

NFIB: member survey on immigration

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Summary

- Small-business owners have mixed views on immigration, including amnesty for illegal immigrants.
- Small-business owners generally favor steps to increase the number of legal immigrant workers.
- Small-business owners are very concerned about illegal immigration, primarily for reasons of taxpayer cost and national security.

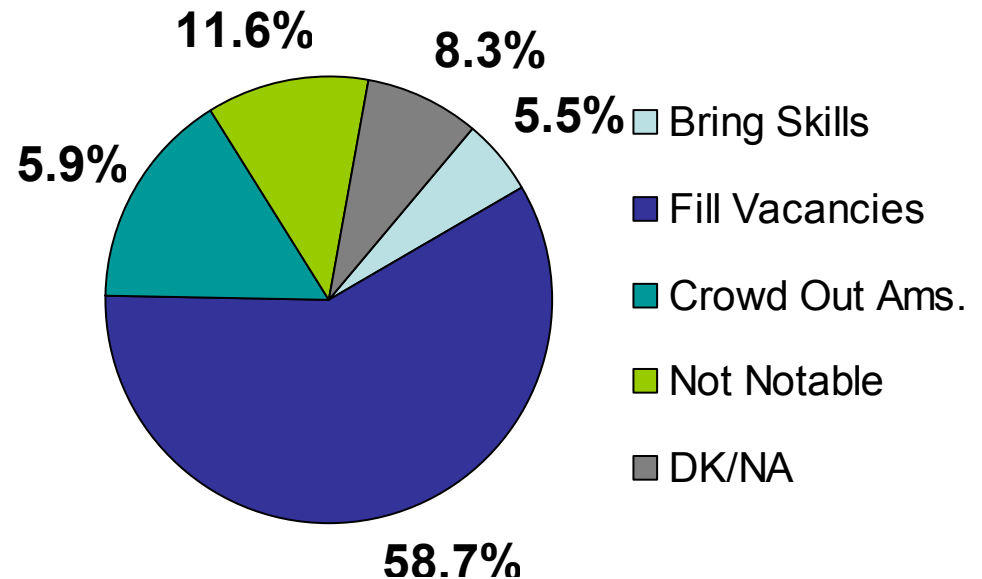
summary (cont.)

- Small-business owners believe the most effective way to reduce illegal immigration is to enforce current laws.
- Small-business owners believe appropriate policy steps include increasing penalties on employers who knowingly violate the law, detaining suspected illegal immigrants until a hearing, and denying them publicly financed social benefits. Owners split on a border fence.
- An automated system to identify eligible workers would ease I-9 burdens. Drivers' licenses and S.S. cards are THE critical I-9 documents.

The Role of Immigrant Labor

Role

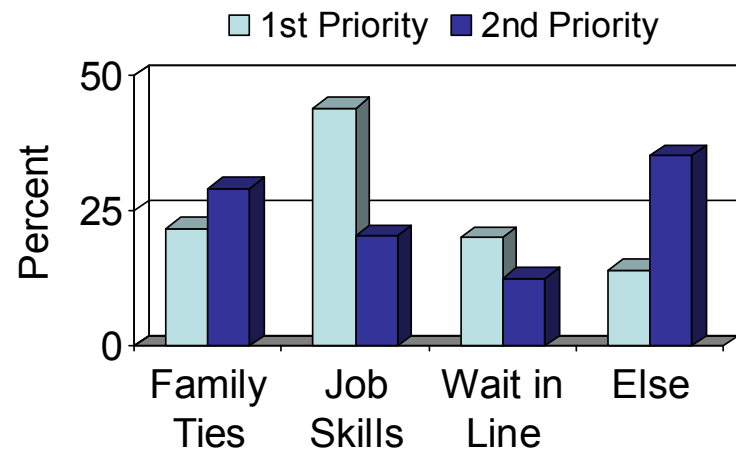
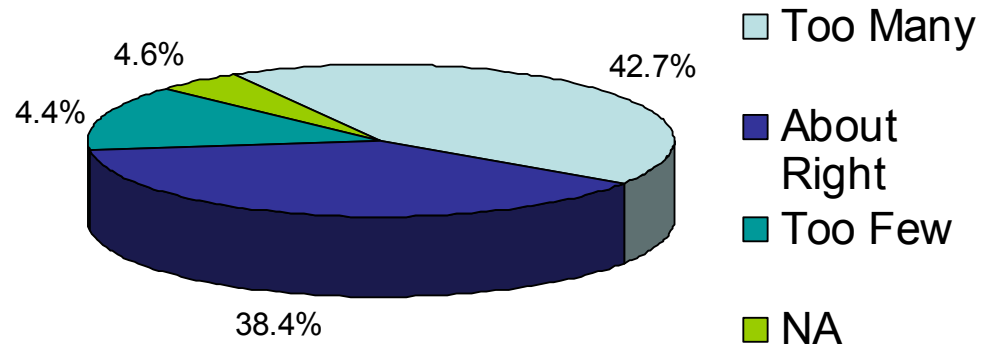
Very Important	17.7
Somewhat important	24.0
Not too important	20.1
Not at all important	25.1
Don't know/NA	13.1



