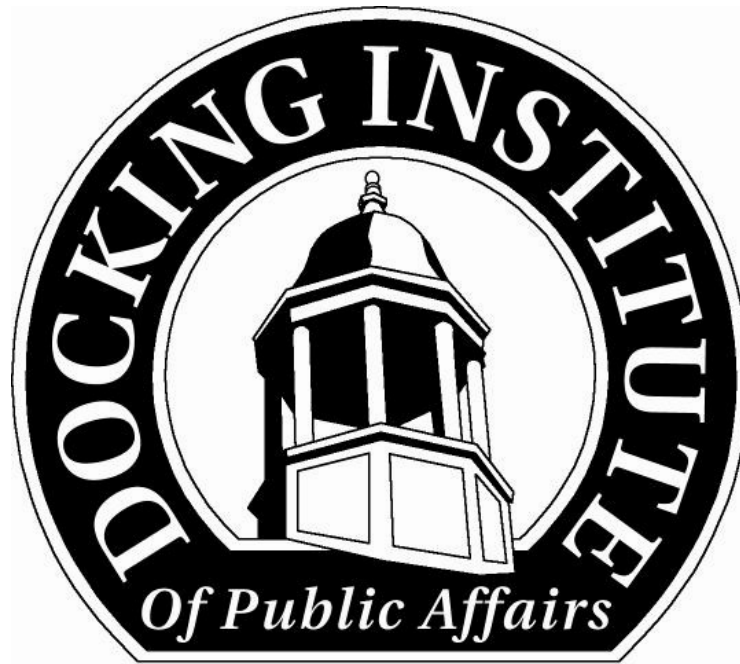


# **Kansas Speaks**

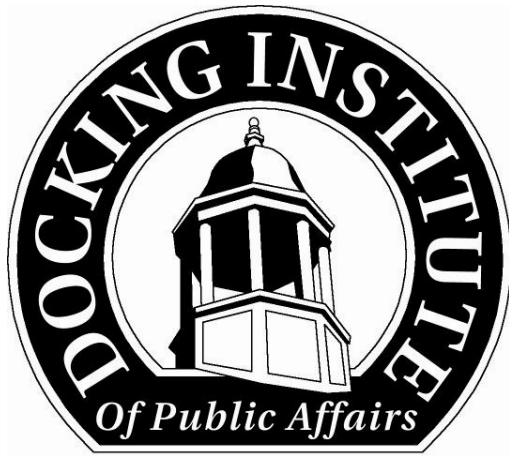
## **2009**

### Statewide Public Opinion Survey



Prepared For  
**The Citizens of Kansas**  
By  
**The Docking Institute of Public Affairs**

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**Mission:**

To Facilitate Effective Public Policy Decision-Making.

The staff of the Docking Institute of Public Affairs and its University Center for Survey Research are dedicated to serving the people of Kansas and surrounding states.

# Kansas Speaks

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**Prepared For:**

The Citizens of Kansas

In pursuit of  
Fort Hays State University's  
Public Affairs Mission

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## Executive Summary

- When respondents were asked to rate Kansas, in general, as a place to live, the most common response was that it is a “very good” place to live (41.5%). Over one-fifth said it was an “excellent” place to live (22.7%), while over one-fourth rated Kansas as a “good” place to live (27.3%). Very few respondents rated Kansas as less than “fair” (1.5%).
- Respondents who voted in the 2008 election, Anglo-Americans, those in upper income categories and those residing in Western Kansas tended to rate the state more highly as a place to live.
- When asked to rate the Kansas economy, the most common response was “good” (42%), followed by “fair” (32%). Only 16% of respondents said the state economy was in “poor” or “very poor” condition, but even fewer rated the Kansas economy as “very good” or “excellent” (11%).
- Respondents residing in Western Kansas tended to rate the state economy most highly, while those residing in Southeast Kansas tended to rate it the lowest. Not surprisingly, the county unemployment rates during data collection were lowest in Western Kansas and highest in Southeast Kansas.
- When asked about the degree to which economic conditions in Kansas threatened the welfare of their family, well over one-fourth of respondents said they were “very concerned,” while one-third said they were “moderately concerned.” The remaining 38% reported little or no concern for the economy threatening their family’s welfare. Concern tended to be higher among Hispanic respondents and respondents with lower annual household incomes.
- Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with certain elected state officials in fostering the health of the state economy. Just over half were either “moderately satisfied” (36%) or “very satisfied” (16%) with the efforts of Governor Sebelius, while over one-fourth (28%) were “not satisfied.” Similar levels of satisfaction with both political party leaders were reported, with respondents being slightly more satisfied with leaders of the Democratic Party.
- Almost half of respondents said they thought state spending should be decreased (47%). Just over one-third felt the current level of state spending was appropriate (35%), while only 18% favored an increase in state spending.
- Respondents were asked several questions to assess their opinions regarding fair taxation of individuals and businesses. Over half favored increasing taxes on large corporations (52%) and decreasing taxes on small businesses (55%). The vast majority favored either keeping taxes on the middle class the same (55%) or lowering taxes on the middle class (41%). Regarding taxation of the top income earners, the vast majority of respondents favored either raising taxes (41%) or keep their taxes the same (41%).

- Female respondents were more likely to favor increasing taxes on the top income earners, while those with lower levels of education were more likely to favor decreasing taxes on the middle class. Female, younger, lower income and African-American respondents were more likely to favor increasing taxes on large corporations.
- When asked to rate their overall satisfaction with their legislators and Governor Sebelius, respondents tended to rate their own State Representative and State Senator most highly, followed by their U.S. Senator and U.S. Representative. Ratings for Governor Sebelius tended to fall toward one or the other extreme, with more respondents being “very satisfied” and more being “not satisfied” than for any of the legislators rated. Ironically, overall satisfaction with the legislature, similar to that with the Kansas state government in general, was lower than for any of respondents’ individual elected officials.
- Respondents that tended to be more satisfied with the state legislature included women, those with less education, Hispanics, those with lower annual household incomes and those residing in Western and Southeastern Kansas. Respondents living in Western and Southeastern Kansas were also more likely to express high satisfaction with their State Senators and U.S. Congresspersons. Satisfaction with Governor Sebelius tended to be higher among female and African-American respondents.
- When asked about state support for developing the various sources of energy, the strongest levels of support were for wind energy, followed by solar, gas, oil and biofuels like ethanol. Nuclear energy and coal tended to be the lowest priority.
- Respondents were highly divided when asked if they thought the economic benefits of coal and oil production outweigh the environmental concerns associated with using these fuels. Slight majorities of respondents said that the economic benefits of oil production (54%) and coal production (52%) do outweigh the environmental concerns.
- When asked about opinions on the negative environmental impact of wind energy, the most concern (25.2%) was expressed for the hazards to bats and birds from moving rotors. Smaller percentages expressed concern for the negative aesthetic effect of wind farms and the associated power lines on the Kansas landscape for people living nearby.
- About half of respondents were satisfied with the current level of gun control and legalized gambling. Of those dissatisfied, most wanted less legalized gambling and more gun control. Two-thirds of respondents said they favored more resources devoted to addressing illegal immigration. Respondents tending to favor more gun control were non-voters, Hispanics, lower income respondents and women. Support for legalized gambling was stronger among upper income respondents and ethnic minorities. Increased support to address illegal immigration was more popular among non-Hispanic respondents and those with lower levels of education.

- A majority of respondents (53%) said they favored teaching both evolution and creationism in the public schools, while 18% said that neither of these theories should be taught. The remaining respondents were evenly divided between teaching one or the other exclusively. Preference for teaching both theories was highest among respondents with some college, while those with graduate degrees were the most likely to prefer teaching evolution only. Upper income respondents, men and those living in Northeast and Central Kansas tended to prefer teaching either both theories or evolution only, while lower income respondents, women and those living in Western and Southeast Kansas were more likely to prefer teaching either neither theories or only creationism.
- Respondents were highly divided on opinions of the death penalty in Kansas, with the most common response (40%) favoring limited use, executing only some convicted murderers. Just over one-fifth (21%) favored abolishing the death penalty, while slightly more (23%) favored executing all convicted murderers. Opposition to the death penalty was stronger among females, those with higher education levels, ethnic minorities and those who voted in the 2008 election.
- Satisfaction with Kansas roads and highways was high among respondents, with two-thirds (65%) rating them as either “good” or “excellent” and 93% saying they are at least “fair.” Anglo, upper-educated, upper-income and respondents who voted in the 2008 election tended to rate the quality of Kansas roads and highways more highly.
- Respondents reported a strong desire for changes in the Kansas healthcare system, with half (50%) saying major changes are needed and an additional one-third (33%) saying minor changes are required. Women, ethnic minority and lower income respondents were more likely to report a desire for changes in the Kansas healthcare system.
- Respondents were highly divided on opinions of the government’s role in providing healthcare for all citizens. A majority (56%), however, said they thought it is the responsibility of government to make sure all Americans have healthcare coverage. Just under one-fifth (19%) strongly agreed with this sentiment, while almost as many (18%) strongly disagreed. Respondents more likely to agree included women, ethnic minorities, lower income and those who did not vote in the 2008 election.
- A majority of respondents (52%) said funding for K through 12 public education should be increased, with 93% saying that it should at least be maintained at its current level. Support for higher education was not as strong, with 43% favoring increased funding and 91% saying funding should at least be maintained at its current level. Support for increasing funding to K through 12 was higher among women respondents and respondents between the ages of 26 and 45.

## **Introduction and Methods**

The Docking Institute of Public Affairs at Fort Hays State University surveyed a random sample of adult residents of Kansas age 18 and older to assess attitudes and opinions regarding various issues of interest to Kansas citizens. Surveying took place from April 28 to September 8, 2009, when 2,082 households were contacted via telephone. In 1,220 households, an eligible respondent completed the interview. This results in a cooperation rate of 62%. This sample has a margin of error of +/- 2.9% at a 95% confidence level (that is, there is a 95% probability that the true percentages in the population fall within 2.9% of the survey estimates), assuming no response bias. Sample demographics were compared to known Census-based distributions. The sample matched closely with all except age and gender. Due mostly to lower usage of landline-based telephones among Kansans under 26 years of age and higher response rates among females and those over 55, the overall population estimates are biased toward the opinions of women and older Kansans. All relationships included in this report are statistically significant at the 95% level of confidence.

This report contains seven sections:

- 1) **Rating of Kansas as an Overall Place to Live.** This section shows how Kansans generally feel about Kansas as a place to live. The analysis includes crosstabulation by key demographic variables to identify statistically significant relationships that allow the reader to see how citizens in various social categories vary in opinions.

- 2) **The Economy.** This section shows results to questions addressing various economic concerns to citizens. The analysis includes statistically significant relationships with key demographic variables to see how citizens in various social categories differ in their opinions of the economy.
- 3) **Taxes.** This section shows results to opinion questions regarding fair and effective taxation policies. The analysis includes statistically significant relationships with key demographic variables to see how citizens in various social categories differ in their opinions on personal and business taxation.
- 4) **State Government.** This section presents the results of citizens' ratings of the state government in general, as well as their various state government officials. The analysis includes statistically significant relationships with key demographic variables to see how citizens in various social categories differ in their assessments of state government and elected officials.
- 5) **Energy Policy.** A key component of this study is to assess the level of citizen support for public resources being devoted to developing various sources of energy production. The survey includes questions on critical factors specific to the forms of energy most relevant to the Kansas economy; oil, coal and wind.
- 6) **Public Policy Issues.** This section looks at citizens' opinions on several key state policy issues, some quite controversial, including gun control, legalized gambling, illegal immigration, the teaching of evolution and creationism in public schools and the death penalty. It also includes opinions on the general condition of roads and highways in Kansas. The analysis includes statistically significant

relationships with key demographic variables to see how citizens in various social categories differ in their opinions on these important public policy issues.

- 7) **Healthcare and Education.** This final section presents the results of citizens' opinions on the general state of healthcare in Kansas, as well as opinions on the government's role in insuring that all citizens have adequate healthcare coverage. Opinions about the appropriate amount of state funding for primary, secondary and post-secondary education are also included in this section. Statistically significant relationships with key demographic variables are also presented to show how opinions on healthcare and education tend to vary depending on the respondent's social situation.

## Overall Quality of Life in Kansas

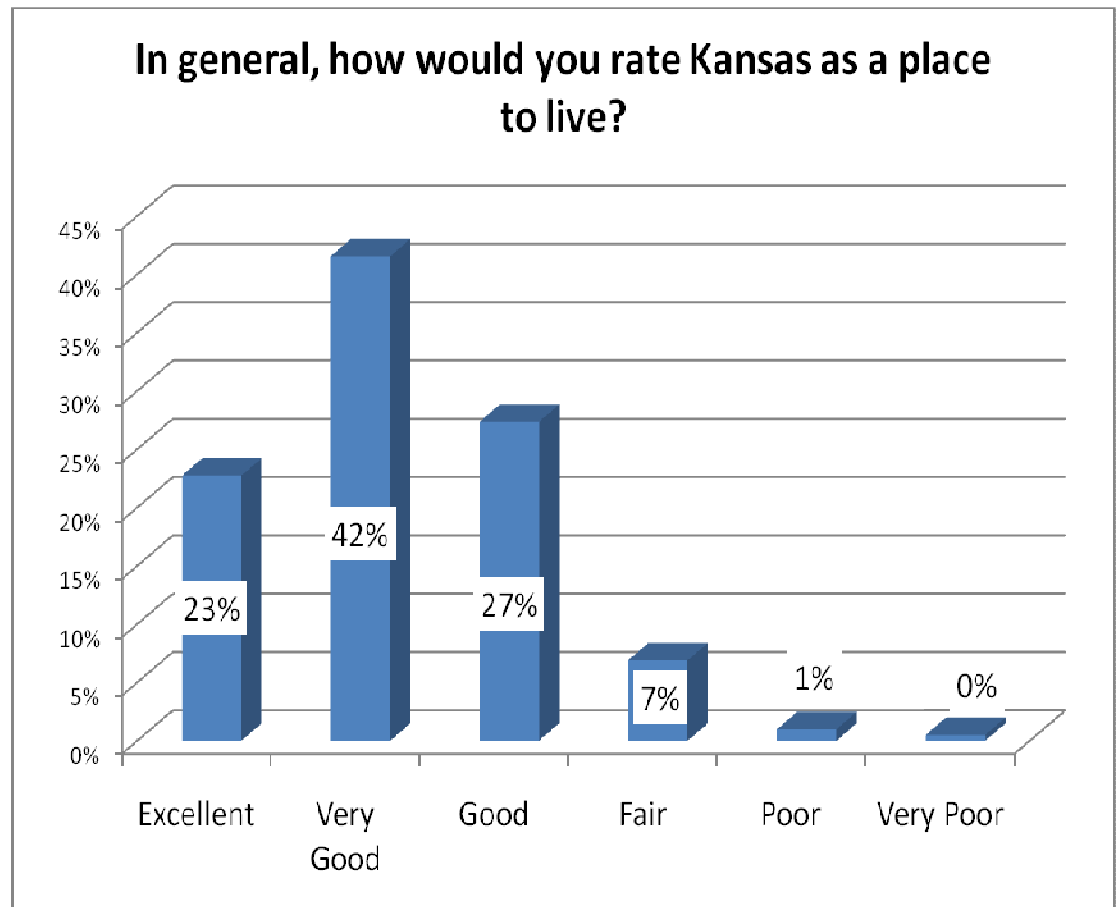


Figure 1

Respondents were asked, “In general, how would you rate Kansas as a place to live?” The vast majority (92%) said they believed Kansas was at least a “good” place to live. Almost two-thirds (65%) said Kansas was at least a “very good” place to live, while well over one-fifth felt Kansas was an “excellent” place to live. These results suggest that, with very few exceptions, Kansas provides a high quality of life for its citizens.



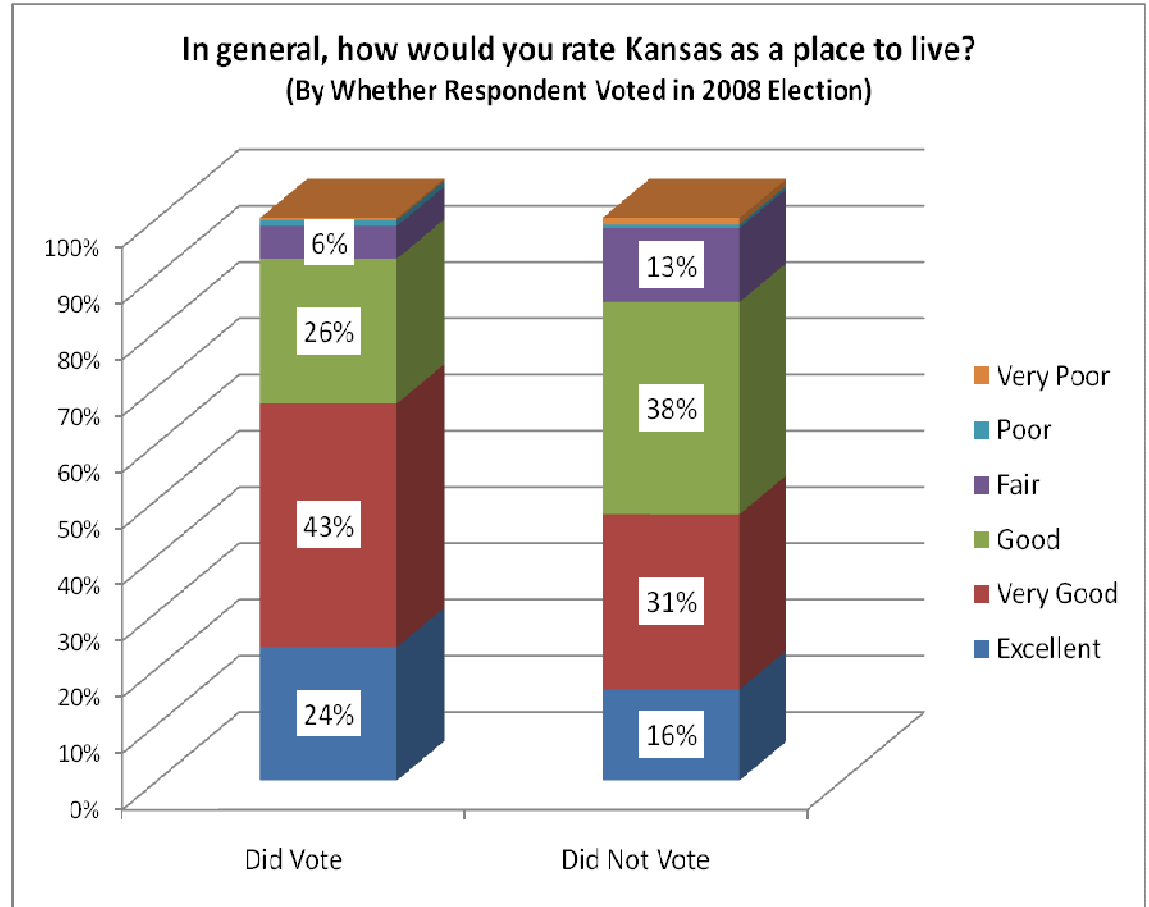


Figure 2

Eighty-six percent of respondents said they voted in the 2008 election, which is higher than official sources. This suggests either that the sample is biased toward voters or that some respondents erroneously reported that they had voted, a socially desirable response. Respondents reporting that they voted in the 2008 election were much more likely to say Kansas was either an “excellent” or “very good” place to live and significantly more likely to say it was at least a “good” place to live. Voters and non-voters were equally likely to say Kansas was a “poor” or “very poor” place to live.

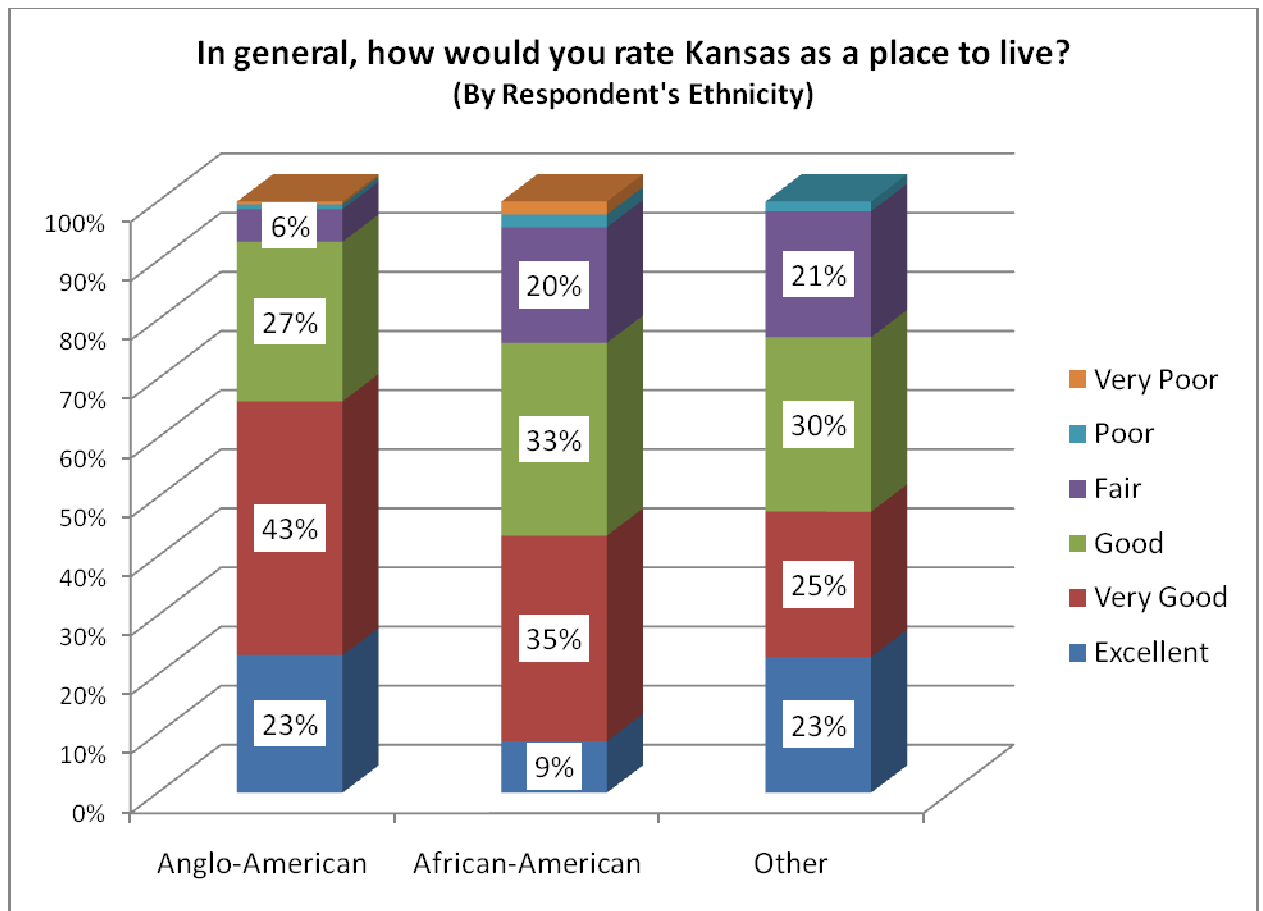


Figure 3

Opinions of the quality of life in Kansas varied significantly by respondent's ethnicity. Although there was little difference in the proportion who said Kansas was a "very poor" or "poor" place to live, minority citizens were more likely to feel that Kansas was a "fair" or "good" place to live, while the ethnic majority was more likely to report believing Kansas was "very good" or "excellent" place to live. Although speculation on the reasons behind these variations in perception of the quality of life in Kansas between ethnic categories could include known differences in income and possible racial discrimination, the study did not collect data on reasons for various opinions, and thus, can make no valid conclusions in this regard.

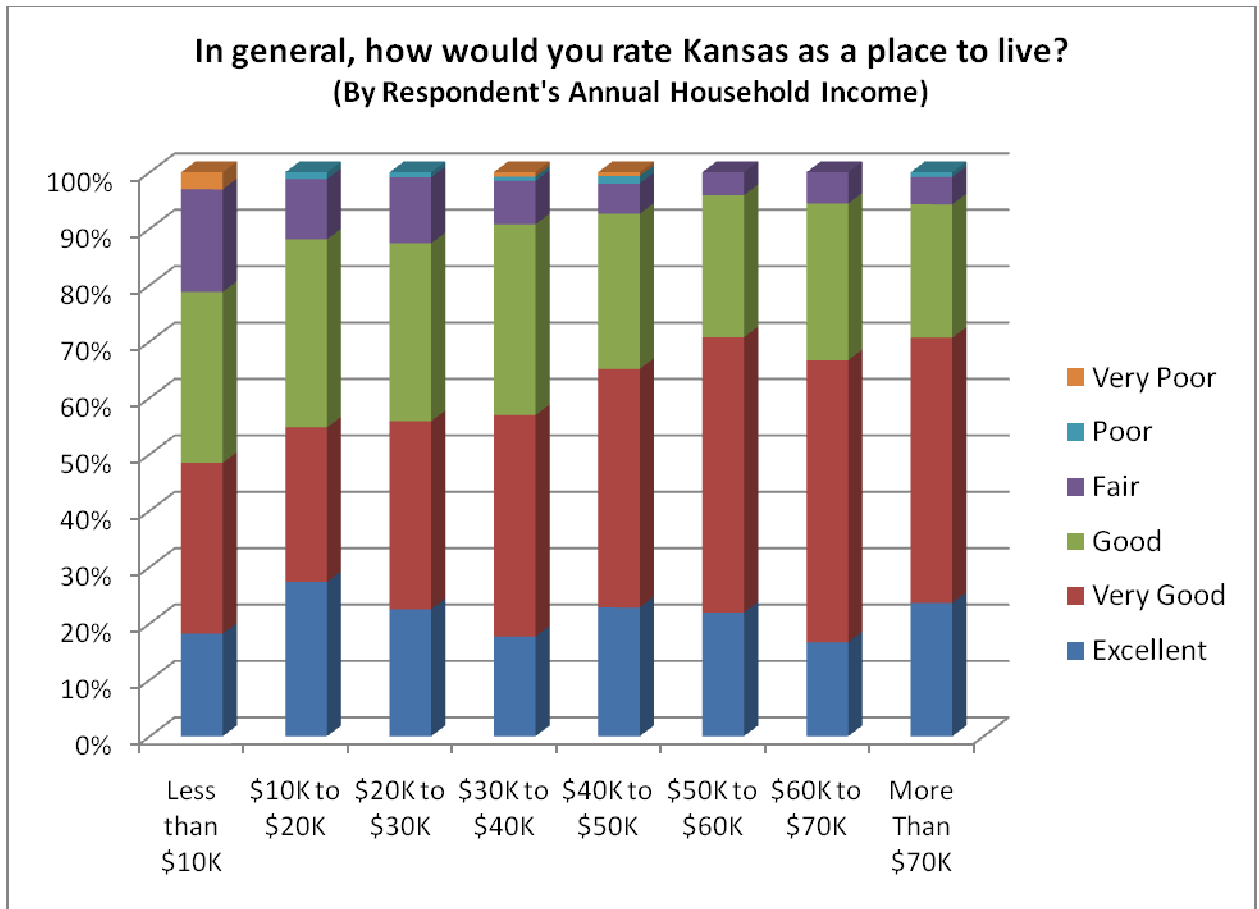


Figure 4

A consistent relationship between respondent's annual household income and perceived quality of life was detected. Figure 4 shows that the higher the respondent's household income, the more likely they were to say Kansas was at least a "very good" place to live. Respondents whose reported annual household income was below \$10,000 were much more likely to report that Kansas was either a "fair" or "very poor" place to live. These results suggest that perceiving a high quality of life among Kansans is highly dependent on the ability to earn a decent living. No respondents earning household incomes over \$50,000 reported Kansas a "very poor" place to live.

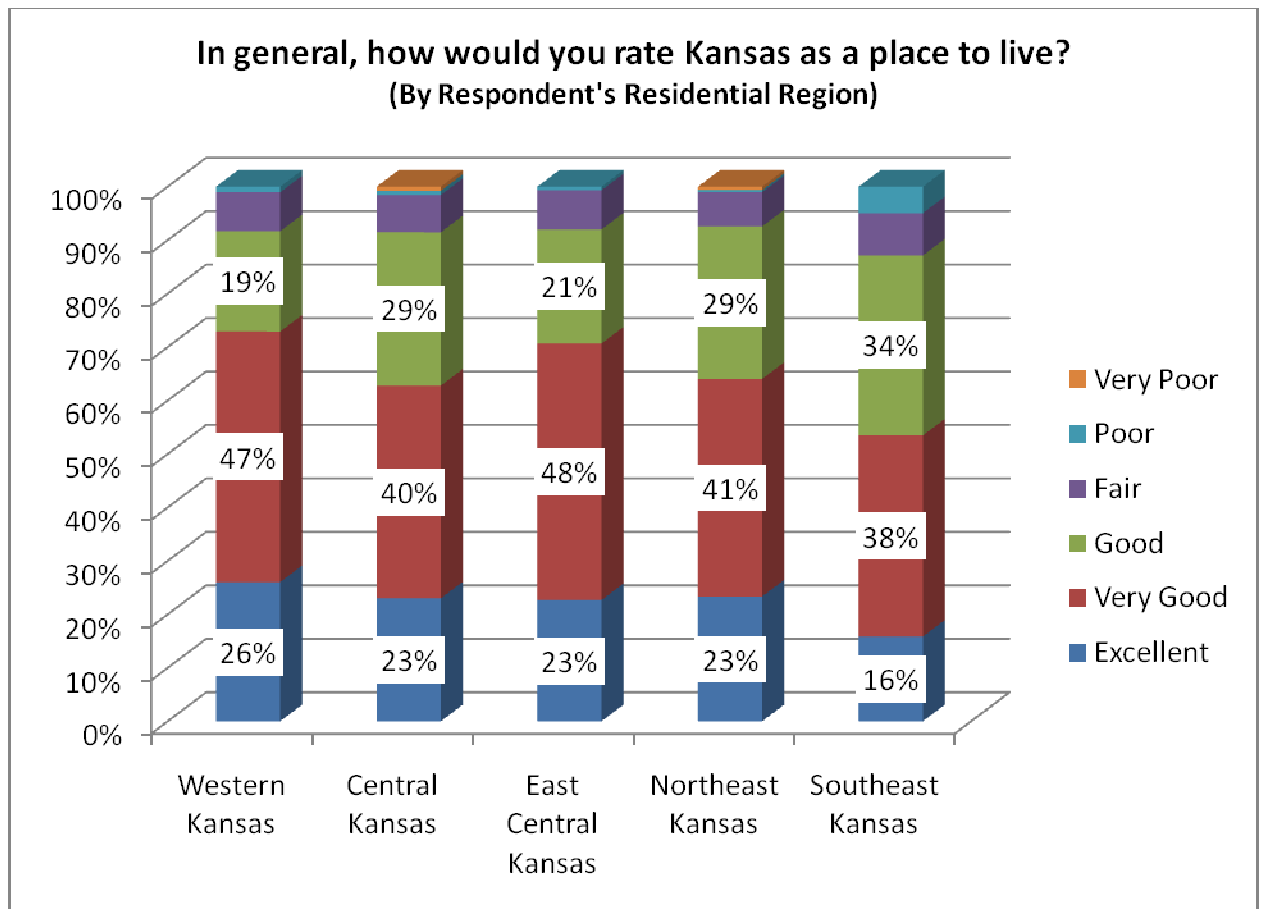


Figure 5

There was variation in opinions on ratings of Kansas as a place to live between residents living in various regions of the state. Respondents residing in Western Kansas were most likely to rate Kansas as an “excellent,” and at least a “very good,” place to live, with East Central Kansas reporting similarly high ratings. Respondents residing in Southeast Kansas were least likely to rate Kansas as an “excellent,” or at least a “very good,” place to live, and were most likely to say Kansas was a “poor” or less than “good” place to live. Not surprisingly, counties in Western Kansas tended to have the lowest unemployment rates, while those in Southeast Kansas tended to have the highest rates when the data were collected. This suggests that a healthy economy is a strong factor in Kansans’ ratings of the state as a good place to live.

## The Economy

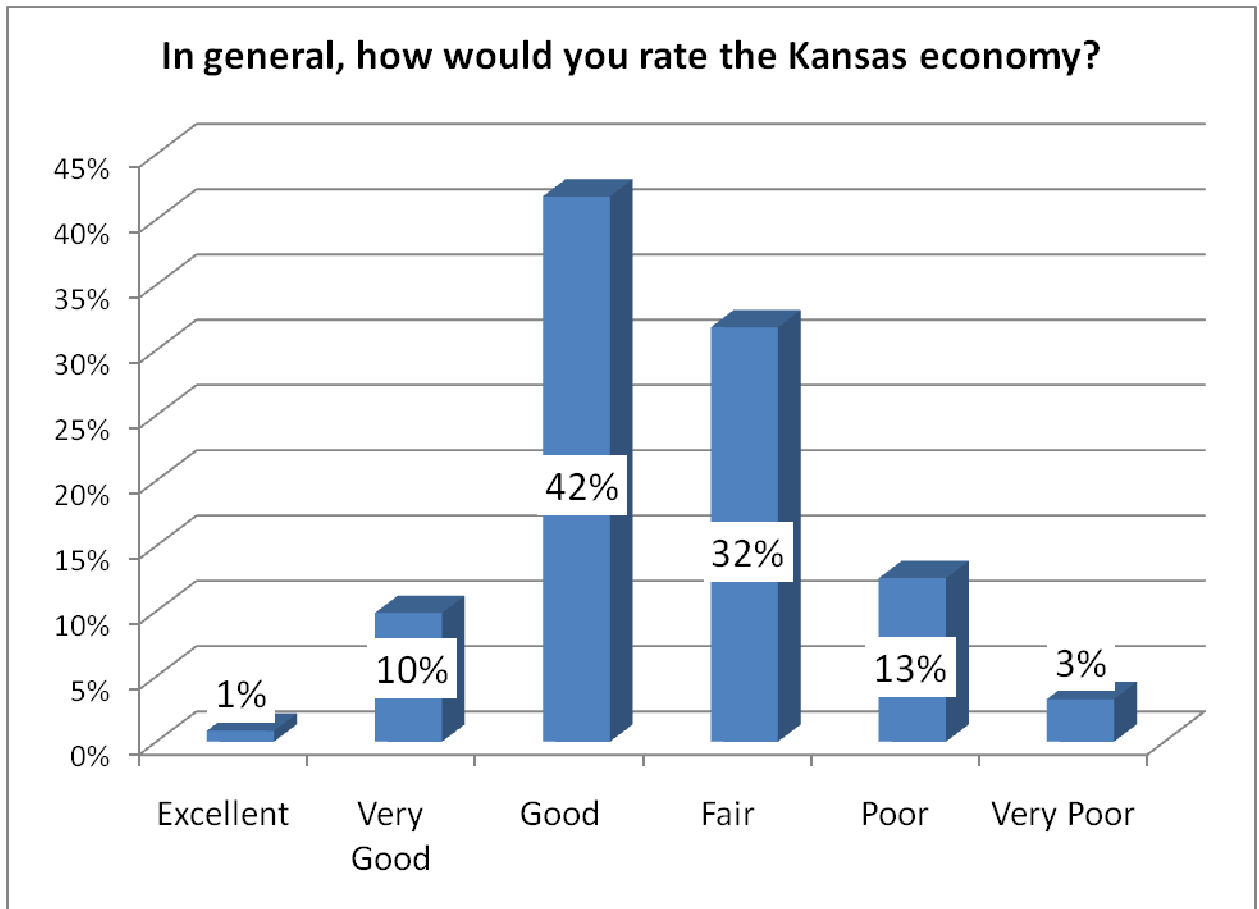


Figure 6

Respondents were asked, “In general, how would you rate the Kansas economy?” Economic indicators have been in a high level of flux throughout the data collection period, so interpretation of these results must bear in mind this time period, which was May, June, July and August of 2009. This distribution should reflect the average opinions during this time period. They suggest that Kansans have remained cautiously optimistic over the health of the Kansas economy, with a large majority (74%) reporting it being either in “good” or “fair” condition.

