues are more likely than their more liberal counterparts to prefer the local level. Given an Idahoans level of social conservatism or liberalism, however, there is no difference in preference according to the level of economic conservatism or liberalism.

Nearly two-thirds of Idahoans believe that the state government should have the primary responsibility for funding public education, as reflected in Figure 28.

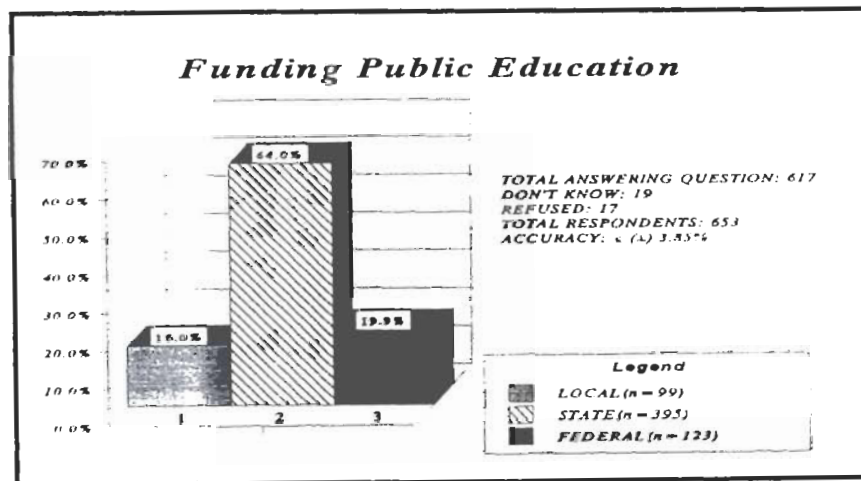


FIGURE 28: *In your opinion, which level of government should have the primary responsibility for funding Public Education (K-12)?*

- Older Idahoans are more likely to prefer the state level while those who prefer the federal level tend to be the youngest.
- Those with the highest education prefer the local level while those with the least tend to prefer the federal level.
- Idahoans who are members of minority groups tend to prefer the state level most and the local level the least.
- Idahoans who are conservative on social issues are more likely than their more liberal counterparts to prefer the local level. Given an Idahoans level of social conservatism or liberalism, however, there is no difference in preference according to the level of economic conservatism or liberalism.

ROAD ACCESS DURING HUNTING SEASON, AND HUNTER ORANGE

This year, BSU asked a series of special questions pertaining to public opinion about issues related to state policies concerning the closure of state roads during hunting season. State roads are closed during hunting seasons for a variety of management reasons. The issues we asked about this year concern whether more or less road closures should be instituted and what kind of access should be permitted when roads are closed to cars and trucks. Because these issues affect hunters more than other Idahoans, we asked each respondent whether they had hunted during the last two years. The views of Idahoans who hunt and those who do not are compared for each question in this section. The last question in this section asked whether Idahoans would support a requirement to wear blaze orange while hunting big-game species.

Figure 29 shows that approximately one-third of all Idahoans hunted during the past two years.

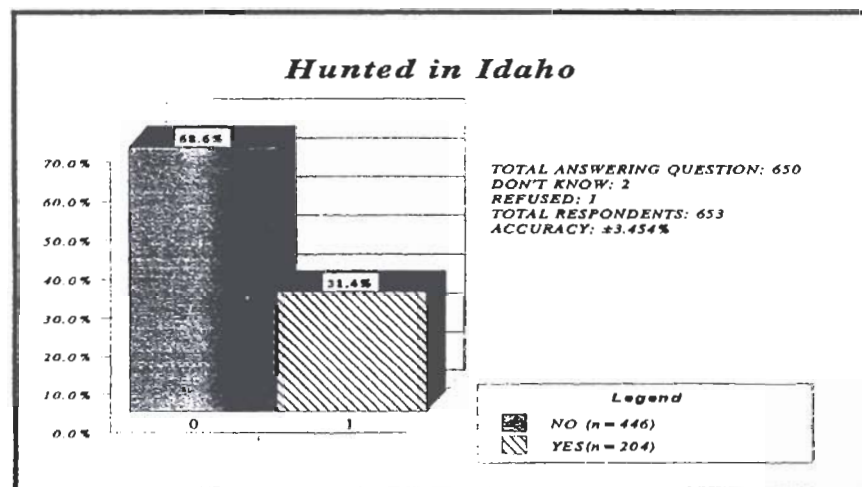


FIGURE 29: Did you hunt in Idaho during the past two years?

- Nearly half (48 percent) of men hunted in the last two years and men are about 2.5 times more likely to hunt than are women.
- Idahoans who hunt are on average younger by about 4 years than are those who do not.
- Idahoans from small towns and rural areas are more likely to hunt than those from urban and suburban areas.
- Idahoans from the North Central, followed by the Panhandle and the Central Mountain regions, are more likely to hunt than those from other regions.
- Idahoans who are very conservative on social issues tend to be more likely to hunt than others, whereas those who hunt are equally likely to be conservative or liberal on economic issues. However, the survey showed that those who are socially conservative and economically liberal, or economically conservative and socially moderate are also very likely to hunt.

As shown in the figure below, more than two-thirds of Idahoans would oppose the use of motorized off-road vehicles such as ATVs or motorcycles when roads are closed to cars and trucks.

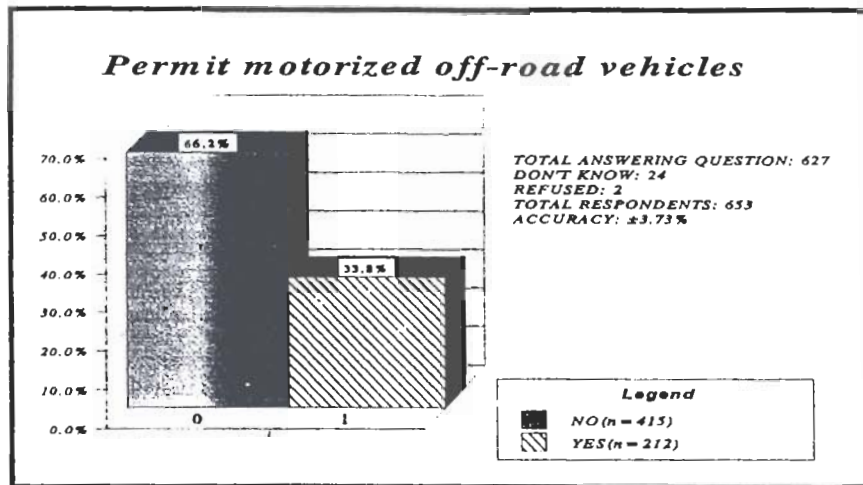


FIGURE 30: When roads are closed to cars and trucks during hunting season, should Idaho permit motorized off-road vehicles, such as trail bikes and ATVs?

- Idaho hunters and non-hunters do not differ with respect to whether motorcycles and ATVs should be permitted.
- Older Idahoans are more likely to say no.
- More educated Idahoans are more likely to say no.
- Idahoans with longer residency are more likely to say no.

Similarly, two-thirds of Idahoans support the use of non-motorized vehicles such as bicycles during road closures (see Figure 31).

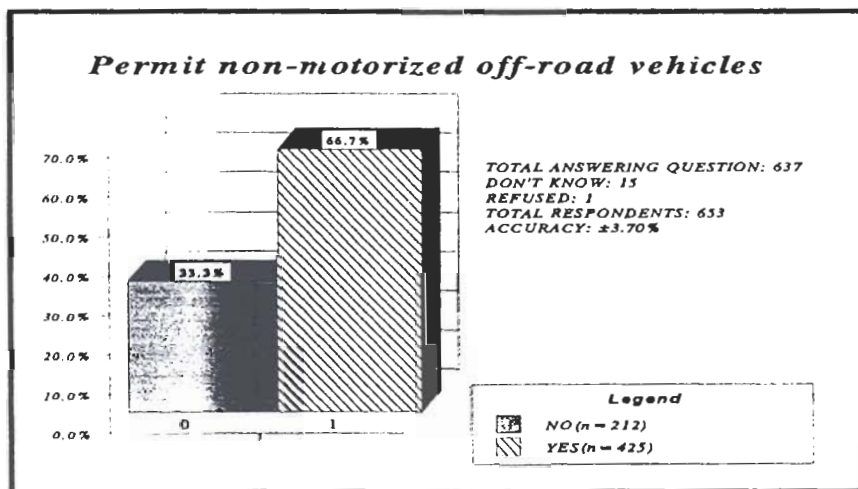


FIGURE 31: When roads are closed to cars and trucks during hunting seasons, should Idaho permit non-motorized off-road vehicles, such as mountain bikes?

- Idaho hunters and non-hunters do not differ with respect to whether non-motorized vehicles should be permitted.
- Women are more likely to say no.

- Older Idahoans are more likely to say no.
- Idahoans with higher education are more likely to say yes.
- Idahoans with longer residency are more likely to say no.

More than nine out of ten Idahoans support access to pack stock such as horses and mules during road closures (see Figure 32).

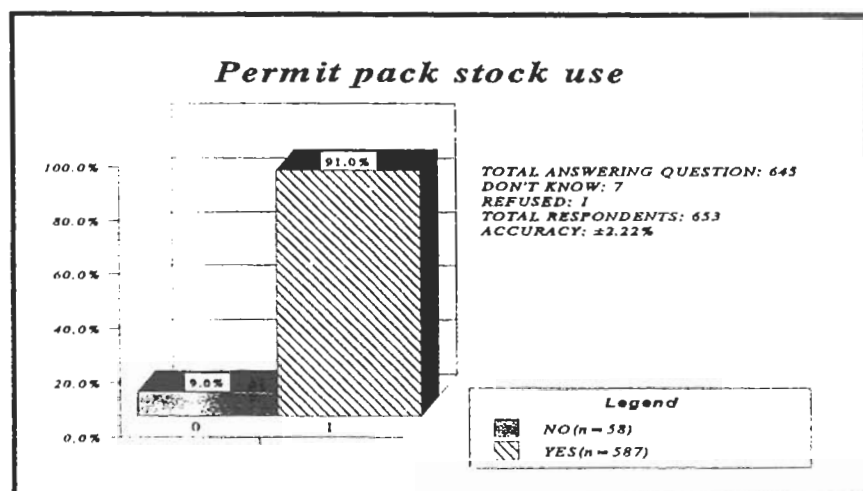


FIGURE 32: When roads are closed to cars and trucks during hunting season, should Idaho permit pack stock use, such as horses, mules, goats, and llamas?

