

THE 2012 AMERICAN VALUES SURVEY

How Catholics and the Unaffiliated
Will Shape the 2012 Elections and Beyond



**Public
Religion
Research
Institute**

Survey Methodology



- Fourth annual American Values Survey
- Sample Size: $N = 3,003$ Americans (MOE = ± 2.0 percentage points)
- Conducted between September 13 and September 30, 2012
- Bilingual (English and Spanish) telephone interviews (1,201 reached by cell phone)
- Wave one of two-wave study (pre- and post-election)
- Funded by Ford Foundation and the Nathan Cummings Foundation

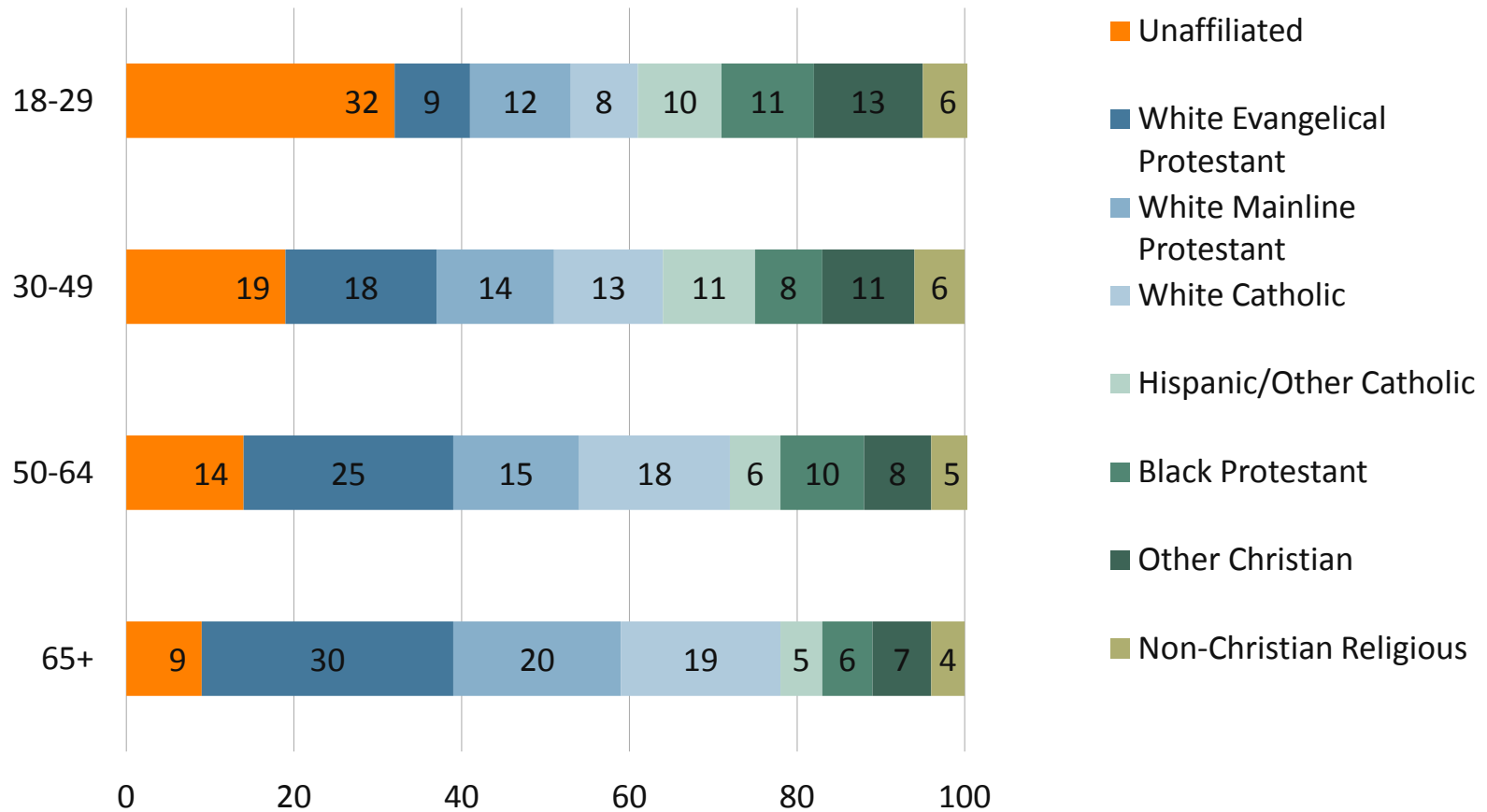
