

RESEARCH RECEPTIVITY IN TWO POLICE ORGANIZATIONS

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Introduction

- To what extent do officers understand and apply evidence-based policing?
- Survey allows for comparisons within and across departments
- Results from the receptivity survey in two U.S. police agencies: Sacramento, CA Police Department (SPD) and the Richmond, VA Police Department (RPD)

Lum & Telep Receptivity Survey

~15 minute survey in 5 sections (see Matrix Demonstration Project page at: <http://www.cebcop.org/matrix-demo>)

- I. Knowledge Base
- II. Perception/View of Science
- III. View of Innovation, New Ideas, and Outsiders
- IV. Higher Education and Policing
- V. Personal Information

SPD and RPD Characteristics

Characteristic	SPD Survey	SPD Dept.	RPD Survey	RPD Dept.
Total Respondents	523 Sworn	676 Sworn	359 Sworn (74.2%) 58 Civilian (12.0%) 67 Unknown (13.8%)	730 Sworn (76.0%) 231 Civilian (24.0%)
Male	79.3%	81.2%	67.8%	70.9%
White/Caucasian	58.1%	75.3%	51.7%	55.9%
Rank = Patrol	85.3%	60.0%	52.3%	61.6%
Bachelor's Degree	65.4%	N/A	38.6%	N/A
Average Years of Experience	14.17 (SD = 8.01)	N/A	11.19 (SD = 7.19)	N/A

Limited Familiarity with “Evidence-Based Policing”

- Low levels of familiarity with the term “evidence-based policing”
 - ▣ 24.9% of officers in SPD had heard of the term
 - ▣ 29.8% of respondents in RPD had heard of it
- Term “evidence-based policing” hasn’t permeated policing to same extent as “community policing” or “problem-oriented policing”

Limited Use of Research Resources

“In the last SIX months, from which of the following journals or magazines have you read an article or feature?”

Source	SPD		RPD	
	n	%	n	%
None of the Above	402	76.9	302	62.4
Other	73	14.0	50	10.3
<i>FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin</i>	32	6.1	76	15.7
<i>The Police Chief</i>	18	3.4	78	16.1
<i>Criminology and Public Policy</i>	5	1.0	4	0.8
<i>Police Quarterly</i>	4	0.8	13	2.7
<i>Criminology</i>	4	0.8	10	2.1
<i>The Criminologist</i>	4	0.8	6	1.2
<i>Justice Quarterly</i>	4	0.8	3	0.6

