



The Unheard Third 2010

No Recovery in Sight: The Jobs Crisis for Low-Income New Yorkers

October 2010

Methodology

The Community Service Society designed this survey in collaboration with Lake Research Partners, who administered the survey by phone using professional interviewers. The survey was conducted from July 7 to August 8, 2010.

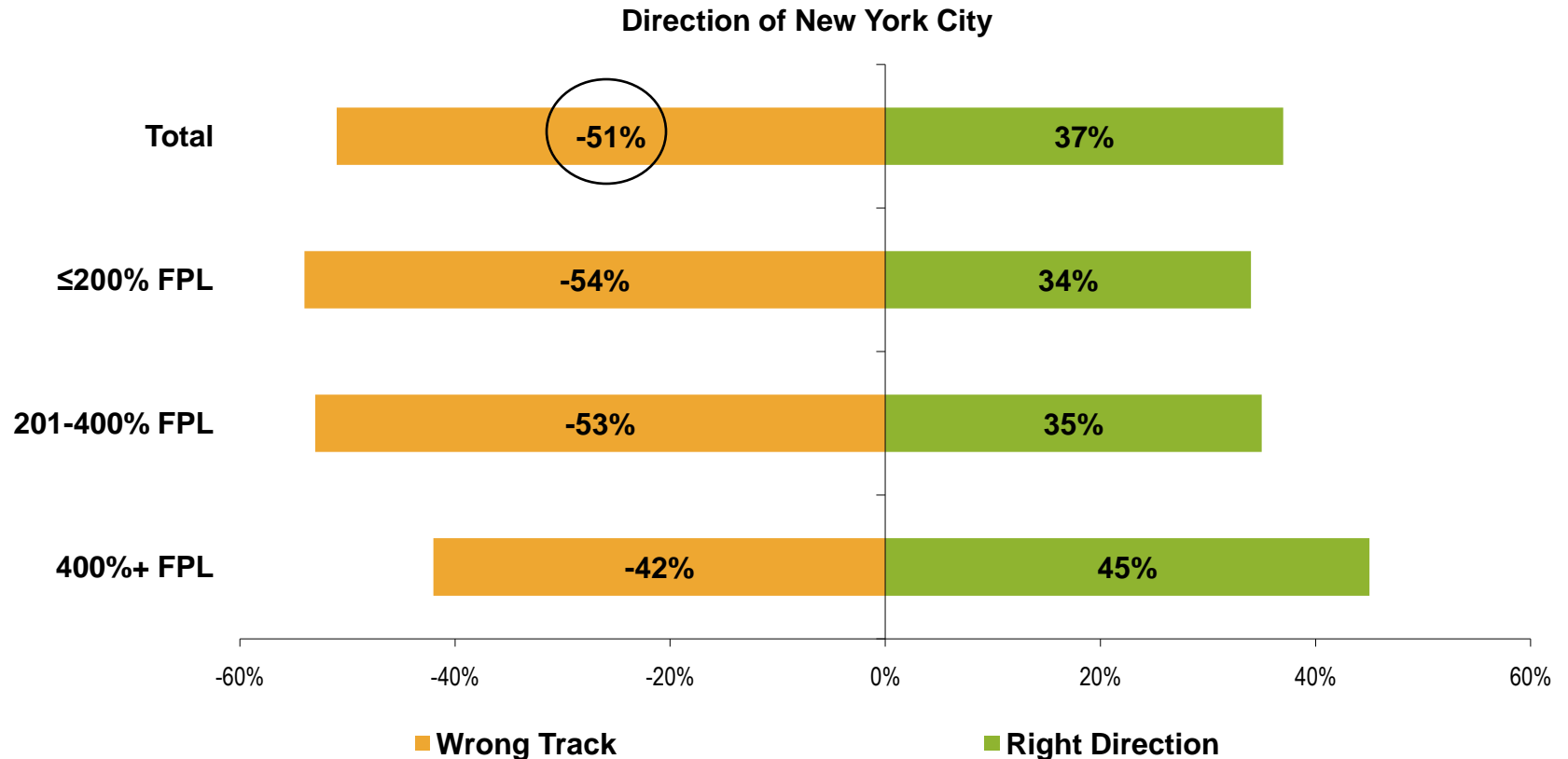
The survey reached a total of **1,414 New York City residents**, age 18 or older, divided into two samples:

- **900 low-income** residents (up to 200% of federal poverty standards, or FPL) comprise the first sample:
 - **508 poor** respondents, from households earning **at or below 100% FPL**
 - **392 near-poor** respondents, from households earning **101% - 200% FPL**
- **514 moderate- and higher-income** residents (above 200% FPL) comprise the second sample:
 - **312 moderate-income** respondents, from households earning **201% - 400% FPL**
 - **202 higher-income** respondents, from households earning **above 400% FPL**.
- This year's survey also included an oversample of **200 cell phone** interviews among adult residents at up to 400% FPL.

Telephone numbers for the low income sample were drawn using random digit dial (RDD) among exchanges in census tracts with an average annual income of no more than \$40,000. Telephone numbers for the higher income sample were drawn using RDD in exchanges in the remaining census tracts. The data were weighted slightly by gender, age, region, immigration status, education and race in order to ensure that it accurately reflects the demographic configuration of these populations. In the combined totals respondents in the low income sample were weighted down to reflect their actual proportion among all residents. Also, in the combined totals, the sample is weighted by telephone status. Interviews were conducted in English, Spanish and Chinese.

In interpreting survey results, all sample surveys are subject to possible sampling error; that is, the results of a survey may differ from those which would be obtained if the entire population were interviewed. The size of the sampling error depends upon both the total number of respondents in the survey and the percentage distribution of responses to a particular question. The margin of error for the low income component is +/- 3.3%. The margin of error for the higher income component is +/-4.4%.

Half of New Yorkers think the city is off on the wrong track. Negativity is strongest among low- and moderate-income respondents, and has increased among all income levels in the past year.

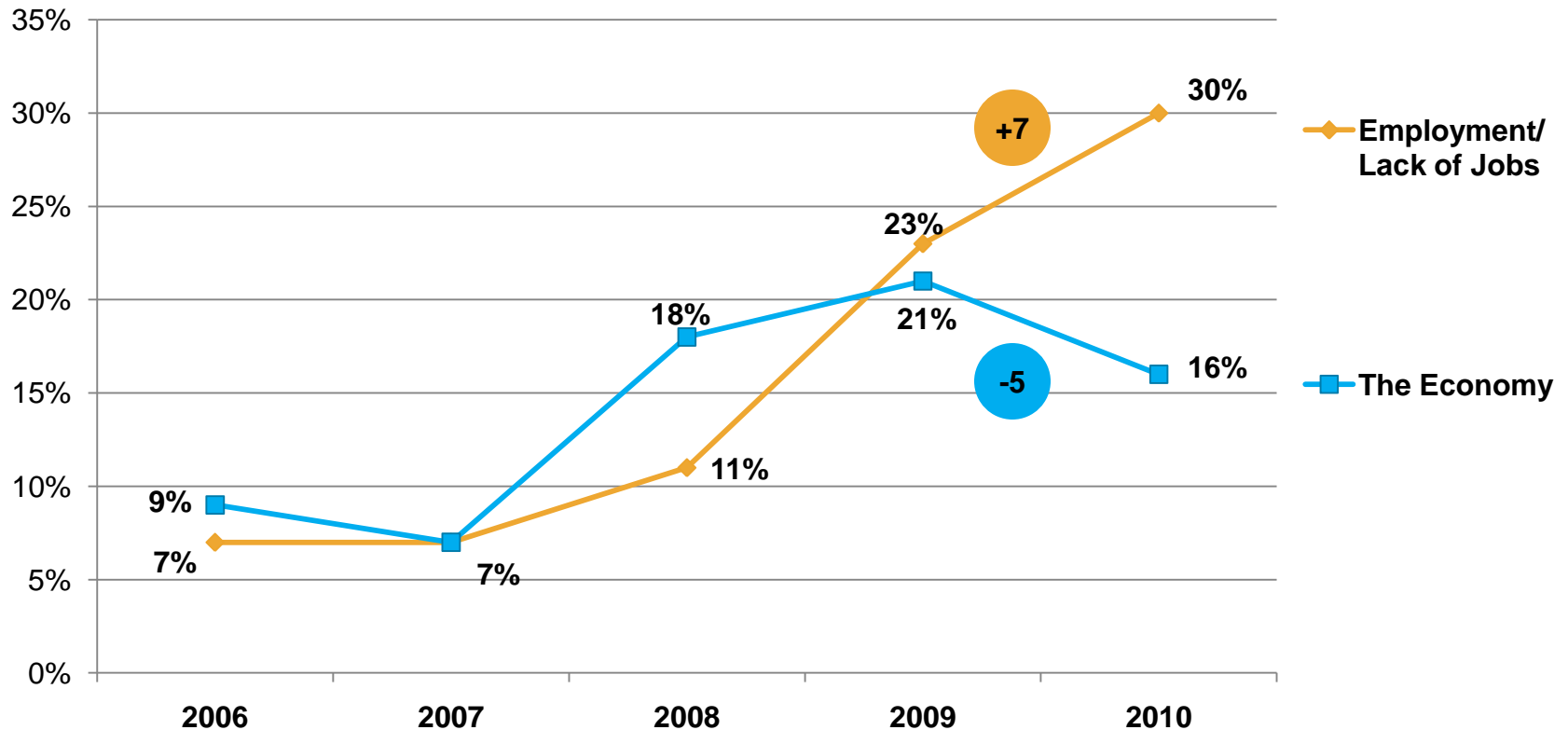


New Yorkers say the biggest problem in the city today is the lack of jobs/employment. More than half of low-income respondents cite either the lack of jobs or the economy as the top issue.

