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 INSTITUTE  
FOR WOMEN'S  
POLICY  
RESEARCH



# INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S POLICY RESEARCH

Reproductive Health Students and Parents  
Survey

APRIL 2023

## METHODOLOGY

This poll was conducted between March 31-April 7, 2023 among a sample of 501 Parents and 500 Students. The interviews were conducted online. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

## DEFINITIONS

**Parents:** Parents of prospective and current college and grad students who live in the Northeast of the U.S.

**Students:** Prospective and current college and grad students who live in the Northeast of the U.S.

**States** polled include CT, MA, ME, NH, VT, NJ, NY, PA, RI.

# KEY FINDINGS

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## **1. Students prefer to attend school in a state where abortion is legal and accessible.**

- Three-fourths of students (76%) prefer to attend school in a state where abortion is legal and accessible, and all parents who contribute financially to their children's education say the same (100%).

## **2. A majority of parents and students do not want to support or put their money into a state that bans abortion.**

- Among the two-thirds of parents who want their children to attend school in a state where abortion is legal and accessible, most strongly or somewhat agree they do not want to support a state government that bans abortion (75%) nor put money into a state that bans abortion (77%).
- Five out of six students who want to attend school in a state where abortion is legal and accessible agree they do not want to be without access to abortion (84%), including students who are considering or attending out-of-state colleges and universities (85%).

## **3. Most parents and students say access to reproductive healthcare is important when deciding where to attend college and university.**

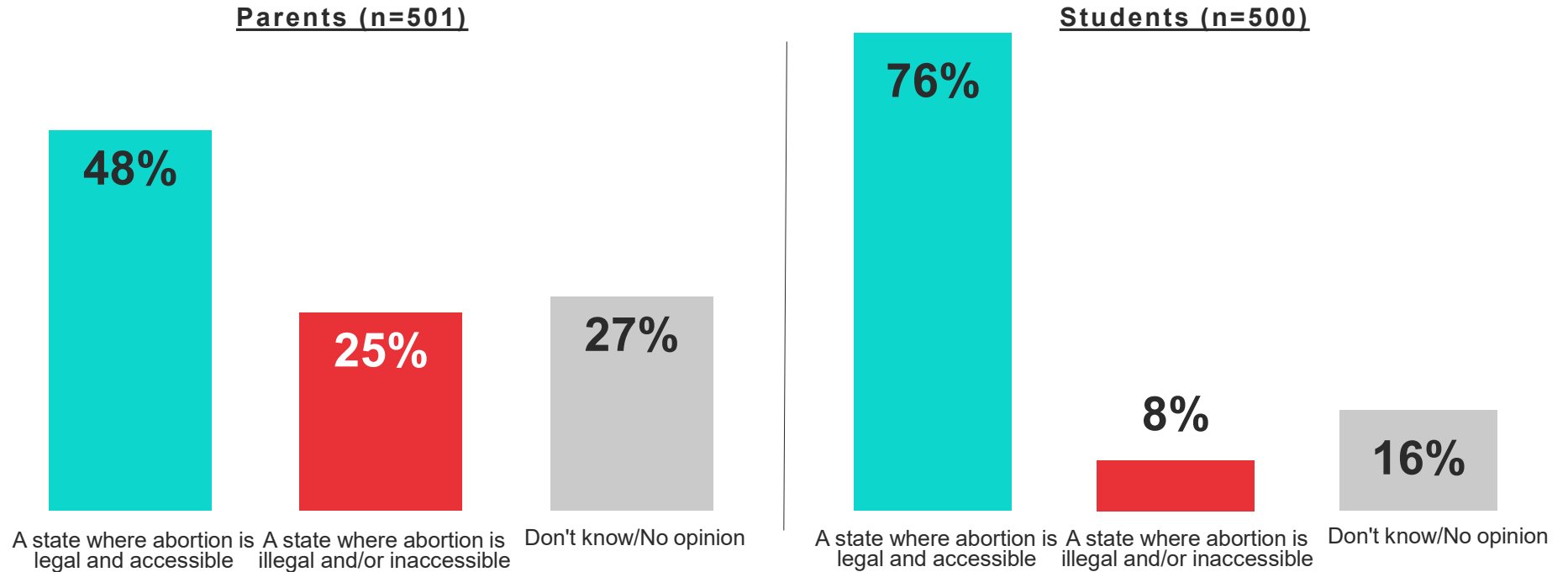
- A majority of students (63%) and parents (52%) find access to reproductive healthcare is extremely or somewhat important when thinking of the decision of where to attend college or university.
- This includes 53% of parents who are contributing financially and 55% of students who are considering or attending college out of state.

