



# Perceptions of

# Violence Against Women in the United States

March 2019

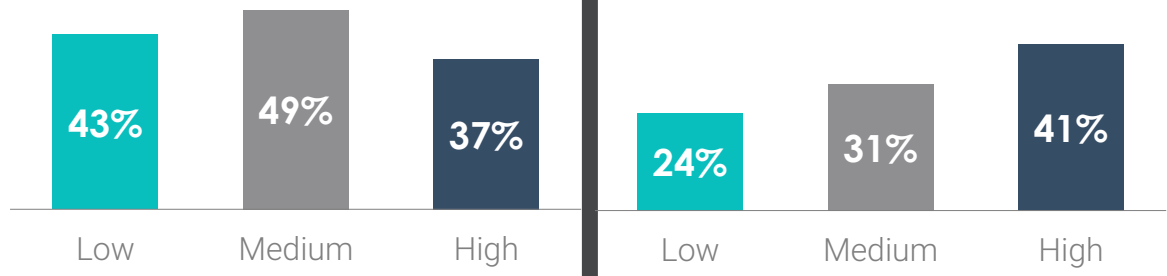
## Perceptions of Violence Against Women

Q. Do you personally know anyone who has been a victim of violence?

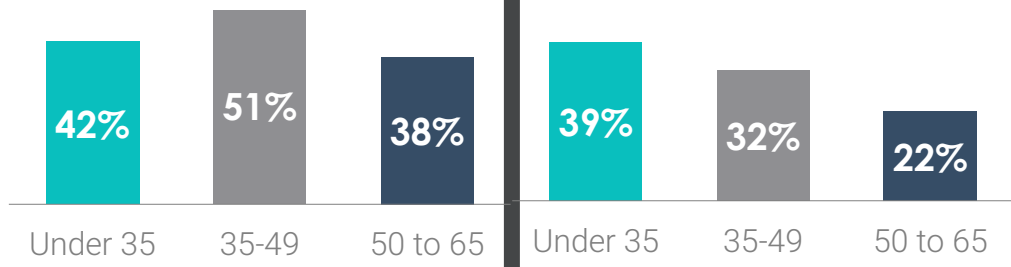
Nearly half of Americans know a woman who has been a victim of violence, compared with almost one-third who know a man. Women tend to know more victims of VAW than men.

Nearly half of Americans know a woman who has been a victim of violence.

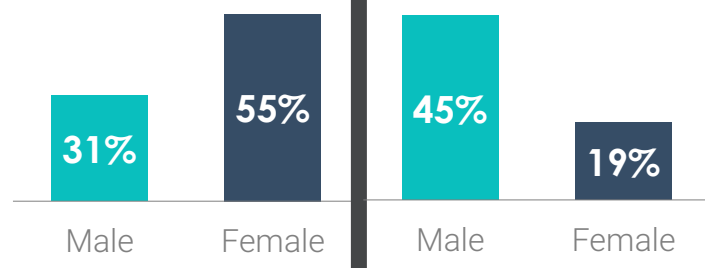
### By Education Level



### By Age



### By Gender



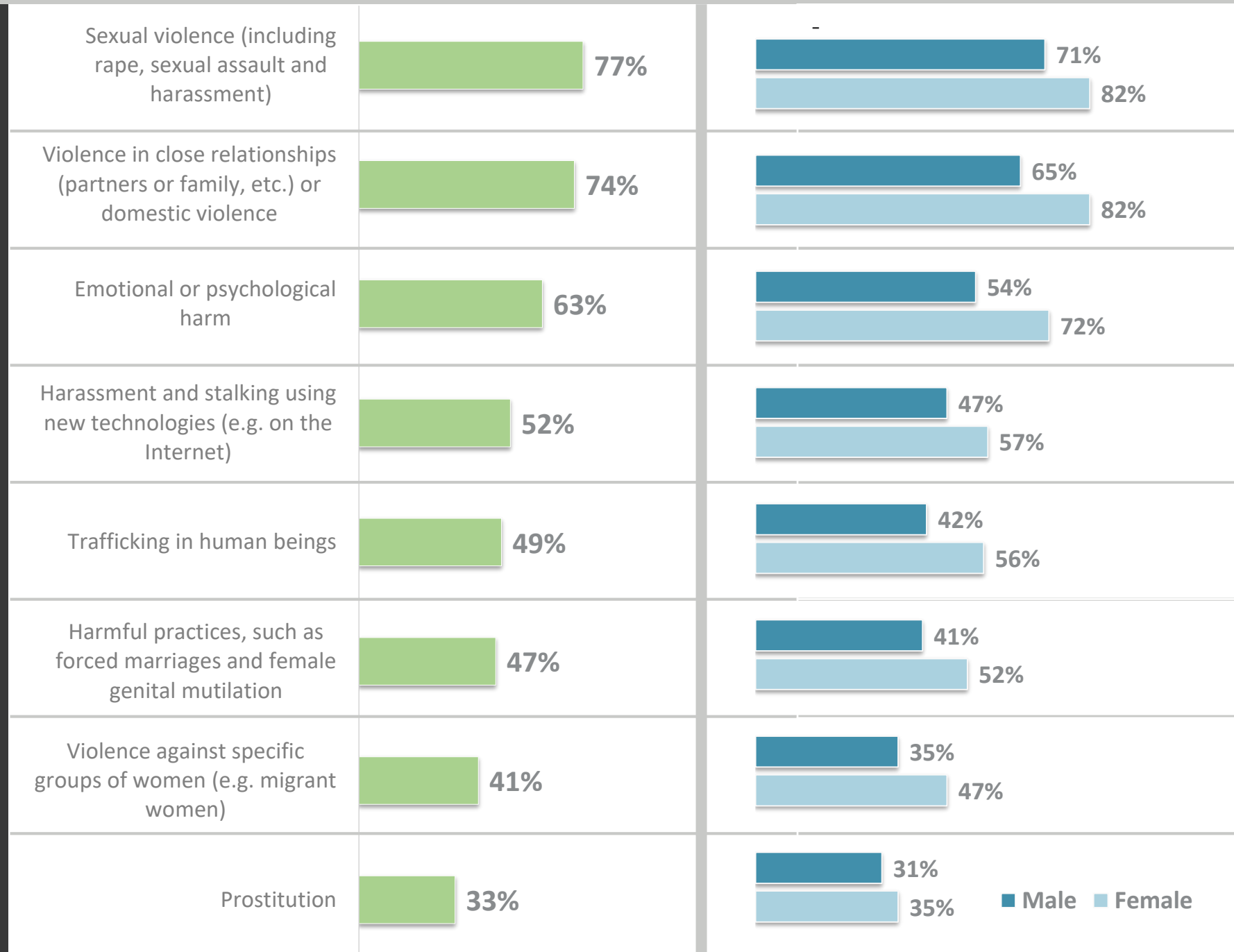
55% of women know a victim of VAW

19% of men know a victim of VAW

## Perceptions of Violence Against Women

Q. What comes to your mind when you hear the phrase "violence against women"? Please select all that apply.

Sexual and domestic violence, are top of mind when Americans hear the phrase "violence against women". Women are more aware of different forms of VAW than men, especially regarding violence in close relationships.



