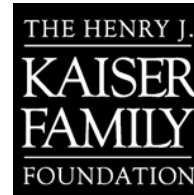


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**Chartpack**



**HARVARD  
SCHOOL OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH**

**Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health Survey**

# **Health Care Agenda for the New Congress**

**January 2005**

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## Methodology

The Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health Survey, *Health Care Agenda for the New Congress*, was designed and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard School of Public Health. The Kaiser/Harvard survey research team included Drew E. Altman, Ph.D., Mollyann Brodie, Ph.D., and Elizabeth Hamel from the Kaiser Family Foundation; and Professor Robert Blendon, Sc.D., and John Benson, M.A. of the Harvard School of Public Health.

Fieldwork was conducted by telephone by ICR/International Communications Research between November 4 and November 28, 2004, among a nationally representative sample of 1,396 respondents ages 18 and over. The survey included an oversample of respondents ages 65 and over (a total of 407 respondents in this age group were interviewed). Results for all groups have been weighted to reflect the actual distribution in the nation.

The margin of sampling error for the survey is plus or minus 4 percentage points for total respondents; for respondents age 65 and older it is plus or minus 8 percentage points. For results based on subsets of respondents the margin of error is higher. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

In order to get additional data, several questions were added to an omnibus survey conducted between November 12 and November 16, 2004 among a nationally representative sample of 1,014 adults 18 years of age and older. Fieldwork was conducted by ICR/International Communications Research. The margin of sampling error for the survey is also plus or minus 3 percentage points.

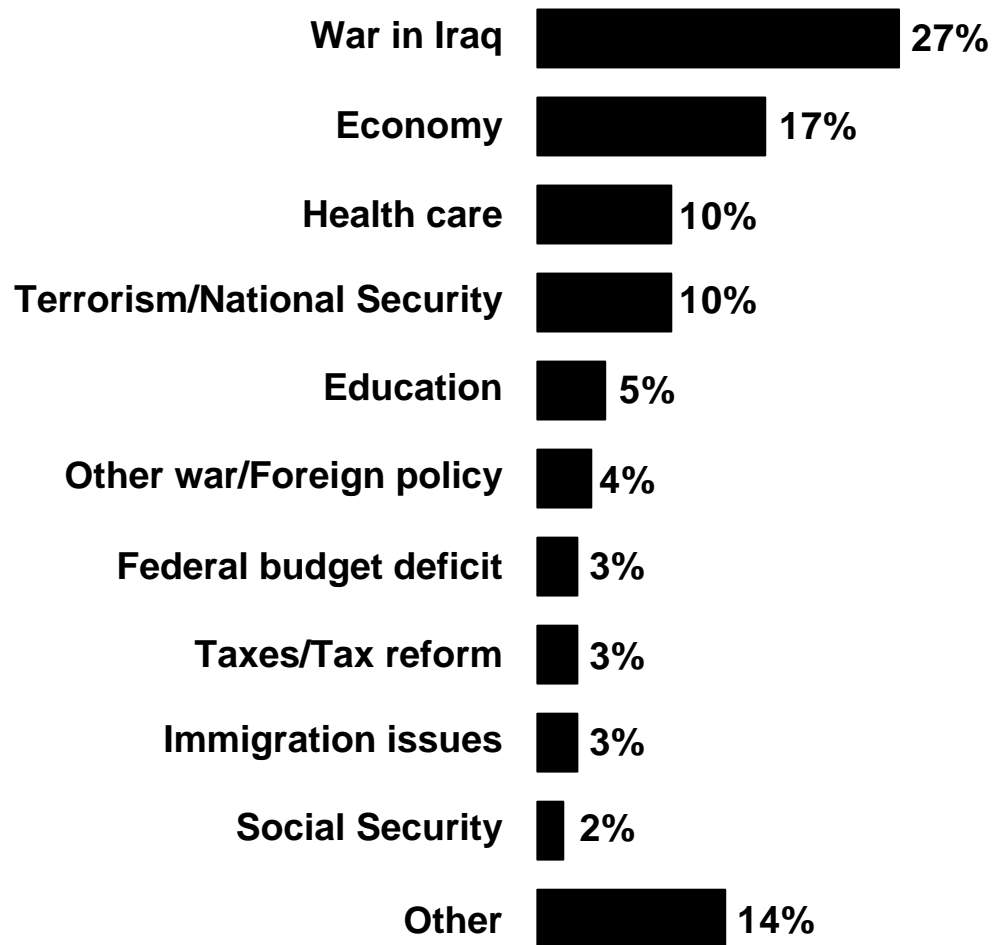
Values less than 0.5% are indicated by an asterisk (\*). “Vol.” indicates that a response was volunteered by respondent, not an explicitly offered choice. Percentages may not always add up to 100% due to rounding.

Full question wording and results are available separately at [www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org)

# Priorities for President and Congress

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What do you think is the single MOST important issue or problem the President and Congress should deal with next year? (OPEN-ENDED)



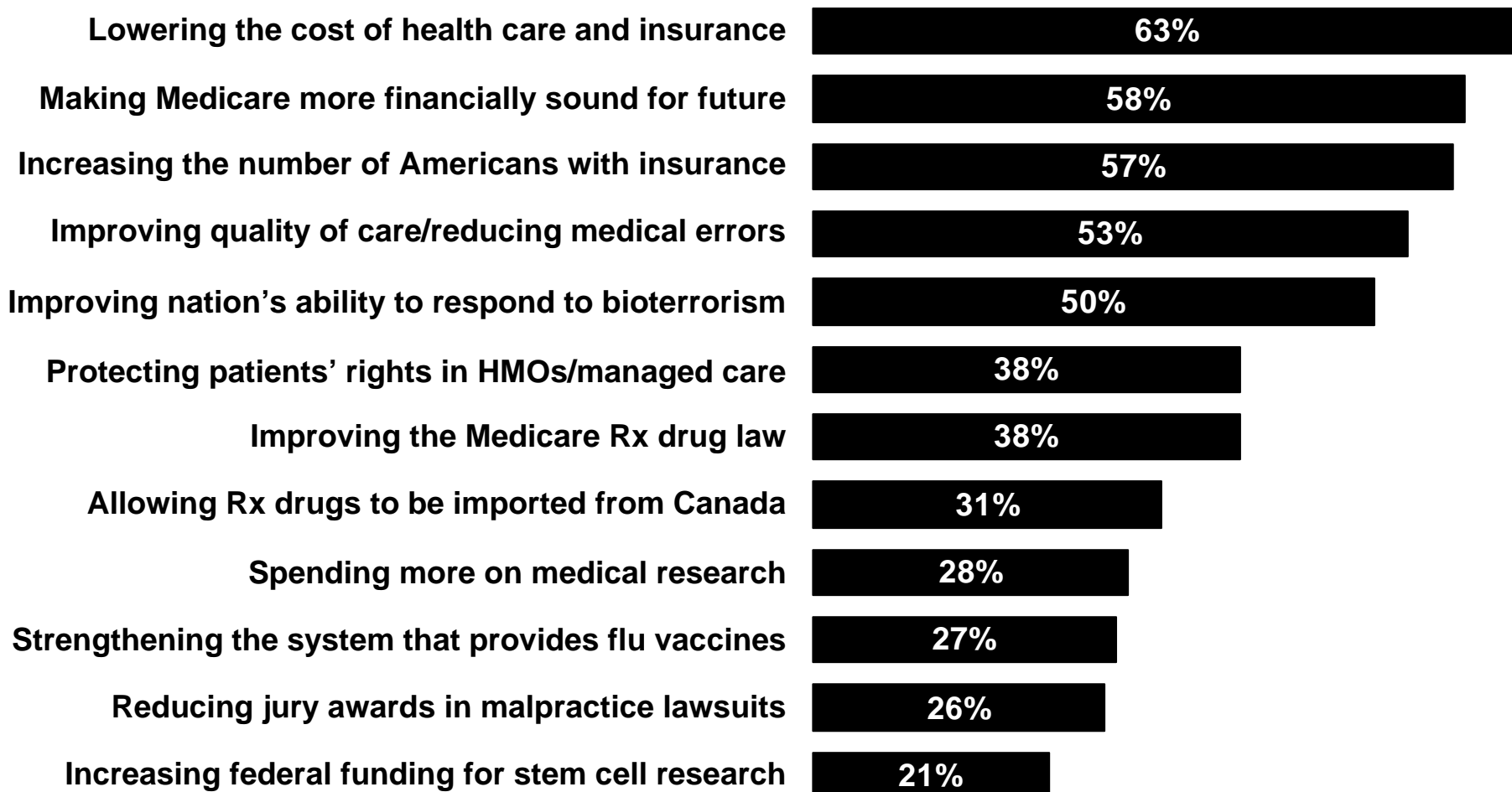
# Top 5 Priorities for President and Congress by Party ID

What do you think is the single MOST important issue or problem the President and Congress should deal with next year? (OPEN-ENDED)

Rank	Democrats	Republicans
1	War in Iraq (29%)	War in Iraq (31%)
2	Economy (22%)	Terrorism/National security (17%)
3	Health care (14%)	Economy (14%)
4	Education (7%)	Health care (9%)
5	Other war/Foreign policy (5%)	Taxes/Tax reform (7%)

