

NIU

**NORTHERN
ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY**

**PERCEPTIONS, POLITICS, AND POLICY
MAKING 2009**

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ILLINOIS POLICY SURVEY

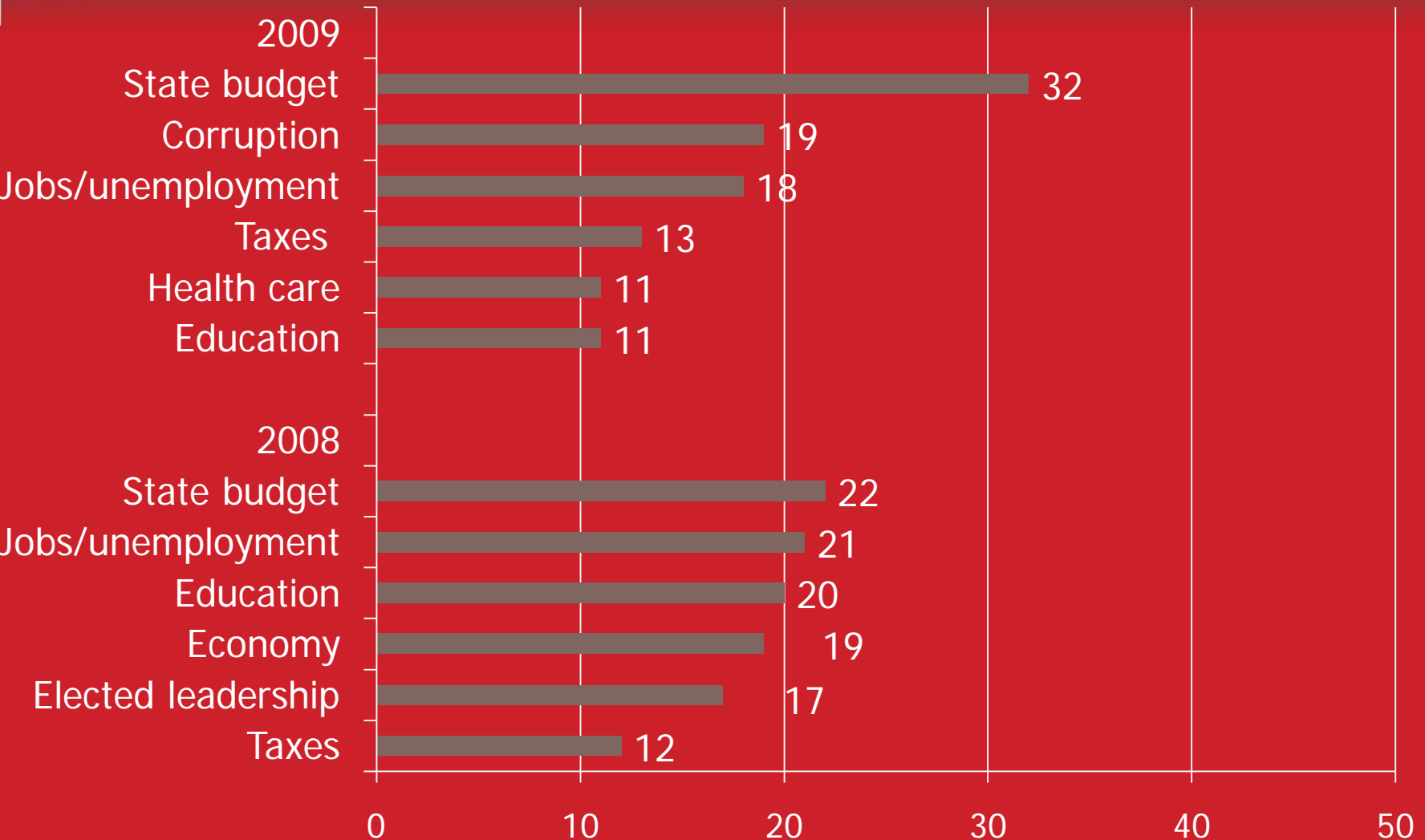
- Sponsored by Center for Governmental Studies at Northern Illinois University
- 2009 is the 26th annual survey
- Approximately 1200 respondents in six defined regions across Illinois

- **Combination of recurring questions and “hot topics”**
 - many results can be compared from year-to-year over a long period of time
- **Widely distributed as a means of informing policy makers and the policy process**

