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+
PAN Foundation

Patient Access Network (PAN) Foundation

2020 ELECTIONS: SENIORS TRACKER

SEPTEMBER: 2020

KEY POINTS

- 1 A majority of senior voters on Medicare (80%) do not think it will be difficult to vote this year amid the COVID-19.
 - However, the percentage of Democrat voters who expect difficulty voting increased over the past month increased 4%, while it decreased 7% among Republican voters.
 - And, the percent of senior voters planning to vote in person on Election Day increased 7% over the past month.
- 2 While senior voters selecting COVID-19 as one of their top 2 issues decreased 5% over the past month, the percent selecting national security (+4%) and racial inequality (+5%) increased.
- 3 A slight plurality of senior voters on Medicare (36%) want to strengthen the Affordable Care Act (ACA), this percentage decreased rather than repeal and replace the ACA (32%) or move to a single-payer system (12%).
 - However, the percent who selected strengthening the ACA decreased 6%.
- 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 (84% total support, 57% *strongly support*).
 - Net support for legislation that would evenly distribute out-of-pocket costs over the cost of the year slightly increased among Biden voters (+4) over the past month.
- 5 More than three in four (77%) senior voters on Medicare are currently comfortable going to their doctor to receive routine medical care in person, however this differs among Trump and Biden voters.
 - Net comfort going to the doctor decreased among Trump voters (-7), while it slightly increased among Biden voters (+4).
- 6 Forty percent of senior voters on Medicare report they've personally delayed seeking routine medical care since the start of COVID-19.
 - The percent of senior voters on Medicare who have delayed seeking medical care increased 3% over the past month.

Methodology:

Wave 1: This poll was conducted between August 7-10, 2020 among a national sample of 1000 senior voters on Medicare.

Wave 2: This poll was conducted September 3-6, 2020 among a national sample of 1,000 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 gender and race. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

