

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20, 2010

INTERVIEWS: DEAN DEBNAM 888-621-6988 / 919-880-4888 (serious media inquiries only please, other questions can be directed to Tom Jensen)

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLL: TOM JENSEN 919-744-6312

Burns holds small early lead

Raleigh, N.C. – The race to replace John Murtha in the US House is a close one, but Republican Tim Burns has a slight 44-41 advantage over Democrat Mark Critz for now.

Both candidates are relatively popular. 45% of voters have a favorable opinion of Burns to 26% with an unfavorable one. For Critz it's 41% who view him positively and 34% negatively. It's rare to find a race these days where both candidates have a positive net favorability rating.

Burns is winning thanks to an overwhelming lead with independents and because he's winning over far more Democrats than Critz is Republicans. Burns has a 51-31 advantage with voters who don't identify with either party. He's also winning over 22% of Democrats while Critz gets just 10% of Republicans.

It's surprising the race is as close as it is given the way voters in the district feel about national Democrats. 57% of voters in the district disapprove of Barack Obama to only 33% who give him good marks. And when it comes to his health care bill just 28% of voters are supportive with 59% in opposition.

Pennsylvania's leading Democrats don't meet with much favor in the district either. Arlen Specter has just a 28% approval rating and Ed Rendell's is only 24%.

"It's going to be somewhat amazing if Mark Critz wins this race given the way voters in his district feel about Barack Obama," said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. "His low ratings are something a long time incumbent like Murtha might have been able to weather, but you wouldn't expect Democrats to win an open seat anywhere that gives Obama an approval rating under 40%. Still it remains a toss up with a month to go before the election."

PPP surveyed 1,197 likely voters in PA-12 on April 17th and 18th. The survey's margin of error is +/-2.8%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

If you would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Dean Debnam at (888) 621-6988 or 919-880-4888.

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PA-12 Survey Results

Q1 The candidates in the upcoming special election for Congress are Republican Tim Burns and Democrat Mark Critz. If the election was today, who would you vote for?

Tim Burns 44%
Mark Critz 41%
Undecided..... 15%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Tim Burns?

Favorable..... 45%
Unfavorable 26%
Not Sure..... 29%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Mark Critz?

Favorable 41% *Not Sure*..... 26%
Unfavorable..... 34%

Q4 How excited are you about casting your vote in the special election next month?

Very excited..... 45%
Somewhat excited 23%
Not very excited..... 25%
Not sure 6%

Q5 Do you approve or disapprove of President Barack Obama's job performance? If you approve, press 1. If you disapprove, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Approve 33%
Disapprove..... 57%
Not Sure..... 10%

Q6 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Nancy Pelosi? If favorable, press 1. If unfavorable, press 2. If you're not sure, press 3.

Favorable..... 24%
Unfavorable 64%
Not Sure..... 12%

Q7 Do you support or oppose President Obama's health care plan, or do you not have an opinion?

Support 28%
Oppose 59%
No opinion..... 13%

Q8 Do you approve or disapprove of the job Democrats in Congress are doing?

Approve 29%
Disapprove..... 60%
Not sure 11%

Q9 Do you approve or disapprove of the job Republicans in Congress are doing?

Approve 26%
Disapprove..... 56%
Not sure 18%

Q10 Do you approve or disapprove of Governor Ed Rendell's job performance?

Approve 24%
Disapprove..... 63%
Not sure 13%

Q11 Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Arlen Specter's job performance?

Approve 28%
Disapprove..... 60%
Not Sure..... 12%





Q12 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Pat Toomey?

Favorable..... 23%
Unfavorable 21%
Not Sure..... 56%

Q13 If the candidates for Senate this fall were Democrat Arlen Specter and Republican Pat Toomey, who would you vote for?

Arlen Specter..... 37%
Pat Toomey 47%
Undecided..... 17%

Q14 Do you approve or disapprove of the work John Murtha did during his time in the US House?

Approve 55%
Disapprove..... 33%
Not sure 12%

Q15 Would you like to see the next Representative from your district carry on John Murtha's legacy?

Yes 49%
No..... 37%
Not Sure..... 13%

Q16 Who did you vote for President last year? If John McCain, press 1. If Barack Obama, press 2. If someone else or you don't remember, press 3.

McCain..... 50%
Obama..... 43%
Someone Else/Don't Remember..... 7%

Q17 Would you describe yourself as a liberal, moderate, or conservative? If liberal, press 1. If moderate, press 2. If conservative, press 3.

Liberal..... 13%
Moderate..... 44%
Conservative..... 43%

Q18 If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

Woman 52%
Man..... 48%

Q19 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If you are a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat..... 55%
Republican..... 35%
Independent/Other..... 10%

Q20 If you are white, press one now. If other, press 2.

