

Public Concern About Roadway Safety

ENGINE'S CARAVAN SURVEY Public Opinion Poll January 2022

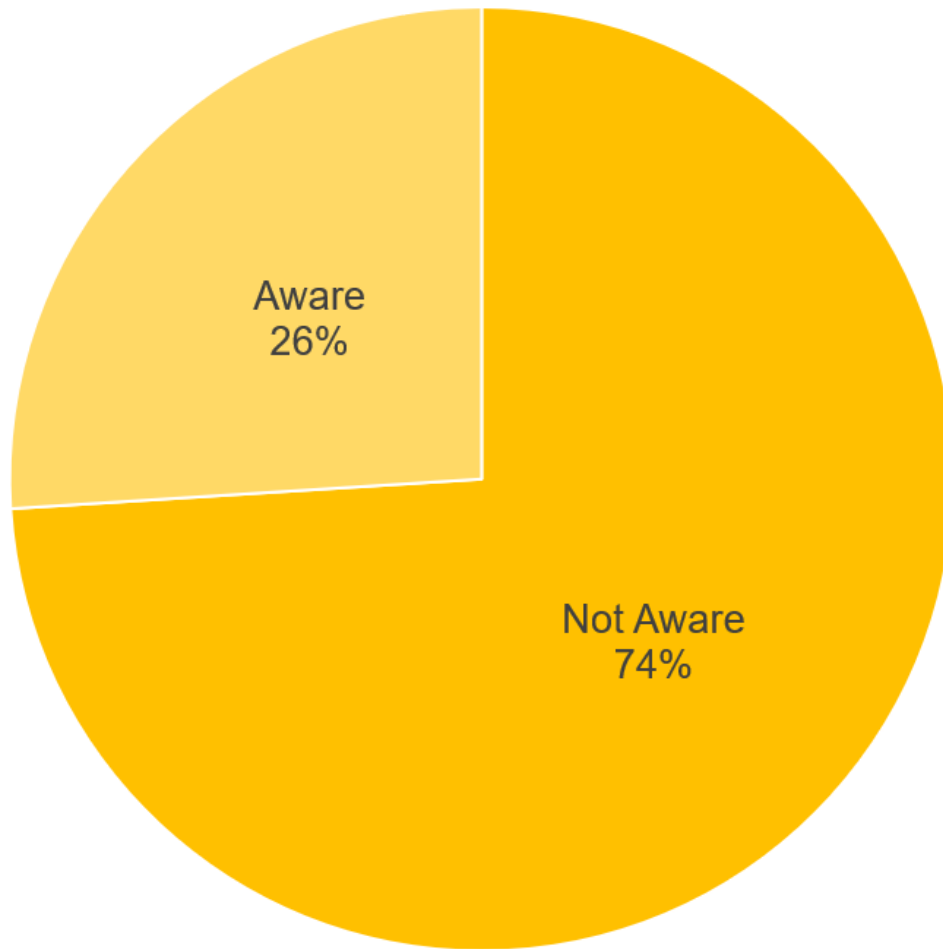


Commissioned by Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety

Founded in 1989, Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety (Advocates) is an alliance of public health, safety, consumer and law enforcement organizations, insurers and insurance agents that promotes highway and auto safety through the adoption of safety laws, policies and regulations. Advocates is a unique coalition dedicated to advancing safer vehicles, safer drivers and passengers, and safer roads.

This poll was conducted by ENGINE INSIGHTS using the CARAVAN Survey, December 15 – 19, 2021.

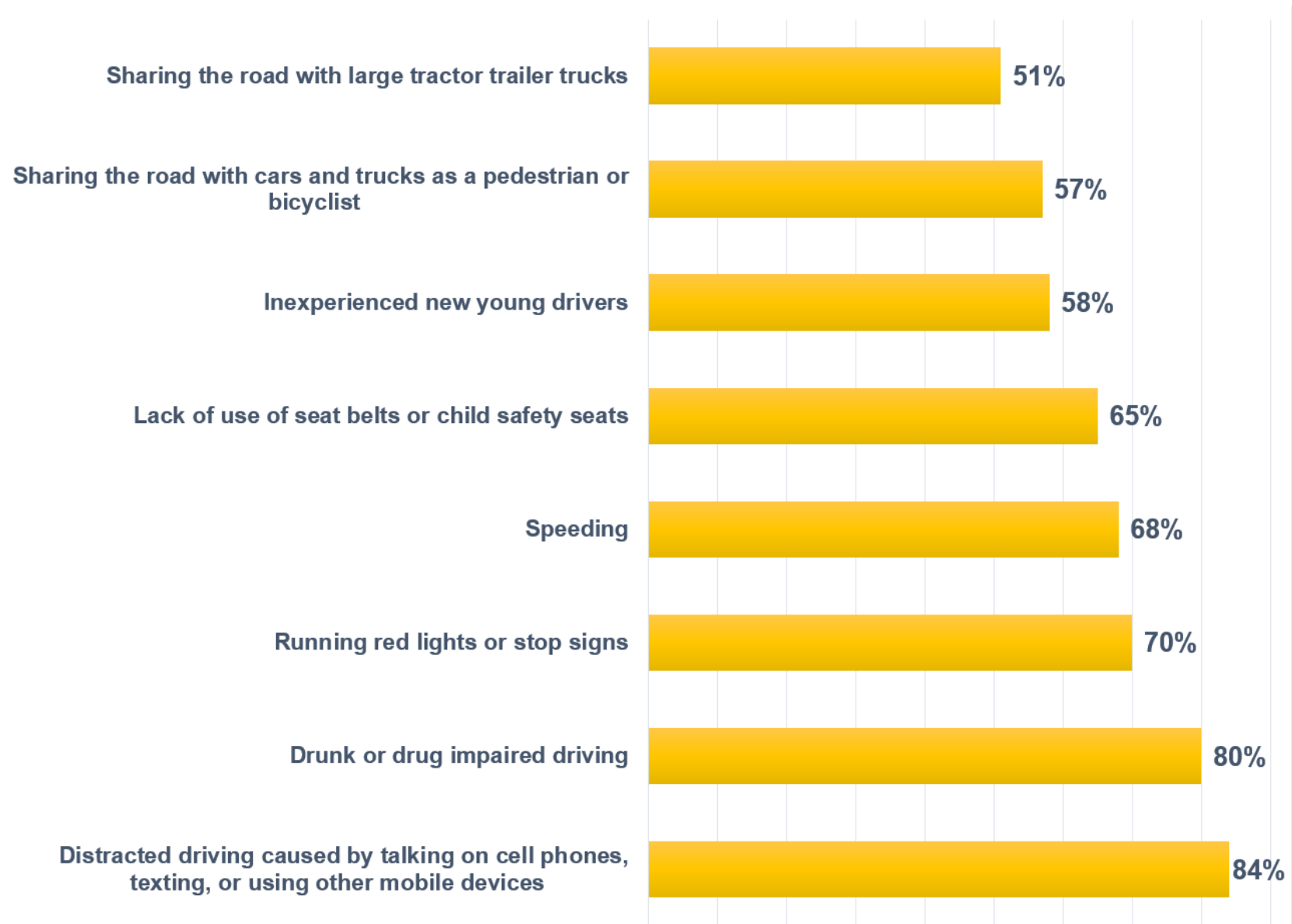
Nearly three-quarters of respondents are not aware that crashes on our nation's roads are skyrocketing.¹



During the first six months of 2021, more than 20,000 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes -- the most during this time period since 2006. This represents a nearly 20 percent increase in deaths over the same period in 2020 and is the largest such spike ever recorded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS).