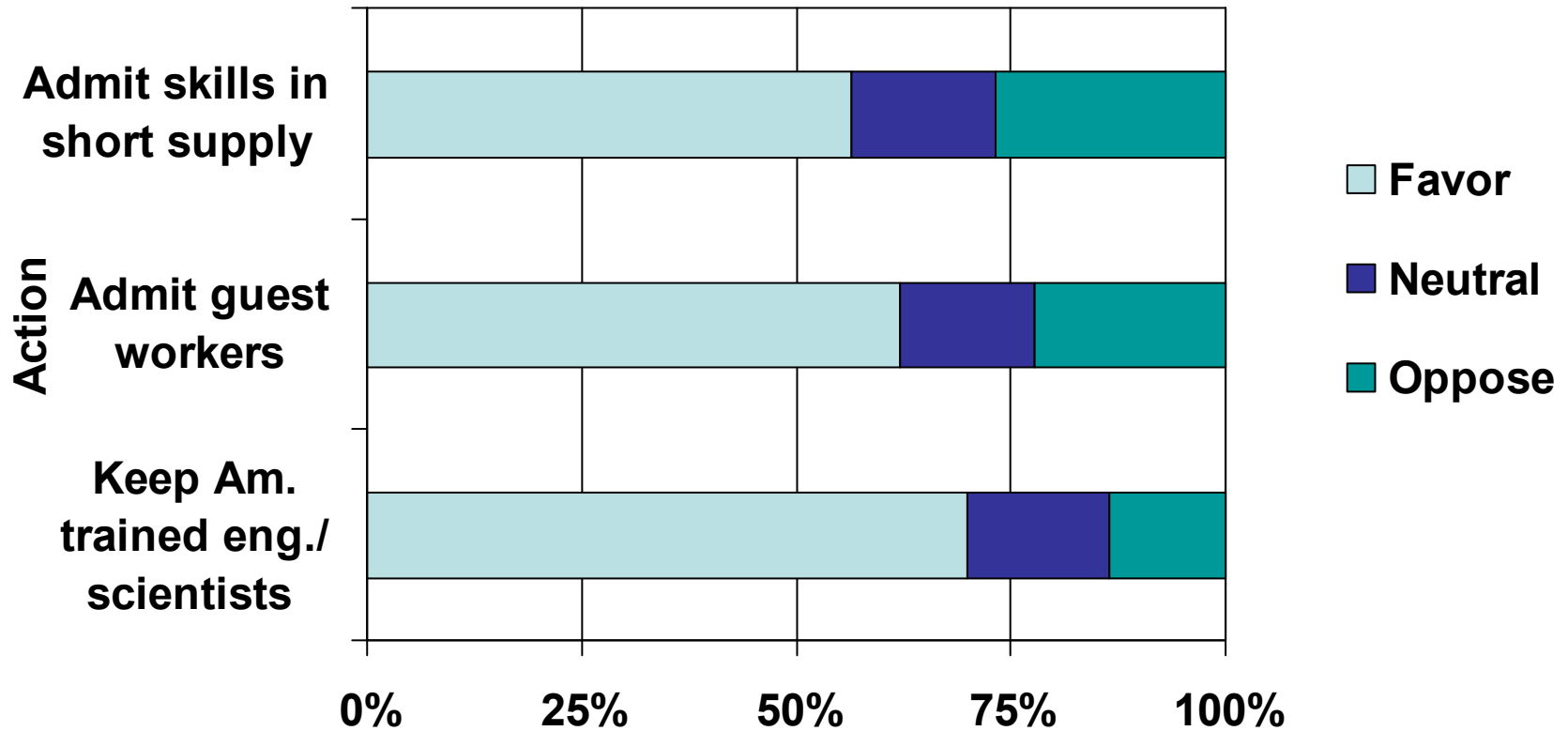
- A little over 40% say immigrant labor is important in their area. But somewhat more say it is not.
- The primary role immigrant labor plays is to fill jobs that otherwise would go unfilled (59%). Sixteen percent say immigrants crowd out Ams.

admission of legal immigrants

- Over 80% - almost equally divided – believe the U.S. admits too many or about the right number of immigrants.
- Priority for admission should be given with job skills that are in short supply.

