



Survey of Muslims in Canada 2016

May 21, 2016

Background

2006 Survey of Muslims in Canada

- U.S. based Pew Research Center – In 2006 conducted a 15 country study of the Muslim experience – surveys with general public (11 countries) and Muslims (4 countries)
- Canada was not included
- Environics Institute launched a Canadian version to complement the Pew work, and specifically address the Canadian experience
- Conducted as a syndicated study through Environics' FOCUS CANADA research, with CBC as a media partner

Why we did it

- Muslims are one of the fastest growing segments of the Canadian population
- Interest - and concern - about Muslims was growing
 - Post 9/11 anxiety about domestic terrorism
 - June 2006 arrests of 18 suspected terrorists in Mississauga
 - Concerns about hijabs and stoning (Quebec)
 - Controversy over sharia law and women's rights (Ontario)
- Multiculturalism is a central policy, and a demographic reality, of Canada
- No systematic opinion research on Muslim population has ever been done in Canada

Canadian Muslim Population (1871 – 2011)

	# of Muslims in Canada	% of Canadian Population
1871	13	--
1931	645	--
1971	33,370	0.1%
1981	98,160	0.3%
1991	253,300	0.9%
2001	579,600	1.8%
2006	842,200	2.6%
2011	1,053,945	3.2%

Source: Statistics Canada

What impact did we make?

- CBC national coverage on TV, radio and web (Feb. 13, 2007)
- Coincided with launch of award-winning CBC show “Little Mosque on the Prairie”
- Well received by the Muslim community as a positive contribution
- Study widely quoted as authoritative by governments, academics and the Muslim community; no other such research exists

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Glad to be Canadian, Muslims say

Last Updated: Tuesday, February 13, 2007 | 8:13 AM ET CBC News

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More than 80 per cent of Canada's roughly 700,000 Muslims are broadly satisfied with their lives here and only a very small percentage — 17 per cent — feel that many or most Canadians are hostile toward their religion.

According to a new Environics poll conducted in association with the CBC, a much larger proportion of Canadian Muslims is satisfied with the way things are going today than is the case in Europe. The proportion is greater even than the 61 per cent of Canadians who generally feel their lives are on the right track.

Internal Links

- Poll: Canada's



Why a survey?

- Survey research is a powerful vehicle for amplifying voices of individuals (vs. groups), and positive narratives in place of negative stereotypes
- Properly conducted surveys provide credible empirical evidence that is more broadly accepted than anecdote, as basis for collective action
- Provides a more nuanced understanding of diverse communities through analysis of key groups (e.g., age, national origin, identity)
- Surveys attract media and public attention

2016 Survey of Muslims

2016 Survey – Study Partners



Canadian
Race Relations
Foundation

Fondation
canadienne des
relations raciales



2016 Survey of Muslims in Canada

Themes explored

- Personal connection to Canada
- Muslim identity and practice
- Muslim community issues
- Integration and Canadian society
- Treatment of Muslims in broader society
- Concerns about violent extremism

2016 Survey of Muslims & non-Muslims in Canada

Muslim Population

- Survey of 600 adult Muslims
- Conducted November 19, 2015 to January 23, 2016
- Interviews in English, French, Arabic, and Urdu
- National results accurate to within ± 4.0 percentage points (*95% confidence level*)
- *Additional online survey of 300 Muslim youth (ages 18 to 34)*

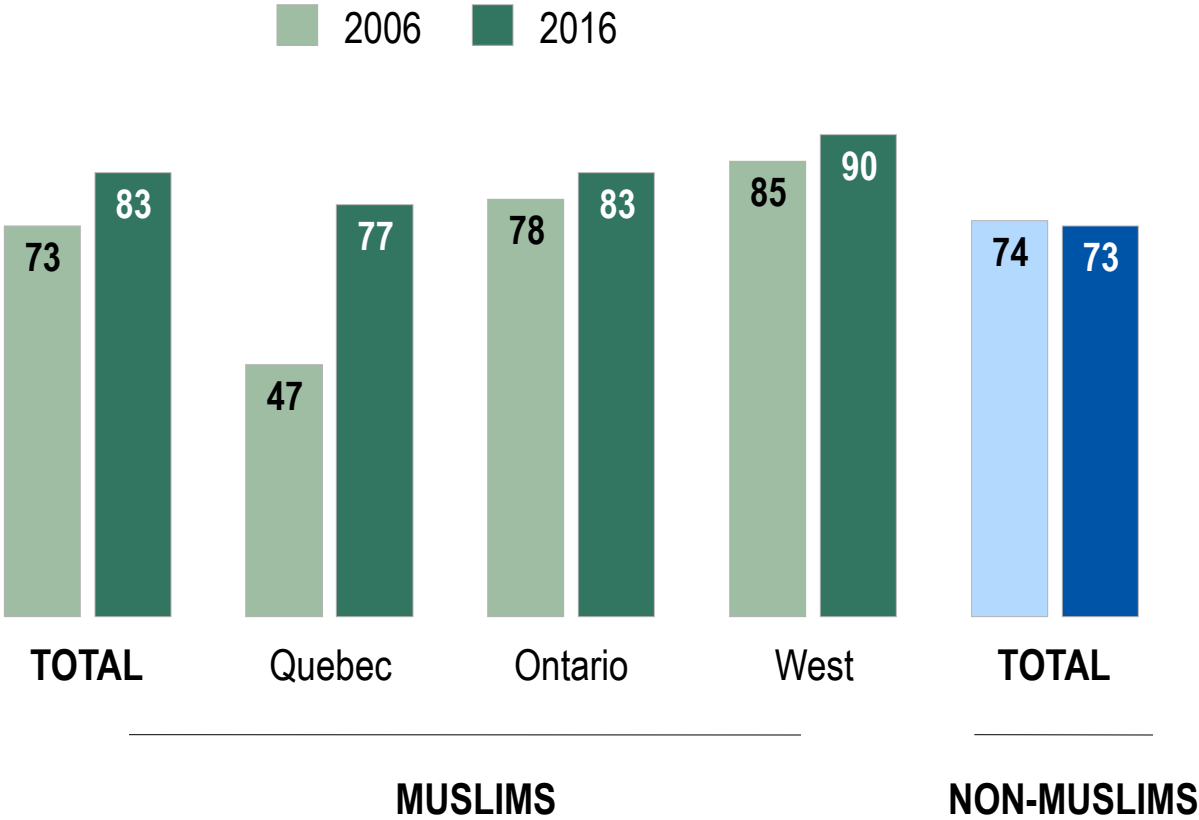
Non-Muslim Population

- Survey of 897 non-Muslim Canadians
- Conducted February 6 to 15, 2016
- Interviews in English and French
- National results accurate to within ± 3.1 percentage points (*95% confidence level*)