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Voting + Top Issues in 2020

2

Health Care Policy in the
2020 Election

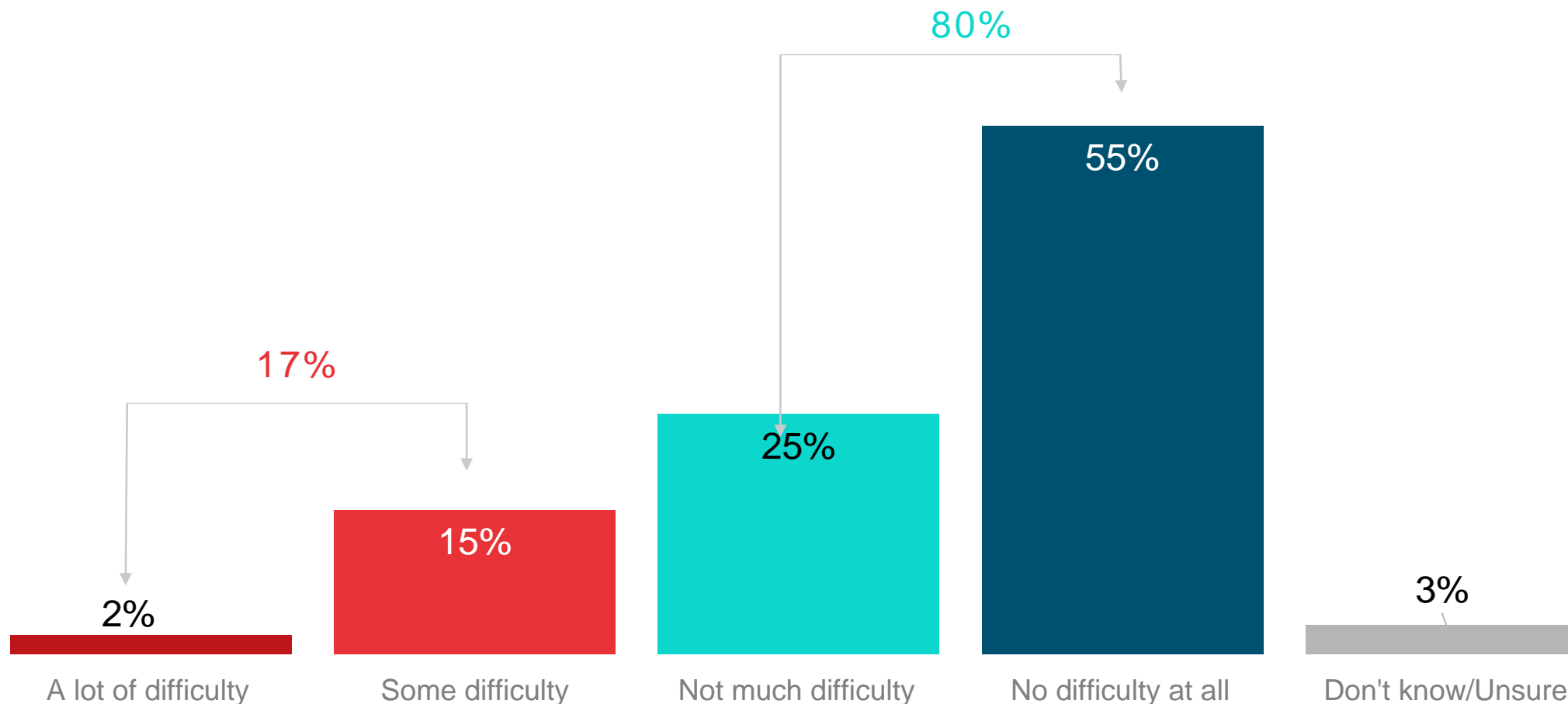
3

Health Care during COVID-19

VOTING + TOP ISSUES IN 2020 | SEPTEMBER 2020

A majority of senior voters on Medicare (80%) **do not** think it will be difficult to vote this year amid COVID-19.

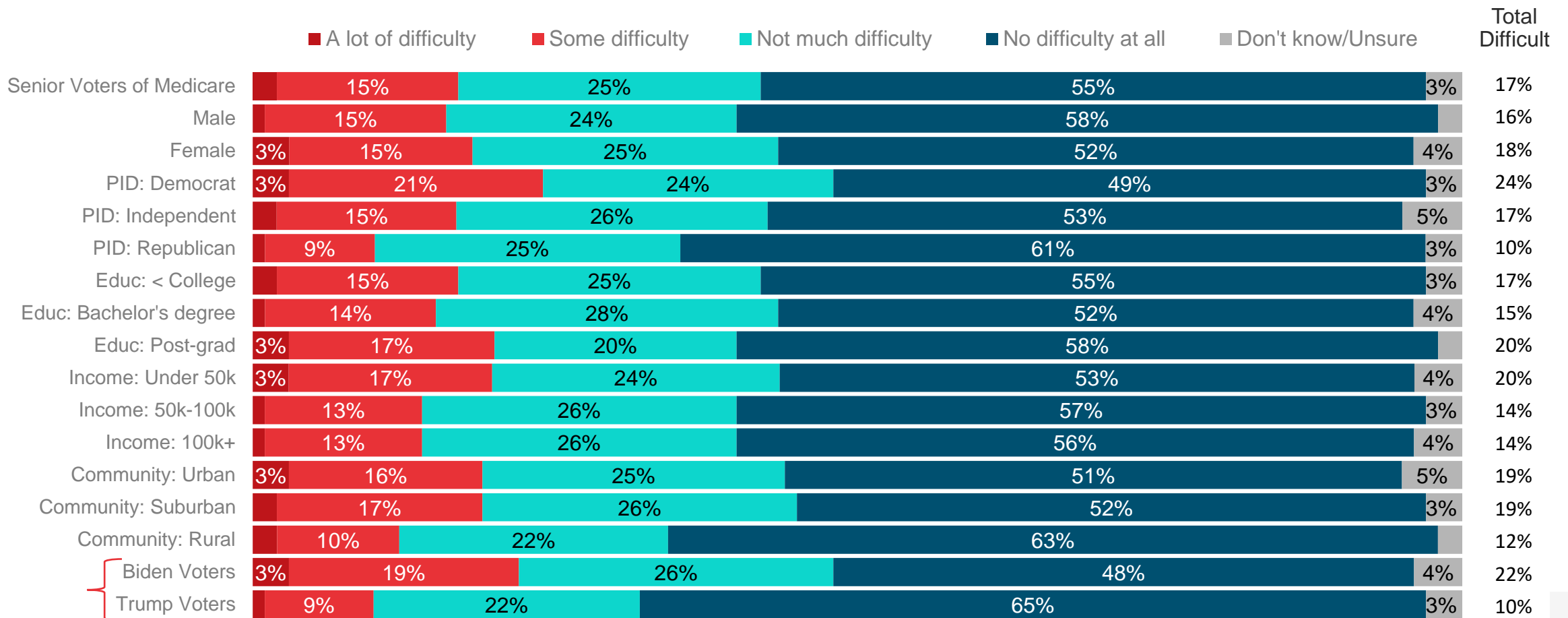
How much difficulty, if any, do you believe you will have in voting in this year's presidential election because of COVID-19 or the coronavirus?