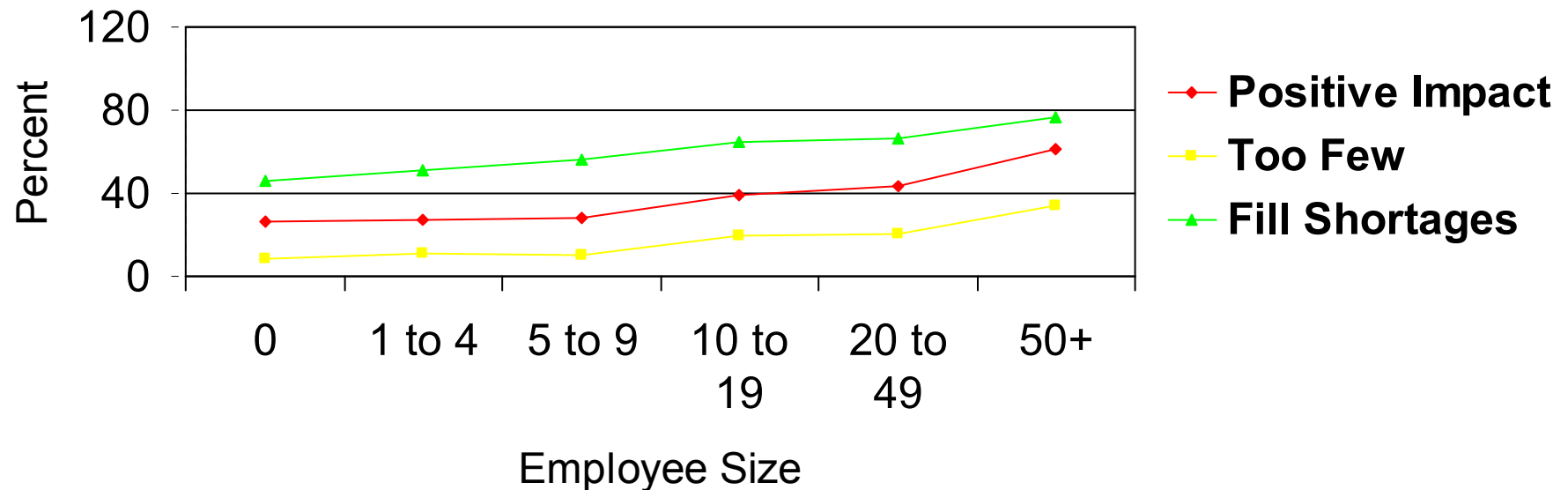


strongly support actions to procure skills and employees



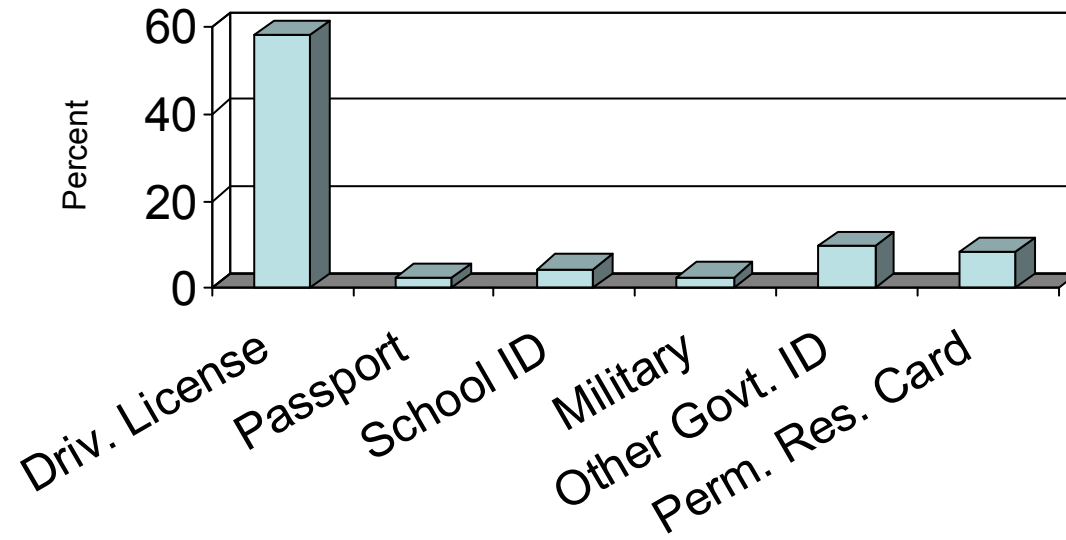
owners of larger small businesses

- More sympathetic to increases in legal immigration than owners of small ones, e.g., –
 - Immigrants have positive affect on local labor market
 - Too few immigrants
 - Allow legal immigrants to enter to fill positions where shortages exist



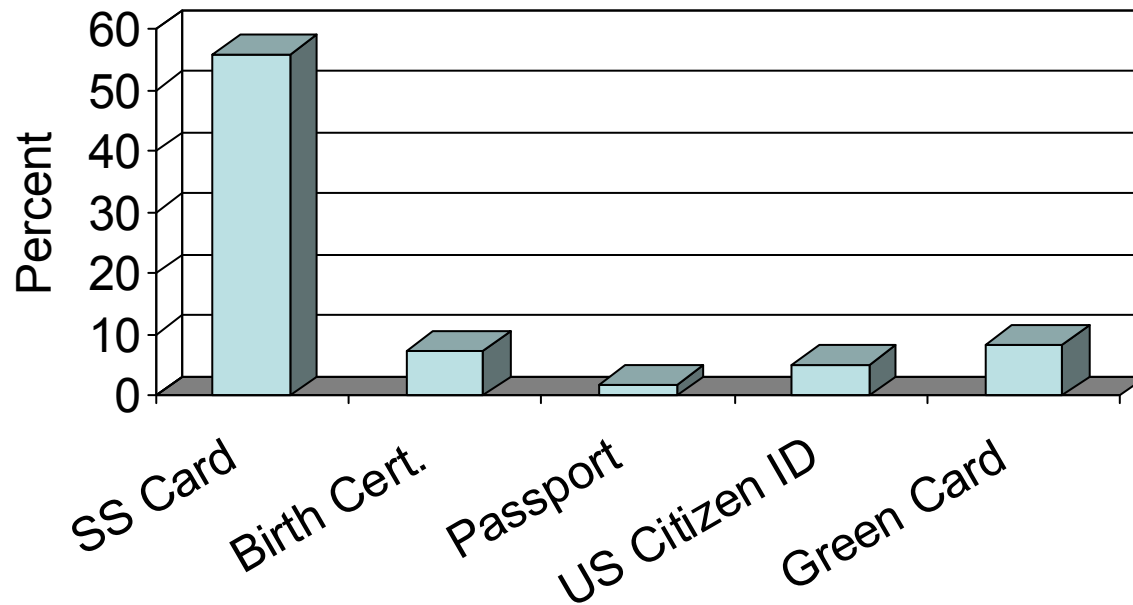
the I-9 form

- An I-9 must be completed for each new employee. The new hire must have ID to show:
 - He/she is the person he/she says he/she is
 - He/she is legally eligible to work in the U.S.
- The type of ID “usually” used for personal identity:



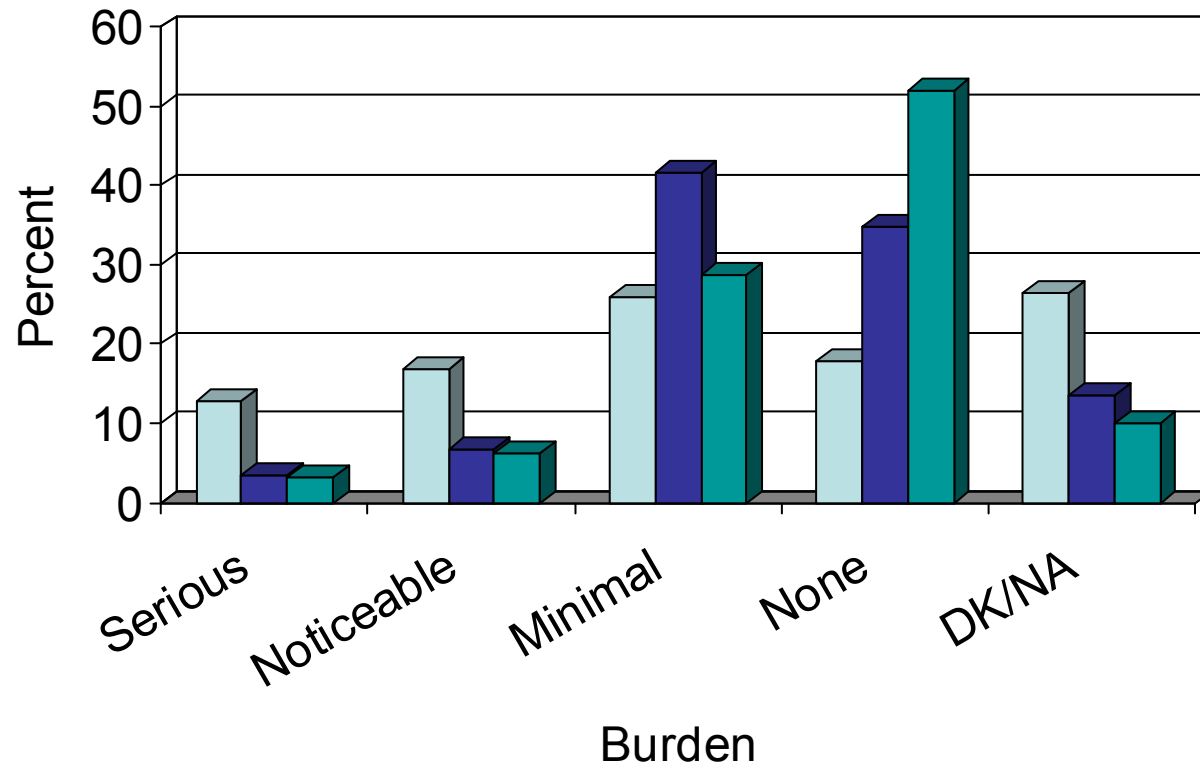
the I-9 form (cont.)

- The form of ID “usually used to show eligibility to work in the United States:



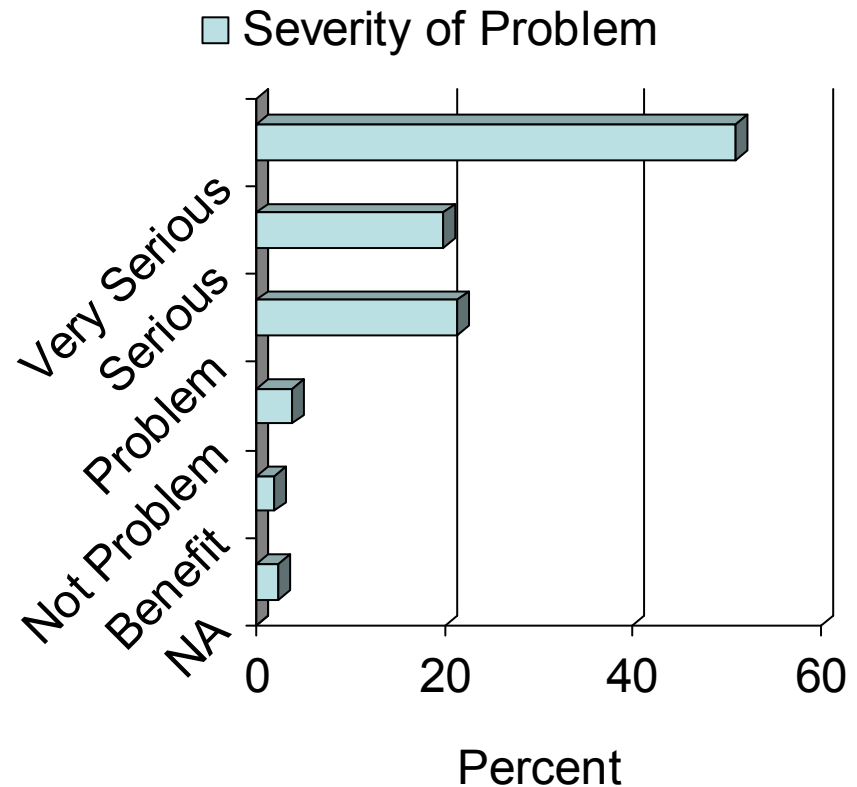
the I-9 burden – three scenarios

■ ID Verification ■ With Govt. Verification Point ■ Photocopy of ID



illegal immigration as a policy issue

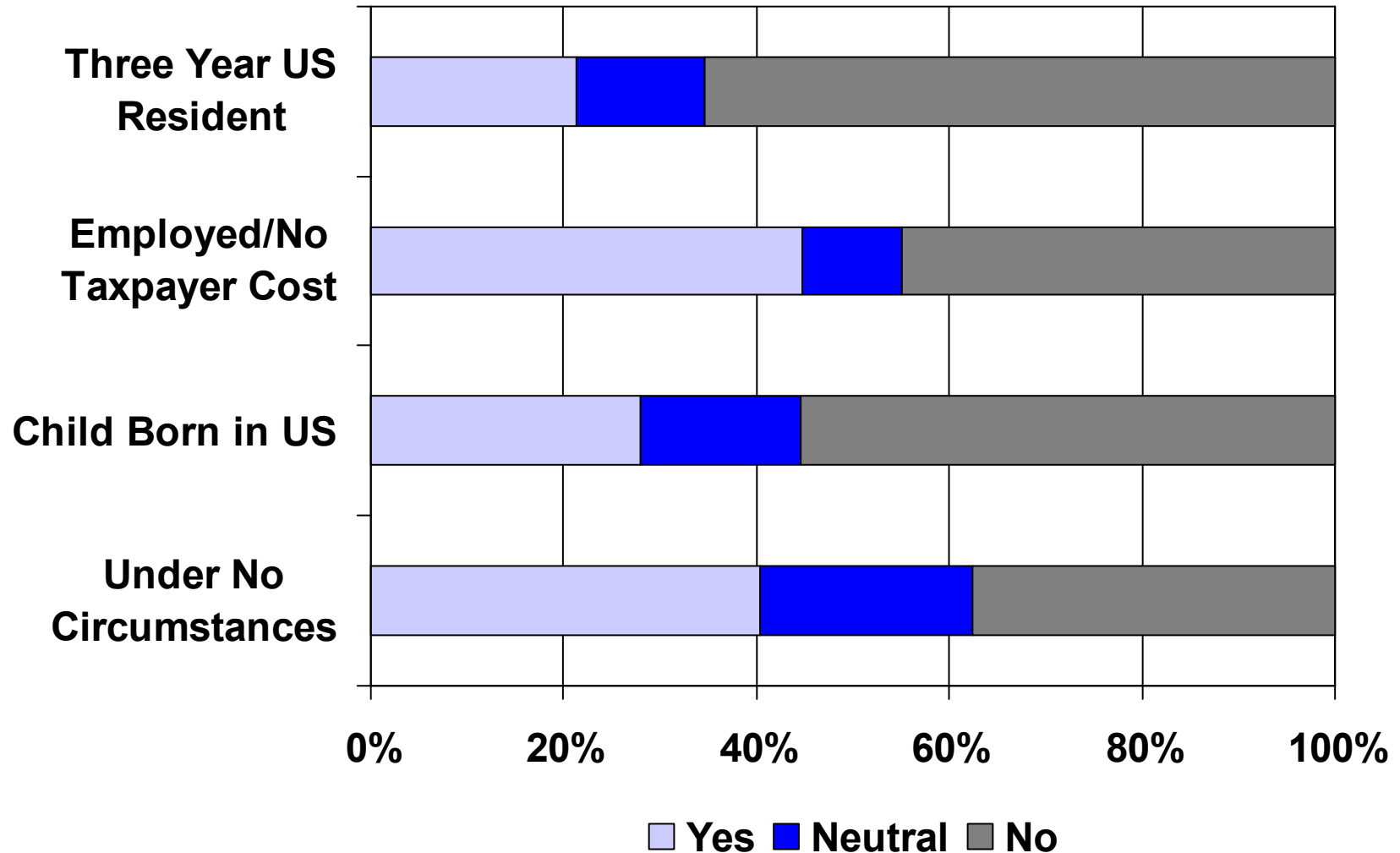
Priority for <u>Congress/Pres.</u>	<u>%</u>
Very High	36.2
High	49.8
Low	9.2
Very Low	2.0
NA	2.8
Total	100.0