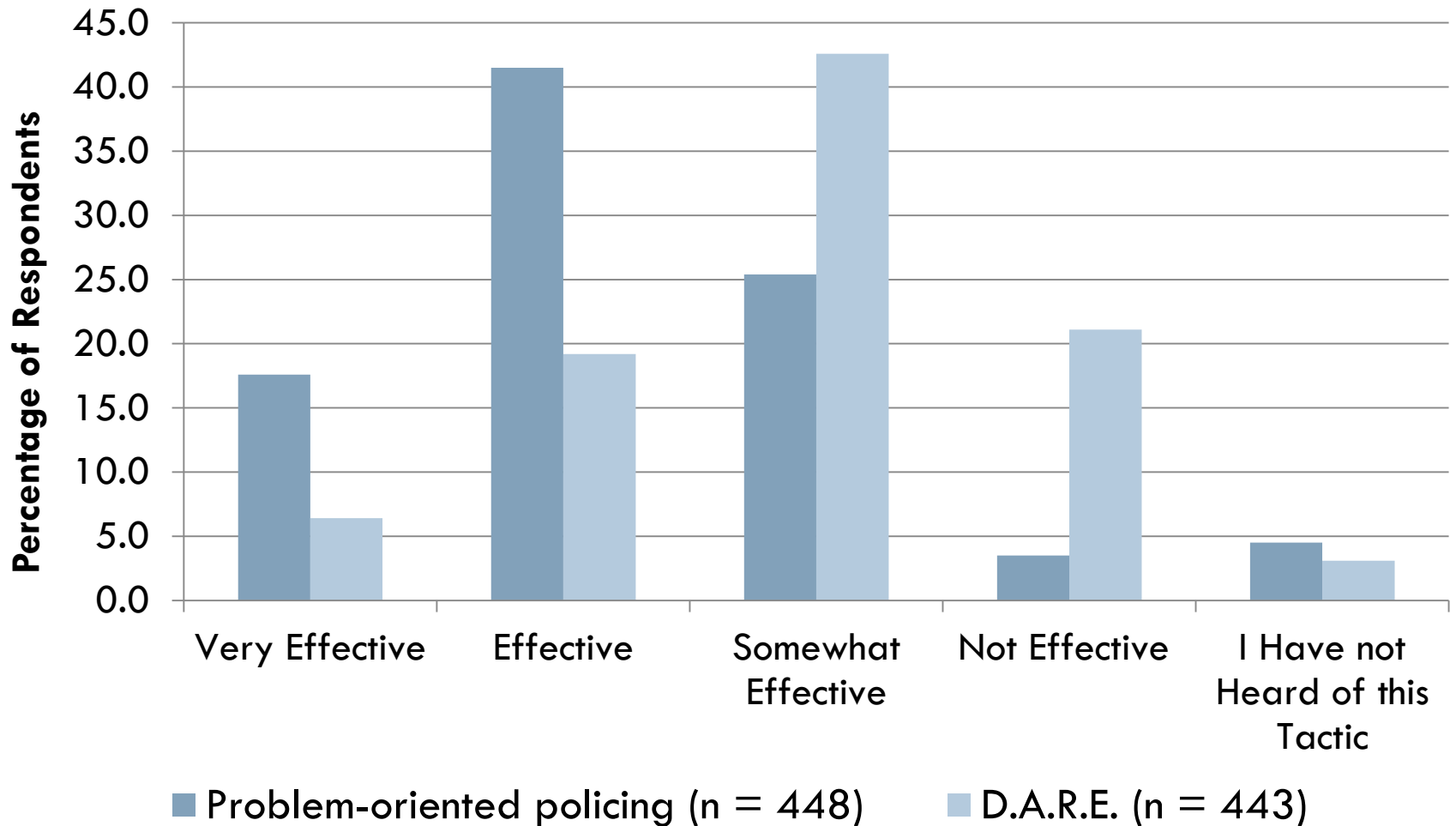
Limited Use of Research Resources

“In the last SIX months, have you read any formal or written information provided by the following orgs. specifically about the effectiveness of particular tactics or strategies?”

Source	SPD		RPD	
	n	%	n	%
Your Own Police Agency	241	46.1	224	46.3
None of the Above	236	45.1	186	38.4
Other	38	7.3	25	5.2
COPS Office	22	4.2	38	7.9
IACP	20	3.8	49	10.1
A university	13	2.5	28	5.8
Police Foundation	10	1.9	17	3.5
Police Executive Research Forum	9	1.7	17	3.5
National Institute of Justice	9	1.7	35	7.2
Bureau of Justice Assistance	8	1.5	21	4.3
Bureau of Justice Statistics	5	1.0	23	4.8
Office of Justice Programs	3	0.6	10	2.1
A library database	1	0.2	11	2.3

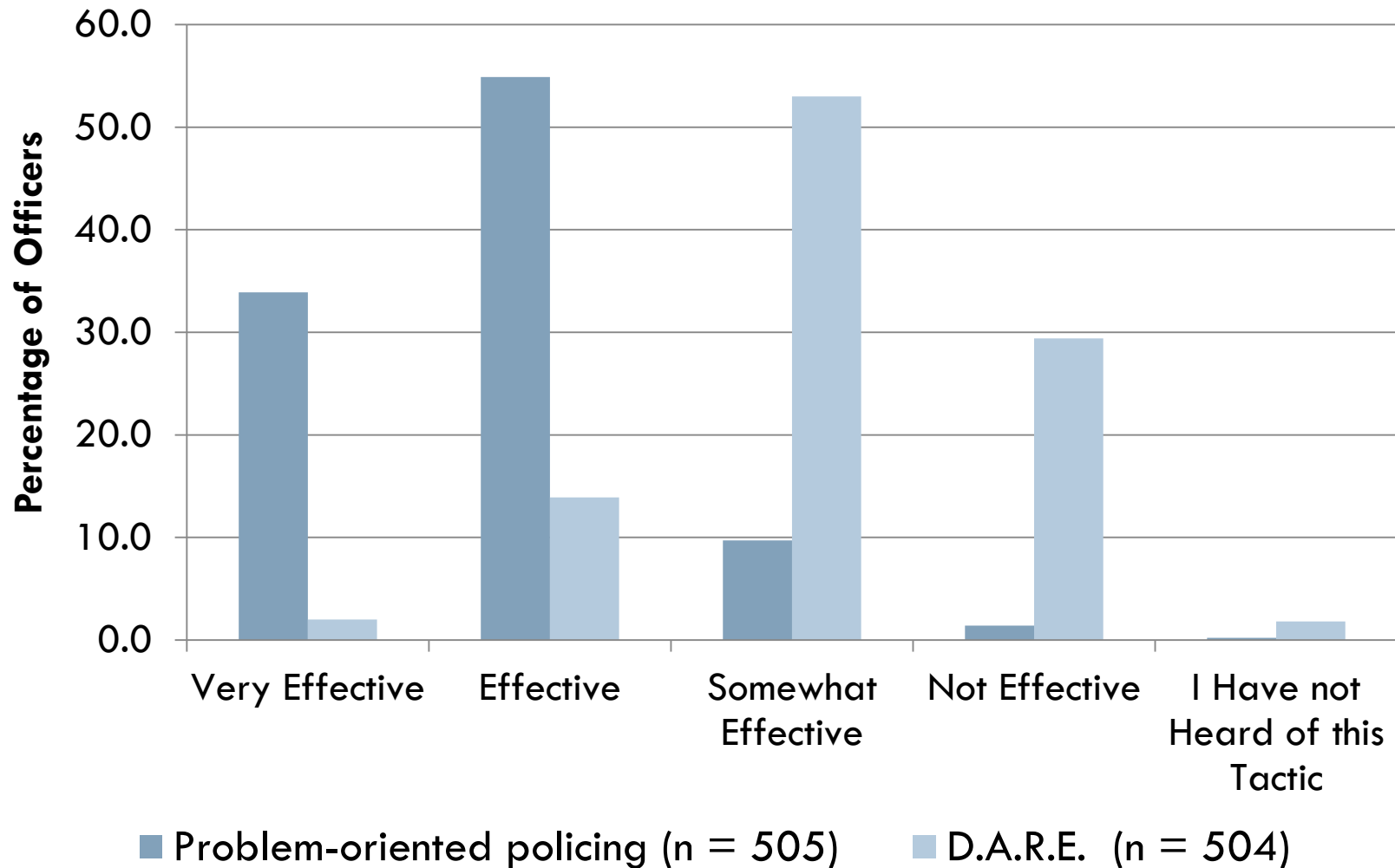
Do Police Know What Works?

