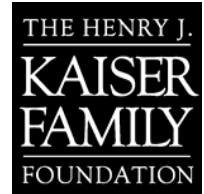


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Chartpack



The Kaiser Family Foundation

# National Survey of the Public's Views About Medicaid

June 2005

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## **Methodology**

The Kaiser Family Foundation *National Survey of the Public's Views about Medicaid* was designed and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation. Fieldwork was conducted by telephone by Princeton Survey Research Associates between April 1 and May 1, 2005, among a nationally representative random sample of 1,201 respondents 18 years of age and older. Results have been weighted to be representative of the U.S. population by sex, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and region.

The margin of sampling error for the survey is plus or minus 3 percentage points for total respondents. 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.

Near the beginning of the survey, but after basic knowledge questions were asked, all respondents were read the following common definition of Medicaid: “Medicaid is a government program for low-income people whose costs are shared by both the federal government and state government. It provides health insurance and long term care assistance to eligible children and their parents, elderly, and people with disabilities.” For complete question wording, please see the survey topline document.

# Importance of Government Programs

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Percent who say each is very important ...

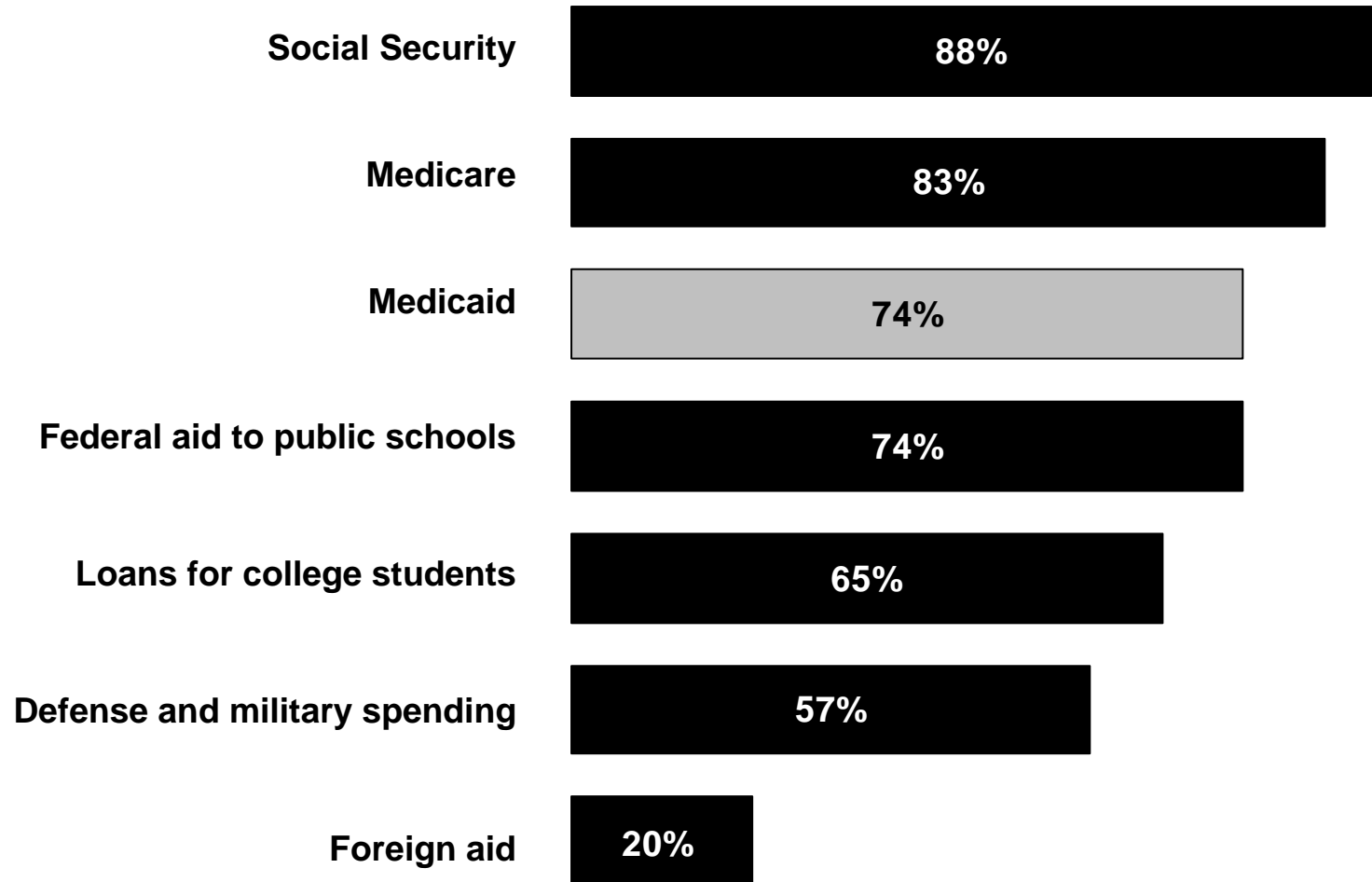
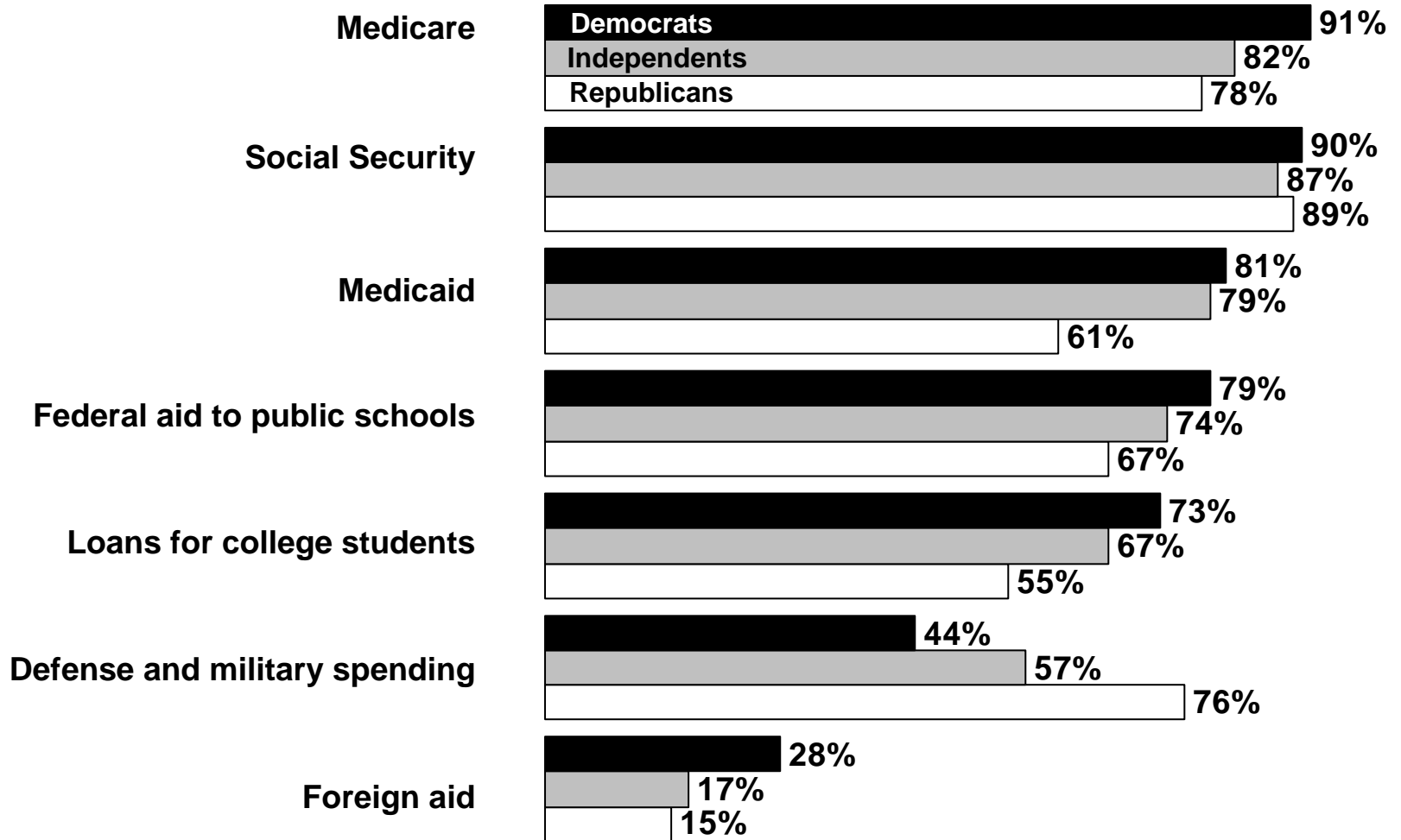


Chart 2

# Importance of Government Programs By Political Party Self Identification

Percent who say each is very important ...



