

# THE FIELD POLL

THE INDEPENDENT AND NON-PARTISAN SURVEY  
OF PUBLIC OPINION ESTABLISHED IN 1947 AS  
THE CALIFORNIA POLL BY MERVIN FIELD

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## **MAJORITIES OF CALIFORNIANS SUPPORT THE NATION'S NEW HEALTH CARE LAW, BUT THINK MORE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM CHANGES ARE NEEDED. JUST ONE IN THREE BELIEVES THE LAW SHOULD BE REVERSED.**

By Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

There is greater voter support for the nation's new health care law in California than there is nationally. Whereas most national polls to date have shown pluralities or majorities of Americans opposed to the new law, California voters support it by a 52% to 38% margin. In addition, most voters here (58%) see the new law as only a first step with more changes to the health care system still needed. Just 34% feel the law is taking the country in the wrong direction and should be reversed.

While a relatively large proportion of voters (40%) say they are not very knowledgeable of the specifics of the new law, when read a number of its provisions voters consider many to be highly important. For example, greater than seven in ten rate each of the following as extremely or very important provisions:

- Prohibiting insurers from canceling a person's coverage if they become sick or disabled (81%)
- Prohibiting insurers from denying coverage to children with pre-existing conditions (78%)
- Providing workers with greater flexibility to change jobs and maintain their coverage (72%)

Pluralities of Californians see the new health care law as making both the U.S. and California health care systems better. Yet, relatively few voters (25%) think the law will benefit themselves or their families. Many also fear that their own taxes will go up and that they will end up paying more for health care coverage.

Majorities of Californians believe that low-income residents, the uninsured, children and young adults will likely be the chief beneficiaries of the new law. On the other hand, more voters expect that high-income residents, insurance companies, doctors and businesses, large and small, will be negatively affected than positively affected.

These are some of the main findings from the 2010 TCWF-Field Health Policy Survey, a survey of California voters about the nation's newly enacted health care law conducted by *The Field Poll* and funded by a grant from The California Wellness Foundation (TCWF). The survey, completed April 7 – 27, 2010, interviewed 1,522 registered voters statewide in six languages and dialects – English, Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean and Vietnamese.

The study also updated a number of trend measures about how Californians view the state's health care system that have been asked in previous TCWF-Field Health Policy Surveys. For example:

- More Californians now say they are satisfied (50%) than dissatisfied (42%) with the state's health care system. Last year slightly more said they were dissatisfied (49%) than satisfied (45%).
- The proportion of voters who think the state's health care system will be better off five years from now has increased eight points from 23% in 2009 to 31% in the current survey.
- Yet, Californians' top worries about the health system have changed little over the past year. Similar to last year, greater than eight in ten (85%) say they are concerned about having to pay more out-of-pocket for health care or their health insurance coverage, with 58% very concerned. Another 80% are concerned about not being able to pay for all the costs associated with a major illness or injury, 57% of whom are very concerned. Other concerns relate to employers cutting back on the amount they contribute for worker's health coverage, having coverage canceled or severely limited by their insurance carrier due to a health condition, not having or losing one's coverage, and not having access to quality doctors and health services.
- More Californians (40%) prefer obtaining their health coverage through an employer than from the government (27%) or having personal responsibility for this (24%). Answers are closely tied to a voter's current coverage. Majorities of those who currently receive their insurance through an employer favor employer-provided coverage. Similarly, pluralities who currently receive their insurance from the government favor government-provided coverage, while pluralities of those in the individual market favor taking personal responsibility for their insurance.

### **Californians support the new health care law**

Statewide, 52% of voters support the nation's new health care law, with 30% strongly supportive and 22% somewhat supportive. This compares to 38% who are opposed, 29% strongly and 9% somewhat.

There are wide differences in opinion about the law across subgroups of the California voting population. For example, Democrats support the new law 73% to 14%, while Republicans

take the opposite view, opposing it 74% to 19%. While large majorities of liberals favor the law, majorities of conservatives, and especially Tea Party identifiers, oppose the law. Political moderates support it 54% to 30%, as do non-partisans (53% to 34%).

While white non-Hispanics are evenly divided about the new health care law, majorities of voters across five of the state's major ethnic populations support the legislation.

A voter's past insurance coverage and his or her expectations about maintaining coverage in the future are also tied to opinions about the new law. Majorities of Californians who are uninsured, those who are currently insured but have gone without coverage in the past two years, as well as those who are concerned about losing their coverage in the future support the law. By contrast, a majority of voters who have had continuous coverage over the past two years and who are not concerned about losing their coverage in the future oppose the new law.

A voter's main source of news about the health care law also has some bearing on voter opinions of the law. For example, voters whose main television news source is the Fox News Channel oppose the law 66% to 25%, while voters who cite MSNBC as their main TV news source favor it 64% to 28%.

### **Most see the new law as the first of many needed health reforms**

Voters were asked about their current views about the health care system now that the health care bill has become law. A 58% majority maintain that the new law is an important first step but that many more changes still need to be made. This compares to 34% who think the new law is taking us in the wrong direction and needs to be reversed. Just 5% believe the new law takes care of most of the changes that need to be made to the nation's health care system.

### **Four in ten Californians admit to being not very knowledgeable about the law's specifics**

Four in ten Californians (40%) admit to being not very knowledgeable about the details of the new health care law. Chinese-Americans, Korean-Americans and Latinos in particular report lower levels of knowledge than other ethnic subgroups. Voters with fewer years of formal education are also less familiar with the specifics of the new law than those with more years of education.

### **Six in ten cite television news as a main source of news about the health care law**

Six in ten Californians say they have gotten most of their news about the new health care law from television (62%). Another 43% report getting most of their news from the Internet, 36% from newspapers, 26% from radio and 14% magazines. (*Adds to more than 100% due to multiple mentions.*)

Those citing television news volunteer a wide array of TV news channels. Most frequently mentioned are CNN (22%), Fox News (20%), local news (19%), NBC (13%), ABC (13%), MSNBC (12%), and CBS (11%).

Opinions of media news coverage about the health care law are decidedly mixed. Statewide 31% rate the media as doing an excellent or good job, 38% only fair and 28% say they have done a poor job.

### **Many are confused about whether the law requires people to change their coverage or their doctors**

There is considerable confusion among Californians about whether the new law requires people to change their current health coverage. Statewide 43% think that because of the new law people will be required to change their coverage whether they want to or not. This is nearly as many as the proportion (48%) who say the new law allows people to keep their current coverage if they want to. In addition, one in five voters (20%) believe that they will have to change their own doctor as a result of the new law.

### **Views about who benefits from the new law and who will be adversely affected**

Voters were read fifteen different types of people and groups and asked whether they felt the changes to the health care system from the new law will make each group better off, worse off or have no effect.

Majorities of Californians believe that four types of people are likely to be better off because of the new law. These include low-income residents (73%), the uninsured (72%), children (66%), and young adults (55%). Other groups that pluralities of voters think will be better off are women, senior citizens, the self-employed and middle-income residents. On the other hand, more voters think high-income residents, doctors, insurance companies, and businesses both large and small will be negatively affected than positively affected.

### **Provisions in the new law that are most important to Californians**

When asked how important California voters felt a number of the law's specific provisions were to them, majorities rate many of them as being of high importance. For example, greater than two in three voters statewide consider each of the following provisions to be extremely or very important:

- Prohibiting insurers from canceling a person's coverage if they become sick or disabled (81%)
- Prohibiting insurers from denying coverage to children with pre-existing conditions (78%)
- Providing workers with greater flexibility to change jobs and maintain their coverage (72%)

- Requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone even if they have had a prior illness or chronic condition (69%)
- Creating a health insurance exchange where small businesses and people who don't have employer-provided coverage can shop for insurance (69%)
- Requiring insurance policies sold through the new exchanges to include certain minimum benefits such as hospitalization, doctor visits, prescription drugs, maternity care and certain preventive tests (69%)

**Provisions of the new law considered less important or not needed**

California voters view a number of other provisions contained in the new health care law to be less important or not needed. For example, fewer than half consider each of the following to be of high importance:

- Requiring insurers to spend at least 80% of their revenue on medical claims
- Requiring large businesses to offer insurance to their employees or be subject to a fine if their employees end up getting government-subsidized coverage
- Preventing illegal immigrants from receiving any government subsidies or assistance for health insurance
- Requiring all legal residents to have health insurance or be subject to a fine with subsidies given to low-income people
- Prohibiting the use of government funds or subsidies to pay for abortion services

### **Information About the Survey**

The 2010 TCWF-Field Health Policy Survey is the fourth in a series of health policy surveys conducted among California voters by *The Field Poll*. Each survey was made possible through a grant from The California Wellness Foundation. This year's findings are based on a survey of 1,522 California registered voters. The survey included a random cross section of voters statewide and was supplemented with additional interviews conducted among Chinese-American, Korean-American, Vietnamese-American and African-American voters. This was done so that the results from these ethnic subgroups could be compared to the state's larger white non-Hispanic and Latino voting populations.

Interviewing was conducted by telephone using live interviewers April 7-27, 2010, in six languages and dialects – English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean and Vietnamese. All calls were made from Field Research Corporation's central location telephone interviewing centers. Up to eight attempts were made to reach and interview each randomly selected voter on different days and times of day during the interviewing period. Interviews were completed on either a voter's landline phone or a cell phone depending on the source of the telephone listings from the voter file. In this survey 17% of all interviews were completed through a cell phone contact.

The main cross-section sample was developed by selecting voters randomly from a list of registered voters throughout California. Supplemental samples of Asian-American voters were developed by randomly selecting voters from a list of voters whose surnames are most associated with these populations and screening them by telephone to confirm their ethnic heritage. After the completion of interviewing, the overall sample was weighted to align it its proper statewide distributions by race/ethnicity and other demographic characteristics of the registered voter population.

Sampling error estimates applicable to any probability-based survey depend upon its sample size. According to statistical theory, 95% of the time results from the overall sample are subject to a maximum sampling error of +/- 2.9 percentage points. The maximum sampling error is based on percentages in the middle of the sampling distribution (percentages around 50%). Percentages at either end of the distribution (percentages around 10% or around 90%) have a smaller margin of error. While there are other potential sources of error in surveys besides sampling error, the overall design and execution of the survey minimized the potential for these other sources of error. The maximum sampling error will be larger for analyses based on subgroups of the overall sample.

### **About The California Wellness Foundation**

The California Wellness Foundation is an independent, private foundation created in 1992, with a mission to improve the health of the people of California by making grants for health promotion, wellness education and disease prevention. The Foundation prioritizes eight issues for funding: diversity in the health professions, environmental health, healthy aging, mental health, teenage pregnancy prevention, violence prevention, women's health, and work and health. It also responds to timely issues or special projects outside these funding priorities.

For more information, visit the Foundation's website, [www.tcwf.org](http://www.tcwf.org). Contact: Gary L. Yates, president and CEO, or Magdalena Beltrán-del Olmo, Vice President of Communications, at (818) 702-1900.

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**Chart Pack Summarizing the Findings from the  
2010 TCWF–Field Health Policy Survey:**

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**Californians' Views of the  
Health Care System and Reactions to  
the Nation's New Health Care Law**

For Release

Thursday, June 3, 2010

# About the 2010 TCWF–Field Health Policy Survey

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<b>Population Surveyed:</b>	California registered voters.
<b>Number of Interviews:</b>	1,522 telephone interviews completed using live interviewers.
<b>Data Collection Period:</b>	April 7–27, 2010.
<b>Languages of Administration:</b>	English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean and Vietnamese.
<b>Sampling:</b>	To permit comparisons across the state’s major ethnic subgroups, the statewide sample was supplemented with additional interviews among random samples of Chinese-American, Korean-American, Vietnamese-American and African-American voters.
<b>Sampling Error:</b>	Statewide findings have a sampling error of +/- 2.8 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.



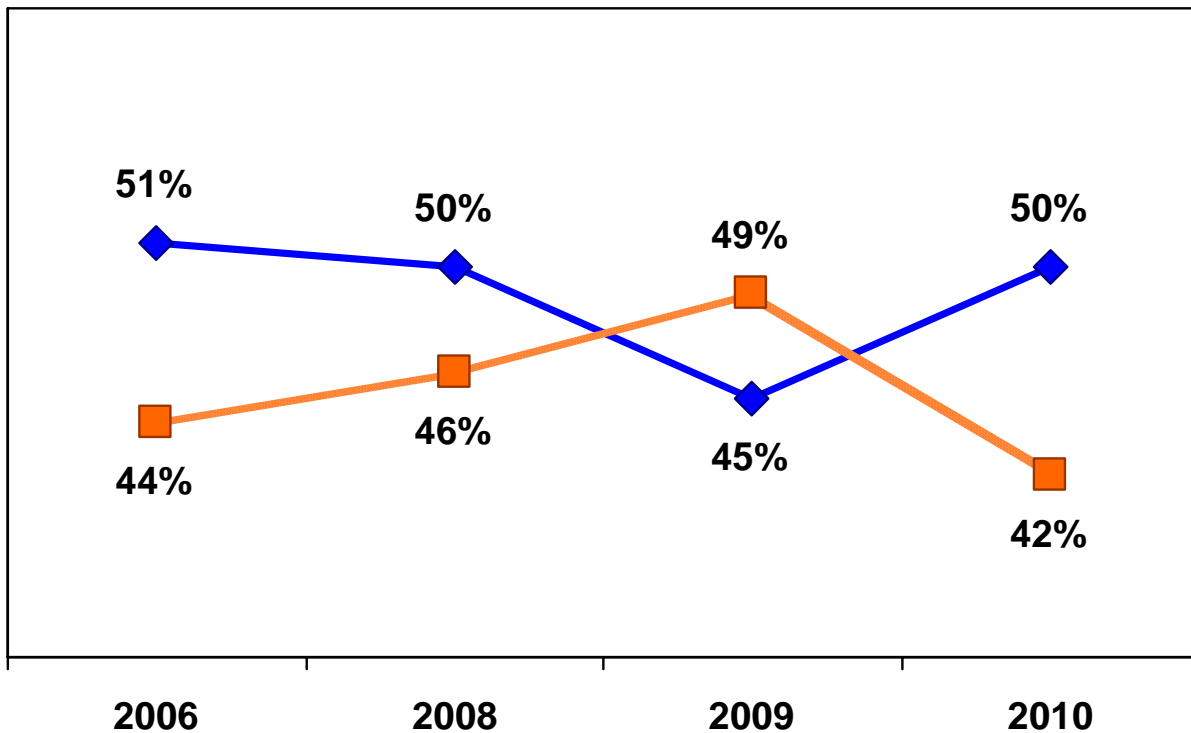
Table 1a

# Satisfaction with the way the health care system is working in California

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◆ Satisfied    ■ Dissatisfied



**Table 1b**  
**Satisfaction with the way the health care system is working in California - by health insurance status and type of insurance**

