

Deported, Divided, Determined: The Venezuelan American Political Landscape”

A Survey of Venezuelans in Florida

Latino Public Opinion Forum

Methodology

This survey of Venezuelans in Florida was conducted using a non-probability, purposive sampling approach aimed at capturing a diverse cross-section of individuals of Venezuelan origin residing in the state. The final sample consisted of 408 respondents.

Sampling Strategy

Three recruitment methods were employed:

1. Public Voter Records

A portion of the sample was drawn from publicly available Florida voter registration lists, allowing for the inclusion of naturalized Venezuelan-American citizens actively engaged in the political process.

2. Targeted Email Outreach

Researchers developed and used an original email database of Venezuelan individuals living in Florida. This list was compiled through public sources, community networks, and prior institutional outreach.

3. Snowball Sampling

To broaden the sample and reach underrepresented subgroups (e.g., TPS holders, parolees, and non-voters), the survey also employed a snowball recruitment method, where respondents were encouraged to share the survey link with other Venezuelans in their networks.

Sample Size

Total number of valid responses: 408

While not representative in a statistical sense, the sample includes a broad range of legal statuses, age groups, income levels, and political affiliations, providing valuable insight into the attitudes and experiences of individuals of Venezuelan origin in Florida.

Sample Characteristics

Well-Educated & Middle/Upper-Middle Income Sample

The overwhelming majority possess university or postgraduate degrees. This likely influences their understanding of and engagement with U.S. policy and politics.

Older Age Skew

With 70% over age 45, this group represent more long-term immigrants, property owners, or naturalized citizens.

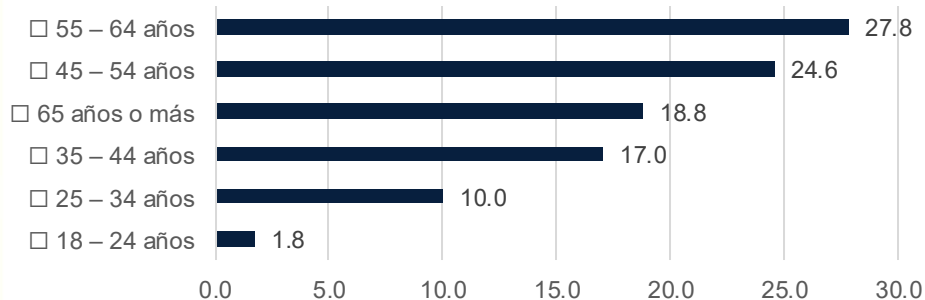
Relatively Balanced by Gender, Slightly Female Majority

Provides fairly even representation of gendered perspectives.

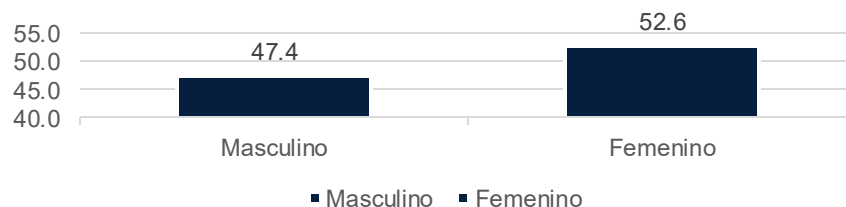
Mostly Catholic But Some Secularization

Religious identity still holds cultural significance, though 1 in 6 are unaffiliated.

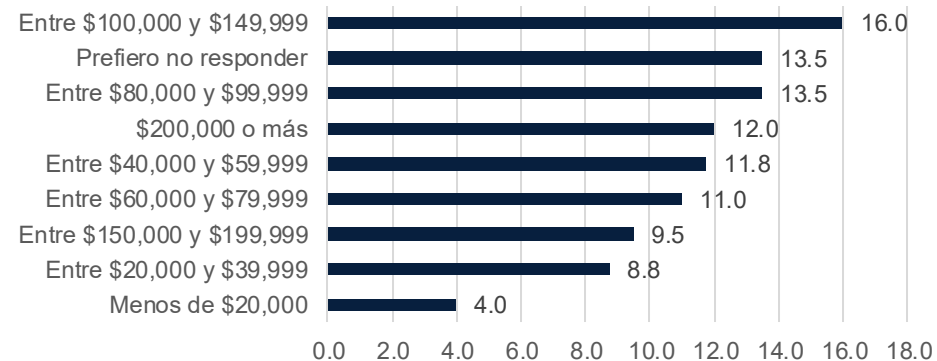
Age



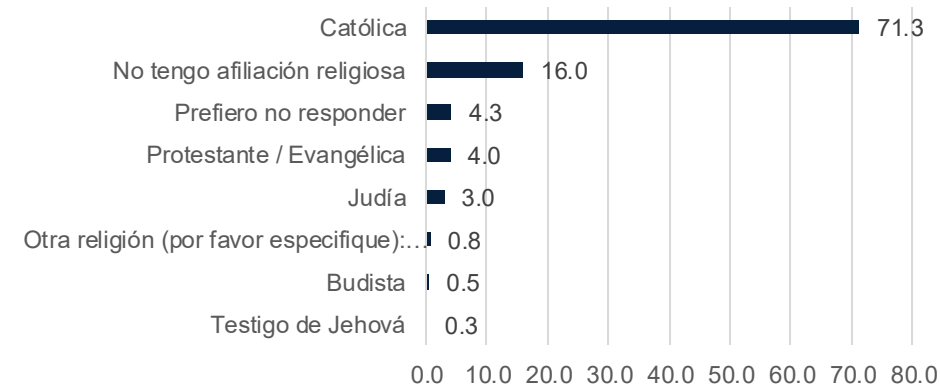
Gender



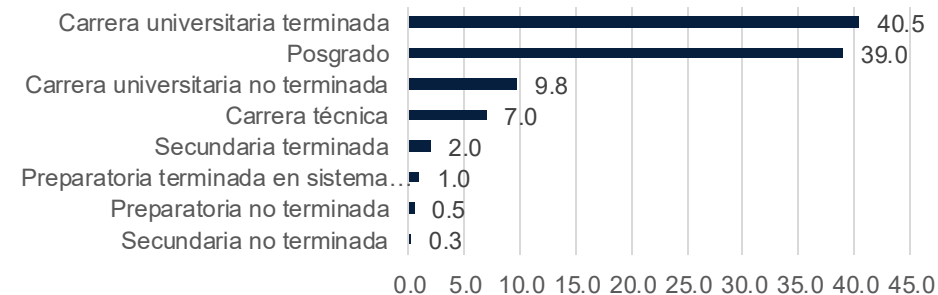
Income



Religion

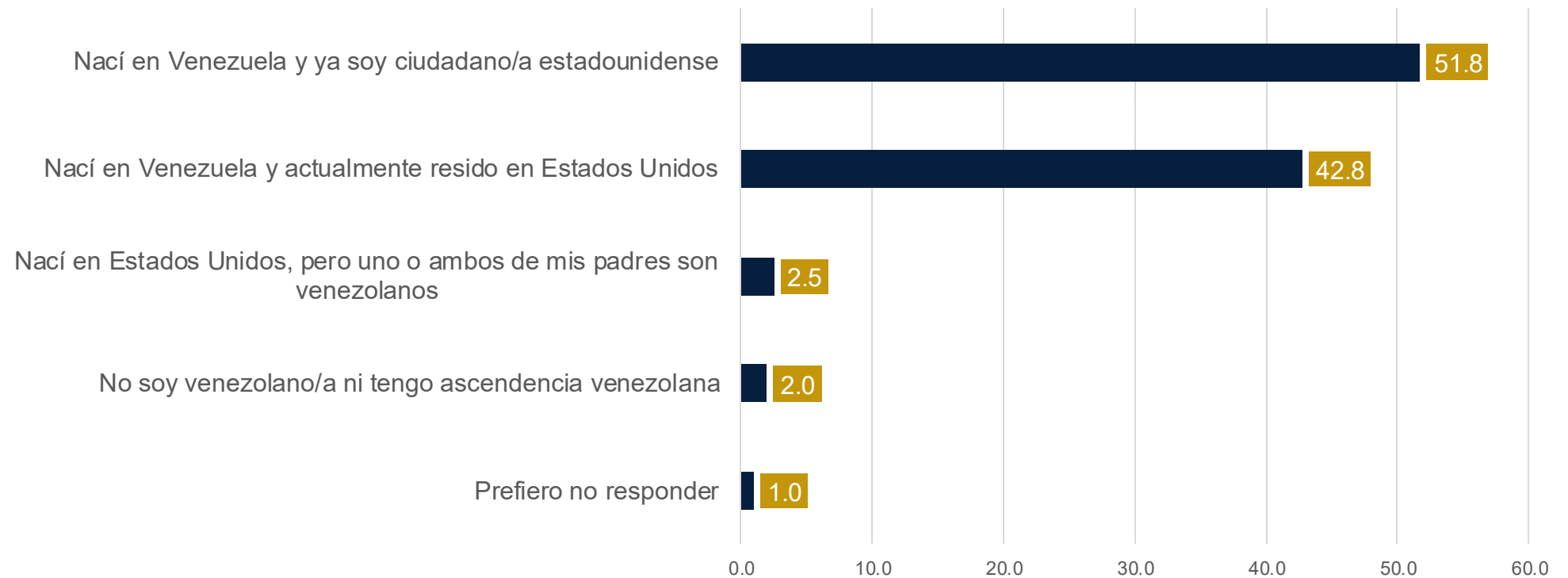


Education

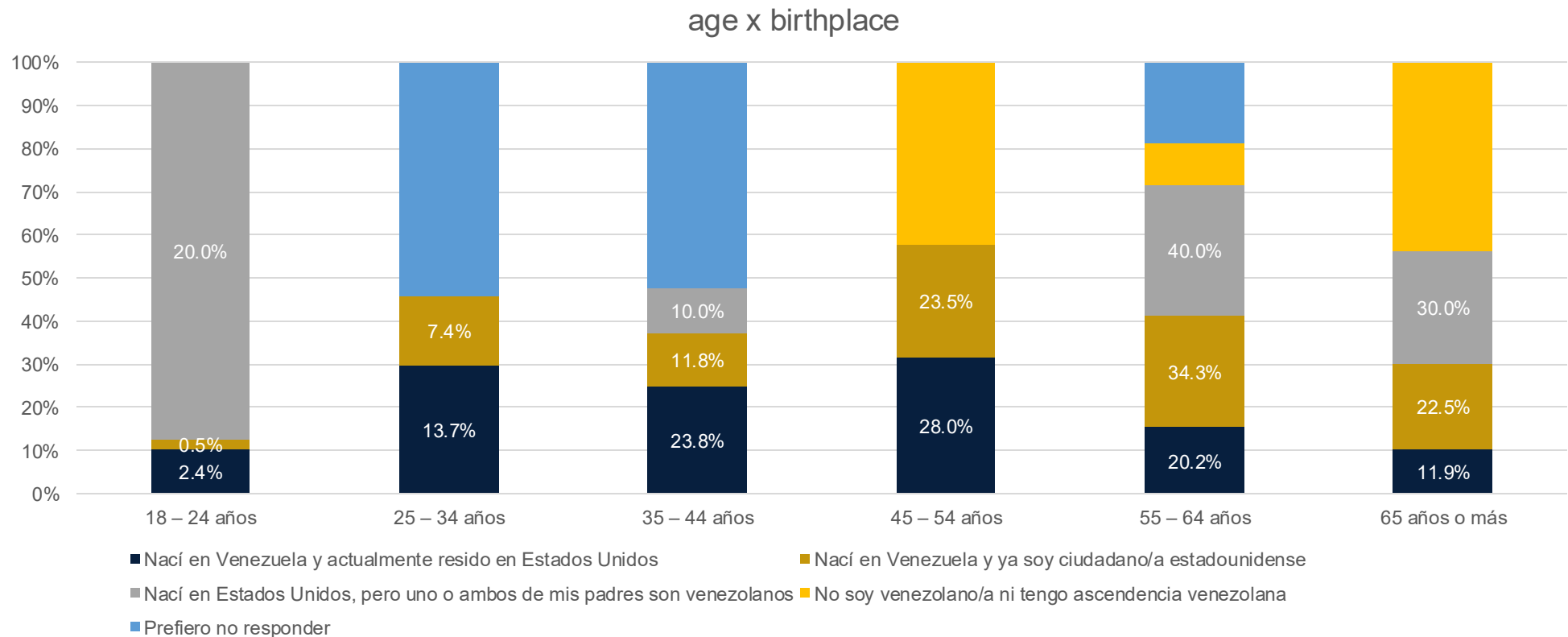


Which of the following options best describes your link with Venezuela?

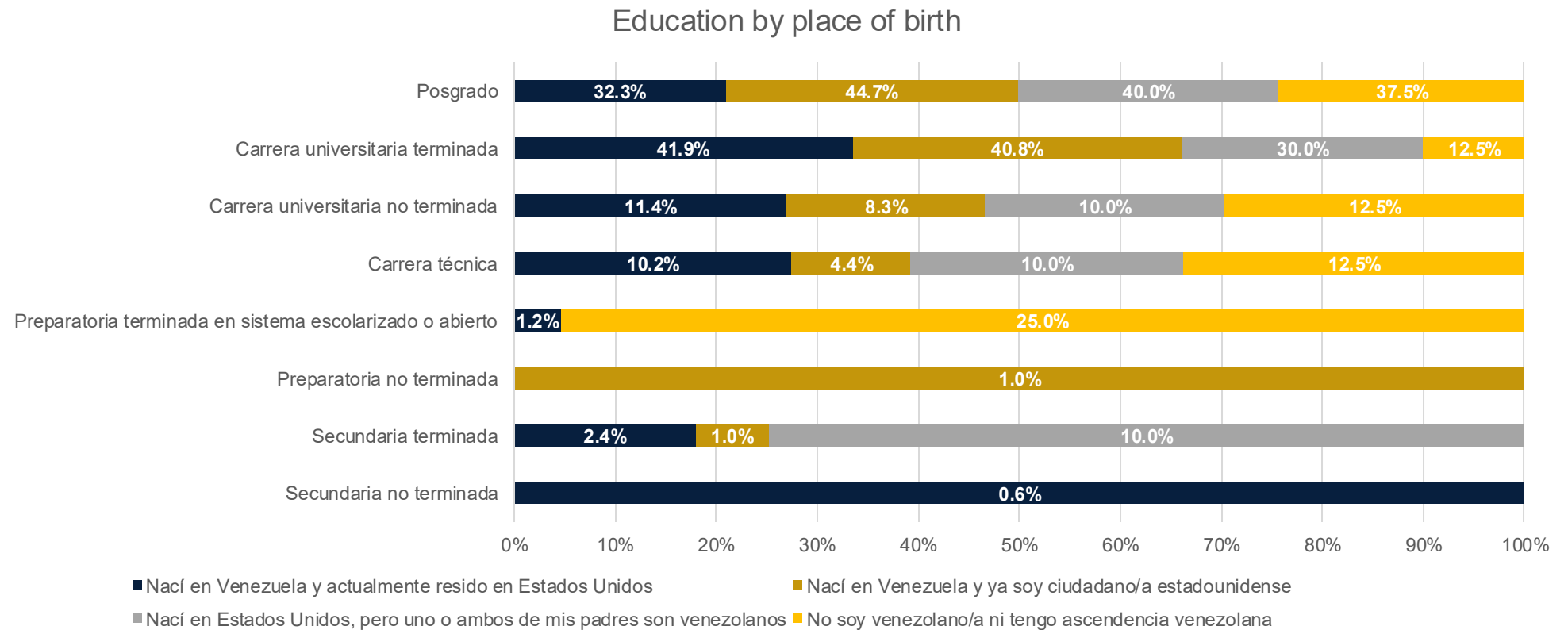
¿Cuál de las siguientes opciones describe mejor su vínculo con Venezuela?



Which of the following options best describes your link with Venezuela?

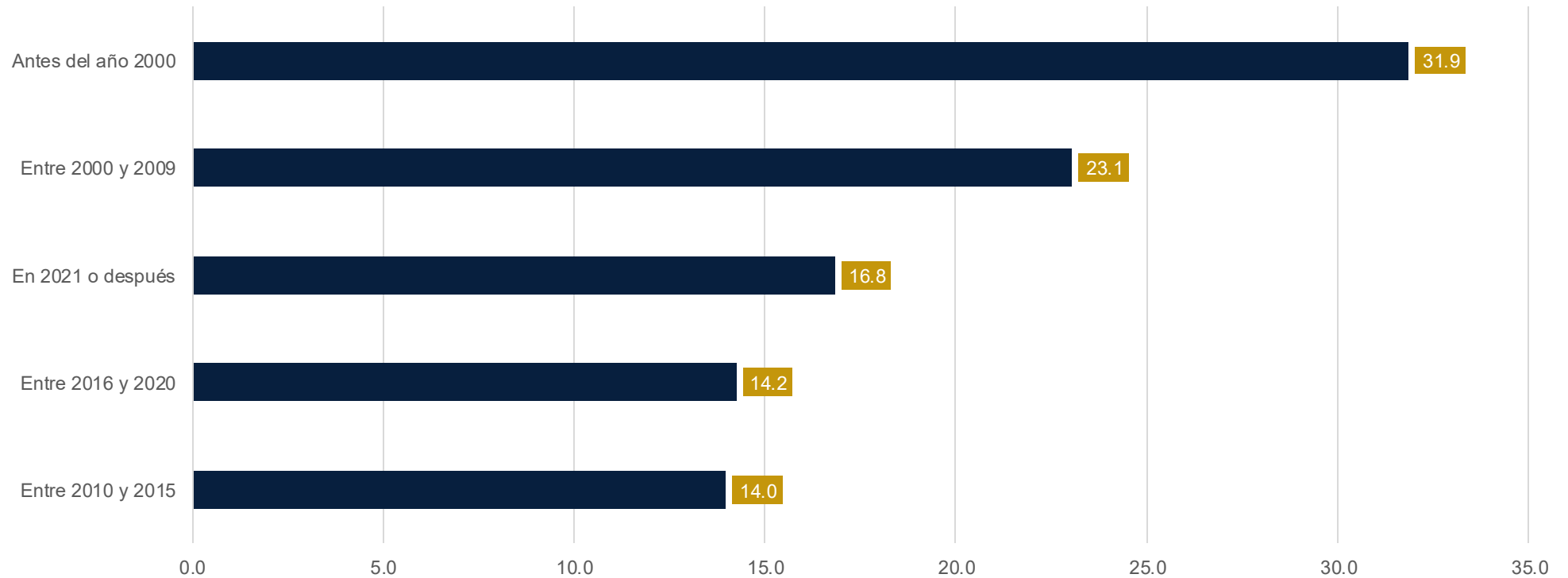


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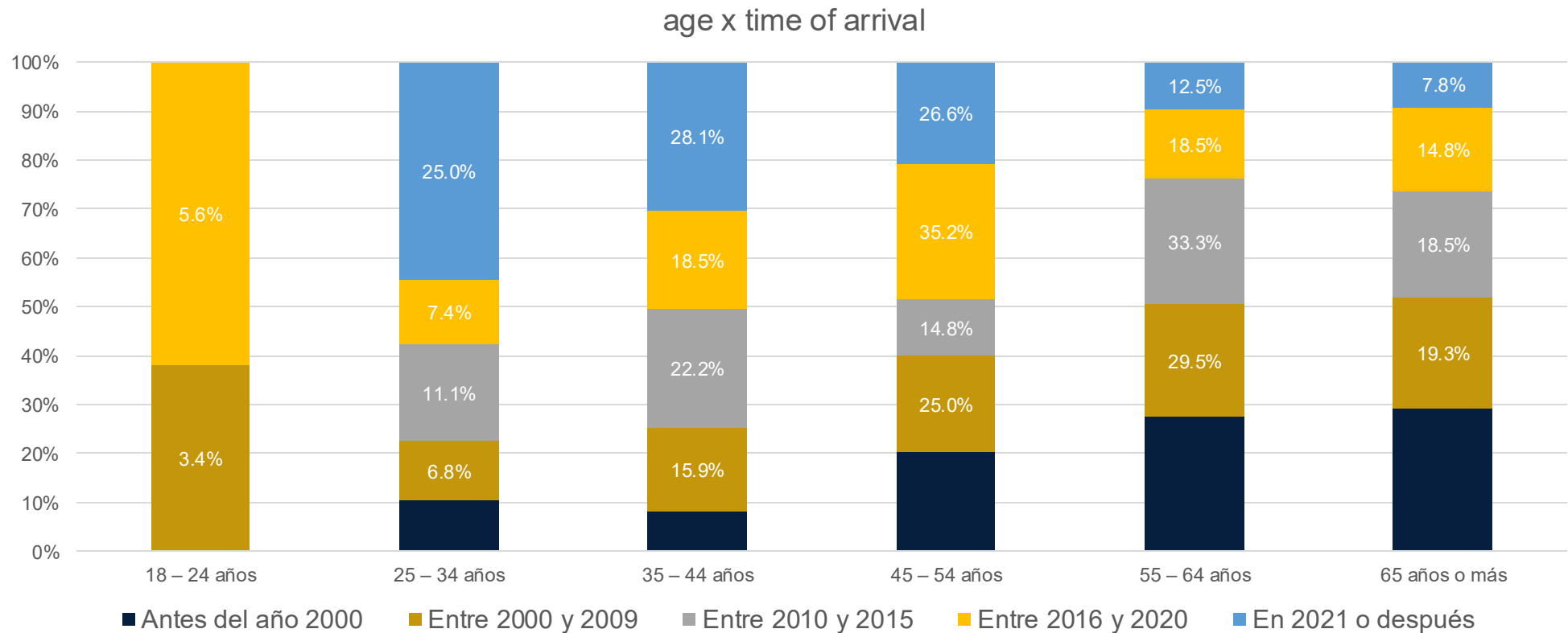


If you were not born in the United States, what year did you arrive?

