
EMANCIPATION DAY ANNOUNCEMENT: CANADIANS' HAVE RELATIVELY LITTLE AWARENESS THAT THERE WAS SLAVERY IN CANADA'S HISTORY

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INTRODUCTION: EMANCIPATION DAY AUGUST 1 2023

Yesterday Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau declared August 1 Emancipation Day to acknowledge the painful history of slavery in Canada and other parts of the world, and to recommit ourselves to building a more just, inclusive, and equal society for all. (“On August 1, 1834, the *Slavery Abolition Act* took effect and laid a pathway to the liberation of over 800,000 enslaved Africans in Canada, the Caribbean, South America, and South Africa. Since then, people around the world have gathered on Emancipation Day to recognize the incredible courage, determination, and resilience of Black communities who fought for their freedom and for justice).”

(<https://www.pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2023/08/01/statement-prime-minister-emancipation-day#:~:text=%E2%80%9COn%20August%201%2C%201834%2C,South%20America%2C%20and%20South%20Africa>)

A September 2022 poll by Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies reveals that most Canadians either don't know (29%) or don't believe (32%) that slavery was ever legal in Canada. Some 39% of Canadians surveyed correctly believe that slavery was once legal in Canada. Detailed demographic results are provided in this report. The survey was conducted by the firm Leger for the Association for Canadian Studies during the first week of September 2022 with 1565 Canadians. A margin of error cannot be associated with a non-probability sample in a panel survey for comparative purposes a probability sample of 1,565 respondents would have a margin of error of ±2.5%, 19 times out of 20

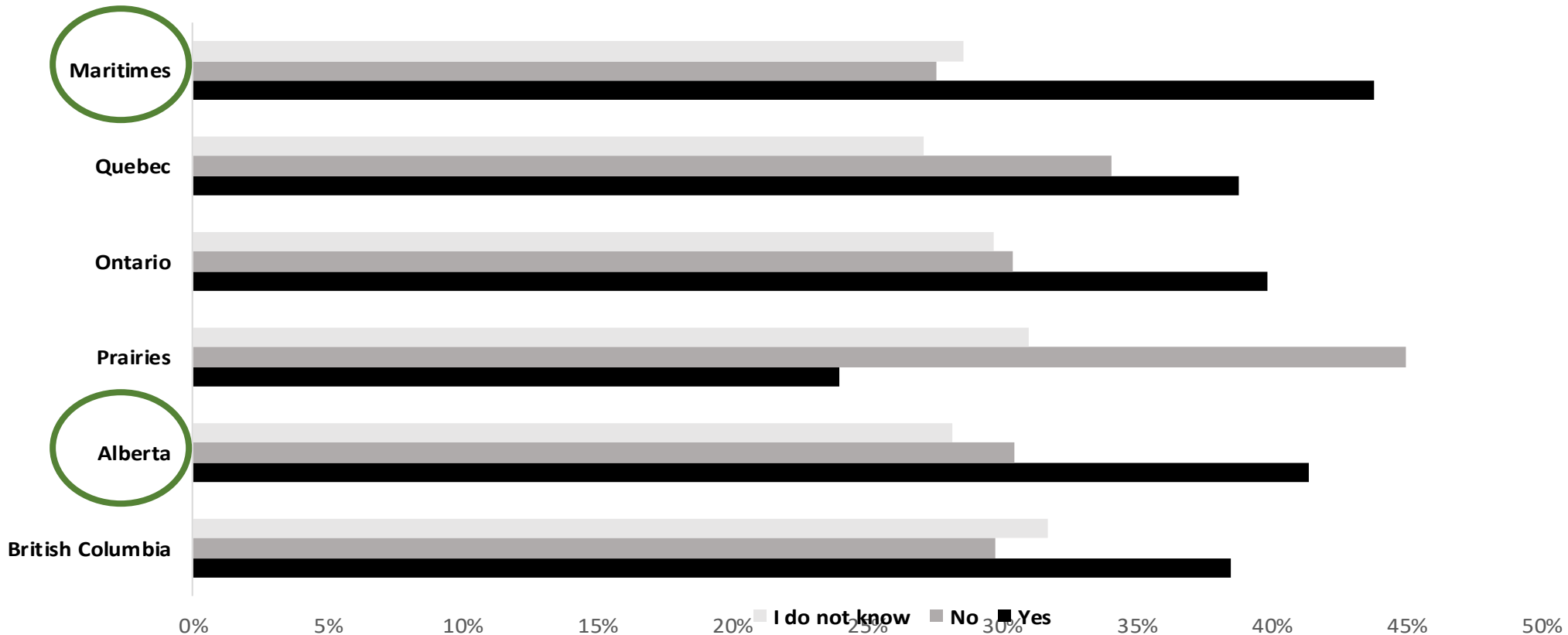
FOUR IN TEN CANADIANS BELIEVE THAT SLAVERY WAS LEGAL IN CANADA; ONE IN THREE SAY NO, AND THE REST DO NOT KNOW

