



The Harbus

The news organization of Harvard Business School since 1937

U.S. Presidential Election Poll

*Methodology, Responses &
Weightage*

Methodology

- The Harbus Presidential Election poll was conducted from September 19 to October 3. 236 first-year HBS students were surveyed across multiple sections via in-class voting with privacy screens. The data was weighted for nationality and gender. For results based on the total sample of HBS students, the margin of error is $\pm 5.5\%$ at the 95% confidence level. Credit goes to NBC, Gallup, SurveyMonkey, Steven Shephard of Politico, Josh Lerner, and Ulrike Malmendier for survey design, benchmarks and descriptions.

Benchmark Questions

- NBC-SurveyMonkey 9/12-9/18 2016
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0WHQVWyV6ebdEISNUg4OXhJekk/view?usp=sharing>
- NBC-SurveyMonkey 8/15-8/21 2016
 - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0WHQVWyV6ebNjhlWklDaFlJeFE/view?usp=sharing>
- Gallup Jun7-Jul1 2016
 - http://www.gallup.com/poll/194819/support-decreasing-immigration-holds-steady.aspx?g_source=ELECTION_2016&g_medium=topic&g_campaign=tiles
- Gallup Aug 25-26, 2014
 - <http://www.gallup.com/poll/175646/favor-federal-funds-expand-pre-education.aspx>
- Gallup Apr 9-12 2015
 - <http://www.gallup.com/poll/182987/americans-continue-say-wealth-distribution-unfair.aspx>

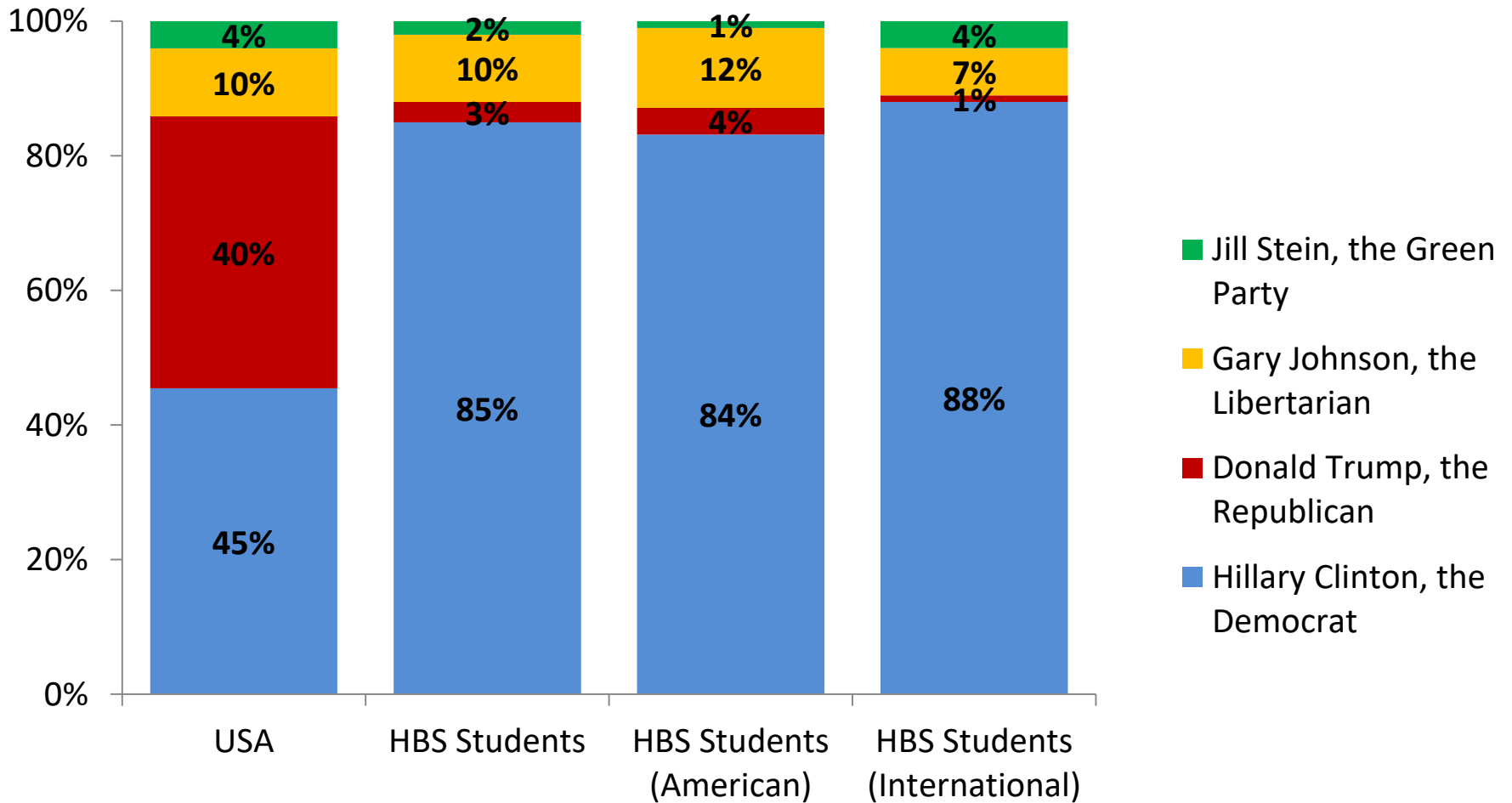
Sampling: Randomization via Stratification