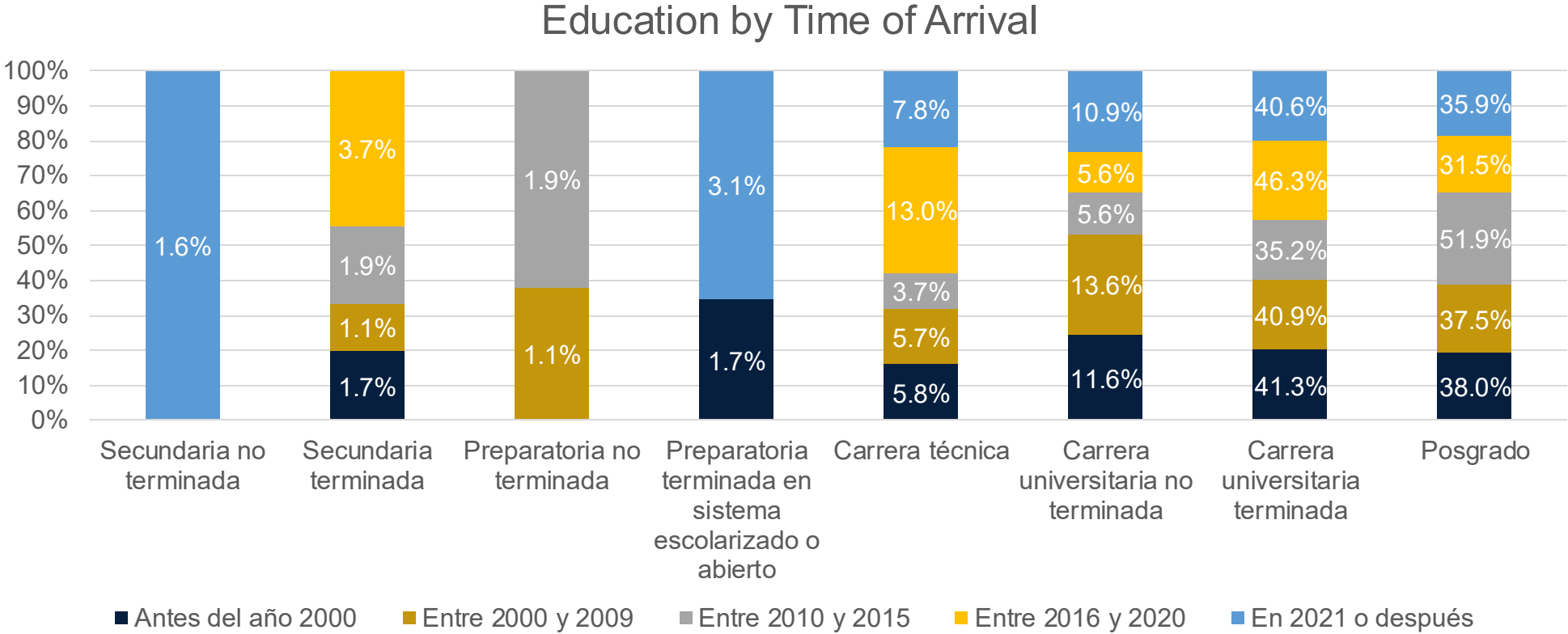
Si no nació en Estados Unidos, ¿en que año llegó a Estados Unidos?



If you were not born in the United States, what year did you arrive?

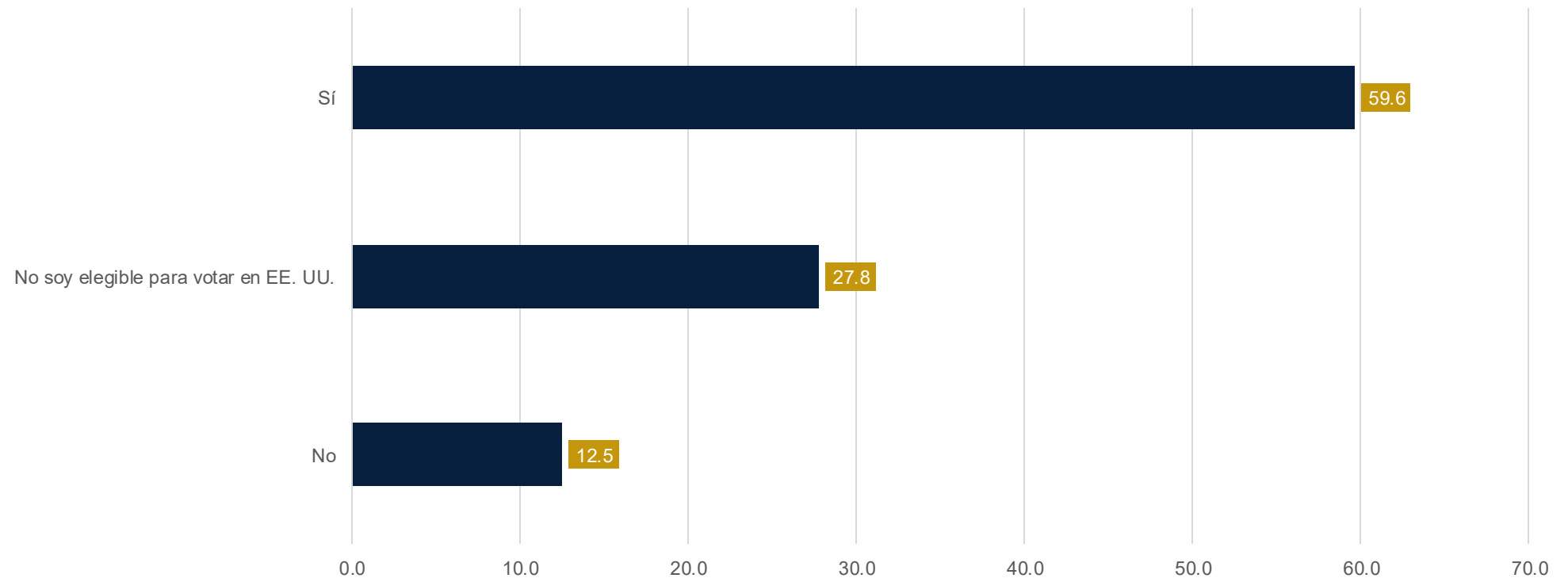


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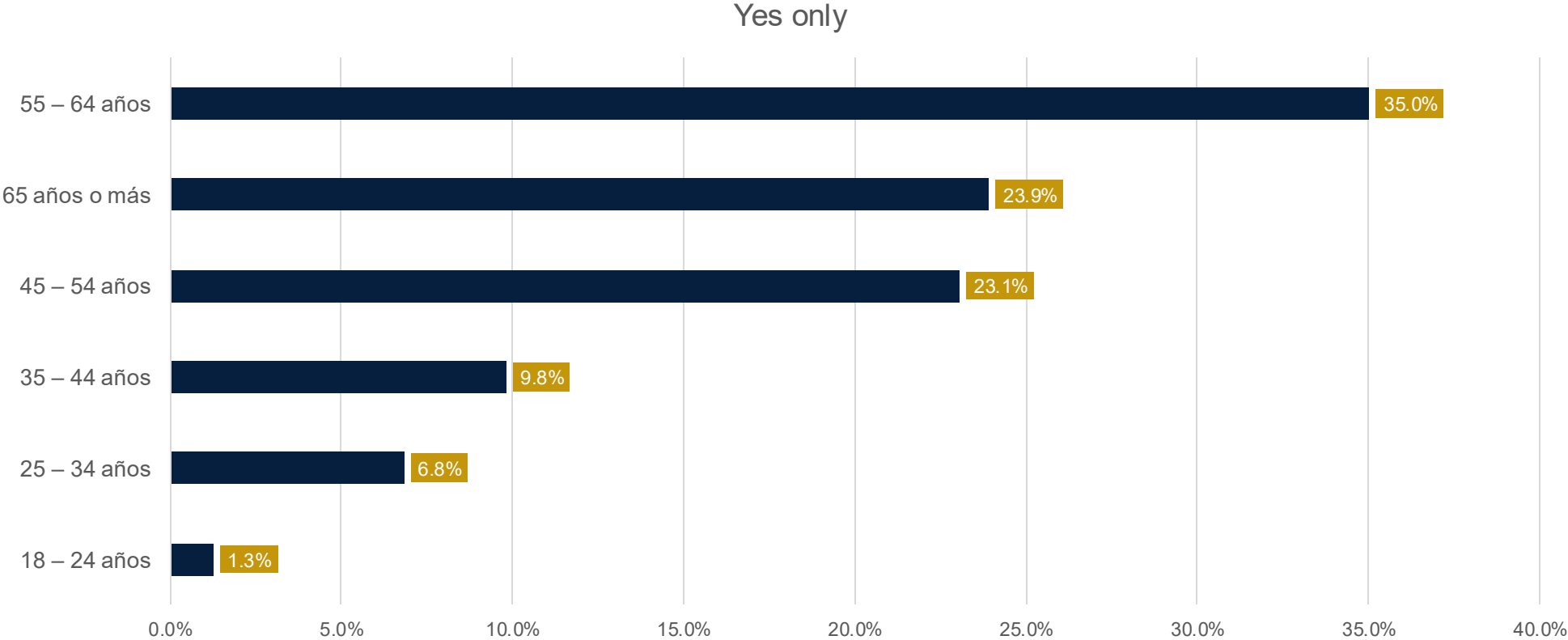


Did you vote in the 2024 presidential elections?

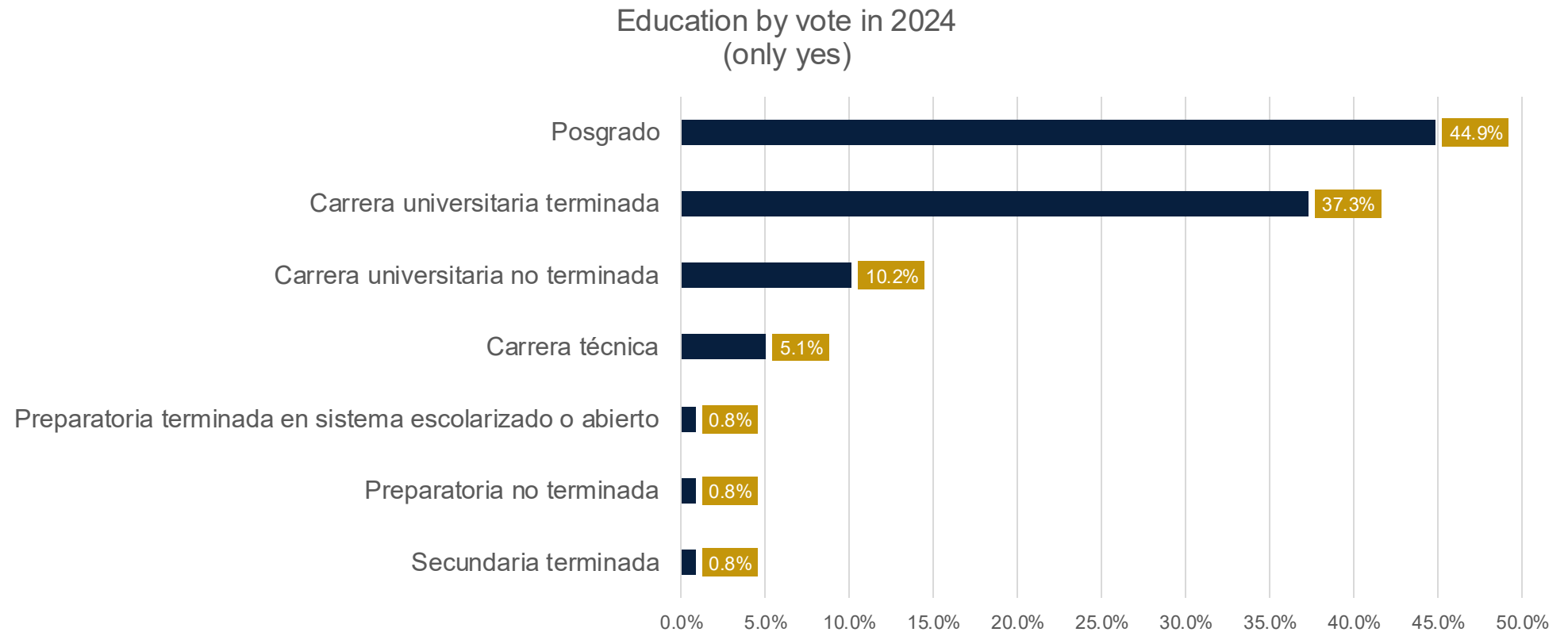
¿Votó usted en las elecciones presidenciales de Estados Unidos en 2024?



Did you vote in the 2024 presidential elections?

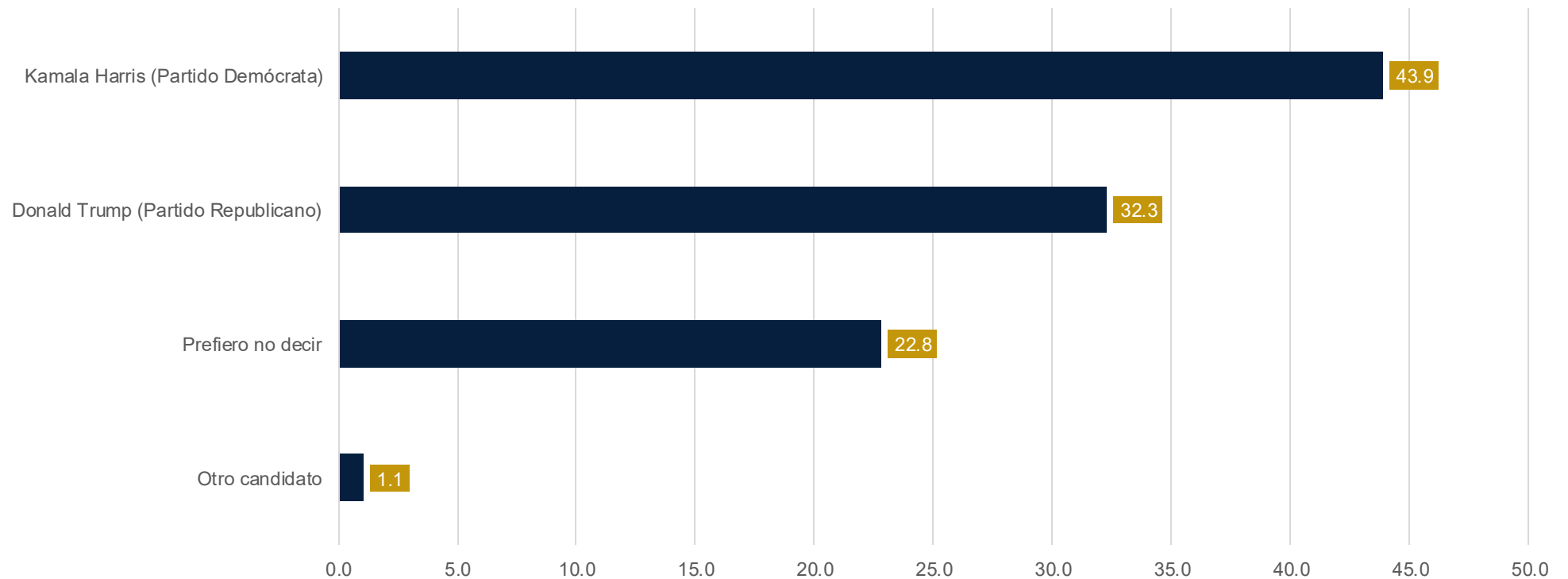


Did you vote in the 2024 presidential elections?

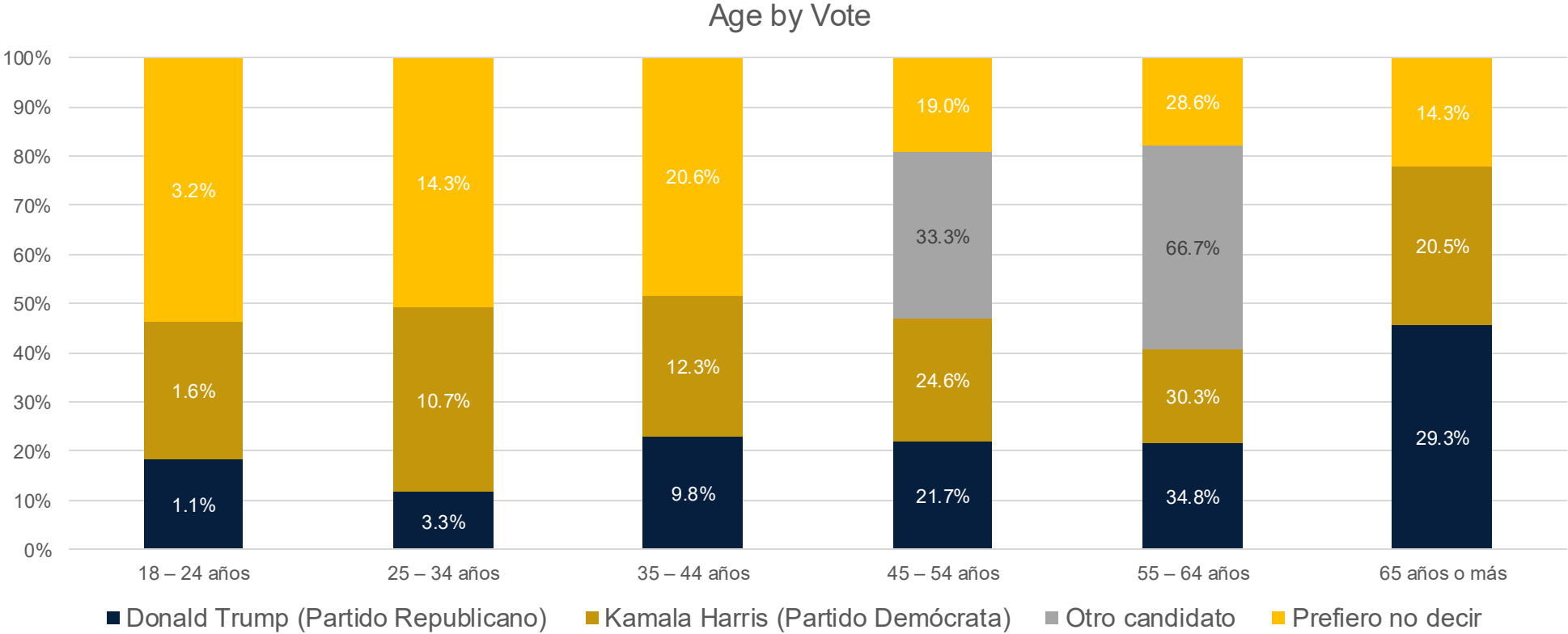


If you voted, for whom did you vote in the 2024 presidential elections?