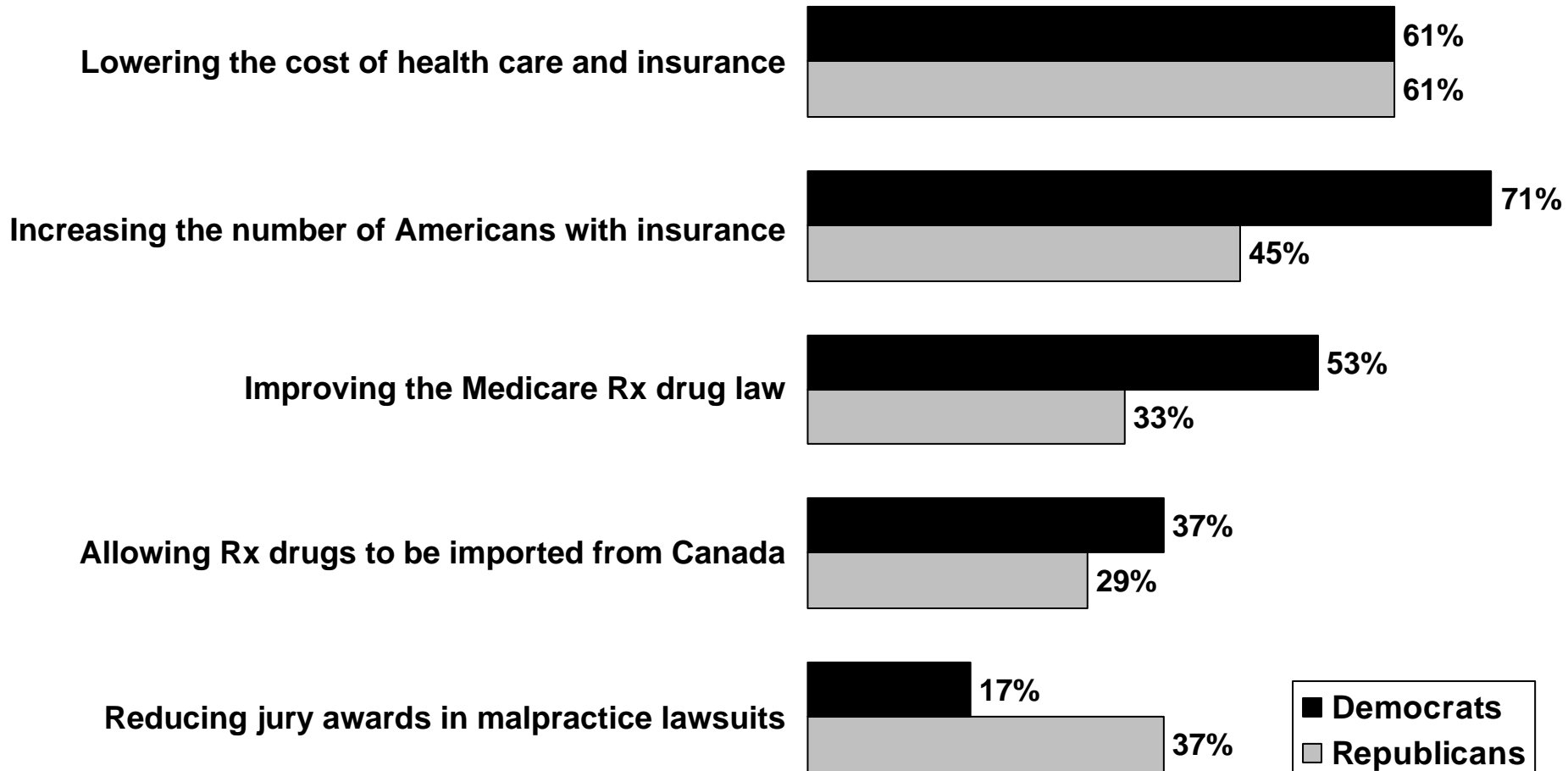
# Health Care Priorities for President and Congress

Percent saying each of the following should be a top priority for the President and Congress this year...



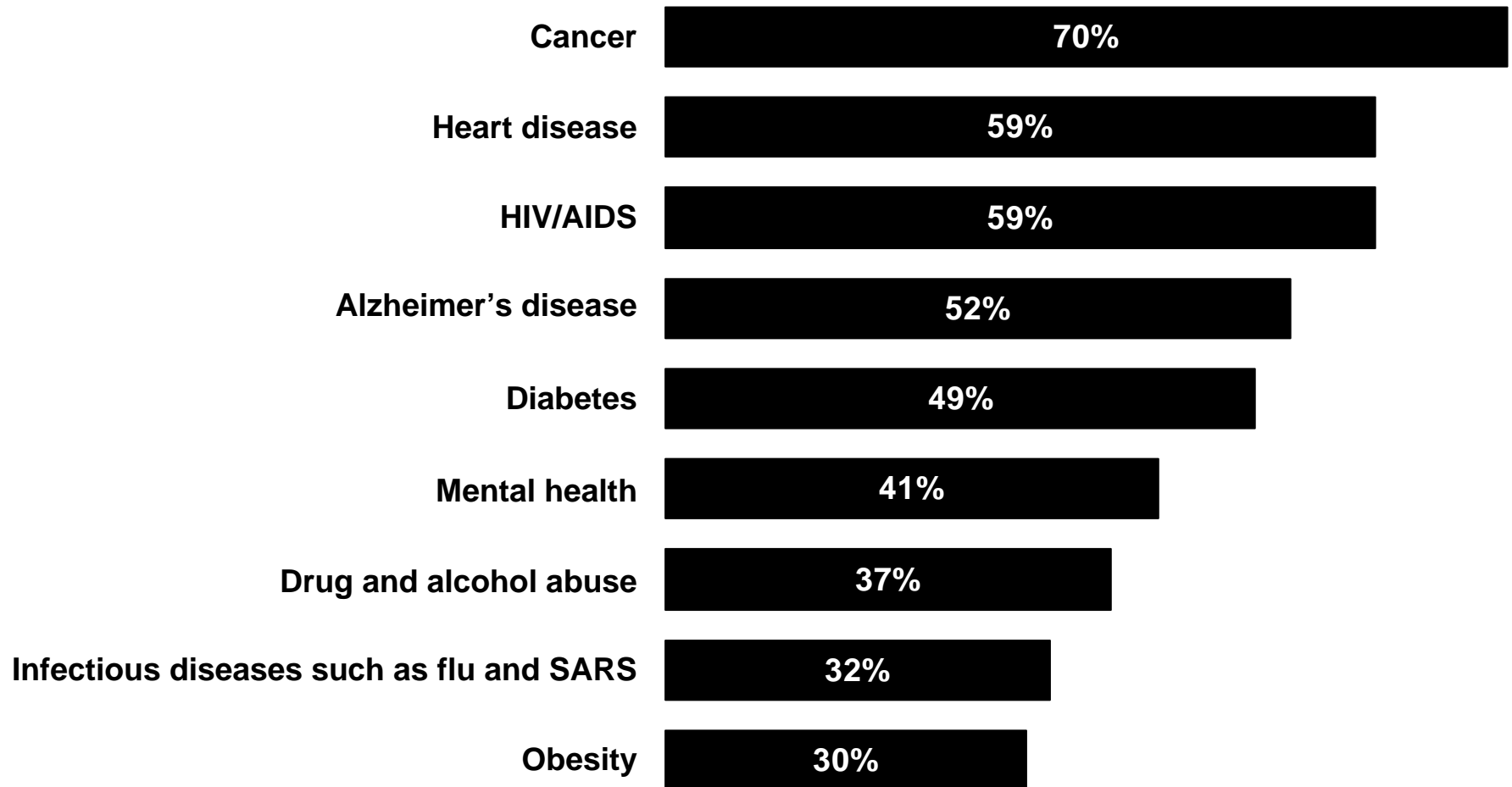
# Health Care Priorities by Party ID

Percent saying each of the following should be a top priority for the President and Congress this year...



# Disease Priorities for President and Congress

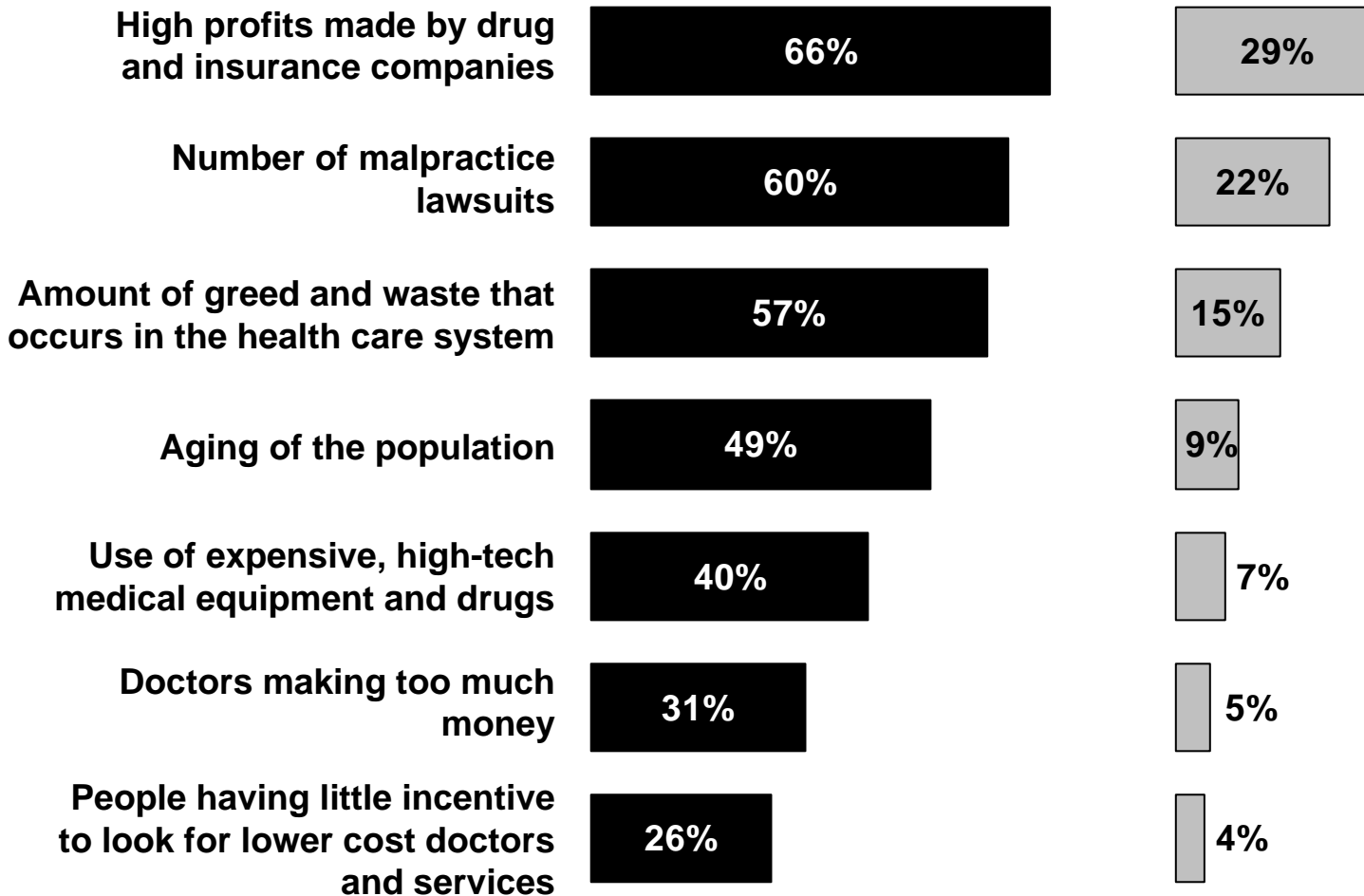
Percent saying that doing something about the following diseases and health conditions should be a top priority for the President and Congress this year...



