

# Policy instruments and incentives for conservation on working landscapes

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Transboundary Grasslands Partnership

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# Searching for solutions on working landscapes



# Research design and methods

- What instruments and incentives do people want?
- What has been the impact of existing programs?
- Online surveys with landowners in Canada (n = 231) and in the United States (n = 62)
  - BC – 10
  - AB – 49
  - SK – 64
  - MB – 22
  - Montana: 22
  - Nebraska: 26
  - Nebraska and South Dakota: 1
  - South Dakota: 11
  - Not reported – 88
- Approx. 34% of respondents in Canada and 66% in the United States had previously participated in conservation programs

# Instruments

- Conservation easements
  - restrictions on land title
- Land securement
  - selling land
- Conservation Management Agreements (CMA)
  - co-developing planned activities/targets (e.g., habitat plans, results-based)
- Market certification
  - verifiable standards

# Incentives

- Legal assurances
  - legal protection
- Market-based premiums
  - sell commodities for more
- Cost sharing
  - costs split between public/private
- Annual payments
  - payments for the achievement of targets, etc.
- One-time payments
  - payments for the avoidance of activities, etc.

Results: What instruments and incentives do people want?

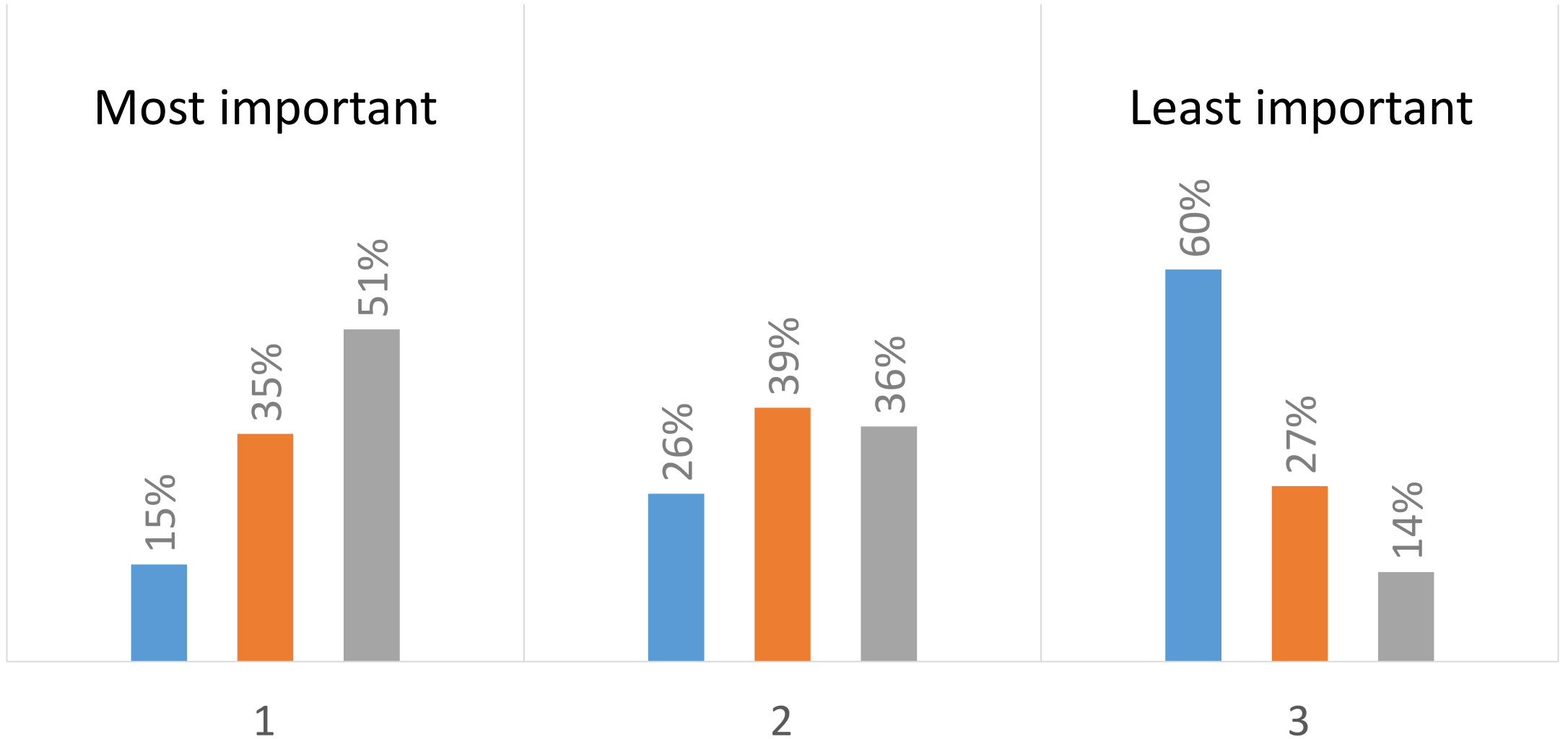
# What factors are important to people when they consider participating in programs?

- Most important:
  - The restrictions that participating in the program will place on my farming or ranching operation
- Mid-important:
  - The level of trust that I have in the organization delivering the program
- Least important:
  - The amount of funding available to me from the program

**Even though funding is least important among the options, it is likely still an important factor to consider in program design**

