



**SOUTH NASSAU  
TRUTH IN MEDICINE POLL  
OCTOBER 2017 - SCREENINGS**

Conducted by LJR Custom Strategies

# METHODS

- A poll of 600 adults age 40 and over in New York City and Long Island.
- Conducted from September 27-October 4, 2017.
- Via landline and cell phone.
- Findings applying to the 600 sample are subject to sampling error of plus or minus 3.9%.
- Subgroups of the sample are subject to error of up to plus or minus 10%.



# KEY FINDINGS



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- Having a primary care physician is integral to receiving important health screenings at the appropriate intervals and to knowing the age/frequency recommendations for each.
- Adults age 40+ who screen for one of breast, prostate, or colon cancer are far more likely to screen for the other type that is relevant to them.
- There is greater understanding and follow through on mammogram screenings among women than there is among men about prostate cancer screening or among both genders about colon cancer screening.
- Those who are not being screened indicate it is primarily because they think they do not need that particular screening. Fear of the procedure, fear of the results, and logistics are not reported as major impediments.
- Insurance or Medicare/Medicaid coverage is also a key factor in being screened. Fewer than one-half of adults age 40+ currently pay or would pay out of pocket for these screenings.



# PRIMARY CARE



# PRIMARY CARE FINDINGS

- 89% of the adult population age 40 and over has a primary care physician and 73% have seen their PCP in the past year.
  - White respondents are more likely people of color to have a PCP.
  - Women are more likely to have a PCP than men.
  - As people age, they are more likely to have a PCP.
  - Wealthier people are also more likely to have a PCP than those of lower socio-economic status.
- Nearly all of those respondents who have had mammogram screenings, prostate cancer screenings, and colon cancer screenings also have a PCP. But, among those who are not being screened, the percentage who have a PCP is notably lower.
  - 94% of female respondents who have had a mammogram have a PCP while a slightly lower 89% of women who have not had a mammogram have a PCP.
  - The prostate screening findings are striking. 97% of male respondents who have been screened for prostate cancer have a PCP, but only 72% who have not been screened have one.
  - 95% of respondents who have been screened for colon cancer also have a PCP while only 81% who have not have had colon cancer screening have a PCP.



Chart 1

Q.6 DO YOU HAVE A PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN?

