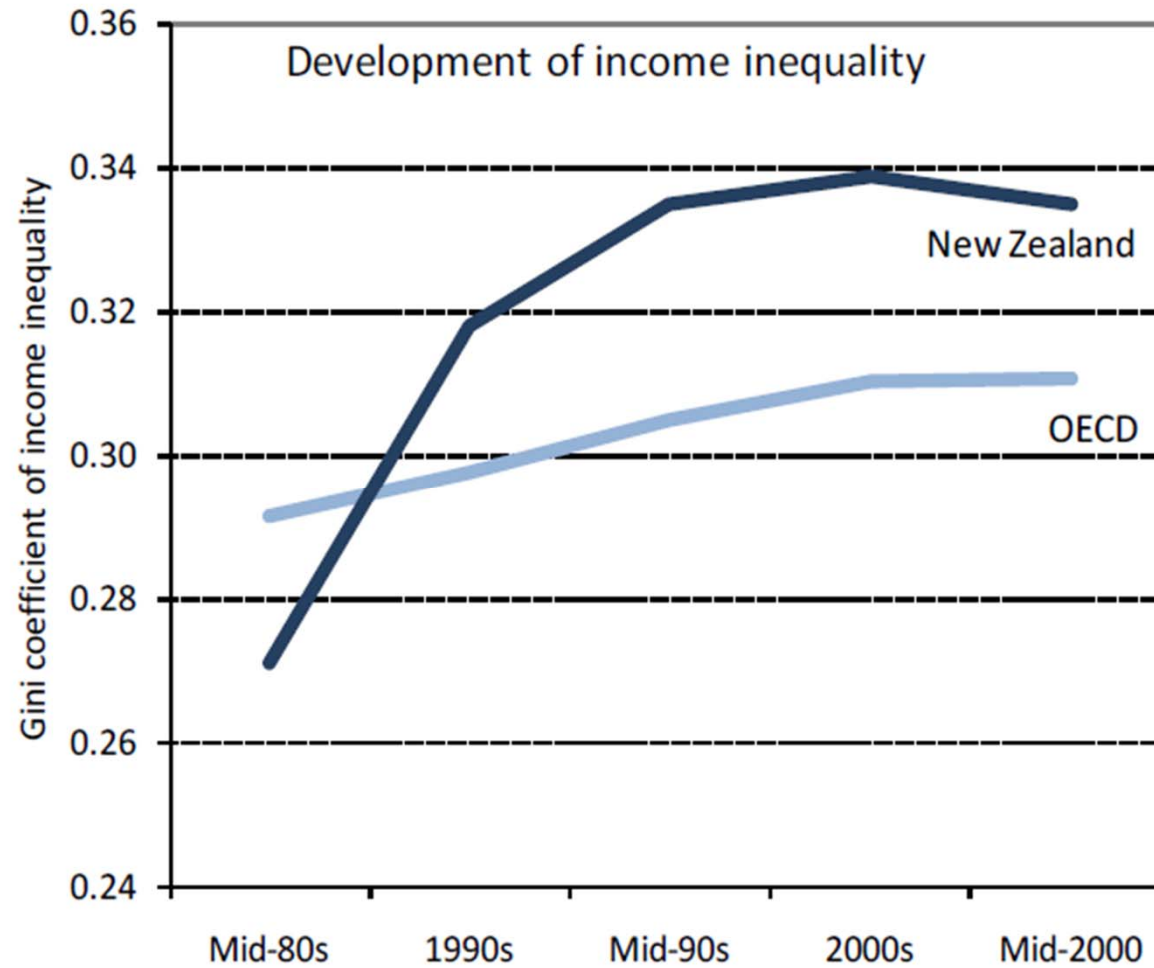


New Zealanders' Redistribution Attitudes and their Determinants



Data

- ISSP 2009
- Randomly selected from electoral roll
- Mail survey with 60% response rate
- 935 respondents
- Representative of NZ

Question 1

- *Differences in income in New Zealand are too large*

Question 2

- *It is the responsibility of the government to reduce the differences in income between people with high incomes and those with low incomes*

