

**HOME IS “HERE”:  
(IM)MIGRATION AND SENSE OF  
COMMUNITY BELONGING**

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# OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- Focus on sense of belonging to the community where one lives
  - Migrants (rural/urban)
  - Immigrants
- Is there somewhere seen as “home”?
- Is “home” here or elsewhere?
- Sense of belonging to where one lives
  - Patterns
  - Predictors



# DATA SETS

1. Author's longitudinal survey of youth in specific urban and rural areas, Canada:

- Age 17 N= 1,200
- Age 22 N= 985
- Age 28 N=703

2. General Social Survey (GSS), Canada. Age 15 and over. Cross-sectional.

- GSS27: Year=2013; N=27,534

Note: The target population for the General Social Survey (GSS) was all persons 15 years of age and over residing in Canada, excluding: Residents of the Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories; and full-time residents of institutions. In the GSS, all respondents were contacted and interviewed by land-line (non-cellular) telephone. Households without land-line telephones were therefore excluded. However, persons living in such households represent less than 0.9% of the target population (Residential Telephone Service Survey (RTSS), December 2007). As interviews were not conducted by cellular telephone, persons with only cellular telephone service were also excluded.



## **SENSE OF BELONGING TO COMMUNITY, LOOKER DATA – MEASURES USED**

**Of all the places you have lived, is there a particular place you consider home?**

- 1. No**
- 2. Yes, my current community**
- 3. Yes, another community**

**This place seems like home to me:**

- 1. Strongly agree**
- 2. Agree somewhat**
- 3. Neither agree nor disagree**
- 4. Disagree somewhat**
- 5. Strongly disagree**

