



# Chinese-Canadian Perspectives on China and Impact of COVID-19

Public Opinion Research

Release Date: July 20, 2020

Field Dates: June 17–July 6, 2020



加拿大华裔百人会  
Canada Committee 100 Society



# Foreword

Recent events, such as the arrest of Huawei's CFO Meng Wanzhou, the charges laid against the "two Michaels" in China, and the outbreak of COVID-19 in Wuhan have centered on Canada's strained relationship with China and have often left Chinese Canadians feeling alienated from their fellow Canadians.

Today, the Canada Committee 100 Society (CCS100) and Innovative Research Group (INNOVATIVE) are releasing the results of a new survey of Chinese Canadians.

Often, other surveys with a focus on Chinese Canadians are only conducted in English and French. However, given that many Chinese Canadians, especially first-generation immigrants, prefer communicating in their language, respondents of this survey had the option to complete it in Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, or English. This way, Chinese Canadians of various backgrounds were able to complete the survey. Surveys that represents the full range of backgrounds and experiences of the Chinese Canadian population are rare, and this is a unique opportunity to understand their perspectives on this important topic in these unprecedented times.

This report not only sheds light on the perspectives of the Chinese-Canadian population as a whole, it also illustrates how this population differs by key demographic indicators, such as place of birth, period of immigration, region, and more. This is important because this in-depth analysis of the population allows us to understand the diversity within Chinese Canadians.

Results of the Chinese-Canadian population come from a national online survey conducted from June 17<sup>th</sup> to July 6<sup>th</sup> with a weighted sample size of 500 Chinese Canadian residents.

When applicable, the report also compares perspectives of Chinese Canadians to attitudes of the general population (GenPop). GenPop results come from a parallel online survey conducted from June 17<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> with a weighted sample size of 1,500 Canadian residents.

Detailed methodology is provided at the end of this report.

# Perceptions of China

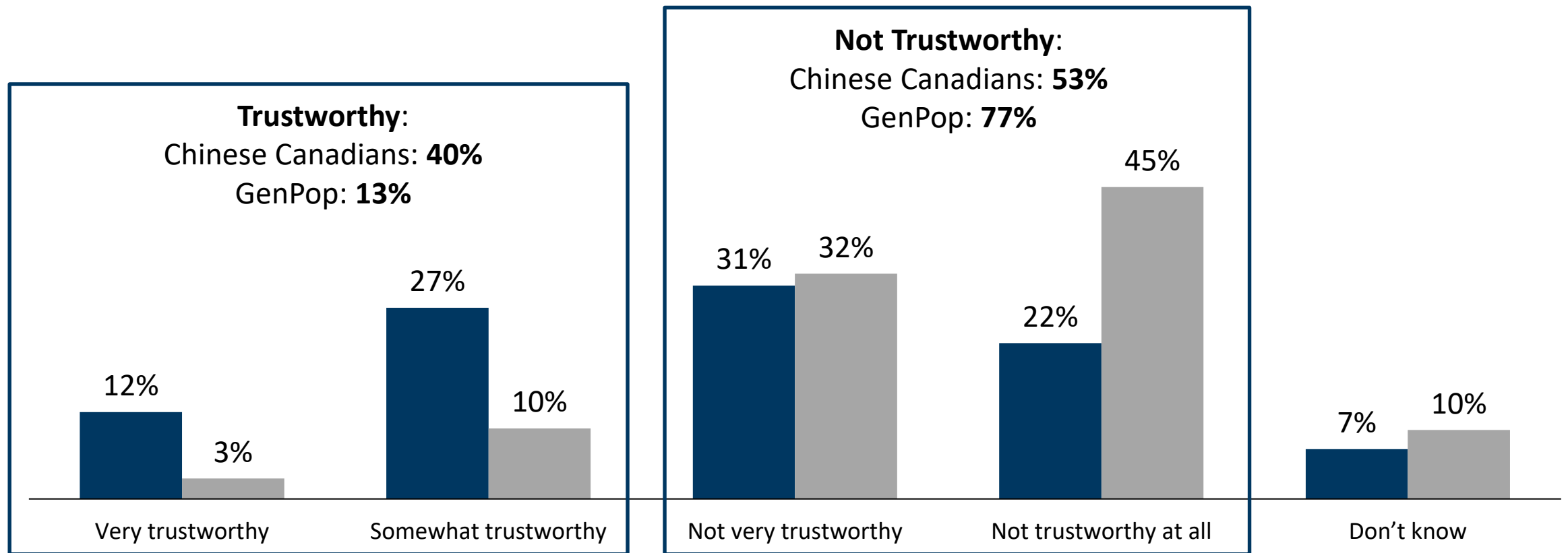
Although Chinese Canadians show higher trust in China than Canadians overall, over half (53%) still say Canada cannot trust China to act fairly in a dispute, versus only 2-in-5 (40%) say it can.

# More Chinese Canadians say Canada *cannot* trust China to treat Canada fairly if the two countries are in dispute (53%) than it can (40%)



From time to time, countries have disagreements. Thinking about Canada and its relations with other countries, to what degree do you feel Canada can trust each of the following countries to treat Canada fairly if we have a dispute with them? **People's Republic of China**  
[asked of all respondents]

## Chinese Canadians Vs. GenPop



■ Chinese Canadians ■ GenPop



加拿大华裔百人会  
Canada Committee 100 Society

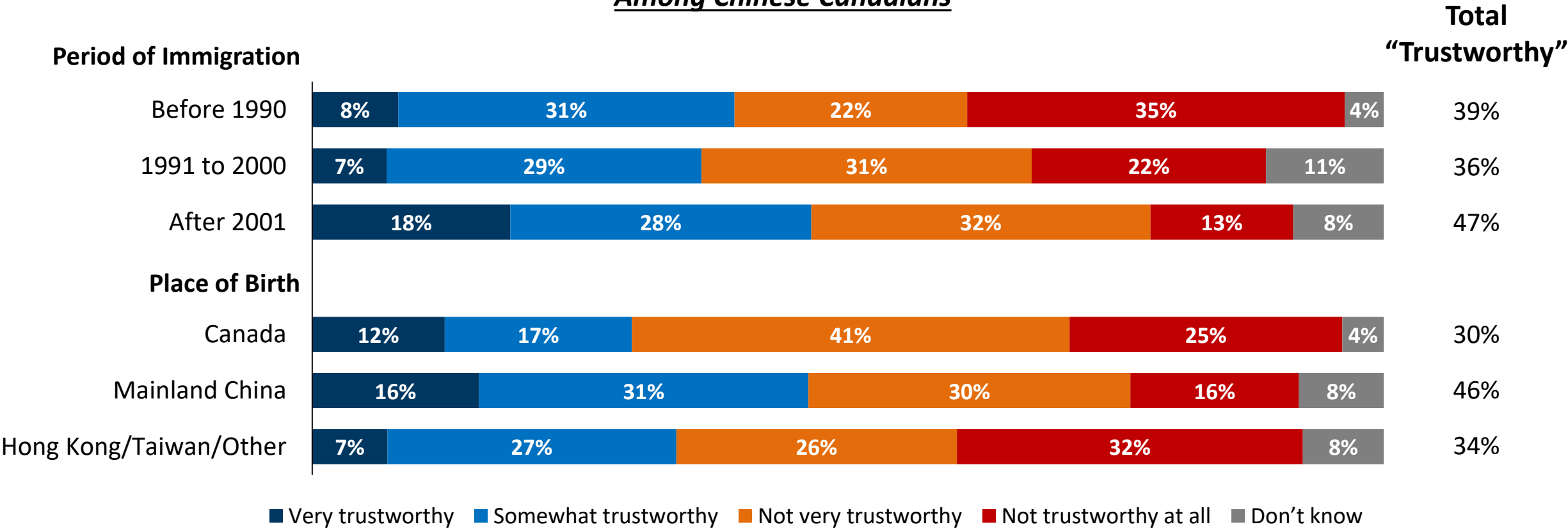


# Long-time immigrants and Canadian-born Chinese Canadians are *less* likely to say Canada can trust China to treat Canada fairly



