



# The Fire Service: A Local Perspective

Presented to the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs  
Traverse City, MI  
October 19, 2016

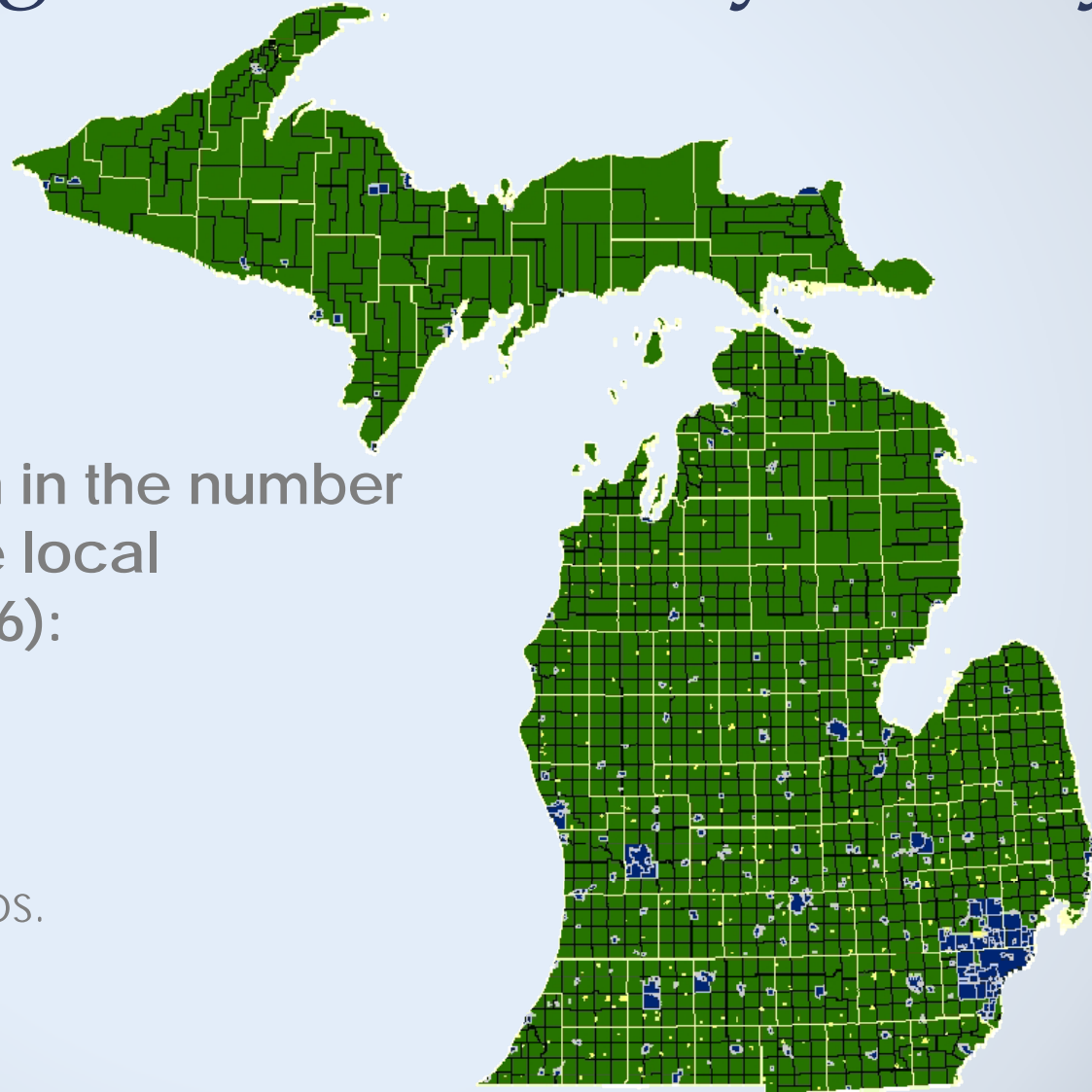
# Workshop Agenda

- Introduction to the Michigan Public Policy Survey
- How Fire Services are Delivered
- Challenges to the Fire Service
- Satisfaction with the Fire Service
- Funding the Fire Service

# The Michigan Public Policy Survey

Michigan ranks 7th in the number of general purpose local governments (1,856):

- 83 counties
- 256 villages
- 277 cities
- 1,240 townships.



# The Michigan Public Policy Survey

- **Census survey** – all counties, cities, villages, and townships
- **Respondents** – chief elected and appointed officials
- **Administered** – online and via hardcopy
- **Timing** – Spring and Fall each year
- **Topics** – wide range, such as fiscal health, budget priorities, economic development, intergovernmental cooperation, employee policies, labor unions, state relations, roads, environmental sustainability, citizen engagement, much more.

# MPPS is not a typical opinion poll

- 70+% response rates
- **Transparency**
  - Questionnaires online
  - Pre-run data tables online
  - Sharing of (anonymized) datasets with other researchers
- Expert advisors on questionnaire content
- Weighted for non-response, but not by population

# What does the MPPS aim to do?

- **Improve understanding** of local government to help improve policymaking and quality of life
- **Inform local leaders** about peers across the state: challenges and responses
- **Inform state policymakers** and other stakeholders with data about local level challenges and responses not available from any other source
- **Build a longitudinal data archive** to allow tracking of fundamental changes (such as the economic transition, aging population, etc.)
- Foster **academic research and teaching** on local government issues

# Public Safety Survey

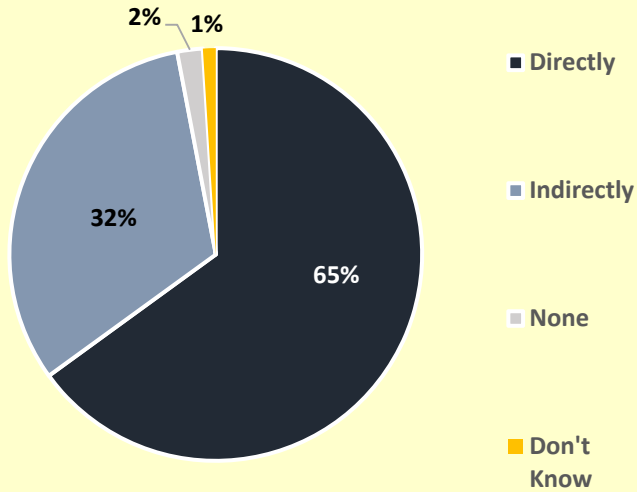
- Fall (October – December) 2015
- 1,418 jurisdictions participated (76%)
- Topics:
  - Law enforcement
  - Fire services
  - Ambulance / EMS
  - Police-community relations
- Advisors from:
  - Michigan Association of Counties
  - Michigan Townships Association
  - Michigan Municipal League
  - Citizens Research Council of Michigan
  - Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs
  - Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police
  - Michigan Sherriff's Association
  - Michigan Association of Fire Fighters
  - Office of the Governor

# How Fire Services are Delivered

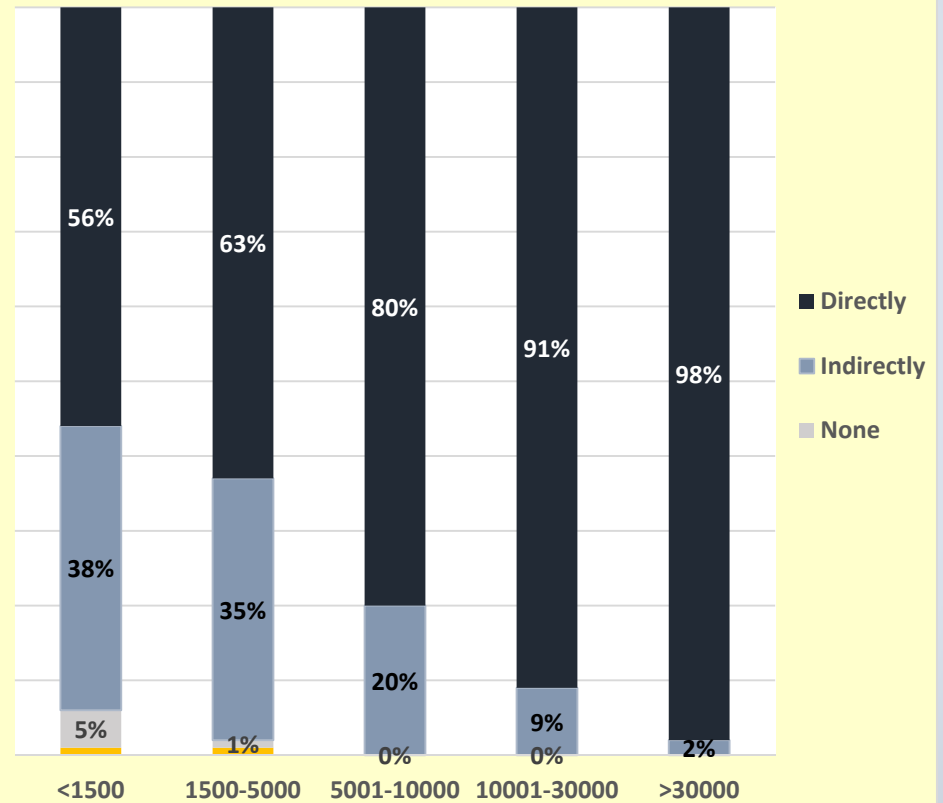


# How Fire Services are Delivered

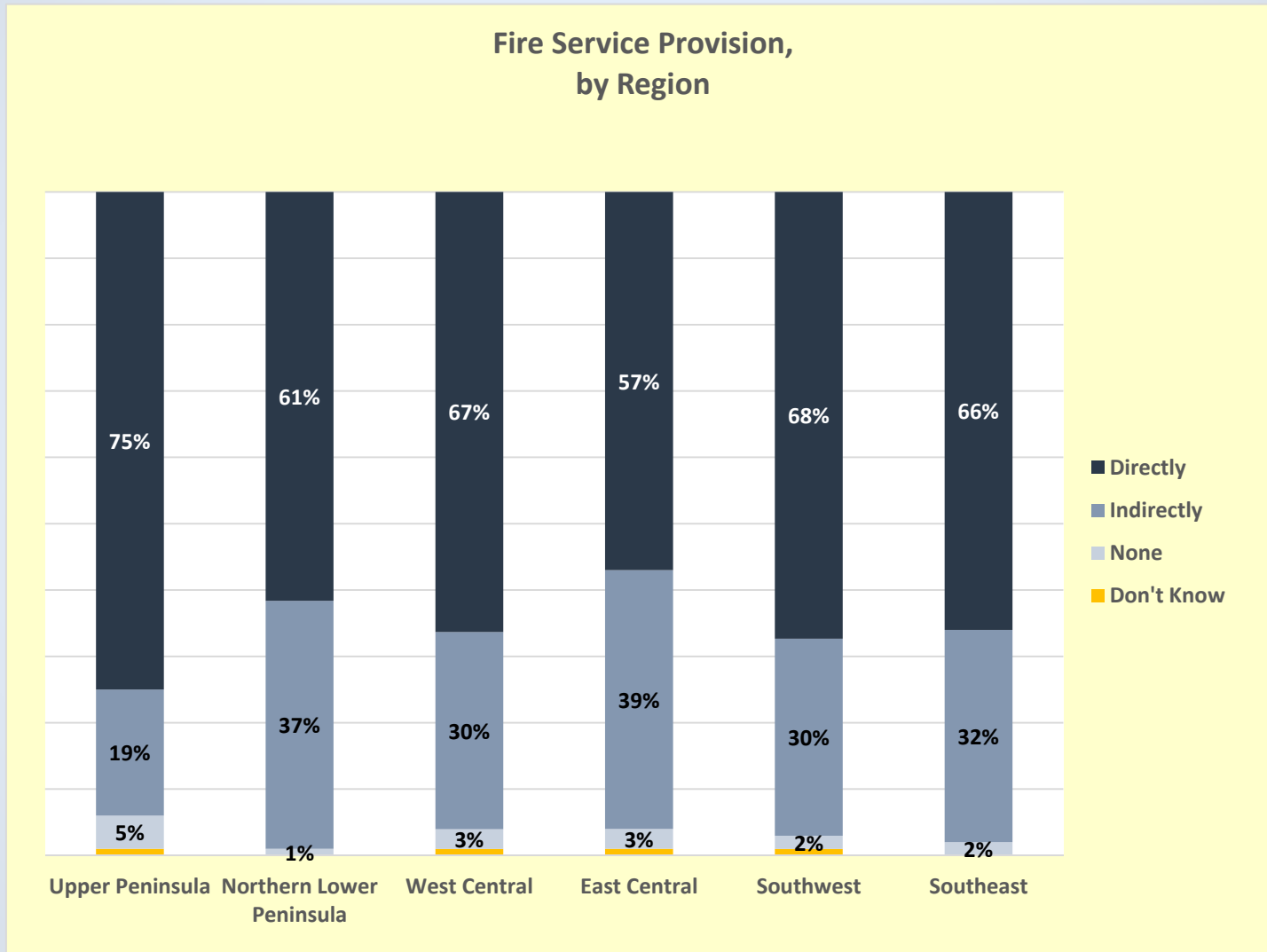
Fire Service Provision, Overall



Fire Service Provision, by Community Size

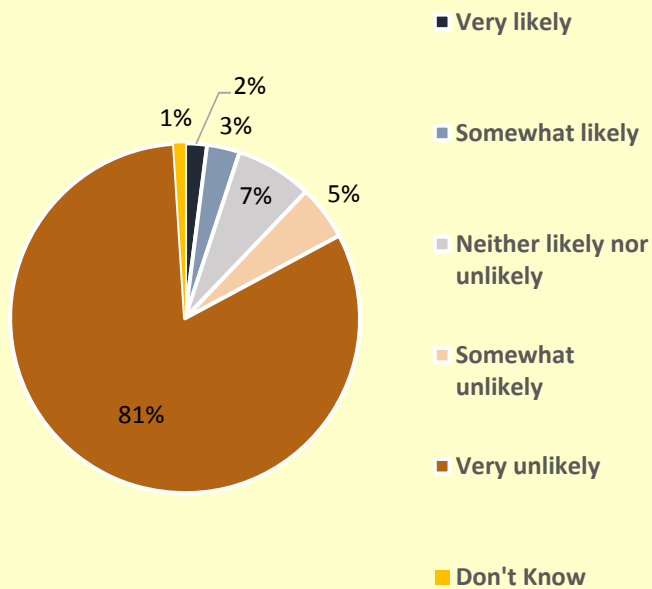


# How Fire Services are Delivered

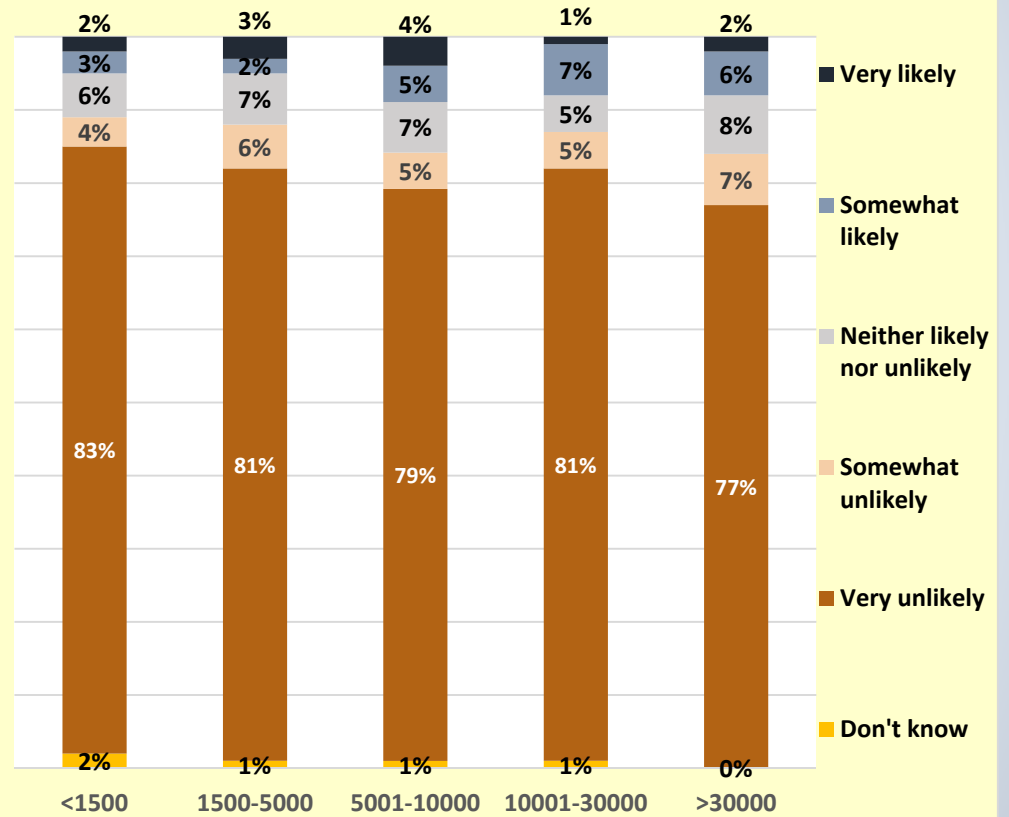


# How Fire Services are Delivered

## Plans to change fire service delivery, Overall



## Plans to change fire service delivery, by Community Size



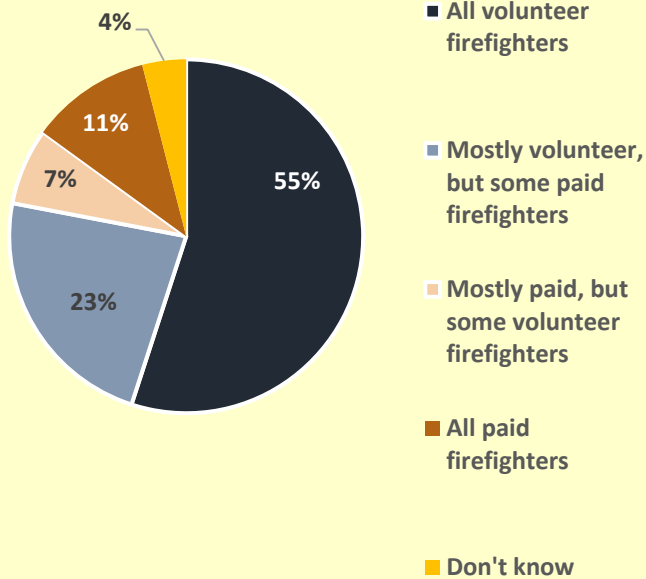
# How Fire Services are Delivered

What changes are anticipated?