- <http://eml.berkeley.edu/~ulrike/Papers/MBAent%2028sep2012.pdf>
- Students are assigned into sections by a computer program developed by HBS administrators. The assignment procedure is a mixture of randomization and stratification. It is based on the information about students on the official forms that all entering students fill out and that are also the basis of the class cards that we analyze. The assignment program has undergone slight modifications over the years, but worked as follows during the period under study: First, approximately 200 students are randomly chosen out of all entering students and randomly assigned to sections. Then, additional students are considered one at a time in random order and assigned to a section based on a stratification score. This score is a weighted average of the Herfindahl index of each stratification criterion. The program computes which assignment would make the weighted average Herfindahl index lowest, and assigns the student to that section.
- The stratification criteria are, in order of priority (and hence weight): gender; ethnicity; whether the student went to the remedial analytics course in August prior to matriculation, and if so, what (remedial) section the student was assigned to; quantitative and verbal skills, in particular, whether the student's admission was conditional on a remedial analytics course, supplemental work on quantitative skills, or work on verbal skills, and whether the student's quantitative or verbal GMAT score was high, medium, or low; home region (distinguishes ten US regions, most major European countries, Japan, China, India, and everywhere else); industry in which the student worked in his or her most recent job (e.g., consulting, finance, telecommunications, etc.); age; whether the student attended one of the major "feeder" colleges (Harvard, Yale, West Point, etc.); function in the student's last job (e.g., sales or finance, etc., but there is no function for entrepreneurs); marital status; college major; whether the student worked for one of 49 major companies in their last job. Once a section fills up, the assignments are only made to the remaining sections.
- Finally, the registrar staff "hand-adjust" these assignments to correct for two considerations: One is students born to expatriate parents. For example, a student born in the U.S. with French citizenship (which suggests French parents) may be switched to a section with fewer French people. The other is students with a military background whom the program missed because of a brief stint on Wall Street or in consulting before going to business school. Students will be swapped to ensure that the military component in each section is about even.

Weightage

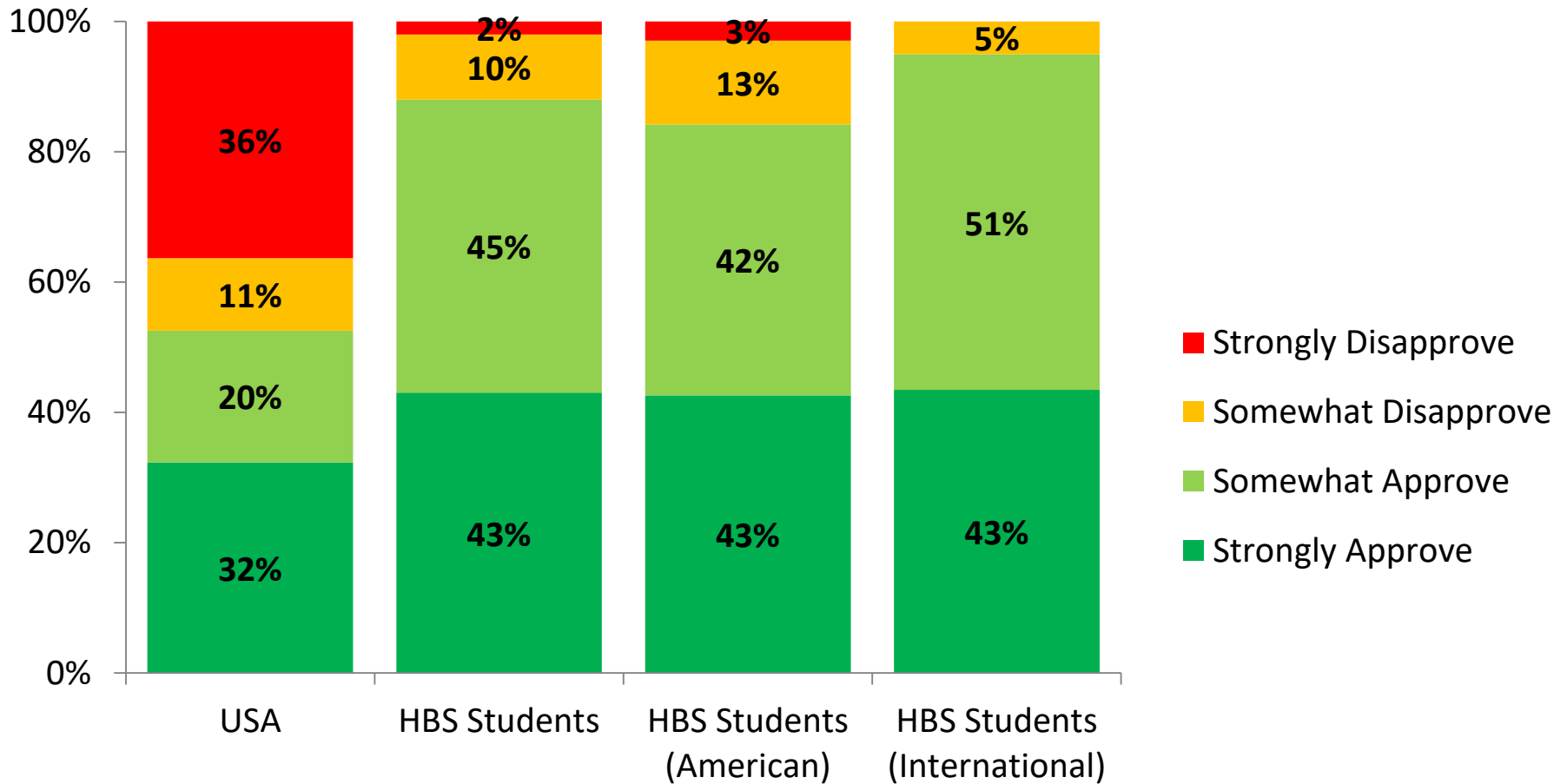
Weightage Calculation	<u>Weight Factor</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Male Americans	82%	<i>Includes U.S. double citizens</i>
Female Americans	123%	
Male Internationals	106%	<i>Includes U.S. Permanent Residents</i>
Female Internationals	114%	

If the 2016 presidential election were being held today among the following candidates for whom would you vote?