Survey Findings

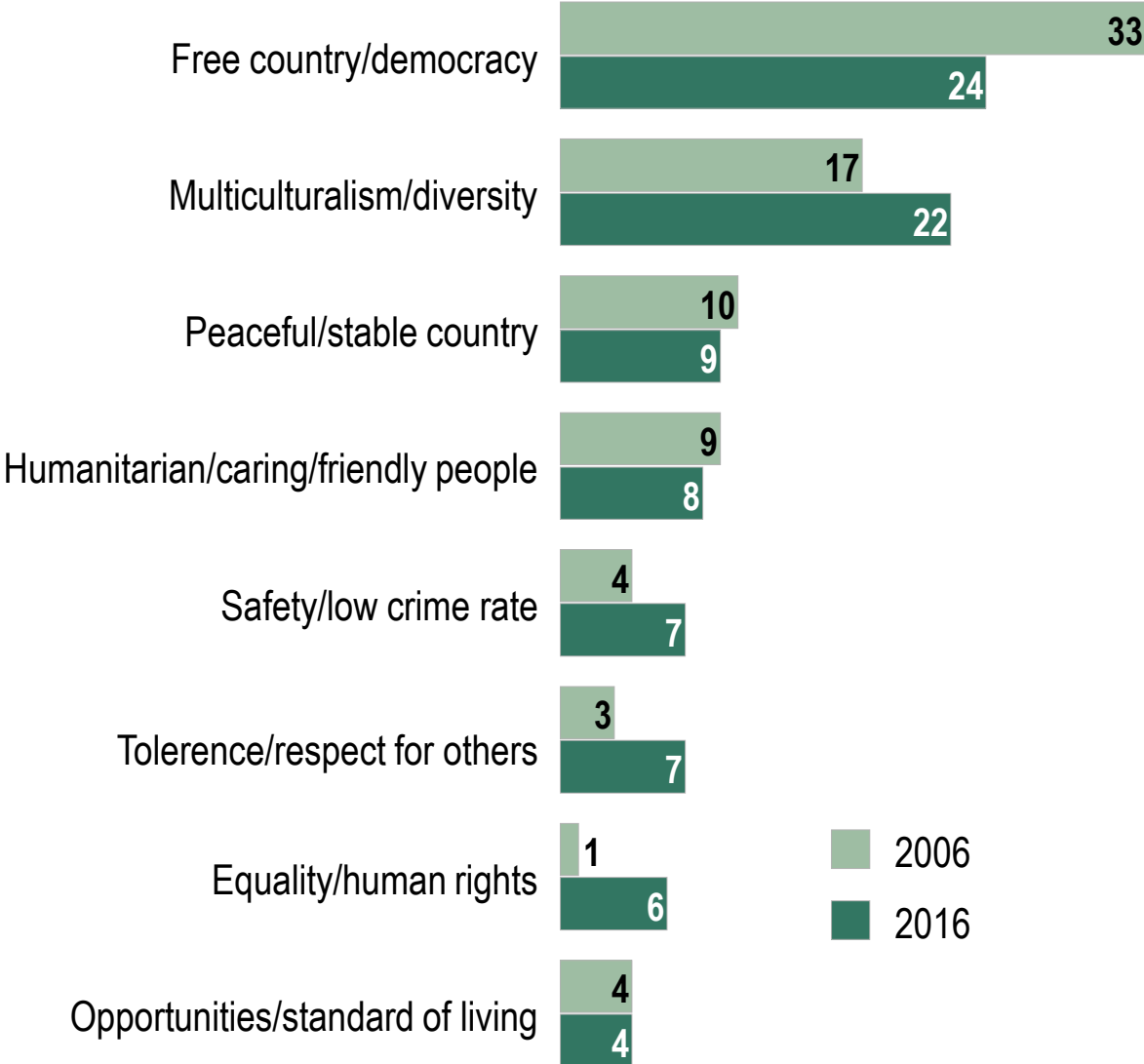
Personal connection to Canada

Very proud to be Canadian



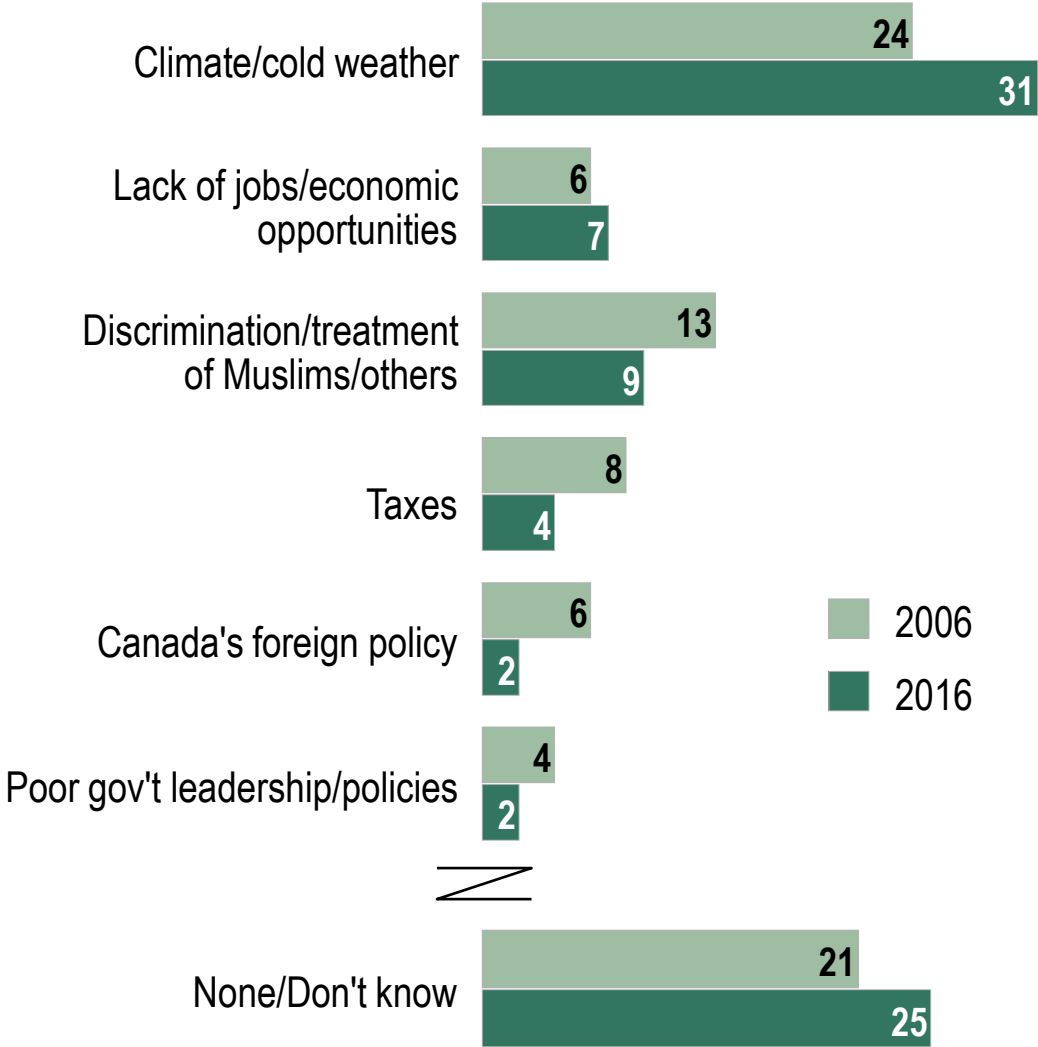
Greatest source of pride in Canada

Top mentions

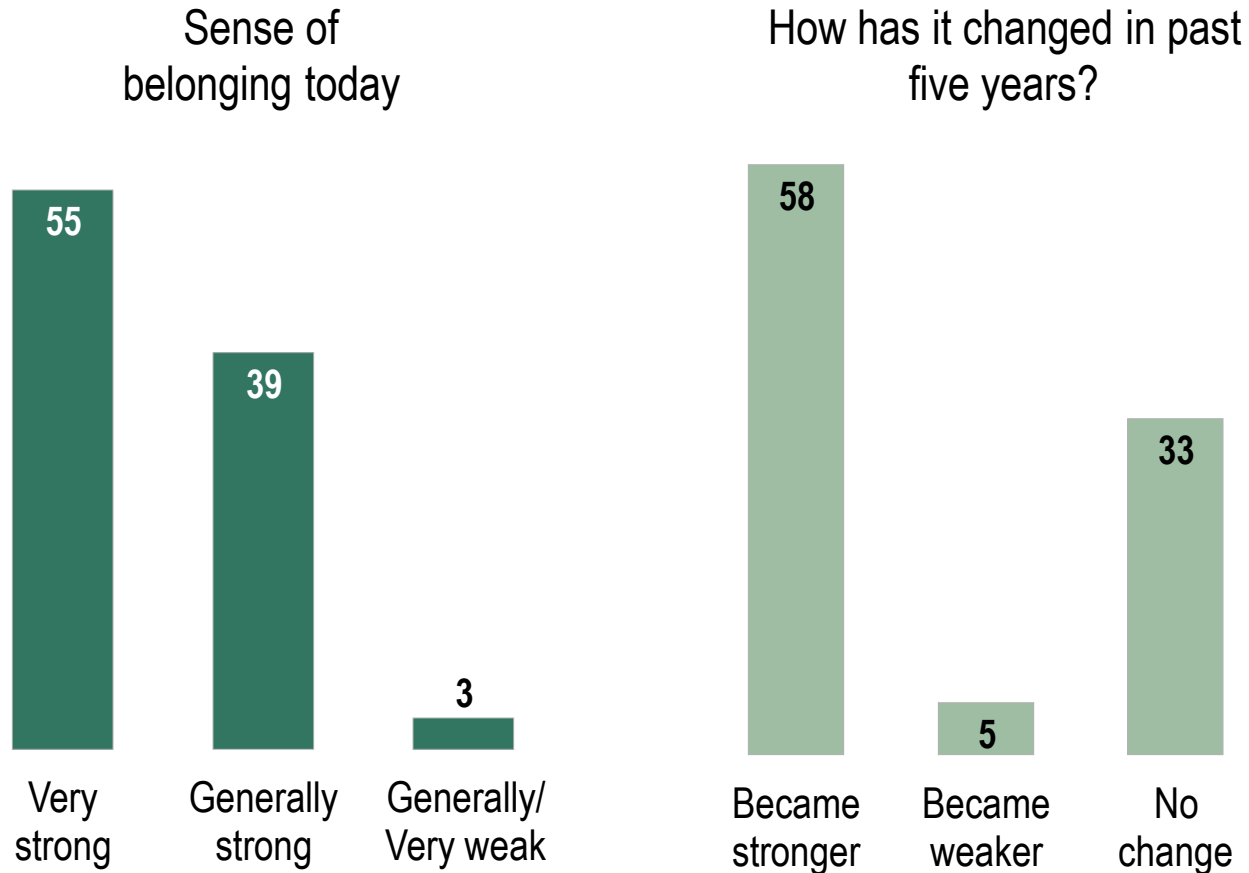


Like least about Canada

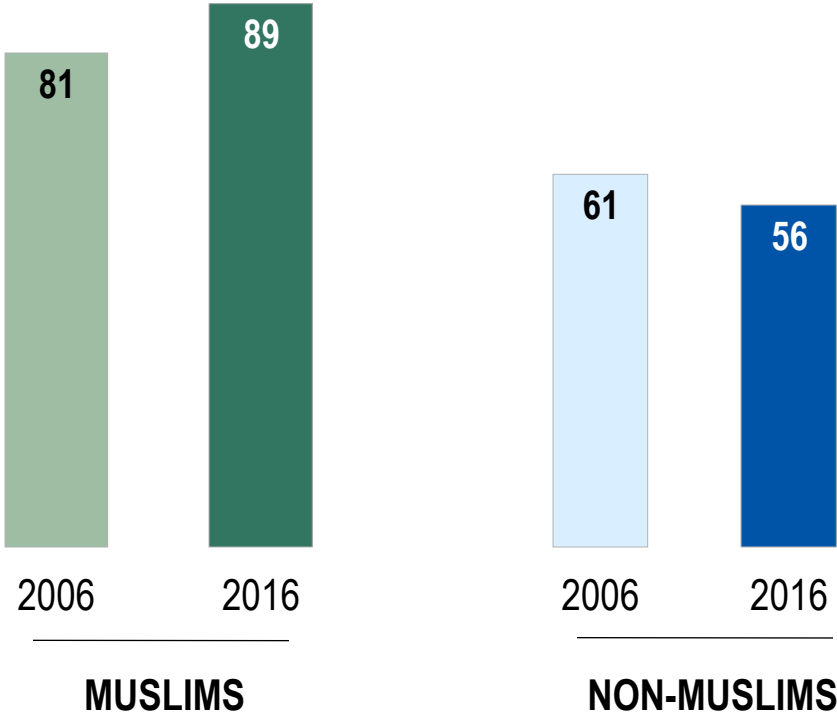
Top mentions



Sense of belonging to Canada

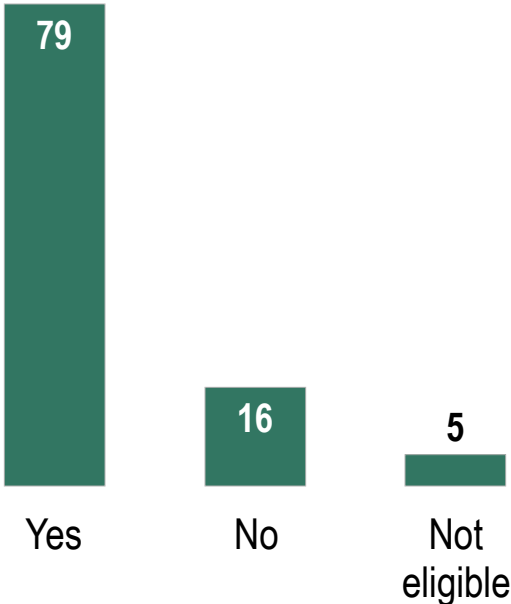


Satisfied with direction of country today

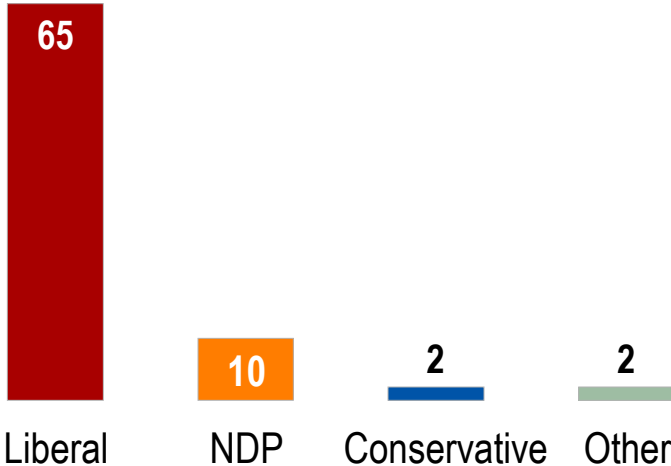


Participation in recent federal election

Voted in Oct. 2015 federal election

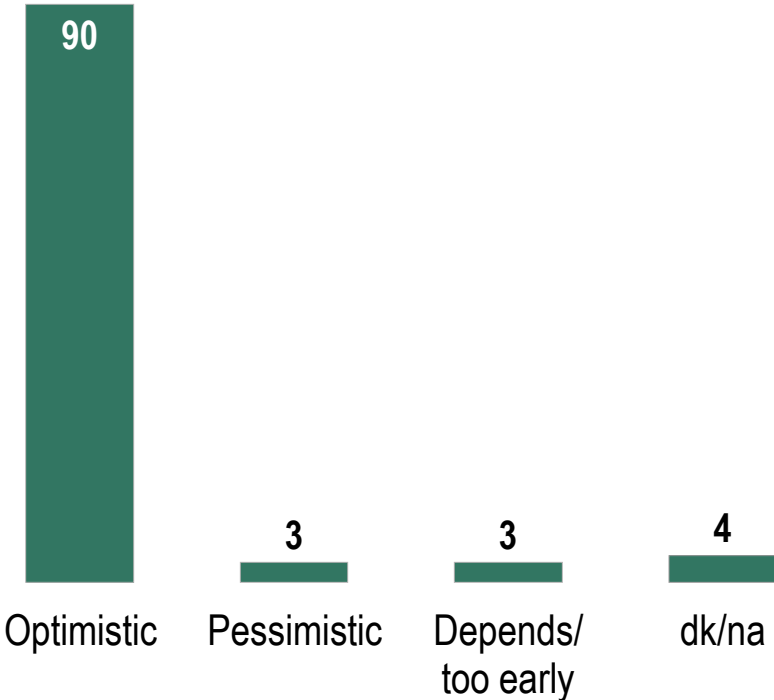


Which party did you vote for?*



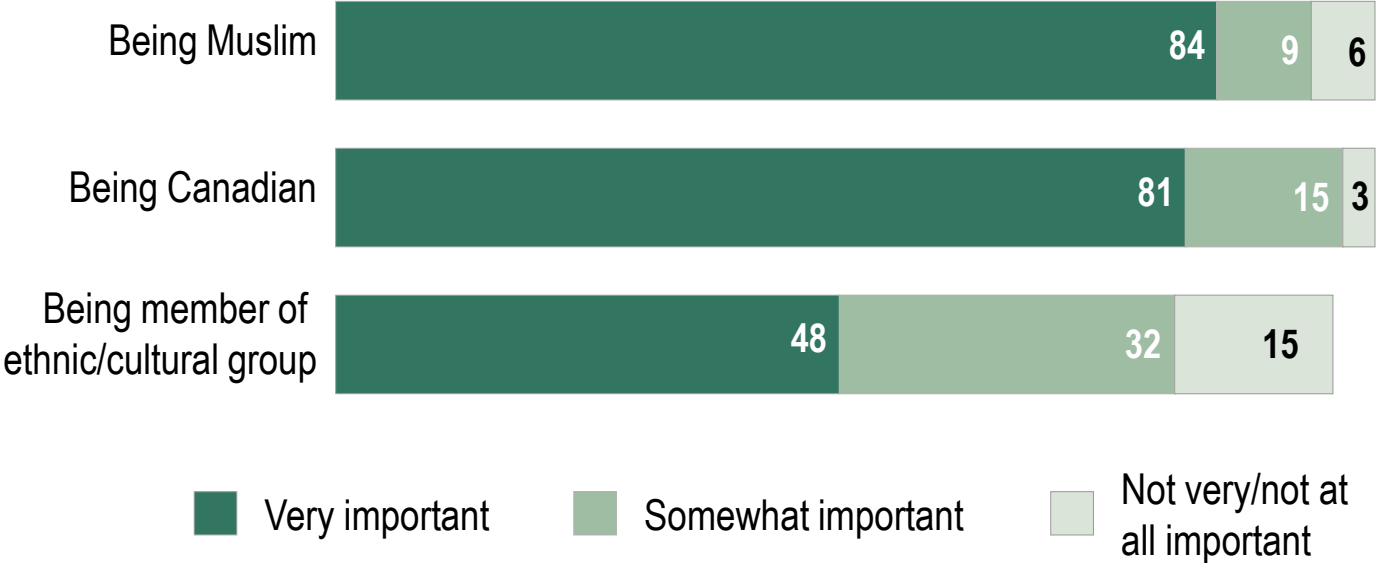
* Among those who voted in the federal election

Feelings about new federal government improving relations between Muslims and other Canadians



