



Abbotsford Community Foundation – Fraser Valley Incineration Survey

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Executive Summary

- Awareness of Metro Vancouver's proposed plan to build incinerators in the Lower Mainland is very high. 81% say they have heard, seen or read about this issue in the past several months.
- Amongst those who are aware of the proposed plan to build incinerators only 27% support it (6% strongly and 22% moderately), while 59% oppose it (39% strongly and 20% moderately).
- Given the choice between incineration and compost and recycling 100% of our waste FVRD residents were overwhelmingly more likely to choose compost and recycle 100% of our waste (66%), to only 10% choosing incineration and 16% saying some other method.

Executive Summary

- Approximately two thirds (65%) of FVRD residents rate the air quality in the Fraser Valley as very poor (22%) or moderately poor (43%).
- The belief that the air quality in your neighbourhood is “very important” to you is nearly universal (84%) and another 15% think it is “moderately important.”
- FVRD residents feel that incinerators would have a net negative impact on air quality, human health, the environment, livestock, tourism, agriculture and electricity prices; and a net positive impact on the local economy.
- 92% FVRD residents believe that the Fraser Valley’s air quality should be a very important factor in any decision making about industrial activity in Metro Vancouver.
- Respondents see a connection between SUMAS 2 and Metro Vancouver’s plans for waste incineration. With 35% seeing a “strong connection” and 39% seeing a moderate connection.
- Respondents were evenly split on how well informed they are about the benefits and risk of waste incineration.

Survey Objectives

- The objectives of the survey were to determine the overall attitude of residents of the Fraser Valley Regional District towards issues around incineration and air quality in their community.
- The survey covered awareness of Metro Vancouver's proposed incinerators plans as well as gauged the importance of air quality to residents of the Fraser Valley Regional District.

Methodology

- The survey was completed by 450 adult respondents within the Fraser Valley Regional District. This means it has a margin of error of +/-4.6%, 19 times out of 20.
- Respondents were surveyed between May 3 and May 7, 2010.
- Respondents are members of the Angus Reid Forum, our panel of more than 100,000 Canadians. Respondents were sent emails inviting them to follow a link and completed to survey online.
- The median completion time of the survey was 4 minutes and 52 seconds.
- The results are weighted by age, gender and region to the most recent census results from Statistics Canada.