From time to time, countries have disagreements. Thinking about Canada and its relations with other countries, to what degree do you feel Canada can trust each of the following countries to treat Canada fairly if we have a dispute with them? **People's Republic of China**  
[asked of all respondents]

## Among Chinese Canadians



加拿大华裔百人会  
Canada Committee 100 Society

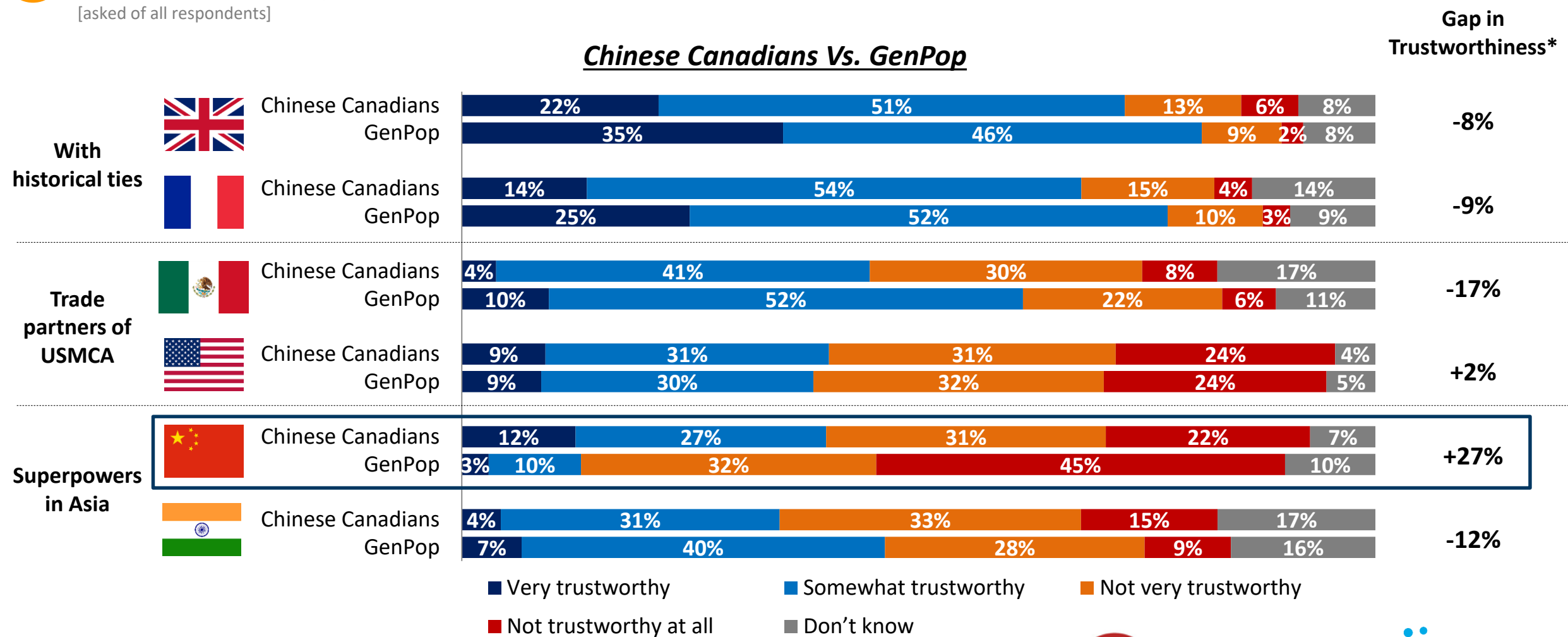


# The difference in the level of trust in China between Chinese Canadians<sup>6</sup> and GenPop is the largest of all the countries measured



From time to time, countries have disagreements. Thinking about Canada and its relations with other countries, to what degree do you feel Canada can trust each of the following countries to treat Canada fairly if we have a dispute with them?

[asked of all respondents]



\*Gap in Trustworthiness is the difference of "Very/Somewhat trustworthy" between Chinese Canadians and GenPop.

# Financial Impact of COVID-19

Chinese Canadians share similar concerns and experiences with all Canadians. They are severely impacted financially by the COVID-19 outbreak, and to a greater extent.

# Chinese Canadians are 10 points *less* likely than the general population<sup>8</sup> to say their household's finances have no negative impact

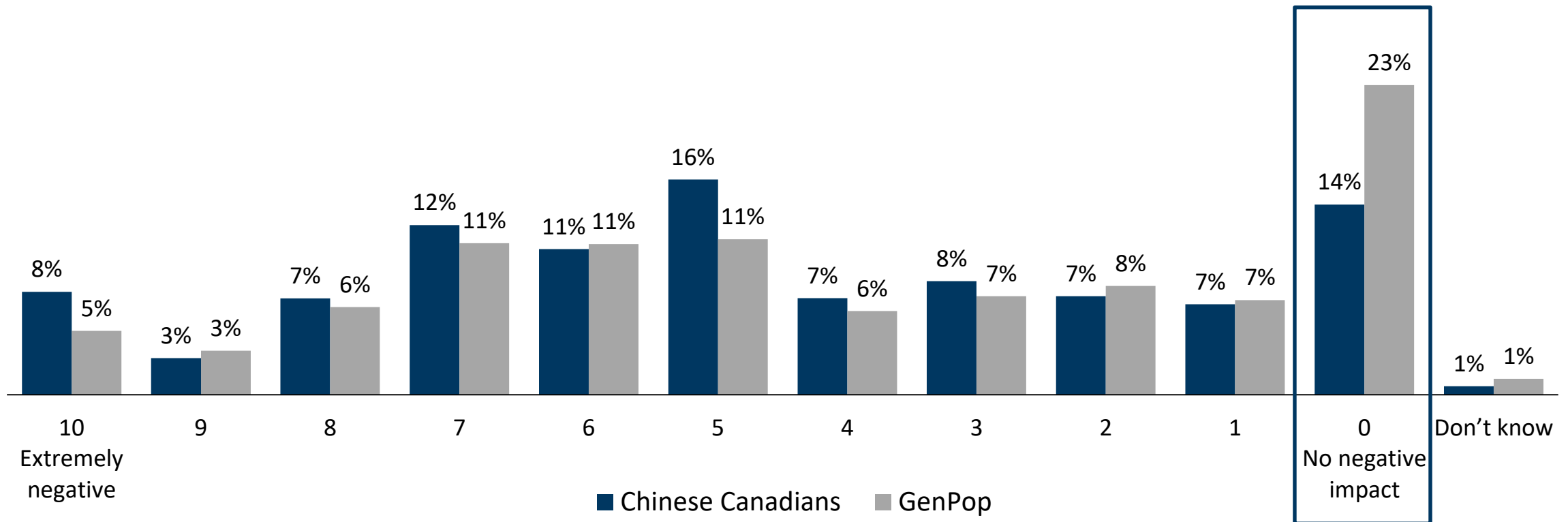


The COVID-19 outbreak has resulted in major changes to personal behaviour, Canadians' finances, business operations, and the economy overall. Thinking about these changes as a whole, how much have they negatively impacted you personally in each of the following areas? Please answer from 0 to 10 where 0 means "No negative impact" and 10 means "Extremely negative".