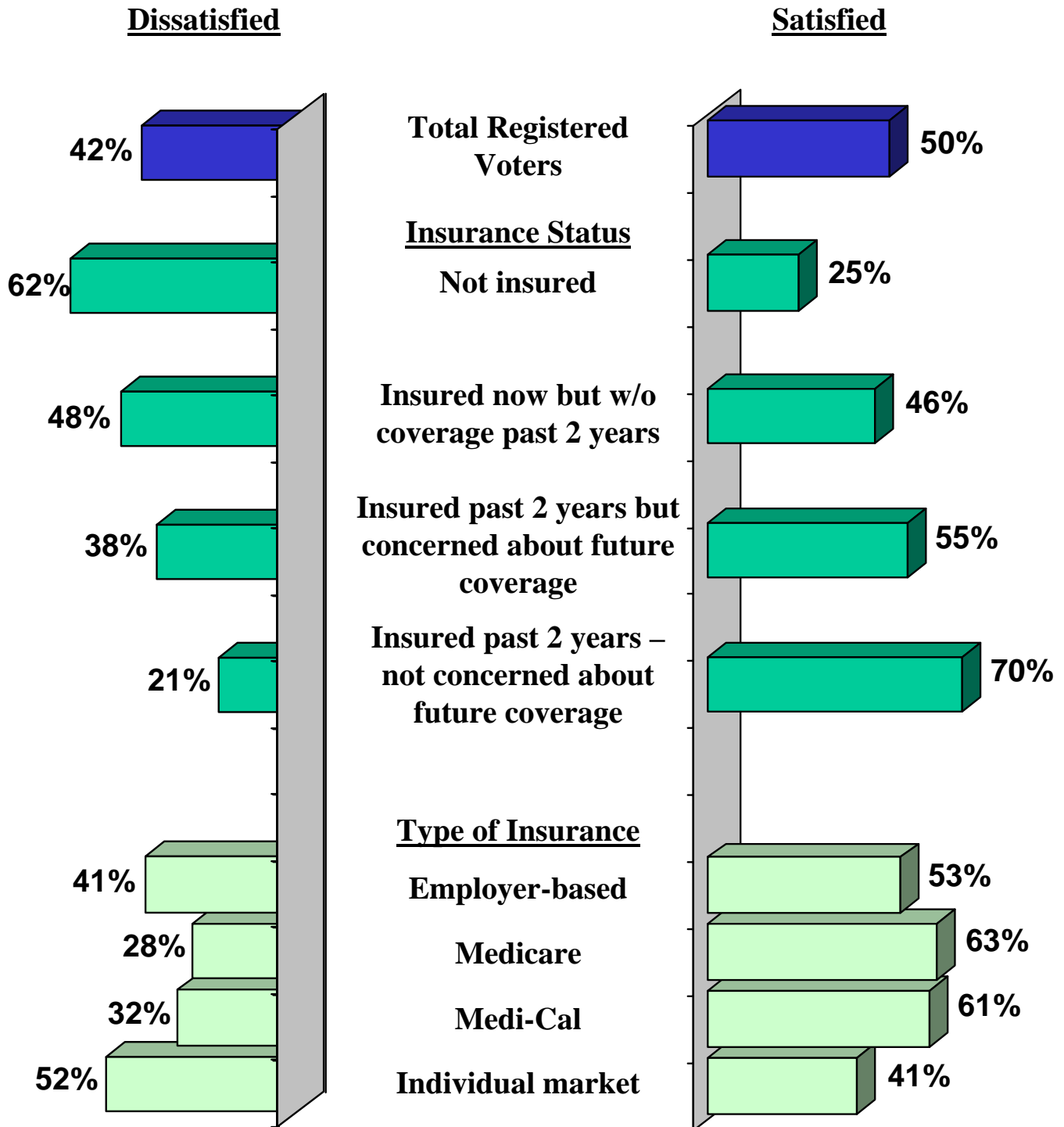


Table 2  
**Health care worries facing California voters**

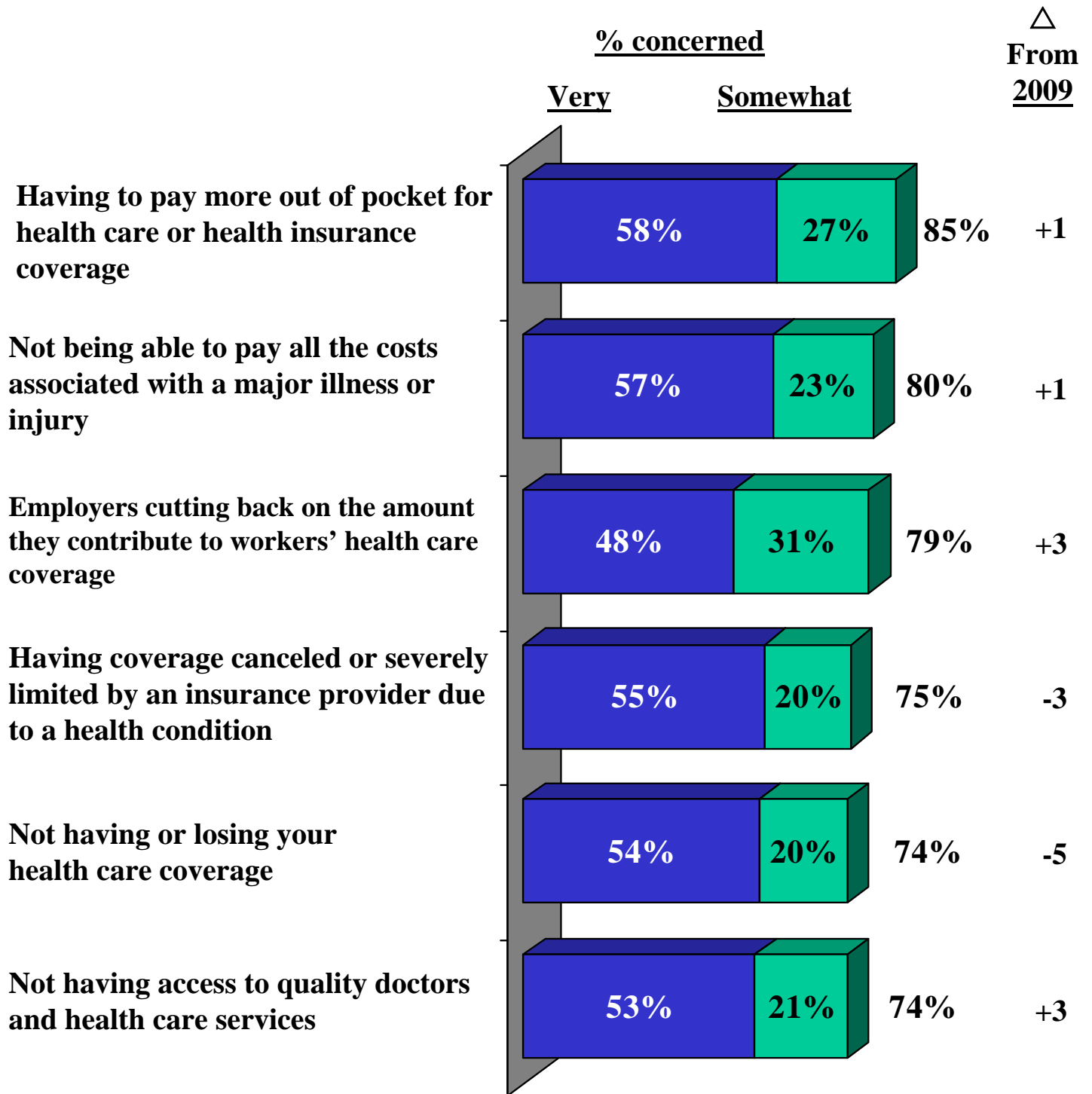
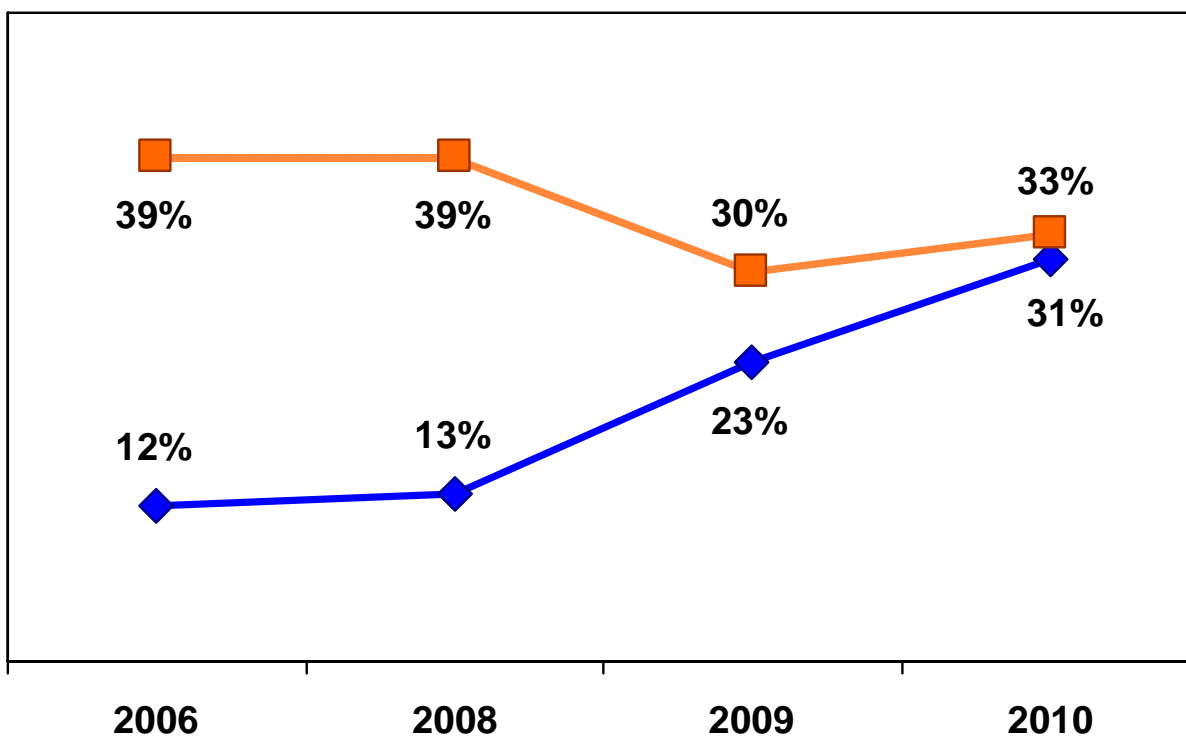


Table 3a

# California's health care system five years from now

—◆— Will be better    —■— Will be worse



*(Differences between 100% and sum of each survey's percentages equal proportion who foresee no change or have no opinion.)*

Table 3b

# California's health care system five years from now - by party registration and insurance status

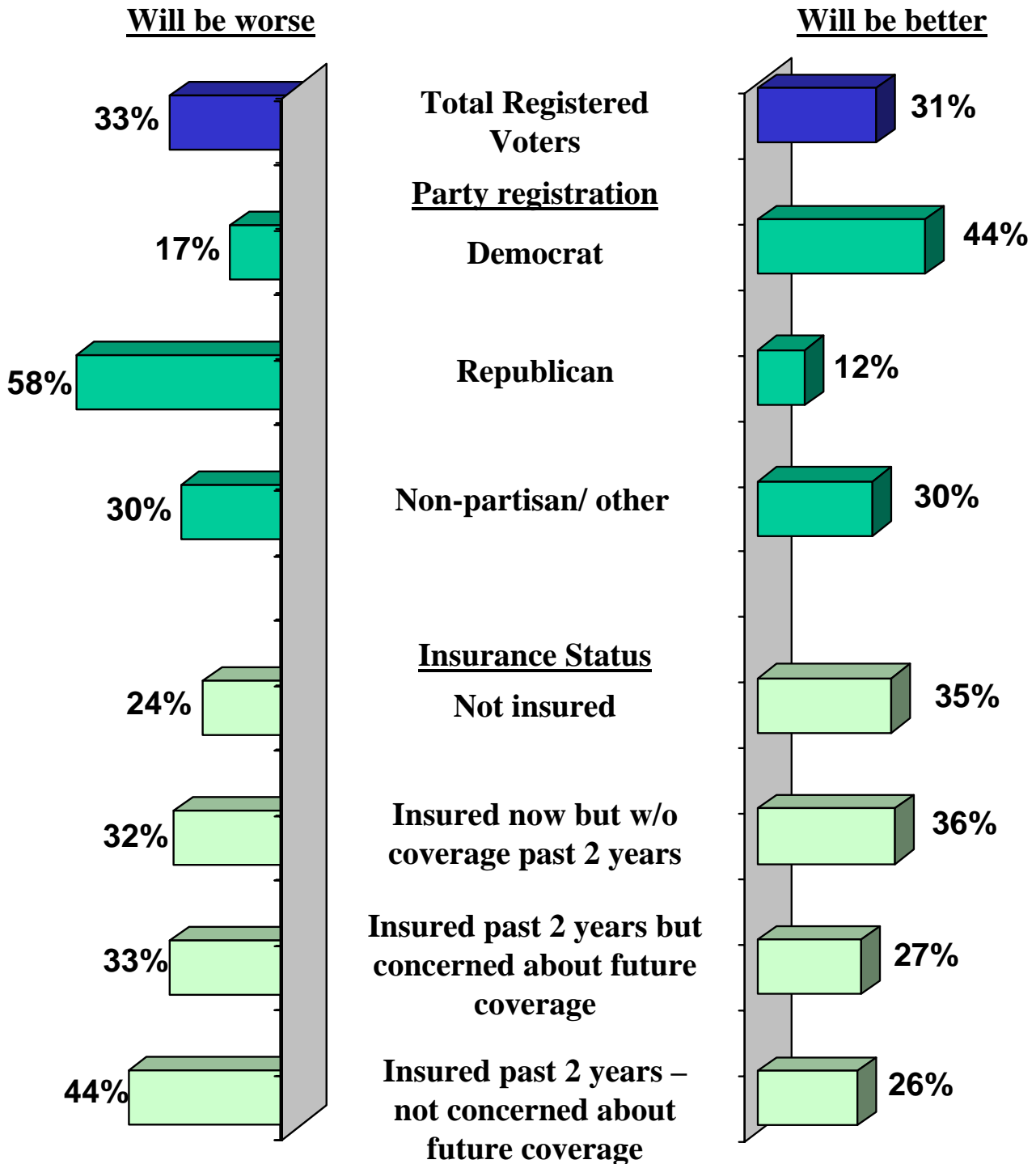
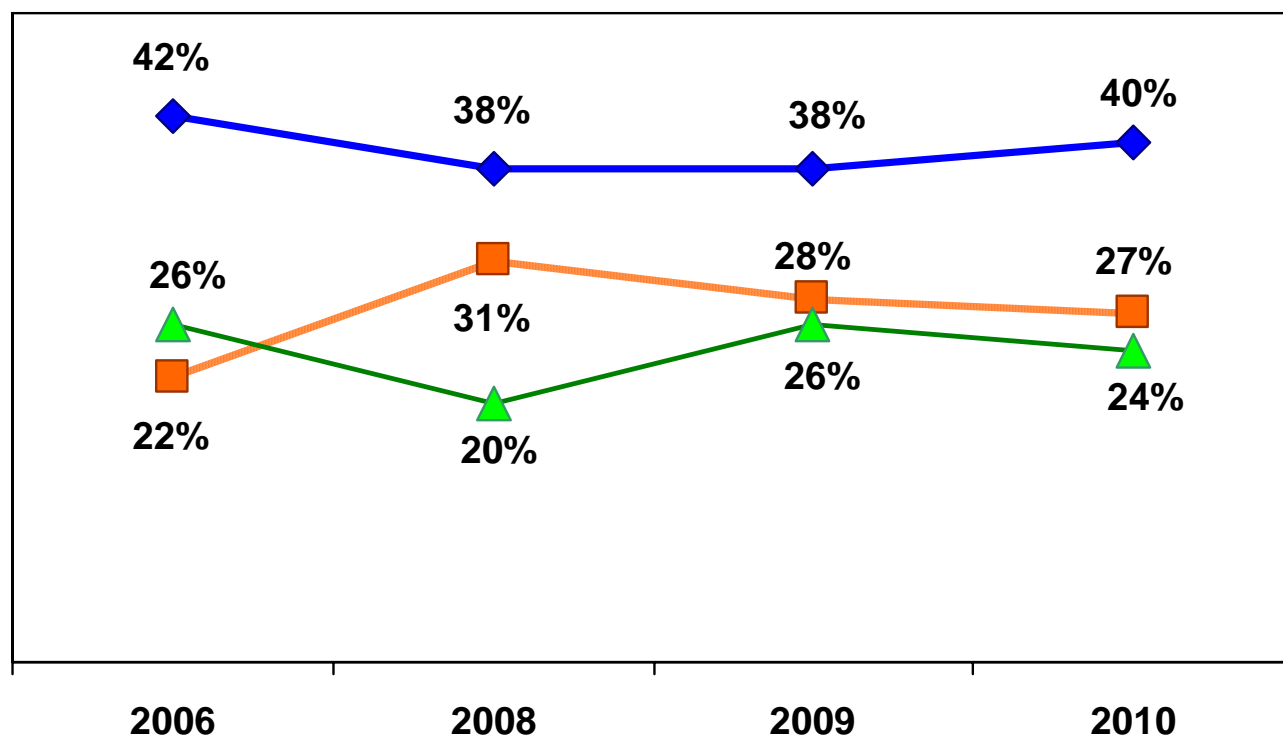


Table 4a

## From whom Californians would rather obtain their health insurance coverage



*(Differences between 100% and sum of each survey's percentages equal proportion who foresee no change or have no opinion.)*

