

What Do People Think of Mileage Fees? A Review of Evidence

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April 2, 2015



MTI National Transportation Finance Center

Overview

1. Details from MTI's 5 years of annual national survey data
2. A survey of surveys
3. Implications for practice
4. More research coming . . .

Method for the MTI survey series*

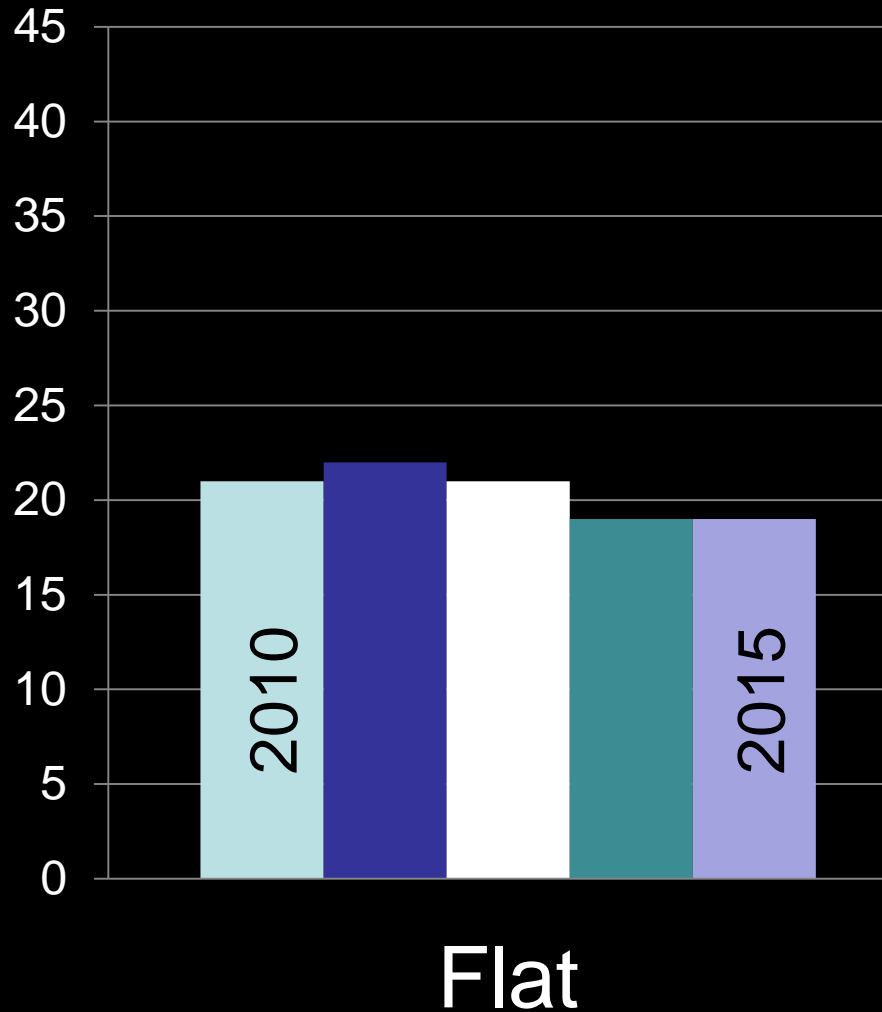
1. 2010 - 2014
2. Random phone survey of US residents
3. 1,500+ respondents for each
4. Asked about support for various federal tax options