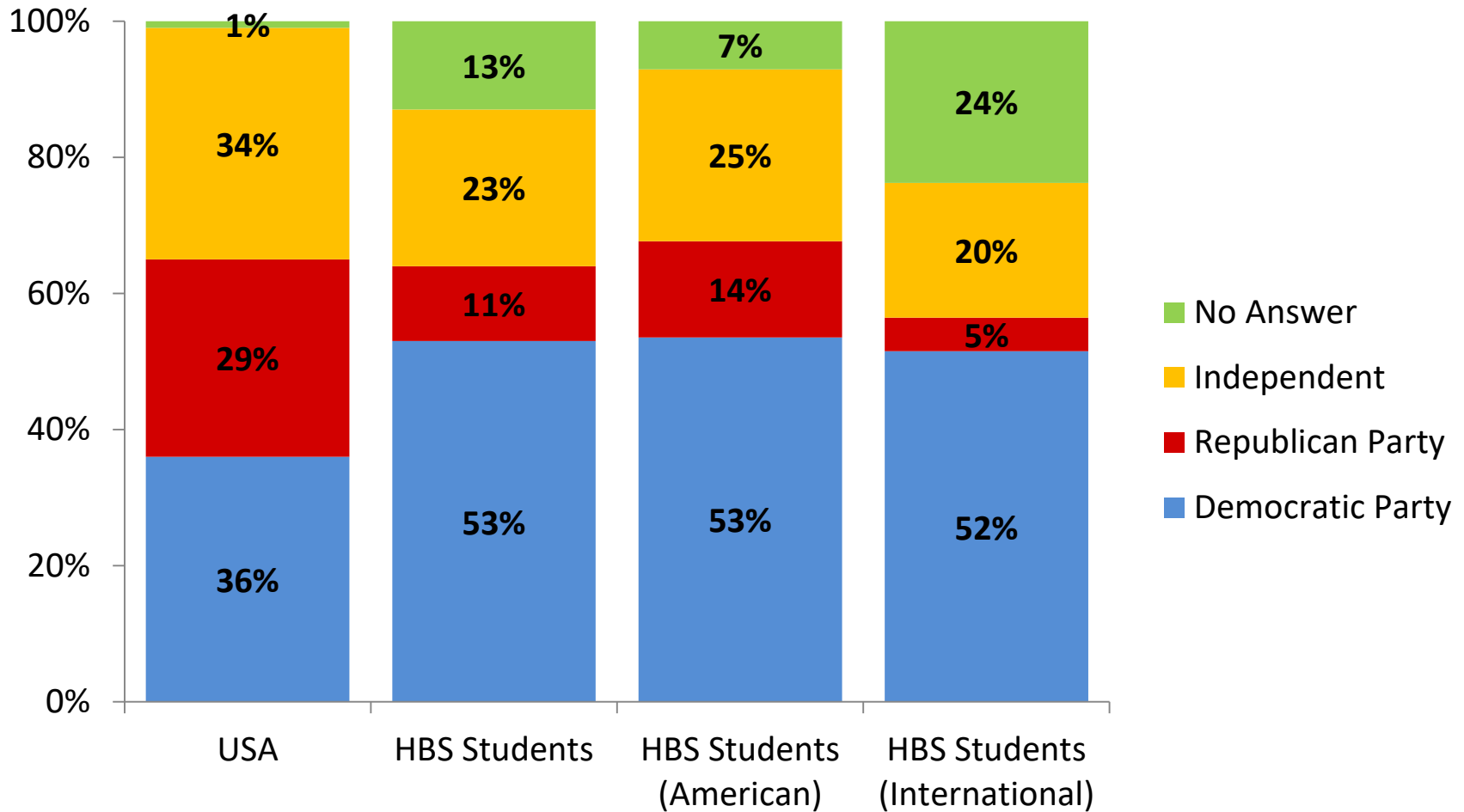
Source: The Harbus Presidential Election Poll, NBC-SurveyMonkey Weekly Election Tracking Poll

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?



