



Data-driven Strategy

Justice Action Network

Utah Bail Survey

January 16, 2018

Executive Summary

Awareness

- Over two-thirds of people in Utah consider themselves unfamiliar with the state's bail system
- 86% of people in Utah have never posted bail for themselves or for someone else
- Over half of those who have posted bail, posted it for an immediate family member

Perception of Fairness

- The percentage of Utahns describing the system as at least somewhat fair decreased by 21 percentage points after the inclusion of additional information regarding the current bail process
- 51% of Utah residents disapprove of the current cash-based pretrial system, with Democrats almost twice as likely as Republicans to feel this way

Support for non-cash bail options

- Most people in Utah (92%) support legislation that would allow for risk assessments in pretrial procedures
- An overwhelming majority of residents believe that the defendant's risk to public safety should be prioritized over the defendant's financial situation
- 86% of Utahns believe that judges should have options for supervising people before trial beyond cash bail

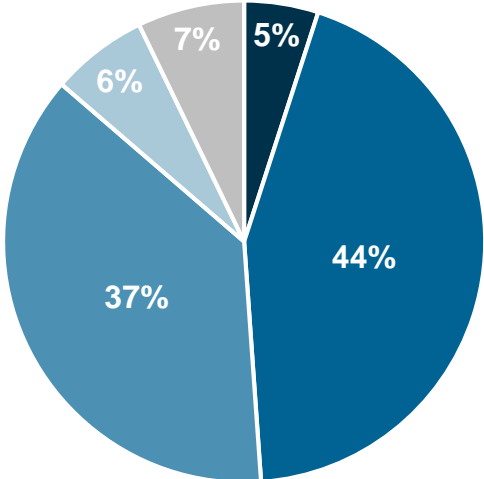
Sampling Methodology:

- 606 registered voters throughout Utah
- Survey in field: December 22 2017 – January 3, 2018
- Margin of error: + / - 4%
- Respondents were reached via live phone interviews
- Quotas were managed across survey demographics to ensure representative sample

Overall, respondents had a positive perception of the Utah criminal justice system, although the majority of respondents are unfamiliar with bail procedures.

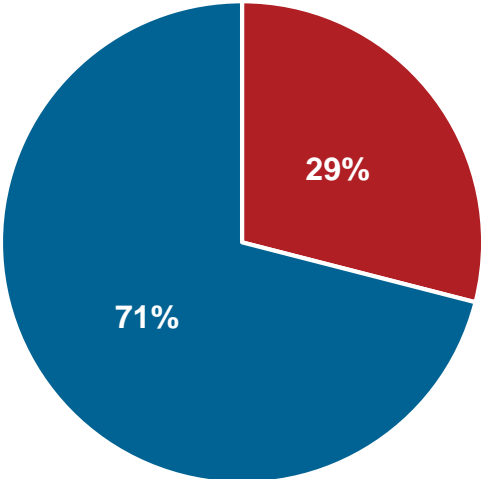
Utah Criminal Justice System Rating

n = 606



Bail Procedure Familiarity

n = 606



Excellent Very good Fair
Poor Don't know

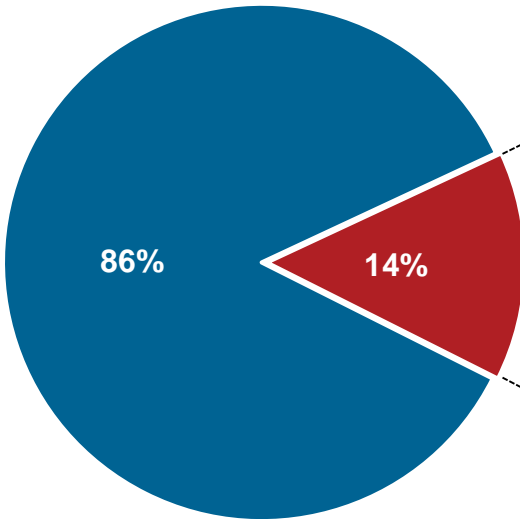
Familiar Unfamiliar

Q4: Based on what you know or have heard, how would you rate Utah's criminal justice system?
Q5: How familiar are you with the bail procedures in the state of Utah?

