

# CANADIANS' AWARENESS OF SLAVERY IN CANADA

JACK JEDWAB,

PRESIDENT, ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN STUDIES

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# INTRODUCTION

There were an **estimated 4,200 slaves** in the area of Canada (New France) and later the Canadas between 1671 and 1831. The number of Black slaves increased during British rule, especially with the arrival of United Empire Loyalists after 1783 with the Maritimes having 1,200 to 2,000 slaves prior to abolition by British authorities in 1833.

A **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.

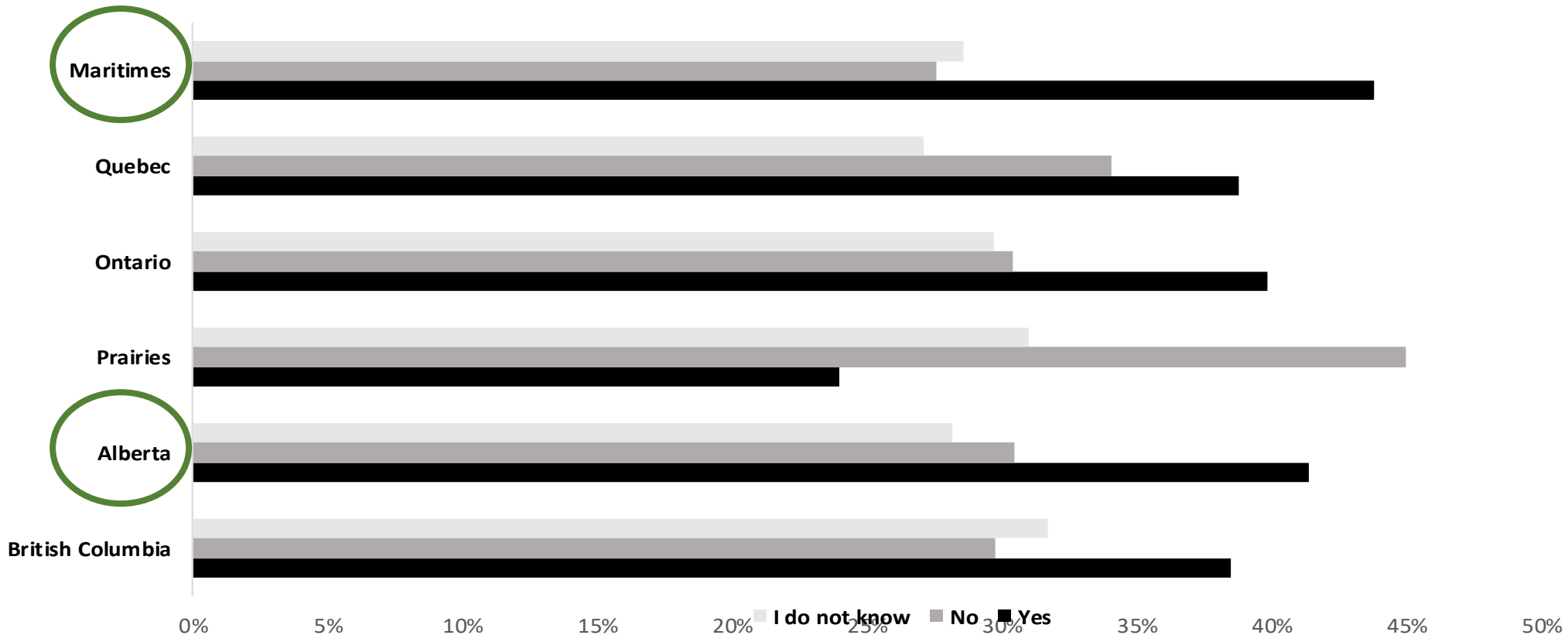
# FOUR IN TEN CANADIANS BELIEVE THAT SLAVERY WAS LEGAL IN CANADA; ONE IN THREE SAY NO, AND THE REST DO NOT KNOW

