

Assessing the Attitudes of Business Leaders Influence on Environmental/Health Policies (IL, IN, MI, MN and WI)

RUTGERS

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Businesses play a crucial role in a capitalist democracy in terms of balancing profitability against implementing mandates directed towards protecting the public welfare. In particular, ensuring a healthy workforce with access to health care and sustaining natural resources through environmental mandates are critical.

RQ: To what extent do businesses leaders influence the outcomes of environmental and health care policies designed to benefit the wider public?

H1: Small and new businesses are less supportive of environmental and public health policies due to the increased costs imposed by environmental regulations.

Methodology

- Randomly selected businesses in 5 Midwestern states (n= 387)
- Administered survey via mixed-modes: online, facsimile, and phone calls
- Stratified sample by state and the NAICS
- Sampling error for respondents is +/- 4.9%, at a 95% confidence interval



Data

Company Position:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| CEO, CFO, CLO, COO, President | 40% |
| Director or Vice President | 8% |
| Owner or Partner | 40% |
| Other | 7% |

Gender:

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| Male: | 71% |
| Female | 29% |

Party Affiliation:

- | | |
|-------------|-----|
| Democrat | 16% |
| Independent | 33% |
| Republican | 39% |

Correlations

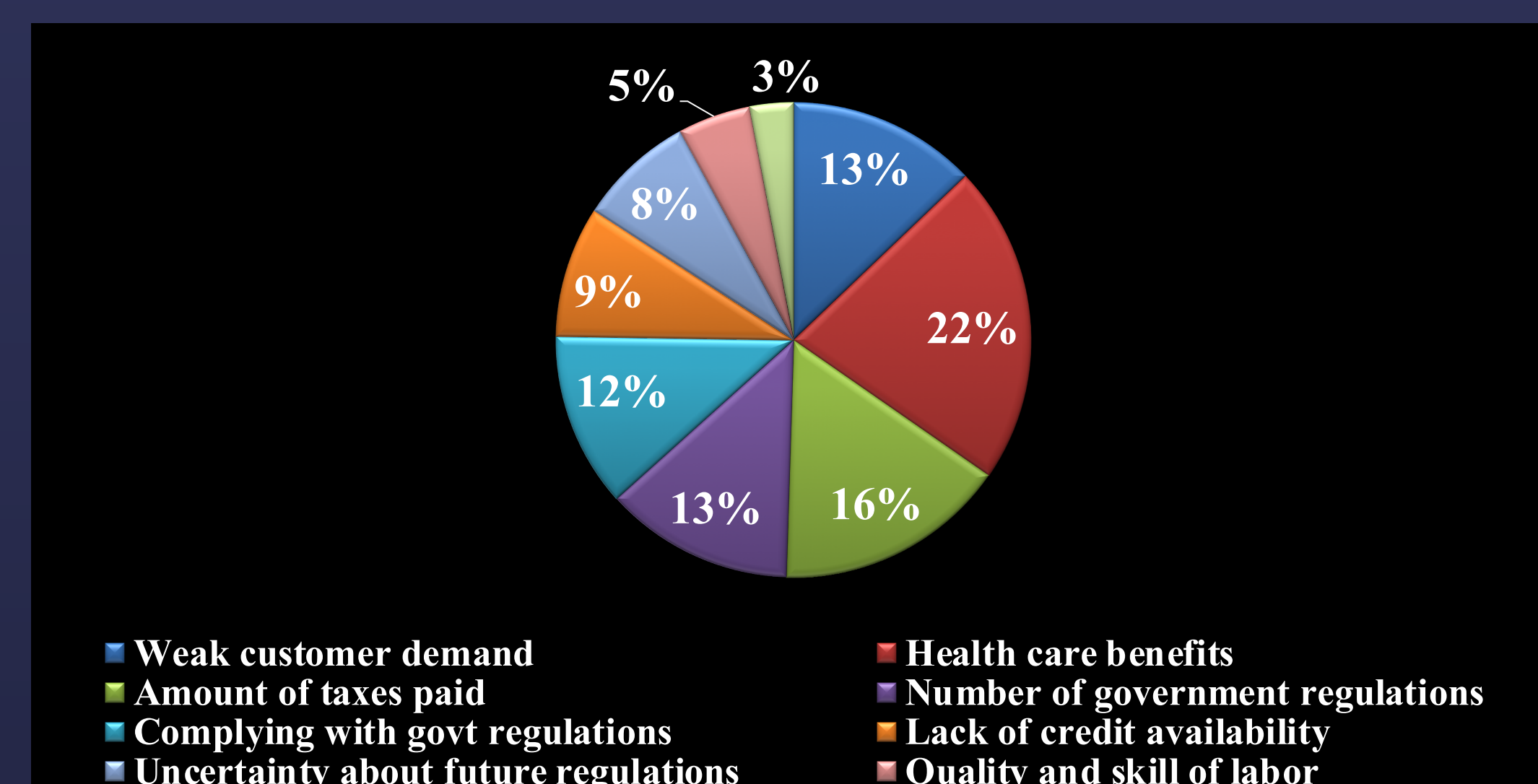
H1 = Small and new businesses are less supportive of environmental and public health policies due to the increased costs imposed by environmental regulations on businesses.