# Why Do People Have Medicaid?

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Percent who say this is a main reason why people have health insurance through the Medicaid program...

They are poor and can't afford to purchase health insurance on their own

87%

They need long-term care

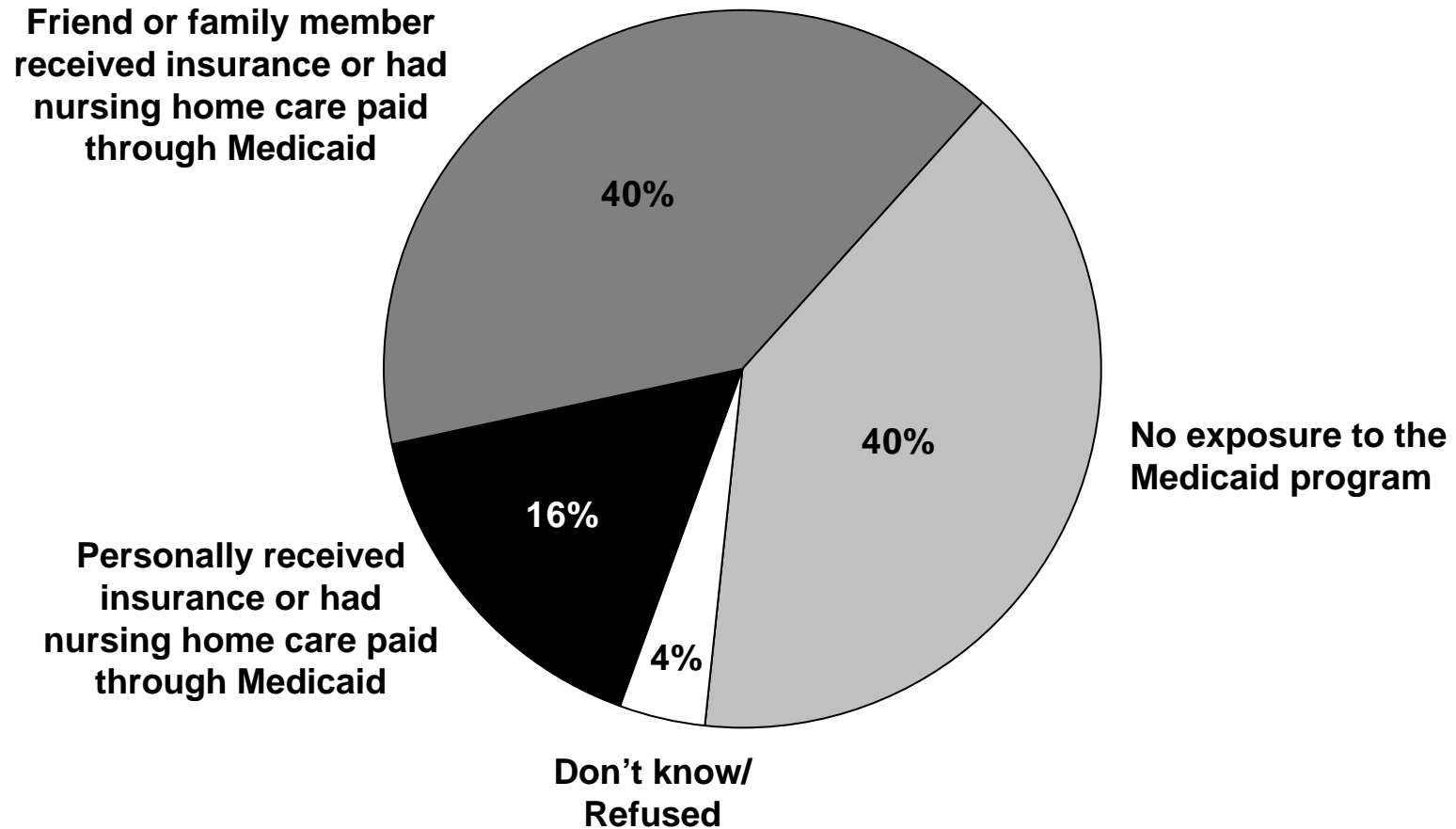
68%

They have very high medical expenses

61%

# Exposure to the Medicaid Program

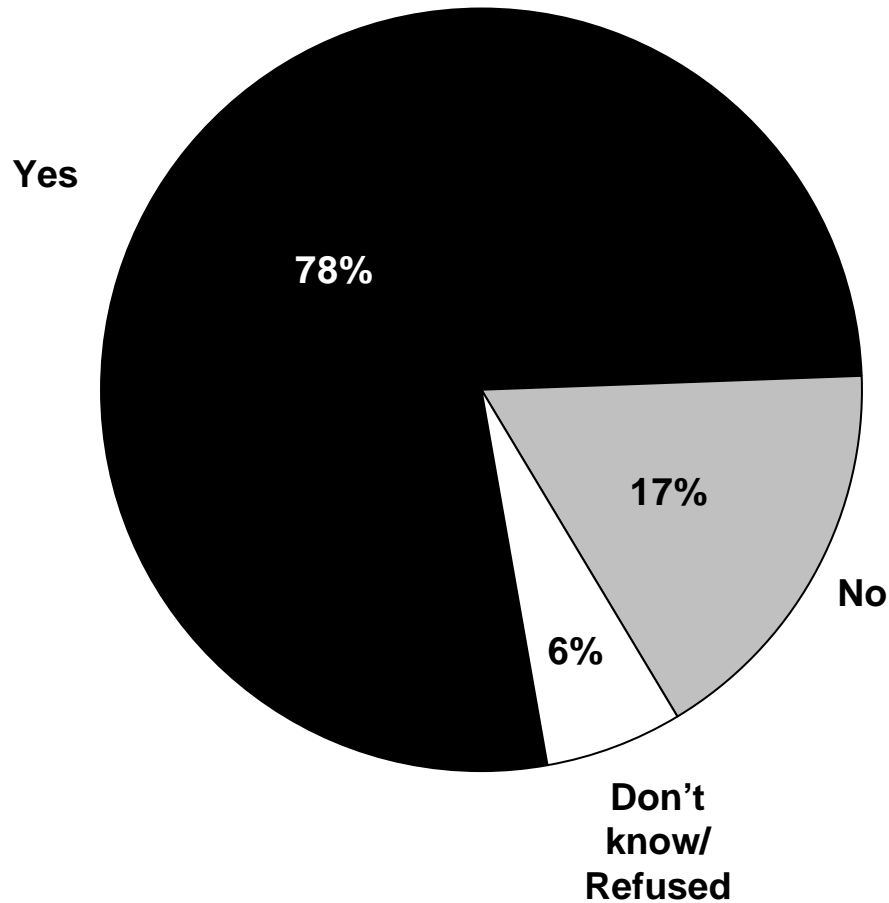
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# Willingness to Enroll in Medicaid?

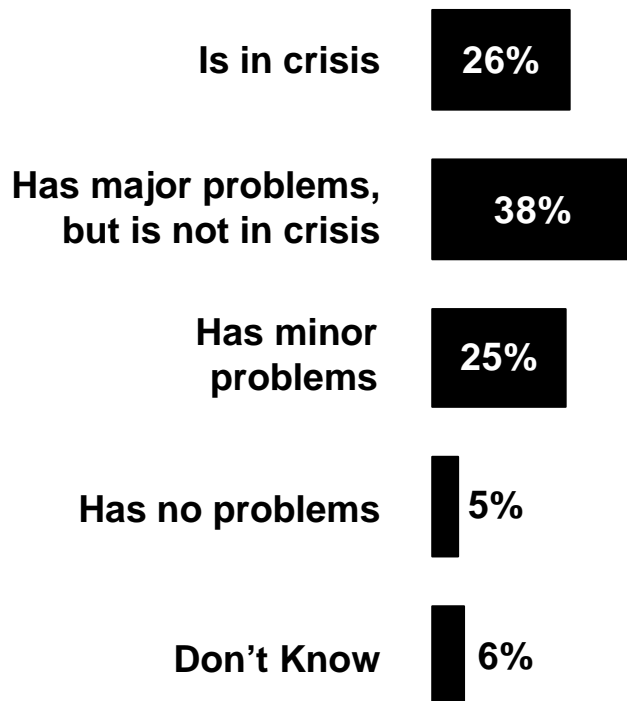
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If you needed health care and qualified would you enroll in the Medicaid program, or not?