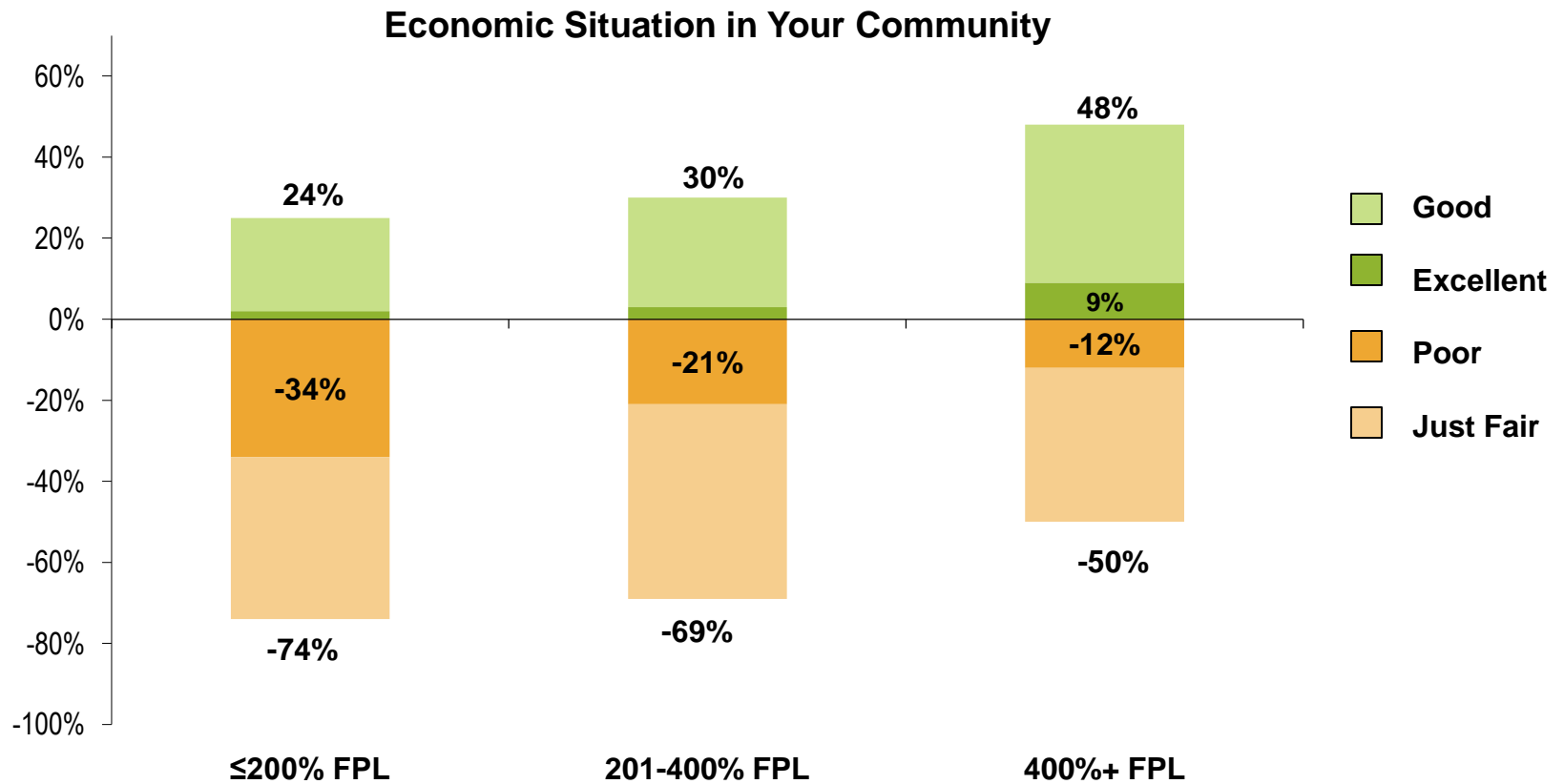
Biggest Problem Facing NYC Today (volunteered responses)			
	≤200% FPL	201-400% FPL	400%+ FPL
Lack of jobs/employment	36%	29%	19%
Economy/finances/money problems	16%	18%	15%
Public safety (crime, guns, drugs, gangs, violence)	15%	14%	8%
Transportation (mass transit/subway) /infrastructure	7%	11%	11%
Housing/affordable housing	6%	5%	7%
Cost of living/ everything too expensive	6%	4%	3%
Government budget: deficits, inadequate budgets	5%	7%	10%
Education/schools	3%	8%	18%
Politics/ political affiliation	3%	3%	4%
Terrorism / Homeland Security	3%	4%	1%
Health care/insurance/prescriptions drugs	3%	3%	0%
Taxes	2%	3%	6%
Poverty/homelessness	1%	0%	4%

As the recession continues, the intense focus on jobs has eclipsed general concerns with the economy among city residents.

Biggest Problem Facing NYC: Jobs vs. The Economy



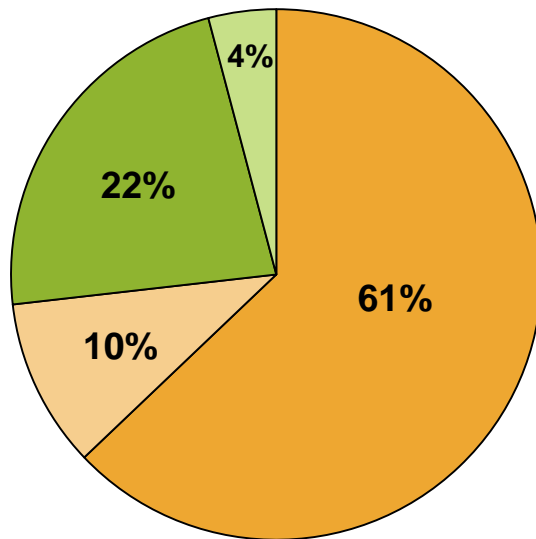
Almost 3 in 4 low-income and 7 in 10 moderate-income New Yorkers say the current economic situation in their communities is “just fair” or “poor.”



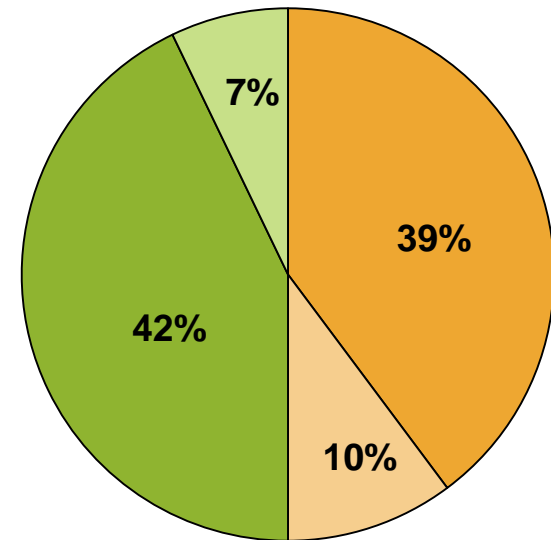
Low- and moderate-income New Yorkers share an economic pessimism—more than 6 in 10 consider the economic situation in their communities to be “just fair” or “poor” and think things are staying the same or getting worse, compared to 4 in 10 higher-income respondents.