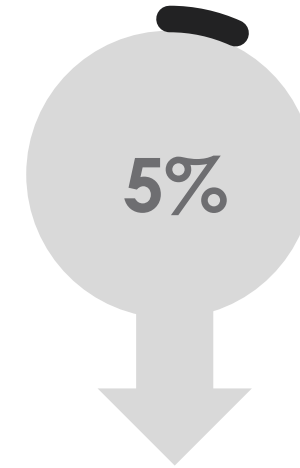
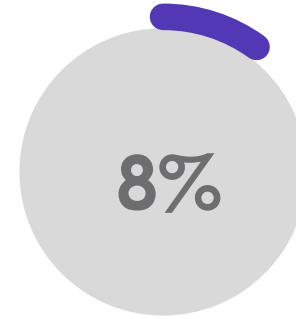
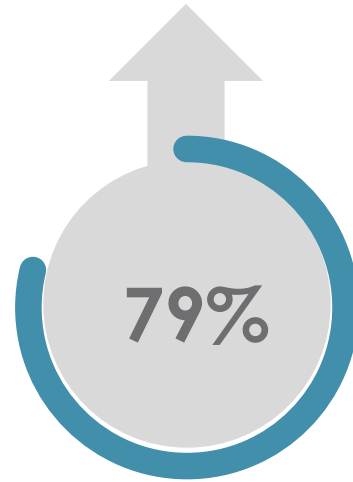
## Perceptions of Violence Against Women

**Q.** Do you think that each of the following is increasing, decreasing, or relatively unchanged over the past ten years?

Half of Americans think that harassment is a form of VAW, and two-thirds believe that emotional or psychological harm is a form of VAW. Most - but more women - believe that both have increased in the past 10 years.

### Harassment and stalking using new technologies

**52%**  
Believe this is a form of VAW



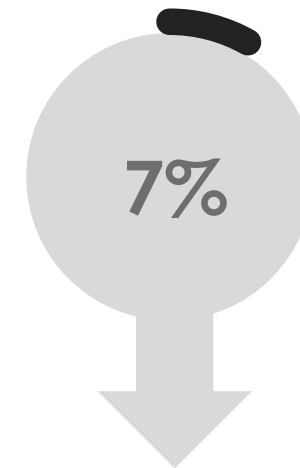
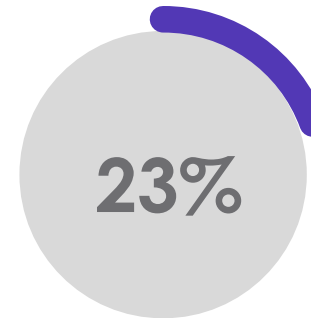
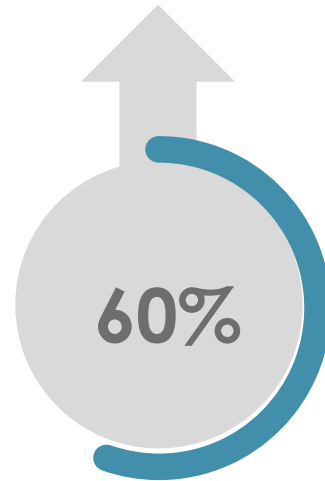
Don't know = 8%

74%  
9%  
7%



### Emotional or psychological harm

**63%**  
Believe this is a form of VAW



Don't know = 11%

57%  
23%  
10%



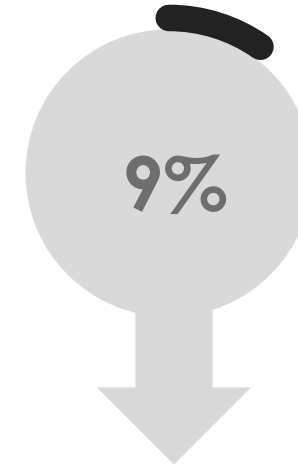
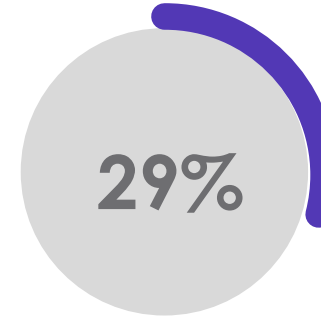
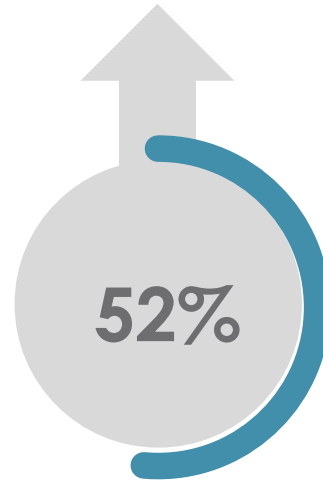
## Violence in close relationships (partners or family, etc.) or domestic violence

### Perceptions of Violence Against Women

**Q.** Do you think that each of the following is increasing, decreasing, or relatively unchanged over the past ten years?

Three-quarters of Americans think that domestic violence and sexual violence are forms of VAW. More than half believe that these forms of VAW have increased in the past 10 years.

