PUBLIC PERSPECTIVES AND POLICY OPTIONS FOR IGG:

Results of Empirical Studies

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FORENSEQ STUDY

Key Takeaways

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1. There is strong public support for FIGG, and this has not changed over time.

2. The public and many experts prefer that FIGG is subject to some form of regulation.

3. FIGG policies can and should be informed by diverse experts.

Our Project

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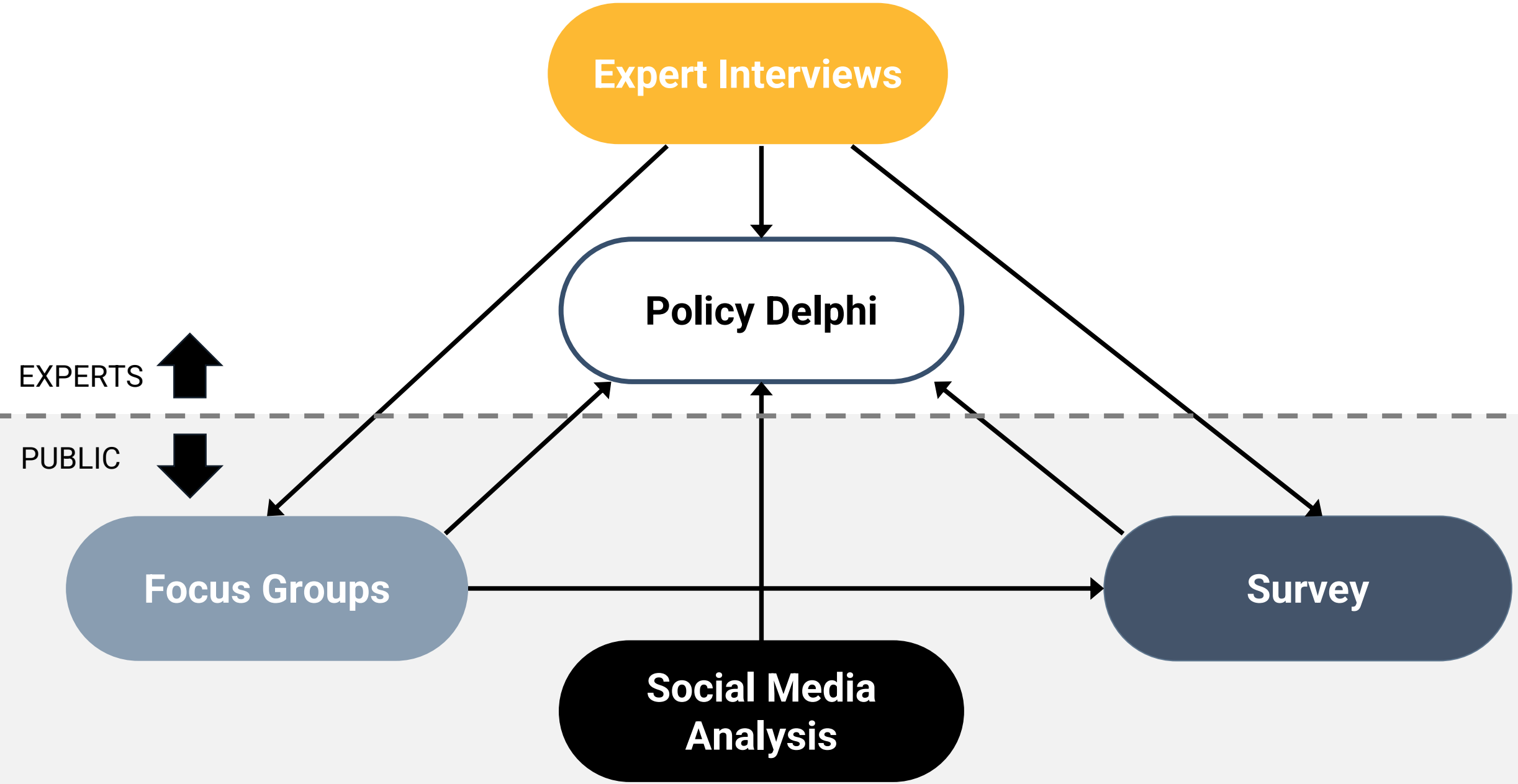
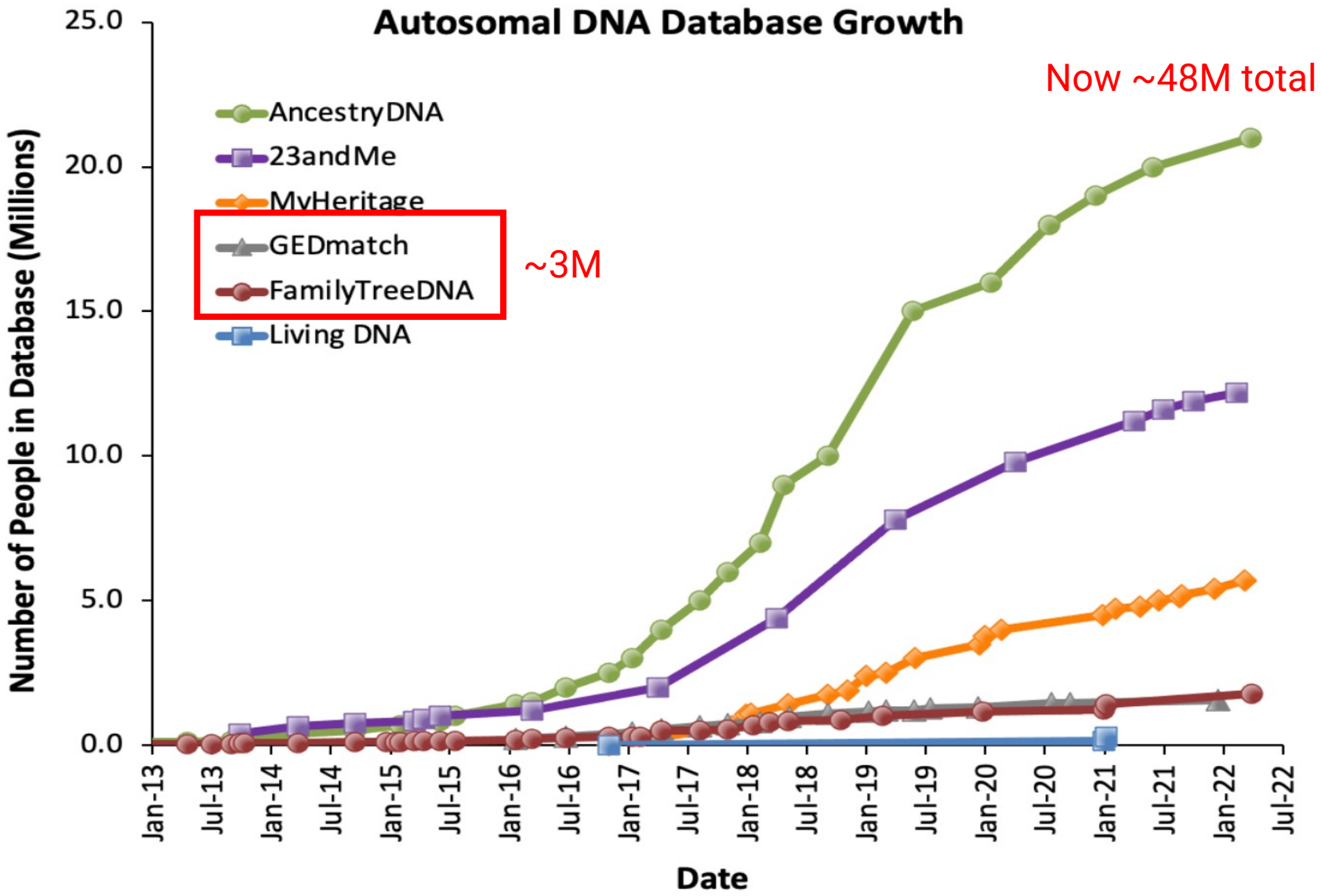
Funder: National Human Genome Research Institute R01 HG011268