## **4. Parents and students are concerned about the future of access to reproductive healthcare in the United States.**

- A majority of parents (78%) and students (85%) show concern about the future of access to reproductive healthcare in the United States, with more than half of students indicating they are very concerned (56%).

Three-fourths of students (76%) prefer to attend school in a state where abortion is legal and accessible, and 100% of parents who contribute financially to their children's education say the same.

Which of the following would you prefer your child to attend school in? (n=501)

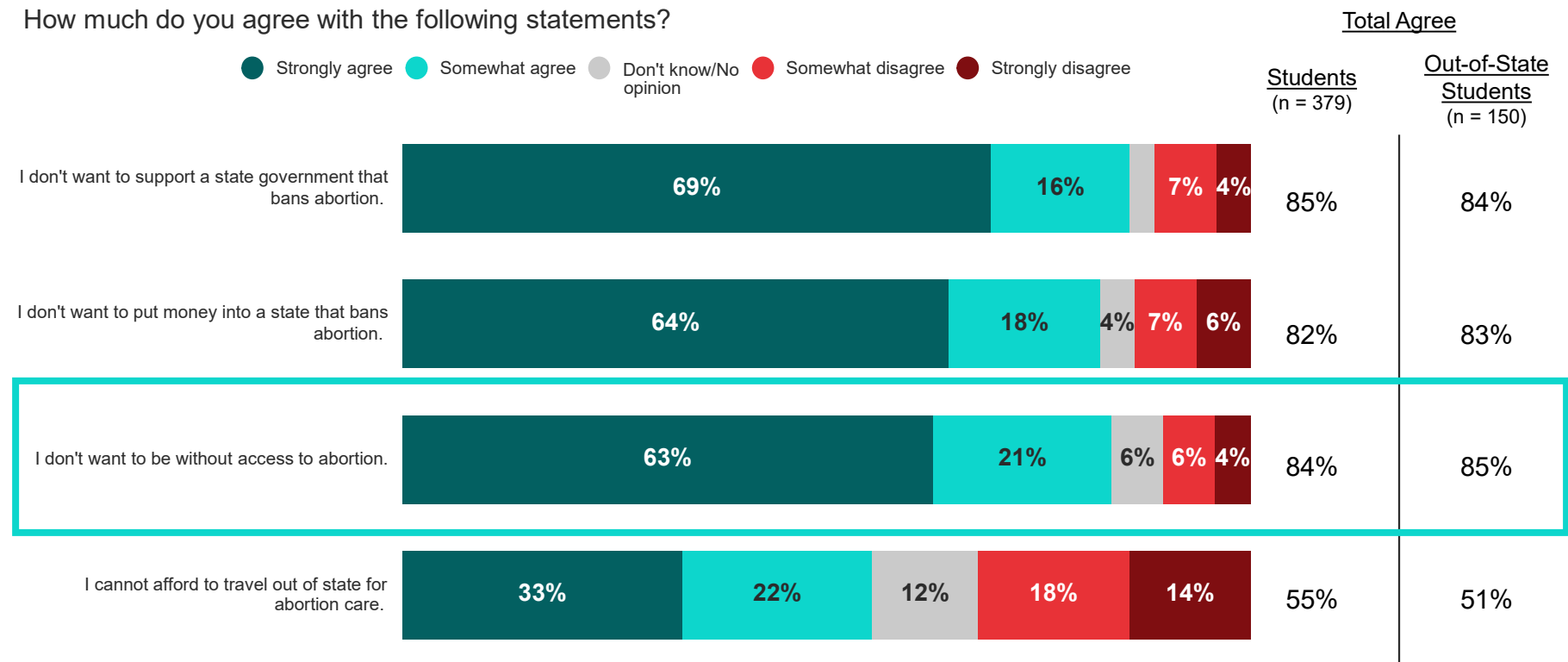


IWPR POLLING PRESENTATION

Five out of six students *agree* they do not want to be without access to abortion (84%), including a majority of students who are considering or attending out-of-state colleges and universities (85%).