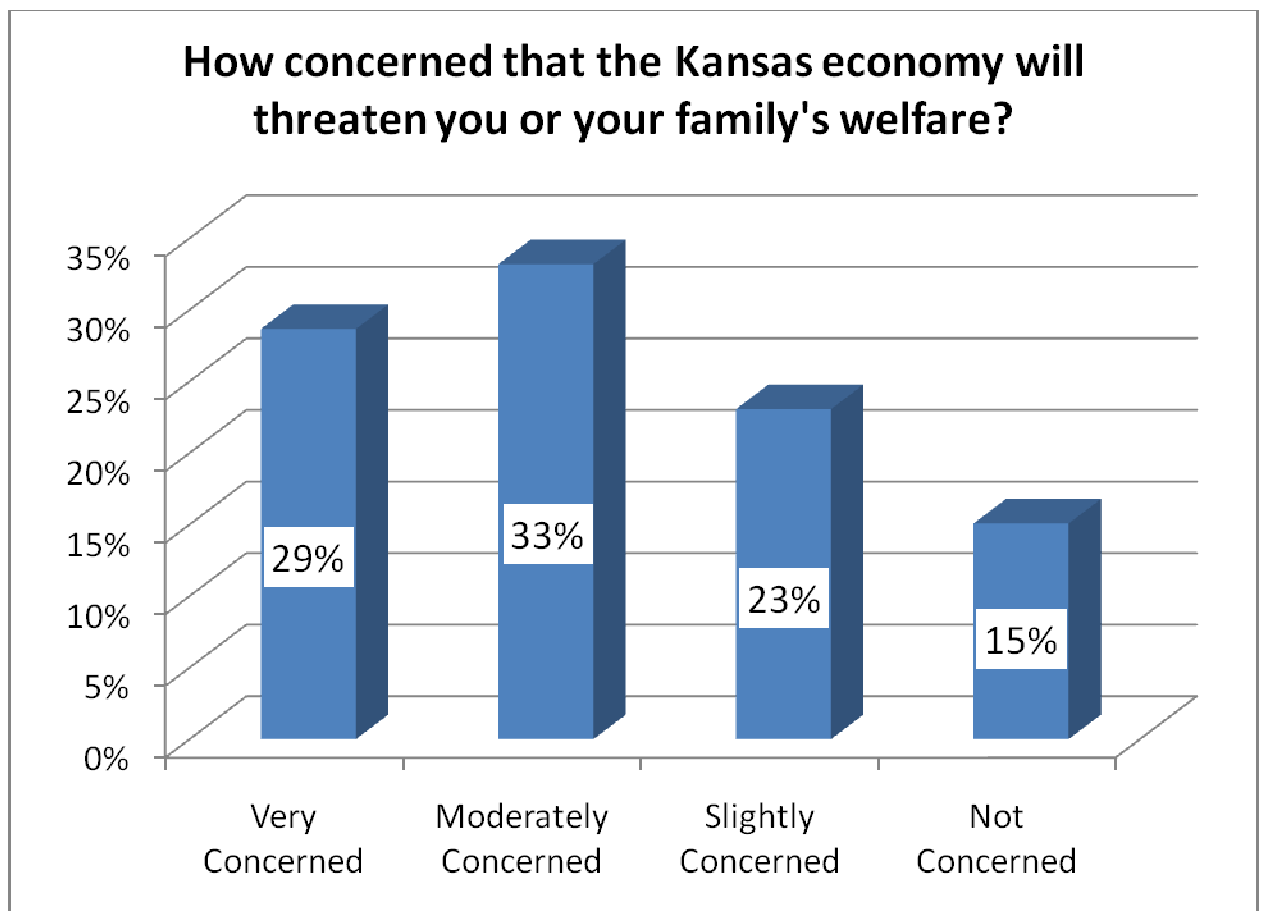


Figure 7

Kansans' cautious optimism over the state economy is also reflected in responses to the question, "How concerned are you that the Kansas economy will seriously threaten you or your family's welfare?" Although over one-third of respondents (38%) said they had few or no concerns, almost one-third said they were "very concerned" and almost two-thirds (62%) said they were at least "moderately concerned."

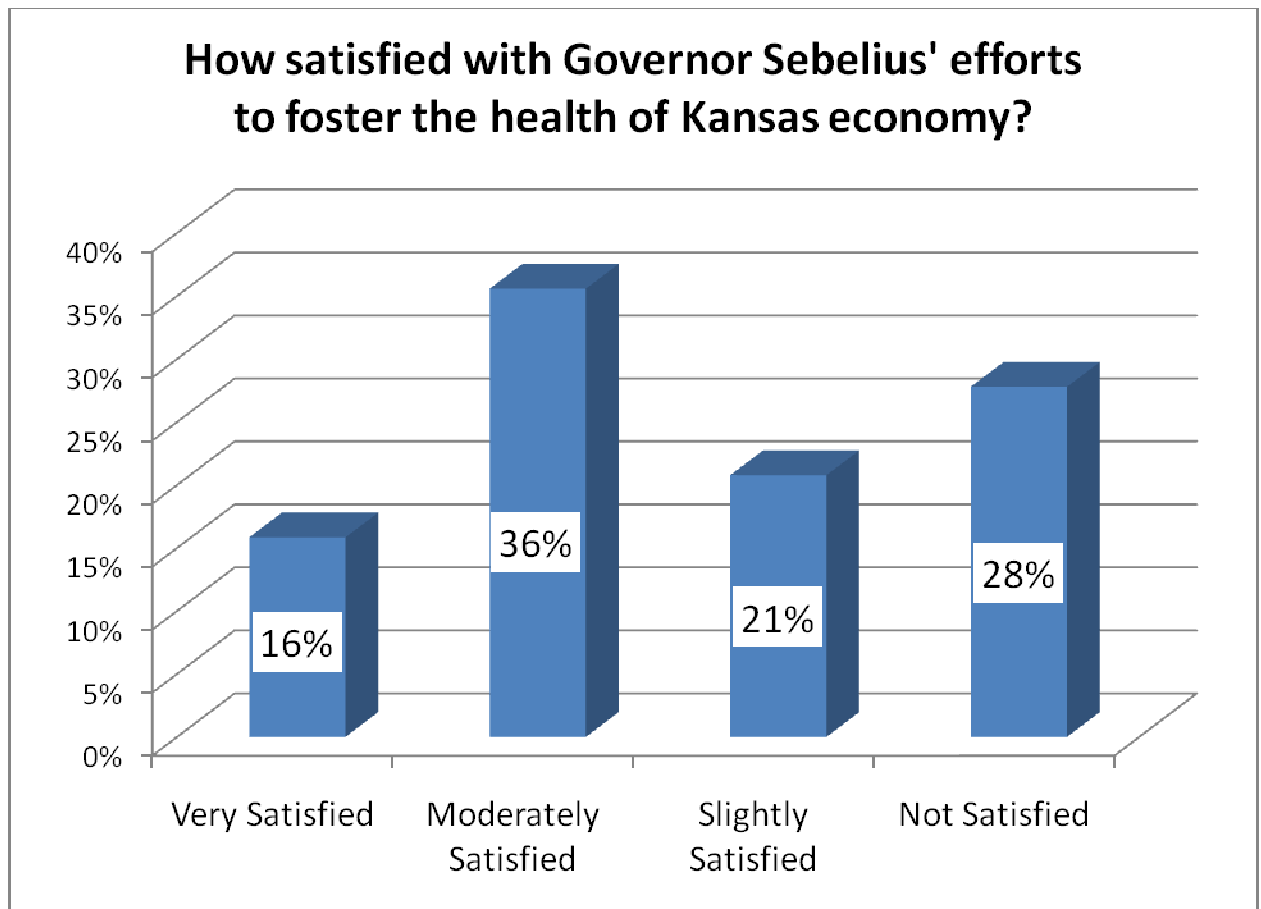


Figure 8

To measure respondents' satisfaction with elected leaders' efforts to improve the Kansas economy, we first asked how satisfied they were with Governor Sebelius' efforts. Although Governor Parkinson assumed office in the middle of the data collection, the survey question specifically referenced Governor Sebelius. Results showed that Kansans were highly divided in their opinions. Just over half (52%) said they were at least "moderately satisfied" with her efforts to foster economic health, but over one-fourth reported they were "not satisfied."

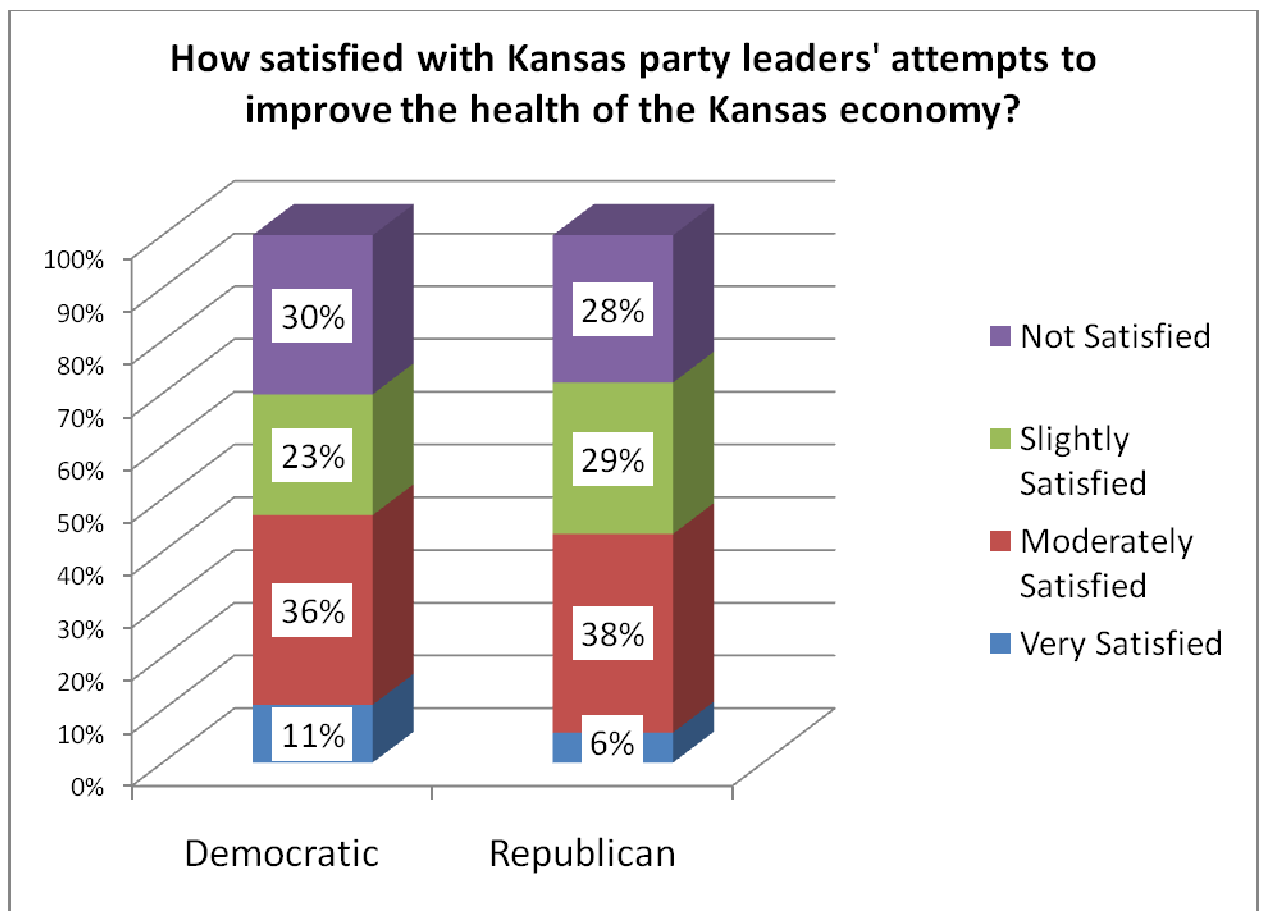


Figure 9

The survey also measured citizens' satisfaction with party leaders' efforts to improve the economy in Kansas. Results showed wide variation in opinions regarding leaders of both parties and little difference in levels of satisfaction between the two. Between one-fourth and one-third of respondents are "not satisfied" with either party's efforts. Less than one-half expressed at least a moderate level of satisfaction with either party. The percent at least "moderately satisfied" was slightly higher for Democratic Party leaders, but so was the percent "not at all satisfied." Satisfaction with party leaders' efforts at improving the economy was comparable to that regarding Governor Sebelius' efforts.



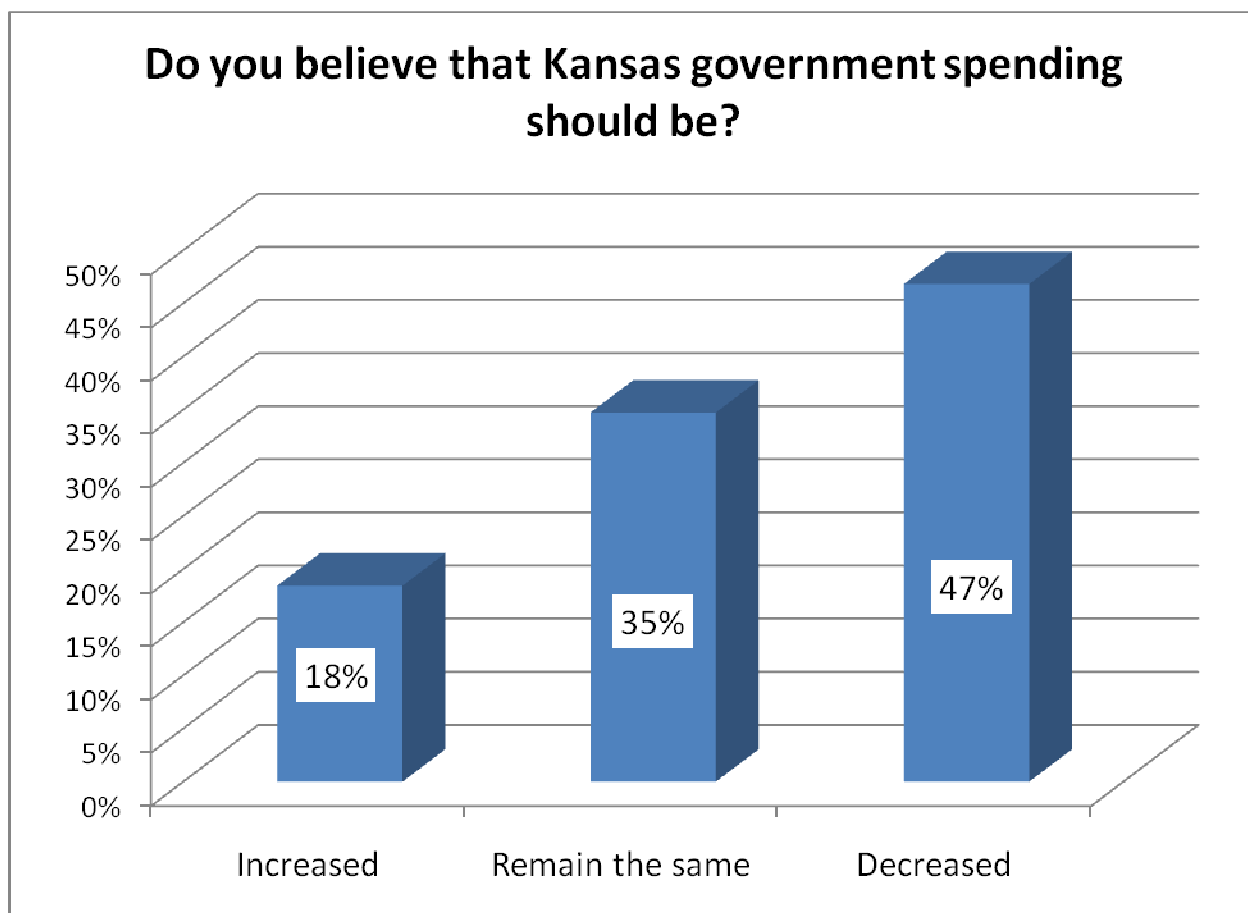


Figure 10

Respondents were asked their opinions on the appropriate amount of government spending in general. Almost half reported a preference for decreased government spending, this during a time of massive federal government expenditures for economic stimulus. Just over one-third said they were satisfied with the current level of government spending, while less than one-fifth wanted the government to increase spending.

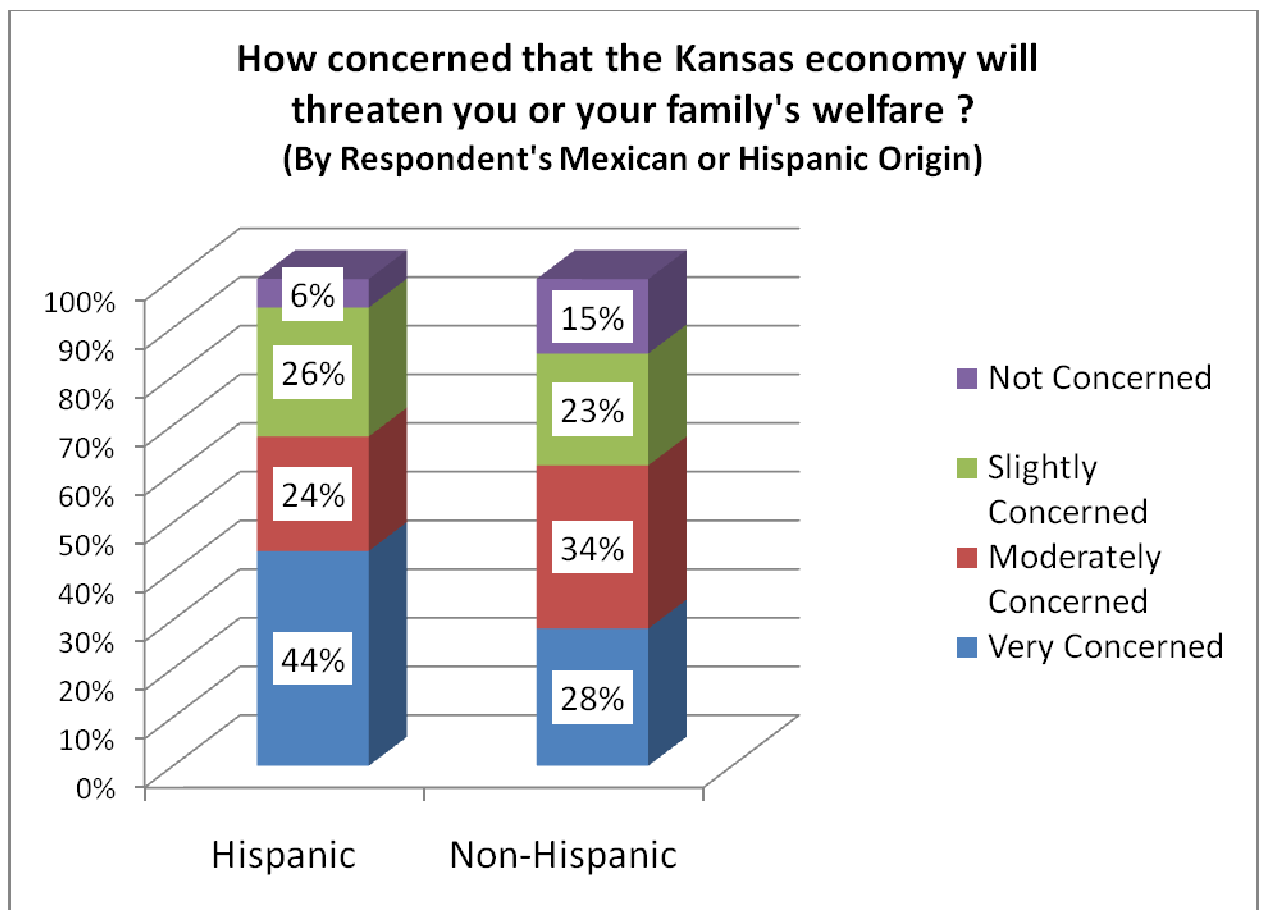


Figure 11

Respondents of Mexican or Hispanic origin reported significantly higher levels of concern that the current Kansas economy would threaten their family's welfare. Well over two-fifths said they were "very concerned" about the economy's effect on their welfare, while just over one-fourth of non-Hispanic respondents felt "very concerned." Less than half the proportion of Hispanic respondents said they were "not concerned" compared to non-Hispanic respondents.

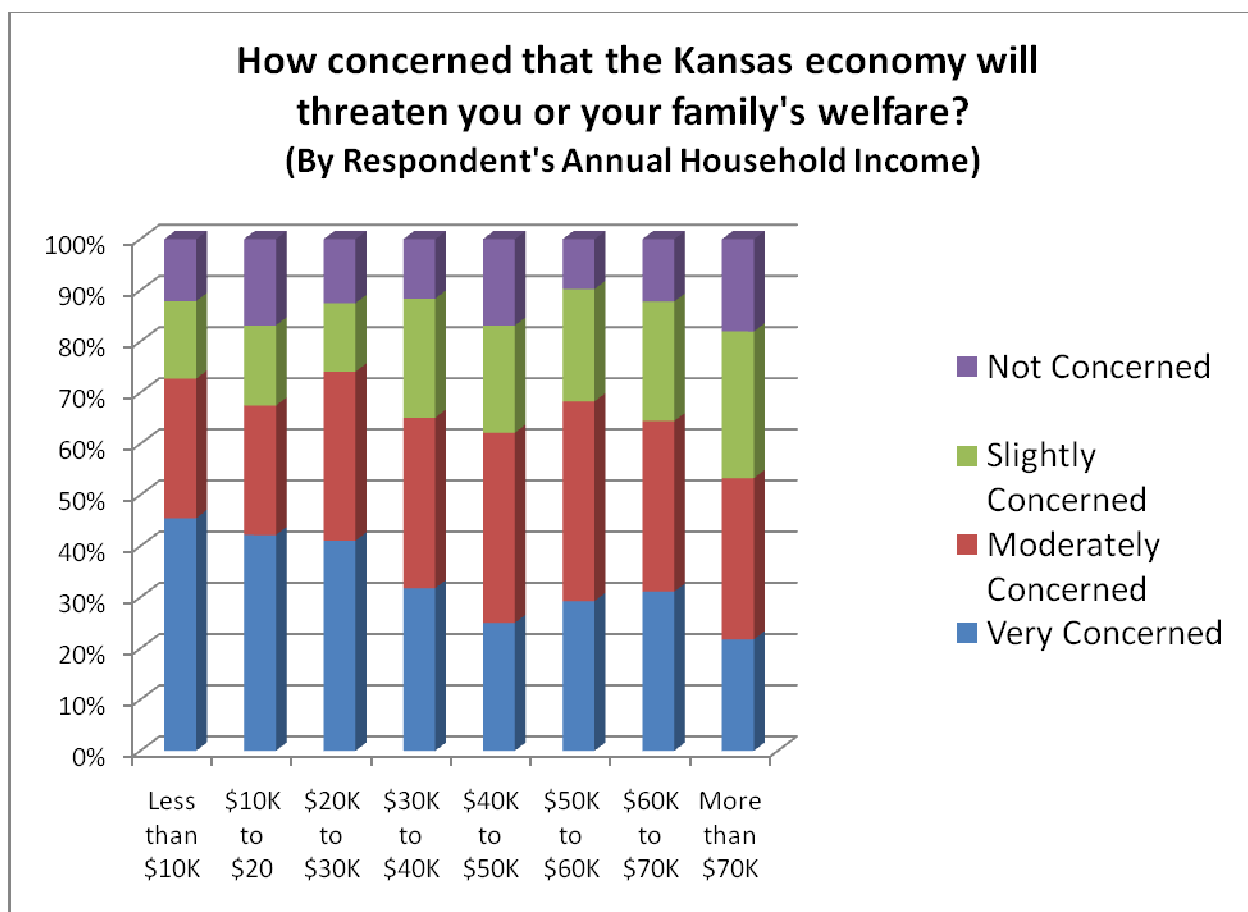


Figure 12

There was a consistent trend by annual household income over concern the Kansas economy would threaten respondents' family's welfare. Respondents in households with annual incomes of less than \$30,000 were more likely to say they were "very concerned" about the economy's effect on their welfare and slightly more likely to say they were at least moderately concerned. Interestingly, there was inconsistent variation across income categories in the percent who said they were not concerned about the economy's effect on their welfare.

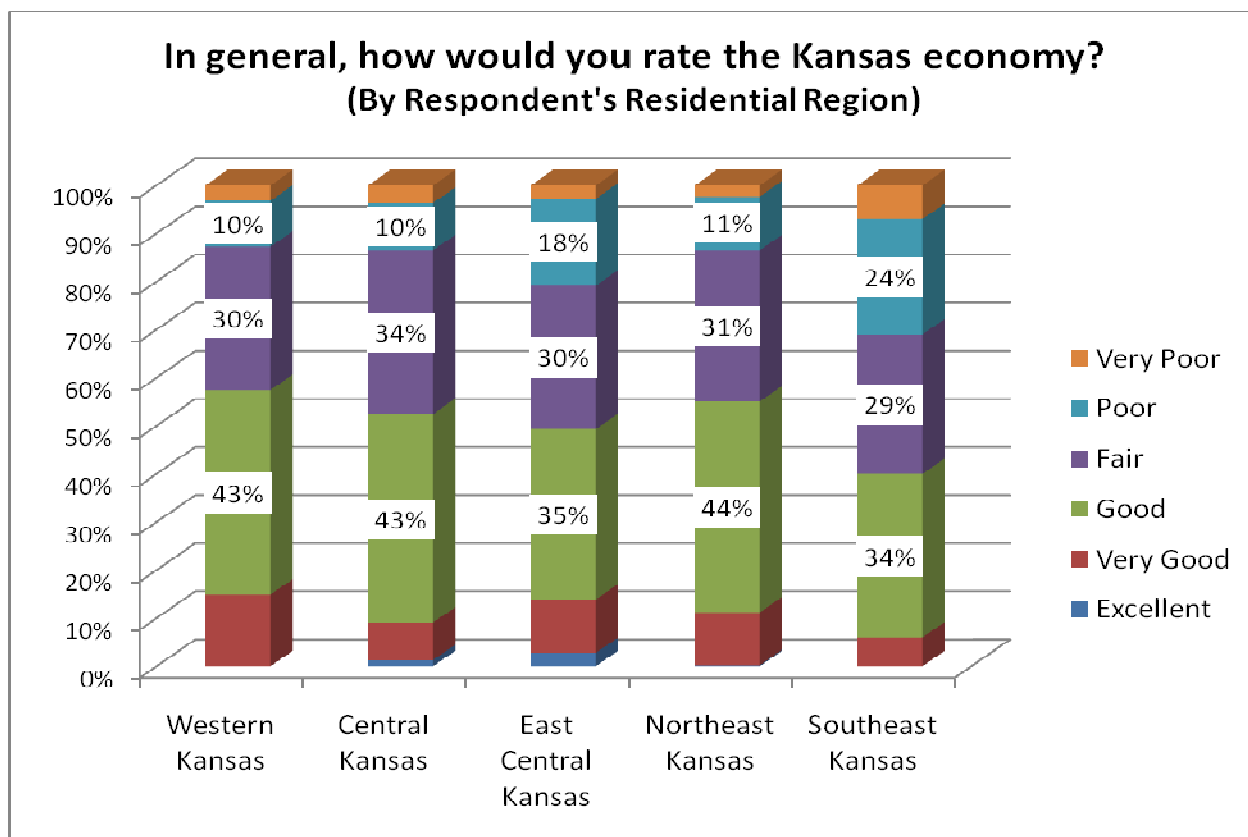


Figure 13

There was variation in ratings of the Kansas economy across regions of the state. Repondents residing in Western Kansas and East Central Kansas were most likely to rate the Kansas economy as either “excellent” or “very good,” although a relatively high percentage of the East Central Kansas respondents (20.9%) said they thought the state economy was either “poor” or “very poor.” Respondents in Southeast Kansas were most likely to rate the economy as “very poor” and less than “fair.” Virtually none in Southeast Kansas said the state economy was “excellent” and few (6%) rated it as “very good.” As with ratings of Kansas as a place to live, responses to ratings of the economy were highly correlated with unemployment rates at the time the data were collected.

# Taxes

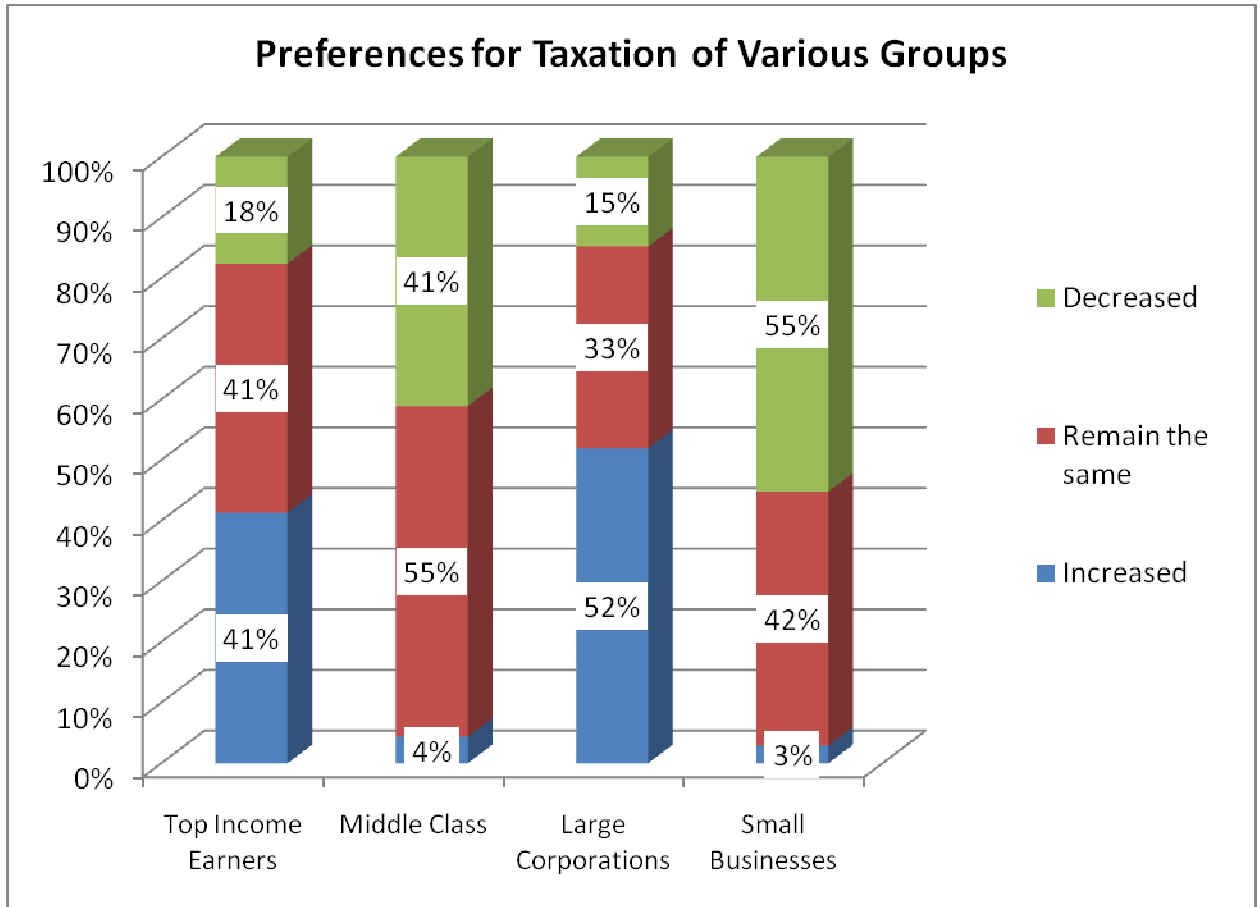


Figure 14

Respondents were presented with four questions asking them whether taxes should be increased, decreased or remain the same in each of four categories. A majority felt that taxes on the middle class should remain the same, that taxes on large corporations should be increased and that taxes on small businesses should be reduced.

Respondents were equally divided on whether taxes on the top income earners should be increased or remain the same. Less than 5% of respondents said taxes on the middle class and small businesses should be increased.

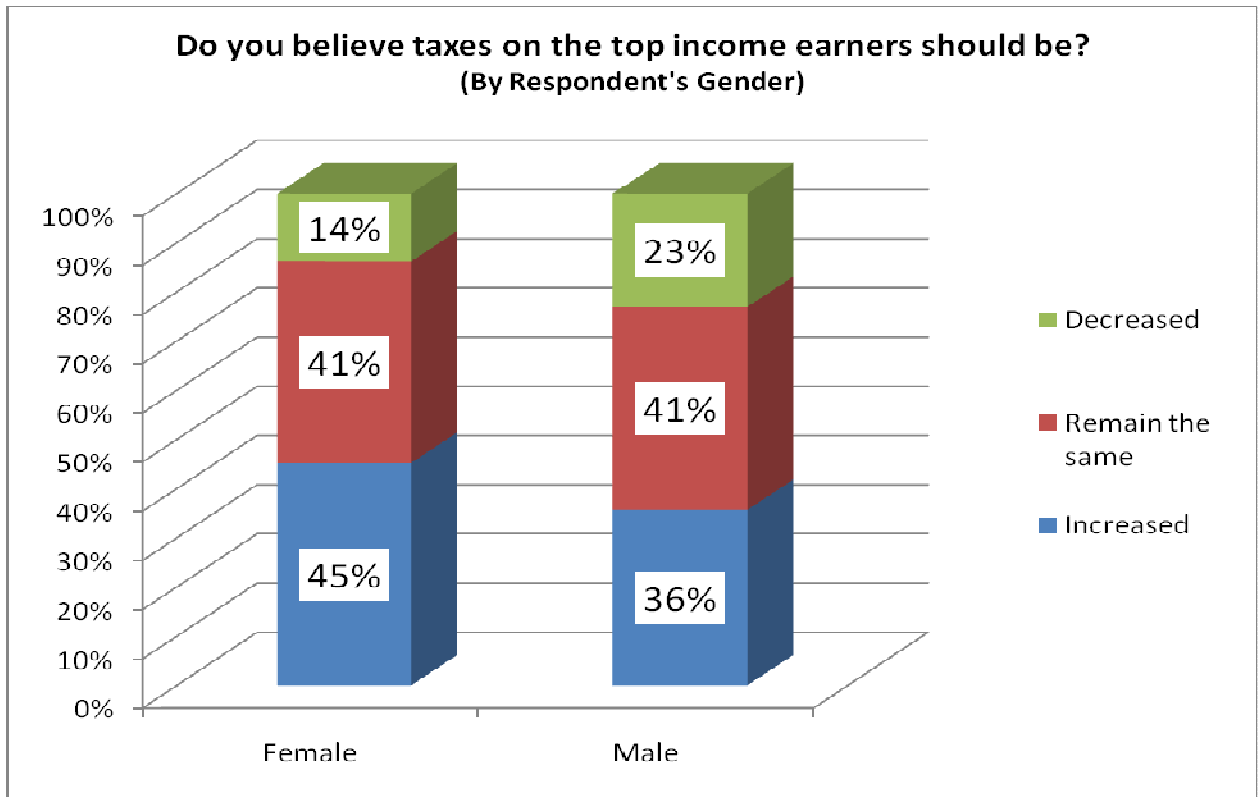


Figure 15

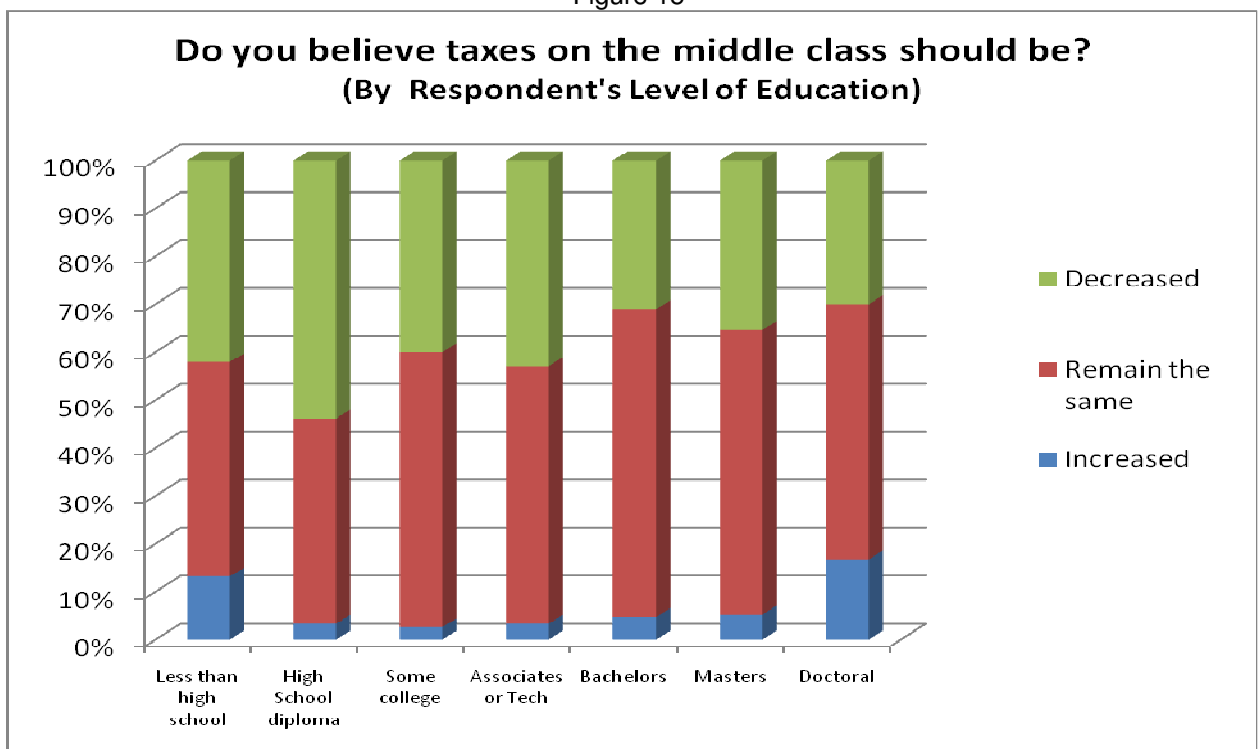


Figure 16

Female respondents were more likely to favor increasing taxes on the top income earners. Respondents with at least a Bachelors Degree were less likely to favor decreasing taxes on the middle class.

