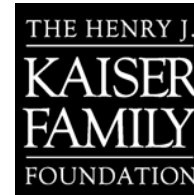

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HARVARD
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PUBLIC HEALTH

The Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health

Views of the New Medicare Drug Law: A Survey of People on Medicare

Additional Findings by Income Group

September 2004

Methodology

The Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *Views of the New Medicare Drug Law: A Survey of People on Medicare* was designed and analyzed by researchers at the Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard School of Public Health. The Kaiser/Harvard survey research team included Mollyann Brodie, Ph.D., Tricia Neuman, Ph.D., Elizabeth Hamel, and Michelle Kitchman 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 June 16 and July 21, 2004, among a sample of 1,223 total respondents, including 278 respondents with incomes less than \$15,000; 298 with incomes of \$15,000 to \$29,999; and 413 with incomes of \$30,000 or more. The survey included a nationally representative random sample of 973 respondents 65 years of age and older, including an oversample of African American respondents in this age group (a total of 203 African American respondents ages 65 and older were interviewed). A separate sample of 250 respondents ages 18-64 with physical and/or mental disabilities who receive Medicare was also interviewed. The disabled sample was drawn from a nationally representative survey of households contacted between June 2002 and January 2003 that was screened to identify households with an adult, aged 18-64, who receives disability payments through the SSI or SSDI program and/or considers him or herself disabled. This sample was then re-screened to include those people with disabilities who are covered by Medicare. Results for all groups have been weighted to reflect the actual distribution in the nation.

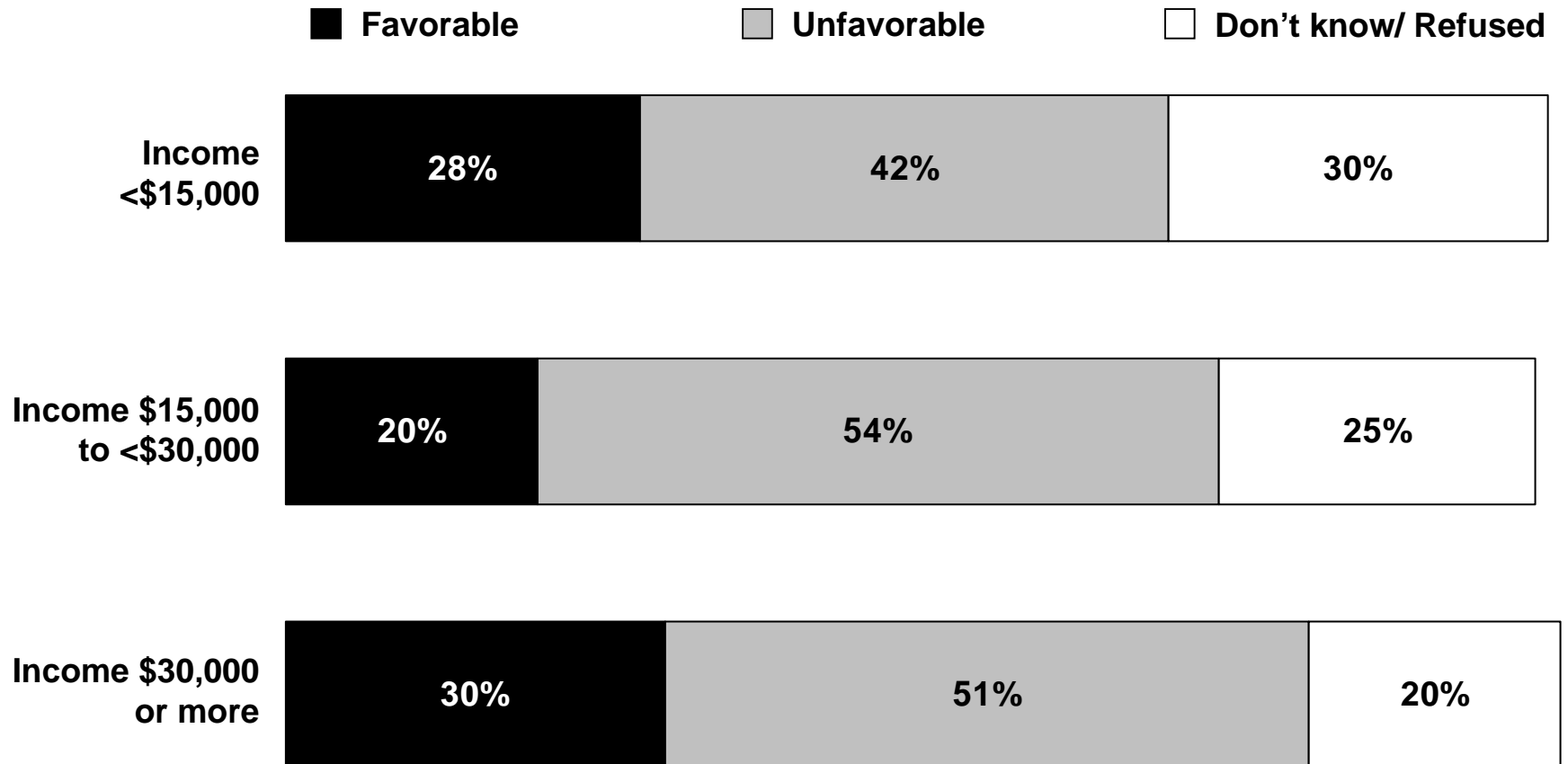
The margin of sampling error for the survey is plus or minus 4 percentage points for total respondents; for respondents with incomes less than \$15,000 and for respondents with incomes of \$15,000 to \$29,999 it is plus or minus 8 percentage points; and for respondents with incomes of \$30,000 or more it is plus or minus 6 percentage points. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

Note: Percentages may not always add up to 100% due to rounding.

Full question wording and results are available separately at www.kff.org

Impressions of New Medicare Law

Given what you know about it, in general, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the new Medicare law?