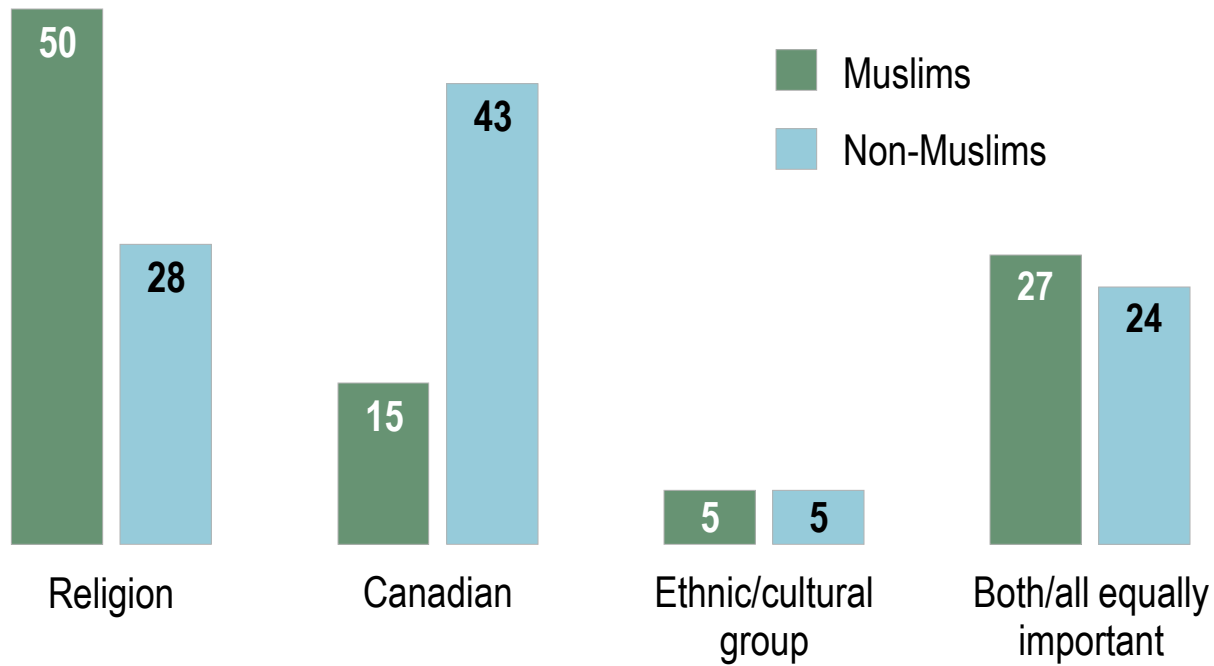
Muslim identity and practice

Important part of personal identity



Most important part of personal identity*

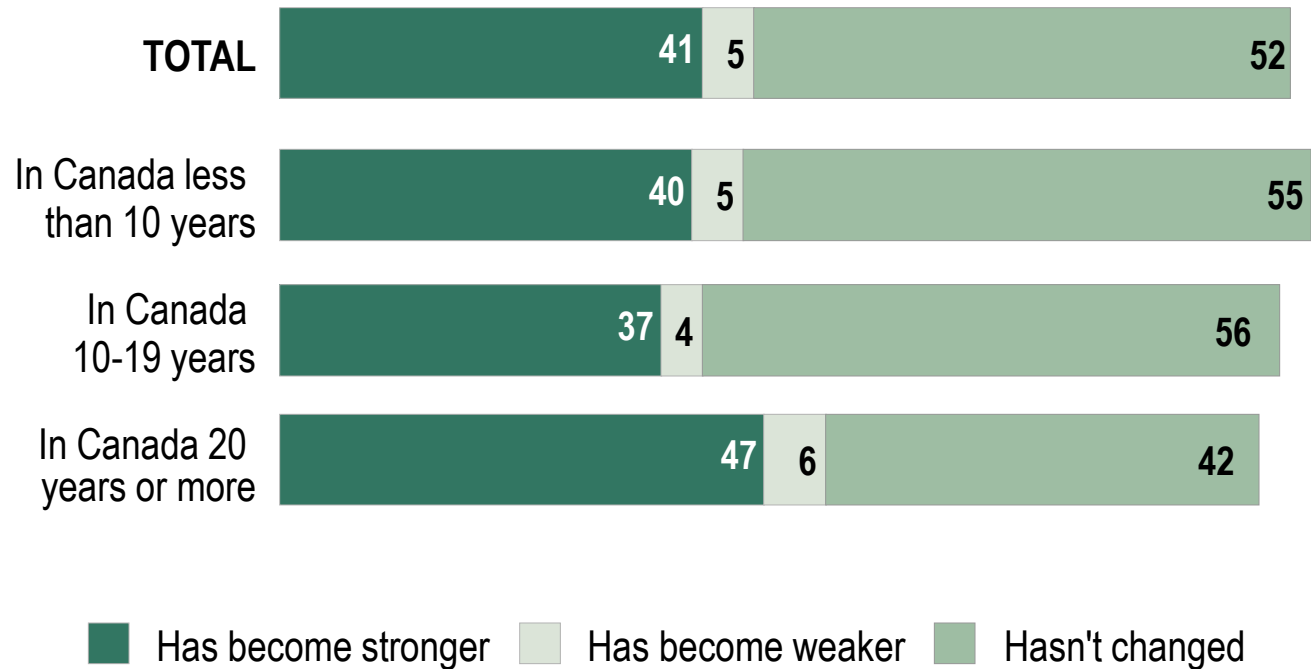
Those who have a religious affiliation



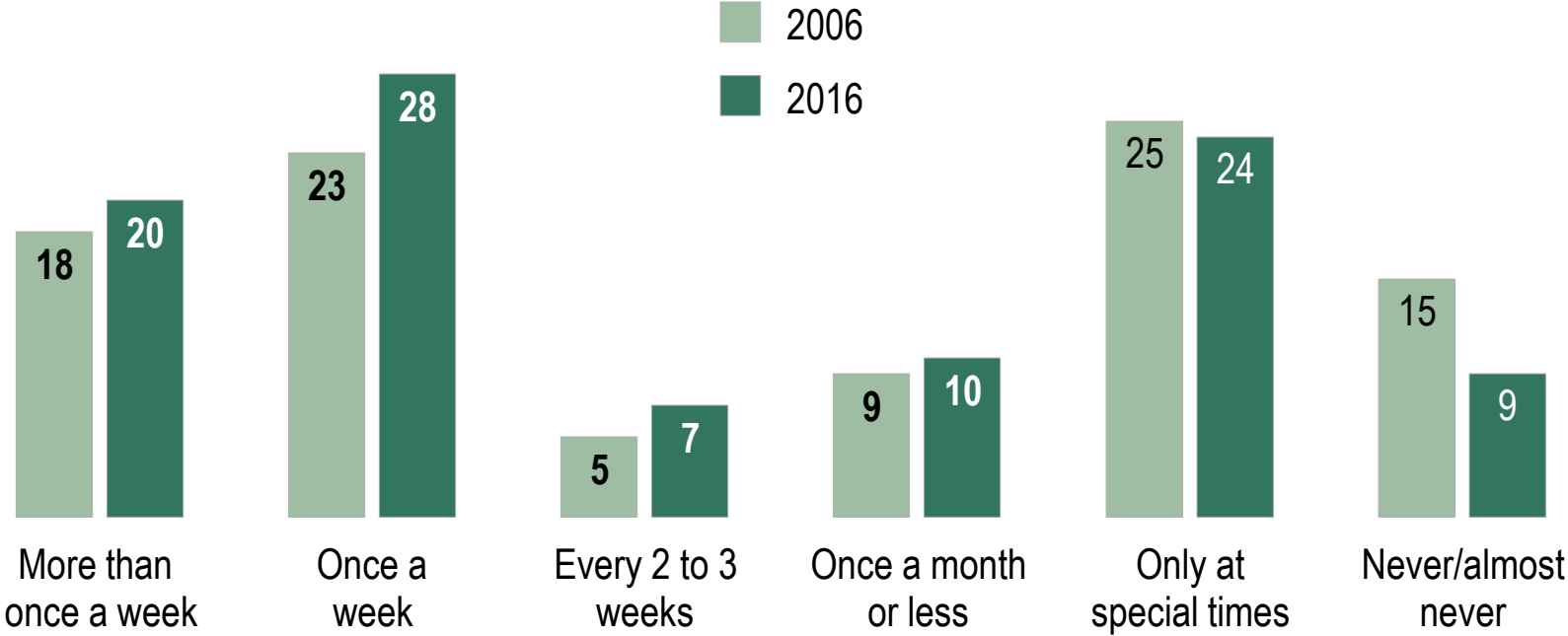
** Among those who identify more than one as very important*