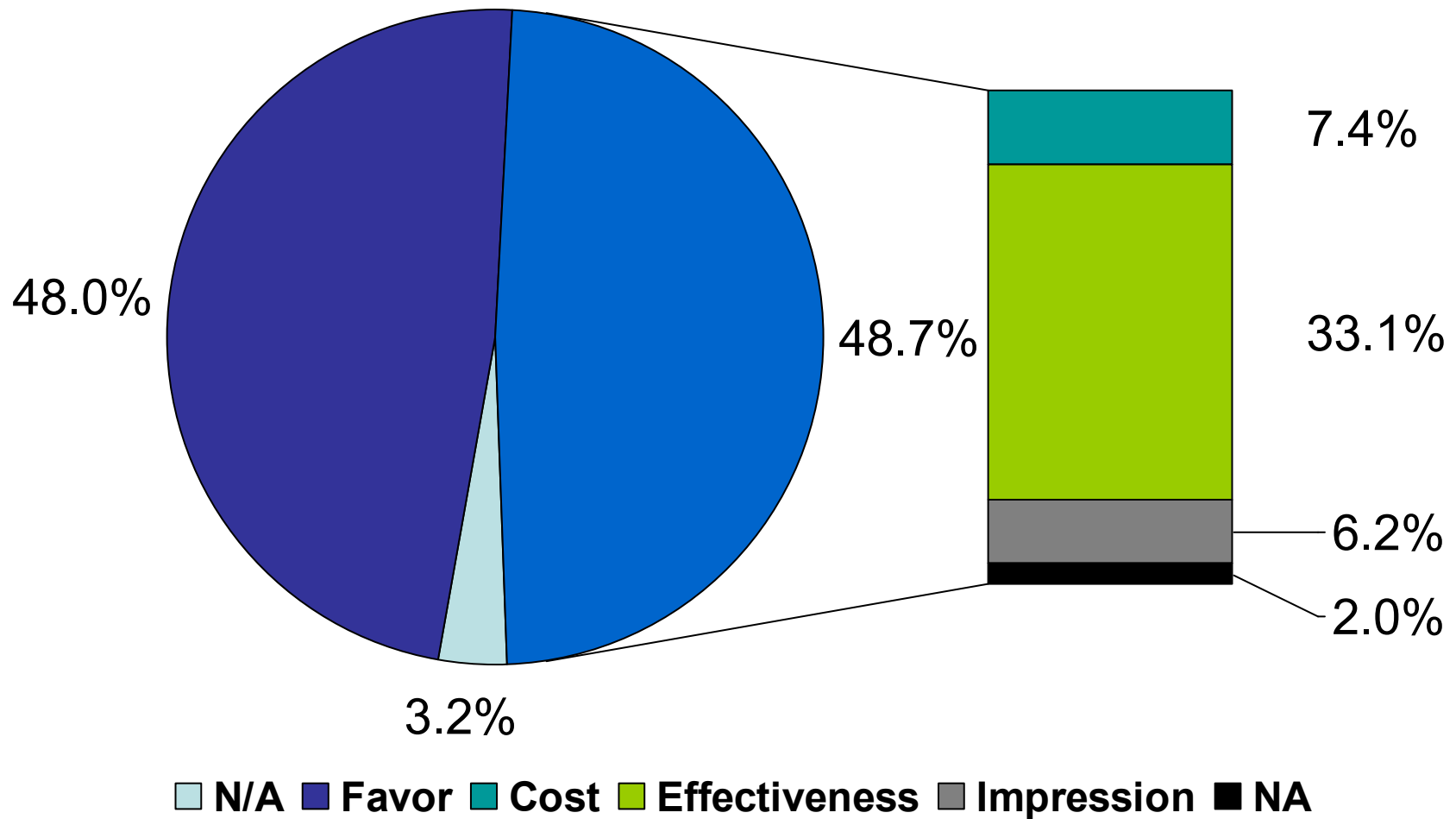
most important reason illegal immigration is a problem

<u>Reason</u>	<u>%</u>
Taxpayer costs for illegal immigrants	47.2
National security/threat of terrorism	23.0
Disrespect for the law	12.7
Job loss/depressed wages for Ams.	9.6
Jumping the legal admission line	3.1
Unwanted population increase	2.7
NA	1.6
Total	100.0

amnesty – under what circumstances?