- Idaho hunters are more likely than non-hunters to agree that pack stock should be permitted.
- Women are more likely than men to say no.

There is almost no disagreement that foot traffic should be permitted during road closures (see Figure 33).

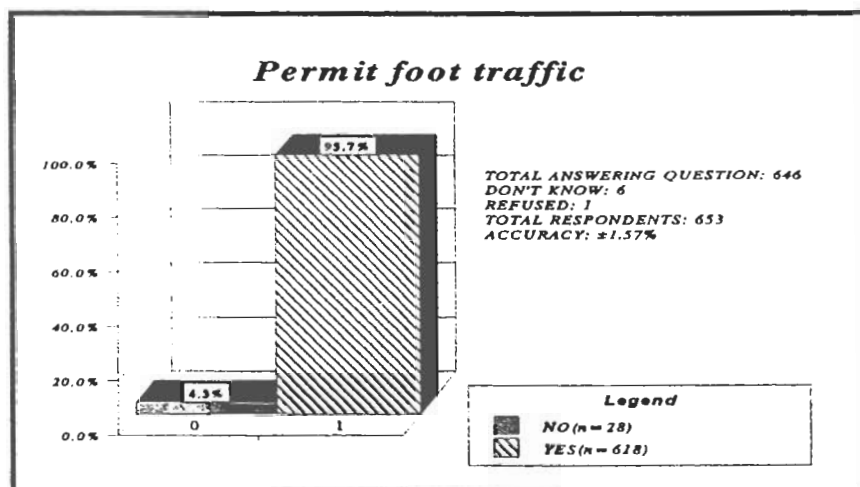


FIGURE 33: When roads are closed to cars and trucks during hunting season, should Idaho permit foot traffic?

- Idaho hunters are more likely than non-hunters to agree that foot traffic should be permitted.
- Women are more likely to say no.
- Idahoans with higher incomes are more likely to agree.

More than two-thirds of Idahoans would support limitations on the use of motorized vehicles off of roads in small geographic areas during hunting seasons (see Figure 34).

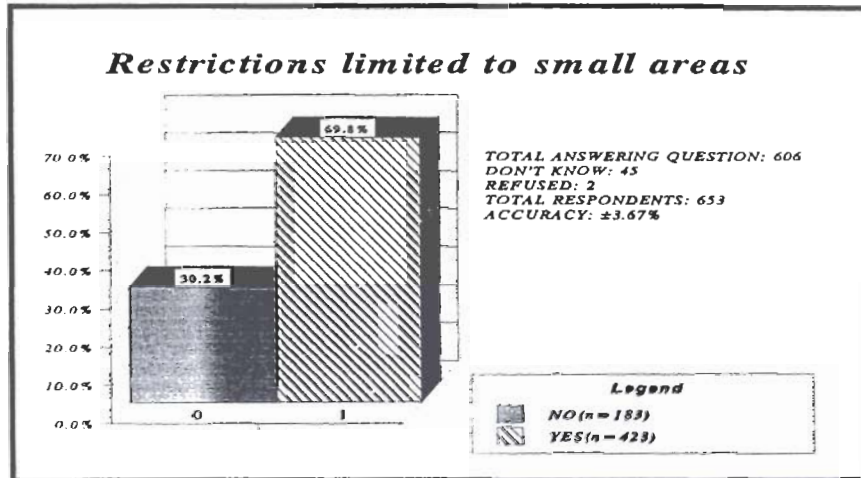


FIGURE 34: Would you support restrictions for using motorized vehicles off roads limited to small geographic areas?

- Idaho hunters are more likely to disagree than non-hunters, but 65 percent of hunters agree.
- Women are more likely than men to agree.
- Idahoans who are conservative on social issues are more likely to disagree.

Over seventy percent of Idahoans would support restrictions on the use of motorized vehicles off of the roads during hunting season in large geographic areas such as watersheds or entire game management units. The state of Idaho is divided into approximately 91 distinct game management units which are the geographic areas used for managing wildlife populations.

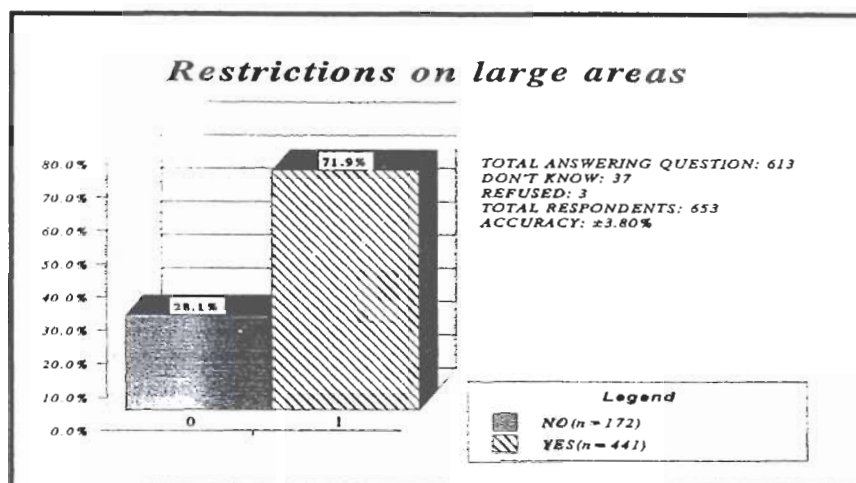


FIGURE 35: Would you support restrictions on the use of motorized vehicles off roads in large geographic areas such as watersheds or game management units?

- Idaho hunters and non-hunters do not differ with respect to whether restrictions on motorized vehicle use in large areas should be adopted.
- Women are more likely to agree than are men.
- Idahoans who are conservative on social issues are more likely to disagree.

More than seventy percent of Idahoans would support restrictions on the type of motorized vehicles permitted off of roads such as motorcycles or snow machines (see Figure 36).

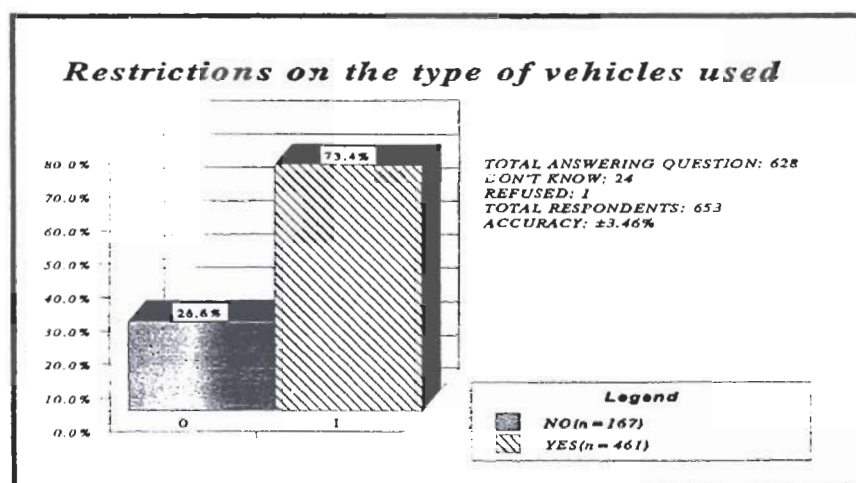


FIGURE 36: Would you support restrictions on the type of motorized vehicles used off-road, such as motorcycles or snow machines?

- Idaho hunters are more likely to disagree than non-hunters with restrictions based on the type of motorized vehicle permitted, yet more than two-thirds of hunters agree.
- Women are more likely to agree than are men.
- Idahoans with higher incomes are more likely to agree.
- Those with more education are more likely to agree.

- Conservative Idahoans tend to be more likely to say no, but there is a tendency for those who are socially conservative and economically more liberal, and those who are economically conservative and socially more liberal to be more opposed than either dimension alone.

As indicated in the figure below, nearly three-fourths of Idahoans would support restrictions on the number of motorized vehicles used off of roads in selected areas.

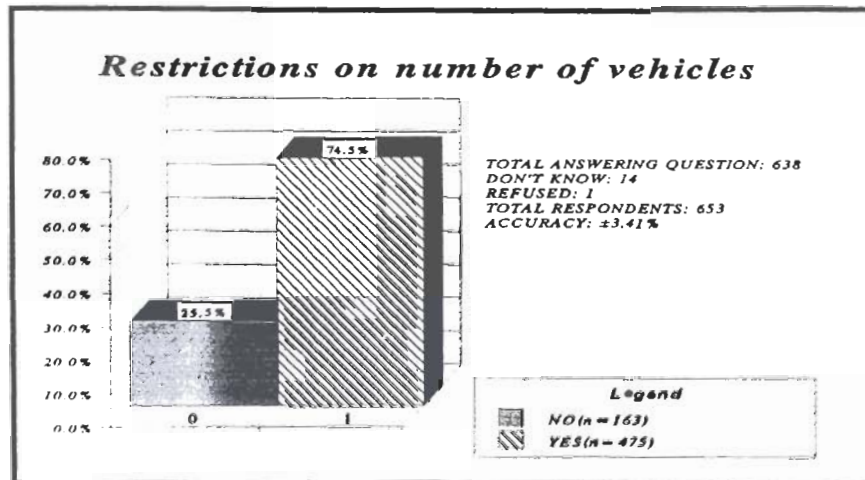


FIGURE 37: Would you support restrictions on the number of motorized vehicles used off-road in selected areas?