The majority of Utahns have no experience with posting bail, but those who have experience mostly post bail for immediate family.

Experienced Posting Bail

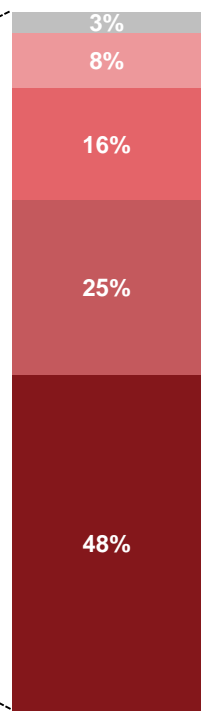
n = 606



Yes No

Bail Recipient

n = 95



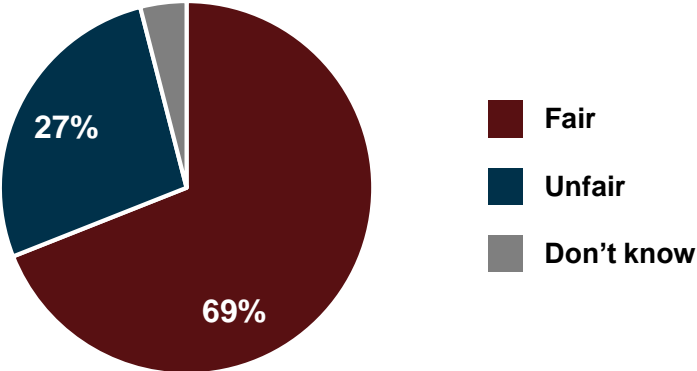
- Other
- Self
- Extended Family
- Friend
- Immediate Family

Q6: Have you ever needed to post bail in any of the following situations?

Most people had a reduced perception of the fairness of bail procedure after additional information had been provided.