Objective: To collect data informative of policies for IGG

Design: 4-year research project involving 4 main activities, plus a supplement


Expert Interviews
Policy Delphi
EXPERTS
PUBLIC
Focus Groups
Survey
Social Media Analysis

FIGG relies on public support for its very existence



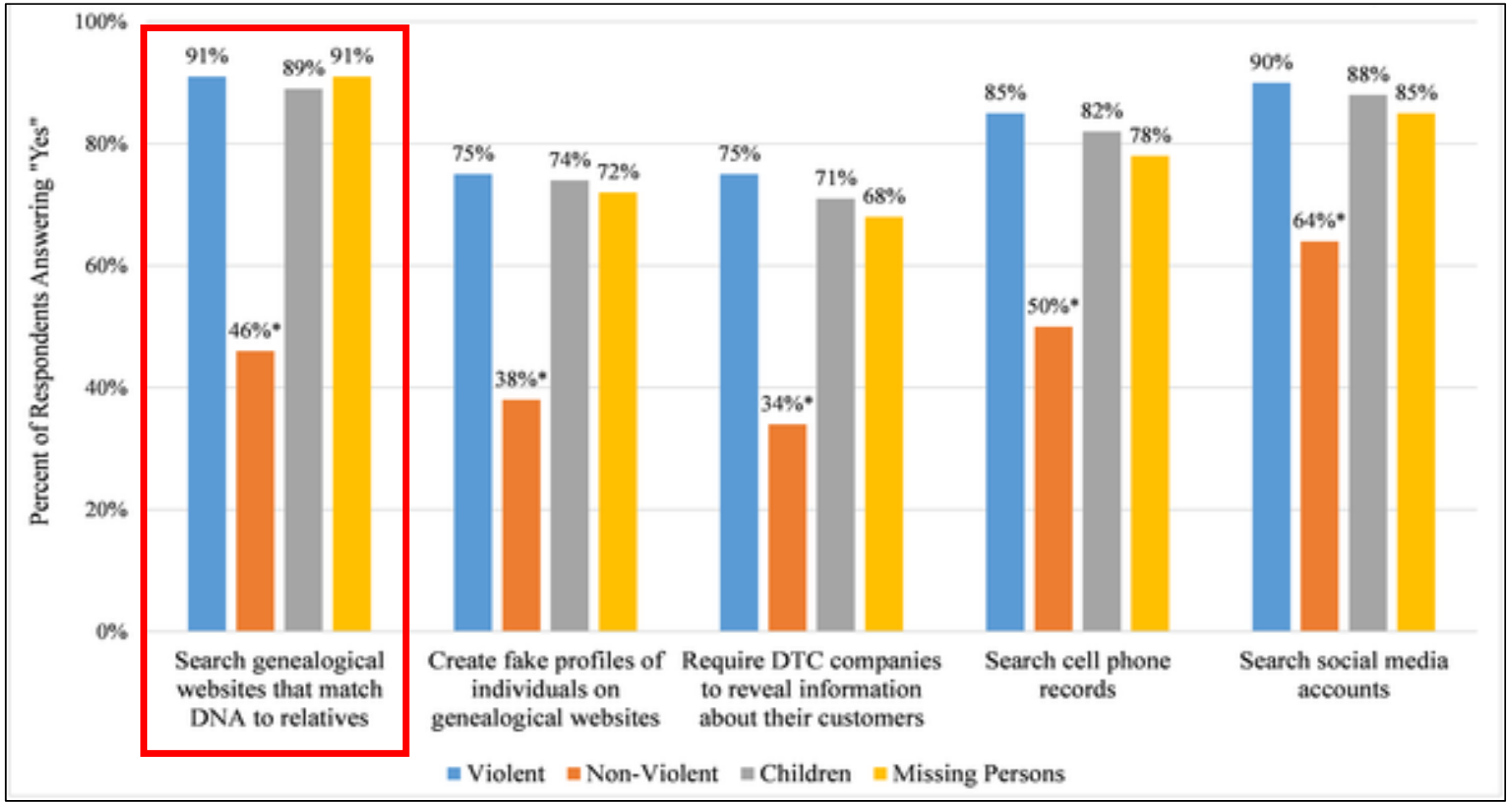
Larkin L. TheDNAGeek. March 29, 2022
ISOGG, March 1, 2024 (updated) .