Question 3

- *The government should provide a decent standard of living for the unemployed*

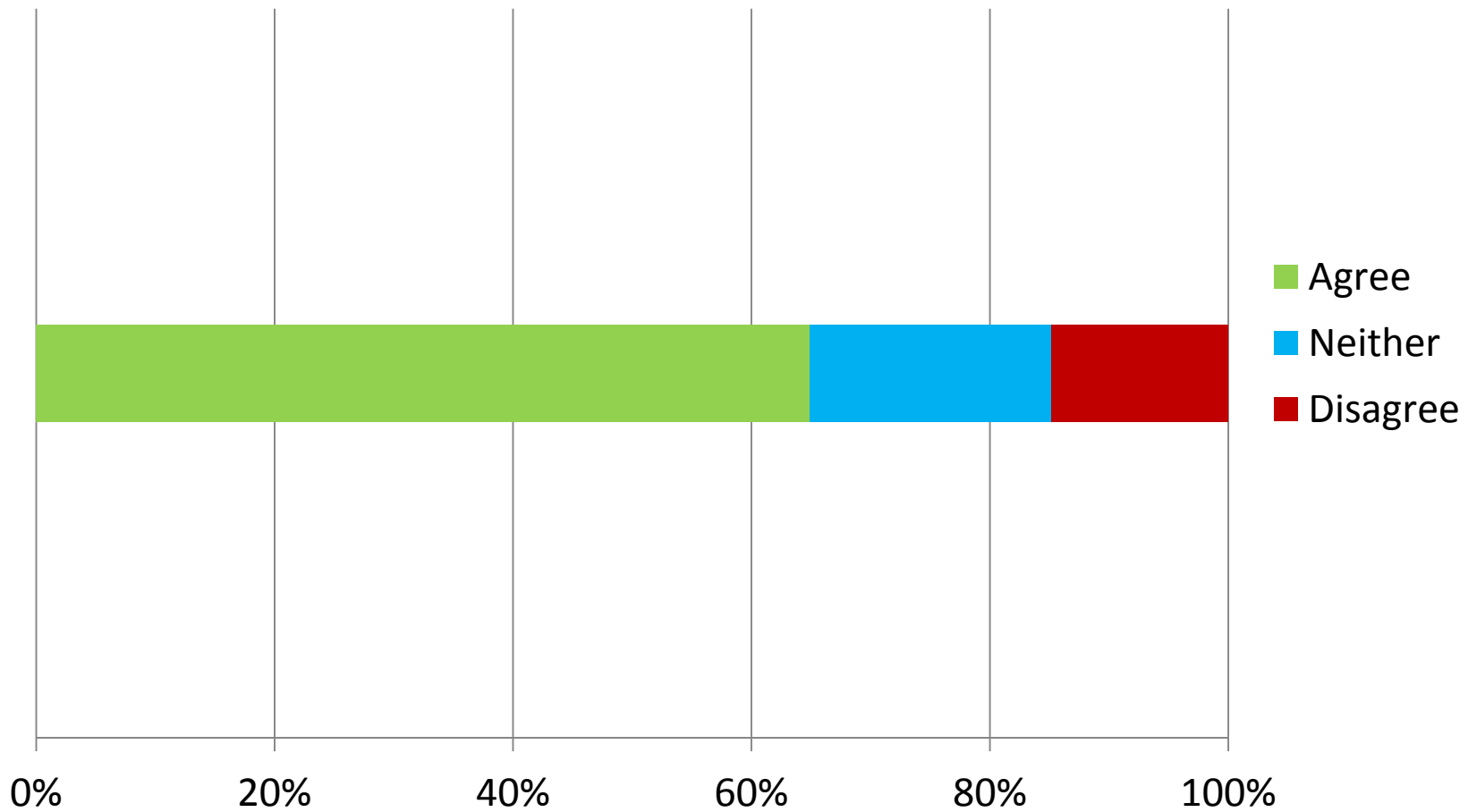
Question 4

- *The government should spend less on benefits for the poor*