## ***Your household's finances***

[asked of all respondents]

### **Chinese Canadians Vs. GenPop**



# Chinese Canadians with a mortgage are more worried about their ability to pay their mortgages in the next few months than GenPop

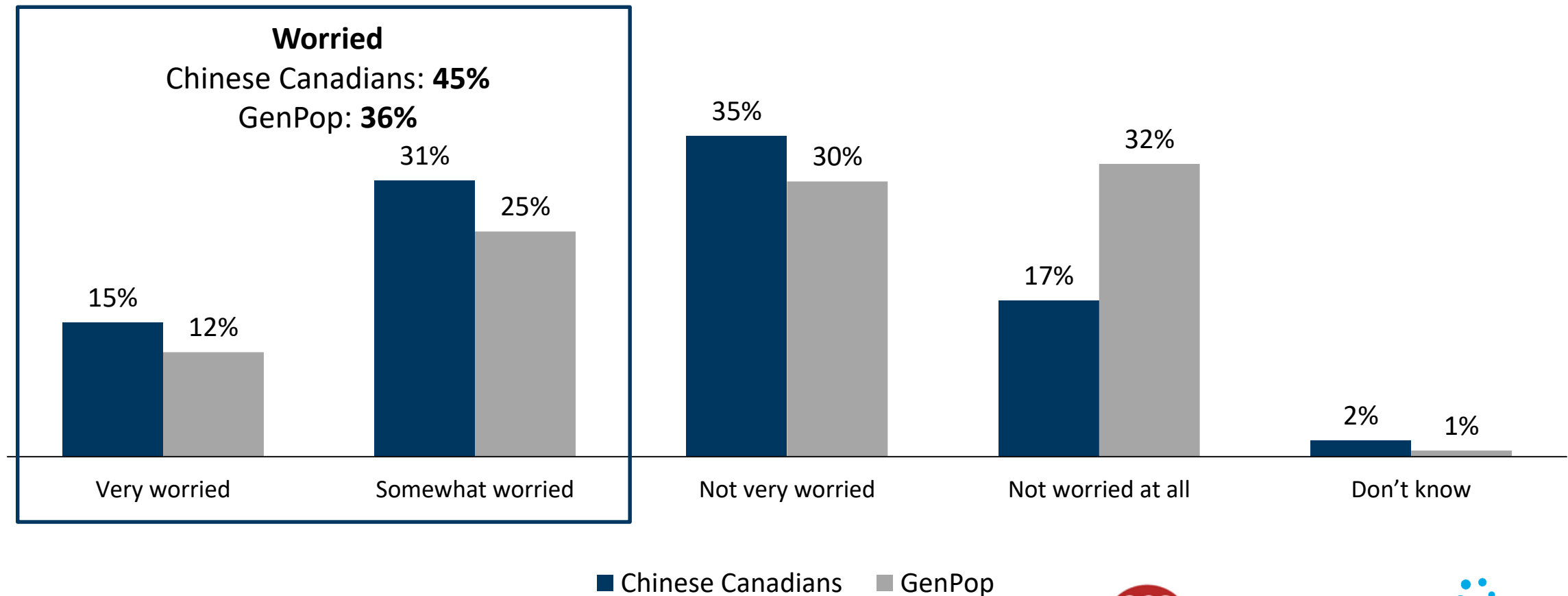


Thinking about the next few months, how worried are you about the following?

***Being able to pay your mortgage***

[only asked of respondents who own their home with a mortgage; Chinese Canadians n=242; GenPop n=502]

## **Chinese Canadians Vs. GenPop**



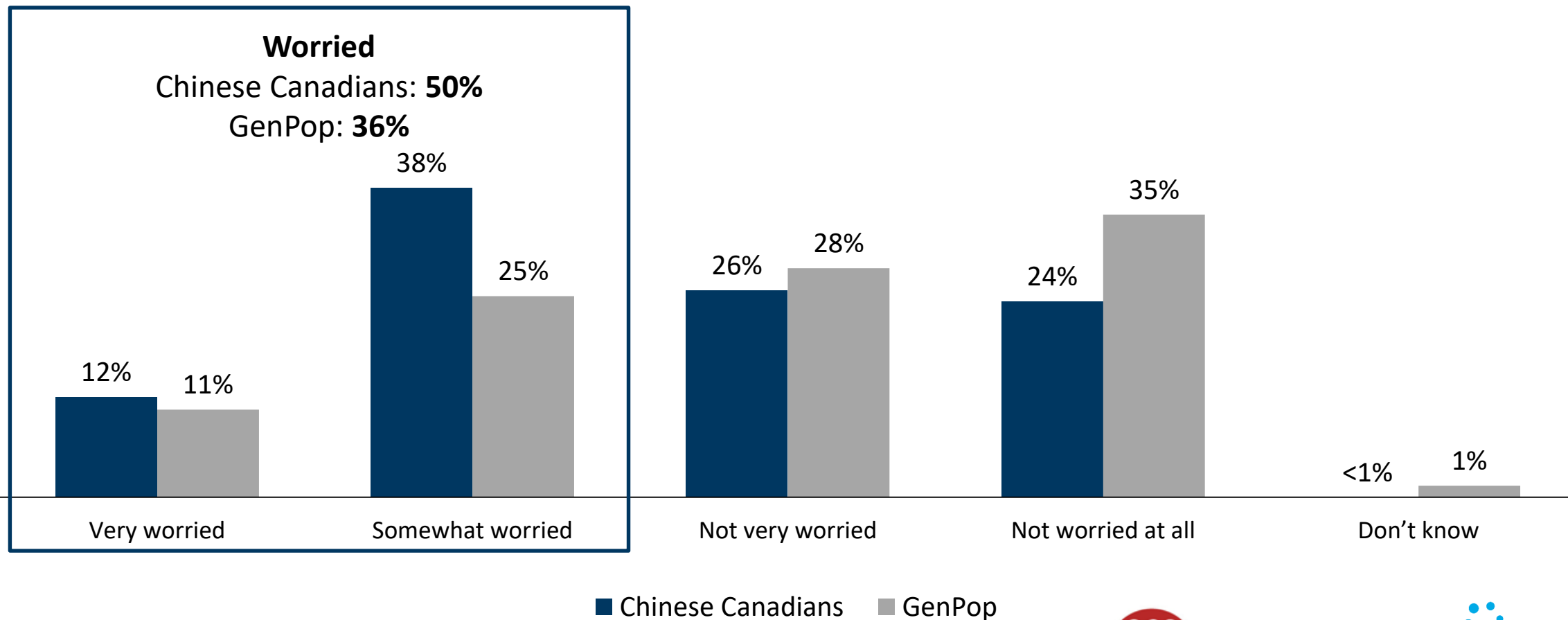
# Chinese Canadian renters are more worried about their ability to pay their rents in the next few months than the general population <sup>10</sup>

Q Thinking about the next few months, how worried are you about the following?

**Being able to pay your rent**

[only asked of respondents who are renters; Chinese Canadians n=83; GenPop n=400]

## Chinese Canadians Vs. GenPop



# Chinese-Canadians in Focus

Vulnerable sub-groups among the Chinese-Canadian population are struggling even harder than their counterparts in the general population as a result of COVID-19.

# Just under half of Chinese Canadians in the labour force say their own employment or business are impacted; on par with GenPop

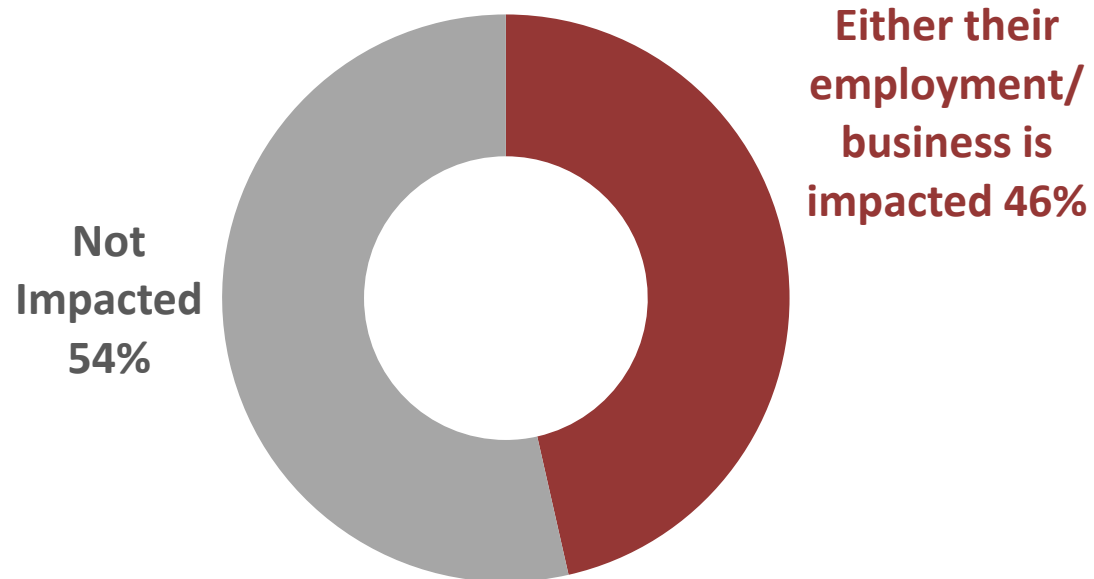


Have you experienced any of the following impacts on work as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak?\*