VOTING + TOP ISSUES IN 2020 | SEPTEMBER 2020

Biden voters on Medicare are more likely than Trump voters on Medicare to anticipate difficulty voting because of COVID-19 (22% vs. 10%).

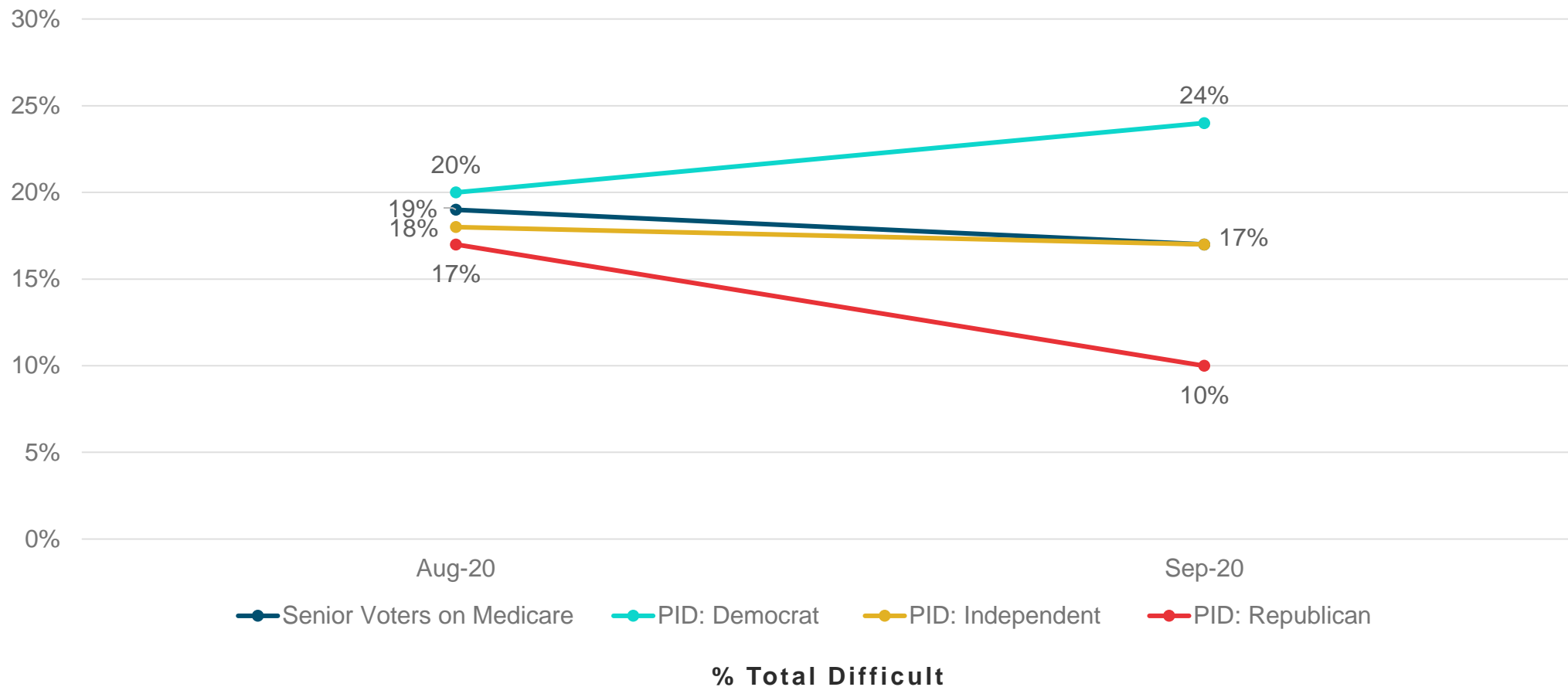
How much difficulty, if any, do you believe you will have in voting in this year's presidential election because of COVID-19 or the coronavirus?