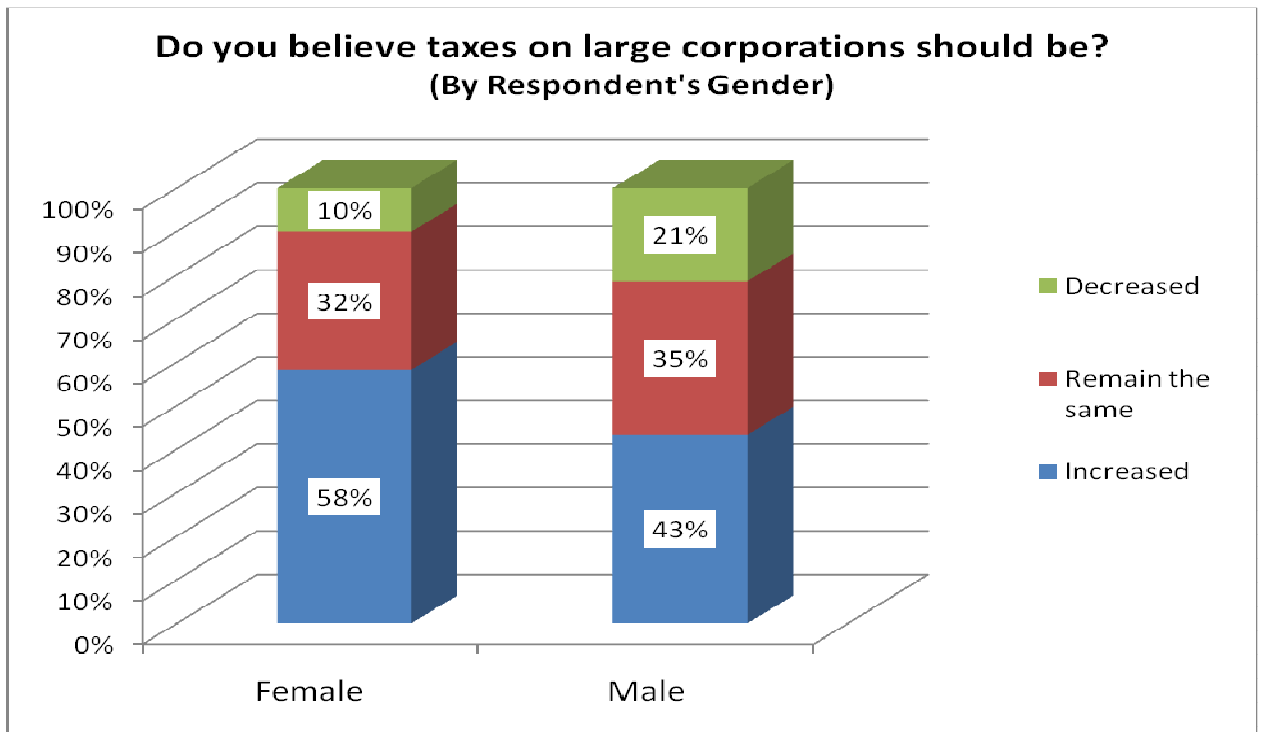


Figure 17

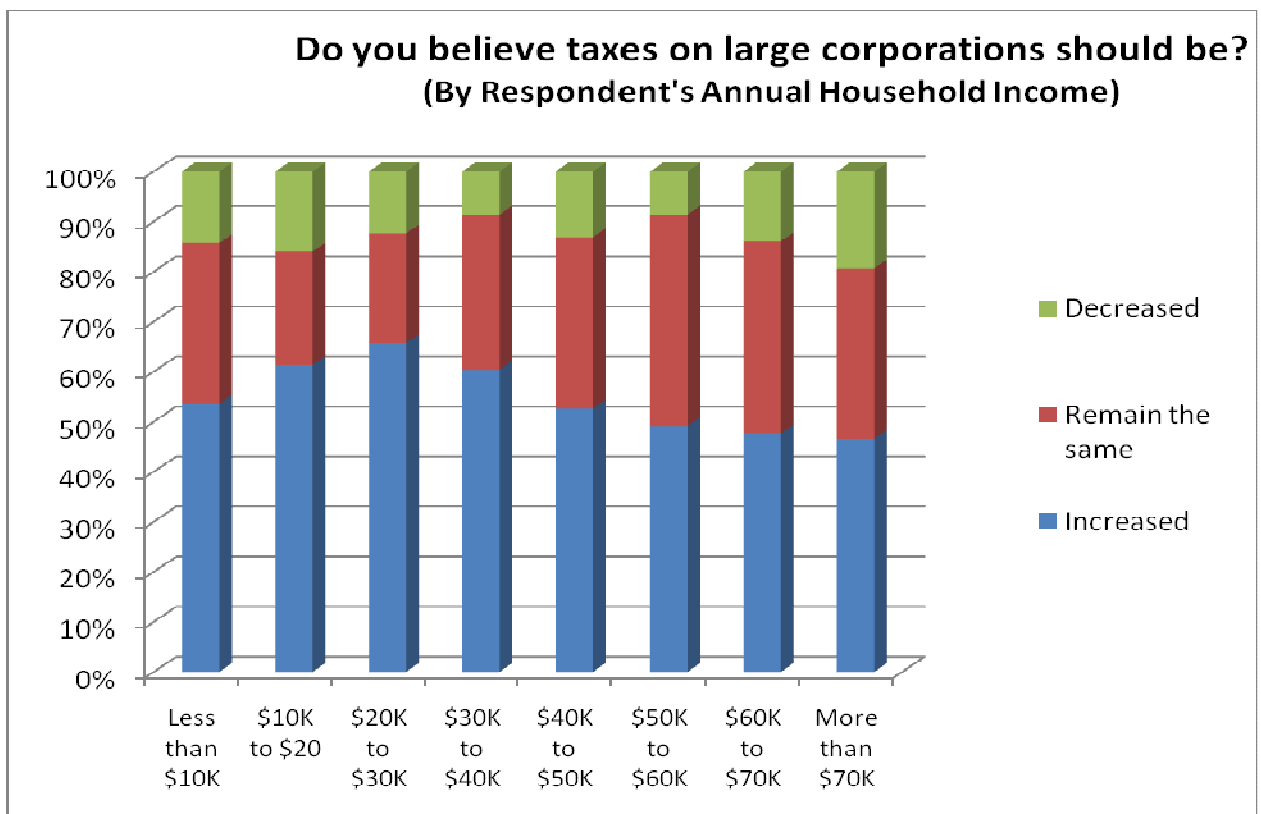


Figure 18

Female respondents and those with annual household incomes between \$10,000 and \$40,000 were more likely to favor increasing taxes on large corporations.

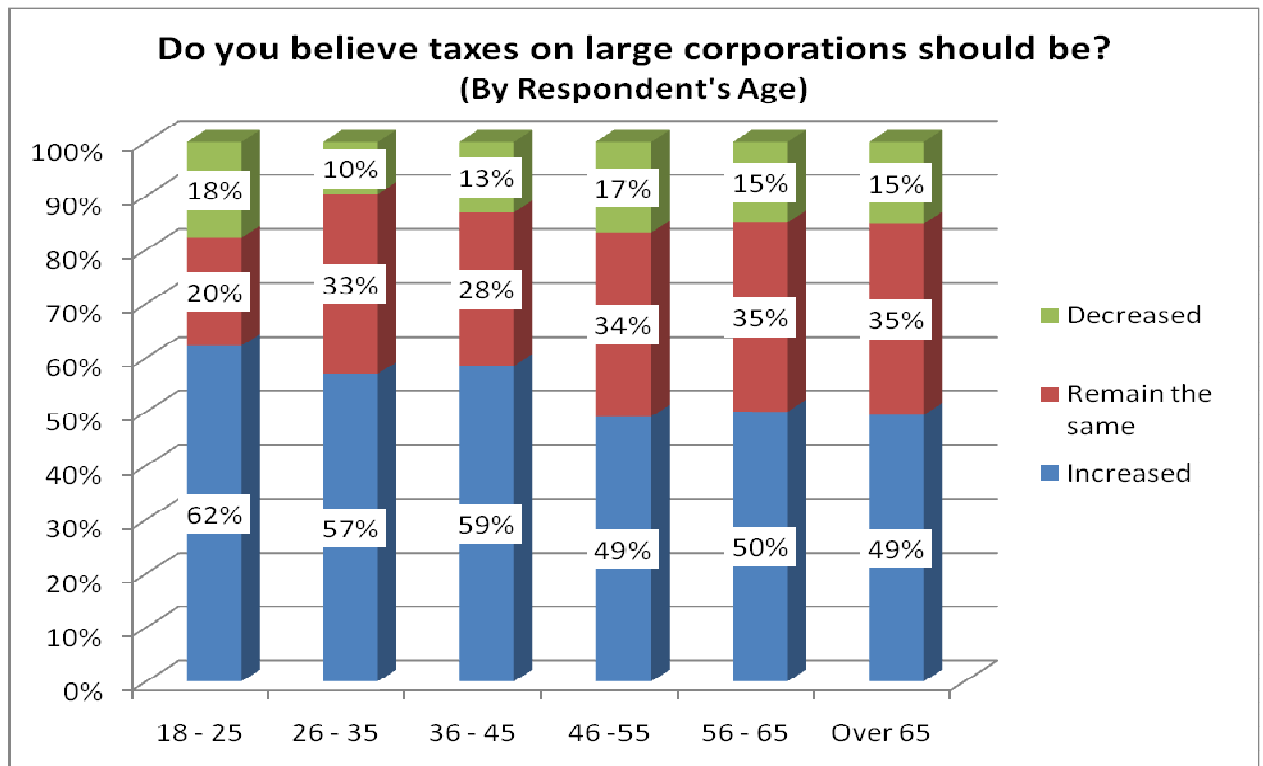


Figure 19

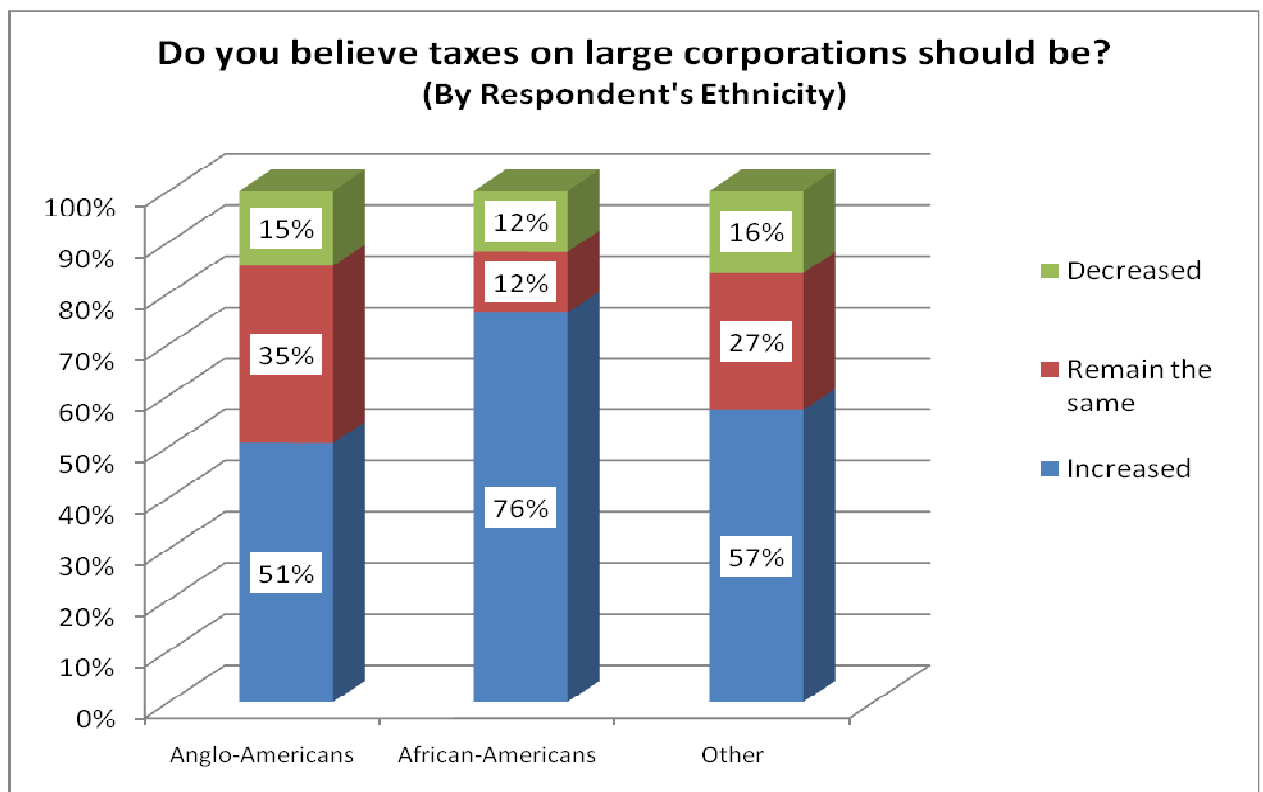


Figure 20

African-American and younger respondents were more likely to favor increasing taxes on large corporations.



## State Government

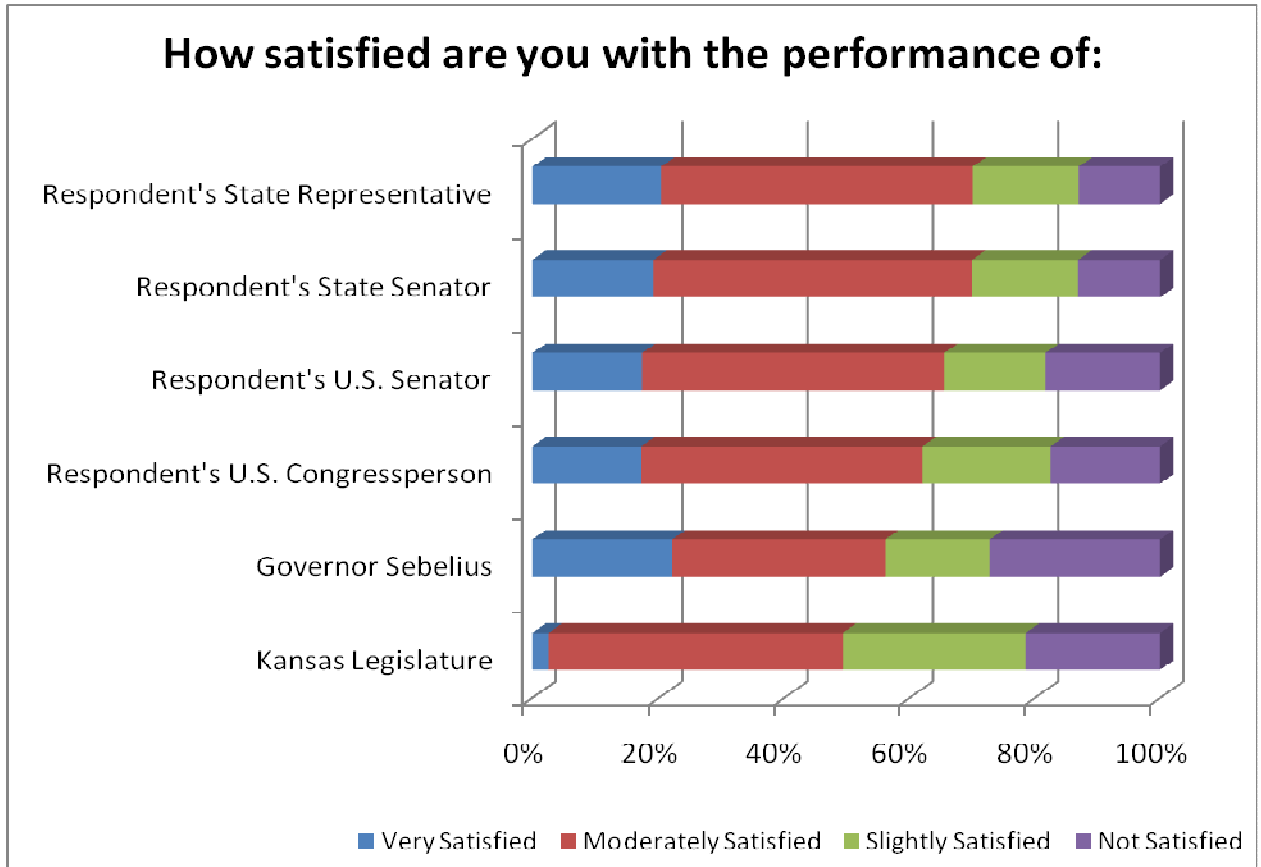


Figure 21

Respondents were asked six questions to rate their satisfaction with Governor Sebelius, their State and U.S. Senators and their State and U.S. Congressional Representatives, as well as for the Kansas legislature in general. The response distributions are shown above sorted by level of satisfaction. Respondents tended to rate their state legislators most highly. Ironically, their satisfaction with the Kansas legislature as a whole tended to be the lowest of the six. Respondents' satisfaction with their U.S. Senator and Representative tended to be slightly lower than for their state legislators. Satisfaction with Governor Sebelius was highly polarized. Both the highest percentage of respondents reporting "very satisfied" and "not satisfied" were for Governor Sebelius. Using the criterion of percent at least "moderately satisfied," however, Governor Sebelius ranked below the State and U.S. Congresspersons.

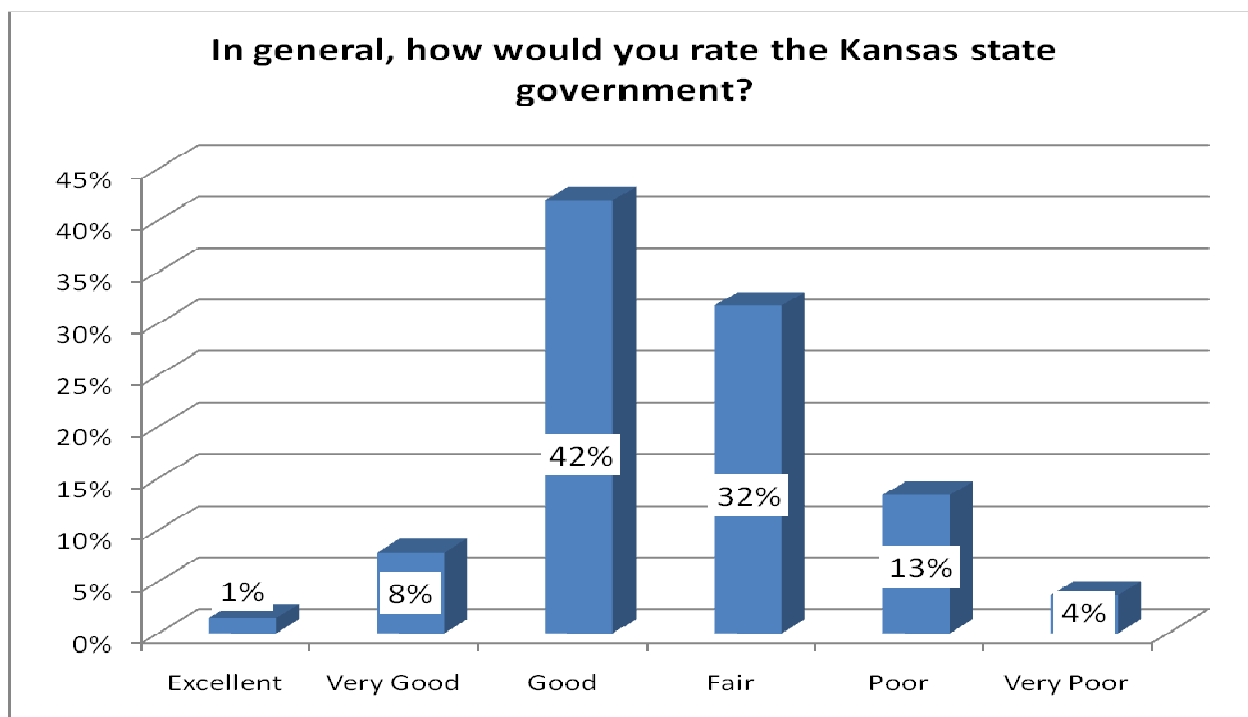


Figure 22

When respondents were asked to rate the Kansas state government in general, the most common response was “good,” with the remainder tending to give lower ratings.

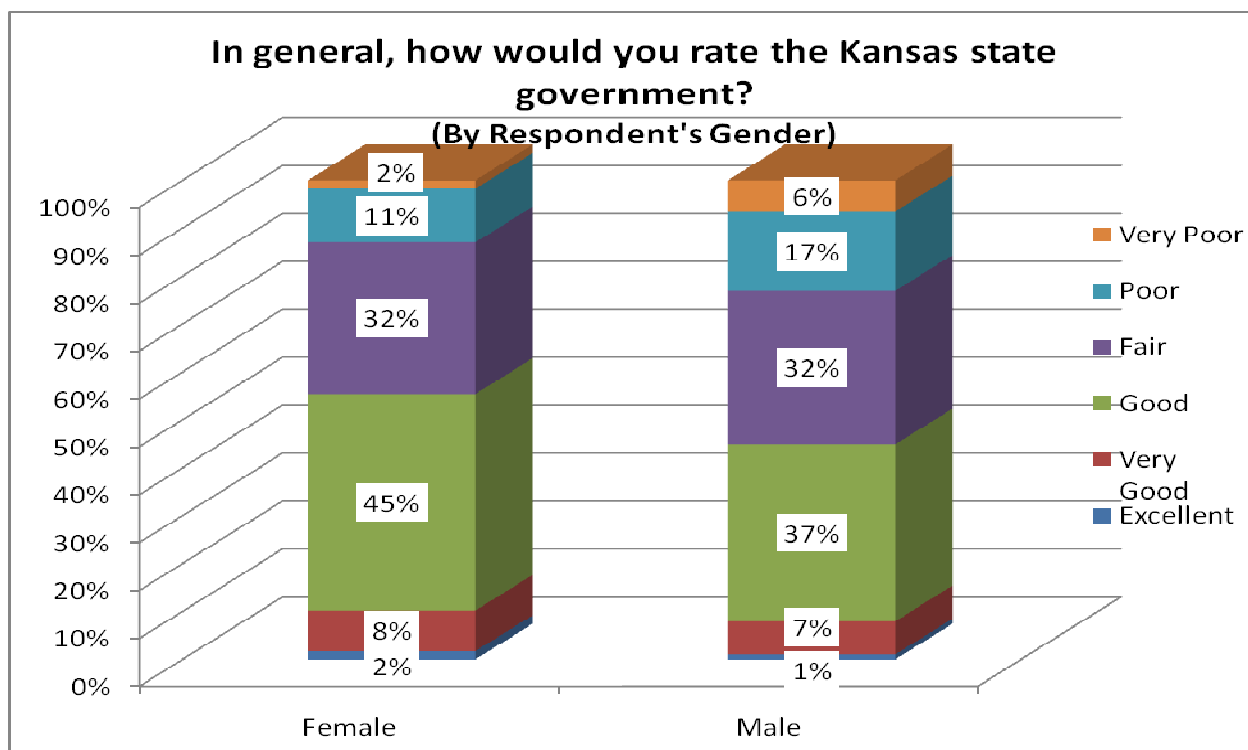


Figure 23

Female respondents tended to rate Kansas state government more highly than males.

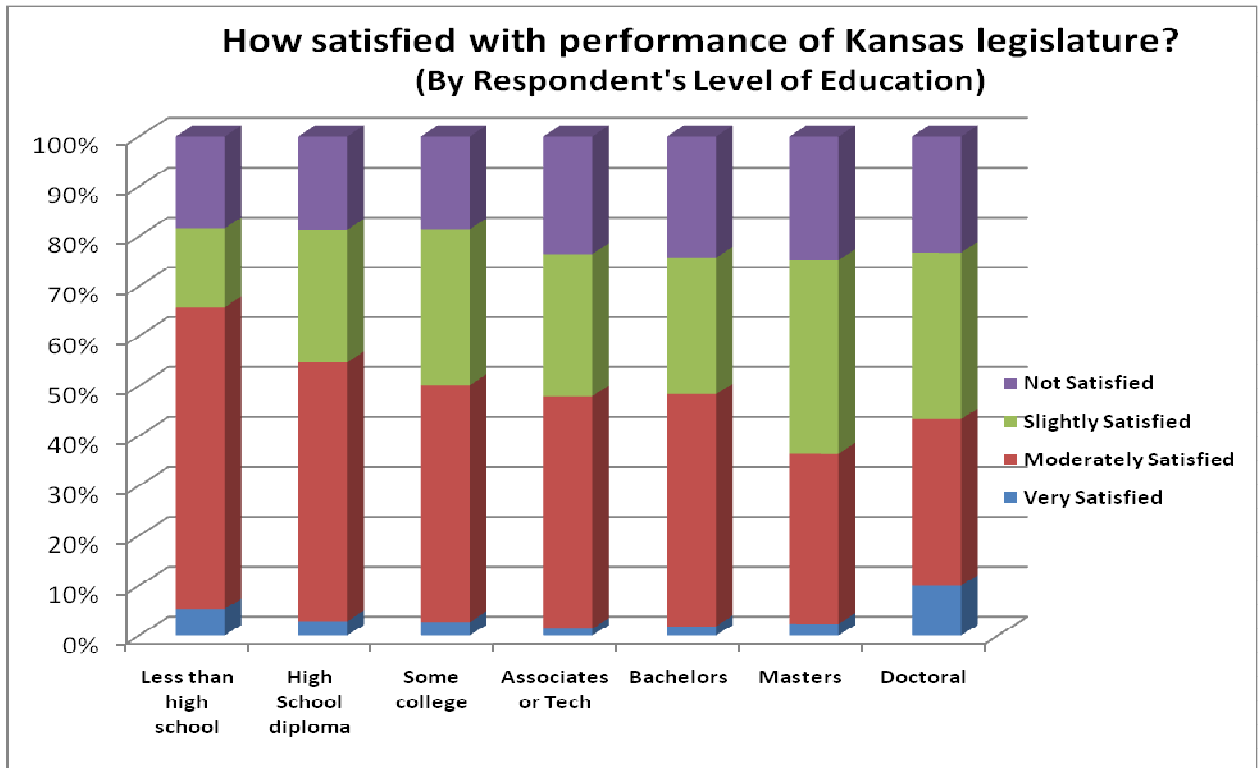


Figure 24

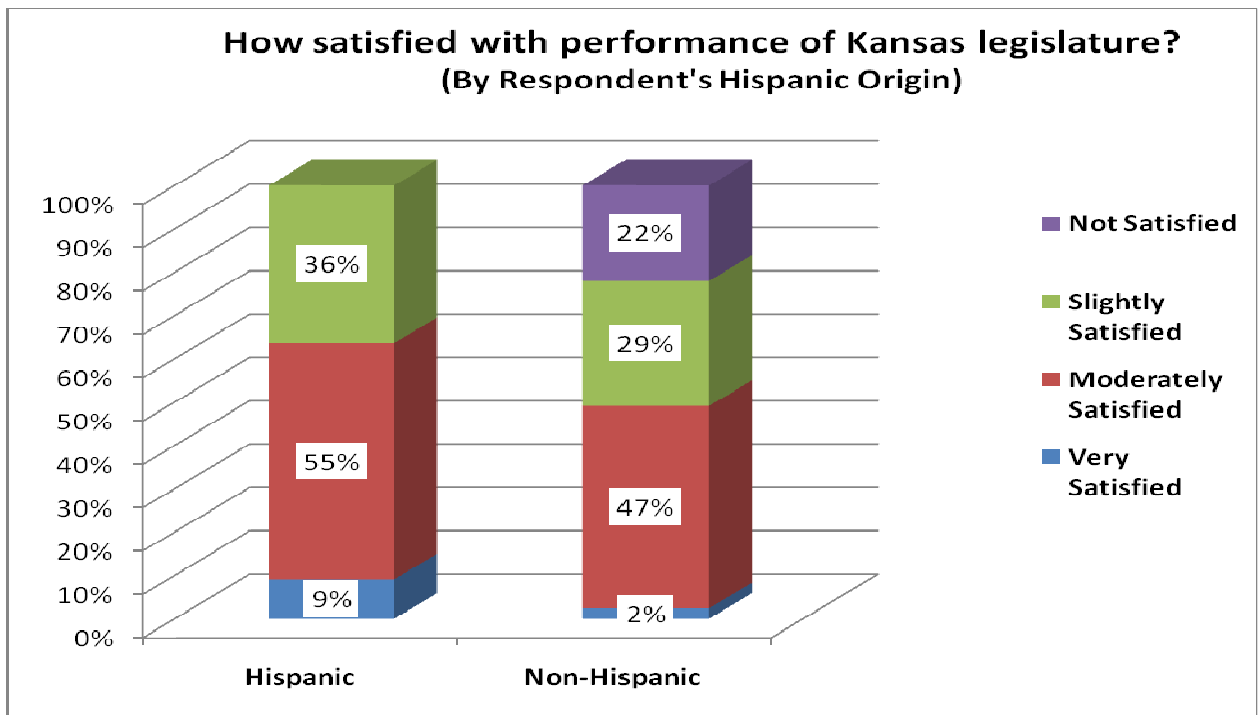


Figure 25

Hispanic respondents and those with lower levels of education tended to rate the Kansas legislature more highly than non-Hispanics and those with higher levels of education.

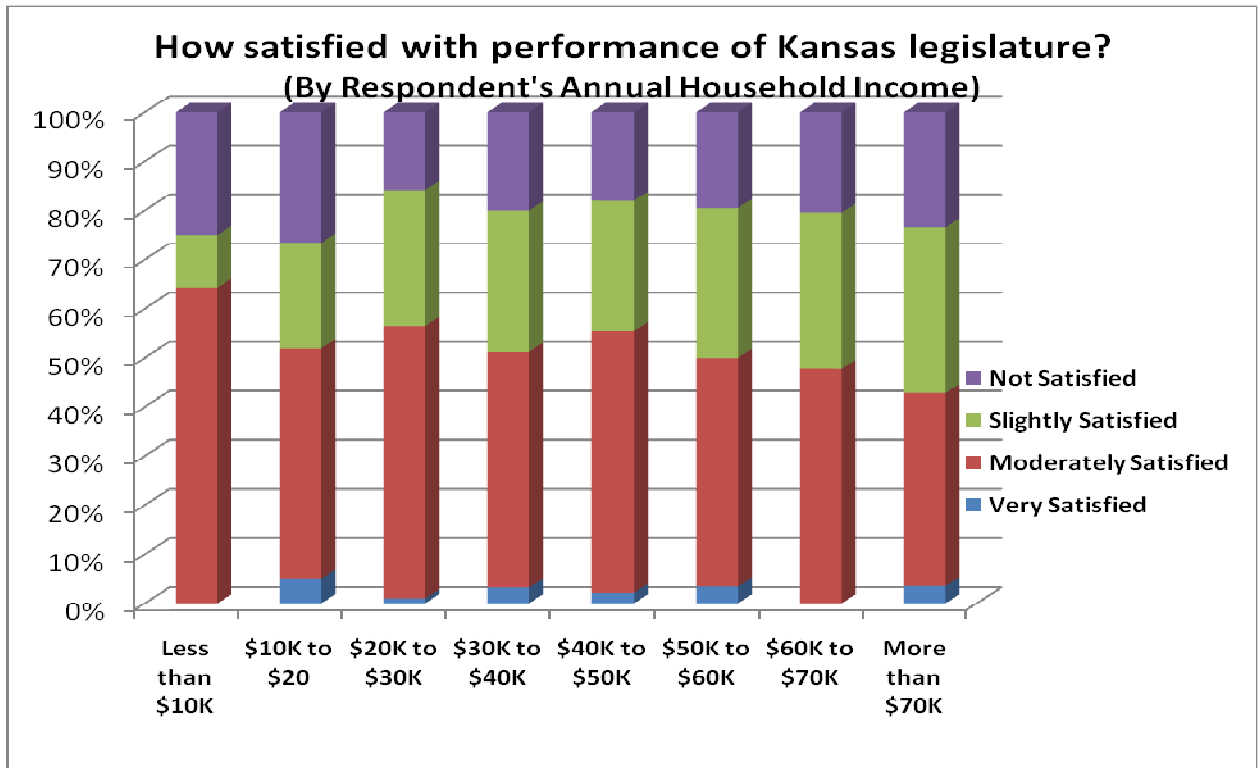


Figure 26

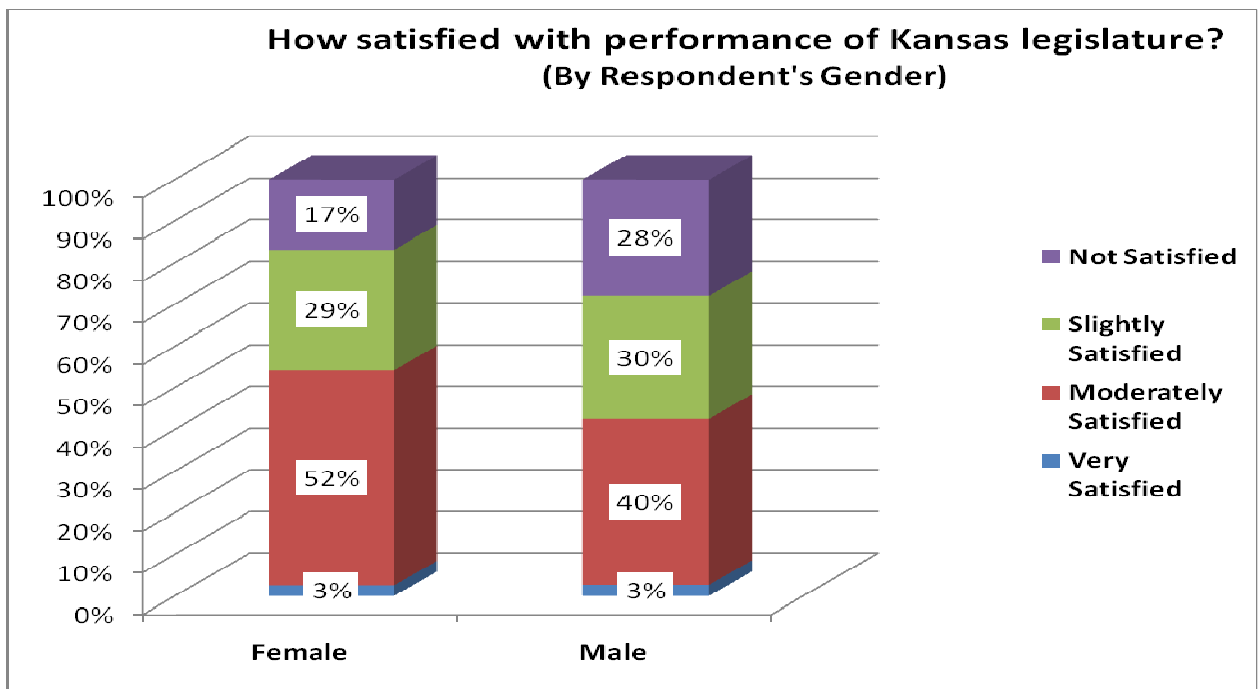


Figure 27

Lower income and female respondents tended to rate the Kansas legislature more highly than upper income and male respondents.