How much do you agree with the following statements?

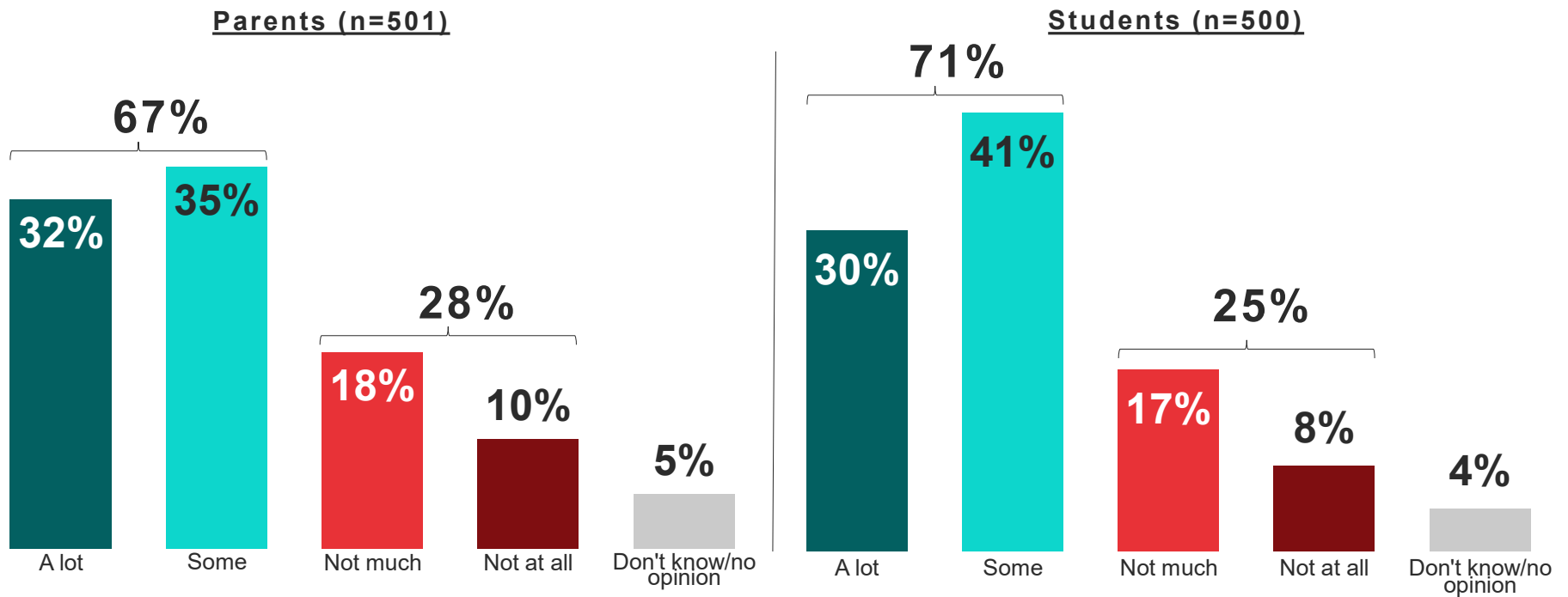
● Strongly agree 
 ● Somewhat agree 
 ● Don't know/No opinion 
 ● Somewhat disagree 
 ● Strongly disagree



