

On the Death Penalty: **Voices from Missouri's African American Community**

A Collaboration between the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) & the National Black Caucus of States Institute (NBCSI)

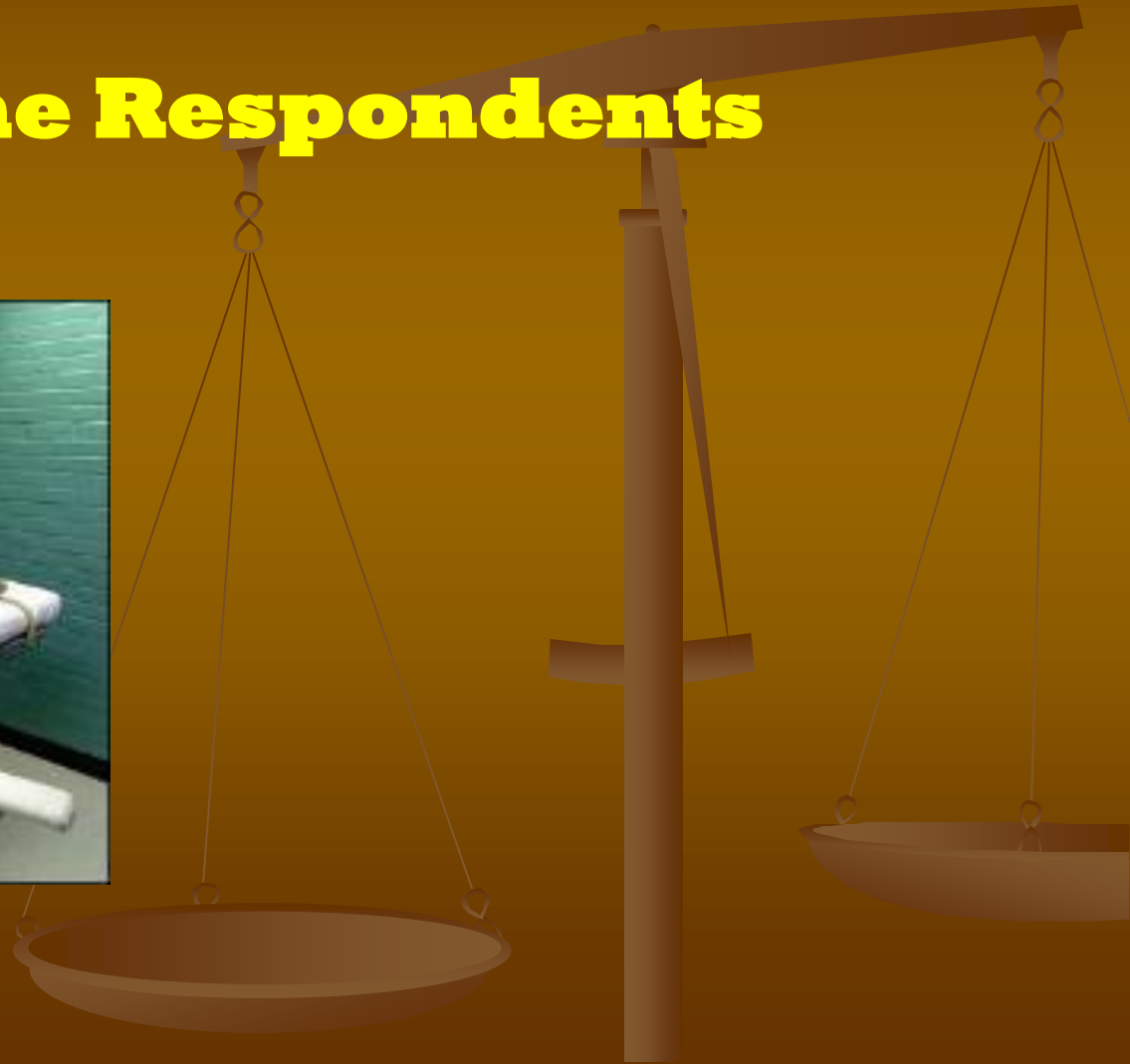


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About the Respondents



Breakdown of Geographical Charts

- **ST. LOUIS**

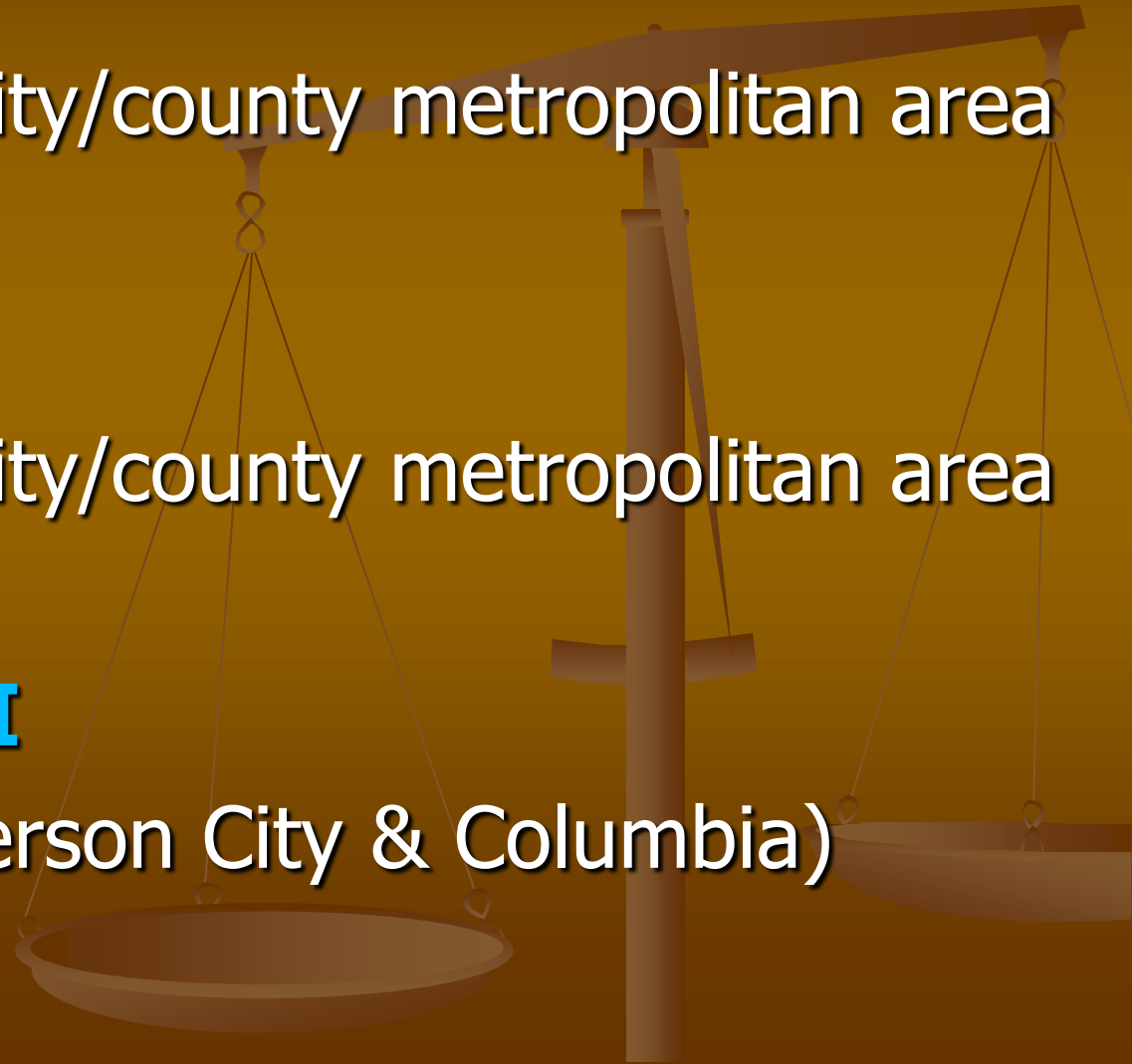
Represents the city/county metropolitan area

- **KANSAS CITY**

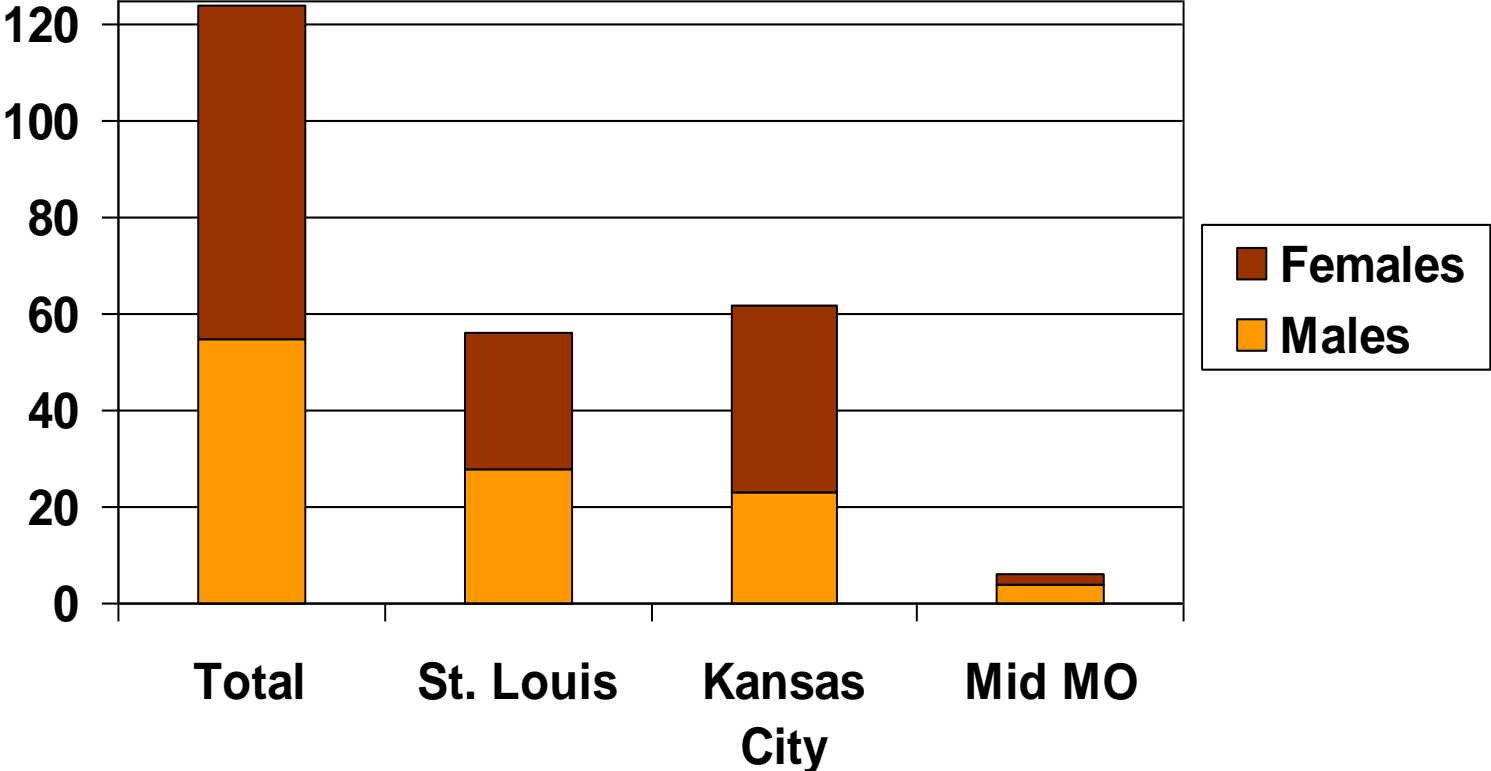
Represents the city/county metropolitan area

- **MID MISSOURI**

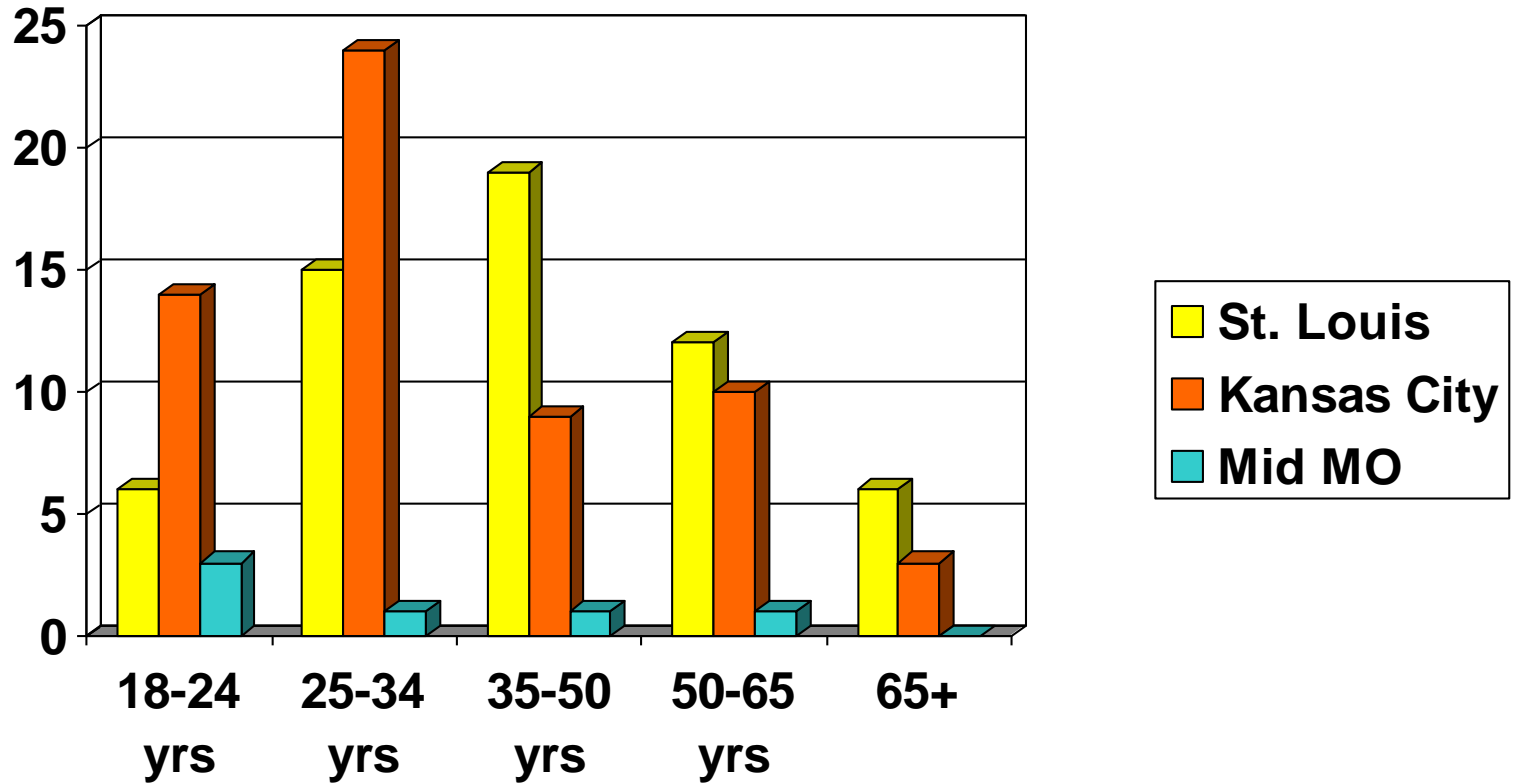
Represents (Jefferson City & Columbia)



