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What is the Level of Household Gun Ownership in urban Mexico?:
An Estimate from the First Mexican Survey on Gun Ownership 2017

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Supplementary material

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Background

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In December 2017, the *Injury Prevention Journal* published the results of the **First Mexican Survey on Gun Ownership**.

This document contains the **supplementary material** regarding the methodology, as well as the key results on:

- Citizen's knowledge regarding gun policy
- Estimated gun ownership
- Understanding the non-gun ownership
- Other issues related with gun policy

What is the level of household gun ownership in urban Mexico? An estimate from the first Mexican survey on gun ownership 2017

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ABSTRACT
Gun violence has increased in Mexico since the mid-2000s, but little is known about patterns of gun ownership. We examine the size and composition of the privately held urban firearm stock in Mexico, motivations for ownership, and attitudes about gun laws. To this end, a household telephone survey of 1361 adults living in nine Mexican cities was conducted in the summer of 2017. We find that few urban Mexican households contain guns. Most of those who report ownership possess one gun, having purchased it recently for self-defense. Few urban Mexican citizens plan to purchase a gun in the future. Respondents are more likely to believe that crime in Mexico would increase if guns were allowed in more places (ie, workplaces and motor vehicles). Evidence suggests urban Mexico has relative low rates of firearm ownership. Few city dwellers plan on obtaining a firearm in the near future.

INTRODUCTION

Mexico has a serious firearms problem, a problem that has been increasing in recent years. This increase appears linked predominantly to the narco wars of the drug cartels¹ followed by spatial dispersion of the violence.² The lethality of the shootings has been exacerbated by the expiration of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban in the bordering USA in 2004,^{3,4} with the gun-crime connection mediated by local political conditions.⁵

Mexico has some of the strictest gun laws in the world.⁶ The policy is so strict that, as of 2013, only 3140 private citizens (2.6 per 100 000 population) held a valid legal gun license in Mexico.⁶ While, historically, only a small proportion of crimes involved the use of firearms, the use of guns in crime has been rising disproportionately. Currently, over two-thirds of homicides are committed with firearms, and gun use in other crimes—such as street robbery or kidnapping—has increased 33% in the last 5 years.^{7,8}

Evidence from confiscated guns and firearm-related injuries also indicates that there has been a recent increase in the availability of illegal firearms in Mexico.⁹ The illegal possession of firearms currently ranks third as a cause of imprisonment.¹⁰

Gun violence associated with these illegal firearms is already impacting long-term trends of mortality. After a substantial and continuous increase in life expectancy throughout the 20th century, gun violence is a leading factor causing a fall in Mexican life expectancy in the 21st century.¹¹

Indeed, the rise in crime and violence in Mexico in the past decade has had multiple deleterious effects on the Mexican population. These include an increase in the 'perceived vulnerability of violence' as measured by public health experts.^{12,13} The total cost of crime and insecurity represented 1.1% of the gross domestic product.¹⁴

To date, there have been few published studies of gun ownership and attitudes about guns in Mexico. We could find only one national survey, from *Parámetros*, which included three firearm questions. Here we report on a recent and more comprehensive survey of urban Mexicans dealing with three issues: (A) gun ownership; (B) non-gun ownership; and (C) attitudes about future Mexican gun policy. We present evidence on how many guns Mexican gun owners possess, when they acquired them and why they own them. For non-owners we report on their likelihood of becoming gun owners, and for all respondents we report on their positions about general and specific public policies concerning firearms. The survey results provide useful foundational information related to guns in urban Mexico.

METHODS

Data for this study come from a household telephone survey conducted in the summer of 2017 by the research firm *Estadística Aplicada*. The specific topic of the survey was not disclosed beforehand to the potential interviewees; respondents did not initially know they would be asked questions about guns. Instead they were asked to answer a survey whose results would permit a better understanding of life in Mexico.

Of 9611 respondents contacted, 1361 completed the survey, for a response rate of 14.2%. The survey focused on nine cities in Mexico with more than 500 000 inhabitants that represent all regions (Mexico City, Guadalajara, Monterrey, Puebla, Tijuana, Mérida, Veracruz, Oaxaca and Ciudad Victoria). Excluding their metropolitan areas, these cities alone account for 20 million people, about one-sixth of the Mexican population.

Stratification by city (established quota relative for each city) was incorporated into the sampling design. Data were statistically weighted using the software IBM SPSS Statistics 22 to ensure that the overall reflects the urban population. The sampling error for the overall results is $\pm 2.7\%$. The questionnaire was administered in Spanish, and multiple answers were allowed when applicable.

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1. Methodology

Methodology

- The First Mexican Survey on Gun Ownership 2017 included 1,361 telephone questionnaires across nine important cities in Mexico (approx. 150 participants per city).
- Excluding their metropolitan areas, these nine cities are populated by 500,000 inhabitants or more.
- These nine cities sum 20,894,444 inhabitants in total, and concentrate approximately one out of six Mexicans -as the national population is about 127 millions.

Methodology

The geographical distribution of these cities aims to capture all the regional dynamics of the country (i.e. the sample represents all regions: north, south, west and southeast of Mexico).

- Mexico City
- Guadalajara
- Monterrey
- Puebla
- Tijuana
- Mérida
- Veracruz
- Oaxaca
- Ciudad Victoria



The survey uses weights. The results are accurate at the 95% confidence level, and a margin of error of +/- 2.7%. The survey was conducted by the specialized research firm *Estadística Aplicada*.

Methodology

Gender	Female	Male
%	51%	49%
#	694	667

N.S.E	A/B/C+	C/C-	D+/D
%	22%	36	42
#	301	489	571

Age	18 to 30	31 to 50	51 to 65
%	41%	44%	15%
#	552	600	209

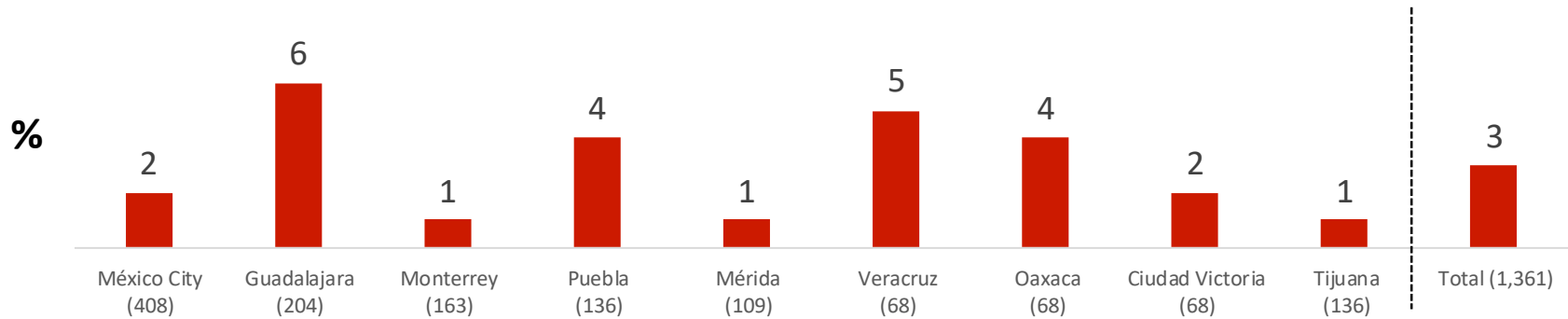
City	Mexico City	Guadalajara	Monterrey	Puebla	Tijuana	Mérida	Veracruz	Oaxaca	Victoria
%	30%	15	12	10	10	8	5	5	5
#	408	204	163	136	136	109	68	68	68

2. Results

2.1 Citizens' knowledge regarding the Mexican gun policy

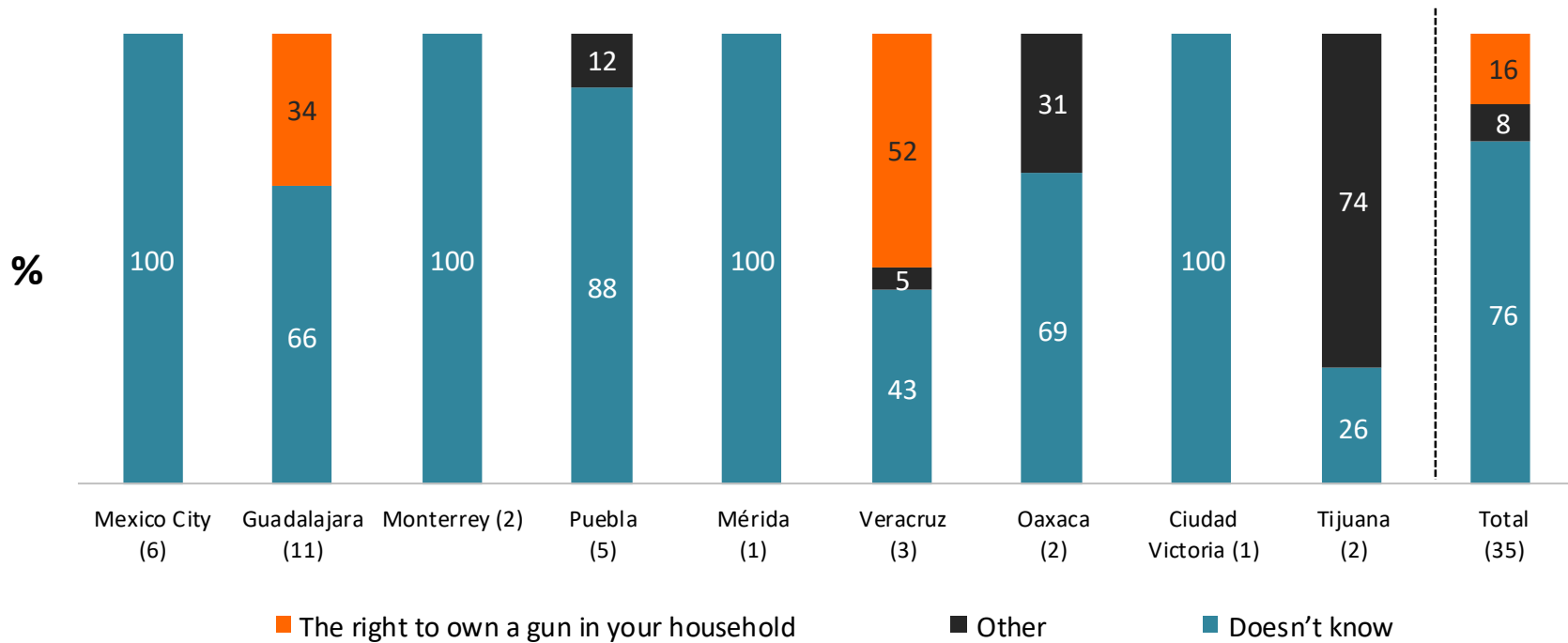
1. Do you know what does the Mexican Constitution protect in its 10th Article?

