

# Do Response Effects Generalize Across Countries?

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# Response Effects: Overview

- Acquiescence
- Question Balance
- Question Order
- Question Wording
- No Opinion Response Option
- Response Order
- Some/Other

# Variation Across Countries?

- Satisficing: Choosing the easiest response because it requires less thinking
- Culture: Culture-specific norms and culture-specific response styles
- Administration Issues: Visual vs. oral presentation, self- vs. interviewer-administration, sampling method

# Data

- 12 Countries
- Mode:
  - Online: Canada, France, Germany 1, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Taiwan, United States of America
  - Face-to-face: Japan
  - Mail: Denmark
  - Mixed mode: Germany 2, United Kingdom
  - Telephone: Portugal
- Probability Samples
- N = 790 to 4,298
- Data collection between 2014 and 2015

# Experiments

## Experimental Design:

- Independent random assignment
- Two experimental groups
- One question per screen

## Questions:

- Acquiescence
  - Individuals vs. social conditions
  - Women in politics
- Question Order
  - Abortion
  - Financial contributions

Acquiescence

# Experiment 1: Individuals vs. Social Conditions

## Form A

Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Individuals are more to blame than social conditions for crime and lawlessness in this country.

Agree

Disagree

## Form B

Which in your opinion is more to blame for crime and lawlessness in this country – individuals or social conditions?

Individuals more to blame

Social conditions more to blame

# Experiment 2: Women in Politics

## Form A

Do you agree or disagree to this statement?

Most men are better suited emotionally for politics than most women.

Agree

Disagree

## Form B

Would you say that most men are better suited emotionally for politics than most women, that men and women are equally suited, or that women are better suited?

Men are better suited

Men and women are equally suited

Women are better suited



# Causes of Acquiescence

- Norms of Conduct: Be polite and agreeable
- Status Differential: Defer to higher status researcher
- Satisficing: Choosing the easiest response because it requires less thinking

# Question Order

# Causes of Question Order Effects

- Perceptual Contrast: Good reasons make weaker reasons seem even weaker.
- Norm of Even-Handedness: Competing parties should be treated equally and have equal opportunities.

# Experiment 3: Abortion

## Order 1

Do you think it should be possible for a pregnant woman to obtain legal abortion if she is married and does not want any more children?

Do you think it should be possible for a pregnant woman to obtain a legal abortion if there is a strong chance of serious defect in the baby?

## Order 2

Do you think it should be possible for a pregnant woman to obtain a legal abortion if there is a strong chance of serious defect in the baby?

Do you think it should be possible for a pregnant woman to obtain legal abortion if she is married and does not want any more children?

# Experiment 4: Financial Contributions

## Order 1

Do you think **labor unions** should be permitted to spend their money to help to elect or defeat candidates for political offices?

Do you think **businesses** should be permitted to spend money to help to elect or defeat candidates for political offices?

## Order 2

Do you think **businesses** should be permitted to spend money to help to elect or defeat candidates for political offices?

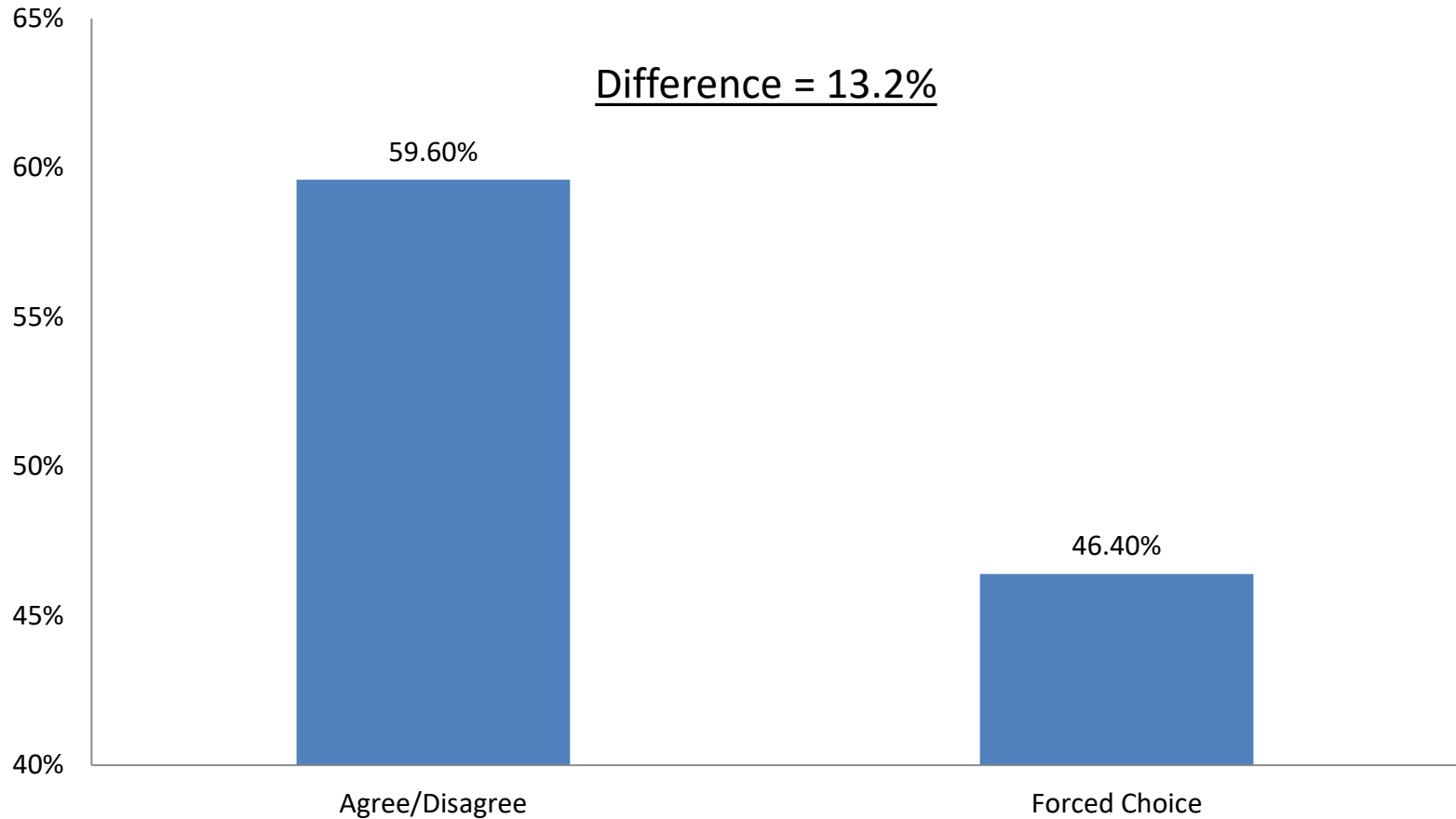
Do you think **labor unions** should be permitted to spend their money to help to elect or defeat candidates for political offices?

Results:

Acquiescence

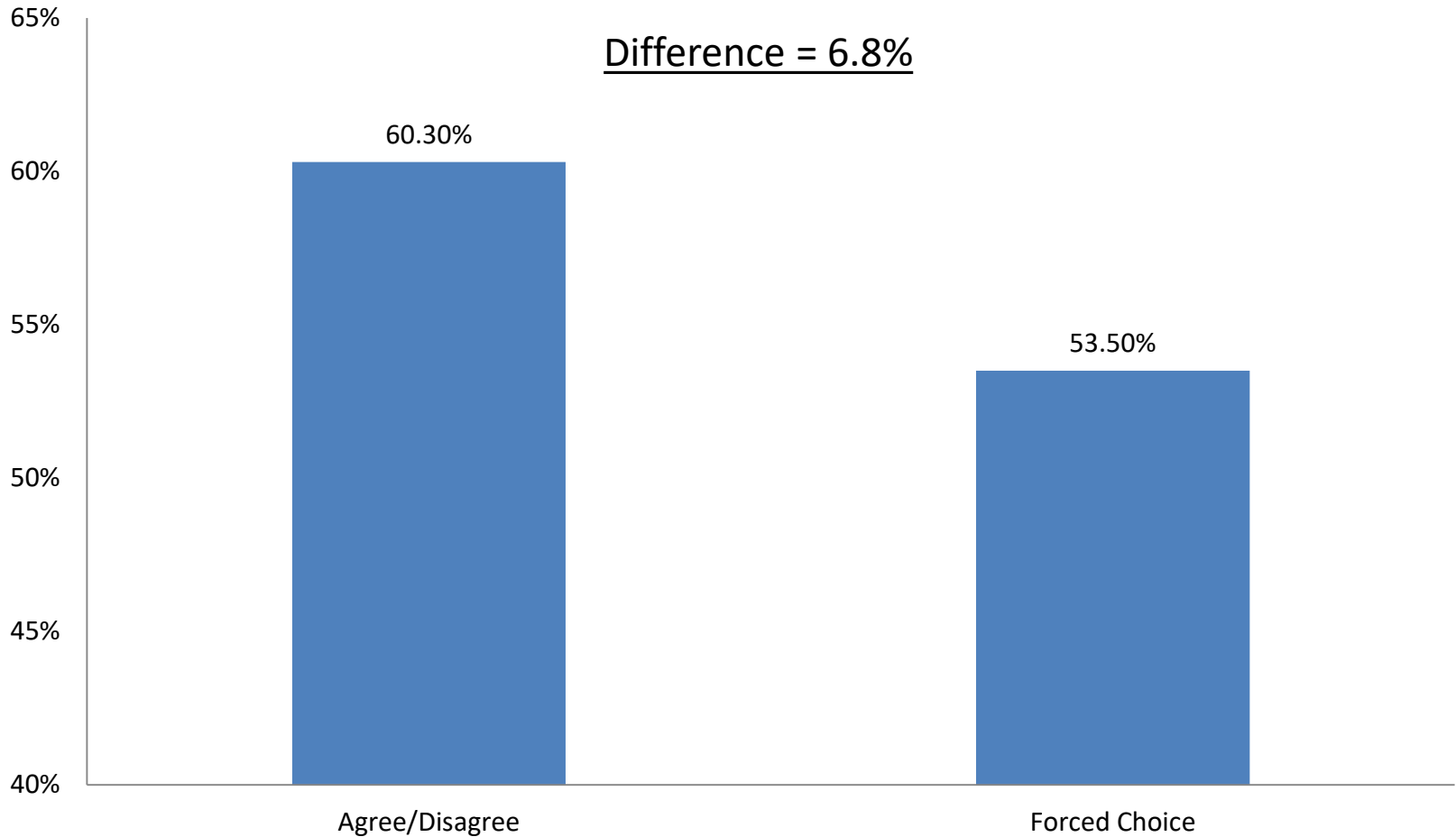
# Individuals vs. Social Conditions

## Schuman and Presser 1981



$P \leq .05$

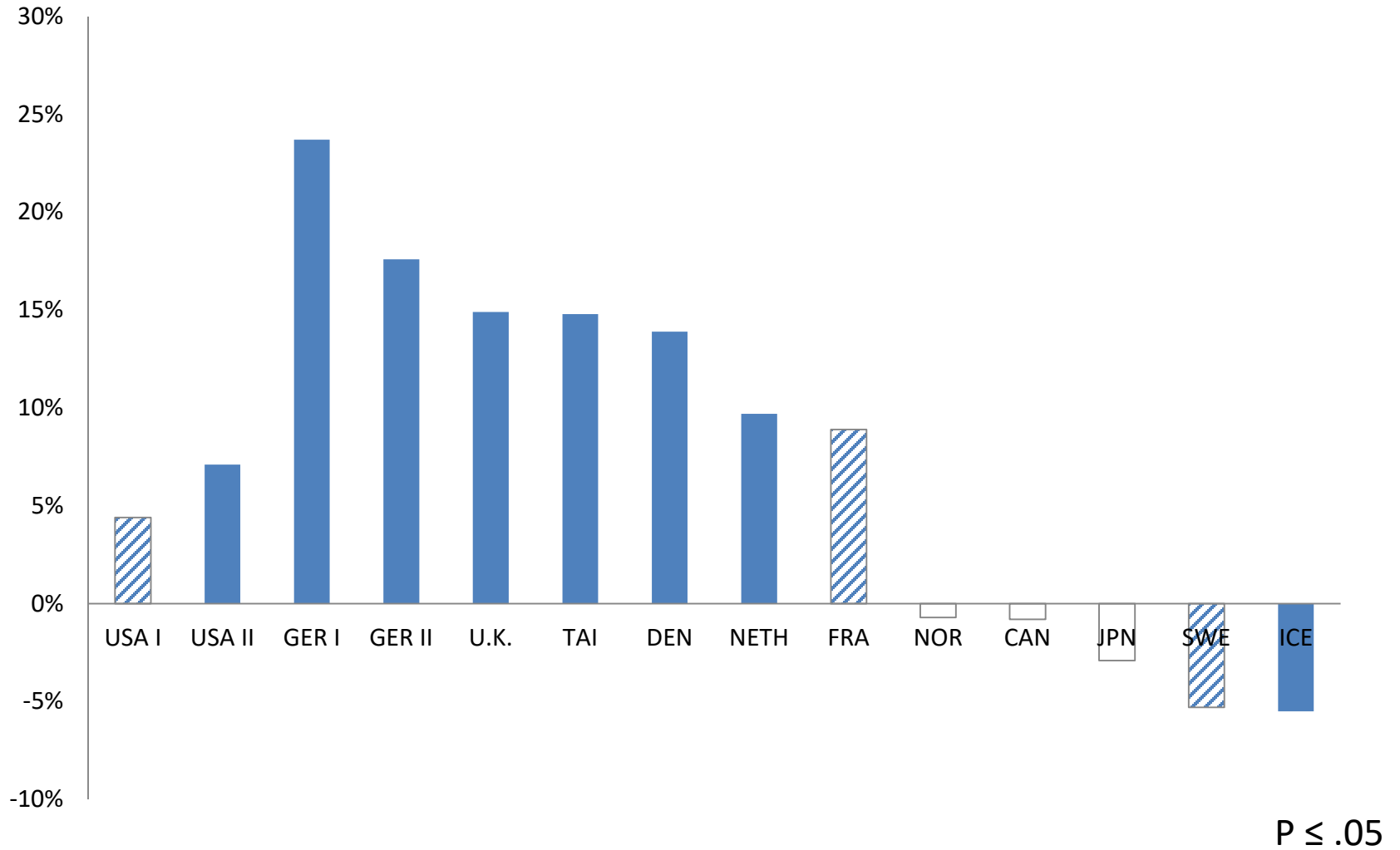
# Individuals vs. Social Conditions All Countries