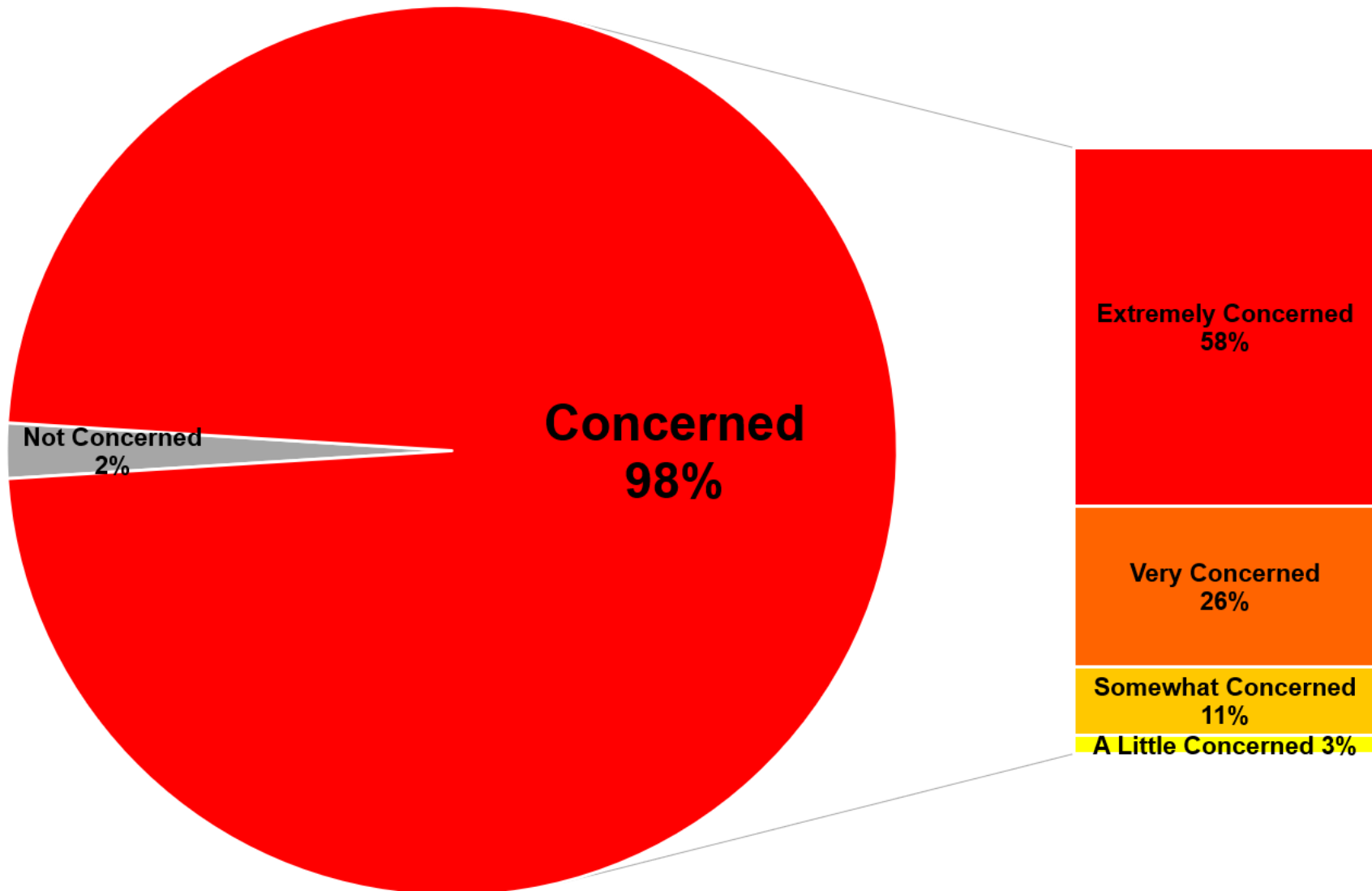
¹ Percentages calculated from the survey responses are provided as rounded to the nearest whole percent.

Respondents express they are “extremely” or “very” concerned about dangerous driving behaviors and scenarios.

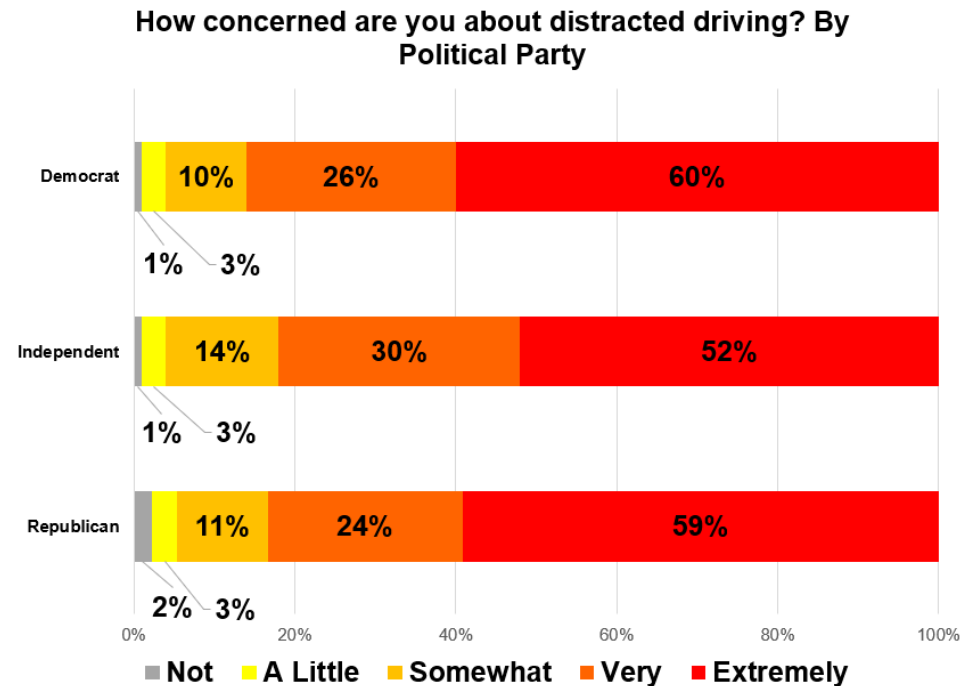
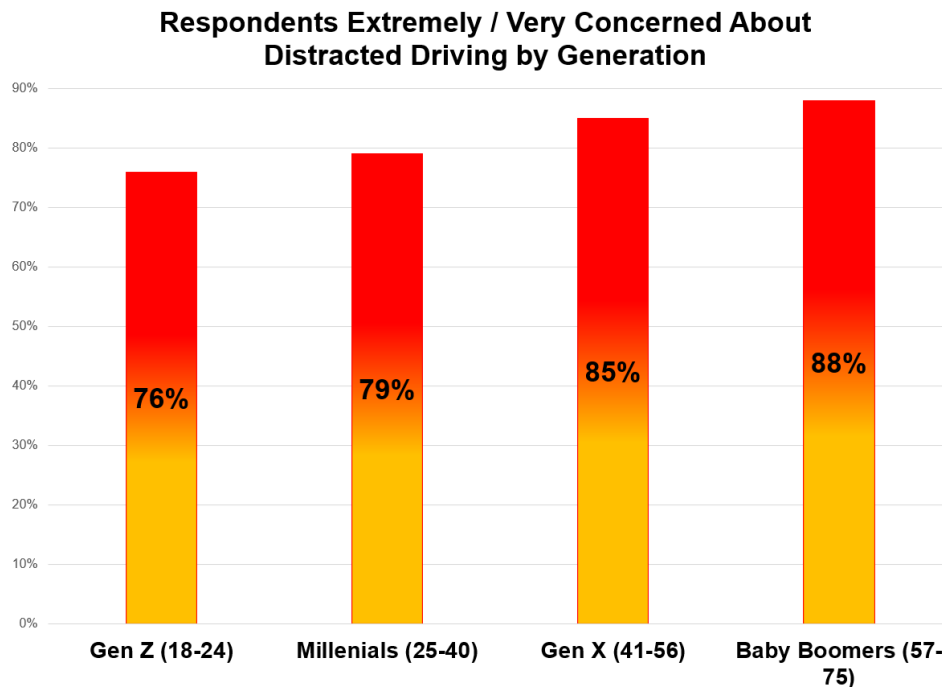


Distracted Driving

There is near unanimous concern (98 percent) about distracted driving, with 84 percent of respondents identifying as “extremely” or “very” concerned. Reporting from states across the country indicates distracted driving may be on the rise. The true impact remains unclear because of issues with underreporting of crashes involving distraction.