# Perceived Reasons For Rising Health Care Costs

■ Percent who say each is a “very important” factor in causing higher health care costs...

□ When forced to choose, percent who say each is the MOST important factor\*

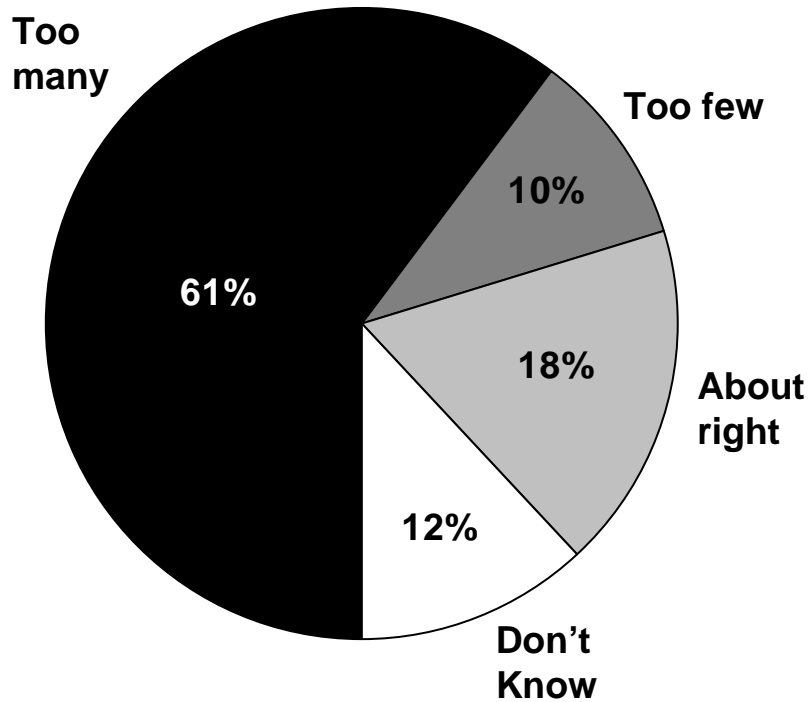


\*Note: also includes those who said only one factor was “very important”

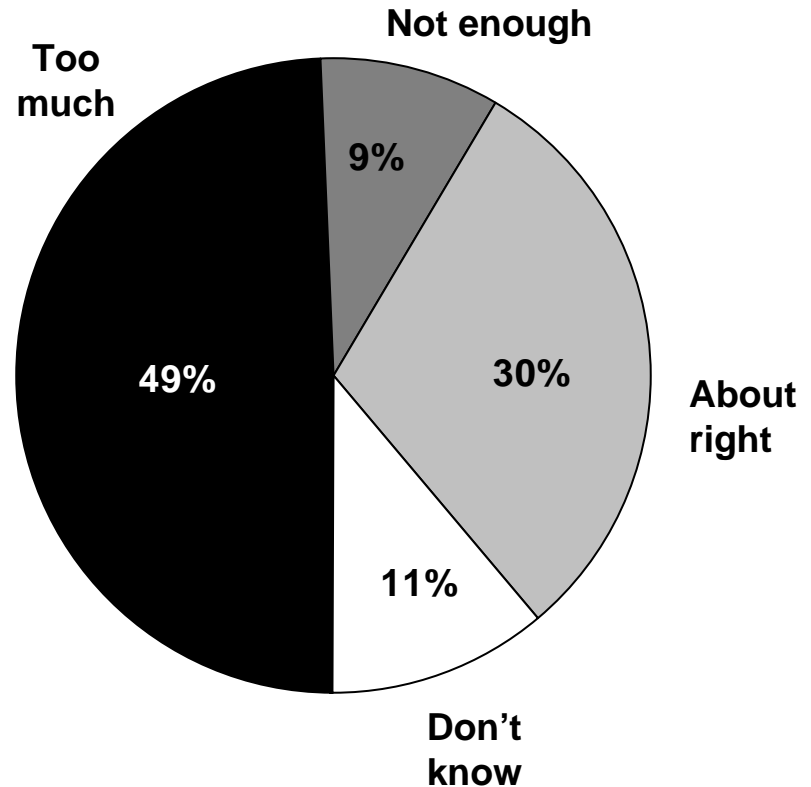


# Views On Malpractice Lawsuits

Do you think patients bring too many, about the right amount or too few lawsuits against doctors?



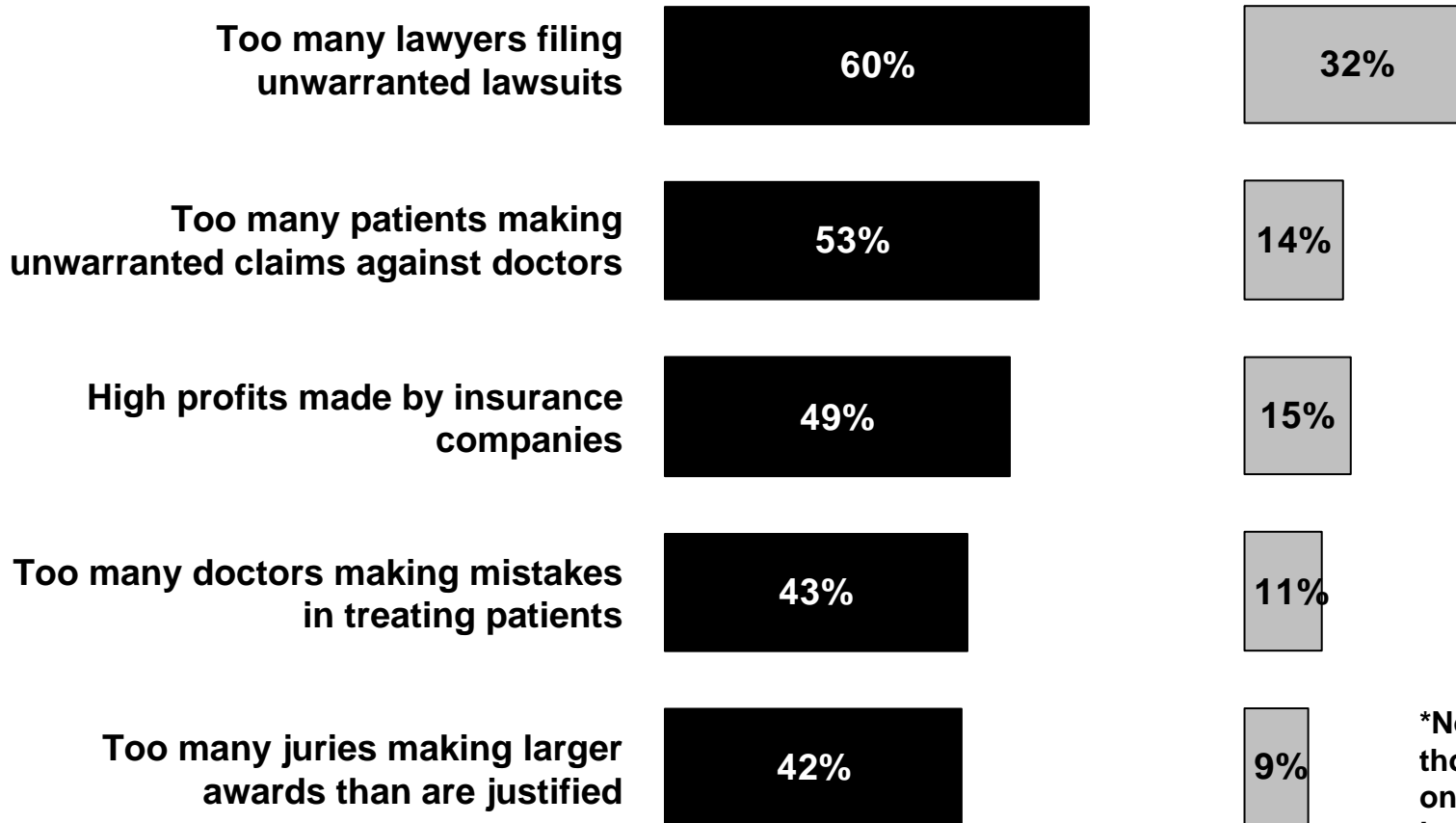
Do you think the amount of money awarded to patients by juries in malpractice suits is...