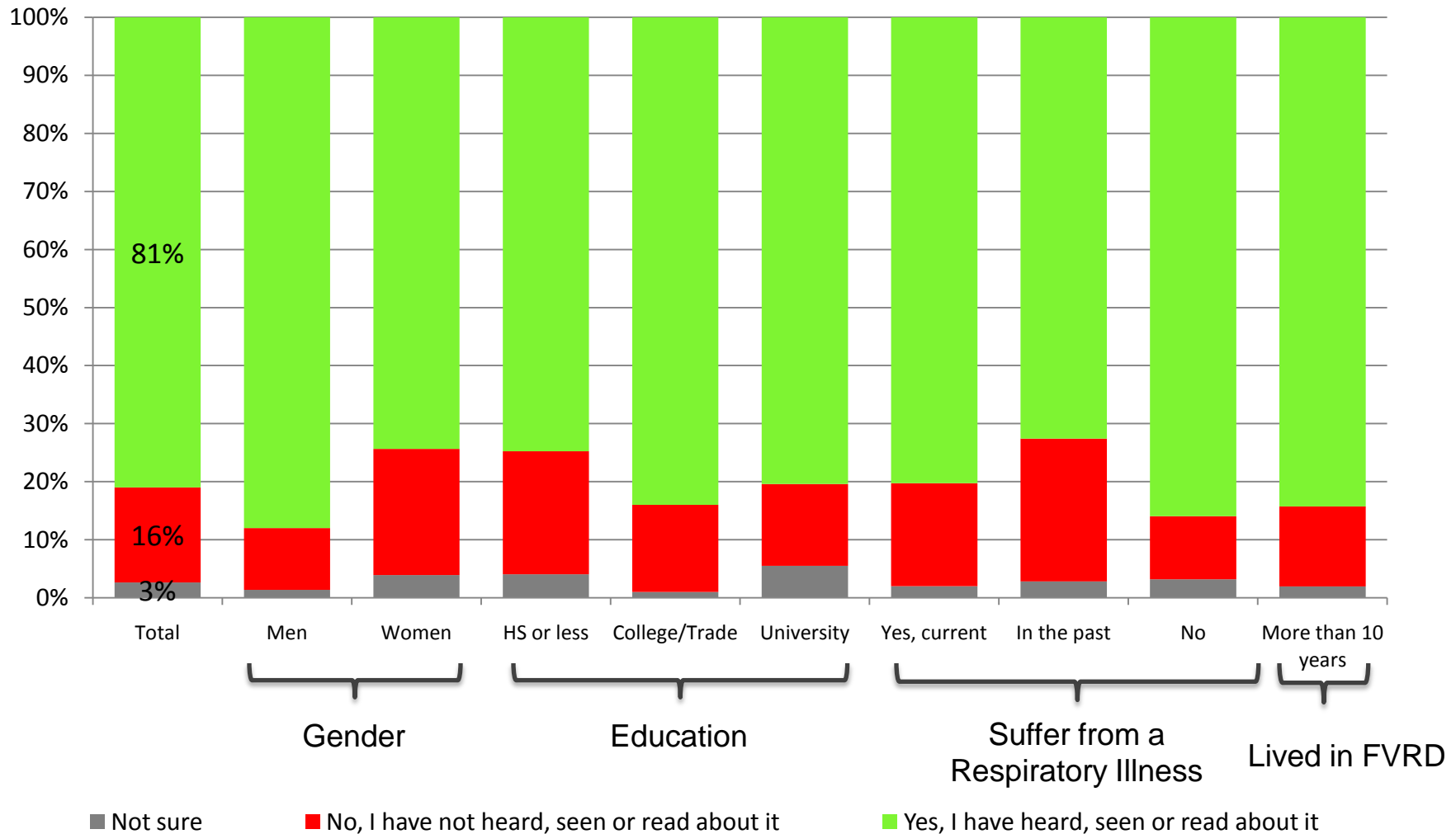


Detailed Findings

Awareness and views on Incineration

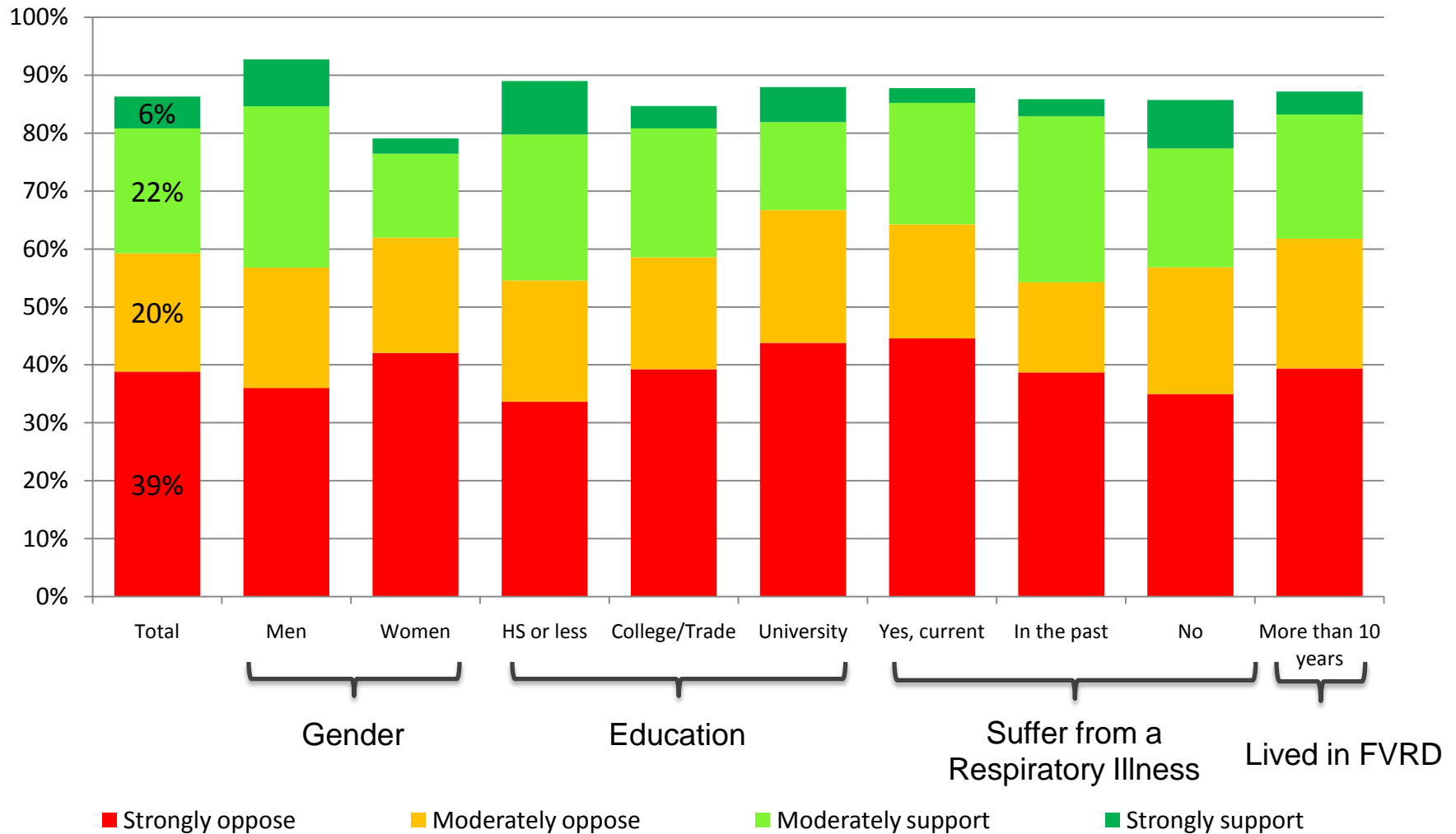
- Awareness of Metro Vancouver's proposed plan to build incinerators in the Lower Mainland is very high. 81% say they have heard, seen or read about this issue in the past several months. This number is higher with men (88%), than with women (74%), as well as with people who do not suffer from a respiratory illness (86%) and those who have lived in the FVRD for more than 10 years (84%).
- Amongst those who are aware of the proposed plan to build incinerators only 27% support it (6% strongly and 22% moderately), while 59% oppose it (39% strongly and 20% moderately). The remaining 14% are not sure.
- Support is twice as high among men (36%) than women (17%). Other noted trends include that the more educated someone is the more likely they are to oppose incinerators (with 55% of high school grads being in opposition compared to 67% of university grads).
- Given the choice between incineration and compost and recycling 100% of their waste FVRD residents were overwhelmingly more likely to choose composting and recycling 100% of their waste (66%), to only 10% choosing incineration and 16% saying some other method. A higher proportion of men (15%) favoured incineration, while more women (74%) chose composting and recycling as do those (70%) who suffer from a respiratory illness.
- FVRD residents feel that incinerators would have a net negative impact on air quality, human health, the environment, livestock, tourism, agriculture and electricity prices; and a net positive impact on the local economy.

Awareness of Metro Vancouver's proposed incinerators plan



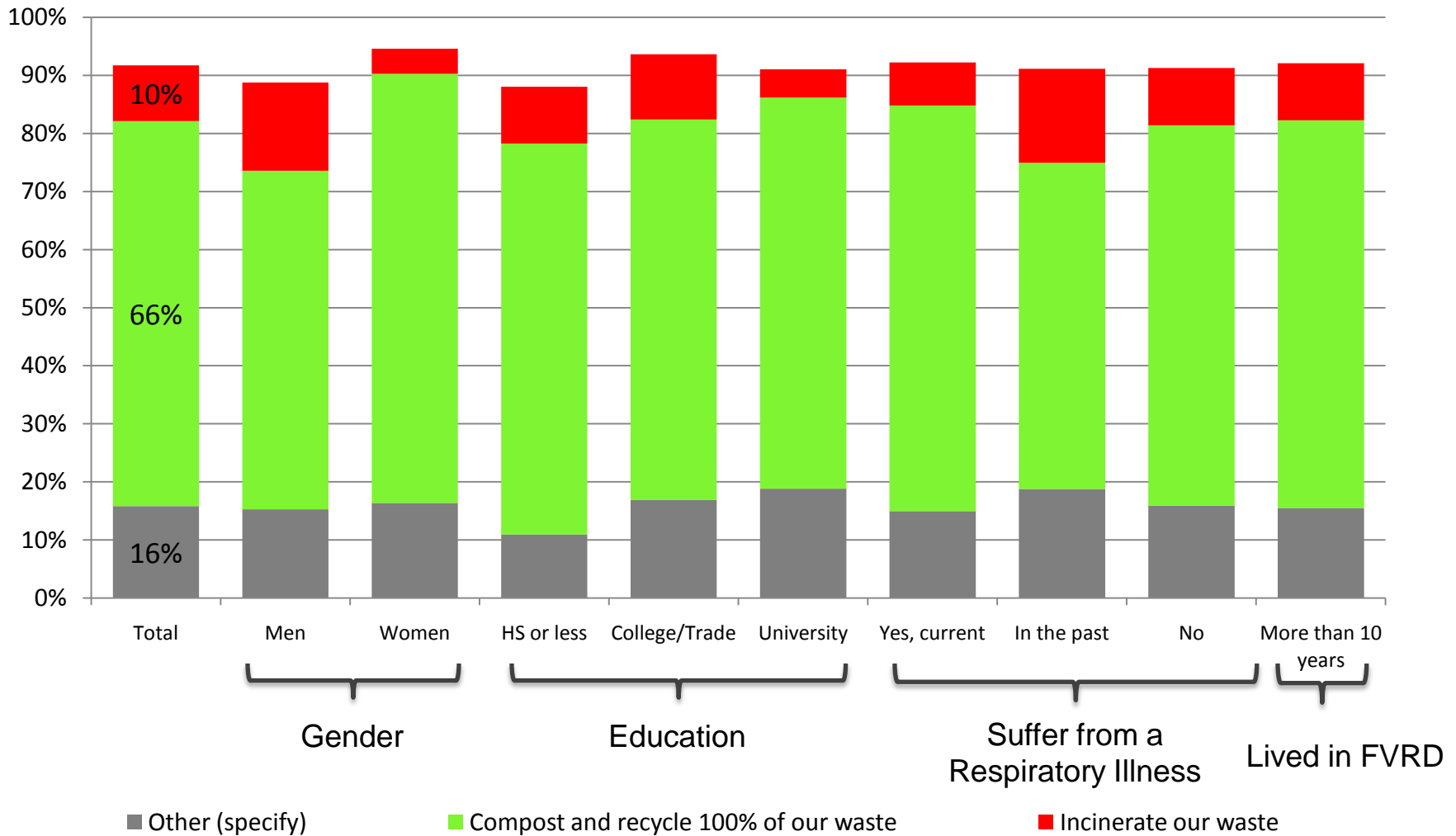
Q1. Thinking about the last several months, have you heard, seen or read about Metro Vancouver's proposed plan to build one or more waste incinerators in the Lower Mainland?

