



Rhode Islanders' Views on Local News

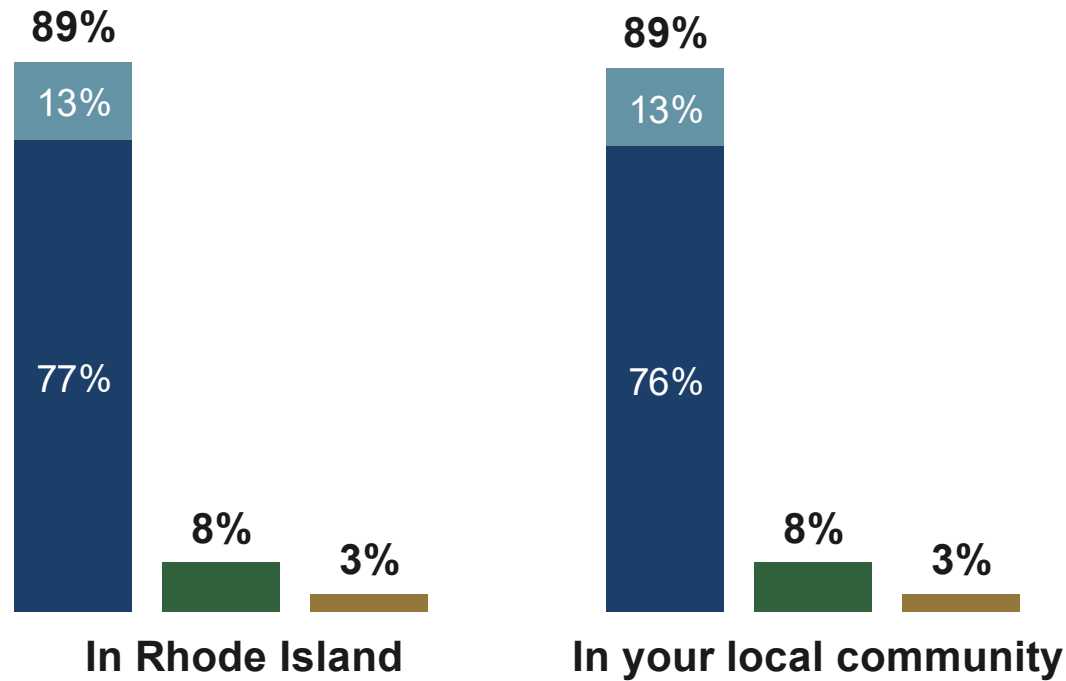
Results from a statewide survey of 521 Rhode Islanders conducted November 2025 for the Rhode Island Foundation on behalf of Press Forward Rhode Island.



Rhode Islanders place a high value on both state and local news.

How important is it for you and your family to have access to trustworthy information and news about topics and issues that you care about?

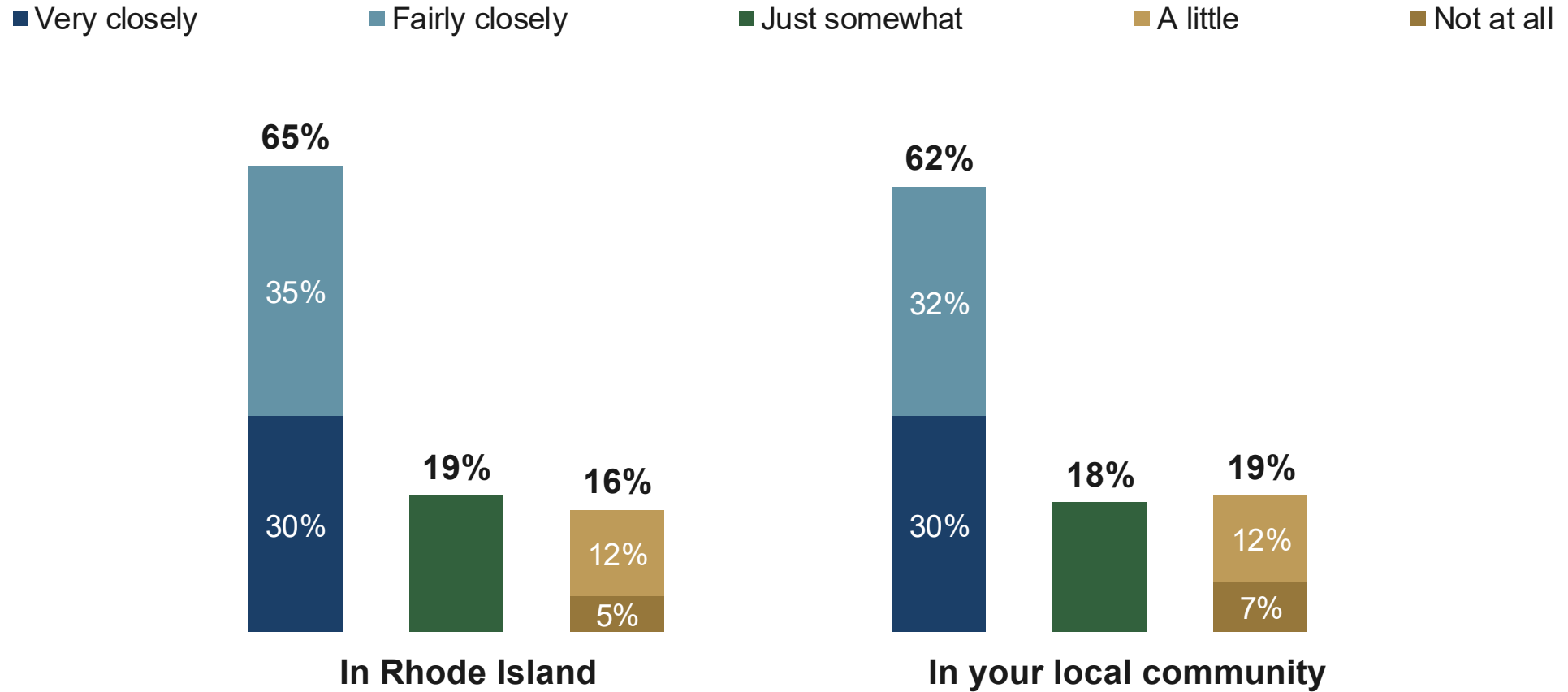
■ Very important
 ■ Fairly important
 ■ Just somewhat important
 ■ Not important