RELIGIOUS CHANGE IN AMERICA

Changes from Childhood Religion

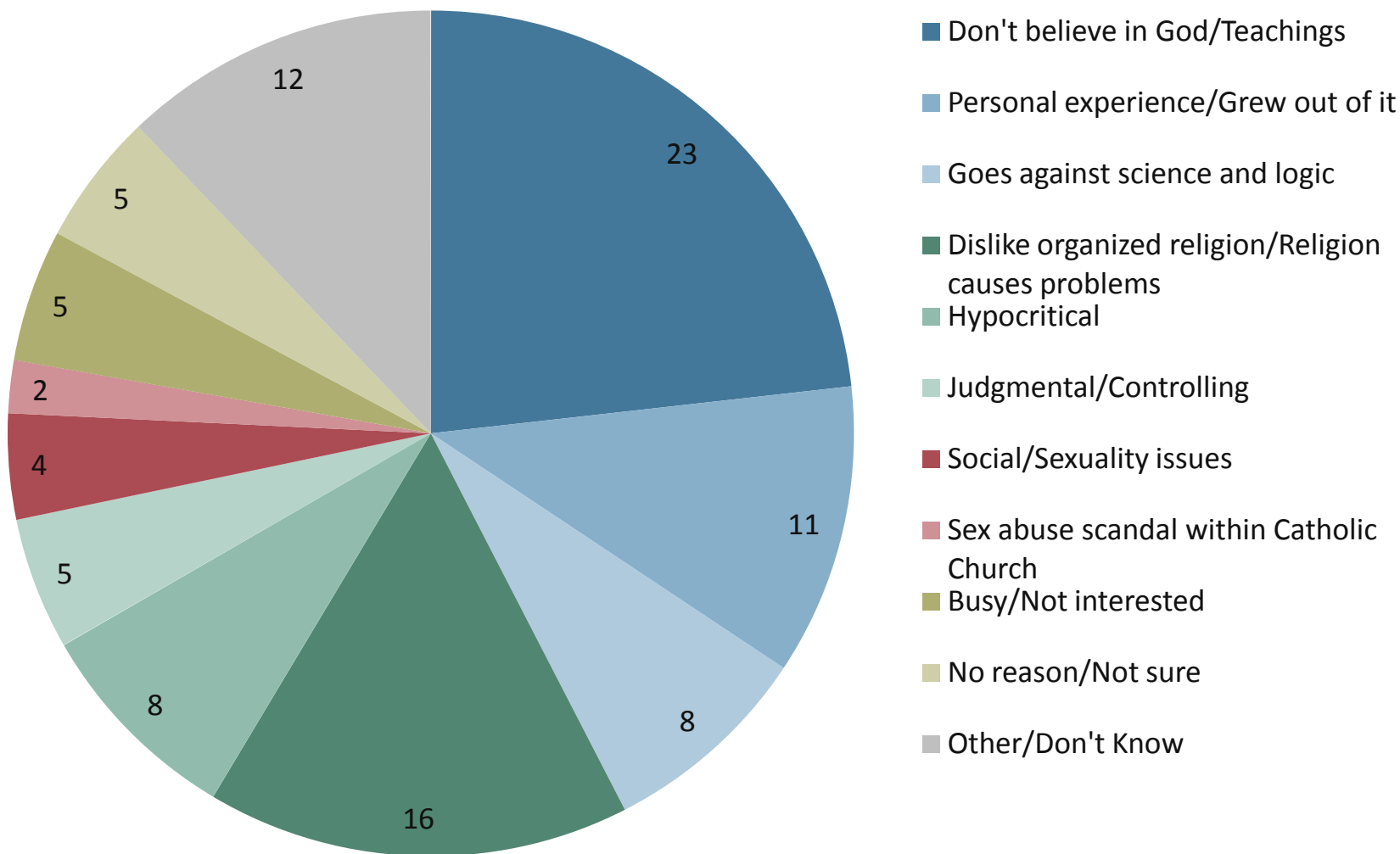


	Childhood Affiliation	Current Affiliation	Net Gain/Loss
Catholic	31.4	22.0	-9.4
White Mainline Protestant	18.7	14.9	-3.8
Black Protestant	9.4	8.5	-0.9
White Evangelical Protestant	20.3	19.9	-0.4
Other Christian	9.5	10.4	0.9
Non-Christian Religious	3.7	5.7	2
Unaffiliated	7	18.6	11.6

Religious Affiliation by Generation



Reasons for Leaving Childhood Religion



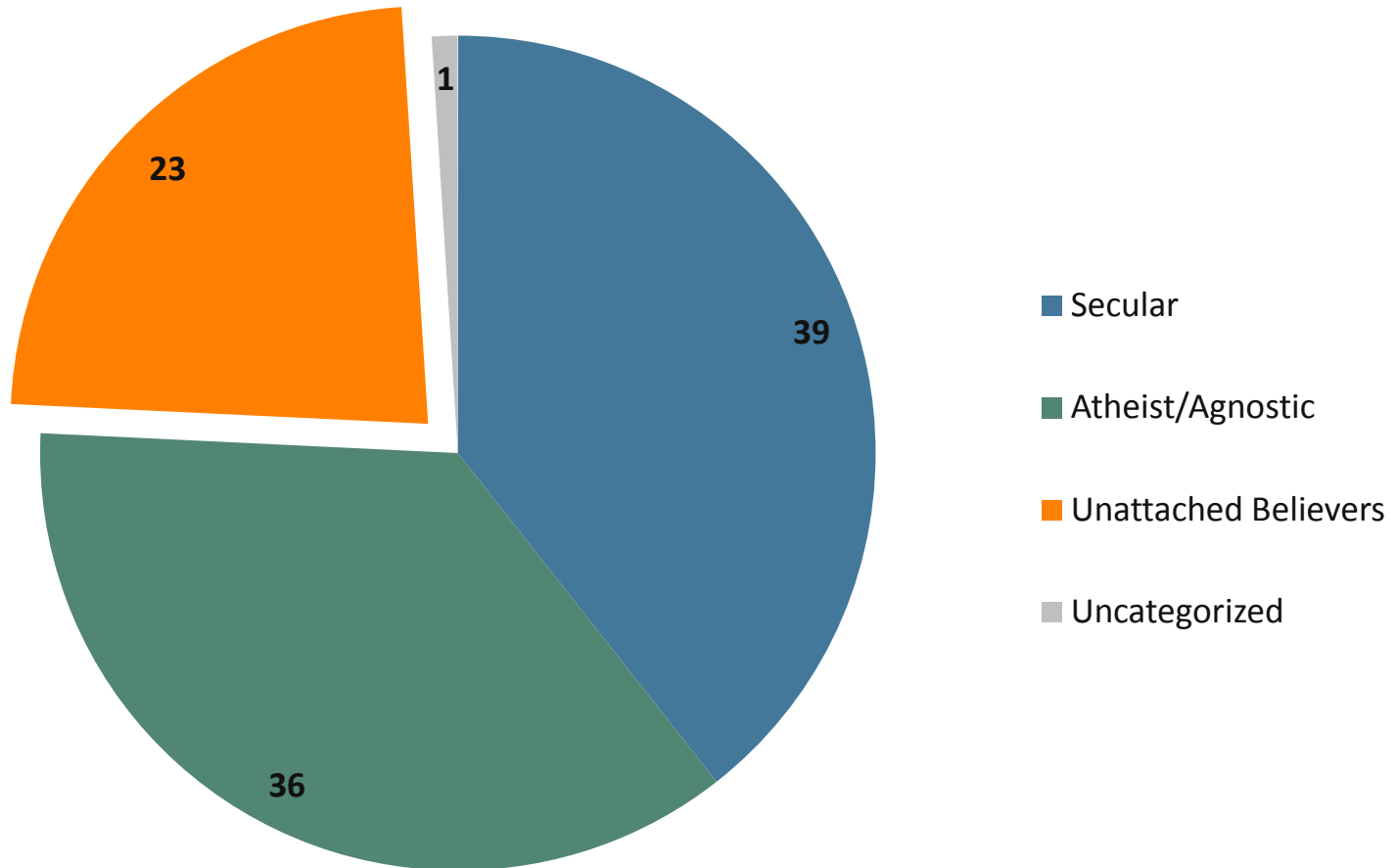
UNDERSTANDING THE RELIGIOUSLY UNAFFILIATED OR “THE NONES”