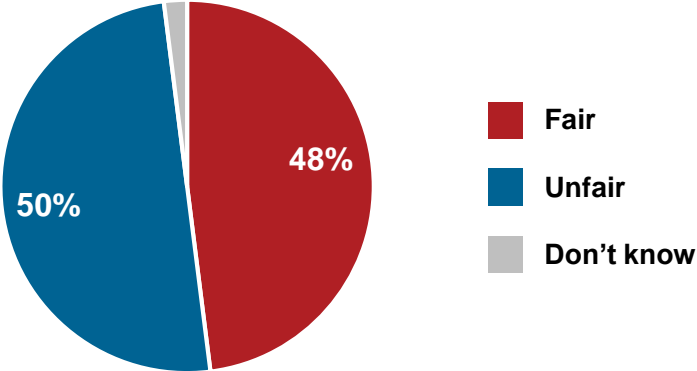
Before Additional Information Provided

n = 606



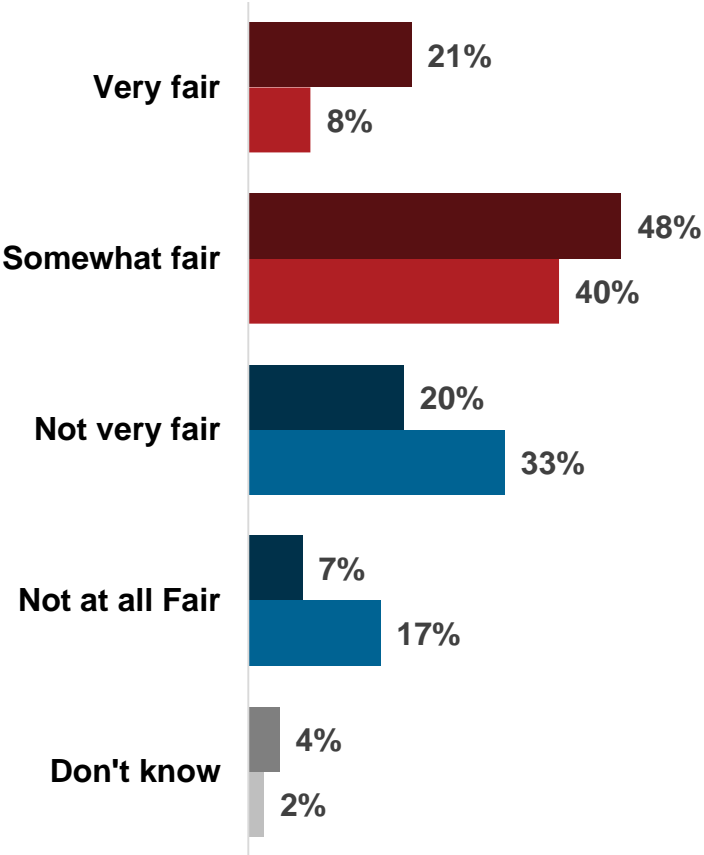
After Additional Information Provided

n = 606



Impact of Information

n = 606

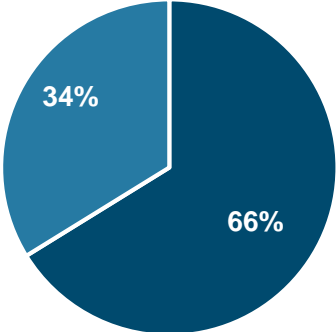


Q7: As the current procedure has been described, how fair do you view the current court procedures for setting bail in Utah?
 Q8: With the additional provided information on Utah's bail procedure, how fair do you view the current court procedure for setting bail in Utah?
 Additional info: "Judges in Utah set a cash bail amount based on the current charge for each defendant. As described by a recent audit of Utah's cash bail system, "little reliable information about a defendant's risk of flight or danger to the community is provided to the judges" in order to make a decision on the bail amount. For example, judges do not have access to an arrestee's criminal history information."

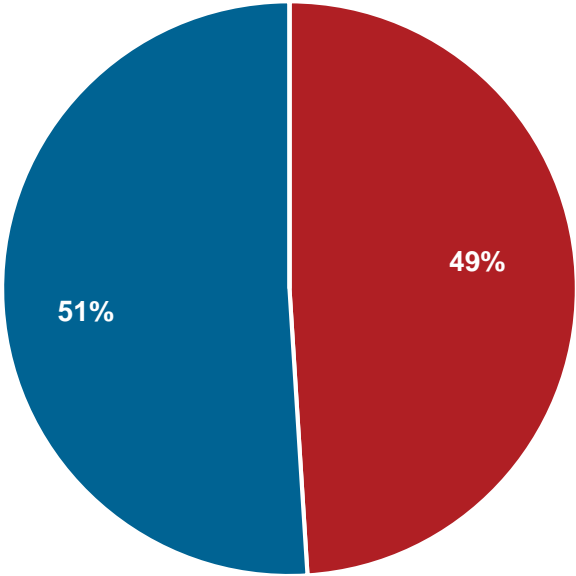
Approval of a cash-based pretrial system is evenly split, with those disapproving feeling more strongly than those who approve.

