

PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS OF STOP DECISIONS BY OREGON POLICE OFFICERS

Prepared for:

OREGON CRIMINAL JUSTICE
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CAMPBELL
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PRESENTATION

- ▶ Methods
- ▶ Research results
- ▶ Conclusions
- ▶ Discussion

METHODS

► Objectives:

- ✓ Evaluate perceptions of how Oregon police officers treat the public in general & people of color in particular
- ✓ Determine how, if at all, these perceptions have changed since the implementation of HB 2433
- ✓ Assess reasons for any perceived changes

- ▶ Research design:
 - ✓ Telephone survey
 - ✓ Evaluate perceptions of African-Americans & Latinos
 - ✓ Separate geo-matched comparison group of non-African-American/non-Latino for each

- ▶ African-Americans:
 - ✓ Targeted sample based on census data: counties with largest African-American population - Multnomah, Lane, Marion, Washington, & Clackamas (93%).
 - ✓ Primarily Multnomah
 - ✓ Census shows statewide incidence 1.7%. Overall sample incidence of 10%
- ▶ Comparison group, same geographic distribution:
 - ✓ Non-African-American, non-Latino

- ▶ Latino:
 - ✓ Hispanic surname around state
 - ✓ 21 of 36 counties included
 - ✓ Highest incidence counties include Multnomah (18%), Marion (17%), Washington (15%)
- ▶ Comparison group, same geographic distribution:
 - ✓ Non-African-American, non-Latino

METHODS

- ▶ Sample size:
 - ✓ African-American & Latino: 175 each ($\pm 7.4\%$)
 - ✓ Geo-match groups: 200 each ($\pm 6.9\%$)
- ▶ Respondent criteria:
 - ✓ Resident of Oregon 3 years or more
 - ✓ No one in household works for public law enforcement or private security company
 - ✓ Appropriate racial/ethnic group
 - ✓ 50/50 male/female split

METHODS

- ▶ Interviewing January 8 - February 5
- ▶ Questionnaire translated into Spanish; Spanish speaking interviewers used
- ▶ Governor's Public Safety Council cited as sponsor of survey
- ▶ Cross-tabulated printouts & report to follow

Research Results

- ▶ Demographics
- ▶ Interaction with police officers
- ▶ Perceptions of treatment
- ▶ Perceived fairness of types of Oregon law enforcement officers
- ▶ Awareness of HB2433

Demographics

- ▶ Latinos more likely to be new to Oregon - average length of time in state:
 - ✓ African-American 26 years, geo-match 28
 - ✓ Latino 18 years, geo-match 32
- ▶ Latinos often younger - average age:
 - ✓ African-American 42, geo-match 45
 - ✓ Latino 38, geo-match 47

▶ Average household size:

- ✓ Similar for African-Americans (2.8) and their geo-match group (2.6)
- ✓ Latinos come from larger households (3.8) than their geo-match group (2.8)

Comparison groups have more education

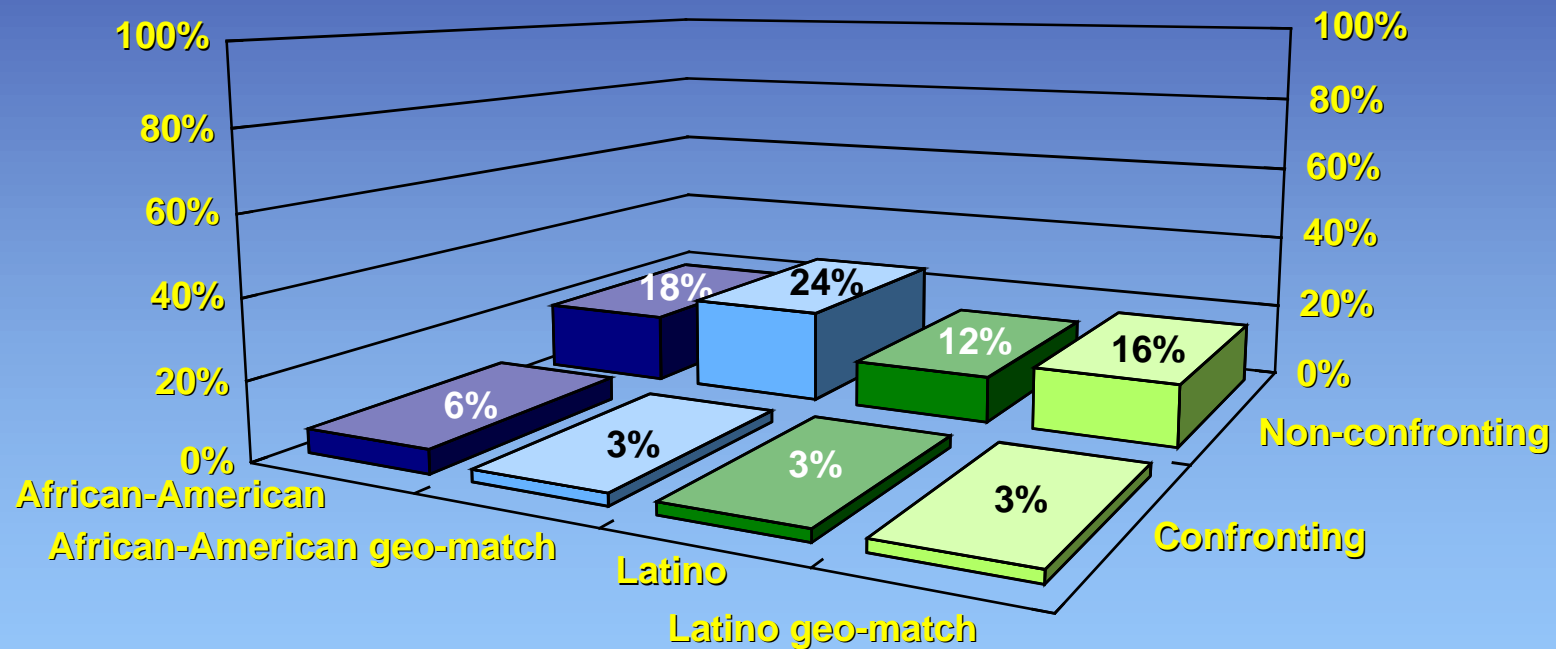
Level of education completed	African/Americans n=175	A-A geo-match n=200	Latinos n=175	Latinos geo-match n=200
Less than 12th grade	9%	5%	22%	7%
High school graduate	31%	16%	31%	27%
Some post-secondary	40%	34%	25%	34%
College graduate	11%	25%	14%	19%
Post graduate	8%	21%	7%	13%