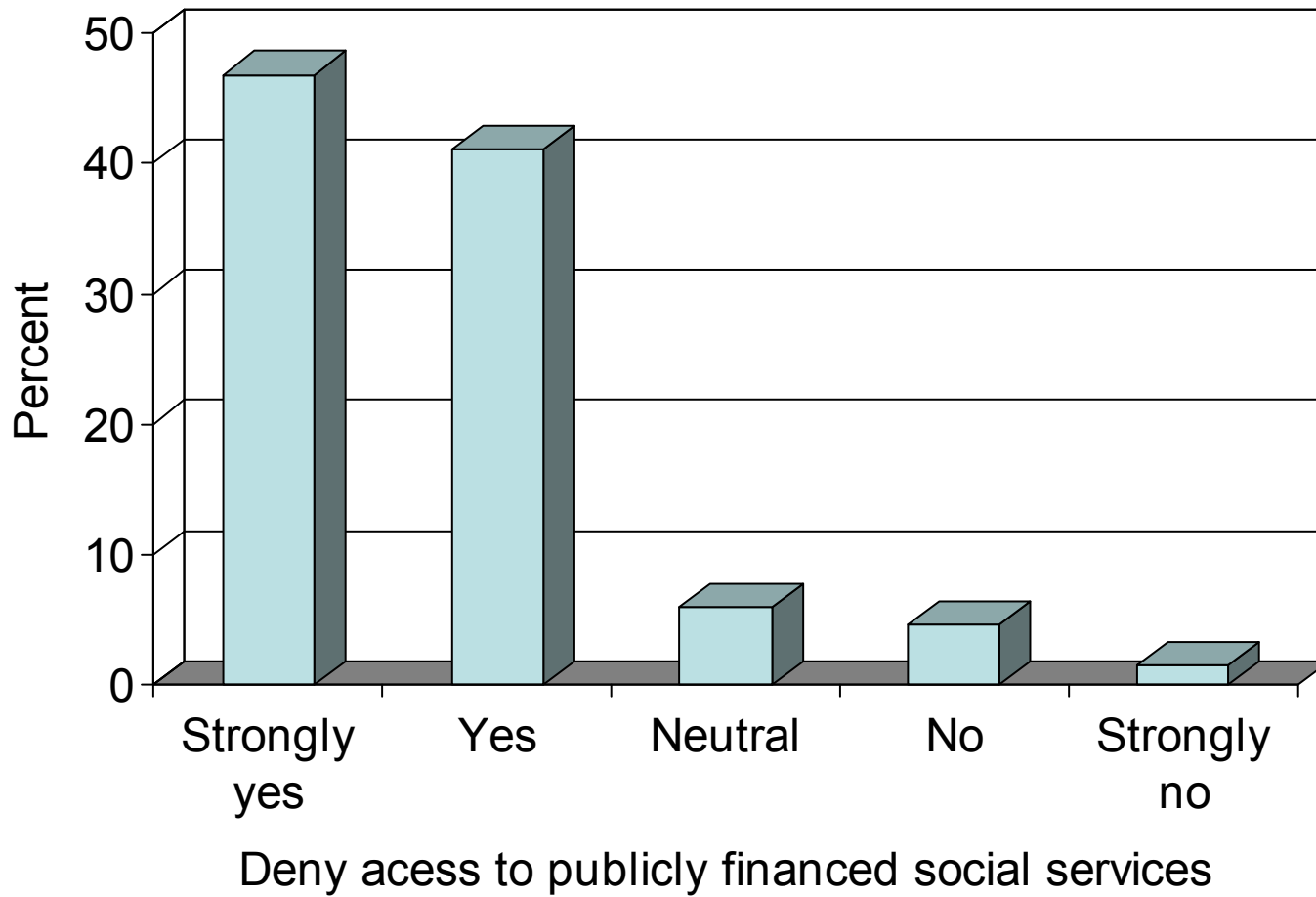
the fence – favor/oppose and the reasons for opposition



penalties – for employers and illegal immigrants

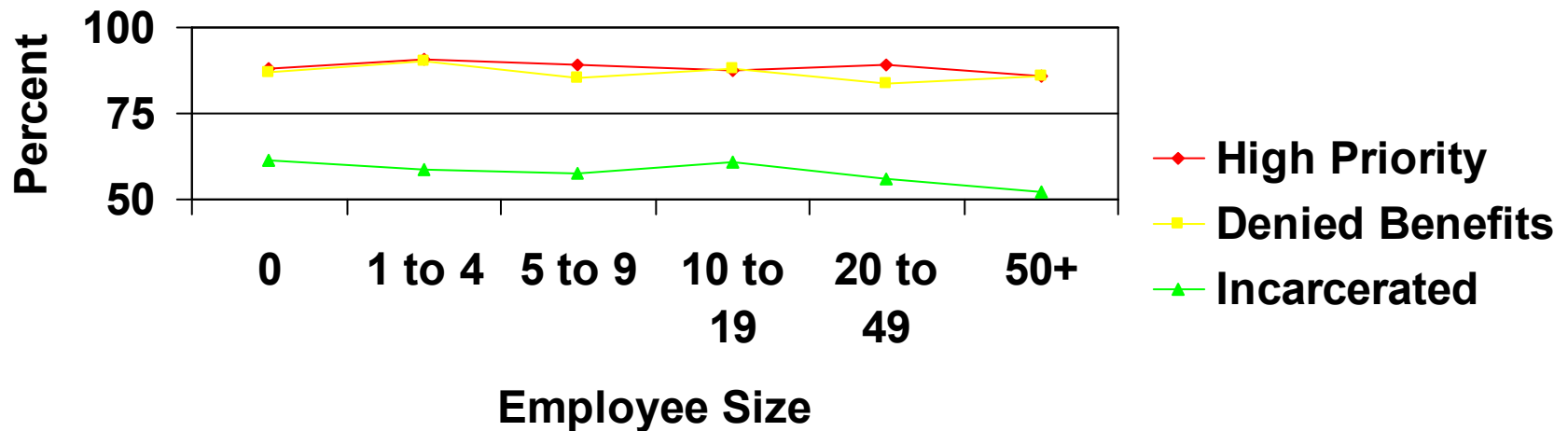
	Increase fines on employers who knowingly hire <u>illegal immigr.</u>	Incarcerate suspected illegal immigrs. <u>until hearing</u>
Strongly yes	35.2%	16.4%
Yes	42.8	41.0
Neutral	6.6	15.2
No	12.0	21.8
Strongly no	3.3	5.7
Total	100.0	100.0