Total Agree = % Strongly agree + % Somewhat agree

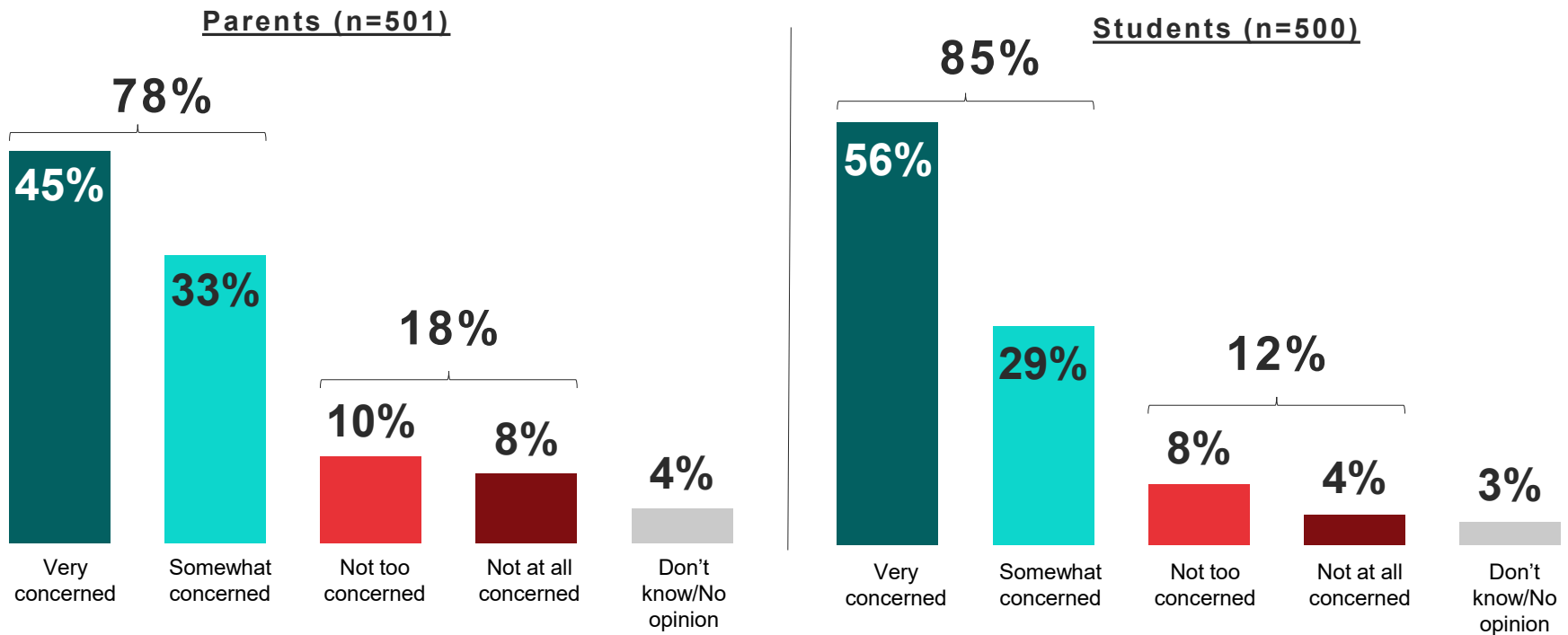
A majority of parents (67%) and students (71%) consider social policies in the state where the school is located when thinking about where to attend school.

Thinking of the decision of where your child attends a college or university, how much do you consider, if at all, social policies (i.e. voting rights, paid family and medical leave, abortion access, etc.) in the state where the school is located?