- Idaho hunters are more likely than non-hunters to oppose restrictions on the number of motorized vehicles permitted off-road in selected areas. Yet, two-thirds of Idaho hunters support such a policy.
- Women are more likely to agree.
- Conservative Idahoans are more likely to disagree.

Two-thirds of Idahoans would support restrictions on the hours of use of motorized vehicles off of roads, as shown in Figure 38.

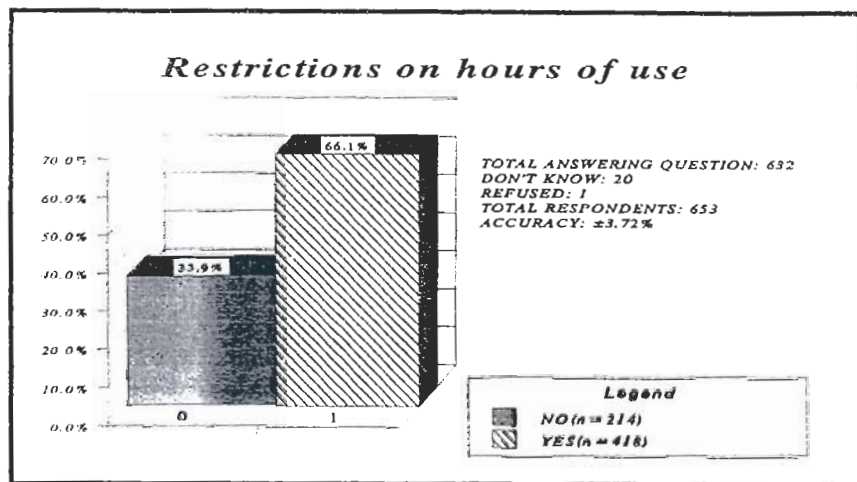


FIGURE 38: Would you support restrictions on the hours of motorized vehicle use off-roads?

- Idaho hunters are almost 1.5 times more likely not to support restrictions on the hours of motorized vehicle use, yet just over half of Idaho hunters agree.
- Women are more likely to agree than are men.
- Older Idahoans are more likely than those who are younger to agree.
- Idahoans who are conservative on social issues are more likely to disagree than are other Idahoans.

As shown in the figure below, Idahoans are fairly evenly divided on whether firearm transport should be restricted in selected areas although a slim majority would support such a measure.

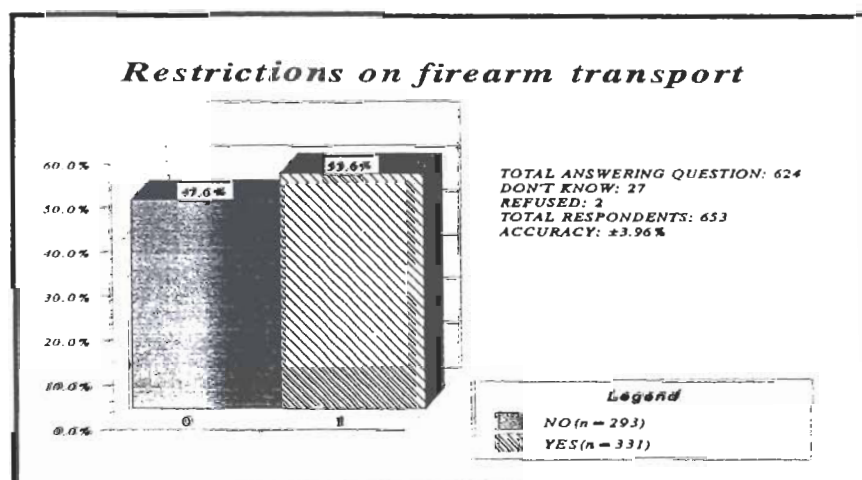


FIGURE 39: Would you support restrictions on firearm transport in motorized vehicles in selected areas?

- Idaho hunters are about twice as likely to oppose restrictions on firearm transport than are other Idahoans. Two-thirds of Idaho hunters oppose this measure.
- Women are almost twice as likely as men to agree.

- Older Idahoans are more likely to agree.
- The more rural the place of residence the more likely an Idahoan will disagree
- Idahoans who are conservative on social issues are more likely to disagree.

As shown in the figure below, in order to promote longer hunting seasons and more mature animals, a substantial majority of Idahoans would support more restrictions on motorized vehicles even if that would mean more difficult access to public lands.

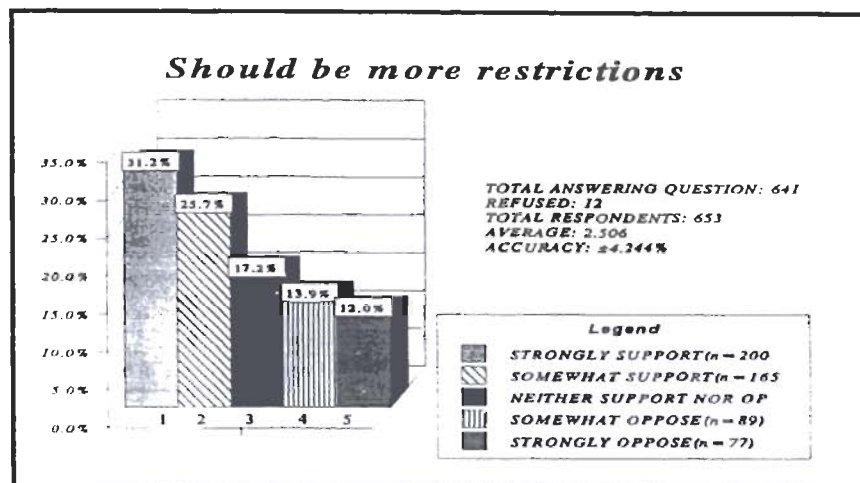


FIGURE 40: *There should be more restrictions on motorized vehicles to promote longer hunting season or more mature animals, even if that means more difficult access.*

- Hunters and non-hunters in Idaho do not differ with respect to whether more restrictions on motor vehicle use should be adopted to promote longer hunting seasons even if that means more difficult access.
- The longer a resident has lived in Idaho the more likely they are to oppose such restrictions

A substantial majority of Idahoans would not support fewer restrictions on motorized vehicle use in order to promote easier access if shorter hunting seasons or less mature animals would result.

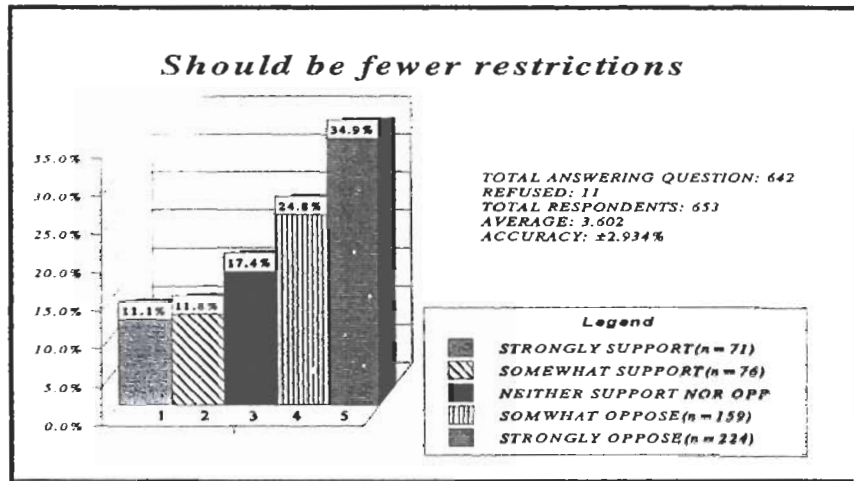


FIGURE 41: *There should be fewer restrictions on motorized vehicles to promote easier access, even if that means shorter hunting seasons or less mature animals.*

- Idaho's hunters and non-hunters do not differ with respect to whether less motor vehicle restrictions should be adopted to promote greater access.
- Older Idahoans are more likely to disagree than are those who are younger.
- The longer the residence in Idaho the more likely that this proposal will be supported.

As shown in the figure below, only about one in five Idahoans would oppose the mandatory use of hunter orange during hunting seasons.

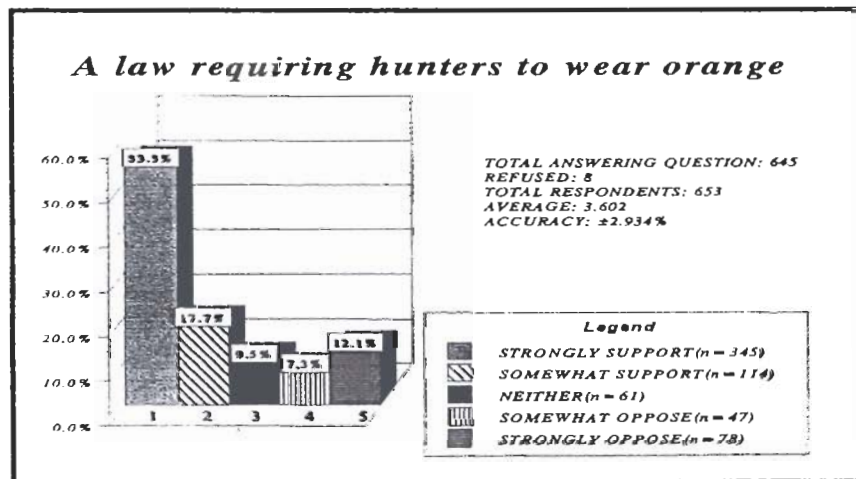


FIGURE 42: *Would you support or oppose a law requiring hunters to wear at least 400 square inches of solid hunter orange on the head, chest, and back, with the exception of those for waterfowl, turkeys, sandhill cranes, or crows?*

- Non-hunters are almost 1.5 times more likely to oppose mandatory use of hunter-orange than other Idahoans, yet more than half of Idaho's hunters support this measure.
- Women are more likely to support mandatory use of hunter orange than are men
- The more rural the place of residence the more likely an Idahoan is to oppose this measure.
- Those from Northern Idaho are more likely to disagree than those from other regions of Idaho.