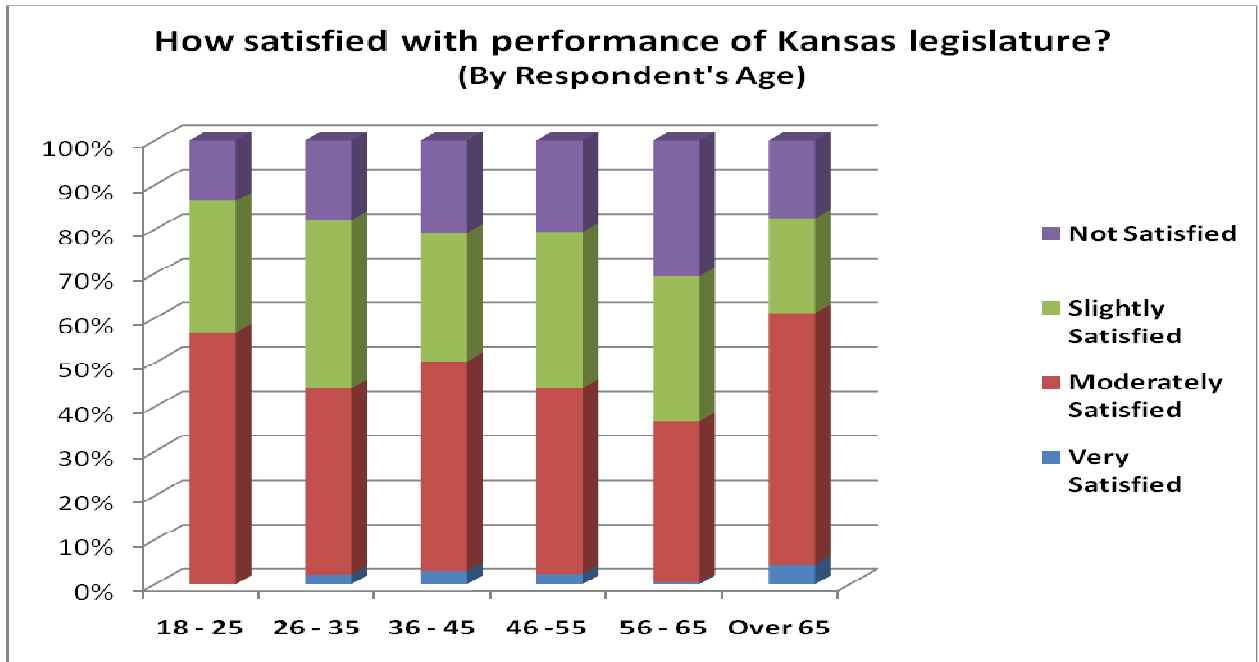


Figure 28

The data show a steady decline in satisfaction with the state legislature with increasing age until age 65, with respondents under 26 and over 65 tending to have the highest levels of satisfaction with the Kansas legislature.

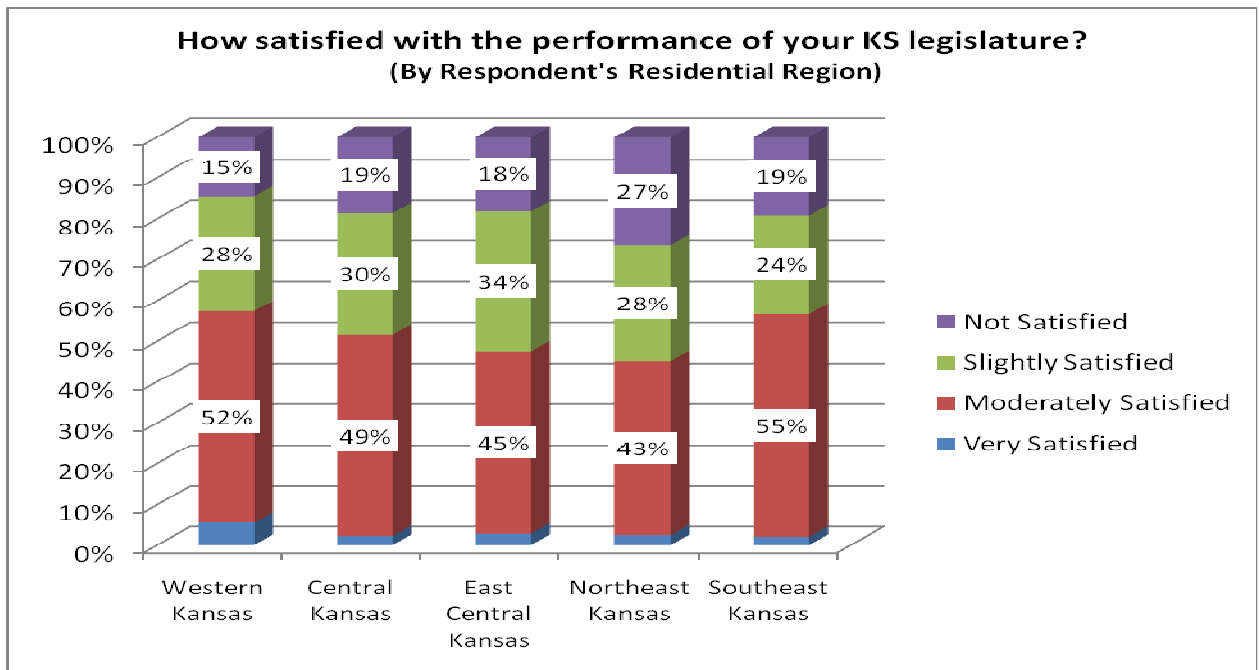


Figure 29

Respondents residing in Western and Southeast Kansas were most satisfied with the Kansas legislature. Those living in Northeastern Kansas were least satisfied.

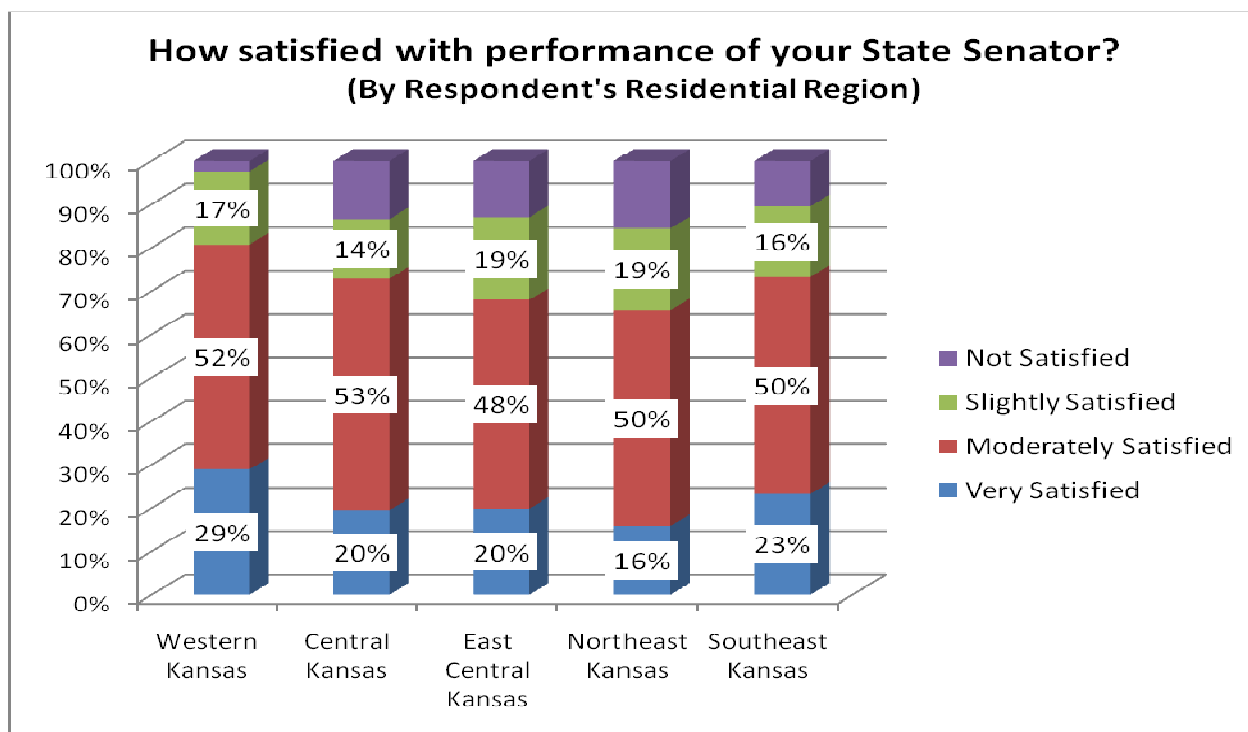


Figure 30

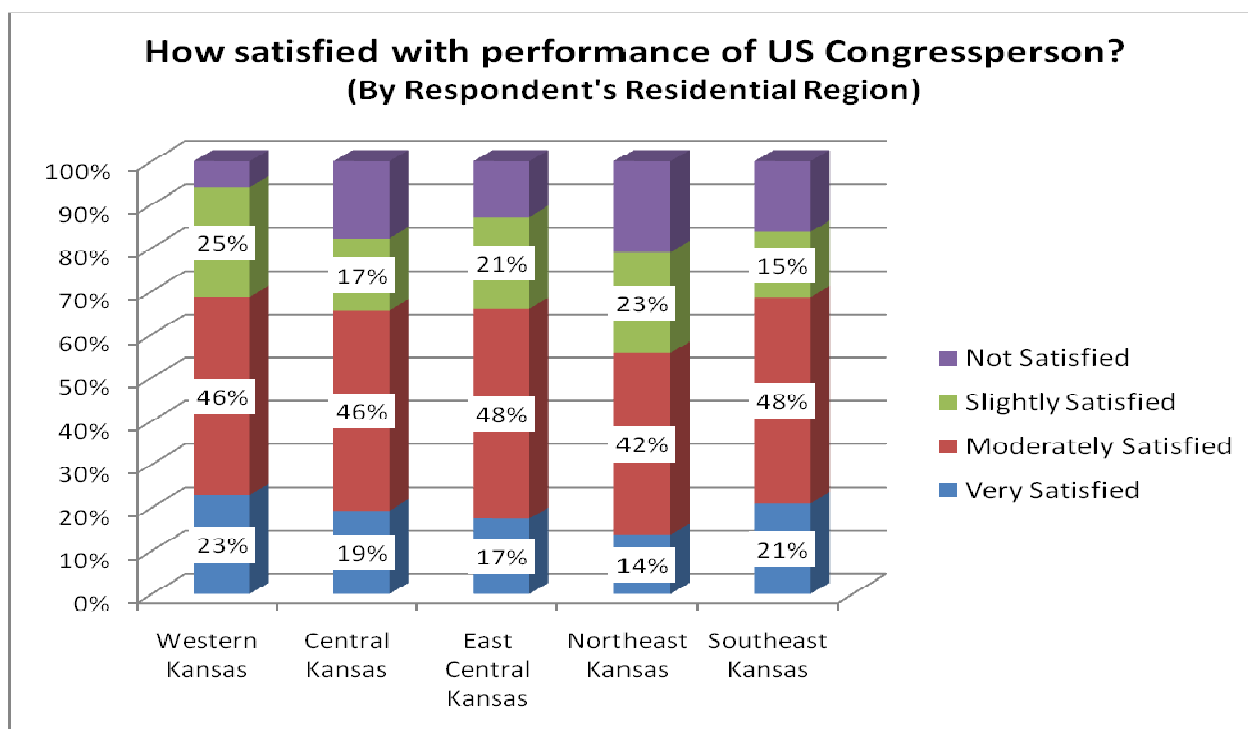


Figure 31

Respondents' satisfaction with their State Senator and their U.S. Congressperson tended to be highest among those living in Western and Southeast Kansas and lowest among those living in Northeast Kansas.

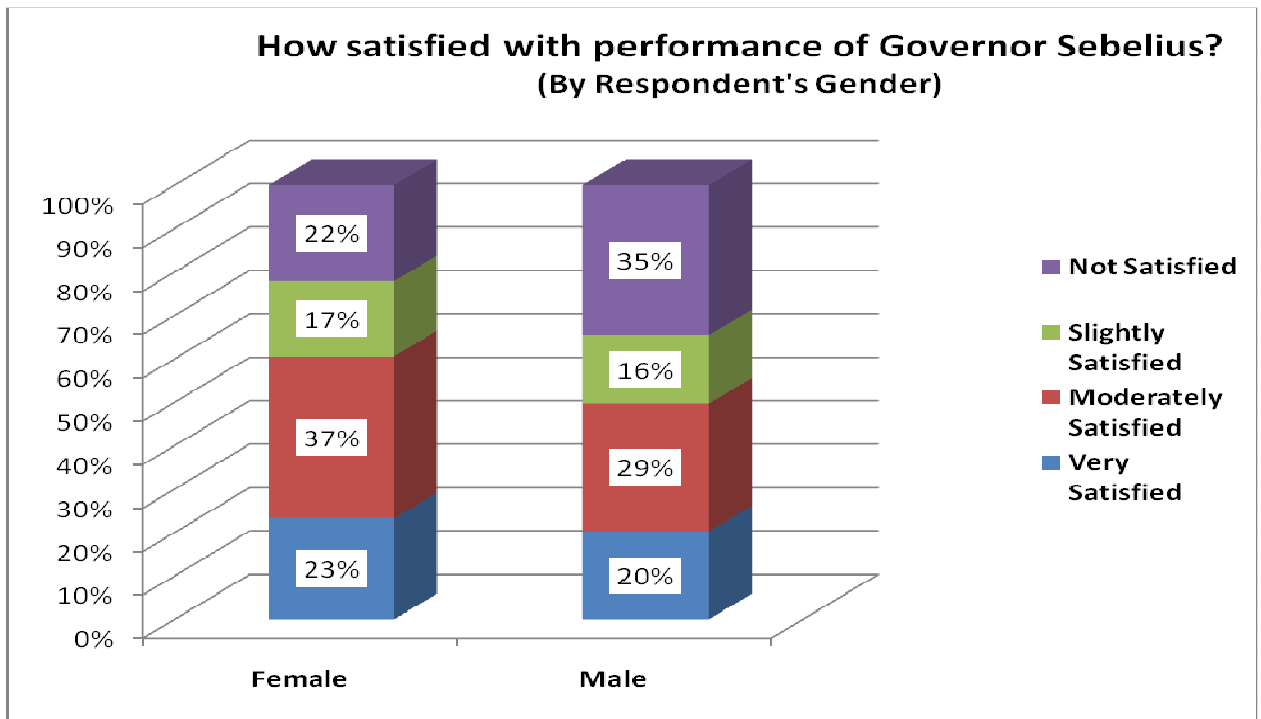


Figure 32

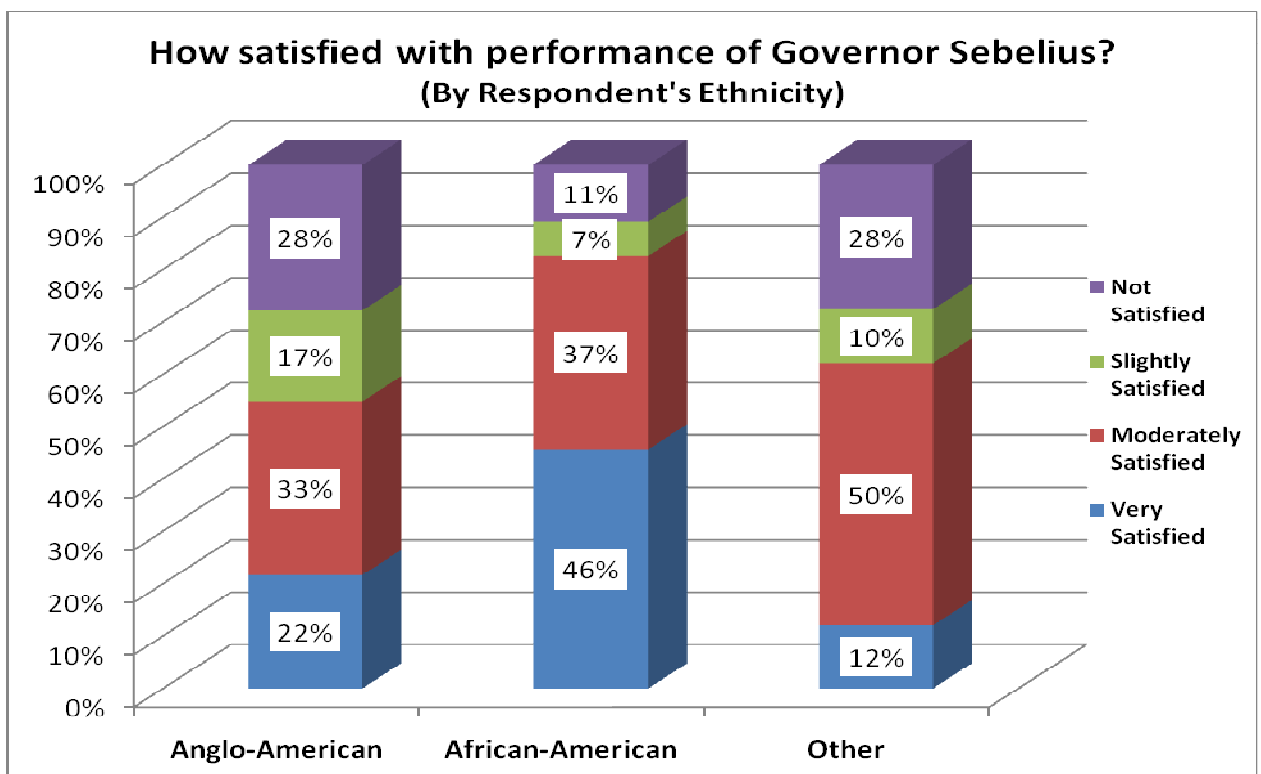


Figure 33

Female and African-American respondents tended to express higher levels of satisfaction with Governor Sebelius' job performance than male respondents and those of other ethnicities.

## Energy

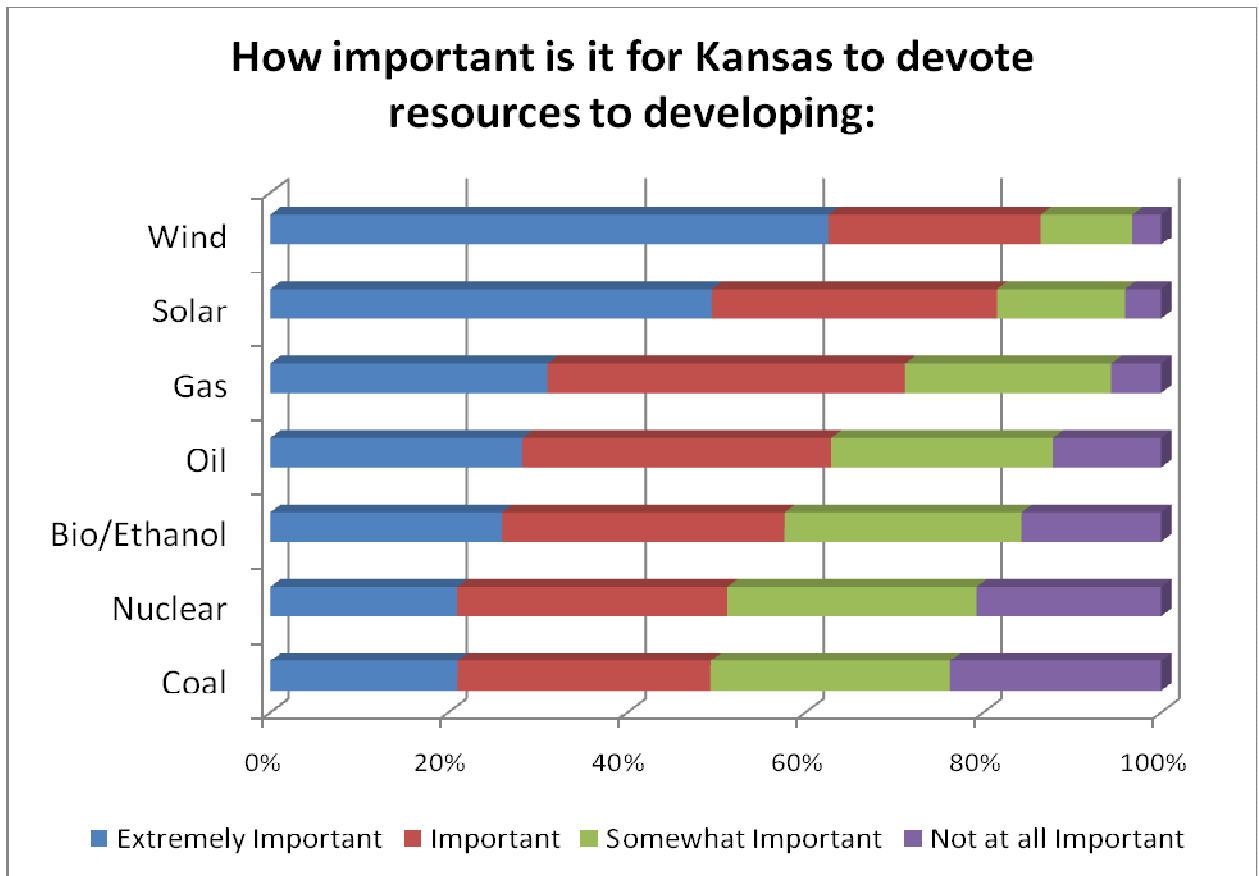


Figure 34

Respondents were asked seven questions regarding their opinions on the importance of devoting state resources to encourage further development of the various forms of energy. The questions were electronically randomized for each respondent by the Docking Institute's computer-assisted telephone interviewing system to control for possible order bias. Over three-fifths (62.6%) said they thought it "extremely important" for Kansas to expend resources to develop wind energy, while the vast majority (86.5%) said it was at least "important." Almost half of respondents said expending resources for solar energy development was "very important," with 81.6% saying it was at least "important." There was also strong support for further development of gas and oil production, with about two-thirds of respondents indicating these to be at least "important." Just under half of respondents said it was at least "important" to devote state resources to coal production, with almost one-fourth (23.7%) saying state resources for coal production was "not at all important."



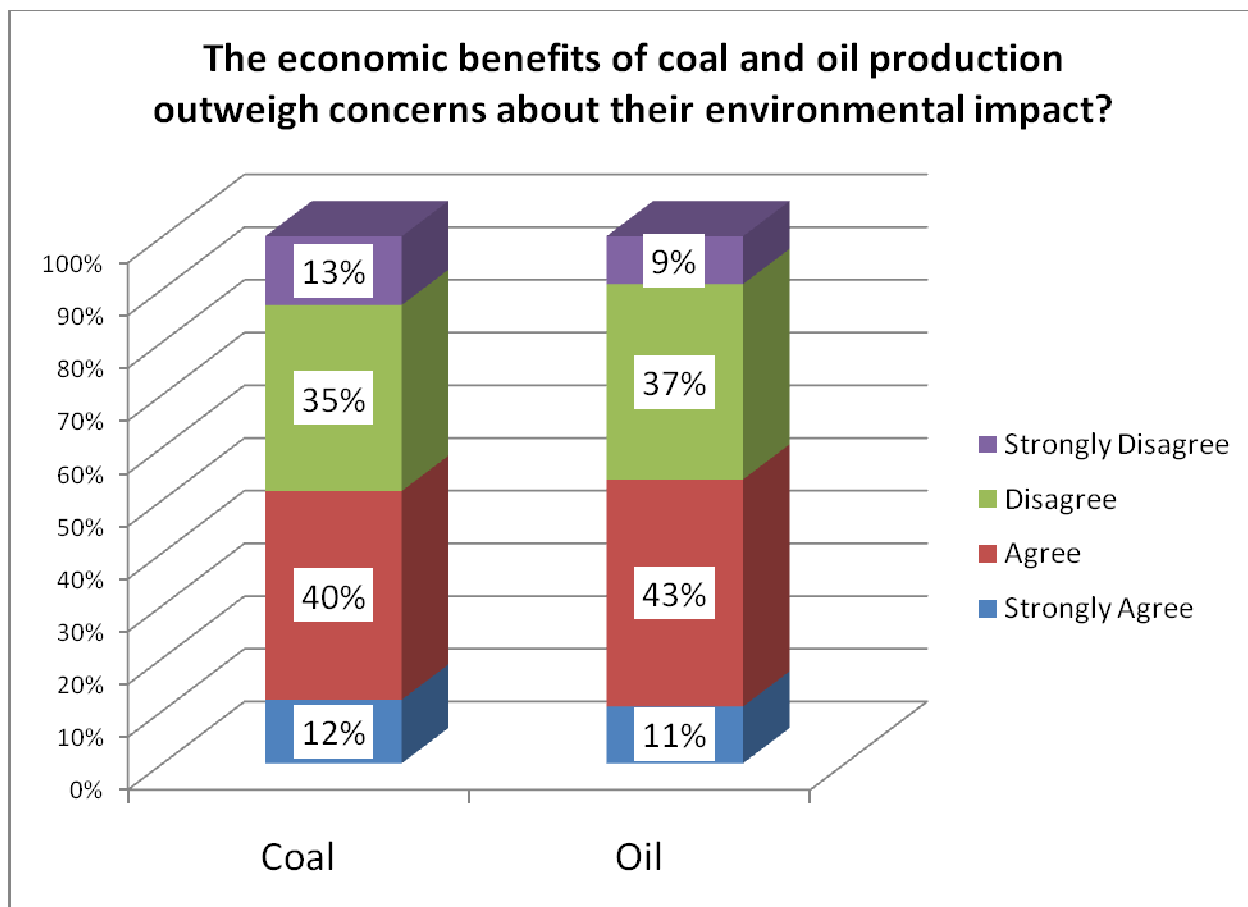


Figure 35

Much concern has been expressed in recent years over the environmental impact of the use of fossil fuels for generating electricity and powering transportation mediums. The two primary forms of fossil fuels, coal and petroleum, are both important components of the Kansas economy. This often places Kansans in the difficult situation of having to choose between what is best for the environment or what is best for the Kansas economy. When respondents were asked whether they thought the positive economic benefits of coal and oil production outweighed the concerns over the negative environmental impact of burning these fuels, they were highly divided, with just over half saying the economic benefits of coal (51.6%) and oil (53.8%) production outweigh the environmental concerns. The proportions of respondents who felt strongly one way or the other were also very similar. These data suggest that future political decisions regarding energy policy in Kansas will be difficult and potentially divisive.

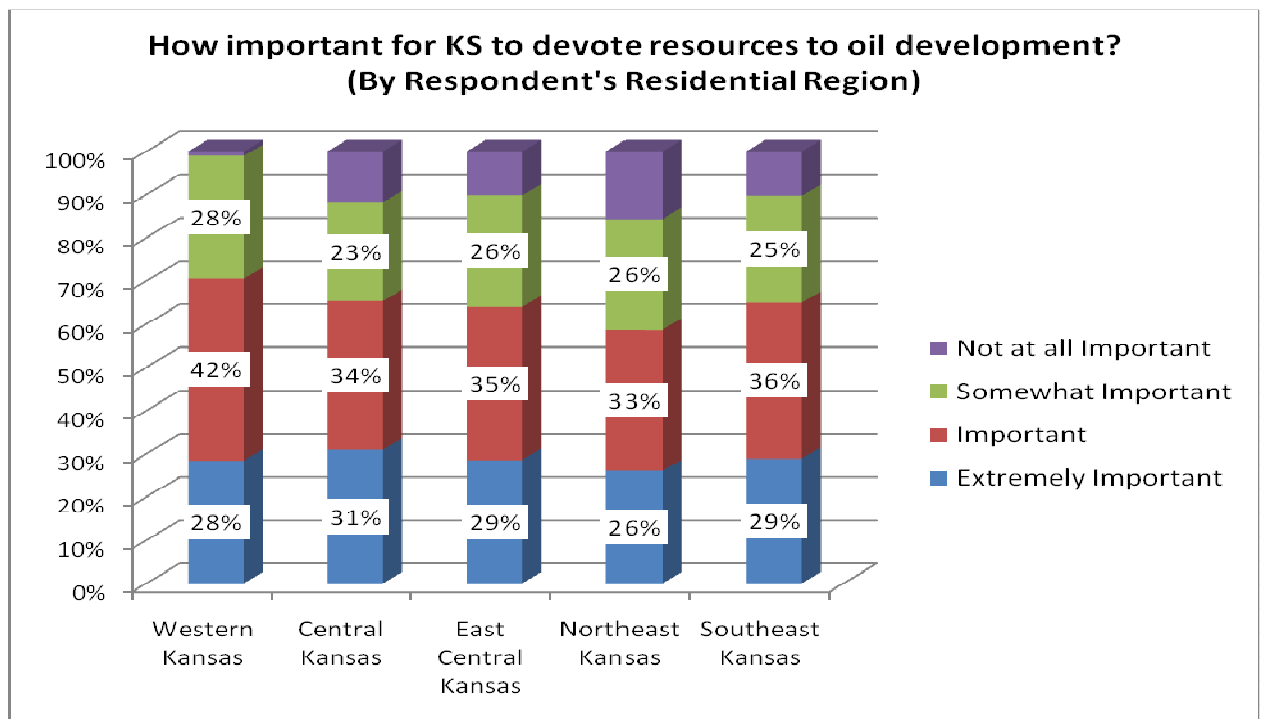


Figure 36

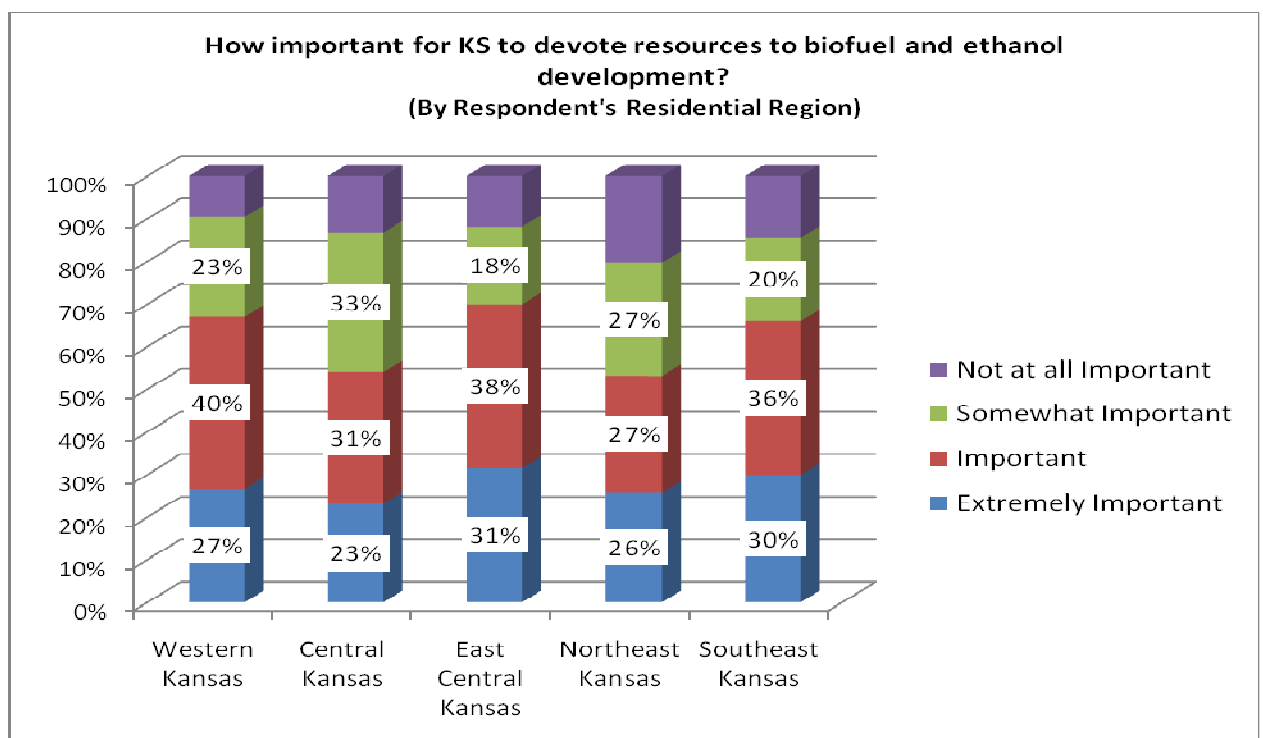


Figure 37

Respondent living in Western and Central Kansas were more likely to believe that devoting state resources to oil is important. Those living in Western, East Central and Southeast Kansas were more likely to believe developing ethanol was important.