*Co-authored with Hilary Nixon

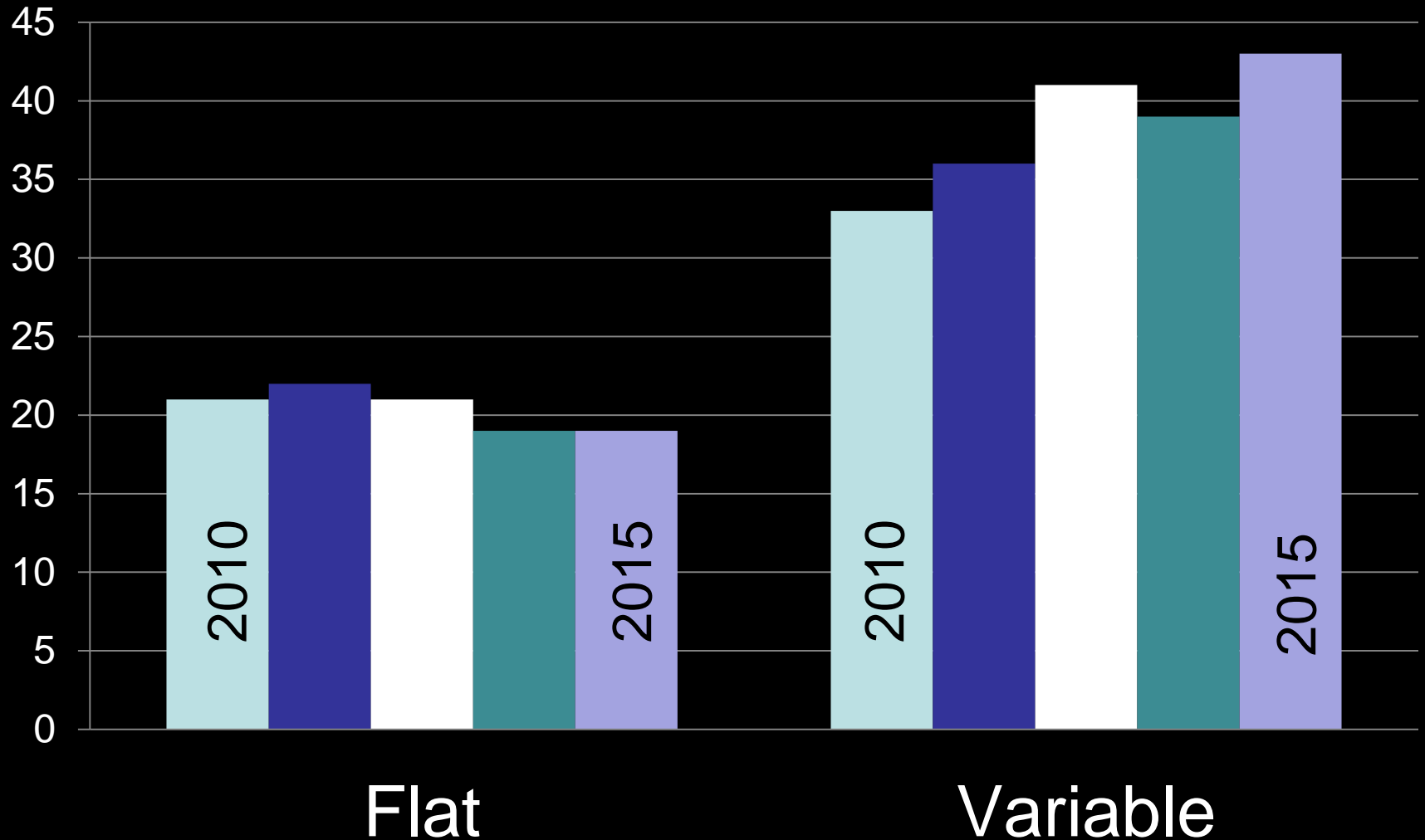
Two variants of a MF tested

- Flat rate: 1 cent per mile, “electronic meter” tracking miles, pay the pump
- Variable rate: rate varies by vehicle’s pollution

