

Statewide Perceptions of Independent Investigations of Officer-Involved Shootings



ARIZONA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

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Solutions

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Survey Methodology

To help policymakers understand statewide perceptions of independent investigations of officer-involved shootings, attitudes toward potential reforms, and support for funding of an independent investigatory agency, a multi-modal survey was conducted of Arizona residents.

Survey Conducted: Oct. 12, 2021, through Dec. 5, 2021

Survey Type: Live telephone interview, text to web, online panel

Margin of Error:

+/- 2.6 percentage points at 95% confidence level for general population

+/- 5.3 percentage points at 95% confidence level for African American population

+/- 4.1 percentage points at 95% confidence level for Hispanic population

Survey Size:

N = 1,419 for General population

N = 344 for African American population, some individuals in this sample are also reflected in the general population sample

N = 567 for Hispanic population, some individuals in this sample are also reflected in the general population sample

Weighting Applied: To closely mirror U.S. Census data for Arizona, the sample was mildly weighted on age, gender, race, and education level.

How a random sample can accurately reflect a community's views

The only way to know exactly what everyone in a community thinks about an issue is to talk to every person in the community.

But that's not realistic.

To accommodate for time and cost limitations, researchers use **random sampling**. This is the process of using a random portion of the community to determine what the overall population thinks.

The trade-off for not speaking to everyone in a community is called the **margin of sampling error**. For instance, if a survey of Arizona adults with a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points found that 60% approve of street sweeping, the street sweeping approval rating would be somewhere between 57% and 63% if Arizona's whole adult population had been surveyed.

Researchers typically calculate the margin of sampling error using a 95% **confidence level**—meaning there is only a certain level of confidence that the margin of sampling error is within the identified range. If researchers were to conduct a survey the same way 100 times, in 95 instances the responses will be within the margin of sampling error.

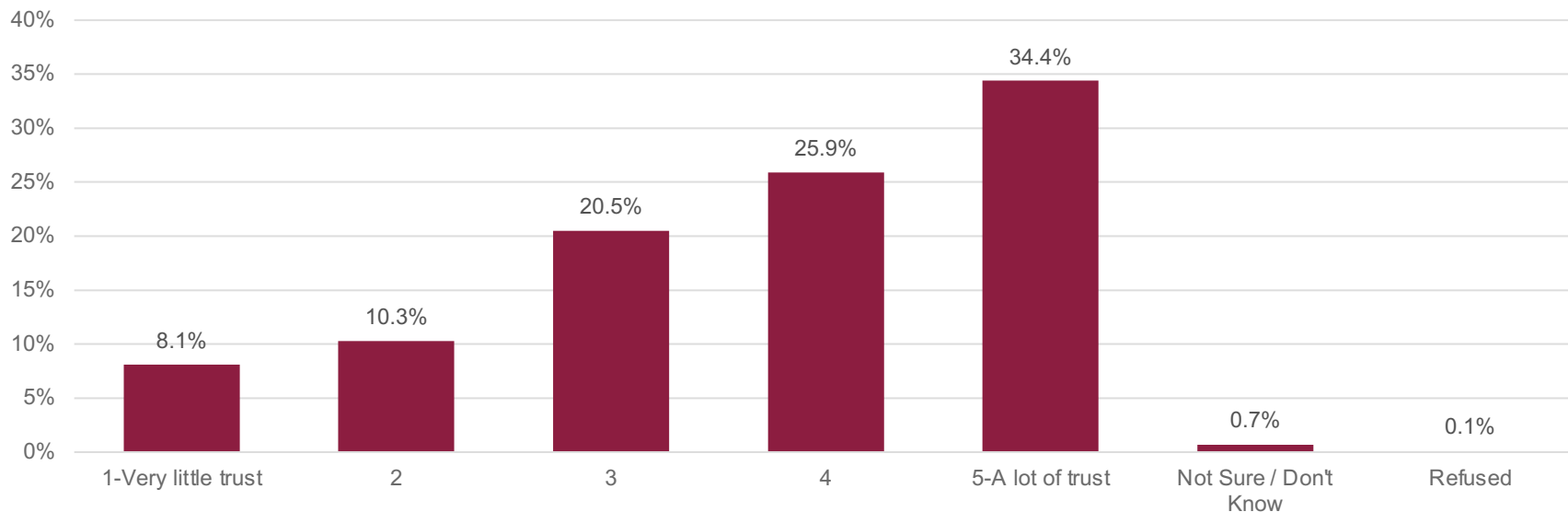
Trust in Police



On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being very little and 5 being a lot, how much trust do you have in police?

Most respondents said they trust the police.

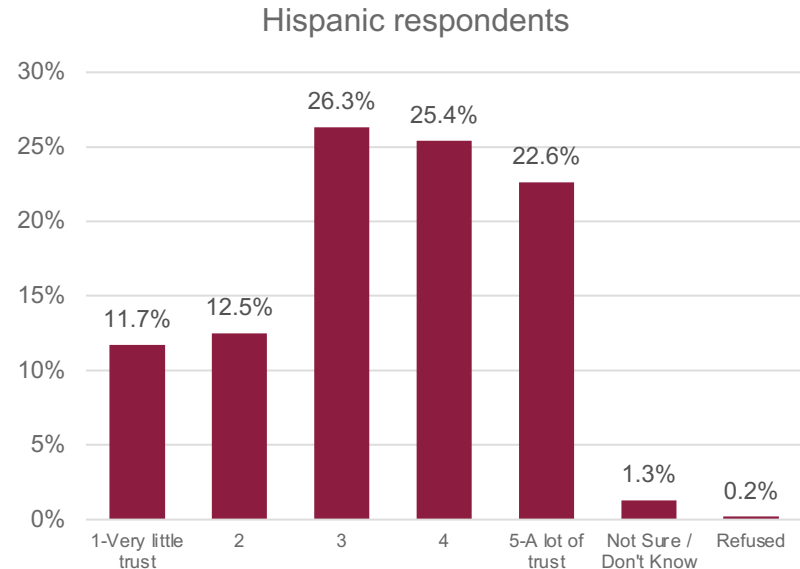
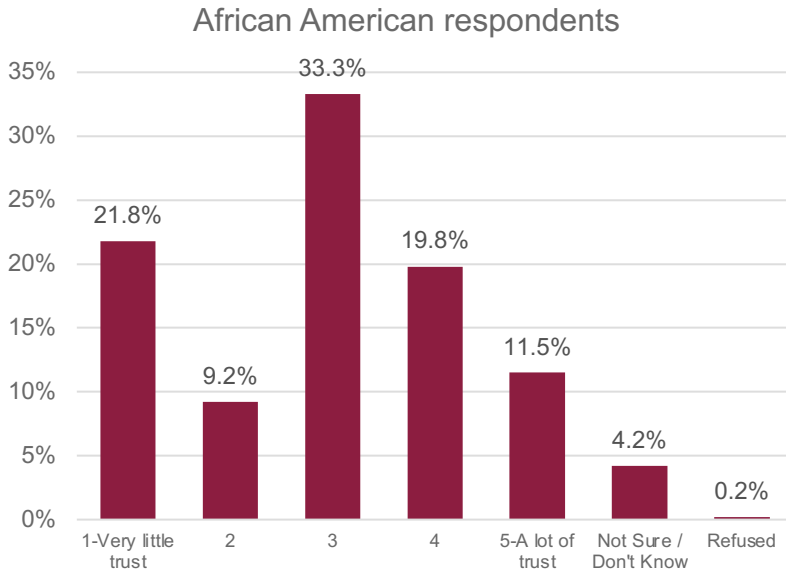
On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being high, 60.3% of respondents said 4 or 5.



