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# Report

## Perceptions of Downtown & Crime

DATE APRIL 2023

PROJECT NUMBER 25000-100



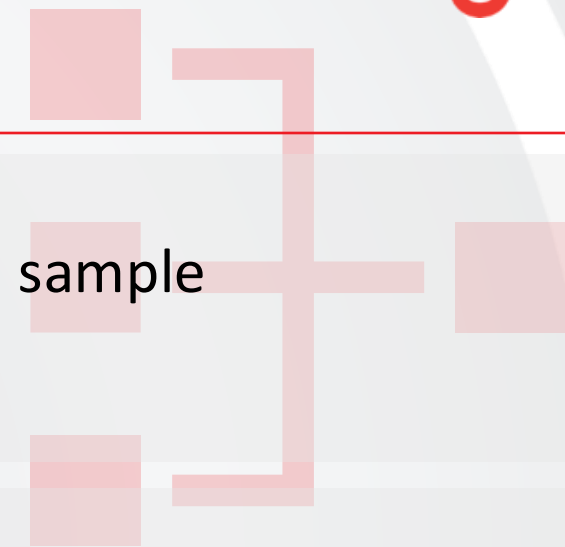
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# INTRODUCTION

# Methodology



Online survey with 650 adults in Metro Vancouver, with sample representative on age, gender, and region.



Fieldwork April 7-12, 2023.



General population data weighted by age, gender, and region.

# Key Insights & Findings

- The vast majority of Metro Vancouver residents (62%) feel the downtown core closest to where they live has declined in the past year and that violence and crime have gotten worse (71%) compared to pre-pandemic.
- Nearly everyone (78%) is concerned about the state of the downtown core.
- A significant number of residents have had actual personal encounters with threats such as fearing for their safety (28%) and experiencing aggressive behaviours in the past six months (24%).
- While fewer have experienced individual instances of actual crimes such as motor vehicle break-ins (9%), vandalism (8%), theft (8%), hate crimes (6%), and assaults (4%), collectively they add up to some significant numbers.
- Overall perceptions of the decline of the downtown core, concerns about it and actual experiences with crimes and threats are significantly higher in Metro Vancouver compared to the rest of the country—and highest among residents who live in the City of Vancouver in particular.
- Sadly, the vibrancy and appeal of visiting the downtown core have suffered as a result: 47% of Metro Vancouver residents are saying they are visiting the downtown core less often because of this.
- Residents are very critical of the job that law enforcement and the various levels of government have done in addressing the issue of crime and public safety—about half of the residents say they are doing a poor job.
- There is widespread support for a range of initiatives such as increased policing, more gun control, and increased funding for mental health and drug addiction to address the problem.