SOME CORE RESULTS FROM 2009

- Most important problem
- Rating of Illinois economy and economic conditions
- Perceptions and experiences of unemployment

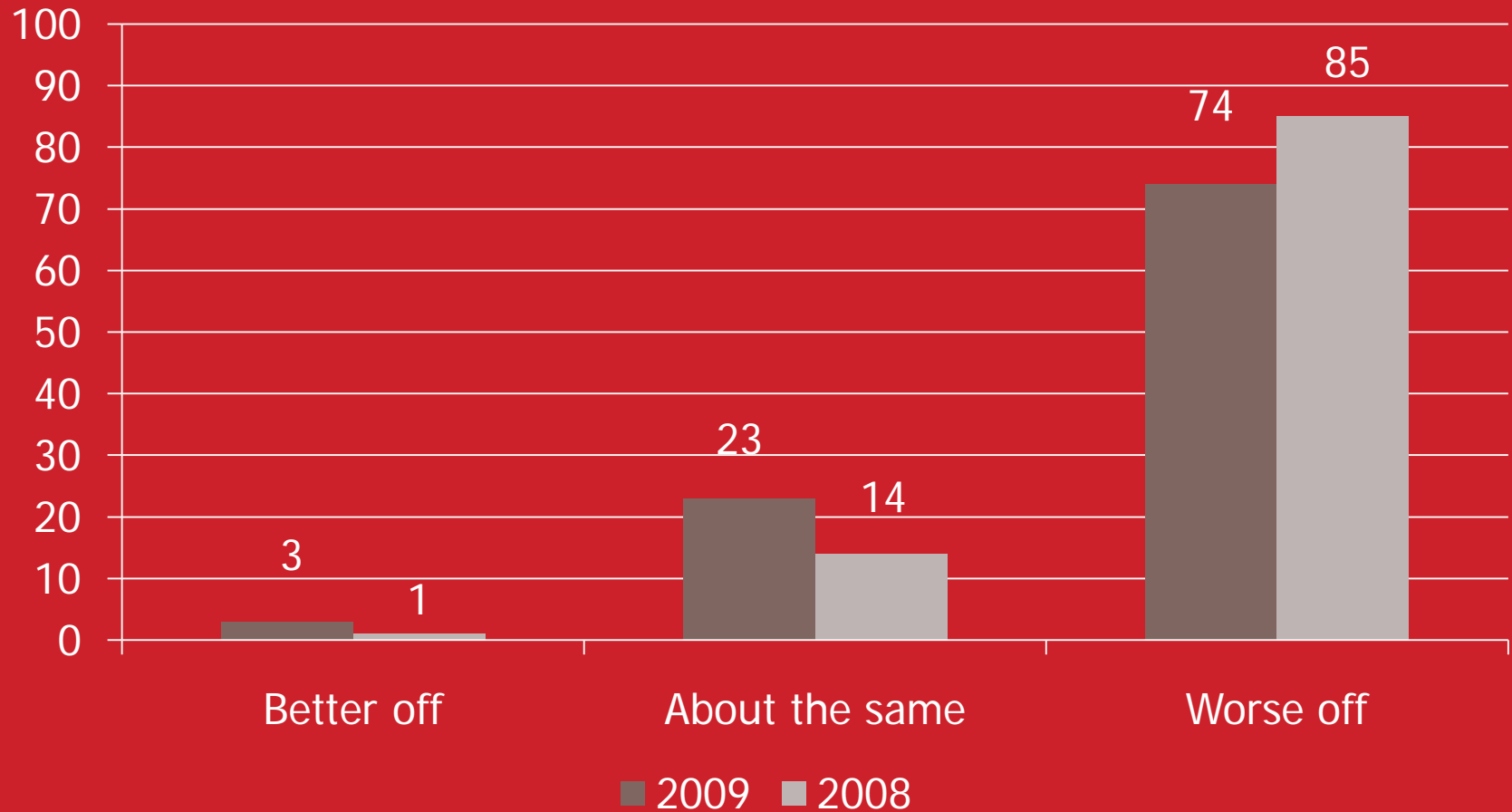
MOST IMPORTANT ILLINOIS PROBLEM