$P \leq .05$

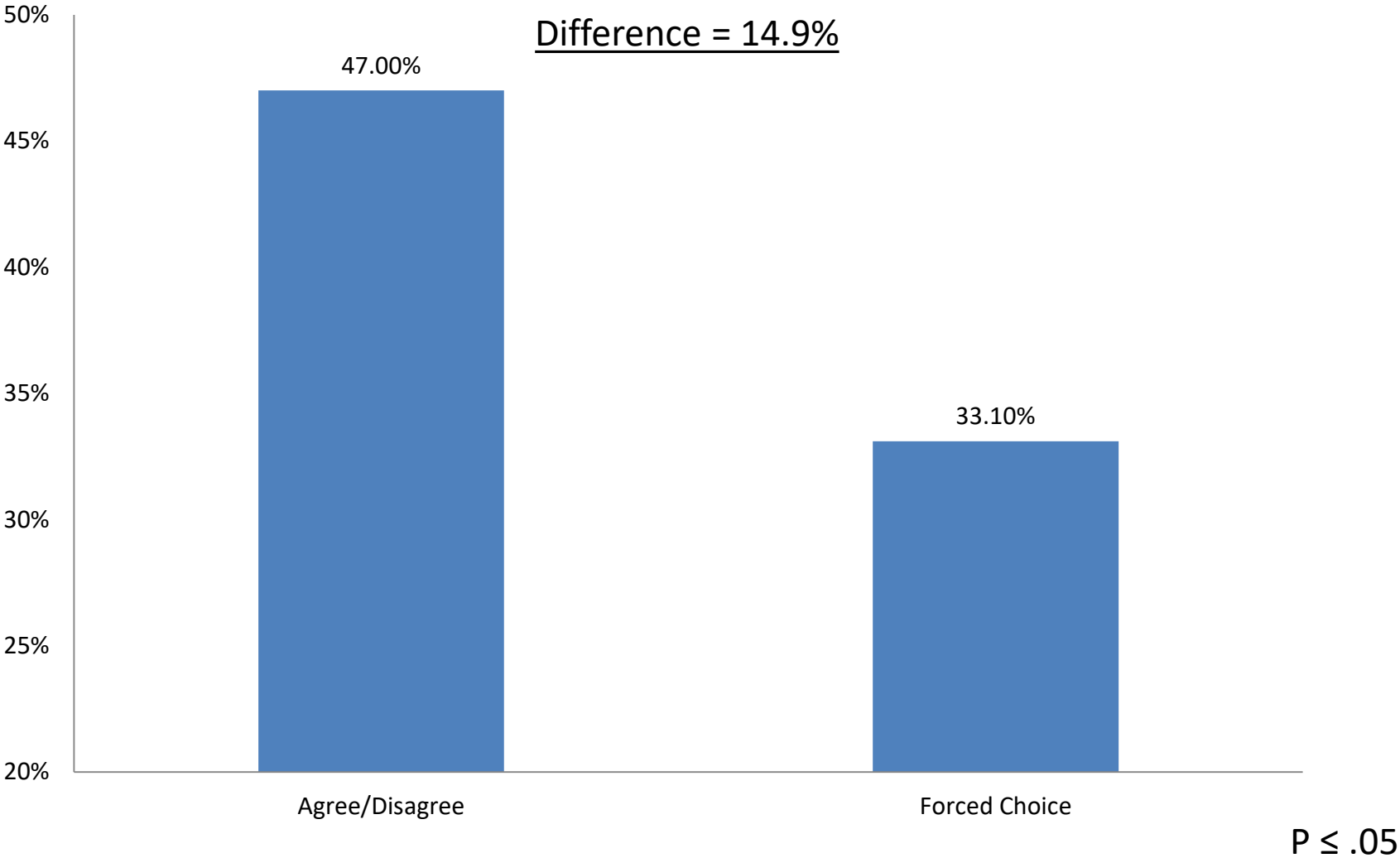


# Individuals vs. Social Conditions

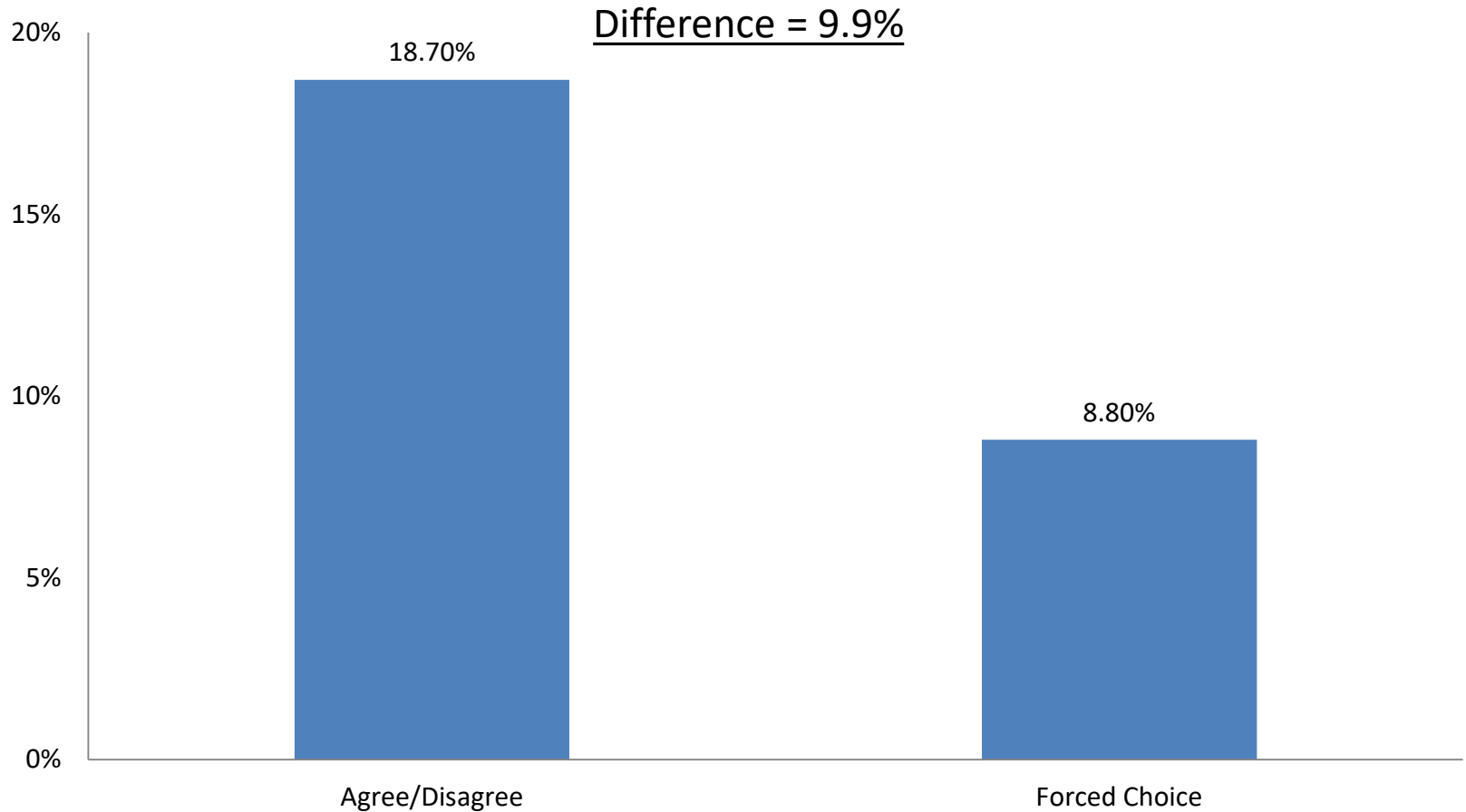


# Women in Politics

## Schuman and Presser 1981

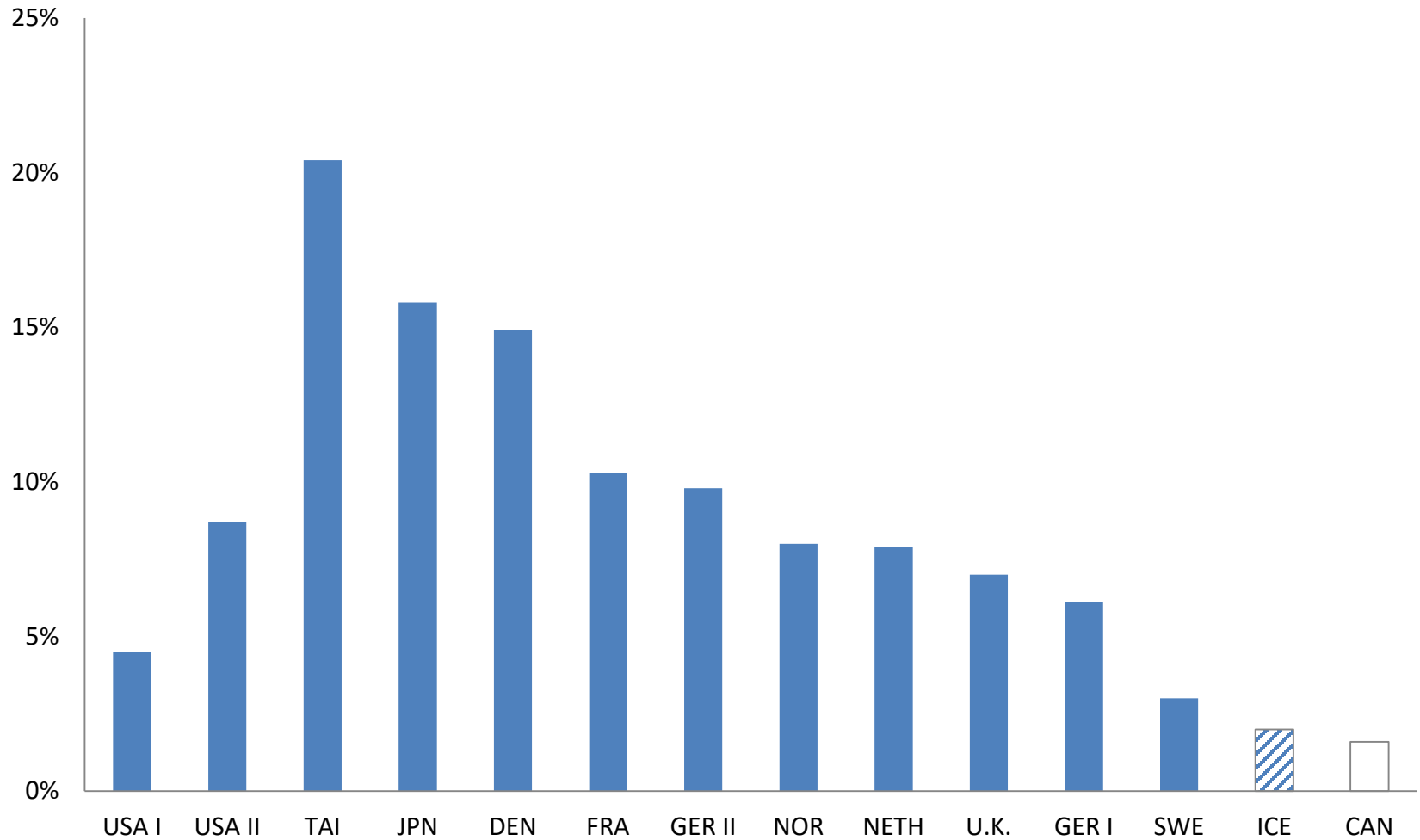


# Women in Politics All Countries



$P \leq .05$

# Women in Politics

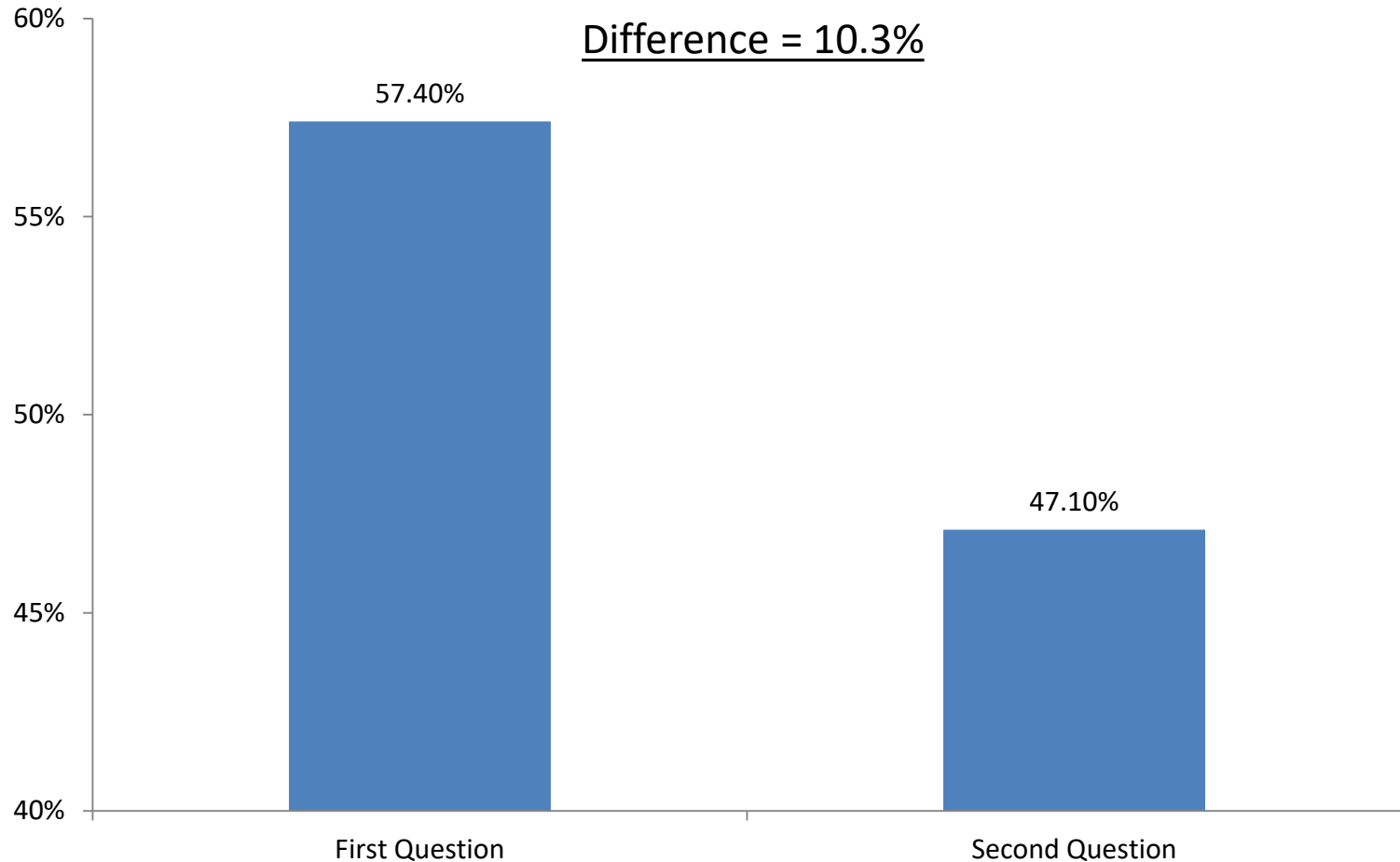


$P \leq .05$

Results:

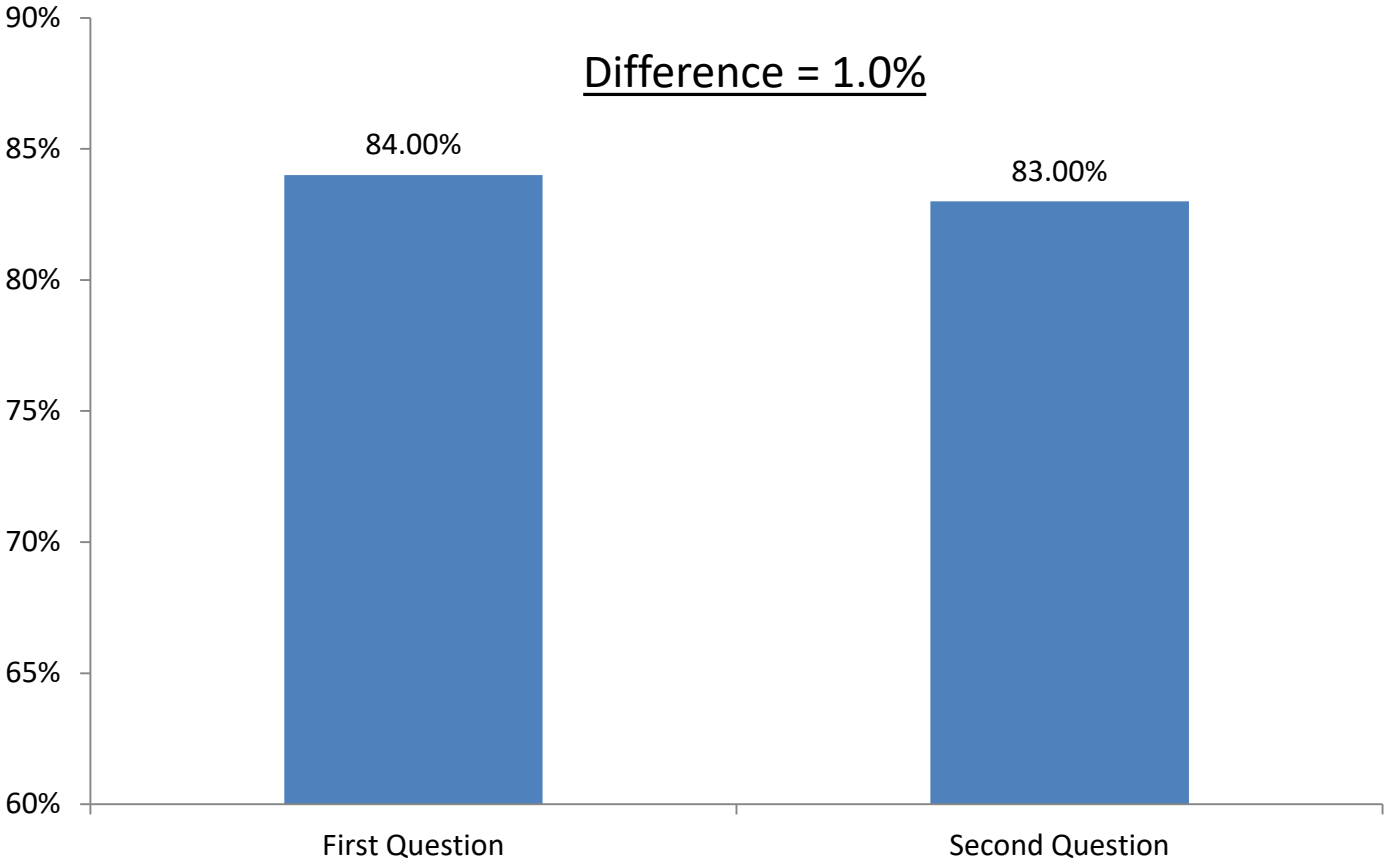
Question Order

# Abortion: No More Children Schuman and Presser 1981

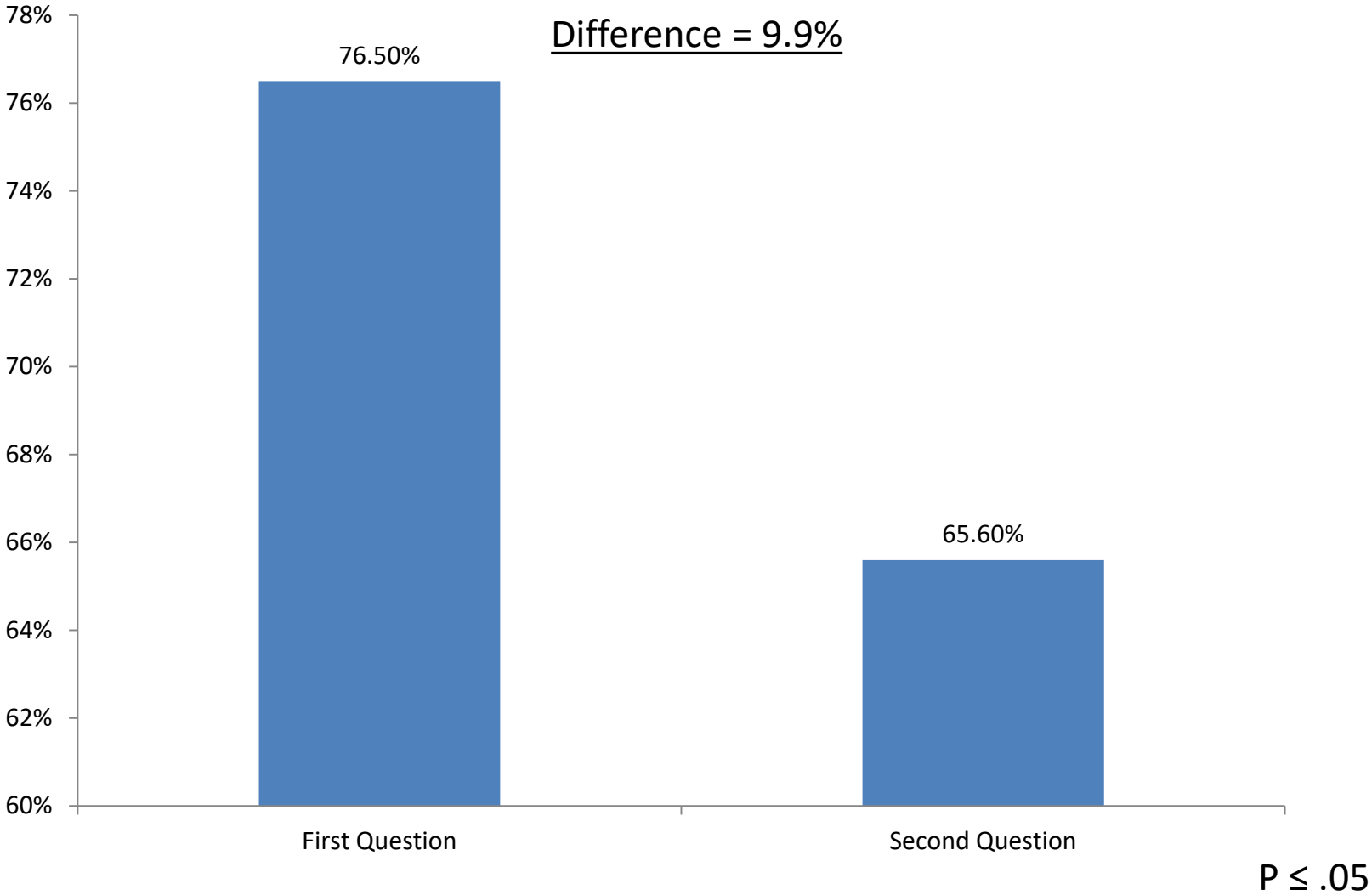


$P \leq .05$

# Abortion: Genetic Defect Schuman and Presser 1981

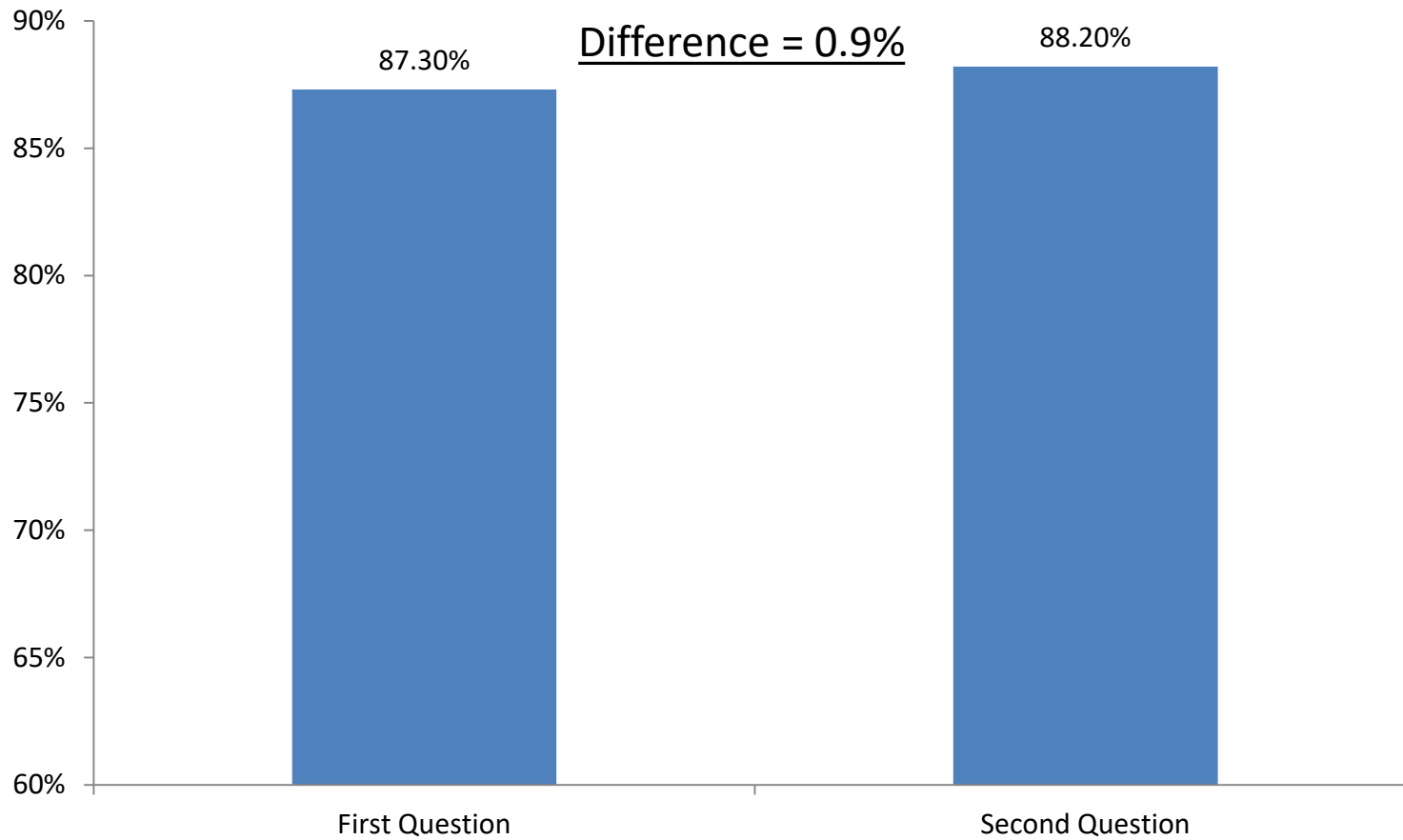