**Qualitative answers to open ended questions about their community**

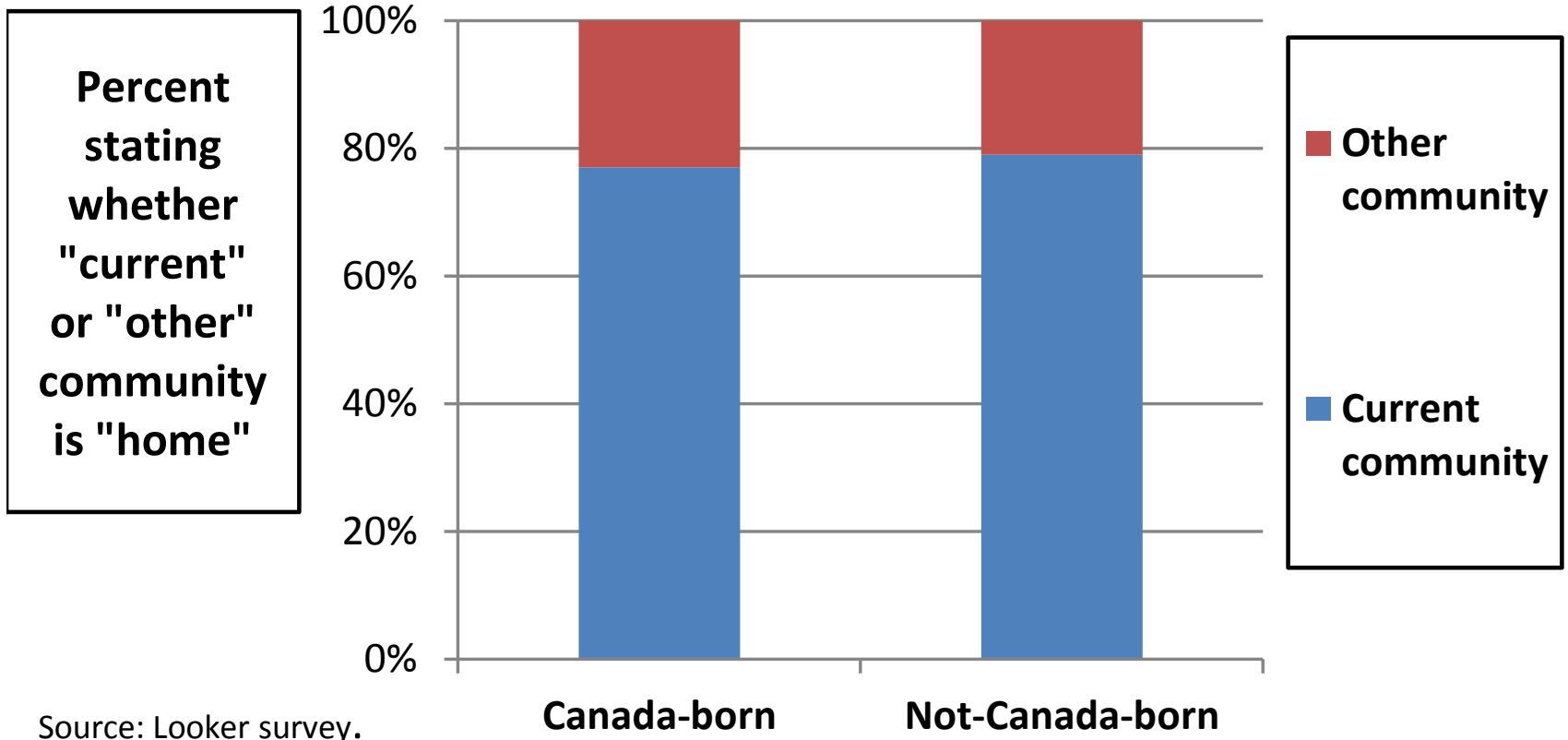


# IS THERE A PLACE YOU CALL HOME? AGE 28

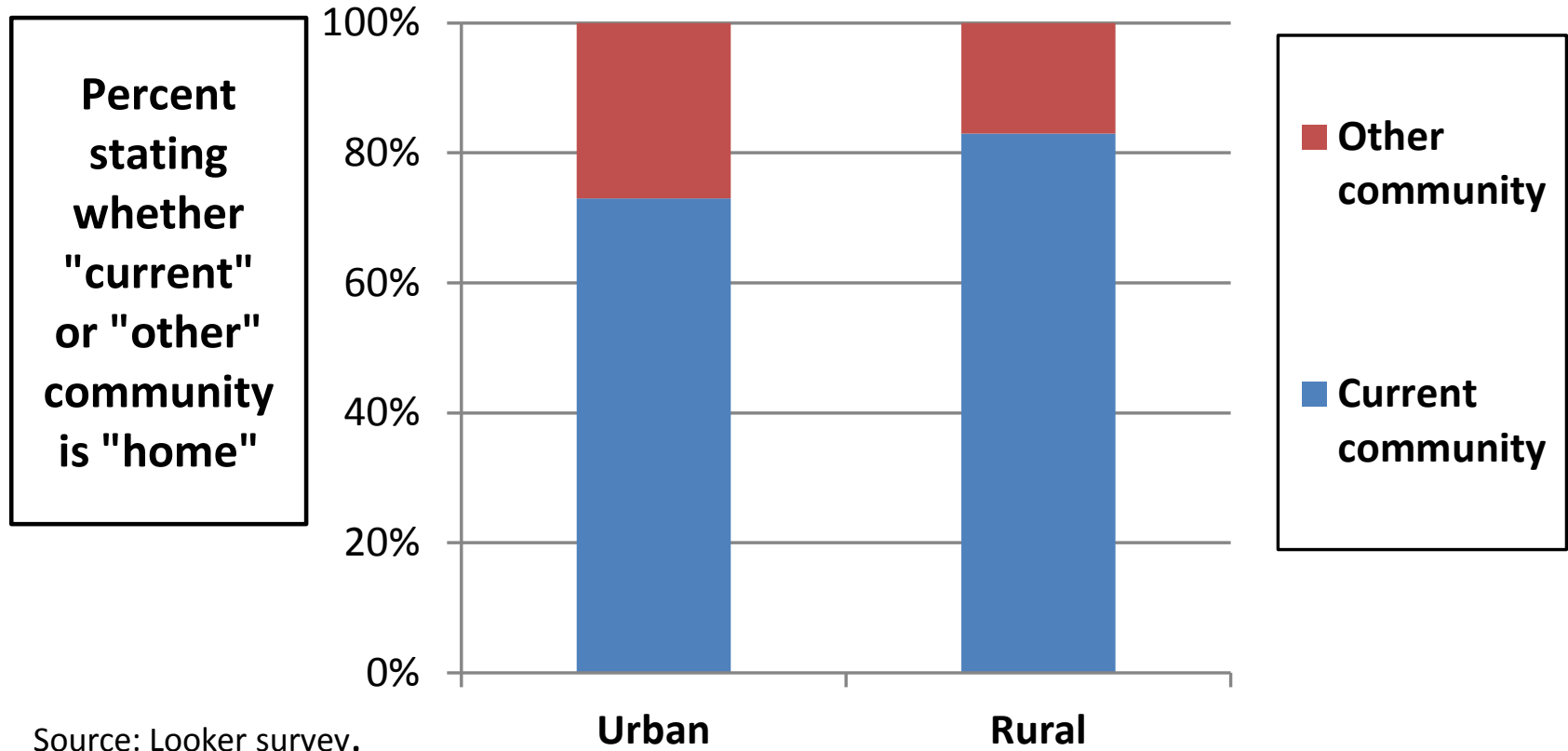
- Percent who say “No” by citizenship/locale:
  - Canada born 7%
  - Not Canada born 10%
  - Urban 6%
  - Rural 8%
- Percent who say “No” by mobility between age 17 to 28:
  - Rural to rural 4%
  - Urban to rural 12%
  - Urban to urban 9%
  - Rural to urban 5%



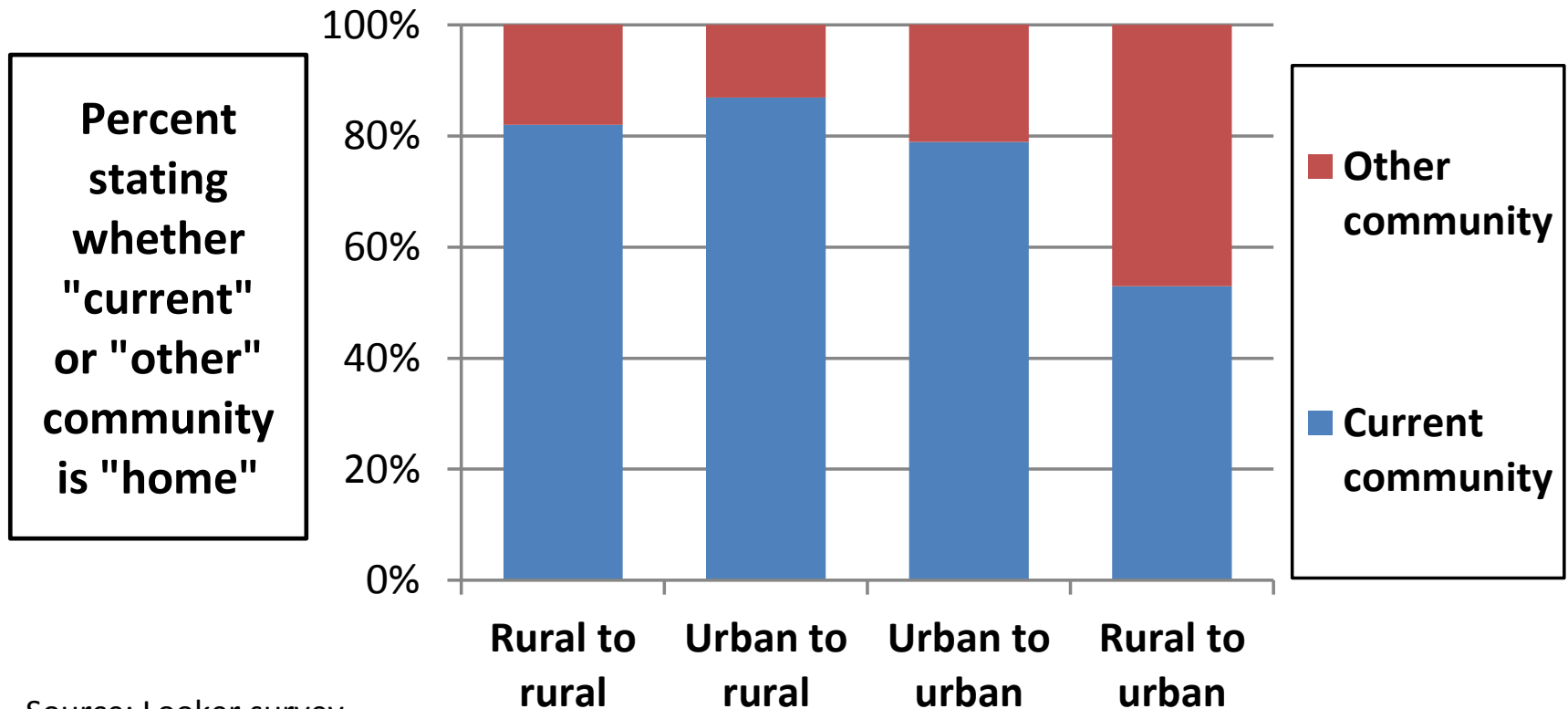
## Canada-born and Not-Canada-born are equally likely to say "current" community is home (at age 28)