On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being very little and 5 being a lot, how much trust do you have in police?

However, with additional oversample of African American and Hispanic Arizonans, we found that African American and Hispanic respondents have lower levels of trust in the police, with African American respondents having the lowest levels of trust in the police.

On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being high, 31.3% of African American respondents and 48.1% of Hispanic respondents said 4 or 5.

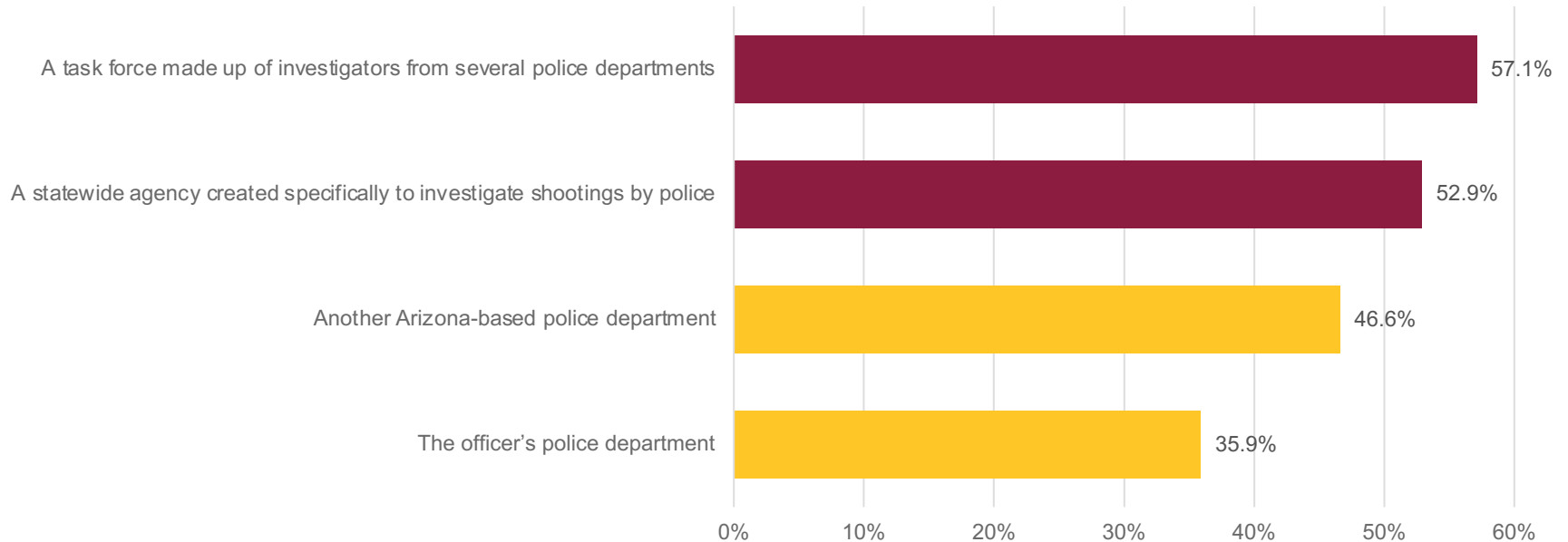


Confidence in Investigation Structure Types



On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being very little and 5 being a lot, how much confidence would you have in the following agencies to investigate a shooting by a police officer?

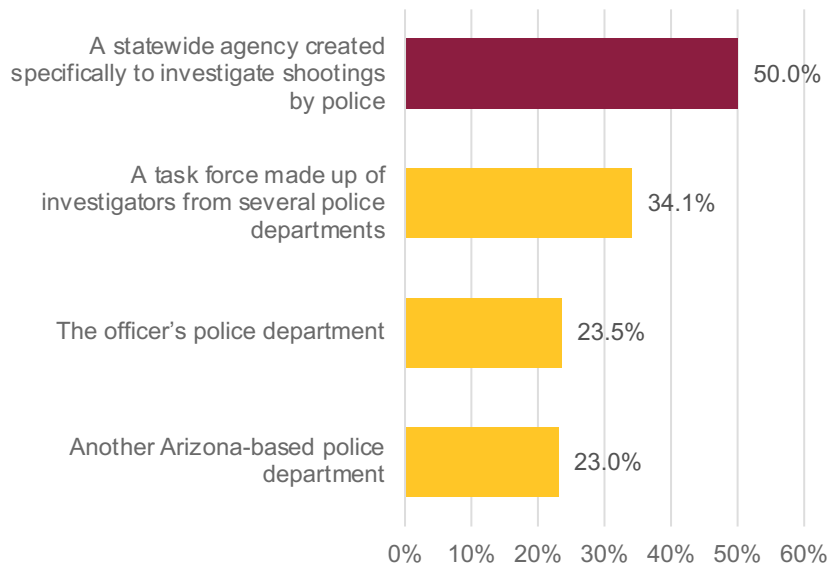
This chart shows the largest portion of the general population selected 4 or 5 for “a task force made up of investigators from several police departments” and the lowest portion of the population indicated 4 or 5 for “the police officer’s department.”