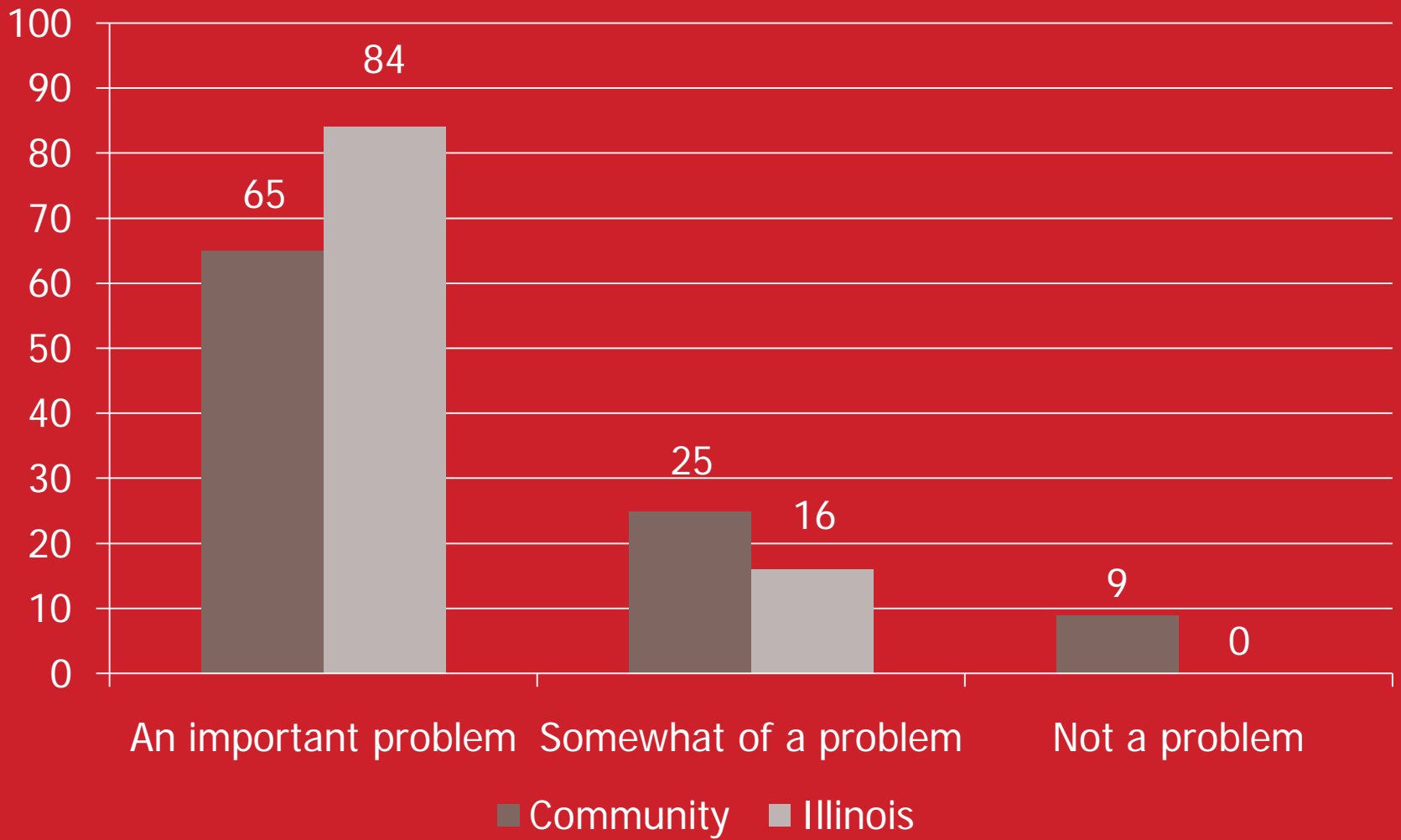
How would you describe the economy of Illinois these days?



Would you say that at the present time the people of Illinois are better off financially, just about the same or worse off than they were last year?