Comparison groups have higher incomes

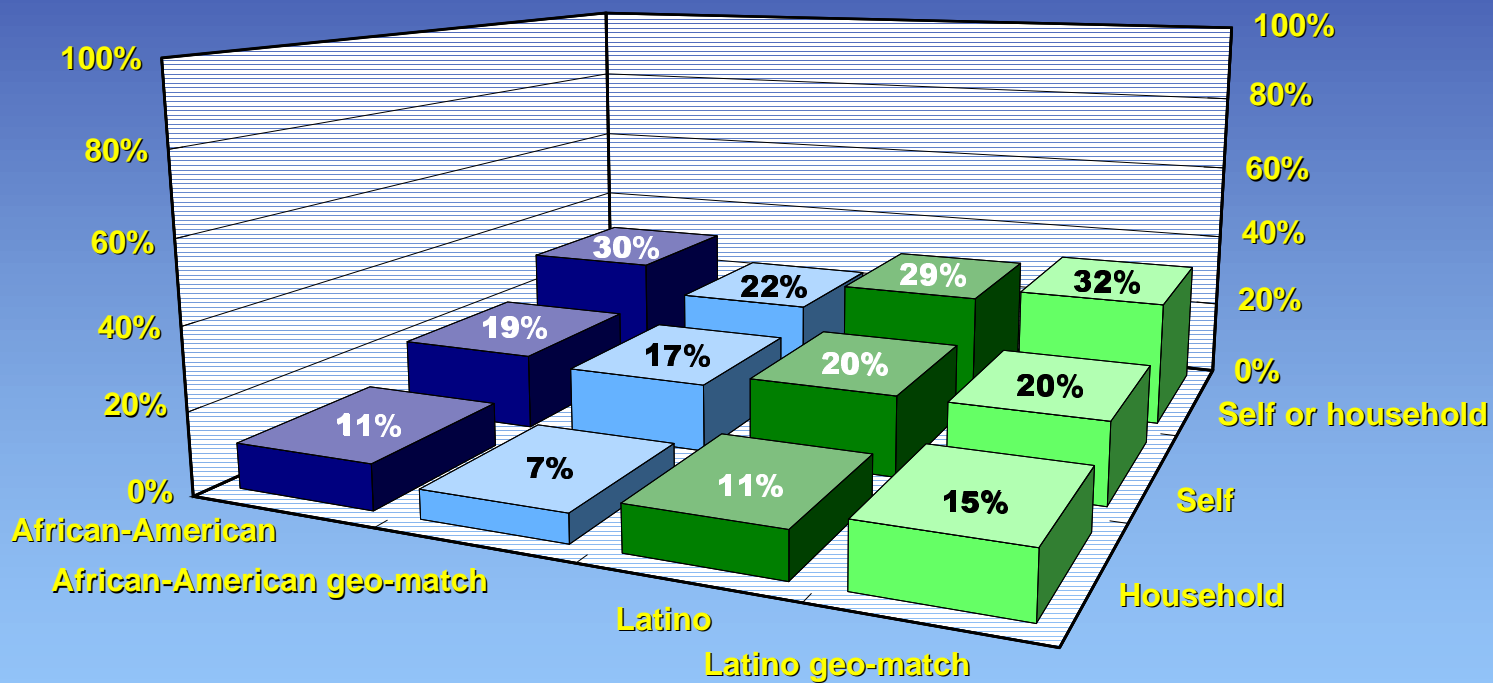
Household income	African/ American n=175	A-A geo- match n=200	Latino n=175	Latino geo-match n=200
Under \$15,000	15%	5%	14%	5%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	17%	11%	22%	13%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	18%	15%	18%	21%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	18%	28%	23%	19%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	13%	17%	11%	20%
\$75,000 +	6%	22%	5%	13%
Refused	13%	5%	7%	11%