**74%**  
Believe this is a form of VAW



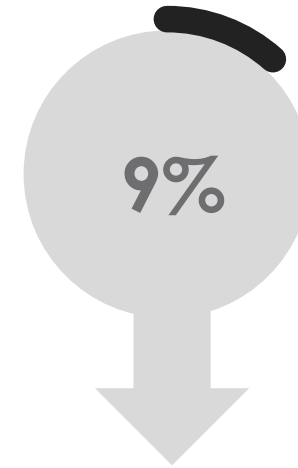
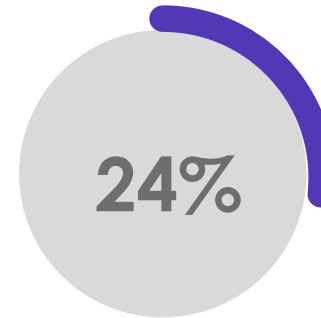
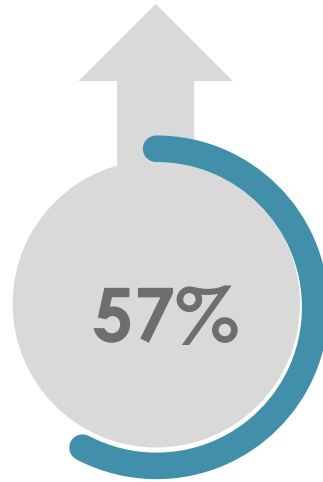
Don't know= 15%

48%  
29%  
12%  
56%  
30%  
6%



## Sexual violence (including rape, sexual assault and harassment)

**77%**  
Believe this is a form of VAW



Don't know= 10%

49%  
26%  
14%  
65%  
23%  
3%

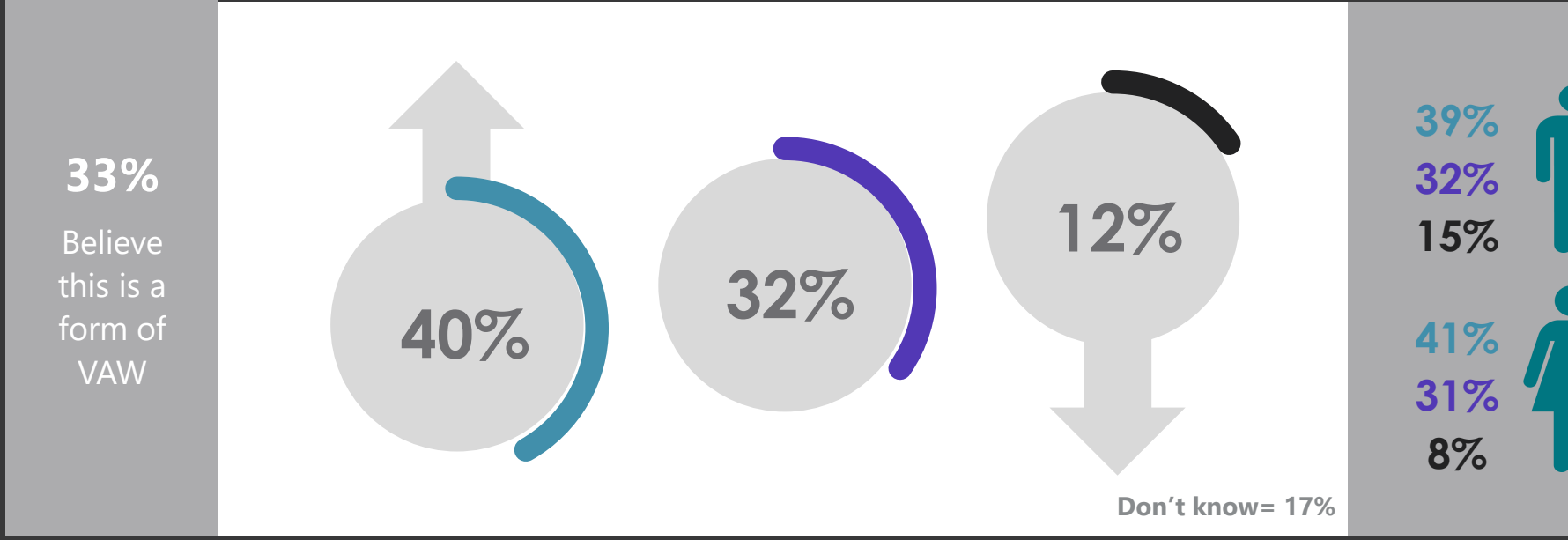


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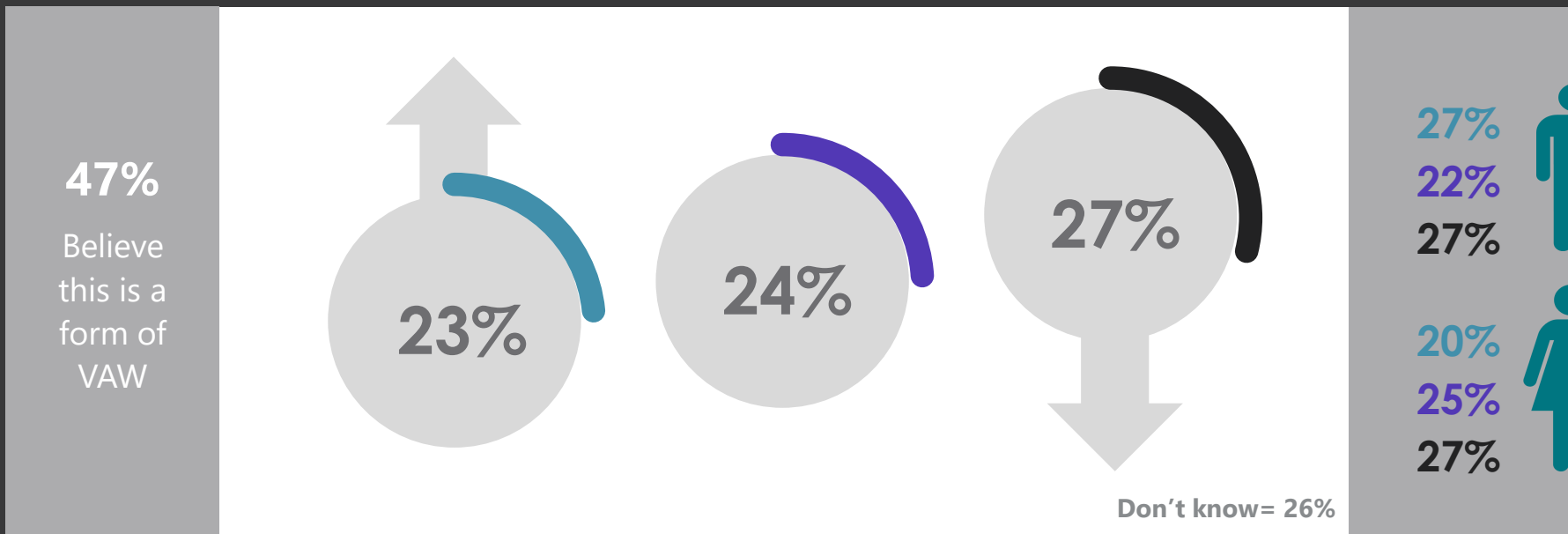
Q. Do you think that each of the following is increasing, decreasing, or relatively unchanged over the past ten years?