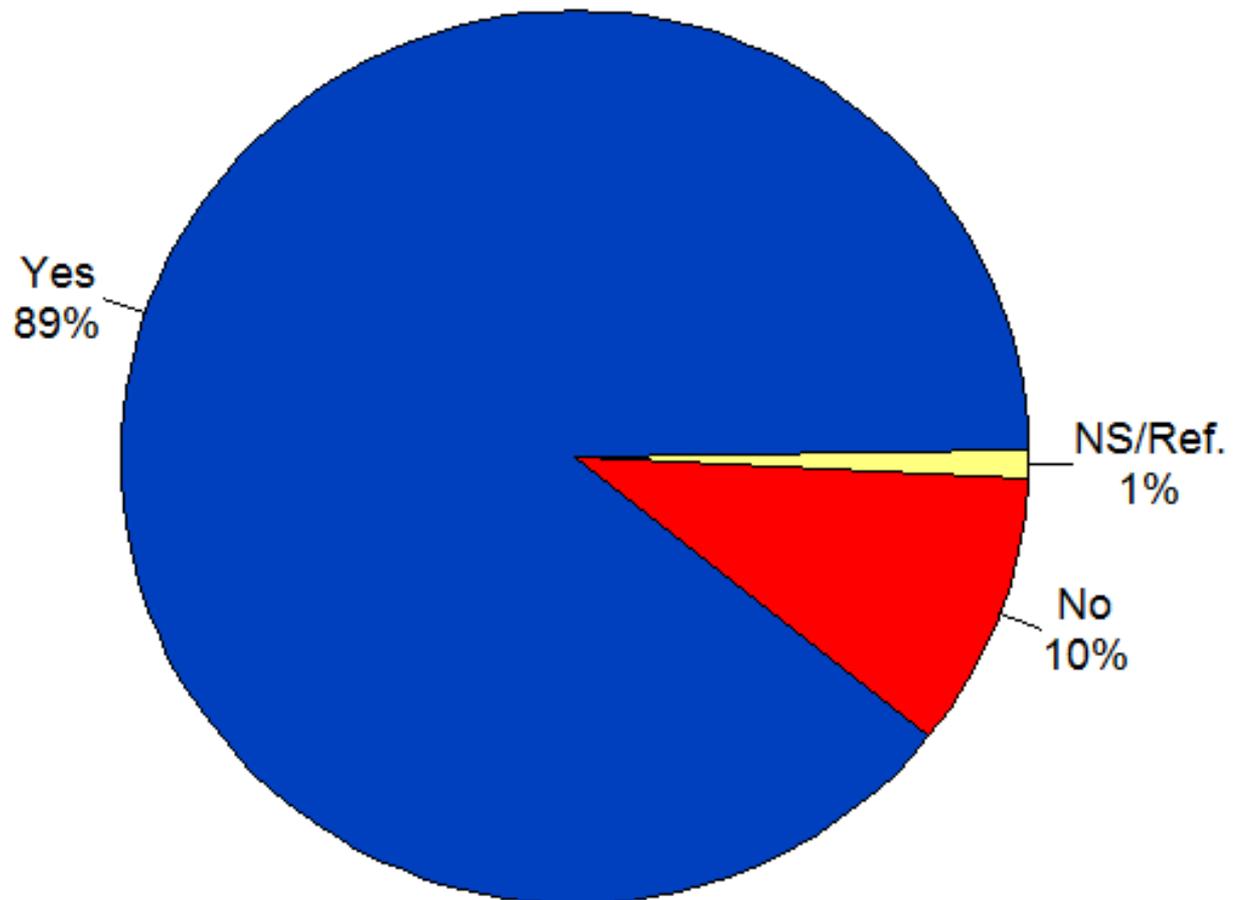


Chart 2

## Q.6 PERCENTAGE WHO HAVE A PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIAN

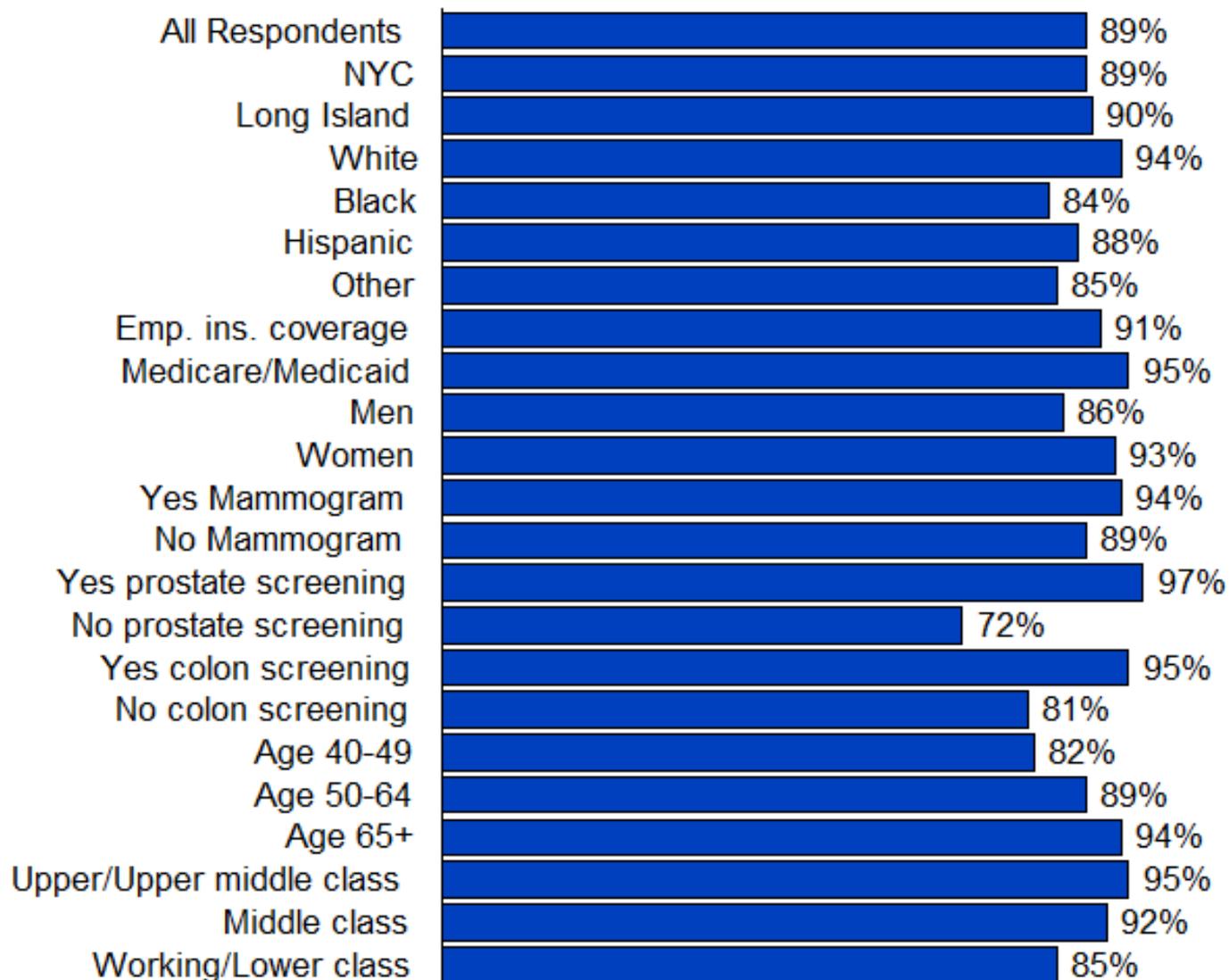
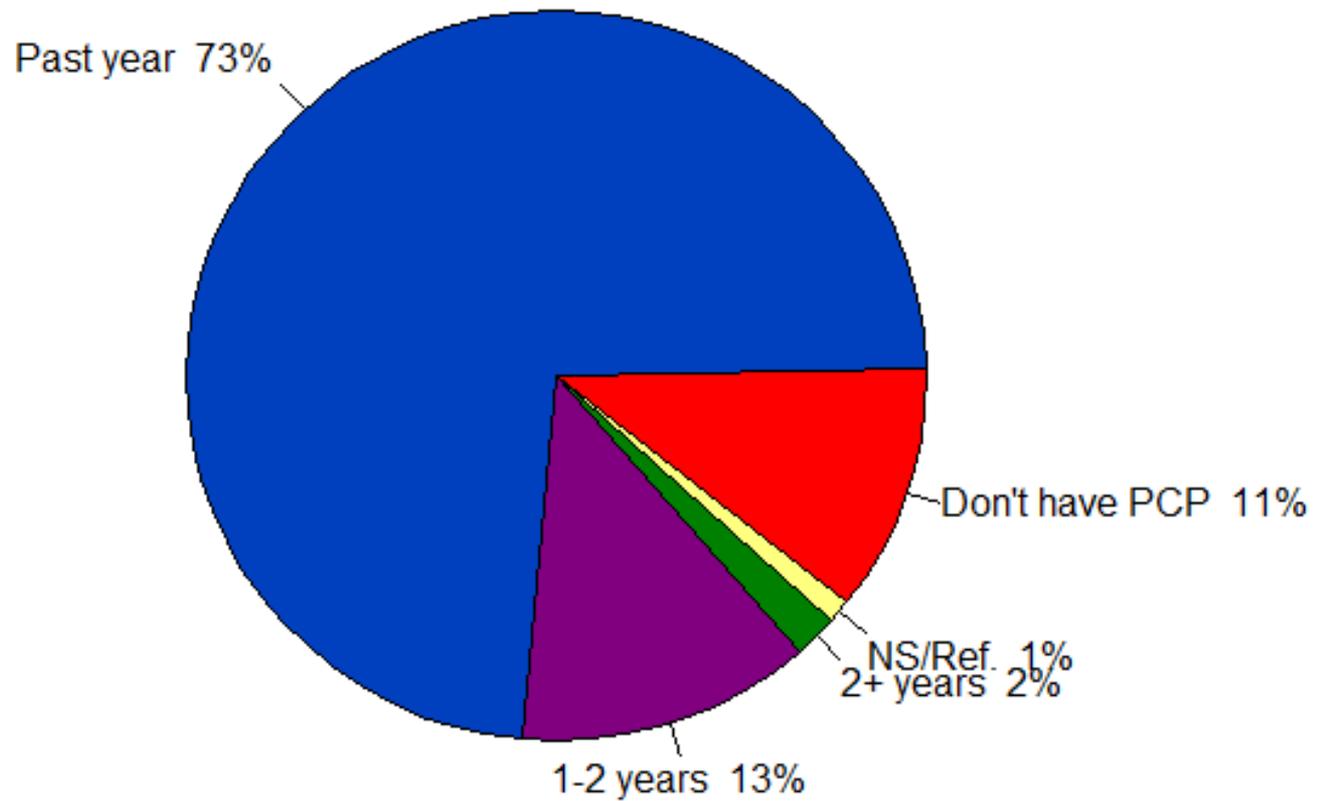


Chart 3

### Q.7 MOST RECENT PCP VISIT



# MAMMOGRAM SCREENINGS



# MAMMOGRAM SCREENING FINDINGS

- Only 74% of women age 40 and over report they have had a mammogram screening in the past year.
  - Women on Long Island are slightly more likely than women in NYC to have had mammogram screening in the past year.
  - Hispanic women (81%) are the most likely to be screened for breast cancer, followed by women of other races (80%), white women (74%), and black women (65%).
  - While some women age 65+ volunteered that they no longer need to be screened for breast cancer, 62% continue to have screenings.
  - Among women age 40-49, 78% report having mammograms and among women age 50-64, 86% have had a screening in the past year.
  - There is little variation by socioeconomic status.
- When women who have not been screened in the past year are asked why, fully 71% of unscreened women age 40-64 volunteer that they do not currently need a mammogram screening. This is a potential misperception that education could help address.



# MAMMOGRAM SCREENING FINDINGS

- Additionally, 18% of all female respondents say they are either confused or not sure about the age and frequency recommendations for mammogram screenings. Among those who have not had a mammogram in the past year, 33% say the recommendations are confusing or they are not sure about them.



Chart 4

Q.8 HAVE YOU HAD A MAMMOGRAM SCREENING IN THE PAST YEAR? (WOMEN ONLY)