Participants responding 'yes'



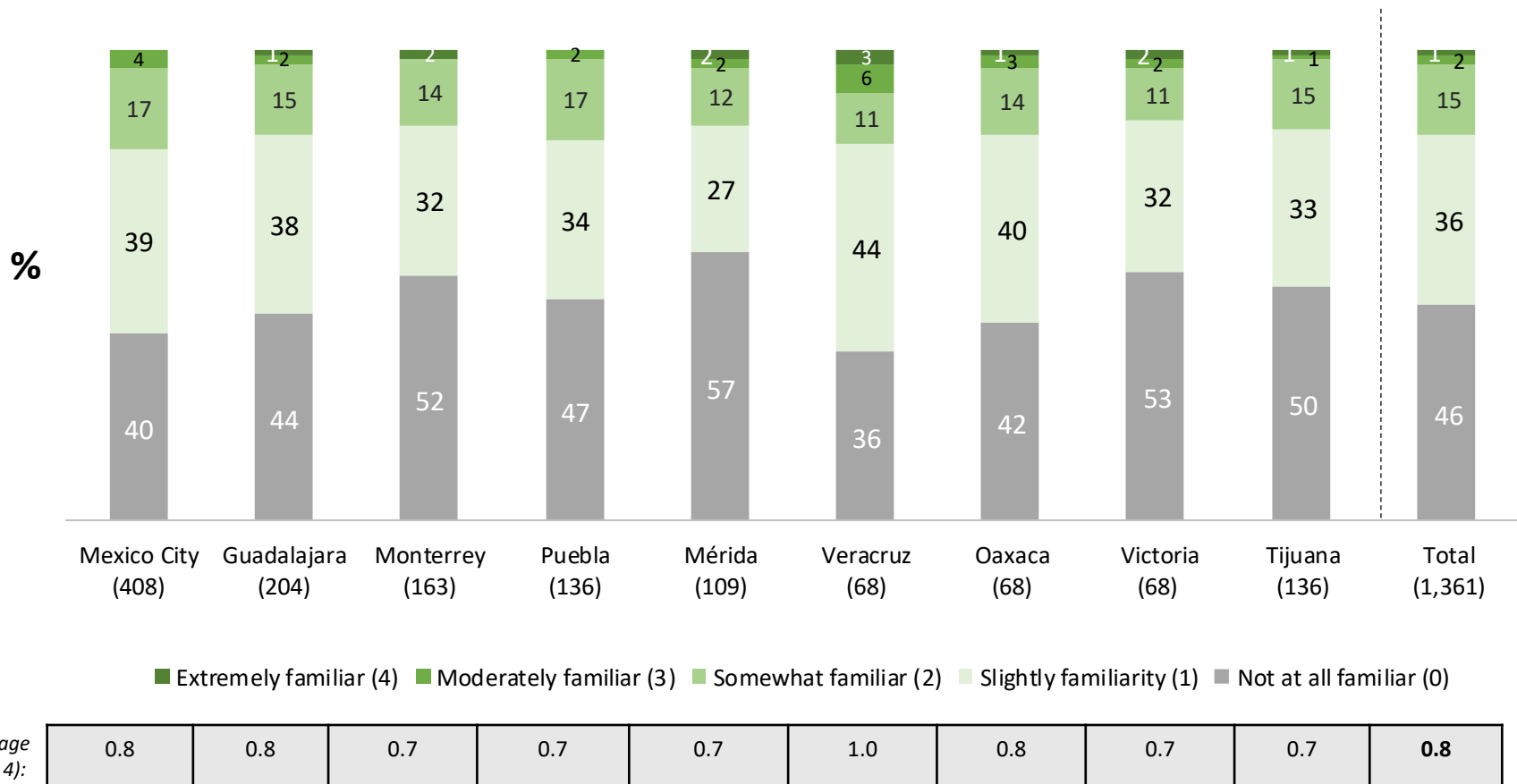
Base: All participants

2. For those who answered yes, What does it say?



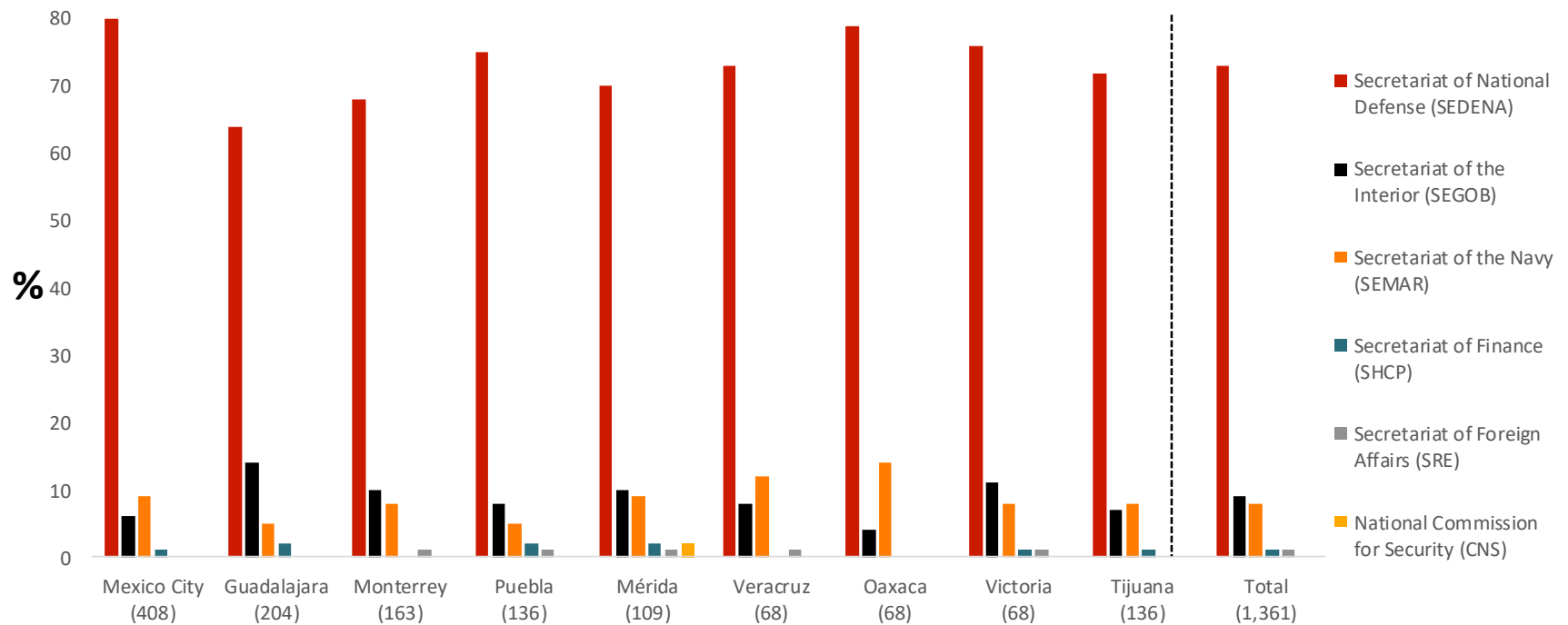
Base: All who said they know

3. How familiar are you with the legal framework on gun possession in Mexico?



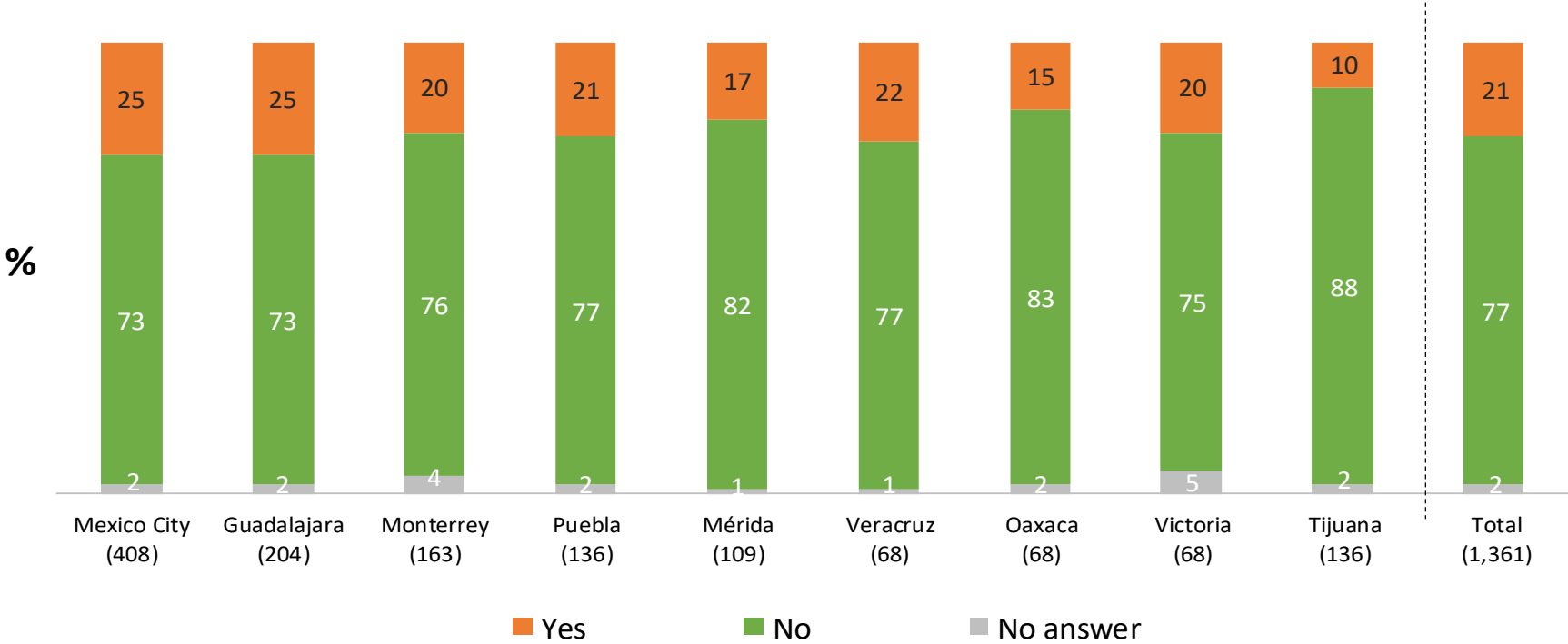
Base: All participants

4. If a Mexican citizen wants to acquire a gun, where should he/she go? (%)



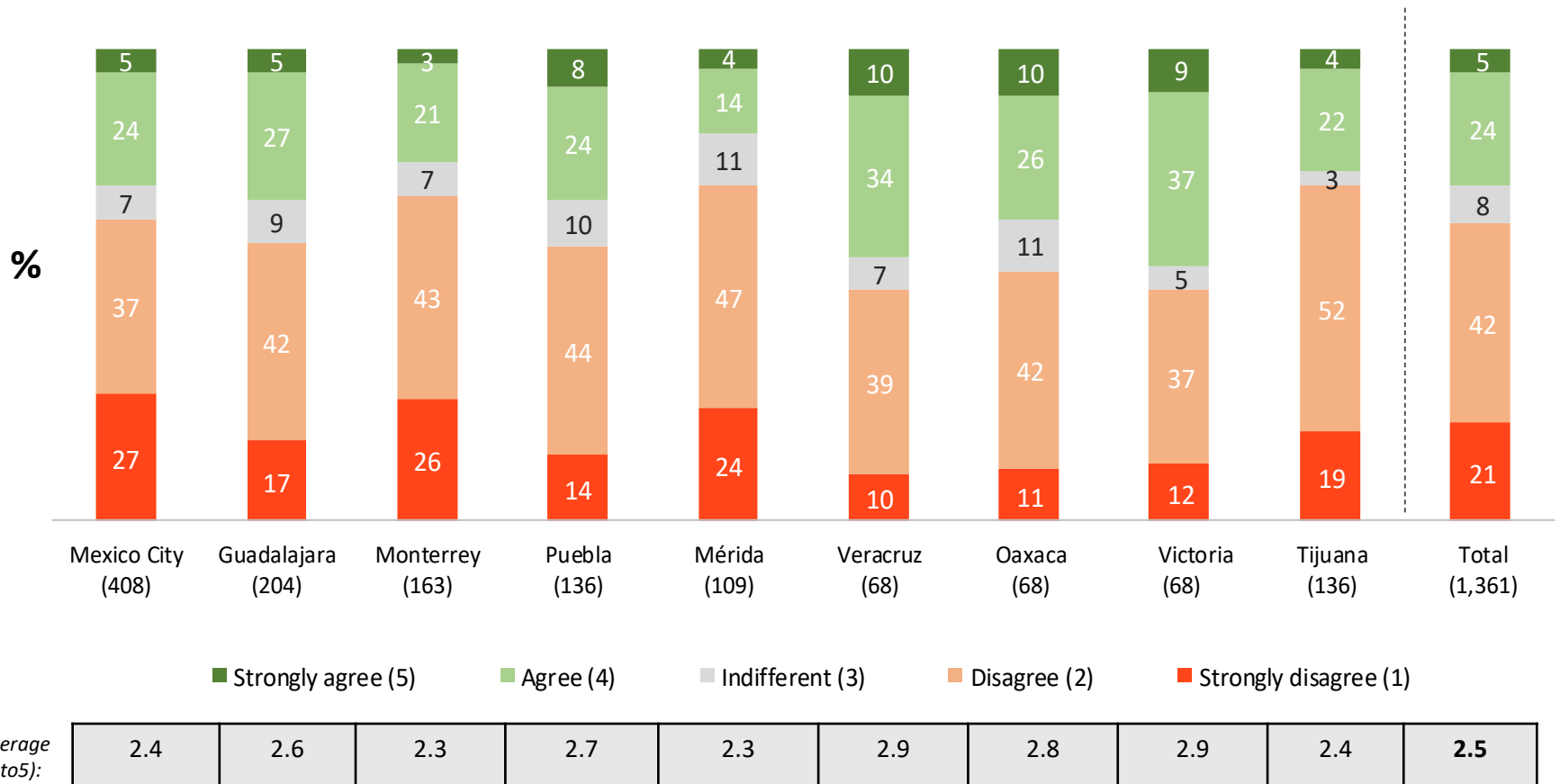
Base: All participants