There was NO statistically significant relationships between business size or a business's length of operation with policy options.

Found moderate relationships including Party ID, company position in the organization and gender with policy outcomes.

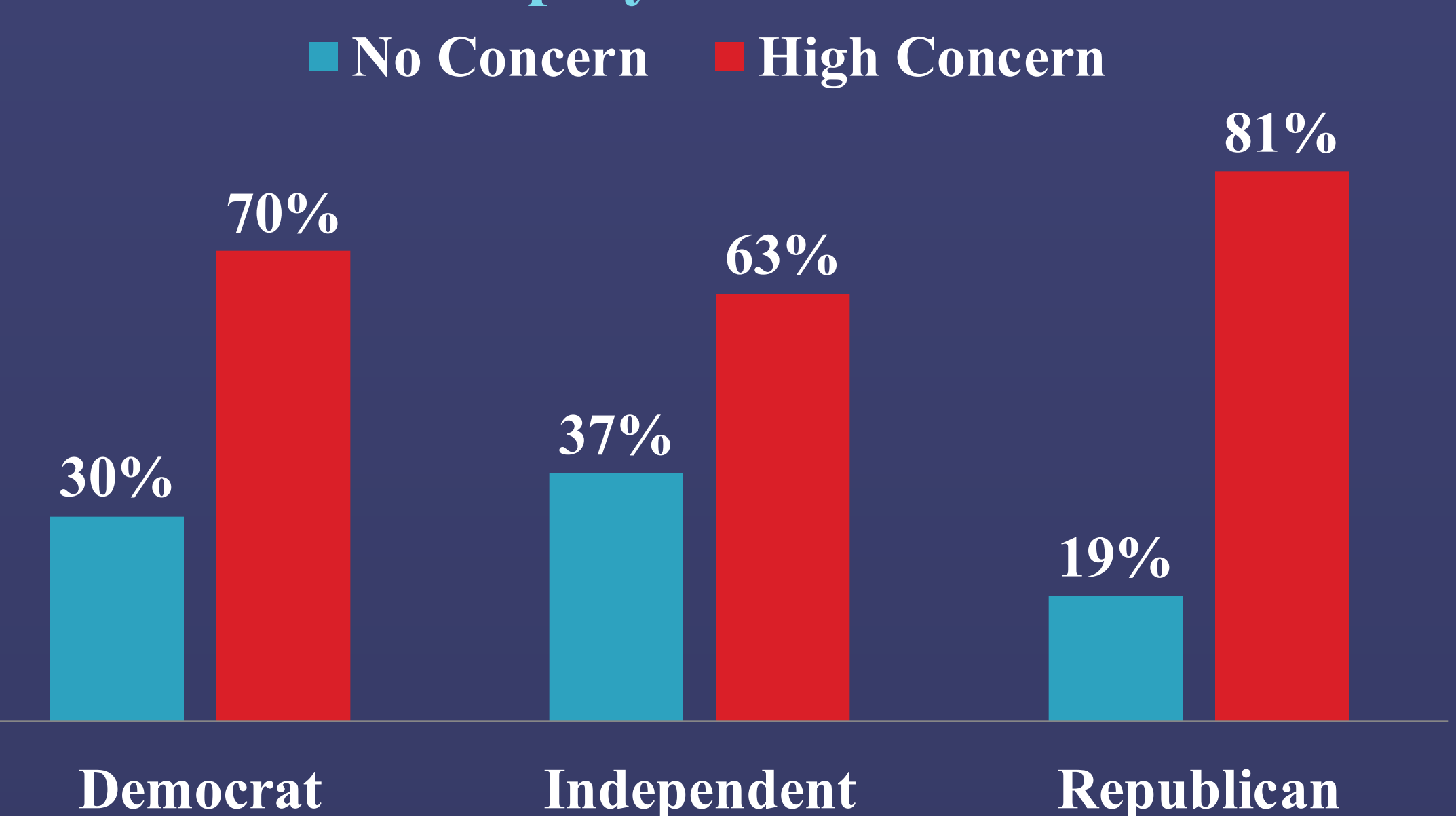
Policy Initiatives

Business Concerns about Policy Costs and Programs

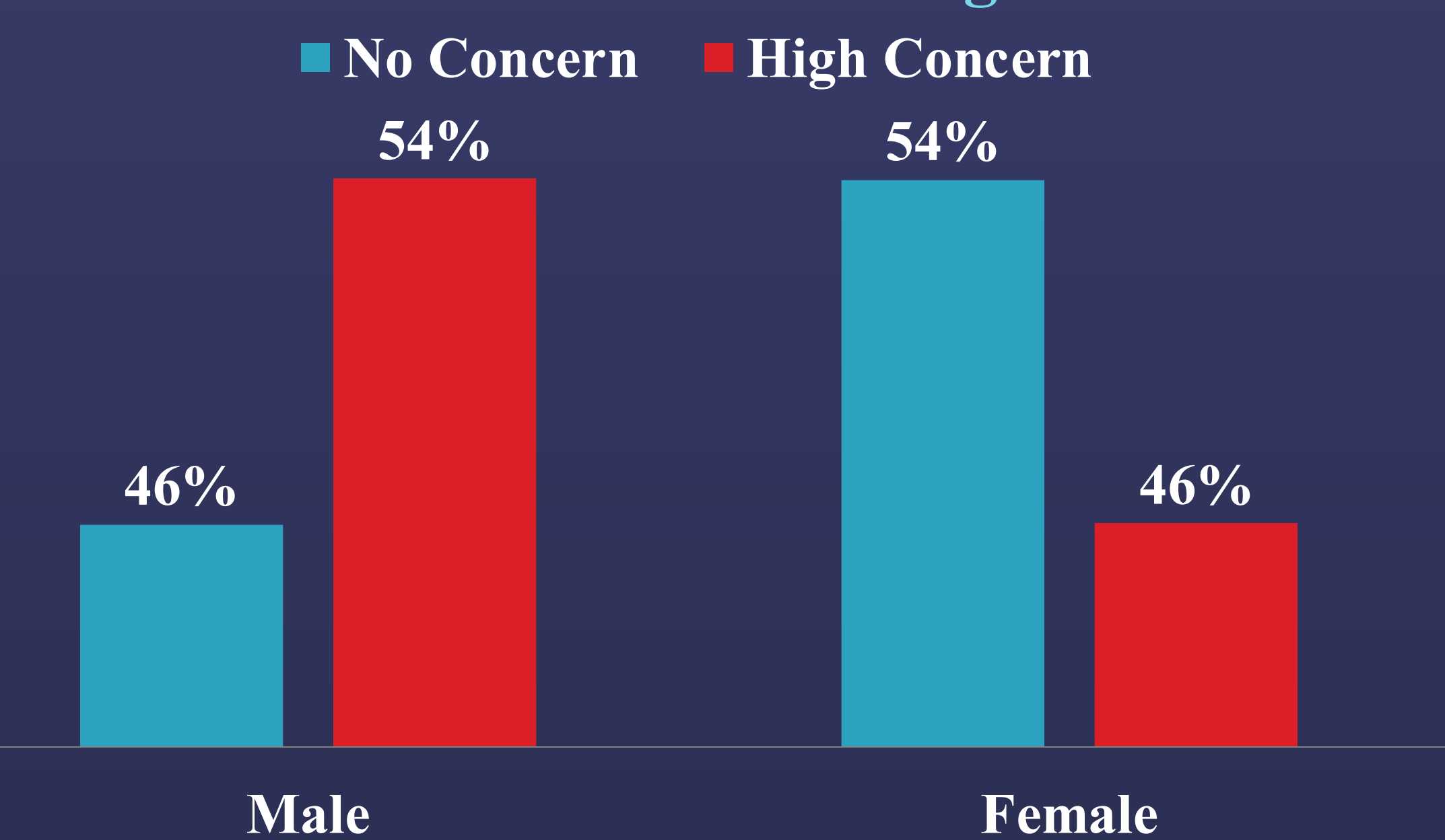


Policy Preferences

Cost of Employee Health Benefits



Costs of Environmental Regulations



Evaluations

- Split ballot design utilized to ensure reliability for survey instrument; differences in mean questions within sampling error
- Content validity achieved by asking multiple survey questions about same concept

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Design Credit: Tamara Swedberg*

Acknowledgements

At the end of a long journey, it is always important to reflect with those who have shared the experience with you. In the case of our pursuit to explore the regulatory regimes of the states, it is impossible to forget those who journeyed with us, as this book would not have been possible without their contributions along the way.

At every step of the research, we had the support of a group of graduate and undergraduate students whose enthusiasm for research piqued their curiosity and fed their enthusiasm for the project despite the tedium that is often associated with data collection and coding. From the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy, our team of data coders included Savannah Barnett, Eden DeChavez, Harini Kidambi, Ashish Matthew, Sukhjinder Singh and Candace