Good news in RPD



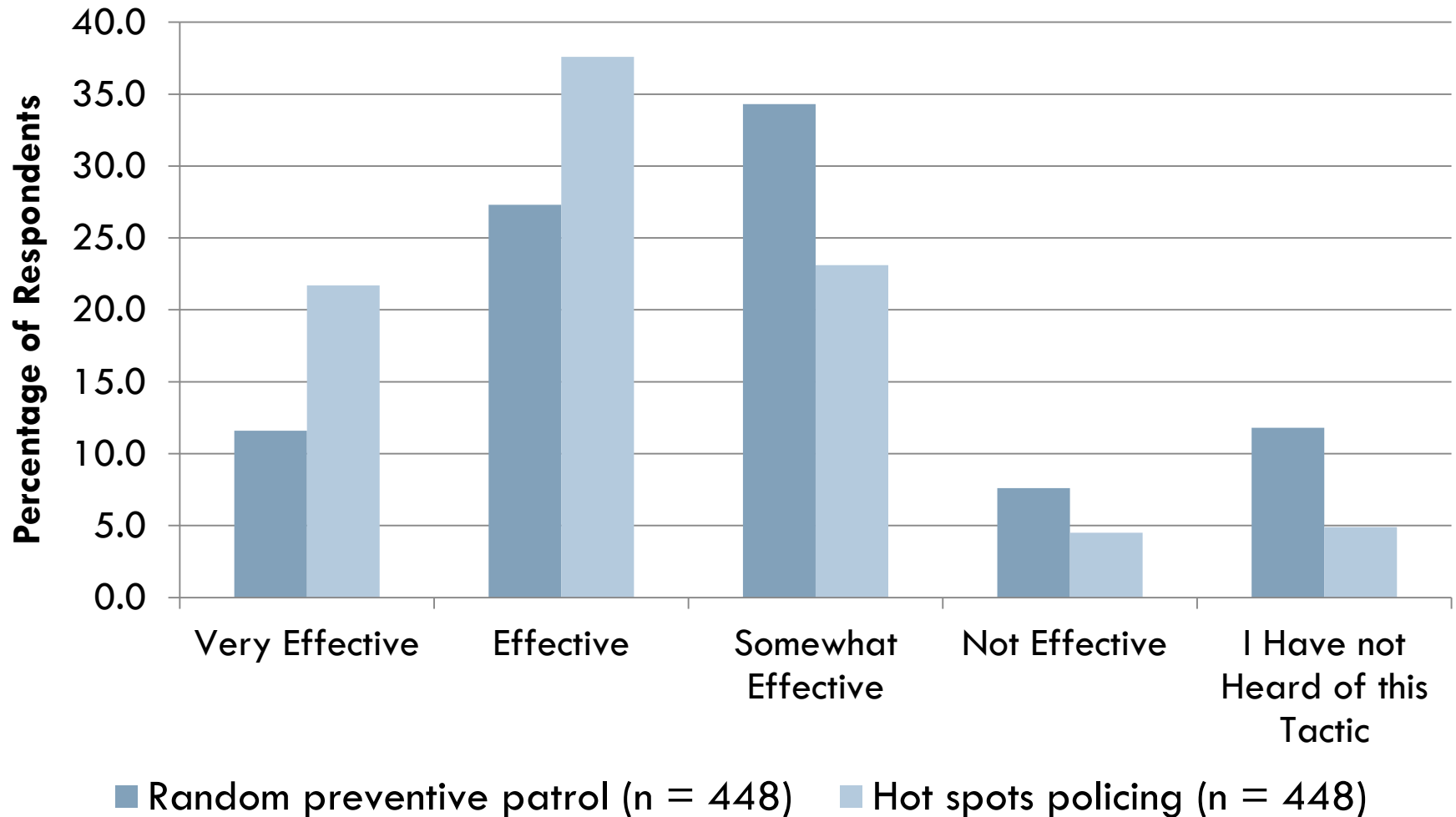
Do Police Know What Works?

