



# School Resource Officer Survey

Update to the WCPSS Board of Education  
Safety and Security Committee

DECEMBER 16, 2020



# Purpose and Outcomes

## Purpose of Survey:

As part of the SRO program review, the survey provides input from the stakeholder groups of students, parents, staff, and community about the School Resource Officer (SRO) and Bike Patrol Officer Programs in the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS).

## Desired Outcomes for Today:

- Gain insight from the stakeholders' perspectives shared in their survey responses.
- Outline next steps, including the facilitation of Focus Groups to further unpack the survey results.



# By the Numbers



<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>54, 531</b>
Community Members	12, 919
Parents	20, 810
Students	15, 656
Staff	5, 146
Survey Platform	Survey Monkey
Date released	September 24, 2020
Date closed	October 23, 2020





## Overall Takeaways - SROs and Bike Patrol Officers

- A majority of respondents in each group (parents, students, staff, and community) have favorable perceptions overall and see them as an important part of the school security plan
- A non-trivial percentage of respondents also appear to be unsure or unaware about SROs and their role in the school environment
- There are some modest differences evident among subgroups (e.g., grade span and racial/ethnic groups)

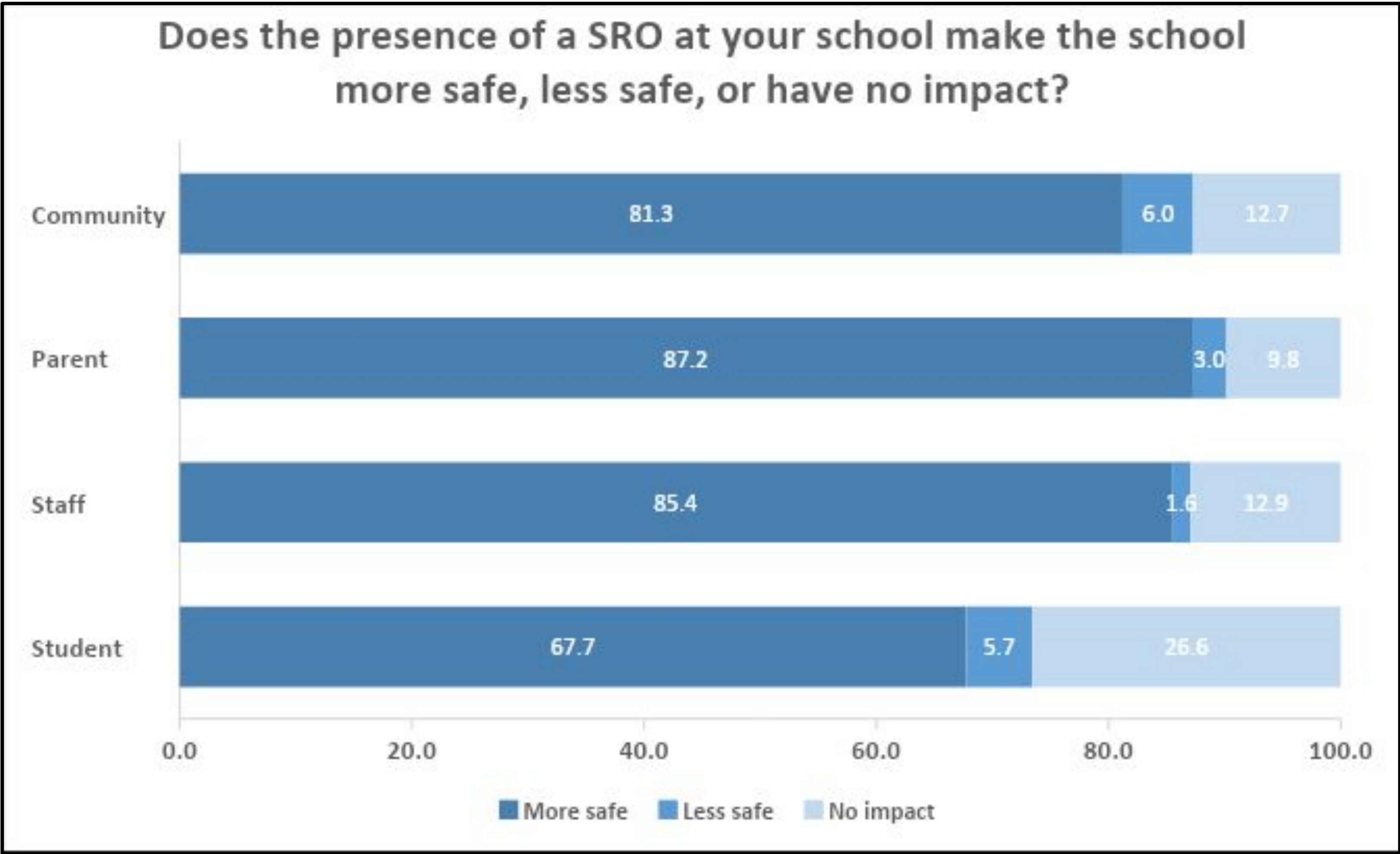
# Perceptions About School Resource Officers

	Students	Parents	Community	Staff
Does the presence of an SRO make you feel safe? <i>(% more safe)</i>	67.7	87.2	81.3	85.4
Do you think most students are treated appropriately by the SRO? <i>(% yes)</i>	60.8	76.7	57.0	88.9
How important is the SRO for a school's security plan? <i>(% very important)</i>	N/A	78.1	67.3	78.4
Does the presence of a SRO help create a welcoming environment? <i>(% yes)</i>	52.2	77.2	N/A	77.0

# School Resource Officers (Presence at Schools)

## Key Implication

Most respondents report that the presence of a SRO makes the school more safe.