Economic Outlook for Your Community

**Low- and Moderate-Income
(≤400% FPL)**

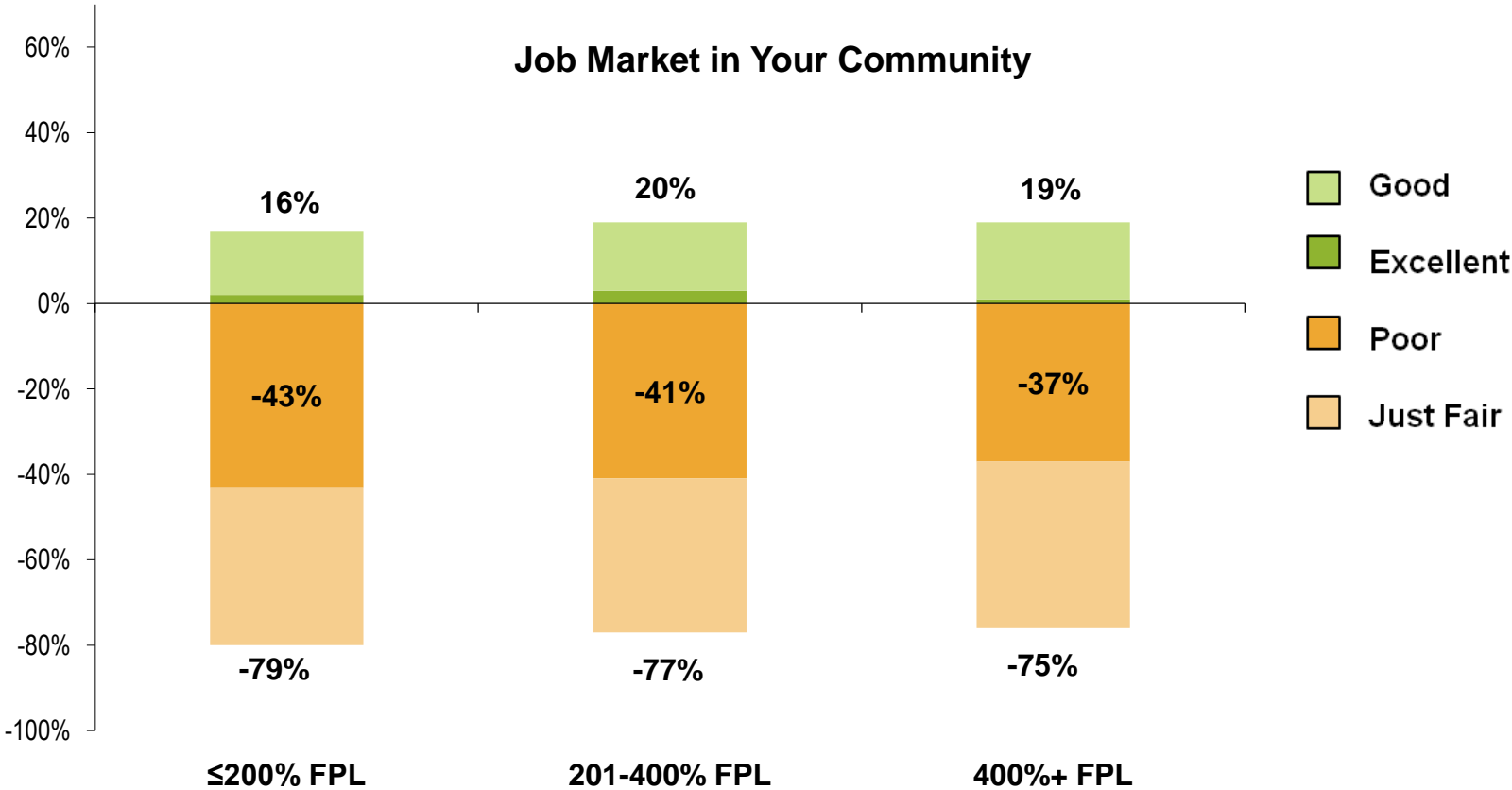


**Higher-Income
(400%+ FPL)**



- Bad and staying the same or getting worse
- Bad but looking up
- Good and staying the same or looking up
- Good but getting worse

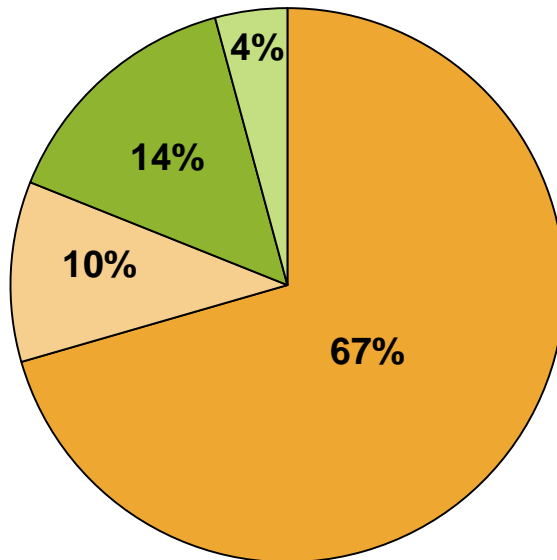
New Yorkers are even more negative regarding the job market in their communities than about the economic situation in general. They share broad agreement on this point: at least 3 in 4 New Yorkers across income think the job market is “just fair” or “poor.”



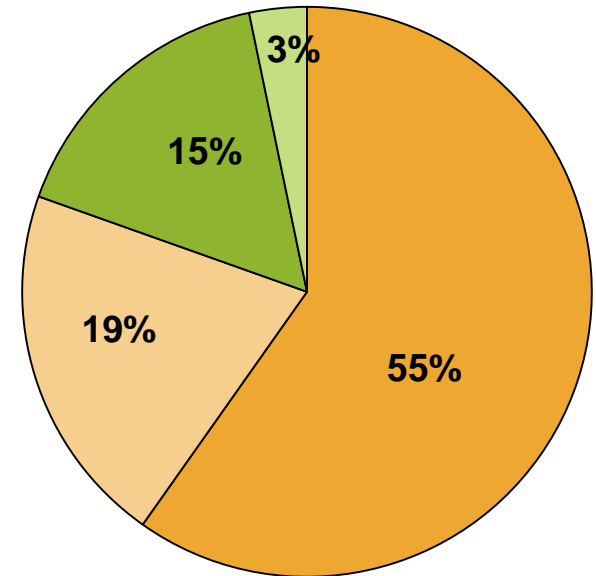
Two-thirds of low- and moderate-income and more than half of higher-income New Yorkers say the job market in their communities is bad and staying the same or getting worse.

Job Market Outlook In Your Community

Low- and Moderate-Income
(≤400% FPL)

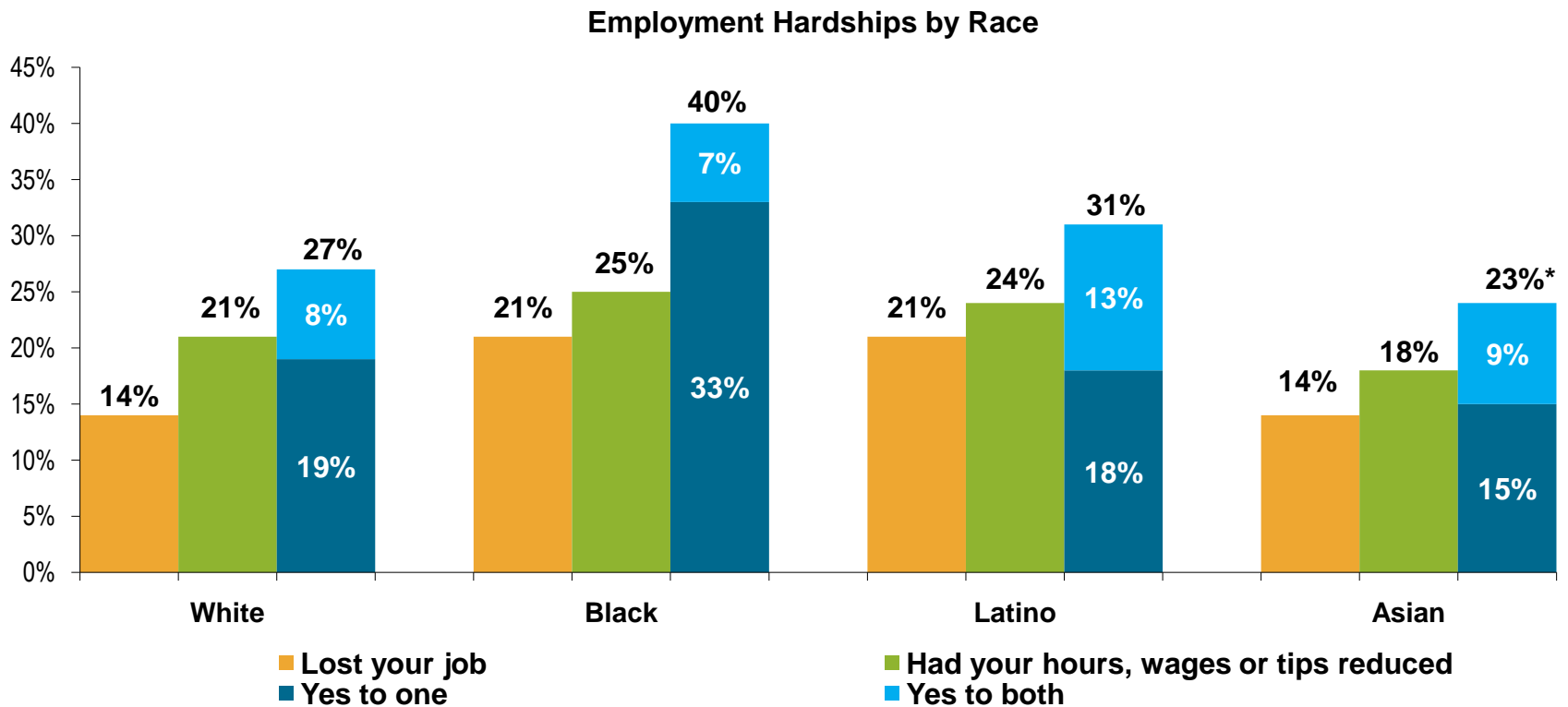


Higher-Income
(400% + FPL)



