



OneOhio Pre-Campaign Baseline Poll

Marijuana Perception and Use

May 2026

Prepared By:
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METHODOLOGY

On behalf of the OneOhio Recovery Foundation, Public Opinion Strategies completed an online survey of 2,000 Adults in Ohio.

The survey was conducted February 23 – March 1, 2026 and has a credibility interval of +/-2.50%.

Neil Newhouse was the primary researcher on this project. Luke Jackson was the project director and Sydney Gallagher provided analytical support.




PUBLIC
OPINION
STRATEGIES

Key Take- Away Points



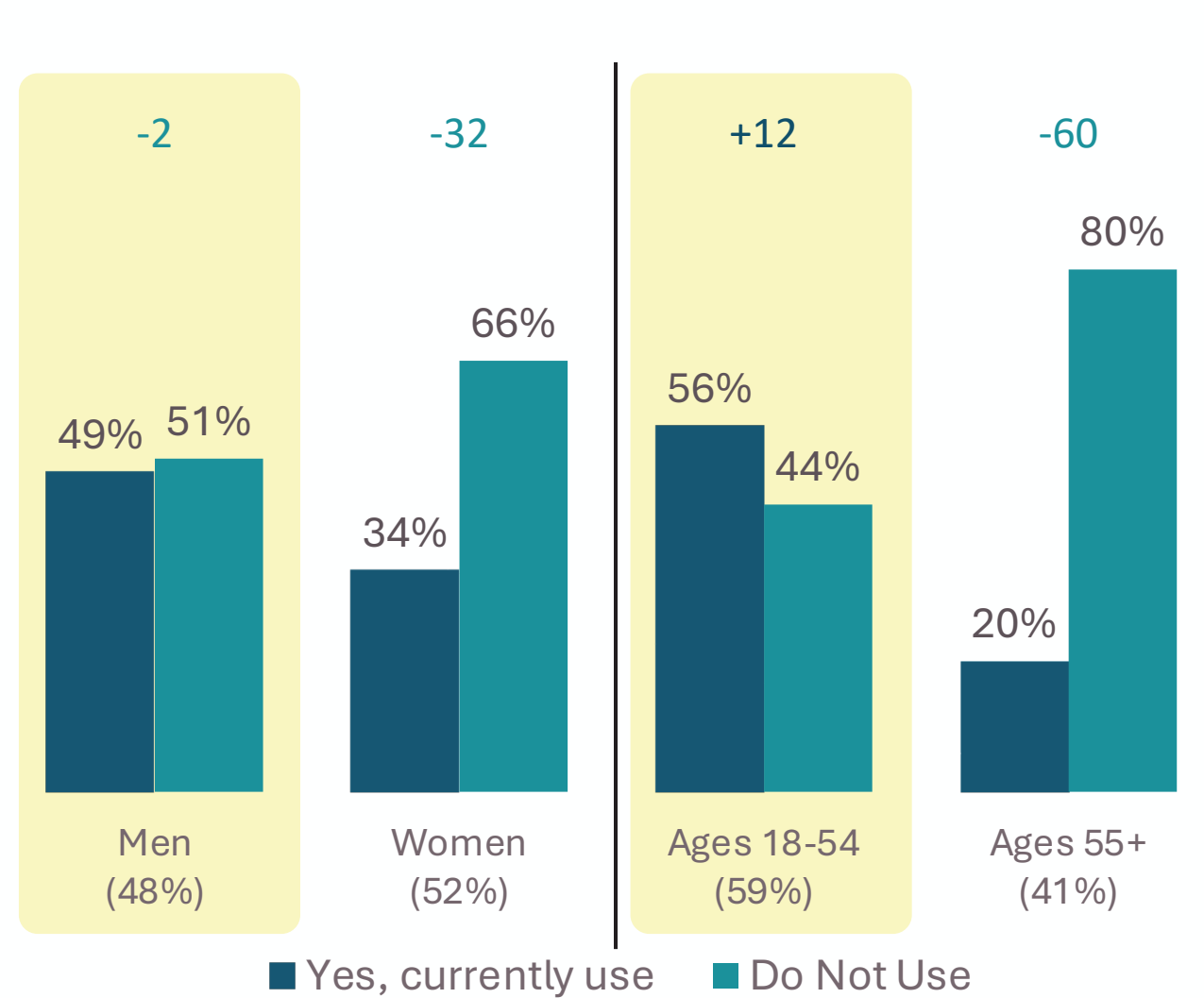
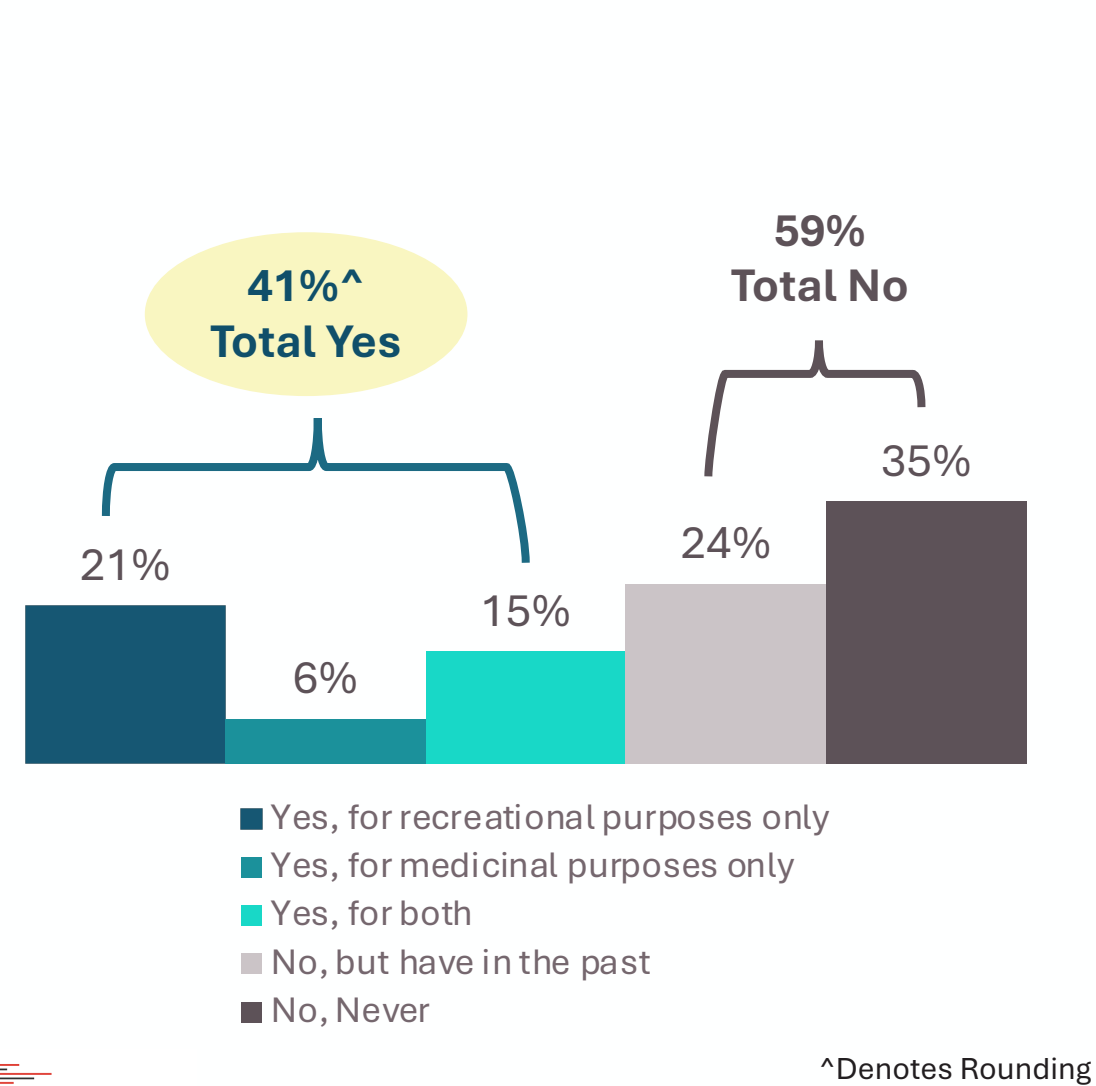


Fully 41% of Ohio adults report using marijuana in any form, including 56% of those residents under the age of 55. Nearly half of men sampled (49%) say they use marijuana, compared to a little over one-third of women (34%).

Further, marijuana usage cuts across education levels, with 42% of high school grads, 39% of those with some college and 43% of college grads reporting using marijuana.

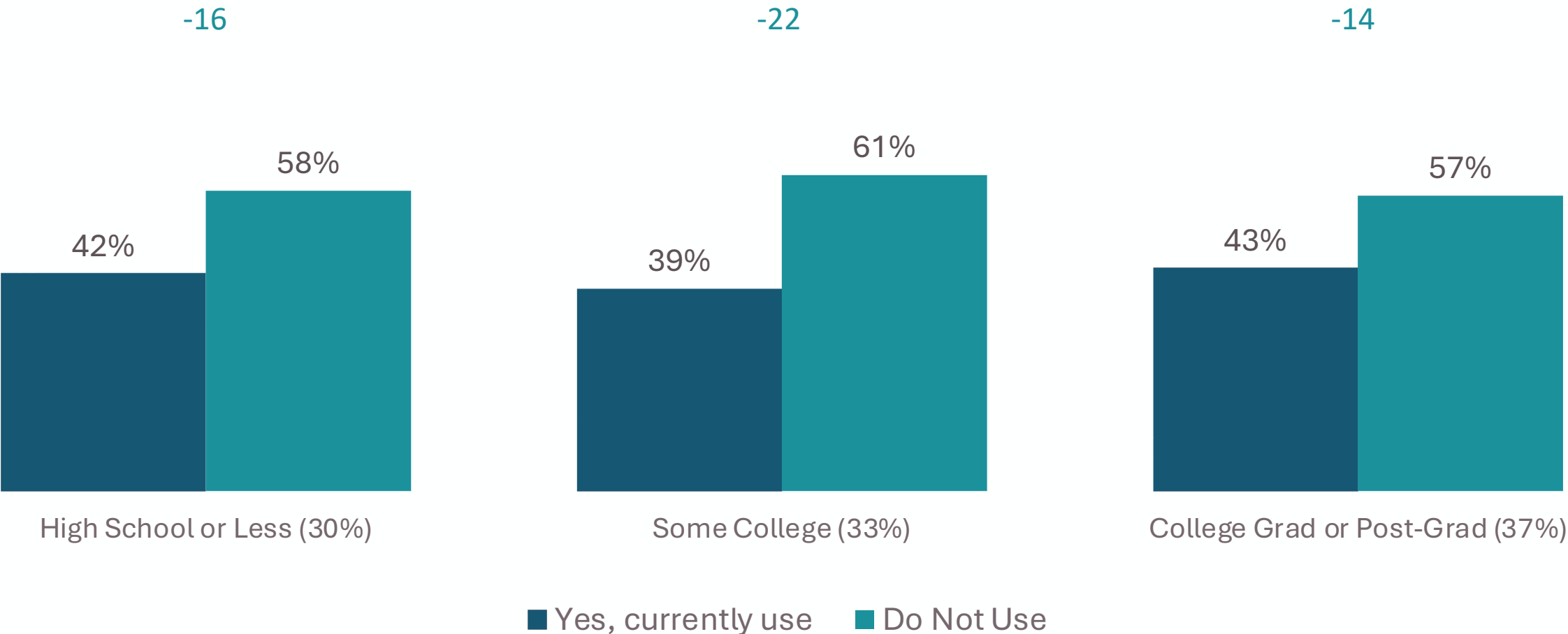
Fully 69% of Ohioans who say they live in big cities say they currently use marijuana, compared to 35% who live in the more rural areas of the state.

