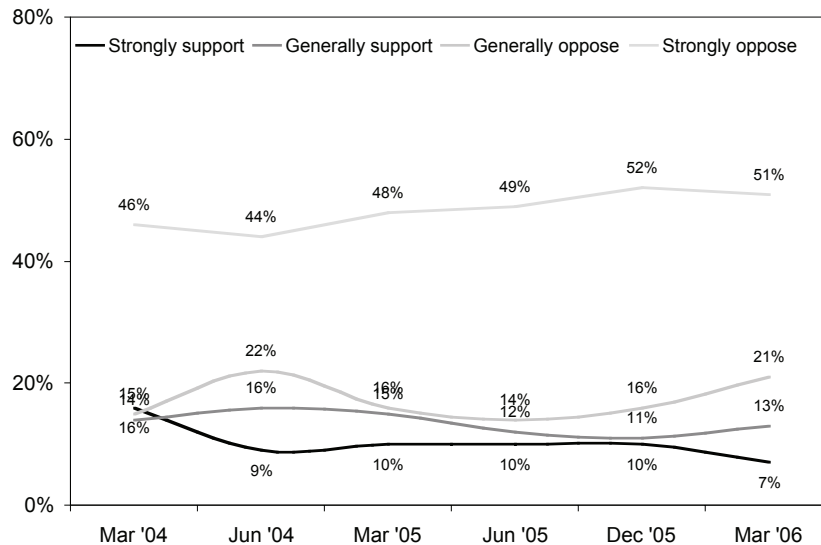


**Bermudians' opposition for Independence reaches record levels.**

Opposition for independence among Bermudians has established a record level this quarter. Overall, opposition for independence has increased in the past three months with more than seven-in-ten (73%) either **strongly** (21%, up 5 points) or **generally** (51%, down 1 point) **opposing** an Independent Bermuda. While opposition for independence has grown, there remains a small portion of residents who continue to **support** Bermuda's independence, although support is relatively weak with only one-in-five providing any level of support.

**Bermudians' Support/Opposition for Independence**



Opposition is strongest among women (76%, vs. 69% among men) and tends to vary by age. Residents between 18 and 34 years of age are more likely to oppose independence (77%), compared with those between 35 and 54 (72%) or those 55 years of age or older (73%). Affluence also has some impact on Bermudians' opinions, as likelihood to oppose an independent Bermuda declines with income. Finally, support and opposition continue to vary by race. Although the majority of black residents also oppose independence (63%), black Bermudians are more than ten times as likely to support independence (28%) than white Bermudians (2%).

These results are part of the **Bermuda Omnibus**, an independent, quarterly survey of Bermuda residents, and are based on a representative sample of 405 Bermuda residents collected each quarter in Bermuda. The survey was conducted between March 9 and 15, 2006 with the results accurate to within  $\pm 4.9$  percentage points in 95 out of 100 samples.

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