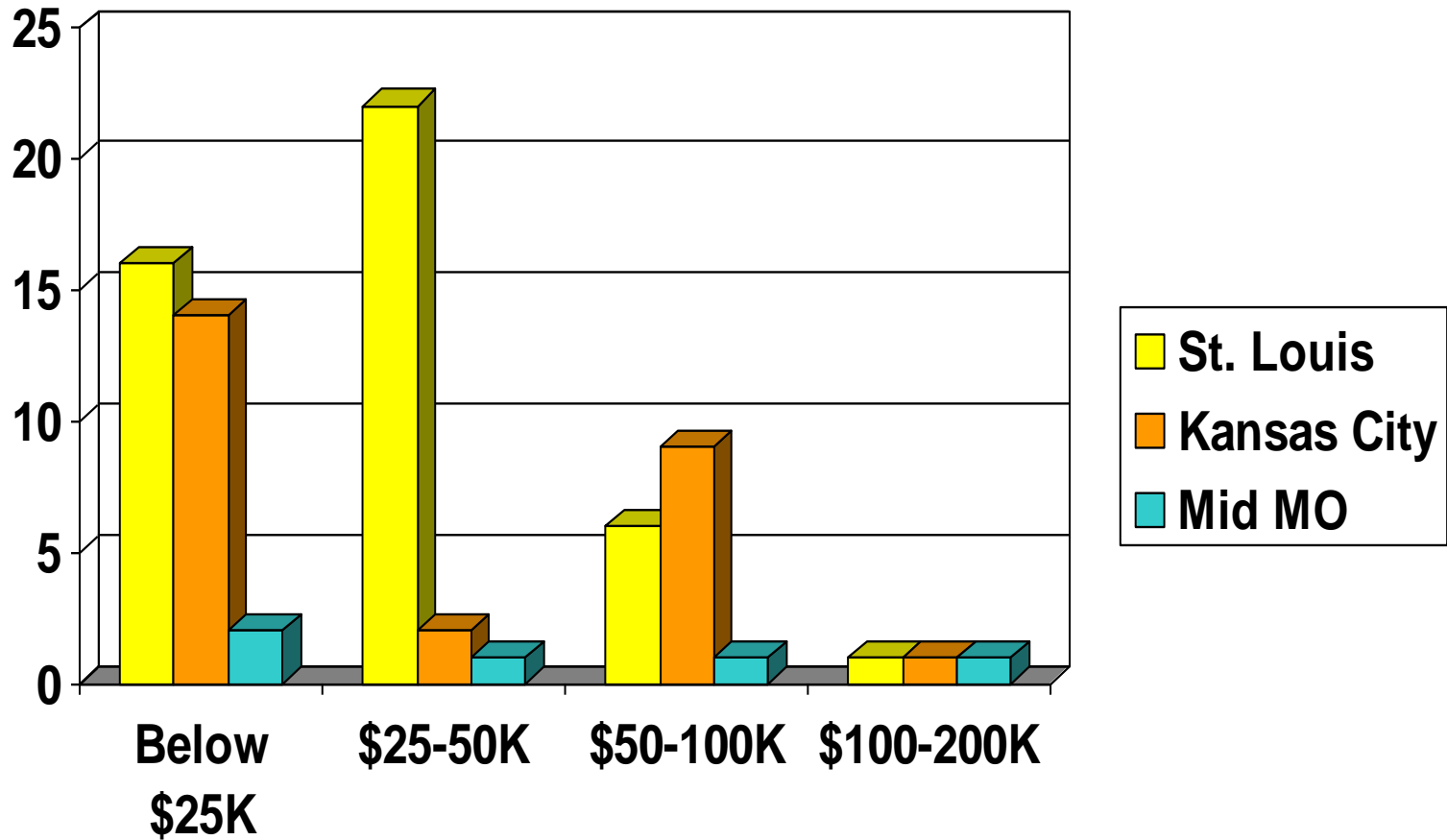
Gender of Interviewees



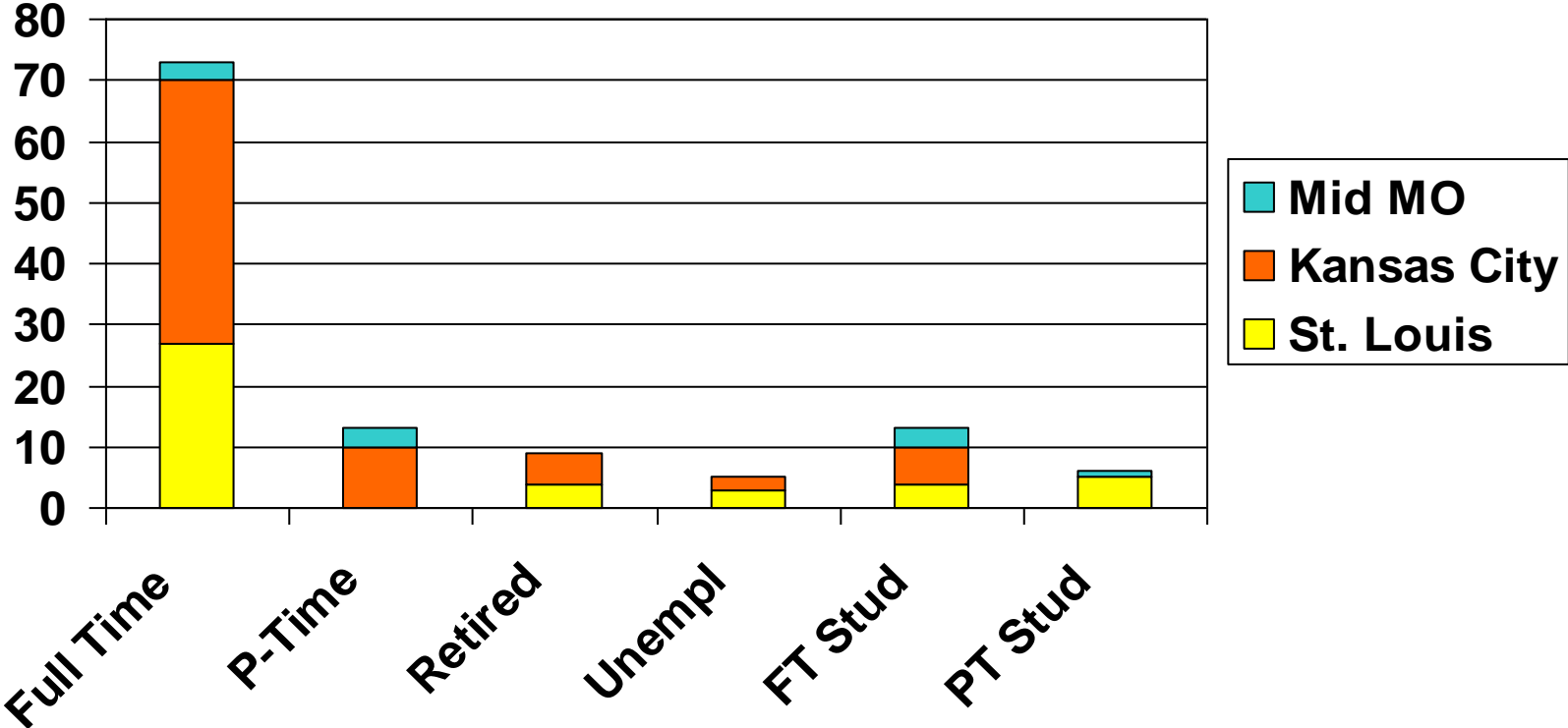
Age Categories of Interviewees



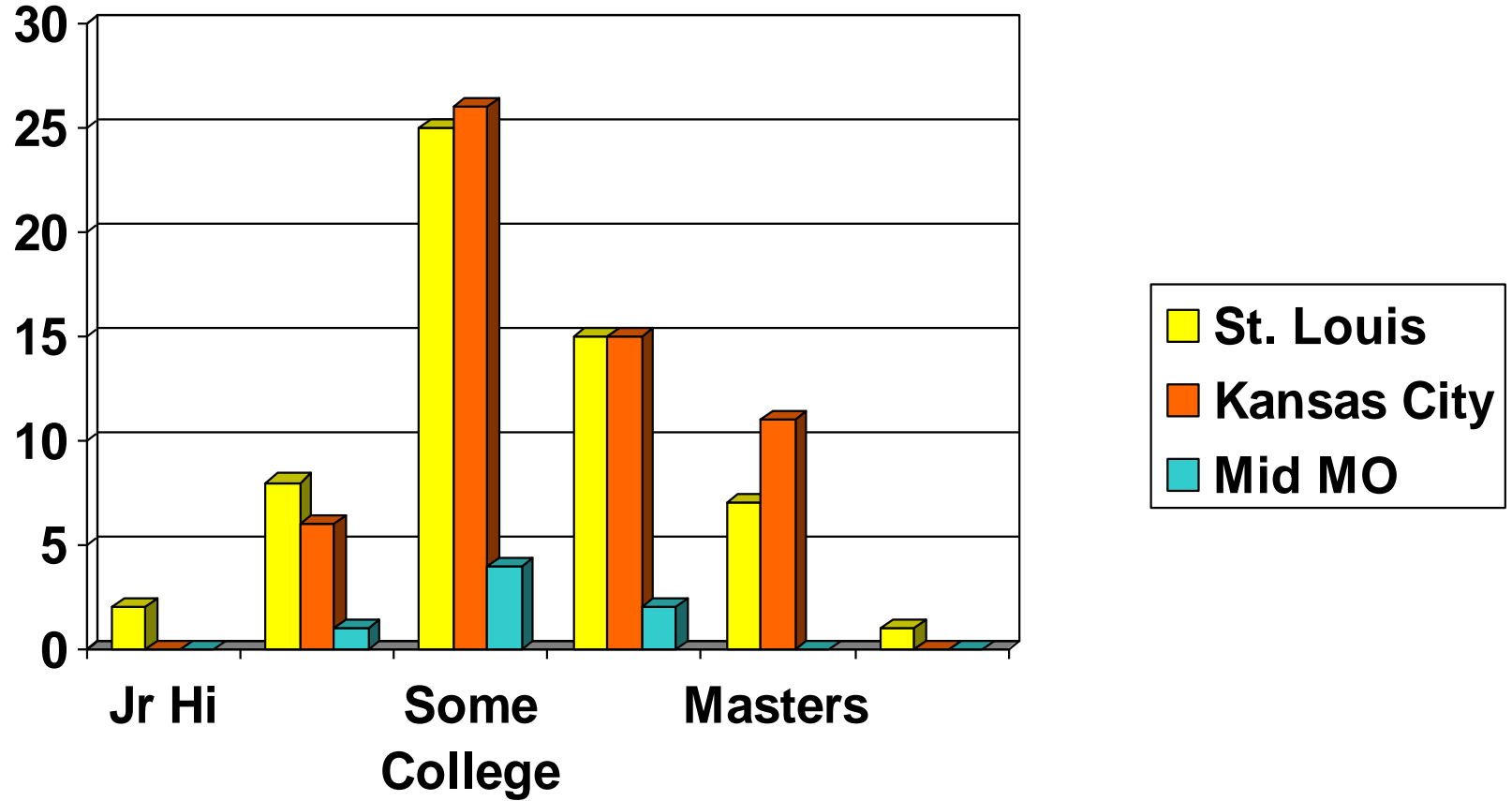
Income Categories of Interviewees



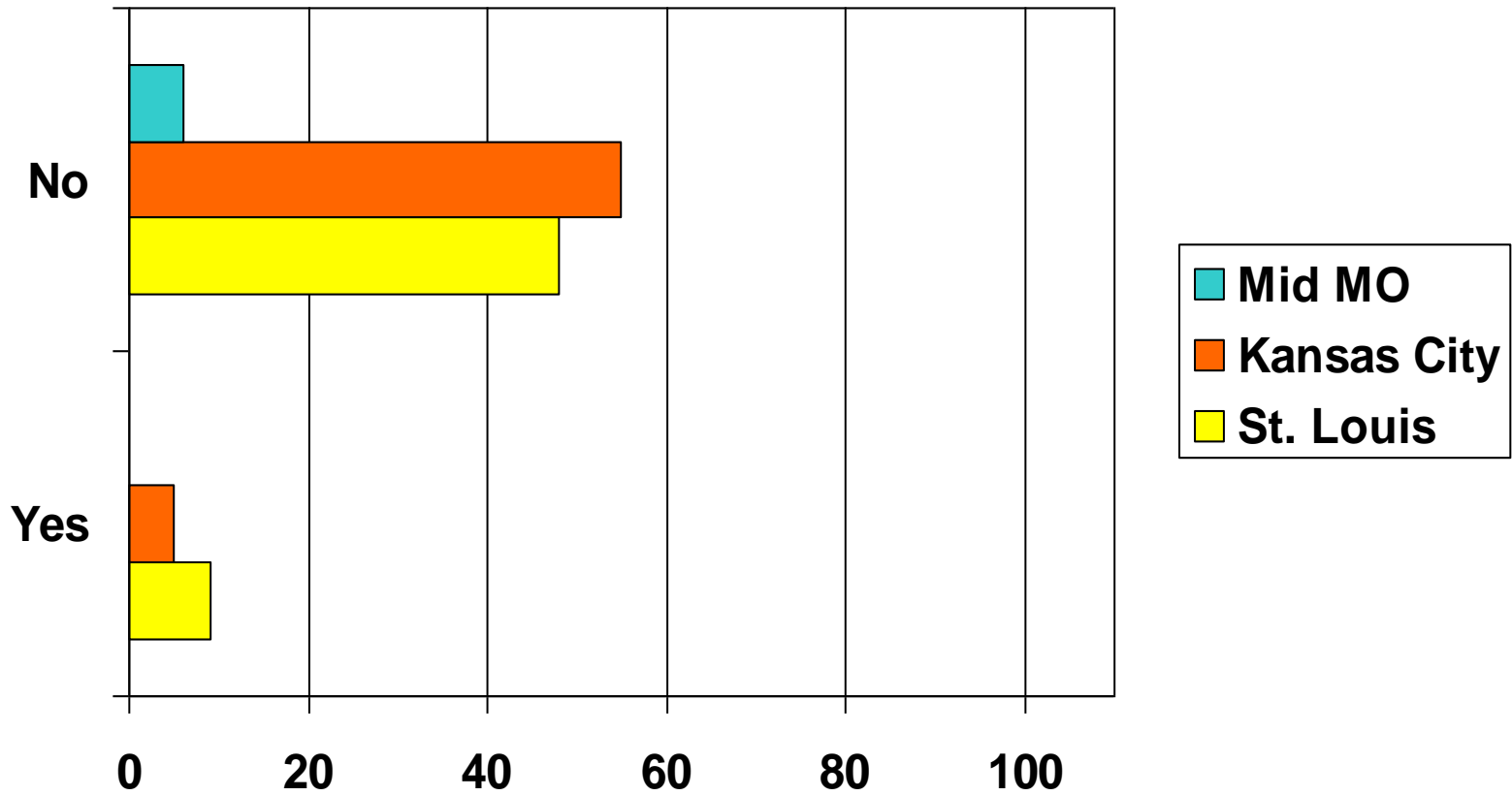
Work and School Status of Interviewees