Four in ten Ohio adults (41%) report using marijuana, including a majority of those under age 55 (56%). Usage is higher among men (49%) than women (34%).

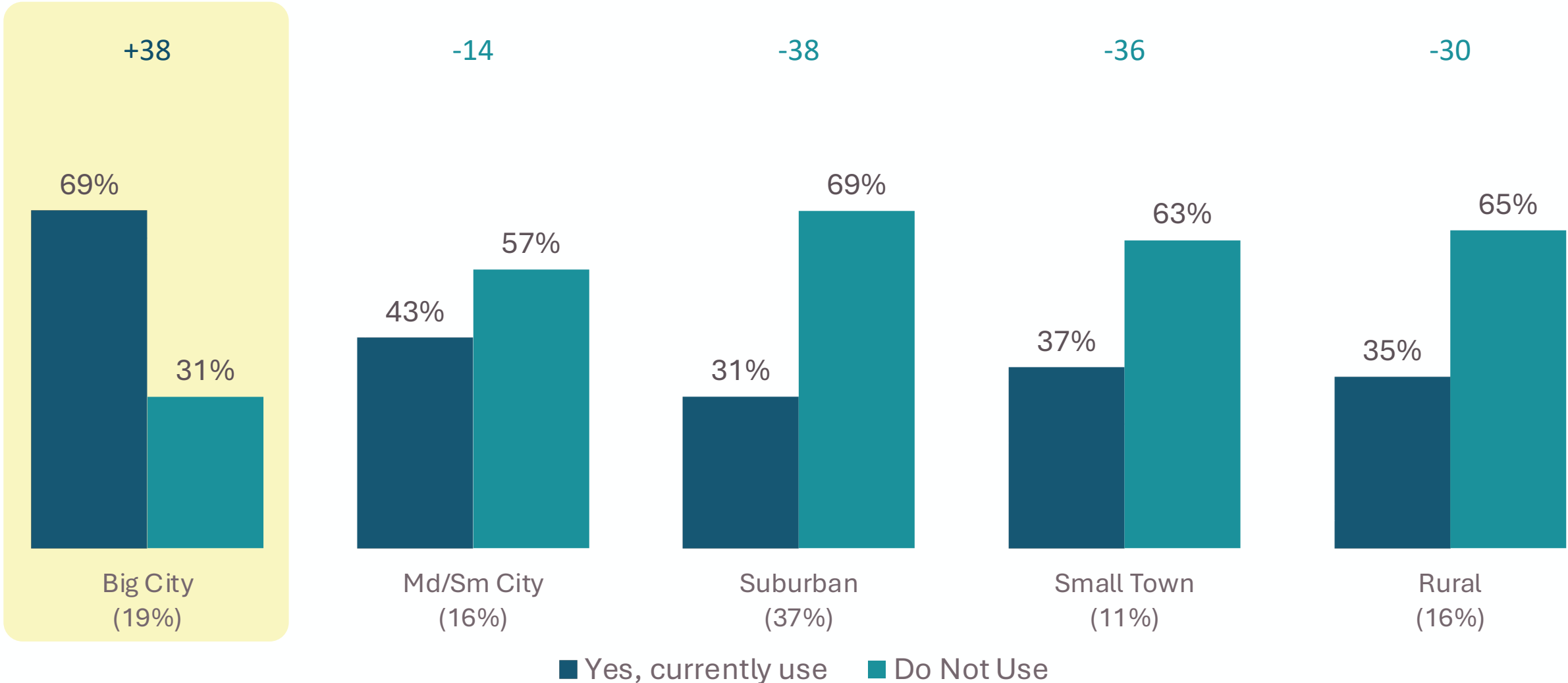


Do you currently use marijuana in any form for recreational or medicinal purposes (e.g., smoking, vaping, or edibles)?

Marijuana use is consistent across education levels, with 42% of high school graduates, 39% of those with some college, and 43% of college graduates reporting use.



More than two-thirds of Ohioans who say they live in big cities report using marijuana.

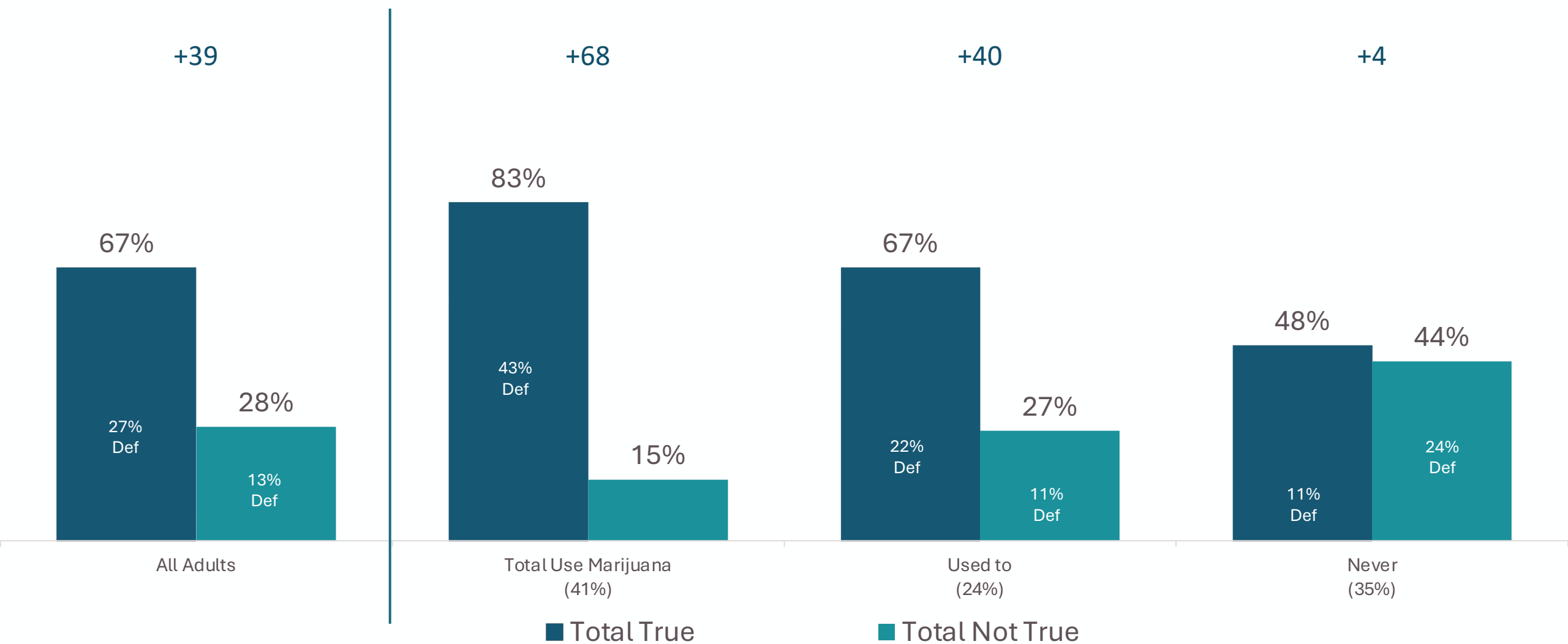




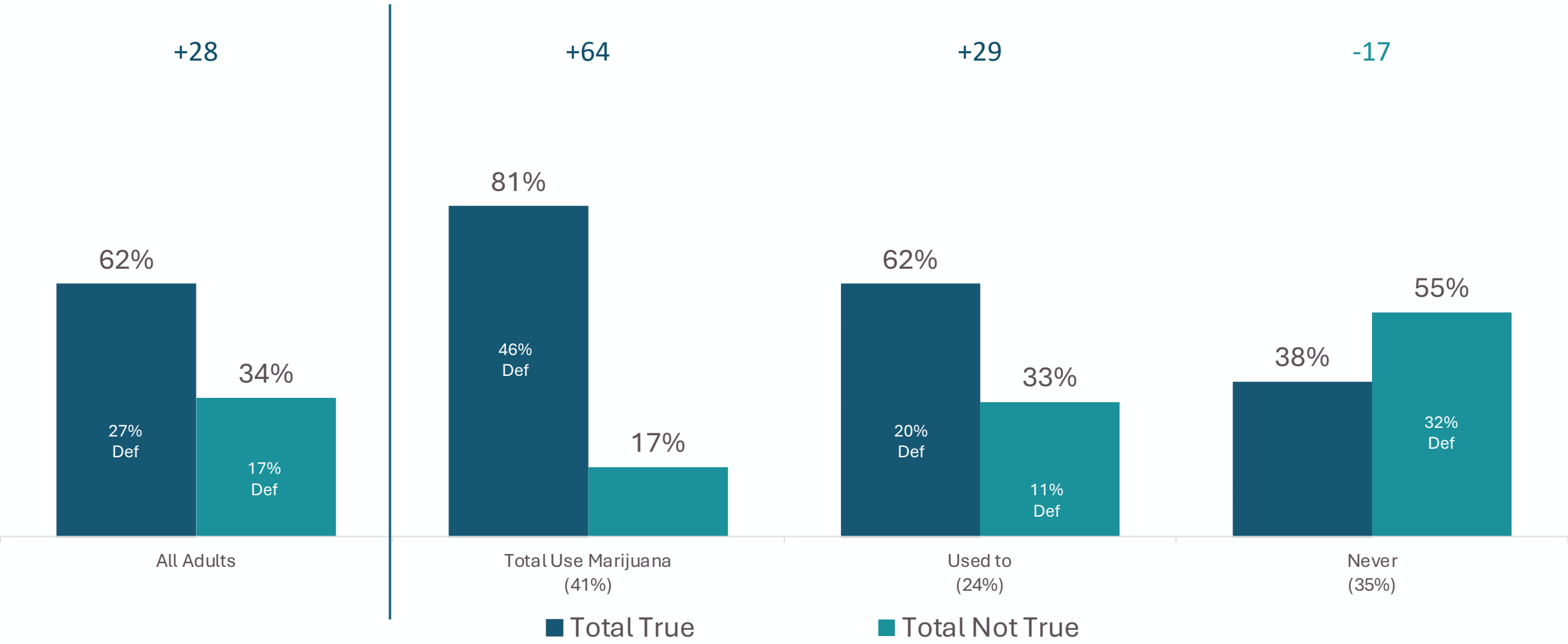
Ohioans believe that using marijuana is relatively safe and is more acceptable now that it is legal. Fully 62% of Ohioans believe that compared to other drugs, marijuana is a “relatively innocent drug that poses few risks to users.” This sentiment jumps to 81% among current marijuana users.

Not only do 59% of Ohioans believe that recreational marijuana usage is safe, but 67% of all Ohioans agree that since marijuana is legal to use in the state, it is now more acceptable to use it.