DETAILED RESULTS

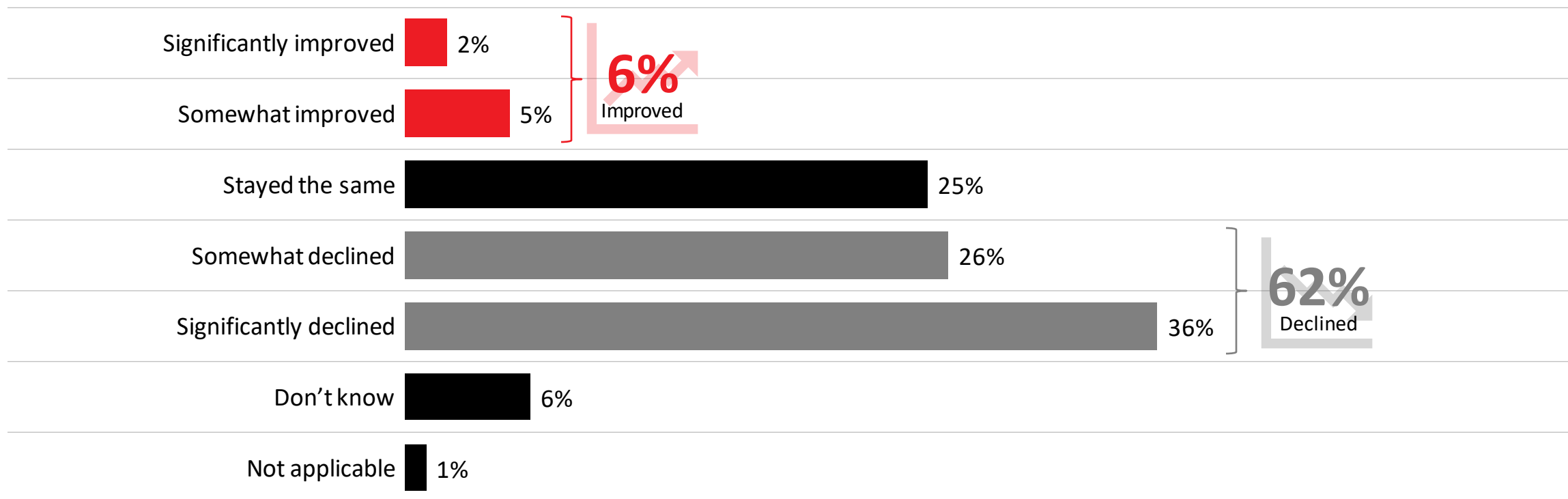


# Perceptions of Safety in Downtown



# Perceived State of the Downtown Core

*A significant majority of Metro Vancouver residents believe the downtown core is in decline with a negligible number thinking it has improved. In an earlier August National poll, the average across the country was 45%, and in British Columbia, it was 54%, which shows that Metro Vancouver by far holds the distinction of the area in biggest decline.*

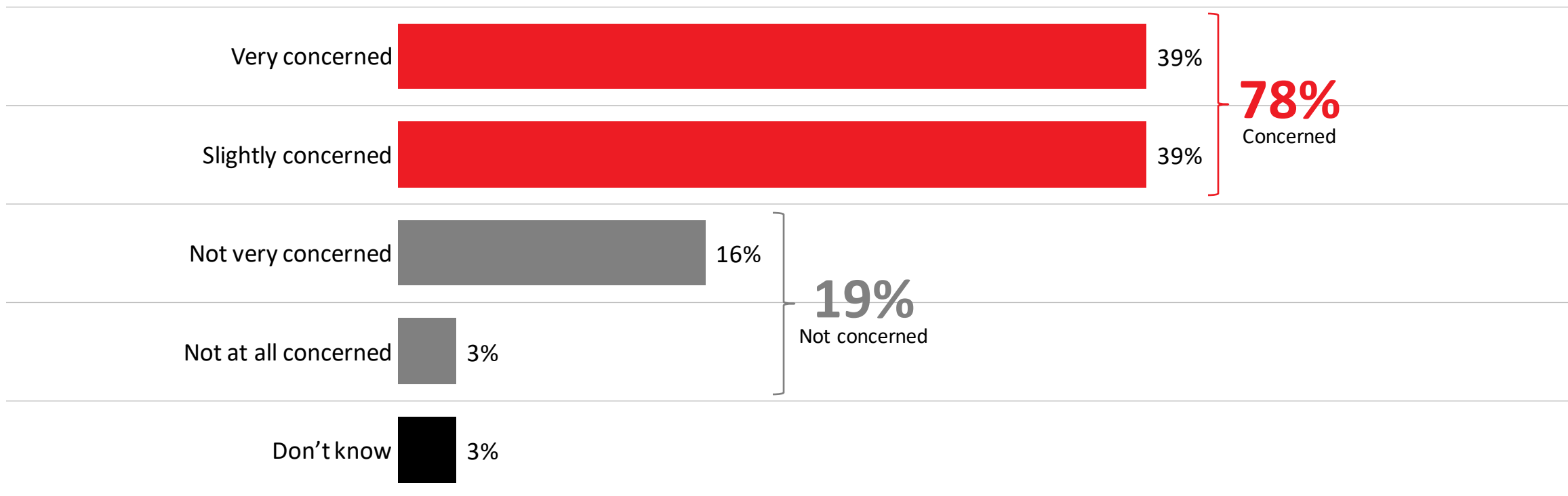


Base: All respondents (n=650)

Over the past year, would you say the state of the downtown core of the closest major city to where you live...