# Canada

Funding Trust Restrictions



N = 176

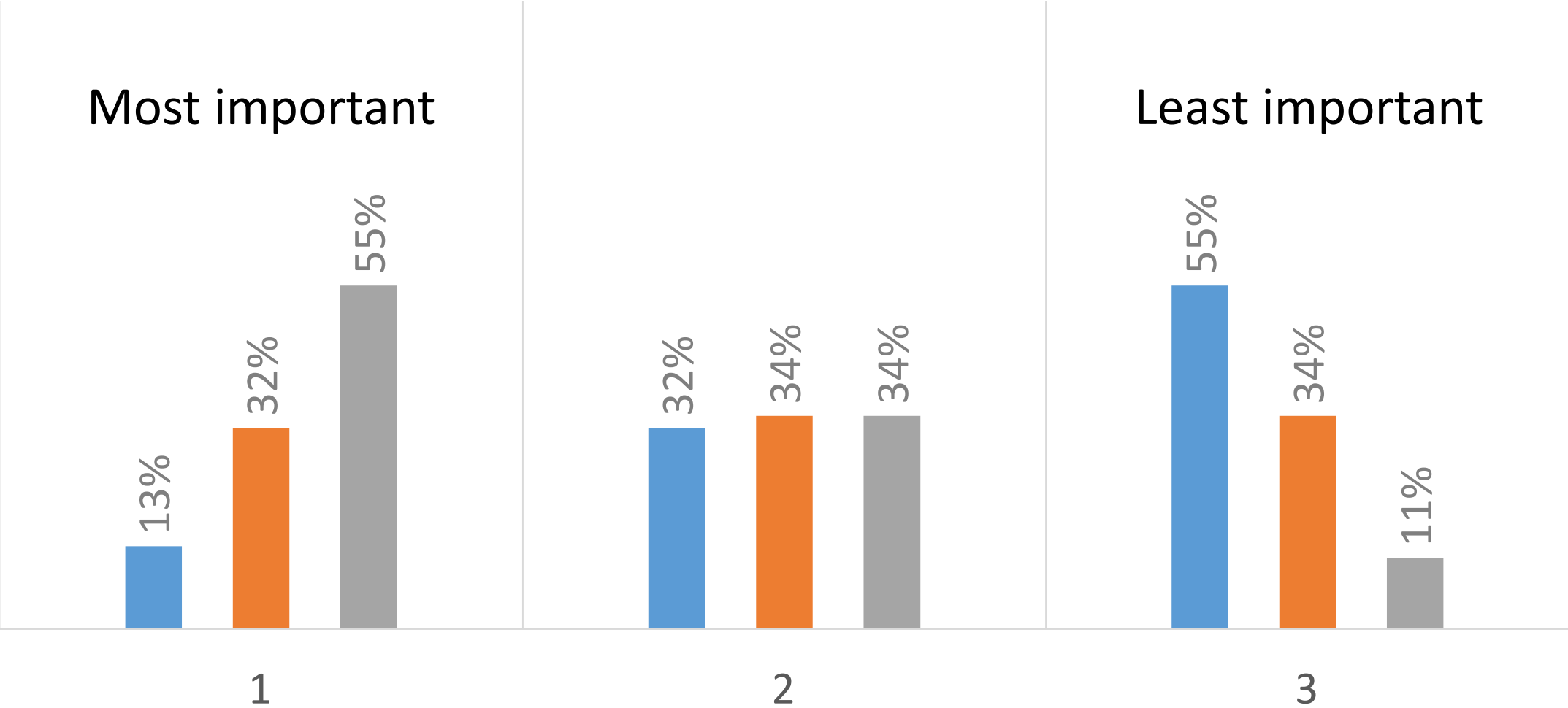


# United States

Funding Trust Restrictions

Most important

Least important

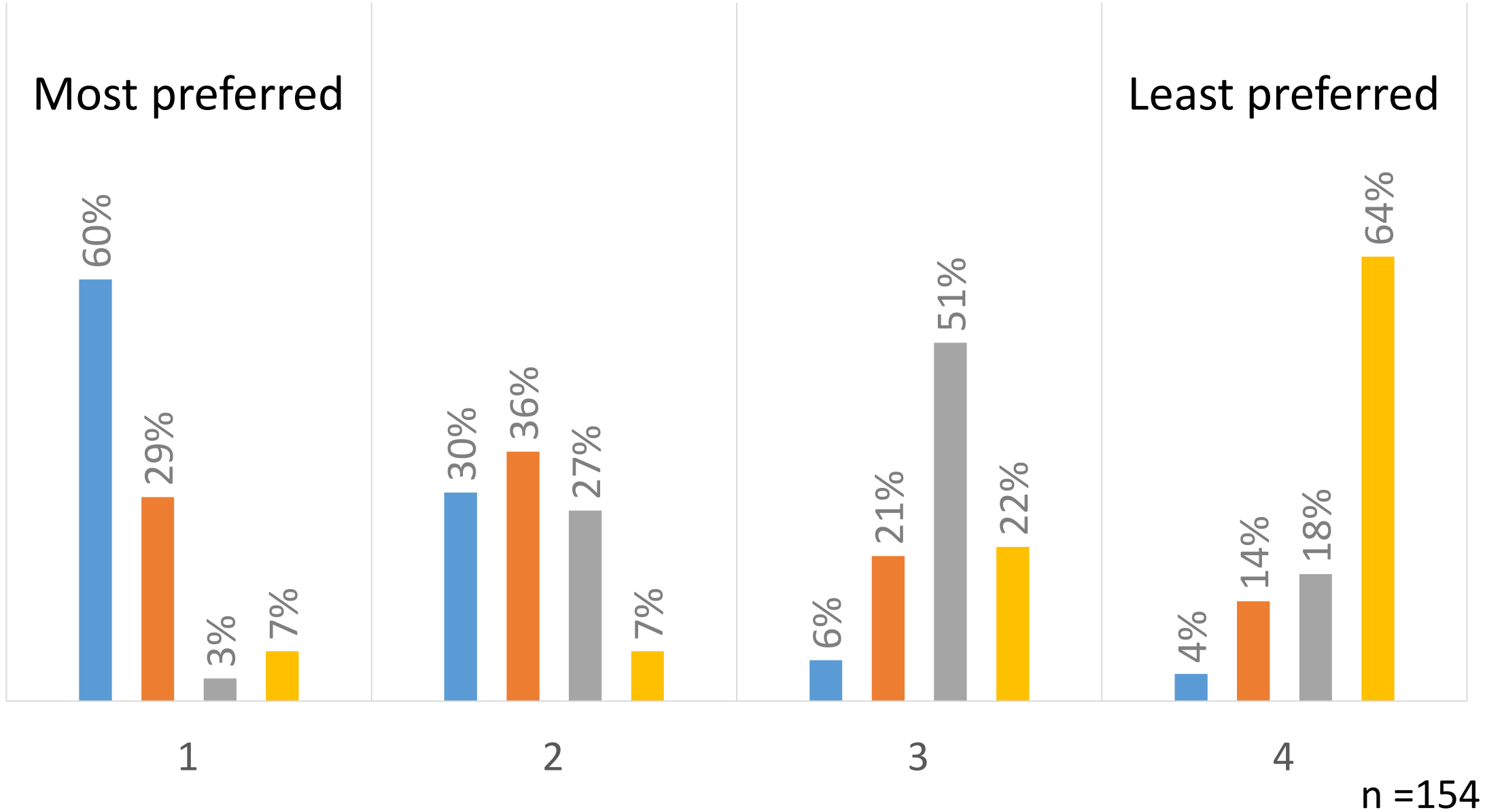


# Instruments (in order of preference)

1. Conservation Management Agreements (CMA)