**Table 4b**

**From whom Californians would rather obtain their health coverage - by political party and type of insurance**

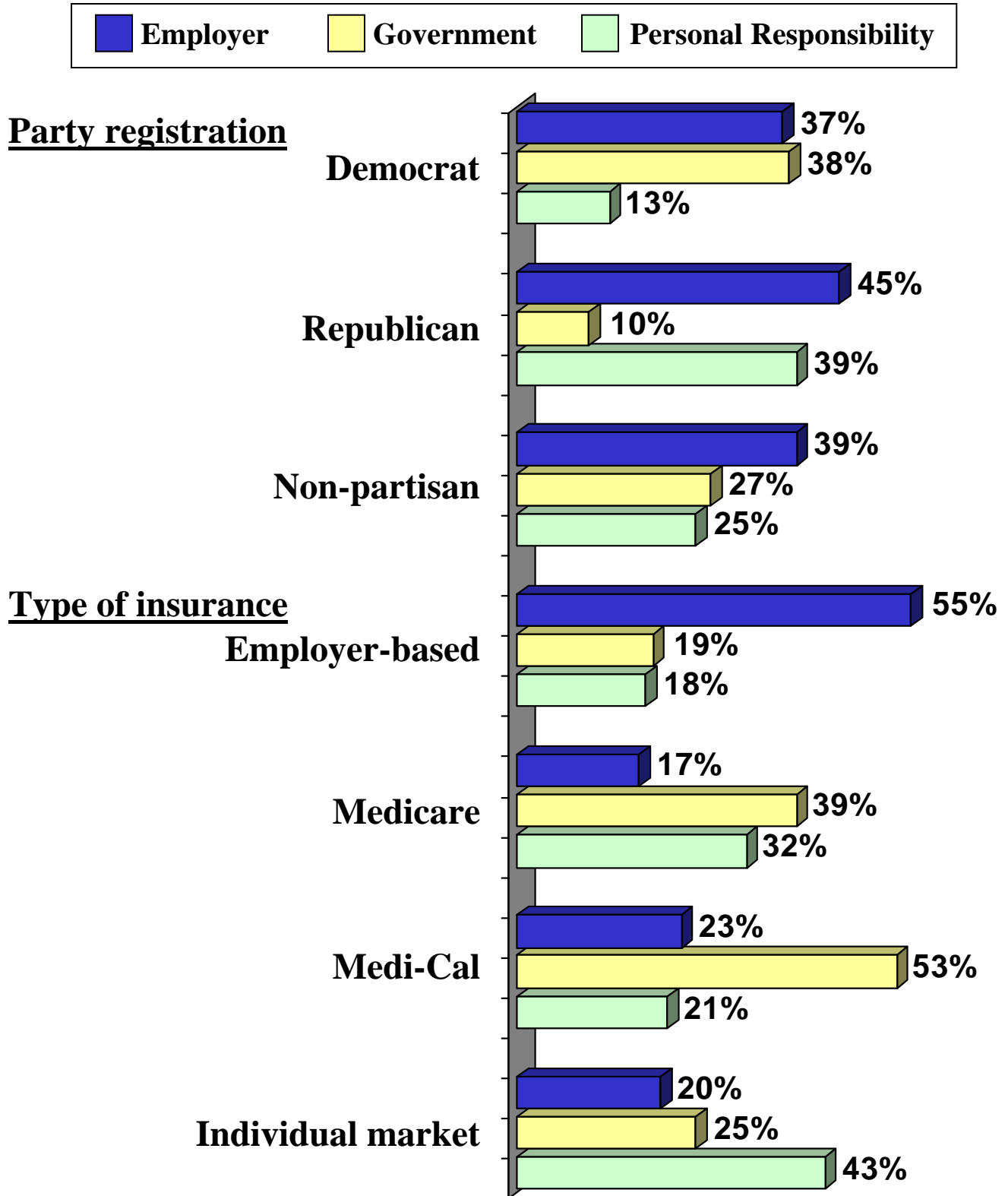


Table 5a

**How knowledgeable do Californians say they are about the specifics of the nation's new health care law**

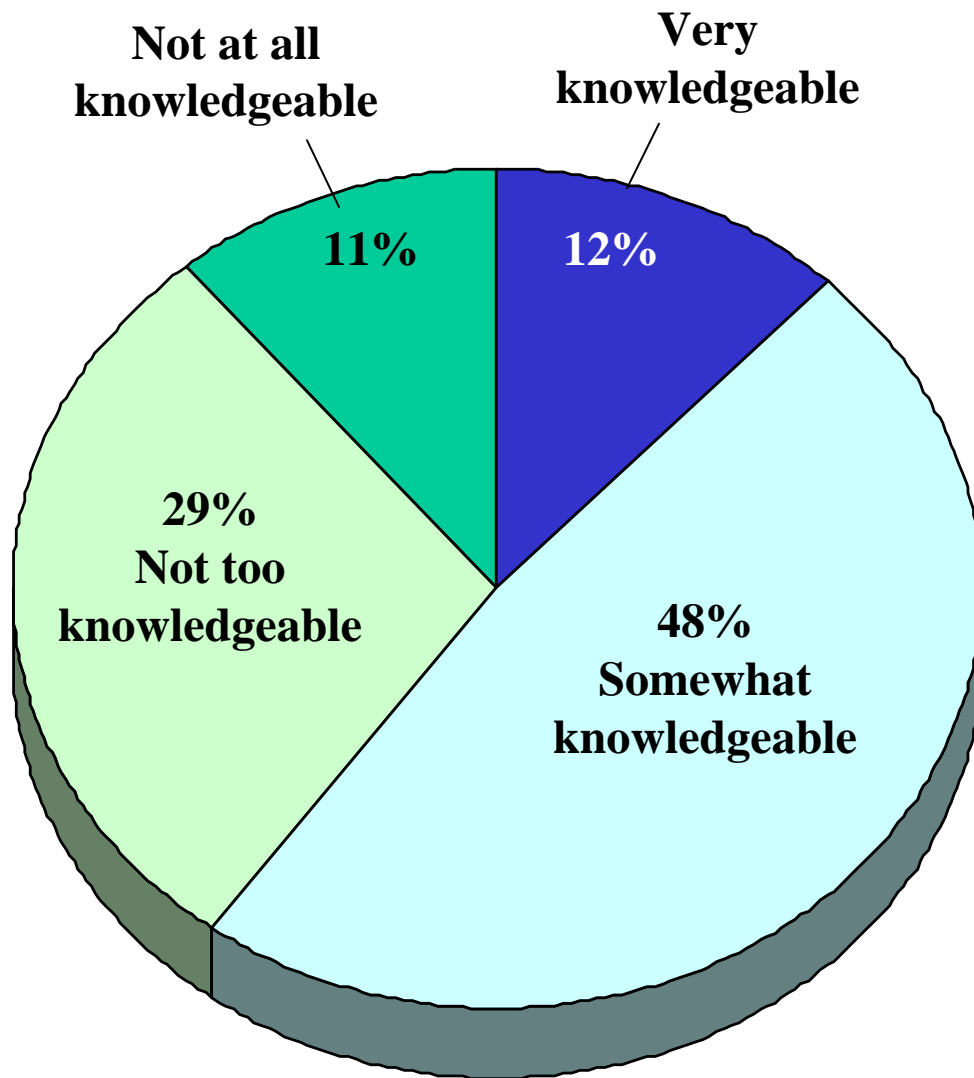




Table 5b

# Knowledge about the details of the new health care law - across demographic subgroups

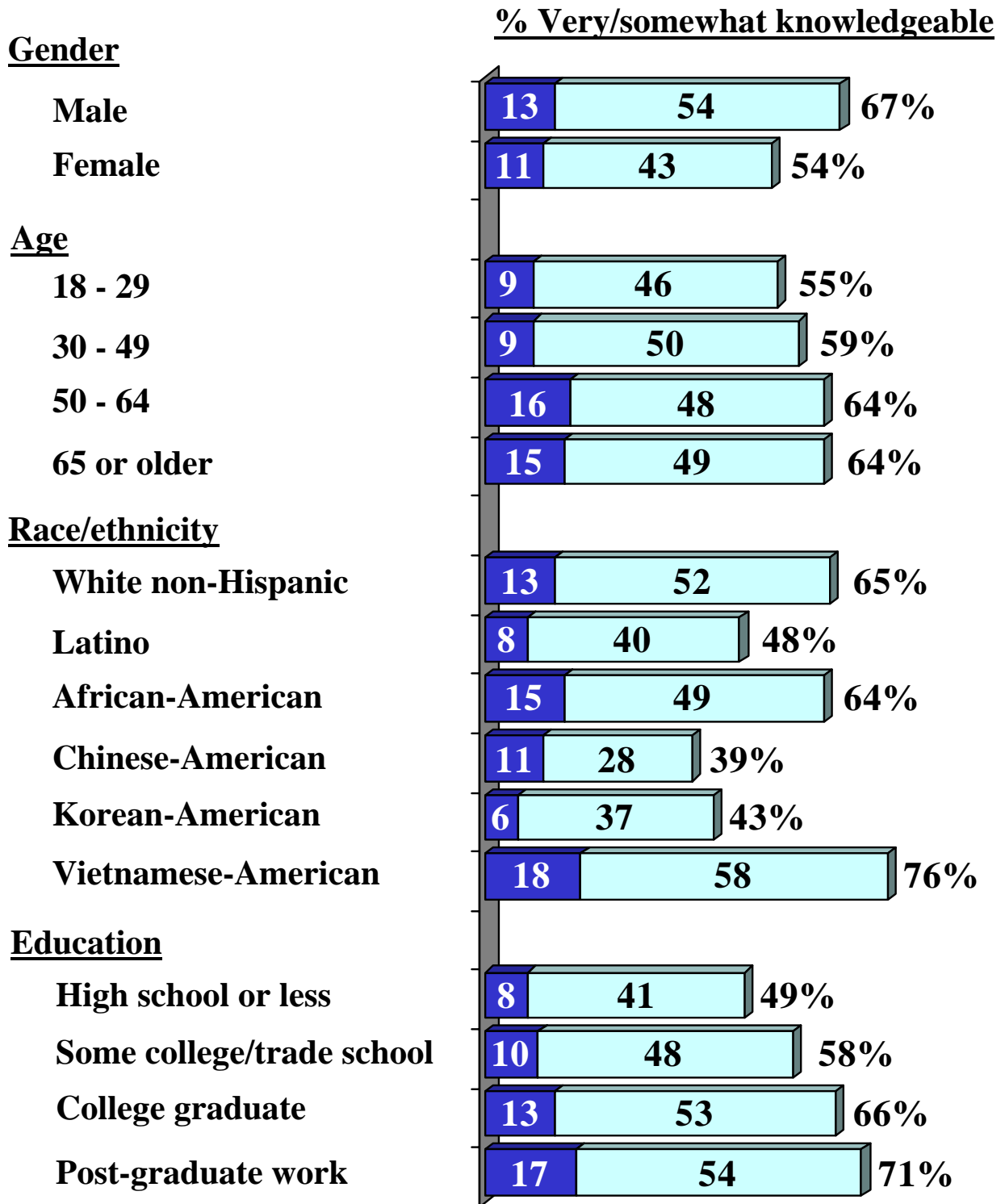
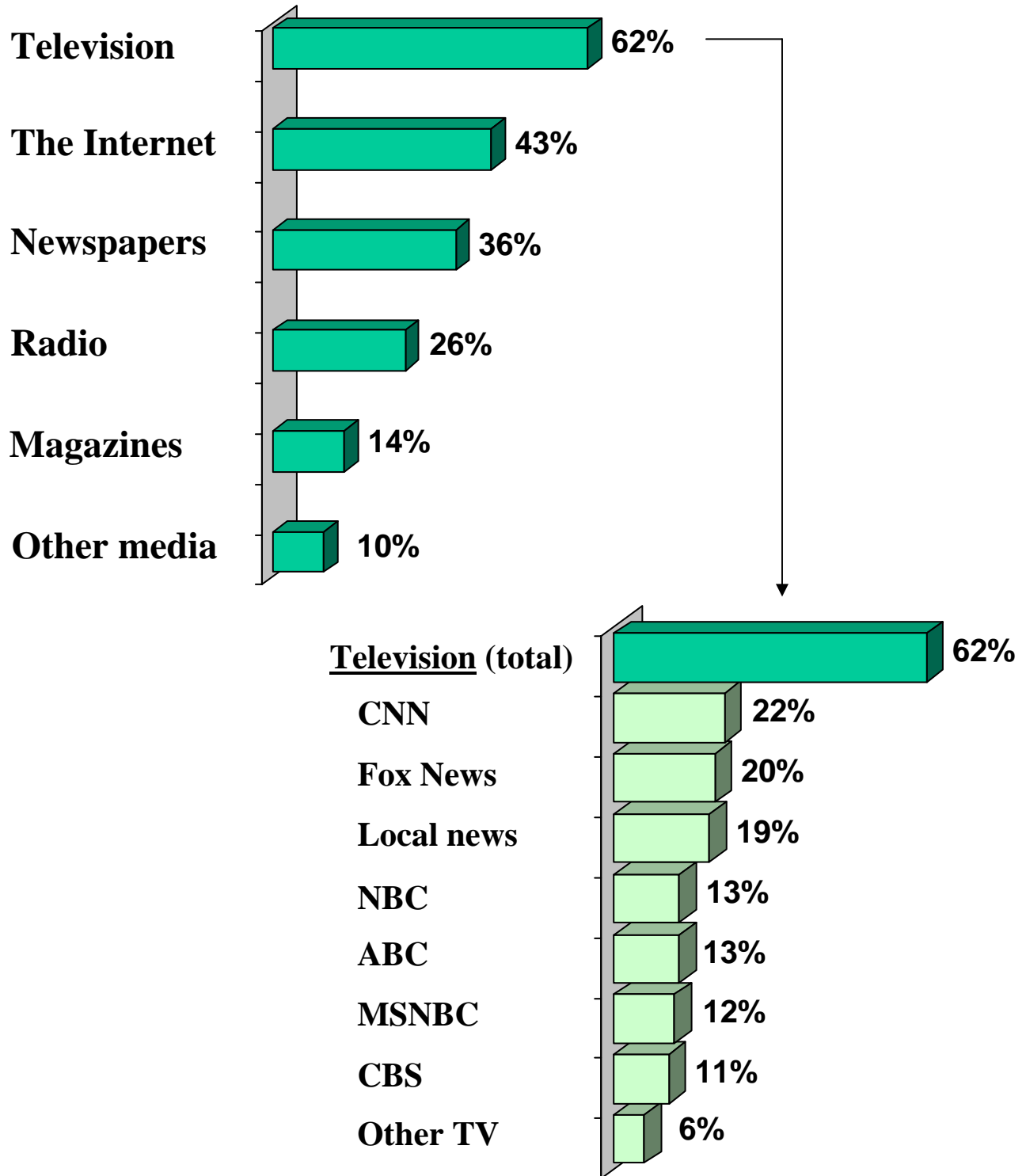


Table 6

# Where Californians say they have gotten most of their news about the new health care law



*(Percentages add to more than 100% or subtotal due to multiple mentions.)*

Table 7a

**“Overall, do you support or oppose the nation’s new health care law?”**

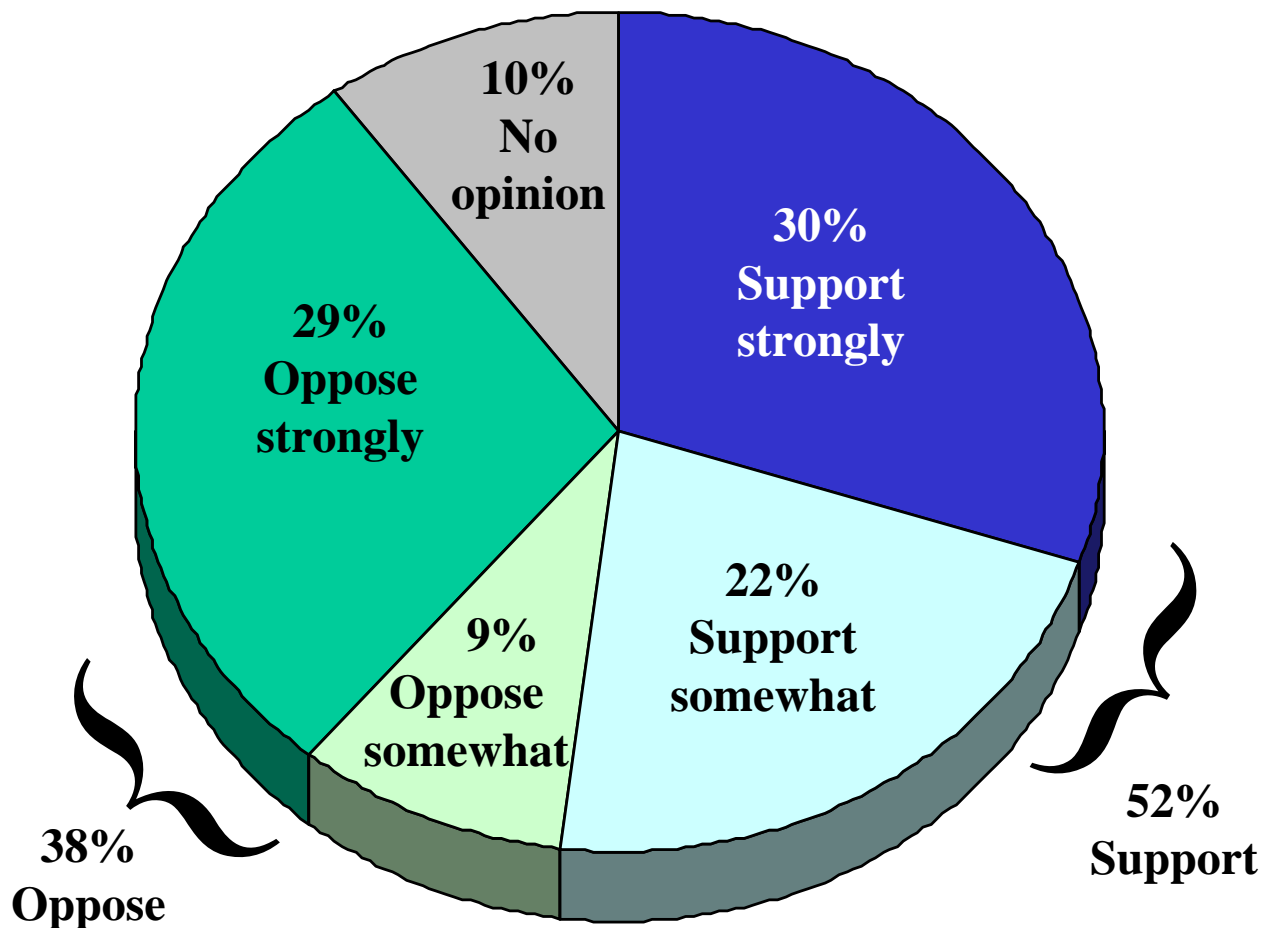


Table 7b  
**Opinions of the new health care law  
 across demographic subgroups**