Approval for Cash-Based Pretrial System
n = 606

Strength of Disapproval
n = 284

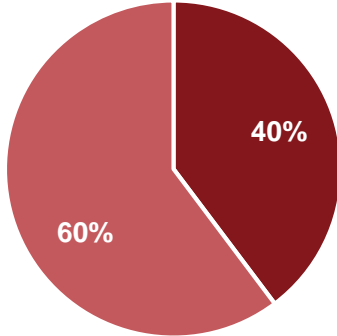


Strongly Somewhat



Disapprove Approve

Strength of Approval
n = 277



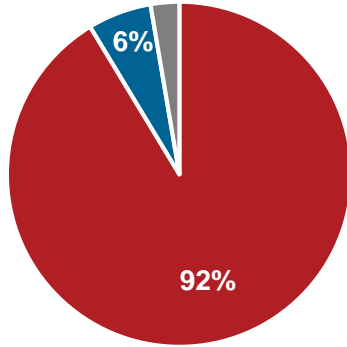
Strongly Somewhat

Q9: Do you approve or disapprove of a totally cash-based pretrial system?

There is overwhelming support for providing judges with risk assessments and more information on defendants and the potential threat they pose to society.

Support for Risk Assessments

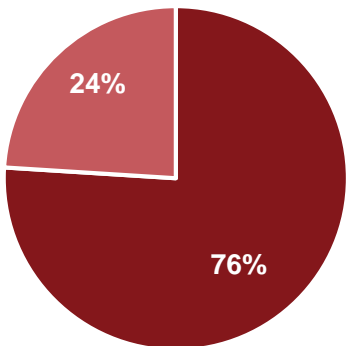
n = 606



■ Support ■ Oppose ■ Don't Know

Strength of Support for Risk Assessments

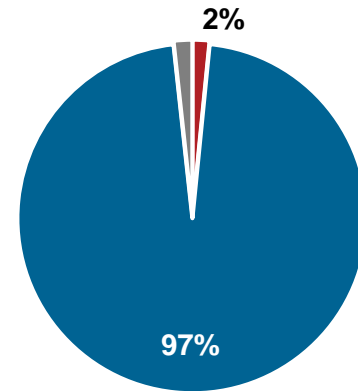
n = 558



■ Strongly ■ Somewhat

Importance of Factors in Pretrial Decisions

n = 606



■ Access to Cash ■ Risk to Public Safety

Q10: Would you support legislation that would provide risk assessments, giving judges more information on defendants and the potential threat they pose to society?

Q11: [IF YES on Q10] Would you say you strongly support or somewhat support?

Q13: When making pretrial decisions, which of the following do you believe is more important to consider...

-Confidential-

Most people think the judge should decide bail options for accused criminals, limiting bail for violent offenders and avoiding the jailing of non-violent offenders.