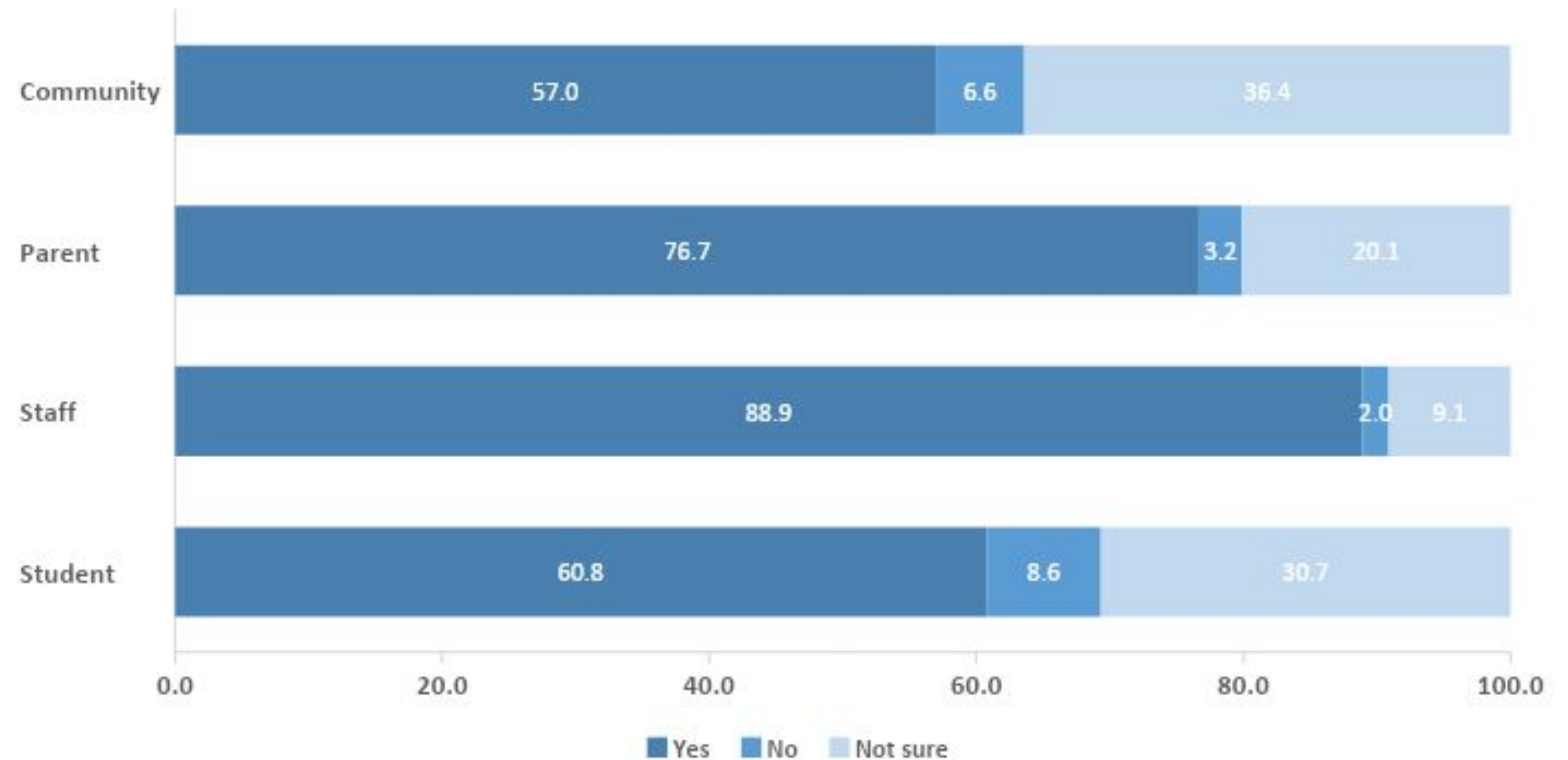


# School Resource Officers (Treating Students Appropriately)

## Key Implication

Over 75% of parents and staff, and approximately 61% of our students believe SROs treat students appropriately.

Do you think most WCPSS students are treated appropriately by the SRO in your school?