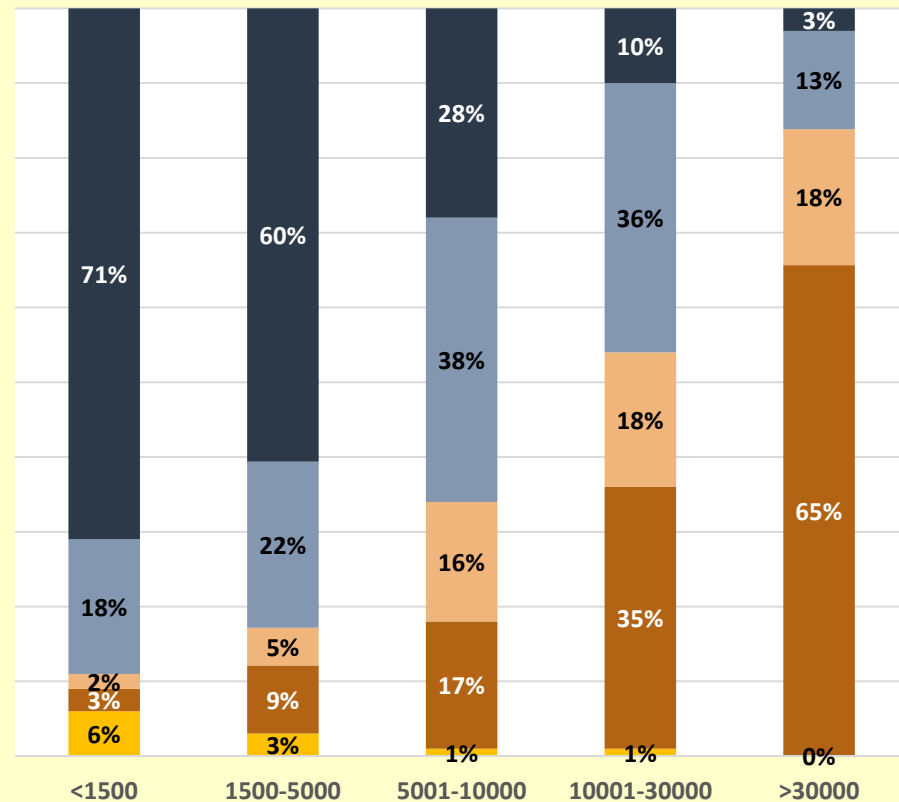
- Changing contracting arrangements
- Partnership/mutual aid agreements
- Consolidation into public safety department

# How Fire Services are Delivered

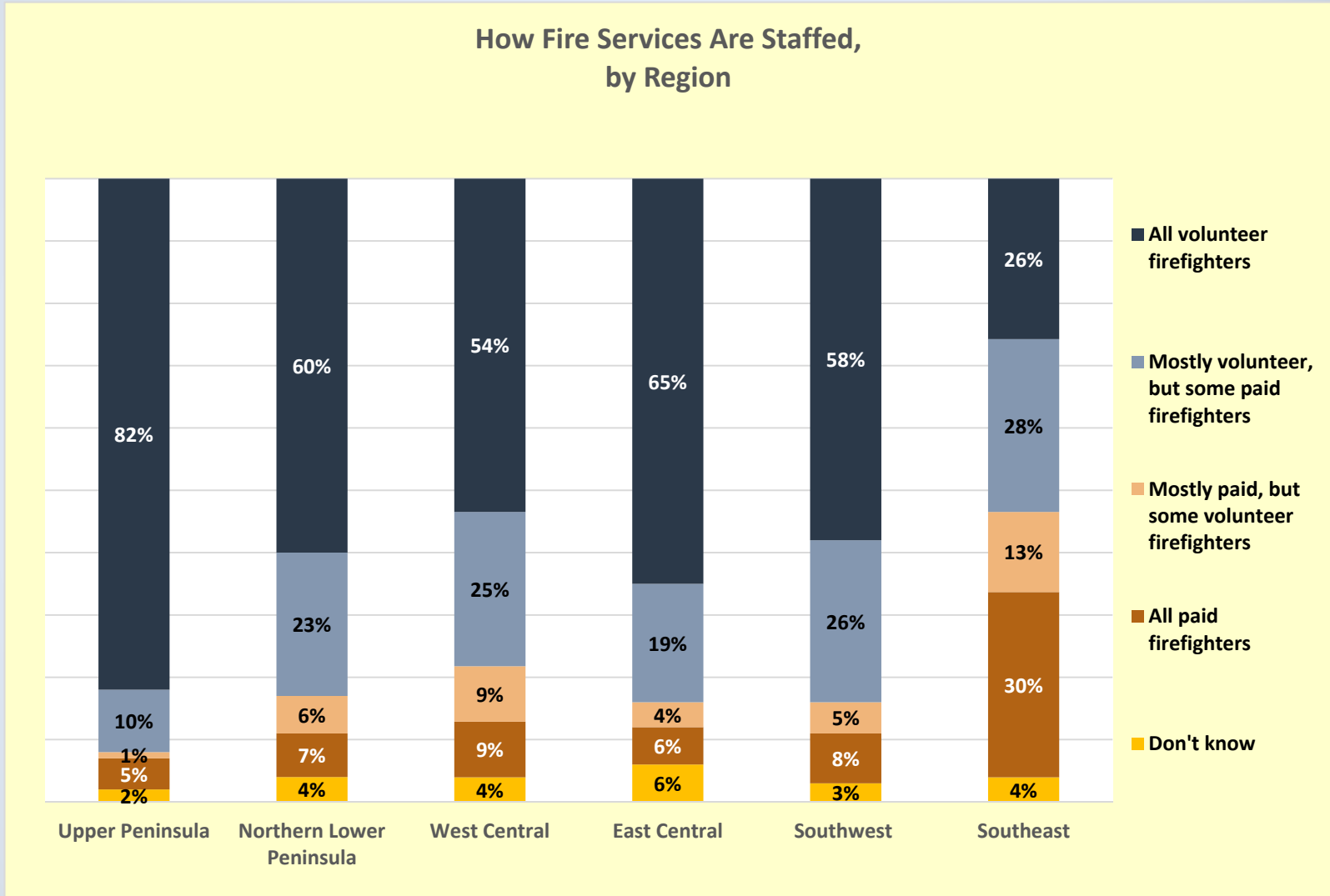
How Fire Services Are Staffed, Overall



How Fire Services Are Staffed, by Community Size



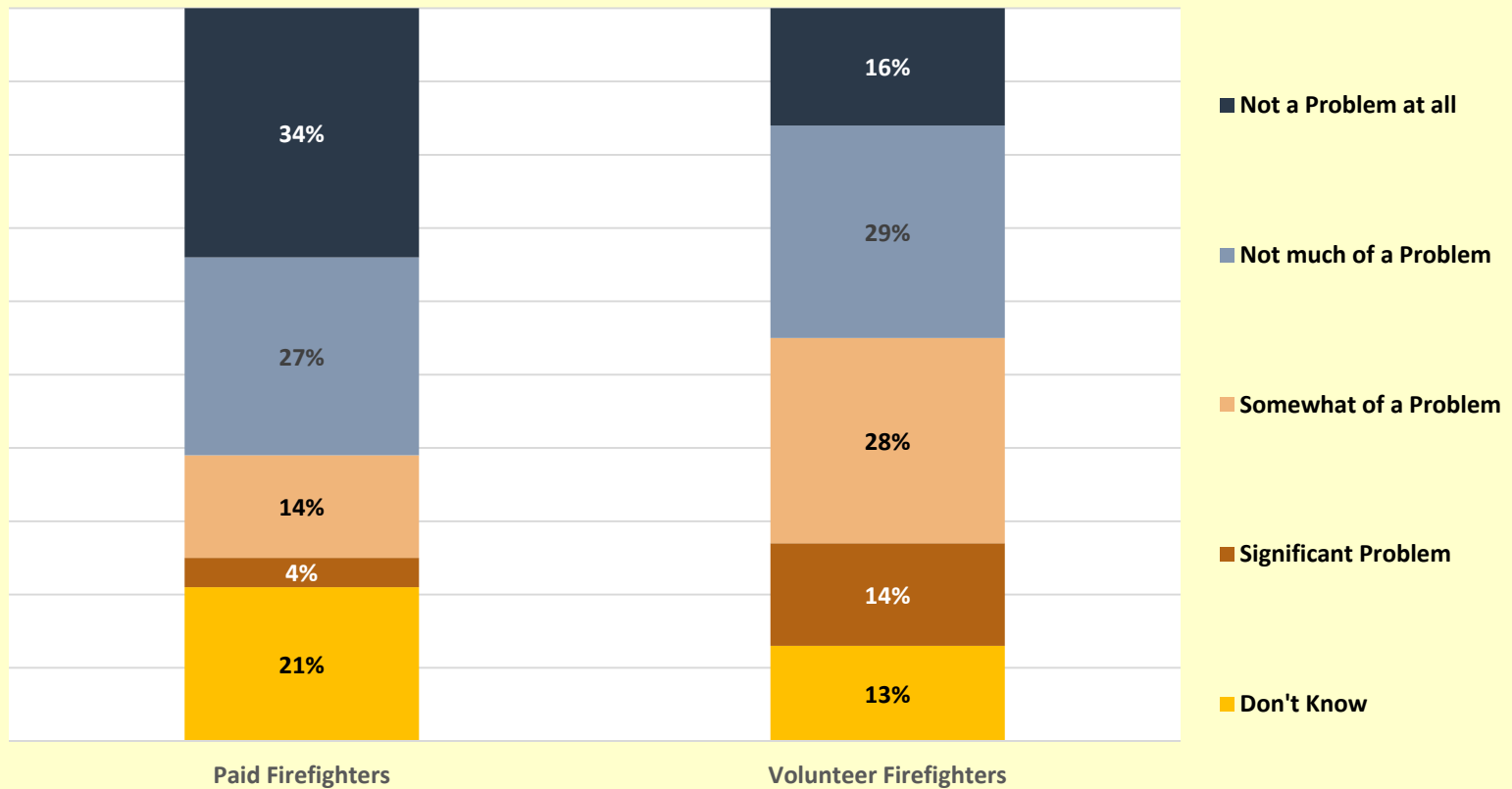
# How Fire Services are Delivered



# Challenges to the Fire Service

# Fire Service Challenges

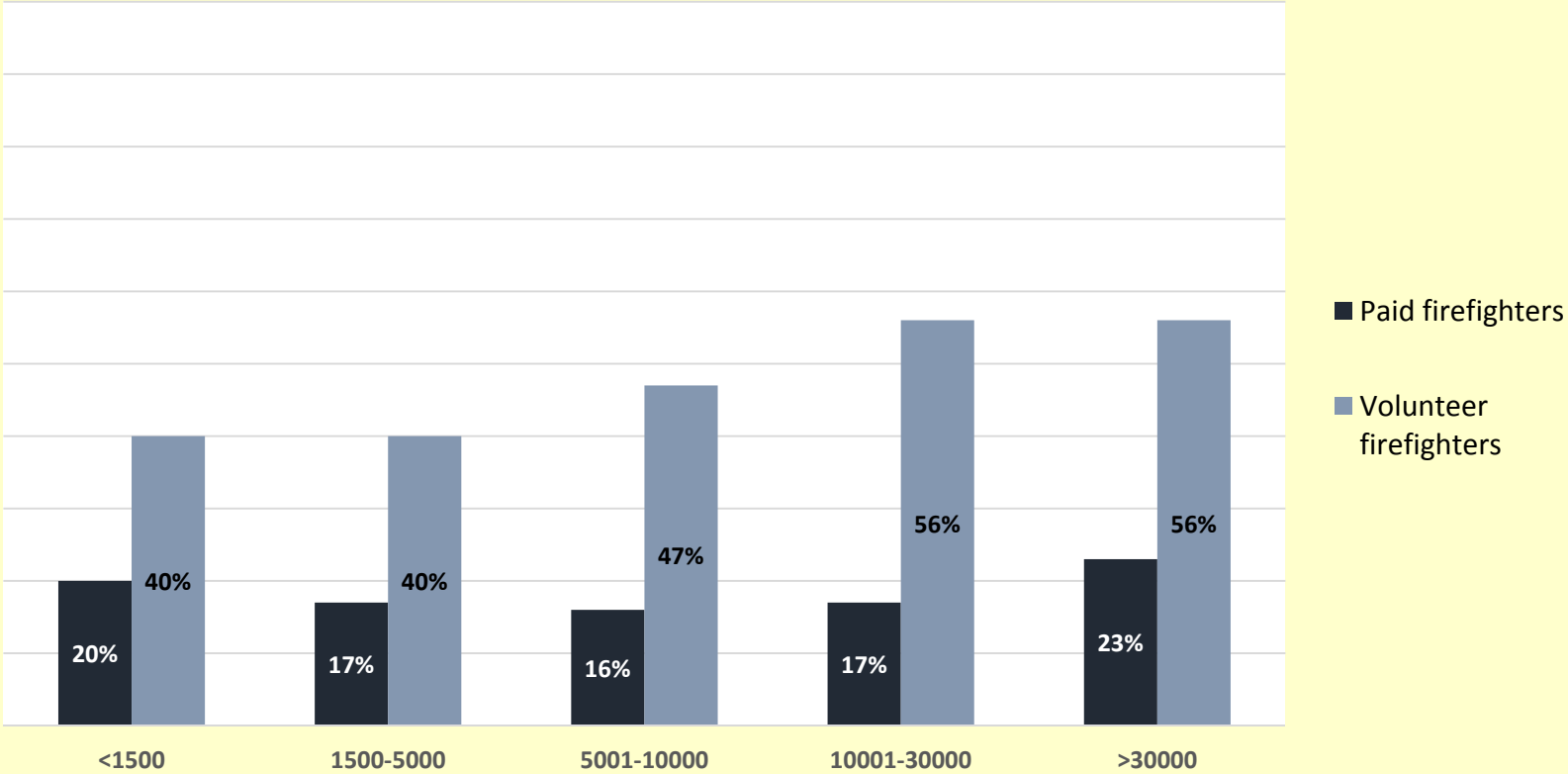
Recruiting/Retaining Firefighters as a Problem,  
by Staffing Type