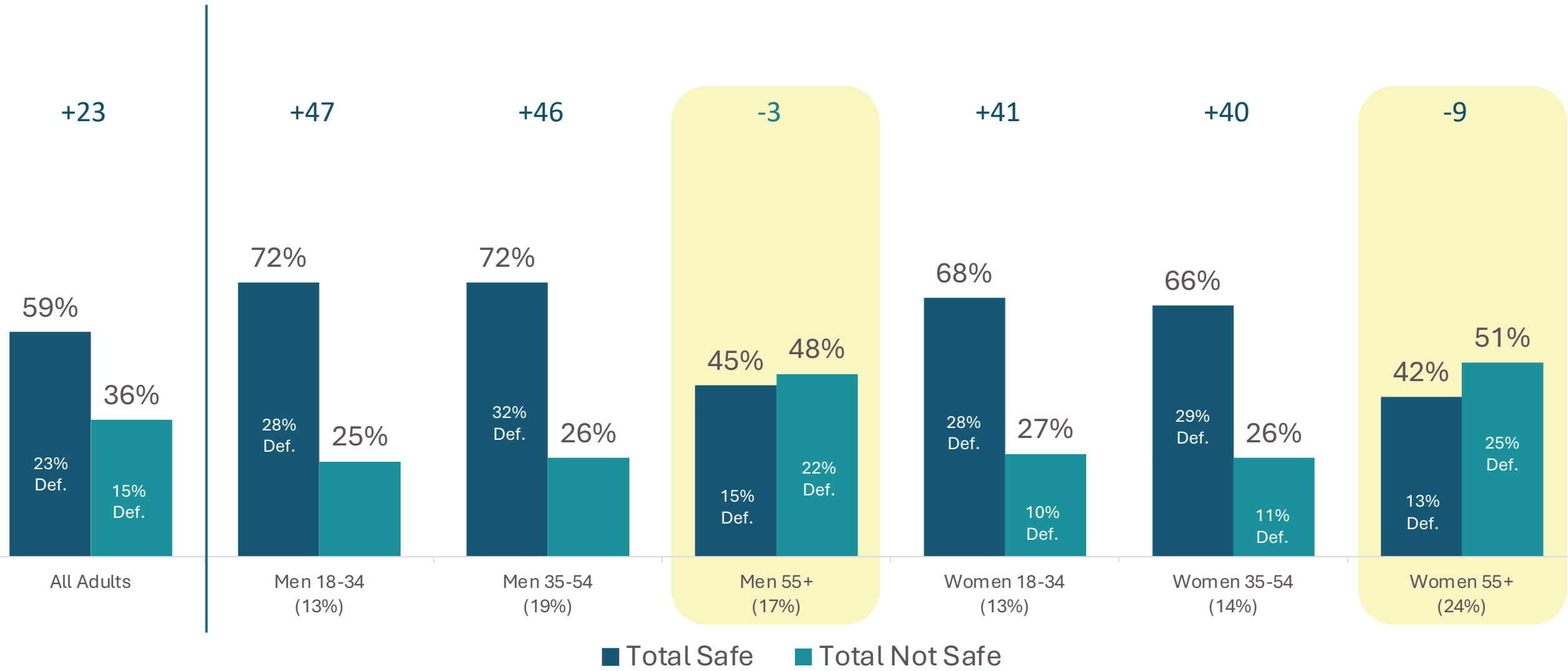
Fully two-thirds of Ohioans agree that since marijuana is legal in the state, it is more acceptable to use it.



Ohioans just don't believe that marijuana poses significant risks to its users.

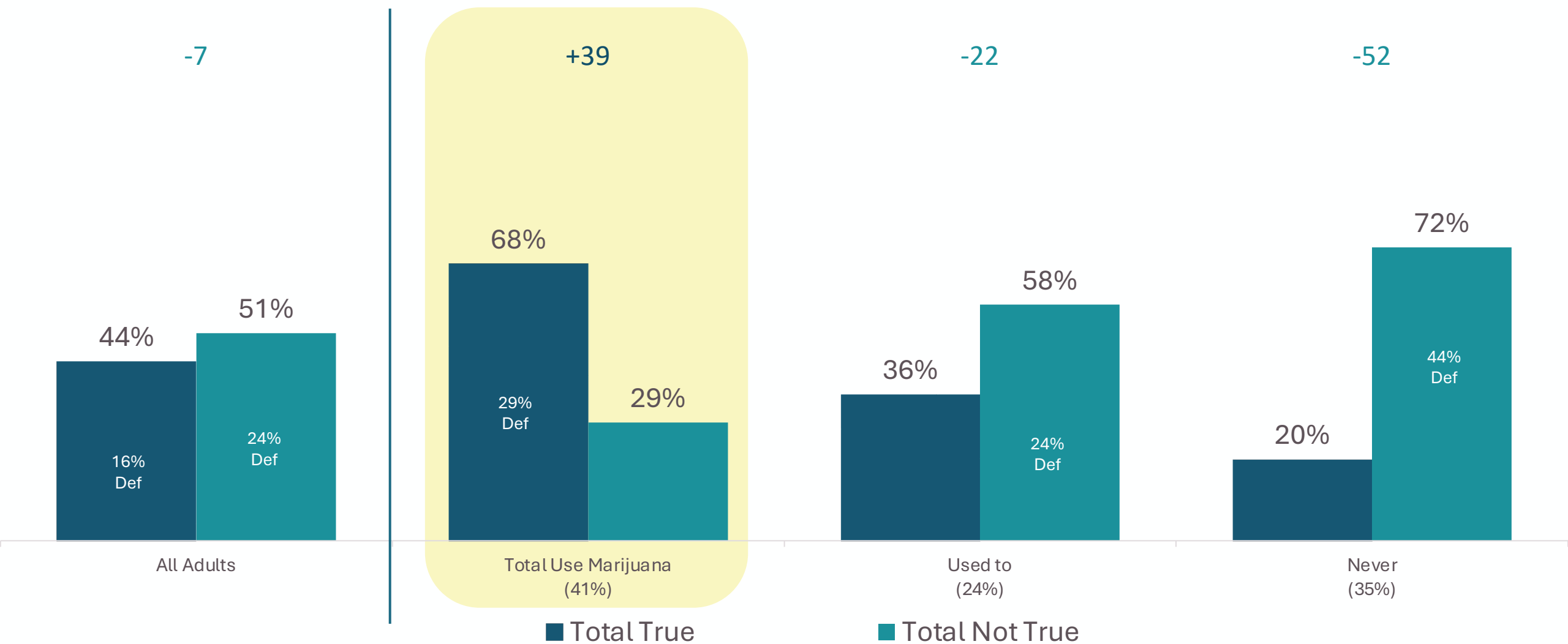


Reinforcing that finding, nearly 60% of Ohioans believe that recreational marijuana usage is safe.



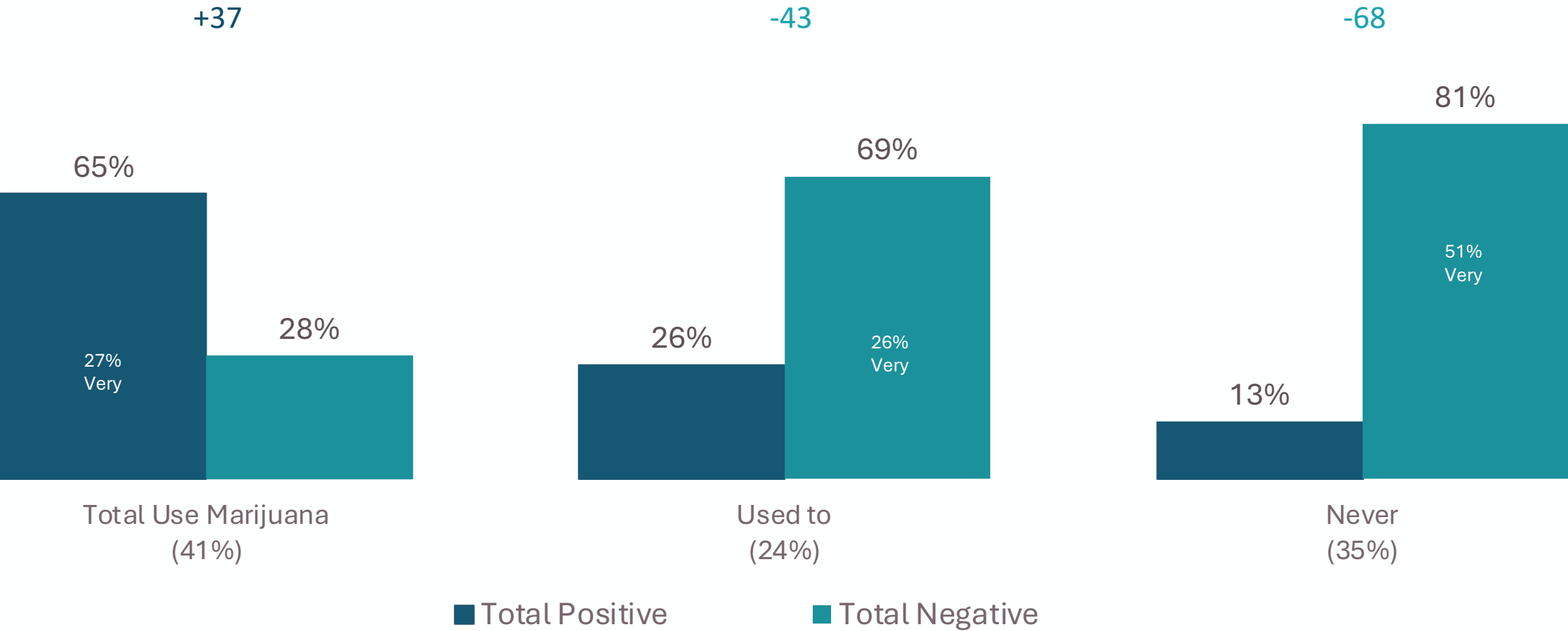
And, do you believe that recreational marijuana usage is safe or not?

Fully 68% of marijuana users in the state agree that “using marijuana poses very little risk to my health.”



Likewise, most current marijuana users believe that marijuana usage has a positive effect on most people.