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

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



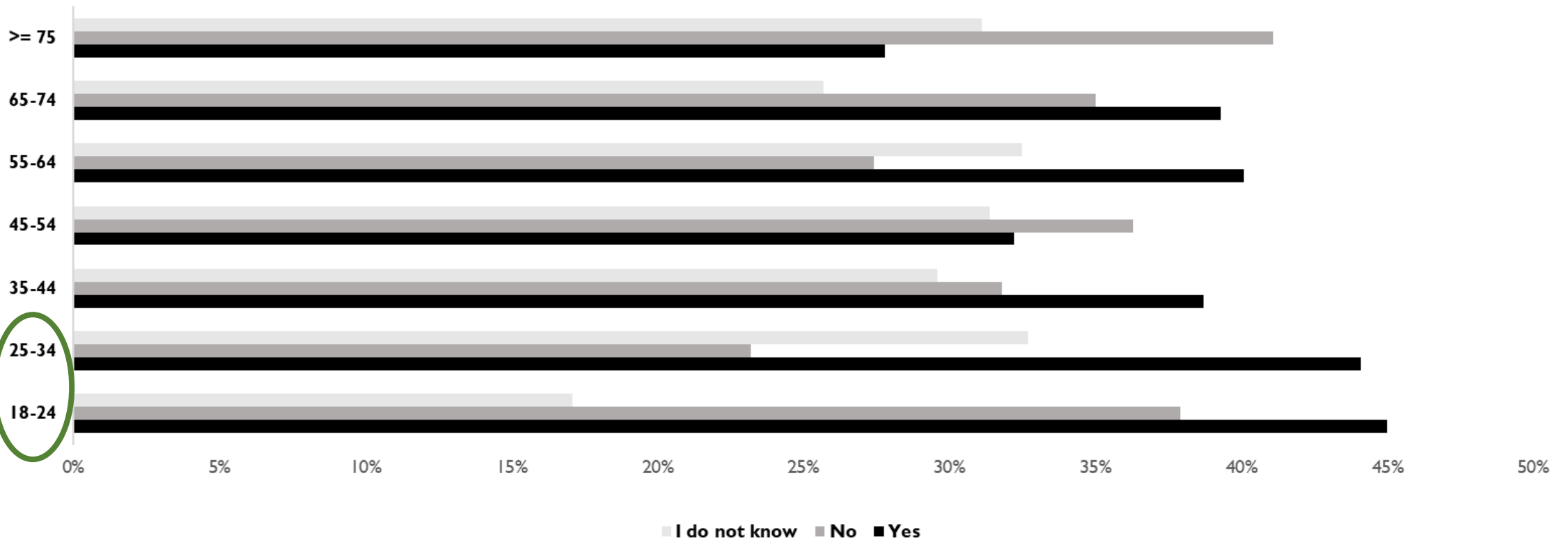
# YOUNGER CANADIANS ARE MORE LIKELY TO BELIEVE THAT SLAVERY WAS ONCE LEGAL IN CANADA

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

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



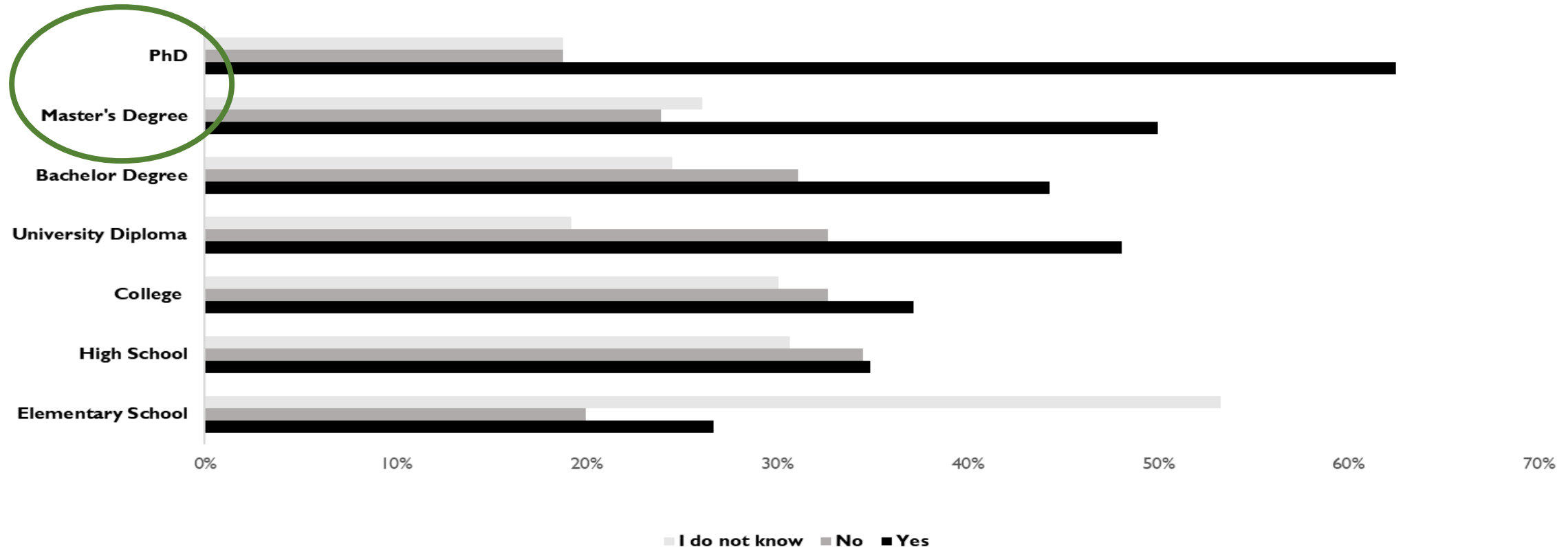
# CANADIANS WITH HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT ARE MORE LIKELY TO BELIEVE THAT SLAVERY WAS ONCE LEGAL IN CANADA