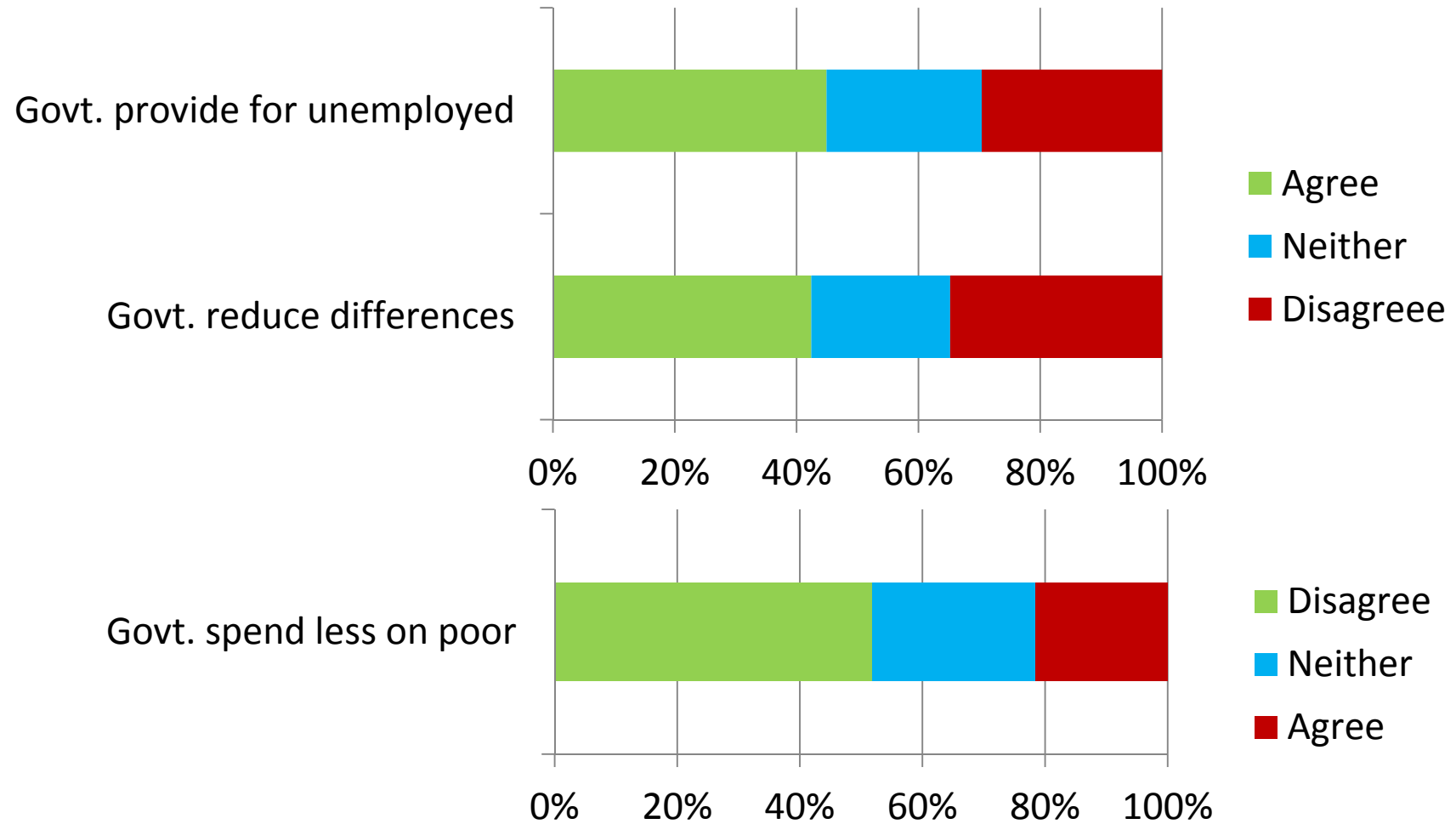
Question 5

- *Do you think people with high incomes should pay a larger share of their income in taxes than those with low incomes, the same share, or a smaller share?*