## Rural more likely than urban to say "current" community is home (at age 28)



# Those who migrate from rural to urban (age 17 to 28) are less likely to say "current" community is home

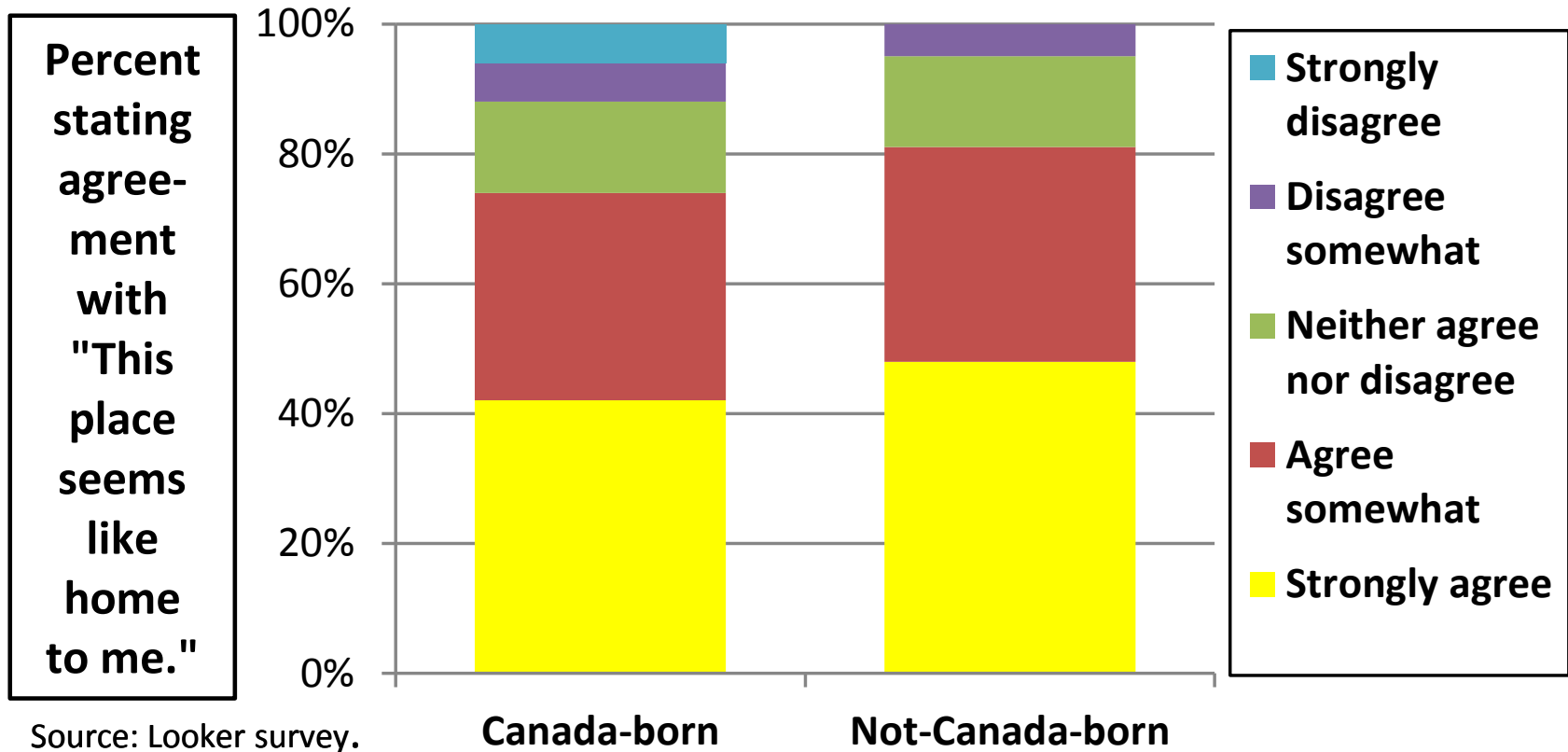


Source: Looker survey.