# Level of Concern Regarding the Downtown Core

*Not only do residents feel the downtown core has declined, but an even larger proportion of residents are also quite concerned about it.*

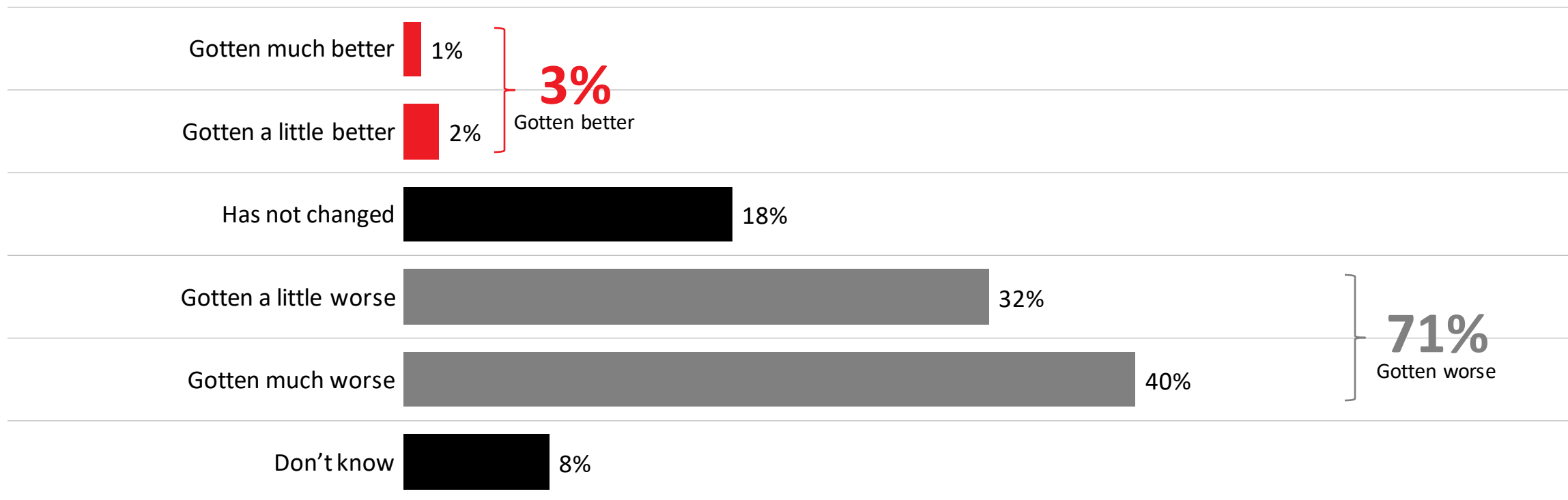


Base: All respondents (n=650)

How concerned are you with the state of the downtown core closest to where you live?

# Perceived Levels of Crime and Violence

A recent national poll on this topic released two weeks ago shows 65% of Canadians feel the current level of crime and violence has gotten worse since pre-pandemic, and once again, Metro Vancouverites hold the distinction of having the highest number in the country for thinking things have gotten worse.



Base: All respondents

How does the current level of crime and violence where you live compare to what it was like several years ago, before the pandemic?