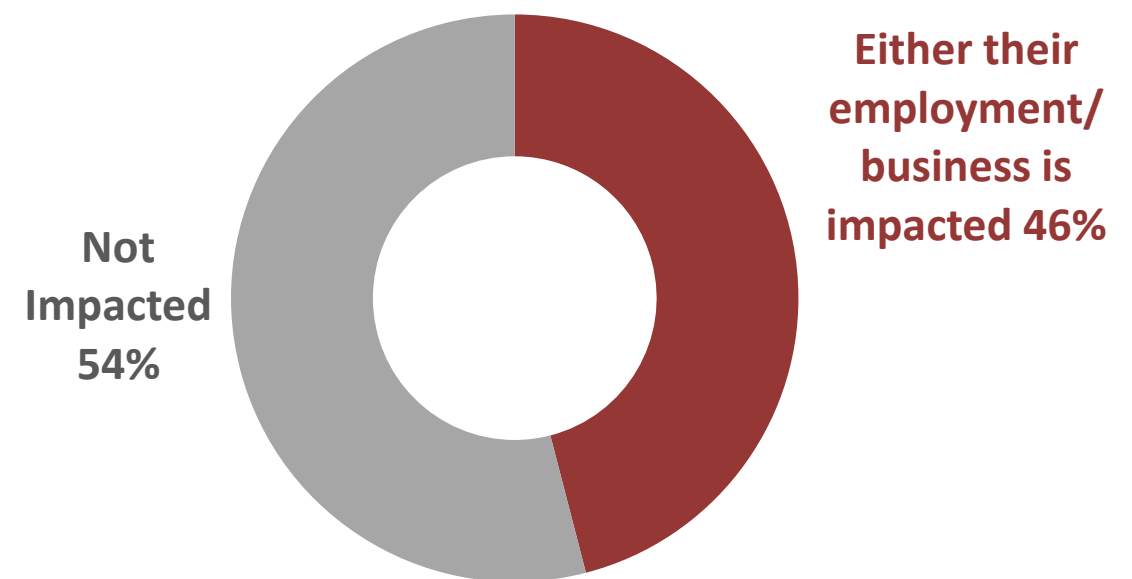
- Been laid off
- Had hours/shifts reduced
- Operate a business and have seen substantial reduction in sales
- Operate a business that has had to temporarily close
- Operate a business that has had to permanently close

[asked of all respondents; only results of those in the labour force are shown]

## Chinese Canadians in the labour force (n=359)



## GenPop in the labour force (n=958)



\*Full question text: "Have you, or has anyone in your household, experienced any of the following impacts on work as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak?" However for the purpose of the analysis, only those who say they themselves are impacted are treated as "impacted".

# But Chinese Canadians with lower household income or education report greater impacts from COVID-19 than their GenPop counterparts



Have you experienced any of the following impacts on work as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak?\*

- Been laid off
- Had hours/shifts reduced
- Operate a business and have seen substantial reduction in sales
- Operate a business that has had to temporarily close
- Operate a business that has had to permanently close

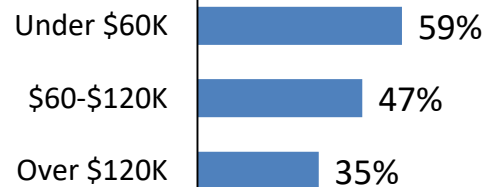
[asked of all respondents; only results of those in the labour force are shown]

## Chinese Canadians in the labour force (n=359)

### Sample Breakdown ▶▶

Percentage who say "Impacted"

#### Household Income



#### Education

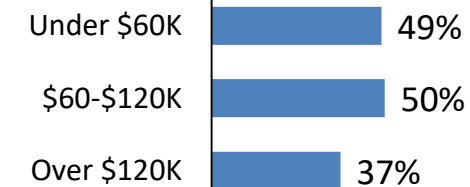


## GenPop in the labour force (n=958)

### Sample Breakdown ▶▶

Percentage who say "Impacted"

#### Household Income



#### Education



**\*Full question text:** "Have you, or has anyone in your household, experienced any of the following impacts on work as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak?" However for the purpose of the analysis, only those who say they themselves are impacted are treated as "impacted".

**Note:** Those who "prefer not to say" their education are excluded from the education breakdown. Those who "prefer not to say" their household income are excluded from the household income breakdown.

# Chinese Canadians with less income are more likely to say COVID-19 has a significantly negative impact on finances than those in GenPop

Q

The COVID-19 outbreak has resulted in major changes to personal behaviour, Canadians' finances, business operations, and the economy overall. Thinking about these changes as a whole, how much have they negatively impacted you personally in each of the following areas? Please answer from 0 to 10 where 0 means "No negative impact" and 10 means "Extremely negative".

## ***Your household's finances***

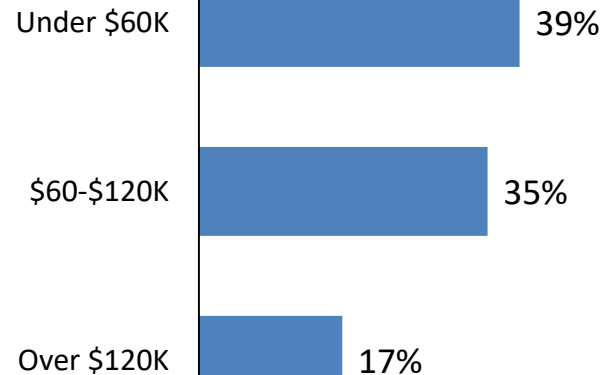
[asked of all respondents]

### **Chinese Canadians**

#### **Sample Breakdown ▶▶**

*Percentage who say "Significantly negative impact (7-10)"*

#### **Household Income**

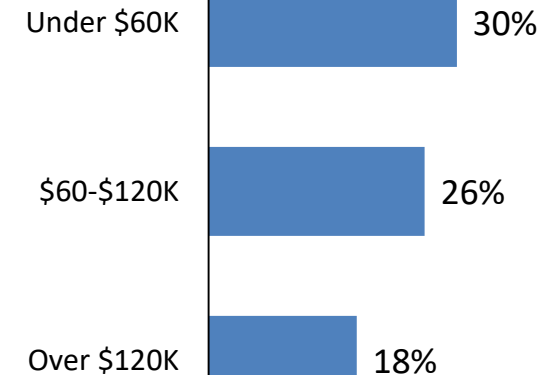


### **GenPop**

#### **Sample Breakdown ▶▶**

*Percentage who say "Significantly negative impact (7-10)"*

#### **Household Income**



**Note:** Those who "prefer not to say" their household income are excluded from the household income breakdown.

# Chinese Canadians with lower income or education are more worried about making mortgage payments than their counterparts in GenPop

Thinking about the next few months, how worried are you about the following?