Support of Metro Vancouver's proposed incinerators plan



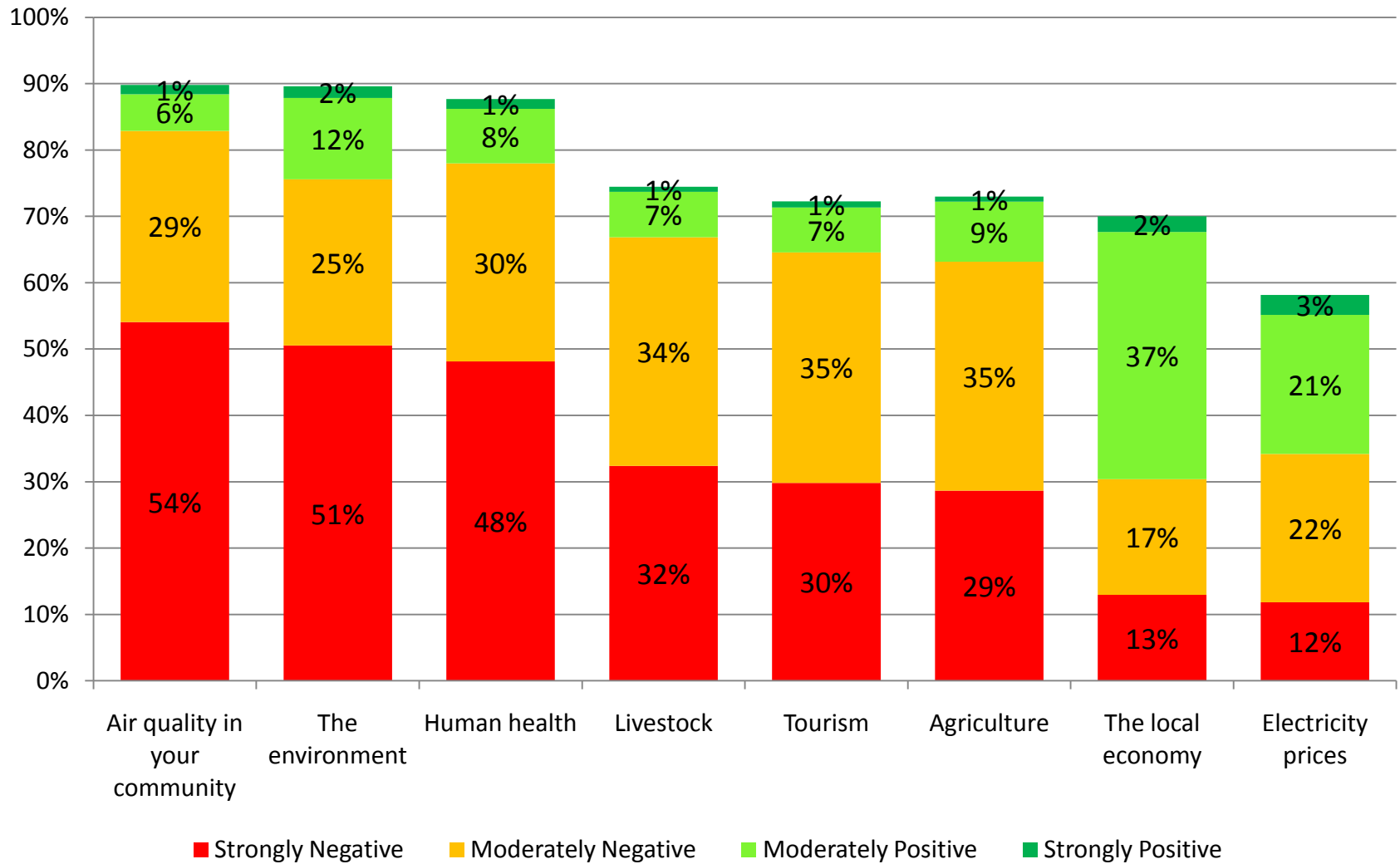
Q1a. From what you know about Metro Vancouver's proposed plan to build one or more waste incinerators in the Lower Mainland, do you support or oppose it?

Incineration vs. Compost and Recycling



Q2. There appear to be two different competing visions about the future of waste disposal in Metro Vancouver. Some people say that we should get rid of waste by incinerating it, while other people say we should reduce the amount of waste we ultimately dispose of, through composting and recycling as much as possible. Which of the following is the closest to your own vision?

Impacts of Incineration

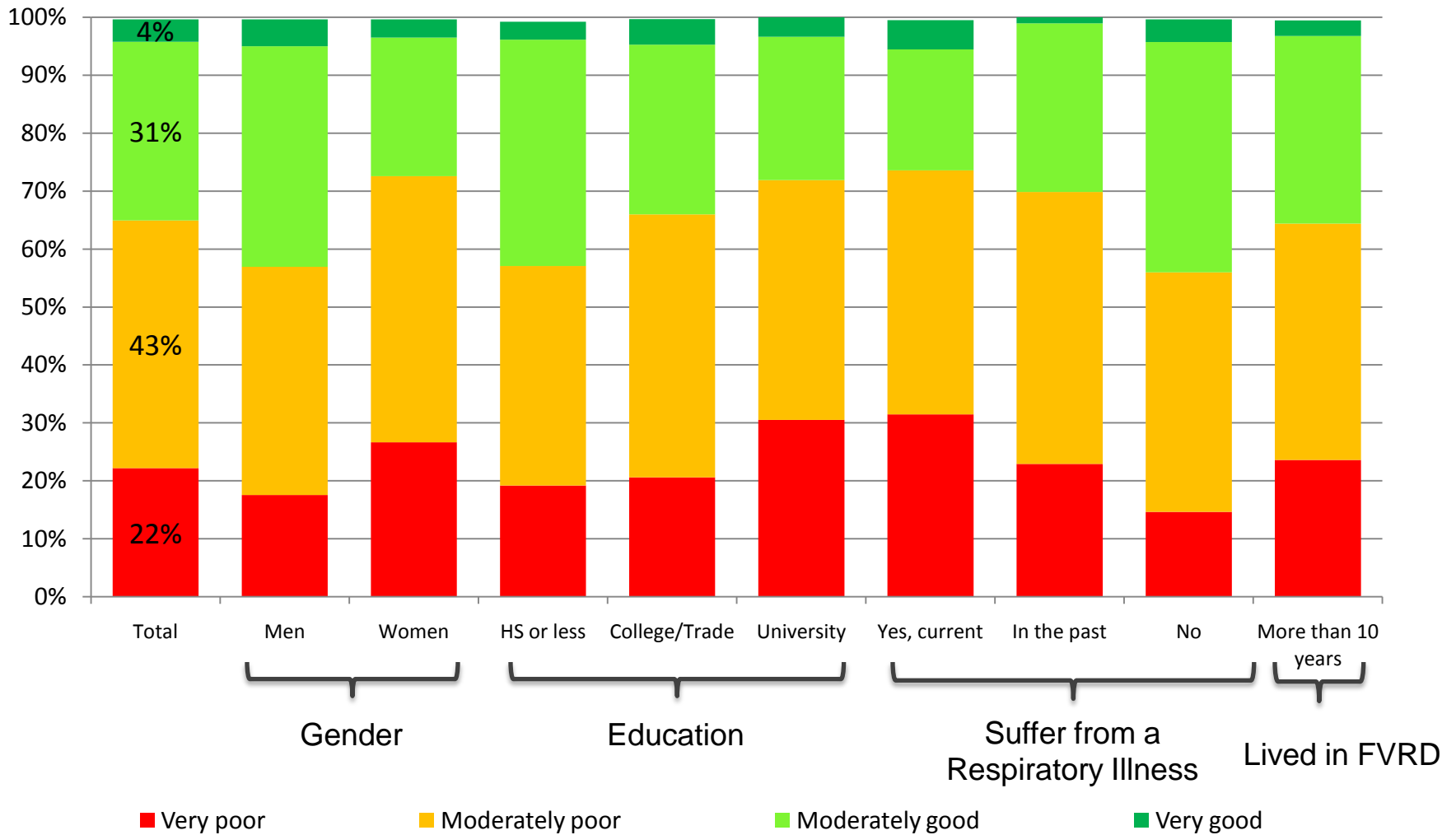


Q5. Some people say that building waste incinerators in the Lower Mainland will have positive impacts while other people say they will be negative. What impact do you think building waste incinerators will have on each of the following:

Air Quality

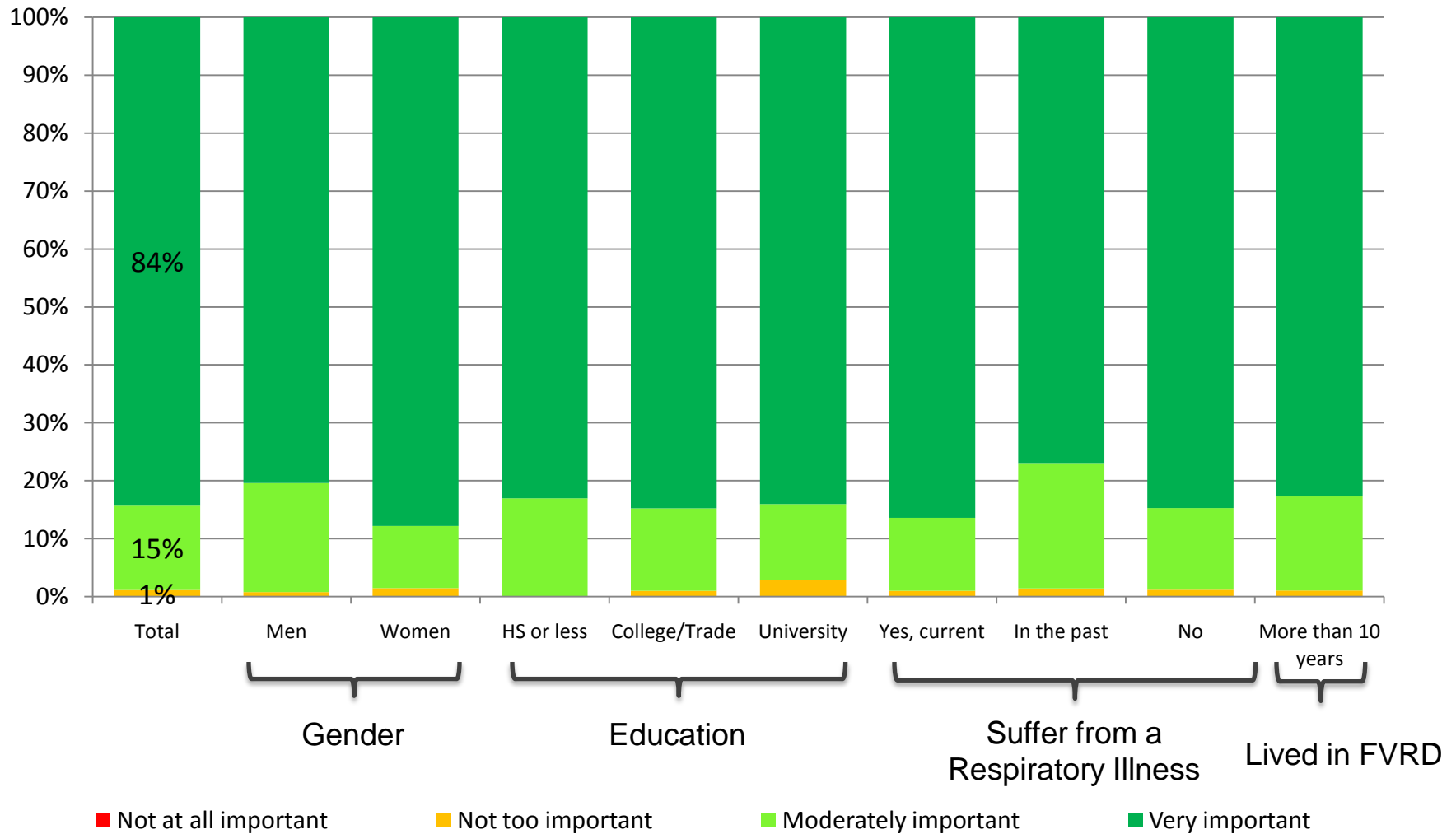
- Approximately two thirds (65%) of FVRD residents rate the air quality in the Fraser Valley as very poor (22%) or moderately poor (43%). This number is higher amongst women (73%), those with university degrees (72%), and those who currently suffer from a respiratory illness (74%).
- The belief that the air quality in your neighbourhood is “very important” to you is nearly universal (84%) and another 15% think it is “moderately important.” These numbers are extremely high and demonstrate the importance of air quality to people across the region.
- 92% FVRD residents believe that the Fraser Valley’s air quality should be a very important factor in any decision making concerning industrial projects in Metro Vancouver. Another 6% say it should be moderately important. It is even higher (98%) among those with university degrees.
- The most common answer when it comes to who is responsible for protecting air quality in the Fraser Valley is the provincial government (81%). It is followed by the federal government (49%), the FVRD (46%), your municipal government (44%), industry (37%) and other (11%).

Air Quality in the Fraser Valley



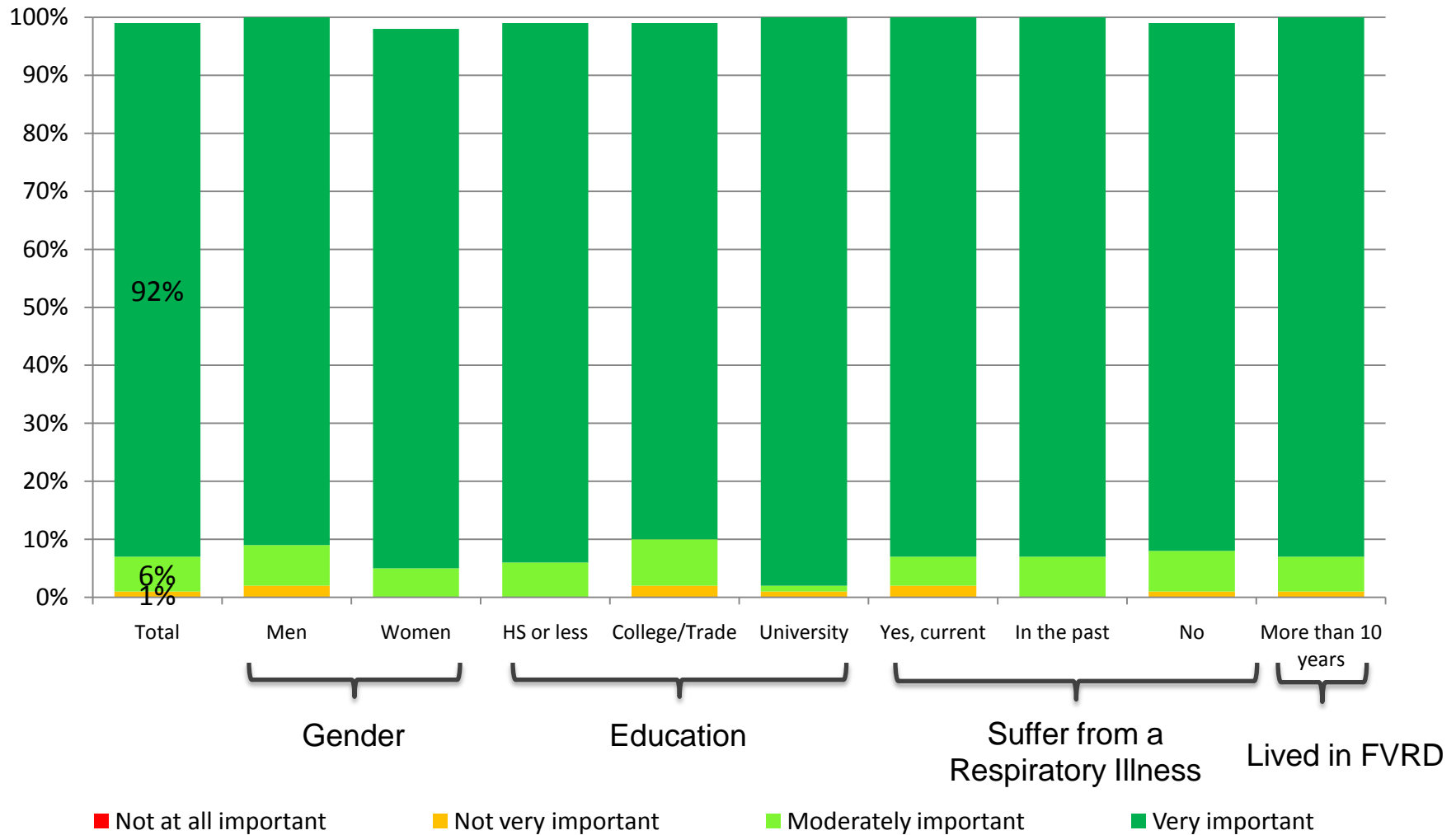
Q3. In general, how would you rate the air quality in the Fraser Valley?