5. Can Mexican citizens possess firearms, as those used by the Army (i.e. same caliber)?



Base: All participants

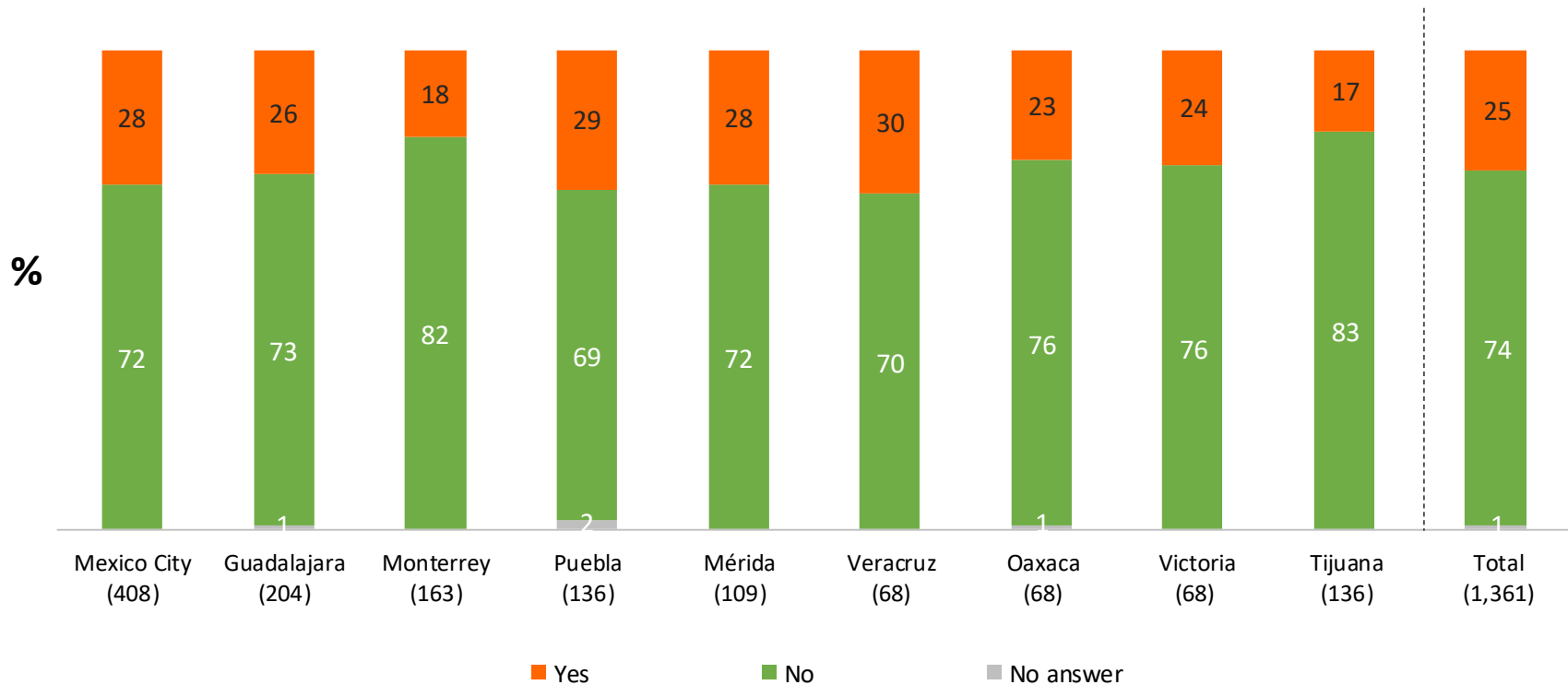
6. How much do you agree with the idea that any Mexican can possess a gun, such as pistol, revolver, shotgun, etc.?



Base: All participants

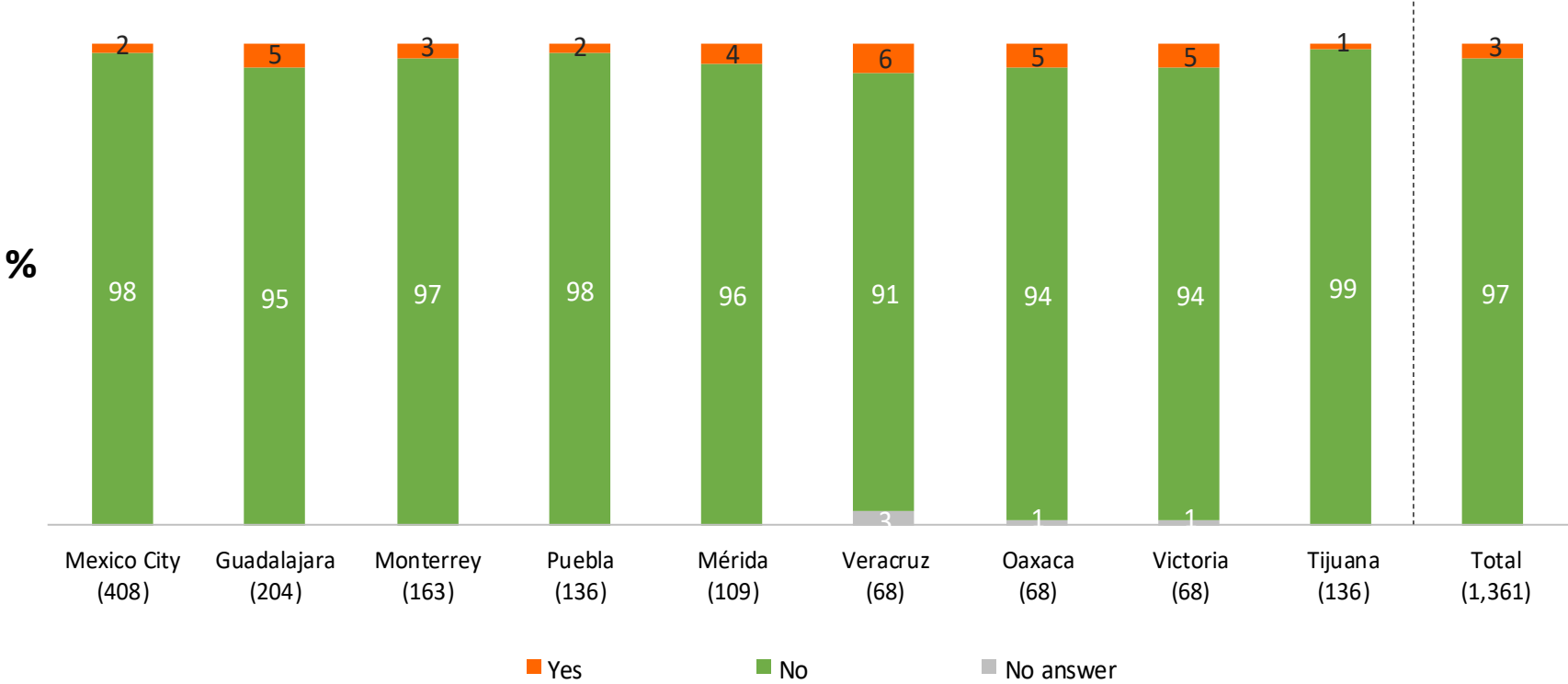
2.2 Estimated gun ownership

7. Do you know someone (e.g. neighbor, friend or relative) who has a gun in their households, vehicles or places of work?