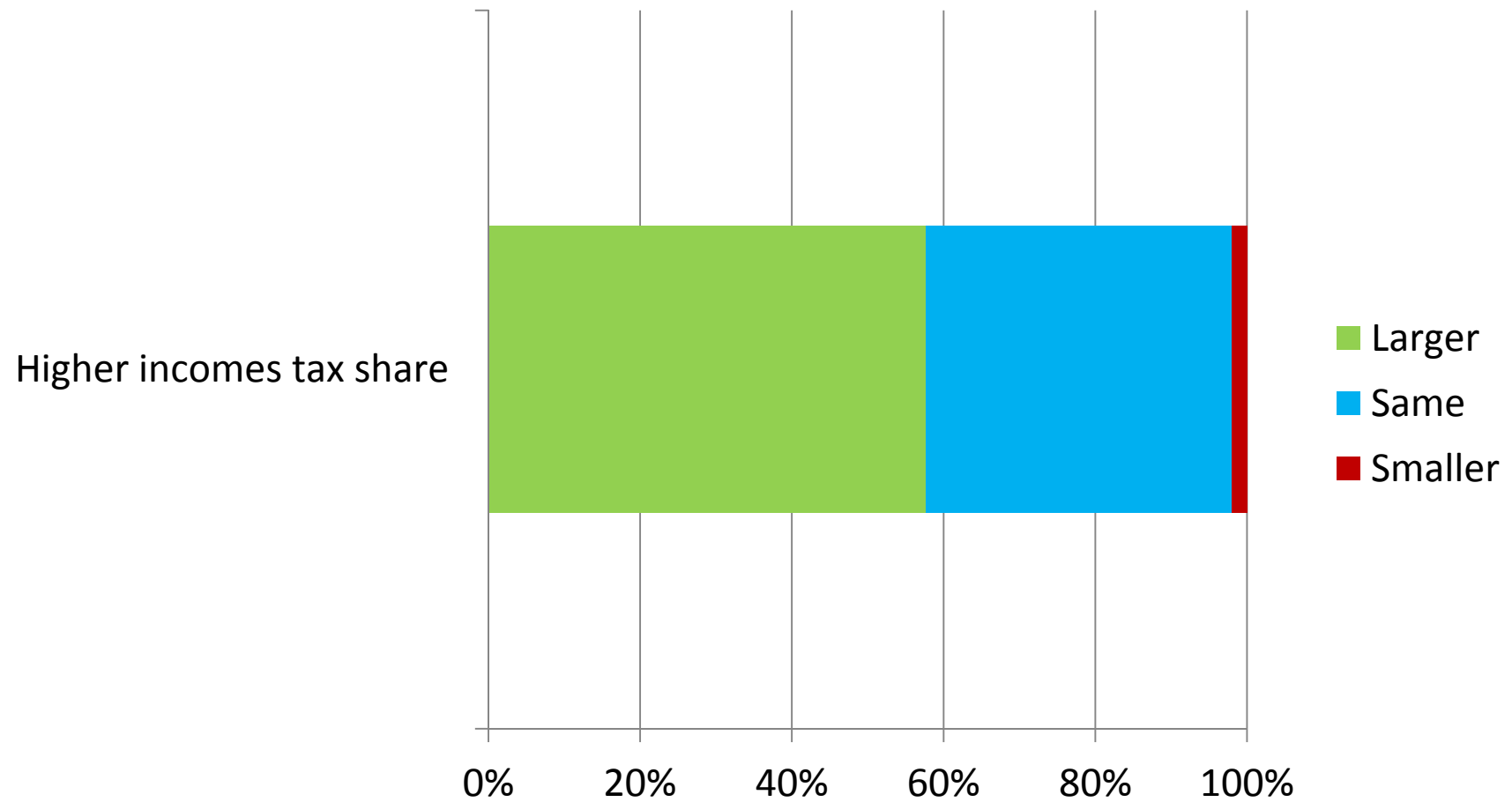
Differences in income in New Zealand are too large