White 95%
Other..... 5%

Q21 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 65, press 3. If older, press 4.

18 to 29..... 8%
30 to 45..... 20%
46 to 65..... 48%
Older than 65..... 24%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Burns Critz				
Tim Burns	44%	74%	10%	39%
Mark Critz	41%	12%	77%	25%
Undecided	15%	14%	12%	36%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Burns Favorability				
Favorable	45%	70%	16%	39%
Unfavorable	26%	8%	49%	13%
Not Sure	29%	22%	35%	49%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Critz Favorability				
Favorable	41%	18%	70%	21%
Unfavorable	34%	54%	10%	35%
Not Sure	26%	28%	20%	44%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Voter Excitement				
Very excited	45%	53%	37%	39%
Somewhat excited	23%	20%	29%	15%
Not very excited	25%	22%	27%	39%
Not sure	6%	5%	7%	8%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Obama Approval				
Approve	33%	4%	70%	11%
Disapprove	57%	92%	15%	63%
Not Sure	10%	4%	15%	26%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Pelosi Favorability				
Favorable	24%	2%	51%	10%
Unfavorable	64%	95%	28%	69%
Not Sure	12%	3%	20%	21%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Health Care				
Support	28%	3%	61%	8%
Oppose	59%	92%	19%	60%
No opinion	13%	5%	20%	32%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Dem Cong Approval				
Approve	29%	4%	60%	13%
Disapprove	60%	92%	22%	66%
Not sure	11%	4%	18%	21%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
GOP Cong Approval				
Approve	26%	47%	4%	15%
Disapprove	56%	33%	84%	49%
Not sure	18%	20%	12%	35%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Rendell Job Approval				
Approve	25%	8%	45%	17%
Disapprove	63%	81%	41%	63%
Not sure	13%	11%	14%	20%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Specter Job Approval				
Approve	29%	7%	56%	15%
Disapprove	60%	87%	28%	55%
Not Sure	12%	6%	16%	30%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Toomey Favorability				
Favorable	23%	38%	5%	22%
Unfavorable	21%	13%	33%	9%
Not Sure	56%	49%	62%	70%





Crosstabs

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Specter Toomey				
Arlen Specter	37%	8%	72%	27%
Pat Toomey	47%	79%	11%	35%
Undecided	17%	13%	17%	38%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Murtha Approval				
Approve	55%	30%	84%	52%
Disapprove	33%	56%	8%	22%
Not sure	12%	14%	8%	26%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		McCain	Obama	Someone Else/Don't Remember
Murtha Legacy				
Yes	49%	23%	82%	40%
No	37%	63%	8%	30%
Not Sure	13%	14%	10%	30%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Burns Critz				
Tim Burns	44%	10%	29%	71%
Mark Critz	41%	77%	56%	15%
Undecided	15%	13%	16%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Burns Favorability				
Favorable	45%	15%	33%	66%
Unfavorable	26%	52%	34%	9%
Not Sure	29%	33%	32%	25%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Critz Favorability				
Favorable	41%	73%	53%	18%
Unfavorable	34%	10%	22%	53%
Not Sure	26%	17%	25%	29%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Voter Excitement				
Very excited	45%	43%	36%	56%
Somewhat excited	23%	26%	28%	18%
Not very excited	25%	27%	30%	20%
Not sure	6%	4%	7%	6%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Obama Approval				
Approve	33%	73%	45%	8%
Disapprove	57%	18%	39%	87%
Not Sure	10%	9%	16%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Pelosi Favorability				
Favorable	24%	61%	31%	6%
Unfavorable	64%	22%	52%	90%
Not Sure	12%	17%	17%	4%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Health Care				
Support	28%	67%	39%	4%
Oppose	59%	19%	42%	88%
No opinion	13%	14%	19%	8%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Dem Cong Approval				
Approve	29%	71%	38%	7%
Disapprove	60%	20%	45%	88%
Not sure	11%	10%	18%	5%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
GOP Cong Approval				
Approve	26%	8%	13%	45%
Disapprove	56%	83%	69%	35%
Not sure	18%	9%	18%	20%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Rendell Job Approval				
Approve	24%	55%	31%	9%
Disapprove	63%	33%	55%	80%
Not sure	13%	12%	15%	11%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Specter Job Approval				
Approve	28%	60%	38%	9%
Disapprove	60%	29%	45%	84%
Not Sure	12%	11%	16%	7%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Toomey Favorability				
Favorable	23%	7%	11%	40%
Unfavorable	21%	39%	24%	13%
Not Sure	56%	54%	65%	47%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Specter Toomey				
Arlen Specter	37%	77%	49%	11%
Pat Toomey	47%	12%	30%	74%
Undecided	17%	12%	21%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Murtha Approval				
Approve	55%	84%	70%	30%
Disapprove	33%	8%	19%	55%
Not sure	12%	8%	11%	15%