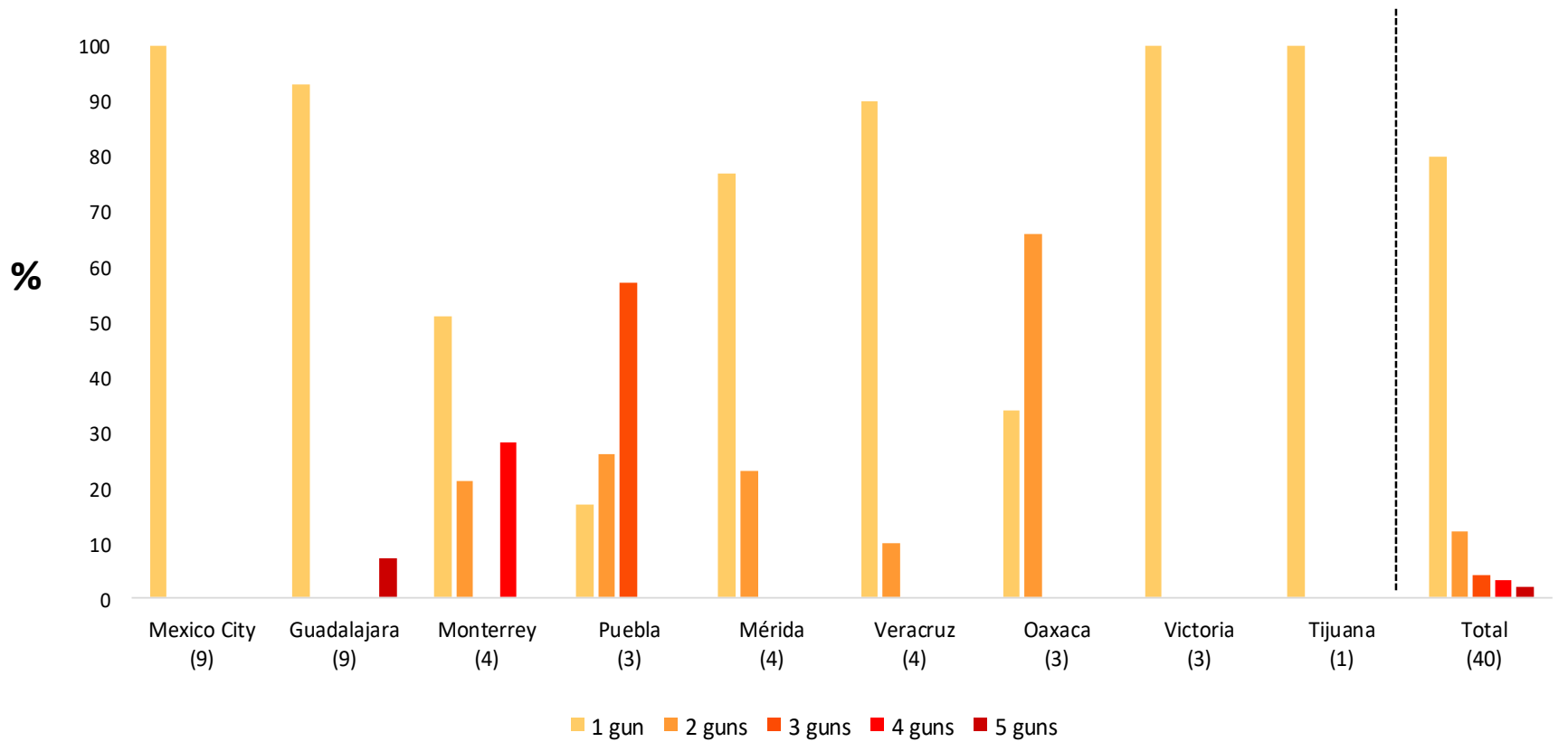
Base: All participants

8. Do you, or a relative of you living in the same household, has a gun?



Base: All participants

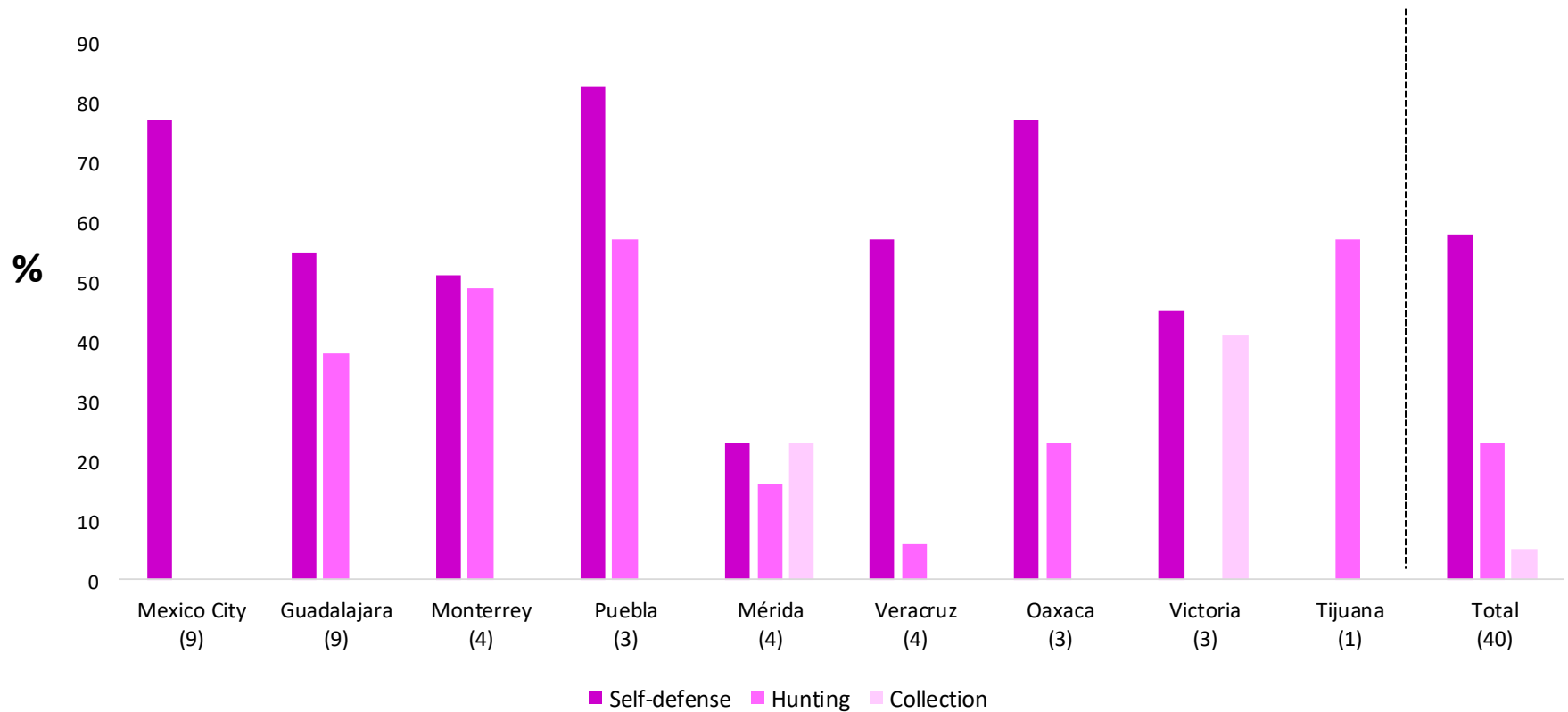
9. How many guns do you have at home? (those who said they have)



Average (1 to 5):	1.0	1.3	2.1	2.4	1.2	1.1	1.7	1.0	1.0	1.4
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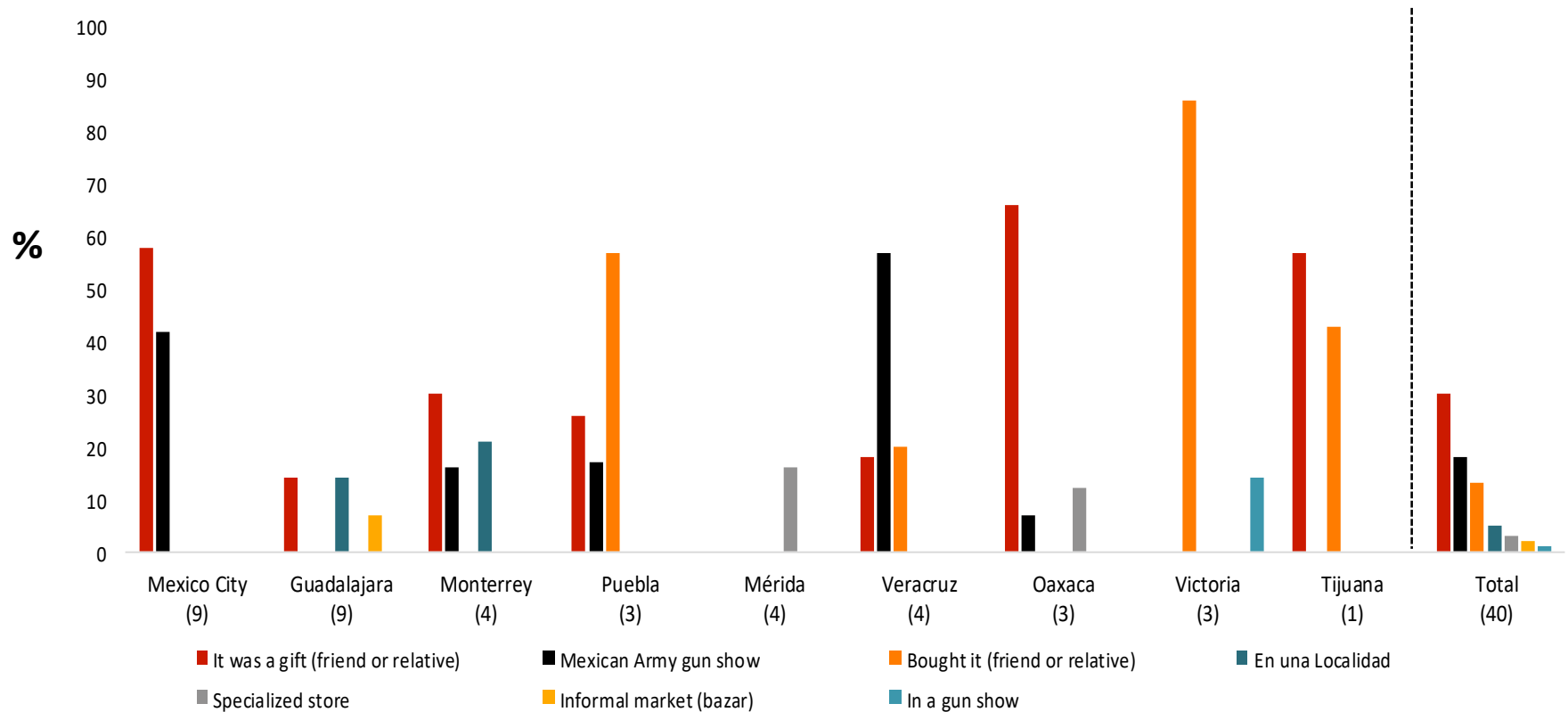
Base: All participants who said they have a gun