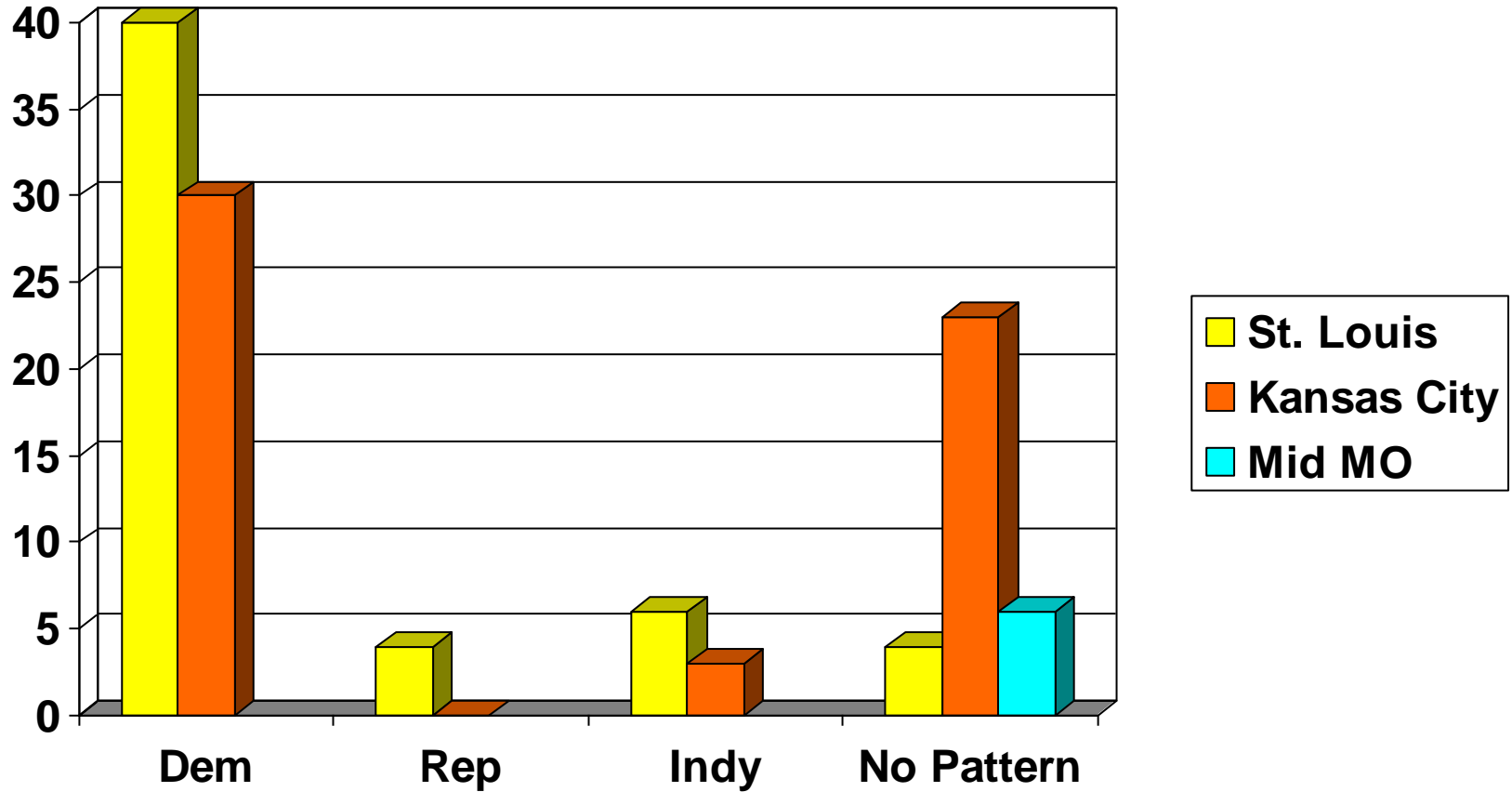
Education Status of Interviewees



Military Service of Interviewees



Voting Tendencies of Interviewees



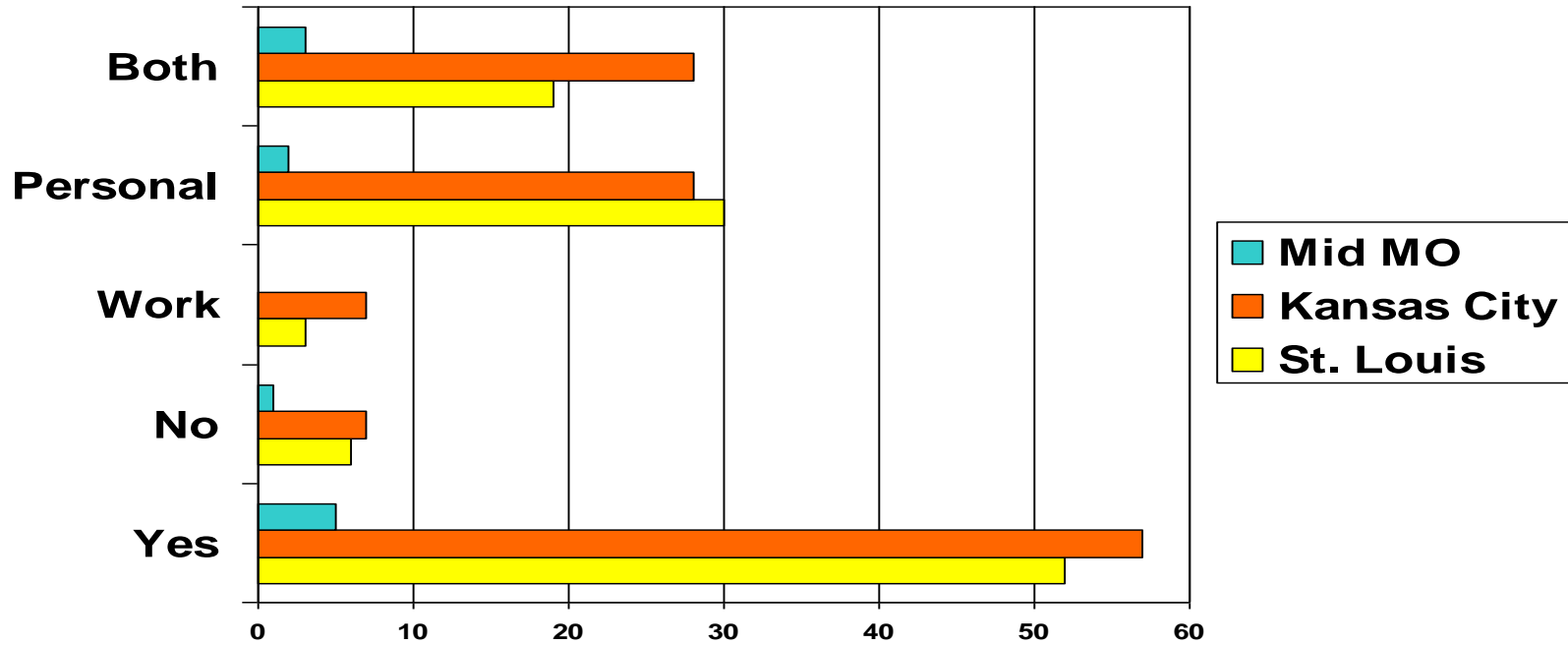
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Relationship to Law & Justice Issues