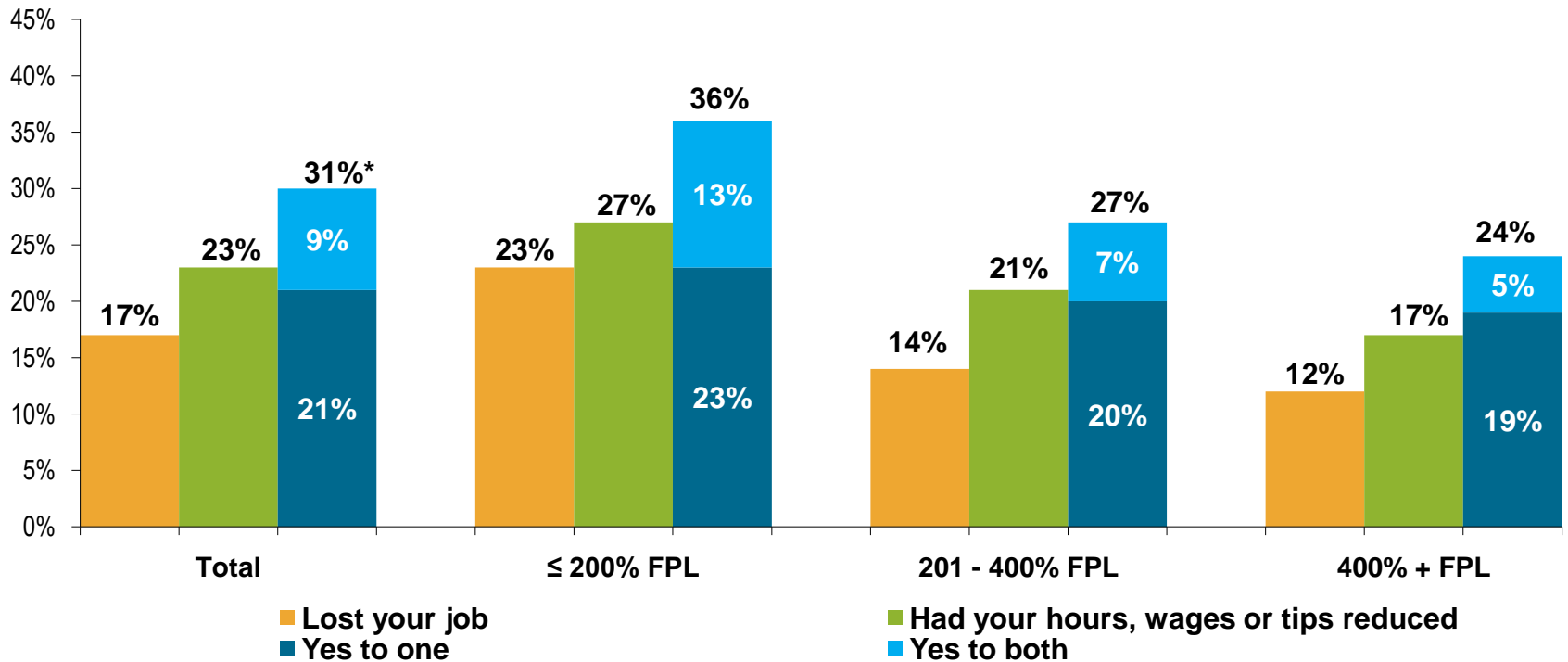
- Bad and staying the same or getting worse
- Bad but looking up
- Good and staying the same or looking up
- Good but getting worse

Job losses and reductions are still rampant. In the past year, 4 in 10 blacks and 3 in 10 Latinos in New York City either lost a job or had their hours, wages or tips reduced—or both.



Job losses and reductions have disproportionately hit low-income workers. Close to 1 in 4 low-income respondents—23 percent—reported losing a job in the past year.

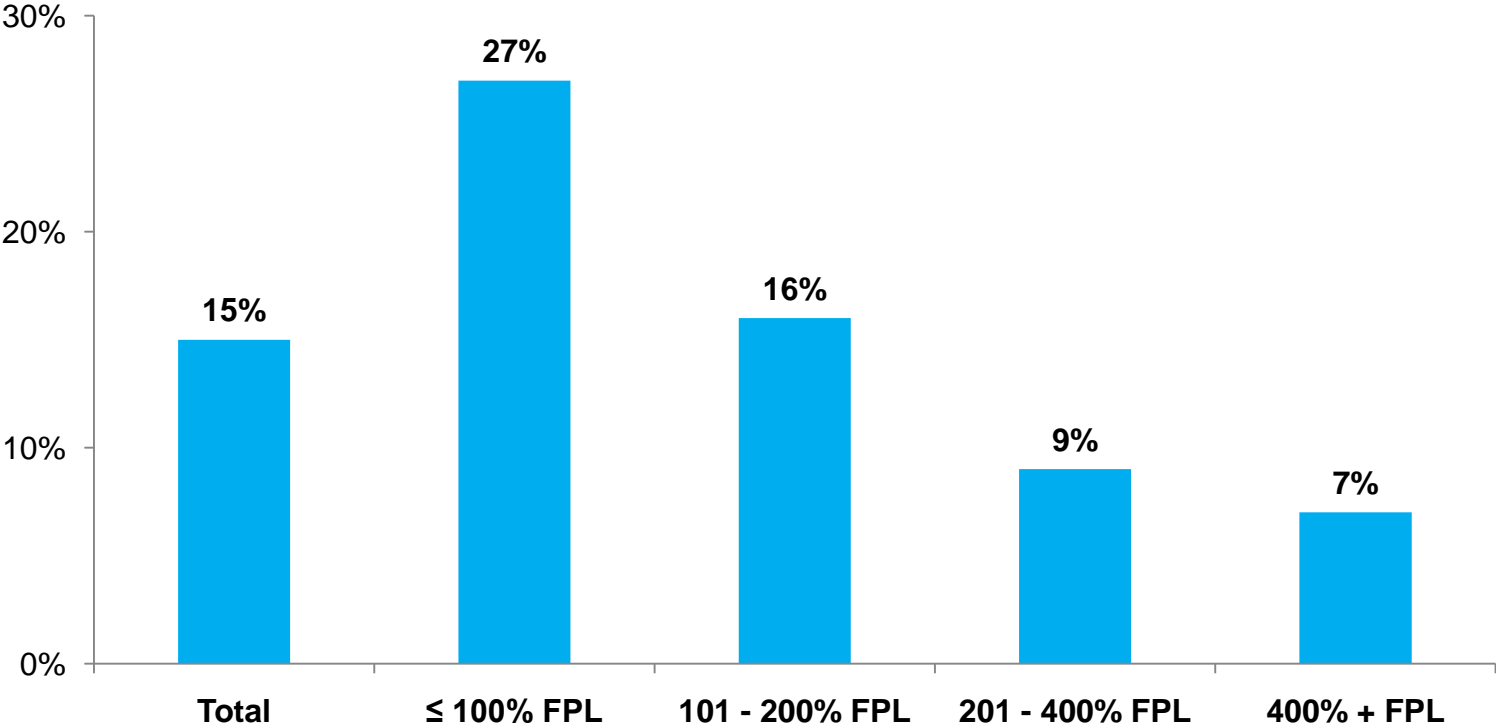
Employment Hardships by Household Income