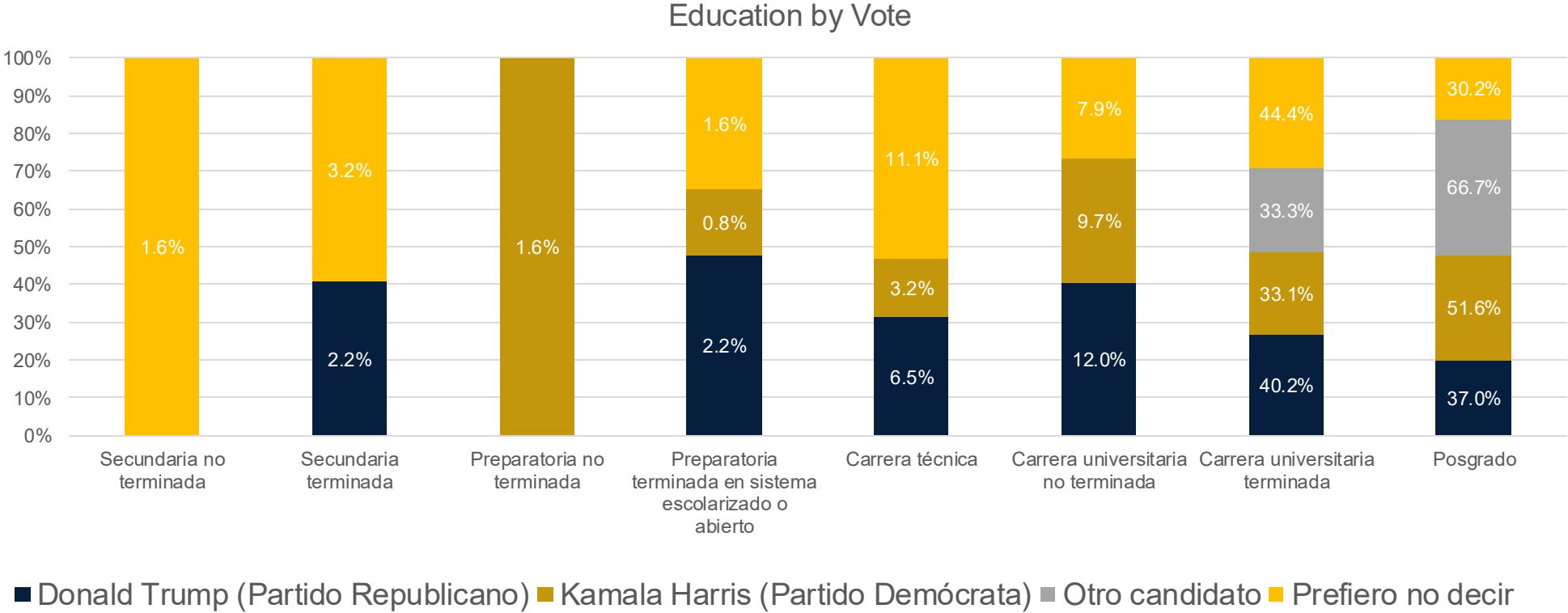
Si votó, ¿por quién votó en las elecciones presidenciales de 2024?



If you voted, for whom did you vote in the 2024 presidential elections?

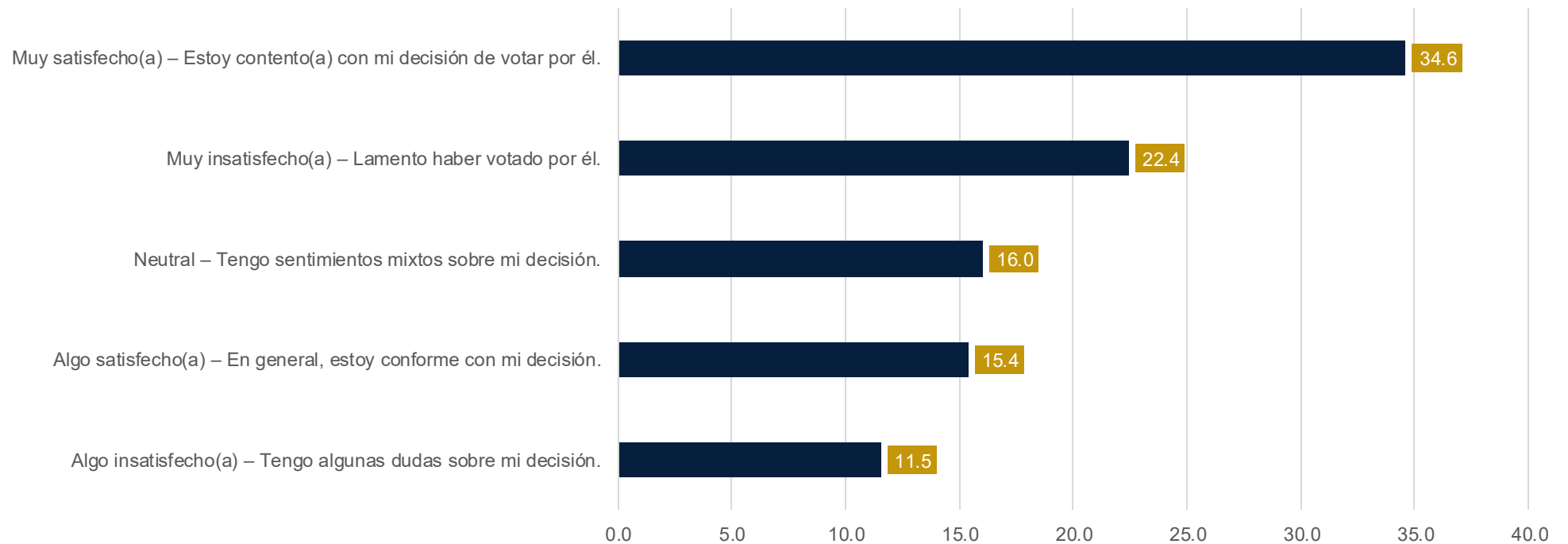


If you voted, for whom did you vote in the 2024 presidential elections?



If you voted for Donald Trump, and reflecting on the president's actions since his election, how do you feel about your vote?

Si votó por Donald Trump, y reflexionando sobre las acciones del Presidente Trump desde las elecciones de 2024, ¿cómo se siente acerca de su voto?

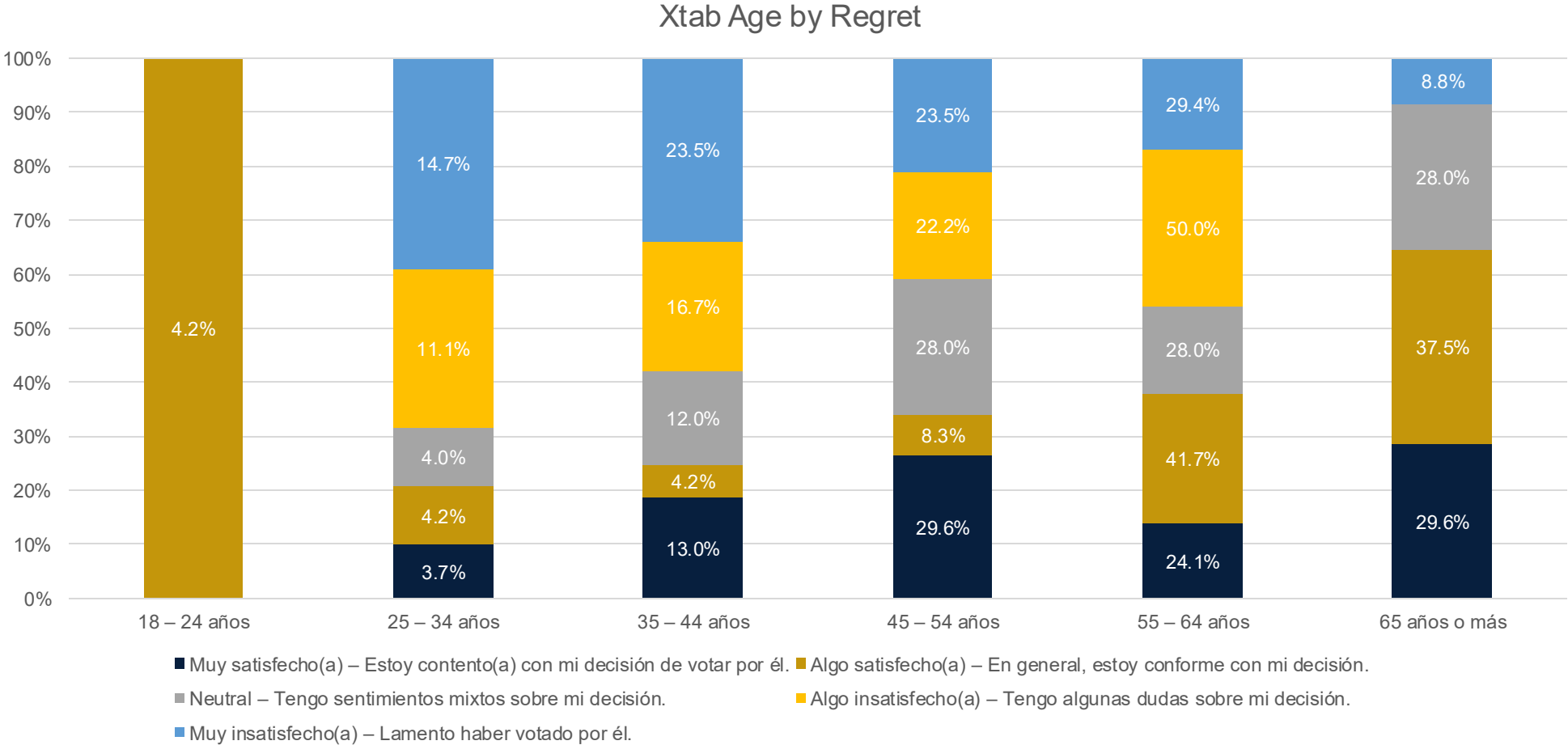


About half (50%) of Trump voters say they are *very or somewhat satisfied* with their vote.

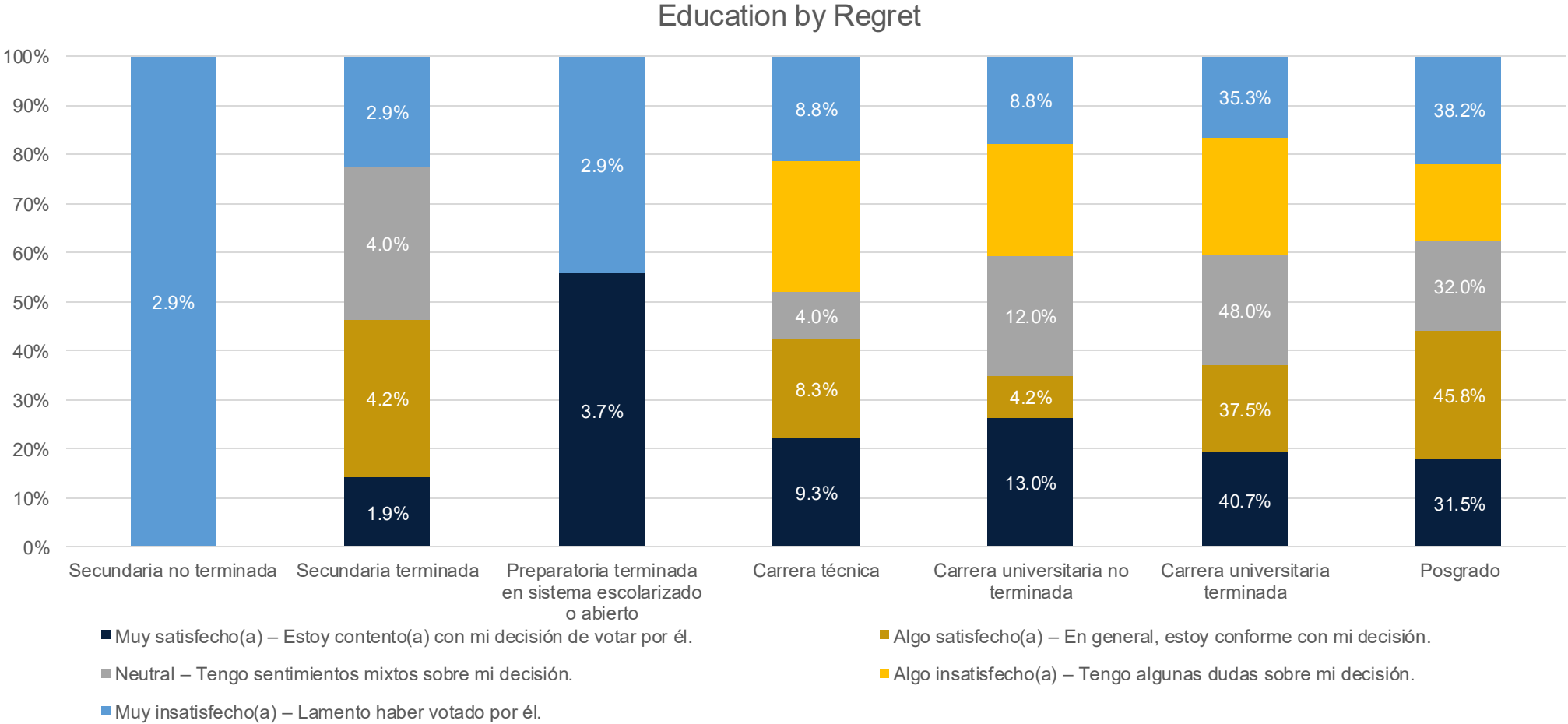
A **combined 33.9%** express dissatisfaction, with **22.4% outright regretting** their vote.

This suggests a **deep divide** among Trump's 2024 voters, with **regret and uncertainty** being common.

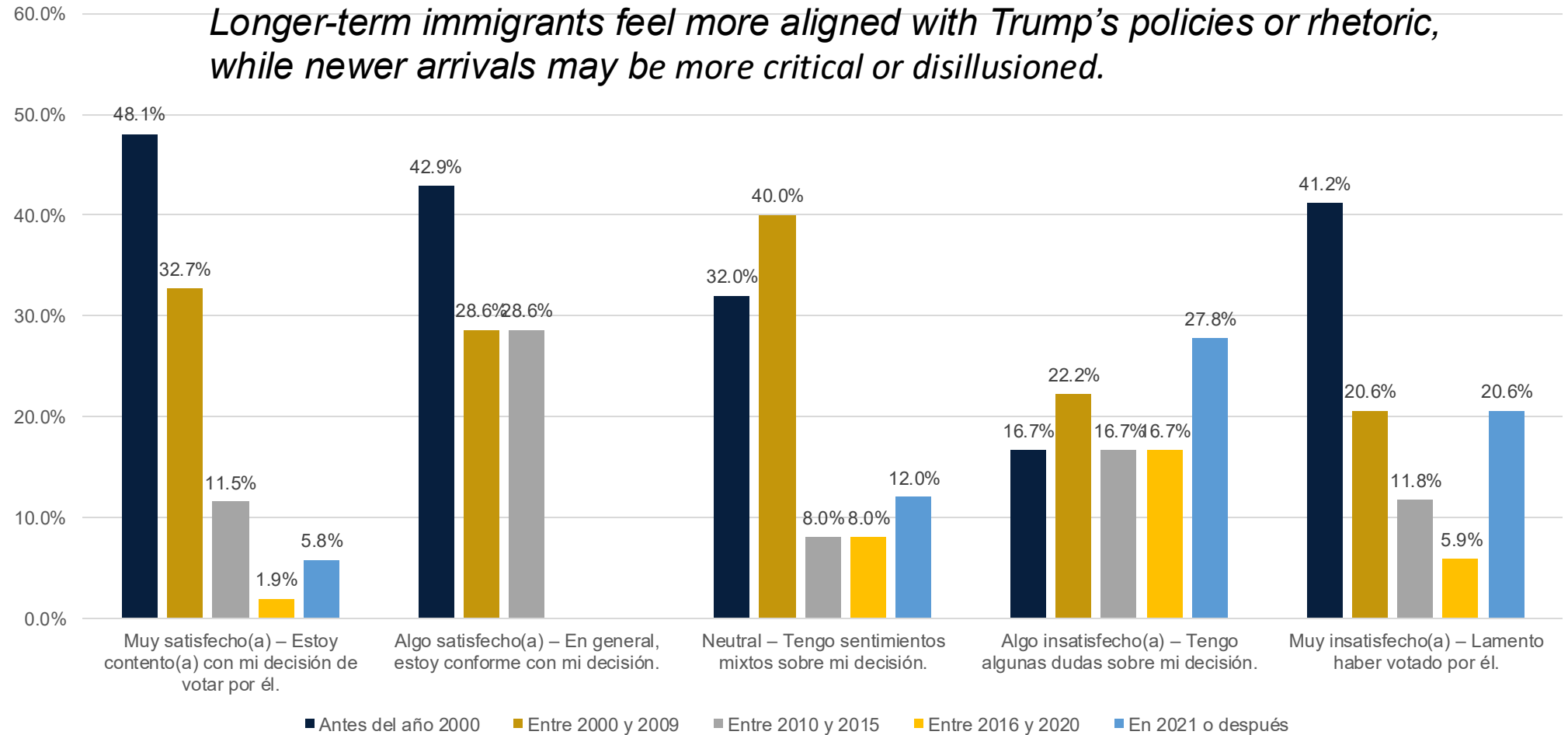
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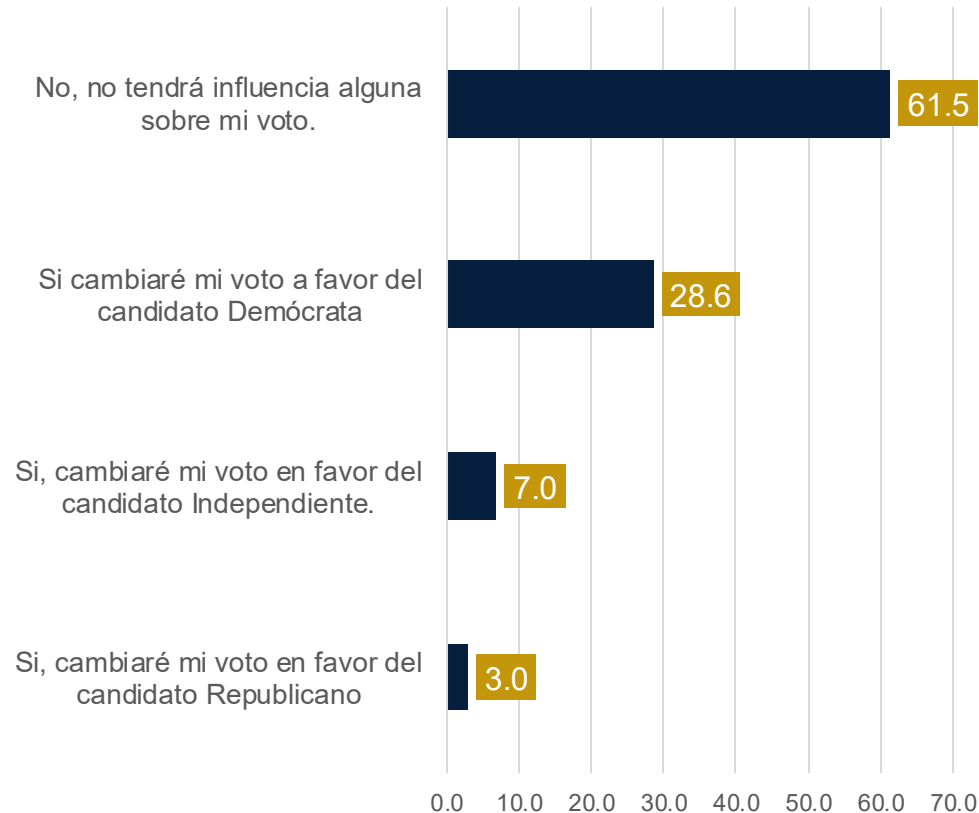


If you voted for Donald Trump, and reflecting on the president's actions since his election, how do you feel about your vote?