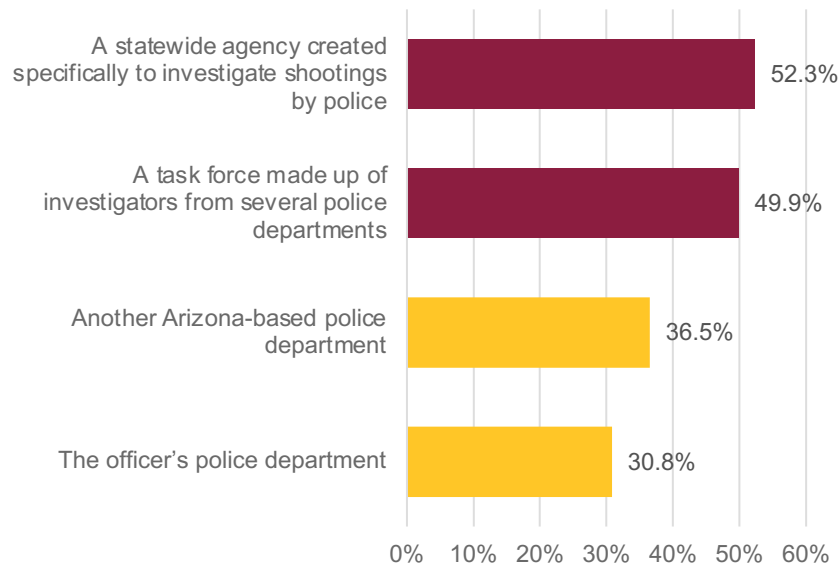
On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being very little and 5 being a lot, how much confidence would you have in the following agencies to investigate a shooting by a police officer?

African American and Hispanic respondents favored “a statewide agency created specifically to investigate shootings by police.”

African American respondents



Hispanic respondents

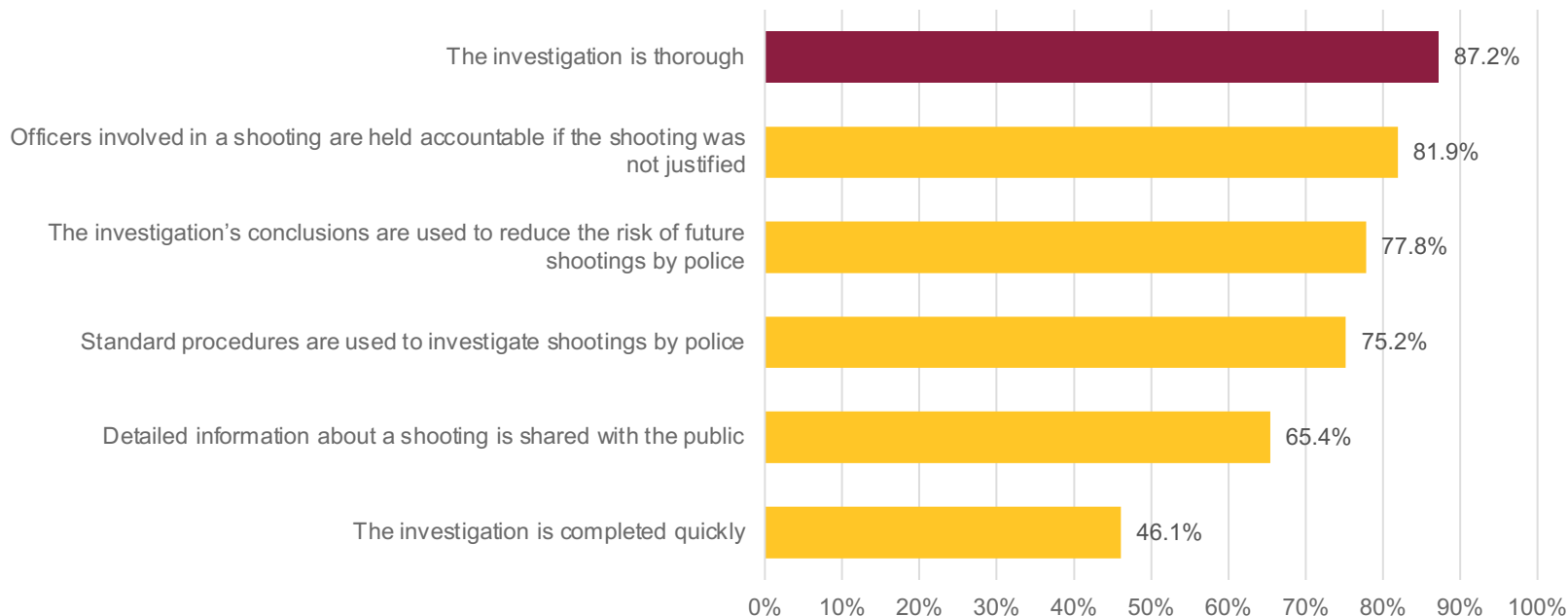


Preferences for Investigation Process



On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being not very important and 5 being very important, how important to you are each of the following items related to investigations into shootings by police:

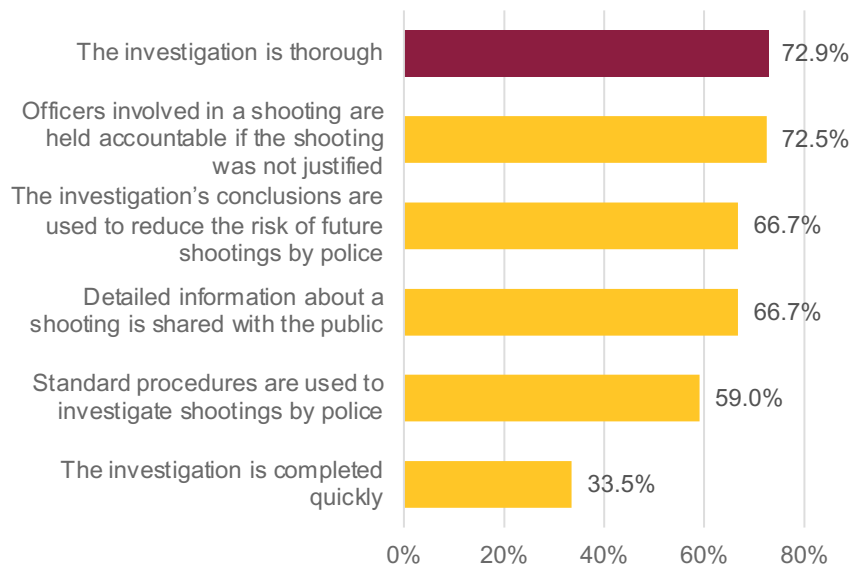
This chart shows the largest portion of the general population indicated that a thorough investigation is important or very important (4 or 5).