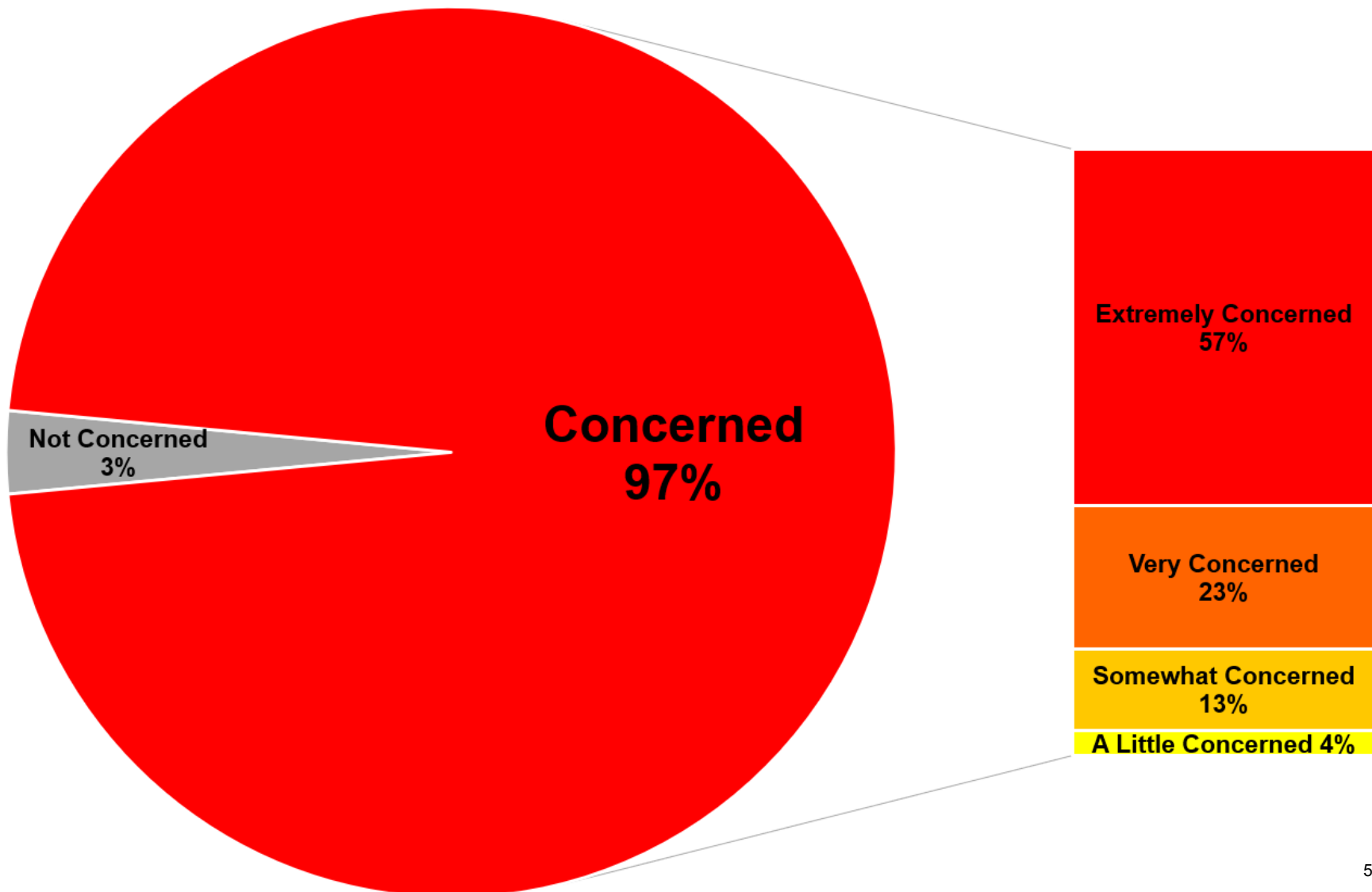
Concern about distracted driving is widespread among respondents by age, generation, region, political party, and type of community.



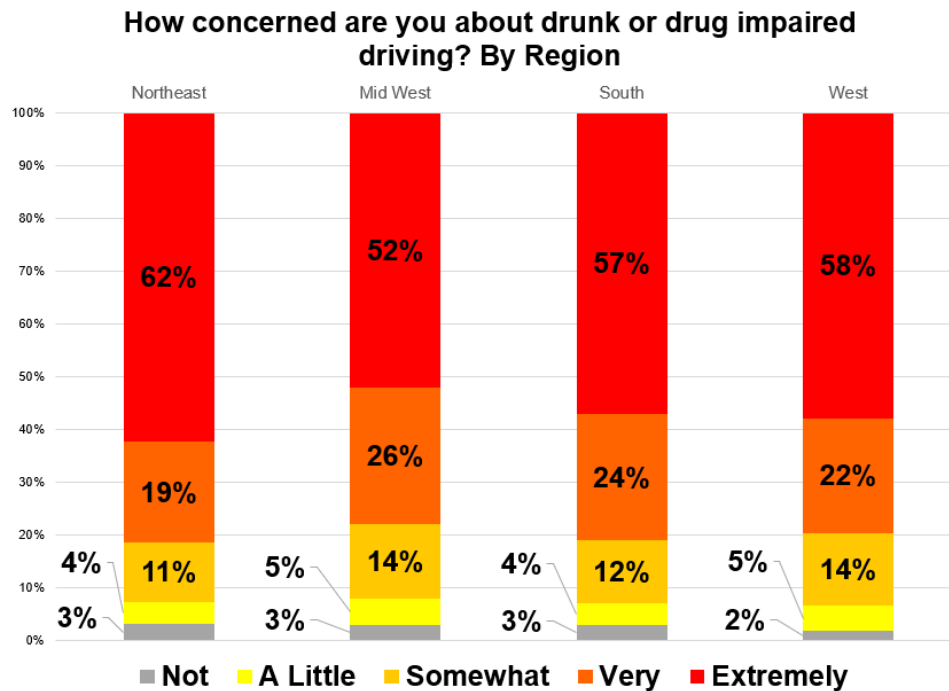
A previously conducted poll commissioned by Advocates demonstrated the public strongly supports passage of state laws to prohibit distracting activities behind the wheel, while still allowing use of phones to get directions. Moreover, the poll showed 80 percent of respondents supported providing grant money for states to pass better distracted driving laws.

Impaired Driving

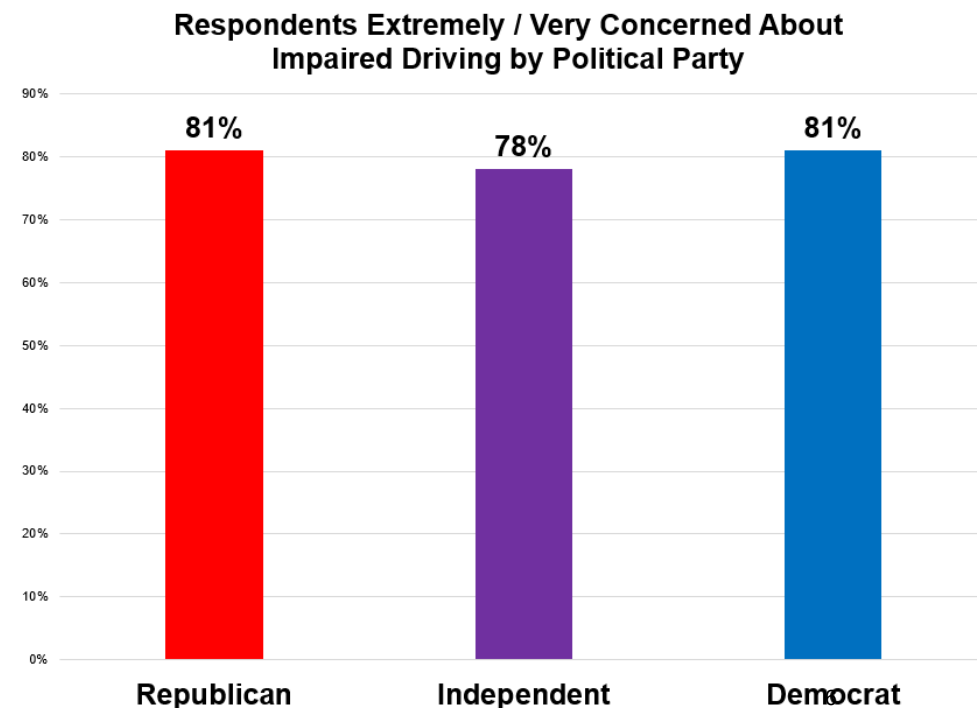
Concern about impaired driving is extensive with 97 percent expressing such and 80 percent of those indicating they are “extremely” or “very” concerned. Preliminary 2020 data from NHTSA shows a nine percent increase in police-reported alcohol involvement crashes.



Concern about impaired driving is similarly high when looking at age, generation, region, political party, children in household, and type of community.