In your opinion, has President Trump's handling of Venezuela influenced you to consider changing your vote?

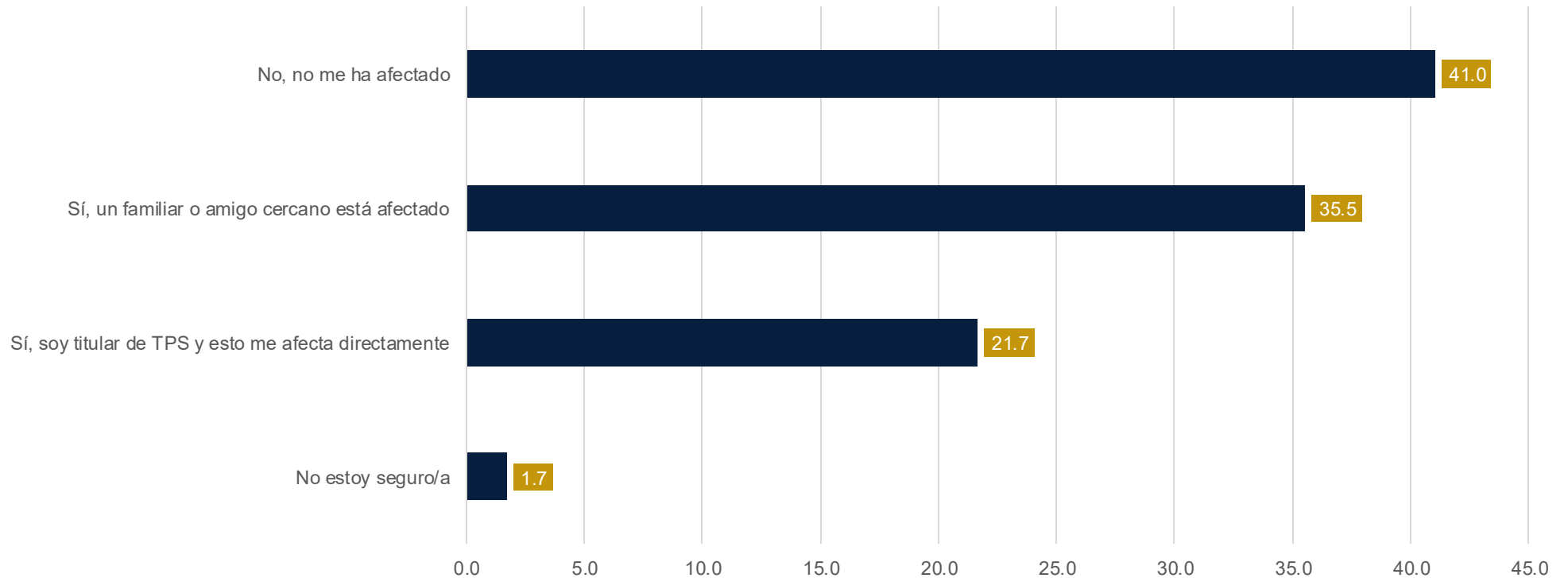
En su opinión, la gestión del Presidente Trump hasta la fecha respecto a Venezuela, ¿hará que usted cambie su voto?



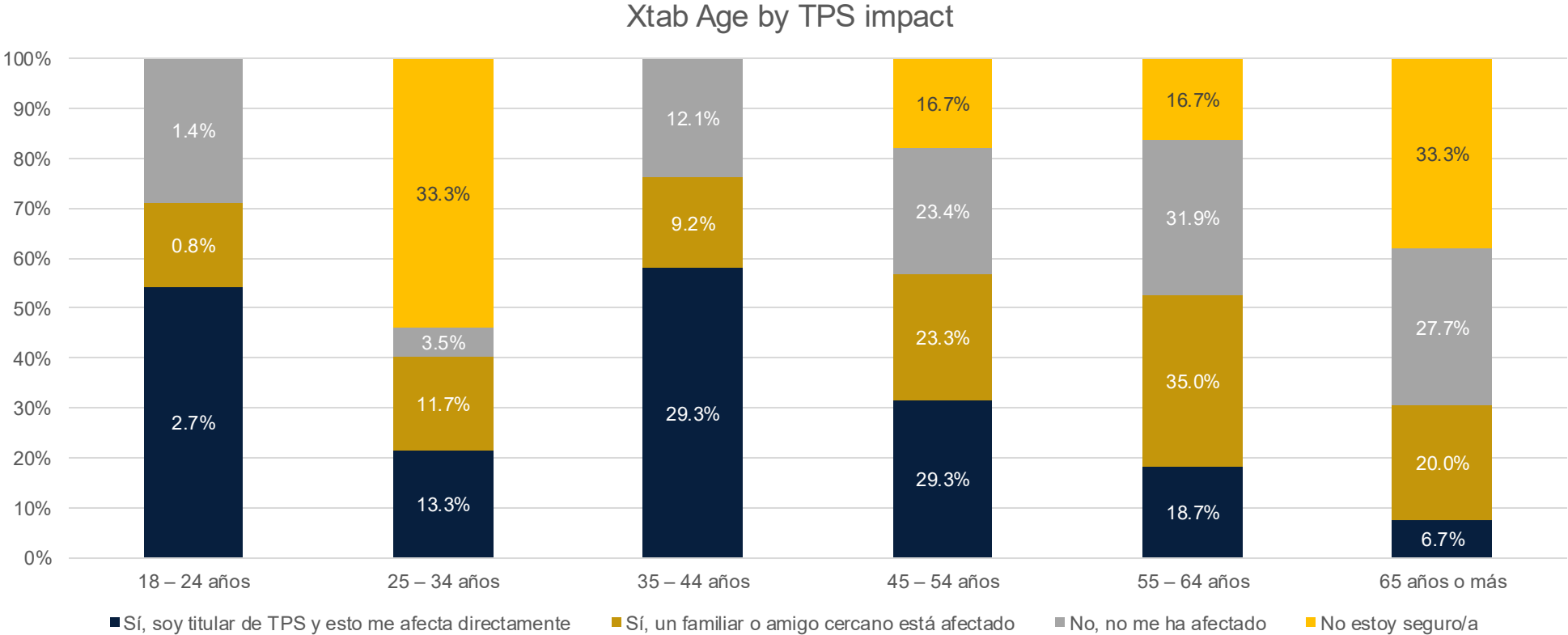
- While most voters (61.5%) remain unaffected, a significant 38.5% are reconsidering their vote because of Trump's handling of Venezuela.
- The biggest shift is toward Democratic candidates—indicating that his Venezuela policy may be costing him support among some of his base.
- Very limited loyalty shift within the Republican Party suggests that disillusioned Trump voters may exit the party line altogether, rather than support another Republican.
- Although Trump retains majority support on this issue, his Venezuela policies are politically costly for a significant minority, especially among those considering a Democratic alternative.

Have you been personally affected by the Trump administration's decision to end Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Venezuelans?

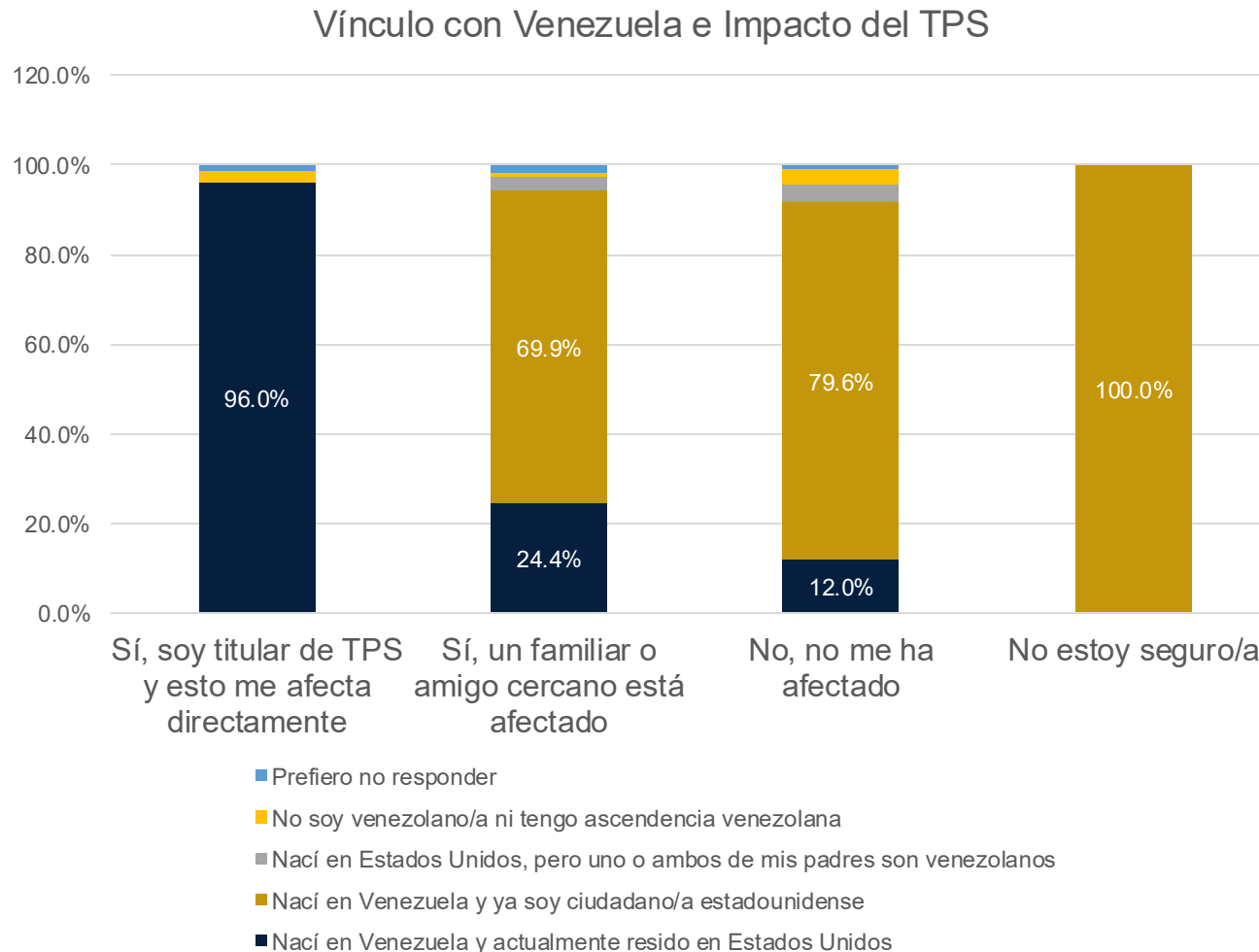
¿Ha sido afectado(a) personalmente por la decisión de poner fin al TPS para venezolanos?



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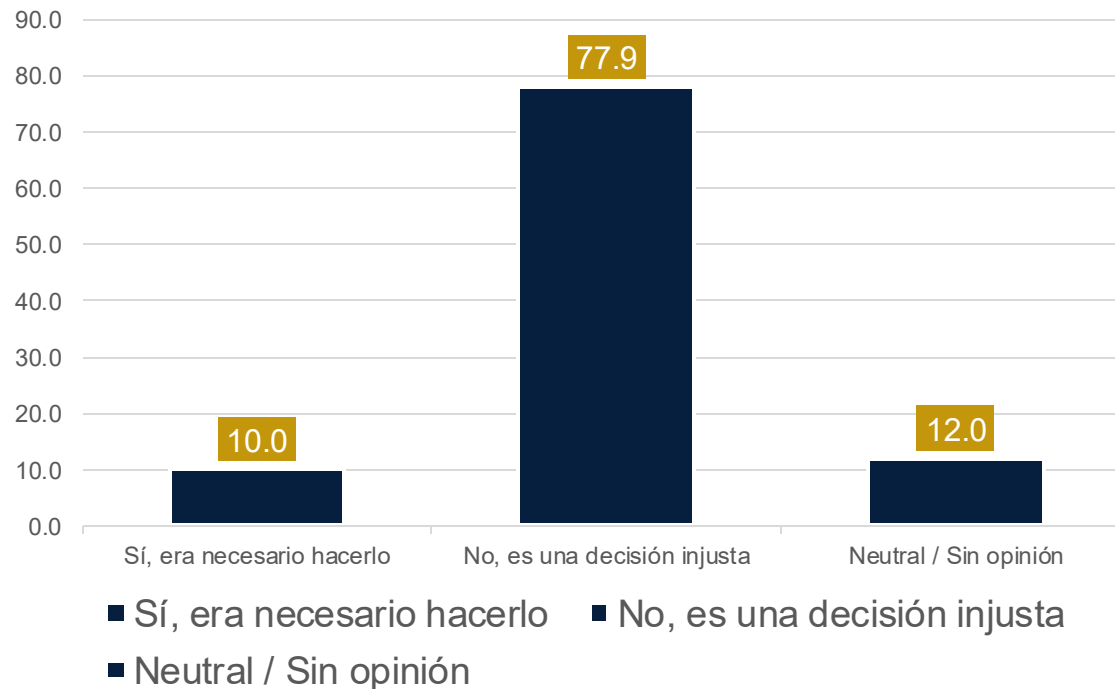
- Direct TPS impact is highly concentrated among Venezuelans residing in the U.S. without citizenship.

- There is a broader circle of emotional or relational impact extending to Venezuelan-Americans and even some non-Venezuelans.

- Policy changes around TPS are not just administrative — they resonate through family and community networks.

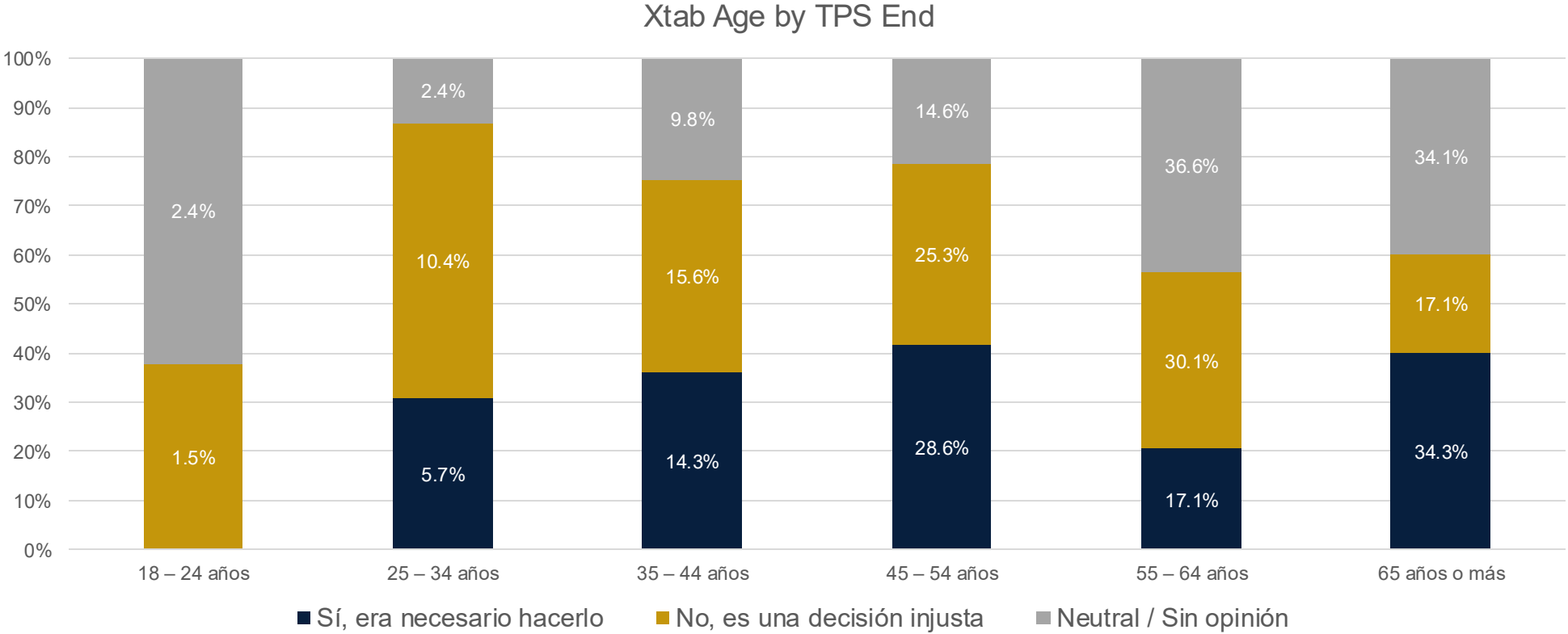
In your opinion, is the decision to end TPS for Venezuelans justified?

¿Cree que la decisión de finalizar el TPS para los venezolanos está justificada?



- Nearly 8 in 10 respondents view the decision to end TPS as unjust.
- Only 10% think it was the right decision, indicating minimal approval even among potentially mixed audiences.
- The neutral/no opinion group is relatively small (12%), which reflects a high level of awareness and emotional investment in the issue.

In your opinion, is the decision to end TPS for Venezuelans justified?



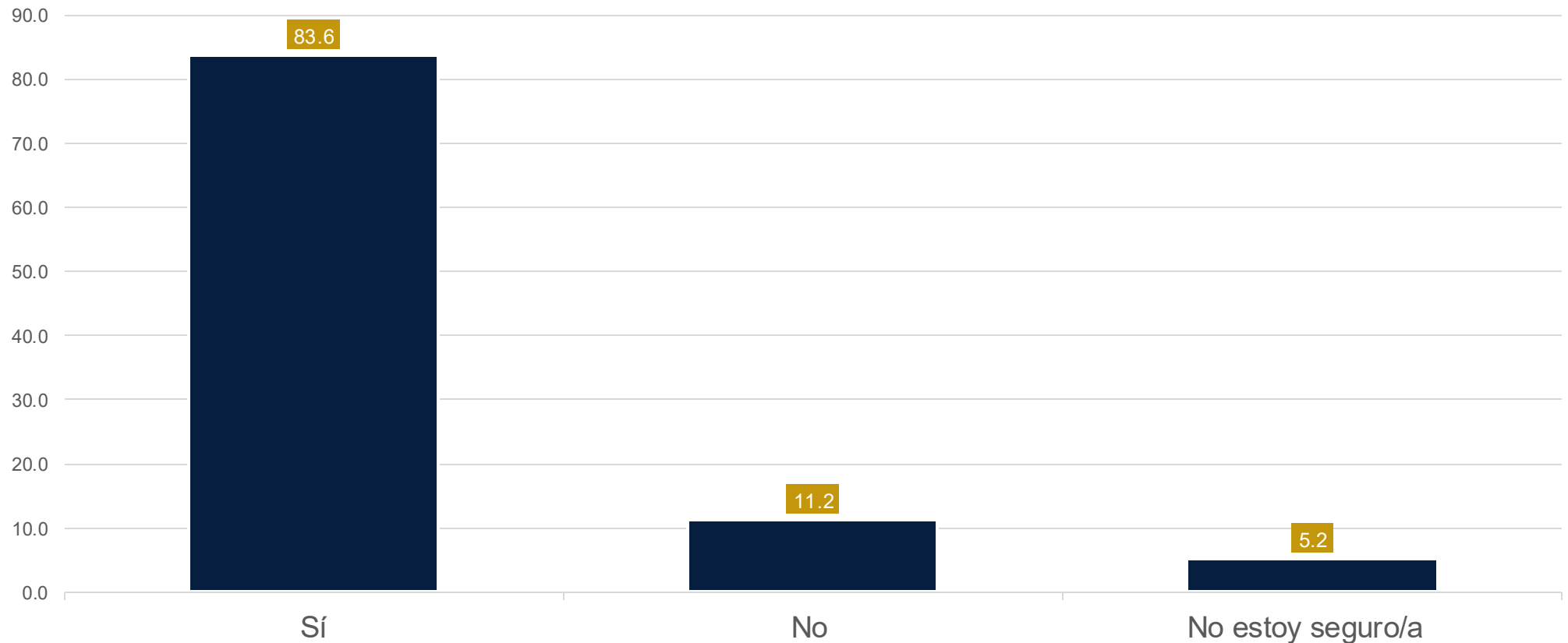
In your opinion, is the decision to end TPS for Venezuelans justified?