% supporting MF, 2010 -2014



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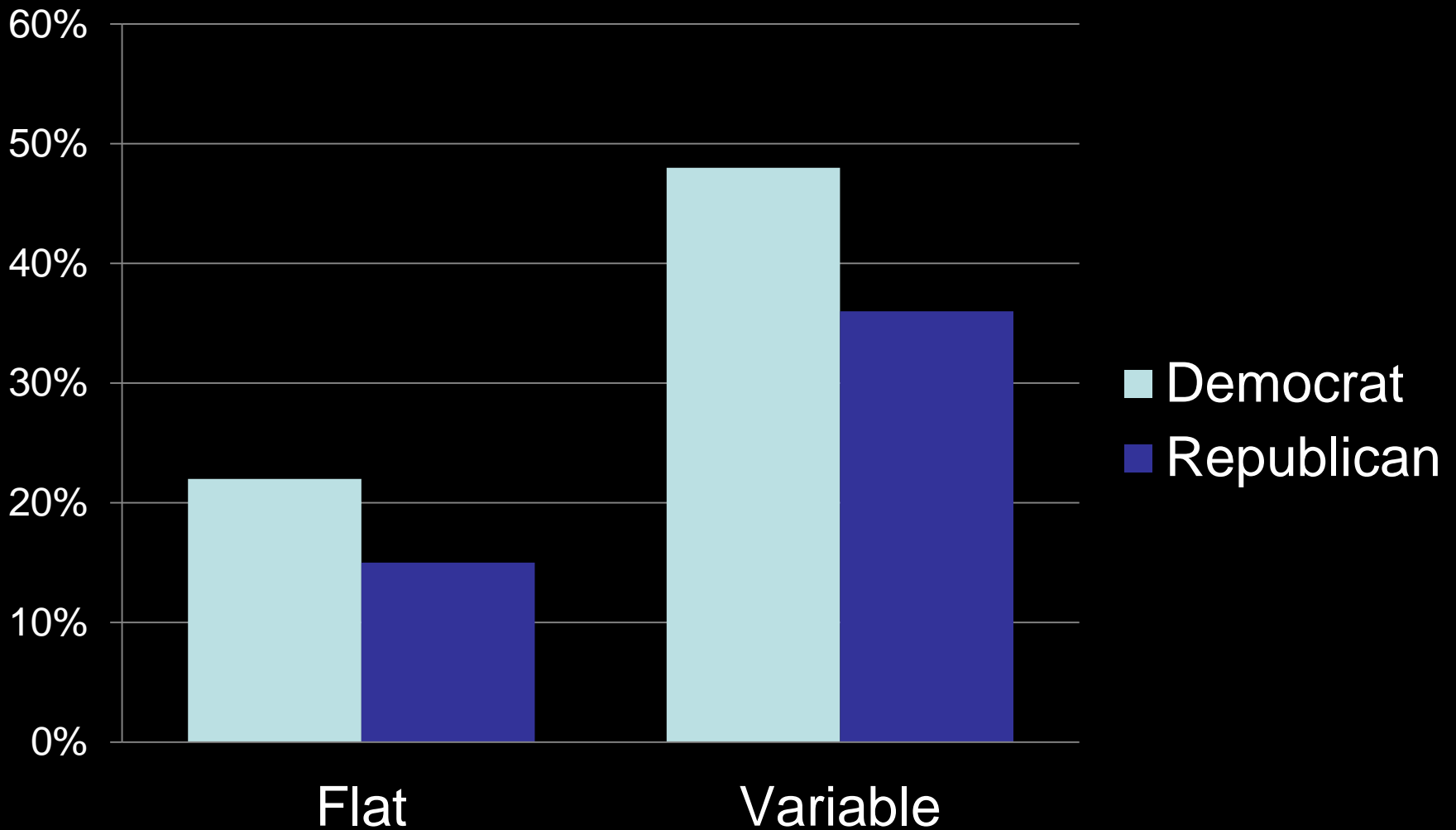
Groups most supportive of both

- Hispanic

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- Democrat

% support, by political party



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- Hispanic
- Democrat
- Don't drive

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- Don't drive
- Rate their local transit service as very good

Groups most supportive of both

- Hispanic
- Democrat
- Don't drive
- Rate their local transit service as very good
- Believe government should make it a high priority to maintain and improve the transportation system

Groups most supportive of 1 option

Flat rate:

- Black/African-American
- Drive 1 – 7,500 miles annually

Variable:

- 18-24 years old
- More than high-school education
- NOT Midwestern
- Don't know annual miles driven