Importance of Air Quality



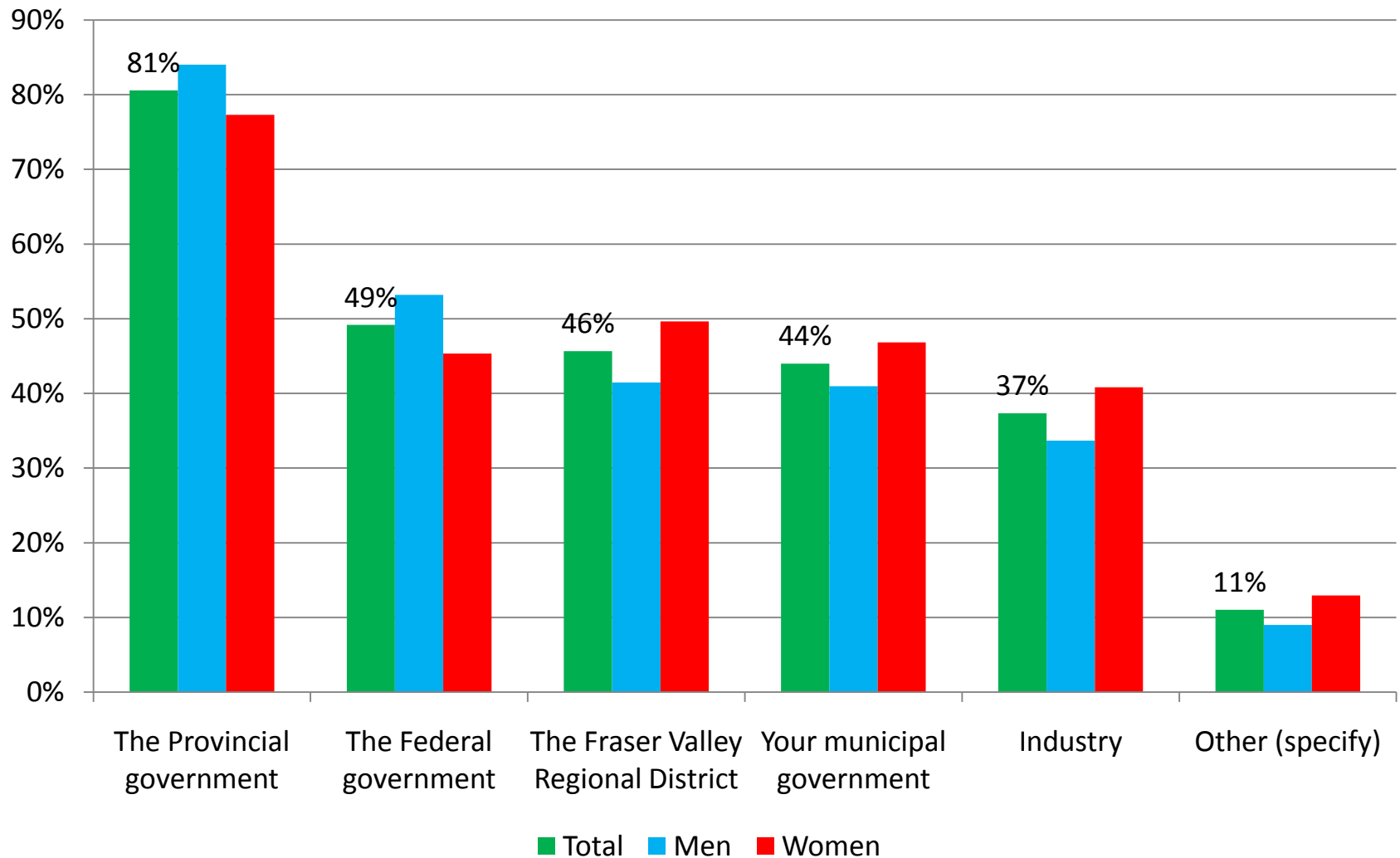
Q4. How important is the air quality in your community or neighbourhood to you?

Importance of Fraser Valley's air quality in the consideration of industrial projects in Metro Vancouver



Q6. Because of the prevailing wind patterns and the unique layout of our local mountains, the Fraser Valley acts as a funnel pulling pollutants from the west up towards the Upper Fraser Valley towards Abbotsford, Mission, Chilliwack and Hope. When it comes to considering industrial projects to the west of the Fraser Valley (in the Vancouver, Richmond, Burnaby area), how important a factor should the Fraser Valley's air quality be in the decision?

Responsibility for protecting air quality in the Fraser Valley

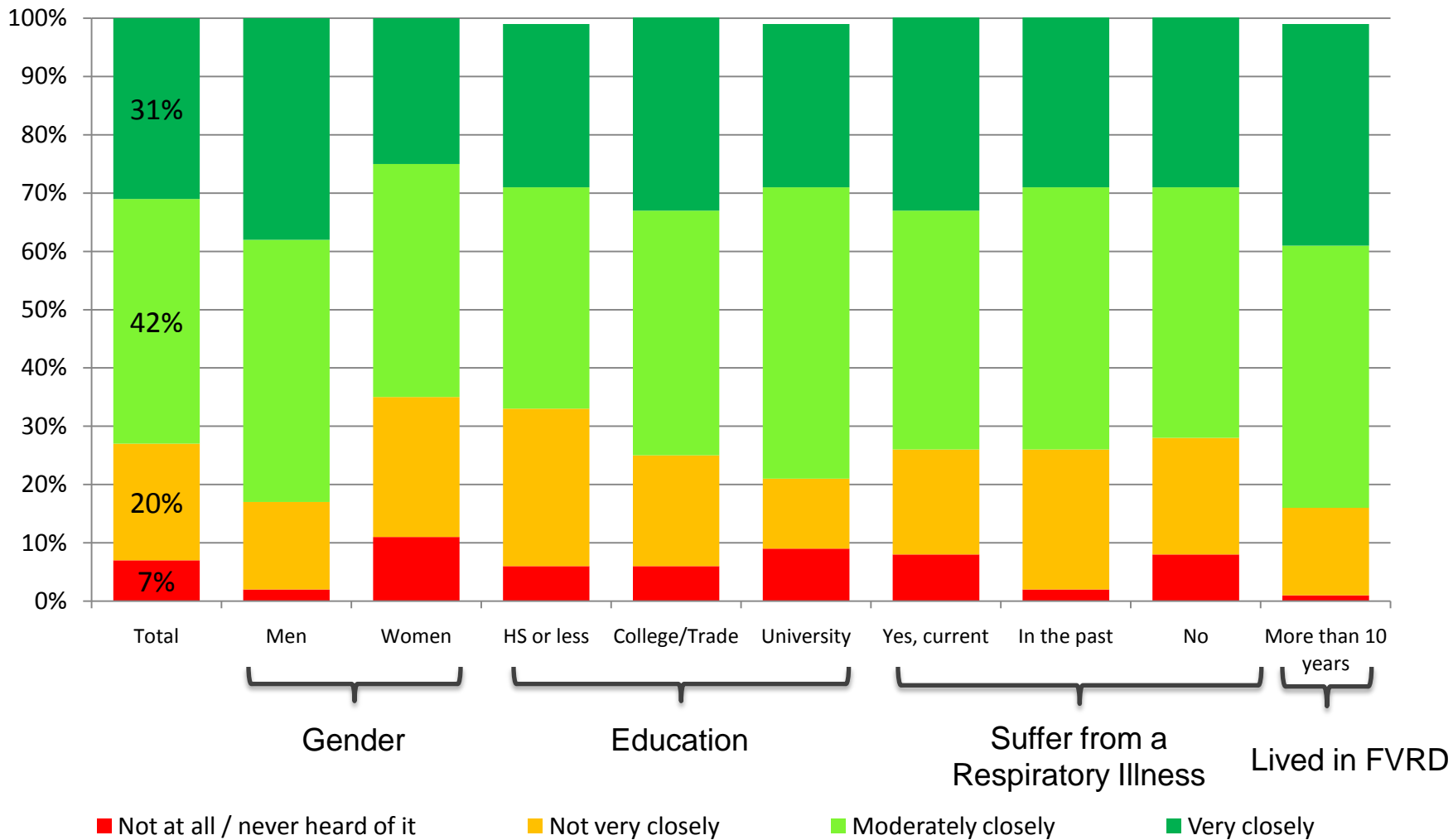


Q7. Who do you think is responsible for protecting air quality in the Fraser Valley? (Choose all that apply)