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

	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>High School</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>University Certificate</b>	<b>University Bachelor</b>	<b>Master's Degree</b>	<b>PhD</b>
<b>Yes</b>	26.7	34.9	37.2	48.1	44.3	50.0	62.5
<b>No</b>	20.0	34.5	32.7	32.7	31.1	23.9	18.8
<b>I do not know</b>	53.3	30.7	30.1	19.2	24.5	26.1	18.8
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

# 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?





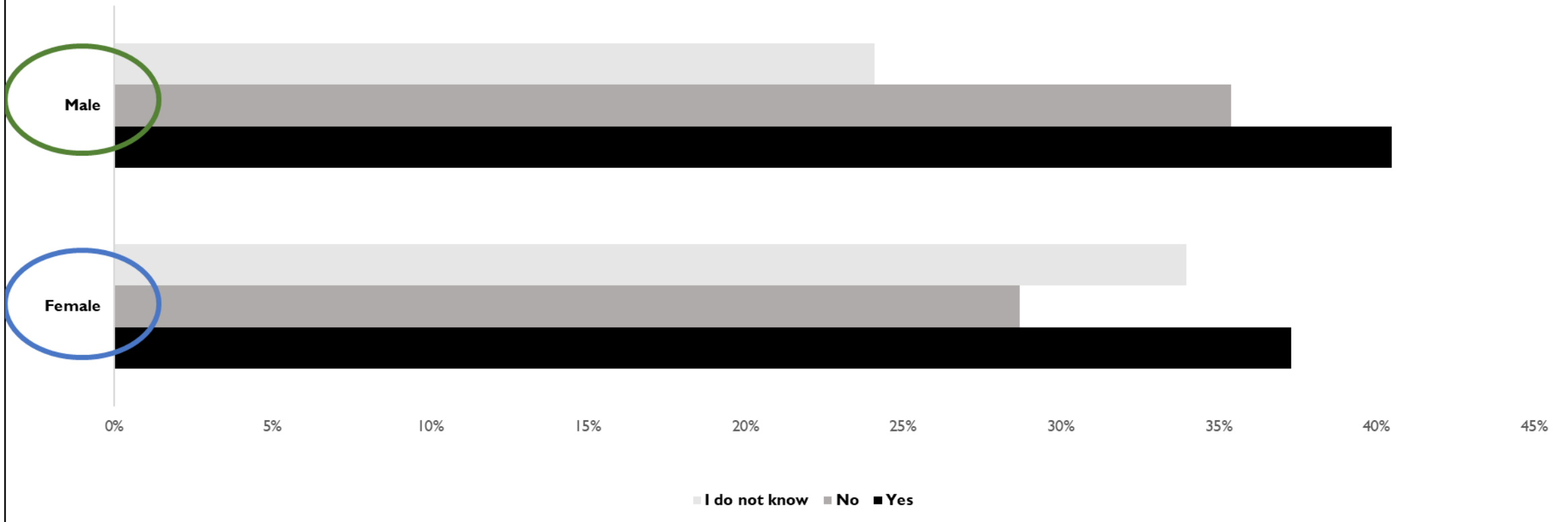
# MEN ARE MORE LIKELY THAN WOMEN TO BELIEVE THAT SLAVERY WAS LEGAL IN CANADA, BUT ALSO MORE LIKELY TO DENY IT