Atheists and Agnostics

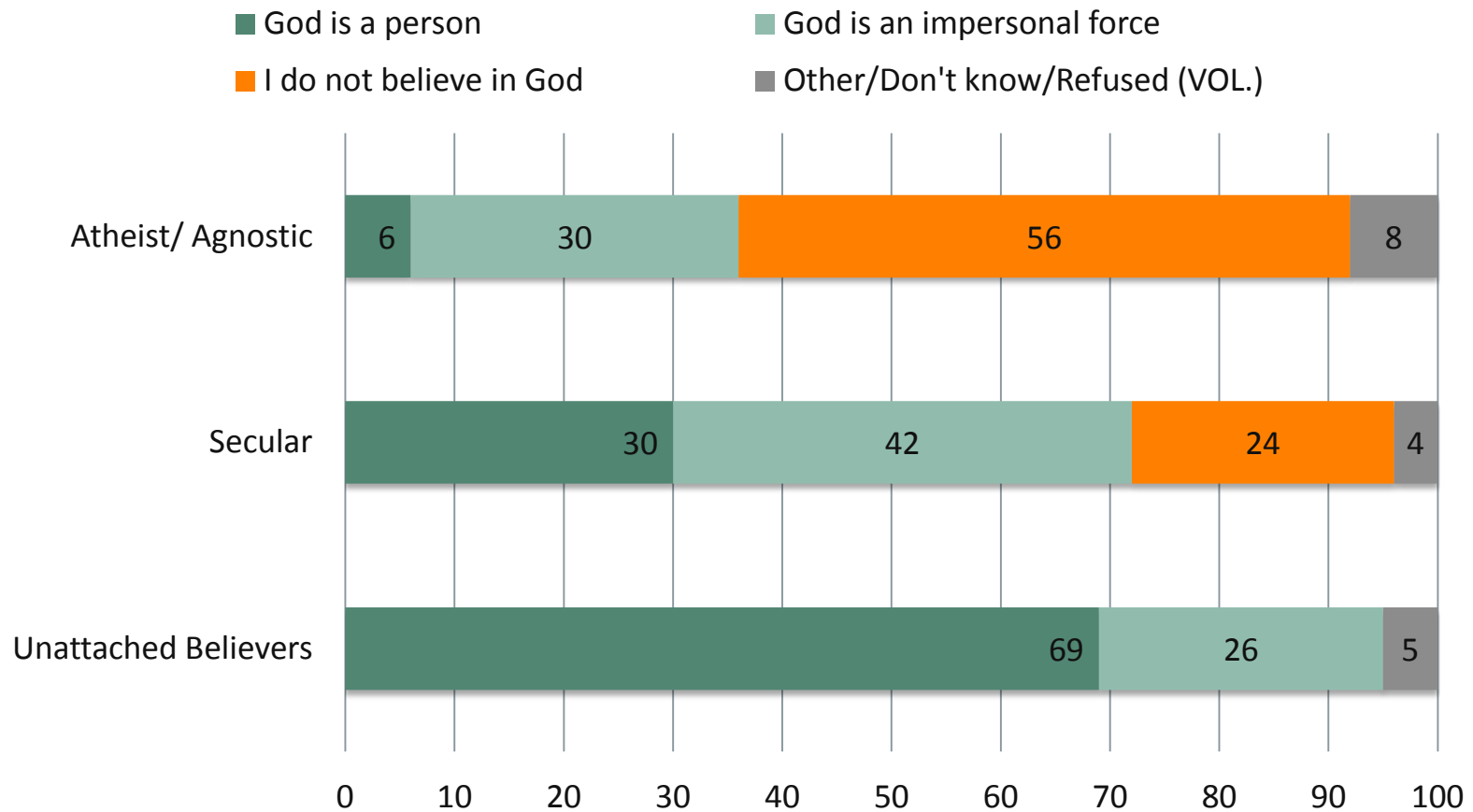
Seculars

Unattached Believers

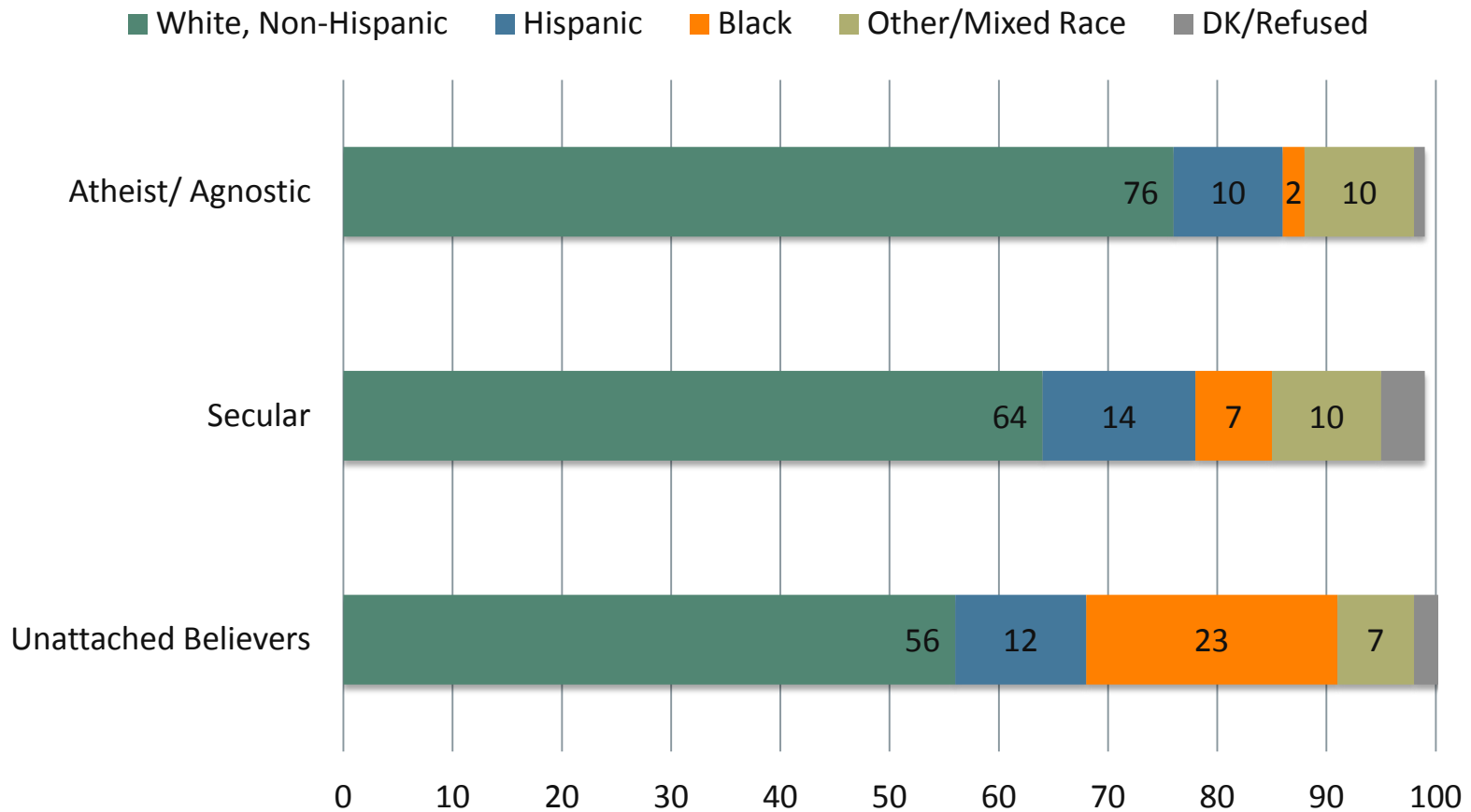
The Three Faces of the Unaffiliated



Religious Beliefs of Unaffiliated



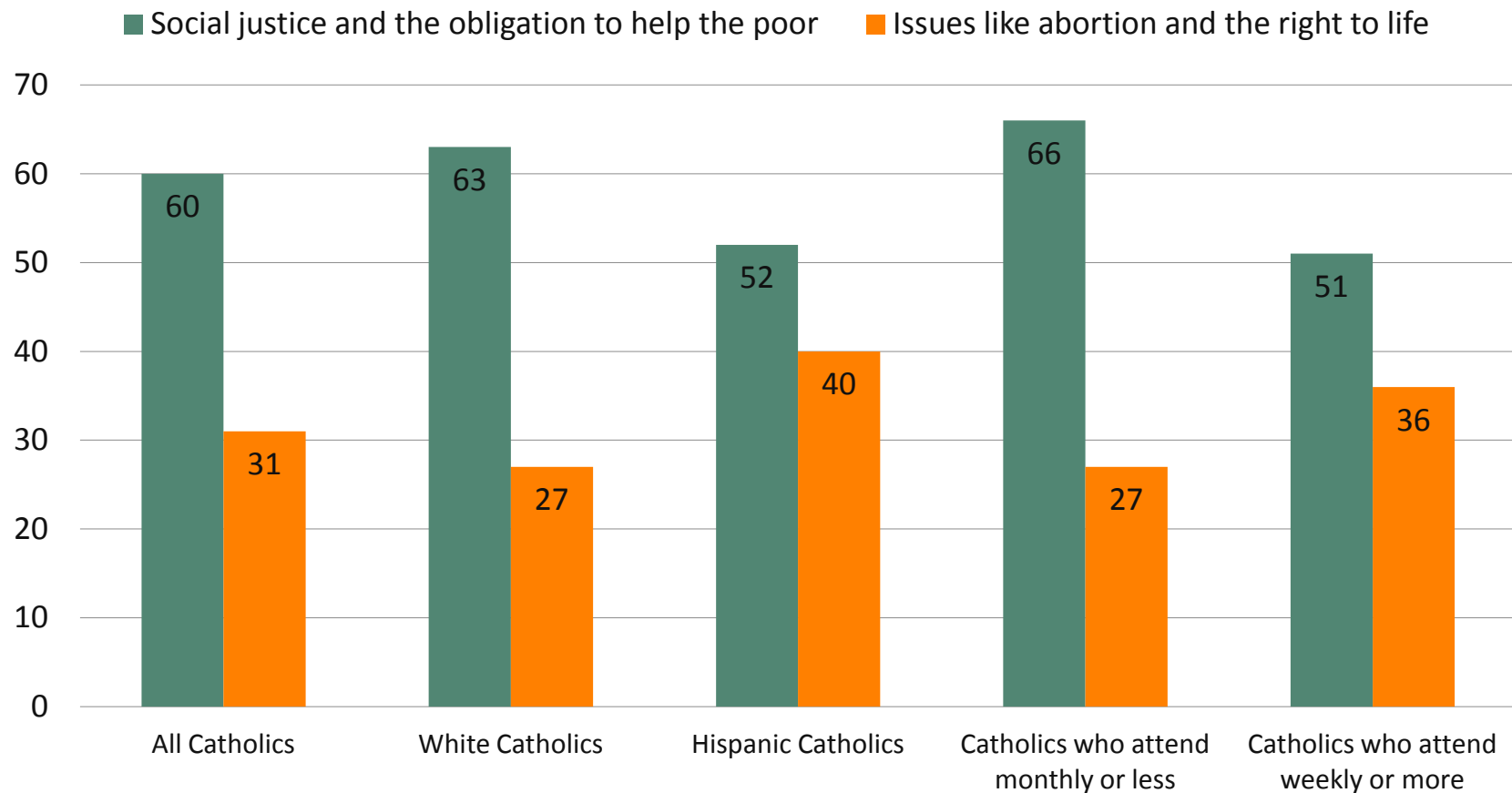