ADULT AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

This year, BSU asked a series of special questions pertaining to public opinion about issues related to adult and vocational education. As shown in the figure below, over three-quarters of Idahoans believe that more attention should be given to upgrading the skills of adults already employed or seeking employment.

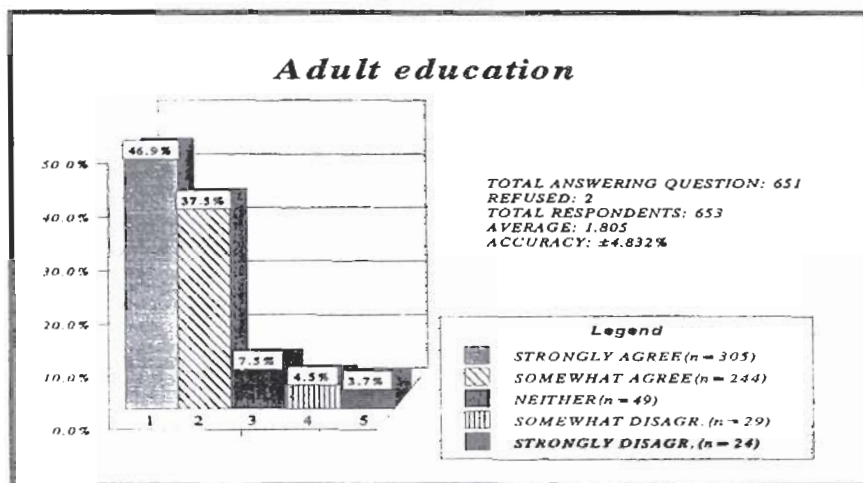


FIGURE 43: *More attention should be given to upgrading the skills of adults already in, or seeking to enter, the work force.*

- Idahoans with higher incomes are slightly more likely to disagree that more attention should be given to upgrading the skills of adults.
- Idahoans who are members of minority groups are more likely to agree than others.
- There is a tendency for Idahoans who are very conservative on economic issues but more liberal on social issues to disagree. Those who are very conservative on social issues but more liberal on economic issues tend to agree.

Nearly one-half of Idahoans believe they will need additional training in the next twelve months in order to maintain or advance their employment (see Figure 44).

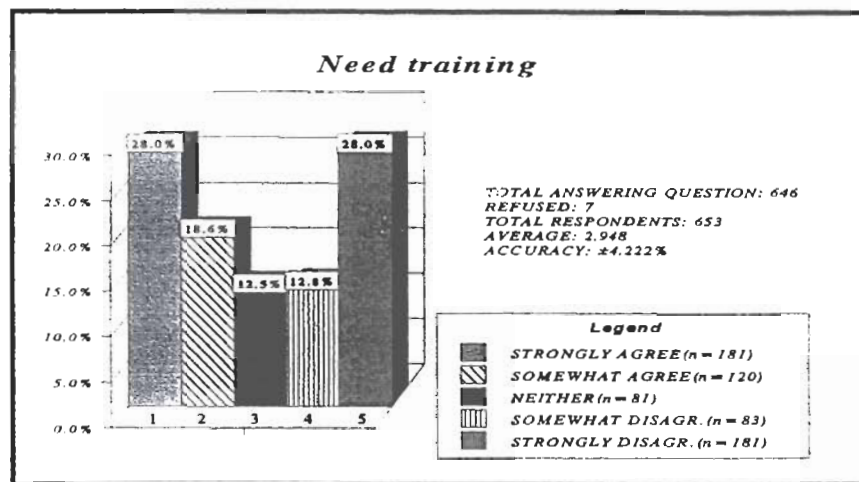


FIGURE 44: Do you think you will need to obtain further training in the next twelve months to maintain your current employment or to obtain new employment?

- Younger Idahoans are more likely to agree that they will need additional training.
- Surprisingly, perhaps, there is no tendency for the need for additional education to differ according to how much education or income a respondent has.
- Idahoans who are members of minority groups are more likely to believe they will need additional education.
- The longer an Idahoan has lived in the state the less likely they are to believe they need additional education even among those of the same age.

A substantial majority of Idahoans agree that high school students currently receive adequate opportunities to move into technical education at the college level (see Figure 45).

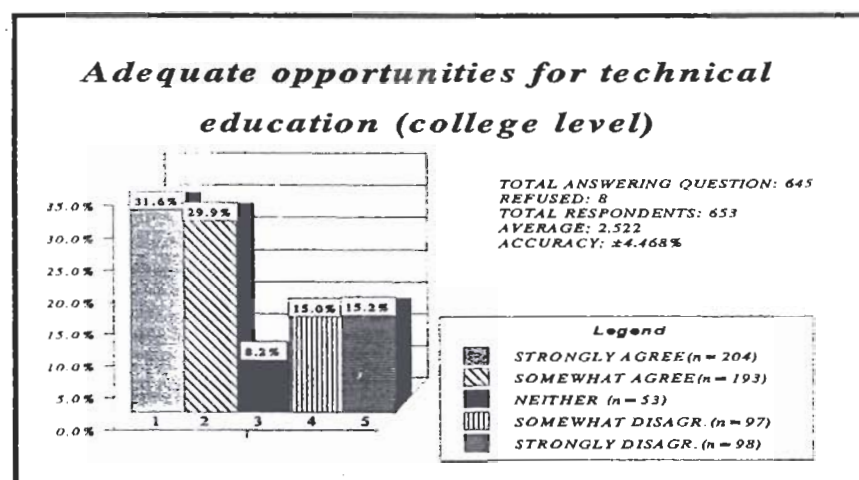


FIGURE 45: Students in high school have adequate opportunities to move into technical education at the college level.

- Idahoans with higher education are more likely to disagree that high school students currently have adequate opportunities to move into technical education at the college level.
- Those who are conservative on economic issues are more likely to agree while more liberal Idahoans are likely to disagree.

A substantial majority of Idahoans agree that high school students have adequate opportunities for vocational education in high school (see Figure 46).

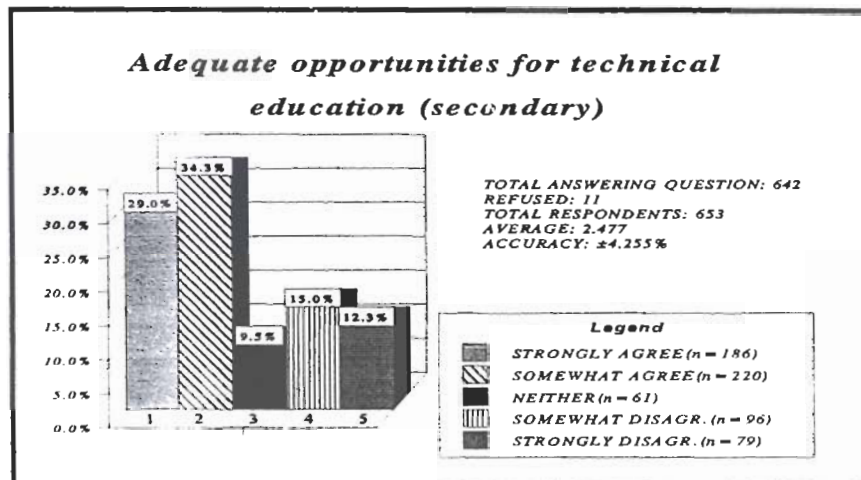


FIGURE 46: Students in high school have adequate opportunities to participate in secondary vocational-technical education.

- Idahoans with higher incomes tend to disagree while those with less education are more likely to agree.
- The more rural the place of residence the more likely it is that an Idahoan will disagree.
- Those from Northern Idaho are more likely to disagree than are Idahoans from other parts of the state.
- There is slight tendency for Idahoans with longer residency to disagree that high school students have adequate opportunities to participate in vocational education.
- Idahoans who are conservative on social issues are likely to agree while their liberal counterparts are likely to disagree.

Over three-quarters of Idahoans would agree that more work-based credit should be made available to high school students (see Figure 47).

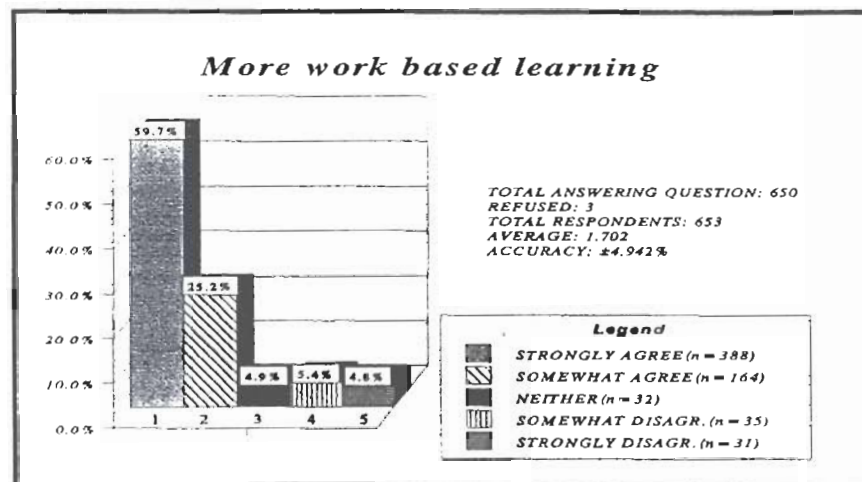


FIGURE 47: *More work based learning experiences for credit should be made available to students in high school.*

- Women are more likely than men to agree that more work-based credit should be available to high school students.
- Older Idahoans and those with higher education and income are more likely to disagree than their younger and less wealthy counterparts with less education
- Idahoans who are members of minority groups are slightly more likely to agree than others.
- Those from the North Central and Southwest regions are slightly more likely to disagree than Idahoans from other regions in the state.
- Those with longer residency in Idaho are slightly more likely to agree.
- Those Idahoans who are liberal on economic issues tend to disagree while those who are liberal on social issues tend to agree.