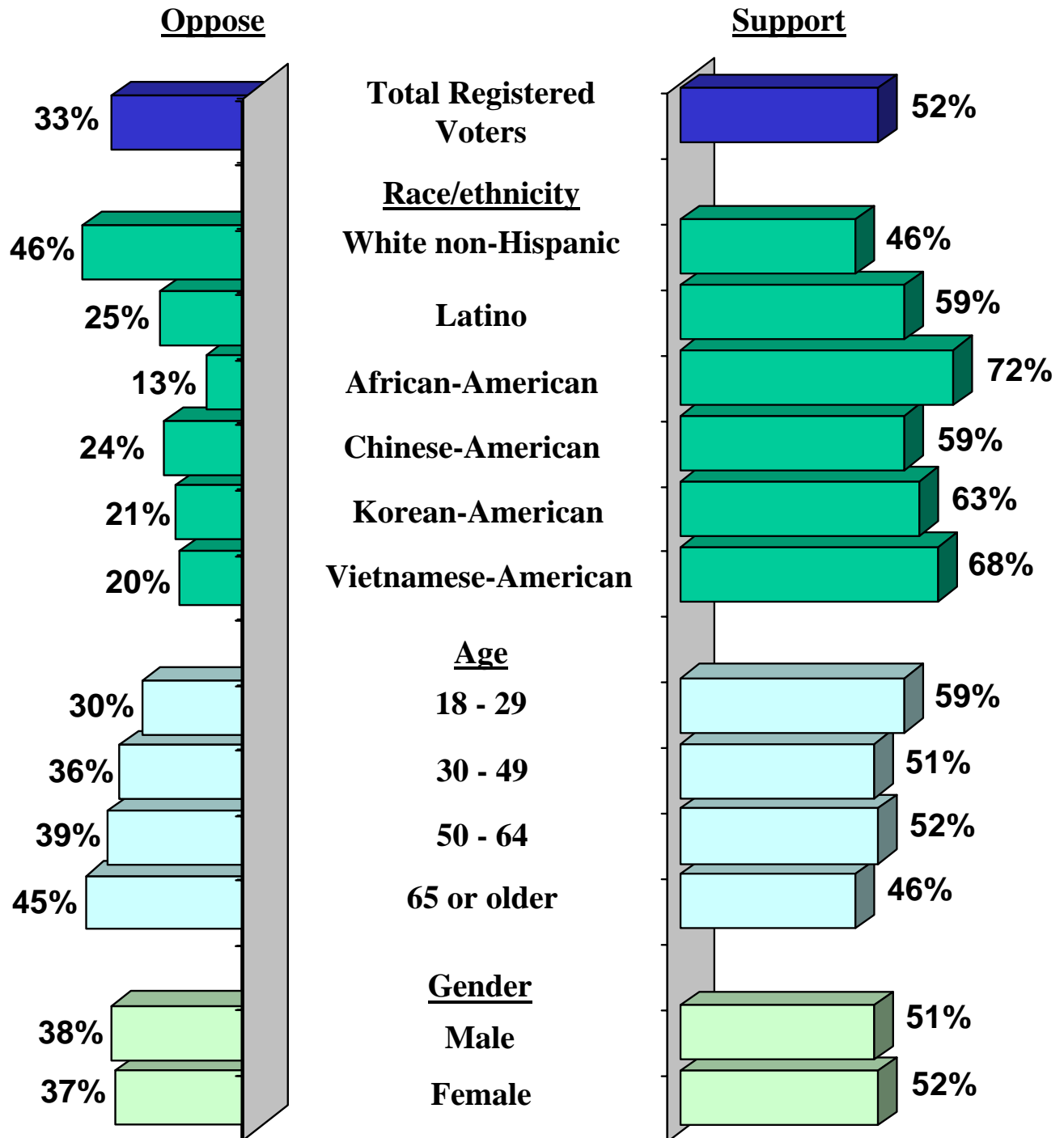


Table 7c

# Opinions of the new health care law by health insurance status and type of coverage

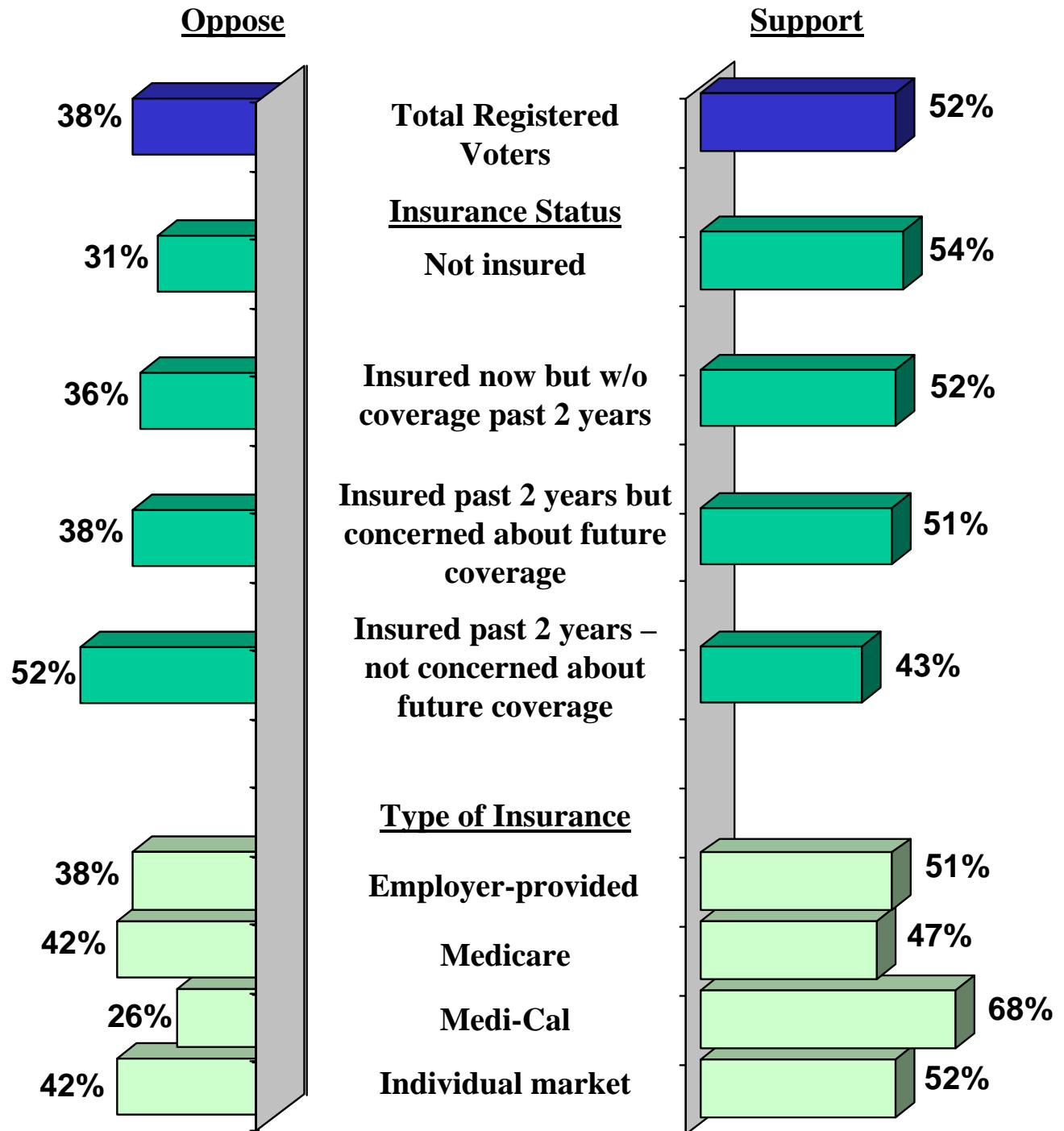


Table 7d  
**Opinions of the new health care law  
 across political subgroups**

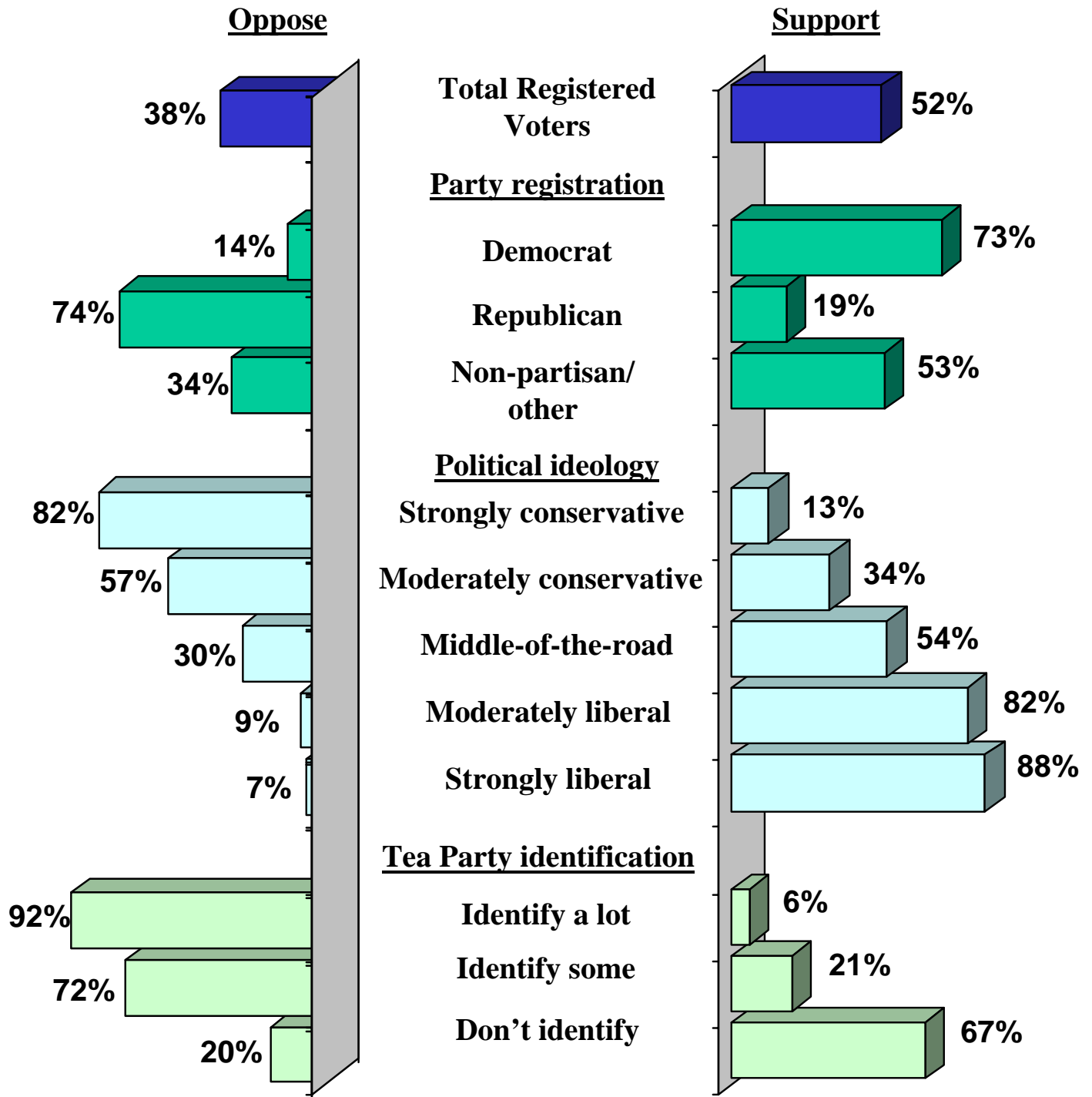


Table 7e  
**Opinions of the new health care law  
 by media source**

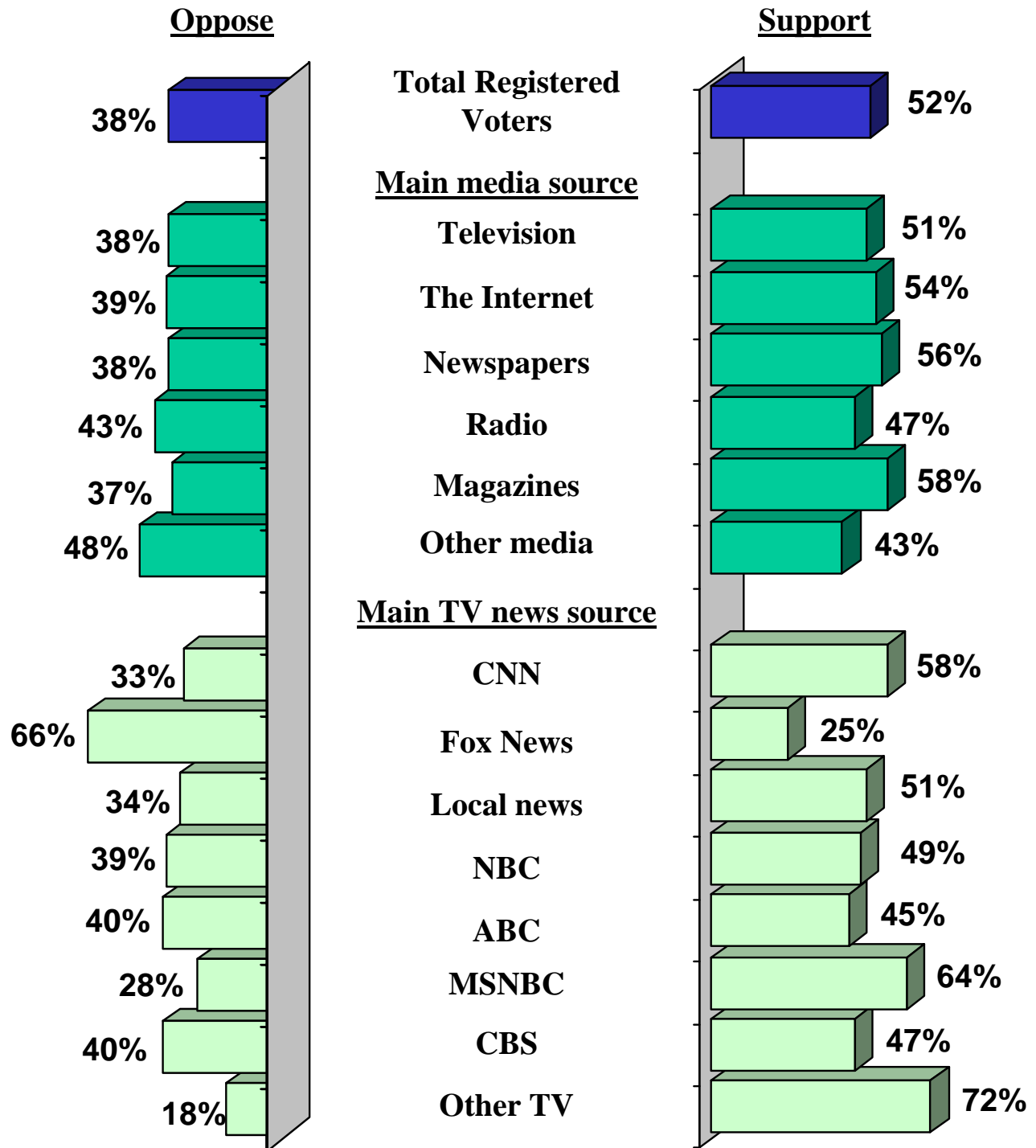
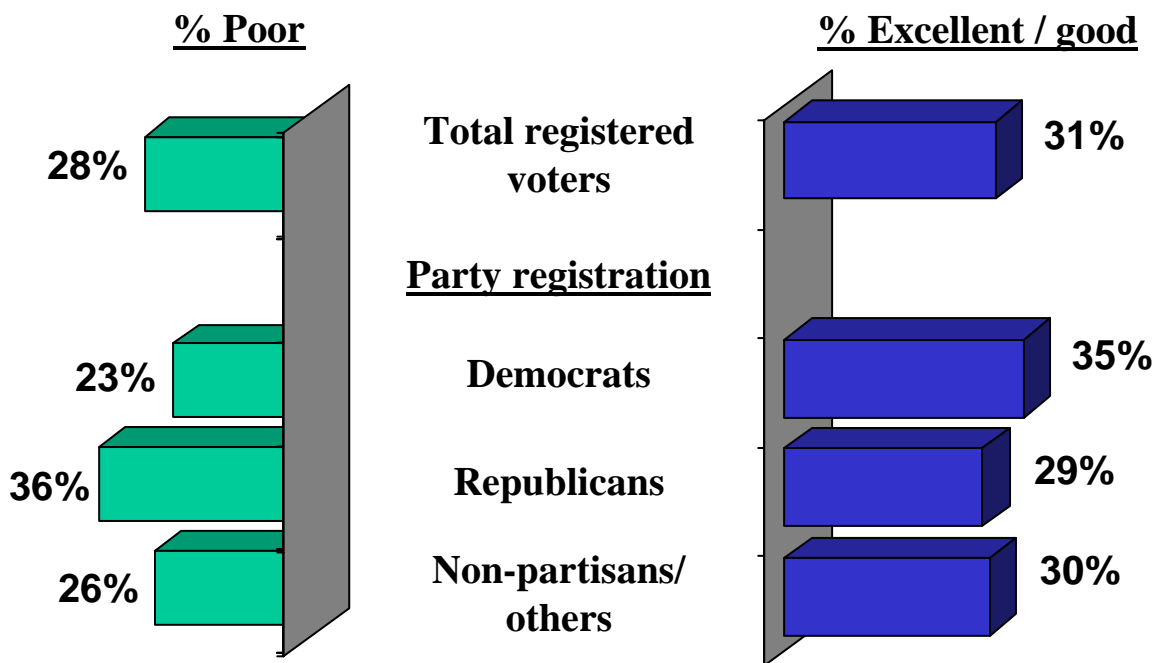
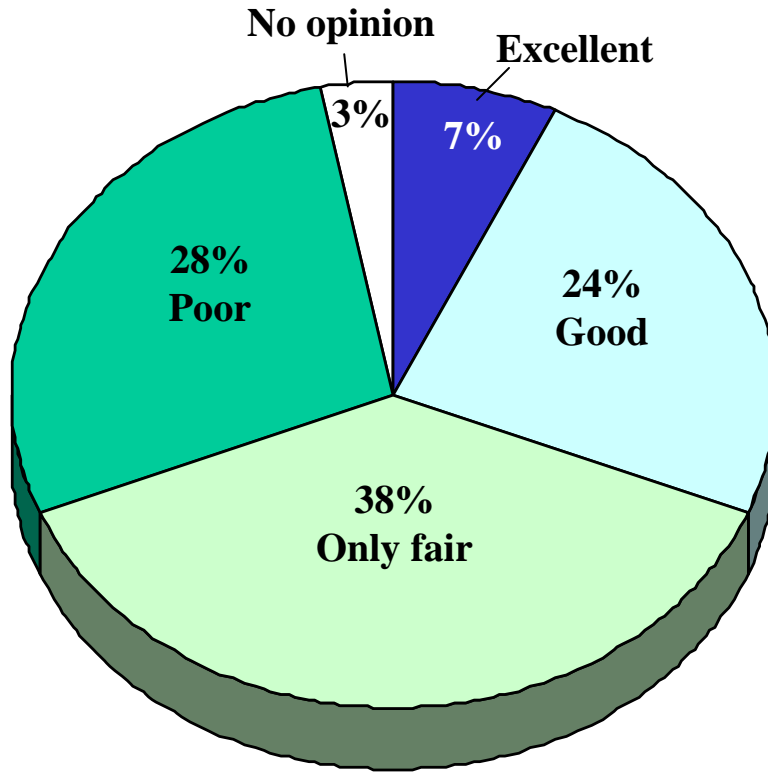