Racial/Ethnic Difference among Unaffiliated Subgroups



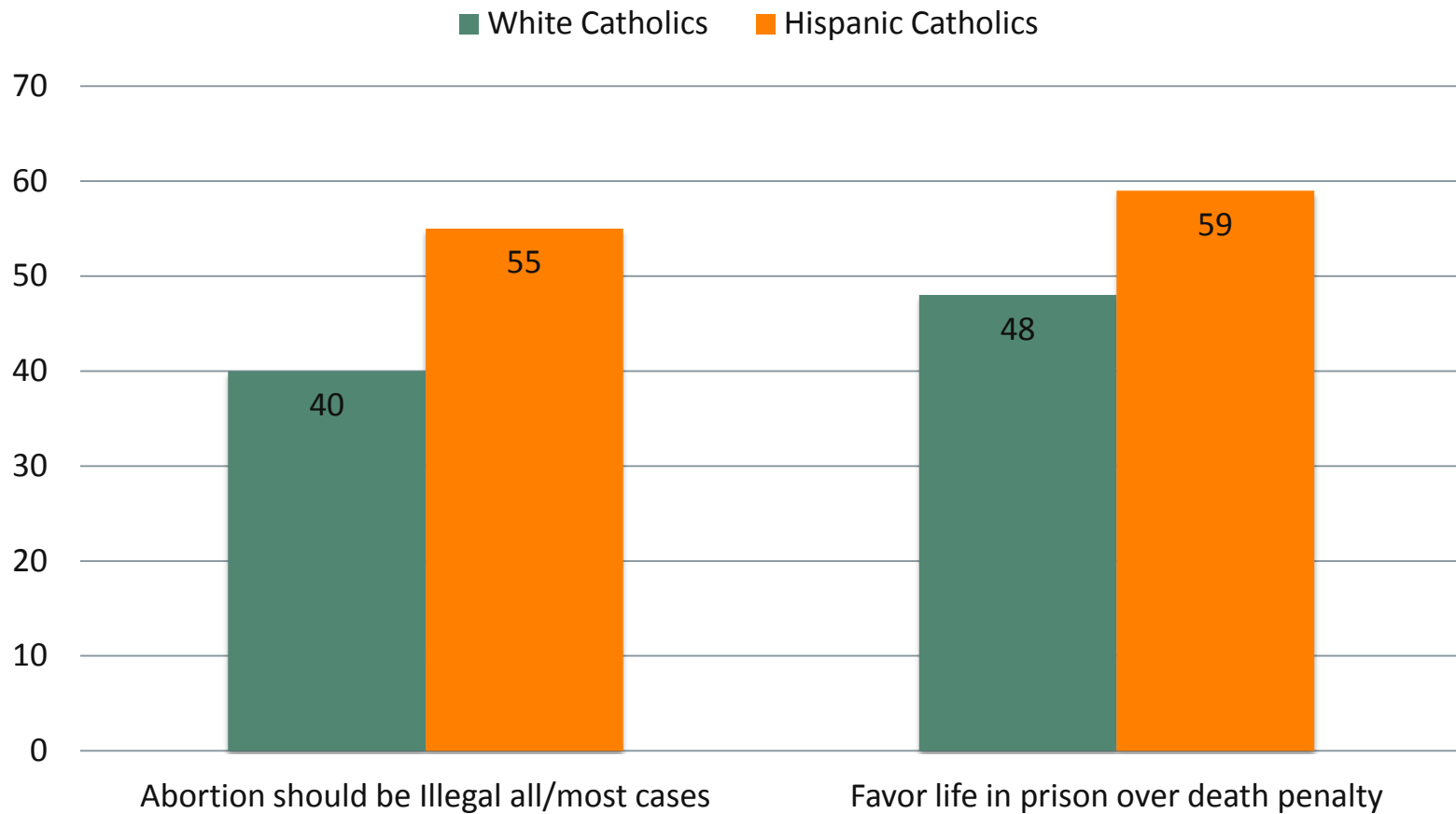
UNDERSTANDING THE COMPLEXITY OF AMERICAN CATHOLICS

“Social Justice” vs. “Right to Life” Catholics

Social Justice vs. Right to Life Orientations Among Catholics and Former Catholics