U.S. general population survey: 2018

N=1587

- 52% female
- 71% non-Hispanic White

91% support use to ID violent perpetrators
46% support to ID non-violent perpetrators



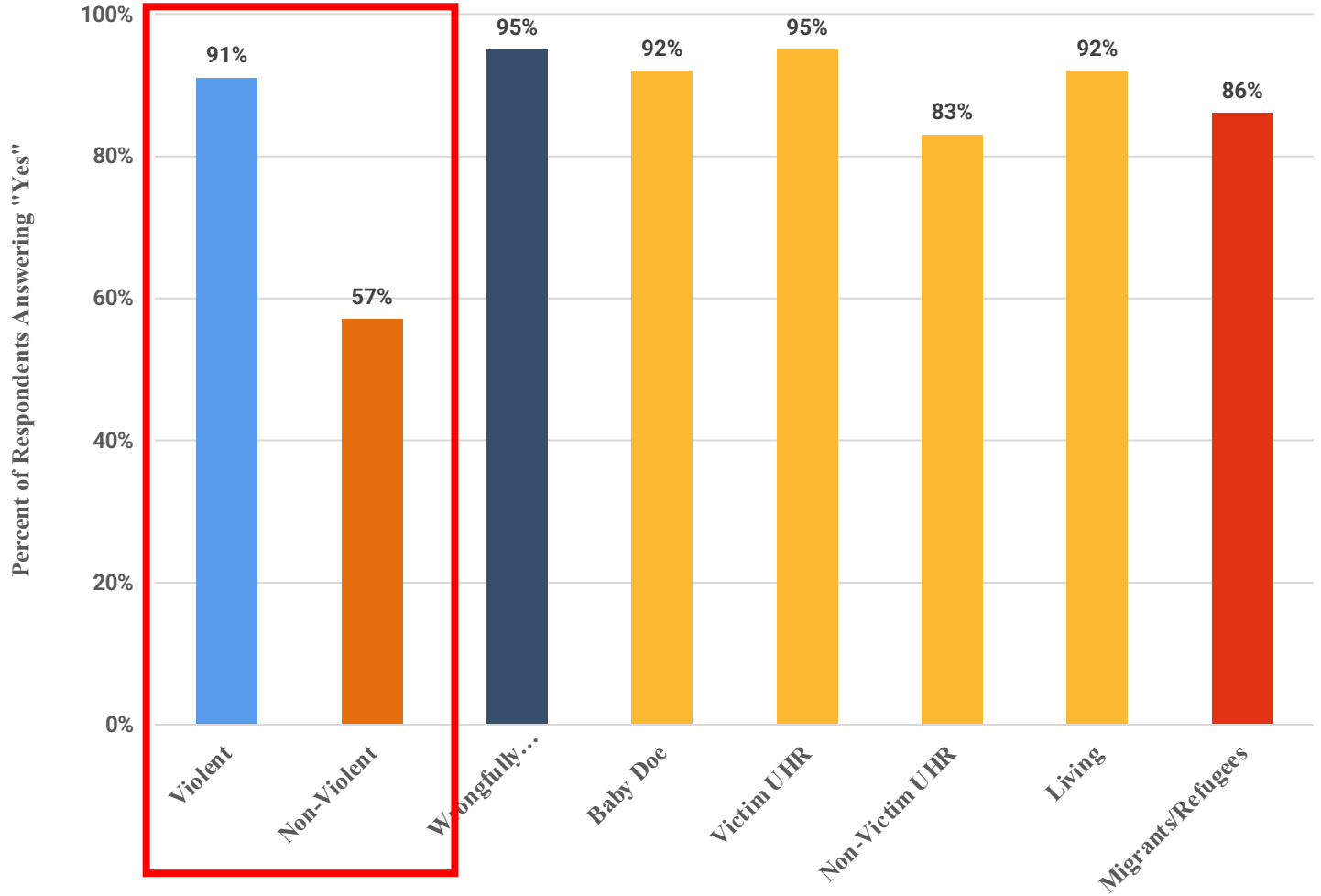
Guerrini, Robinson, Petersen, and McGuire, 2018