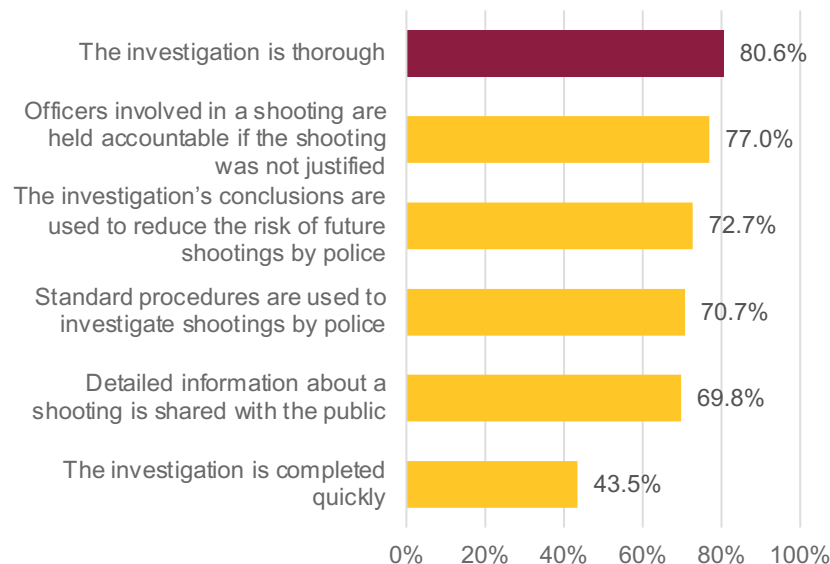
On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being not very important and 5 being very important, how important to you are each of the following items related to investigations into shootings by police:

These charts show that the largest share of African American and Hispanic respondents rated a thorough investigation as being important or very important (4 or 5).

African American Respondents

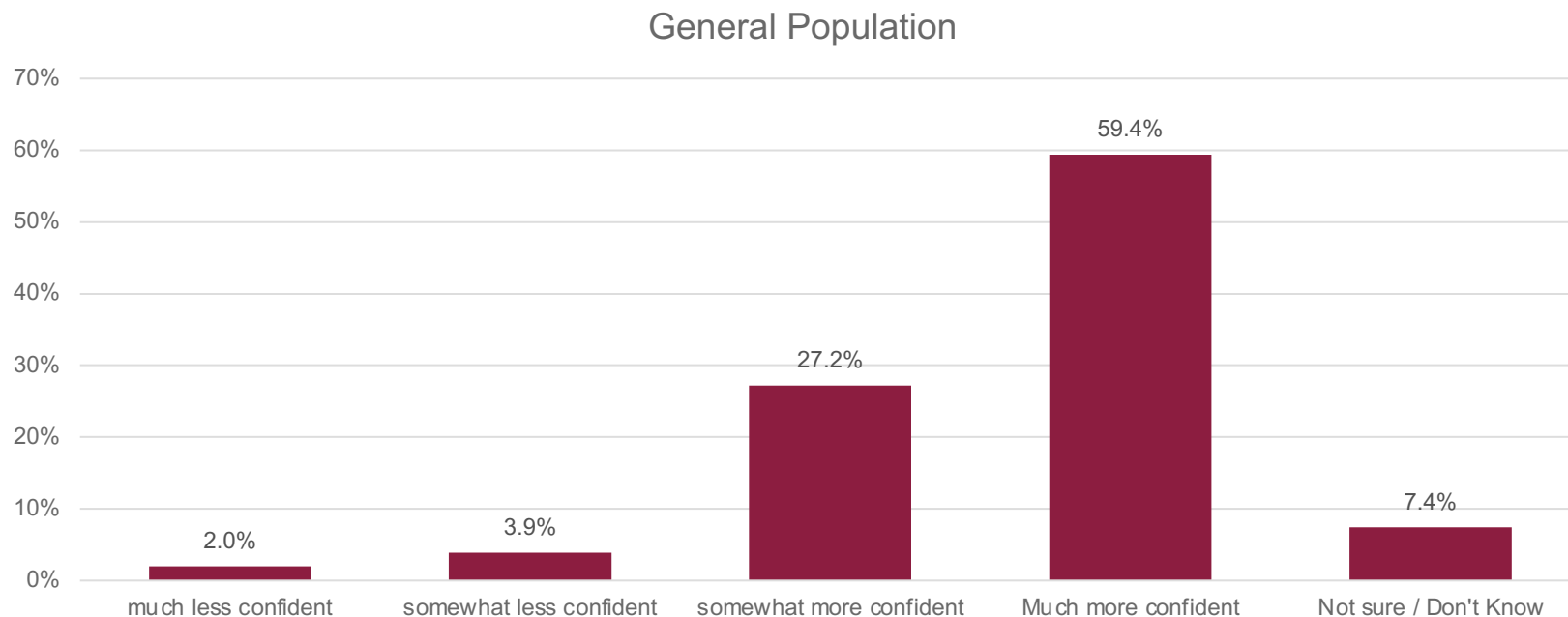


Hispanic respondents



Does the use of body-worn camera footage in an investigation of a shooting by a police officer make you more or less confident in the investigation results or does it not make a difference?

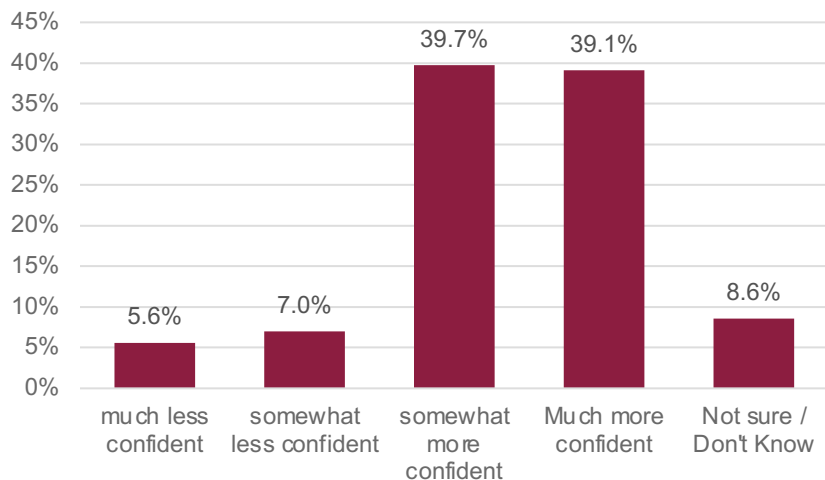
The general population expressed overwhelmingly that the use of body-worn camera footage in an investigation made them more confident in the investigation results with 86.6% saying that it made them somewhat or much more confident.