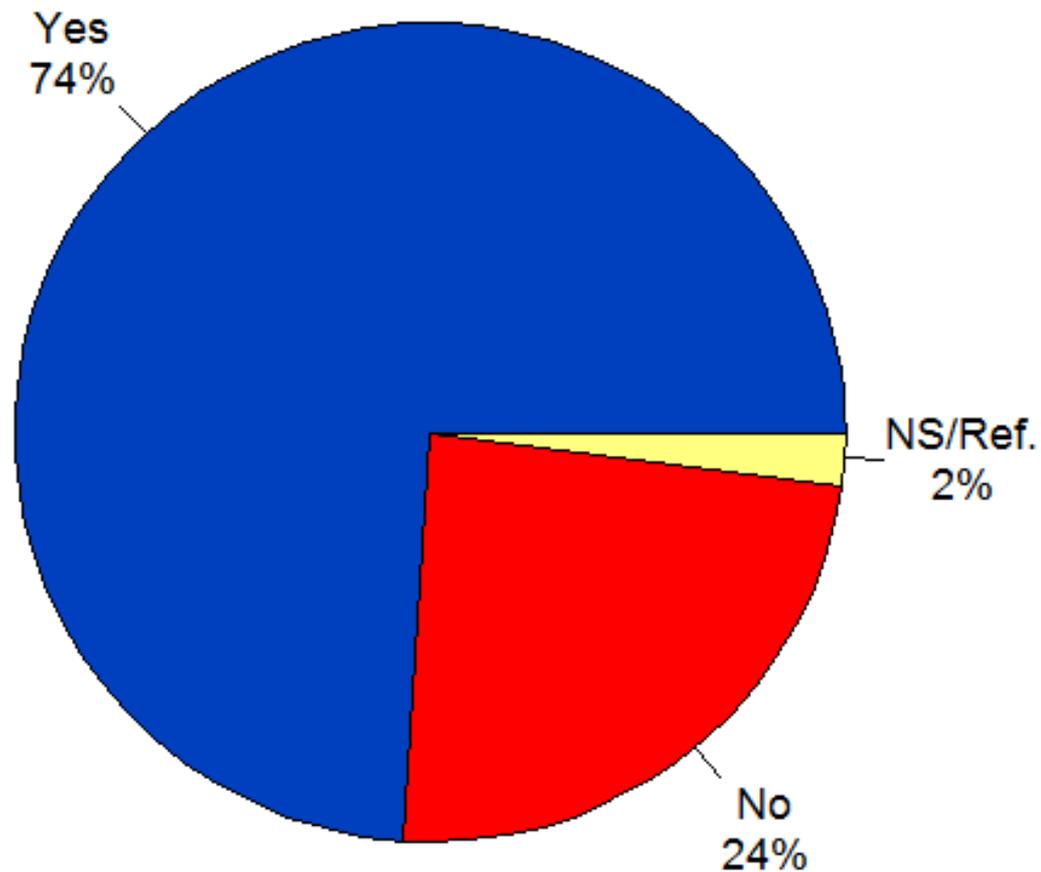


Chart 5

## Q.8 PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN WHO HAVE HAD A MAMMOGRAM SCREENING IN THE PAST YEAR

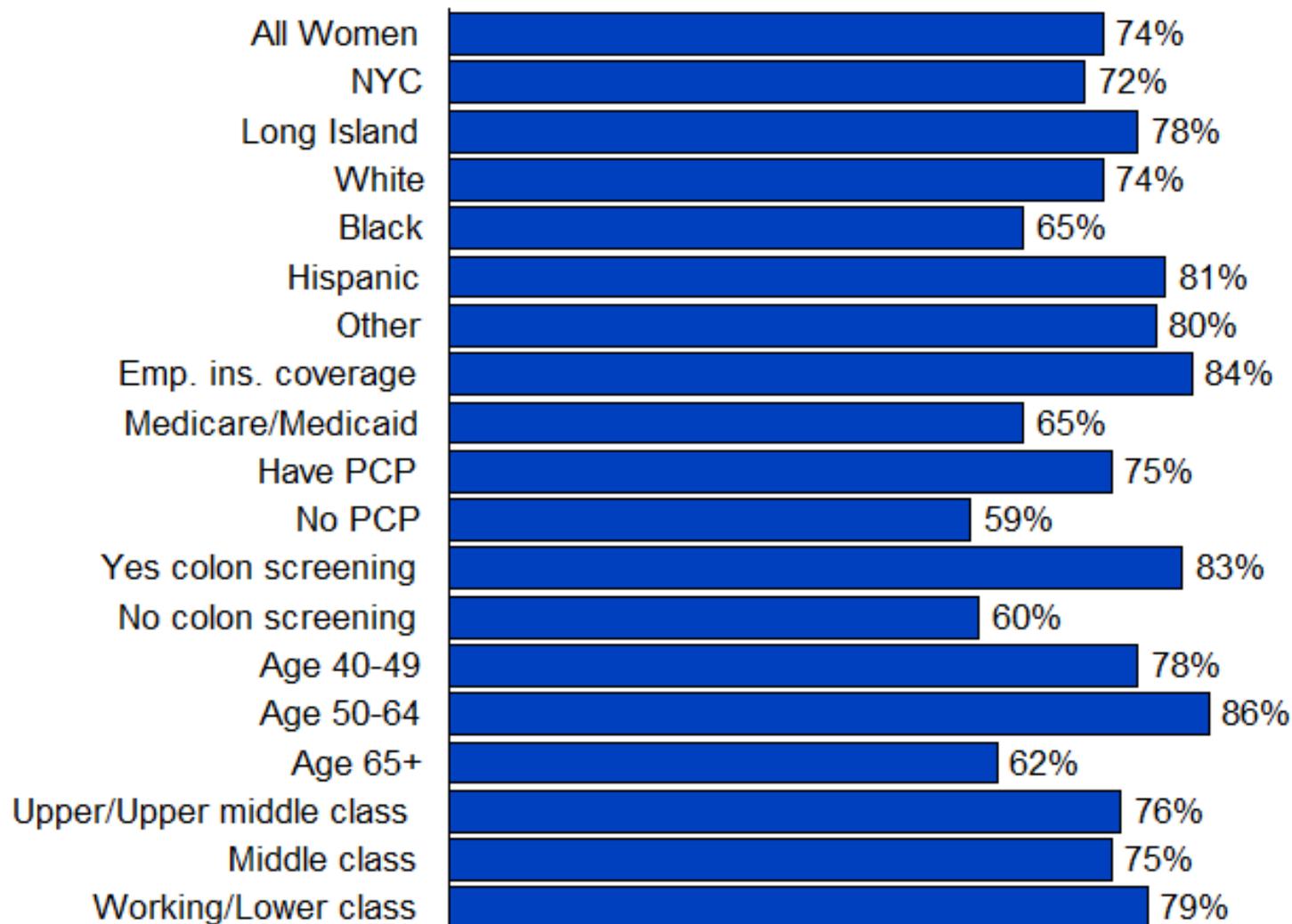


Chart 6

**Q.10 WHAT IS THE PRIMARY REASON YOU WERE NOT SCREENED FOR BREAST CANCER IN THE PAST YEAR?\***

	All Women	Women 40-64	Women 65+
Don't currently need	57%	71%	47%
Something else	21	10	28
Time constraints	4	3	4
Financial reasons	3	3	3
Fear of result	1	3	0
Fear of procedure/embarassment	1	0	2
Not sure/Refused	12	9	15

\*Percentages based only on the 24% of women who have not had a mammogram screening in the past year.



Chart 7

Q.11 DO YOU THINK AGE/FREQUENCY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MAMMOGRAM SCREENINGS ARE CLEAR OR CONFUSING? (WOMEN ONLY)

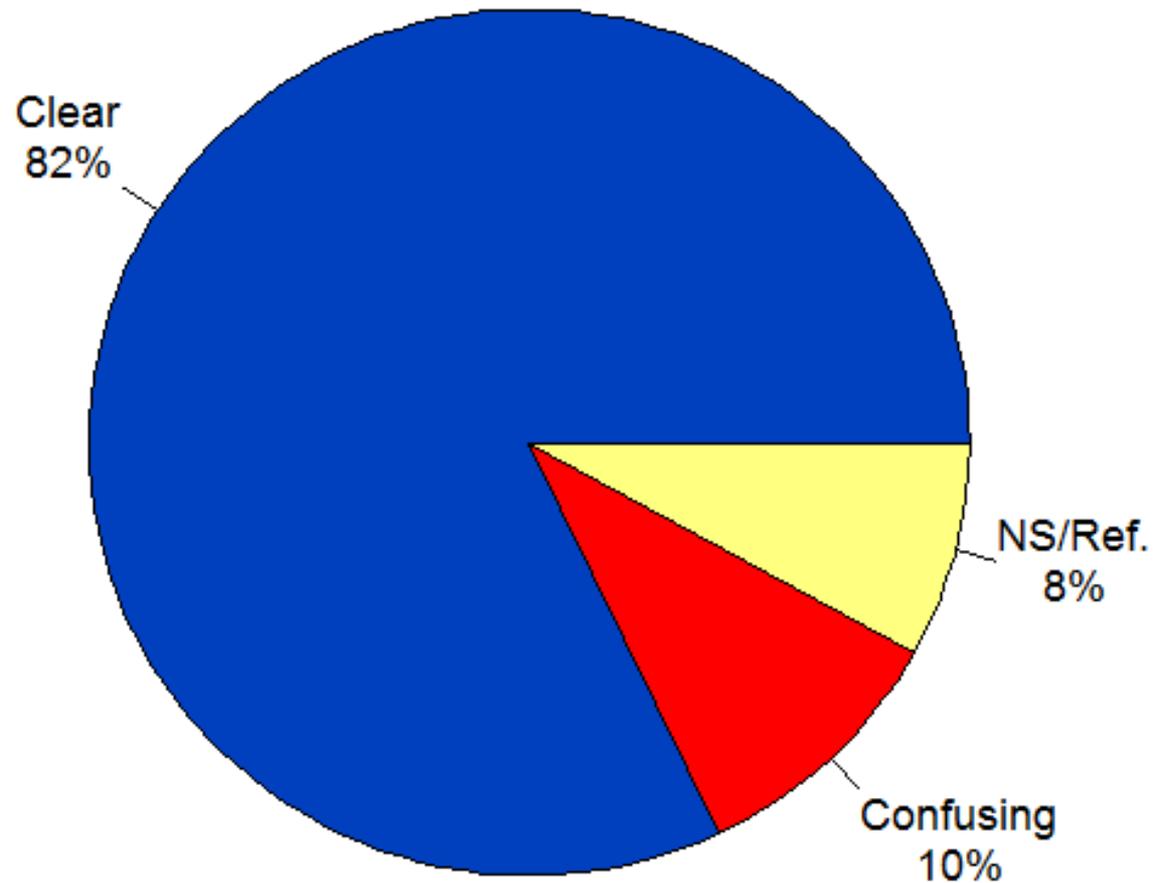
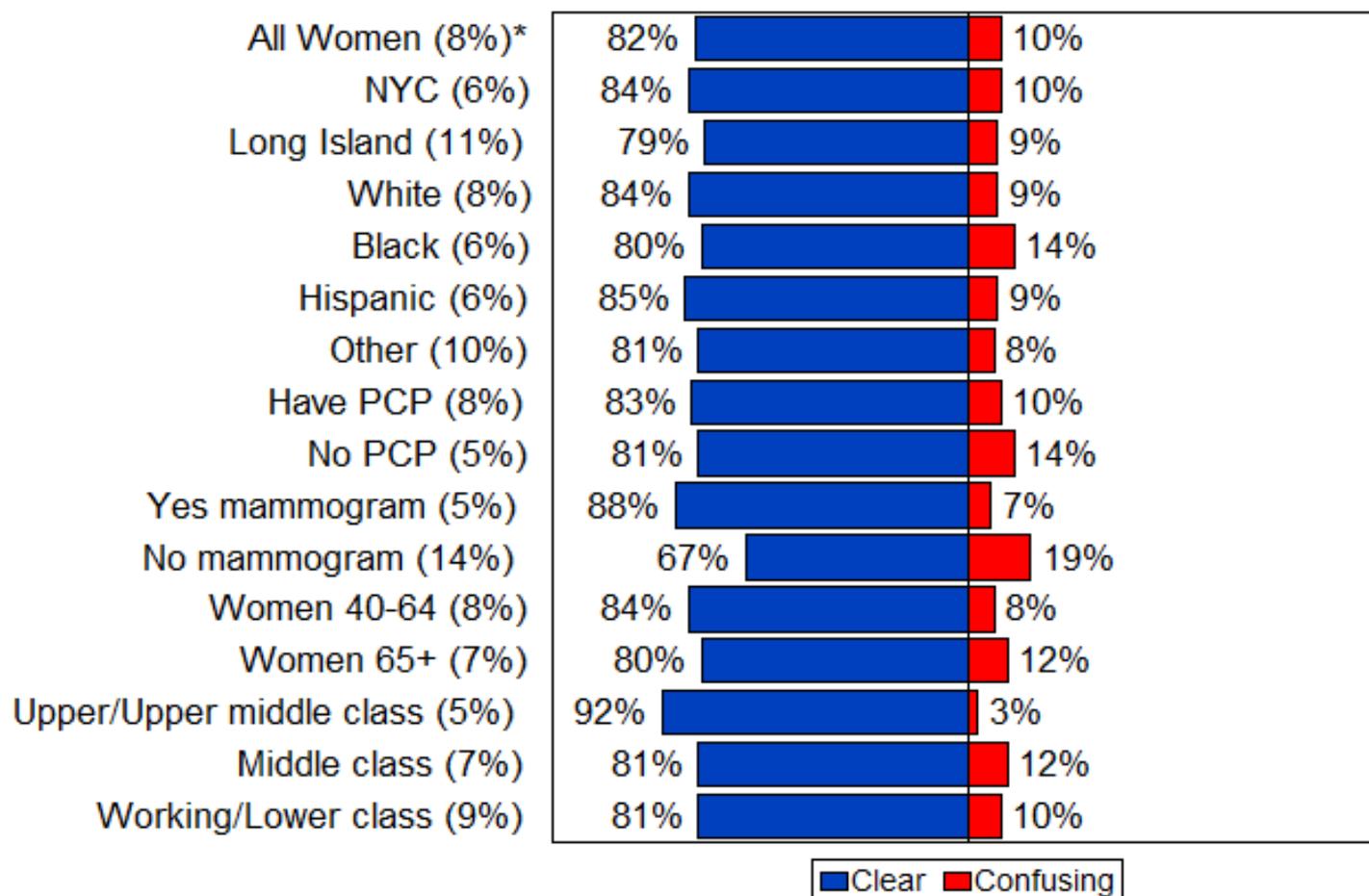