Interaction with police officers

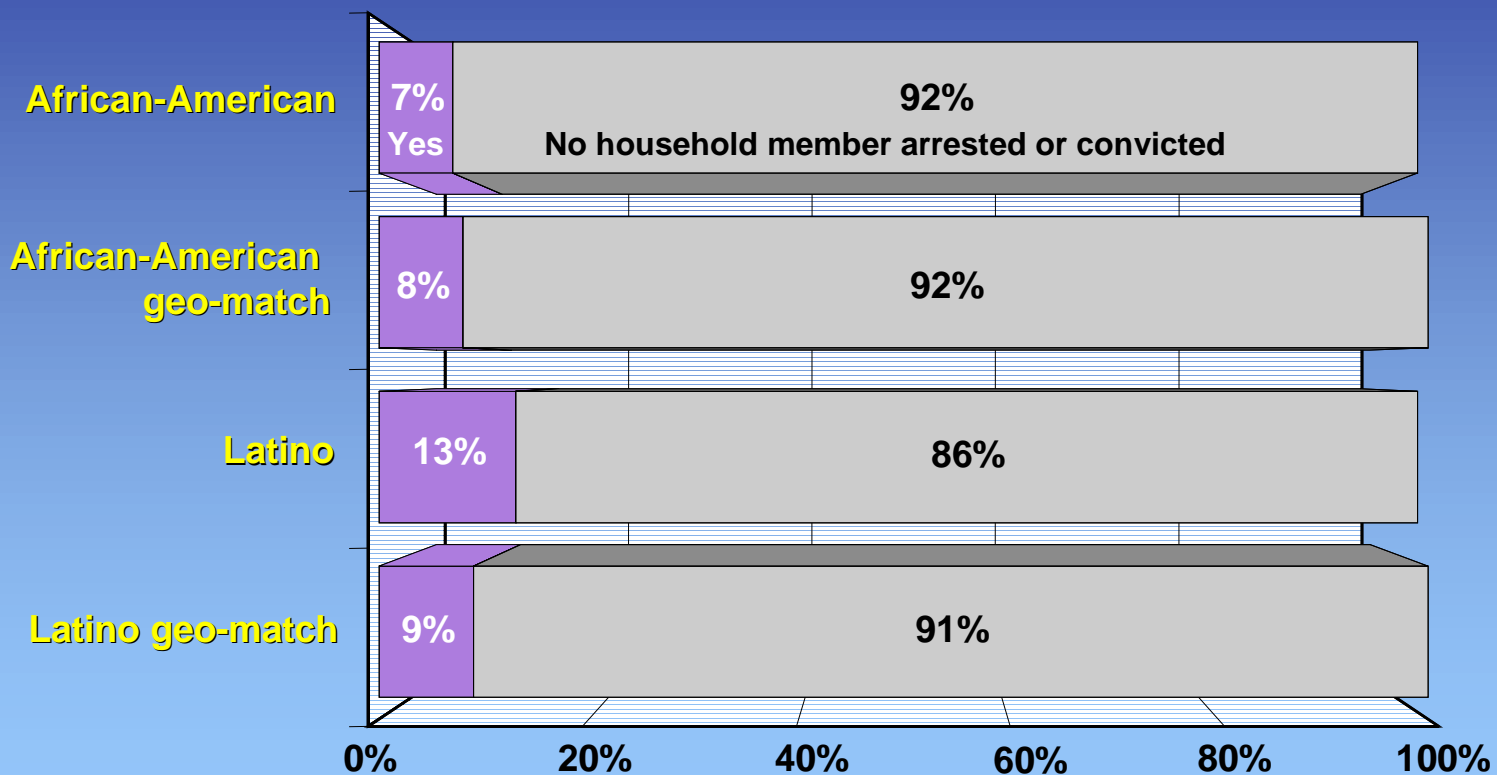
Slight differences in victimization



African-American geo-match least likely to be stopped by police officers



Latinos more likely to have household member who has been arrested or convicted in last 10 years