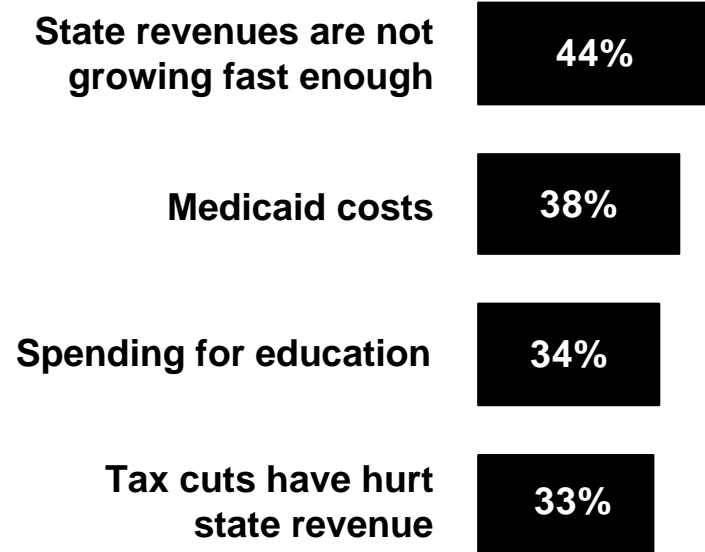


# State Budget Problems

Which of the following four statements comes closest to your own view of the budget in your state? The budget...



Among those who say their state budget is in crisis or has problems (90% of the public), the percent who say each is a major reason their state is having problems with its budget..

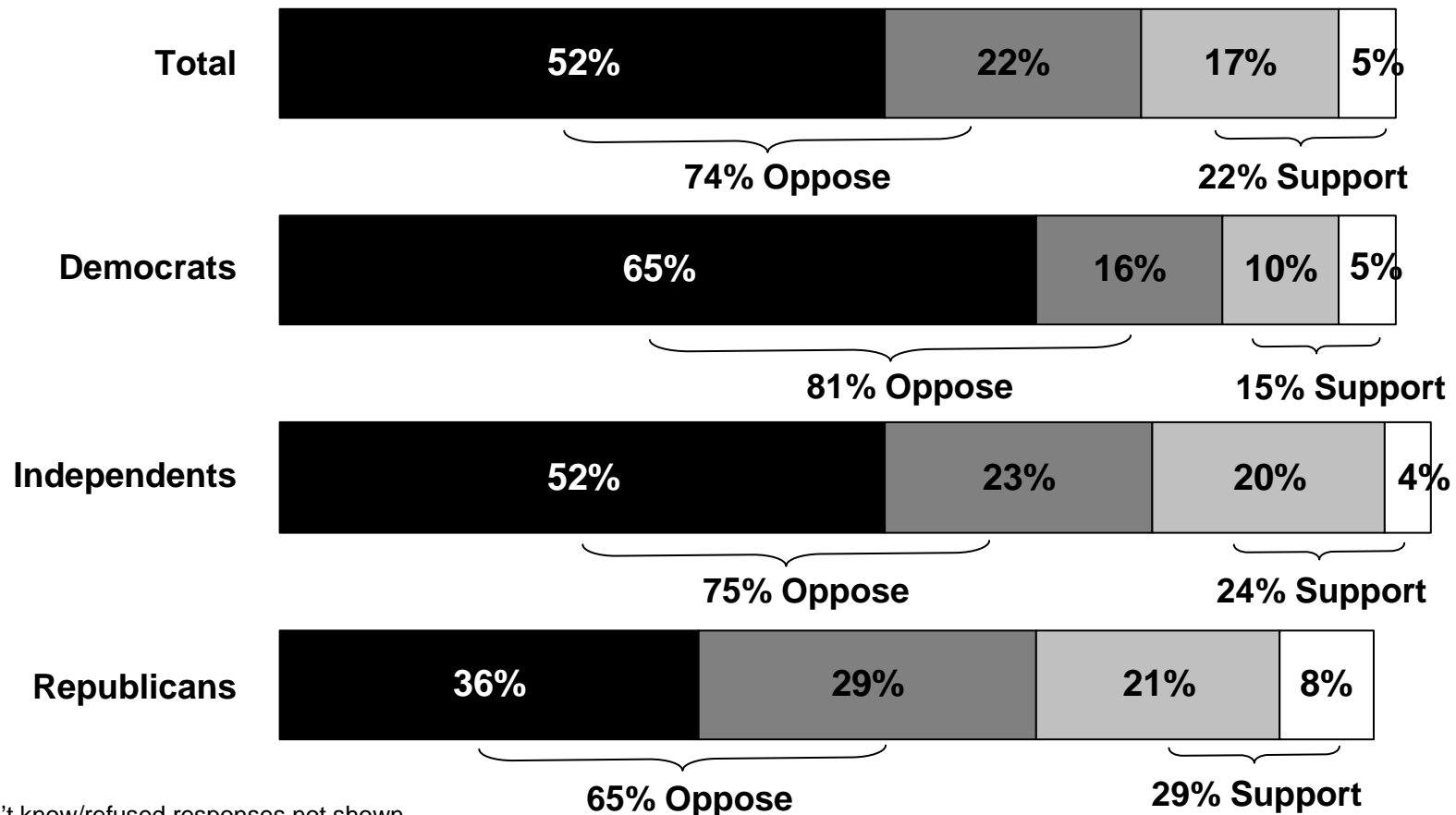




# Balancing State Budgets with Medicaid Cuts

As you may know, many states are thinking about cutting back their Medicaid program in order to help balance their state budget. Would you support or oppose making some cuts to the Medicaid program in your state? (Asked of half sample)

Strongly Oppose
  Somewhat Oppose
  Somewhat Support
  Strongly Support



Note: Don't know/refused responses not shown.

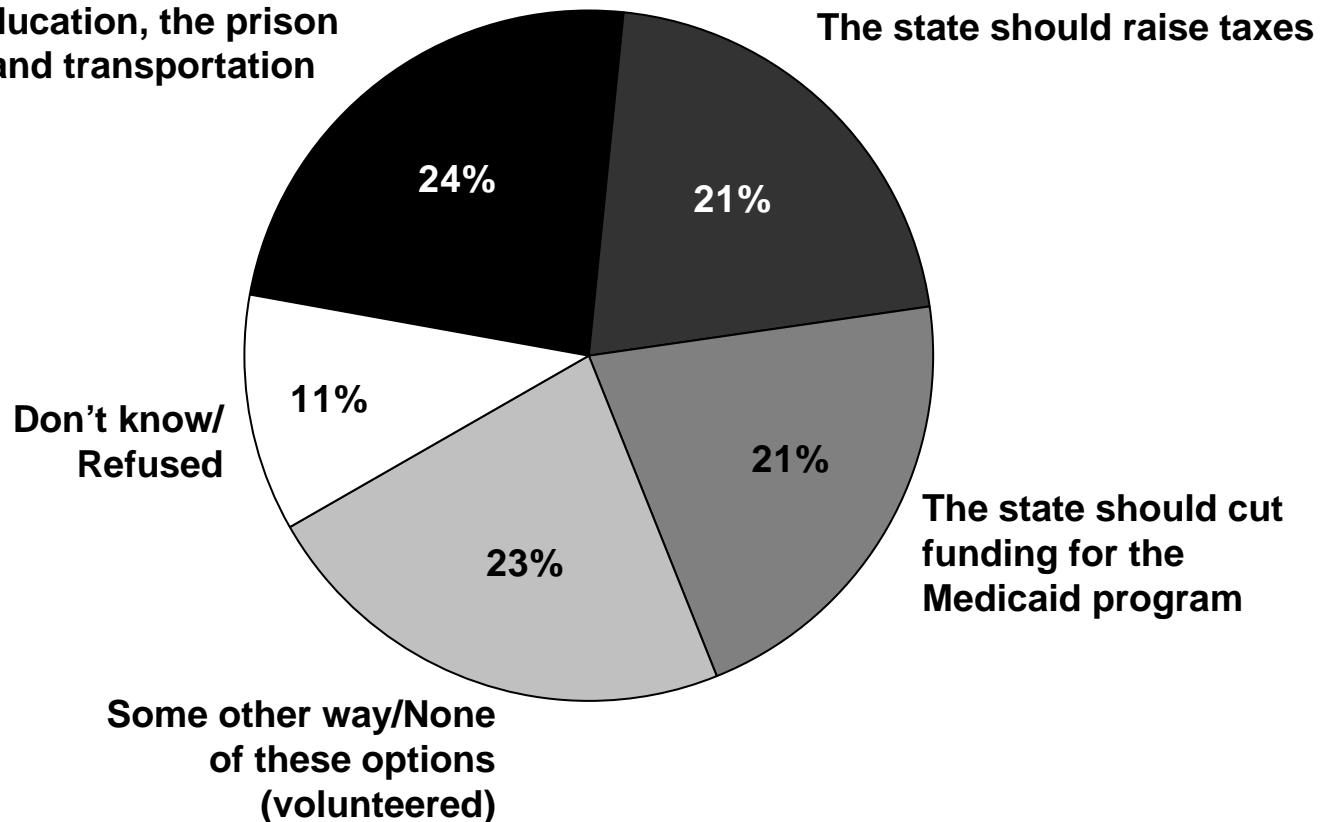
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *National Survey on the Public's Views About Medicaid*, June 2005 (conducted April 1 - May 1, 2005)