*Numbers don't add exactly due to rounding

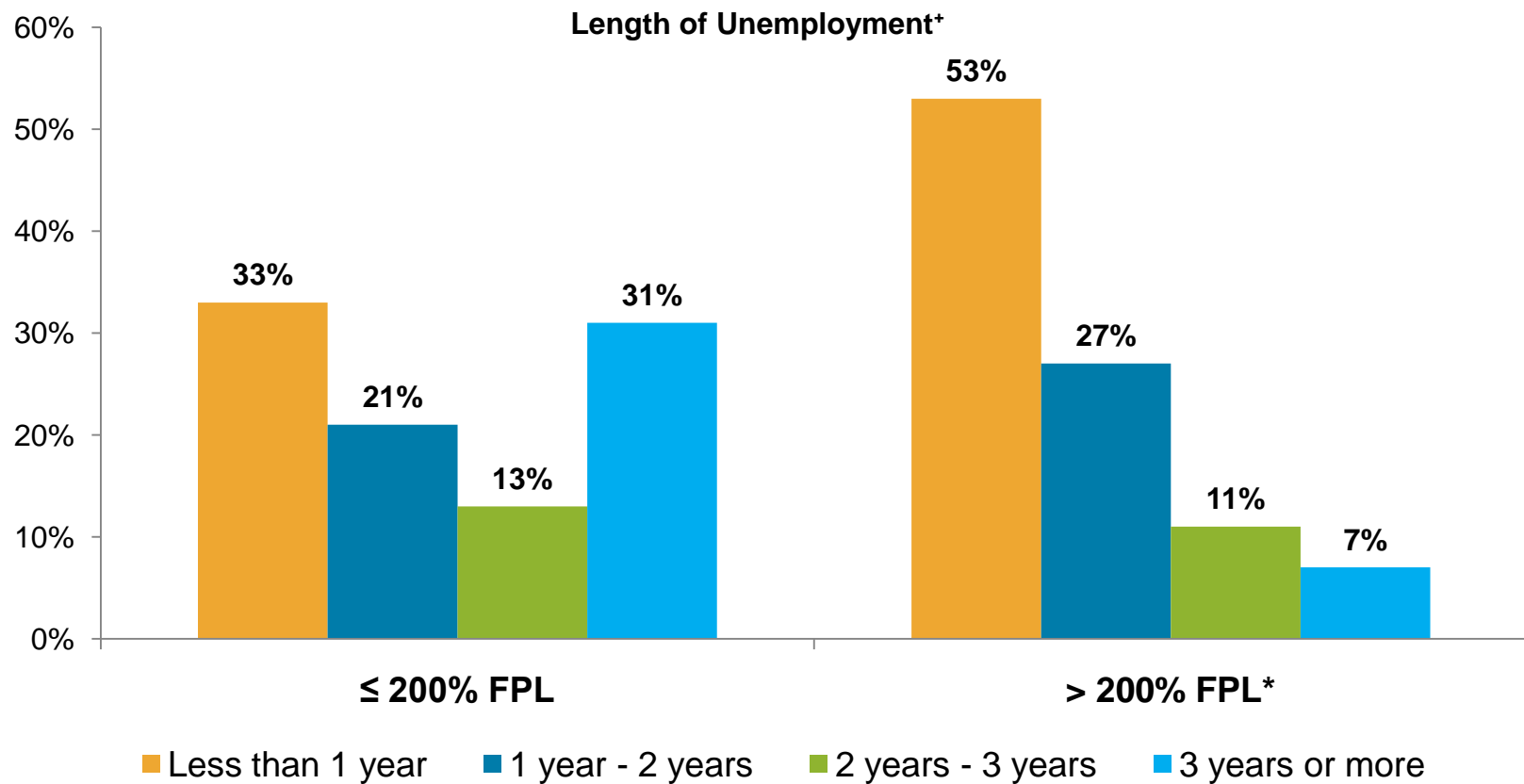
Unemployment is most pronounced among the poor—27 percent of respondents from households earning at or below the federal poverty level report being unemployed.

Unemployment* by Household Income



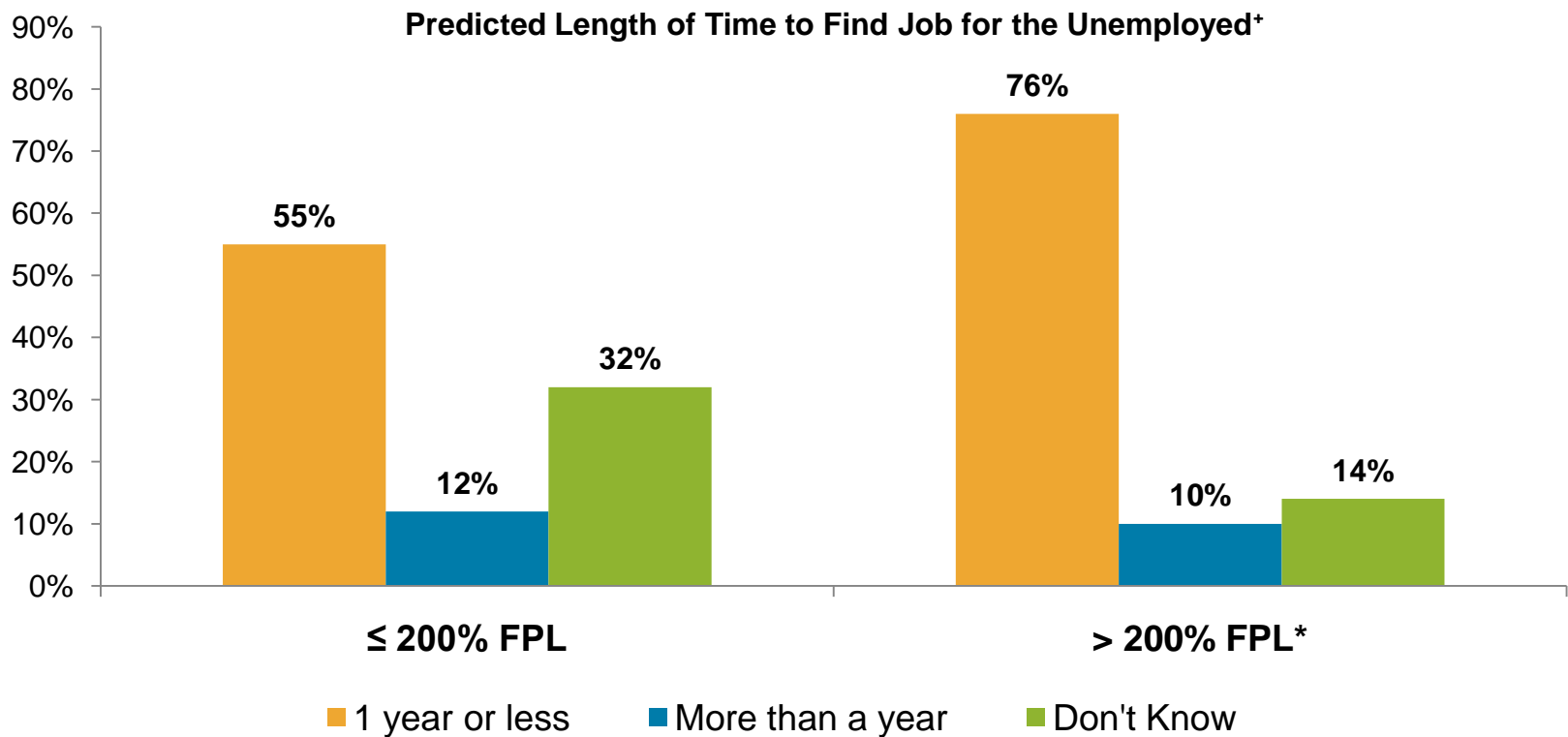
* Excludes full-time students

Two-thirds of unemployed, low-income New Yorkers have been out of work for more than a year, with 31 percent jobless for 3 years or more.



* Small n size + Excluding those who say they never held a job

Among the unemployed, 3 in 4 moderate- and higher-income respondents think they can find a new job within a year, compared to 55 percent of low-income respondents. Almost one-third of low-income respondents cannot even guess how long it will take to find a job.