Chart 8

Q.11 DO YOU THINK AGE/FREQUENCY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MAMMOGRAM SCREENINGS ARE CLEAR OR CONFUSING? (WOMEN ONLY)



\*Numbers in parentheses are "not sure" or refused to answer.



# PROSTATE CANCER SCREENINGS



# PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING FINDINGS

- Just over one-half (53%) of men age 40 and over have been screened for prostate cancer in the past year. More importantly, only 64% of men age 50-64 and only 61% of men age 65+ have been screened.
  - NYC men are more likely to be screened than Long Island men.
  - White men are more likely to have been screened than men of color.
  - Upper/upper middle class men are the most likely to be screened (65%) while only 41% of working/lower class men are currently being screened for prostate cancer.
- A slim majority of male respondents (55%) think the recommendations for prostate cancer screenings are clear. A total of 45% say the recommendations are either confusing (19%) or are unsure about them (26%).
  - Majorities of Long Island, black, other race, age 40-49, and working/lower class men are confused or unsure about the screening recommendations for prostate cancer.
  - A substantial 69% of those who have not been screened for prostate cancer are confused or unsure about screening age and frequency recommendations.
  - 71% of those who do not have a PCP are also unclear on what should be done to screen for prostate cancer.



Chart 9

Q.12 HAVE YOU BEEN SCREENED FOR PROSTATE CANCER  
IN THE PAST YEAR? (MEN ONLY)

