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PAN Foundation

# Patient Access Network (PAN) Foundation

2020 ELECTIONS: SENIORS TRACKER

AUGUST 2020

## KEY POINTS

- 1 COVID-19, the economy, and health care stand out as the issues that matter most to senior voters on Medicare in this election.
  - When forced to select their top two issues, 55% select COVID-19, 40% select the economy, and 30% select health care.
- 2 Seven in 10 senior voters on Medicare say that a candidate's plan to address out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs is important in their decision about who to vote for this election cycle.
- 3 The plurality of senior voters on Medicare (42%) want to strengthen the Affordable Care Act (ACA) rather than repeal and replace the ACA or move to a single-payer system.
  - This issue divides along partisan lines: 69% of Democratic seniors want to strengthen the ACA, while 56% of Republican seniors want to repeal and replace the ACA.
- 4 A majority of senior voters support placing a cap on what seniors pay out-of-pocket for prescriptions drugs in the Medicare Part D program (85% total support, 59% *strongly support*).
  - There is also majority support for legislation that would evenly distribute out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs for Medicare beneficiaries throughout the year (67% support).
- 5 Seventy-eight percent of senior voters on Medicare are currently comfortable receiving routine medical care in-person, while just 53% are comfortable receiving routine care through telemedicine.
- 6 Over a third (37%) of senior voters on Medicare report they've personally delayed seeking routine medical care since the start of COVID-19.

**Methodology:** This poll was conducted between August 7-10, 2020 among a national sample of 1000 senior voters on Medicare. The interviews were conducted online, and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of senior voters on Medicare based on age, gender, educational attainment, race, and region. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

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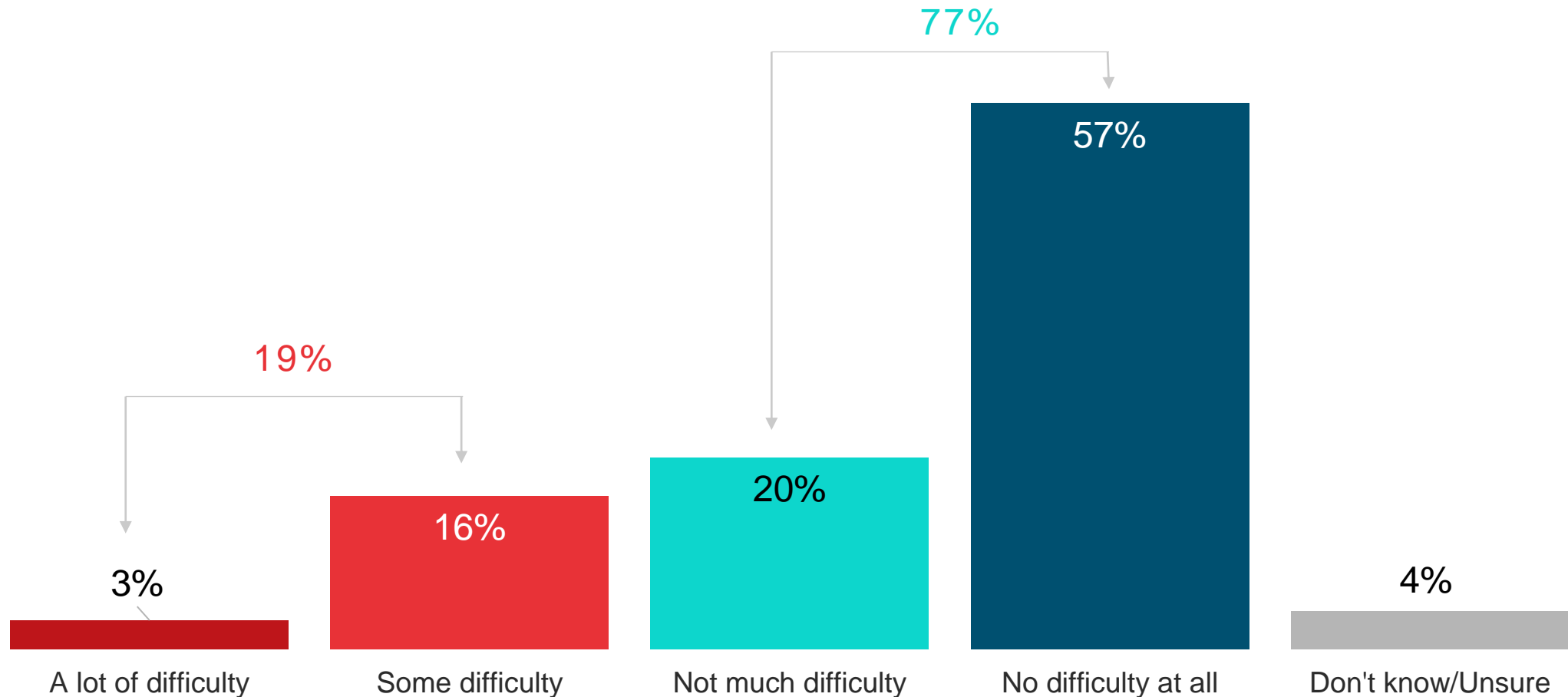
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Health Care during COVID-19

VOTING + TOP ISSUES IN 2020 | AUGUST 2020

The majority of senior voters on Medicare **do not** think it will be difficult to vote this year amid the coronavirus (COVID-19).

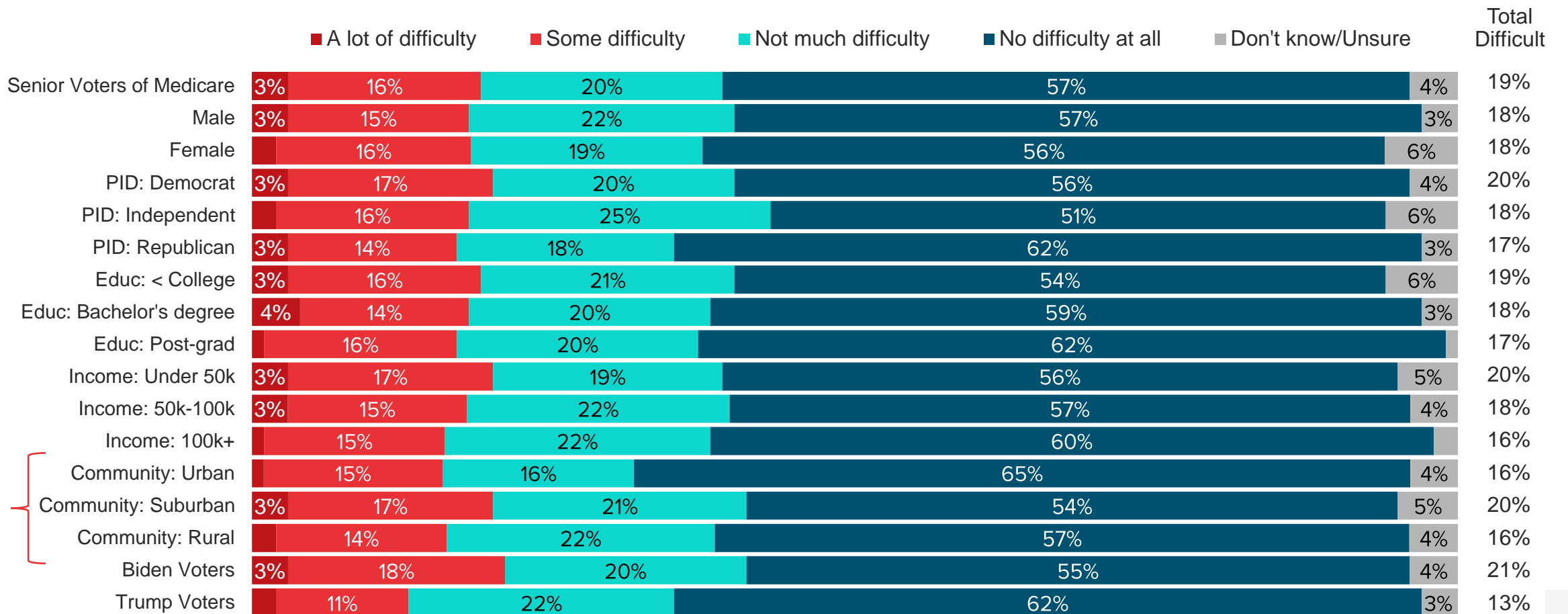
*How much difficulty, if any, do you believe you will have in voting in this year's presidential election because of COVID-19 or the coronavirus?*



VOTING + TOP ISSUES IN 2020 | AUGUST 2020

# Suburban voters on Medicare are more likely than their rural and urban counterparts to anticipate difficulty voting because of COVID-19.

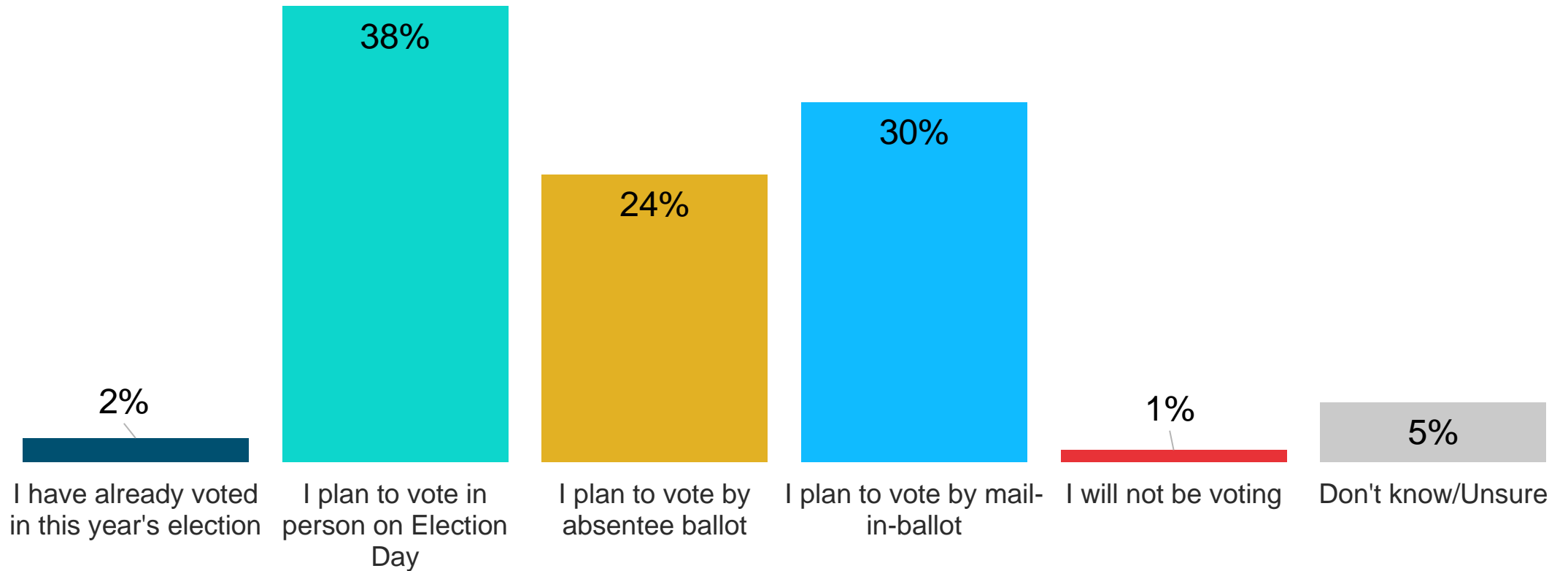
*How much difficulty, if any, do you believe you will have in voting in this year's presidential election because of COVID-19 or the coronavirus?*



VOTING + TOP ISSUES IN 2020 | AUGUST 2020

The plurality (38%) of senior voters on Medicare plan to vote in-person on Election Day, while a combined 54% plan to vote either by absentee or mail-in ballots.