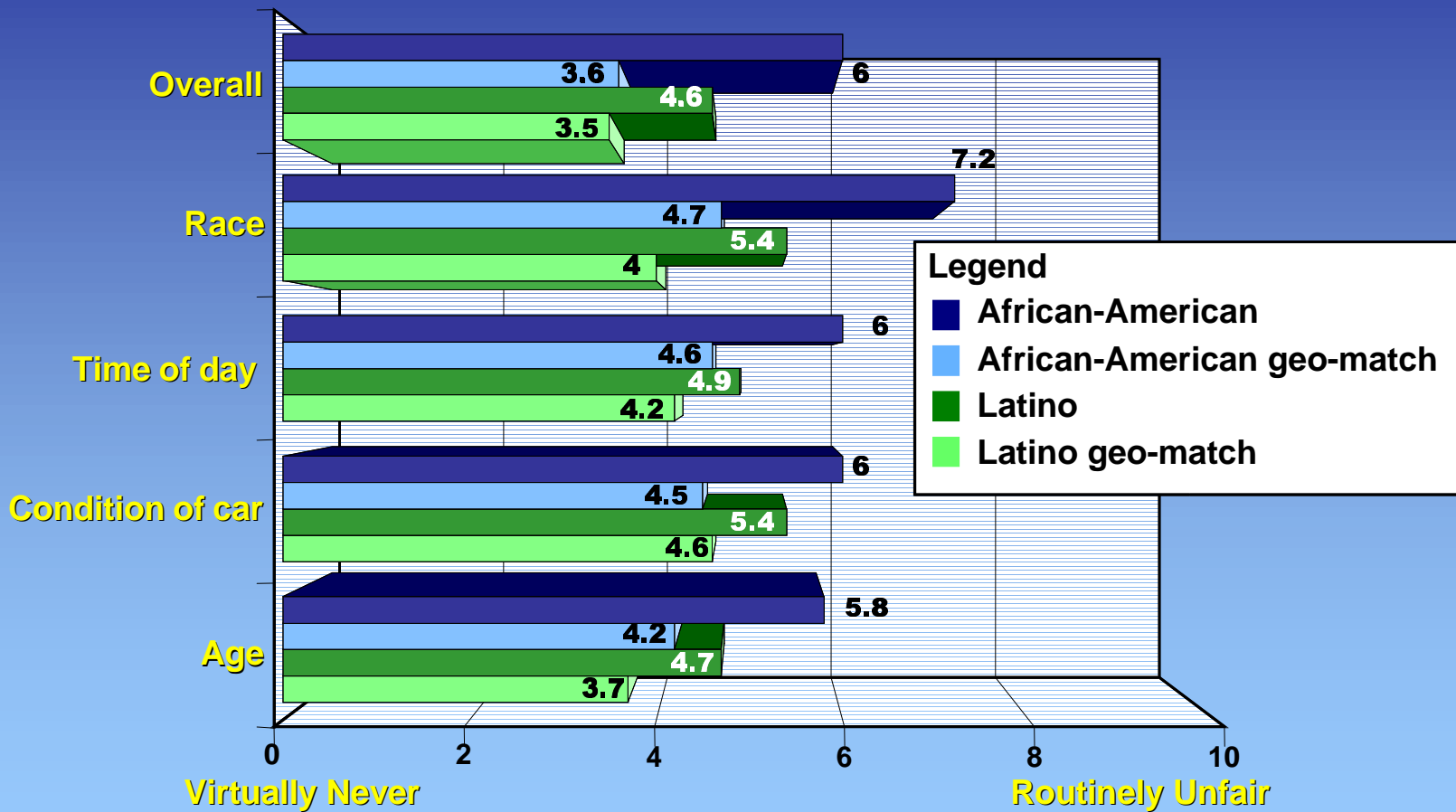


Perceptions of Stop Treatment

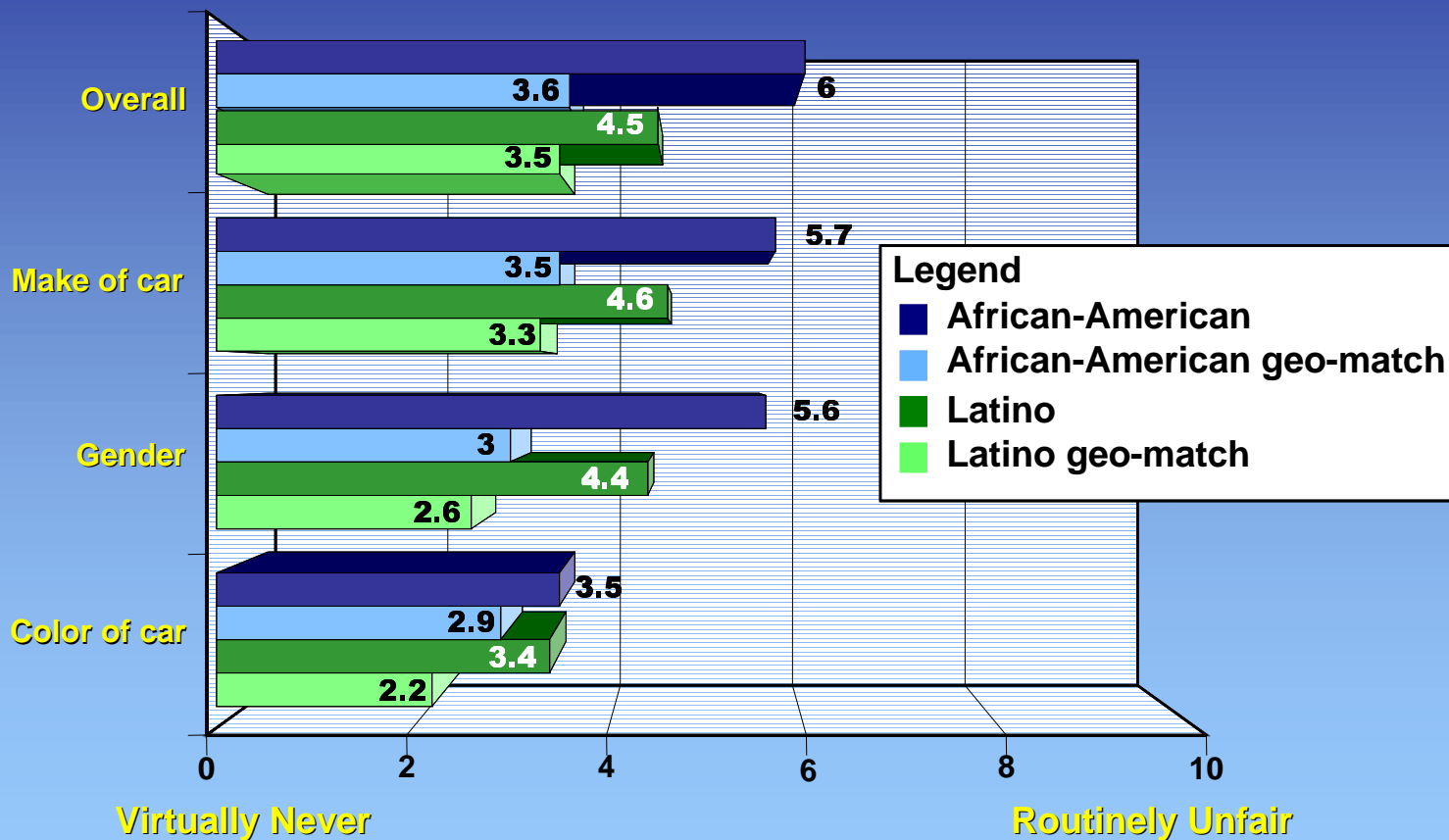
- ▶ General question asked first:
 - ✓ “Please tell me your opinion of how often, if at all, Oregon police officers allow unfair reasons to influence their decision of when to stop a person.”
- ▶ Scale - *virtually never* (0) to *routinely* stop people for unfair reasons (10)

- ▶ Then specific evaluation of stop decisions based on:
 - ✓ Race, color, or national origin
 - ✓ Gender
 - ✓ Age
 - ✓ Time of day vehicle on road
 - ✓ Color of car
 - ✓ Condition of car
 - ✓ Make or model of car
- ▶ Same scale - *virtually never* (0) to *routinely* stop for unfair reasons (10)