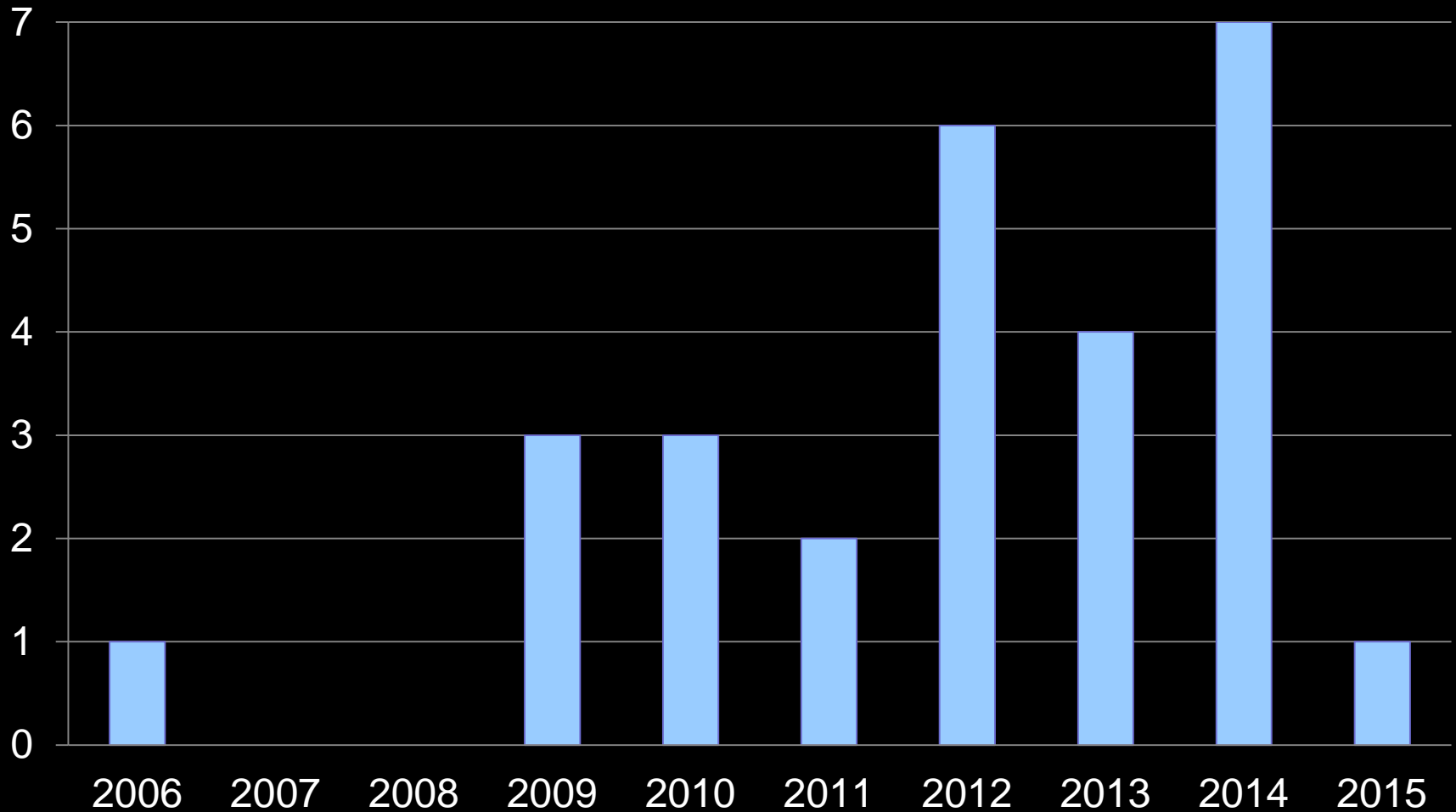
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