Attachment to Islam since moving to Canada

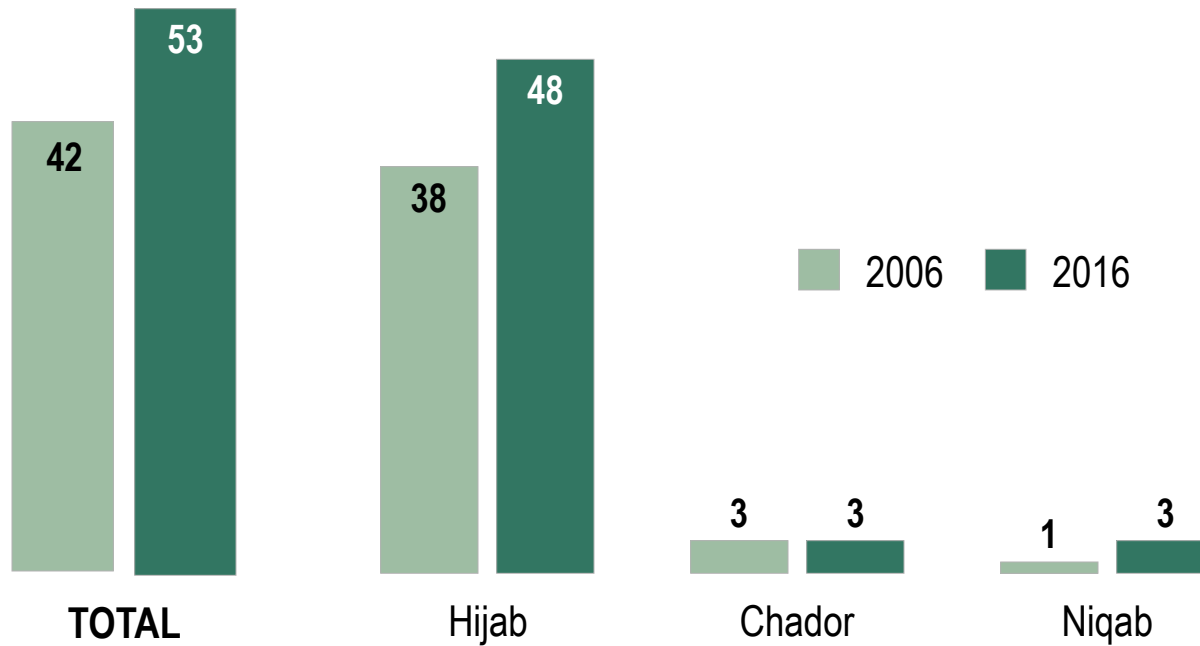
Those born in another country



Frequency of attending mosque or Muslim community centre for prayer

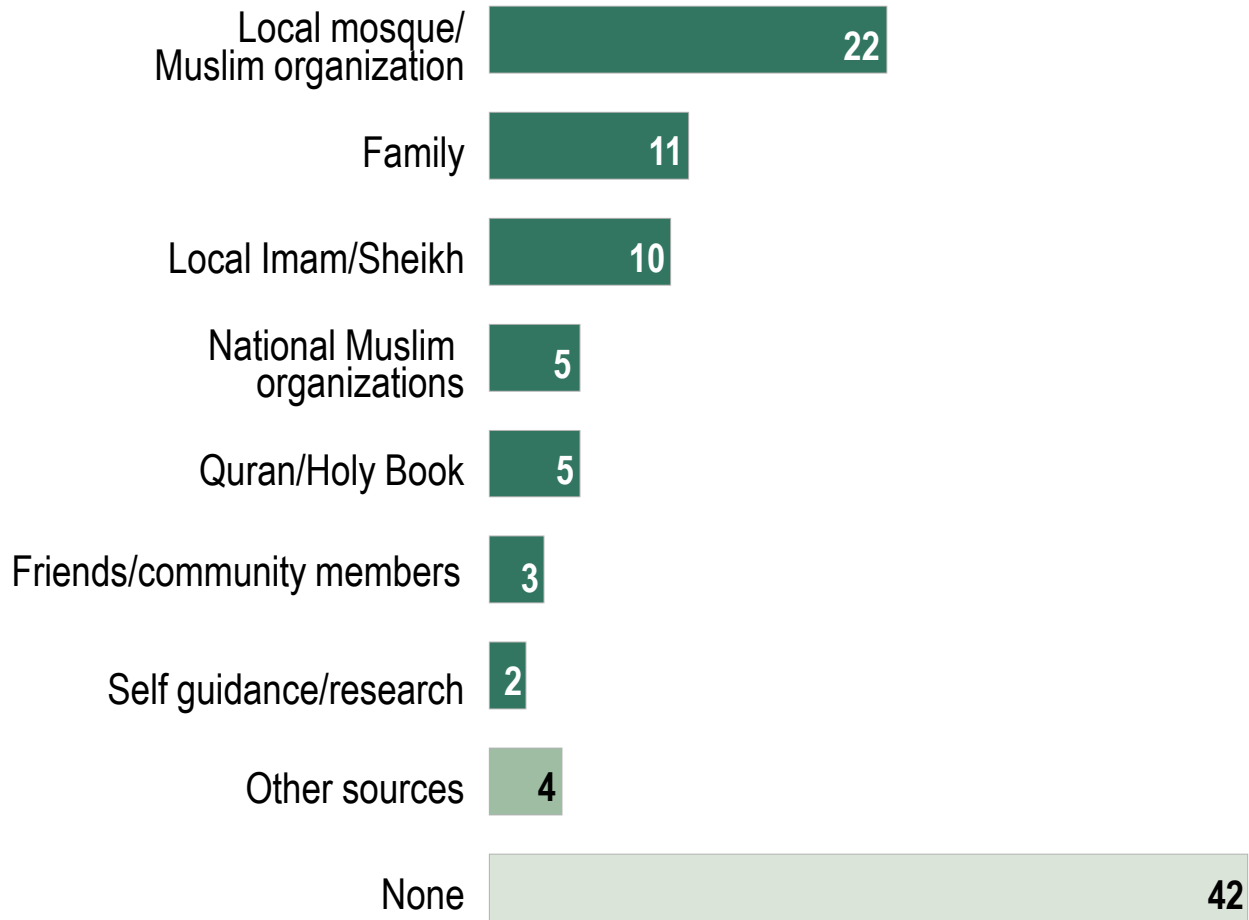


Women wearing a head covering in public



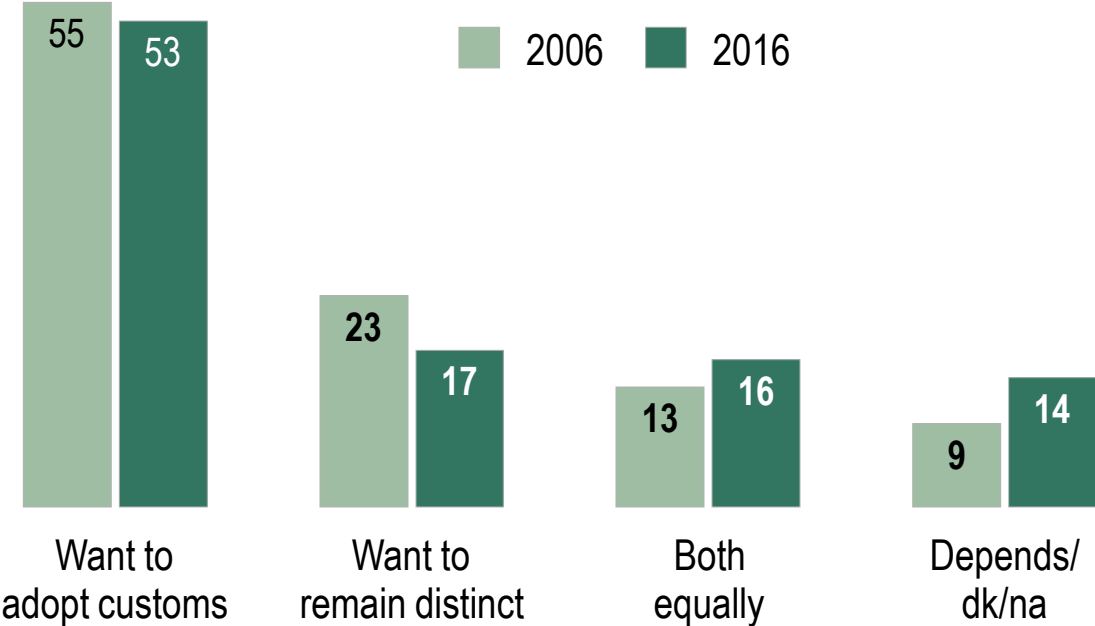
Sources of guidance as a Muslim

Unprompted responses



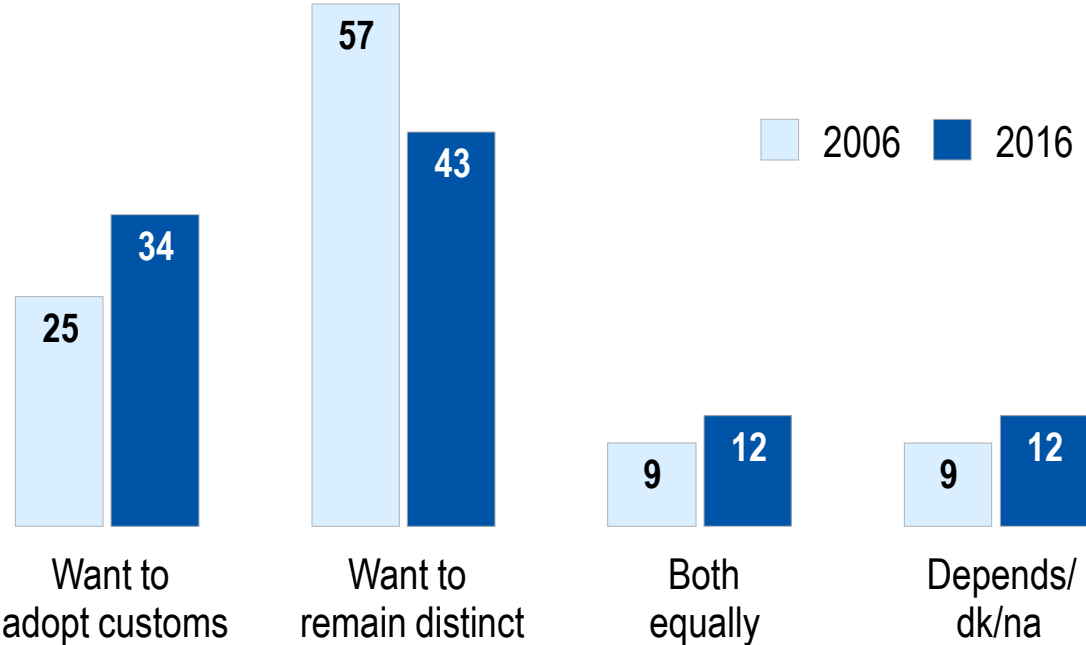
Integration and Canadian society