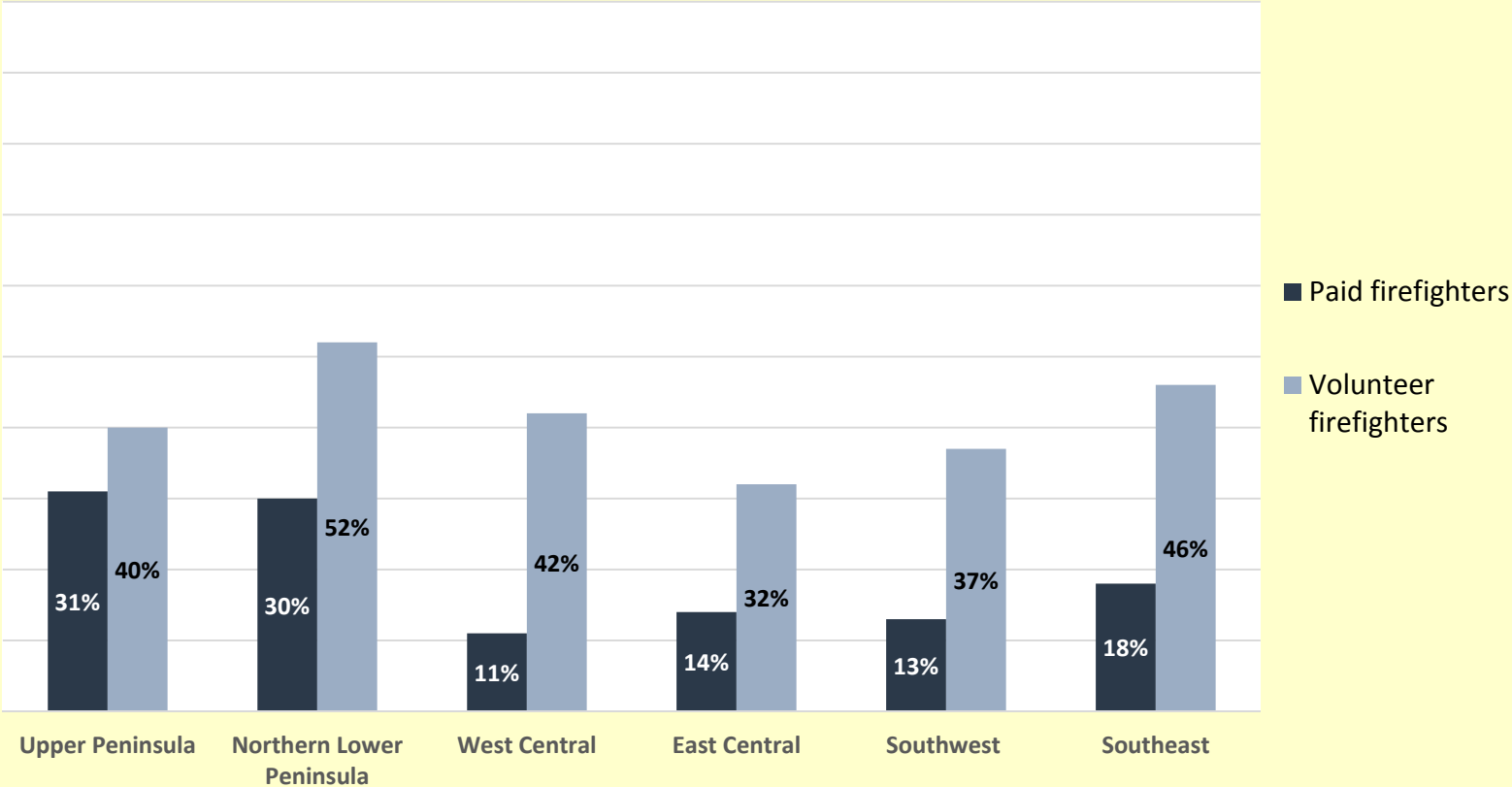
# Staffing Challenges

## Recruiting/Retaining Firefighters Somewhat or Significant Problem, by Community Size



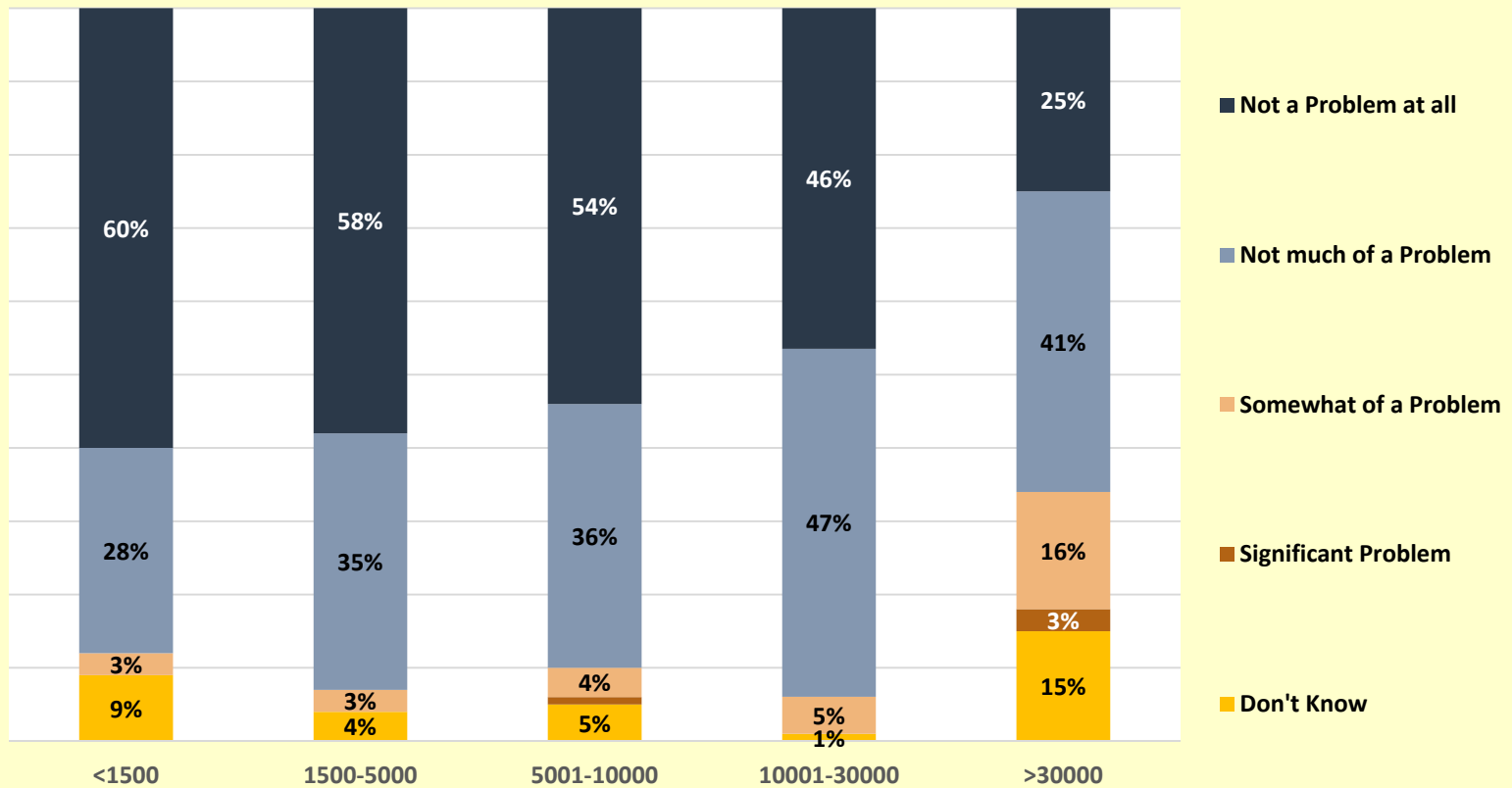
# Staffing Challenges

## Recruiting/Retaining Firefighters Somewhat or Significant Problem, by Region



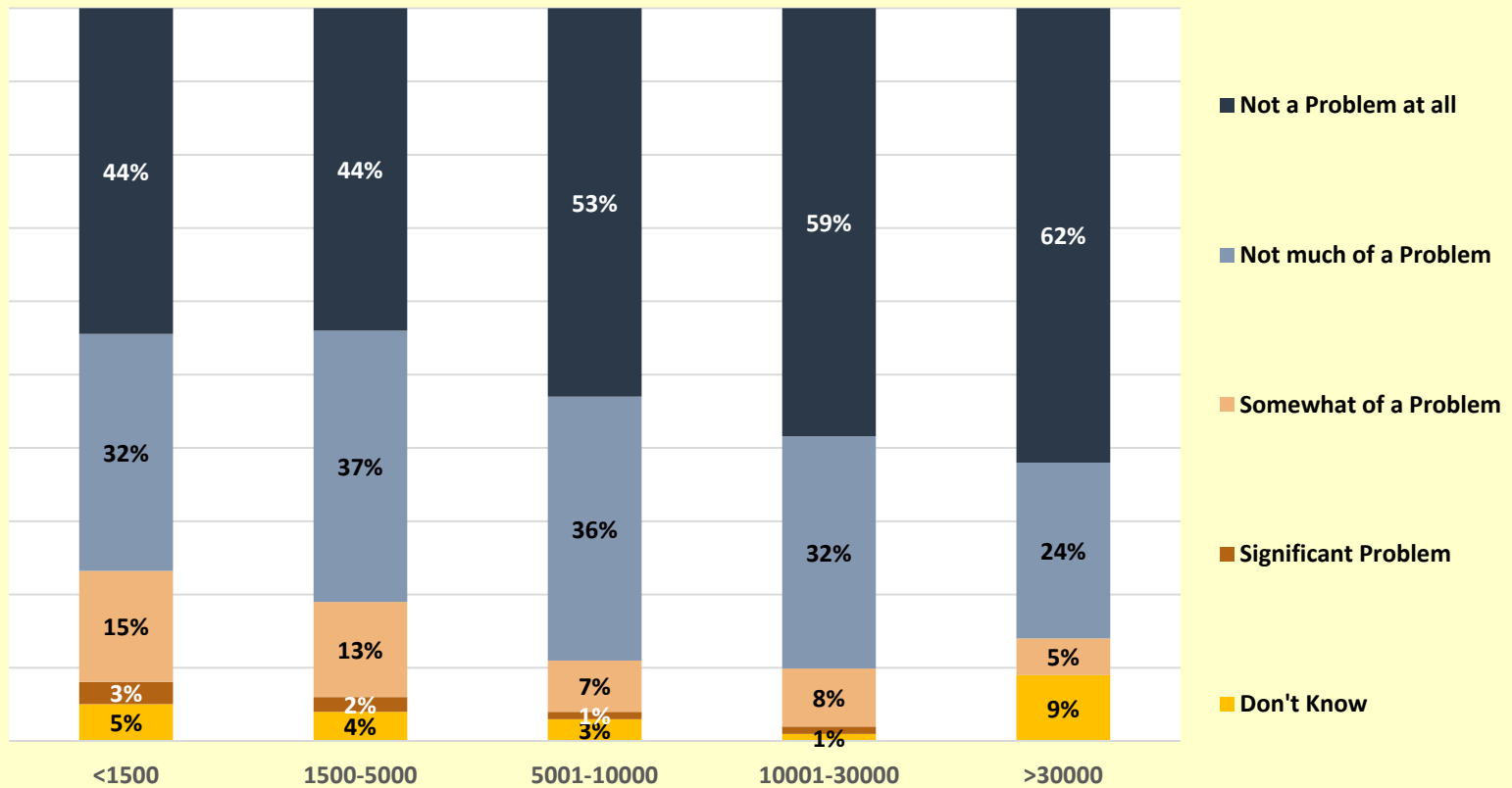
# Fire Service Challenges

## Arson as a Problem, by Community Size



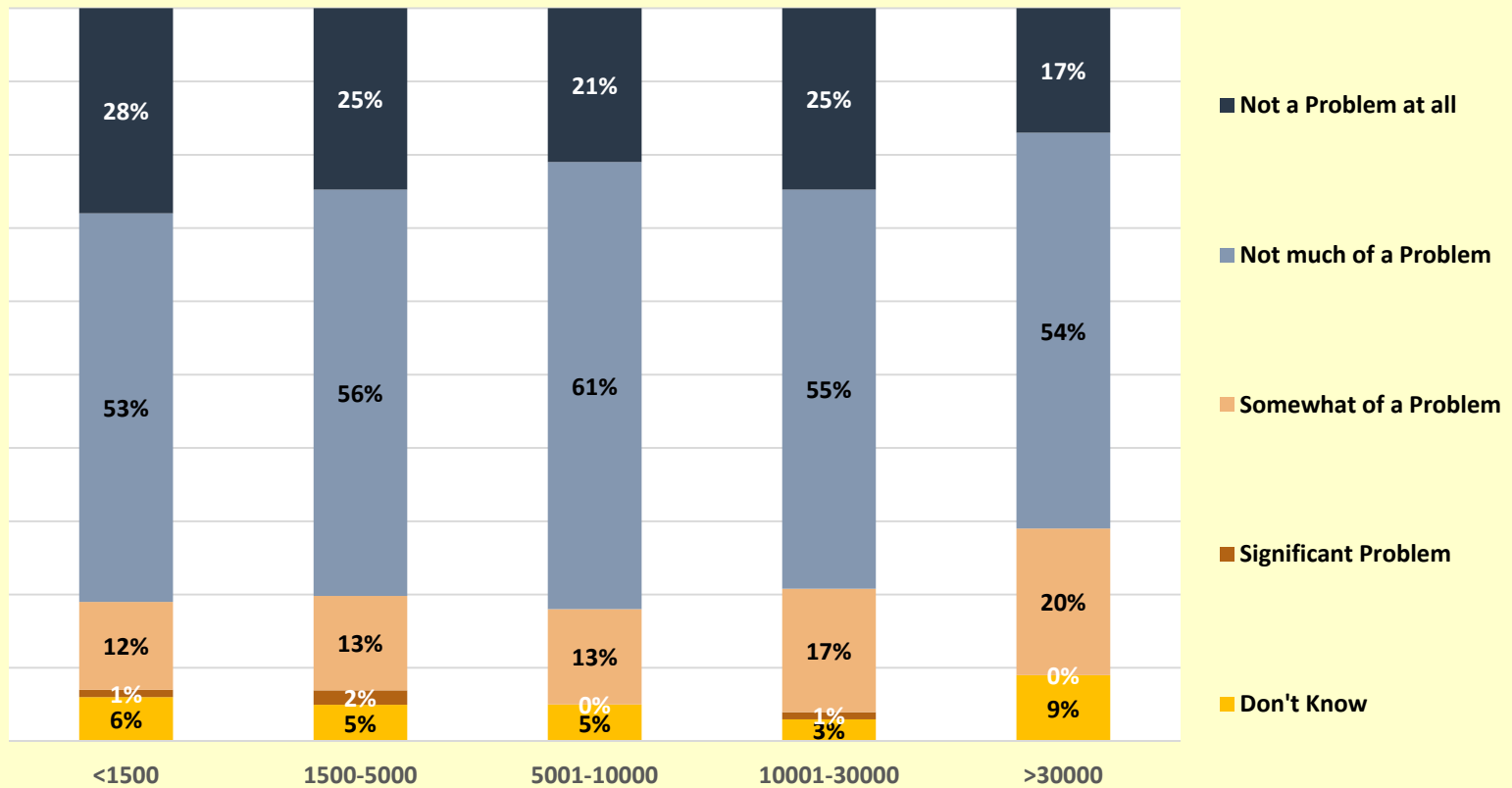
# Fire Service Challenges

## Wildfires as a Problem, by Community Size



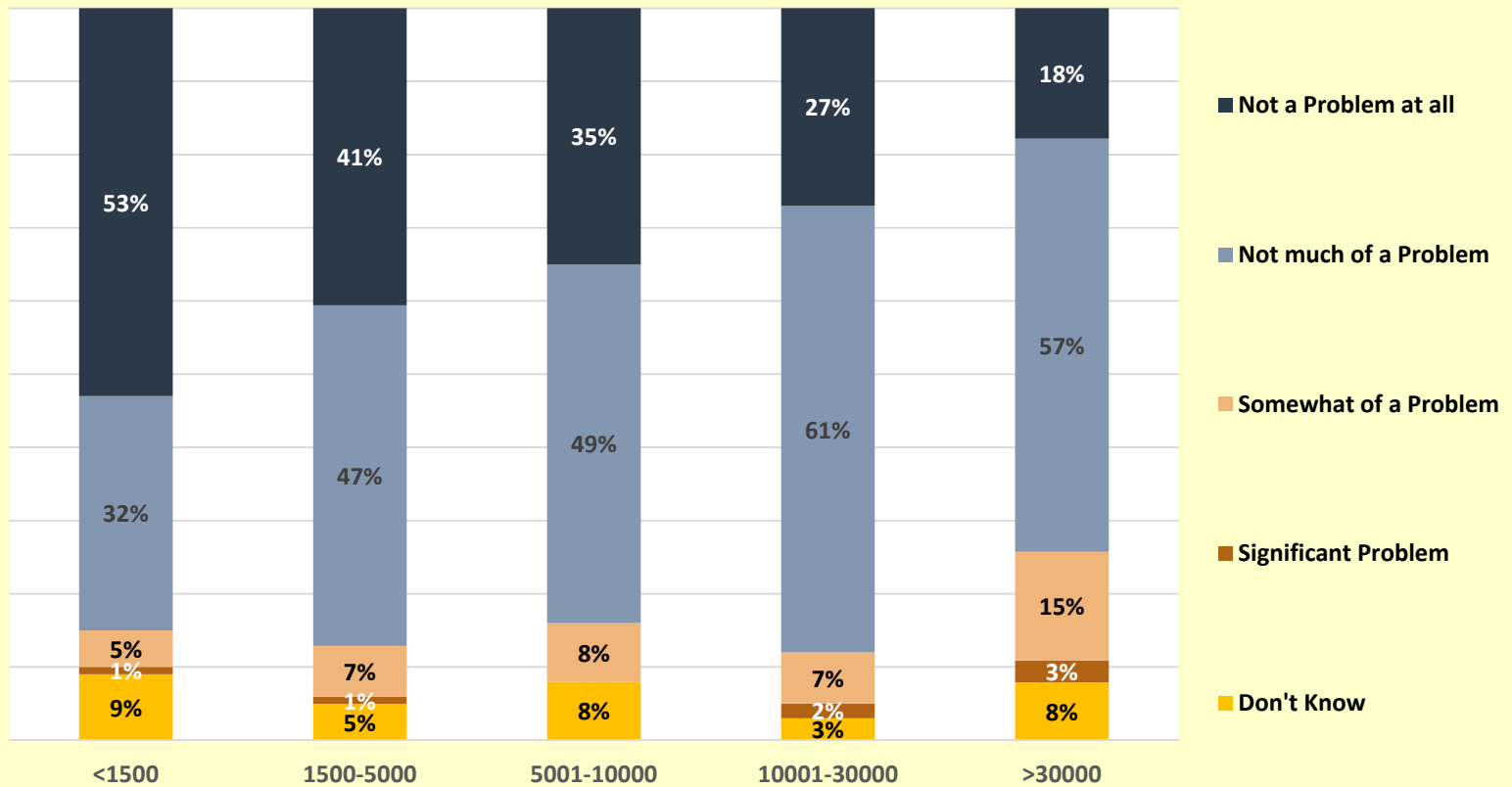
# Fire Service Challenges

## Other fires as a Problem, by Community Size



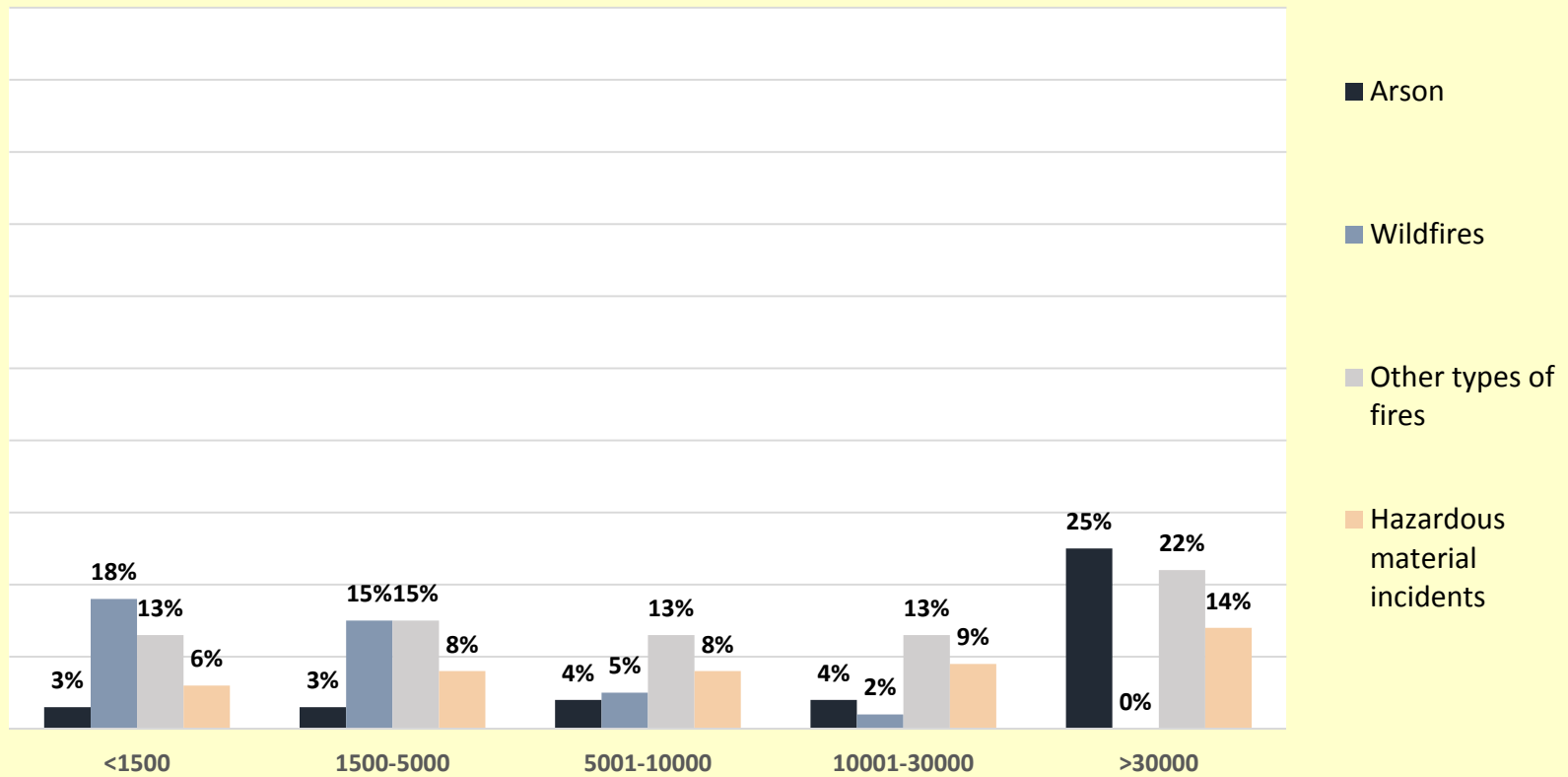