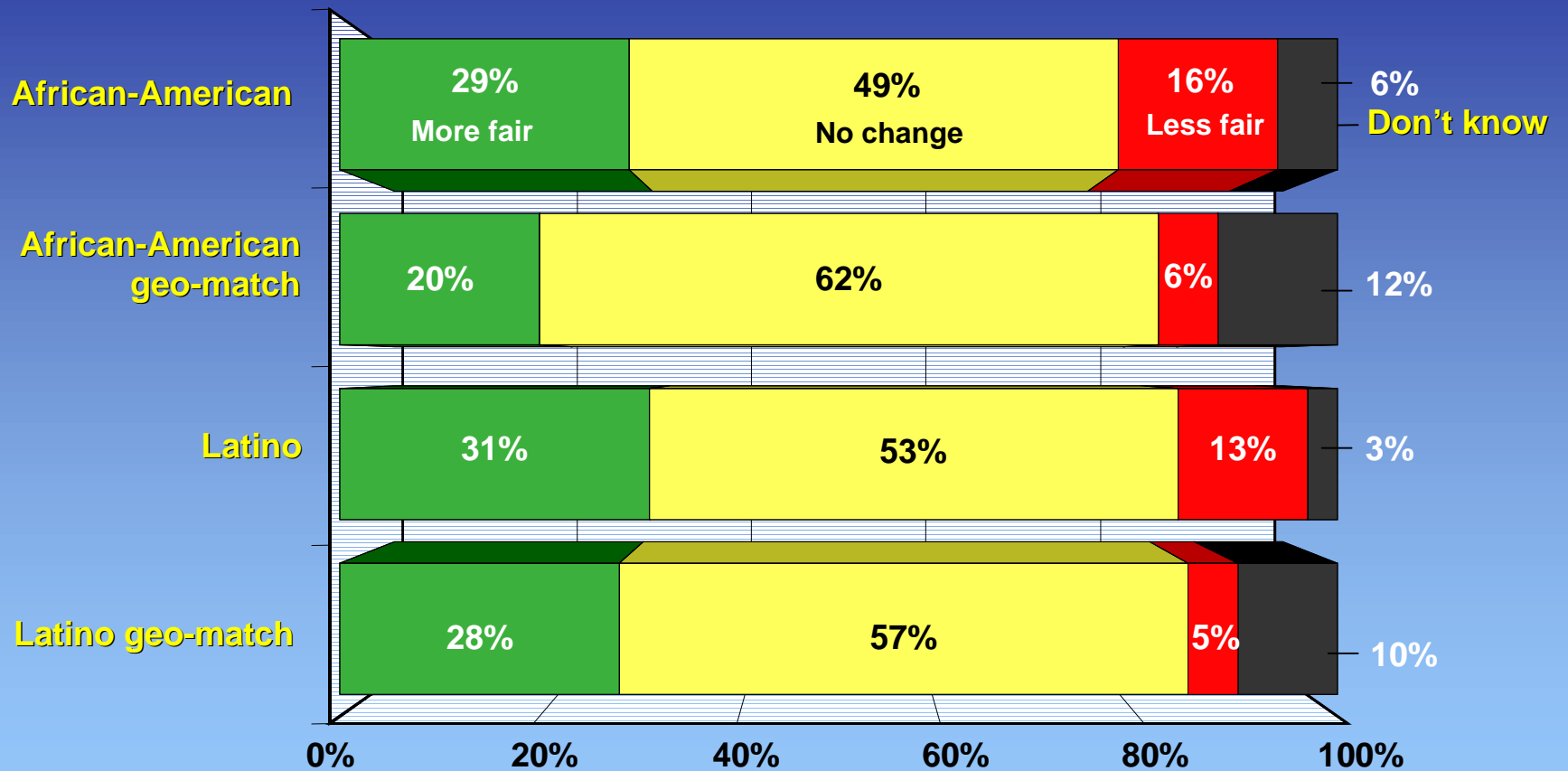
African-Americans & Latinos both much more likely to perceive unfair treatment



Make of car, gender also more likely to be seen as used to make unfair stops by African-Americans & Latinos



Regarding race, minorities are more likely to perceive a change in last year - often for the better



Sources for perception of increased fairness: Direct, media coverage, policing changes

Reason <i>more</i> fair	African/ American n=50	AA Geo-match n=38	Latino n=53	Latino Geo-match n=56
Personal experience	13	1	5	—
Less media coverage	9	24	20	28
Ongoing police training	8	6	6	9
Talking with minorities	9	5	8	4
Just think police fair	9	9	8	5
Police more sensitive	4	1	3	2
Political pressure	2	4	2	3
Societal attitude change	0	2	0	7
Other reasons	5	11	5	8

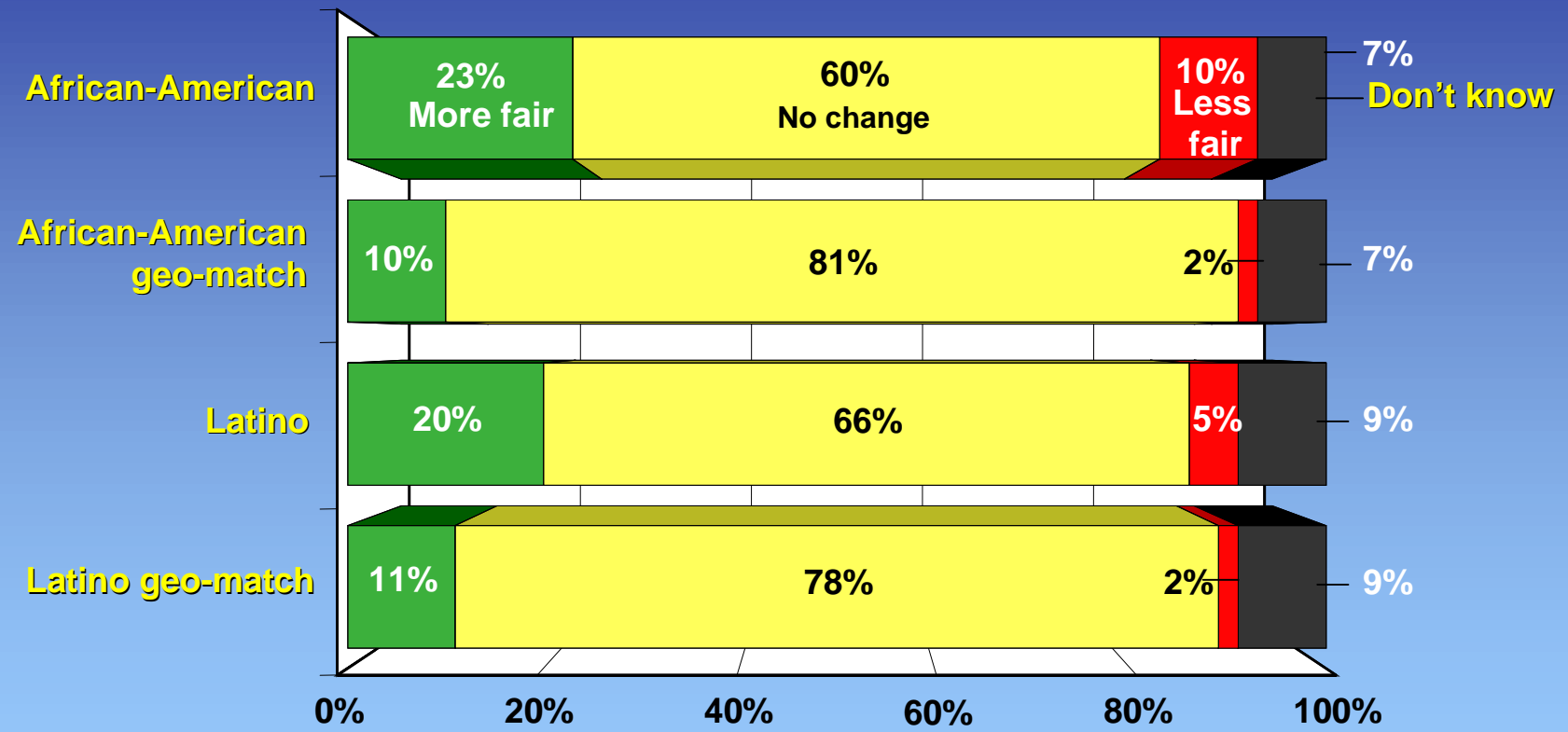
Sample sizes small: Raw numbers only shown