	Base	Ideology		
		Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Murtha Legacy				
Yes	49%	83%	65%	23%
No	37%	10%	23%	61%
Not Sure	13%	7%	13%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Burns Critz			
Tim Burns	44%	39%	50%
Mark Critz	41%	46%	36%
Undecided	15%	15%	14%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Burns Favorability			
Favorable	45%	40%	50%
Unfavorable	26%	24%	28%
Not Sure	29%	36%	22%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Critz Favorability			
Favorable	41%	44%	38%
Unfavorable	34%	29%	39%
Not Sure	26%	28%	23%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Voter Excitement			
Very excited	45%	38%	53%
Somewhat excited	23%	25%	22%
Not very excited	25%	28%	22%
Not sure	6%	9%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Obama Approval			
Approve	33%	34%	32%
Disapprove	57%	55%	59%
Not Sure	10%	12%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Pelosi Favorability			
Favorable	24%	25%	23%
Unfavorable	64%	61%	68%
Not Sure	12%	15%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Health Care			
Support	28%	28%	28%
Oppose	59%	56%	62%
No opinion	13%	16%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Dem Cong Approval			
Approve	29%	29%	28%
Disapprove	60%	58%	63%
Not sure	11%	13%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
GOP Cong Approval			
Approve	26%	25%	28%
Disapprove	56%	56%	56%
Not sure	18%	19%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Rendell Job Approval			
Approve	24%	25%	24%
Disapprove	63%	59%	67%
Not sure	13%	17%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Specter Job Approval			
Approve	28%	30%	27%
Disapprove	60%	57%	63%
Not Sure	12%	14%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Toomey Favorability			
Favorable	23%	16%	30%
Unfavorable	21%	18%	24%
Not Sure	56%	66%	46%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Specter Toomey			
Arlen Specter	37%	38%	35%
Pat Toomey	47%	43%	51%
Undecided	17%	19%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Murtha Approval			
Approve	55%	59%	50%
Disapprove	33%	29%	37%
Not sure	12%	12%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Murtha Legacy			
Yes	49%	53%	46%
No	37%	31%	44%
Not Sure	13%	16%	10%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Burns Critz				
Tim Burns	44%	22%	77%	51%
Mark Critz	41%	63%	10%	31%
Undecided	15%	15%	13%	18%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Burns Favorability				
Favorable	45%	28%	70%	49%
Unfavorable	26%	37%	9%	27%
Not Sure	29%	35%	21%	24%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Critz Favorability				
Favorable	41%	59%	14%	34%
Unfavorable	34%	19%	57%	32%
Not Sure	26%	22%	29%	34%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Voter Excitement				
Very excited	45%	38%	57%	41%
Somewhat excited	23%	26%	20%	23%
Not very excited	25%	29%	18%	27%
Not sure	6%	7%	5%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Obama Approval				
Approve	33%	50%	7%	31%
Disapprove	57%	35%	90%	63%
Not Sure	10%	15%	4%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Pelosi Favorability				
Favorable	24%	38%	3%	21%
Unfavorable	64%	44%	94%	72%
Not Sure	12%	18%	3%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Health Care				
Support	28%	43%	5%	27%
Oppose	59%	39%	88%	66%
No opinion	13%	19%	7%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Dem Cong Approval				
Approve	29%	46%	4%	21%
Disapprove	60%	38%	93%	67%
Not sure	11%	16%	4%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
GOP Cong Approval				
Approve	26%	15%	46%	23%
Disapprove	56%	69%	34%	61%
Not sure	18%	16%	20%	16%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Rendell Job Approval				
Approve	24%	34%	10%	23%
Disapprove	63%	51%	80%	69%
Not sure	13%	15%	11%	7%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Specter Job Approval				
Approve	28%	43%	6%	27%
Disapprove	60%	42%	86%	64%
Not Sure	12%	15%	7%	9%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Toomey Favorability				
Favorable	23%	11%	39%	30%
Unfavorable	21%	28%	13%	13%
Not Sure	56%	61%	48%	57%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Specter Toomey				
Arlen Specter	37%	55%	8%	32%
Pat Toomey	47%	25%	78%	56%
Undecided	17%	19%	14%	12%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Murtha Approval				
Approve	55%	75%	26%	44%
Disapprove	33%	15%	58%	42%
Not sure	12%	10%	15%	14%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Murtha Legacy				
Yes	49%	71%	19%	38%
No	37%	17%	65%	50%
Not Sure	13%	12%	16%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Burns Critz			
Tim Burns	44%	44%	43%
Mark Critz	41%	41%	34%
Undecided	15%	14%	23%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Burns Favorability			
Favorable	45%	45%	41%
Unfavorable	26%	26%	25%
Not Sure	29%	29%	34%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Critz Favorability			
Favorable	41%	41%	40%
Unfavorable	34%	34%	35%
Not Sure	26%	26%	26%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Voter Excitement			
Very excited	45%	45%	54%
Somewhat excited	23%	23%	25%
Not very excited	25%	26%	18%
Not sure	6%	6%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Obama Approval			
Approve	33%	32%	46%
Disapprove	57%	57%	50%
Not Sure	10%	11%	4%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Pelosi Favorability			
Favorable	24%	24%	32%
Unfavorable	64%	64%	63%
Not Sure	12%	12%	5%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Health Care			
Support	28%	28%	34%
Oppose	59%	59%	53%
No opinion	13%	13%	12%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Dem Cong Approval			
Approve	29%	29%	31%
Disapprove	60%	60%	60%
Not sure	11%	11%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
GOP Cong Approval			
Approve	26%	26%	23%
Disapprove	56%	56%	55%
Not sure	18%	17%	22%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Rendell Job Approval			
Approve	24%	24%	37%
Disapprove	63%	63%	57%
Not sure	13%	13%	7%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Specter Job Approval			
Approve	28%	28%	33%
Disapprove	60%	59%	64%
Not Sure	12%	12%	4%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Toomey Favorability			
Favorable	23%	22%	36%
Unfavorable	21%	21%	28%
Not Sure	56%	57%	36%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Specter Toomey			
Arlen Specter	37%	37%	34%
Pat Toomey	47%	47%	48%
Undecided	17%	17%	19%