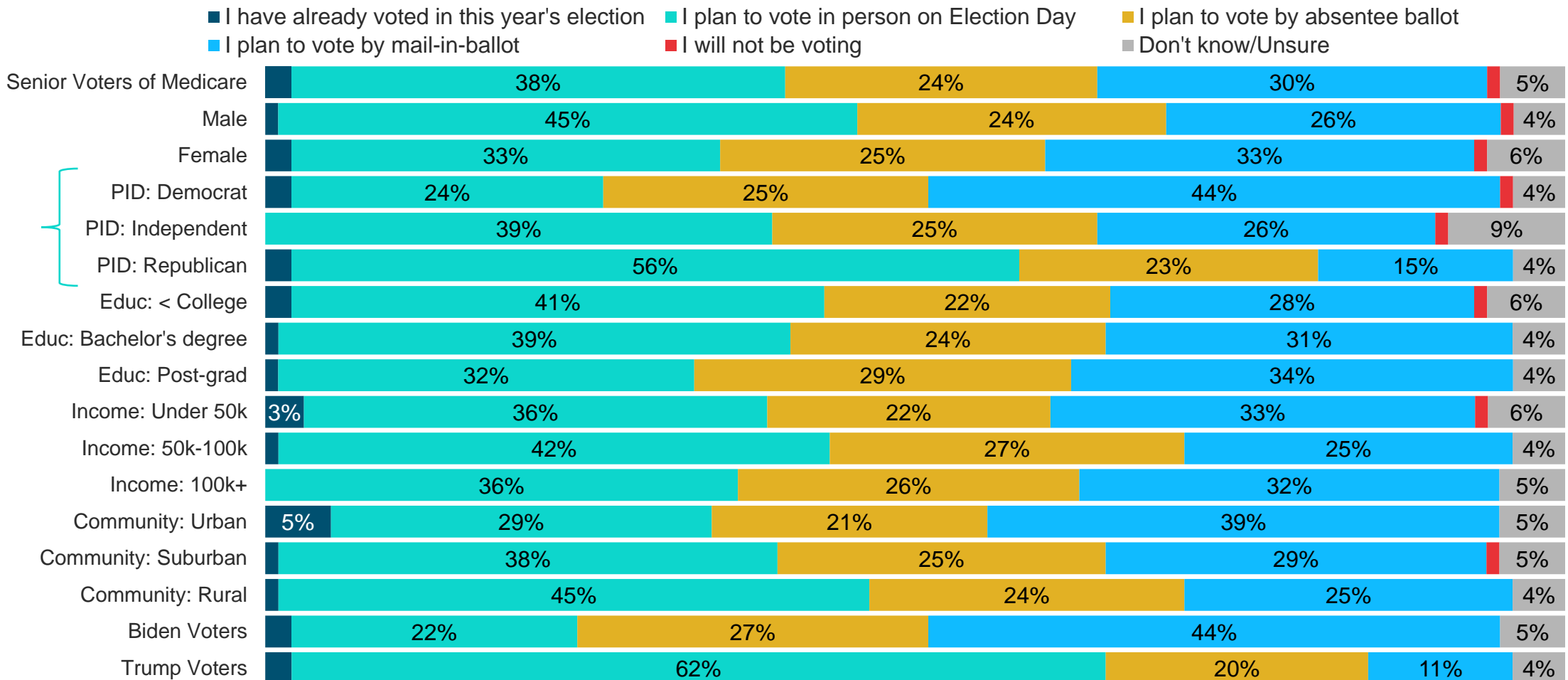
*Which of the following applies to you when it comes to voting in the 2020 presidential election?*



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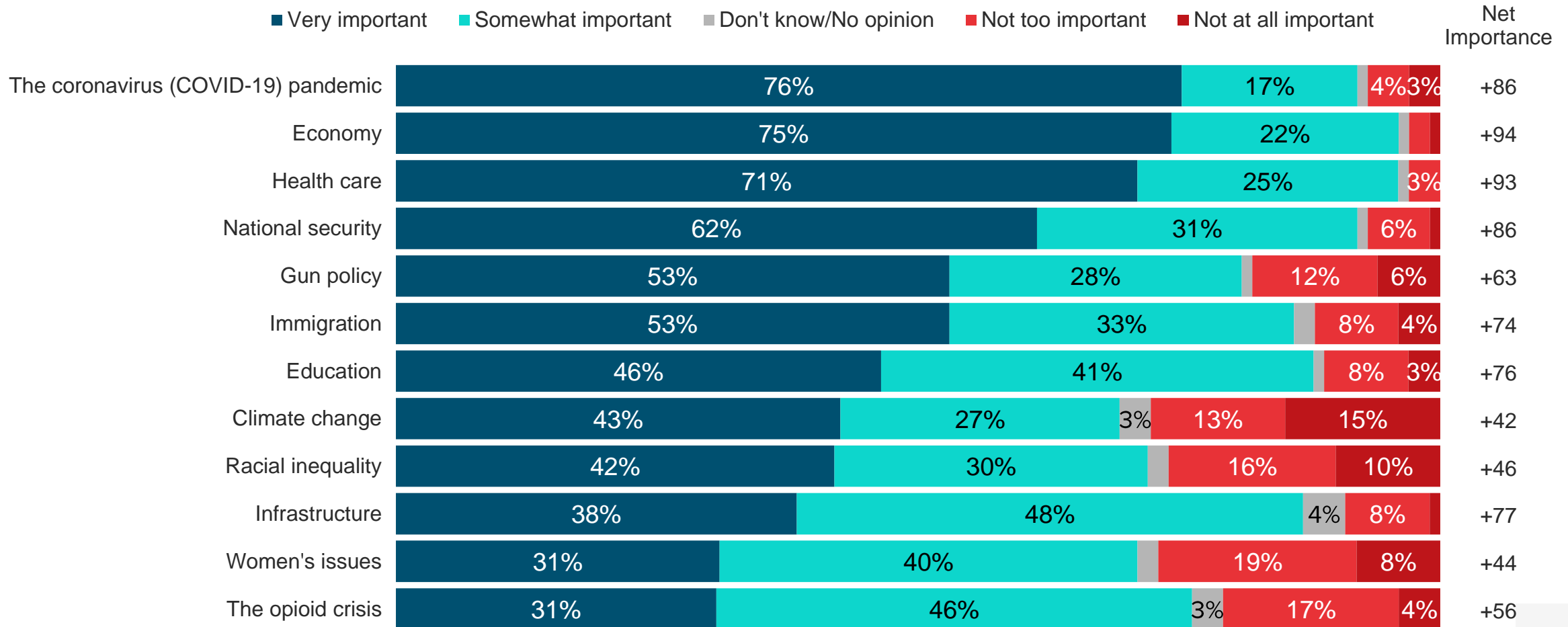
Reported voting methods differ greatly by party identification: 56% of Republican seniors report their intent to vote in-person, while the plurality (44%) of Democrats plan to vote by mail-in ballot.

*How much difficulty, if any, do you believe you will have in voting in this year's presidential election because of COVID-19 or the coronavirus?*



COVID-19, the economy, and health care see the highest *very important* ratings from senior voters as they consider what issues will matter when they cast their vote.

Thinking about your vote in the 2020 presidential election in November, how important, if at all, are each of the following issues when you cast your vote?

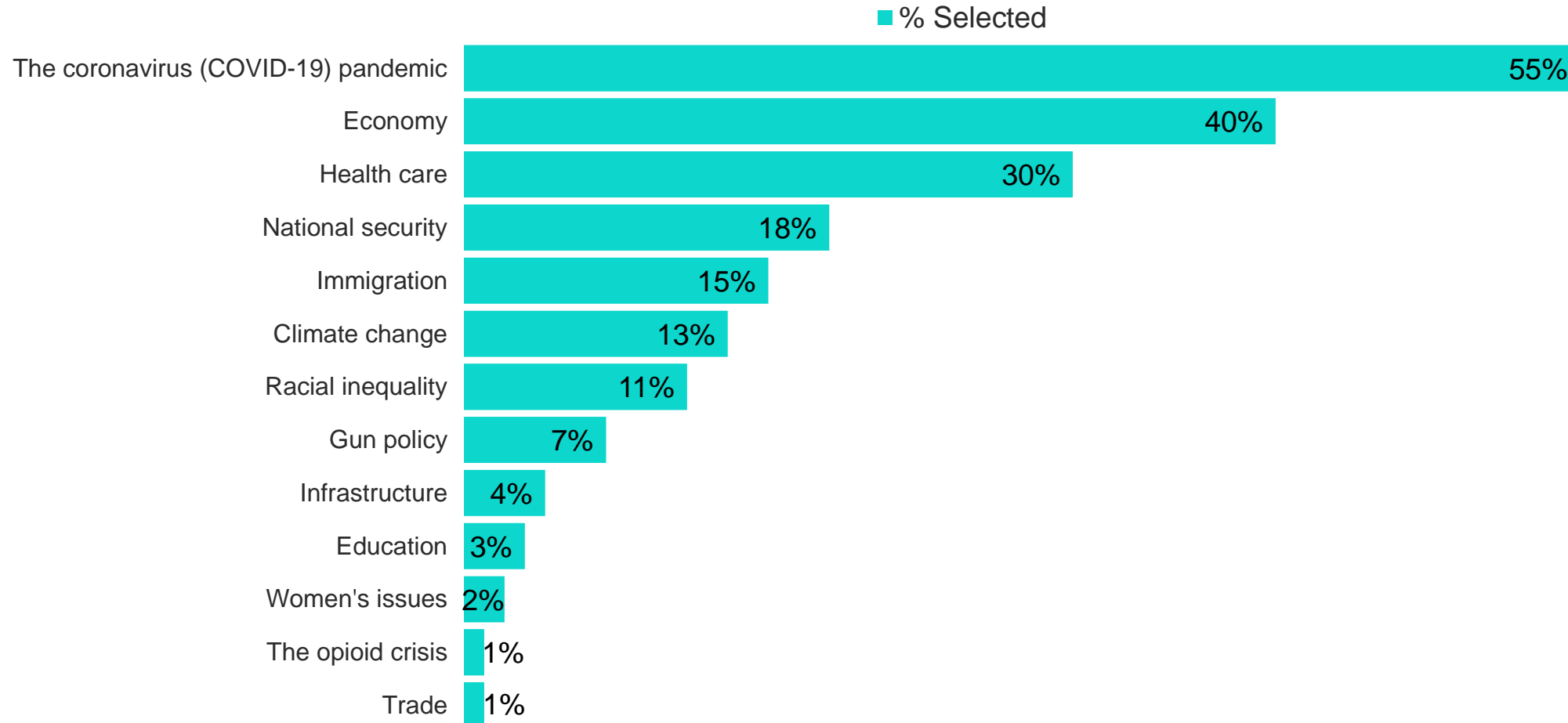




VOTING + TOP ISSUES IN 2020 | AUGUST 2020

When respondents are forced to select their top two voting issues, the same three stand out: COVID-19, the economy, and health care.

And, thinking about your vote in the 2020 presidential election in November, what would you say are the top issues on your mind when you cast your vote? **Please select your top 2 issues.**



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1 Voting + Top Issues in 2020

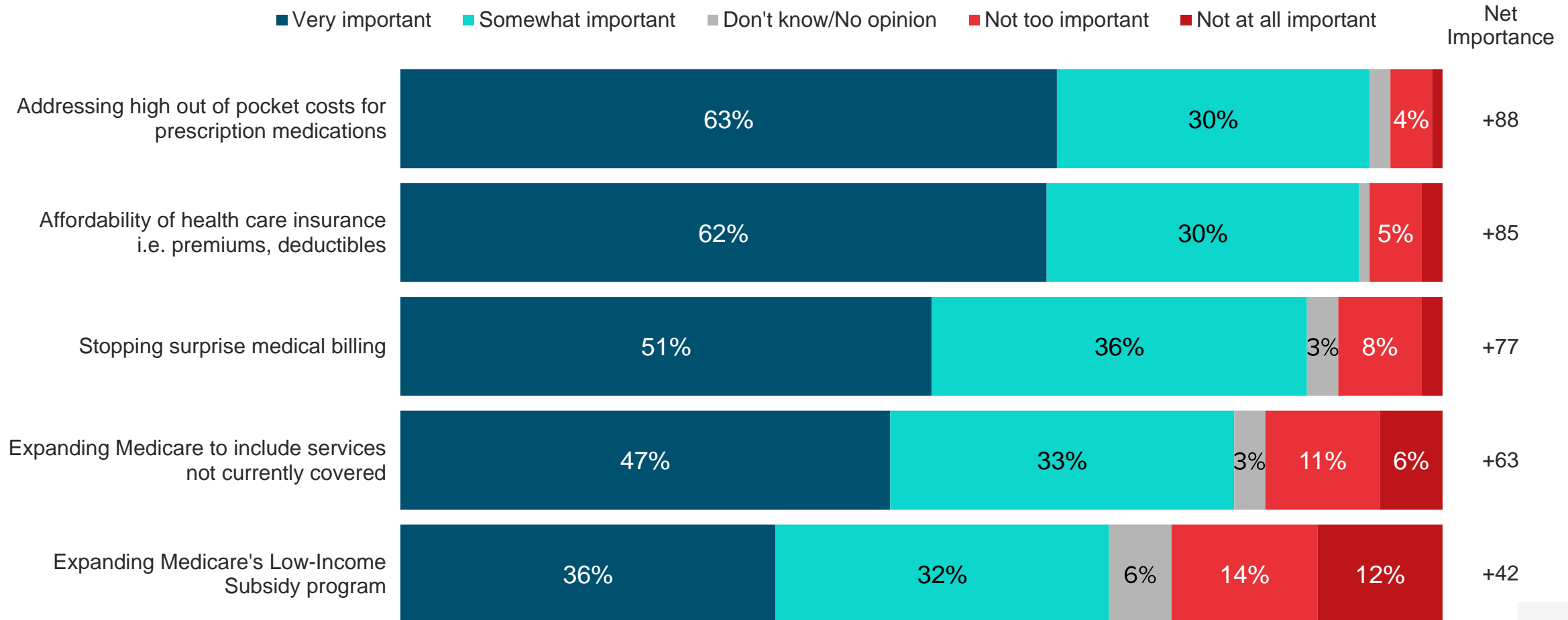
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HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | AUGUST 2020