Good news in SPD



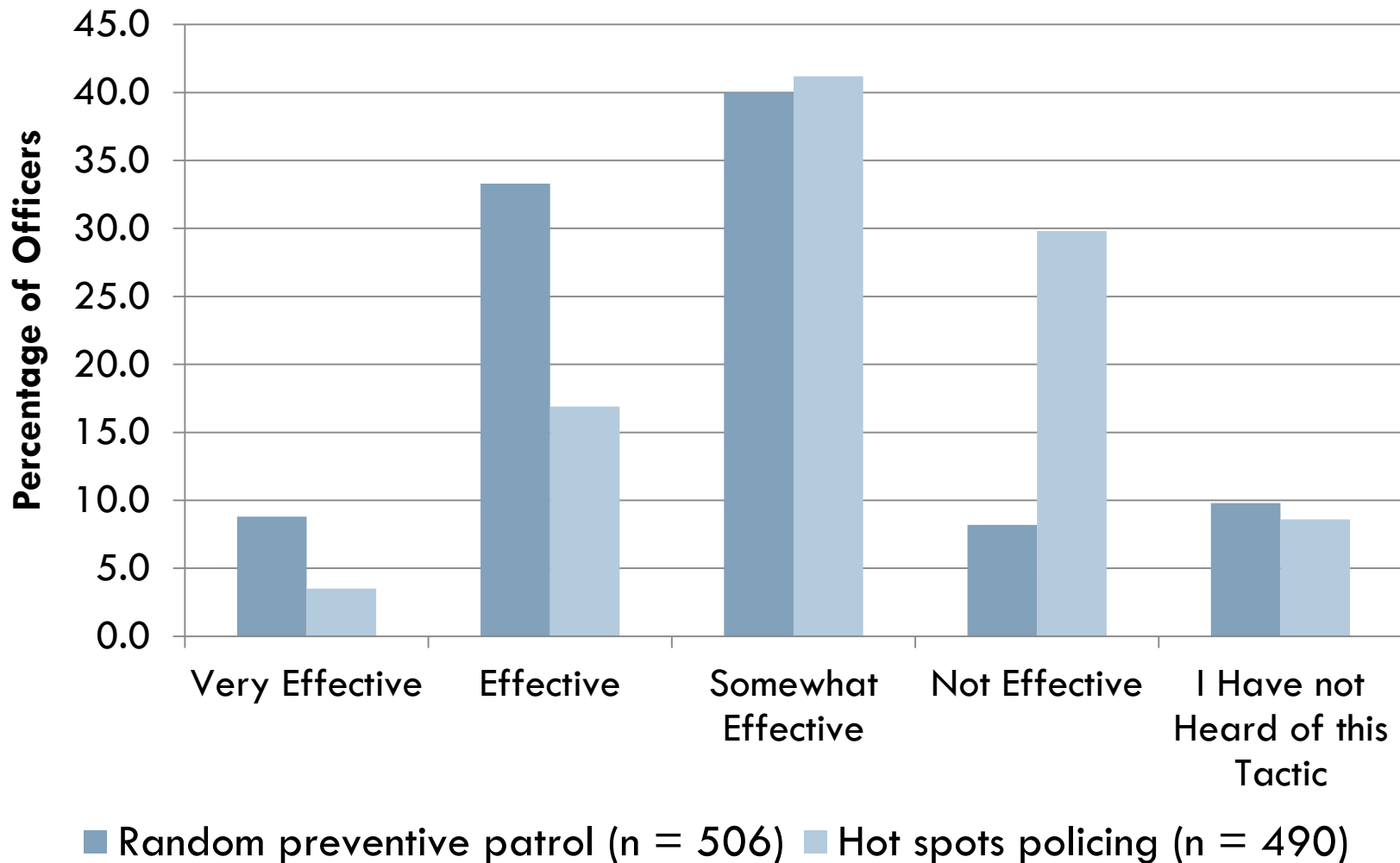
Do Police Know What Works?