% saying reliance on <u>local community news</u> is very important	
Men	69
Women	82
18-34	65
35-49	71
50-64	81
65+	87
Less than \$50k	80
\$50k-\$100k	77
More than \$100k	71

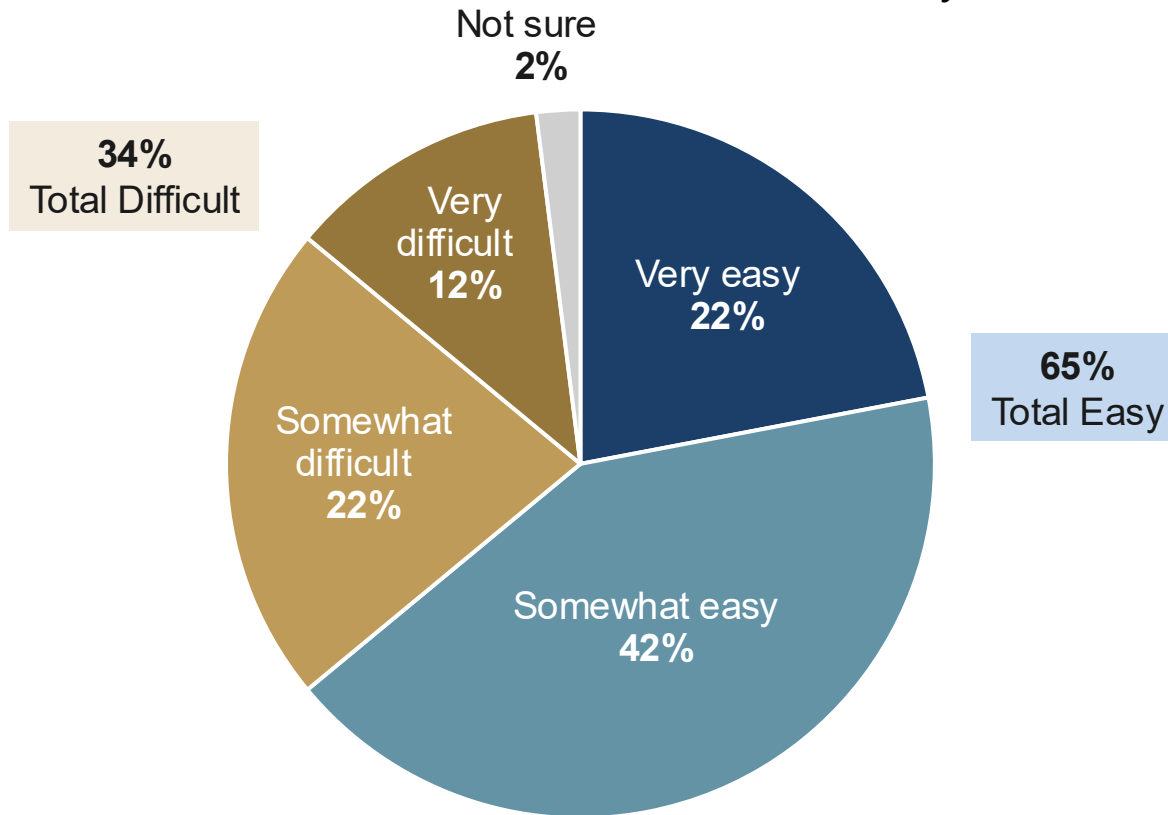
And Rhode Islanders report being relatively attentive to both state and local news.

How closely do you follow news and information about things that are going on?