- The strongest support for ending TPS comes from naturalized U.S. citizens born in Venezuela — potentially because they no longer need TPS.
- Those currently relying on TPS (i.e., Venezuelan-born individuals living in the U.S. without citizenship) are far less likely to support the policy change.
- Second-generation Venezuelans and non-Venezuelans show very low support, which might reflect limited relevance or opposition rooted in values.

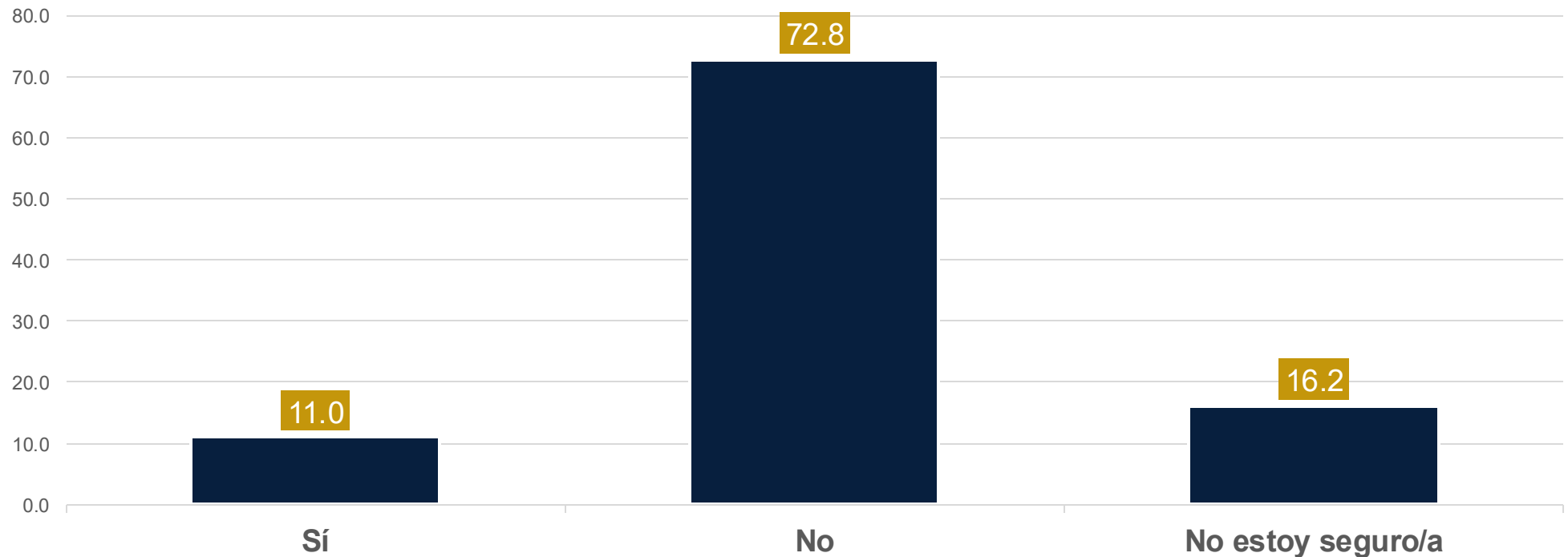
Have you heard about the humanitarian parole program, the CNHV, that allowed Venezuelans to enter the United States legally?

¿Ha oído hablar del programa de parole humanitario que permitía el ingreso legal de venezolano a Estados Unidos, también conocido como CNHV?



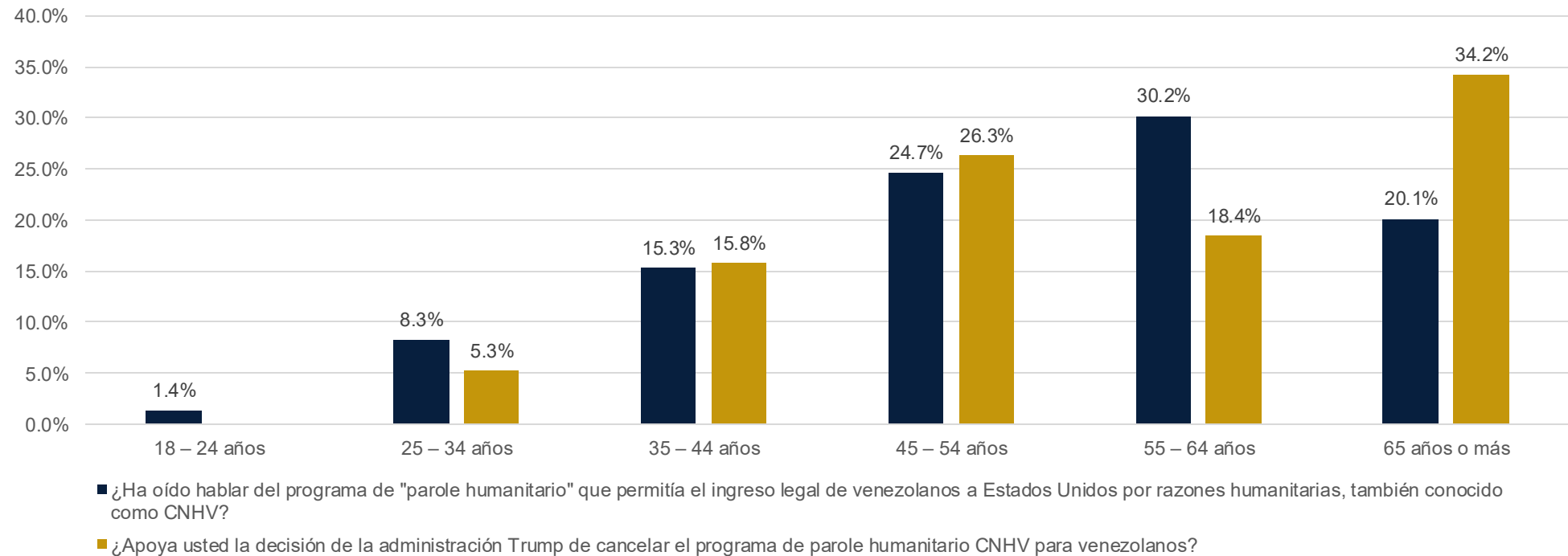
Do you support the Trump Administration's decision to end the Humanitarian parole program for Venezuelans?

¿Apoya usted la decisión de la administración Trump de cancelar el parole humanitario para venezolanos?

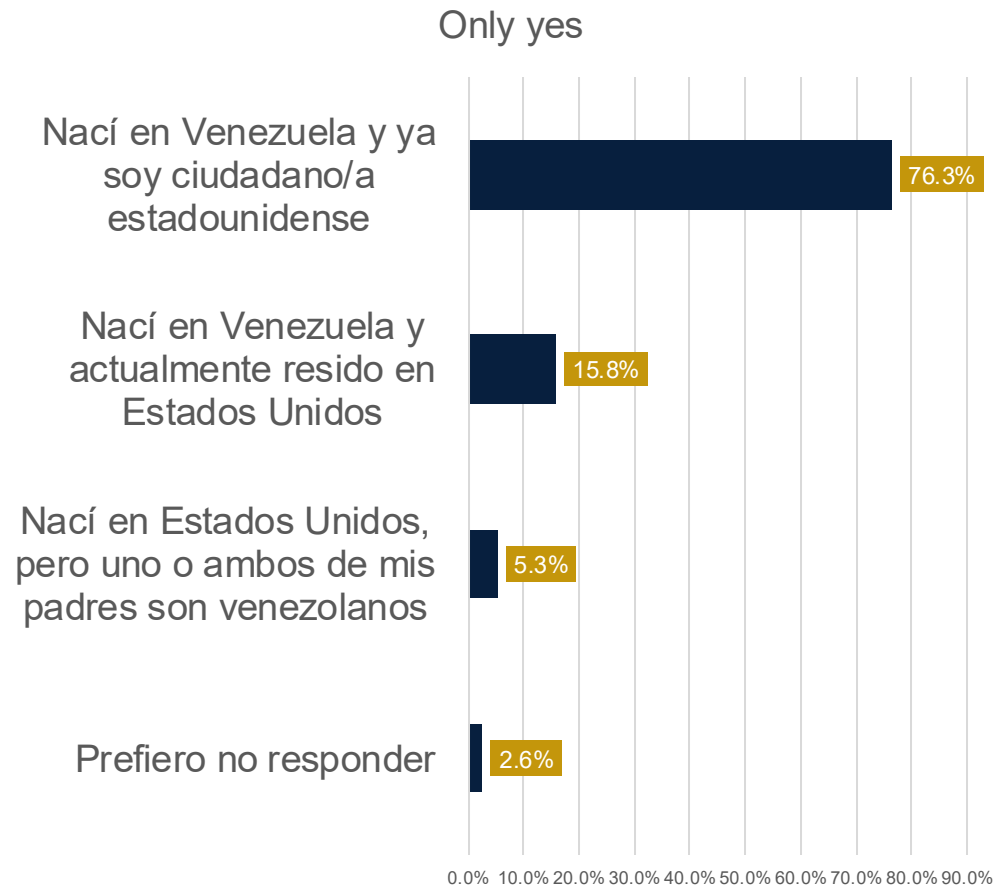


Do you support the Trump Administration's decision to end the Humanitarian parole program for Venezuelans?

Age by have you heard of Humanitarian Parole and Do you support the decision to end Parole (only yes)

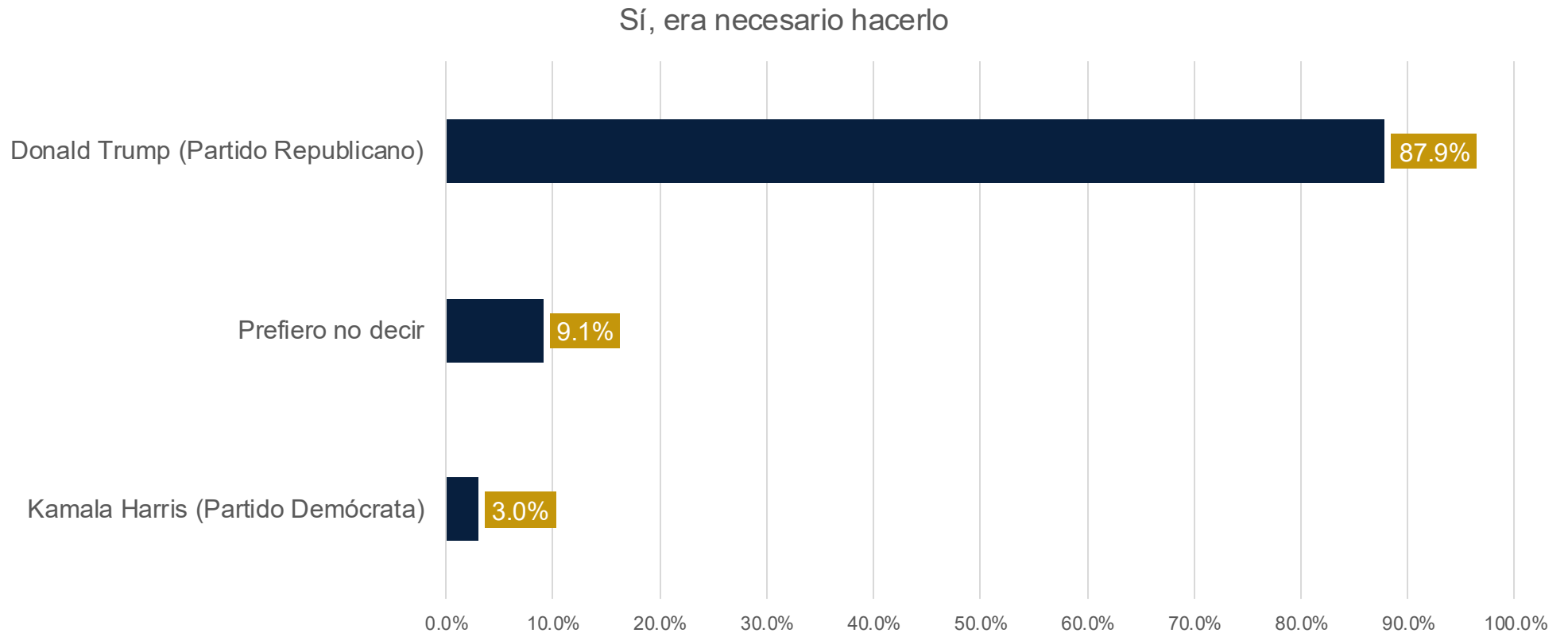


Do you support the Trump Administration's decision to end the Humanitarian parole program for Venezuelans?



- Naturalized Venezuelan-Americans overwhelmingly support ending humanitarian parole. This mirrors earlier patterns seen with support for ending TPS — showing a possible divide based on legal status and length of time in the U.S.
- Those still living in the U.S. under more precarious immigration circumstances (e.g. non-citizens or recent arrivals) are far more likely to oppose ending the program.
- Younger or second-generation Venezuelan-Americans are also largely unsupportive — reflecting a possible generational and status-based split within the diaspora.

Support for Ending Parole by 2024 Presidential Preference



Support for ending humanitarian programs is heavily concentrated among Republican voters. Democratic and non-declared voters show minimal alignment with the policy.

Venezuelan Voices on Immigration Policy: A Spectrum of Perspectives

- **Security-Focused Critique**

- “The Maduro regime used open-border policies as a Trojan horse to infiltrate criminal groups like Tren de Aragua.” – Naturalized Venezuelan-American

- • **Civic Integration & Gratitude**

- “I paid my way, filed taxes, and I’m proud to contribute. I just want to build a life here with my family.” – Recent parole beneficiary

- • **Balanced/Mixed View**

- “Yes, remove criminals like Tren de Aragua—but many Venezuelans deserve legal status while the Maduro dictatorship continues.” – Moderate respondent

- • **Economic Contribution & Fairness**

- “They passed background checks and paid their own way. Ending the program hurts people who pay taxes and fill essential jobs.” – Pro-immigration economic argument

- • **Emotional Toll & Trust in Leadership**

- “You can’t make overnight decisions that crush people’s dreams. We followed the rules. Now we’re left anxious and stressed by leaders who change their minds depending on how they wake up.” – Parole recipient expressing disillusionment

Si respondió Sí o No, por favor, explique brevemente el motivo de su posición.

De un día para el otro no se toman decisiones unilaterales, que afectan a individuos que están haciendo las cosas como se les dijo que se hicieran, que invirtieron tiempo y dinero, y que de un momento a otro solo porque una persona lo dice todo sus sueños se ven troncados, aparte de la ansiedad y el estrés que provoca estar dirigidos por una persona que cambia de opinión dependiendo de cómo amanezca el día.

You don't make unilateral decisions overnight—especially ones that affect individuals who have followed the rules, invested time and money, and done everything they were told. Suddenly, because one person decides so, all their dreams are cut short. On top of that, the anxiety and stress of being governed by someone who changes their mind depending on how they feel that day is overwhelming.

Si respondió Sí o No, por favor, explique brevemente el motivo de su posición.

Estas personas han sido sometidas a una revisión exhaustiva de antecedentes para poder viajar y costearon por sus propios medios su traslado hasta acá. Cancelar este programa marginaliza a personas que han venido pagando impuestos con su trabajo y llenado puestos de trabajo en áreas importantes como construcción y hospitalidad.

These individuals underwent thorough background checks in order to travel, and paid for their journey on their own. Canceling this program marginalizes people who have been working, paying taxes, and filling essential jobs in key sectors like construction and hospitality.

Si respondió Sí o No, por favor, explique brevemente el motivo de su posición.

Estoy de acuerdo en limpiar la casa y sacar Tren de Aragua y todo inmigrante con récord criminal. Pero hay demasiados venezolanos que merecen su estatus legal así sea temporal mientras Venezuela siga con la dictadura de Maduro.

I agree with cleaning house—getting rid of the Tren de Aragua and any immigrant with a criminal record. But there are far too many Venezuelans who deserve legal status, even if it's temporary, while Venezuela remains under Maduro's dictatorship.

Si respondió Sí o No, por favor, explique brevemente el motivo de su posición.

Lamentablemente el régimen comunista / chavista liderado por Maduro, utilizó la política de la Administración Biden/Harris de fronteras abiertas como un caballo de Troya para infiltrar a sus militantes/Milicias criminales como el Tren de Aragua para desestabilizar a los EEUU mediante la violencia, inseguridad y tráfico de drogas

Unfortunately, the communist/chavista regime led by Maduro used the Biden-Harris administration's open-border policy as a Trojan horse to infiltrate its militants and criminal groups, such as the Tren de Aragua, to destabilize the United States through violence, insecurity, and drug trafficking.

Si respondió Sí o No, por favor, explique brevemente el motivo de su posición.

No ayuda de nada que permitan entrar a miles de personas sin tener un plan. Por esos programas es que la administración de Trump tuvo que actuar de esta manera. Abrieron las fronteras prácticamente sin regulación y ahora los americanos nos ven mal. La mayoría de los venezolanos vinieron a trabajar y a tener un mejor futuro, pero vinieron solo a probar a ver qué tal, sin siquiera buscar ayuda legal para saber que otra opción utilizarían después para quedarse permanentemente. Se de muchos que también se aprovechan del estado y del sistema y pienso que es porque se pudieron venir personas que no respetan ni valoran la oportunidad porque fue muy fácil.

It doesn't help at all to let thousands of people enter without having a plan. That's why the Trump administration had to take action. The borders were practically opened without regulation, and now Americans see us in a negative light.

Most Venezuelans came here to work and build a better future, but many came just to 'try it out' without even seeking legal advice on how they might stay permanently. I know of many who are also taking advantage of state assistance and the system. I think that's because people were allowed to come too easily—some didn't respect or appreciate the opportunity.

Si respondió Sí o No, por favor, explique brevemente el motivo de su posición.

