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## **VIRGINIA HUNTERS', ANGLERS', AND BOATERS' OPINIONS ON AND SATISFACTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES' LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

**Conducted for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries**

**by Responsive Management**

**2012**

# **VIRGINIA HUNTERS', ANGLERS', AND BOATERS' OPINIONS ON AND SATISFACTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES' LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

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## **Acknowledgments**

Responsive Management would like to thank Colonel Dee Watts and Lt. Colonel Mike Clark of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for their input, support, and guidance on this project.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY**

This study was conducted for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) to assess hunters', anglers', and boaters' knowledge of, opinions on, and satisfaction with VDGIF law enforcement activities. The study entailed a scientific telephone survey of Virginia hunters, anglers, and boaters.

The survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and VDGIF; Responsive Management conducted pre-tests of the questionnaire to ensure proper wording, flow, and logic in the survey. The sample of hunters, anglers, and boaters was obtained from VDGIF.

The software used for data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language (QPL); the analysis of data was performed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management. Responsive Management obtained a total of 1,224 completed interviews, including 404 interviews with anglers, 414 with hunters, and 406 from boaters. For the entire sample of anglers, hunters, and boaters, the sampling error is at most plus or minus 2.80 percentage points. The survey was conducted in June 2012.

### **AWARENESS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES**

- All three respondent groups show strong name recognition of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries when asked which agency they thought was primarily responsible for enforcing *hunting and fishing laws* in Virginia:
  - Among **anglers**, 44% correctly name the VDGIF, with a further 21% naming an essentially correct derivative of the VDGIF (i.e., getting most of the words right). Meanwhile, a quarter of anglers (25%) say they do not know.
  - Out of the three respondent groups, **hunters** are the most likely to correctly name the VDGIF: 62% give the correct answer, with a further 20% naming an essentially correct derivative of the right answer. Just 13% of hunters answer that they do not know.

- Among **boaters**, more than half (55%) are able to correctly name the VDGIF, with a further 23% naming an essentially correct derivative of the VDGIF. Meanwhile, 14% say they were unsure.
- A follow-up question asked respondents if they could name the agency primarily responsible for enforcing *boating laws* in Virginia, and a substantial percentage of each group was again able to correctly name the VDGIF:
  - As before, **anglers** are the least likely to correctly name the VDGIF and the most likely to say they do not know: 29% correctly name the VDGIF, 11% name an essentially correct derivative of the VDGIF, and 40% say they are unsure.
  - Among **hunters**, 47% correctly name the VDGIF, a further 15% name an essentially correct derivative, and 23% say they do not know.
  - Among **boaters**, 41% correctly name the VDGIF, 13% name a correct derivative of the agency, and about a fifth (22%) are unsure.
- Respondents from the three groups most commonly said they knew, prior to the survey, either *a little* or *a moderate amount* about the law enforcement responsibilities of Virginia's Conservation Police Officers:
  - Among **anglers**, 44% said they knew *a little*, 33% knew *a moderate amount*, and just 15% indicated knowing *a great deal* about the law enforcement responsibilities of Virginia's Conservation Police Officers.
  - Of the three groups, **hunters** were the most likely to say they knew *a great deal* (29%) and the least likely to say they knew *a little* (31%). Meanwhile, 36% said they knew *a moderate amount*.
  - Among **boaters**, 48% indicated knowing *a little*, 31% indicated knowing *a moderate amount*, and just 16% said they knew *a great deal* about the law enforcement responsibilities of Virginia's Conservation Police Officers prior to the survey.
- Large majorities of each respondent group believe that Virginia's Conservation Police Officers have full police power, with most being either *absolutely certain* or *pretty sure* about this status:

- Among **anglers**, 41% say they are *absolutely certain* Virginia's Conservation Police Officers have full police power, while 34% are *pretty sure* about it (total of 75% who are at least pretty sure of this fact).
- Among **hunters**, 57% are *absolutely certain* and 30% are *pretty sure* (total of 87% who are at least pretty sure).
- Among **boaters**, 44% are *absolutely certain* and 34% are *pretty sure* (total of 77% who are at least pretty sure).

## GENERAL RATINGS

- Majorities of respondents from all three groups rate Conservation Police Officers' *overall law enforcement efforts* in Virginia over the past 2 years as either *excellent* or *good*:
  - Among **anglers**, 26% give a rating of *excellent*, while 44% give a rating of *good* (total of 70% giving a rating of either *excellent* or *good*).
  - Among **hunters**, 30% give a rating of *excellent*, while 45% give a rating of *good* (total of 75% giving a rating of either *excellent* or *good*).
  - Among **boaters**, 27% give a rating of *excellent*, while 42% give a rating of *good* (total of 69% giving a rating of either *excellent* or *good*).
- Each respondent group was then asked specifically about Conservation Police Officers' law enforcement efforts concerning their relevant activity (either fishing, hunting, or boating) over the past 2 years, and the ratings were generally quite similar to the previous question concerning overall law enforcement efforts:
  - Among **anglers**, 25% give a rating of *excellent*, while 48% give a rating of *good* (total of 73% giving a rating of either *excellent* or *good* in terms of **fishing** law enforcement efforts).
  - Among **hunters**, 28% give a rating of *excellent*, while 47% give a rating of *good* (total of 75% giving a rating of either *excellent* or *good* in terms of **hunting** law enforcement efforts).
  - Among **boaters**, 25% give a rating of *excellent*, while 42% give a rating of *good* (total of 67% giving a rating of either *excellent* or *good* in terms of **boating** law enforcement efforts).

## RATINGS OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS AND EFFORTS

- The survey asked respondents to rate efforts to maintain a law enforcement presence on Virginia's waterways in the past 2 years, and majorities of respondents again give ratings of either *excellent* or *good*:
  - Among **anglers**, 26% give a rating of *excellent*, while 47% give a rating of *good* (total of 73% giving a rating of either *excellent* or *good*).
  - Among **hunters**, 21% give a rating of *excellent*, while 40% give a rating of *good* (total of 61% giving a rating of either *excellent* or *good*). (Note that 29% of hunters say they do not know enough to rate law enforcement efforts regarding Virginia waterways.)
  - Among **boaters**, 29% give a rating of *excellent*, while 43% give a rating of *good* (total of 72% giving a rating of either *excellent* or *good*).
- Boaters were asked a follow-up question regarding their rating of Conservation Police Officers' efforts to provide education and safety training to Virginia boaters, and the most common ratings were again either *good* (39%) or *excellent* (22%). At the same time, nearly a fifth of boaters (19%) were unsure.
- When asked how they would rate Conservation Police Officers in controlling illegal activities on private land in Virginia over the past 2 years, responses generally varied among the three respondent groups:
  - **Anglers** are generally split between giving a rating of *good* (35%) and saying they do not know (35%).
  - **Hunters** most commonly give a rating of *good* (40%), with 20% giving a rating of *excellent* and 18% giving a rating of *fair*.
  - **Boaters** most commonly say that they do not know (43%), while a further 29% give a rating of *good* to Conservation Police Officers' ability to control illegal activities on private land in Virginia over the past 2 years.

## **GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS**

- Overwhelming majorities of all three respondent groups are satisfied with Virginia Conservation Police Officers' law enforcement efforts in the past 2 years, with most being *very* satisfied:
  - Among **anglers**, 87% are satisfied, with 53% *very* satisfied.
  - Among **hunters**, 90% are satisfied, with 58% *very* satisfied.
  - Among **boaters**, 87% are satisfied, with 52% *very* satisfied.
  
- Asked about satisfaction with enforcement efforts related to their specific activities (i.e., fishing, hunting, or boating), responses remain quite positive across the three groups:
  - Among **anglers**, 88% are satisfied, with 57% *very* satisfied.
  - Among **hunters**, 88% are satisfied, with 61% *very* satisfied.
  - Among **boaters**, 80% are satisfied, with 52% *very* satisfied.
  
- A final question in this series asked anglers and boaters about their satisfaction with Virginia Conservation Police Officers' law enforcement efforts on the water in the past 2 years; again, overall satisfaction is strong:
  - Among **anglers**, 79% are satisfied, with 54% *very* satisfied.
  - Among **boaters**, 80% are satisfied, with 53% *very* satisfied.

## **PERCEIVED TRENDS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS IN GENERAL**

- The next line of questioning switched from a 2-year timeframe to a 5-year timeframe, with respondents first asked whether they thought Virginia Conservation Police Officers' law enforcement efforts overall had gotten better, remained the same, or gotten worse in the preceding 5 years. In general, respondents from the three groups are split in saying law enforcement efforts have either gotten better or stayed the same:
  - Among **anglers**, 38% say that law enforcement has gotten better in the past 5 years, while 42% say it has stayed the same.
  - Among **hunters**, 39% say that law enforcement has gotten better in the past 5 years, while 43% say it has stayed the same.



- Among **boaters**, 41% say that law enforcement has gotten better in the past 5 years, while 40% say it has stayed the same.
- Respondents were next asked whether they thought Virginia Conservation Police Officers' law enforcement efforts related to their specific activities (fishing, hunting, or boating) had gotten better, remained the same, or gotten worse in the preceding 5 years:
  - Among **anglers**, a slight majority (52%) say that such enforcement efforts have remained the same, while 30% say they have gotten better.
  - Similarly, among **hunters**, 54% say that enforcement efforts related to hunting have remained the same, while 34% say they have gotten better.
  - By contrast to the two other groups, **boaters** were split in their opinions, with 41% saying that enforcement efforts related to boating have remained the same and 39% saying they have gotten better.
- In terms of law enforcement efforts on the water, respondents from all three groups most commonly say that such activity has *remained the same* over the past 5 years; the exception is hunters, who are as likely to say that they are unsure as they are to say that law enforcement on the water has remained the same:
  - Among **anglers**, 45% believe that law enforcement on the water has remained the same in the past 5 years, compared to 29% who say it has gotten better.
  - Among **hunters**, 36% say that law enforcement on the water has remained the same, with the same percentage saying they are unsure. Meanwhile, 27% say it has gotten better.
  - Among **boaters**, 43% say law enforcement on the water has remained the same, with a further 38% saying it has gotten better.

## IMPORTANCE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS IN GENERAL

- Virtually all anglers, hunters, and boaters consider the enforcement of fishing, hunting, and boating laws to be important responsibilities of Virginia Conservation Police Officers, with most thinking enforcement of such laws is *very* important:
  - Enforcing fishing laws:
    - Among **anglers**, 97% consider this to be important (79% think it is *very* important);

- Among **hunters**, 96% consider this to be important (79% think it is *very* important);
  - Among **boaters**, 93% consider this to be important (75% think it is *very* important).
  - Enforcing hunting laws:
    - Among **anglers**, 96% consider this to be important (89% think it is *very* important);
    - Among **hunters**, 99% consider this to be important (91% think it is *very* important);
    - Among **boaters**, 96% consider this to be important (84% think it is *very* important).
  - Enforcing boating laws:
    - Among **anglers**, 96% consider this to be important (80% think it is *very* important);
    - Among **hunters**, 91% consider this to be important (76% think it is *very* important);
    - Among **boaters**, 97% consider this to be important (85% think it is *very* important).
- Additional questions in this section measured the importance of several other functions and capabilities of Virginia Conservation Police Officers:
- Large majorities of the three respondent groups consider law enforcement to be important as a wildlife management tool, with most considering it *very* important:
    - Among **anglers**, 95% say law enforcement is important as a wildlife management tool (78% say it is *very* important);
    - Among **hunters**, 96% say law enforcement is important as a wildlife management tool (85% say it is *very* important);
    - Among **boaters**, 94% say law enforcement is important as a wildlife management tool (74% say it is *very* important).
  - Well over three-quarters of each respondent group think it is important for Conservation Police Officers to have full police power, with most saying it is *very* important:
    - Among **anglers**, 94% say this is important (77% think it is *very* important);
    - Among **hunters**, 92% say this is important (80% think it is *very* important);
    - Among **boaters**, 90% say this is important (79% think it is *very* important).
  - Similarly, overwhelming majorities of each respondent group think it is important for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to have its own law enforcement officers; again, most respondents believe this is *very* important:

- Among **anglers**, 94% think it is important for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to have its own law enforcement officers (84% think it is *very* important);
  - Among **hunters**, 95% think it is important for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to have its own law enforcement officers (83% think it is *very* important);
  - Among **boaters**, 93% think it is important for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to have its own law enforcement officers (82% think it is *very* important).
- There is substantial opposition and minimal support for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to close its Law Enforcement Division and have those responsibilities moved to other agencies:
- Among **anglers**, 77% oppose this, with 62% in *strong* opposition; meanwhile, 15% would support it.
  - Among **hunters**, 84% are in opposition, including 73% who *strongly* oppose it; just 9% support it.
  - Among **boaters**, 79% oppose the idea, with 64% *strongly* opposing it; only 12% support the concept.

## CONTACT WITH CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICERS IN GENERAL

- Just under half of each respondent group (46% of **anglers**, 48% of **hunters**, and 42% of **boaters**) had contact with a Conservation Police Officer while engaging in outdoor recreation in Virginia in the 2 years prior to the survey. Among those who had such contact, at least two-thirds of each group (81% of **anglers**, 67% of **hunters**, and 77% of **boaters**) said that the contact had been initiated by the Conservation Police Officer.
- Substantial majorities of anglers, hunters, and boaters who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer (85% of **anglers**, 84% of **hunters**, and 87% of **boaters**) describe their experience as positive, with at least two-thirds of each group saying it was *strongly* positive.

- Among respondents who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer in the 2 years prior to the survey, small percentages (5% of **anglers**, 8% of **hunters**, and 14% of **boaters**) were cited or warned by a Conservation Police Officer.
- A majority of boaters who said they had contact with a Conservation Police Officer in the 2 years prior to the survey (65%) reported being stopped by a Conservation Police Officer to have their boat checked within the same time period.
- Virtually all respondents who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer in the 2 years prior to the survey agree that the officers with whom they had contact treated them fairly (98% of **anglers**, 95% of **hunters**, and 97% of **boaters** agree with this, with most *strongly* agreeing).

## GENERAL REACTIONS TO CONTACT WITH CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICERS

- Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with three statements describing potential reactions to being approached by a Conservation Police Officer:
  - “In general, being approached by a Conservation Police Officer while you are hunting, fishing, or boating is reassuring to you.”
    - Among **anglers**, 88% agree, with 61% *strongly* agreeing;
    - Among **hunters**, 87% agree, with 54% *strongly* agreeing;
    - Among **boaters**, 84% agree, with 57% *strongly* agreeing.
  - “In general, being approached by a Conservation Police Officer while you are hunting, fishing, or boating makes you nervous.”
    - Among **anglers**, 77% disagree, with 62% *strongly* disagreeing;
    - Among **hunters**, 72% disagree, with 57% *strongly* disagreeing;
    - Among **boaters**, 72% disagree, with 59% *strongly* disagreeing.
  - “In general, being approached by a Conservation Police Officer while you are hunting, fishing, or boating makes you angry.”
    - Among **anglers**, 95% disagree, with 85% *strongly* disagreeing;
    - Among **hunters**, 86% disagree, with 73% *strongly* disagreeing;

- Among **boaters**, 93% disagree, with 77% *strongly* disagreeing.

## INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE REQUESTS FROM CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICERS

- Notable percentages of **anglers** (17%), **hunters** (23%), and **boaters** (16%) have requested information or assistance from a Conservation Police Officer at some point in the 2 years prior to the survey.
  - In terms of reasons for information or assistance requests, anglers were most commonly reporting illegal activities or seeking information on fishing regulations or boating laws; hunters were most commonly reporting illegal activities or looking for information on hunting regulations; and boaters were most commonly seeking information on boating laws, fishing regulations, hunting regulations, or were reporting illegal activities.
  - Most of those who made contact with a Conservation Police Officer did so in person or by telephone (note that anglers and boaters were more likely to make contact in person, while hunters were more likely to make contact by telephone).
  - The overwhelming majority of those who made contact with a Conservation Police Officer were satisfied with the information or assistance they received (92% of **anglers** were satisfied, with 86% *very* satisfied; 83% of **hunters** were satisfied, with 76% *very* satisfied; and 87% of **boaters** were satisfied, with 75% *very* satisfied.)

## USE OF HOTLINE FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS

- The survey assessed knowledge and use of the VDGIF's Turn in Poachers (TIP) program:
  - About a third of **anglers** and **boaters** (31% of each group) and slightly less than half of **hunters** (47%) have heard of the program.
  - Very small percentages of each group (0.5% of **anglers**, 4.3% of **hunters**, and 1.5% of **boaters**) have ever used the TIP program.
  - Finally, when asked how effective they think the TIP program is, majorities of each group (65% of **anglers**, 56% of **hunters**, and 69% of **boaters**) say they are unsure. (Note, however, that respondents in each group are more likely to describe the program as effective than they are to call it ineffective.)

## LAW ENFORCEMENT PRESENCE IN GENERAL

- Overwhelming majorities of respondents agree that Conservation Police Officers have maintained a sufficient law enforcement presence in Virginia over the past 2 years:
  - Among **anglers**, 77% agree, with 46% *strongly* agreeing;
  - Among **hunters**, 81% agree, with 52% *strongly* agreeing;
  - Among **boaters**, 78% agree, with 48% *strongly* agreeing.
  
- Similarly, most respondents agree that there is a sufficient law enforcement presence on public waterways in Virginia, although a rather substantial percentage of hunters say they are unsure about this:
  - Among **anglers**, 72% agree, with 46% *strongly* agreeing;
  - Among **hunters**, 61% agree, with 40% *strongly* agreeing (note that 31% said they did not know);
  - Among **boaters**, 74% agree, with 48% *strongly* agreeing.
  
- Hunters were asked an additional question concerning the amount of law enforcement presence on public hunting lands in Virginia, and 64% agree that there is a sufficient law enforcement presence on these types of lands (41% *strongly* agree). Just 17% of hunters disagree with this, with a further 16% answering that they do not know.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT PRESENCE DURING VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

- When asked how often they see a Conservation Police Officer patrolling and providing services while in the woods or on a water body in Virginia in the past 2 years, respondents from all three groups most commonly answer “sometimes,” followed by “rarely” and “never”:
  - Among **anglers**, 45% report seeing a Conservation Police Officer “sometimes,” 24% say “rarely,” 18% answer “never,” and just 13% say “always.”
  - Among **hunters**, 42% see a Conservation Police Officer “sometimes,” 30% see one “rarely,” 17% say “never,” and just 9% say “always.”
  - Among **boaters**, 46% report seeing a Conservation Police Officer “sometimes,” 23% see one “rarely,” 16% answer “never,” and 12% say “always.”

- Answers vary more widely when anglers, hunters, and boaters are asked how often they see a Conservation Police Officer patrolling and providing services while they are engaging in their preferred activities (i.e., anglers were asked about seeing an officer while fishing, hunters were asked about seeing an officer while hunting):
  - Among **anglers**, 40% report seeing a Conservation Police Officer while they are fishing “sometimes,” 25% say “rarely,” 21% answer “never,” and just 13% say “always.”
  - Among **hunters**, 33% see a Conservation Police Officer while they are hunting “sometimes,” 29% see one “rarely,” 32% say “never,” and just 6% say “always.”
  - Among **boaters**, 40% report seeing a Conservation Police Officer while they are boating “sometimes,” 20% see one “rarely,” 20% answer “never,” and 15% say “always.”
- Boaters were asked an additional question concerning how often they see Conservation Police Officers patrolling and providing services while boating at their most-preferred body of water: they most commonly answer that they see Conservation Police Officers “somewhat often” (35%), followed by “rarely” (20%), “never” (20%), and “very often” (18%).

## DESIRED AMOUNT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT PRESENCE

- Respondents across the three groups are split between wanting to see more Conservation Police Officers *in their county* or wanting to see the same amount:
  - Among **anglers**, 41% would like to see more officers and 49% would like to see the same amount;
  - Among **hunters**, 47% would like to see more officers and 41% would like to see the same amount;
  - Among **boaters**, 41% would like to see more officers and 47% would like to see the same amount.
- When asked whether they would like to see more, the same number, or fewer Conservation Police Officers *in general in Virginia*, anglers and boaters are again split between wanting more and the same amount, while hunters would generally prefer to see more officers:
  - Among **anglers**, 43% would like to see more officers and 43% would like to see the same amount;

- Among **hunters**, 54% would like to see more officers, while 35% would like to see the same amount;
  - Among **boaters**, 45% would like to see more officers and 42% would like to see the same amount.
- When asked whether they would like to see more, the same number, or fewer Conservation Police Officers *while they are engaging in fishing, hunting, or boating* (as before, each respondent group was asked about its preferred activity), anglers and boaters most commonly answer that they would like to see the same amount, while hunters are generally split between preferring more officers or the same amount of officers:
- Among **anglers**, 38% would like to see more officers, while 52% would like to see the same amount;
  - Among **hunters**, 44% would like to see more officers and 45% would like to see the same amount;
  - Among **boaters**, 39% would like to see more officers, while 50% would like to see the same amount.
- Boaters were asked two follow-up questions regarding the law enforcement presence on their most-preferred bodies of water for boating:
- A majority of boaters (71%) agree that Virginia has maintained a sufficient Conservation Police Officer presence on their most-preferred water body for boating (43% *strongly* agree);
  - A slight majority of boaters (56%) say there is generally the right number of Conservation Police Officers at their most-preferred water body for boating, while about a third (34%) say there are too few.

## LEVEL OF ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS IN GENERAL

- When asked whether Conservation Police Officers have been too strict, about right, or too easy in their enforcement of fishing, hunting, and boating laws in Virginia over the past 2 years, large majorities of respondents from all three groups most commonly say that officers have been about right, although notable percentages say that they are unsure:



- Among **anglers**, 67% say Conservation Police Officers have been about right in their enforcement of fishing laws, while 19% say they do not know;
  - Among **hunters**, 62% say Conservation Police Officers have been about right in their enforcement of hunting laws, while 22% say they do not know;
  - Among **boaters**, 65% say Conservation Police Officers have been about right in their enforcement of boating laws, while 20% say they do not know.
- When asked whether Conservation Police Officers stop and check anglers, hunters, and boaters too often, about the right amount, or not often enough while enforcing fishing, hunting, and boating laws, most respondents say that officers check people the right amount, although substantial percentages say that officers do not check people enough, or that they are unsure:
- Among **anglers**, 64% say Conservation Police Officers check anglers the right amount, while 19% say Officers do not check often enough, and 12% don't know;
  - Among **hunters**, 57% say Conservation Police Officers check hunters the right amount, while 25% say Officers do not check often enough, and 14% don't know;
  - Among **boaters**, 62% say Conservation Police Officers check boaters the right amount, while 18% say Officers do not check often enough, and 14% don't know.

## PERCEIVED NUMBER OF CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICERS IN VIRGINIA

- When asked how many Conservation Police Officers they think are assigned to their county, all three respondent groups most commonly answer that they do not know, although hunters are more likely than anglers and boaters to give a specific number (most commonly answering 1 or 2 officers).
- The median number of officers **anglers** believe are assigned to their county is 4 officers;
  - The median number of officers **hunters** believe are assigned to their county is 2 officers;
  - The median number of officers **boaters** believe are assigned to their county is 3 officers.
- When asked how many Conservation Police Officers they think are on duty at any given time in their county, anglers and boaters most commonly answer that they do not know, while hunters most commonly say that there is 1 officer on duty in their county.

- The median number of officers **anglers** believe are on duty at any given time in their county is 2 officers;
  - The median number of officers **hunters** believe are on duty at any given time in their county is 1.5 officers;
  - The median number of officers **boaters** believe are on duty at any given time in their county is 2 officers.
- When asked how many Conservation Police Officers they think are in Virginia, majorities of all three respondent groups (54% of anglers, 55% of hunters, and 56% of boaters) say that they are unsure.
- The median number of officers **anglers** think are in Virginia is 150 officers;
  - The median number of officers **hunters** think are in Virginia is 122.5 officers;
  - The median number of officers **boaters** think are in Virginia is 200 officers.
- Anglers and boaters most commonly say that their county has about the right number of Conservation Police Officers, while hunters most commonly answer that their county has too few Conservation Police Officers:
- Among **anglers**, 41% say that their county has the right amount of officers, 35% say that it has too few, and 21% are unsure;
  - Among **hunters**, 38% say that their county has the right amount of officers, compared to 45% who say that it has too few; a further 15% are unsure;
  - Among **boaters**, 43% say that their county has the right amount of officers, 38% say that it has too few, and 17% are unsure.
- When asked whether they thought the state of Virginia as a whole has too many, the right number, or too few Conservation Police Officers, respondents are generally split between thinking the state has the right amount, thinking it has too few, or simply not being sure:
- Among **anglers**, 32% say that the state has the right amount of officers, 35% say that it has too few, and 30% are unsure;
  - Among **hunters**, 32% say that the state has the right amount of officers, 44% say that it has too few, and 21% are unsure;

- Among **boaters**, 34% say that their county has the right amount of officers, 38% say that it has too few, and 27% are unsure.

## PERCEPTIONS OF THE JOB OF CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICER

- Large majorities of the three respondent groups think that the job of a Virginia Conservation Police Officer is dangerous, with hunters being the most likely to think that the job is *very* dangerous as opposed to *moderately* dangerous:
  - Among **anglers**, 79% believe the job of a Virginia Conservation Police Officer is dangerous, with 38% saying it is *very* dangerous;
  - Among **hunters**, 86% believe the job of a Virginia Conservation Police Officer is dangerous, with 51% saying it is *very* dangerous;
  - Among **boaters**, 81% believe the job of a Virginia Conservation Police Officer is dangerous, with 37% saying it is *very* dangerous.
- Similarly, overwhelming majorities of the three respondent groups think that the job of a Virginia Conservation Police Officer is difficult, with hunters again being the most likely to think that the job is *very* difficult as opposed to *moderately* difficult:
  - Among **anglers**, 81% believe the job of a Virginia Conservation Police Officer is difficult, with 37% saying it is *very* difficult;
  - Among **hunters**, 84% believe the job of a Virginia Conservation Police Officer is difficult, with 48% saying it is *very* difficult;
  - Among **boaters**, 79% believe the job of a Virginia Conservation Police Officer is difficult, with 36% saying it is *very* difficult.

## PERCEPTIONS OF CONDUCT OF CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICERS

- The vast majority of respondents to the survey agree that Conservation Police Officers generally perform their duties in a professional manner:
  - Among **anglers**, 92% agree with this, with 71% *strongly* agreeing;
  - Among **hunters**, 93% agree with this, with 68% *strongly* agreeing;
  - Among **boaters**, 91% agree with this, with 69% *strongly* agreeing.

- Those respondents who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer in the 2 years prior to the survey were asked a series of follow-up questions regarding the conduct of the officers with whom they had contact:
- 96% of **anglers**, 97% of **hunters**, and 97% of **boaters** agree that the Conservation Police Officers with whom they had contact were professional (note that most agreement is *strong*);
  - 96% of **anglers**, 96% of **hunters**, and 96% of **boaters** agree that the Conservation Police Officers with whom they had contact were courteous (note that most agreement is *strong*);
  - 90% of **anglers**, 97% of **hunters**, and 94% of **boaters** agree that the Conservation Police Officers with whom they had contact were knowledgeable (note that most agreement is *strong*);
  - 87% of **anglers**, 87% of **hunters**, and 91% of **boaters** disagree that the uniforms of the Conservation Police Officers with whom they had contact were intimidating (note that most disagreement is *strong*);
  - 89% of **anglers**, 94% of **hunters**, and 97% of **boaters** agree that the uniforms of the Conservation Police Officers with whom they had contact were appropriate (note that most agreement is *strong*).

## PERCEPTIONS OF AUTHORITY OF CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICERS

- Asked whether Conservation Police Officers have too much authority, about the right amount of authority, or not enough authority, overwhelming majorities of all three respondent groups (84% of **anglers**, 85% of **hunters**, and 83% of **boaters**) say that Conservation Police Officers have the right amount.
- Asked whether Conservation Police Officers should have more, the same, or less authority on private lands as they do on public lands when enforcing hunting, fishing, and boating laws, respondents most commonly answer that officers should have the same amount, although sizeable percentages think that officers should have less authority on private lands:
- 50% of **anglers** think that Conservation Police Officers should have the same amount of authority on private lands as they do on public lands, while 33% think that officers should

- have less authority on private lands (14% say they should have much less authority on private lands);
- 56% of **hunters** think that Conservation Police Officers should have the same amount of authority on private lands as they do on public lands, while 27% think that officers should have less authority on private lands (12% say they should have much less authority on private lands);
  - 53% of **boaters** think that Conservation Police Officers should have the same amount of authority on private lands as they do on public lands, while 30% think that officers should have less authority on private lands (16% say they should have much less authority on private lands).
- Respondents were given three scenarios regarding when Conservation Police Officers should be able to stop and check a person in an outdoor area in Virginia, and asked which scenario came closest to their opinion. The scenarios included officers being able to check people at any time, only when they have a reasonable suspicion that a fishing or wildlife violation has occurred, only when they have observed a fishing or wildlife violation, or never being able to stop and check people. The most common preference is for officers to be able to stop people only when they have a reasonable suspicion that a fishing or wildlife violation has occurred (50% of **anglers**, 57% of **hunters**, and 59% of **boaters** give this answer), followed by the preference for officers to be able to stop people at any time (35% of **anglers**, 31% of **hunters**, and 28% of **boaters** give this answer).
- A similar question asked respondents when Conservation Police Officers should be able to stop and check a person *with a firearm* in an outdoor area in Virginia (again, the scenarios included officers being able to check people with firearms at any time, only when they have a reasonable suspicion that a fishing or wildlife violation has occurred, only when they have observed a fishing or wildlife violation, or never being able to stop and check people with firearms). In this question, the most common preference is for officers to be able to stop people with firearms at any time (50% of **anglers**, 49% of **hunters**, and 51% of **boaters** give this answer), followed by the preference for officers to be able to stop people with firearms

only when they have a reasonable suspicion that a fishing or wildlife violation has occurred (37% of **anglers**, 40% of **hunters**, and 39% of **boaters** give this answer).

- Overwhelming majorities of all three respondent groups support Conservation Police Officers having full police powers: 85% of **anglers**, 87% of **hunters**, and 88% of **boaters** support this; in all cases, most support is *strong*.

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## **INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY**

This study was conducted for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) to assess hunters', anglers', and boaters' knowledge of, opinions on, and satisfaction with VDGIF law enforcement activities. The study entailed a scientific telephone survey of Virginia hunters, anglers, and boaters. Specific aspects of the research methodology are discussed below.

### **USE OF TELEPHONES FOR THE SURVEY**

For the survey, telephones were selected as the preferred sampling medium because of the almost universal ownership of telephones among Virginia residents (both landlines and cell phones were called). Additionally, telephone surveys, relative to mail or Internet surveys, allow for more scientific sampling and data collection, provide higher quality data, obtain higher response rates, are more timely, and are more cost-effective. Telephone surveys also have fewer negative effects on the environment than do mail surveys because of reduced use of paper and reduced energy consumption for delivering and returning the questionnaires.

### **QUESTIONNAIRE DESIGN**

The telephone survey questionnaire was developed cooperatively by Responsive Management and VDGIF, based on the research team's familiarity with law enforcement satisfaction studies, as well as studies involving hunters, anglers, and boaters. Responsive Management conducted pre-tests of the questionnaire to ensure proper wording, flow, and logic in the survey.

### **SURVEY SAMPLE**

The sample of hunters, anglers, and boaters was obtained from VDGIF. The sample was based on hunting and fishing licenses and boating registrations, as well as lifetime licenses for individuals who participated in both hunting and fishing. The overall survey sample was representative of all three groups.

### **TELEPHONE INTERVIEWING FACILITIES**

A central polling site at the Responsive Management office allowed for rigorous quality control over the interviews and data collection. Responsive Management maintains its own in-house telephone interviewing facilities. These facilities are staffed by interviewers with experience



conducting computer-assisted telephone interviews on the subjects of outdoor recreation and natural resources.

To ensure the integrity of the telephone survey data, Responsive Management has interviewers who have been trained according to the standards established by the Council of American Survey Research Organizations. Methods of instruction included lecture and role-playing. The Survey Center Managers and other professional staff conducted a project briefing with the interviewers prior to the administration of this survey. Interviewers were instructed on type of study, study goals and objectives, handling of survey questions, interview length, termination points and qualifiers for participation, interviewer instructions within the survey questionnaire, reading of the survey questions, skip patterns, and probing and clarifying techniques necessary for specific questions on the survey questionnaire.

### **INTERVIEWING DATES AND TIMES**

Telephone surveying times are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Saturday from noon to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., local time. A five-callback design was used to maintain the representativeness of the sample, to avoid bias toward people easy to reach by telephone, and to provide an equal opportunity for all to participate. When a respondent could not be reached on the first call, subsequent calls were placed on different days of the week and at different times of the day. The survey was conducted in June 2012.

### **TELEPHONE SURVEY DATA COLLECTION AND QUALITY CONTROL**

The software used for data collection was Questionnaire Programming Language (QPL). The survey data were entered into the computer as each interview was being conducted, eliminating manual data entry after the completion of the survey and the concomitant data entry errors that may occur with manual data entry. The survey questionnaire was programmed so that QPL branched, coded, and substituted phrases in the survey based on previous responses to ensure the integrity and consistency of the data collection.

The Survey Center Managers and statisticians monitored the data collection, including monitoring of the actual telephone interviews without the interviewers' knowledge, to evaluate

the performance of each interviewer and ensure the integrity of the data. The survey questionnaire itself contains error checkers and computation statements to ensure quality and consistent data. After the surveys were obtained by the interviewers, the Survey Center Managers and/or statisticians checked each completed survey to ensure clarity and completeness.

Responsive Management obtained a total of 1,224 completed interviews, including 404 interviews with anglers, 414 with hunters, and 406 from boaters. The total sample size on some questions is less than the overall sample size because the survey asked some questions only of specific respondents in the survey. In particular, this was done when a follow-up question did not apply to some respondents. For instance, only those who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer were asked follow-up questions about their impressions of the contact.

## **DATA ANALYSIS**

The analysis of data was performed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences as well as proprietary software developed by Responsive Management. On questions that asked respondents to provide a number (e.g., number of Conservation Police Officers in Virginia), the graph shows ranges of numbers rather than the precise numbers. Nonetheless, in the survey each respondent provided a precise number, and the dataset includes this precise number, even if the graph only shows ranges of numbers. Note that the calculation of means and medians used the precise numbers that the respondents provided.

Crosstabulations were run on many questions, including crosstabulations by fishing, hunting, and boating activity. For this crosstabulation, respondents were categorized into the three primary respondent groups of anglers, hunters, and boaters.

## **SAMPLING ERROR**

Throughout this report, findings of the telephone survey are reported at a 95% confidence interval (or higher). For the entire sample of anglers, hunters, and boaters, the sampling error is at most plus or minus 2.80 percentage points. This means that if the survey were conducted 100 times on different samples that were selected in the same way, the findings of 95 out of the 100 surveys would fall within plus or minus 2.80 percentage points of each other. Sampling error

was calculated using the formula described below, based on the following sample and population sizes: sample of 404 anglers, based on a population size of 692,455; sample of 414 hunters, based on a population size of 333,781; and sample of 406 boaters, based on a population size of 389,564.

### Sampling Error Equation

$$B = \left( \sqrt{\frac{N_p(.25)}{N_s} - .25} \right) (1.96)$$

Where: B = maximum sampling error (as decimal)  
 $N_p$  = population size (i.e., total number who could be surveyed)  
 $N_s$  = sample size (i.e., total number of respondents surveyed)

Derived from formula: p. 206 in Dillman, D. A. 2000. *Mail and Internet Surveys*. John Wiley & Sons, NY.

**Note:** This is a simplified version of the formula that calculates the maximum sampling error using a 50:50 split (the most conservative calculation because a 50:50 split would give maximum variation).

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRESENTATION OF RESULTS IN THE REPORT

In examining the results, it is important to be aware that the questionnaire included several types of questions:

- Open-ended questions are those in which no answer set is read to the respondents; rather, they can respond with anything that comes to mind from the question.
- Closed-ended questions have an answer set from which to choose.
- Single or multiple response questions: Some questions allow only a single response, while other questions allow respondents to give more than one response or choose all that apply. Those that allow more than a single response are indicated on the graphs with the label, "Multiple Responses Allowed."
- Scaled questions: Many closed-ended questions (but not all) are in a scale, such as excellent-good-fair-poor.
- Series questions: Many questions are part of a series, and the results are primarily intended to be examined relative to the other questions in that series (although results of the questions individually can also be valuable). Typically, results of all questions in a series are shown together.

Some graphs show an average, either the mean or median (or both). The mean is simply the sum of all numbers divided by the number of respondents. Because outliers (extremely high or low numbers relative to most of the other responses) may skew the mean, the median may be shown.

The median is the number at which half the sample is above and the other half is below. In other words, a median of 150 means that half the sample gave an answer of more than 150 and the other half gave an answer of less than 150.

Most graphs show results rounded to the nearest integer; however, all data are stored in decimal format, and all calculations are performed on unrounded numbers. For this reason, some results may not sum to exactly 100% because of this rounding on the graphs. Additionally, rounding may cause apparent discrepancies of 1 percentage point between the graphs and the reported results of combined responses (e.g., when “strongly agree” and “moderately agree” are summed to determine the total percentage in agreement).

Finally, some graphs pertain to more than one section of the report, so these graphs are discussed in more than one section of the report. In these instances when the graph is discussed in more than one section, the graph is only shown in one section with a call-out in the other section indicating where the graph is located.

## RATINGS AND SATISFACTION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARENESS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

- All three respondent groups show strong name recognition of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries when asked which agency they thought was primarily responsible for enforcing *hunting and fishing laws* in Virginia:
  - Among **anglers**, 44% correctly name the VDGIF, with a further 21% naming an essentially correct derivative of the VDGIF (i.e., getting most of the words right). Meanwhile, a quarter of anglers (25%) say they do not know.
  - Out of the three respondent groups, **hunters** are the most likely to correctly name the VDGIF: 62% give the correct answer, with a further 20% naming an essentially correct derivative of the right answer. Just 13% of hunters answer that they do not know.
  - Among **boaters**, more than half (55%) are able to correctly name the VDGIF, with a further 23% naming an essentially correct derivative of the VDGIF. Meanwhile, 14% say they were unsure.
- A follow-up question asked respondents if they could name the agency primarily responsible for enforcing *boating laws* in Virginia, and a substantial percentage of each group was again able to correctly name the VDGIF:
  - As before, **anglers** are the least likely to correctly name the VDGIF and the most likely to say they do not know: 29% correctly name the VDGIF, 11% name an essentially correct derivative of the VDGIF, and 40% say they are unsure.
  - Among **hunters**, 47% correctly name the VDGIF, a further 15% name an essentially correct derivative, and 23% say they do not know.
  - Among **boaters**, 41% correctly name the VDGIF, 13% name a correct derivative of the agency, and about a fifth (22%) are unsure.
- Respondents from the three groups most commonly said they knew, prior to the survey, either *a little* or *a moderate amount* about the law enforcement responsibilities of Virginia's Conservation Police Officers:

- Among **anglers**, 44% said they knew *a little*, 33% knew *a moderate amount*, and just 15% indicated knowing *a great deal* about the law enforcement responsibilities of Virginia's Conservation Police Officers.
  - Of the three groups, **hunters** were the most likely to say they knew *a great deal* (29%) and the least likely to say they knew *a little* (31%). Meanwhile, 36% said they knew *a moderate amount*.
  - Among **boaters**, 48% indicated knowing *a little*, 31% indicated knowing *a moderate amount*, and just 16% said they knew *a great deal* about the law enforcement responsibilities of Virginia's Conservation Police Officers prior to the survey.
- Large majorities of each respondent group believe that Virginia's Conservation Police Officers have full police power, with most being either *absolutely certain* or *pretty sure* about this status:
- Among **anglers**, 41% say they are *absolutely certain* Virginia's Conservation Police Officers have full police power, while 34% are *pretty sure* about it (total of 75% who are at least pretty sure of this fact).
  - Among **hunters**, 57% are *absolutely certain* and 30% are *pretty sure* (total of 87% who are at least pretty sure).
  - Among **boaters**, 44% are *absolutely certain* and 34% are *pretty sure* (total of 77% who are at least pretty sure).

## GENERAL RATINGS

- Majorities of respondents from all three groups rate Conservation Police Officers' *overall law enforcement efforts* in Virginia over the past 2 years as either *excellent* or *good*:
- Among **anglers**, 26% give a rating of *excellent*, while 44% give a rating of *good* (total of 70% giving a rating of either *excellent* or *good*).
  - Among **hunters**, 30% give a rating of *excellent*, while 45% give a rating of *good* (total of 75% giving a rating of either *excellent* or *good*).
  - Among **boaters**, 27% give a rating of *excellent*, while 42% give a rating of *good* (total of 69% giving a rating of either *excellent* or *good*).

- Each respondent group was then asked specifically about Conservation Police Officers' law enforcement efforts concerning their relevant activity (either fishing, hunting, or boating) over the past 2 years, and the ratings were generally quite similar to the previous question concerning overall law enforcement efforts:
- Among **anglers**, 25% give a rating of *excellent*, while 48% give a rating of *good* (total of 73% giving a rating of either *excellent* or *good* in terms of **fishing** law enforcement efforts).
  - Among **hunters**, 28% give a rating of *excellent*, while 47% give a rating of *good* (total of 75% giving a rating of either *excellent* or *good* in terms of **hunting** law enforcement efforts).
  - Among **boaters**, 25% give a rating of *excellent*, while 42% give a rating of *good* (total of 67% giving a rating of either *excellent* or *good* in terms of **boating** law enforcement efforts).

## RATINGS OF SPECIFIC ACTIONS AND EFFORTS

- The survey asked respondents to rate efforts to maintain a law enforcement presence on Virginia's waterways in the past 2 years, and majorities of respondents again give ratings of either *excellent* or *good*:
- Among **anglers**, 26% give a rating of *excellent*, while 47% give a rating of *good* (total of 73% giving a rating of either *excellent* or *good*).
  - Among **hunters**, 21% give a rating of *excellent*, while 40% give a rating of *good* (total of 61% giving a rating of either *excellent* or *good*). (Note that 29% of hunters say they do not know enough to rate law enforcement efforts regarding Virginia waterways.)
  - Among **boaters**, 29% give a rating of *excellent*, while 43% give a rating of *good* (total of 72% giving a rating of either *excellent* or *good*).
- Boaters were asked a follow-up question regarding their rating of Conservation Police Officers' efforts to provide education and safety training to Virginia boaters, and the most common ratings were again either *good* (39%) or *excellent* (22%). At the same time, nearly a fifth of boaters (19%) were unsure.

- When asked how they would rate Conservation Police Officers in controlling illegal activities on private land in Virginia over the past 2 years, responses generally varied among the three respondent groups:
  - **Anglers** are generally split between giving a rating of *good* (35%) and saying they do not know (35%).
  - **Hunters** most commonly give a rating of *good* (40%), with 20% giving a rating of *excellent* and 18% giving a rating of *fair*.
  - **Boaters** most commonly say that they do not know (43%), while a further 29% give a rating of *good* to Conservation Police Officers' ability to control illegal activities on private land in Virginia over the past 2 years.

## GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

- Overwhelming majorities of all three respondent groups are satisfied with Virginia Conservation Police Officers' law enforcement efforts in the past 2 years, with most being *very satisfied*:
  - Among **anglers**, 87% are satisfied, with 53% *very satisfied*.
  - Among **hunters**, 90% are satisfied, with 58% *very satisfied*.
  - Among **boaters**, 87% are satisfied, with 52% *very satisfied*.
- Asked about satisfaction with enforcement efforts related to their specific activities (i.e., fishing, hunting, or boating), responses remain quite positive across the three groups:
  - Among **anglers**, 88% are satisfied, with 57% *very satisfied*.
  - Among **hunters**, 88% are satisfied, with 61% *very satisfied*.
  - Among **boaters**, 80% are satisfied, with 52% *very satisfied*.
- A final question in this series asked anglers and boaters about their satisfaction with Virginia Conservation Police Officers' law enforcement efforts on the water in the past 2 years; again, overall satisfaction is strong:
  - Among **anglers**, 79% are satisfied, with 54% *very satisfied*.
  - Among **boaters**, 80% are satisfied, with 53% *very satisfied*.



## PERCEIVED TRENDS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS IN GENERAL

- The next line of questioning switched from a 2-year timeframe to a 5-year timeframe, with respondents first asked whether they thought Virginia Conservation Police Officers' law enforcement efforts overall had gotten better, remained the same, or gotten worse in the preceding 5 years. In general, respondents from the three groups are split in saying law enforcement efforts have either gotten better or stayed the same:
  - Among **anglers**, 38% say that law enforcement has gotten better in the past 5 years, while 42% say it has stayed the same.
  - Among **hunters**, 39% say that law enforcement has gotten better in the past 5 years, while 43% say it has stayed the same.
  - Among **boaters**, 41% say that law enforcement has gotten better in the past 5 years, while 40% say it has stayed the same.
- Those who said that law enforcement efforts overall had gotten *better* over the past 5 years were asked why they felt this way. Among all three groups, the most common reasons included seeing more officers patrolling, noticing more enforcement of laws or people being checked more often, and noticing more/better communication with the public.
- The small number of respondents in each group who said that law enforcement efforts overall had gotten *worse* over the past 5 years were asked about their reasons for saying this:
  - Among **anglers**, the top responses include not seeing any or enough officers, thinking that Conservation Police Officers do not have enough resources due to a lack of funding or budget cuts, observing unprofessionalism or thinking that Conservation Police Officers need better training, and thinking that there is simply not enough enforcement of laws.
  - Among **hunters**, the top responses are not seeing any or enough officers, not seeing enough enforcement of laws, thinking that Conservation Police Officers do not have enough resources due to a lack of funding or budget cuts, observing unprofessionalism or thinking that Conservation Police Officers need better training, and thinking that there are too many regulations.
  - Among **boaters**, the top responses include not seeing any or enough officers and thinking that there is not enough enforcement of laws.

- Respondents were next asked whether they thought Virginia Conservation Police Officers' law enforcement efforts related to their specific activities (fishing, hunting, or boating) had gotten better, remained the same, or gotten worse in the preceding 5 years:
- Among **anglers**, a slight majority (52%) say that such enforcement efforts have remained the same, while 30% say they have gotten better.
  - Similarly, among **hunters**, 54% say that enforcement efforts related to hunting have remained the same, while 34% say they have gotten better.
  - By contrast to the two other groups, **boaters** were split in their opinions, with 41% saying that enforcement efforts related to boating have remained the same and 39% saying they have gotten better.
- As before, respondents in each group were asked follow-up questions regarding the reasons they thought law enforcement efforts related to their specific activity (fishing, hunting, or boating) had either gotten *better* or gotten *worse* over the past 5 years:
- **Among anglers who thought enforcement efforts related to fishing had gotten *better*,** the top reasons included seeing more officers patrolling, observing more enforcement of laws, such as anglers being checked more often, and thinking that illegal activities have decreased or that fishing areas have gotten safer or cleaner.
  - **Among anglers who thought enforcement efforts related to fishing had gotten *worse*,** the top reasons included thinking that there is not enough enforcement of laws and observing unprofessionalism or thinking that officers need better training.
  - **Among hunters who thought enforcement efforts related to hunting had gotten *better*,** the top reasons included seeing more officers patrolling, observing more enforcement of laws, and observing better or more communication with the public, such as quicker response rates or more information provided to the public.
  - **Among hunters who thought enforcement efforts related to hunting had gotten *worse*,** the top reasons included not seeing enough officers and observing unprofessionalism or thinking that officers need better training.
  - **Among boaters who thought enforcement efforts related to boating had gotten *better*,** the top reasons included seeing more officers patrolling, observing more

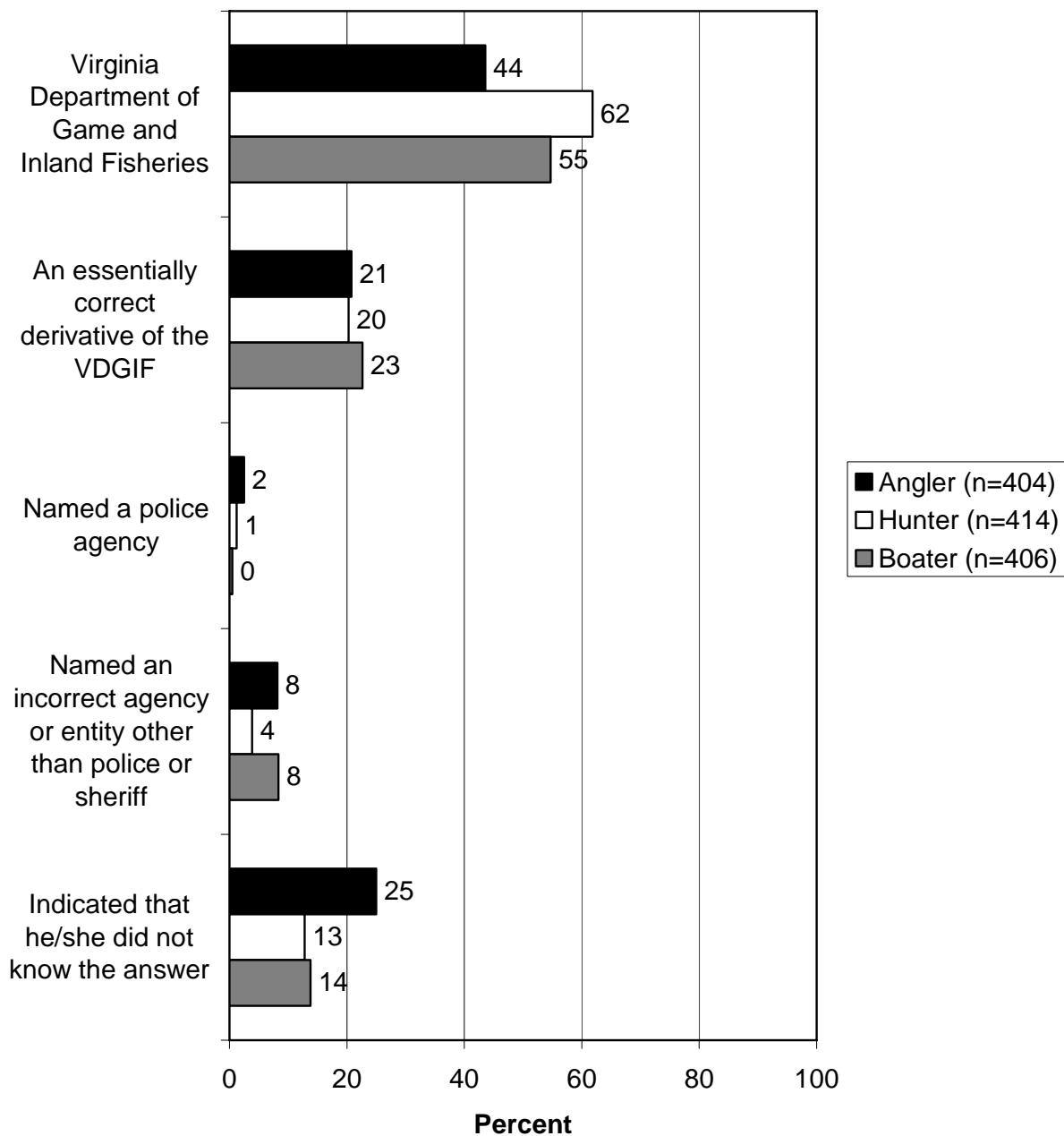
enforcement of laws, believing that boating laws have improved or that general safety has increased, and observing better or more communication with the public, such as quicker response rates or more information provided to the public.

- **Among boaters who thought enforcement efforts related to boating had gotten worse**, the top reason was believing that there are too many regulations or too many unnecessary regulations (note that this reason would seem to suggest dissatisfaction with regulations in general, rather than something related to enforcement activities specifically).

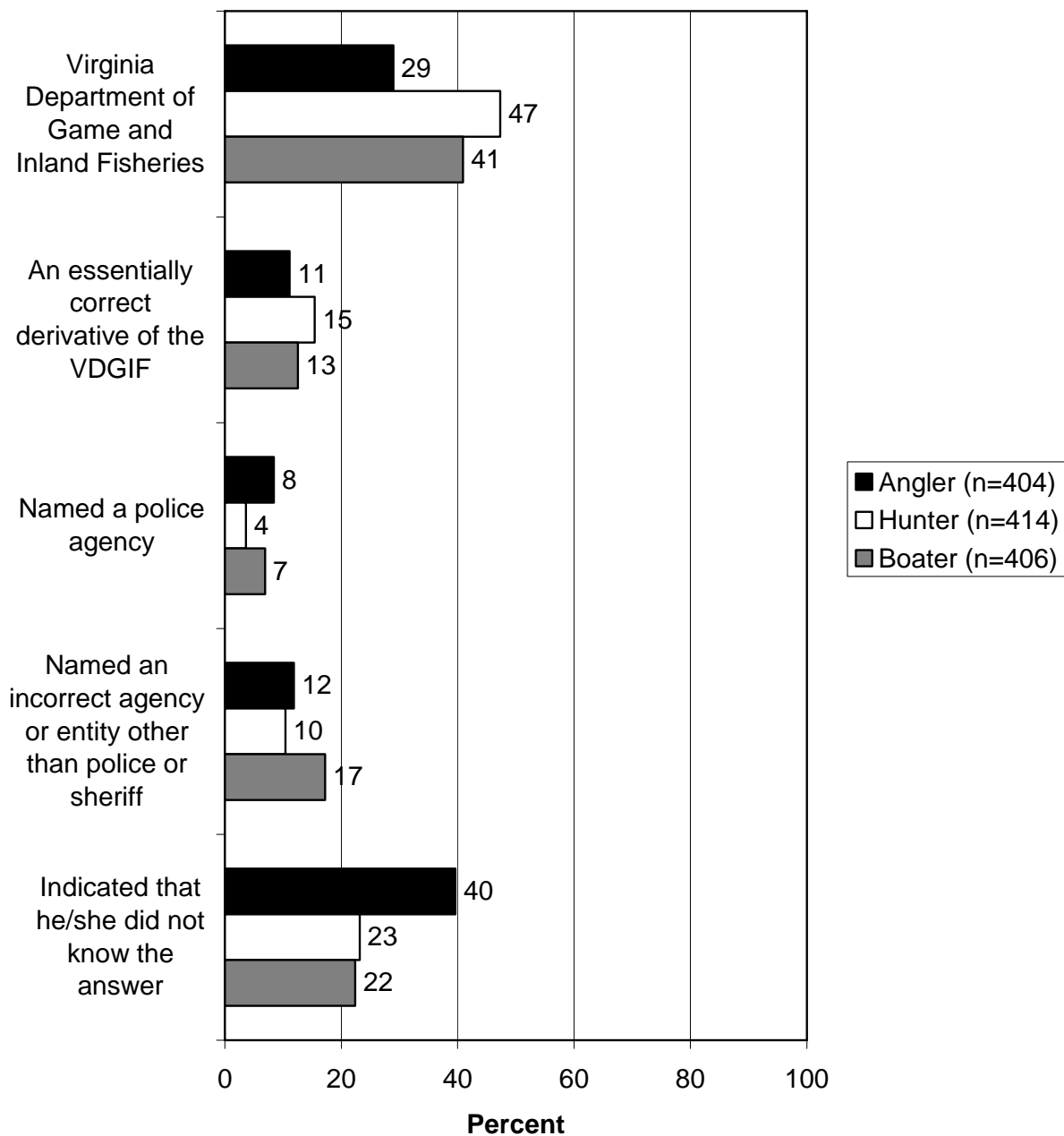
➤ In terms of law enforcement efforts on the water, respondents from all three groups most commonly say that such activity has *remained the same* over the past 5 years; the exception is hunters, who are as likely to say that they are unsure as they are to say that law enforcement on the water has remained the same:

- Among **anglers**, 45% believe that law enforcement on the water has remained the same in the past 5 years, compared to 29% who say it has gotten better.
- Among **hunters**, 36% say that law enforcement on the water has remained the same, with the same percentage saying they are unsure. Meanwhile, 27% say it has gotten better.
- Among **boaters**, 43% say law enforcement on the water has remained the same, with a further 38% saying it has gotten better.
- Among all three respondent groups, the most common reasons for thinking that law enforcement on the water has improved are seeing more officers patrolling and observing more enforcement of laws. Because so few respondents said that law enforcement on the water has gotten worse in the preceding 5 years, the graph is shown but the reasons are not discussed here.