Using marijuana in any form, such as smoking, vaping or edibles

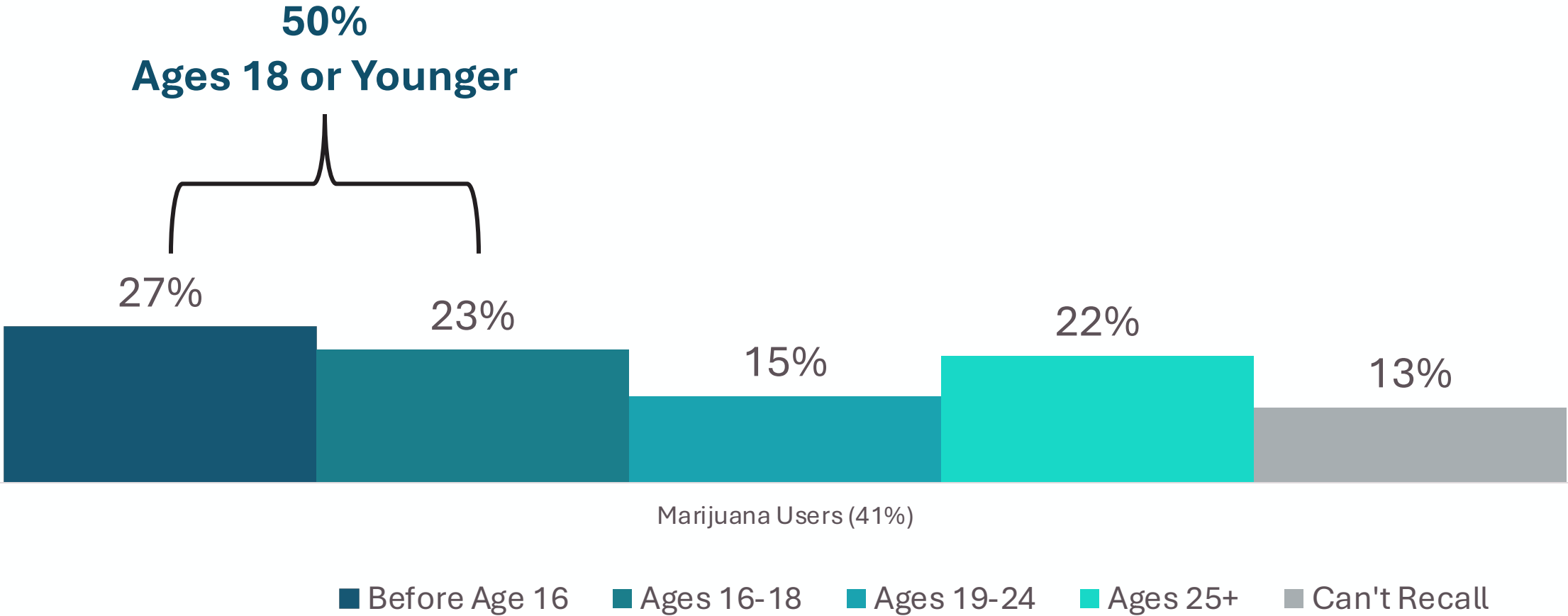


For each of the following, please indicate whether you believe that action has a positive or negative effect on most people who do this:



Fully 50% of our sampling of Ohio adults who say they use marijuana started using it by the age of 18, and 41% of current marijuana users believe it is acceptable for teenagers between 13-17 to use marijuana.

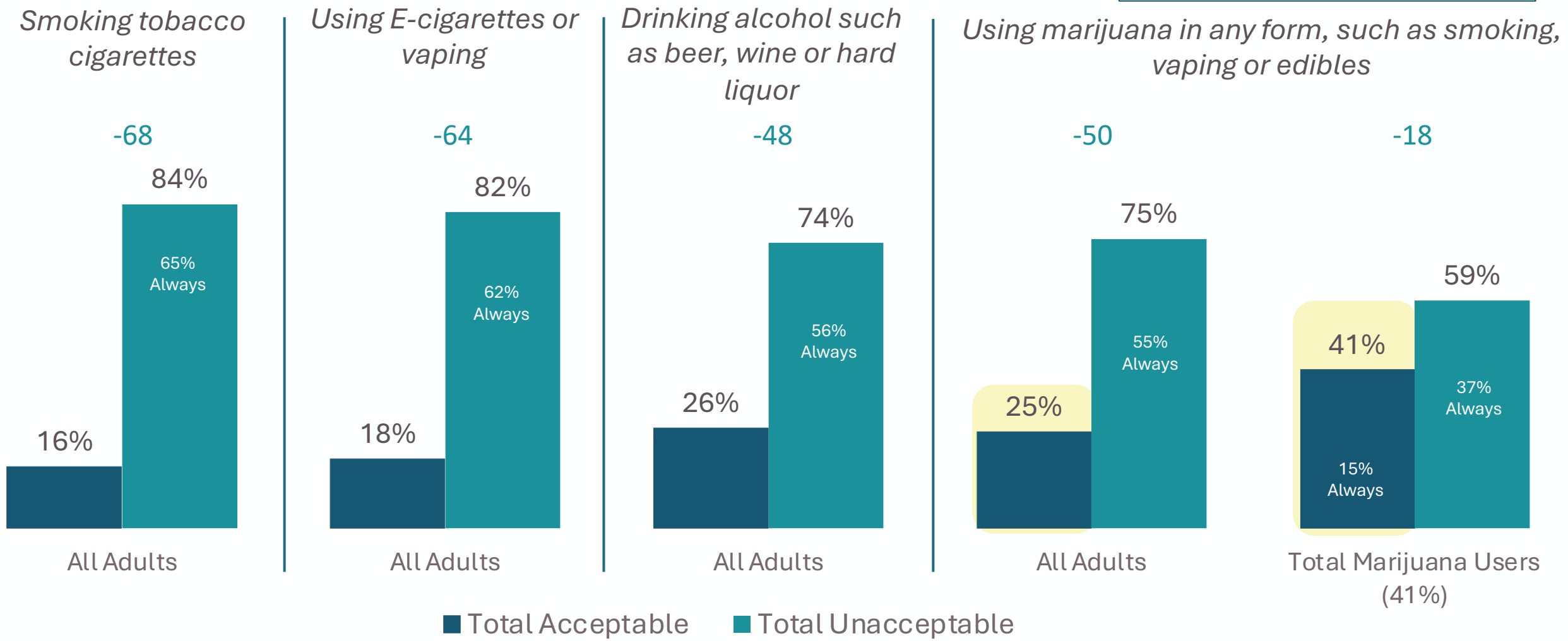
Half of Ohioans who currently use marijuana started at age 18 or younger.



And at about what age did you first try marijuana?

Fully one-quarter of Ohioans (and 41% of those who use marijuana) believe it is acceptable for teenagers between 13 and 17 to use marijuana.

That figure increases to 49% among 18-24 year old marijuana users.

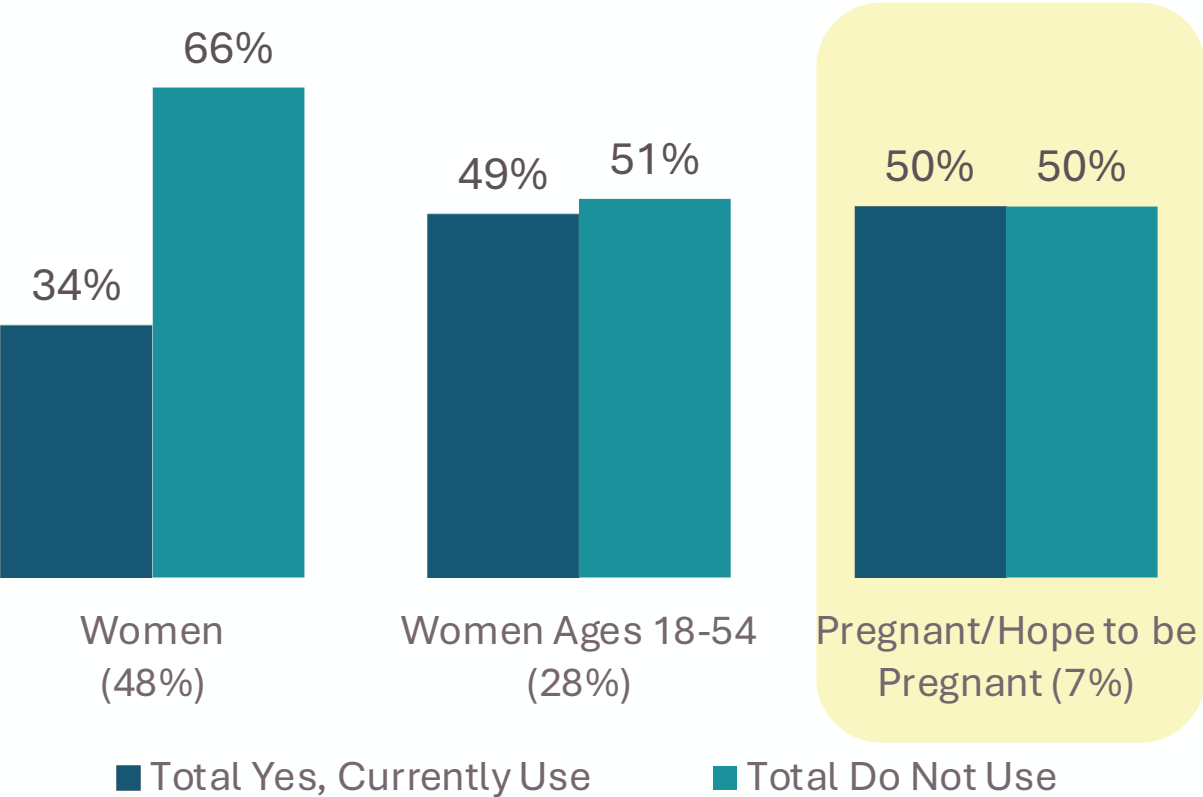




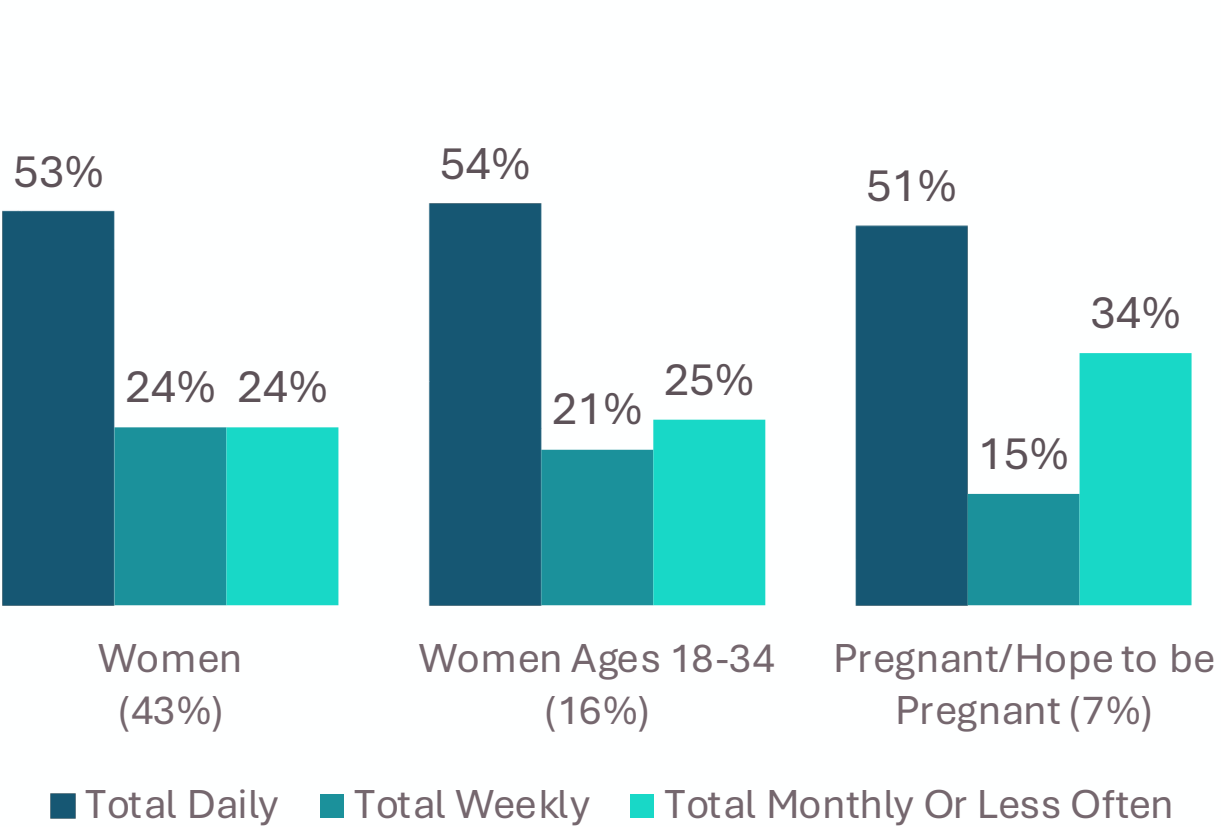
With an eye toward the pregnant/plan to be pregnant women campaign, 50% of women who are either pregnant or hope to be report using marijuana. Further, 54% of women 18-34 who use marijuana, do so daily.