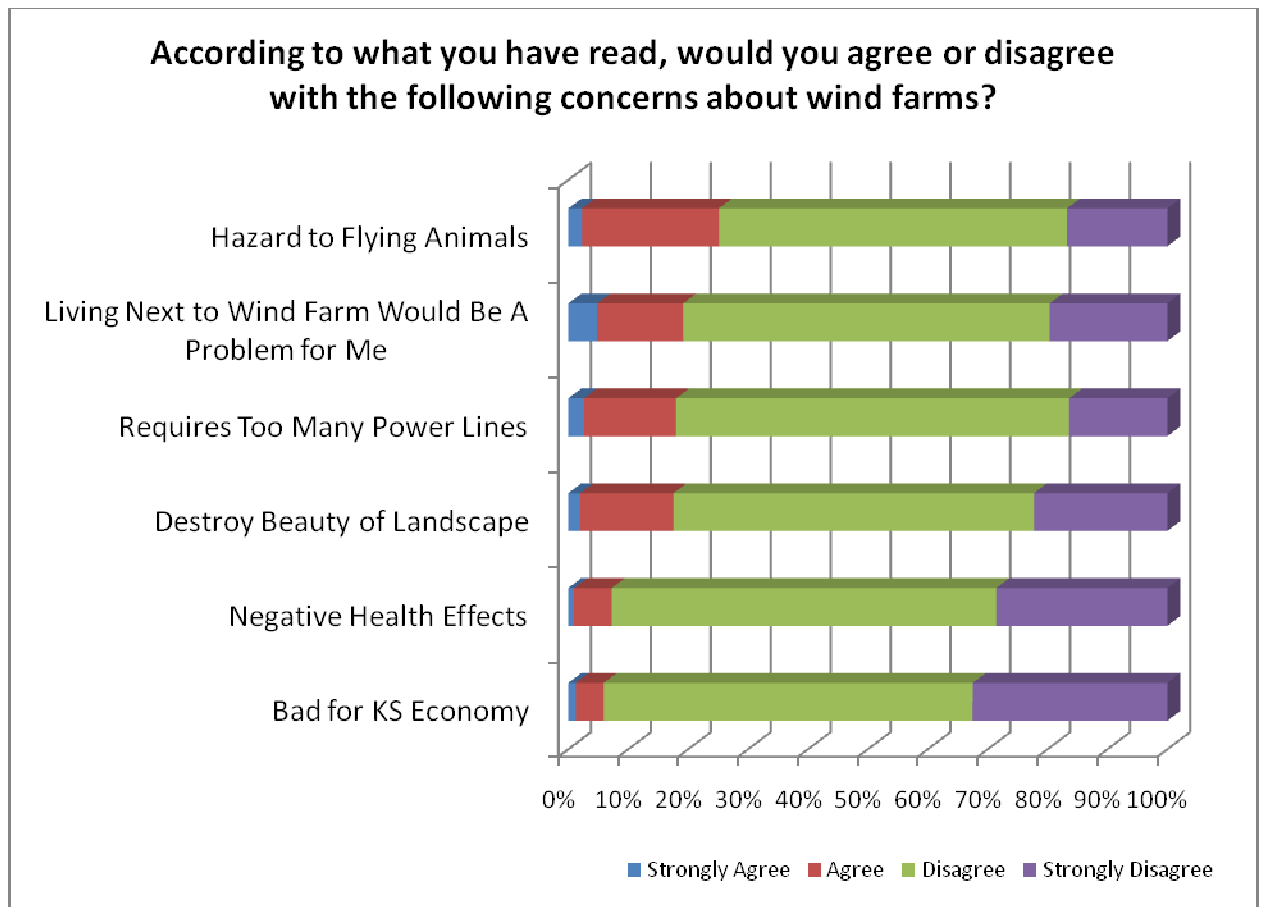


Figure 38

Along with fossil fuels, Kansas has a high potential for wind energy production. As with generating energy using fossil fuels, several potential environmental problems have been identified with wind energy production. Respondents were asked about their opinions on some of the more commonly cited problems with wind energy production. The most concern was expressed for the bats and birds that have been found dead or injured from collisions with the rotor blades, with one-fourth of respondents expressing at least some degree of concern. One-fifth of respondents (19.2%) indicated that they would not want to live next to a wind farm, while a similar percentage (18%) agreed that wind farms require too many power lines. The data graphed in the top four bars suggest that the major obstacle for developing wind energy in Kansas is the perception that wind farms and the transmission networks connecting them to the power grid obstruct the panoramic prairie views valued by many Kansans. There was little agreement that wind farms cause significant negative health effects (7.3%) or that wind farms were bad for the Kansas economy (5.9%)

## Various Public Policy Issues

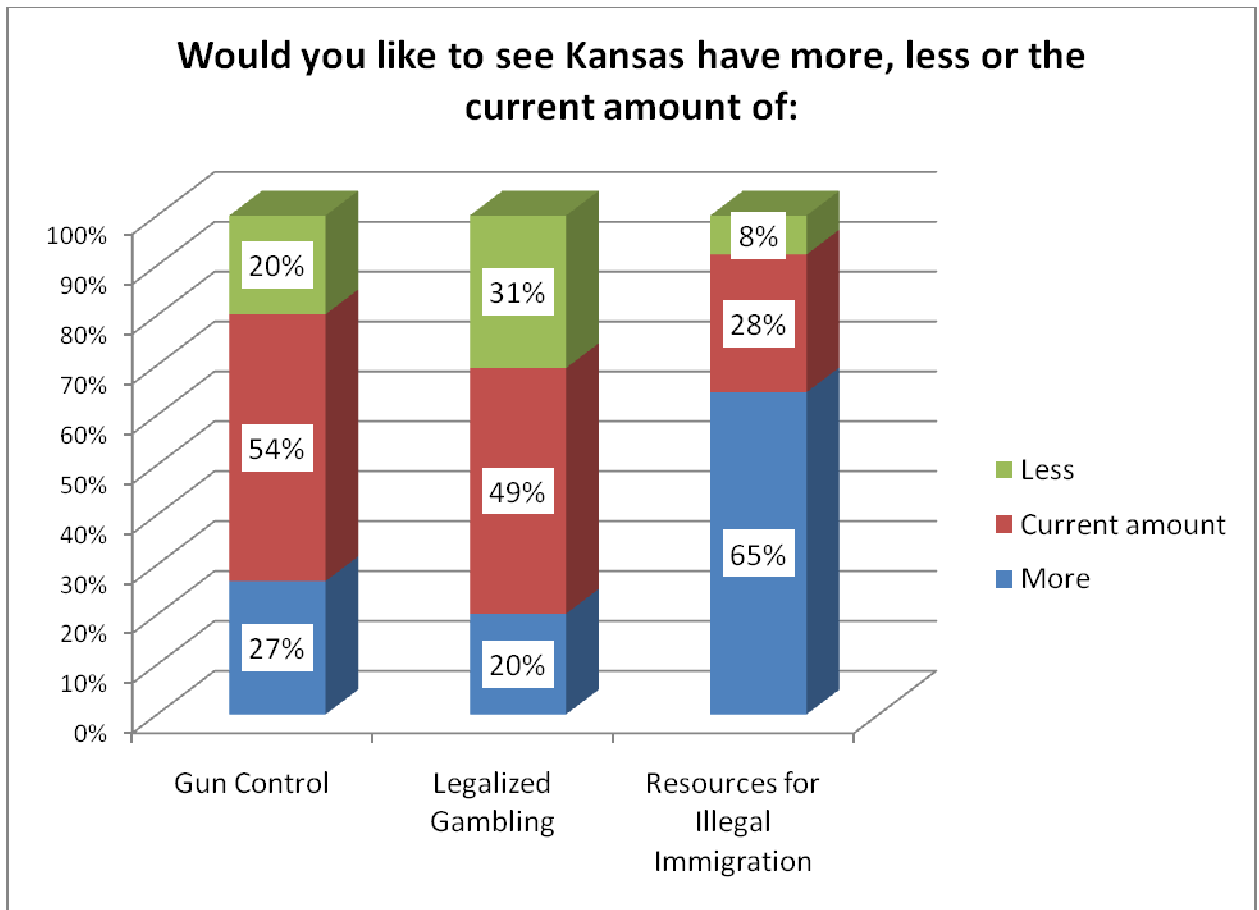


Figure 39

Respondents were asked to give their opinions on three important policy issues. They tended to be divided on gun control and gambling, but more in agreement over addressing illegal immigration. About half said they were satisfied with the current level of gun control and legalized gambling in Kansas. Just over one-fourth expressed a desire for more gun control, while one-fifth believed there was currently too much. Almost one-third of respondents favored less legalized gambling, while one-fifth said they'd like to see more legalized gambling in Kansas. Two-thirds of respondents believe Kansas should devote more resources to addressing illegal immigration, while just over one-fourth said Kansas is currently expending the appropriate amount.

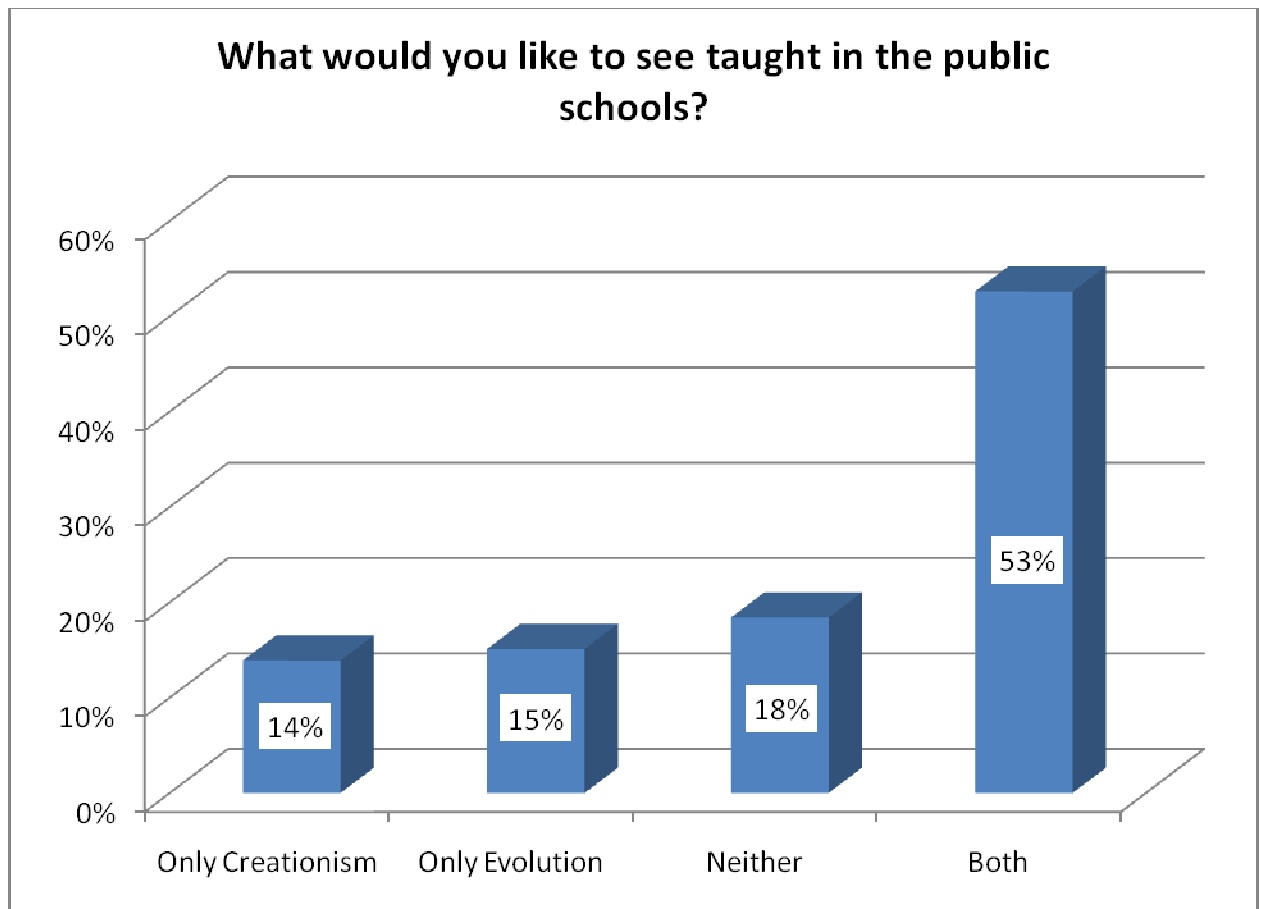


Figure 40

Respondents were asked about their preference for teaching scientific theories on the origin of humans in Kansas public schools. One question presented each respondent with the four alternatives shown above. The majority of respondents said they prefer that both creationism and evolution be taught in public schools. Less than one-third expressed a preference for only one perspective, being evenly divided as to whether they preferred only creationism or only evolution. The remaining 18% did not want either perspective taught in public schools.

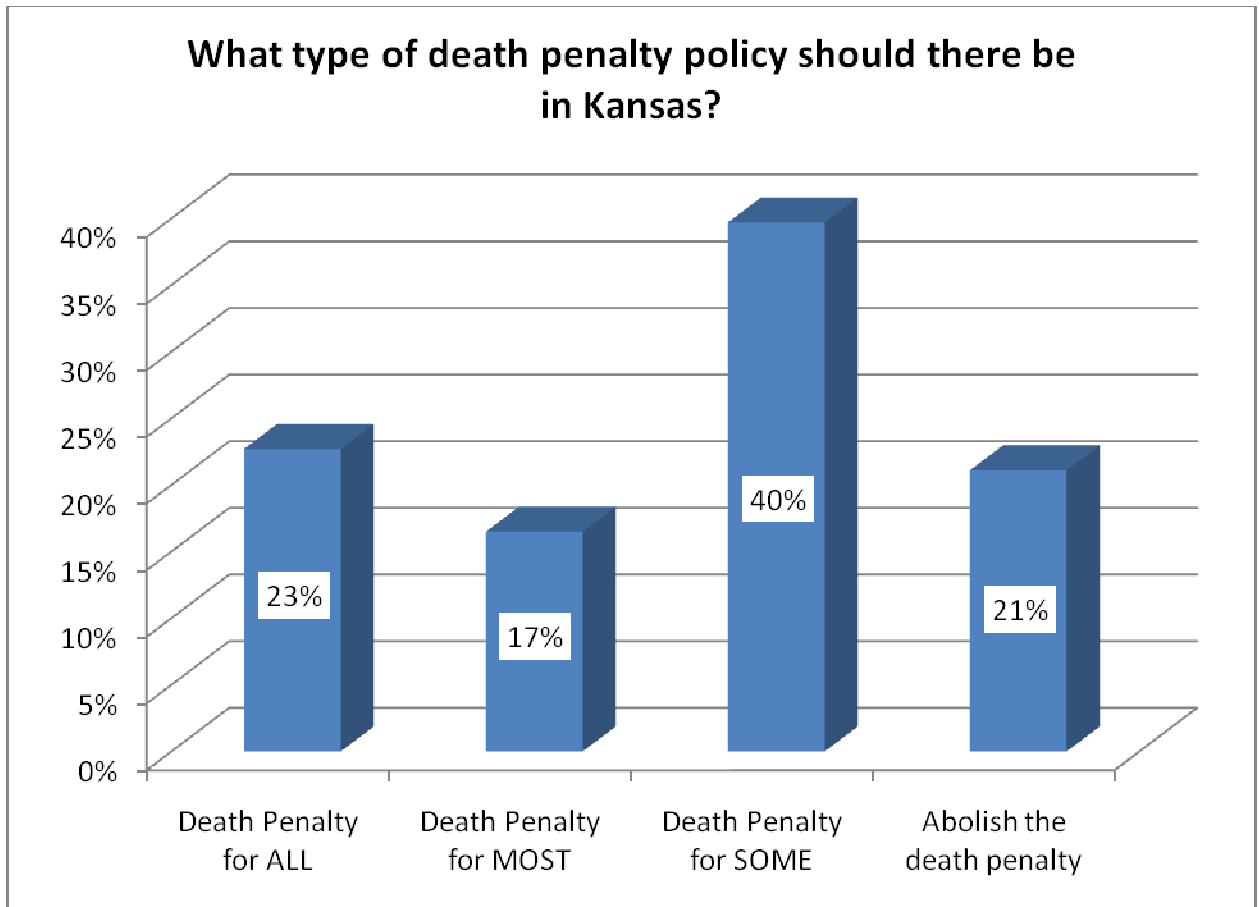


Figure 41

Level of support for the death penalty was measured by asking respondents to choose between the four alternatives shown above. Results show that four-fifths of respondents favor some form of capital punishment for convicted murderers in Kansas. The most commonly reported opinion would execute only some convicted of murder. Almost one-fourth of respondents would favor executing all defendants convicted of murder. About one-fifth of respondents are totally opposed to capital punishment. These data suggest that the majority of Kansans favor limited use of the death penalty, presumably applying it to only the most culpable defendants or most heinous crimes.

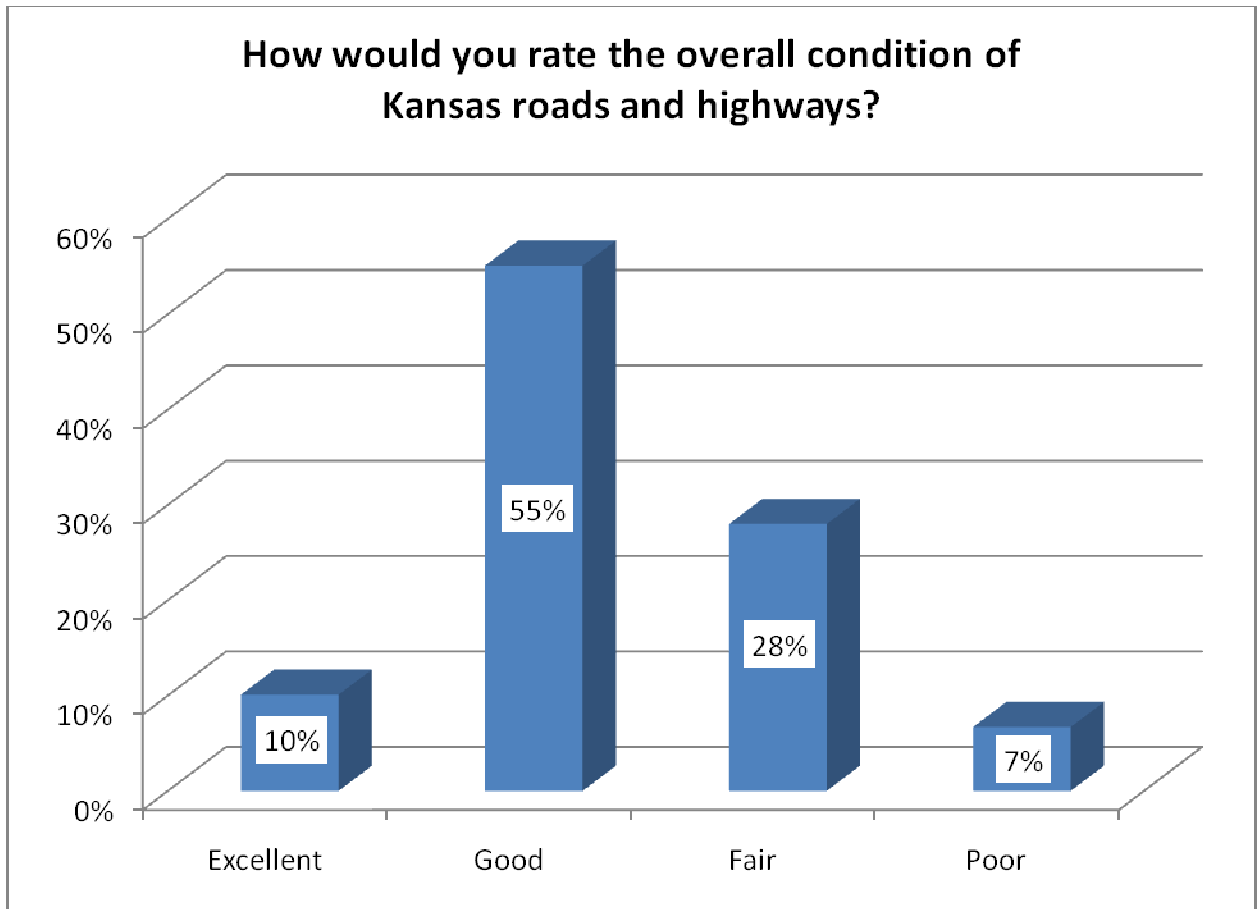


Figure 42

Respondents were asked to rate the overall condition of Kansas roads and highways on a four point scale. The results suggest a relatively high level of satisfaction, with almost two-thirds (65%) rating Kansas roads and highways as either “good” or “excellent.” The vast majority (93%) reported the condition of Kansas roads and highways as at least “fair,” leaving only 7% rating overall conditions as “poor.” Although there was variation in opinions among several of the demographic categories, there was little variation in opinion by region of the state, suggesting that resources for road and highway maintenance are evenly and fairly distributed across the state.

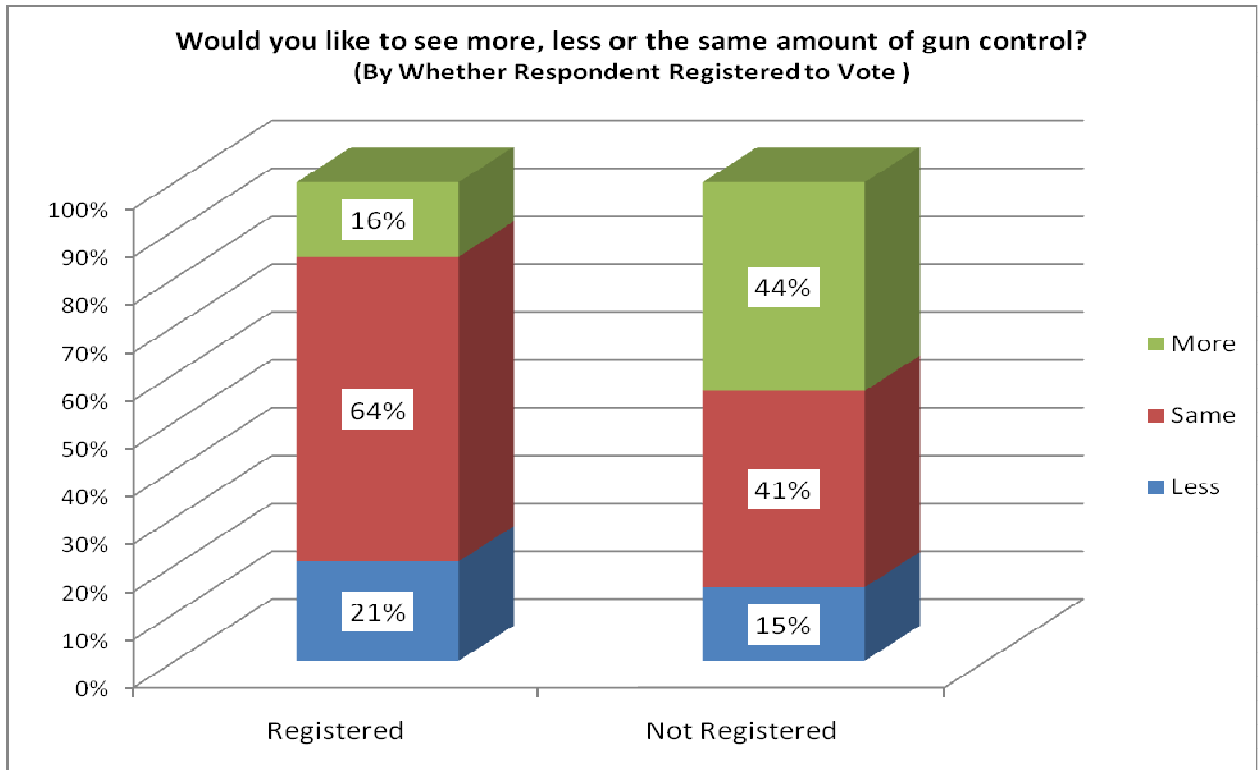


Figure 43

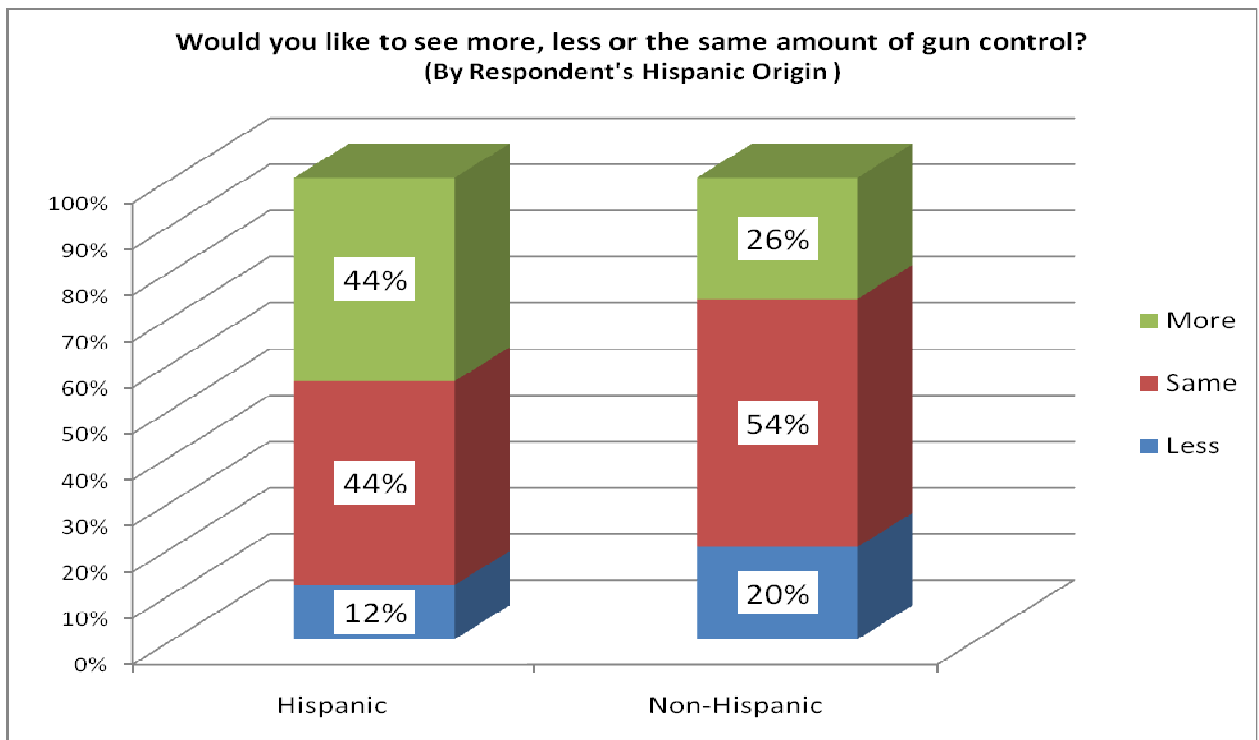


Figure 44

Hispanic respondents and those not registered to vote were more likely favor more gun control, while non-Hispanics and registered voters tended to favor either the current policies or less gun control.



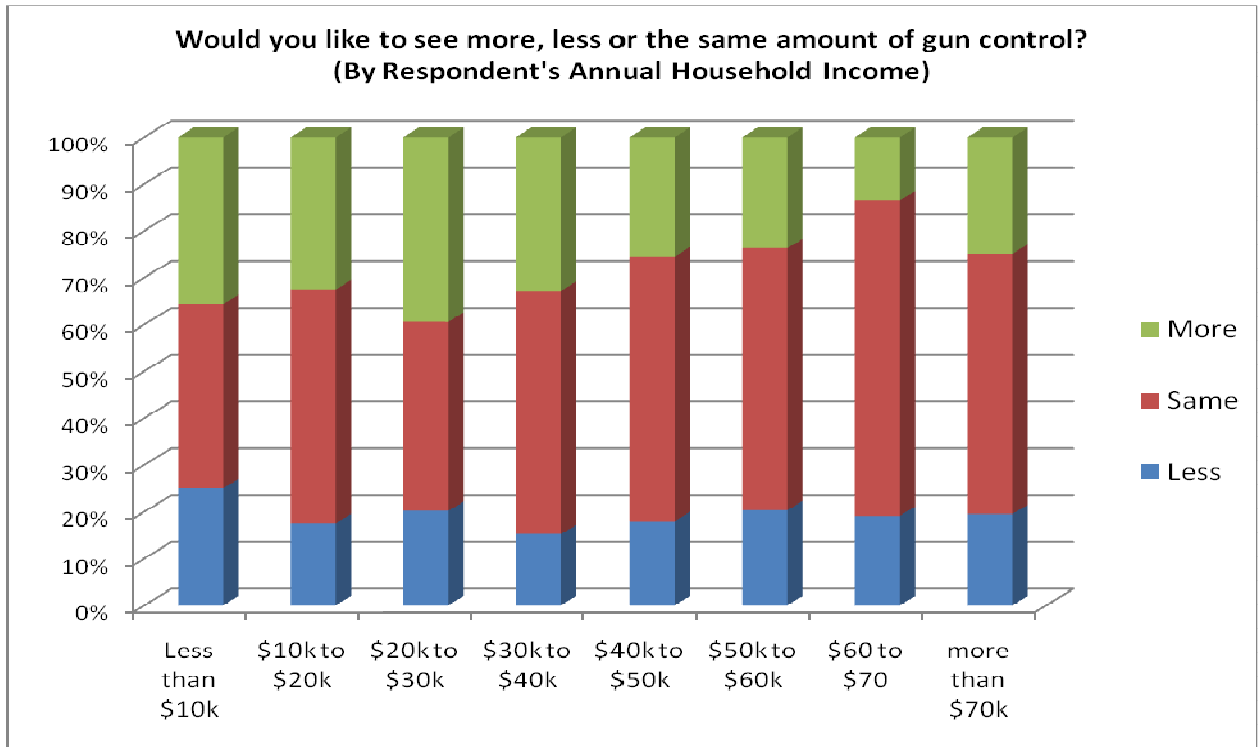


Figure 45

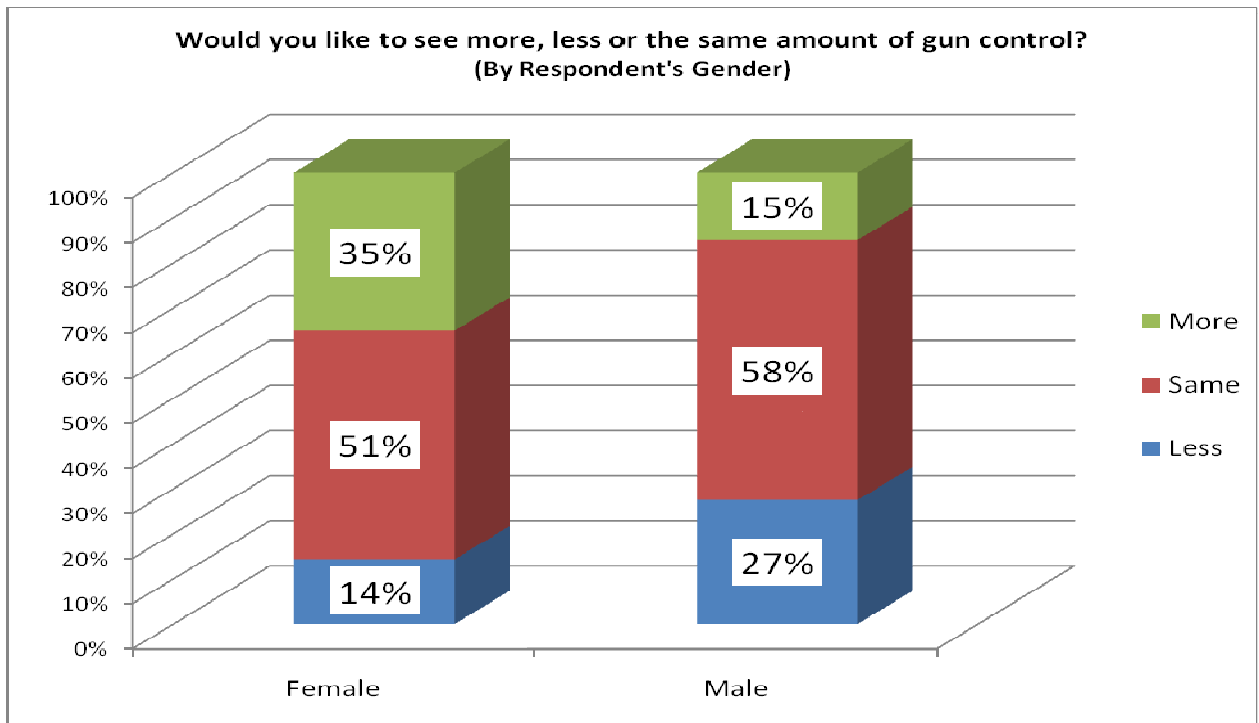


Figure 46

Lower income respondents were more likely to favor more gun control, while the upper income tended to favor the current gun control policies. Women respondents were more likely to want more gun control, while men more likely to favor less gun control or the current policies.

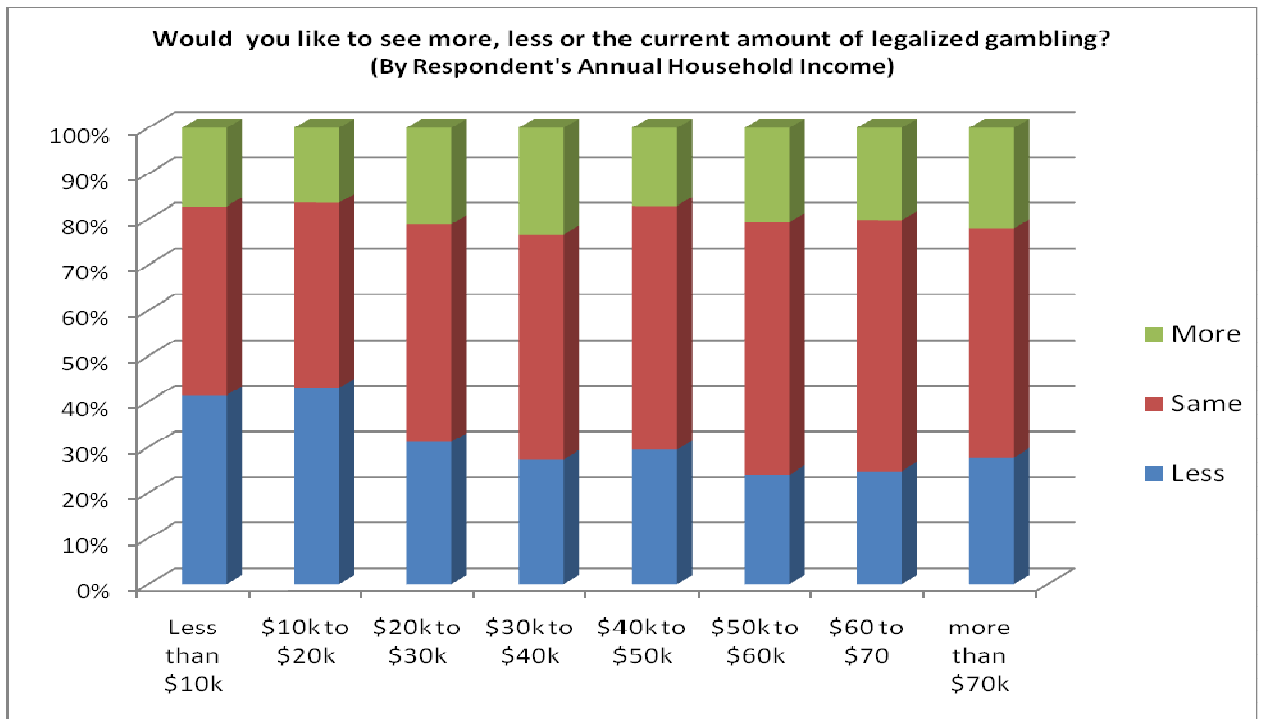


Figure 47

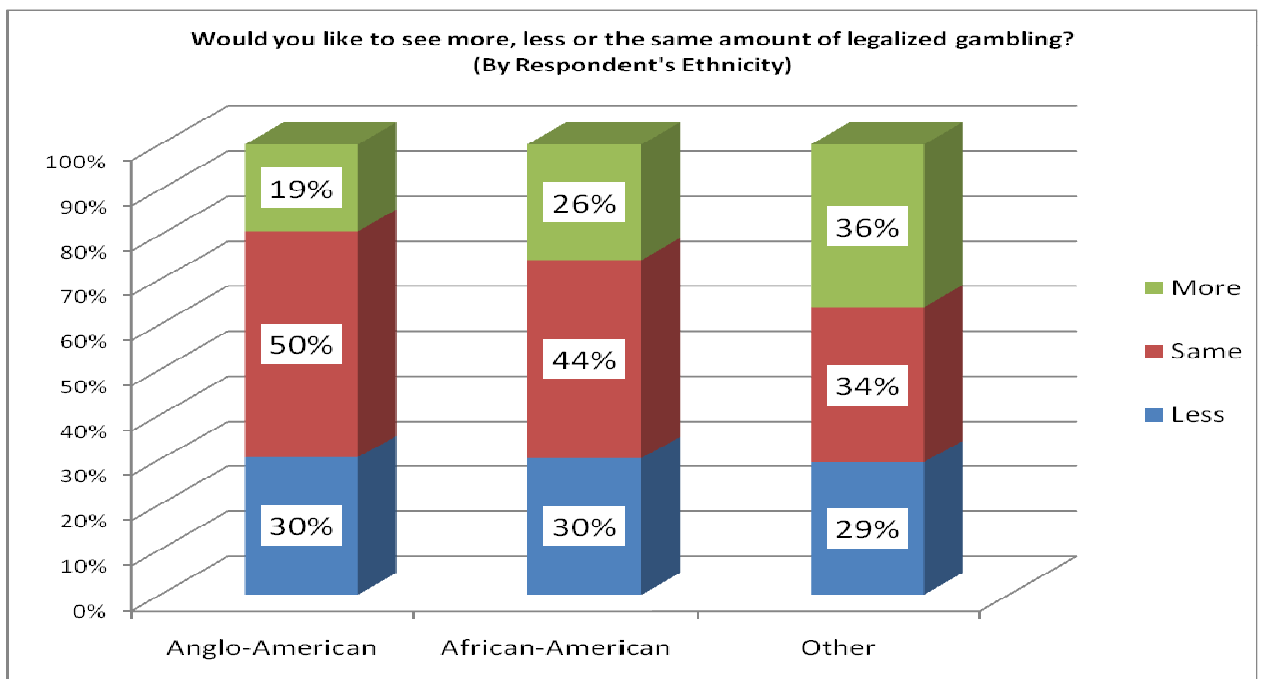


Figure 48

Respondents with annual household incomes of less than \$20,000 were more likely to favor less legalized gambling in Kansas, while upper income respondents tended to prefer the current amount. Respondents of "other" ethnicities tended to want more legal gambling, while Anglo respondents tended to prefer the current amount. African-American respondents were more evenly divided on the issue.