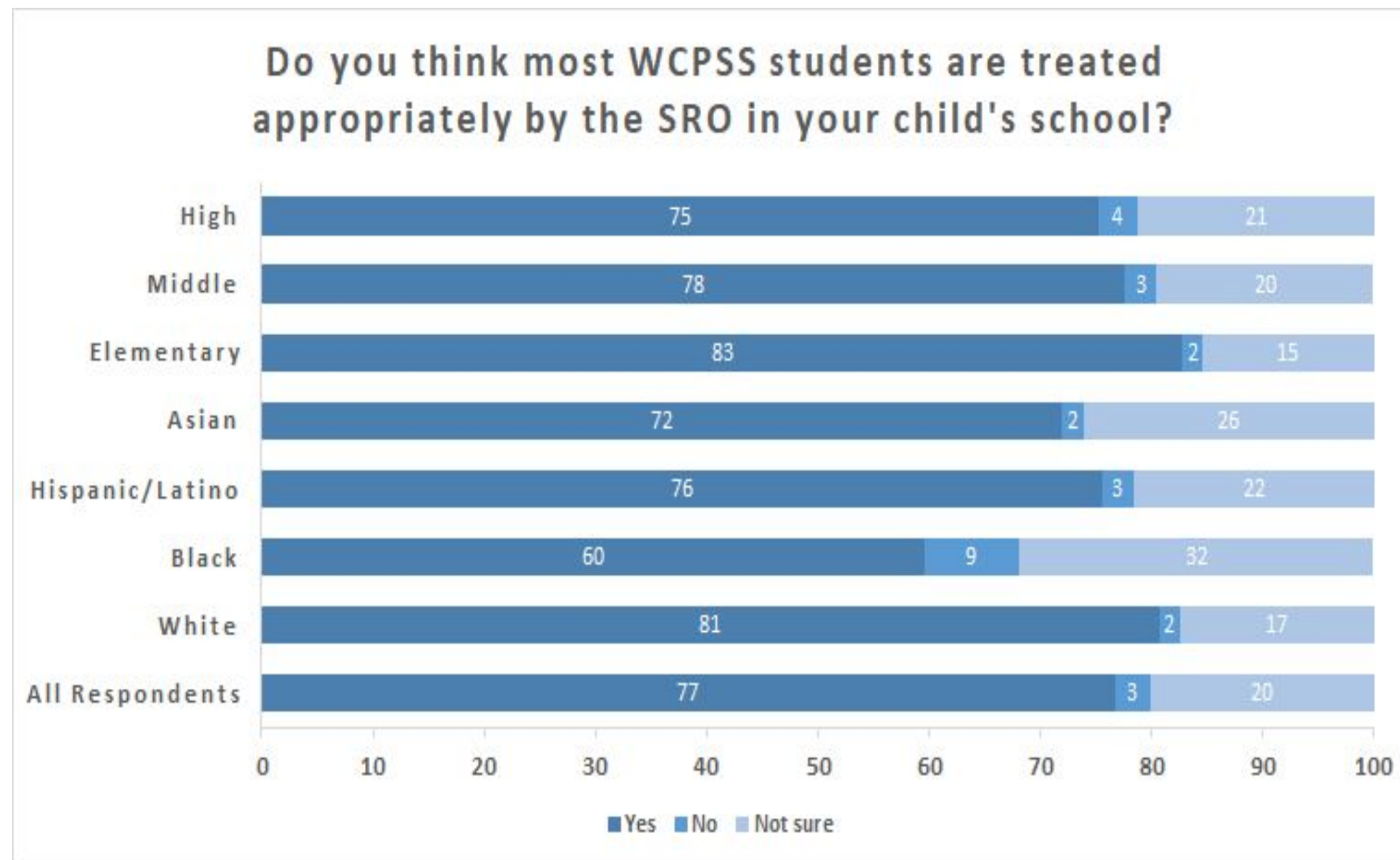




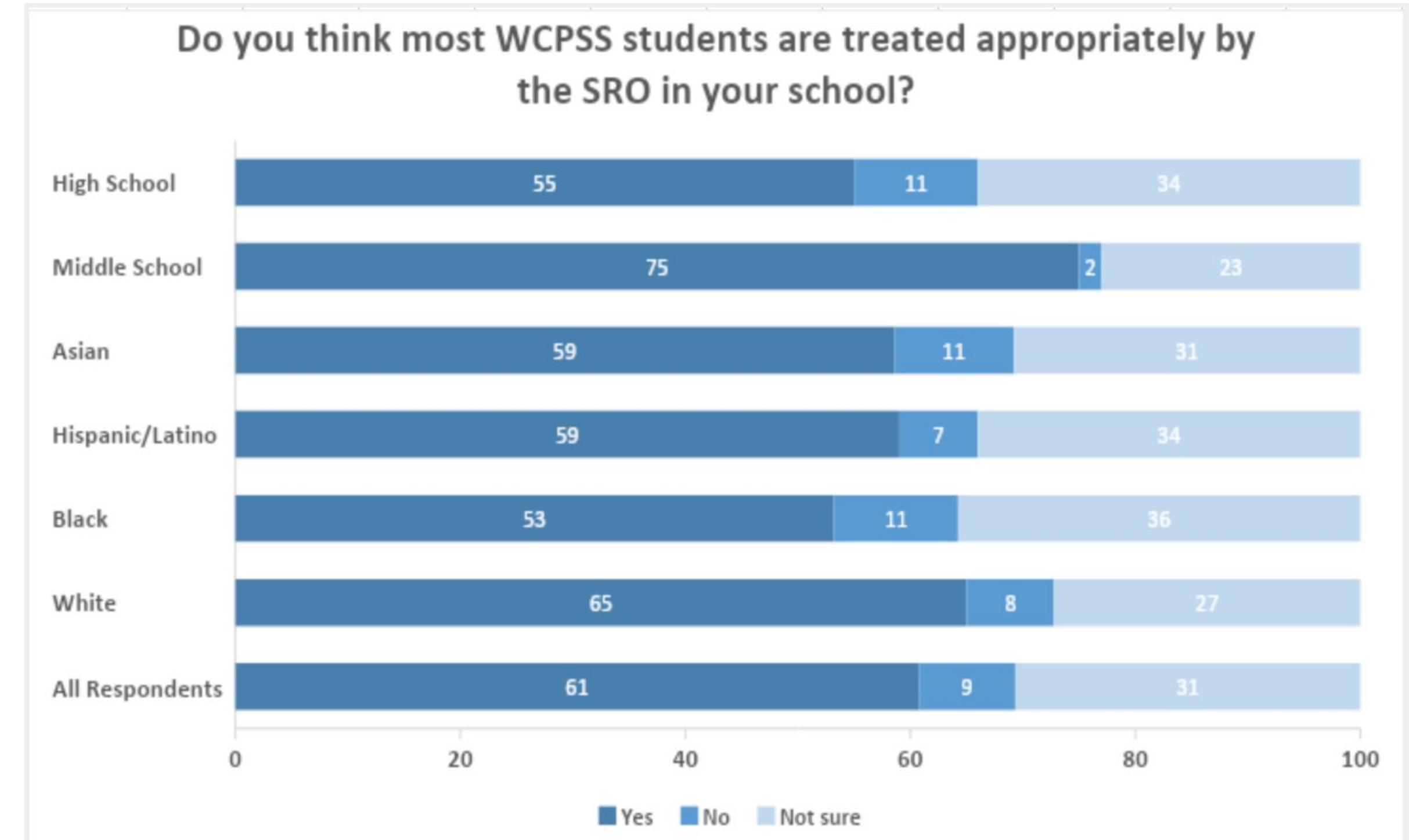
# School Resource Officers

## (Treating Students Appropriately Disaggregated Further)

### Parent Respondents



### Students Respondents

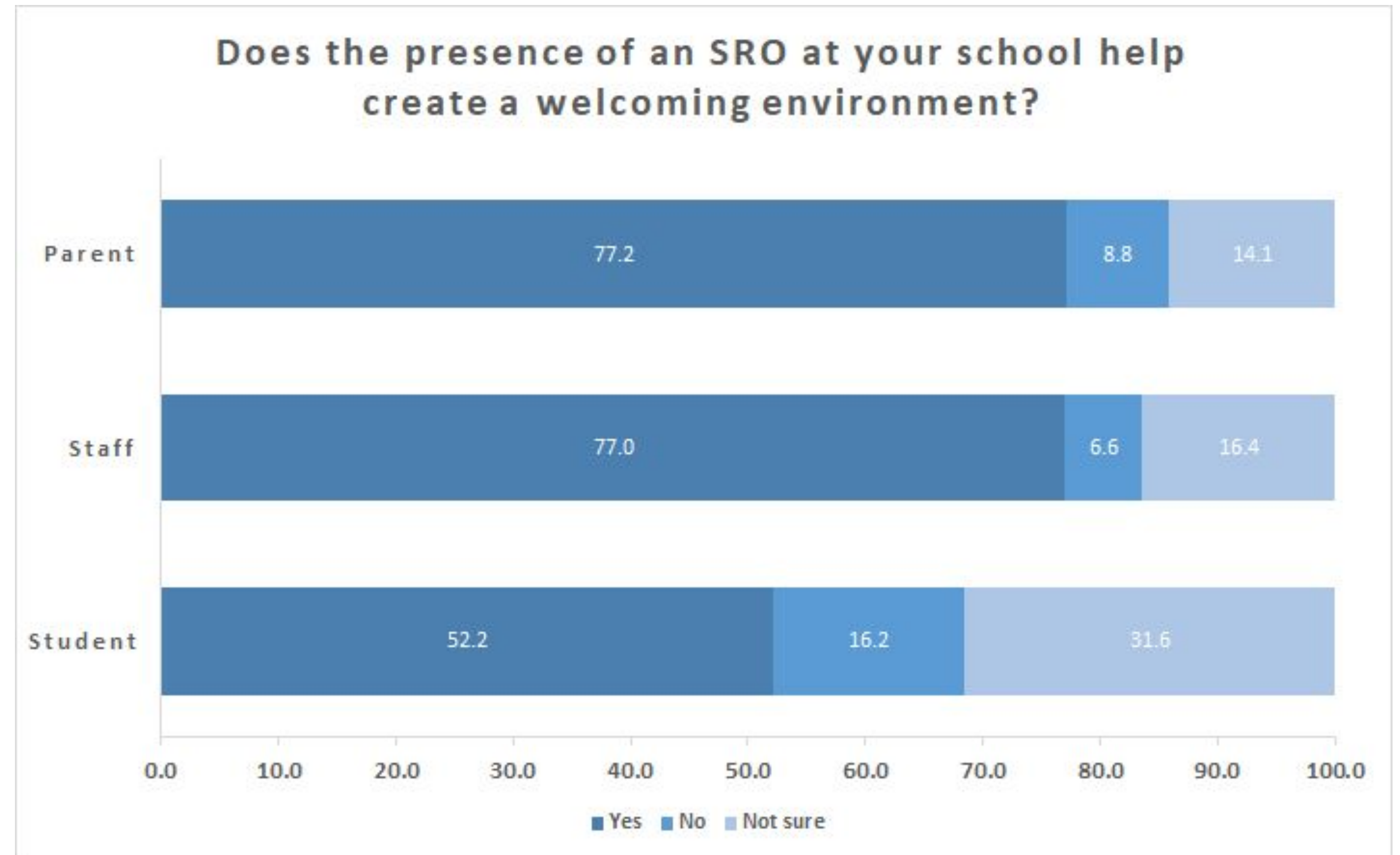




## School Resource Officers (Welcoming Environment)

### Key Implication

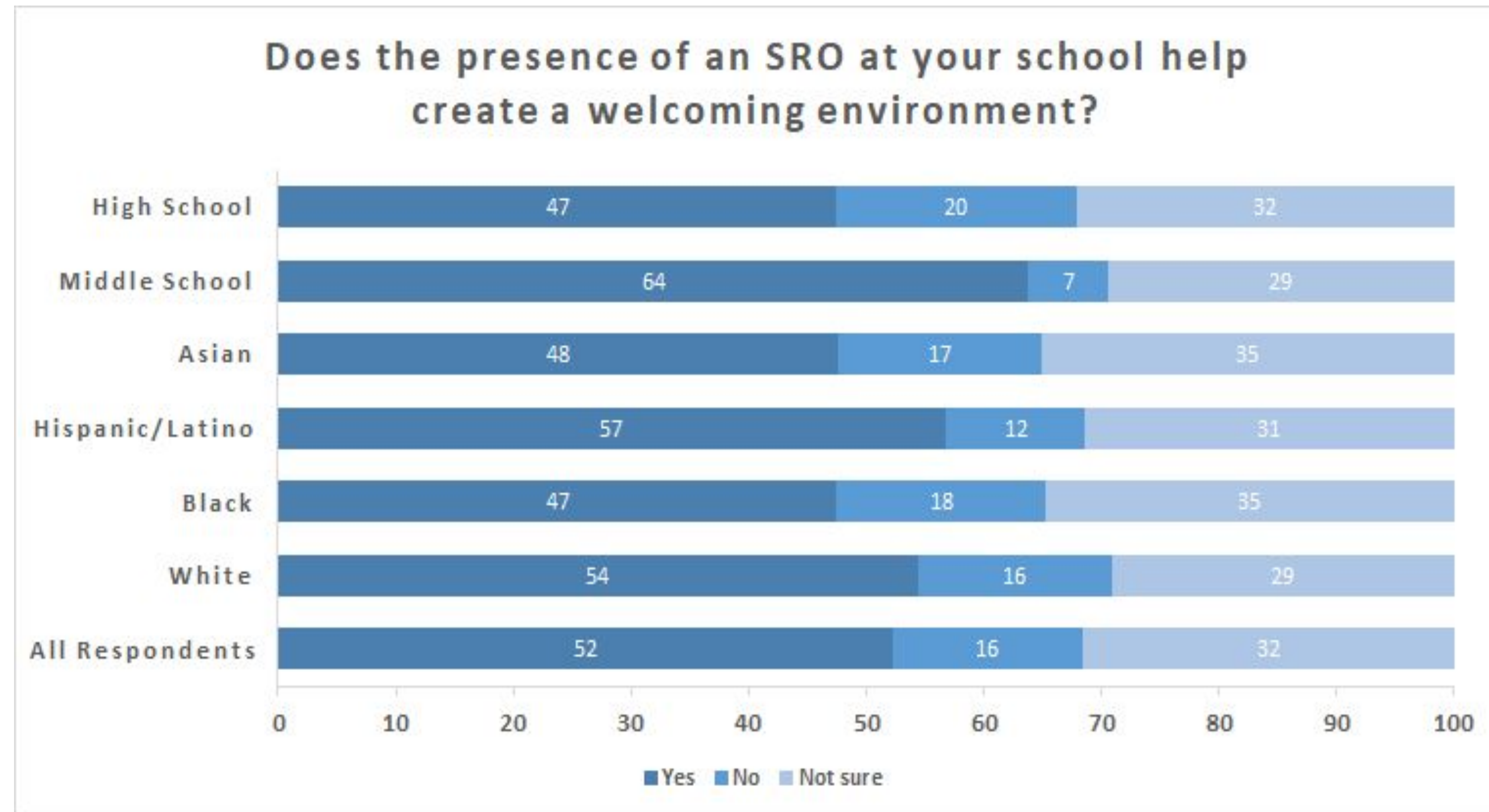
More than three-fourths of parent and staff respondents feel that SROs create a welcoming environment, while 52 % of students report similarly.



# School Resource Officers (Welcoming Environment Disaggregated)

## Key Implication

Around 50% of students by subgroup and grade span responded that SROs create a welcoming environment.