# Reasons For Rising Malpractice Insurance Costs

■ Percent who say each is a “very important” factor in causing higher malpractice insurance costs...

□ When forced to choose, percent who say each is the MOST important factor\*

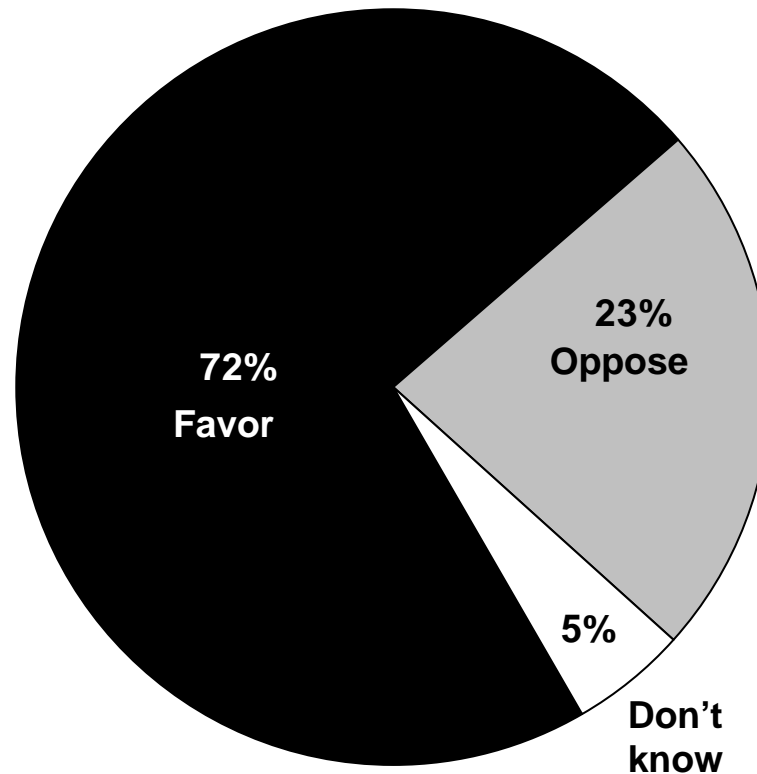


\*Note: also includes those who said only one factor was “very important”

# Independent Review Of Malpractice Claims

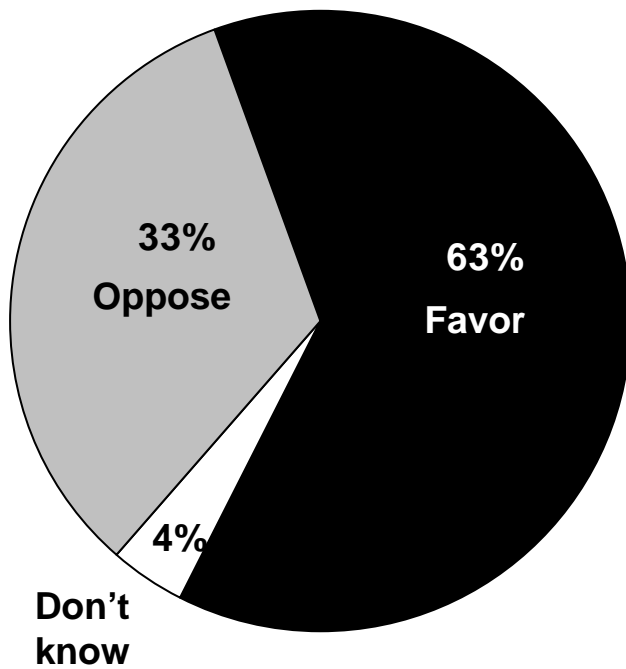
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Would you favor or oppose a new law that would prohibit individuals from filing medical malpractice lawsuits unless a qualified independent medical specialist reviewed the claim and thought it was reasonable?

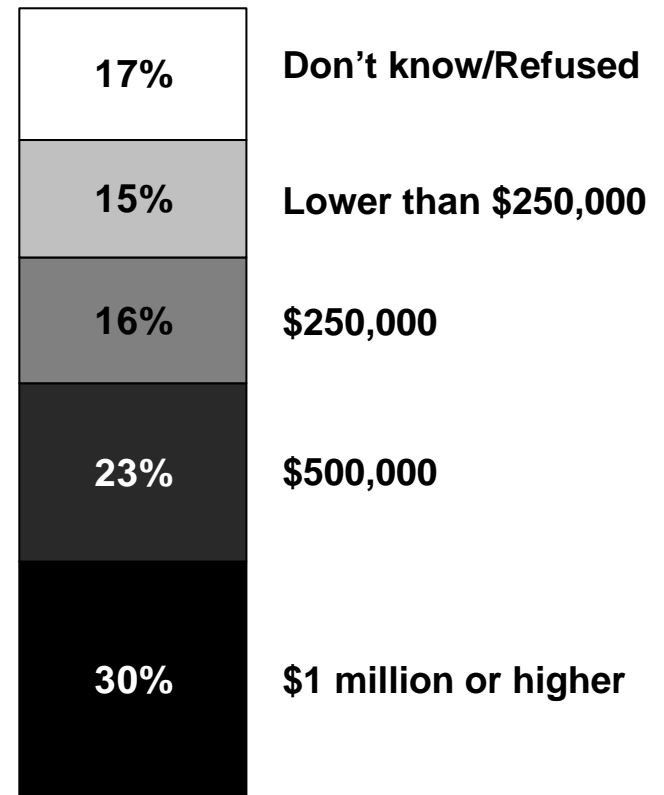


# Limits On Malpractice Awards

Would you favor or oppose a new law that would put a limit on the amount of money that can be awarded to someone suing a doctor for malpractice for damages for pain and suffering?



Among the 63% who favor a limit on pain and suffering awards, percent who say awards for pain and suffering be limited to...

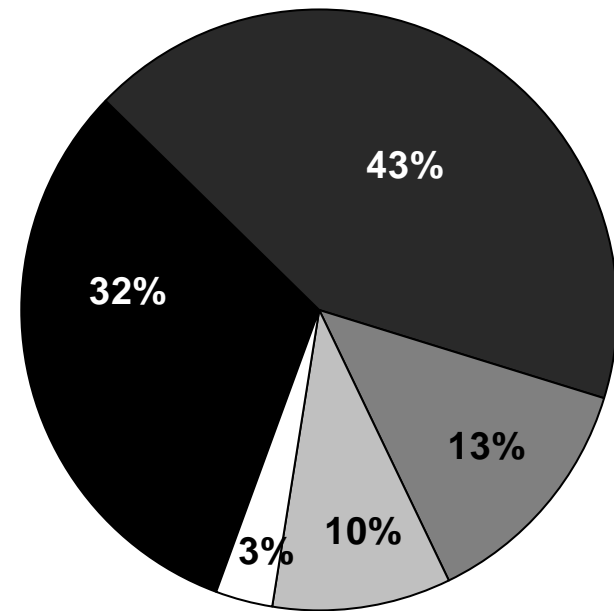
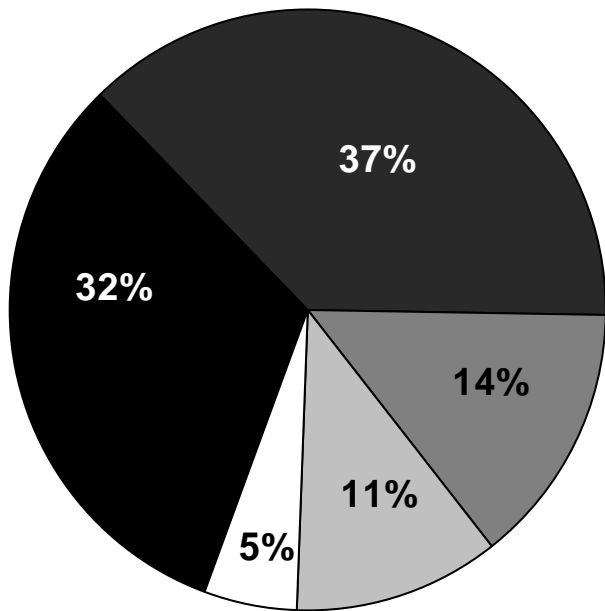


# Perceived Effectiveness of Malpractice Reforms In Reducing Health Care Costs

If a law were passed to limit the amount of money patients can receive for pain and suffering, how much would this help in reducing the overall cost of health care in the U.S.?