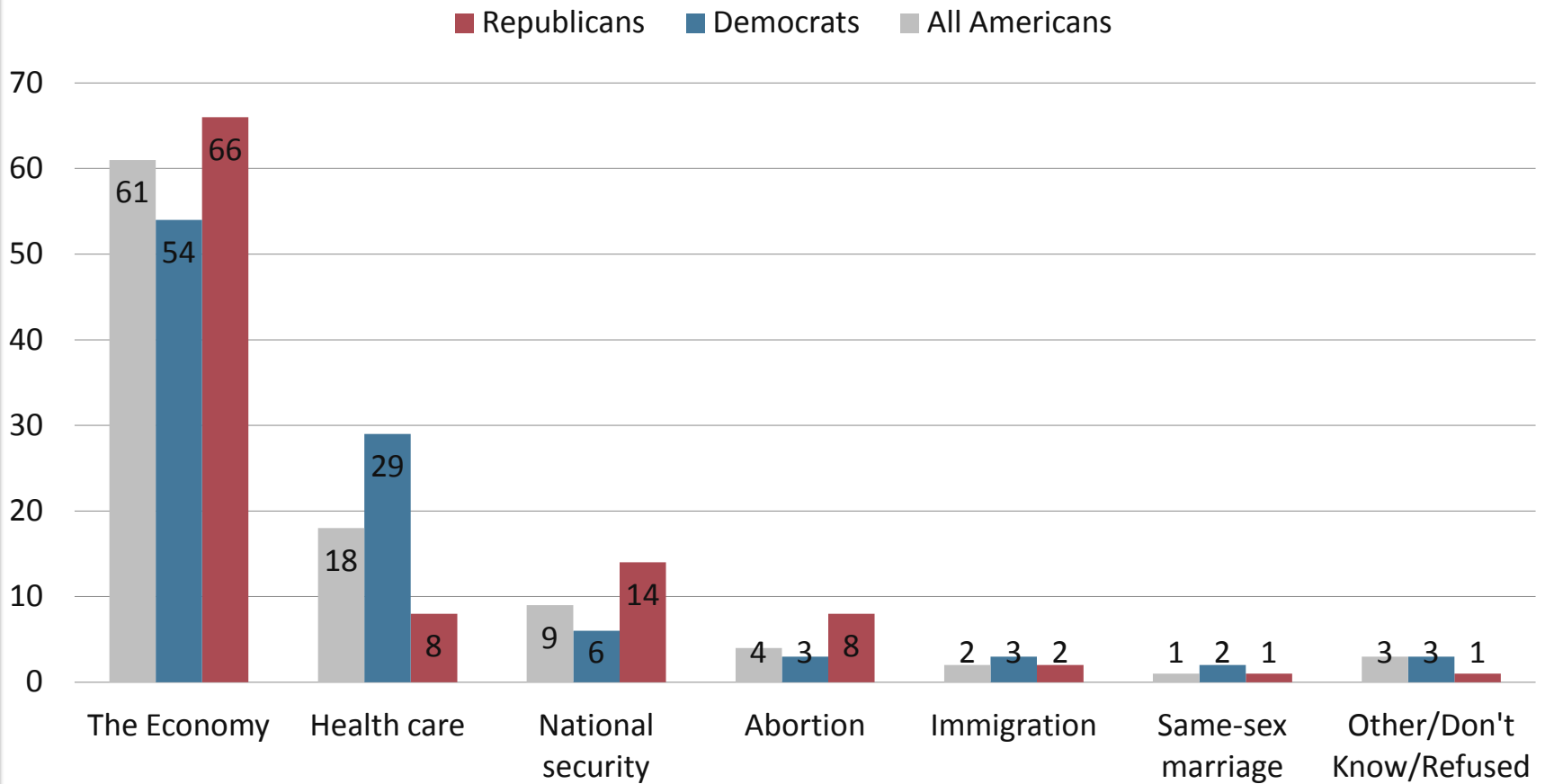
Ethnic Complexity among Catholics: Differences between Whites & Hispanics