Fifty percent of women who are either pregnant or hope to become pregnant report using marijuana. Additionally, among women ages 18 to 34 who use marijuana, 54% report using it daily.

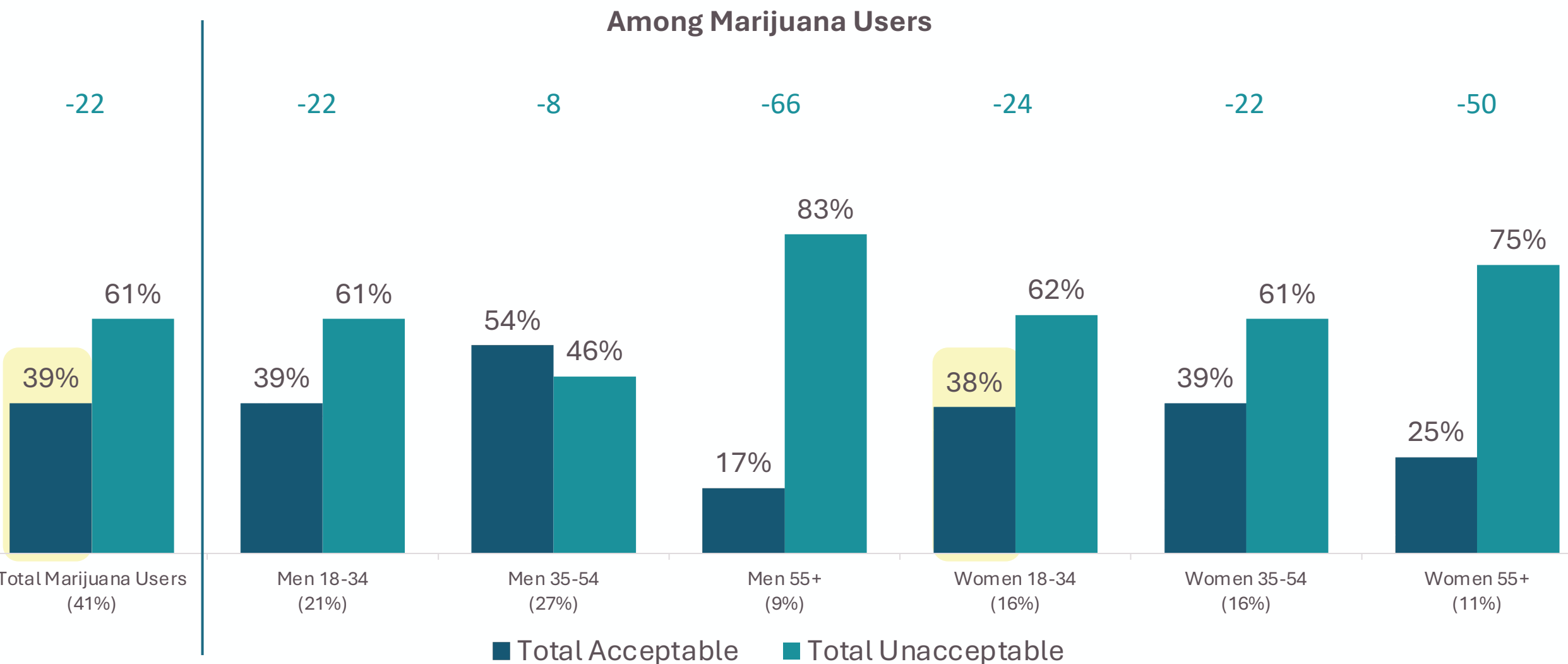
Do you currently use marijuana in any form for recreational or medicinal purposes?



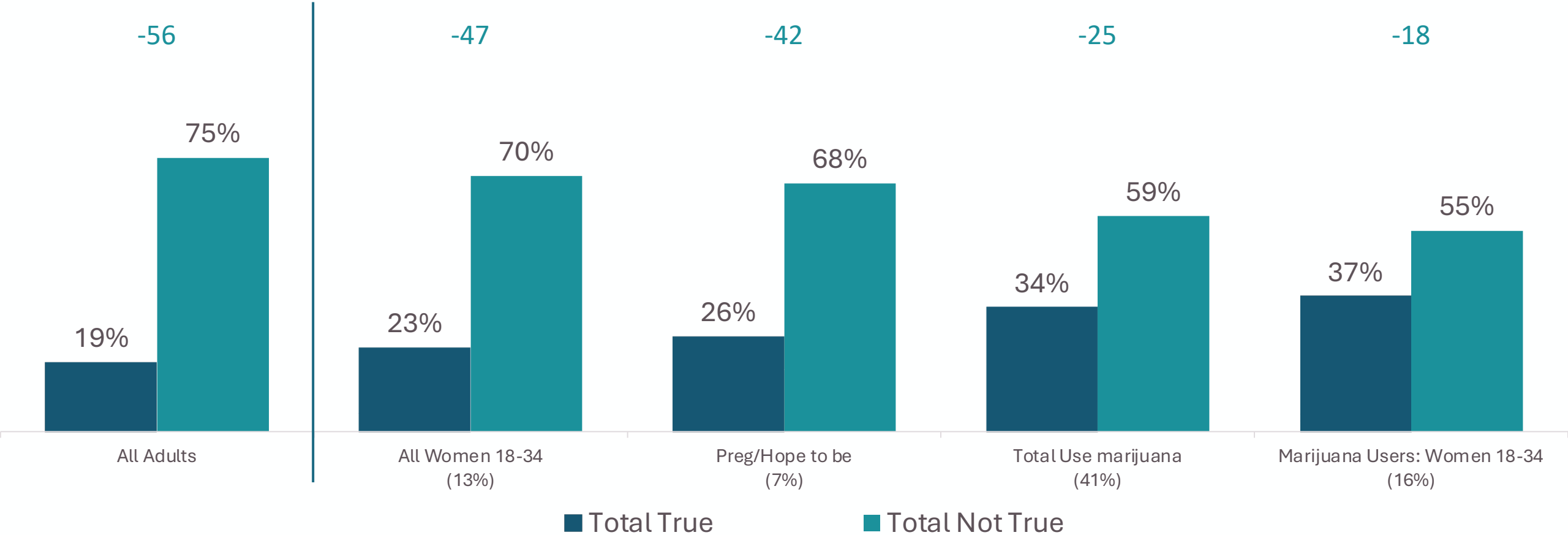
About how often do you currently use marijuana in any form for recreational or medicinal purposes (e.g., smoking, vaping, or edibles)?



Fully 39% of current marijuana users and 38% of female marijuana users between the ages of 18-34 believe it is acceptable for pregnant women to use marijuana.



While just 19% of Ohioans believe it is safe for a woman to use marijuana during pregnancy, that figure increases to 23% among younger women, to 26% among women who are pregnant or plan to be in the near future, to 34% among current marijuana users, and to 37% among younger women who currently use marijuana.