There is little disagreement that business should be more involved in public education (see Figure 48).

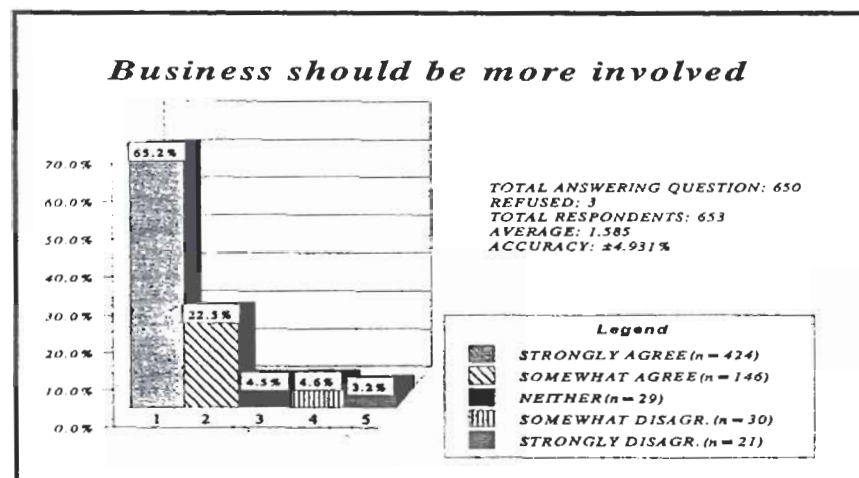


FIGURE 48: *Business should become more involved with public education.*

- Women are more likely to agree than men that business should be more involved in the schools.
- Idahoans with higher incomes are more likely to disagree than those with lower incomes.

Similarly, there is little disagreement that Idaho needs to ensure opportunities for high school students to obtain vocational education (see Figure 49).

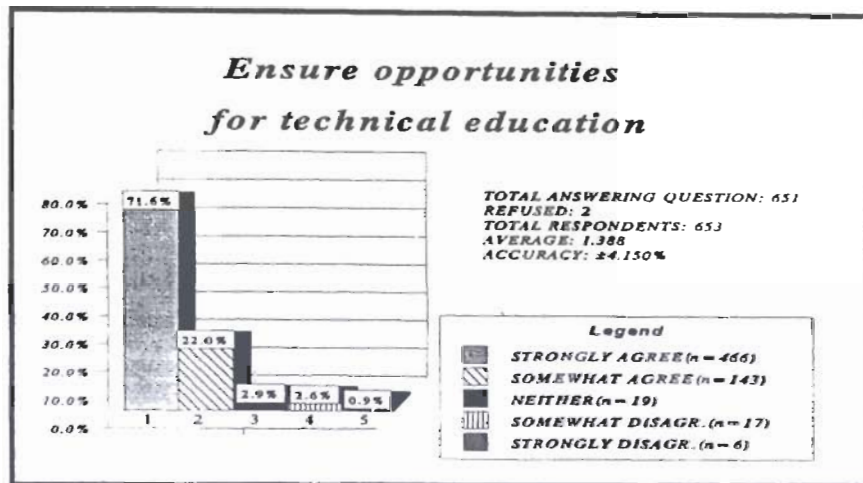


FIGURE 49: *Idaho needs to ensure that students have opportunities to participate in vocational-technical education.*

- Women are more likely than men to agree that Idaho needs to ensure opportunities to participate in vocational education.
- Idahoans with higher education and income are more likely to disagree than those with lower education and income. However, those who are uncertain tend to have the lowest incomes.
- More conservative Idahoans are more likely to disagree.

There is little disagreement that vocational education degrees and certificates promote rewarding careers.

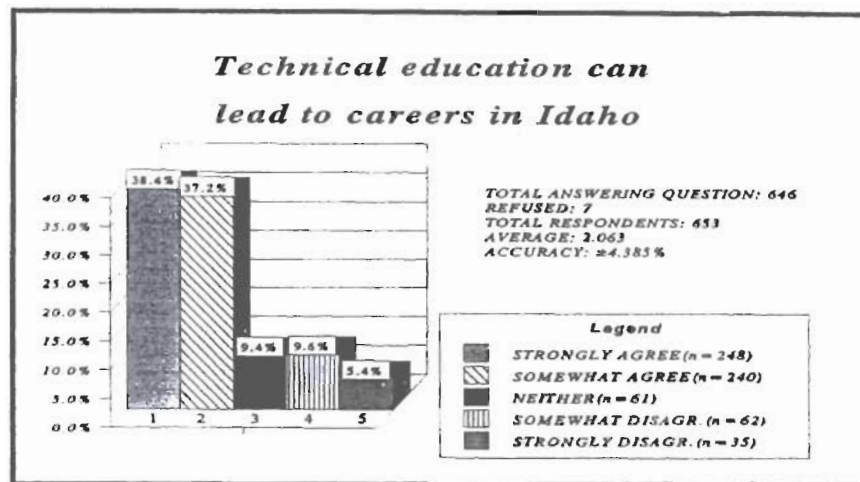


FIGURE 50: Vocational-technical education degrees and certificates can lead to challenging high-paying careers in Idaho.

- Older Idahoans are more likely to agree than younger Idahoans that vocational education can lead to high-paying careers in Idaho.
- Northern Idaho residents are more likely to disagree than those from other parts of the state.

IDAHOANS WITH DISABILITIES

This year, BSU asked a series of special questions pertaining to public opinion about issues related to the extent to which Idahoans have the opportunity to meet and interact with Idahoans with disabilities. Of specific concern in this section is the extent to which Idahoans with disabilities are able to interact with other Idahoans and the extent to which Idahoans believe children with disabilities should be integrated with other children in school activities. Figure 51 shows that three-quarters of Idahoans are exposed to and have contact with people with disabilities.

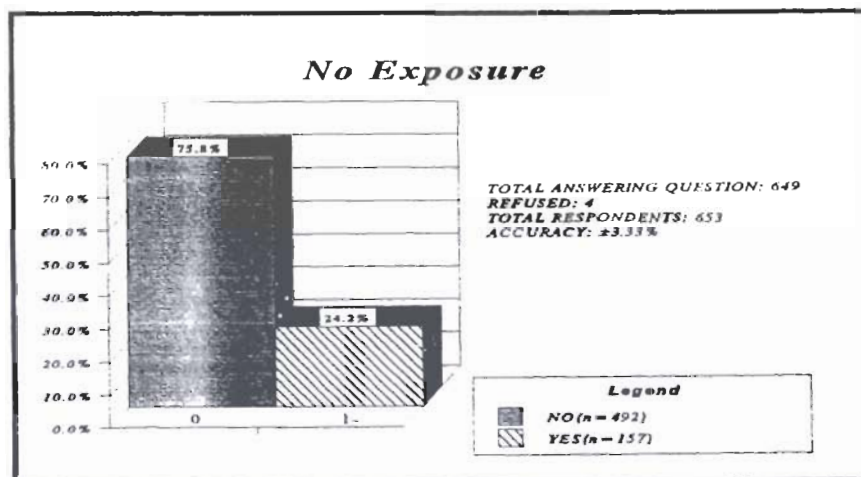


FIGURE 51: I have no exposure or contact with people with disabilities.

- Women are more likely than men to report exposure or contact with people with disabilities.

- Younger Idahoans and those with higher education are also more likely to report exposure and contact while Idahoans who are minority group members are less likely to report exposure and contact.
- Liberal Idahoans are more likely than conservatives to report exposure and contact with people with disabilities.

As shown in the figure below, Idahoans have the opportunity to interact with people with disabilities whom they meet.

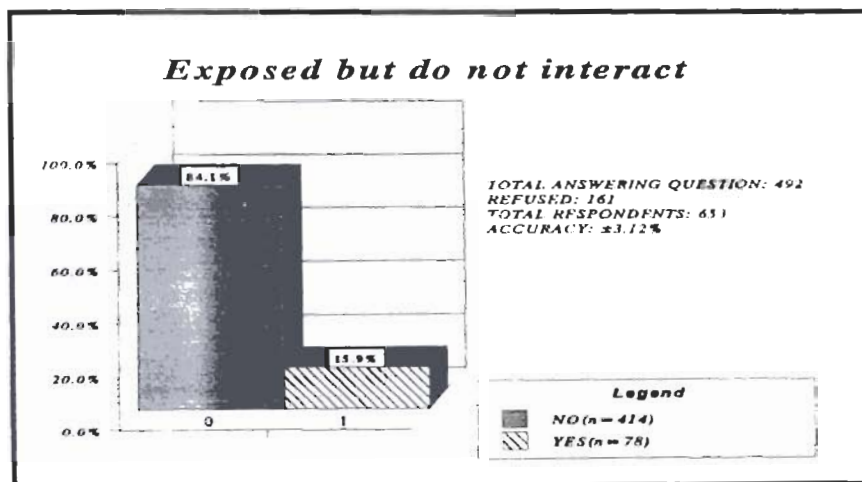


FIGURE 52: *I am exposed to people with disabilities but do not interact.*

- Those with higher education are more likely to report interaction with people with disabilities
- Idahoans from the Panhandle region are less likely to report interaction with people with disabilities than those from other parts of the state.
- Idahoans who are conservative on economic issues report interaction less frequently than do those who are economically liberal.

The survey results indicated that Idahoans overwhelmingly do interact with people with disabilities whom they meet.