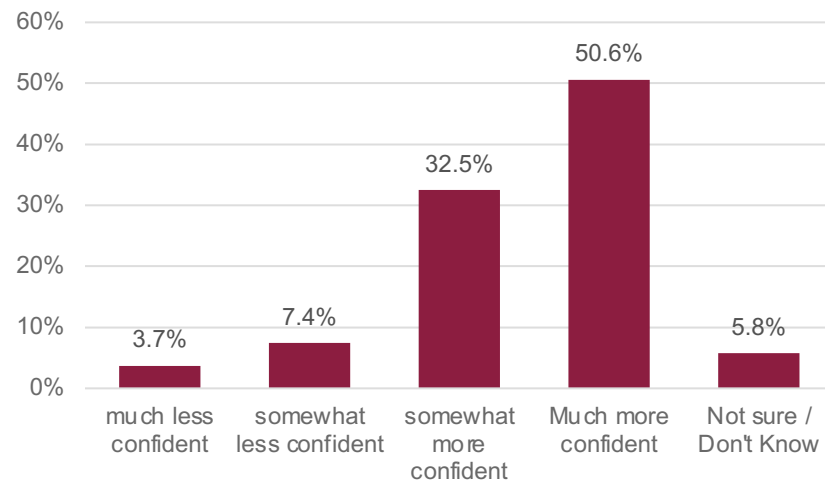
Does the use of body-worn camera footage in an investigation of a shooting by a police officer make you more or less confident in the investigation results or does it not make a difference?

African American respondents felt slightly less confident with 78.8% indicating it was important or very important. Hispanic respondent's sentiments were similar to the general population, with 83.1% of respondents indicating that the use of body-worn camera footage made them feel somewhat or much more confident in the investigation results.

African American Respondents

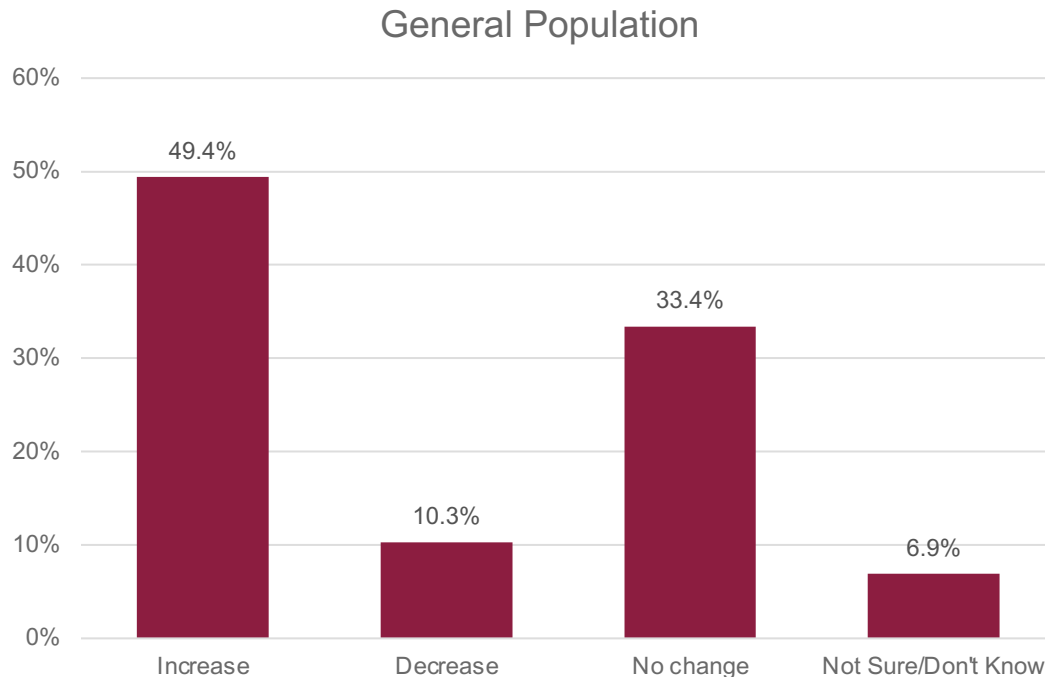


Hispanic Respondents



Would an independent, state of Arizona agency to investigate shootings by police increase, decrease, or not change your level of confidence in these investigations?

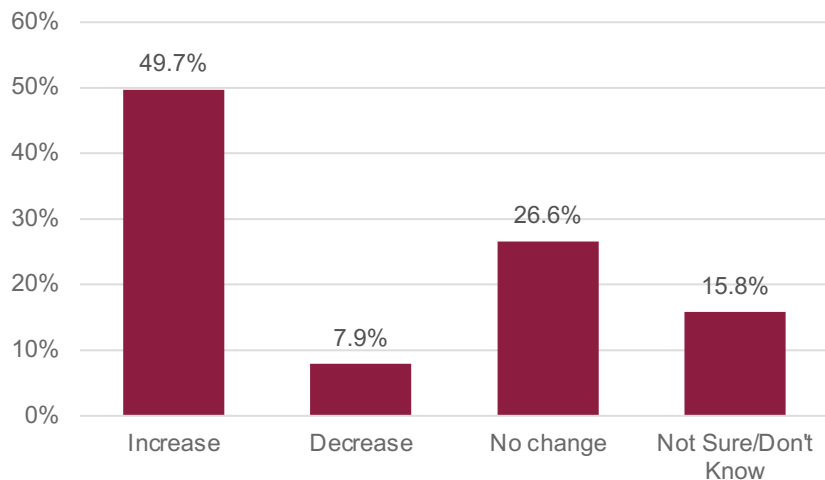
Slightly less than half (49.4%) of the general population indicated that an independent state of Arizona agency would increase their level of confidence in investigations of shootings by police.