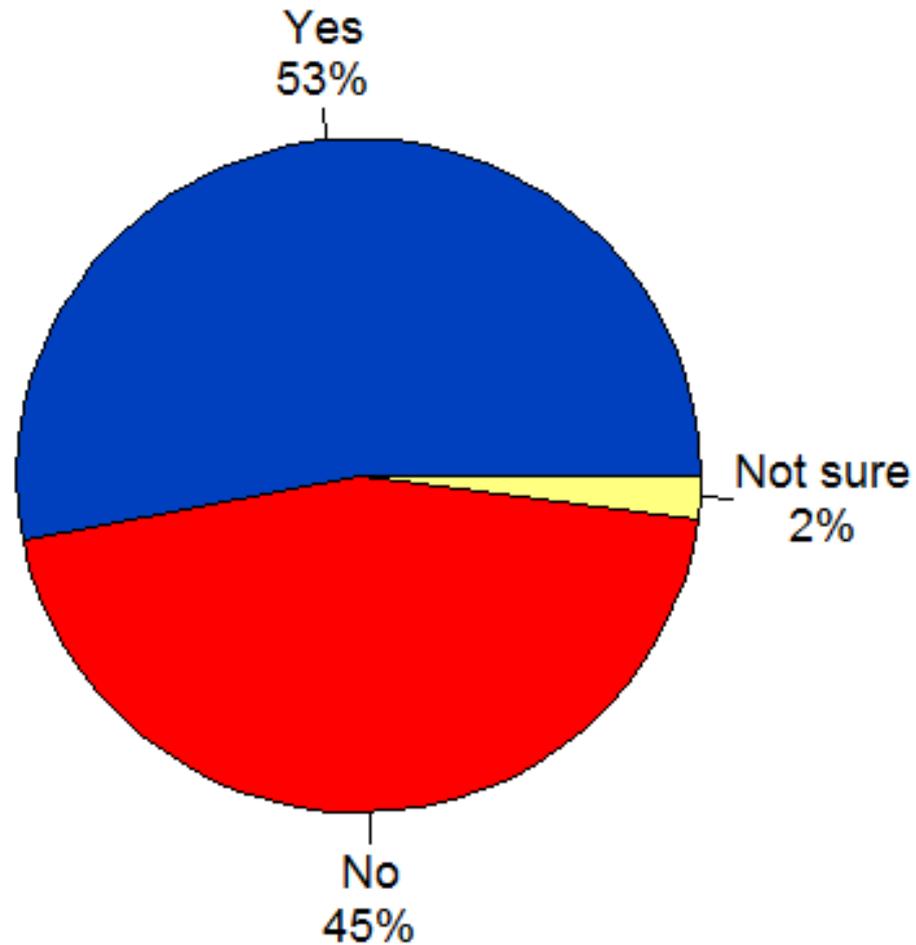


Chart 10

## Q.12 PERCENTAGE OF MEN WHO HAVE BEEN SCREENED FOR PROSTATE CANCER IN THE PAST YEAR

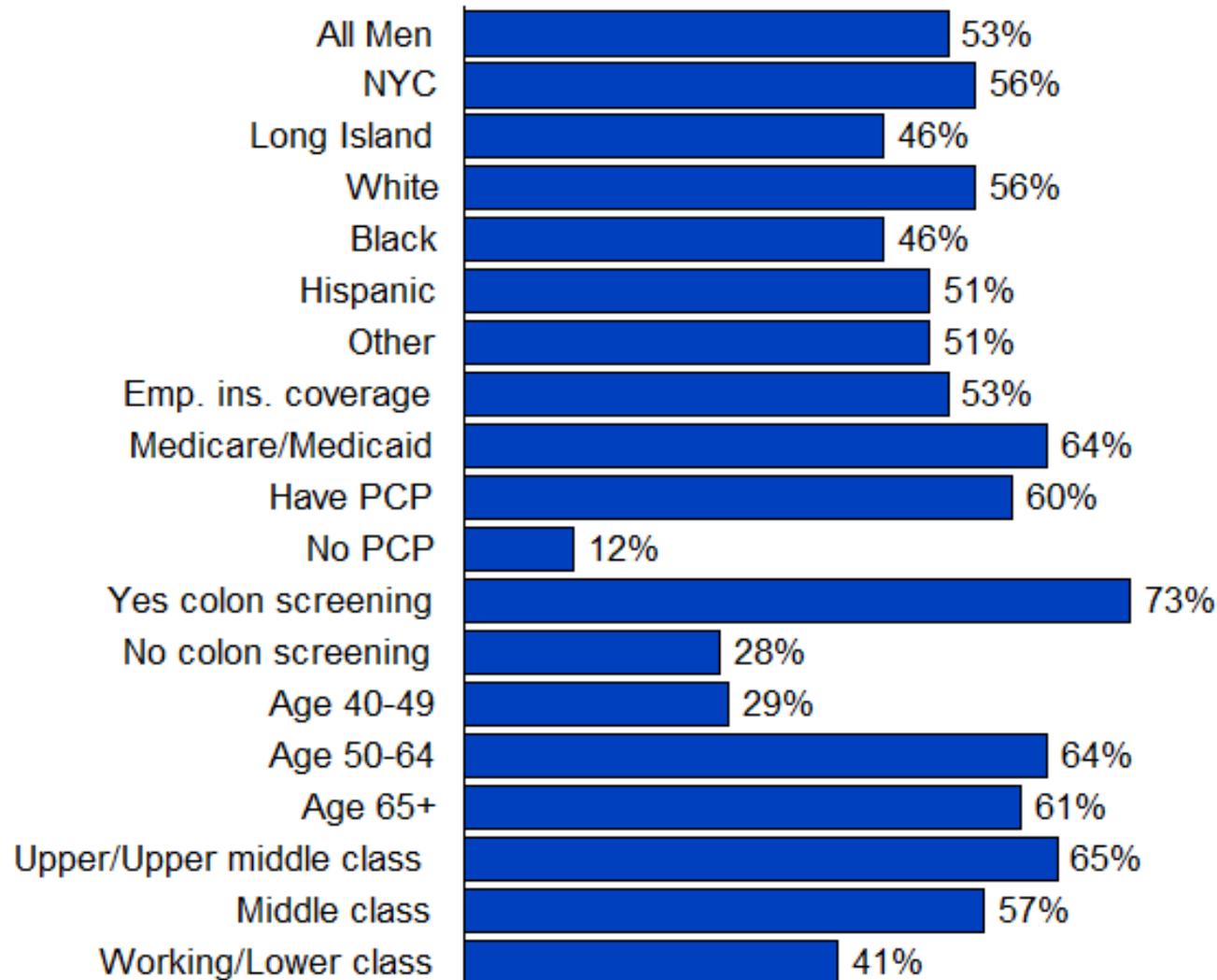


Chart 11

Q.13 DO YOU THINK AGE/FREQUENCY  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROSTATE CANCER  
SCREENINGS ARE CLEAR OR CONFUSING? (MEN ONLY)

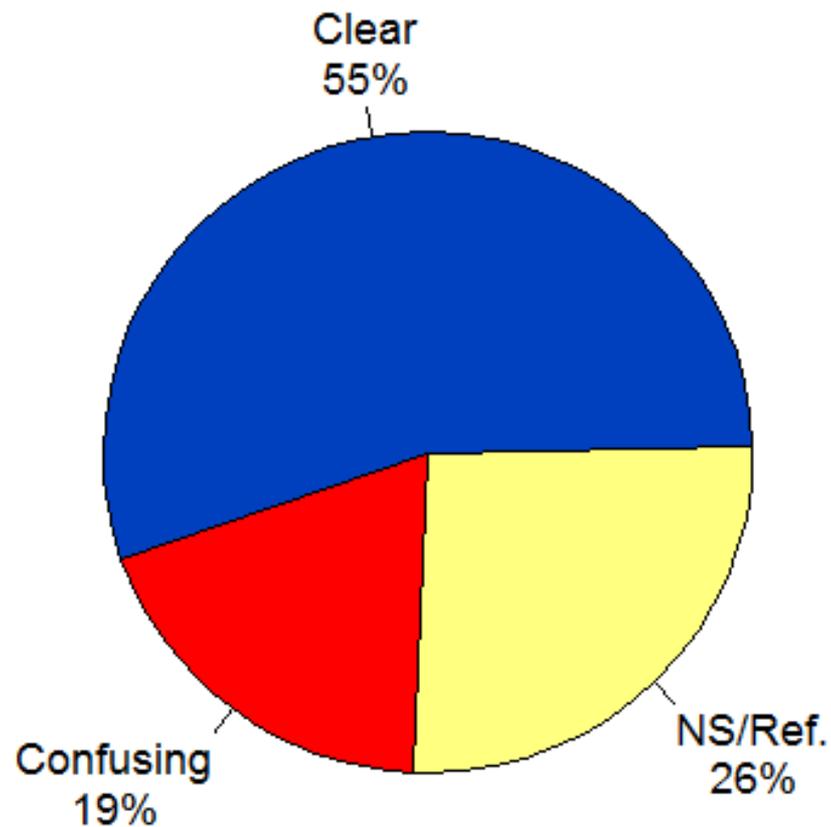
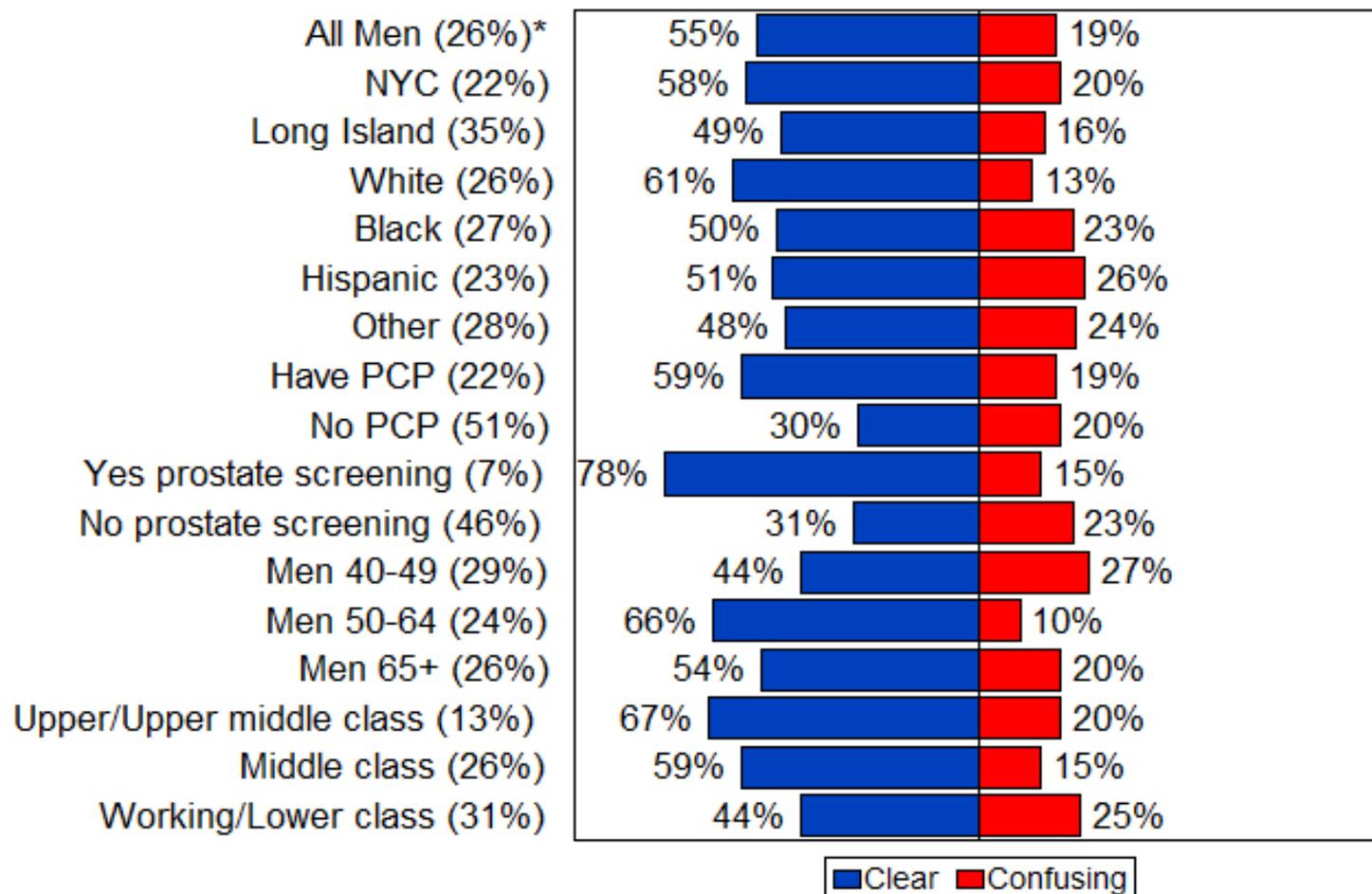


Chart 12

Q.13 DO YOU THINK AGE/FREQUENCY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROSTATE CANCER SCREENINGS ARE CLEAR OR CONFUSING? (MEN ONLY)



\*Numbers in parentheses are "not sure" or refused to answer.



# COLON CANCER SCREENINGS



# COLON CANCER SCREENING FINDINGS

- Overall, 60% of adults age 40 and up have been screened for colon cancer in the past 10 years.
  - White and Hispanic adults are more likely than black adults to have been screened in the past 10 years.
  - Women are more likely to be screened for colon cancer than men.
  - As expected, a small percentage (14%) of those age 40-49 have been screened, but only 78% of respondents age 50-64 and 74% of respondents age 65+ have had a colon cancer screening in the past 10 years.
  - Higher income adults are significantly more likely to be screened for colon cancer than those of working/lower class status.
- It is troubling that 36% of unscreened adults age 50-64 and 46% of unscreened adults age 65+ say they do not currently need to be screened for colon cancer. An additional 13% of unscreened 50-64 year olds say time constraints have prevented them from being screened in the past 10 years and 10% of this same age cohort say they are fearful or embarrassed about the procedure.



# COLON CANCER SCREENING FINDINGS

- 27% of respondents are confused by or unsure about the age/frequency recommendations for colon cancer screenings. Confusion levels are higher than average among blacks, respondents without a PCP, and respondents age 40-49.
- Similarly, 21% of respondents do not believe or are unsure if everyone over age 50 should be screened for colon cancer every 5-10 years.
  - 51% without a PCP do not believe the recommendations or unsure about colon cancer screening recommendations.
  - 37% of those who have not been screened for colon cancer voice the same opinion.
  - Upper and upper middle class adults are more likely to believe the colon cancer screening recommendations than middle and working/lower class adults.