# Abortion: No More Children All Countries

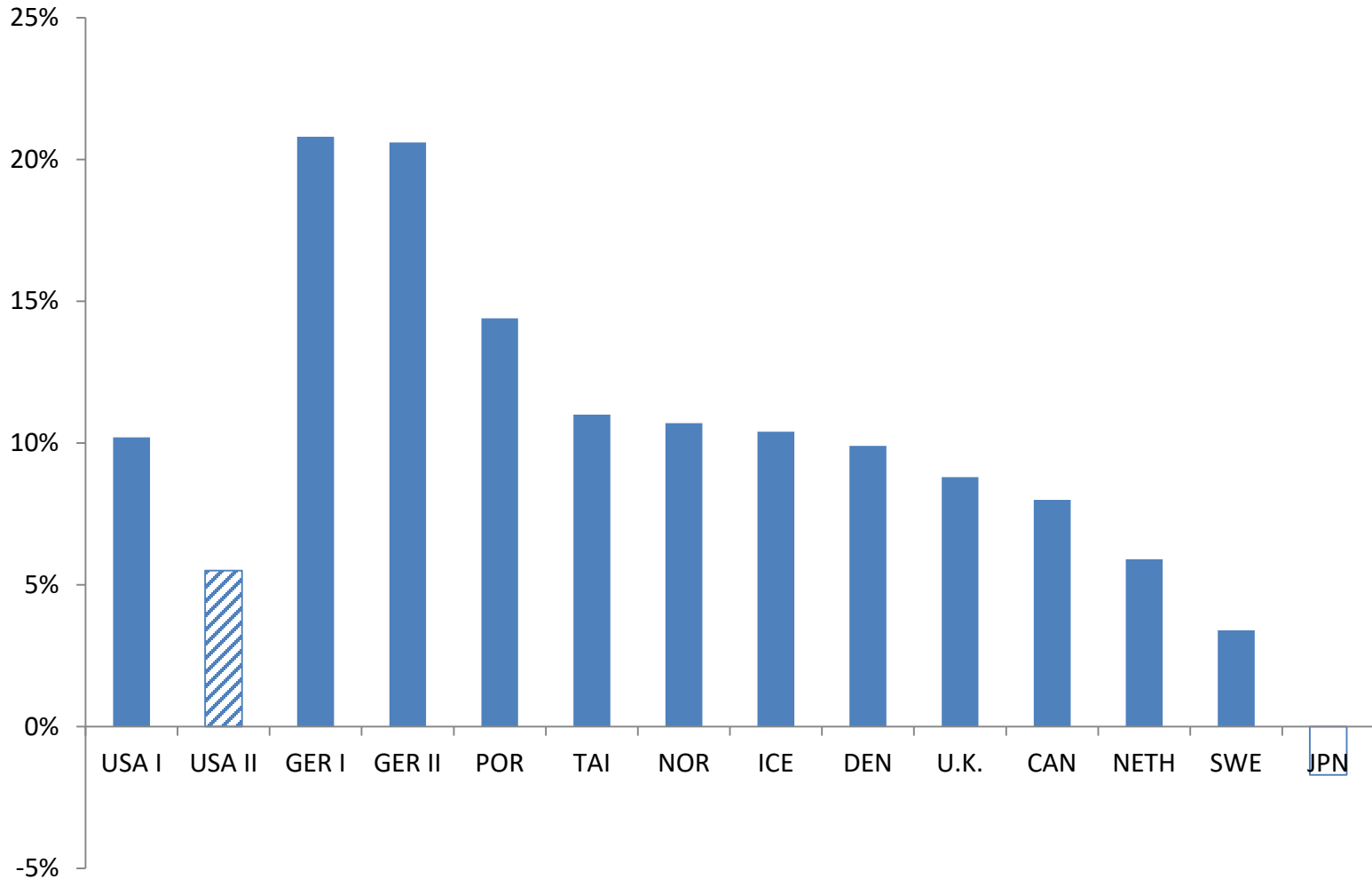




# Abortion: Genetic Defect All Countries

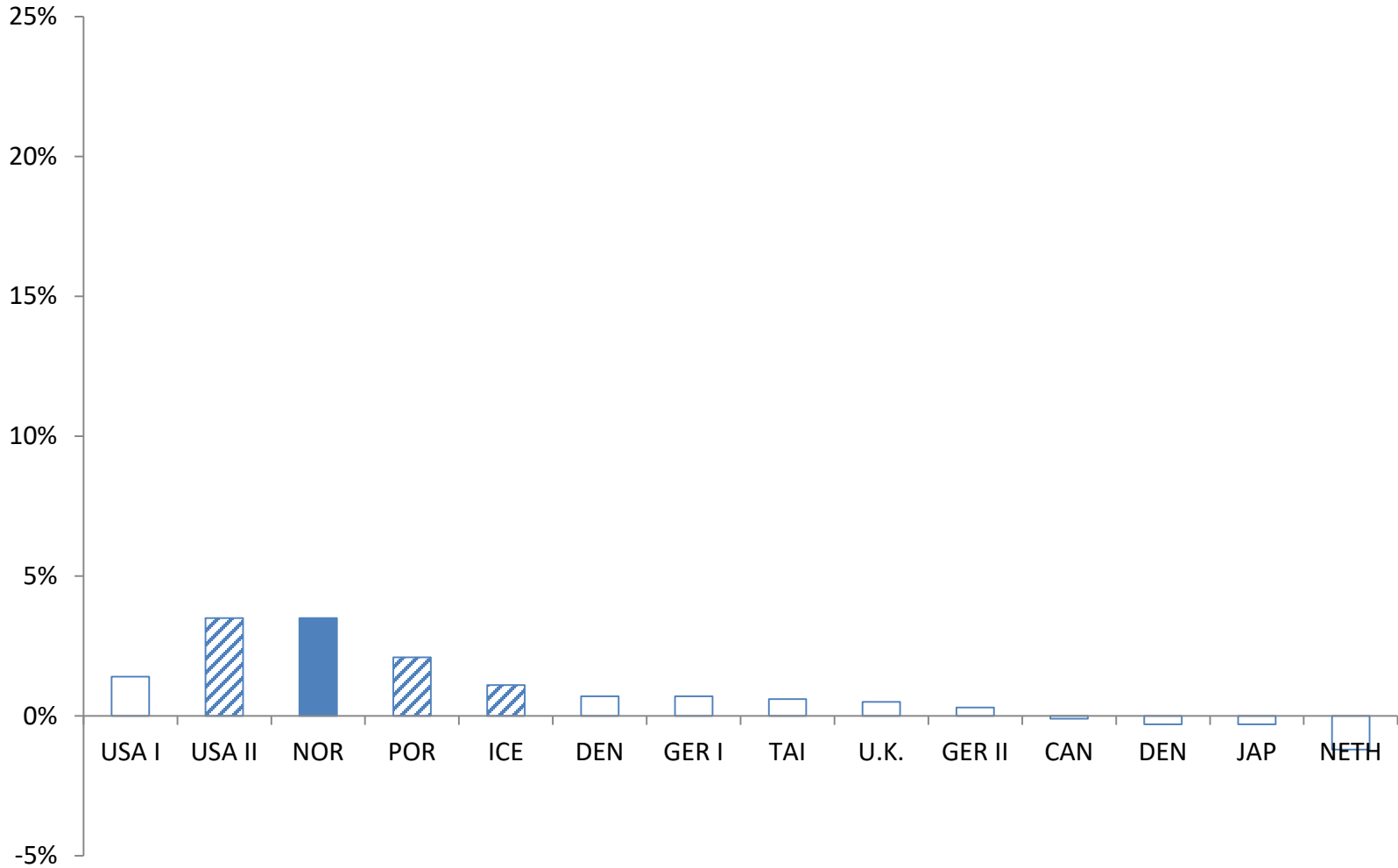


# Abortion: No More Children



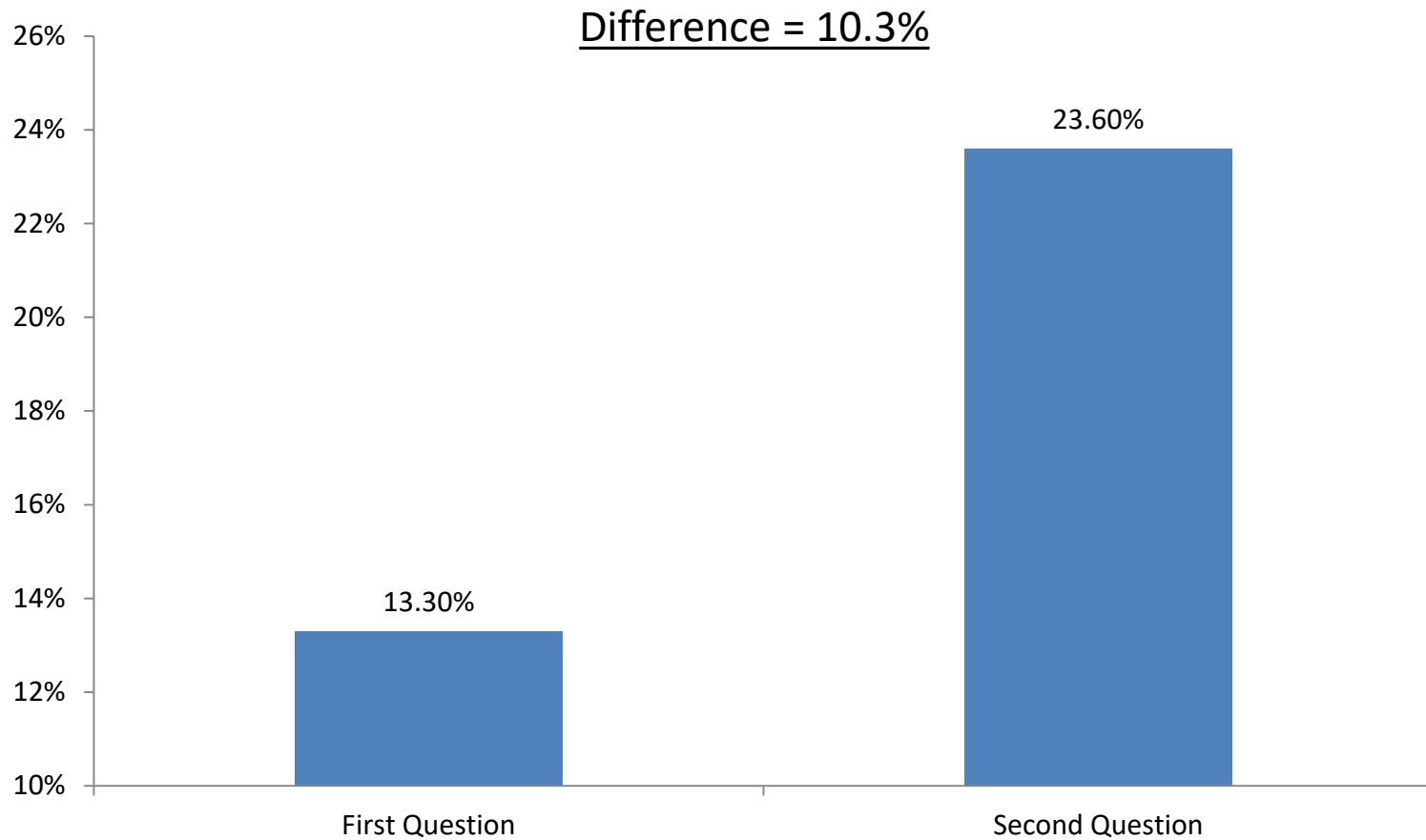
$P \leq .05$