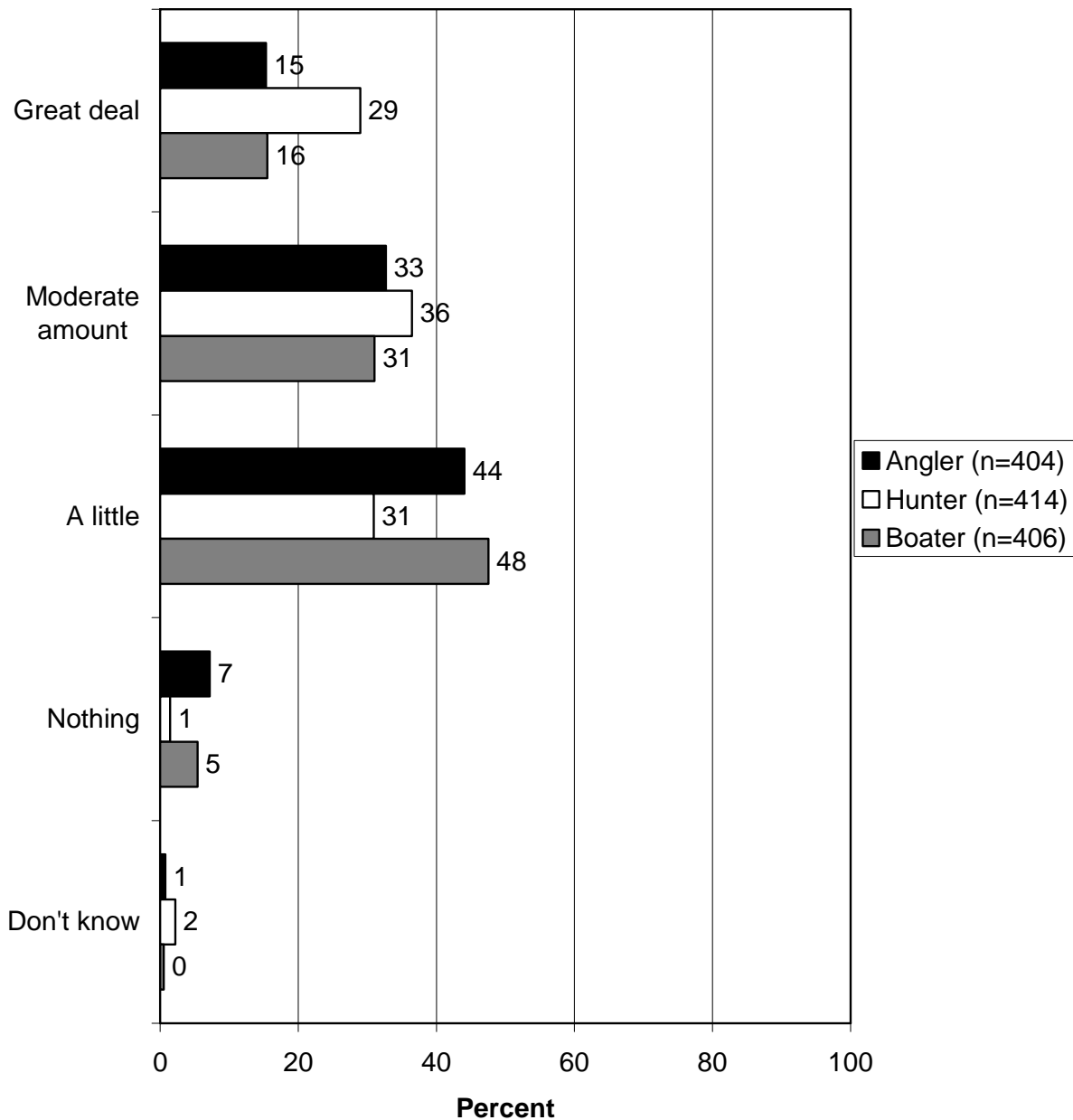
**Q17. Which Virginia agency do you think has primary responsibility for enforcing hunting and fishing laws in Virginia?**



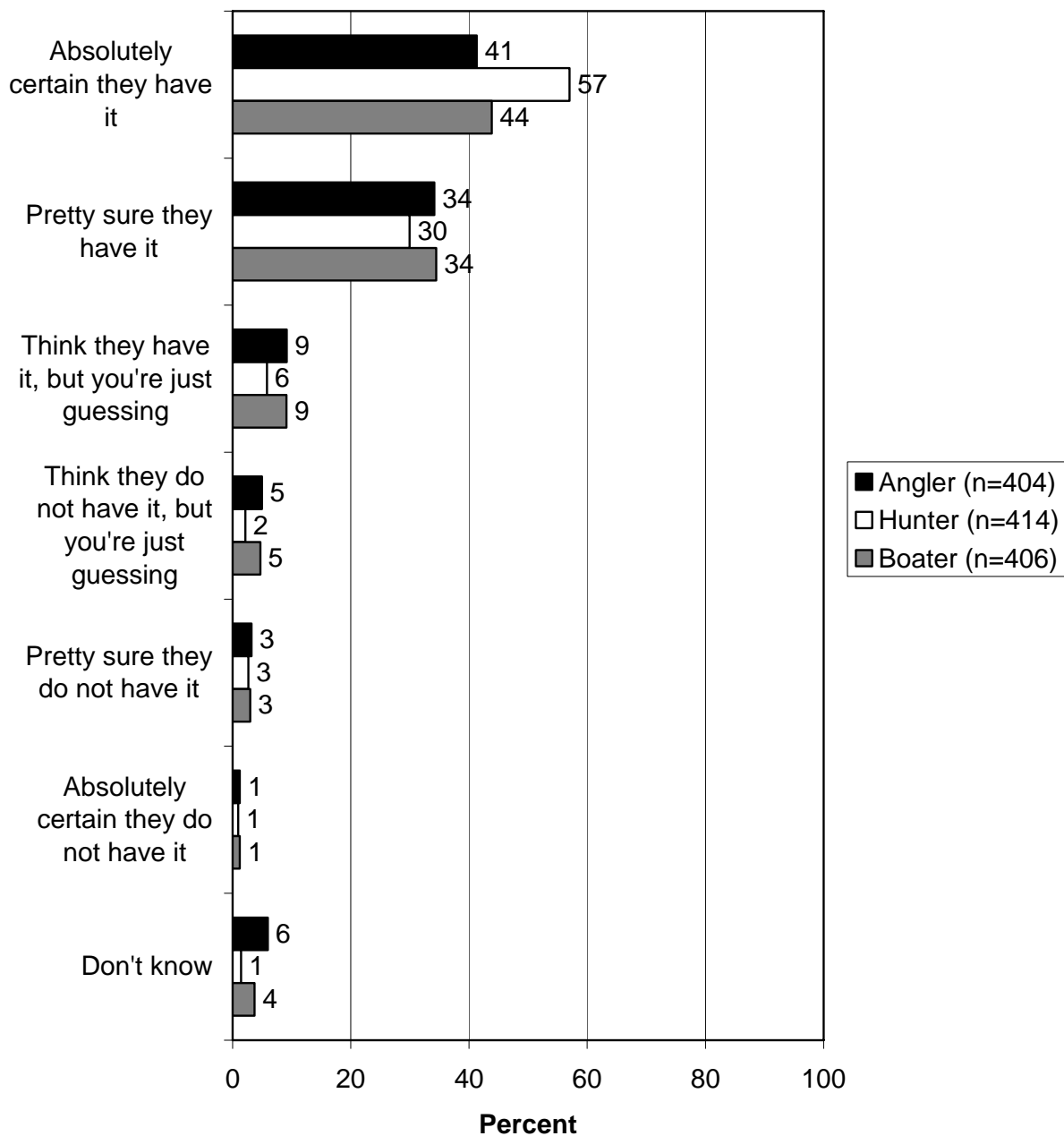
**Q19. Which Virginia agency do you think has primary responsibility for enforcing boating laws in Virginia?**



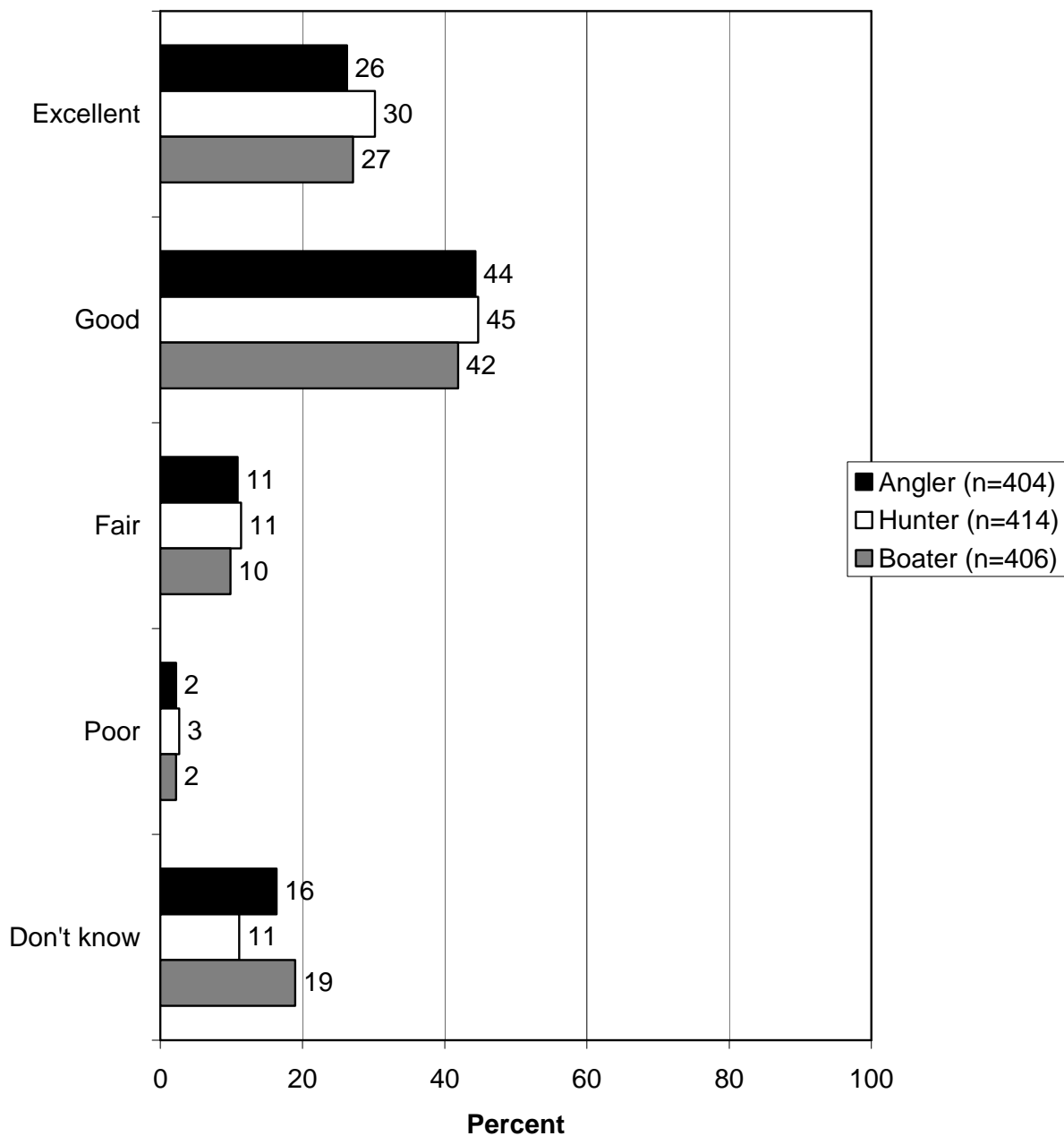
**Q21. Before this survey, would you say you knew a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about the law enforcement responsibilities of Virginia's Conservation Police Officers?**



**Q22. Do you think that Virginia's Conservation Police Officers have full police power or not? Are you absolutely certain about it, pretty sure, or just guessing?**

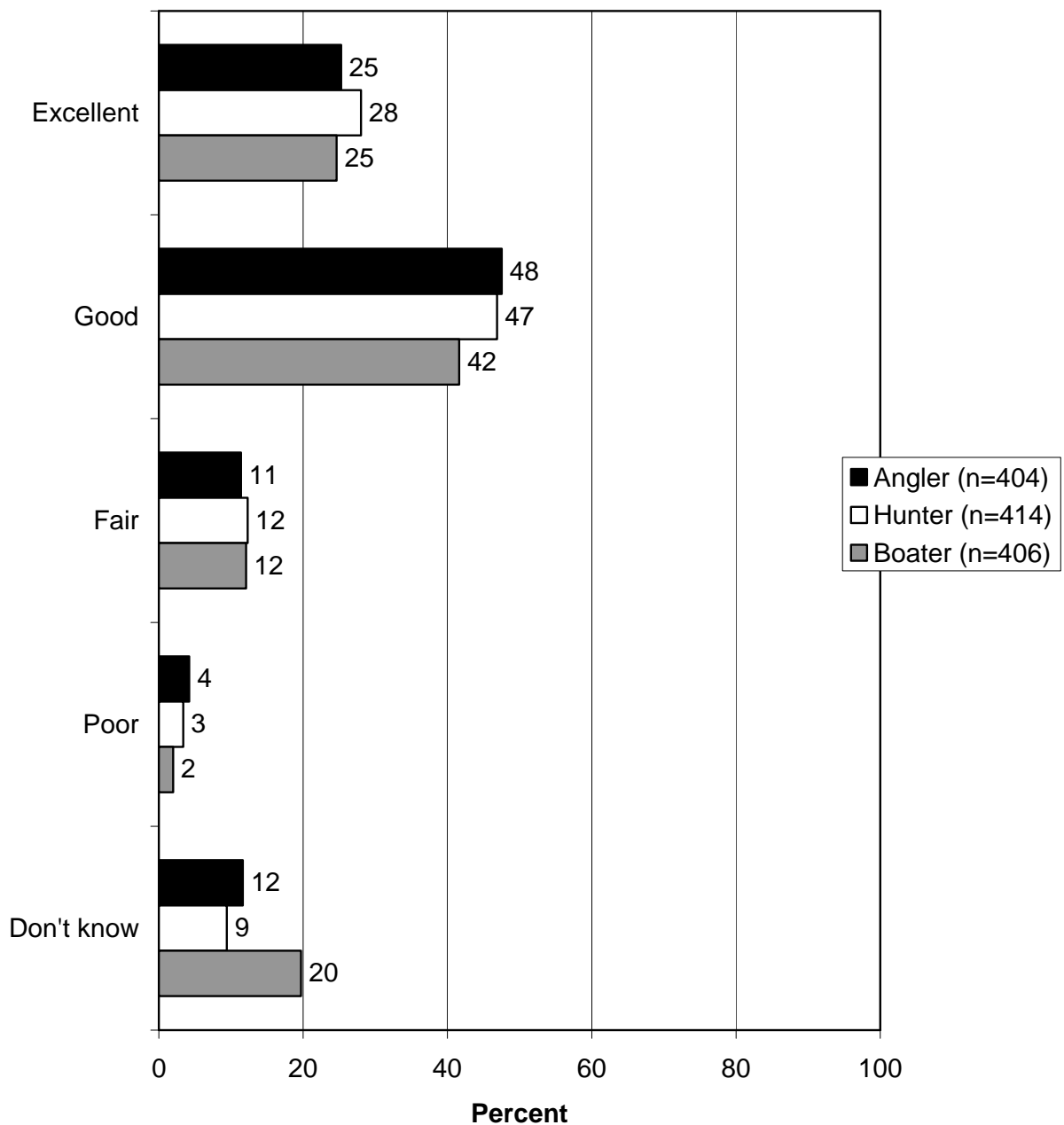


**Q23. In general, how would you rate Conservation Police Officers' overall law enforcement efforts in Virginia over the past 2 years?**

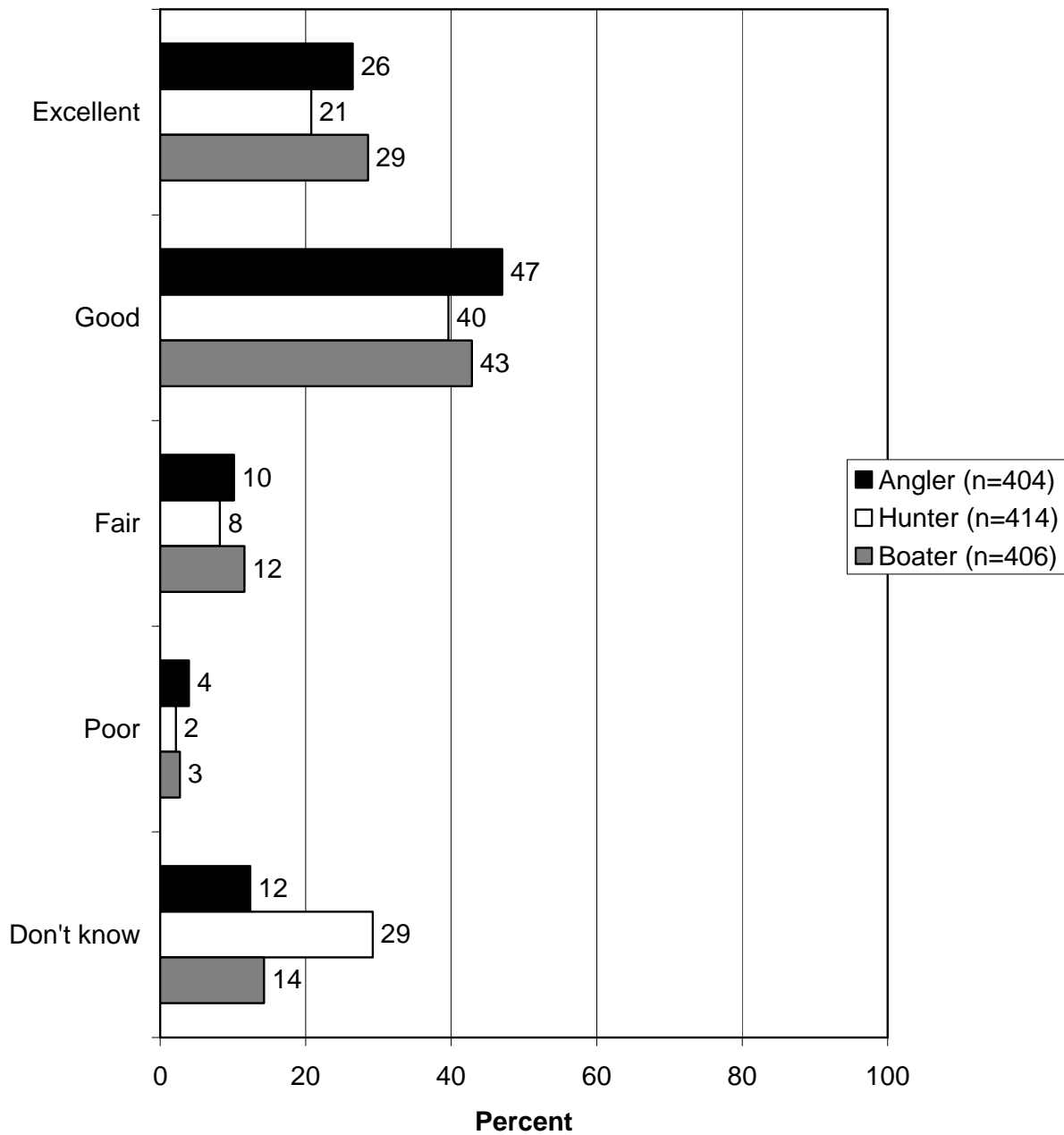




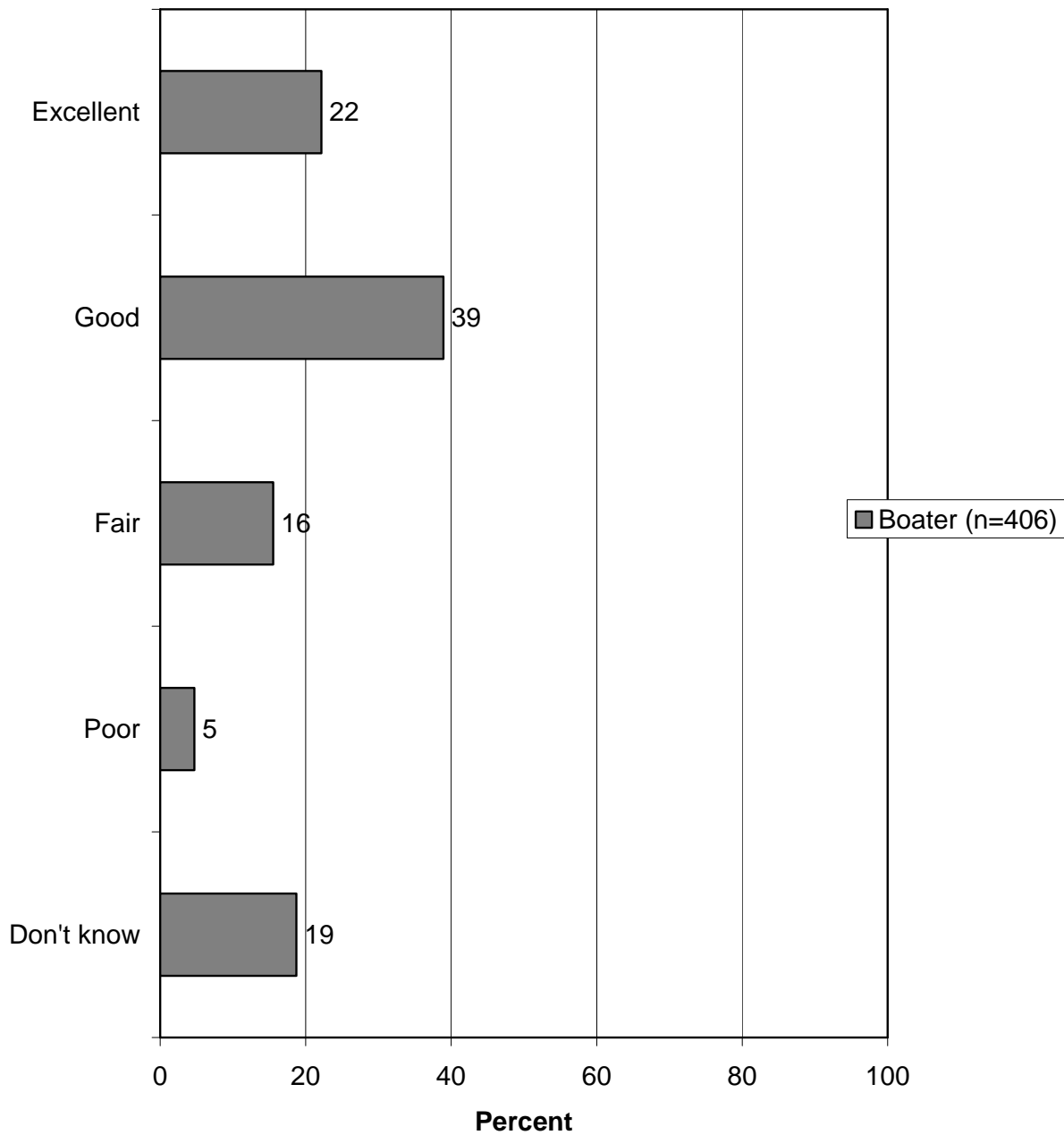
**Q24/25/26. How would you rate Conservation Police Officers' (fishing/hunting/boating) law enforcement efforts in Virginia over the past 2 years?**



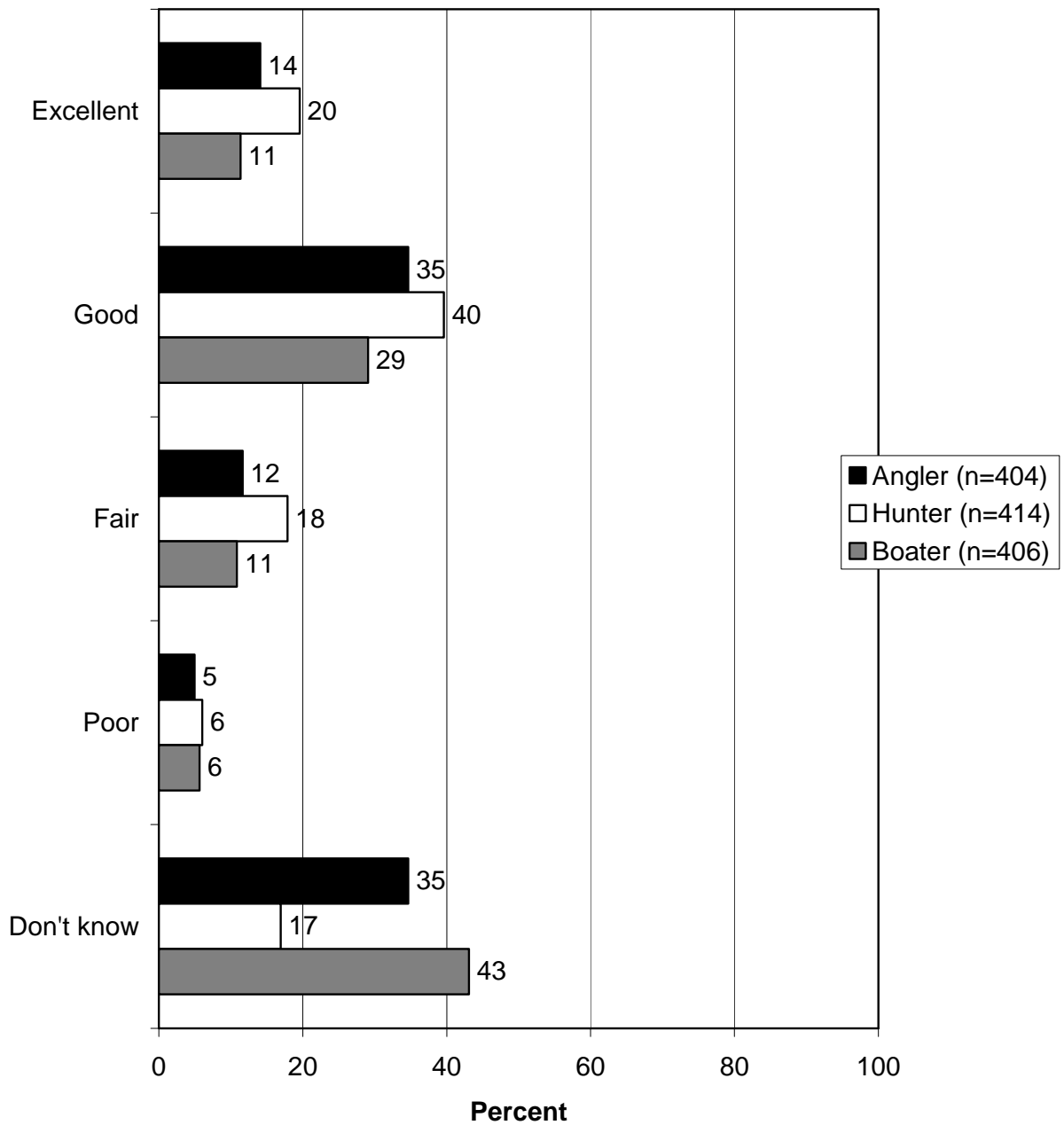
**Q28. How would you rate the efforts in Virginia to maintain a law enforcement presence on Virginia's waterways in the past 2 years?**



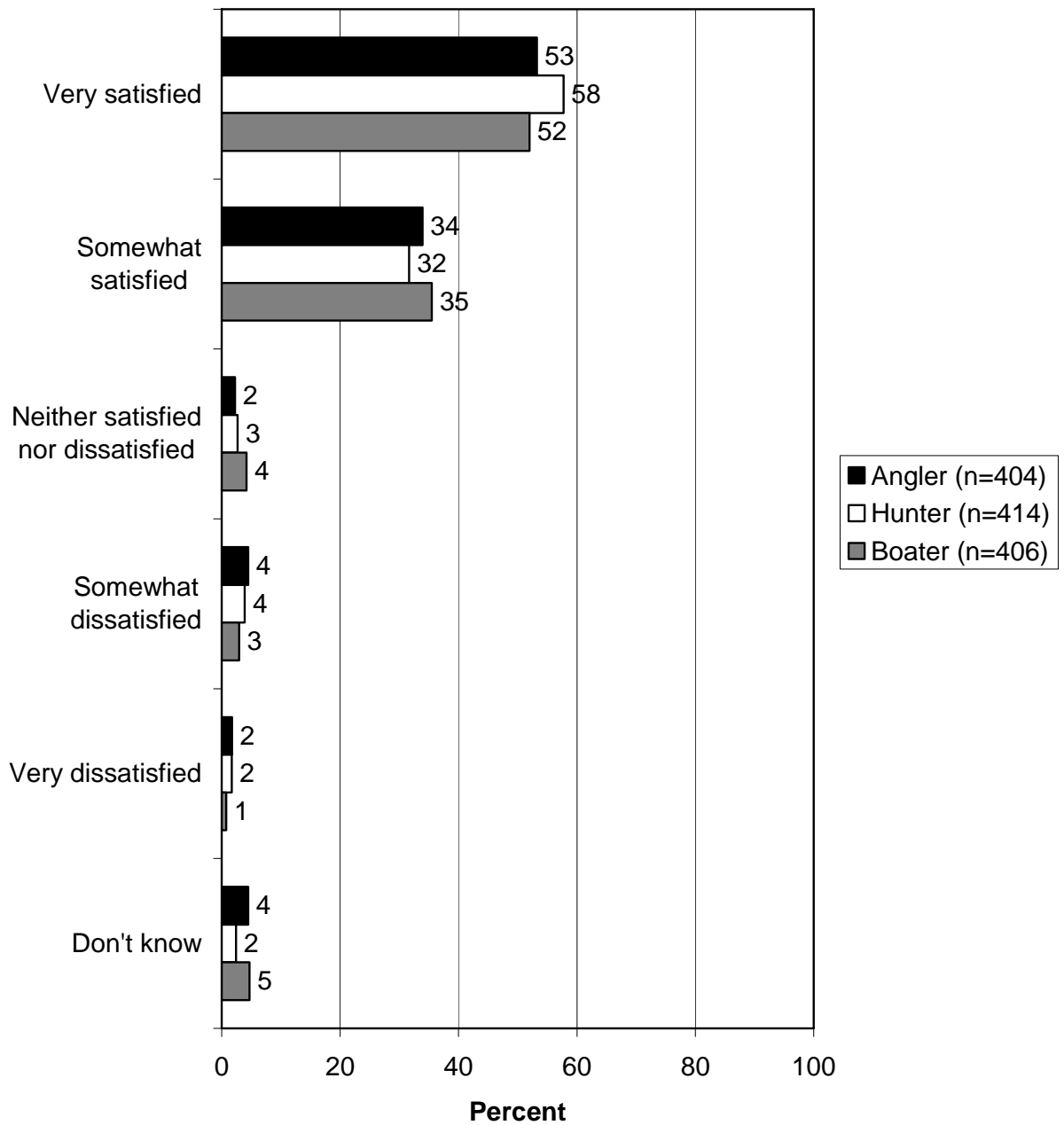
**Q29. How would you rate Conservation Police Officers' efforts to provide education and safety training to Virginia boaters? (Asked of those in the boater group.)**



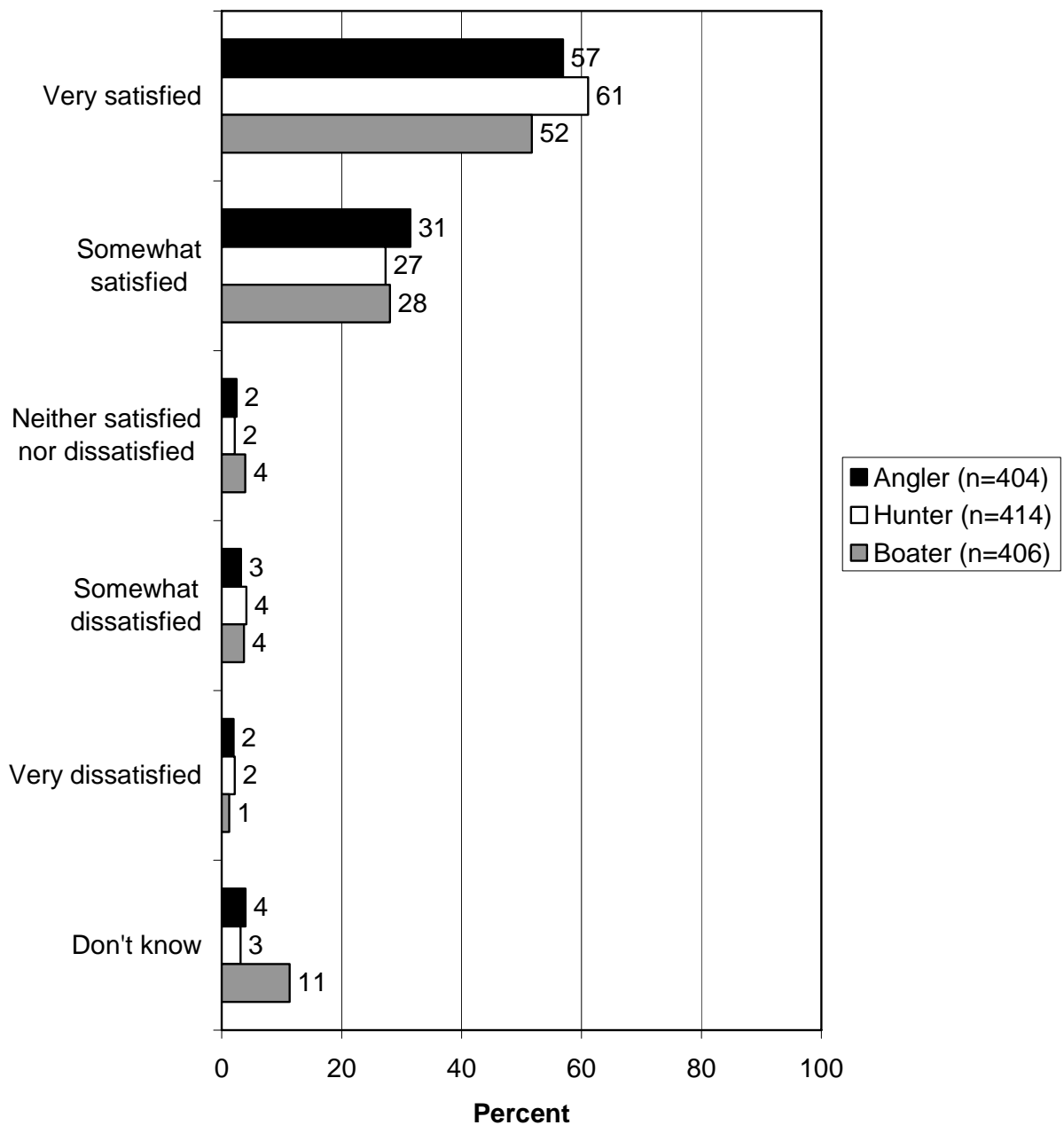
**Q30. Overall, how would you rate Conservation Police Officers in controlling illegal activities on private land in Virginia over the past 2 years?**



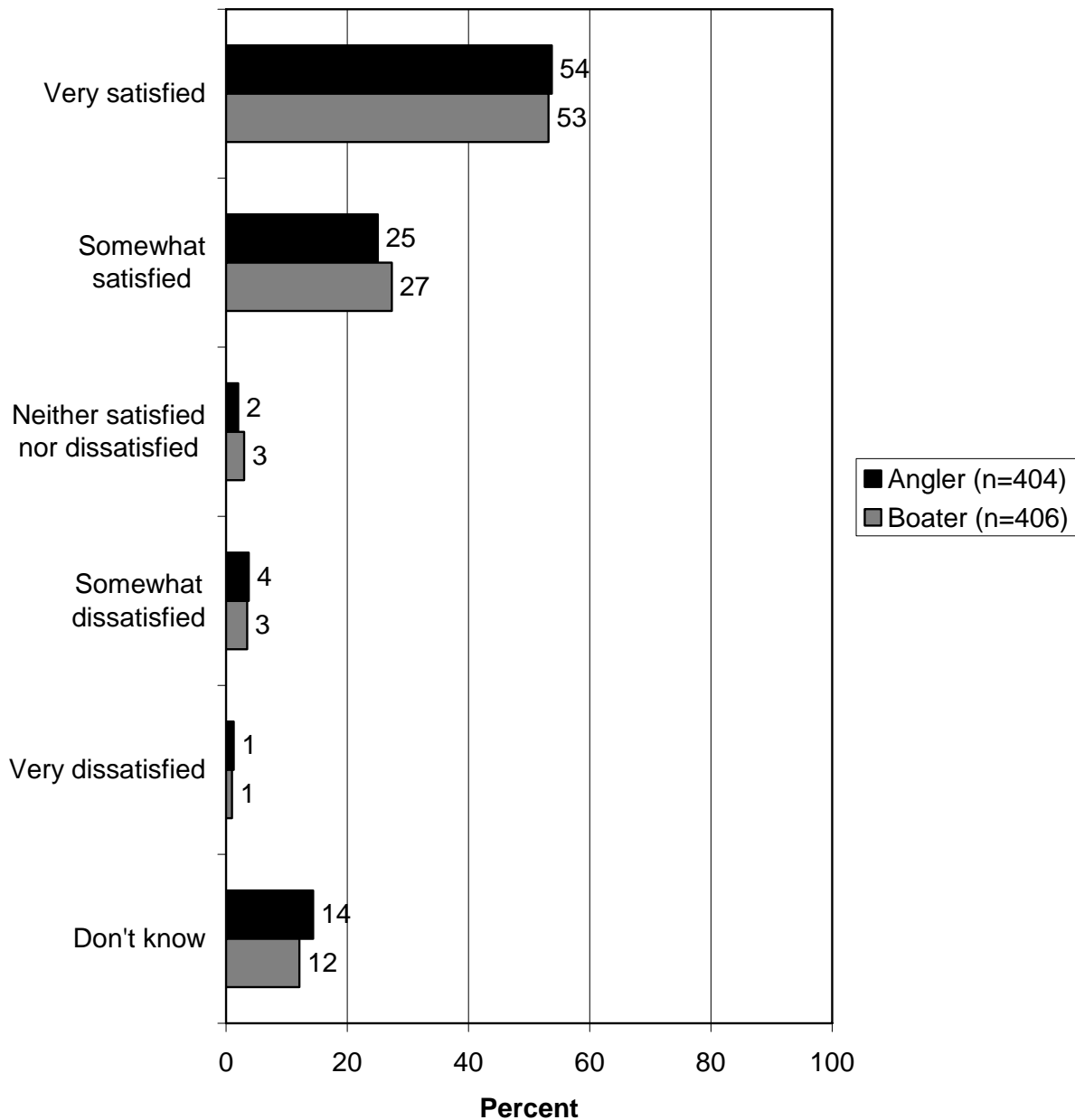
**Q31. Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with Virginia Conservation Police Officers' law enforcement efforts in the past 2 years?**



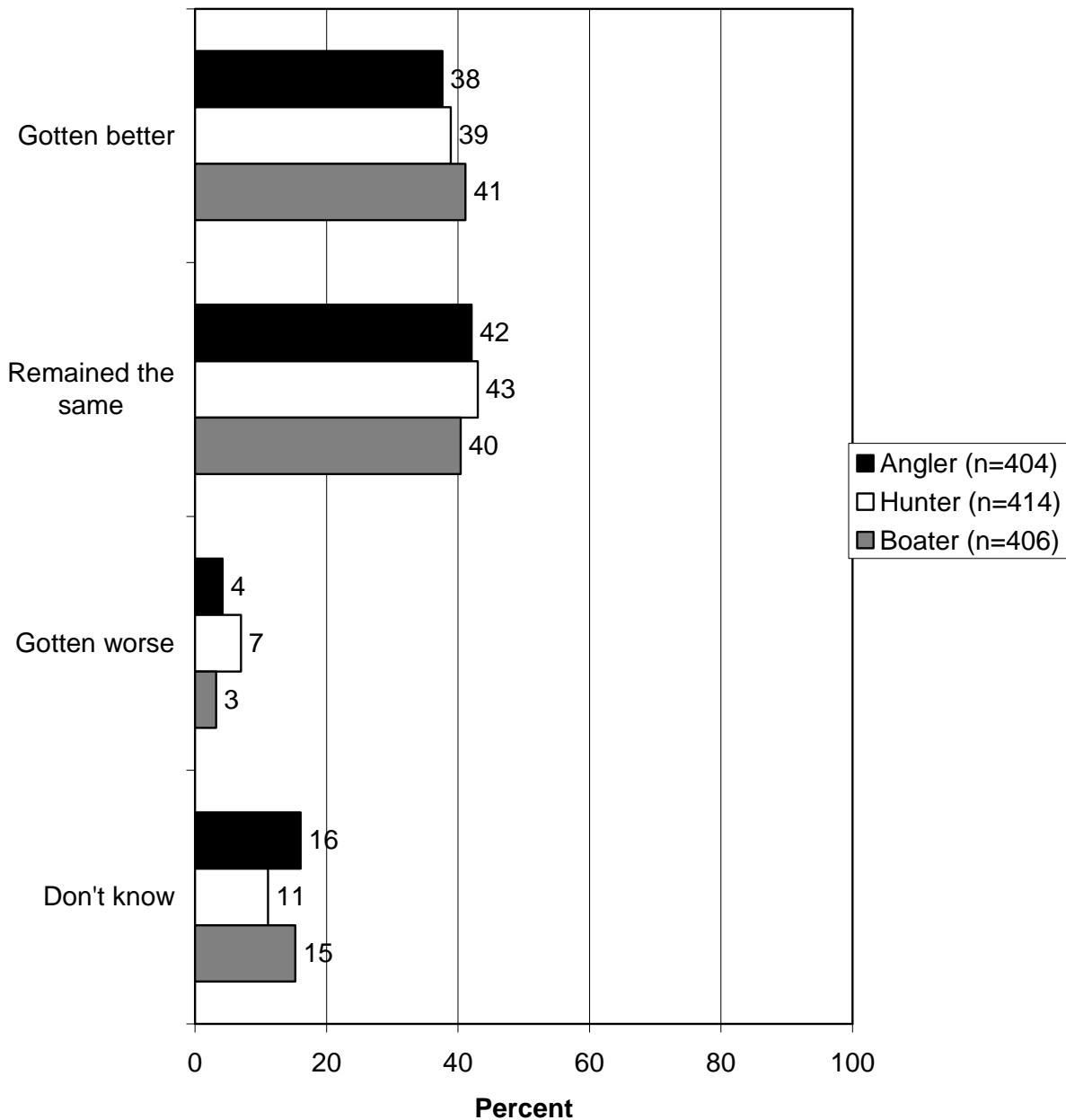
**Q32/33/34. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with Virginia Conservation Police Officers' enforcement efforts related to (fishing/hunting/boating) in the past 2 years?**



**Q35. Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with Virginia Conservation Police Officers' law enforcement efforts on the water in the past 2 years? (Asked of those in the angler group or boater group.)**

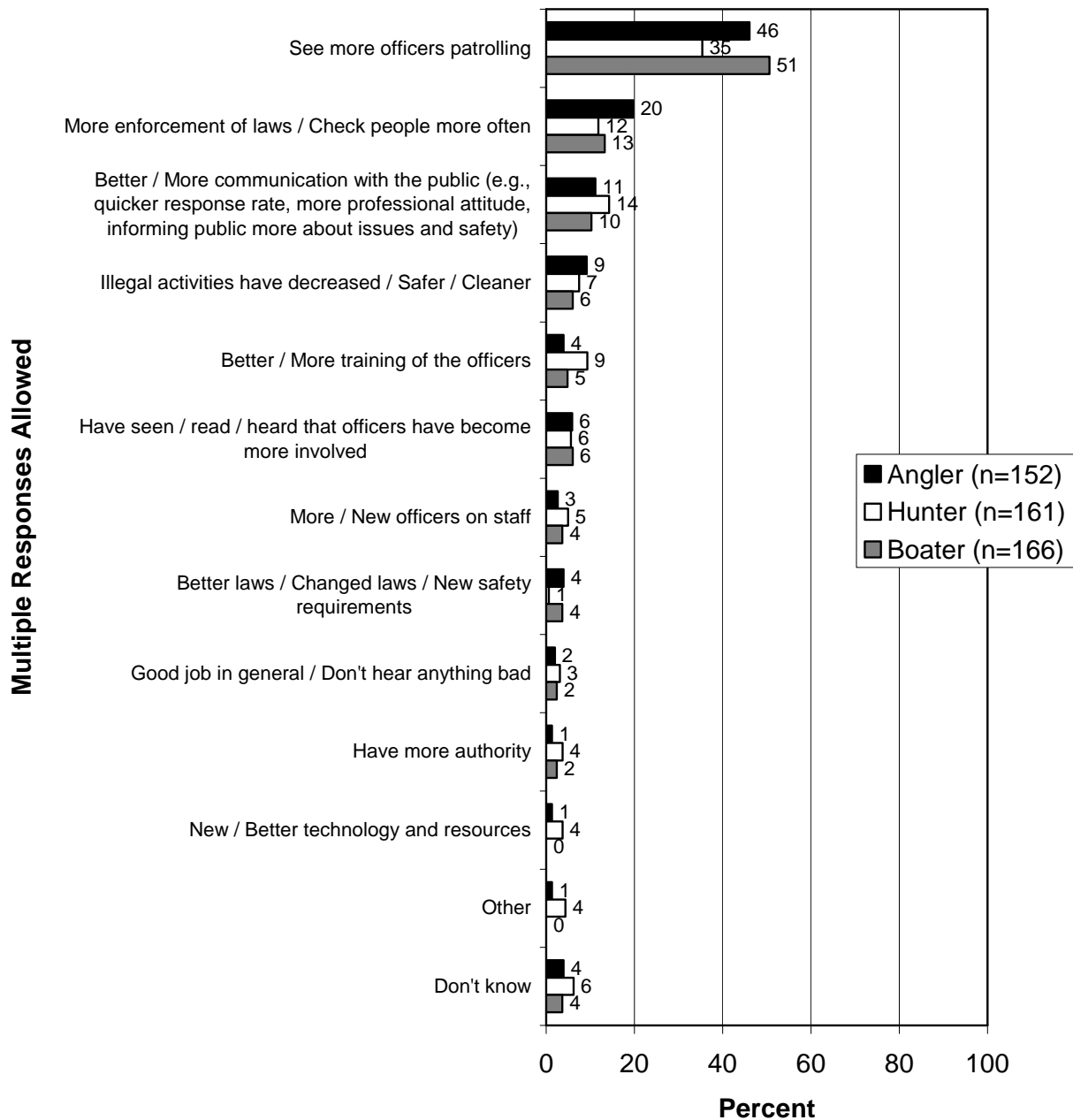


**Q36. Now switching to a 5-year time frame, over the past 5 years, do you feel that Virginia Conservation Police Officers' law enforcement efforts overall have gotten better, remained the same, or gotten worse?**

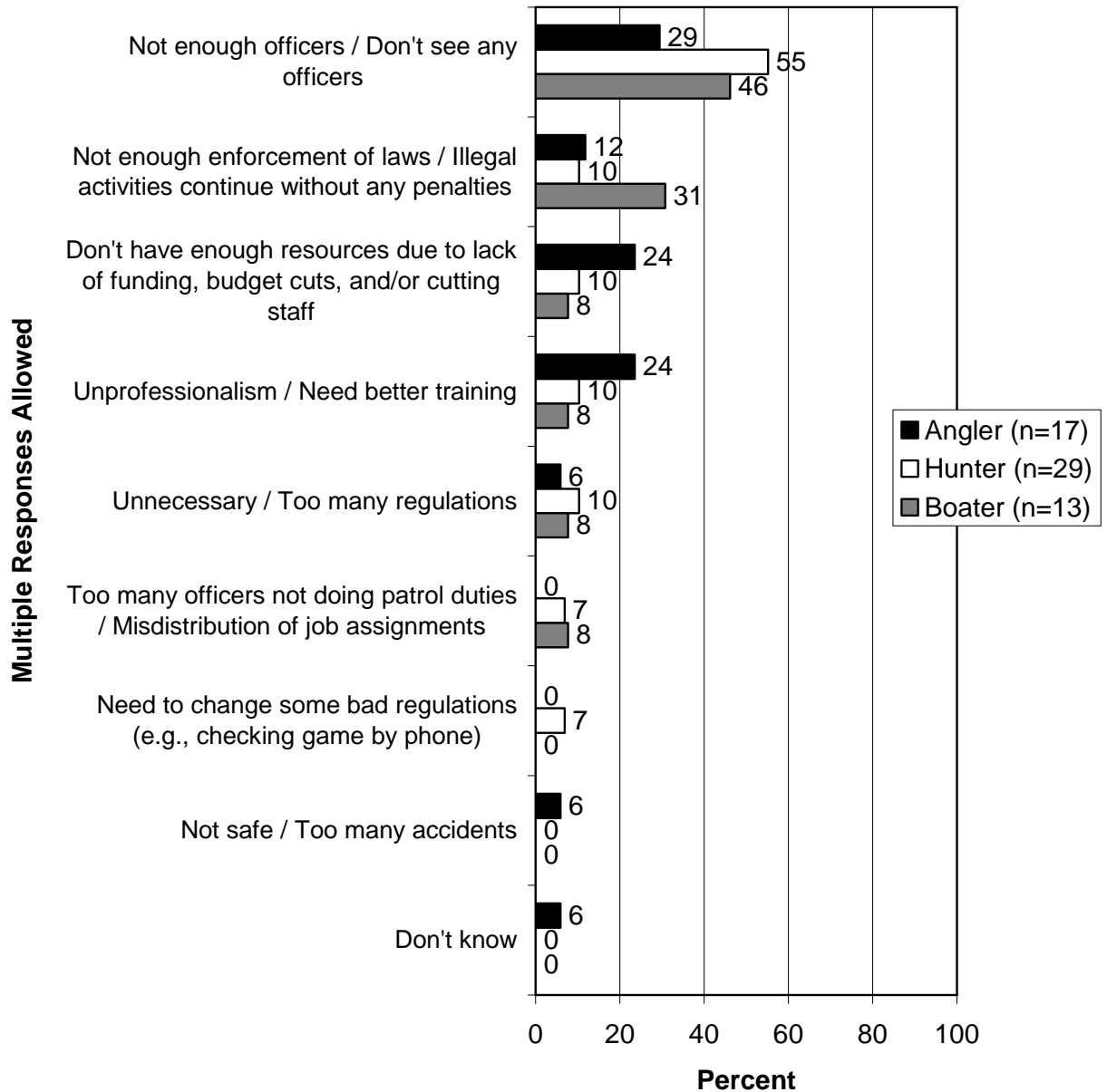




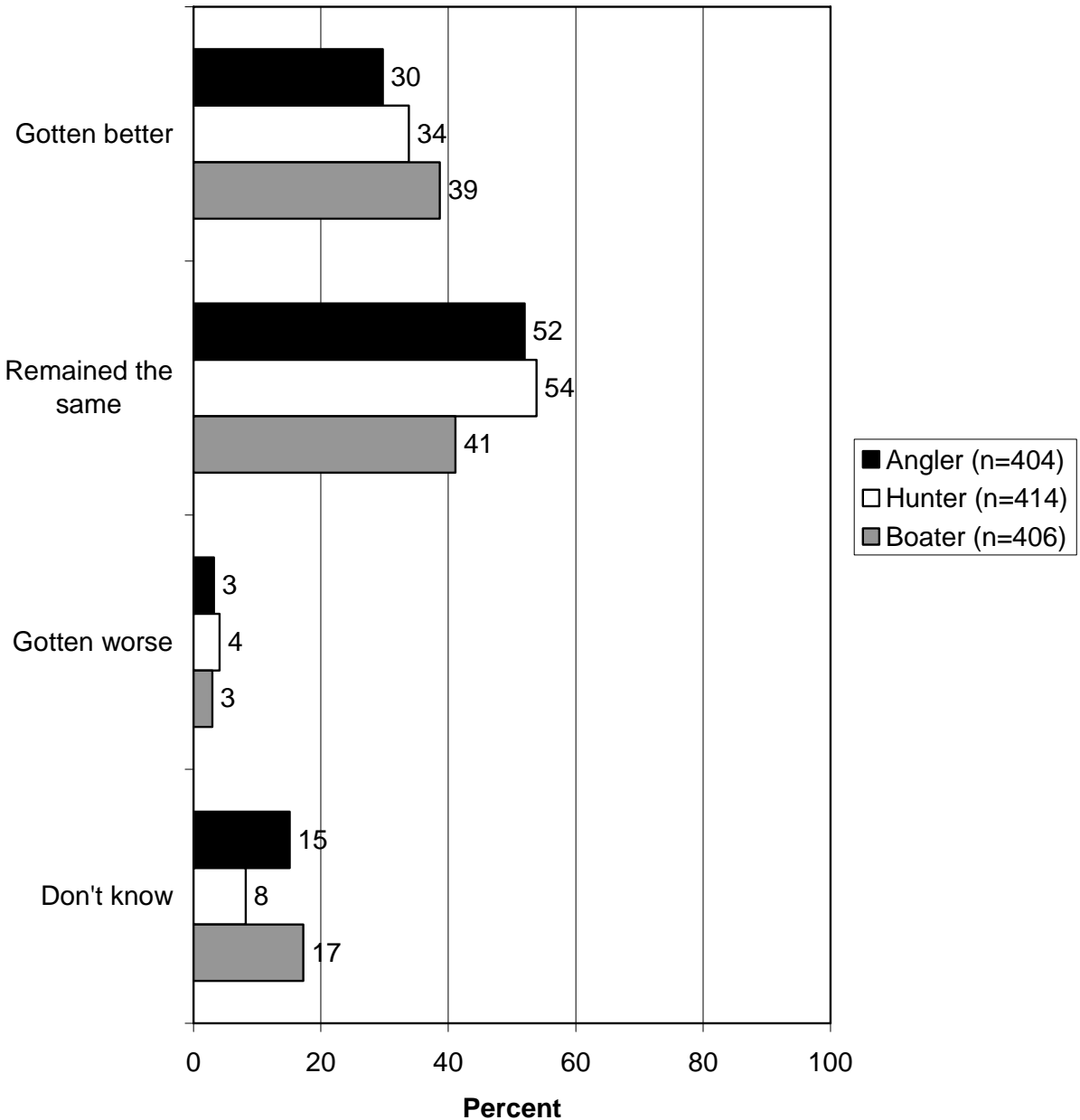
**Q37. Why do you feel Conservation Police Officers' efforts overall have gotten better over the past 5 years? (Asked of those who feel that the law enforcement efforts have gotten better.)**



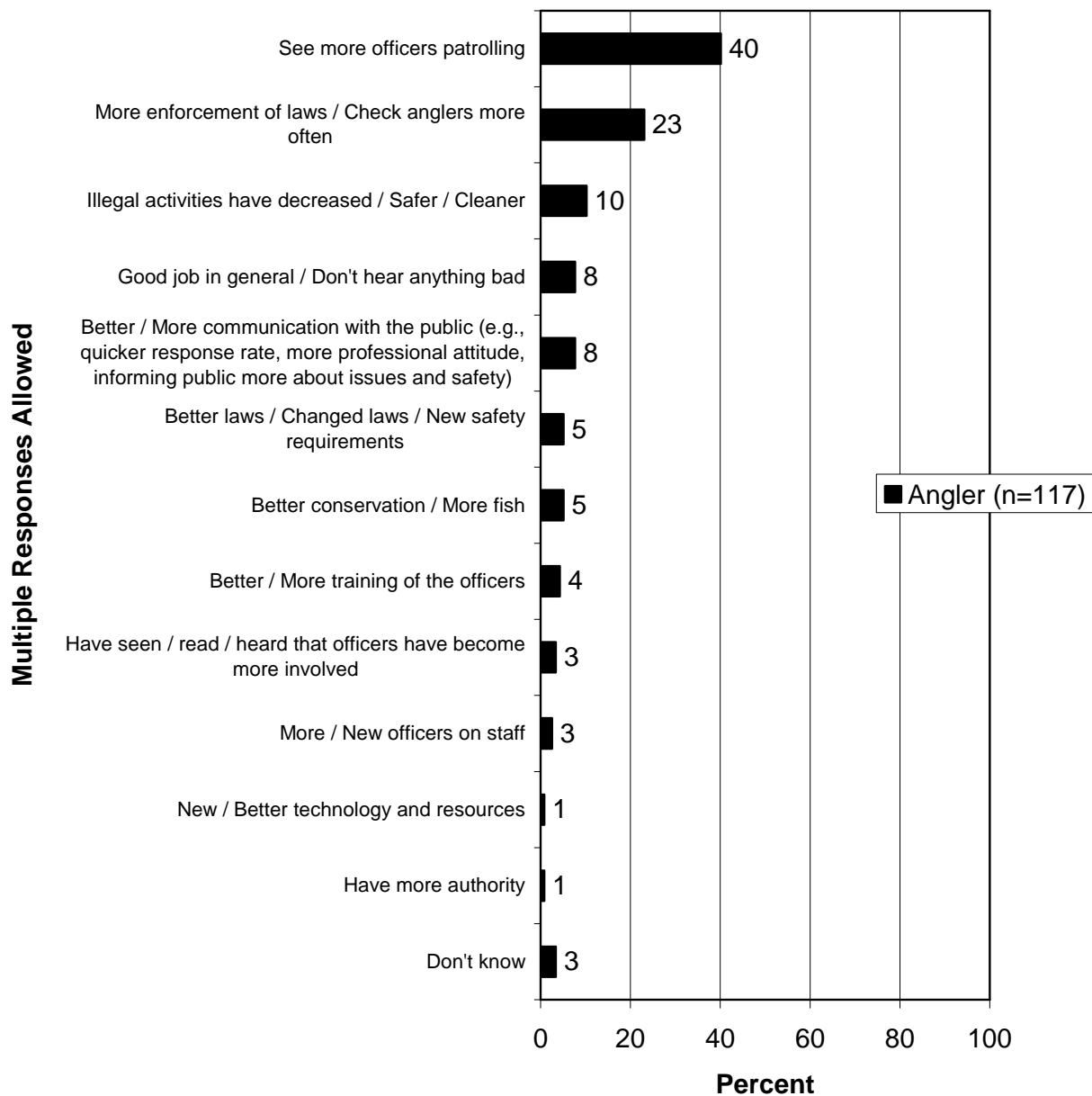
**Q38. Why do you feel Conservation Police Officers' efforts overall have gotten worse over the past 5 years? (Asked of those who feel that the law enforcement efforts overall have gotten worse.)**



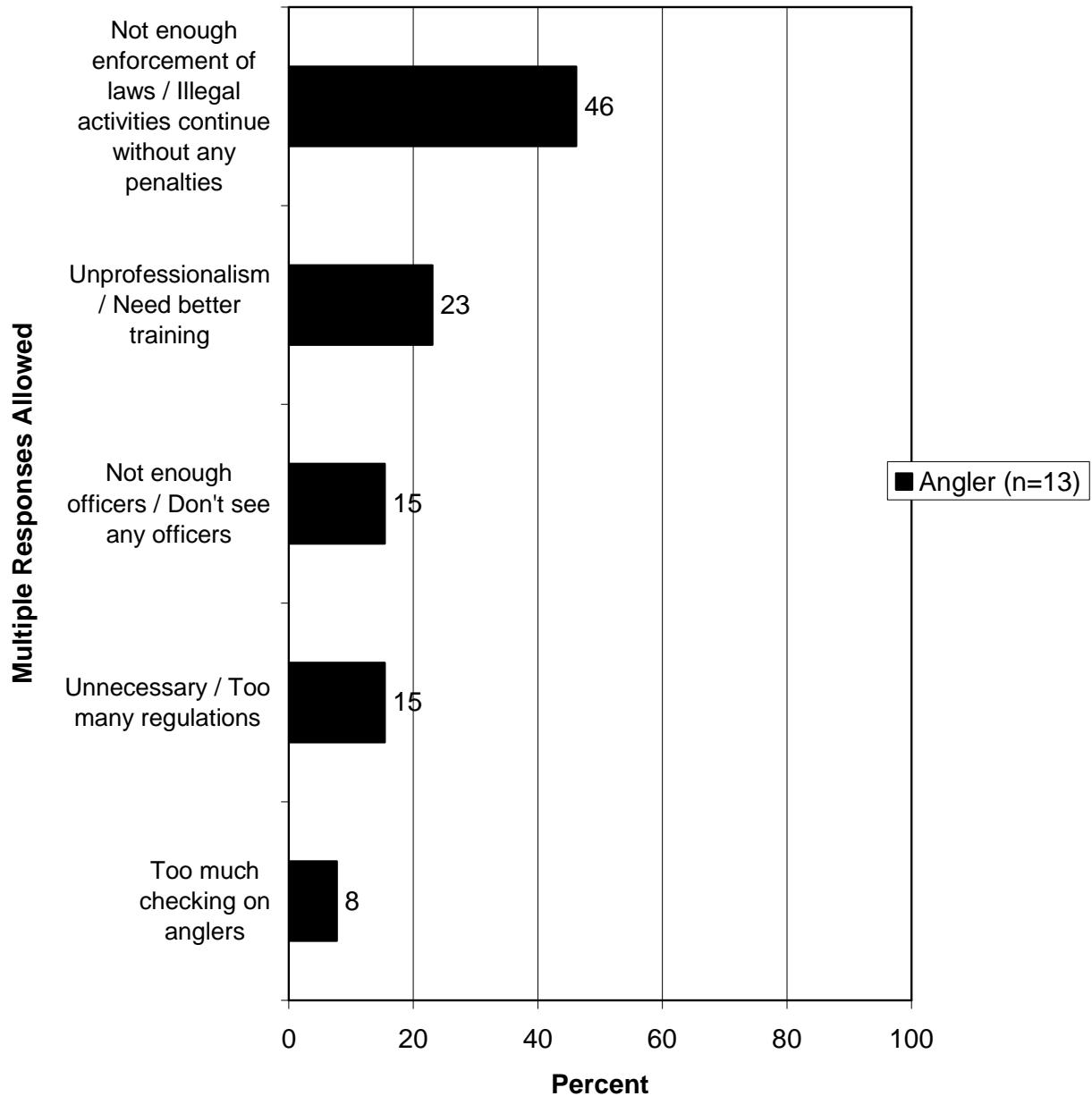
**Q39/42/45. Over the past 5 years, do you feel that Virginia Conservation Police Officers' law enforcement efforts related to (fishing/hunting/boating) have gotten better, remained the same, or gotten worse?**



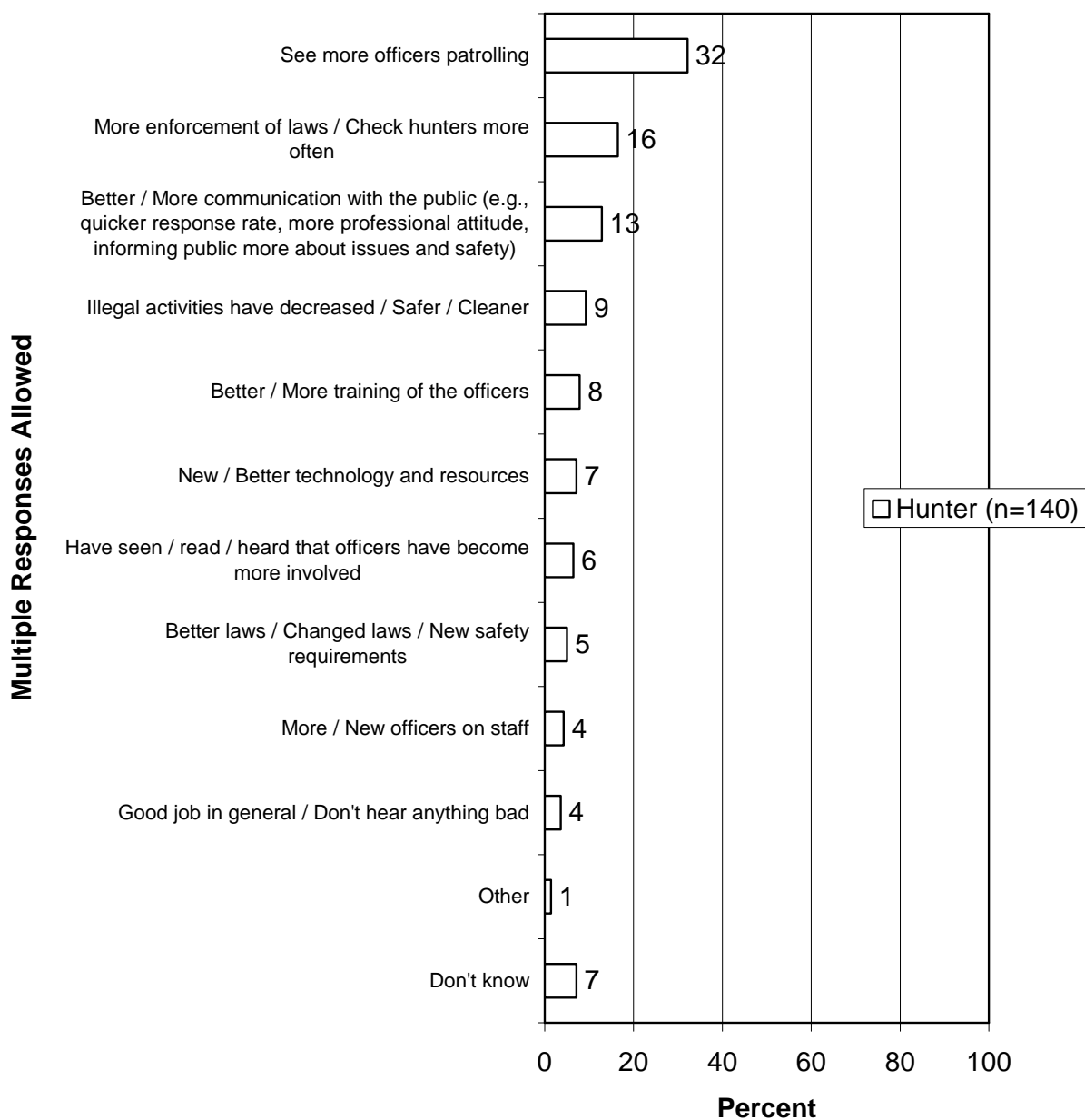
**Q40. Why do you feel Conservation Police Officers' efforts related to fishing have gotten better over the past 5 years? (Asked of those who feel that the law enforcement efforts related to fishing have gotten better.)**



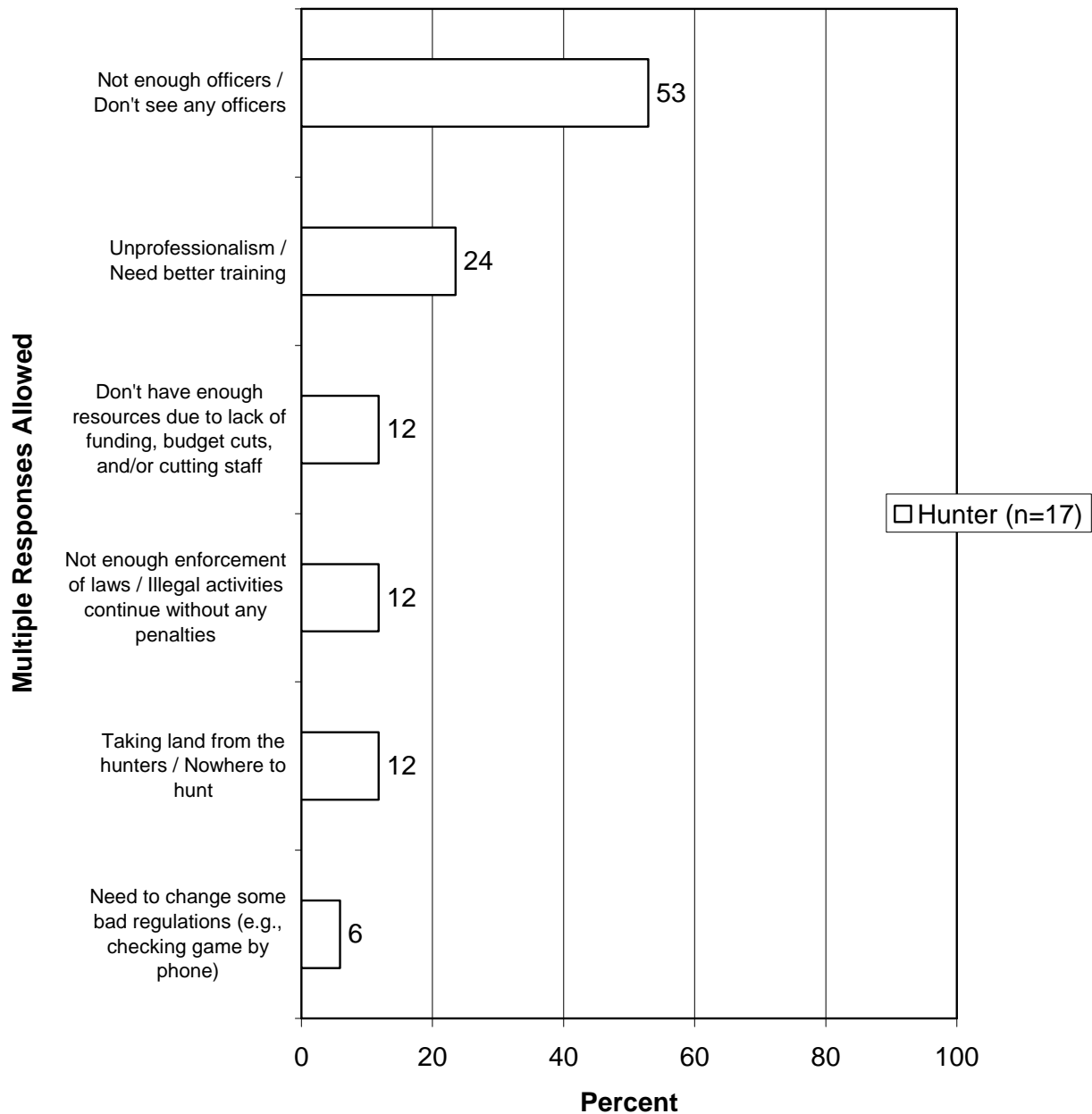
**Q41. Why do you feel Conservation Police Officers' efforts related to fishing have gotten worse over the past 5 years? (Asked of those who feel that the law enforcement efforts related to fishing have gotten worse.)**



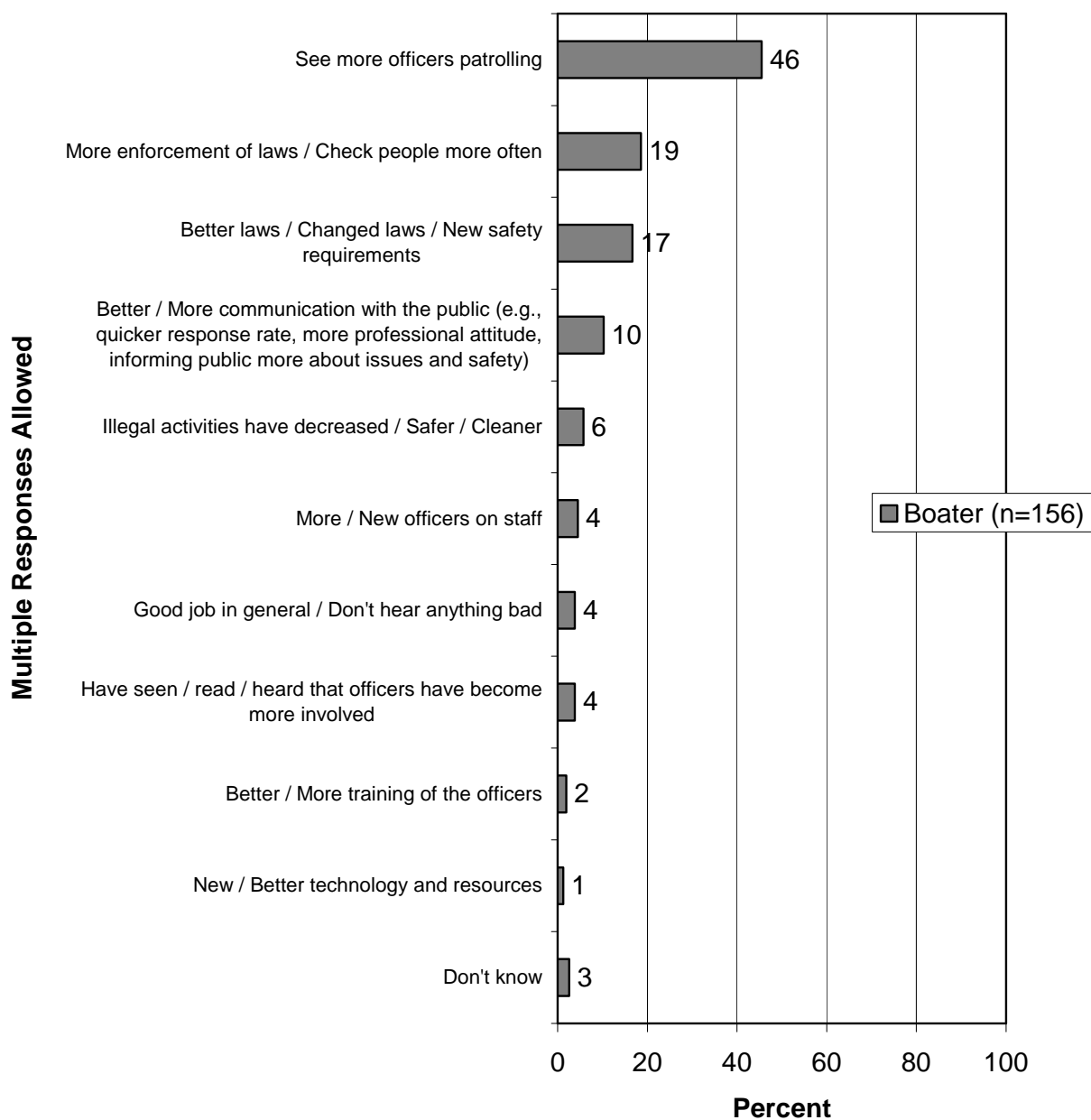
**Q43. Why do you feel Conservation Police Officers' efforts related to hunting have gotten better over the past 5 years? (Asked of those who feel that the law enforcement efforts related to hunting have gotten better.)**



**Q44. Why do you feel Conservation Police Officers' efforts related to hunting have gotten worse over the past 5 years? (Asked of those who feel that the law enforcement efforts related to hunting have gotten worse.)**