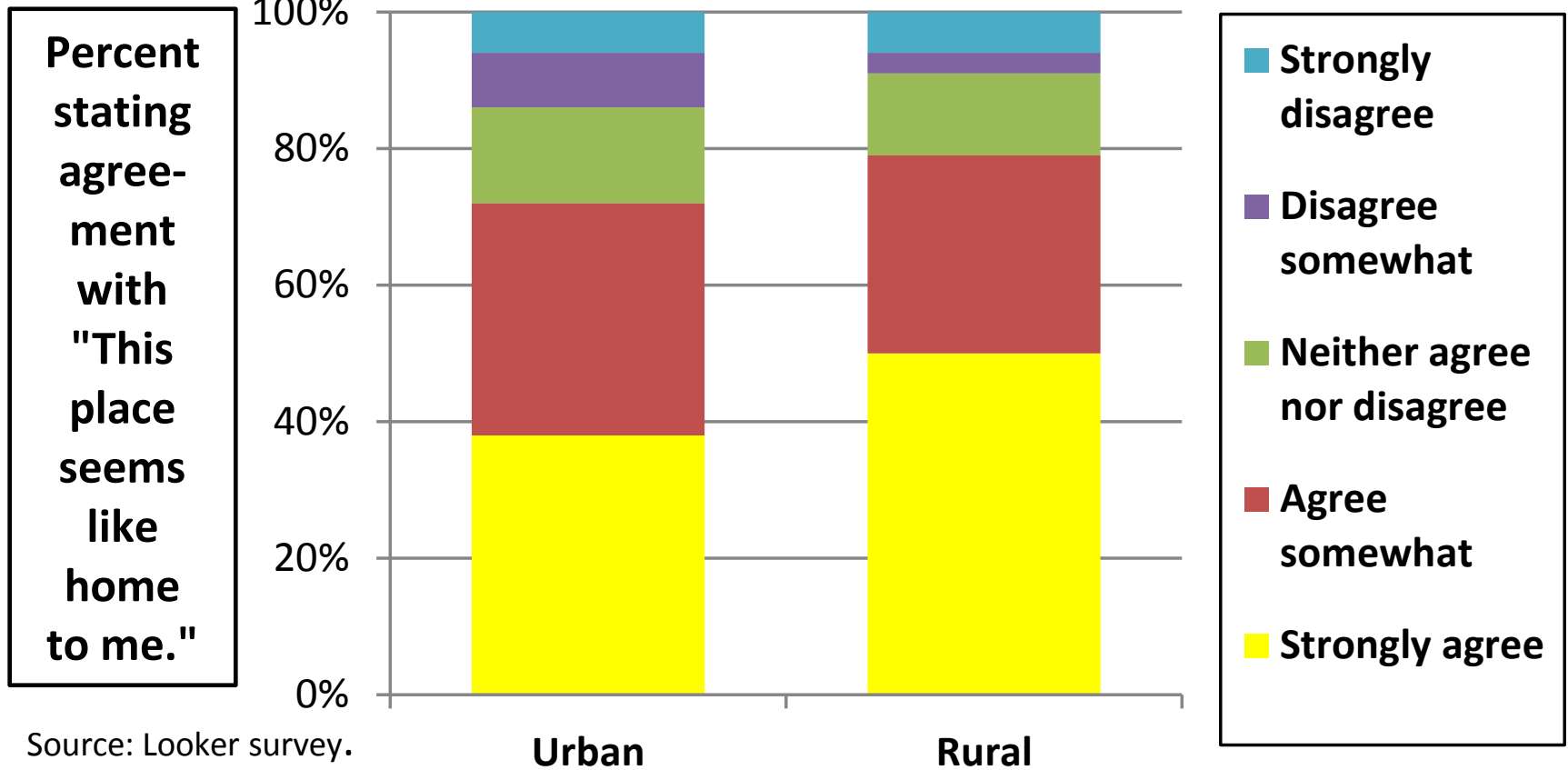




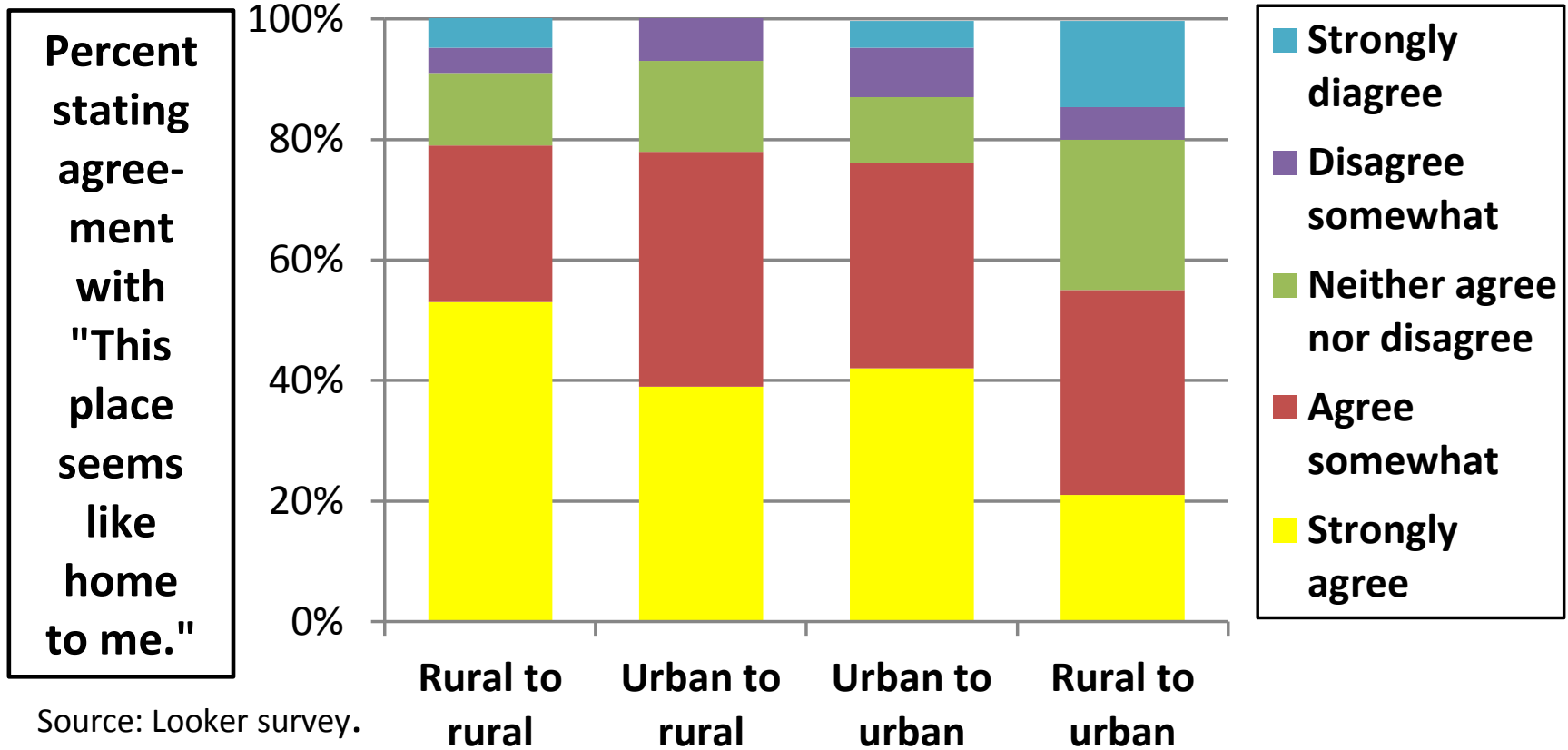
# Canada-born and Not-Canada-born are equally likely to agree "This is home" (age 28)



# Rural more likely than urban to agree "This is home" (age 28)



**Least likely to say "This is home" are those who moved rural to urban from 17 to 28 years of age; most likely are those in rural at both 17 and 28 years of age**



ANSWERS TO OPEN ENDED QUESTION: “WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THIS COMMUNITY?” (WHICH IS “HOME”), AGE 28. **RURAL YOUTH**

- Small
- Friendly
- Close to family and friends
- Quiet/peaceful
- “I know people here”
- Low crime/safe
- Solitude
- Affordable
- Private/lots of space



- These results are not new or surprising. Rural places are often cited as friendly places; good places to raise children.
- But note the first five characteristics and compare them to the next slide, which reports what *urban* youth like about their communities



# ANSWERS TO OPEN ENDED QUESTION: “WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THIS COMMUNITY?” (WHICH IS “HOME”), AGE 28. **URBAN YOUTH**

- Family and friends are nearby
- “It’s where I grew up”
- Safe and clean
- Good neighbourhood
- Convenient to shopping/services/schools
- Career opportunities / close to work
- Entertainment options
- Multicultural/diverse/interesting
- Good transportation



- What is interesting here is the similarity of the first few on this list to the attributes cited as positives for *rural* locales. In other words, rural places may be safe, comfortable places where you have lots of connections, but they do not have a monopoly on these attributes. Urban youth like the same or similar things about *their* communities.
- What is different between the two locales are attributes at the end of the lists. Rural places are described as quiet, affordable and having lots of space. Urban spaces are diverse, offer opportunities for work, entertainment and cultural events – and have good transportation – something rarely said about rural communities.



# GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY CYCLE 27, CANADA, SAMPLE CHARACTERISTICS

- Born outside Canada: 24%
- Rural: 16%
  - So, those born outside Canada are a minority (about one quarter of the sample).
- Rural and birthplace: GSS27
  - Canada born: 20%
  - Born outside Canada 6%
- While about 20% of those born in Canada live in rural areas, only 6% of those born outside Canada live in rural communities. Immigrants are more likely to be found in cities.
- The analysis, below, explores the feelings of attachment to community of those who live in rural and urban centers.



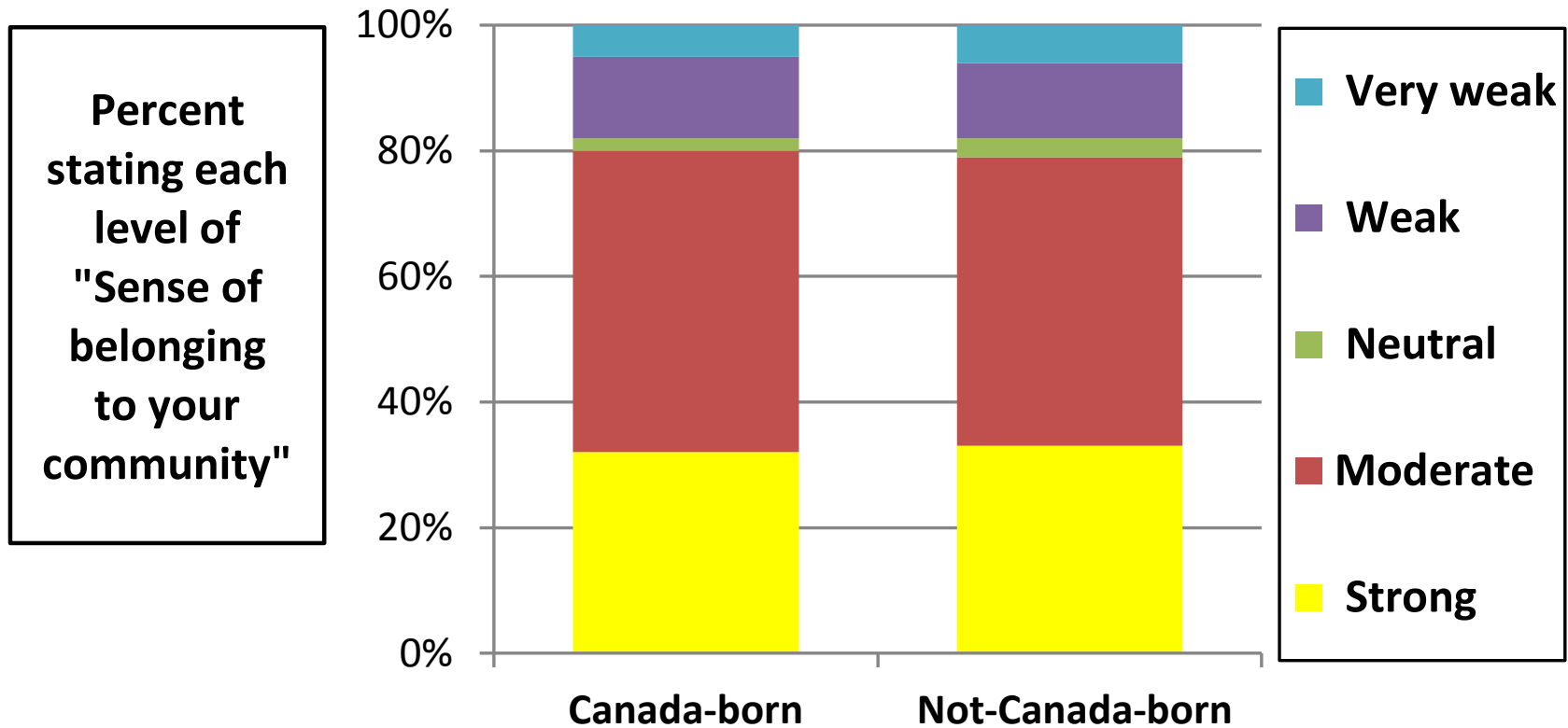


# SENSE OF BELONGING, MEASURES, GSS27

- **How would you describe your sense of belonging:**
  - to your local community
  - to Canada
  - to your country of origin?
- **)For each) Would you say it is:**
  - 1. Very strong?
  - 2. Somewhat strong?
  - 3. Neutral?
  - 4. Somewhat weak?
  - 5. Very weak?