About one in three Rhode Islanders say it's hard to find reliable sources for local news and information.

How easy or difficult is it for you to find trusted information and news about topics and issues in your local community that you care about?

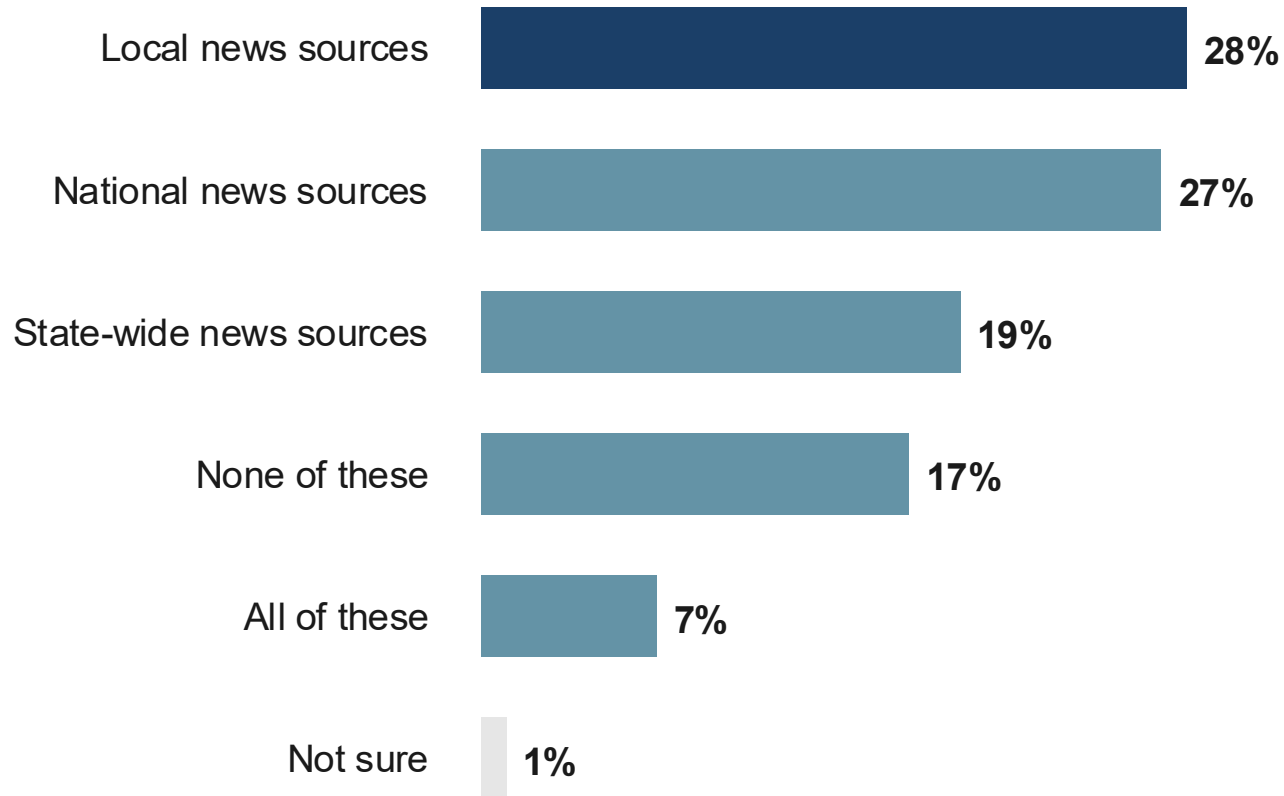


Reliable local news is more of an obstacle for some:

	Total Difficult
All Rhode Island residents	34%
HS/less	37%
People of color	39%
Latina women	39%
Latino/18-39	37%
Providence residents	37%
Conservatives	46%

Trust is highest in local and national news sources.

Which do you trust more to provide accurate information and news on topics and issues you care about?