Perceptions of Bail Policies

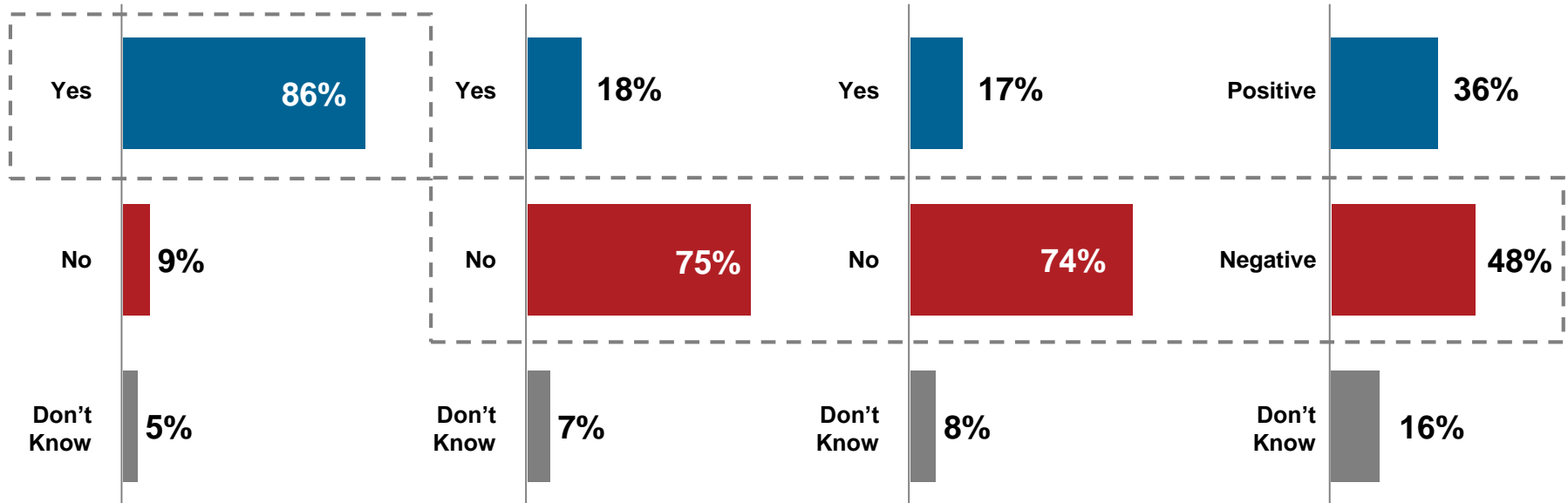
n = 606

1 Should judges have options for supervising people before trial other than cash bail, such as regular check-ins with the court?

2 Do you believe people accused of serious or violent crimes should be allowed to post cash bail and leave jail?

3 Do you believe people accused of non-violent offenses should be jailed if they can't afford cash bail, even if they are low-risk and pose no threat to society?

4 As has been described to you, do you have a positive or negative reaction to bail bondsmen and their industry?



Q14: Should judges have options for supervising people before trial other than cash bail, such as regular check-ins with the court?

Q15: Do you believe people accused of serious or violent crimes should be allowed to post cash bail and leave jail?

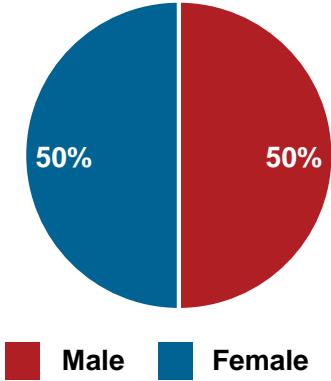
Q16: Do you believe people accused of non-violent offenses should be jailed if they can't afford cash bail, even if they are low-risk and pose no threat to society?

Q17: As has been described to you, do you have a positive or negative reaction to bail bondsmen and their industry?