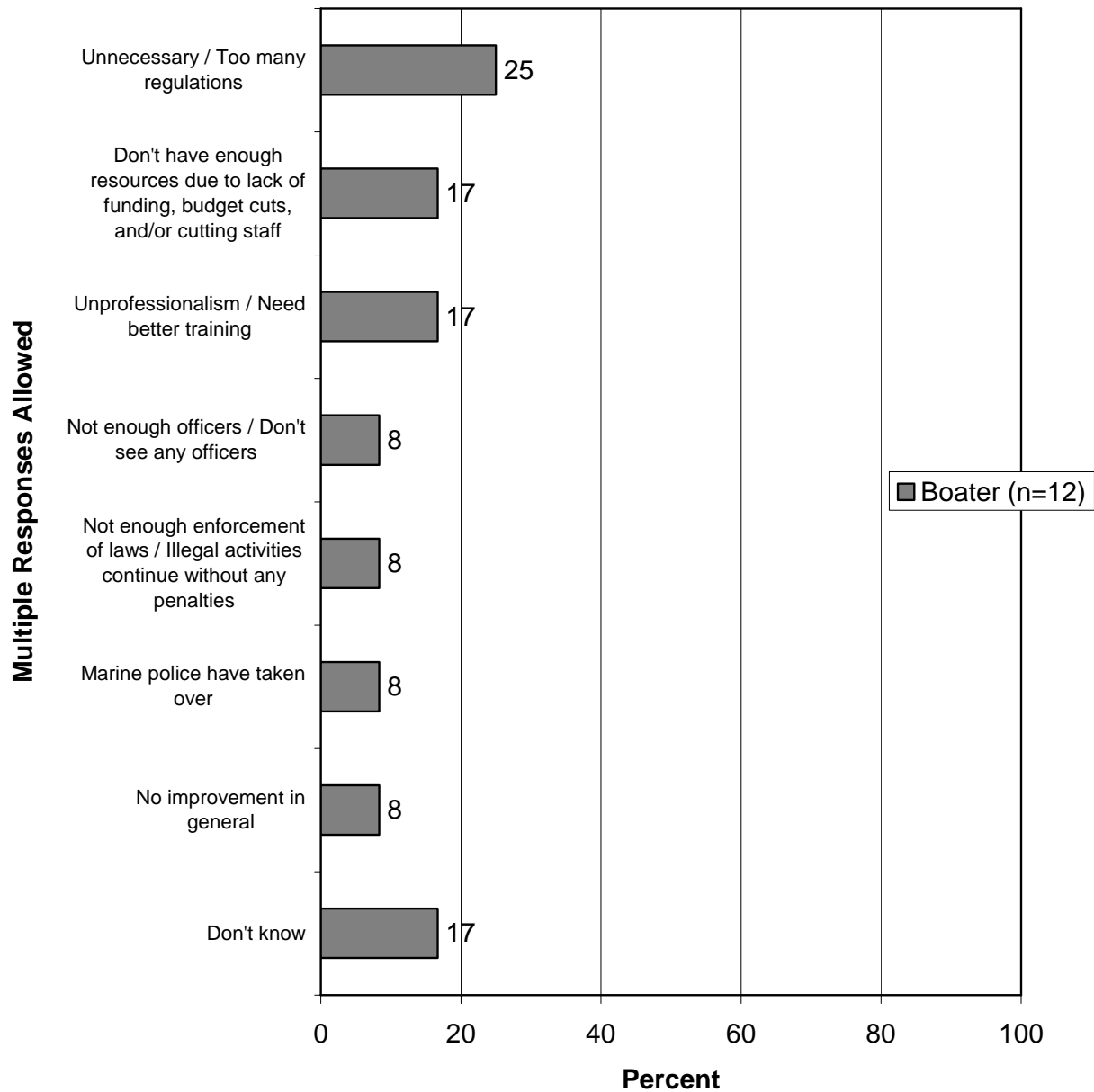


**Q46. Why do you feel Conservation Police Officers' efforts related to boating have gotten better over the past 5 years? (Asked of those who feel that the law enforcement efforts related to boating have gotten better.)**

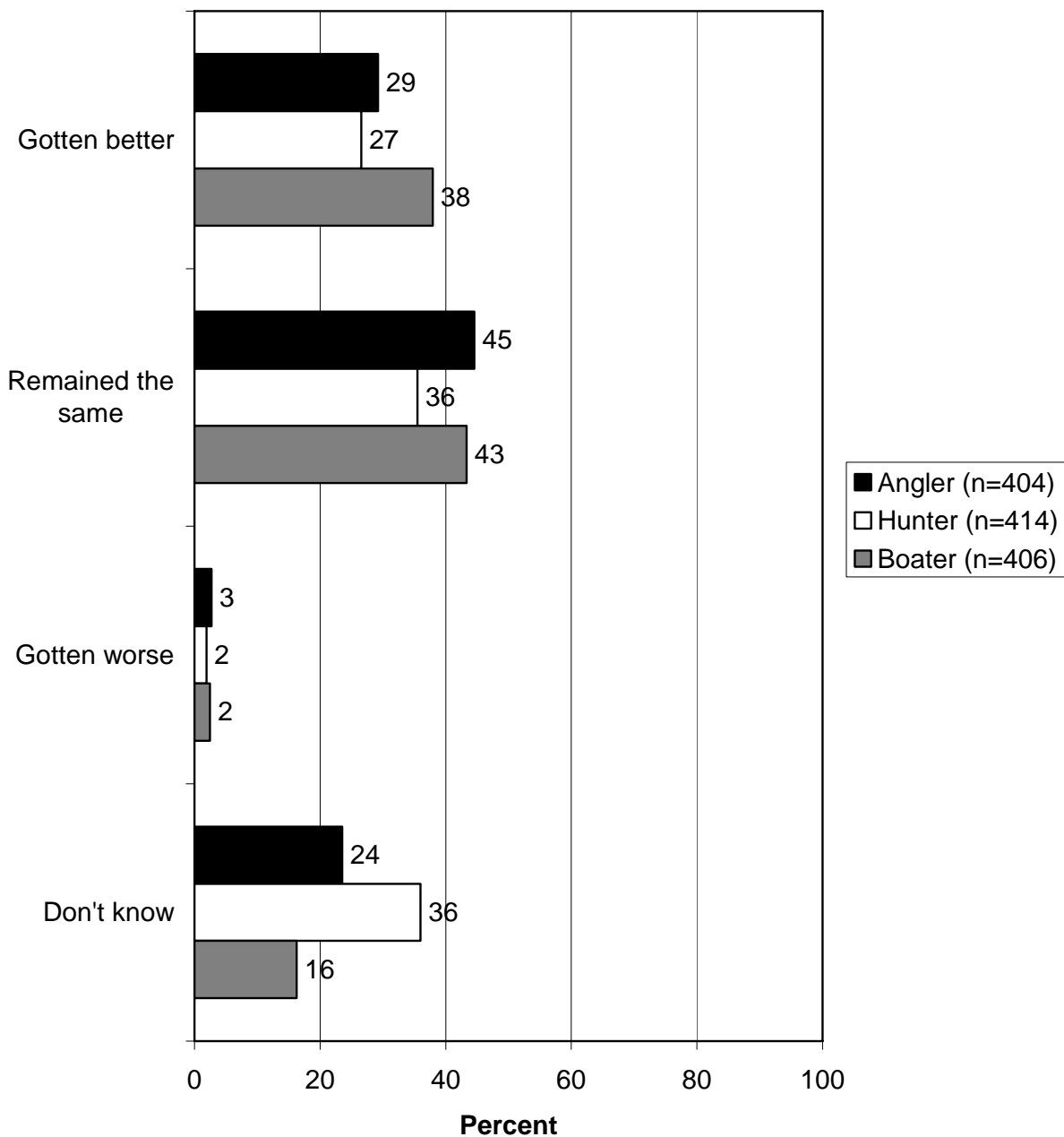




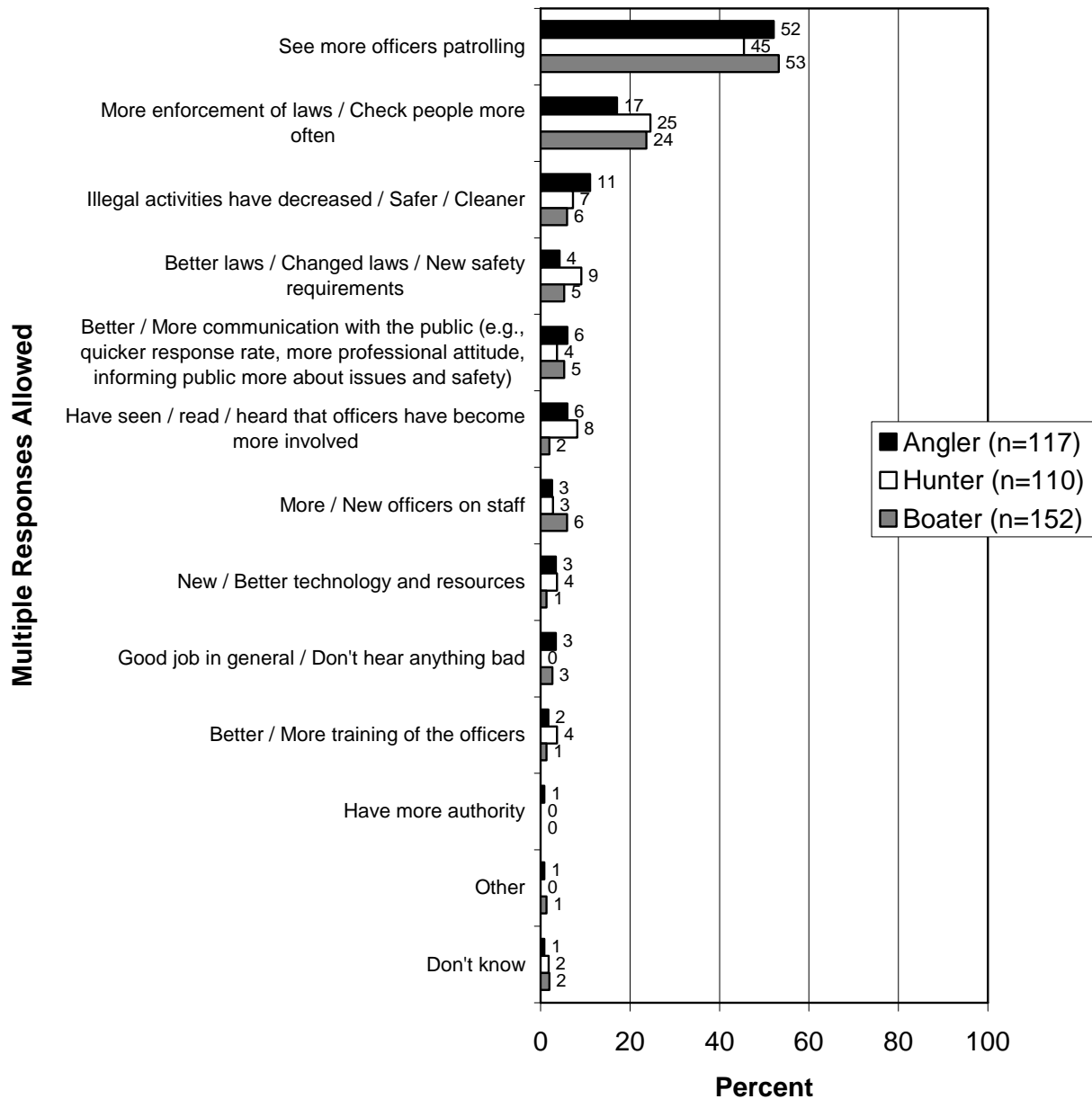
**Q47. Why do you feel Conservation Police Officers' efforts related to boating have gotten worse over the past 5 years? (Asked of those who feel that the law enforcement efforts related to boating have gotten worse.)**



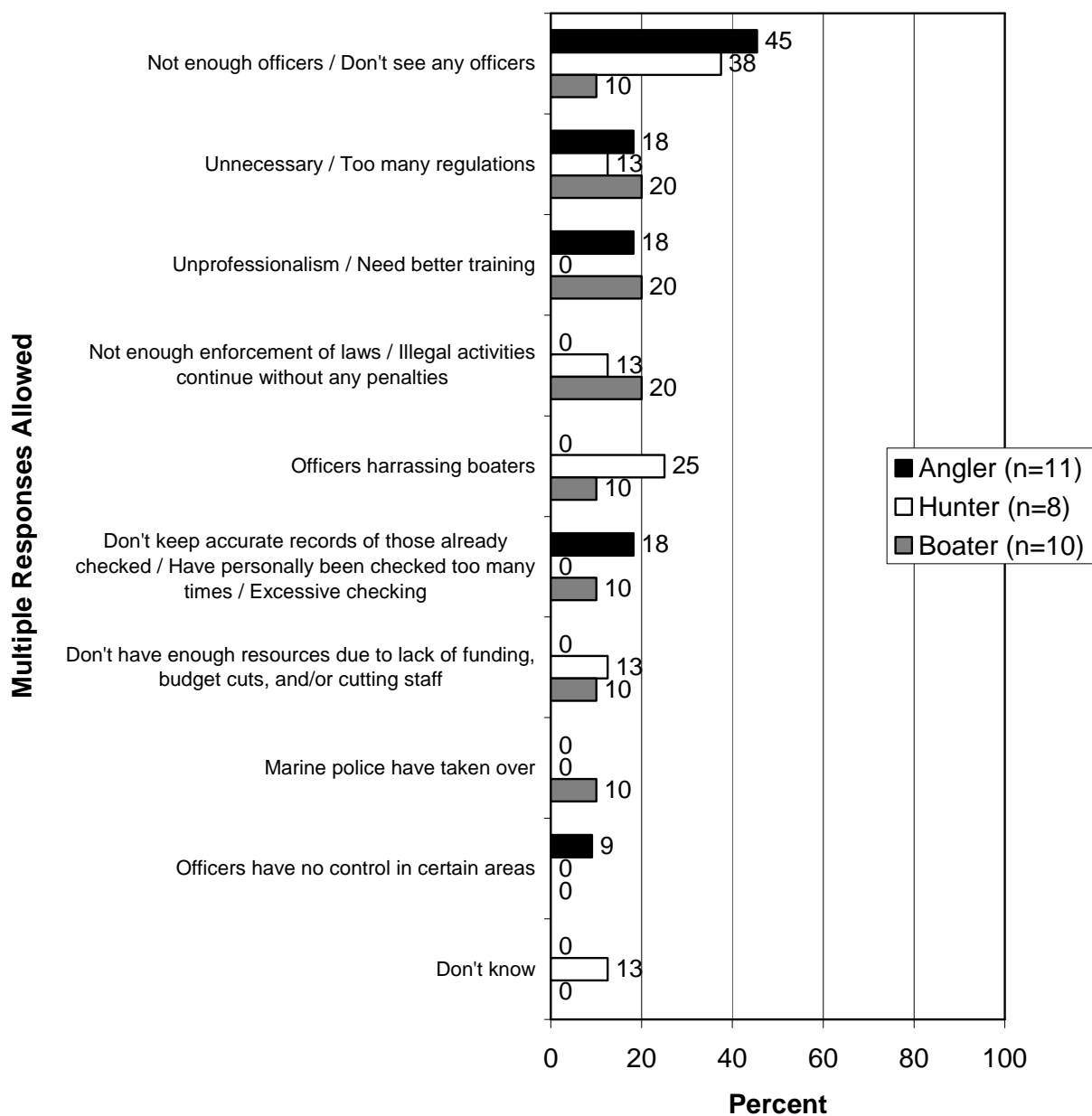
**Q48. Over the past 5 years, do you feel that Virginia Conservation Police Officers' law enforcement efforts on the water have gotten better, remained the same, or gotten worse?**



**Q49. Why do you feel Conservation Police Officers' efforts on the water have gotten better over the past 5 years? (Asked of those who feel that the law enforcement efforts on the water have gotten better.)**



**Q50. Why do you feel Conservation Police Officers' efforts on the water have gotten worse over the past 5 years? (Asked of those who feel that the law enforcement efforts on the water have gotten worse.)**

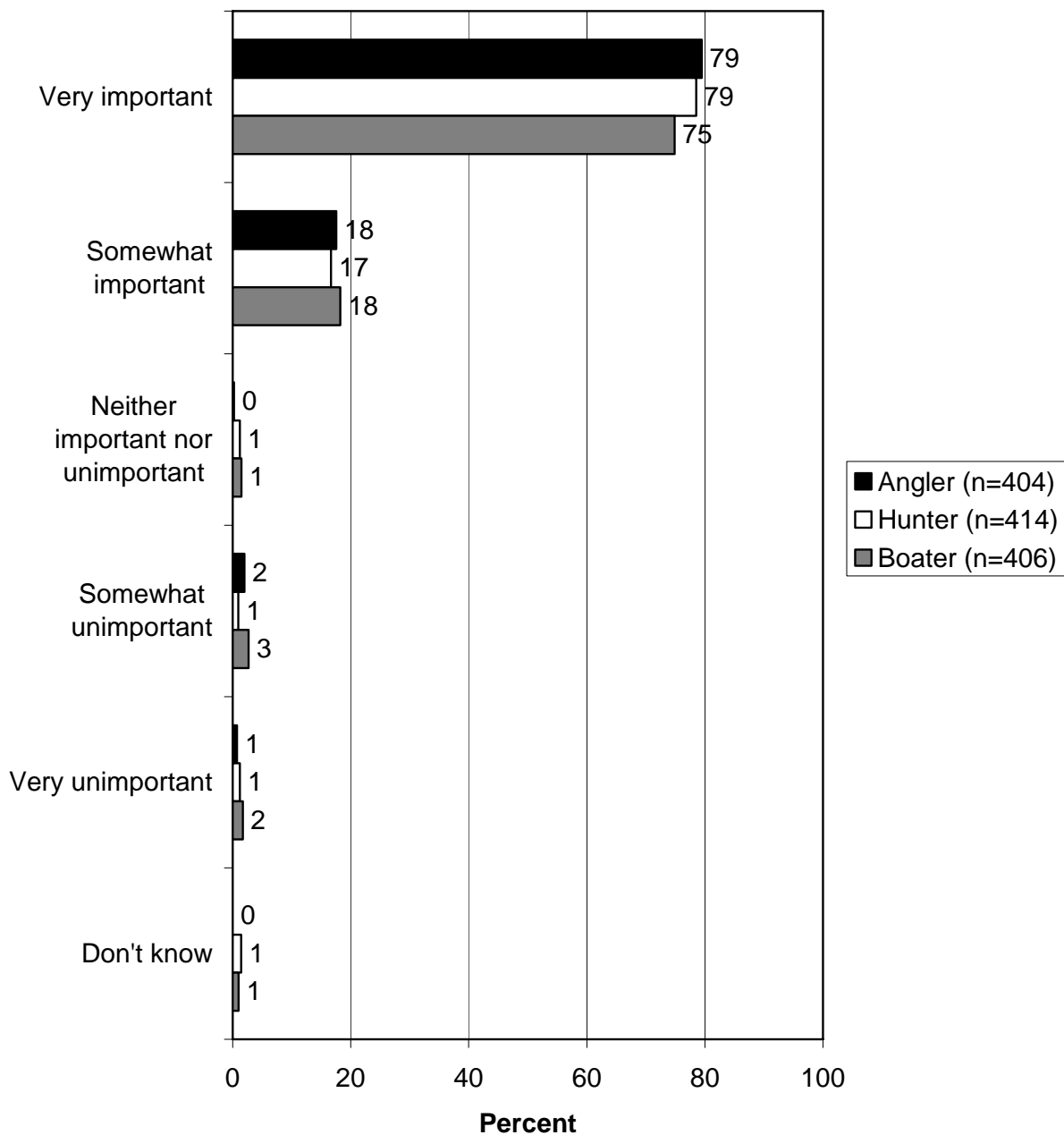


## IMPORTANCE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS IN GENERAL

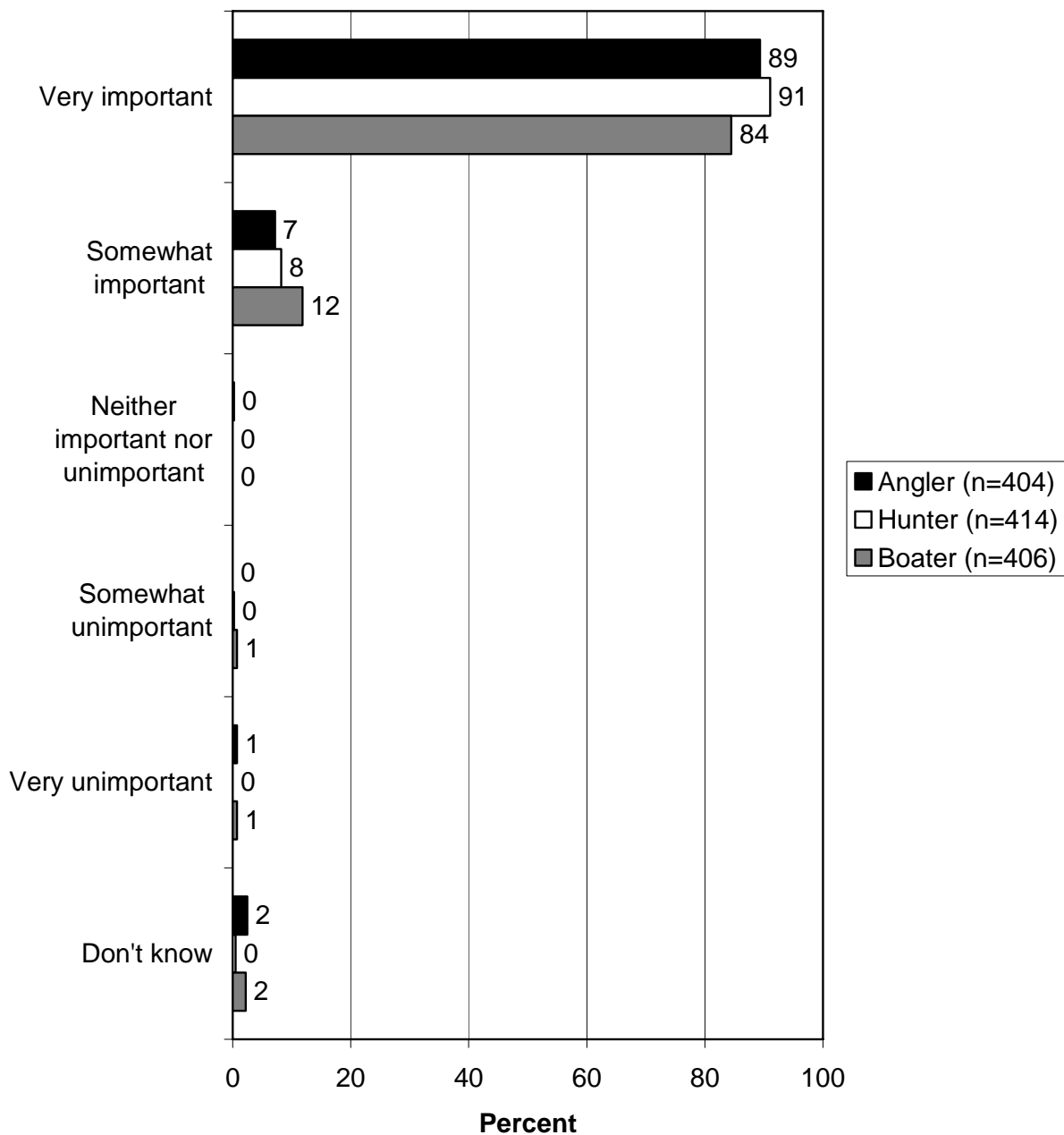
- Virtually all anglers, hunters, and boaters consider the enforcement of fishing, hunting, and boating laws to be important responsibilities of Virginia Conservation Police Officers, with most thinking enforcement of such laws is *very* important:
  - Enforcing fishing laws:
    - Among **anglers**, 97% consider this to be important (79% think it is *very* important);
    - Among **hunters**, 96% consider this to be important (79% think it is *very* important);
    - Among **boaters**, 93% consider this to be important (75% think it is *very* important).
  - Enforcing hunting laws:
    - Among **anglers**, 96% consider this to be important (89% think it is *very* important);
    - Among **hunters**, 99% consider this to be important (91% think it is *very* important);
    - Among **boaters**, 96% consider this to be important (84% think it is *very* important).
  - Enforcing boating laws:
    - Among **anglers**, 96% consider this to be important (80% think it is *very* important);
    - Among **hunters**, 91% consider this to be important (76% think it is *very* important);
    - Among **boaters**, 97% consider this to be important (85% think it is *very* important).
- Additional questions in this section measured the importance of several other functions and capabilities of Virginia Conservation Police Officers:
  - Large majorities of the three respondent groups consider law enforcement to be important as a wildlife management tool, with most considering it *very* important:
    - Among **anglers**, 95% say law enforcement is important as a wildlife management tool (78% say it is *very* important);
    - Among **hunters**, 96% say law enforcement is important as a wildlife management tool (85% say it is *very* important);
    - Among **boaters**, 94% say law enforcement is important as a wildlife management tool (74% say it is *very* important).
  - Well over three-quarters of each respondent group think it is important for Conservation Police Officers to have full police power, with most saying it is *very* important:

- Among **anglers**, 94% say this is important (77% think it is *very* important);
- Among **hunters**, 92% say this is important (80% think it is *very* important);
- Among **boaters**, 90% say this is important (79% think it is *very* important).
- Similarly, overwhelming majorities of each respondent group think it is important for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to have its own law enforcement officers; again, most respondents believe this is *very* important:
  - Among **anglers**, 94% think it is important for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to have its own law enforcement officers (84% think it is *very* important);
  - Among **hunters**, 95% think it is important for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to have its own law enforcement officers (83% think it is *very* important);
  - Among **boaters**, 93% think it is important for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to have its own law enforcement officers (82% think it is *very* important).
- There is substantial opposition and minimal support for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to close its Law Enforcement Division and have those responsibilities moved to other agencies:
  - Among **anglers**, 77% oppose this, with 62% in *strong* opposition; meanwhile, 15% would support it.
  - Among **hunters**, 84% are in opposition, including 73% who *strongly* oppose it; just 9% support it.
  - Among **boaters**, 79% oppose the idea, with 64% *strongly* opposing it; only 12% support the concept.

**Q52. How important or unimportant is enforcing fishing laws as a responsibility of Virginia Conservation Police Officers?**

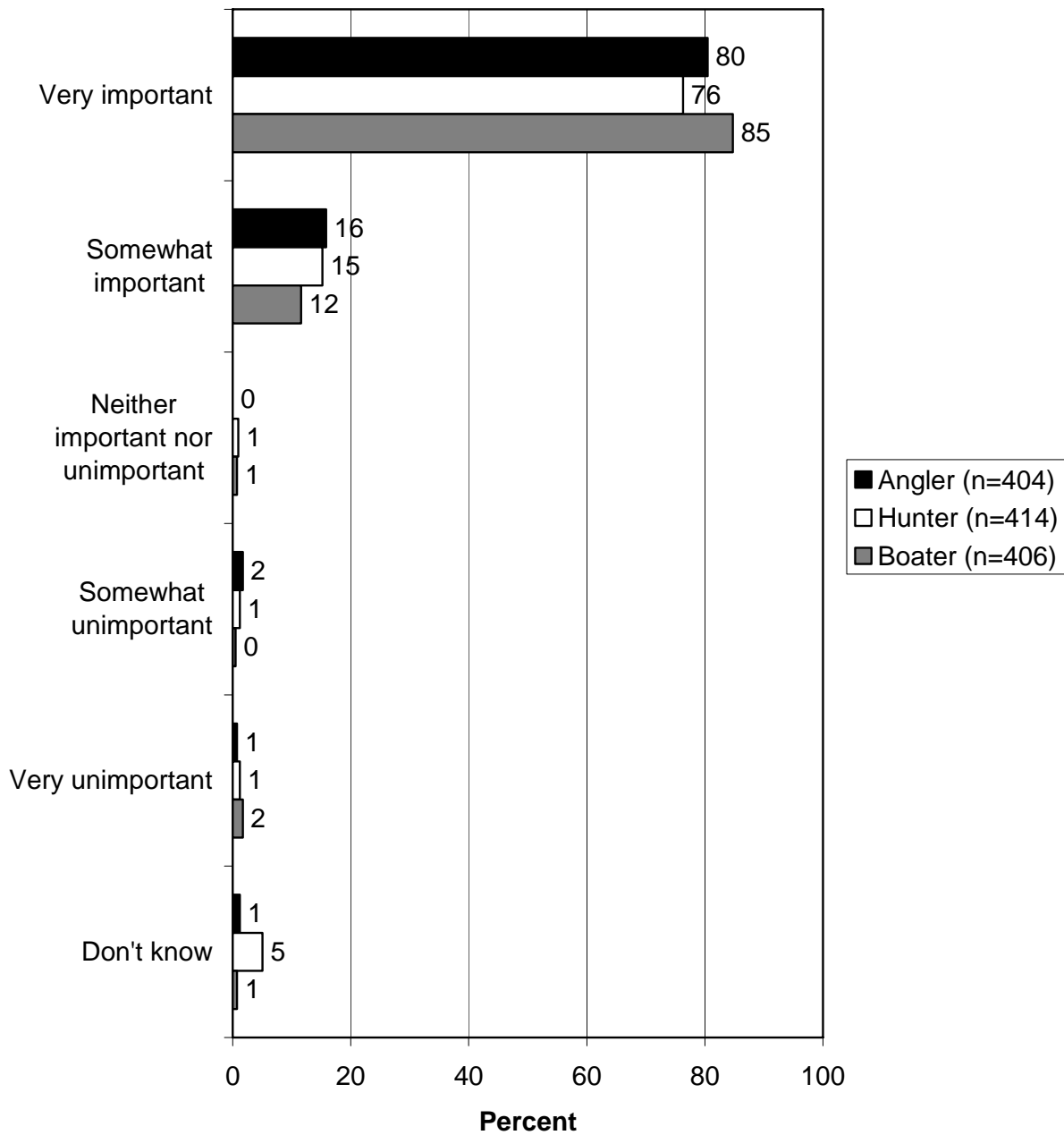


**Q53. How important or unimportant is enforcing hunting laws as a responsibility of Virginia Conservation Police Officers?**

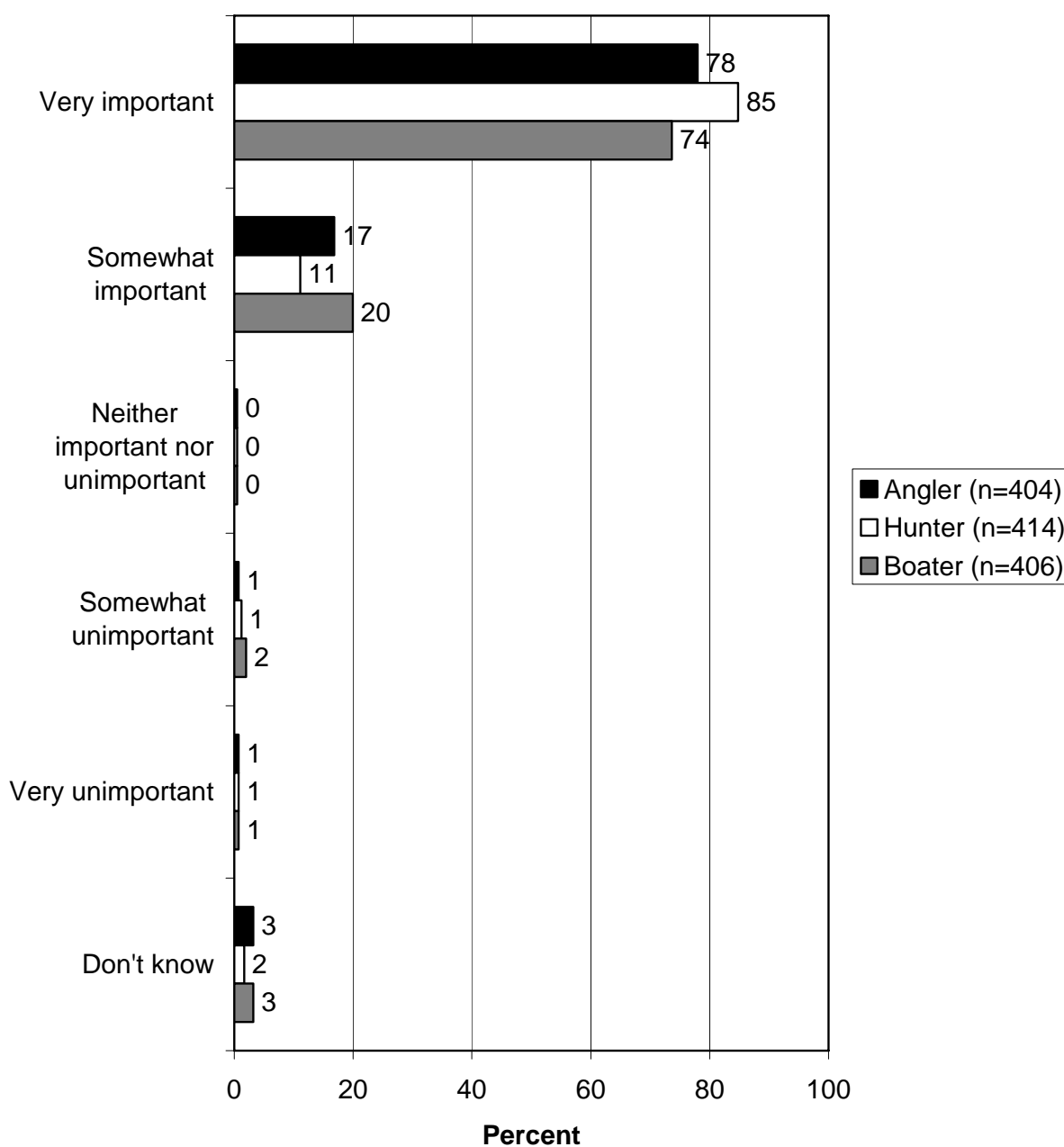




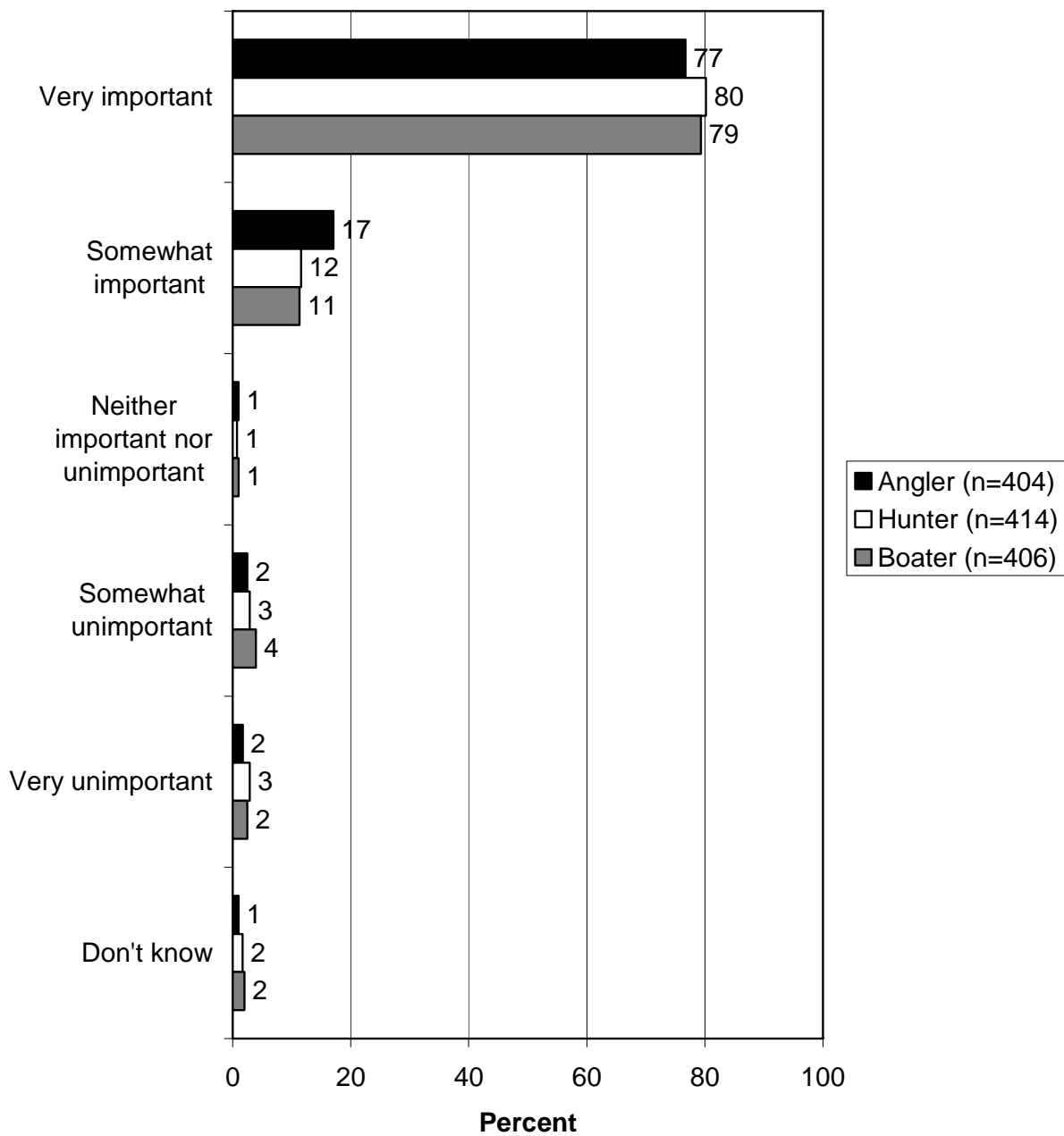
**Q54. How important or unimportant is enforcing boating laws as a responsibility of Virginia Conservation Police Officers?**



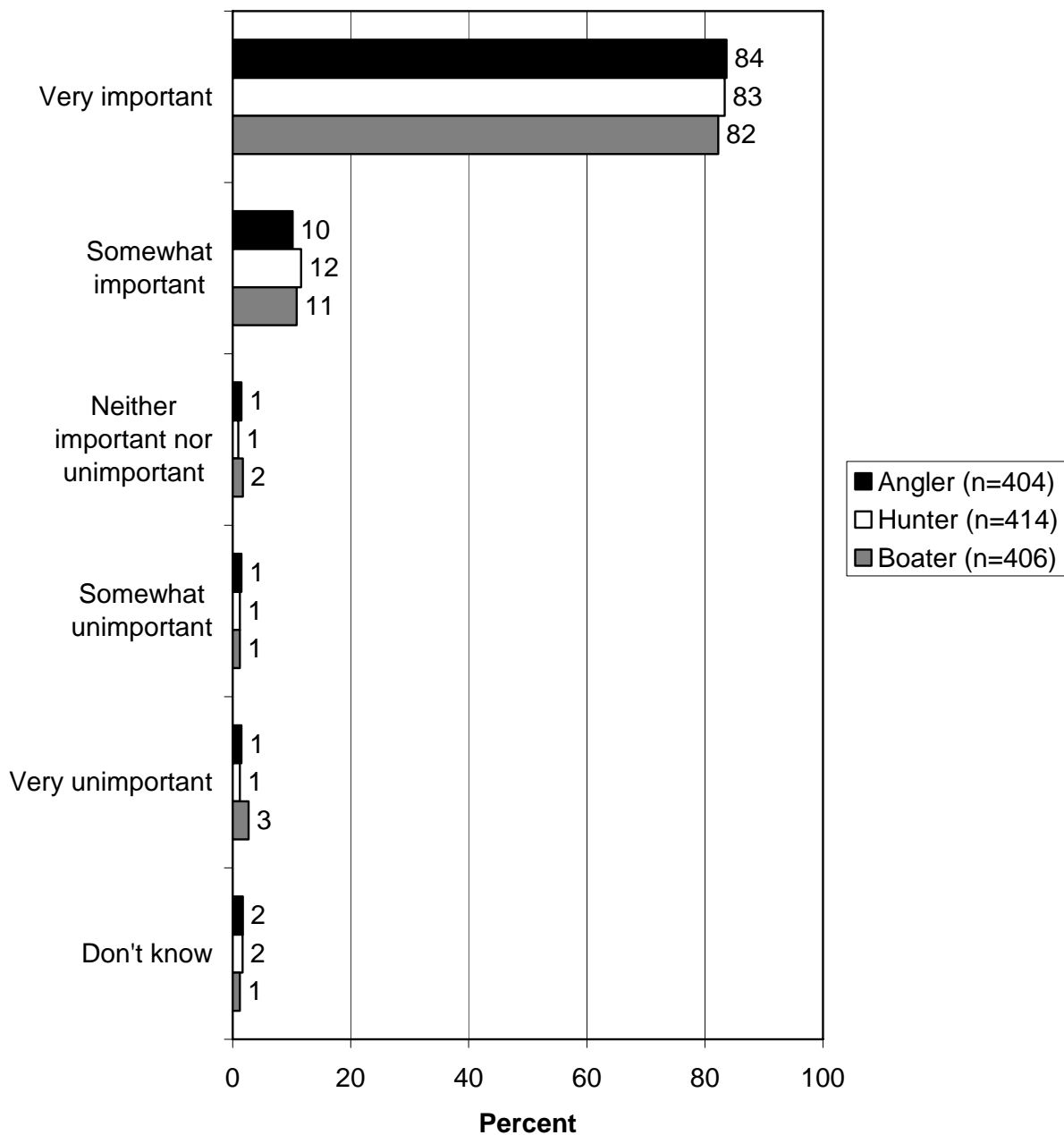
**Q55. Now I'd like to know your thoughts on the importance of a couple of other things. How important or unimportant is law enforcement as a wildlife management tool in Virginia?**



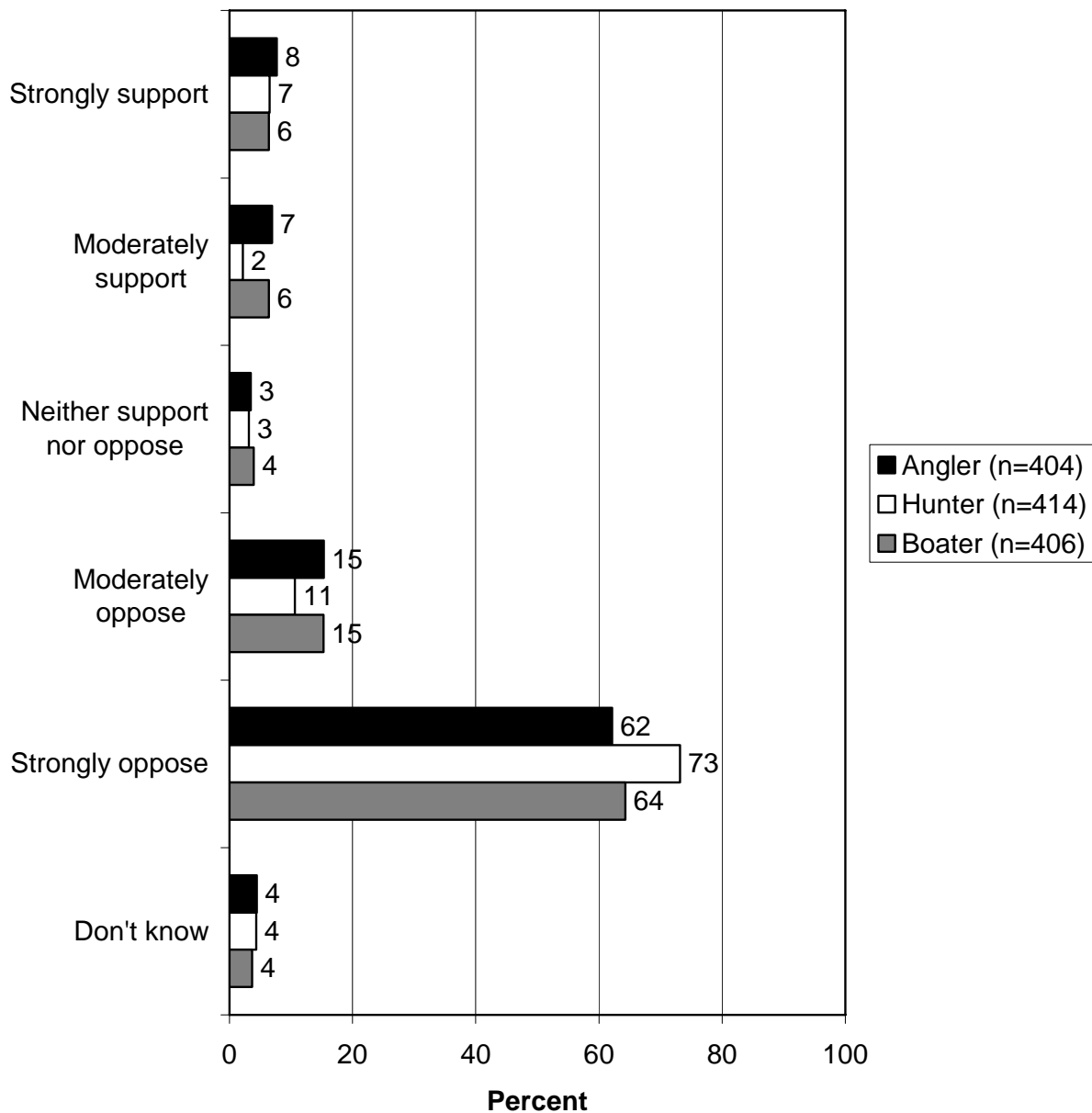
**Q56. How important or unimportant is it for  
Conservation Police Officers to have full police  
power?**



**Q57. How important or unimportant is it for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to have its own law enforcement officers?**



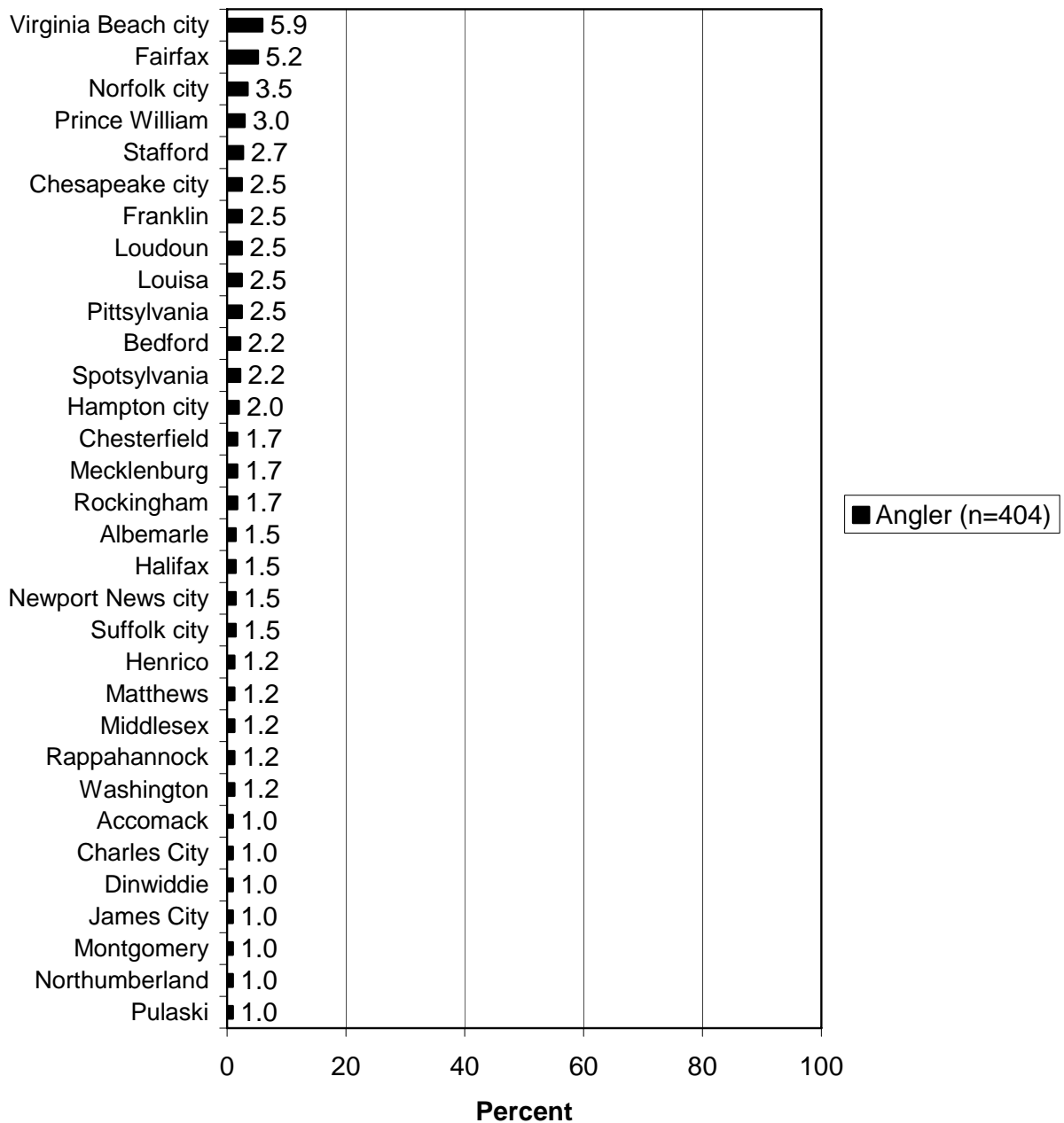
**Q58. Would you support or oppose having the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries close its Law Enforcement Division and have those responsibilities moved over to other agencies such as the Marine Resources agency and the State Police?**



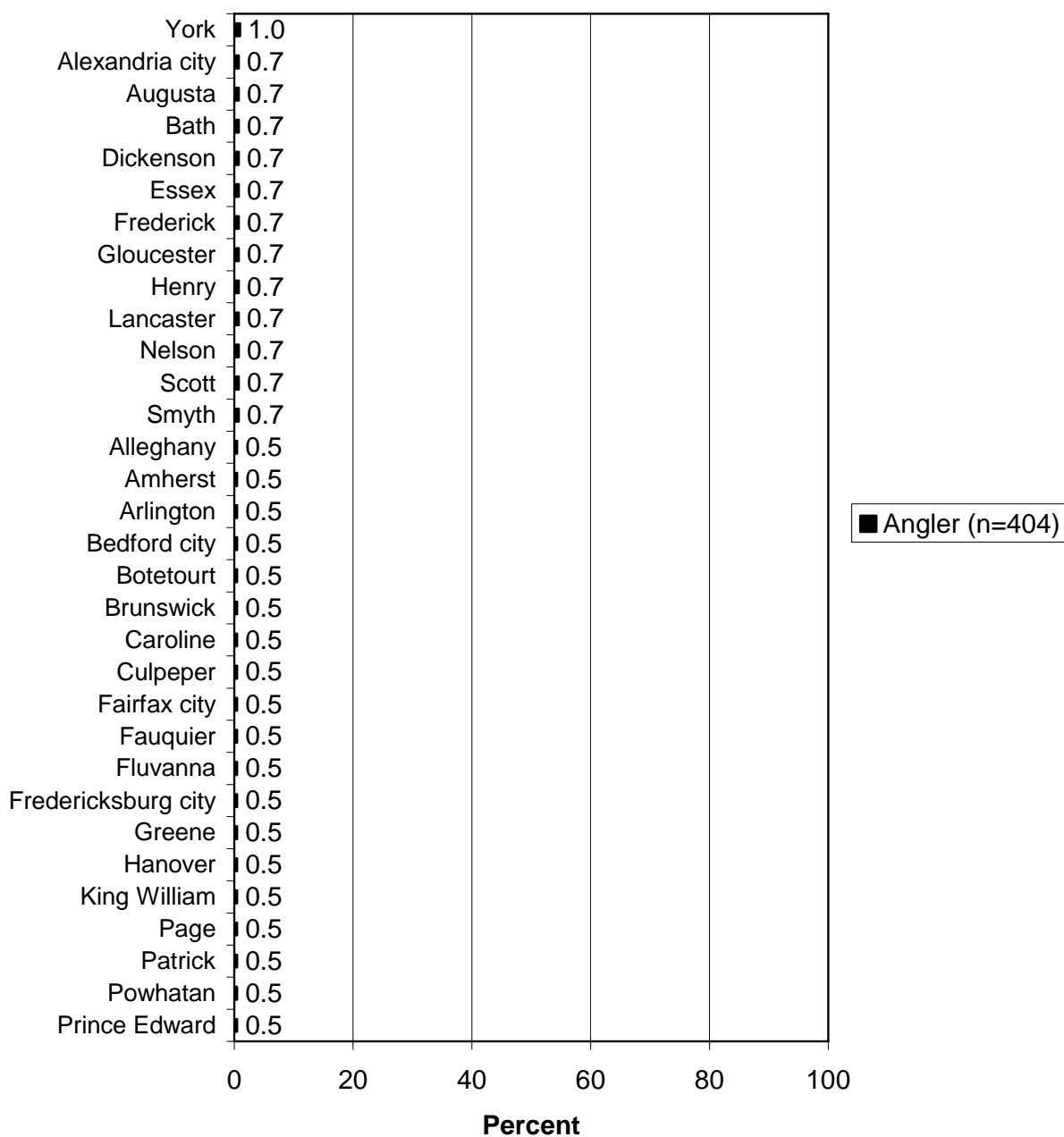
## LOCATIONS FOR HUNTING, FISHING, AND BOATING

- A series of questions asked respondents in each of the three groups about the locations in which they most commonly participated in their respective activities:
- The counties (or independent cities) in which **anglers** most commonly fish are Virginia Beach city, Fairfax, Norfolk city, and Prince William.
  - The most common bodies of water in which **anglers** fish include the Chesapeake Bay, the James River, and the Potomac River. A notable percentage of anglers reported fishing most often in private ponds, lakes, and creeks.
  - The counties (or independent cities) in which **hunters** most often hunt are Rockingham, Wythe, Franklin, and Louisa.
  - The counties in which **boaters** most commonly boat are Virginia Beach city, Franklin, and Fairfax.
  - The bodies of water in which **boaters** most often boat include the Chesapeake Bay, the James River, Smith Mountain Lake, and the Potomac River.

**Q59. In which Virginia county do you fish most often? (Asked of those in the angler group.)**  
**(Part 1)**

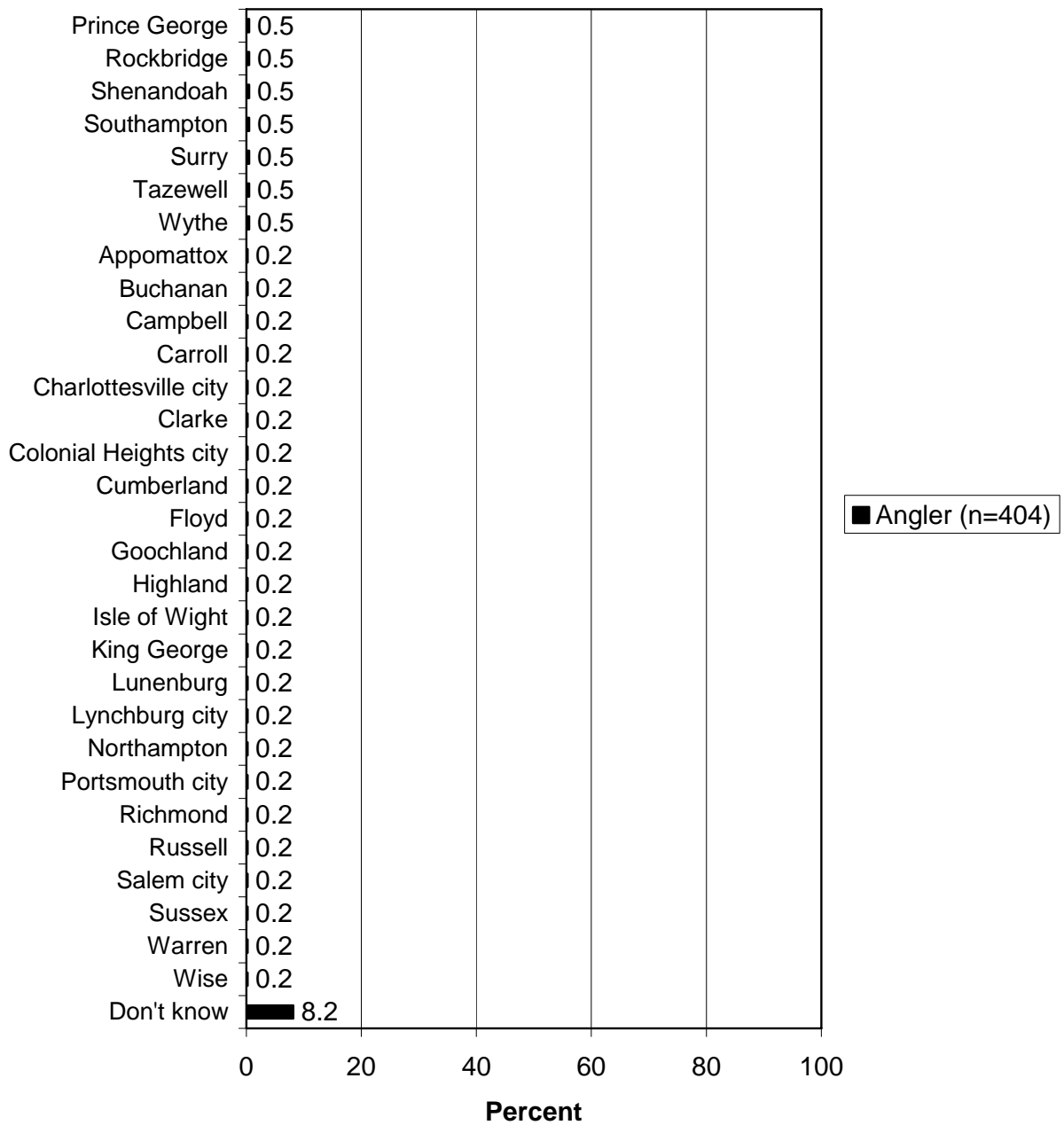


**Q59. In which Virginia county do you fish most often? (Asked of those in the angler group.)**  
**(Part 2)**

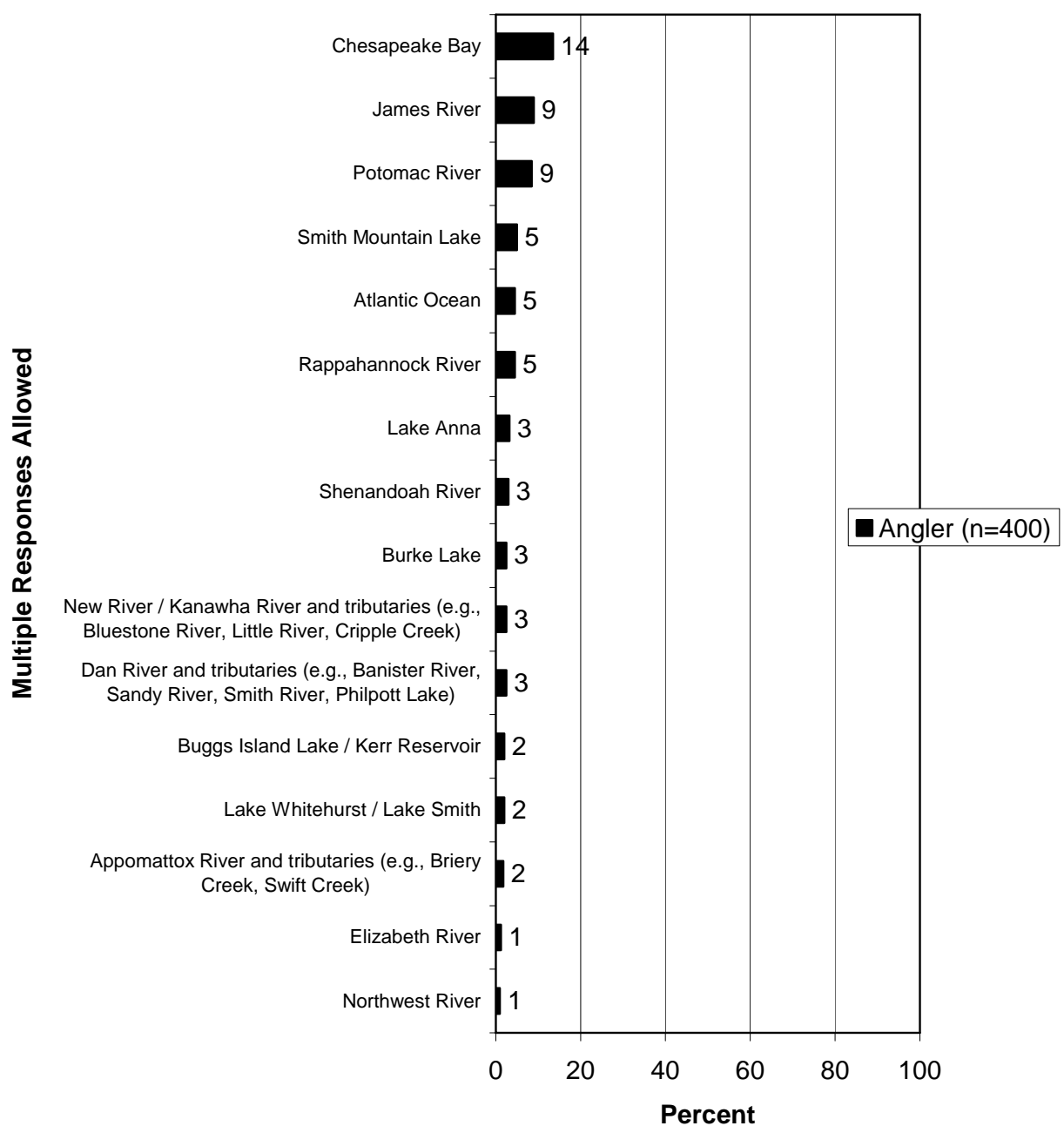




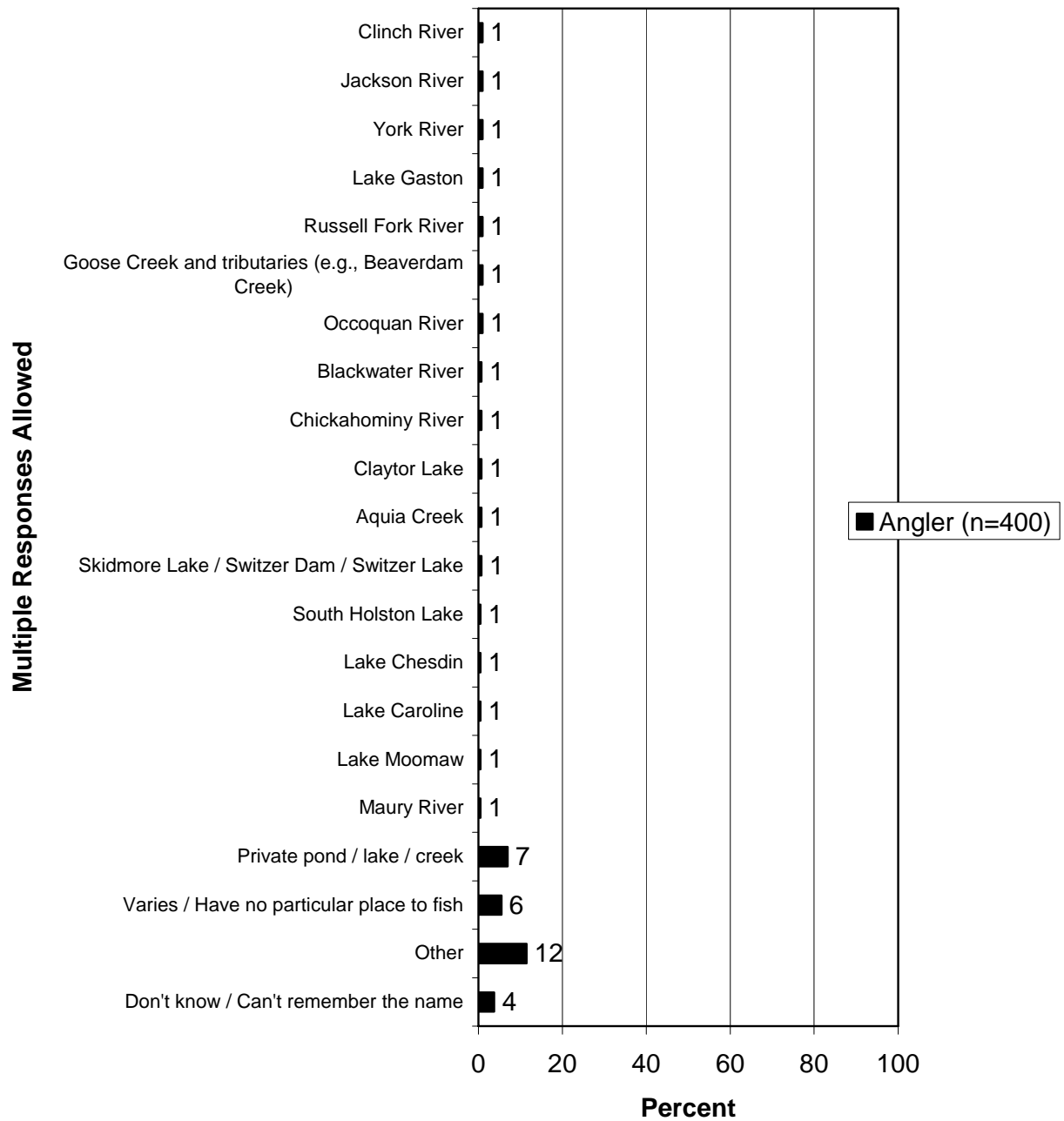
**Q59. In which Virginia county do you fish most often? (Asked of those in the angler group.)**  
**(Part 3)**