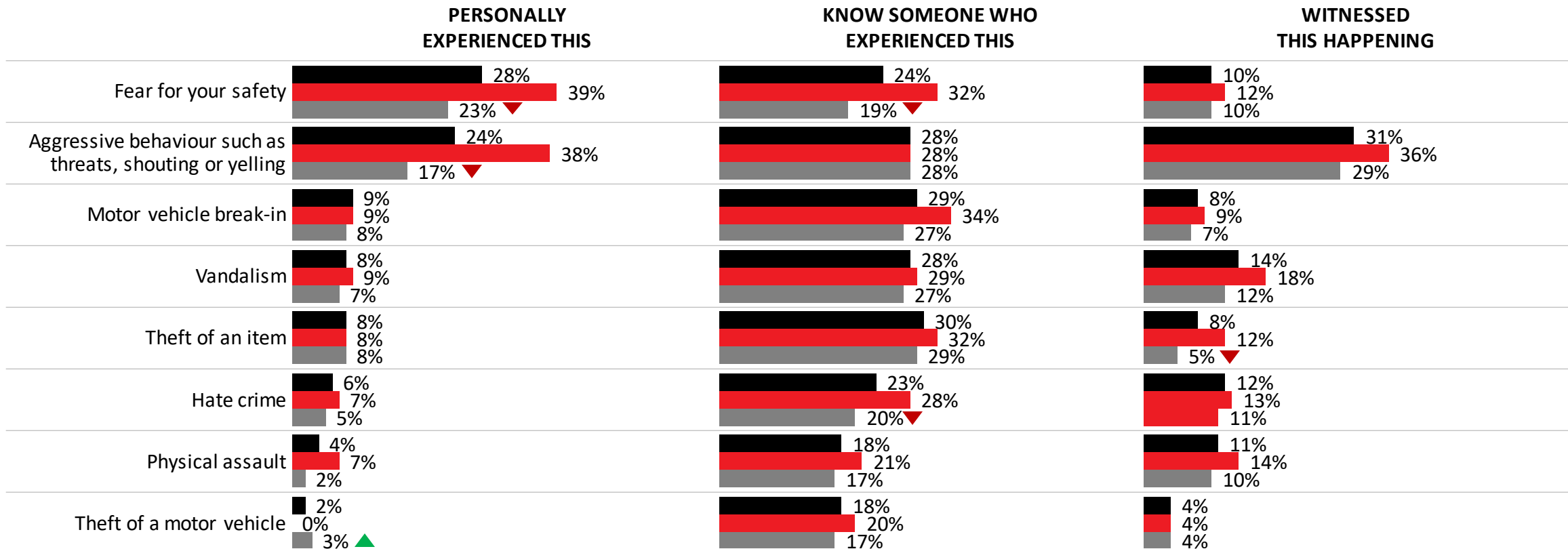


# Experiences of Crime and Violence

# Past Six-Month Experiences With Crime and Unsafe Situations in Downtown Core

Actual experiences with crime or threatening situations in Metro Vancouver are high, but City of Vancouver residents are far more likely to encounter this than the rest of Metro Vancouver residents. Also, relative to our recent poll conducted across Canada, experiences with aggressive behaviour are significantly higher (double) relative to the rest of the country.

Total (n=650)  
 City of Vancouver (n=224)  
 Other Metro Vancouver (n=426)



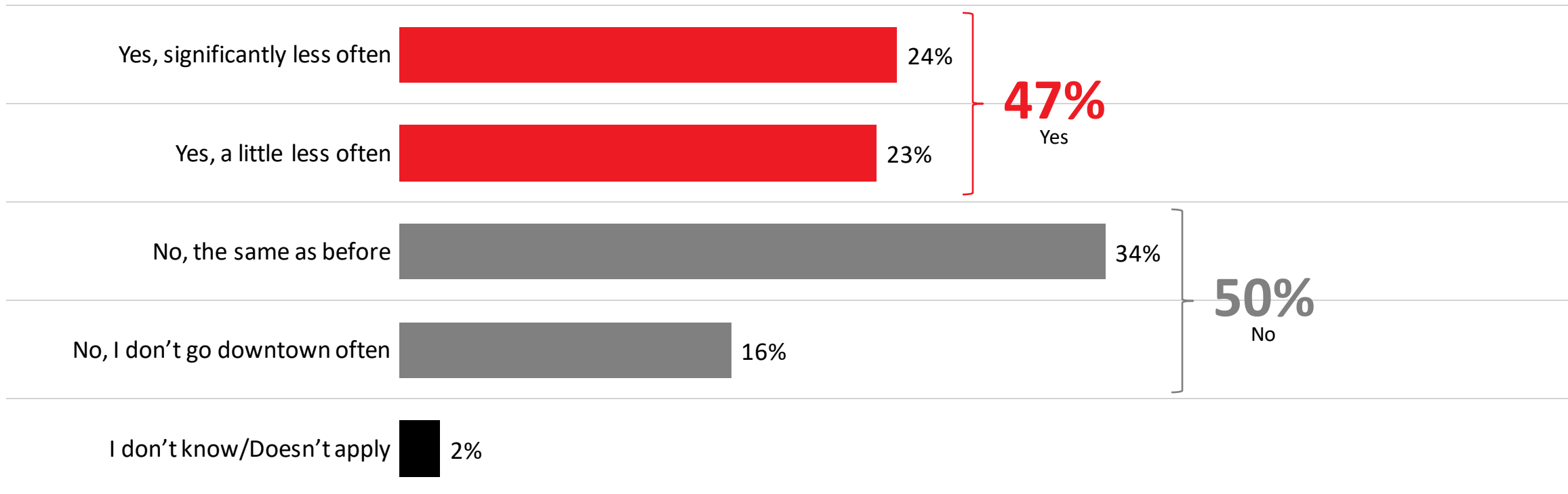
Base: All respondents (n=650)