U.S. general population survey: 2023

N=1394

- 50% female
- 74% non-Hispanic White

~~91%~~ **91%** support use to ID violent perpetrators
~~46%~~ **57%** support to ID non-violent perpetrators



Focus groups with U.S. general population: 2022

N=72 from 4 cities

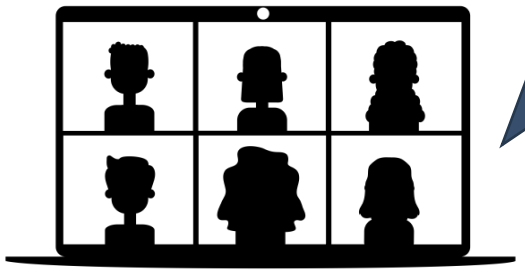
- 51% female
- 43% White

Support for FIGG to identify violent criminals and UHRs

Yet some mistrust of the police

Consensus on need for regulation oversight

"[B]odily harm or murder or rape, I would say definitely, immediately go to the database." (MO-B, 22)

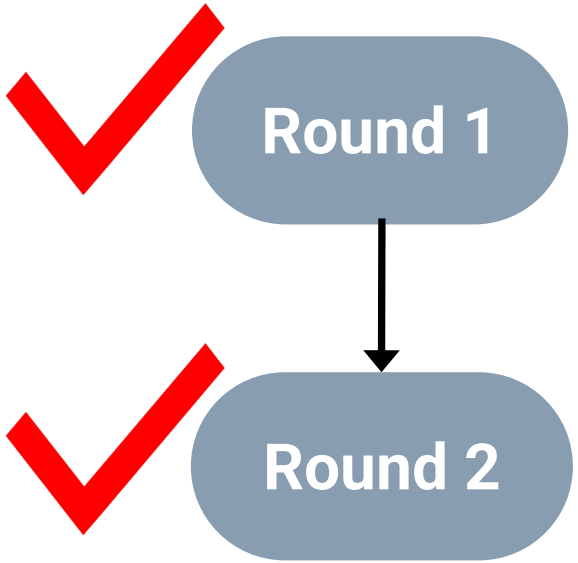


"[S]afeguards should definitely be put in place, so that information will not be abused." (CA-A, 15)

Dahlquist et al., 2024 (in press)

Policy Delphi with experts: ongoing

N=34 expert participants



Generated **33** issues

Prioritized **9** issues for policy attention

9 Top Priority Issues

Applications	• Potential FIGG in medical databases • Underuse by defense • Participation against ToS
Data	• Data management practices • Potential SNP reuse by commercial labs
Final Identification	• FIGG without STR confirmation
Regulation	• Patchwork governance • Commercial lab under-regulation • Potential unregulated SNP databases