2. Market certification
3. Conservation easements
4. Land securement

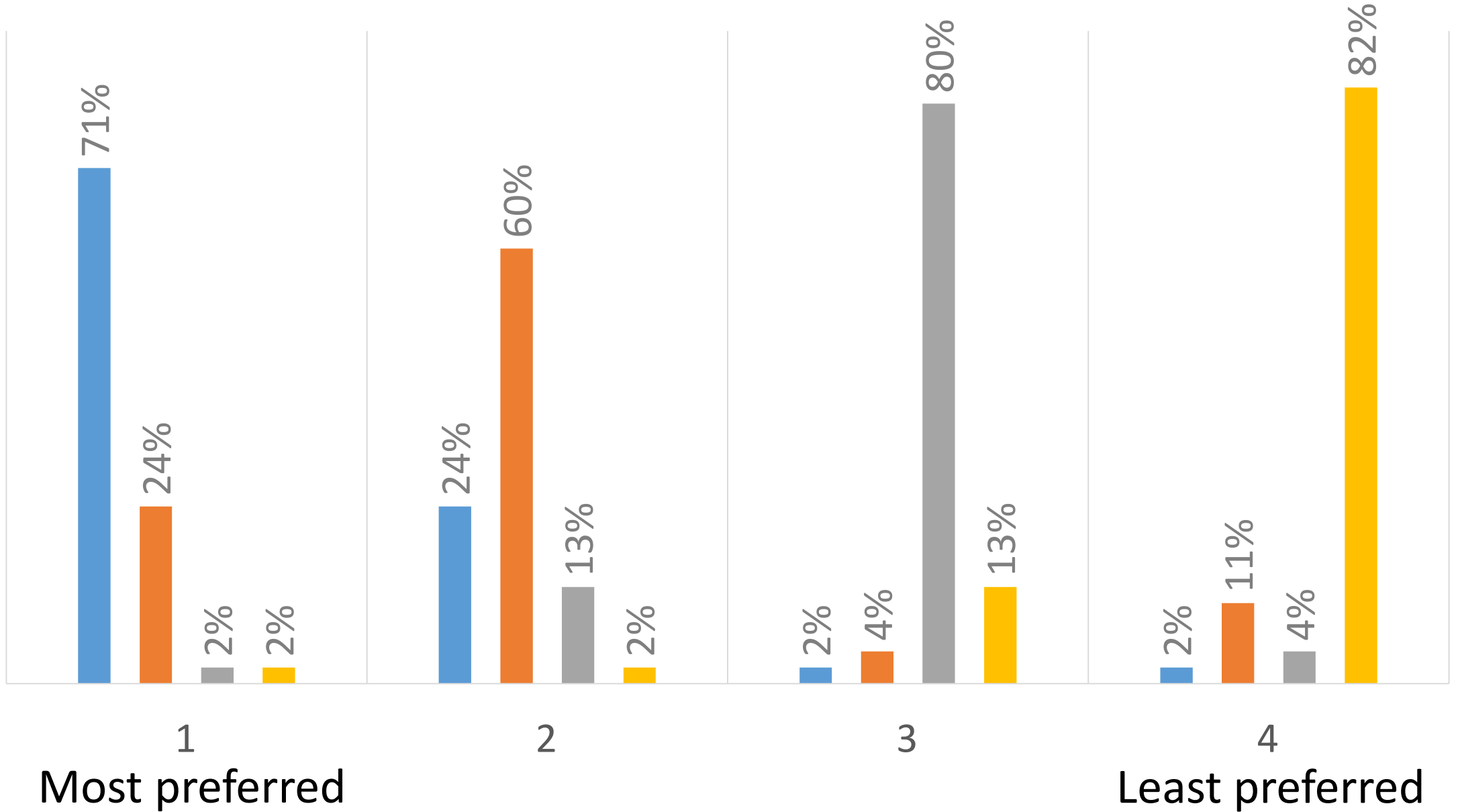
# Canada

■ CMAs ■ Certification ■ Easements ■ Securement



# United States

■ CMAs ■ MarketCert ■ Easements ■ Securement

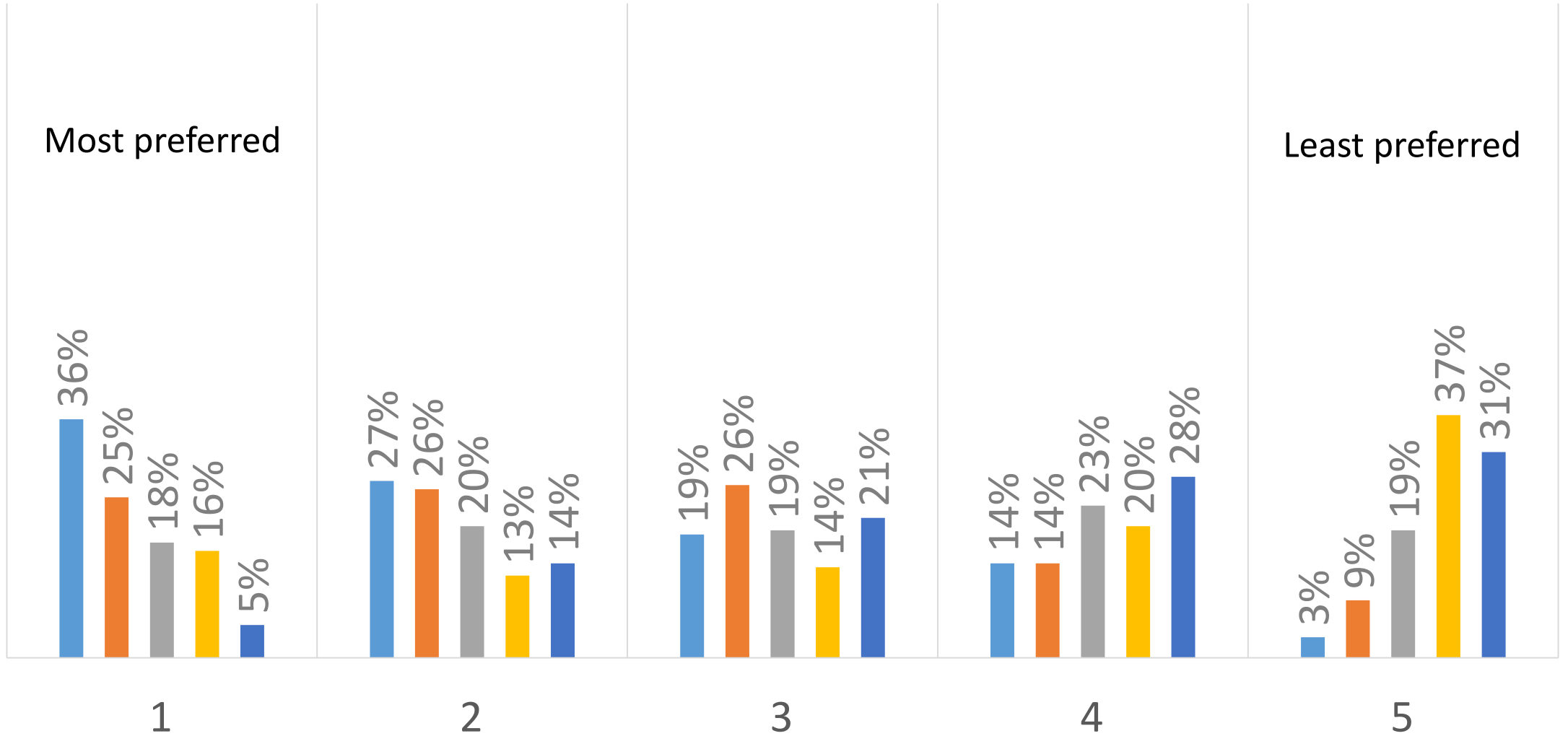