Please review the items in the table below and indicate whether, in the past six months, you have:

▲ Statistically significantly **higher** than City of Van.  
▼ Statistically significantly **lower** than City of Van.

# Effect of Crime and Violence on Downtown Visits

*The unfortunate effect of the perceived decline of the downtown core combined with actual experiences has made a significant number of Metro Vancouver residents visit the downtown core less often as a result.*



Base: All respondents (n=650)

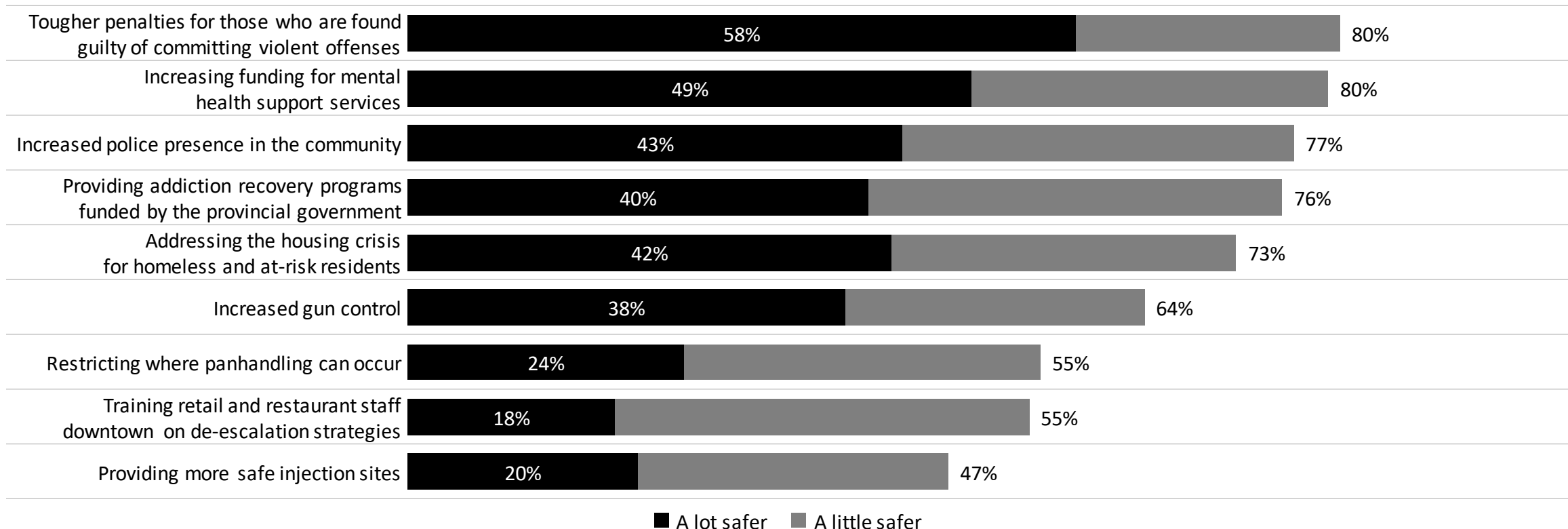
Are you visiting the downtown core closest to where you live less often due to increased crime and violence?