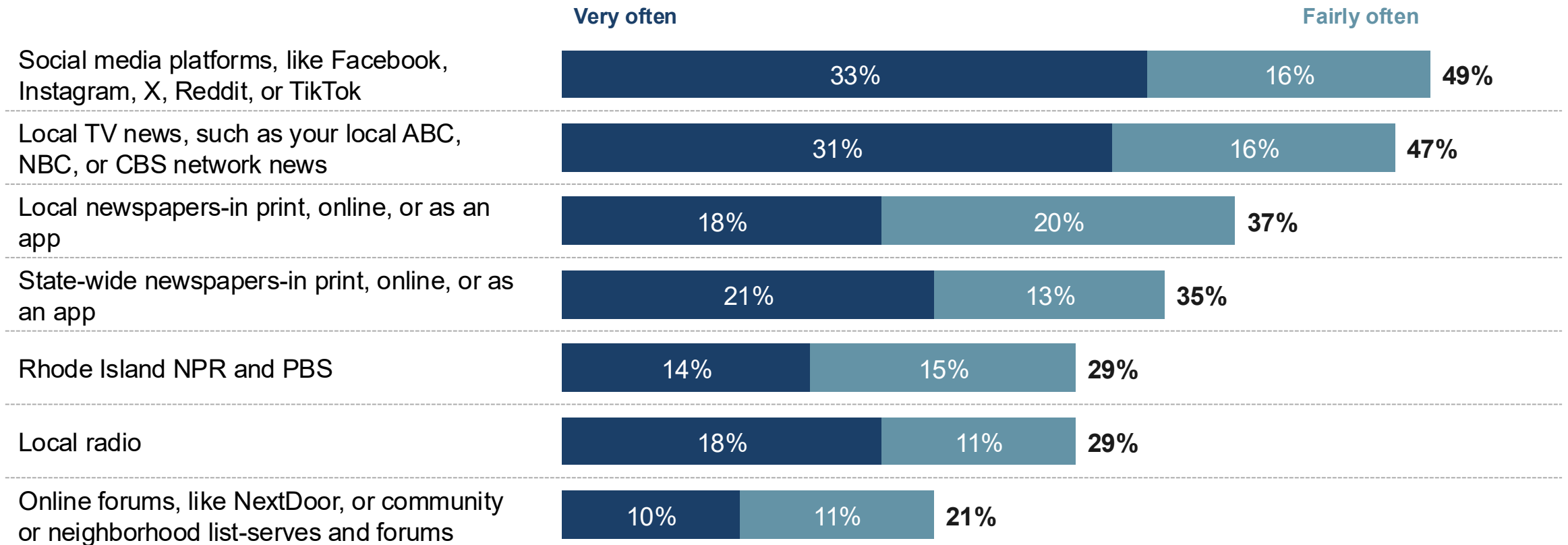


Some Rhode Islanders are especially likely to identify local news as a trusted source:

White	26%
People of color	39%
Latino	47%
Latino men	52%
Latina women	41%
Less than \$100k	36%

Social media platforms and TV news are the dominant channels for local news and information.

How frequently do you rely on ___ for information about important things that are going on where you live or in your local community?



These findings demonstrate that Rhode Islanders report that:

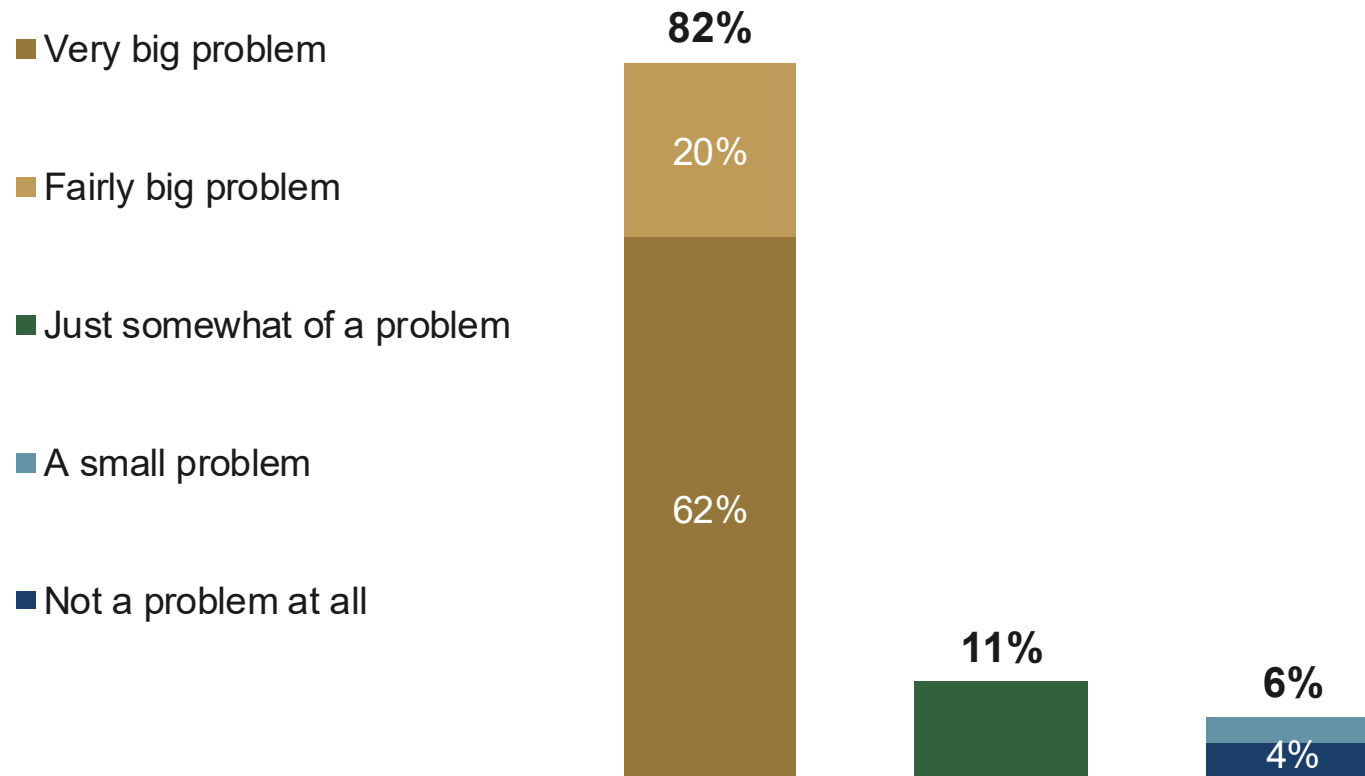
- ✓ They follow local news closely (62%), though there are notable cleavage lines across audiences
- ✓ It's important for them to have access to trustworthy local news (89%)
- ✓ They have as much/more trust in local news than in state & national news