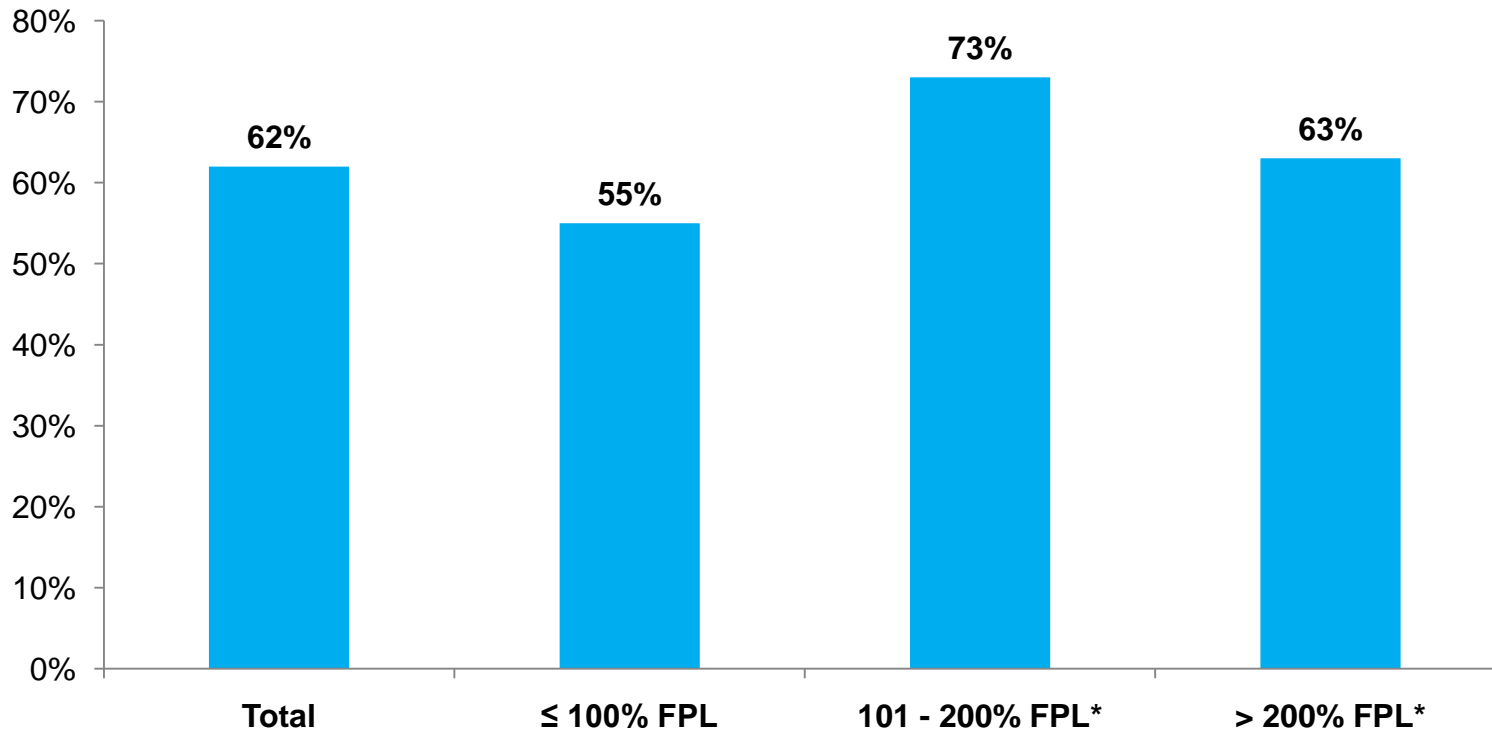


* Small n size

+ Excluding those who say they never held a job

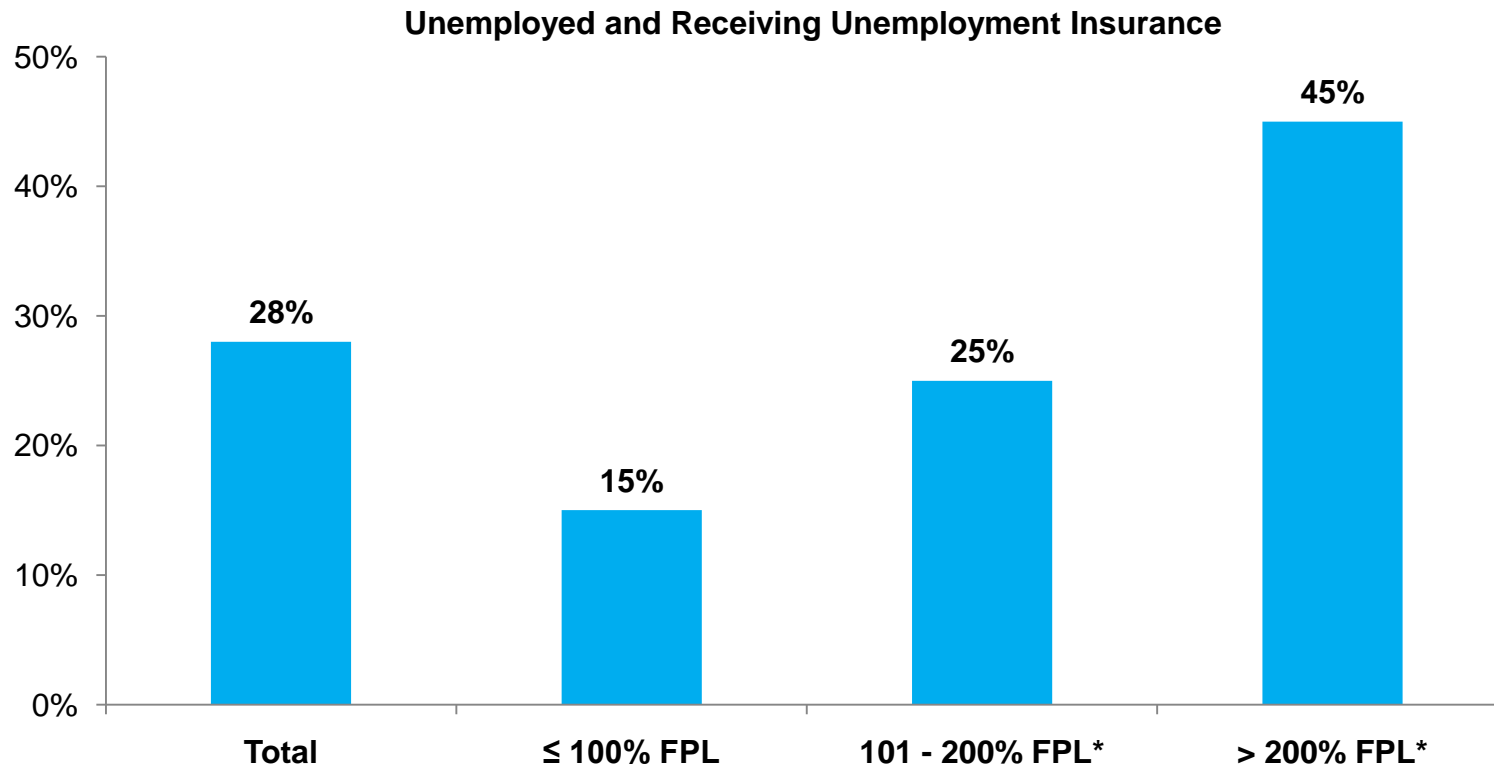
Most of the unemployed in New York City are still actively looking for work.

Unemployed and Actively Looking for Work



* Small n size

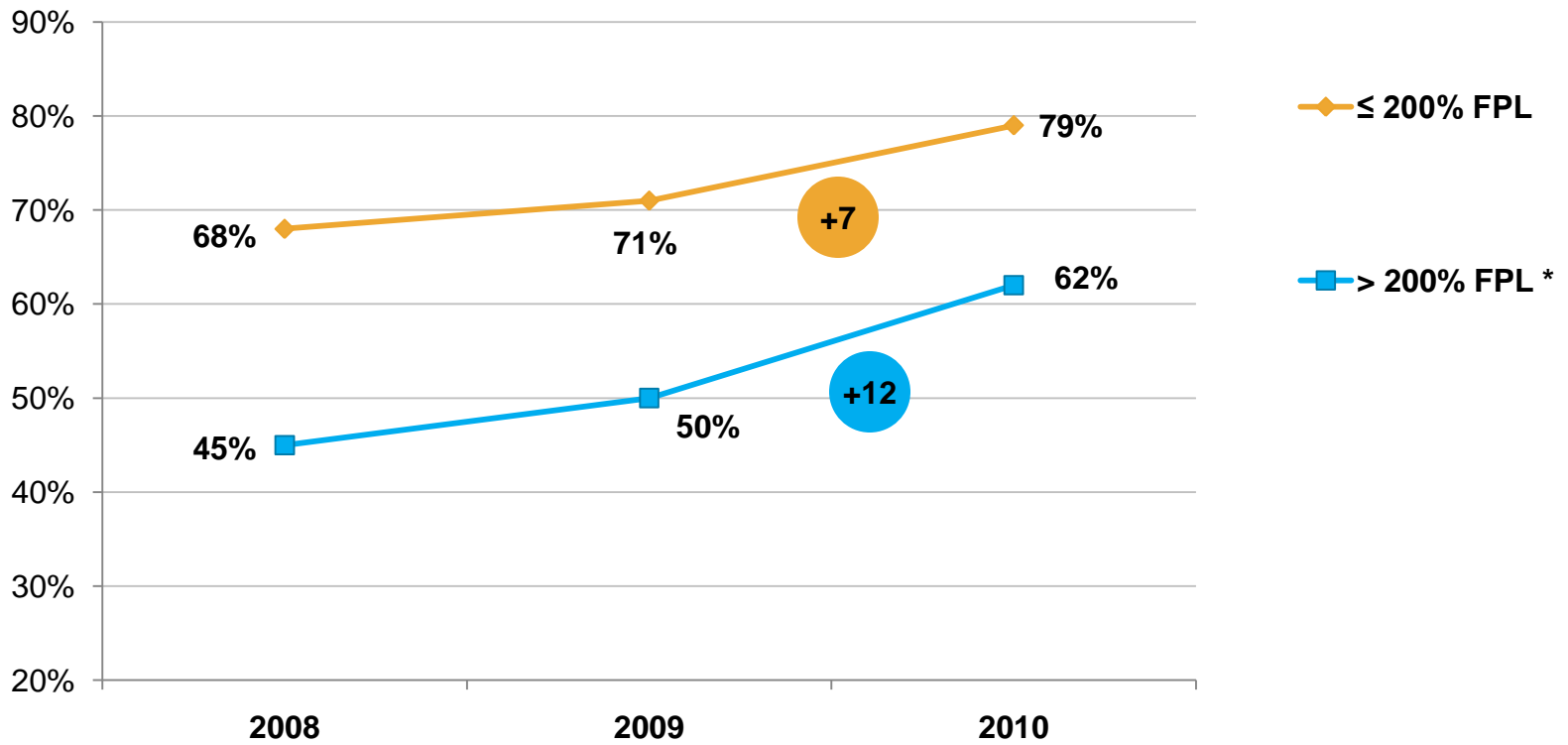
Fewer than 3 in 10 unemployed New Yorkers receive unemployment insurance. Jobless adults from households with lower incomes are less likely to report receiving unemployment insurance.