To the best of your knowledge, was slavery ever legal in Canada? (%)

	British Columbia	Alberta	Prairies	Ontario	Quebec	Maritimes	Canada
Yes	38.5	41.4	24.0	39.9	38.8	43.8	38.9
No	29.8	30.5	45.0	30.4	34.1	27.6	31.9
I do not know	31.7	28.2	31.0	29.7	27.1	28.6	29.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

ATLANTIC CANADIANS AND ALBERTANS ARE MOST LIKELY TO BELIEVE THAT SLAVERY WAS ONCE LEGAL IN CANADA

To the best of your knowledge, was slavery ever legal in Canada?



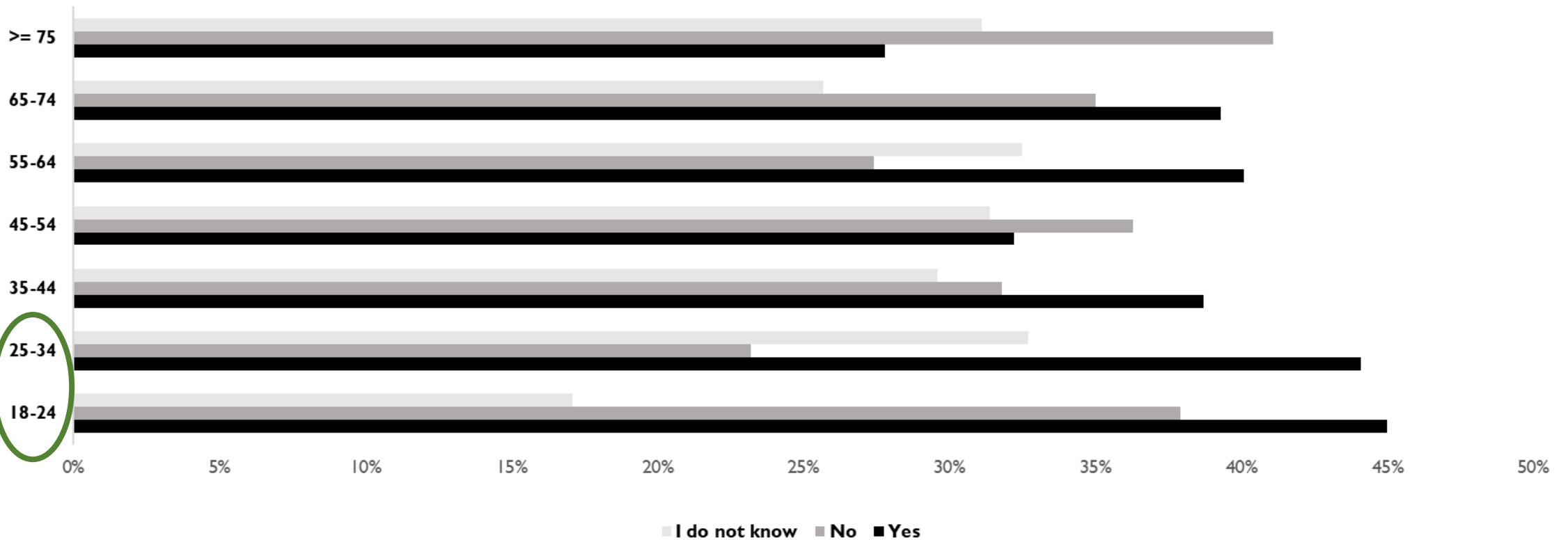
YOUNGER CANADIANS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BELIEVE THAT SLAVERY WAS ONCE LEGAL IN CANADA