WOULD YOU SAY UNEMPLOYMENT IS NOT A PROBLEM, IS SOMEWHAT OF A PROBLEM OR IS AN IMPORTANT PROBLEM IN YOUR COMMUNITY/ILLINOIS



CONCERN ABOUT BECOMING UNEMPLOYED OR PAYING THE RENT

- More than 50% of those in the work force reported being at least somewhat concerned about losing their job over the next year
- About 45% of respondents are at least somewhat worried about paying their mortgage, rent, or other housing costs, with 42% of those saying job or income concerns were the source of their worries
- About 90% of respondents indicated they personally knew someone who had lost their job in the economic downturn

SOME HOT TOPICS FOR 2009

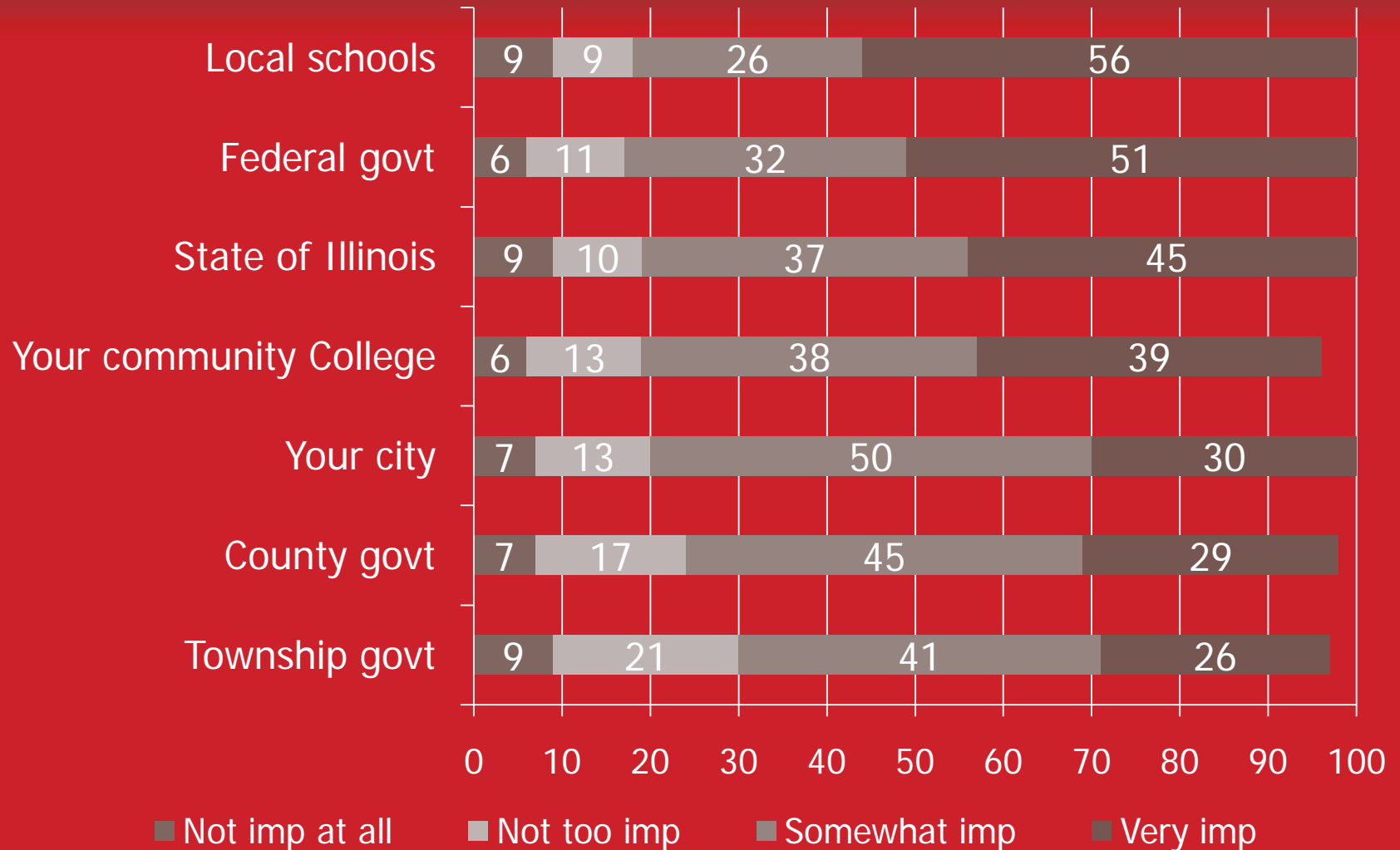
- Perceptions of government services
- Perceptions of stimulus plan and use of stimulus dollars
- Health care
- Increase taxes

GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND PROGRAMS

Question 1

- How important do you consider the programs and services of each of the following governments in maintaining or improving you and your family's quality of life?