a recurring theme – taxpayers shouldn't support illegal immigrants

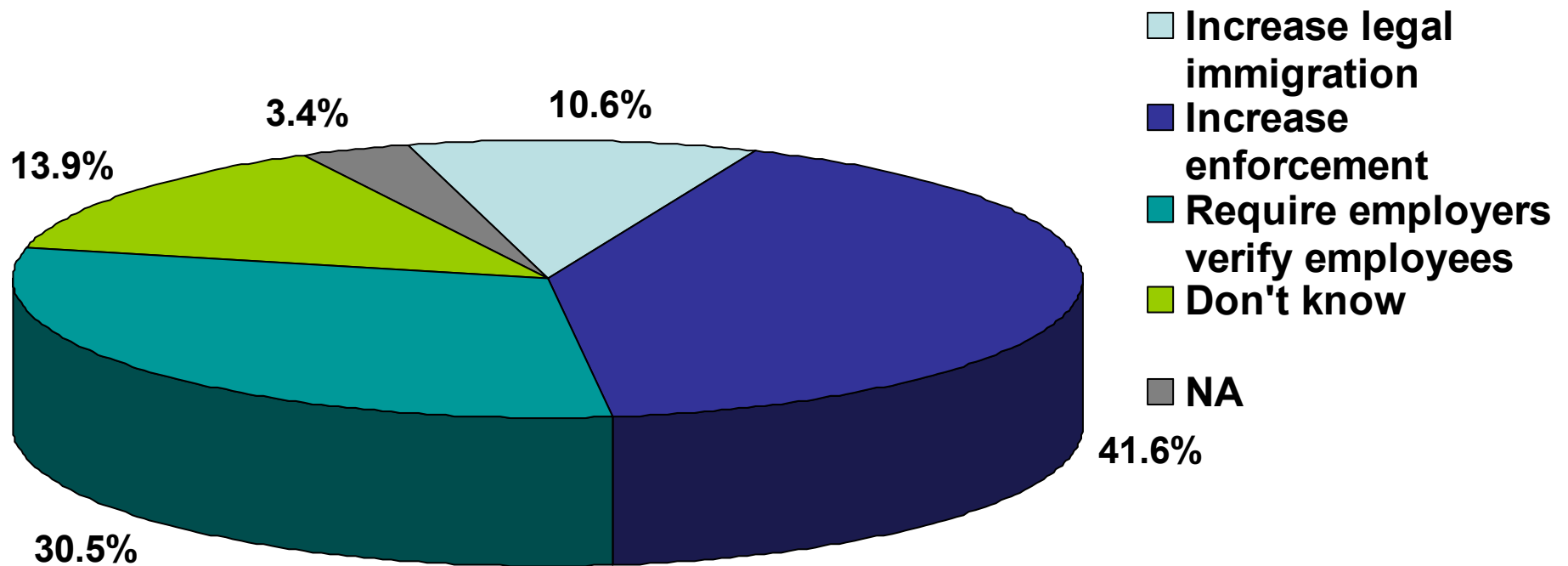


owners of larger small businesses (revisited)

- Despite greater sympathy for legal immigration than those with small business, they feel no differently about illegal immigration, e.g.,
 - Illegal immigration is a problem
 - Illegal immigrants should be denied social benefits
 - Likely illegal immigrants should be incarcerated until a hearing

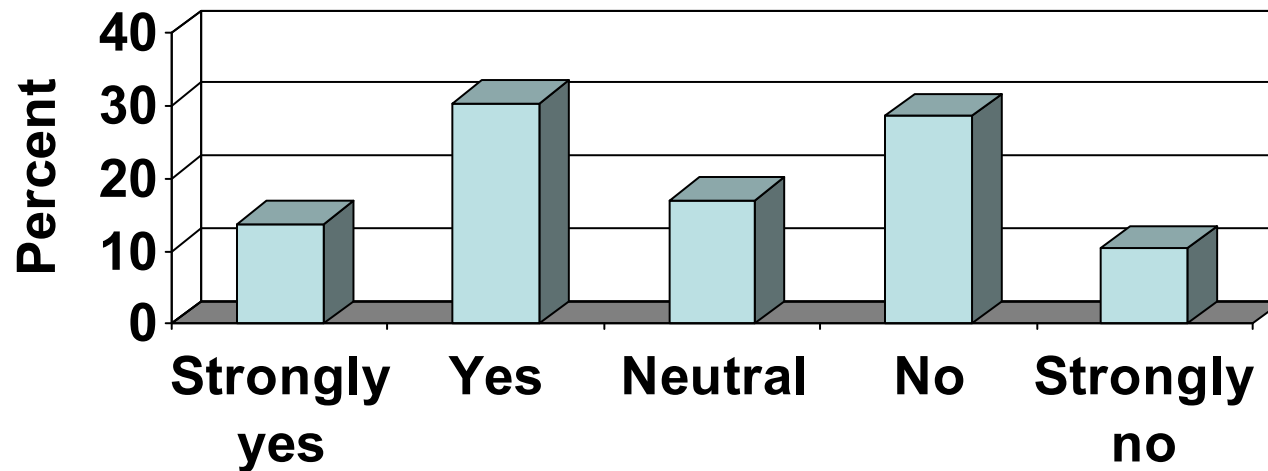


most effective way to reduce/ minimize flow of illegal immigrants



a national ID card

- Small-business owners are split on a national ID card. This represents a change. Small-business owners have traditionally been against a national ID, though not overwhelmingly so.



survey conduct

- Population surveyed – random sample of small-business owner NFIB members
- Size of sample – 10,000
- Response – 2,017 for a 20% response rate
- Time frame of survey conduct – January/early February, 2006
- Survey method - mail