THE 2012 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

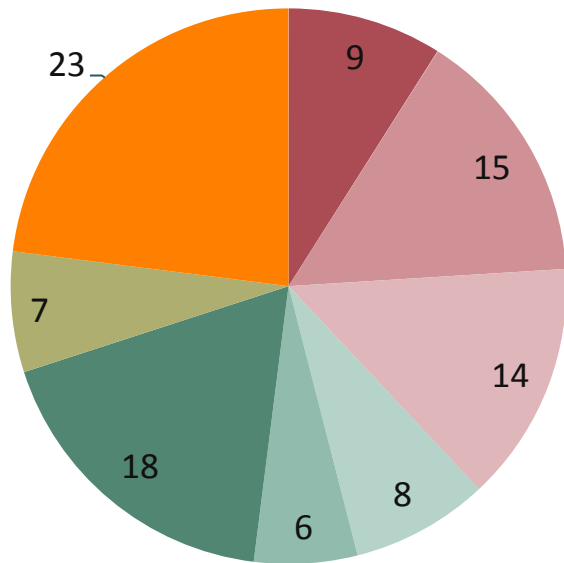
Religion and Voting Coalitions

Most Important Issues Influencing Vote Among Likely Voters

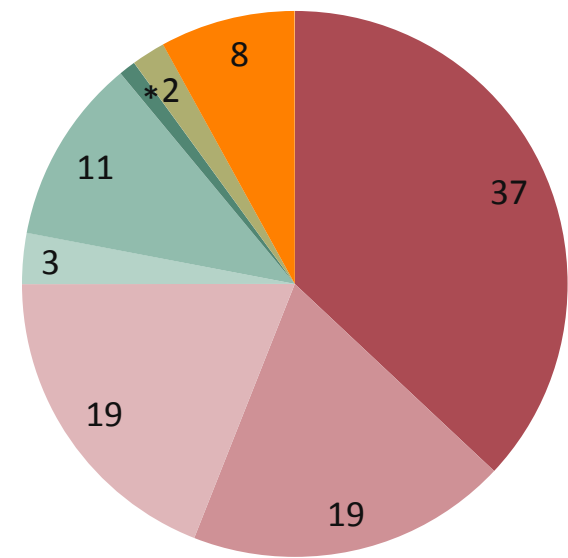


Religious Voting Coalitions Among Likely Voters

Obama's Coalition

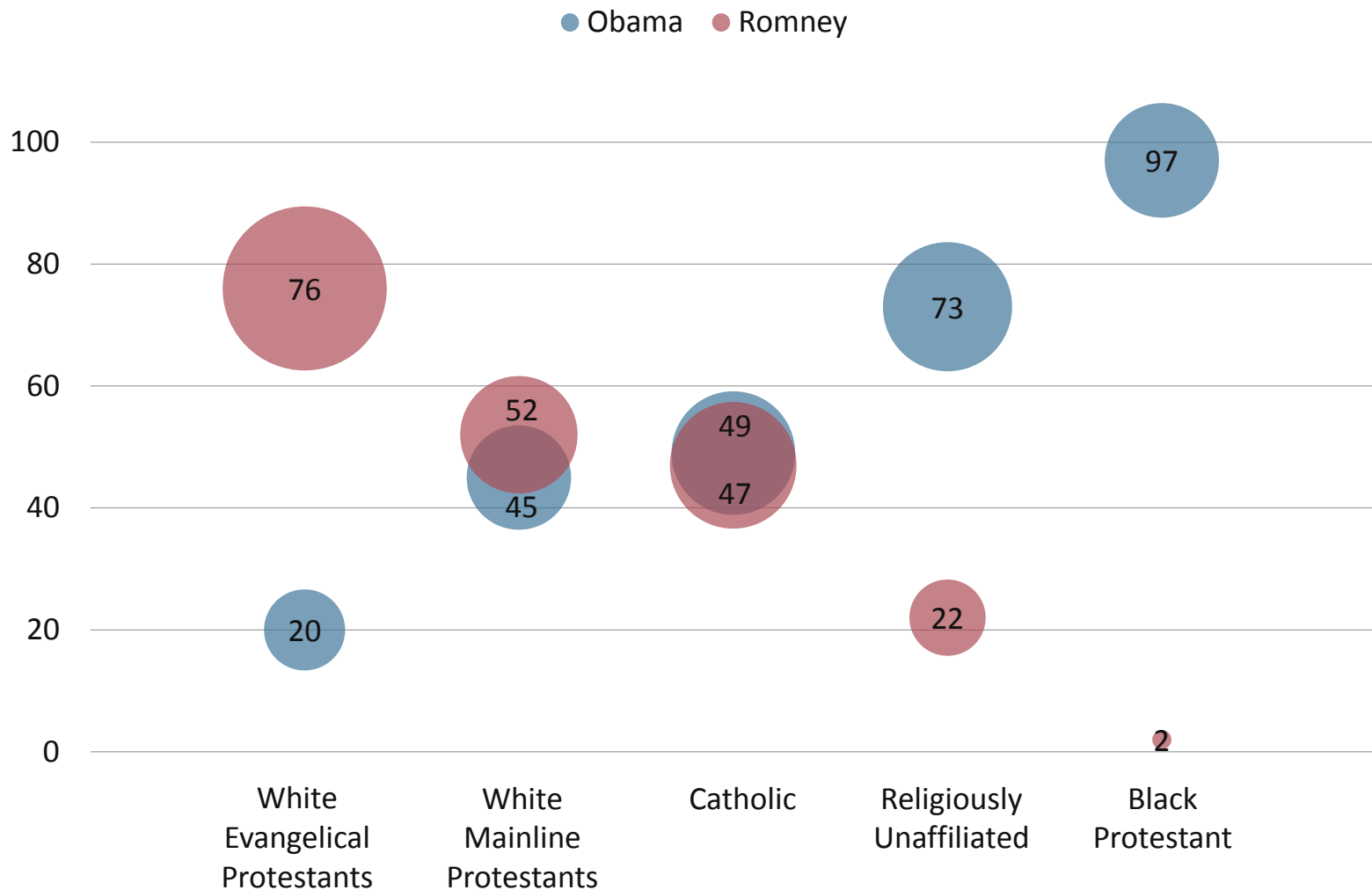


Romney's Coalition

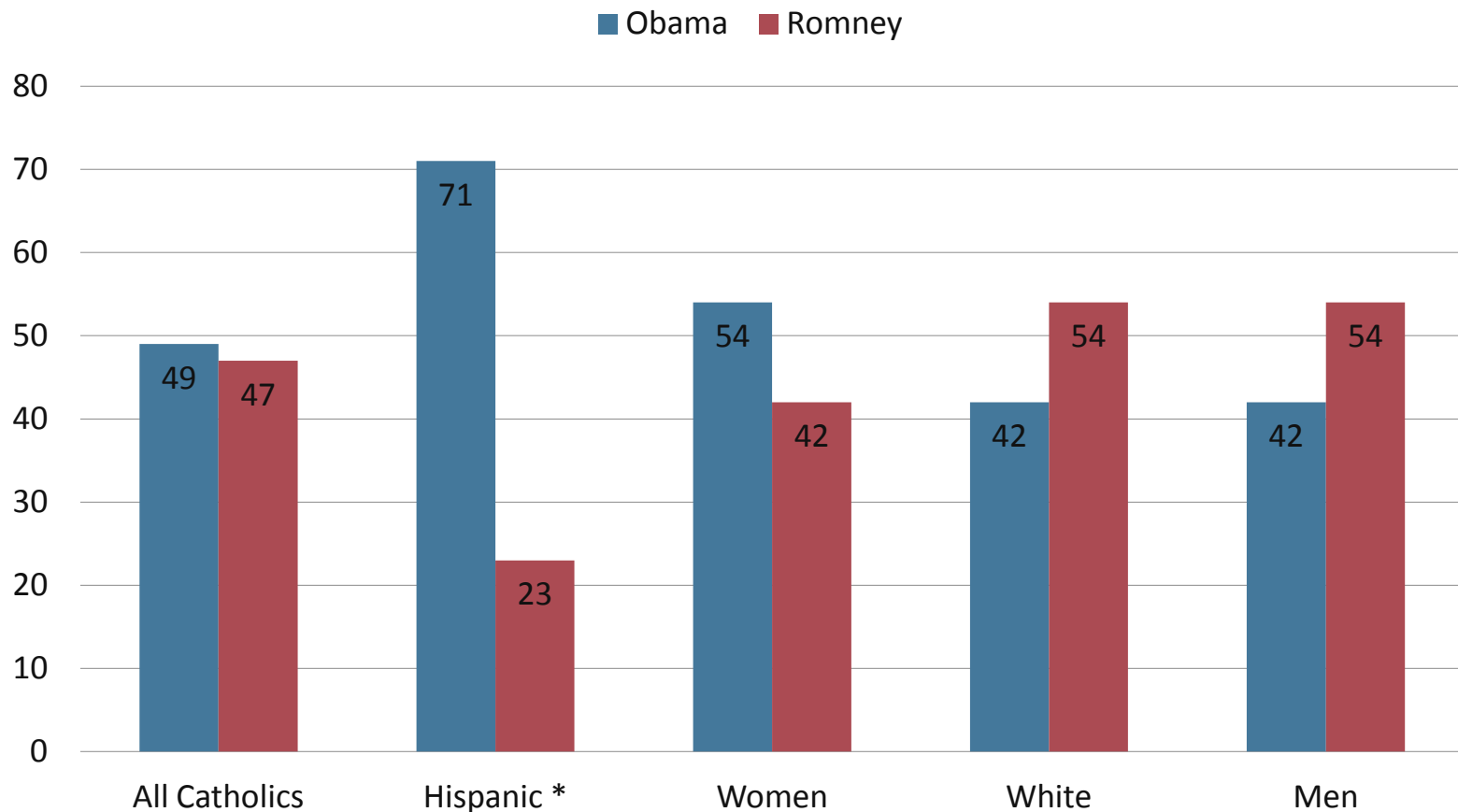


- White Evangelical Protestant
- White Mainline Protestant
- White Catholic
- Hispanic/Other Catholic
- Other Christian
- Black Protestant
- Non-Christian Religious
- Unaffiliated