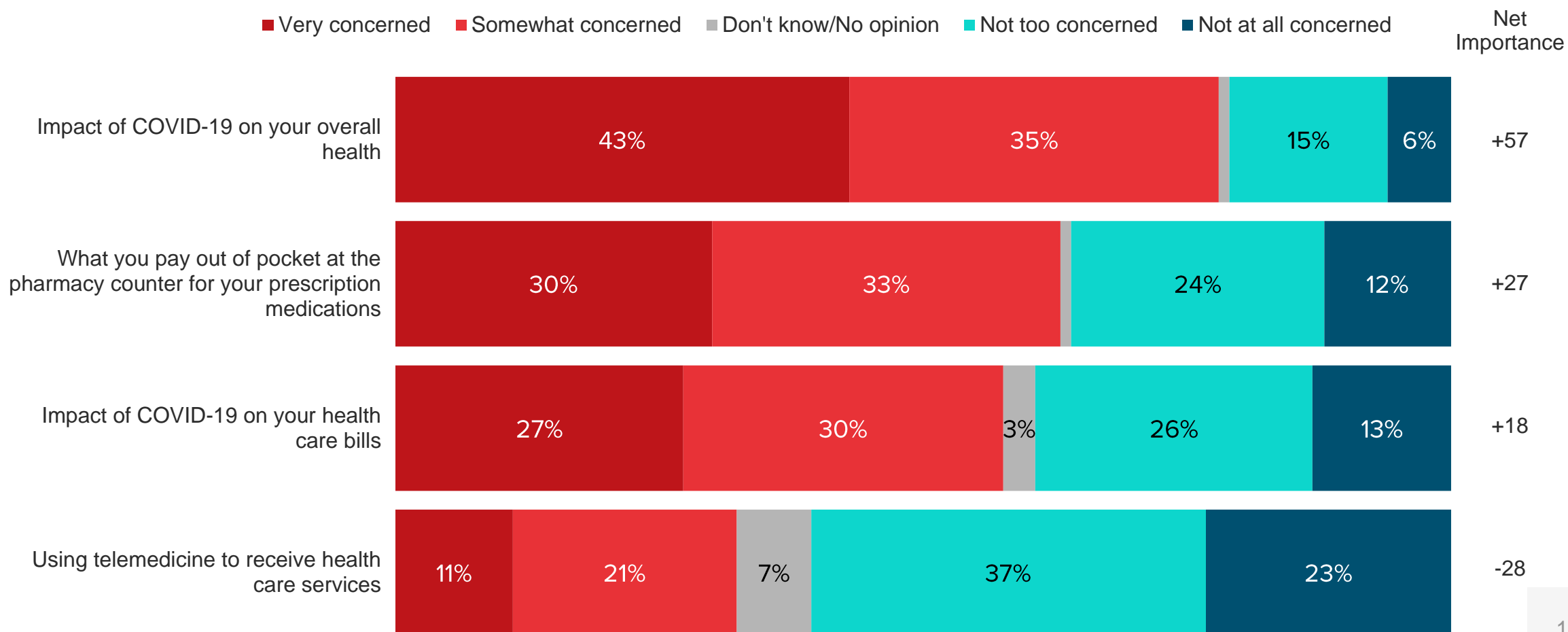
Out-of-pocket costs and affordability of health insurance are *very important* to senior voters on Medicare (63% and 62% *very important*, respectively).

Now focusing on health care issues, thinking about your vote in the 2020 presidential election in November, how important, if at all, is a candidate's plan on each of the following when you cast your vote?



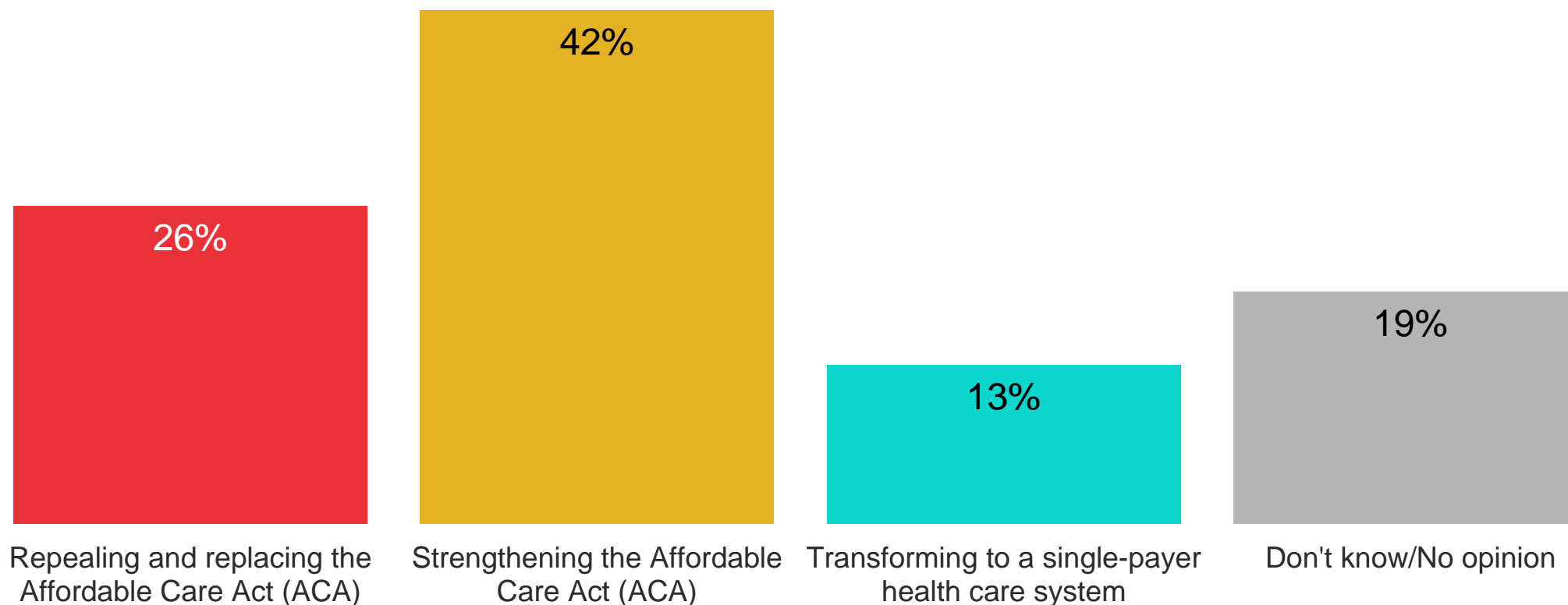
Amid COVID-19, senior voters are quite concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on their overall health (78% concerned) and what they pay out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs (66% concerned).

Thinking about your health care, how concerned are you, if at all about each of the following?



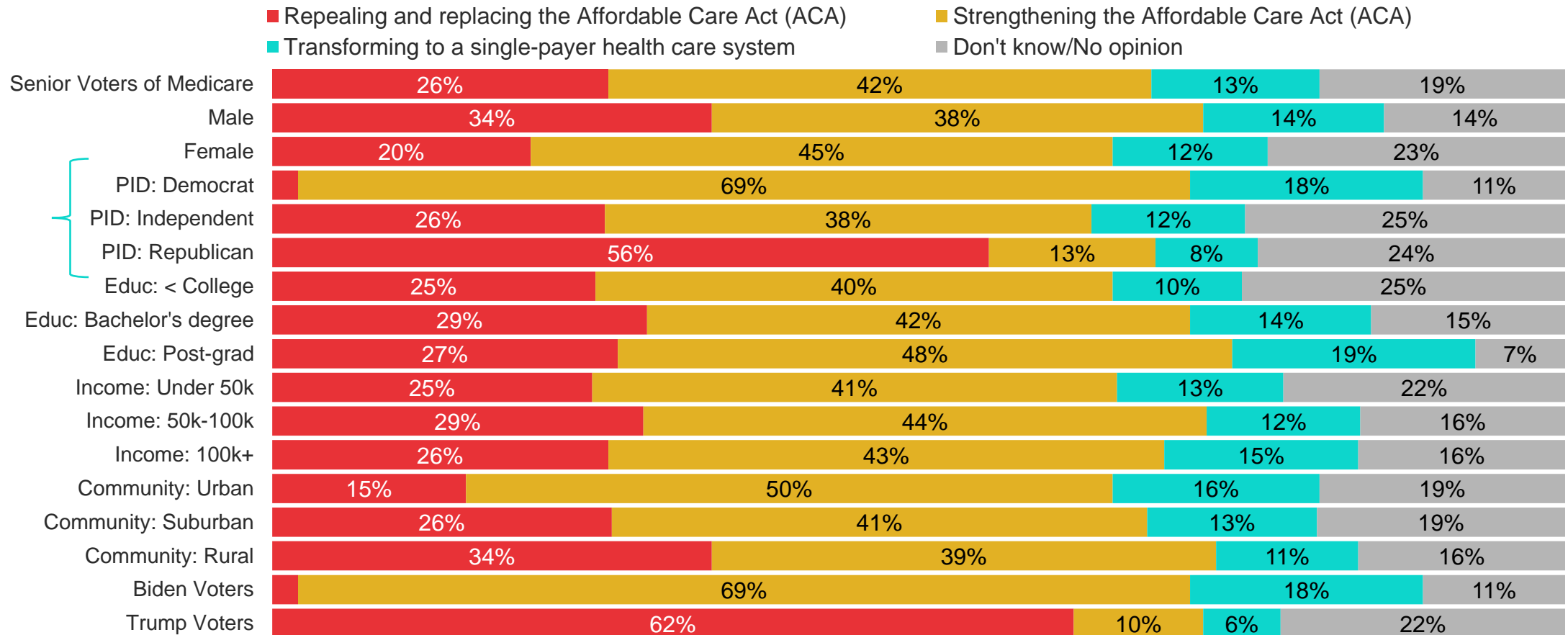
The plurality of senior voters on Medicare (42%) want to strengthen the Affordable Care Act (ACA) rather than repeal and replace the ACA or move to a single-payer system.