Not as good news in RPD

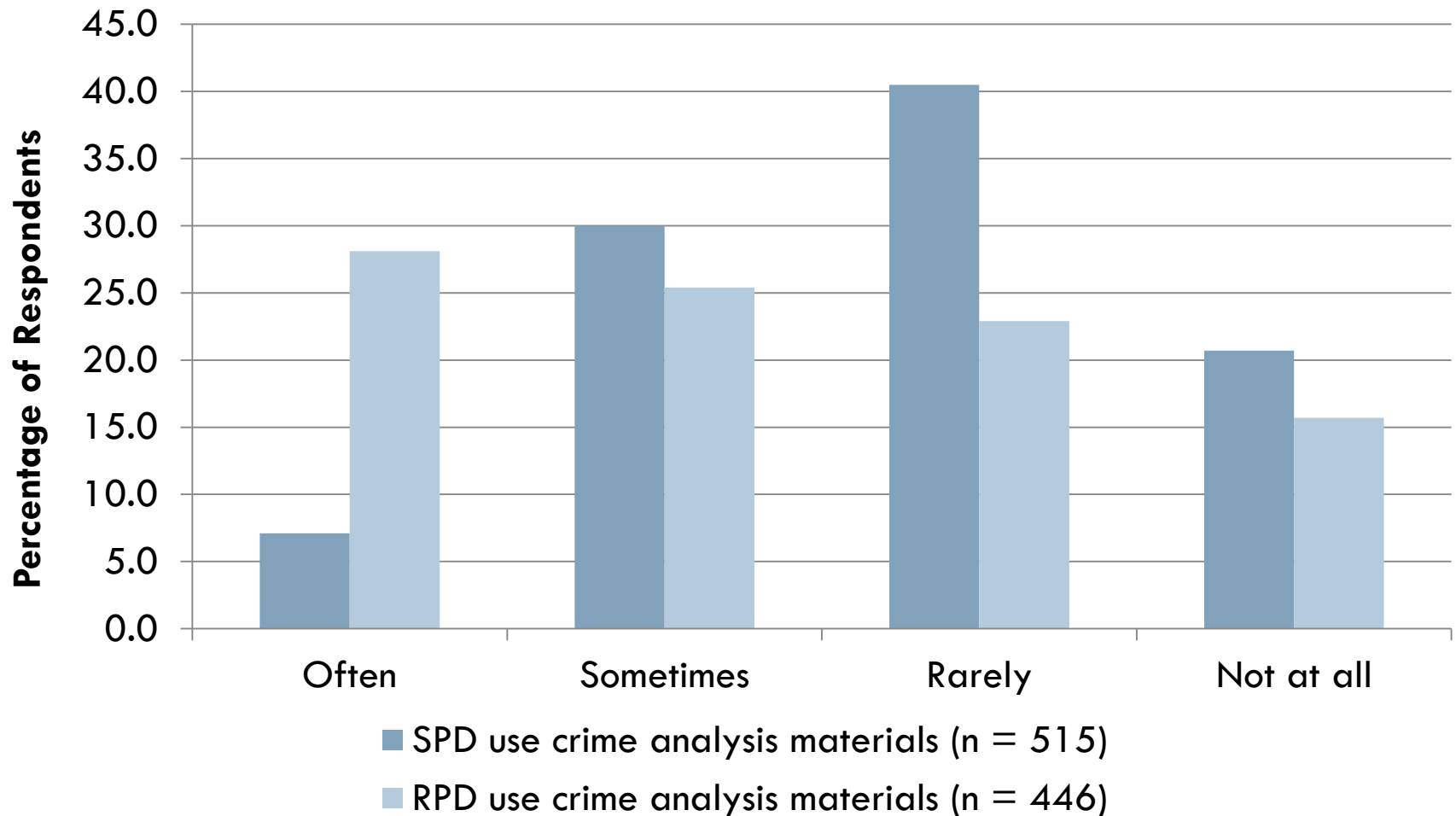


Do Police Know What Works?