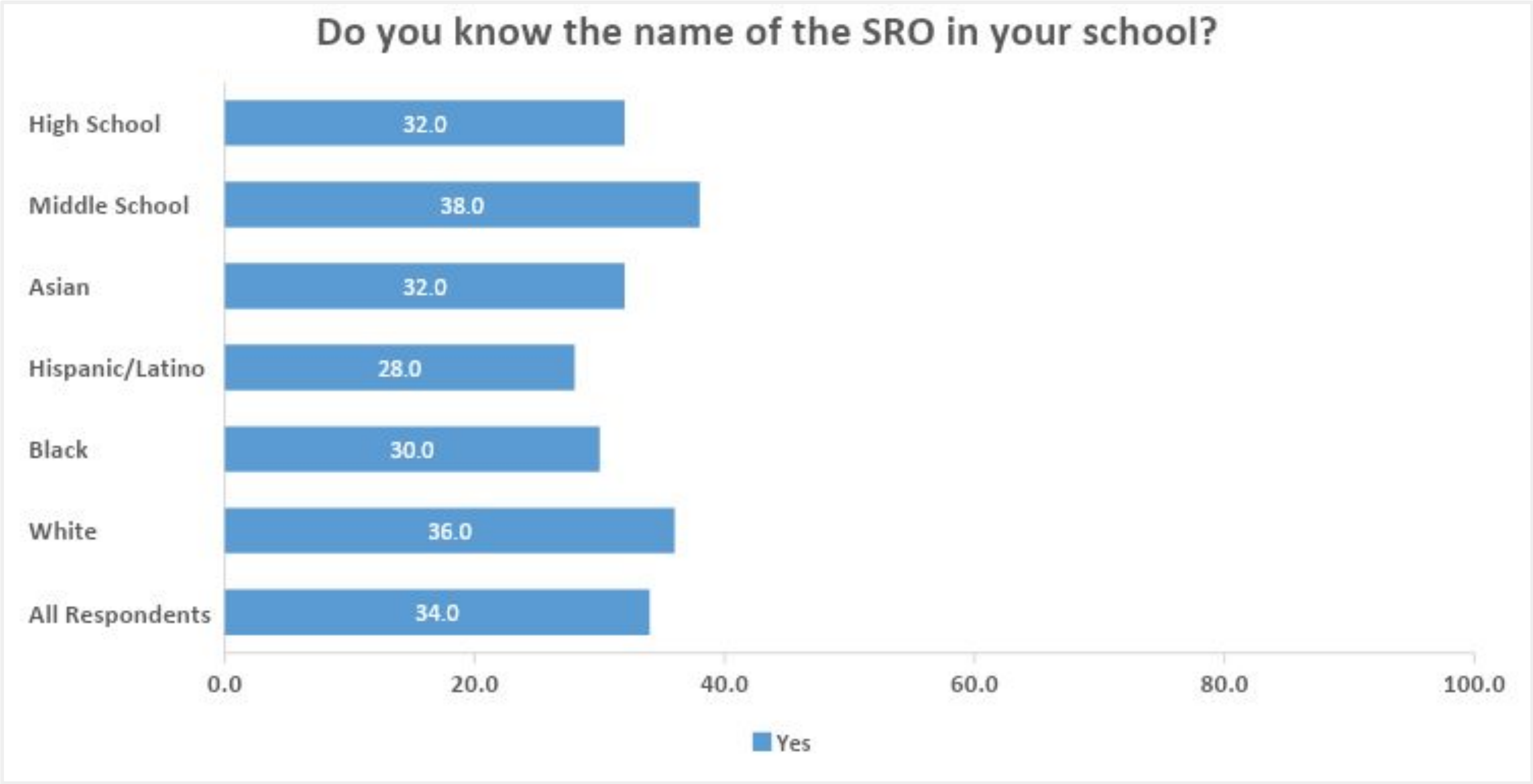




# Building Relationships Between SROs and Students

## Key Implication

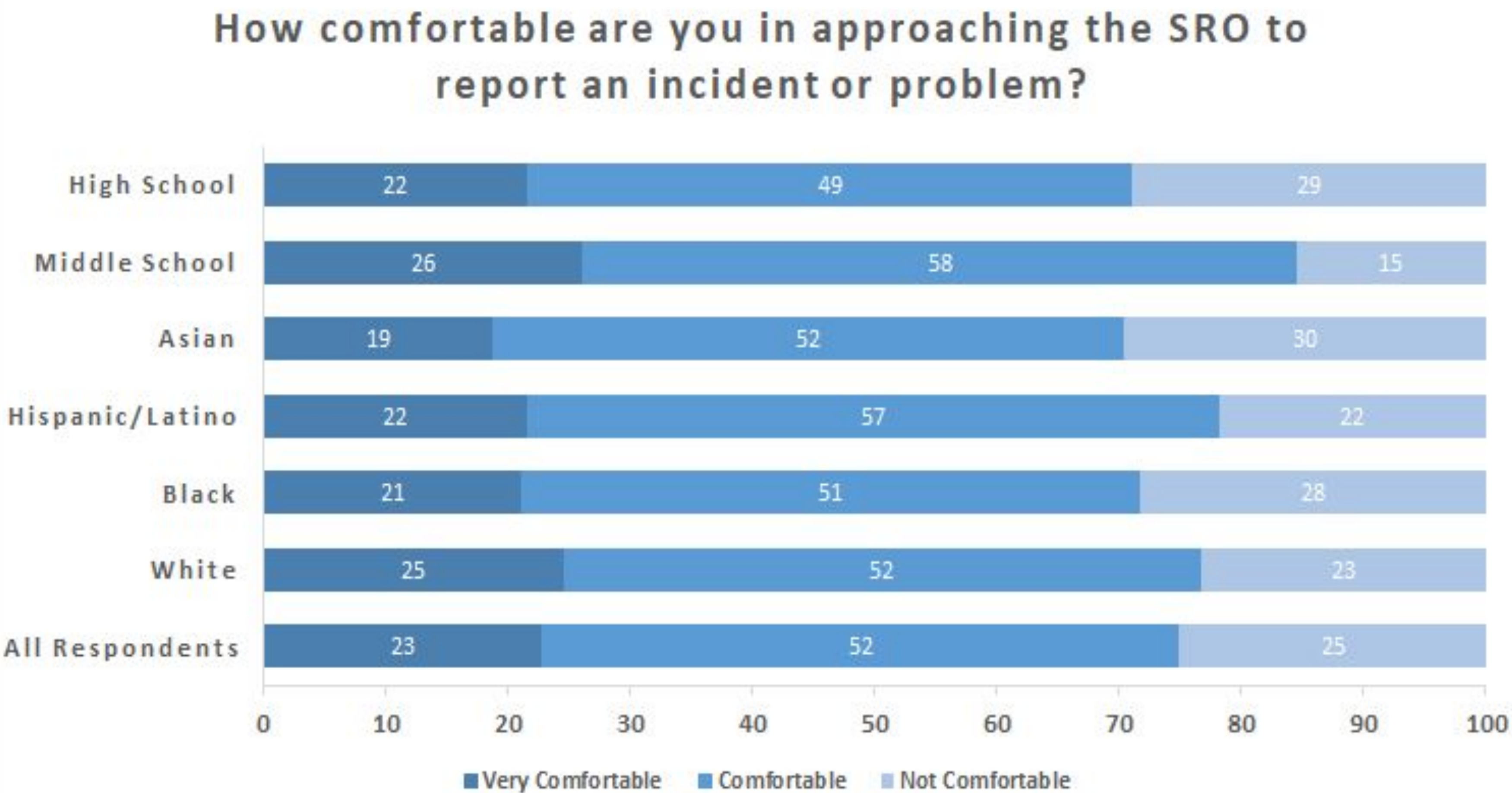
Regardless of grade level or ethnicity only about 30% of the students indicated they knew their SRO's name.



# Students' Comfort Level With Reporting Incidents

## Key Implication

Over 60% of students indicate a level of comfort in reporting an incident to a SRO.