Prostitution, as well as harmful practices such as forced marriages and FGM are less top of mind as forms of VAW for Americans than other issues. Still a significant number believe that both have increased in the last 10 years.

### Prostitution



### Practices such as forced marriages and female genital mutilation

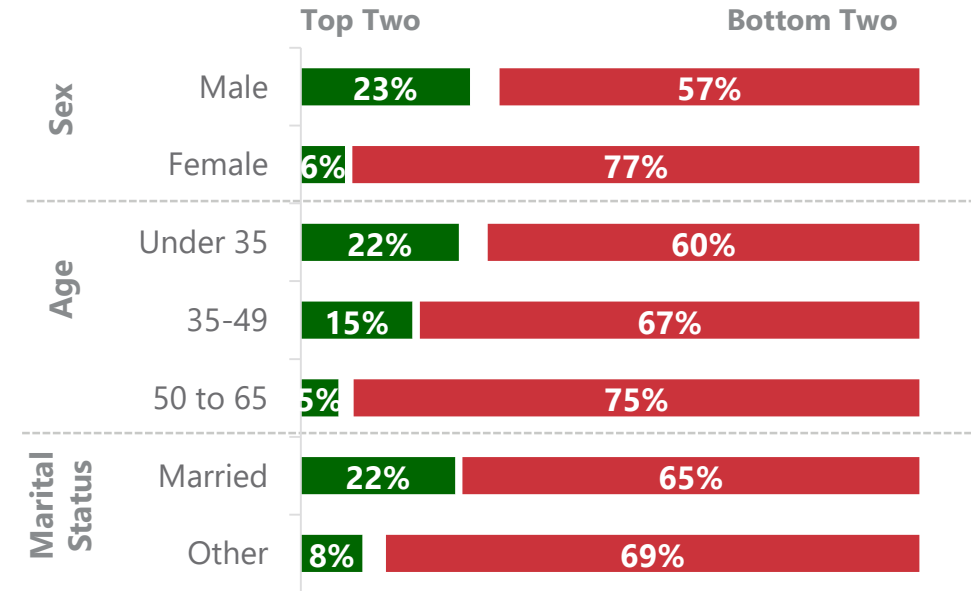
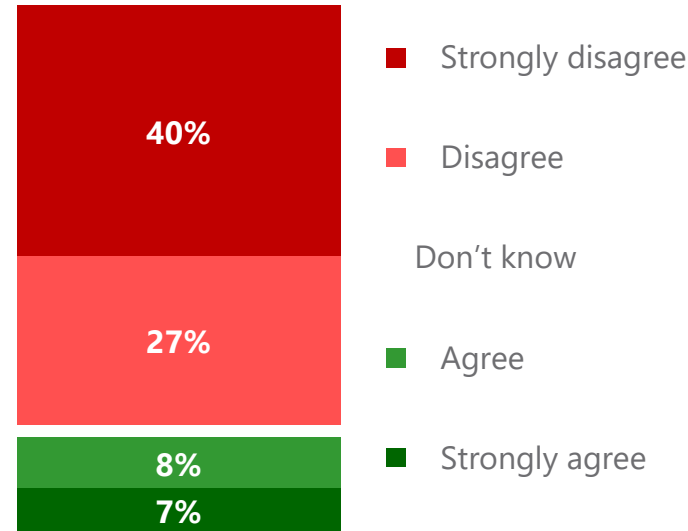


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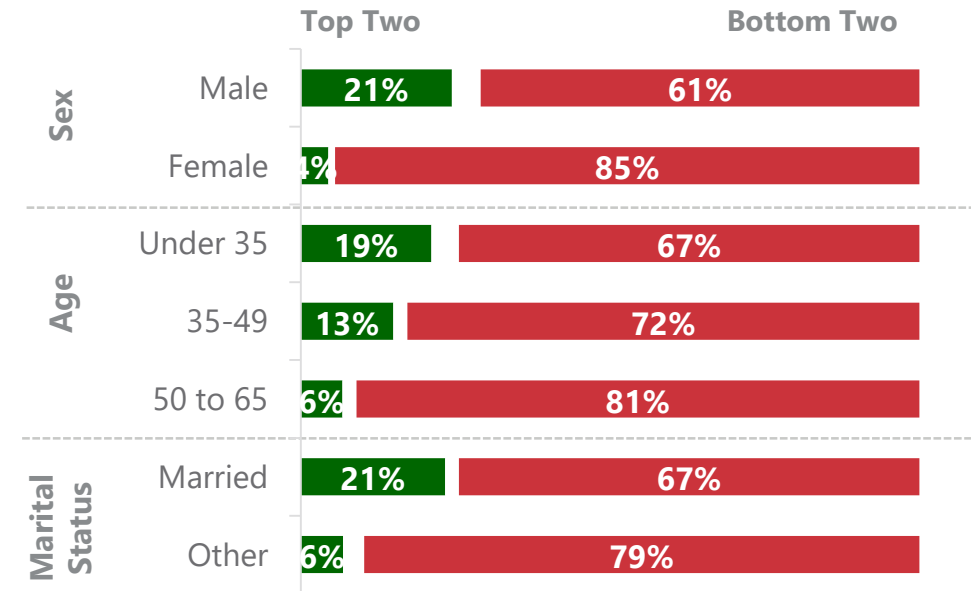
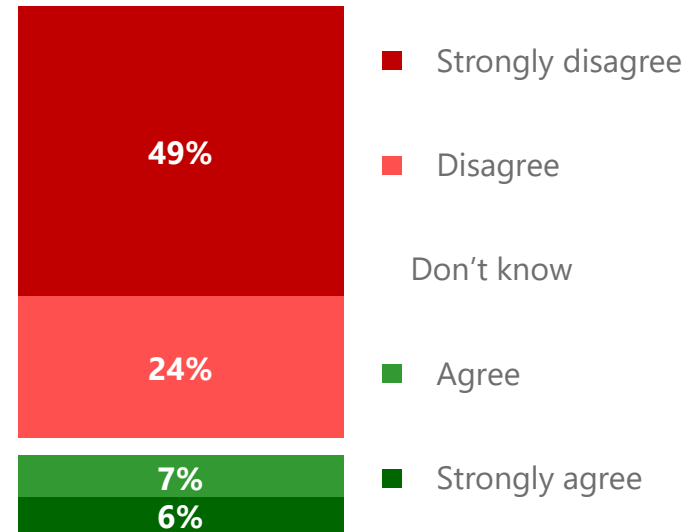
Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following

Most Americans tend to disagree with conservative views of marriage, where women should obey their husband and have sex with them even if they don't feel like it. Yet, men, married, and younger people seem to be more conservative than the average.