Strength of Feelings About New Medicare Law

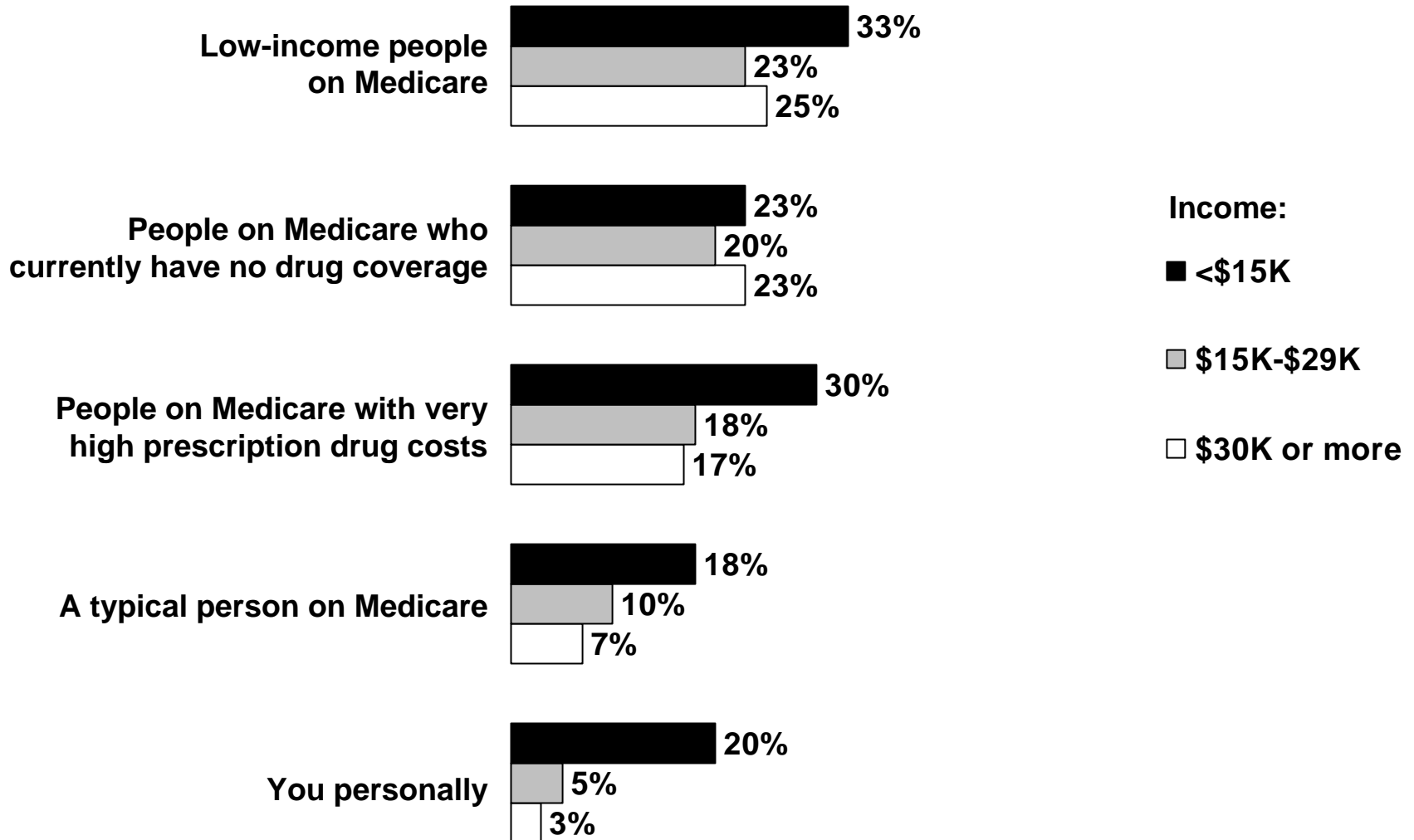
Which of the following comes closest to how you personally feel about the new Medicare law?

Enthusiastic
 Satisfied, but not enthusiastic
 Dissatisfied, but not angry
 Angry
 Don't know/Refused



Perceived Helpfulness of New Medicare Law

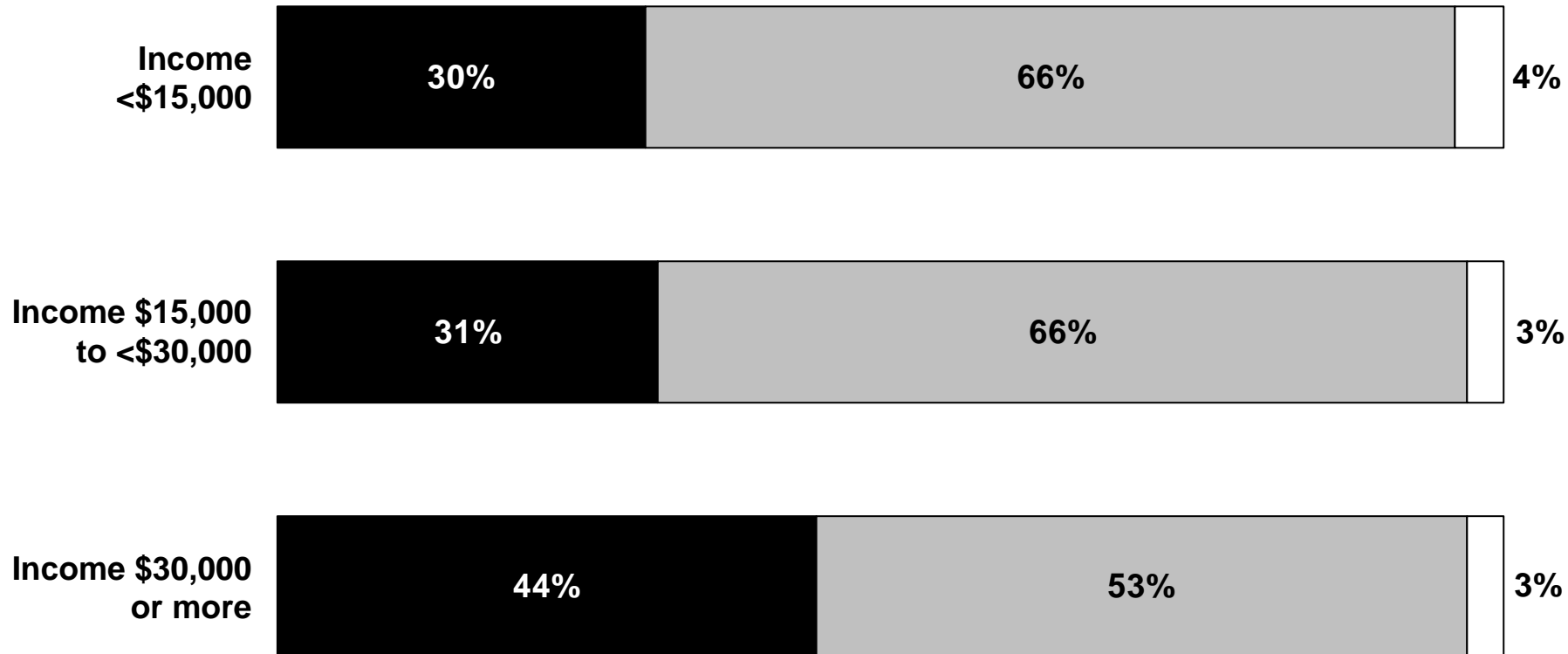
Percent who say the new Medicare law will be very helpful for...



Understanding of New Medicare Law

Do you feel you have enough information about the new Medicare law to understand how it will impact you personally?