10. Why did you obtain a gun? (those who said they have bought one or more)



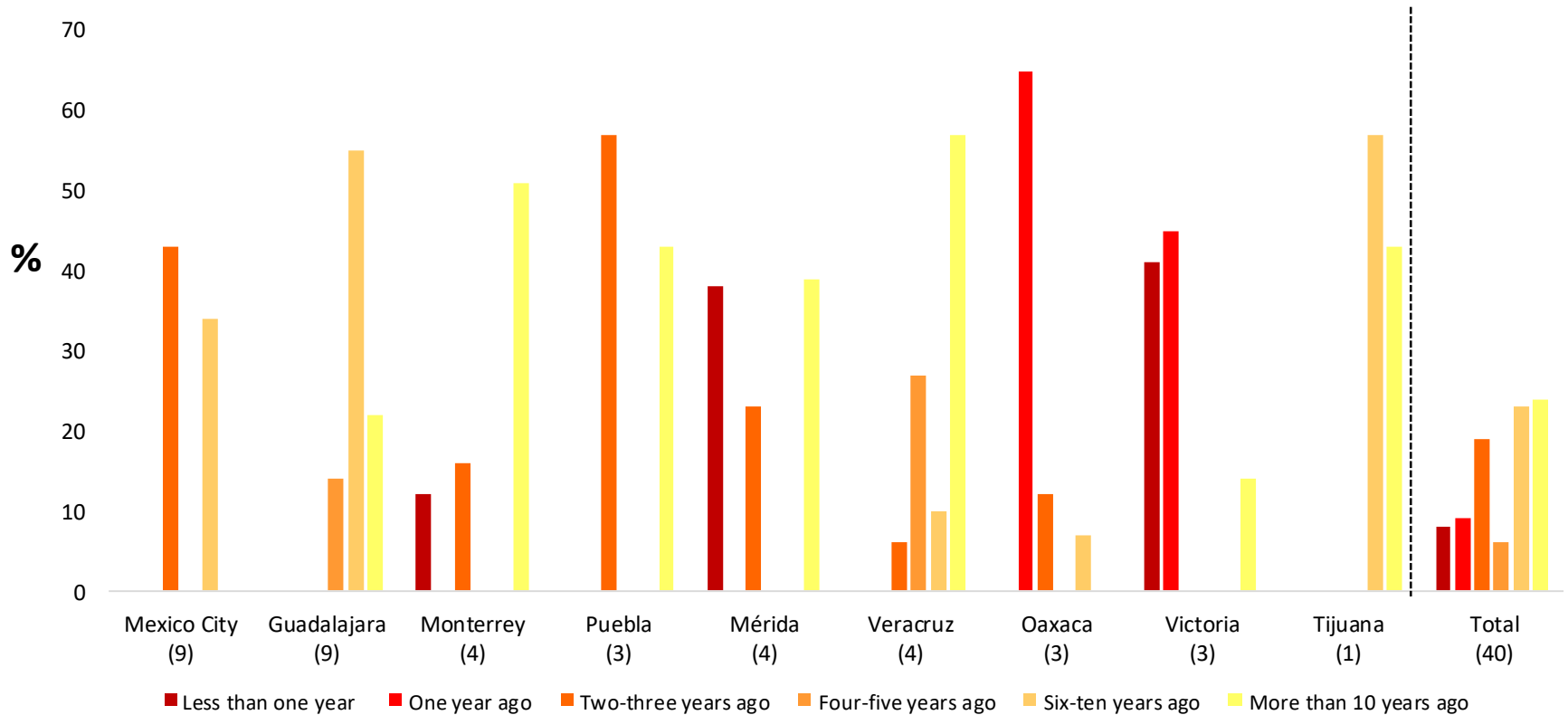
Base: All participants who said they have a gun. More than one answer is considered.

11. How did you obtain your last gun? (those who said they have one)



Base: All participants who said they have a gun.

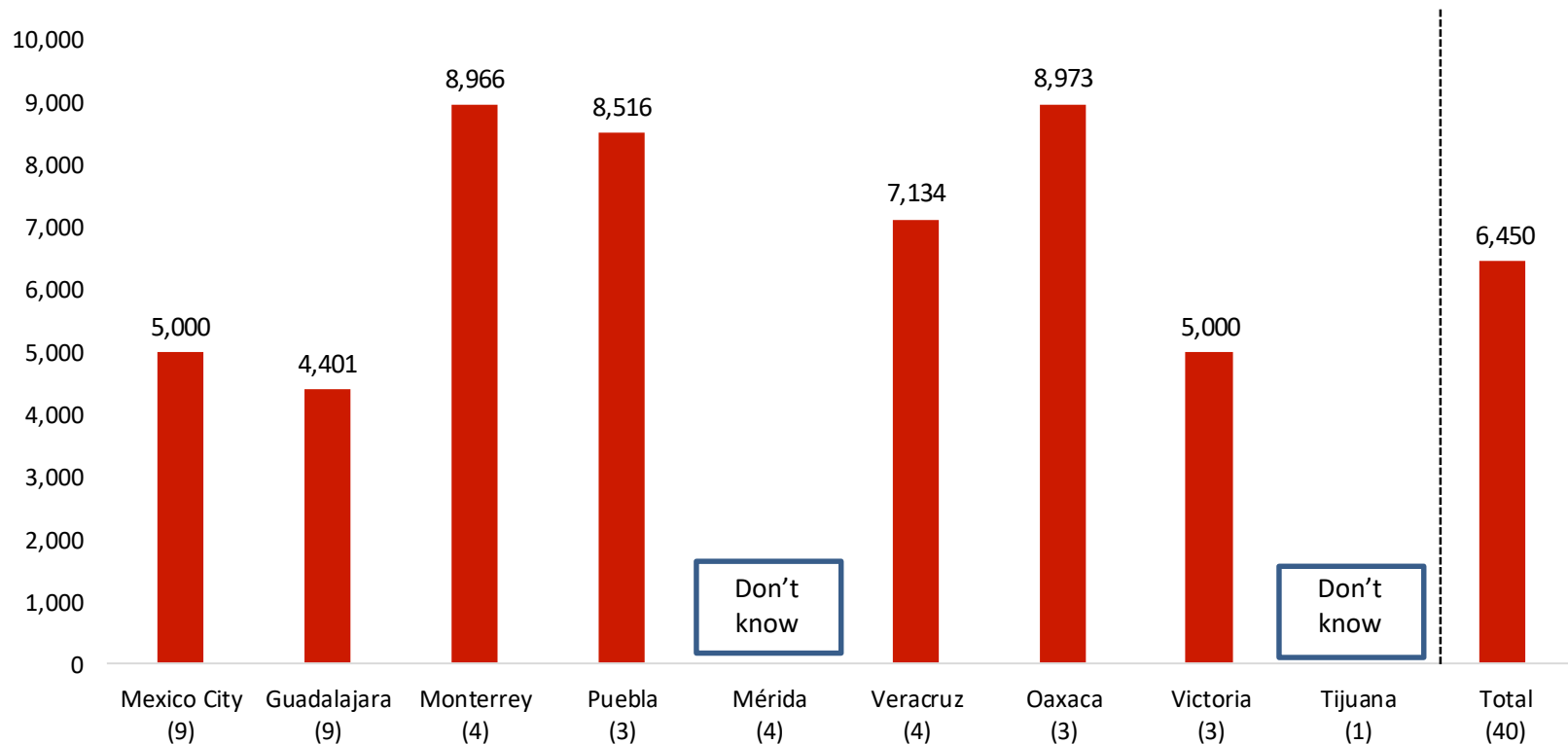
12. How long ago did you obtain your last gun? (those who said they bought one or more)



Average years:	4.9	8.2	7.7	6.2	5.1	8.4	1.8	2.2	9.3	6.0
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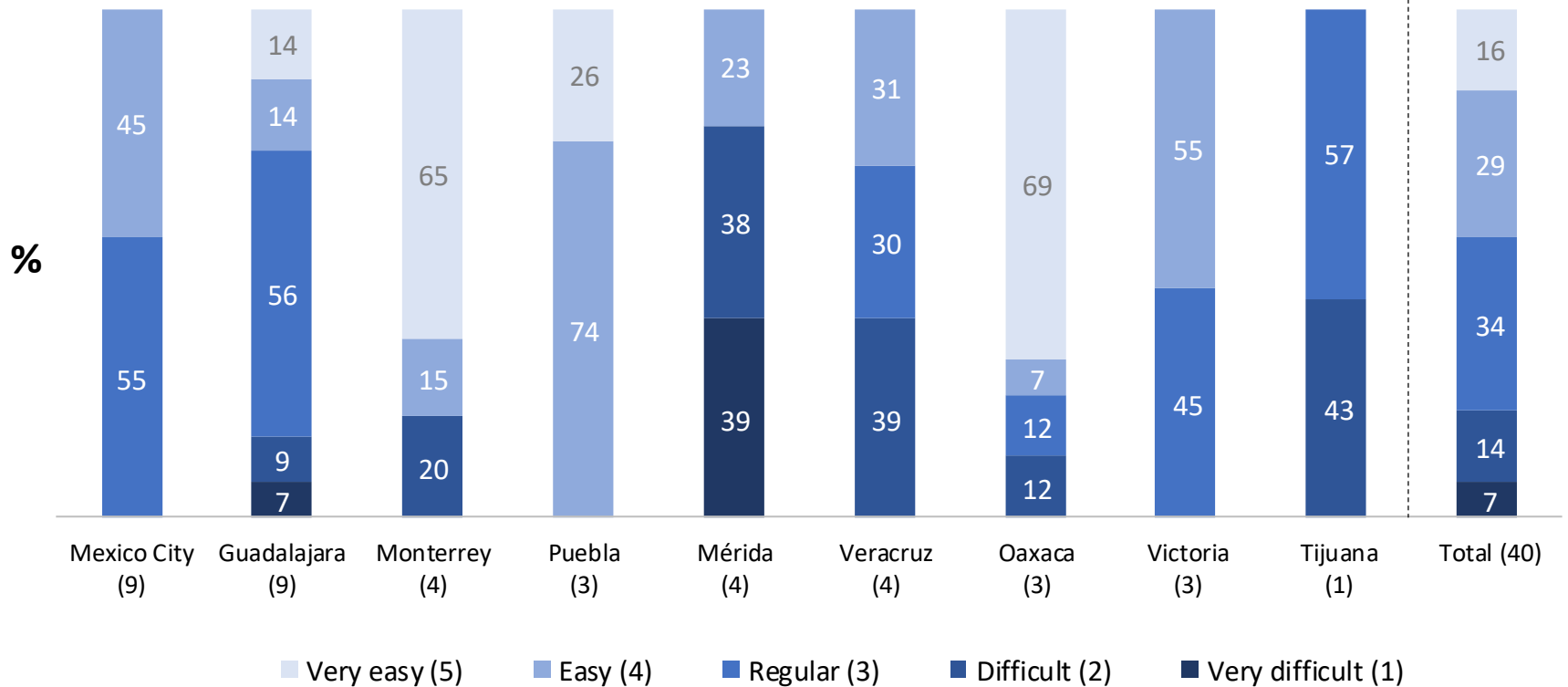
Base: All participants who said they have a gun.