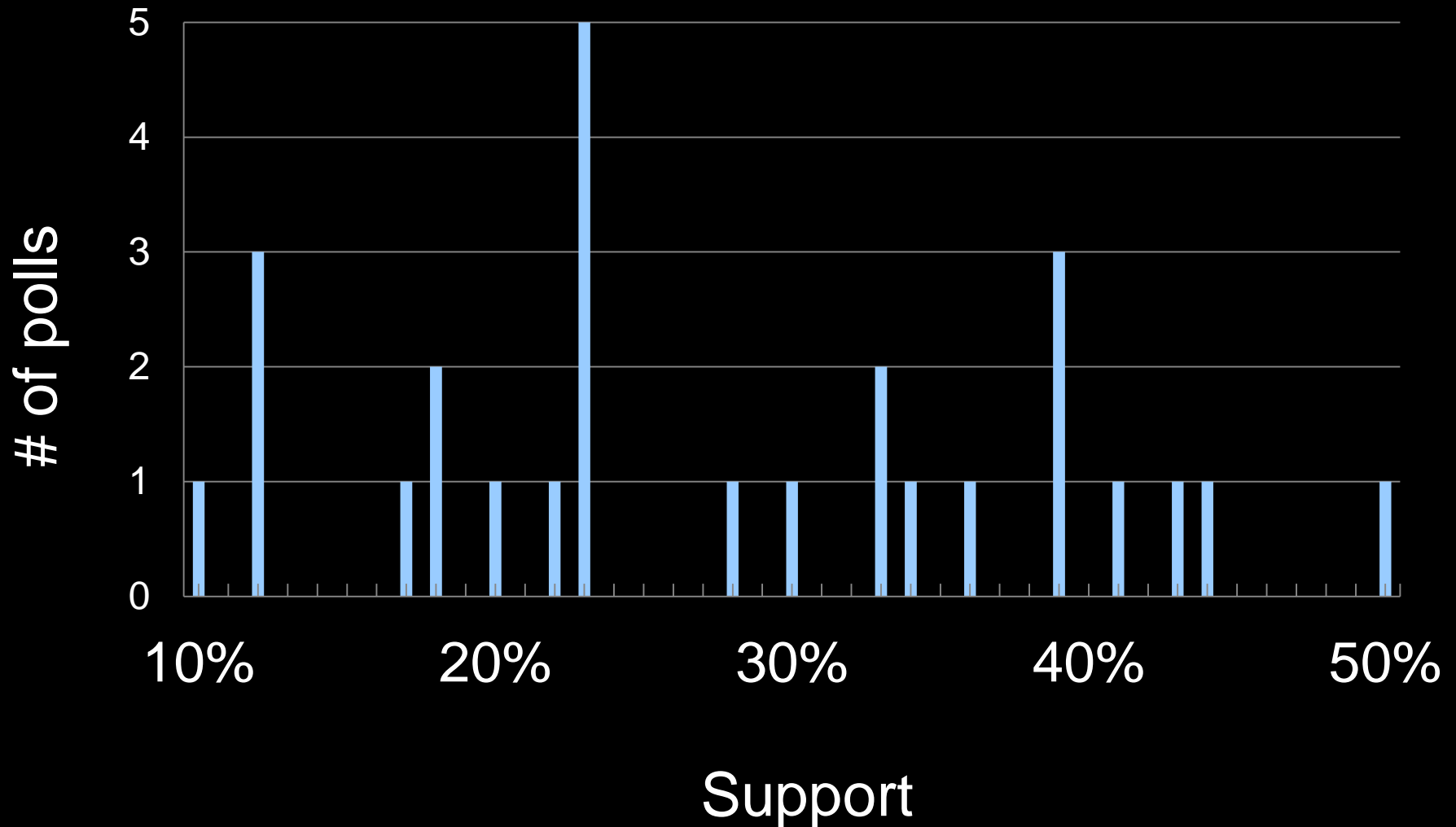
The survey of surveys