Do Muslims want to adapt Canadian customs or remain distinct?



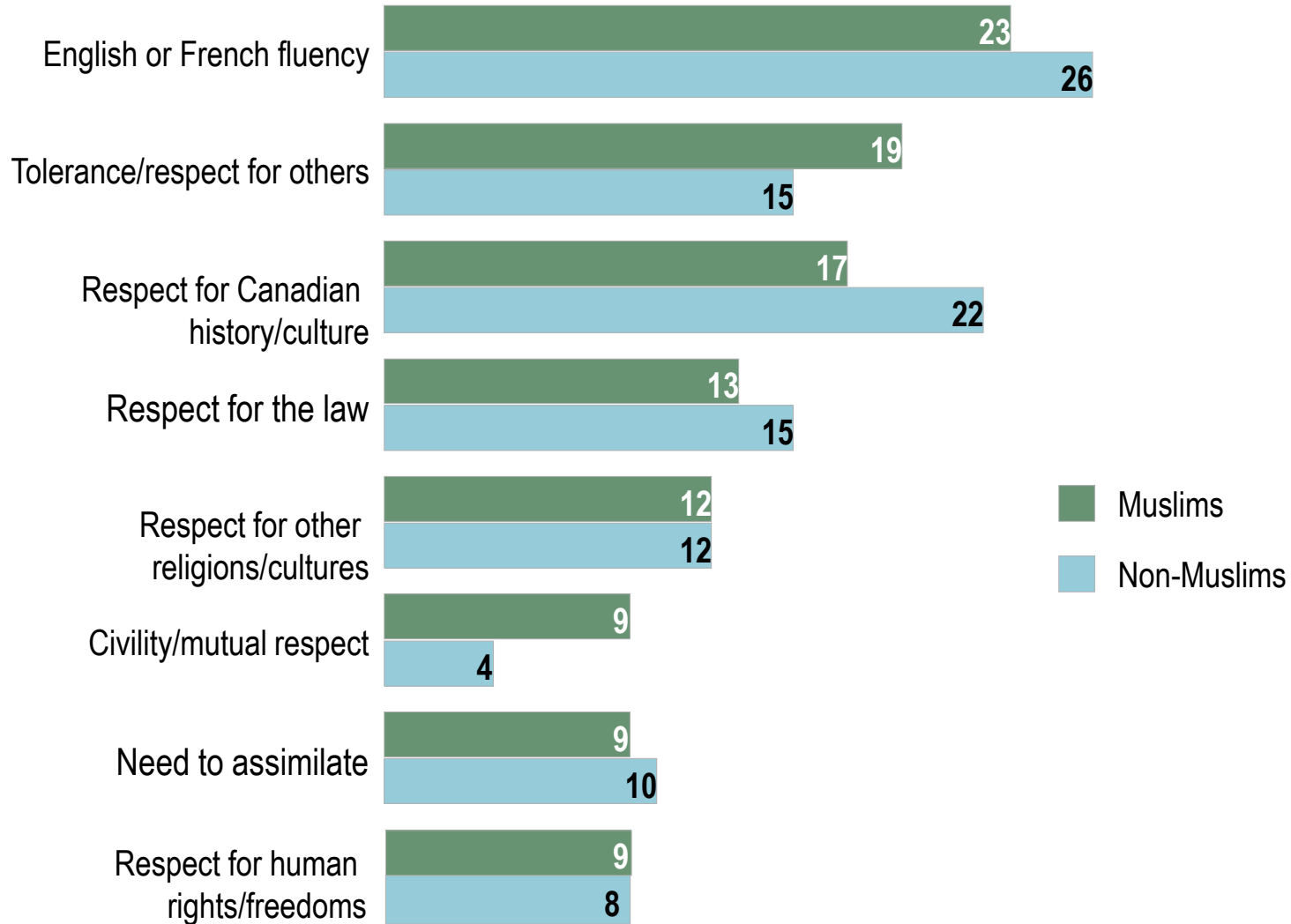
Do Muslims want to adapt Canadian customs or remain distinct?

Non-Muslim Canadians

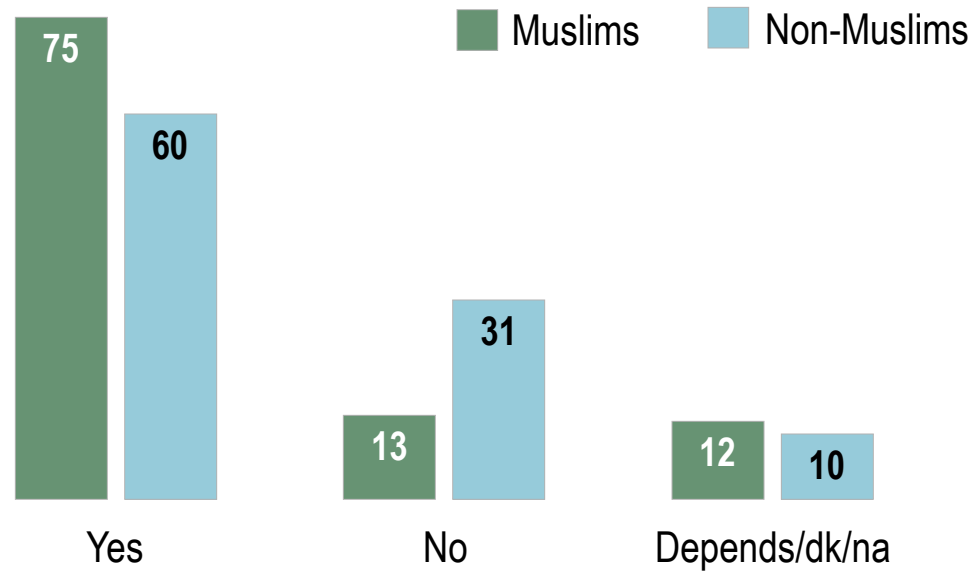


What values are most important for immigrants to adopt?

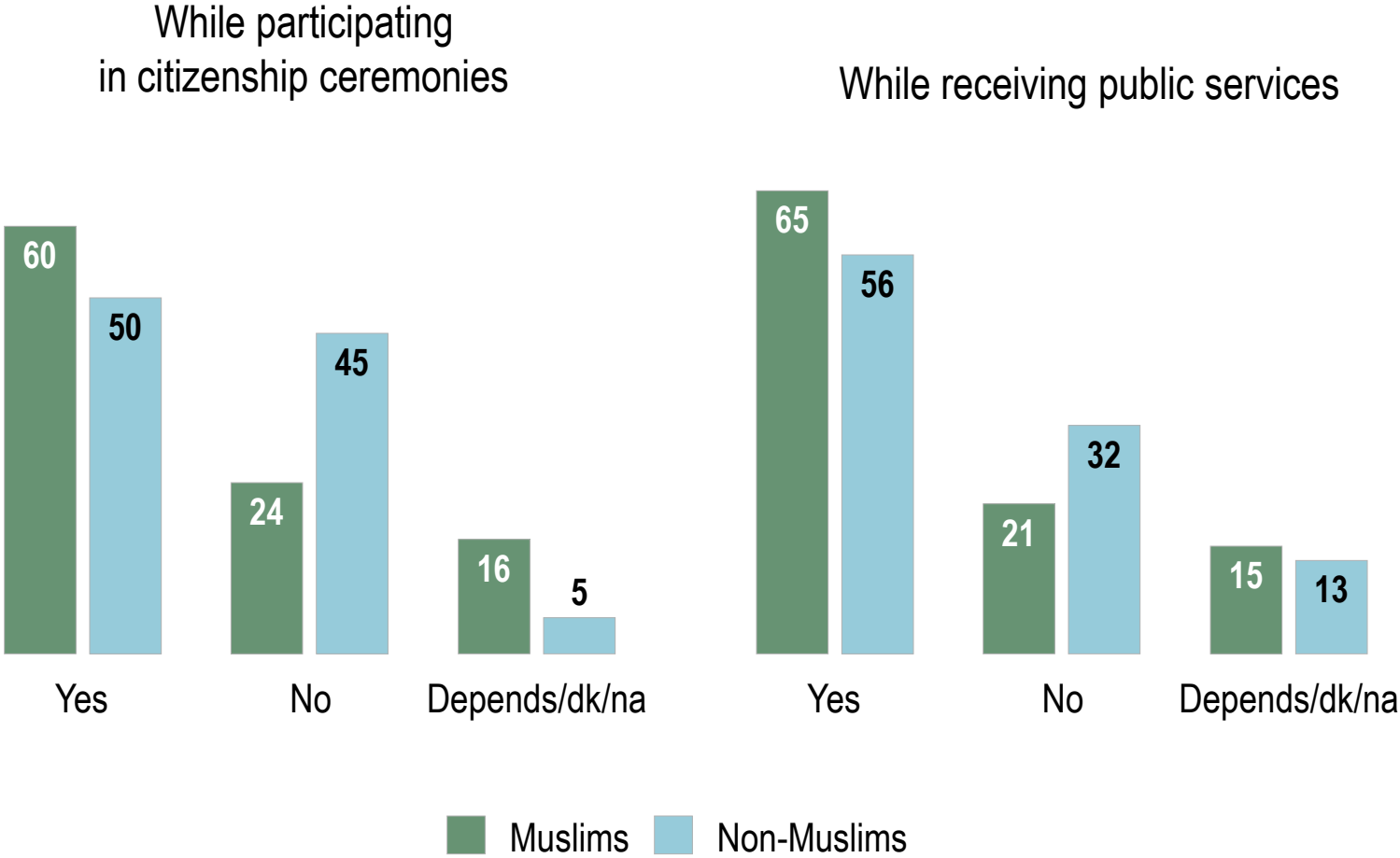
Top mentions



Should Muslims in Canada have the right to pray in public schools?