## Perceptions about Bike Patrol Officers

	Students	Parents	Community	Staff
Does the presence of a Bike Patrol Officer make you feel safe? <i>(% more safe)</i>	55.5	81.3	73.3	67.6
Do you think most students are treated appropriately by the Bike Patrol Officer? <i>(% yes)</i>	60.9	72.0	42.7	74.8
How important is the Bike Patrol Officer for a school's security plan? <i>(% very important)</i>	N/A	62.6	49.9	47.7
Does the presence of a Bike Patrol Officer help create a welcoming environment? <i>(% yes)</i>	50.9	74.2	58.9	61.1

# Who should be the primary responder?

## SROs

- Fighting *(over 45%)*
- Controlled Substance *(over 70%)*
- Possession of a weapon *(over 83%)*
- Security at after school activities *(over 63%)*
- Property Theft *(over 66%)*
- Trespassing on campus *(over 65%)*

## School Staff

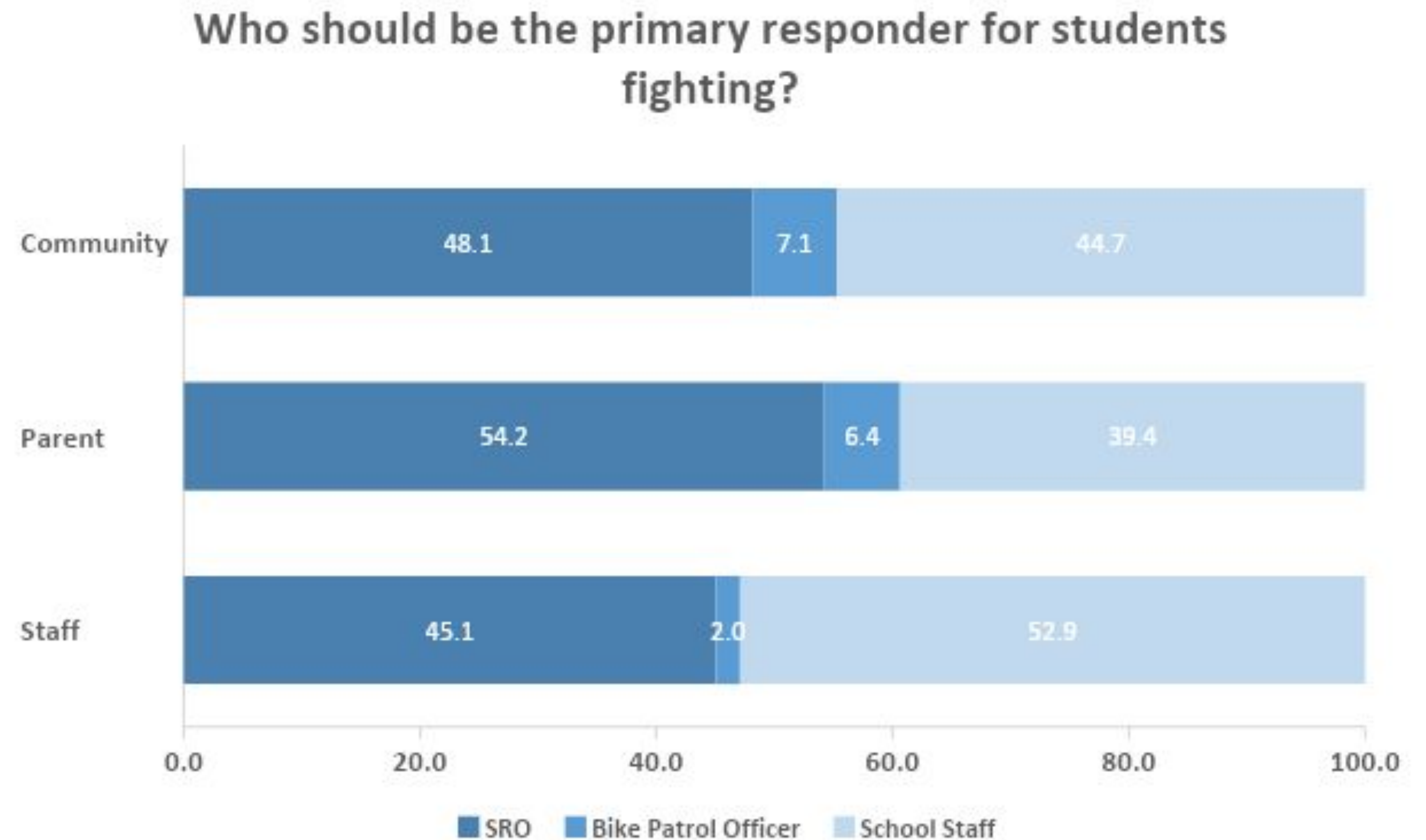
- Fighting *(over 39%)*
- Disgruntled Parents *(over 70%)*
- Dress Code Violations *(over 95%)*



## Primary Responder (Fighting)

### Key Implication

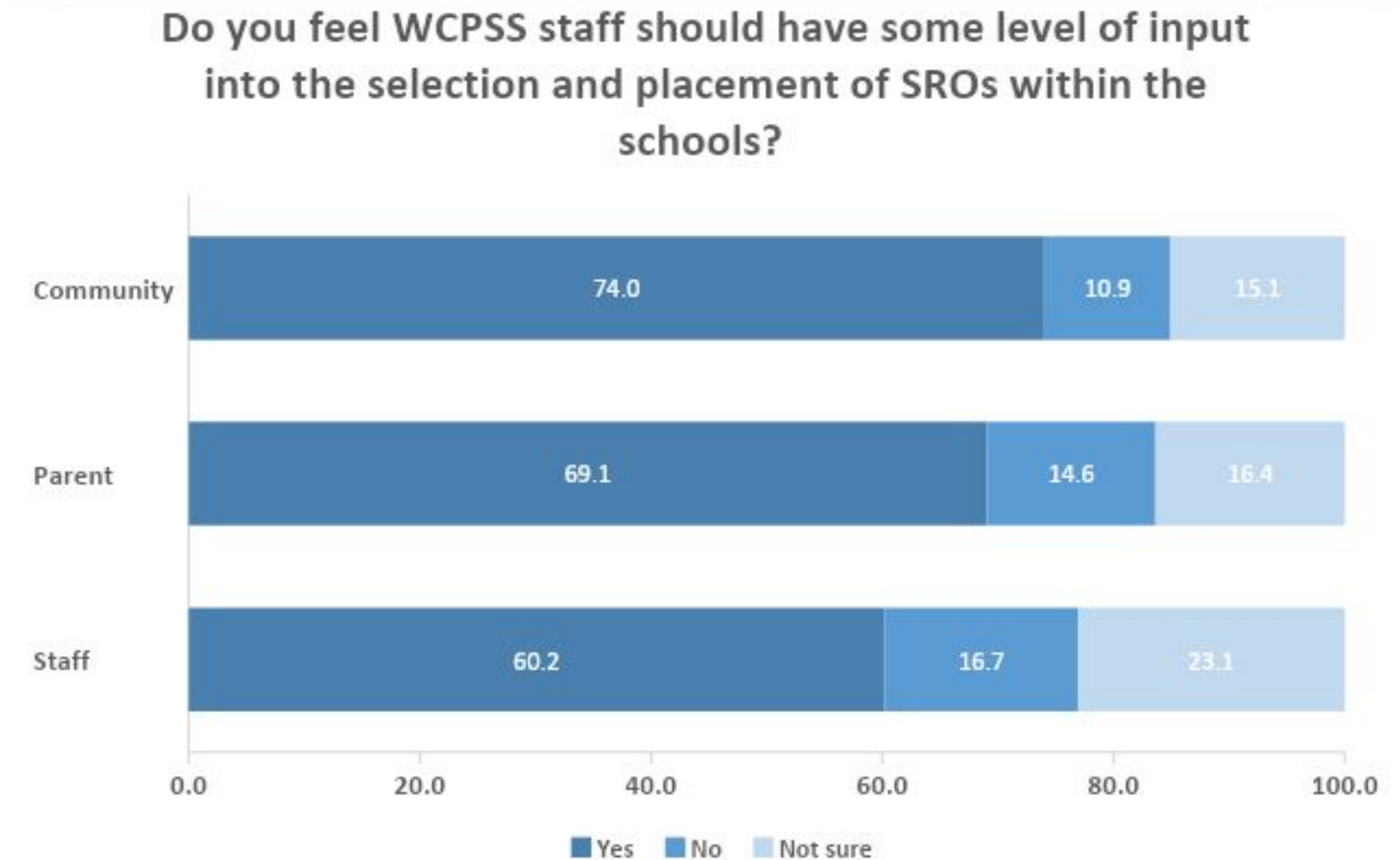
Respondents indicate a split between SROs and School Staff responding to fighting incidents.