# Incentives

1. Top choice: annual payments (Canada) and cost sharing (US)
2. Middle choice: market-based premiums (both)
3. Bottom choice: legal and one-time or lump-sum (both)

# Canada

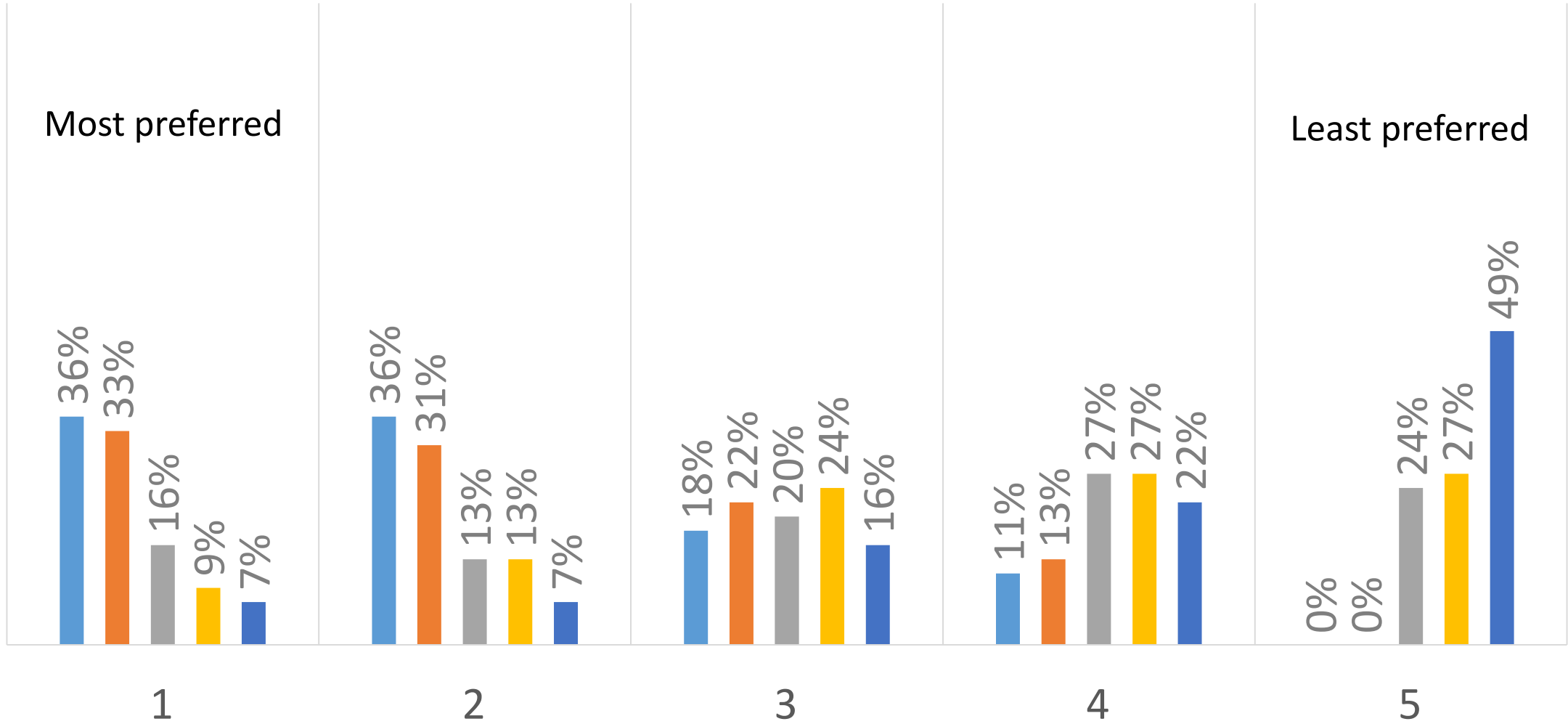
Annual CostShare Premiums Assurance OneTime