# Fire Service Challenges

## Hazardous material incidents as a Problem, by Community Size



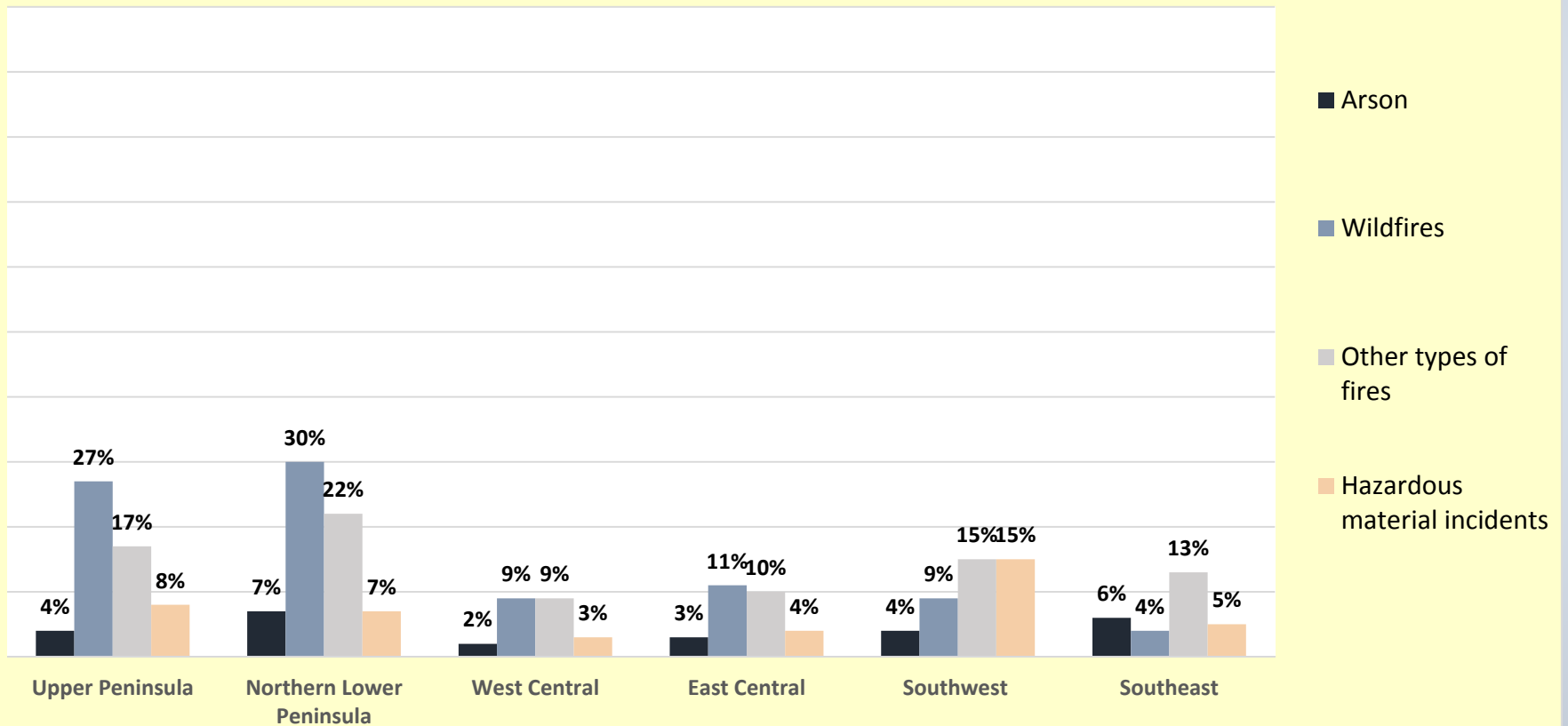
# Fire Service Challenges

Types of fire issues that are somewhat or significant problem, by Community Size



# Fire Service Challenges

Types of fire issues that are somewhat or significant problem, by Community Size

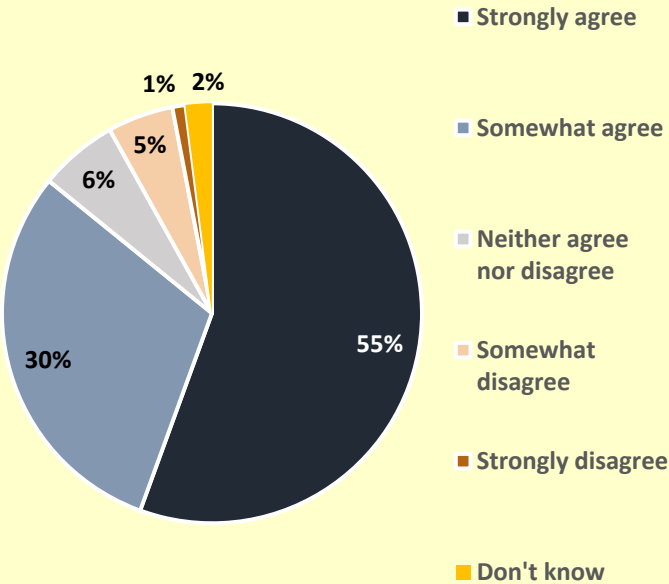




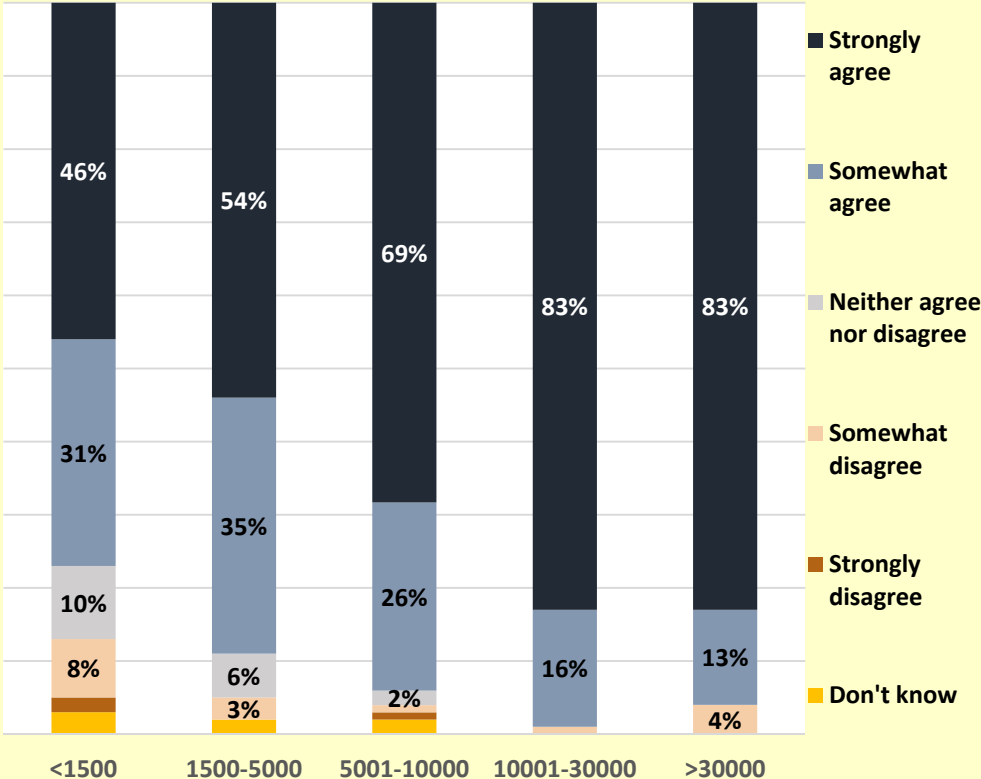
# Satisfaction with the Fire Service

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Confidence that fire services will arrive in time, Overall