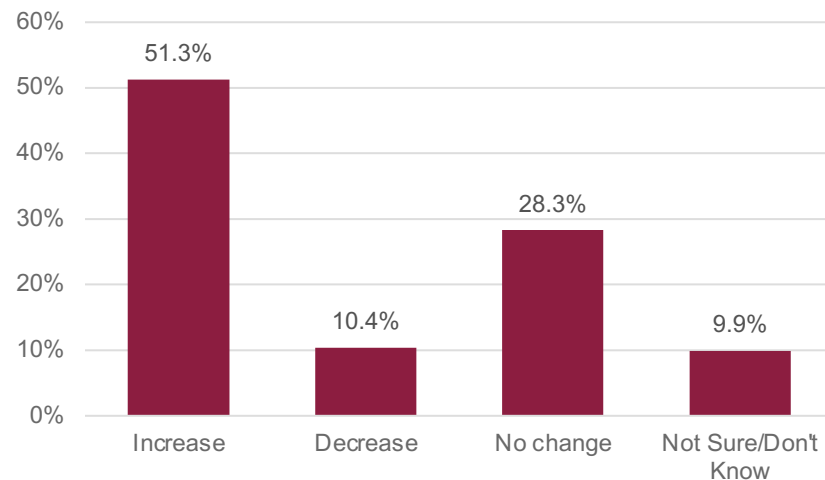
Would an independent, state of Arizona agency to investigate shootings by police increase, decrease, or not change your level of confidence in these investigations?

Similar to the general population (49.4%), slightly less than half (49.7%) of African American respondents indicated that an independent state of Arizona agency would increase their level of confidence in investigations of shootings by police. However, a slight majority (51.3%) of Hispanic respondents indicated that it would increase their confidence.

African American Respondents

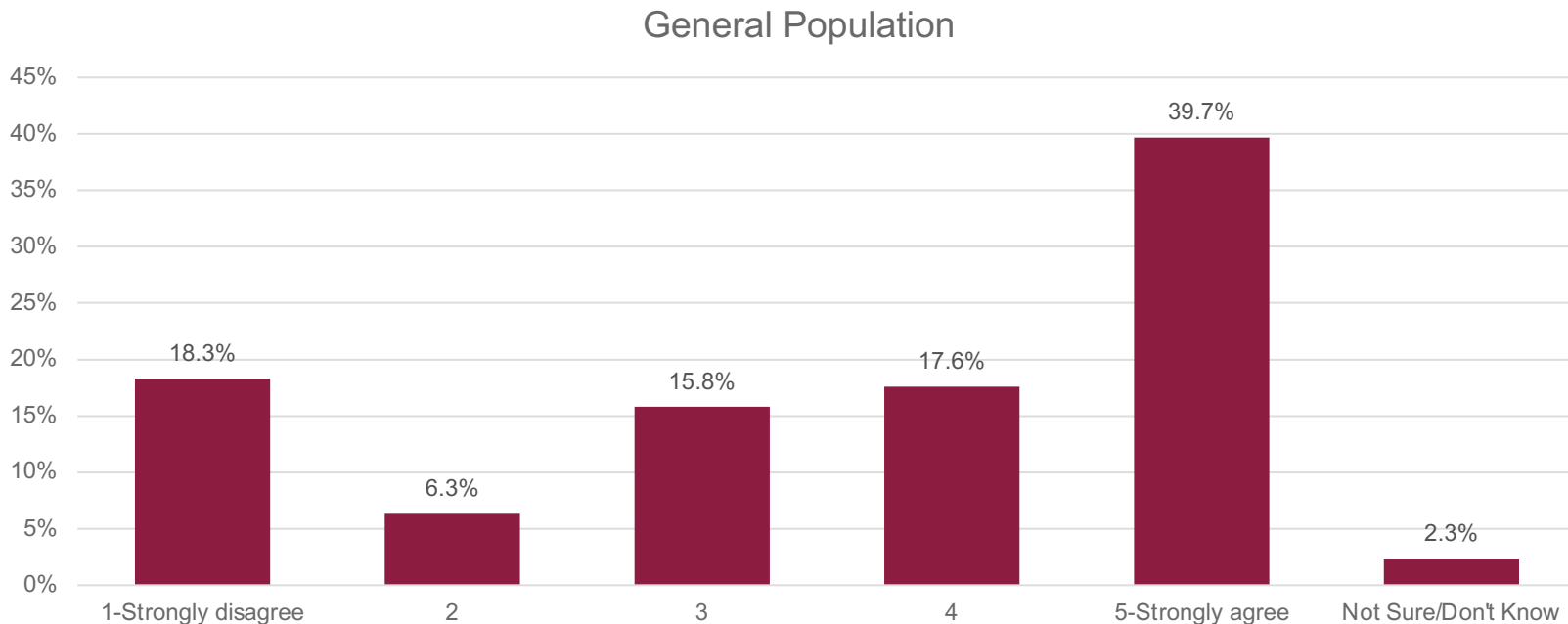


Hispanic Respondents



On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being strongly disagree and 5 being strongly agree, indicate your level of support for creating an independent, state of Arizona agency to investigate shootings by police.

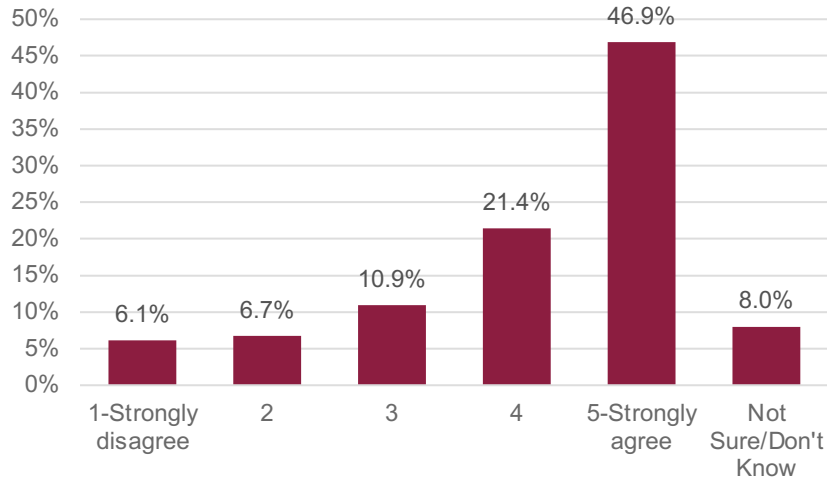
A majority of the general population (57.3%) indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed with the creation of an independent, state of Arizona agency to investigate shootings by police.