# Reducing State Budget Problems

Which one of the following is the best way for your state to reduce its budget problems? (Asked of half sample)

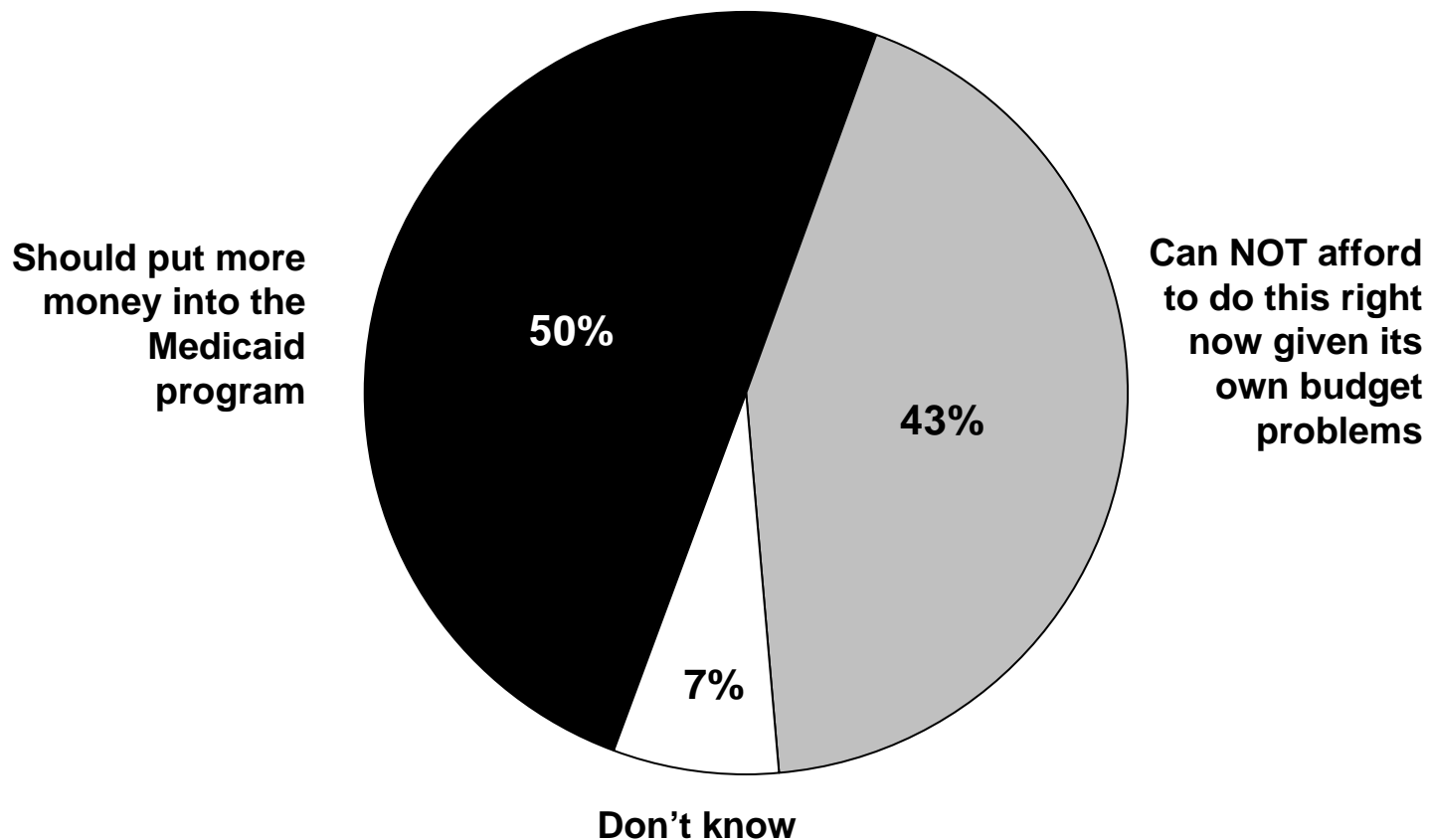
The state should cut funding for programs other than Medicaid such as education, the prison system, and transportation

The state should raise taxes



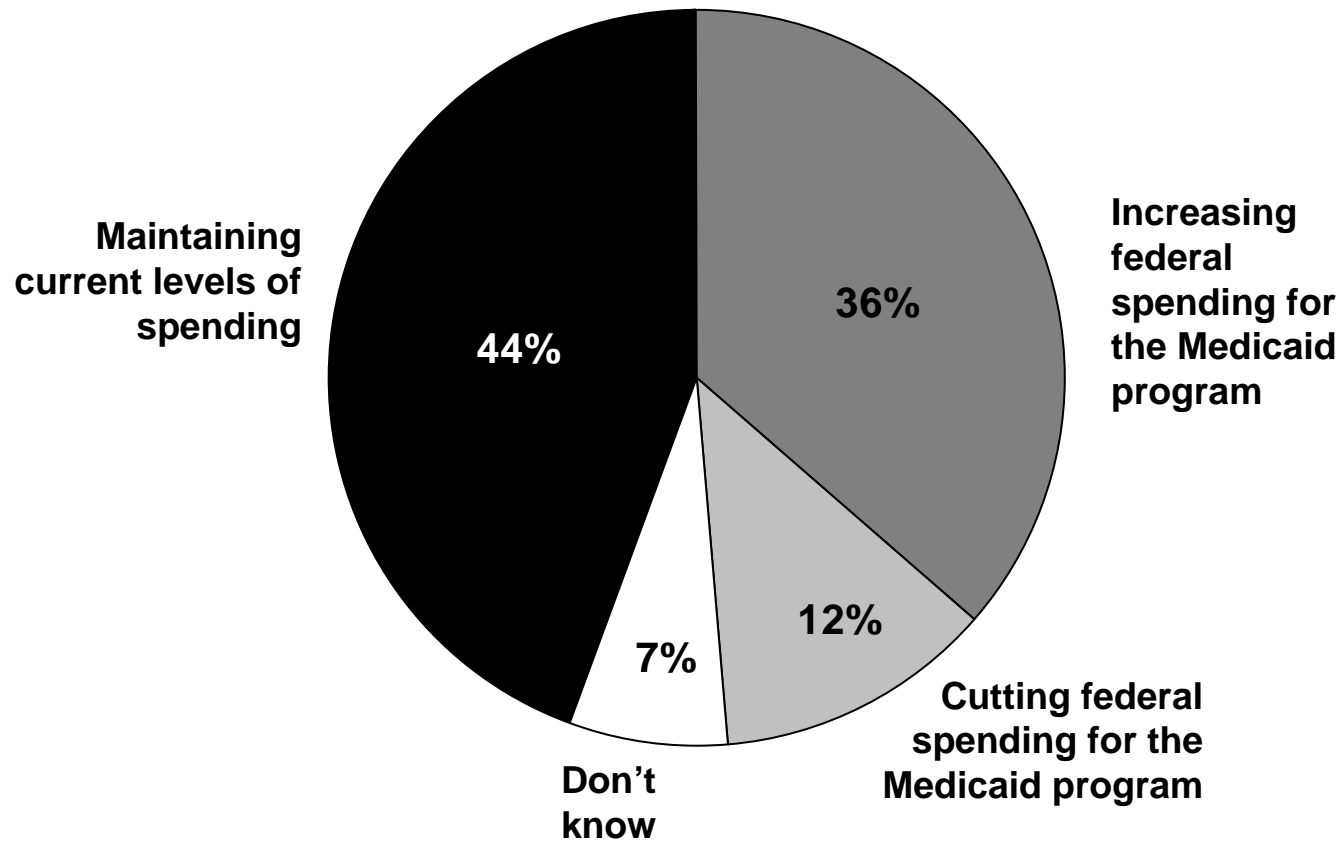
# Federal Spending on Medicaid

Given state budget problems do you think the federal government should put more money into the Medicaid program, or do you think the federal government can NOT afford to do this right now given its own budget problems? (Asked of half sample)