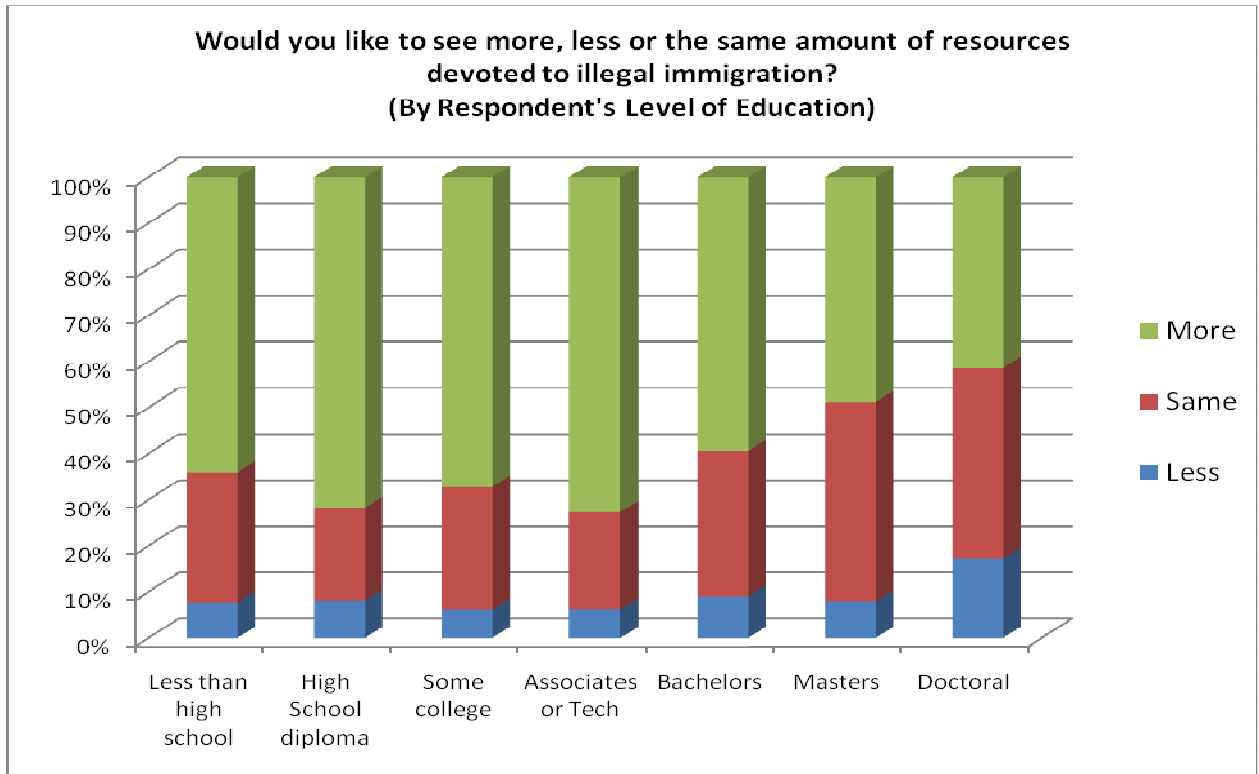


Figure 49

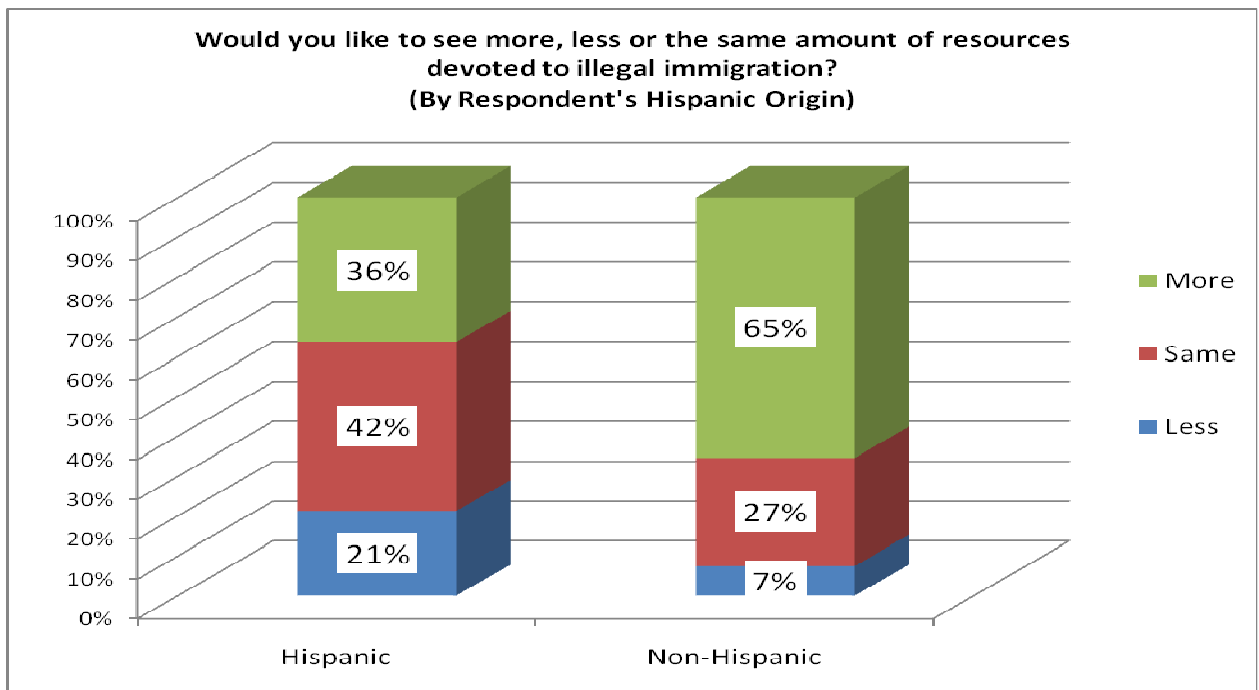


Figure 50

Hispanic respondents and those with a four-year degree were less likely to favor more resources devoted to addressing illegal immigration, while a large majority of non-Hispanic respondents and those with no college degree favored increasing resources to address illegal immigration.

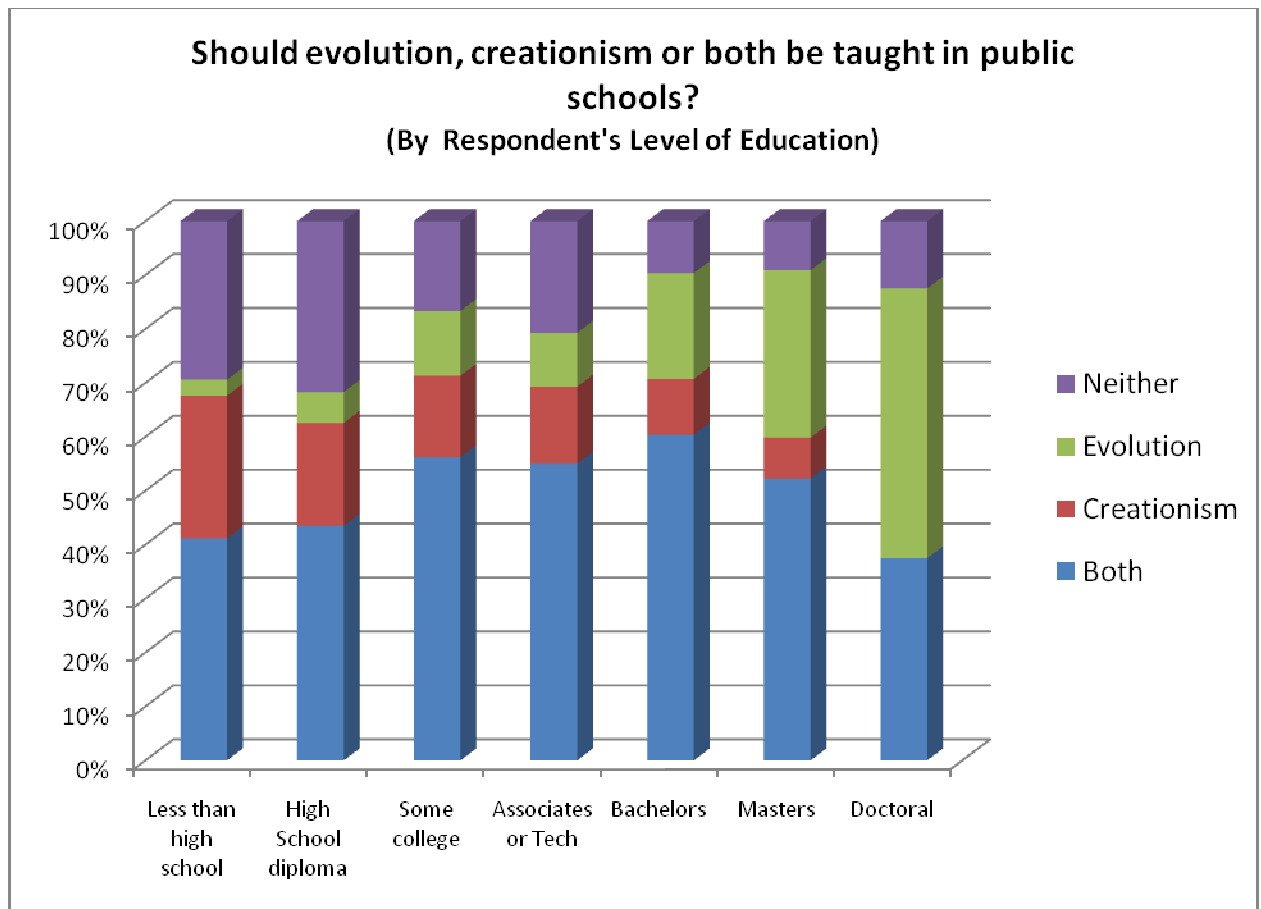


Figure 51

Some interesting variations were found in opinions of teaching evolution and creationism in public schools between respondents with varying levels of education. Respondents with no college education tended to prefer that either creationism or neither perspectives be taught. Very few of these respondents wanted evolution taught. Respondents with some college, but less than a bachelors degree, were most likely to prefer that both perspectives be taught and were more evenly divided among those preferring that only one of the two perspectives be taught. Among respondents with college degrees, we see an increasing tendency to prefer that evolution only be taught. None of the 32 respondents with Ph.D.s favored teaching creationism alone, but 12 did favor teaching both perspectives and 4 said neither should be taught.

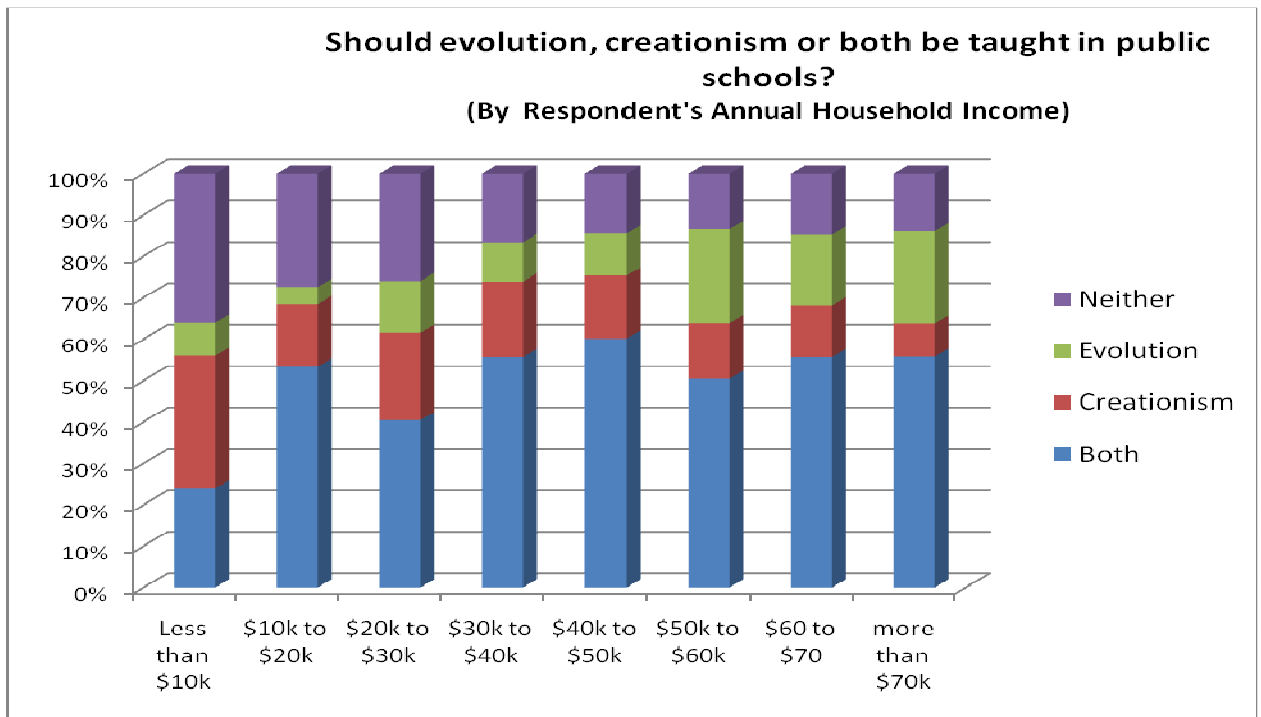


Figure 52

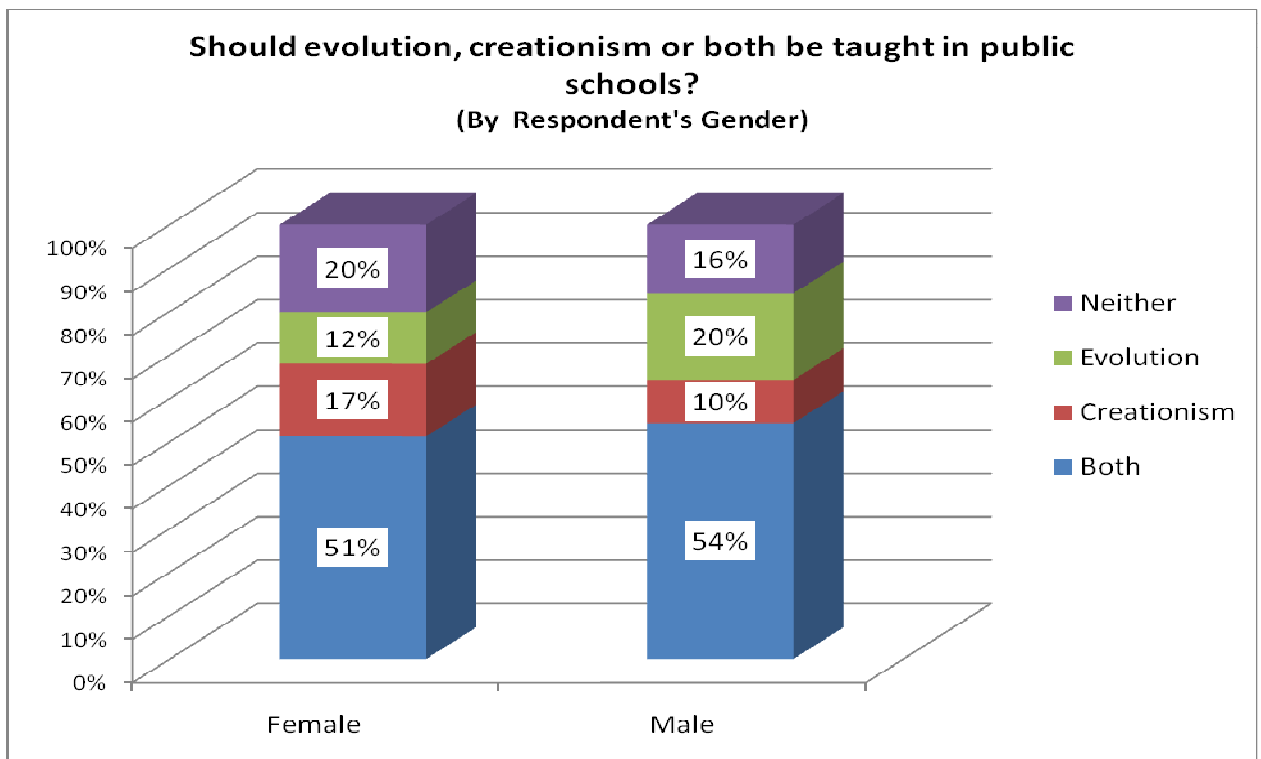


Figure 53

Male and upper income respondents tended to prefer that either evolution or both perspectives be taught in public schools, while females and lower income respondents tended to prefer that creationism or neither perspective be taught.

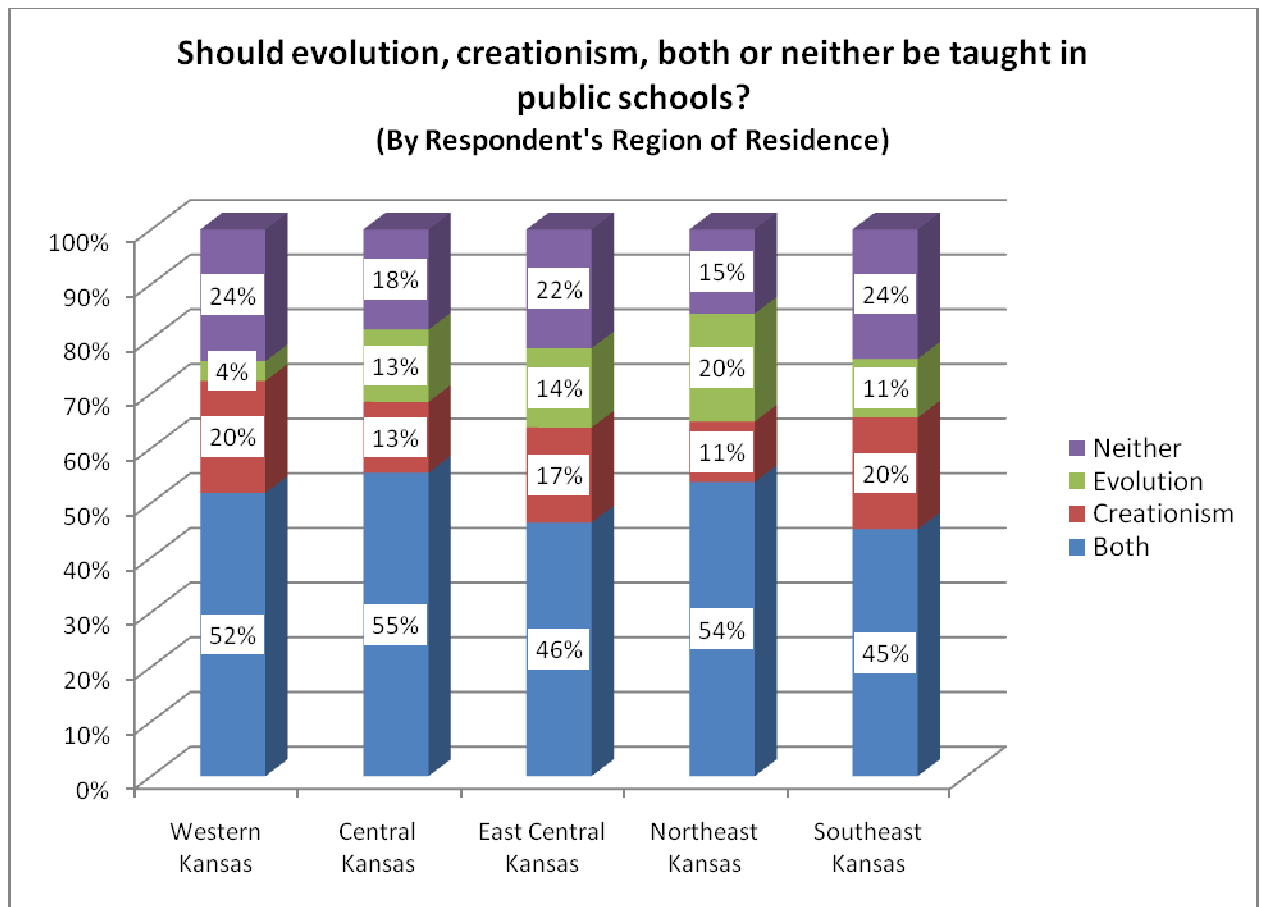


Figure 54

There was significant variation between respondents living in different regions of the state on their opinions of teaching evolution and creationism in public schools. Respondents living in Western and Southeast Kansas were most likely to prefer teaching only creationism and least likely to prefer teaching only evolution, with 44% preferring not to teach evolution at all. Respondings living in Northeast Kansas were most likely to prefer teaching only evolution and least likely to prefer teaching only creationism, with over one-third (35%) preferring not to teach creationism at all.

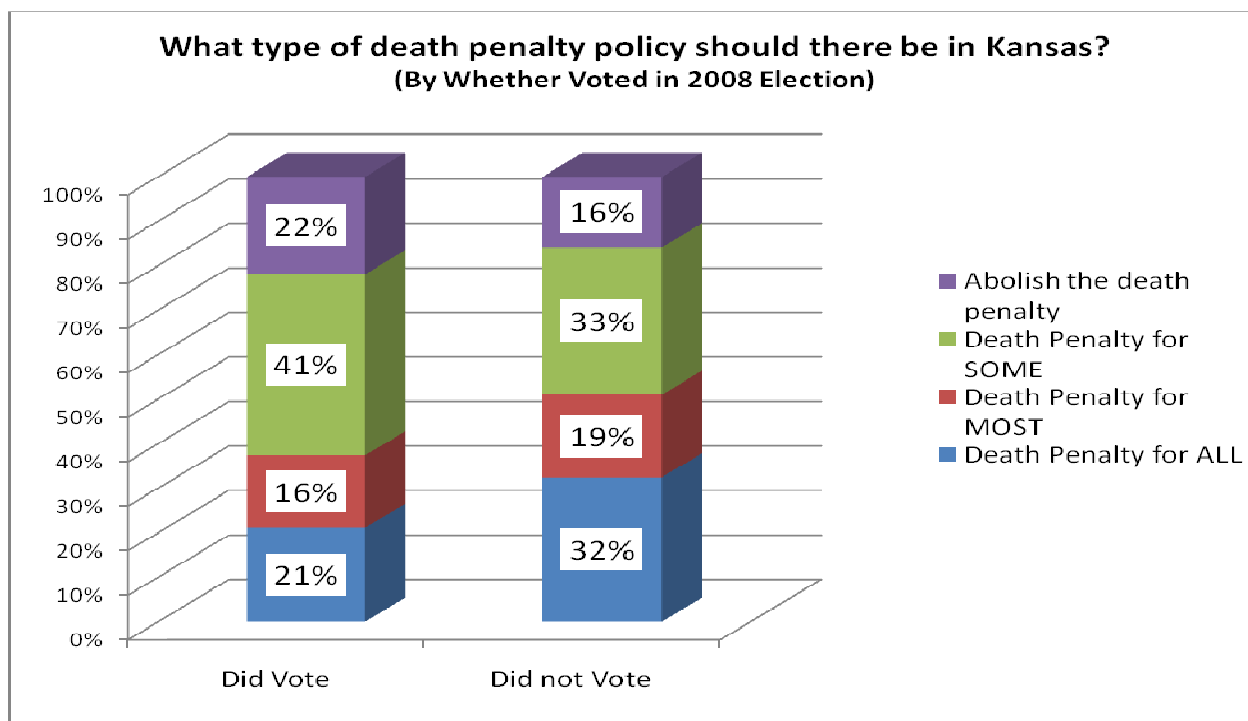


Figure 55

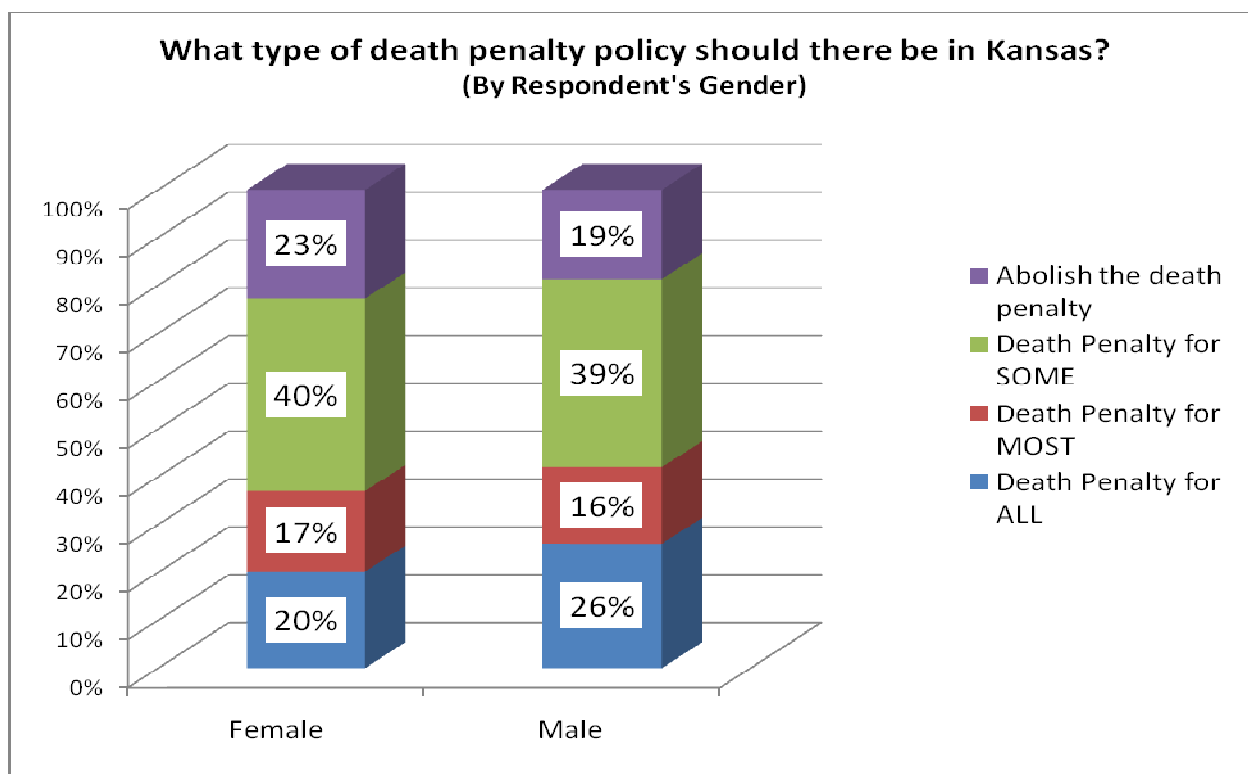


Figure 56

Respondents who voted in the 2008 election were more likely to favor limited use or abolition of the death penalty in Kansas. Males were slightly more likely than females to favor the death penalty in Kansas.

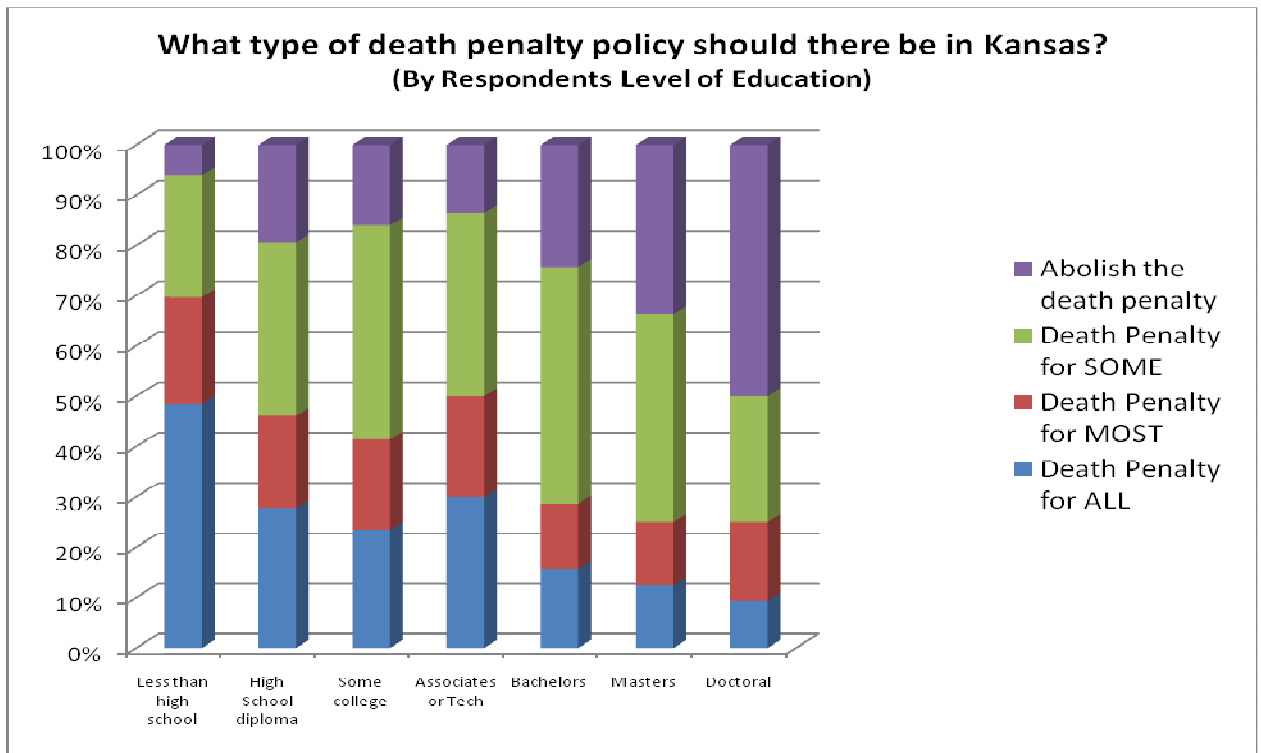


Figure 57

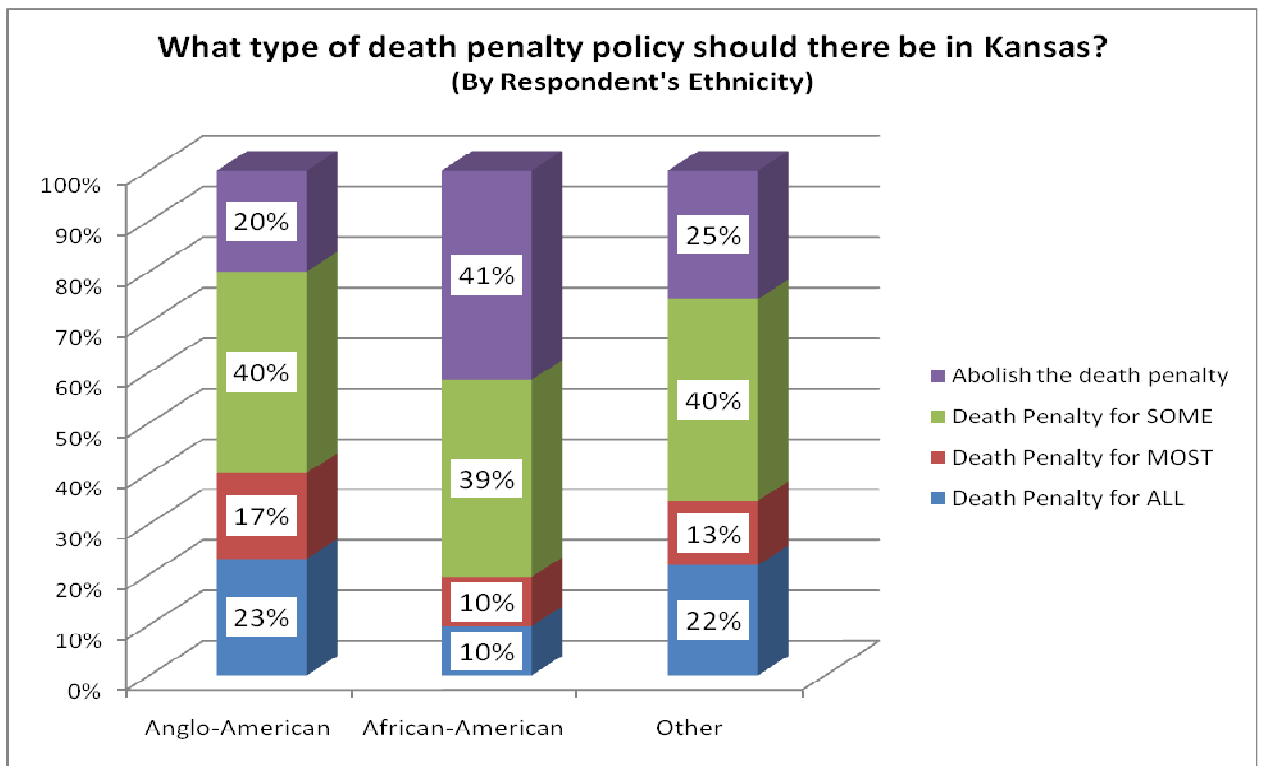


Figure 58

The higher a respondent's level of education, the less likely they tended to favor the death penalty. The death penalty was also less popular among ethnic minorities, especially African-Americans.