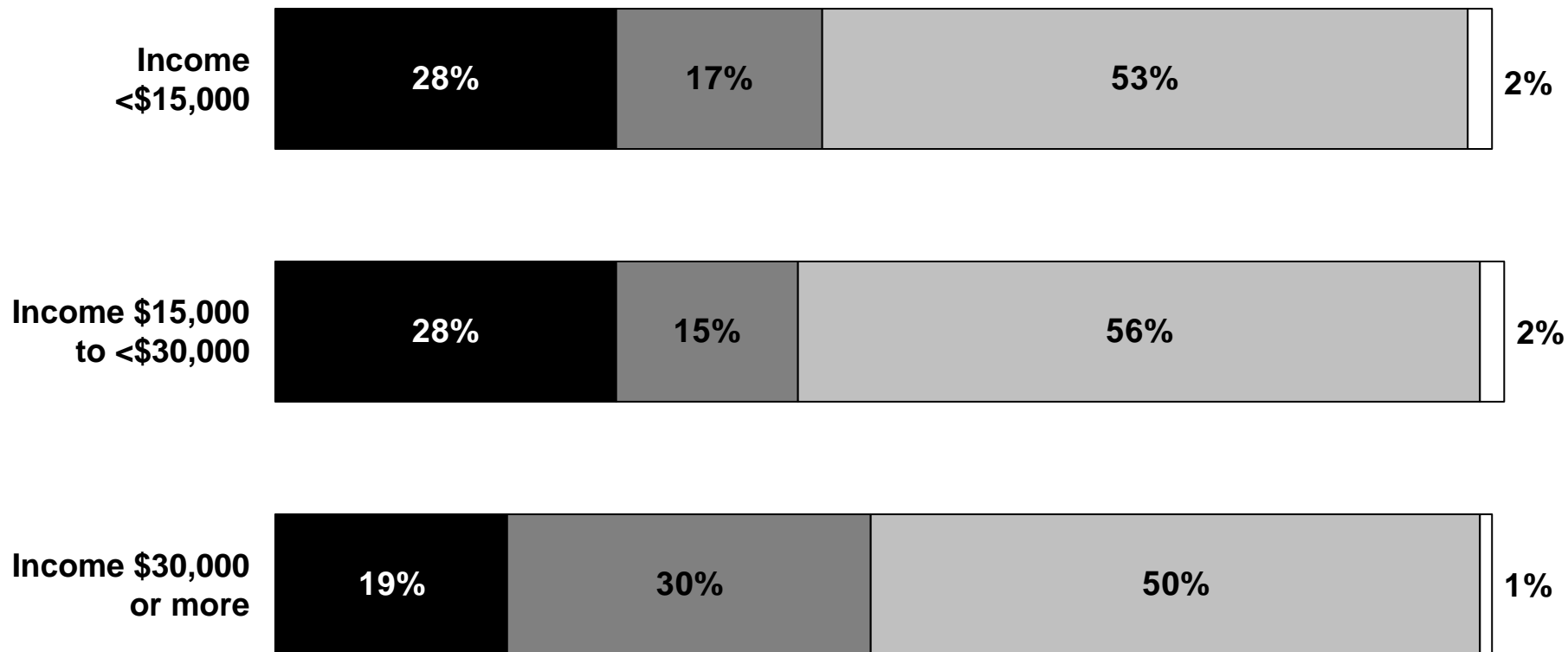
Yes
 No
 Don't know/ Refused



Confusion About New Medicare Law

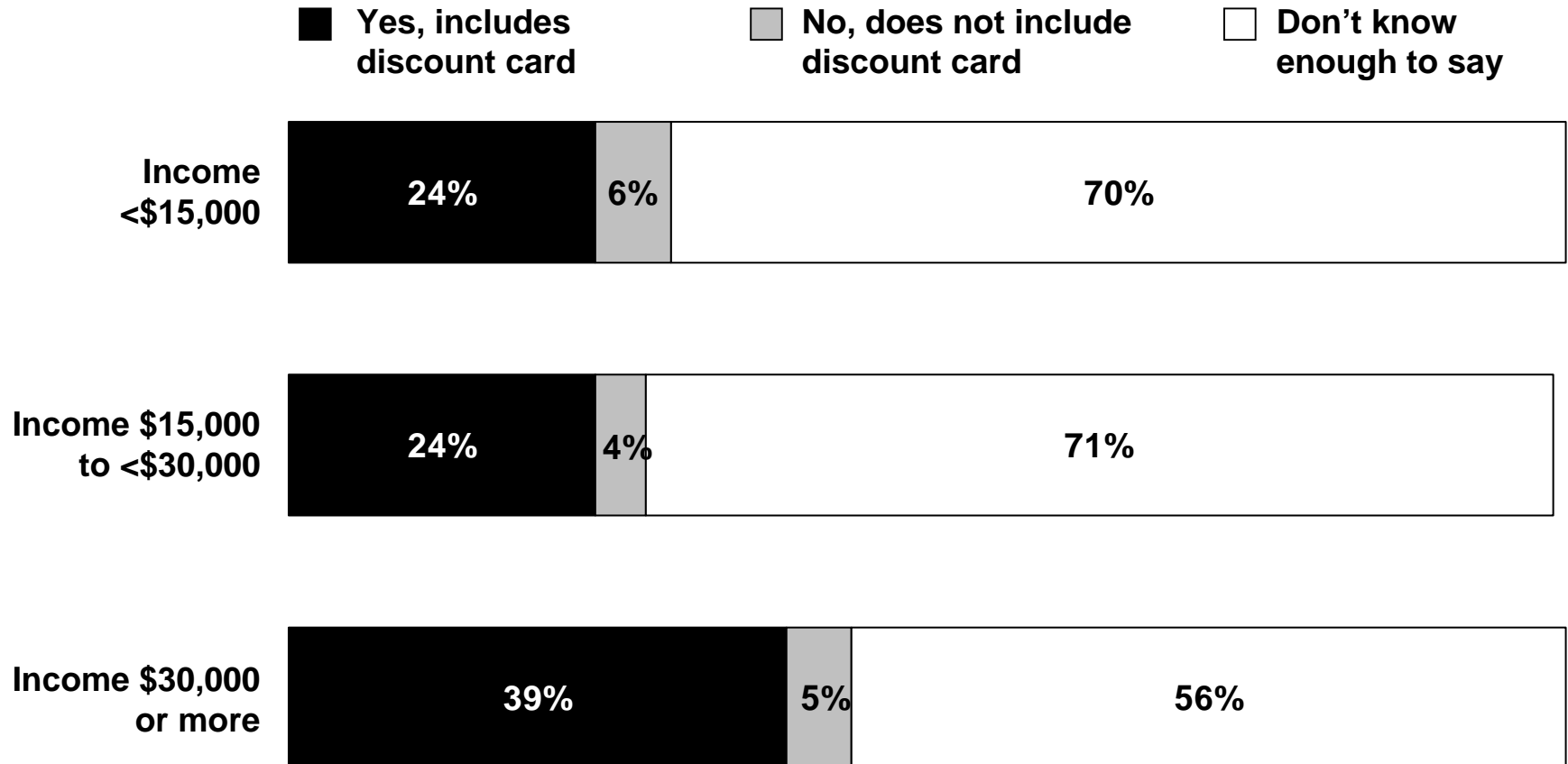
Would you say you are...?