* Small n size

Even for those who are working, many do not have enough hours. Almost 8 in 10 low-income and 6 in 10 higher-income, part-time employees want to work more hours. The share of part-time workers who want to work more has increased since 2008, and especially in the past year.

Part-Time Workers who Want to Work More Hours

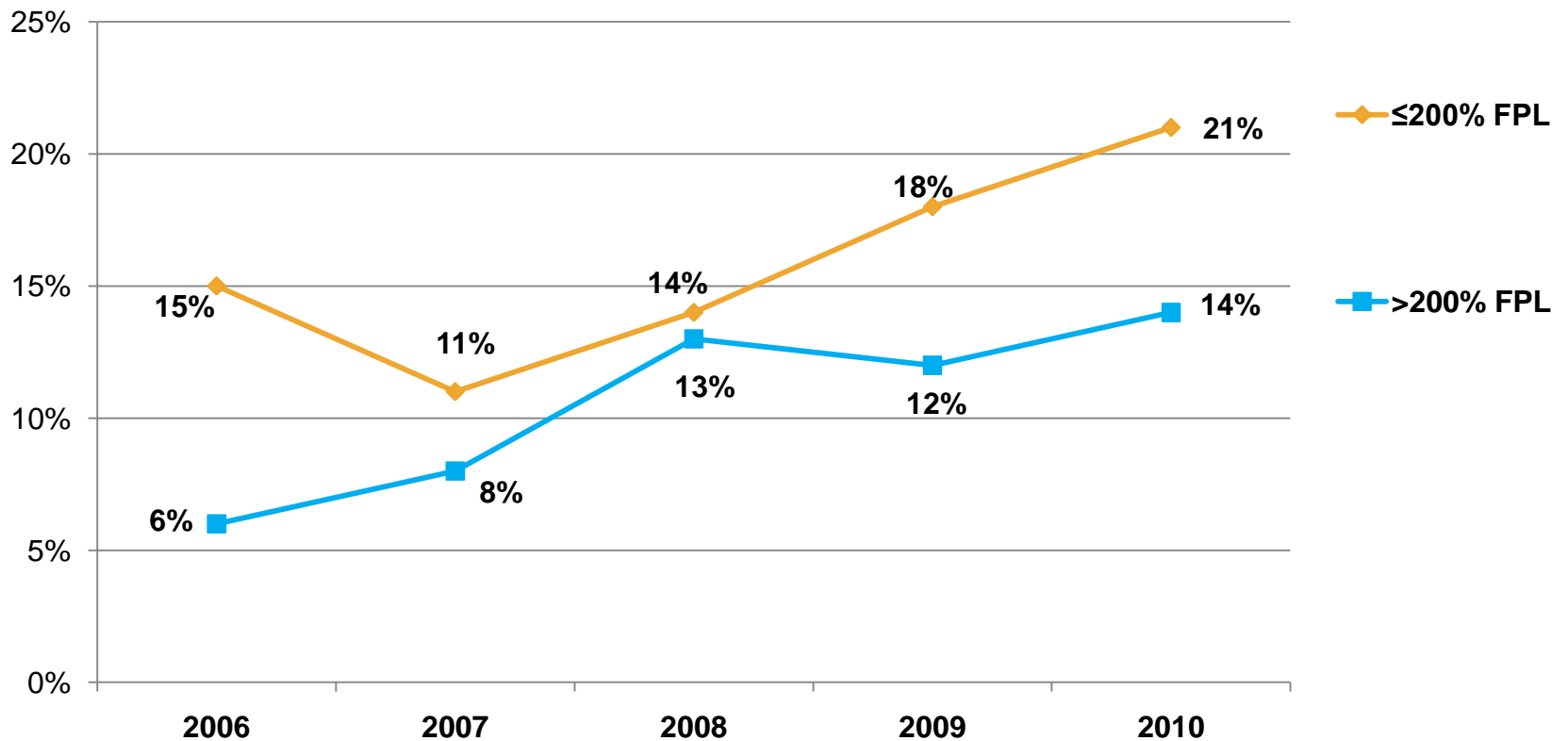


Finding or keeping a job and health care are the top two concerns for low- and moderate-income New Yorkers. Higher-income New Yorkers worry most about health care and prescription drugs as well as retirement security.

Top Personal Worry (selected from list)			
	≤200% FPL	201-400% FPL	400%+ FPL
Finding or keeping a job	21%	17%	11%
Health care and prescription drugs	16%	17%	23%
Crime, drugs and gangs	10%	11%	8%
Housing	8%	5%	6%
Retirement security	7%	9%	14%
Fear of another terrorist attack	7%	3%	7%
Schools and college tuition	6%	12%	13%
Getting enough hours to support my family	6%	7%	2%
Debts and credit card debt	4%	5%	6%
The wages and benefits at work	3%	4%	4%
Child care	2%	2%	--

Finding and keeping a job has steadily risen as the top concern of poor and near-poor city residents since 2007. It has also risen as a concern among moderate- and higher-income New Yorkers.

Biggest Personal Worry: Finding Or Keeping a Job

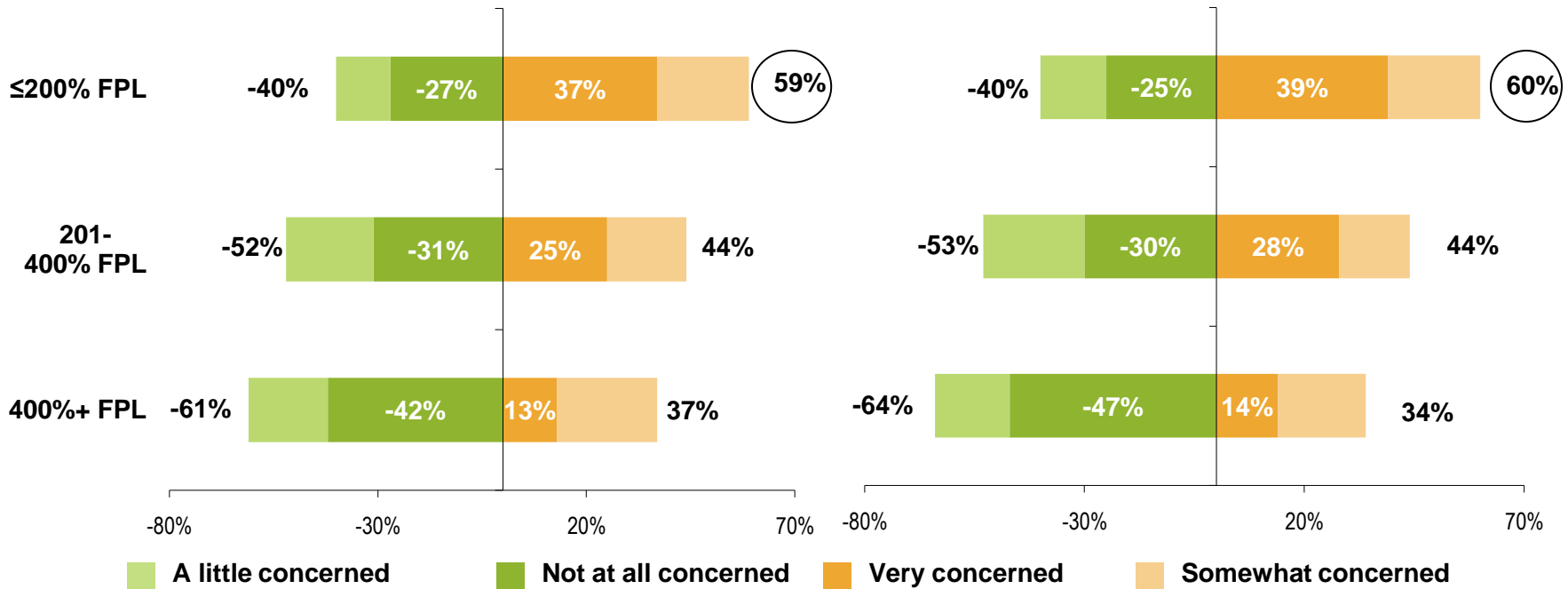


The majority of low-income New Yorkers worry that they or someone in their households will lose their jobs or not work enough hours to make ends meet in the next year.