### A good wife obeys her husband even if she disagrees



### It is a wife's obligation to have sex with her husband even if she doesn't feel like it

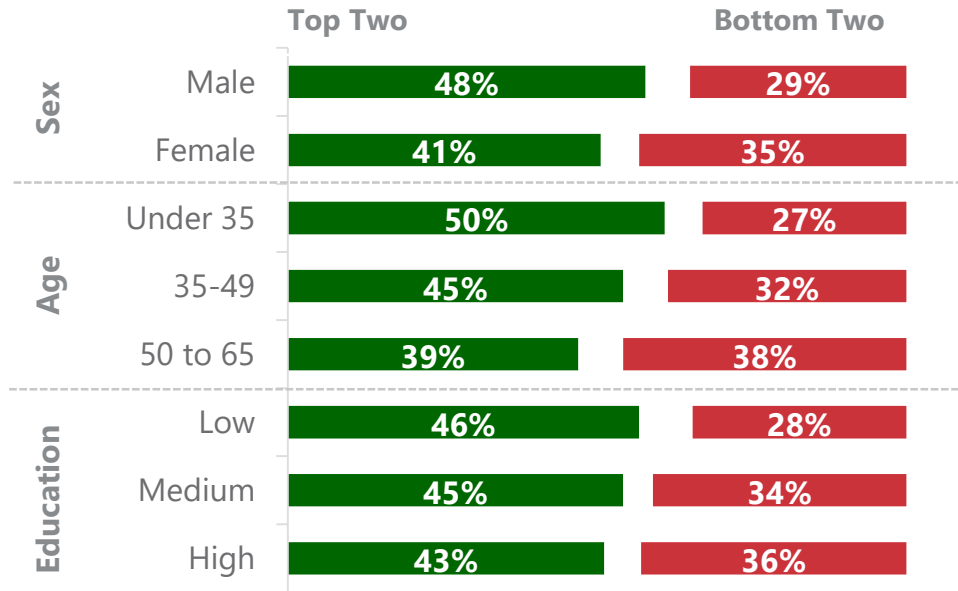
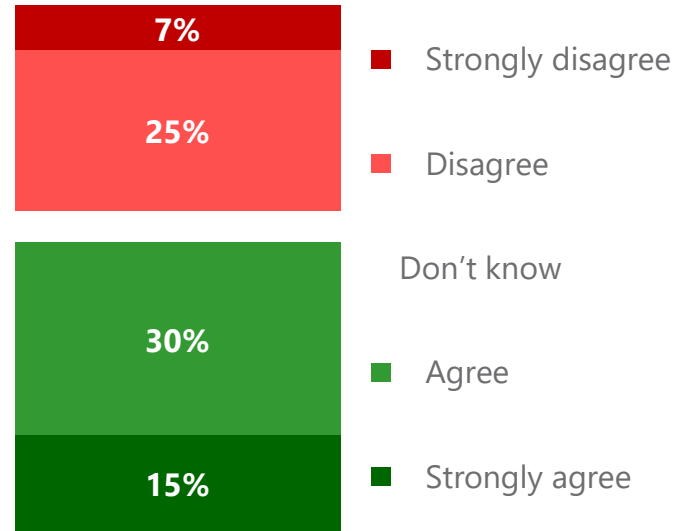


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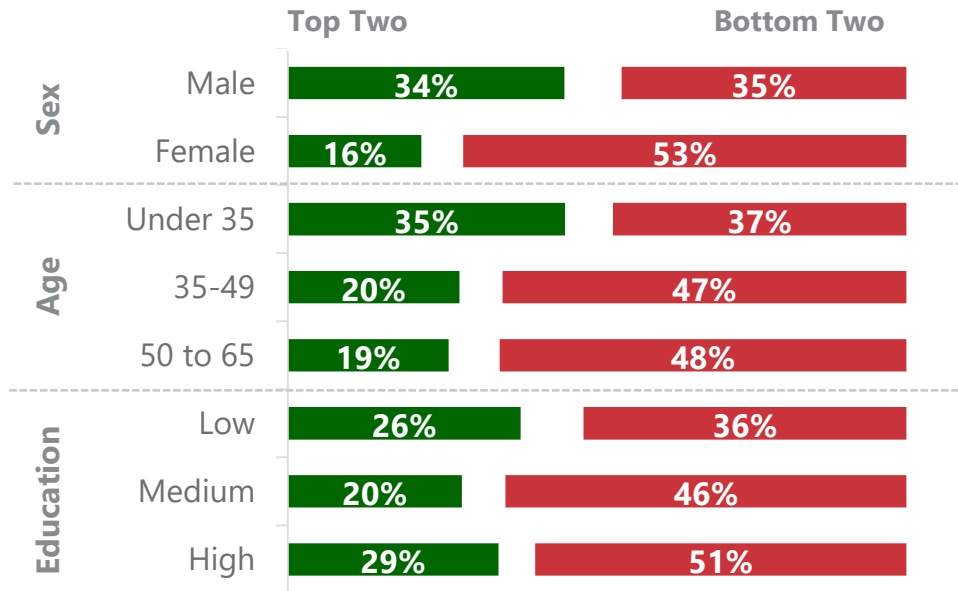
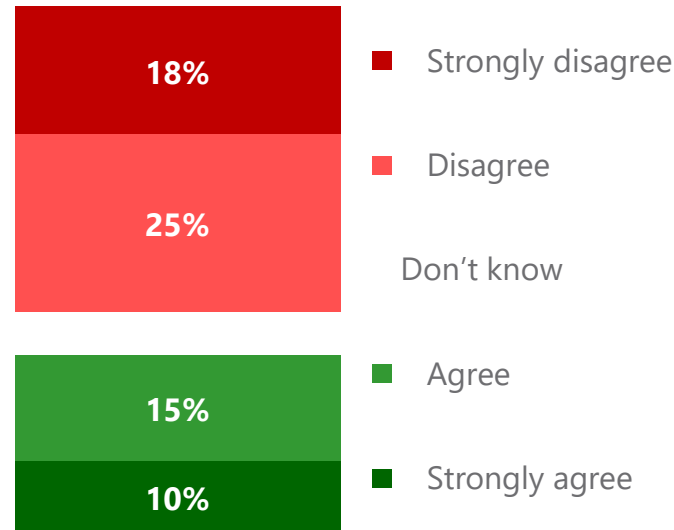
Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following

More Americans tend to believe that violence against men is as common as that against women. Men, young people, and low education people are more likely to believe women exaggerate claims of abuse.