Confused by the new Medicare law
 Not confused by the new law
 Haven't heard enough to say whether it's confusing
 Don't know/Refused



Knowledge of Discount Card

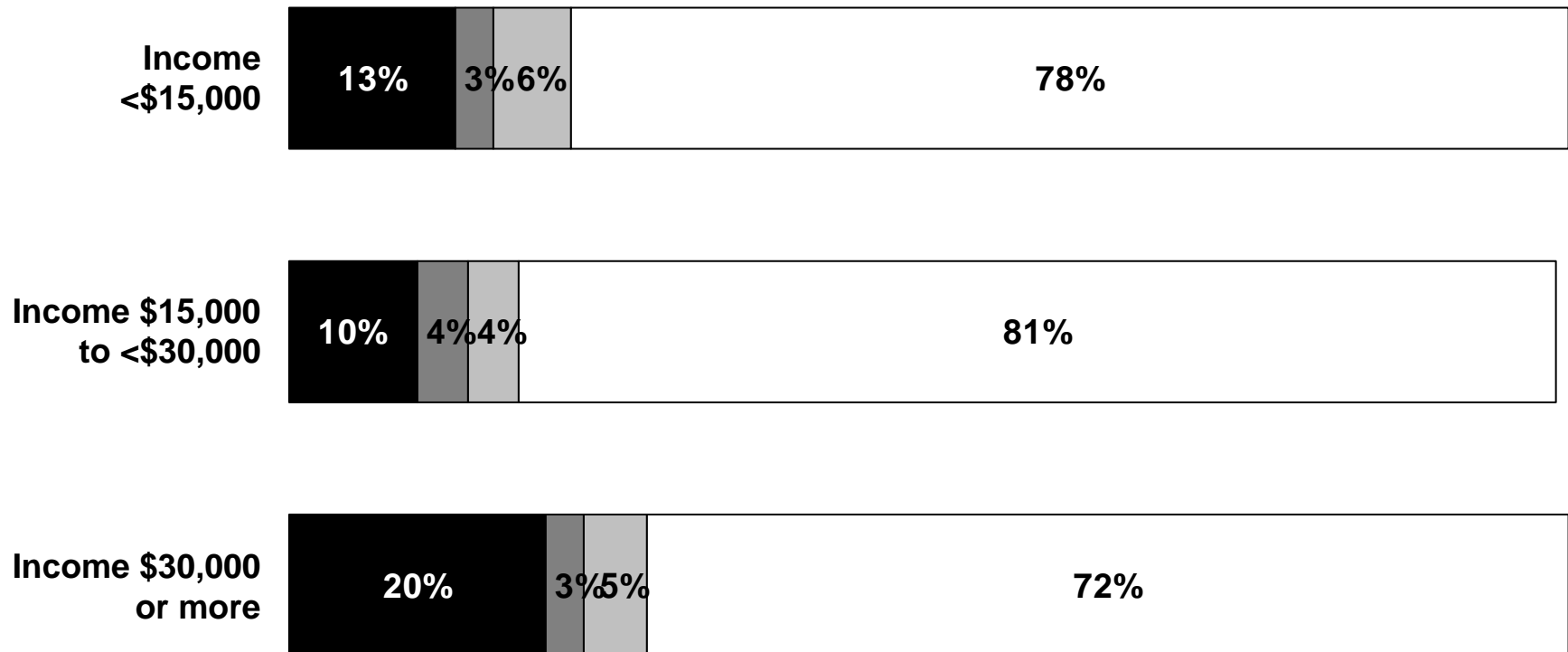
As far as you know, does the new Medicare law include a prescription drug discount card for seniors that will be available this year, is this not something that's included in the law, or don't you know enough to say?



Knowledge of Discount Card and Low-Income Subsidy

Among seniors... As far as you know, does the new Medicare law include a prescription drug discount card for seniors that will be available this year, is this not something that's included in the law, or don't you know enough to say? [If included: Does the discount card program include additional financial assistance for low-income people on Medicare to help them with their drug costs, is this not something that's included, or don't you know enough to say?]

Law includes card and low income help
 Law includes card but not low income help
 Law does not include card
 Don't know enough to say

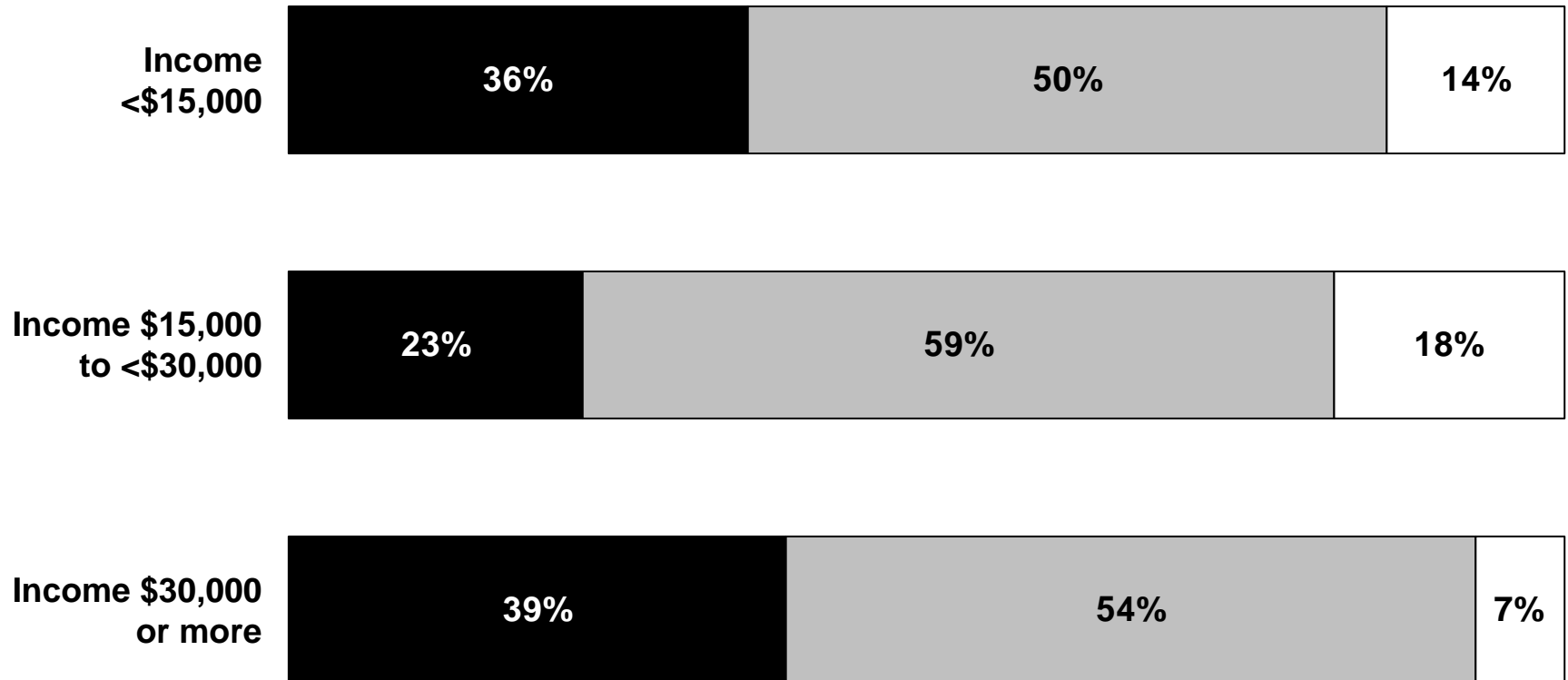


Impressions of Medicare-Approved Discount Cards

■ The new cards are **WORTHWHILE** because they give people on Medicare immediate help before the full prescription drug benefit is available in 2006, and they provide another way to cut their drug costs

