

# Responsive Management™



## **RESIDENT HUNTERS' OPINIONS ON POTENTIAL CHANGES TO THE DEER AND MOOSE HUNTING SEASONS IN VERMONT**

**Conducted for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department**

**by Responsive Management**

**2010**

# **RESIDENT HUNTERS' OPINIONS ON POTENTIAL CHANGES TO THE DEER AND MOOSE HUNTING SEASONS IN VERMONT**

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## **Acknowledgments**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY**

This study was conducted for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (the Department) to determine hunters' opinions on potential changes to the deer and moose hunting seasons in Vermont. The study entailed a telephone survey of Vermont resident licensed hunters (Resident Combination and Resident Hunting license holders).

For the survey, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the almost universal ownership of telephones among Vermont licensed hunters (both landlines and cell phones were called). Additionally, telephone surveys, relative to mail or Internet surveys, allow for more scientific sampling and data collection, provide higher quality data, obtain higher response rates, are more timely, and are more cost-effective. The sample of licensed Vermont resident hunters was obtained from the Department.

The telephone survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and the Department. Responsive Management conducted pre-tests of the questionnaire to ensure proper wording, flow, and logic in the survey.

The questionnaire used an "informed opinion" approach. Throughout the survey, information was provided to respondents about specific potential regulations, and then they were asked about their support or opposition to the potential regulations. Some questions were asked prior to giving the respondents information, and then questions were asked after information was provided, and the data analysis then explored the differences between uninformed opinion and informed opinion.

Telephone surveying times are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday from noon to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., local time. The survey was conducted in August 2010. The software used for data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language (QPL). Responsive Management obtained a total of 515 completed interviews. The analysis of data was performed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management.

**SURVEY RESULTS REGARDING MUZZLELOADER DEER SEASON**

Overall, based on the final “informed opinion” results, the potential muzzleloader antlerless deer season had more support (59%) than opposition (35%), after respondents had been provided all the pertinent information. Three reasons for supporting the muzzleloader antlerless deer season were quite common: supporters think that there are too many deer in Vermont (31% of those in support), that there are not enough muzzleloader hunting opportunities (24%), and that taking female deer will help with effective deer population management (23%). Note that respondents could give more than a single reason. Conversely, the single most common reason for opposing is the perception that there are not enough deer in Vermont (52% of opponents), distantly followed by the feeling that enough deer are already harvested/that the deer themselves are under enough pressure with the existing seasons (19%). Again, note that respondents could give more than a single reason.

In comparing the results from the beginning of the series to the end, opinion was not greatly changed. Support for the potential muzzleloader antlerless deer season was at 61% at the start of the series (uninformed) and at 59% at the end (informed); opposition rose slightly from 31% to 35%.

The results of all these similar questions about the potential muzzleloader antlerless deer season are tabulated on the following page.

Base Question	Additional Information Provided	% in Support	% in Opposition
<p>26. In general, <b>do you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont?</b></p>	<p>Currently, Vermont has a 9-day deer muzzleloader season in early December. A predetermined number of antlerless, or doe, permits would be issued by Wildlife Management Unit through a lottery each year for this additional muzzleloader season. This season would be in addition to the 9-day deer muzzleloader season in early December and would occur during a different time period.</p>	Strong 31	Strong 21
		Total 61	Total 31
<p>28. <b>Would you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in mid-October</b> if you knew that archery hunting for deer would <i>not</i> be allowed during this additional muzzleloader season?</p>	<p>Currently, the Vermont 32-day deer archery season is a split season with the first portion of the season occurring for 23 consecutive days from early to late October.</p>	Strong 21	Strong 34
		Total 42	Total 50
<p>30. <b>Would you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in mid-October</b> if you knew that Department biologists and wardens have examined all the options for providing an early antlerless-only muzzleloader season and have determined that the option causing the least conflict with other seasons is a 2- to 6-day period in mid-October while <i>not</i> allowing archery hunting during this period?</p>	<p>Archery hunting for deer would <i>not</i> be allowed during this additional muzzleloader season.</p>	Strong 27	Strong 26
		Total 52	Total 40*
<p>31. <b>Would you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in mid-October</b> if you knew that the deer archery season would be extended for 5 to 7 days in late October, which would provide more archery deer hunting during the pre-rut period and would mean that the deer archery total season length in October would always be at least 23 days?</p>	<p>Archery hunting for deer would <i>not</i> be allowed during this additional muzzleloader season.</p>	Strong 33	Strong 21
		Total 60	Total 31
<p>32. In general, <b>do you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont?</b></p>		Strong 33	Strong 25
		Total 59*	Total 35

\*Rounding causes apparent 1 percentage point discrepancy in sum.

**SURVEY RESULTS REGARDING ARCHERY MOOSE SEASON**

Overall, based on the final “informed opinion” results, the potential archery-only moose season had more support (60%) than opposition (31%), after respondents had been provided all the pertinent information. In comparing the results from the beginning of the series to the end, support grew. Support for the potential archery-only moose season was at 52% at the start of the series (uninformed) and at 60% at the end (informed); opposition went from 36% to 31%. One concern often expressed by opponents was whether moose could feasibly be killed with archery equipment—even by some archery hunters.

The results of all these similar questions about the potential archery-only moose season are tabulated on the following page.

Base Question	Additional Information Provided	% in Support	% in Opposition
45. In general, <b>do you support or oppose an archery-only moose season in Vermont?</b>	Currently, the moose hunting season in Vermont occurs during October each year and allows hunting moose with firearms and archery equipment. A lottery is held each year to issue permits to hunt moose. The archery-only season would be in addition to the current moose hunting season, and hunting moose with any firearm or equipment other than a bow would <i>not</i> be allowed during this period.	Strong 27	Strong 25
		Total 52	Total 36
46. <b>Would you support or oppose an archery-only moose season in Vermont if you knew the additional archery-only moose season would start the first Saturday in October and continue through the following weekend, lasting for 9 consecutive days?</b>		Strong 27	Strong 25
		Total 54	Total 36*
49. <b>Would you support or oppose an additional archery-only moose season if you knew that the expected total harvest for the archery-only season is approximately 15 moose, which would have very little biological impact on the moose herd in Vermont?</b>	The Department would distribute 50 permits for the additional archery-only moose season.	Strong 31	Strong 22
		Total 62*	Total 29
50. <b>Would you support or oppose an additional archery-only moose season if you knew the 50 archery-only moose permits would be issued through a separate lottery than the current regular season moose permit lottery, would not affect the total number of regular season moose permits distributed, and would not reduce an applicant's odds of also winning a regular season moose permit?</b>	The Department would distribute 50 permits for the additional archery-only moose season.	Strong 31	Strong 23
		Total 61	Total 30*
51. In general, <b>do you support or oppose an archery-only moose season in Vermont?</b>		Strong 33	Strong 24
		Total 60	Total 31*

\*Rounding causes apparent 1 percentage point discrepancy in sum.



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## **INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY**

This study was conducted for the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (the Department) to determine hunters' opinions on potential changes to the deer and moose hunting seasons in Vermont. The study entailed a telephone survey of Vermont resident licensed hunters (resident combination and resident hunting license holders). Specific aspects of the research methodology are discussed below.

### **Use of Telephones for the Survey**

For the survey, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the almost universal ownership of telephones among Vermont licensed hunters (both landlines and cell phones were called). Additionally, telephone surveys, relative to mail or Internet surveys, allow for more scientific sampling and data collection, provide higher quality data, obtain higher response rates, are more timely, and are more cost-effective. The sample, drawn from those who had purchased a Resident Hunting License or a Resident Combination License within the past 3 years, was obtained from the Department.

### **Questionnaire Design**

The telephone survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and the Department, based on the research team's familiarity with hunting issues. Responsive Management conducted pre-tests of the questionnaire to ensure proper wording, flow, and logic in the survey.

The questionnaire used an "informed opinion" approach. Throughout the survey, information was provided to respondents about specific potential regulations, and then they were asked about their support or opposition to the potential regulations. Some questions were asked prior to giving the respondents information, and then questions were asked after the information was provided, and the data analysis then explored the differences between uninformed opinion and informed opinion.

### **Telephone Interviewing Facilities**

A central polling site at the Responsive Management office allowed for rigorous quality control over the interviews and data collection. Responsive Management maintains its own in-house telephone interviewing facilities. These facilities are staffed by interviewers with experience conducting computer-assisted telephone interviews on the subjects of outdoor recreation and natural resources.

To ensure the integrity of the telephone survey data, Responsive Management has interviewers who have been trained according to the standards established by the Council of American Survey Research Organizations. Methods of instruction included lecture and role-playing. The Survey Center Managers and other professional staff conducted a project briefing with the interviewers prior to the administration of this survey. Interviewers were instructed on type of study, study goals and objectives, handling of survey questions, interview length, termination points and qualifiers for participation, interviewer instructions within the survey instrument, reading of the survey instrument, skip patterns, and probing and clarifying techniques necessary for specific questions on the survey instrument.

### **Interviewing Dates and Times**

Telephone surveying times are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday from noon to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., local time. A five-callback design was used to maintain the representativeness of the sample, to avoid bias toward people easy to reach by telephone, and to provide an equal opportunity for all to participate. When a respondent could not be reached on the first call, subsequent calls were placed on different days of the week and at different times of the day. The survey was conducted in August 2010.

### **Telephone Survey Data Collection and Quality Control**

The software used for data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language (QPL). The survey data were entered into the computer as each interview was being conducted, eliminating manual data entry after the completion of the survey and the concomitant data entry errors that may occur with manual data entry. The survey instrument was programmed so that QPL

branched based on previous responses to ensure the integrity and consistency of the data collection.

The Survey Center Managers and statisticians monitored the data collection, including monitoring of the actual telephone interviews without the interviewers' knowledge, to evaluate the performance of each interviewer and ensure the integrity of the data. The survey instrument itself contains error checkers and computation statements to ensure quality and consistent data. After the surveys were obtained by the interviewers, the Survey Center Managers and/or statisticians checked each completed survey to ensure clarity and completeness. Responsive Management obtained a total of 515 completed interviews.

### **Data Analysis**

The analysis of data was performed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management. The data analysis included crosstabulations of many of the questions by whether the respondent had hunted deer in the past 3 years (versus those who had not), by whether the respondent had hunted moose in the past 3 years (again, versus those who had not), by those who indicated plans to participate in the muzzleloader deer season in the next 12 months, and by those who indicated plans to participate in the archery deer season in the next 12 months (versus those who have no plans; this is a proxy for archery hunters for the moose questions, even though plans to hunt deer with archery does not necessarily mean that the respondents would hunt moose with archery if such a season were implemented).

Throughout this report, findings of the telephone survey are reported at a 95% confidence interval (or higher). For the entire sample of Vermont Resident Hunting and Resident Combination license holders, the sampling error is at most plus or minus 4.31 percentage points. This means that if the survey were conducted 100 times on different samples that were selected in the same way, the findings of 95 out of the 100 surveys would fall within plus or minus 4.31 percentage points of each other. Sampling error was calculated using the formula described on the following page, with a sample size of 515 and a population size of 85,885.

### Sampling Error Equation

$$B = \left( \sqrt{\frac{N_p(.25)}{N_s} - .25} \right) (1.96)$$

Where: B = maximum sampling error (as decimal)  
 N<sub>p</sub> = population size (i.e., total number who could be surveyed)  
 N<sub>s</sub> = sample size (i.e., total number of respondents surveyed)

Derived from formula: p. 206 in Dillman, D. A. 2000. *Mail and Internet Surveys*. John Wiley & Sons, NY.

**Note:** This is a simplified version of the formula that calculates the *maximum* sampling error using a 50:50 split (the most conservative calculation because a 50:50 split would give maximum variation).

### Notes on Reading the Report

In examining the results, it is important to be aware that the questionnaire included several types of questions:

- Open-ended questions are those in which no answer set is read to the respondents; rather, they can respond with anything that comes to mind from the question.
- Closed-ended questions have an answer set from which to choose.
- Some questions allow only a single response, while other questions allow respondents to give more than one response or choose all that apply. Those that allow more than a single response are indicated on the graphs with the label, “Multiple Responses Allowed.”
- Many closed-ended questions (but not all) are in a scale, such as from strongly support to strongly oppose.

The graphs show results rounded to the nearest integer; however, all data are stored in decimal format, and all calculations are performed on unrounded numbers. For this reason, some results may not sum to exactly 100% because of this rounding on the graphs. Additionally, rounding may cause apparent discrepancies of 1 percentage point between the graphs and the reported results of combined responses (e.g., when “strongly support” and “moderately support” are summed to determine the total percentage in support).

Note that QPL assigns numbers sequentially to each statement in the survey questionnaire, including code statements and error checkers. For this reason, the first question does not start with “1.” Furthermore, back-to-back questions may not have sequential numbers. For instance, Question 21 is immediately followed by Question 24; “Questions” 22 and 23 are not actually questions but are error checkers.

## **SURVEY RESULTS REGARDING THE MUZZLELOADER DEER SEASON**

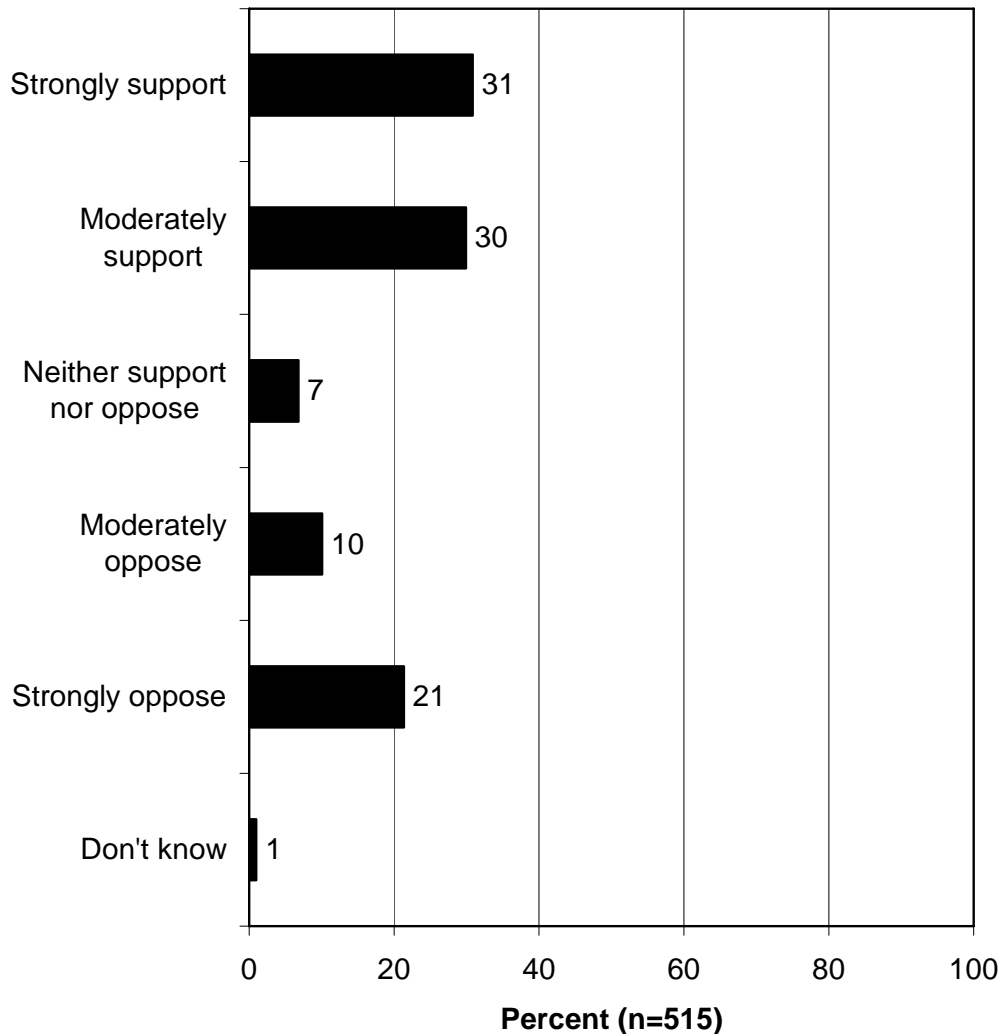
- As stated previously, the survey used a technique called “informed opinion.” Opinions were gauged regarding the potential regulations through a series of questions; as the survey progressed, respondents were provided with additional information about the potential regulation. In this first question regarding a potential muzzleloader season for antlerless deer, respondents were provided with only the most basic information (as shown at the bottom of the graph), and support (61%) far exceeded opposition (31%).
  
- In the next question in the series, respondents were informed that one option under consideration for the muzzleloader season for antlerless deer would entail prohibiting archery hunting for deer during the proposed muzzleloader season, which would be in mid-October. This proposal engendered much opposition: only 42% supported, while 50% opposed.
  
- The order of the next two questions was randomized: some respondents were asked Question 30 and then Question 31, while other respondents were asked Question 31 and then Question 30. This was done to limit “order bias,” which refers to the effect that one question has on a subsequent question.
  - On Question 30, the potential muzzleloader antlerless deer season had more support (52%) than opposition (40%), when respondents were informed that biologists for the Department had considered conflicts between archery and muzzleloader hunters in setting the muzzleloader season dates.
  - On Question 31, the potential muzzleloader antlerless deer season had much more support (60%) than opposition (31%), when respondents were informed that additional late-October days would be added to the archery season so that the entire length of the archery season (23 days) would remain the same as it currently is.

- 
- The final “informed opinion” question in this series simply asked, after all the information had been provided to respondents, about support or opposition to an additional muzzleloader antlerless deer season. On this question, the potential muzzleloader antlerless deer season had more support (59%) than opposition (35%).
    - Those in support of an additional muzzleloader antlerless deer season were asked in an open-ended question for their reasons for supporting. Three reasons were quite common: supporters think that there are too many deer in Vermont (31% of those in support), that there are not enough muzzleloader hunting opportunities (24%), and that taking female deer will help with effective deer population management (23%). Other reasons are shown on the graph. Note that respondents could give more than a single reason.
    - Those in opposition to an additional muzzleloader antlerless deer season were asked in an open-ended question for their reasons for opposing. The most common reason for opposing is the perception that there are not enough deer in Vermont (52% of opponents), distantly followed by the feeling that enough deer are already harvested/that the deer themselves are under enough pressure with the existing seasons (19%).
  
  - In comparing the results from the beginning of the series to the end, opinion was not greatly changed. Support for the potential muzzleloader antlerless deer season was at 61% at the start of the series (uninformed) and at 59% at the end (informed); opposition went from 31% to 35%.
  
  - The results of all these similar questions about the potential muzzleloader antlerless deer season are tabulated following the graphs discussed above.
  
  - Following the tabulation are the results of a different question regarding the potential muzzleloader antlerless deer season. In this question, respondents were asked for their preference if a 2- to 6-day muzzleloader antlerless deer season were to be established: would they prefer those days to occur on weekdays only, weekends only, or a combination. Overwhelmingly, respondents would prefer a combination (57%), far exceeding either weekdays only (16%) or weekends only (14%) (and, in fact, exceeding the sum of those latter two).

- A final question allowed respondents to provide any comments about the potential additional muzzleloader antlerless deer season. Most respondents (76%) had no additional comments. Otherwise, comments pertained to suggestions for a different sequence of seasons (different than the potential seasons outlined in the survey) or to tweaks to the potential regulations regarding the equipment (i.e., how a muzzleloader would actually be defined), or the comments merely reiterated support or opposition to the potential regulations and/or reiterated the reasons previously given for supporting or opposing the potential season.



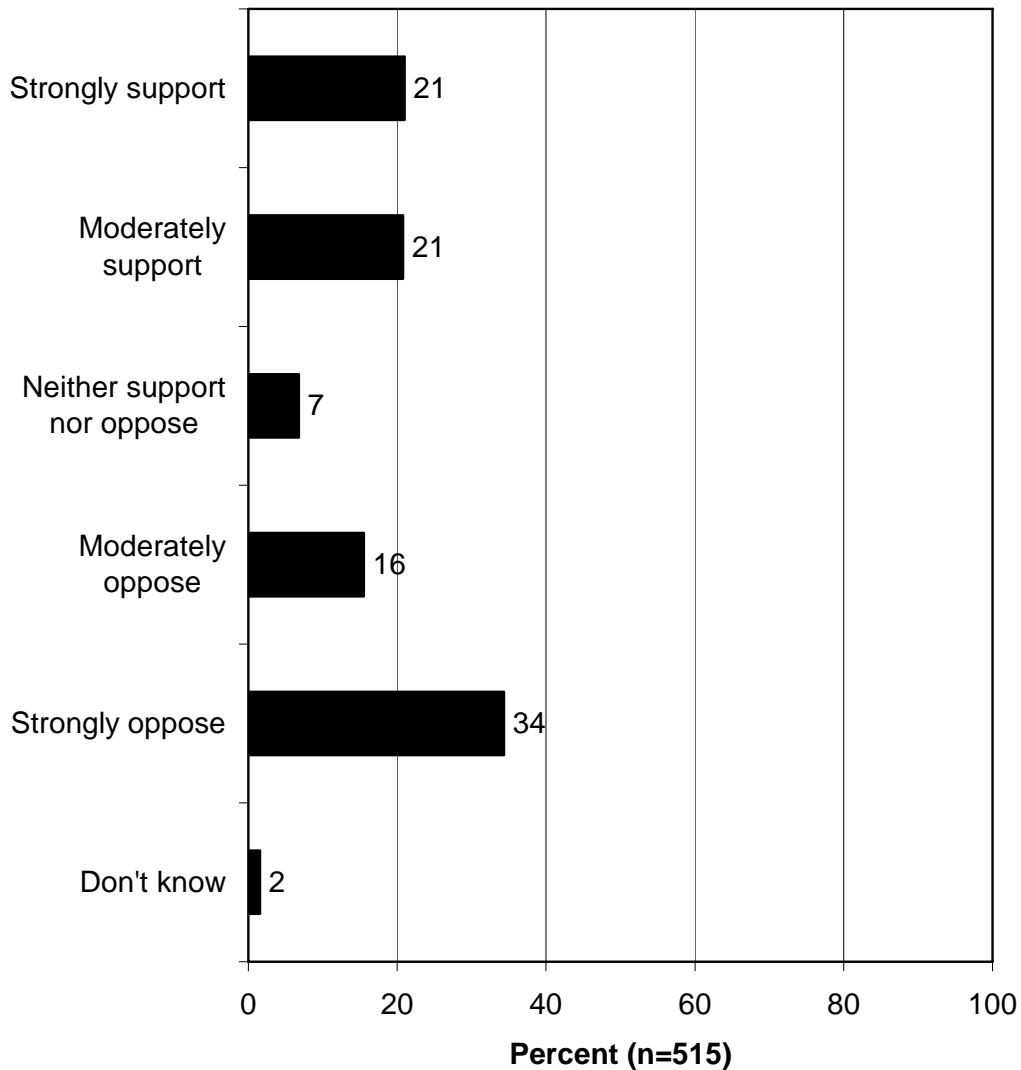
**Q26. In general, do you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

Currently, Vermont has a 9-day deer muzzleloader season in early December. A predetermined number of antlerless, or doe, permits would be issued by Wildlife Management Unit through a lottery each year for this additional muzzleloader season. This season would be in addition to the 9-day deer muzzleloader season in early December and would occur during a different time period.

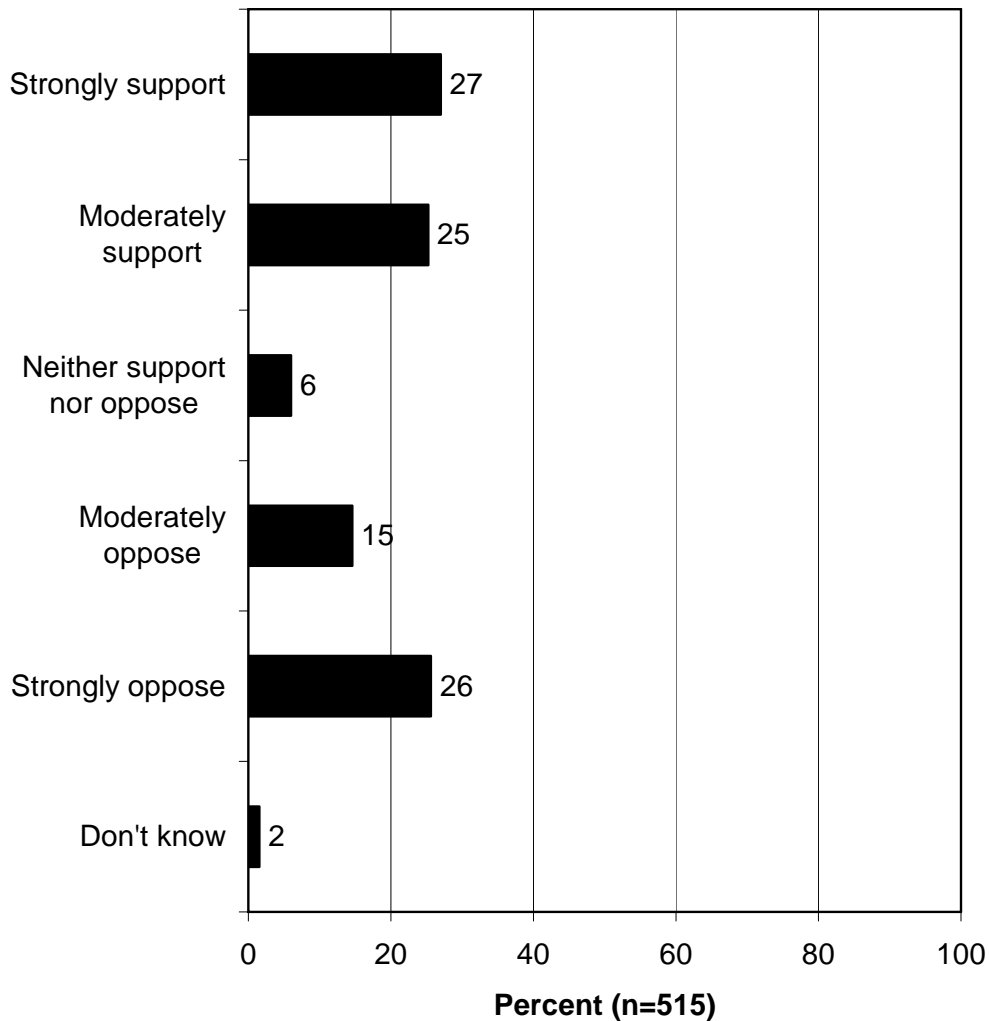
**Q28. Would you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in mid-October if you knew that archery hunting for deer would not be allowed during this additional muzzleloader season?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

Currently, the Vermont 32-day deer archery season is a split season with the first portion of the season occurring for 23 consecutive days from early to late October.

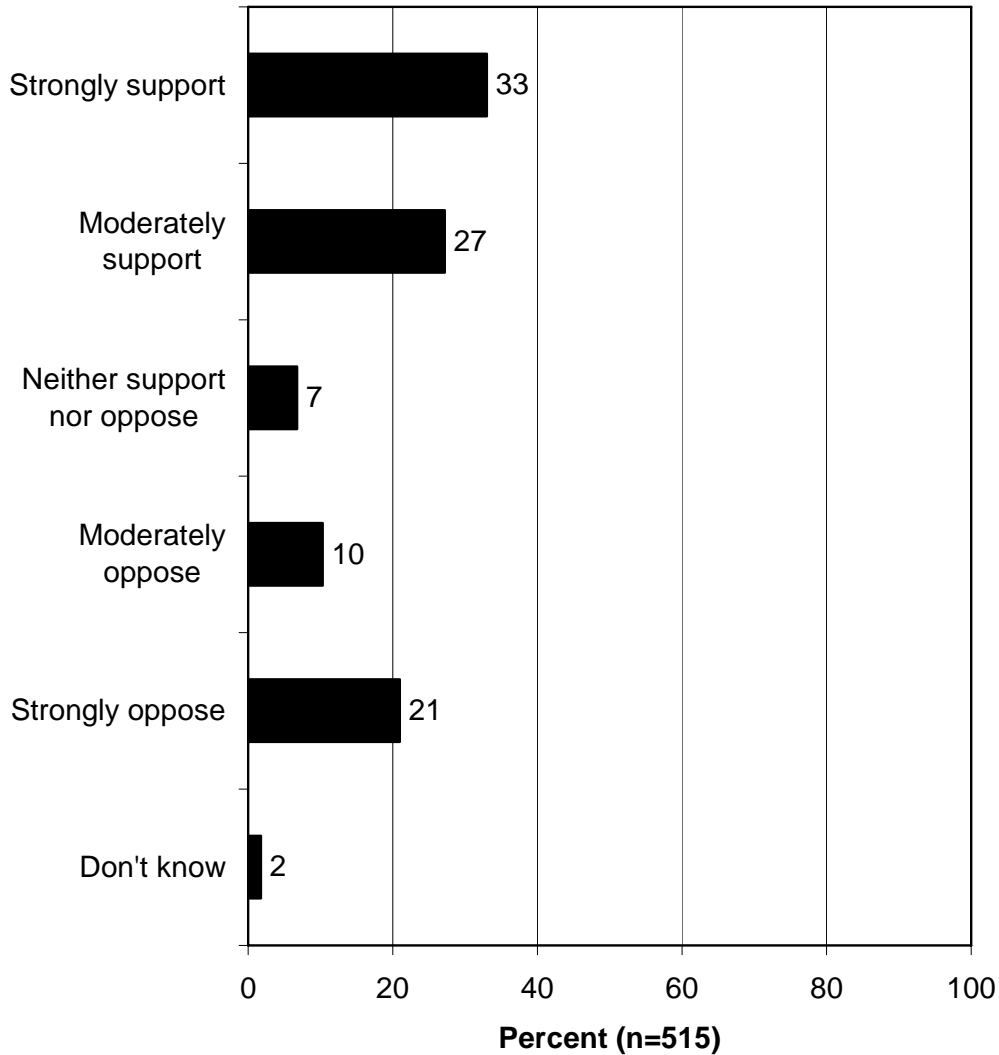
**Q30. If you knew this, would you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in mid-October?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

What if you knew that Department biologists and wardens have examined all the options for providing an early antlerless-only muzzleloader season and have determined that the option causing the least conflict with other seasons is a 2- to 6-day period in mid-October while not allowing archery hunting during this period?

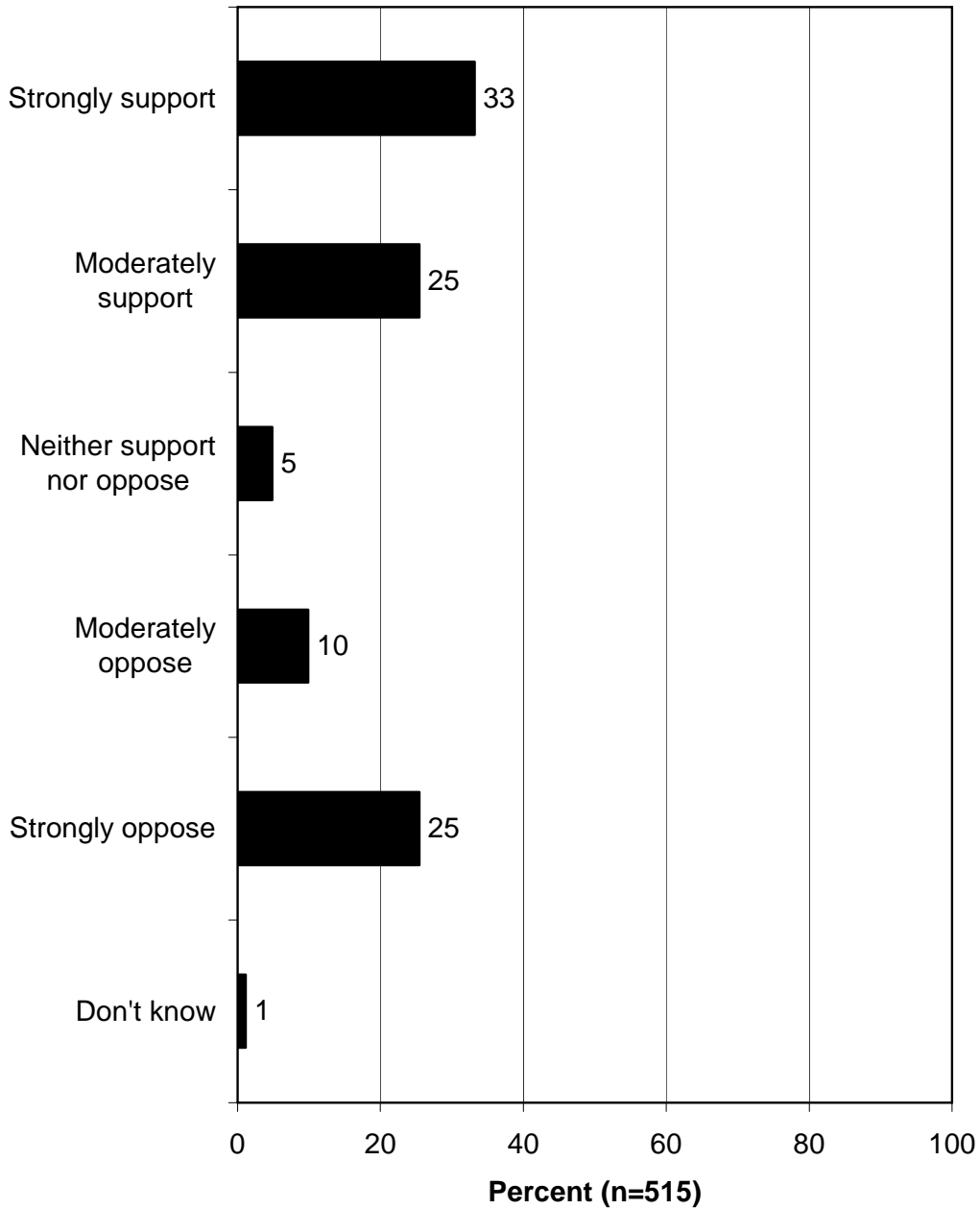
**Q31. If you knew this, would you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in mid-October?**



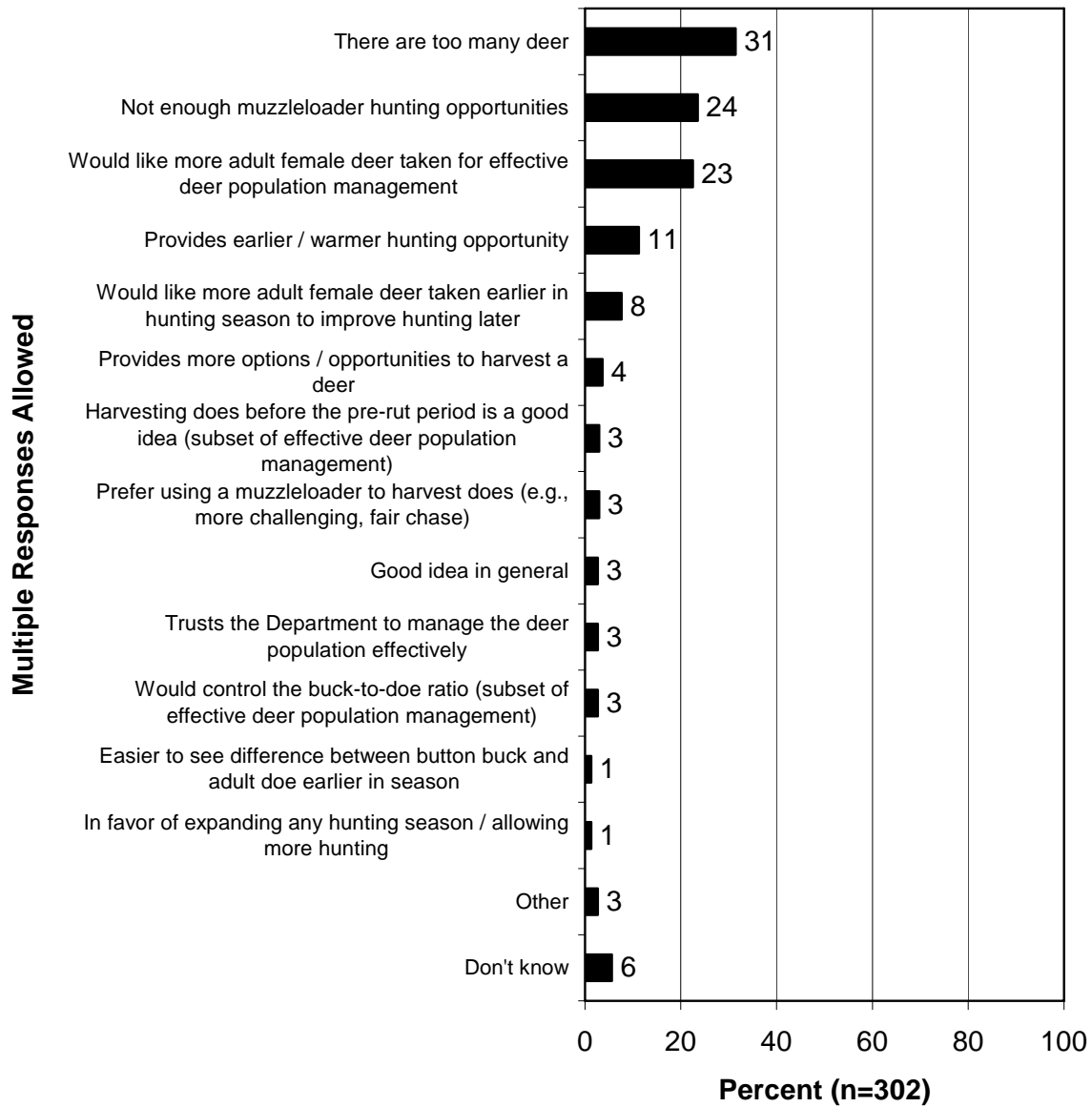
**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

What if you knew that the deer archery season would be extended for 5 to 7 days in late October, which would provide more archery deer hunting during the pre-rut period and would mean that the deer archery total season length in October would always be at least 23 days?

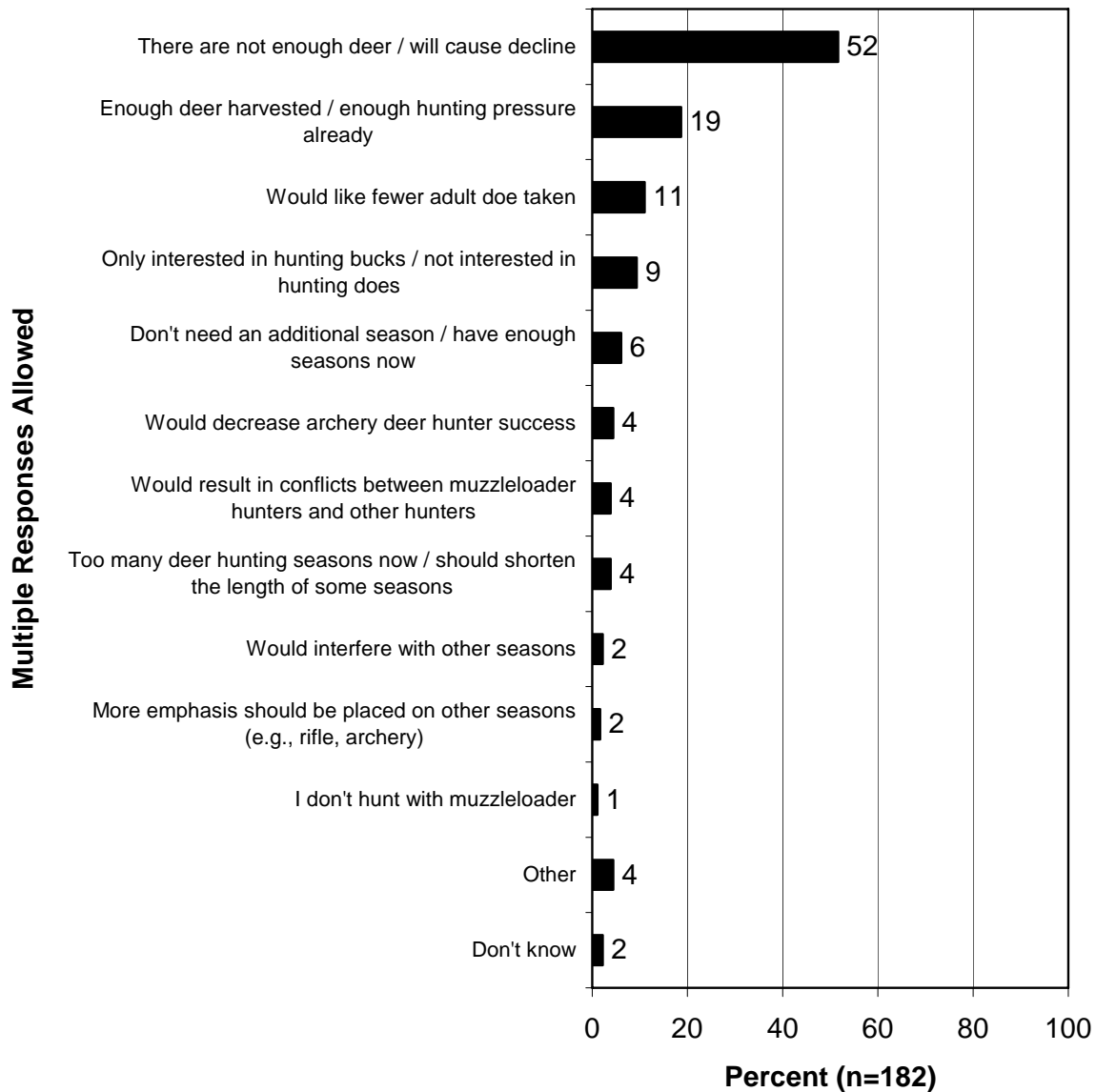
**Q32. In general, do you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont?**



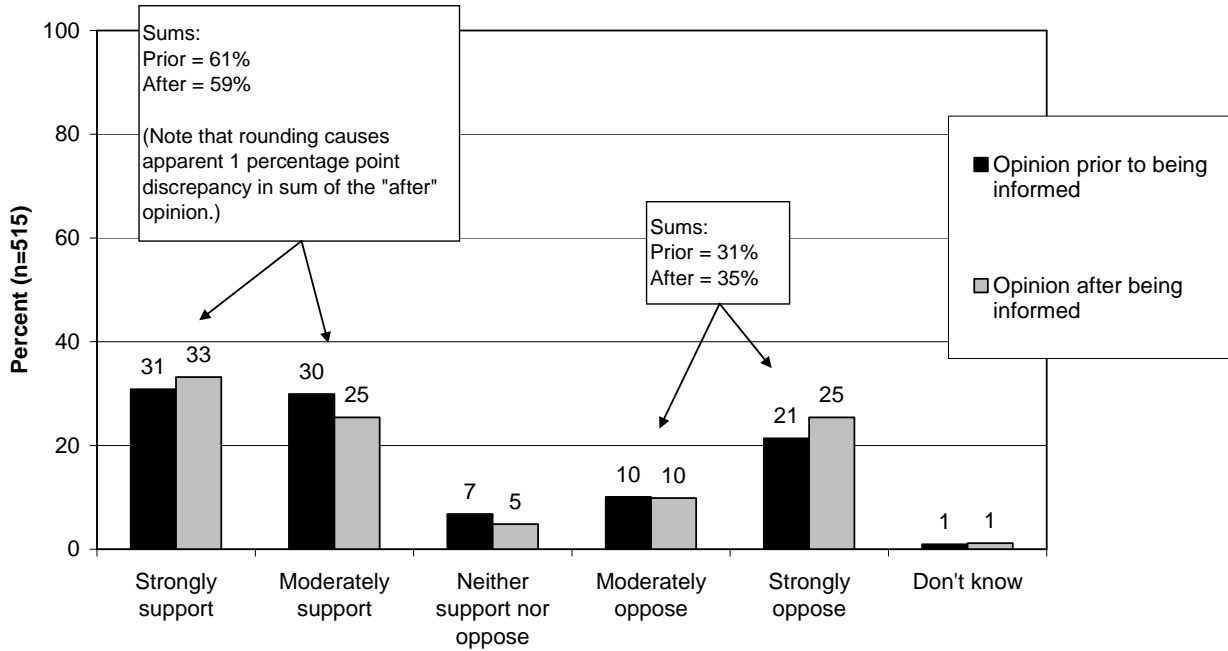
**Q35. Why do you support an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont? (Asked of those who support an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont in general.)**



**Q39. Why do you oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont? (Asked of those who oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont in general.)**



**Q26/32. Support for or opposition to an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont before and after being provided with information.**

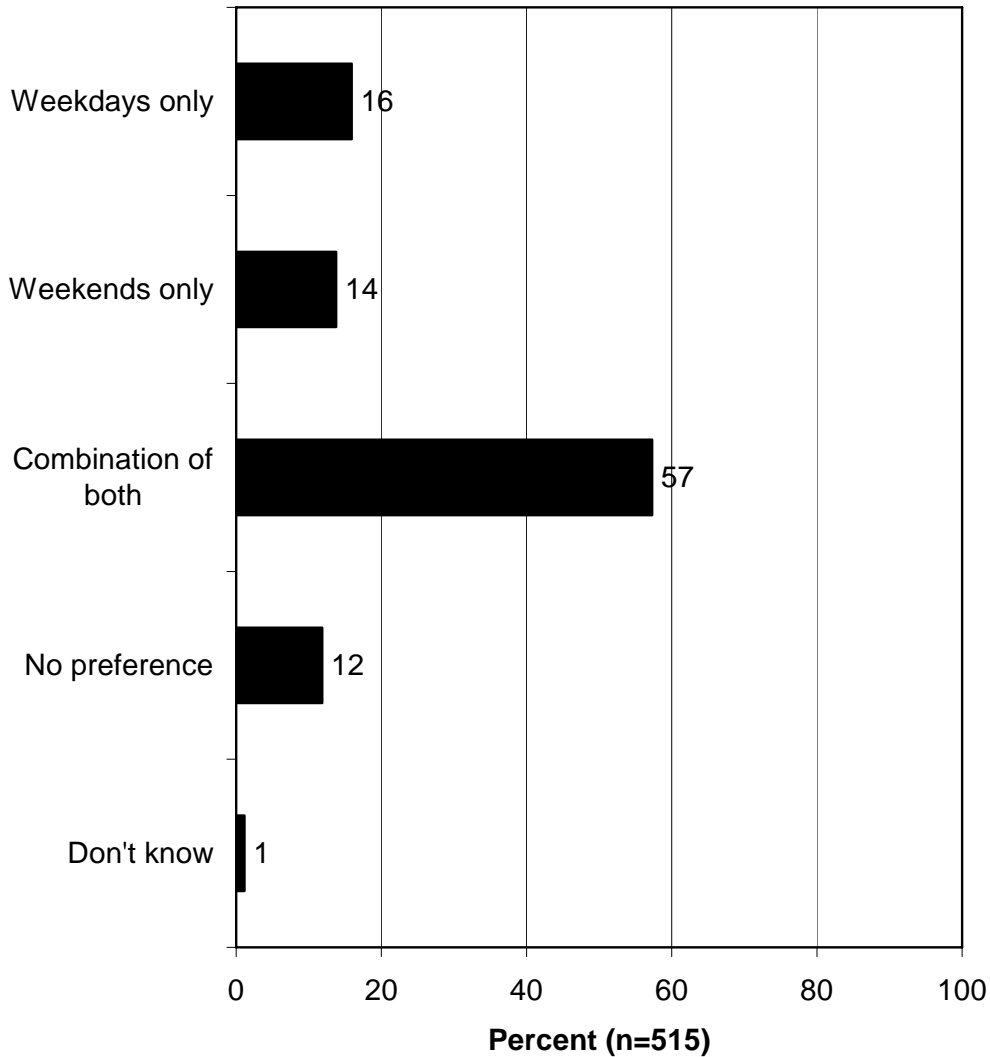




Base Question	Additional Information Provided	% in Support	% in Opposition
26. In general, <b>do you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont?</b>	Currently, Vermont has a 9-day deer muzzleloader season in early December. A predetermined number of antlerless, or doe, permits would be issued by Wildlife Management Unit through a lottery each year for this additional muzzleloader season. This season would be in addition to the 9-day deer muzzleloader season in early December and would occur during a different time period.	Strong 31	Strong 21
28. <b>Would you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in mid-October</b> if you knew that archery hunting for deer would <i>not</i> be allowed during this additional muzzleloader season?	Currently, the Vermont 32-day deer archery season is a split season with the first portion of the season occurring for 23 consecutive days from early to late October.	Strong 21	Strong 34
30. <b>Would you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in mid-October</b> if you knew that Department biologists and wardens have examined all the options for providing an early antlerless-only muzzleloader season and have determined that the option causing the least conflict with other seasons is a 2- to 6-day period in mid-October while <i>not</i> allowing archery hunting during this period?	Archery hunting for deer would <i>not</i> be allowed during this additional muzzleloader season.	Strong 27	Strong 26
31. <b>Would you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in mid-October</b> if you knew that the deer archery season would be extended for 5 to 7 days in late October, which would provide more archery deer hunting during the pre-rut period and would mean that the deer archery total season length in October would always be at least 23 days?	Archery hunting for deer would <i>not</i> be allowed during this additional muzzleloader season.	Strong 33	Strong 21
32. In general, <b>do you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont?</b>		Strong 33	Strong 25
		Total 59*	Total 35

\*Rounding causes apparent 1 percentage point discrepancy in sum.

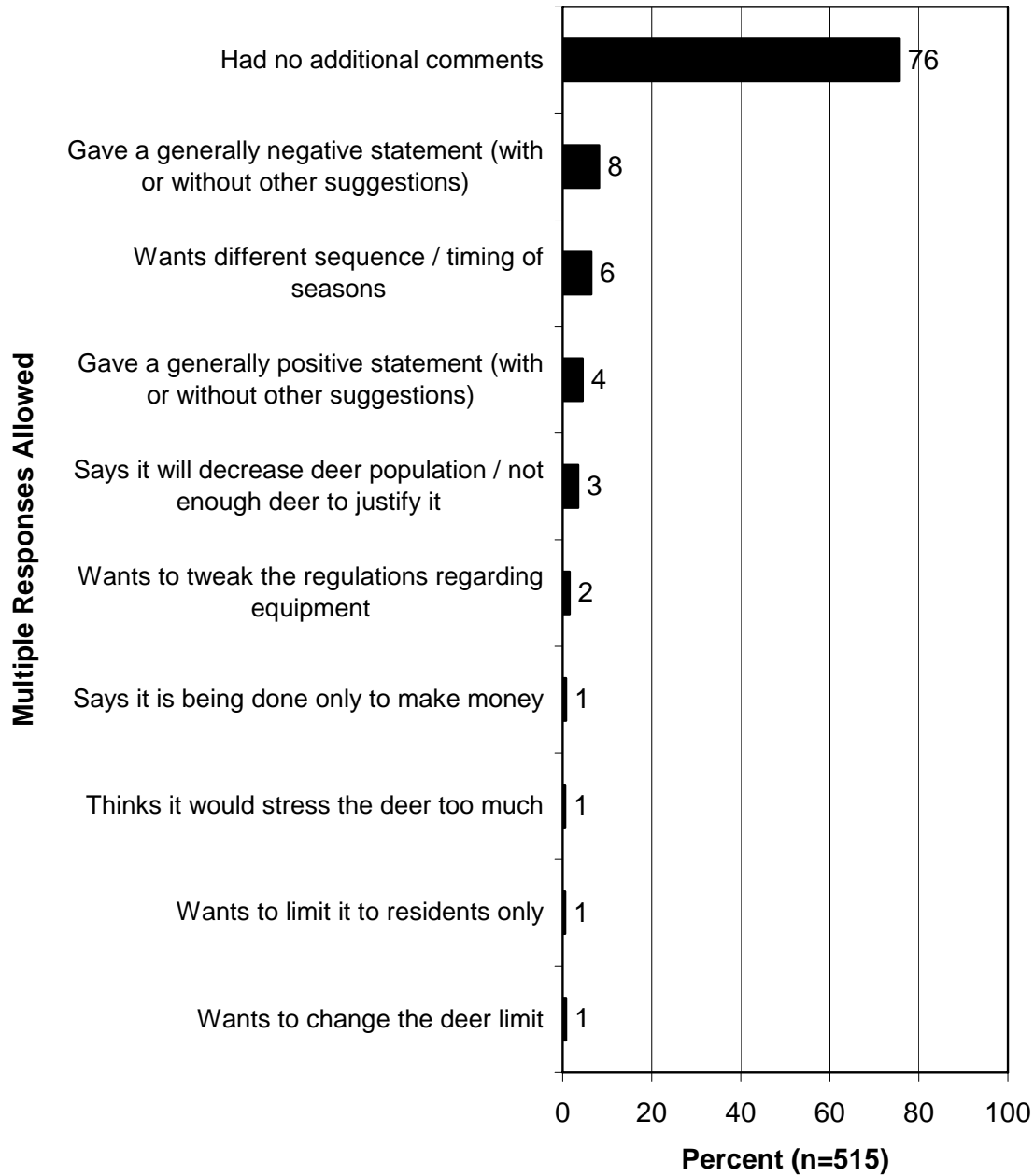
**Q27. If the additional muzzleloader antlerless deer only season is established, would you prefer those 2 to 6 days for the additional season to occur on weekdays only, weekends only, or a combination of both?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

If an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest is established, the exact number of days for the additional season has not yet been determined. It is likely that the length of the additional season may be 2 to 6 days.