# Abortion: Genetic Defect



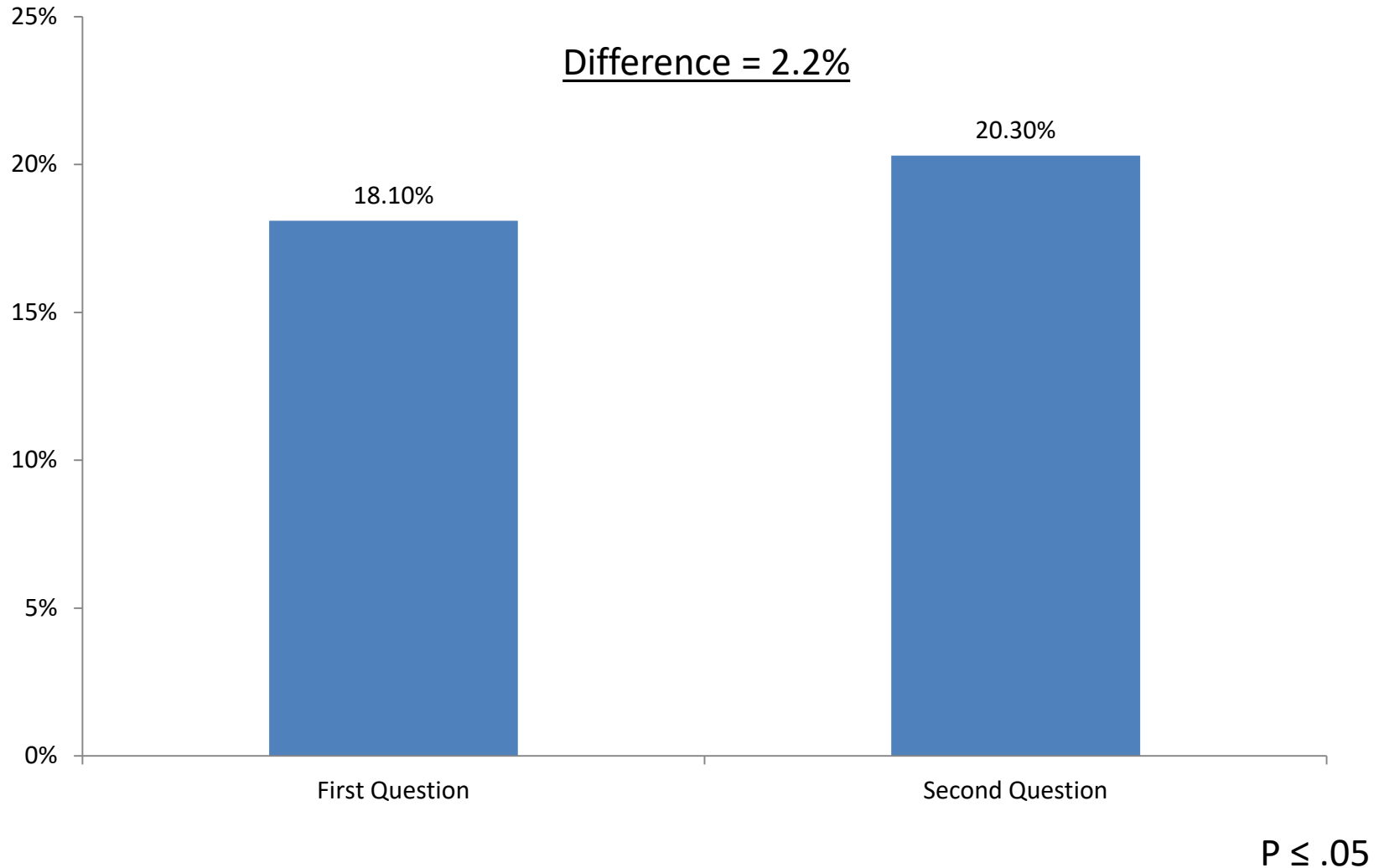
$P \leq .05$

# Financial Contributions: Businesses Schuman and Ludwig 1983

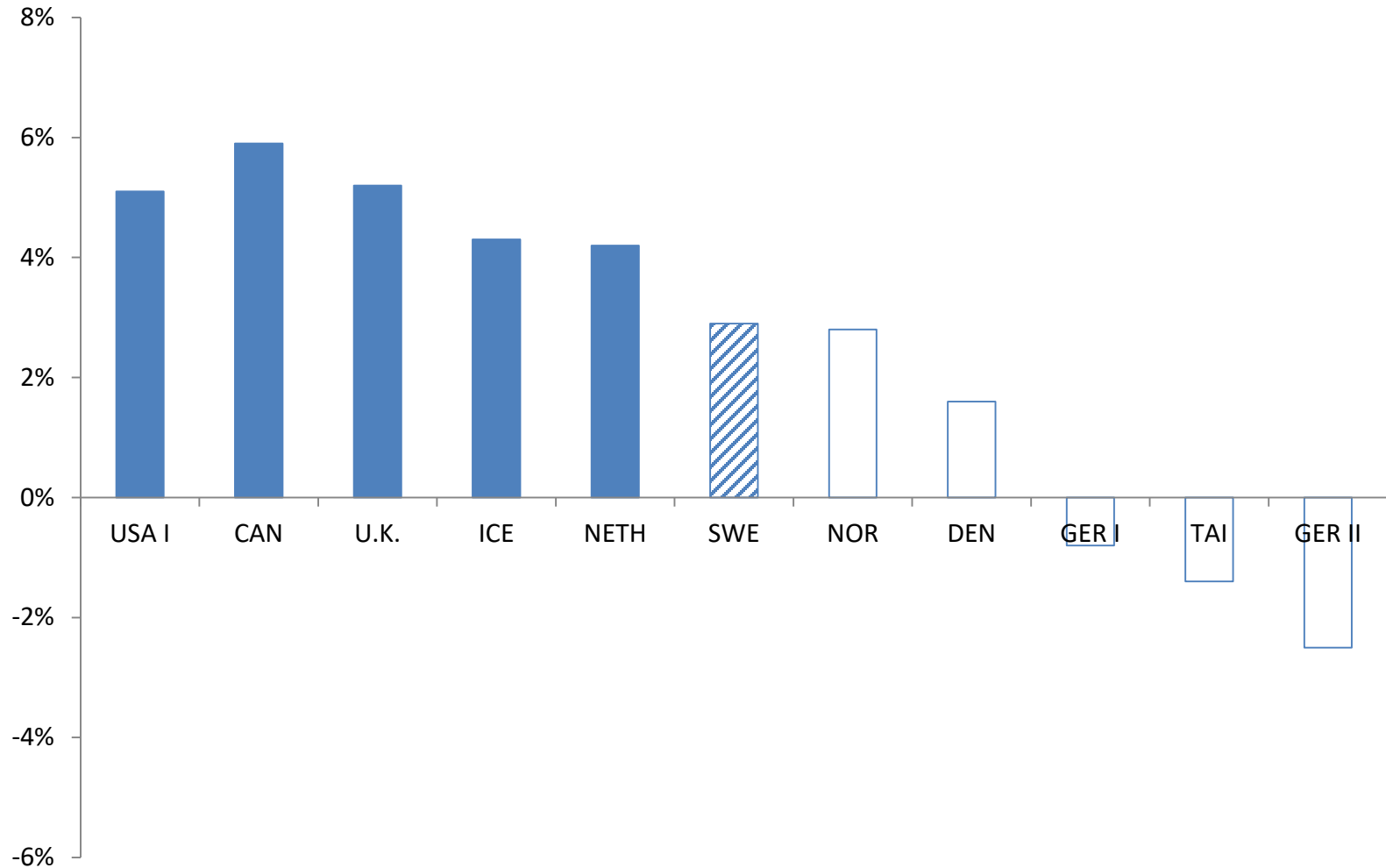


$P \leq .05$

# Financial Contributions: Businesses All Countries