To the best of your knowledge, was slavery ever legal in Canada? (%)

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	>= 75
Yes	45.0	44.1	38.7	32.2	40.1	39.3	27.8
No	37.9	23.2	31.8	36.3	27.4	35.0	41.1
I do not know	17.1	32.7	29.6	31.4	32.5	25.7	31.1
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

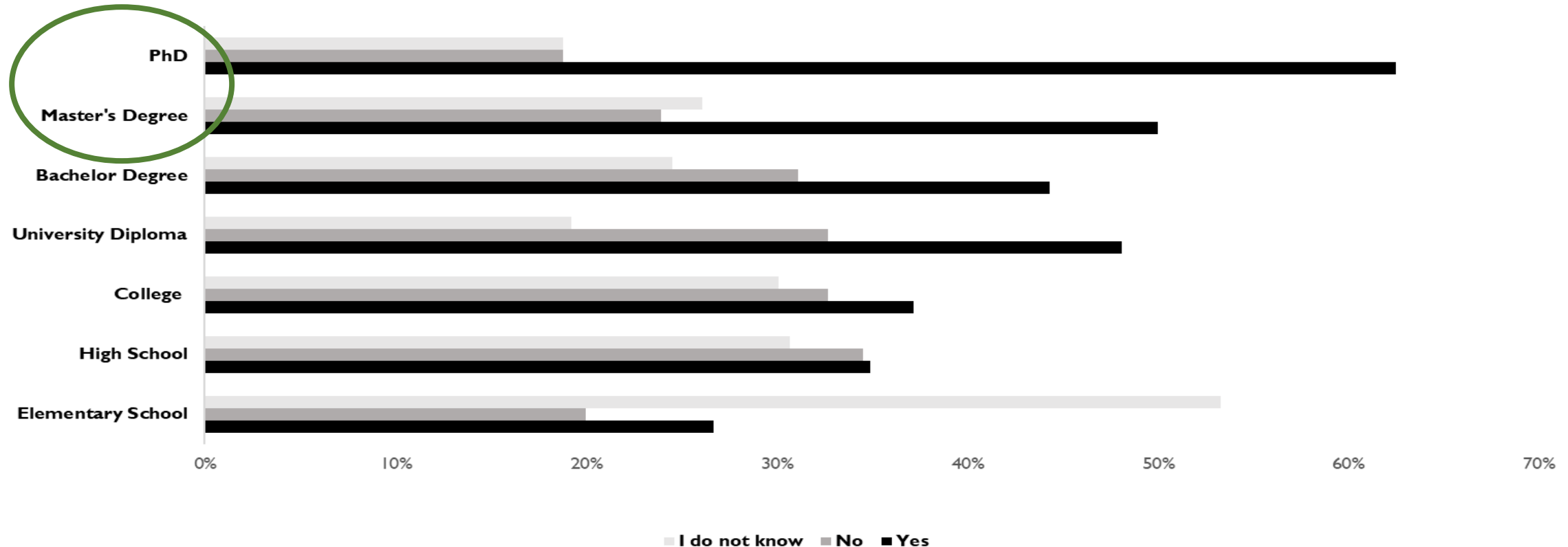
YOUNGER CANADIANS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BELIEVE THAT SLAVERY WAS ONCE LEGAL IN CANADA

To the best of your knowledge, was slavery ever legal in Canada?



CANADIANS WITH A HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT ARE MORE LIKELY TO BELIEVE THAT SLAVERY WAS ONCE LEGAL IN CANADA

To the best of your knowledge, was slavery ever legal in Canada?