Despite this strong baseline, Rhode Islanders flag a series of problems and challenges with local news:

- ✓ Prevalence of misinformation
- ✓ Not serving all communities equally well
- ✓ Holes and gaps in quality of content/coverage

Rhode Islanders say misinformation is a significant issue.

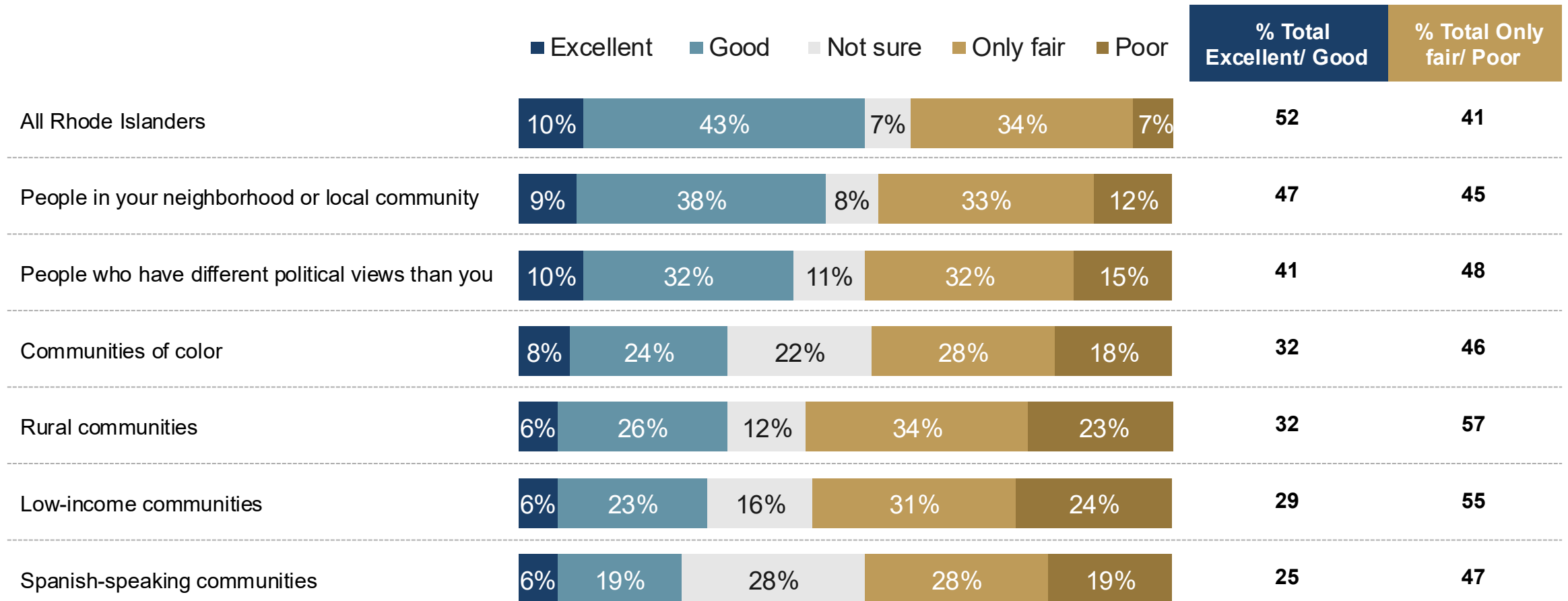
Thinking about news and information sources that you rely on, how much of a problem do you think misinformation is?