Support for Safety Initiatives

# Initiatives Which Would Make Communities Safer

*Metro Vancouver residents support a wide variety of ‘carrot vs. stick’ initiatives and programs that are believed to contribute towards making communities safer, many of which include increased programs and services, to initiatives that involve more of a hardline approach to crime prevention.*



Base: All respondents (n=650)

Many actions could be taken to manage the level of crime and violence in Canada. Do you think each of the following actions would make communities...

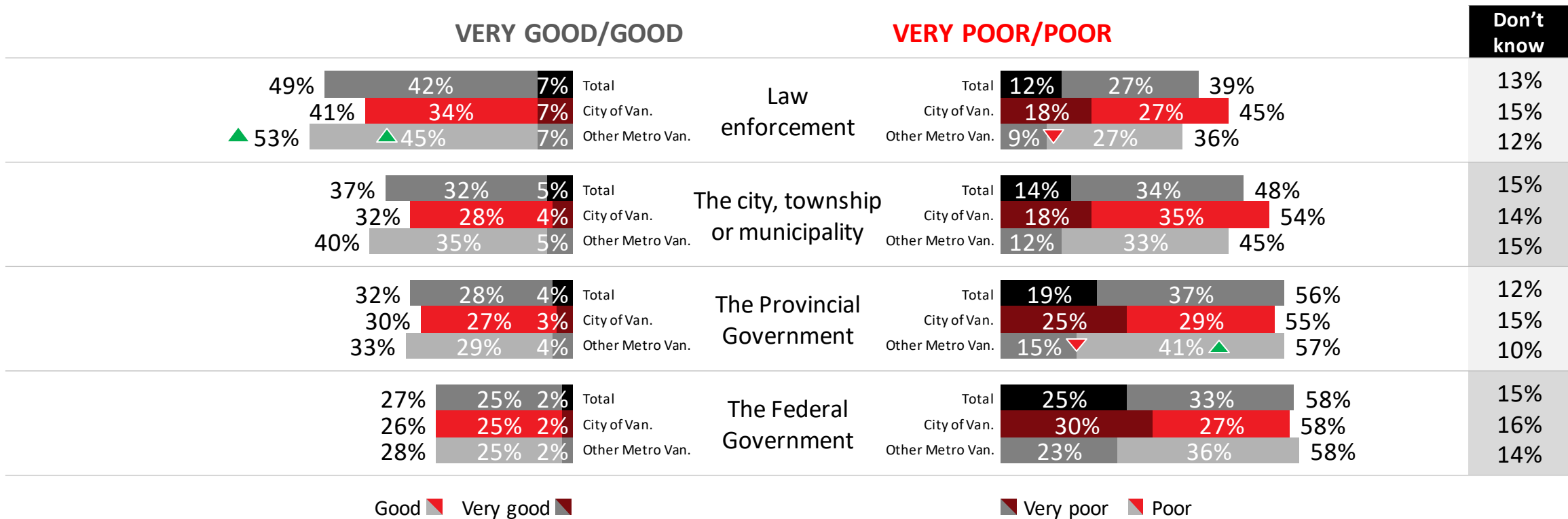
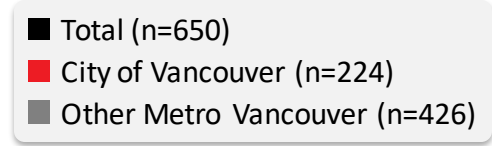




# Perception of Government Responsibility in Addressing Crime

# Perception of Government Entities in Addressing Crime

*Metro Vancouver residents are very critical of law enforcement and the different levels of government in addressing crime and public safety and City of Vancouver residents are particularly critical of law enforcement and the city's approach.*



Base: All respondents

How would you rate the job that the following groups are doing in addressing the issue of crime and public safety where you live?

▲ Statistically significantly higher than City of Van.  
▼ Statistically significantly lower than City of Van.



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