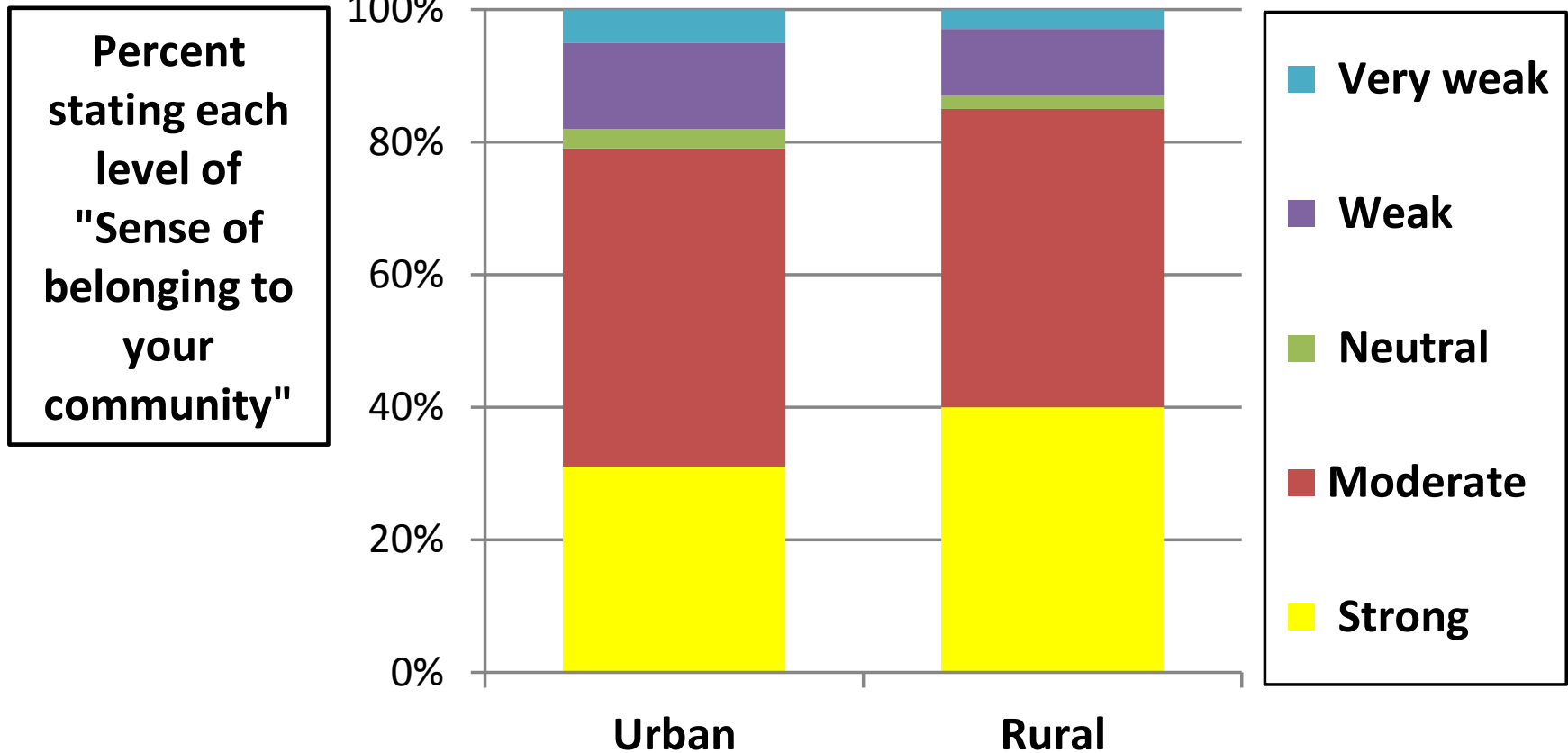
## No difference in sense of belonging to community for Canada-born and Not-Canada-born



Source: Statistics Canada. General Social Survey, Cycle 27.



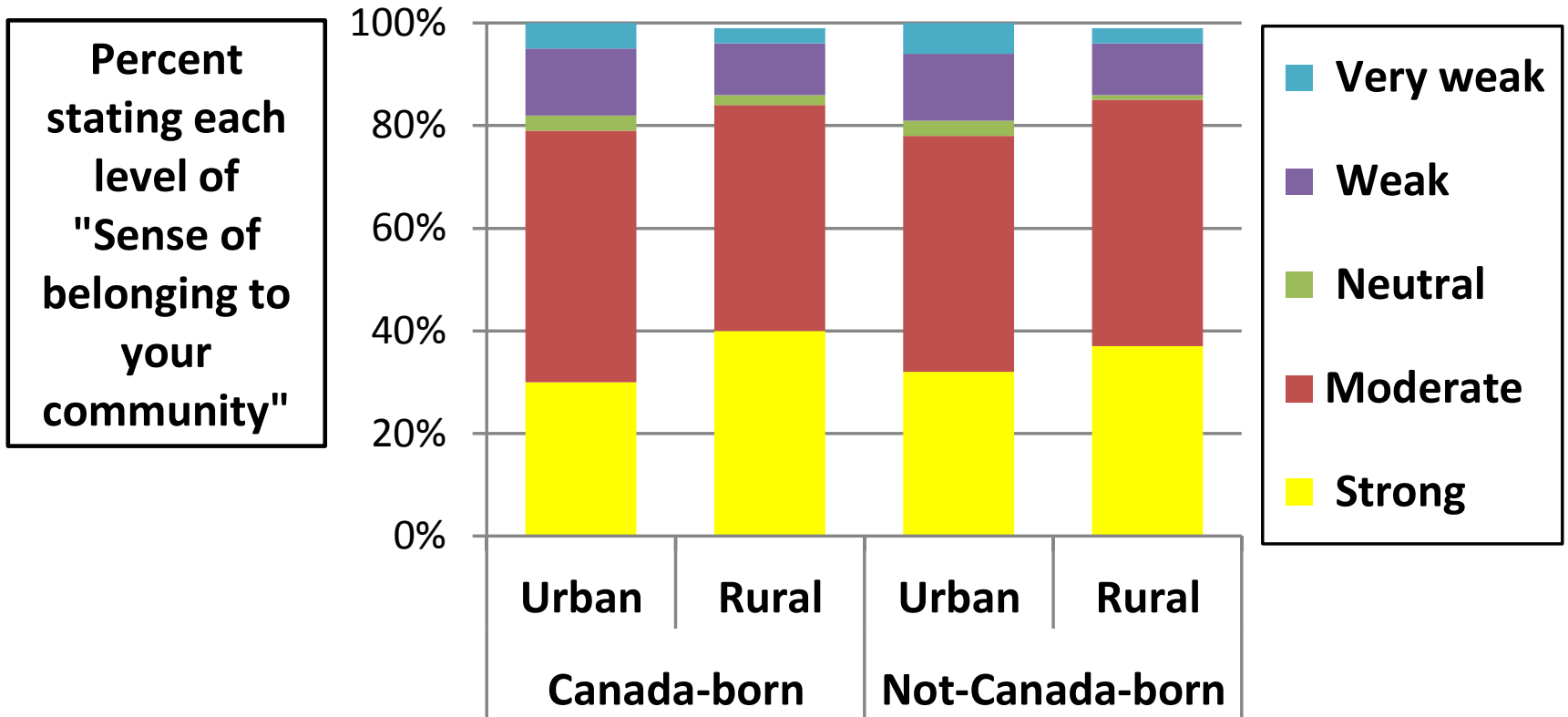
## Rural feels stronger sense of belonging to community



Source: Statistics Canada. General Social Survey, Cycle 27.



## Rural feels stronger sense of belonging to community among both Canada-born and Not-Canada-born



Source: Statistics Canada. General Social Survey, Cycle 27.