Presidential Vote by Religion Among Likely Voters

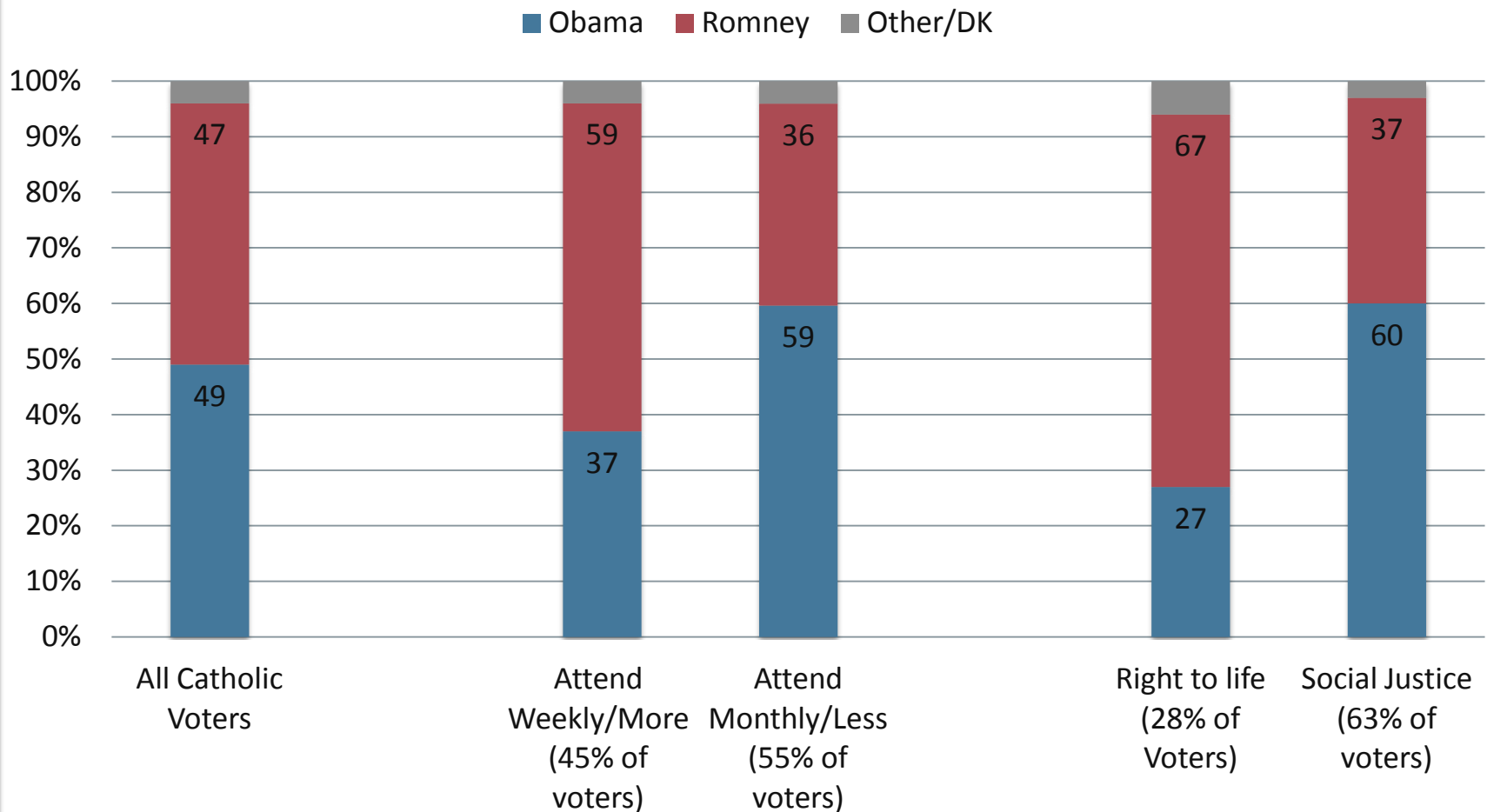


Complexity of Catholic Voters By Ethnicity and Gender



*Note: Hispanic Catholic results are among registered voters and represent small sample size (n=98).

Complexity of Catholic Voters By Religious Orientation and Behavior



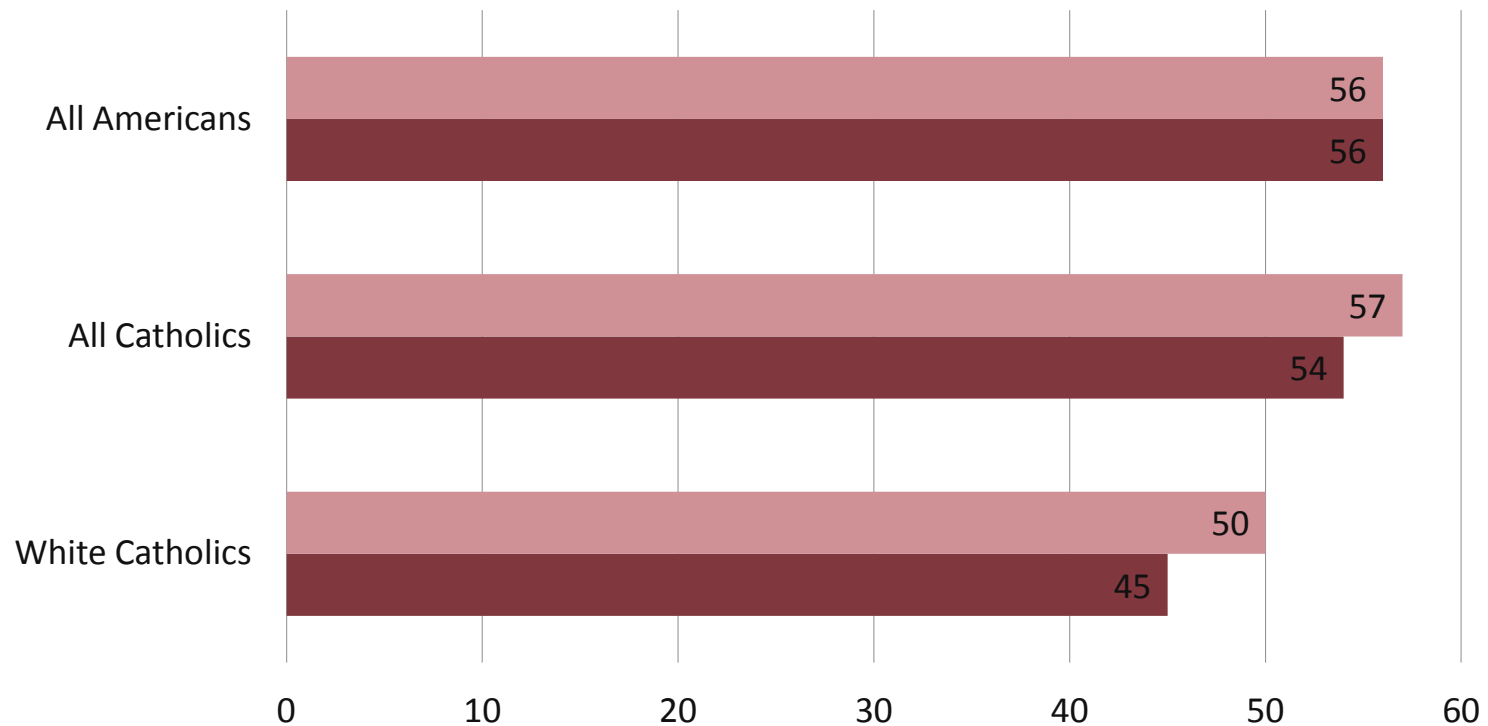
CONTRACEPTION AND GENDER ROLES

Contraception Mandate and Religious Objections



Religiously affiliated colleges and hospitals should have to provide employees with no-cost contraception coverage.