Chart 13

Q.14 HAVE YOU BEEN SCREENED FOR COLON CANCER IN THE PAST 10 YEARS?

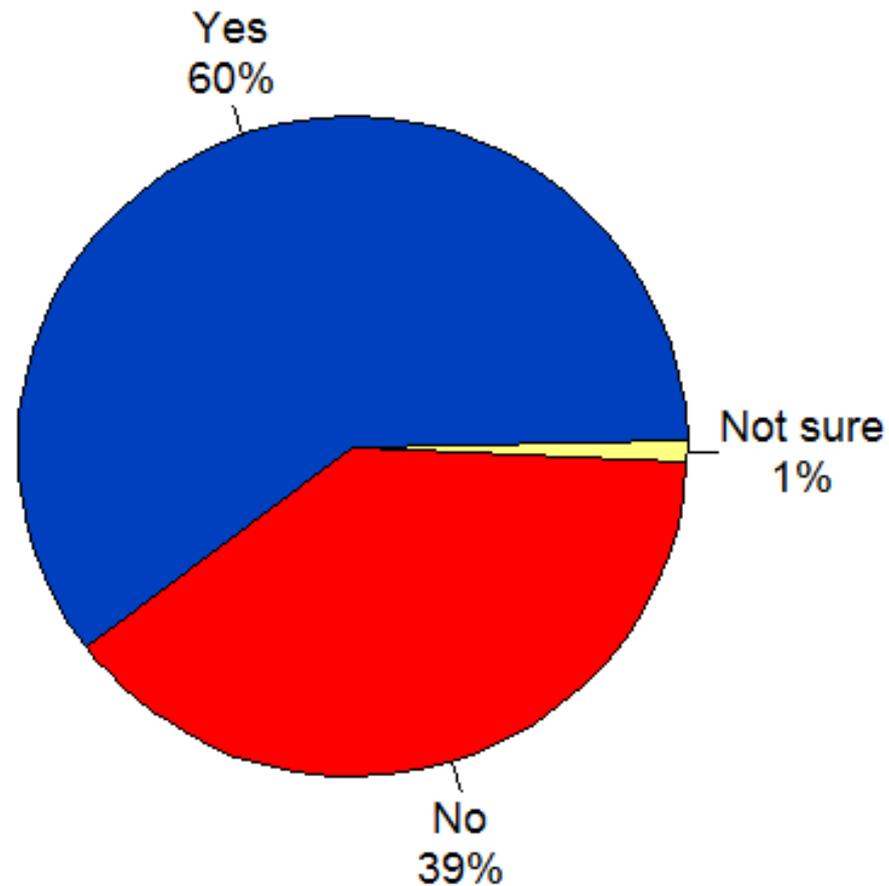


Chart 14

## Q.14 PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN SCREENED FOR COLON CANCER IN THE PAST YEAR

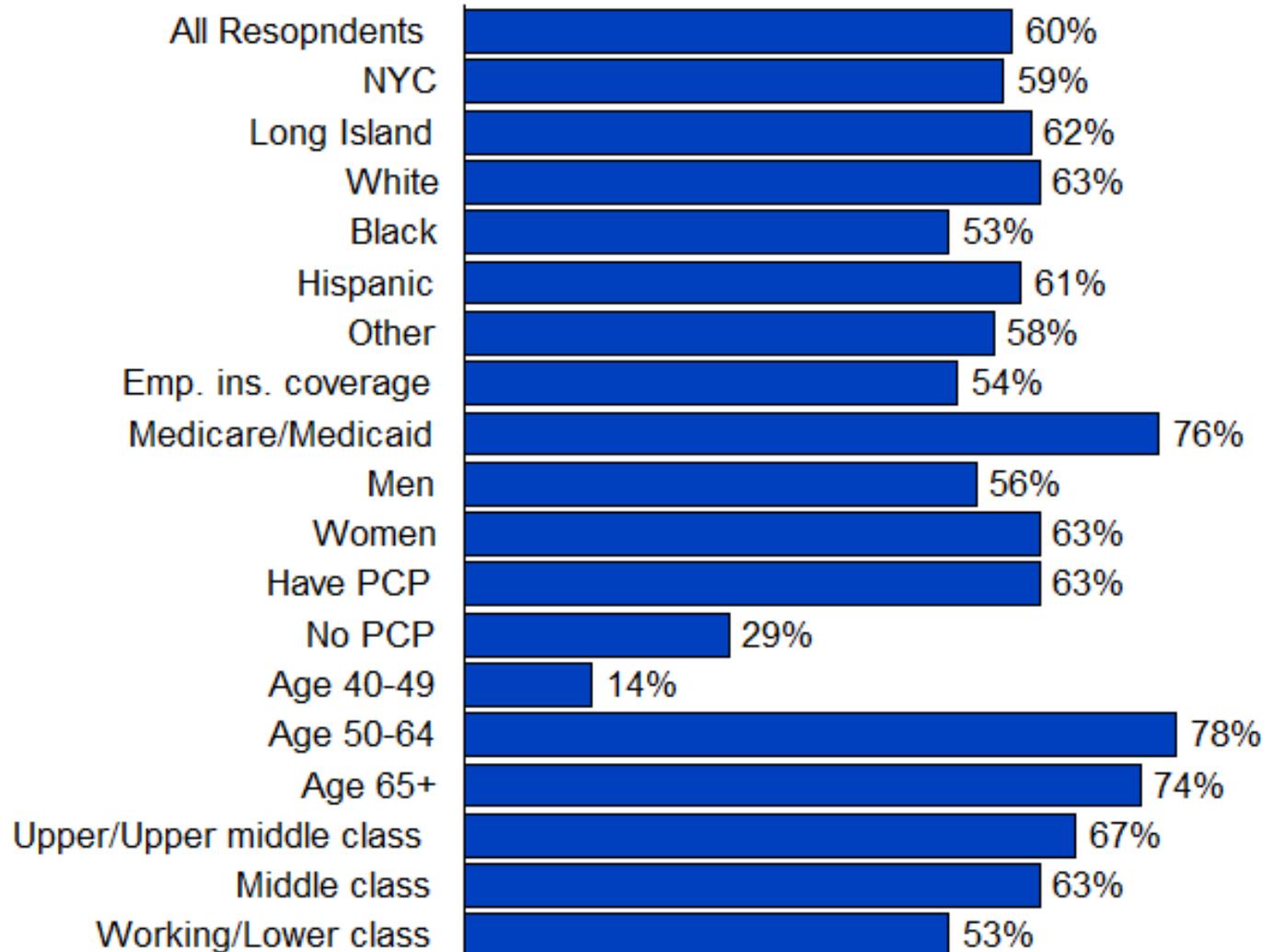


Chart 15

**Q.16 WHAT IS THE PRIMARY REASON YOU WERE NOT SCREENED FOR COLON CANCER IN THE PAST 10 YEARS?\***

	All Respondents	Age 40-49	Age 50-64	Age 65+
Don't currently need	60%	74%	36%	46%
Something else	16	10	19	28
Time constraints	5	3	13	2
Fear of procedure/embarassment	4	1	10	5
Financial reasons	2	3	0	2
Fear of result	2	1	6	0
Not sure/Refused	10	8	14	9

\*Percentages based only on the 39% of respondents who have not been screened for colon cancer in the past year.



Chart 16

Q.17 DO YOU THINK AGE/FREQUENCY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COLON CANCER SCREENINGS ARE CLEAR OR CONFUSING?