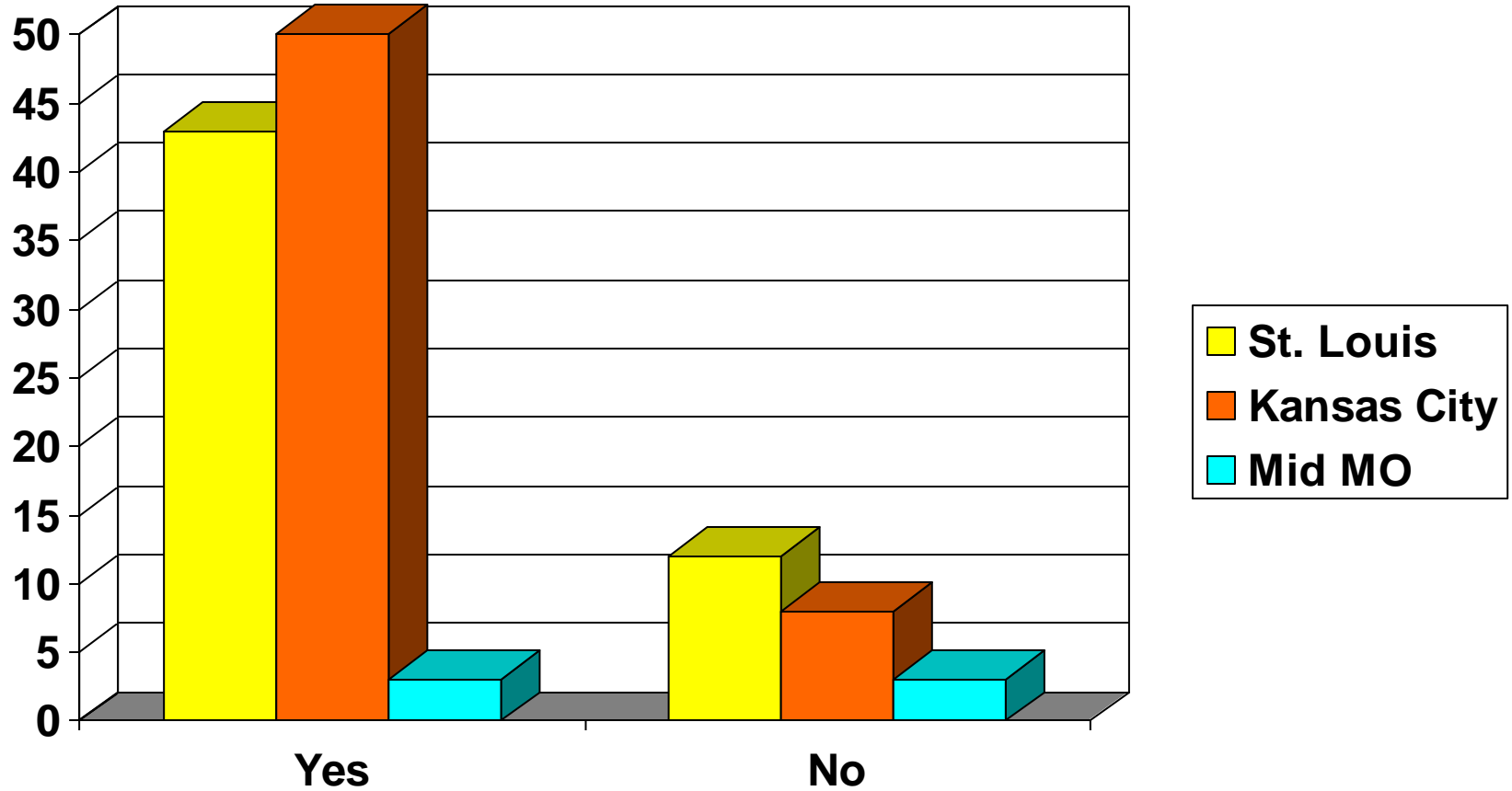


Time Spent Considering Issues Related to Law & Justice

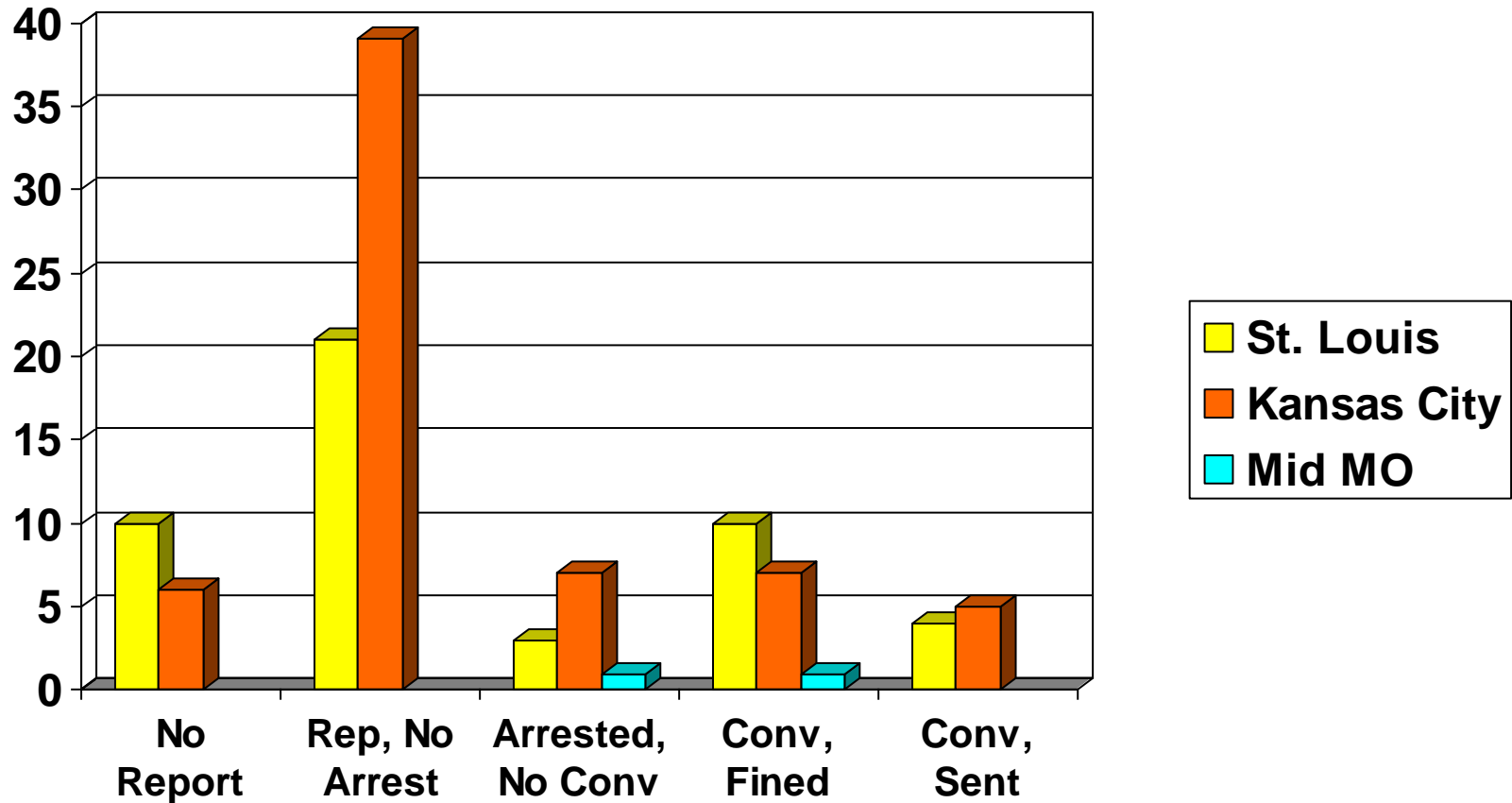


90% spent time in a typical week considering the issues

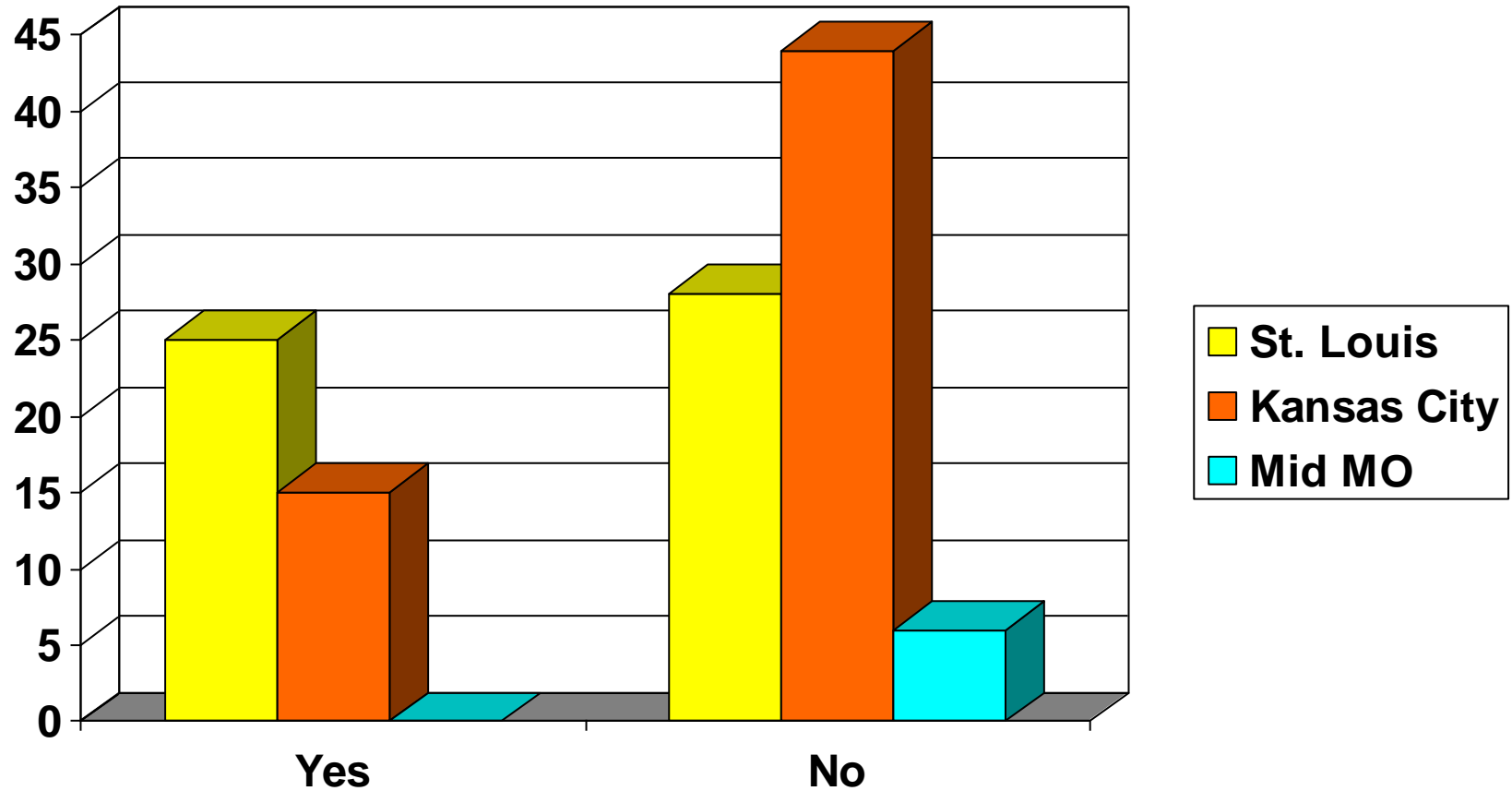
Interviewee and/or Family Members who Were Victims of Crime



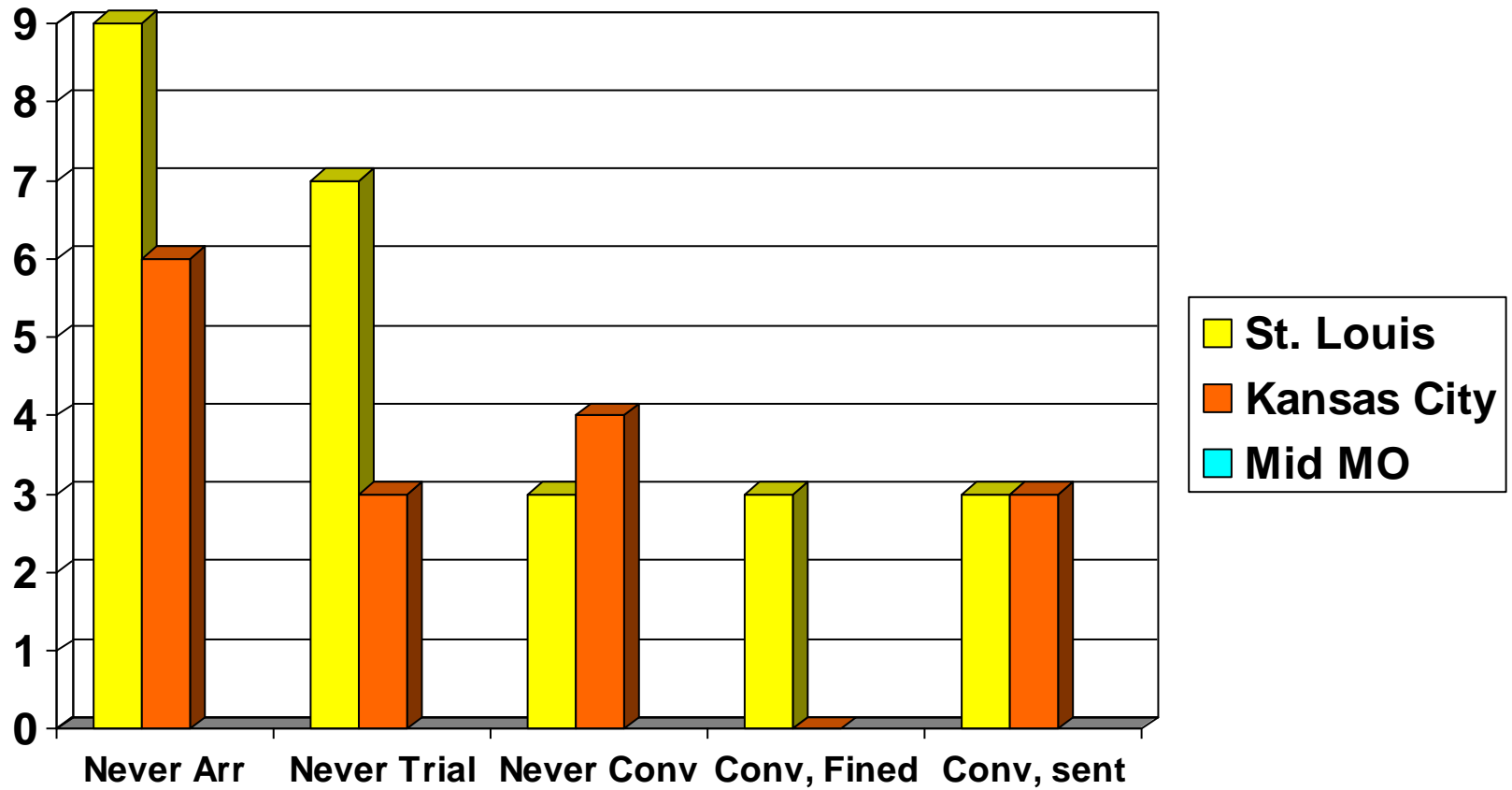
Disposition of Crime Against Those Victims



Interviewee and/or Family Members Who Were Falsely Accused of Committing a Crime



Disposition of Those False Accusations



Follow media coverage on the death penalty

- 44% follow **sometimes**
- 24% follow **usually**
- 20% follow **infrequently, rarely, never**
- 12% follow **always**

Attention to coverage based upon the following:

- **Circumstances of the case**
- **Well-known or highly publicized case**
- **Child was involved**
- **Case happened locally**
- **Personal connection to the case**

Are the Interviewee's Views on the Death Penalty Different
Today than 10 Years Ago?

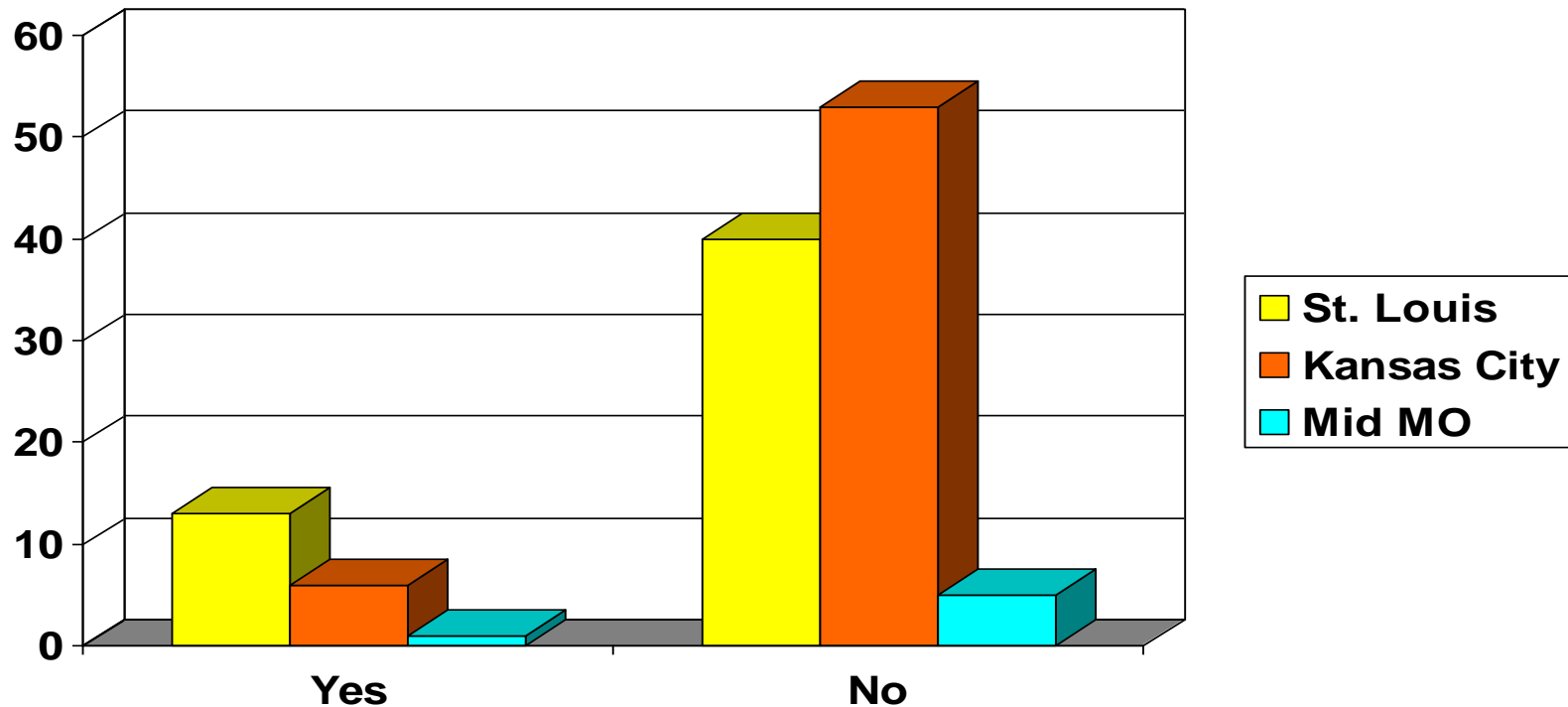
● **NO**

By almost 2 to 1 ratio

Maturity

Learning about the issues

Did the Interviewee Know a Person Convicted of Capital Punishment or on Death Row