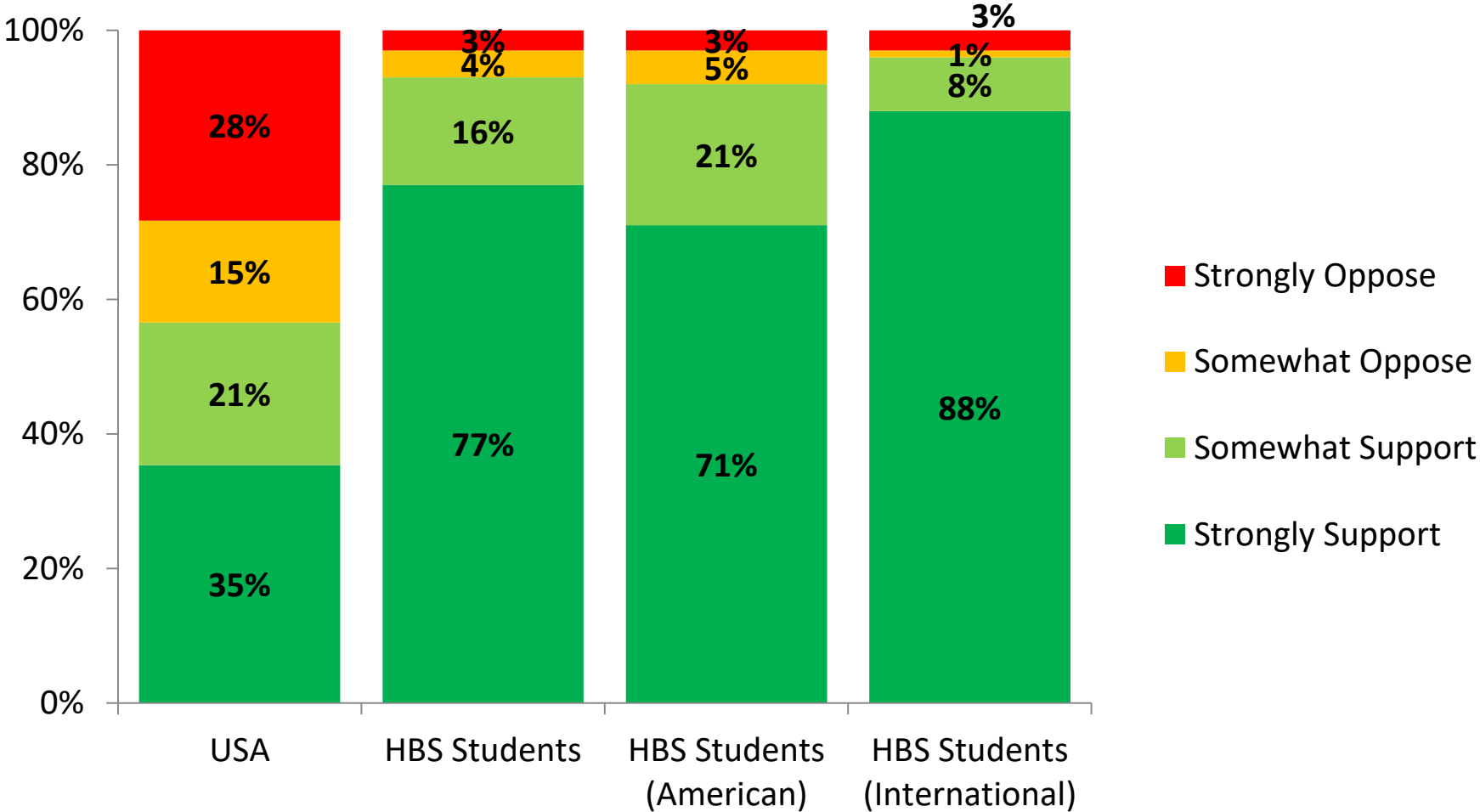
Source: The Harbus Presidential Election Poll, NBC-SurveyMonkey Weekly Election Tracking Poll

In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?



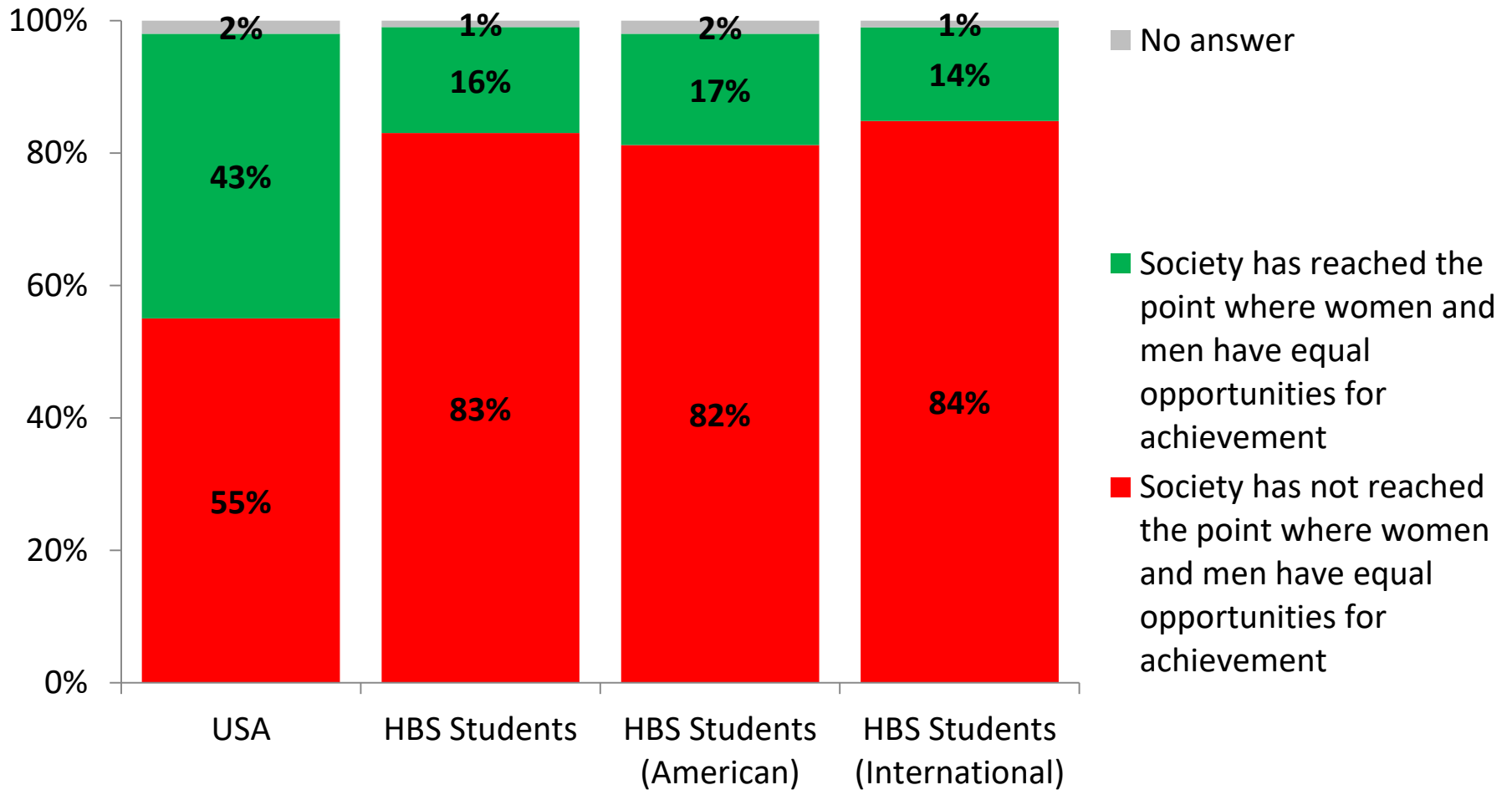
Source: The Harbus Presidential Election Poll, NBC-SurveyMonkey Weekly Election Tracking Poll

Do you support or oppose stricter gun control laws in the United States?