*As you may know, there have been different proposals to reform the U.S. health care system. Of the following options, which health care reform plan do you support the most?*



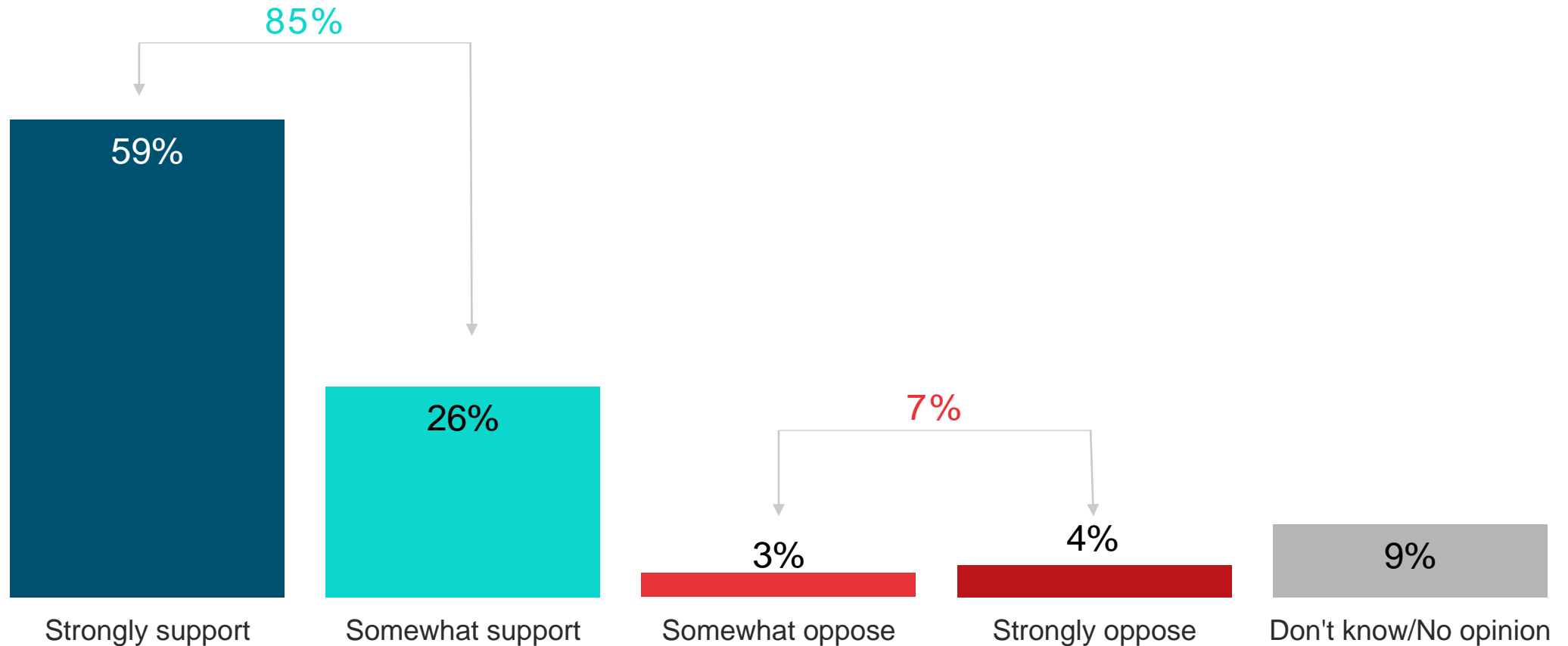
This issue divides along partisan lines for senior voters: a majority of Democrats (69%) want to strengthen the ACA, while a majority of Republicans (56%) want to repeal and replace the ACA.

As you may know, there have been different proposals to reform the U.S. health care system. Of the following options, which health care reform plan do you support the most?



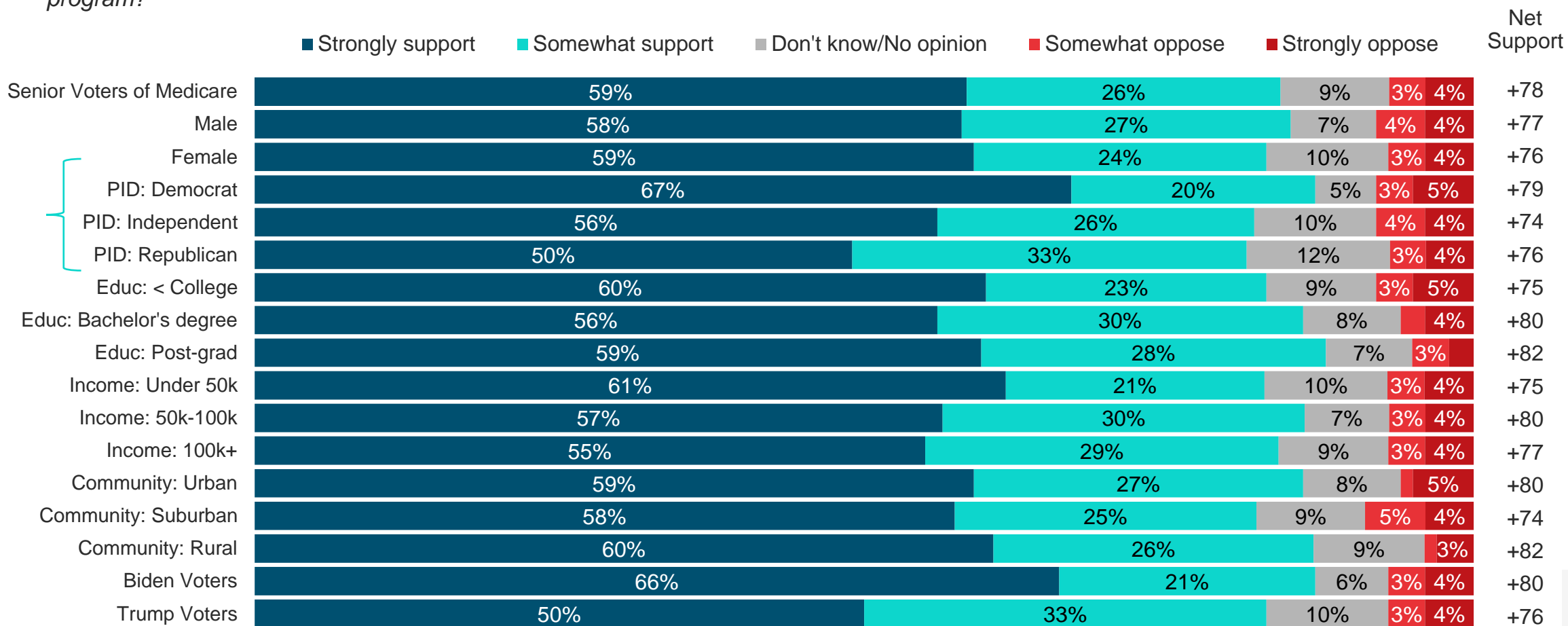
## Eighty five percent of senior voters on Medicare support placing a cap on what seniors pay out-of-pocket for prescriptions drugs in the Medicare Part D program.

*Currently there is no cap or limit on what a Medicare beneficiary pays out-of-pocket each year for prescription drugs under Medicare Part D. Congress is considering legislation that would cap or limit what seniors on Medicare Part D spend on prescription drugs. Do you support or oppose legislation that places a cap or limit on what seniors pay out-of-pocket for prescription drugs in the Medicare Part D program?*



# Support for this cap on out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs is bipartisan, though the intensity of support is higher among Democrats (67% *strongly support*) than Republicans (50% *strongly support*).

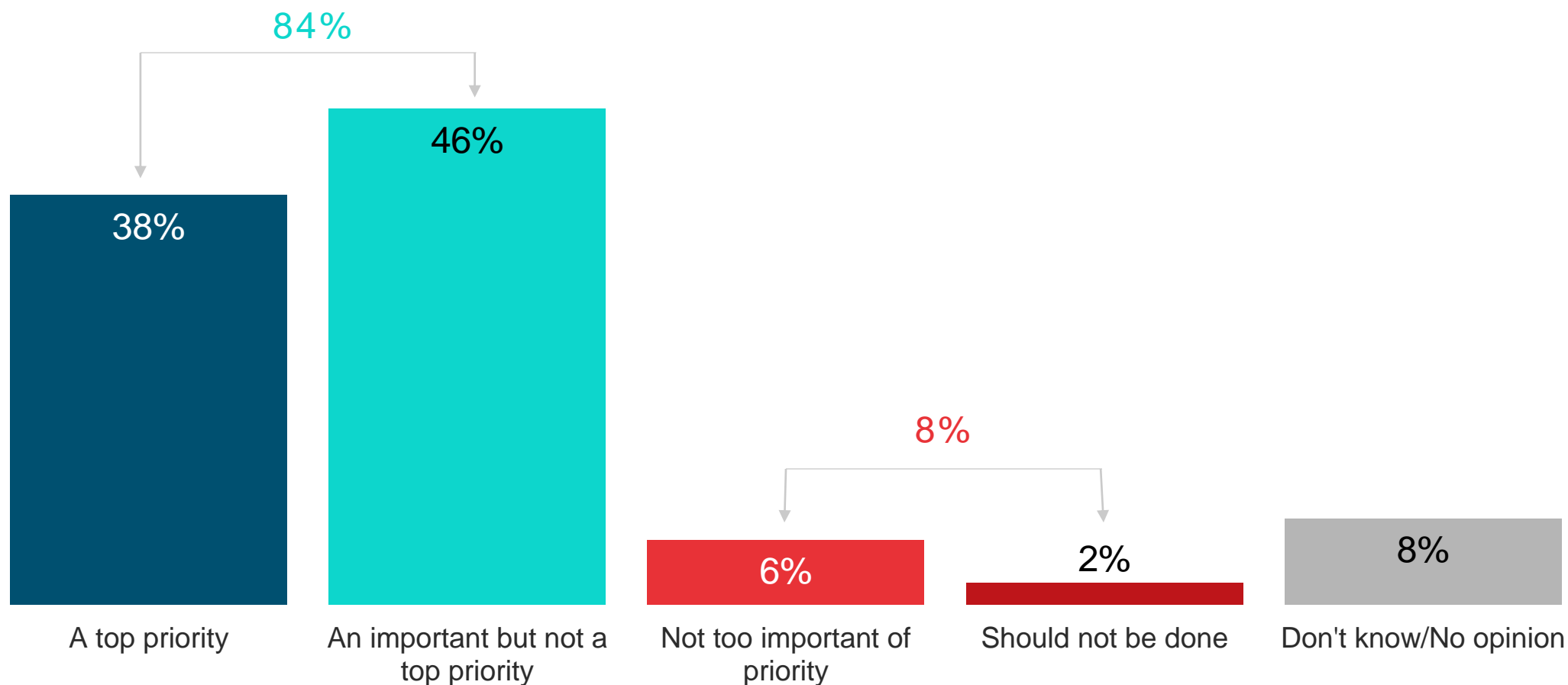
Currently there is no cap or limit on what a Medicare beneficiary pays out-of-pocket each year for prescription drugs under Medicare Part D. Congress is considering legislation that would cap or limit what seniors on Medicare Part D spend on prescription drugs. Do you support or oppose legislation that places a cap or limit on what seniors pay out-of-pocket for prescription drugs in the Medicare Part D program?





## Thirty-eight percent of senior voters think a cap on out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs in the Medicare Part D program should be a *top priority* for Congress.

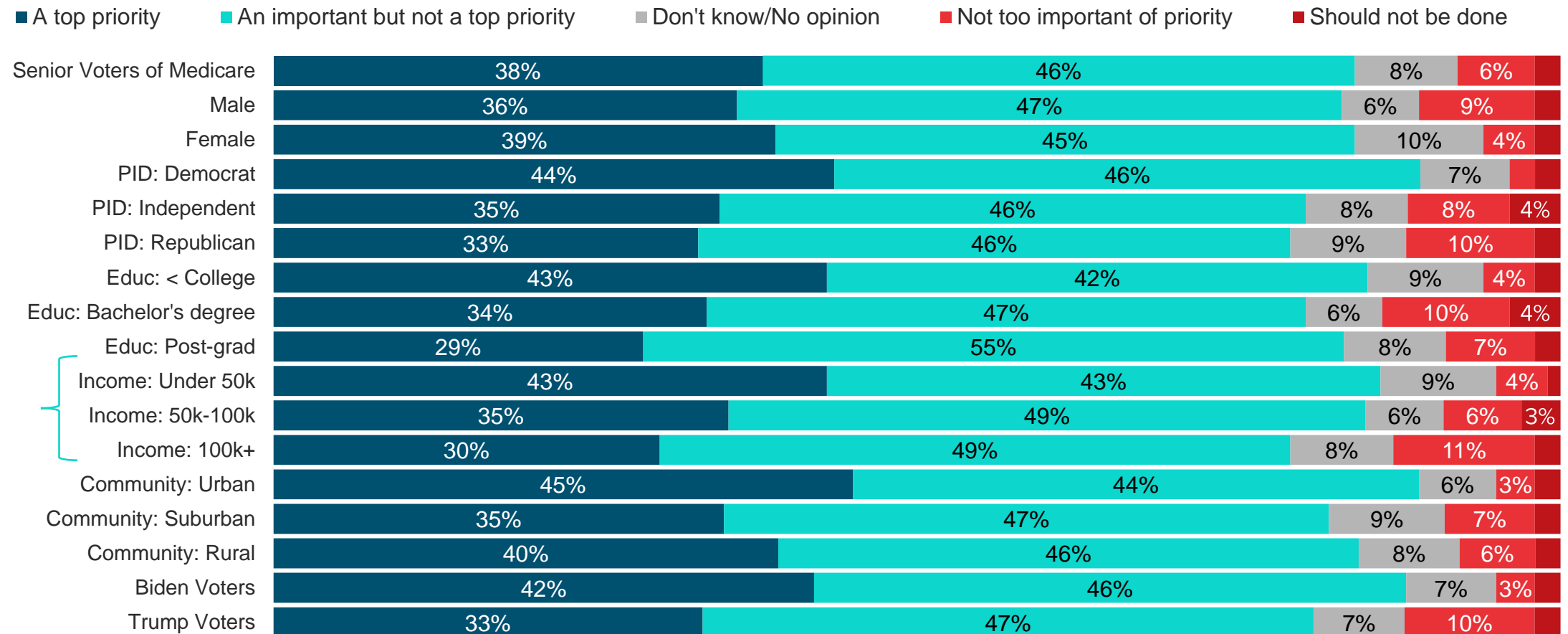
*Based on what you know, how much of a priority, if at all, should it be for Congress to pass legislation that places a cap or limit on what seniors pay out-of-pocket for prescription drugs in the Medicare Part D program?*