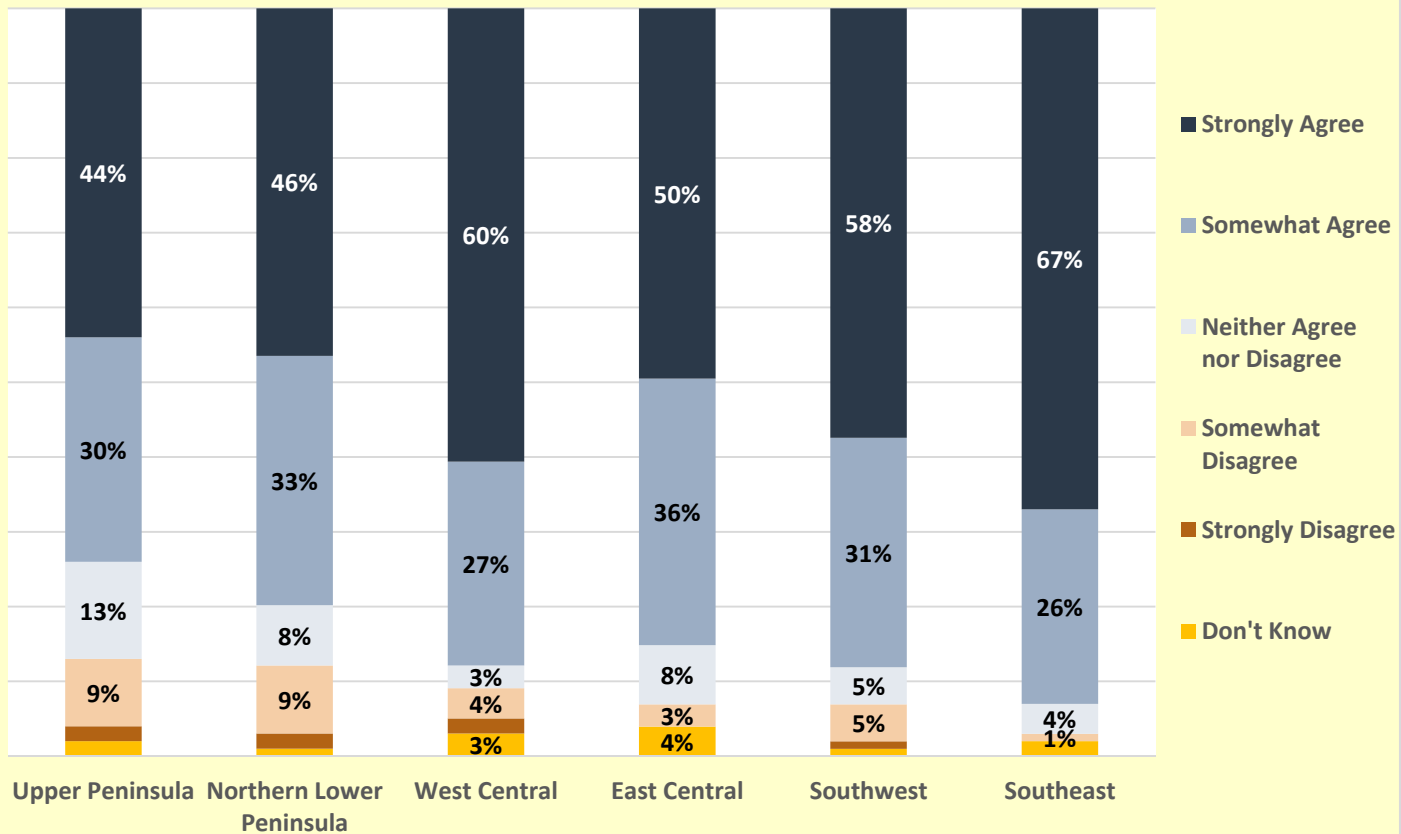


Confidence that fire services will arrive in time, by Community Size



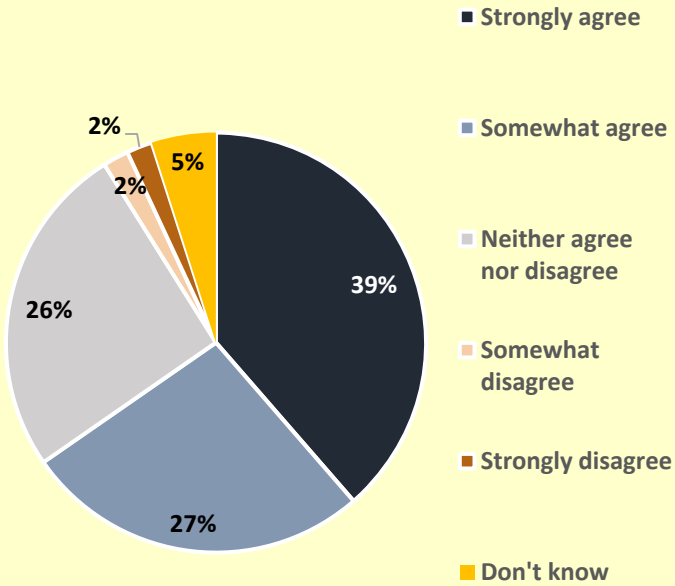
# Satisfaction with the Fire Service

Confidence that fire services will arrive in time,  
by Region

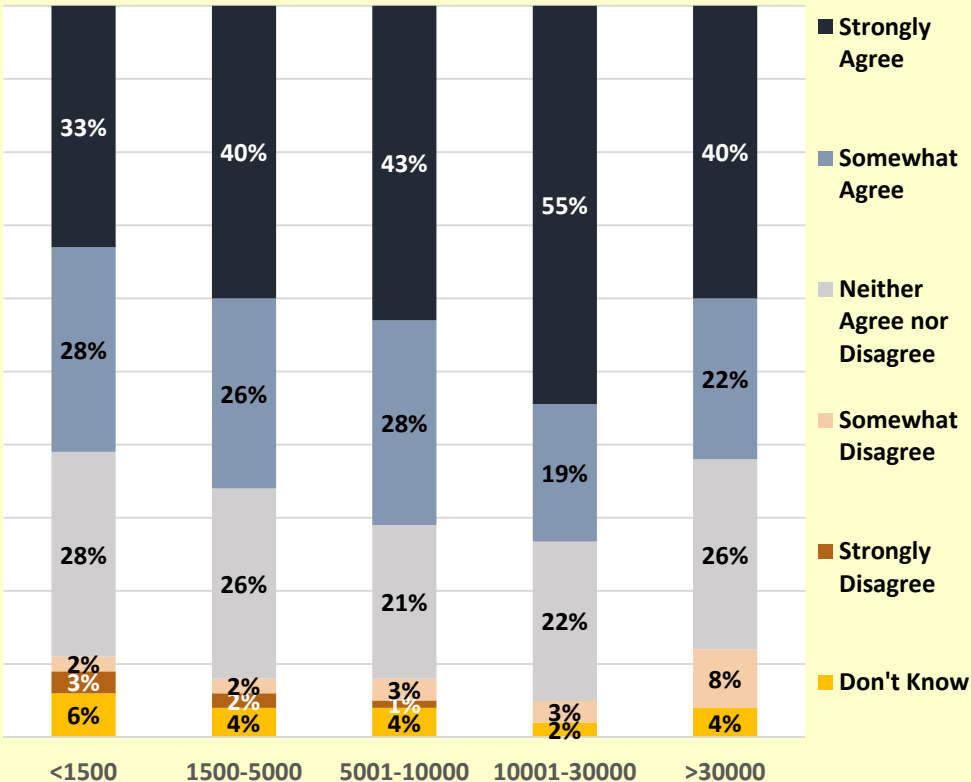


# Satisfaction with the Fire Service

Effectiveness of Fire Service Improved in Last 5 Years, Overall

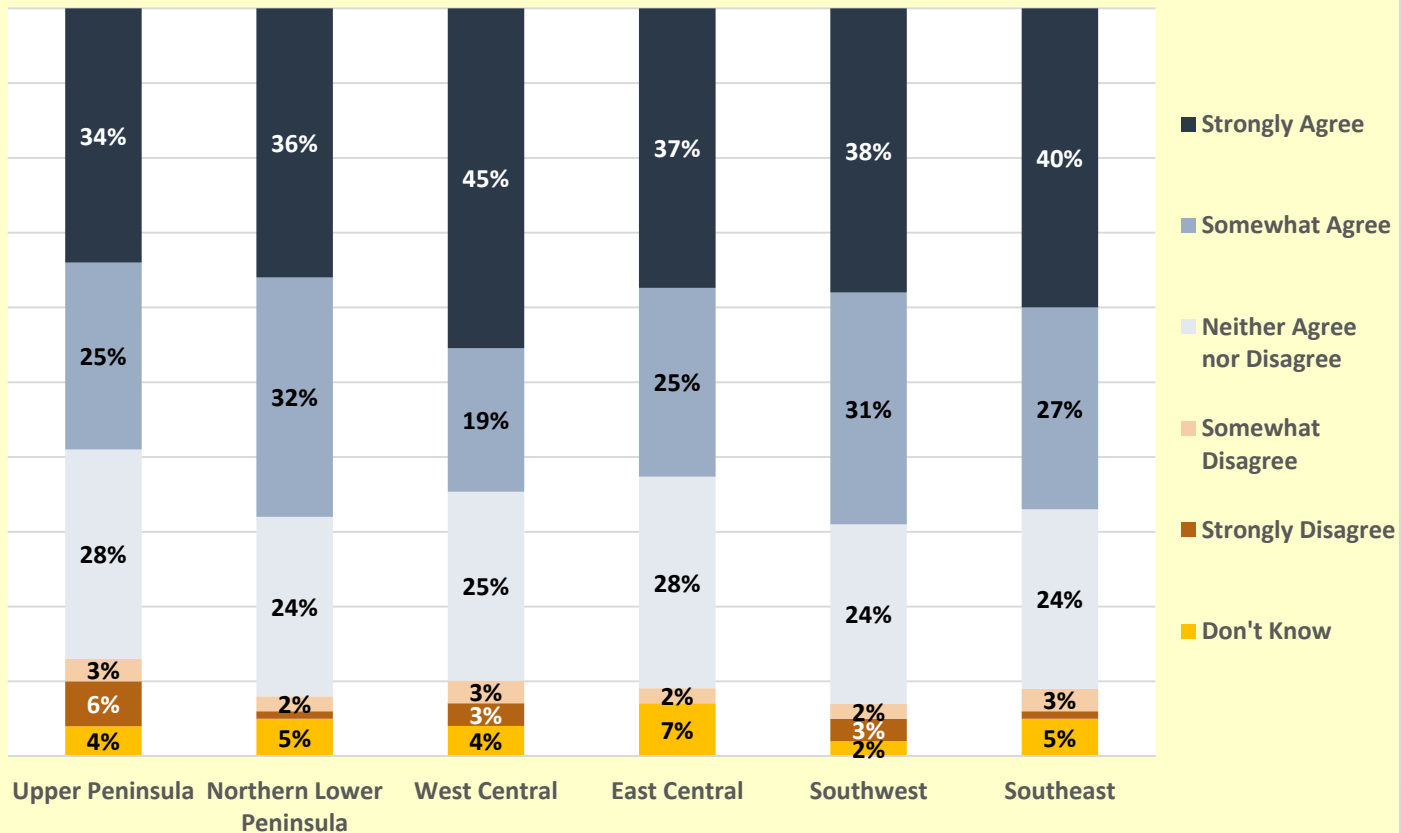


Effectiveness of Fire Service Improved in Last 5 Years, by Community Size



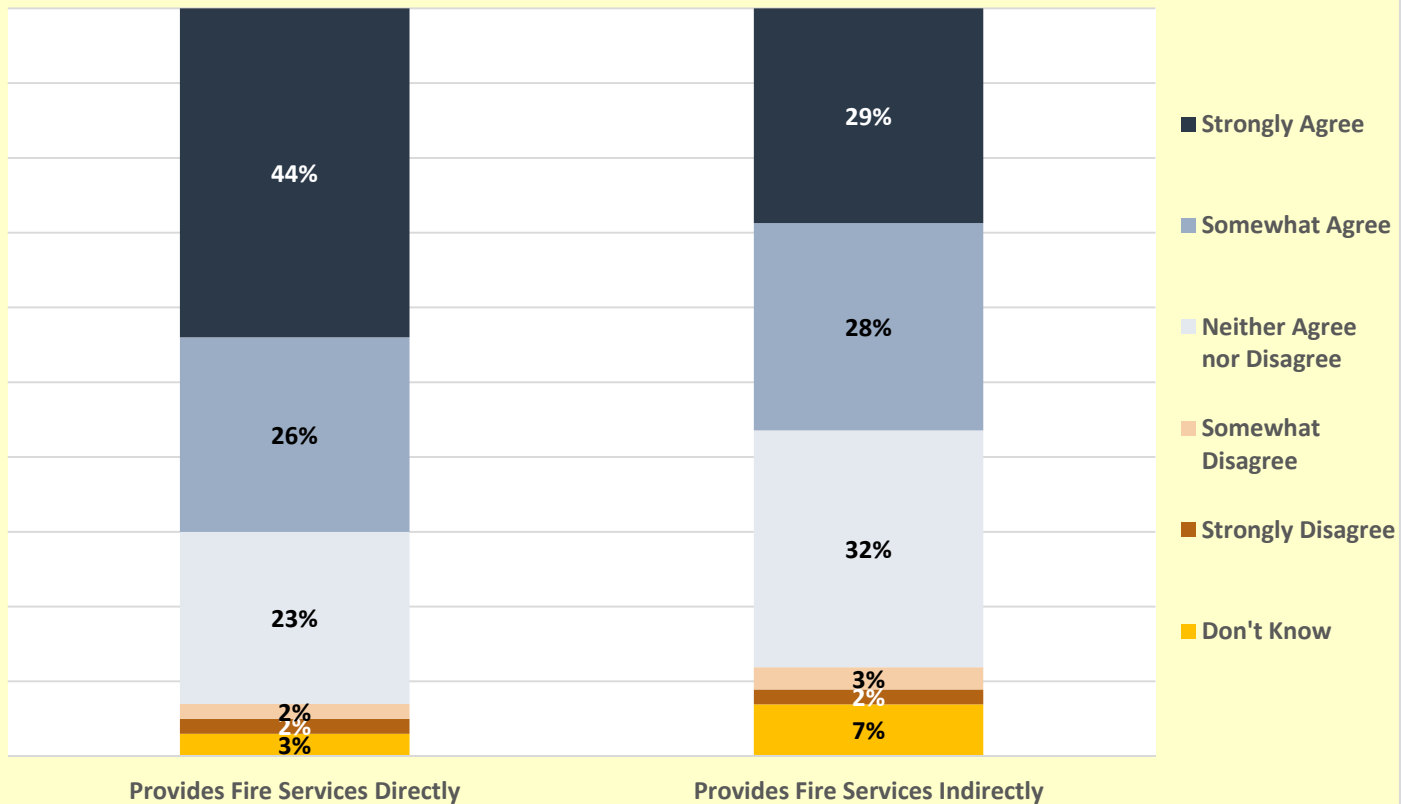
# Satisfaction with the Fire Service

Effectiveness of Fire Service Improved in Last 5 Years,  
by Region



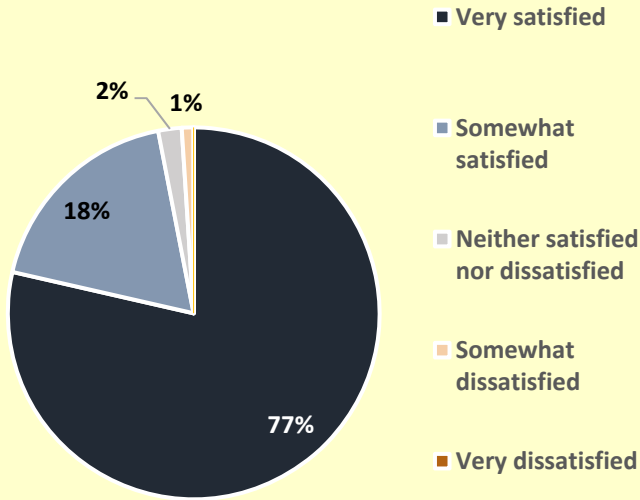
# Satisfaction with the Fire Service

Effectiveness of Fire Service Improved in Last 5 Years,  
by Service Delivery Arrangement

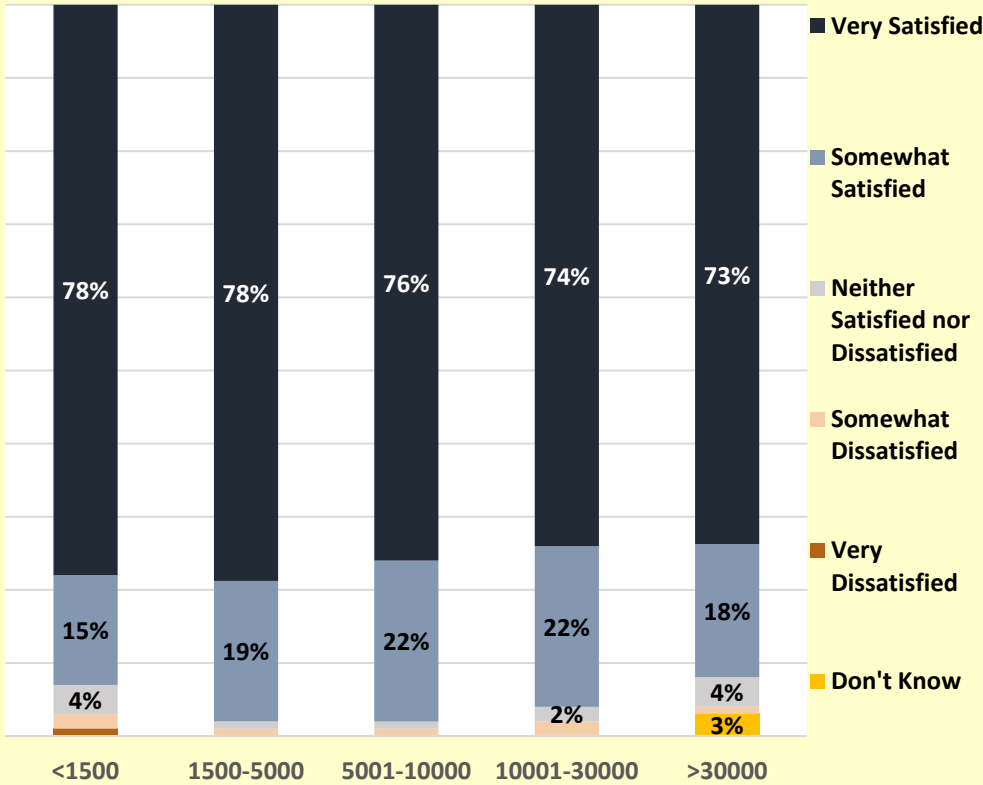


# Satisfaction with the Fire Service

Local officials' own satisfaction, Overall

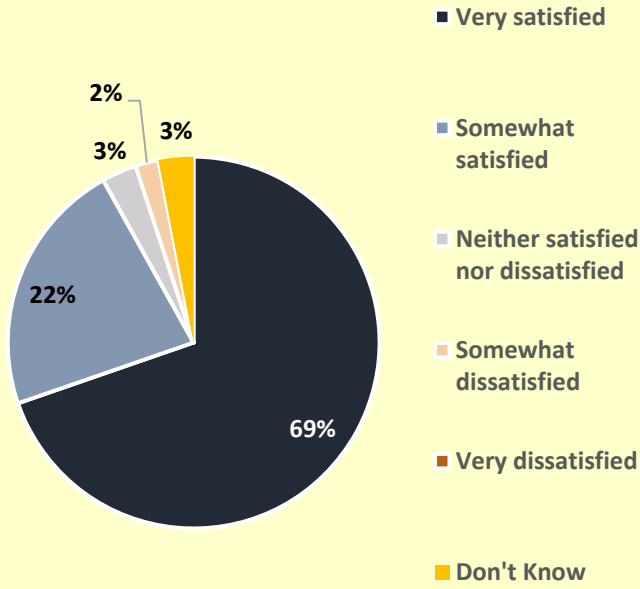


Local officials' own satisfaction, by Community Size

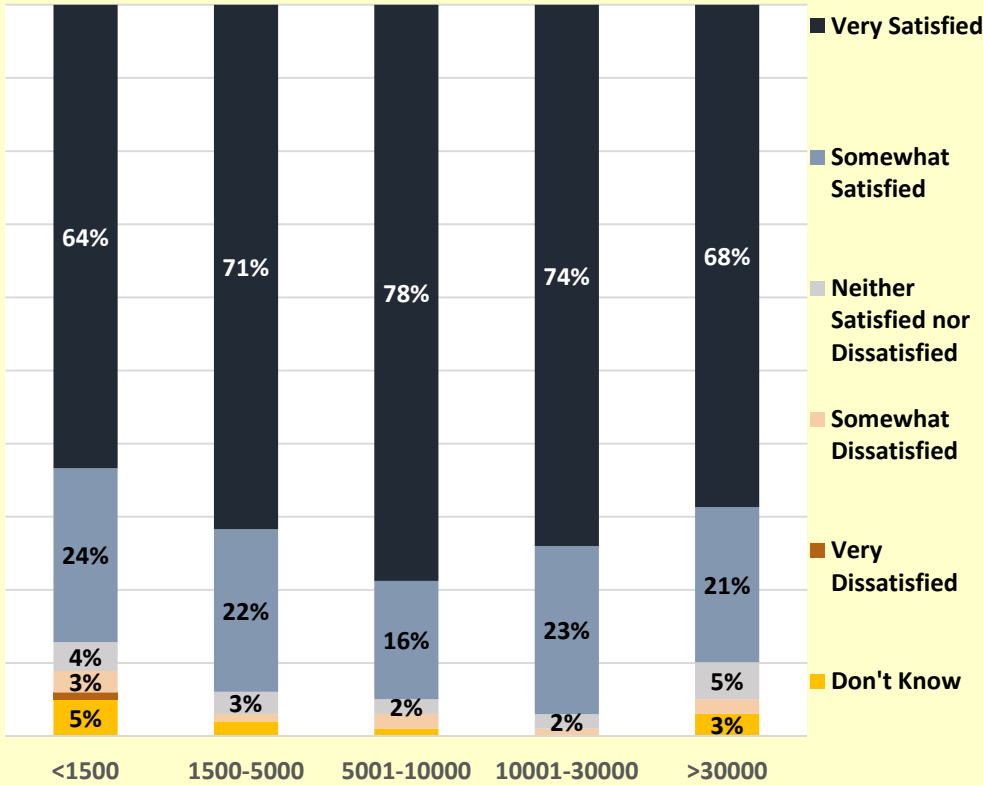


# Satisfaction with the Fire Service

Local officials' perceptions of citizen satisfaction, Overall



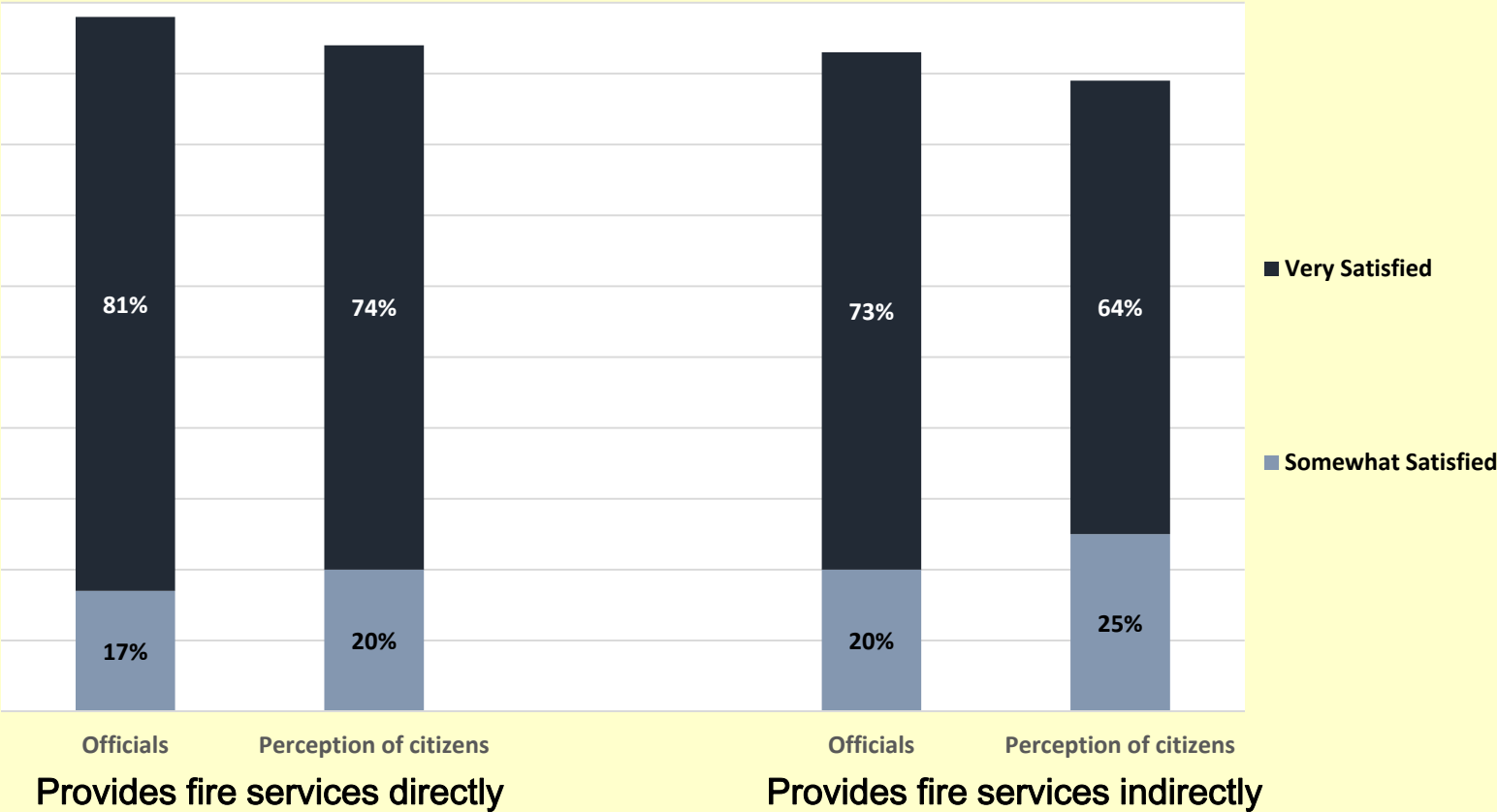
Local officials' perceptions of citizen satisfaction, by Community Size