n = 159

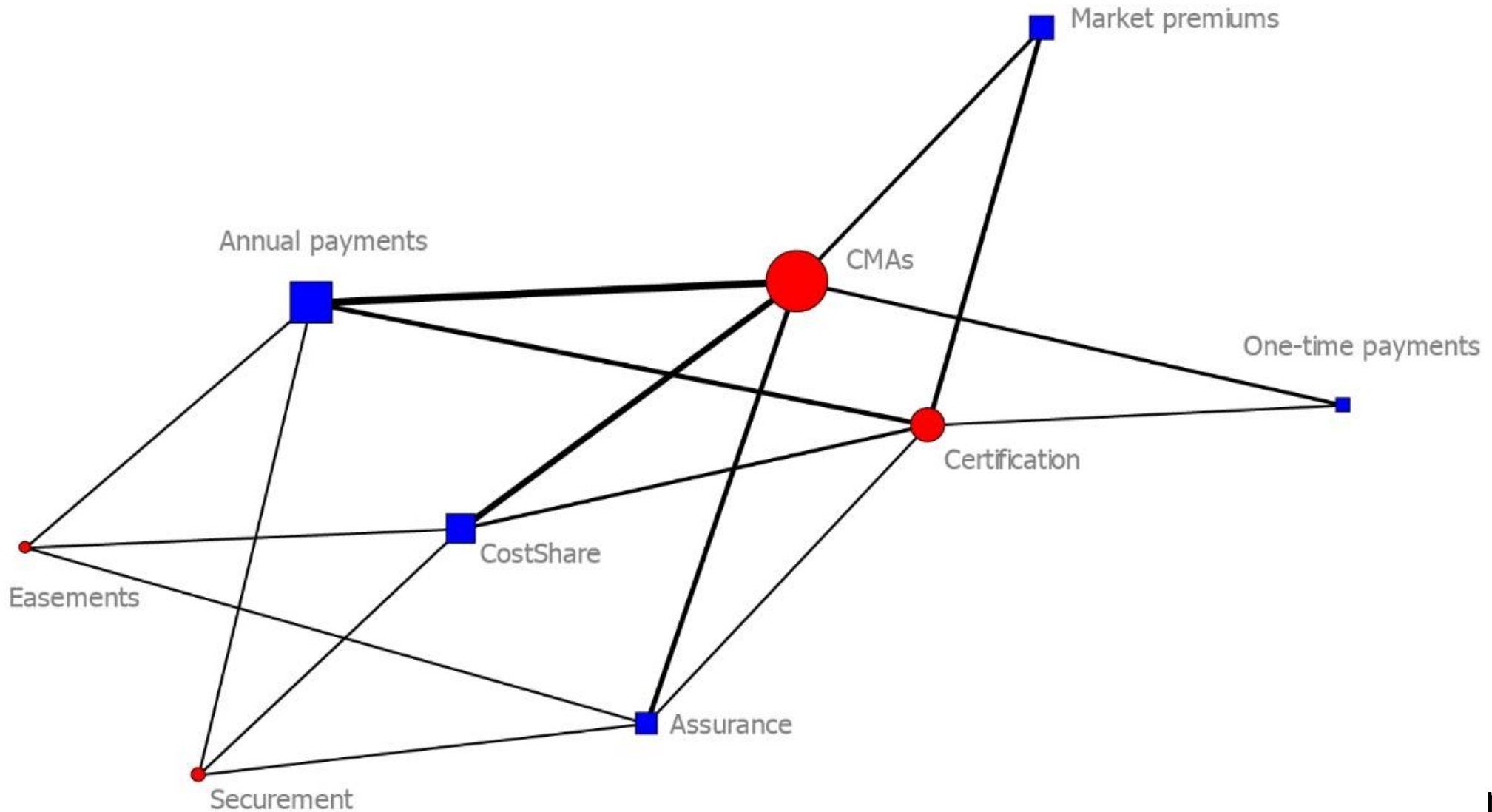
# United States

■ Annual ■ CostShare ■ Market-based ■ LumpSum ■ Legal



Canada

# Bringing things together

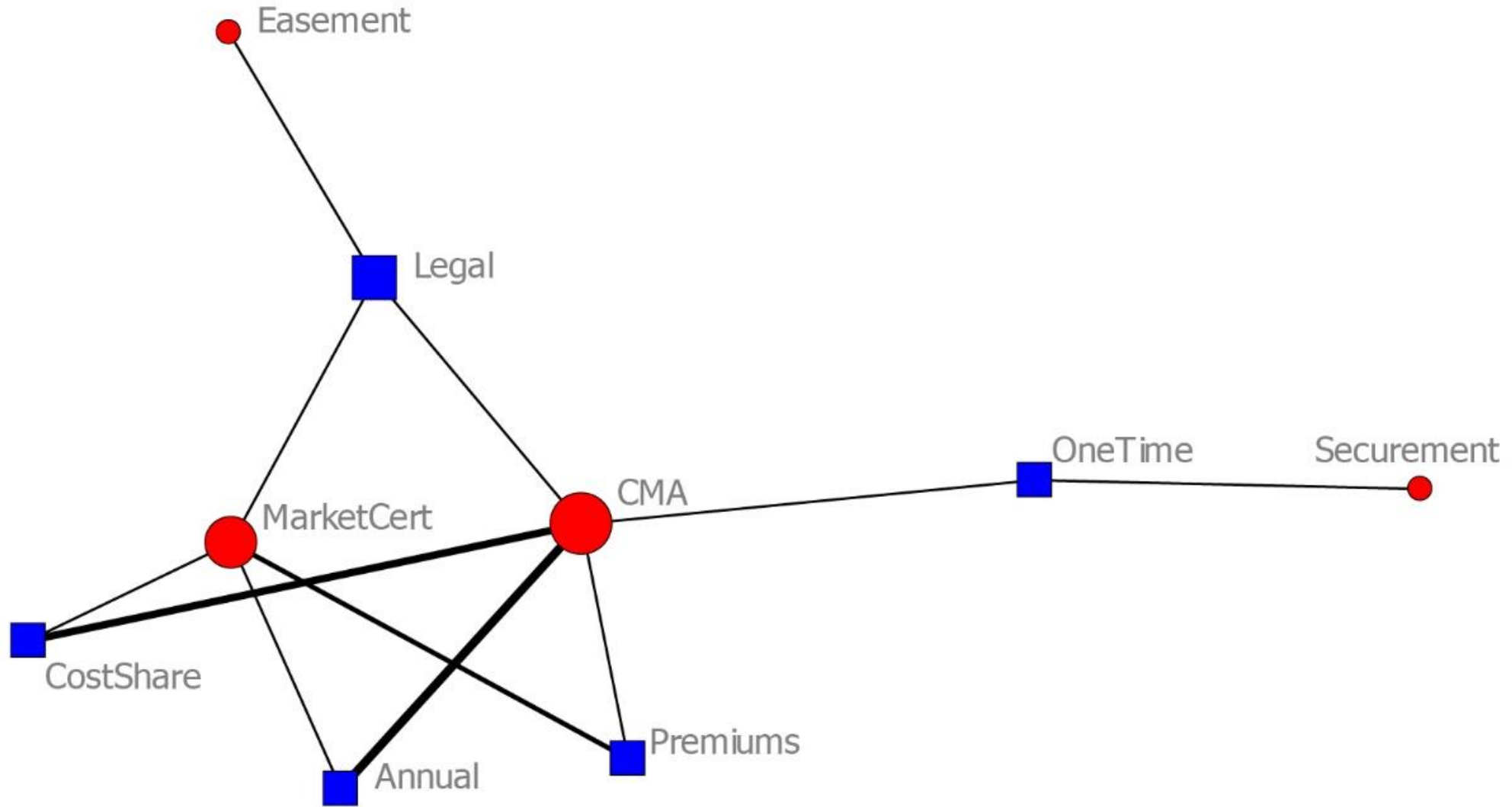


n = 143



# United States

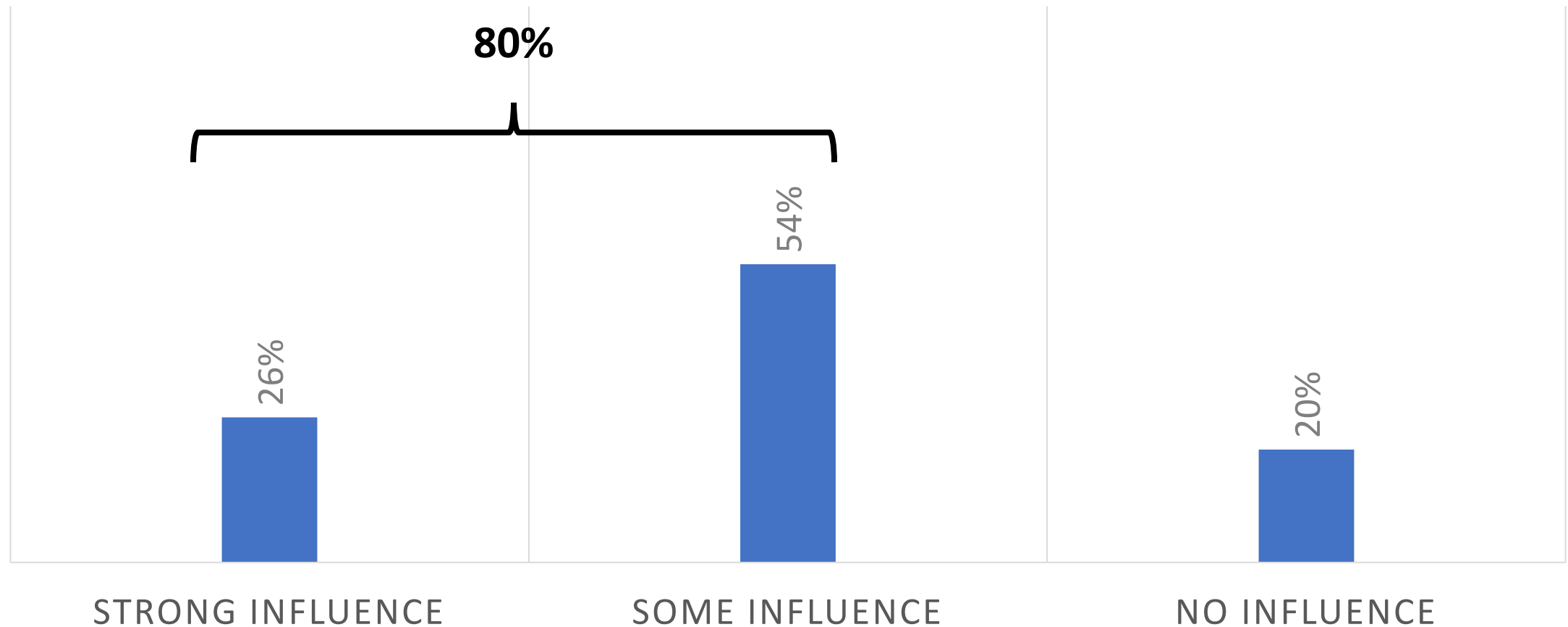
# Bringing things together



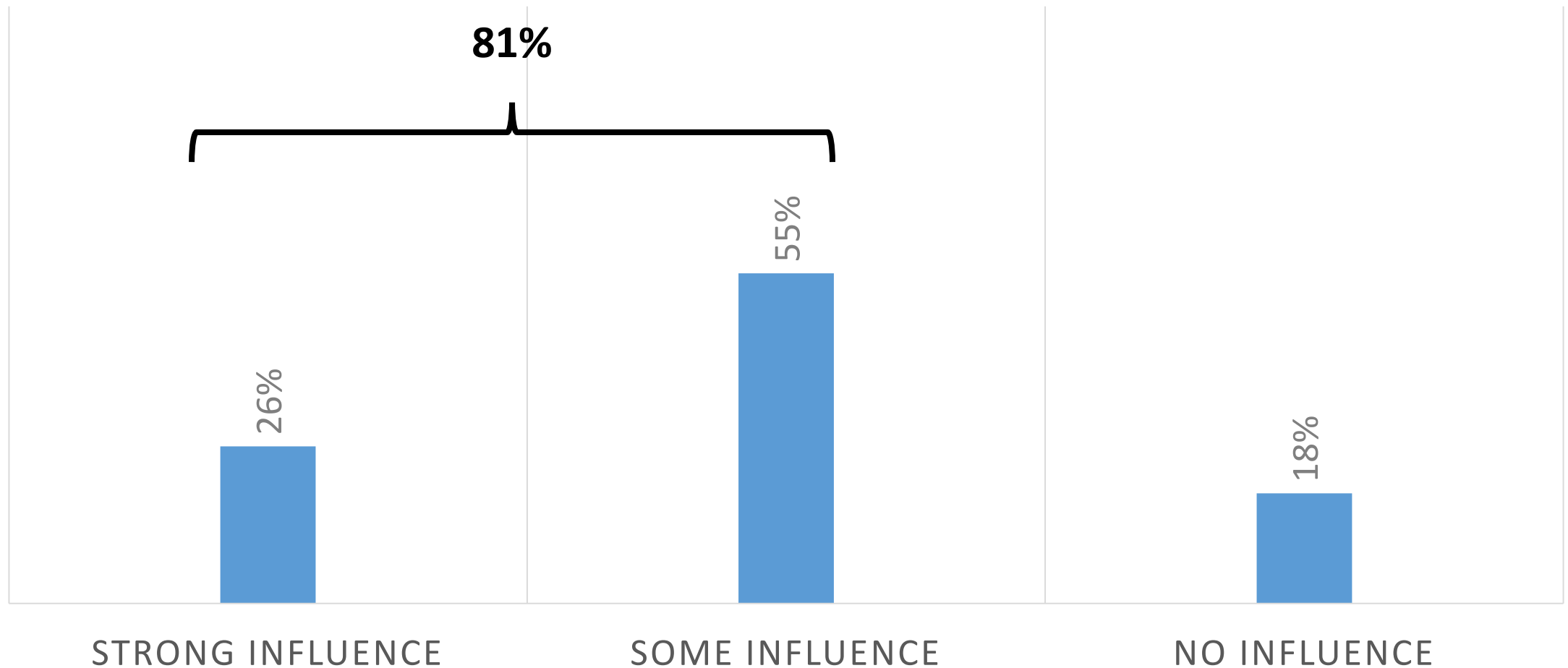
n = 40

Results: Impact and additionality