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | AUGUST 2020

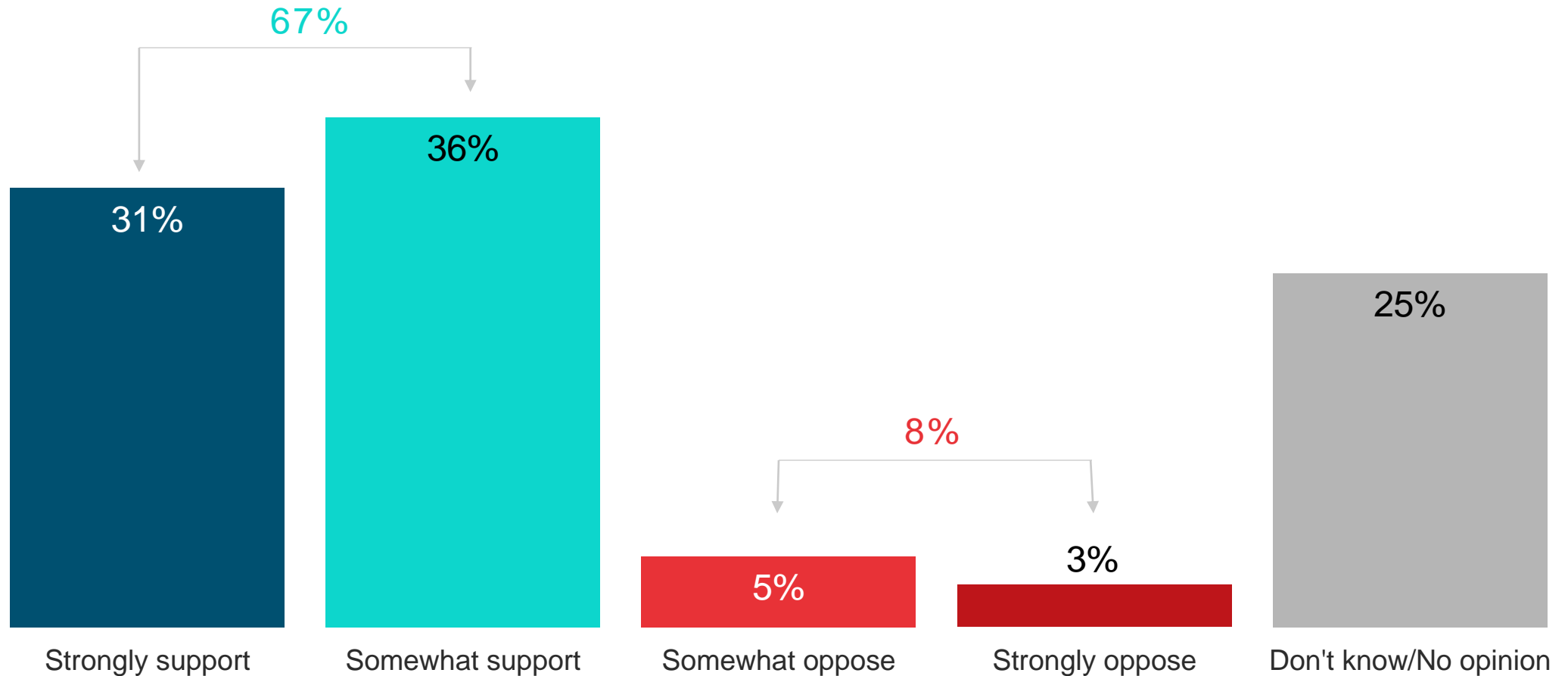
Lower-income senior voters (under \$50k) are more likely than their middle-to-upper-income counterparts to report this cap on prescription drugs for Medicare Part D should be a top priority.

Based on what you know, how much of a priority, if at all, should it be for Congress to pass legislation that places a cap or limit on what seniors pay out-of-pocket for prescription drugs in the Medicare Part D program?



## Two-thirds (67%) of senior voters on Medicare support better “smoothing” the out-of-pocket costs for prescription medications throughout the year.

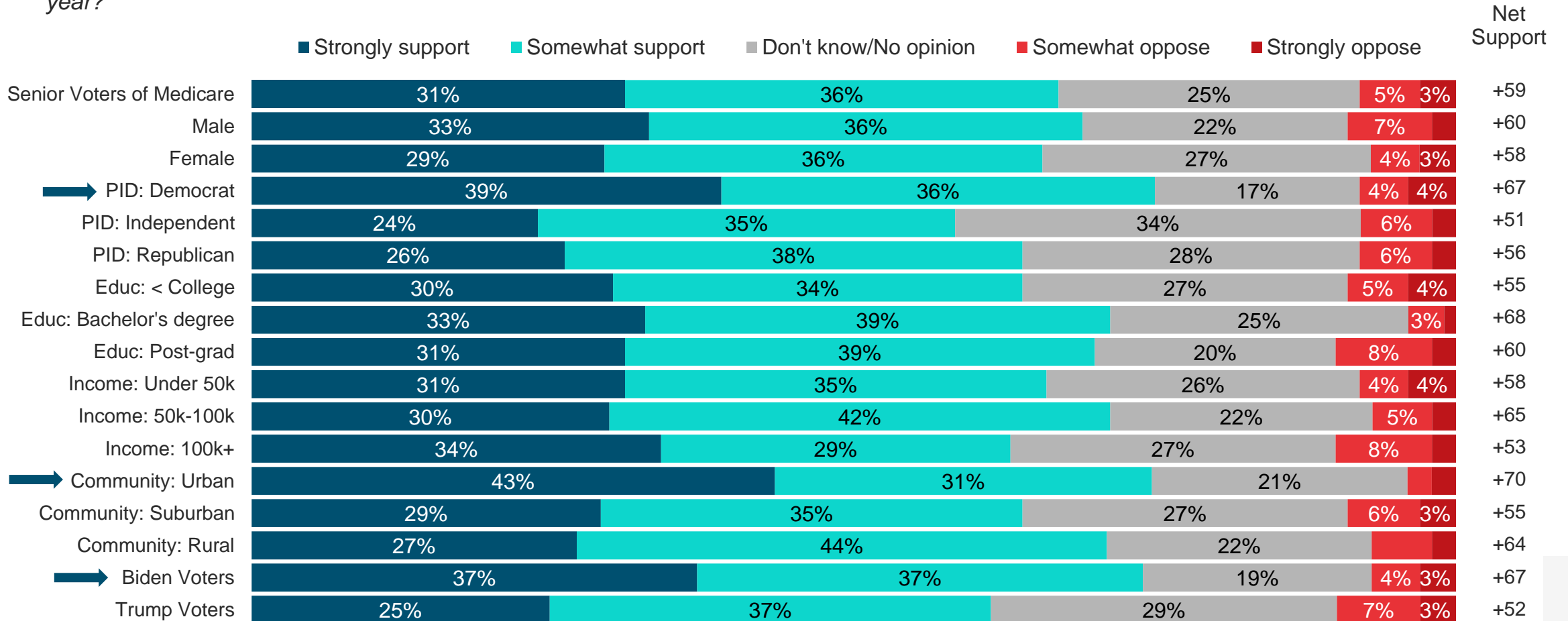
*Currently, Medicare beneficiaries pay a large percent of their out of pocket costs for prescription medications in January of each year when deductibles reset. Congress is considering legislation that would evenly distribute these costs throughout the year. Do you support or oppose legislation that would evenly distribute out of pocket costs for prescription medications for Medicare beneficiaries throughout the year?*



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | AUGUST 2020

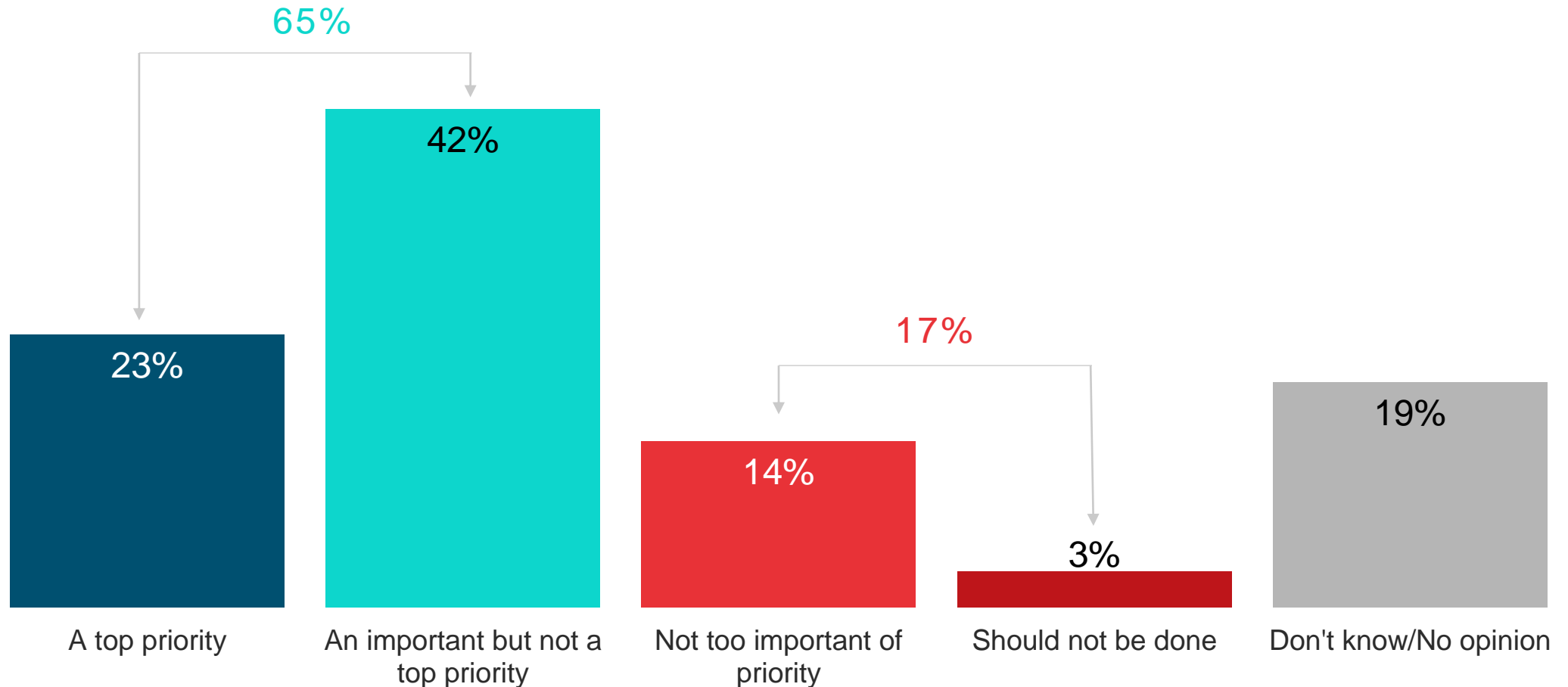
Democrats, urban seniors, and Biden voters are more likely than other demographic groups to *strongly support* evenly distributing out-of-pocket costs over the course of the year.