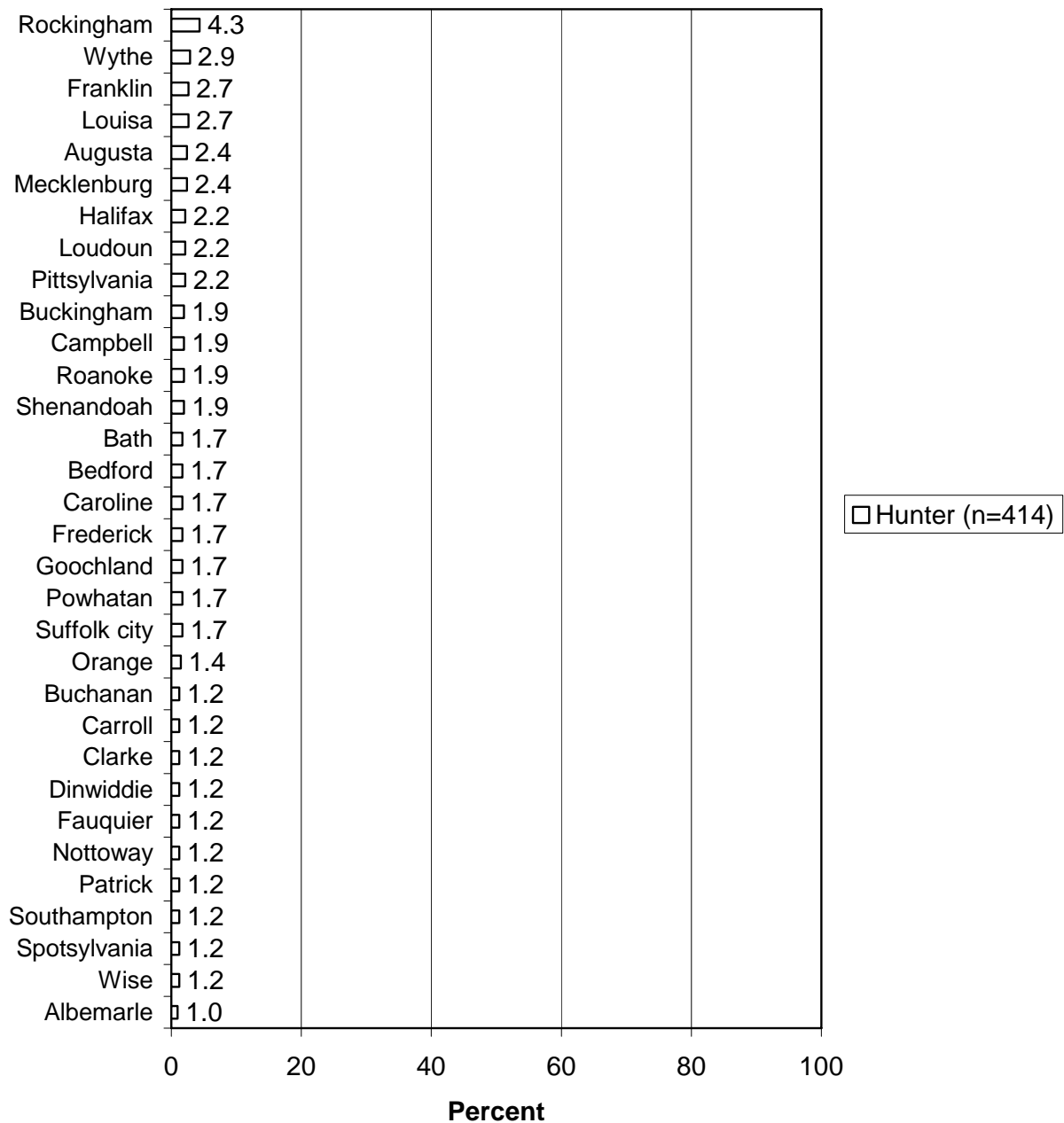
**Q61. In what body of water in Virginia do you fish most often? (Asked of those in the angler group.)**  
**(Part 1)**



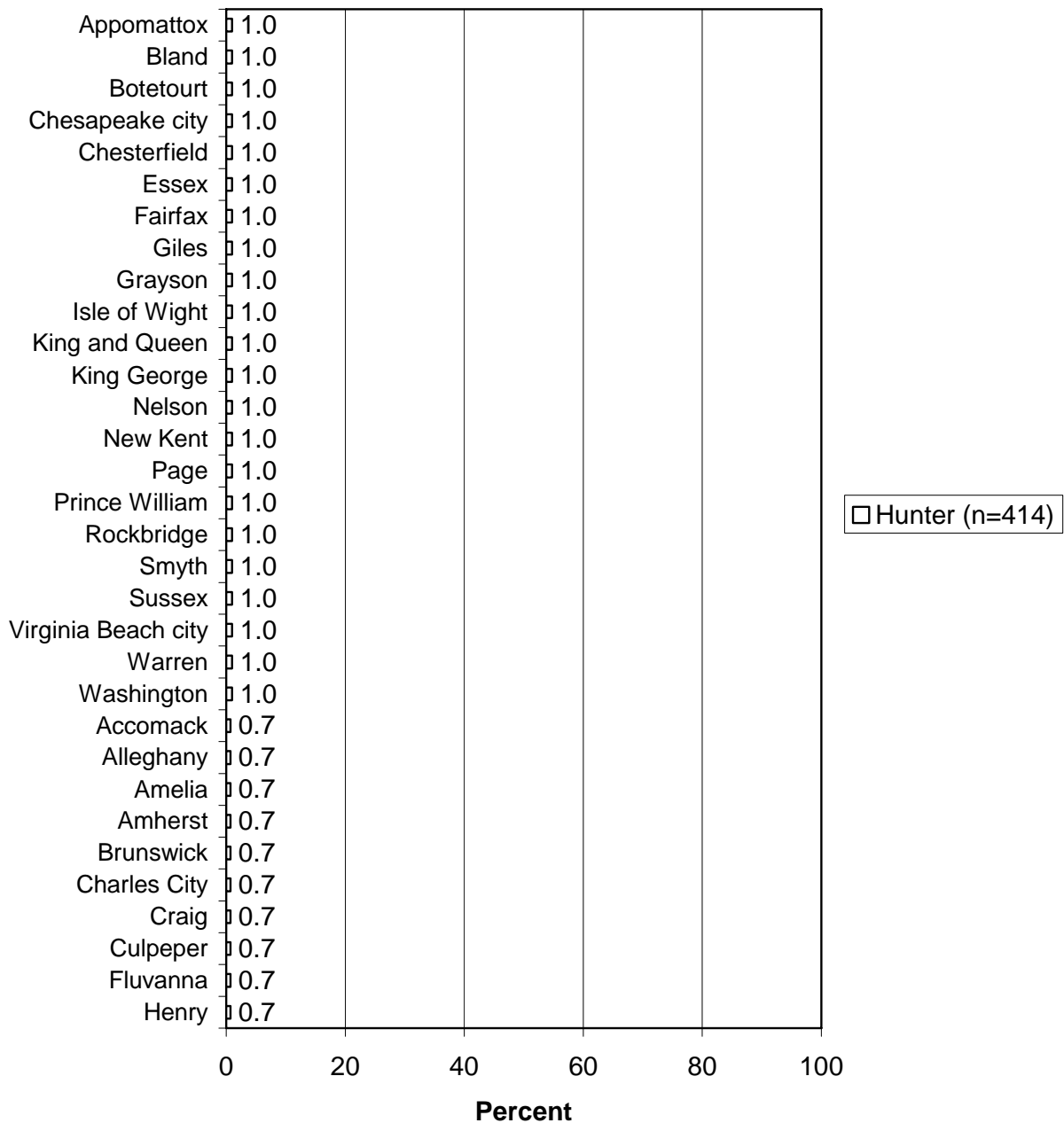
**Q61. In what body of water in Virginia do you fish most often? (Asked of those in the angler group.)**  
**(Part 2)**



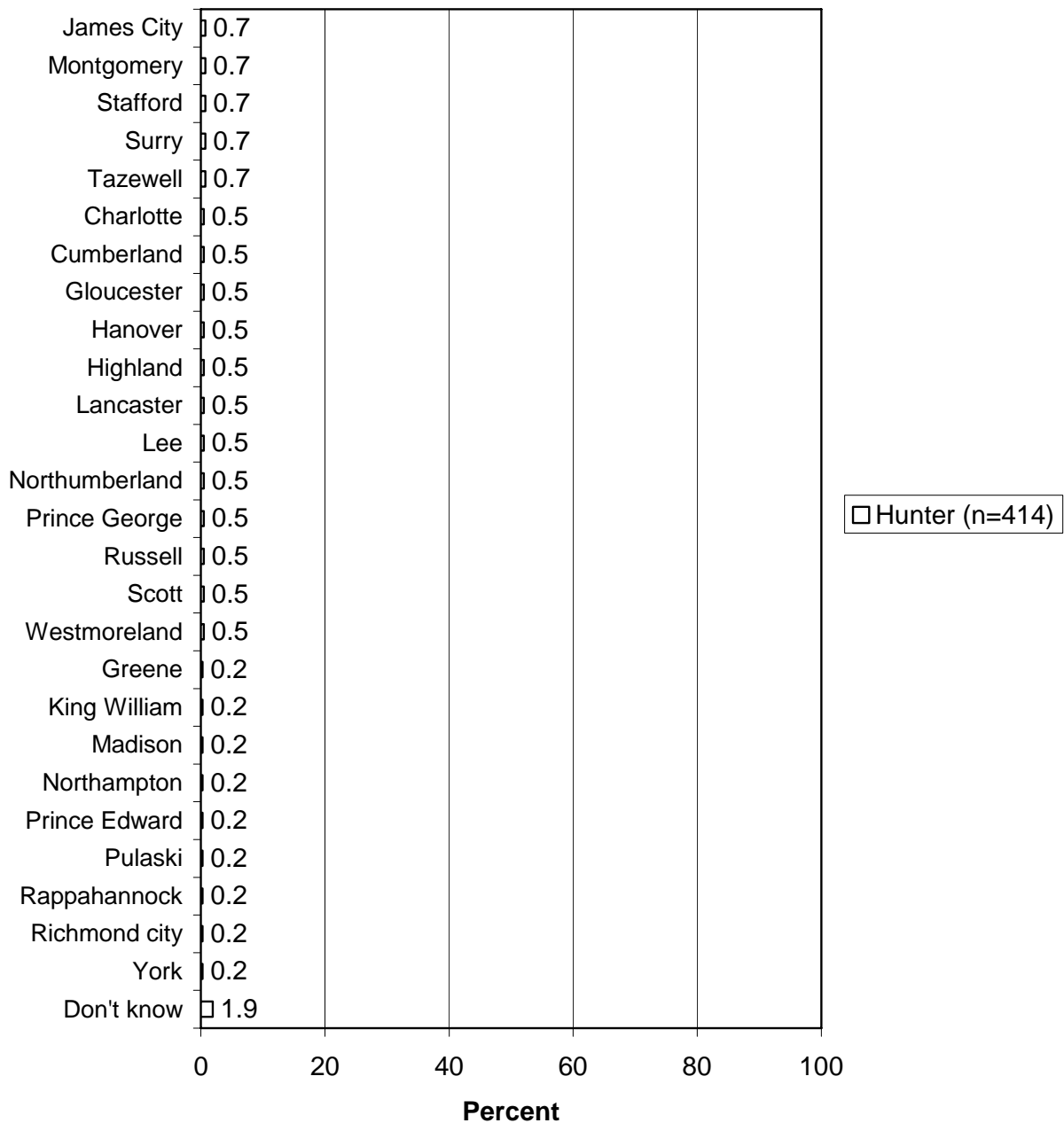
**Q62. In which Virginia county do you hunt most often? (Asked of those in the hunter group.)**  
**(Part 1 )**



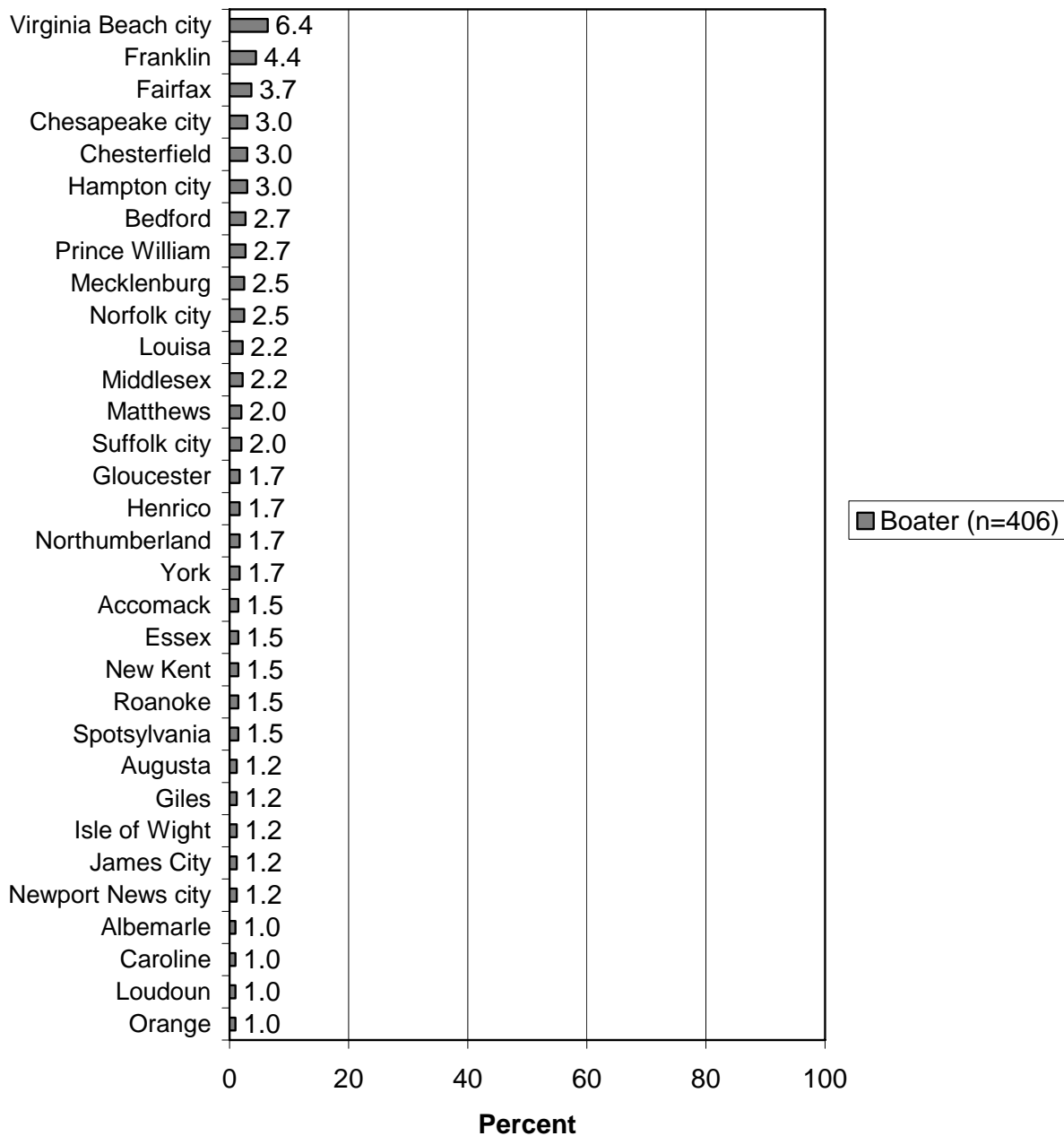
**Q62. In which Virginia county do you hunt most often? (Asked of those in the hunter group.)**  
**(Part 2 )**



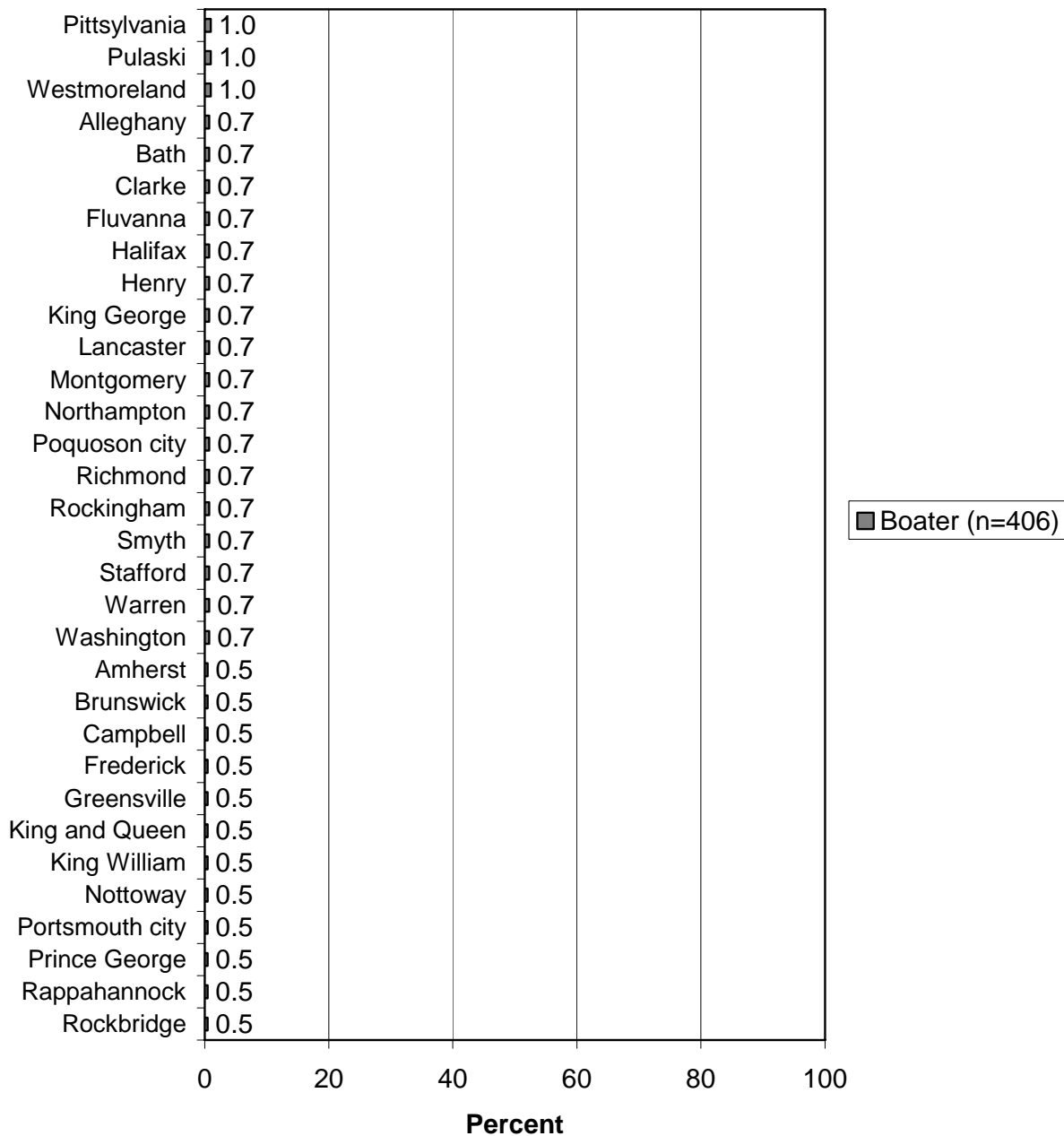
**Q62. In which Virginia county do you hunt most often? (Asked of those in the hunter group.)**  
**(Part 3 )**



**Q64. In which Virginia county do you boat most often? (Asked of those in the boater group.)**  
**(Part 1)**

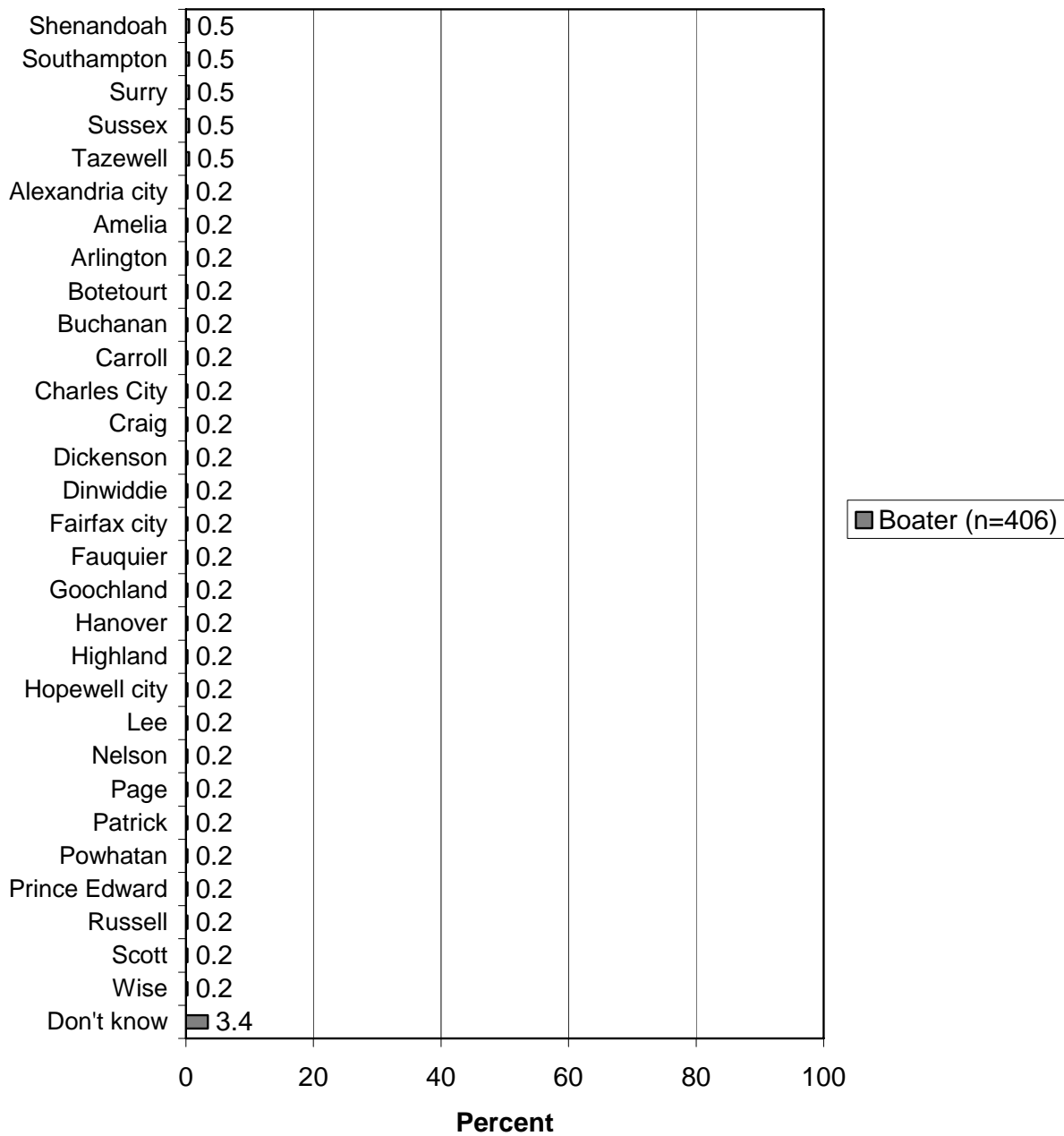


**Q64. In which Virginia county do you boat most often? (Asked of those in the boater group.)**  
**(Part 2)**

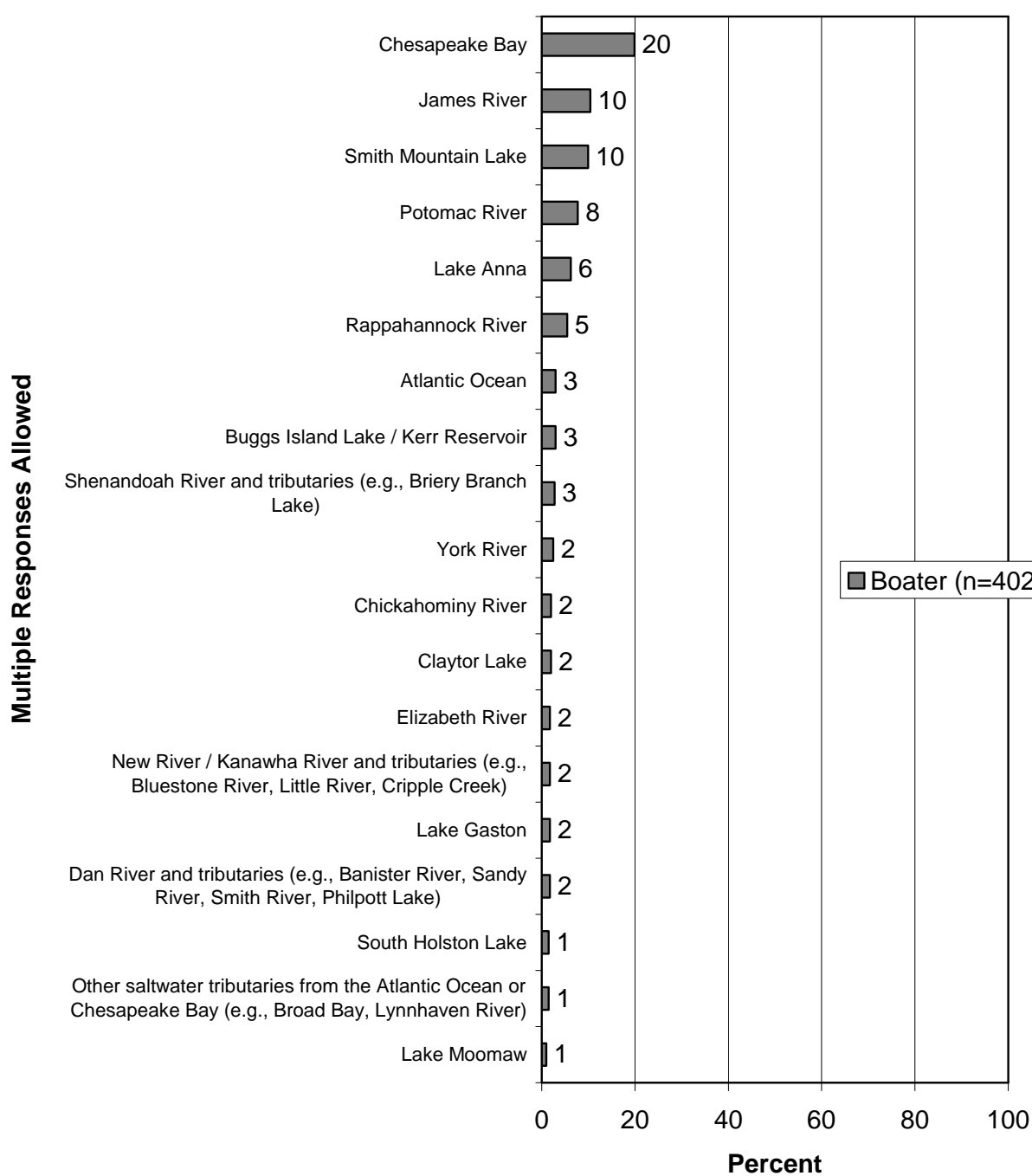




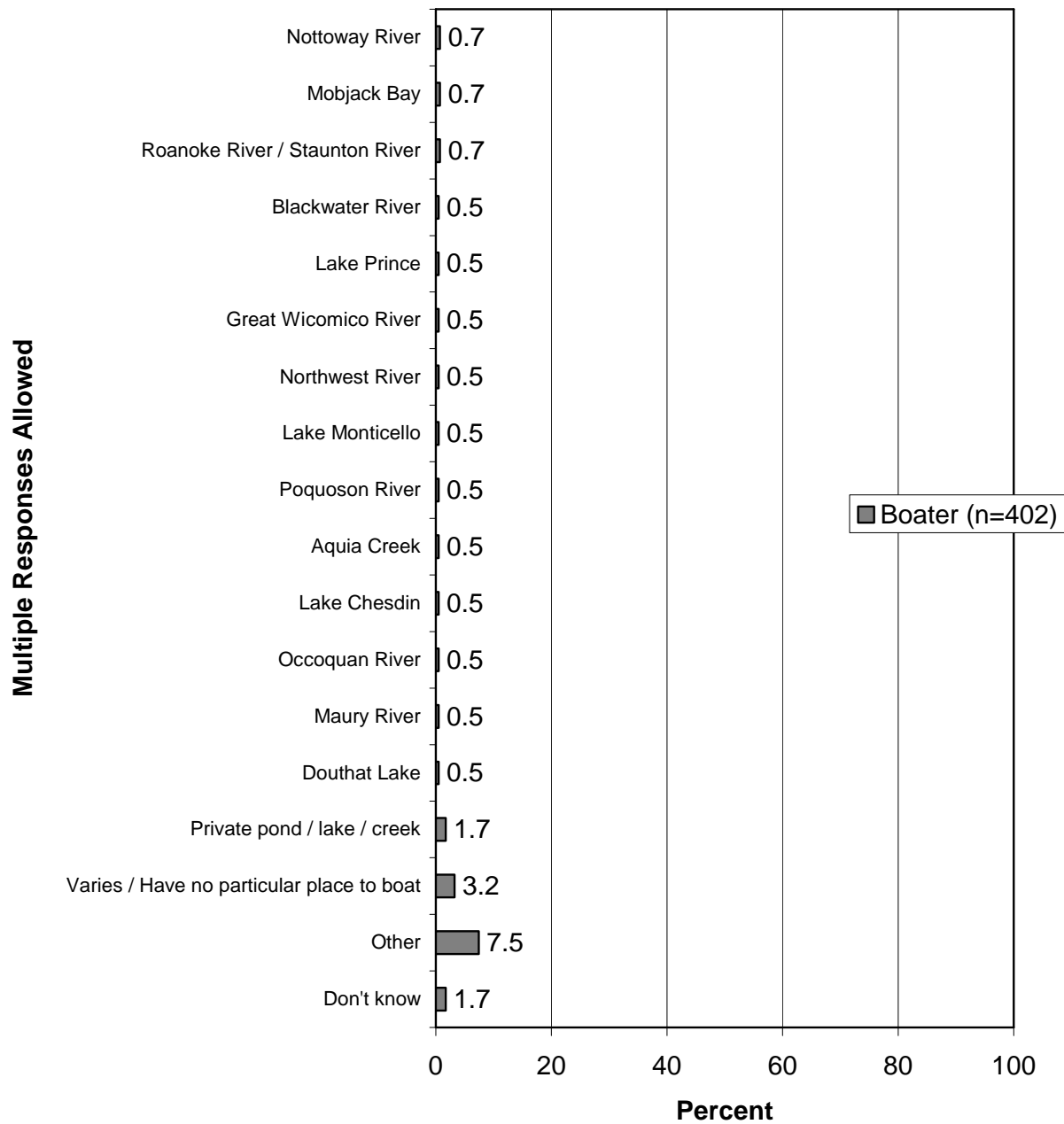
**Q64. In which Virginia county do you boat most often? (Asked of those in the boater group.)**  
**(Part 3)**



**Q66. In what body of water in Virginia do you boat most often? (Asked of those in the boater group.)**  
**(Part 1)**



**Q66. In what body of water in Virginia do you boat most often? (Asked of those in the boater group.)**  
**(Part 2)**



## CONTACT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND RELATED OPINIONS

### CONTACT WITH CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICERS IN GENERAL

- Just under half of each respondent group (46% of **anglers**, 48% of **hunters**, and 42% of **boaters**) had contact with a Conservation Police Officer while engaging in outdoor recreation in Virginia in the 2 years prior to the survey. Among those who had such contact, at least two-thirds of each group (81% of **anglers**, 67% of **hunters**, and 77% of **boaters**) said that the contact had been initiated by the Conservation Police Officer.
  - The median number of instances of personal contact with a Virginia Conservation Police officer among those who had such contact in the 2 years prior to the survey was 2 times. (Note that this question is shown in two graphs: the first graph shows a crosstabulation among the three respondent groups and presents the mean and median instances of contact for each group; the second graph shows the rates of contact for all individuals in the sample who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer, regardless of activity—overall mean and median instances of contact are also provided on the second graph.)
  - The survey found that those who had contact with Conservation Police Officers were generally engaged in either fishing, hunting, or boating, with these activities typically breaking down according to respondent type (i.e., anglers were most often fishing and hunters were most often hunting when contact was made).
  - Regarding the most common reasons for contact, at least two-thirds of anglers, hunters, and boaters who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer (83% of **anglers**, 69% of **hunters**, and 73% of **boaters**) were checked for proper licenses, equipment, catch or kill limits, or for alcohol consumption.
  - Substantial majorities of anglers, hunters, and boaters who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer (85% of **anglers**, 84% of **hunters**, and 87% of **boaters**) describe their experience as positive, with at least two-thirds of each group saying it was *strongly* positive.
- Among respondents who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer in the 2 years prior to the survey, small percentages (5% of **anglers**, 8% of **hunters**, and 14% of **boaters**) were cited or warned by a Conservation Police Officer. (Note that this question is shown in two

graphs: the first graph is a crosstabulation of the three respondent groups; the second graph shows the overall percentage who received a warning or citation among all individuals in the sample who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer, regardless of activity.)

- A graph shows the activities respondents who received a warning or citation were engaged in at the time of the warning/citation (as before, activities generally correspond with respondent type).
- A majority of boaters who said they had contact with a Conservation Police Officer in the 2 years prior to the survey (65%) reported being stopped by a Conservation Police Officer to have their boat checked within the same time period. (Note that this question is shown in two graphs: the first graph shows the percentage only among boaters who said they had contact with a Conservation Police Officer in the 2 years prior to the survey; the second graph shows the percentage who had their boat checked among *all* boaters in the sample, regardless of whether they previously reported having contact with a Conservation Police Officer in the past 2 years.)
- Virtually all respondents who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer in the 2 years prior to the survey agree that the officers with whom they had contact treated them fairly (98% of **anglers**, 95% of **hunters**, and 97% of **boaters** agree with this, with most *strongly* agreeing). A graph showing reasons for disagreement with this statement is shown (note that no more than 5 individuals in each respondent group disagreed that the officers treated them fairly).
- A final graph in this section shows the counties in which respondents last had contact with a Conservation Police Officer.

## GENERAL REACTIONS TO CONTACT WITH CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICERS

- Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with three statements describing potential reactions to being approached by a Conservation Police Officer:
  - “In general, being approached by a Conservation Police Officer while you are hunting, fishing, or boating is reassuring to you.”

- Among **anglers**, 88% agree, with 61% *strongly* agreeing;
- Among **hunters**, 87% agree, with 54% *strongly* agreeing;
- Among **boaters**, 84% agree, with 57% *strongly* agreeing.
- “In general, being approached by a Conservation Police Officer while you are hunting, fishing, or boating makes you nervous.”
  - Among **anglers**, 77% disagree, with 62% *strongly* disagreeing;
  - Among **hunters**, 72% disagree, with 57% *strongly* disagreeing;
  - Among **boaters**, 72% disagree, with 59% *strongly* disagreeing.
- “In general, being approached by a Conservation Police Officer while you are hunting, fishing, or boating makes you angry.”
  - Among **anglers**, 95% disagree, with 85% *strongly* disagreeing;
  - Among **hunters**, 86% disagree, with 73% *strongly* disagreeing;
  - Among **boaters**, 93% disagree, with 77% *strongly* disagreeing.

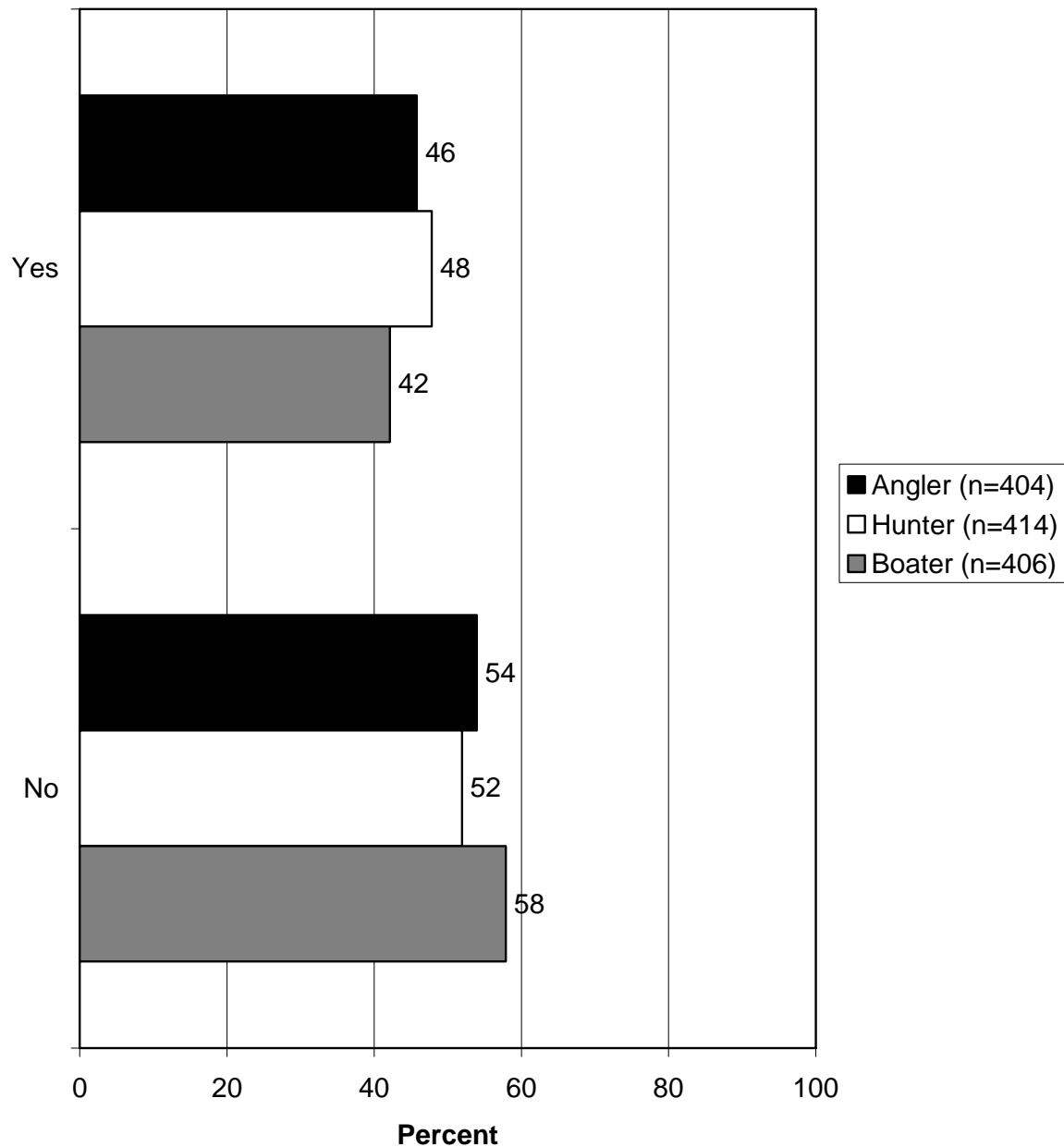
## INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE REQUESTS FROM CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICERS

- Notable percentages of **anglers** (17%), **hunters** (23%), and **boaters** (16%) have requested information or assistance from a Conservation Police Officer at some point in the 2 years prior to the survey.
- In terms of reasons for information or assistance requests, anglers were most commonly reporting illegal activities or seeking information on fishing regulations or boating laws; hunters were most commonly reporting illegal activities or looking for information on hunting regulations; and boaters were most commonly seeking information on boating laws, fishing regulations, hunting regulations, or were reporting illegal activities.
- Most of those who made contact with a Conservation Police Officer did so in person or by telephone (note that anglers and boaters were more likely to make contact in person, while hunters were more likely to make contact by telephone).
- The overwhelming majority of those who made contact with a Conservation Police Officer were satisfied with the information or assistance they received (92% of **anglers** were satisfied, with 86% *very* satisfied; 83% of **hunters** were satisfied, with 76% *very* satisfied; and 87% of **boaters** were satisfied, with 75% *very* satisfied.)

## USE OF HOTLINE FOR REPORTING VIOLATIONS

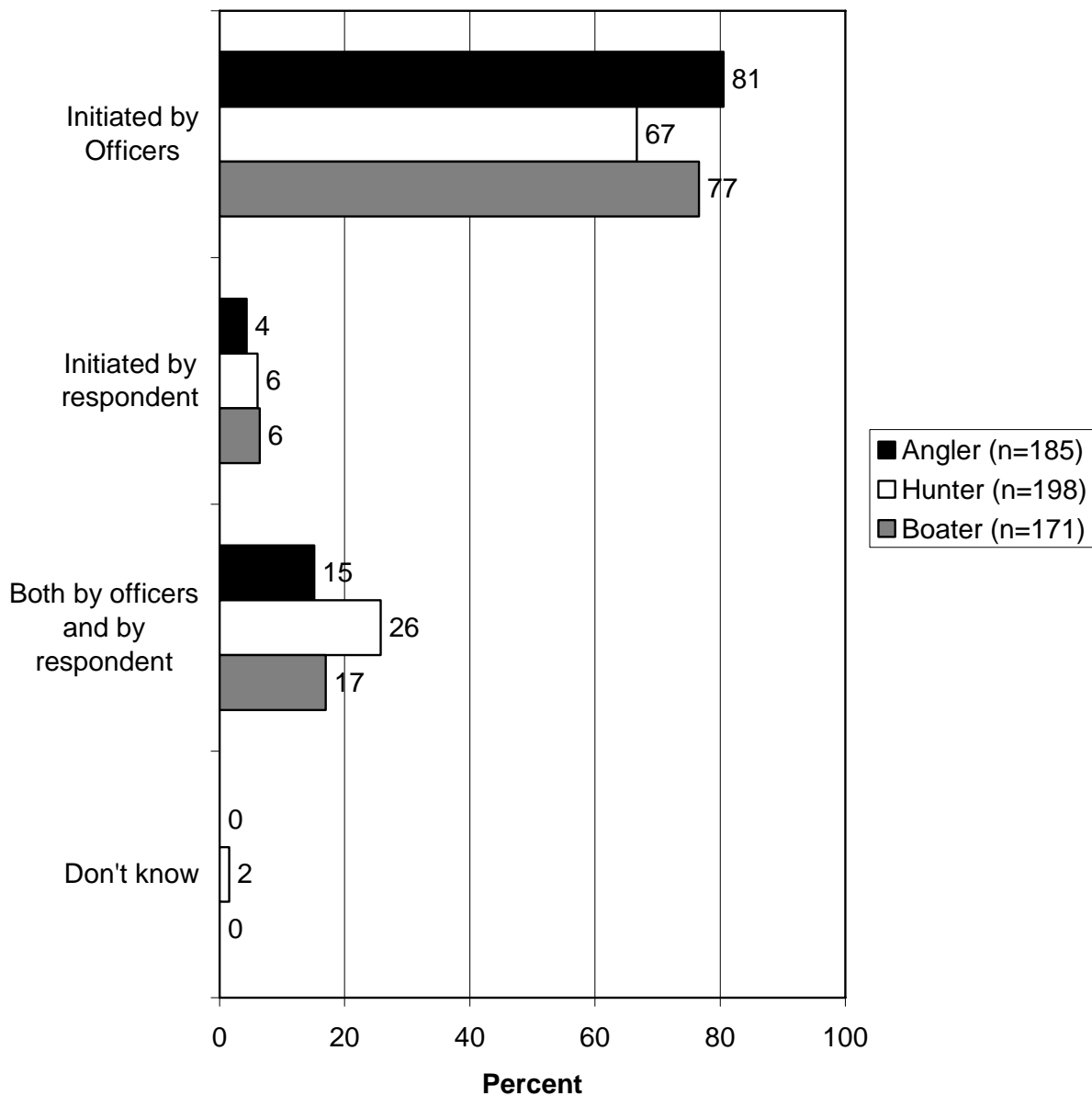
- The survey assessed knowledge and use of the VDGIF's Turn in Poachers (TIP) program:
  - About a third of **anglers** and **boaters** (31% of each group) and slightly less than half of **hunters** (47%) have heard of the program.
  - Very small percentages of each group (0.5% of **anglers**, 4.3% of **hunters**, and 1.5% of **boaters**) have ever used the TIP program.
  - Finally, when asked how effective they think the TIP program is, majorities of each group (65% of **anglers**, 56% of **hunters**, and 69% of **boaters**) say they are unsure. (Note, however, that respondents in each group are more likely to describe the program as effective than they are to call it ineffective.)

**Q67. Have you had any contact with a Conservation Police Officer while you were hunting, fishing, boating, or engaging in any other outdoor recreation in Virginia over the past 2 years?**

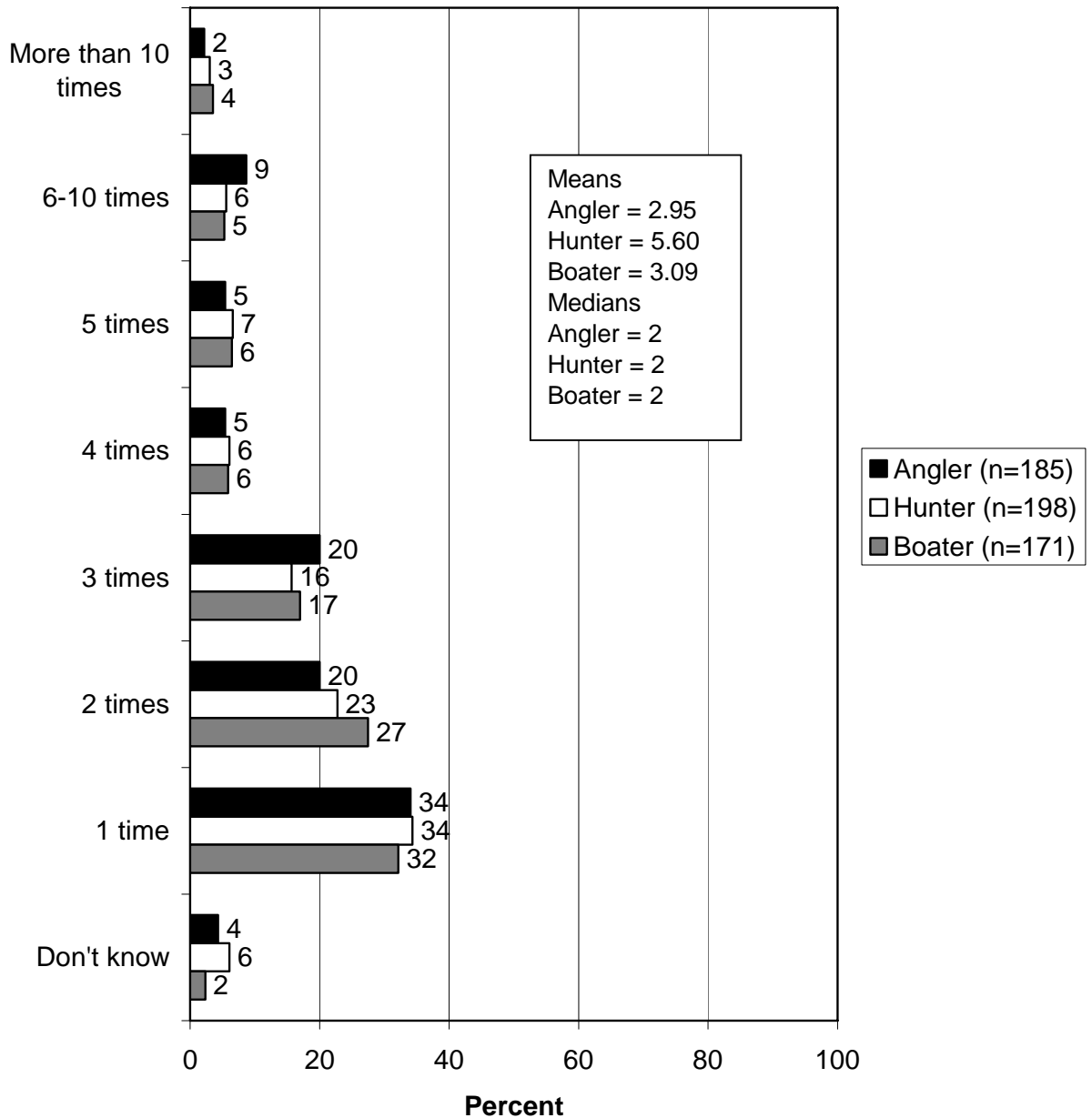




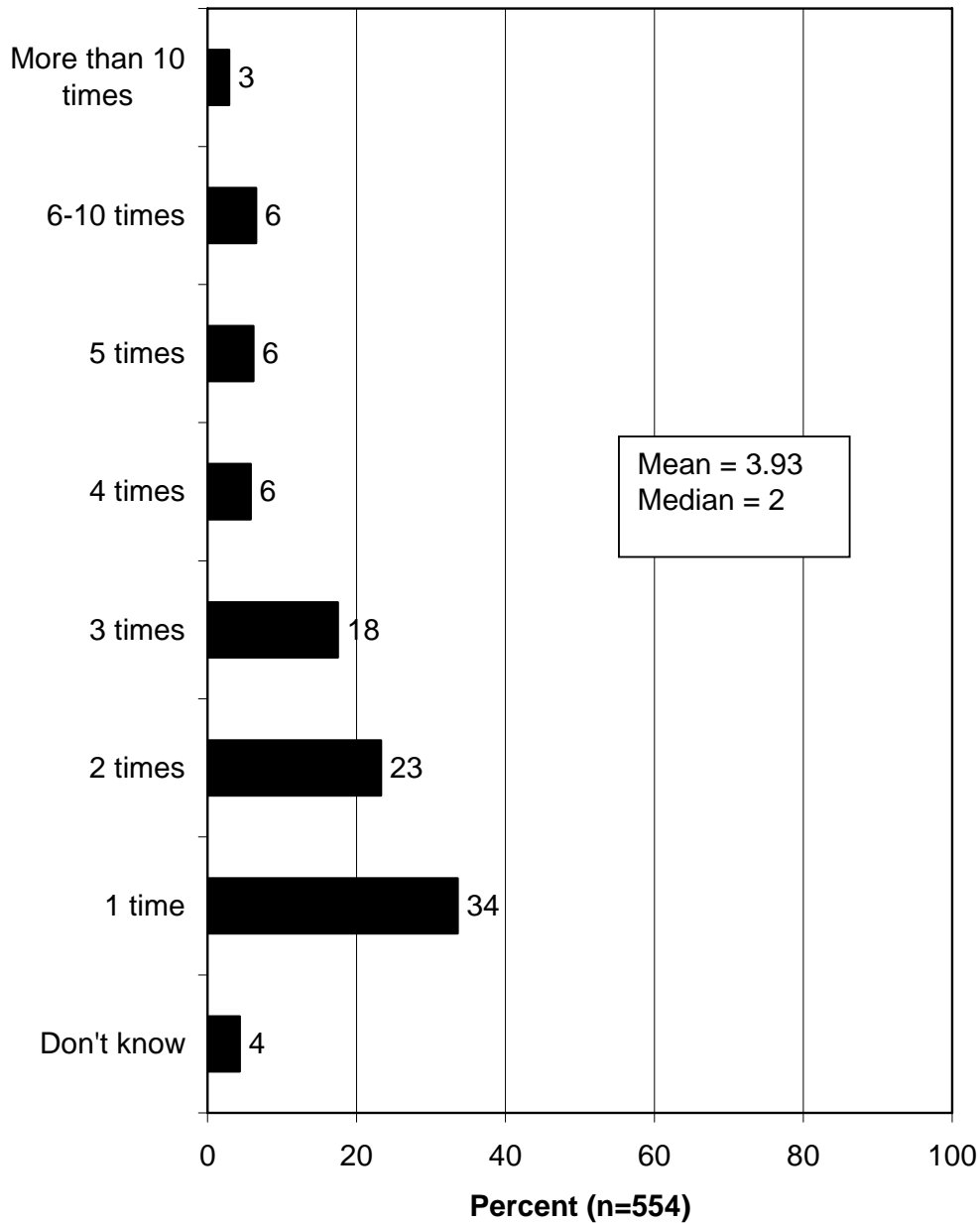
**Q68. Did you have contact initiated by the Officer, initiated by you, or both, in the past 2 years? (Asked of those who have had contact with a Conservation Police Officer while engaging in outdoor recreation in Virginia over the past 2 years.)**



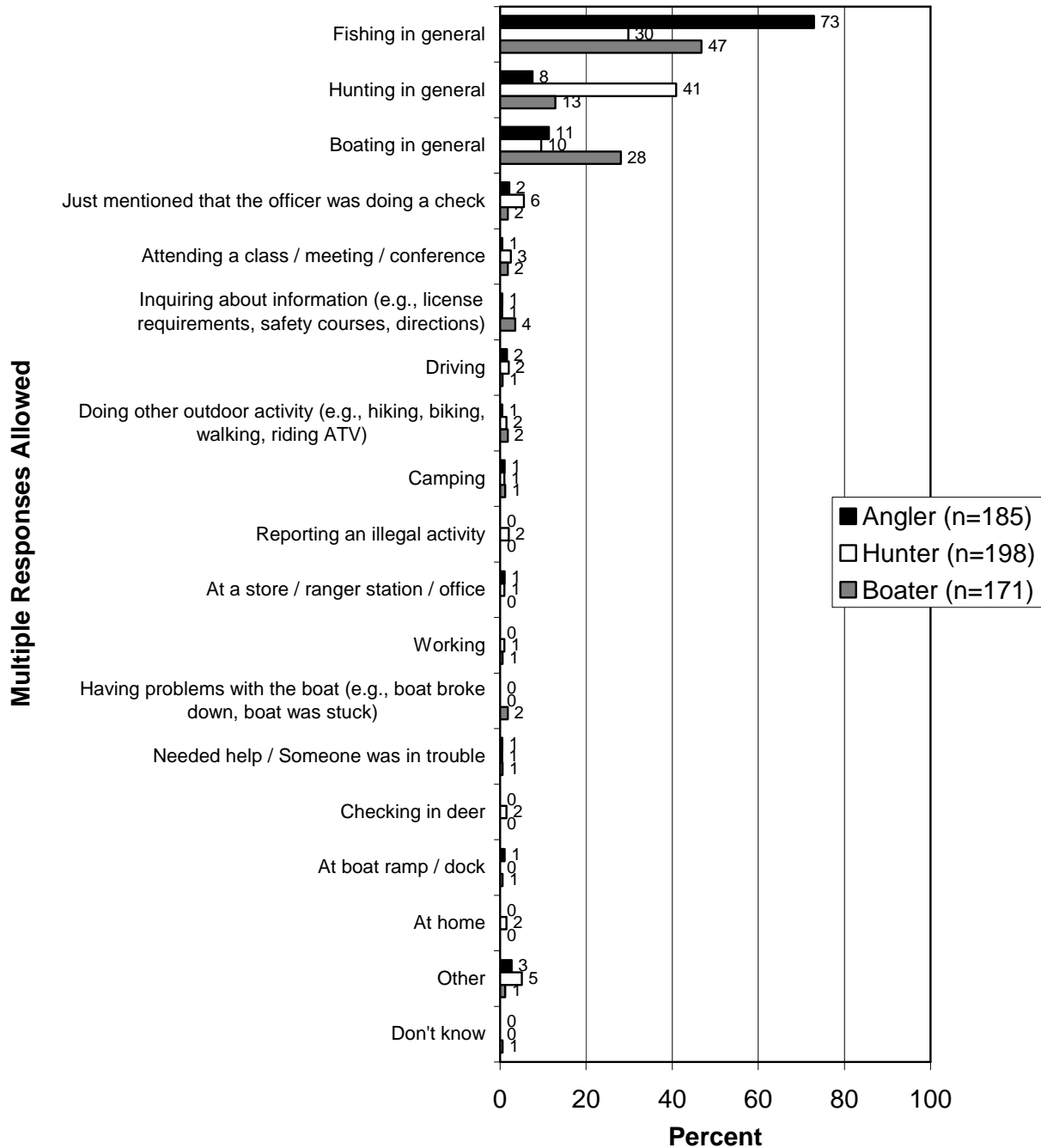
**Q69. How many times in the past 2 years did you have personal contact with a Virginia Conservation Police Officer? (Asked of those who have had contact with a Conservation Police Officer while engaging in outdoor recreation in Virginia over the past 2 years.)**



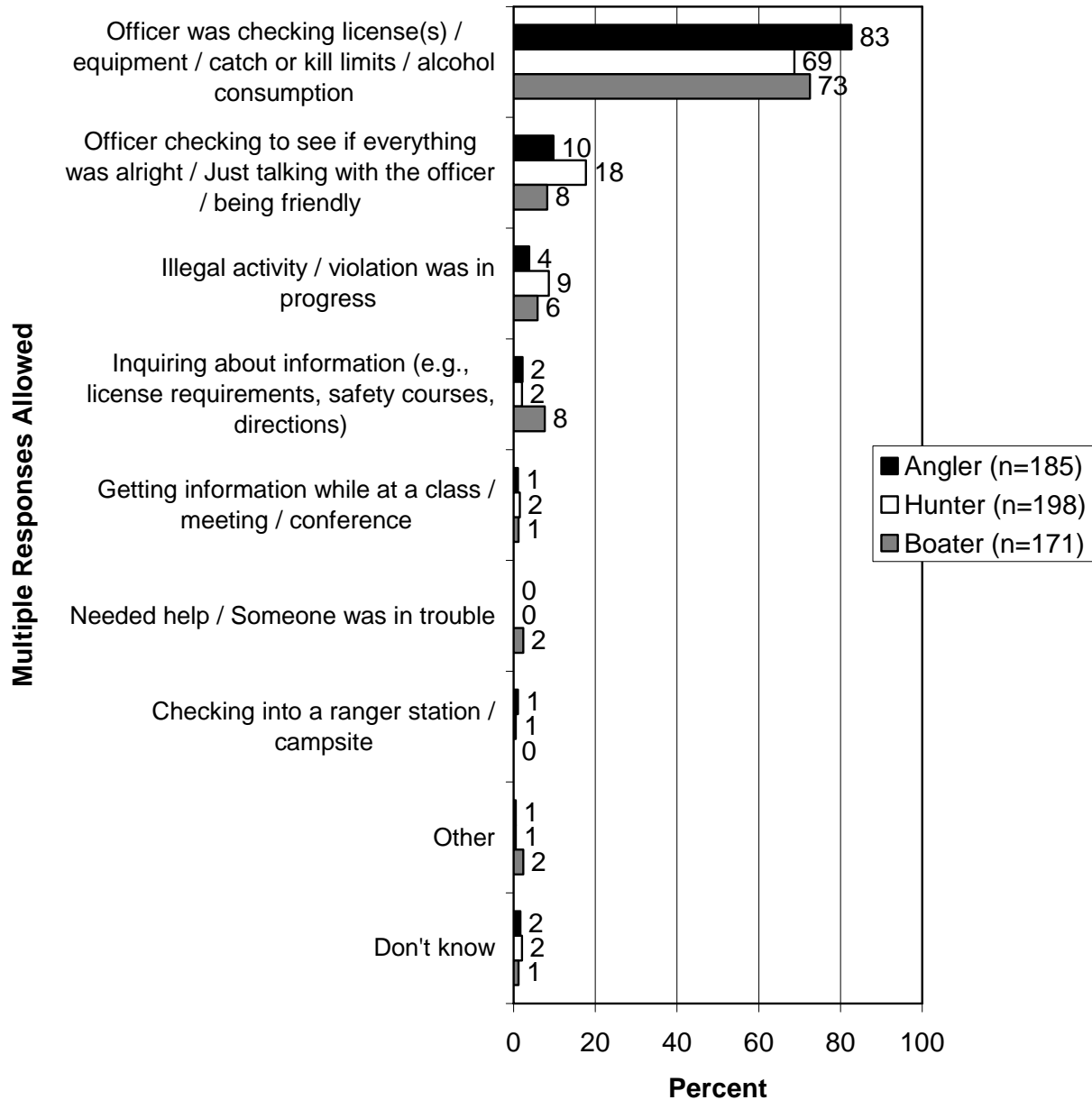
**Q69. How many times in the past 2 years did you have personal contact with a Virginia Conservation Police Officer? (Asked of those who have had contact with a Conservation Police Officer while engaging in outdoor recreation in Virginia over the past 2 years.)**



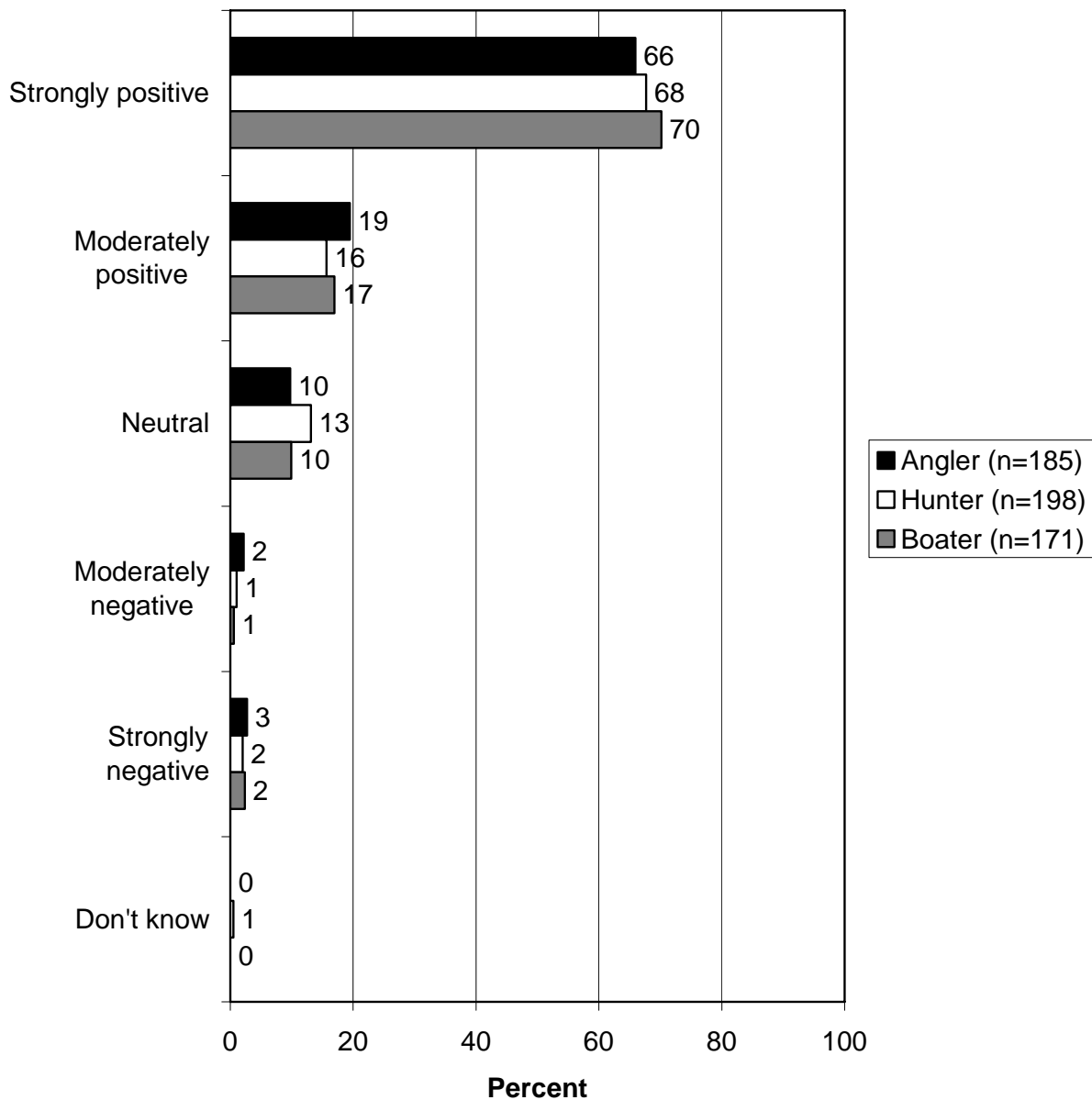
**Q72. In your most recent contact, what were you doing? (Asked of those who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer while engaging in outdoor recreation in Virginia in the past 2 years.)**



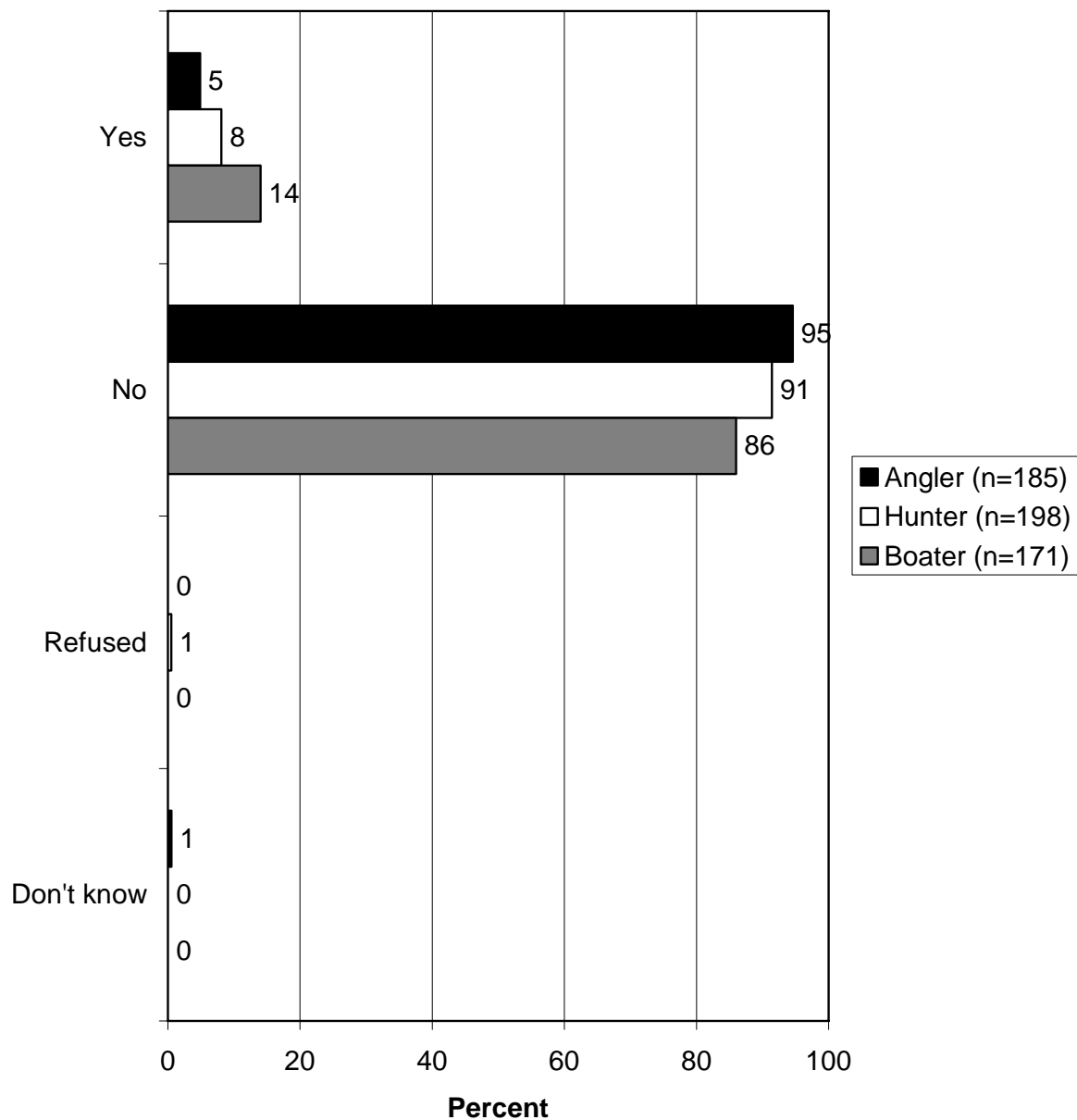
**Q73. In this most recent contact, why was the contact made? (Asked of those who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer while engaging in outdoor recreation in Virginia in the past 2 years.)**