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

	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Yes</b>	40.5	37.3	38.8
<b>No</b>	35.4	28.7	31.9
<b>I do not know</b>	24.1	34.0	29.2
<b>Total</b>	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?



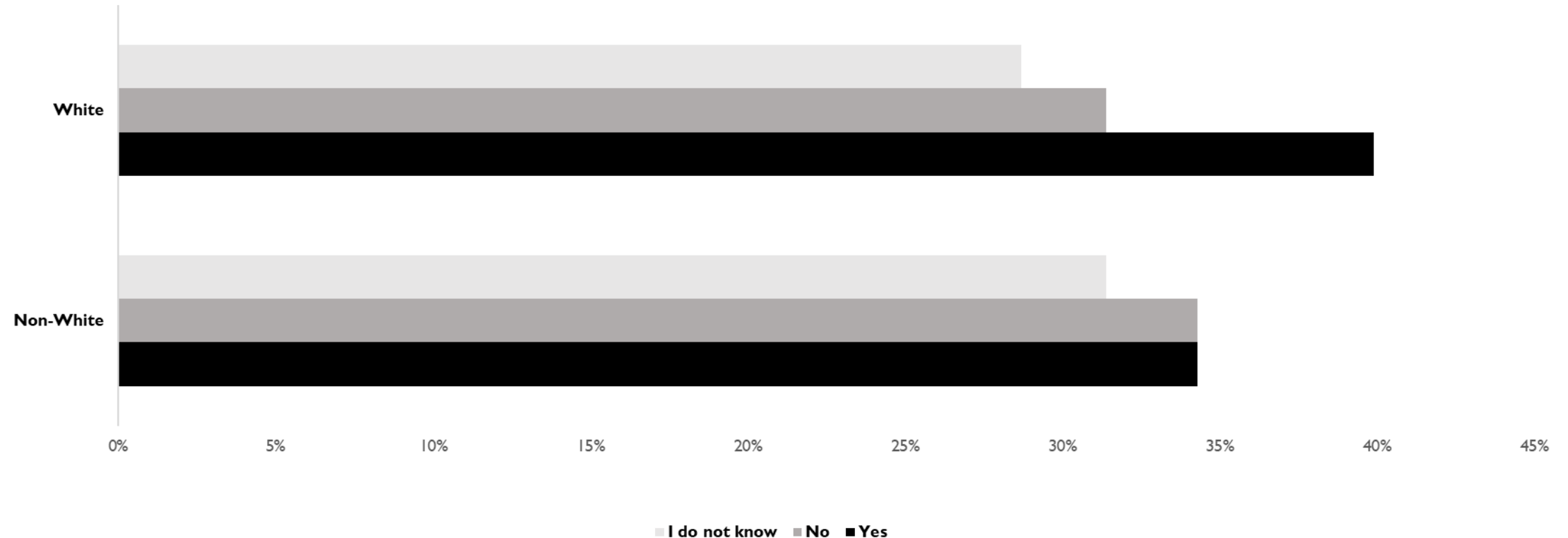
# CANADIANS IDENTIFYING AS **WHITE** ARE MORE LIKELY TO BELIEVE THAT SLAVERY WAS ONCE LEGAL IN CANADA

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

	<b>Non-White / Visible Minorities</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Yes</b>	34.3	39.9	38.8
<b>No</b>	34.3	31.4	31.9
<b>I do not know</b>	31.4	28.7	29.2
<b>Total</b>	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?*

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>I do not Know</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	33.2	22.8	21.9	26.6
<b>Somewhat Agree</b>	44.7	44.0	51.4	46.5
<b>Somewhat Disagree</b>	15.1	20.2	17.9	17.6
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	6.9	13.0	8.8	9.4
<b>Total</b>	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?*

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