SUMAS 2

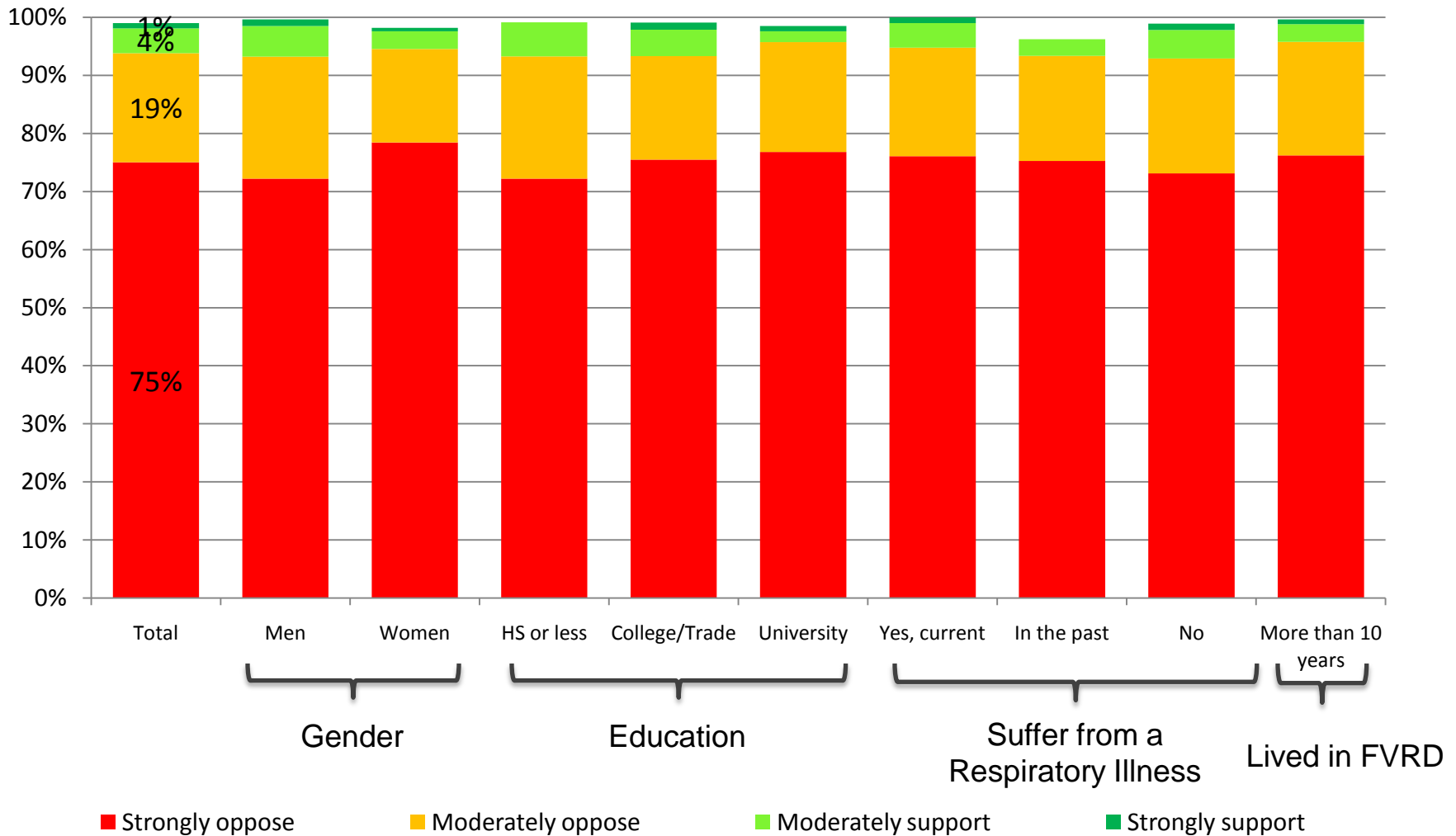
- Despite the SUMAS 2 power plant controversy being settled for several years three quarters or respondents (74%) said they followed it “very closely” (31%) or “moderately closely” (42%).
- Of those who did follow it – a staggering 94% opposed it (75% strongly and 19% moderately). It was even higher among those who have lived in the valley for more than 10 years (96%).
- Respondents see a connection between SUMAS 2 and Metro Vancouver’s plans for waste incineration. With 35% seeing a “strong connection” and 39% seeing a moderate connection. This connection holds across all groups but is higher among those who are aware of Metro Vancouver’s plans (78%) and those who have lived in the valley for more than 10 years (80%).

How closely did you follow SUMAS 2



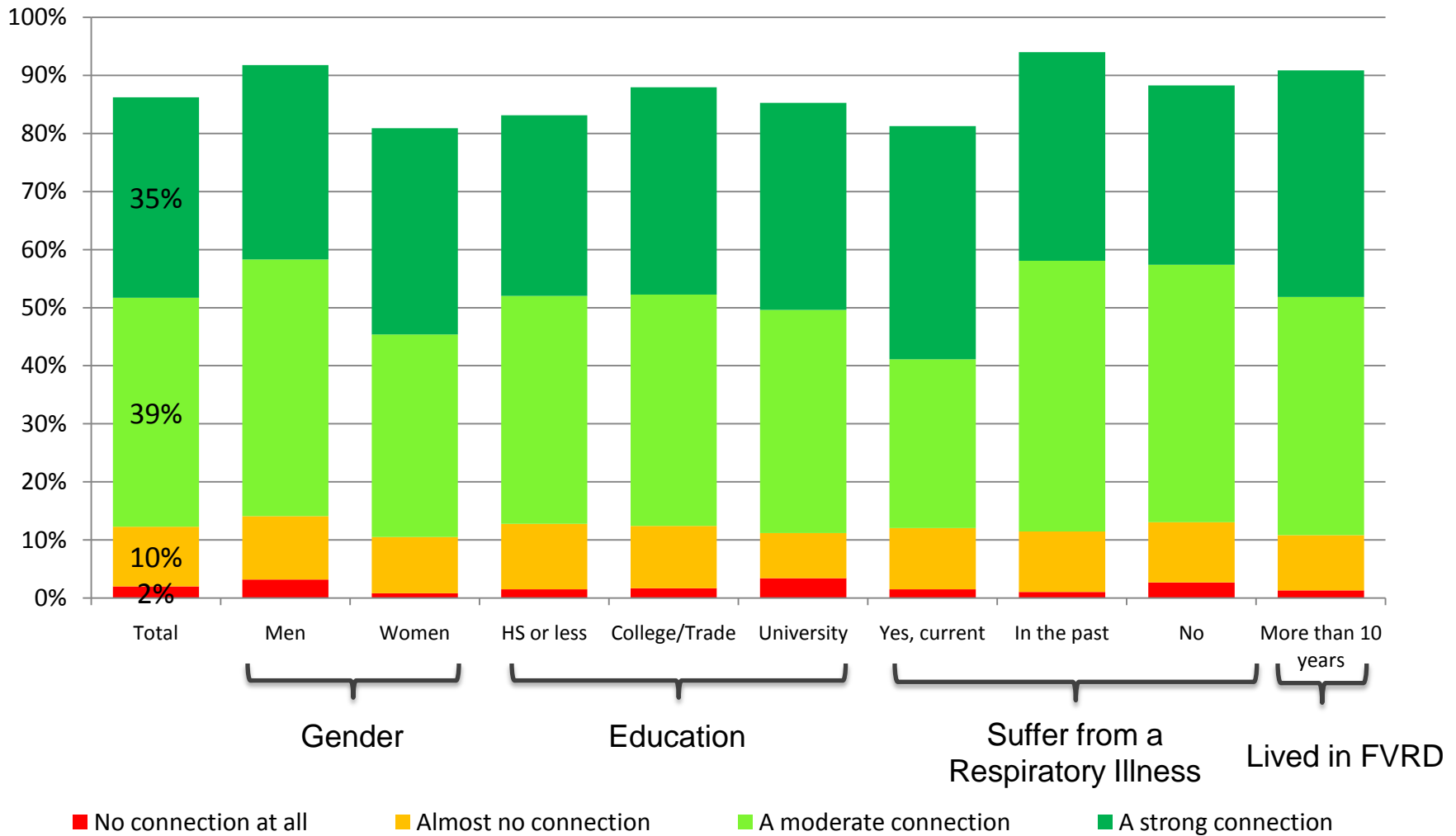
Q9. How closely did you follow the controversy around the planned construction of the proposed SUMAS 2 power plant about five years ago that was located in Sumas Washington near Abbotsford and Chilliwack?

Support for SUMAS 2



Q9a. Thinking back, did you support or oppose the proposed construction of the SUMAS 2 power plant in Sumas Washington?