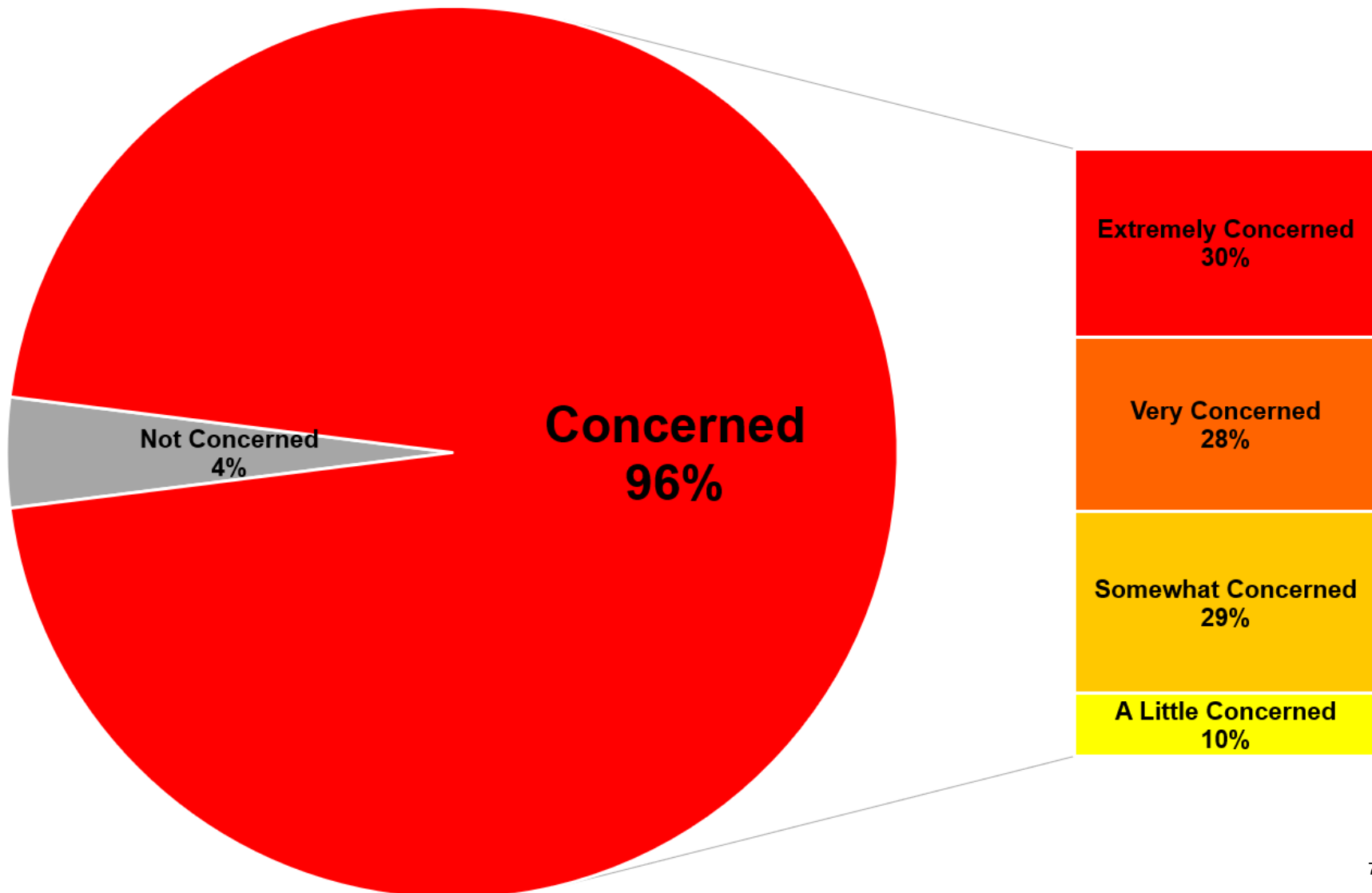


The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA, Pub. L. 117-58) signed into law November 2021 included a bipartisan provision that directs the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to require impaired driving prevention technology as standard equipment on new passenger motor vehicles. This game-changing technological advance could save more than 9,000 lives each year once in widespread use. More information about the IIJA can be [found here](#).



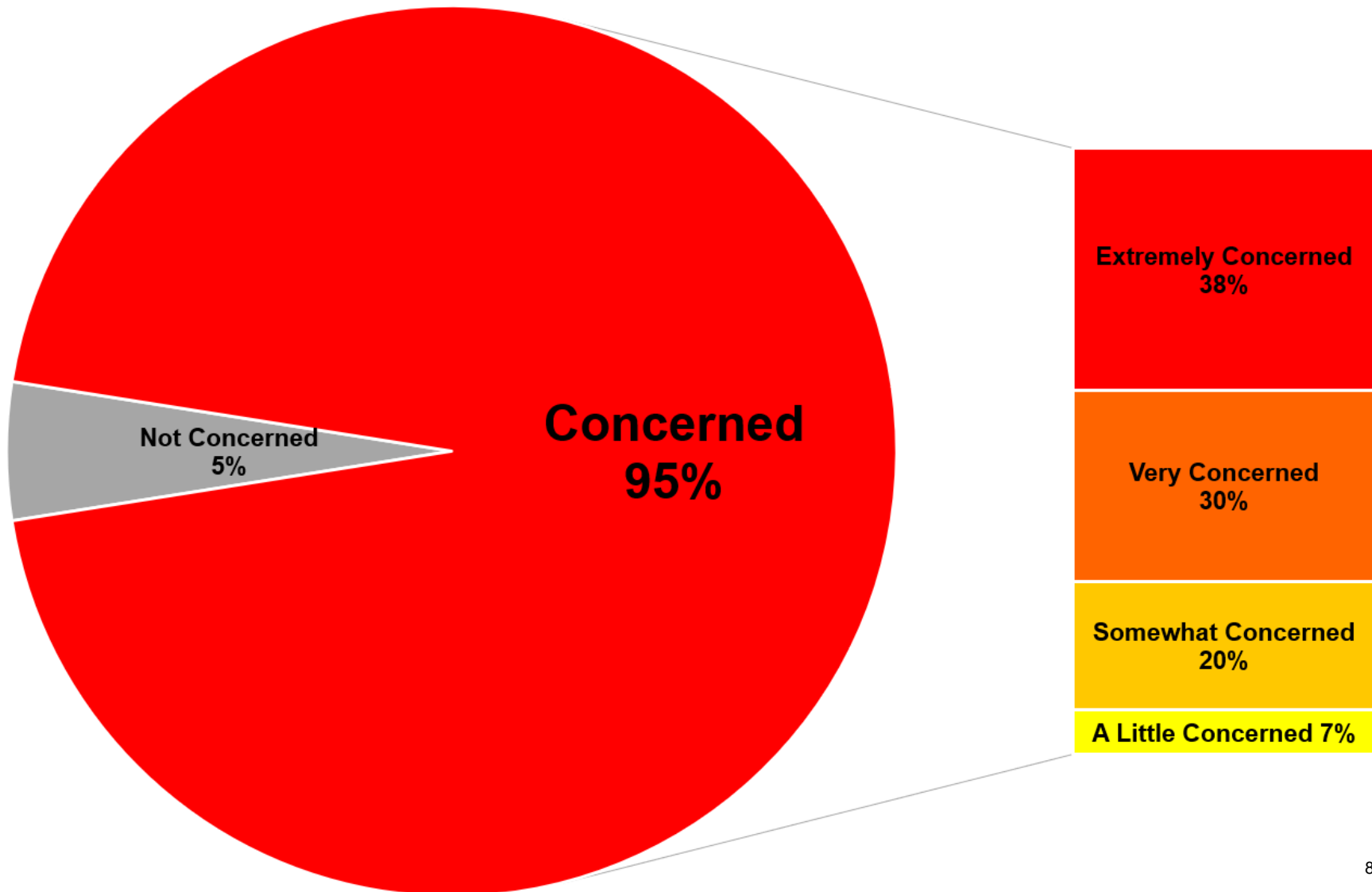
Inexperienced New Young Drivers

Widespread concern exists about inexperienced new young drivers with 96 percent of respondents responding affirmatively, and 58 percent noting they are “extremely” or “very” concerned. Concern is nearly equivalent when looking at respondents by age, generation, region, political party, children in household, and type of community.