Reasons vary for perceiving declining racial fairness

<i>Less fair because of Race</i>	African American n=28	African Am Geo-match n=12	Latino n=22	Latino Geo-match n=10
Potentially related to a stop:	20	8	9	2
Recent past experience	8	0	2	0
Heard of a recent instance	8	4	2	1
Saw a recent stop	3	5	4	1
News media in general	2	2	2	1
Unrelated to a stop:	8	6	13	8
TV cop shows	0	1	0	0
Specific, non-stop issue	0	3	0	0
Aware of new law	1	0	0	0
Just think so	3	1	7	1
Other unrelated issues	4	1	6	7

Very small sample sizes: Raw numbers only shown

Some improvement also seen in treatment based on gender in the last year



No one reason stands out for why police more fair in regard to gender

Reason more fair	African/ Americans n=34	African Am Geo-match n=19	Latino n=34	Latino Geo-match n=22
Just think police fair	6	3	9	2
Not heard of problems	7	1	4	3
Seen more stops	6	0	5	3
Less media coverage	4	3	3	2
Perception: stop equally	6	3	4	4

Table won't add: Top responses shown only.

Sample sizes small: Raw numbers only shown

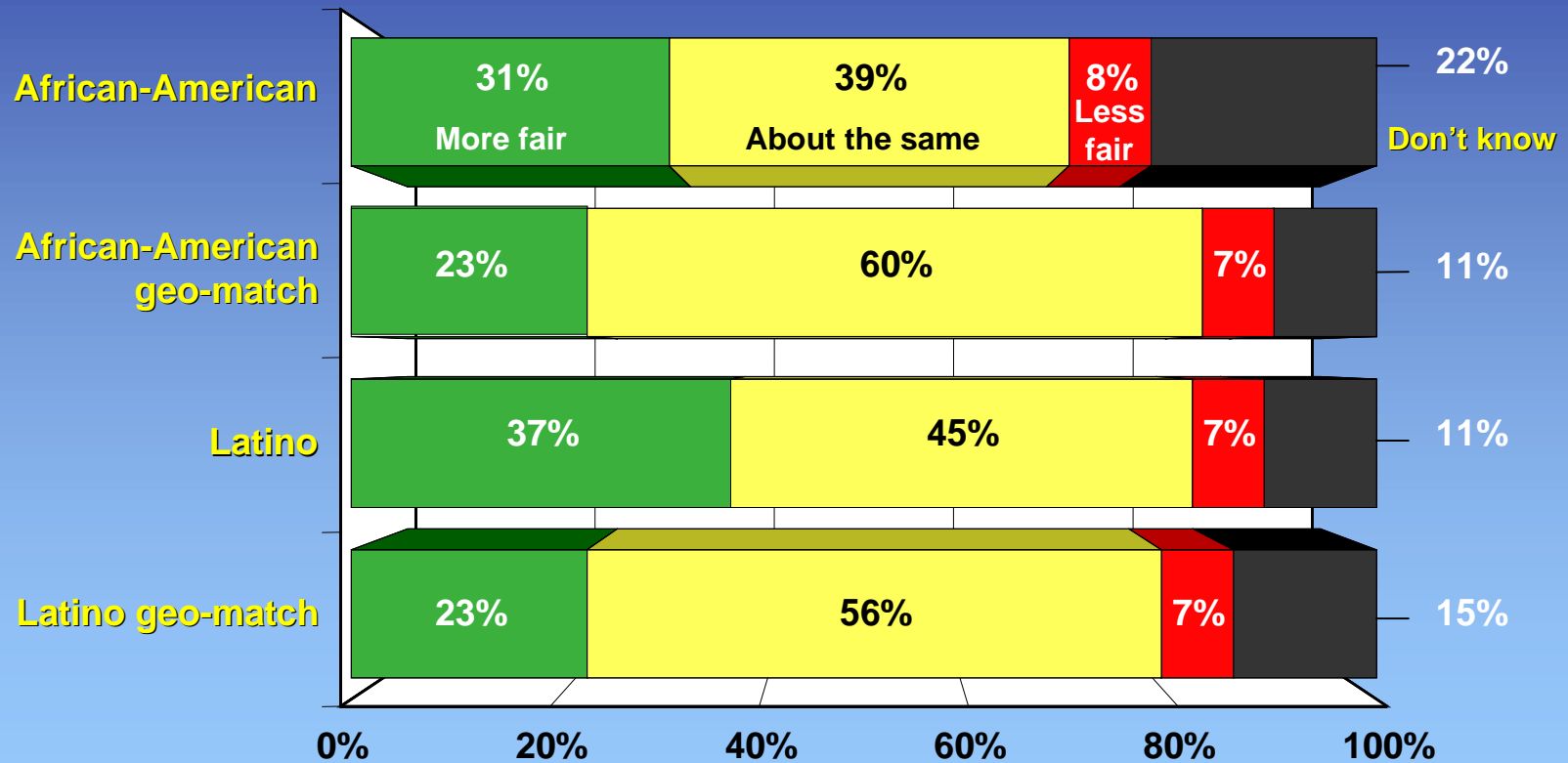
No agreement among those who see police as less fair in regard to gender