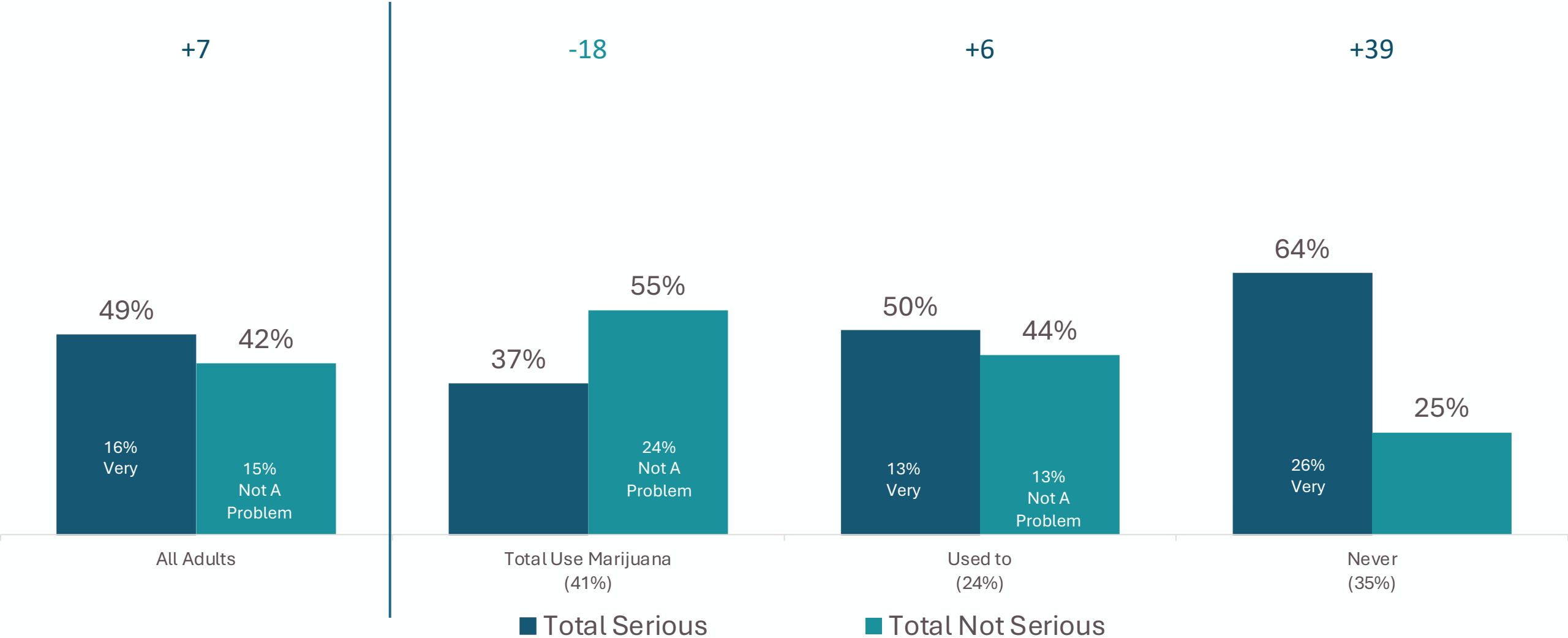




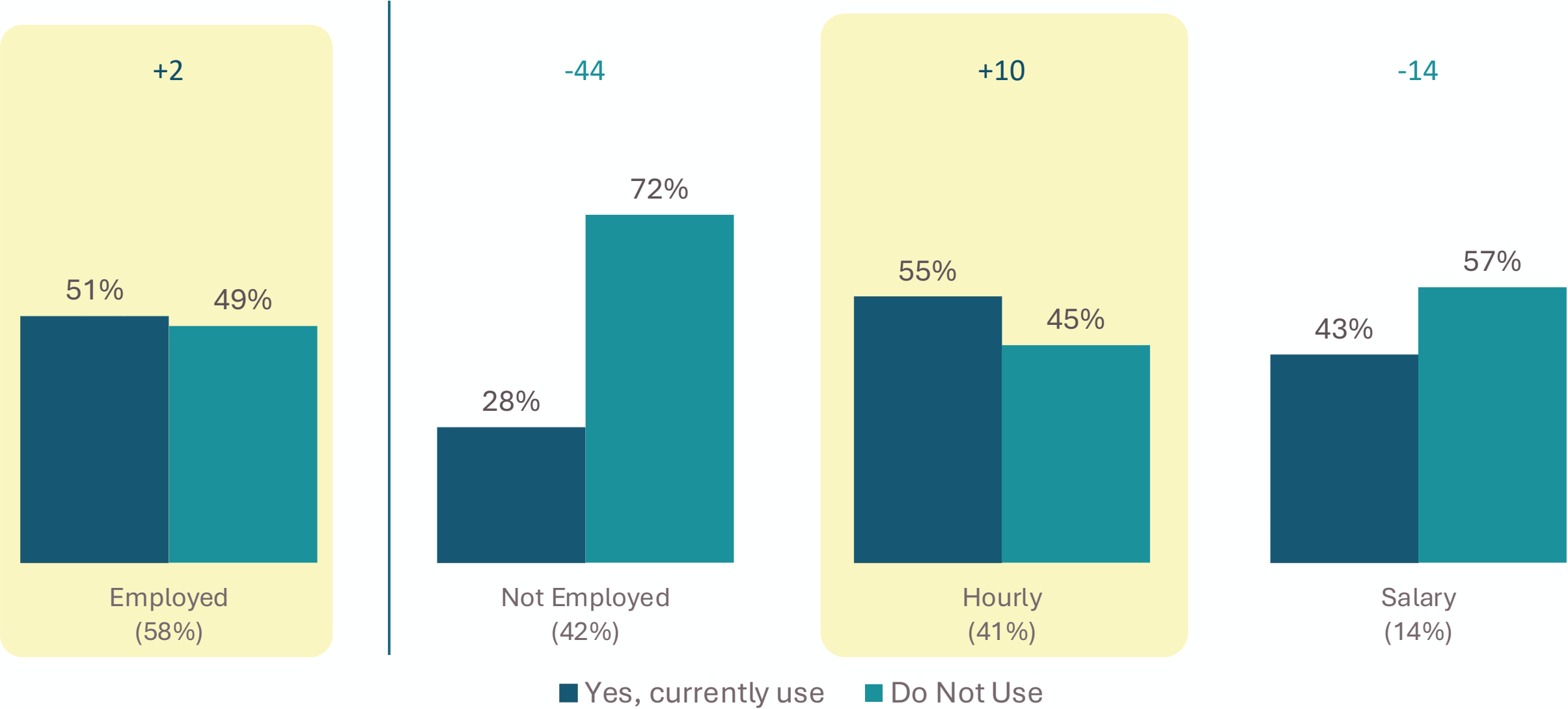
Ohioans lean toward believing that legalization of marijuana in the state poses a serious problem for employers in the state, and the data backs up that assertion. A little more than half (51%) of employed Ohioans say they use marijuana (43% on a daily basis), including 55% of hourly employees, and more than 60% of workers in the retail and hospitality industries.

Further, 45% of employed marijuana users say they have used marijuana during work hours.

Ohioans are divided on whether the legalization of marijuana poses a serious problem to employers.

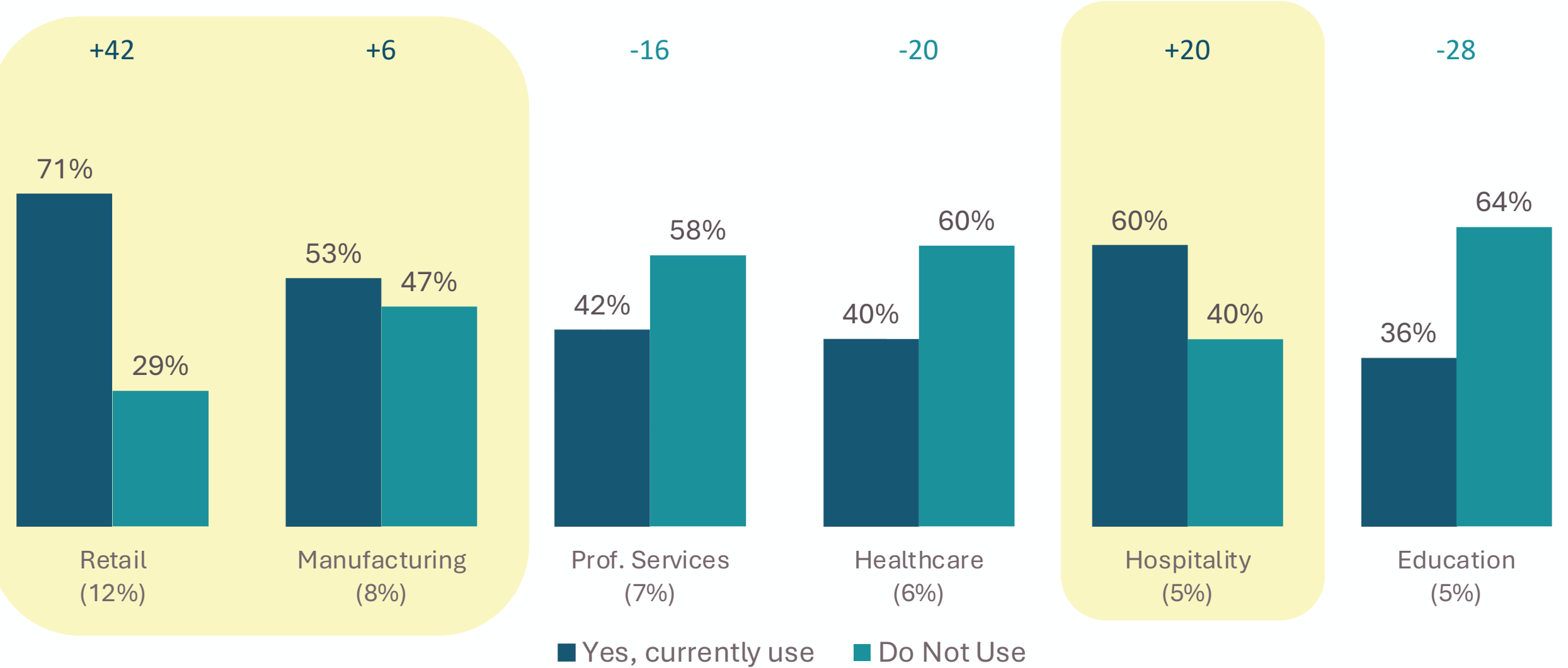


Fully half of all employed Ohioans, and more hourly than salaried workers report marijuana usage.



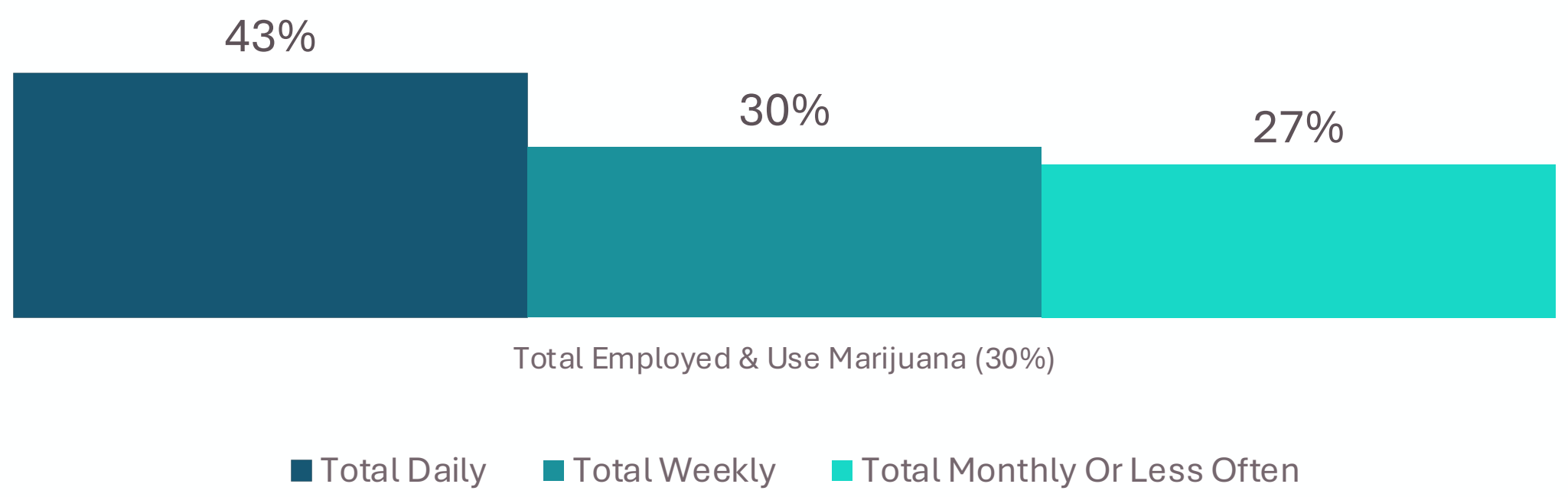
Do you currently use marijuana in any form for recreational or medicinal purposes?

A majority of workers employed in retail, manufacturing and hospitality report marijuana usage.