# Federal Spending on Medicaid

In the federal government, the House of Representatives has proposed cutting the amount of federal funding for Medicaid, while the Senate has not proposed cuts. Which approach would you prefer? (Asked of half sample)

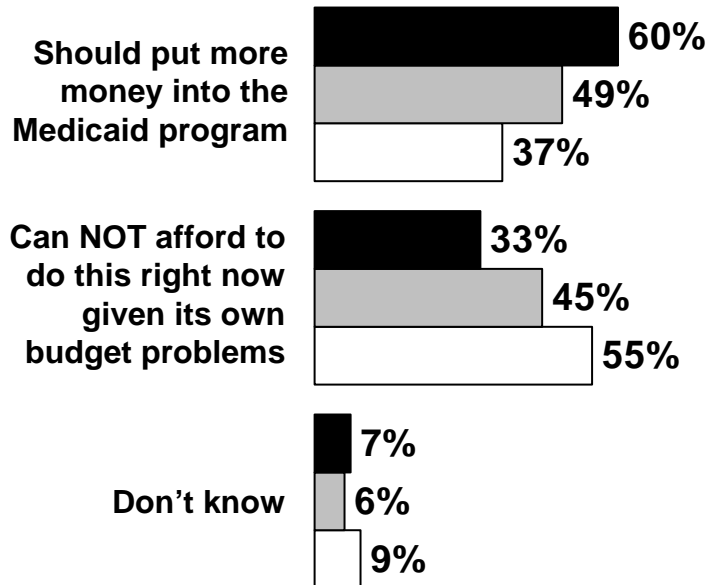


# Federal Spending on Medicaid By Political Party Self Identification

■ Democrats    ■ Independents    □ Republicans

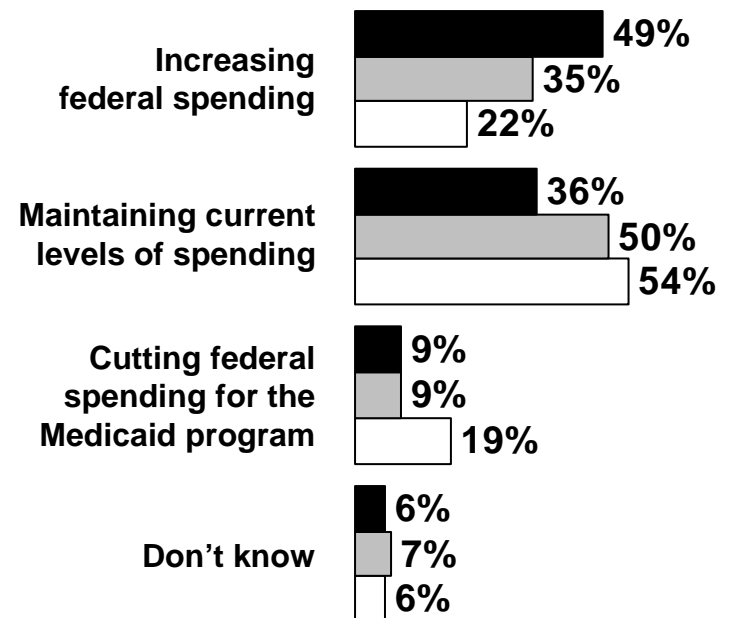
Given state budget problems do you think the federal government should put more money into the Medicaid program, or do you think the federal government can NOT afford to do this right now given its own budget problems?

(Asked of half sample)



In the federal government, the House of Representatives has proposed cutting the amount of federal funding for Medicaid, while the Senate has not proposed cuts. Which approach would you prefer?

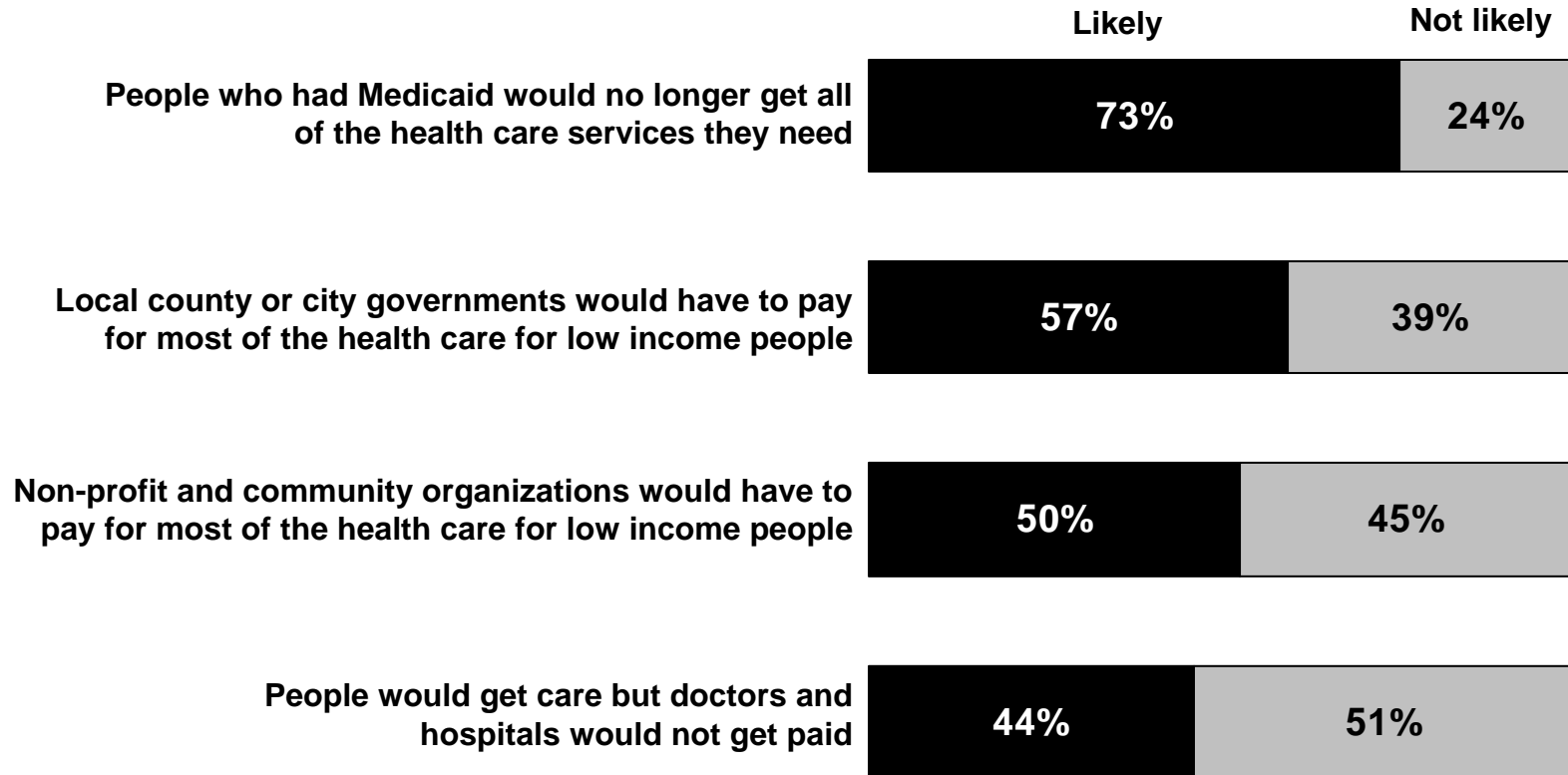
(Asked of half sample)



# Perceived Repercussions of Medicaid Spending Cuts

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If states were forced to cut Medicaid spending to balance their budgets, do you think each of the following would be likely or not?