# MULTI-VARIATE ANALYSES

- Sense of belonging to one's community is related to:
  - Length of time in the community
  - Knowing more people in the neighbourhood
  - Trusting people in the neighbourhood
  - Feeling people in the area help each other / you feel you could ask a favour
  - Having several friends in the community (having relatives in the area is less relevant)
  - General life satisfaction
  - The key finding is that **rural location still has an impact after controls** for the all the above measures

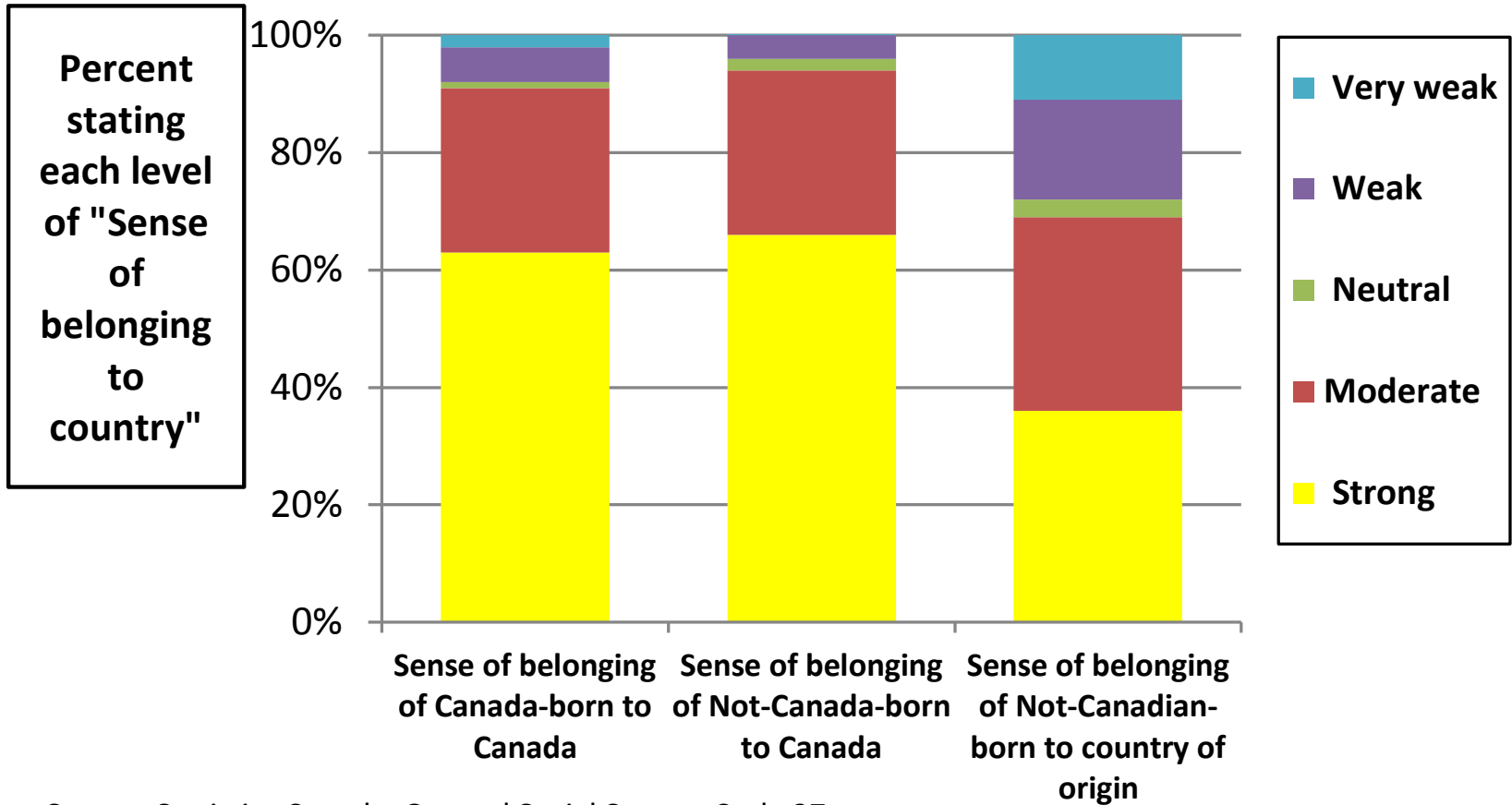


So....

- Those born outside Canada are as likely to feel they “belong” in their current community as those born in Canada.
  - → **“Home” is here**
- Those living in rural areas are more likely to agree (and agree strongly) that they “belong”
  - ▶ → **“Home” is more likely to be “here” if you live in rural.**
  - ▶ For immigrants as well as those born in Canada
- Next we look at sense of belonging to one’s country