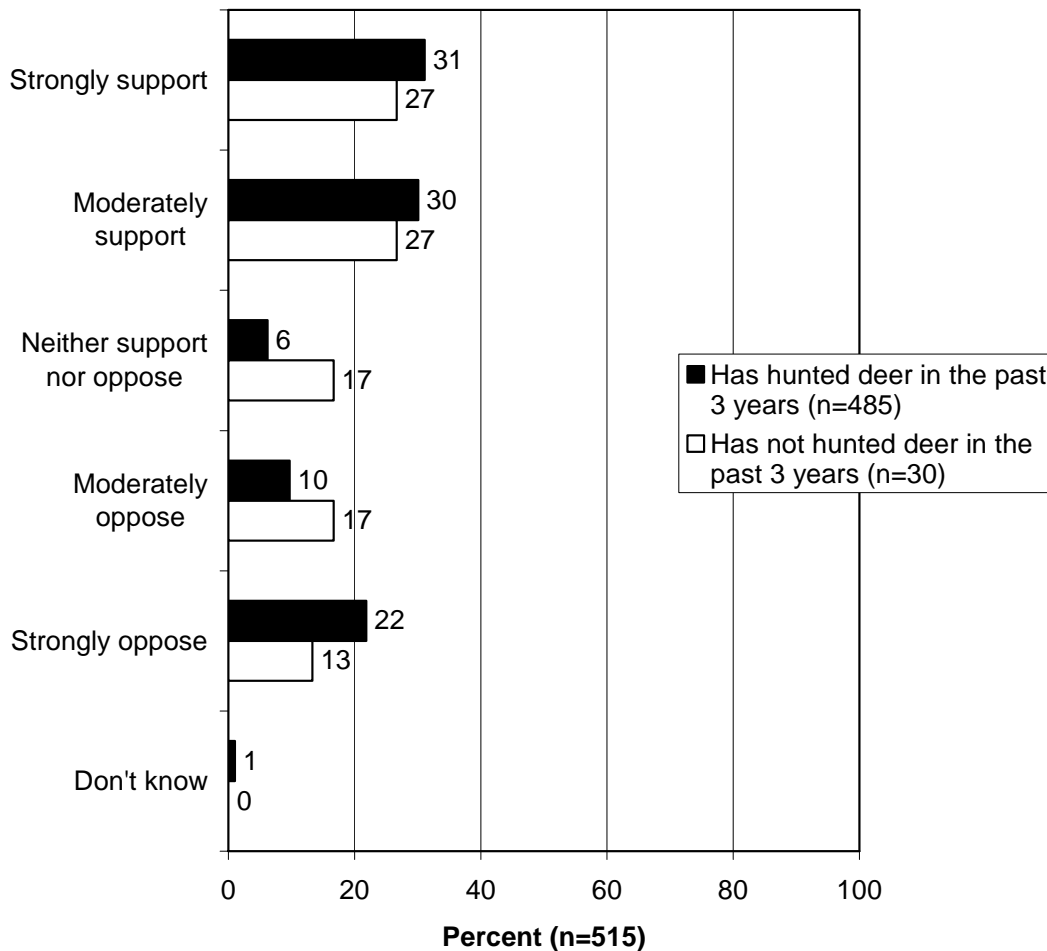
**Q42. Do you have any additional comments about an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont?**



## CROSSTABULATIONS ON THE MUZZLELOADER DEER SEASON QUESTIONS

### CROSSTABULATIONS BY HUNTED DEER VERSUS DID NOT HUNT DEER

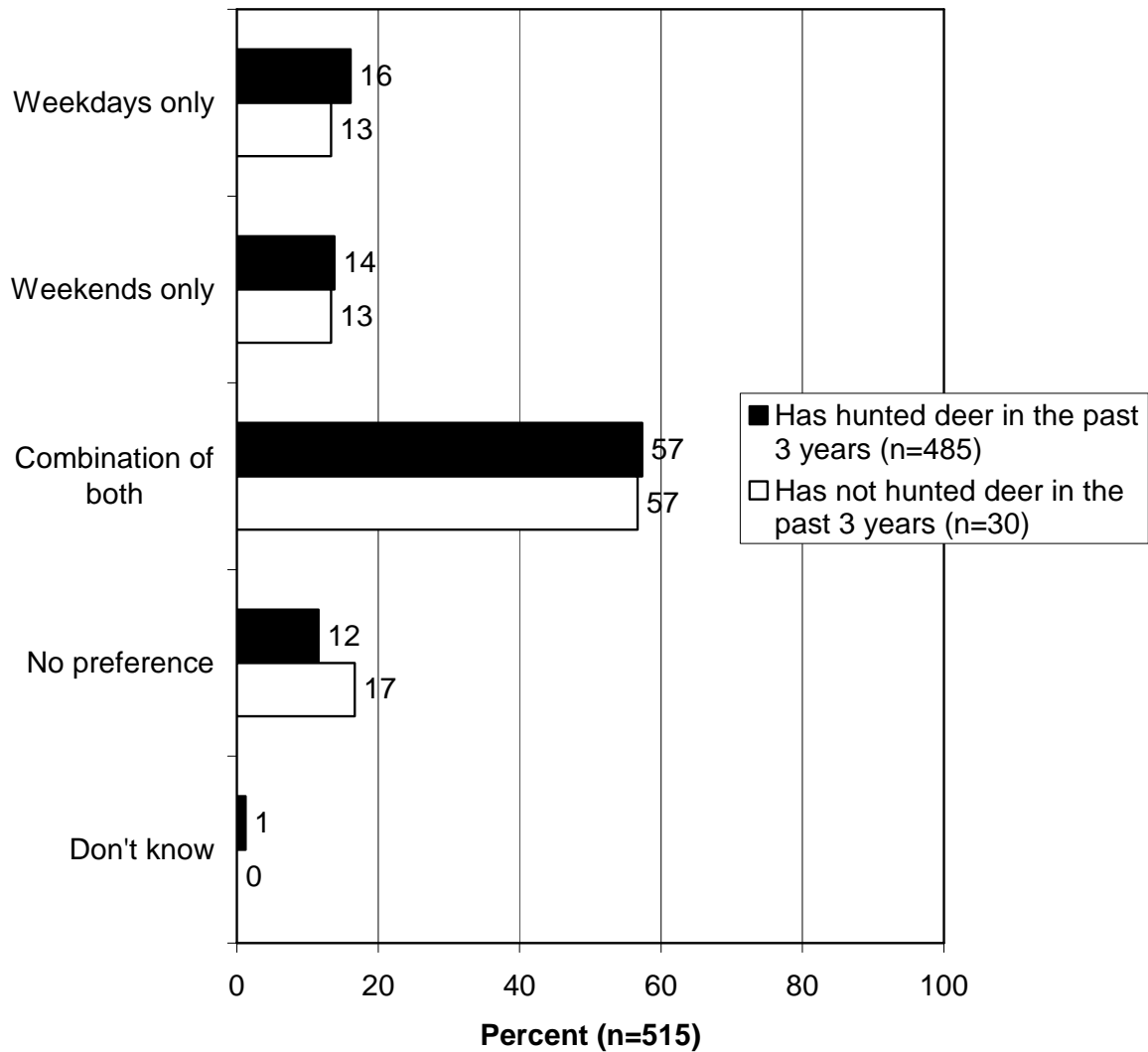
**Q26. In general, do you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

Currently, Vermont has a 9-day deer muzzleloader season in early December. A predetermined number of antlerless, or doe, permits would be issued by Wildlife Management Unit through a lottery each year for this additional muzzleloader season. This season would be in addition to the 9-day deer muzzleloader season in early December and would occur during a different time period.

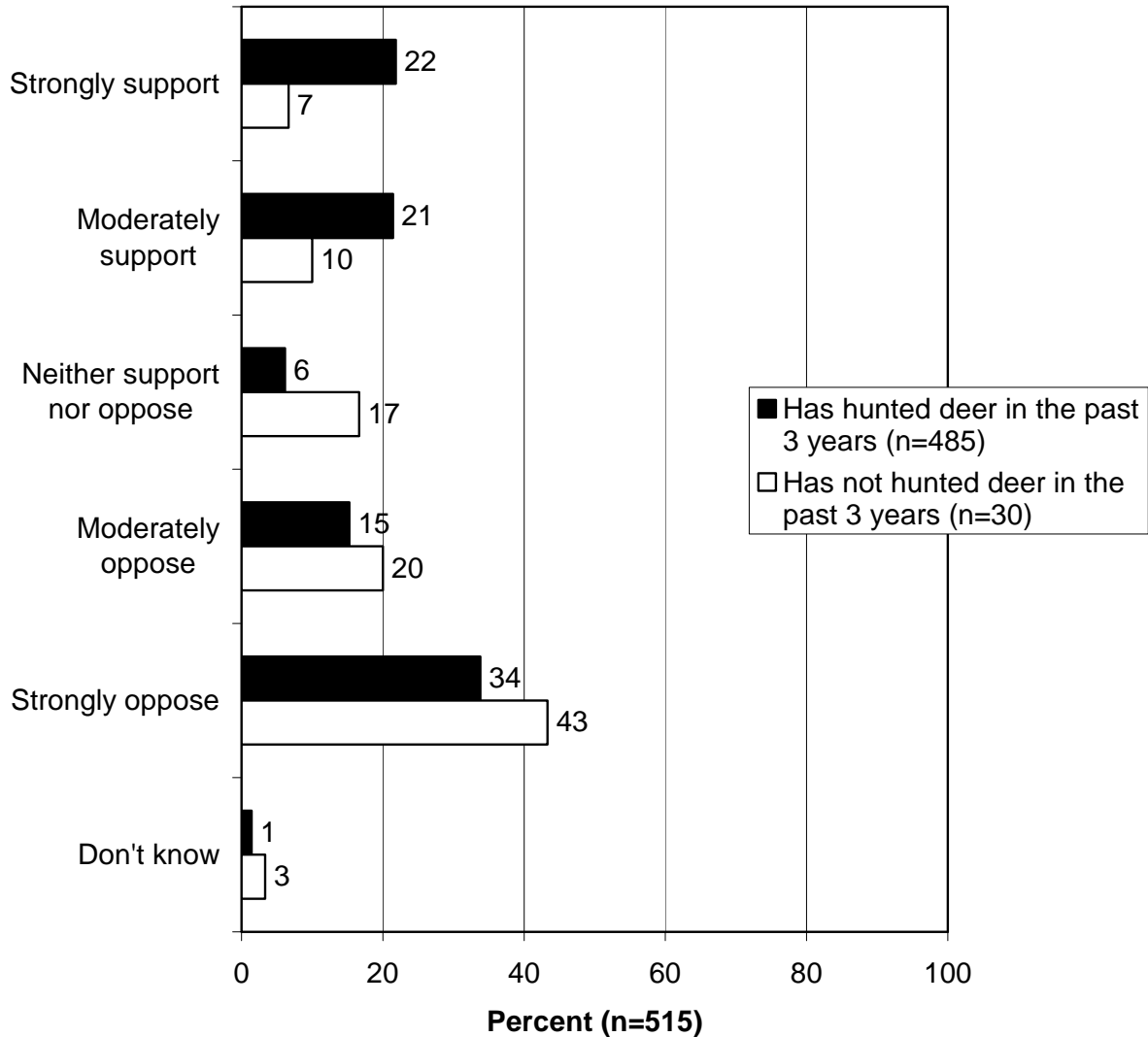
**Q27. If the additional muzzleloader antlerless deer only season is established, would you prefer those 2 to 6 days for the additional season to occur on weekdays only, weekends only, or a combination of both?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

If an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest is established, the exact number of days for the additional season has not yet been determined. It is likely that the length of the additional season may be 2 to 6 days.

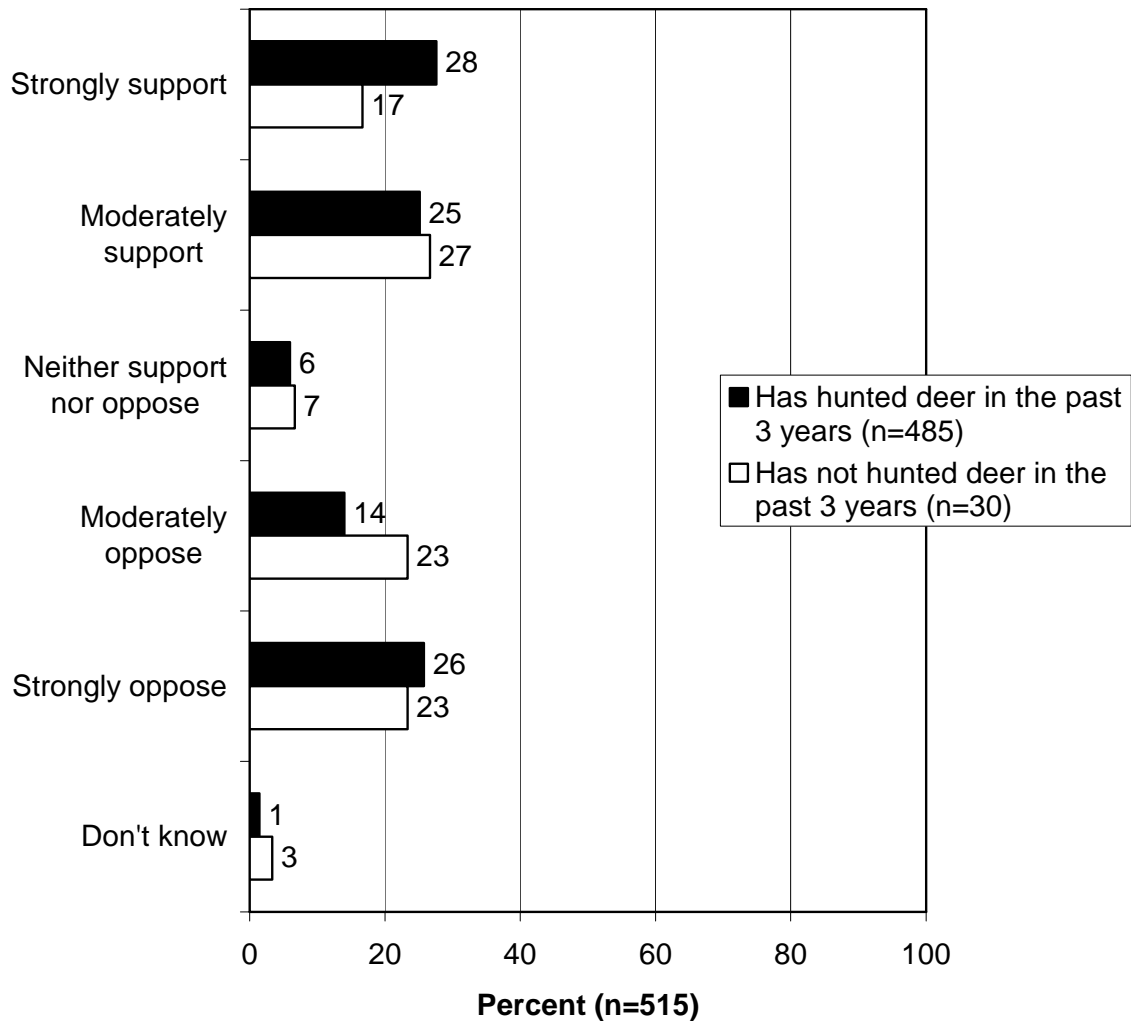
**Q28. Would you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in mid-October if you knew that archery hunting for deer would not be allowed during this additional muzzleloader season?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

Currently, the Vermont 32-day deer archery season is a split season with the first portion of the season occurring for 23 consecutive days from early to late October.

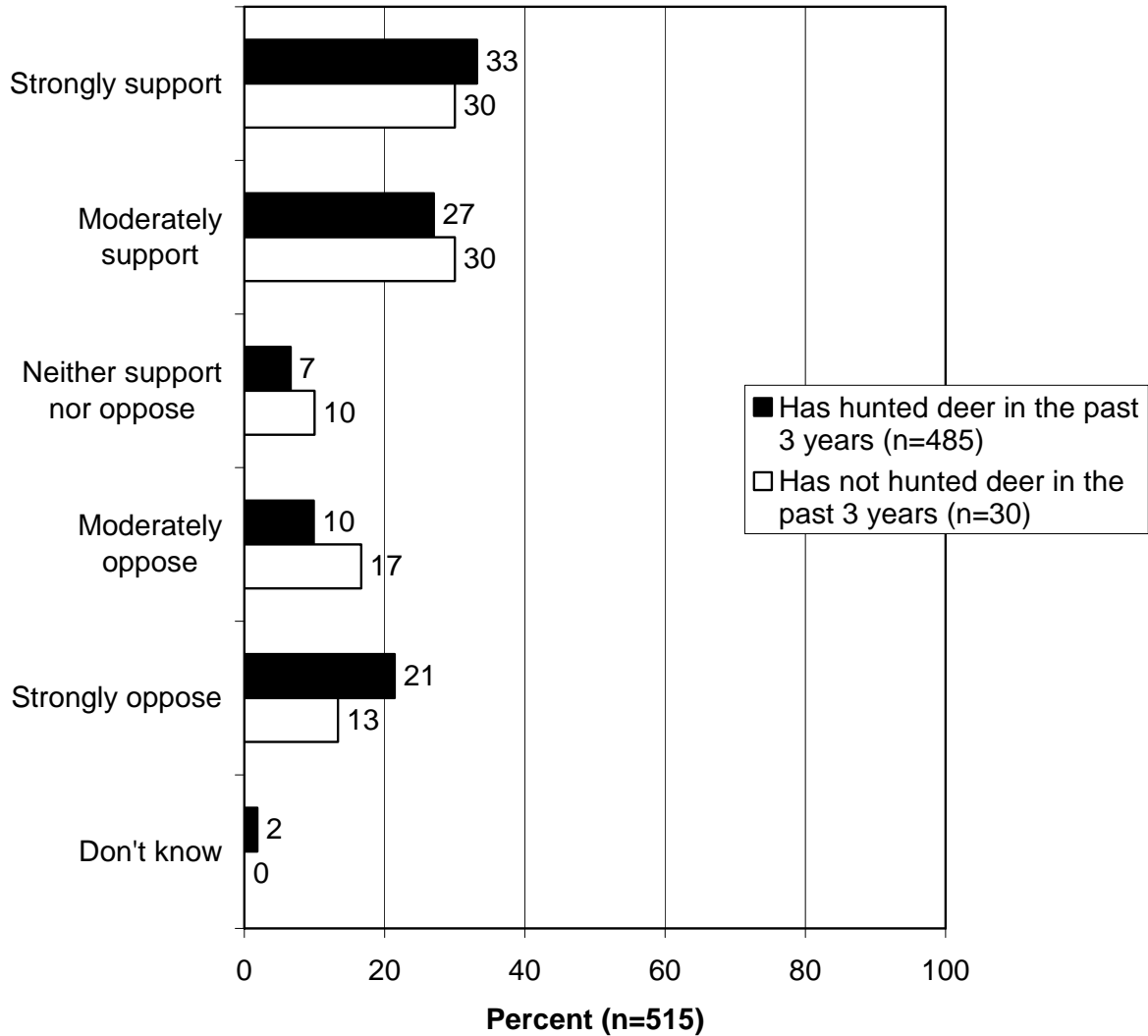
**Q30. If you knew this, would you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in mid-October?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

What if you knew that Department biologists and wardens have examined all the options for providing an early antlerless-only muzzleloader season and have determined that the option causing the least conflict with other seasons is a 2- to 6-day period in mid-October while not allowing archery hunting during this period?

**Q31. If you knew this, would you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in mid-October?**

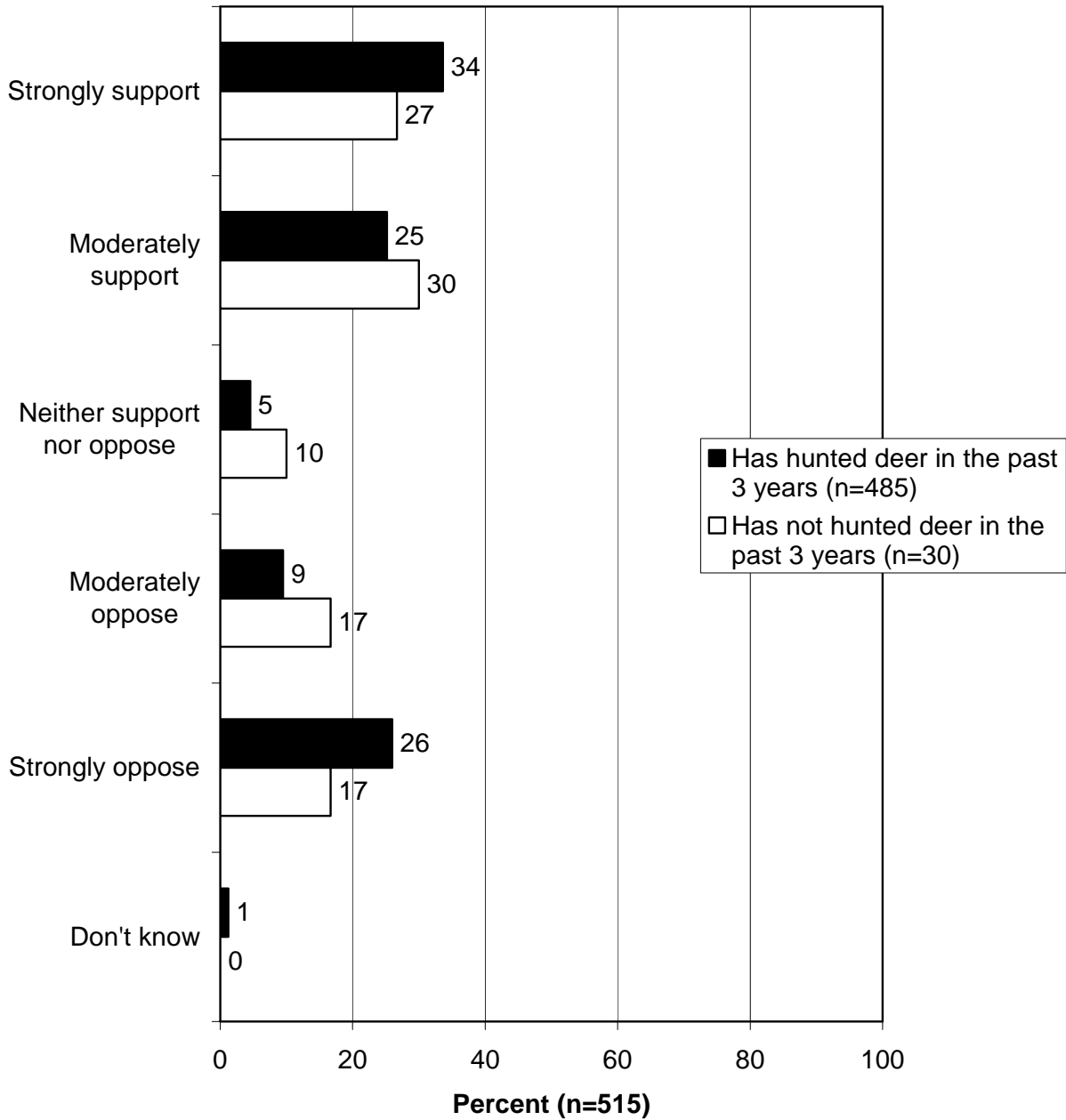


**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

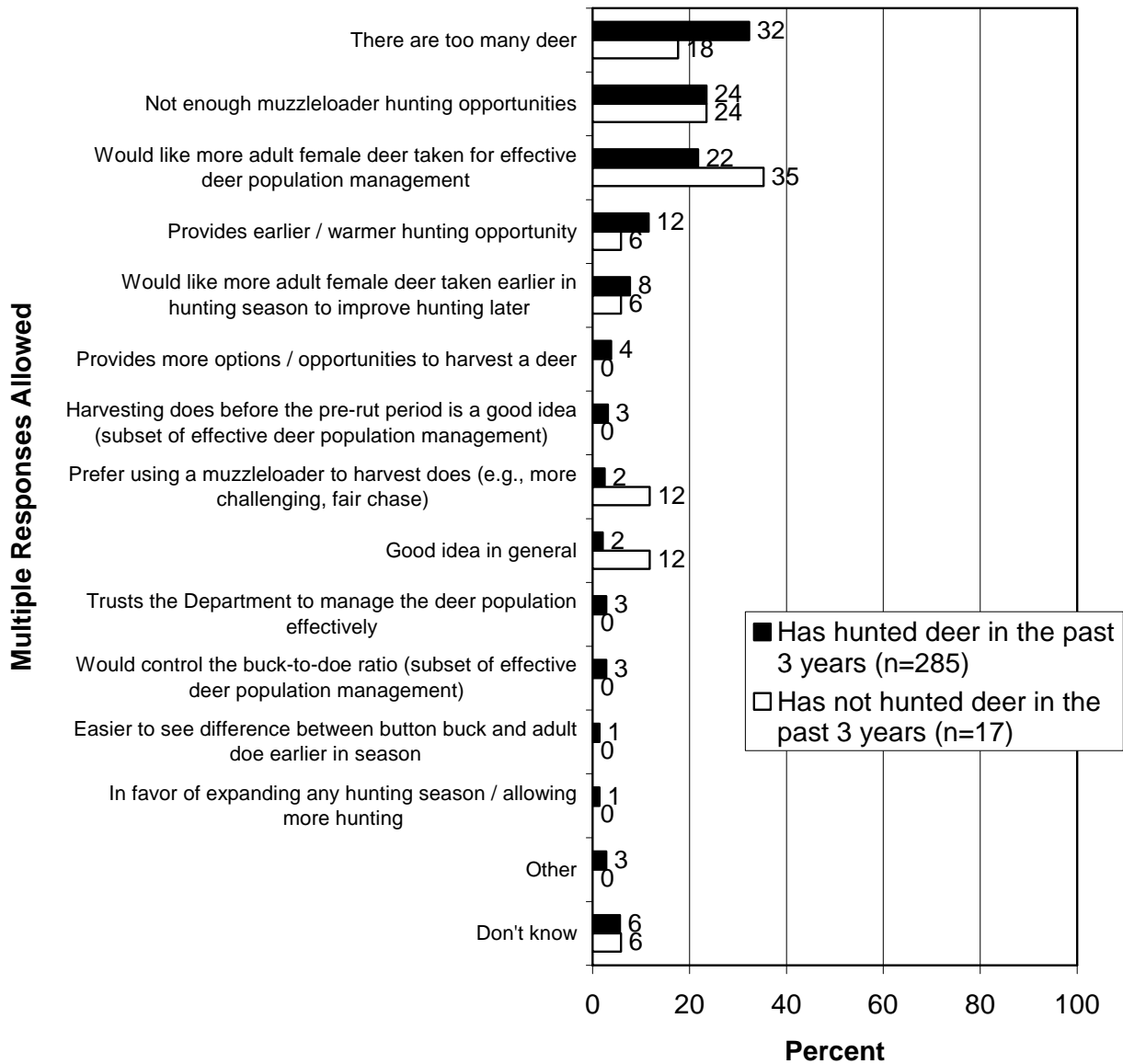
What if you knew that the deer archery season would be extended for 5 to 7 days in late October, which would provide more archery deer hunting during the pre-rut period and would mean that the deer archery total season length in October would always be at least 23 days?



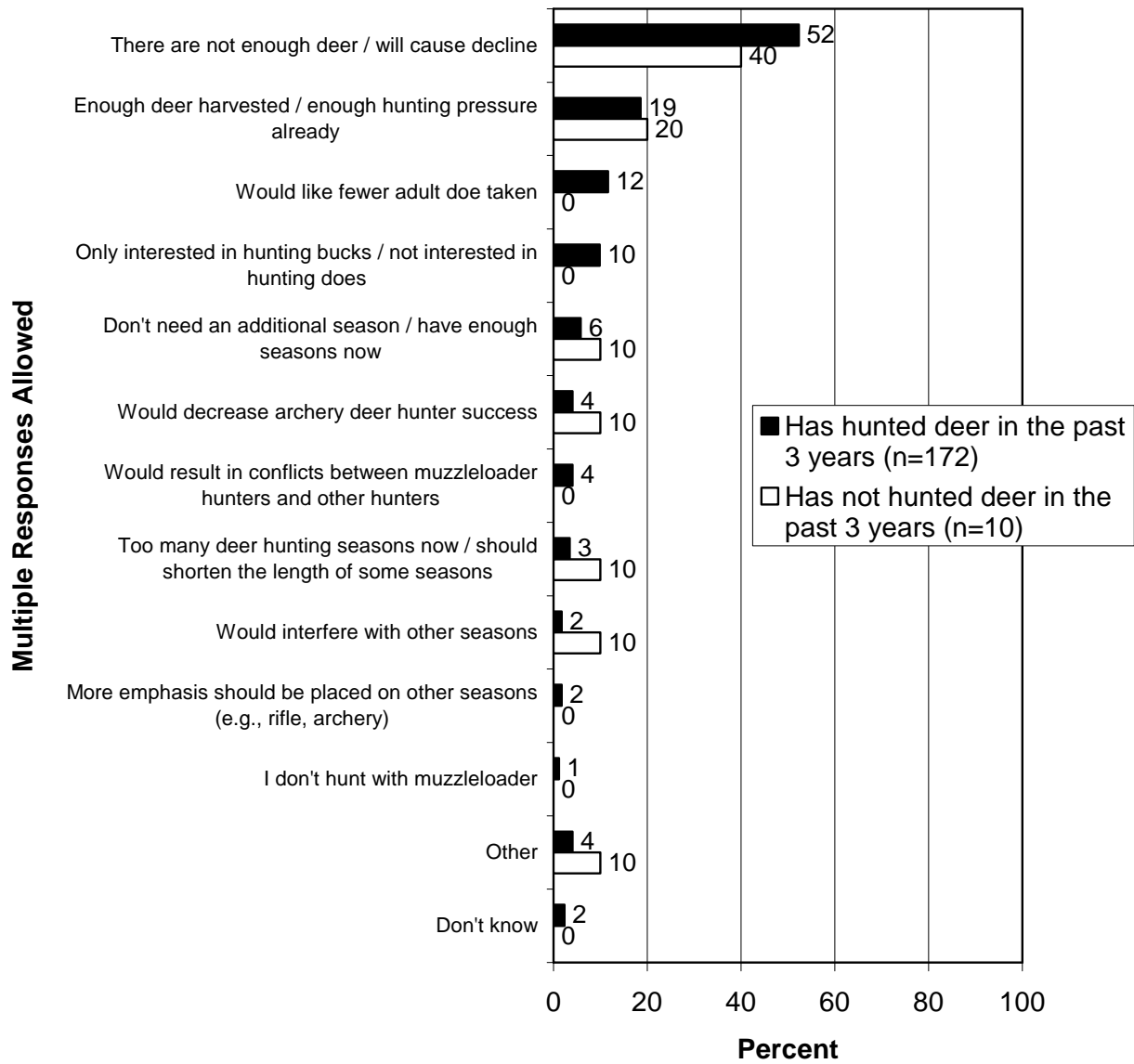
**Q32. In general, do you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont?**



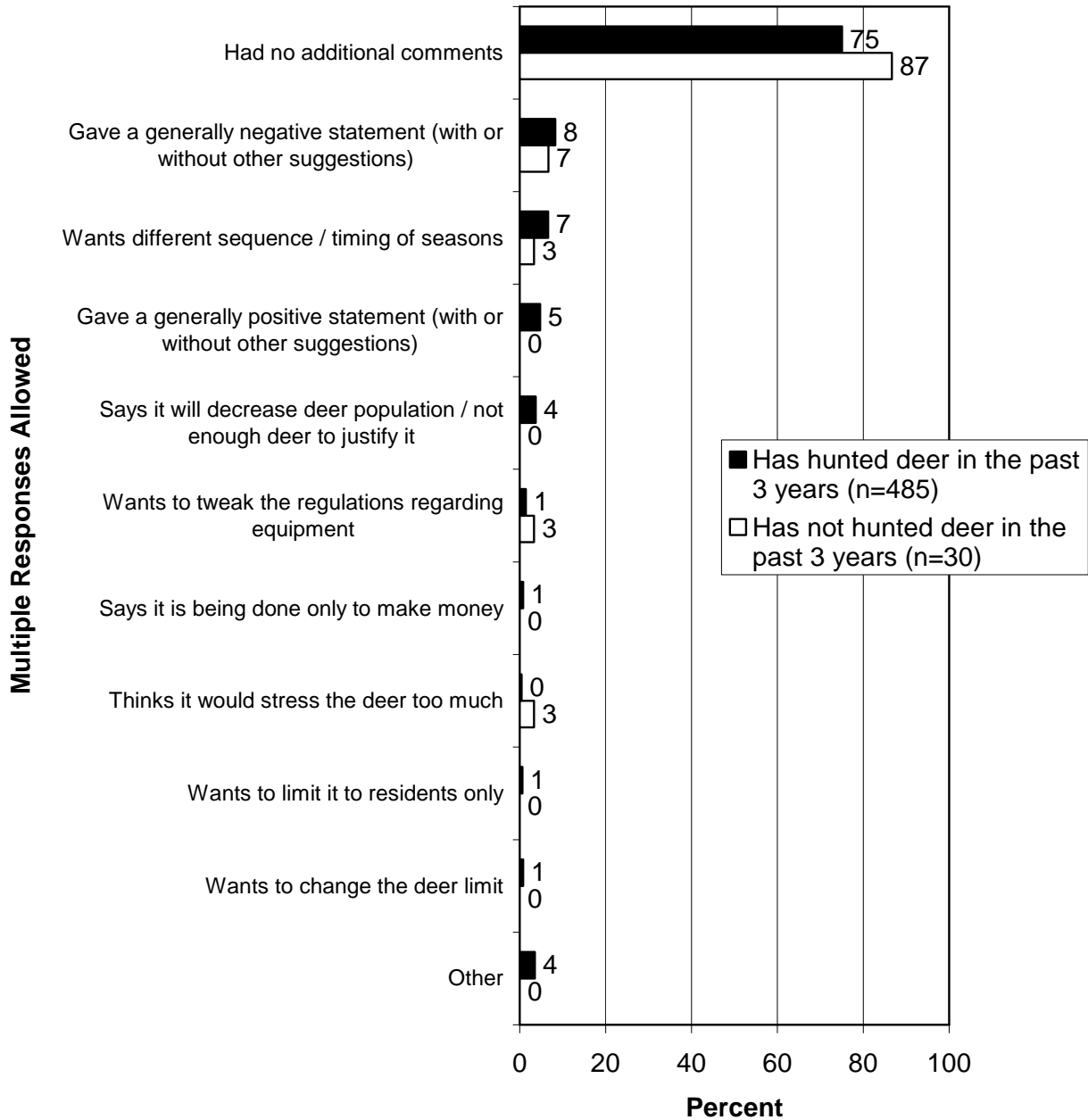
**Q35. Why do you support an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont? (Asked of those who support an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont in general.)**



**Q39. Why do you oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont? (Asked of those who oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont in general.)**

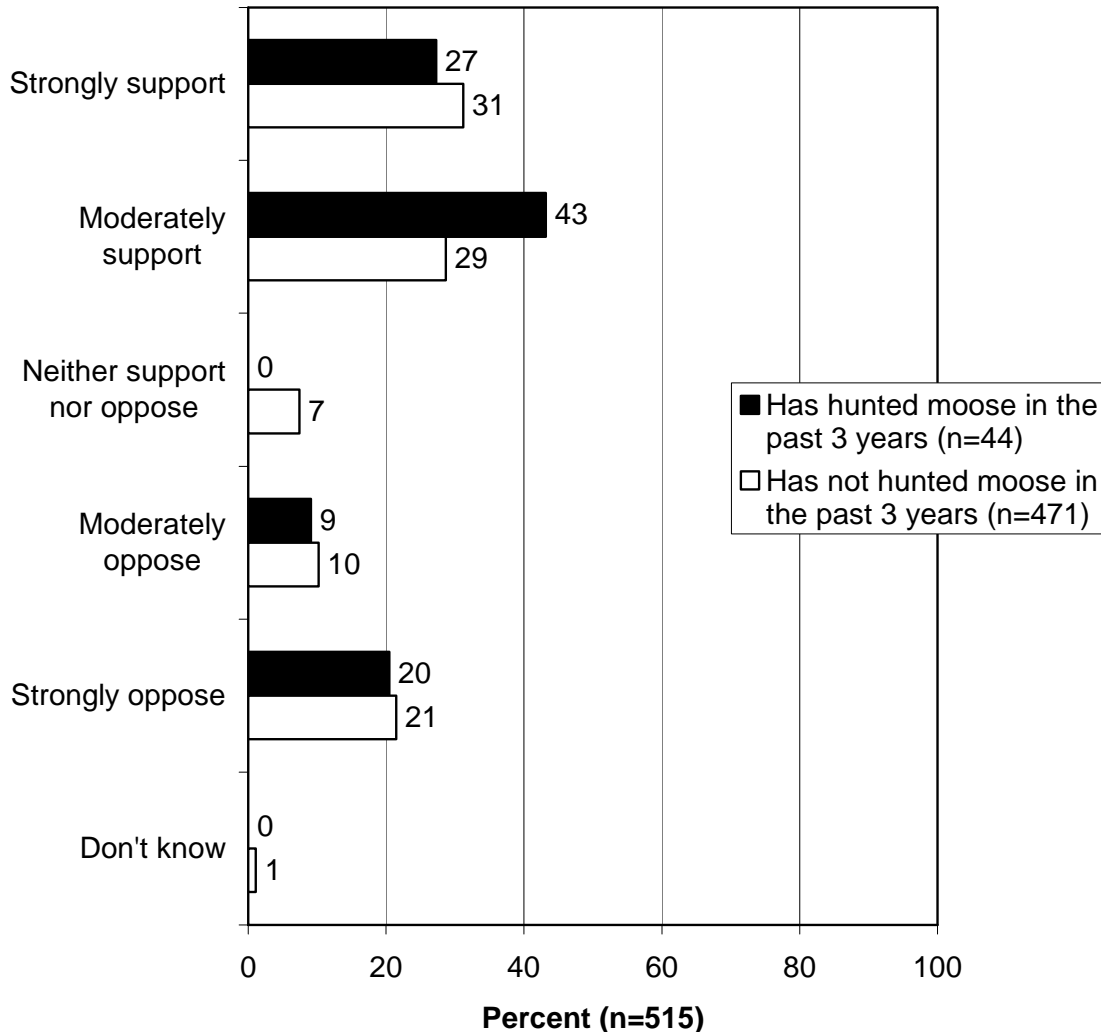


**Q42. Do you have any additional comments about an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont?**



## CROSSTABULATIONS BY HUNTED MOOSE VERSUS DID NOT HUNT MOOSE

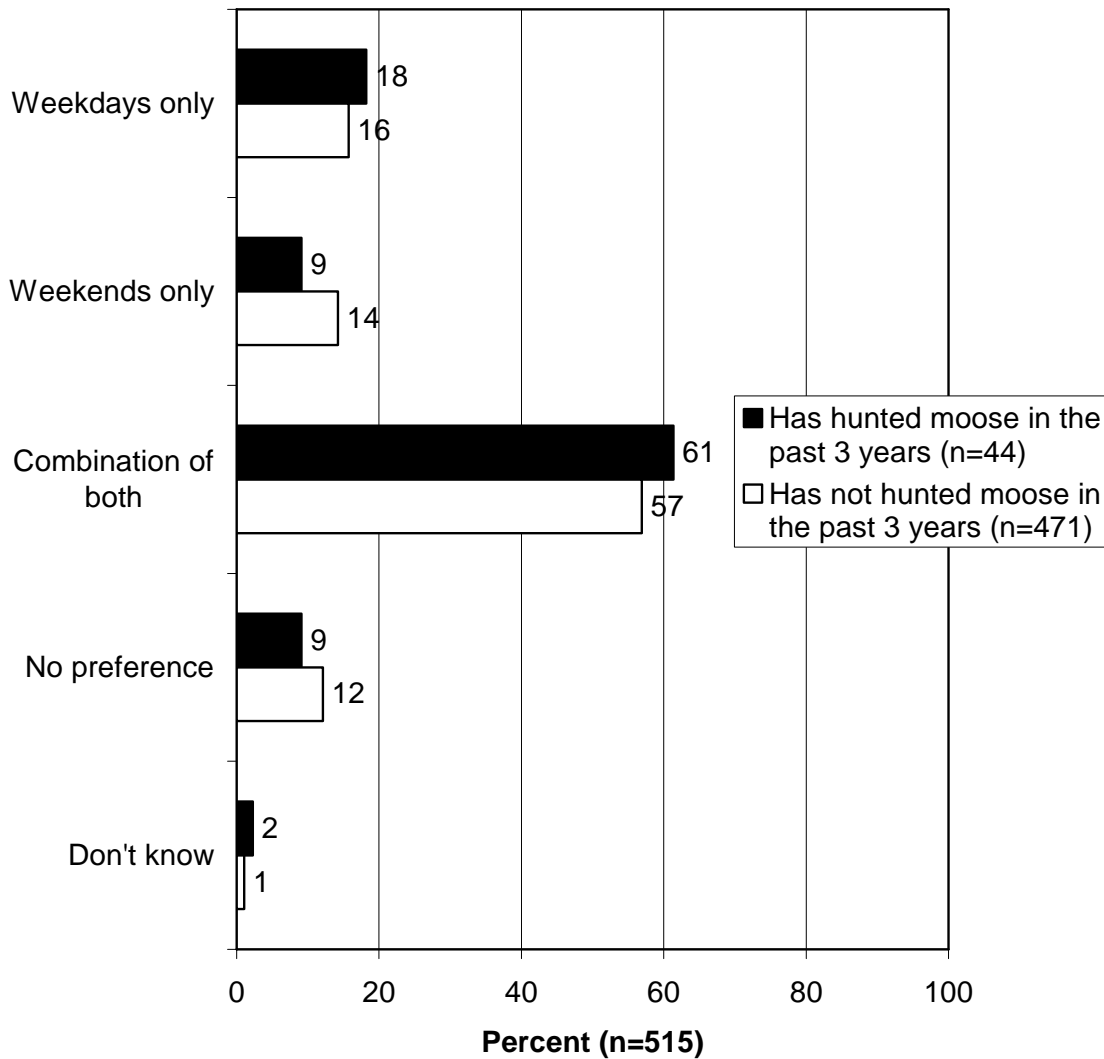
**Q26. In general, do you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont?**



### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:

Currently, Vermont has a 9-day deer muzzleloader season in early December. A predetermined number of antlerless, or doe, permits would be issued by Wildlife Management Unit through a lottery each year for this additional muzzleloader season. This season would be in addition to the 9-day deer muzzleloader season in early December and would occur during a different time period.

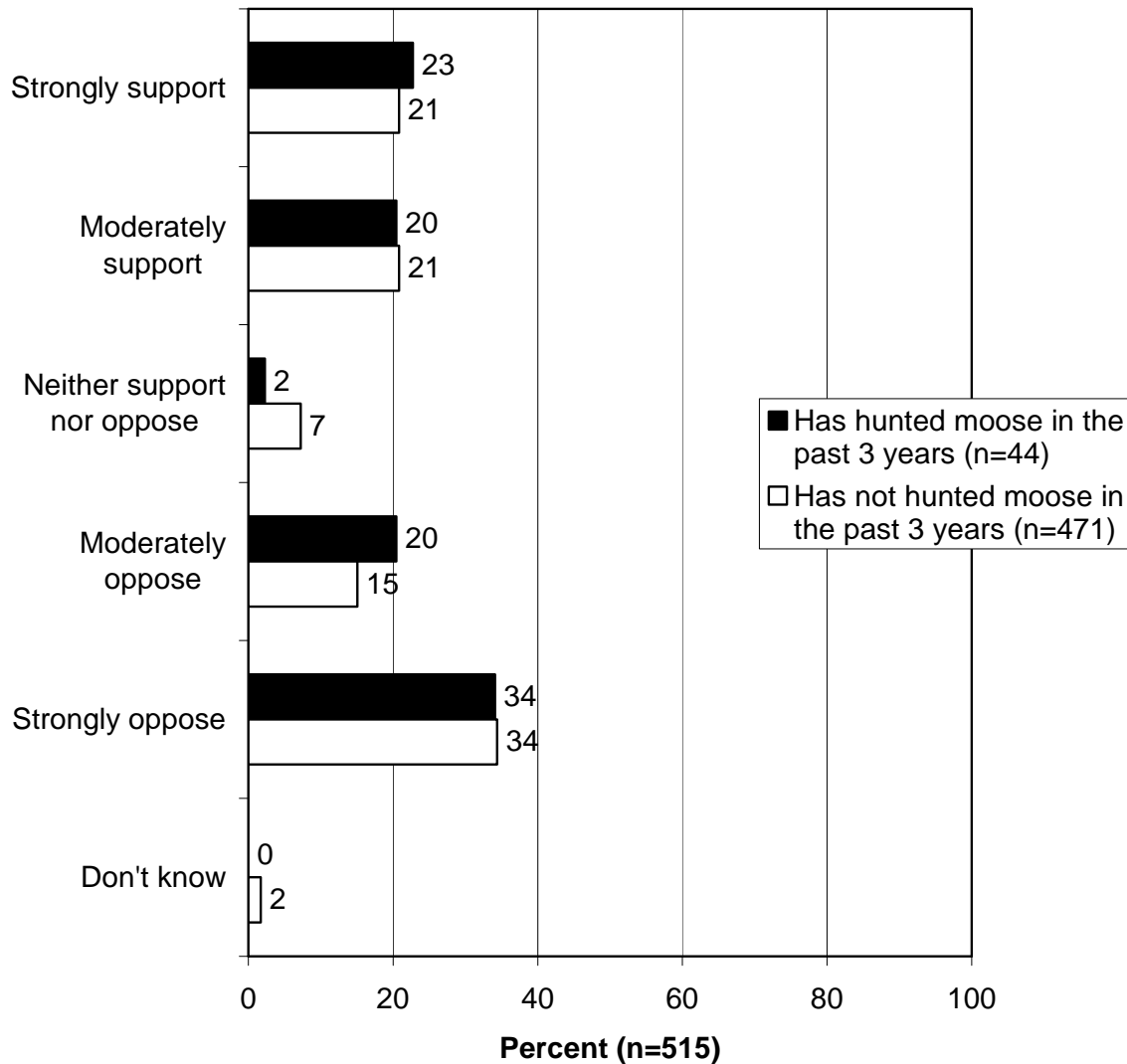
**Q27. If the additional muzzleloader antlerless deer only season is established, would you prefer those 2 to 6 days for the additional season to occur on weekdays only, weekends only, or a combination of both?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

If an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest is established, the exact number of days for the additional season has not yet been determined. It is likely that the length of the additional season may be 2 to 6 days.

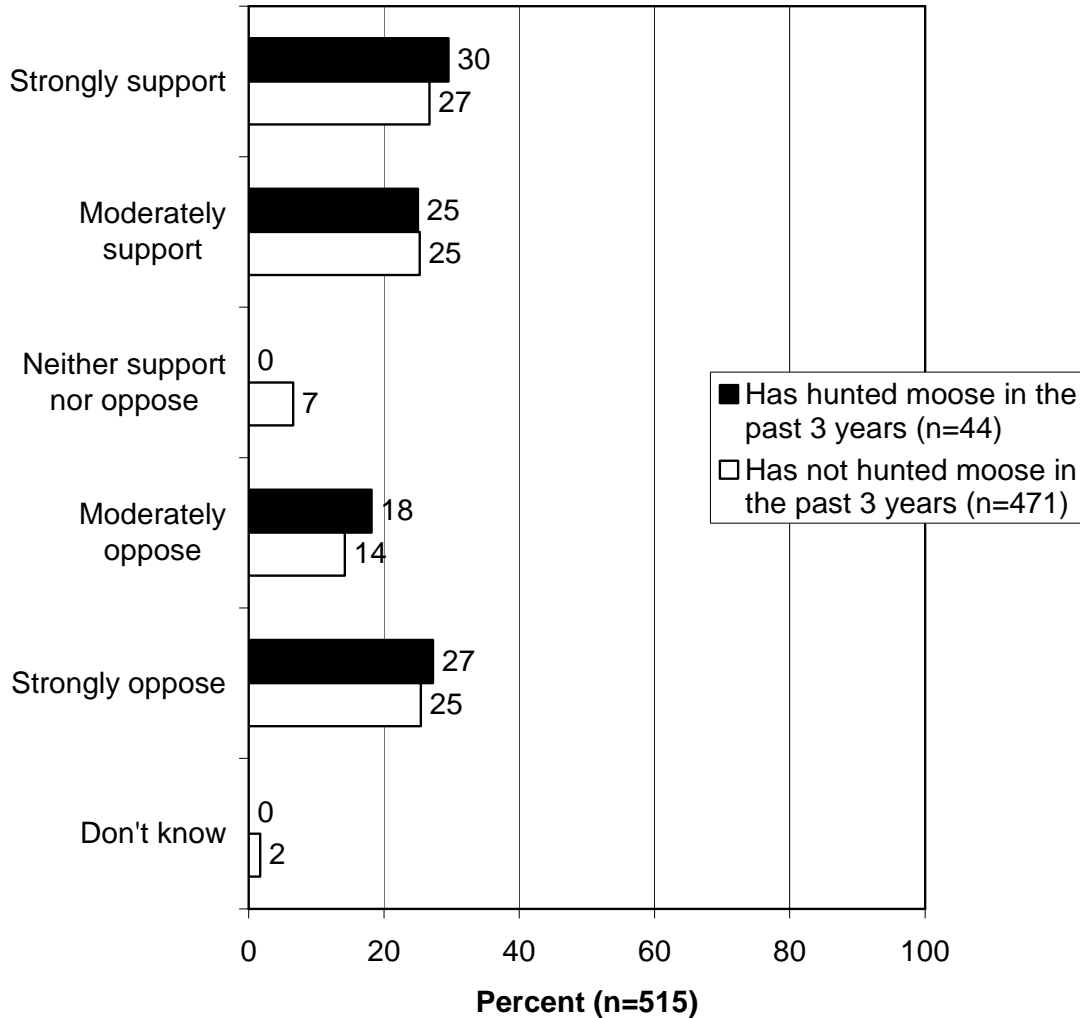
**Q28. Would you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in mid-October if you knew that archery hunting for deer would not be allowed during this additional muzzleloader season?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

Currently, the Vermont 32-day deer archery season is a split season with the first portion of the season occurring for 23 consecutive days from early to late October.