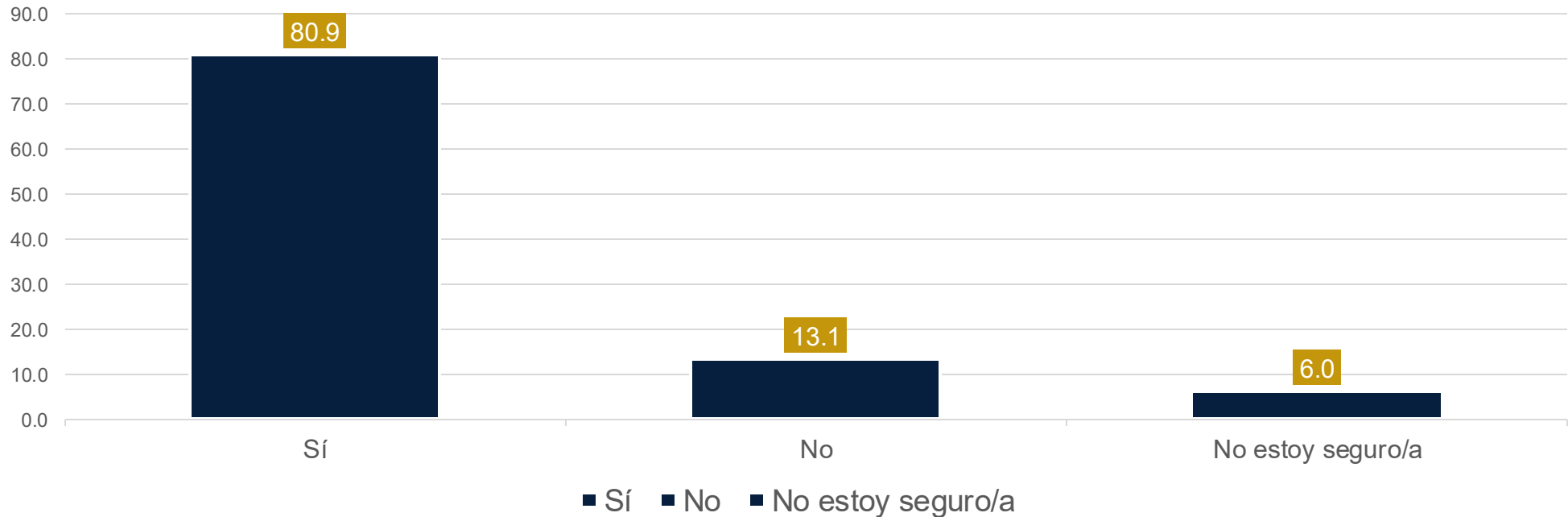
Soy beneficiaria del programa parole. Mi hermana fue mi sponsor y yo pagué mi pasaje de avión para venir. Soy una persona responsable, trabajadora y con una actitud cívica de la que me siento orgullosa, tengo poco tiempo en el país pero ya hice mi primera declaración de impuestos y me esfuerzo por tener un buen crédito. Si mis compañeros de trabajo tuvieran que describirme dirían que soy una persona alegre, responsable y que se sienten a gusto con mi presencia. Agradezco la oportunidad que se me ha dado y la aprovecho al máximo. Solo quiero tener calidad de vida, disfrutar a mi familia que vive desde hace años acá y conformar la mía propia. Quiero pertenecer y permanecer en este país. Amo Venezuela, me duele mi país. Pero también me siento muy agradecida con EEUU, y su maravillosa gente.

"I am a beneficiary of the parole program. My sister was my sponsor, and I paid for my own plane ticket to come. I am a responsible, hardworking person with a civic-minded attitude I am proud of. I have only been in the country for a short time, but I have already filed my first tax return and am working hard to build good credit. If my coworkers had to describe me, they would say I am cheerful, responsible, and that they enjoy working with me. I am grateful for the opportunity I've been given and I am making the most of it. I just want to have a good quality of life, enjoy being with my family who has lived here for years, and start a family of my own. I want to belong and remain in this country. I love Venezuela—my country's pain is my pain. But I am also deeply grateful to the United States and its wonderful people."

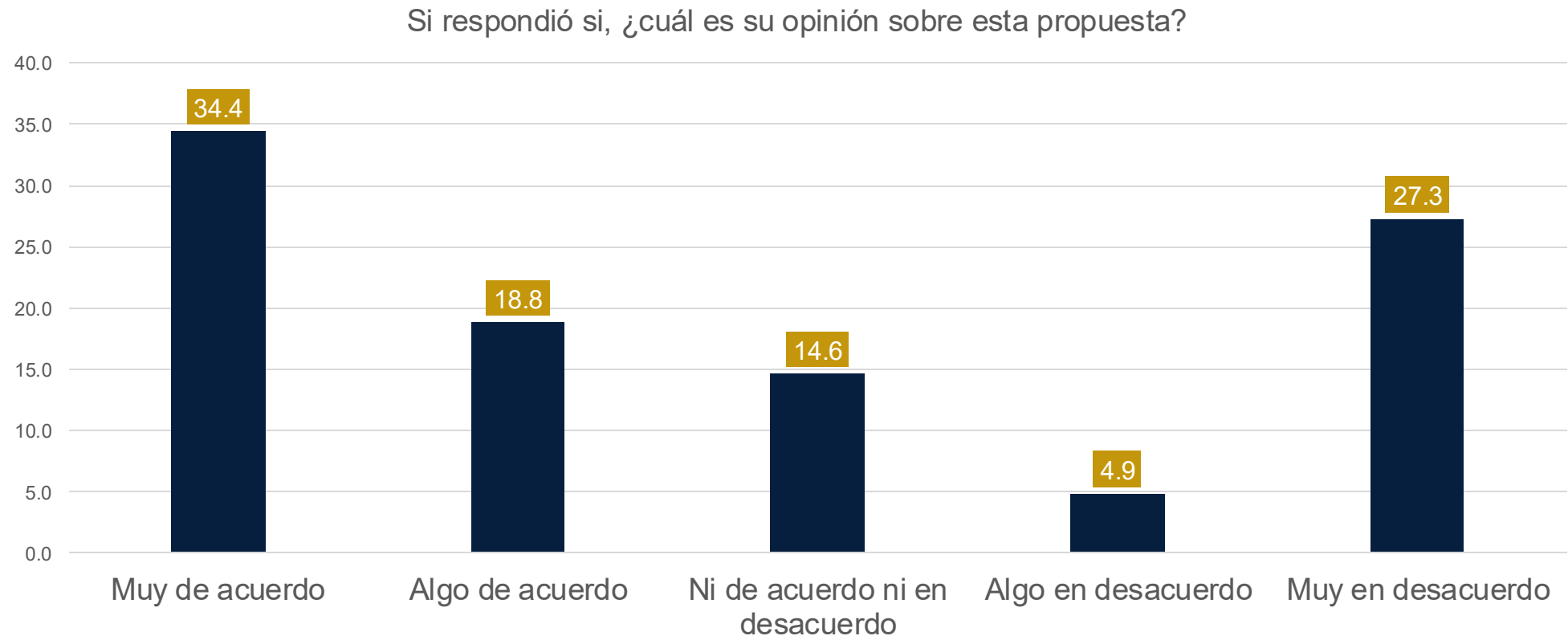


Have you heard of President Nayib Bukele's proposal to exchange alleged members of the Tren de Aragua and other Venezuelans detained in El Salvador for political prisoners jailed in Venezuela by Nicolás Maduro?

¿Ha oído hablar de la propuesta del presidente de El Salvador, Nayib Bukele, de intercambiar a presuntos miembros del Tren de Aragua y otros venezolanos detenidos en su país por presos políticos venezolanos encarcelados por el régimen de Nicolás Maduro?



If you answered yes, what is your opinion about this proposal?



The Trump administration has deported Venezuelan men accused of being affiliated with the criminal organization Tren de Aragua to third countries like El Salvador.

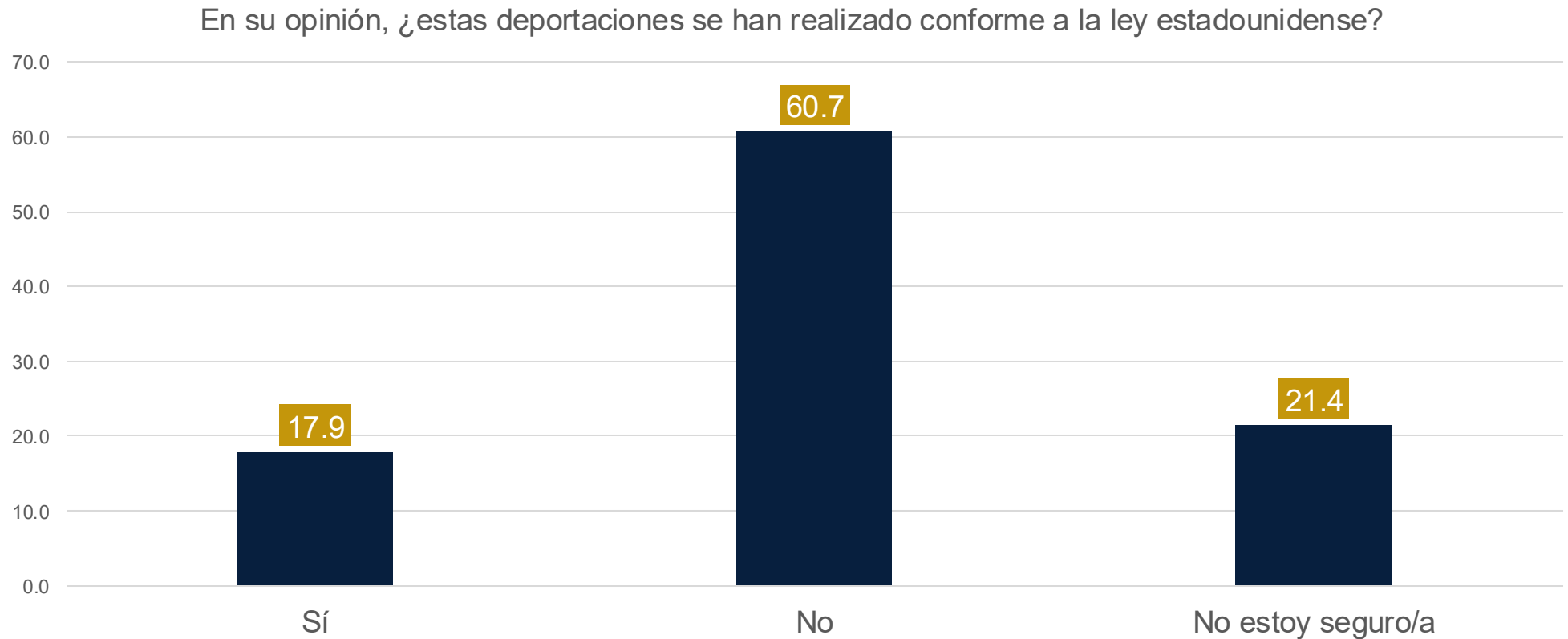
What is your opinion on these deportations? (Selected open-ended responses)

- "They can send members of Tren de Aragua to Mars—we all know they're criminals. But they need to stop lumping all Venezuelans together and assuming everyone is part of Tren de Aragua. That couldn't be further from the truth. There are criminals everywhere, not just in Venezuela."
- "All individuals have a right to due process, which the Trump administration is violating. I am appalled by his actions. They do not care whether or not they have proof of anyone's involvement with any specific criminal organization."
- "Based on tattoos? If they're criminals, they still need due process. How sure are we that they all belong to Tren de Aragua?"
- "Punishing without evidence not only leads to grave injustice, but it also betrays the fundamental values of the United States. What they've done is inhumane. Protecting public safety is important, but it must always be done while respecting human rights and the rule of law."
- "I'm 100% in agreement and fully support it. Plus, the detention program at CECOT in El Salvador has proven to be effective and efficient in managing this issue."
- "They should deport those men directly to Venezuela."
- "I completely agree that those criminals should be behind bars, and sending them back to Venezuela means letting them go free to keep committing crimes."
- "I agree that they should be deported! To where? That's not up to me—it's wherever the Trump administration decides is best."

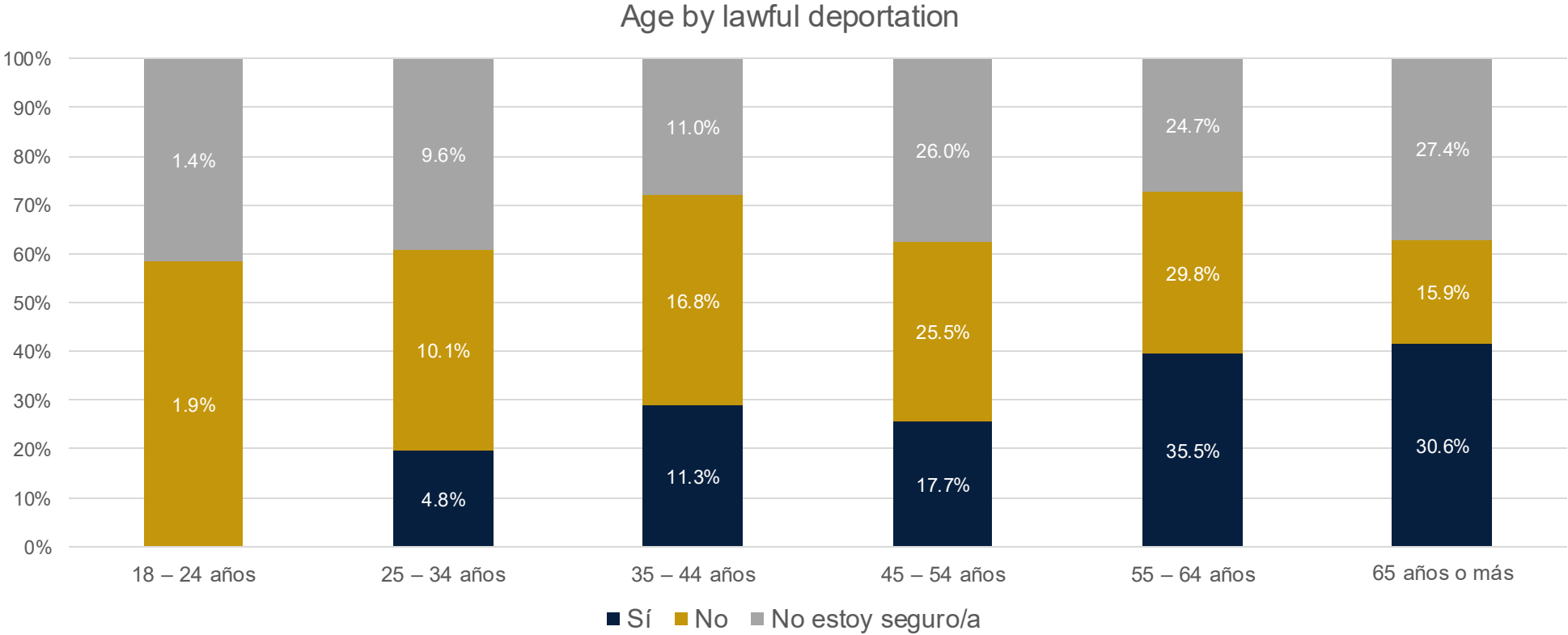
La administración Trump ha deportado a hombres venezolanos acusados de estar afiliados con la organización criminal Tren de Aragua hacia terceros países como El Salvador. ¿Cuál es su opinión sobre estas deportaciones? (Respuesta abierta)

- “A los miembros del Tren de Aragua se los pueden llevar a Marte, todos sabemos que son criminales. Pero deben dejar de meter a todos los venezolanos en un mismo saco y pensar que todos pertenecen al Tren de Aragua. Nada más falso que eso. Criminales los hay de todos lados, no solo de Venezuela.”
- “Todos los individuos tienen derecho al debido proceso, el cual la administración Trump está violando. Me horrorizan sus acciones. No les importa si tienen o no pruebas de la participación de alguien en alguna organización criminal específica.” Basado en tatuajes? Si son criminales igual necesitan due process. Que tan seguros estamos de que todos son del tren de Aragua?
- “Castigar sin pruebas no solo conlleva graves injusticias, sino que también traiciona los valores fundamentales de Estados Unidos. Lo que han echo es inhumano. Es importante proteger la seguridad pública, pero debe hacerse siempre respetando los derechos humanos y el Estado de derecho.”
- *“100% de acuerdo y lo apoyo totalmente. Además el programa de reclusión en el CECOT en el Salvador a demostrado ser eficaz y eficiente en la gestion.”*
- *“Deberían deportar a estos hombres directamente a Venezuela”*
- *“Estoy completamente de acuerdo que esos criminales estén bajo rejas y devolverlos a Vzla significa que los dejen libres para seguir cometiendo fechorías.”*
- *“Estoy de acuerdo a que sean deportados! A donde? Eso no está en mi, está donde la administración Trump decida que sea mejor.”*

In your opinion, have these deportations been carried out in accordance with U.S. law?

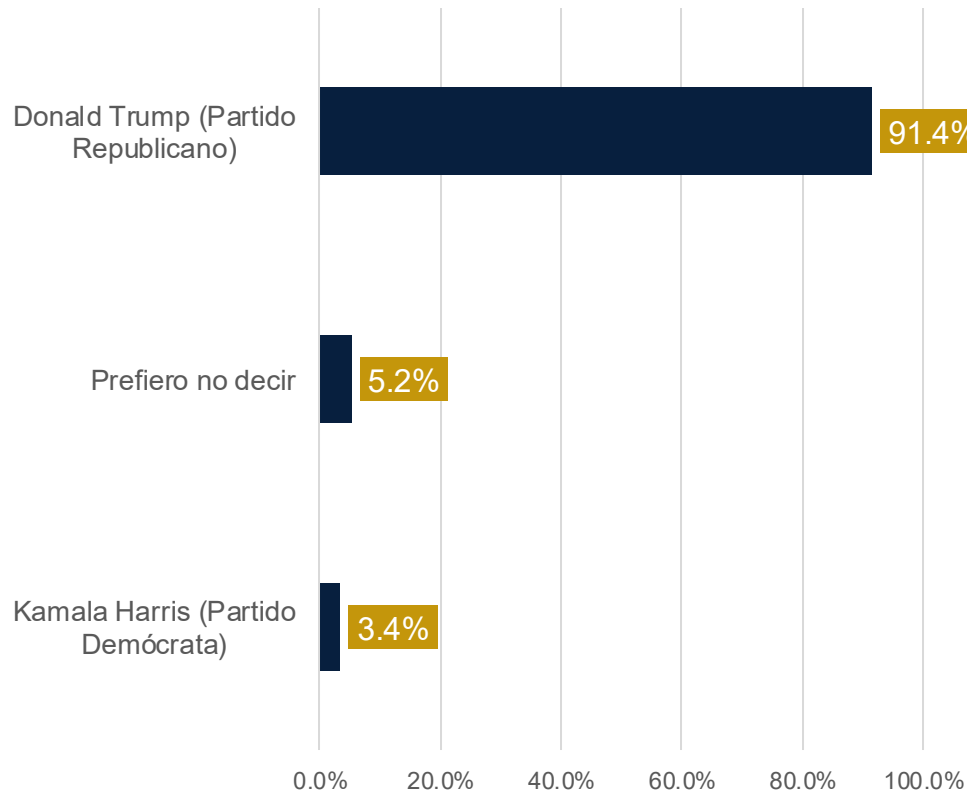


In your opinion, have these deportations been carried out in accordance with U.S. law?