83 % did NOT professionally or personally know anyone

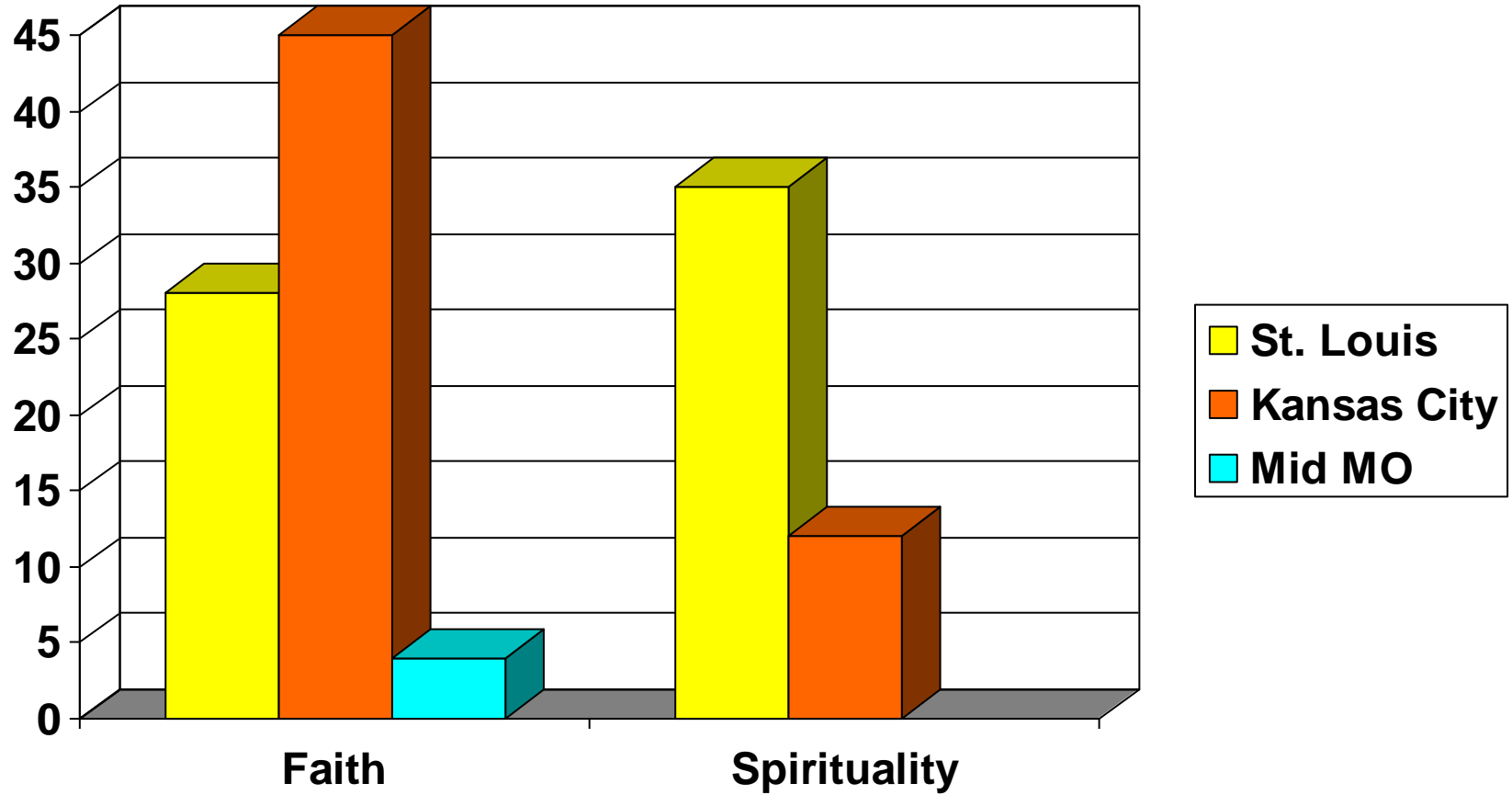
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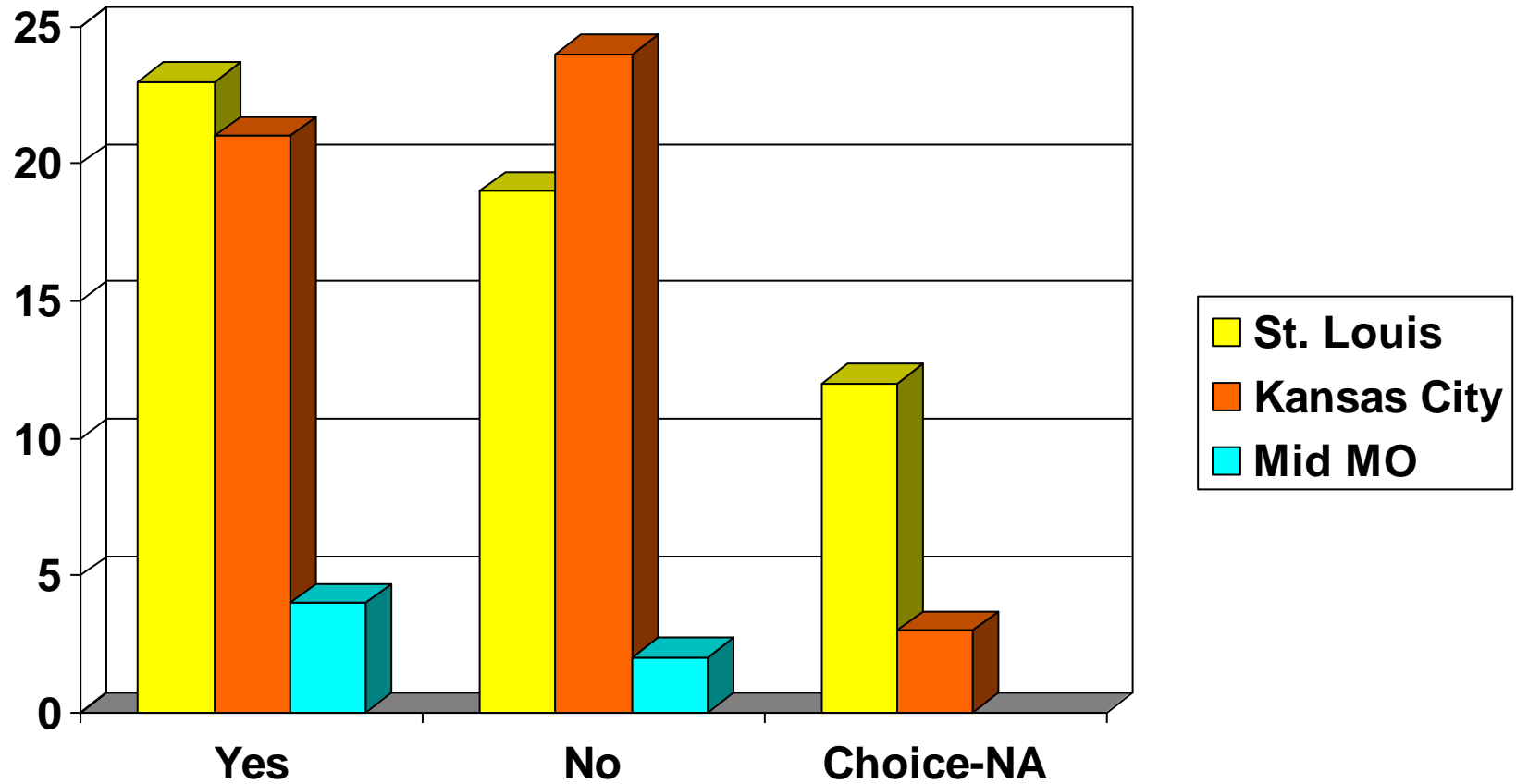
About the Faith, Spiritual & Philosophical Systems



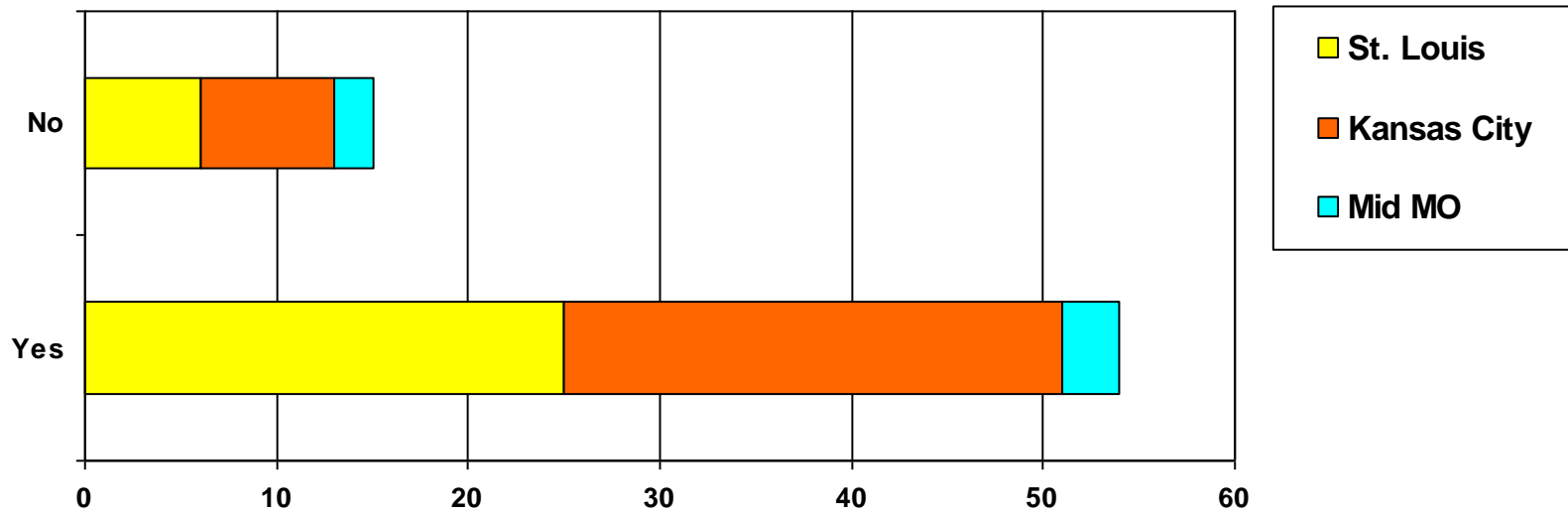
Faith and Spiritual Identification of Interviewee



Who Participates in a Religious Organization, Congregation or Temple



Who Regularly Attends a House of Worship

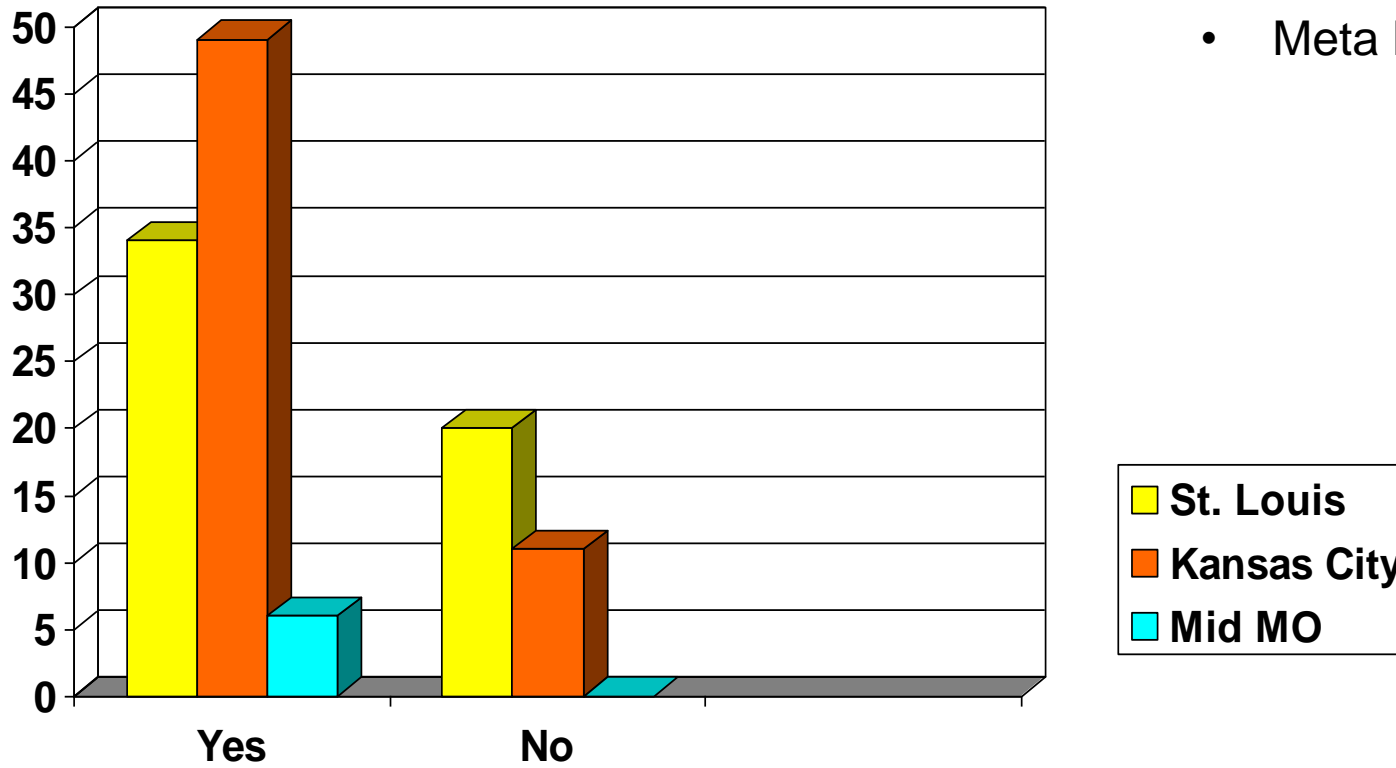


80% of the respondents indicated their faith leader didn't talk about the death penalty

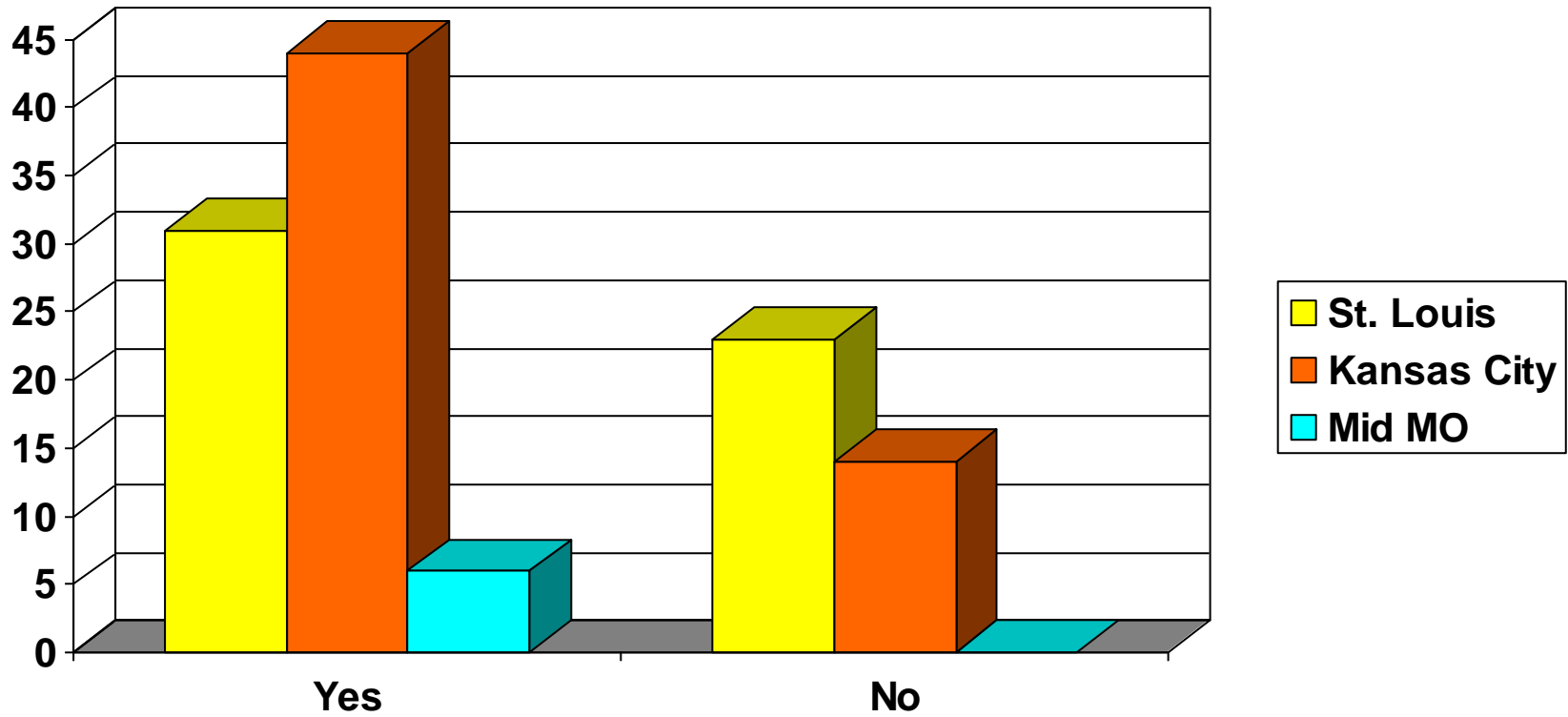
83% of the respondents indicated that no group in the church discussed the issue

Who is Influenced by a Holy Book

- Bible
- Quran
- Meta Neter



Teachings That Frame Thinking of Interviewee



Influences on death penalty views

- **Faith System**
- **Education**
- **Court System**
- **Government**
- **Family**
- **Media**
- **Friends**
- **Spiritual Leaders**
- **Constitution**
- **Political Leaders**
- **Co-workers**