To what extent do you think your engagement with programs has influenced your practices.



To what extent do you think your engagement with programs has influenced your practices.



**United States**

**N = 38**

# Examples of influence - Canada

“[We] created more green space for native species, deferred harvests to allow birds to nest, and planted shelterbelt for shrike habitat, while providing future windbreak for hay-land.”

“I think of my influence on SAR on a regular basis; whereas before, it wasn't really on my radar.”

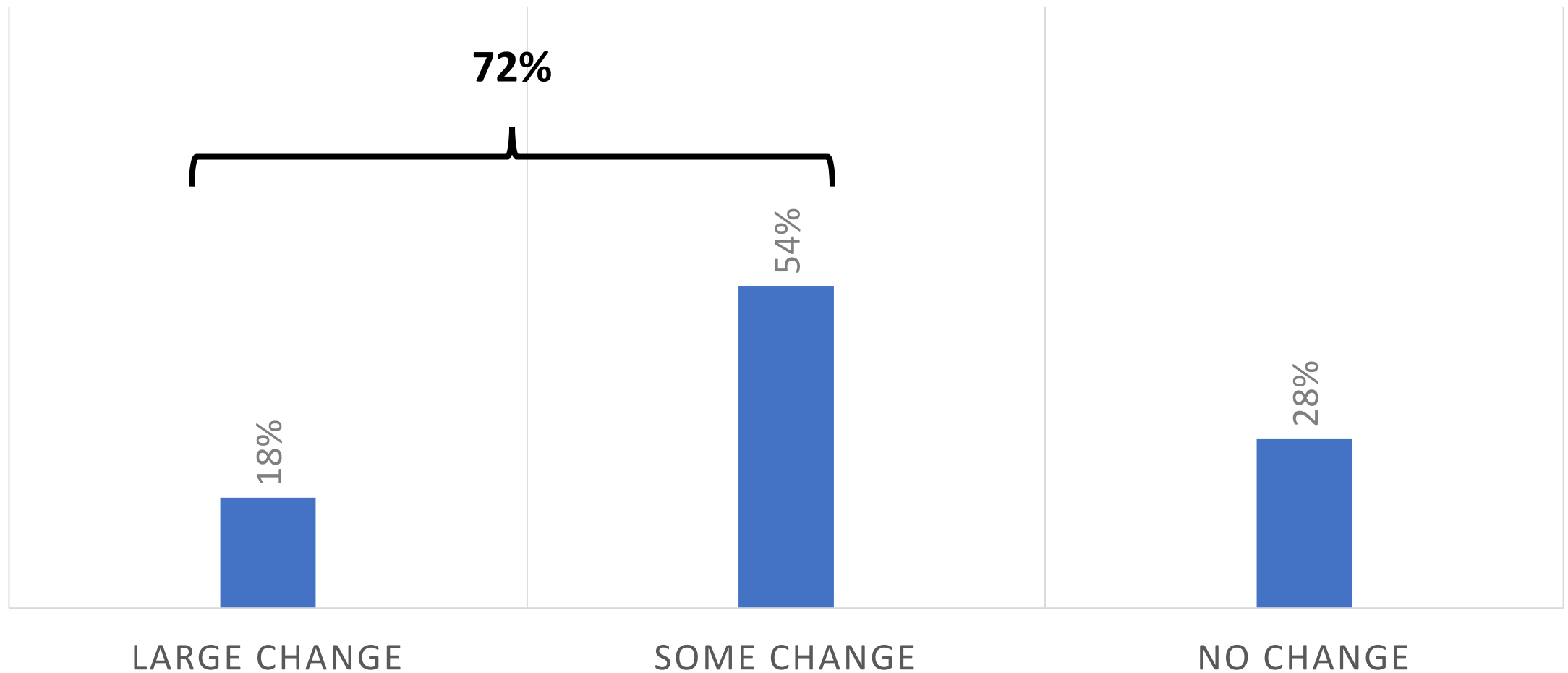
“We have become more aware of other species that use the same environment as our cattle and realize that they need to be considered when making management decisions.”