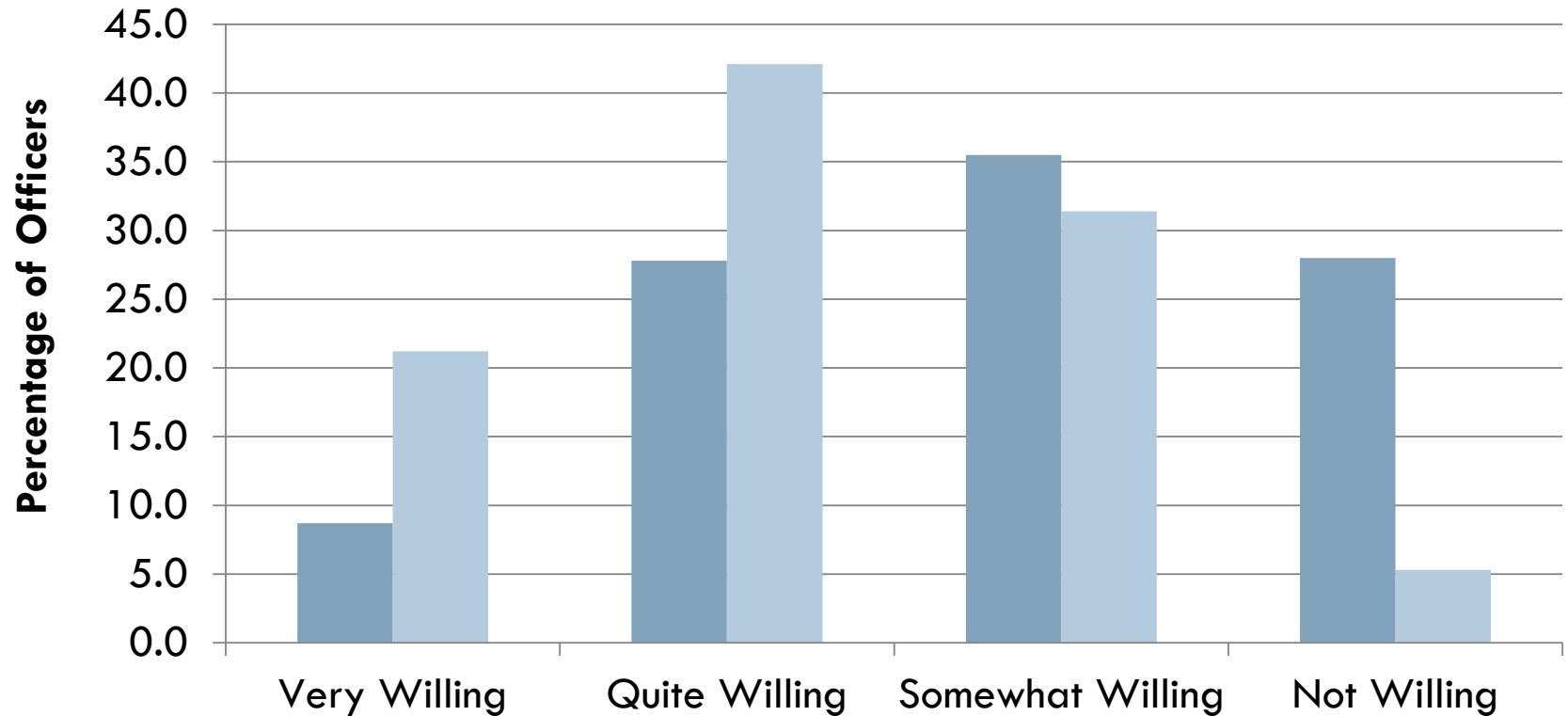
Bad news in SPD



Variation in Use of Crime Analysis Materials

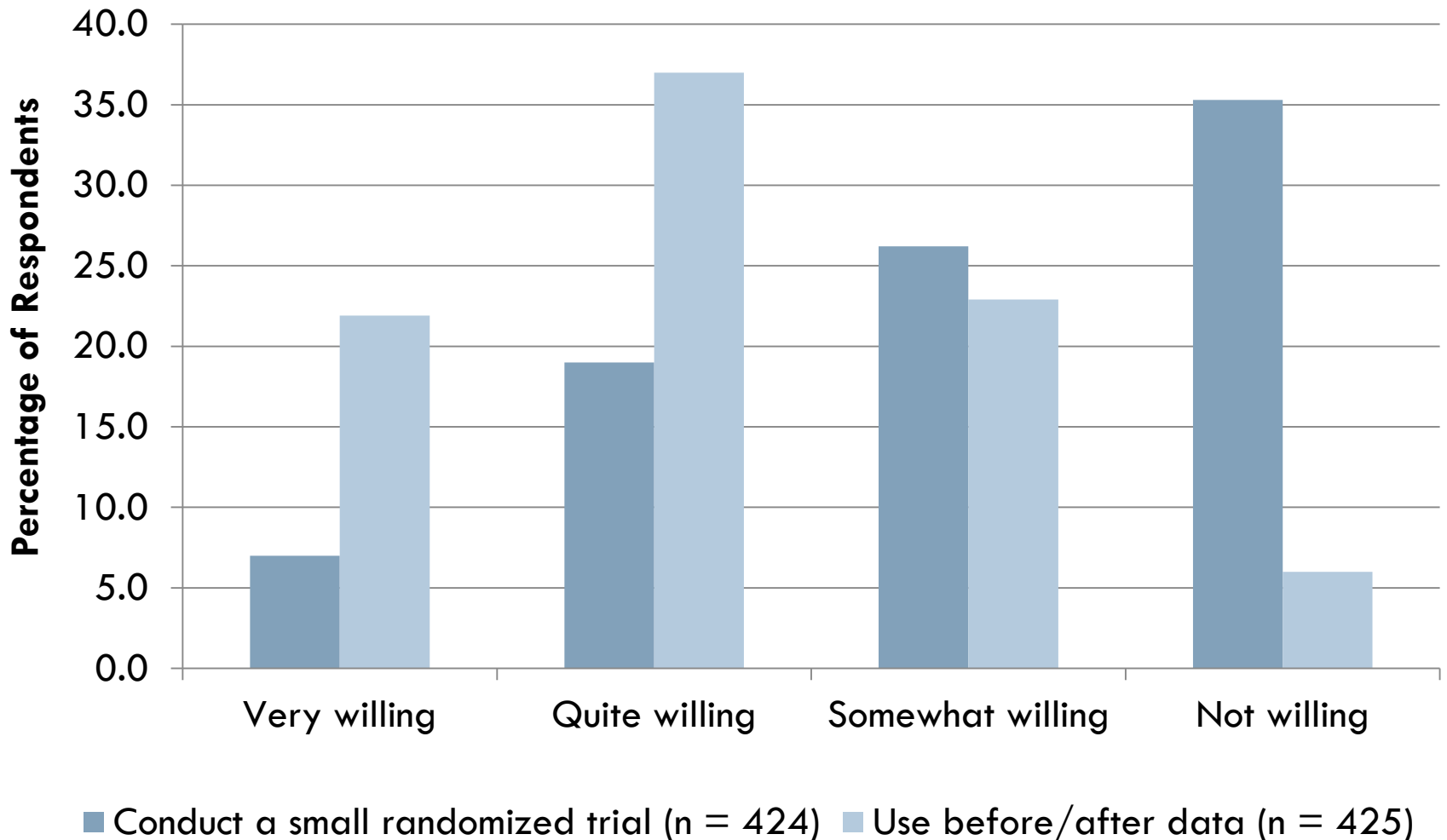