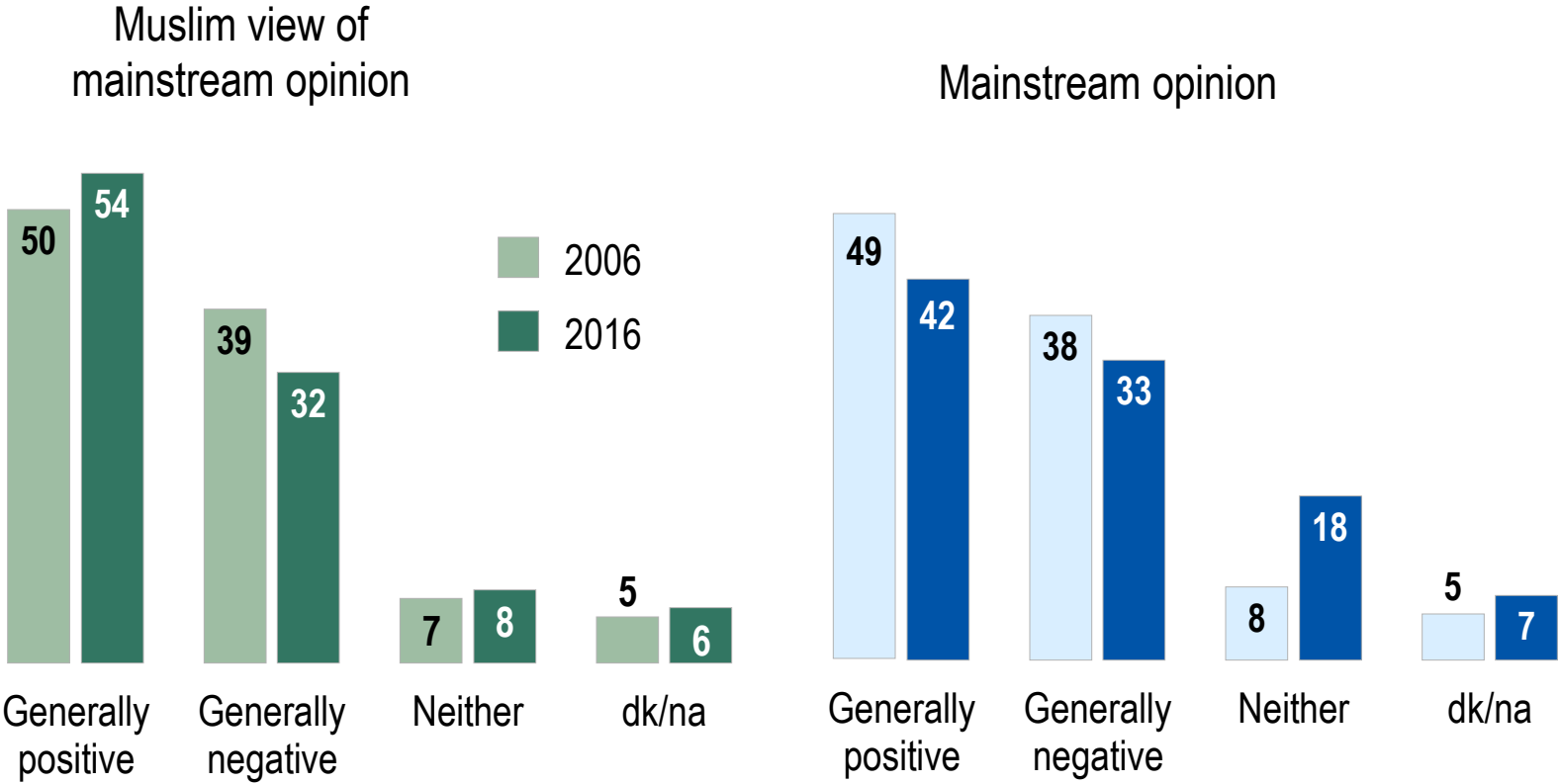


Should Muslims in Canada have the right to wear the niqab?

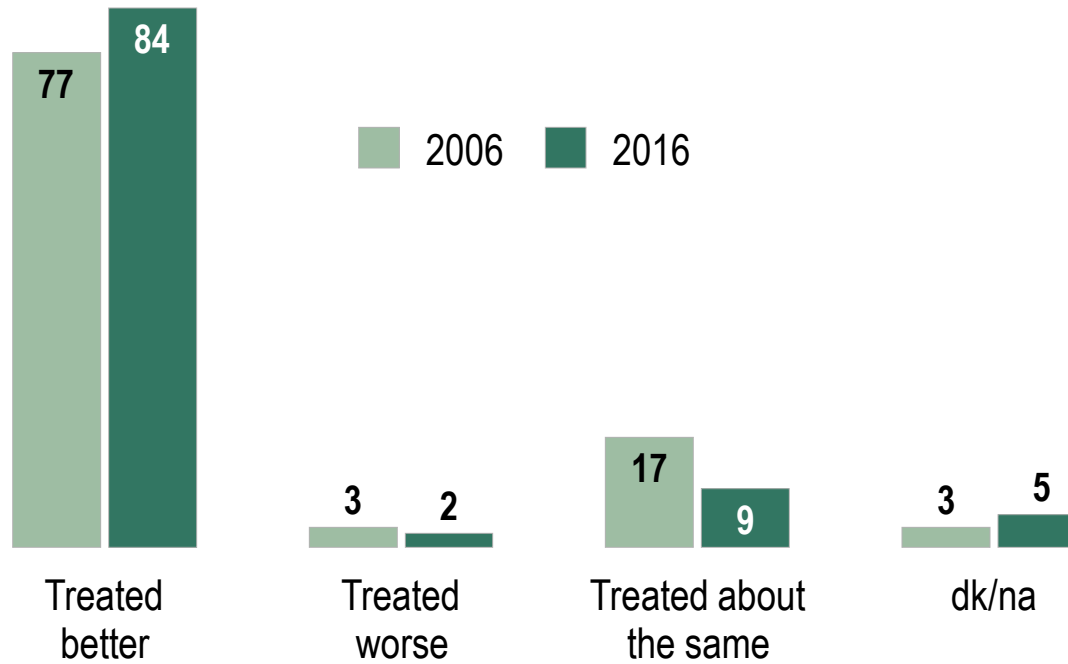


Treatment of Muslims in broader society

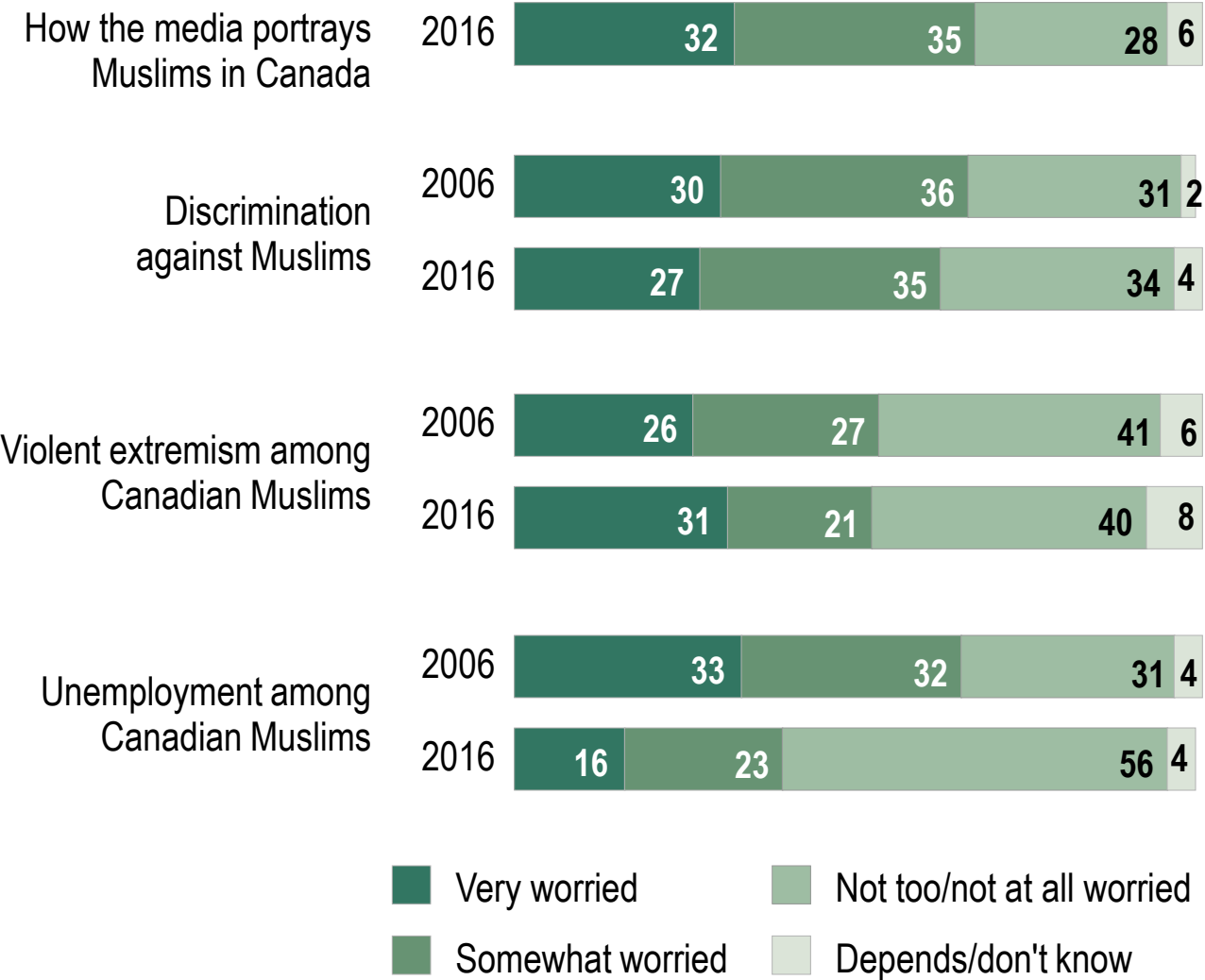
Canadian mainstream opinion of the religion of Islam