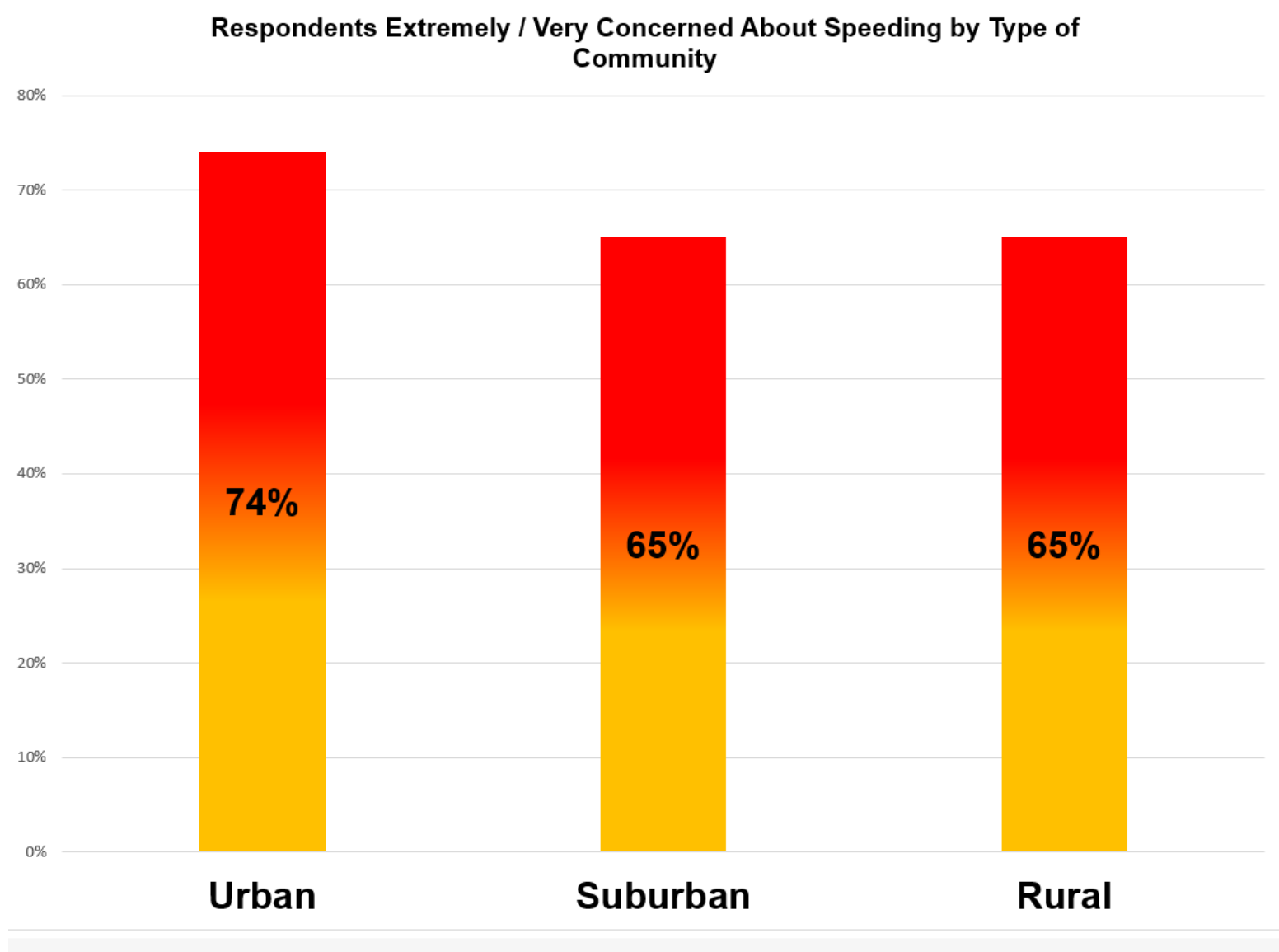


Speeding

An overwhelming majority, 95 percent, are concerned about speeding with 68 percent either “extremely” or “very” concerned. Fatalities in speeding-related crashes were up 11 percent in 2020 according to data from NHTSA. Excess speed can contribute to both the frequency and severity of motor vehicle crashes.

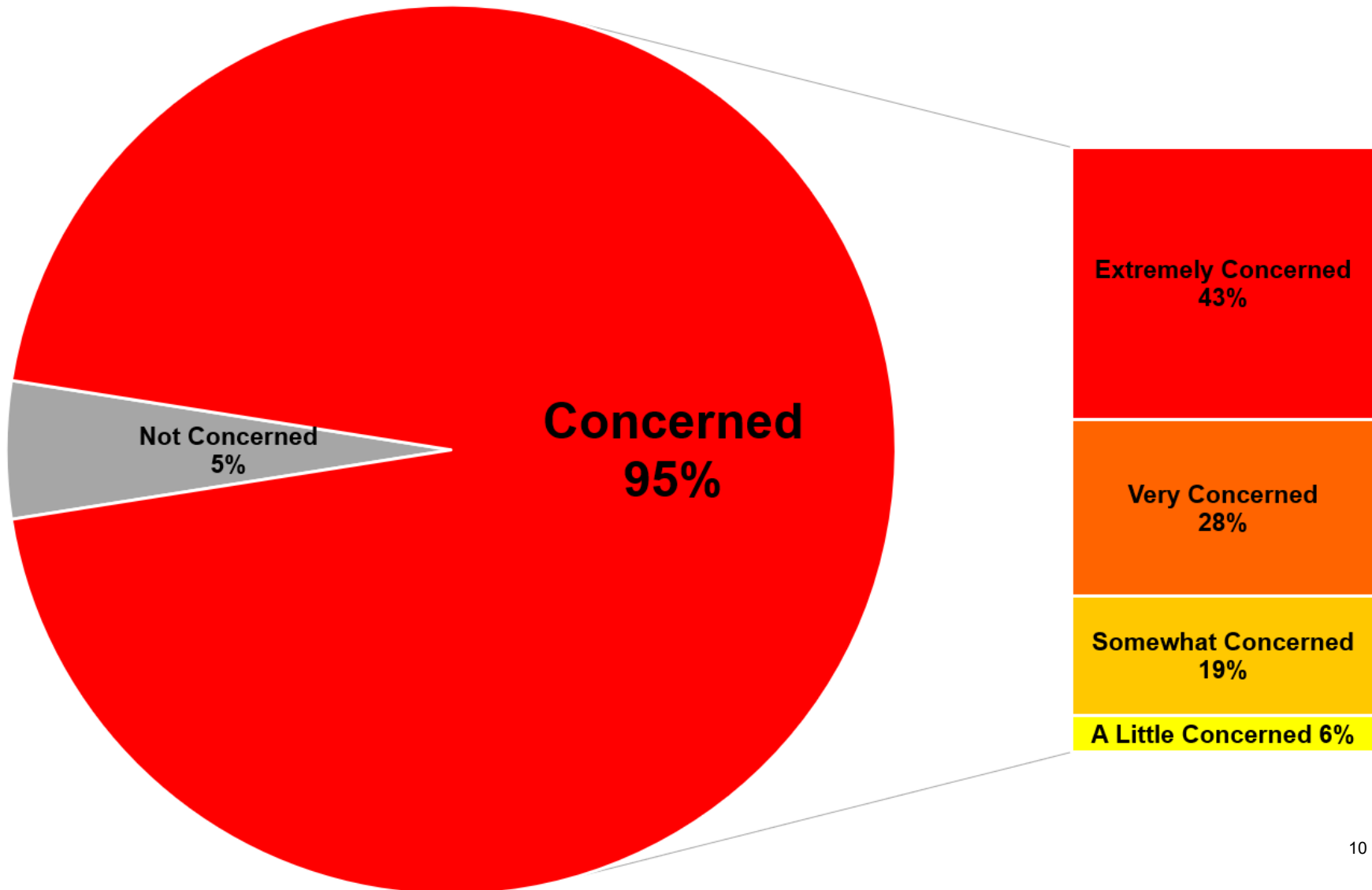


Concern about speeding is consistent across age, region, party affiliation, and type of community.