**Q30. If you knew this, would you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in mid-October?**

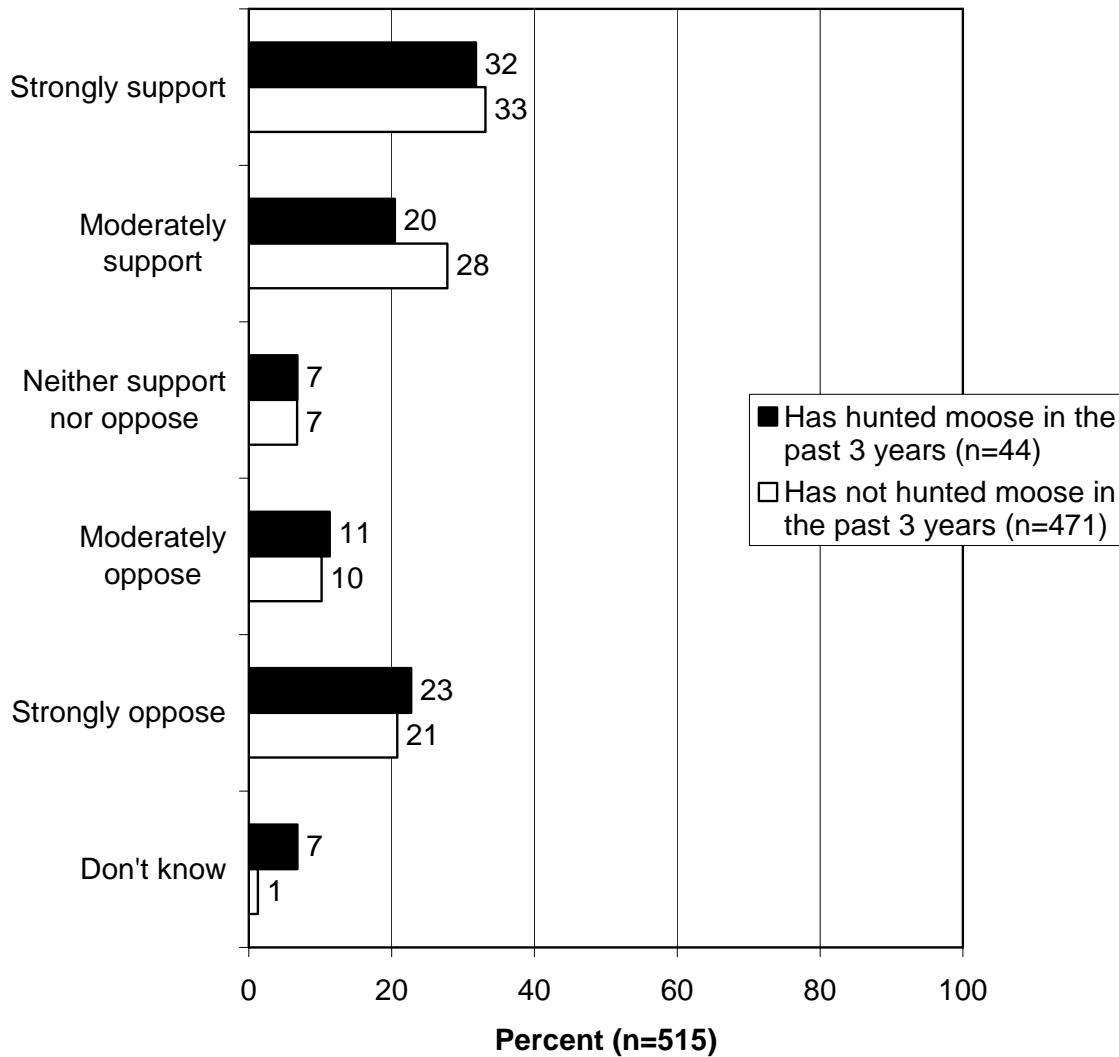


**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

What if you knew that Department biologists and wardens have examined all the options for providing an early antlerless-only muzzleloader season and have determined that the option causing the least conflict with other seasons is a 2- to 6-day period in mid-October while not allowing archery hunting during this period?



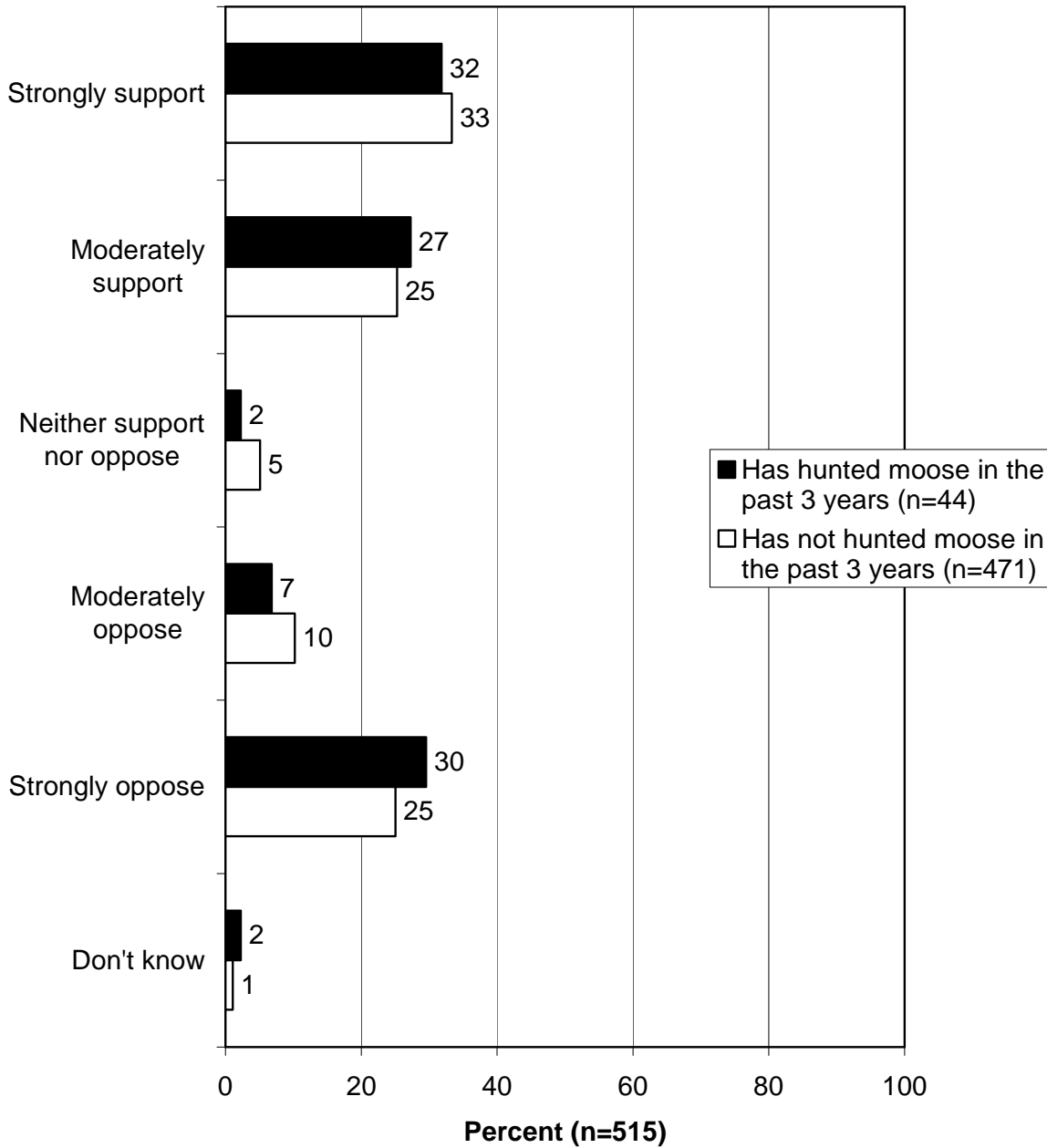
**Q31. If you knew this, would you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in mid-October?**



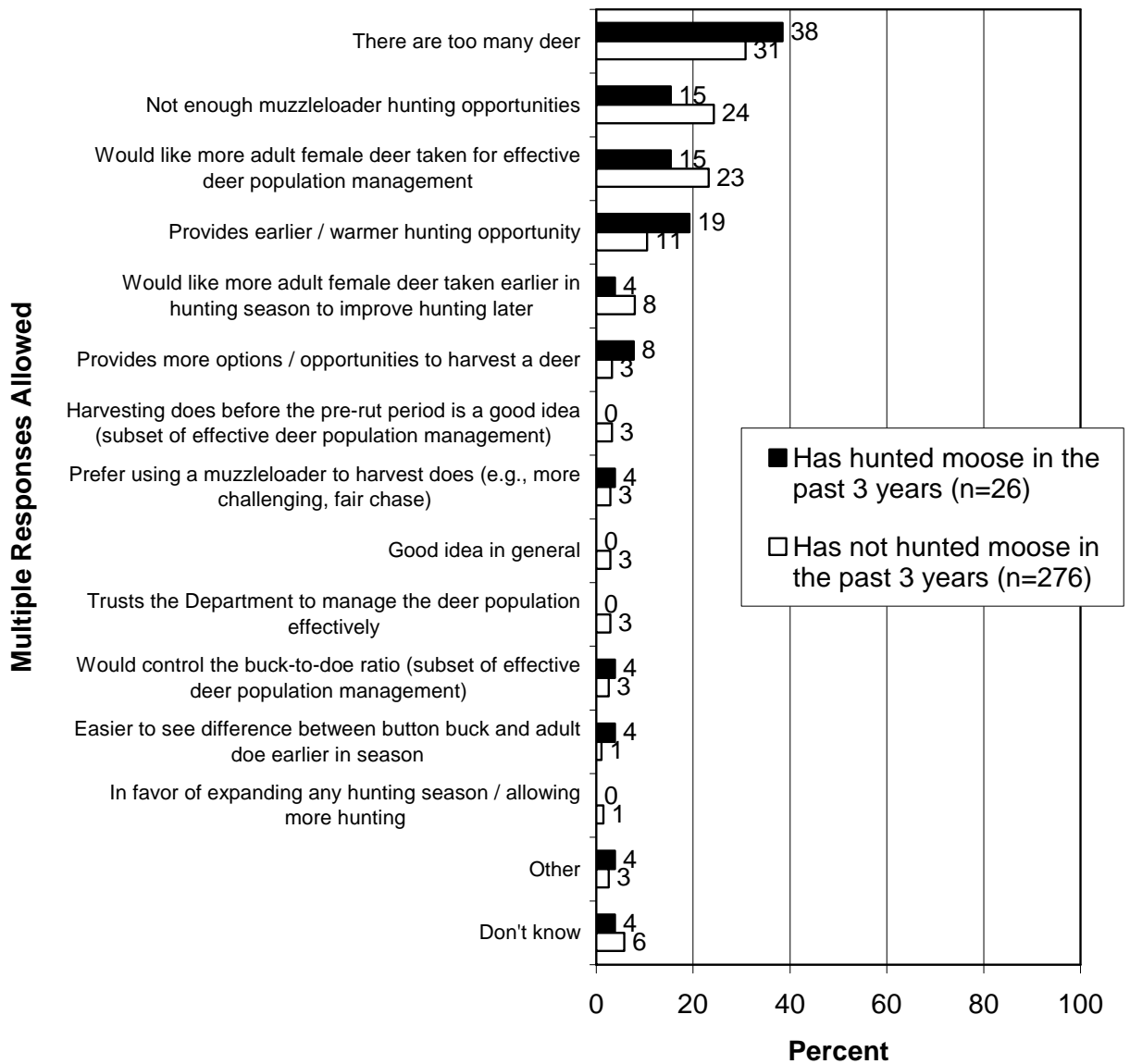
**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

What if you knew that the deer archery season would be extended for 5 to 7 days in late October, which would provide more archery deer hunting during the pre-rut period and would mean that the deer archery total season length in October would always be at least 23 days?

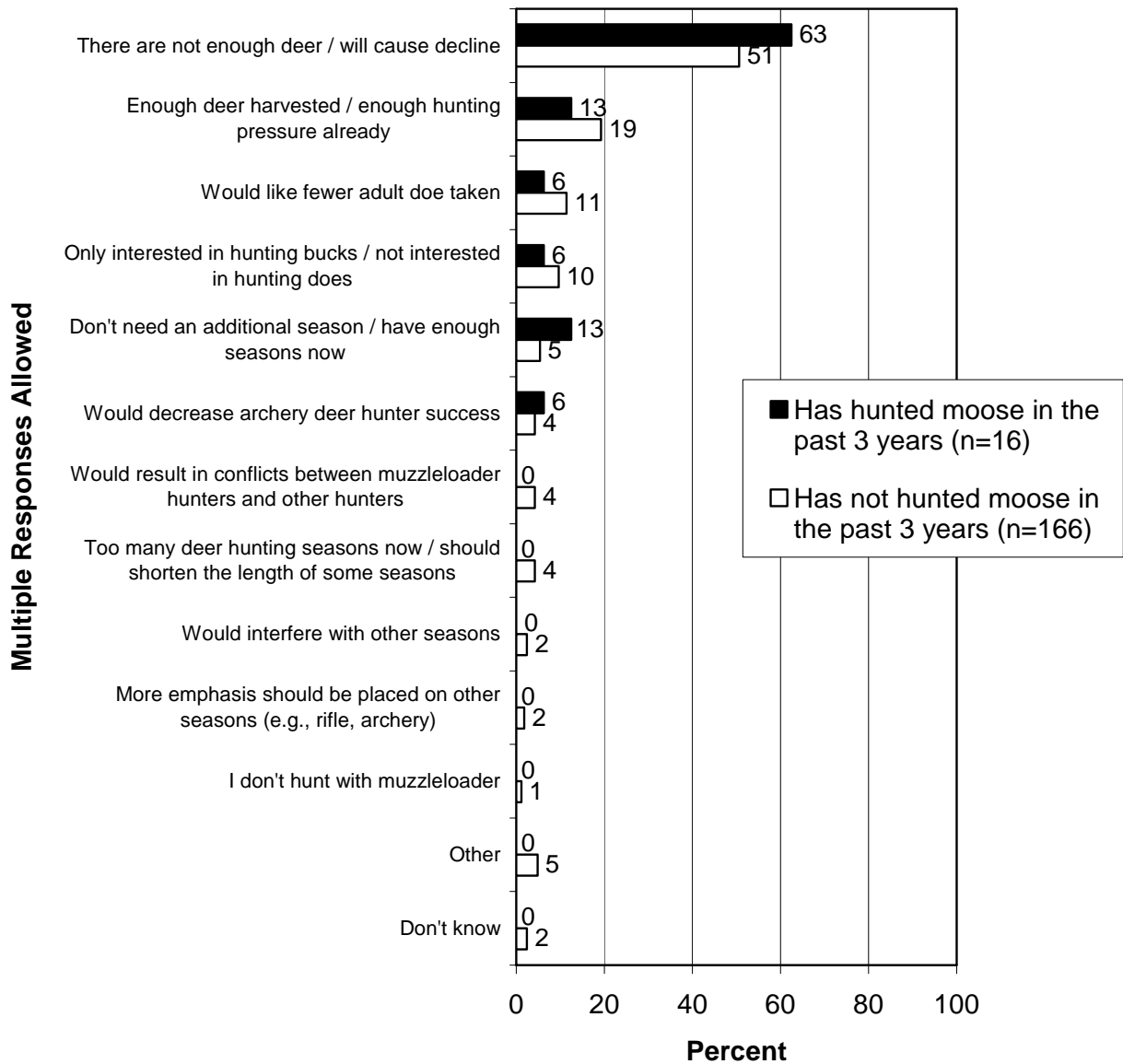
**Q32. In general, do you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont?**



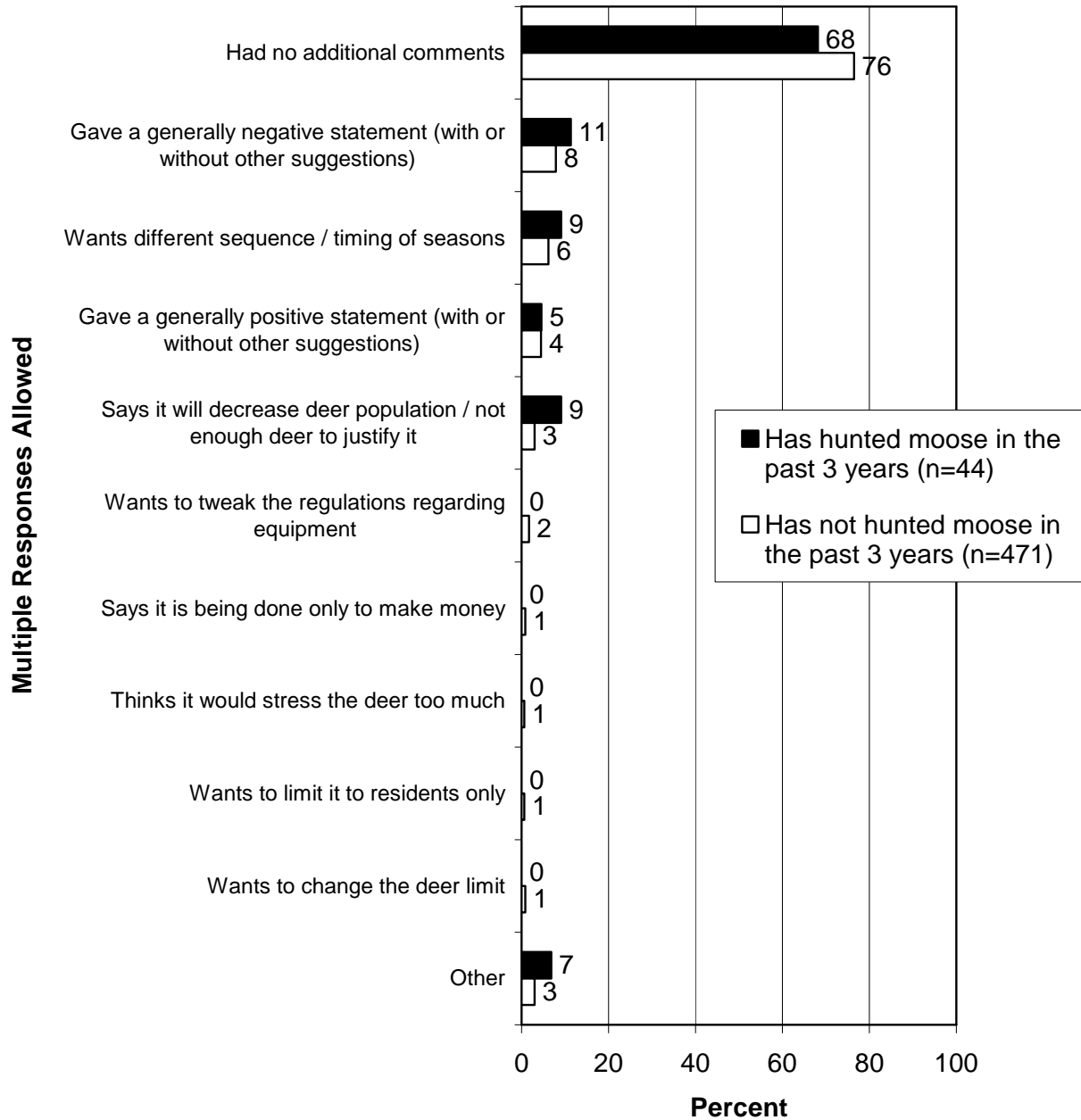
**Q35. Why do you support an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont? (Asked of those who support an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont in general.)**



**Q39. Why do you oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont? (Asked of those who oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont in general.)**

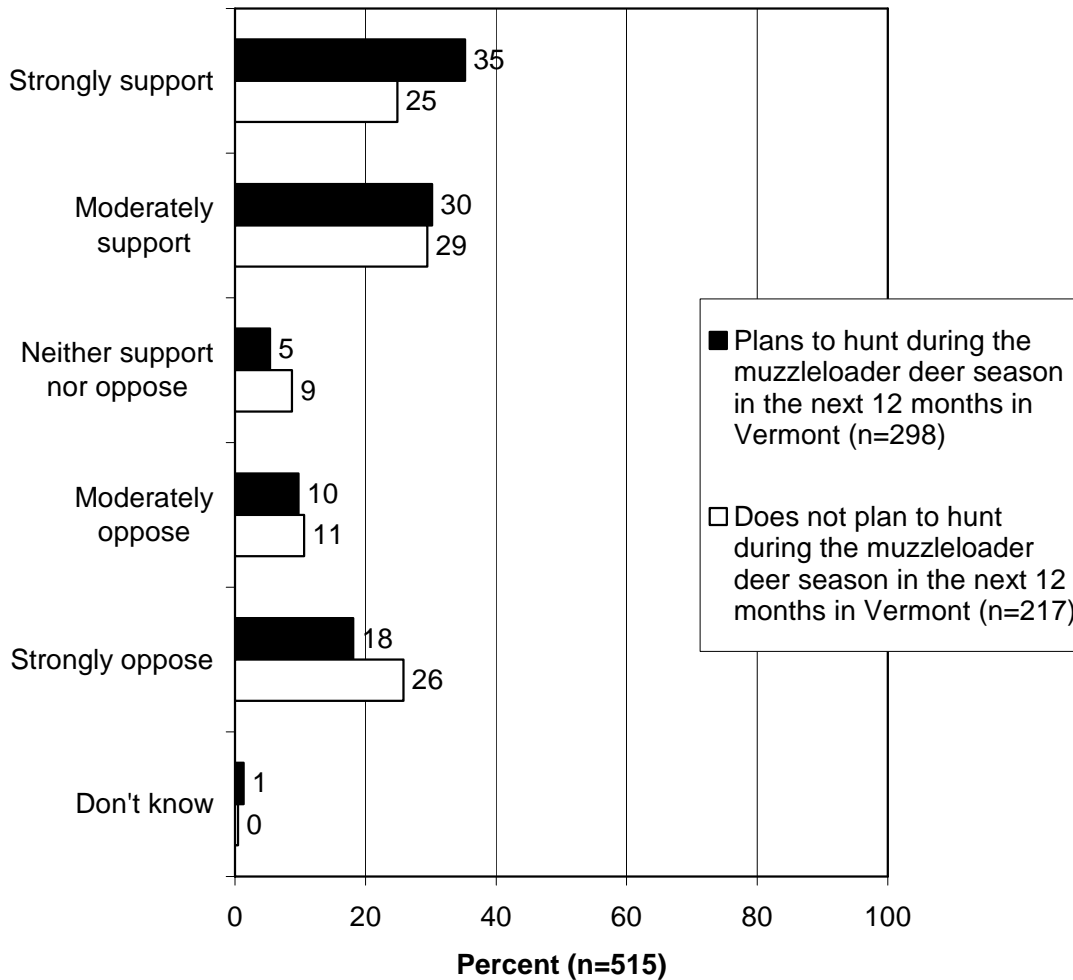


**Q42. Do you have any additional comments about an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont?**



**CROSSTABULATIONS BY PLAN TO MUZZLELOADER HUNT VERSUS NOT PLANNING TO DO SO**

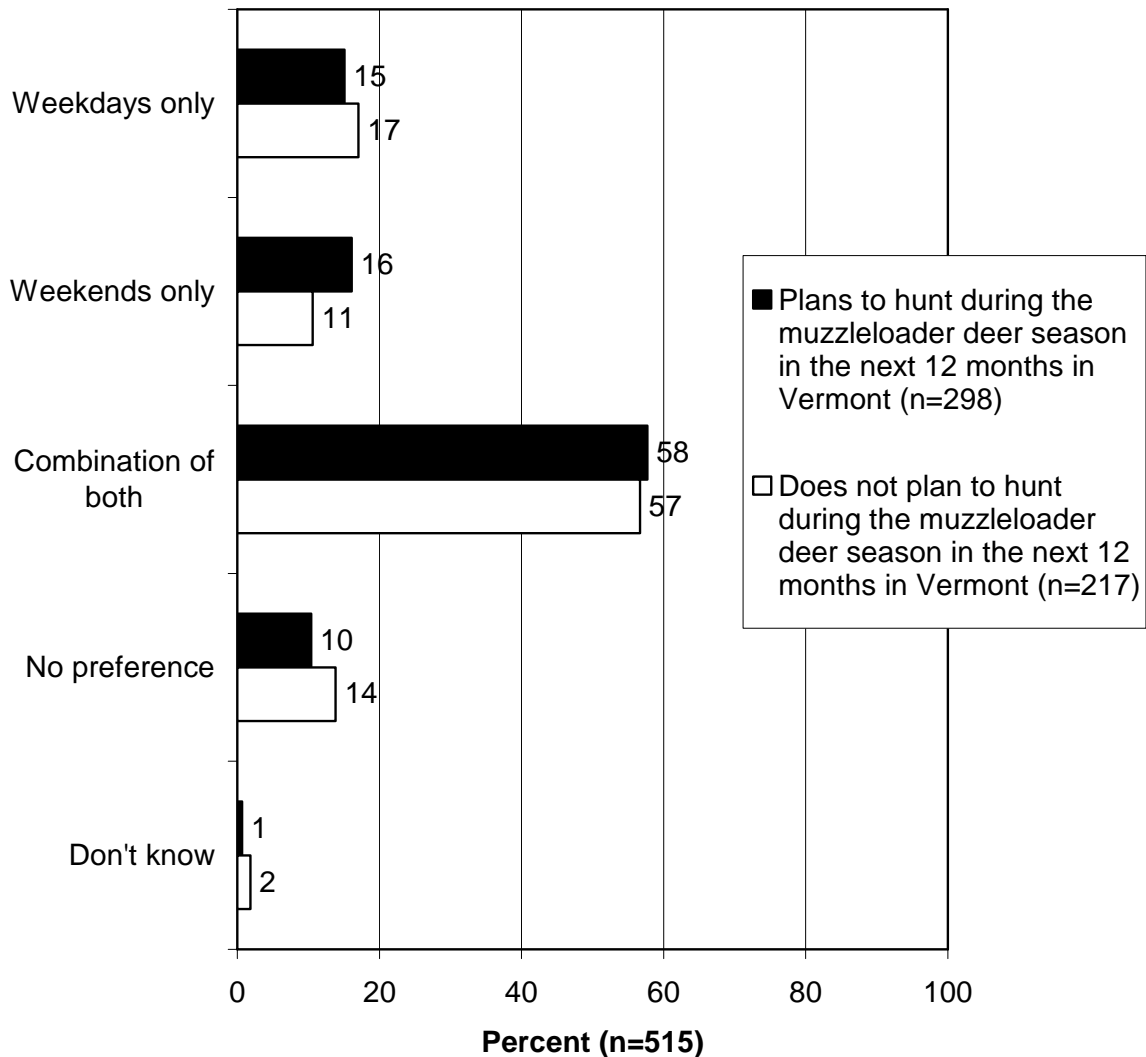
**Q26. In general, do you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

Currently, Vermont has a 9-day deer muzzleloader season in early December. A predetermined number of antlerless, or doe, permits would be issued by Wildlife Management Unit through a lottery each year for this additional muzzleloader season. This season would be in addition to the 9-day deer muzzleloader season in early December and would occur during a different time period.

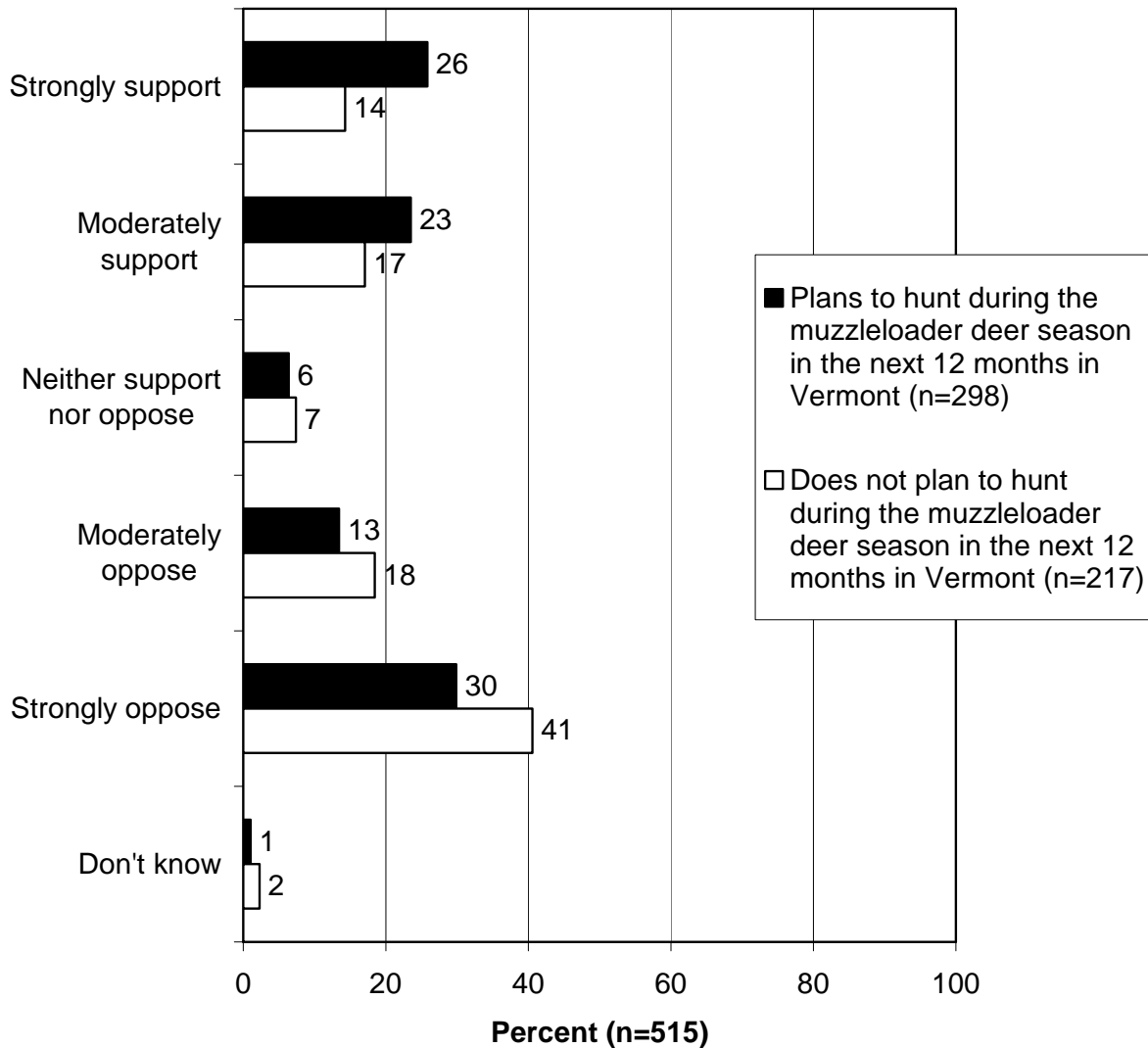
**Q27. If the additional muzzleloader antlerless deer only season is established, would you prefer those 2 to 6 days for the additional season to occur on weekdays only, weekends only, or a combination of both?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

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**Q28. Would you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in mid-October if you knew that archery hunting for deer would not be allowed during this additional muzzleloader season?**

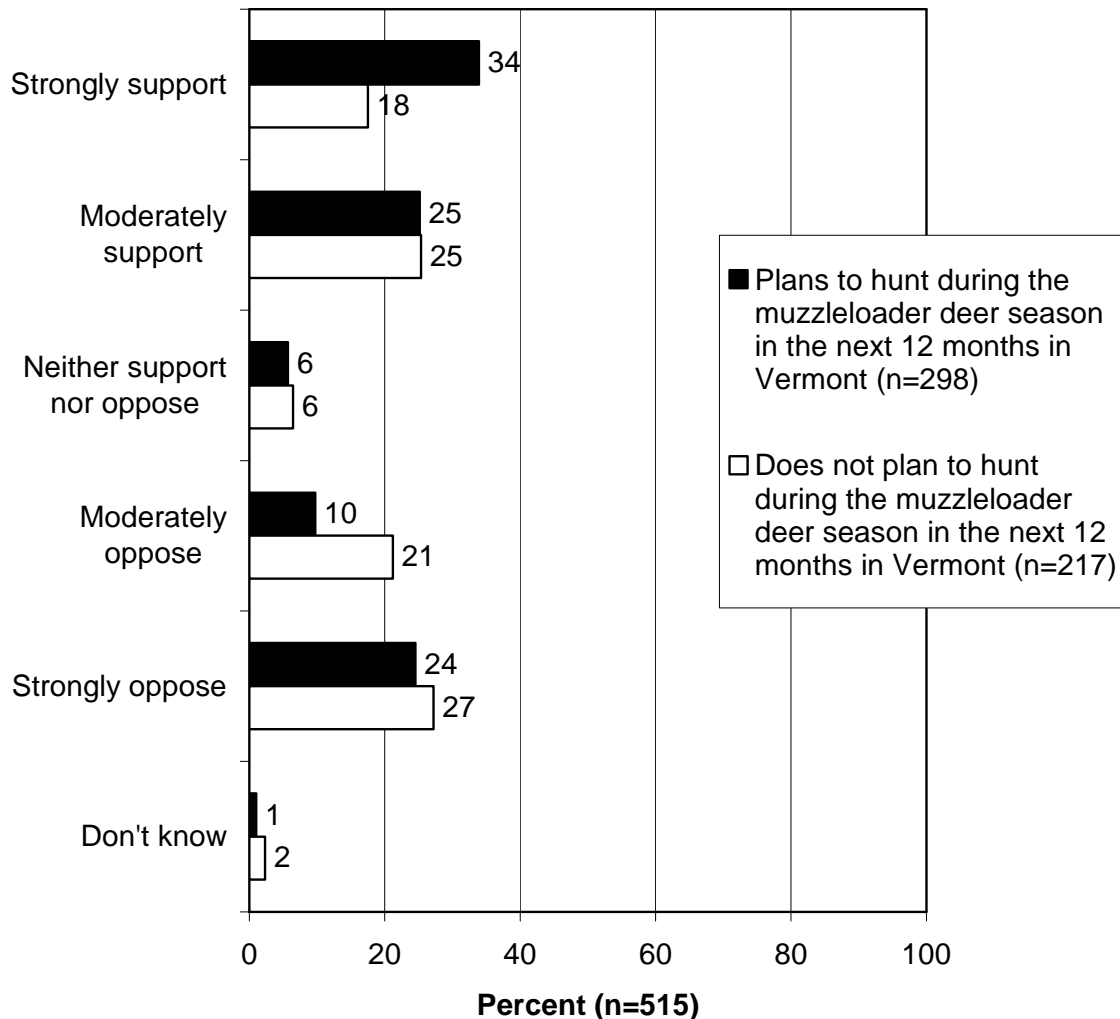


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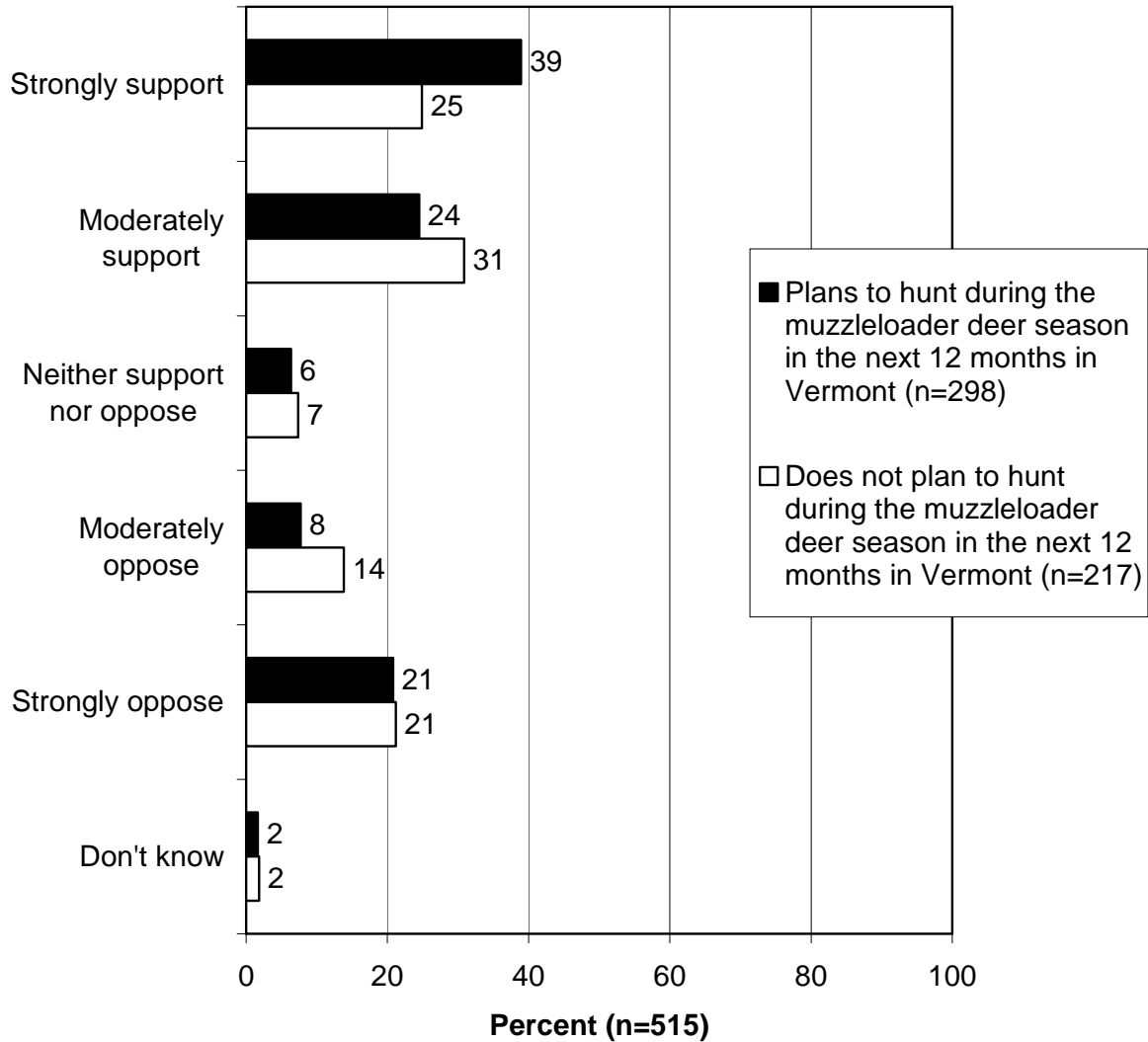
**Q30. If you knew this, would you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in mid-October?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

What if you knew that Department biologists and wardens have examined all the options for providing an early antlerless-only muzzleloader season and have determined that the option causing the least conflict with other seasons is a 2- to 6-day period in mid-October while not allowing archery hunting during this period?

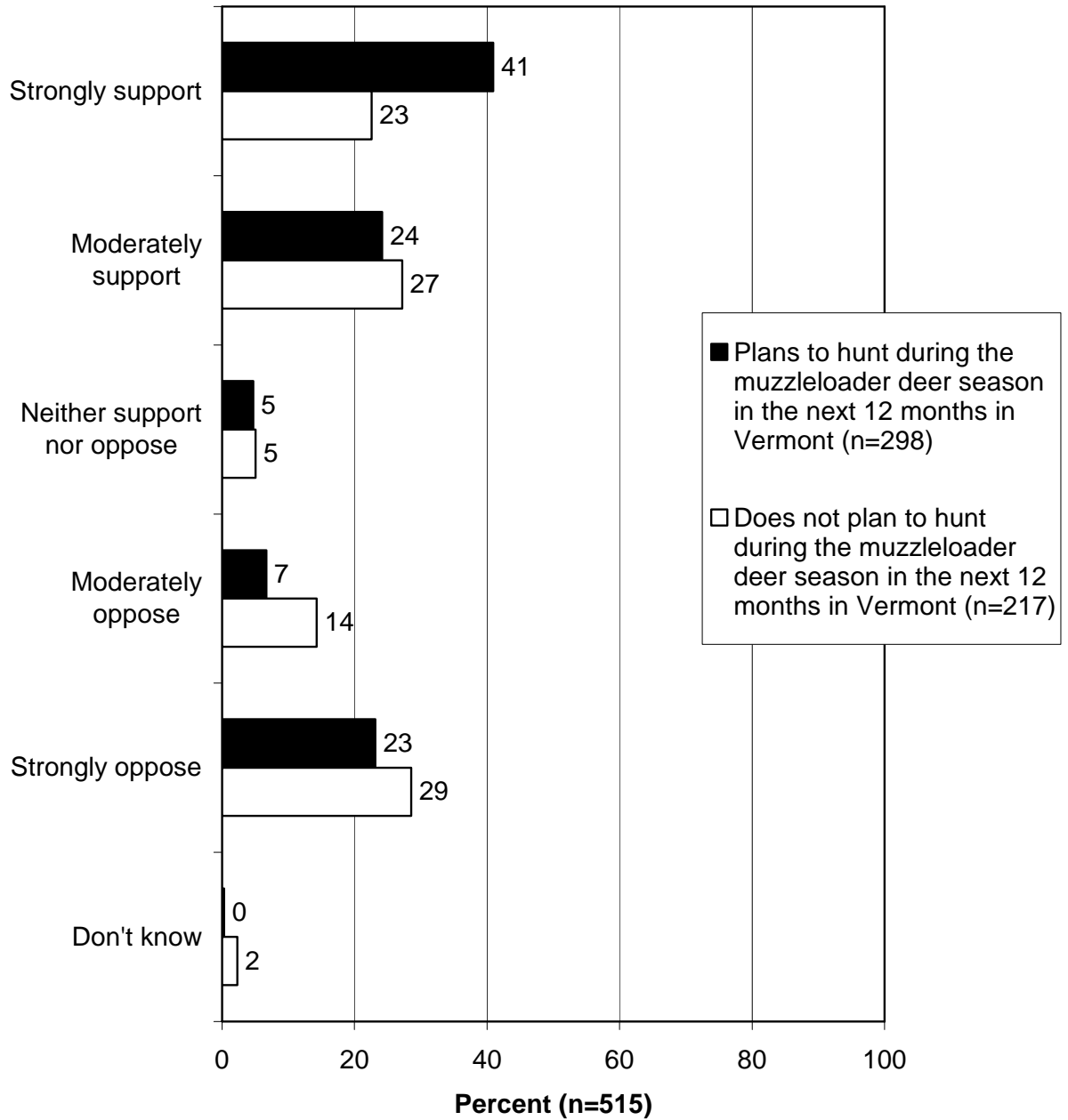
**Q31. If you knew this, would you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in mid-October?**



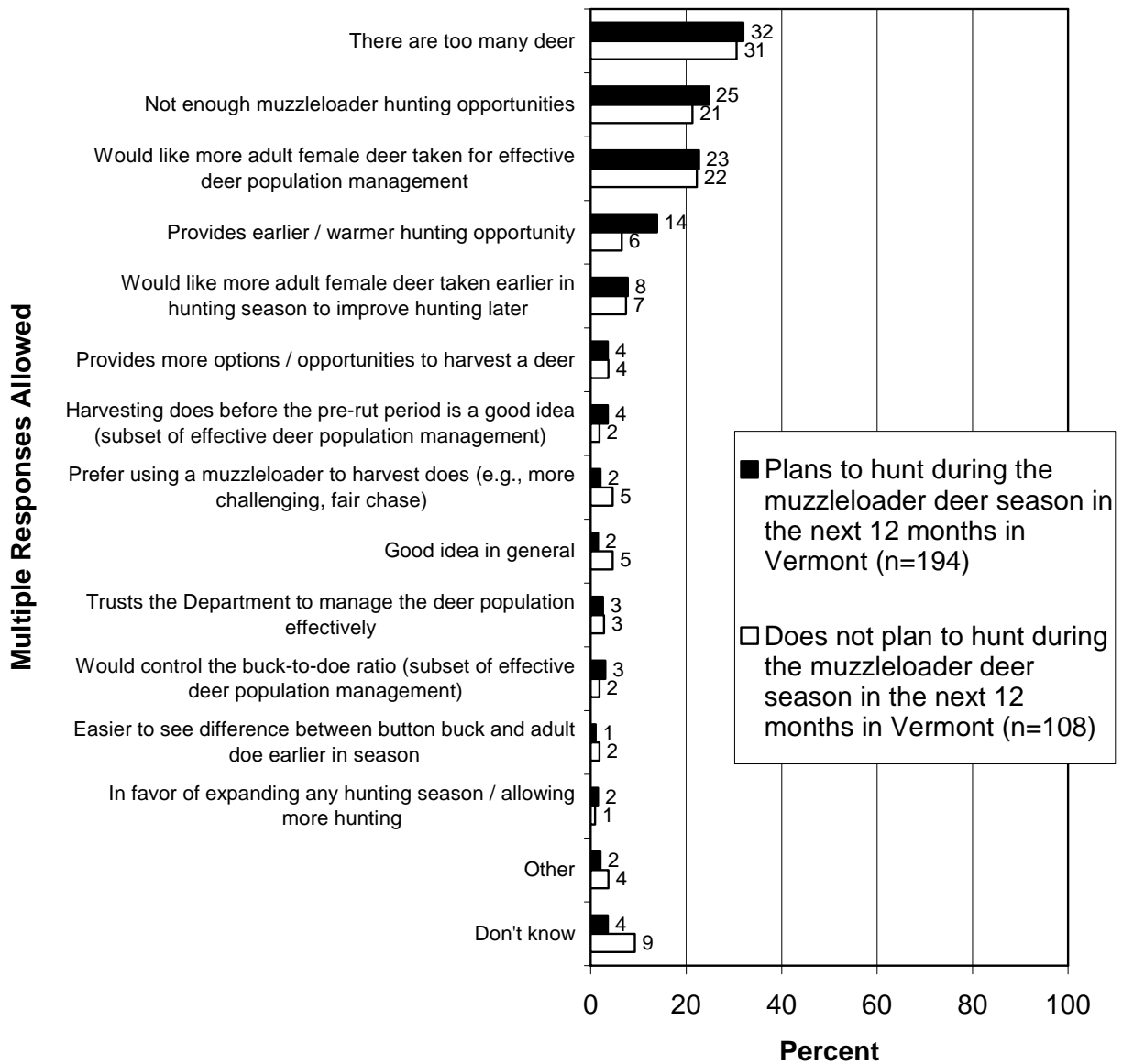
**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

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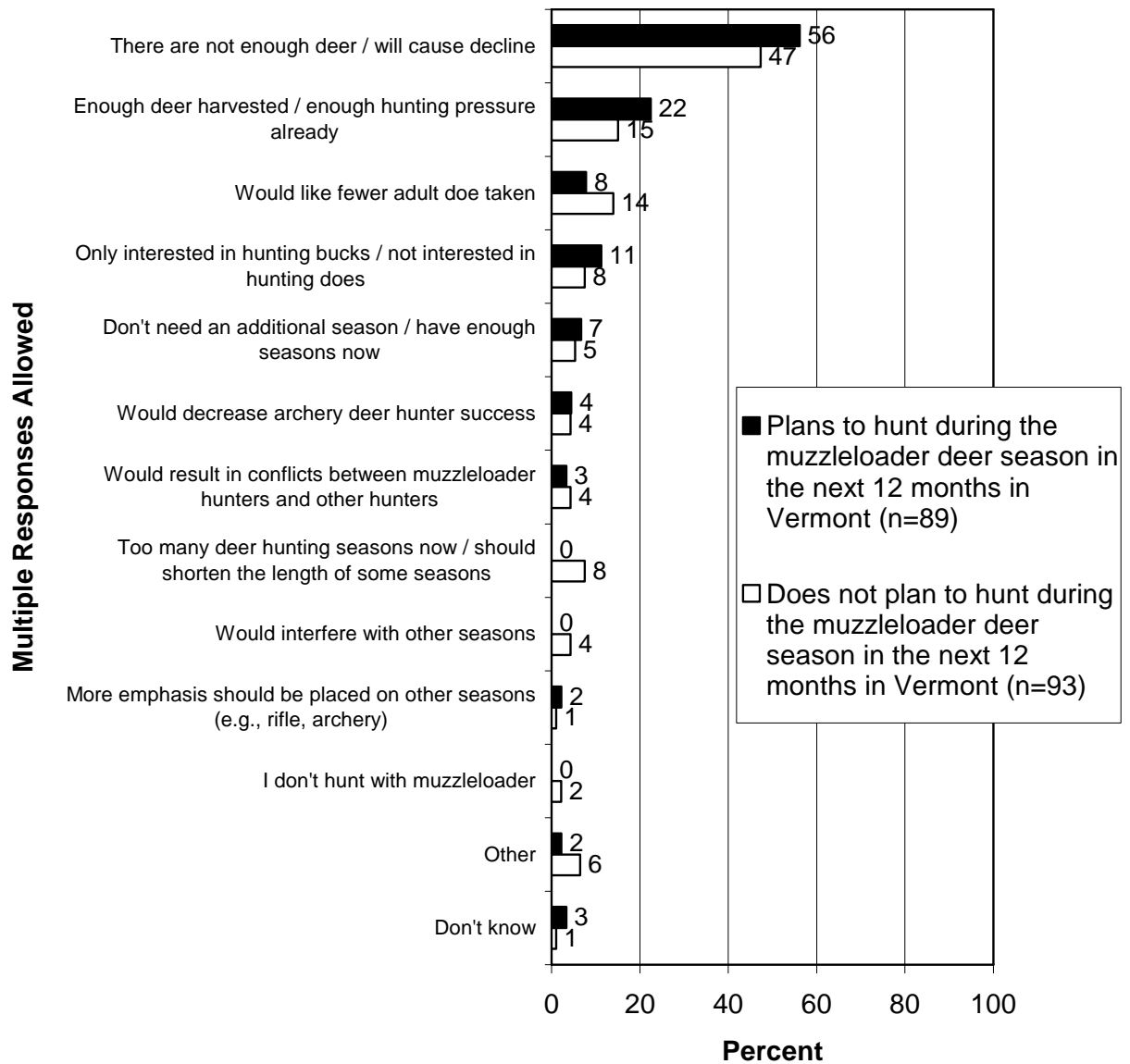
**Q32. In general, do you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont?**



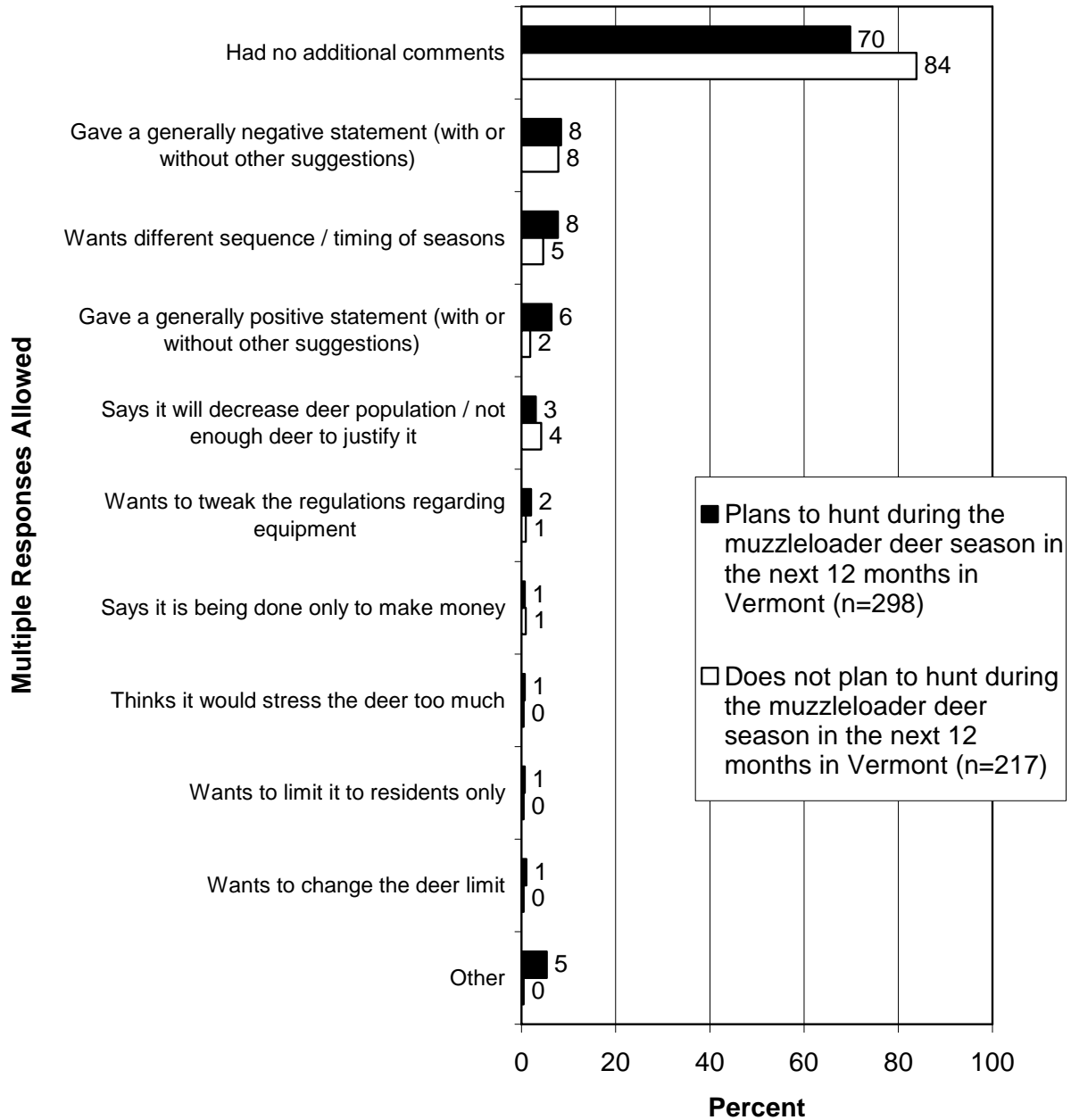
**Q35. Why do you support an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont? (Asked of those who support an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont in general.)**



**Q39. Why do you oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont? (Asked of those who oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont in general.)**