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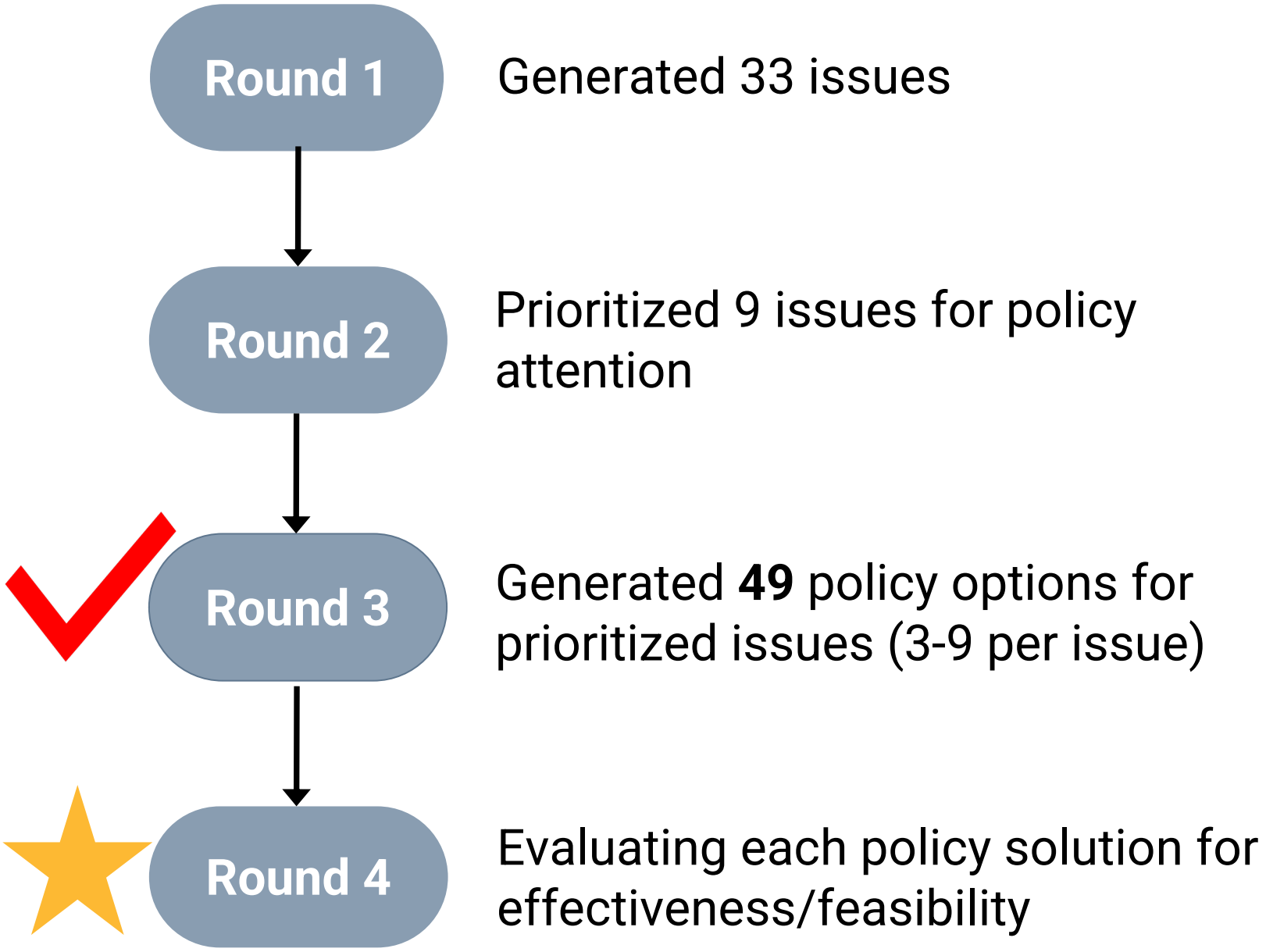
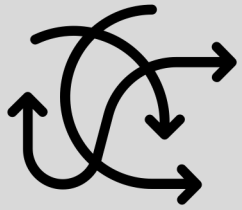


Patchwork Governance



- Federal FIGG law**
- State model law
- Finalized DOJ policy
- Condition grants on best practice compliance

Participation against ToS

- Various bans (federal**, state, DOJ, individual agencies, GG licensing body)
- Standard data base consent approach: all opt in or out
- Databases upload LE profiles
- Public, LE-use only database**

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THANK YOU!

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