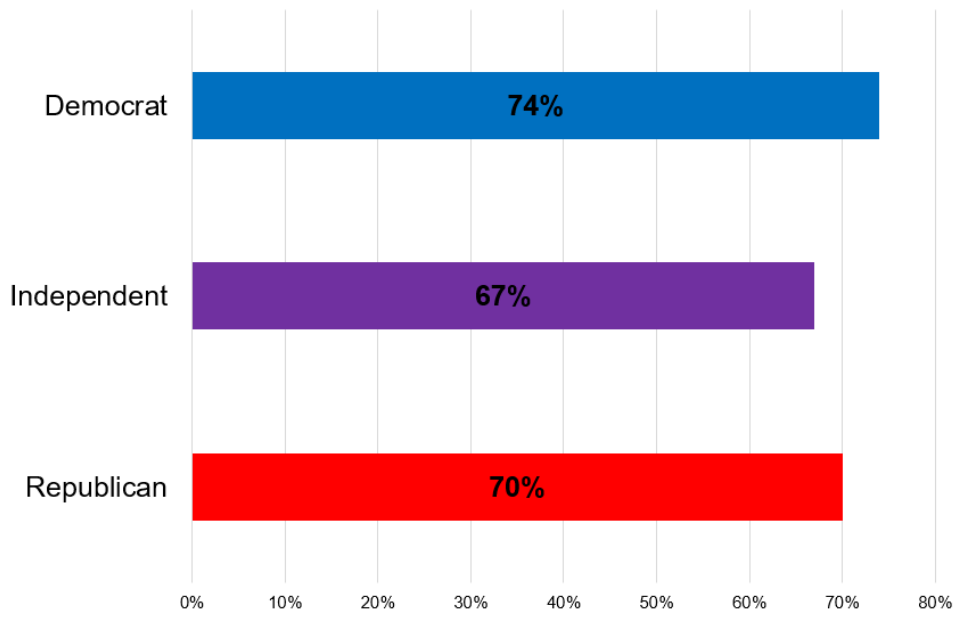
Red Light and Stop Sign Running

95 percent of respondents are concerned about drivers running red lights or stop signs, with 70 percent being “extremely” or “very” concerned. The Federal Highway Administration has found that road users are more likely to be injured in a red light running related event than any other crash.

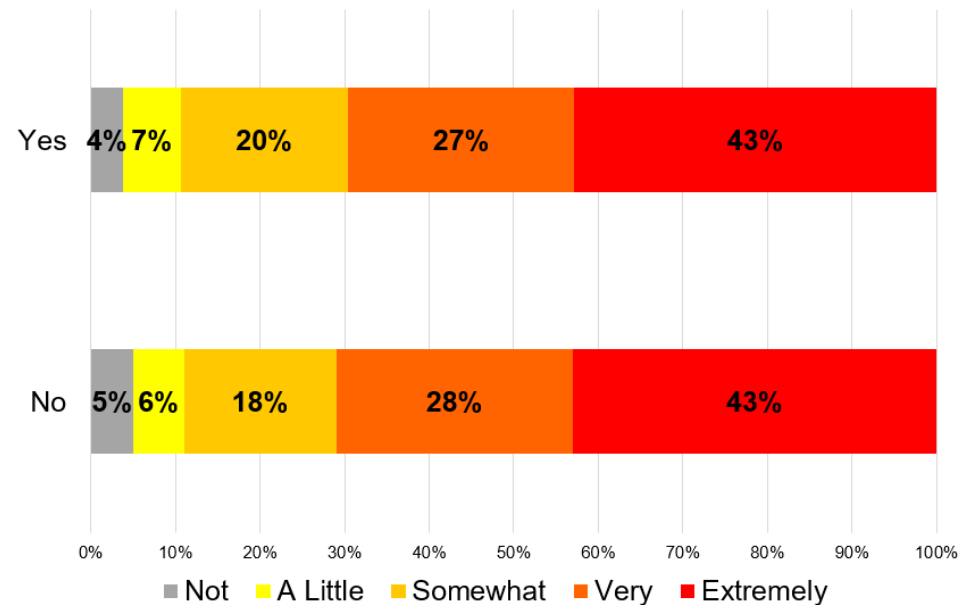


Concern about running red lights or stop signs is shared amongst a range of ages, generations, regions, political parties, and whether children are present in the household.

Respondents Extremely / Very Concerned About Red Light / Stop Sign Running by Political Party



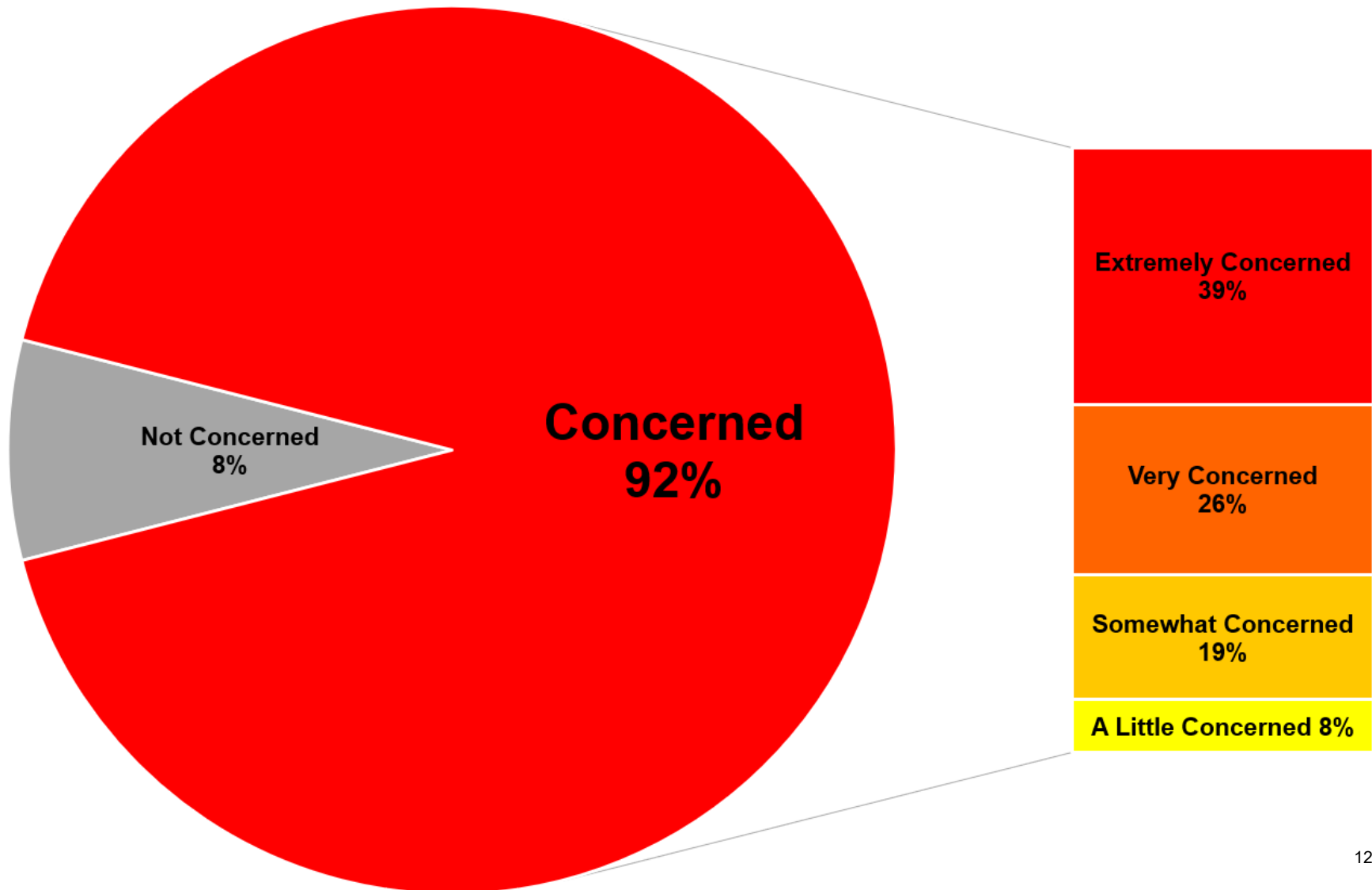
How concerned are you about drivers running red lights or stop signs? By Presence of Children in Household



In May 2021, Advocates, along with AAA, the Governors Highway Safety Association, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, and the National Safety Council released an “Automated Enforcement Program Checklist” for red light cameras and automated speed enforcement. We encourage communities to utilize [this checklist](#) when establishing or expanding automated enforcement programs.