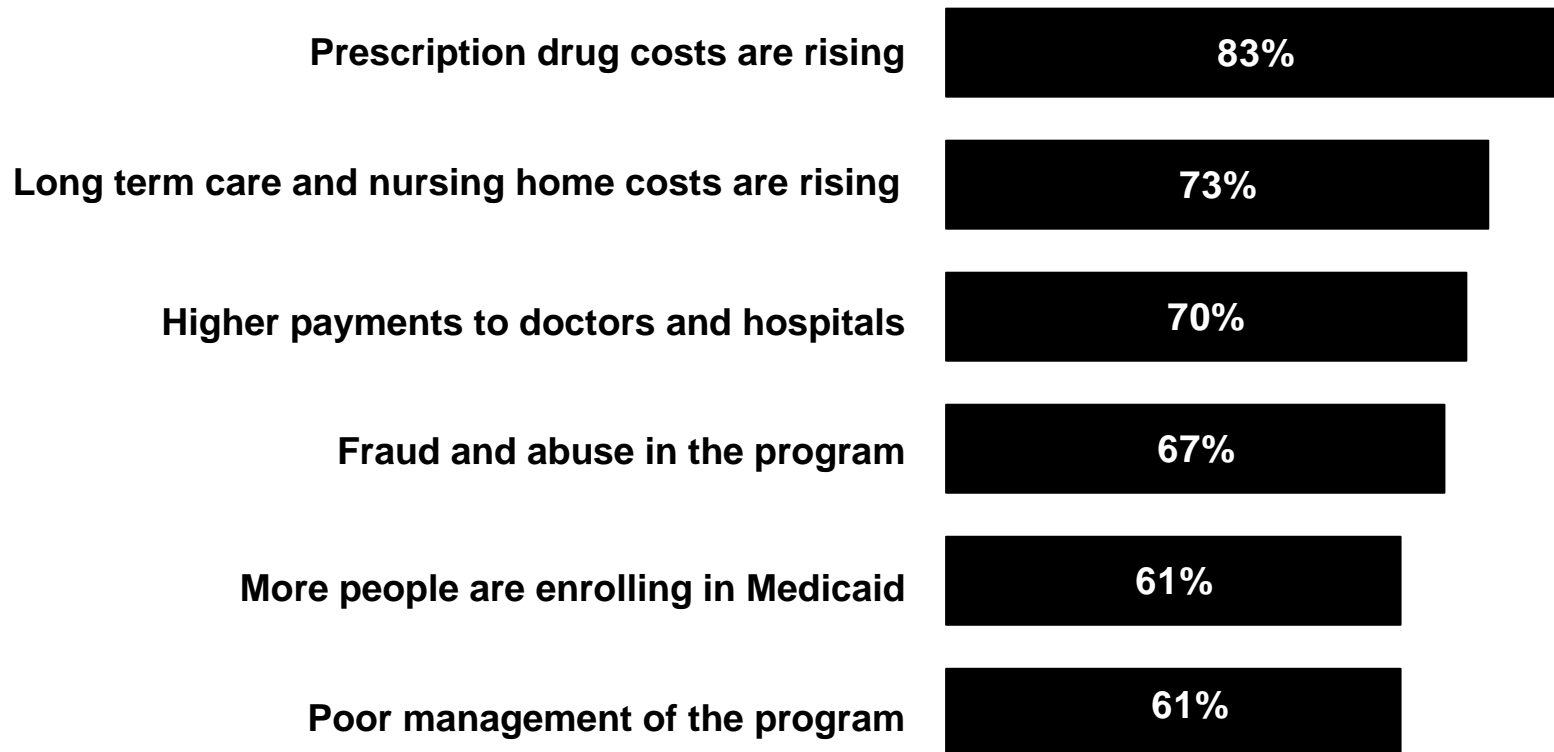
Note: Don't know/refused responses not shown.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *National Survey on the Public's Views About Medicaid*, June 2005 (conducted April 1 - May 1, 2005)

# Perceptions About Why Medicaid Spending Is Increasing

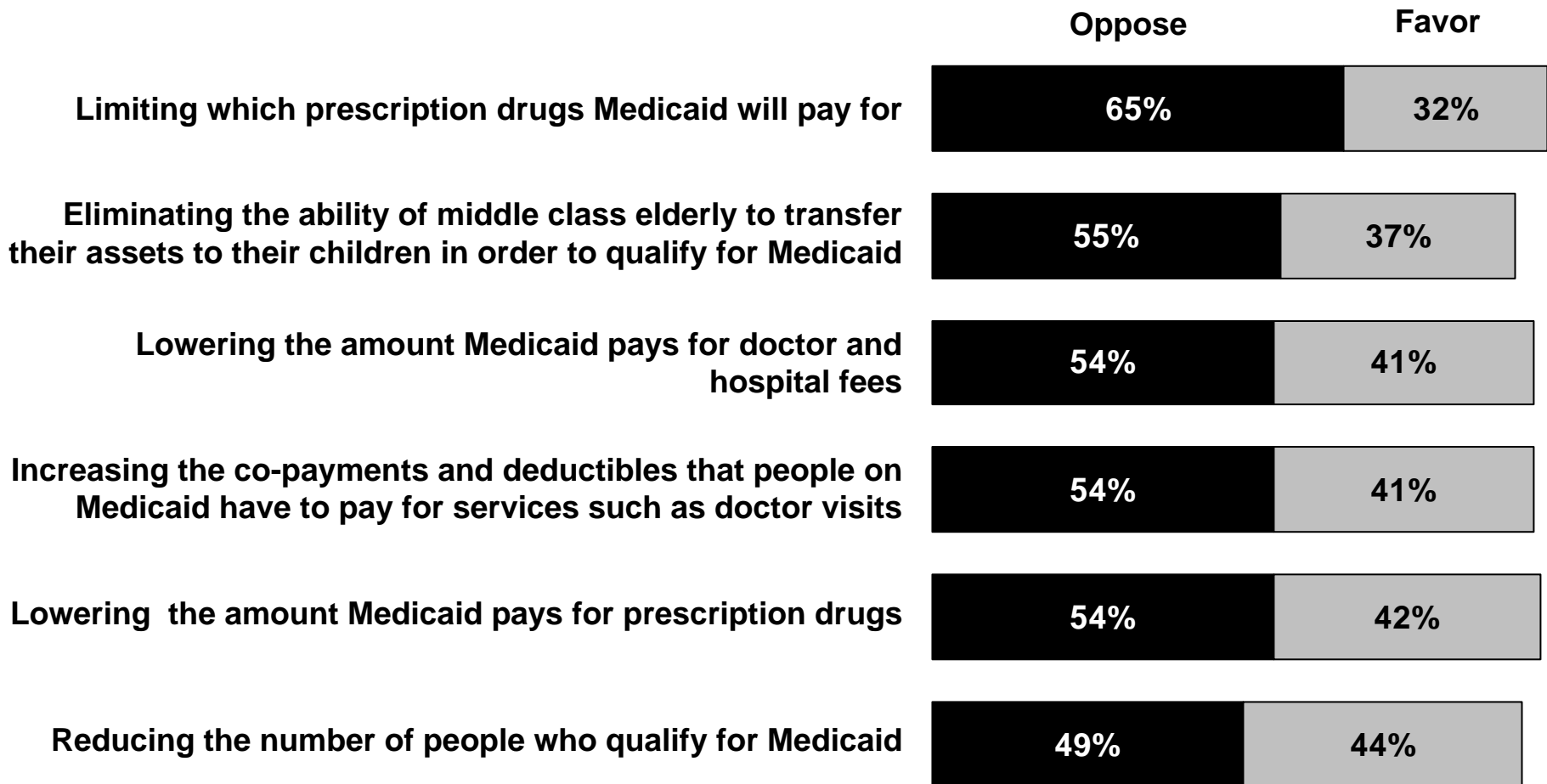
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Percent who say this is a major reason why Medicaid spending has recently increased...



# Addressing Medicaid's Financial Problems

Percent who say they would favor or oppose each proposal in order to deal with the financial problems of Medicaid...