## ***Being able to pay your mortgage***

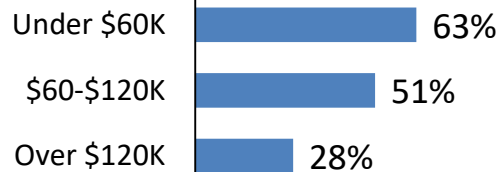
[only asked of respondents who own their home with a mortgage]

### ***Chinese Canadians with a mortgage (n=242)***

#### **Sample Breakdown ▶▶**

Percentage who say "Worried"

#### **Household Income**



#### **Education**



#### **Employment Sector**

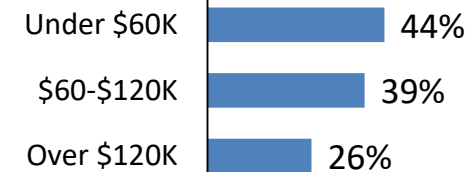


### ***GenPop with a mortgage (n=502)***

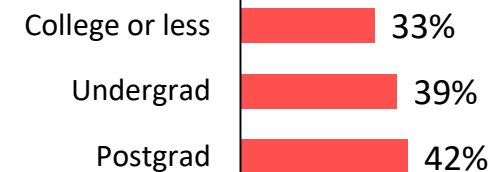
#### **Sample Breakdown ▶▶**

Percentage who say "Worried"

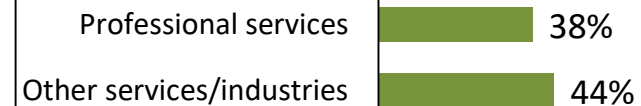
#### **Household Income**



#### **Education**



#### **Employment Sector**



**Note:** Those who "prefer not to say" their education are excluded from the education breakdown. Those who "prefer not to say" their household income are excluded from the household income breakdown. Those who are not in the labour force and those who "prefer not to say" are excluded from the employment sector breakdown.

# Media Coverage of Chinese Canadians

Beyond financial and economic impacts, Chinese Canadians felt the media coverage of COVID-19 has been biased against them. Over half (52%) of Chinese Canadians felt the media coverage of COVID-19 has been biased against them. Some of the overall population shares this sentiment of unfair reporting, but to a smaller degree (23%).

# Compared to Chinese Canadians (52%), half as many Canadians say the media coverage has been biased against Chinese Canadians (23%)<sup>17</sup>

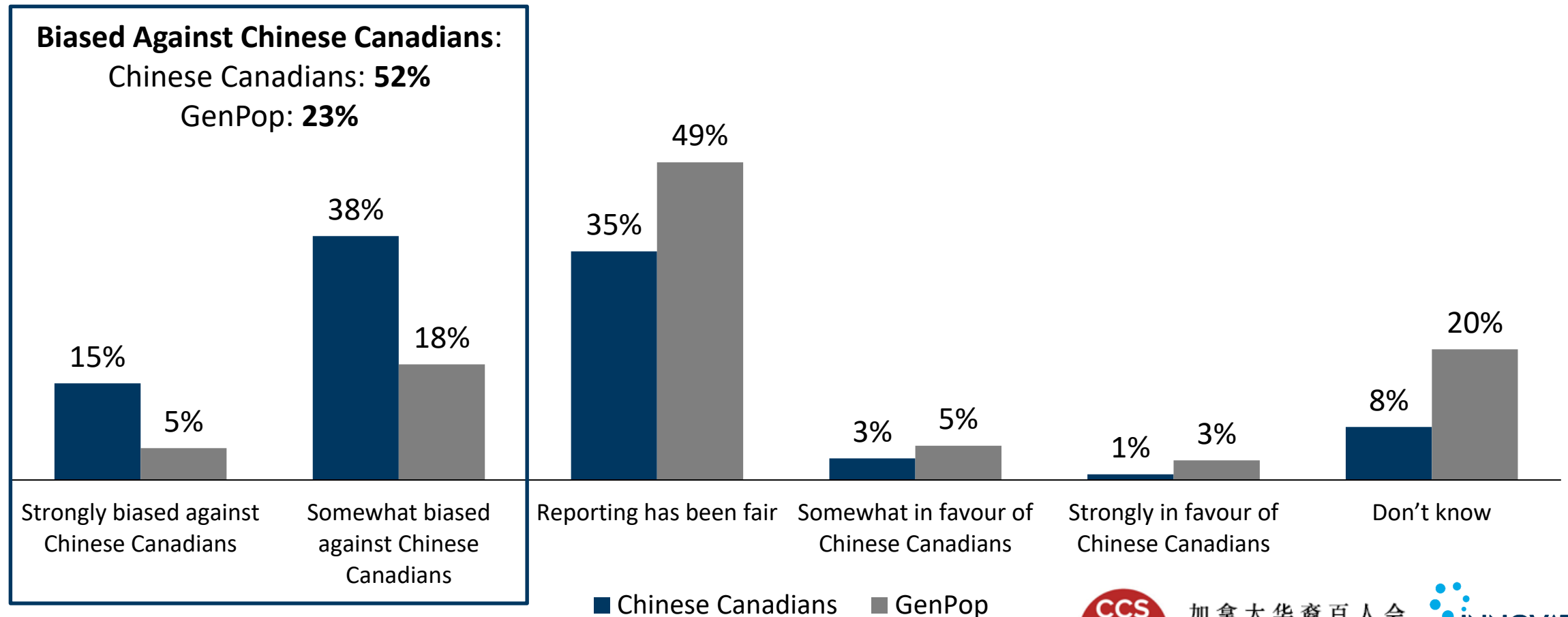


Thinking about the media coverage of COVID-19, ...

In general, do you think the coverage has been [ROTATE] biased against or in favour of Chinese Canadians, or the reporting has been fair?

[asked of all respondents]

## Chinese Canadians Vs. GenPop



# Recent immigrants, Mainland Chinese immigrants, and those in BC are more likely to say reporting has been biased against Chinese Canadians



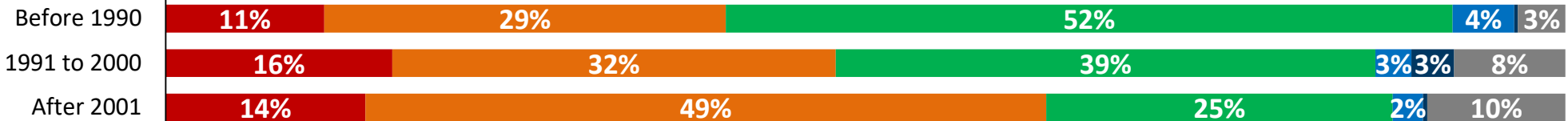
Thinking about the media coverage of COVID-19, ...

In general, do you think the coverage has been [ROTATE] biased against or in favour of Chinese Canadians, or the reporting has been fair?

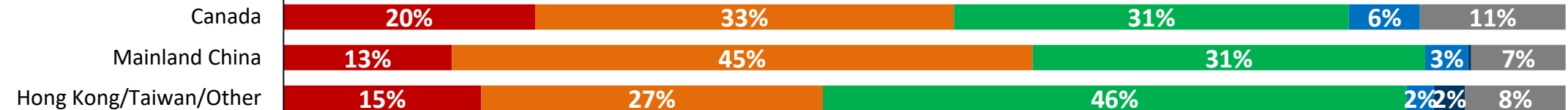
[asked of all respondents]

## Among Chinese Canadians

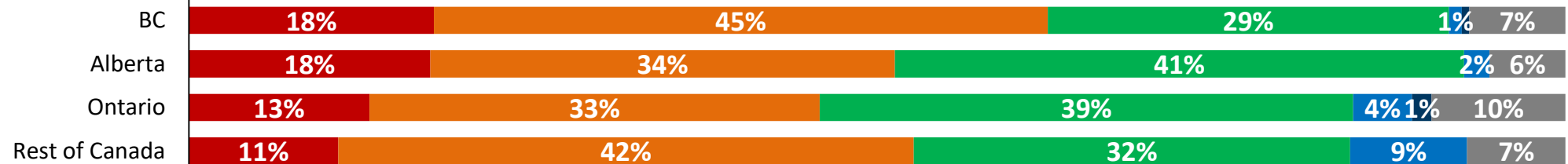
### Period of Immigration



### Place of Birth



### Region



■ Strongly biased against Chinese Canadians  
■ Reporting has been fair  
■ Strongly in favour of Chinese Canadians

■ Somewhat biased against Chinese Canadians  
■ Somewhat in favour of Chinese Canadians  
■ Don't know



加拿大华裔百人会  
Canada Committee 100 Society



# Media Coverage of China

When it comes to media coverage of China's handling of COVID-19, 6-in-10 Chinese Canadians say the reporting has been biased against China. Some of the overall population also shares this sentiment of unfair reporting, but to a smaller degree (32%).