13. How much did you pay for your last gun? (those who said they bought one or more)



Base: All participants who said they have a gun. Prices in Mexican Pesos (1 British Pound = 23 Mexican Pesos. // 1 US Dollar = 17 Mexican Pesos)

14. How easy was for you to get this gun? (those who said they bought one or more)

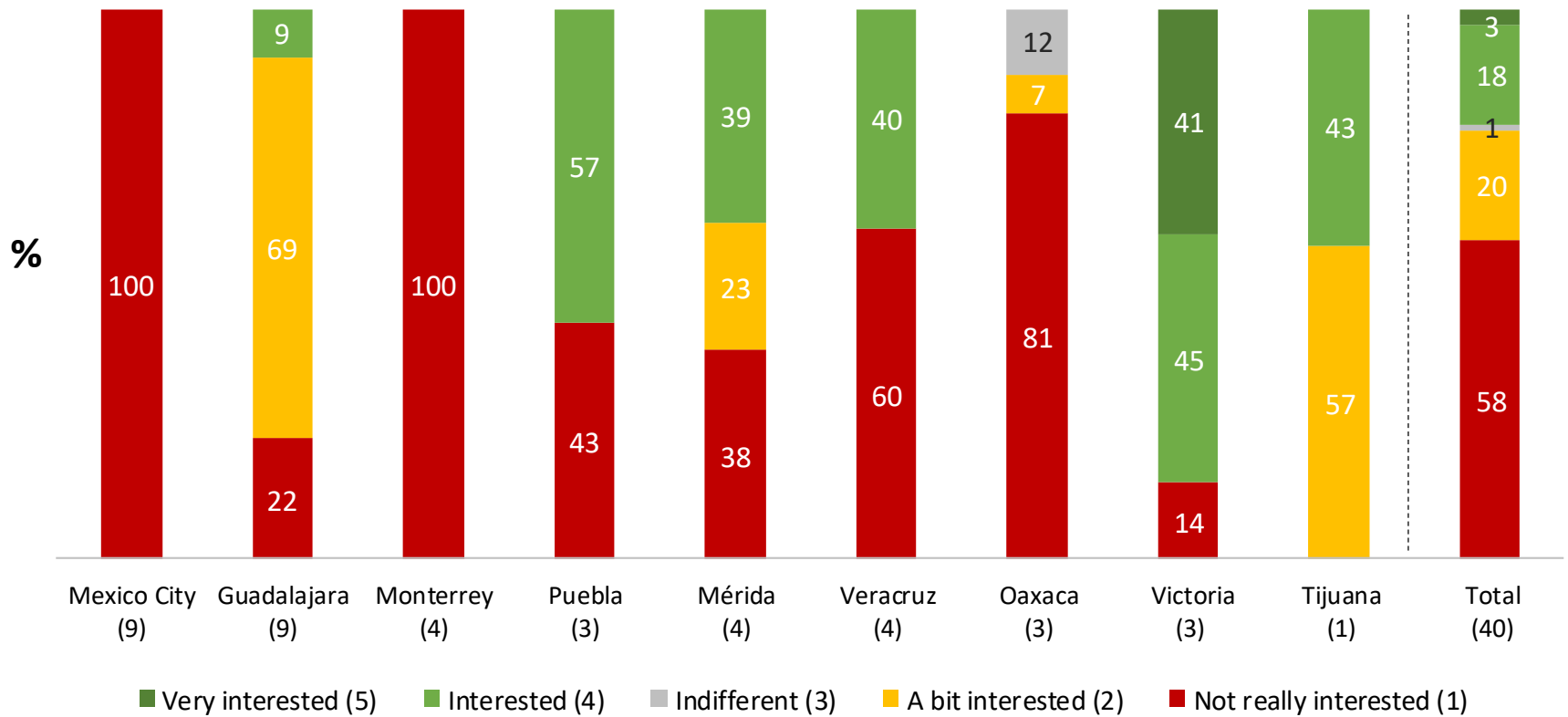


Average
Scale 1 to 5:

3.5	3.2	4.2	4.3	2.1	2.9	4.3	3.6	2.6	3.4
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Base: All participants who said they have a gun.

15. How much would you be interested in participating in a 'buy-back program'? (those who said they bought one gun or more)



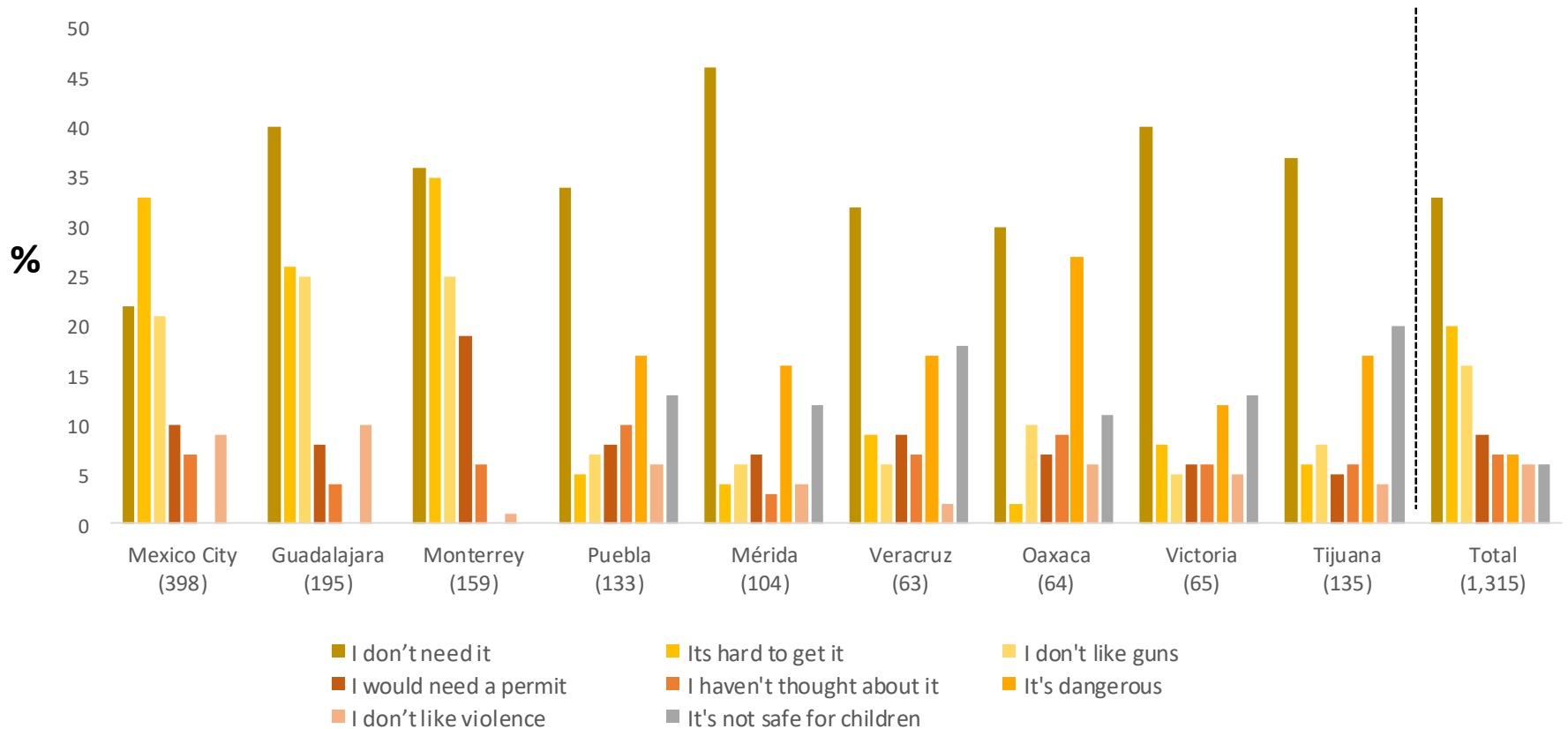
Average Scale 1 to 5:	1.0	2.0	1.0	2.7	2.4	2.2	1.3	4.0	2.9	1.9
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Base: All participants who said they have a gun.

17. ¿Qué tan dispuesto estaría usted en participar en un programa de "canje de armas", es decir, que cambie su arma por una tablet o vales de despensas ante una autoridad, si ésta le garantiza no hacer preguntas sobre el origen del arma?