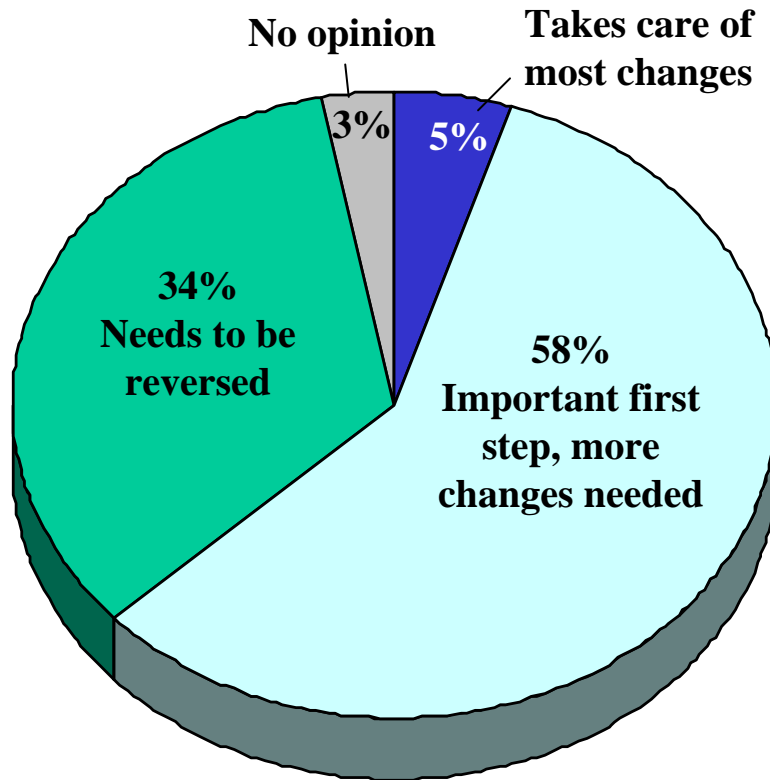
Table 8

# How Californians rate the job news organizations have done in explaining the details of the health care law

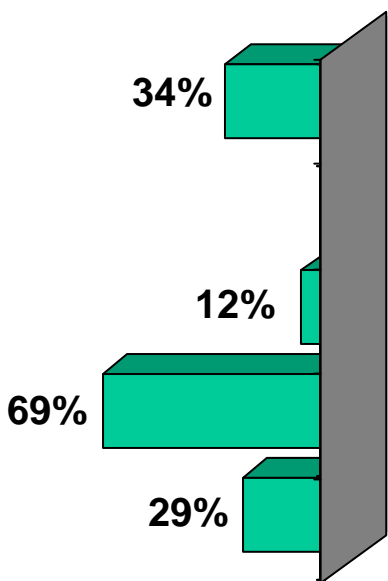




**Table 9**  
**Current views about the nation's health care system as a result of passage of the new law**



**% Needs to be reversed**



**% Important first step**

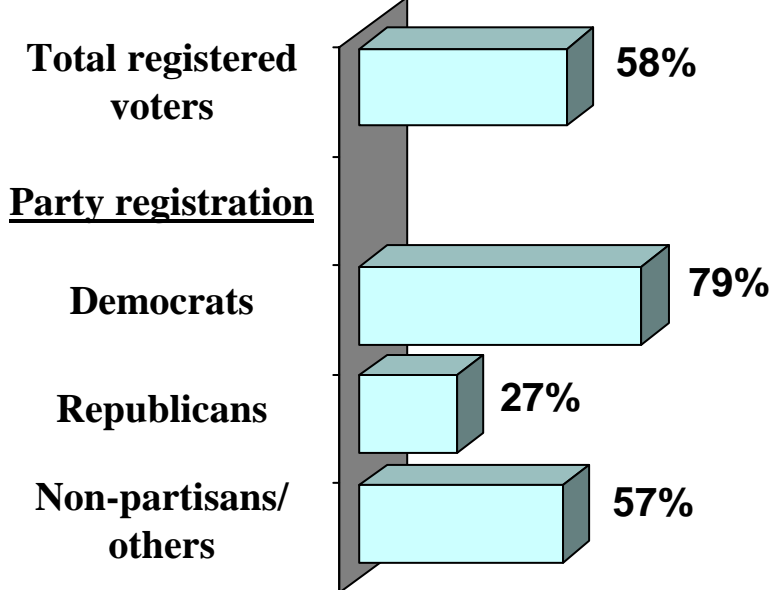
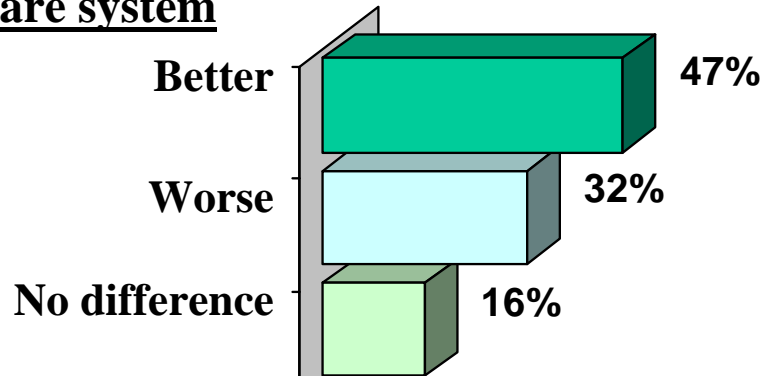


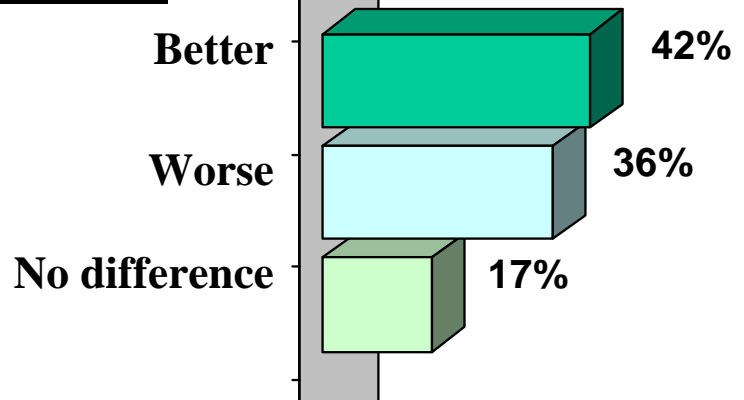
Table 10

# Perceived impact of the new health care law on health care in the U.S. and California and on you and your family

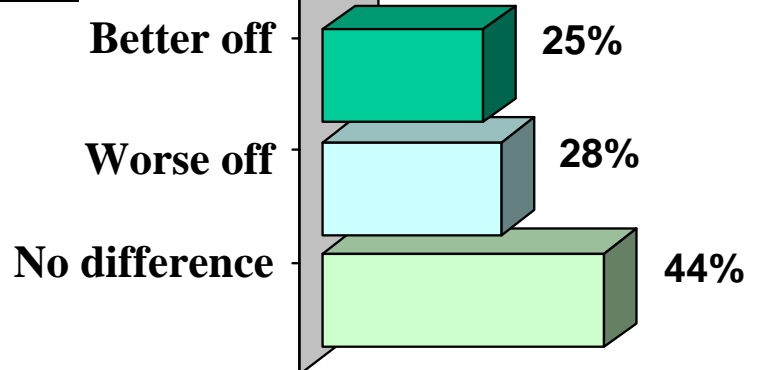
## Impact on the U.S. health care system



## Impact on health care in California



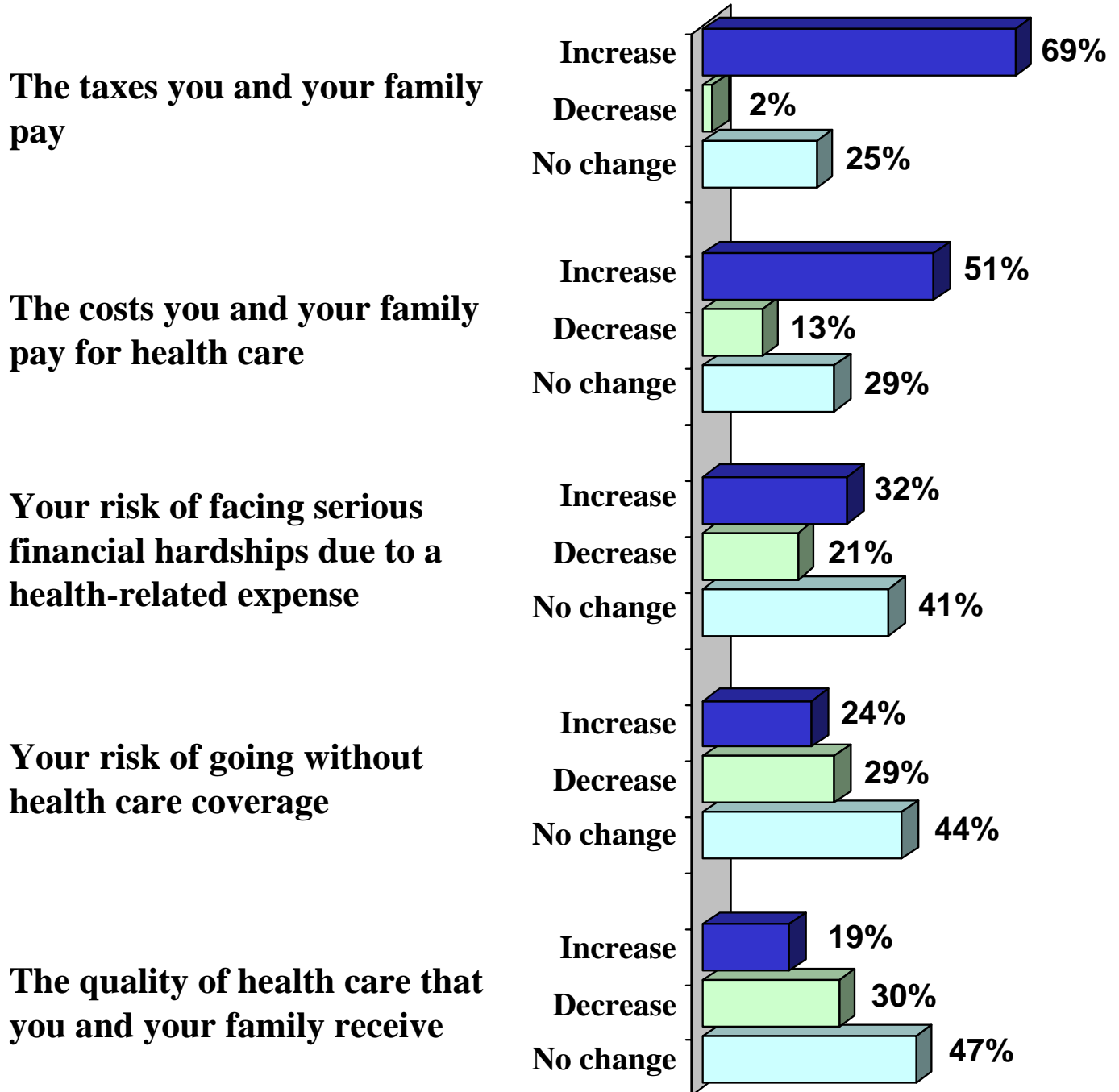
## Impact on you and your family



*(Differences between 100% and sum of each survey's percentages to each question equal proportion with no opinion.)*

Table 11

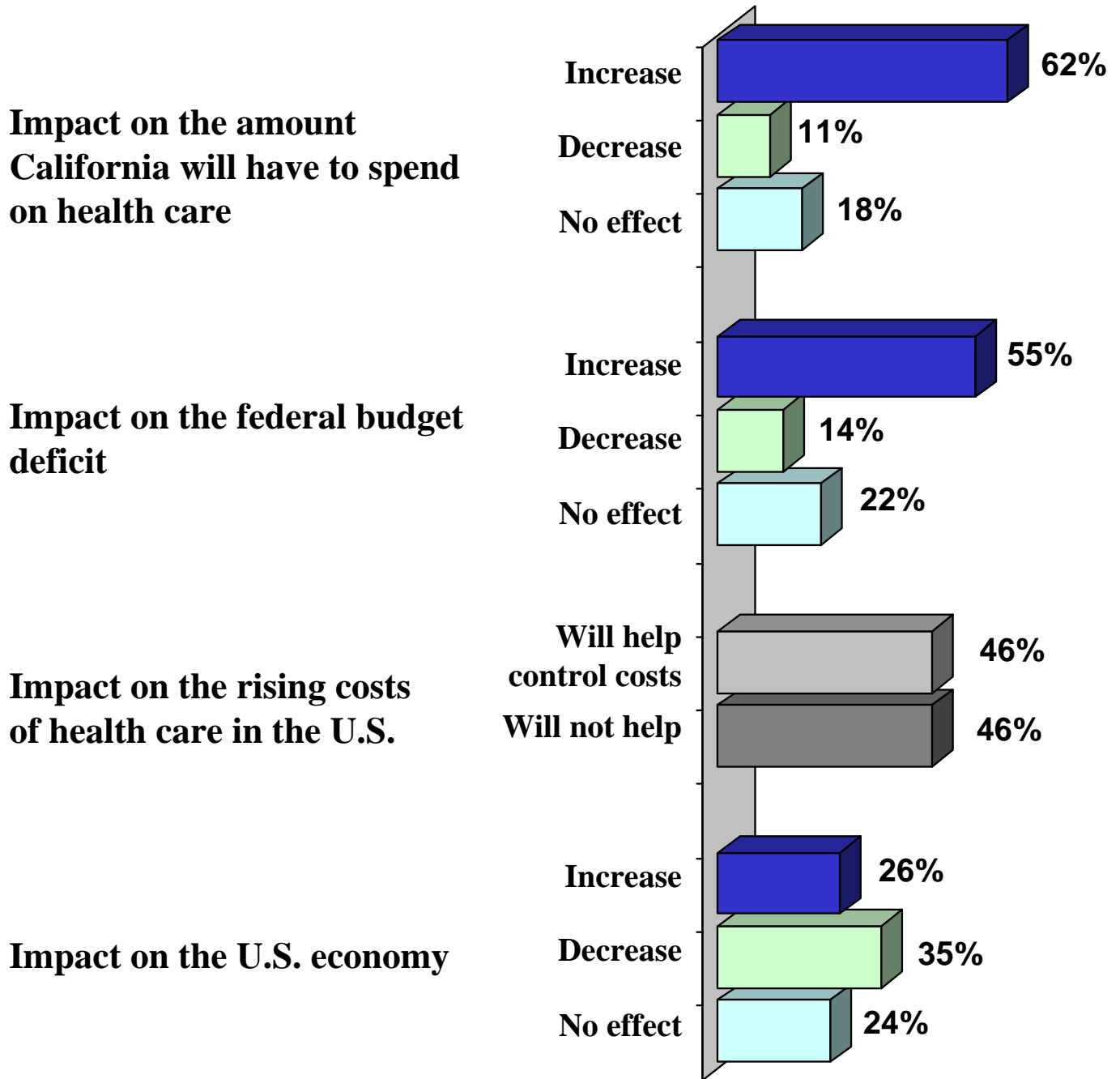
# How Californians believe the new health care law will affect themselves and their families