# Satisfaction with the Fire Service

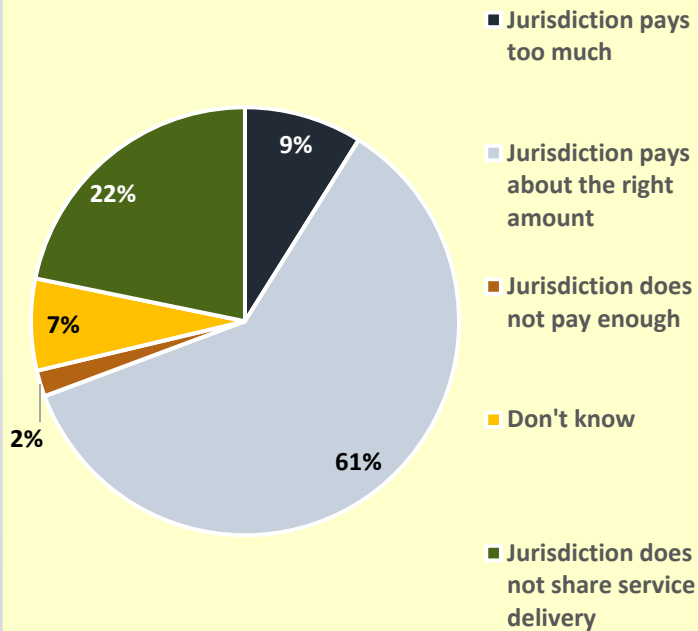
Comparison of satisfaction, by type of service provision



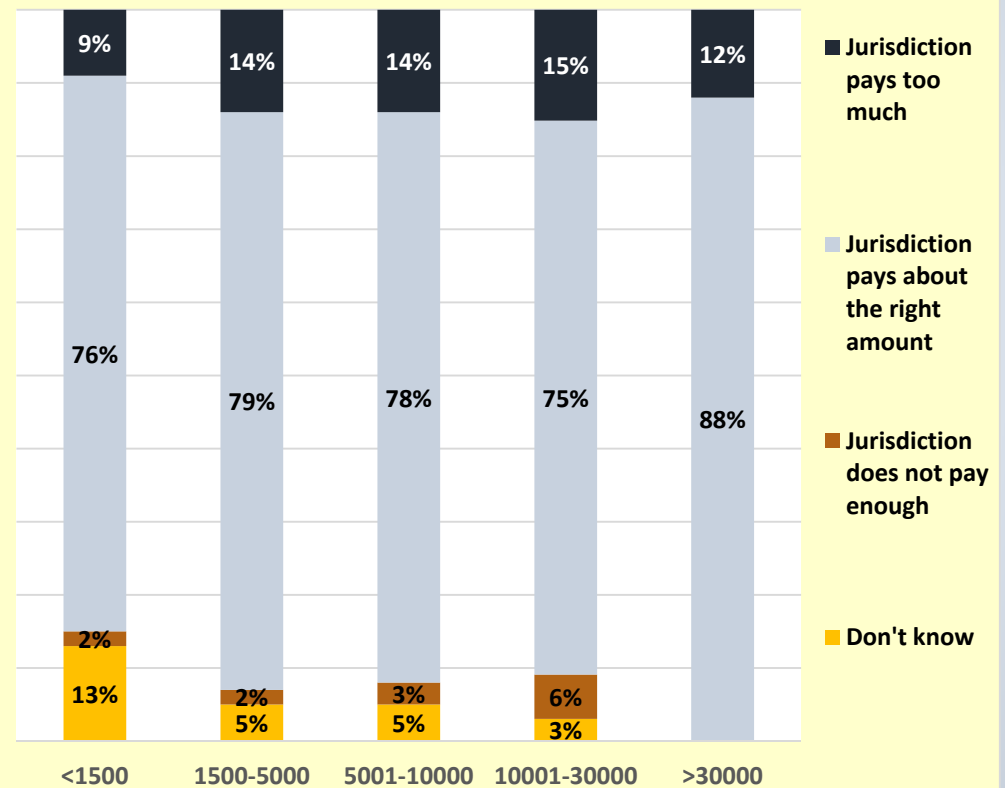
# Funding the Fire Service

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## Equity of shared fire services, Overall

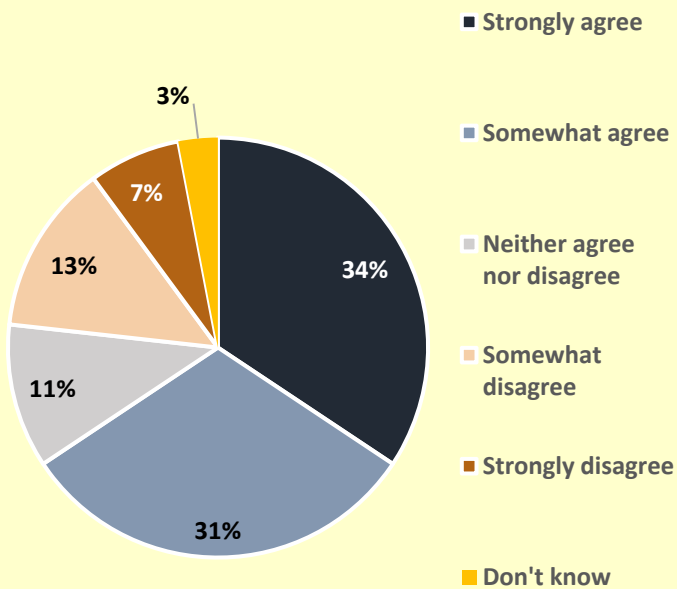


## Equity of shared fire services, by Community Size

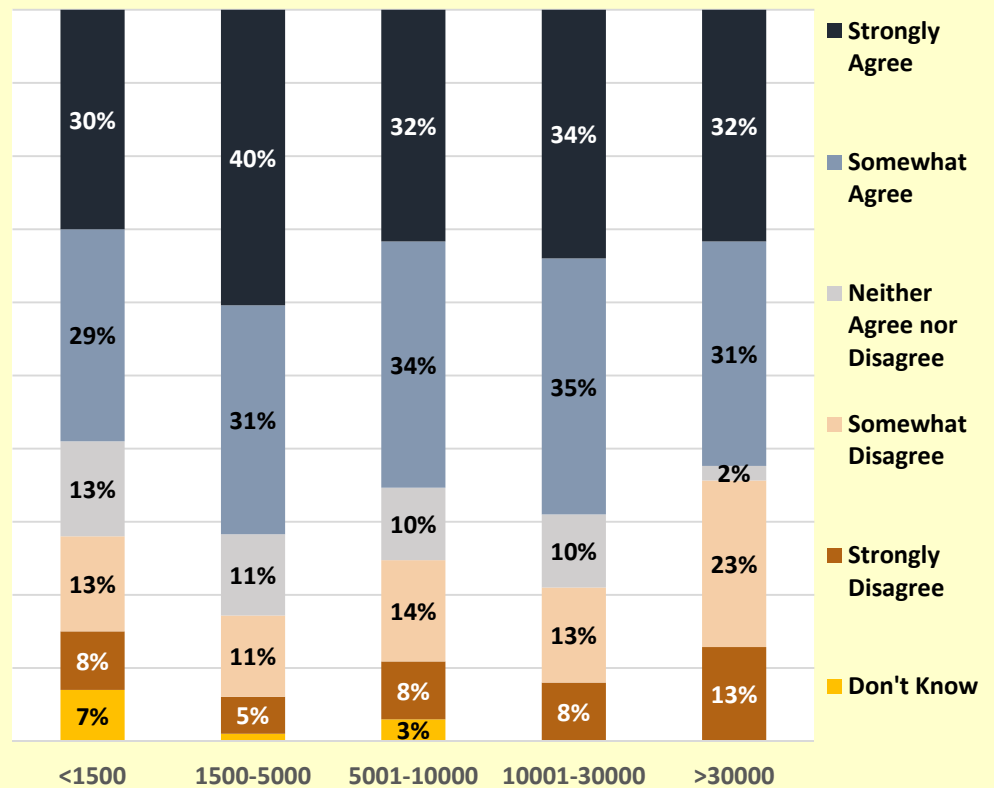


# Funding the Fire Service

## Sufficient Funding to meet Fire Protection Needs, Overall

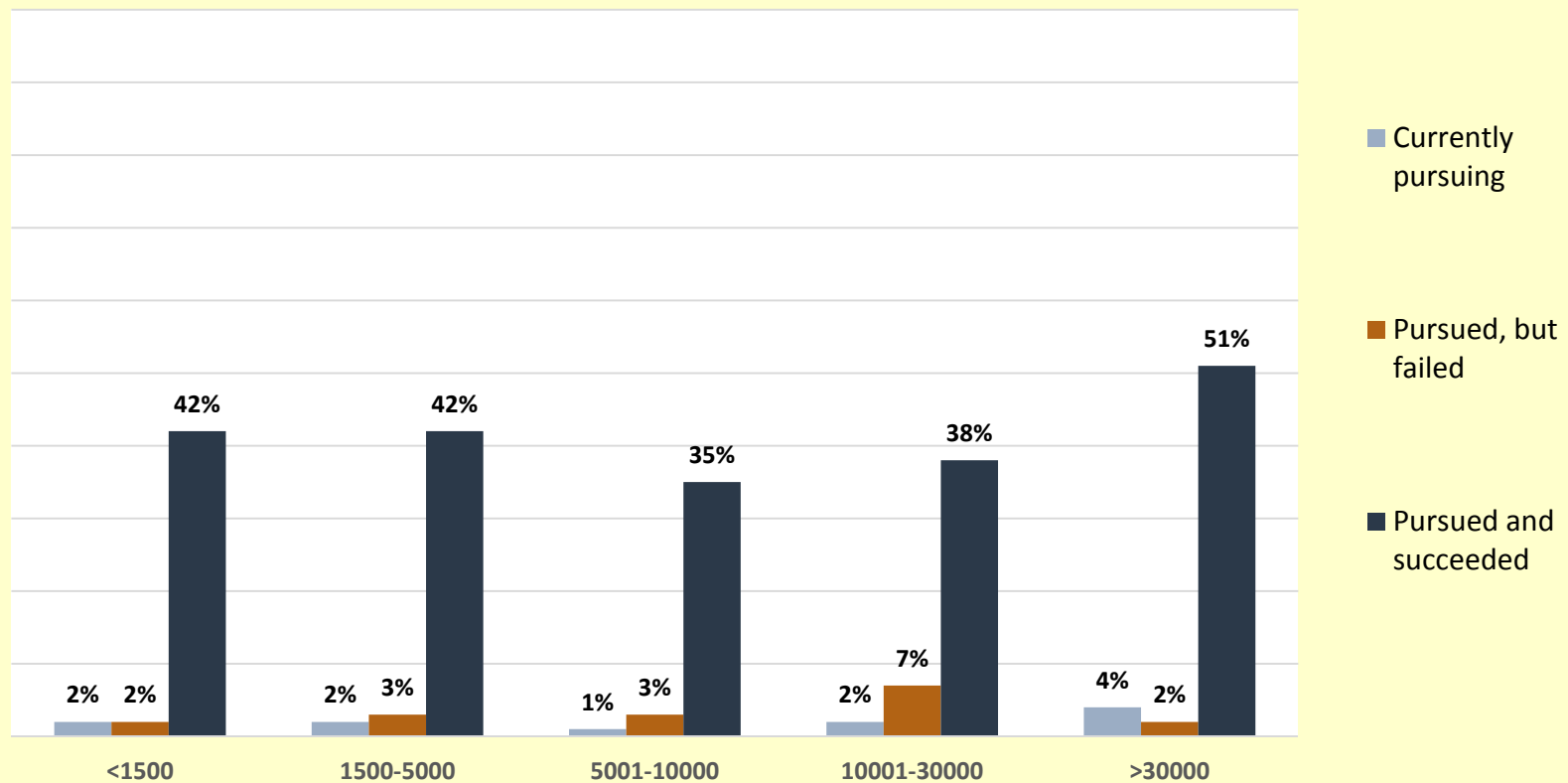


## Sufficient Funding to meet Fire Protection Needs, by Community Size



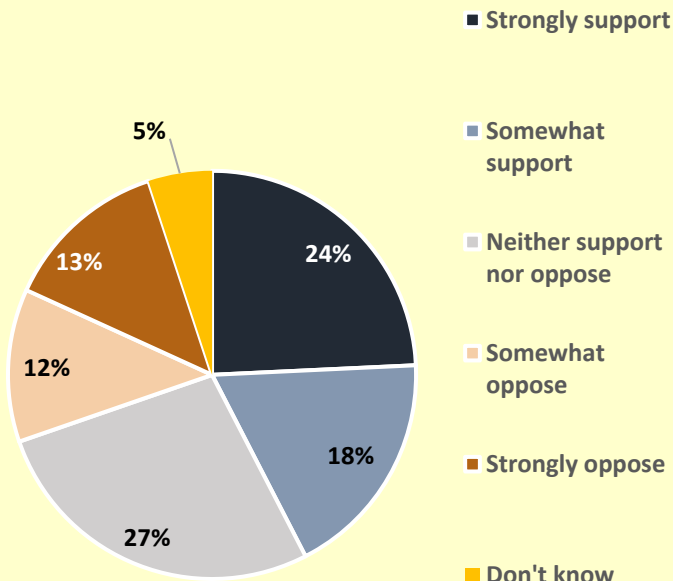
# Funding the Fire Service

Outcome of recent attempts to pursue new or renewed millages or special assessments for fire services, by Community Size

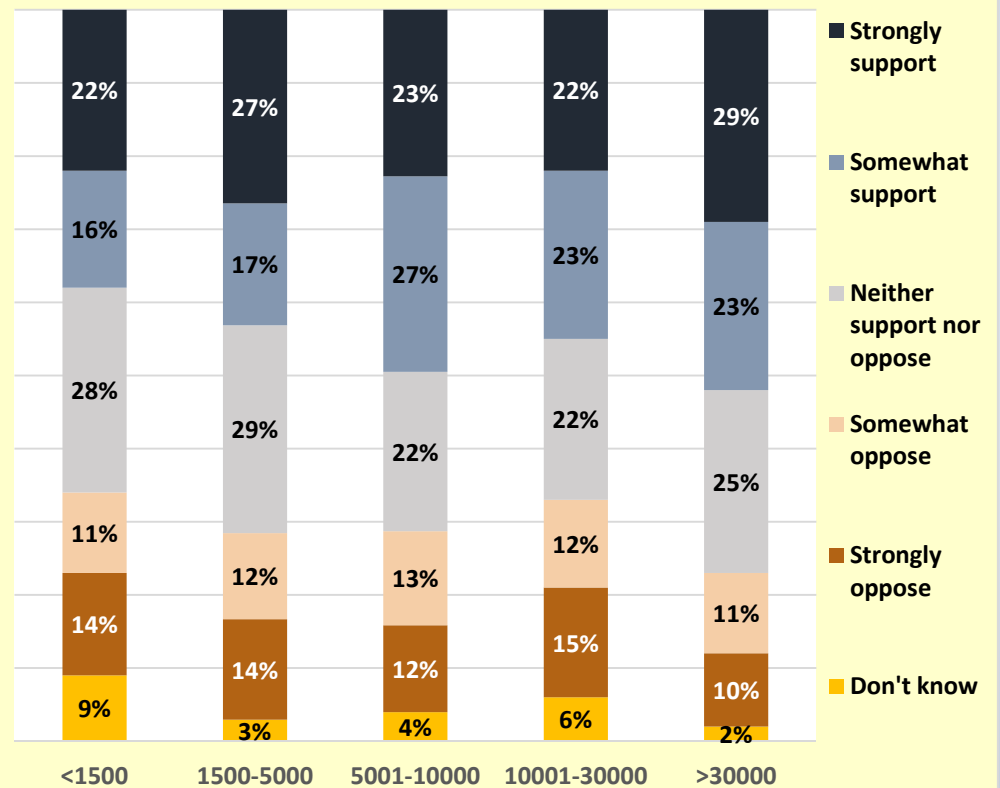


# Funding the Fire Service

Local officials' opinions on pursuing additional local funding for fire services, Overall