VOTING + TOP ISSUES IN 2020 | TREND OVER TIME

The percentage of Democrat Medicare voters who expect difficulty voting increased 4% over the past month, while it decreased 7% among Republican voters on Medicare.

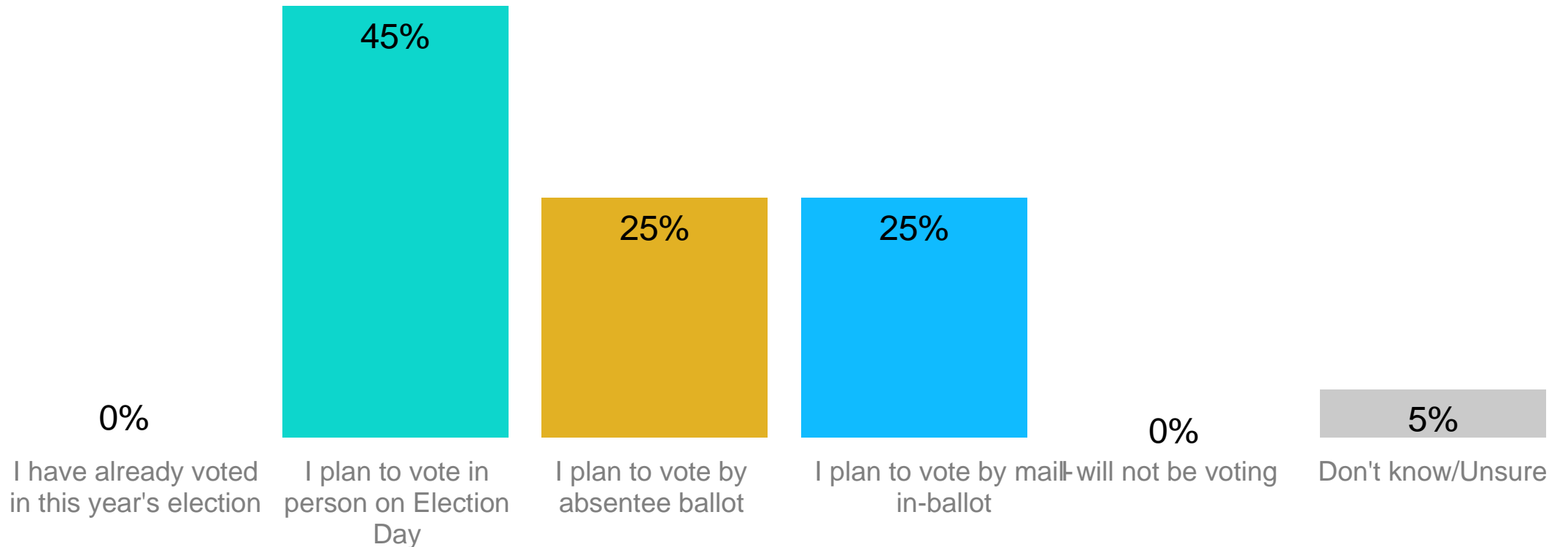
How much difficulty, if any, do you believe you will have in voting in this year's presidential election because of COVID-19 or the coronavirus?