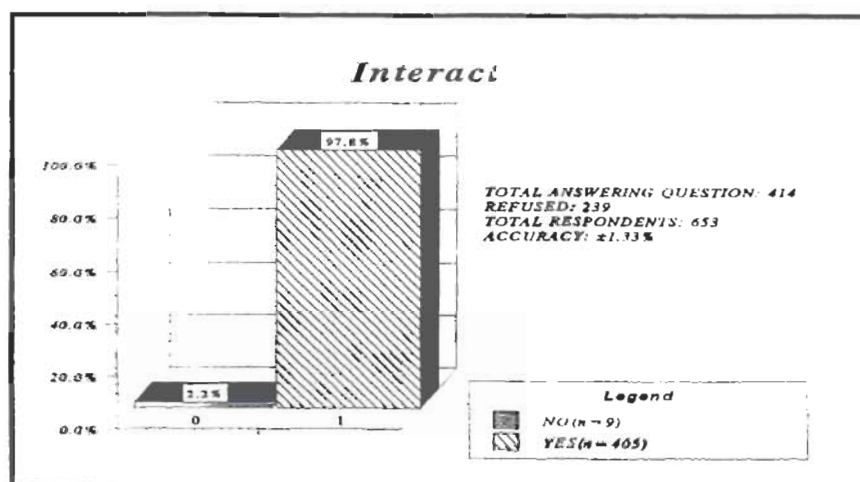


FIGURE 53: *I interact with people with disabilities as I meet them.*

- Idahoans do not differ with respect to whether they interact with people with disabilities when they meet.

Almost all Idahoans know someone with a disability (see Figure 54).

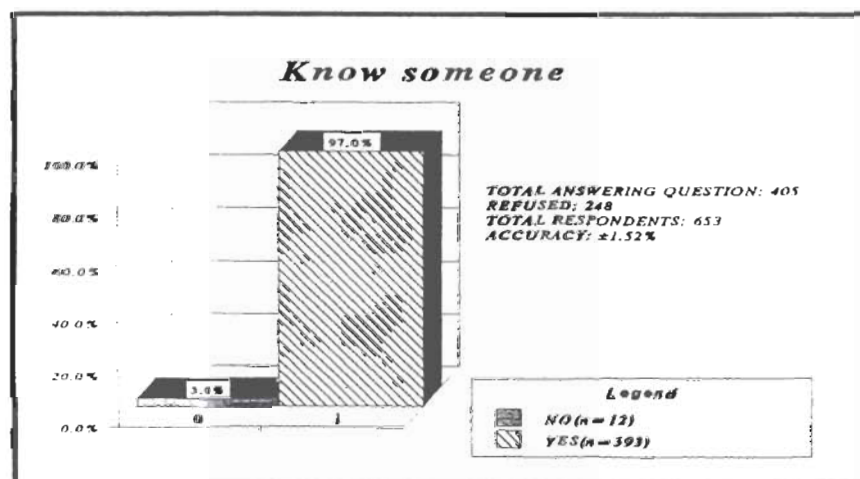


FIGURE 54: *I know someone with a disability.*

- Older Idahoans are more likely than those who are younger to know someone with a disability.

Over three-quarters of Idahoans report having a friend with a disability (see Figure 55).

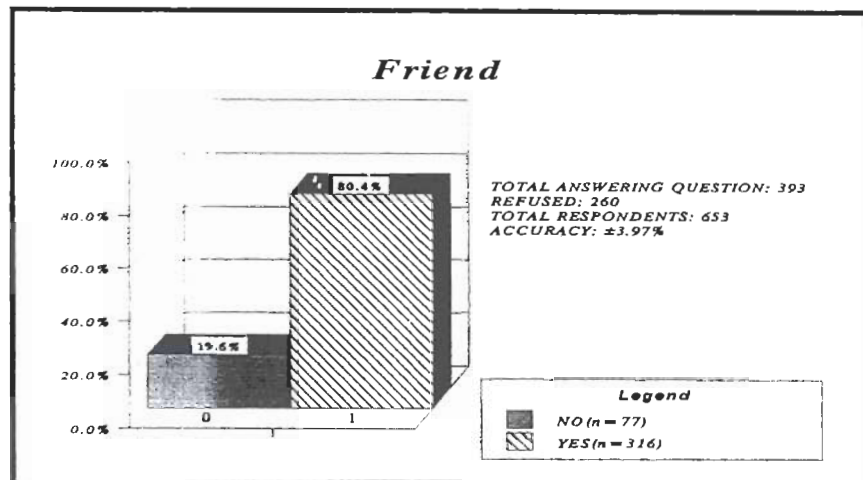


FIGURE 55: *I have a friend with a disability.*

- Older Idahoans are more likely than those who are younger to have a friend with a disability.
- Idahoans who are members of minority groups are more likely than others to agree.
- Idahoans from the South Central and Central Mountain regions are slightly more likely to have a friend with a disability than those from other parts of the state.

Nearly one in ten Idahoans report having a spouse or partner with a disability.

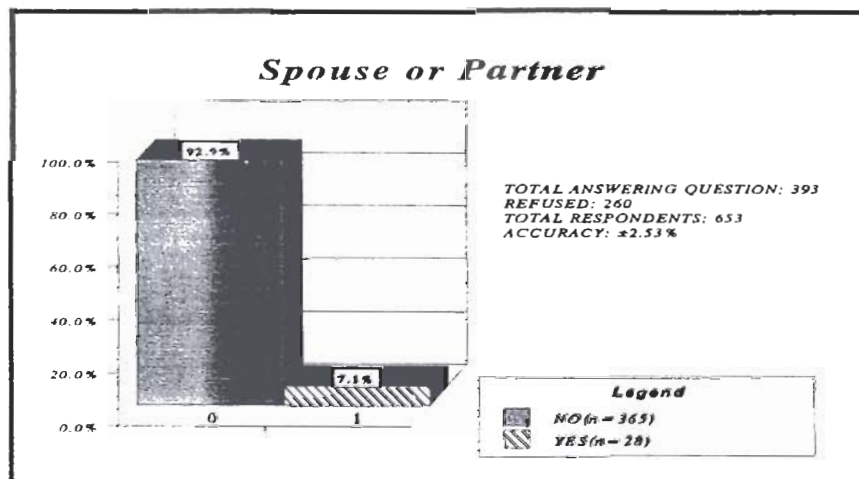


FIGURE 56: *I have a spouse or partner with a disability.*

- Older Idahoans are more likely to have a spouse with a disability.
- Idahoans who belong to minority groups are less likely than others to have a spouse with a disability.

The next figure presents the results of the survey on a question designed to determine the extent to which Idahoans support integration between children with disabilities and those without both in the classroom and in extra curricular activities. In the legend below, the text of the choices is abbreviated. "Fully in Both" originally read, "Fully integrated in the classroom and in extra

curricular activities." "Fully classroom" referred to full integration in the classroom and partial integration in extracurricular activities; "Partly in Both," referred to partial integration in the classroom and in extracurricular activities; "Partly Classroom," referred to partial integration in the classroom and no integration in extra curricular activities; "Not At All," referred to no integration either in the classroom or in extra curricular activities.

As shown in the following figure, Idahoans most often believe that children with disabilities and other children should be partly integrated in both the classroom and in extracurricular activities. Yet, over one half of Idahoans believe that children with disabilities and other children should be fully integrated in the classroom.

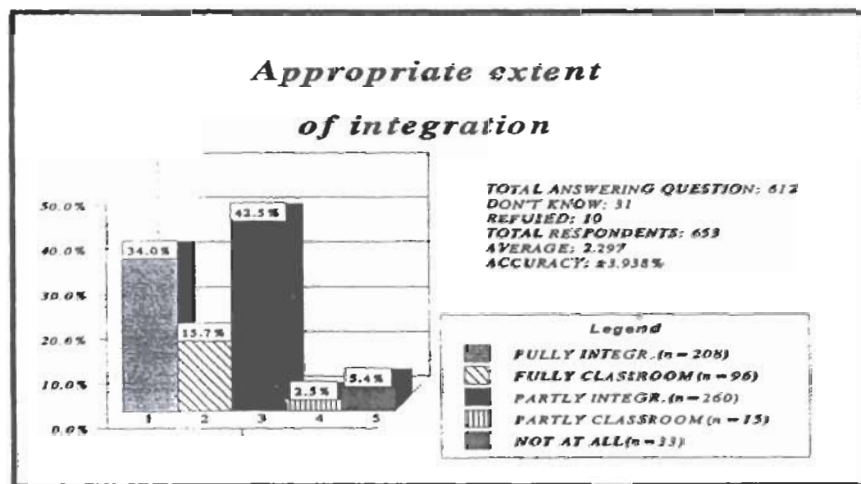


FIGURE 57: Which of the following statements best describe your opinion about the appropriate extent of integration between children with disabilities and non-disabled children?

- Younger Idahoans are more likely to believe that children with disabilities should be integrated both in the classroom and in extra curricular activities.

HEALTH INSURANCE

This year, BSU asked a series of special questions pertaining to the extent to which Idahoans have different types of health insurance. Of specific concern in this section is the extent to which various types of Idahoans have no health insurance other than Workmen's Compensation for on-the-job injuries and illnesses. Despite standard research protocols for ensuring that all adult Idahoans have an equal chance to be interviewed, telephone surveys may interview a slightly higher proportion of women and elderly people than are present in the population. In most instances attitudes are not strongly associated with gender or age. However, the precise proportion of Idahoans who receive various types of insurance is probably influenced to some extent by the higher likelihood of interviewing women and elderly Idahoans. In surveys where highly precise estimates of variables such as insurance coverage are required, much larger samples and much more rigorous controls over who is interviewed are required. The results presented below have not been weighted to attempt to correct for minor over sampling of any sub-population groups.

About eight percent of respondents indicated receiving Medicaid (see Figure 58).