# Selection and Placement of SROs

## Key Implication

60% or higher of respondents indicate that WCPSS staff should have input into the selection and placement of SROs in schools.

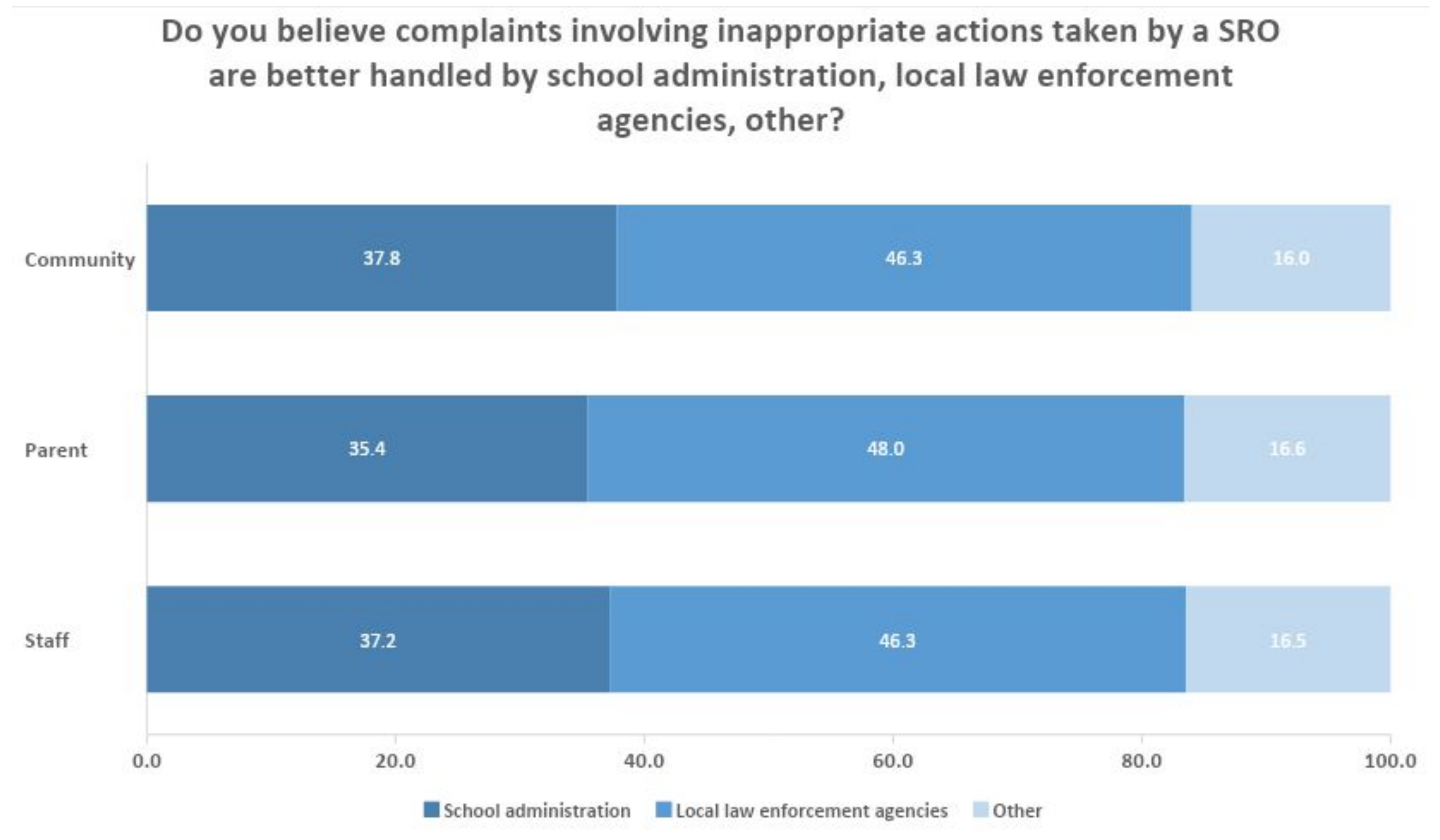




# School Resource Officers (Complaints about Inappropriate Actions)

## Key Implication

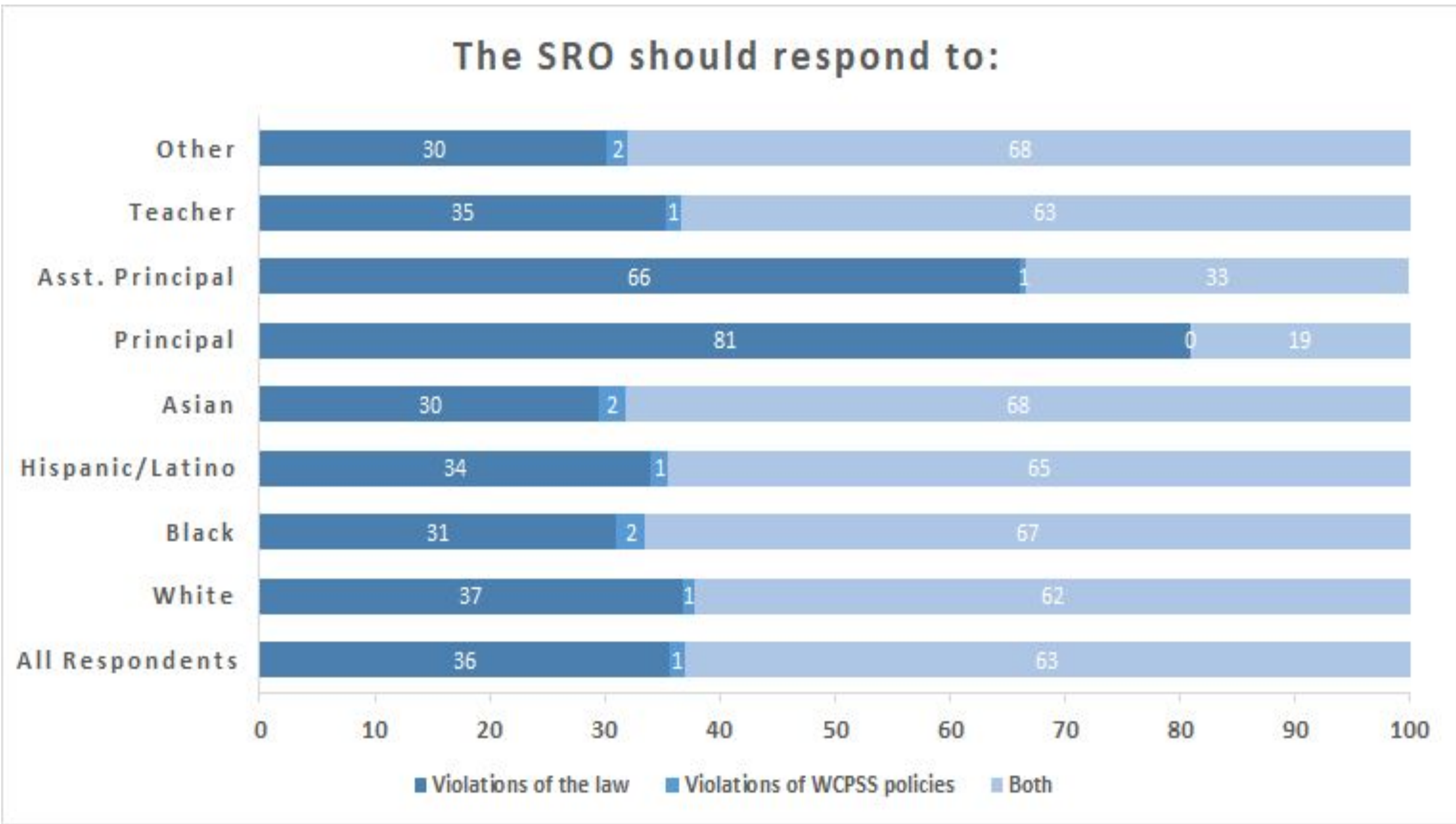
Respondents appear to be somewhat split in their responses for who should handle complaints involving inappropriate actions taken by a SRO.



# School Staff Perceptions of SROs response to Policy Violations or the Law

## Key Implication

While the majority of Principal and Assistant Principal respondents indicate that SROs should respond to violations of the law, there appears to be a mixed perception among other subgroups.