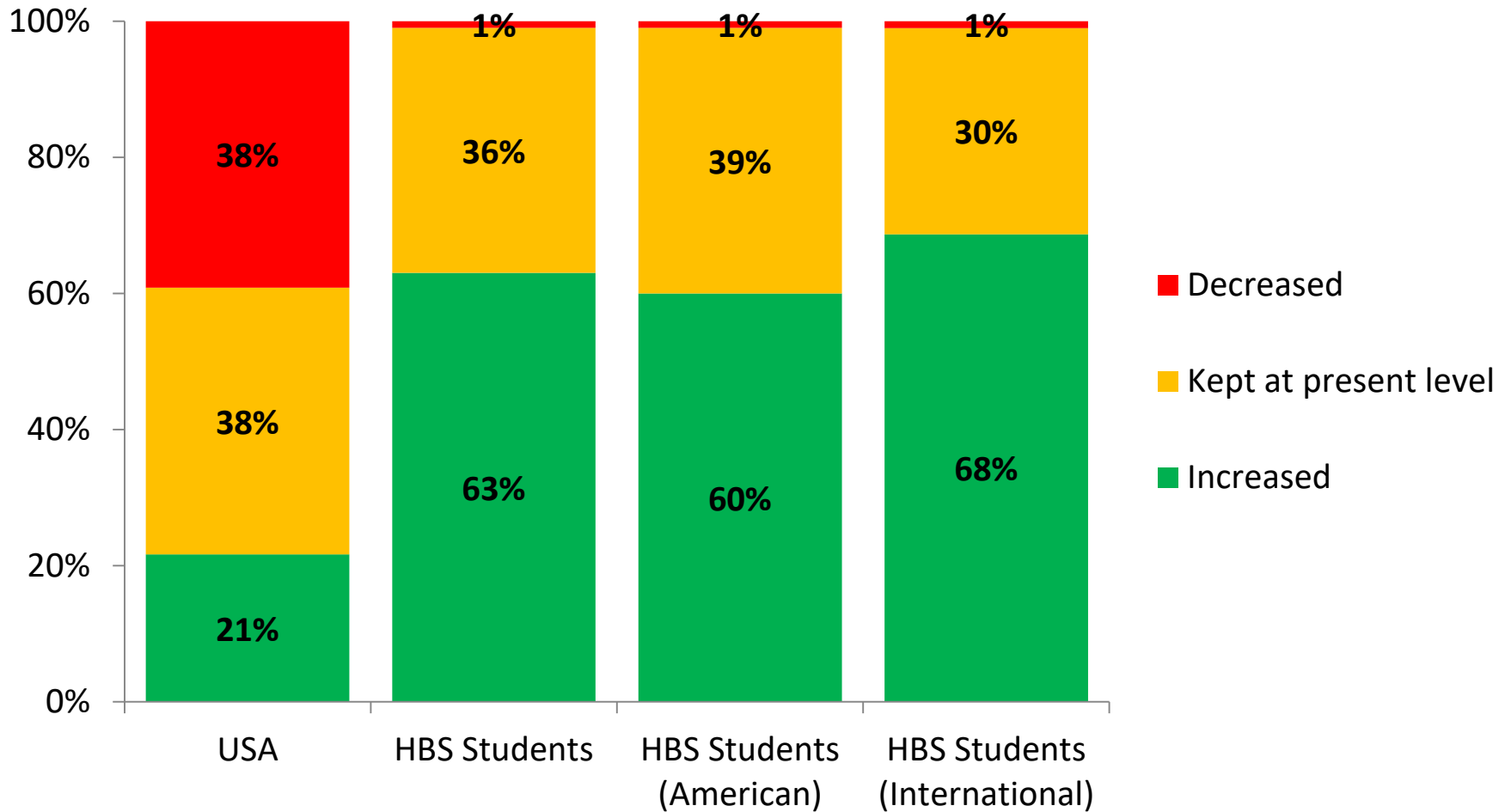
Source: The Harbus Presidential Election Poll, NBC-SurveyMonkey Weekly Election Tracking Poll

Which of the following is closer to your opinion, even if neither is exactly right?