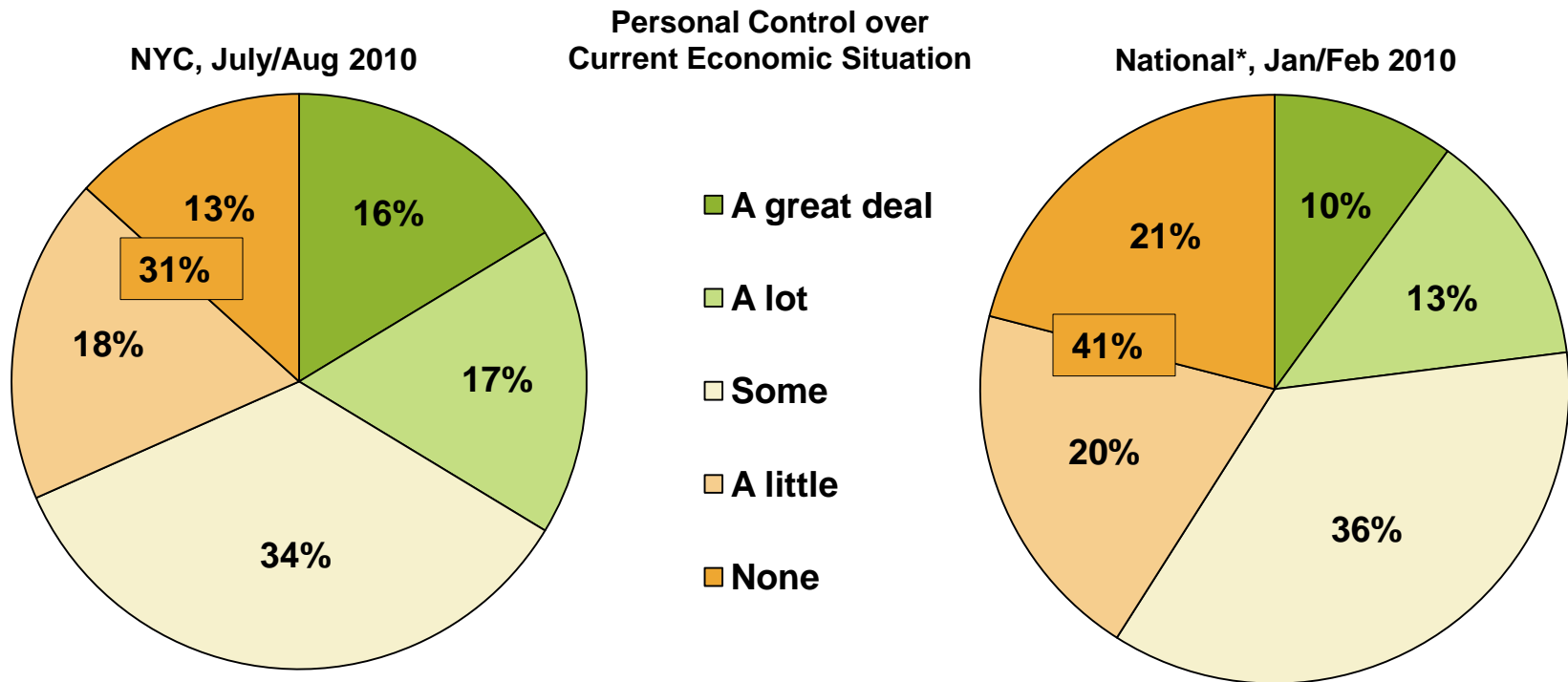
Future Economic Insecurity: Employment and Underemployment

Thinking about the next 12 months, how concerned are you that you or someone in your household **will be out of a job**?

Thinking about the next 12 months, how concerned are you that you or someone in your household **will not be working enough hours to make ends meet**?



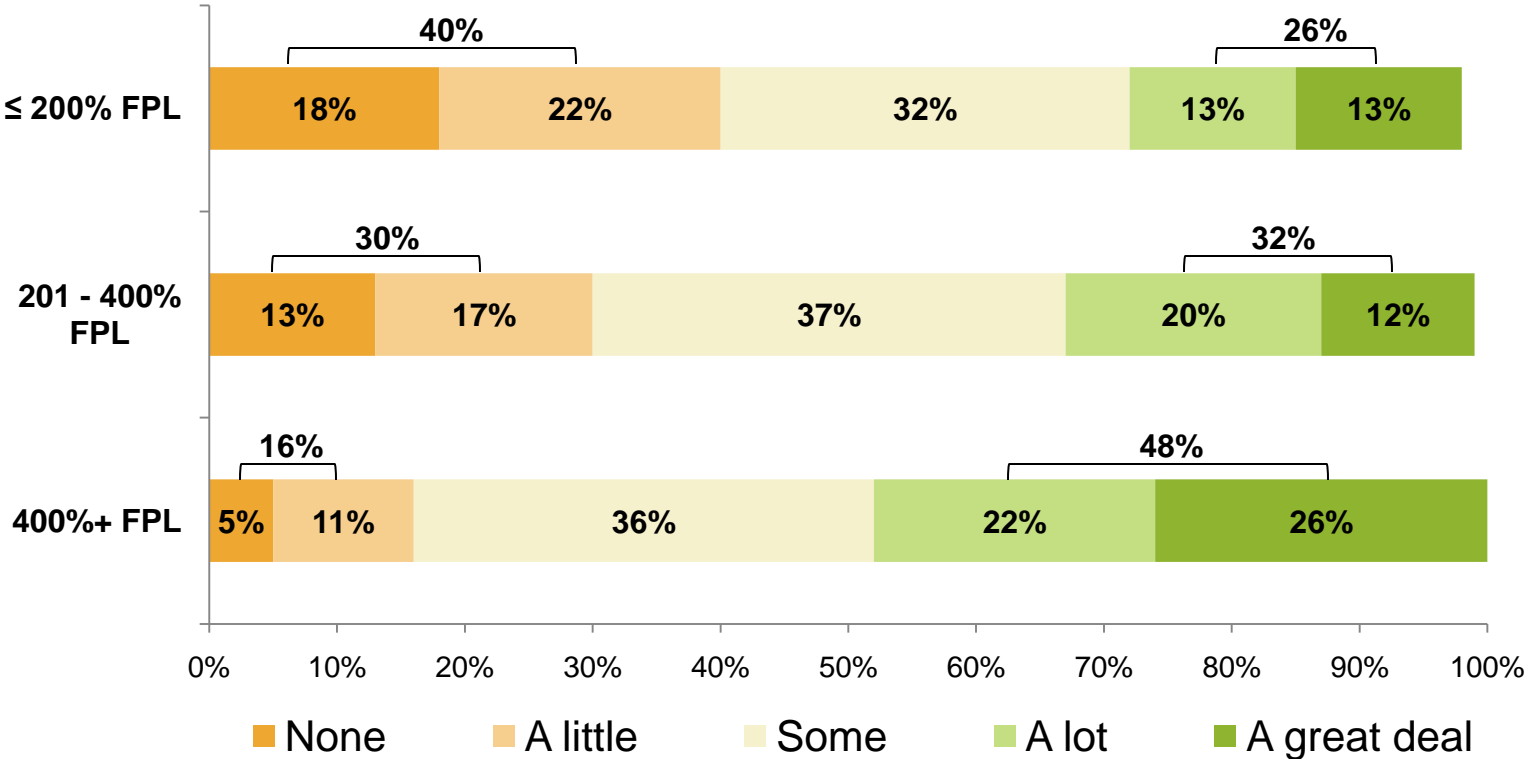
A striking 3 in 10 New York City residents feel they have little or no control over their own economic situation. This is slightly more positive than the nation as a whole – earlier this year, 4 in 10 Americans said they had little or no control.



*From national poll of 1004 adults conducted by Lake Research Partners for the Ms. Foundation for Women and the Center for Community Change. Available at: http://ms.foundation.org/our_work/broad-change-areas/economic-justice/community-voices-on-the-economy-

The degree to which New Yorkers feel personal control over their economic situations is linked to their income level. Low-income respondents are more than twice as likely to say they have little or no control (40 percent) than higher-income respondents (16 percent).

Personal Control over Current Economic Situation



Acknowledgements

- ❖ The Community Service Society draws on a 160-year history of excellence in addressing the root causes of economic disparity. CSS is an informed, independent and unwavering voice for positive action that serves the needs of our constituents: low- and moderate-income New Yorkers who are too often left out of the policy conversation.
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- ❖ Please contact Krista Pietrangelo at kpietrangelo@cssny.org or 212.614.5468 with questions.