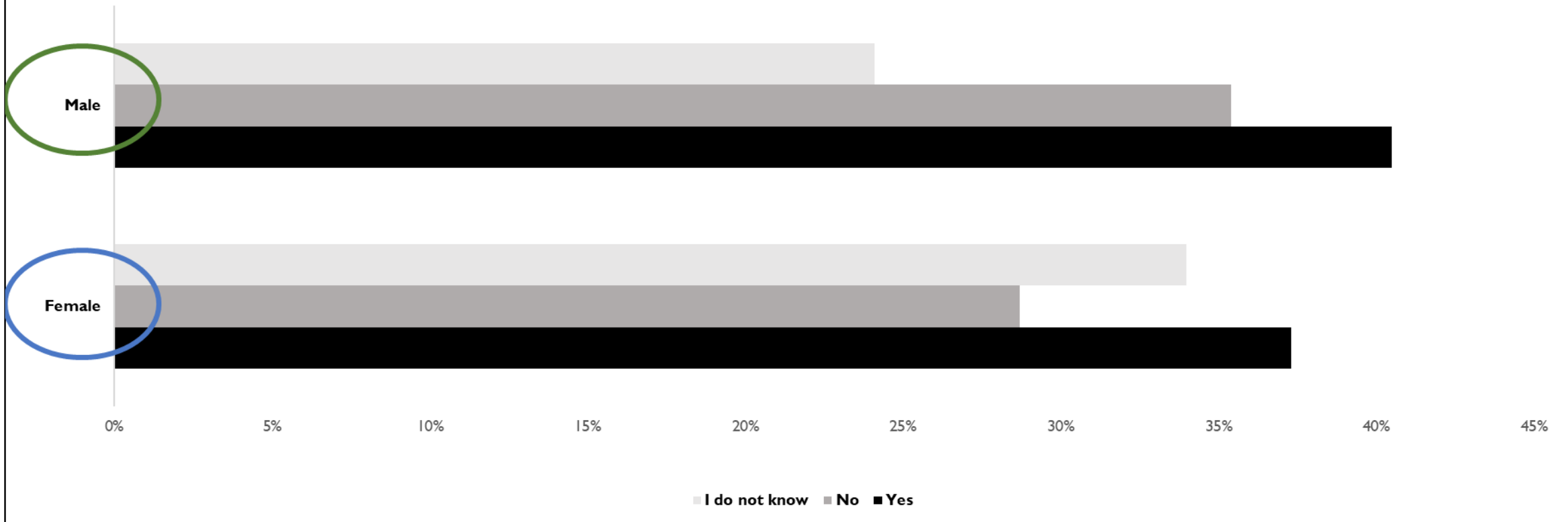
MEN ARE MORE LIKELY THAN WOMEN TO BELIEVE THAT SLAVERY WAS LEGAL IN CANADA, BUT ALSO MORE LIKELY TO DENY IT

To the best of your knowledge, was slavery ever legal in Canada? (%)

	Male	Female	Total
Yes	40.5	37.3	38.8
No	35.4	28.7	31.9
I do not know	24.1	34.0	29.2
Total	100	100	100

MALE CANADIANS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BELIEVE THAT SLAVERY WAS ONCE LEGAL IN CANADA

To the best of your knowledge, was slavery ever legal in Canada?