Currently, Medicare beneficiaries pay a large percent of their out of pocket costs for prescription medications in January of each year when deductibles reset. Congress is considering legislation that would evenly distribute these costs throughout the year. Do you support or oppose legislation that would evenly distribute out of pocket costs for prescription medications for Medicare beneficiaries throughout the year?



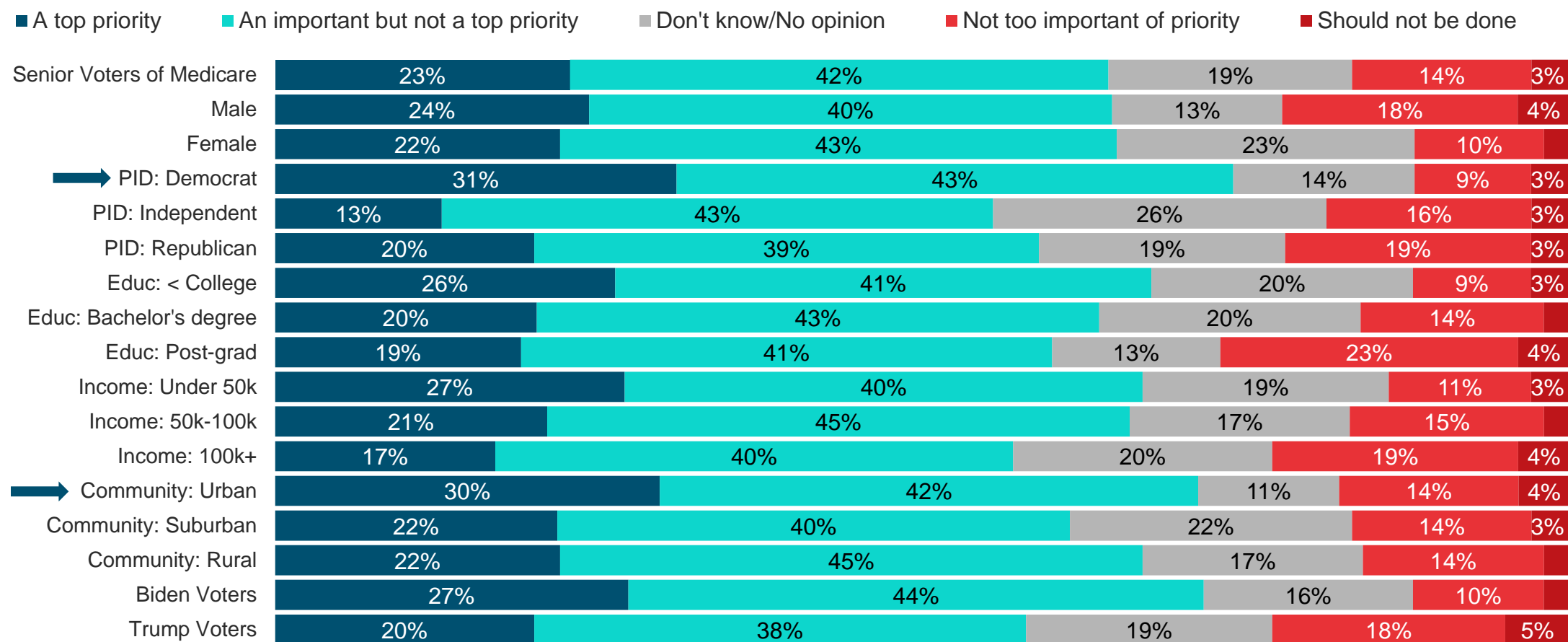
Just under a quarter of senior voters (23%) believe it should be *a top priority* for Congress to pass legislation that evenly distributes out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs throughout the year.

*Based on what you know, how much of a priority, if at all, should it be for Congress to pass legislation that evenly distributes out of pocket costs for prescription medications for Medicare beneficiaries throughout the year?*



## Seniors living in urban areas and Democratic seniors are more likely than other demographic groups to see this even distribution as a top priority.

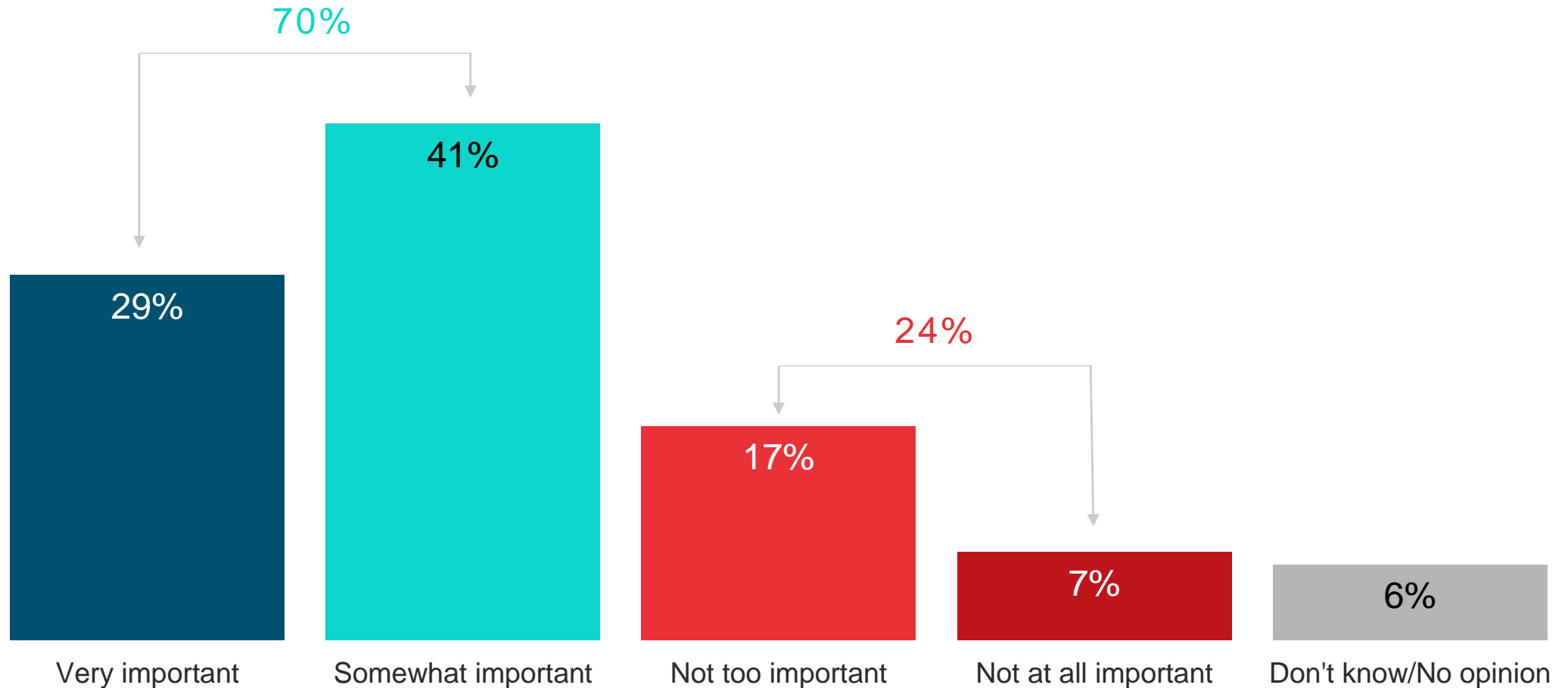
Based on what you know, how much of a priority, if at all, should it be for Congress to pass legislation that evenly distributes out of pocket costs for prescription medications for Medicare beneficiaries throughout the year?



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | AUGUST 2020

Seven in 10 senior voters say that a candidate's plan to address out-of-pocket costs for prescription medications is important in their decision about who to vote for this election cycle.

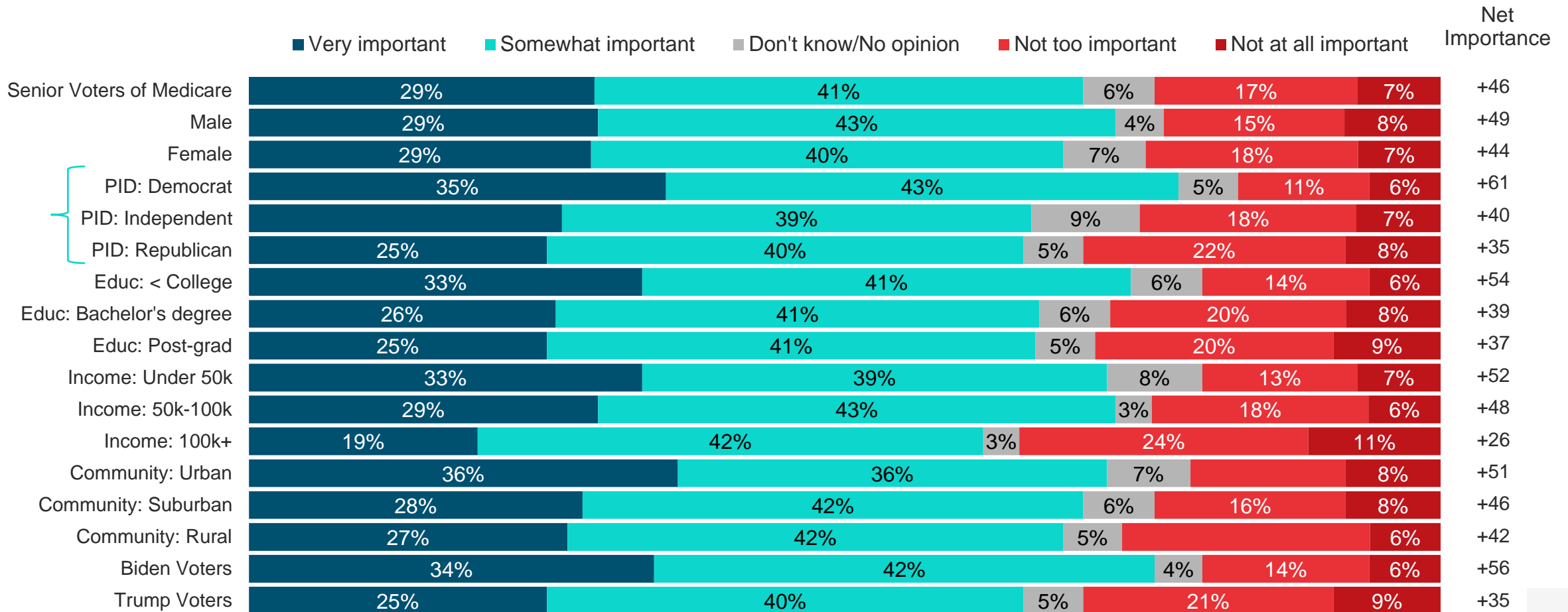
*Thinking about the 2020 presidential election, how important, if at all, is a candidate's plan to address out-of-pocket costs for prescription medications in your decision about who to vote for?*



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | AUGUST 2020

# A candidate's plan to address out-of-pocket costs for prescription medications is important to senior voters across the political spectrum.