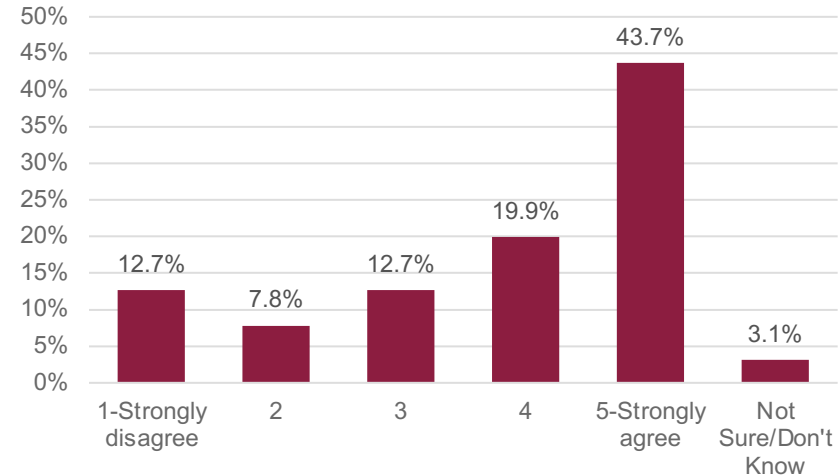
On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being strongly disagree and 5 being strongly agree, indicate your level of support for creating an independent, state of Arizona agency to investigate shootings by police.

The sentiments expressed by African American and Hispanic respondents were stronger than those of the general population with 68.3% of African American and 63.6% of Hispanic respondents indicating that they agreed or strongly agreed with the creation of an independent, state of Arizona agency to investigate shootings by police.

African American Respondents



Hispanic Respondents

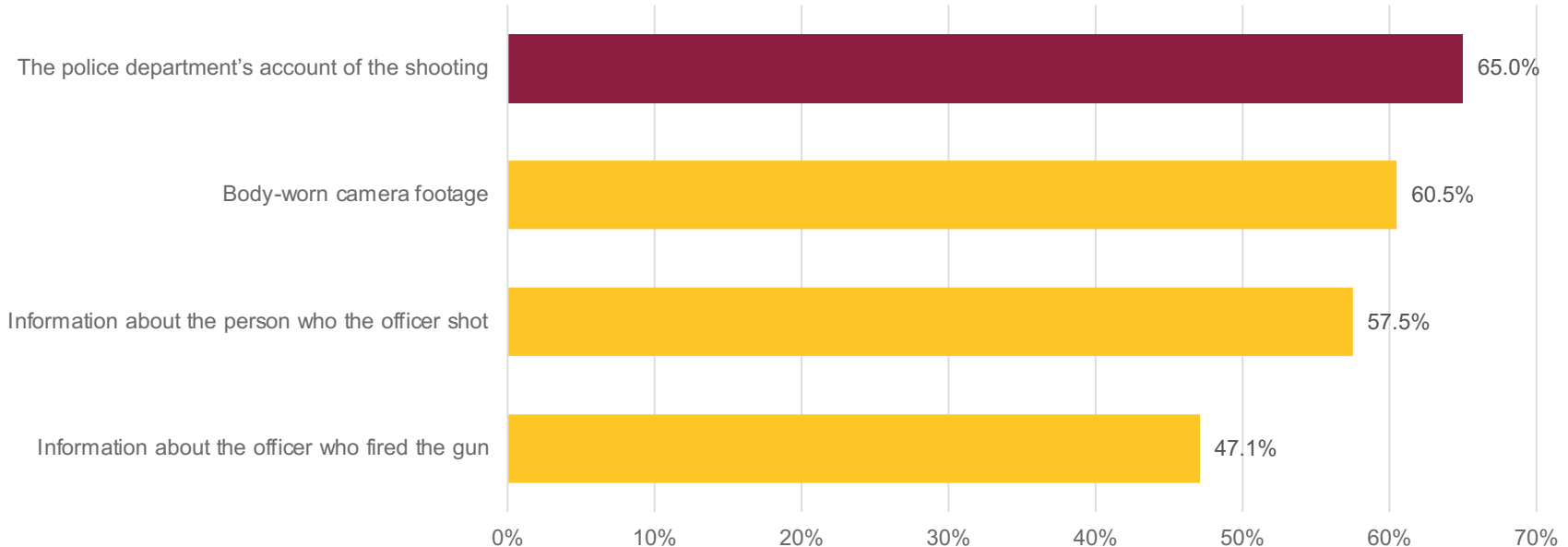


Preferences for Communications After a Shooting



On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being not very important and 5 being very important, how important is it to have the following information released to the public immediately after a shooting by a police officer?

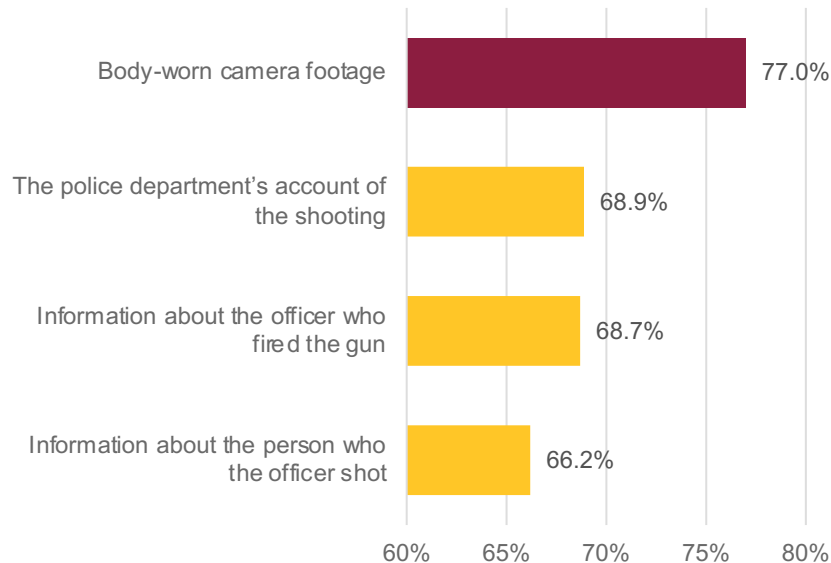
This chart shows the greatest share of the general population indicated that it was important or very important (4 or 5) that the police department's account of the shooting is released to the public immediately following a shooting.