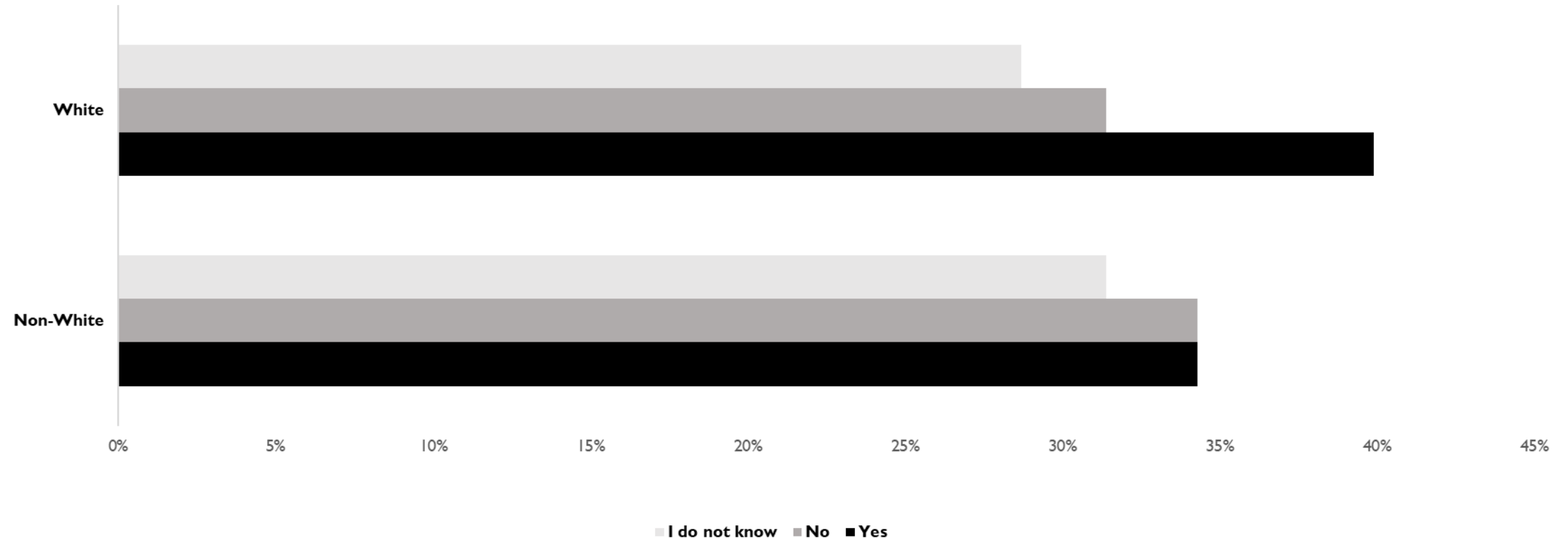
CANADIANS IDENTIFYING AS **WHITE** ARE MORE LIKELY TO BELIEVE THAT SLAVERY WAS ONCE LEGAL IN CANADA

To the best of your knowledge, was slavery ever legal in Canada? (%)

	Non-White / Visible Minorities	White	Total
Yes	34.3	39.9	38.8
No	34.3	31.4	31.9
I do not know	31.4	28.7	29.2
Total	100	100	100

CANADIANS IDENTIFYING AS WHITE ARE MORE LIKELY TO BELIEVE THAT SLAVERY WAS ONCE LEGAL IN CANADA

To the best of your knowledge, was slavery ever legal in Canada?



CANADIANS WHO ACKNOWLEDGE THE EXISTENCE OF SLAVERY ARE MORE LIKELY TO THINK THAT RACISM WAS AN IMPORTANT FEATURE OF OUR HISTORY

Racism has been an important feature of our entire history.
To what extent do you agree or disagree? (%)

To the best of your knowledge, was slavery ever legal in Canada?

	Yes	No	I do not Know	Total
Strongly Agree	33.2	22.8	21.9	26.6
Somewhat Agree	44.7	44.0	51.4	46.5
Somewhat Disagree	15.1	20.2	17.9	17.6
Strongly Disagree	6.9	13.0	8.8	9.4
Total	100	100	100	100

CANADIANS WHO ACKNOWLEDGE SLAVERY EXISTED ARE MORE LIKELY TO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS SUCH A THING AS RACE

In your opinion, is there such a thing as race?

To the best of your knowledge, was slavery ever legal in Canada?

	Yes	No	I do not Know	Total
Yes	73.5	62.8	61.1	66.5
No	22.2	27.4	20.6	23.4
I do not know	4.3	9.8	18.4	10.2
Total	100	100	100	100