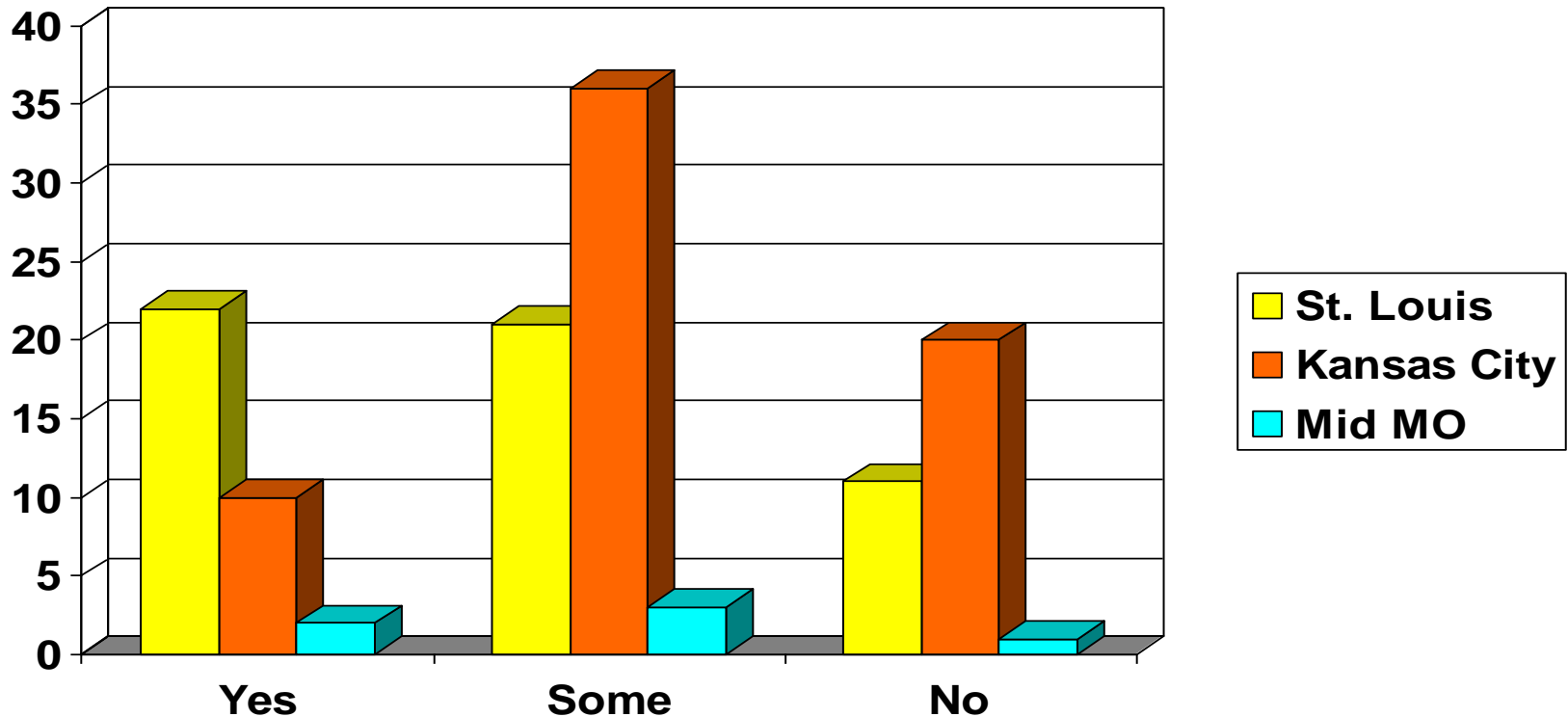
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About Electoral Involvement



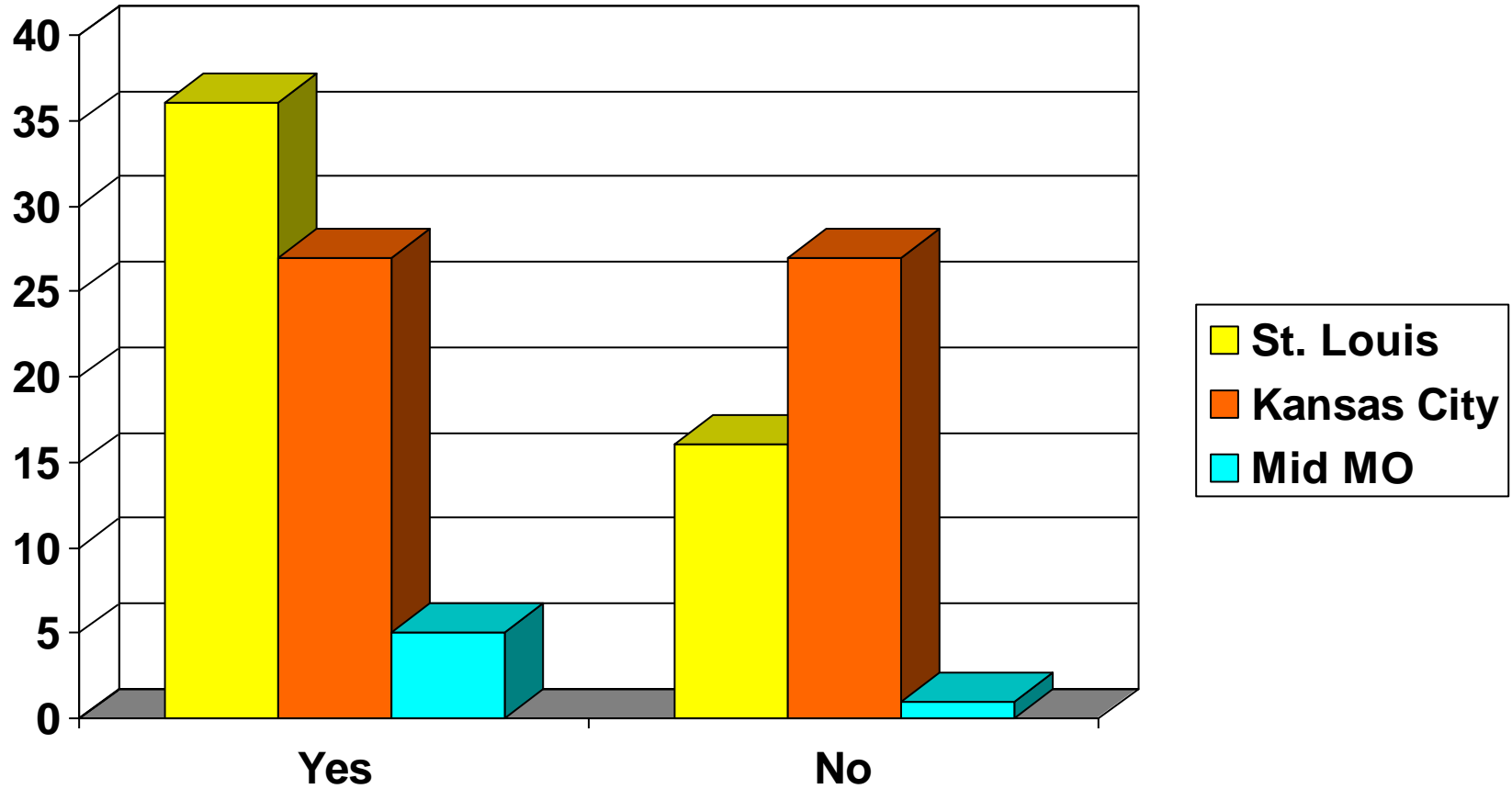
Activism in the Community



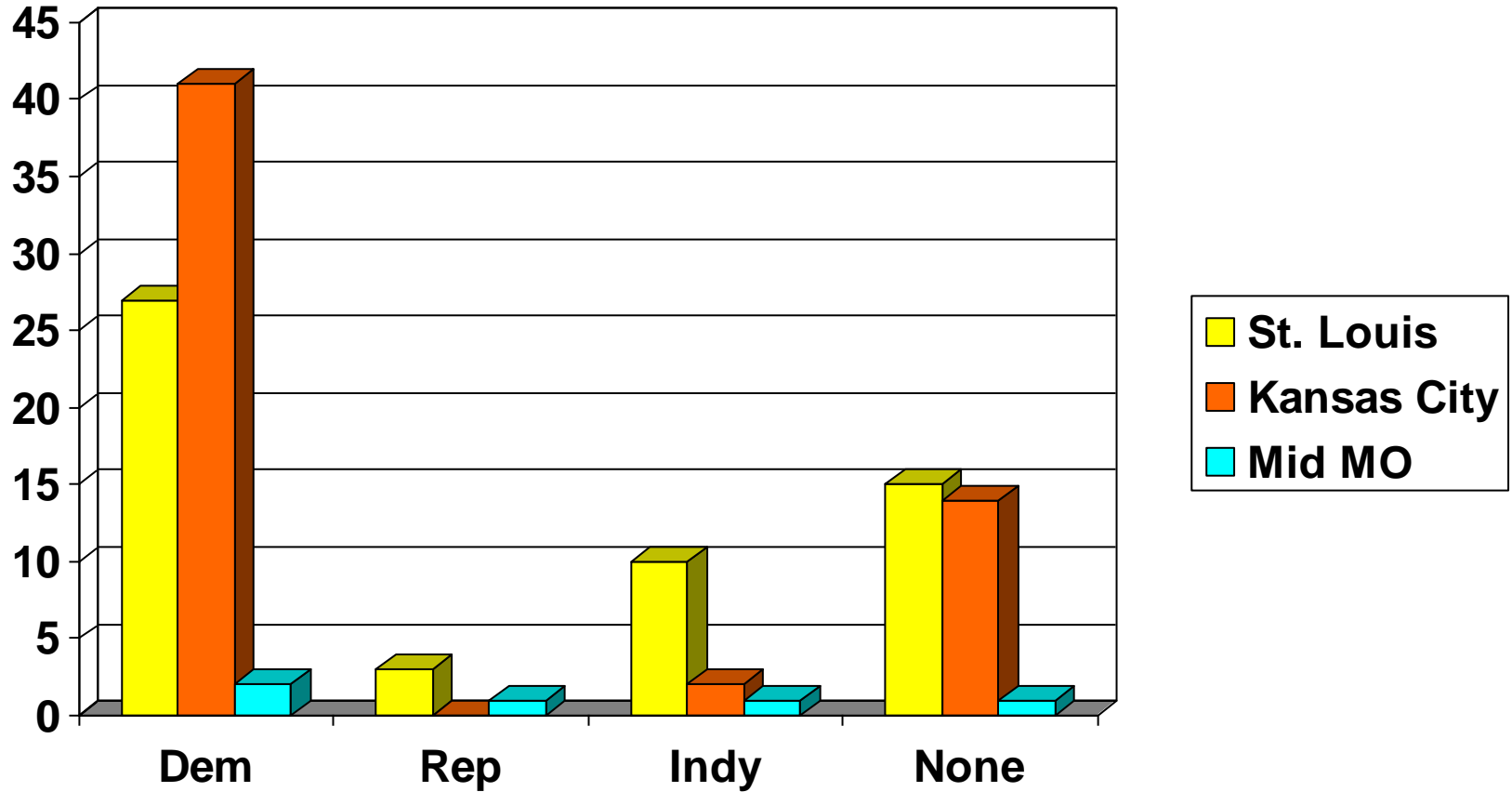
What kind of activities? Political campaigns, advocacy, lobbying events, forums, protests and contacting elected officials participate on boards, etc.