Reason <i>less fair</i>	African- American n=17	African Am Geo-match n=4	Latino n=9	Latino Geo-match n=3
Suspect/ticket men, let women off	7	1	4	1
Just think police less fair	7	—	2	1
Experience of others	3	2	1	—
Stop women more	—	1	1	—
News media	—	—	1	1

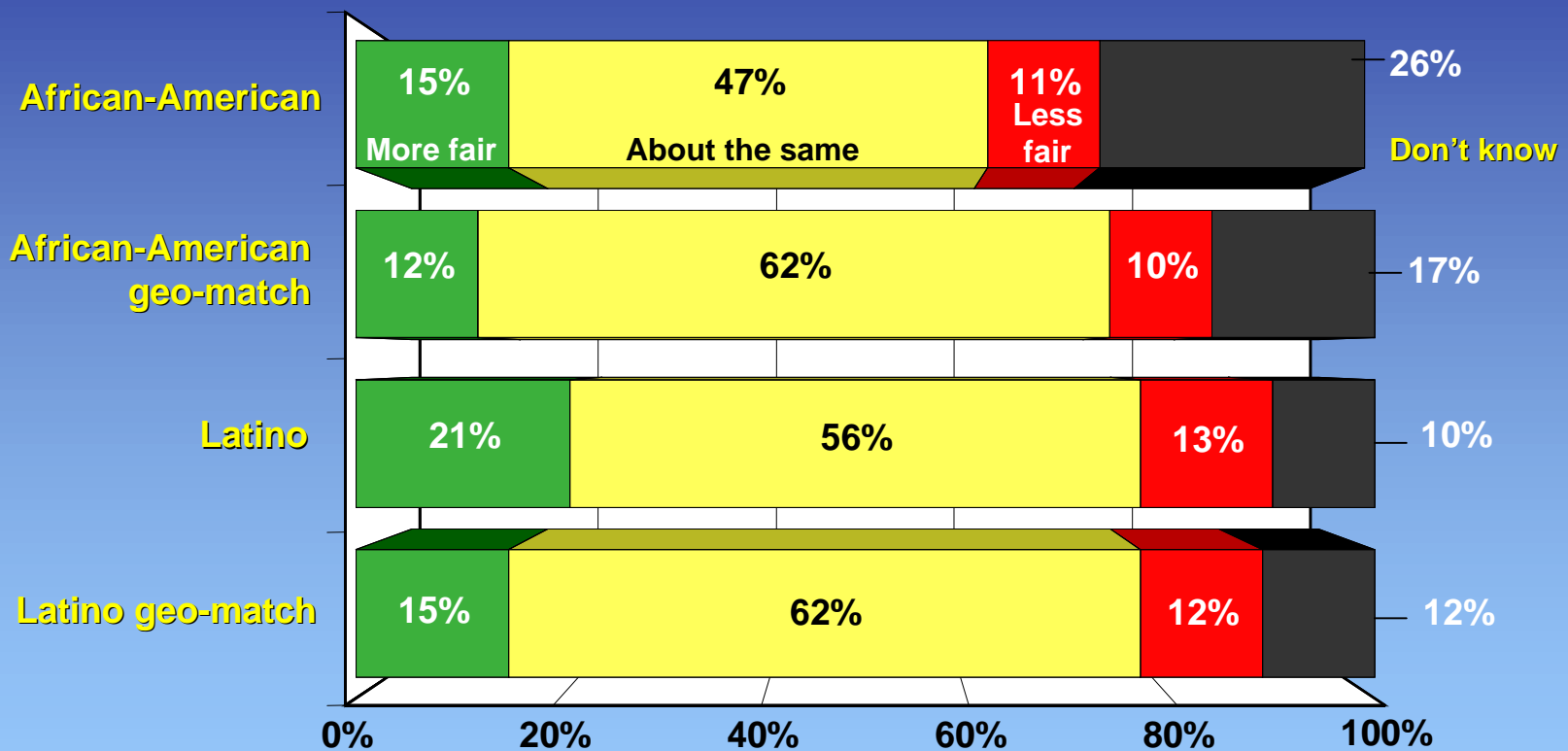
*Table won't add: Top responses shown only.
Sample sizes small: Raw numbers only shown*