Connection of incineration to SUMAS 2

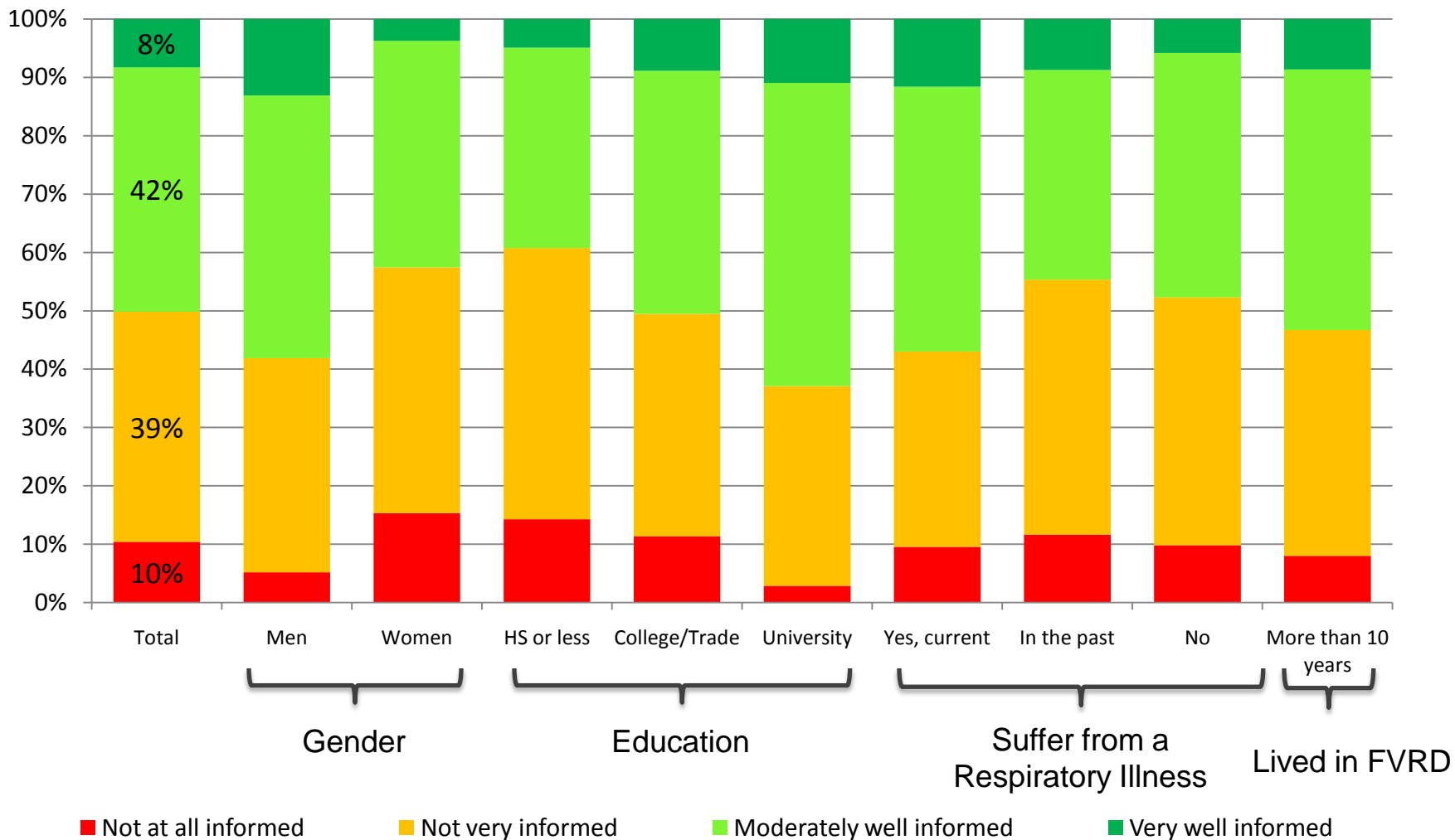


Q9b. Thinking about today, do you see any connection between the controversy related to the SUMAS 2 power plant and the Metro Vancouver plans for waste incineration?

Sources of Information

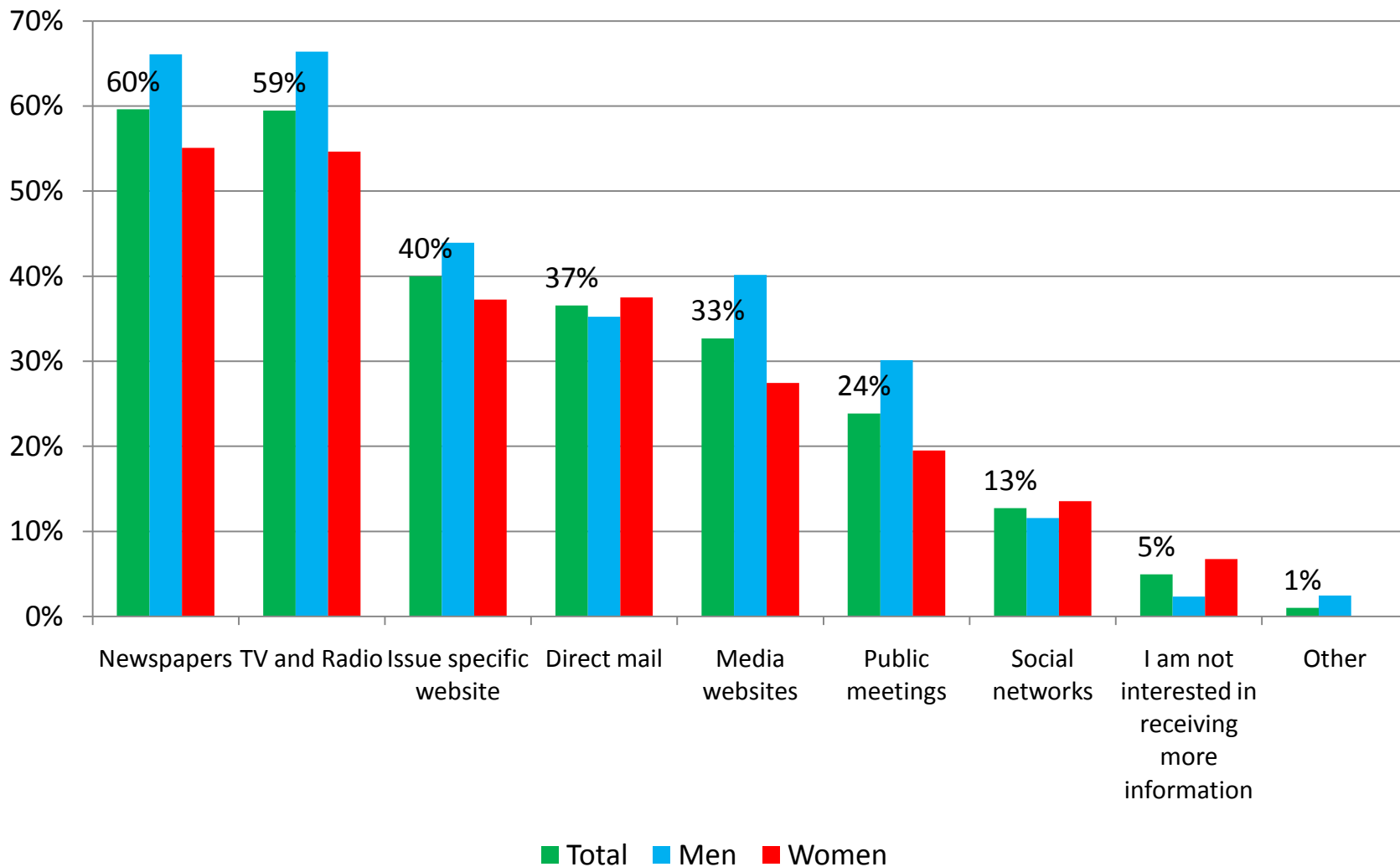
- Respondents were evenly split on how well informed they are about the benefits and risk of waste incineration. 50% say they are very well (8%) or moderately well (42%) informed and the other 50% are not very informed (39%) or not at all informed (10%). Men are more likely to be better informed (58%), and those with university degrees (63%).
- Among those who do not consider themselves well informed the majority preferred to become learn more via the traditional media with 60% saying Newspapers, and 59% choosing TV and Radio. New media was less popular, like issue specific websites (40%), media websites (33%) and social networks (13%). Also 37% said they liked direct mail.