## Violence against men is equally common as violence against women



## Women often make up or exaggerate claims of abuse or rape



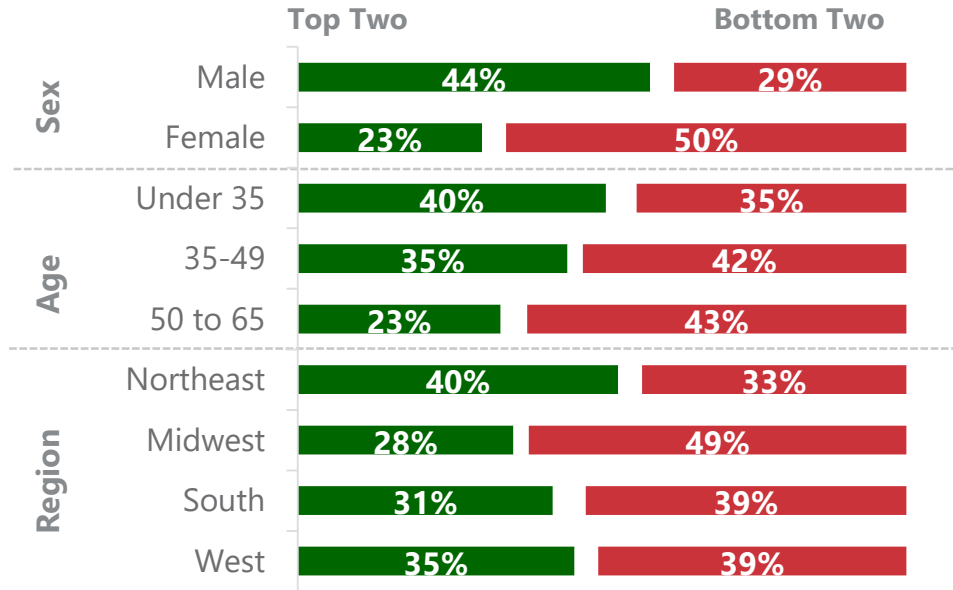
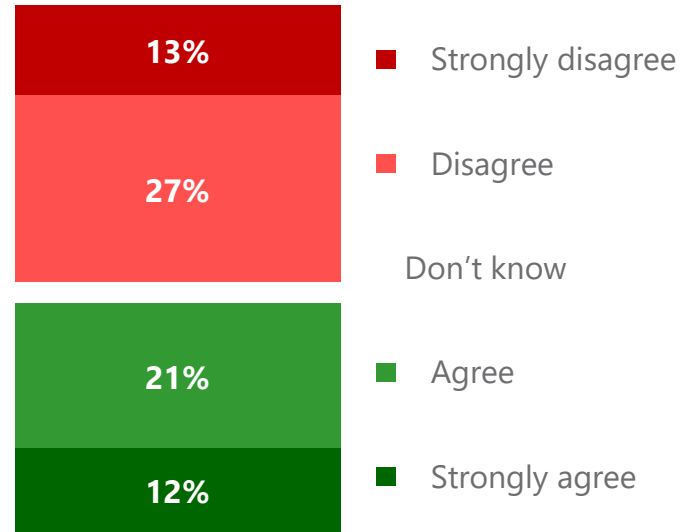


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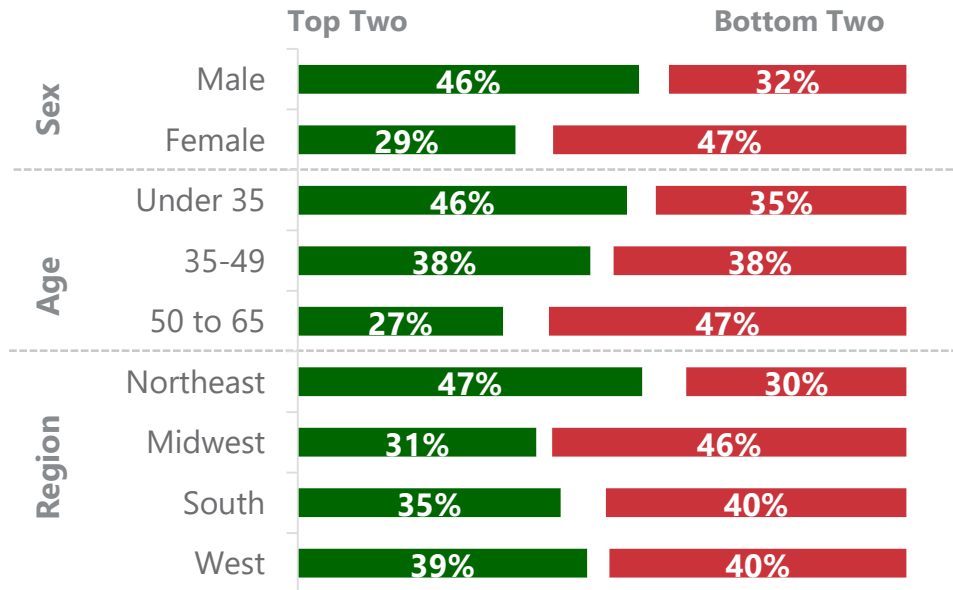
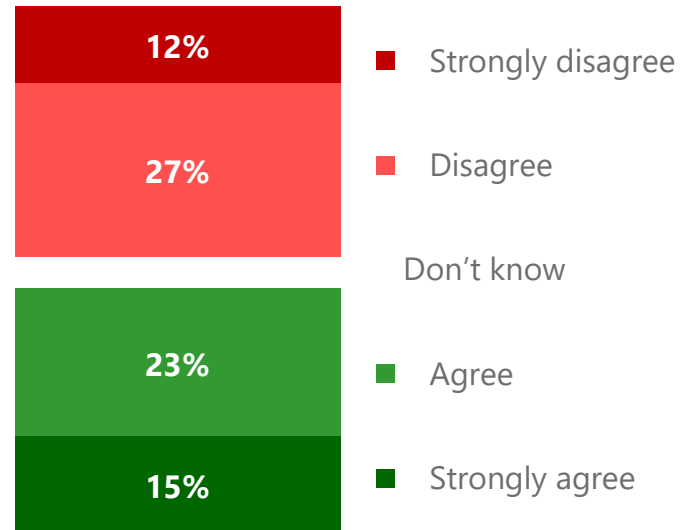
Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following

Americans are equally divided on whether women can trust authorities in the workplace and society to deal with issues of abuse. Men are almost twice as likely to trust that this is the case than women, however.