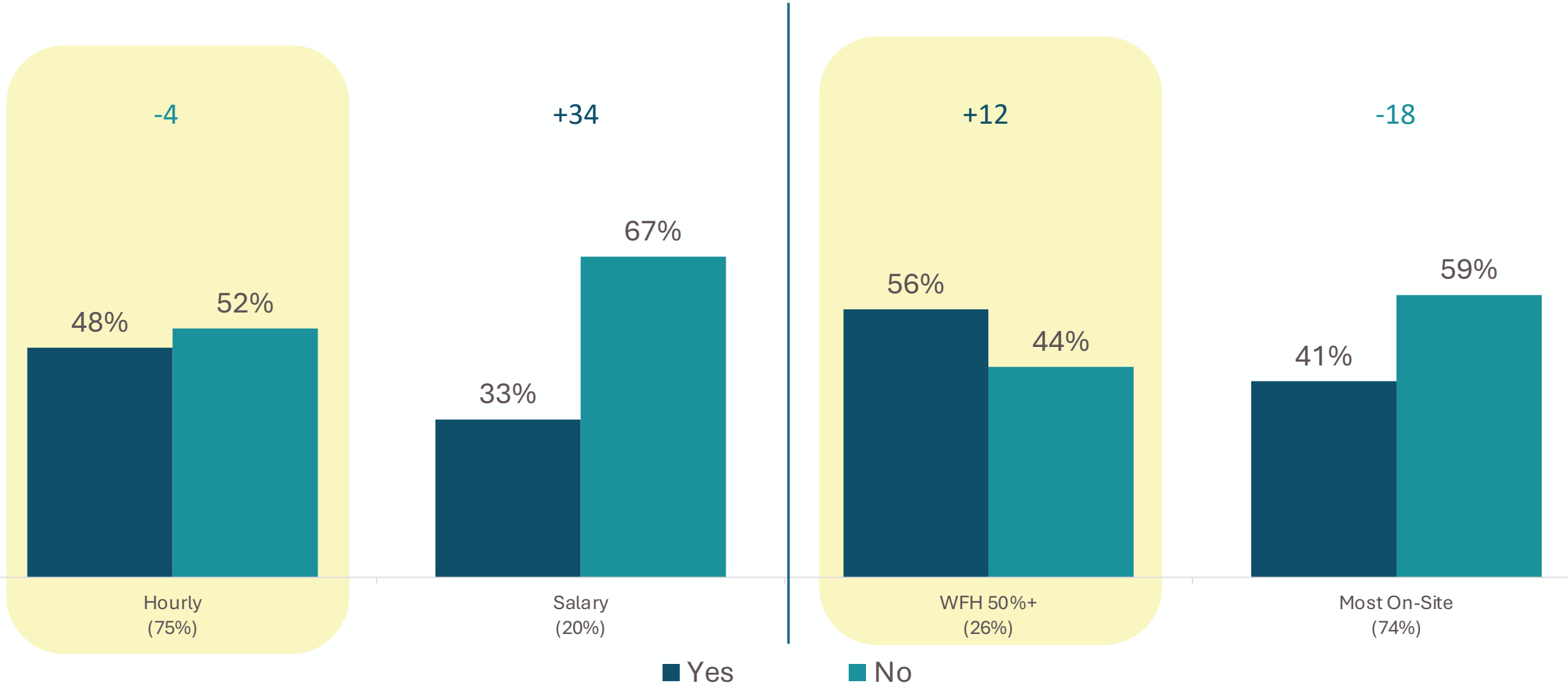
Do you currently use marijuana in any form for recreational or medicinal purposes?

Forty-three percent of employed adults in Ohio who currently use marijuana report doing so on a daily basis.

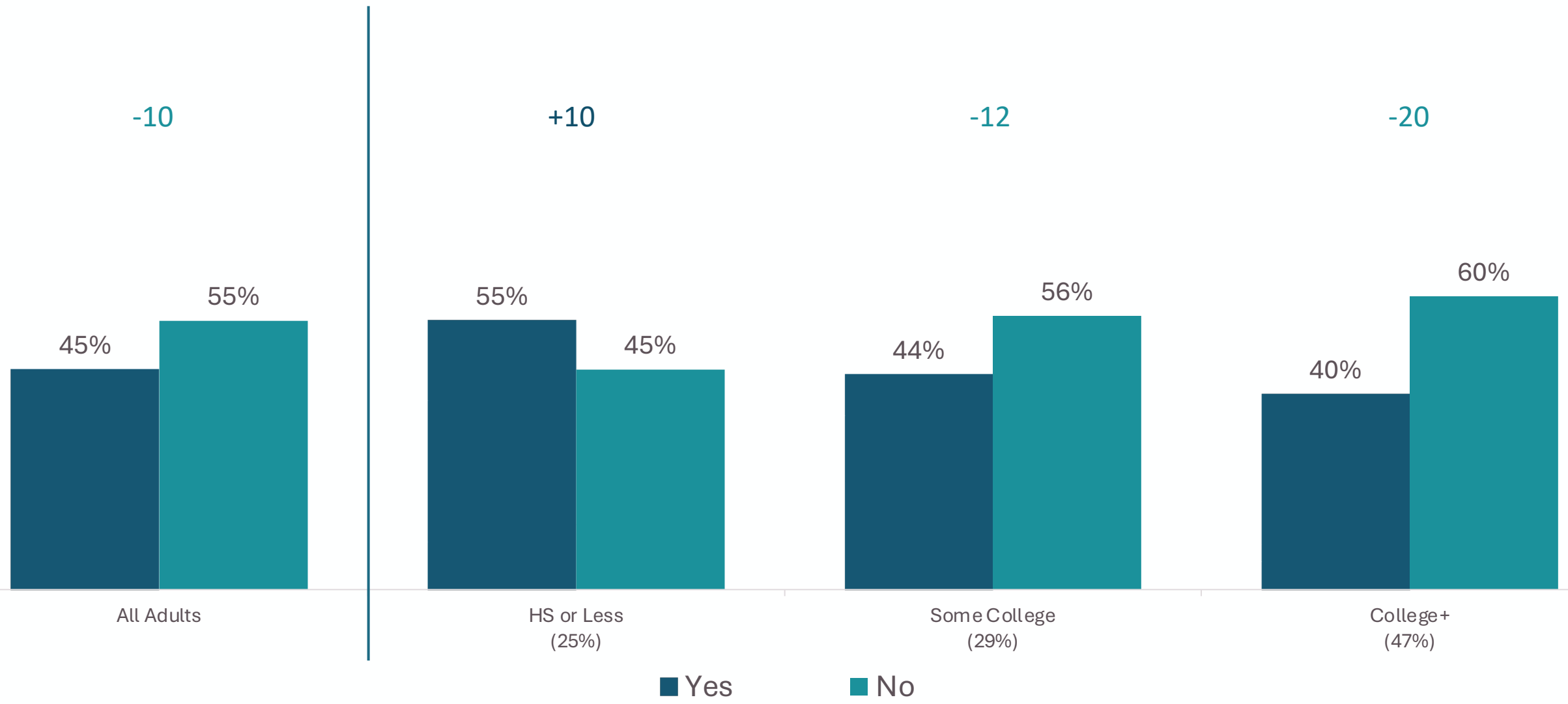


About how often do you currently use marijuana in any form for recreational or medicinal purposes (e.g., smoking, vaping, or edibles)?

Hourly employees report higher usage during work hours than salaried, and those who work from home a majority of the time report even higher usage.



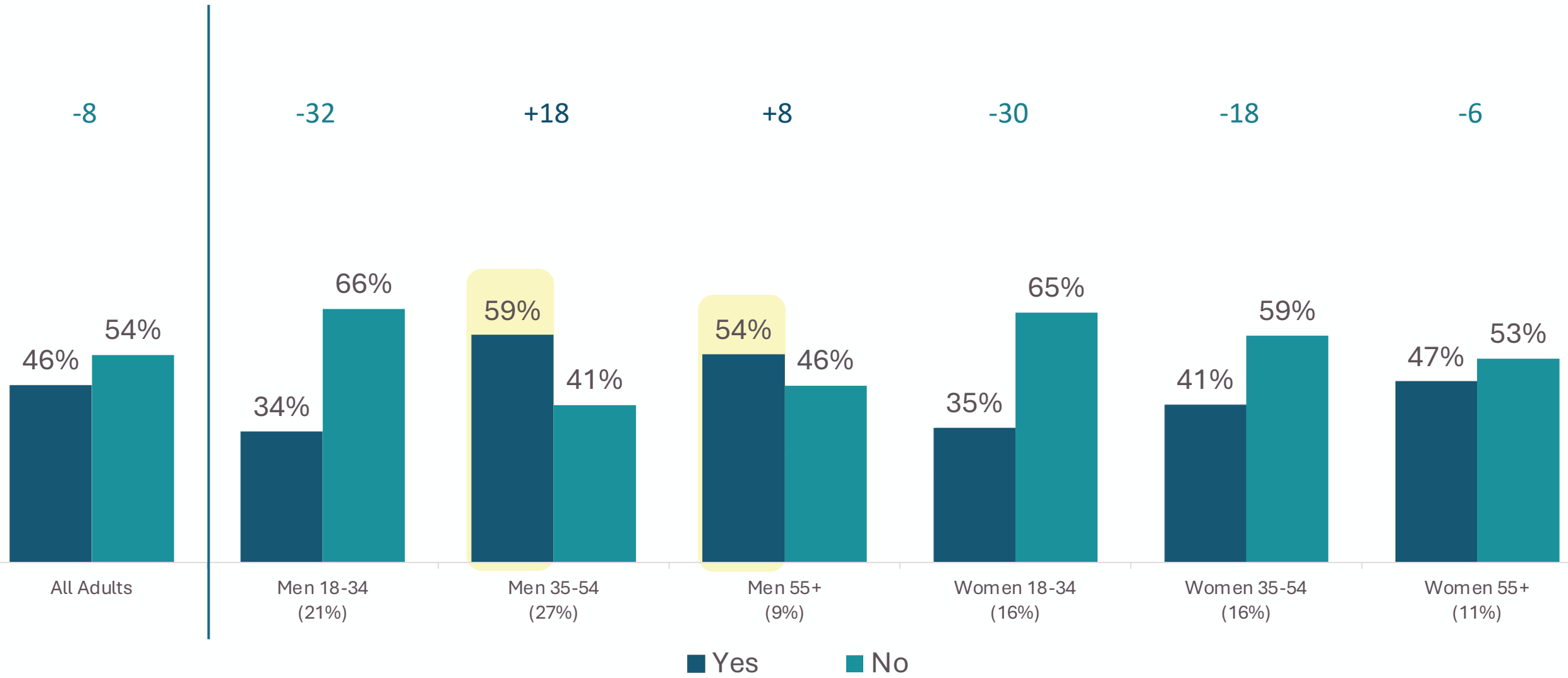
Fully 45% of employed marijuana users say they have used marijuana during work hours.





The new marijuana law is also impacting road and highway safety as fully 46% of marijuana users say they have driven while high, and 46% say it is safe to drive within an hour or so after using marijuana.

Nearly half of Ohioans who use marijuana report having driven while high on marijuana.



And, have you ever driven while high on marijuana?

About half of marijuana users in the state believe it is safe to drive within an hour or so after using marijuana.

	Total	18-24 (8%)	25-34 (29%)	35-44 (25%)	45-54 (18%)	55-64 (12%)	65+ (8%)
Immediately	18%	10%	19%	17%	26%	17%	7%
Within an hour or so	28%	26%	28%	33%	26%	21%	27%
Total Immediately/ Within an hour	46%	36%	47%	50%	52%	38%	34%
Total More Than Two Hours	54%	64%	53%	50%	48%	62%	66%

Based on your personal experience, how long after you use marijuana do you believe it is safe to drive?