Greater Willingness to Use Less Rigorous Methods (SPD)

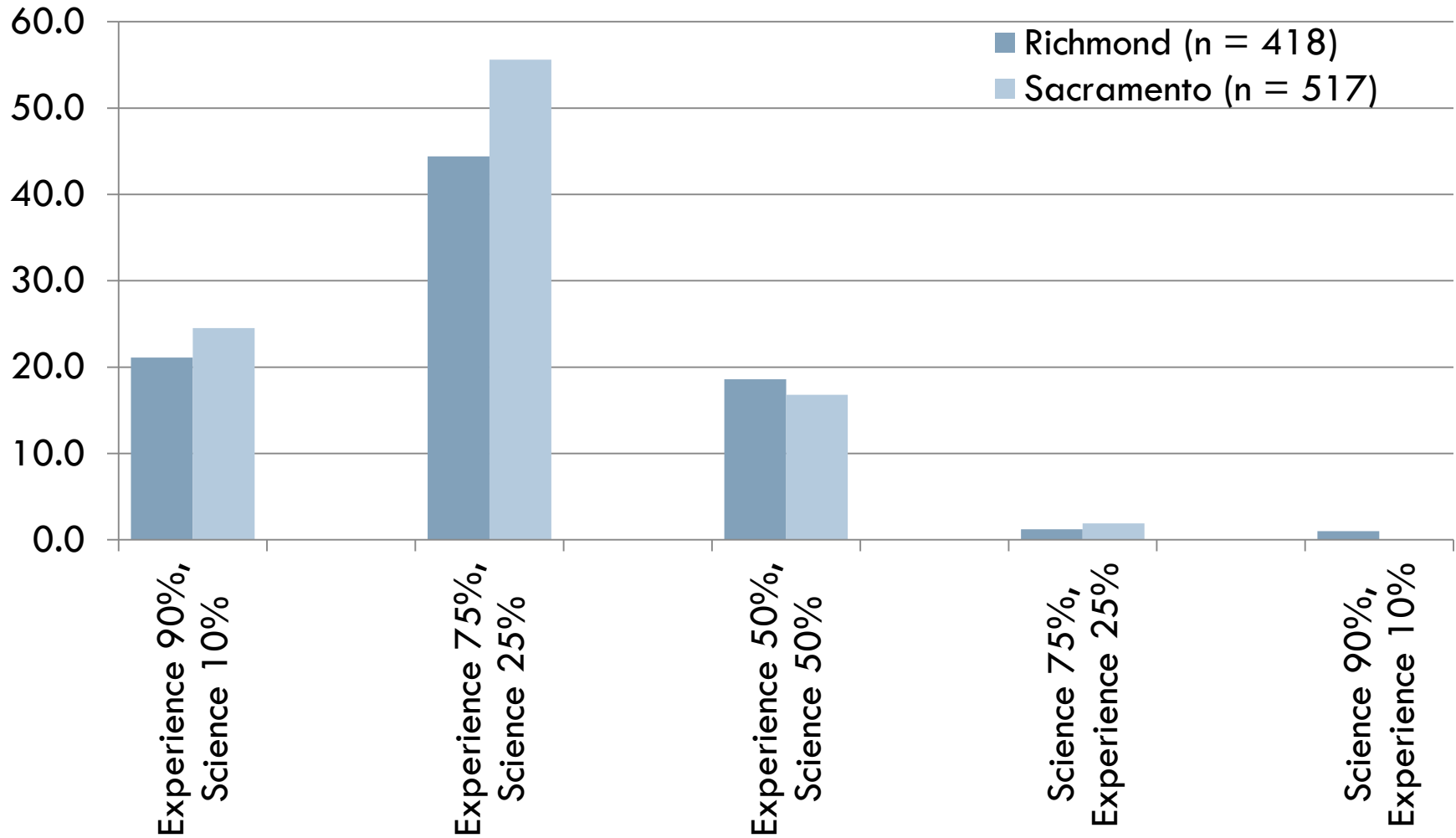


■ Conduct a small randomized trial (n=515) ■ Use before/after data (n=513)