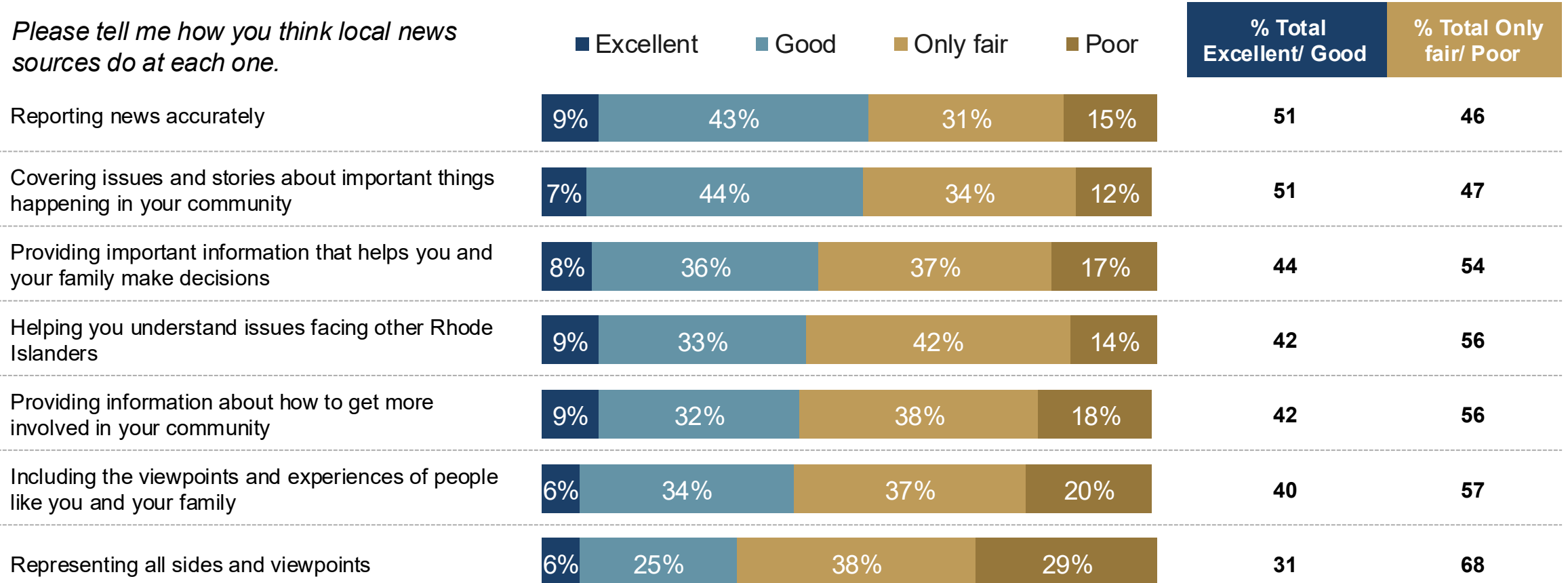
A majority report that misinformation is a very big problem regardless of which news source they mostly rely on (social media, TV, local newspapers, etc.).

Most Rhode Islanders agree that misinformation is a major challenge, but **seniors** and **lower-income residents** are somewhat less likely to recognize this problem.

Rhode Islanders say that local news serves some communities better than others.

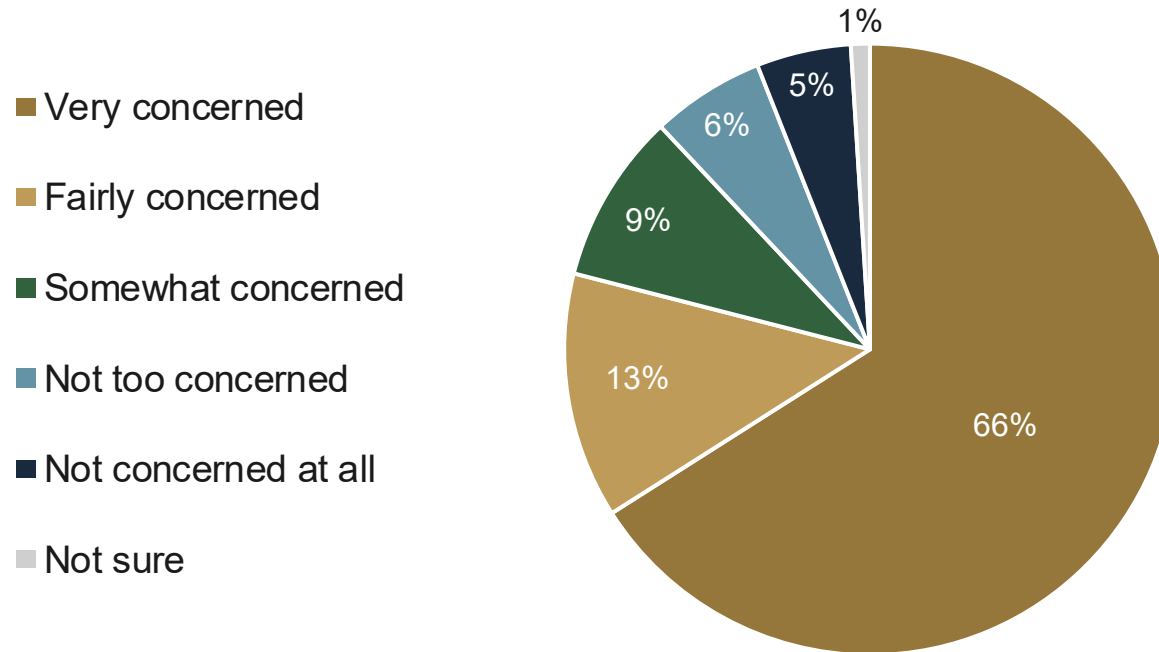


Rhode Islanders see a need for improvement in multiple areas; primary among them is viewpoint diversity.