# Half as many Canadians say the media coverage has been biased against China (32%) as Chinese Canadians (60%)

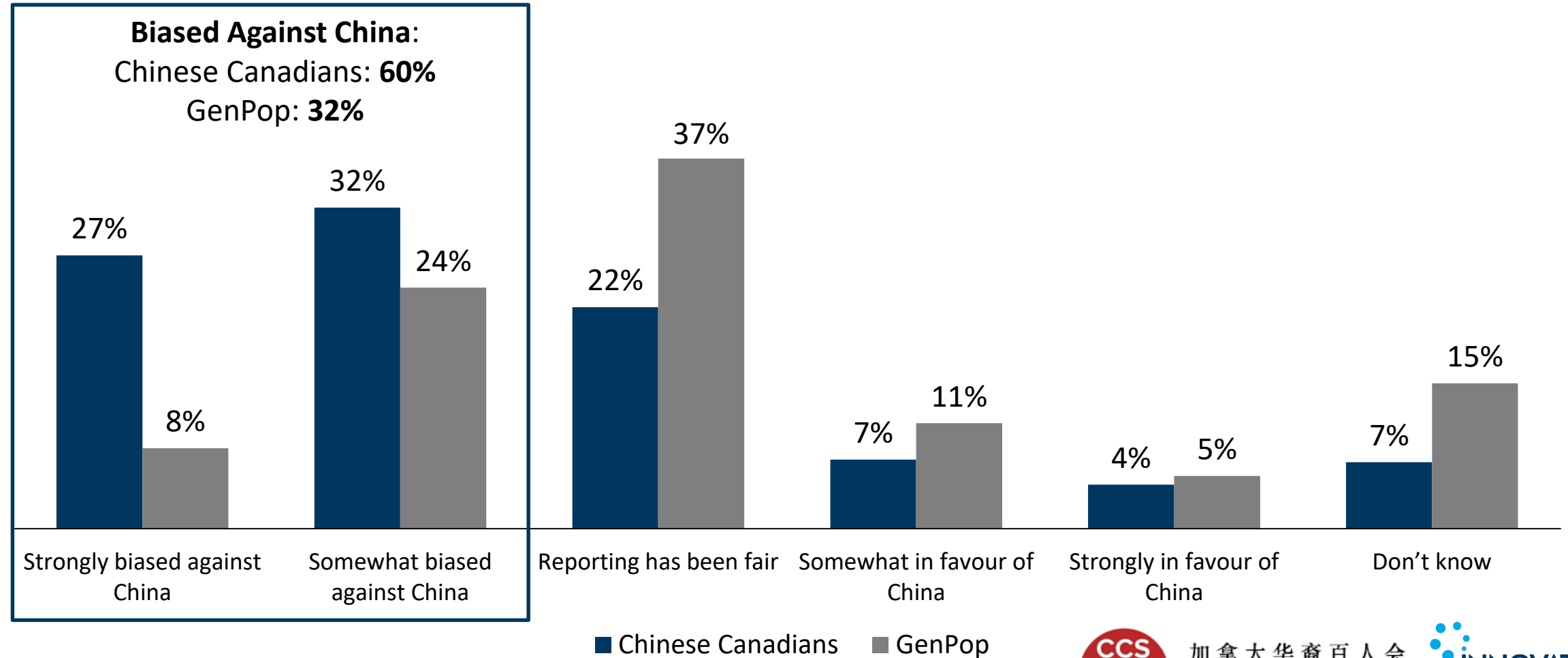


Thinking about the media coverage of COVID-19, ...

In general, do you think the coverage has been [ROTATE] biased against or in favour of the People's Republic of China, or the reporting has been fair?

[asked of all respondents]

## Chinese Canadians Vs. GenPop



# Recent immigrants, Mainland Chinese immigrants, and those in BC are more likely to say the reporting has been biased against China

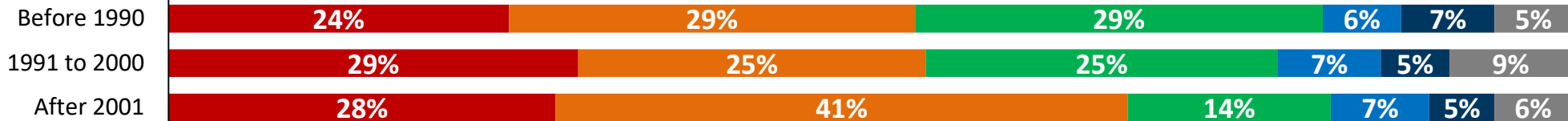


Thinking about the media coverage of COVID-19, ...

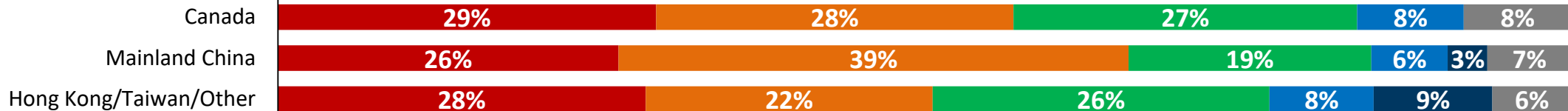
In general, do you think the coverage has been [ROTATE] biased against or in favour of the People's Republic of China, or the reporting has been fair?  
[asked of all respondents]

## Among Chinese Canadians

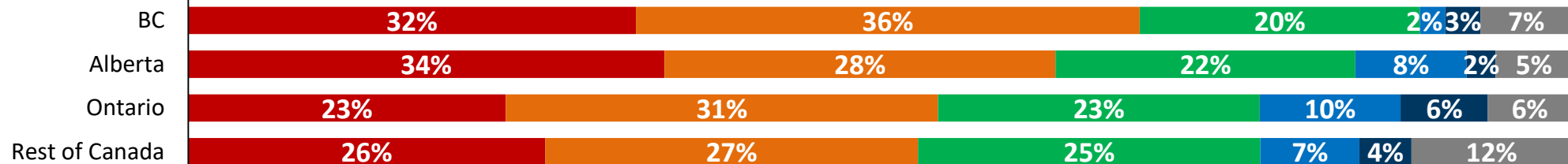
### Period of Immigration



### Place of Birth



### Region



■ Strongly biased against China    
 ■ Somewhat biased against China    
 ■ Reporting has been fair  
■ Somewhat in favour of China    
 ■ Strongly in favour of China    
 ■ Don't know



加拿大华裔百人会  
Canada Committee 100 Society



# Methodology



# Survey Methodology - GenPop

**These are the results of an online survey conducted between June 17<sup>th</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

**Method:** This online survey was conducted using INNOVATIVE's Canada 20/20 national research panel with additional respondents from Lucid, a leading provider of online sample. Each survey is administered to a series of randomly selected samples from the panel and weighted to ensure that the overall sample's composition reflects that of the actual Canadian population according to Census data to provide results that are intended to approximate a probability sample.

**Sample Size:** n=2,322 Canadian citizens, 18 years or older. Regional oversamples in Atlantic, Prairies, Alberta and BC were used in order to adequately capture regional results. The results are nationally weighted to n=1,500 based on Census data from Statistics Canada.

**Field Dates:** June 17<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**Weighting:** Results for Canada are weighted by age, gender, and region to ensure that the overall sample's composition reflects that of the actual population according to Census data; in order to provide results that are intended to approximate a probability sample. Weighted and unweighted frequencies are reported in the table.

**Margin of Error:** This is a representative sample. However, since the online survey was not a random probability based sample, a margin of error cannot be calculated. Statements about margins of sampling error or population estimates do not apply to most online panels.

**Note:** Graphs may not always total 100% due to rounding values rather than any error in data. Sums are added before rounding numbers.