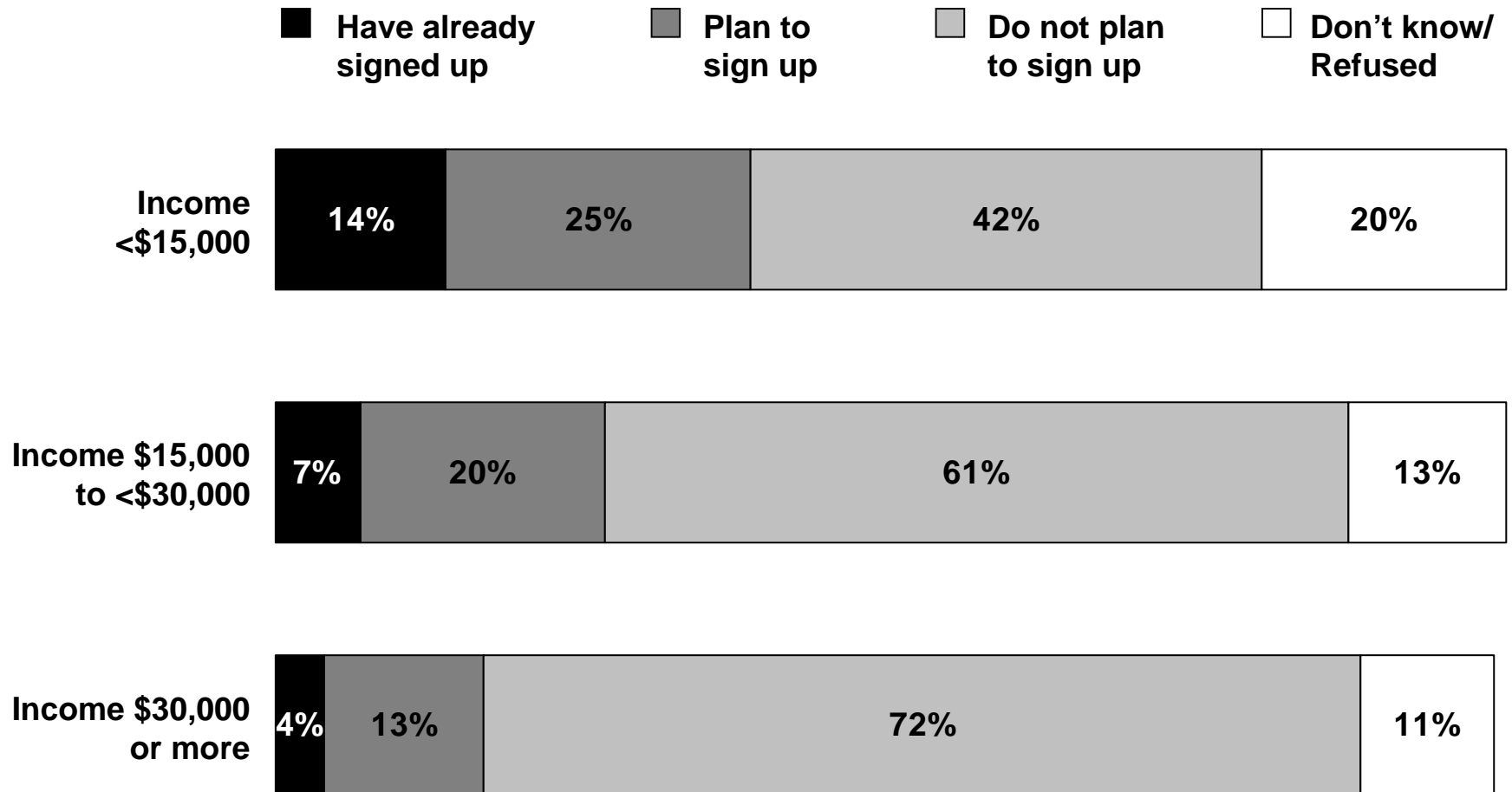
■ The new cards **AREN'T WORTH THE TROUBLE** because they don't do enough to help people with their drug costs, and they are too confusing to use