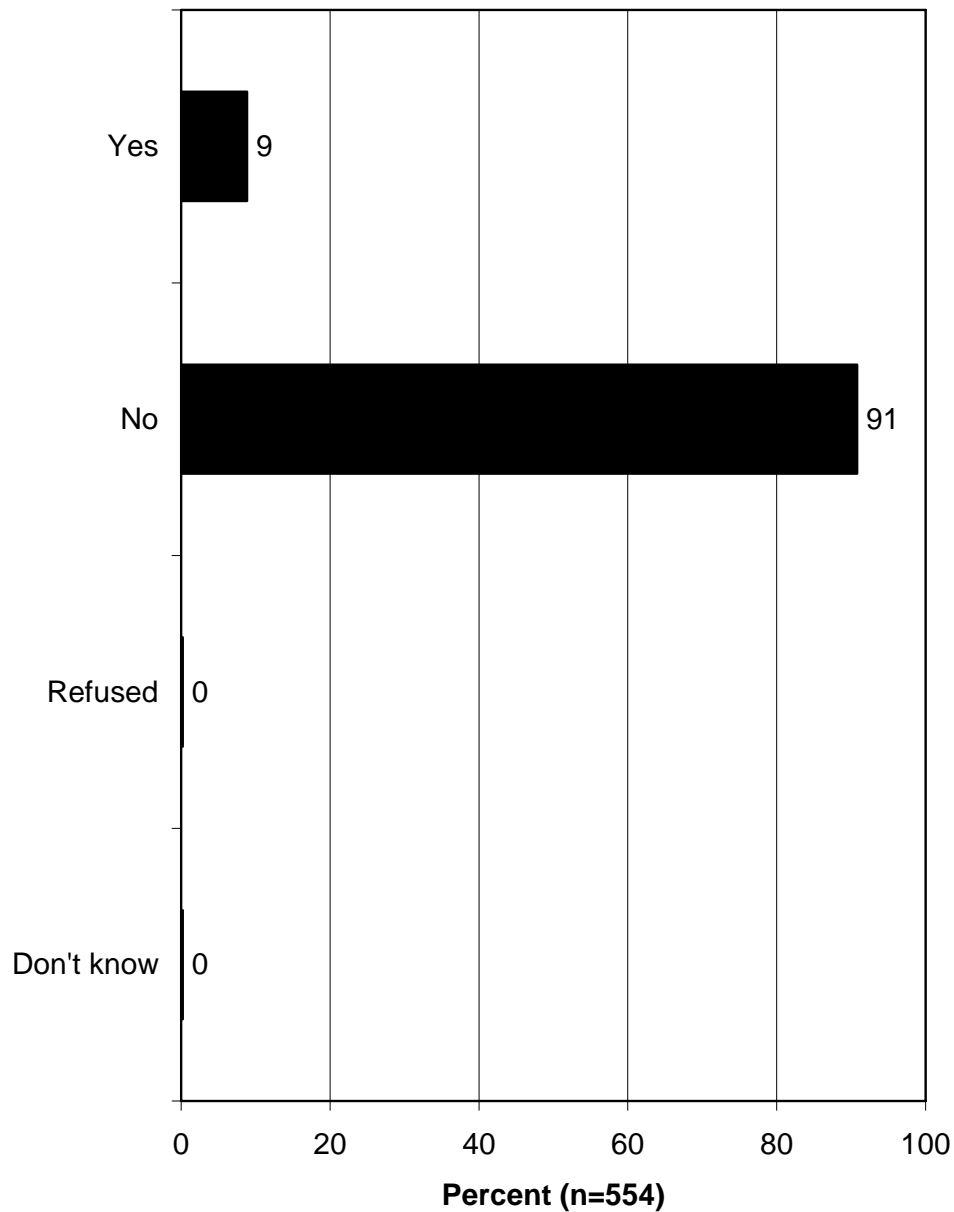
**Q74. Would you say that the most recent contact you had with a Virginia Conservation Police Officer was a positive, neutral, or negative experience? (Asked of those who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer while engaging in outdoor recreation in Virginia in the past 2 years.)**



**Q75. Have you been cited or warned by a Conservation Police Officer in Virginia over the past 2 years? (Asked of those who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer while engaging in outdoor recreation in Virginia in the past 2 years.)**

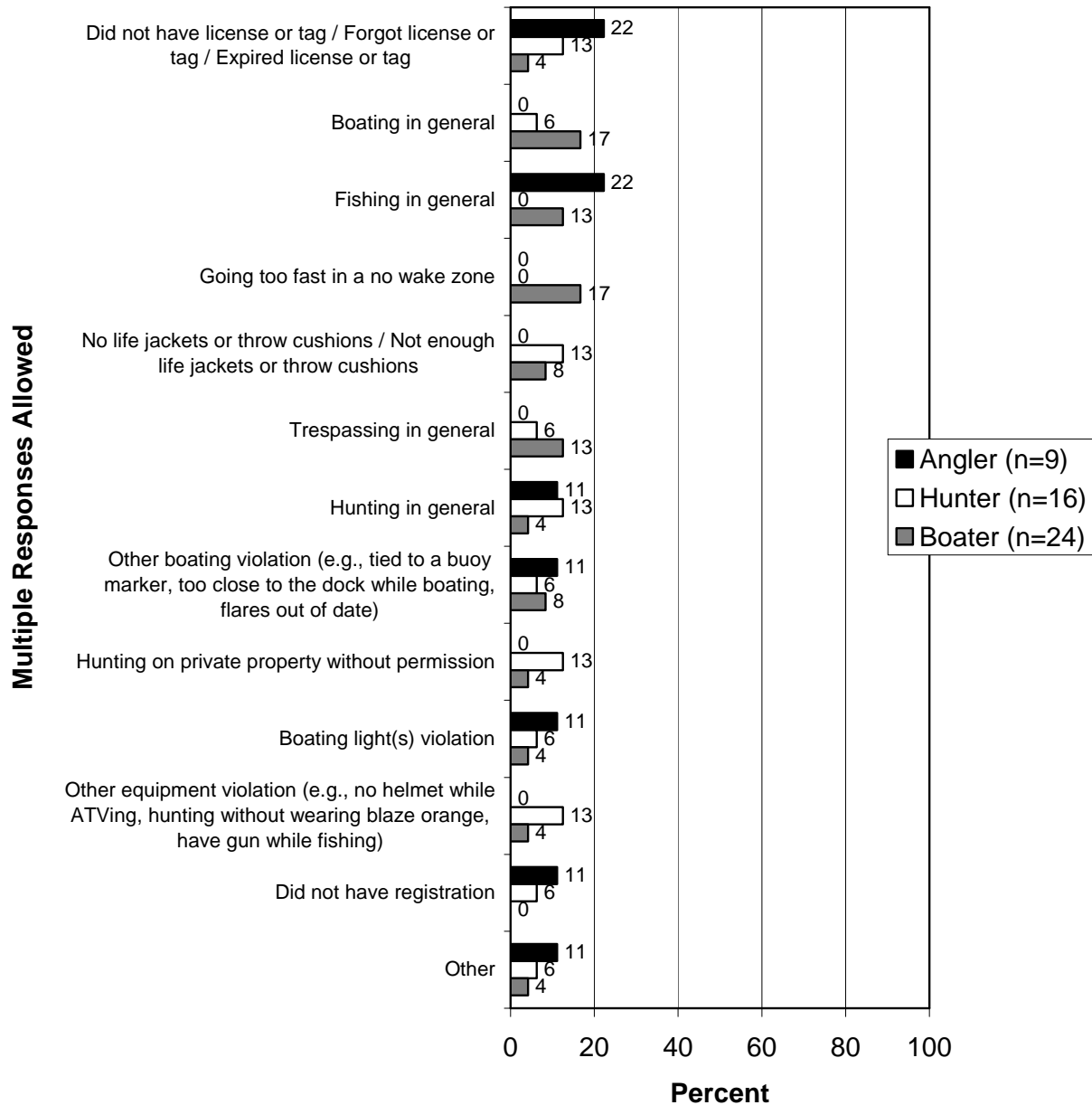


**Q75. Have you been cited or warned by a Conservation Police Officer in Virginia over the past 2 years? (Asked of those who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer while engaging in outdoor recreation in Virginia in the past 2 years.)**

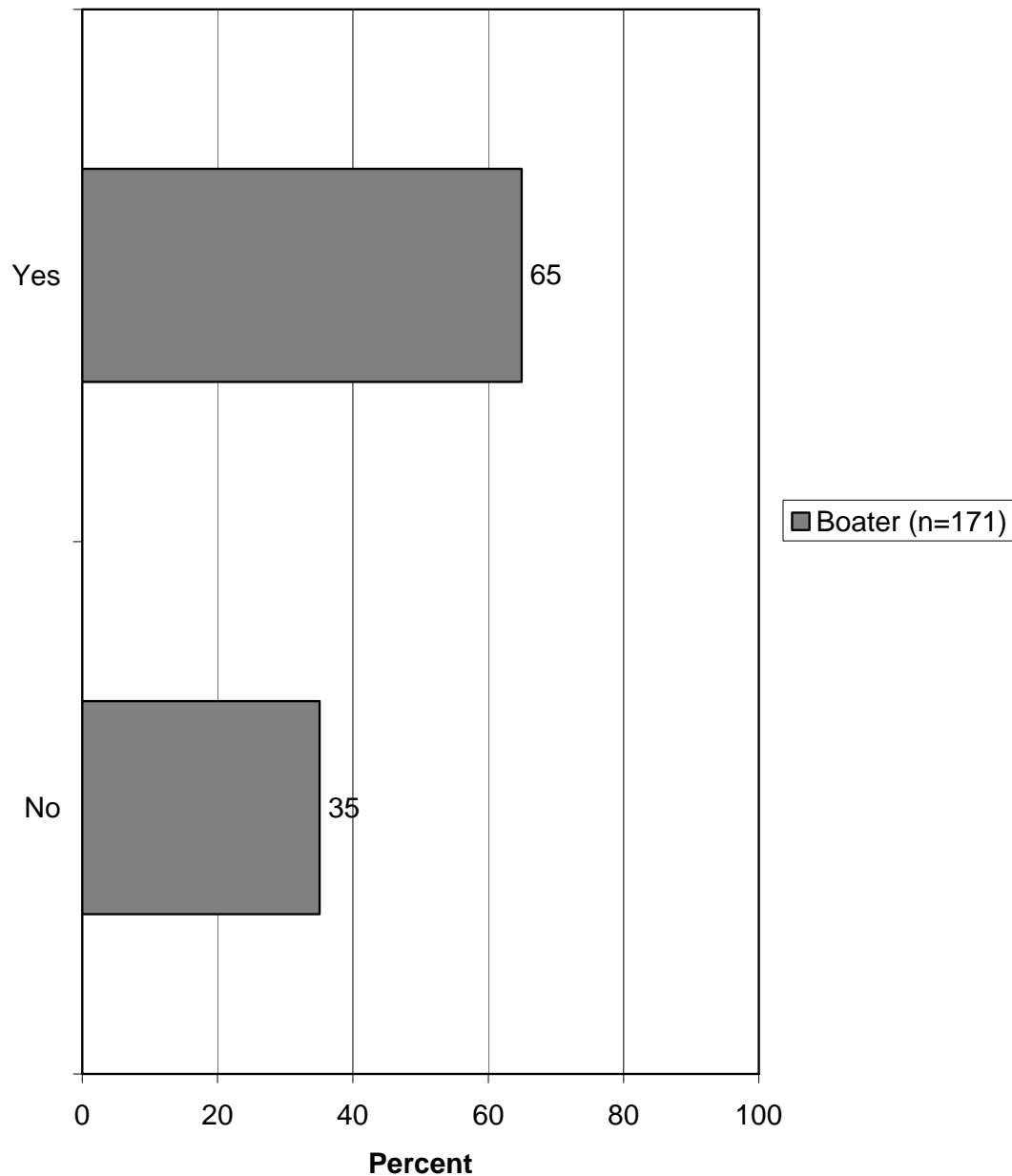




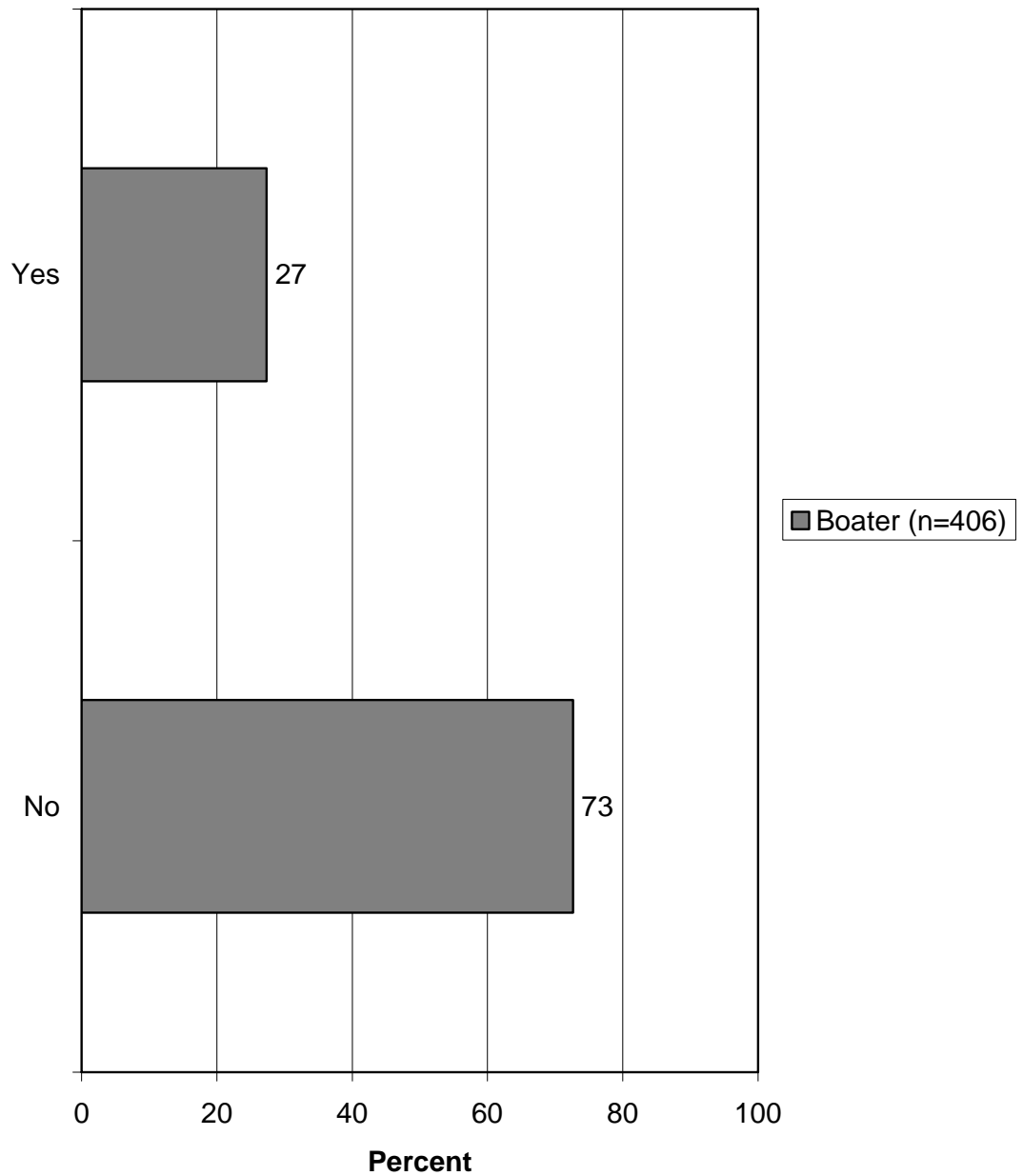
**Q76. What were you doing when you were cited or warned by a Conservation Police Officer? (Asked of those who have been cited or warned by a Conservation Police Officer while engaging in outdoor recreation in Virginia in the past 2 years.)**



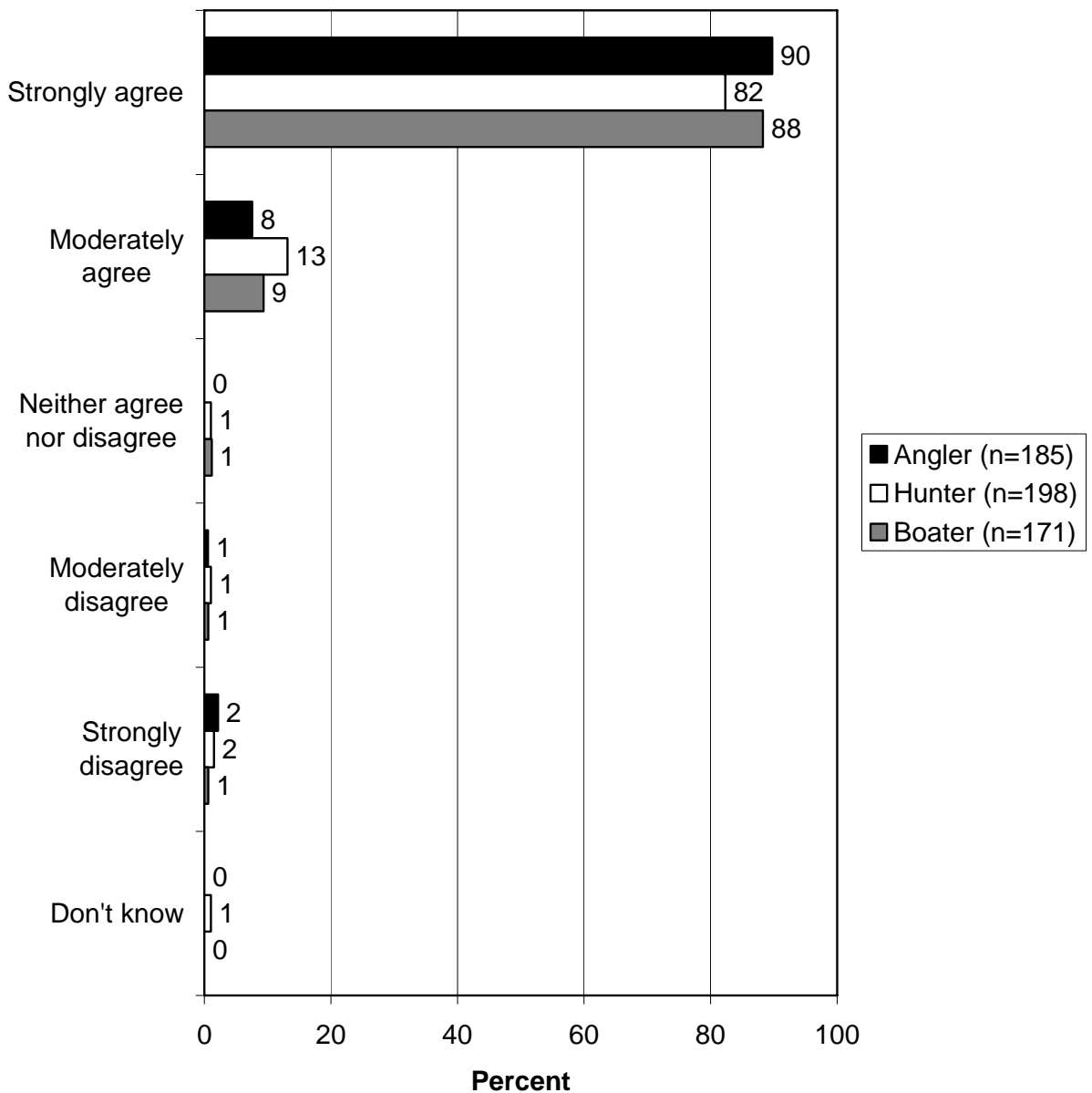
**Q77. In the past 2 years, did Conservation Police Officers stop and check your boat? (Asked of those in the boater group who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer while engaging in outdoor recreation in Virginia in the past 2 years.)**



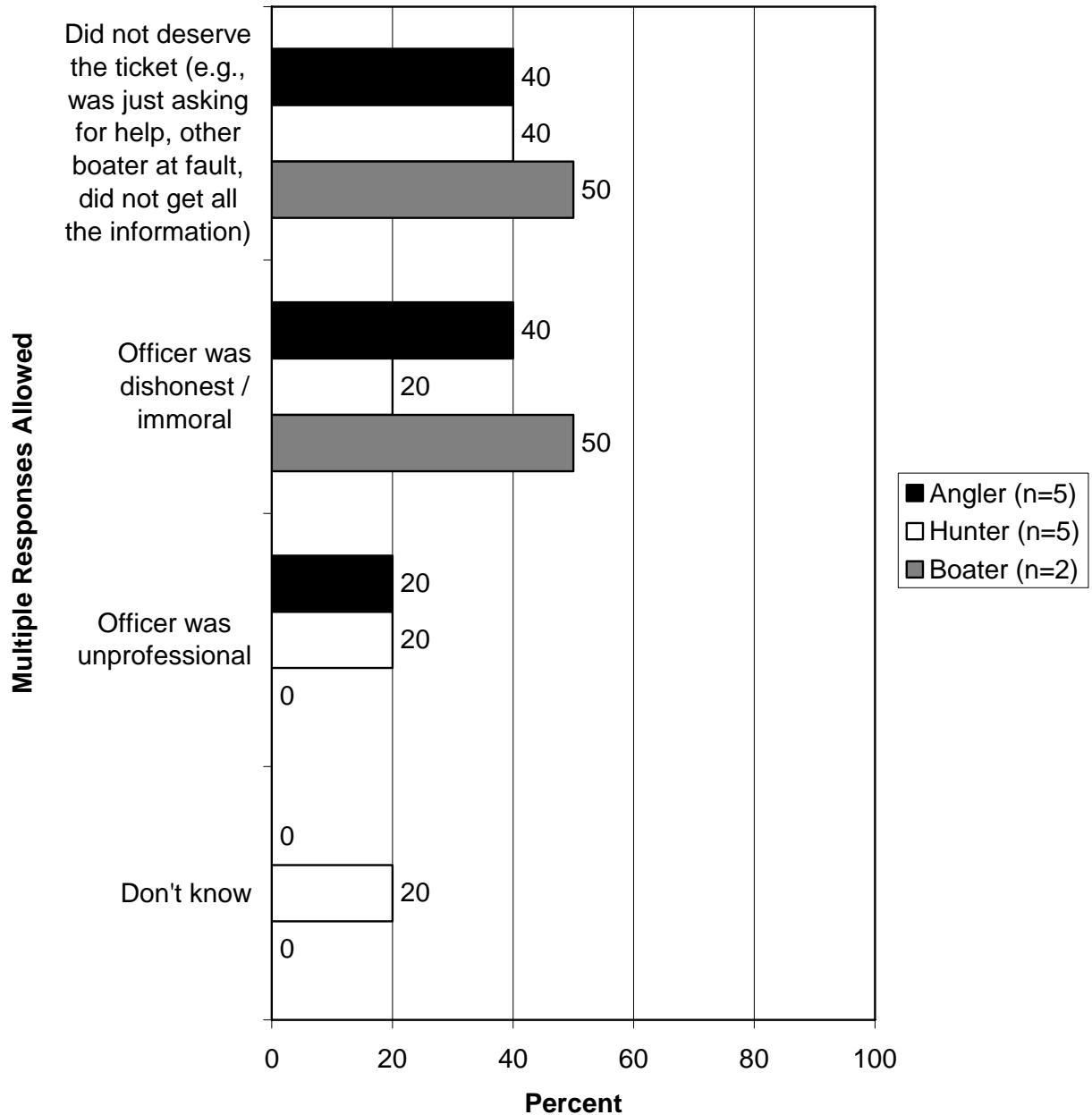
**Q77. In the past 2 years, did Conservation Police  
Officers stop and check your boat?  
(All Boaters)**



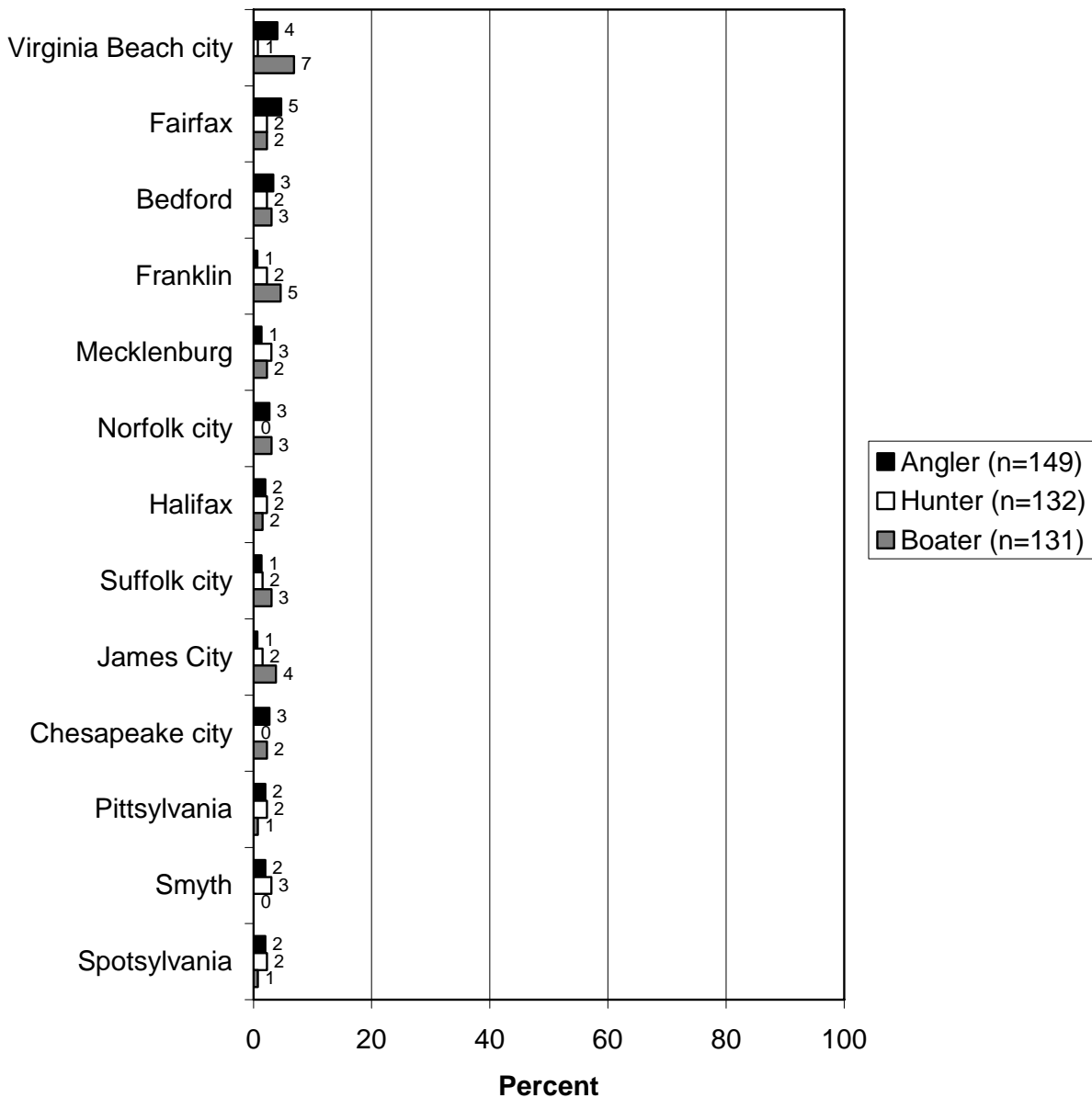
**Q78. Would you agree or disagree that the Conservation Police Officers you have had contact with over the past 2 years treated you fairly? (Asked of those who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer while engaging in outdoor recreation in Virginia in the past 2 years.)**



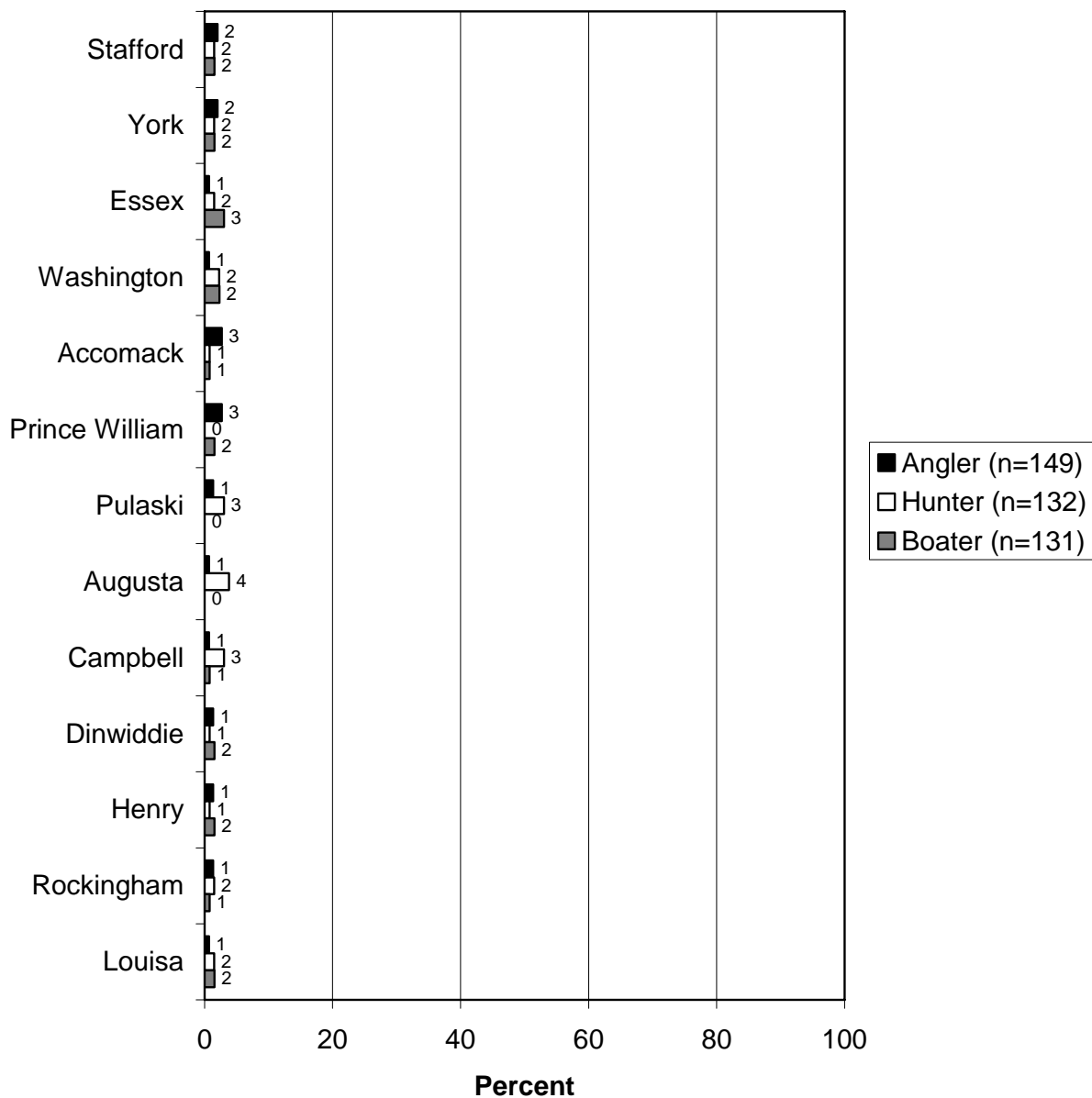
**Q79. Why do you disagree that the Conservation Police Officers you had contact with over the past 2 years treated you fairly? (Asked of those who disagree that they were treated fairly.)**



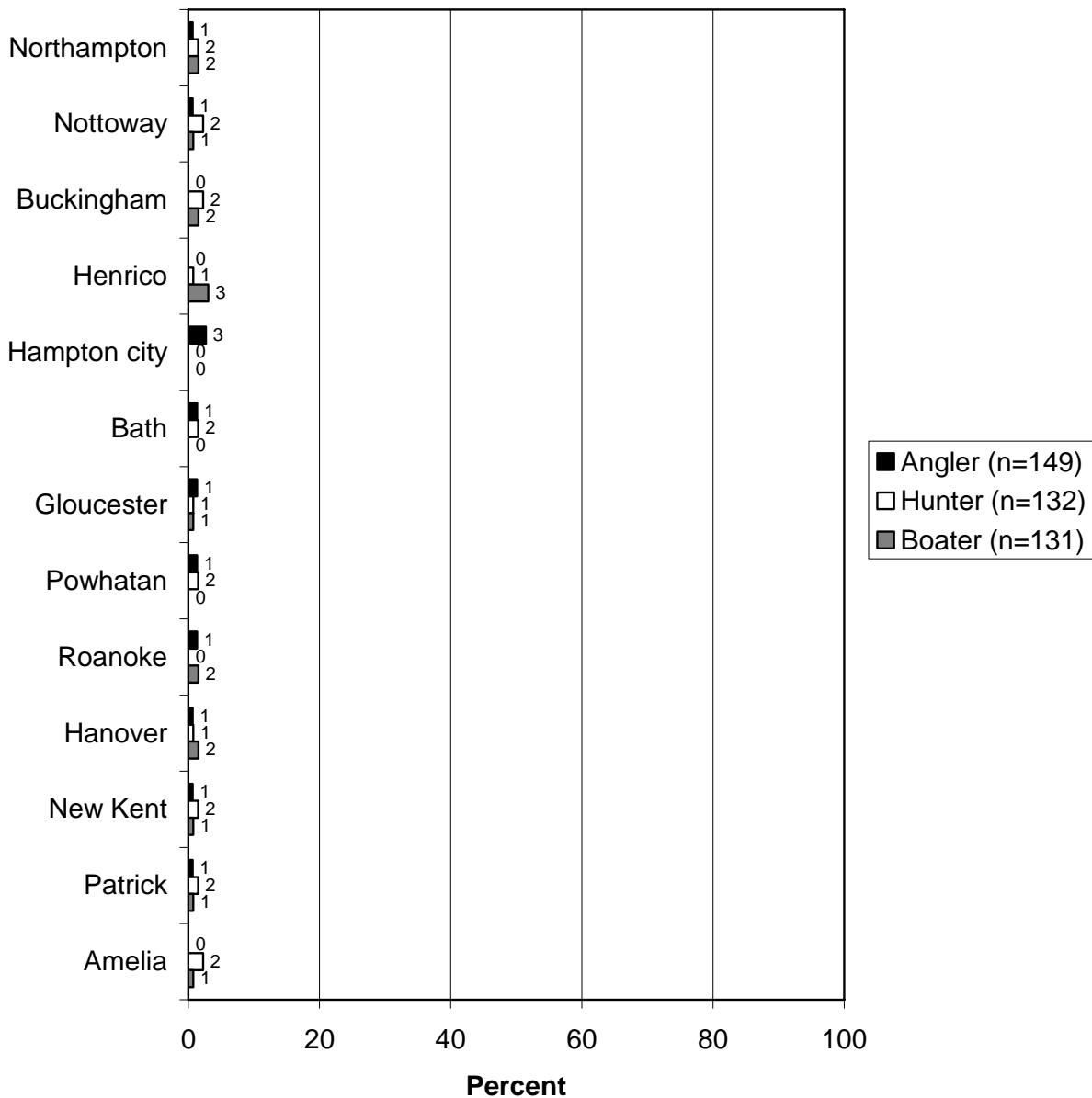
**Q80. In what county were you the last time you were contacted by a Conservation Police Officer? (Asked of those who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer while engaging in outdoor recreation in Virginia over the past 2 years that was initiated by the Officer.)**  
**(Part 1)**



**Q80. In what county were you the last time you were contacted by a Conservation Police Officer? (Asked of those who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer while engaging in outdoor recreation in Virginia over the past 2 years that was initiated by the Officer.)**  
**(Part 2)**

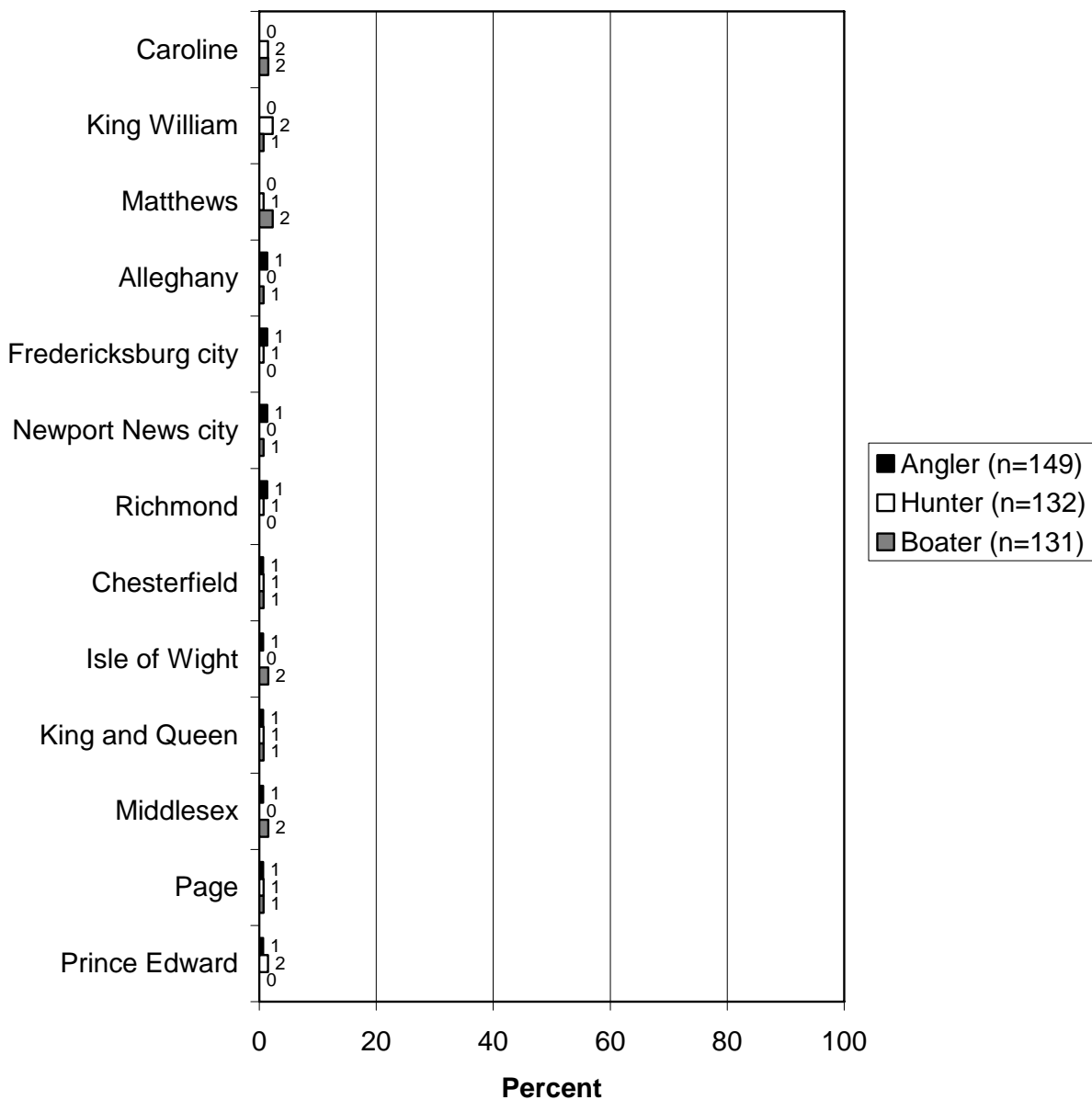


**Q80. In what county were you the last time you were contacted by a Conservation Police Officer? (Asked of those who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer while engaging in outdoor recreation in Virginia over the past 2 years that was initiated by the Officer.)**  
**(Part 3)**

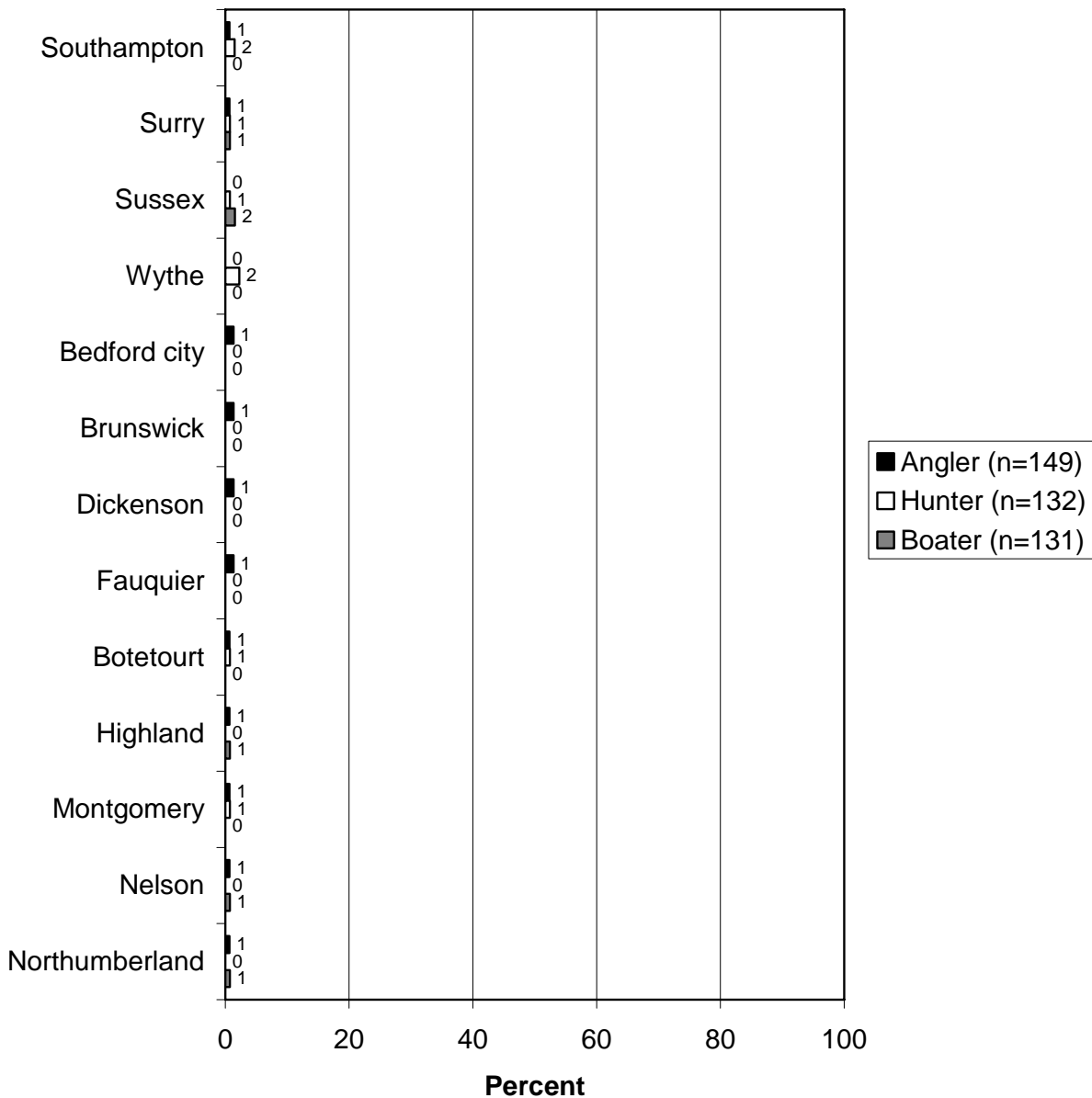




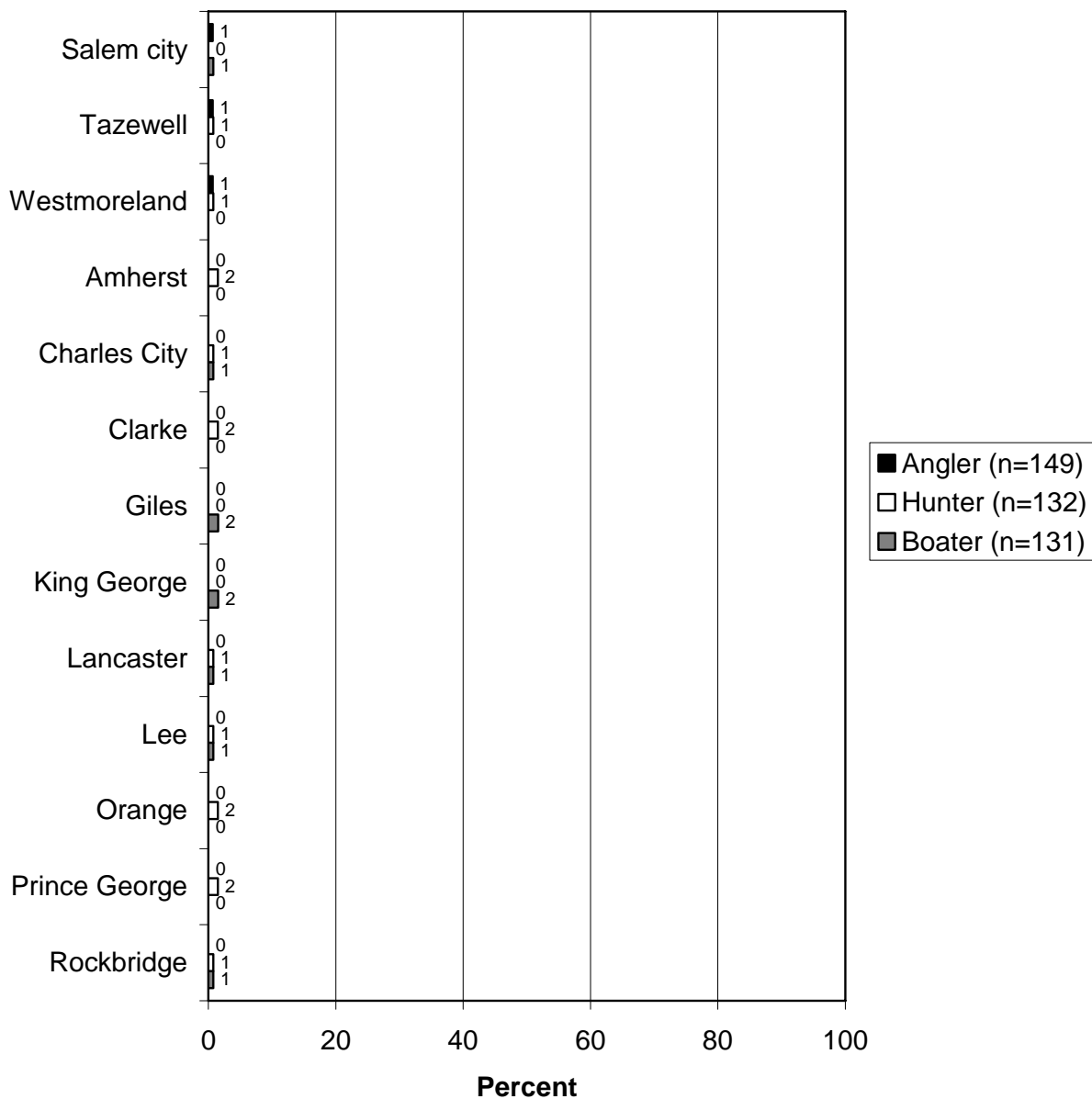
**Q80. In what county were you the last time you were contacted by a Conservation Police Officer? (Asked of those who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer while engaging in outdoor recreation in Virginia over the past 2 years that was initiated by the Officer.)**  
**(Part 4)**



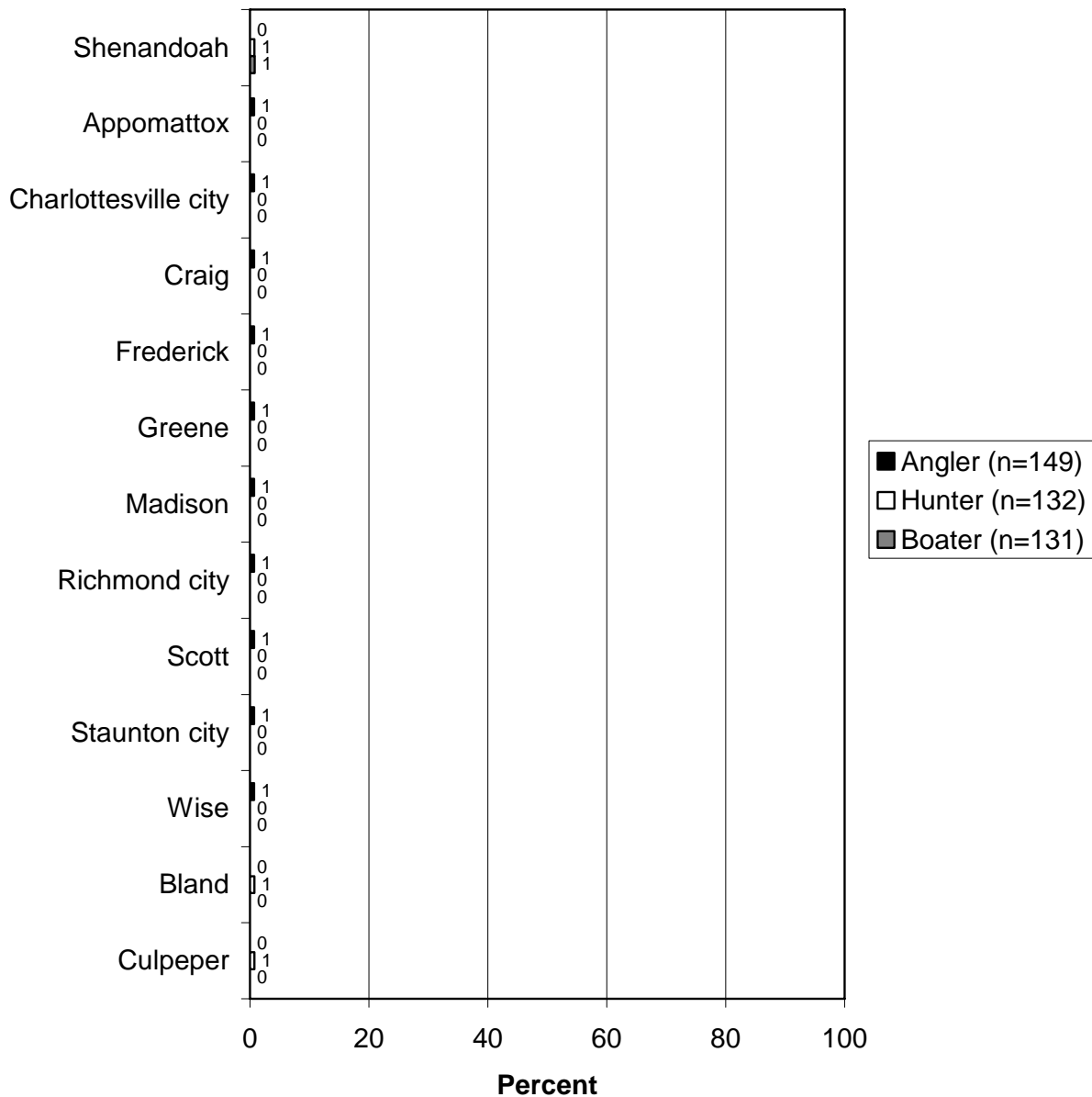
**Q80. In what county were you the last time you were contacted by a Conservation Police Officer? (Asked of those who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer while engaging in outdoor recreation in Virginia over the past 2 years that was initiated by the Officer.)**  
**(Part 5)**



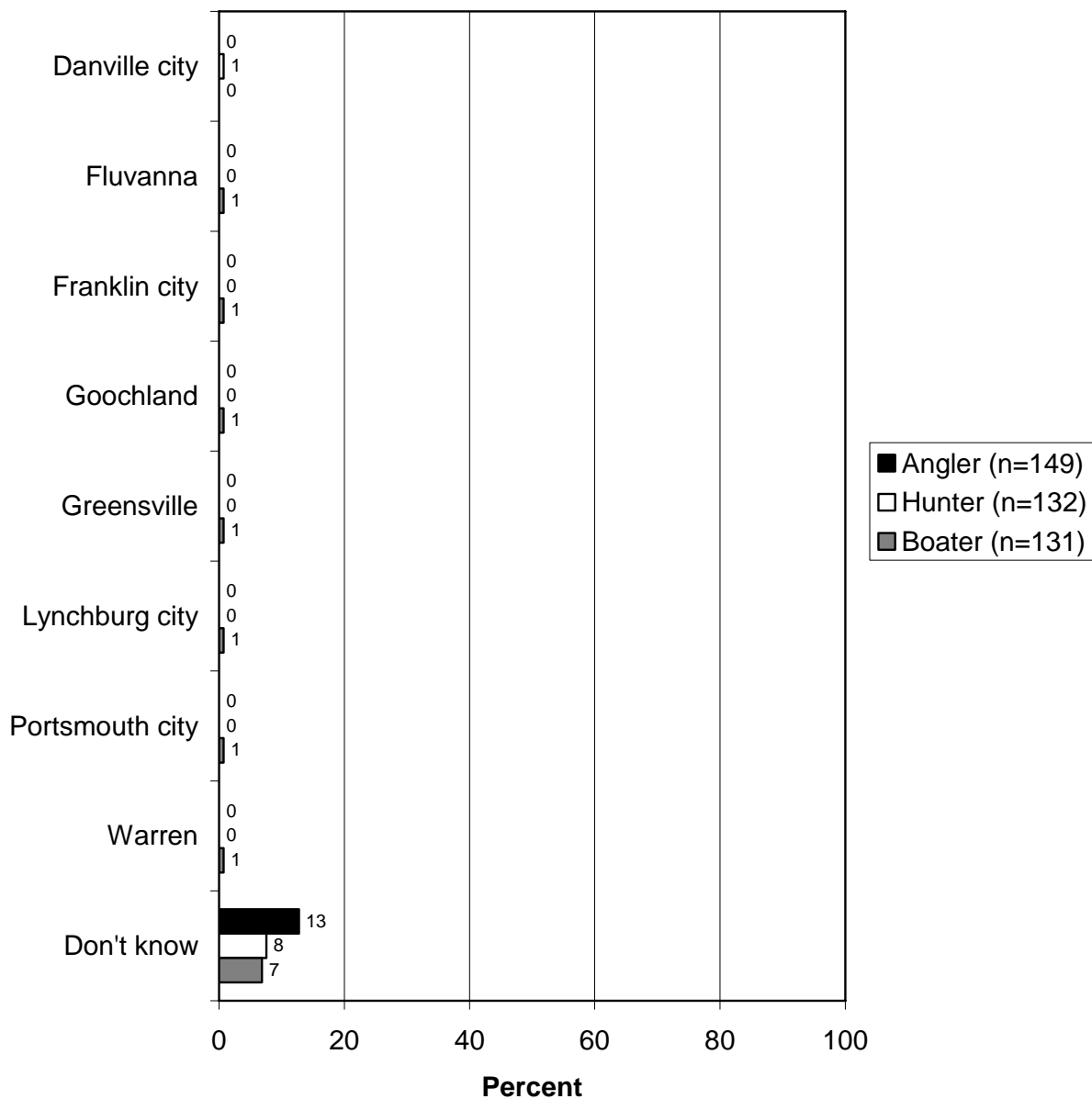
**Q80. In what county were you the last time you were contacted by a Conservation Police Officer? (Asked of those who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer while engaging in outdoor recreation in Virginia over the past 2 years that was initiated by the Officer.)**  
**(Part 6)**



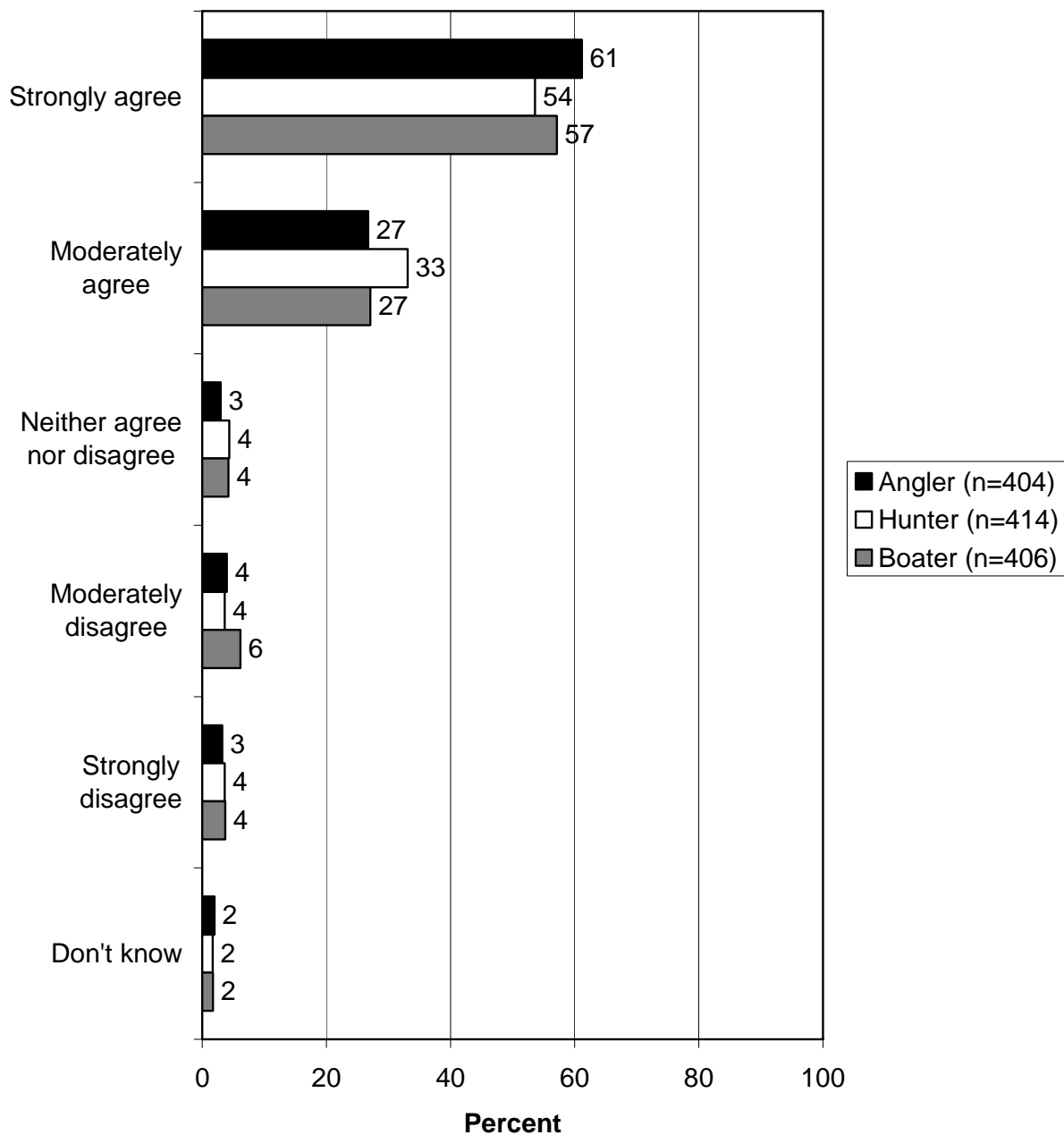
**Q80. In what county were you the last time you were contacted by a Conservation Police Officer? (Asked of those who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer while engaging in outdoor recreation in Virginia over the past 2 years that was initiated by the Officer.)**  
**(Part 7)**



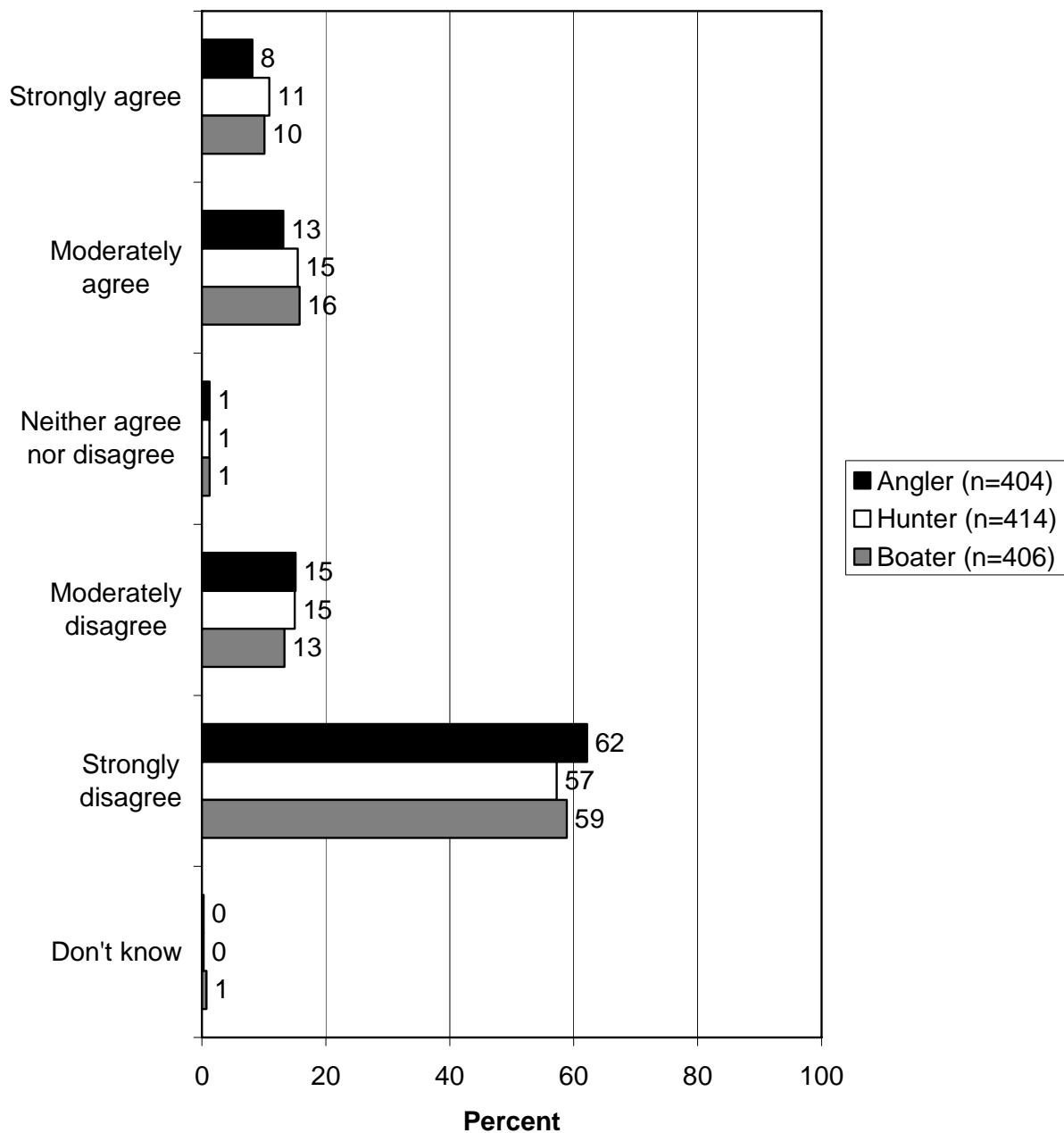
**Q80. In what county were you the last time you were contacted by a Conservation Police Officer? (Asked of those who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer while engaging in outdoor recreation in Virginia over the past 2 years that was initiated by the Officer.)**  
**(Part 8)**