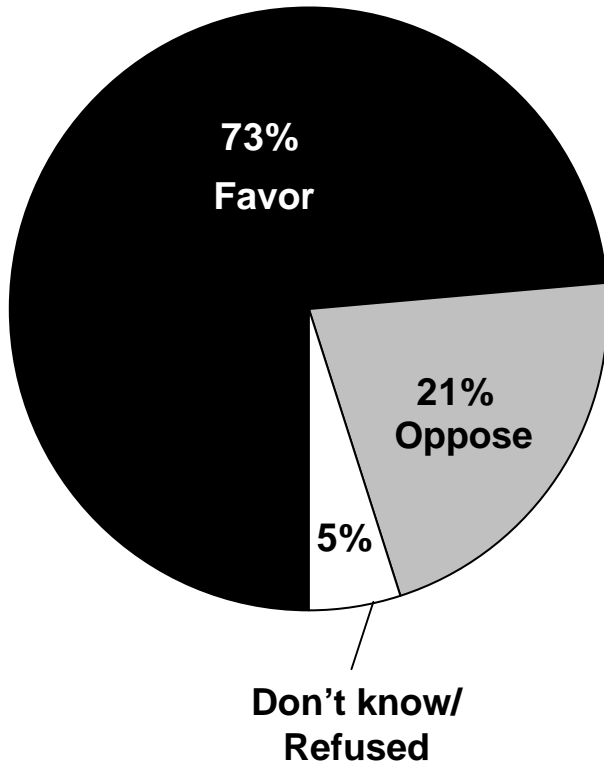
If a law were passed that prohibited individuals from filing lawsuits unless a medical specialist reviewed the claim, how much would this help in reducing the overall cost of health care in the U.S.?

A lot    
  Some    
  Not much    
  Not at all    
  Don't know



# Buying Prescription Drugs From Canada

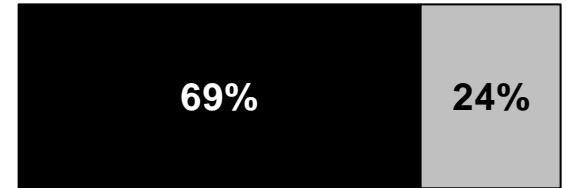
Do you favor or oppose Congress changing the law to allow Americans to buy prescription drugs imported from Canada if they think they can get a lower price?



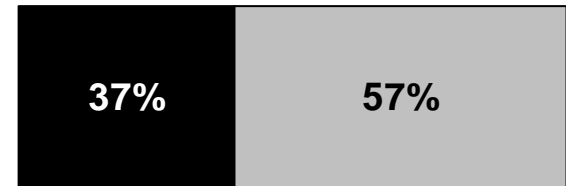
Percent saying they agree/disagree that allowing Americans to buy prescription drugs imported from Canada...

■ Agree    □ Disagree

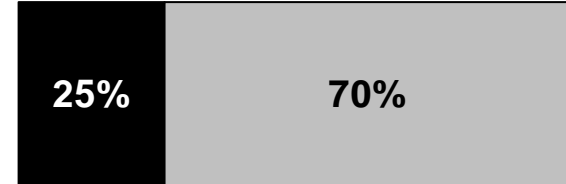
Will make medicines more affordable without sacrificing safety or quality



Will expose Americans to unsafe medicines from other countries

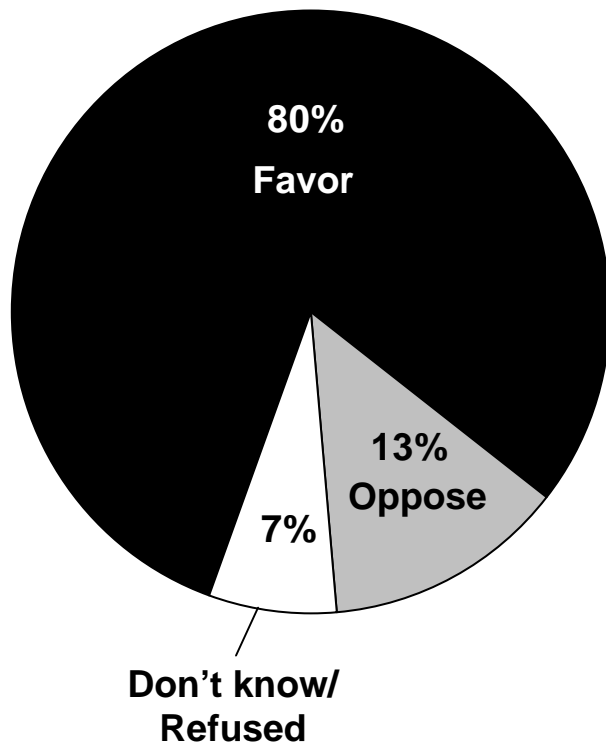


Will lead US drug companies to do less research and development

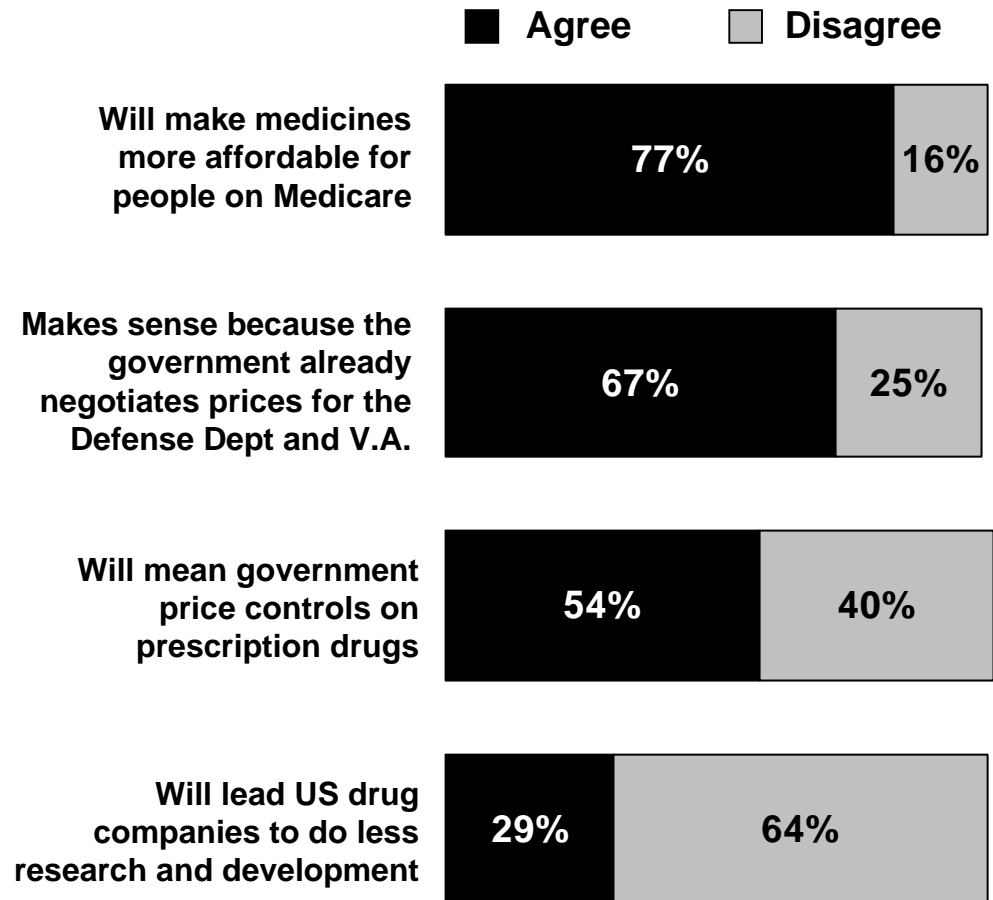


# Government Negotiating with Drug Companies

Do you favor or oppose Congress changing the law to allow the federal government to use its buying power to negotiate with drug companies to try to get a lower price for prescription drugs for people on Medicare?



Percent saying they agree/disagree that allowing the federal government to negotiate with drug companies for lower prices...

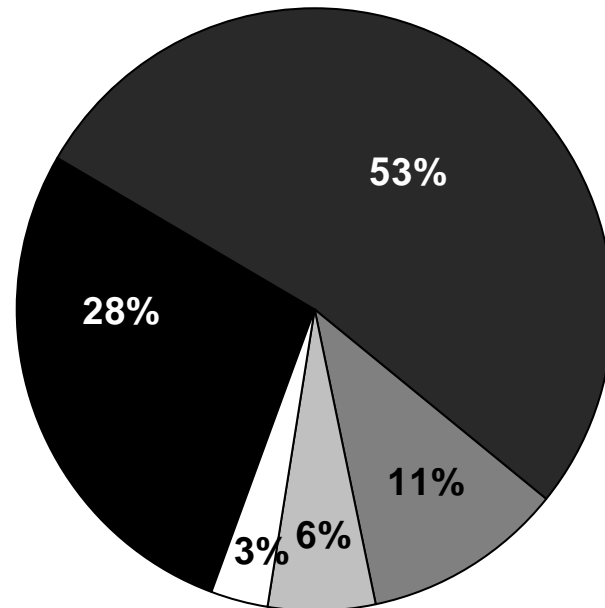
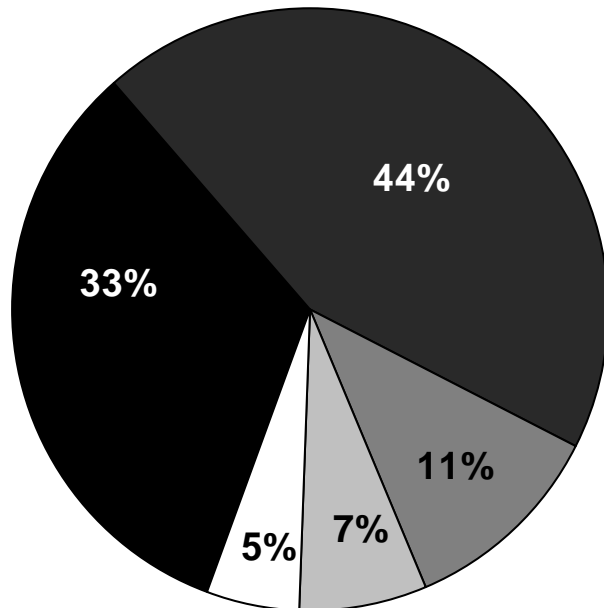


# Perceived Impact of Importation and Negotiation

If Congress changed the law to allow Americans to buy prescription drugs imported from Canada, how much do you think this would help in reducing prescription drug costs in the U.S.?