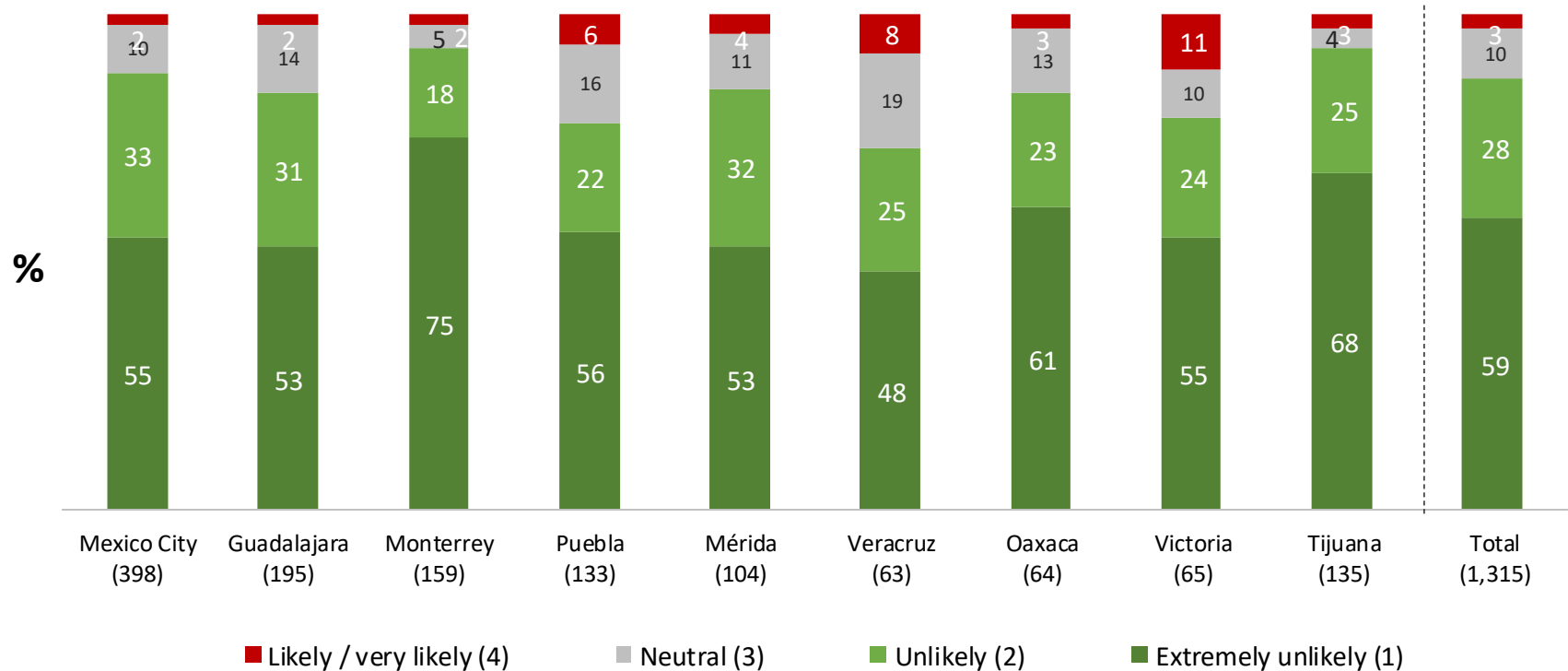
2.3 Understanding the non-gun ownership

16. What are the main reasons for you not having a gun in your household? (those who *do not* report to have gun)



Base: Entrevistados que no cuentan con un arma de fuego

17. How likely is for you to get a gun in the near future? (those who *do not* report to have gun)

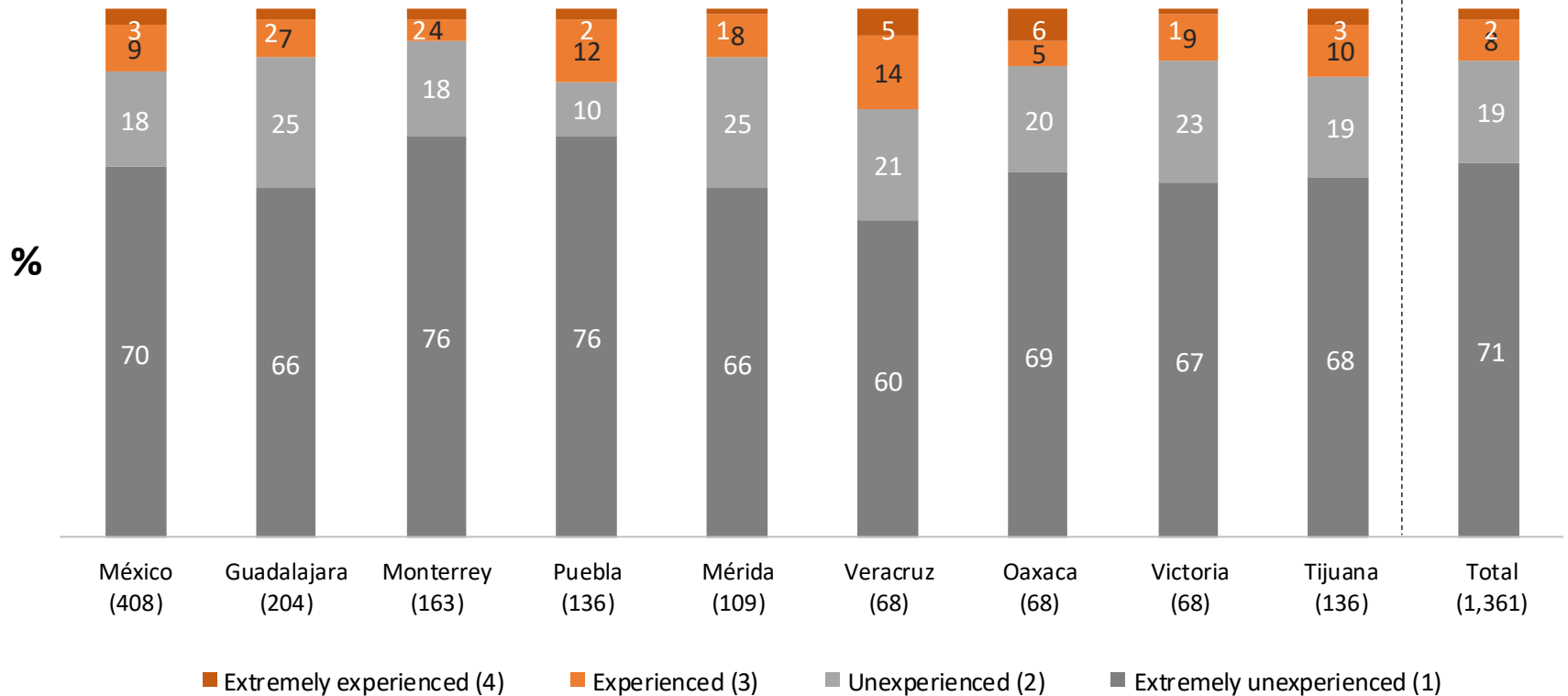


Average Scale 1 to 4:	1.6	1.7	1.3	1.7	1.7	1.9	1.6	1.8	1.4	1.6
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Base: All participants who do not report to have a gun.

2.4 Other issues related with gun policy

18. How would you evaluate your experience to use a gun? (all participants)

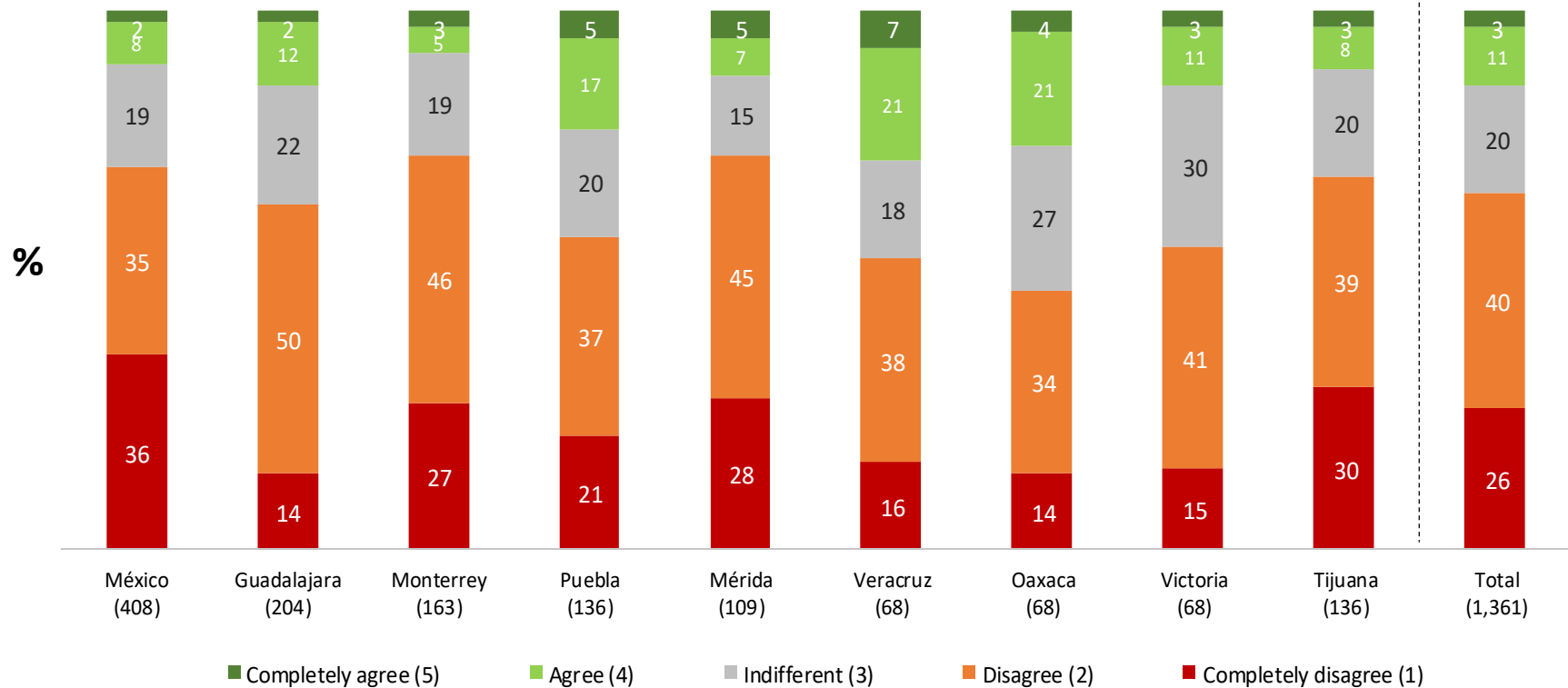


Average
Scale 1 to 4:

1.4	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.4
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Base: All participants

19. What is your opinion regarding the gun policy in some places in the U.S. that allows citizens to own, carry, and use guns? (all participants)