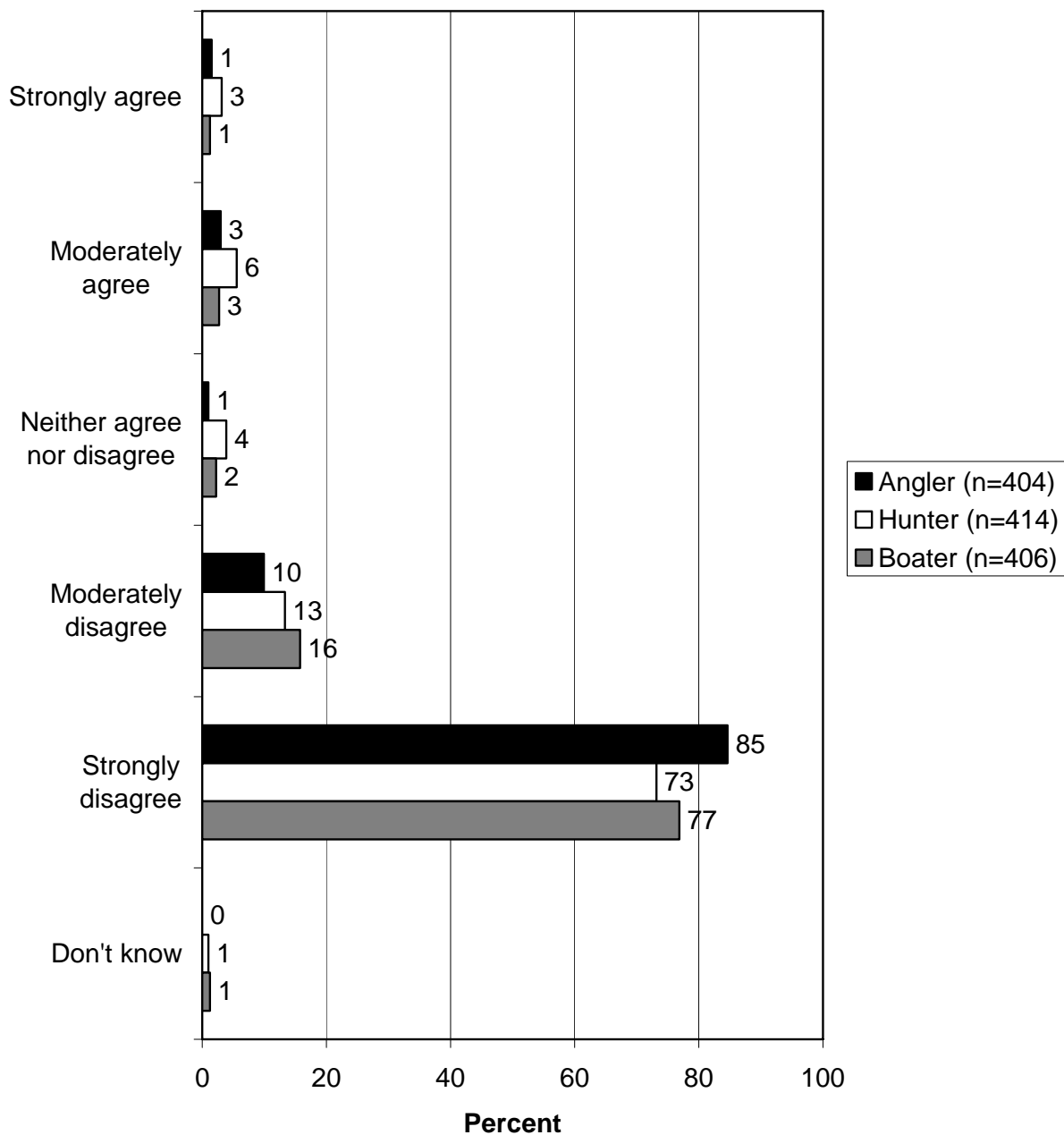
**Q81. In general, do you agree or disagree that  
being approached by Conservation Police Officers  
while you are hunting, fishing, or boating is  
reassuring to you?**



**Q82. In general, do you agree or disagree that being approached by Conservation Police Officers while you are hunting, fishing, or boating makes you nervous?**

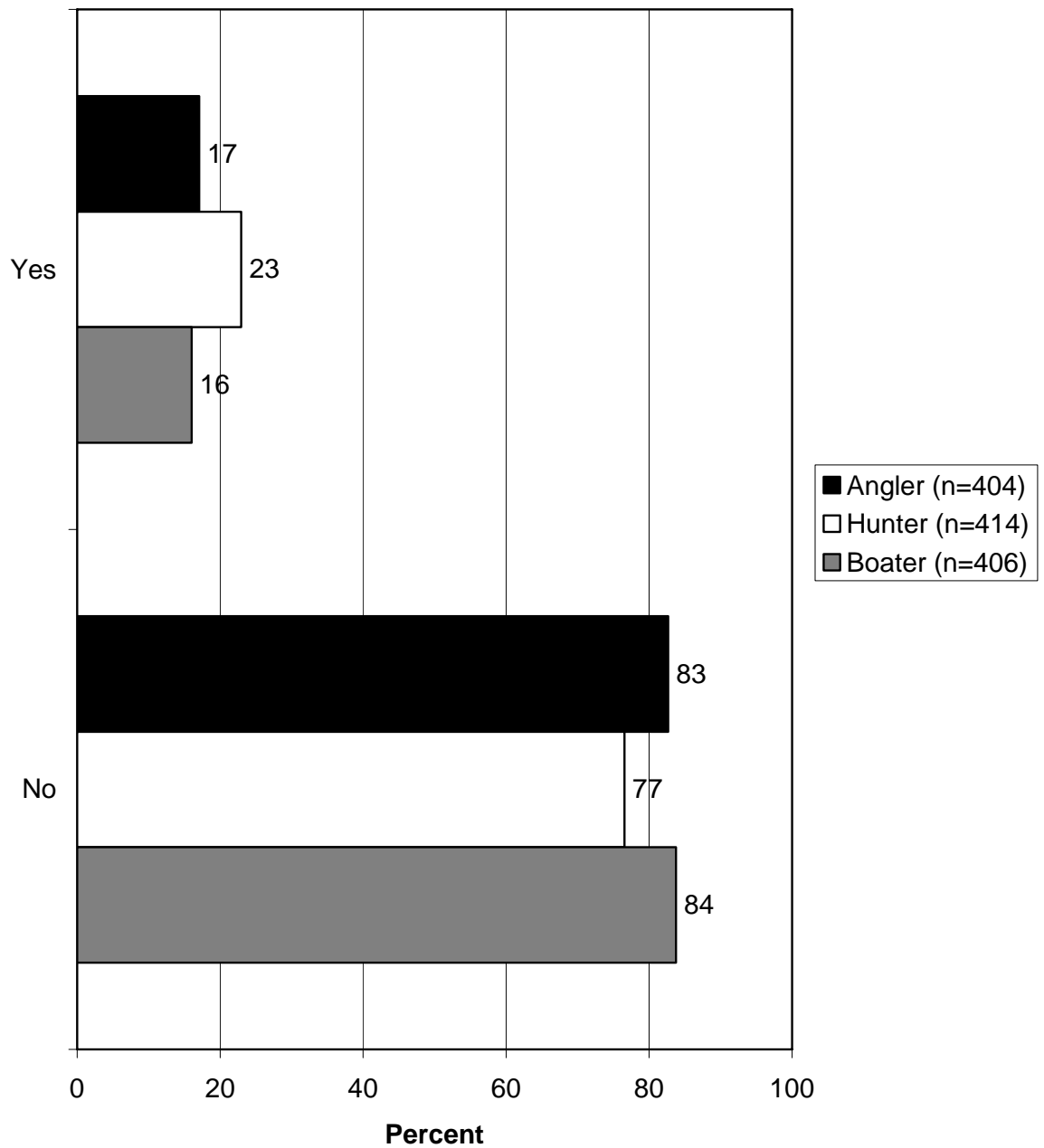


**Q83. In general, do you agree or disagree that being approached by Conservation Police Officers while you are hunting, fishing, or boating makes you angry?**

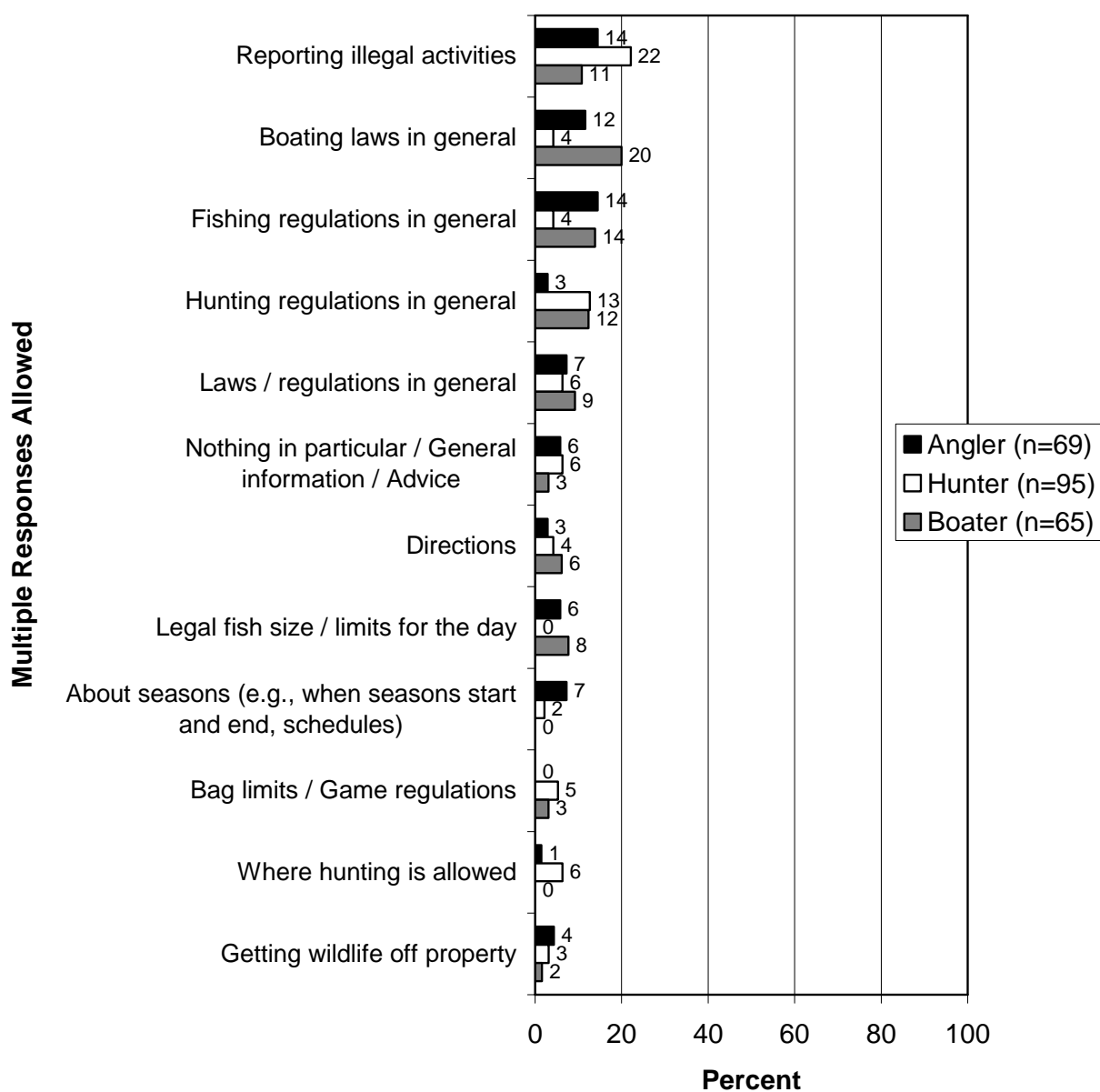




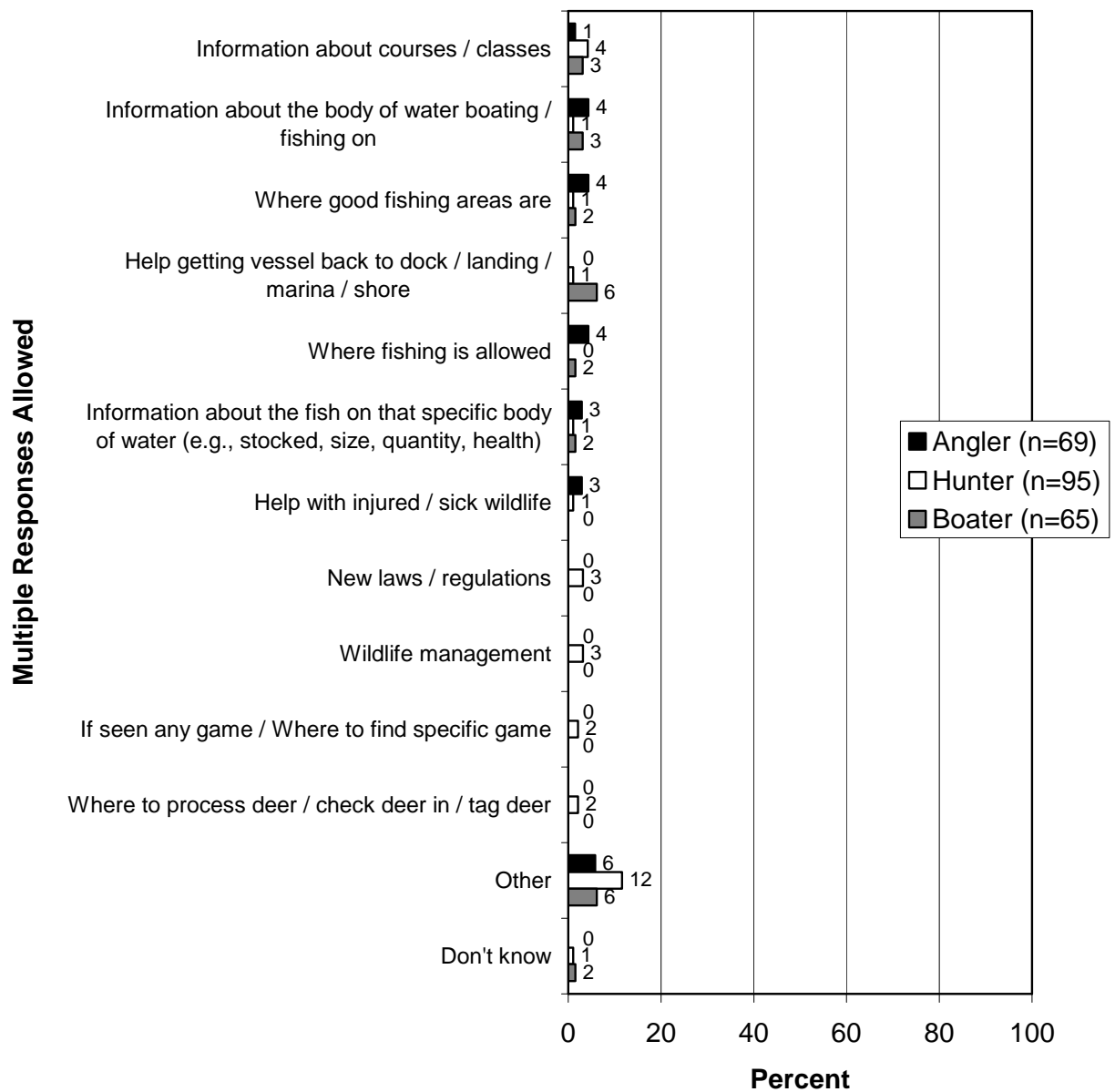
**Q84. In the past 2 years, have you ever requested information or assistance from a Conservation Police Officer?**



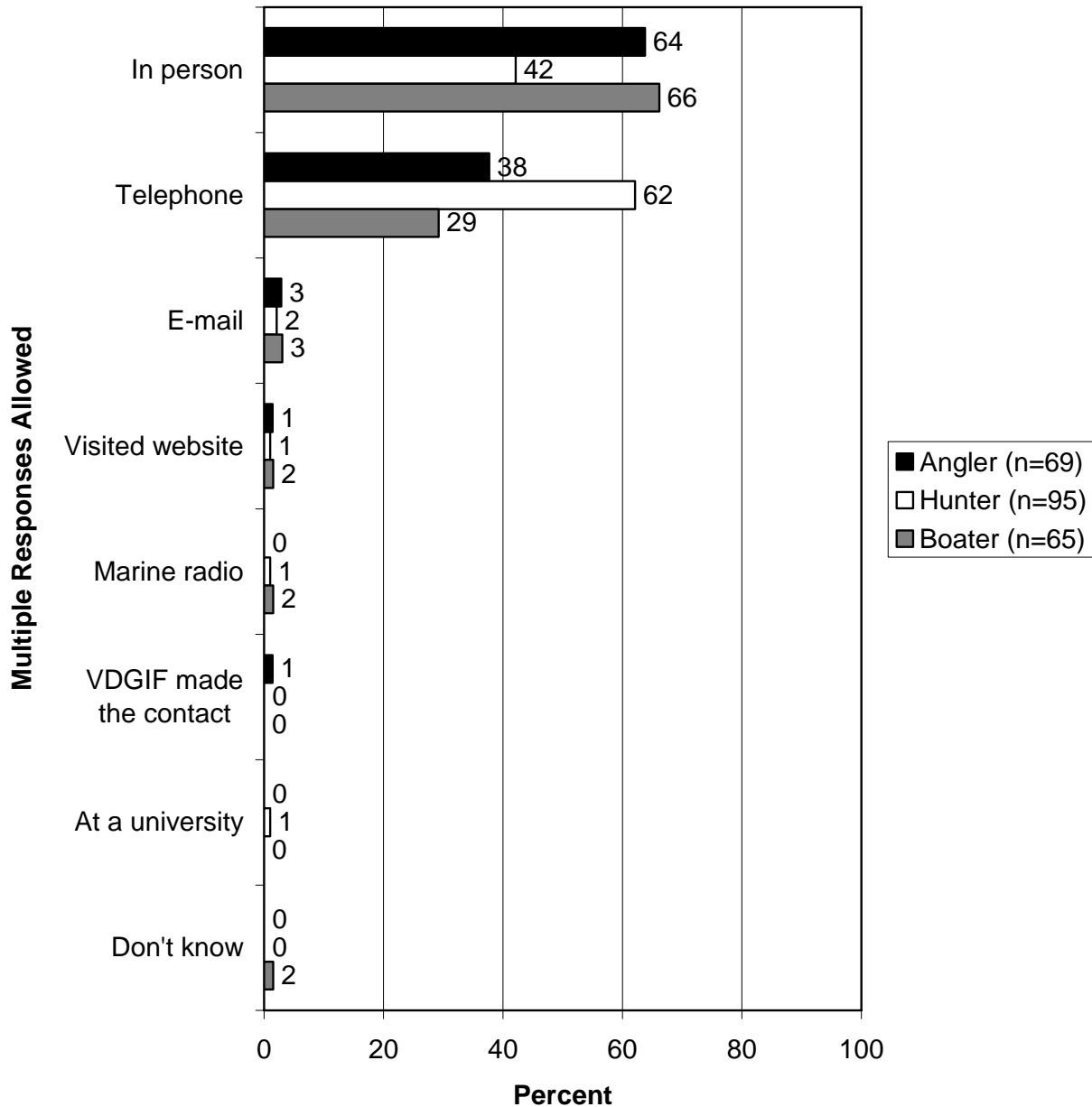
**Q85. What information or assistance were you seeking from the Conservation Police Officer?  
(Asked of those who requested information or assistance from a Conservation Police Officer in the past 2 years.)  
(Part 1)**



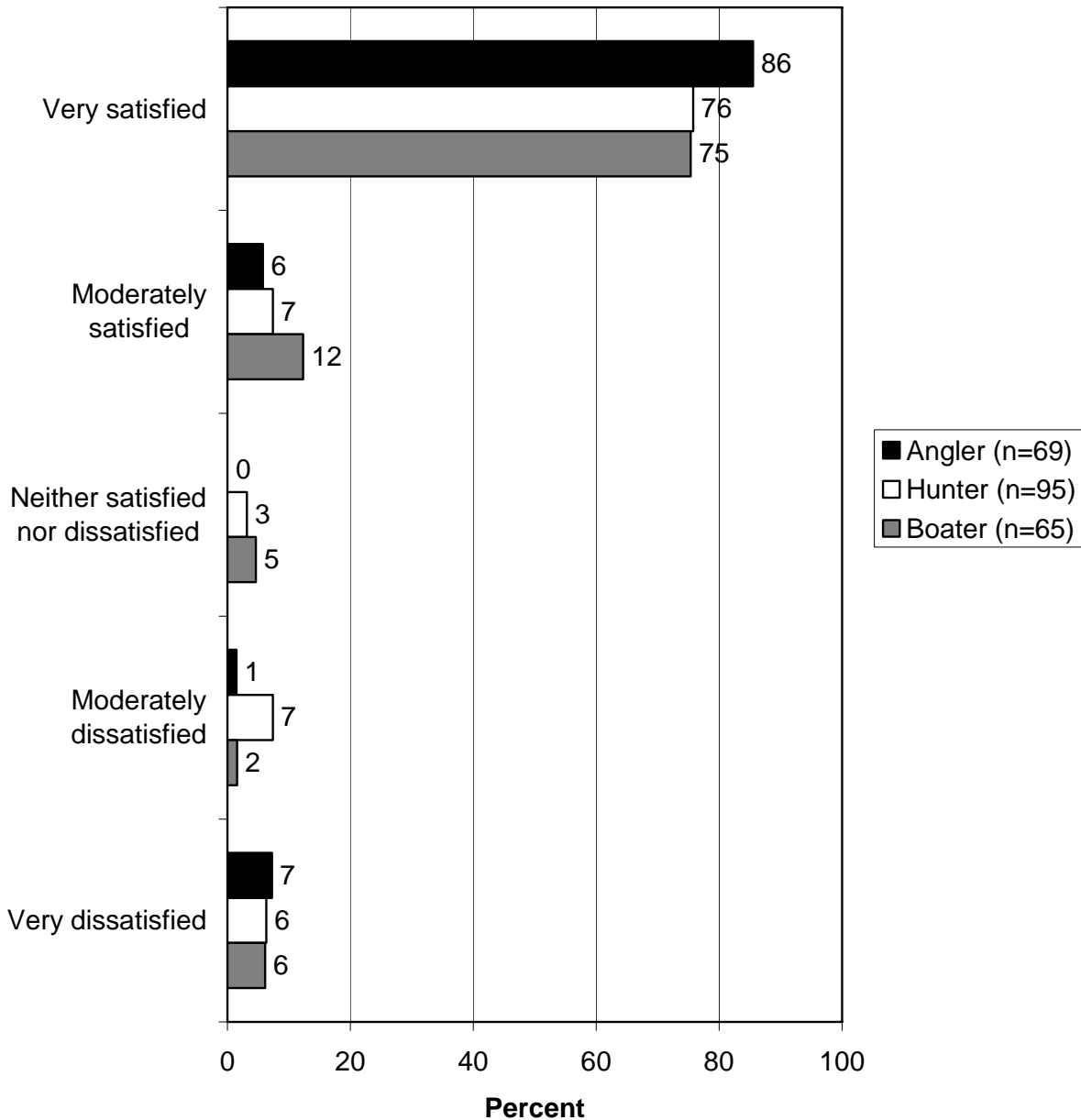
**Q85. What information or assistance were you seeking from the Conservation Police Officer?  
(Asked of those who requested information or assistance from a Conservation Police Officer in the past 2 years.)  
(Part 2)**



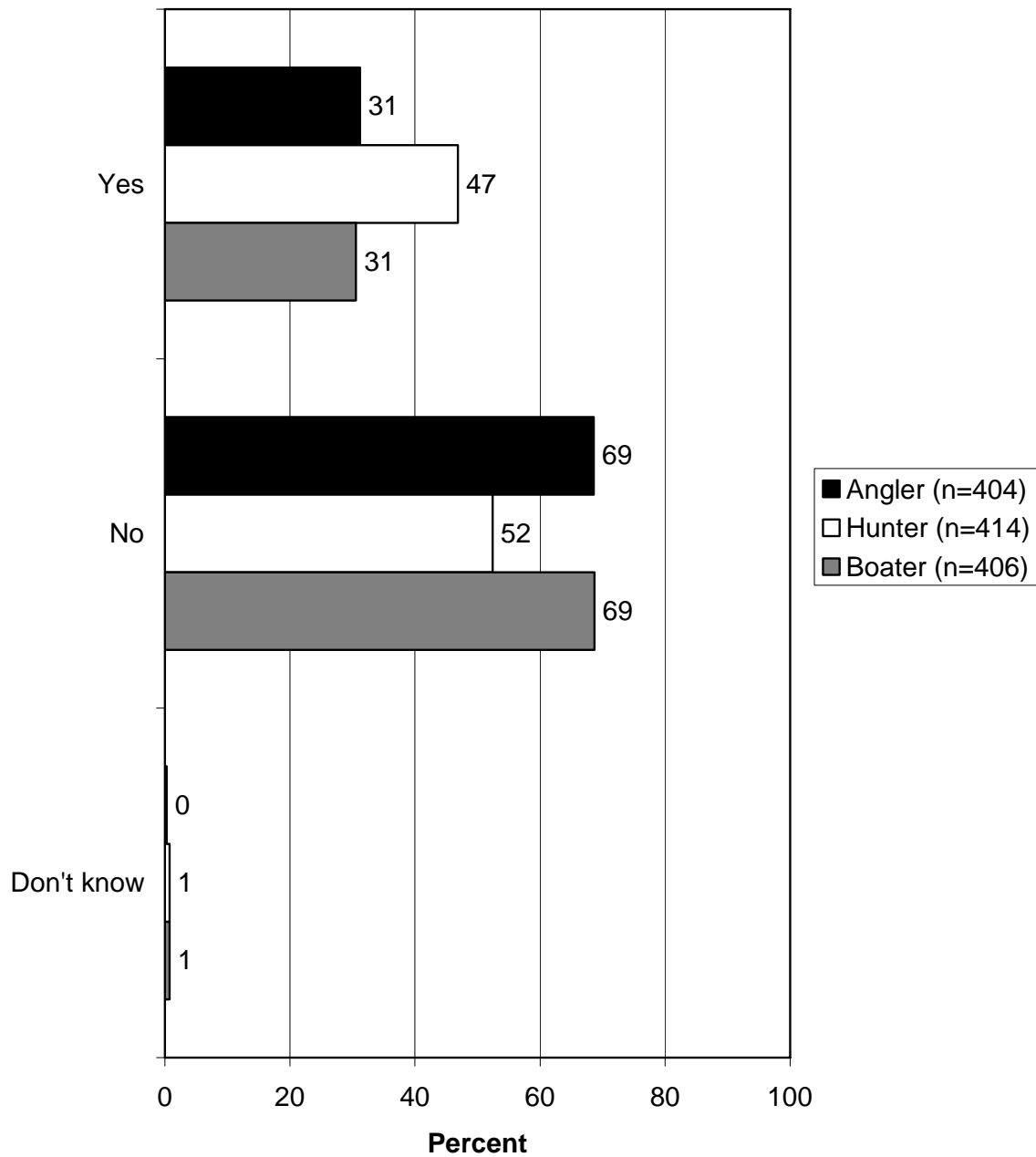
**Q88. How did you make contact or attempt to make contact with a Conservation Police Officer or the VDGIF? (Asked of those who requested information or assistance from a Conservation Police Officer in the past 2 years.)**



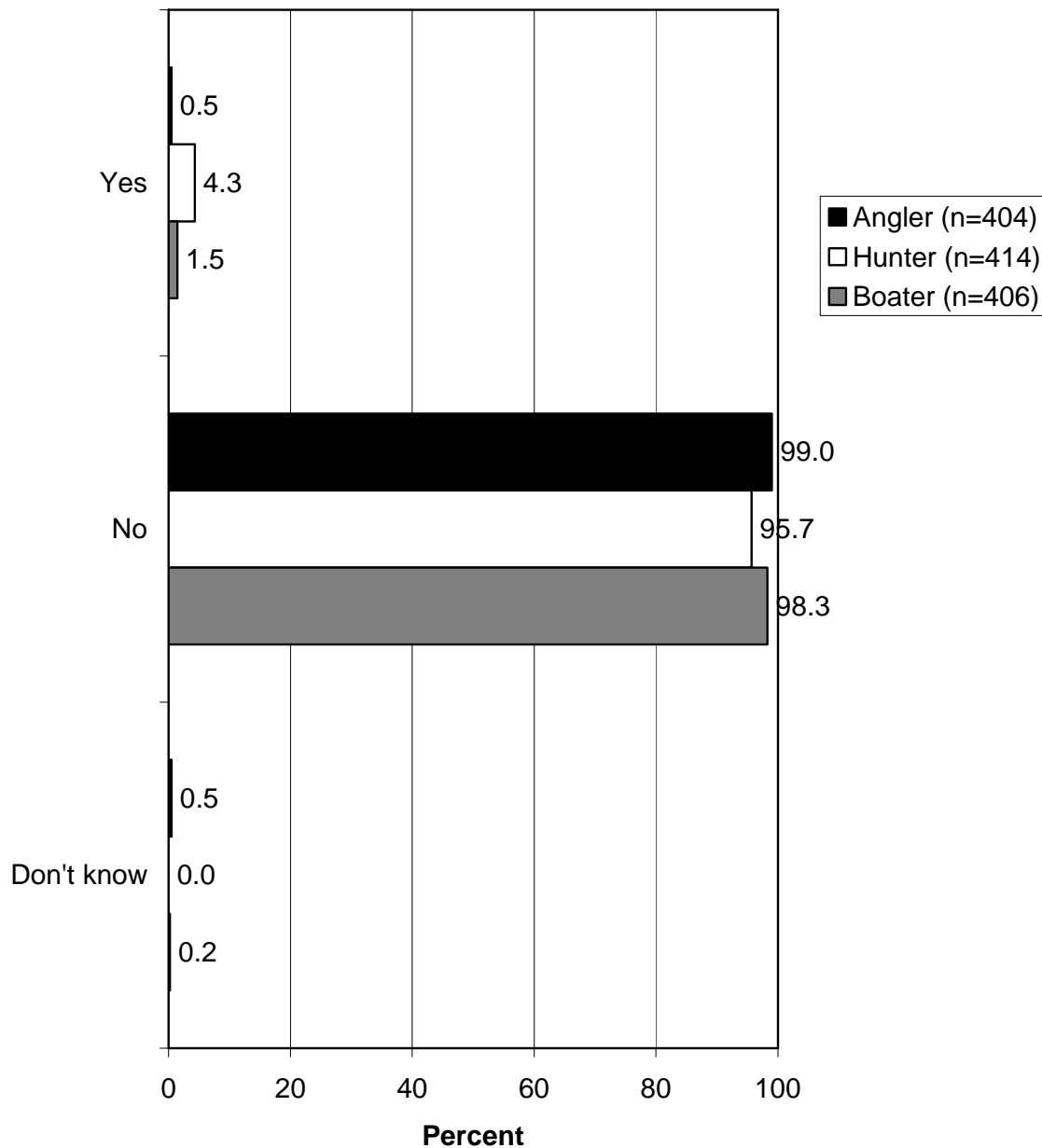
**Q90. Were you satisfied or dissatisfied with the information or assistance you received from the Conservation Police Officer? (Asked of those who requested information or assistance from a Conservation Police Officer in the past 2 years.)**



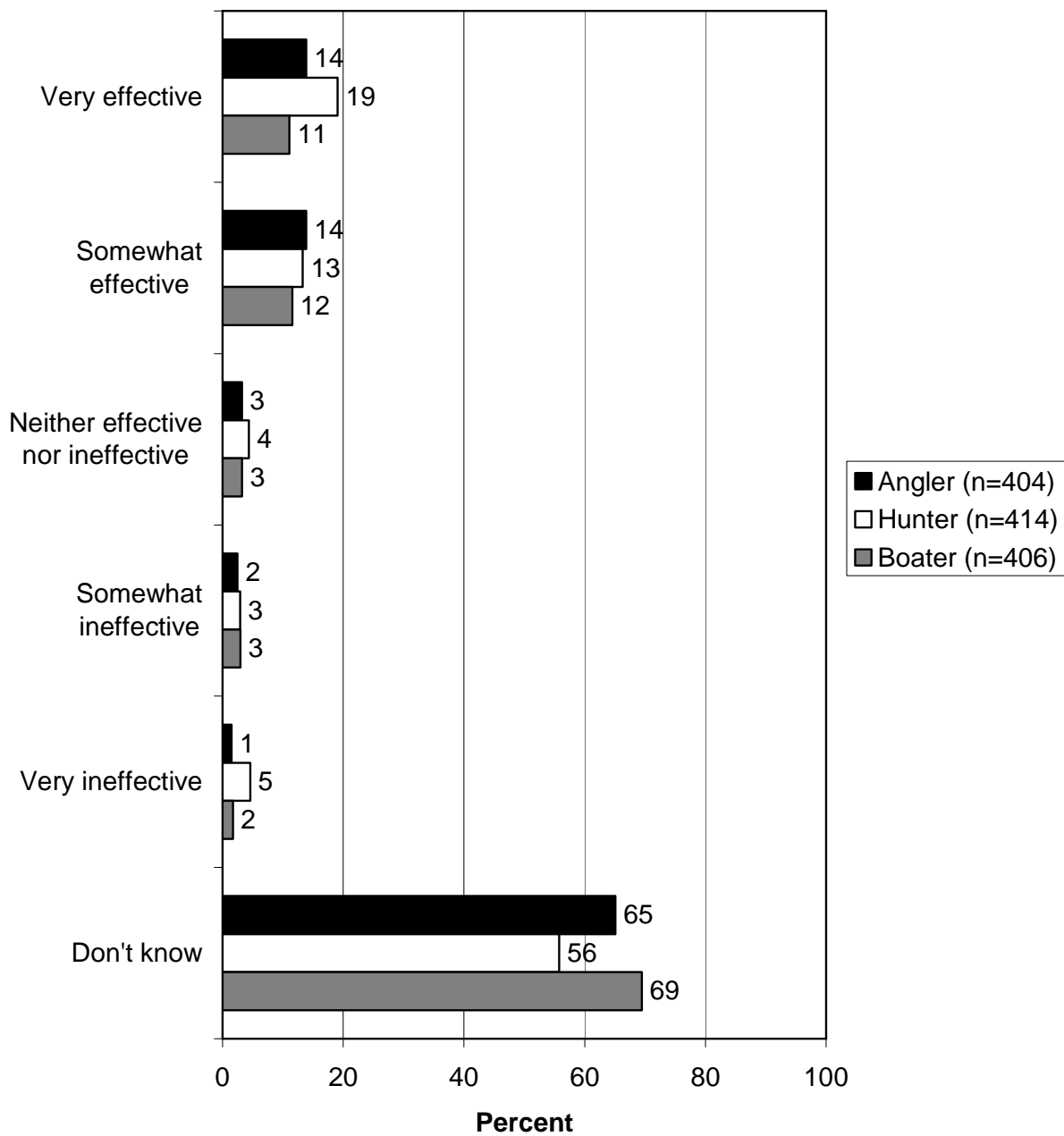
**Q91. Before this survey, had you ever heard of the  
Turn in Poachers, or TIP, program?**



**Q92. As a reminder, the TIP program offers a reward for tips about poaching activity, which can be submitted anonymously via a toll-free telephone line. Have you ever used the TIP program?**



**Q93. In your opinion, how effective is the TIP program?**





## LAW ENFORCEMENT PRESENCE

### LAW ENFORCEMENT PRESENCE IN GENERAL

- Overwhelming majorities of respondents agree that Conservation Police Officers have maintained a sufficient law enforcement presence in Virginia over the past 2 years:
  - Among **anglers**, 77% agree, with 46% *strongly* agreeing;
  - Among **hunters**, 81% agree, with 52% *strongly* agreeing;
  - Among **boaters**, 78% agree, with 48% *strongly* agreeing.
  
- Similarly, most respondents agree that there is a sufficient law enforcement presence on public waterways in Virginia, although a rather substantial percentage of hunters say they are unsure about this:
  - Among **anglers**, 72% agree, with 46% *strongly* agreeing;
  - Among **hunters**, 61% agree, with 40% *strongly* agreeing (note that 31% said they did not know);
  - Among **boaters**, 74% agree, with 48% *strongly* agreeing.
  
- Hunters were asked an additional question concerning the amount of law enforcement presence on public hunting lands in Virginia, and 64% agree that there is a sufficient law enforcement presence on these types of lands (41% *strongly* agree). Just 17% of hunters disagree with this, with a further 16% answering that they do not know.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT PRESENCE DURING VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

- When asked how often they see a Conservation Police Officer patrolling and providing services while in the woods or on a water body in Virginia in the past 2 years, respondents from all three groups most commonly answer “sometimes,” followed by “rarely” and “never”:
  - Among **anglers**, 45% report seeing a Conservation Police Officer “sometimes,” 24% say “rarely,” 18% answer “never,” and just 13% say “always.”
  - Among **hunters**, 42% see a Conservation Police Officer “sometimes,” 30% see one “rarely,” 17% say “never,” and just 9% say “always.”

- Among **boaters**, 46% report seeing a Conservation Police Officer “sometimes,” 23% see one “rarely,” 16% answer “never,” and 12% say “always.”
- Answers vary more widely when anglers, hunters, and boaters are asked how often they see a Conservation Police Officer patrolling and providing services while they are engaging in their preferred activities (i.e., anglers were asked about seeing an officer while fishing, hunters were asked about seeing an officer while hunting):
- Among **anglers**, 40% report seeing a Conservation Police Officer while they are fishing “sometimes,” 25% say “rarely,” 21% answer “never,” and just 13% say “always.”
  - Among **hunters**, 33% see a Conservation Police Officer while they are hunting “sometimes,” 29% see one “rarely,” 32% say “never,” and just 6% say “always.”
  - Among **boaters**, 40% report seeing a Conservation Police Officer while they are boating “sometimes,” 20% see one “rarely,” 20% answer “never,” and 15% say “always.”
- Boaters were asked an additional question concerning how often they see Conservation Police Officers patrolling and providing services while boating at their most-preferred body of water: they most commonly answer that they see Conservation Police Officers “somewhat often” (35%), followed by “rarely” (20%), “never” (20%), and “very often” (18%).

## DESIRED AMOUNT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT PRESENCE

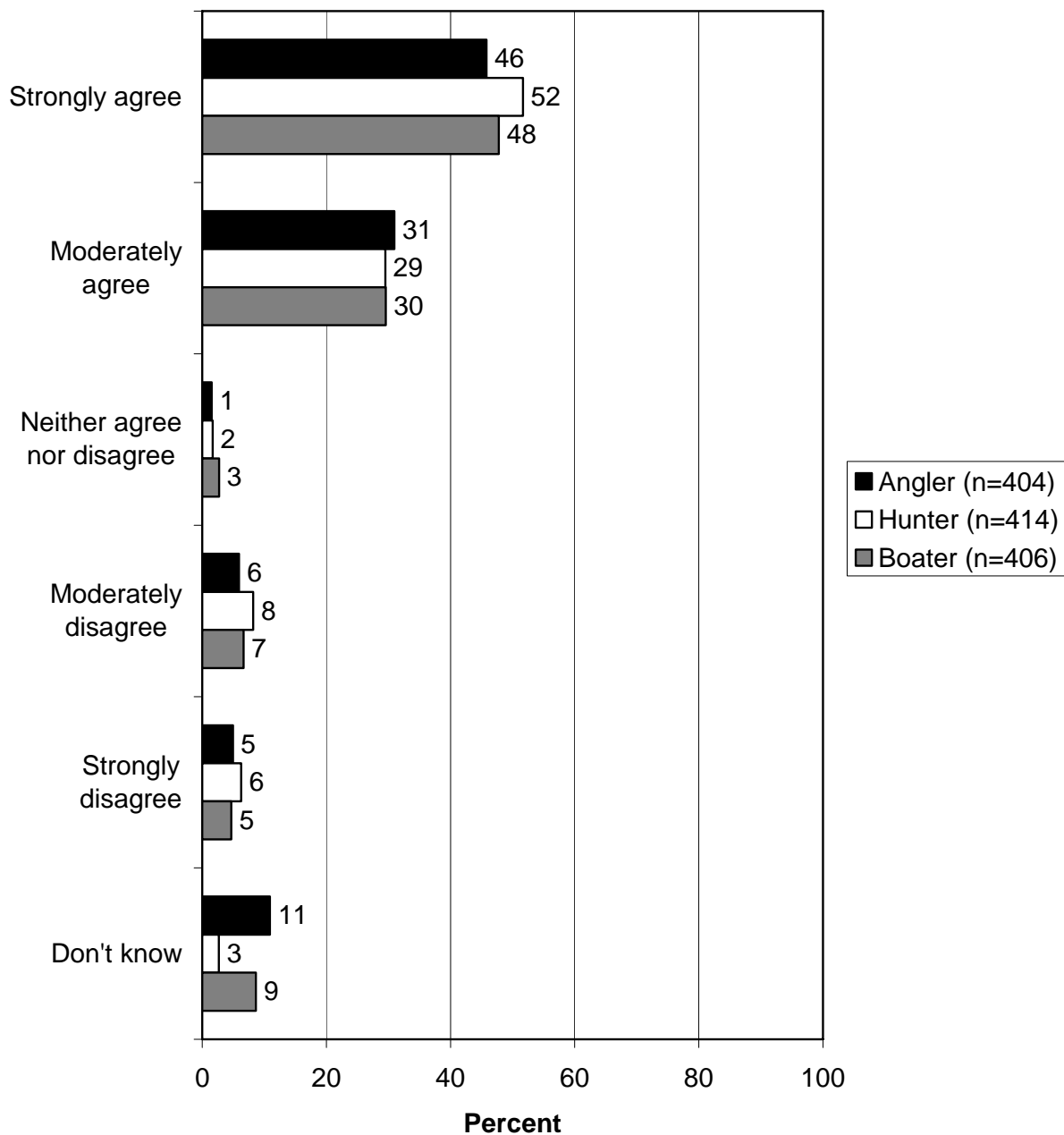
- Respondents across the three groups are split between wanting to see more Conservation Police Officers *in their county* or wanting to see the same amount:
- Among **anglers**, 41% would like to see more officers and 49% would like to see the same amount;
  - Among **hunters**, 47% would like to see more officers and 41% would like to see the same amount;
  - Among **boaters**, 41% would like to see more officers and 47% would like to see the same amount.

- When asked whether they would like to see more, the same number, or fewer Conservation Police Officers *in general in Virginia*, anglers and boaters are again split between wanting more and the same amount, while hunters would generally prefer to see more officers:
  - Among **anglers**, 43% would like to see more officers and 43% would like to see the same amount;
  - Among **hunters**, 54% would like to see more officers, while 35% would like to see the same amount;
  - Among **boaters**, 45% would like to see more officers and 42% would like to see the same amount.
  
- When asked whether they would like to see more, the same number, or fewer Conservation Police Officers *while they are engaging in fishing, hunting, or boating* (as before, each respondent group was asked about its preferred activity), anglers and boaters most commonly answer that they would like to see the same amount, while hunters are generally split between preferring more officers or the same amount of officers:
  - Among **anglers**, 38% would like to see more officers, while 52% would like to see the same amount;
  - Among **hunters**, 44% would like to see more officers and 45% would like to see the same amount;
  - Among **boaters**, 39% would like to see more officers, while 50% would like to see the same amount.
  
- Boaters were asked two follow-up questions regarding the law enforcement presence on their most-preferred bodies of water for boating:
  - A majority of boaters (71%) agree that Virginia has maintained a sufficient Conservation Police Officer presence on their most-preferred water body for boating (43% *strongly* agree);
  - A slight majority of boaters (56%) say there is generally the right number of Conservation Police Officers at their most-preferred water body for boating, while about a third (34%) say there are too few.

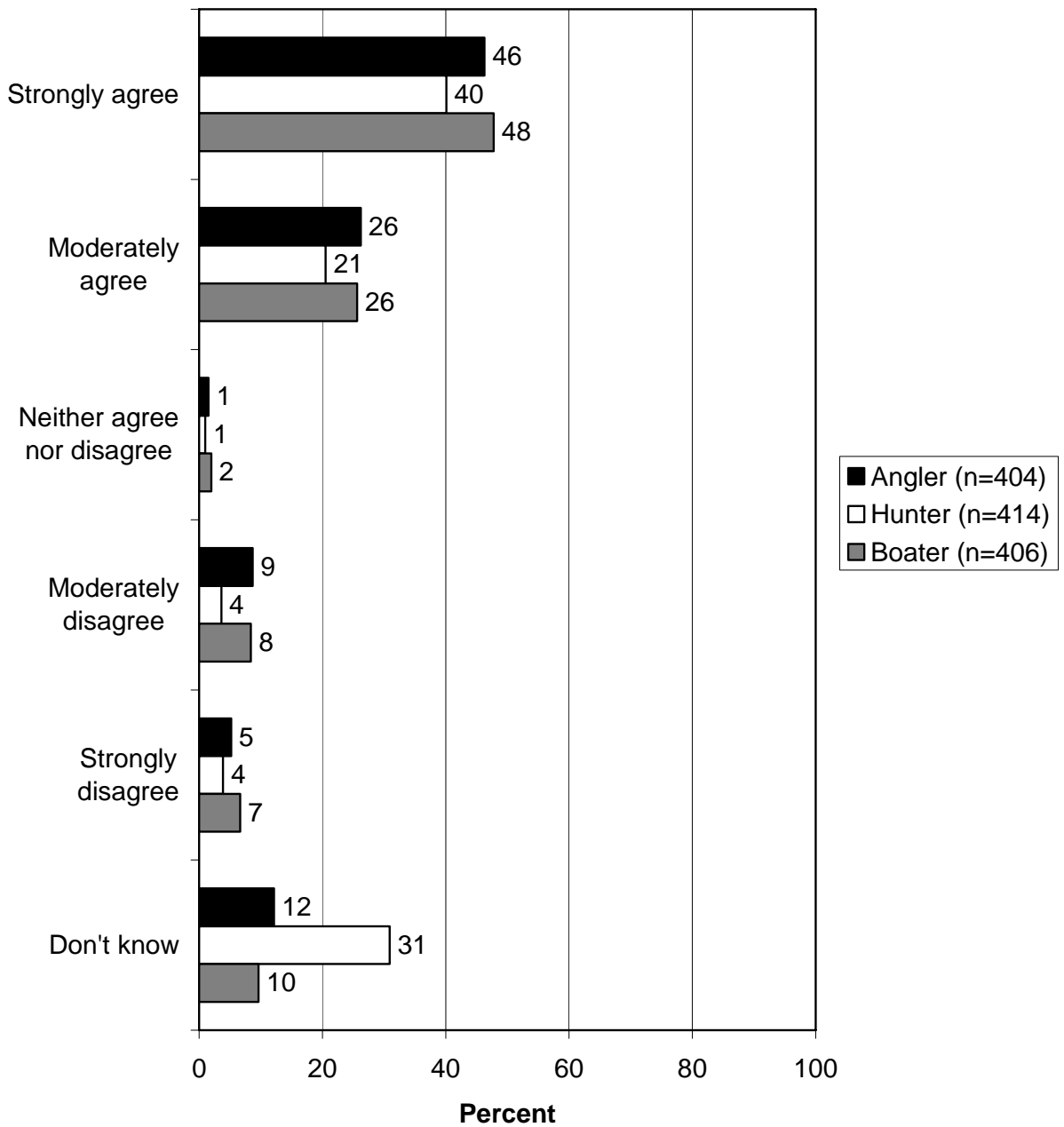
**LEVEL OF ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS IN GENERAL**

- When asked whether Conservation Police Officers have been too strict, about right, or too easy in their enforcement of fishing, hunting, and boating laws in Virginia over the past 2 years, large majorities of respondents from all three groups most commonly say that officers have been about right, although notable percentages say that they are unsure:
  - Among **anglers**, 67% say Conservation Police Officers have been about right in their enforcement of fishing laws, while 19% say they do not know;
  - Among **hunters**, 62% say Conservation Police Officers have been about right in their enforcement of hunting laws, while 22% say they do not know;
  - Among **boaters**, 65% say Conservation Police Officers have been about right in their enforcement of boating laws, while 20% say they do not know.
  
- When asked whether Conservation Police Officers stop and check anglers, hunters, and boaters too often, about the right amount, or not often enough while enforcing fishing, hunting, and boating laws, most respondents say that officers check people the right amount, although substantial percentages say that officers do not check people enough, or that they are unsure:
  - Among **anglers**, 64% say Conservation Police Officers check anglers the right amount, while 19% say Officers do not check often enough, and 12% don't know;
  - Among **hunters**, 57% say Conservation Police Officers check hunters the right amount, while 25% say Officers do not check often enough, and 14% don't know;
  - Among **boaters**, 62% say Conservation Police Officers check boaters the right amount, while 18% say Officers do not check often enough, and 14% don't know.

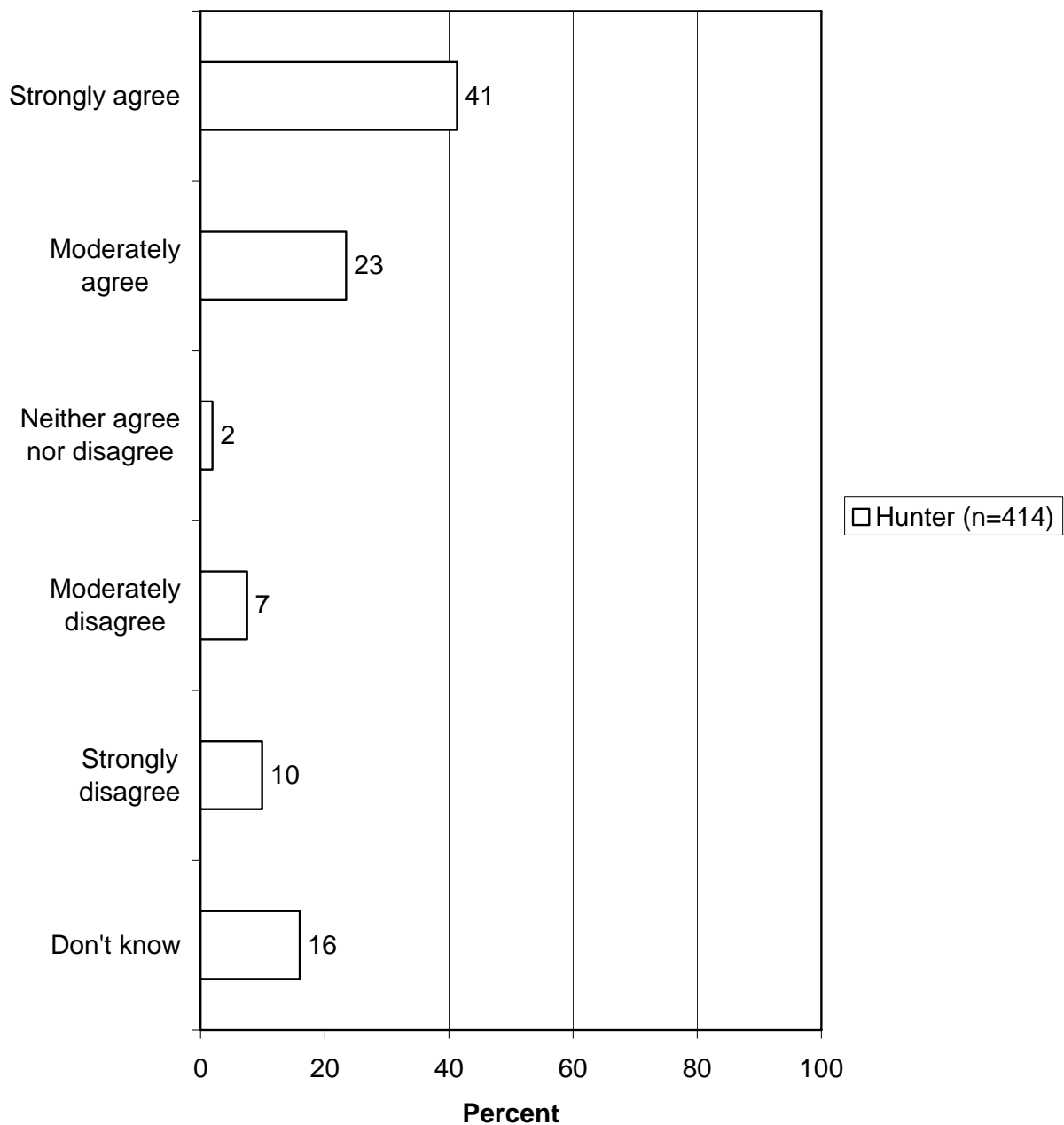
**Q94. Do you agree or disagree that Conservation Police Officers have maintained a sufficient law enforcement presence in Virginia over the past 2 years?**



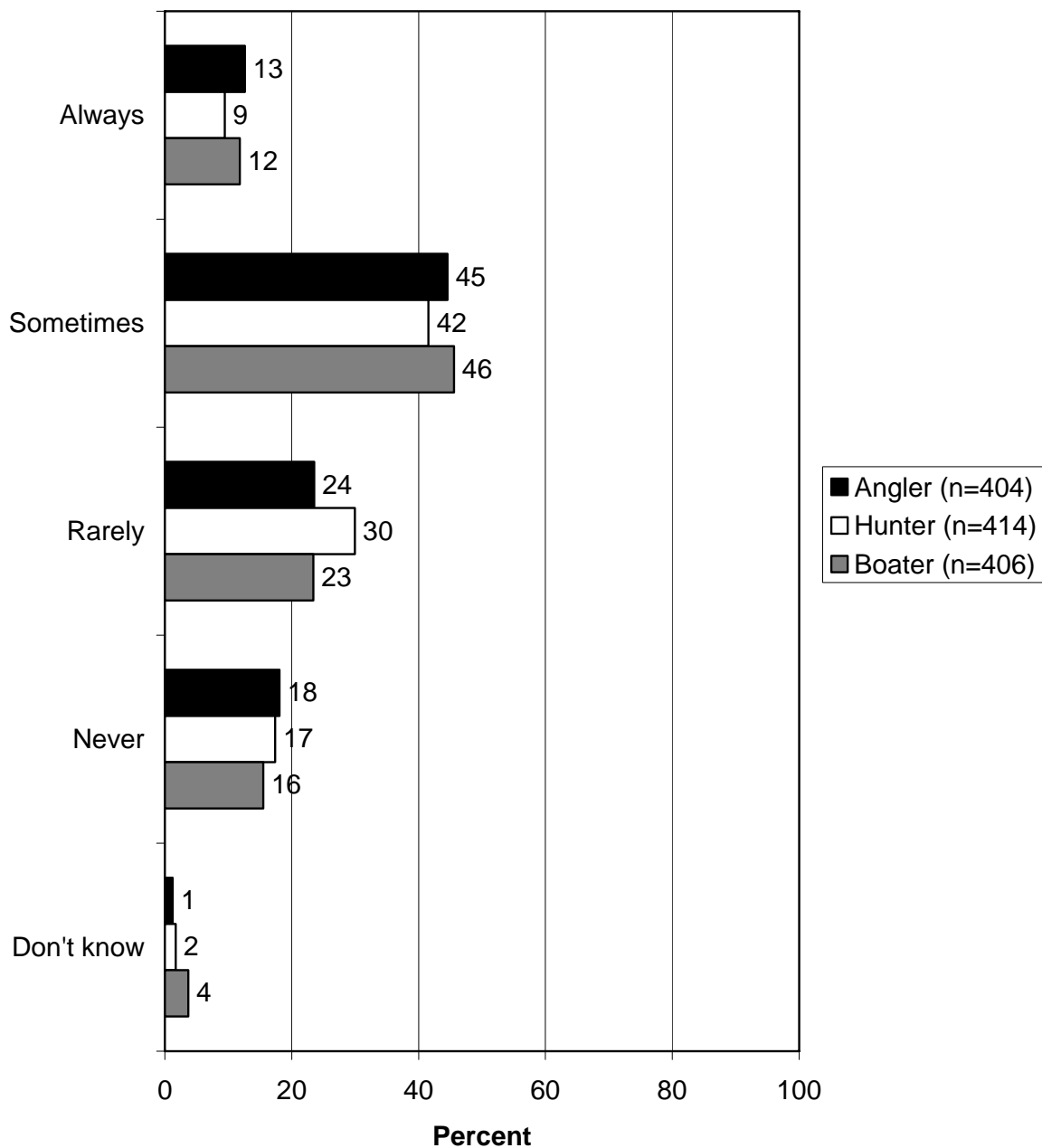
**Q95. Do you agree or disagree that there is a sufficient law enforcement presence on public waterways in Virginia?**



**Q96. Do you agree or disagree that there is a sufficient law enforcement presence on public hunting lands in Virginia? (Asked of those in the hunter group.)**

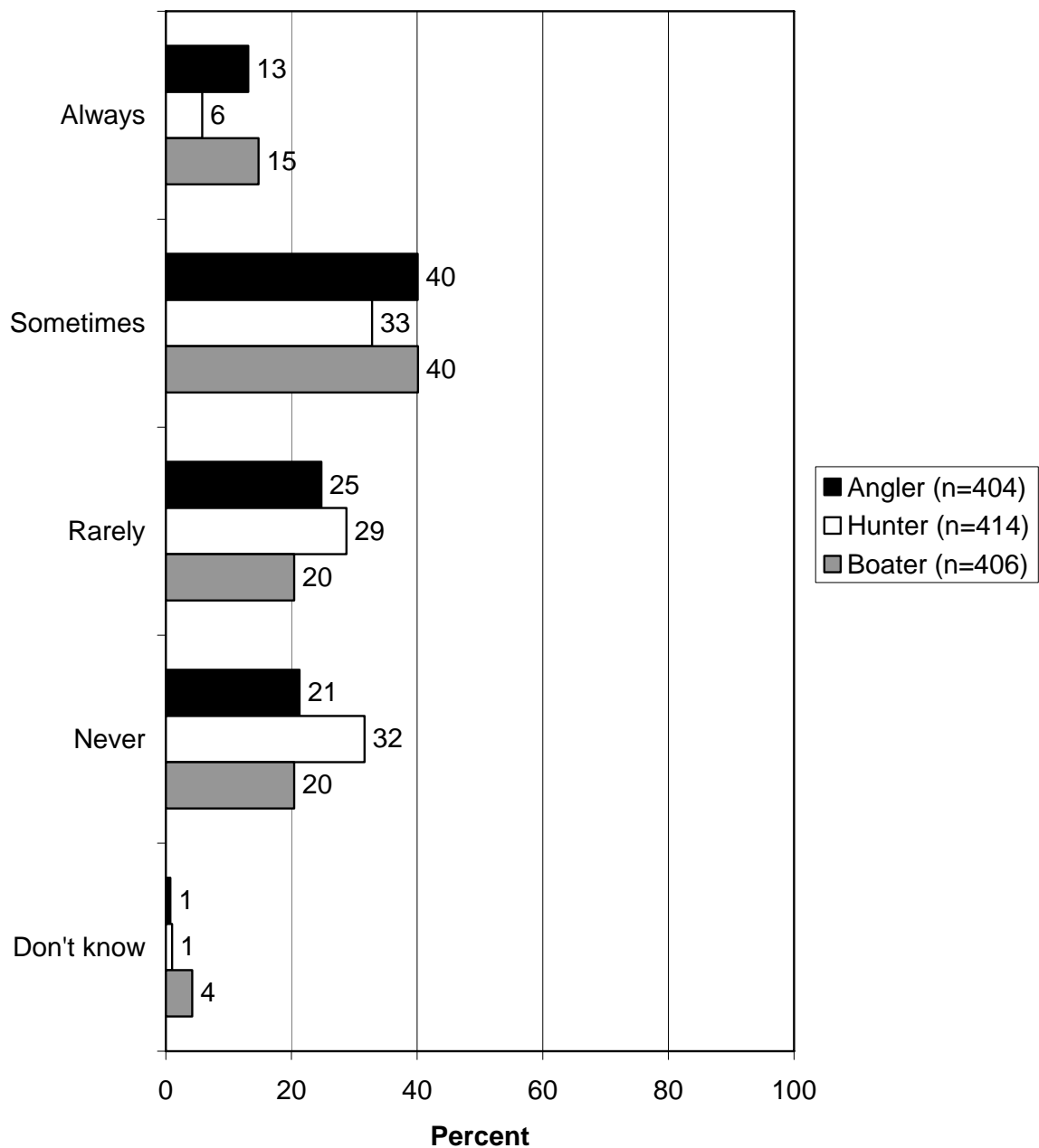


**Q97. How often did you see a Conservation Police Officer patrolling and providing services while you were in the woods or at a water body in Virginia in the past 2 years?**

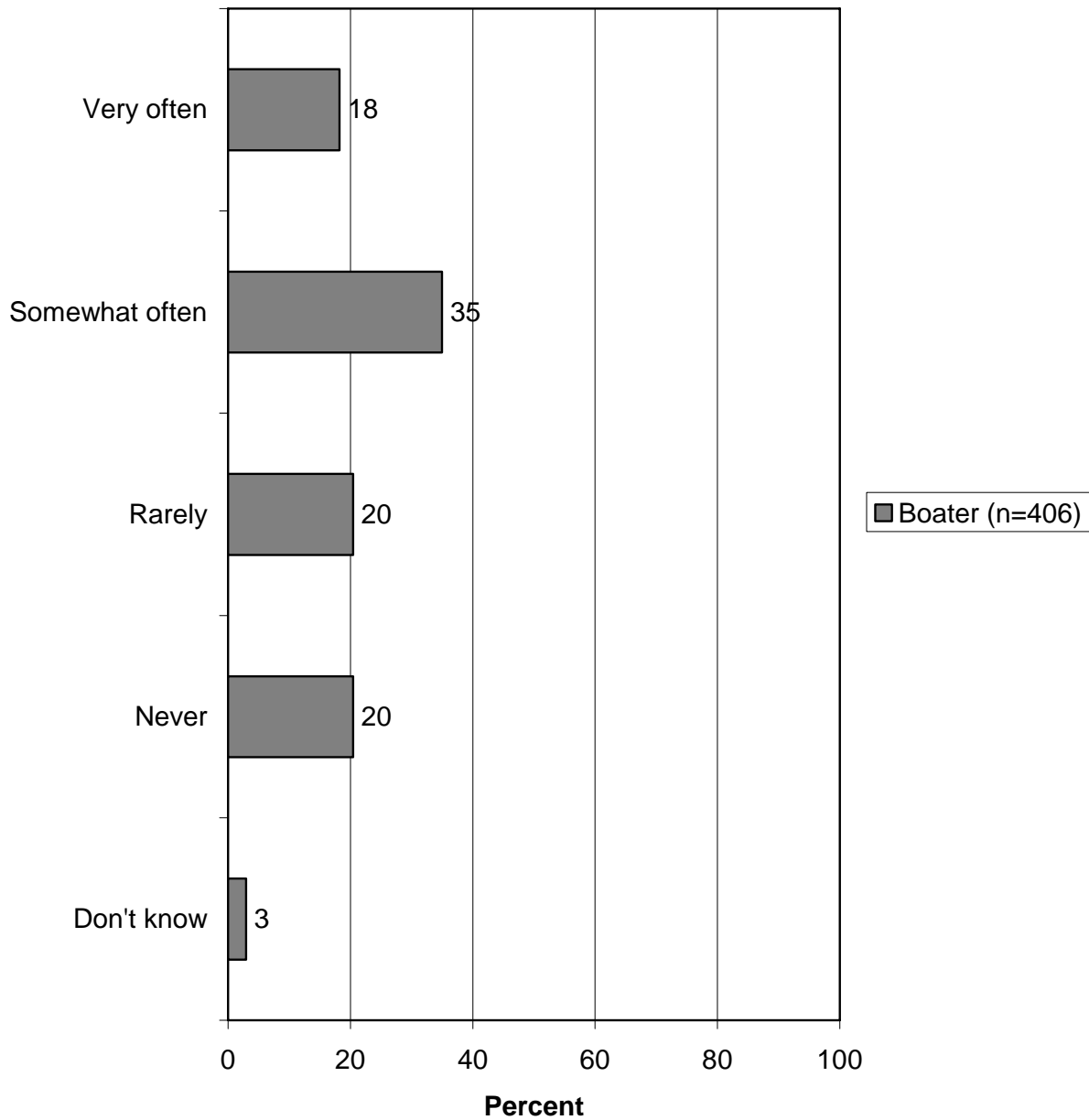




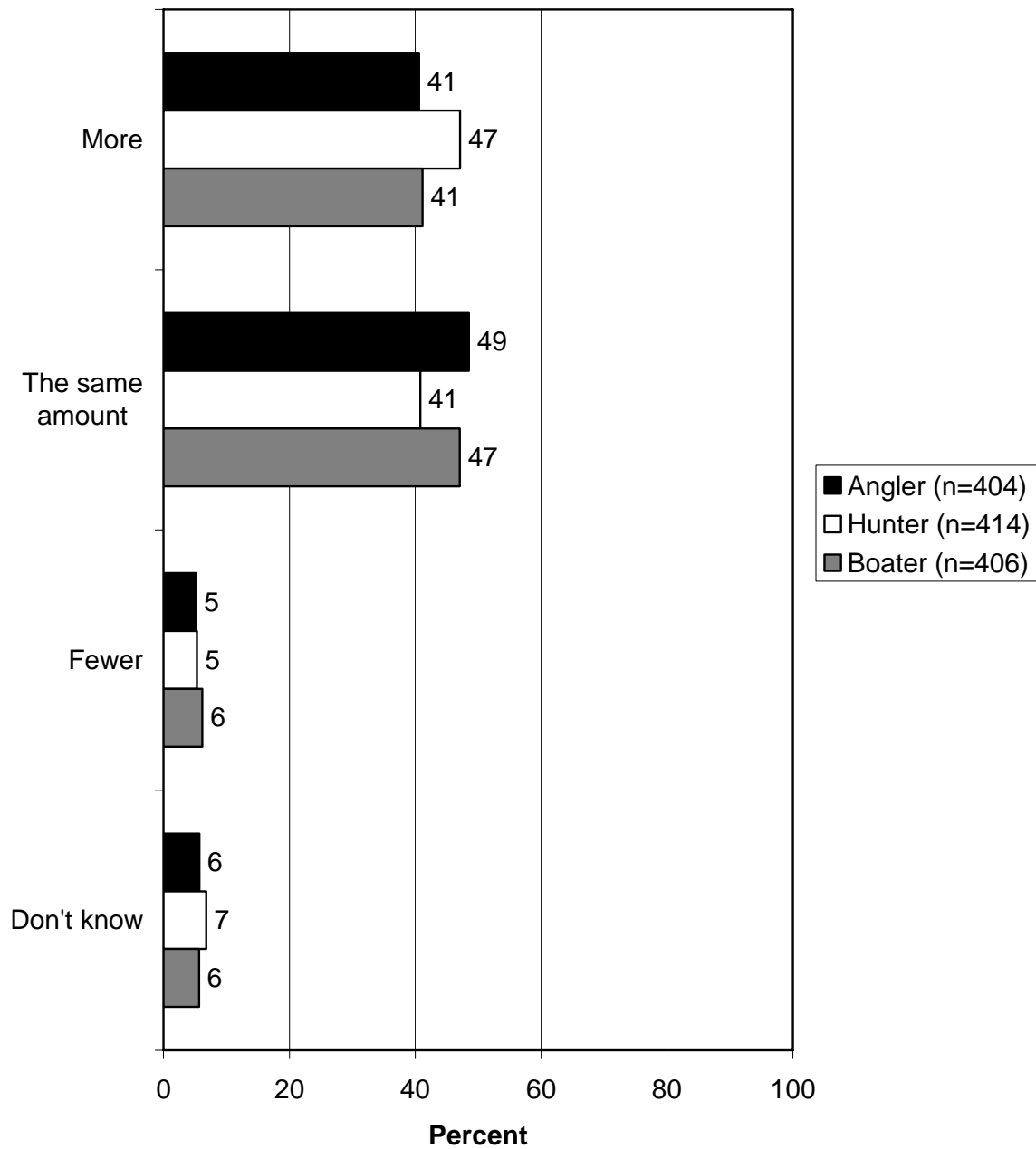
**Q98/99/100. How often did you see a Conservation Police Officer patrolling and providing services while you were (fishing/hunting/boating) in Virginia in the past 2 years?**