Appendix: Demographics

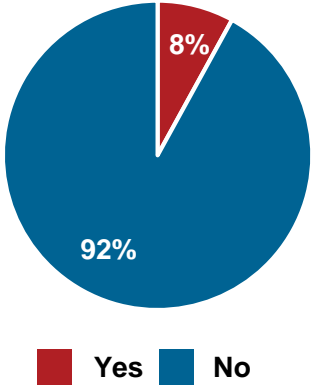
Gender

n = 606



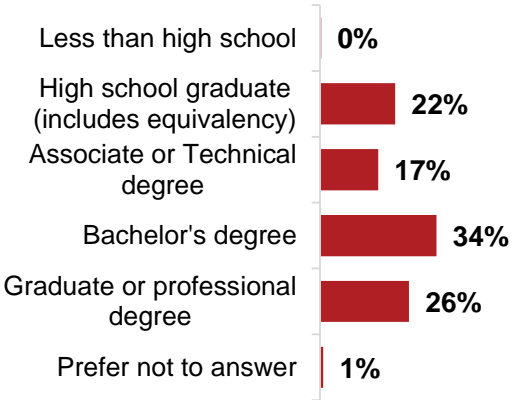
Tea Party Affiliation

n = 606



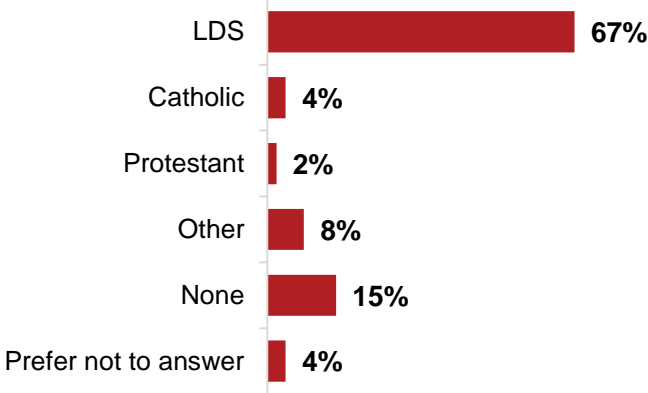
Educational Background

n = 606



Religious Preference

n = 606

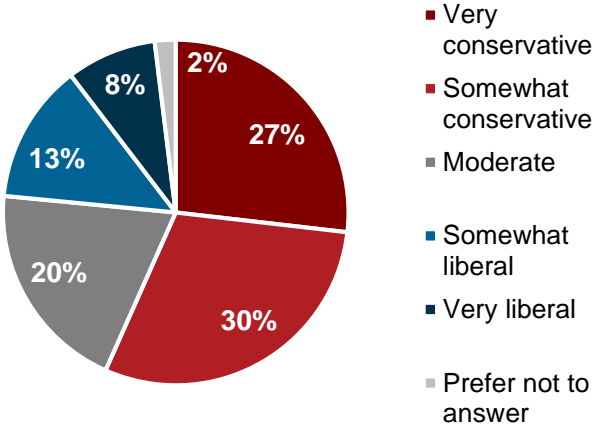


Q20: Please indicate your gender
 Q23: Do you consider yourself a member of the Tea Party?
 Q24: What is the highest level of education you have completed?
 Q26: What is your religious preference?