Valente. Their work helping us collect and code thousands of regulations is a large part of the reason we were able to shed some light on regulatory reform in the states. In our earliest days on the project, before we contemplated the book, we also received the assistance of two graduate students, Michele Sloan and Christina Spellman. We are grateful to all.

We also want to thank a very dedicated group of students who helped us field our survey of Midwestern Business Leaders. We say dedicated because they volunteered their time over a winter semester break to help us build a sample frame of elite business executives so that we could be in the field in January. This team included two of our own, Kellie Palomba and Saundra Session, as well as two students from Gettysburg College, Jonathan Faul and Bethany Holtz. Kellie, Saundra and Bethany continued with the survey project over the spring semester by pretesting the instruments in multi-modes, updating contact lists, coding data, and even surveying respondents over the phone. A random probability survey of business elites presents unique methodological challenges, but the team's contributions and attention to detail made this area of our research possible.

Three other students deserve special acknowledgement. They were the research assistants who persevered the longest with us, and as a result, they made the most significant contributions to the project. They are Michael Wong, Joseph Rua, and Juan Rodriquez. Michael was our first undergraduate to join the team. He became our senior research assistant who not only conducted top-tier research for us, but then went on to serve as a mentor and supervisor for all of our research assistants. Michael also took the lead on the survey design, and along with Joseph Rua, was largely responsible for researching and drafting the literature reviews which extended over many theoretical frames. In addition to writing literature reviews, Joseph took the lead on researching the legislative history for our two case studies in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. He also helped us track down our interviewees for Chapter Seven. Of course, Michael and Joseph also logged many hours coding state regulations. Juan Rodriquez aided the project by collecting and coding the regulations we used in our longitudinal study of the five Midwestern states. After logging hundreds of hours coding state rules, Juan along with Michael and Joseph committed to stay with the project to its conclusions. All three worked tirelessly to meet whatever task or deadline we gave them. Perhaps there is no greater contribution to a research study than meeting deadlines and ensuring your work is accurate. All three met the high standards we set for the project and we are grateful and proud of their contributions.

Much of this research would not have been possible without the willing participation of so many stakeholders involved in the regulatory process who offered us their time to be interviewed. We appreciate their insights into the process and their sensitivity to our deadlines. Their perspectives have helped to shed new light onto the regulatory process in the states.

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