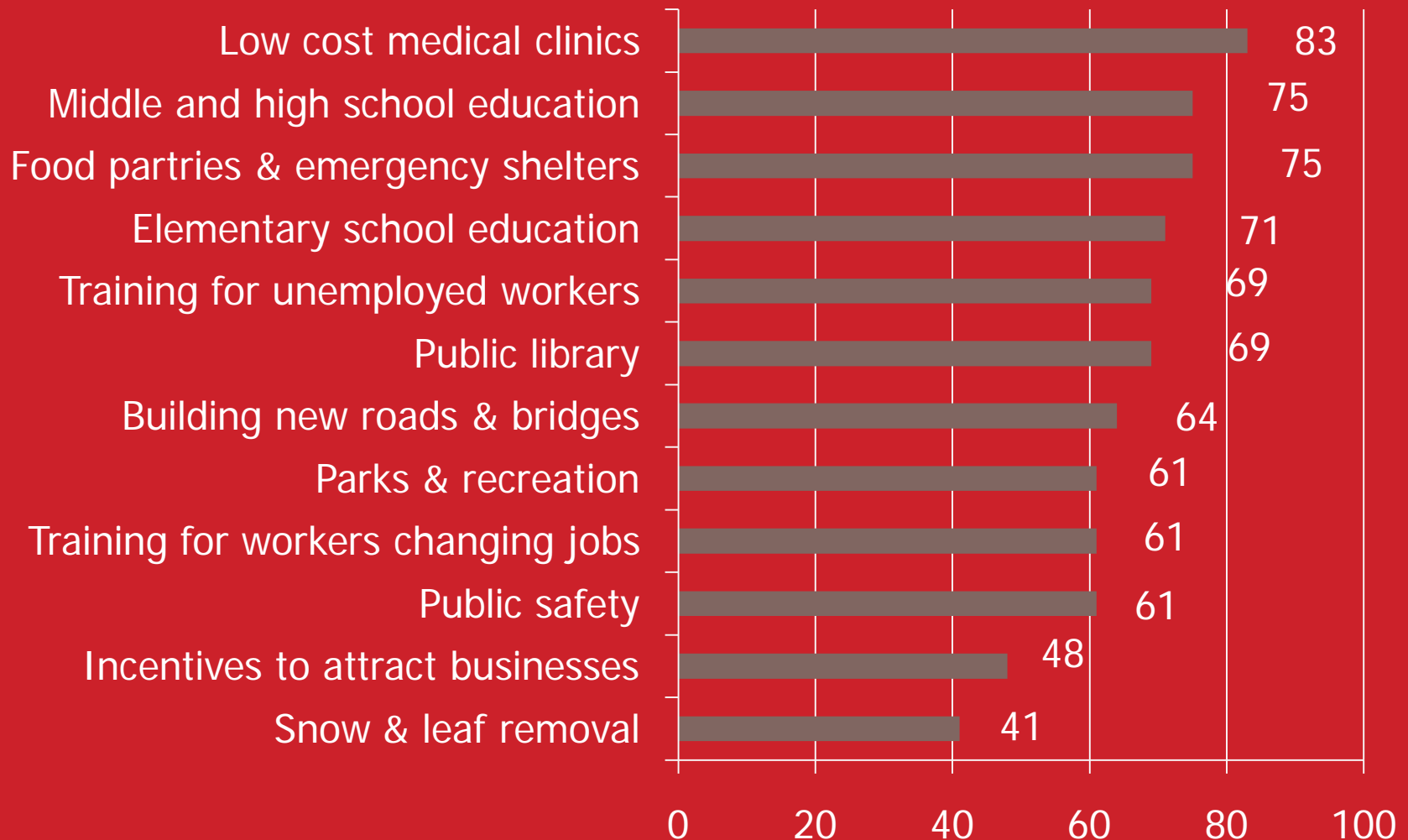
IMPORTANCE OF GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS TO QUALITY OF LIFE



Questions 2 and 3

- Here are some government services and programs. For each one, please me how likely you think increasing it would help you and your family be better off in the future.
- Would you be willing to pay increased taxes to fund an expansion of this program?