1. Campaigns 2. Forums 3. Advocacy 4. Elected Officials

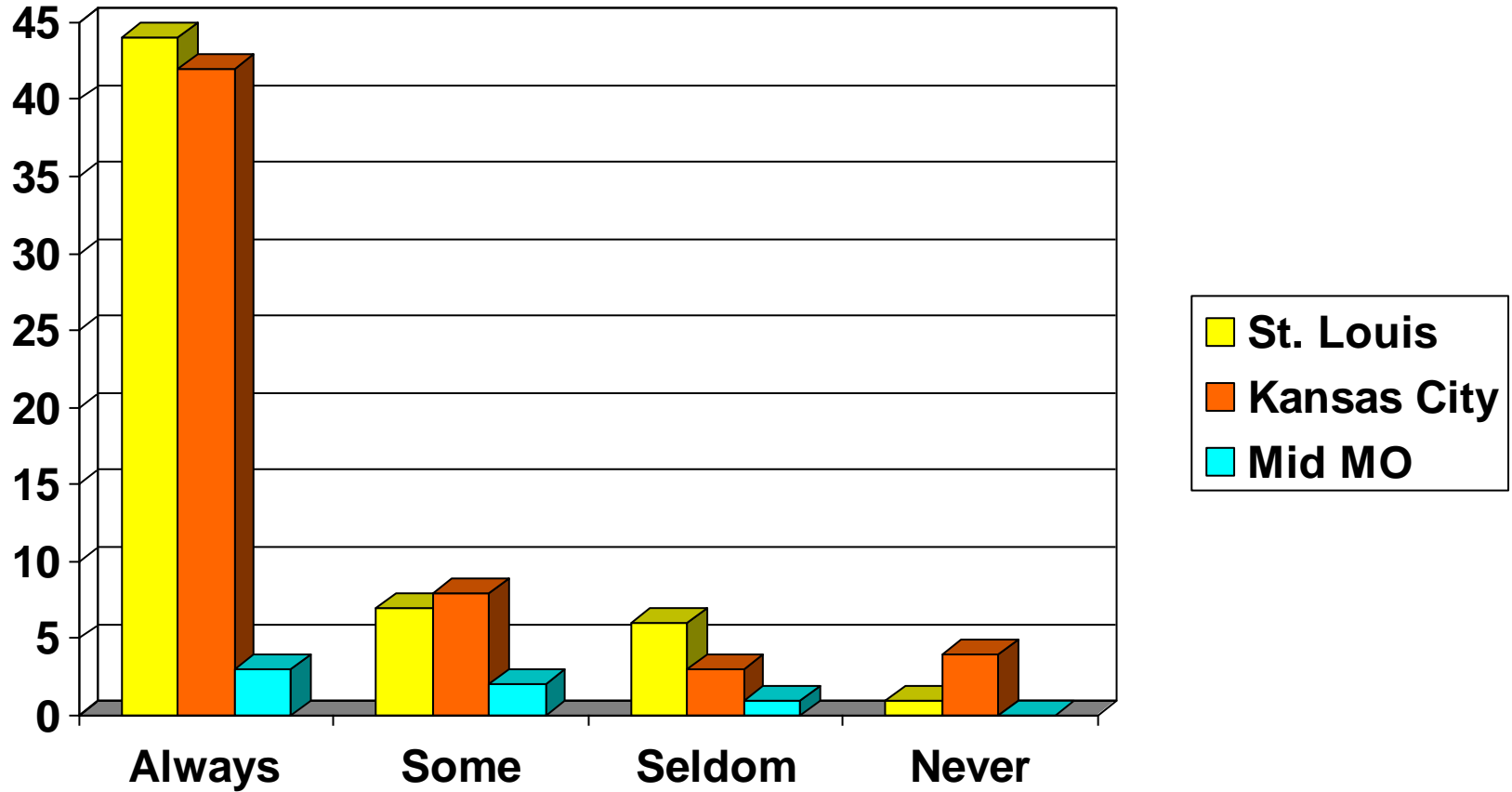
Involvement of Interviewees in Politics



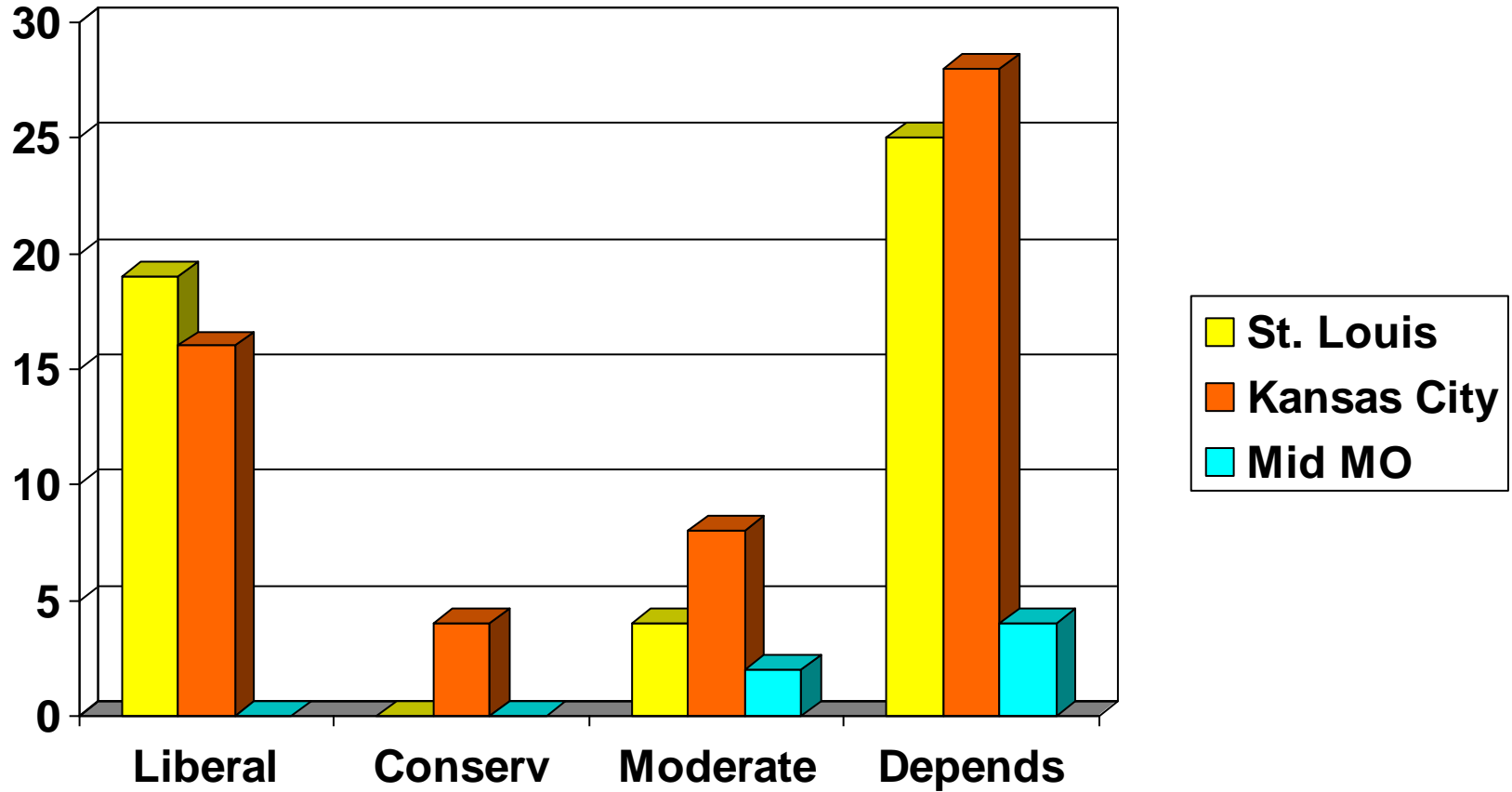
Party Affiliation of Interviewees



Frequency of Voting by Interviewees



How Interviewees Vote on Issues



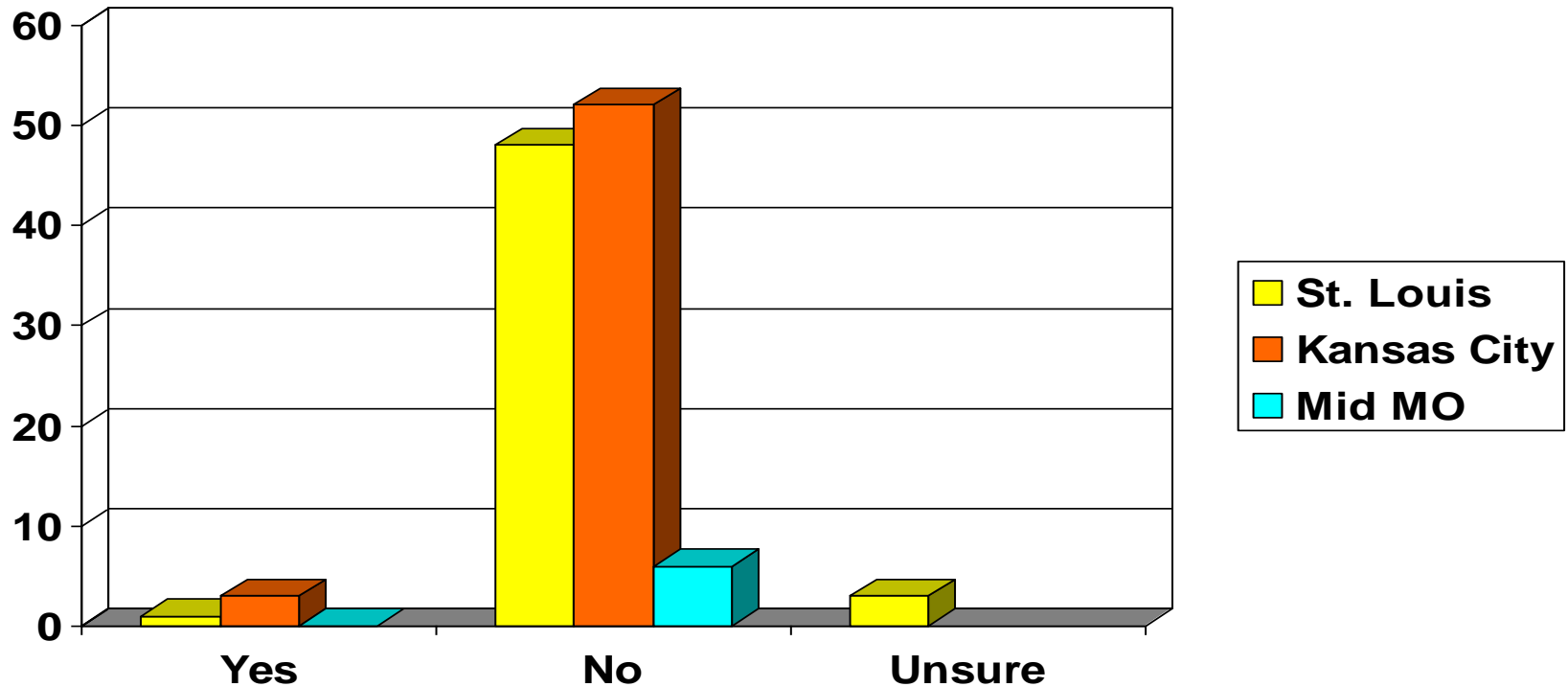
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Thoughts on Capital Punishment



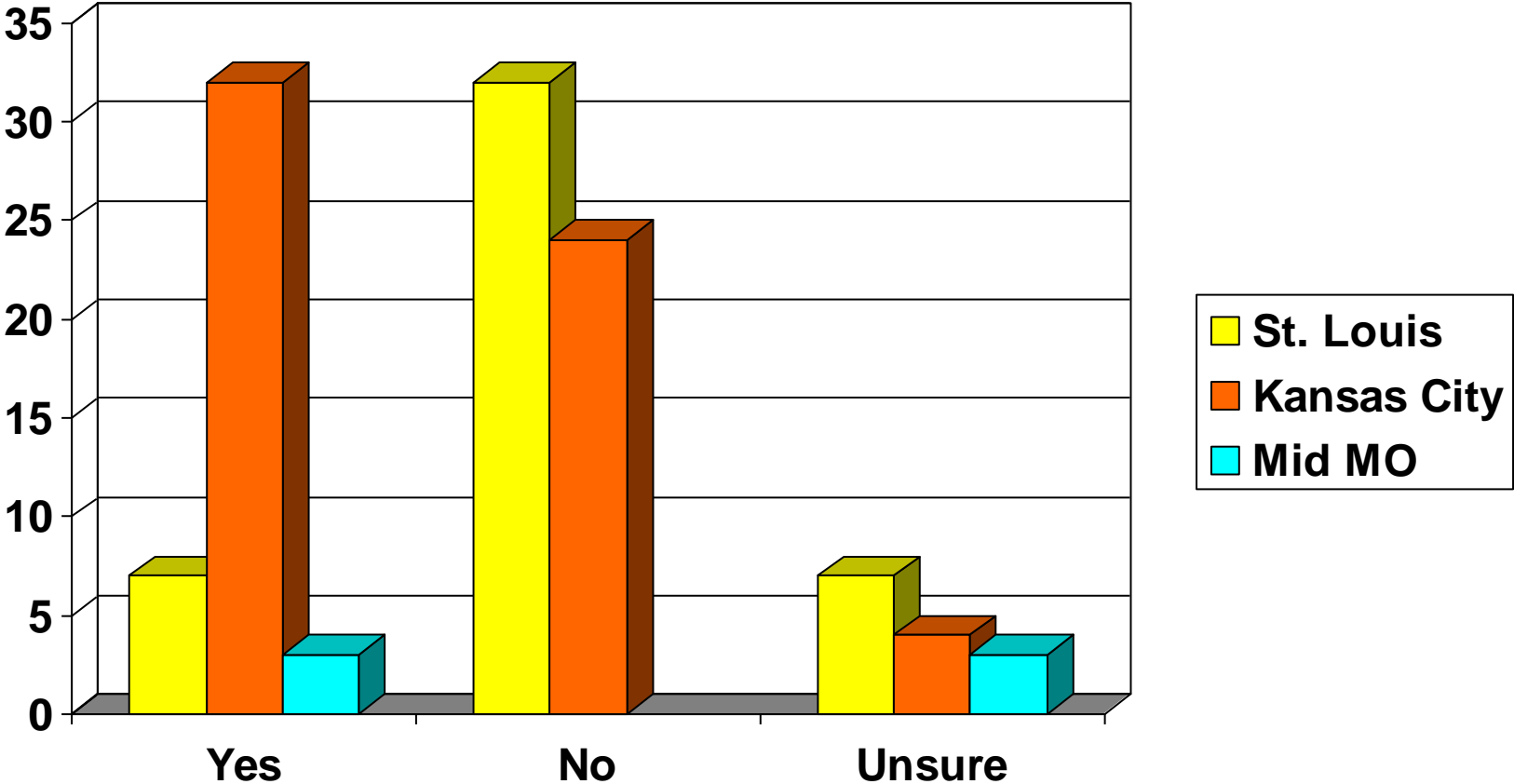
Belief of Interviewees that Death Penalty is Applied Fairly



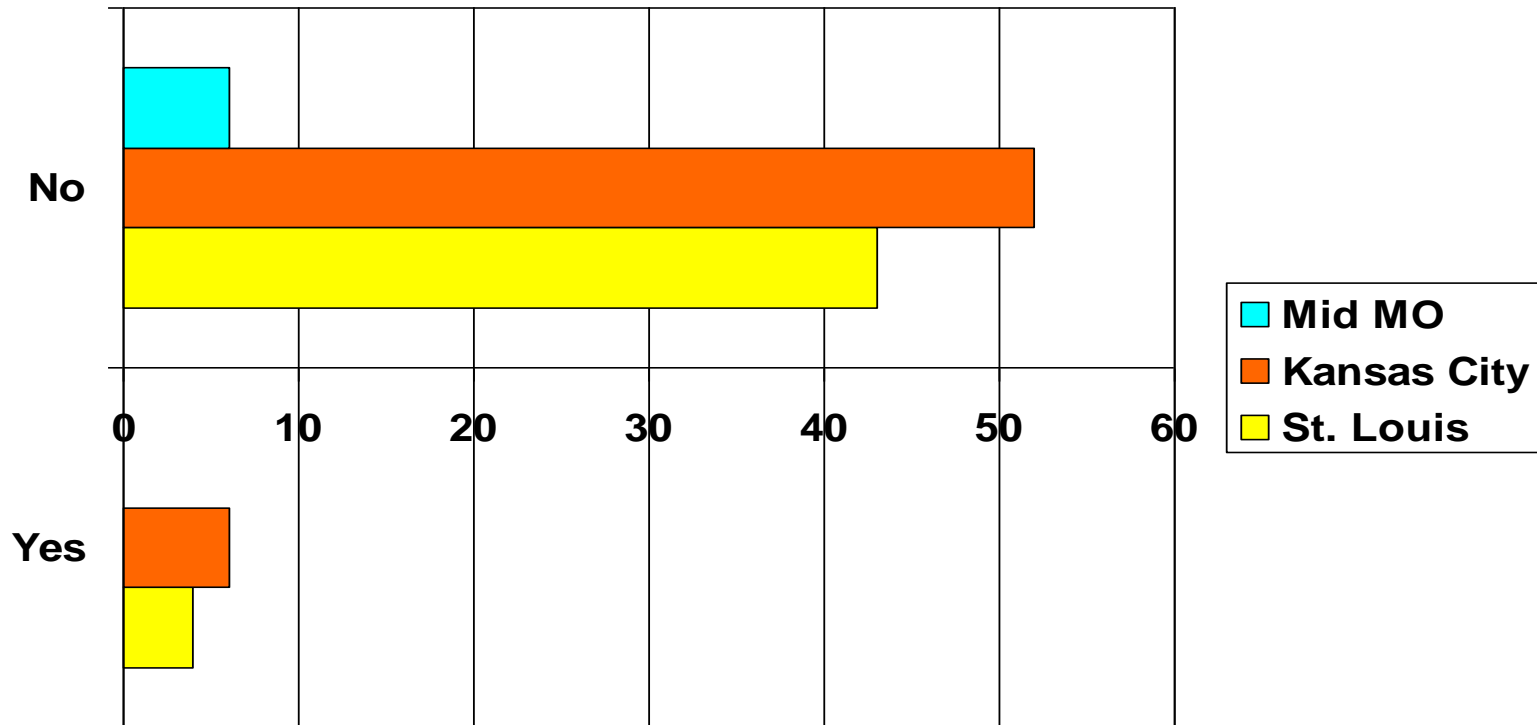
90% responded NO

Most of them cited reasons related to race & class/economic status

Interviewees Belief that Government has a Right to Kill?