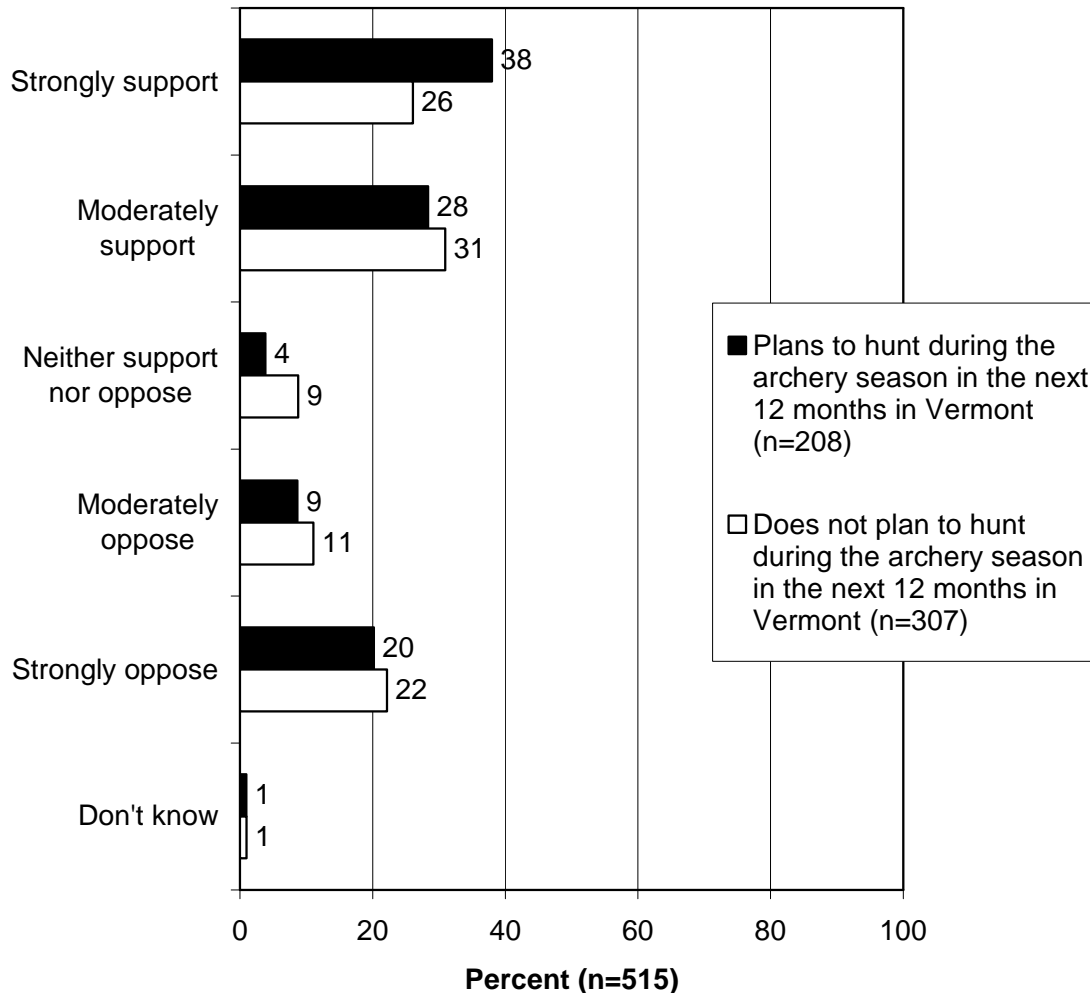


**Q42. Do you have any additional comments about an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont?**



**CROSSTABULATIONS BY PLAN TO ARCHERY HUNT VERSUS NOT PLANNING TO DO SO**

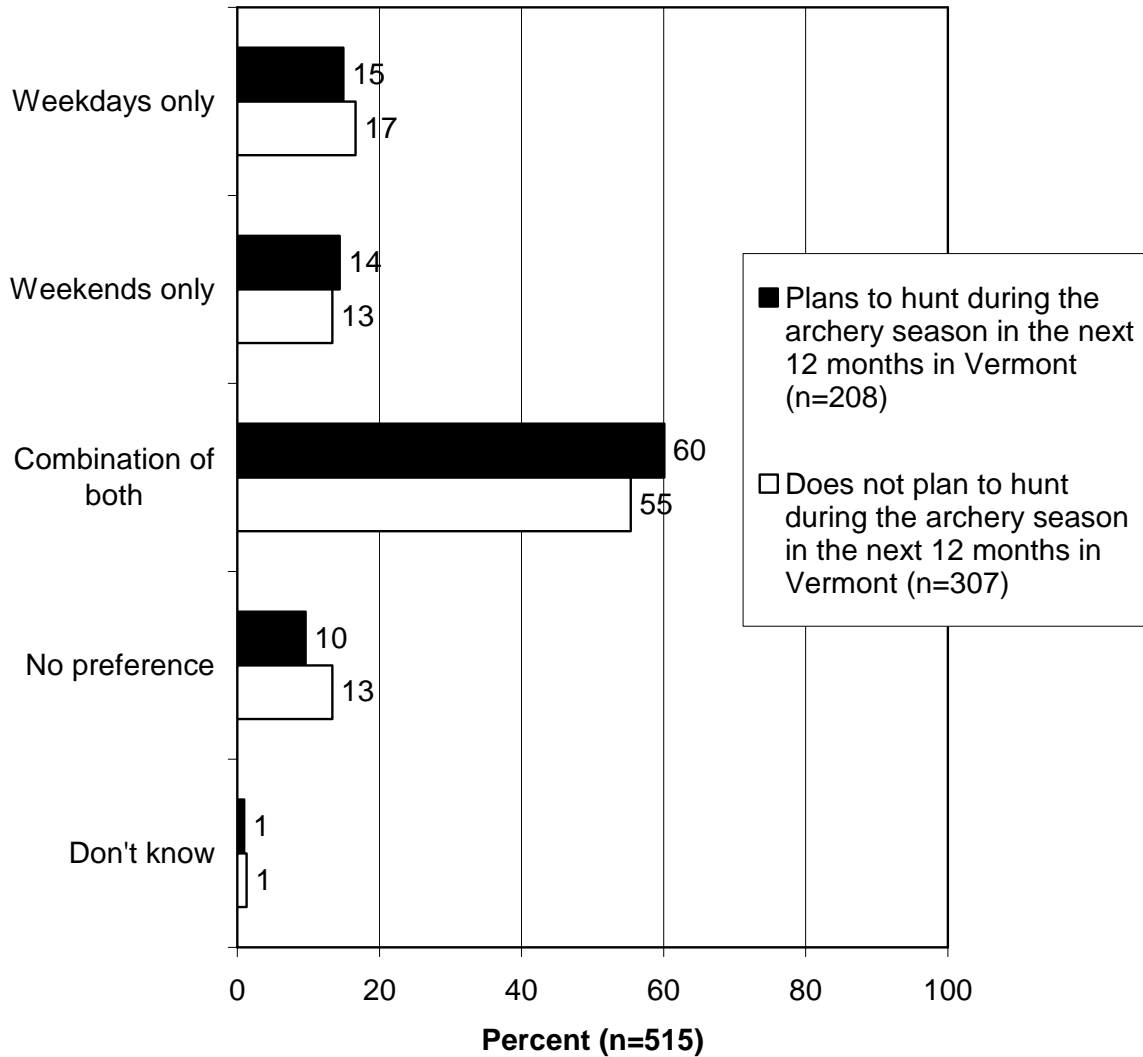
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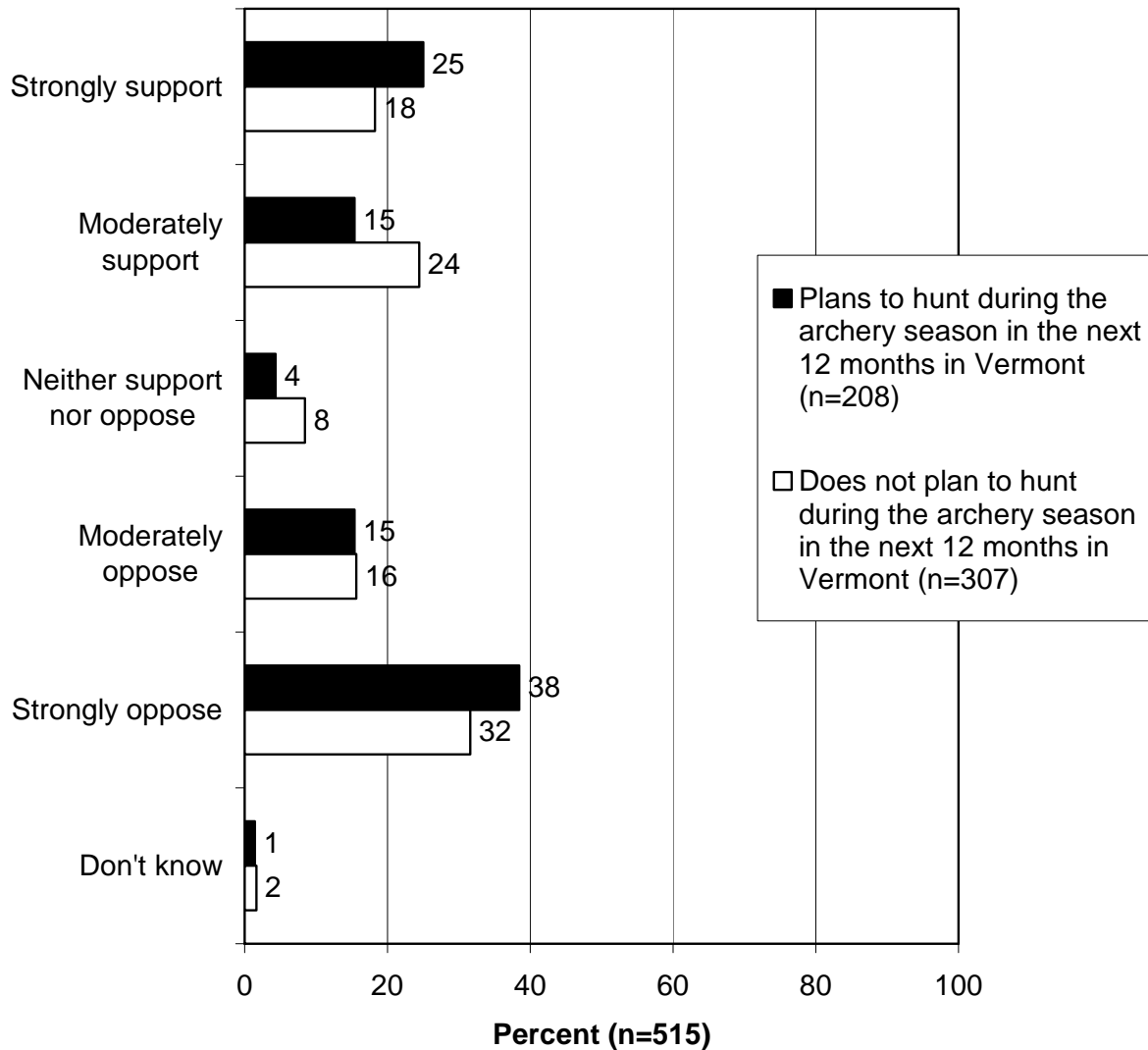


**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

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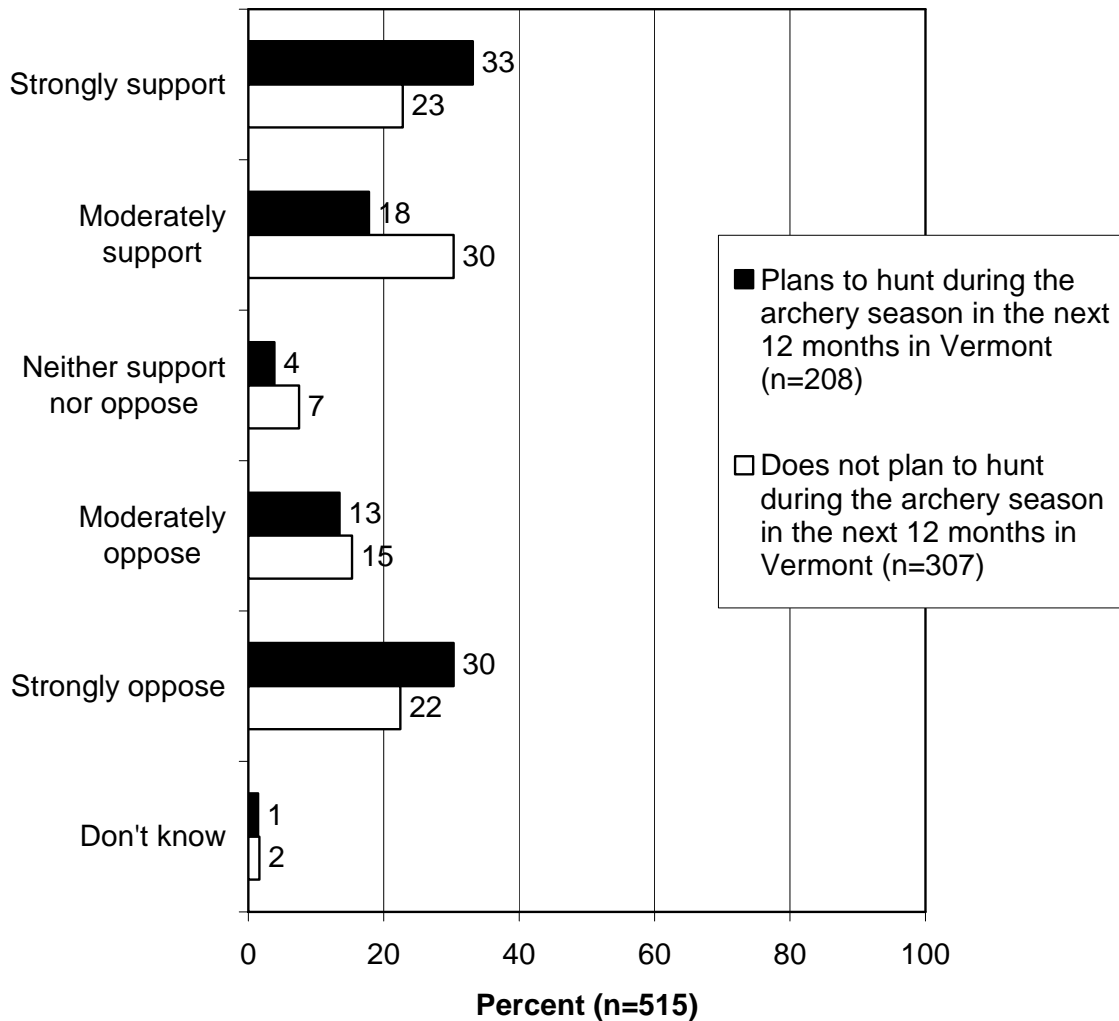
**Q28. Would you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in mid-October if you knew that archery hunting for deer would not be allowed during this additional muzzleloader season?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

Currently, the Vermont 32-day deer archery season is a split season with the first portion of the season occurring for 23 consecutive days from early to late October.

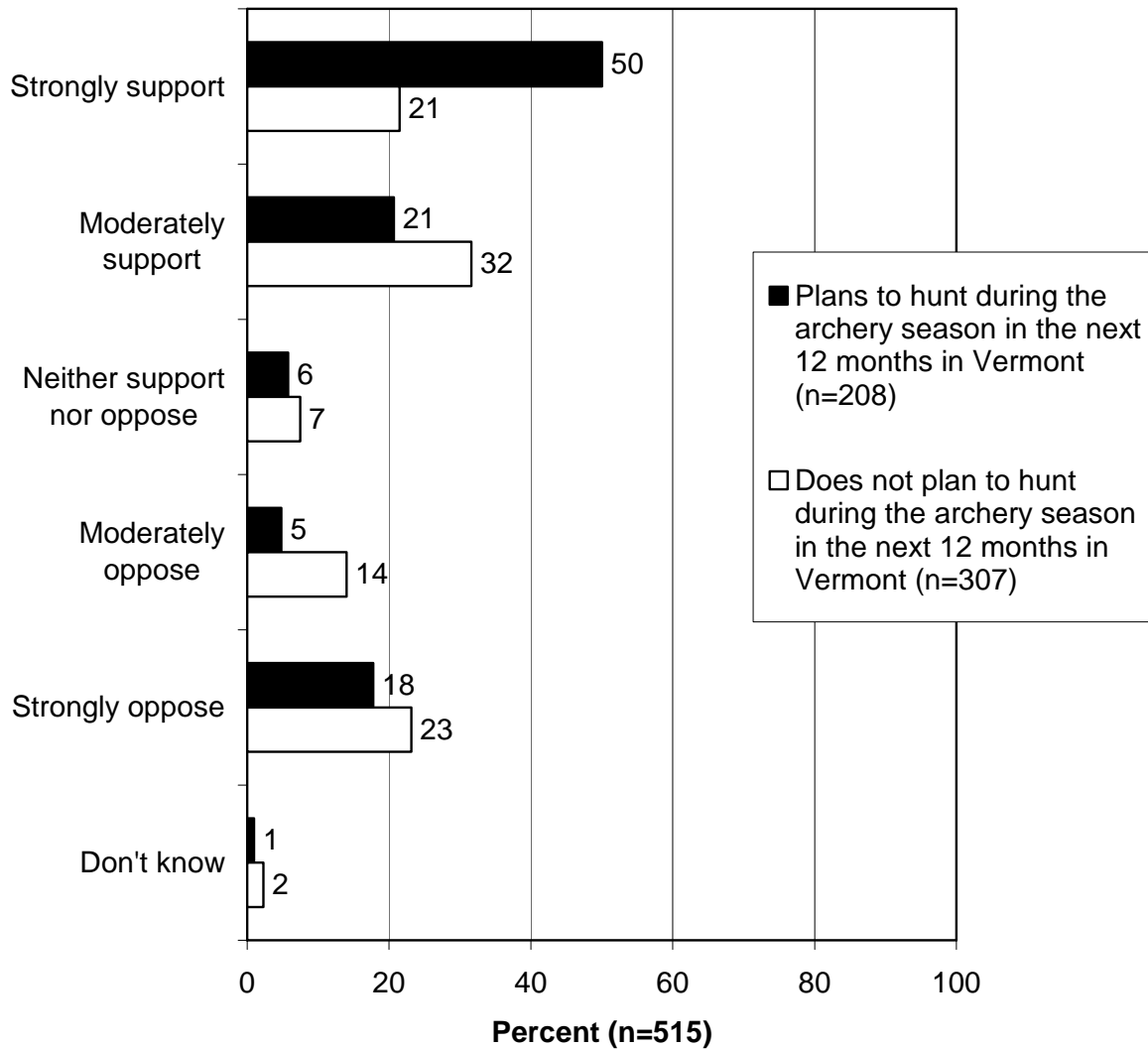
**Q30. If you knew this, would you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in mid-October?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

What if you knew that Department biologists and wardens have examined all the options for providing an early antlerless-only muzzleloader season and have determined that the option causing the least conflict with other seasons is a 2- to 6-day period in mid-October while not allowing archery hunting during this period?

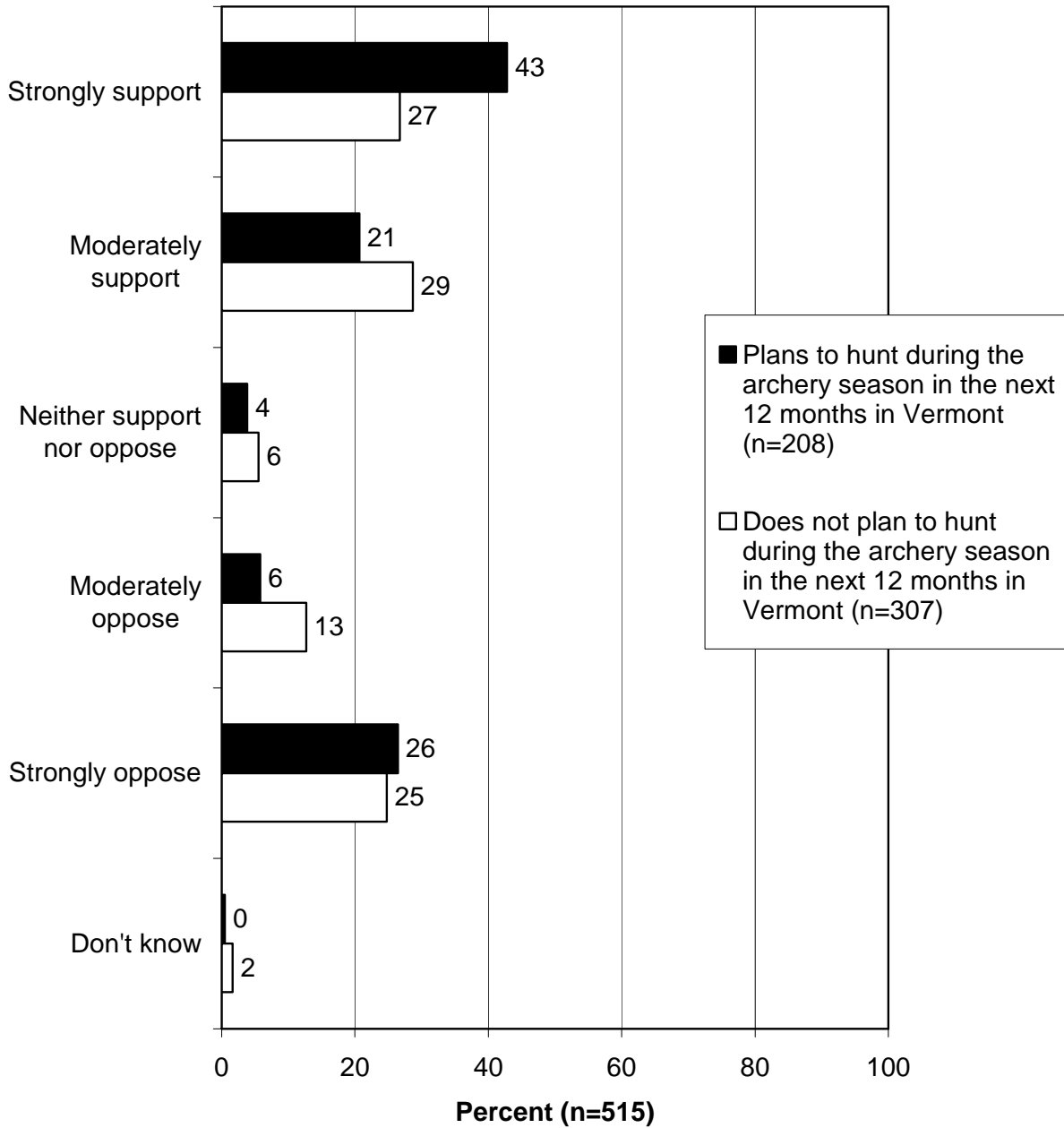
**Q31. If you knew this, would you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in mid-October?**



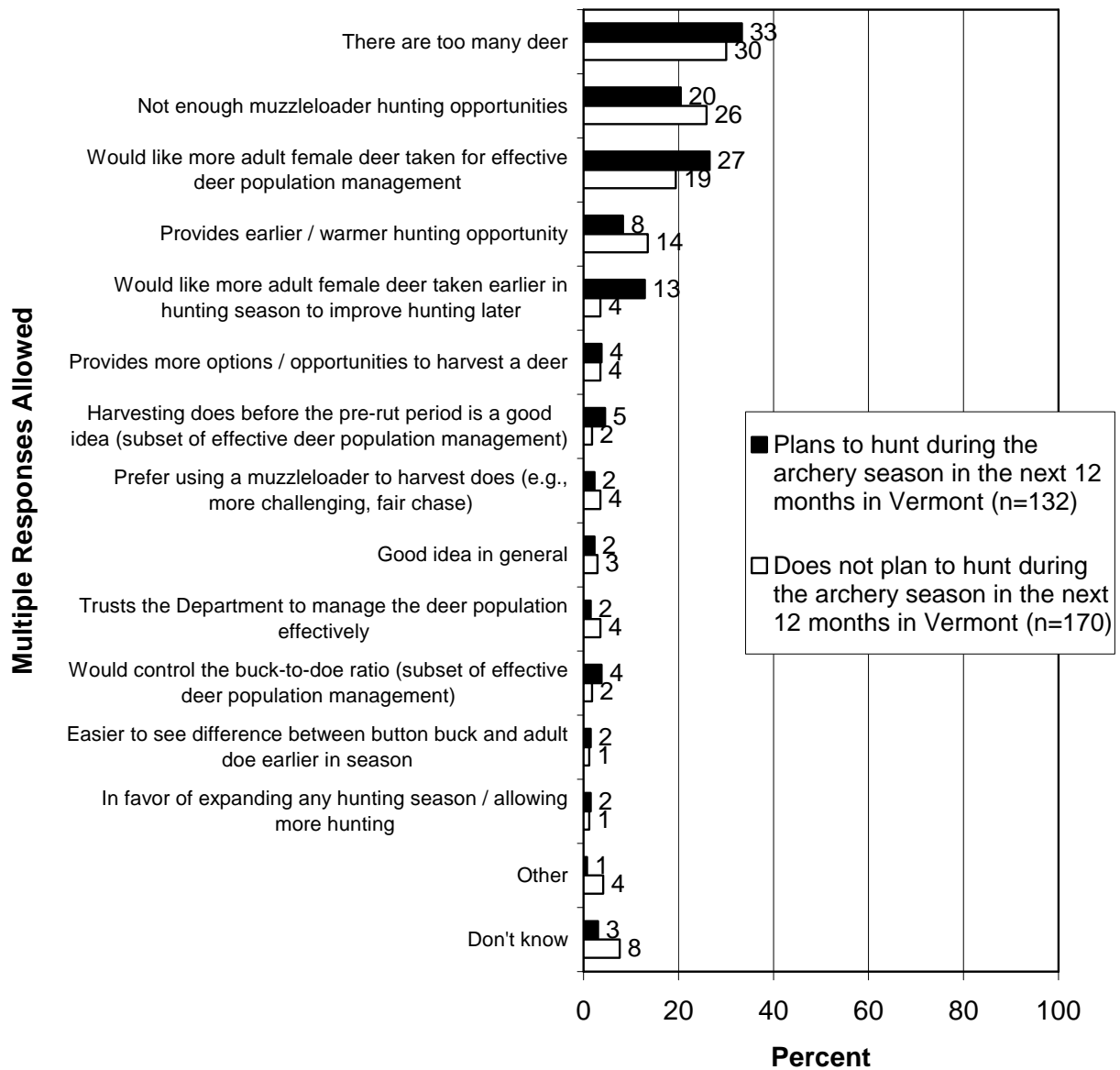
**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

What if you knew that the deer archery season would be extended for 5 to 7 days in late October, which would provide more archery deer hunting during the pre-rut period and would mean that the deer archery total season length in October would always be at least 23 days?

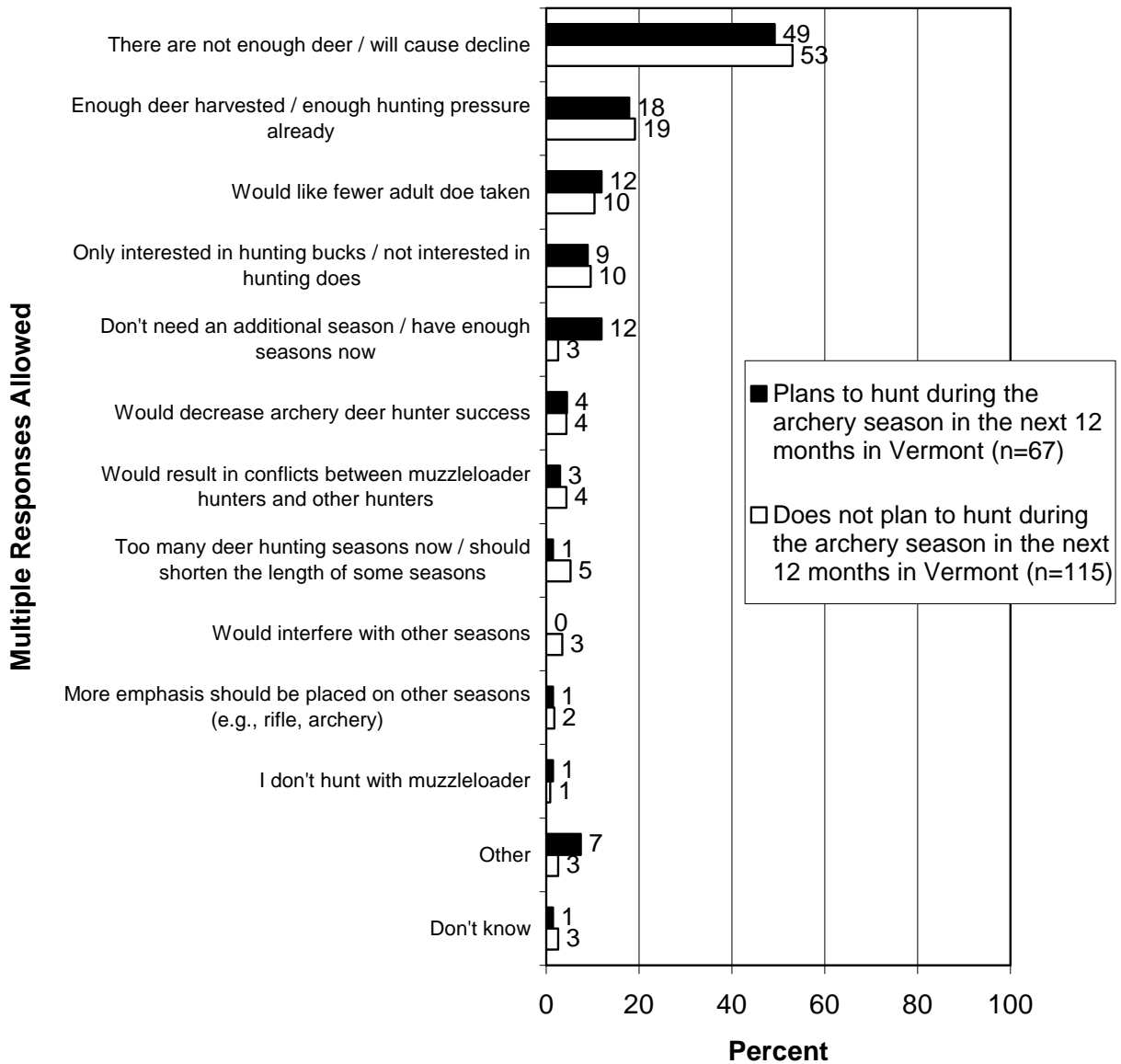
**Q32. In general, do you support or oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont?**



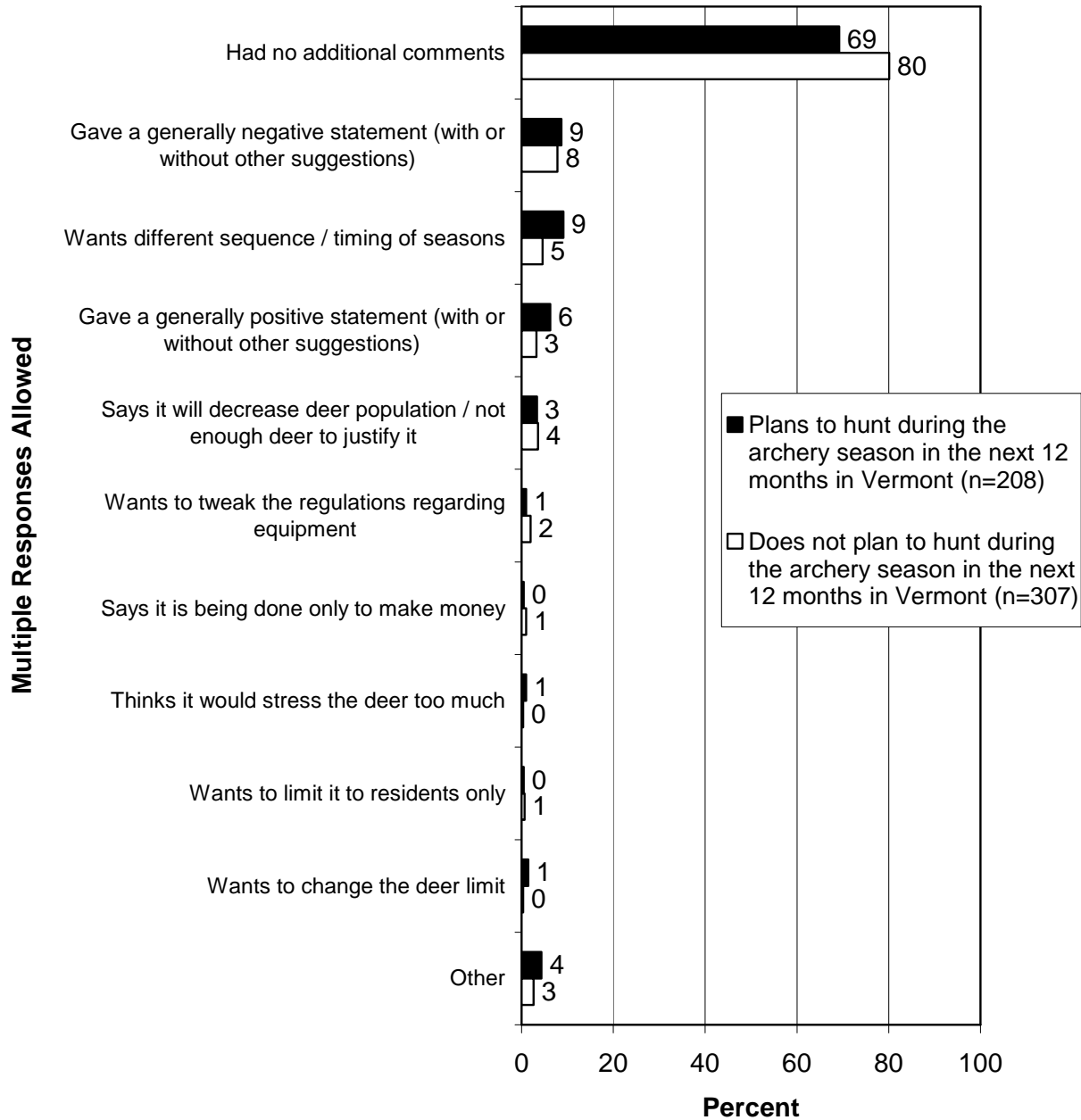
**Q35. Why do you support an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont? (Asked of those who support an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont in general.)**



**Q39. Why do you oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont? (Asked of those who oppose an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont in general.)**



**Q42. Do you have any additional comments about an additional muzzleloader season allowing only antlerless deer, or doe, harvest in Vermont?**



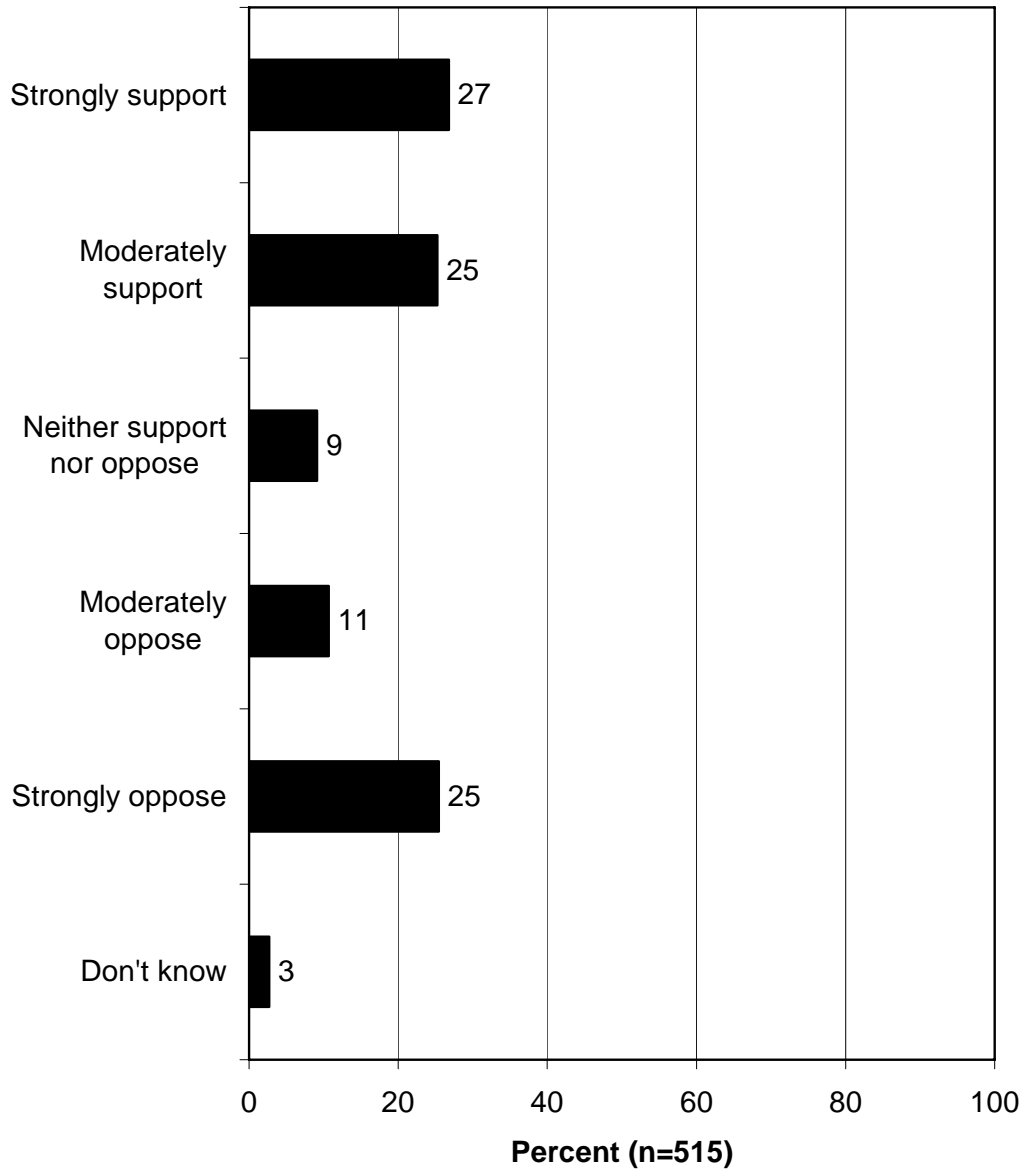
## **SURVEY RESULTS REGARDING ARCHERY MOOSE SEASON**

- The initial question in the series pertaining to a potential archery-only moose season found 52% supporting and 36% opposing it. Note that, for this question, respondents were provided with only the most basic information (as shown at the bottom of the graph).
- In the second question of this series, opinion was not much different after respondents were informed of the proposed dates of the potential archery-only moose season (again, as shown at the bottom of the graph): 54% support and 36% oppose.
- The order of the next two questions was randomized to limit “order bias”: some respondents were asked Question 49 and then Question 50, while other respondents were asked Question 50 and then Question 49. Prior to these questions, respondents were informed that the Department would distribute 50 permits for the potential archery-only moose season.
  - Compared to the previous questions, opinion appears to be changed on these questions, with slightly more support over the previous questions. When informed that the total harvest for the potential archery-only moose season would be expected to be approximately 15 moose, which would have very little biological impact on the moose herd in Vermont, a majority of respondents were in support (62%), while opposition was at 29%.
  - When informed that the potential archery-only moose season would entail the issuance of 50 archery-only moose permits through a separate lottery from the current regular season moose permit lottery, would not affect the total number of regular season moose permits distributed, and would not reduce an applicant’s odds of also winning a regular season moose permit, a majority of respondents were in support (61%), while opposition was at 30%.
- The final “informed opinion” question in this series simply asked about support or opposition to an archery-only moose season after all the information had been provided to respondents. On this question, the potential archery-only moose season had more support (60%) than opposition (31%).



- In comparing the results from the beginning of the series to the end, support grew. Support for the potential archery-only moose season was at 52% at the start of the series (uninformed) and at 60% at the end (informed); opposition went from 36% to 31%.
  
- The results of all these similar questions about the potential archery-only moose season are tabulated following the graphs discussed above.
  
- A final question allowed respondents to provide any comments about the potential archery-only moose season. Most respondents (78%) had no additional comments. Otherwise, comments pertained to a concern that bowhunting would not be appropriate for moose because the moose would be hard to kill with a bow and arrow, leading to many moose being wounded but not harvested. Also, there were some comments that reiterated support or opposition to the potential archery-only moose season and/or reiterated the reasons previously given for supporting or opposing the potential season.

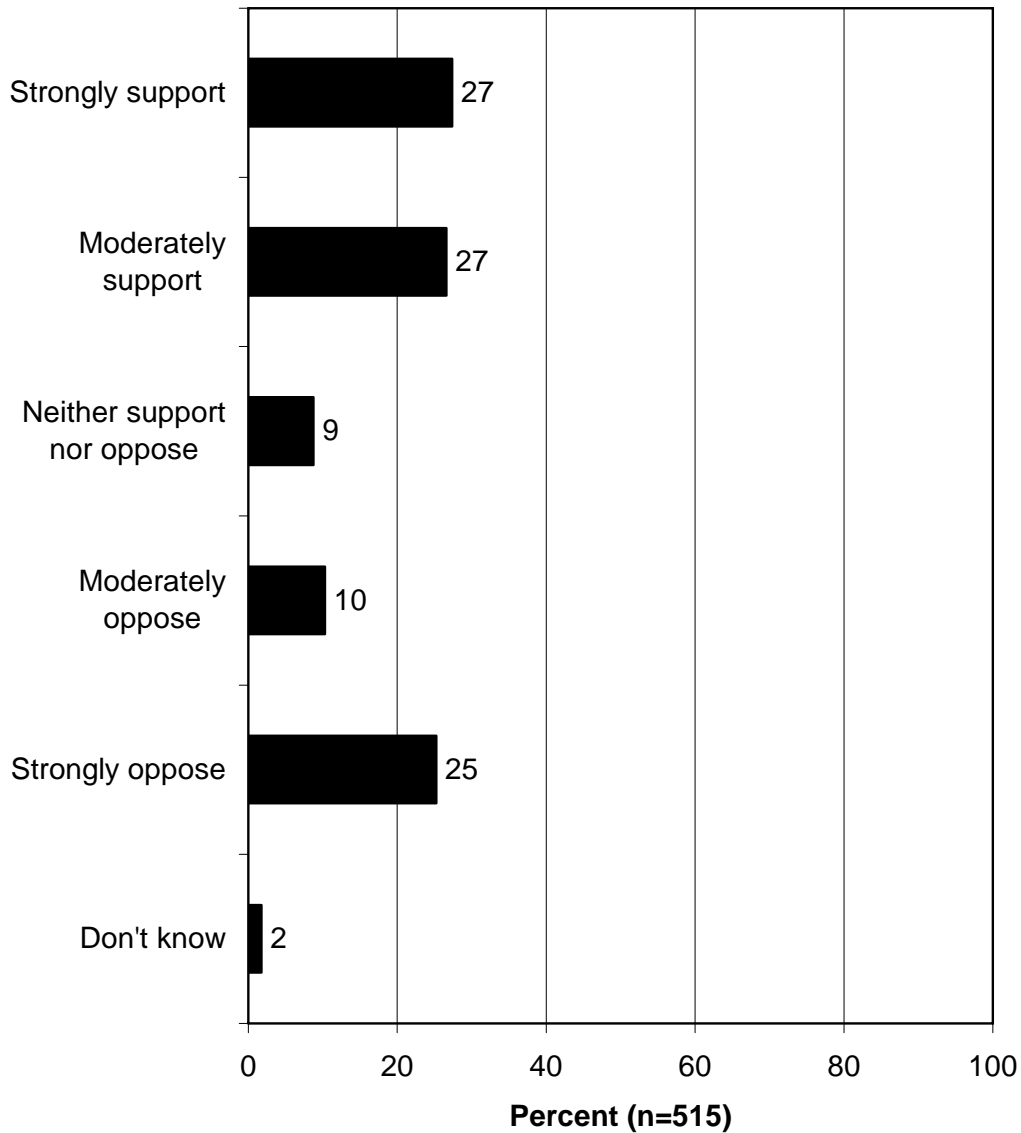
**Q45. In general, do you support or oppose an archery-only moose season in Vermont?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

The archery-only season would be in addition to the current moose hunting season, and hunting moose with any firearm or equipment other than a bow would not be allowed during this period.

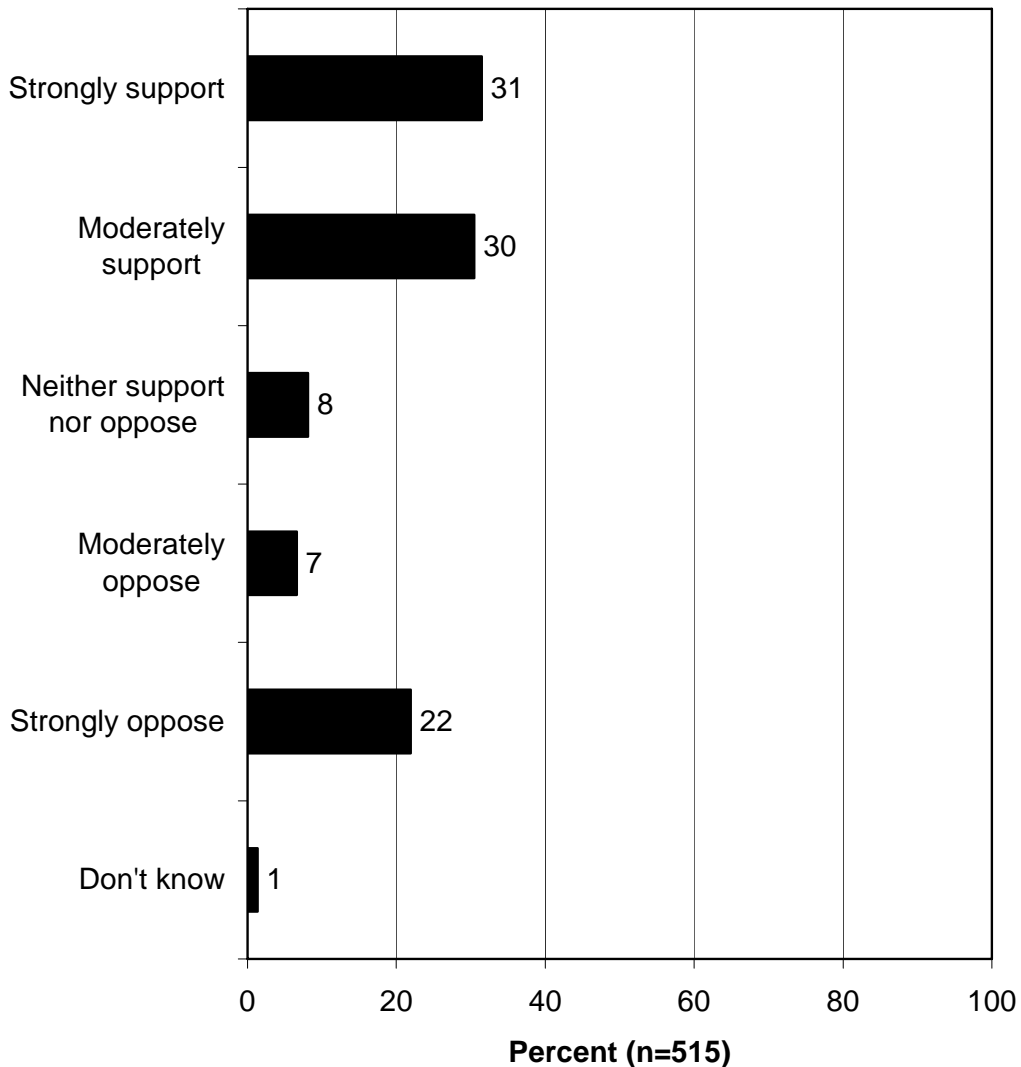
**Q46. If you knew this, would you support or oppose an archery-only moose season in Vermont?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

**What if you knew the additional archery-only moose season would start the first Saturday in October and continue through the following weekend, lasting for 9 consecutive days?**

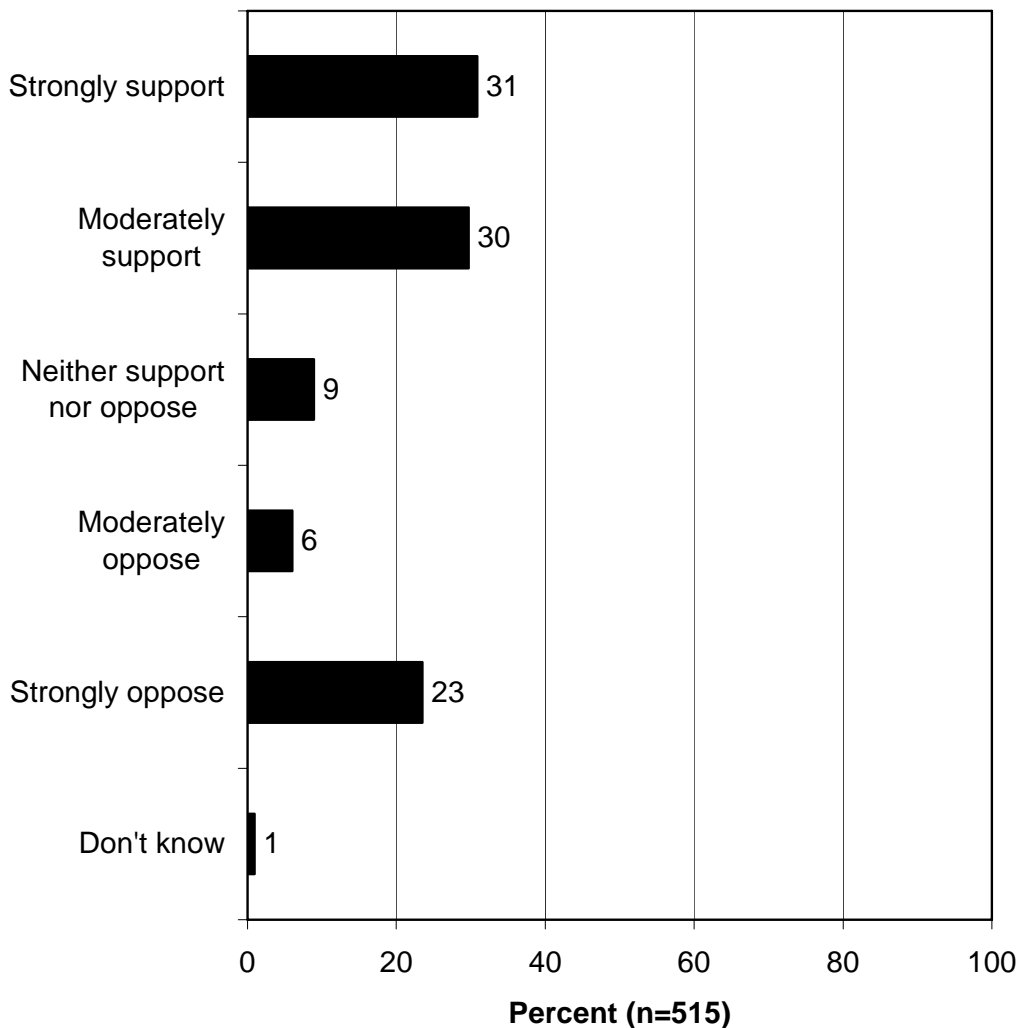
**Q49. Would you support or oppose an additional archery-only moose season if you knew that the expected total harvest for the archery-only season is approximately 15 moose, which would have very little biological impact on the moose herd in Vermont?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

The Department would distribute 50 permits for the additional archery-only moose season.