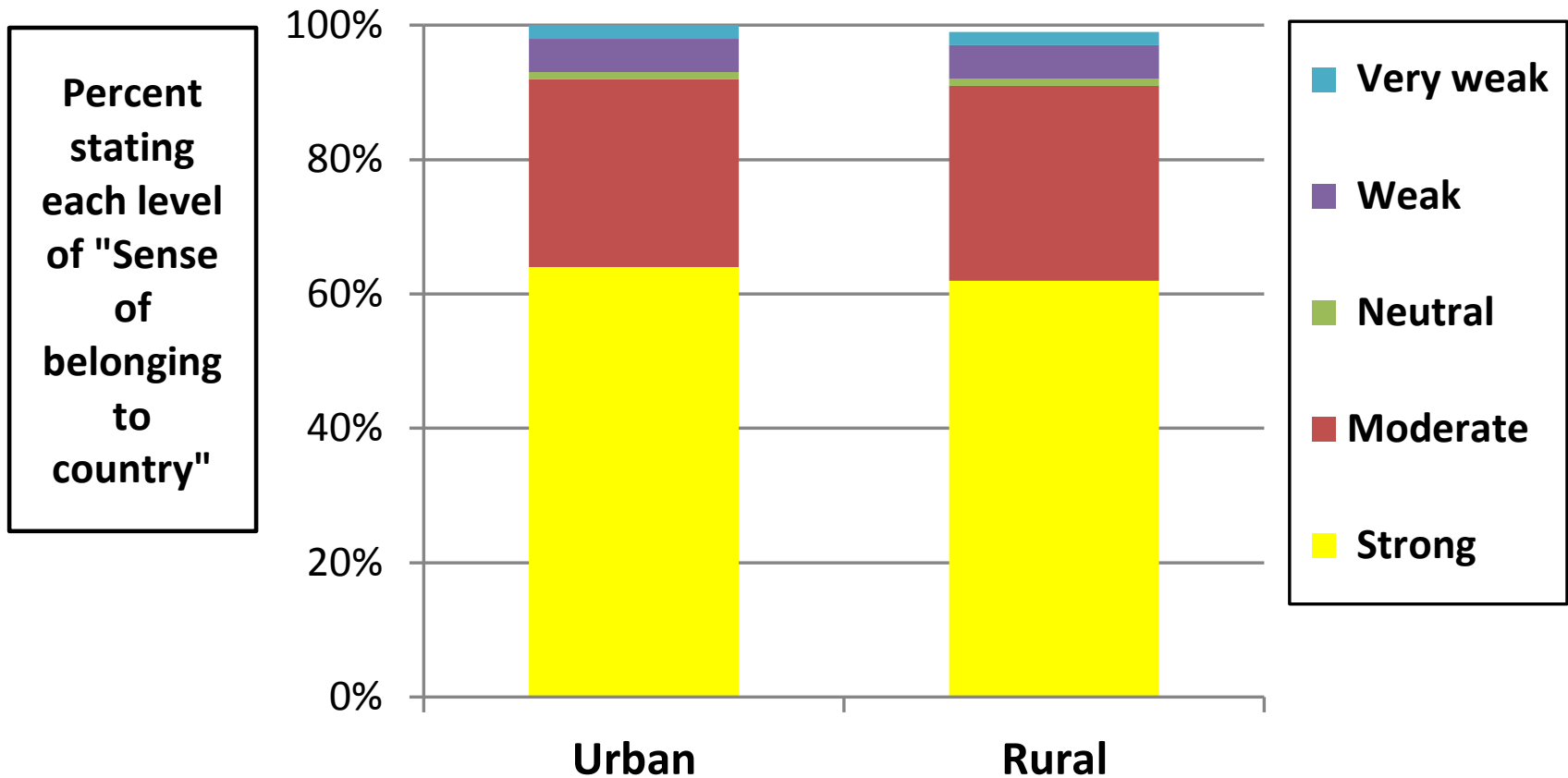
# Those not born in Canada feel they belong in Canada as much as the Canada-born -- weaker ties to country of origin



Source: Statistics Canada. General Social Survey, Cycle 27.



## Sense of belonging to Canada is similar for those in rural and urban areas

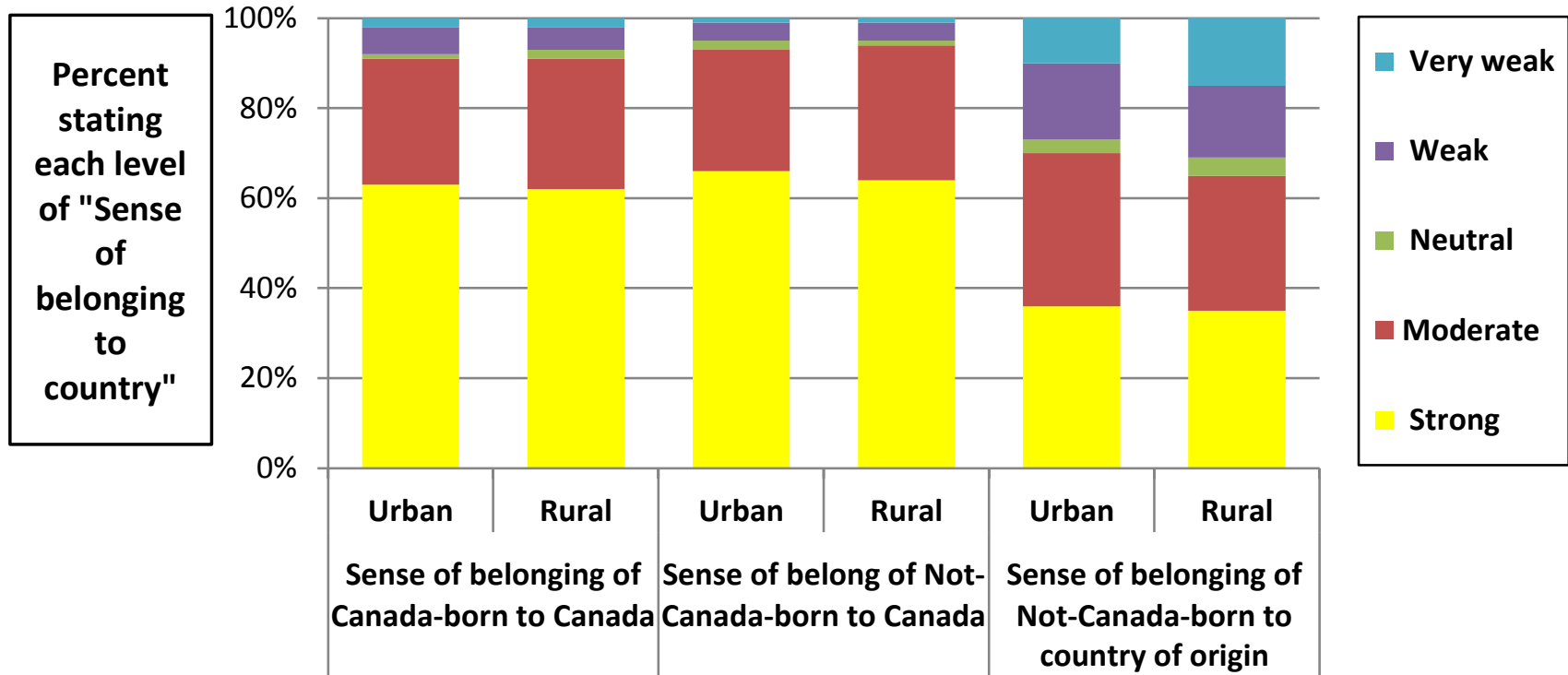


Source: Statistics Canada. General Social Survey, Cycle 27.





## Sense of belonging to country -- stronger to Canada, for rural and urban, wherever one is born



Source: Statistics Canada. General Social Survey, Cycle 27.



# So...

- Immigrants and Canadian-born equally feel they belong in Canada.
- There are no rural-urban differences in these feelings of belonging in the **country**
- Those born outside Canada are much more likely to say they feel they “belong” in Canada rather than in their country of origin
  - → **“Home” is here**



# OUR GENERAL FINDING IS THAT “HOME IS HERE” – WHERE ONE IS LIVING

- Most (80%) feel they belong where they live (or live where they feel they belong)
- More of those living in rural areas, including immigrants to Canada, feel they belong in their community
- This pattern bodes well for those hoping to attract and keep in-migrants to a community, especially a rural community



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