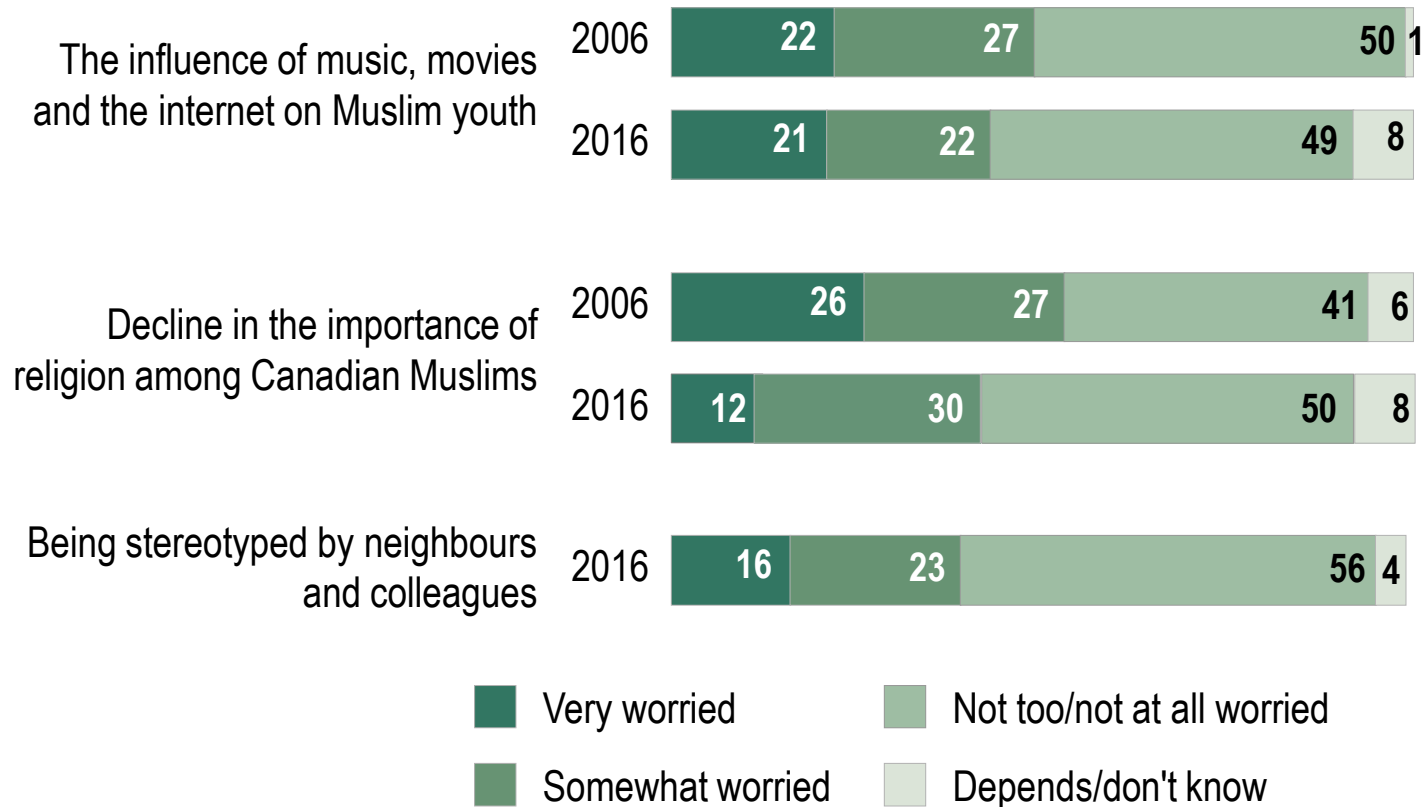
Treatment of Muslims in Canada compared to in other western countries



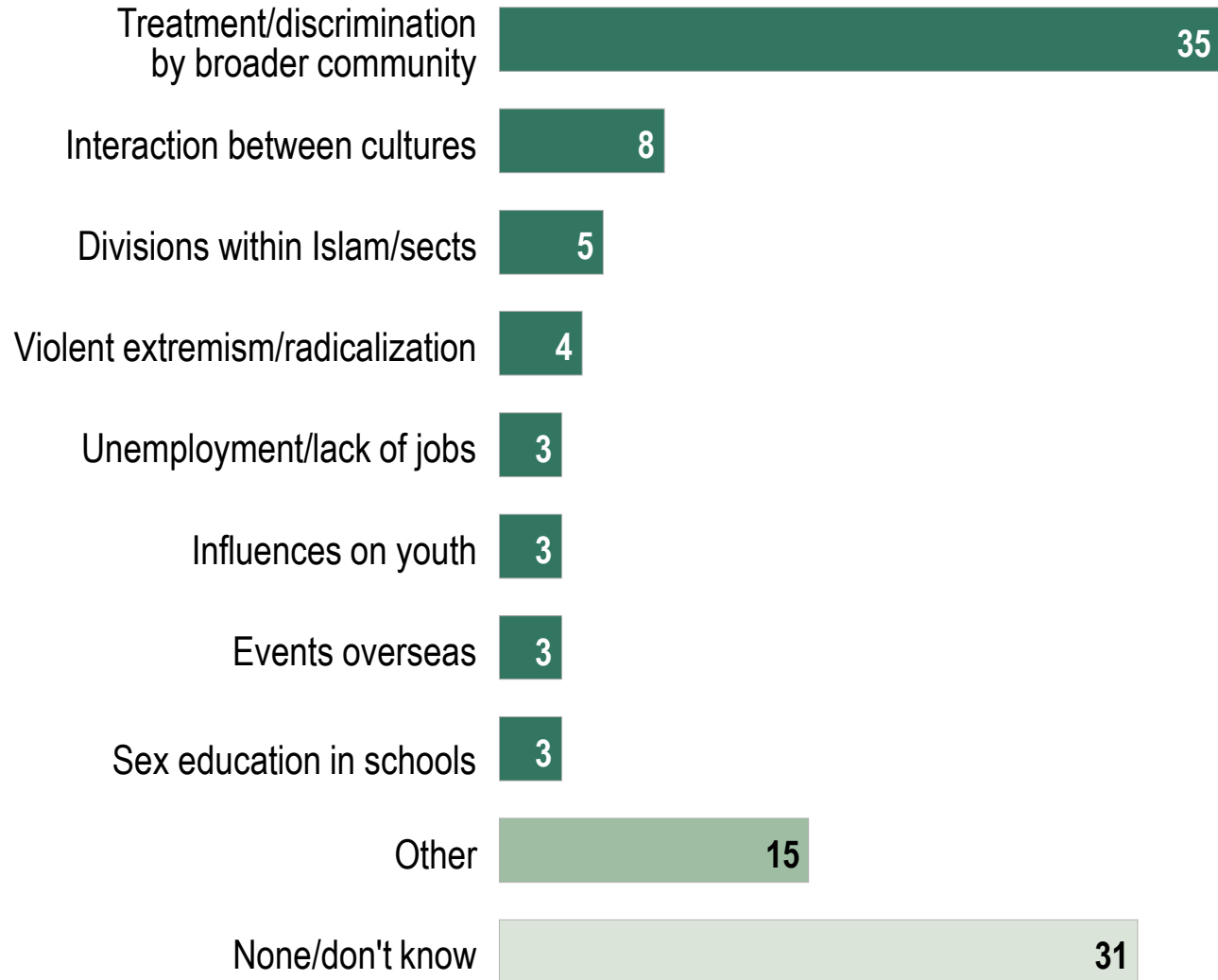
Concern about issues facing Muslims in Canada



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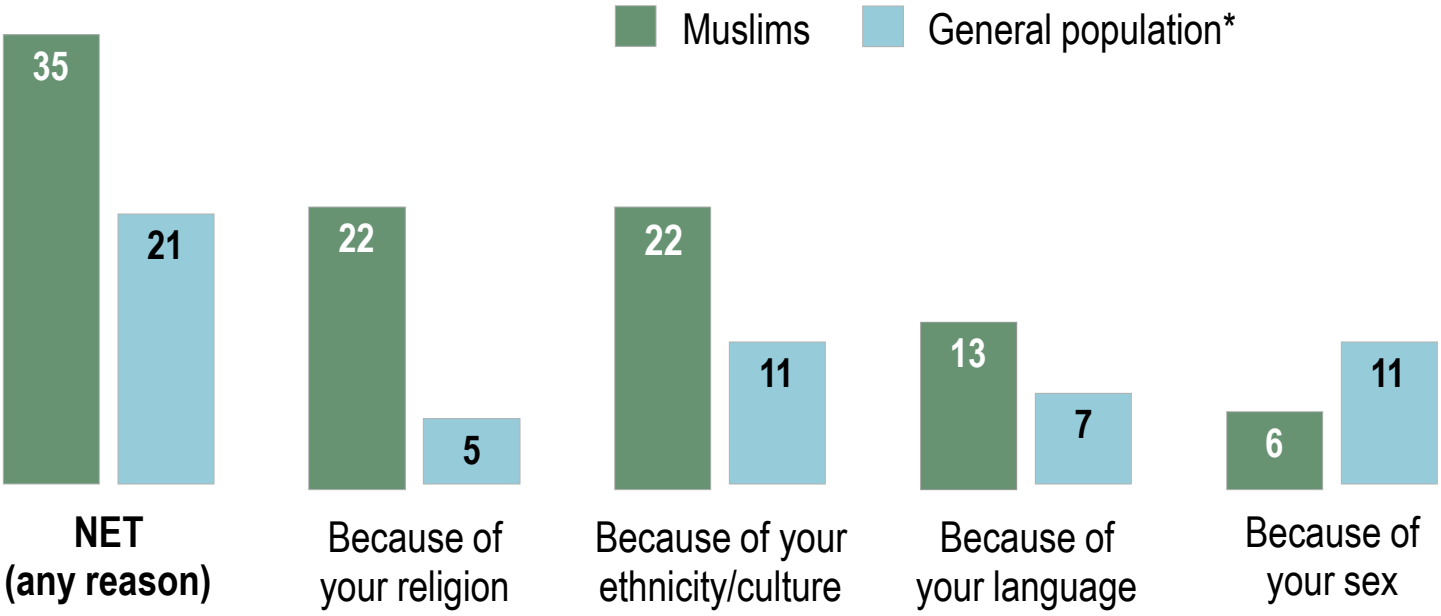