WILLINGNESS TO PAY HIGHER TAXES TO PAY FOR PROGRAM EXPANSION



ECONOMIC STIMULUS PROGRAM

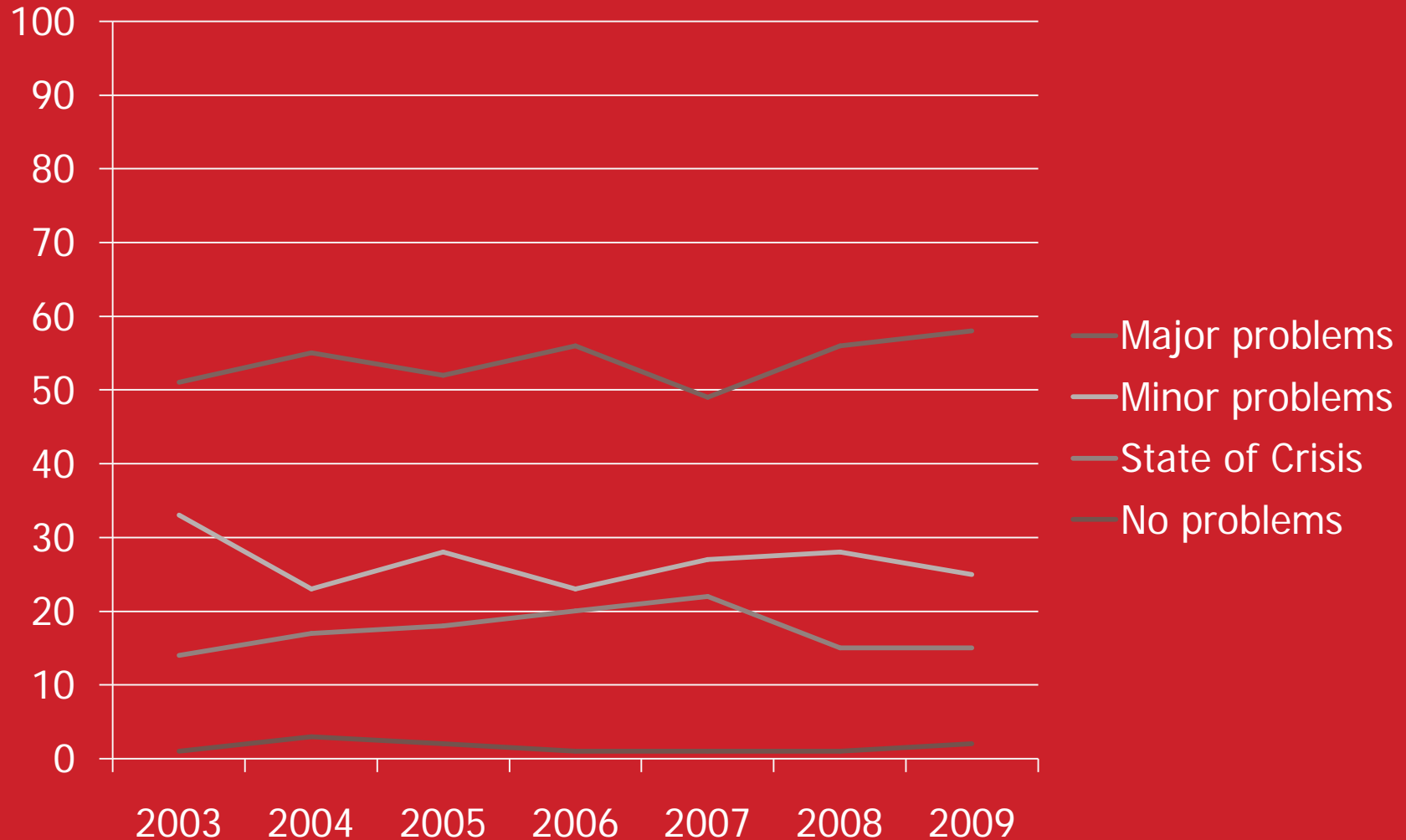
Questions

1. So far, do you think the economic stimulus program has helped, hurt, or has not had much effect on the Illinois economy/your community?
2. Do you think the national economic stimulus program will end up helping, hurting, or having on effect on the Illinois economy/ your community?