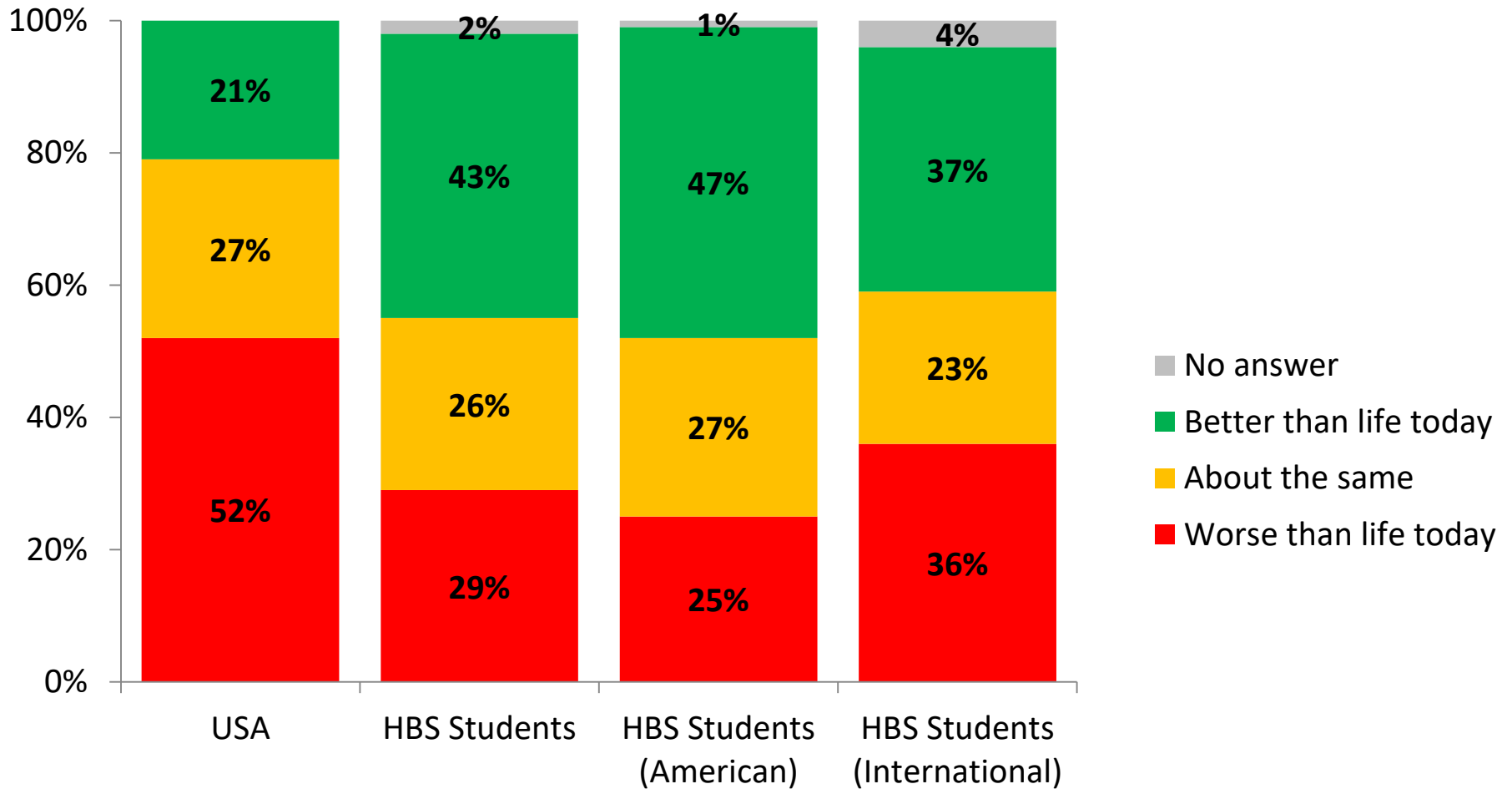
Source: The Harbus Presidential Election Poll, NBC-SurveyMonkey Weekly Election Tracking Poll

In your view, should immigration be kept at its present level, increased or decreased?



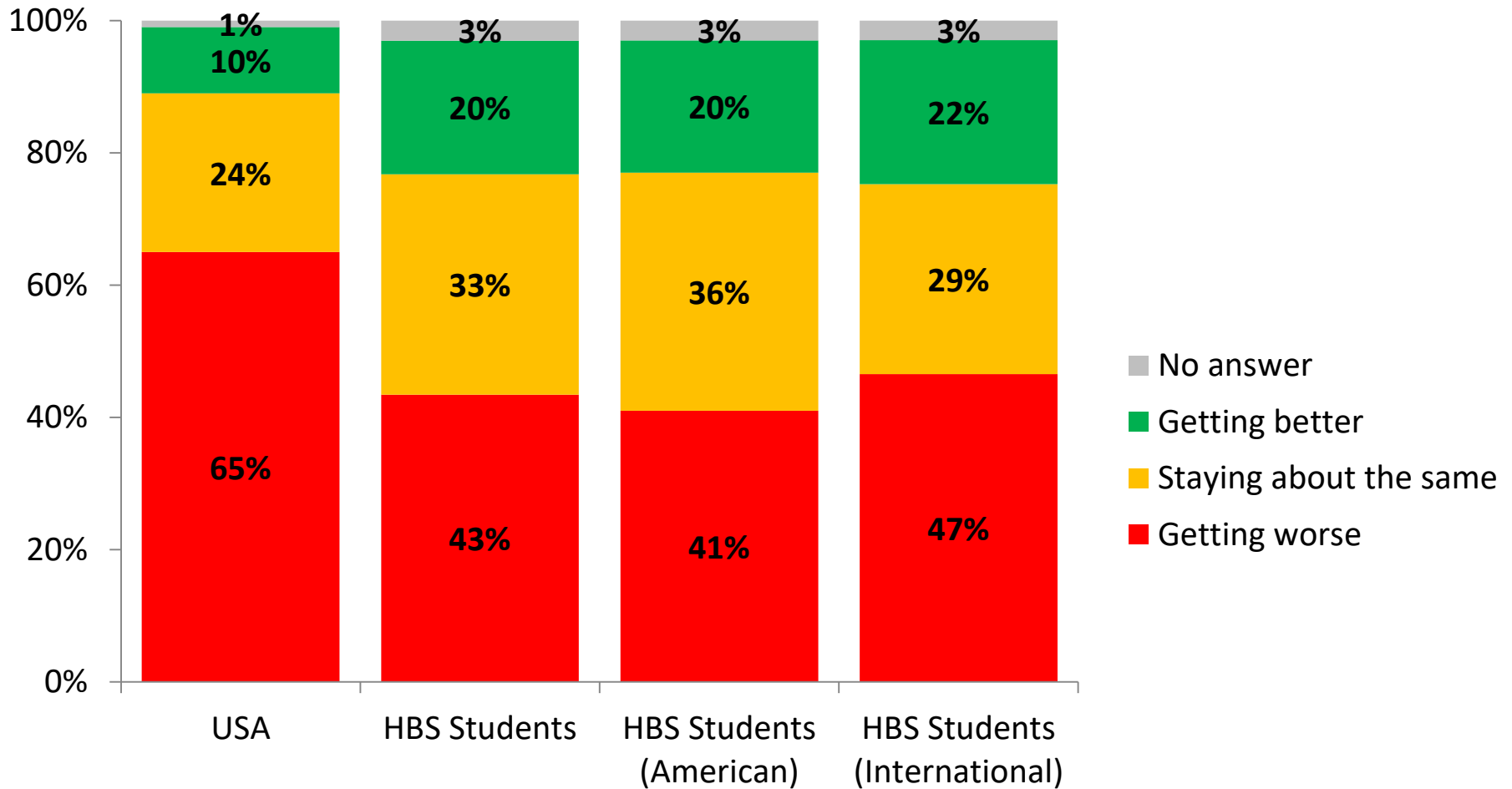
Source: The Harbus Presidential Election Poll, Gallup Poll (Immigration)