*Thinking about the 2020 presidential election, how important, if at all, is a candidate's plan to address out-of-pocket costs for prescription medications in your decision about who to vote for?*

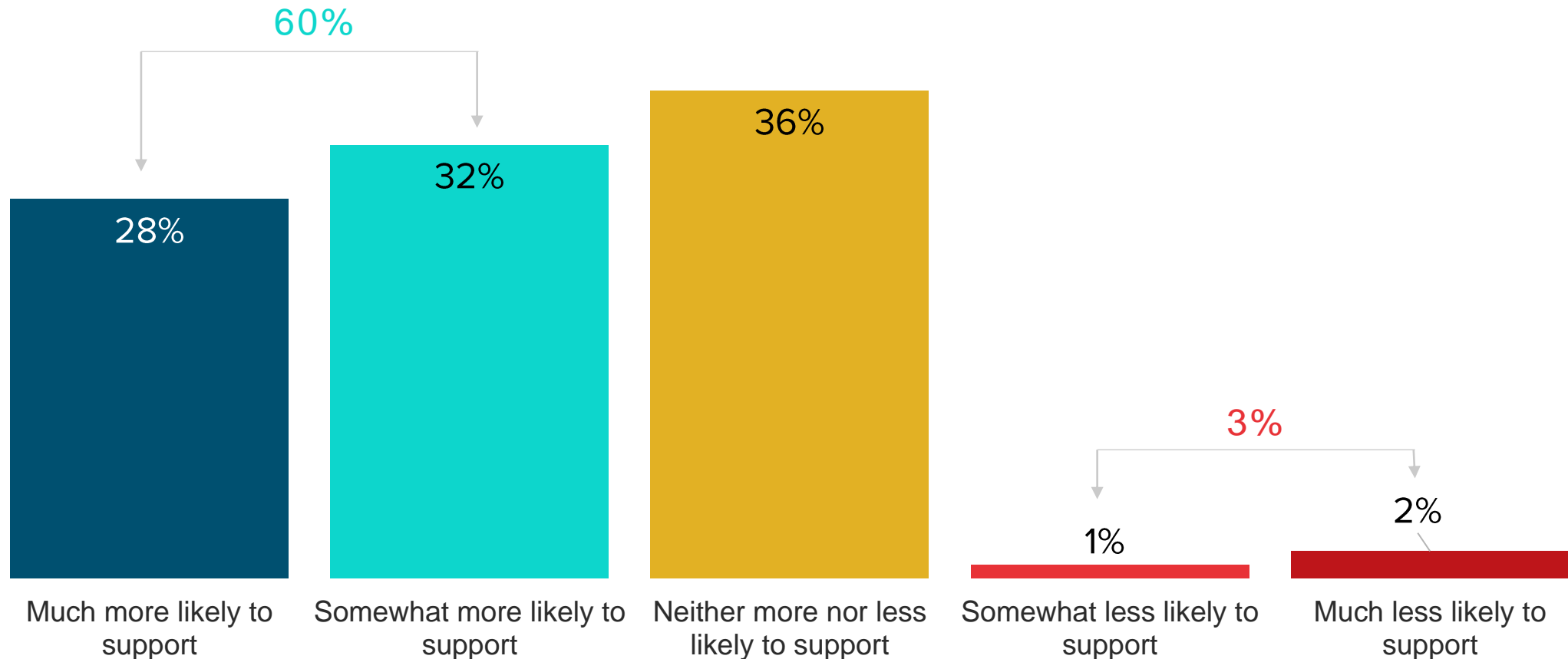




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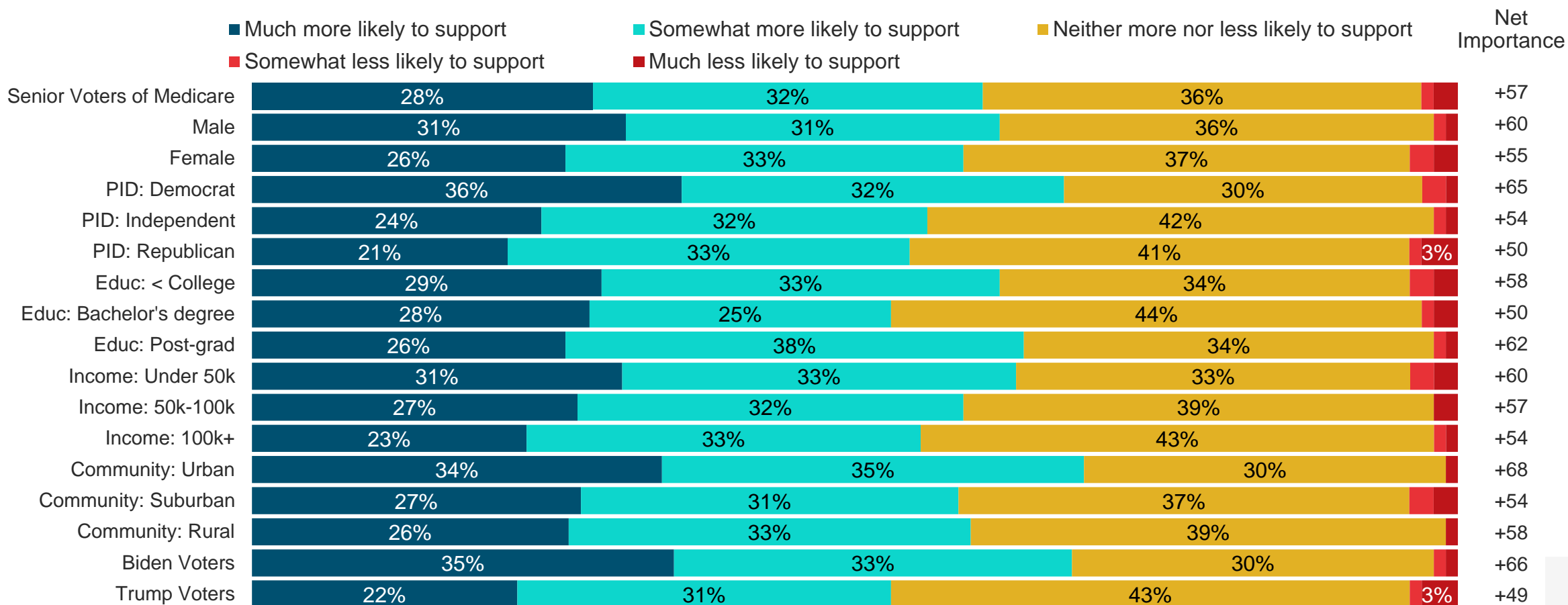
A candidate supporting a cap on what seniors pay out-of-pocket for prescription drugs in the Medicare Part D program is not very risky: 60% of senior voters are *more likely* to support that candidate while just 3% are *less likely* to support a candidate for that stance.

*Would you be more or less likely to support a 2020 presidential candidate who supported placing a cap or limit on what seniors pay out-of-pocket for prescription drugs in the Medicare Part D program, or would it have no impact on your support either way?*



## Across demographic groups, senior voters are more likely to support a candidate who supported placing a cap on what seniors pay out-of-pocket for prescription drugs in the Medicare Part D program.

*Would you be more or less likely to support a 2020 presidential candidate who supported placing a cap or limit on what seniors pay out-of-pocket for prescription drugs in the Medicare Part D program, or would it have no impact on your support either way?*



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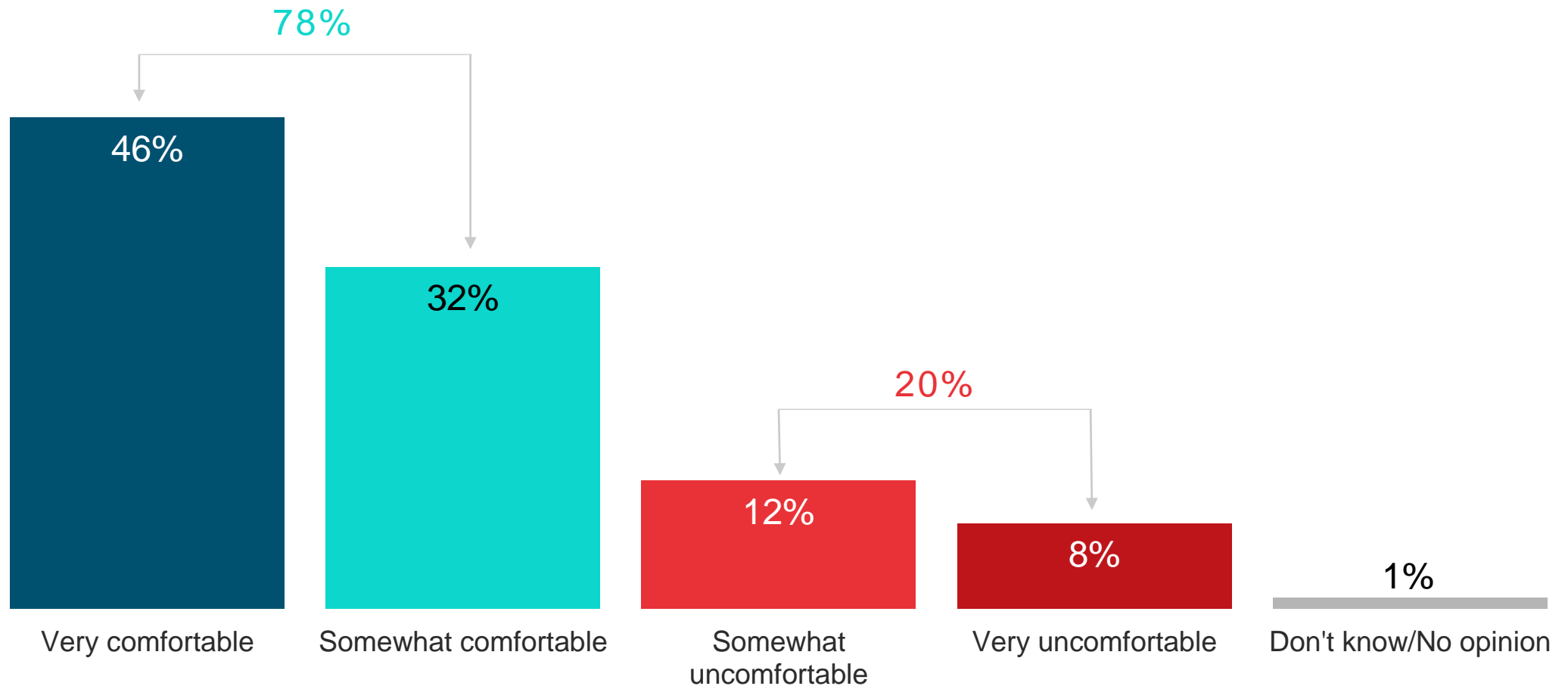
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HEALTH CARE DURING COVID-19 | AUGUST 2020

More than three in four (78%) senior voters on Medicare are currently comfortable going to their doctor to receive routine medical care in person.

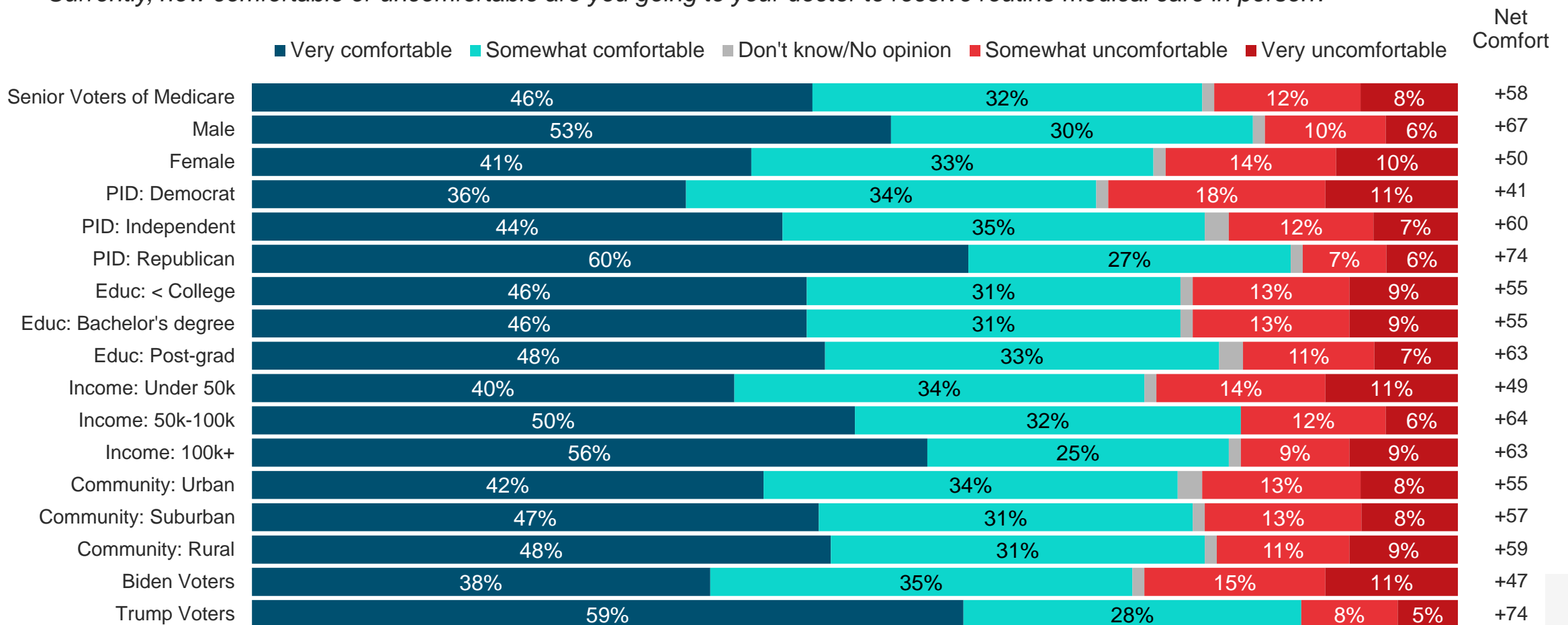
*Currently, how comfortable or uncomfortable are you going to your doctor to receive routine medical care in person?*



HEALTH CARE DURING COVID-19 | AUGUST 2020

Republican seniors and Trump voters are more likely than their Democratic and Biden-voting counterparts to feel *very comfortable* receiving routine medical care in person. There is little divide based on educational attainment (though those with a post-grad degree are slightly more comfortable).