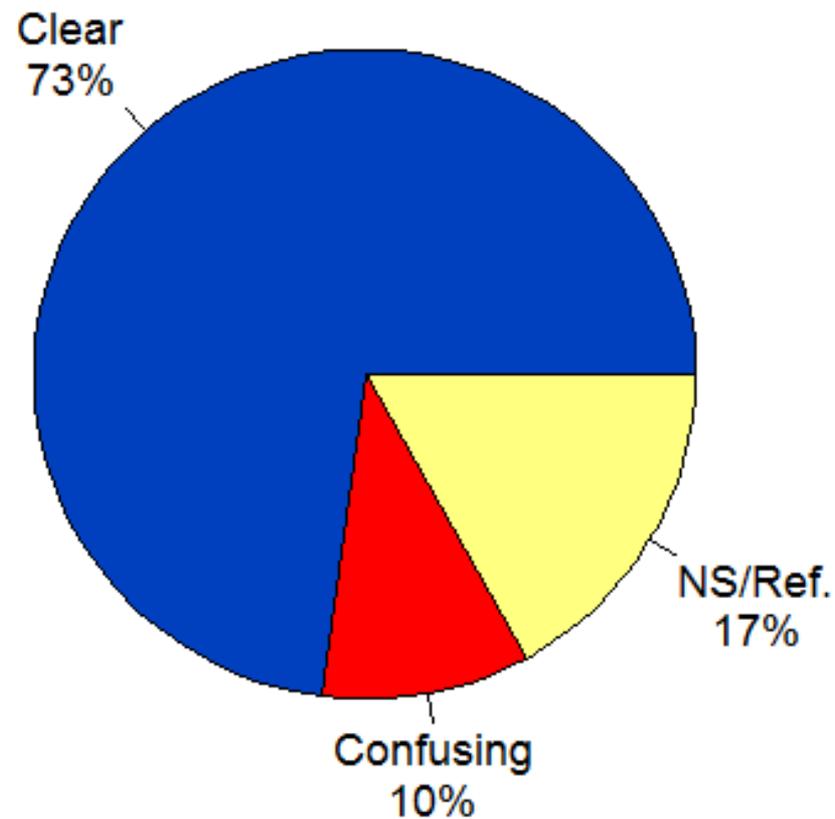
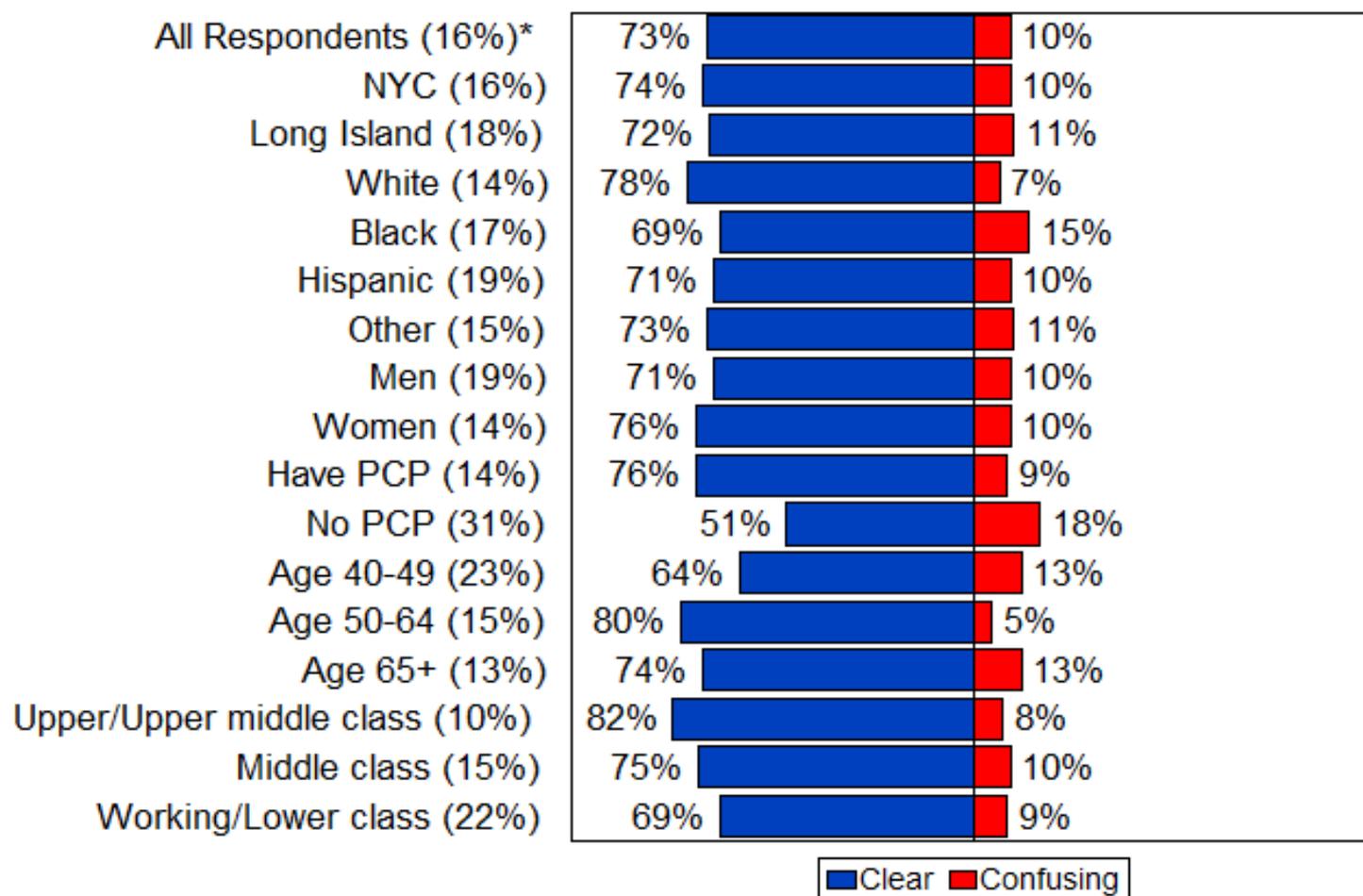


Chart 17

## Q.17 DO YOU THINK AGE/FREQUENCY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COLON CANCER SCREENINGS ARE CLEAR OR CONFUSING?



\*Numbers in parentheses are "not sure" or refused to answer.



Chart 18

Q.18 DO YOU BELIEVE EVERYONE OVER 50 SHOULD BE SCREENED FOR COLON CANCER EVERY 5-10 YEARS?

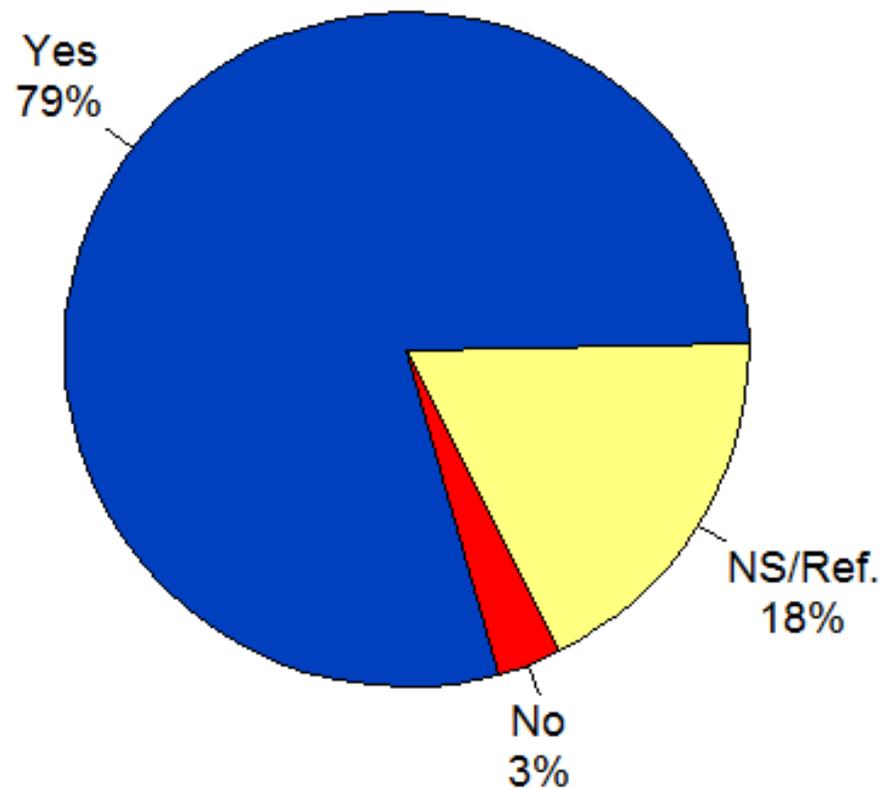
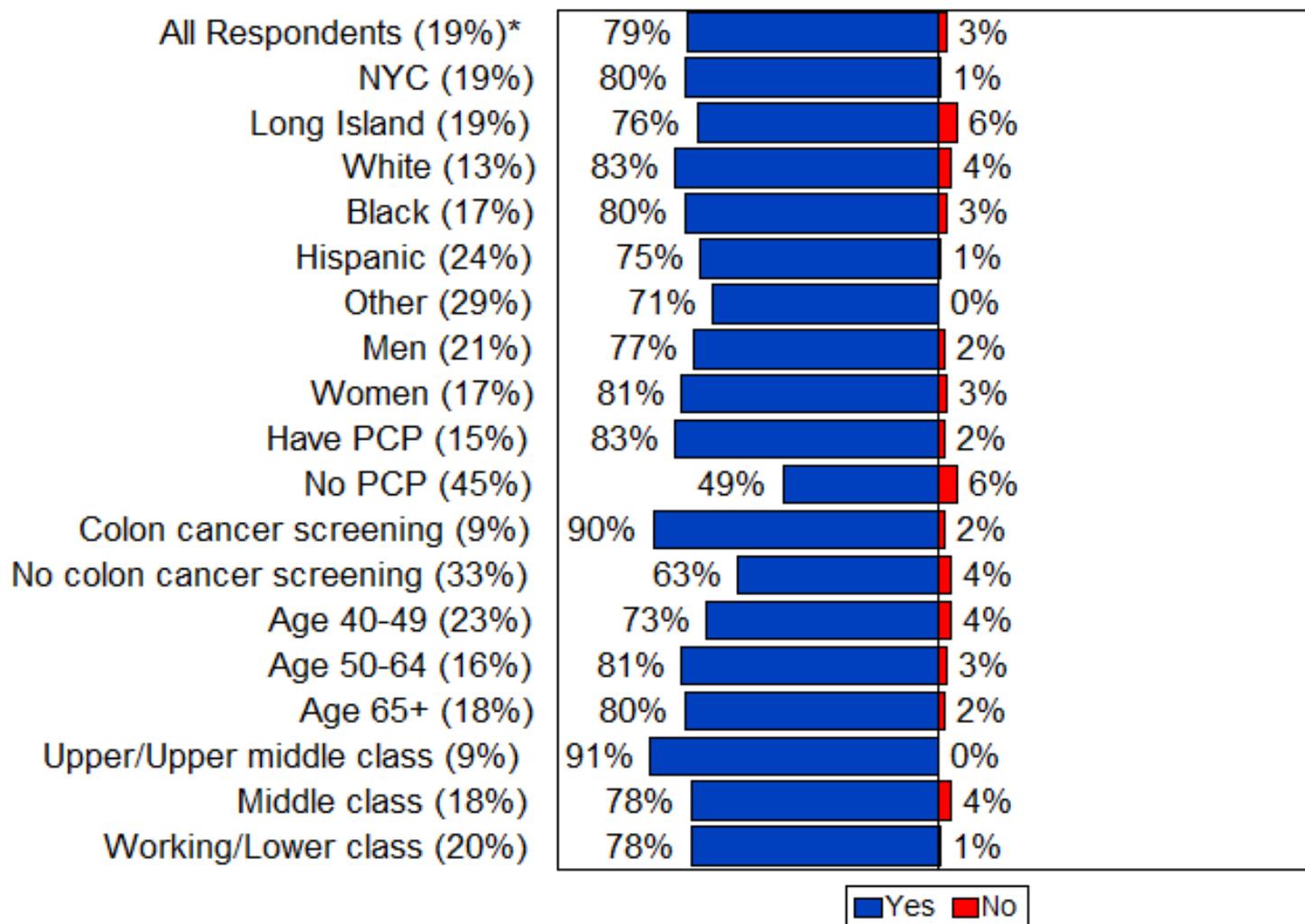