*(Differences between 100% and sum of each survey's percentages to each question equal proportion with no opinion.)*

Table 12

# Impact of the new health care law on health care costs, the economy and on federal and state budgets



*(Differences between 100% and sum of each survey's percentages to each question equal proportion with no opinion.)*

Table 13a

**Perceptions that Californians have about the new law with regards to keeping their current coverage/ doctor**

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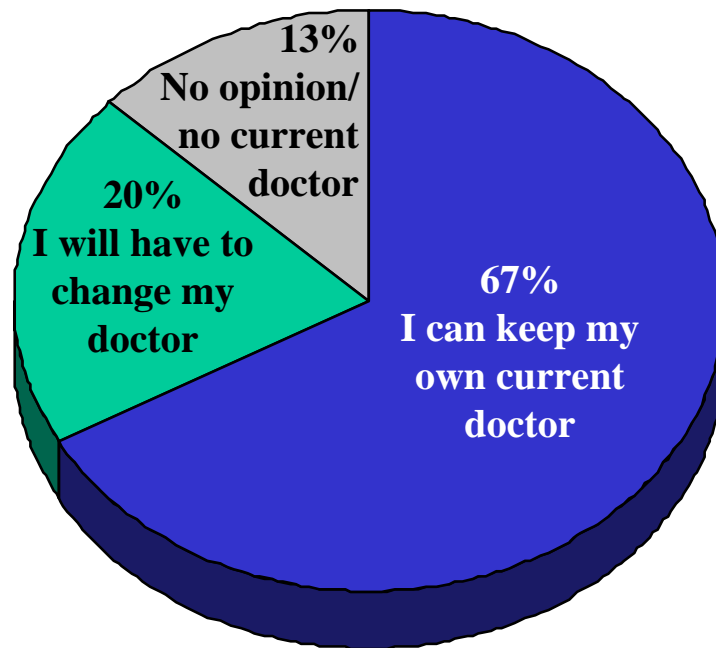
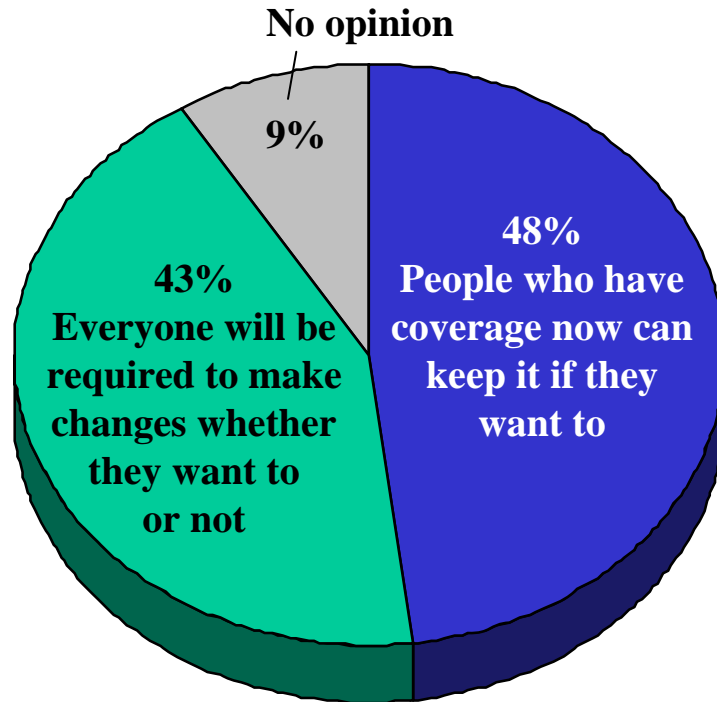


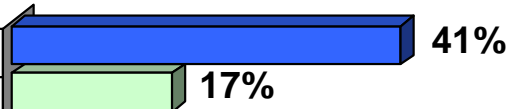
Table 13b

Proportions who believe they will have to change their current coverage or current doctor - by type of insurance and race/ethnicity

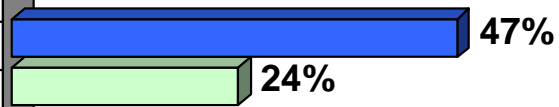
Everyone will be required to make changes to their coverage whether they want to or not      I will have to change my doctor