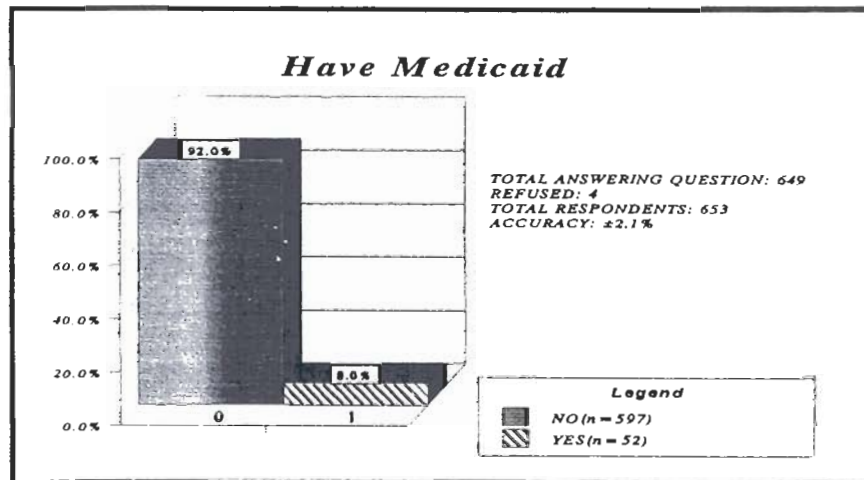


FIGURE 58: *I have or receive Medicaid.*

- Older Idahoans are more likely to receive Medicaid benefits.
- Idahoans who have Medicaid have substantially lower incomes than those who do not.
- Idahoans with Medicaid have lower education than those who do not.
- Idahoans who are members of minority groups are slightly more likely to have Medicaid than others.
- Idahoans who receive Medicaid are more likely to be liberal than those who do not.

As indicated in the following figure, about 19 percent of respondents indicated receiving Medicare.

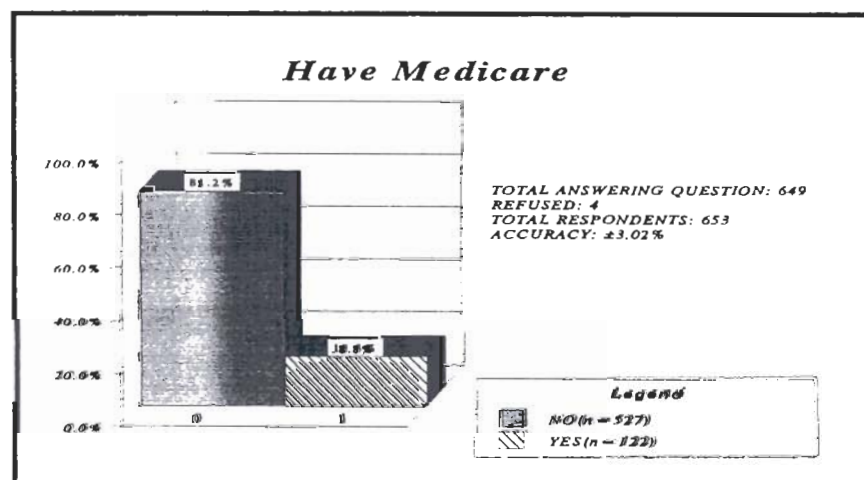


FIGURE 59: *I have or receive Medicare.*

- Those who receive Medicare are substantially older and have substantially less income and education than those who do not.
- Idahoans who are members of minority groups are more likely to receive Medicare than those who are not.

- Those who live in the suburbs are the least likely to receive Medicare while those who live in small towns are the most likely.
- Those who have lived in Idaho the longest are more likely to receive Medicare even if their ages are the same.
- Conservative Idahoans are less likely to receive Medicare than their more liberal counterparts.

About 57 percent of respondents indicated having private health insurance paid for in part by their employer (see Figure 60).

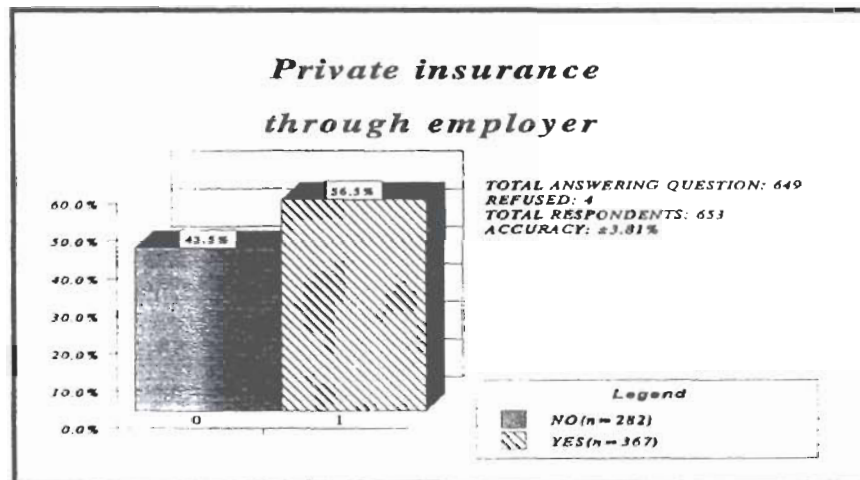


FIGURE 60: *I have private insurance through my employer.*

- Younger Idahoans are more likely to have insurance through their employers.
- Idahoans with higher education and income are more likely to have insurance through their employers.
- Those living in the suburbs are most likely to have insurance through their employers (about 75 percent) followed by those in urban areas (about 60 percent) and small towns (55 percent). Idahoans in rural areas are the least likely (less than 50 percent) to have health insurance through their employers.
- Those in Southeastern and Southwestern Idaho are most likely (about 60 to 70 percent) to have health insurance through their employer while those in other regions have about a 50 percent likelihood of being insured through their employer.
- Those who are very liberal on economic issues are more than 1.5 times as likely than those who are very conservative economically to have health insurance paid for through their employer. People who are liberal or conservative on social issues follow a similar pattern that is not as pronounced.

About 43 percent of respondents reported having private insurance they paid for themselves (see Figure 61).

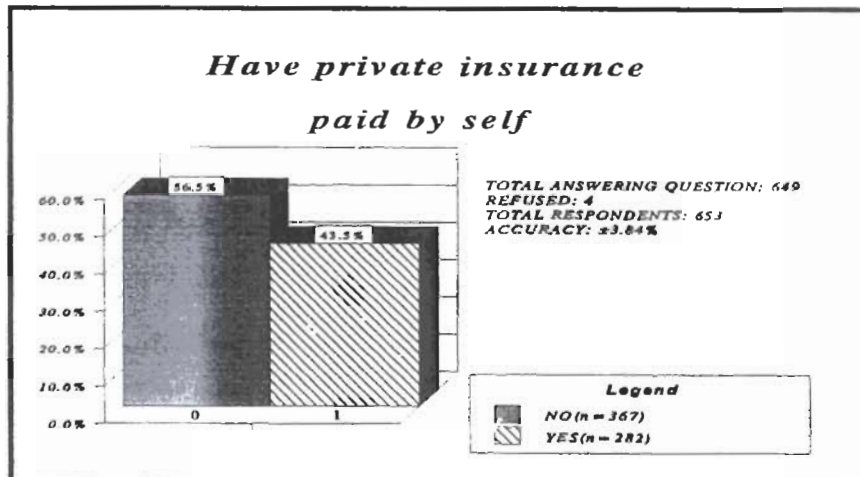


FIGURE 61: *I have private insurance paid by self.*

- Idahoans with private insurance tend to be older and have higher incomes than those without.
- Idahoans in rural areas are the most likely to have private health insurance while those in urban areas are the least likely.
- There is a slight tendency for those in the South Central and Central Mountain regions to have private health insurance more frequently than those from other parts of the state.

As shown in the figure below, a little less than one-third of respondents indicated having private insurance through a group or organization such as the American Association of Retired People (AARP)

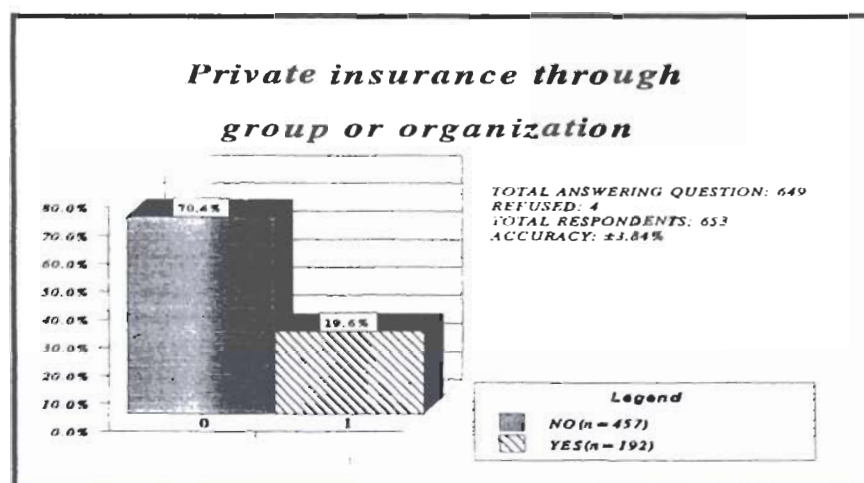


FIGURE 62: *I have private insurance through a group or organization.*

- Older Idahoans and those with higher incomes are more likely to have health insurance through a group or organization.
- Those living in Southeast Idaho are substantially more likely to have insurance through a group or organization (44 percent) than those living in other regions (25 to 30 percent).

About 13 percent of respondents indicated having private disability insurance. Disability insurance pays a premium if a worker is injured or becomes ill and is not able to continue work.