Chart 19

Q.18 DO YOU BELIEVE EVERYONE OVER 50 SHOULD BE SCREENED FOR COLON CANCER EVERY 5-10 YEARS?



\*Numbers in parentheses are "not sure" or refused to answer.



# PAYING OUT OF POCKET



## PAYING OUT OF POCKET FINDINGS

- Less than one-half of adults age 40+ currently or would pay out of pocket for mammogram, prostate, and colon cancer screenings. 32% would not pay and 23% are not sure.
- NYC adults are slightly more likely to pay than those from Long Island.
- White adults are more likely to pay than adults of color.
- Adults age 50-64 are more likely to pay than their older and younger counterparts.
- Even among upper/upper middle class adults, who are the most likely to have the means to pay, 28% would not pay or are unsure.
- Only 19% of respondents without a PCP would pay out of pocket for these screenings.



Chart 20

Q.19 DO YOU CURRENTLY/WOULD YOU PAY OUT OF POCKET FOR THESE SCREENINGS?

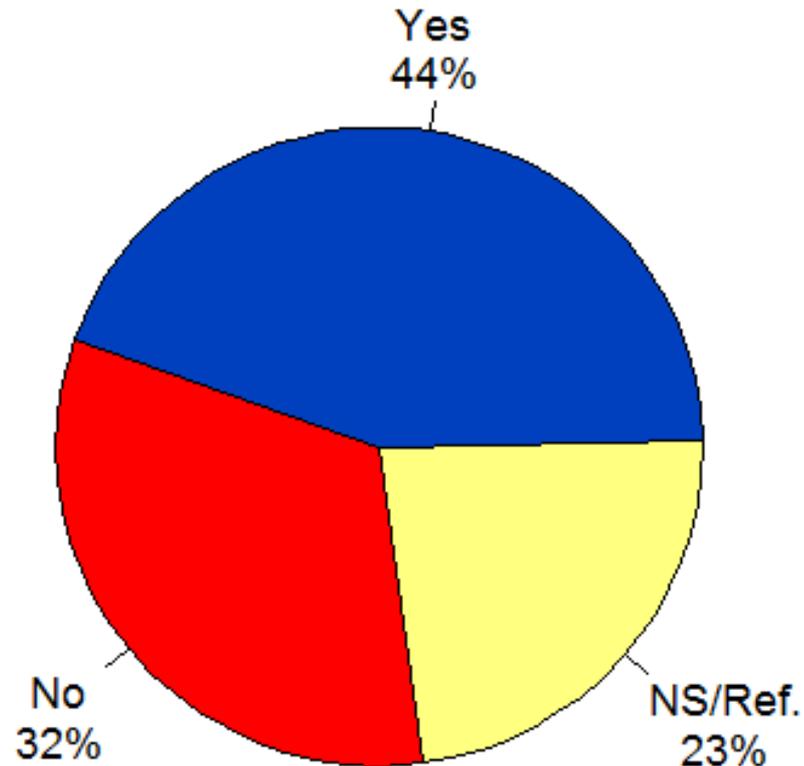
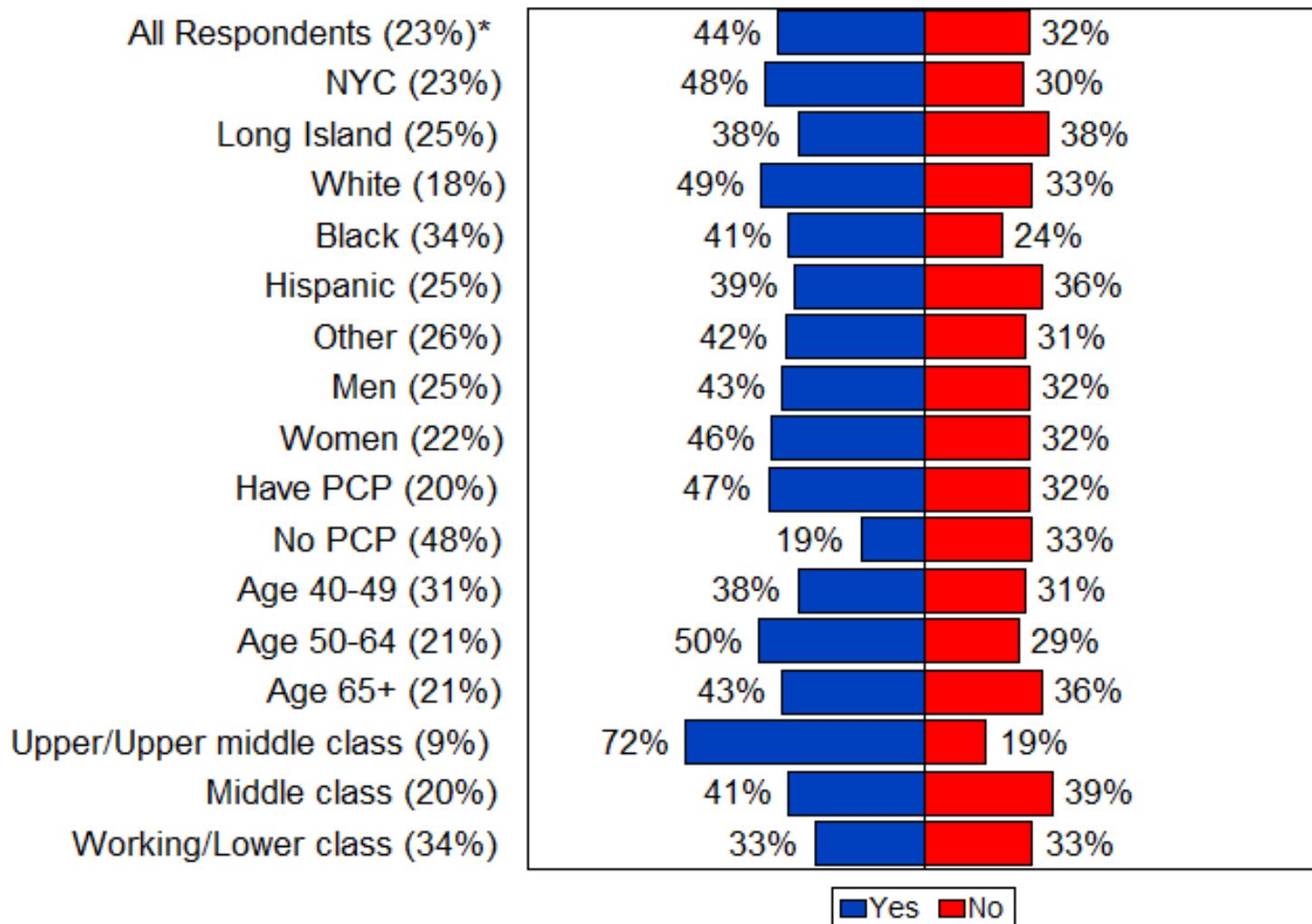


Chart 21

Q.19 DO YOU CURRENTLY/WOULD YOU PAY OUT OF POCKET FOR THESE SCREENINGS?



\*Numbers in parentheses are "not sure" or refused to answer.