□ Don't know/
Refused



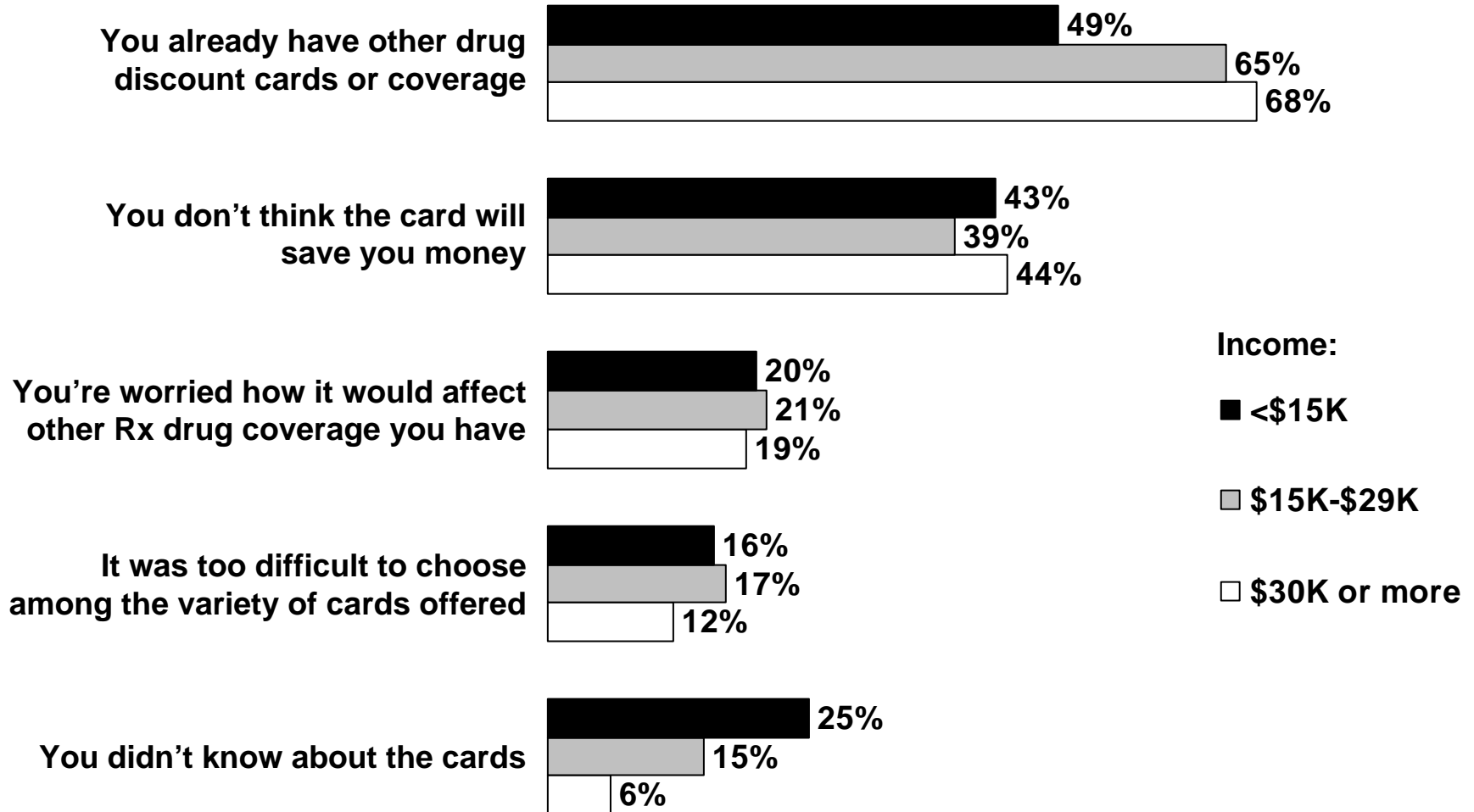
Reported Signing Up For Discount Cards

Percent of people on Medicare saying they already have or plan to sign up for a Medicare-approved drug discount card



Reasons for Not Signing Up for Discount Card

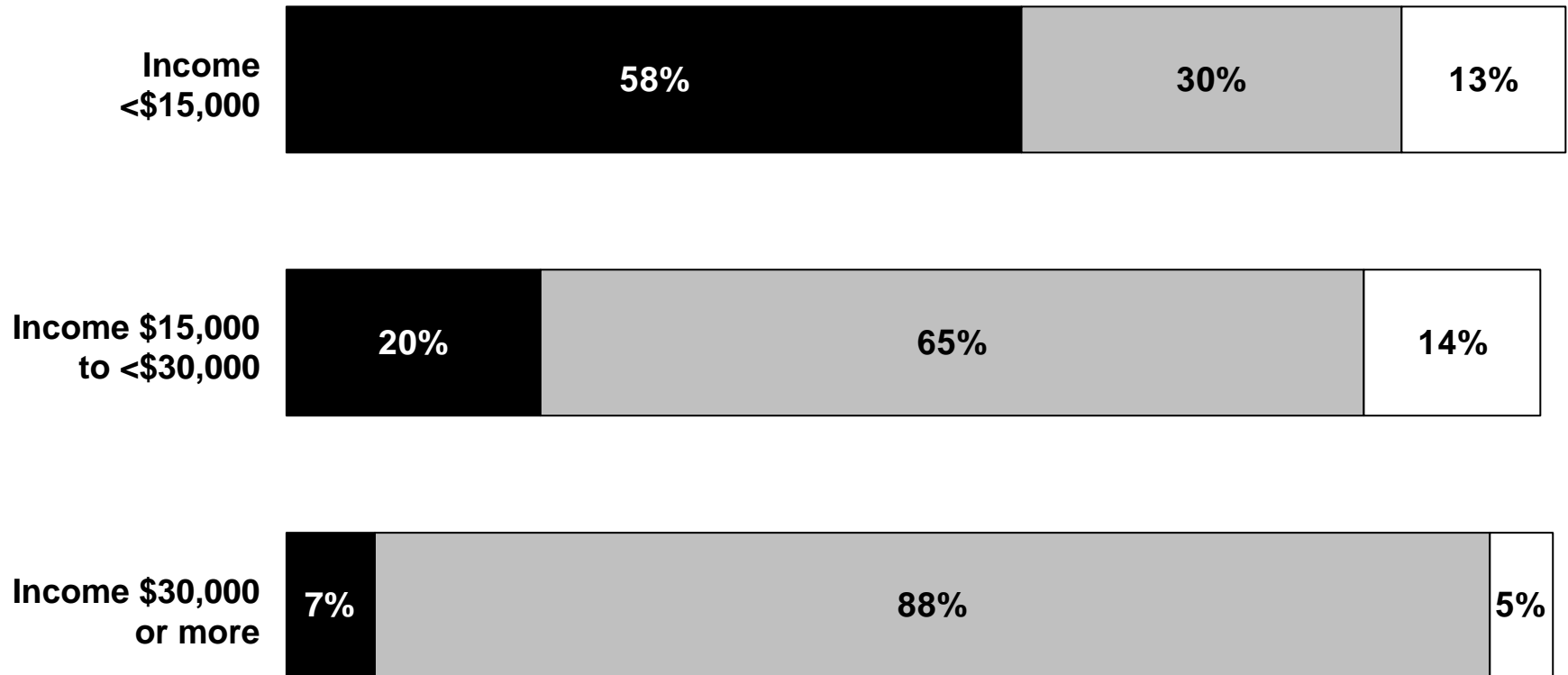
Among those who say they did not sign up for a Medicare-approved drug discount card, percent saying each of the following was a reason...



Knowledge About Low-Income Help

Do you think you might be eligible for the \$600 in additional financial help with prescription drug costs that is available from the government for certain low-income people on Medicare in 2004, or not?

■ Yes ■ No □ Don't know/ Refused



Reported Use of Prescription Medicines

How many different kinds of prescription drugs do you take?