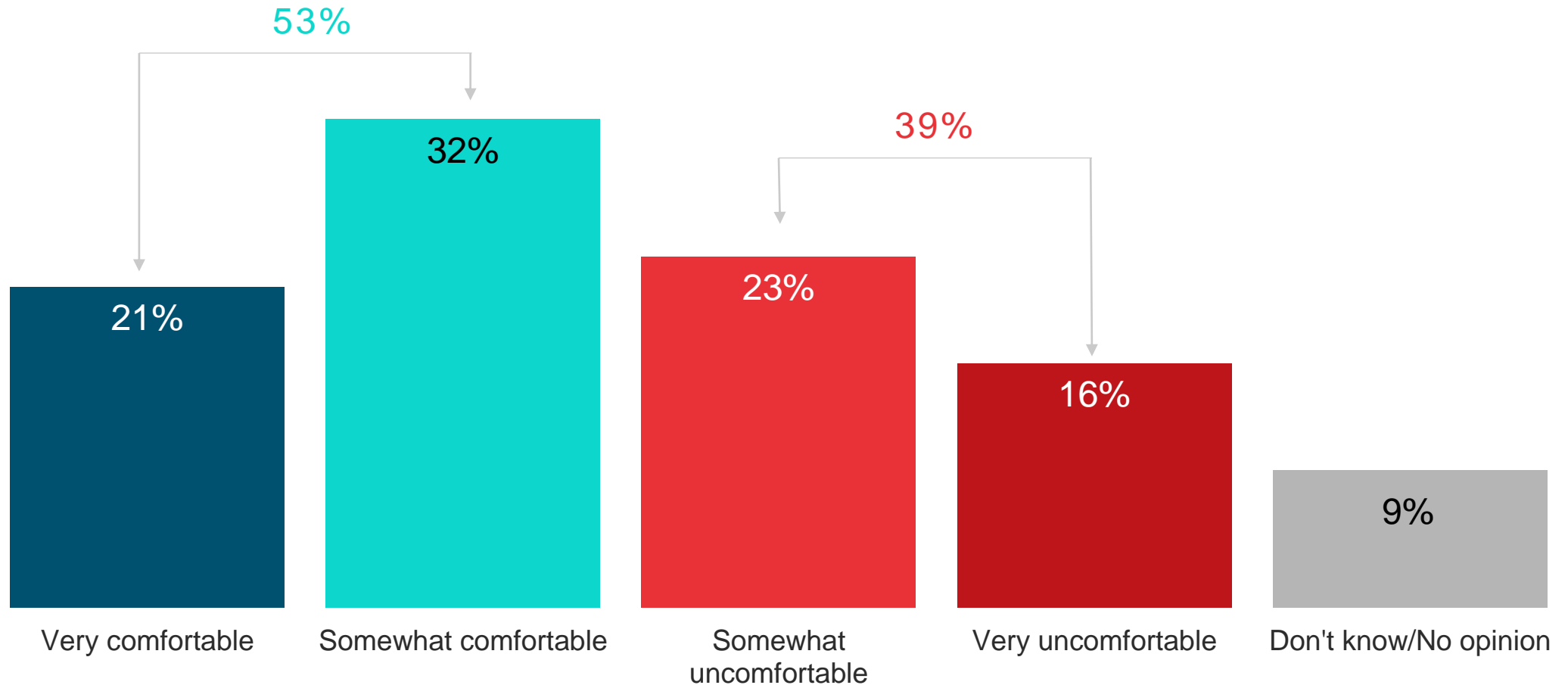
Currently, how comfortable or uncomfortable are you going to your doctor to receive routine medical care in person?



HEALTH CARE DURING COVID-19 | AUGUST 2020

Fewer senior voters on Medicare are comfortable getting care through telemedicine than are comfortable going in-person to their doctor for care during COVID-19.

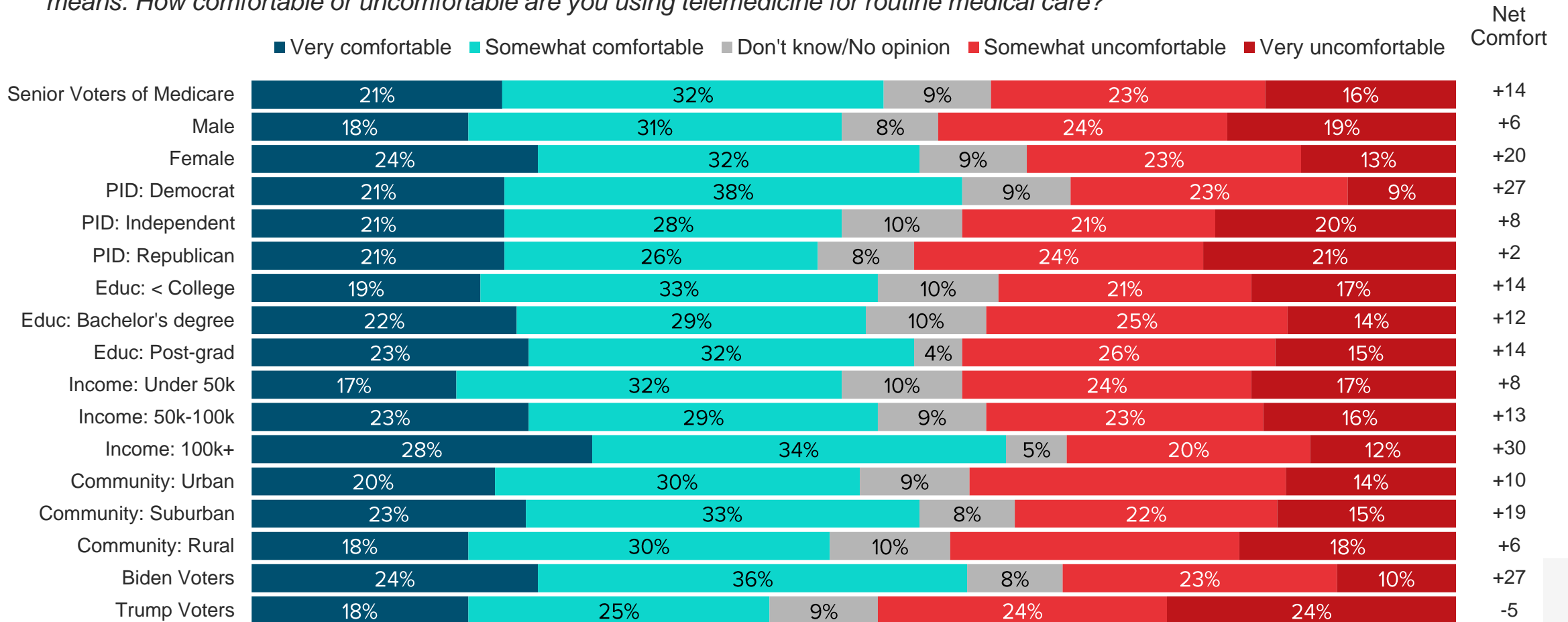
As you may know, **telemedicine** is the remote administration of health care by phone, video, instant messaging, or other digital means. How comfortable or uncomfortable are you using telemedicine for routine medical care?



HEALTH CARE DURING COVID-19 | AUGUST 2020

Higher-income senior voters (\$100k+) are far more likely to be comfortable with telemedicine than lower-to-middle-income earners. Senior women are also more comfortable with telemedicine than their male counterparts (+20 net comfort for women vs. +6 net comfort for men).

As you may know, **telemedicine** is the remote administration of health care by phone, video, instant messaging, or other digital means. How comfortable or uncomfortable are you using telemedicine for routine medical care?



## HEALTH CARE DURING COVID-19 | AUGUST 2020

Thirty-seven percent of senior voters on Medicare report they've personally delayed seeking routine medical care since the start of COVID-19.

*Since the start of COVID-19, have you personally delayed seeking routine medical care, such as an annual physical, mammogram, or colonoscopy?*

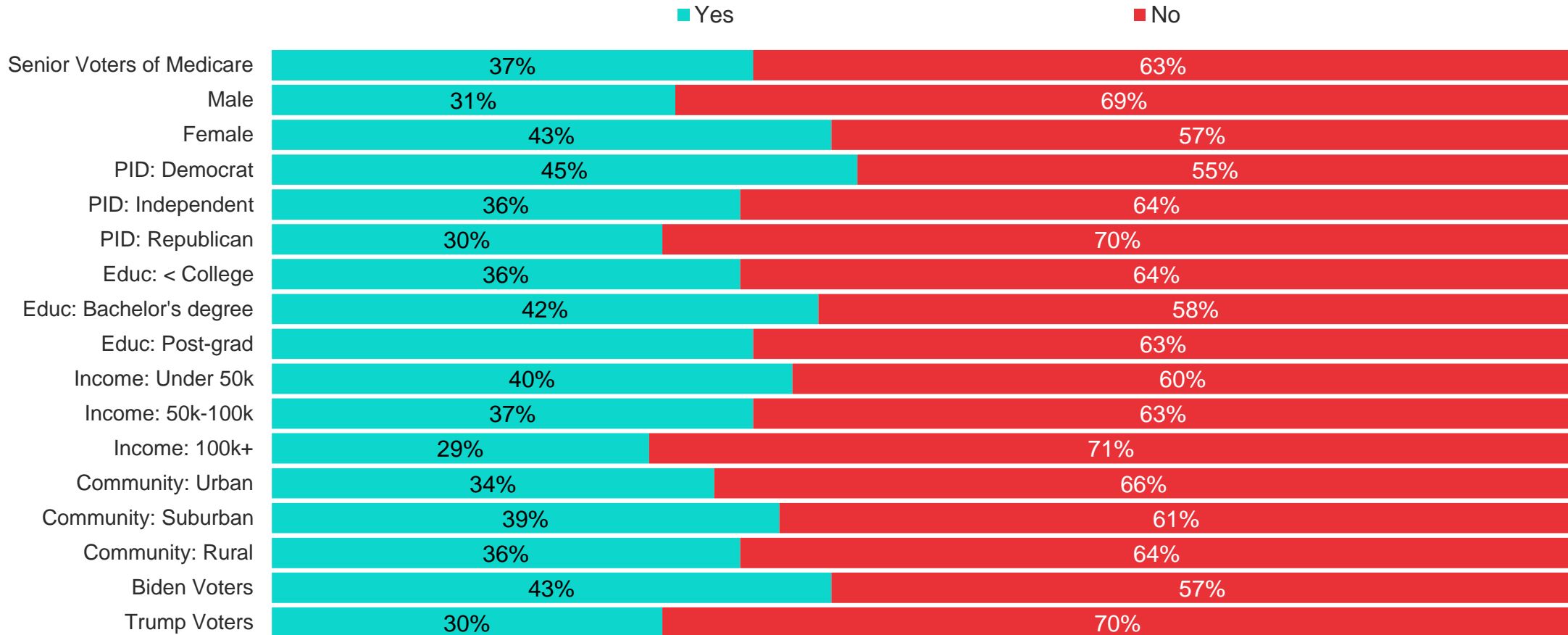




HEALTH CARE DURING COVID-19 | AUGUST 2020

Seniors who identify as Democrats are 15% more likely than seniors who identify as Republicans to have delayed seeking routine medical care since the start of COVID-19.

*Since the start of COVID-19, have you personally delayed seeking routine medical care, such as an annual physical, mammogram, or colonoscopy?*



# Of the testing impacts of COVID-19, senior voters on Medicare are most concerned with actually contracting the virus.

*How concerned are you, if at all, about being impacted by COVID-19 or the coronavirus in the following ways?*