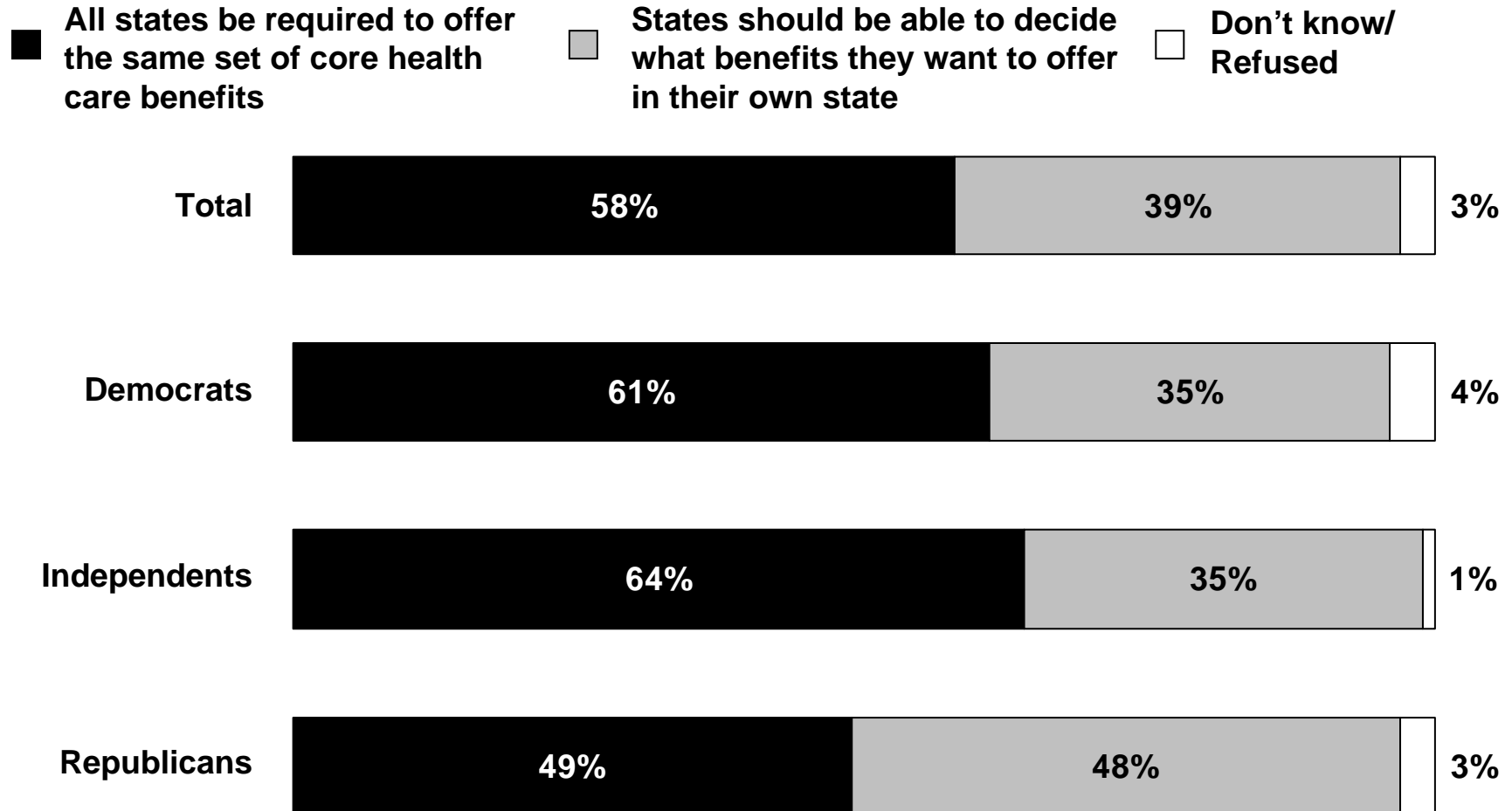
Note: Don't know/refused responses not shown.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *National Survey on the Public's Views About Medicaid*, June 2005 (conducted April 1 - May 1, 2005)



# State Flexibility on Benefits

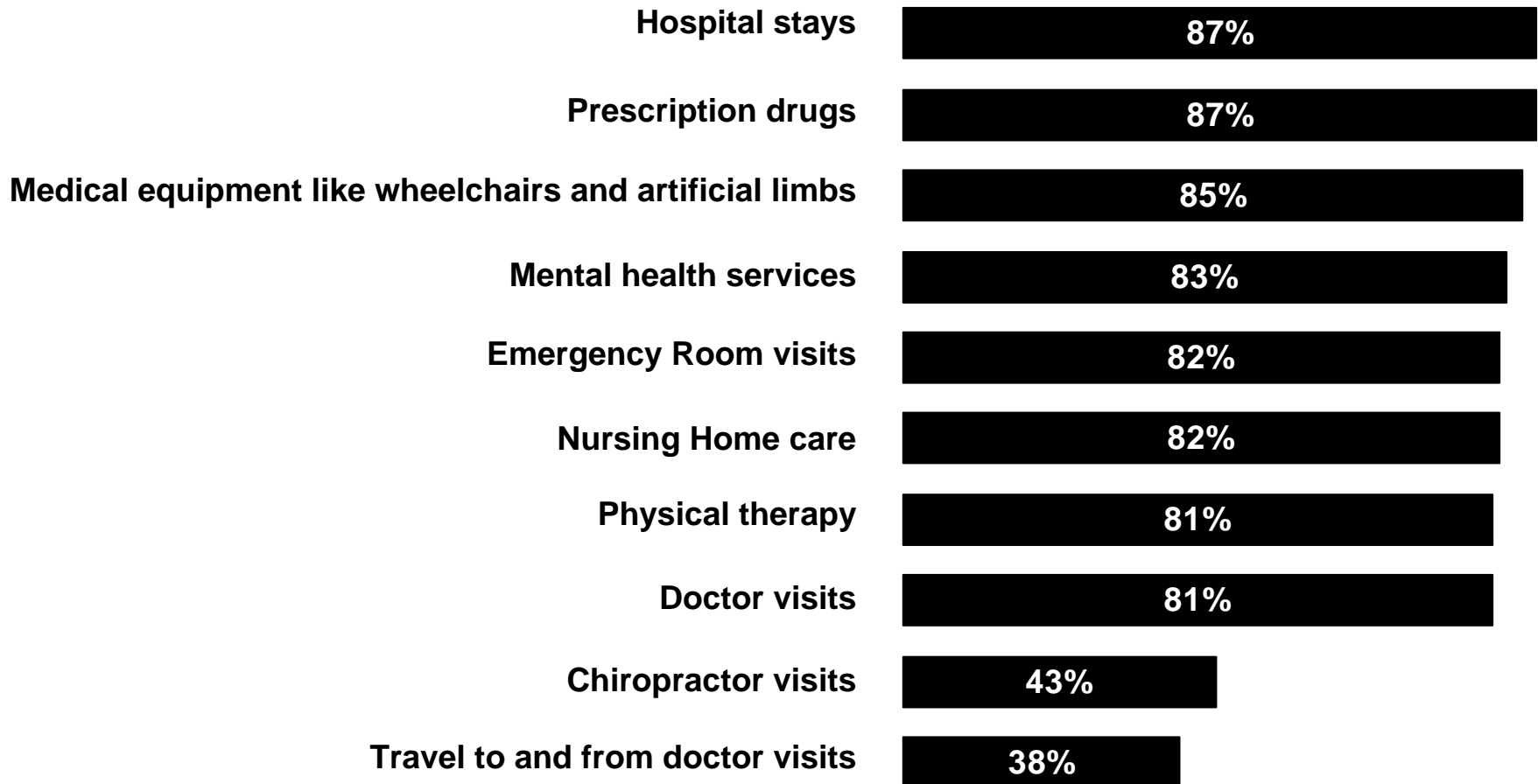
In order to receive federal funding for the Medicaid program, should all states be required to offer the same set of core health care benefits or should states be able to decide what benefits they want to offer in their own state?



# What Services Should Medicaid Cover?

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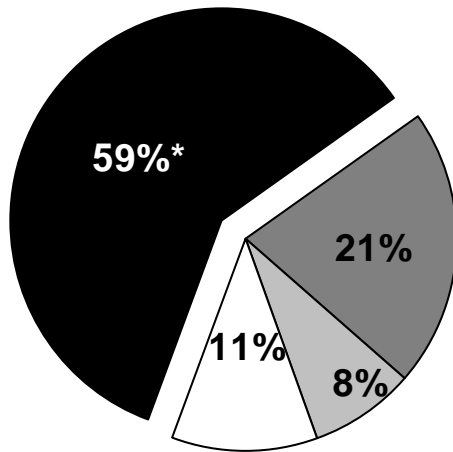
Percent who say it is essential that Medicaid coverage include...



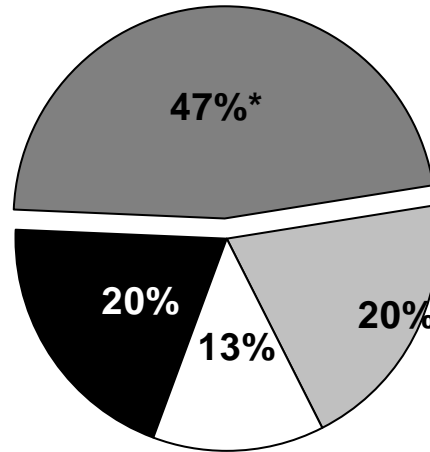
# Basic Knowledge About Government Health Programs

Which of the following government programs is the primary source of health insurance for...