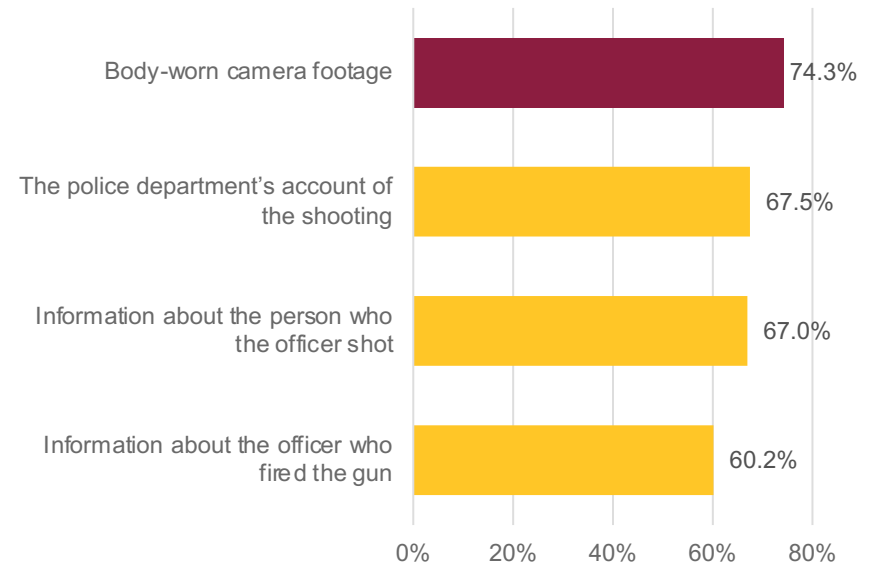
On a scale of 1-5, with 1 being not very important and 5 being very important, how important is it to have the following information released to the public immediately after a shooting by a police officer?

These charts show that African American and Hispanic respondents were more likely to rate the immediate release of body-worn camera footage following a shooting was important or very important (4 or 5).

African American respondents



Hispanic respondents

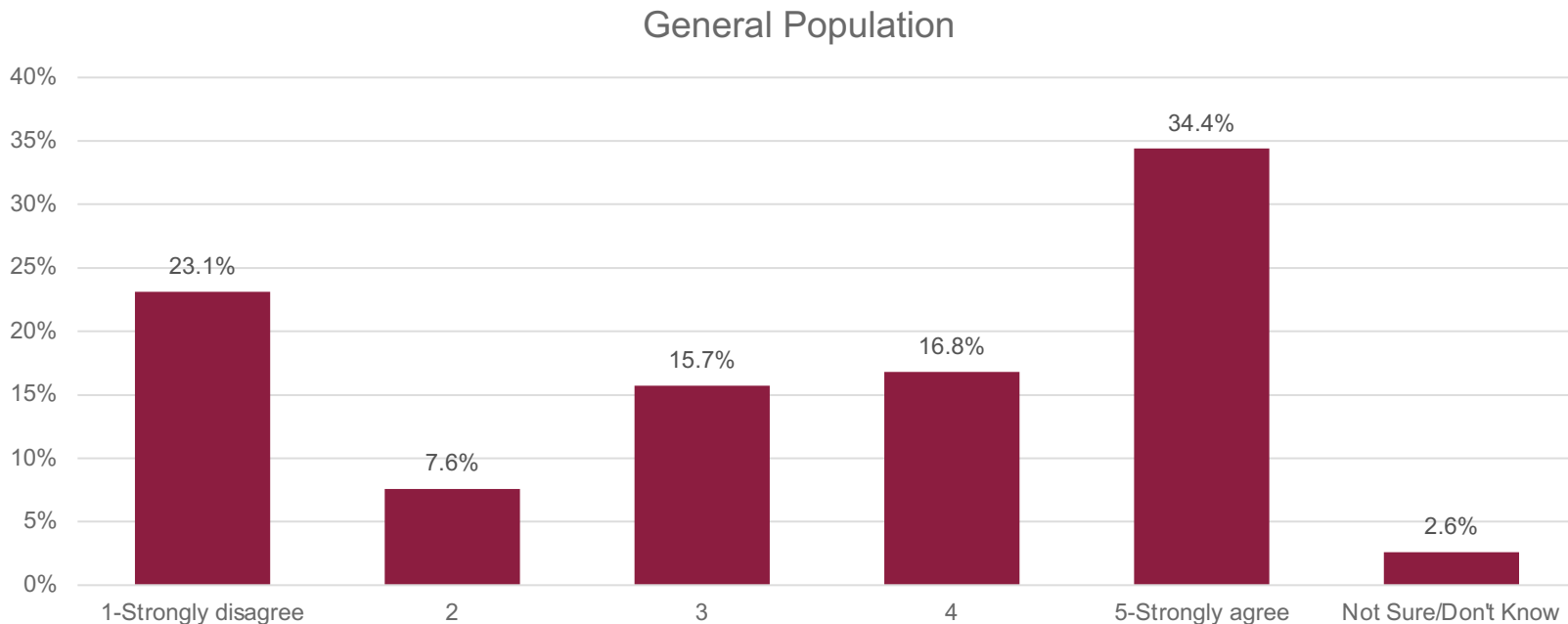


Support for Funding of Independent Investigative Agency



On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being strongly disagree and 5 being strongly agree, indicate your level of support for using state revenue to create an independent, state of Arizona agency to investigate shootings

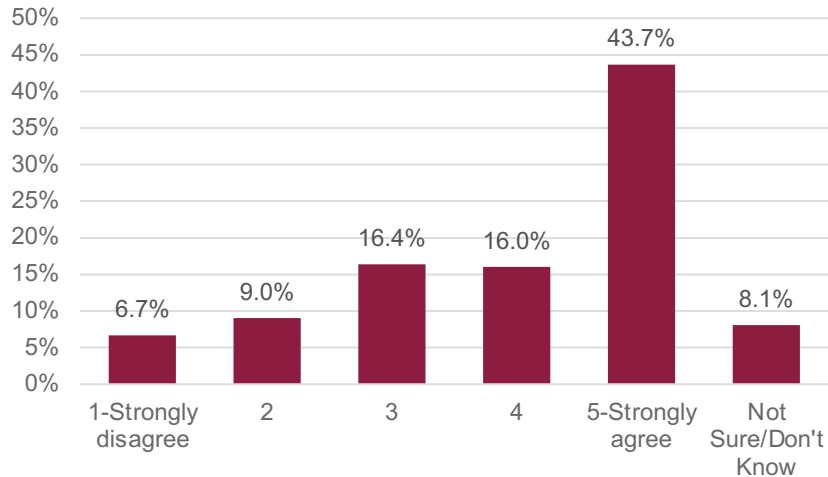
51.1% of the general population indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed with using state revenue to create an independent state of Arizona agency to investigate shootings by police.



On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being strongly disagree and 5 being strongly agree, indicate your level of support for using state revenue to create an independent, state of Arizona agency to investigate shootings

As compared to the general population (51.1%), a larger portion of African American (59.7%) and Hispanic (54.3%) respondents indicated that they agreed or strongly agreed with using state revenue to create an independent state of Arizona agency to investigate shootings by police.

African American Respondents



Hispanic Respondents