Perceived Legality of Deportations by 2024 Presidential Preference

("¿Las deportaciones se han realizado conforme a la ley?" – solo quienes respondieron "sí")

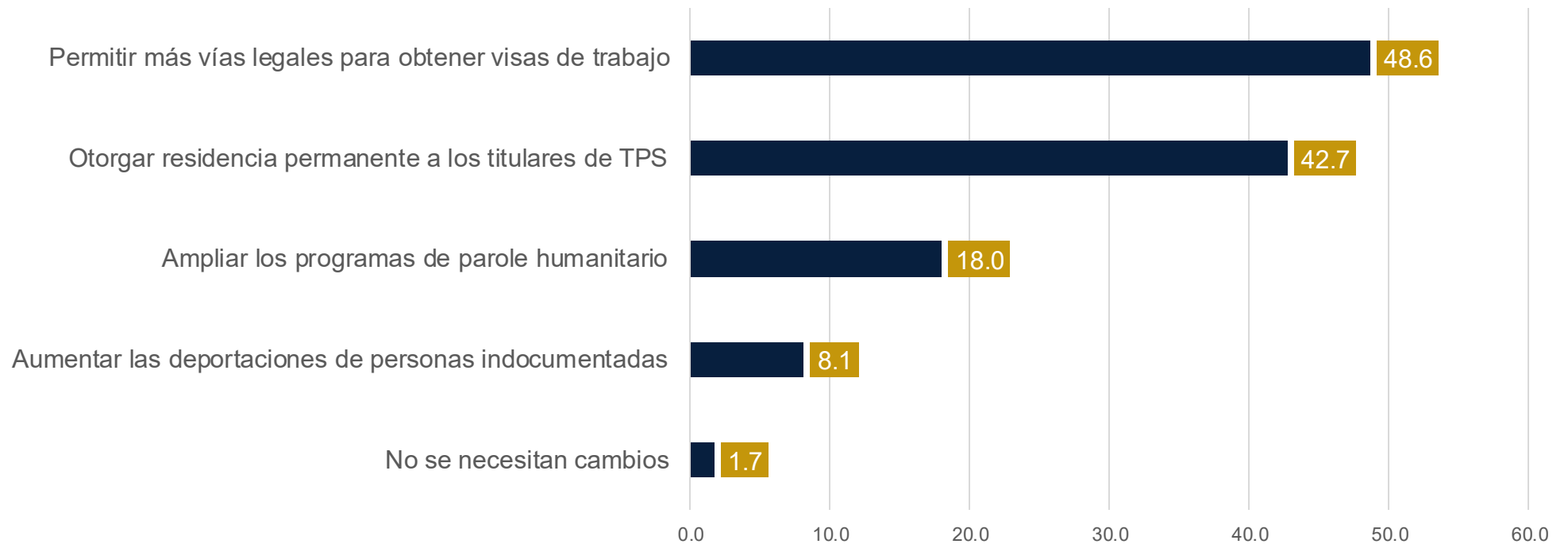


Overwhelming Republican Confidence in Legality

- Nearly all Trump supporters (91.4%) believe deportations have been carried out legally.
- Reflects strong partisan alignment with the administration's immigration enforcement.

What should be the US government's priority with respect to Venezuelan migration?

¿Qué debería ser la prioridad del gobierno de EE.UU en relación con la migración venezolana?



En sus propias palabras, ¿qué debería hacer el gobierno de EE. UU. de manera diferente en relación con Venezuela y la migración venezolana?

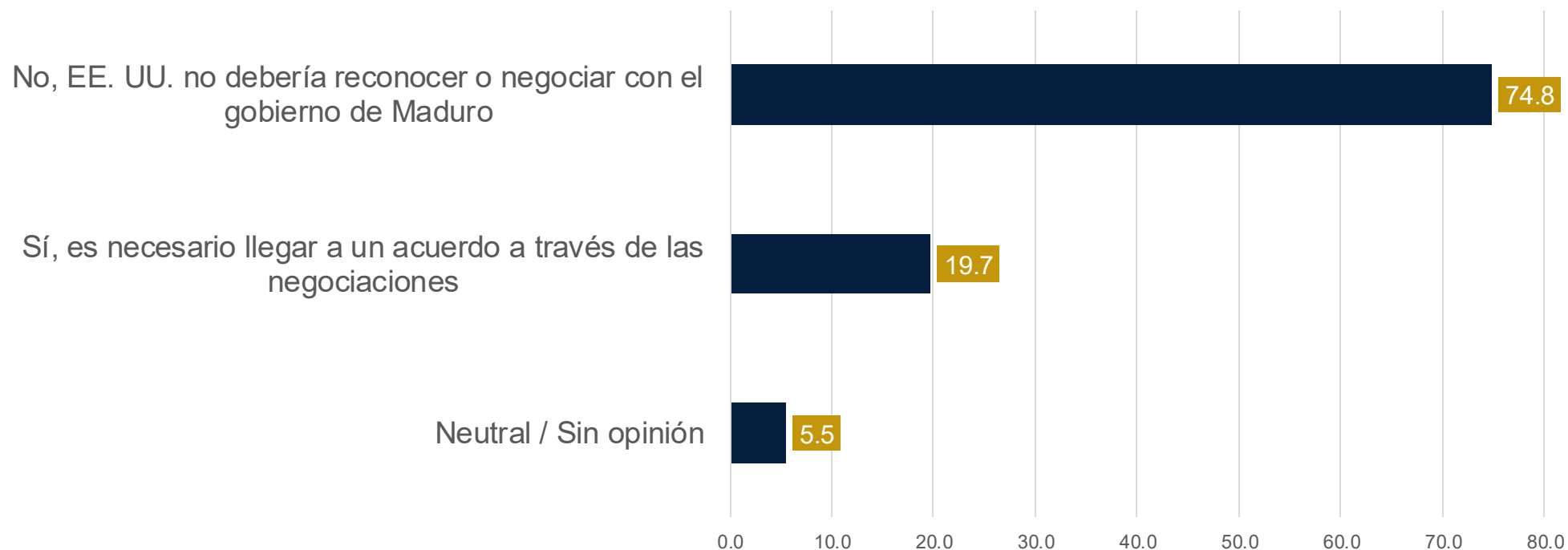


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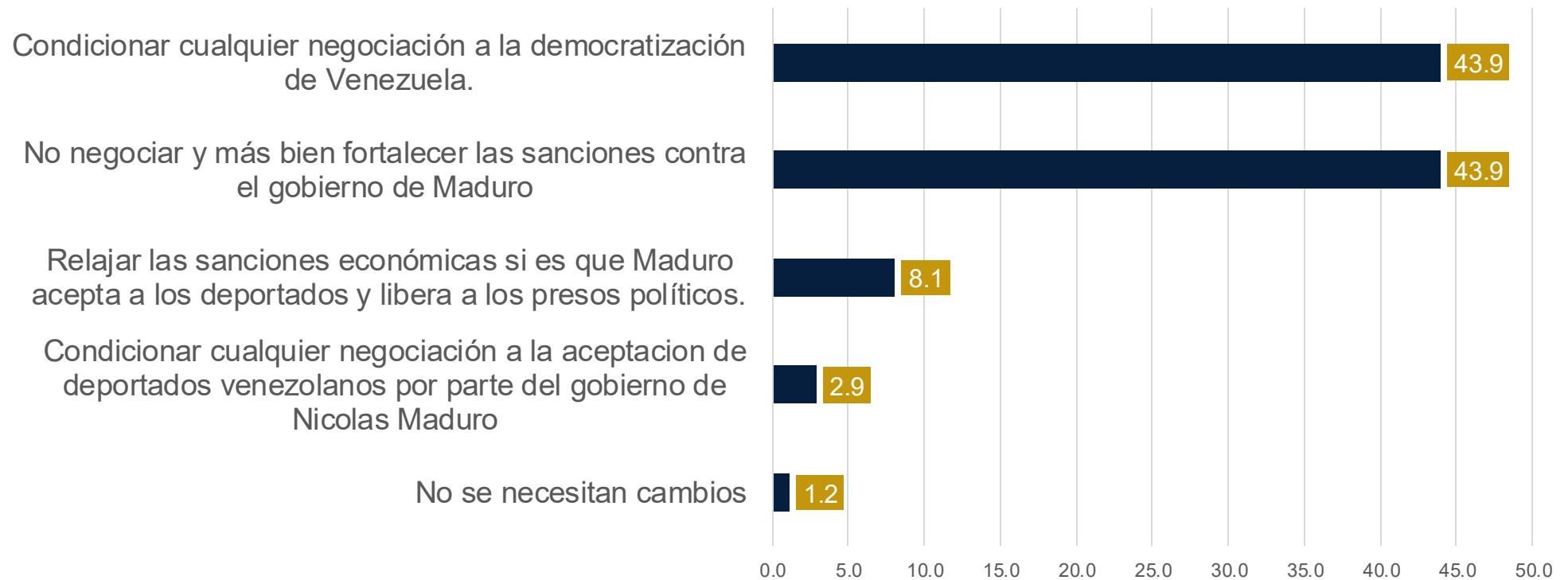
Do you think that the United States should initiate direct negotiations with the Nicolás Maduro government?

¿Cree que Estados Unidos debe entablar negociaciones directas con el gobierno de Nicolás Maduro?



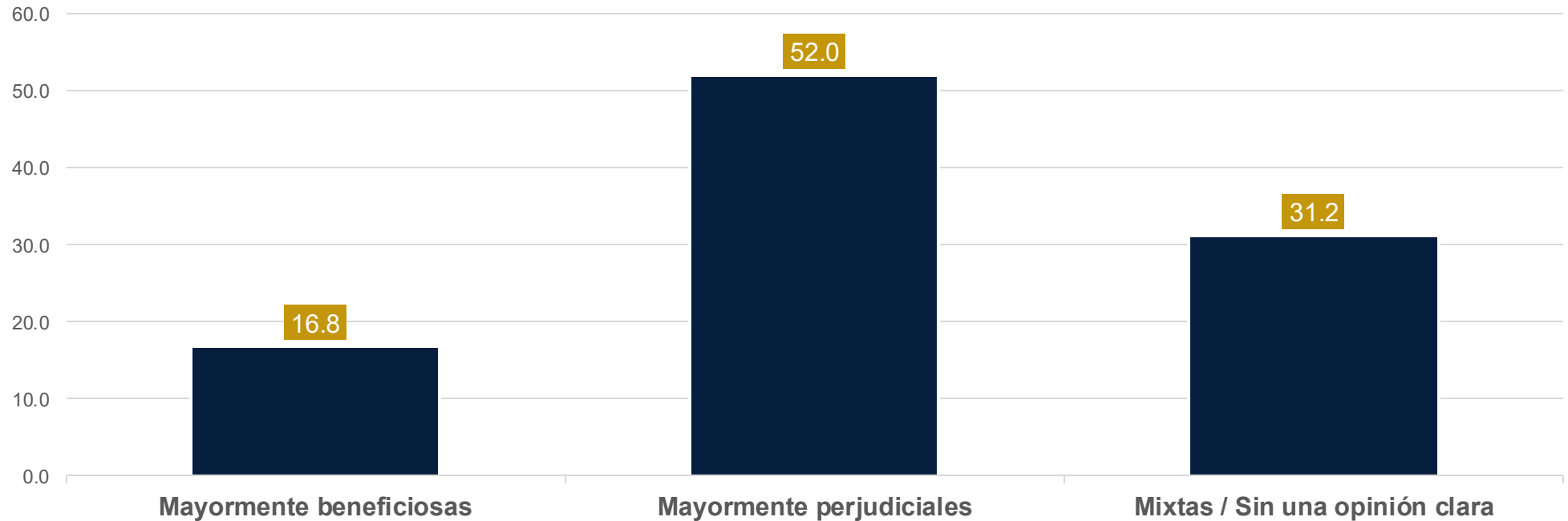
What should be the focus of US policy toward Venezuela?

¿En que debería enfocarse la política de EE.UU. hacia Venezuela?

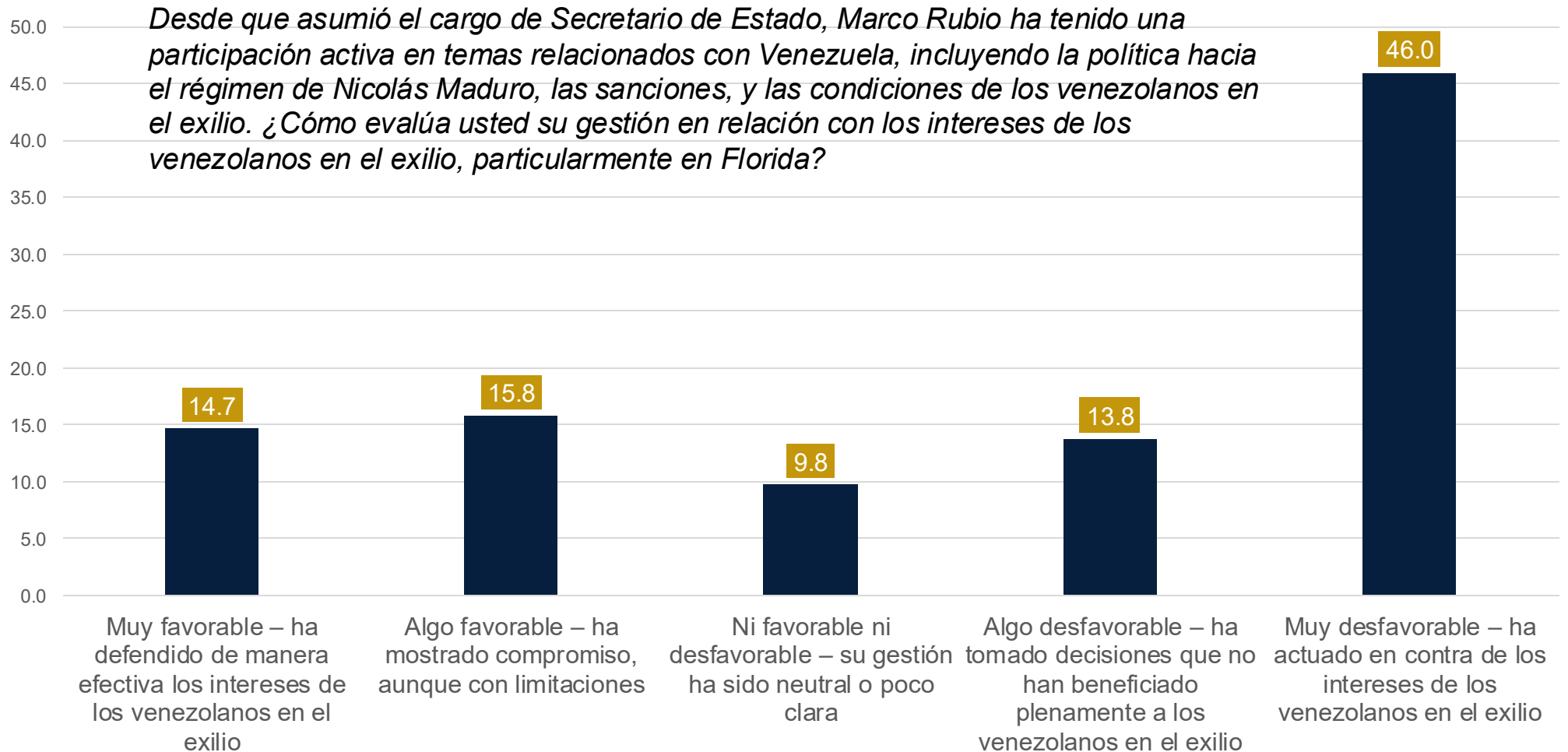


Do you think that the recent policies of the Trump Administration toward Venezuela have been beneficial or harmful to Venezuela and to Venezuelans abroad?

¿Cree que las políticas recientes de la administración Trump hacia Venezuela han sido beneficiosas o perjudiciales para Venezuela, para los venezolanos en el exterior, y para el futuro del país?

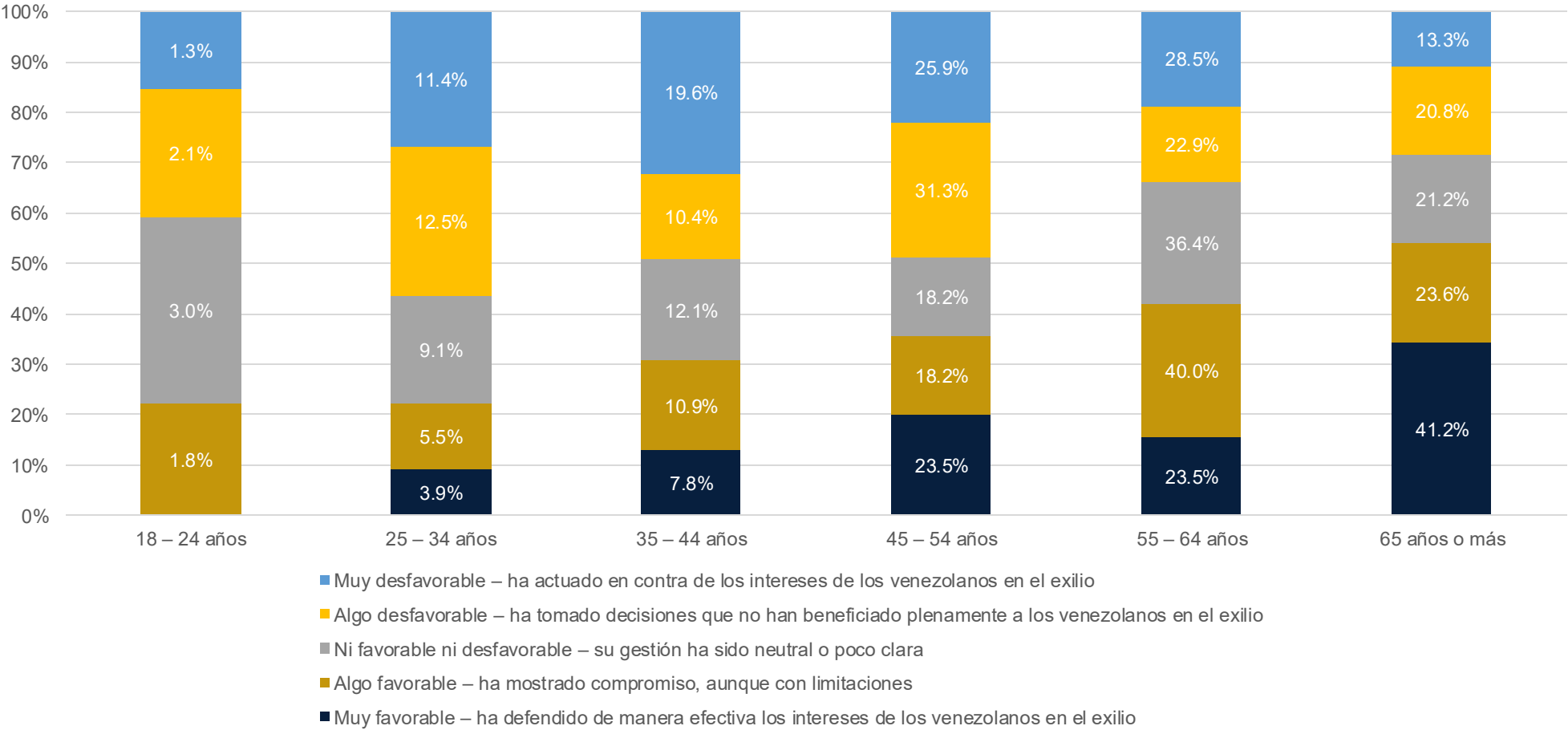


Since taking office, Senator Marco Rubio has played an active role in U.S. policy toward Venezuela, including positions on the Maduro regime, economic sanctions, and support for Venezuelans living in exile. How would you rate his efforts in addressing the needs and interests of Venezuelans in exile, particularly those living in Florida?