	Unweighted (n)	Unweighted (%)	Weighted (n)	Weighted (%)
<b>Age-Gender</b>				
<b>Men 18-34</b>	282	12.1%	206	13.7%
<b>Men 35-54</b>	312	13.4%	250	16.7%
<b>Men 55+</b>	600	25.8%	272	18.1%
<b>Women 18-34</b>	313	13.5%	204	13.6%
<b>Women 35-54</b>	349	15.0%	261	17.4%
<b>Women 55+</b>	466	20.1%	306	20.4%
<b>Region</b>				
<b>BC</b>	397	17.1%	202	13.5%
<b>AB</b>	352	15.2%	175	11.6%
<b>Prairies</b>	97	4.2%	102	6.8%
<b>ON</b>	958	41.3%	575	38.4%
<b>QC</b>	368	15.8%	346	23.1%
<b>Atlantic</b>	150	6.5%	100	6.6%

# Methodology – Survey Focusing on Chinese Canadians

**These are the results of an online survey conducted between June 17<sup>th</sup> and July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

**Method:** Respondents were recruited through a wide variety of traditional and non-traditional channels.

- Traditional channels include INNOVATIVE's Canada 20/20 national research panel and Lucid, a leading online sample provider. The survey is administered to a series of randomly selected samples from the panel. Each panelist was provided with a unique URL via email invitation.
- Non-traditional channels include social networks of CCS100 and INNOVATIVE.

**Sample Size:** n=579 Chinese Canadian residents, 18 years or older. The results are nationally weighted to n=500 based on Census data from Statistics Canada.

Chinese Canadians are defined as those who identify themselves as Chinese, using a question based on the one used by Statistics Canada on the 2016 Census. The sample includes first, second, and third+ generation immigrants. Citizens, permanent residents (PR), and non-PR were all eligible to complete the survey.

**Language:** Respondents were able to complete the survey in English, Simplified Chinese, or Traditional Chinese.

**Weighting:** Recruiting a sample through multiple channels has unknown coverage and is likely subject to non-response biases. To correct for these, INNOVATIVE followed best practices in public opinion research and weighted the sample by key demographic and immigration attributes from the 2016 Census data to reflect the Chinese Canadian population.

**Margin of Error:** This is a representative sample. However, since the online survey was not a random probability based sample, a margin of error cannot be calculated. Statements about margins of sampling error or population estimates do not apply to most online panels.

**Quality Control:** To ensure no respondent entered the survey twice, duplicate responses with the same email address are removed. Among responses identified as duplicates, only the first response will be treated as valid.

**Incentive:** To encourage participation, all participants had the chance to enter a prize draw for one of five \$100 cash prizes.

**Note:** Graphs may not always total 100% due to rounding values rather than any error in data. Sums are added before rounding numbers.



加拿大华裔百人会  
Canada Committee 100 Society



# Sample Validation – Chinese-Canadian Respondents

As discussed, the sample is weighted by key demographic and immigration attributes from 2016 Census data so the overall sample's composition reflects that of the actual population of Chinese Canadians.

Specifically, the sample is weighted by age, gender, period of immigration, generation status, region, and place of birth.

Weighted and unweighted frequencies of these attributes are reported in the tables below.

	Unweighted (n)	Unweighted (%)	Weighted (n)	Weighted (%)
<b>Age and Gender</b>				
<b>M 18-34</b>	53	9.2%	79	15.7%
<b>M 35-54</b>	99	17.1%	81	16.3%
<b>M 55+</b>	116	20.0%	73	14.6%
<b>W 18-34</b>	69	11.9%	83	16.6%
<b>W 35-54</b>	141	24.4%	100	20.1%
<b>W 55+</b>	101	17.4%	84	16.8%
<b>Period of Immigration</b>				
<b>Canadian born</b>	97	16.8%	81	16.3%
<b>Immigrated before 1991</b>	166	28.7%	117	23.4%
<b>Immigrated 1991-2000</b>	113	19.5%	113	22.5%
<b>Immigrated 2001-2011</b>	143	24.7%	107	21.3%
<b>Immigrated after 2011</b>	38	6.6%	48	9.5%
<b>Non-PR</b>	22	3.8%	35	6.9%

	Unweighted (n)	Unweighted (%)	Weighted (n)	Weighted (%)
<b>Generation Status</b>				
<b>First Generation age 18-34</b>	77	13.3%	108	21.6%
<b>First Generation age 35-54</b>	203	35.1%	161	32.1%
<b>First Generation age 55+</b>	202	34.9%	150	30.0%
<b>Second+ Generation age 18+</b>	97	16.8%	81	16.3%
<b>Region</b>				
<b>BC</b>	308	53.2%	164	32.8%
<b>Alberta</b>	99	17.1%	50	9.9%
<b>Ontario</b>	148	25.6%	240	48.0%
<b>Rest of Canada</b>	24	4.1%	46	9.2%
<b>Place of Birth</b>				
<b>Canada</b>	97	16.8%	81	16.3%
<b>Mainland China</b>	299	51.6%	266	53.2%
<b>Taiwan</b>	22	3.8%	25	4.9%
<b>Hong Kong</b>	138	23.8%	80	16.1%
<b>Other places</b>	23	4.0%	47	9.5%