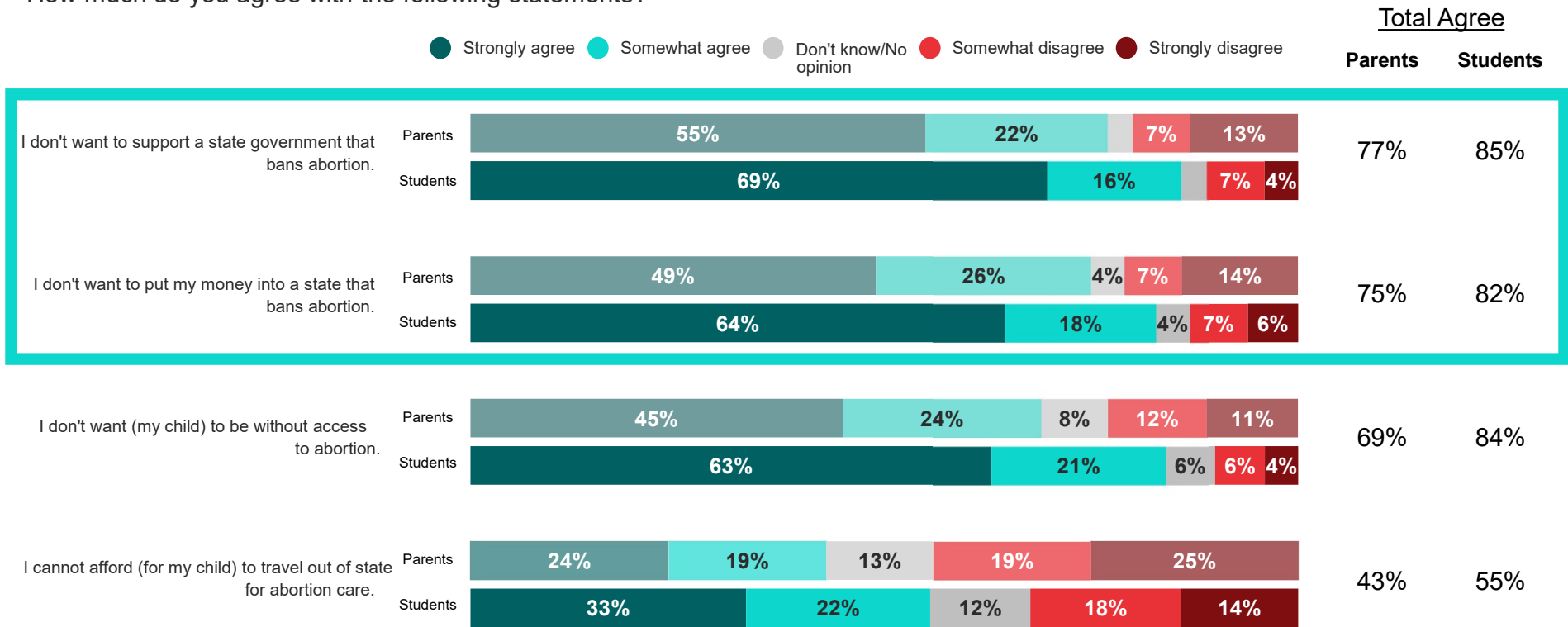
A majority of parents (78%) and students (85%) show concern about the future of access to reproductive healthcare in the United States, with over half of students indicating they are *very concerned* (56%).

Following last summer's Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade, How concerned are you, if at all, about the future of reproductive health access?



# A majority of parents and students do not want to support a state government or put their money into a state that bans abortion (75%+).

How much do you agree with the following statements?



Total Agree = % Strongly agree + % Somewhat agree



When thinking of the decision of where to attend college or university, a majority of students (63%) and parents (52%) find access to reproductive healthcare *extremely* or *somewhat* important.

Thinking of the decision of where you will attend a college or university/your child attends a college or university, how important are the following factors?

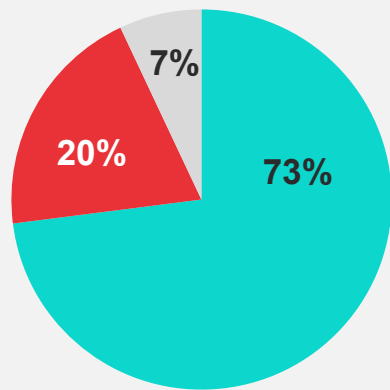
Total Important	Students (n=500)	Parents (n=501)
Areas of study	99%	98%
Cost	95%	94%
Values of school	91%	95%
Faculty	85%	94%
Where I/my child will fit in	77%	95%
Distance from home	76%	84%
Prestige/ranking of school	68%	77%
<b>Access to reproductive health care, including abortion</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>52%</b>
Parent's/Child's preference	49%	97%
Sports	41%	59%

Total Important = % Very important + % somewhat important

## Parents Broken Out by Financial Contribution to Child's College Education

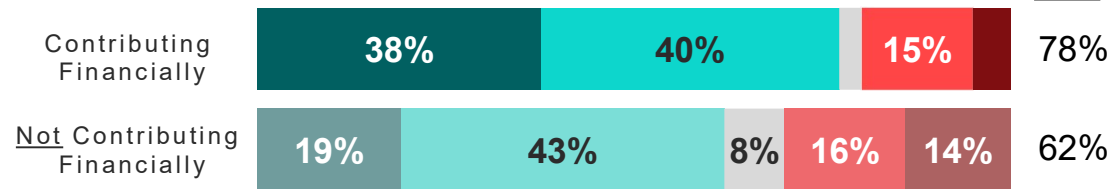
Are you contributing financially to your child's college education?