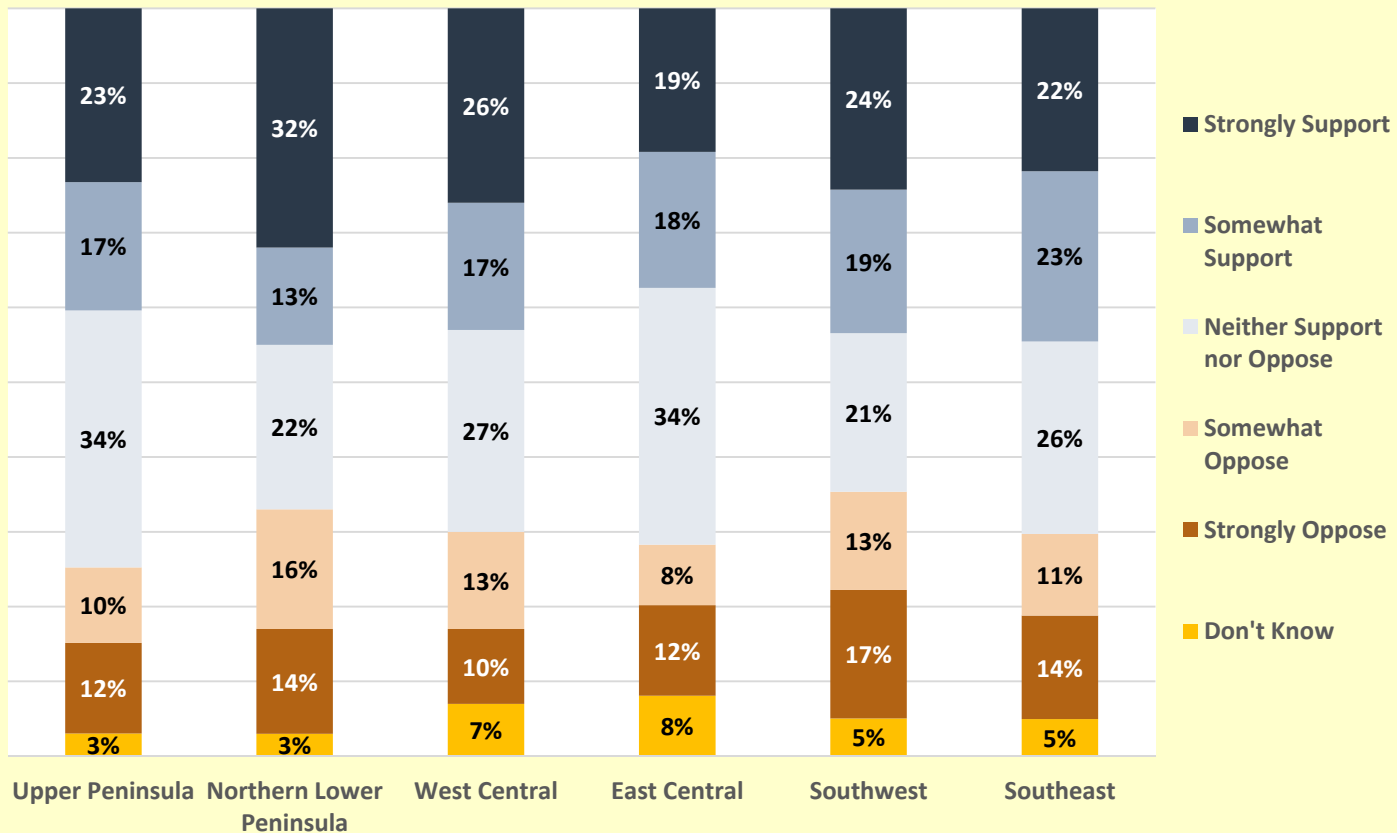


Local officials' opinions on pursuing additional local funding for fire services, by Community Size



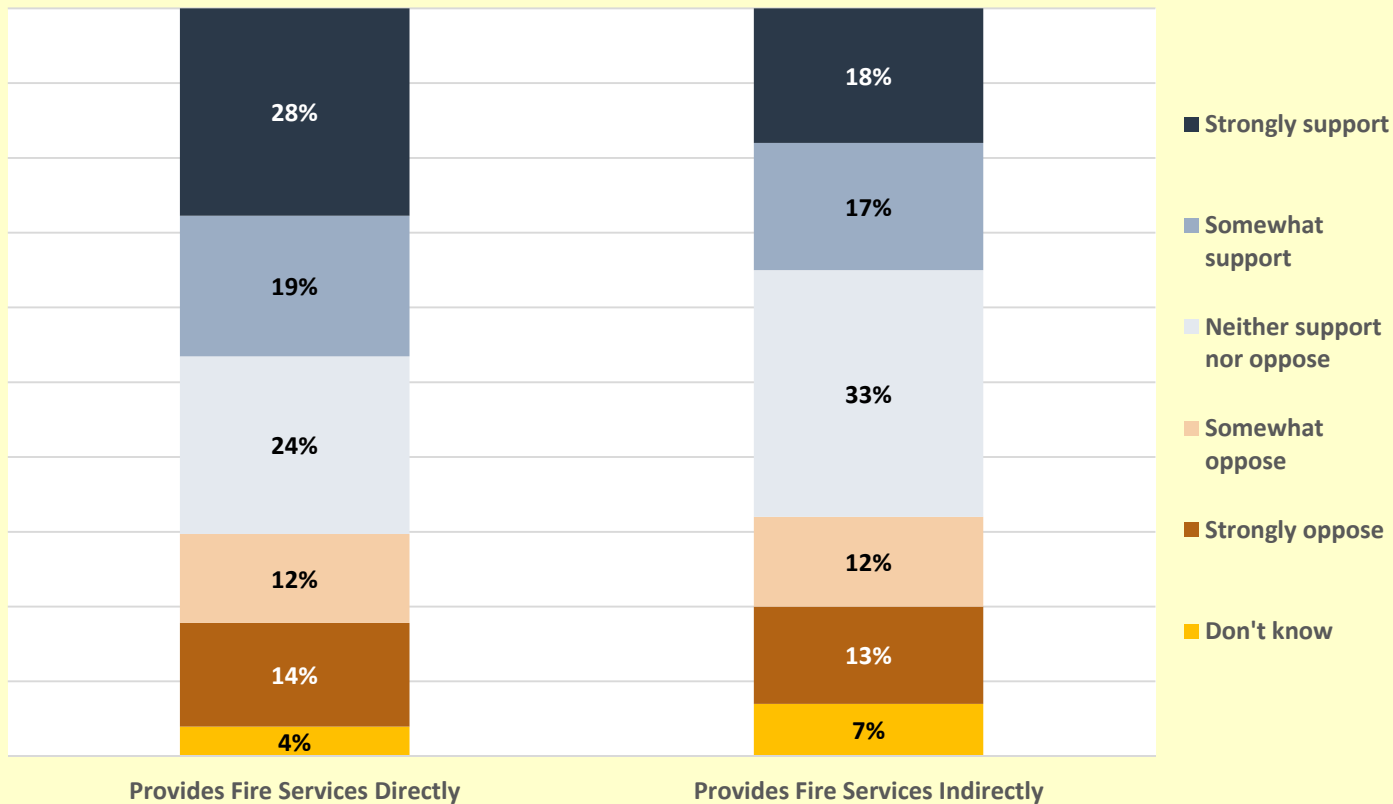
# Funding the Fire Service

Local officials' opinions on pursuing additional local funding for fire services, by Region



# Funding the Fire Service

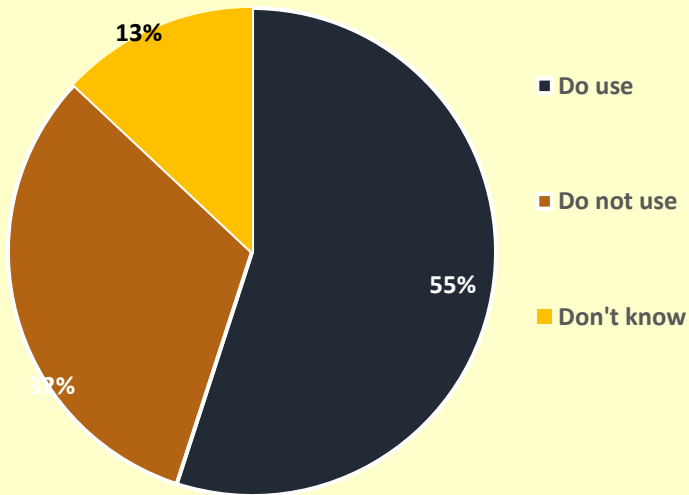
Local officials' opinions on pursuing additional local funding for fire services, by Service Delivery Arrangement



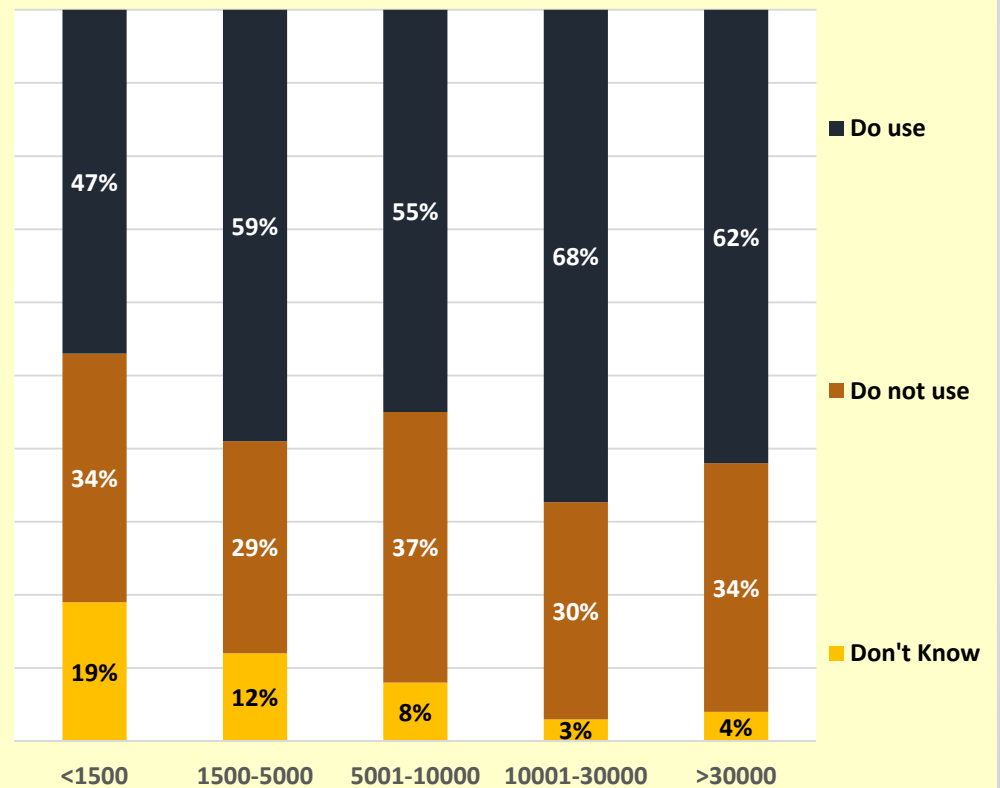


# Funding the Fire Service

Use of cost recovery, Overall

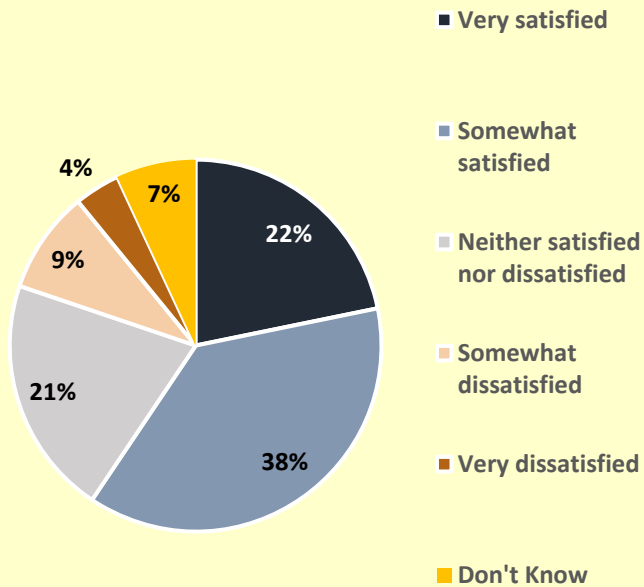


Use of cost recovery, by Community Size

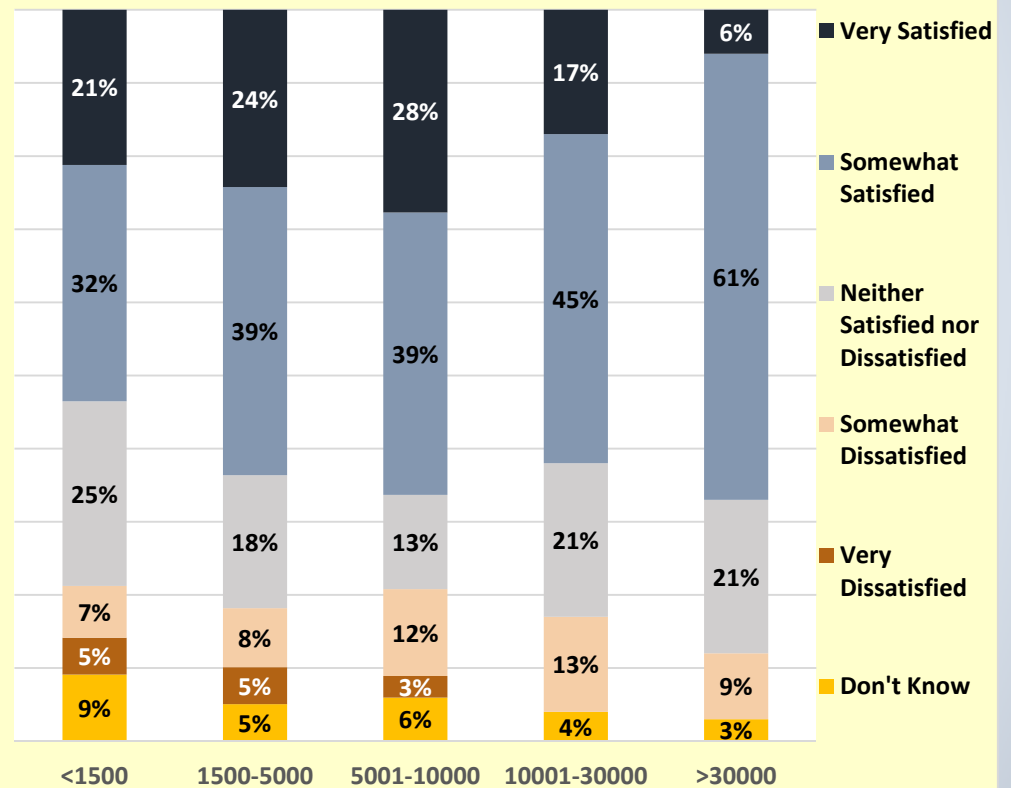


# Funding the Fire Service

Local officials' satisfaction with fire service cost recovery, Overall



Local officials' satisfaction with fire service cost recovery, by Community Size



# Key Takeaways

- Statewide, local officials are satisfied with their fire services
- They perceive the biggest challenge as recruiting/retaining firefighters, especially volunteers
- Most local officials think they have enough funding for fire services
  - But there's more support than opposition for pursuing additional funding

# More from the Michigan Public Policy Survey

# Upcoming reports (Spring 2016 wave)

- Tax appeals
- Drinking water infrastructure

# Future waves of the MPFS

- Fall 2016:
  - Emergency manager law
  - State-local government relations
  - Citizen engagement
- Spring 2017:
  - Fiscal and budget policies
  - Employee benefits, unions
- Fall 2017: Economic development, planning/zoning(?)
- Other survey topics?
- How can MPFS better serve policymakers and practitioners?