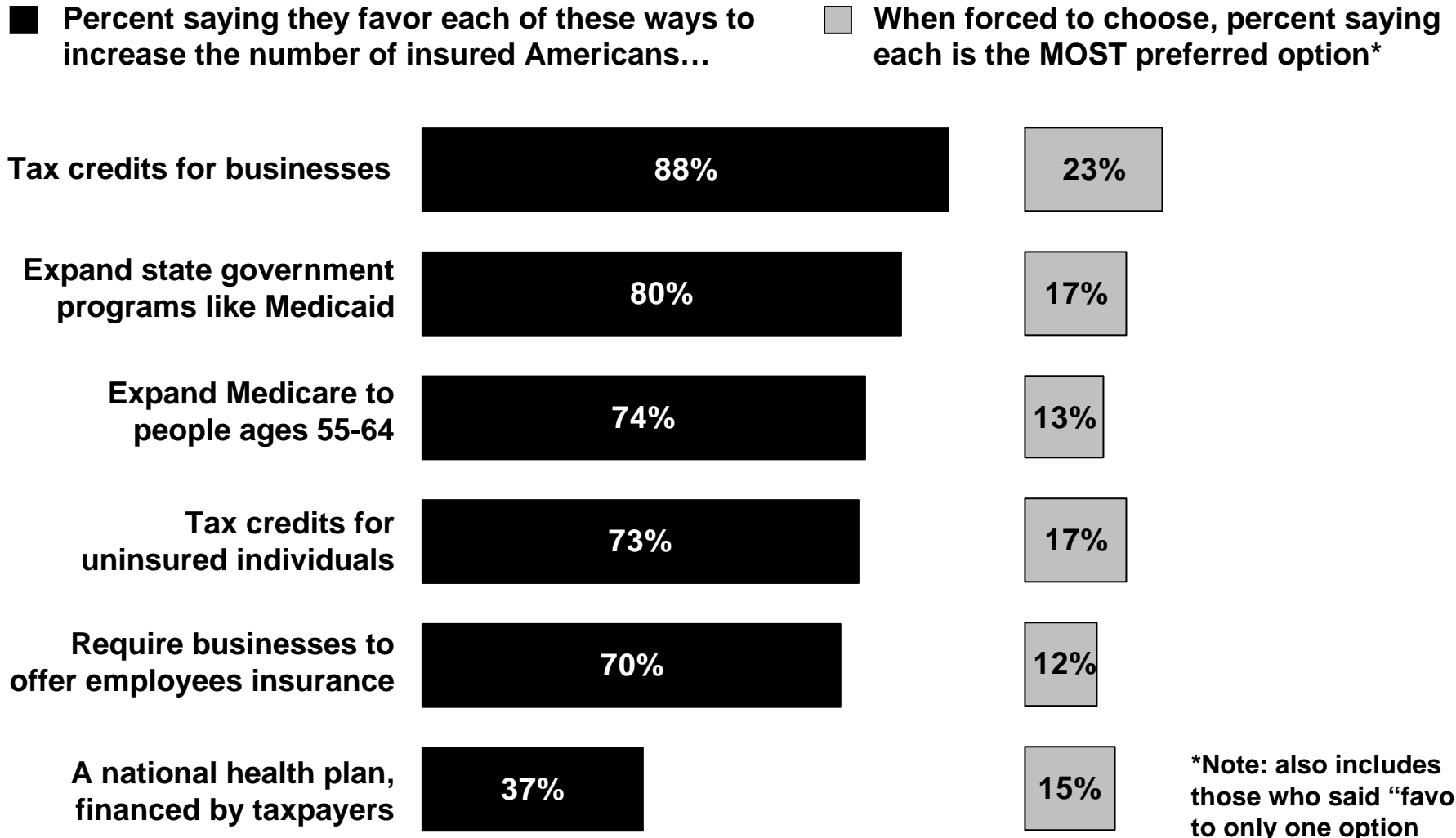
If Congress changed the law to allow the federal government to negotiate with drug companies, how much do you think this would help in reducing prescription drug costs in the U.S.?

A lot
  Some
  Not much
  Not at all
  Don't know



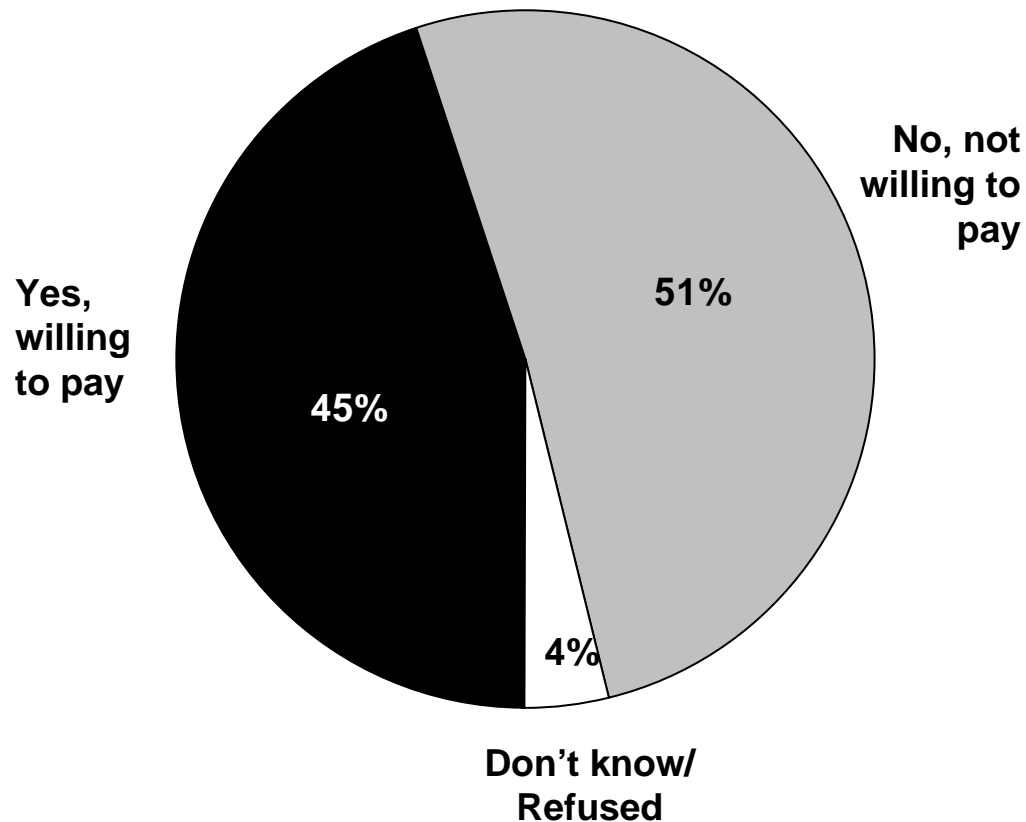


# Policy Options to Help the Uninsured



# Willingness to Pay to Help the Uninsured

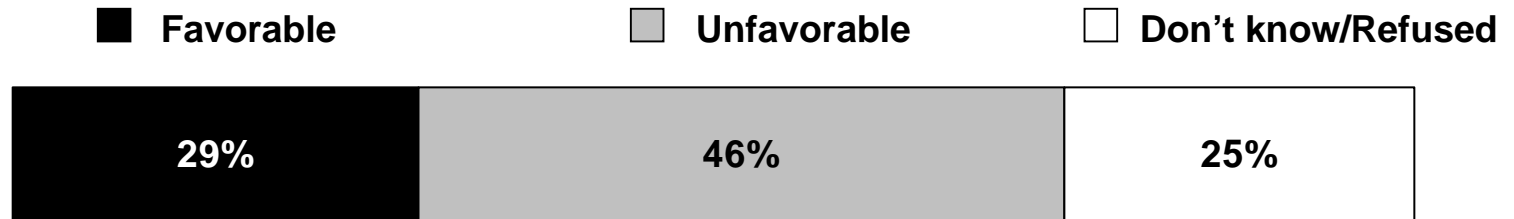
Would you be willing to pay more--either in higher health insurance premiums or higher taxes--in order to increase the number of Americans who have health insurance, or not?



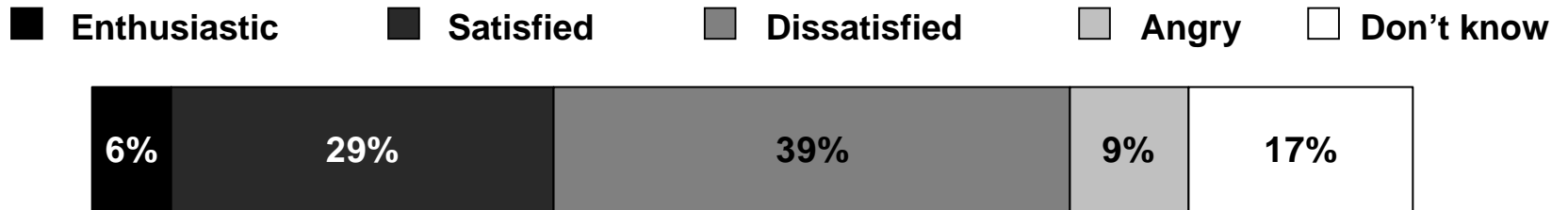
# Seniors on the New Medicare Law

**AMONG THOSE AGES 65 AND OLDER:**

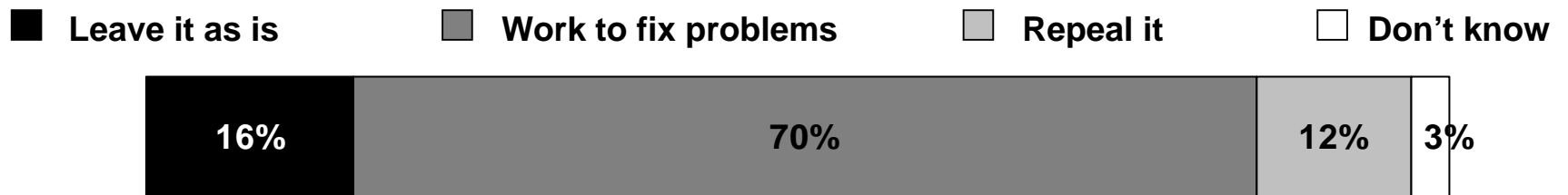
Is your impression of the new Medicare law...?