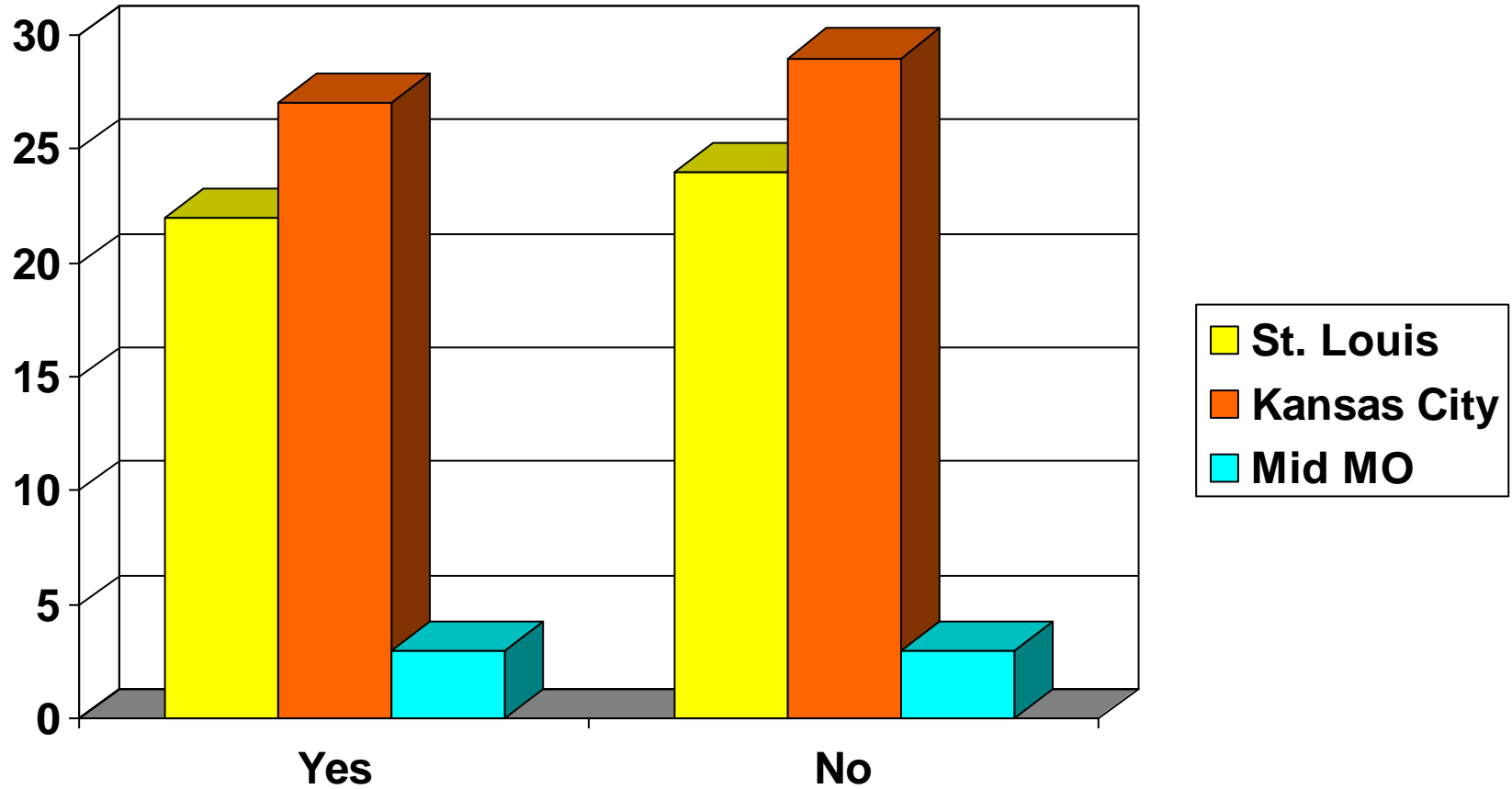


Interviewees who Believe the Death Penalty a Deterrent to Crime?

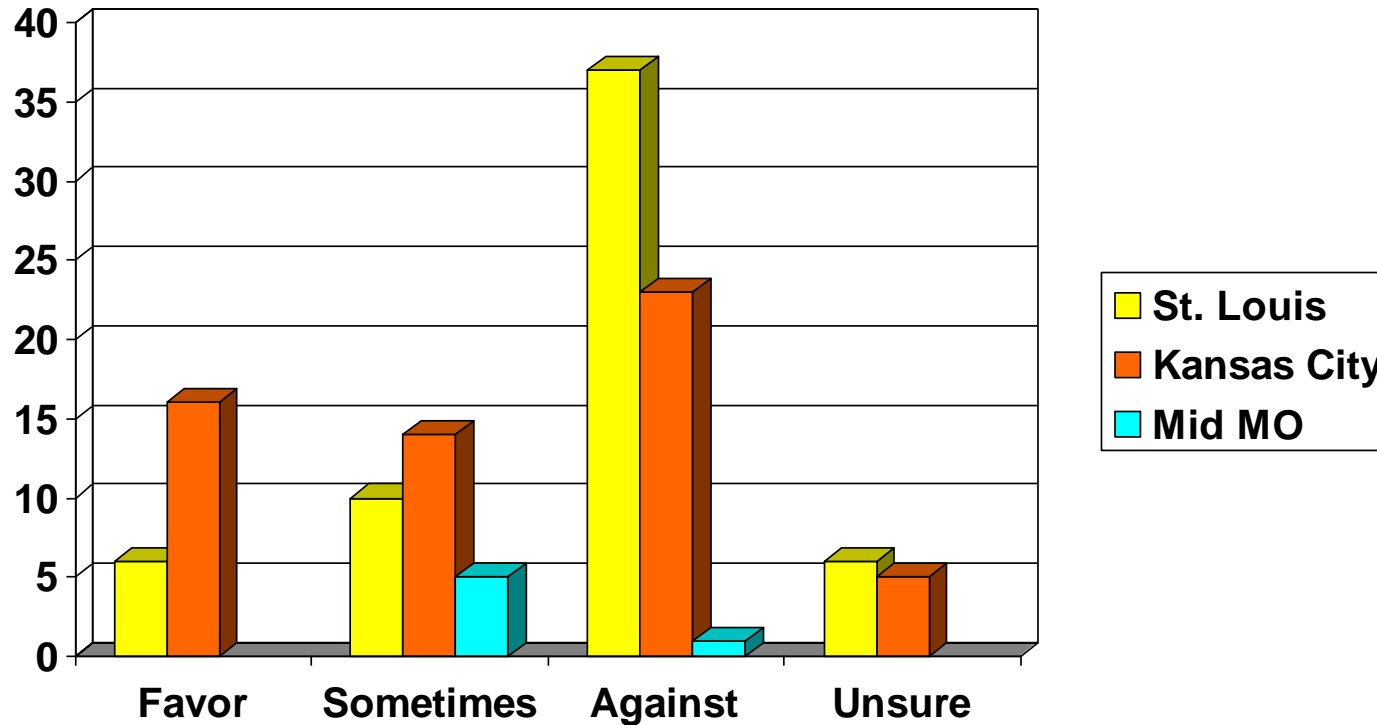


91% Said No

Interviewees Who Were Impacted by Forensic Technology On their View on the Death Penalty (Such As DNA)



Interviewees' Support of the Death Penalty



Favor: Nature of crimes; personal responsibility

Against: Unfairly applied based on race, class; belief system

Unsure: Complex issue; different situations

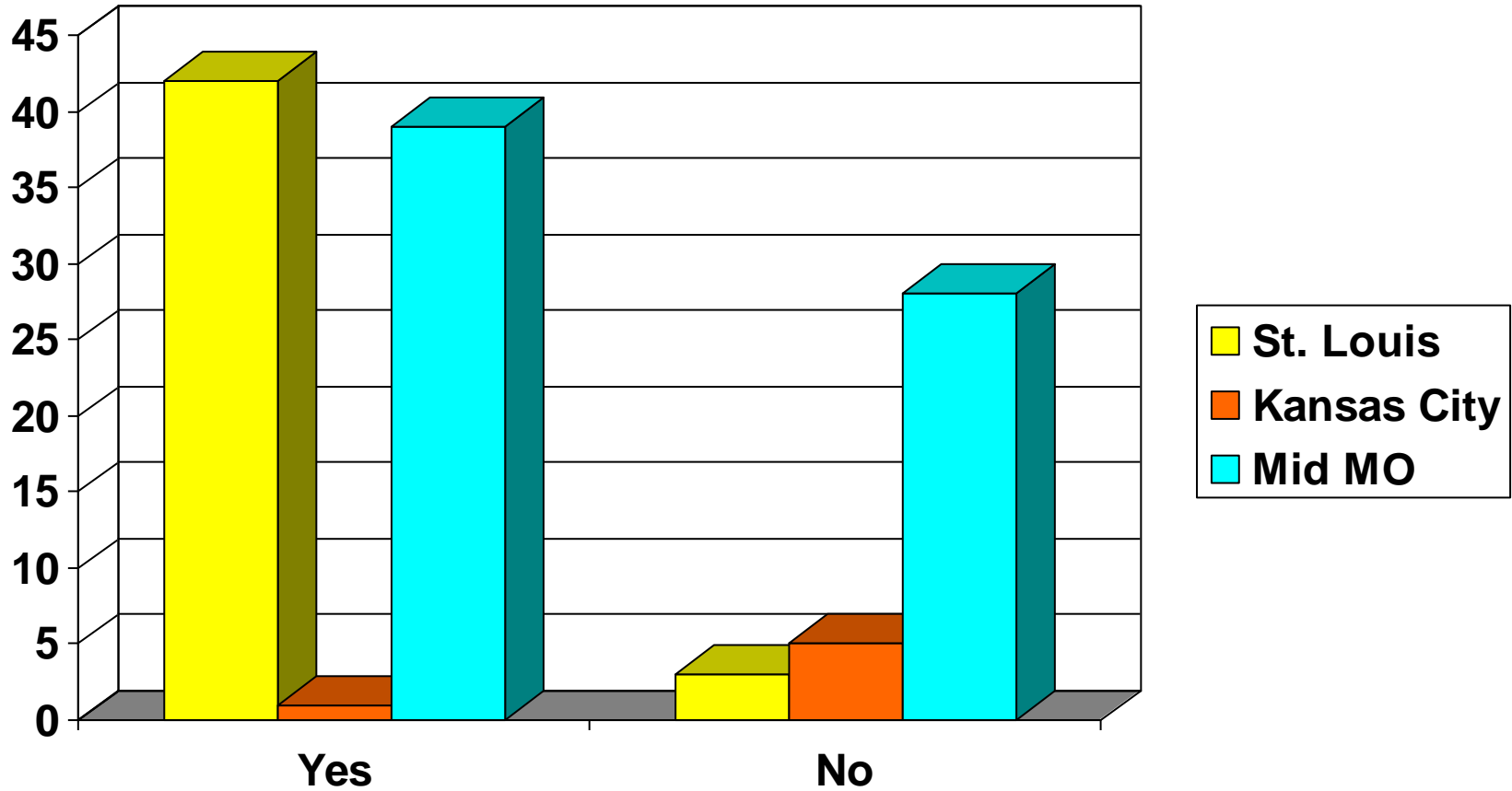
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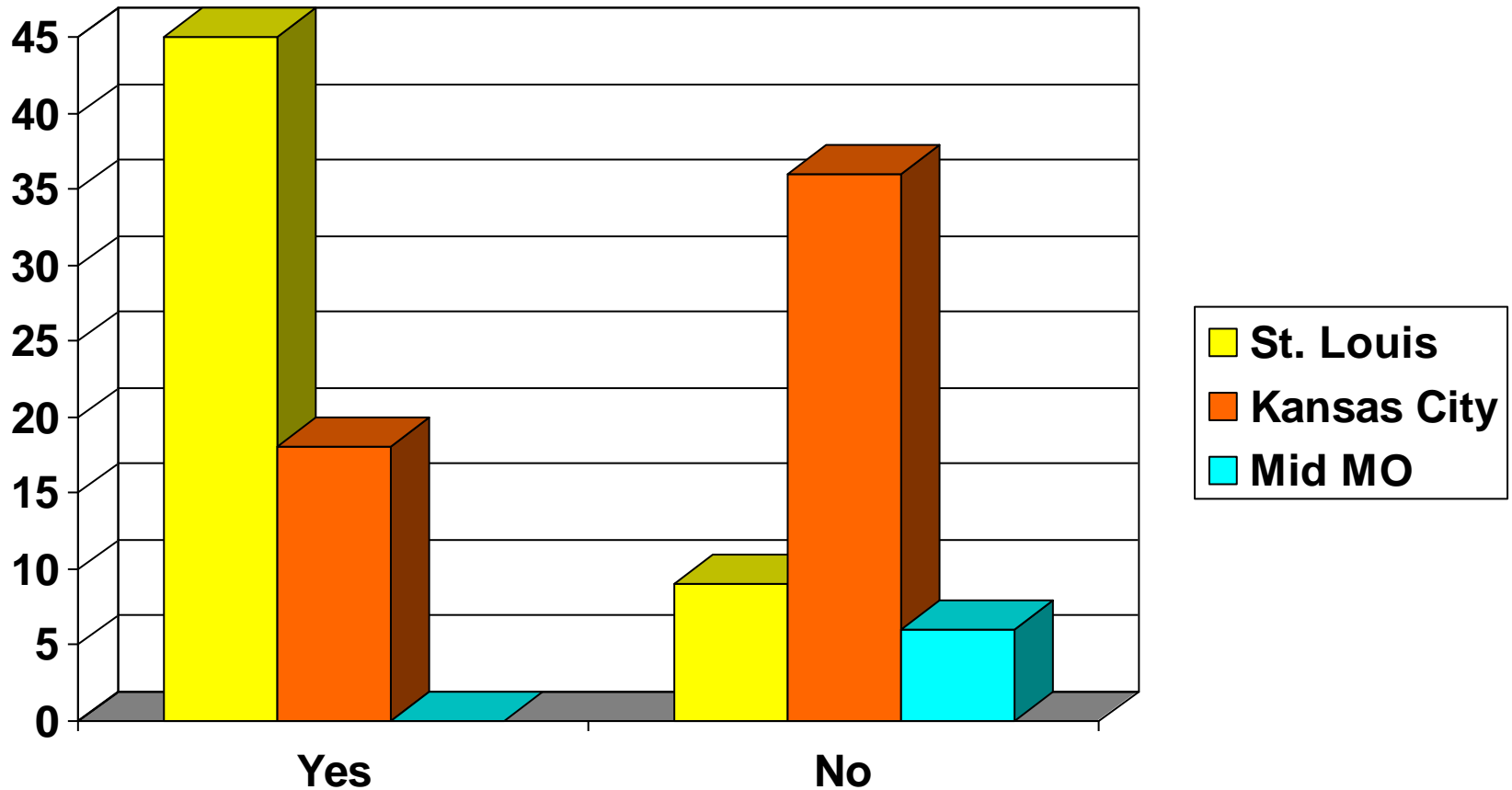
Getting Involved



Those Interviewees who Wanted Information on Death Penalty Listening Project



Those Interviewees Who Wanted to Get Involved with a Group Who Shares Their Views



Implications for Organizing around the Death Penalty

- **African Americans have a definite belief system as it related to their view of the death penalty.**
- **African Americans are paying attention to death penalty issues.**
- **African Americans opposed to the death penalty transcends age, gender, class and religious backgrounds.**
- **There are opportunities for engaging in education/discussion in the faith-based spaces and with political leadership.**
- **African Americans are politically involved in the electoral process.**