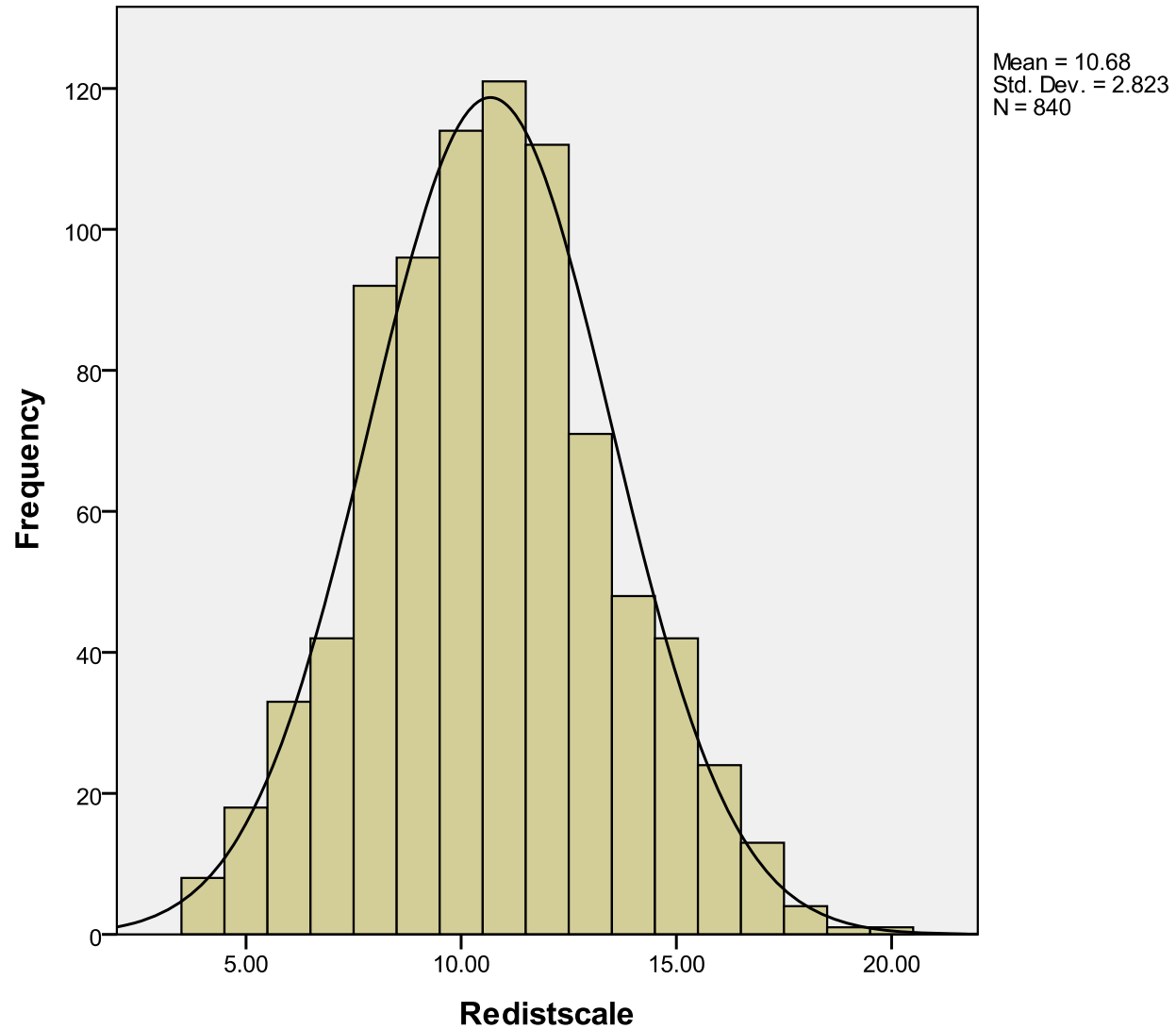
Redistribution towards the bottom



Progressive taxation



Redistribution scale



Redistribution attitude determinants?

- Self-interest
- Labour-market attachment
- Political orientation
- Ethnicity
- Education

Measurements of determinants

Gender

Age

Individual earnings

Total household income before tax

Leftie

Hours worked weekly

Differences in income in New Zealand are too large

Ethnicity

Years of schooling

Highest education level

Statistically significant determinants

Variable	Direction	Correlation
Maori	Pro-distribution	Small
Older	Pro-distribution	Very small
Higher income	Anti-distribution	Small
More hours worked*	Anti-distribution	Small
Higher education	Anti-distribution	Very small
Leftie*	Pro-distribution	Modest
Concerned about inequality*	Pro-distribution	Modest

* Significant when all variables controlled for via linear regression. $R^2 = 0.389$