### A woman who reports her abusive partner can usually be confident in the authorities/ legal system



### If a woman is harassed or abused in the workplace, it is likely to be addressed sufficiently by her employer

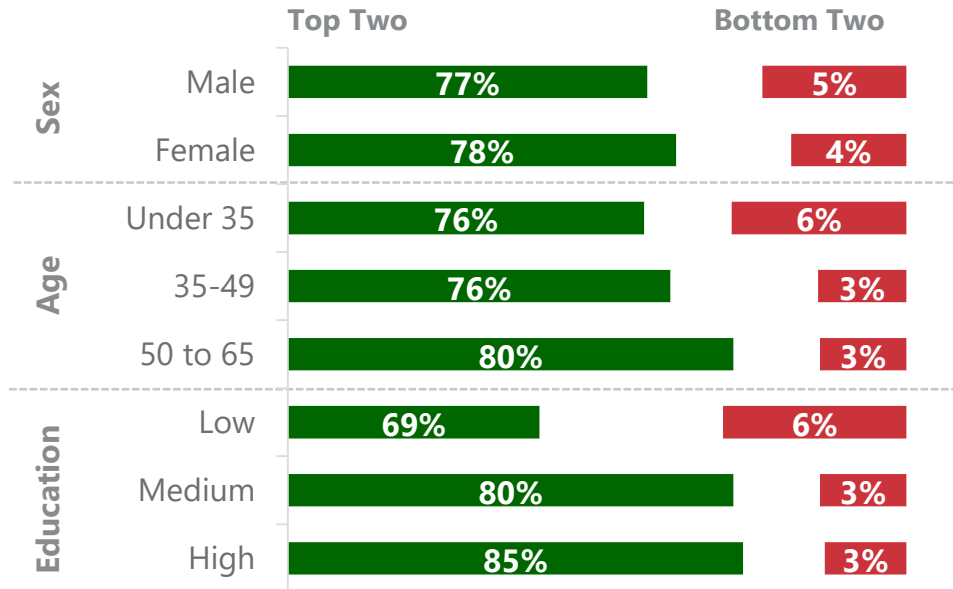
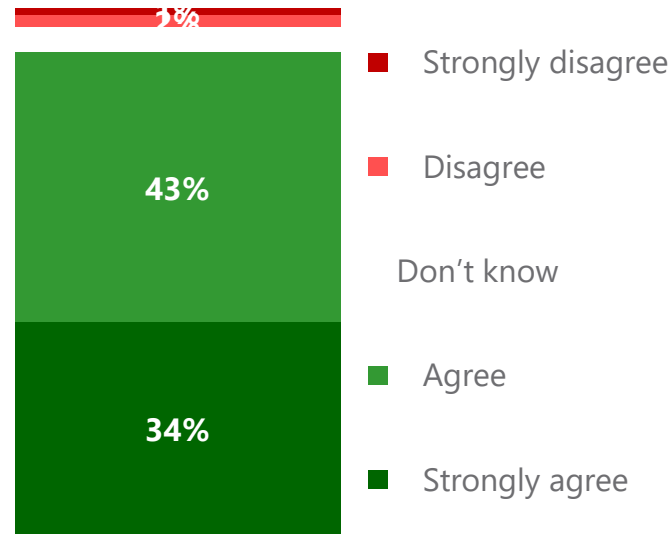


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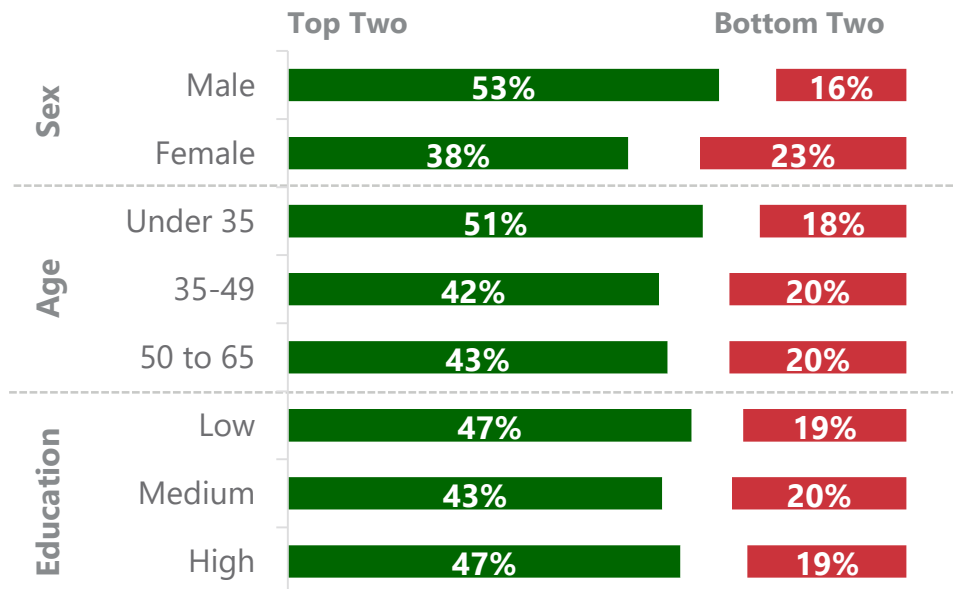
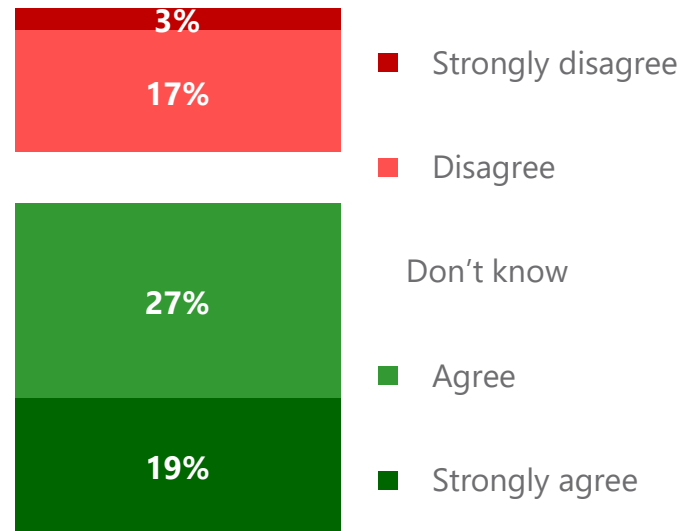
Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following

Most Americans believe that members outside the family should intervene if a man mistreats his wife. Most would also report a case of domestic violence without the permission of the victim, although men would be more likely to do this.