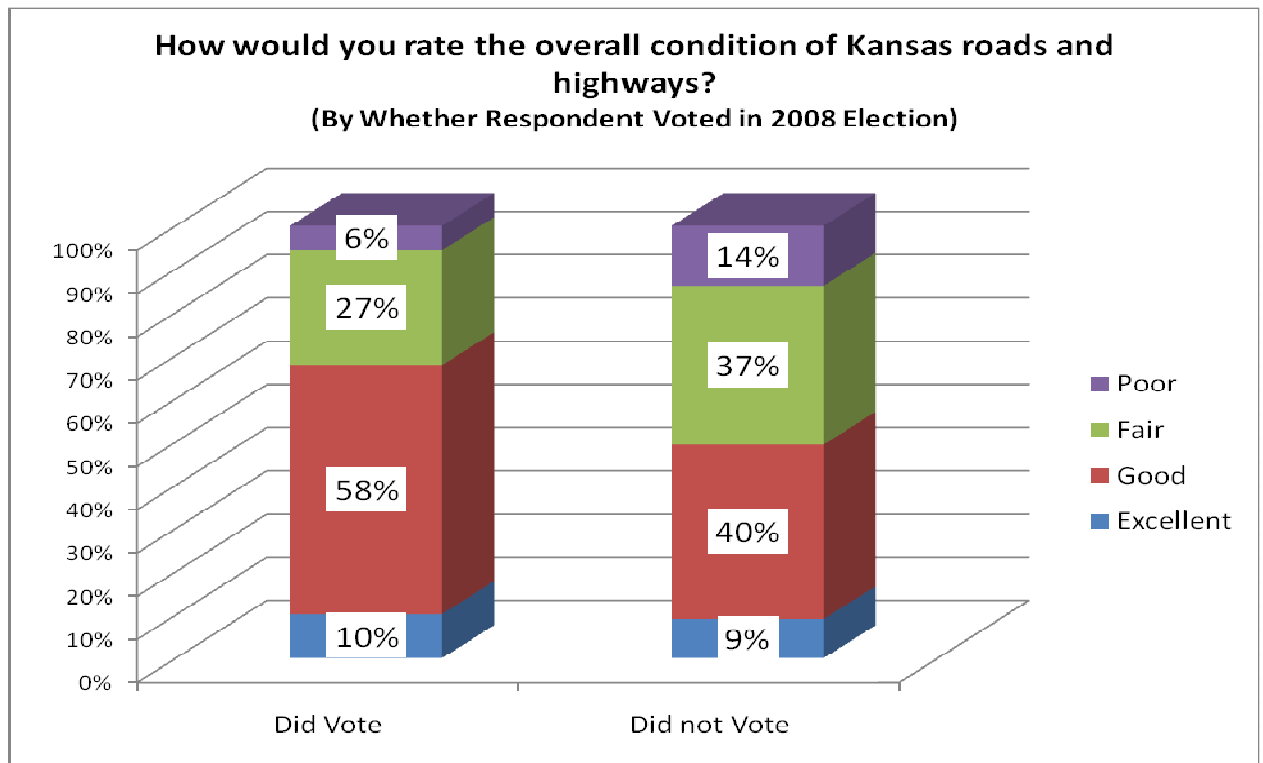


Figure 59

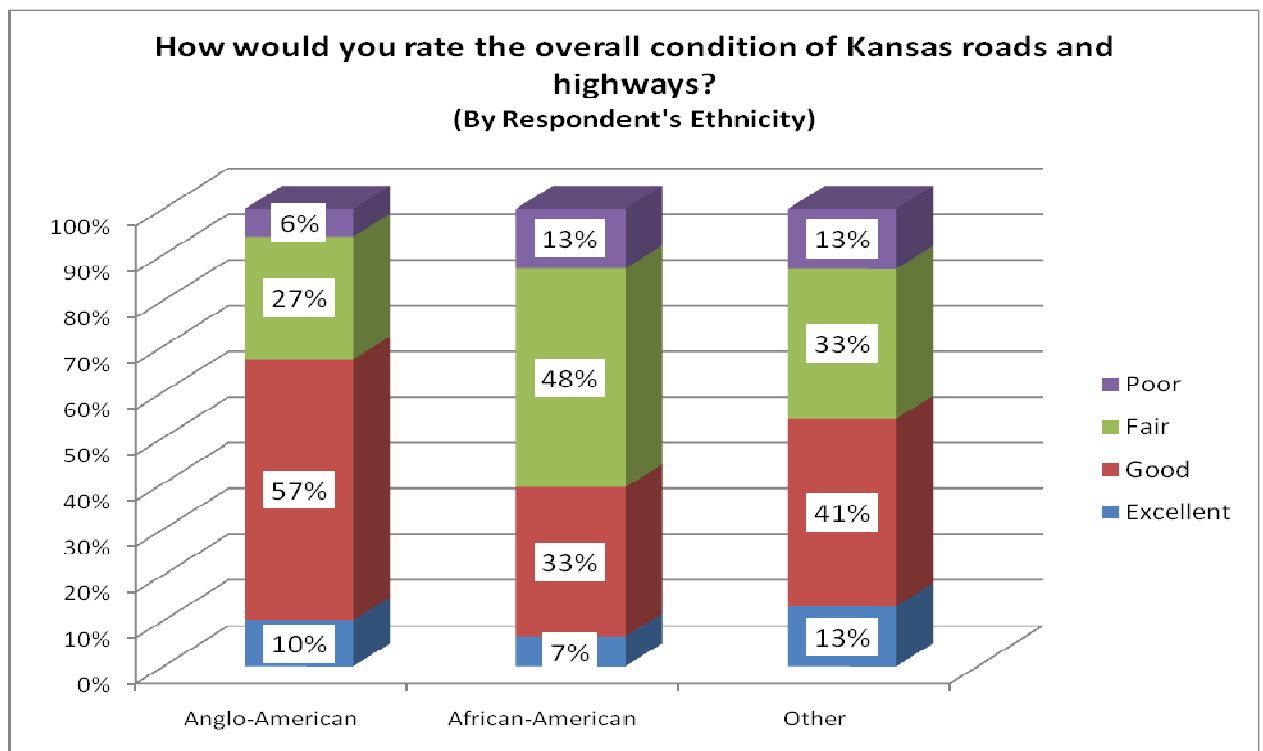


Figure 60

Ethnic minority respondents, especially African-Americans, and those who reported not voting in the 2008 election were less likely to rate Kansas roads and highways favorably.

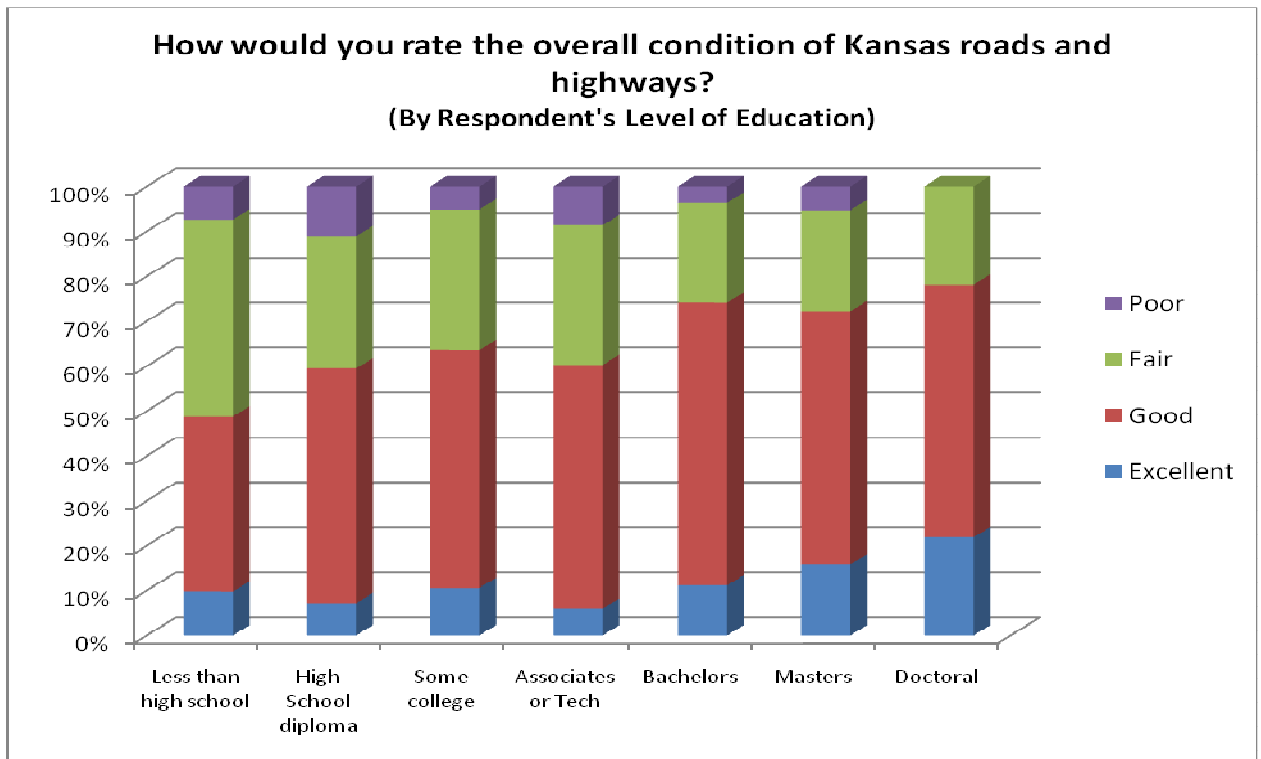


Figure 61

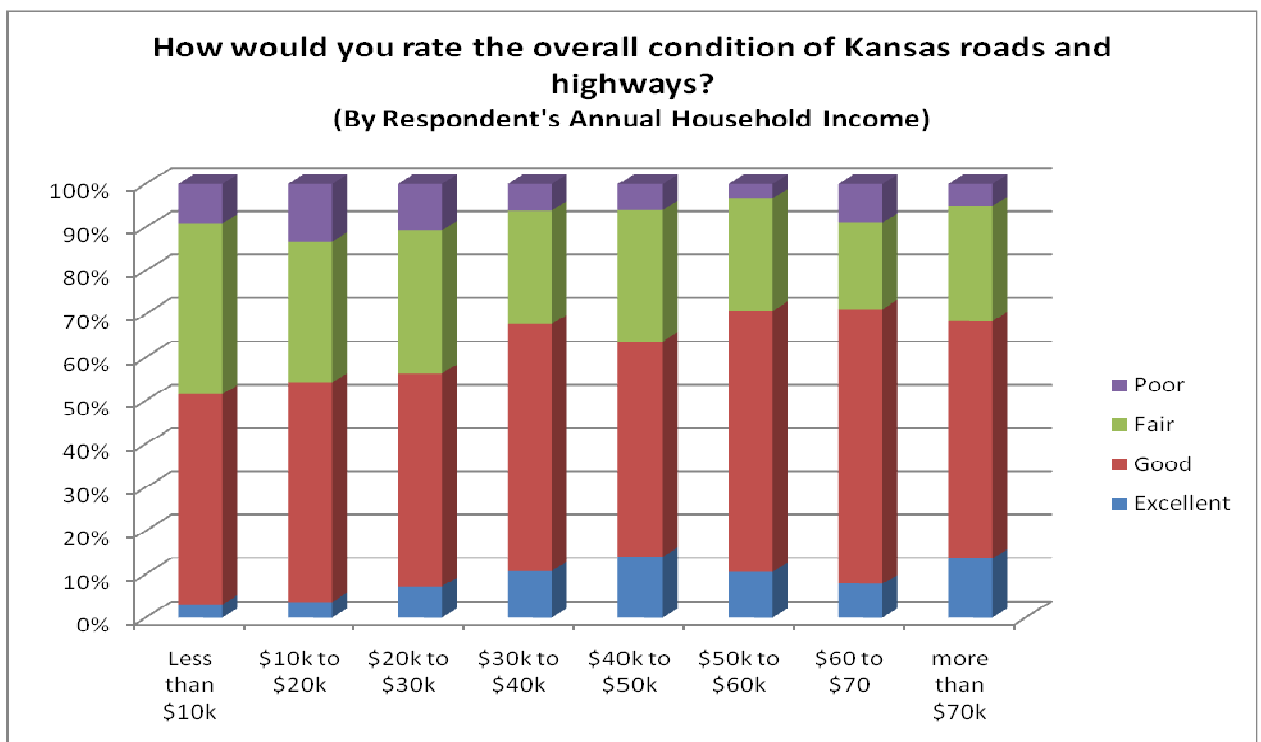


Figure 62

Respondents with higher annual household incomes and higher levels of education tended to rate Kansas roads and highways more highly than those with lower levels of income and education.

## Healthcare and Education

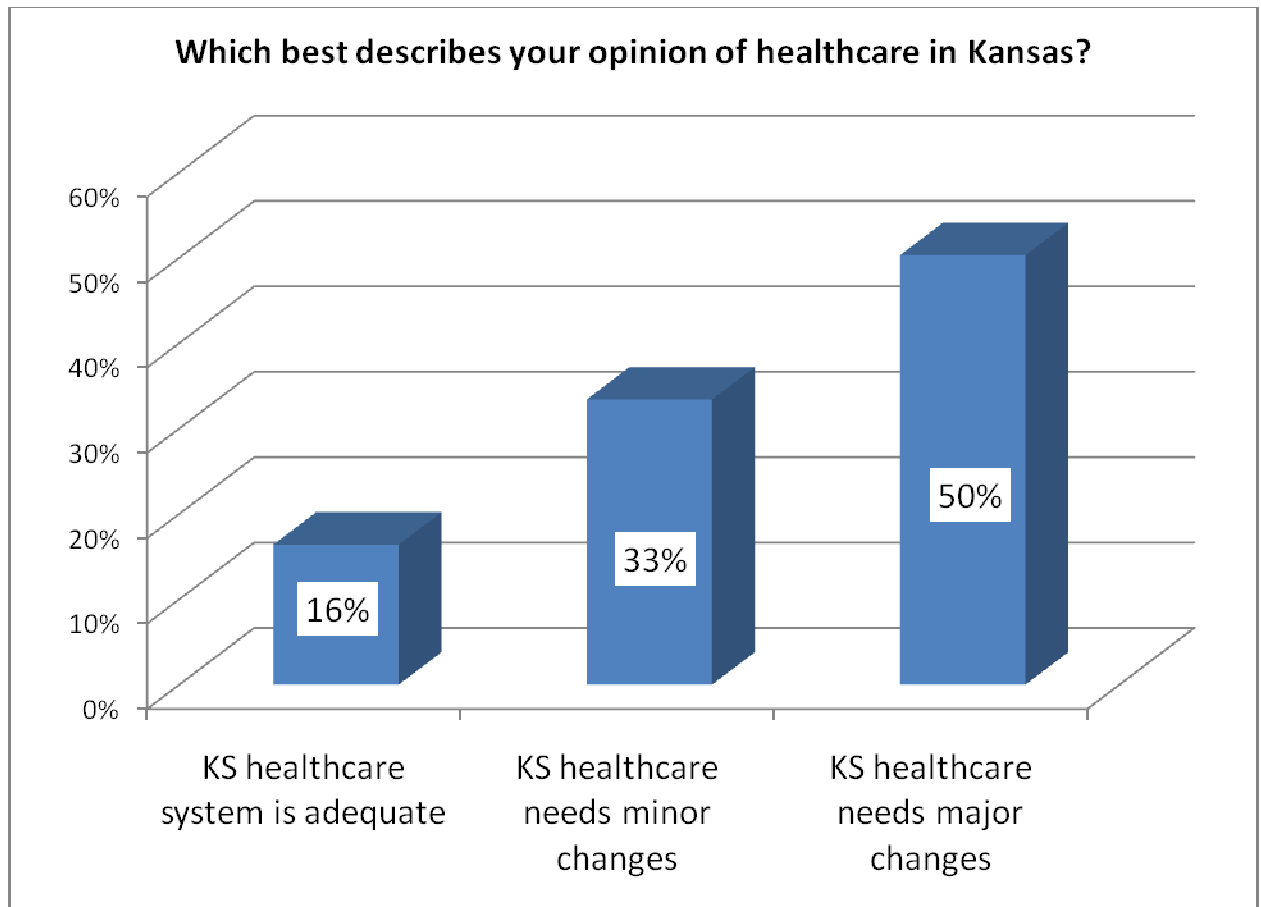


Figure 63

There has been considerable debate at the national level on healthcare reform. The survey asked one question to gauge citizens' opinions of healthcare in Kansas. Half of all respondents said they thought that healthcare in Kansas "needs some major changes," while only one-sixth said the current state healthcare system is "adequate." One-third said they thought healthcare needs only "some minor changes."

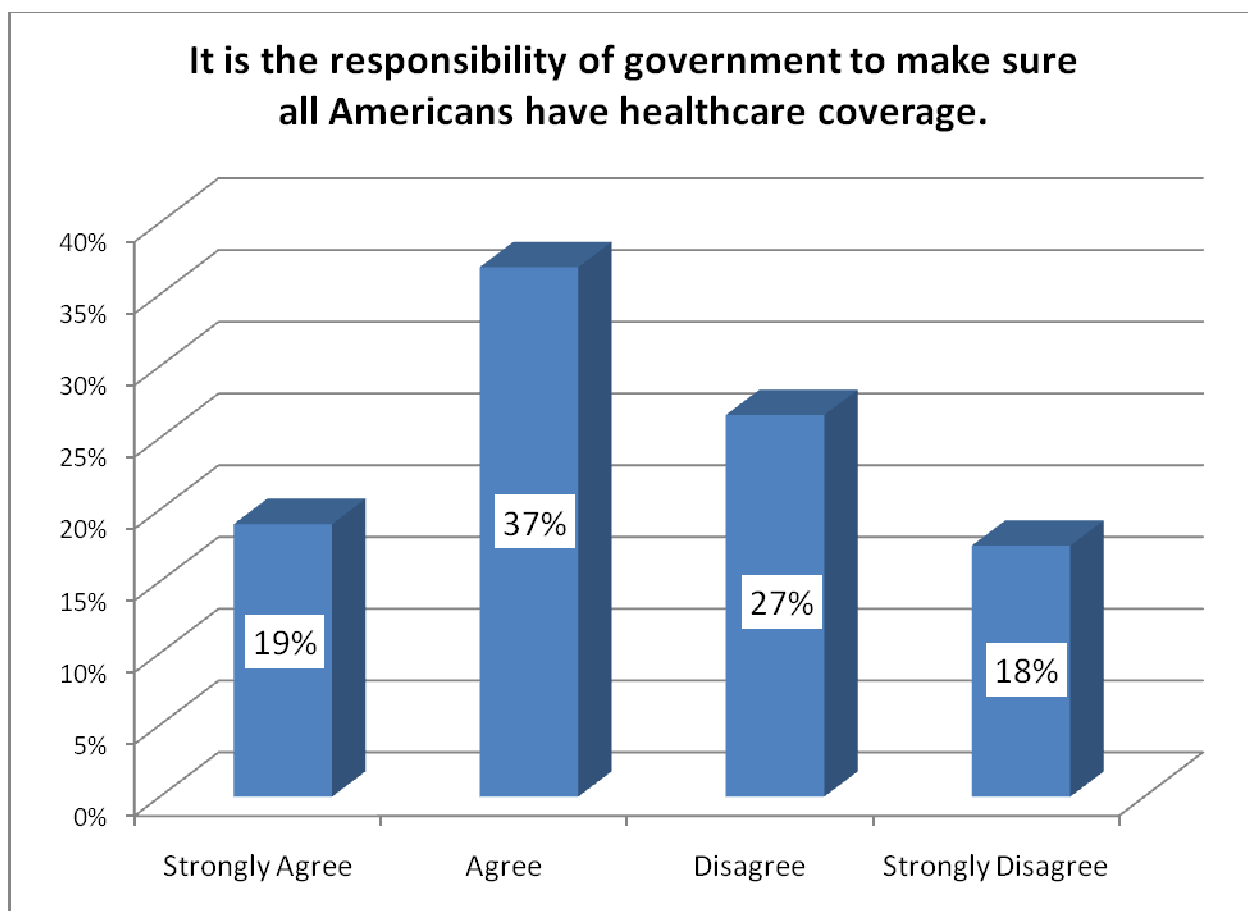


Figure 64

Part of the healthcare debate has been the question of whether providing healthcare coverage is the responsibility of government. The survey data suggest that Kansans are highly divided on this issue, while tending slightly to agree that it is the responsibility of government. Over half of respondents (56%) said they either “agree” or “strongly agree” that the government should be responsible for the healthcare of all citizens, with almost one-fifth strongly agreeing with this statement. However, almost one-fifth strongly disagree, feeling strongly that this is not an appropriate role for government.

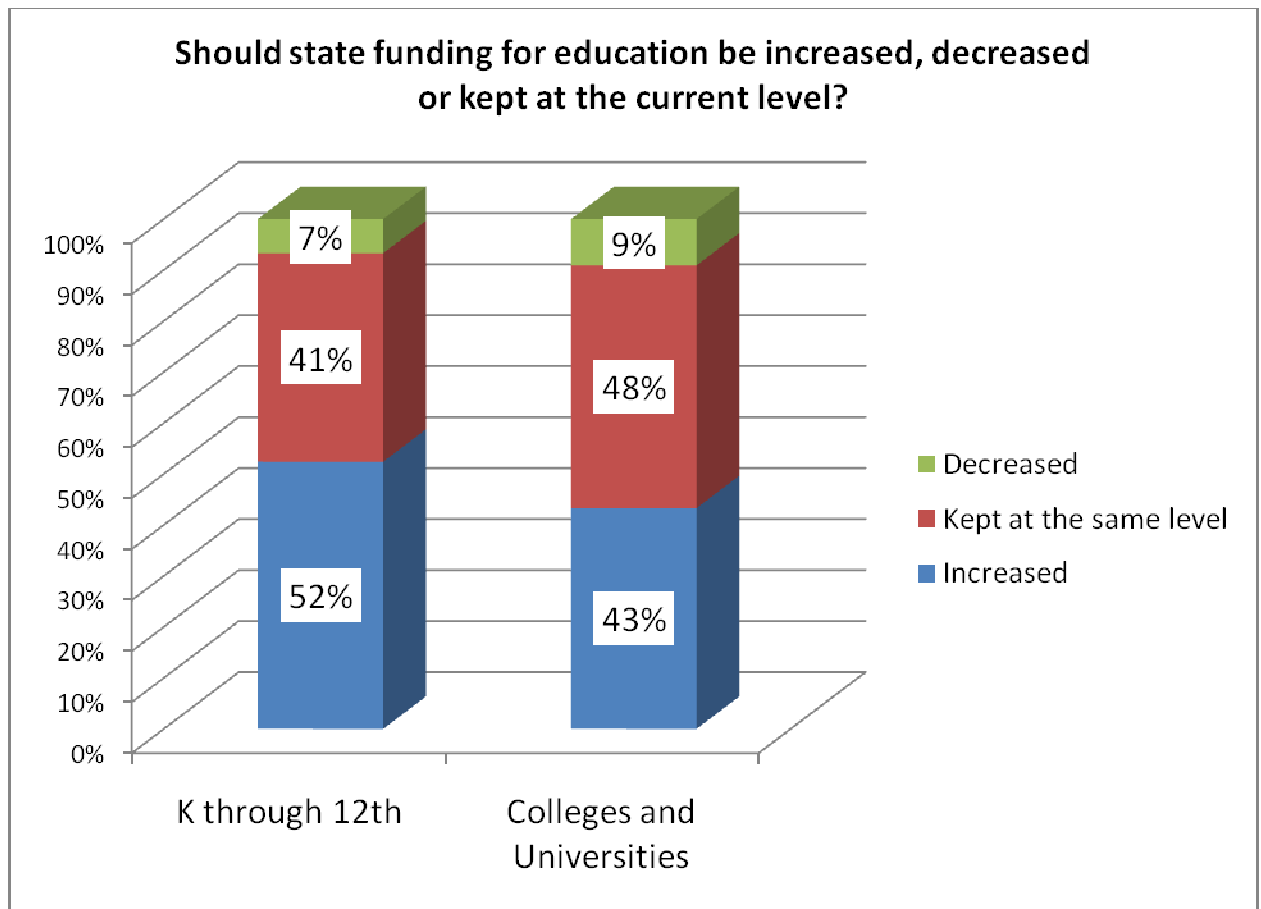


Figure 65

The recent declines in national and state economies, which typically result in declines in state and local revenues for public education, have placed a strain on the budgets of virtually all state educational institutions. A question that always arises in these situations is whether budget priorities should be shifted to prevent hard economic times from adversely affecting the quality and quantity of educational programs. Respondents were asked if funding for grade schools, then funding for colleges and universities, in the state should be increased, kept at the same levels or decreased. The data suggest a higher concern among Kansans for maintaining funding for grades K through 12, with over half favoring increased funding for these public schools and the vast majority (93%) opposed to funding cuts. Respondents were most likely to favor maintaining current levels of funding for Kansas colleges and universities, with 91% against decreasing funds to higher education.

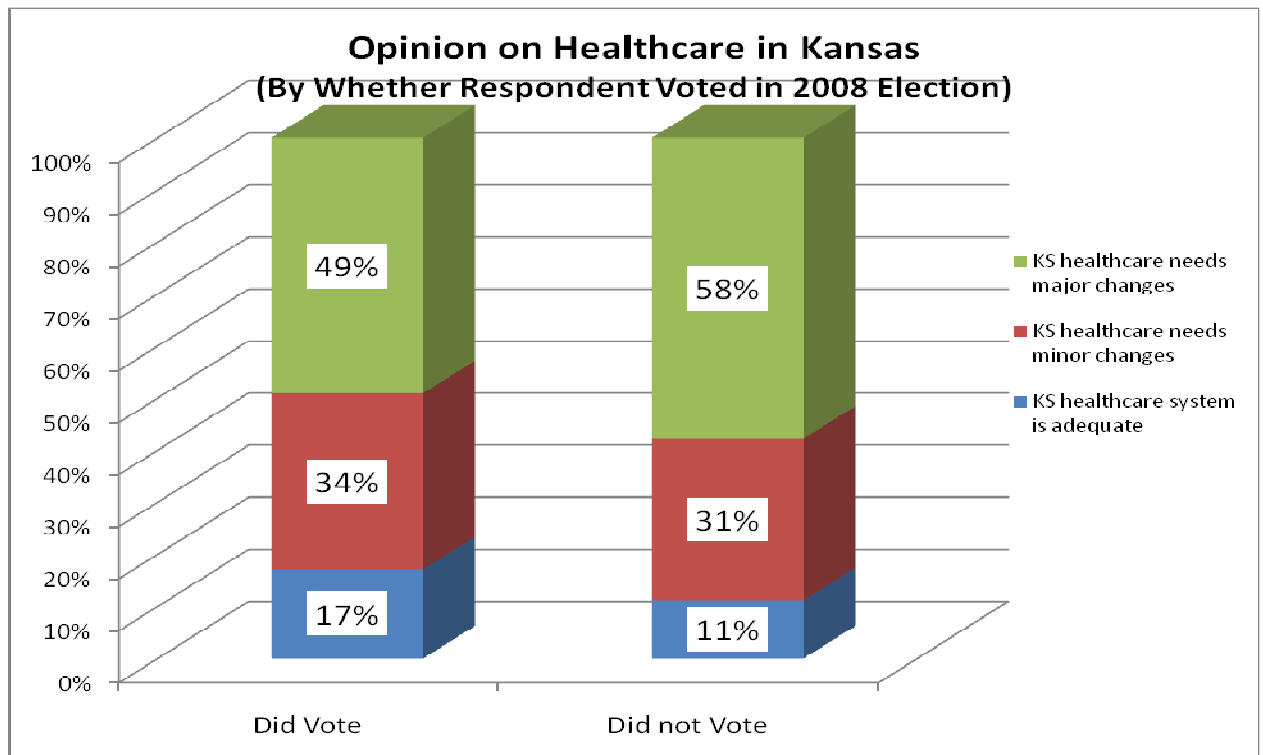


Figure 66

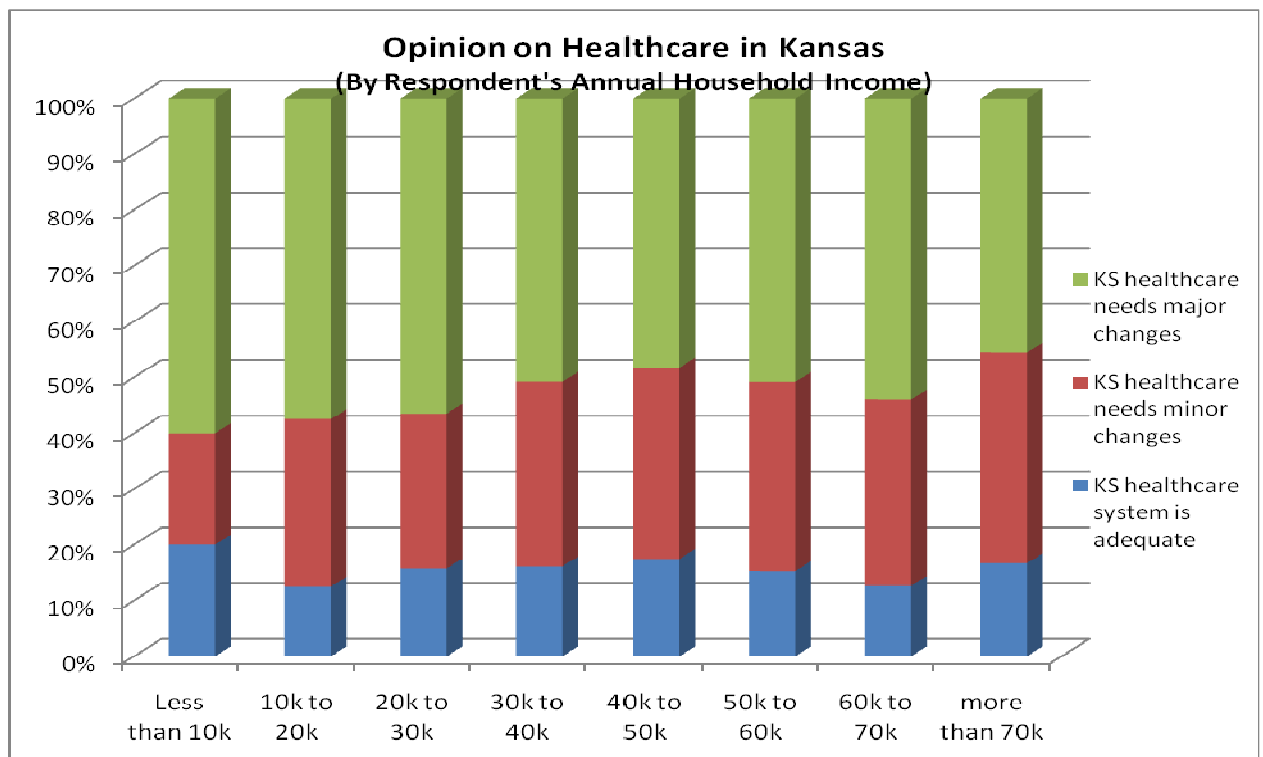


Figure 67

Respondents who voted in the 2008 election and those earning higher annual household incomes were less likely to favor major changes in Kansas' healthcare system and more likely to prefer minor changes.

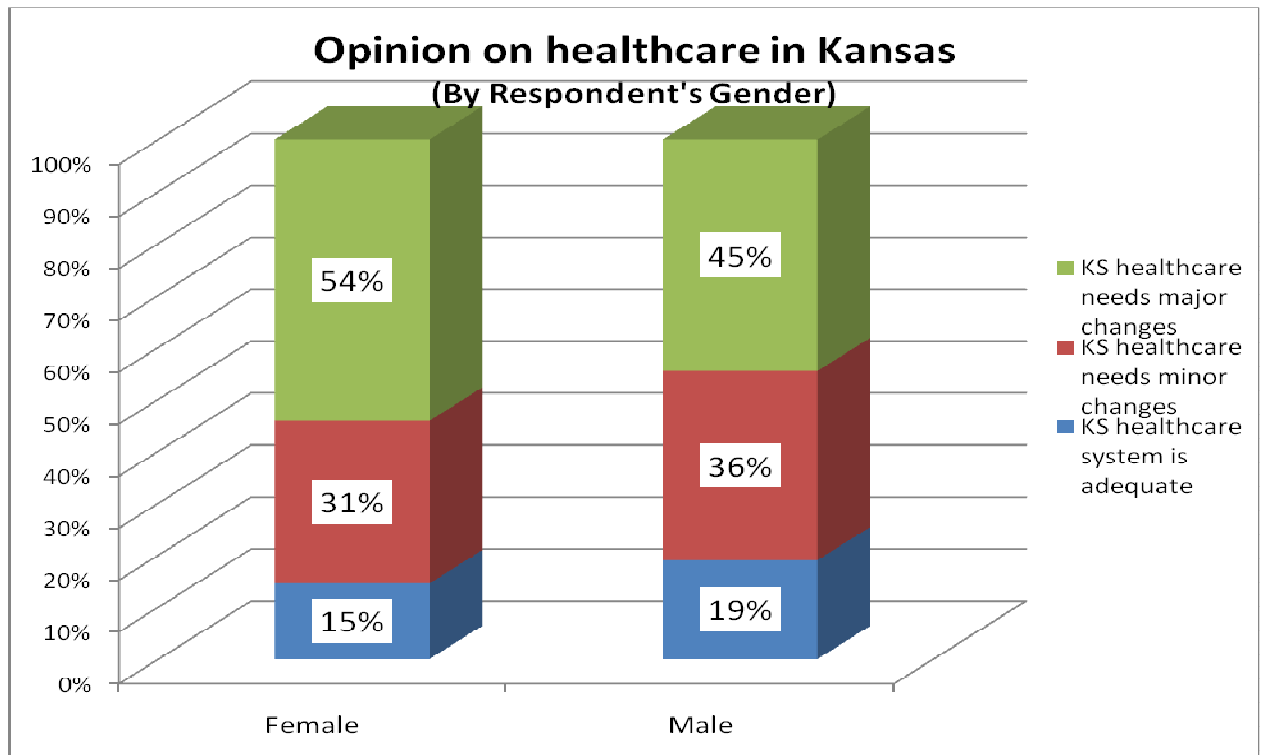


Figure 68

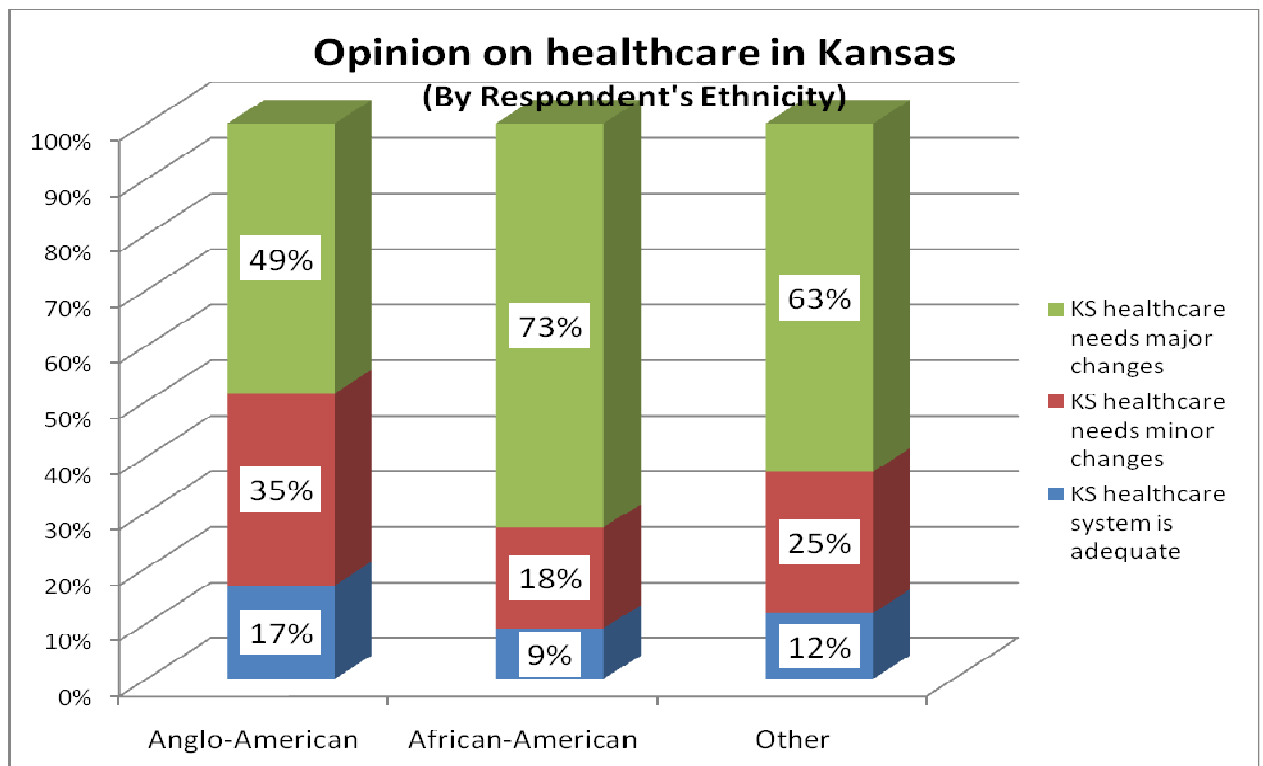


Figure 69

Female and ethnic minority respondents, especially African-Americans, were more likely to think major changes are needed in the Kansas healthcare system.