Type of insurance

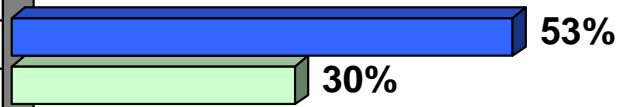
Employer-provided



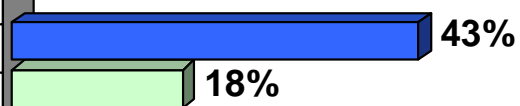
Medicare



Medi-Cal

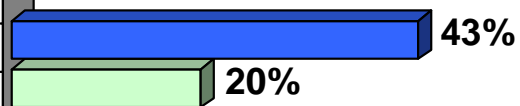


Individual market

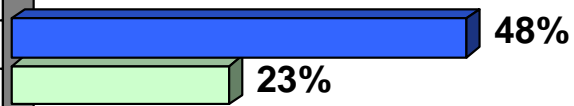


Race/ethnicity

White non-Hispanic



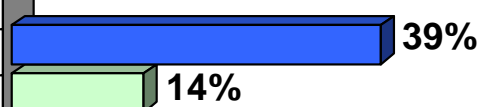
Latino



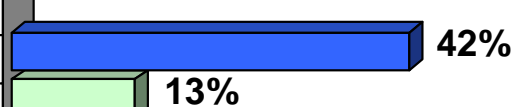
African-American



Chinese-American



Korean-American



Vietnamese-American

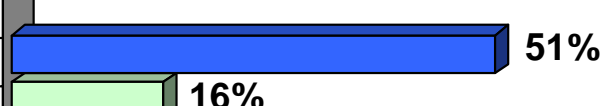


Table 14a

# Groups whom majorities of Californians believe will be better off because of the new health care law

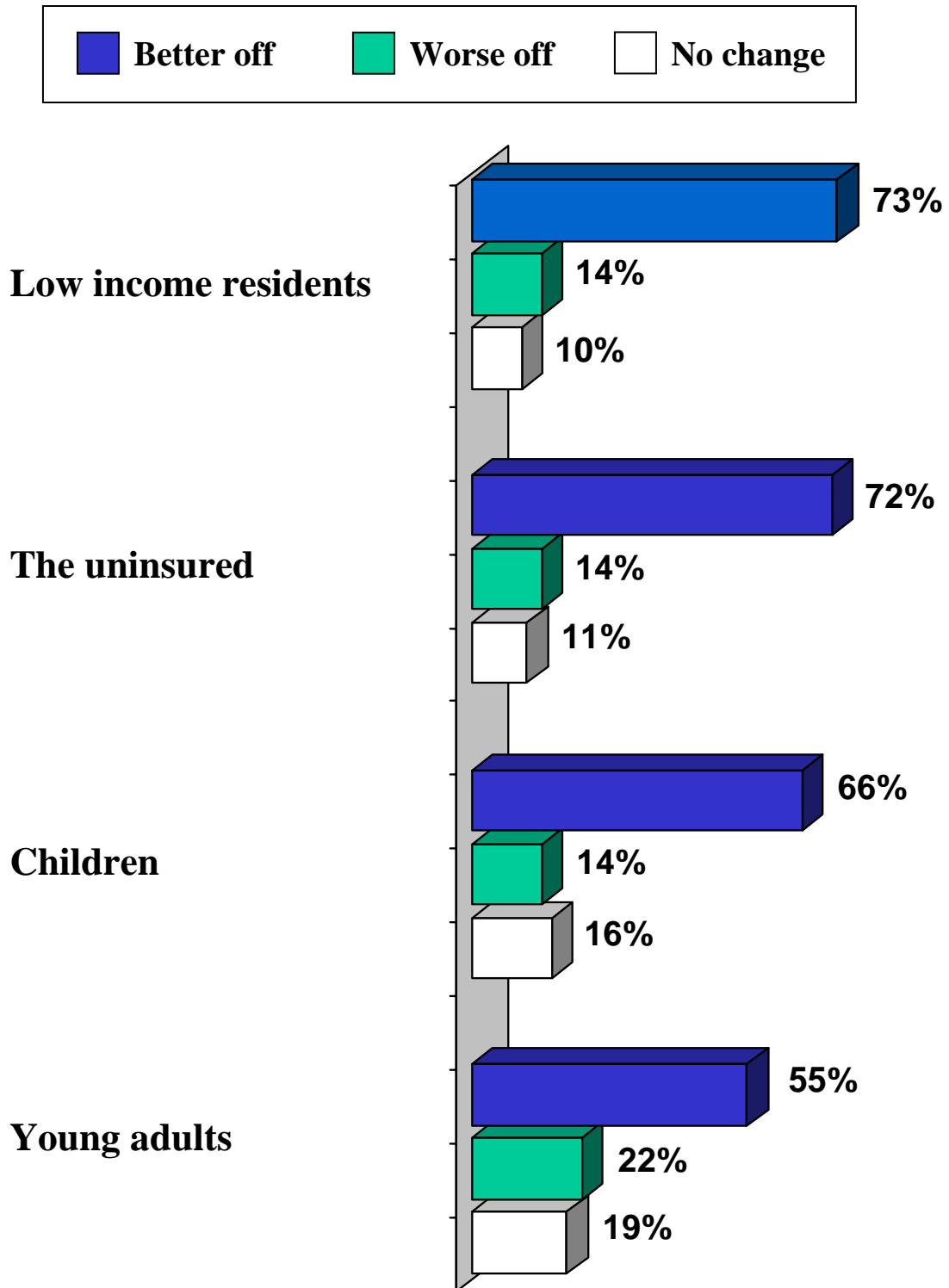


Table 14b

# Groups whom pluralities of Californians believe will be better off because of the new health care law

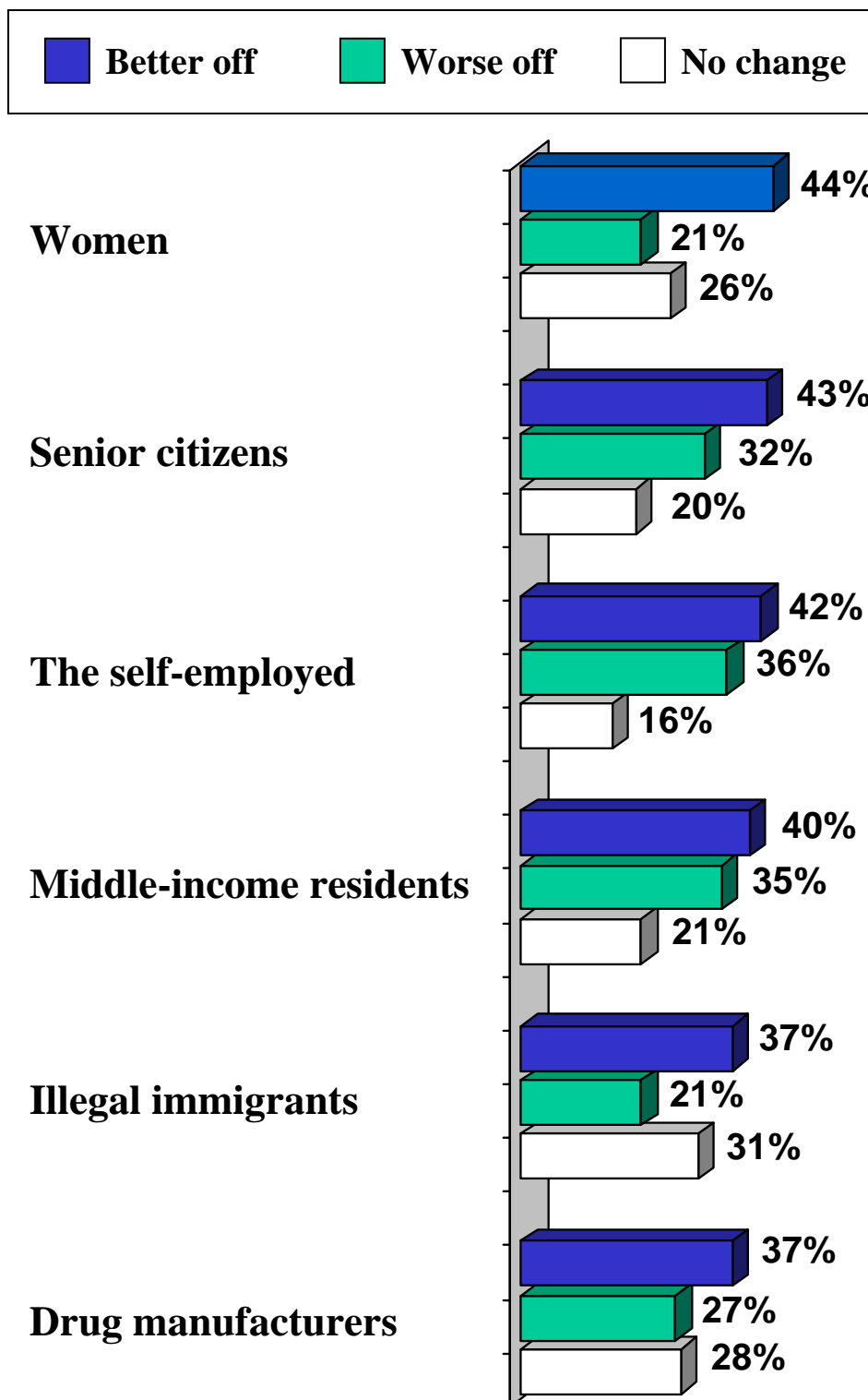




Table 14c

# Groups whom more Californians believe will be worse off than better off because of the new health care law

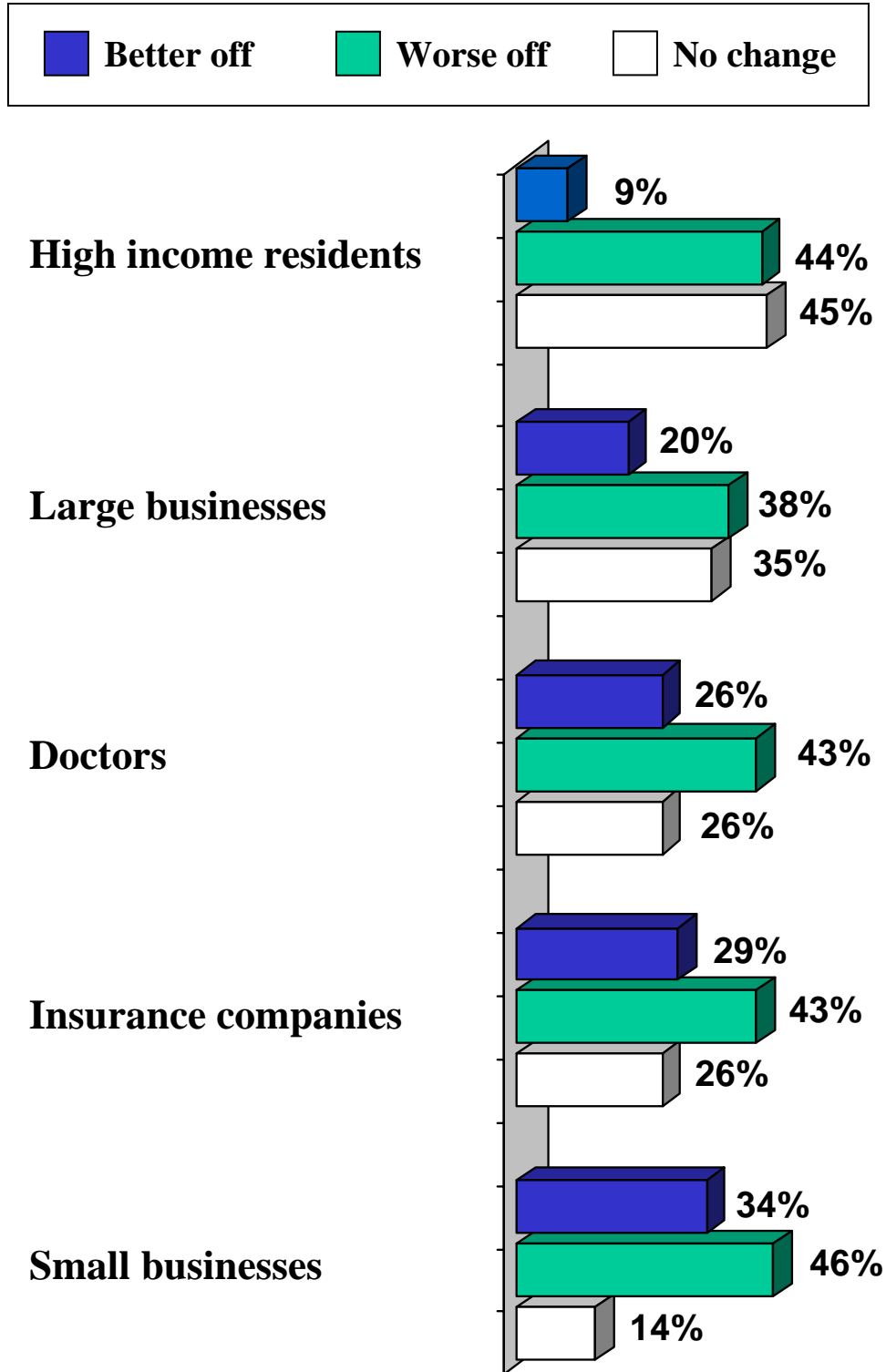


Table 15a

**Provisions of the new health care law that greater than two-thirds of Californians consider highly important**

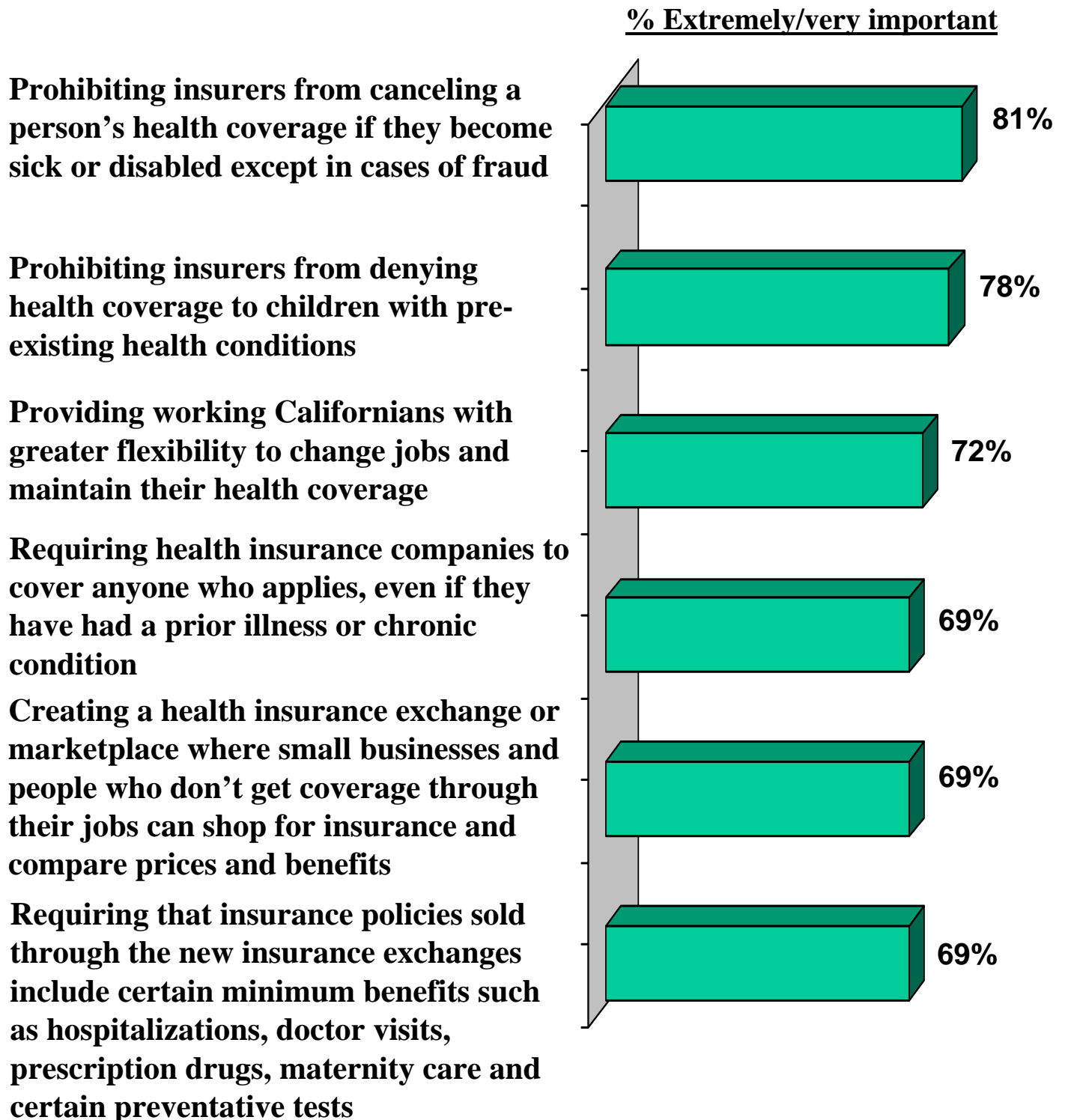


Table 15b

## Provisions of the new health care law that between 51% and 62% consider highly important

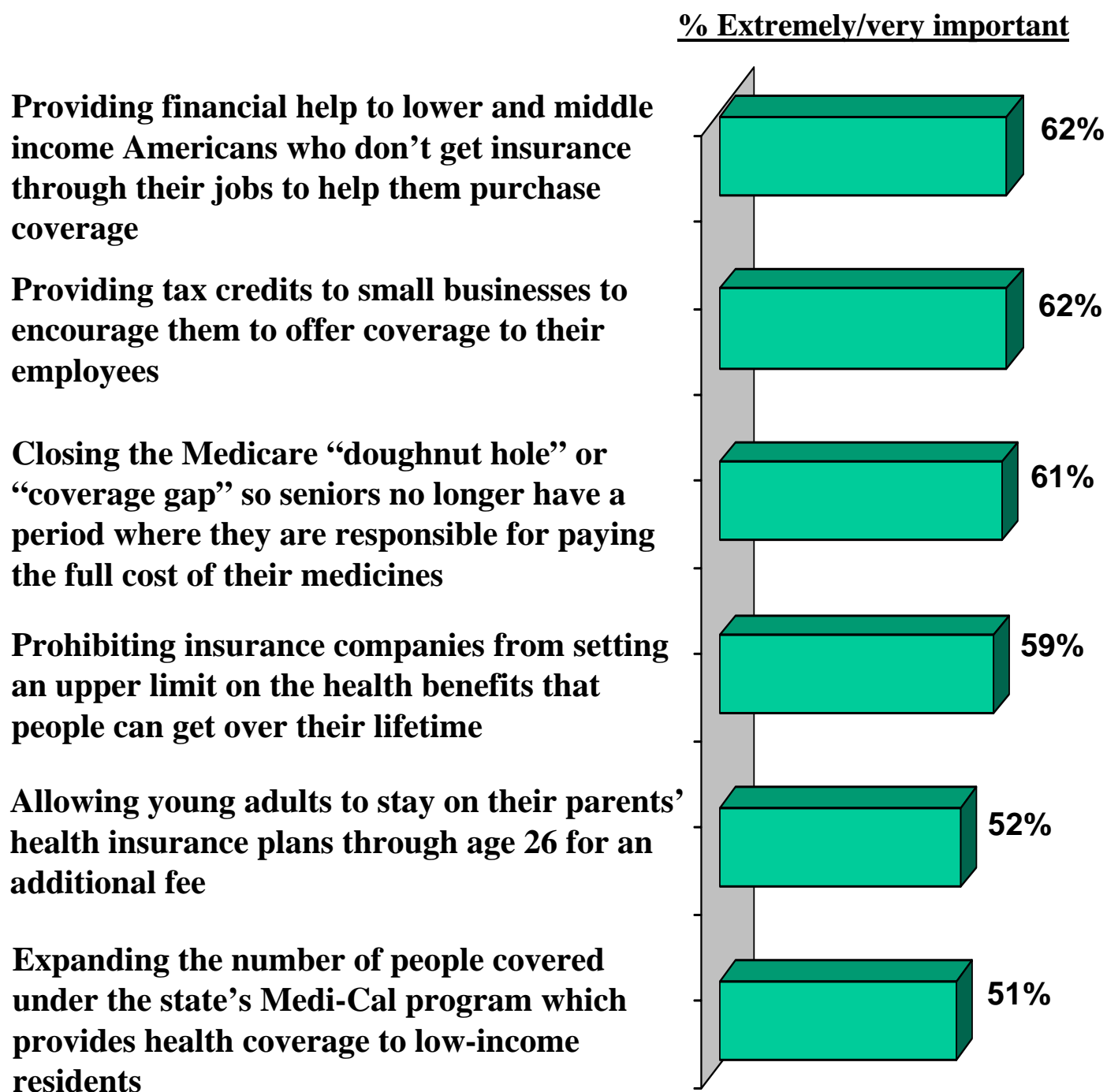


Table 15c

## Provisions of the new health care law that less than half of Californians consider highly important

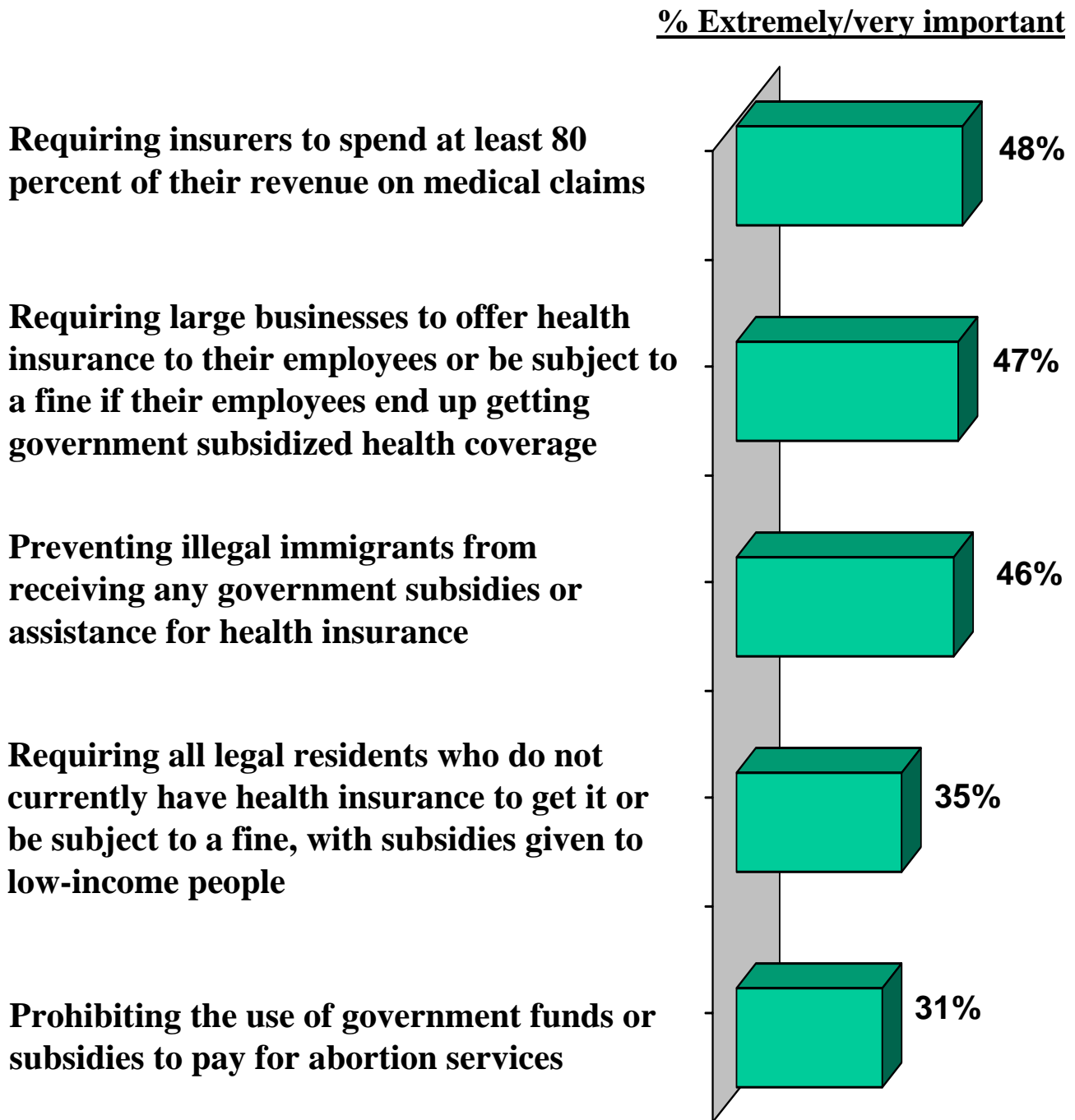
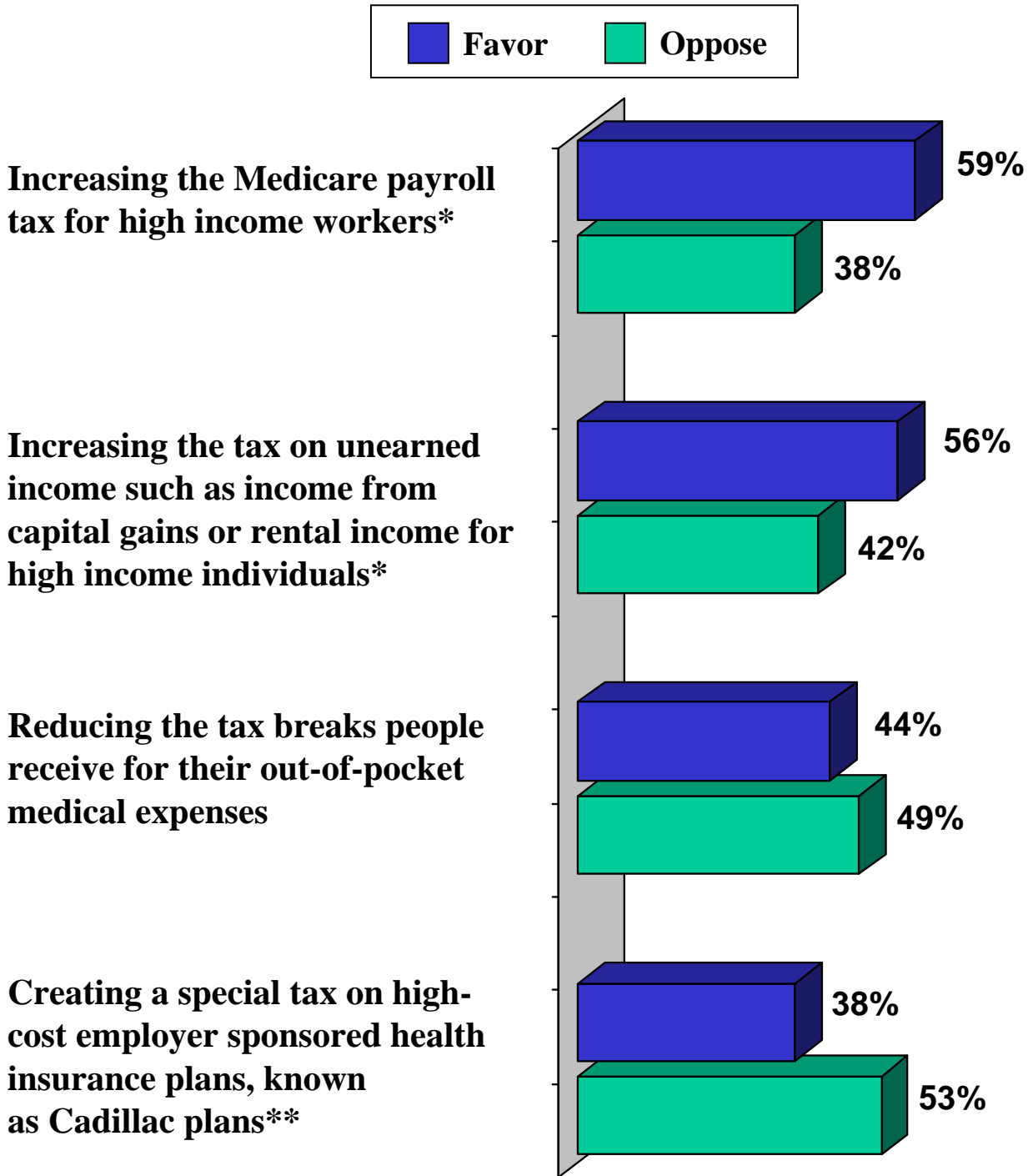


Table 16

# Californians' views about the way in which the new health care law is financed



\* High income defined as individuals earning more than \$200,000 per year or couples earning more than \$250,000.

\*\* High cost plans defined as those costing more than \$10,200 per year for individuals or more than \$27,500 per year for families.

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**Topline Findings from the  
2010 TCWF Field Health Policy Survey:**

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**Californians' Views of the  
Health Care System and Reactions to  
the Nation's New Health Care Law**

For Release

Thursday, June 3, 2010

**2010 TCWF-Field Health Policy Poll  
– Questions Asked and Topline Findings –**

(n = 1,502)

How satisfied are you with the way the health care system is working in California? Are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied?	VERY SATISFIED.....	17%
	SOMEWHAT SATISFIED .....	33
	SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED .....	21
	VERY DISSATISFIED.....	21
	NO OPINION.....	8

Looking ahead, do you think that five years from now California's health care system will be better off, worse off or just about the same as now?	BETTER OFF .....	31%
	WORSE OFF .....	33
	SAME AS NOW .....	27
	NO OPINION.....	9

I am going to read some concerns that people have about health care and for each, please tell me how much of a concern this is to you. (READ ITEMS IN RANDOM ORDER, ASKING:) Is this something you are very concerned about, somewhat concerned, not too concerned or not at all concerned about?