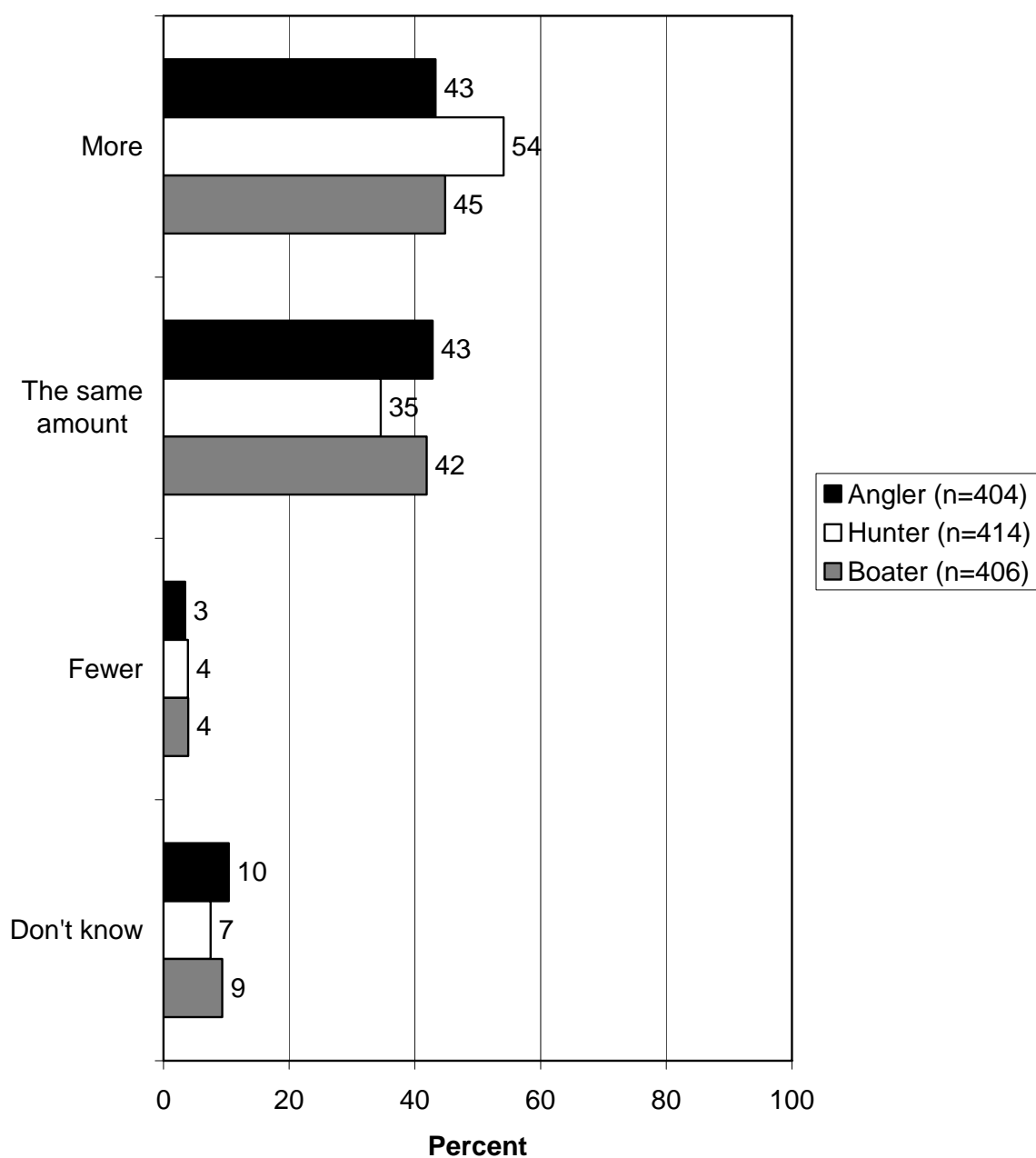
**Q101. How often did you see a Conservation Police Officer patrolling and providing services while you were boating at the body of water where you boated most often in the past 2 years? (Asked of those in the boater group.)**



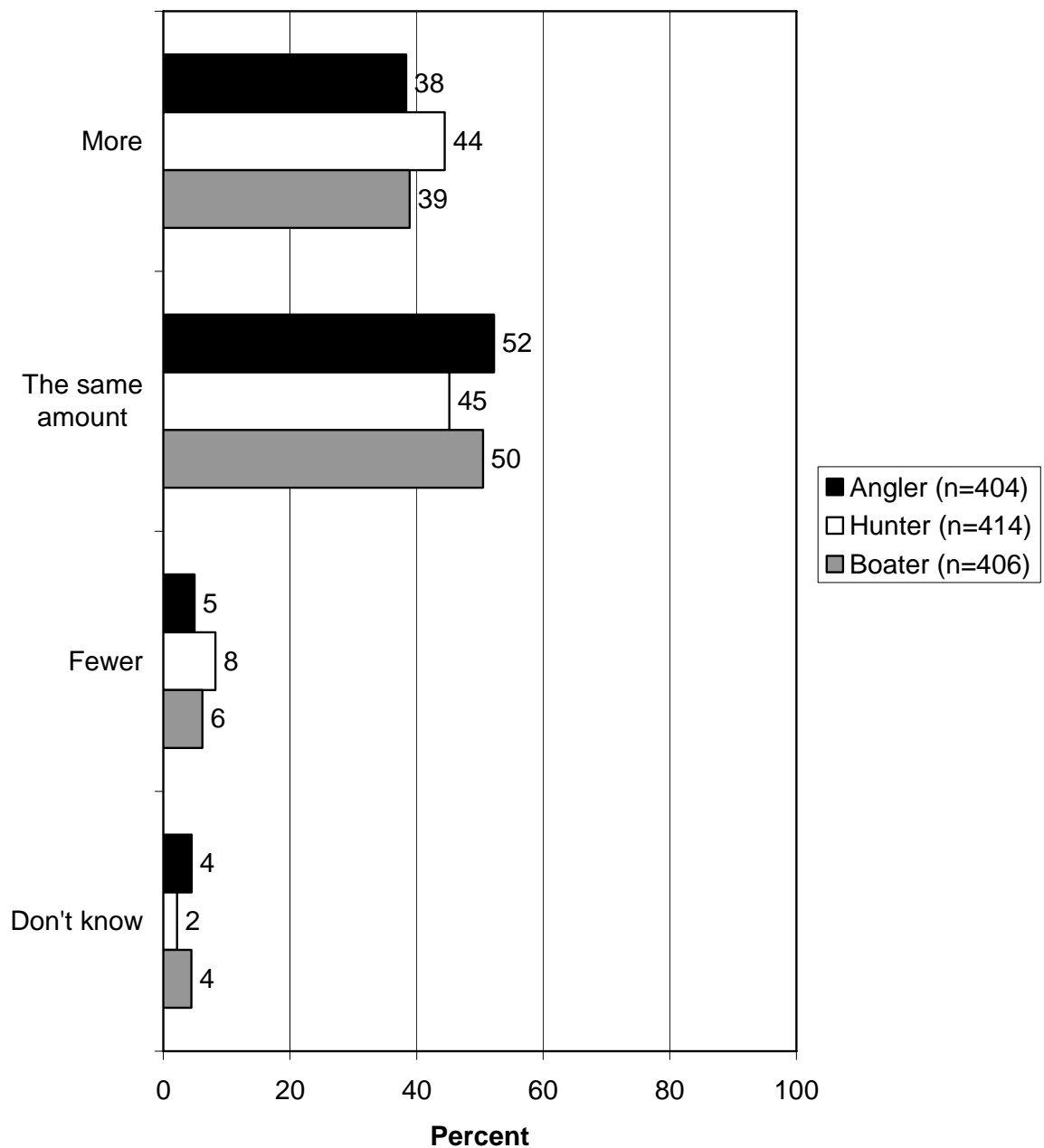
**Q102. Would you like to see more, the same number, or fewer Conservation Police Officers in general in your county?**



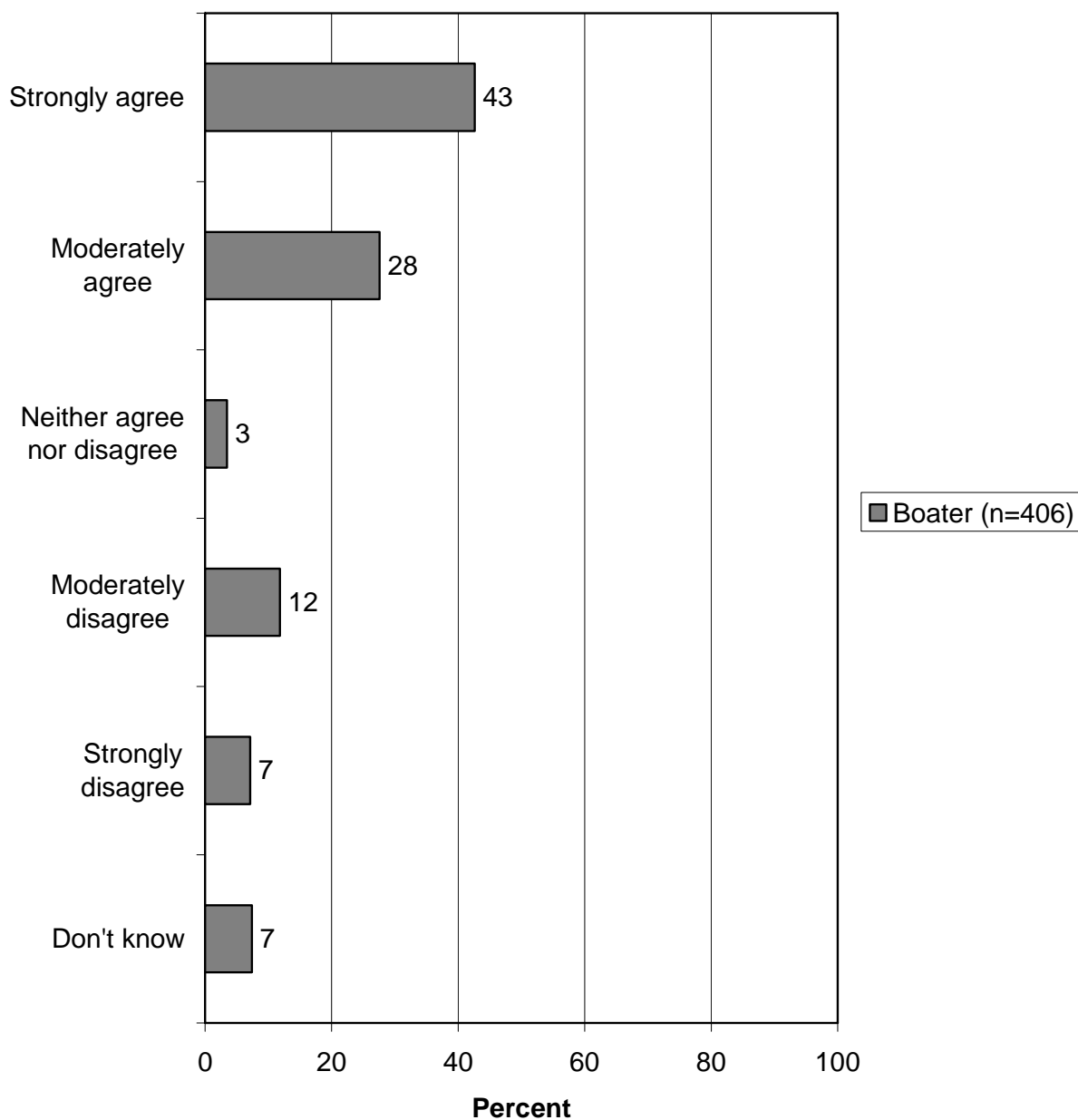
**Q103. Would you like to see more, the same number, or fewer Conservation Police Officers in general in Virginia?**



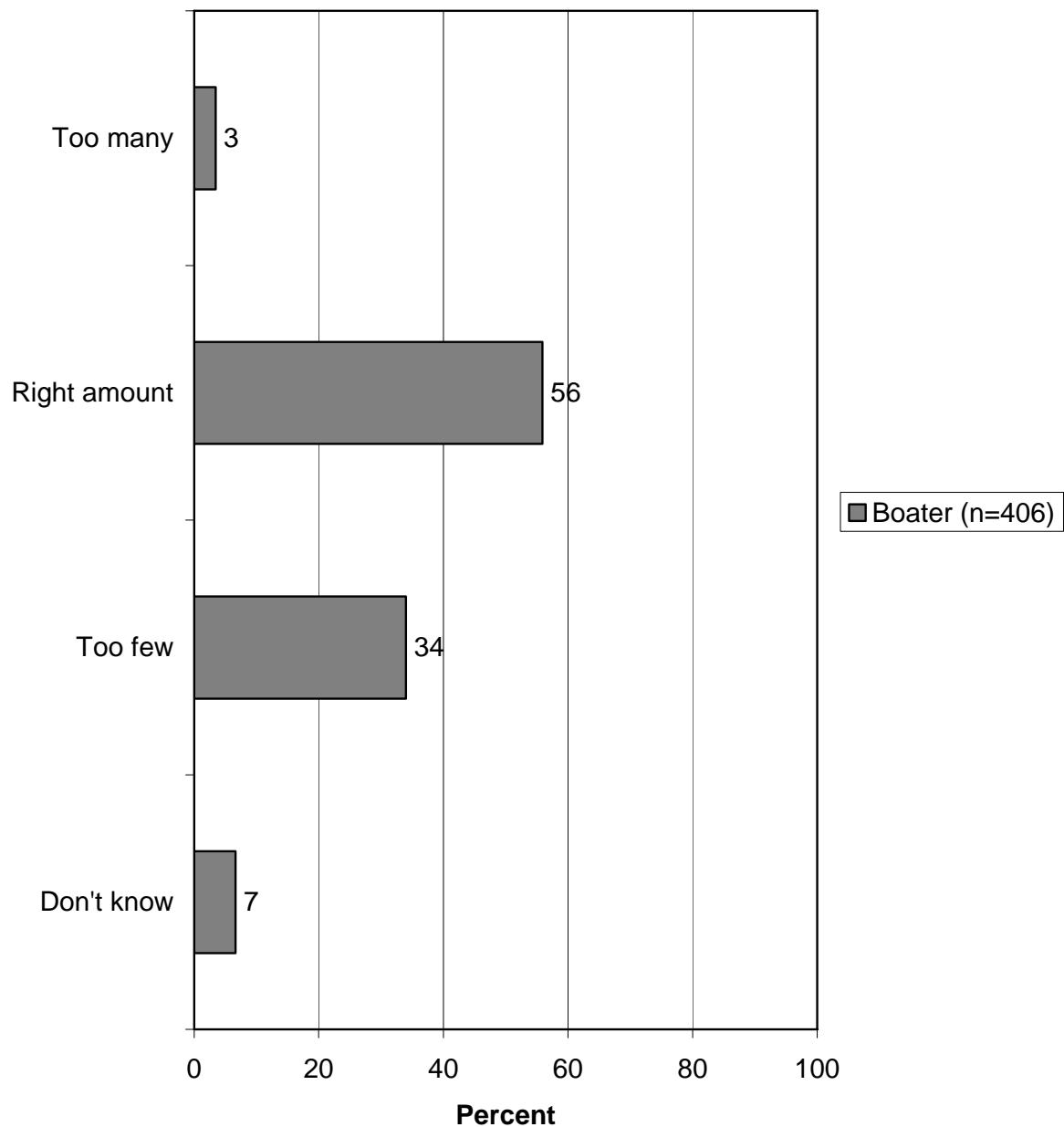
**Q104/105/106. Would you like to see more, the same number, or fewer Conservation Police Officers while you are (fishing/hunting/boating) in Virginia?**



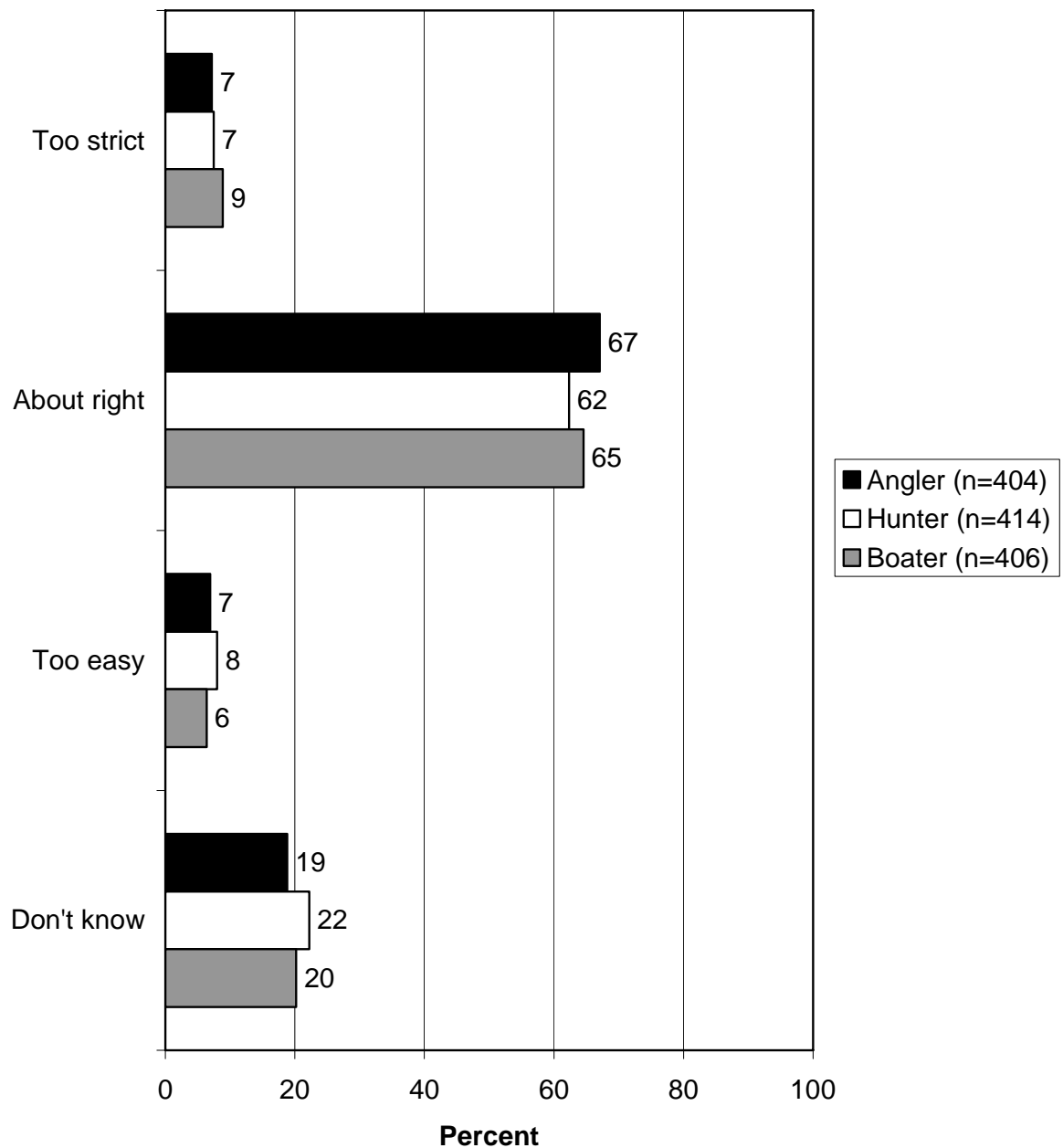
**Q107. In the past 2 years, do you agree or disagree that Virginia has maintained a sufficient Conservation Police Officer presence on the body of water on which you boated most often? (Asked of those in the boater group.)**



**Q108. In your opinion, are there, in general, too many, too few, or the right number of Conservation Police Officers at the body of water where you boated most often? (Asked of those in the boater group.)**

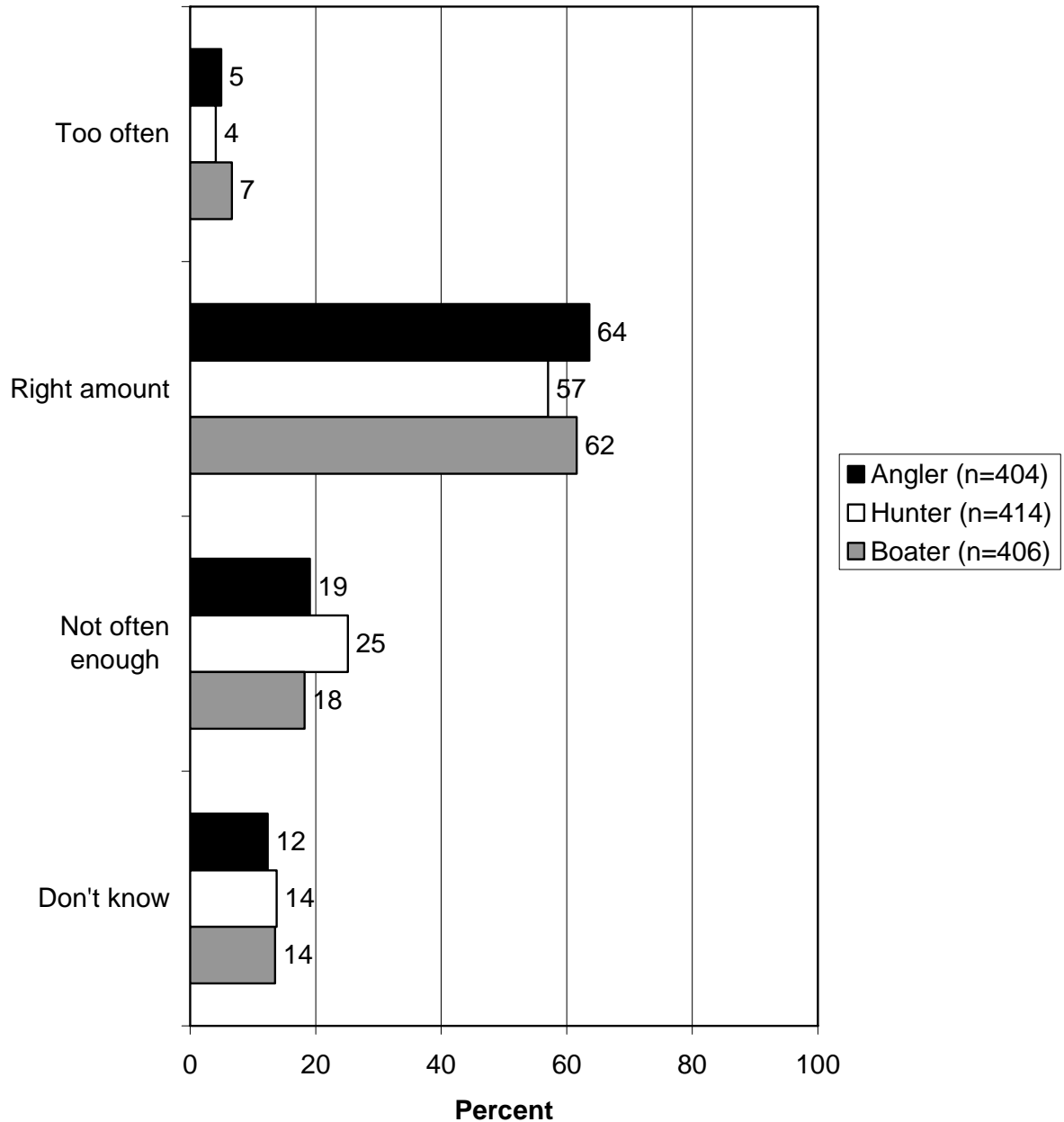


**Q109/110/111. In your opinion, have Conservation Police Officers been too strict, about right, or too easy in their enforcement of (fishing/hunting/boating) laws in Virginia over the past 2 years?**





**Q112/113/114. Do you think that Conservation Police Officers stop and check (anglers/hunters/boaters) too often, about the right amount, or not often enough while enforcing (fishing/hunting/boating) laws?**



## OPINIONS ON CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICERS

### PERCEIVED NUMBER OF CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICERS IN VIRGINIA

- When asked how many Conservation Police Officers they think are assigned to their county, all three respondent groups most commonly answer that they do not know, although hunters are more likely than anglers and boaters to give a specific number (most commonly answering 1 or 2 officers).
  - The median number of officers **anglers** believe are assigned to their county is 4 officers;
  - The median number of officers **hunters** believe are assigned to their county is 2 officers;
  - The median number of officers **boaters** believe are assigned to their county is 3 officers.
- When asked how many Conservation Police Officers they think are on duty at any given time in their county, anglers and boaters most commonly answer that they do not know, while hunters most commonly say that there is 1 officer on duty in their county.
  - The median number of officers **anglers** believe are on duty at any given time in their county is 2 officers;
  - The median number of officers **hunters** believe are on duty at any given time in their county is 1.5 officers;
  - The median number of officers **boaters** believe are on duty at any given time in their county is 2 officers.
- When asked how many Conservation Police Officers they think are in Virginia, majorities of all three respondent groups (54% of anglers, 55% of hunters, and 56% of boaters) say that they are unsure.
  - The median number of officers **anglers** think are in Virginia is 150 officers;
  - The median number of officers **hunters** think are in Virginia is 122.5 officers;
  - The median number of officers **boaters** think are in Virginia is 200 officers.
- Anglers and boaters most commonly say that their county has about the right number of Conservation Police Officers, while hunters most commonly answer that their county has too few Conservation Police Officers:

- Among **anglers**, 41% say that their county has the right amount of officers, 35% say that it has too few, and 21% are unsure;
  - Among **hunters**, 38% say that their county has the right amount of officers, compared to 45% who say that it has too few; a further 15% are unsure;
  - Among **boaters**, 43% say that their county has the right amount of officers, 38% say that it has too few, and 17% are unsure.
- When asked whether they thought the state of Virginia as a whole has too many, the right number, or too few Conservation Police Officers, respondents are generally split between thinking the state has the right amount, thinking it has too few, or simply not being sure:
- Among **anglers**, 32% say that the state has the right amount of officers, 35% say that it has too few, and 30% are unsure;
  - Among **hunters**, 32% say that the state has the right amount of officers, 44% say that it has too few, and 21% are unsure;
  - Among **boaters**, 34% say that their county has the right amount of officers, 38% say that it has too few, and 27% are unsure.

## PERCEPTIONS OF THE JOB OF CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICER

- Large majorities of the three respondent groups think that the job of a Virginia Conservation Police Officer is dangerous, with hunters being the most likely to think that the job is *very* dangerous as opposed to *moderately* dangerous:
- Among **anglers**, 79% believe the job of a Virginia Conservation Police Officer is dangerous, with 38% saying it is *very* dangerous;
  - Among **hunters**, 86% believe the job of a Virginia Conservation Police Officer is dangerous, with 51% saying it is *very* dangerous;
  - Among **boaters**, 81% believe the job of a Virginia Conservation Police Officer is dangerous, with 37% saying it is *very* dangerous.
- Similarly, overwhelming majorities of the three respondent groups think that the job of a Virginia Conservation Police Officer is difficult, with hunters again being the most likely to think that the job is *very* difficult as opposed to *moderately* difficult:

- Among **anglers**, 81% believe the job of a Virginia Conservation Police Officer is difficult, with 37% saying it is *very* difficult;
- Among **hunters**, 84% believe the job of a Virginia Conservation Police Officer is difficult, with 48% saying it is *very* difficult;
- Among **boaters**, 79% believe the job of a Virginia Conservation Police Officer is difficult, with 36% saying it is *very* difficult.

## PERCEPTIONS OF CONDUCT OF CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICERS

- The vast majority of respondents to the survey agree that Conservation Police Officers generally perform their duties in a professional manner:
  - Among **anglers**, 92% agree with this, with 71% *strongly* agreeing;
  - Among **hunters**, 93% agree with this, with 68% *strongly* agreeing;
  - Among **boaters**, 91% agree with this, with 69% *strongly* agreeing.
- Those respondents who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer in the 2 years prior to the survey were asked a series of follow-up questions regarding the conduct of the officers with whom they had contact:
  - 96% of **anglers**, 97% of **hunters**, and 97% of **boaters** agree that the Conservation Police Officers with whom they had contact were professional (note that most agreement is *strong*);
  - 96% of **anglers**, 96% of **hunters**, and 96% of **boaters** agree that the Conservation Police Officers with whom they had contact were courteous (note that most agreement is *strong*);
  - 90% of **anglers**, 97% of **hunters**, and 94% of **boaters** agree that the Conservation Police Officers with whom they had contact were knowledgeable (note that most agreement is *strong*);
  - 87% of **anglers**, 87% of **hunters**, and 91% of **boaters** disagree that the uniforms of the Conservation Police Officers with whom they had contact were intimidating (note that most disagreement is *strong*);

- 89% of **anglers**, 94% of **hunters**, and 97% of **boaters** agree that the uniforms of the Conservation Police Officers with whom they had contact were appropriate (note that most agreement is *strong*).

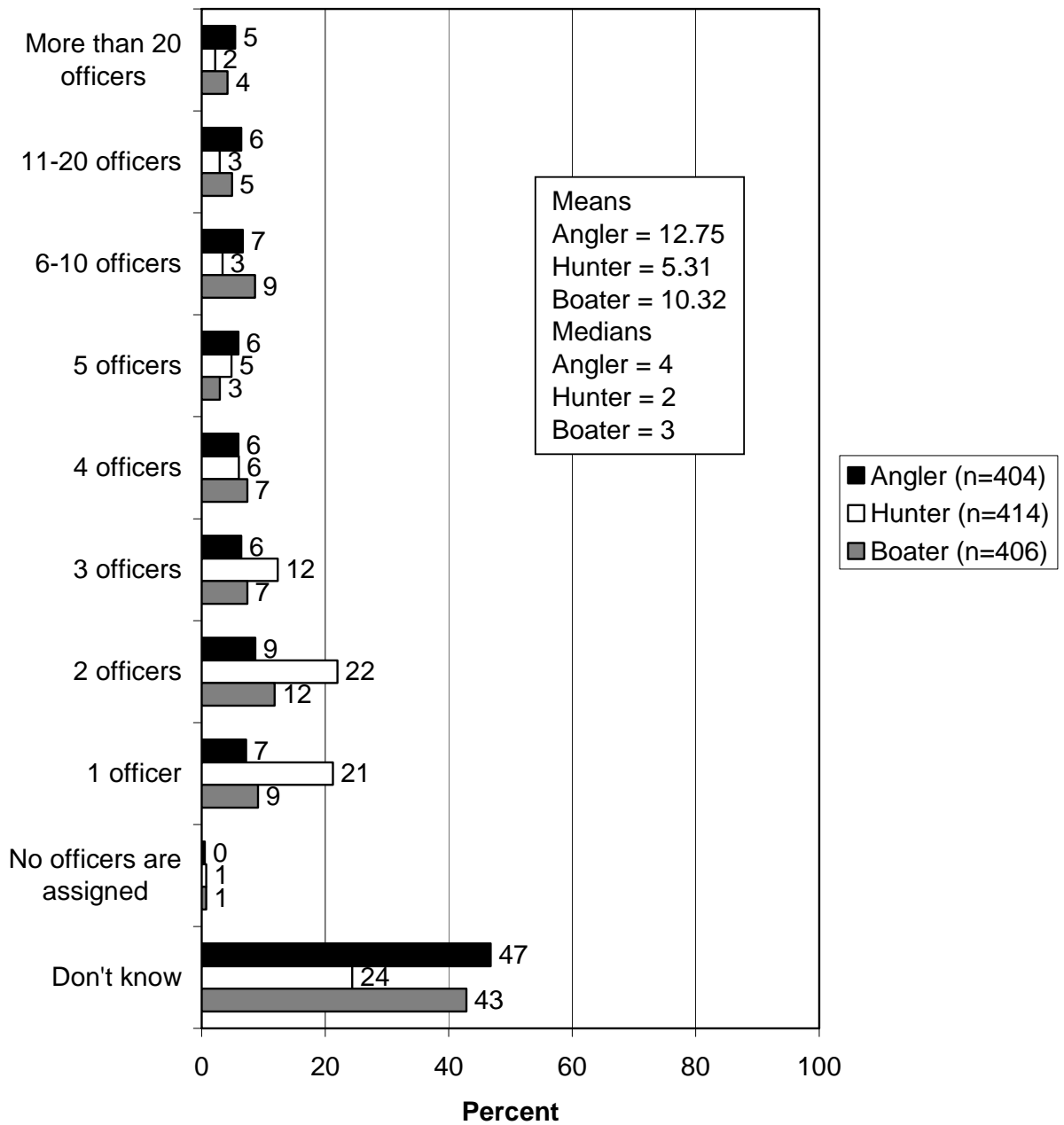
## PERCEPTIONS OF AUTHORITY OF CONSERVATION POLICE OFFICERS

- Asked whether Conservation Police Officers have too much authority, about the right amount of authority, or not enough authority, overwhelming majorities of all three respondent groups (84% of **anglers**, 85% of **hunters**, and 83% of **boaters**) say that Conservation Police Officers have the right amount.
- Asked whether Conservation Police Officers should have more, the same, or less authority on private lands as they do on public lands when enforcing hunting, fishing, and boating laws, respondents most commonly answer that officers should have the same amount, although sizeable percentages think that officers should have less authority on private lands:
  - 50% of **anglers** think that Conservation Police Officers should have the same amount of authority on private lands as they do on public lands, while 33% think that officers should have less authority on private lands (14% say they should have much less authority on private lands);
  - 56% of **hunters** think that Conservation Police Officers should have the same amount of authority on private lands as they do on public lands, while 27% think that officers should have less authority on private lands (12% say they should have much less authority on private lands);
  - 53% of **boaters** think that Conservation Police Officers should have the same amount of authority on private lands as they do on public lands, while 30% think that officers should have less authority on private lands (16% say they should have much less authority on private lands).
- Respondents were given three scenarios regarding when Conservation Police Officers should be able to stop and check a person in an outdoor area in Virginia, and asked which scenario came closest to their opinion. The scenarios included officers being able to check people at any time, only when they have a reasonable suspicion that a fishing or wildlife violation has

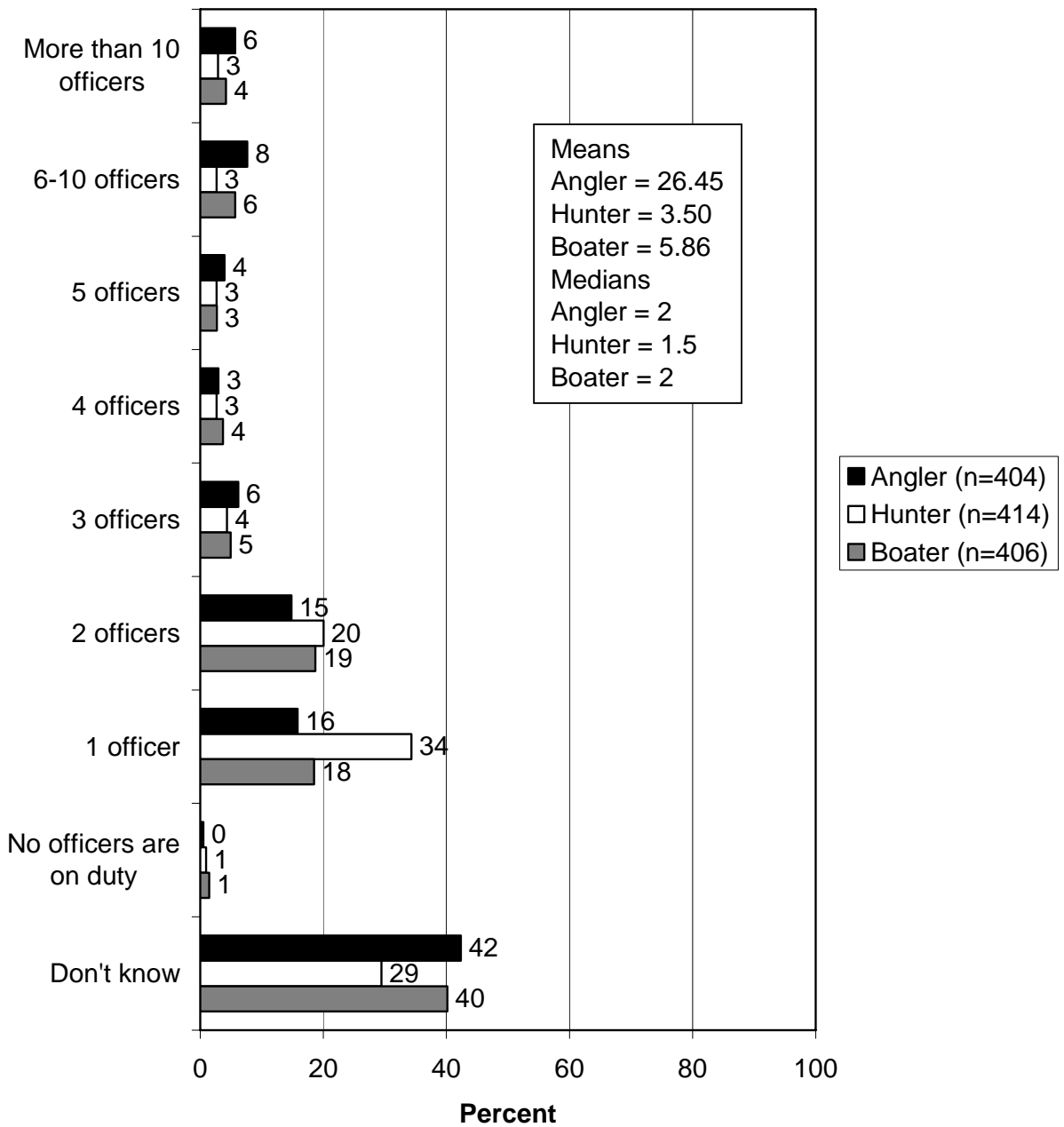
occurred, only when they have observed a fishing or wildlife violation, or never being able to stop and check people. The most common preference is for officers to be able to stop people only when they have a reasonable suspicion that a fishing or wildlife violation has occurred (50% of **anglers**, 57% of **hunters**, and 59% of **boaters** give this answer), followed by the preference for officers to be able to stop people at any time (35% of **anglers**, 31% of **hunters**, and 28% of **boaters** give this answer).

- A similar question asked respondents when Conservation Police Officers should be able to stop and check a person *with a firearm* in an outdoor area in Virginia (again, the scenarios included officers being able to check people with firearms at any time, only when they have a reasonable suspicion that a fishing or wildlife violation has occurred, only when they have observed a fishing or wildlife violation, or never being able to stop and check people with firearms). In this question, the most common preference is for officers to be able to stop people with firearms at any time (50% of **anglers**, 49% of **hunters**, and 51% of **boaters** give this answer), followed by the preference for officers to be able to stop people with firearms only when they have a reasonable suspicion that a fishing or wildlife violation has occurred (37% of **anglers**, 40% of **hunters**, and 39% of **boaters** give this answer).
- Overwhelming majorities of all three respondent groups support Conservation Police Officers having full police powers: 85% of **anglers**, 87% of **hunters**, and 88% of **boaters** support this; in all cases, most support is *strong*.

**Q115. About how many Conservation Police Officers do you think are assigned to your county?**

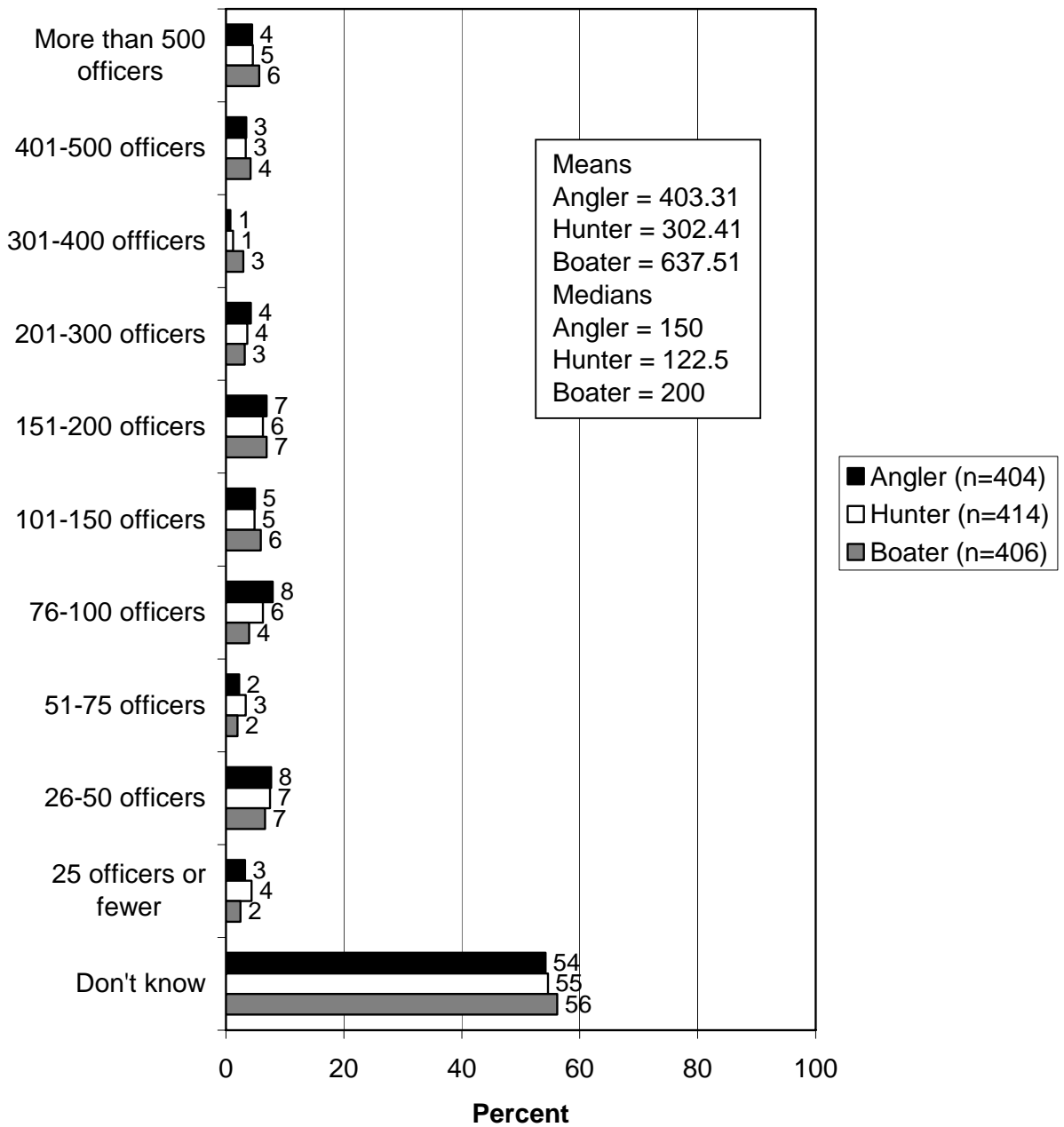


**Q118. About how many Conservation Police Officers do you think are on duty at any given time in your county?**

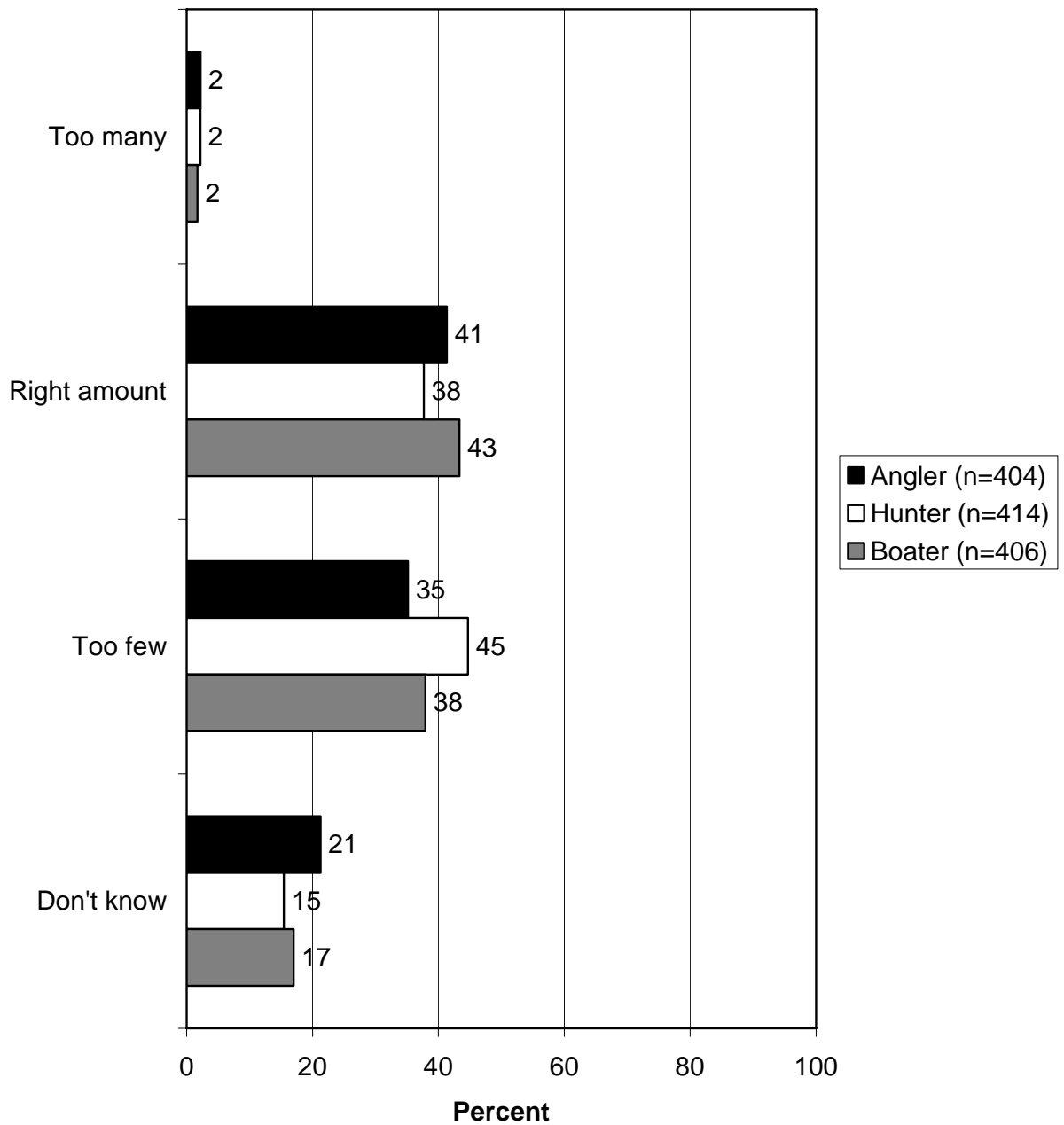




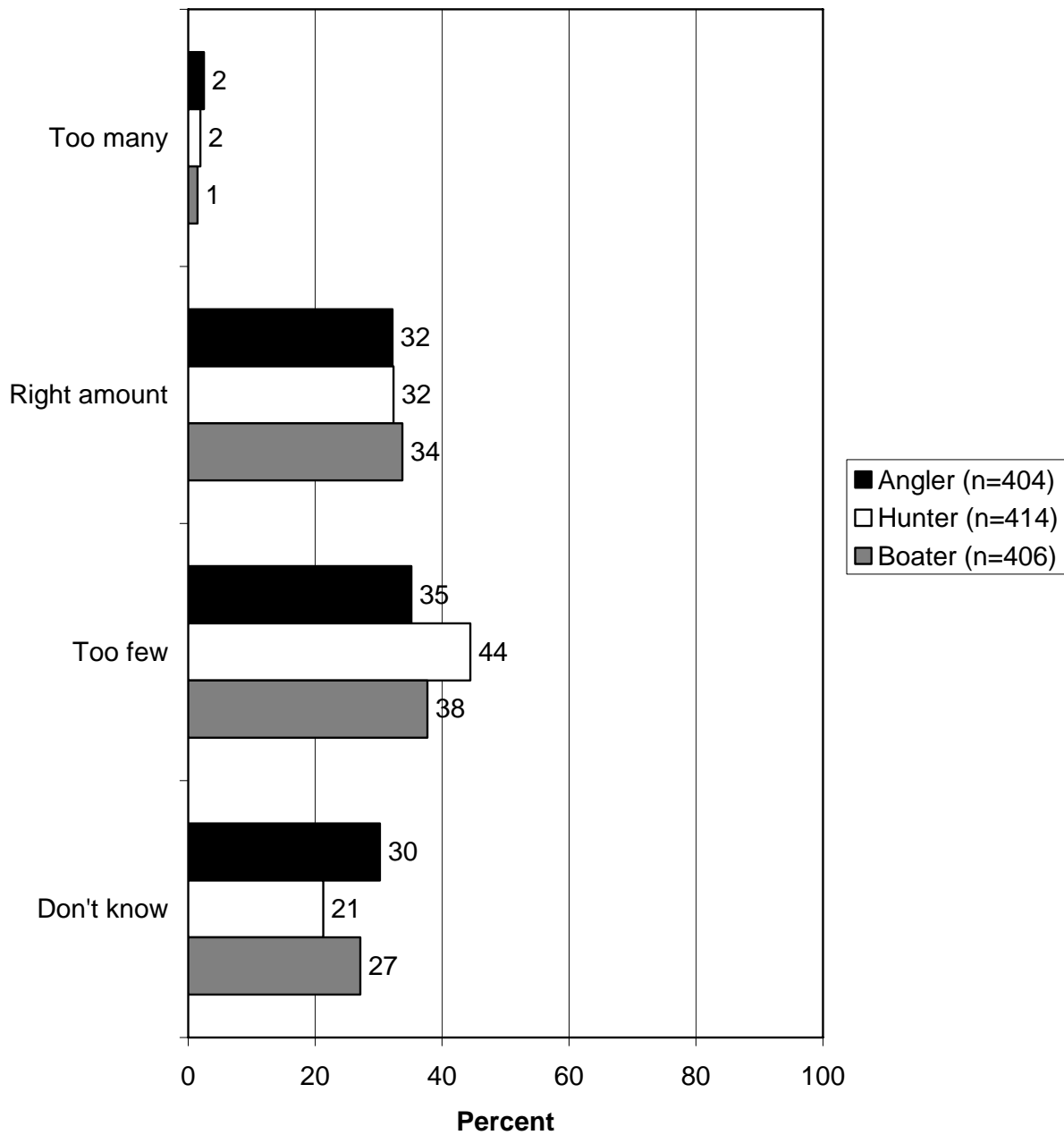
**Q121. About how many Conservation Police Officers do you think are in Virginia?**



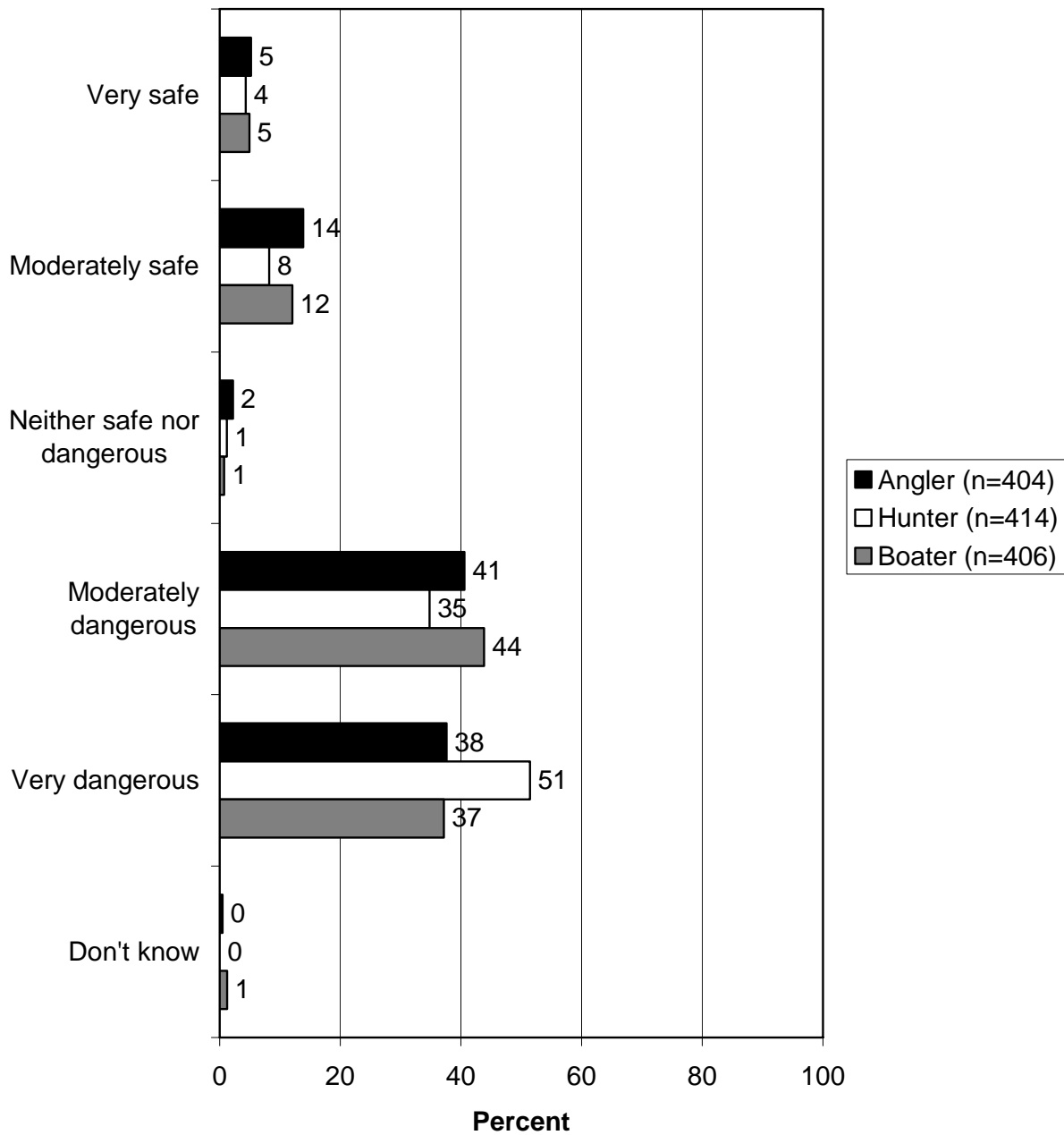
**Q124. In your opinion, does your county have too many, the right number, or too few Conservation Police Officers?**



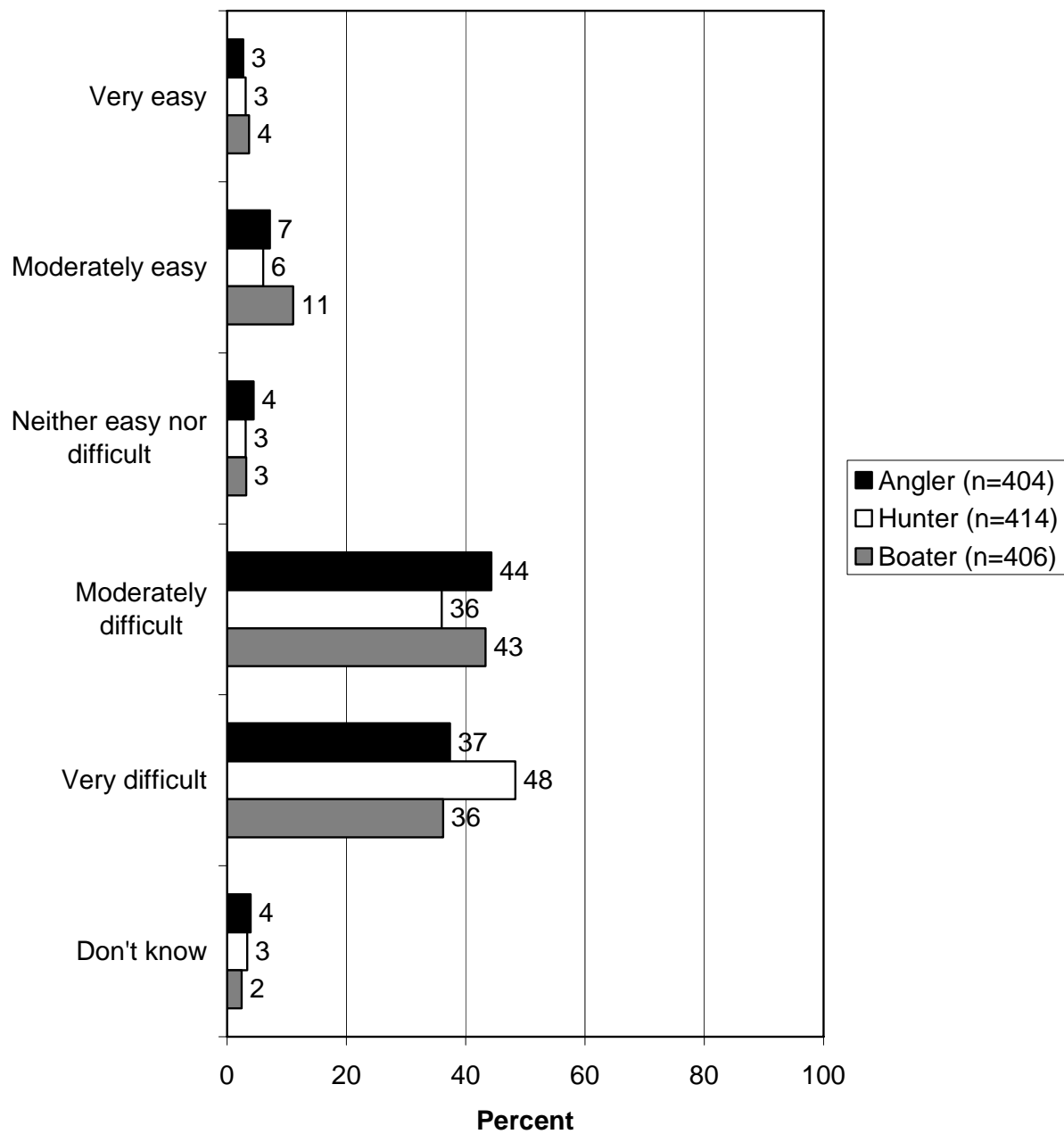
**Q125. In your opinion, does the state of Virginia as a whole have too many, the right number, or too few Conservation Police Officers?**



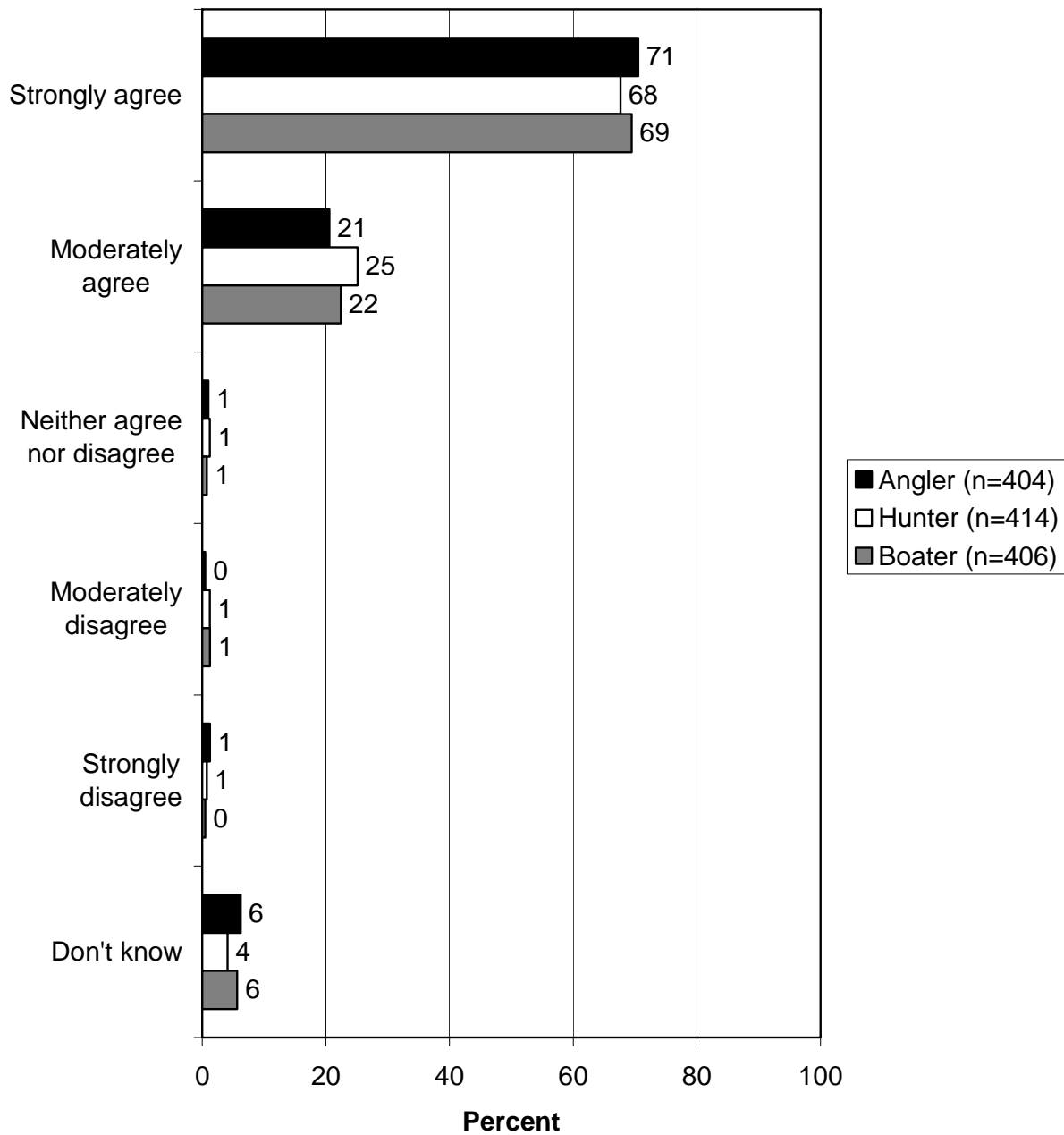
**Q126. Overall, do you think the job of a Virginia Conservation Police Officer is safe or dangerous?**



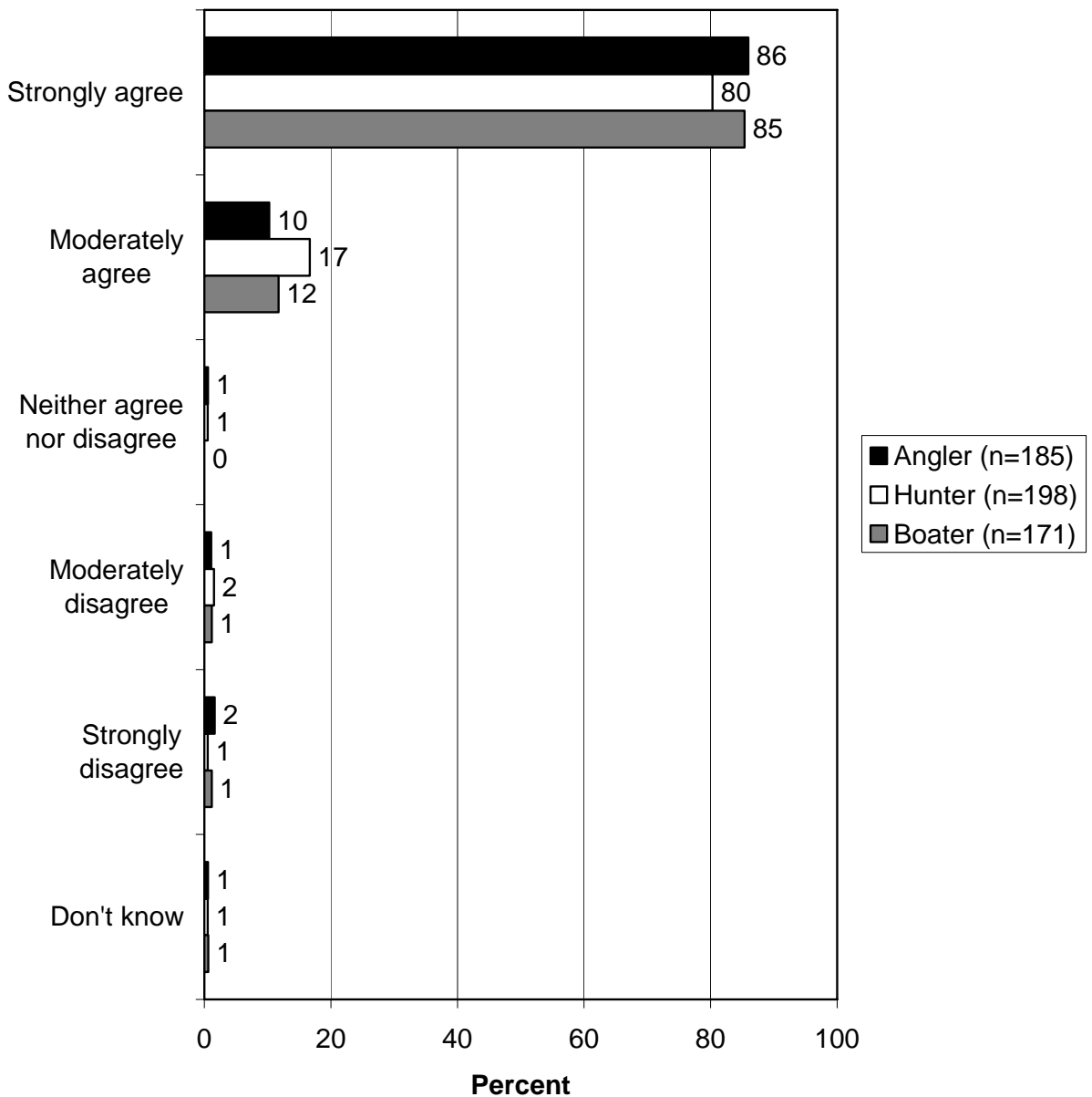
**Q127. Overall, do you think the job of a Virginia Conservation Police Officer is easy or difficult?**