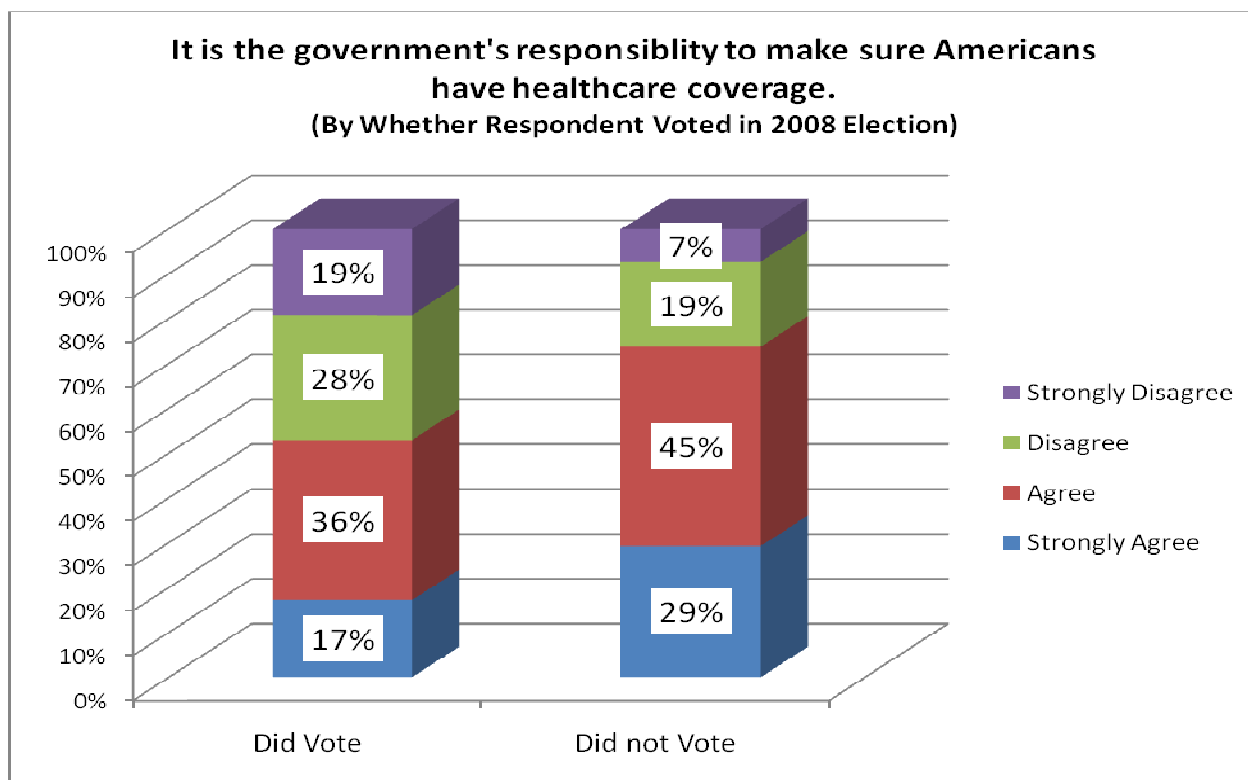


Figure 70

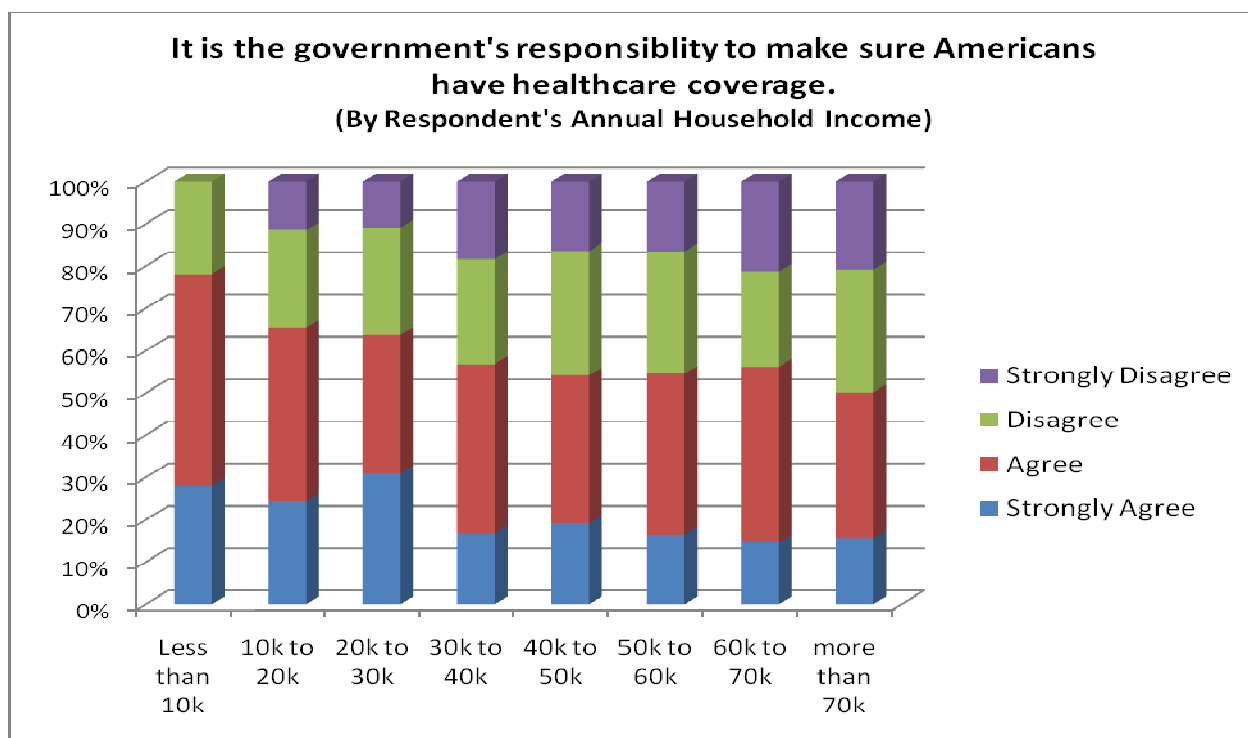


Figure 71

Upper income respondents and those who voted in the 2008 election were more likely to believe it is not the government's responsibility to provide healthcare coverage for all Americans.



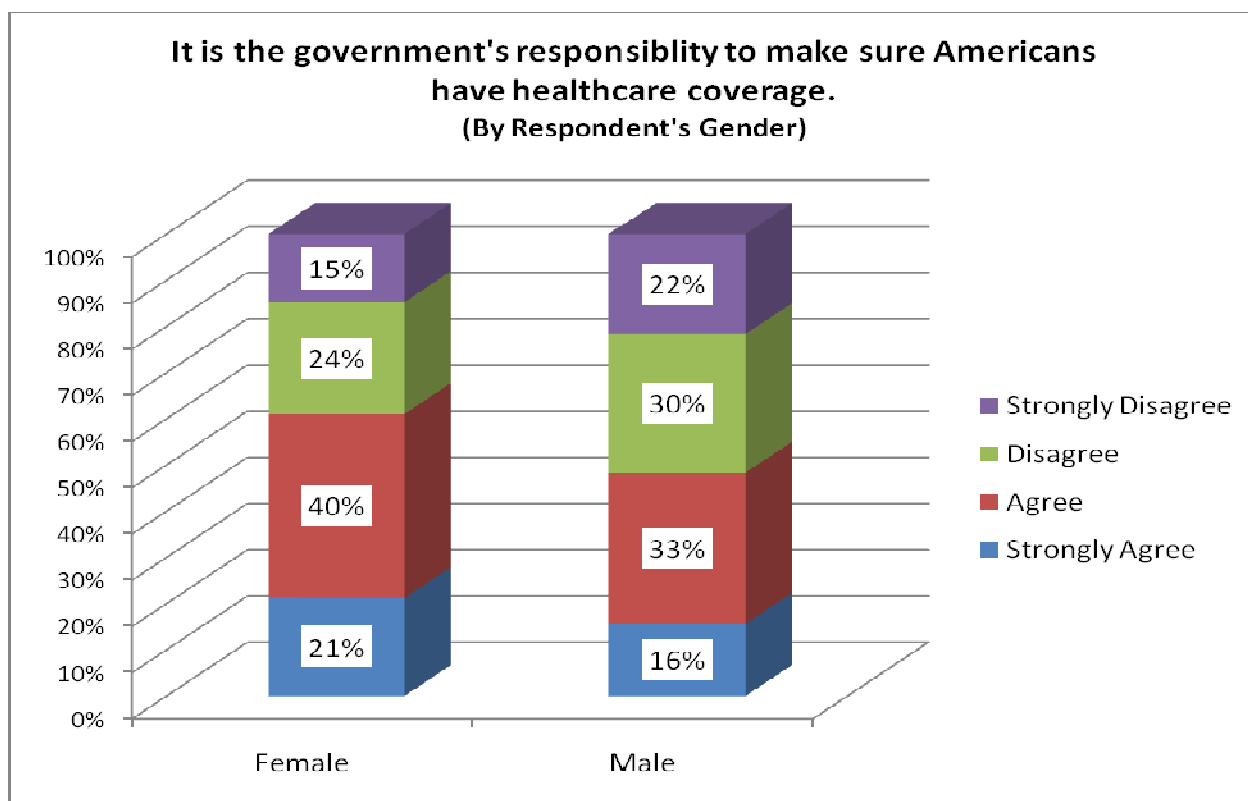


Figure 72

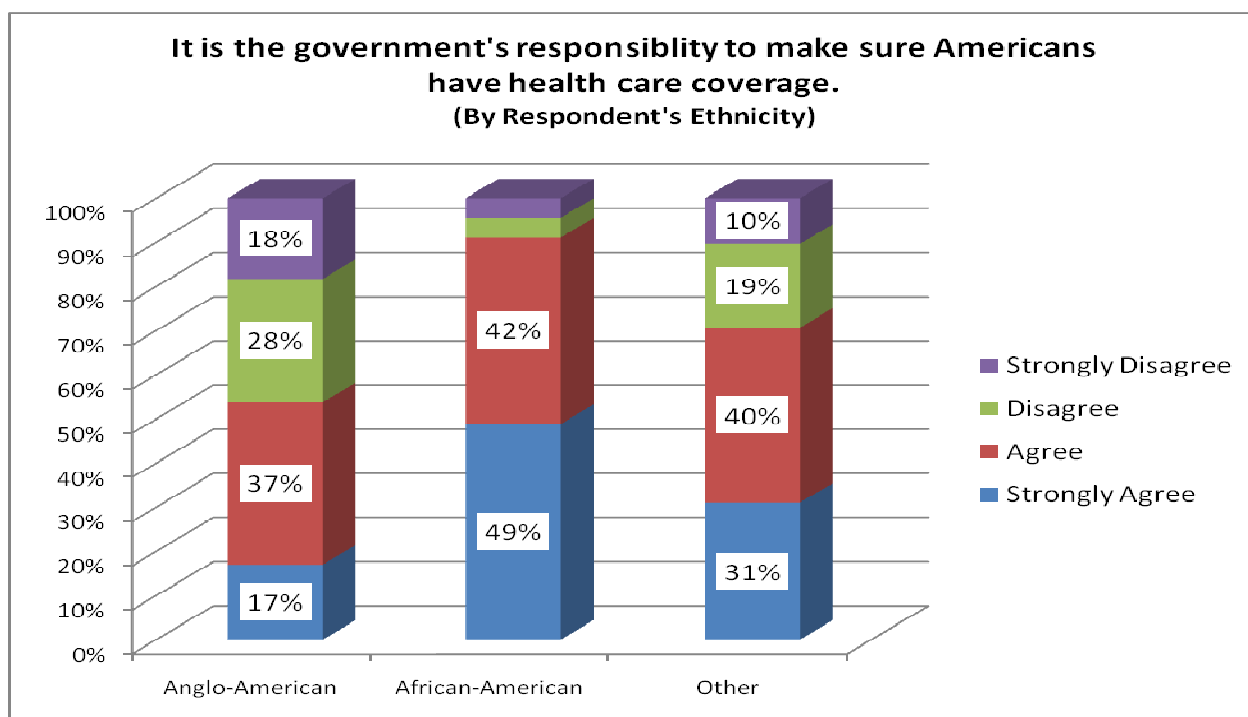


Figure 73

Female and ethnic minority respondents, especially African-Americans, were more likely to think it should be the government's responsibility to make sure all Americans have healthcare coverage.

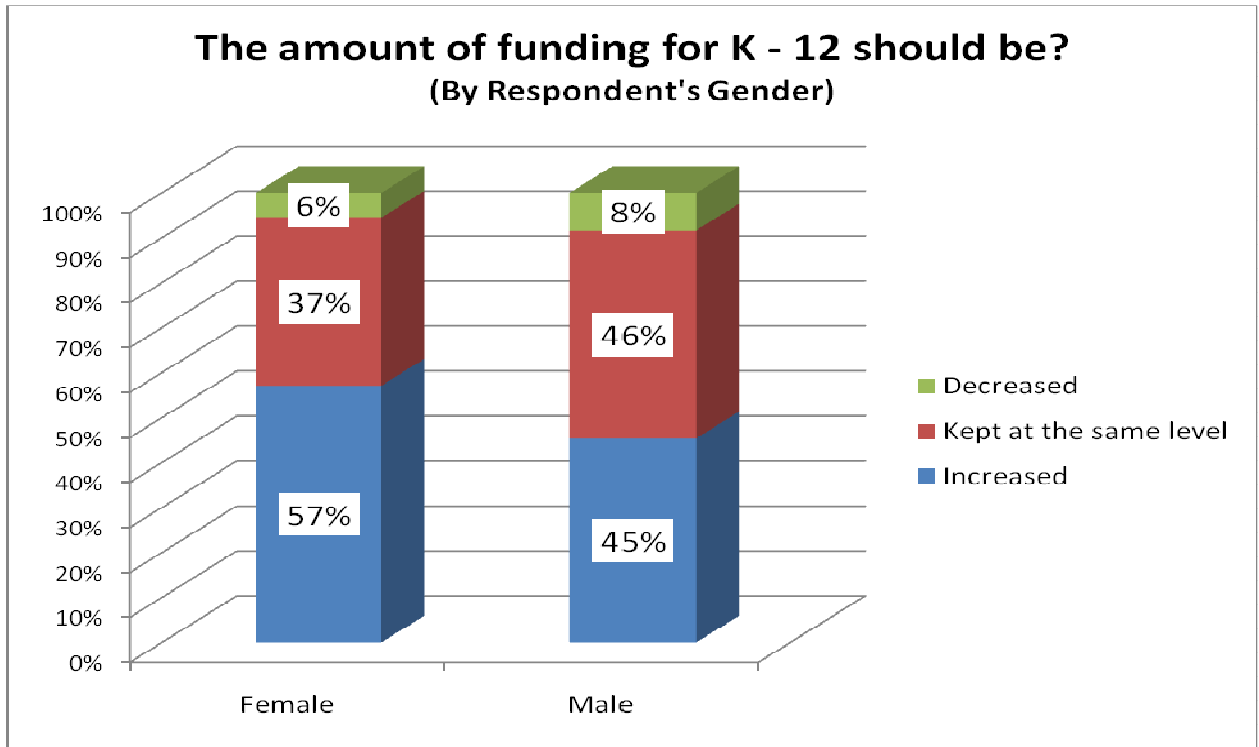


Figure 74

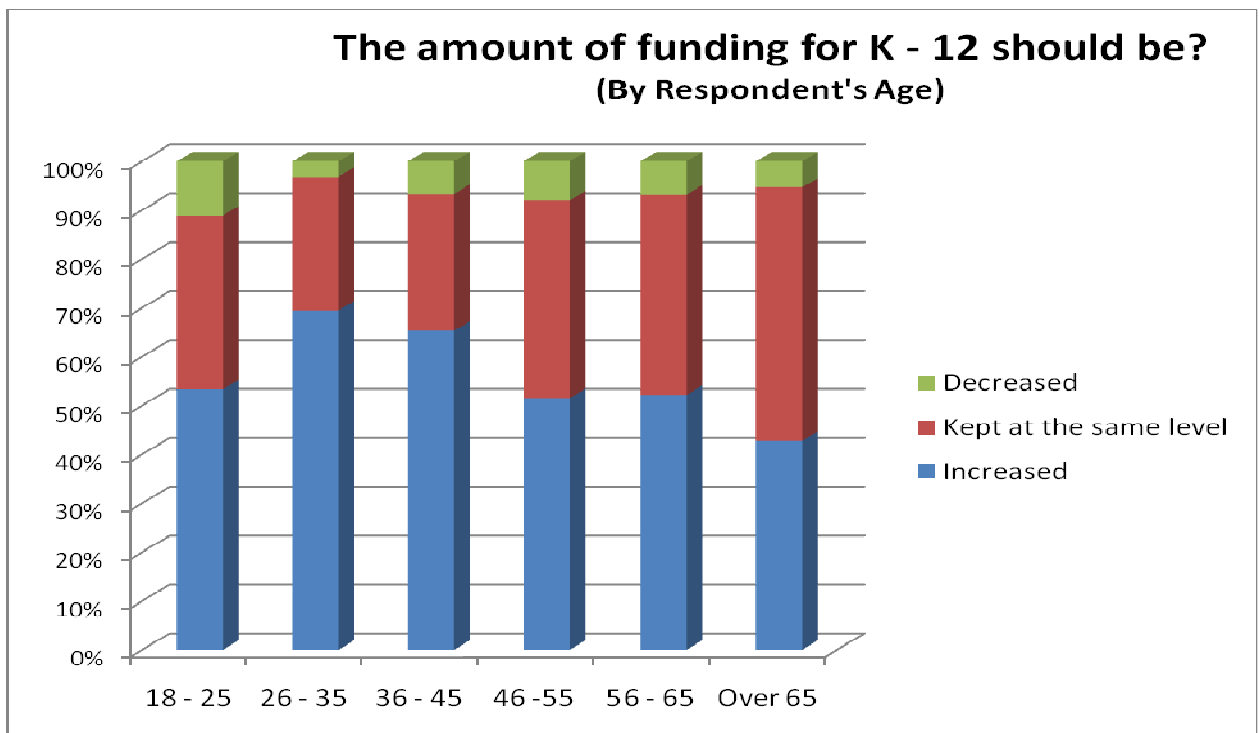


Figure 75

Female respondents were more likely to favor increasing funding for public education K – 12, while males were more likely to favor keeping the current level of funding. Support for increased funding of K – 12 was highest among respondents age 26 through 45.

# Appendix A

## Survey Instrument

### Introduction:

Hi. I'm calling from Fort Hays State University. We are asking residents of Kansas about their opinions regarding the Kansas economy and government, and about the state as a whole. In order to ensure a random sample, I need to speak with the adult in the household at least 18 years old with the most recent birthday. Is that you?

Your answers will remain completely confidential. May I ask you a few questions?

KS1. First, I have a few general questions for you. In general, how would you rate Kansas as a place to live? Would you say it was...

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Very Good
- 3 Good
- 4 Fair
- 5 Poor
- 6 Very Poor

KS2. In general, how would you rate the Kansas economy?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Very Good
- 3 Good
- 4 Fair
- 5 Poor
- 6 Very Poor

KS3. In general, how would you rate the Kansas state government?

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Very Good
- 3 Good
- 4 Fair
- 5 Poor
- 6 Very Poor

1. This next set of questions will ask specifically about the Kansas economy. How concerned are you that the Kansas economy will seriously threaten you or your family's welfare? Are you...

- 1 Very Concerned
- 2 Moderately Concerned
- 3 Slightly Concerned
- 4 Not concerned

2. How satisfied were you with Governor Sebelius's efforts to foster the health of the Kansas economy? Were you...
- 1 Very Satisfied
  - 2 Moderately Satisfied
  - 3 Slightly Satisfied
  - 4 Not Satisfied
3. How satisfied are you with Kansas Democratic Party leaders' attempts to improve the health of the Kansas economy?
- 1 Very Satisfied
  - 2 Moderately Satisfied
  - 3 Slightly Satisfied
  - 4 Not Satisfied
4. How satisfied are you with Kansas Republican Party leaders' attempts to improve the health of the Kansas economy?
- 1 Very Satisfied
  - 2 Moderately Satisfied
  - 3 Slightly Satisfied
  - 4 Not Satisfied
5. Do you believe that Kansas government spending should be:
- 1 Increased
  - 2 Remain the same or
  - 3 Decreased?
- 6a. In general, do you believe that taxes on the top income earners should be:
- 1 Increased
  - 2 Remain the same or
  - 3 Decreased?
- 6b. In general, do you believe that taxes on the middle class should be:
- 1 Increased
  - 2 Remain the same or
  - 3 Decreased?
- 6c. How about taxes on large corporations?
- 1 Increased
  - 2 Remain the same or
  - 3 Decreased
- 6d. Taxes on small businesses (less than 500 employees)?
- 1 Increased
  - 2 Remain the same or
  - 3 Decreased

7a. Now let's turn to politics. How satisfied are you with the overall performance of the Kansas legislature? Are you...

- 1 Very Satisfied
- 2 Moderately Satisfied
- 3 Slightly Satisfied
- 4 Not Satisfied

7b. How satisfied were you with the overall performance of Governor Sebelius? Were you...

- 1 Very Satisfied
- 2 Moderately Satisfied
- 3 Slightly Satisfied
- 4 Not Satisfied

7c. How about the performance of the state senator in your district?

- 1 Very Satisfied
- 2 Moderately Satisfied
- 3 Slightly Satisfied
- 4 Not Satisfied

Q7d. The performance of the state representative in your district?

- 1 Very Satisfied
- 2 Moderately Satisfied
- 3 Slightly Satisfied
- 4 Not Satisfied

7e. How satisfied are you with the overall performance of your U.S. Senator?

- 1 Very Satisfied
- 2 Moderately Satisfied
- 3 Slightly Satisfied
- 4 Not Satisfied

7f. How satisfied are you with the overall performance of your U.S. Congressperson?

- 1 Very Satisfied
- 2 Moderately Satisfied
- 3 Slightly Satisfied
- 4 Not Satisfied

8. Now we have some questions about Kansas energy policy.

8a. How important is it for Kansas to devote resources to oil development.

- 1 Extremely important
- 2 Important
- 3 Somewhat important
- 4 Not at all important

8b. How important is it for Kansas to devote resources to coal energy development?

- 1 Extremely important
- 2 Important
- 3 Somewhat important
- 4 Not at all important

8c. How important is it for Kansas to devote resources to gas energy development?

- 1 Extremely important
- 2 Important
- 3 Somewhat important
- 4 Not at all important

8d. How important is it for Kansas to devote resources to wind energy development?

- 1 Extremely important
- 2 Important
- 3 Somewhat important
- 4 Not at all important

8e. How important is it for Kansas to devote resources to solar energy development?

- 1 Extremely important
- 2 Important
- 3 Somewhat important
- 4 Not at all important

8f. How important is it for Kansas to devote resources to nuclear energy development?

- 1 Extremely important
- 2 Important
- 3 Somewhat important
- 4 Not at all important

8g. How important is it for Kansas to devote resources to biofuel or ethanol development?

- 1 Extremely important
- 2 Important
- 3 Somewhat important
- 4 Not at all important

9. Kansas has been identified as the third highest state for potential wind energy development. According to what you have heard and read, tell us whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements about wind energy.

9a. Wind farms destroy the beauty of the Kansas landscape.

- 1 Strongly Agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Disagree
- 4 Strongly Disagree

9b. Living next to a wind farm would be a problem for me.

- 1 Strongly Agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Disagree
- 4 Strongly Disagree

9c. Overall, wind farms are bad for the Kansas economy.

- 1 Strongly Agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Disagree
- 4 Strongly Disagree

9d. Wind farms require the building of too many additional power lines.

- 1 Strongly Agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Disagree
- 4 Strongly Disagree

9e. Wind farms are a hazard to flying animals like birds and bats.

- 1 Strongly Agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Disagree
- 4 Strongly Disagree

9f. The rotating blades cause negative health effects like headaches, dizziness and nausea.

- 1 Strongly Agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Disagree
- 4 Strongly Disagree

10a. And now we would like you to rate your agreement with the following statements about coal and oil production.

The economic benefits of coal production outweigh concerns some people may have about its impact on the environment. Do you...

- 1 Strongly Agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Disagree
- 4 Strongly Disagree

10b. The economic benefits of oil production outweigh concerns some people may have about its impact on the environment. Do you...

- 1 Strongly Agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Disagree
- 4 Strongly Disagree

11. Now we'd like to get your opinion on some key policy issues for Kansas.

Would you like to see more gun control, less gun control, or is the current amount of gun control in Kansas appropriate?

- 1 More
- 2 Less
- 3 Current amount is appropriate

12. Would you like to see more legalized gambling, less legalized gambling or is the current amount of legalized gambling in Kansas appropriate?

- 1 More
- 2 Less
- 3 Current amount is appropriate

13. What about law enforcement resources devoted to illegal immigration?

Would you like to see more, less, or is the current amount appropriate?

- 1 More
- 2 Less
- 3 Current amount is appropriate

4. In public schools, what would you like to see taught? Both creationism and evolution, only creationism, only evolution, or neither.

[EVOLUTION TEACHES THAT HUMANS EVOLVED THROUGH A NATURAL PROCESS]

[CREATIONISM TEACHES THAT THE UNIVERSE WAS CREATED BY GOD]

- 1 Both creationism and evolution.
- 2 Only creationism
- 3 Only evolution
- 4 Neither

15. What type of death penalty policy should there be in Kansas?

Do you prefer:

- 1 The Death Penalty for ALL convicted murderers
- 2 For MOST convicted murderers
- 3 For only SOME convicted murderers or do you prefer to
- 4 Abolish the death penalty in Kansas?

16. Which of the following best describes your opinion on healthcare in Kansas?

- 1 The Kansas healthcare system is adequate.
- 2 It needs some minor changes.
- 3 It needs some major changes.



17. Some people believe it is the responsibility of government to make sure all Americans have healthcare coverage. Do you...

- 1 Strongly Agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Disagree
- 4 Strongly Disagree

18. How would you rate the overall condition of Kansas roads and highways? Would you say they were:

- 1 Excellent
- 2 Good
- 3 Fair or
- 4 Poor

19. Thinking about the current level of state education funding for grades kindergarten through high school, would you say that the amount of funding should be:

- 1 Increased
- 2 Kept at the same level or
- 3 Decreased

20. Thinking about the current level of state education funding for state colleges and universities, would you say that the amount of funding should be:

- 1 Increased
- 2 Kept at the same level or
- 3 Decreased

21. And now we have a few questions to help us analyze the results of the survey. How many years have you lived in Kansas?

22. Did you vote in the November 2008 election?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

[IF NO, GET Q23]

23. Are you registered to vote?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

24. What is the highest level of education you have received?

- 1 Less than high school
- 2 High school diploma or equivalency
- 3 Some college
- 4 Associates or Technical degree
- 5 Bachelors degree
- 6 Masters or law degree
- 7 Doctoral degree

25. Are you of Mexican or other Hispanic origin?

1 Yes

2 No

26. Do you consider yourself:

1 White

2 Black or African American

3 Biracial

4 Asian

5 American Indian

6 Other

8 Don't Know

9 Refused

27. What year were you born? \_\_\_\_\_

28. Was your total family income for the last year above or below \$40,000?

1 Was it less than \$10,000,

2 between \$10,000 and \$20,000,

3 between \$20,000 and \$30,000?

4 or between \$30,000 and \$40,000?

5 Was it between \$40,000 and \$50,000,

6 between \$50,000 and \$60,000,

7 between \$60,000 and \$70,000,

8 or was it over \$70,000?

88 Don't know

99 Refused

29. That's all the questions that I have. Thank you so much for your time and have a great \_\_\_\_\_.

Silently enter gender:

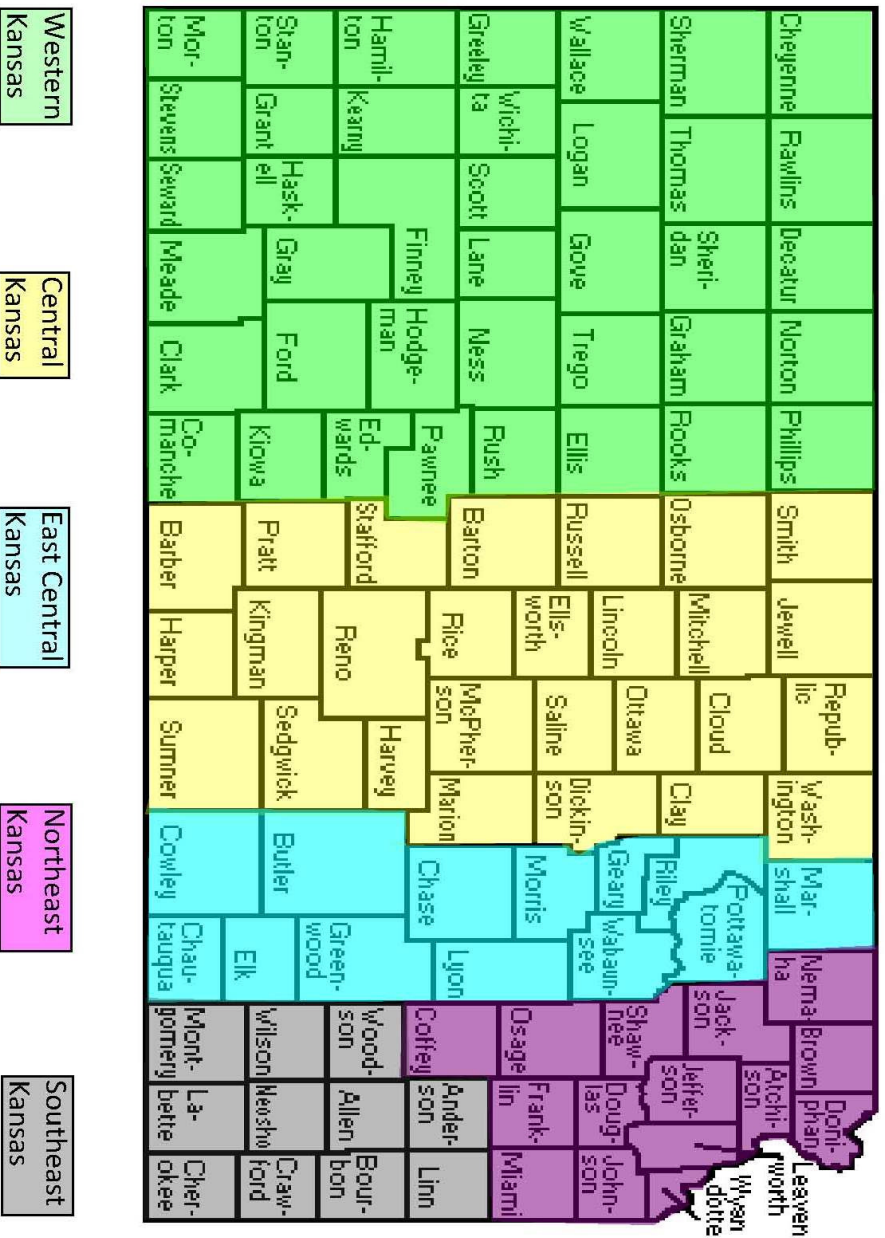
1 Female

2 Male

3 Don't know

## Appendix B

### Regions of Kansas



## Appendix C

### Sample Demographics

**Q29 Gender**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Female	719	58.9	59.1	59.1
	Male	498	40.8	40.9	100.0
	Total	1217	99.8	100.0	
Missing	DK	3	.2		
Total		1220	100.0		

**Age Category**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	18 - 25	46	3.8	3.8	3.8
	26 - 35	98	8.0	8.2	12.0
	36 - 45	181	14.8	15.1	27.1
	46 -55	230	18.9	19.2	46.3
	56 - 65	256	21.0	21.4	67.7
	Over 65	387	31.7	32.3	100.0
	Total	1198	98.2	100.0	
Missing	System	22	1.8		
Total		1220	100.0		

**Q25 Mexican or Hispanic origin**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Yes	35	2.9	2.9	2.9
	No	1180	96.7	97.1	100.0
	Total	1215	99.6	100.0	
Missing	DK	1	.1		
	REF	4	.3		
	Total	5	.4		
Total		1220	100.0		

**Q26 Race**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	White	1103	90.4	91.2	91.2
	Black	46	3.8	3.8	95.0
	Biracial	12	1.0	1.0	96.0
	Asian	5	.4	.4	96.4
	American Indian	11	.9	.9	97.3
	Other	33	2.7	2.7	100.0
	Total	1210	99.2	100.0	
Missing	DK	2	.2		
	REF	8	.7		
	Total	10	.8		
Total		1220	100.0		

**Q28 Family income**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than 10,000	33	2.7	3.1	3.1
	10,000 to 20,000	84	6.9	7.8	10.9
	20,000 to 30,000	112	9.2	10.4	21.3
	30,00 to 40,000	130	10.7	12.1	33.5
	40,000 to 50,000	149	12.2	13.9	47.3
	50,000 to 60,000	124	10.2	11.6	58.9
	60,000 to 70,000	90	7.4	8.4	67.3
	more than 70,000	351	28.8	32.7	100.0
	Total	1073	88.0	100.0	
Missing	DK	49	4.0		
	99	98	8.0		
	Total	147	12.0		
Total		1220	100.0		

**Q24 Highest level of education**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Less than high school	42	3.4	3.4	3.4
	High School diploma	308	25.2	25.3	28.7
	Some college	274	22.5	22.5	51.2
	Associates or Tech	151	12.4	12.4	63.6
	Bachelors	278	22.8	22.8	86.5
	Masters	133	10.9	10.9	97.4
	Doctoral	32	2.6	2.6	100.0
	Total	1218	99.8	100.0	
Missing	REF	2	.2		
Total		1220	100.0		