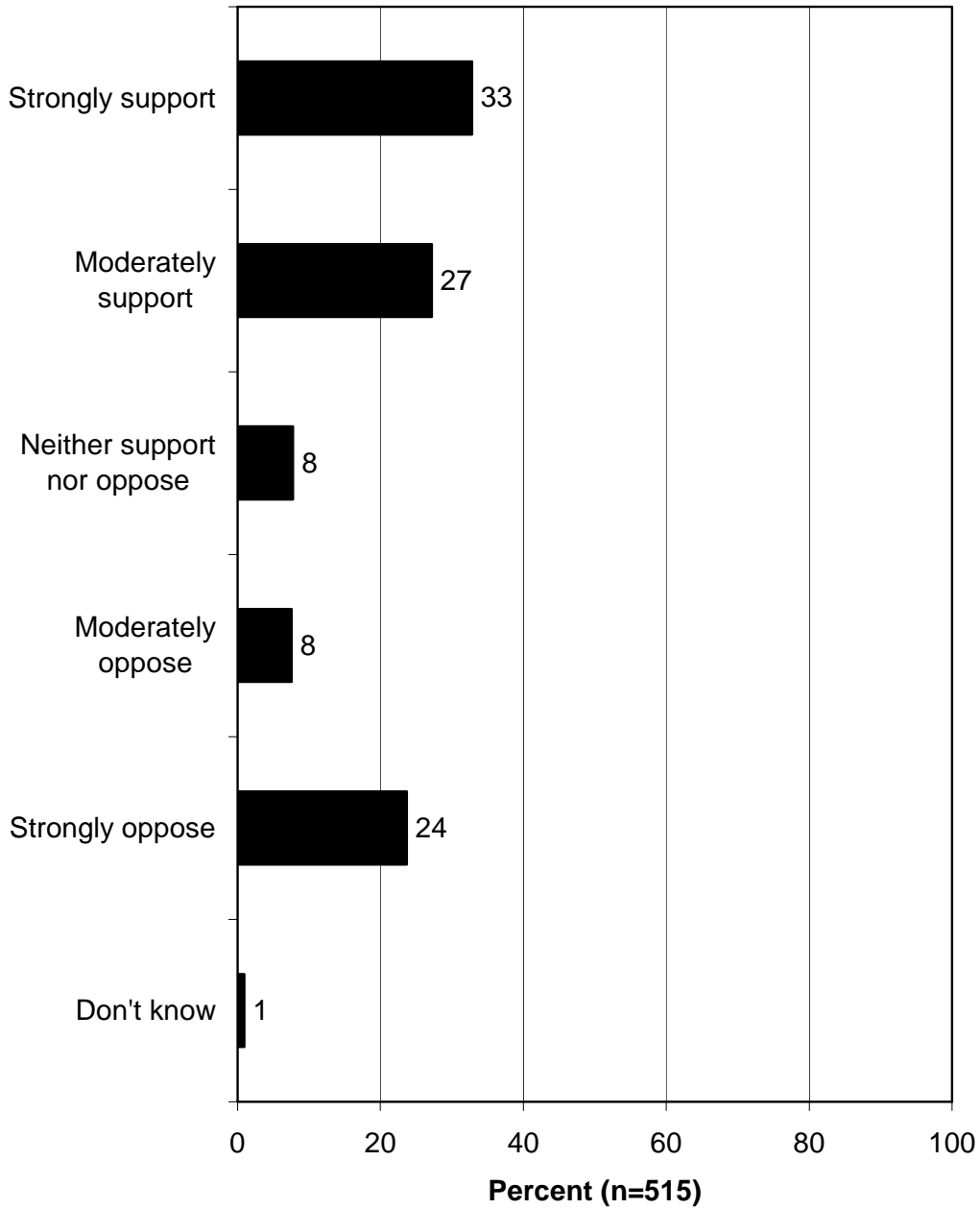
**Q50. Would you support or oppose an additional archery-only moose season if you knew the 50 archery-only moose permits would be issued through a separate lottery from the current regular season moose permit lottery, would not affect the total number of regular season moose permits distributed, and would not reduce an applicant's odds of also winning a regular season moose permit?**



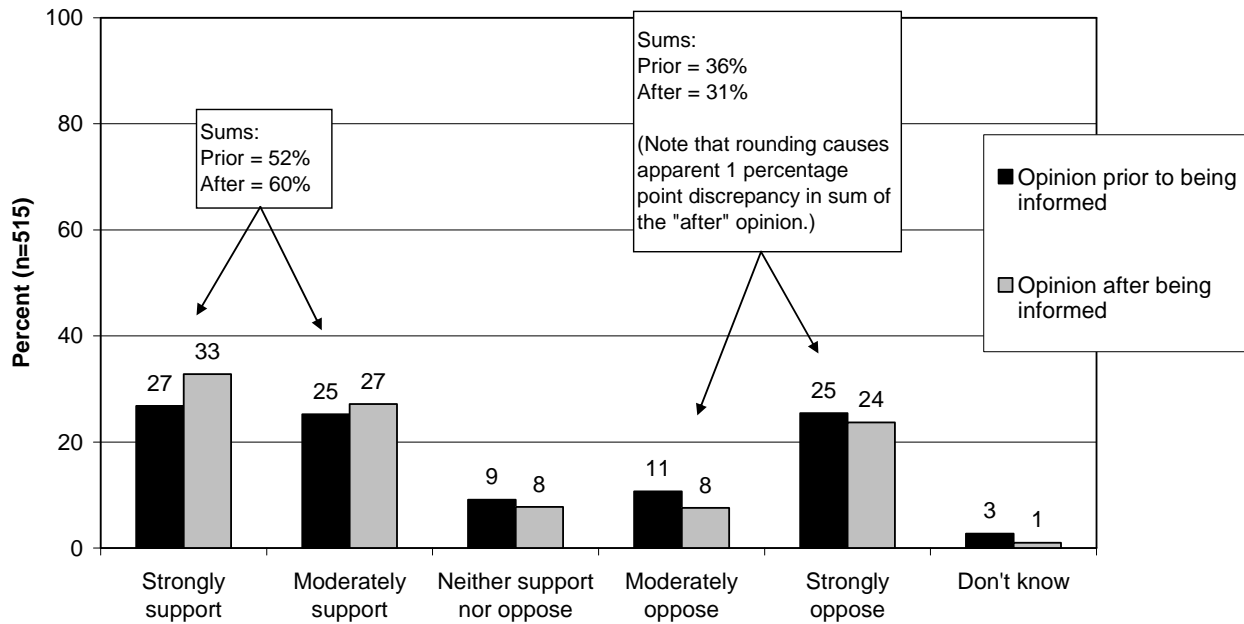
**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

The Department would distribute 50 permits for the additional archery-only moose season.

**Q51. In general, do you support or oppose an archery-only moose season in Vermont?**



**Q45/51. Support for or opposition to an archery-only moose season in Vermont before and after being provided with information.**

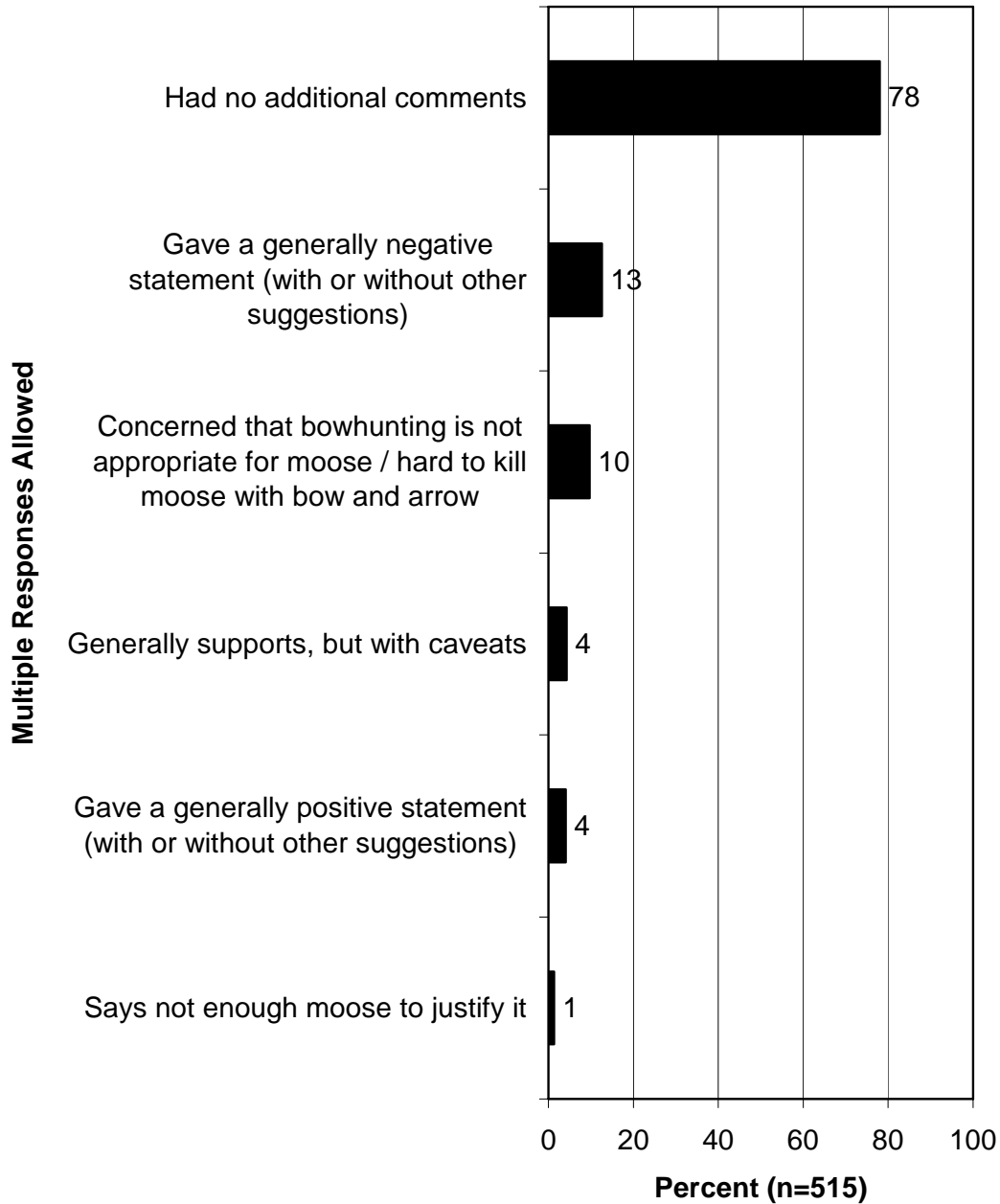


Base Question	Additional Information Provided	% in Support	% in Opposition
45. In general, <b>do you support or oppose an archery-only moose season in Vermont?</b>	Currently, the moose hunting season in Vermont occurs during October each year and allows hunting moose with firearms and archery equipment. A lottery is held each year to issue permits to hunt moose. The archery-only season would be in addition to the current moose hunting season, and hunting moose with any firearm or equipment other than a bow would <i>not</i> be allowed during this period.	Strong 27	Strong 25
		Total 52	Total 36
46. <b>Would you support or oppose an archery-only moose season in Vermont if you knew the additional archery-only moose season would start the first Saturday in October and continue through the following weekend, lasting for 9 consecutive days?</b>		Strong 27	Strong 25
		Total 54	Total 36*
49. <b>Would you support or oppose an additional archery-only moose season if you knew that the expected total harvest for the archery-only season is approximately 15 moose, which would have very little biological impact on the moose herd in Vermont?</b>	The Department would distribute 50 permits for the additional archery-only moose season.	Strong 31	Strong 22
		Total 62*	Total 29
50. <b>Would you support or oppose an additional archery-only moose season if you knew the 50 archery-only moose permits would be issued through a separate lottery than the current regular season moose permit lottery, would not affect the total number of regular season moose permits distributed, and would not reduce an applicant's odds of also winning a regular season moose permit?</b>	The Department would distribute 50 permits for the additional archery-only moose season.	Strong 31	Strong 23
		Total 61	Total 30*
51. In general, <b>do you support or oppose an archery-only moose season in Vermont?</b>		Strong 33	Strong 24
		Total 60	Total 31*

\*Rounding causes apparent 1 percentage point discrepancy in sum.



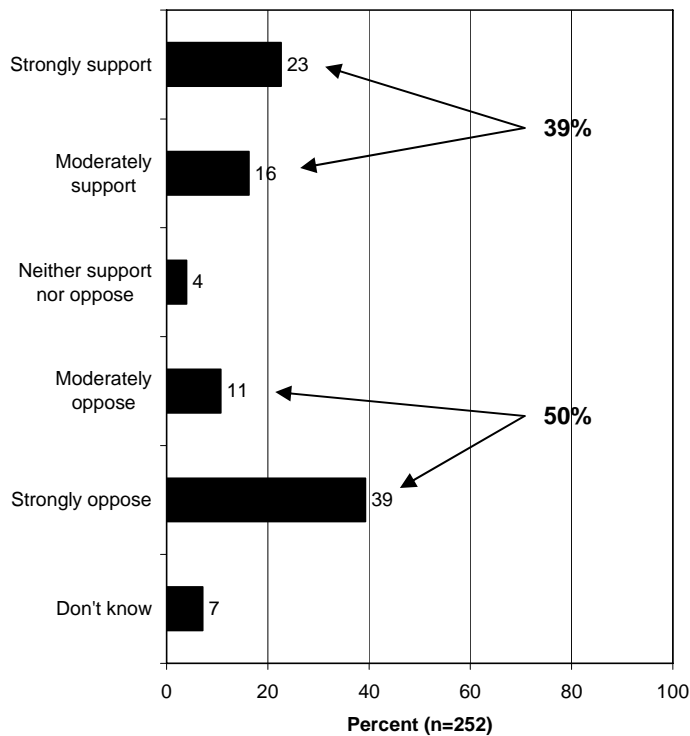
**Q53. Do you have any additional comments about an archery-only moose season in Vermont?**



## COMPARISON OF RESULTS PERTAINING TO SUPPORT FOR OR OPPOSITION TO AN ARCHERY-ONLY MOOSE SEASON FROM SURVEYS IN 2007 AND 2010

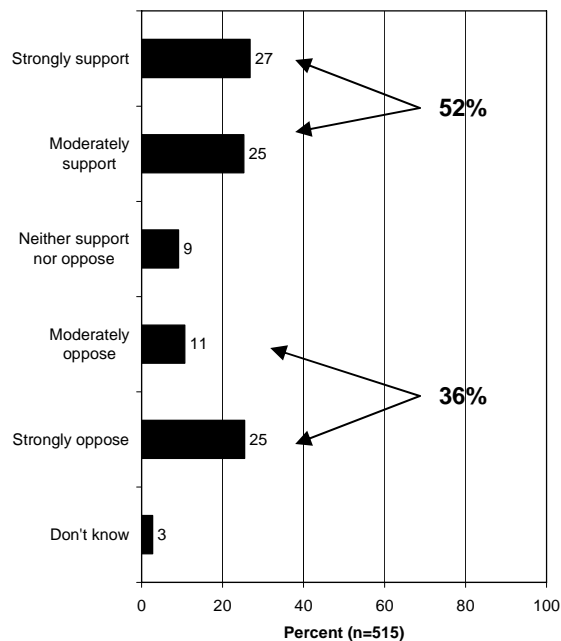
A public opinion survey in 2007 included the following statement that was read to Vermont residents who had hunted in the previous 5 years: “Currently, moose may be harvested during the season with rifles, handguns, muzzleloaders, bows, or shotguns.” The survey then asked these respondents, “Do you support or oppose establishing an archery-only season for moose in Vermont in addition to the regular moose hunting season?” In this survey, 39% of these respondents supported such a season, while 50% opposed, as shown in the graph below, taken from that 2007 report.

**Q119. Currently, moose may be harvested during the season with rifles, handguns, muzzleloaders, bows, or shotguns. Do you support or oppose establishing an archery-only season for moose in Vermont in addition to the regular moose hunting season? (Asked of those who have hunted.)**



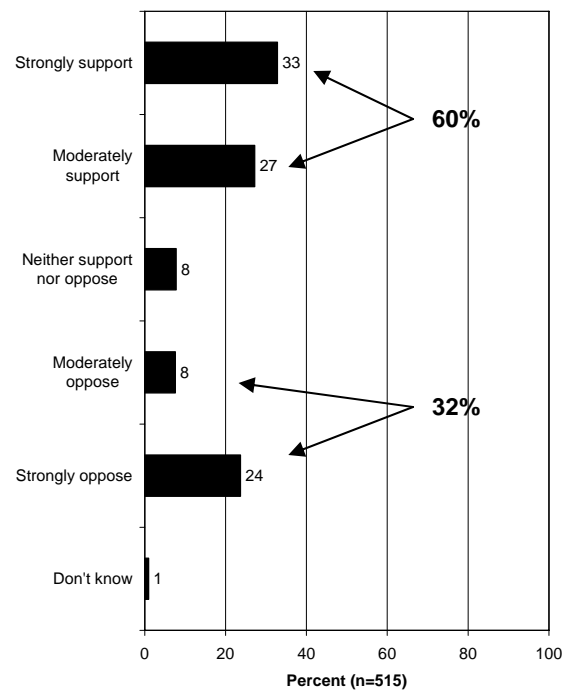
The present survey from this year (2010) asked about support for an archery-only moose season twice: once to uninformed respondents (i.e., before much information was provided to them, below left) and then again to informed respondents (i.e., after information was provided to them, below right).

**Q45. In general, do you support or oppose an archery-only moose season in Vermont?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**  
The archery-only season would be in addition to the current moose hunting season, and hunting moose with any firearm or equipment other than a bow would not be allowed during this period.

**Q51. In general, do you support or oppose an archery-only moose season in Vermont?**



In short, support went from 39% (in 2007) to 52% (uninformed 2010) to 60% (informed 2010). One probable reason for this is that the progression follows more information being provided to respondents. In the first graph, almost no information was provided (in the 2007 survey); in the second graph, a little more information was provided, and in the third graph, all the information in the survey was provided to respondents. This suggests that support rises as more information is provided. Note the different wording in the three graphs; it is typical for different wording to obtain different results, as this shows.

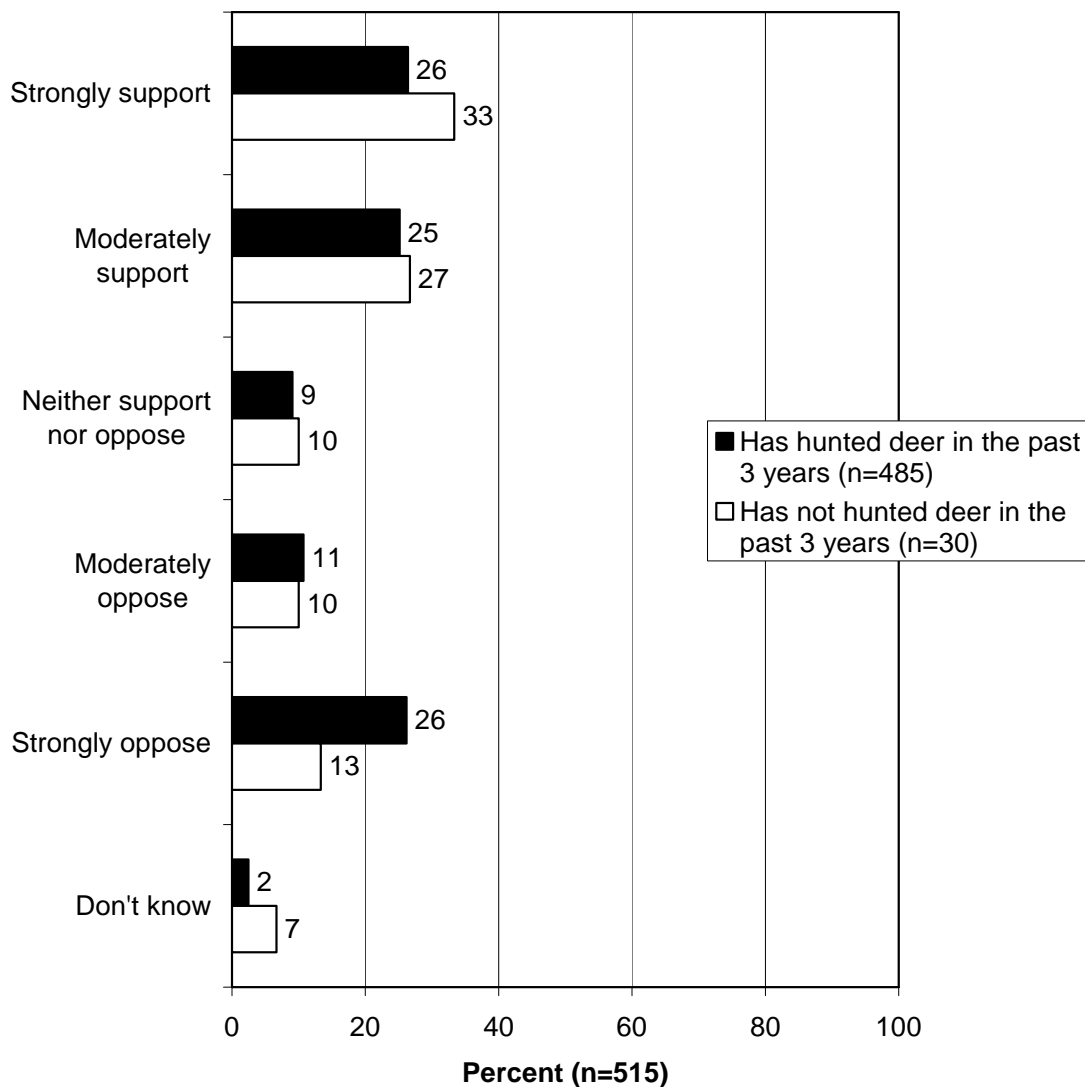
A second factor in the difference between 2007 and 2010 is the slightly different sample. The 2007 survey was a general population survey in which those who had hunted in Vermont in the previous 5 years were asked the question. They need not have gotten a license (regulations permit hunting of some species on private land in Vermont). Additionally, based on this longer time frame (5 years, while the 2010 survey used a sample using 3 years of license sales), there will be more casual and ex-hunters in the 2007 survey. The only requirement was that they had hunted at some time in the previous 5 years, and this broad definition will allow a greater amount of marginal hunters to answer the question, compared to the 2010 survey. With a more broad definition, there will likely be more people getting the question who are either not avidly supportive of hunting or even those who now oppose hunting. The 2010 survey used license records and had only a 3-year time frame, so the definition is tighter, thereby eliminating some of those more casual hunters and the ex-hunters that were in the 2007 survey on that question.

The research team speculates that the two factors above may tend to cause some differences in the results of the two surveys on this line of questioning, although the available data does not allow the researchers to pinpoint the exact interplay of factors (i.e., which of the two is the most important).

## CROSSTABLATIONS ON THE ARCHERY MOOSE SEASON QUESTIONS

### CROSSTABLATIONS BY HUNTED DEER VERSUS DID NOT HUNT DEER

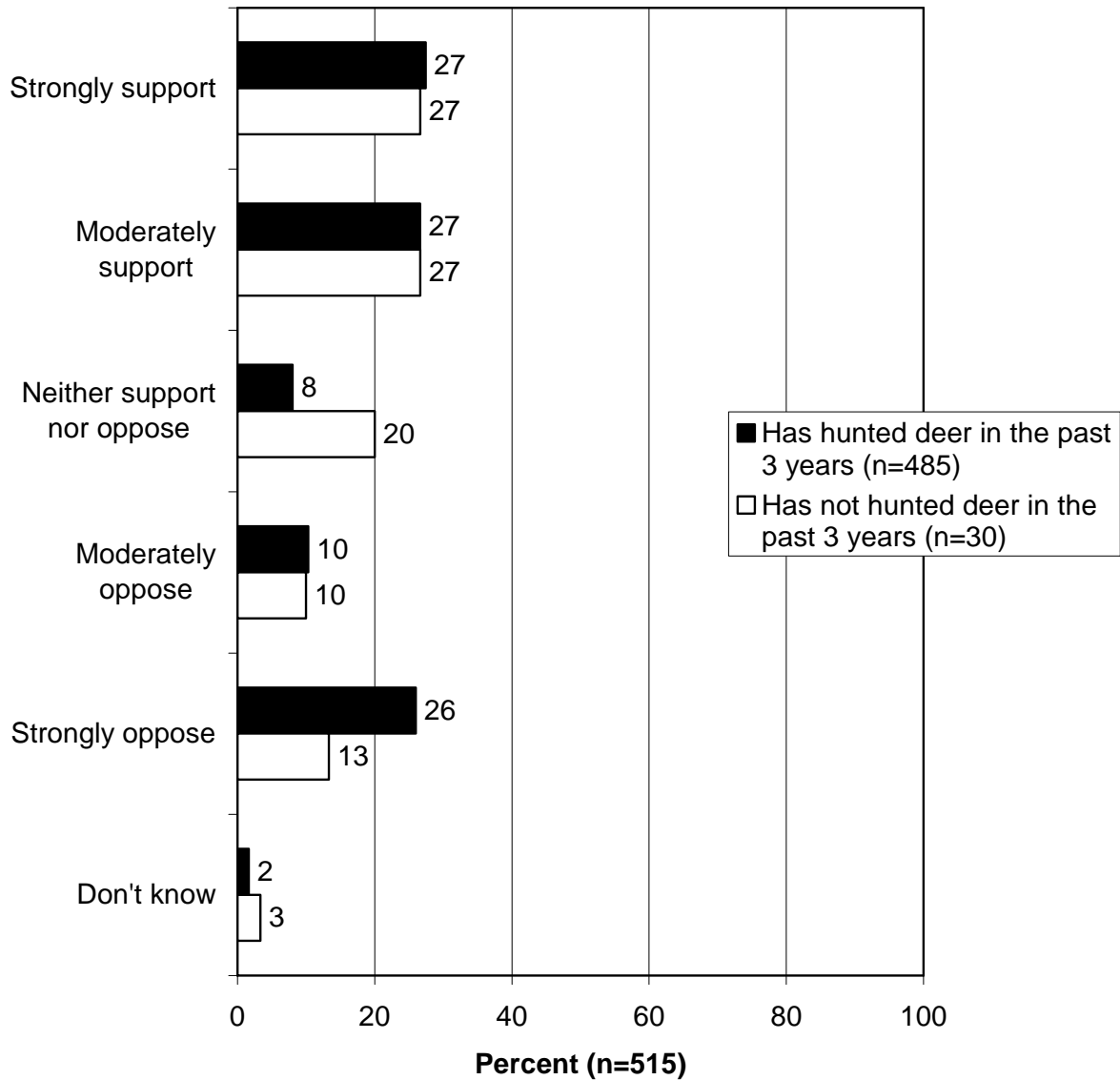
**Q45. In general, do you support or oppose an archery-only moose season in Vermont?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

The archery-only season would be in addition to the current moose hunting season, and hunting moose with any firearm or equipment other than a bow would not be allowed during this period.

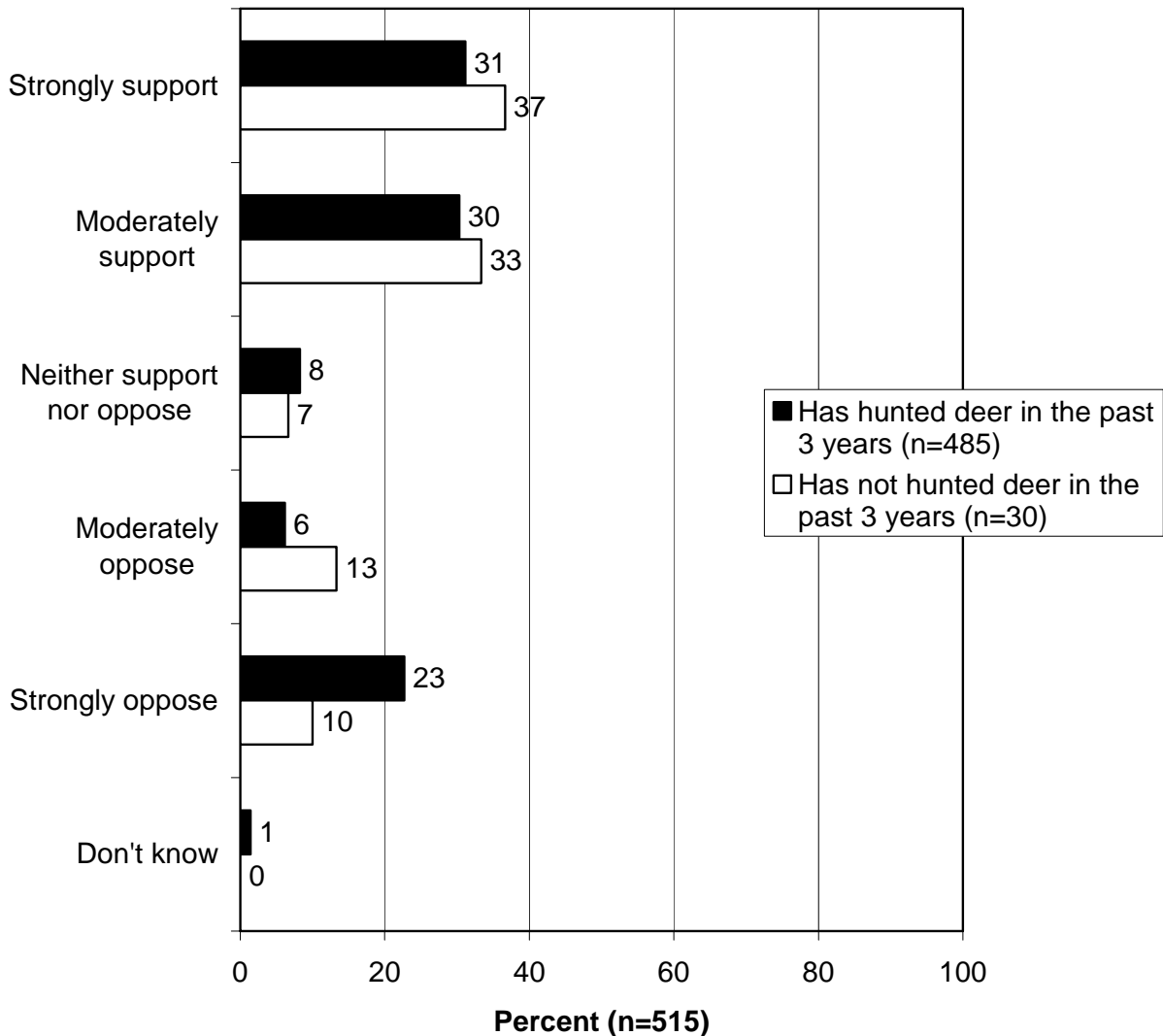
**Q46. If you knew this, would you support or oppose an archery-only moose season in Vermont?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

What if you knew the additional archery-only moose season would start the first Saturday in October and continue through the following weekend, lasting for 9 consecutive days?

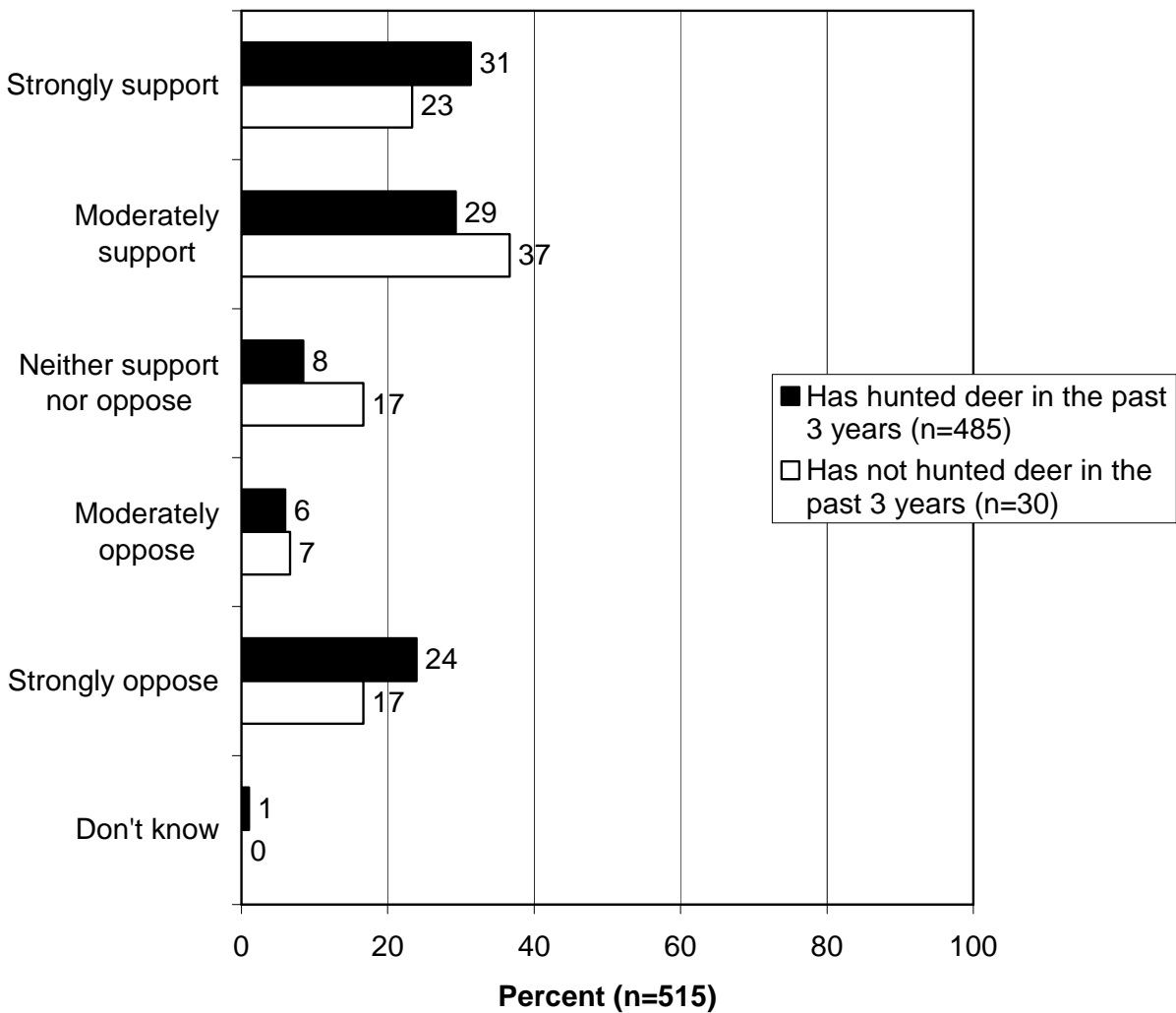
**Q49. Would you support or oppose an additional archery-only moose season if you knew that the expected total harvest for the archery-only season is approximately 15 moose, which would have very little biological impact on the moose herd in Vermont?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

The Department would distribute 50 permits for the additional archery-only moose season.

**Q50. Would you support or oppose an additional archery-only moose season if you knew the 50 archery-only moose permits would be issued through a separate lottery from the current regular season moose permit lottery, would not affect the total number of regular season moose permits distributed, and would not reduce an applicant's odds of also winning a regular season moose permit?**

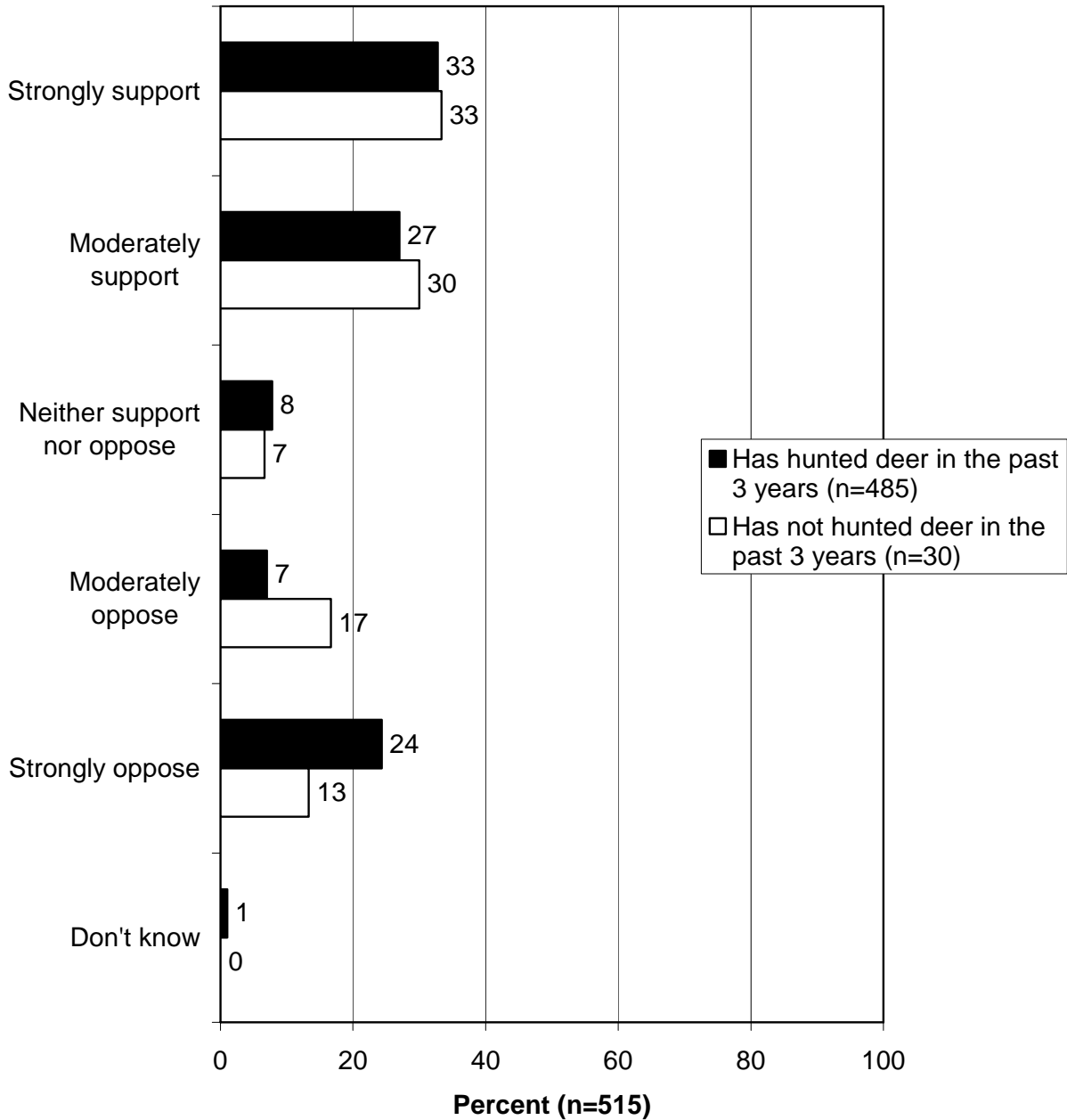


**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

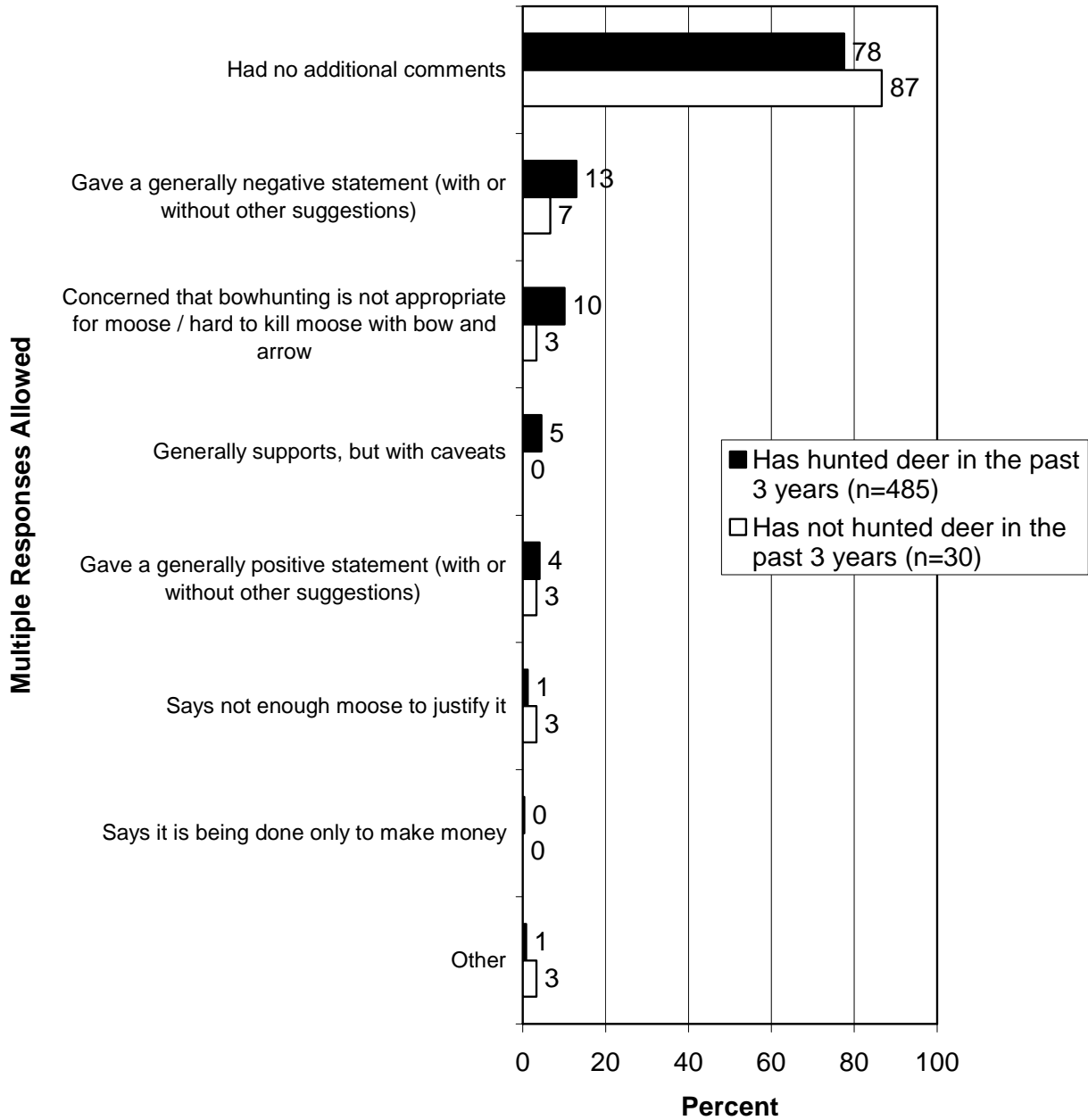
The Department would distribute 50 permits for the additional archery-only moose season.



**Q51. In general, do you support or oppose an archery-only moose season in Vermont?**

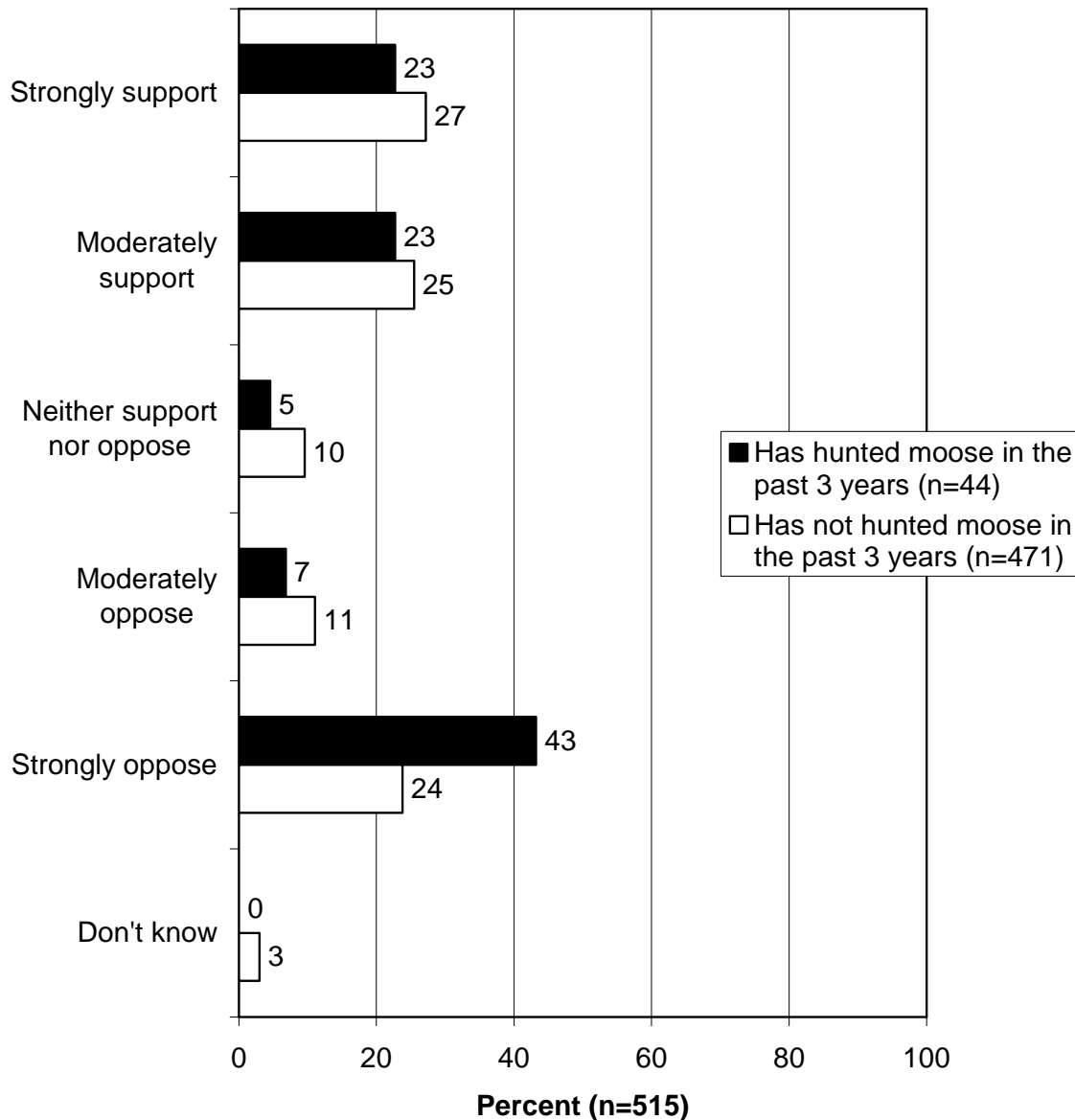


**Q53. Do you have any additional comments about an archery-only moose season in Vermont?**



## CROSSTABULATIONS BY HUNTED MOOSE VERSUS DID NOT HUNT MOOSE

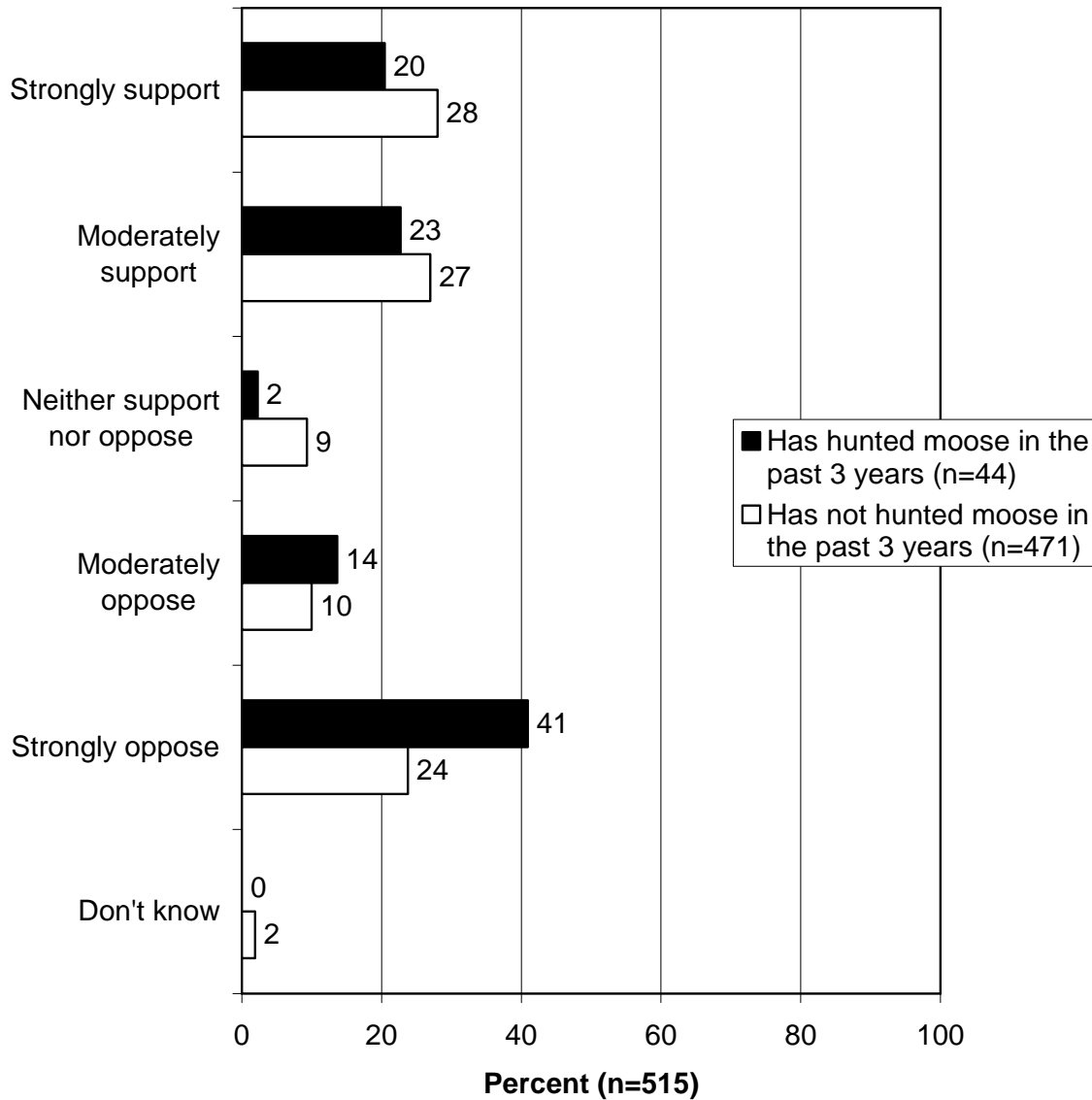
### Q45. In general, do you support or oppose an archery-only moose season in Vermont?



#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:

The archery-only season would be in addition to the current moose hunting season, and hunting moose with any firearm or equipment other than a bow would not be allowed during this period.

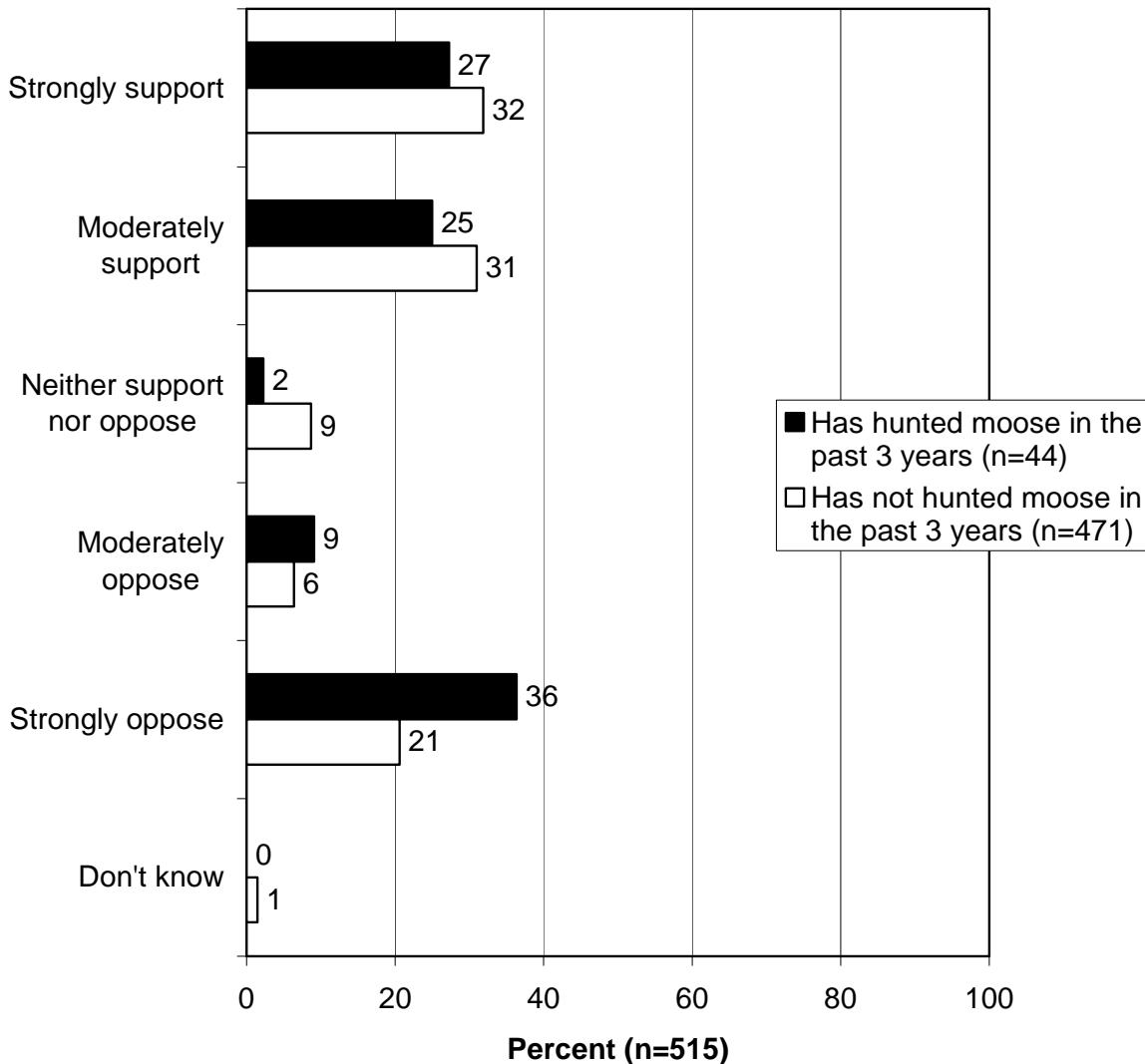
**Q46. If you knew this, would you support or oppose an archery-only moose season in Vermont?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

**What if you knew the additional archery-only moose season would start the first Saturday in October and continue through the following weekend, lasting for 9 consecutive days?**

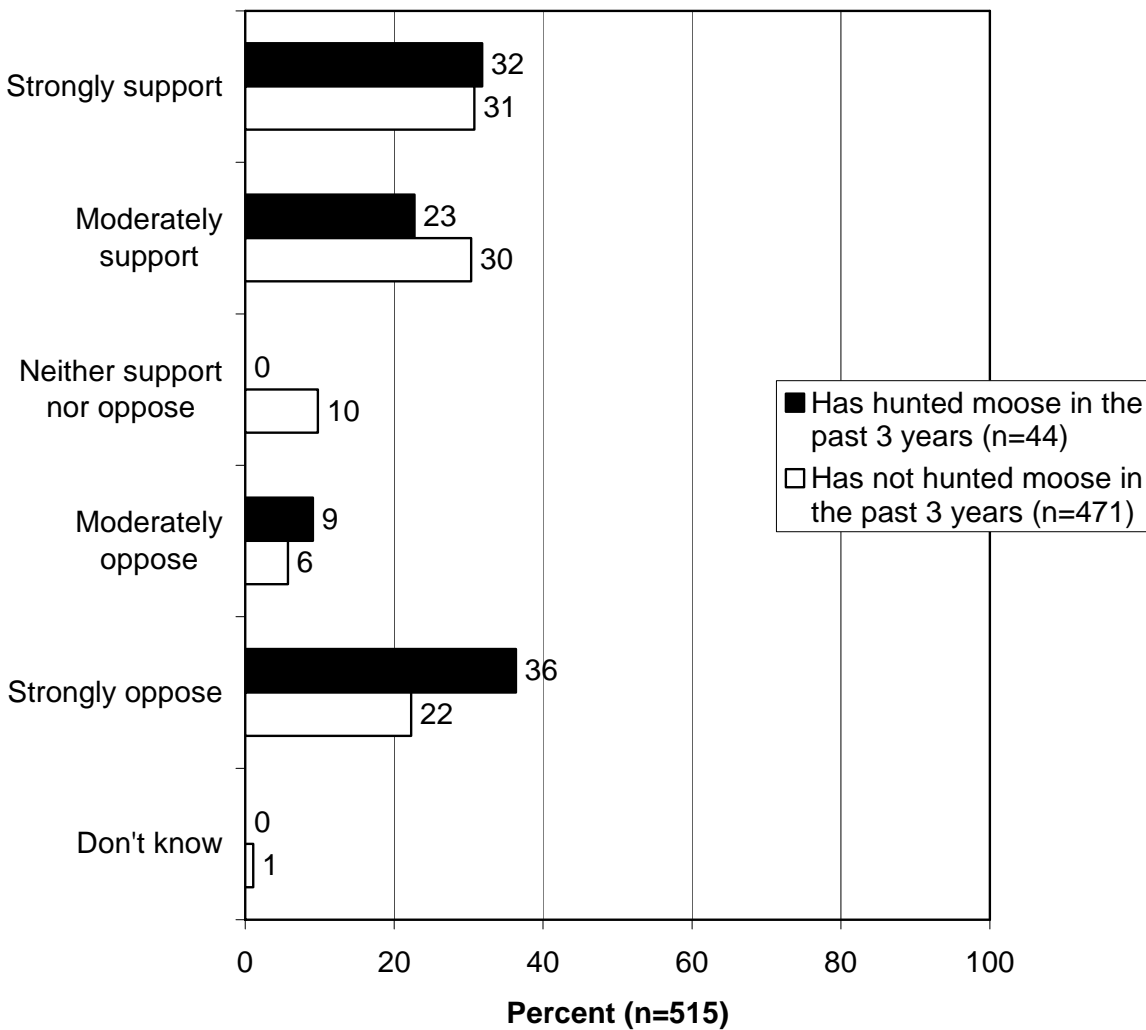
**Q49. Would you support or oppose an additional archery-only moose season if you knew that the expected total harvest for the archery-only season is approximately 15 moose, which would have very little biological impact on the moose herd in Vermont?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

The Department would distribute 50 permits for the additional archery-only moose season.