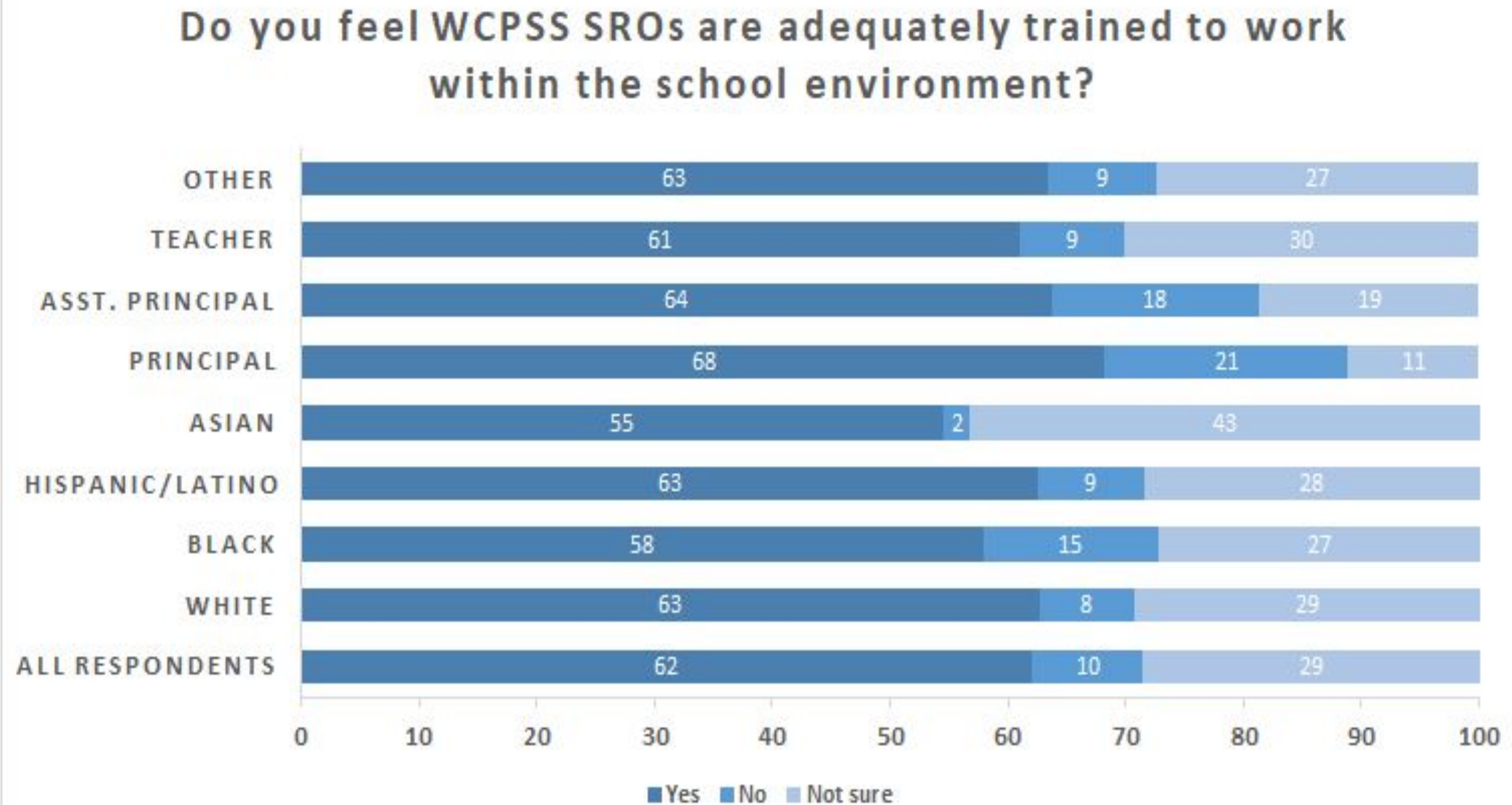




# SRO Training

## Key Implication

A majority of school staff feel SROs are trained to work with students in a school environment.







## Next Steps

- Facilitate Focus Groups with stakeholders to further unpack survey results and gather additional input related to the SRO program.
  - 12-15 focus groups between mid-December and end of January
    - Students, Parents, Teachers, Principals, Community Members/Interest Groups, and Law Enforcement Officers
- Share data gathered from Focus Groups with the Board in February.
- As part of the continued work of the Safety and Security Committee, use the analysis of data collected both from the survey and the Focus Groups to inform next steps and decisions as related to the SRO program and SRO MOU.