Most important issues facing Muslims in local community today



Experienced discrimination or unfair treatment by others in Canada

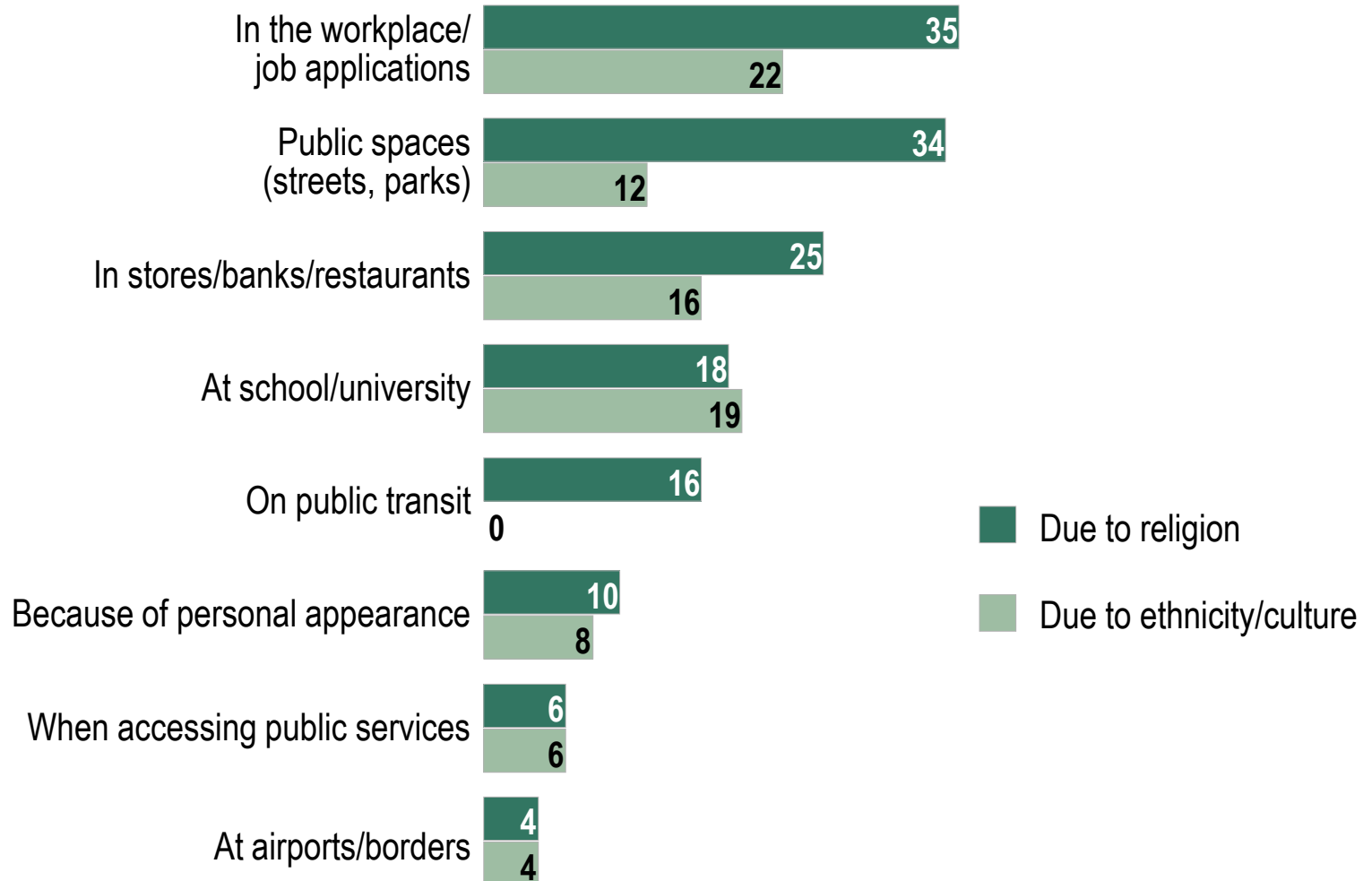
In past five years



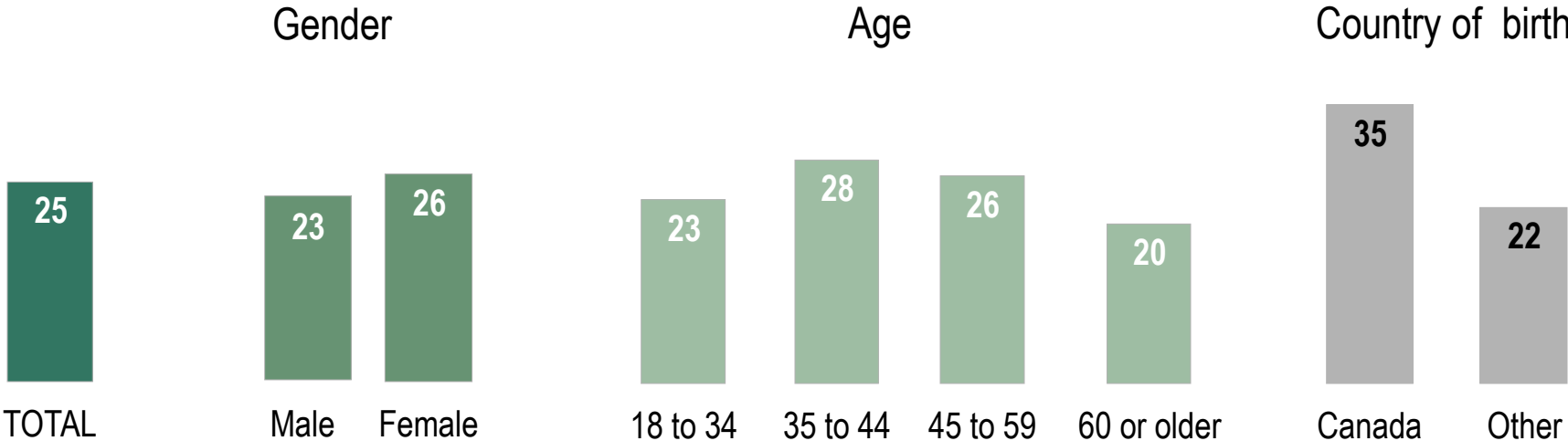
* Source: Statistics Canada (2013 General Social Survey)

Where discrimination has taken place in past five years

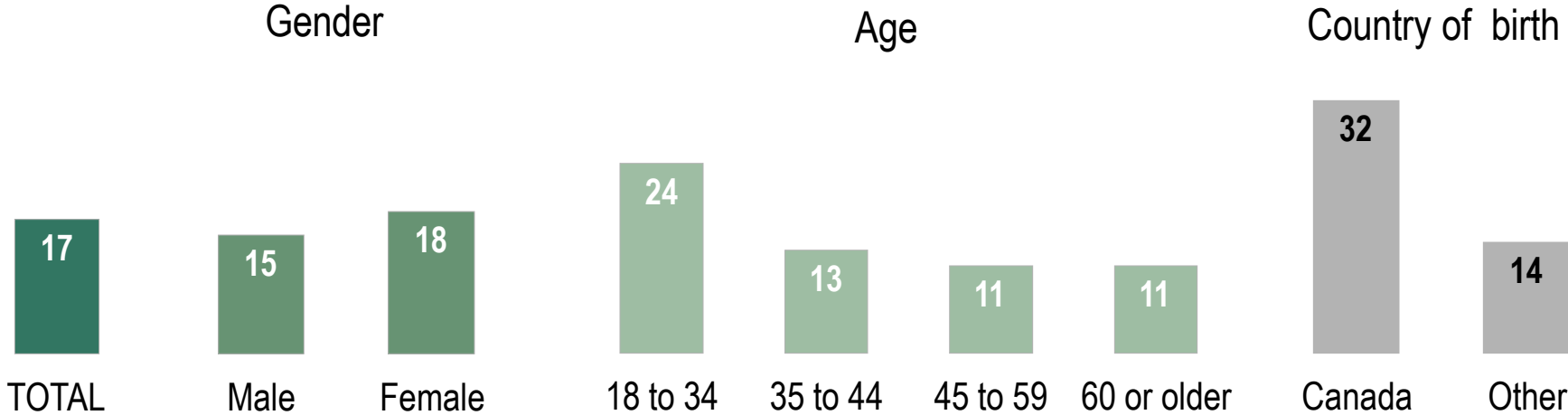
Top mentions



Experienced difficulties crossing borders due to race, ethnicity or religion

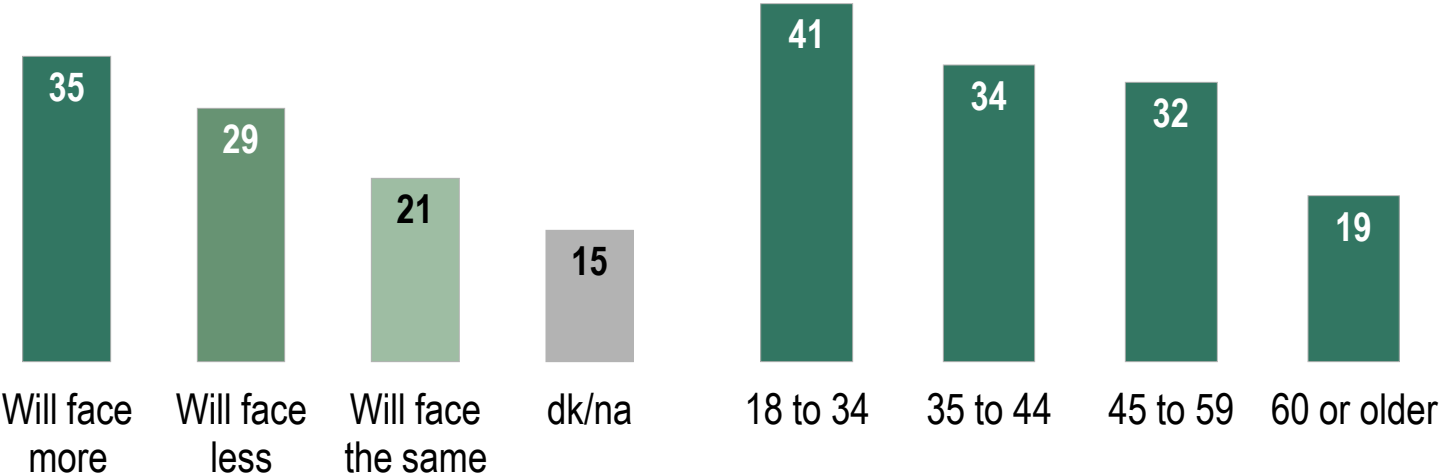


Felt inhibited about expressing opinions due to race, ethnicity or religion



What will next generation of Muslims face in terms of discrimination/stereotyping?

Will face more discrimination, by age cohort



In Conclusion

What we've learned

- Muslims are notably positive about this country and the acceptance of their religion, despite the ongoing reality of stereotyping and discrimination
- Most are as connected to the positive values associated with Canada and multiculturalism as any group in this country
- Religious identity and practice are important and growing, in contrast to the broader secularizing trend in Canada
- Youth are developing their own identity as Muslims, and are least accepting of the status quo treatment by broader society



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