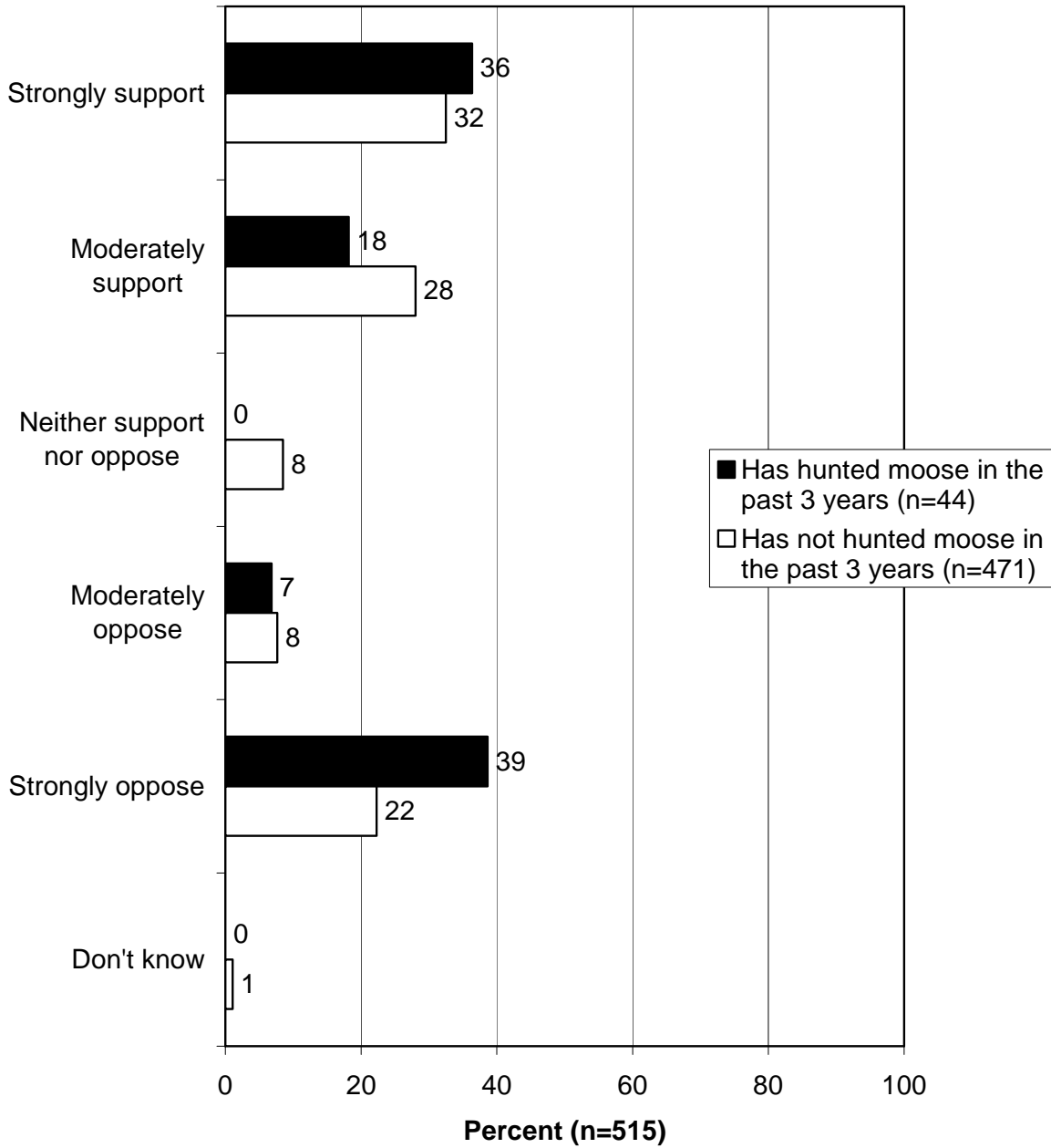
**Q50. Would you support or oppose an additional archery-only moose season if you knew the 50 archery-only moose permits would be issued through a separate lottery from the current regular season moose permit lottery, would not affect the total number of regular season moose permits distributed, and would not reduce an applicant's odds of also winning a regular season moose permit?**



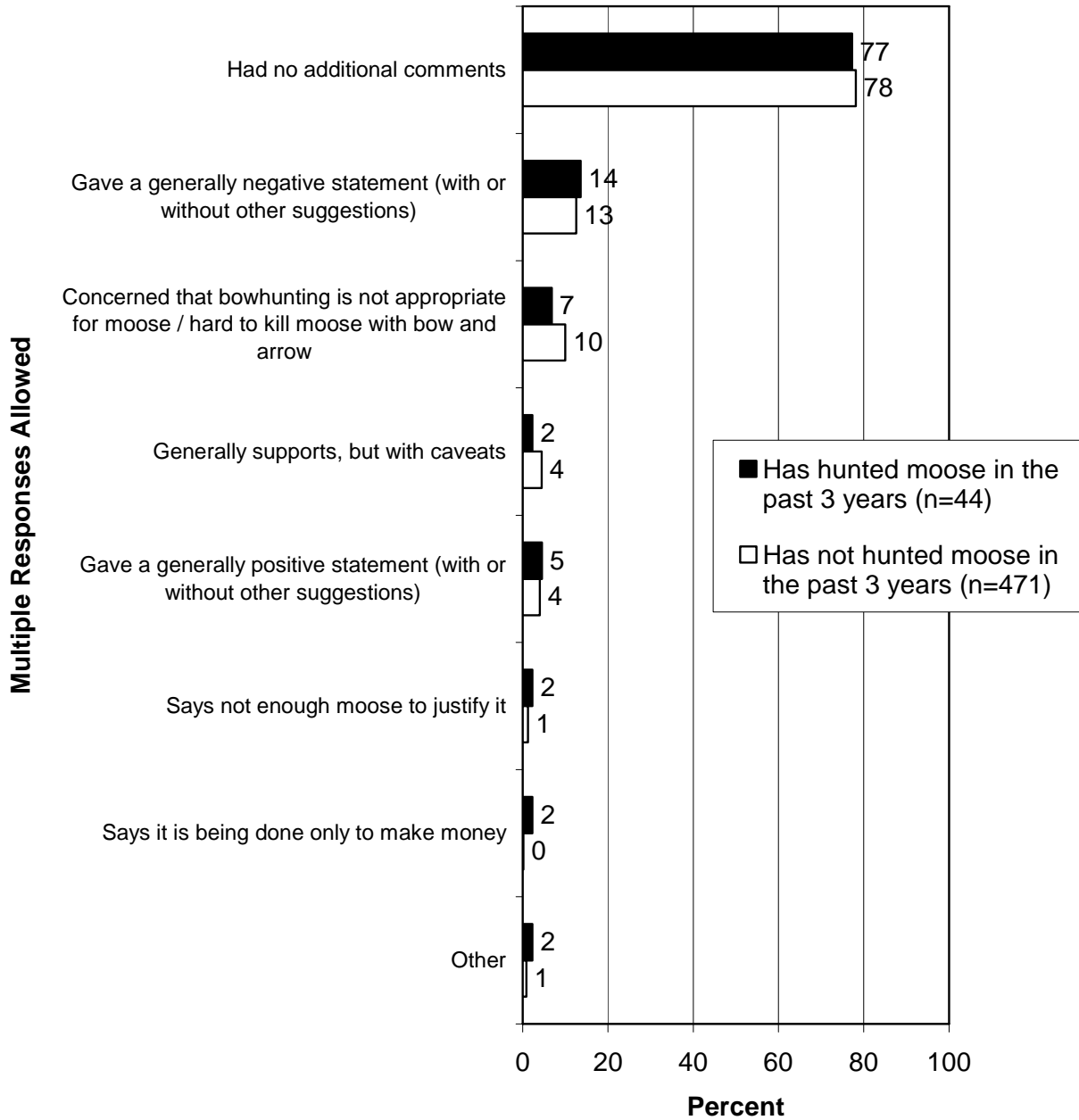
**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

The Department would distribute 50 permits for the additional archery-only moose season.

**Q51. In general, do you support or oppose an archery-only moose season in Vermont?**



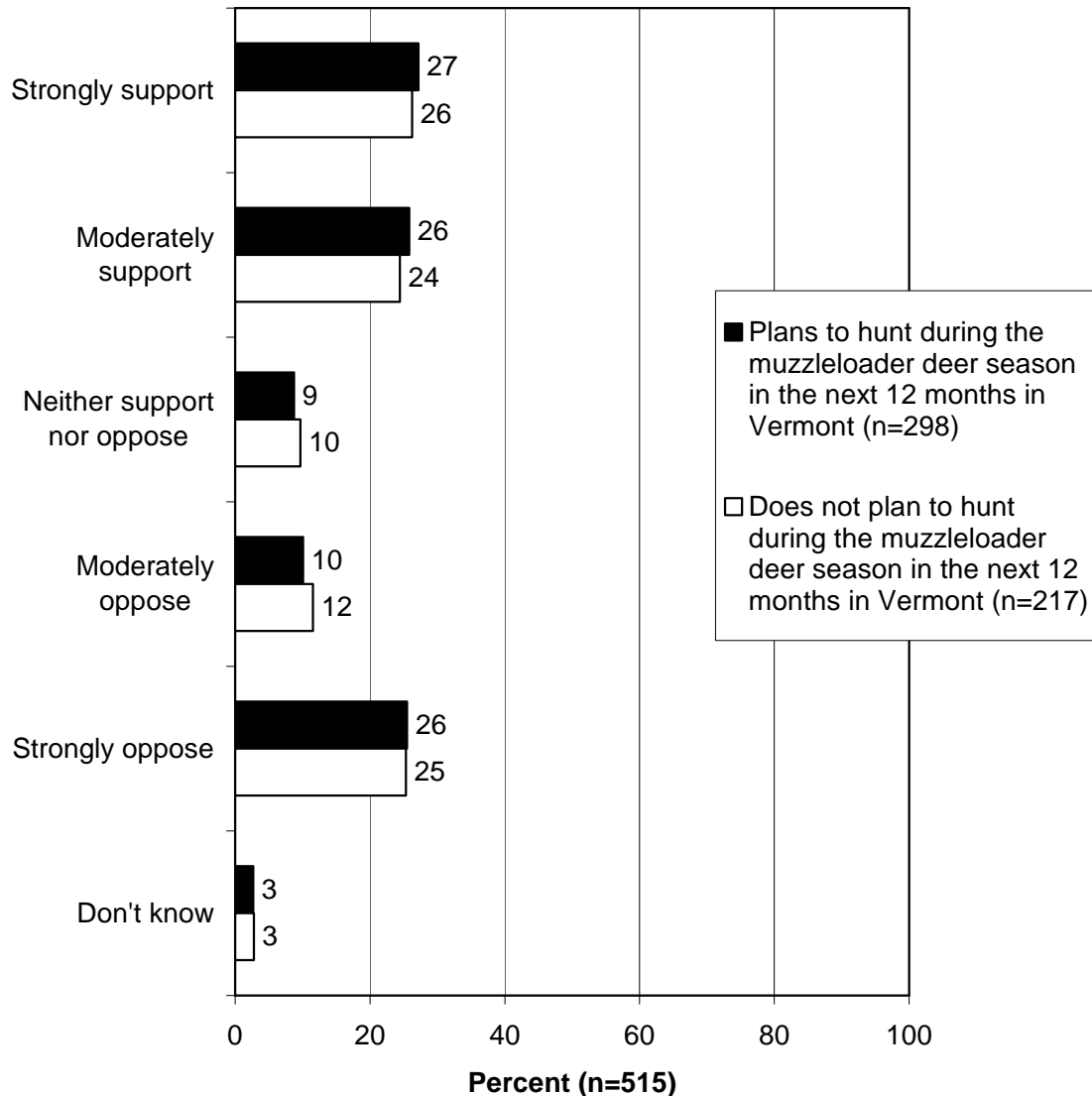
**Q53. Do you have any additional comments about an archery-only moose season in Vermont?**





**CROSSTABULATIONS BY PLAN TO MUZZLELOADER HUNT VERSUS NOT PLANNING TO DO SO**

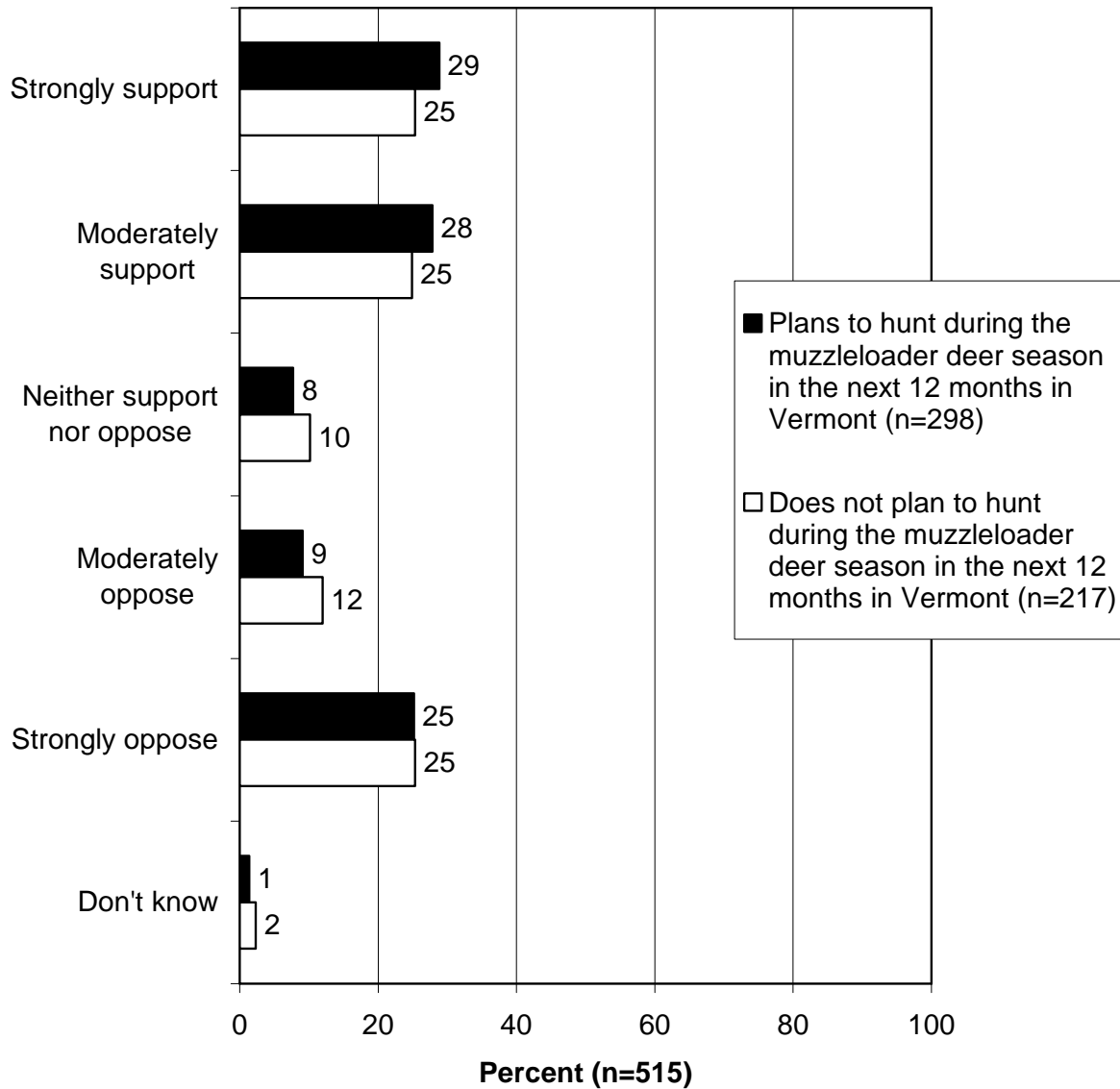
**Q45. In general, do you support or oppose an archery-only moose season in Vermont?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

The archery-only season would be in addition to the current moose hunting season, and hunting moose with any firearm or equipment other than a bow would not be allowed during this period.

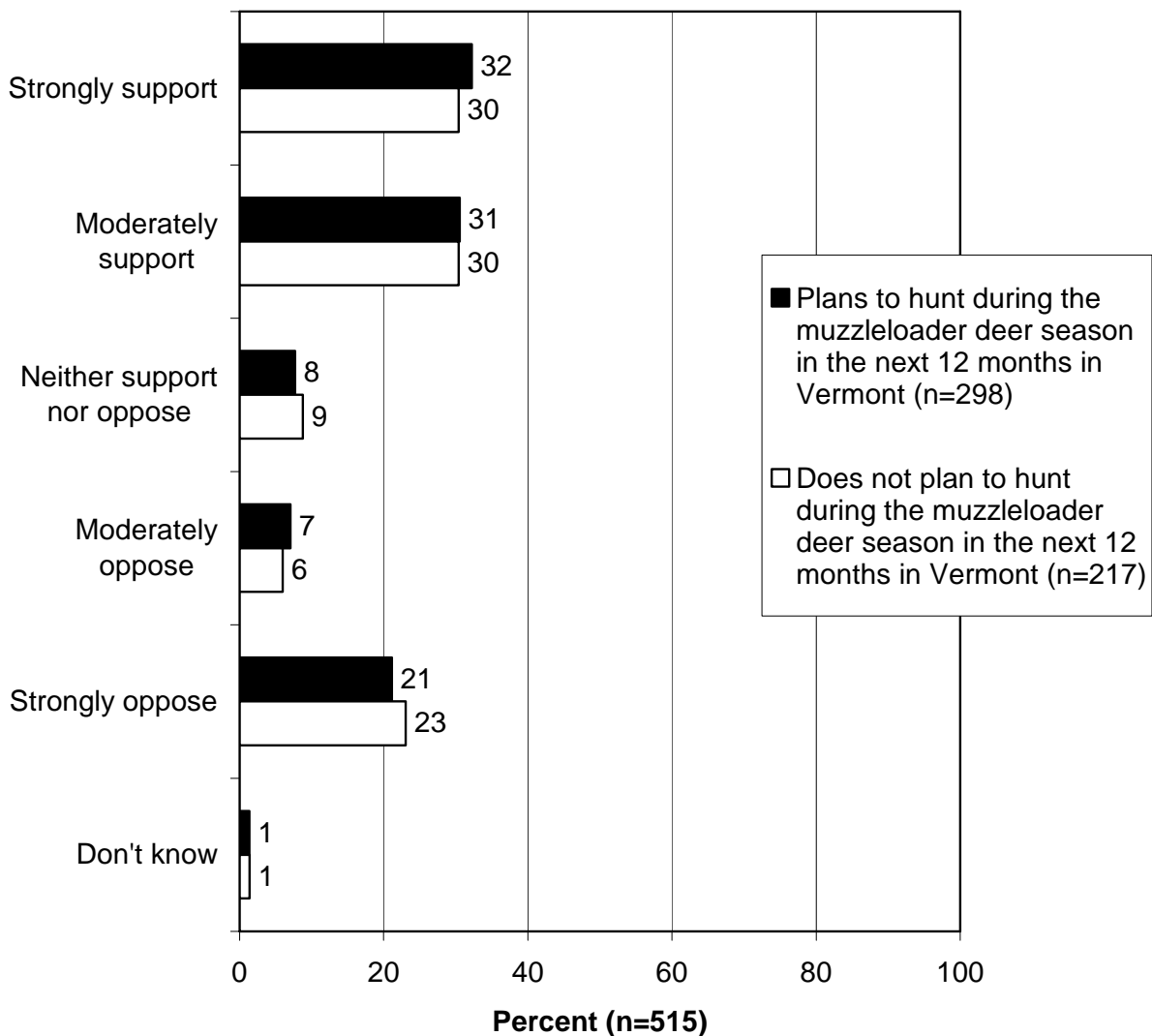
**Q46. If you knew this, would you support or oppose an archery-only moose season in Vermont?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

**What if you knew the additional archery-only moose season would start the first Saturday in October and continue through the following weekend, lasting for 9 consecutive days?**

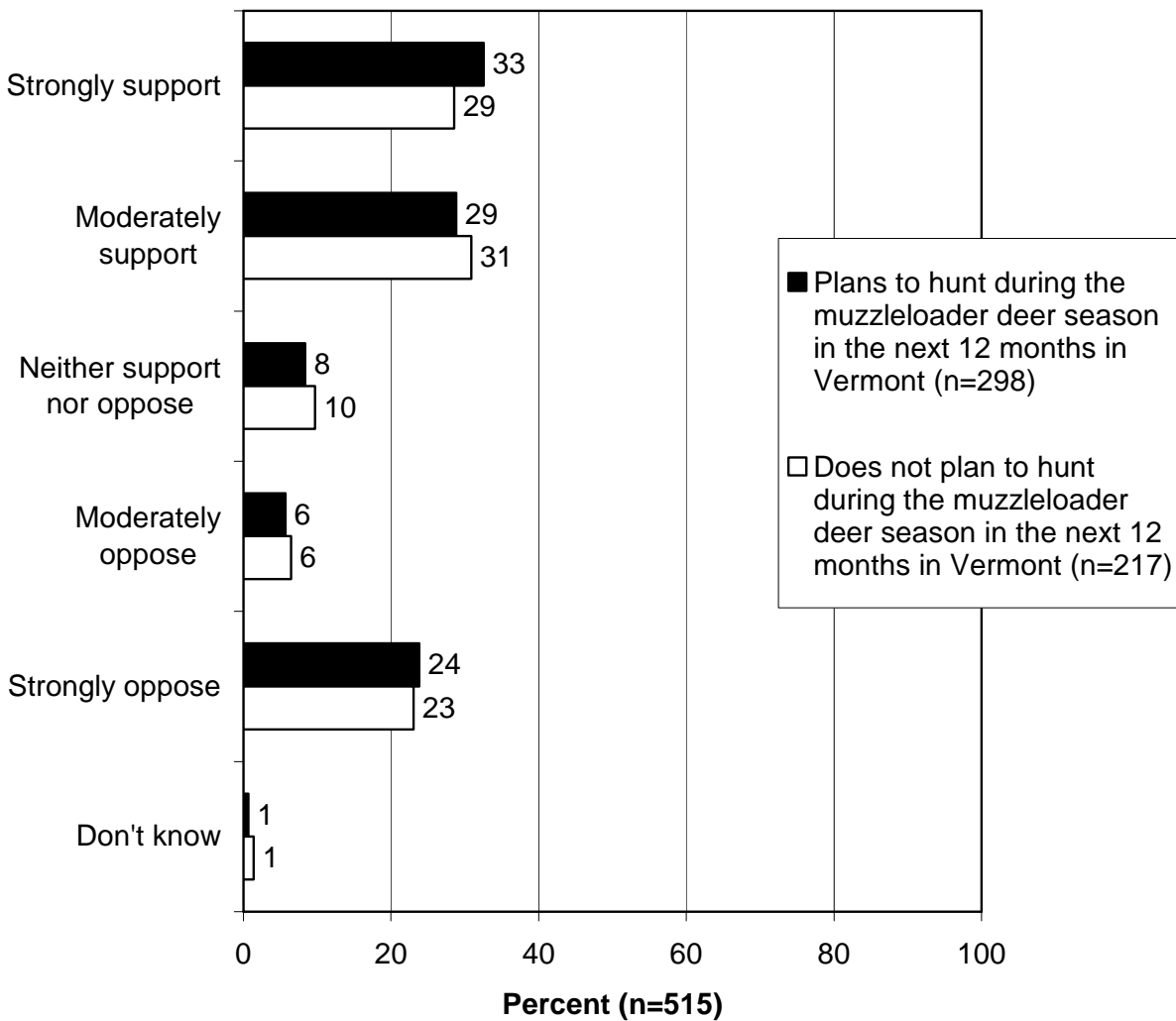
**Q49. Would you support or oppose an additional archery-only moose season if you knew that the expected total harvest for the archery-only season is approximately 15 moose, which would have very little biological impact on the moose herd in Vermont?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

The Department would distribute 50 permits for the additional archery-only moose season.

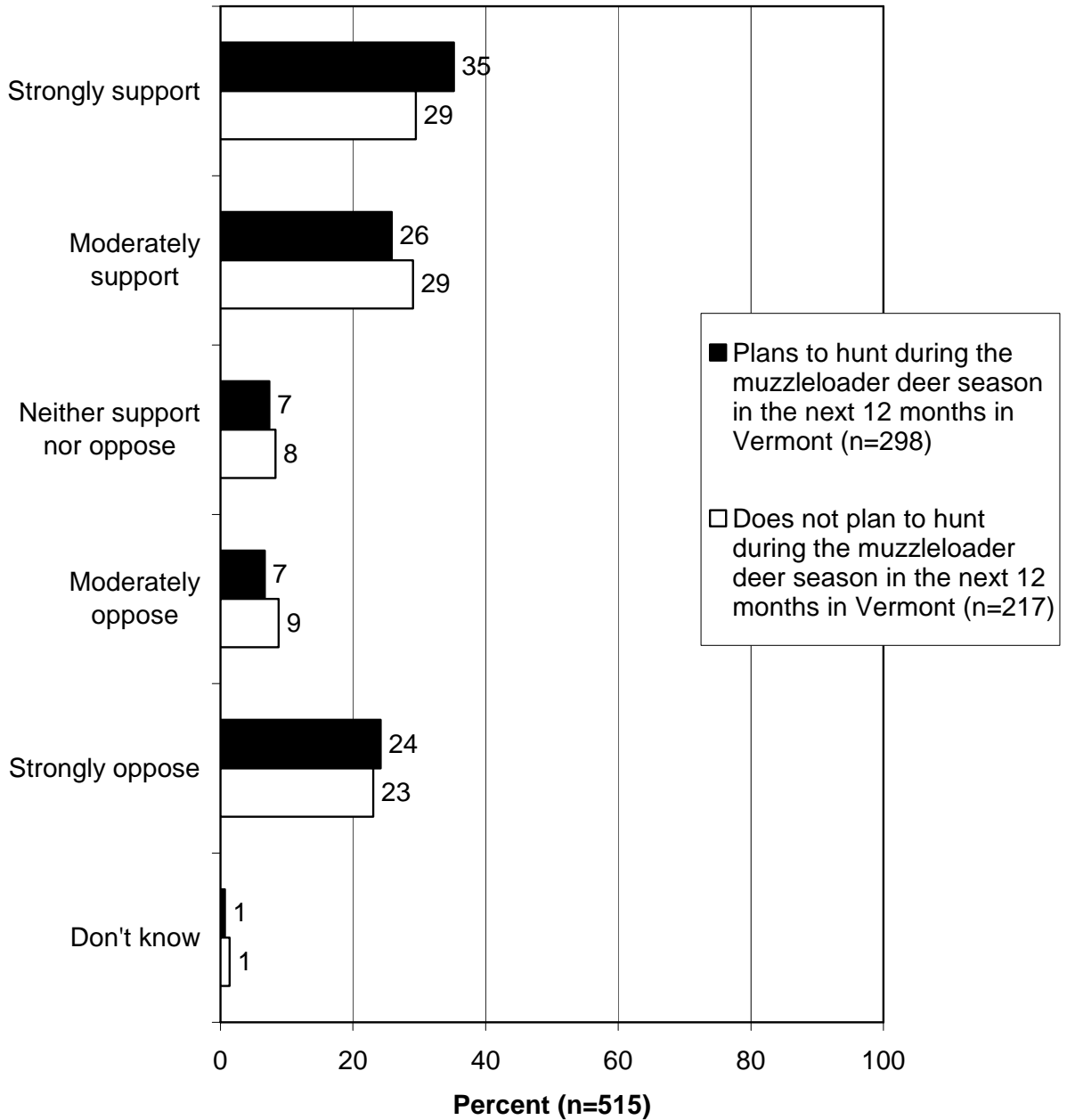
**Q50. Would you support or oppose an additional archery-only moose season if you knew the 50 archery-only moose permits would be issued through a separate lottery from the current regular season moose permit lottery, would not affect the total number of regular season moose permits distributed, and would not reduce an applicant's odds of also winning a regular season moose permit?**



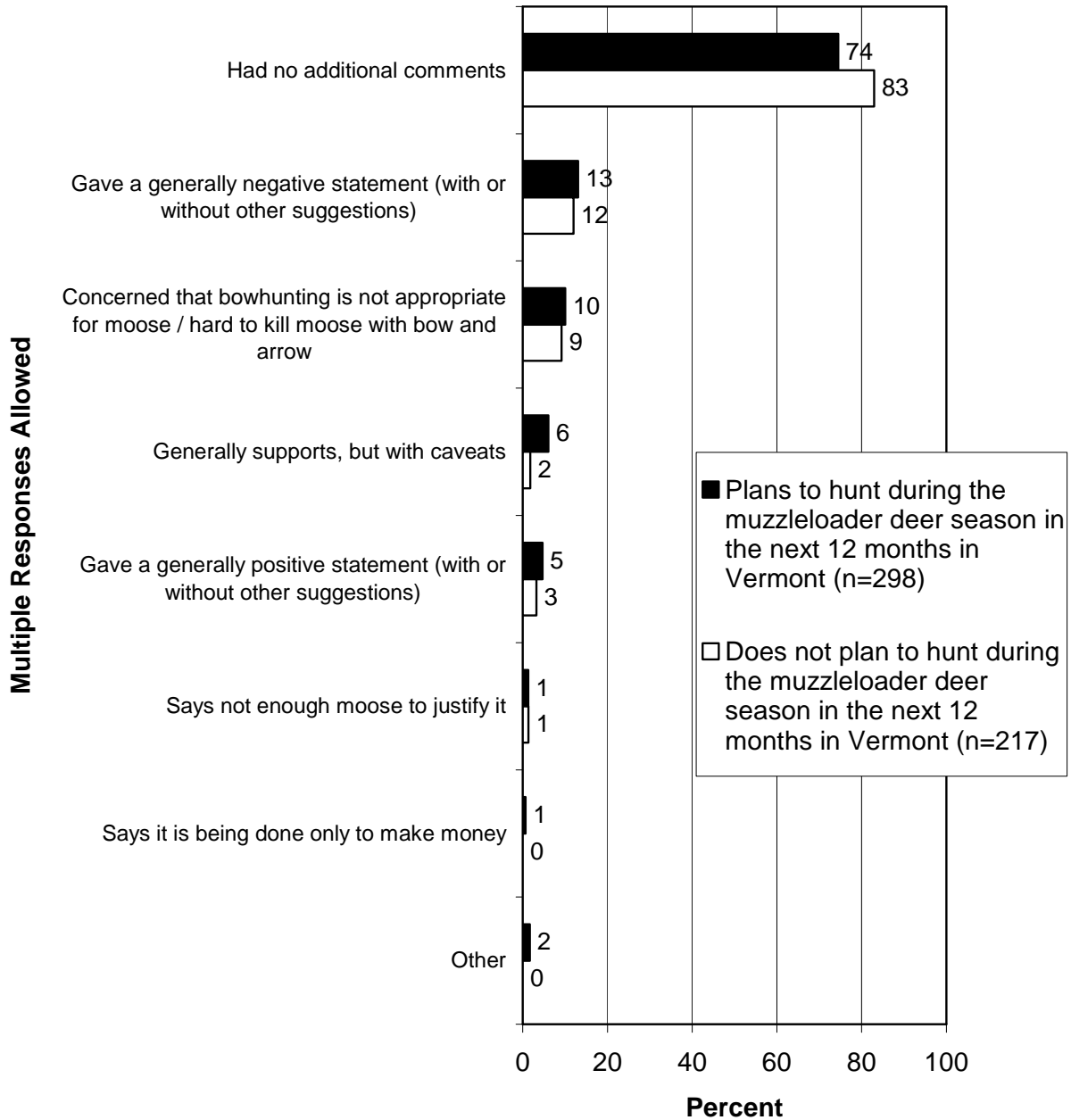
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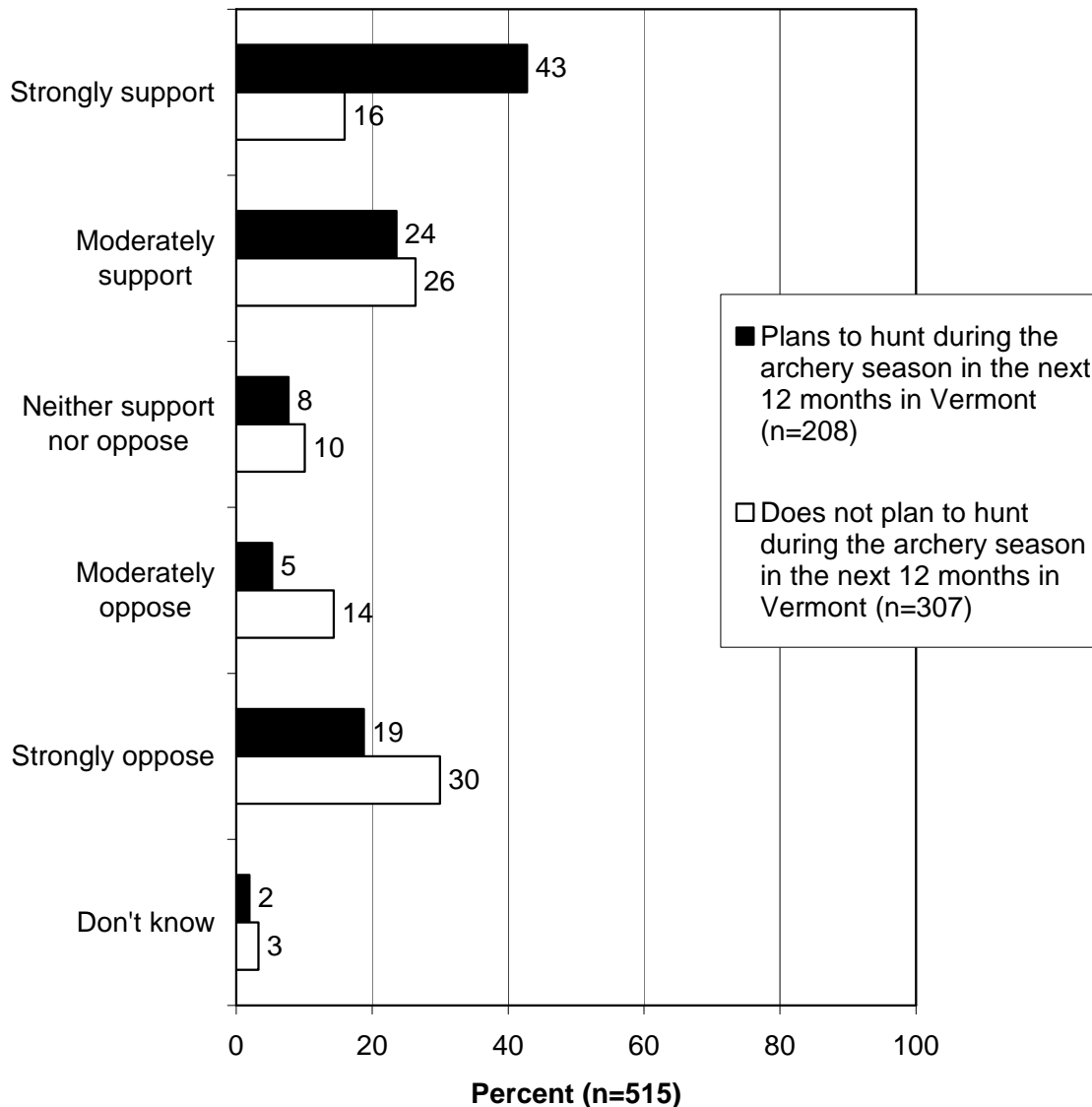


### Q53. Do you have any additional comments about an archery-only moose season in Vermont?



## CROSSTABULATIONS BY PLAN TO ARCHERY HUNT VERSUS NOT PLANNING TO DO SO

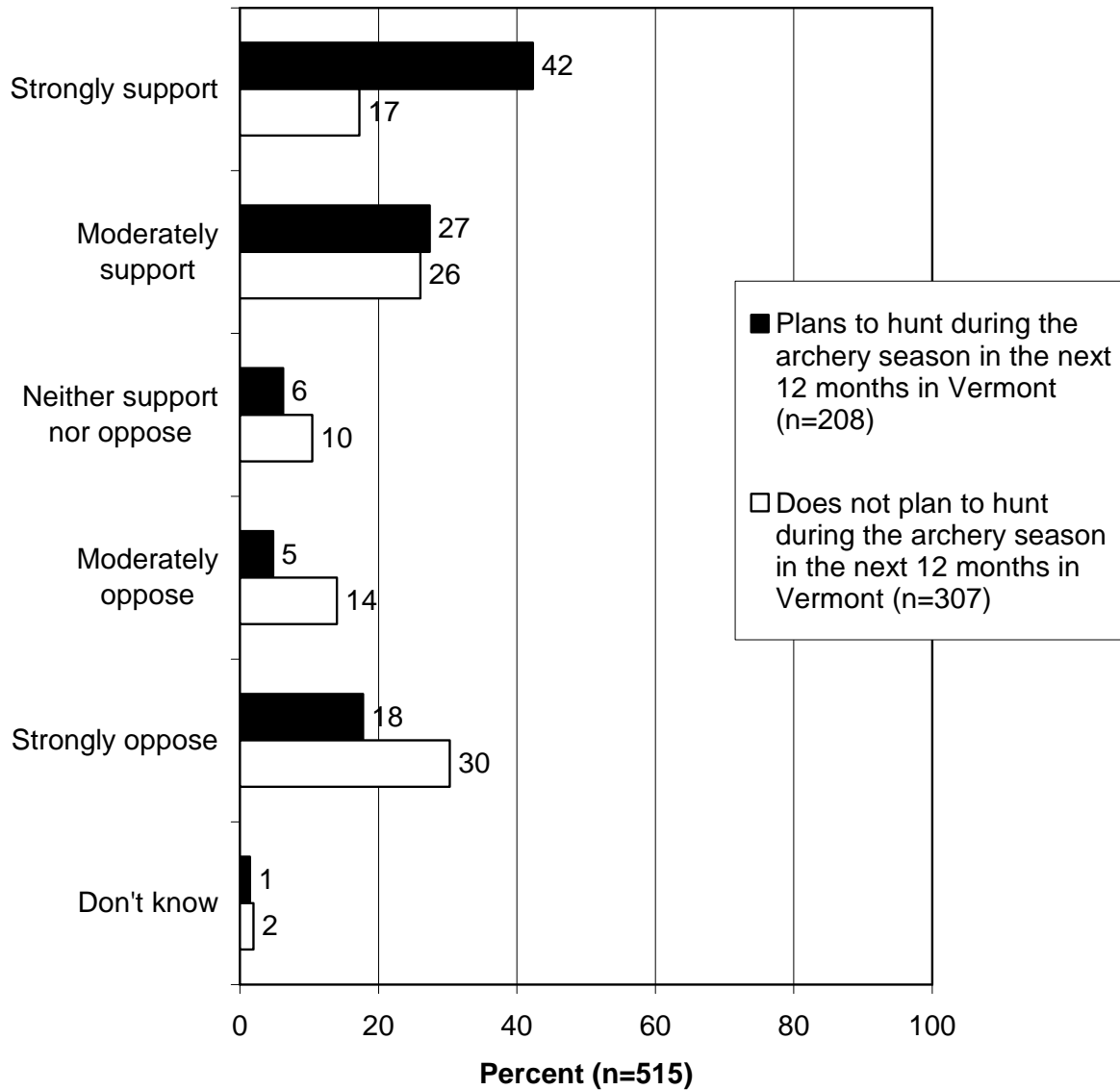
**Q45. In general, do you support or oppose an archery-only moose season in Vermont?**



### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:

The archery-only season would be in addition to the current moose hunting season, and hunting moose with any firearm or equipment other than a bow would not be allowed during this period.

**Q46. If you knew this, would you support or oppose an archery-only moose season in Vermont?**

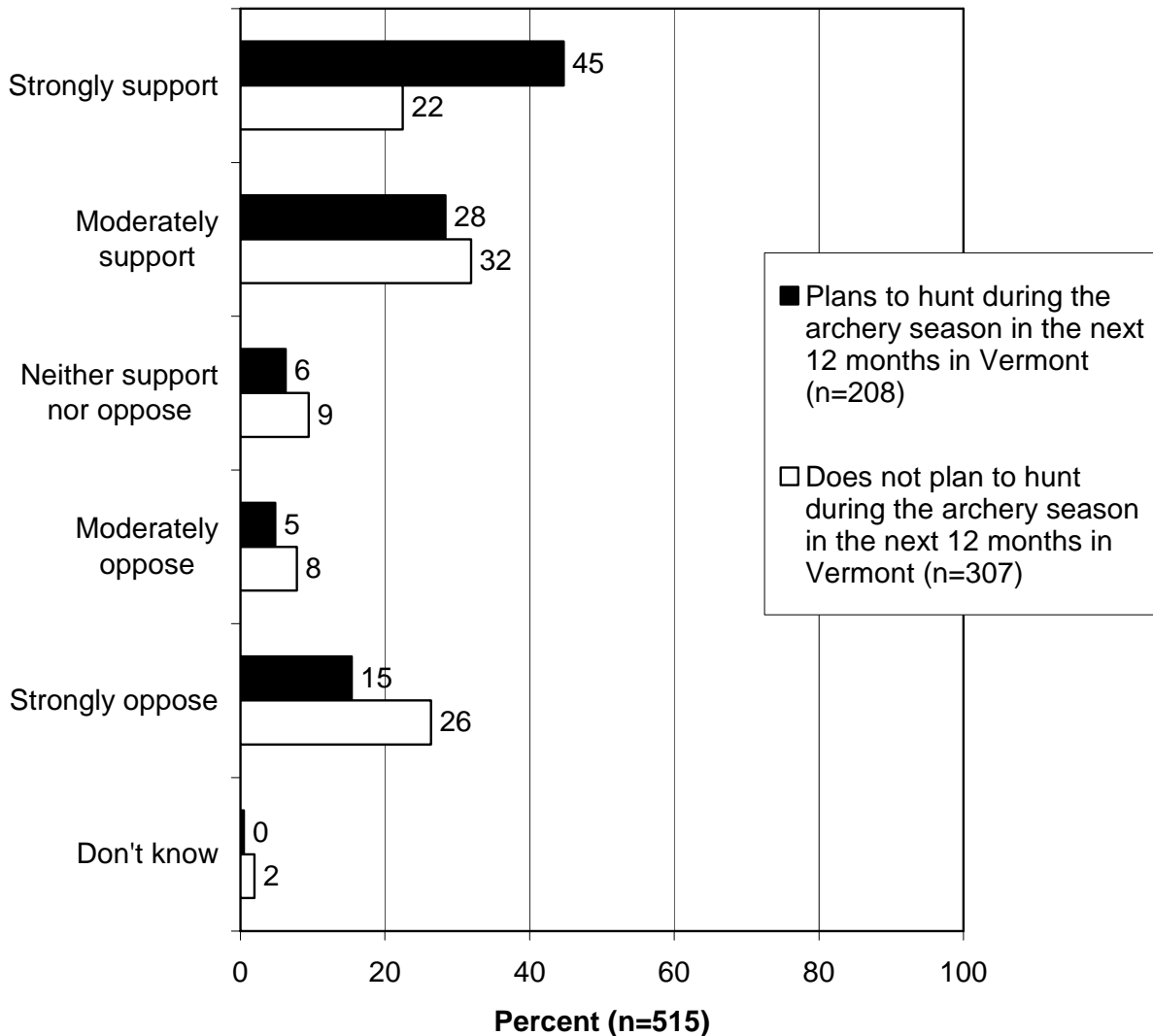


**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

**What if you knew the additional archery-only moose season would start the first Saturday in October and continue through the following weekend, lasting for 9 consecutive days?**



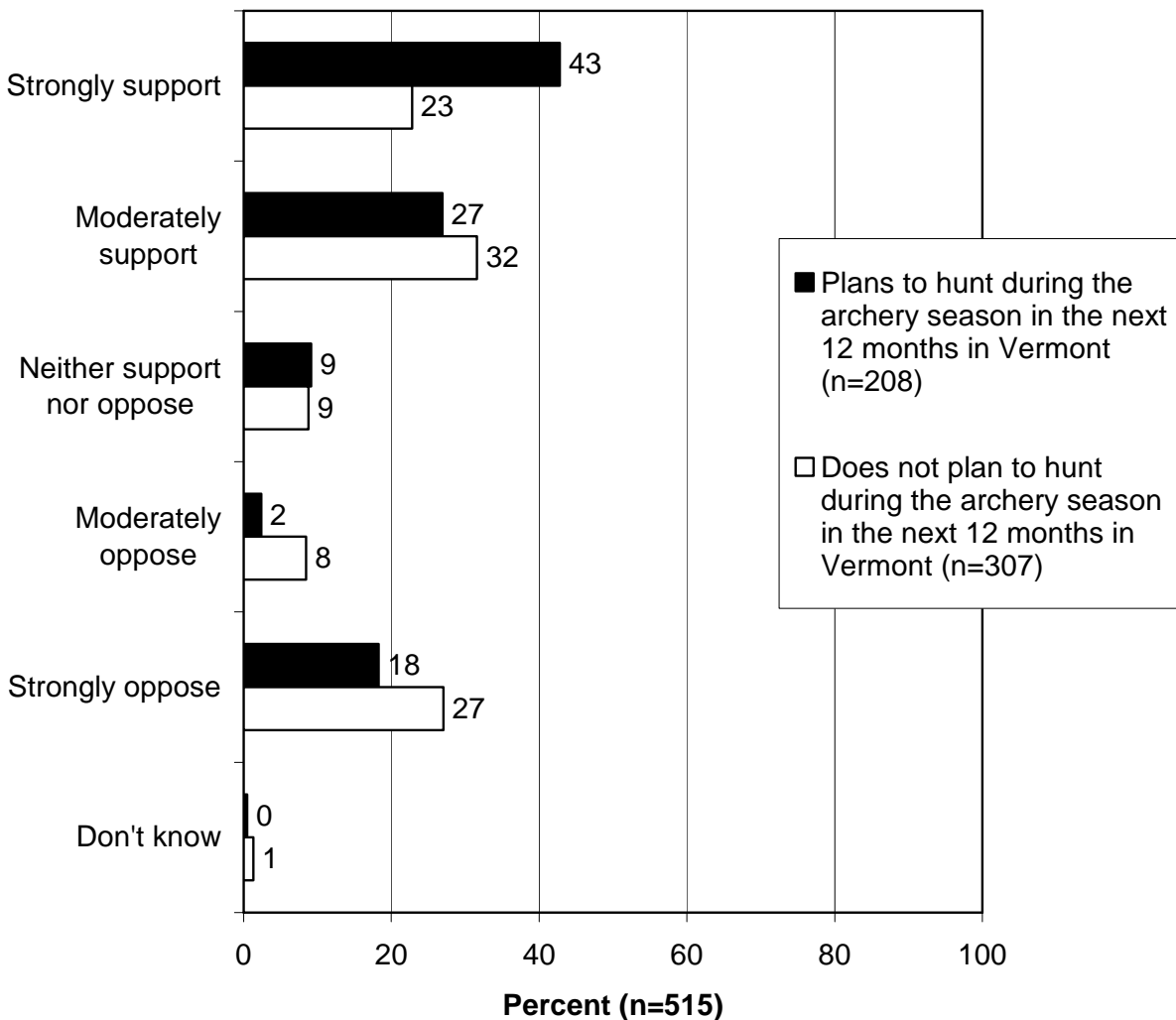
**Q49. Would you support or oppose an additional archery-only moose season if you knew that the expected total harvest for the archery-only season is approximately 15 moose, which would have very little biological impact on the moose herd in Vermont?**



**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

The Department would distribute 50 permits for the additional archery-only moose season.