■ Yes ■ No ■ Prefer not to say



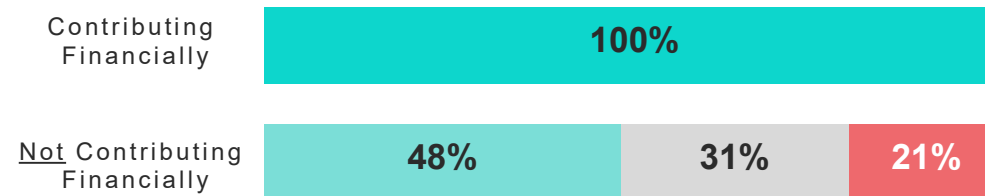
Thinking of the decision of where your child attends a college or university, how much do you consider, if at all, social policies (i.e. voting rights, paid family and medical leave, abortion access, etc.) in the state where the school is located?

● A lot ● Some ● Don't know/ no opinion ● Not much ● Not at all



Which of the following would you prefer your child to attend school in?

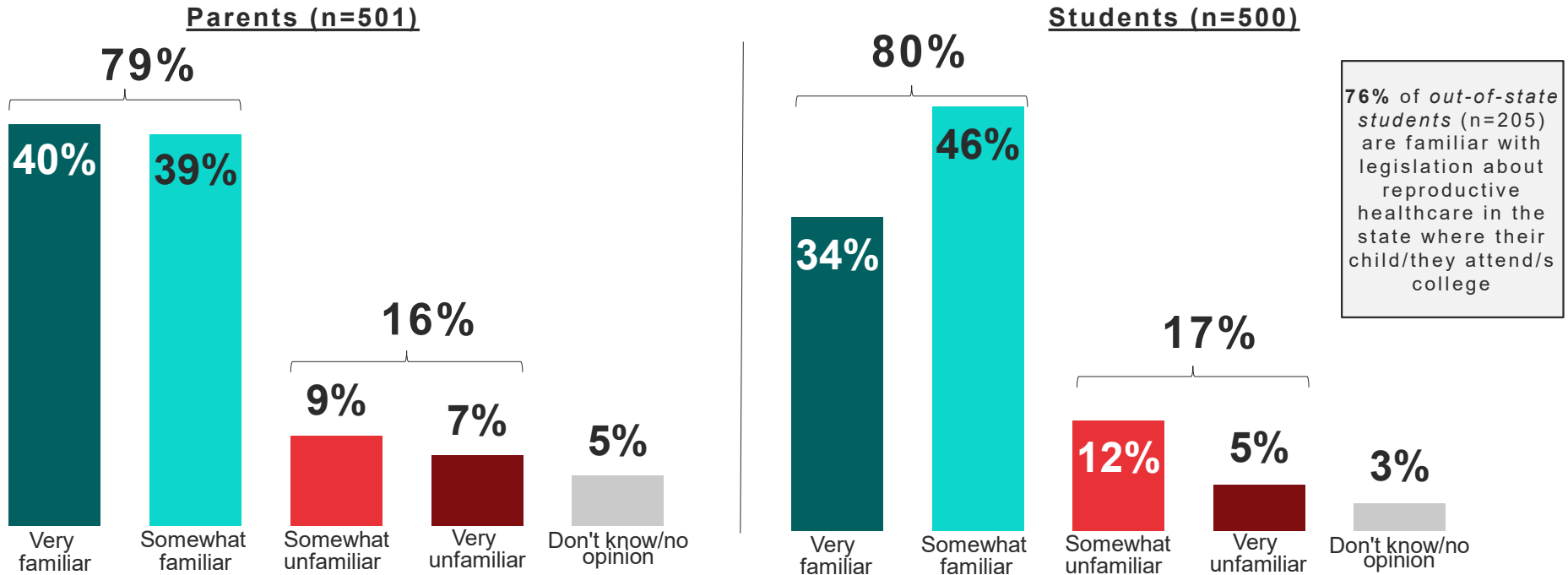
● A state where abortion is legal and accessible ● Don't know/ No opinion ● A state where abortion is illegal and/or inaccessible



\*Parents Contributing Financially N=242; Parents Not Contributing Financially N=133

Most parents (79%) and students (80%) are either *very or somewhat familiar* with legislation about reproductive healthcare in the state where they attend college.

How familiar are you with the laws around access to reproductive health care, including abortion, in the state you/your child will/currently goes to college in?





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