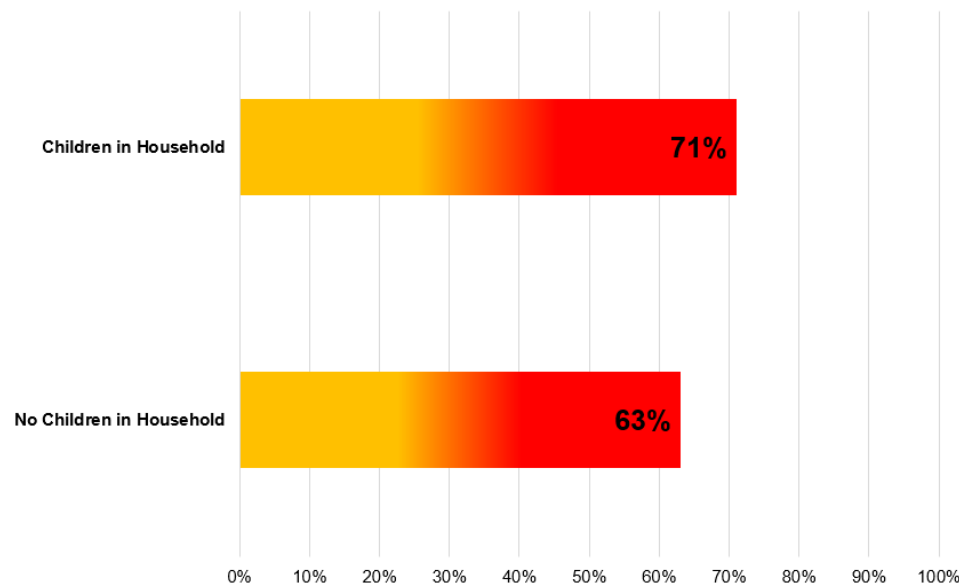
Use of Seat Belts or Child Safety Seats

Ninety-two percent of respondents indicate concern about lack of seat belt or child safety seat use, including 65 percent that answered they are “extremely” or “very” concerned. Preliminary information from NHTSA for 2020 and the first half of 2021 suggests lack of belt use is on the rise.

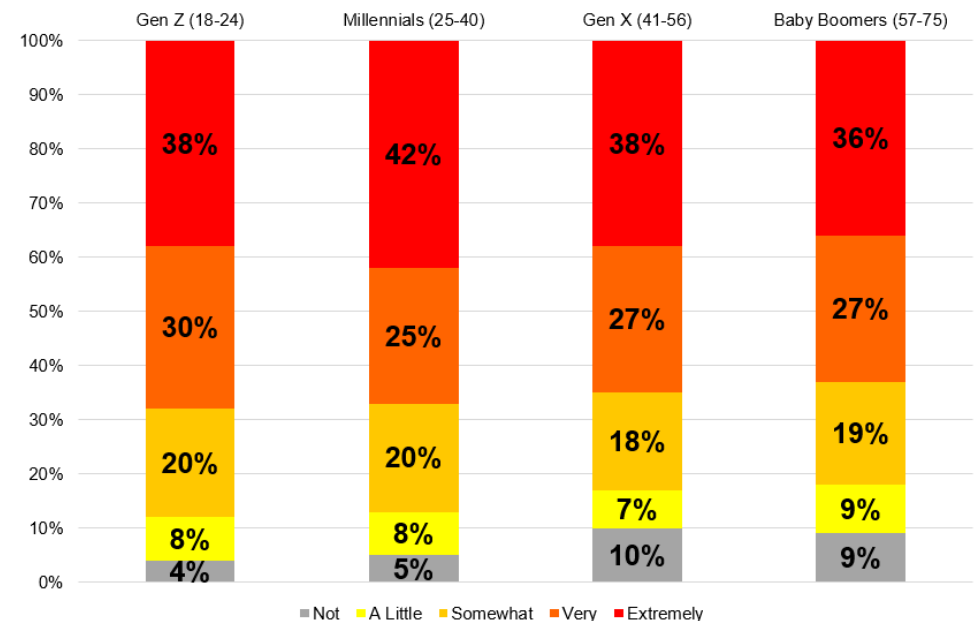


Concern is consistent regardless of age, generation, region, party, children in household, and type of community.

Percentage of Respondents Extremely / Very Concerned About The Lack of Use of Seat Belts or Child Safety Seats



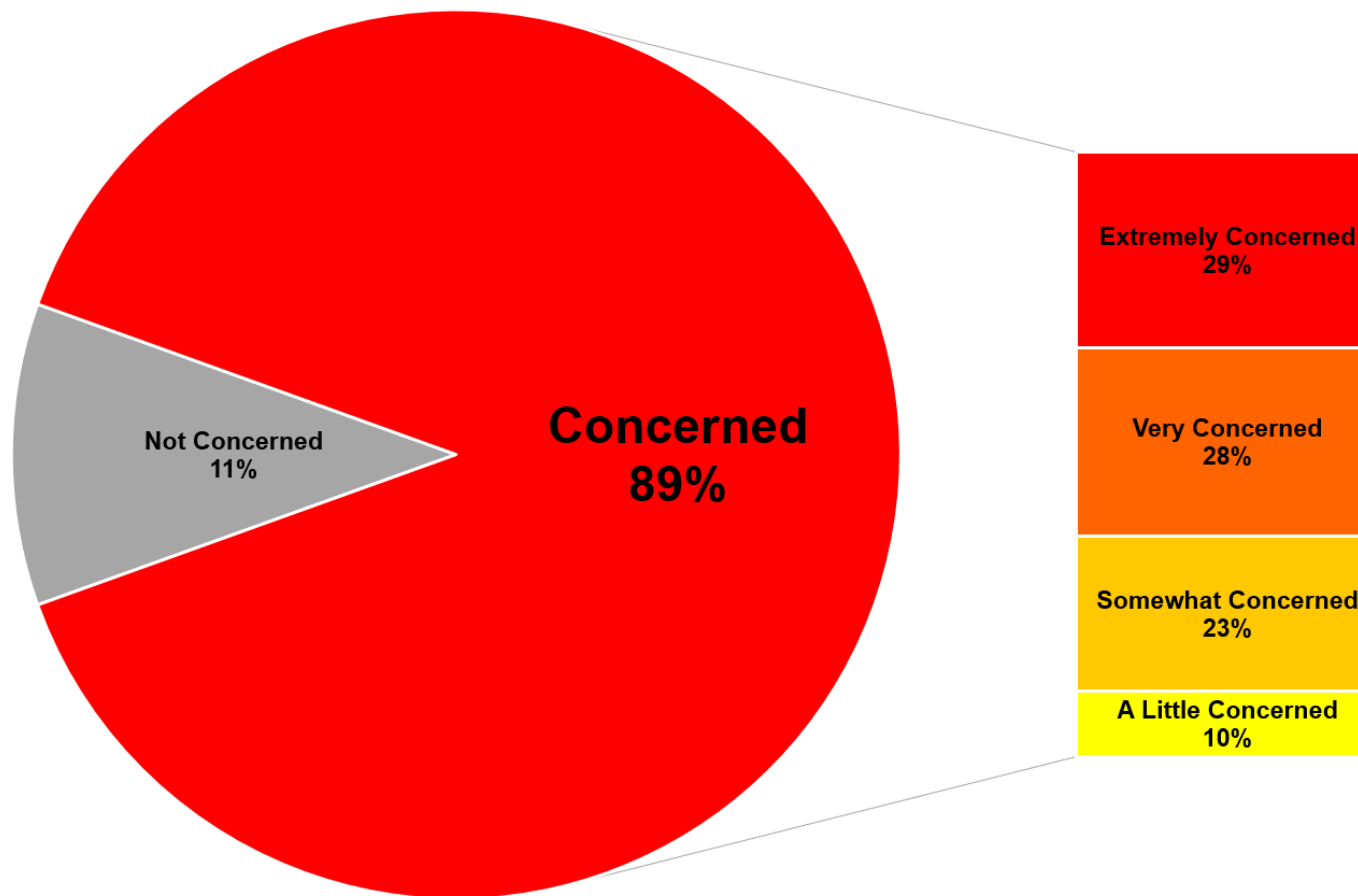
How concerned are you about the lack of use of seat belts or child safety seats? By Generation



The use of seat belts and proper child restraints is a proven lifesaver. In 2012, Congress passed the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (Pub. L. 112-141) which required NHTSA to issue a rule mandating rear seat belt reminders to increase belt use. However, the rule remains egregiously overdue and should be issued without further delay by the agency.