	<u>VERY CONCERNED</u>	<u>SOMEWHAT CONCERNED</u>	<u>NOT TOO CONCERNED</u>	<u>NOT AT ALL CONCERNED</u>	<u>NO OPIN.</u>
( ) a. not having or losing your health care coverage.....	54%	20	14	12	*
( ) b. not being able to pay for all the costs associated with a major illness or injury .....	57%	23	12	8	*
( ) c. not having access to quality doctors and health care services .....	53%	21	14	11	1
( ) d. employers cutting back on the amount they contribute to their workers' health care coverage .....	48%	31	11	8	2
( ) e. having to pay more out of pocket for health care or your health insurance coverage .....	58%	27	9	5	1
( ) f. having your or a family member's health coverage canceled or severely limited by an insurance provider due to a health condition.....	55%	20	15	9	1

Do you think you and your family would be better off if you were to get health insurance coverage through an employer, from the government or having personal responsibility for getting your own coverage?	EMPLOYER PROVIDED .....	40%
	GOVERNMENT PROVIDED.....	27
	PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY .....	24
	NO OPINION.....	9

Who do you trust more to do a better job handling the issue of health care – President Obama, the Democrats in Congress or the Republicans in Congress?	PRESIDENT OBAMA.....	34%
	DEMOCRATS IN CONGRESS .....	16
	REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS.....	24
	NONE .....	18
	NO OPINION.....	8

As you know, the Congress recently passed and President Obama signed into law a health reform bill that changes the nation's health care system.

How knowledgeable would you say you are about the specific changes to the nation's health care system contained in the new law – very knowledgeable, somewhat knowledgeable, not too knowledgeable, or not at all knowledgeable?	VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE.....	12%
	SOMEWHAT KNOWLEDGEABLE .....	48
	NOT TOO KNOWLEDGEABLE .....	29
	NOT AT ALL KNOWLEDGEABLE .....	11
	NO OPINION.....	*

\* Less than ½ of 1%.

Overall, do you support or oppose the nation's new health care law?  
(IF SUPPORT OR OPPOSE, ASK:) Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

SUPPORT STRONGLY ..... 30%  
SUPPORT SOMEWHAT ..... 22  
OPPOSE SOMEWHAT ..... 9  
OPPOSE STRONGLY ..... 29  
NO OPINION ..... 10

In the long run, do you think the new health care law will make the U.S. health care system better, worse or not make much difference?

BETTER ..... 47%  
WORSE ..... 32  
NOT MUCH DIFFERENCE ..... 16  
NO OPINION ..... 5

In the long run, do you think the new health care law will strengthen the U.S. economy, weaken the economy or have no effect?

STRENGTHEN ..... 30%  
WEAKEN ..... 40  
NO EFFECT ..... 22  
NO OPINION ..... 8

In the long run, do you think that the new health care law will or will not help control the rising costs of health care in this country?

WILL HELP CONTROL RISING COSTS ..... 46%  
WILL NOT HELP ..... 46  
NO OPINION ..... 8

Do you think the new health care law will increase the federal budget deficit, decrease it, or have no effect? (IF INCREASE:) Do you think that it will be worth it or not?

INCREASE – WORTH IT ..... 19%  
INCREASE – NOT WORTH IT ..... 36  
DECREASE ..... 14  
NO EFFECT ..... 22  
NO OPINION ..... 9

Do you think the new health care law creates too much government involvement in the nation's health care system, not enough government involvement or about the right amount?

TOO MUCH INVOLVEMENT ..... 42%  
NOT ENOUGH INVOLVEMENT ..... 17  
ABOUT THE RIGHT AMOUNT ..... 37  
NO OPINION ..... 5

Medicare is the government health insurance program for people 65 and over. Do you think that the new health care law will strengthen the Medicare program, weaken Medicare or have no effect on it?

STRENGTHEN ..... 26%  
WEAKEN ..... 35  
NO EFFECT ..... 24  
NO OPINION ..... 15

Do you think the changes to the health care system from the new law will allow people who have coverage now to keep it if they want to or do you think everyone will be required to make changes, whether they want to or not?

CAN KEEP CURRENT COVERAGE  
IF THEY WANT ..... 48%  
EVERYONE WILL BE REQUIRED TO  
MAKE CHANGES ..... 43  
NO OPINION ..... 9

As a result of the passage of the new health care law, which of the following best describes your current view of our health care system? (READ ALL CATEGORIES)

- (1) The new law takes care of most of the changes that need to be made to our health care system ..... 5%
- (2) The new law is an important first step but many more changes still need to be made ..... 58
- (3) The new law is taking us in the wrong direction and the changes it makes need to be reversed ..... 34
- NO OPINION ..... 3

The next few questions are about the impact that you think the changes to the health care system from the new law will have on you and your family.

As a result of the new health care law do you think you and your family will be better off or worse off, or don't you think it will make much difference?

BETTER OFF ..... 25%  
WORSE OFF ..... 28  
NO DIFFERENCE ..... 44  
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION ..... 3

\* Less than 1/2 of 1%.



As a result of the new law, do you think that your own health insurance coverage, or ability to get coverage, will get better, get worse or not change?

BETTER..... 28%  
 WORSE ..... 24  
 NOT CHANGE..... 43  
 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION ..... 5

As a result of the new health care law, do you think the costs you and your family pay for health care will go up, go down or not change? (IF "GO UP," ASK:) Do you think they will go up a lot or a little?

GO UP – A LOT ..... 30%  
 GO UP – A LITTLE ..... 21  
 GO DOWN ..... 13  
 NOT CHANGE..... 29  
 NO OPINION..... 7

As a result of the new health care law, do you think that the quality of health care that you and your family receive will get better, get worse or not change?

GET BETTER..... 19%  
 GET WORSE ..... 30  
 NOT CHANGE..... 47  
 NO OPINION..... 4

As a result of the new health care law, do you think that the taxes you and your family pay will increase, decrease or not change?

INCREASE ..... 69%  
 DECREASE ..... 2  
 NOT CHANGE..... 25  
 NO OPINION..... 4

As a result of the new health care law, do you think that your risk of facing serious financial hardships due to a health-related expense will increase, decrease or not change?

INCREASE ..... 32%  
 DECREASE ..... 21  
 NOT CHANGE..... 41  
 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION ..... 6

As a result of the new health care law, do you think that your risk of going without health insurance coverage at some point in the future will increase, decrease or not change?

INCREASE ..... 24%  
 DECREASE ..... 29  
 NOT CHANGE..... 44  
 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION ..... 3

Do you think that the new health care law will require you to change your current doctor or not?

YES, HAVE TO CHANGE ..... 20%  
 NO, WON'T HAVE TO CHANGE ..... 67  
 NO CURRENT DOCTOR ..... 3  
 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION ..... 10

Next I am going to ask some questions about the impact that the changes to the health care system from the new law will have on California.

Generally speaking, as a result of the new health care law, do you think that health care in California will get better, get worse or not change?

GET BETTER..... 42%  
 GET WORSE ..... 36  
 NOT CHANGE..... 17  
 NO OPINION..... 5

As a result of the new health care law, do you think that California will be required to increase the amount it spends on health care each year, reduce the amount it spends on health care each year or have no effect? (IF INCREASE, ASK:) Will it increase the amount California will have to spend a lot or a little?

INCREASE A LOT ..... 43%  
 INCREASE A LITTLE ..... 19  
 REDUCE ..... 11  
 NO EFFECT..... 18  
 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION ..... 9

\* Less than ½ of 1%.

(N = 773)

I am going to read some specific parts of the new health reform law. For each please tell me how important it is to you personally that this is part of the new law. (READ EACH ITEM BELOW, BEGINNING WITH ITEM CHECKED AND ASK:) Is that extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not too important or should it not have been done at all?

	<u>EXTREMELY</u> <u>IMPORTANT</u>	<u>VERY</u> <u>IMPORTANT</u>	<u>SOMEWHAT</u> <u>IMPORTANT</u>	<u>NOT TOO</u> <u>IMPORTANT</u>	<u>NOT DONE</u> <u>AT ALL</u>	<u>NO</u> <u>OPIN.</u>
( ) a. providing financial help to lower and middle income Americans who don't get insurance through their jobs to help them purchase coverage.....	32%	30	21	5	12	1
( ) b. requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies, even if they have had a prior illness or chronic condition.....	39%	30	16	3	10	2
( ) c. allowing young adults to stay on their parents' health insurance plans through age 26 for an additional fee .....	24%	28	23	9	16	*
( ) d. prohibiting insurance companies from setting an upper limit on the health benefits that people can get over their lifetime .....	29%	30	20	5	13	3
( ) e. requiring large businesses to offer health insurance to their employees or be subject to a fine if their employees end up getting government subsidized health coverage.....	21%	26	23	5	21	4
( ) f. providing tax credits to small businesses to encourage them to offer coverage to their employees .....	28%	34	25	5	7	1
( ) g. expanding the number of people covered under the state's Medi-Cal program which provides health coverage to low-income residents .....	23%	28	22	7	17	3
( ) h. prohibiting insurers from denying health coverage to children with pre-existing health conditions.....	48%	30	9	2	9	2
( ) i. closing the Medicare "doughnut hole" or "coverage gap" so seniors no longer have a period where they are responsible for paying the full cost of their medicines.....	32%	29	22	7	8	2

\* Less than 1/2 of 1%.

(N = 749)

I am going to read some specific parts of the new health reform law. For each please tell me how important it is to you personally that this is part of the new law. (READ EACH ITEM BELOW, BEGINNING WITH ITEM CHECKED AND ASK:) Is that extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not too important or should it not have been done at all?

	<u>EXTREMELY</u> <u>IMPORTANT</u>	<u>VERY</u> <u>IMPORTANT</u>	<u>SOMEWHAT</u> <u>IMPORTANT</u>	<u>NOT TOO</u> <u>IMPORTANT</u>	<u>NOT DONE</u> <u>AT ALL</u>	<u>NO</u> <u>OPIN.</u>
( ) j. creating a health insurance exchange or marketplace where small businesses and people who don't get coverage through their jobs can shop for insurance and compare prices and benefits .....	35%	34	19	4	6	2
( ) k. requiring all legal residents who do not currently have health insurance to get it or be subject to a fine, with subsidies given to low-income people .....	17%	18	18	7	37	3
( ) l. requiring that insurance policies sold through the new insurance exchanges include certain minimum benefits such as hospitalizations, doctor visits, prescription drugs, maternity care and certain preventive tests.....	33%	36	18	4	7	2
( ) m. prohibiting the use of government funds or subsidies to pay for abortion services .....	17%	14	19	13	34	3
( ) n. preventing illegal immigrants from receiving any government subsidies or assistance for health insurance .....	25%	21	19	13	20	2
( ) o. providing working Californians with greater flexibility to change jobs and maintain their health coverage.....	36%	36	19	3	5	1
( ) p. requiring insurers to spend at least 80 percent of their revenue on medical claims .....	23%	25	22	6	16	8
( ) q. prohibiting insurers from canceling a person's health coverage if they become sick or disabled except in cases of fraud .....	54%	27	11	1	5	2

\* Less than 1/2 of 1%.

To help expand health care coverage to the uninsured and to provide insurance subsidies for lower- and middle-income families, the new health care law phases in certain types of tax increases over the coming years. I am going read these new types of taxes and for each please tell me whether you favor or oppose it.

Do you favor or oppose (**READ ITEM CHECKED**) as a way to pay for the new health care law? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat? (**REPEAT FOR EACH OTHER ITEM IN SEQUENCE**)

	<u>FAVOR</u> <u>STRONGLY</u>	<u>FAVOR</u> <u>SOMEWHAT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u> <u>SOMEWHAT</u>	<u>OPPOSE</u> <u>STRONGLY</u>	<u>NO</u> <u>OPIN.</u>
( ) a. Increasing the Medicare payroll tax for high income workers earning more than \$200,000 per year or couples earning more than \$250,000 per year .....	35%	24	13	25	3
( ) b. Increasing the tax on unearned income, such as income from capital gains or rental income, for high income individuals making more than \$200,000 per year or couples making more than \$250,000 per year .....	33%	23	14	28	2
( ) c. Creating a special tax on high-cost employer-sponsored health insurance plans, known as Cadillac plans, that cost more than \$10,200 per year for individuals or more than \$27,500 per year for families .....	15%	23	21	32	9
( ) d. Reducing the tax breaks people receive for their out-of-pocket medical expenses .....	16%	28	21	28	7

Next I would like your opinions about how you think the changes to the health care system will affect different types of people and groups in California. For each please tell me whether you think the changes to the health care system from the new law will make them better off, worse off or have no effect.

(**BEGIN WITH ITEM CHECKED, ASKING:**) What about (**ITEM**)? Do you think the new health care law will make them better off, worse off or have no effect? (**CONTINUE IN SEQUENCE UNTIL ALL ARE READ**)

	<u>BETTER</u>	<u>WORSE</u>	<u>NO</u> <u>EFFECT</u>	<u>NO</u> <u>OPIN.</u>
( ) a. small businesses .....	34%	46	14	6
( ) b. the self-employed .....	42%	36	16	6
( ) c. large businesses .....	20%	39	35	6
( ) d. low-income residents .....	73%	14	10	3
( ) e. middle-income residents .....	40%	35	21	4
( ) f. high-income residents .....	9%	44	45	2
( ) g. senior citizens .....	43%	32	20	5
( ) h. young adults .....	55%	22	19	4
( ) i. the uninsured .....	72%	14	11	3
( ) j. illegal immigrants .....	37%	21	31	11
( ) k. doctors .....	26%	43	26	5
( ) l. insurance companies .....	29%	44	21	6
( ) m. women .....	44%	21	26	9
( ) n. children .....	66%	14	16	4
( ) o. drug manufacturers .....	37%	27	28	8

\* Less than 1/2 of 1%.

From which of the following media sources have you gotten most of your news about the changes to the health care system from the new law – television, newspapers, radio, magazines, the Internet or someplace else?

(IF ANY MENTIONED, ASK:) From which other sources have you gotten a lot of news about the health care reform law? (ADDS TO MORE THAN 100% DUE TO MULTIPLE MENTIONS)

Television .....	62%
Newspapers .....	36
Radio .....	26
Magazines.....	14
The Internet.....	43
Someplace else .....	10
NONE (VOLUNTEERED) .....	1
NO OPINION.....	*

**IF TELEVISION:** Where have you gotten most of your television news about the health care law – local news programming, ABC, CBS or NBC network news, CNN, MSNBC or Fox cable news, or someplace else? (ADDS TO MORE THAN 100% DUE TO MULTIPLE MENTIONS)

	<u>62%</u>
Local news programming .....	19%
ABC network news .....	13
CBS network news .....	11
NBC network news.....	13
CNN cable news.....	22
MSNBC cable news .....	12
The Fox News cable channel.....	20
Someplace else .....	6
NO OPINION.....	

How would you rate the job that news organizations have been doing in explaining the details of the changes to the health care system from the new law – excellent, good, only fair or poor?

EXCELLENT .....	7%
GOOD .....	24
ONLY FAIR .....	38
POOR.....	28
NO OPINION.....	3

\* Less than 1/2 of 1%.

Finally, some questions about yourself for classification purposes...

Do you currently have any kind of health care coverage? This would include health insurance through your or your spouse's employer or union, a plan you buy independently, or through a government plan such as Medicare, Medi-Cal or through Tri-Care.

YES ..... 87%  
 NO ..... 13  
 DON'T KNOW ..... \*

**IF YES:** Is your main source of health insurance coverage through your or your spouse's employer or union, through a policy that you or your spouse purchased independently from an insurance provider, are you covered under Medicare, or are you covered through Medi-Cal or Medicaid, or through Tri-Care, the military insurance program?

..... 87%  
 YOUR/SPOUSE'S EMPLOYER/UNION..... 50  
 POLICY BOUGHT INDEPENDENTLY ..... 11  
 MEDICARE ..... 15  
 MEDI-CAL/MEDICAID ..... 4  
 MILITARY INSURANCE/TRI-CARE ..... 2  
 OTHER ..... 4  
 DON'T KNOW ..... 2

**IF MEDICARE:** Is your Medicare coverage through a managed care plan, also referred to as Medicare Advantage, or do you receive your coverage through the traditional fee-for-service Medicare program?

..... 15%  
 THROUGH A MANAGED CARE PLAN/  
 MEDICARE ADVANTAGE ..... 5  
 TRADITIONAL MEDICARE PROGRAM ..... 8  
 DON'T KNOW ..... 2

**IF YES:** Have you or has anyone close to you been without health insurance coverage at any time in the past two years?

..... 87%  
 YES ..... 36%  
 NO ..... 50  
 NO OPINION..... 1

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\* Less than 1/2 of 1%.