1. 27 different polls, 2006 – 2015
2. Geography
 - 13 national
 - 10 state
 - 4 other
3. Adults (16), likely/registered voters (9), other groups (2)

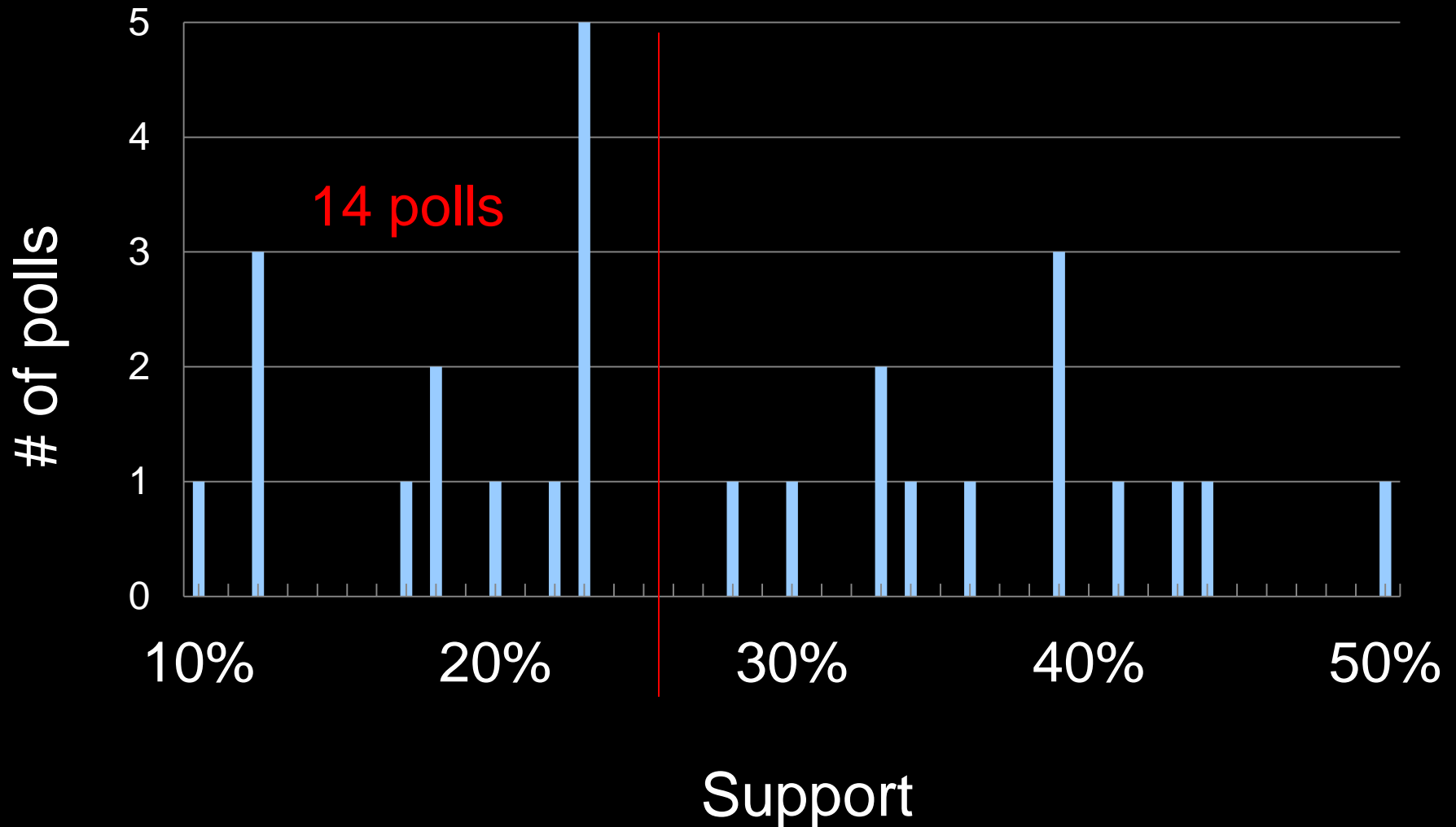
of polls, by year



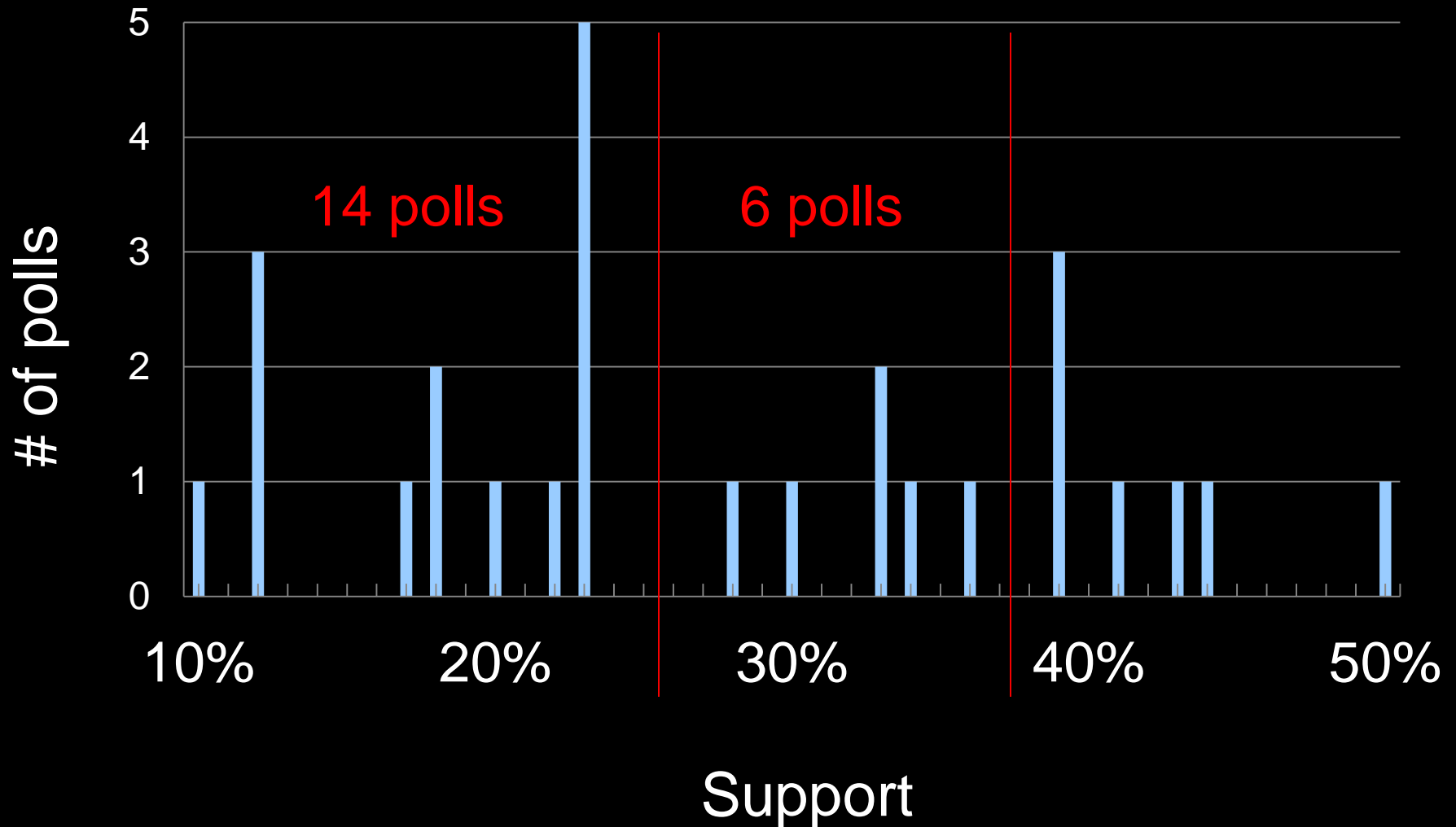
of polls at each support level



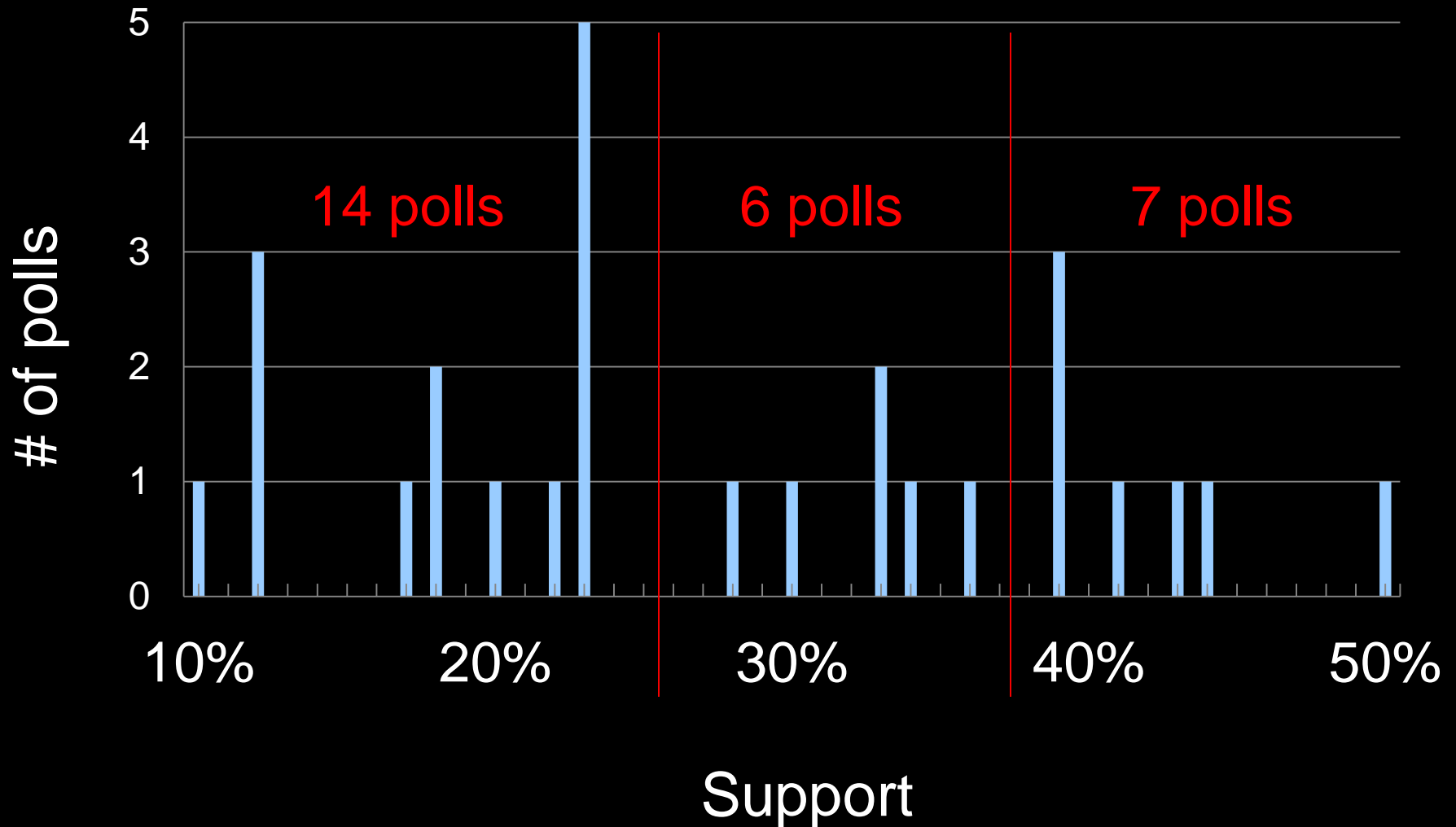
of polls at each support level



of polls at each support level



of polls at each support level



Characteristics of the top 7 polls

- Geography: US (4), CA, WA, & GA drivers
- Question linked MF with some objective beyond raising revenue
 - 5 had an environmental link (4 MTI polls asking about the variable rate MF, and another poll linked the MF to reducing GHGs)
 - 1 emphasized “people who use the system more pay more”
- Pay-at-pump structure for 5

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Implications for practice

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-- except MTI polls, of course

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4. Public support can rise if the MF is carefully designed and explained in a positive light
5. One theme that resonates is linking MFs with environmental benefits

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More research on the way

- Next MTI survey coming tomorrow!
- NCHRP study results coming by TRB 2016

Want to learn more?

- Email: asha.weinstein.agrawal@sjsu.edu
- MTI reports at www.transweb.sjsu.edu



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