Perceived fairness of types of Oregon police officers

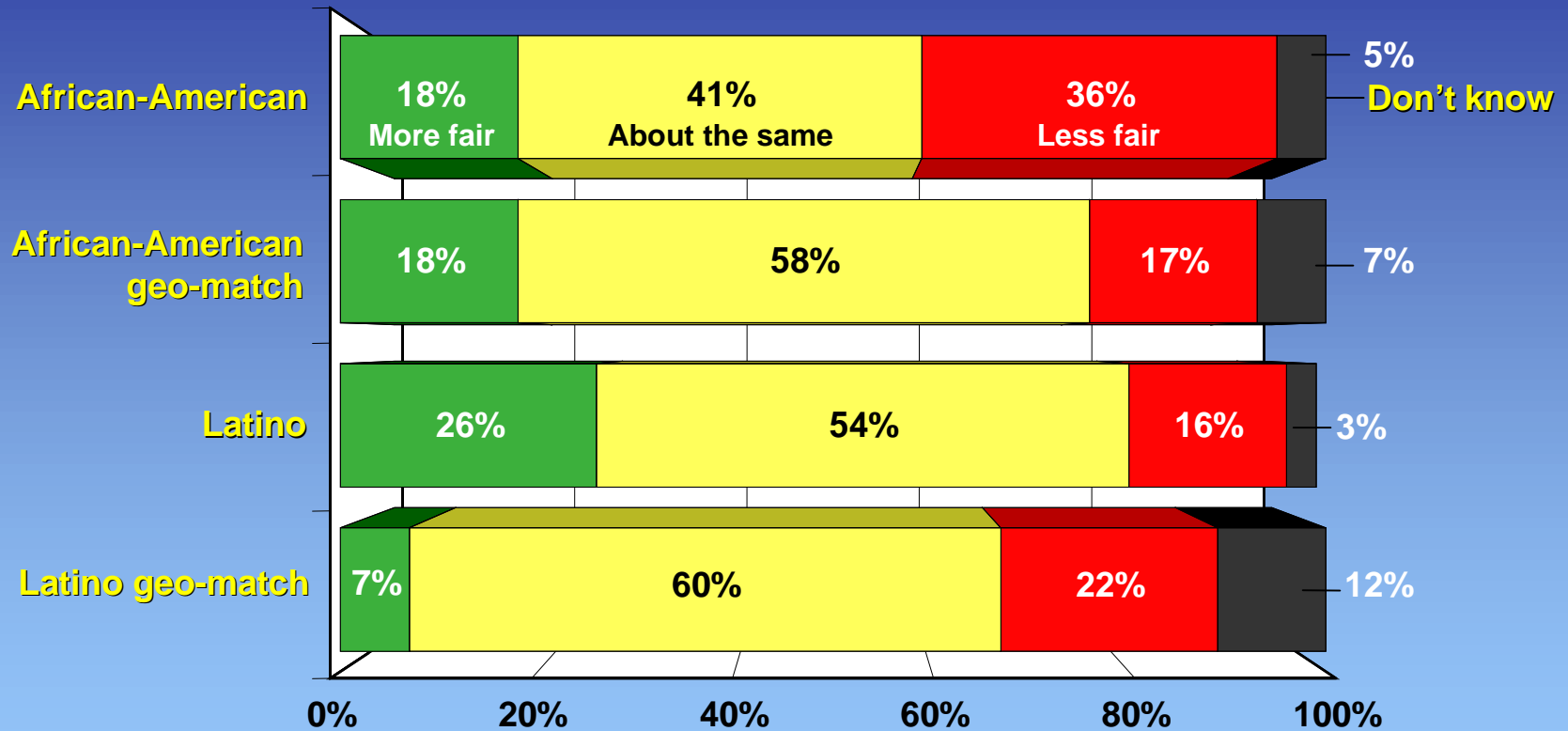
State Police: same or better



County deputies: same or slightly better

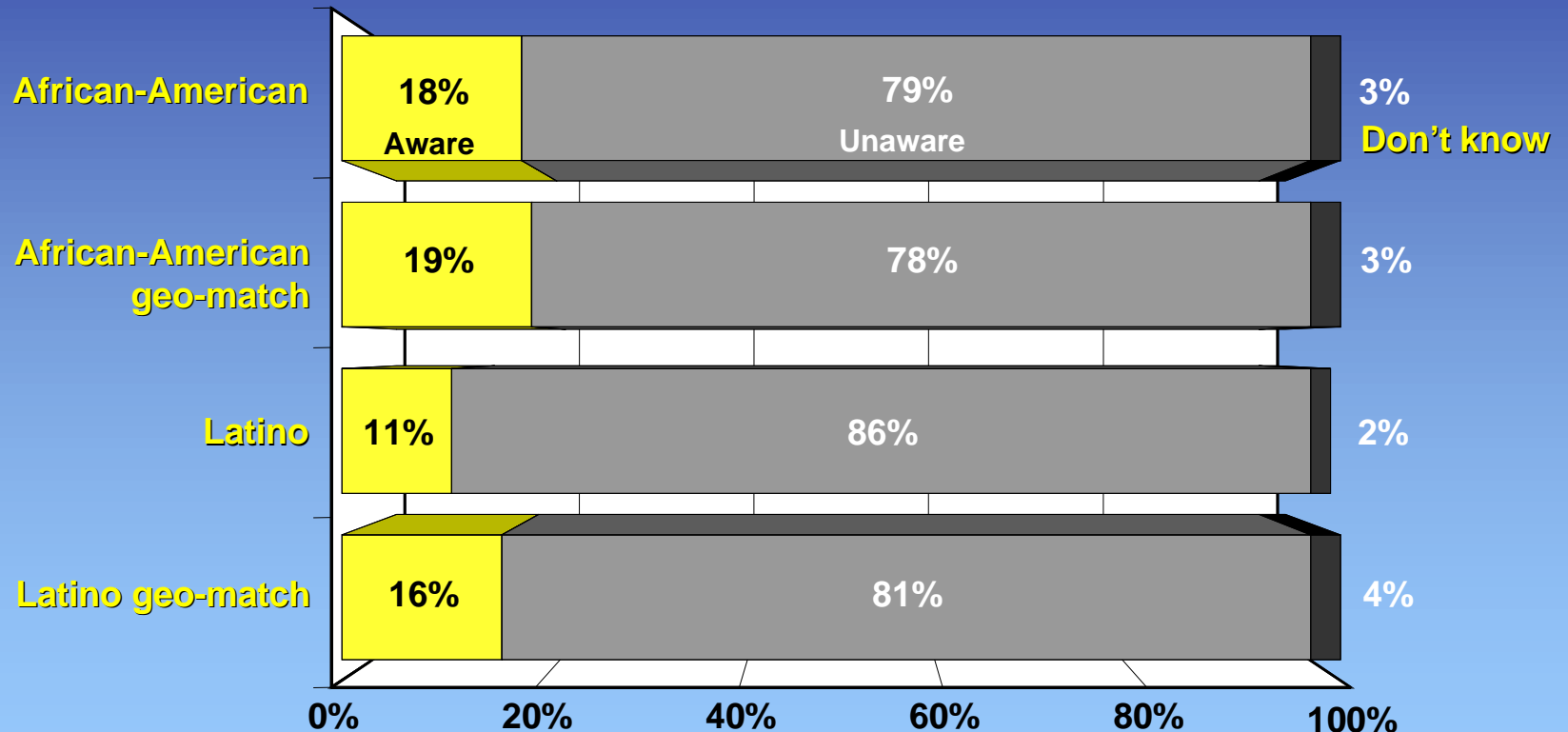


City police: more concern apparent



Awareness of HB 2433

Most unaware of changes to authority of Oregon police officers to make stops



CONCLUSIONS

- ▶ The implementation of HB2433 does not appear to have negatively impacted perceptions of how fairly people of color are treated by Oregon police officers
- ▶ While the perceptual trend shows relations getting better, Oregon police officers must continue improving relationships with communities of color