None
 1 to 2
 3 to 4
 5 to 9
 10 or more

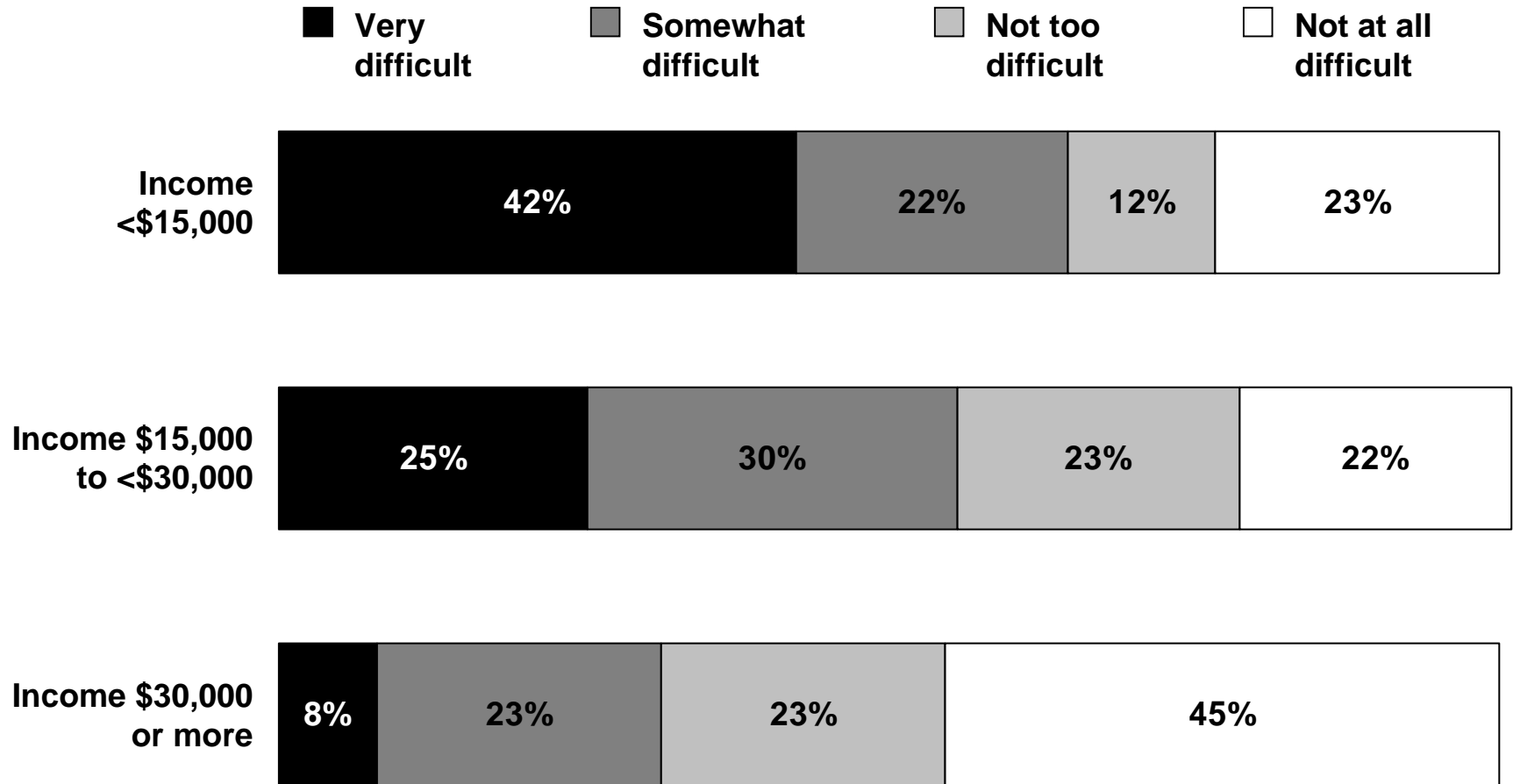


Note: Don't know responses not shown

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *Views of the New Medicare Drug Law: A Survey of People on Medicare* (6/16-7/21/2004)

Reported Difficulty Paying for Prescription Medicines

How much of a problem is it for you and your family to pay prescription drug costs?

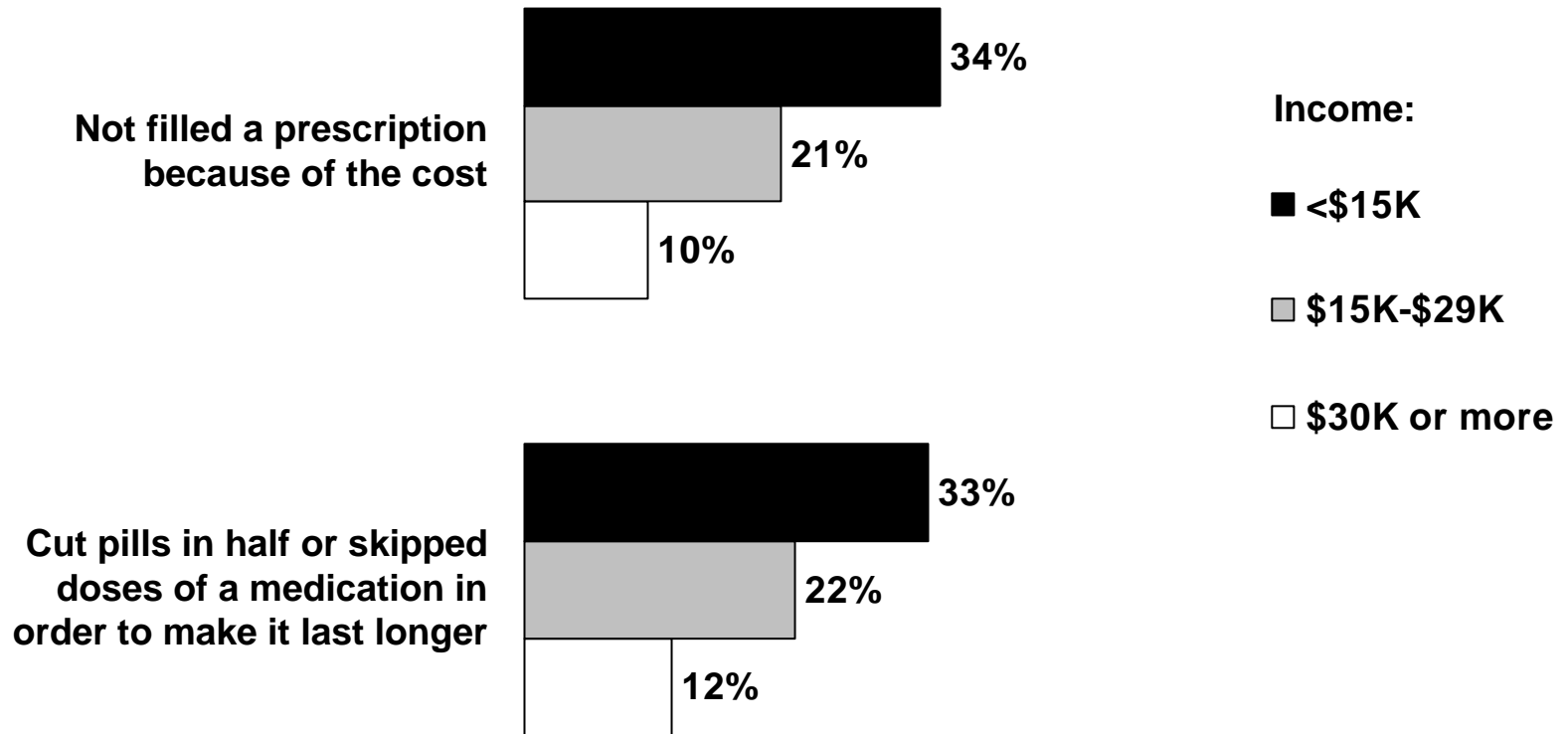


Note: Don't know responses not shown

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *Views of the New Medicare Drug Law: A Survey of People on Medicare* (6/16-7/21/2004)

Reported Problems with Prescription Medicines

Percent saying they have done the following in the last year...