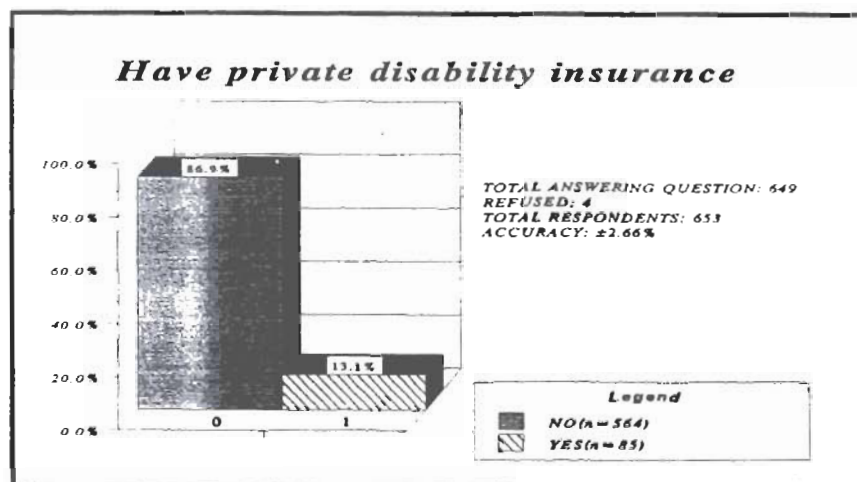


FIGURE 63: *I have private disability insurance.*

- Men are about 1.5 times as likely as women to have private disability insurance.
- Idahoans with higher education and income are more likely to have private disability insurance.

Less than one percent of respondents reported receiving tribal or Indian health services coverage (see Figure 64).

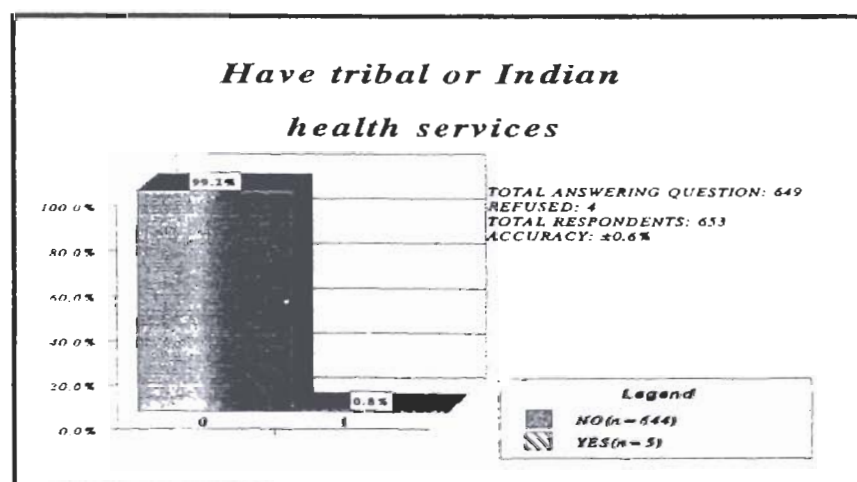


FIGURE 64: *I have tribal or Indian health services*

- Those who receive tribal or Indian health services have substantially less income than other Idahoans, but they tend to have lived in Idaho on average much longer (41 years) than those who do not (28 years).
- About 11 percent of Idahoans consider themselves native Americans (2 out of 19).
- Too few Idahoans receive tribal or Indian health services to make further conclusions.

A little over 70 percent of respondents reported coverage by Workmen's Compensation insurance (see Figure 65).

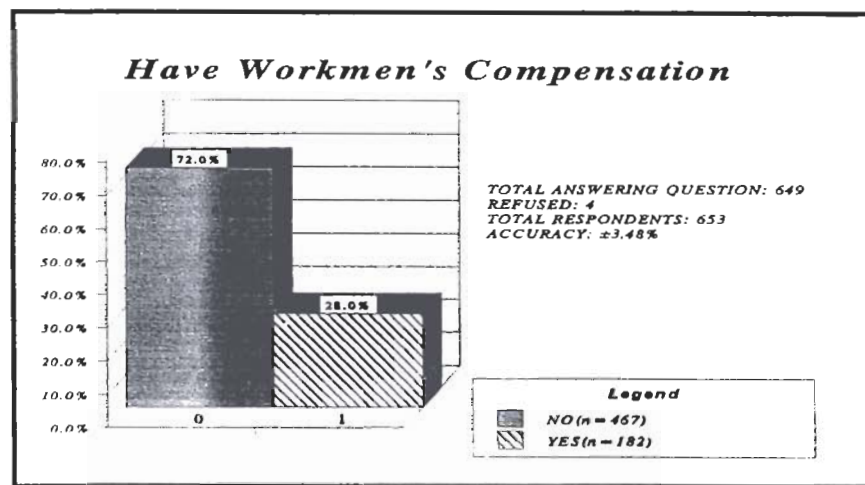


FIGURE 65: *I have Workmen's Compensation insurance.*

- Men are more likely than women to report coverage by Workmen's Compensation insurance.
- Younger Idahoans are more likely to report Workmen's Compensation coverage.
- Those covered by Workmen's Compensation insurance report higher incomes than those who are not.
- Those in rural areas (less than 25 percent) are slightly less likely to report Workmen's Compensation coverage than those in small towns (slightly more than 25 percent). Approximately one-third of those living in suburban or urban areas report Workmen's Compensation coverage.

About 13 percent of respondents indicated receiving health insurance benefits for veterans (see Figure 66).

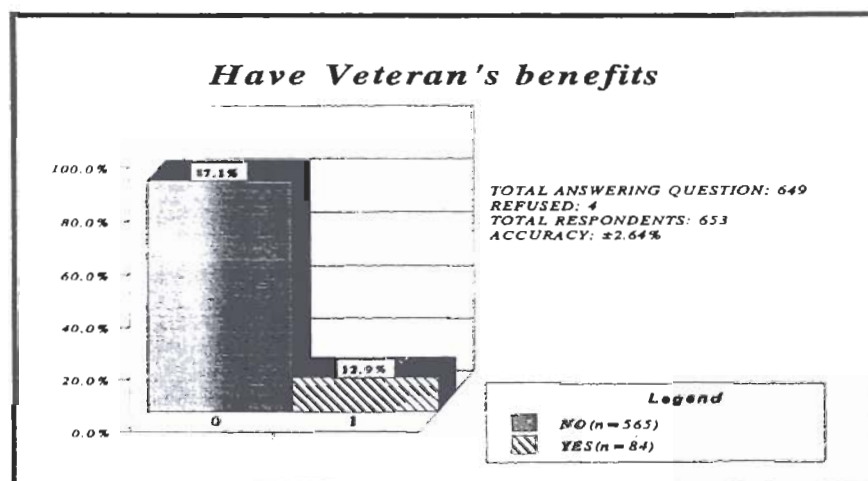


FIGURE 66: *I have Veteran's benefits.*

- Men are about twice as likely as women to report veteran's benefits.
- Older Idahoans and those with lower incomes are more likely to report receiving veteran's benefits.

About 17.5 percent of Idahoans interviewed did not have health insurance through their employers, through private insurance companies, or through private groups or organizations. About 5 percent more receive health coverage through Medicare or Medicaid. Veteran's benefits, tribal or Indian services, or other insurance accounted for about 1.5 percent more of those interviewed. Another 1.5 percent receive health coverage only through Workmen's Compensation. About 9.5 percent of Idahoans interviewed receive no health coverage at all.

Approximately eleven percent receive no health insurance other than coverage for work related injuries or illness.

- Women are about 1.5 times more likely than men not to have health insurance.
- Younger Idahoans are more likely than older Idahoans not to have health insurance.
- Idahoans with low education and income are most likely not to have health insurance.
- Those who live in Northern Idaho are slightly less likely to have health insurance than those from other parts of the state.
- Those who have health insurance are more likely to be conservative than those who do not.
- Those Idahoans with health insurance are likely to have lived in Idaho longer even those Idahoans of the same age.

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SURVEY METHODOLOGY

SAMPLE DESIGN

The Center purchases random digit dialing samples from a national sampling company which are well-documented, credible, and have successfully withstood court challenges. The probability samples are stratified proportional to the number of active blocks in each telephone exchange in each county of the test area. A block is a group of 100 telephone numbers in a single exchange. For example 343-1100 to 343-1199 is one block. There are 100 blocks or 10,000 numbers per exchange. In order for a block to be active, at least one number in the block must be listed in the telephone directory. (The assessment of active blocks is updated every six months by the supplier) Thus, for example, in the Boise exchange "343" all 100 blocks are active and the sampling frame includes 10,000 numbers. In the town of Deary, Idaho, there are only seven active blocks for the exchange "877," resulting in a total of 700 numbers included in the sampling frame for that exchange.

Once the sample is drawn, the sampling company removes numbers that are identified as business or non-working numbers. However, not all of these numbers can be identified and removed: Some must be identified by the Center over the course of the survey. In addition, the Center cannot make contact with all of the valid residential numbers in the sample during the course of the survey. Some numbers will remain unanswered or busy at the end of the survey, and some additional numbers reached will refuse to conduct the interview. The Center attempts each telephone number a maximum of ten times.

The number of calls that result in completed interviews, accounting for no answers, busy signals, businesses, refusals, unqualified households, and so forth, constitute the "response rate." The Center's protocol is designed to ensure a minimum response rate of 60 percent of valid residential numbers.

DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING

Once the final draft of the questionnaire was approved by the participants, the Center purchased the sample and began the survey. In order to minimize potential bias in the sample resulting from the known greater likelihood of certain types of people to answer phones in households (for example, women and older persons), interviewers asked for the person in the household 18 or older with the most recent birthday. Although accepted as the industry standard, this method does not perfectly randomize respondent selection, because of the continuing desire of many people to respond to a legitimate public policy survey.

The questionnaire items were entered into the computer-assisted telephone interviewing software which transforms the hard copy questionnaire into computerized data entry screens. The sample telephone numbers were fed through the computer network to the interviewer work stations. The

disposition of every telephone call made as well as the data on all completed interviews were returned through the network to a central computer where the data were prepared for analysis.

For the analysis, each respondent's answers were weighted according to the population proportion of the respondent's region. The resulting weights permit unbiased statewide estimates of the mean and the confidence interval (95 percent probability that the population mean will be within no more than 5 percent of the sample mean) of all adults in Idaho living in households with telephones.