Do you expect life for the next generation of Americans to be...



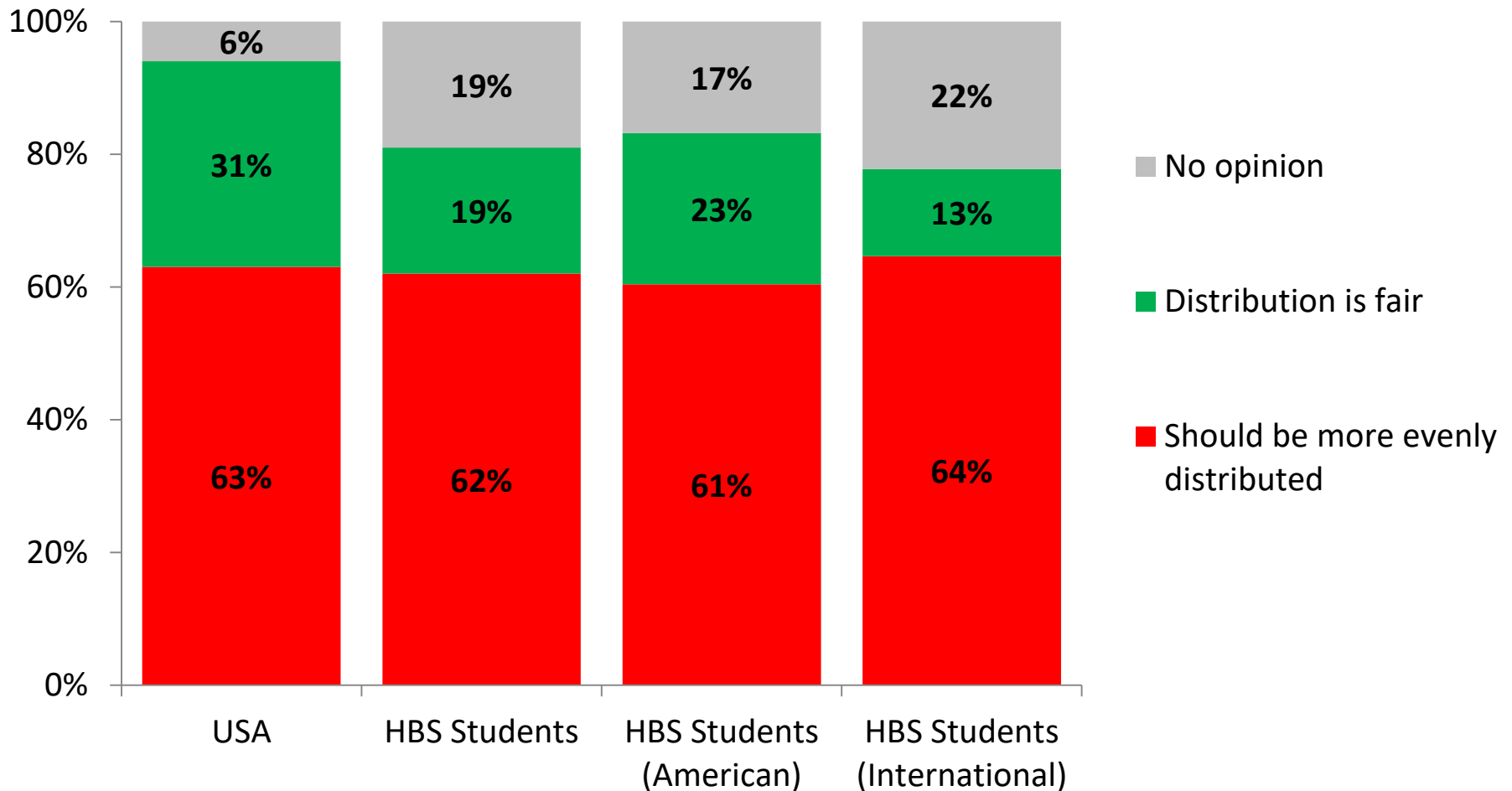
Source: The Harbus Presidential Election Poll, NBC-SurveyMonkey Weekly Election Tracking Poll

Do you think race relations in the United States are getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?