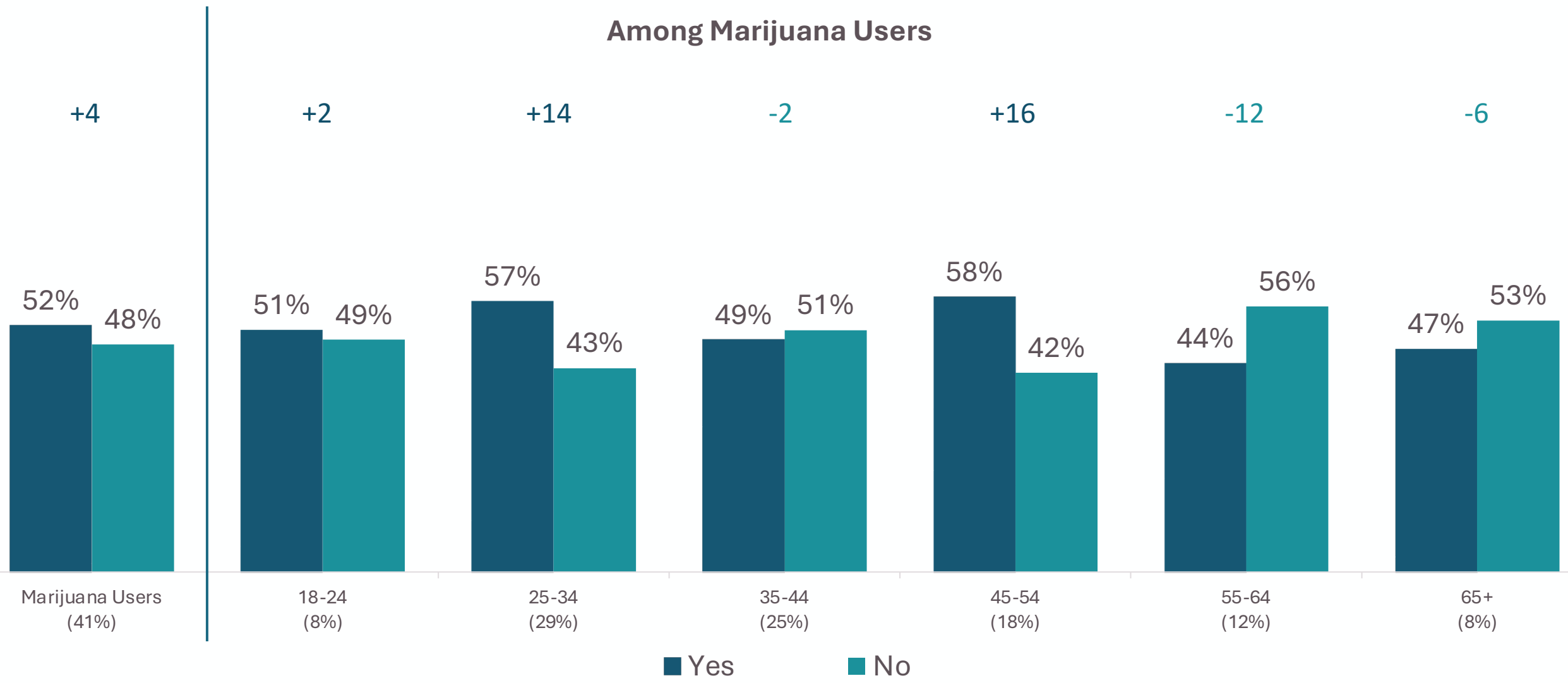
As entrenched as this data may indicate Ohioans are in marijuana culture, there are several poll results that can help map the road to a successful campaign.

- **First of all, a majority of current marijuana users (52%) say they have tried to stop using marijuana. This is extremely encouraging, and something our campaign can build on.**
- **Second, nearly one-third of current marijuana users (31%) acknowledge that regular marijuana use carries at least some risk to a person's health.**



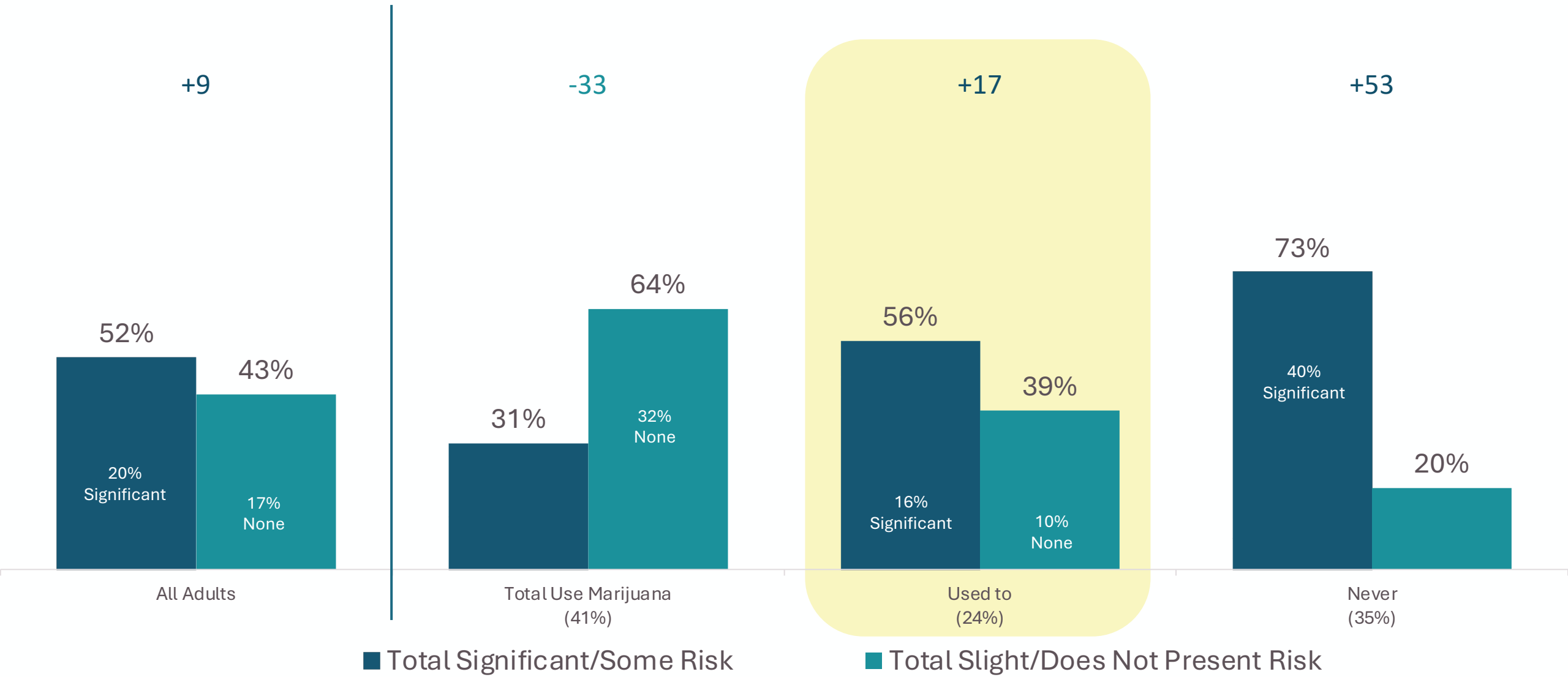
- **Third, there is some sense, even among marijuana users, that regular marijuana use poses a risk to a person's health. That sentiment provides us with a potential messaging platform to reach those residents.**
- **Fourth, those Ohioans who used to use marijuana and no longer do are significantly more likely to believe that there may be mental health consequences to regular marijuana usage, believe that marijuana usage represents a risk to a person's health, and seem poised to raise the red flag to others.**

Fully half of current marijuana users say they have tried to stop using marijuana.



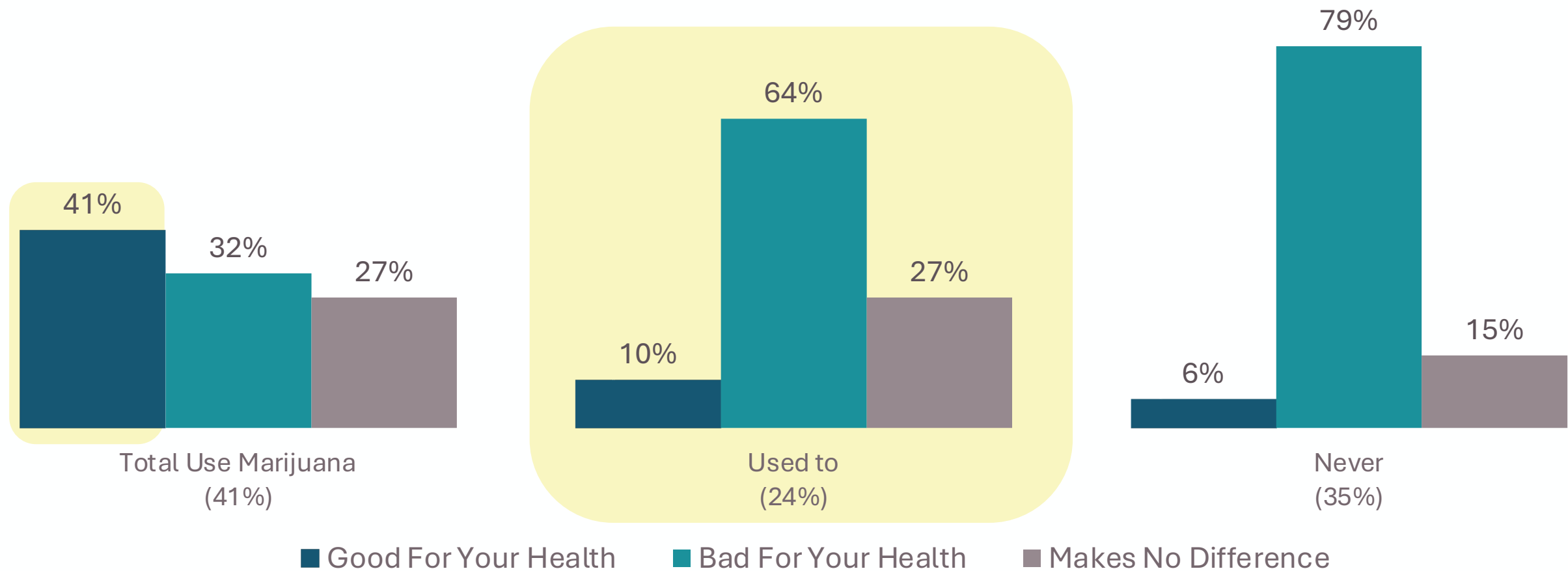
And, have you ever tried to stop using marijuana for any reason?

A slight majority of Ohioans believe that regular marijuana usage represents at least some risk to a person's health.



A plurality of current marijuana users say it's good for your health, but note the results among those who “used to” use marijuana.

Using marijuana in any form, such as smoking, vaping or edibles



For each of the following, please indicate whether you believe that action is good for your health, bad for your health, or if it makes no difference to your health:



Bottom Line



The rationale for the state’s campaign alerting Ohioans to the potential risks and dangers of marijuana seem sound:

- **41% of Ohioans say they use marijuana, with 47% of those using it at least once a day.**
- **50% of women who are either pregnant or hope-to-be report using marijuana.**
- **67% of Ohioans believe that since marijuana is legal in Ohio, it is now more acceptable to use.**



Bottom Line



- **By a 60%-17% margin, Ohioans believe that marijuana legalization has been good for local communities.**
- **Fully 53% of Ohioans believe that their community would be better off if more adults used marijuana on a regular basis.**
- **51% of employed Ohioans say they use marijuana, 43% on a daily basis.**
- **45% of employed Ohioans say they have used marijuana during work hours.**



Bottom Line



A successful campaign educating Ohioans of the risks of using marijuana needs to be credentialed with the voices of Ohio's medical professionals, as well as local residents who have been impacted by marijuana usage.

We cannot expect to change behavior overnight, but beginning an education campaign to shine a light on the risks of using marijuana is a necessary first step in doing so.