■ Yes, Even if Organization has Religious Objections ■ Yes, Religious Objections Not Specified

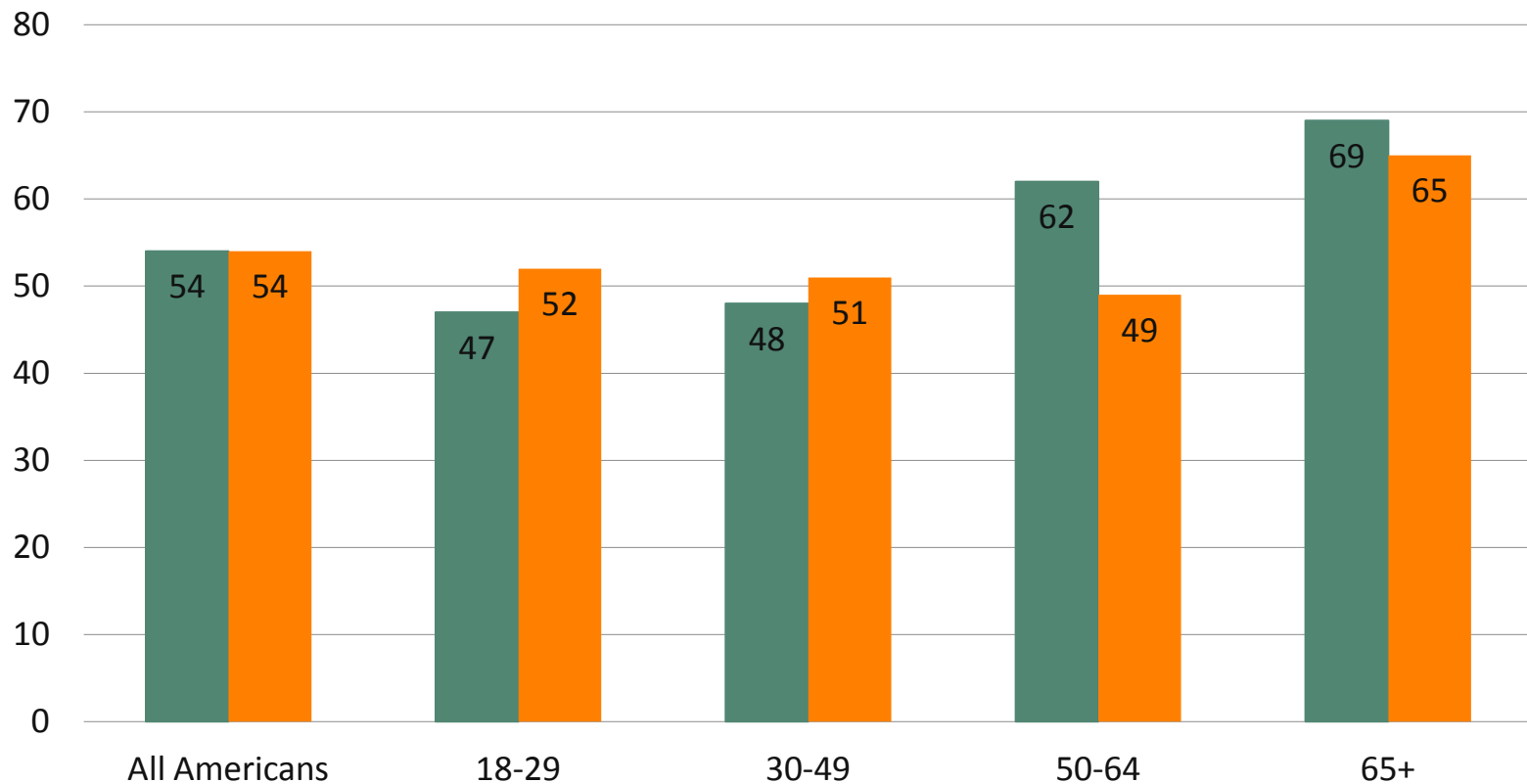


Women and Raising Children



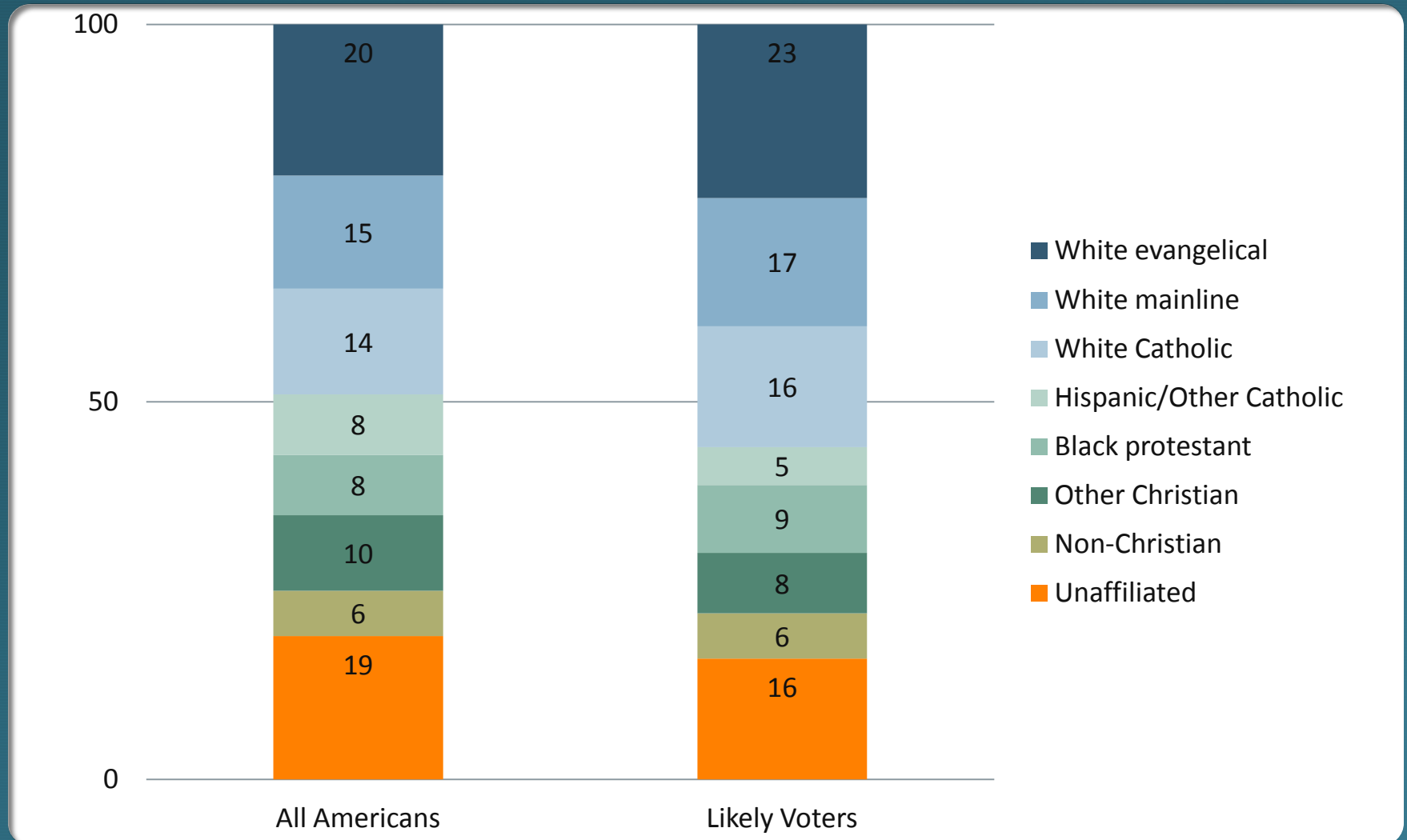
Women are naturally better suited to raise children than men.
Percent who agree

■ Men ■ Women



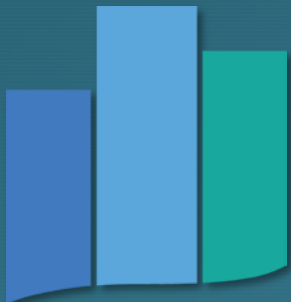
LOOKING AHEAD: IMPORTANCE OF VOTER ENGAGEMENT

Voter Engagement Among Unaffiliated and Catholics



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