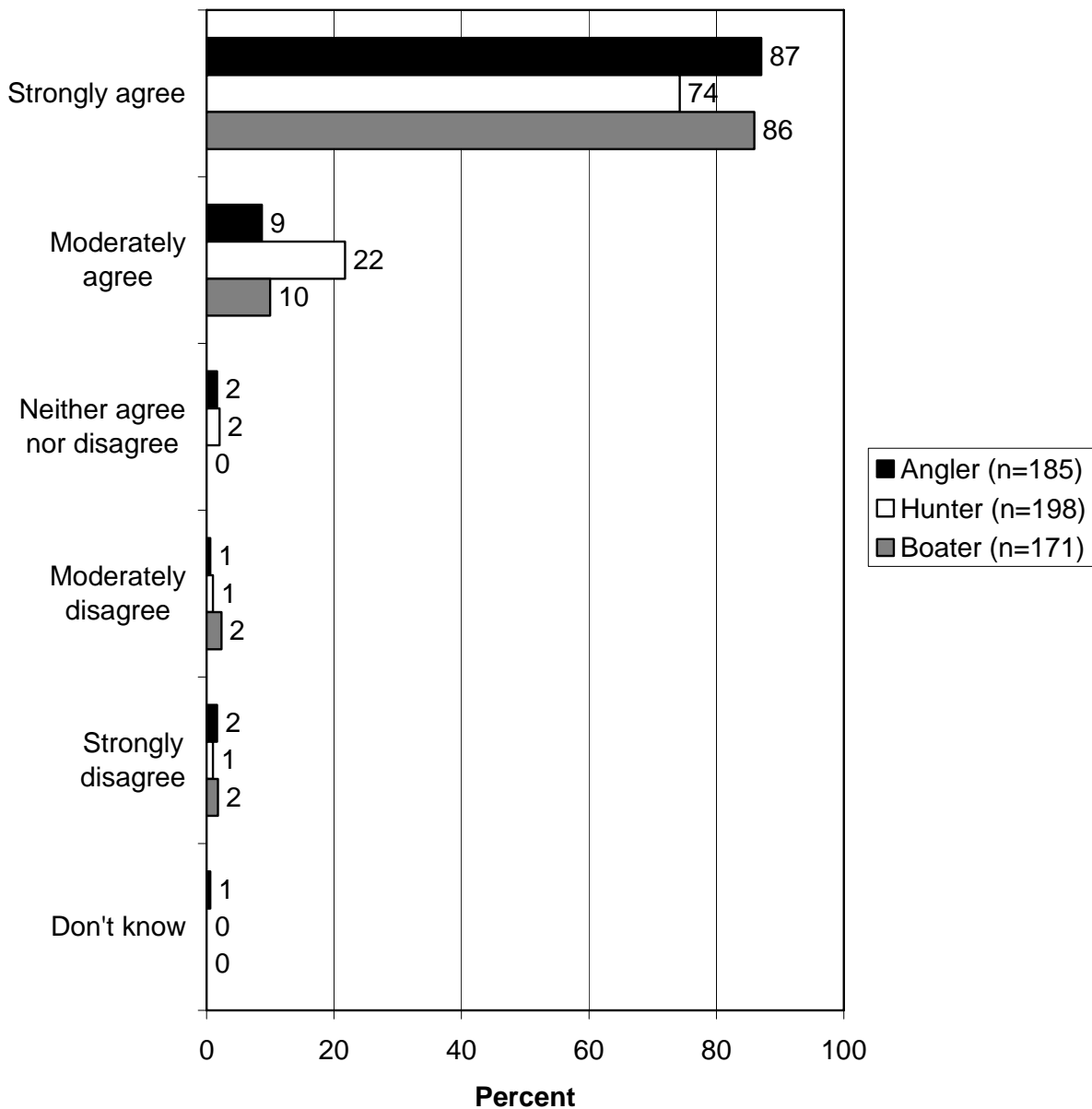
**Q128. Do you agree or disagree that Conservation Police Officers in general perform their duties in a professional manner?**



**Q129. Would you agree or disagree that the Conservation Police Officers you have had contact with over the past 2 years were professional?**  
**(Asked of those who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer in the past 2 years.)**

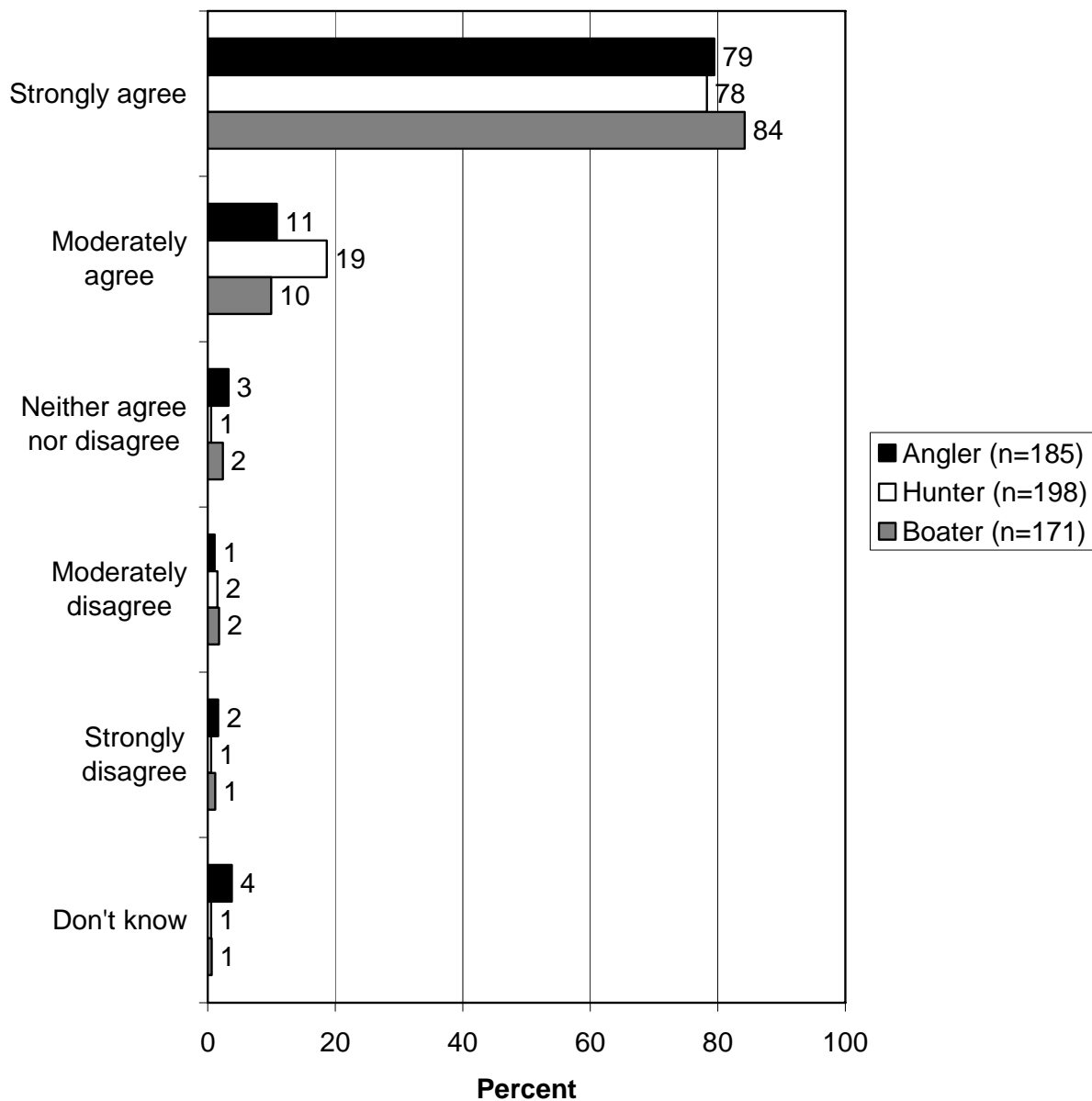


**Q130. Would you agree or disagree that the Virginia Conservation Police Officers you have personally come in contact with in the past 2 years were courteous? (Asked of those who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer in the past 2 years.)**

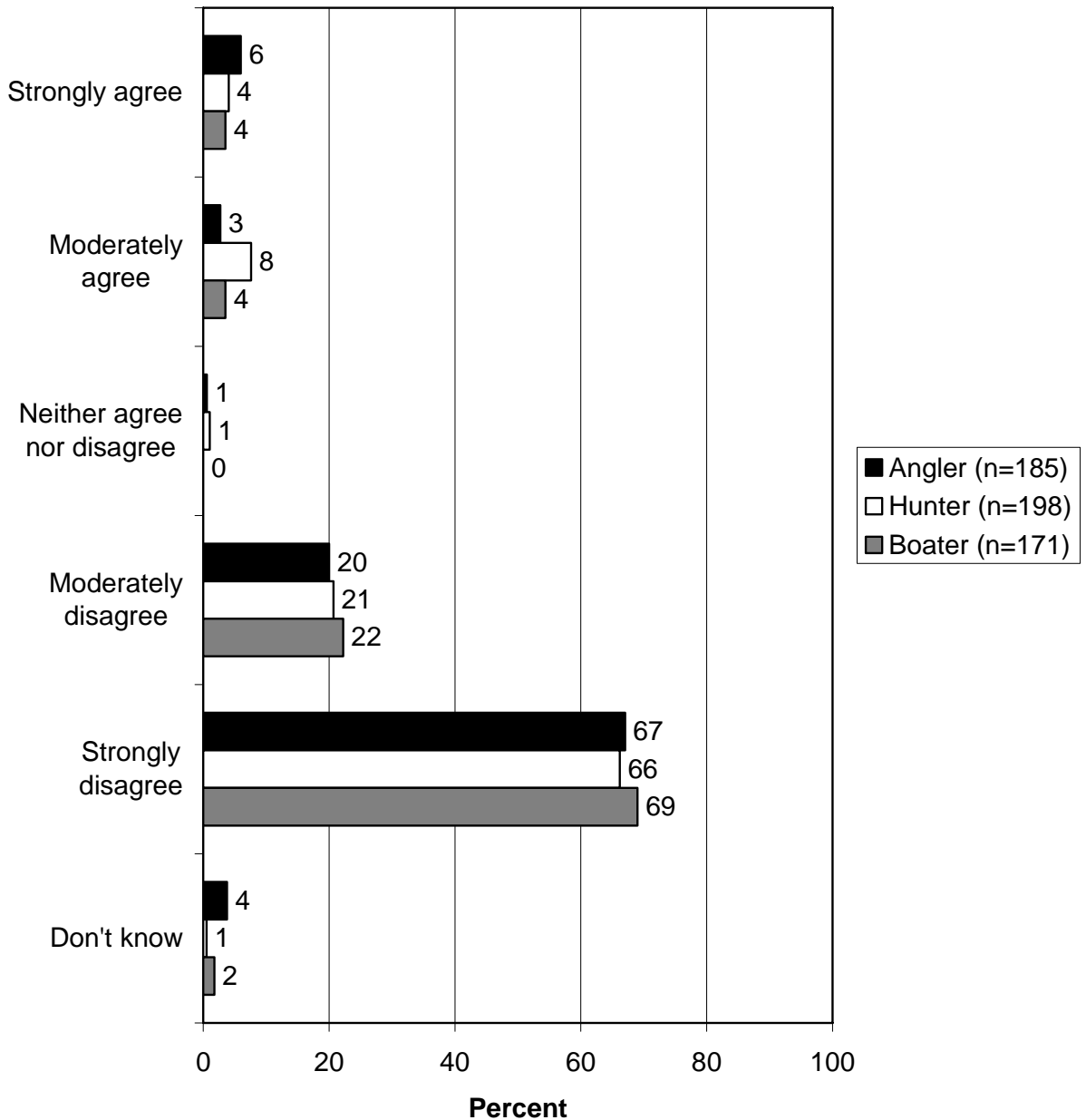




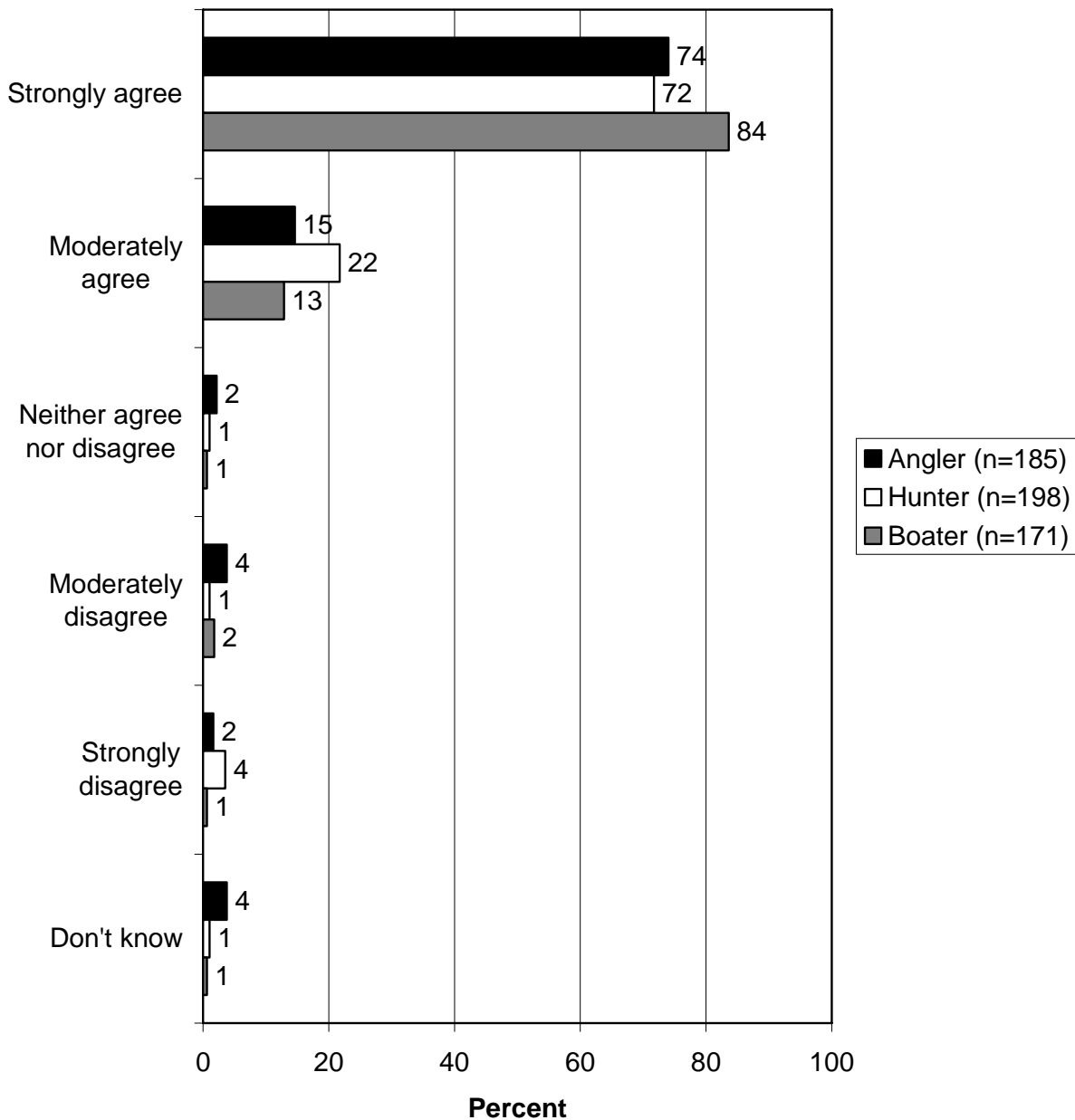
**Q131. Would you agree or disagree that the Virginia Conservation Police Officers you have personally come in contact with in the past 2 years were knowledgeable? (Asked of those who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer in the past 2 years.)**



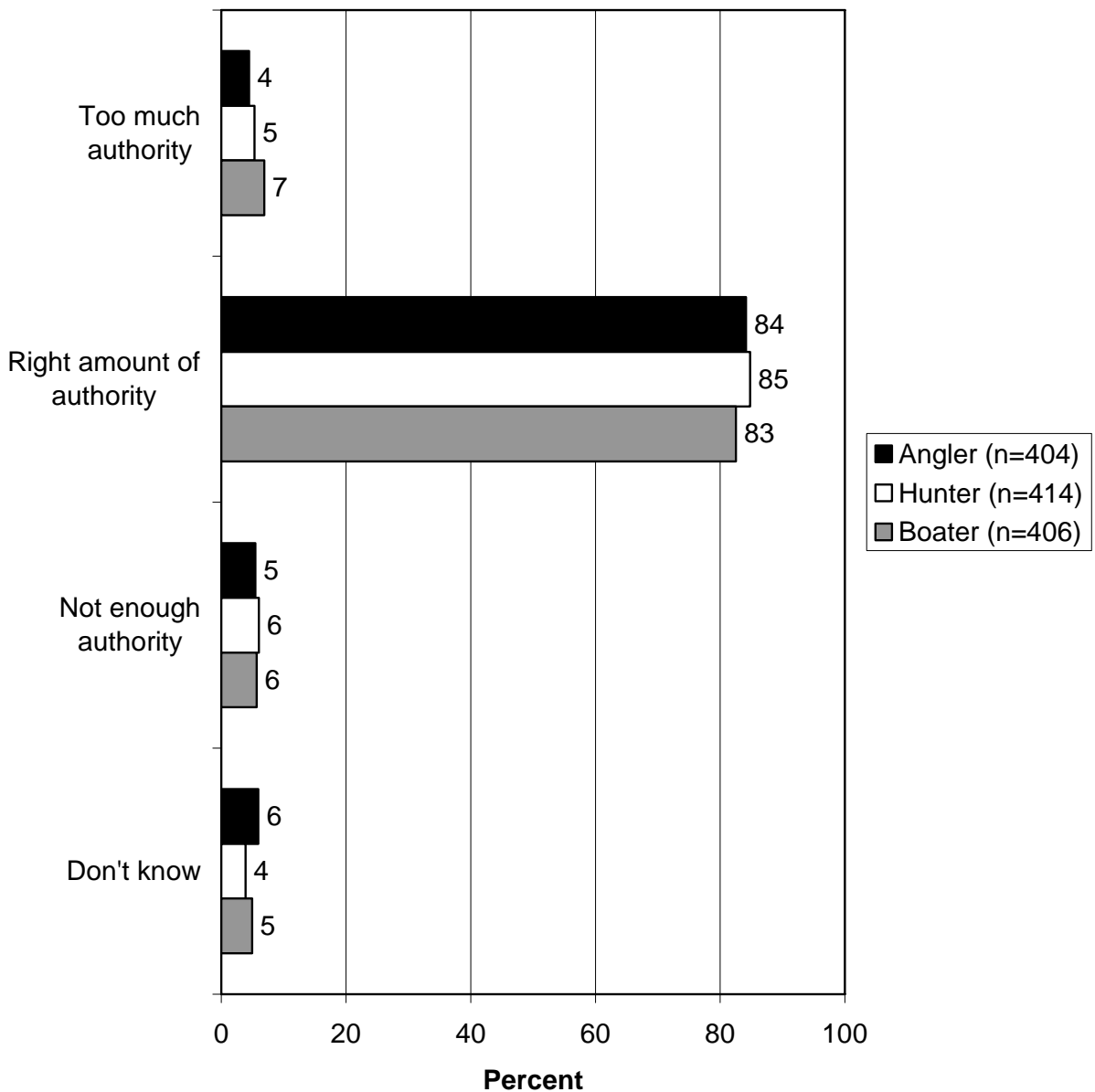
**Q132. Regarding the Virginia Conservation Police Officers you have personally come in contact with in the past 2 years, would you agree or disagree that their uniforms were intimidating? (Asked of those who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer in the past 2 years.)**



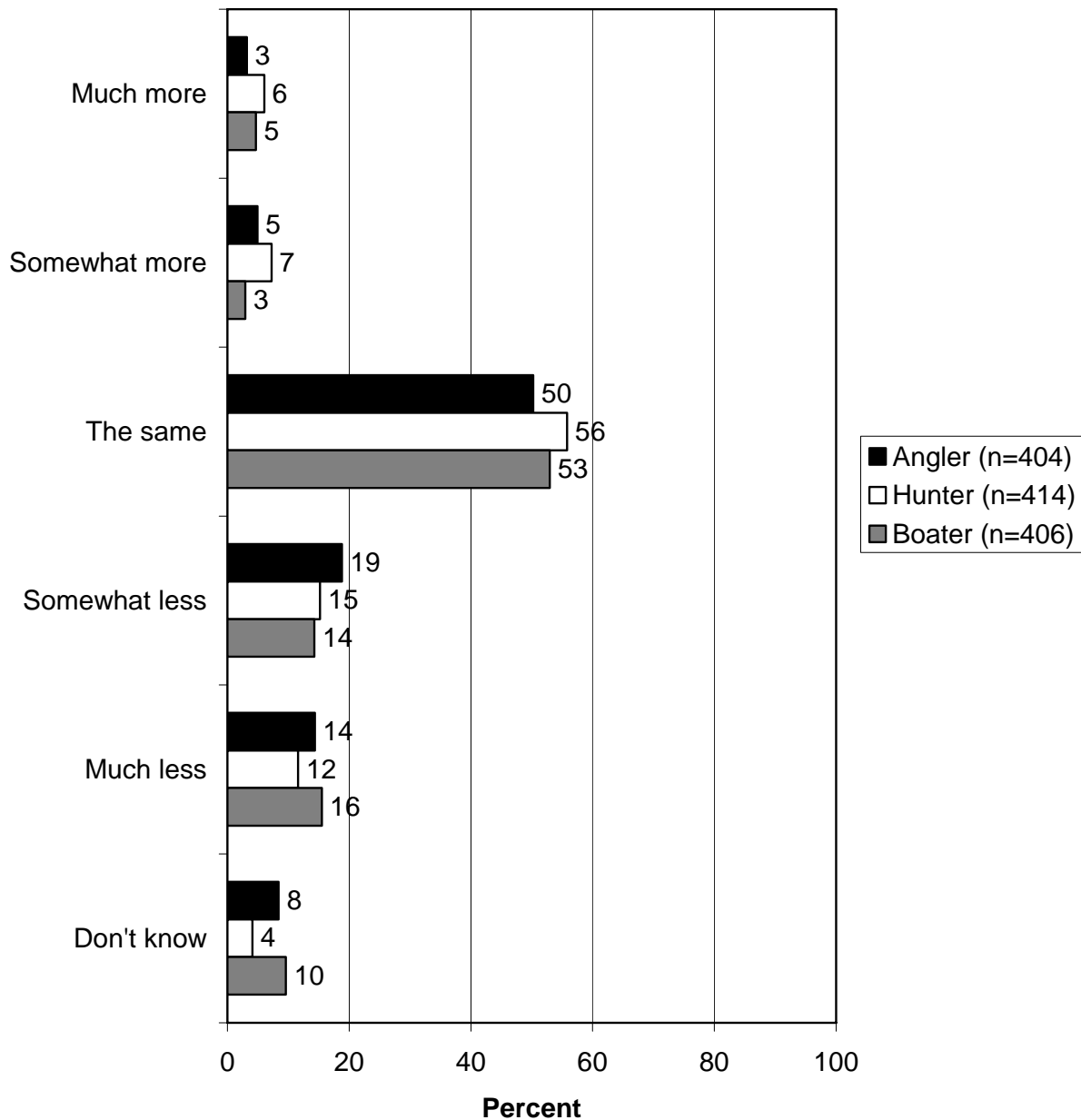
**Q133. Regarding the Virginia Conservation Police Officers you have personally come in contact with in the past 2 years, would you agree or disagree that their uniforms were appropriate? (Asked of those who had contact with a Conservation Police Officer in the past 2 years.)**



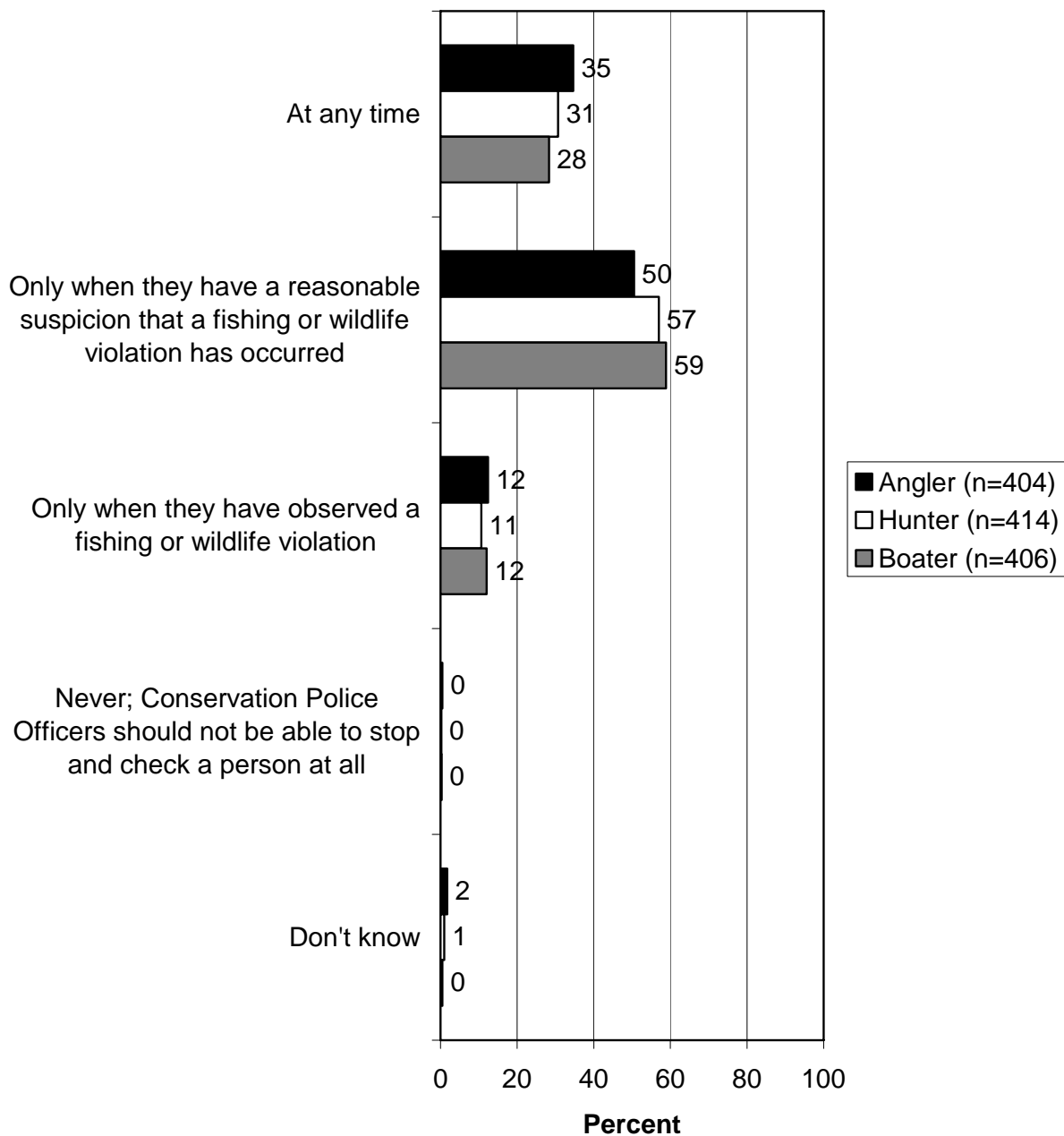
**Q134/135/136. Do you think that Conservation Police Officers have too much authority, about the right amount of authority, or not enough authority to stop and check (anglers/hunters/boaters) while enforcing (fishing/hunting/boating) laws?**



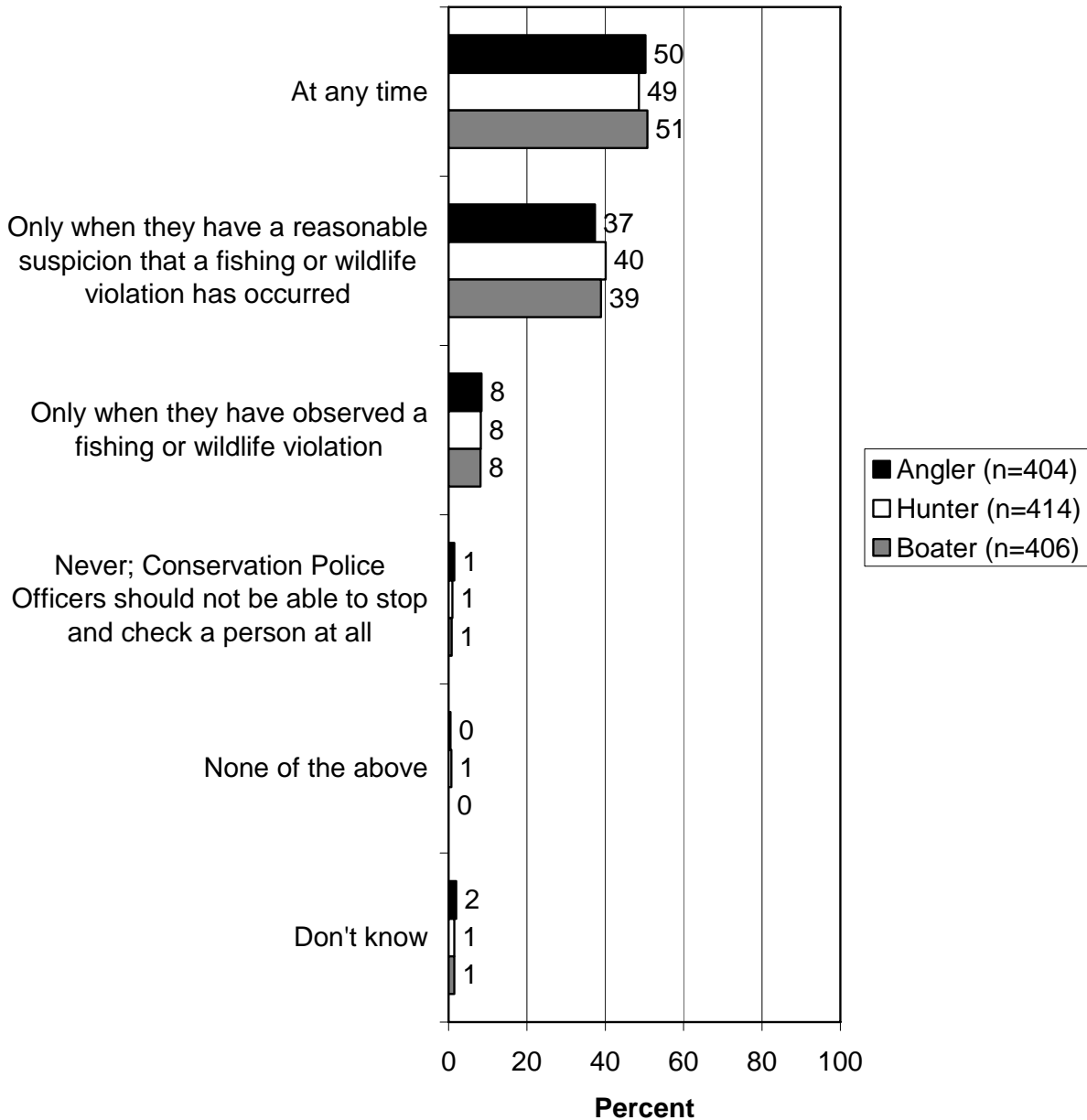
**Q137. In your opinion, should Conservation Police Officers have more, the same, or less authority on private lands as they do on public lands when they are enforcing hunting, fishing, and boating laws?**



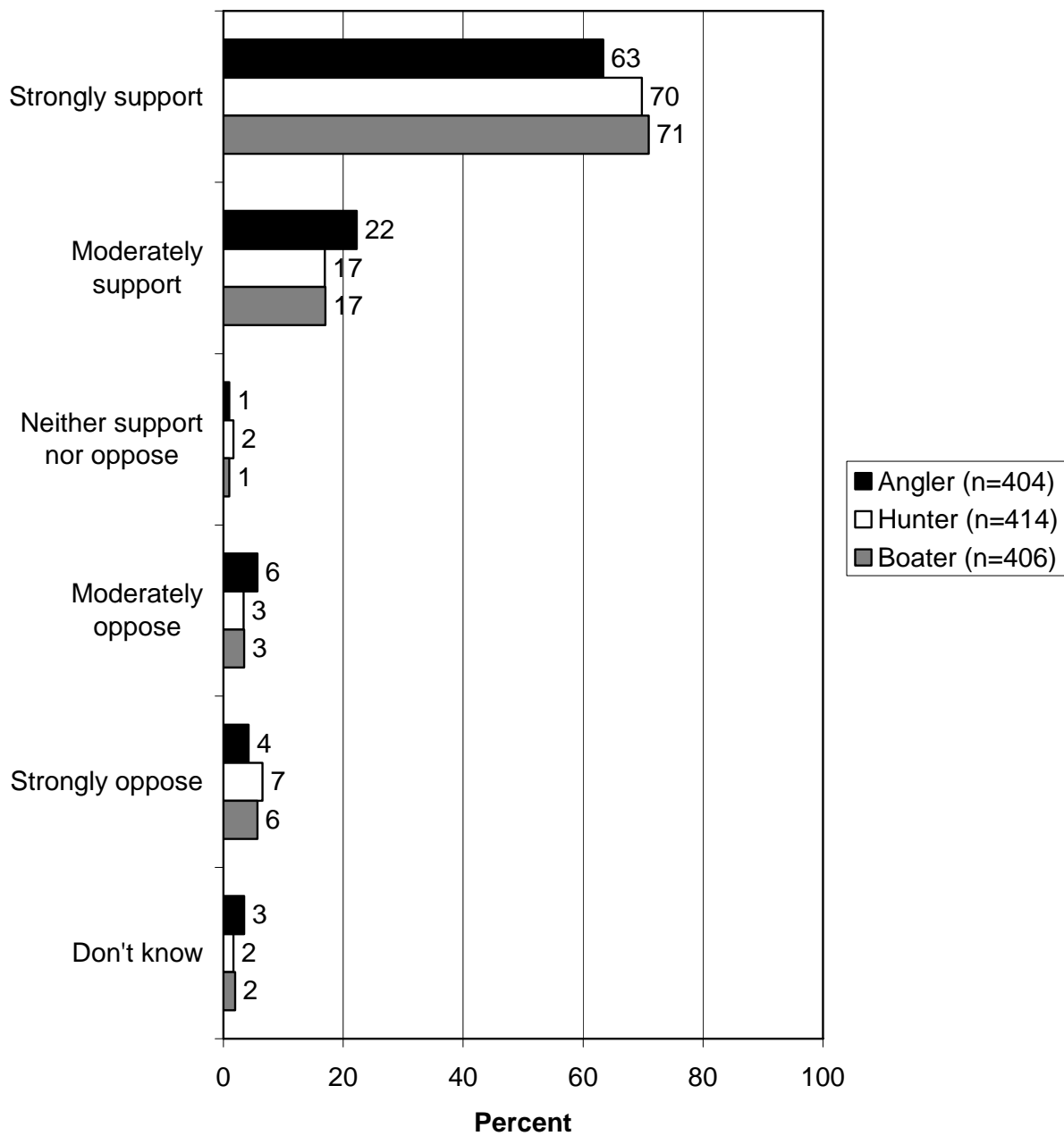
**Q138. Which one of the following comes closest to your opinion on when Conservation Police Officers should be able to stop and check a person in an outdoor area in Virginia.**



**Q139. Which one of the following comes closest to your opinion on when Conservation Police Officers should be able to stop and check a person with a firearm in an outdoor area in Virginia.**



**Q140. Do you support or oppose Conservation Police Officers having full police powers?**

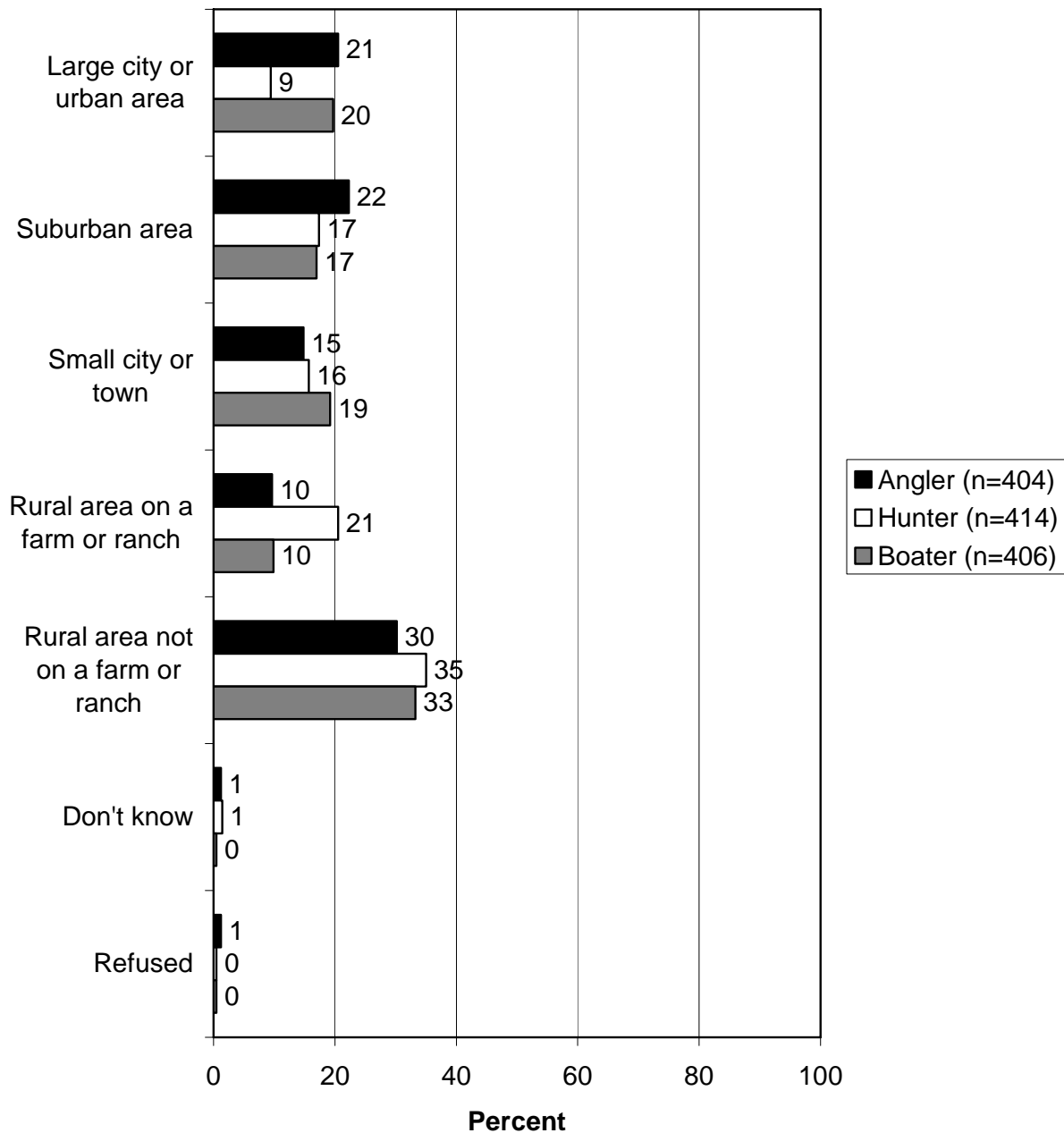




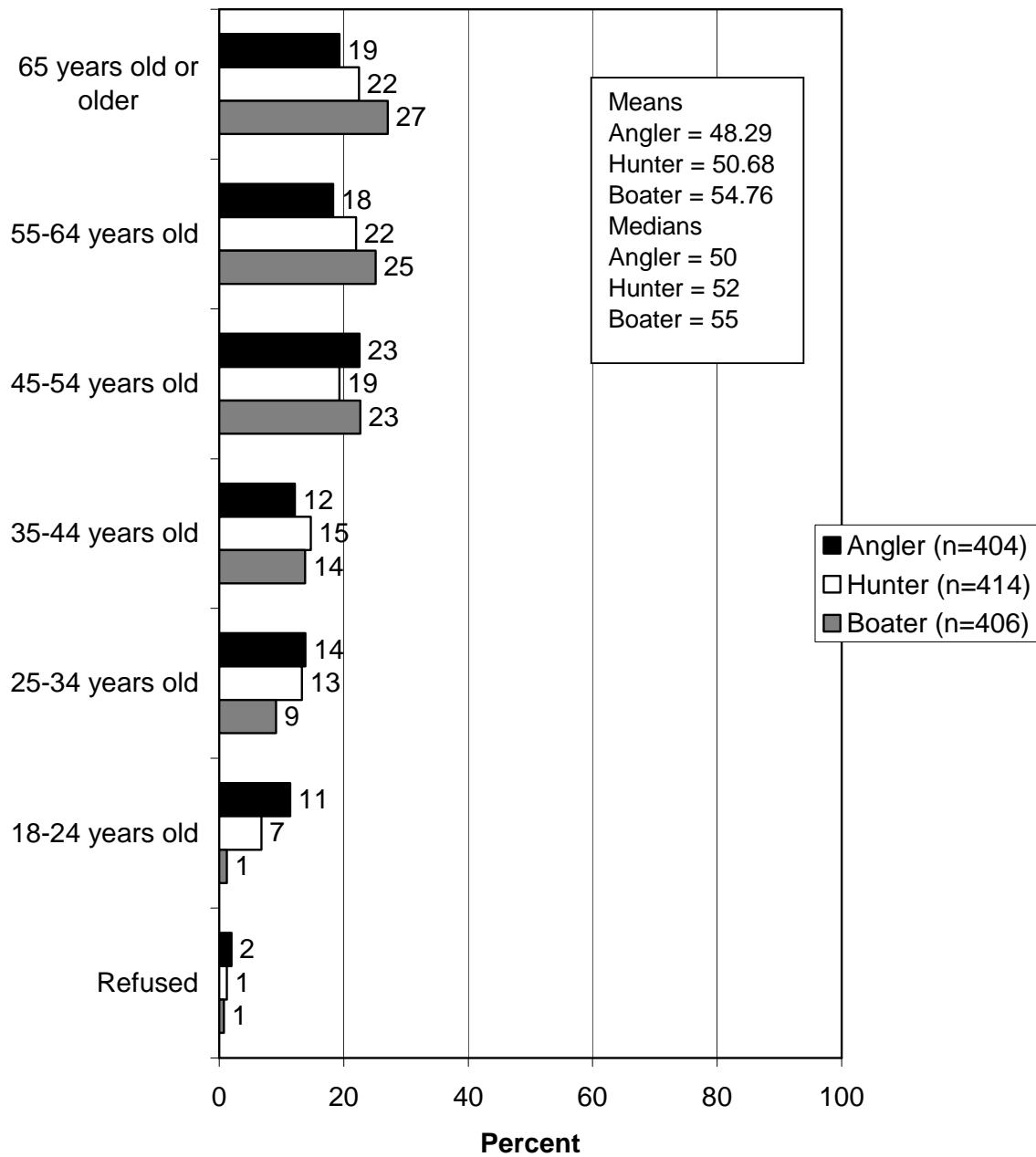
## DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

- Respondents' categories of residence are shown, with anglers, hunters, and boaters most commonly residing in rural areas.
- Age categories of respondents are shown. The median **angler** age was 50 years old; the median **hunter** age was 52 years old; the median **boater** age was 55 years old.
- Most survey respondents were male.

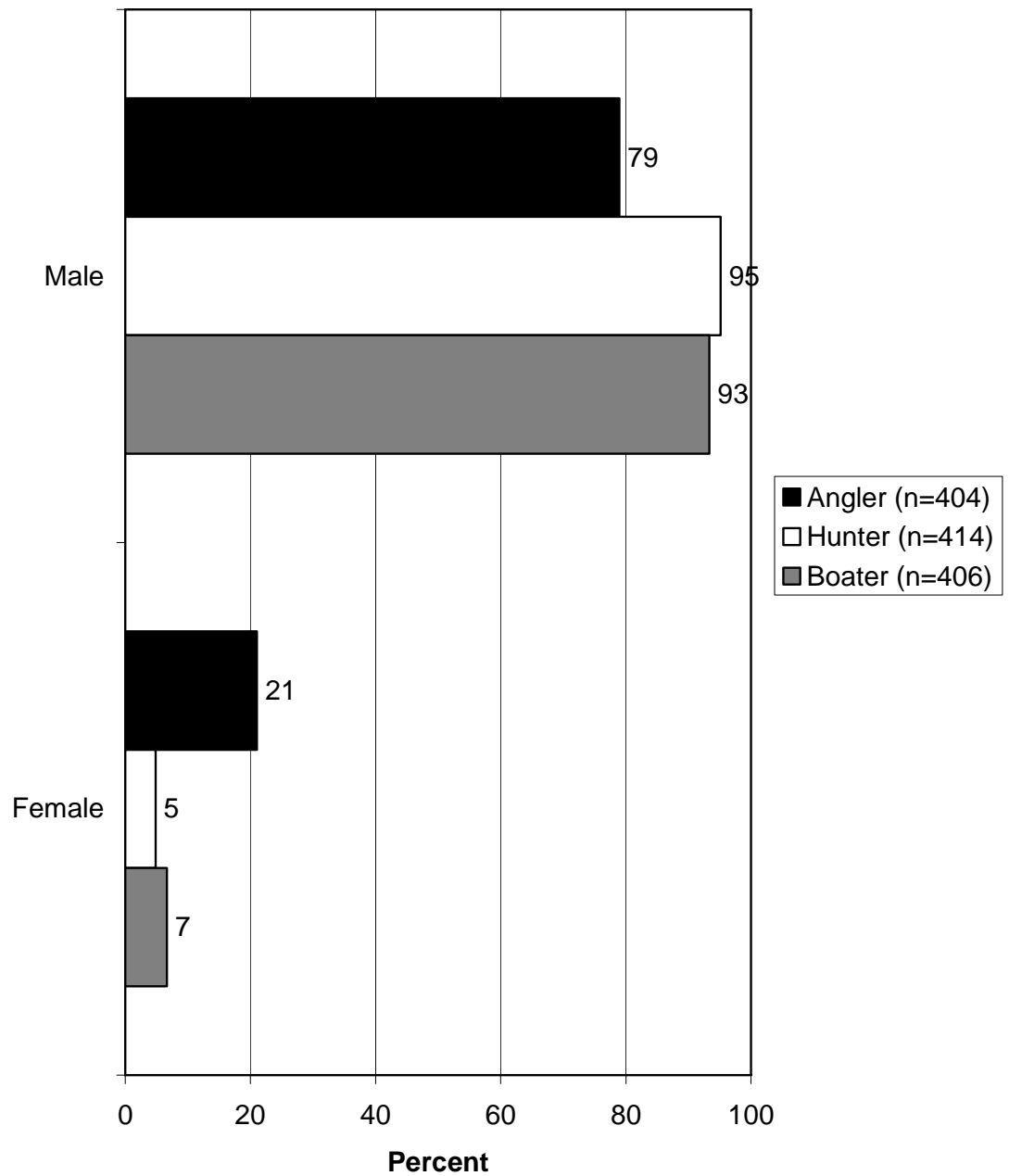
**Q142. Do you consider your place of residence to be a large city or urban area, a suburban area, a small city or town, a rural area on a farm or ranch, or a rural area not on a farm or ranch?**



### Q143. Respondent's age.



**Q149. Respondent's gender (observed, not asked, by interviewer).**



## COMPARISONS OF DATA TO SIMILAR LAW ENFORCEMENT STUDIES

This section compares selected questions from the Virginia survey to similar questions asked in previous law enforcement studies conducted in other states. There are six different studies from which similar questions are compared (note that most applicable comparisons are with the 2005 Georgia study); the table below shows the studies compared with the Virginia data, while tables showing the relevant data from the various surveys follow the summary of comparisons below.

State	Year	Report Title and Link (if available)
CO	2000	<i>Colorado Wildlife Law Enforcement Study</i> <a href="http://www.responsivemanagement.com/download/reports/colawreportdist.pdf">http://www.responsivemanagement.com/download/reports/colawreportdist.pdf</a>
DE	1997	<i>Delaware Residents', Hunters', and Recreational and Commercial Anglers' Attitudes Toward Wildlife and Fisheries Management</i>
GA	2005	<i>Opinions of Georgia Residents, Anglers, Hunters, and Landowners on Law Enforcement Activities of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Division</i> <a href="http://www.responsivemanagement.com/download/reports/GA_LawEnforcement_Landowners_Report.pdf">http://www.responsivemanagement.com/download/reports/GA_LawEnforcement_Landowners_Report.pdf</a>
ID	1994	<i>Idaho Residents' Opinions on and Attitudes Toward the Idaho Department of Fish and Game</i>
WA	2007	<i>Washington State Boaters Survey Regarding Safety, Education, and Law Enforcement</i> <a href="http://www.responsivemanagement.com/download/reports/WA_Boat_Report.pdf">http://www.responsivemanagement.com/download/reports/WA_Boat_Report.pdf</a>
WY	2001	<i>Wyoming Residents' Attitudes Toward Wyoming Game and Fish Department Law Enforcement Activities</i> <a href="http://www.responsivemanagement.com/download/reports/WyomingLawdist.pdf">http://www.responsivemanagement.com/download/reports/WyomingLawdist.pdf</a>

### SUMMARY OF COMPARISONS

- Virginia hunters, similar to hunters in Georgia and Colorado, are generally more likely than anglers, boaters, and general population residents to say that they know a great deal or moderate amount about fish and wildlife agency law enforcement efforts in their state.
- Respondent ratings of law enforcement efforts do not differ greatly between the Virginia and Georgia surveys, although respondents in both of these states generally gave higher ratings than did respondents in Colorado.

- Perceptions of the job of Conservation Police Officer (Virginia) and Conservation Ranger (Georgia) did not differ greatly between the two states, although hunters in Virginia were generally the most likely to view the job as dangerous.
- Respondents in Virginia were generally more likely than respondents in Georgia to think that the number of Conservation Police Officers / Rangers in their state was about the right amount, while Georgia respondents were generally more likely to say that the number in their state was too few.
- Similar to the above, Virginia respondents were generally more likely to desire the same amount of Conservation Police Officers, while Georgia respondents were more likely to desire a greater Conservation Ranger presence in their state.
- Virginia boaters, compared to Washington boaters, were more likely to think that the state had done an excellent job in maintaining a law enforcement presence on waterways, and generally more likely to agree that there was a sufficient law enforcement presence on public waterways.
- Despite the above finding, Virginia boaters, compared to Washington boaters, were more likely to say that they never saw a Conservation Police Officer patrolling and providing services; on the other hand, Washington boaters were more likely to say that they rarely saw a deputy sheriff or local police officer patrolling and providing services on state waters.
- Experiences making contact with Conservation Police Officers or equivalent law enforcement (i.e., whether the experience was positive, negative, or neutral) were not appreciably different among Virginia, Georgia, and Wyoming respondents; similarly, there were few marked differences in the perceptions of uniform intimidation and appropriateness among respondents in Virginia and Georgia.
- Virginia anglers were more likely to believe that Conservation Police Officers enforced fishing laws “about right,” while Georgia anglers were more likely to believe such laws had been enforced “too easily.”
- Georgia hunters were more likely than Virginia hunters to believe that hunting laws had been enforced “too easily.”
- In general, Georgia respondents were more likely to think that Conservation Rangers should have more authority on private lands than public lands when enforcing laws, while Virginia respondents were more likely to think that Officers should have the same amount of authority.
- There was generally more awareness and use of the TIP program among Georgia respondents than Virginia respondents.

<b>Would you say you know a great deal, a moderate amount, a little, or nothing about [the law enforcement responsibilities of Conservation Police Officers / Conservation Rangers / the Colorado Division of Wildlife's law enforcement efforts]?</b>	<b>Great deal (%)</b>	<b>Moderate amount (%)</b>	<b>Little (%)</b>	<b>Nothing (%)</b>	<b>Don't know (%)</b>
Virginia anglers	15	33	44	7	1
Virginia hunters	29	36	31	1	2
Virginia boaters	16	31	48	5	0
Georgia general population residents	12	27	40	19	1
Georgia anglers	24	30	40	2	3
Georgia hunters	21	52	25	0	2
Georgia landowners	16	34	40	7	2
Colorado general population residents	8	27	44	20	1
Colorado anglers	14	36	41	9	1
Colorado hunters	18	37	38	7	1

<b>In general, how would you rate [Conservation Police Officers' / Conservation Rangers'] overall law enforcement efforts in [Virginia / Georgia] over the past 2 years? / Do you think the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's law enforcement officers do an excellent, good, fair, or poor job enforcing Wyoming's game and fish laws and regulations? / In general, would you rate the Division of Wildlife's overall law enforcement efforts as excellent, good, fair, or poor?</b>	<b>Excellent (%)</b>	<b>Good (%)</b>	<b>Fair (%)</b>	<b>Poor (%)</b>	<b>Don't know (%)</b>
Virginia anglers	26	44	11	2	16
Virginia hunters	30	45	11	3	11
Virginia boaters	27	42	10	2	19
Georgia general population residents	15	42	10	2	31
Georgia anglers	23	55	12	2	8
Georgia hunters	23	54	12	2	9
Georgia landowners	27	46	8	1	18
Wyoming general population residents	39	44	9	1	7
Colorado general population residents	9	51	13	3	24
Colorado anglers	14	54	18	3	11
Colorado hunters	16	60	15	5	5

<b>Overall, do you think the job of a [Virginia Conservation Police Officer / Georgia Conservation Ranger] is safe or dangerous?</b>	<b>Very safe (%)</b>	<b>Moderately safe (%)</b>	<b>Neither safe nor dangerous (%)</b>	<b>Moderately dangerous (%)</b>	<b>Very dangerous (%)</b>
Virginia anglers	5	14	2	41	38
Virginia hunters	4	8	1	35	51
Virginia boaters	5	12	1	44	37
Georgia general population residents	5	27	5	43	13
Georgia anglers	3	16	5	42	28
Georgia hunters	3	25	3	42	26
Georgia landowners	5	26	3	45	14

<b>In your opinion, does the state of [Virginia / Georgia] have too many, the right number, or too few [Conservation Police Officers / Conservation Rangers in the state as a whole]?</b>	<b>Too many (%)</b>	<b>Right amount (%)</b>	<b>Too few (%)</b>	<b>Don't know (%)</b>
Virginia anglers	2	32	35	30
Virginia hunters	2	32	44	21
Virginia boaters	1	34	38	27
Georgia general population residents	1	18	47	34
Georgia anglers	4	25	53	18
Georgia hunters	2	21	61	16
Georgia landowners	2	28	38	32



<b>Would you like to see more, the same number, or fewer Conservation Police Officers in general in Virginia? / Would you like to see more, the same amount, or less Conservation Ranger presence in Georgia?</b>	<b>More (%)</b>	<b>Same amount (%)</b>	<b>Fewer / Less (%)</b>	<b>Don't know (%)</b>
Virginia anglers	43	43	3	10
Virginia hunters	54	35	4	7
Virginia boaters	45	42	4	9
Georgia general population residents	65	19	1	14
Georgia anglers	61	30	3	6
Georgia hunters	74	19	4	3
Georgia landowners	49	35	2	13

<b>Percent who agree that [Conservation Police Officers / Conservation Rangers] have maintained a sufficient law enforcement presence in [Virginia / Georgia] over the past 2 years:</b>	
Virginia anglers	77
Virginia hunters	81
Virginia boaters	78
Georgia general population residents	56
Georgia anglers	72
Georgia hunters	68
Georgia landowners	73

How would you rate the efforts in Virginia to maintain a law enforcement presence on Virginia's waterways in the past 2 years? / How would you rate the efforts in Washington to maintain a law enforcement presence on Washington's waterways?	Excellent (%)	Good (%)	Fair (%)	Poor (%)	Don't know (%)
Virginia anglers	26	47	10	4	12
Virginia hunters	21	40	8	2	29
Virginia boaters	29	43	12	3	14
Washington boaters	12	40	30	11	7

How often did you see a Conservation Police Officer patrolling and providing services while you were boating in Virginia in the past 2 years? / How often do you see a deputy sheriff or local police officer patrolling and providing services while you are on Washington waters?	Always (%)	Sometimes (%)	Rarely (%)	Never (%)	Don't know (%)
Virginia boaters	15	40	20	20	4
Washington boaters	16	39	36	8	0

Percent who agree that there is a sufficient law enforcement presence on public waterways in Virginia / Washington State:	
Virginia anglers	72
Virginia hunters	61
Virginia boaters	74
Washington boaters	58

<b>Would you like to see more, the same number, or fewer Conservation Police Officers while you are (fishing/hunting/boating) in Virginia? / Would you like to see more, the same amount, or fewer deputy sheriffs and local police officers patrolling public waters in Washington?</b>	<b>More (%)</b>	<b>Same number/amount (%)</b>	<b>Fewer (%)</b>	<b>Don't know (%)</b>
Virginia anglers	38	52	5	4
Virginia hunters	44	45	8	2
Virginia boaters	39	50	6	4
Washington boaters	44	48	5	3

<b>Would you say that the most recent contact you had with a [Virginia Conservation Police Officer / Georgia Conservation Ranger] was a positive, neutral, or negative experience? / Would you say that the most recent contact you had with a Wyoming Game and Fish law enforcement officer was a positive or negative experience?</b>	<b>Positive (%)</b>	<b>Neutral (%)</b>	<b>Negative (%)</b>	<b>Don't know (%)</b>
Virginia anglers (contact in previous 2 years)	85	10	5	0
Virginia hunters (contact in previous 2 years)	84	13	3	1
Virginia boaters (contact in previous 2 years)	87	10	3	0
Georgia general population residents (timeframe unspecified)	81	12	6	1
Georgia anglers (timeframe unspecified)	80	12	7	1
Georgia hunters (timeframe unspecified)	88	9	2	1
Georgia landowners (timeframe unspecified)	88	7	4	1
Wyoming general population residents (contact in previous 5 years)	91	2	6	1

<b>Percent who agree that the uniforms of the [Conservation Police Officers / Conservation Rangers] they have personally come in contact with in the past 2 years were <i>intimidating</i>:</b>	
Virginia anglers	9
Virginia hunters	12
Virginia boaters	8
Georgia general population residents	18
Georgia anglers	7
Georgia hunters	12
Georgia landowners	4

<b>Percent who agree that the uniforms of the [Conservation Police Officers / Conservation Rangers] they have personally come in contact with in the past 2 years were <i>appropriate</i>:</b>	
Virginia anglers	89
Virginia hunters	94
Virginia boaters	97
Georgia general population residents	95
Georgia anglers	97
Georgia hunters	97
Georgia landowners	98

<b>Respondents who agree that fish and wildlife officers* are ...</b>  <b>* “Fish and wildlife officers” is used as a generic term describing fish and wildlife agency law enforcement officers in each study state</b>	<b>Professional (%)</b>	<b>Courteous (%)</b>	<b>Knowledgeable (%)</b>
Virginia anglers (contact in previous 2 years)	96	96	90
Virginia hunters (contact in previous 2 years)	97	96	97
Virginia boaters (contact in previous 2 years)	97	96	94
Colorado residents (contact in previous 5 years)	96	96	95
Colorado anglers (contact in previous 5 years)	94	95	94
Colorado hunters (contact in previous 5 years)	95	95	95
Delaware residents (contact in previous 5 years)	94		91
Delaware fishing license holders (contact in previous 5 years)	100		89
Delaware hunting license holders (contact in previous 5 years)	95		93
Georgia residents (contact in previous 2 years)	95	91	90
Georgia anglers (contact in previous 2 years)	98	98	95
Georgia hunters (contact in previous 2 years)	97	95	98
Georgia landowners (contact in previous 2 years)	94	95	90
Georgia boaters (contact in previous 2 years)	96	95	95
Idaho residents (contact in previous 5 years)	92		

<b>In your opinion, have [Conservation Police Officers / Conservation Rangers] been too strict, about right, or too easy in their enforcement of fishing laws in [Virginia / Georgia] over the past 2 years?</b>	<b>Too strict (%)</b>	<b>About right (%)</b>	<b>Too easy (%)</b>	<b>Don't know (%)</b>
Virginia anglers	7	67	7	19
Georgia anglers	8	52	21	19

<b>In your opinion, have [Conservation Police Officers / Conservation Rangers] been too strict, about right, or too easy in their enforcement of hunting laws in [Virginia / Georgia] over the past 2 years?</b>	<b>Too strict (%)</b>	<b>About right (%)</b>	<b>Too easy (%)</b>	<b>Don't know (%)</b>
Virginia hunters	7	62	8	22
Georgia hunters	7	61	18	14

<b>In your opinion, should [Conservation Police Officers / Conservation Rangers] have more, the same, or less authority on private lands as they do on public lands when they are enforcing hunting, fishing, and boating laws?</b>	<b>More (%)</b>	<b>The same (%)</b>	<b>Less (%)</b>	<b>Don't know (%)</b>
Virginia anglers	8	50	33	8
Virginia hunters	13	56	27	4
Virginia boaters	8	53	30	10
Georgia general population residents	15	42	31	12
Georgia anglers	15	42	34	9
Georgia hunters	16	56	23	5

<b>Percent who had ever heard of the Turn in Poachers, or TIP, program:</b>	
Virginia anglers	31
Virginia hunters	47
Virginia boaters	31
Georgia general population residents	32
Georgia anglers	55
Georgia hunters	66
Georgia landowners	45

<b>Percent who had ever used the Turn in Poachers, or TIP, program:</b>	
Virginia anglers	0.5
Virginia hunters	4.3
Virginia boaters	1.5
Georgia general population residents (of those who had heard of the program prior to the survey)	7
Georgia anglers (of those who had heard of the program prior to the survey)	6
Georgia hunters (of those who had heard of the program prior to the survey)	13
Georgia landowners (of those who had heard of the program prior to the survey)	8

## **ABOUT RESPONSIVE MANAGEMENT**

Responsive Management is an internationally recognized public opinion and attitude survey research firm specializing in natural resource and outdoor recreation issues. Our mission is to help natural resource and outdoor recreation agencies and organizations better understand and work with their constituents, customers, and the public.

Utilizing our in-house, full-service telephone, mail, and web-based survey center with 50 professional interviewers, we have conducted more than 1,000 telephone surveys, mail surveys, personal interviews, and focus groups, as well as numerous marketing and communication plans, needs assessments, and program evaluations.

Clients include the federal natural resource and land management agencies, most state fish and wildlife agencies, state departments of natural resources, environmental protection agencies, state park agencies, tourism boards, most of the major conservation and sportsmen's organizations, and numerous private businesses. Responsive Management also collects attitude and opinion data for many of the nation's top universities.

Specializing in research on public attitudes toward natural resource and outdoor recreation issues, Responsive Management has completed a wide range of projects during the past 22 years, including dozens of studies of hunters, anglers, wildlife viewers, boaters, park visitors, historic site visitors, hikers, birdwatchers, campers, and rock climbers. Responsive Management has conducted studies on endangered species; waterfowl and wetlands; and the reintroduction of large predators such as wolves, grizzly bears, and the Florida panther.

Responsive Management has assisted with research on numerous natural resource ballot initiatives and referenda and has helped agencies and organizations find alternative funding and increase their membership and donations. Additionally, Responsive Management has conducted major organizational and programmatic needs assessments to assist natural resource agencies and organizations in developing more effective programs based on a solid foundation of fact.

Responsive Management has conducted research on public attitudes toward natural resources and outdoor recreation in almost every state in the United States, as well as in Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Japan. Responsive Management has also conducted focus groups and personal interviews with residents of the African countries of Algeria, Cameroon, Mauritius, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Responsive Management routinely conducts surveys in Spanish and has conducted surveys in Chinese, Korean, Japanese and Vietnamese and has completed numerous studies with specific target audiences, including Hispanics, African-Americans, Asians, women, children, senior citizens, urban, suburban and rural residents, large landowners, and farmers.

Responsive Management's research has been upheld in U.S. District Courts; used in peer-reviewed journals; and presented at major natural resource, fish and wildlife, and outdoor recreation conferences across the world. Company research has been featured in most of the nation's major media, including CNN, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and on the front pages of *USA Today* and *The Washington Post*. Responsive Management's research has also been highlighted in *Newsweek* magazine.

Visit the Responsive Management website at:

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