Underscoring the value they place on local news, Rhode Islanders express alarm at the prospect of it disappearing.

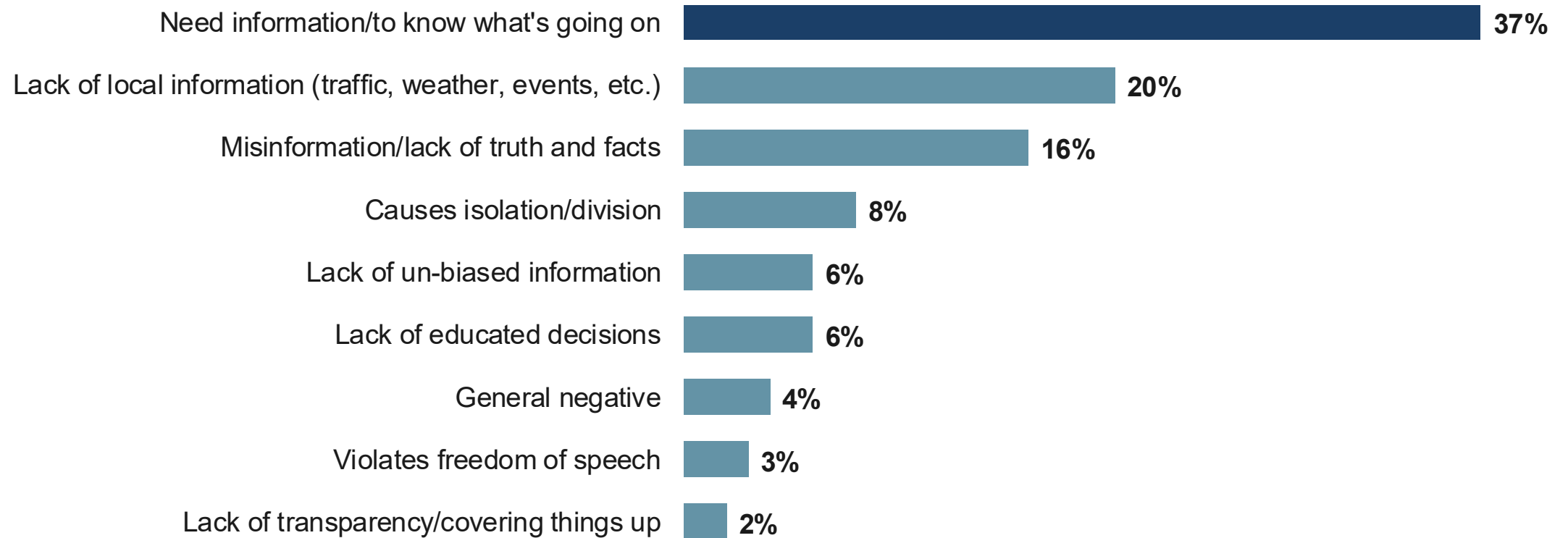
How concerned would you be if there were no longer any local news sources that covered topics and issues in the community where you live?



% Very concerned	
Men	73
Women	85
White	79
Latino	85
Less than \$50k	82
\$50k-\$100k	86
More than \$100k	73
18-34	84
35-49	71
50-64	77
65+	86