# Examples of influence - US

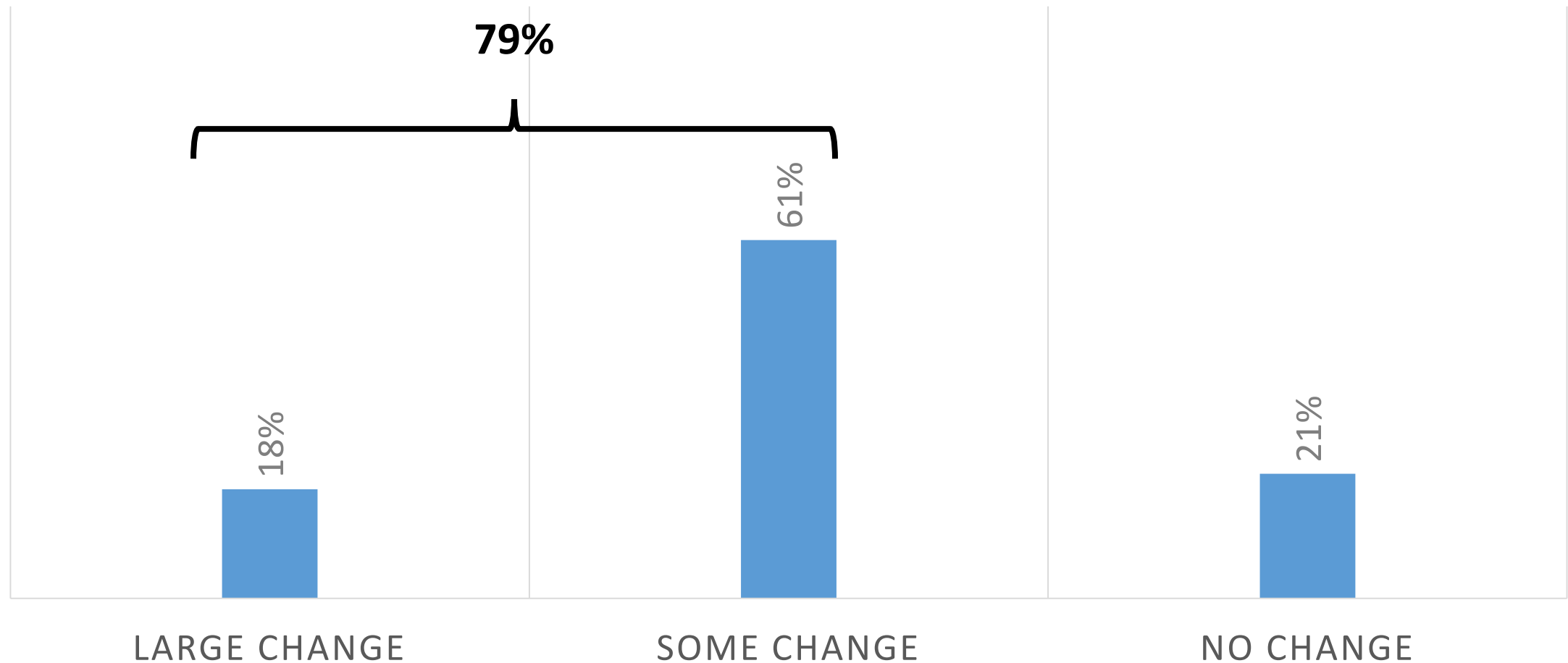
“Mostly there has been science and collaboration backing up my management practices.”

“Financial assistance made conversion of crop ground to grassland on an accelerated schedule..”

To what extent do you think your engagement with programs has changed the way that you view the environmental value of your farm or ranch.



To what extent do you think your engagement with programs has changed the way that you view the environmental value of your farm or ranch.



**United States**

N =



# Examples of perspective change - Canada

“It has validated our practices and encouraged us to continue to think of the larger picture in that we are not just raising beef, but managing the interaction between the air, soil, water and biodiversity on our operation. It also gives credibility to our efforts to share our ranch story with a wider audience via social media.”

“I truly feel excited when I see SAR flourishing on my farm. Before, I wouldn't have even recognized some of them.”

# Examples of perspective change - US

“Understanding our landscape situation within the glaciated plains has helped us understand our critical role in community based conservation.”

“It has made me more aware of how important the environmental concerns are.”

Thank you! Questions?

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