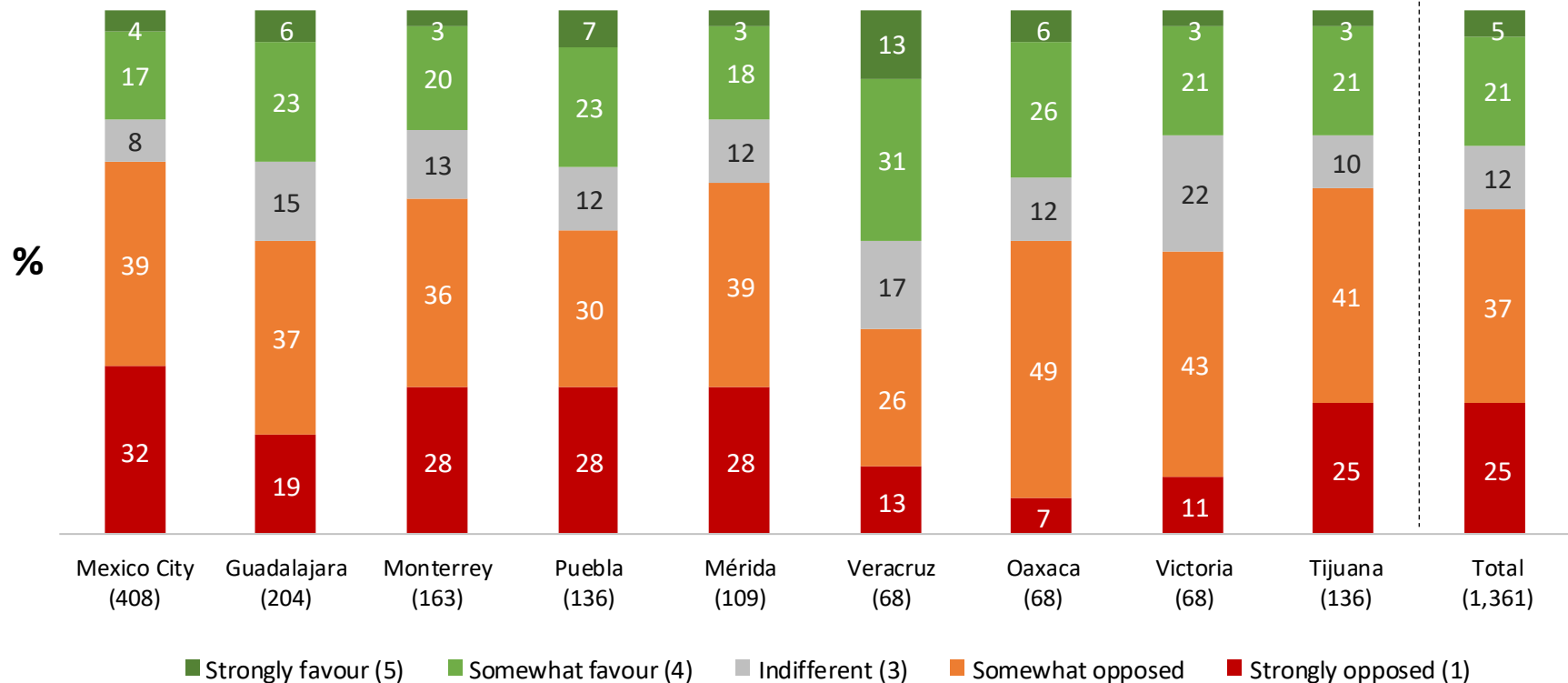
Average
Scale 1 to 5

2.1	2.4	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.6	2.7	2.5	2.2	2.3
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Base: All participants

20. En Estados Unidos la regulación en torno a la posesión de armas de fuego es bastante más laxa que en México. En Estados Unidos los ciudadanos que cuentan con una licencia de conducir tienen derecho a comprar, portar y usar un arma de fuego. ¿Qué tan de acuerdo está usted con esta política de Estados Unidos?

20. How do you evaluate the policy proposal from Senator Preciado that would allow guns to be legal in vehicles and places of work in Mexico?



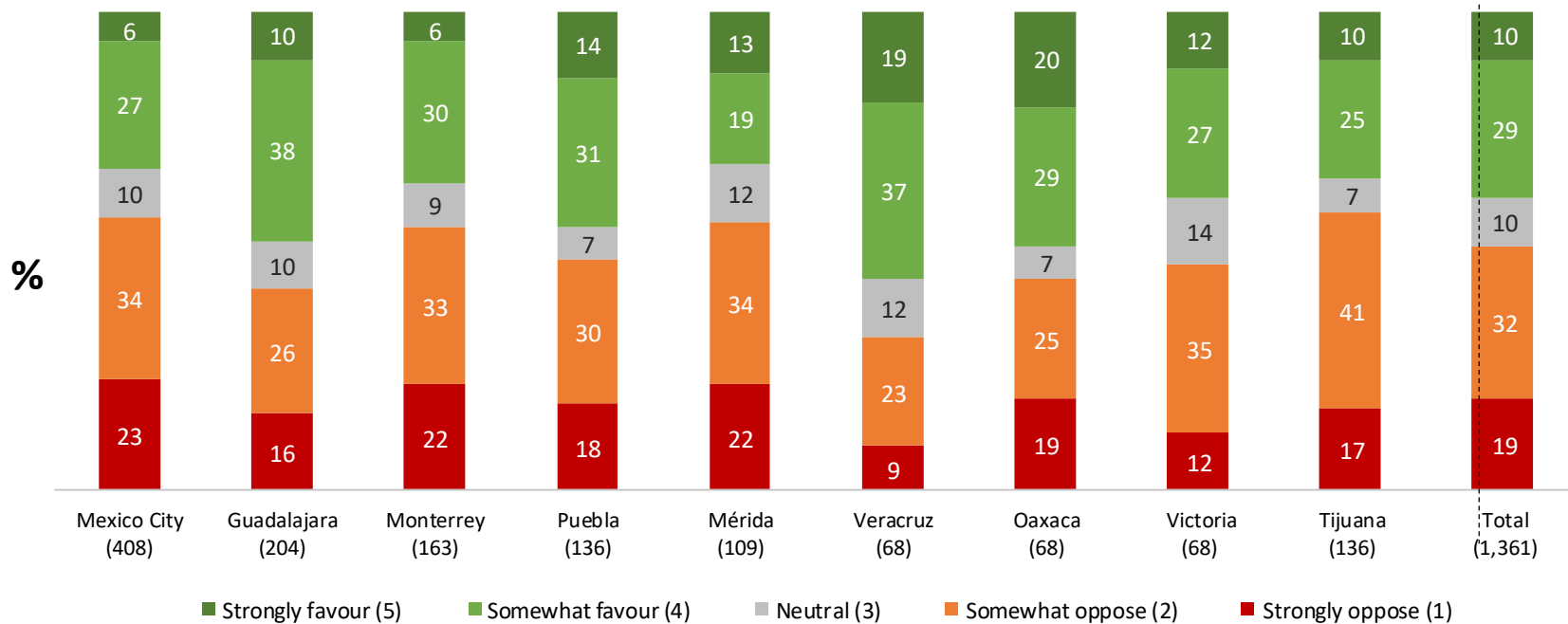
Average
Scale 1 to 5

2.2	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.3	3.1	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.4
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Base: All participants

21. Recientemente, el Senador Jorge Luis Preciado del PAN presentó una iniciativa para hacer que comprar y portar un arma en México sea más fácil. El Senador Jorge Luis Preciado propone modificar la actual regulación para que los mexicanos puedan poseer armas no solamente en su domicilio, sino también en su negocio o automóvil, ¿Qué tan de acuerdo está usted con esta iniciativa del senador Jorge Luis Preciado?

21. Senator Preciado has suggested that these permits would be only for citizens who are physically and mentally healthy, and with no criminal records. What would you think about his proposal?



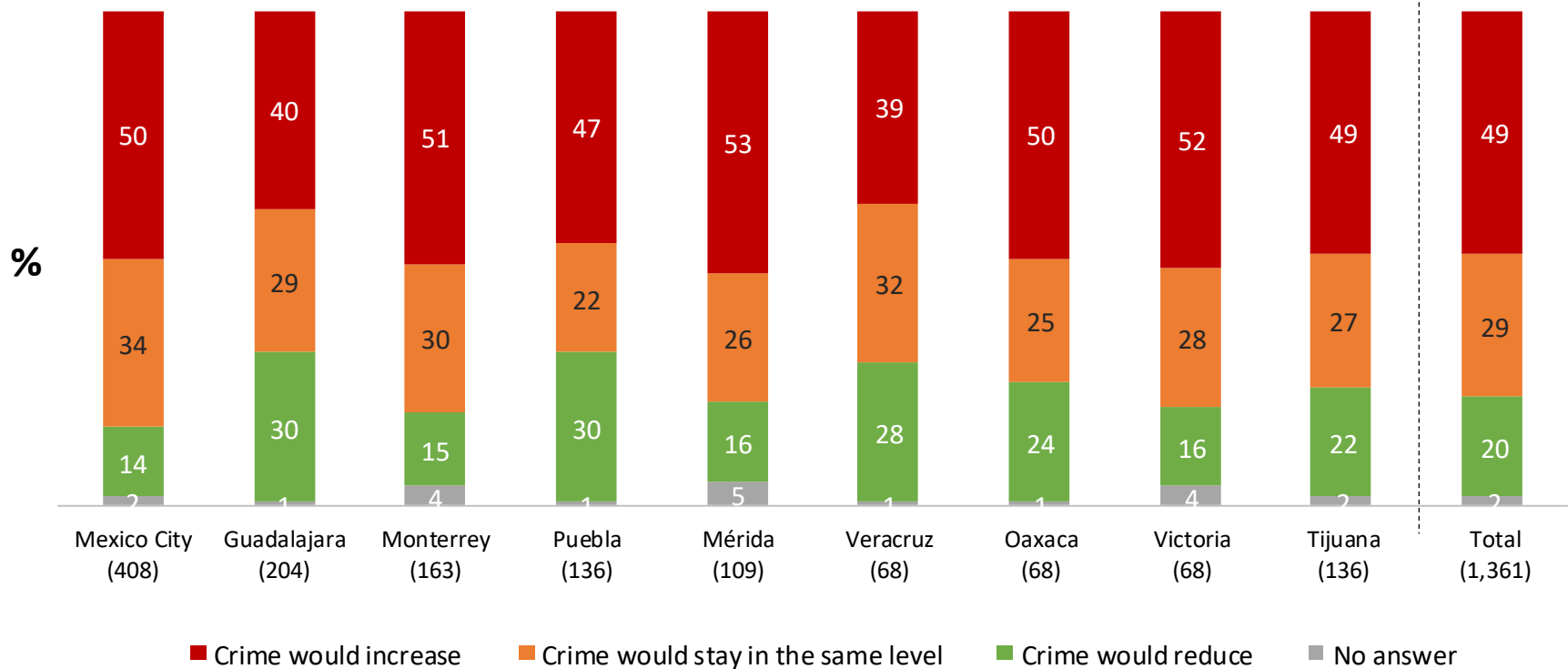
Average
Scale 1 to 5

2.6	3.0	2.6	2.9	2.7	3.3	3.1	2.9	2.7	2.8
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Base: All participants

23. El Senador Jorge Luis Preciado dice que solamente podrán portar armas aquellos que se examinen física y psicológicamente y no tengan antecedentes penales. Ante esto que él menciona, ¿Qué tan de acuerdo está usted con que se permita la posesión de armas a particulares en el hogar, negocio y domicilio?

22. What would happen to crime if Mexico expands the legal possession of guns to places of work and automobiles?



Base: All participants

22. El argumento del Senador Jorge Luis Preciado es que, si los mexicanos tienen derecho a portar armas, les será más fácil defenderse de la delincuencia, ¿Usted cree que si los mexicanos pudieran portar armas en su hogar, negocio o automóvil, la delincuencia ...?

Citation:

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