Sharing the Road with Cars & Trucks as a Pedestrian or Bicyclist

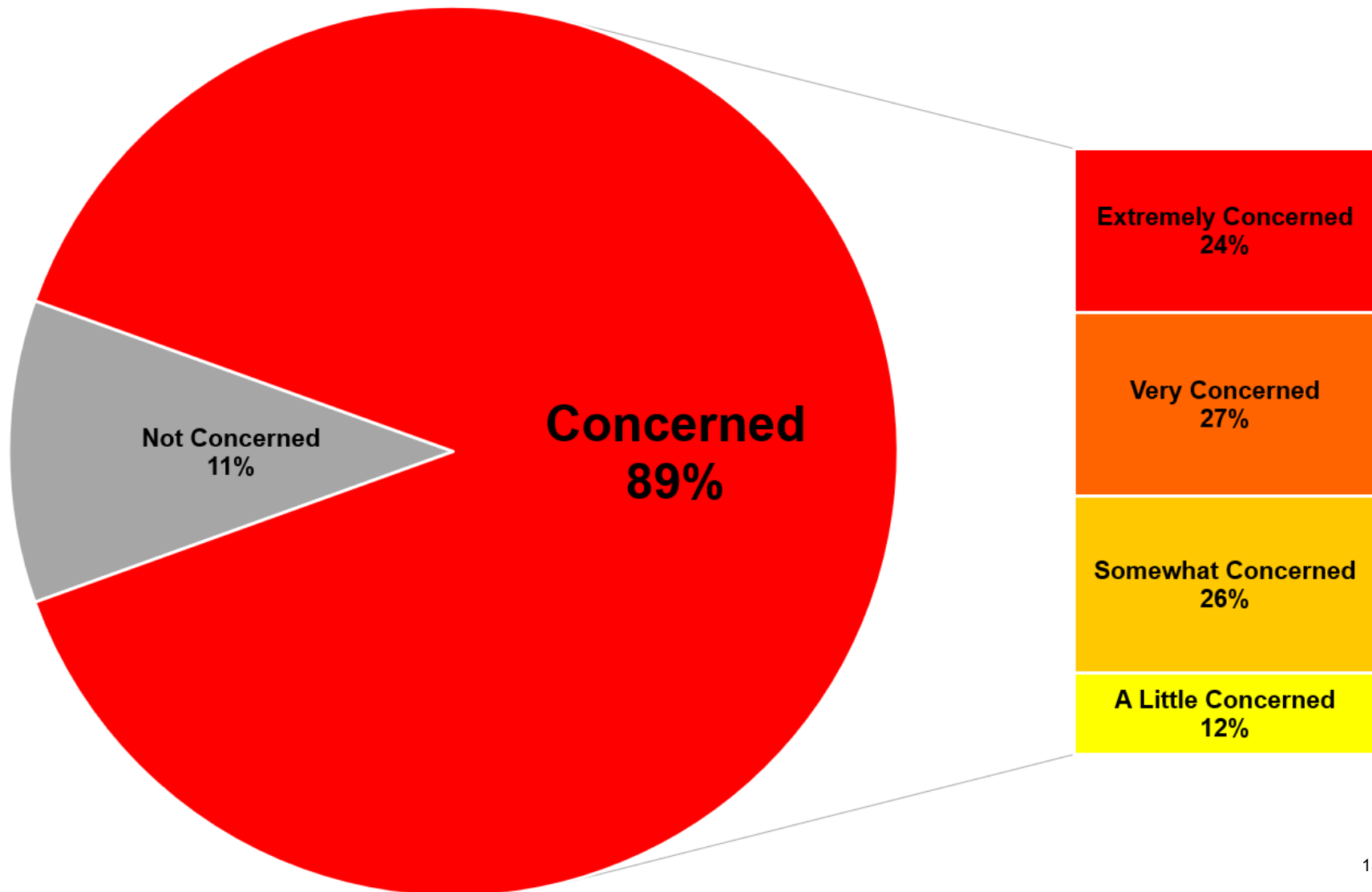
Nearly nine-in-ten affirm concern about sharing the road with cars and trucks as a pedestrian or bicyclist with more than half (57 percent) indicating they are “extremely” or “very” concerned. Across age, generation, region, political party, children in household, and type of community, 50 percent or more indicate concern.



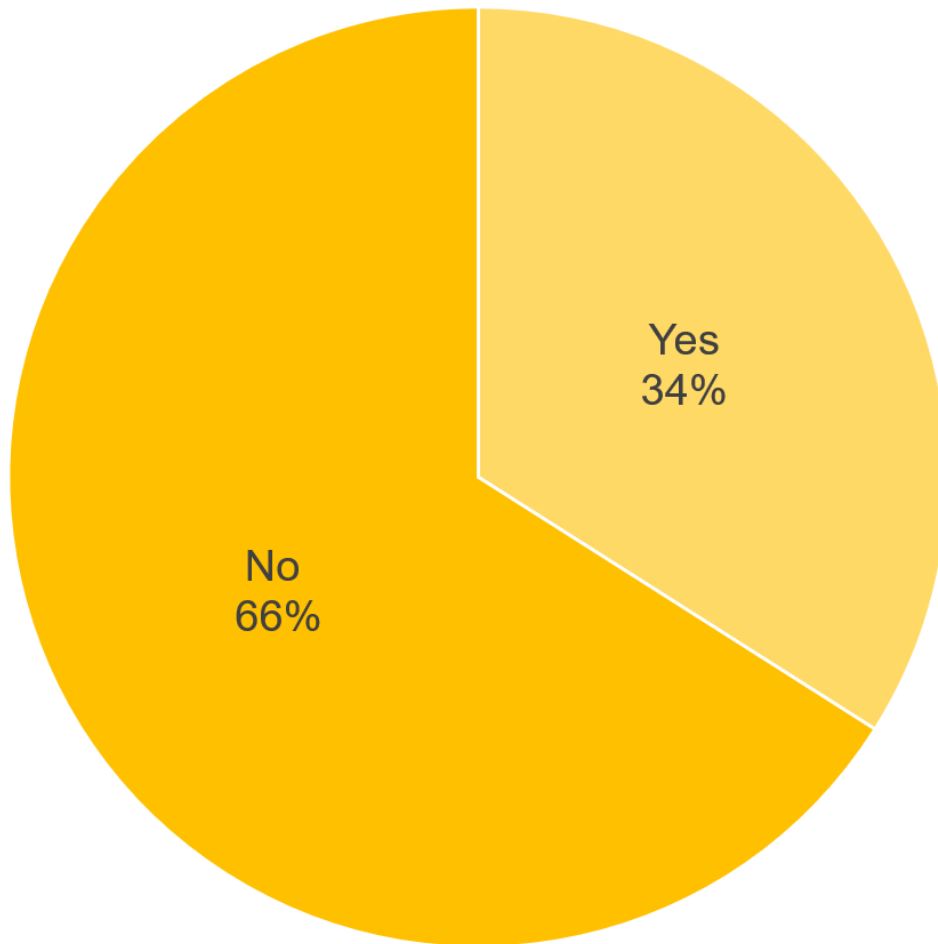
Advocates urges the adoption of a Safe System Approach (SSA) which takes all road users into account and seeks to prevent fatalities by minimizing conflicts and reducing crash forces when they do occur. The Johns Hopkins Center for Injury Research and Policy convened the Safe System Consortium, of which Advocates was a member, to identify recommendations [found here](#). SSA advances priorities such as safe roads, lower speed, safe vehicles, safe road users, and post-crash response.

Sharing the Road with Large Tractor Trailer Trucks

Nearly 90 percent of respondents (89 percent) express concern about sharing the road with large tractor trailer trucks, with more than half either “extremely” or “very” concerned. This concern is similar regardless of age, generation, region, political party, children in household, and type of community.



Two-thirds of respondents don't think enough is being done to reduce dangerous behavior on our roadways.



A strong majority agrees that not enough is being done to reduce dangerous behavior on our roadways. Notably, this response was fairly consistent across political party (66 percent of Republicans, 64 percent of Democrats, and 73 percent of Independents).

Advocates' Roadmap of State Highway Safety Laws offers state officials clear and compelling countermeasures that have been shown to reduce crashes, deaths, injuries and costs.

Moreover, Advocates' federal legislative and regulatory efforts to advance and secure safety improvements such as proven vehicle safety technologies like automatic emergency braking (AEB) are also critical to eliminating the physical, emotional, and economic toll of crashes.