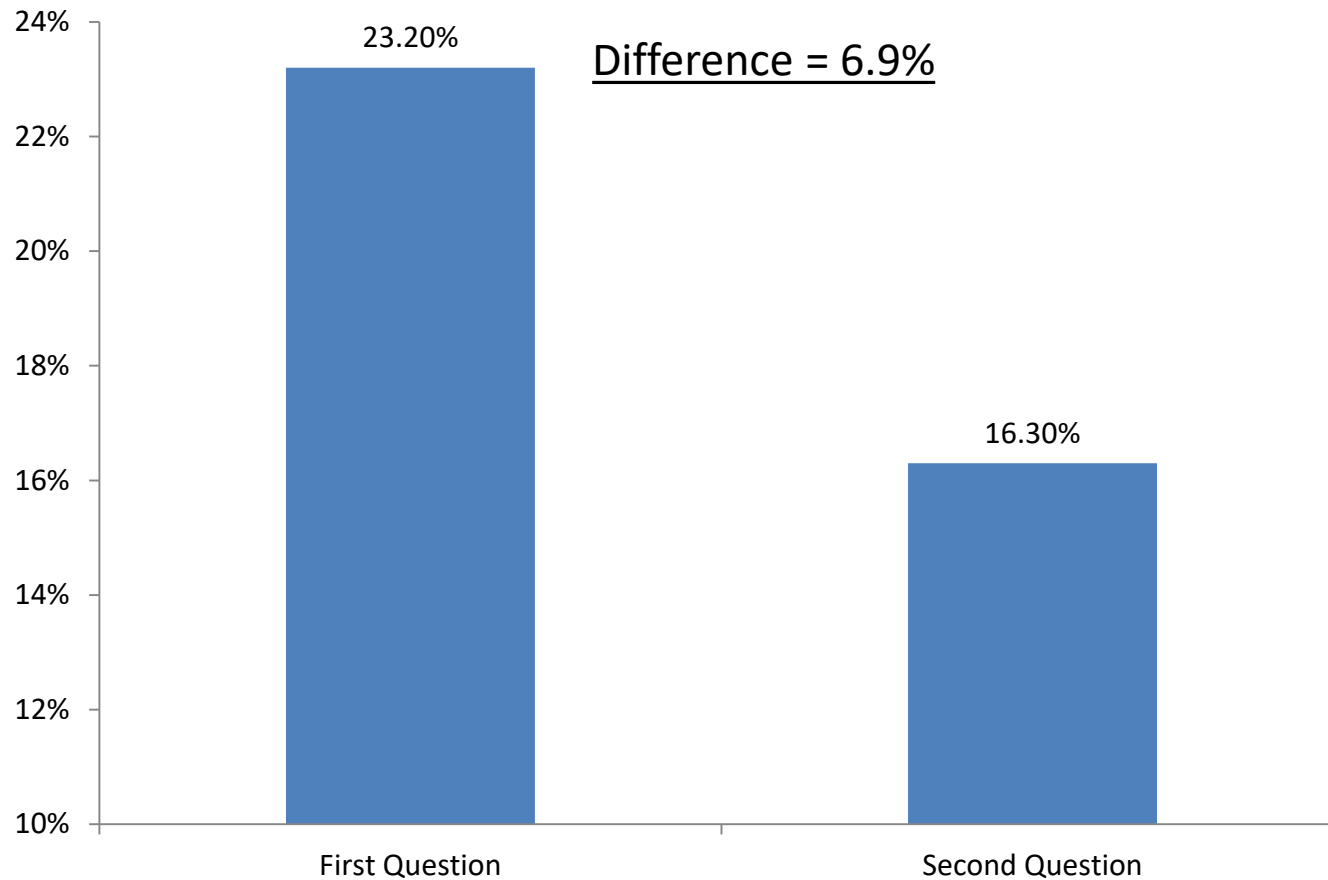


# Financial Contributions: Businesses



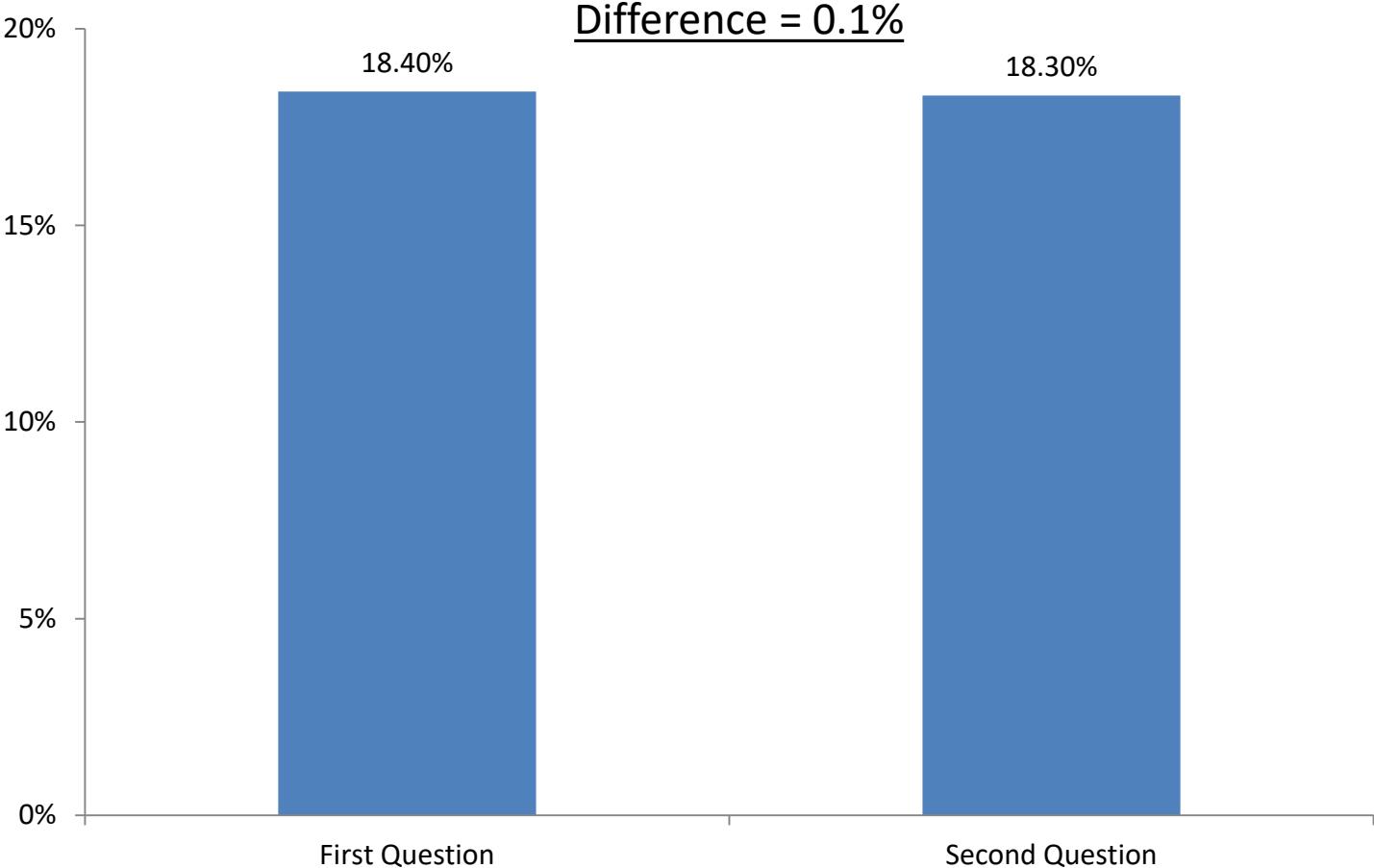
$P \leq .05$

# Financial Contributions: Labor Unions Schuman and Ludwig 1980



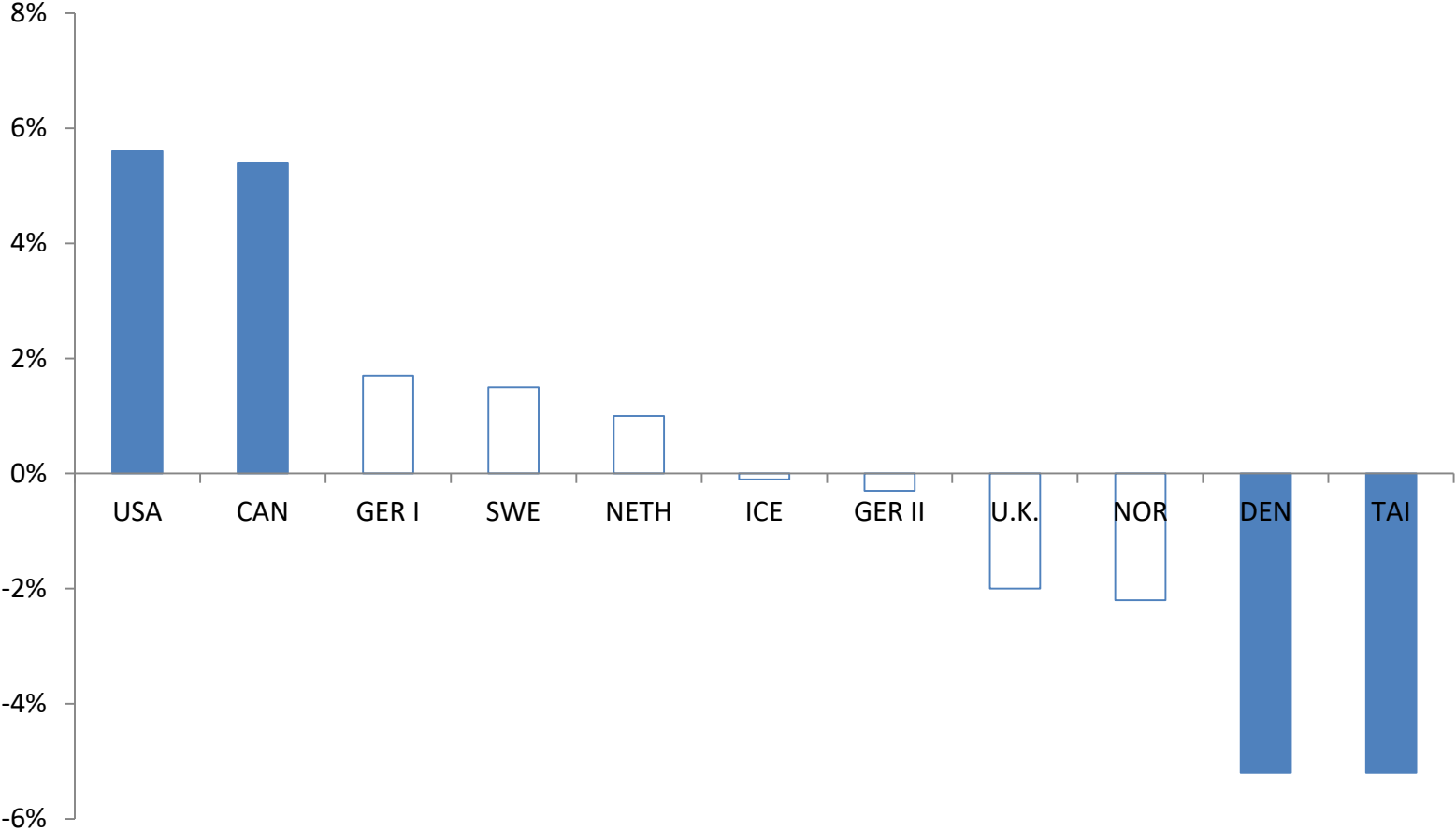
$P \leq .05$

# Financial Contributions: Labor Unions All Countries





# Financial Contributions: Labor Unions



P ≤ .05

# Conclusion

**Lots of expected results.**

**But some unexpected results.**

**No obvious patterns of differences across countries.**

**More to come!**