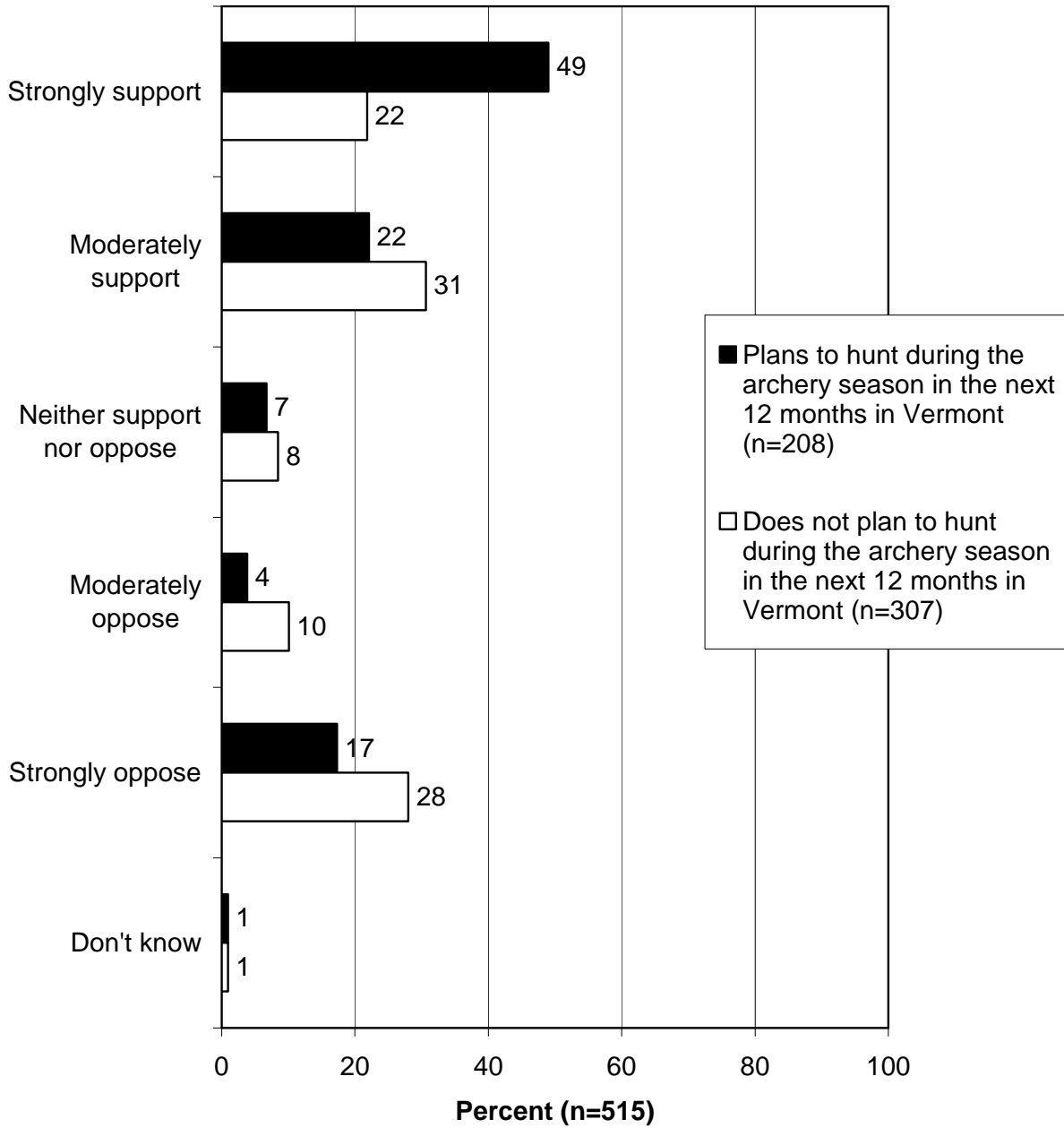
**Q50. Would you support or oppose an additional archery-only moose season if you knew the 50 archery-only moose permits would be issued through a separate lottery from the current regular season moose permit lottery, would not affect the total number of regular season moose permits distributed, and would not reduce an applicant's odds of also winning a regular season moose permit?**



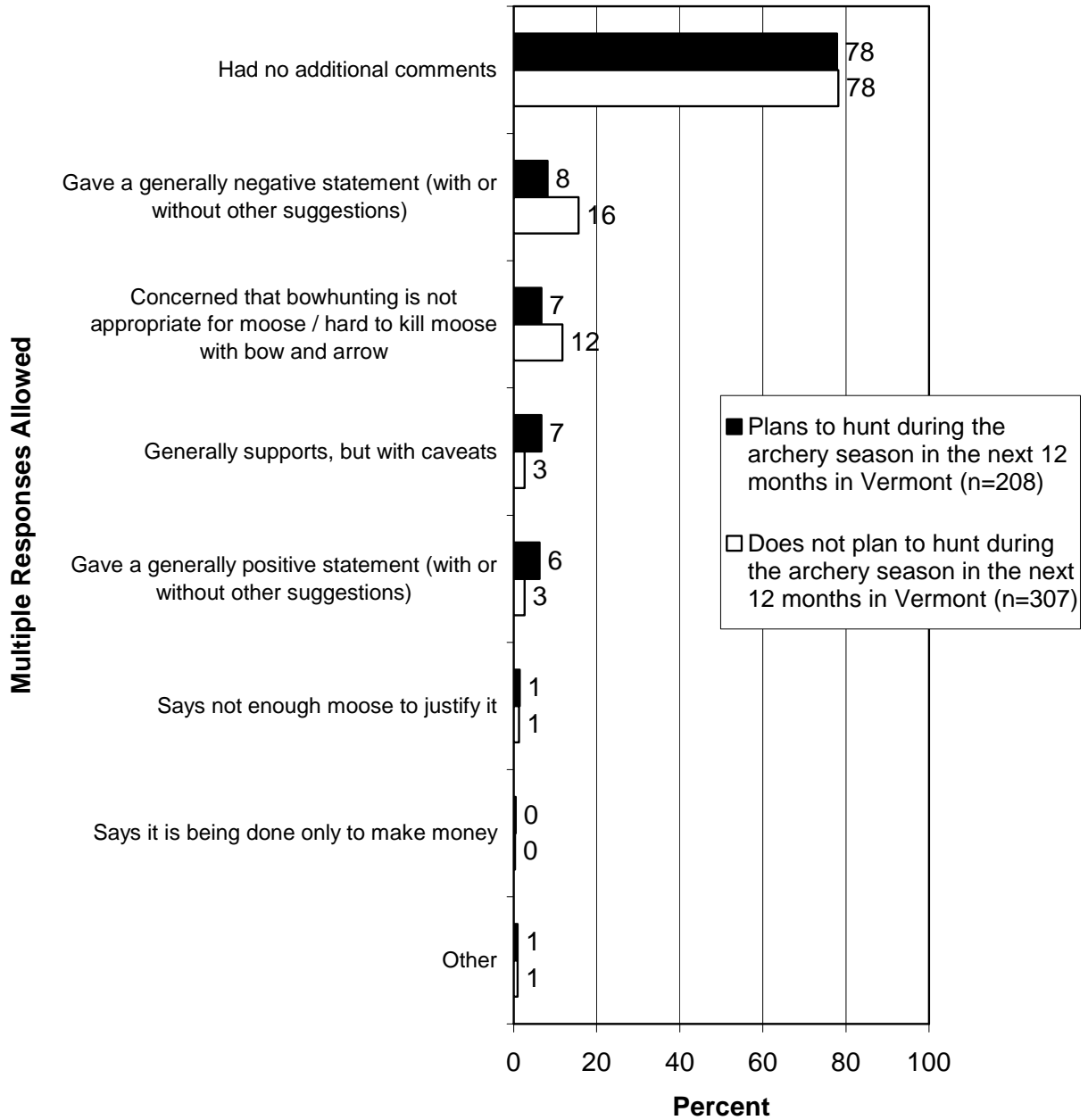
**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED:**

The Department would distribute 50 permits for the additional archery-only moose season.

**Q51. In general, do you support or oppose an archery-only moose season in Vermont?**



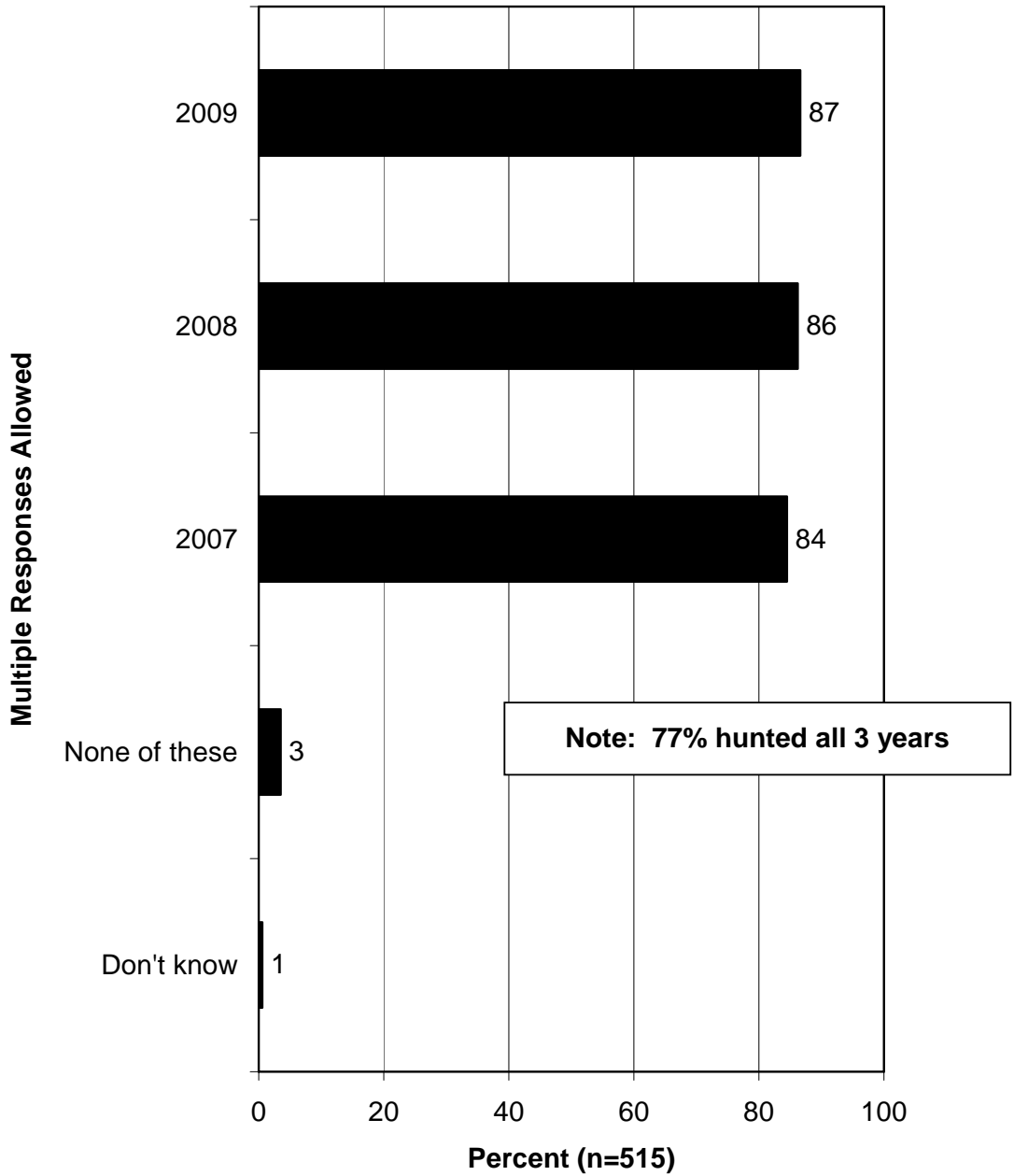
**Q53. Do you have any additional comments about an archery-only moose season in Vermont?**



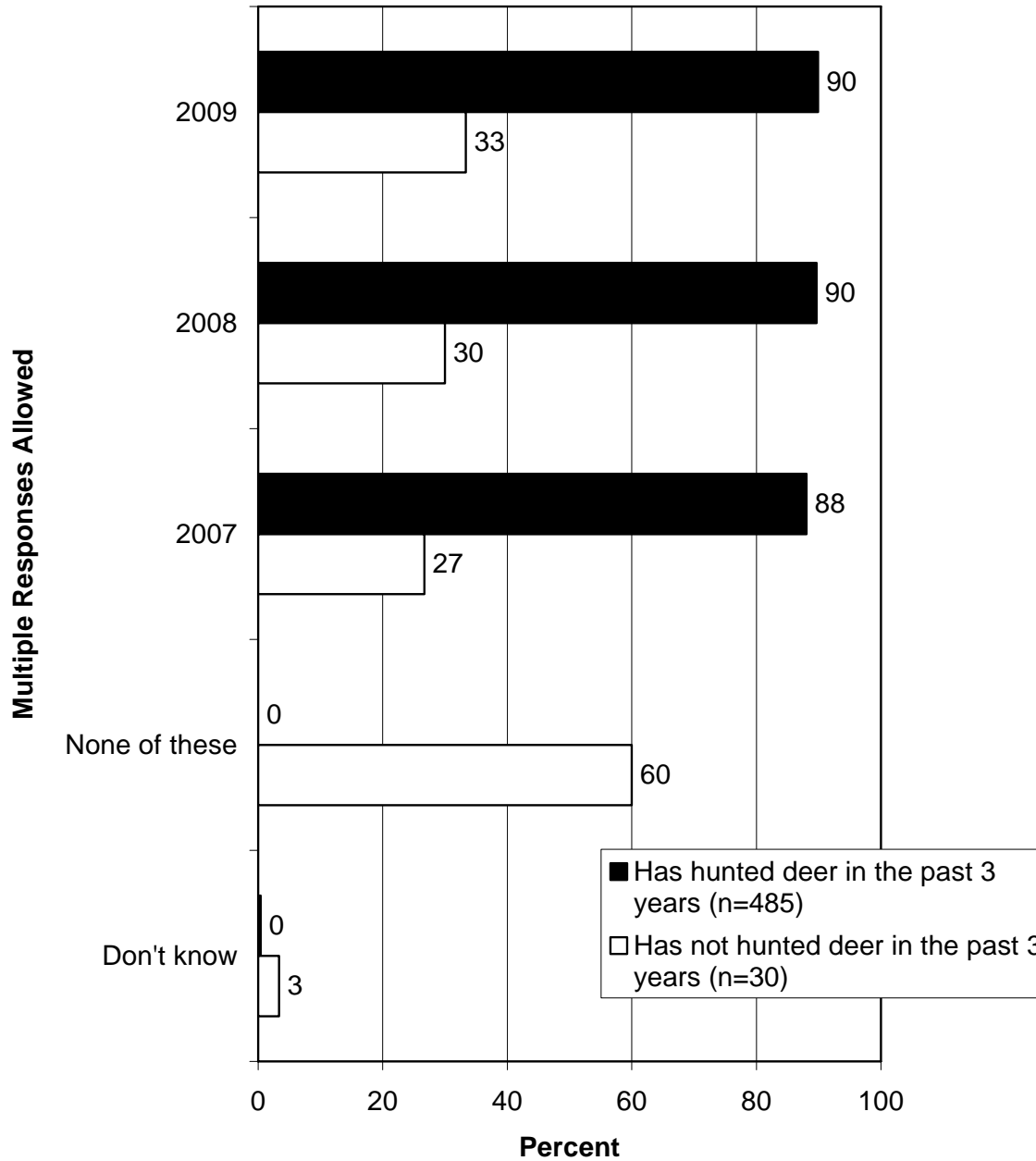
## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- The survey asked respondents to indicate which of the past 3 years they had hunted in Vermont: 87% had hunted in 2009, 86% had hunted in 2008, and 84% had hunted in 2007 (note that 77% had hunted all 3 of those years). Meanwhile, only 3% had not hunted at all in that 3-year period.
  - The crosstabulations for this question are also shown.
  
- Those license holders who had hunted within the past 3 years were asked in an open-ended question to name the species that they had hunted in Vermont. Nearly all (98%) had hunted deer. Other commonly hunted species include wild turkey (23%), ruffed grouse/partridge (also 23%), and bear (18%). The graph shows the full listing.
  - In another question, respondents were read a list of seven species and were asked to indicate which of them they planned to hunt in the fall 2010 season. At the top of the list was deer (90%), distantly followed by bear (31%) and wild turkey (25%). The graph shows the full results.
    - The crosstabulations for these questions are also shown.
  
- The survey asked respondents if they planned to hunt three types of deer seasons: rifle, muzzleloader, and archery. An overwhelming majority planned to hunt in the rifle deer season (90%), and a majority planned to hunt the muzzleloader deer season (58%). Lastly, somewhat less than a majority planned to hunt the archery deer season (40%).
  - The crosstabulations for this question are also shown.
  
- The years of residency in Vermont among respondents is shown. The mean is 40.4 years.
  
- Counties of residence are shown. The leading counties are Chittenden and Rutland Counties. A second graph for this question shows the counties listed alphabetically.
  
- Respondents' ages are graphed; the mean age is 47.2 years.
  
- The overwhelming majority of respondents are male (92%).

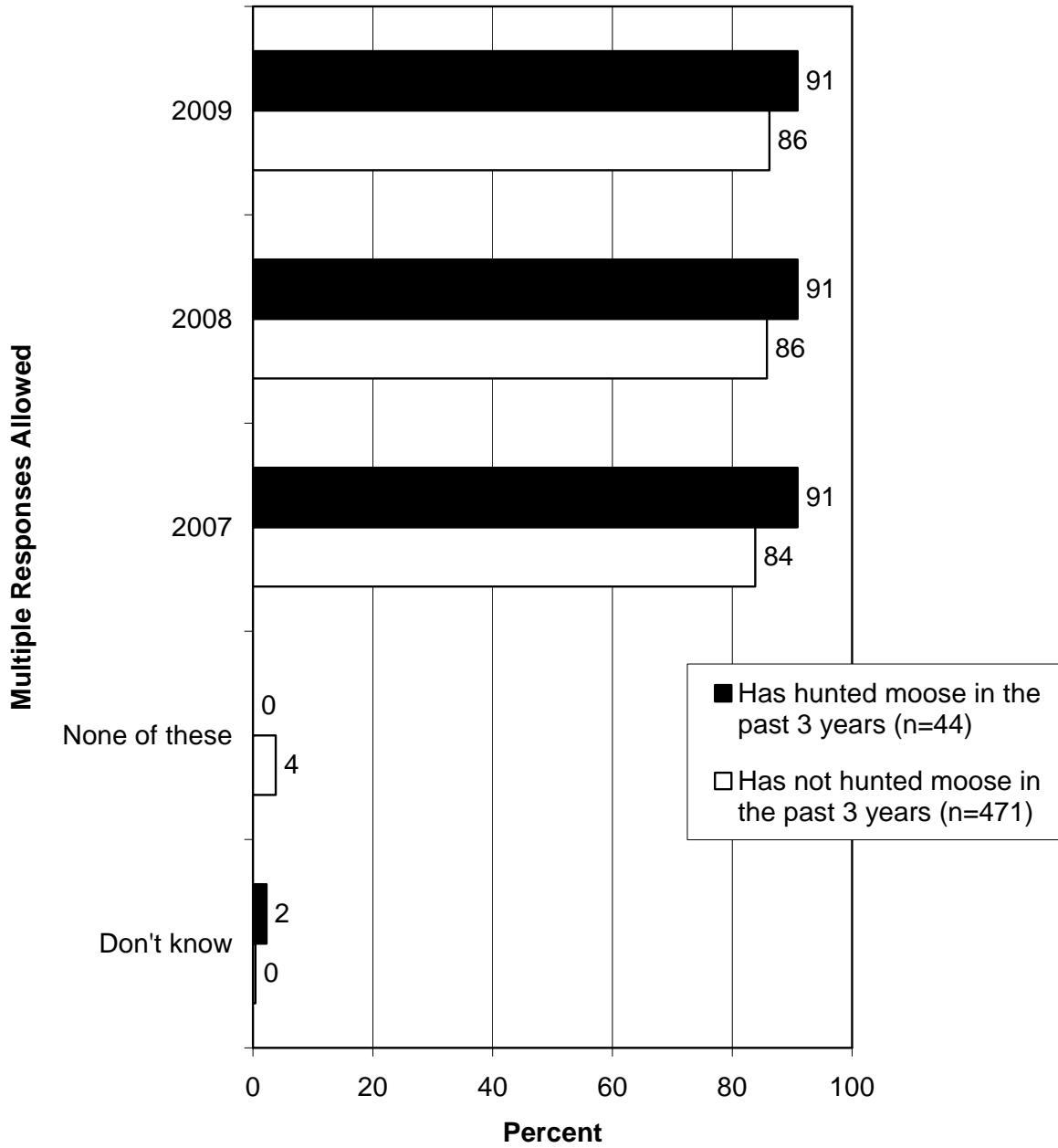
### Q14. Which of the following years did you hunt in Vermont?



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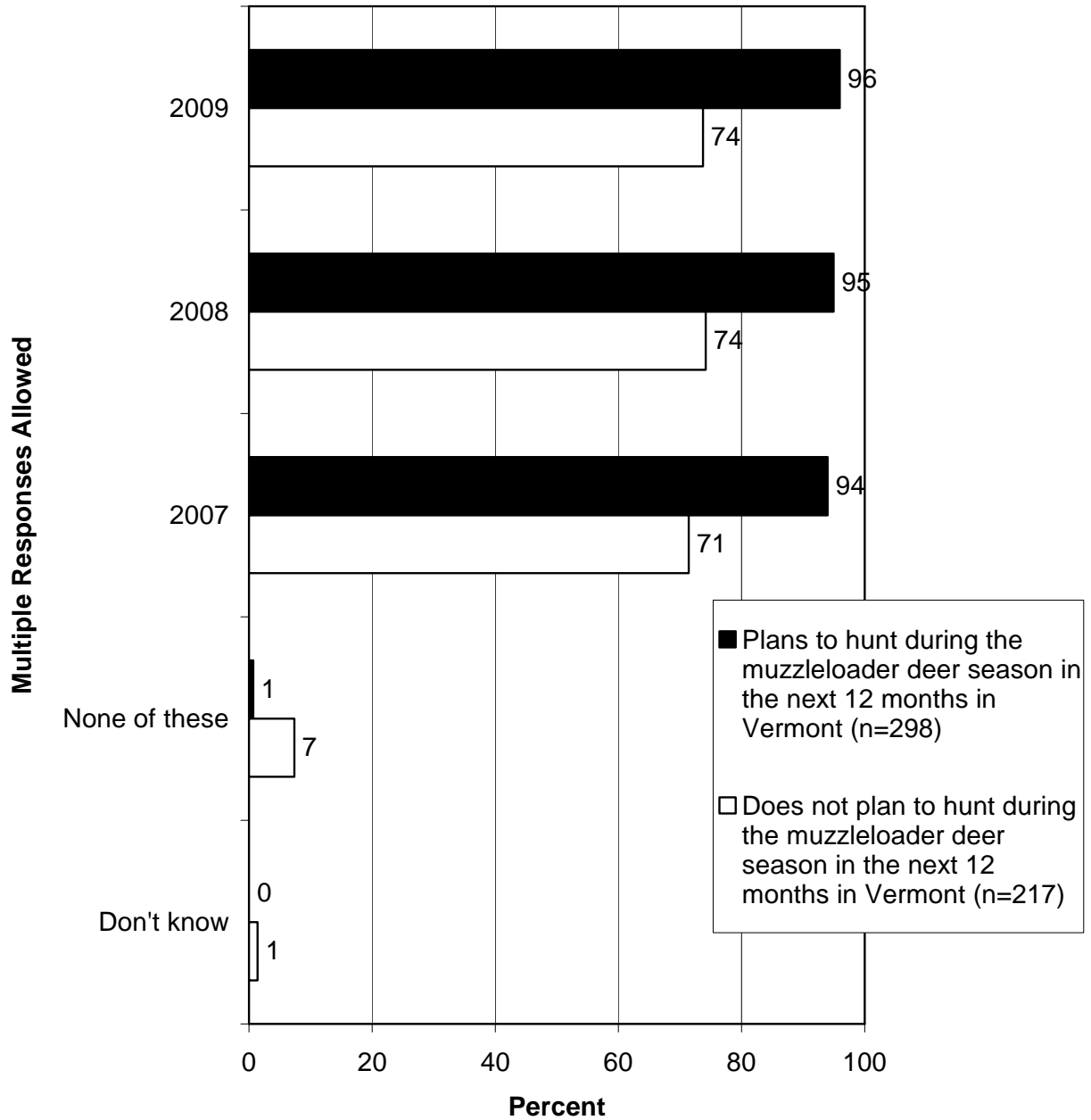


**Q14. Which of the following years did you hunt in Vermont?**

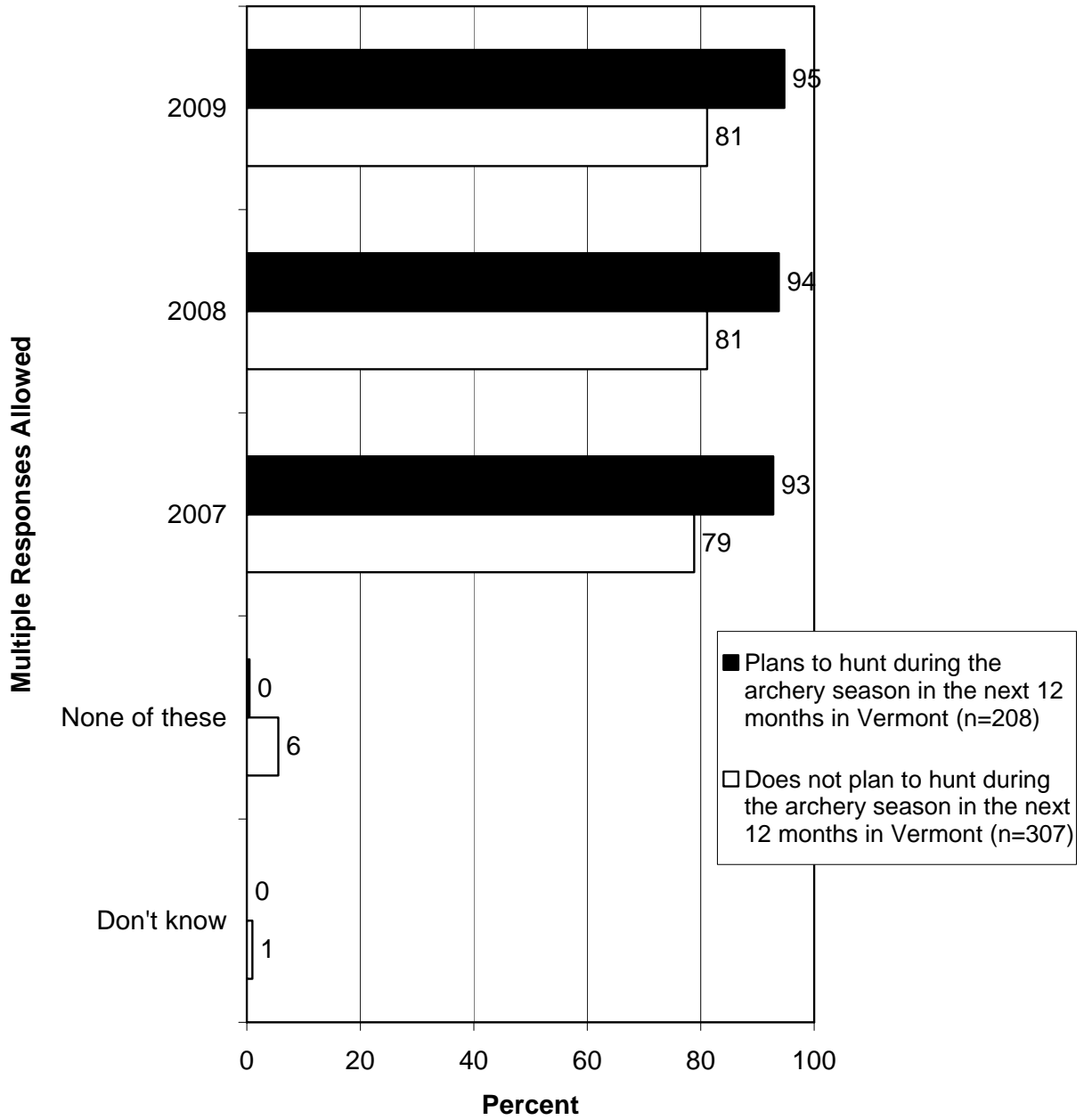




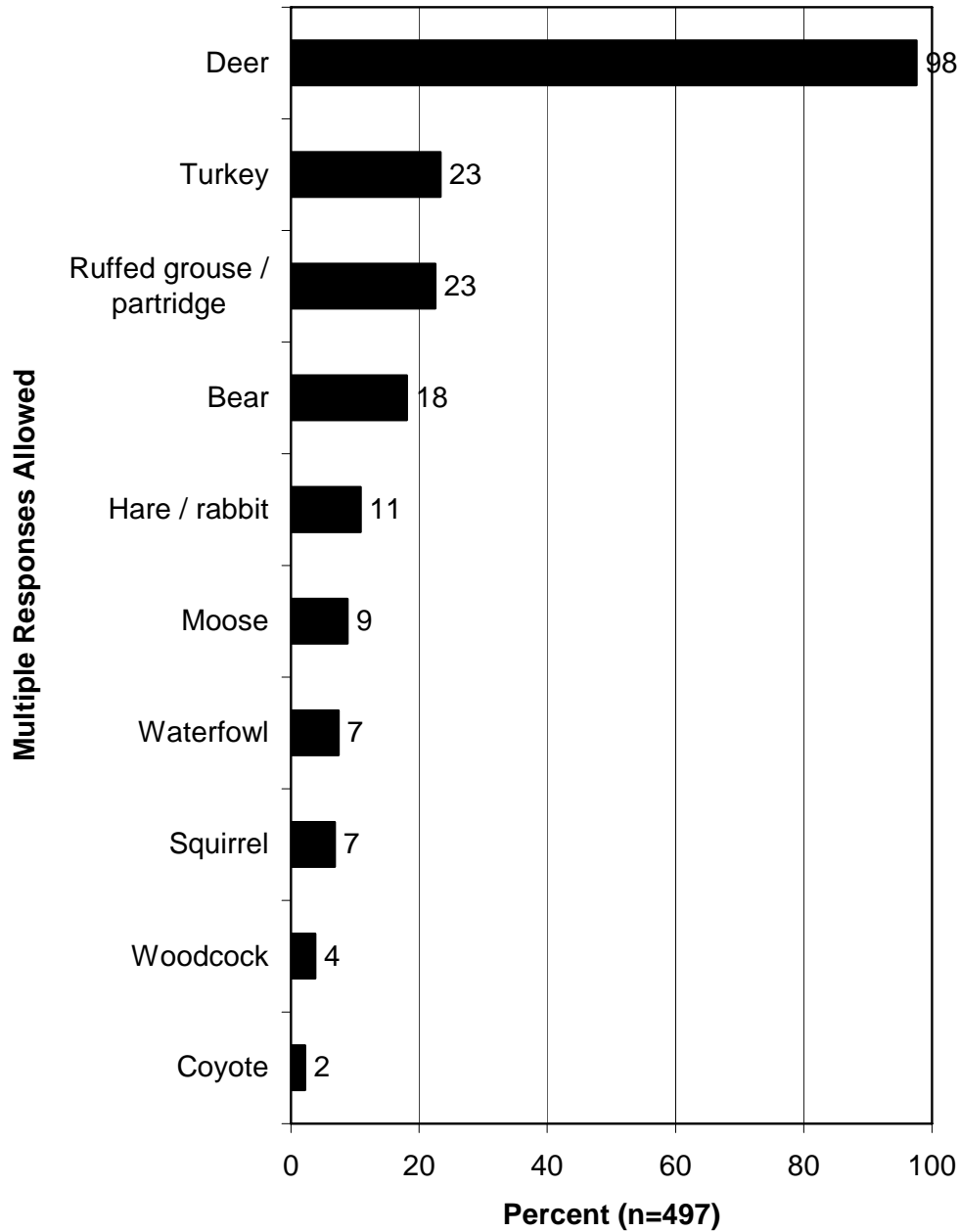
### Q14. Which of the following years did you hunt in Vermont?



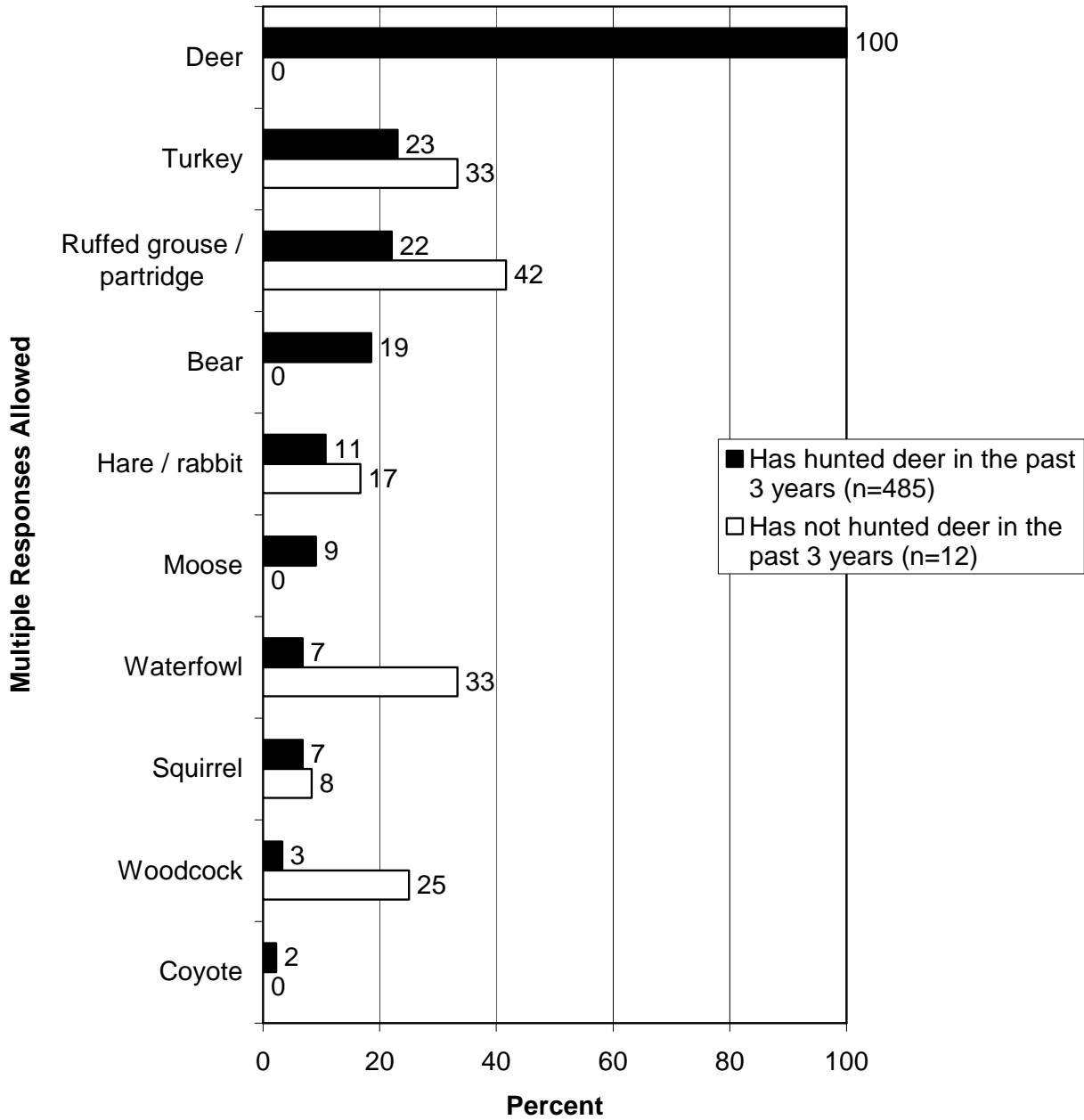
### Q14. Which of the following years did you hunt in Vermont?



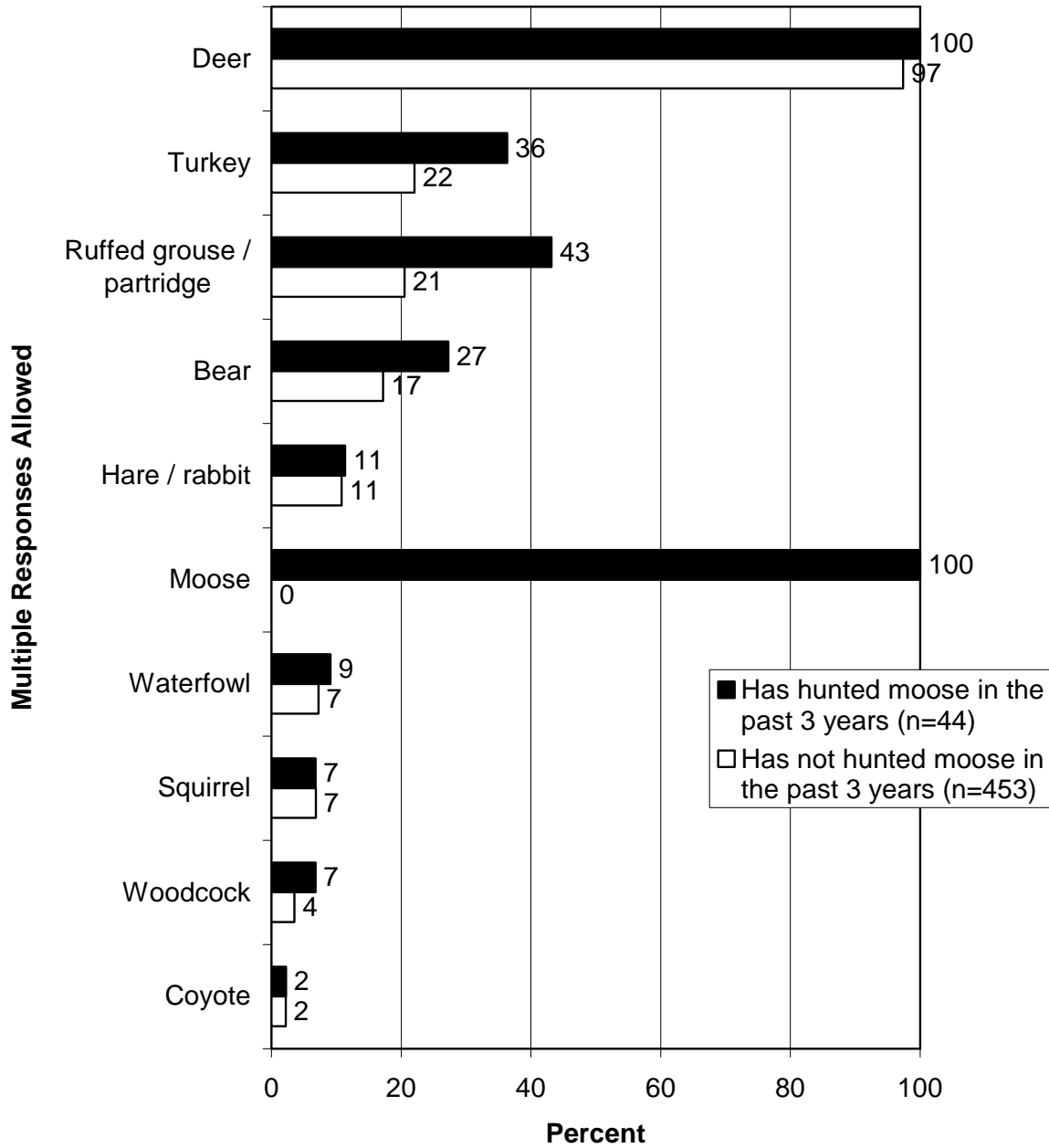
**Q17. What species have you hunted in the past 3 years in Vermont? (Asked of those who have hunted in Vermont at least once in the past 3 years.)**



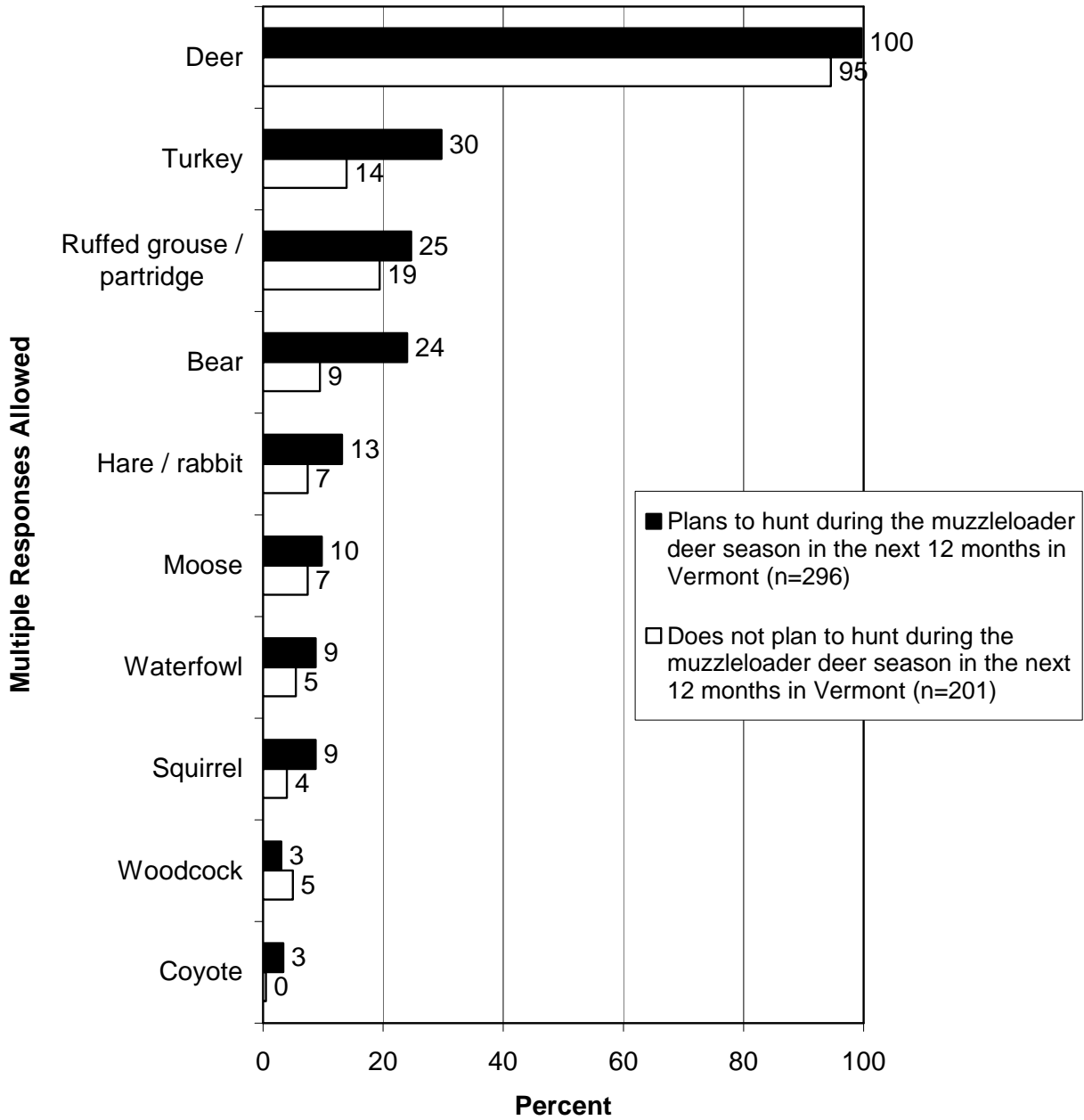
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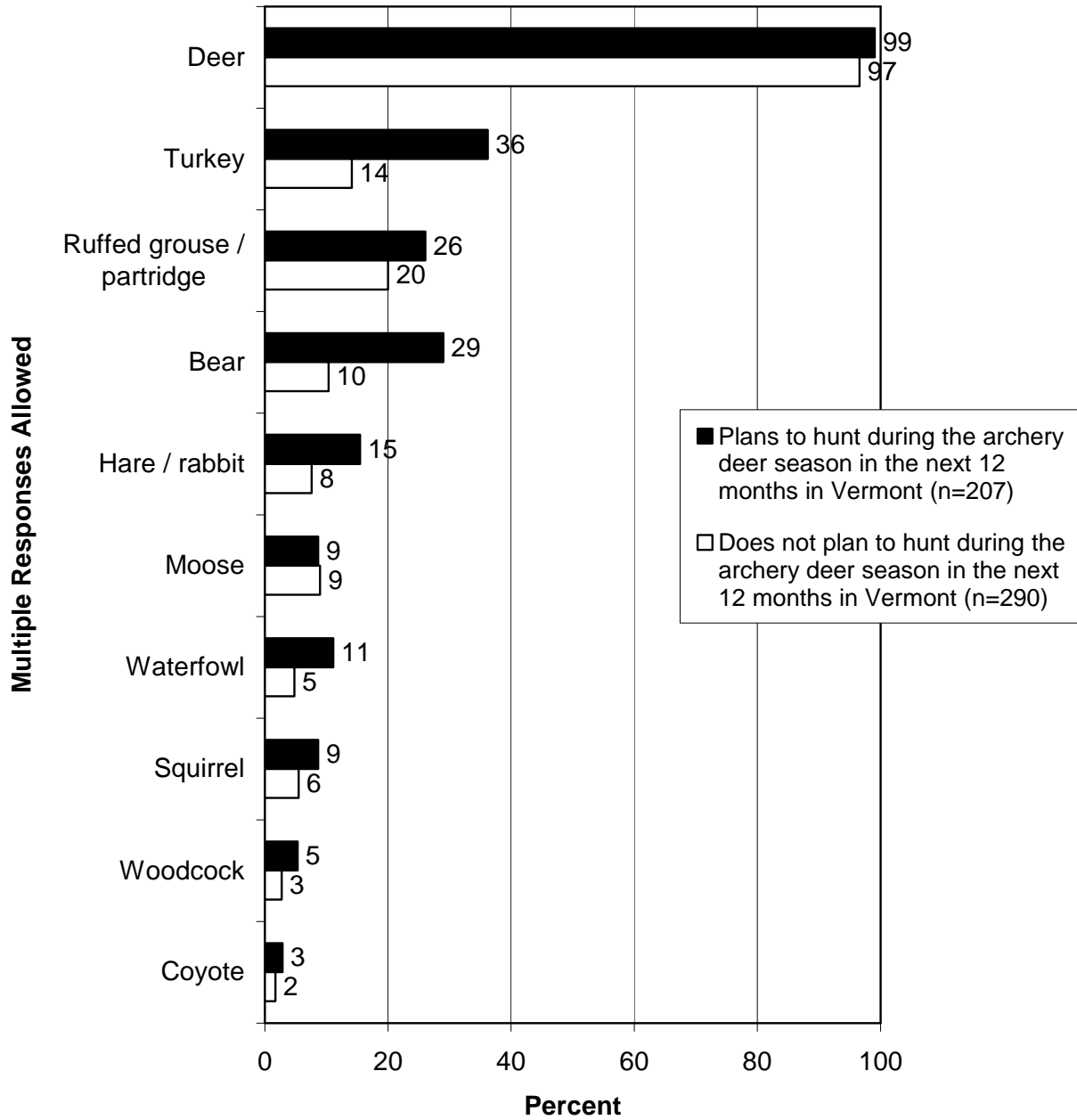
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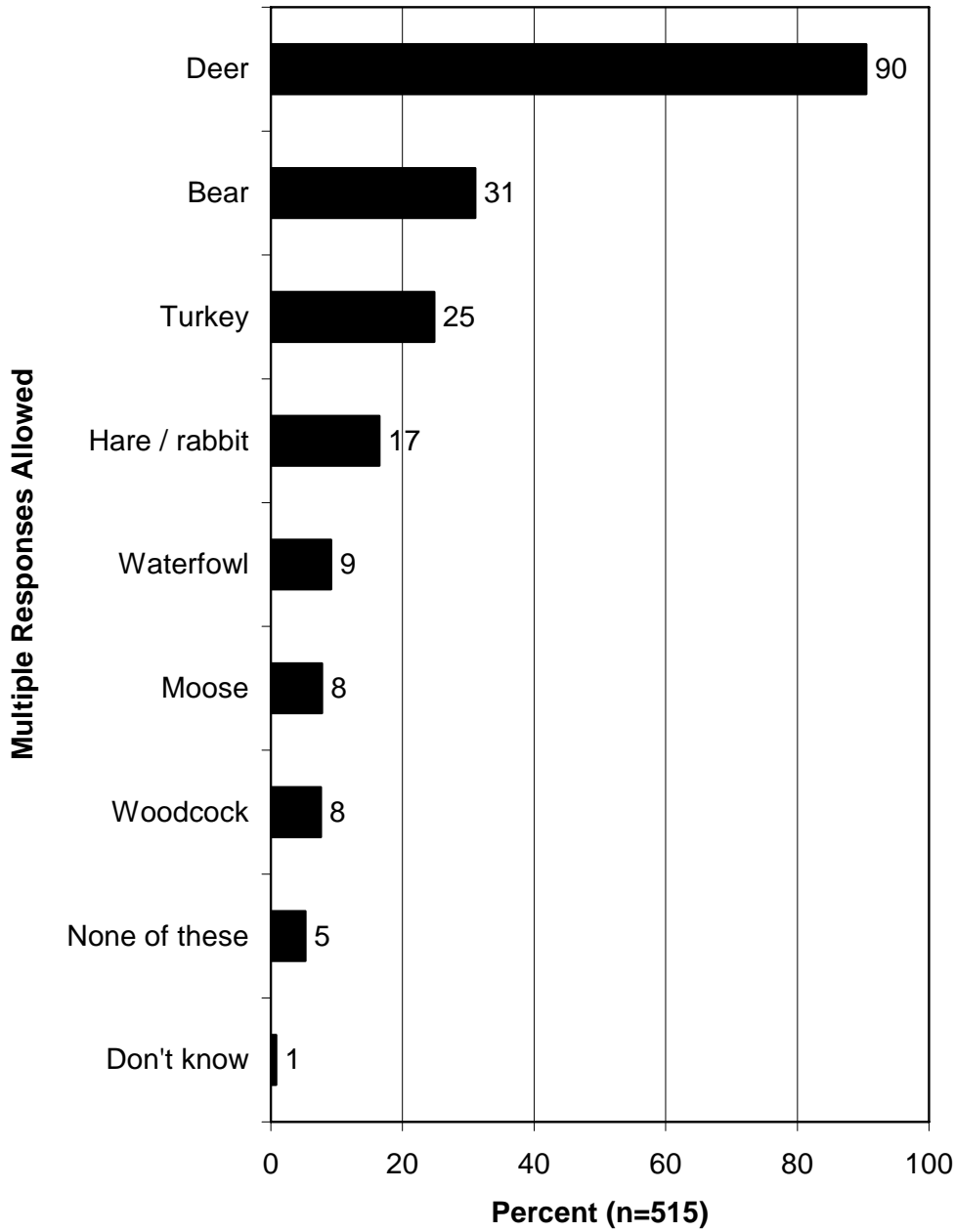
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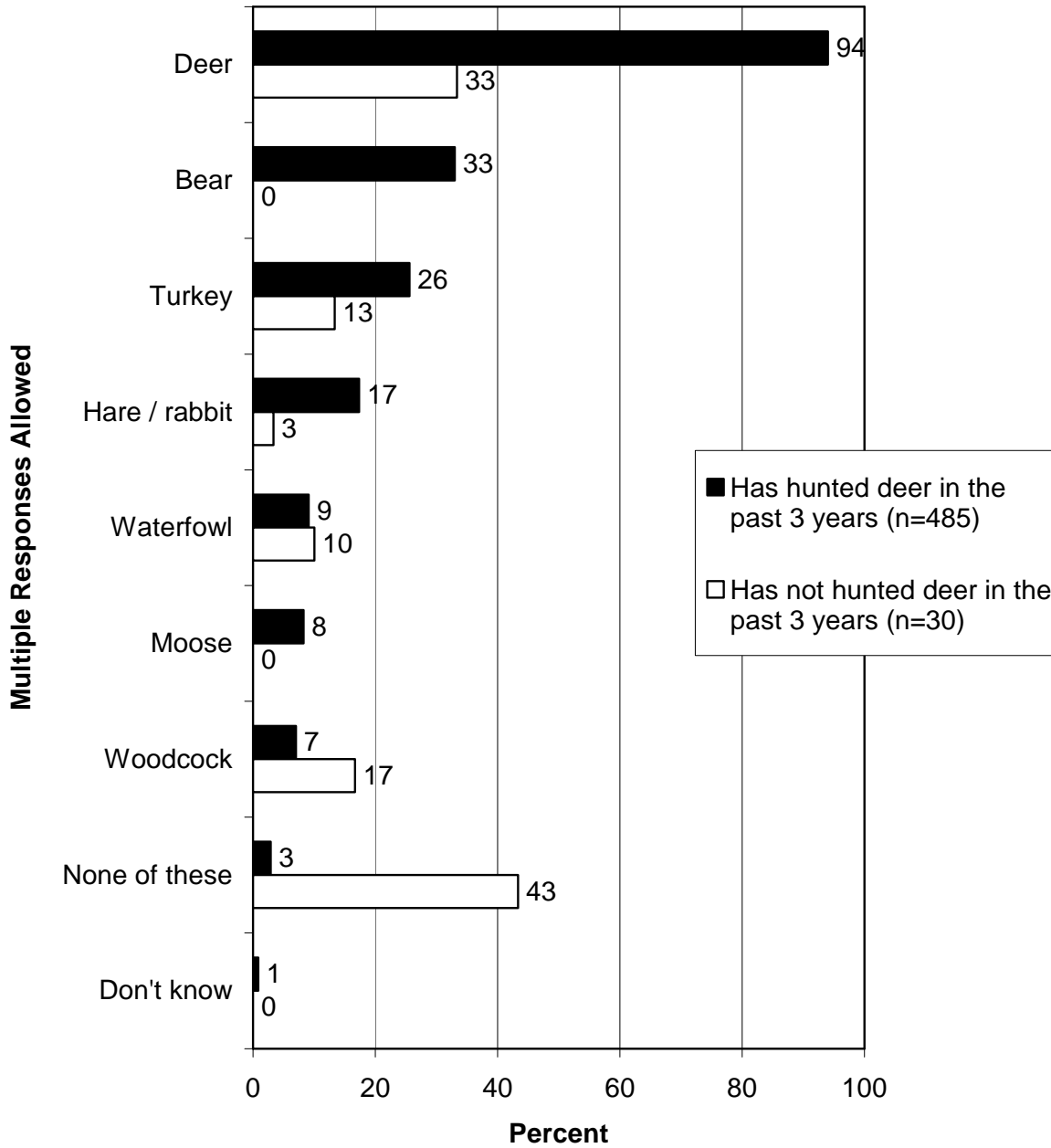