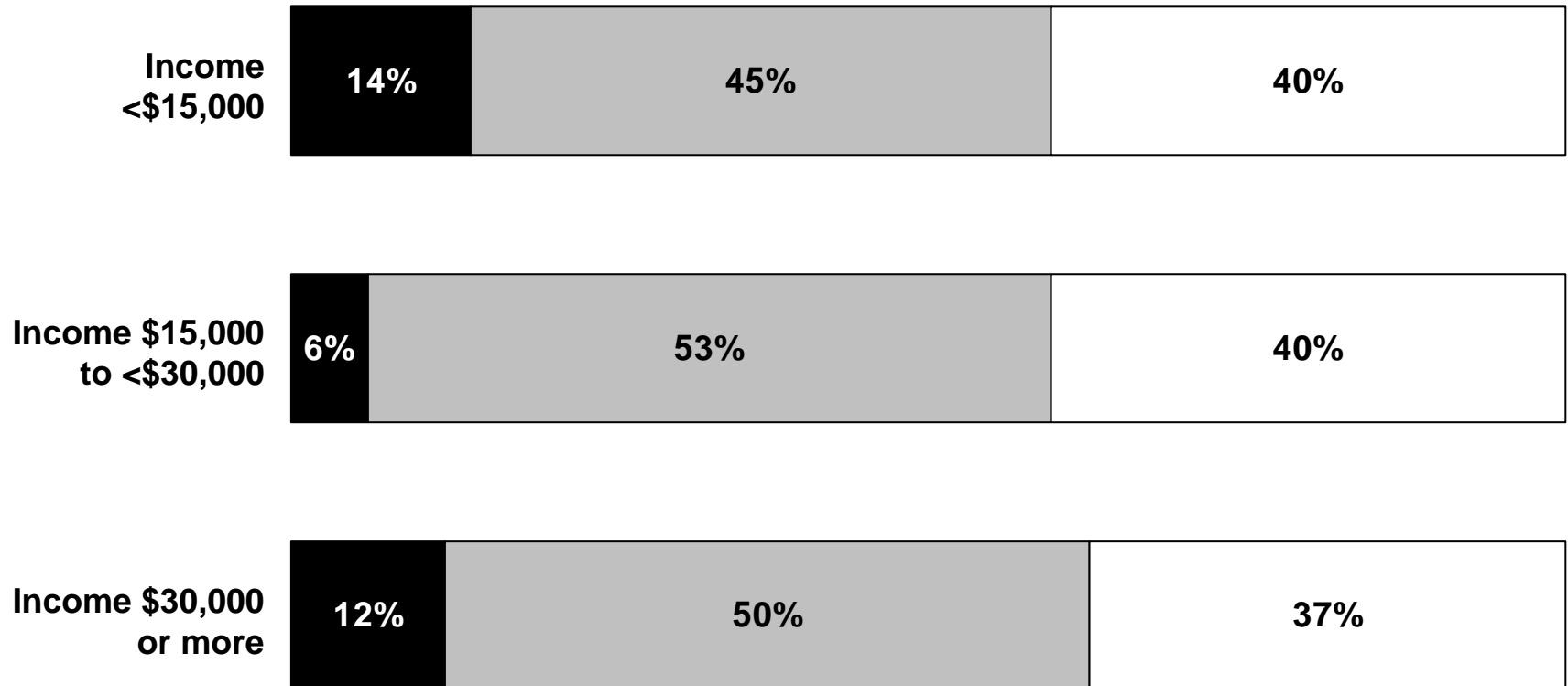
Reported Awareness and Use of 1-800-MEDICARE

Percent who say they have heard of/called 1-800-MEDICARE...

■ Have called
1-800-MEDICARE

■ Have heard of 1-800-MEDICARE,
but have not called

□ Have not heard of
1-800-MEDICARE



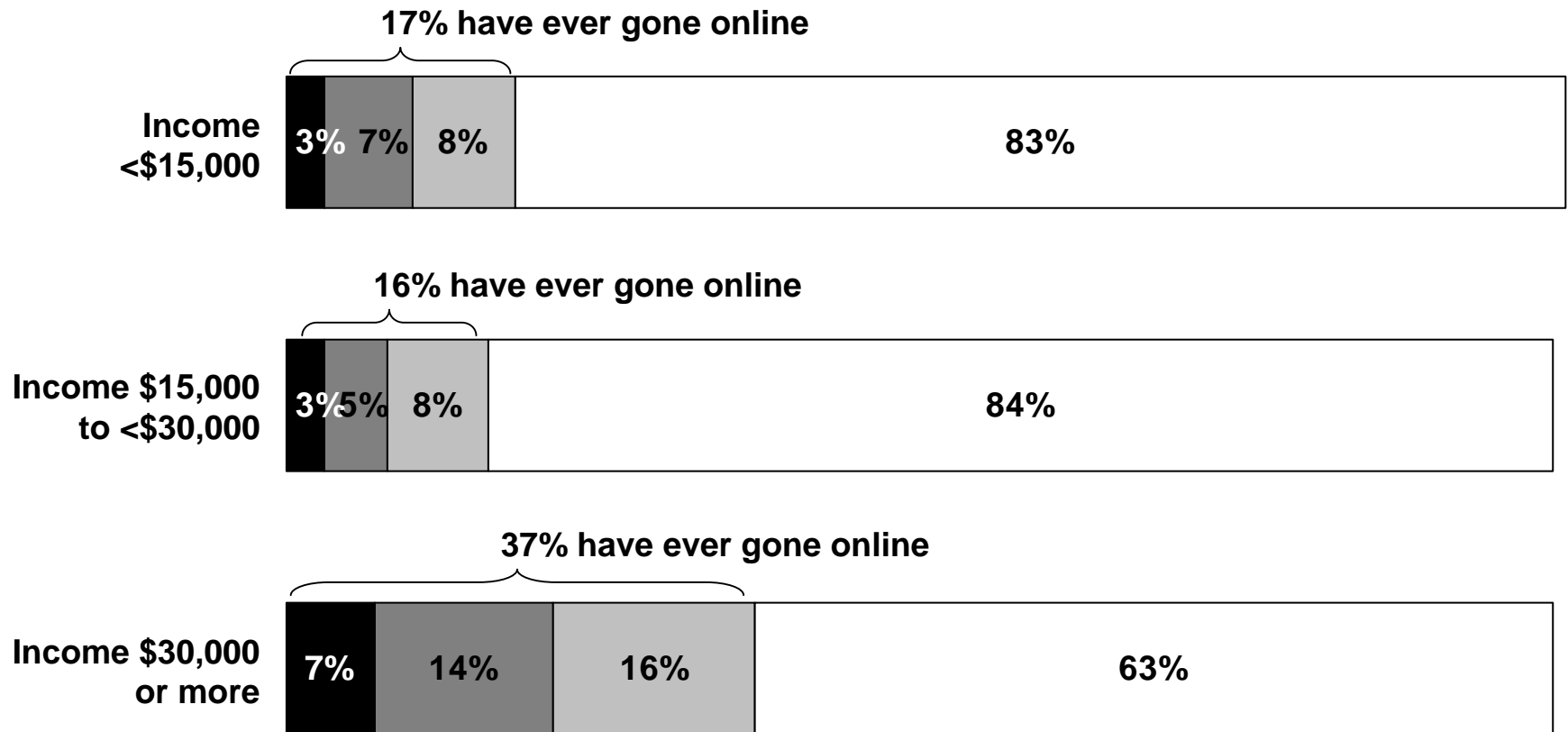
Note: Don't know responses not shown

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation/Harvard School of Public Health *Views of the New Medicare Drug Law: A Survey of People on Medicare* (6/16-7/21/2004)

Reported Awareness and Use of Medicare.gov

Percent who say they have gone online/heard of/visited Medicare.gov...

Have visited Medicare.gov
 Have heard of Medicare.gov, but have not visited
 Have not heard of Medicare.gov
 Have never gone online





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