Appendix: Demographics

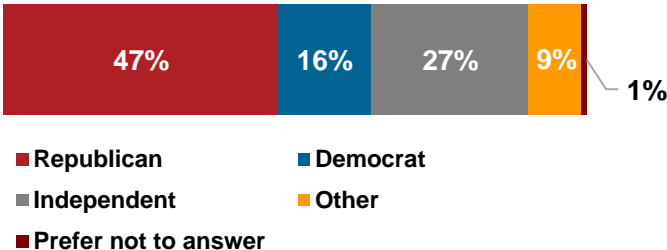
Political Ideology

n = 606



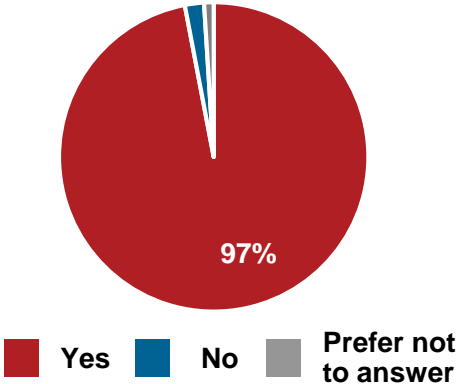
Political Affiliation

n = 606



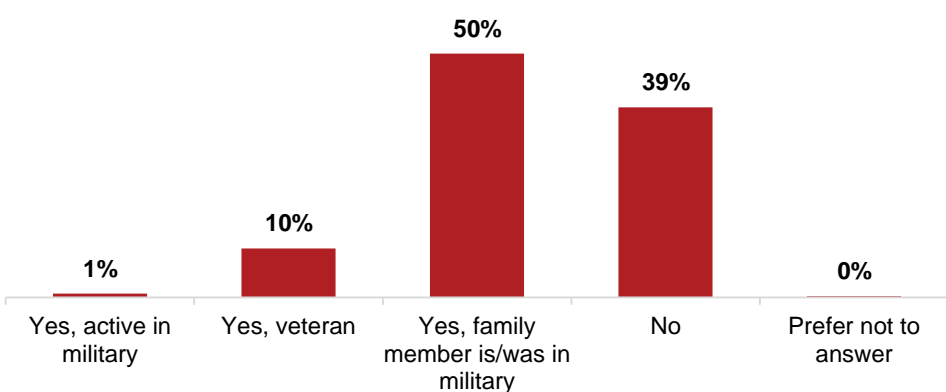
Registered to Vote

n = 606



Military Affiliation

n = 606

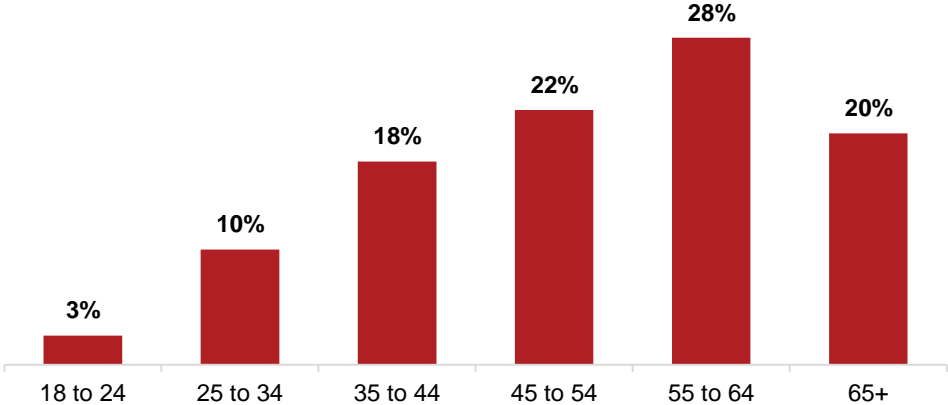


Q21: In politics today, which of the following best describes your political affiliation?
 Q22: Do you consider yourself politically as liberal or conservative?
 Q25: Have you ever served in the military or do you have family members in the military?
 Q27: Are you registered to vote at your current address?

Appendix: Demographics

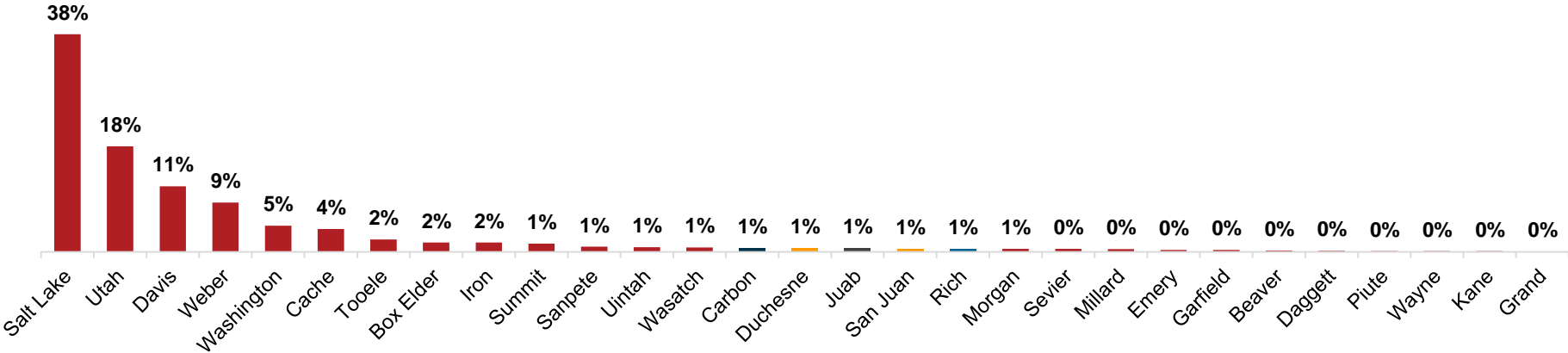
Age

n = 606



County

n = 606



Q1: In which county do you live?
 Q2: In which of the following age categories do you fall?