### If a man mistreats his wife, others outside of the family should intervene



### If a female relative has an obvious bruise which she states was caused by her partner, I would report it to the police even if I didn't have her permission

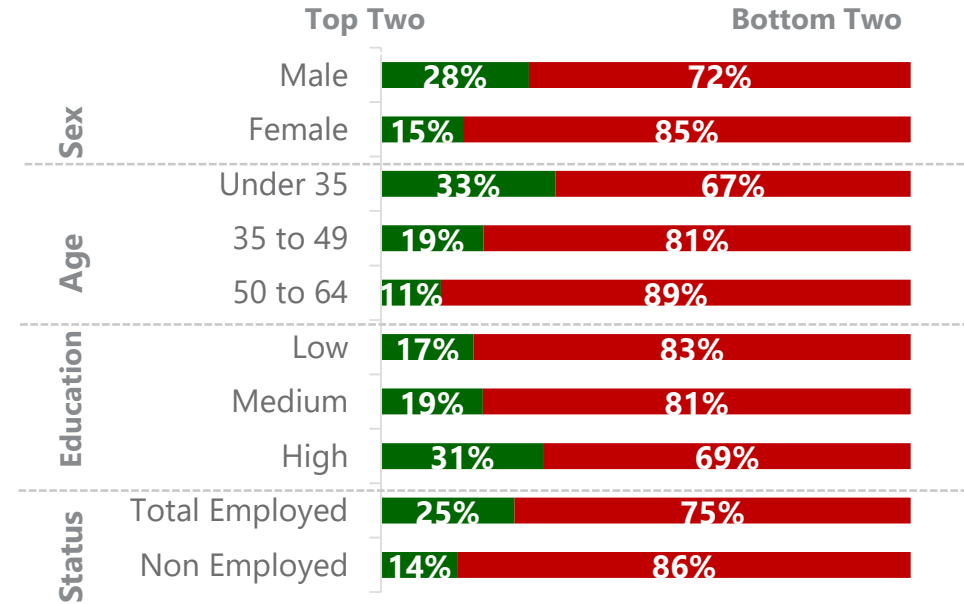
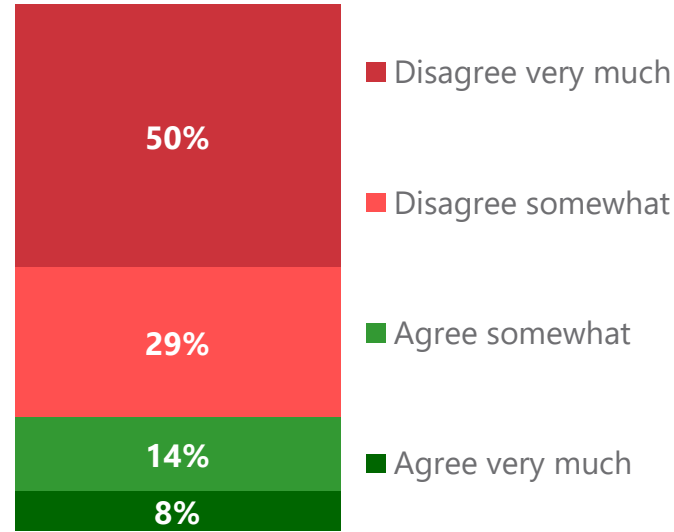


# I am scared to speak out and advocate equal rights of women because of what might happen to me

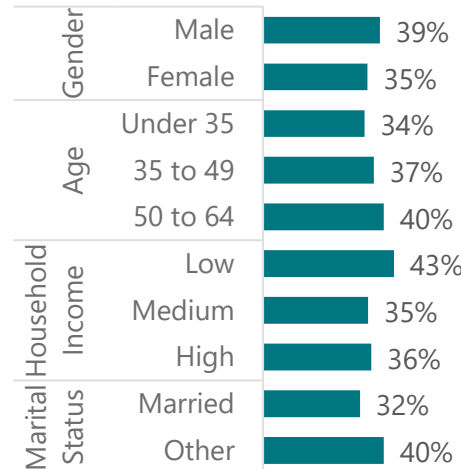
## Perceptions of Violence Against Women

### Talking and speaking out on gender disparities and violence

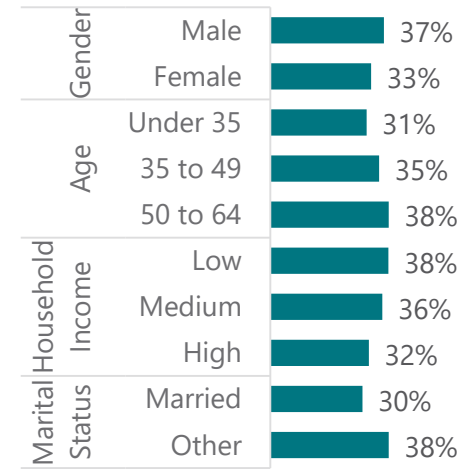
Most Americans aren't afraid to speak out about VAW. However, more than one third claimed not to speak "at all" of sexual discrimination, gender stereotyping, or sexual harassment within their families.



## How much are you currently talking about ( ... ) with your family?



Sexual discrimination and gender stereotyping



Sexual harassment

# METHODOLOGY

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These are the findings from Ipsos Global Advisor surveys in February 2017, February 2018, and November 2018.

In total 1,000 interviews were conducted among adults aged 18-64 in the US. Weighting was employed to balance demographics and ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the adult population according to the most recent country Census data, and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. A survey with an unweighted probability sample of this size and a 100% response rate would have an estimated margin of error of +/-3.1 percentage points for a sample of 1,000 and an estimated margin of error of +/- 4.5 percentage points. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error.

Where results do not sum to 100, this may be due to computer rounding, multiple responses or the exclusion of don't knows or not stated responses.

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