**Q24. Do you plan to hunt any of the following species during the autumn or fall 2010 season in Vermont?**

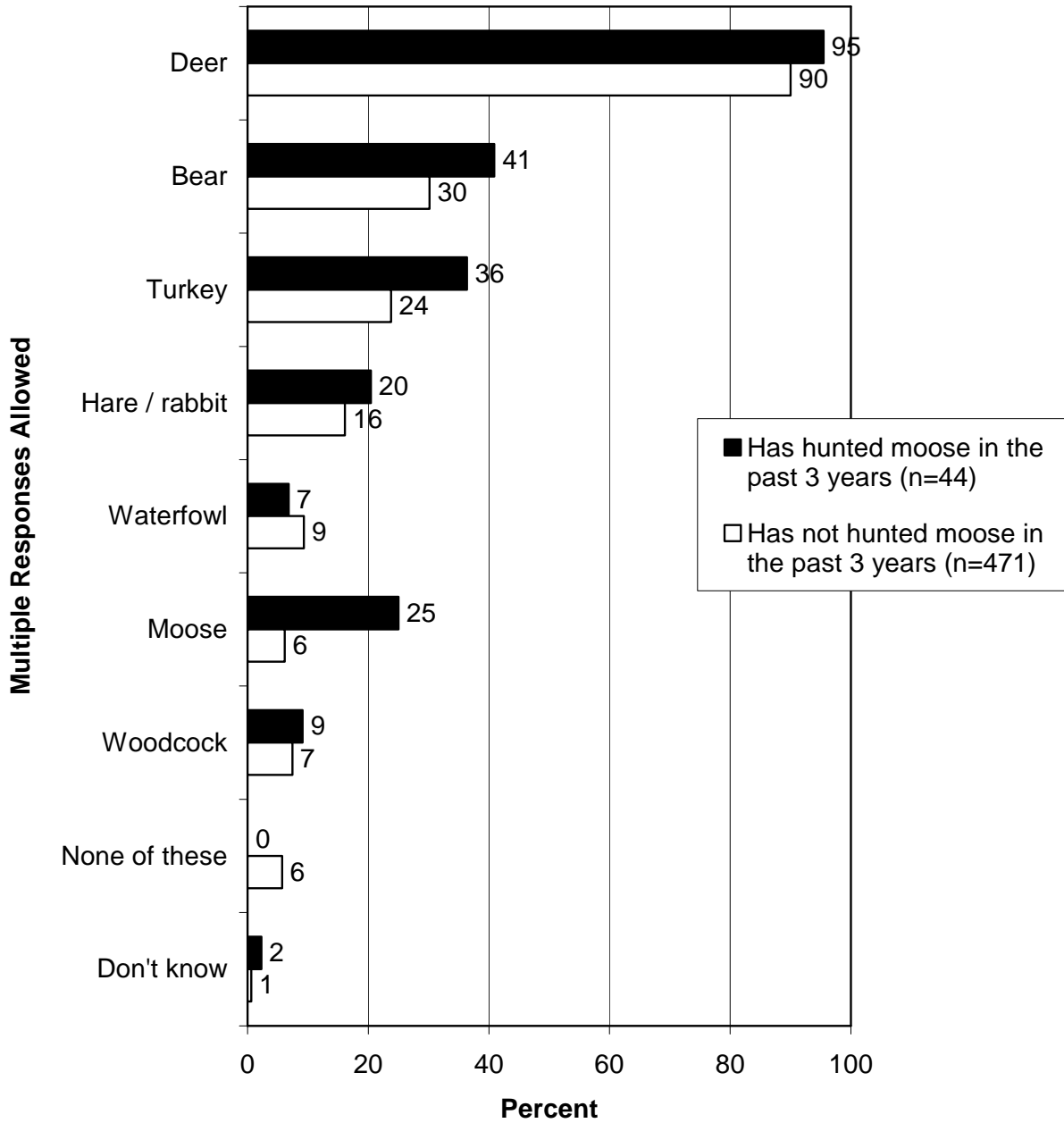




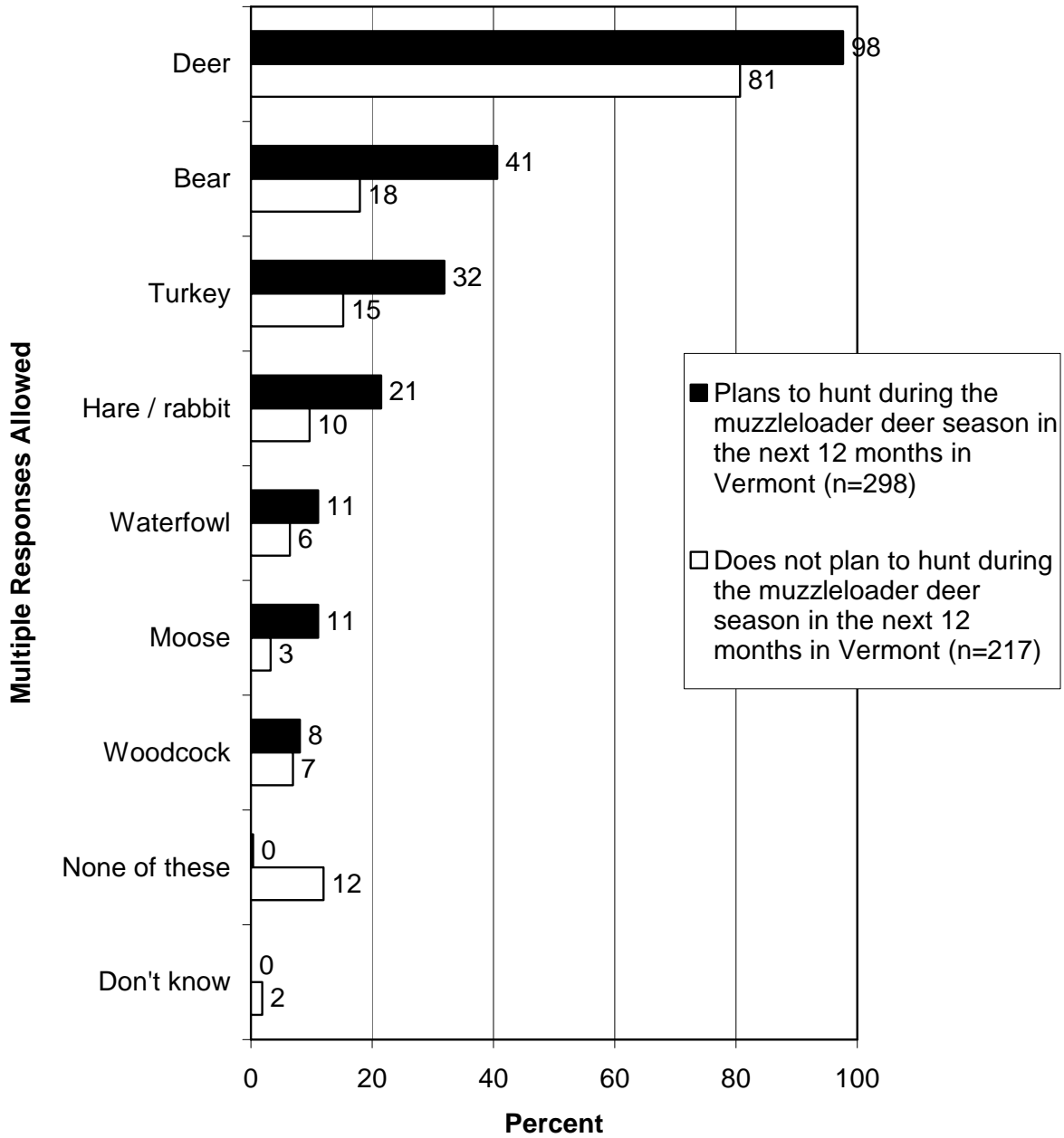
**Q24. Do you plan to hunt any of the following species during the autumn or fall 2010 season in Vermont?**



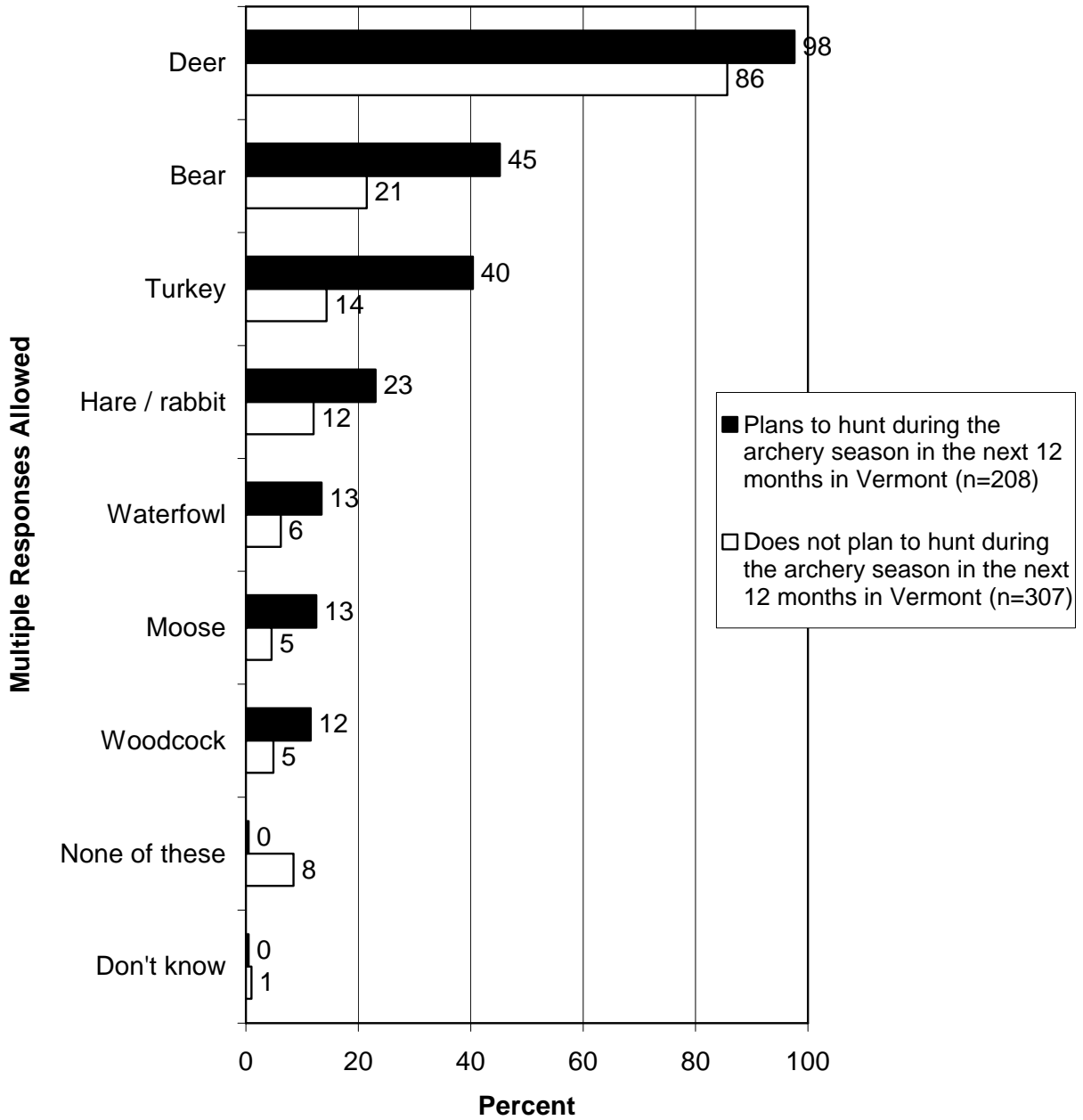
**Q24. Do you plan to hunt any of the following species during the autumn or fall 2010 season in Vermont?**



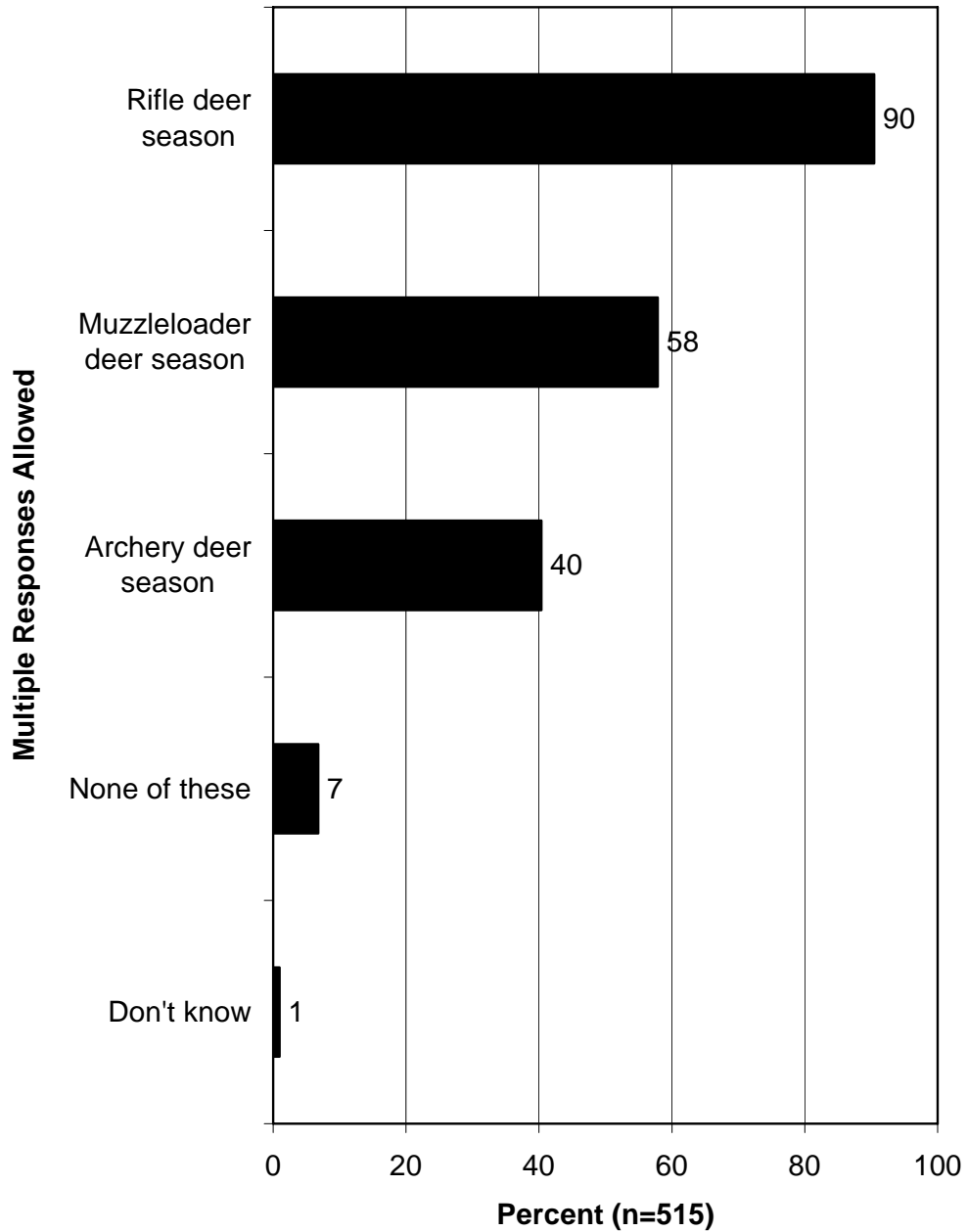
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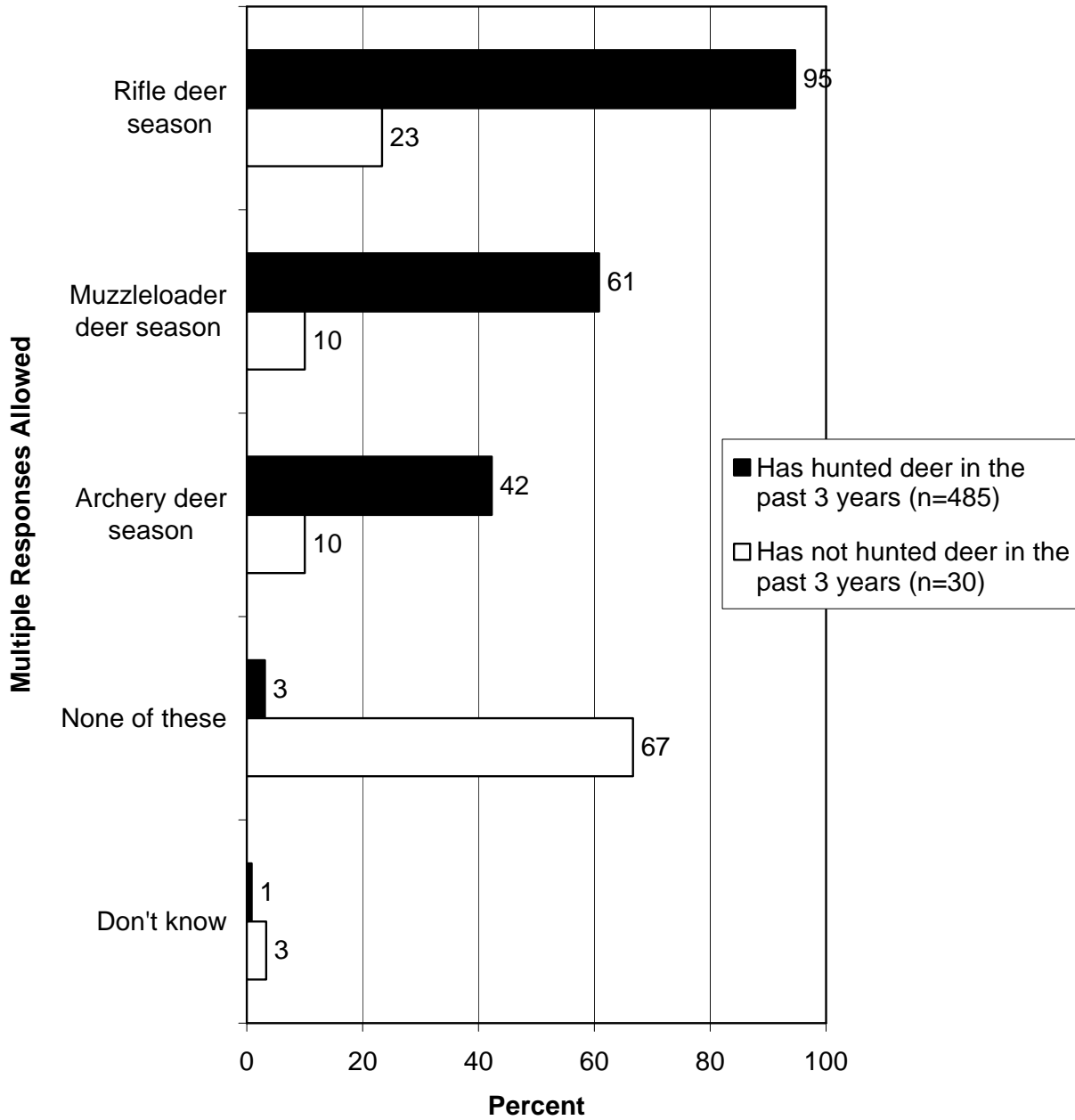
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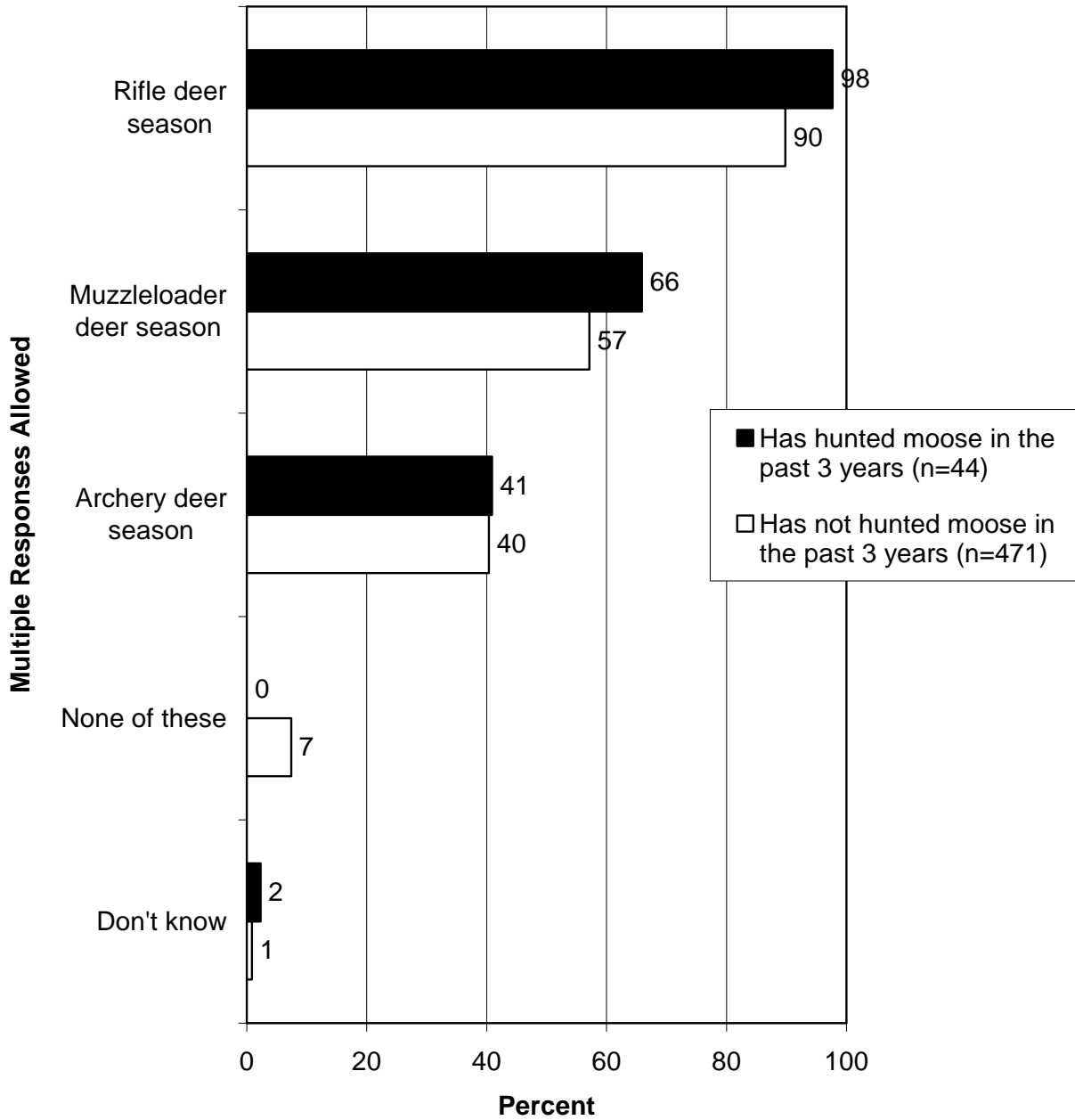
**Q21. Do you plan to hunt or participate in any of the following deer seasons within the next 12 months in Vermont?**



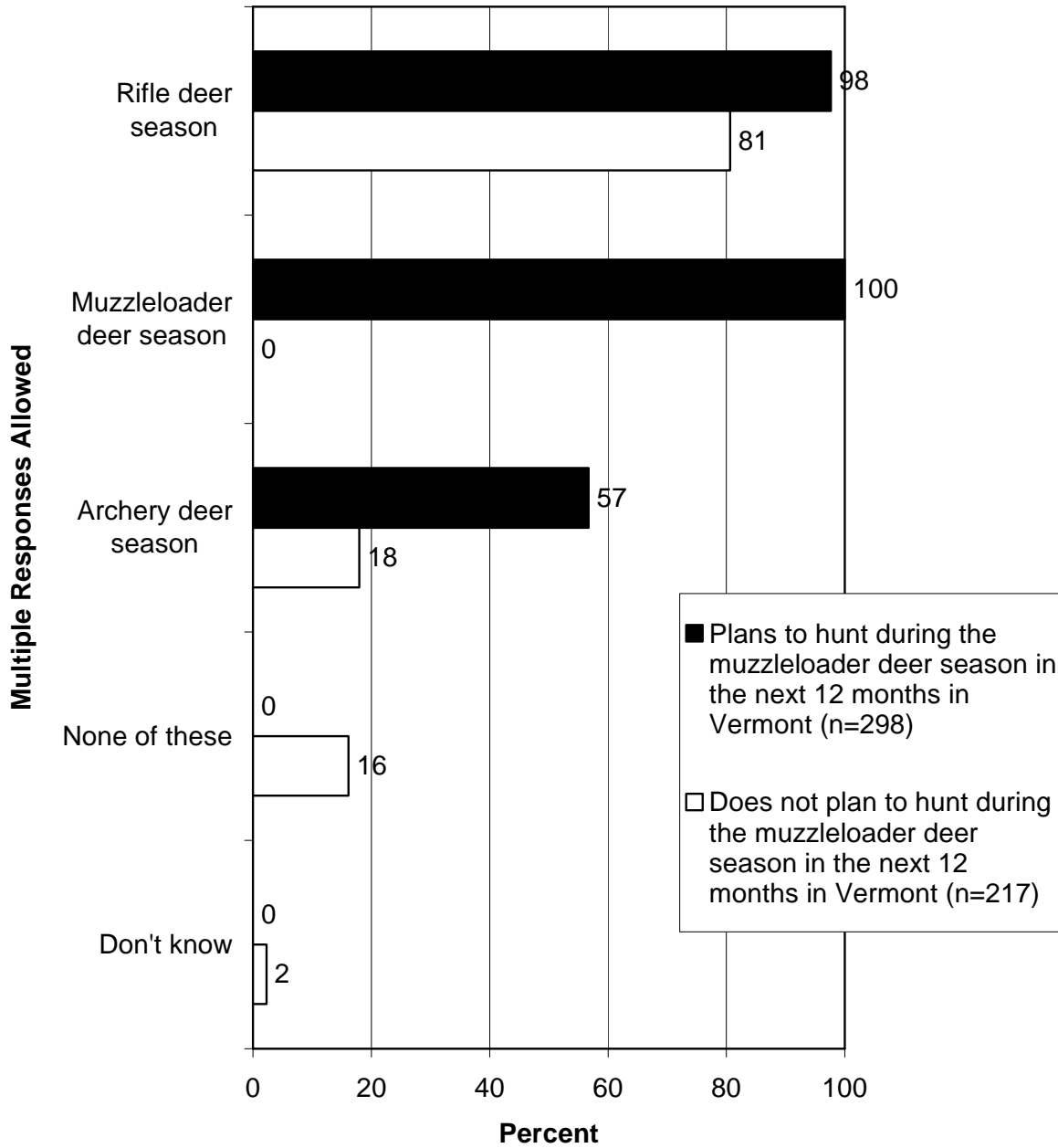
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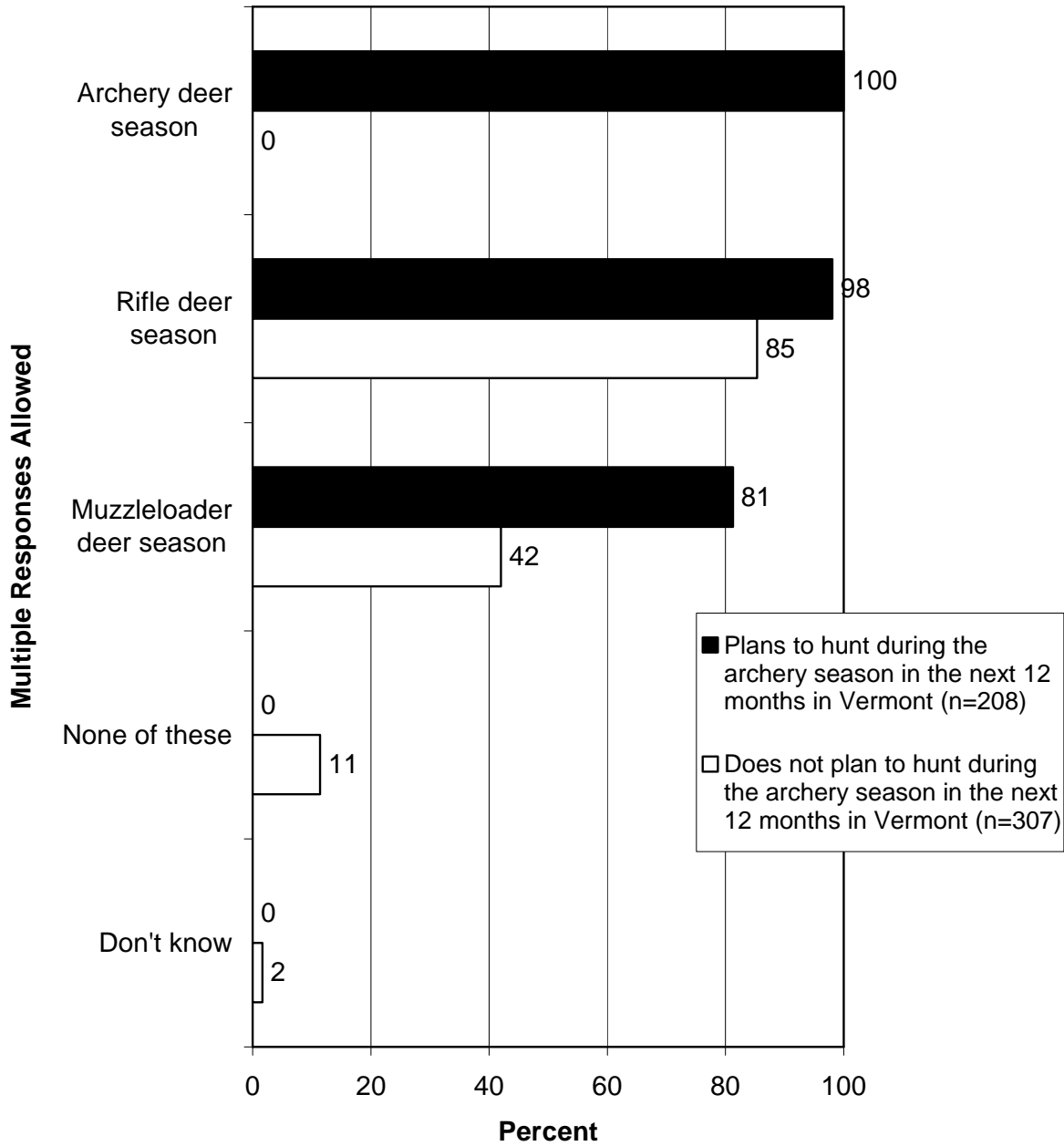


**Q21. Do you plan to hunt or participate in any of the following deer seasons within the next 12 months in Vermont?**

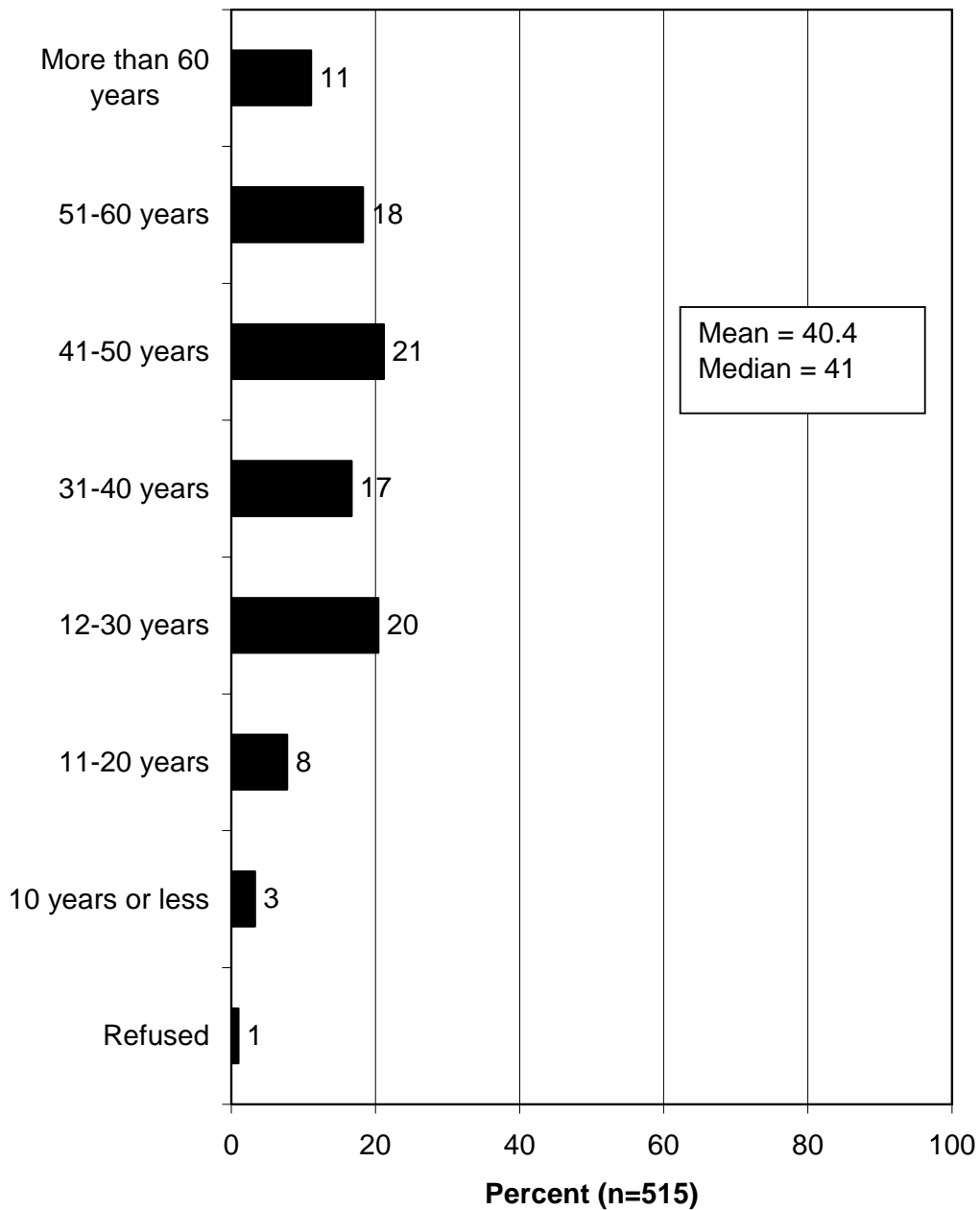


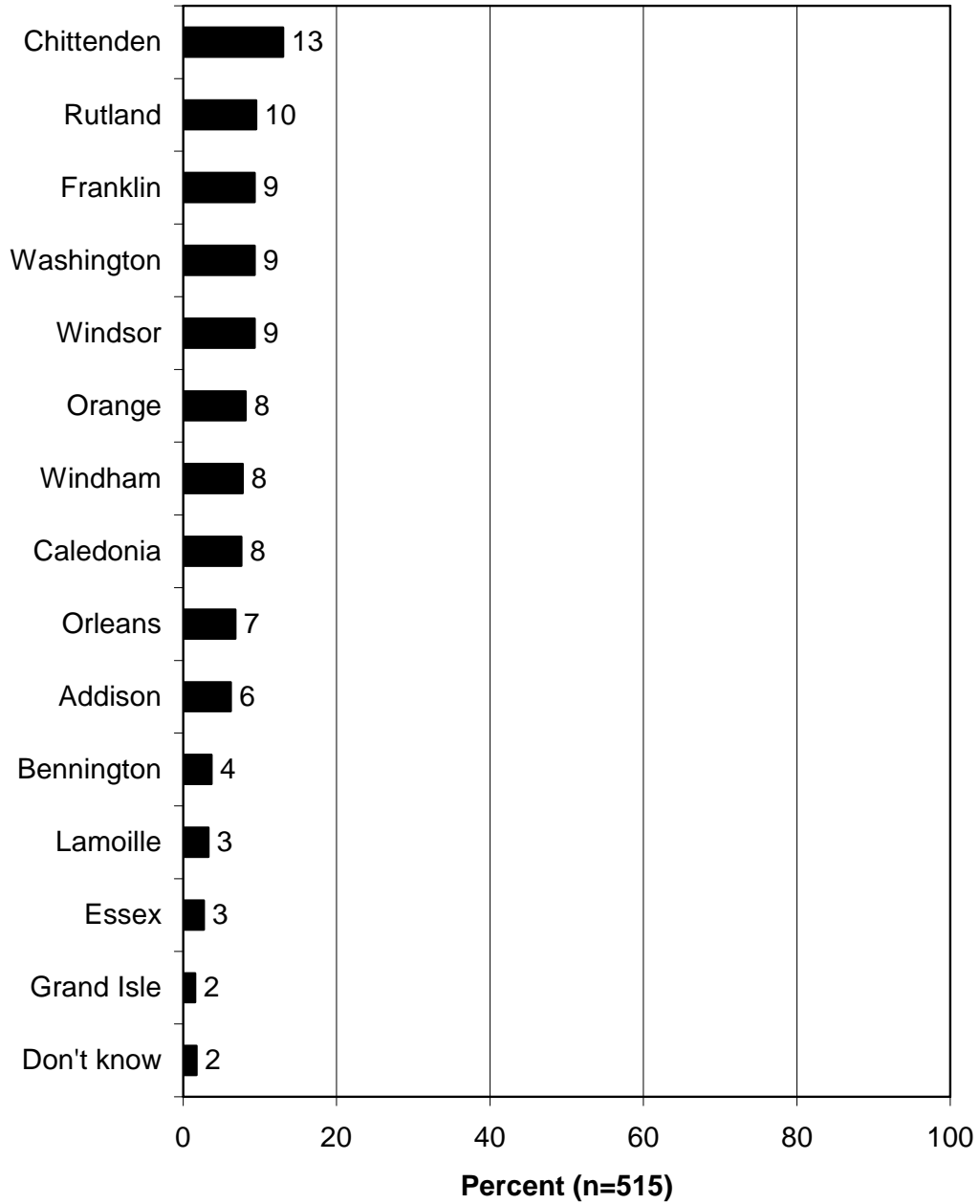


**Q21. Do you plan to hunt or participate in any of the following deer seasons within the next 12 months in Vermont?**

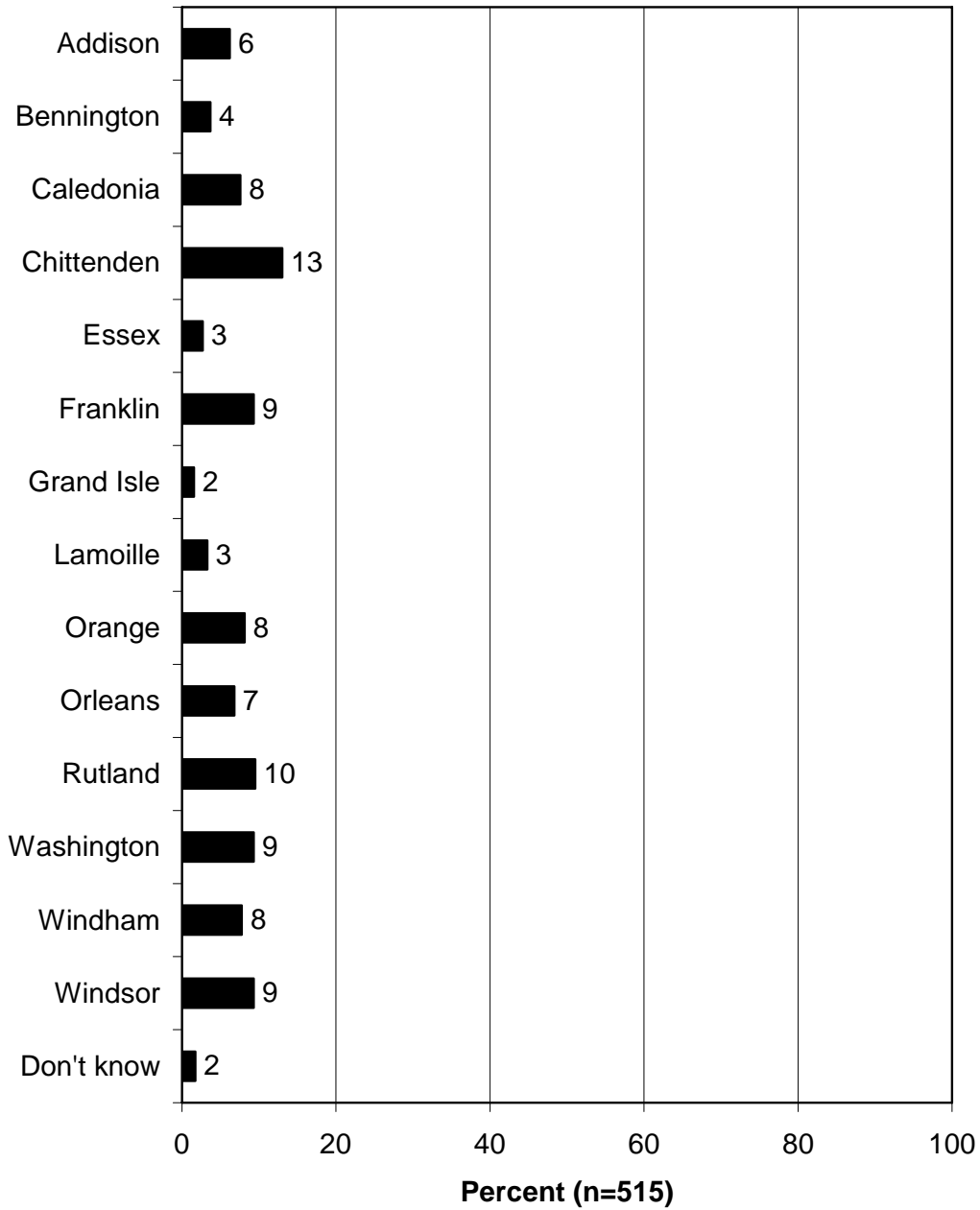


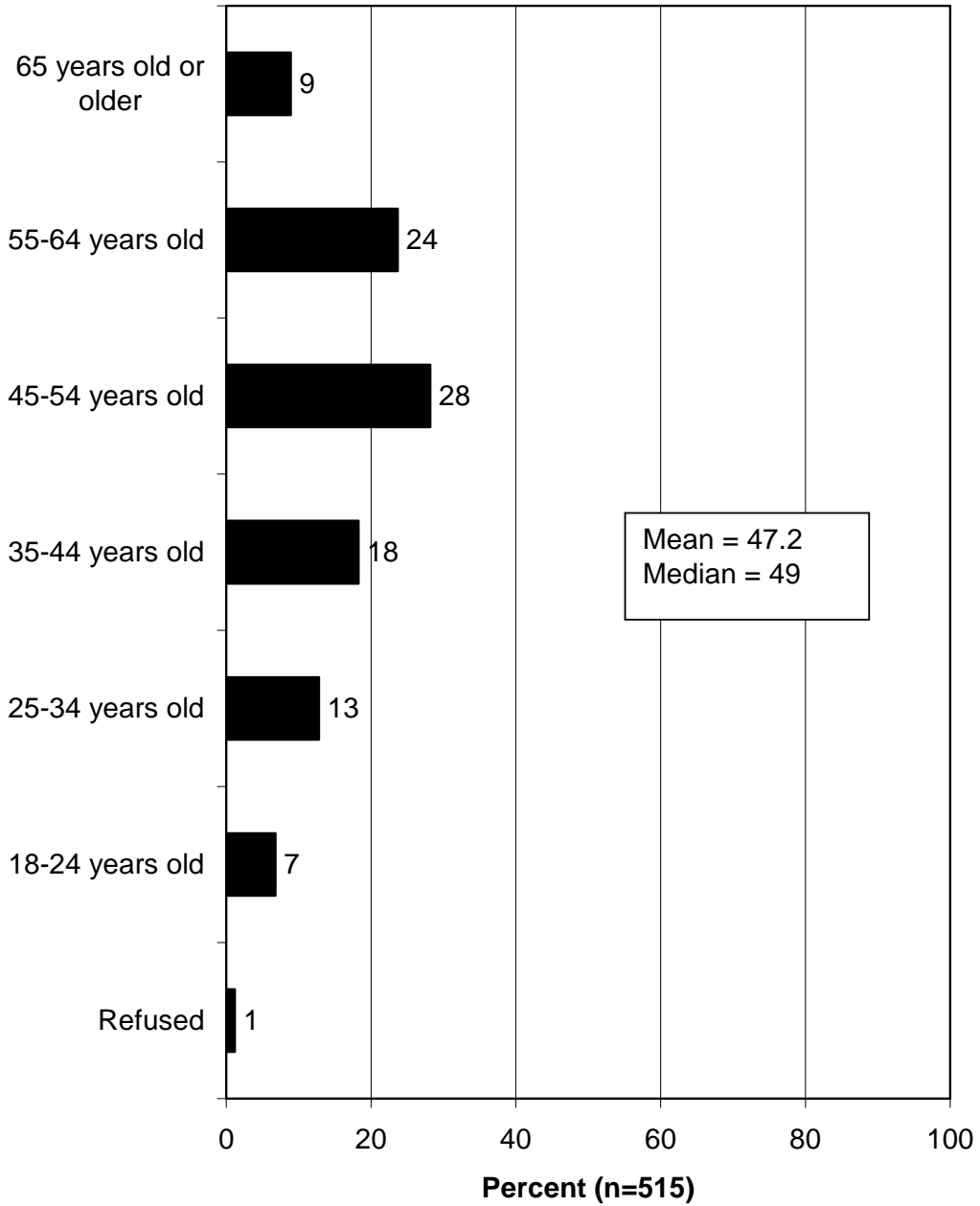
### Q55. How many years have you lived in Vermont?



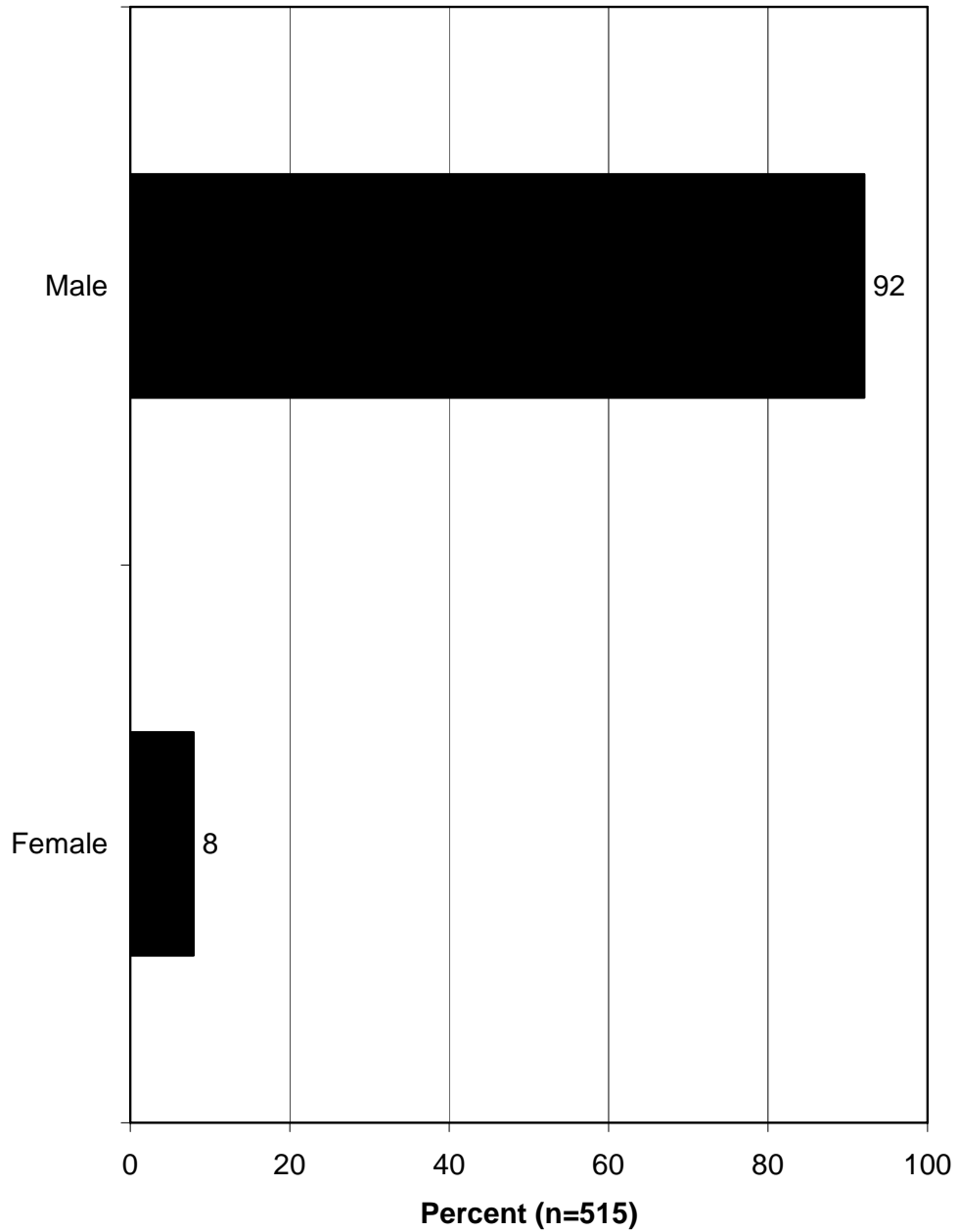
**Q58. What county do you live in?**

**Q58. What county do you live in? (Listed alphabetically.)**



**Q59. Respondent's age.**

**Q66. Respondent's gender (observed, not asked, by interviewer).**



## **ABOUT RESPONSIVE MANAGEMENT**

Responsive Management is a nationally recognized public opinion and attitude survey research firm specializing in natural resource and outdoor recreation issues. Its mission is to help natural resource and outdoor recreation agencies and organizations better understand and work with their constituents, customers, and the public.

Utilizing its in-house, full-service, computer-assisted telephone and mail survey center with 45 professional interviewers, Responsive Management has conducted more than 1,000 telephone surveys, mail surveys, personal interviews, and focus groups, as well as numerous marketing and communications plans, need assessments, and program evaluations on natural resource and outdoor recreation issues.

Clients include most of the federal and state natural resource, outdoor recreation, and environmental agencies, and most of the top conservation organizations. Responsive Management also collects attitude and opinion data for many of the nation's top universities, including the University of Southern California, Virginia Tech, Colorado State University, Auburn, Texas Tech, the University of California—Davis, Michigan State University, the University of Florida, North Carolina State University, Penn State, West Virginia University, and others.

Among the wide range of work Responsive Management has completed during the past 20 years are studies on how the general population values natural resources and outdoor recreation, and their opinions on and attitudes toward an array of natural resource-related issues. Responsive Management has conducted dozens of studies of selected groups of outdoor recreationists, including anglers, boaters, hunters, wildlife watchers, birdwatchers, park visitors, historic site visitors, hikers, and campers, as well as selected groups within the general population, such as landowners, farmers, urban and rural residents, women, senior citizens, children, Hispanics, Asians, and African-Americans. Responsive Management has conducted studies on environmental education, endangered species, waterfowl, wetlands, water quality, and the reintroduction of numerous species such as wolves, grizzly bears, the California condor, and the Florida panther.

Responsive Management has conducted research on numerous natural resource ballot initiatives and referenda and helped agencies and organizations find alternative funding and increase their memberships and donations. Responsive Management has conducted major agency and organizational program needs assessments and helped develop more effective programs based upon a solid foundation of fact. Responsive Management has developed websites for natural resource organizations, conducted training workshops on the human dimensions of natural resources, and presented numerous studies each year in presentations and as keynote speakers at major natural resource, outdoor recreation, conservation, and environmental conferences and meetings.

Responsive Management has conducted research on public attitudes toward natural resources and outdoor recreation in almost every state in the United States, as well as in Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Japan. Responsive Management routinely conducts surveys in Spanish and has also conducted surveys and focus groups in Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and Vietnamese.

Responsive Management's research has been featured in most of the nation's major media, including CNN, ESPN, *The Washington Times*, *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and on the front pages of *The Washington Post* and *USA Today*.

Visit the Responsive Management website at:

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