# The Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)

**Email:** [closup-mpps@umich.edu](mailto:closup-mpps@umich.edu)

**Web:** [www.closup.umich.edu](http://www.closup.umich.edu)

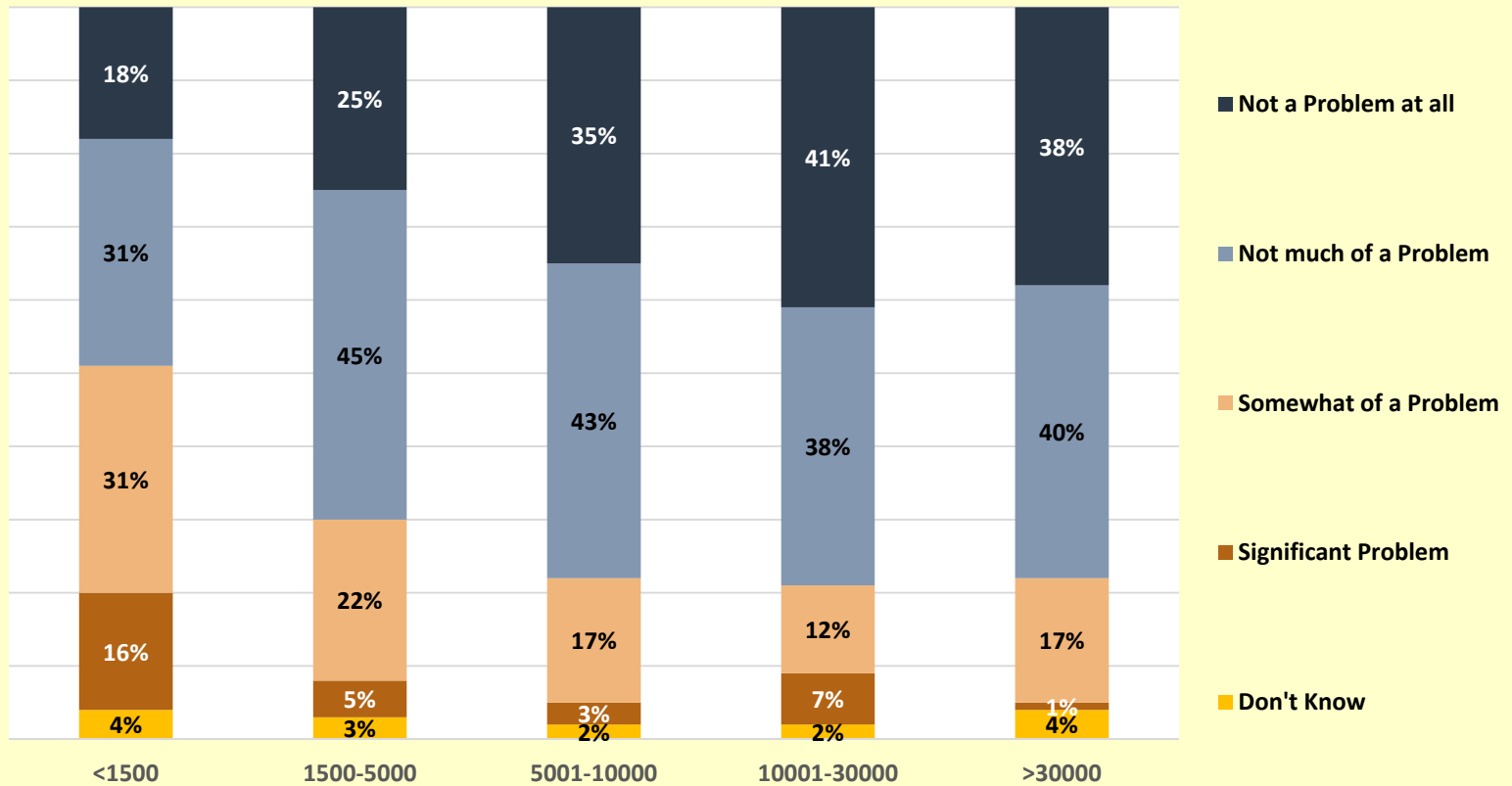
**Twitter:** @closup

# Emergency Medical Services



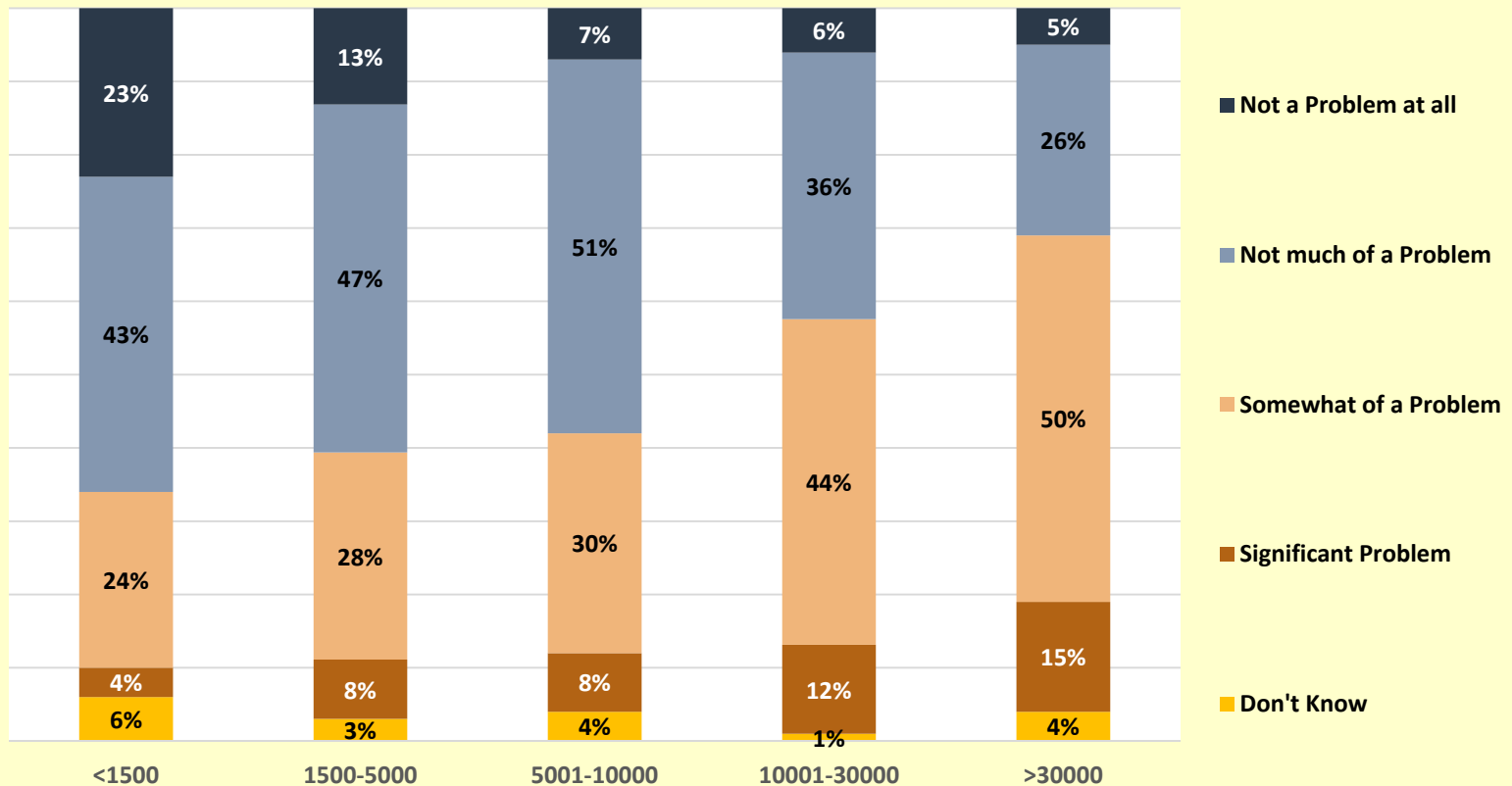
# Emergency Medical Services

Distance to the Nearest Hospital as a Problem, by Community Size



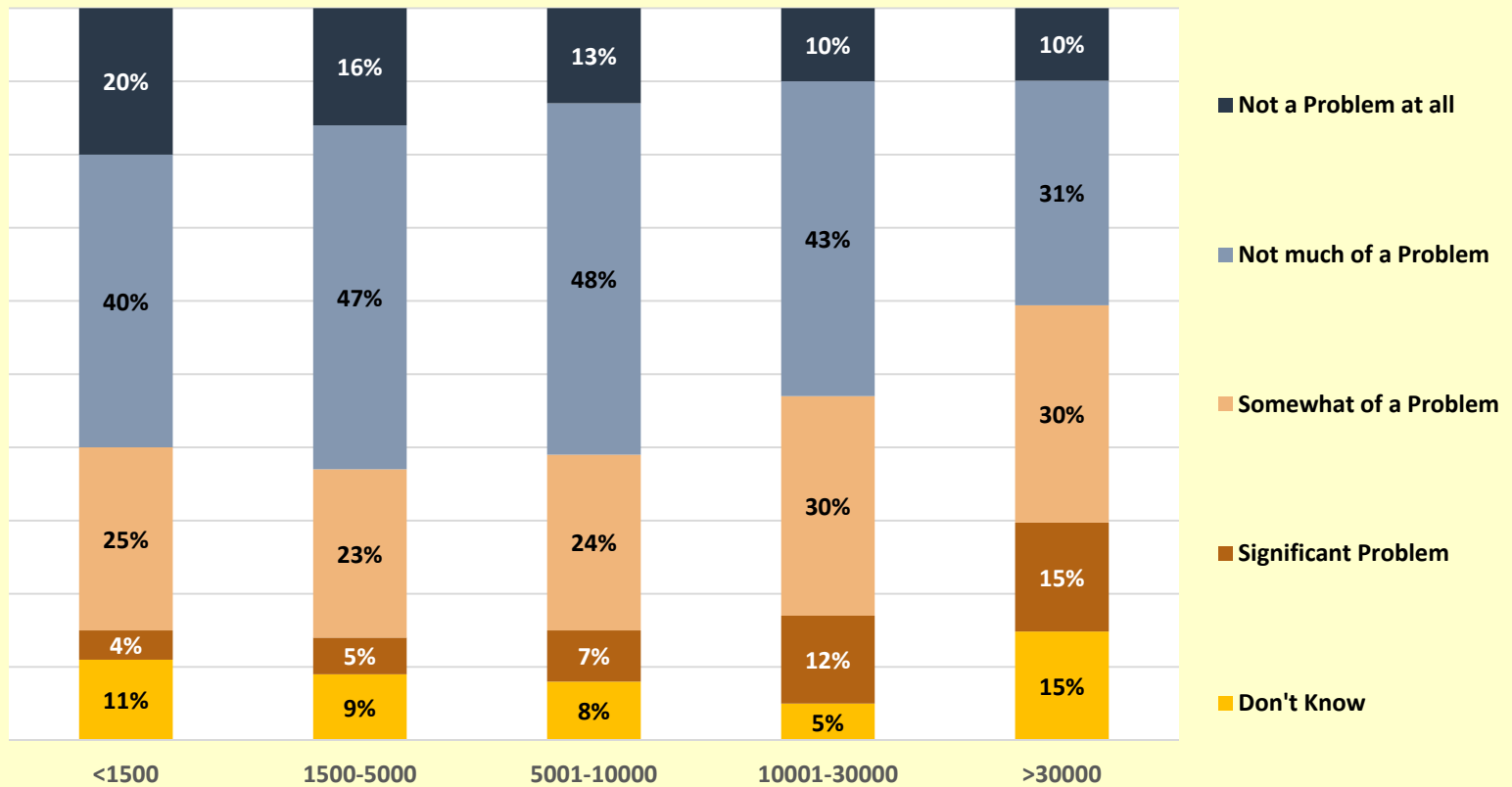
# Emergency Medical Services

Traffic Accidents as a Problem, by Community Size



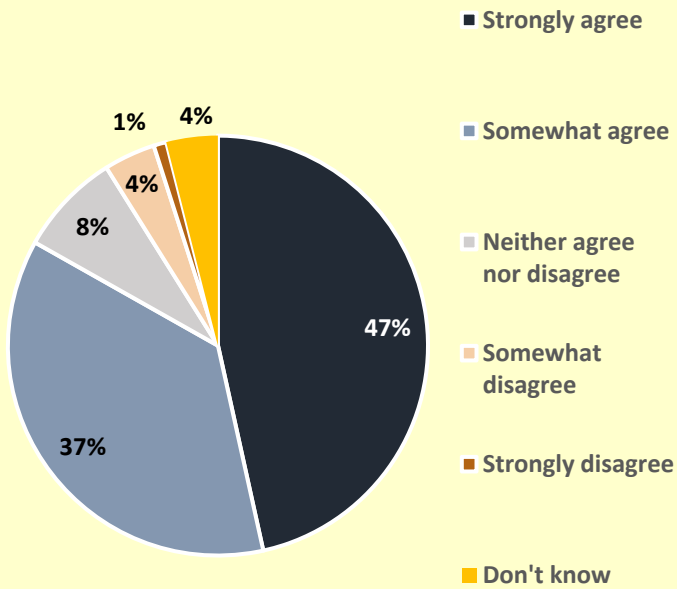
# Emergency Medical Services

Other Medical Emergencies as a Problem, by Community Size

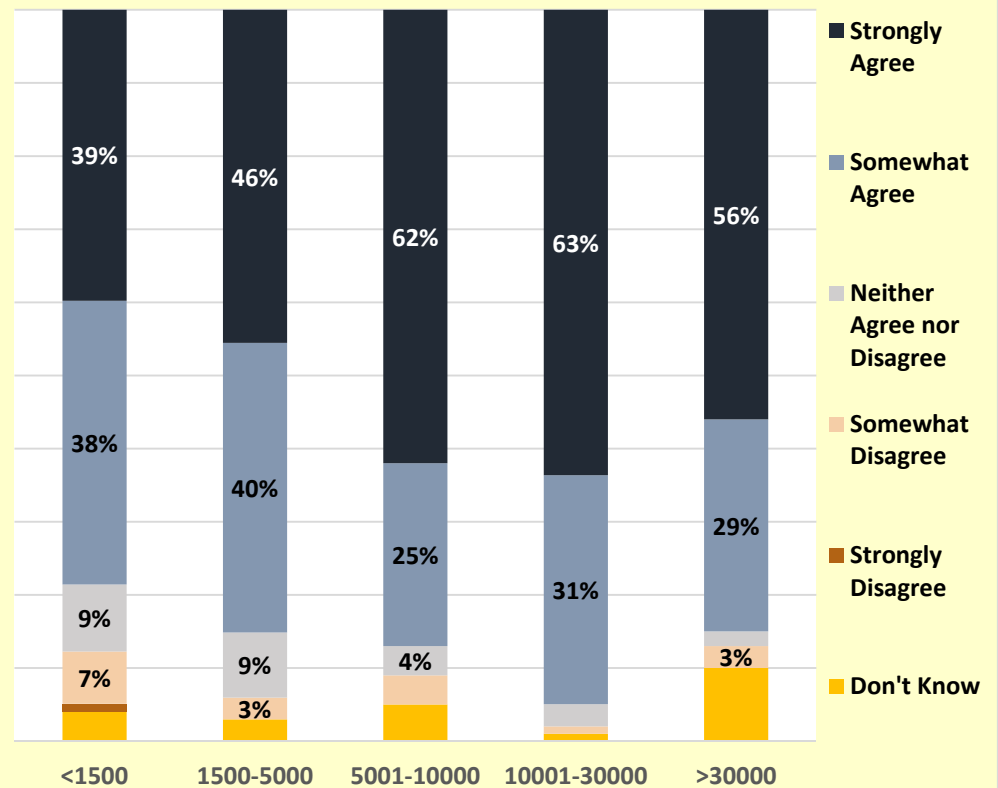


# Satisfaction with the EMS

## Confidence that first responders will arrive in time, Overall

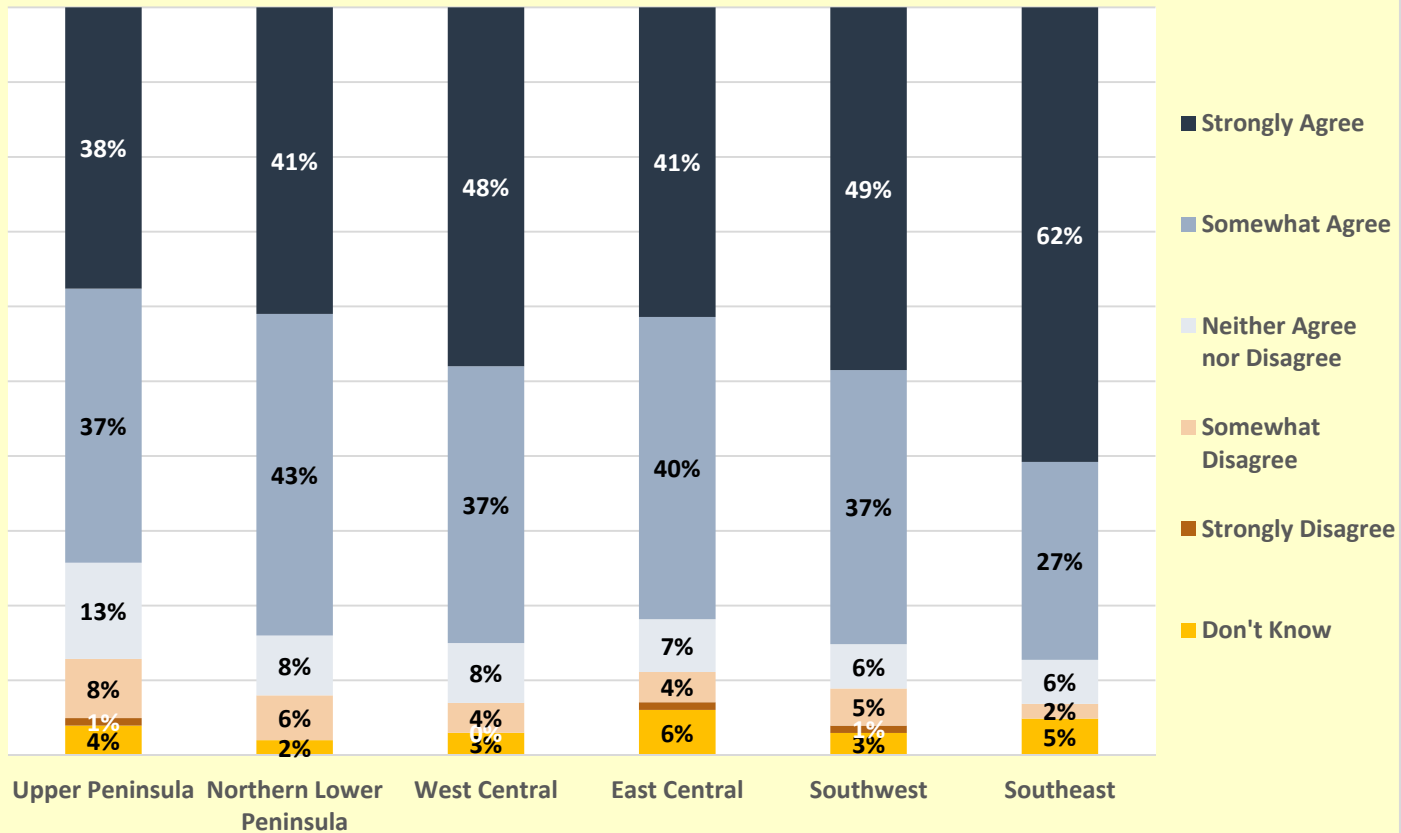


## Confidence that first responders will arrive in time, by Community Size



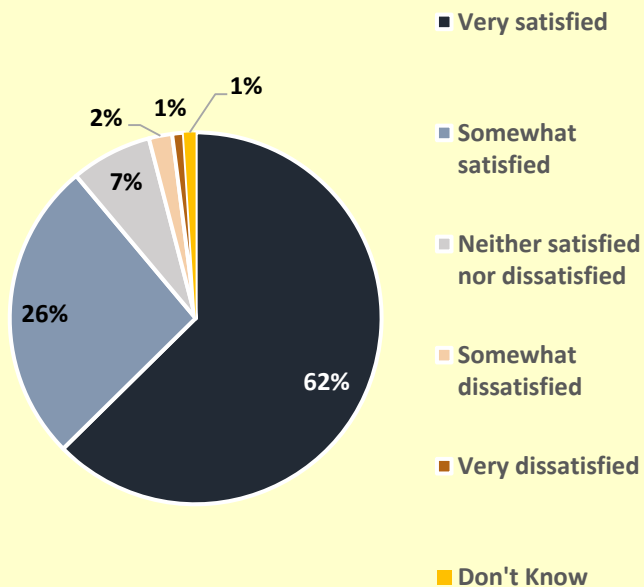
# Satisfaction with EMS

Confidence that first responders will arrive in time,  
by Region



# Satisfaction with the EMS

## Local officials' own satisfaction, Overall



## Local officials' own satisfaction, by Community Size