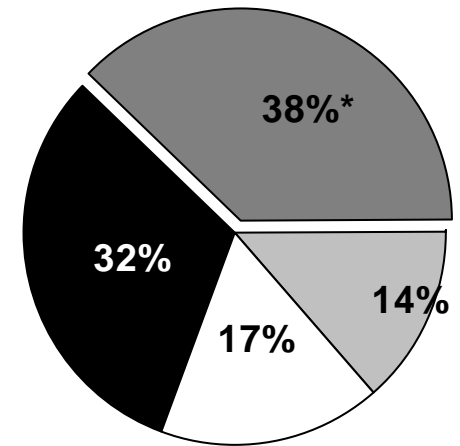
People over 65 regardless of their income



Many low-income families regardless of their age



Low-income people who need nursing home care or home care over a long period of time



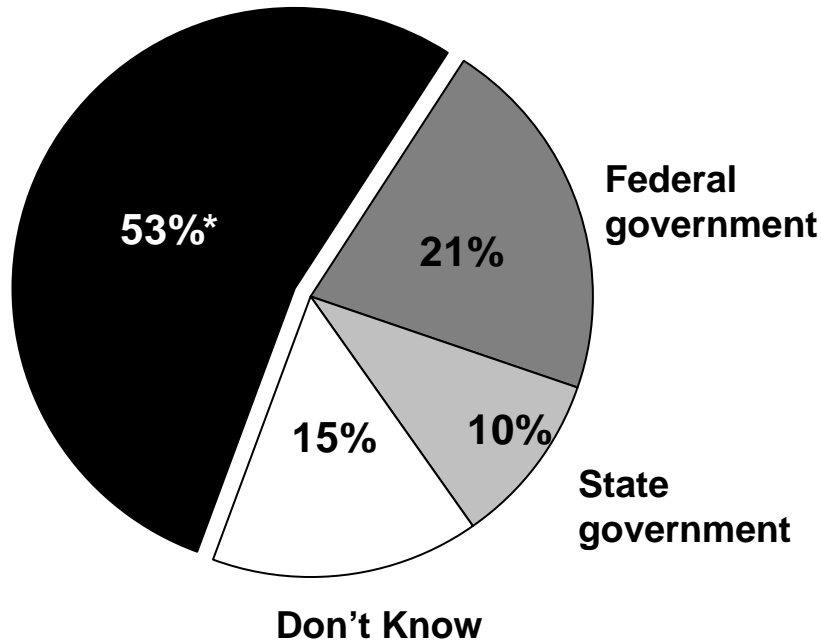
Medicare
  Medicaid
  Some other program
  Don't know

\*Indicates a correct response

# Knowledge about the Medicaid Program

Who currently funds the Medicaid program?

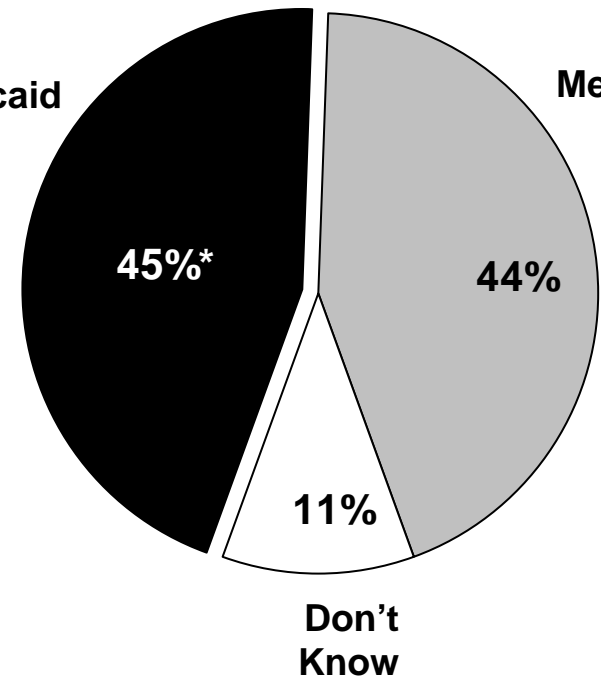
Both the federal and state government



To the best of your knowledge, which program covers more people?

Medicaid

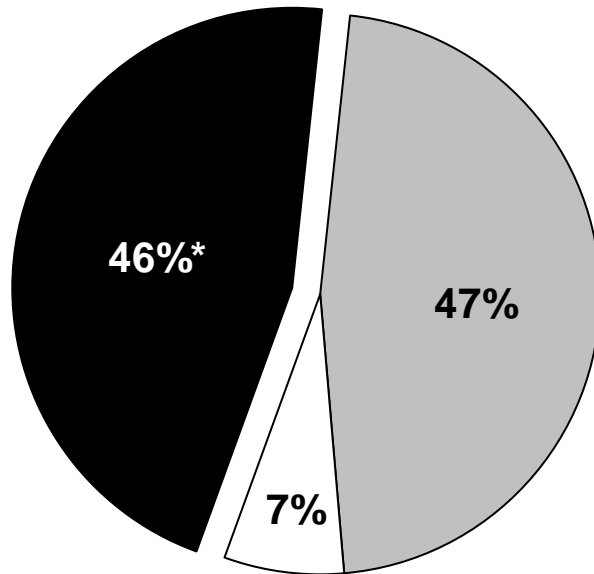
Medicare



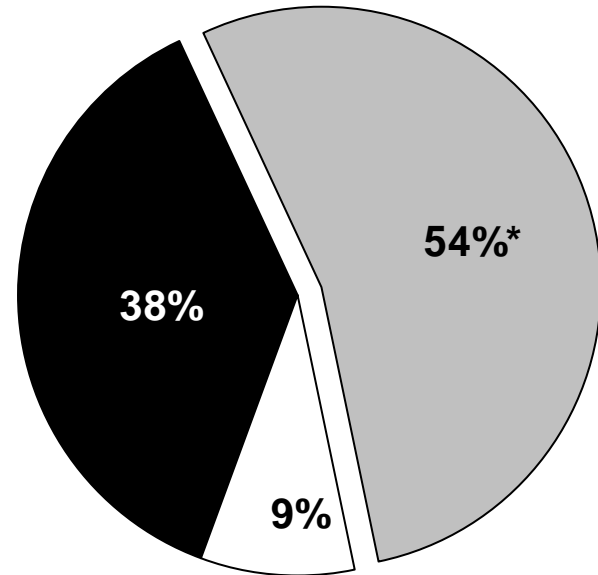
\*Indicates a correct response

# Knowledge about the Medicaid Program

Which group makes up most of the people enrolled in Medicaid?



Which group does the Medicaid program spend the most money on?



■ Low-income children and their parents

■ Low-income elderly and people with disabilities

□ Don't Know

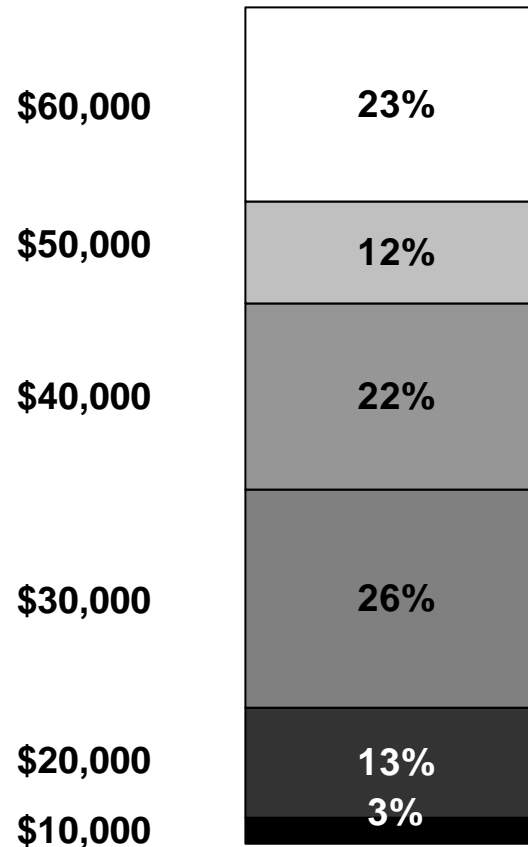
\*Indicates a correct response

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *National Survey on the Public's Views About Medicaid*, June 2005 (conducted April 1 - May 1, 2005)

# What do people consider low income?

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Percent who say that a family of four is low income if they make...



Note: Respondents were asked about highest income level first. If they said that they did not consider this income level "low income" they were asked about the next lower income level.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *National Survey on the Public's Views About Medicaid*, June 2005 (conducted April 1 - May 1, 2005)



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