Informed about incineration



Q8. How well informed are you about the benefits and risks of waste incineration such as Metro Vancouver is proposing?

Preferred sources of information on incineration

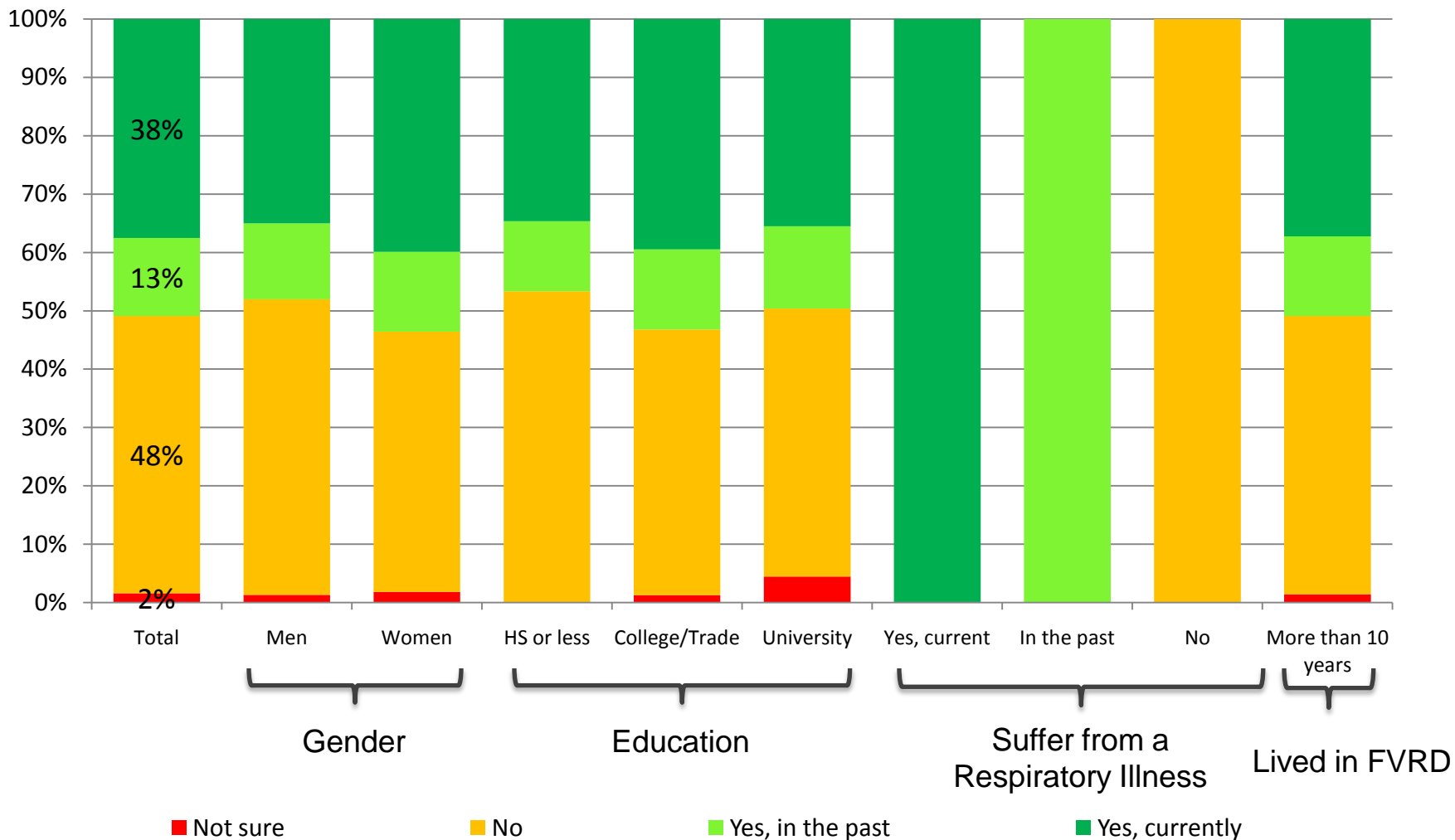


Q8a. How would you like to receive more information about the benefits and risks of waste incineration? (select all that apply)



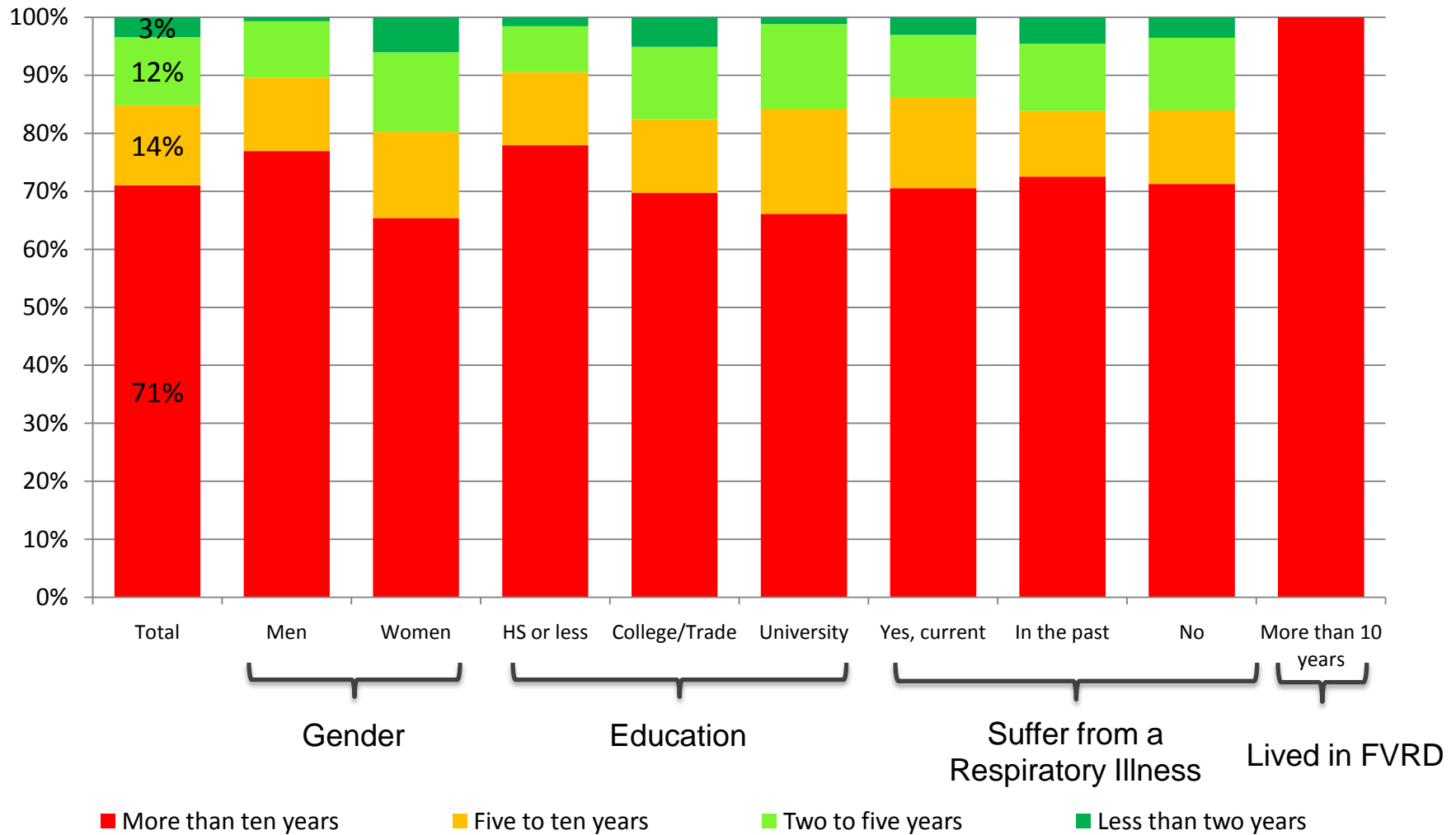
Profile of Respondents

Respiratory Illness



D1. Do you or anyone in your household currently, or in the past, suffer from a respiratory illness (such as asthma or emphysema)?

Length of residency in the FVRD



D2. How long have you lived in the Fraser Valley?



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