Which comes closest to how you personally feel about the new Medicare law?

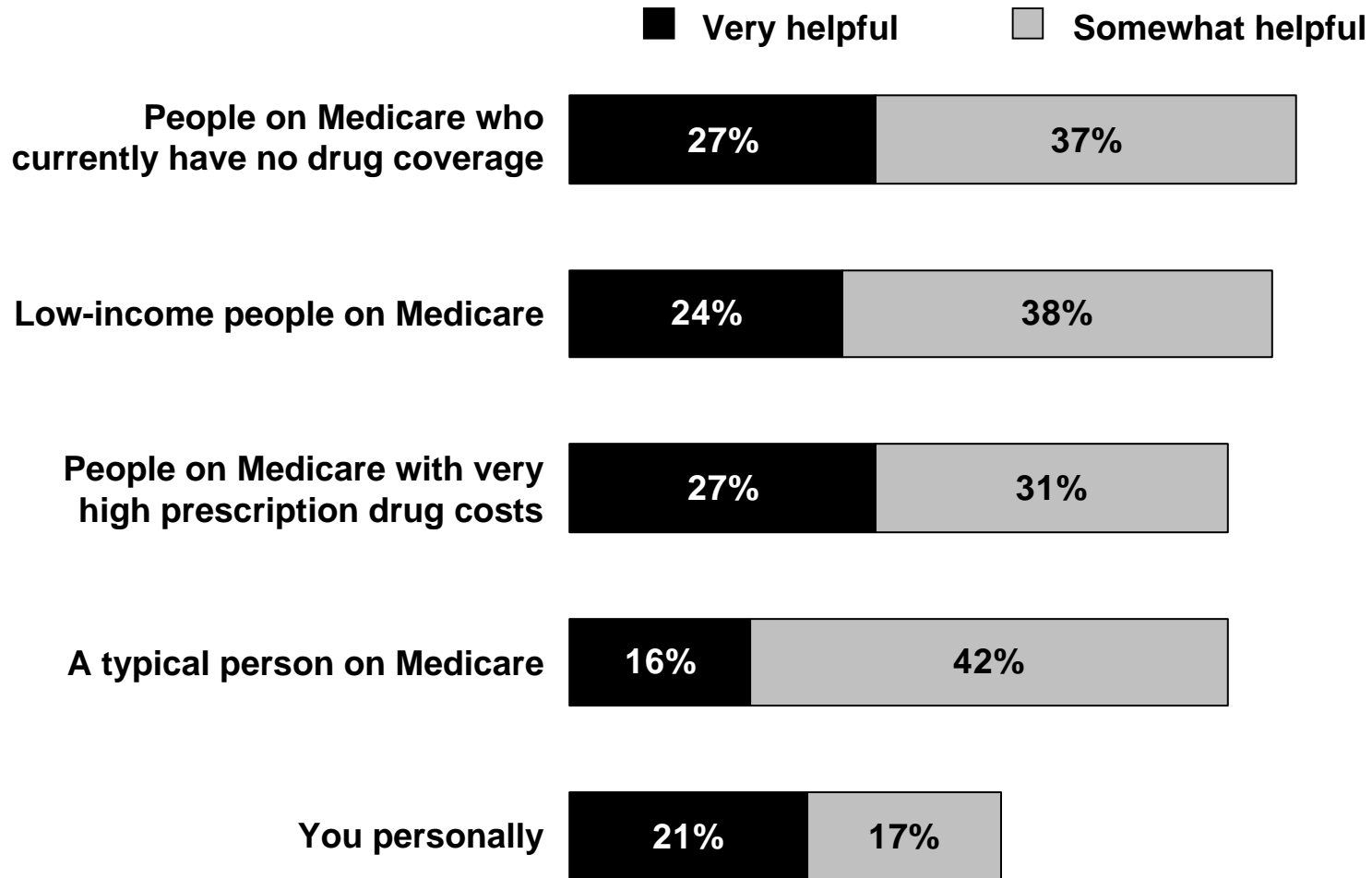


What should lawmakers in Washington do with the new Medicare law?



# Perceived Helpfulness of New Medicare Law

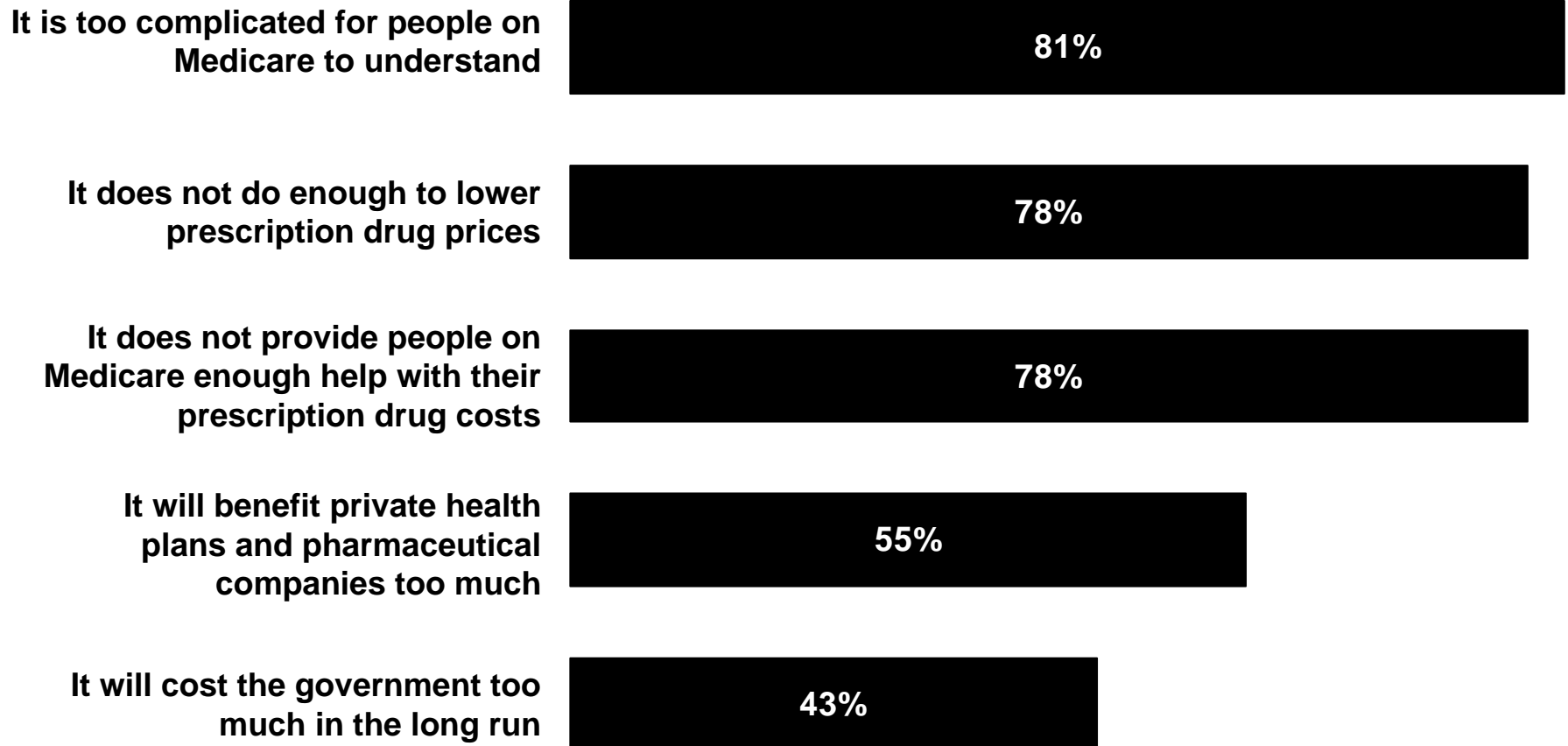
**AMONG THOSE AGES 65 AND OLDER: Percent who say the new Medicare law will be helpful for...**



# Perceived Problems with New Medicare Law

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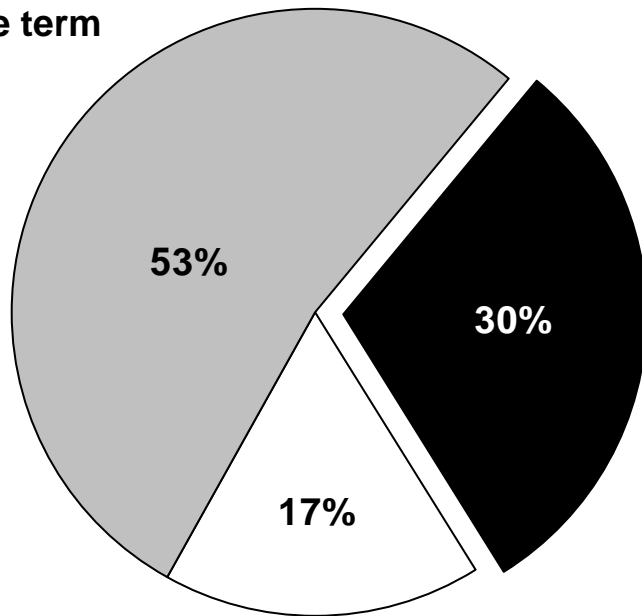
**AMONG THOSE AGES 65 AND OLDER: Percent who agree that the following are problems with the new Medicare law that need to be fixed...**



# Health Savings Accounts

Have you heard the term “health savings account”?