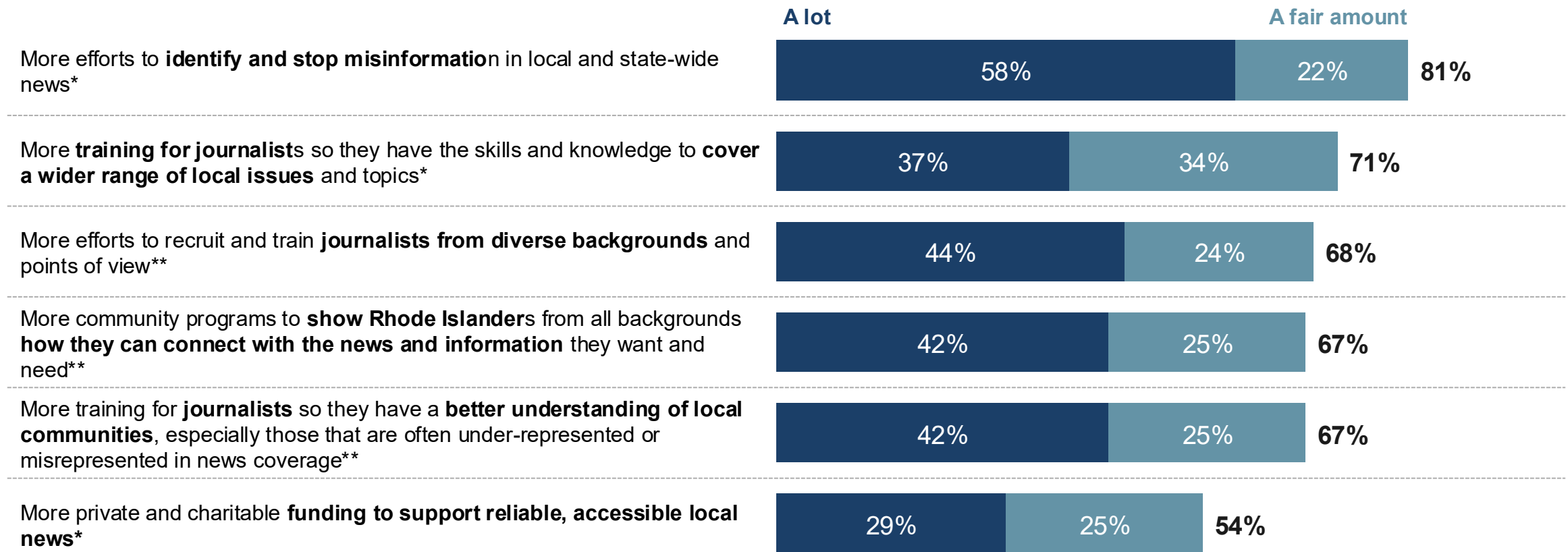
Rhode Islanders see a range of impacts if local news sources were to dry up – not just lack of basic information that shapes daily life, but also increases in division and isolation, as well as misinformation.

What would be the impact of not having any local news sources?



Rhode Islanders say there are concrete actions that could improve local news coverage.

How much do you think ___ would do to improve the quality and accessibility of local news that many people depend on?

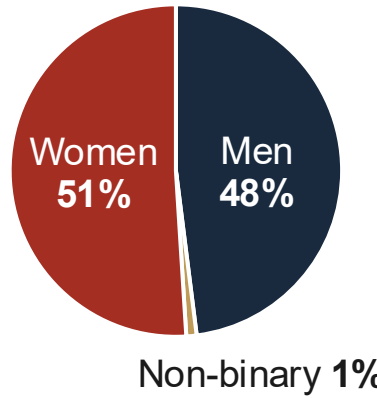


Overview of Survey Methodology & Sample

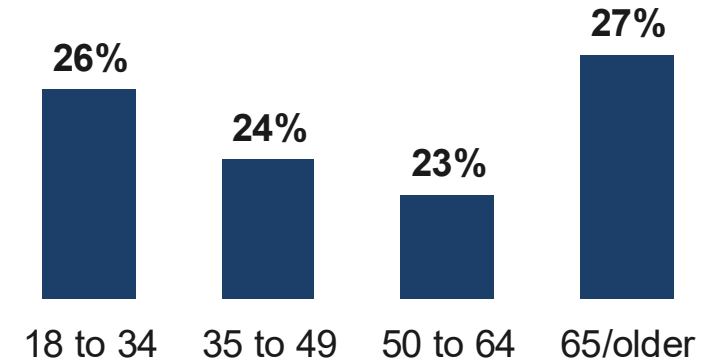
With financial support from Press Forward National, Press Forward Rhode Island partnered with Hart Research to do a survey of Rhode Island residents exploring their need for and views of local news.

The survey was conducted by telephone from November 6-9, 2025 among a representative sample of Rhode Island adults, including 171 Latino adults.

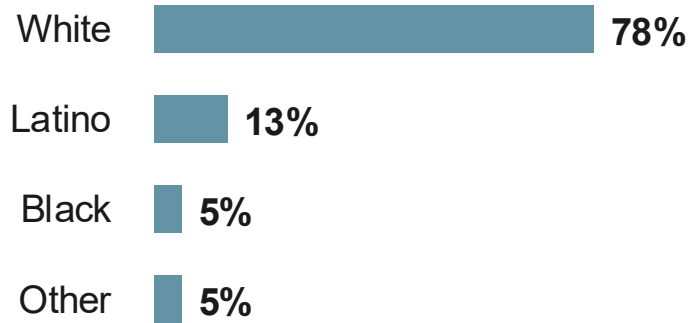
Gender



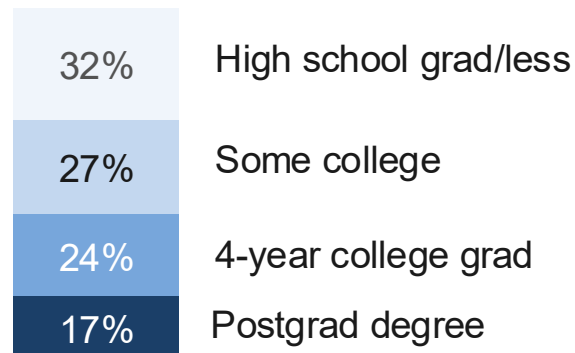
Age



Race



Education



Ideology