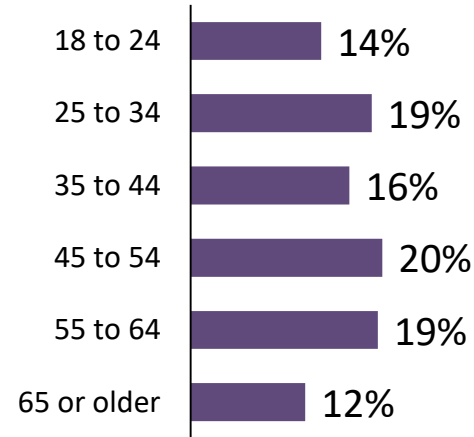
# Demographics

# Chinese-Canadian Respondents

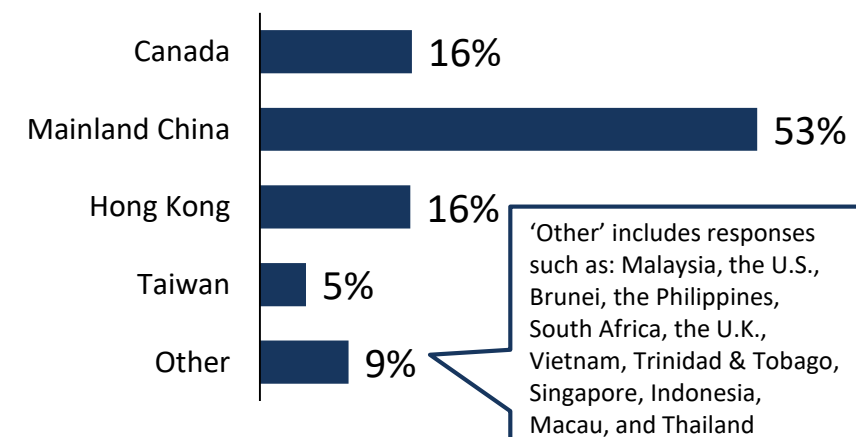
## Gender



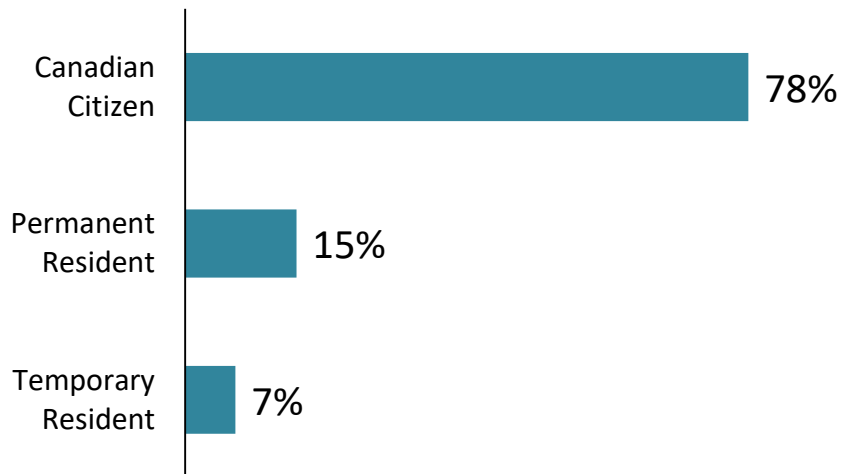
## Age



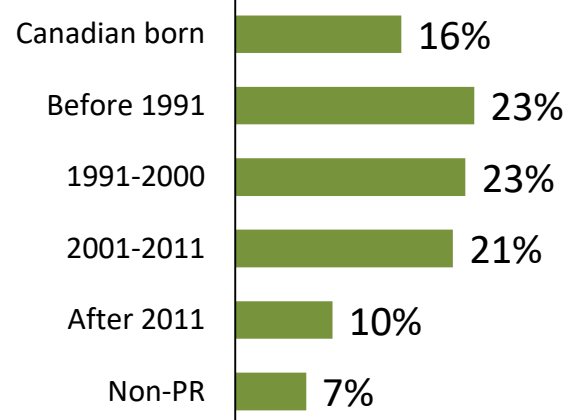
## Place of Birth



## Citizenship Status

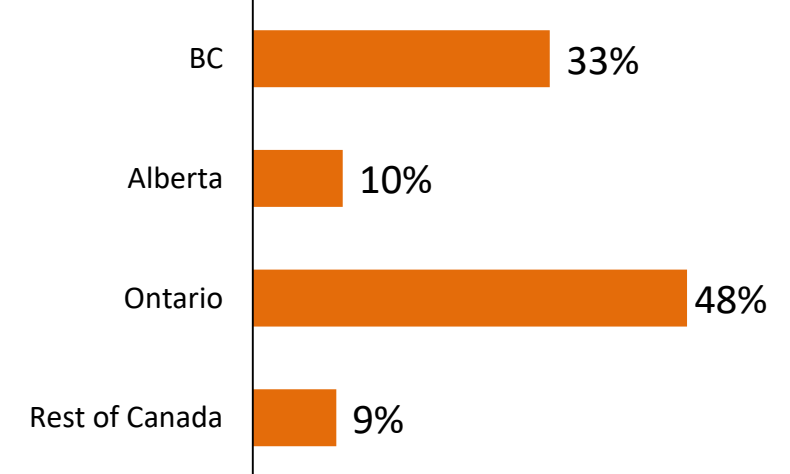


## Period of Immigration



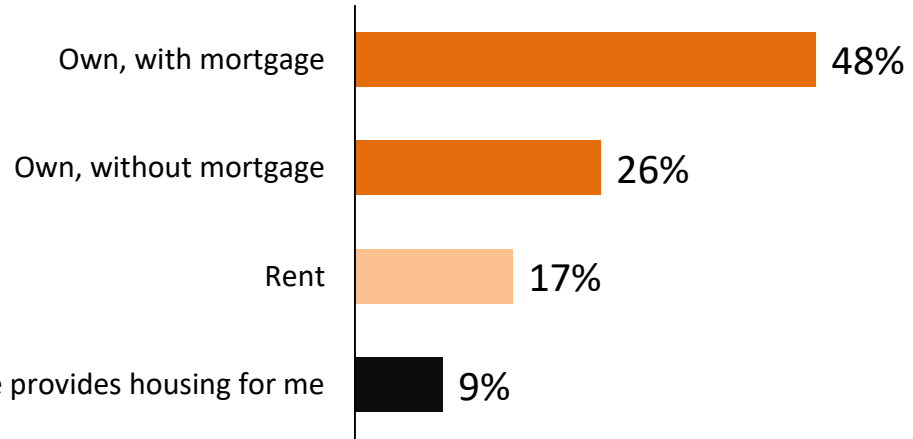
**Note:** Non-PR refers to those who are not a Permanent Resident of Canada.

## Region

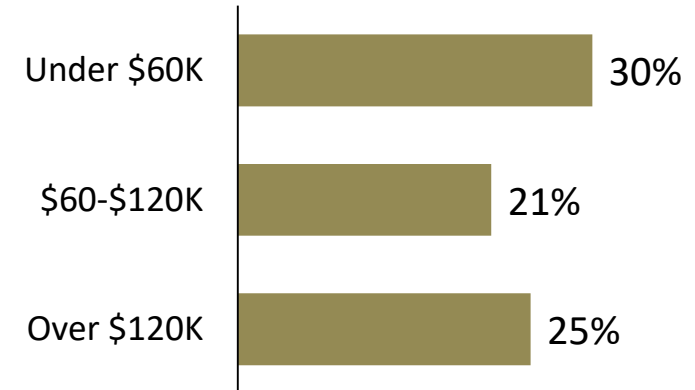


# Chinese-Canadian Respondents

## Home Ownership

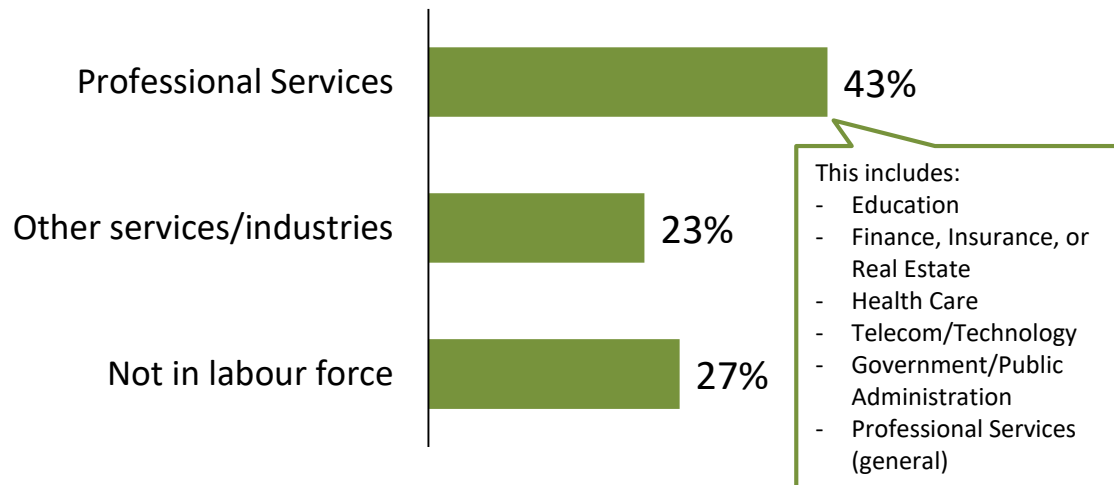


## Household Income



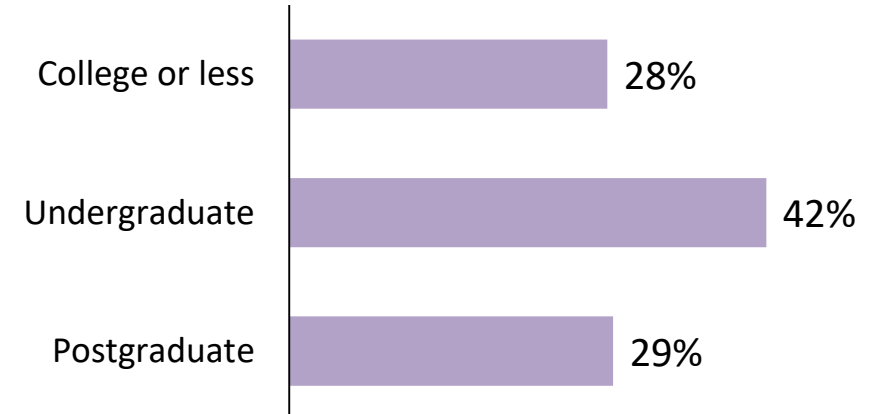
**Note:** 'Prefer not to say' (14%) not shown

## Employment Sector



**Note:** 'Prefer not to say' (6%) not shown

## Education



**Note:** 'Prefer not to say' (1%) not shown

For more information, please contact:

**Kenny Zhang (张康清)**  
Director of Research, CCS100  
(778) 788-3803  
kq\_zhang@yahoo.com



加拿大华裔百人会  
Canada Committee 100 Society

**Vanessa Agrawal (江詠宇)**  
Research Manager, INNOVATIVE  
(604) 349-8137  
vagrawal@innovativeresearch.ca