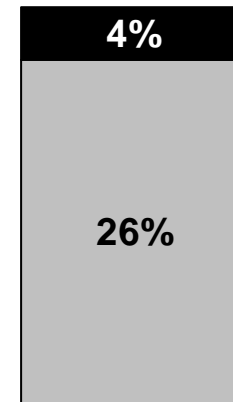
Have not heard the term



Heard the term but don't know what it means

Heard the term and know what it means

Asked of the 30% who have heard the term “health savings account” and know what it means: Are you currently enrolled in a health savings account?



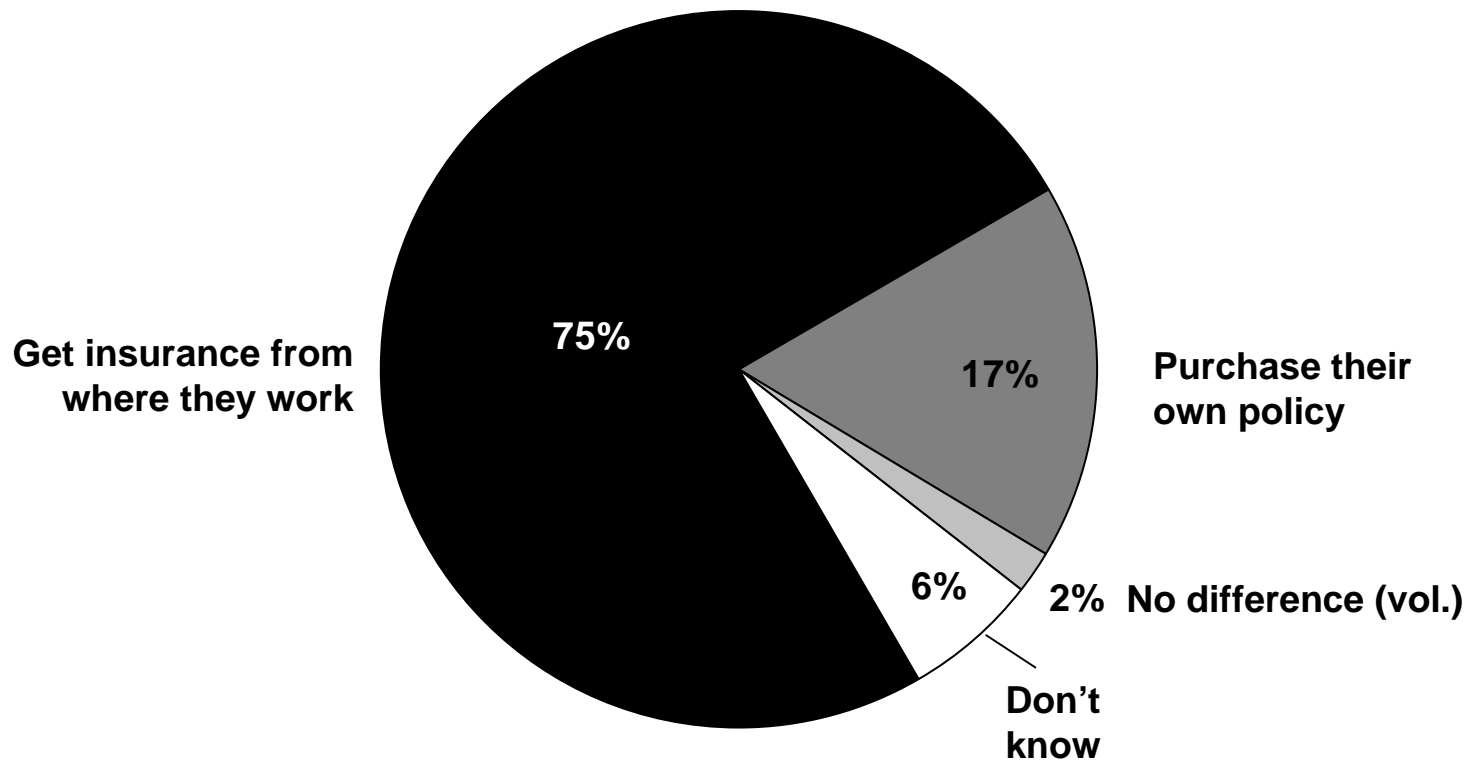
Yes, currently enrolled

No, not currently enrolled

# Views on Employer-Sponsored Insurance for General Population

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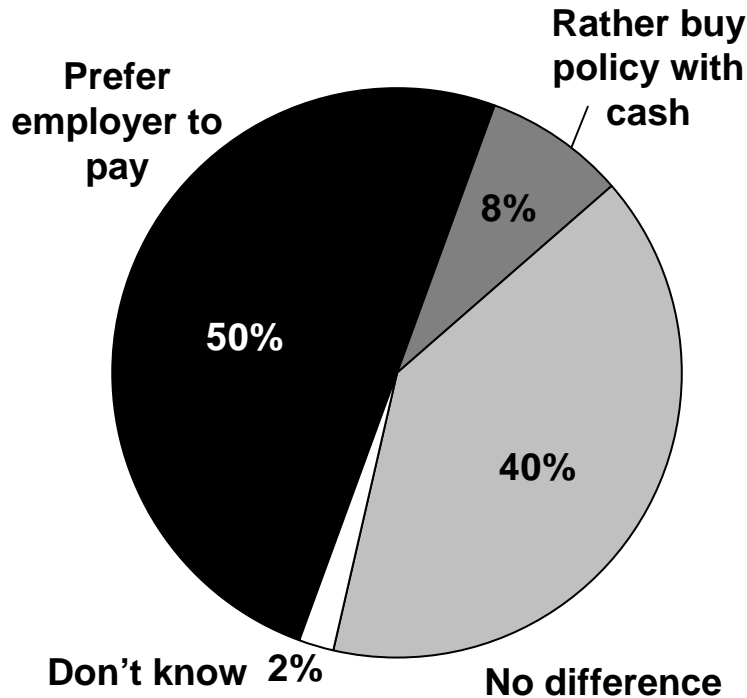
Do you think most people would be better off if they got their health insurance policy from the place where they work, or if they purchased their own health insurance policy?



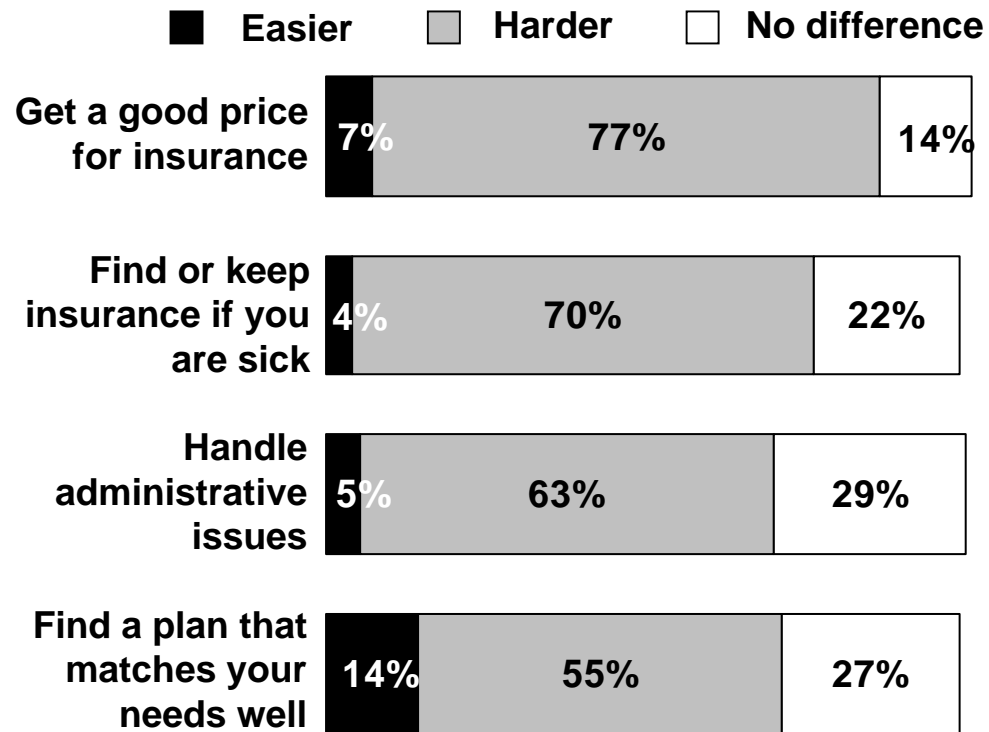
# Views on Employer-Sponsored Insurance

Among those insured through an employer...

Would you prefer to have your employer pay for all or part of your health insurance at work, or would you rather buy health insurance yourself, with your employer giving you the cash amount they would have contributed – or doesn't it make much difference to you?



What if your employer gave you the cash amount they would have contributed to your insurance, and you had to buy health insurance on your own. Do you think purchasing your own coverage would make it EASIER or HARDER for you to ... or wouldn't it make much difference?\*



\*Don't know responses not shown.





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