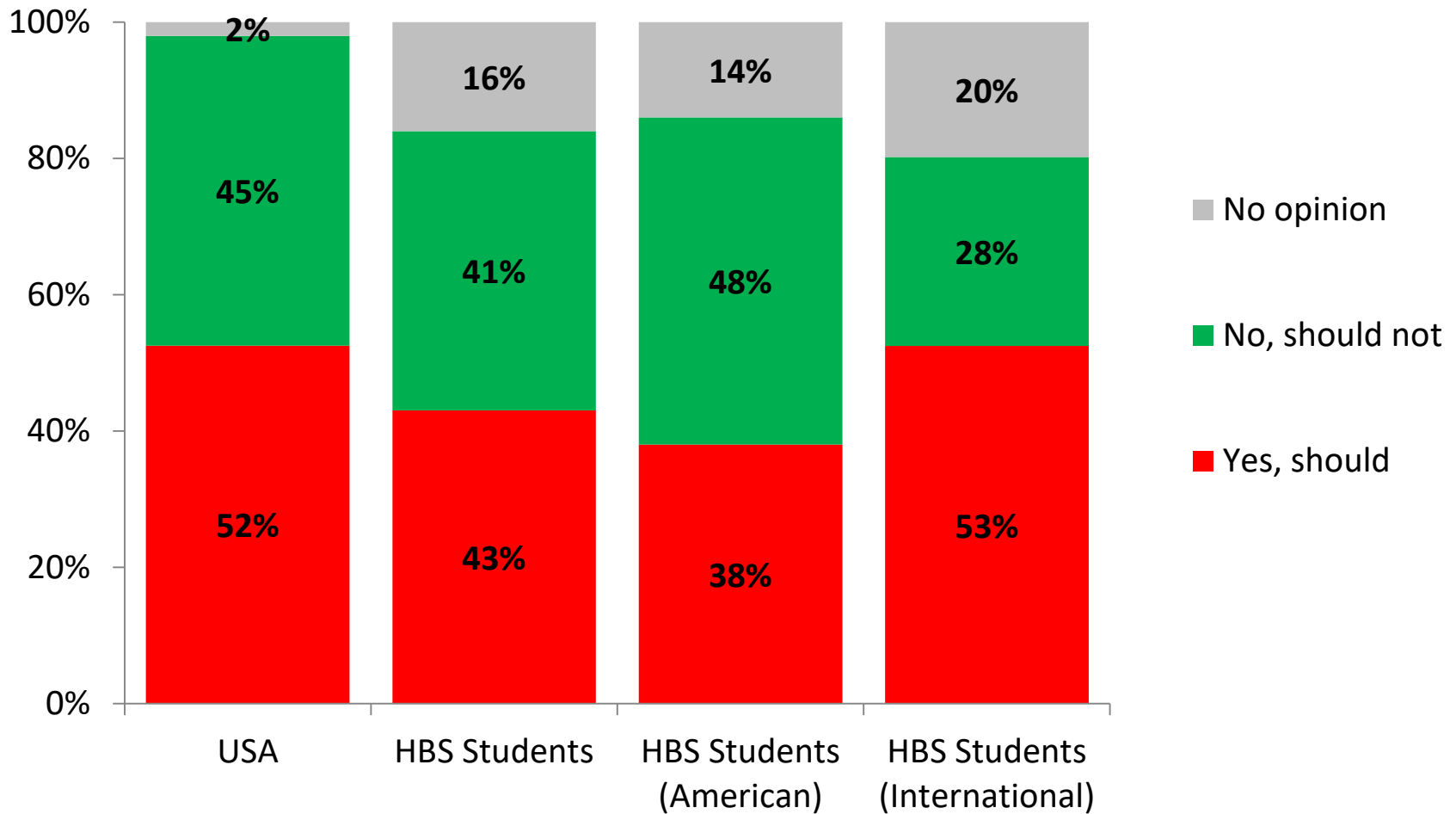
Source: The Harbus Presidential Election Poll, NBC-SurveyMonkey Weekly Election Tracking Poll

Do you feel that the distribution of money and wealth in the U.S. today is fair, or do you feel that the money and wealth in the U.S. should be more evenly distributed among a larger percentage of the people?



Source: The Harbus Presidential Election Poll, Gallup Poll (Wealth Distribution)

Do you think the U.S. government should or should not redistribute wealth by heavy taxes on the rich?



Source: The Harbus Presidential Election Poll, Gallup Poll (Wealth Distribution)

Questions

- Are you male or female?
 - Male
 - Female
- Are you authorized to work in the U.S.?
 - I am a U.S. citizen
 - I am a dual citizen of the U.S. and another country
 - I am a green card holder
 - I am on a student visa
- Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?
 - Strongly Approve
 - Somewhat Approve
 - Somewhat Disapprove
 - Strongly Disapprove
- In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?
 - Republican
 - Democrat
 - Independent
 - No Answer
- If the 2016 presidential election were being held today among the following candidates, for whom would you vote?
 - Hillary Clinton, the Democrat
 - Donald Trump, the Republican
 - No Answer
- If the 2016 presidential election were being held today among the following candidates for whom would you vote?
 - Hillary Clinton, the Democrat
 - Donald Trump, the Republican
 - Gary Johnson, the Libertarian
 - Jill Stein, the Green Party
- Do you expect life for the next generation of Americans to be:
 - Better than life today
 - Worse than life today
 - About the same
 - No answer
- Do you think race relations in the United States are getting better, getting worse, or staying about the same?
 - Getting better
 - Getting worse
 - Staying about the same
 - No answer
- Do you support or oppose stricter gun control laws in the United States?
 - Strongly Support
 - Somewhat Support
 - Somewhat Oppose
 - Strongly Oppose
- Which of the following is closer to your opinion, even if neither is exactly right?
 - Society has reached the point where women and men have equal opportunities for achievement
 - Society has not reached the point where women and men have equal opportunities for achievement
 - No answer
- In your view, should immigration be kept at its present level, increased or decreased?
 - Decreased
 - Kept at present level
 - Increased
- Do you favor or oppose using federal money to increase funding to make sure high-quality preschool programs are available for every child in America?
 - Favor
 - Oppose
 - No opinion
- Do you feel that the distribution of money and wealth in the U.S. today is fair, or do you feel that the money and wealth in the U.S. should be more evenly distributed among a larger percentage of the people?
 - Distribution is fair
 - Should be more evenly distributed
 - No opinion
- People feel differently about how far a government should go. Here is a phrase which some people believe in and some don't. Do you think the U.S. government should or should not redistribute wealth by heavy taxes on the rich?
 - Yes, should
 - No, should not
 - No opinion