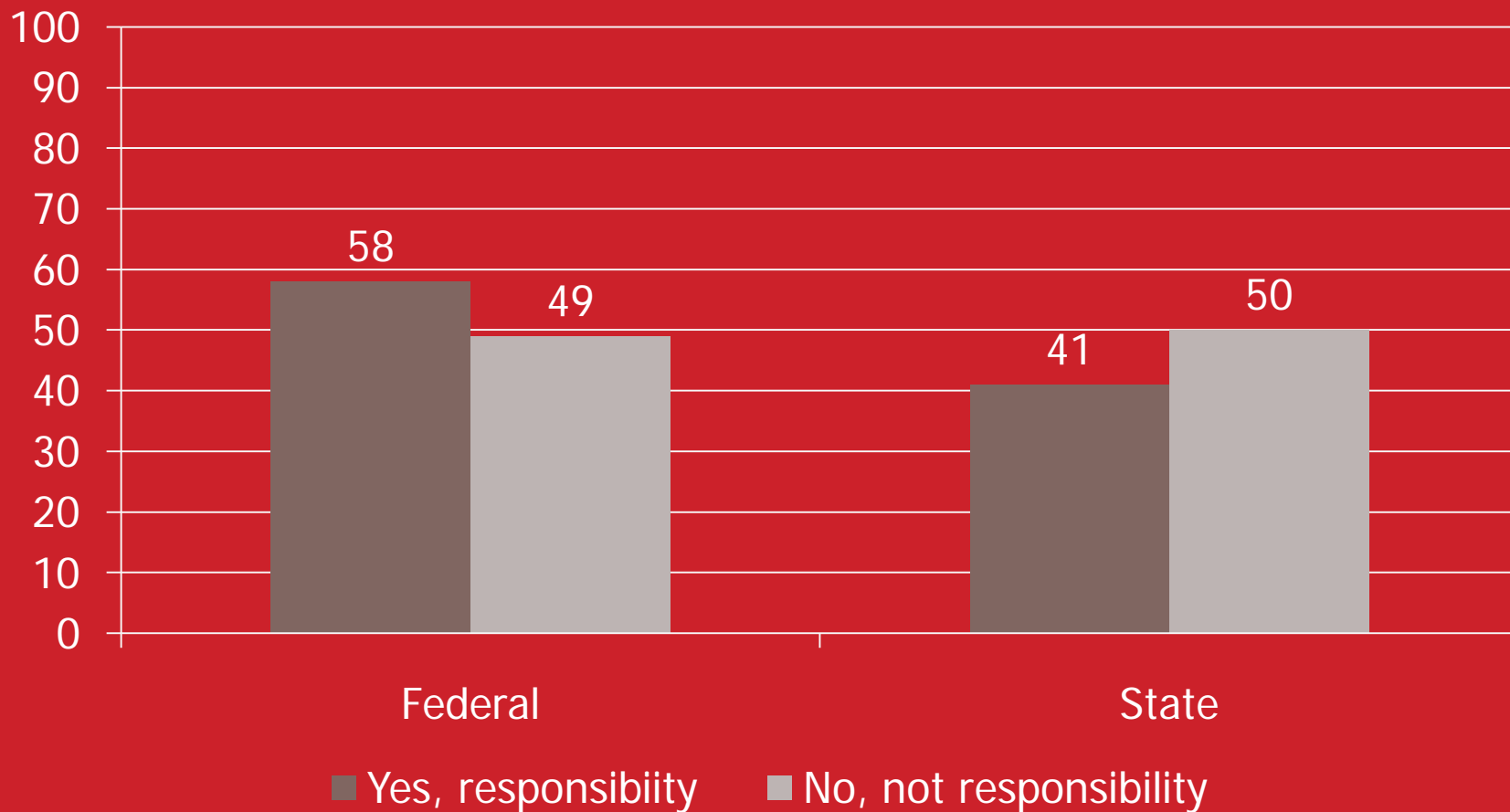
STIMULUS PROGRAM



WHICH OF THESE STATEMENTS DO YOU THINK BEST DESCRIBES THE U.S. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM TODAY?



DO YOU THINK IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT/STATE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE SURE ALL AMERICANS HAVE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE OR NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY?



INCREASE TAXES?

- Question
 - If you were convinced that the State of Illinois had to increase taxes or fees to fund needed or essential services, which of the following would you be most support of assuming that each option will be implemented so that the same amount of revenue is raised?

TYPE OF TAX INCREASE MOST SUPPORTED