	Base	Race		
		White	Other	
Murtha Approval				
Approve	55%	55%	47%	
Disapprove	33%	32%	39%	
Not sure	12%	12%	14%	

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
Murtha Legacy			
Yes	49%	50%	43%
No	37%	37%	46%
Not Sure	13%	14%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Burns Critz					
Tim Burns	44%	38%	52%	43%	42%
Mark Critz	41%	51%	34%	43%	40%
Undecided	15%	11%	14%	14%	18%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Burns Favorability					
Favorable	45%	38%	51%	44%	44%
Unfavorable	26%	38%	23%	26%	24%
Not Sure	29%	25%	27%	30%	32%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Critz Favorability					
Favorable	41%	57%	36%	39%	43%
Unfavorable	34%	19%	39%	35%	30%
Not Sure	26%	25%	25%	26%	27%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Voter Excitement					
Very excited	45%	60%	46%	42%	45%
Somewhat excited	23%	11%	20%	26%	26%
Not very excited	25%	19%	26%	27%	23%
Not sure	6%	9%	8%	5%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Obama Approval					
Approve	33%	42%	29%	34%	32%
Disapprove	57%	51%	65%	56%	53%
Not Sure	10%	8%	6%	10%	15%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Pelosi Favorability					
Favorable	24%	42%	18%	23%	25%
Unfavorable	64%	49%	71%	64%	63%
Not Sure	12%	9%	11%	12%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Health Care					
Support	28%	34%	24%	29%	26%
Oppose	59%	47%	67%	59%	56%
No opinion	13%	19%	9%	12%	18%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Dem Cong Approval					
Approve	29%	43%	27%	28%	26%
Disapprove	60%	53%	67%	59%	58%
Not sure	11%	4%	6%	13%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
GOP Cong Approval					
Approve	26%	26%	38%	23%	22%
Disapprove	56%	62%	50%	59%	54%
Not sure	18%	11%	12%	18%	23%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Rendell Job Approval					
Approve	24%	38%	18%	23%	28%
Disapprove	63%	53%	76%	64%	52%
Not sure	13%	9%	6%	13%	19%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Specter Job Approval					
Approve	28%	40%	26%	27%	30%
Disapprove	60%	49%	66%	60%	57%
Not Sure	12%	11%	9%	13%	13%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Toomey Favorability					
Favorable	23%	21%	22%	23%	23%
Unfavorable	21%	32%	21%	20%	21%
Not Sure	56%	47%	57%	57%	56%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Specter Toomey					
Arlen Specter	37%	50%	31%	35%	40%
Pat Toomey	47%	31%	51%	48%	46%
Undecided	17%	19%	18%	17%	14%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Murtha Approval					
Approve	55%	63%	51%	54%	57%
Disapprove	33%	31%	38%	33%	29%
Not sure	12%	6%	11%	13%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Murtha Legacy					
Yes	49%	64%	48%	48%	48%
No	37%	32%	44%	38%	32%
Not Sure	13%	4%	8%	14%	20%