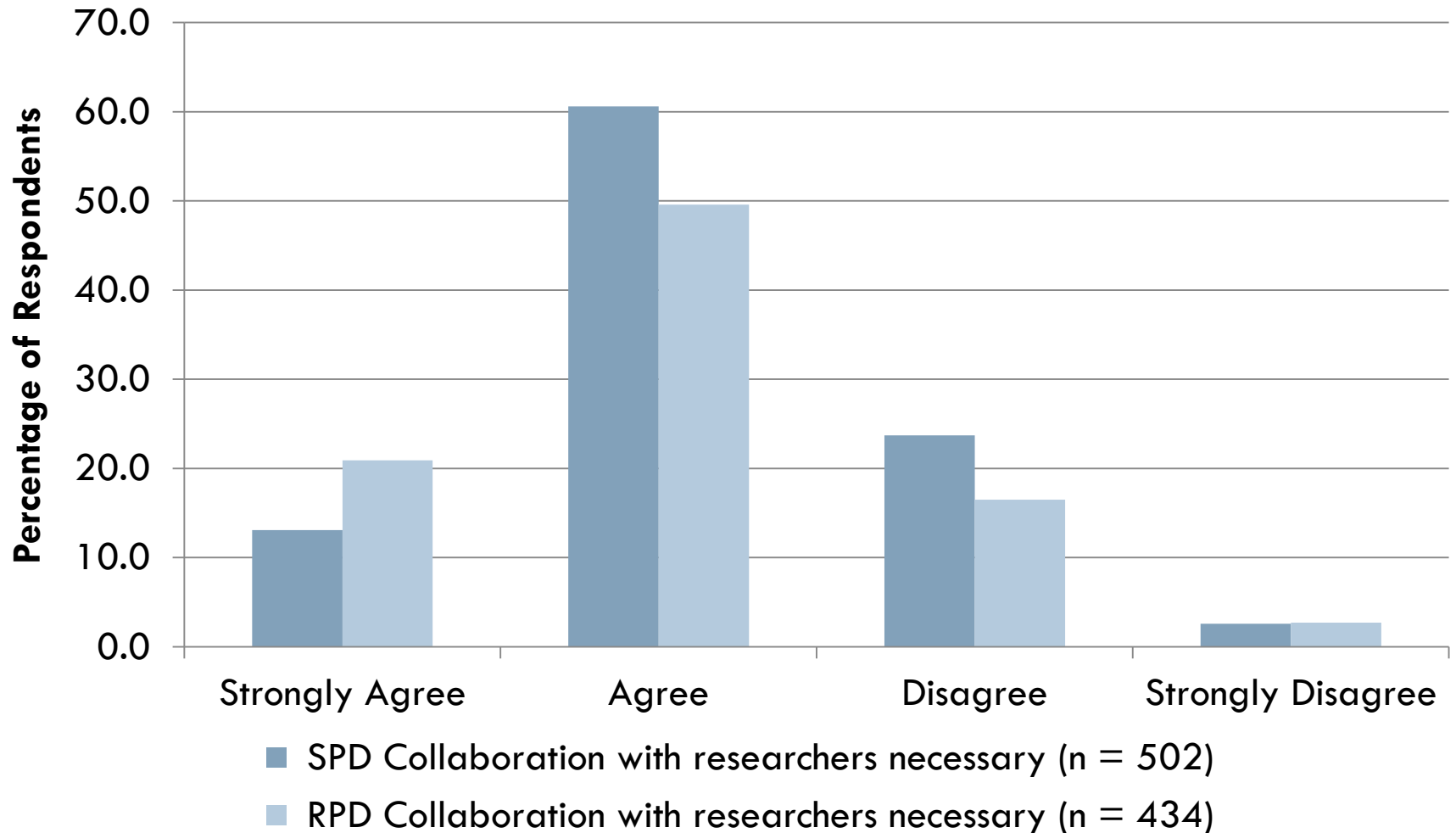
Greater Willingness to Use Less Rigorous Methods (RPD)



Experience > Science in Decision Making



Collaboration with Researchers is Necessary



Conclusions

- Overall see a lot of similarities, but also key differences across the SPD and RPD
- Suggests there may be factors at both the profession level and the department level affecting receptivity

More Information

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