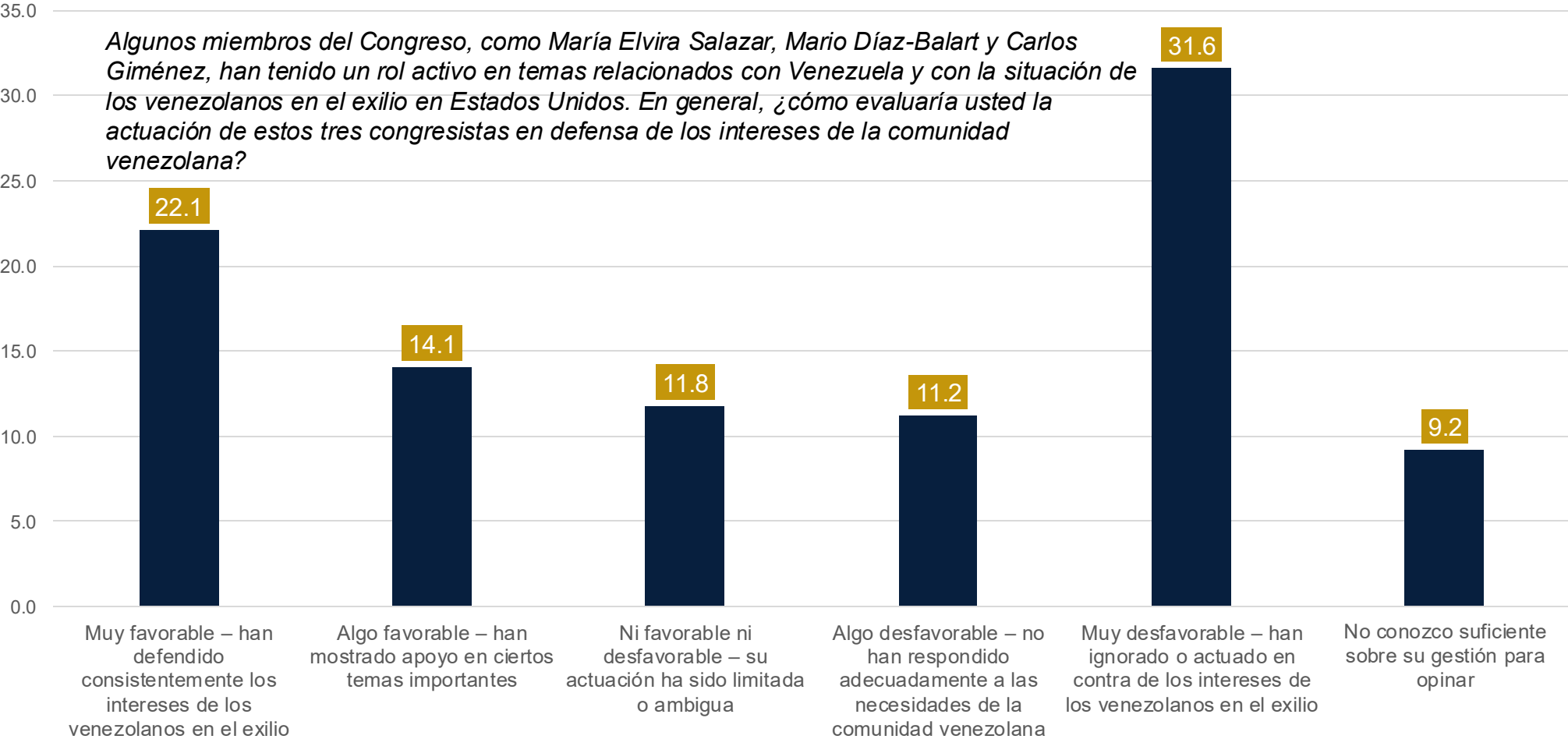


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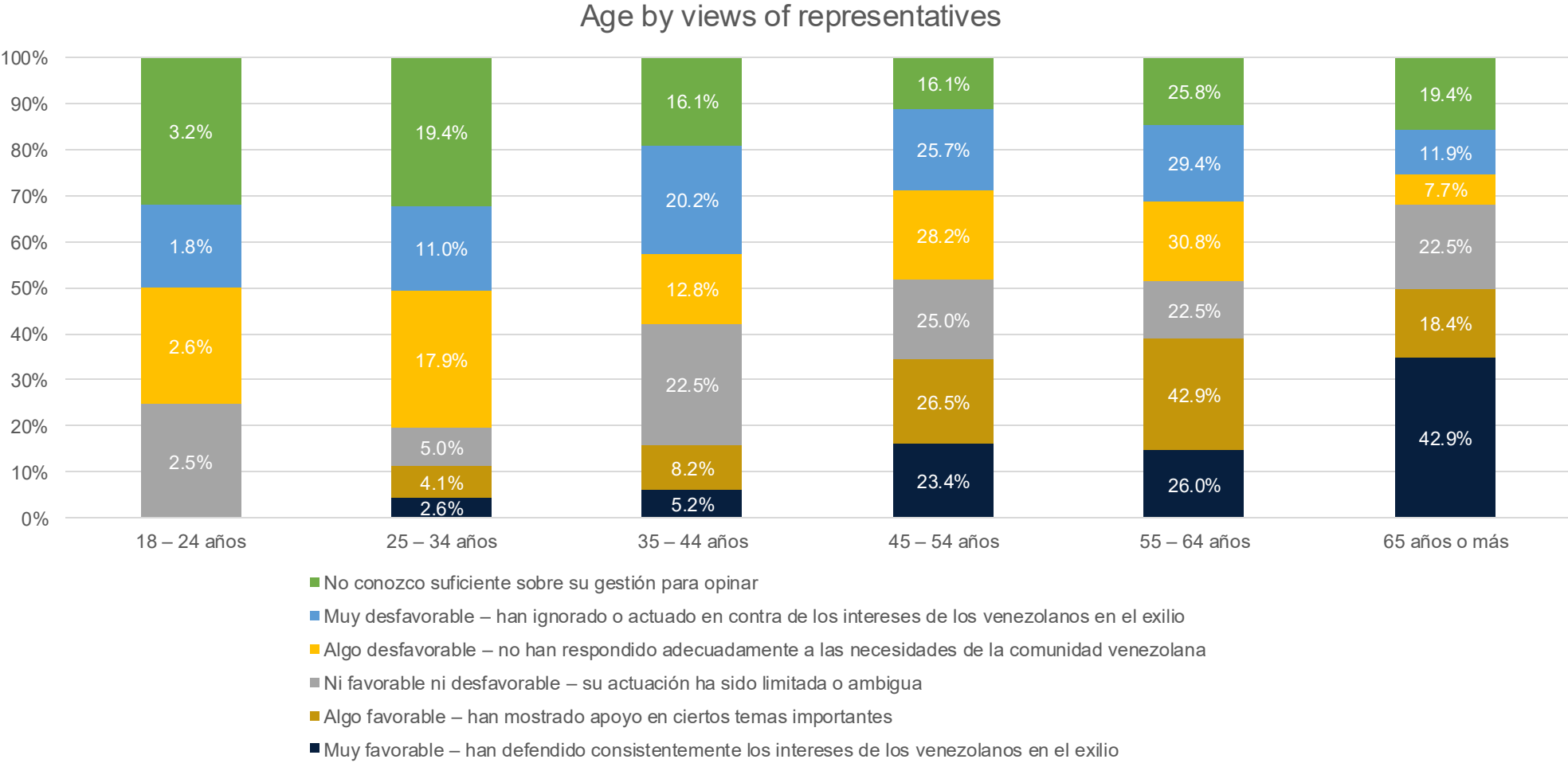
Age by Views of Marco Rubio



Some members of Congress—such as María Elvira Salazar, Mario Díaz-Balart, and Carlos Giménez—have taken an active role in addressing issues related to Venezuela and the situation of Venezuelans living in exile in the United States. Overall, how would you rate the efforts of these three representatives in advocating for the interests of the Venezuelan community?

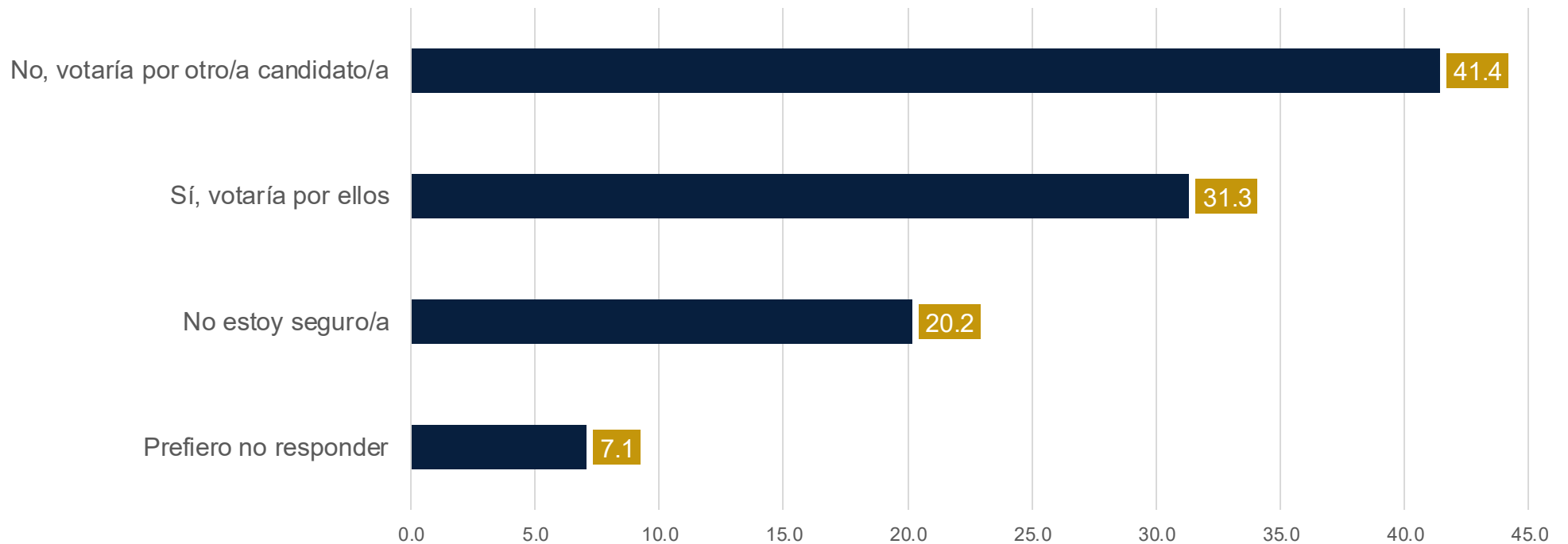


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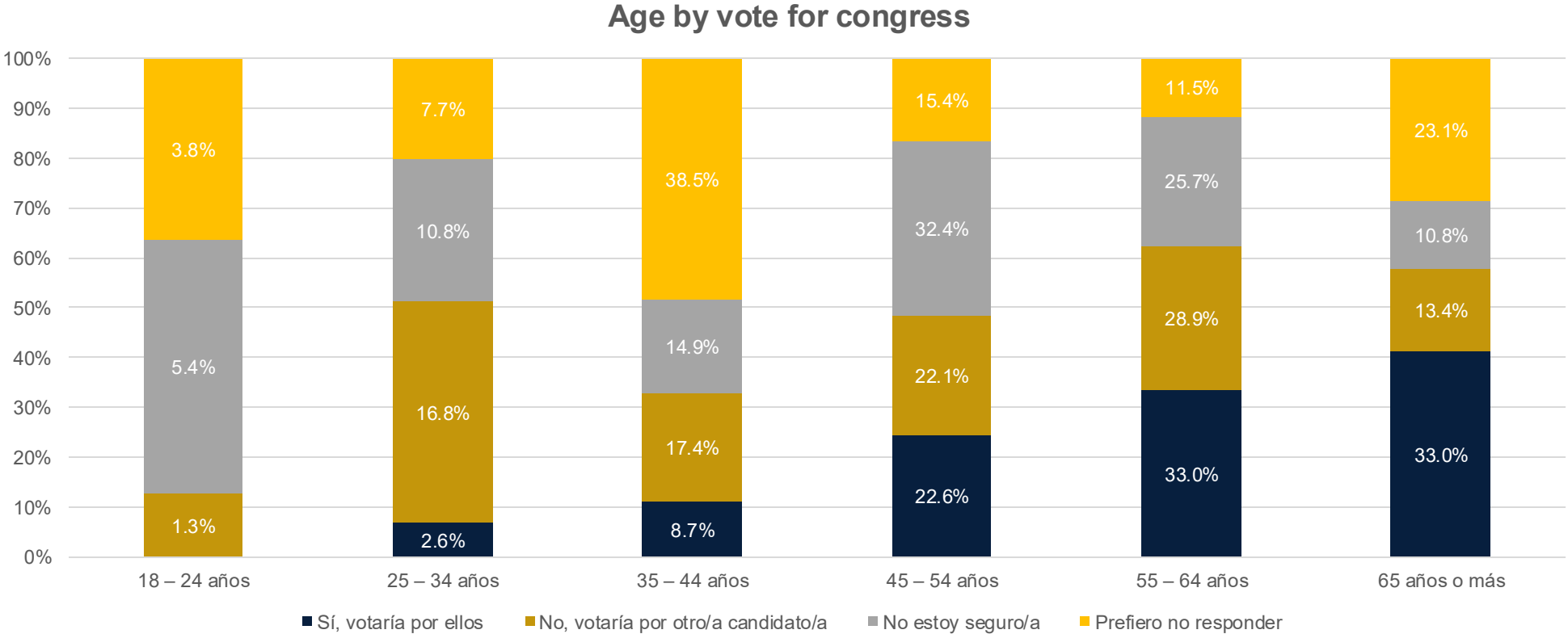


If congressional elections were held today in your district, would you vote for your current representative—María Elvira Salazar, Mario Díaz-Balart, or Carlos Giménez (depending on who represents your district)?

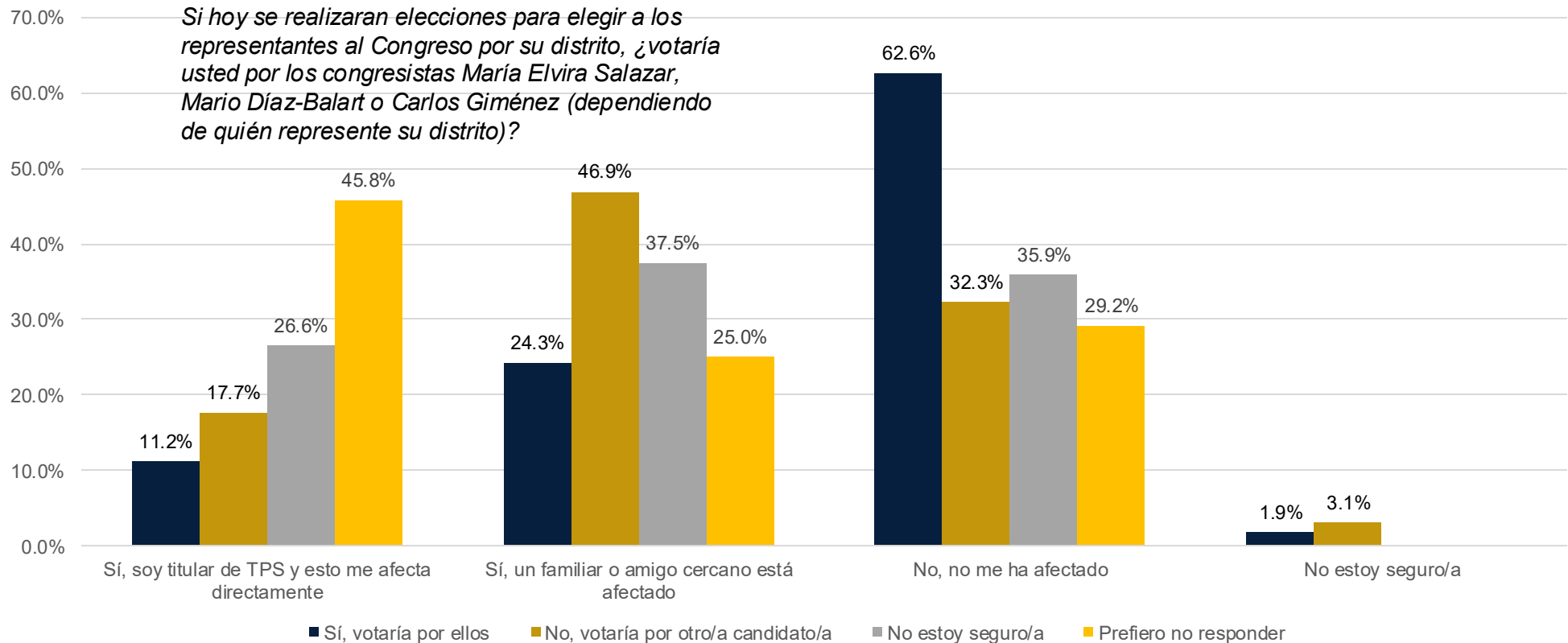
Si hoy se realizaran elecciones para elegir a los representantes al Congreso, ¿votaría usted por los congresistas María Elvira Salazar, Mario Díaz-Balart o Carlos Gimenez?



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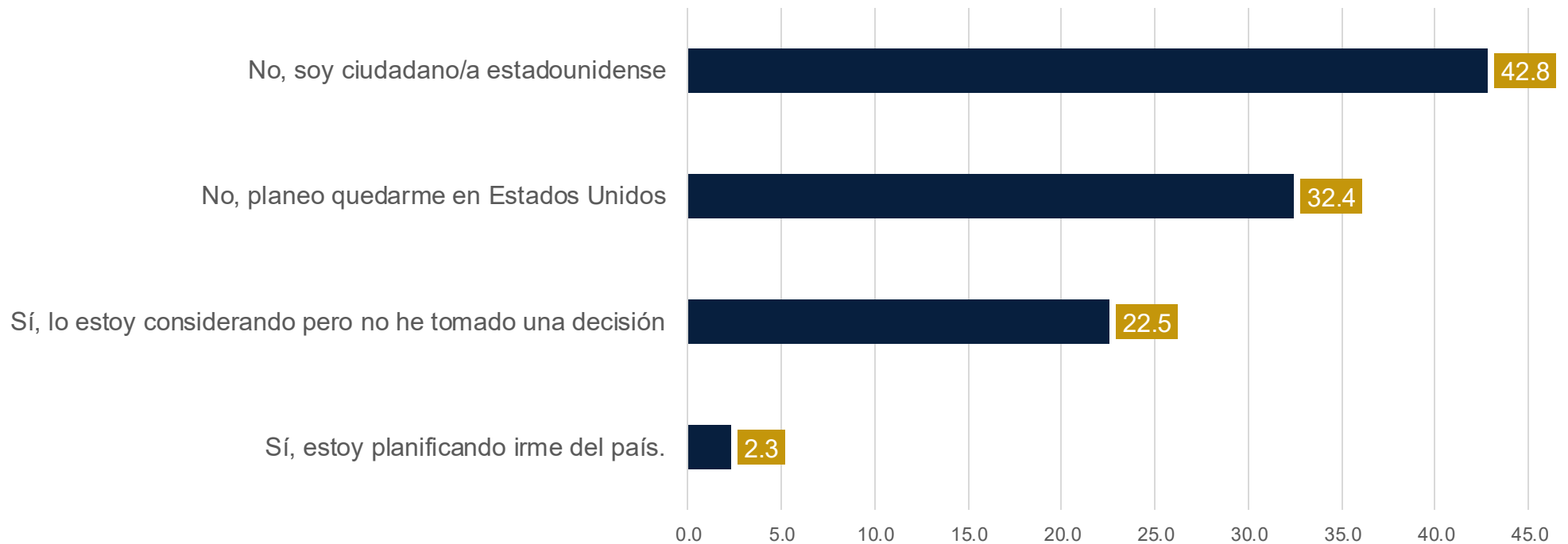
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- Support for current South Florida congressional representatives is strongest among those not affected by TPS.
- Those directly or indirectly impacted by TPS are more likely to vote for someone else, indicating policy dissatisfaction.
- A significant portion of all groups remains undecided or disengaged, emphasizing the potential for persuasion — or voter apathy.

As a Venezuelan living in the U.S., have the recent immigration policies under the Trump administration made you consider leaving the country?

Pensando en sus opciones como venezolano, ¿las políticas migratorias recientes le han llevado a considerar abandonar el país?



As a Venezuelan living in the U.S., have the recent immigration policies under the Trump administration made you consider leaving the country?