VOTING + TOP ISSUES IN 2020 | SEPTEMBER 2020

The plurality (45%) of senior voters on Medicare plan to vote in-person on Election Day, while a combined 50% plan to vote either by absentee or mail-in ballots.

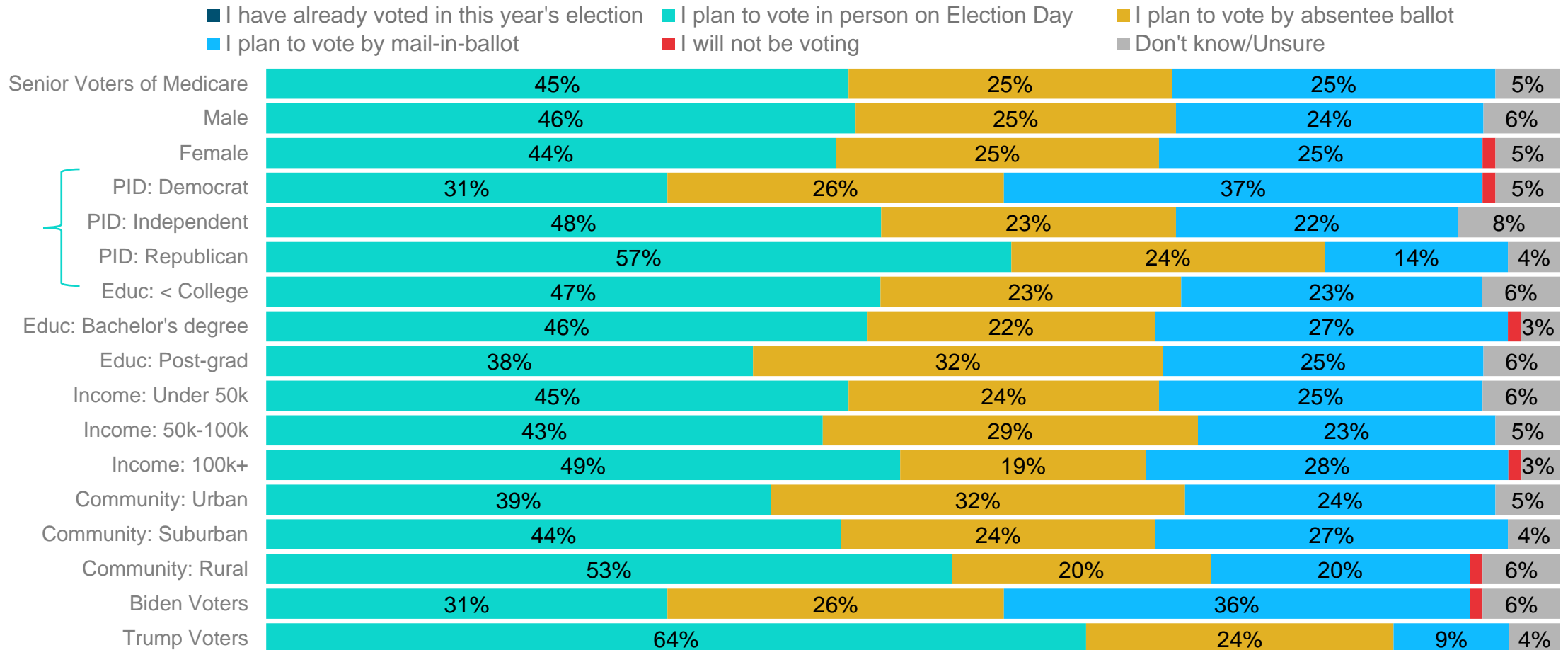
Which of the following applies to you when it comes to voting in the 2020 presidential election?



VOTING + TOP ISSUES IN 2020 | SEPTEMBER 2020

Reported voting methods differ greatly by party identification: 57% of Republican seniors report their intent to vote in-person compared to 31% of Democrat seniors who say the same.

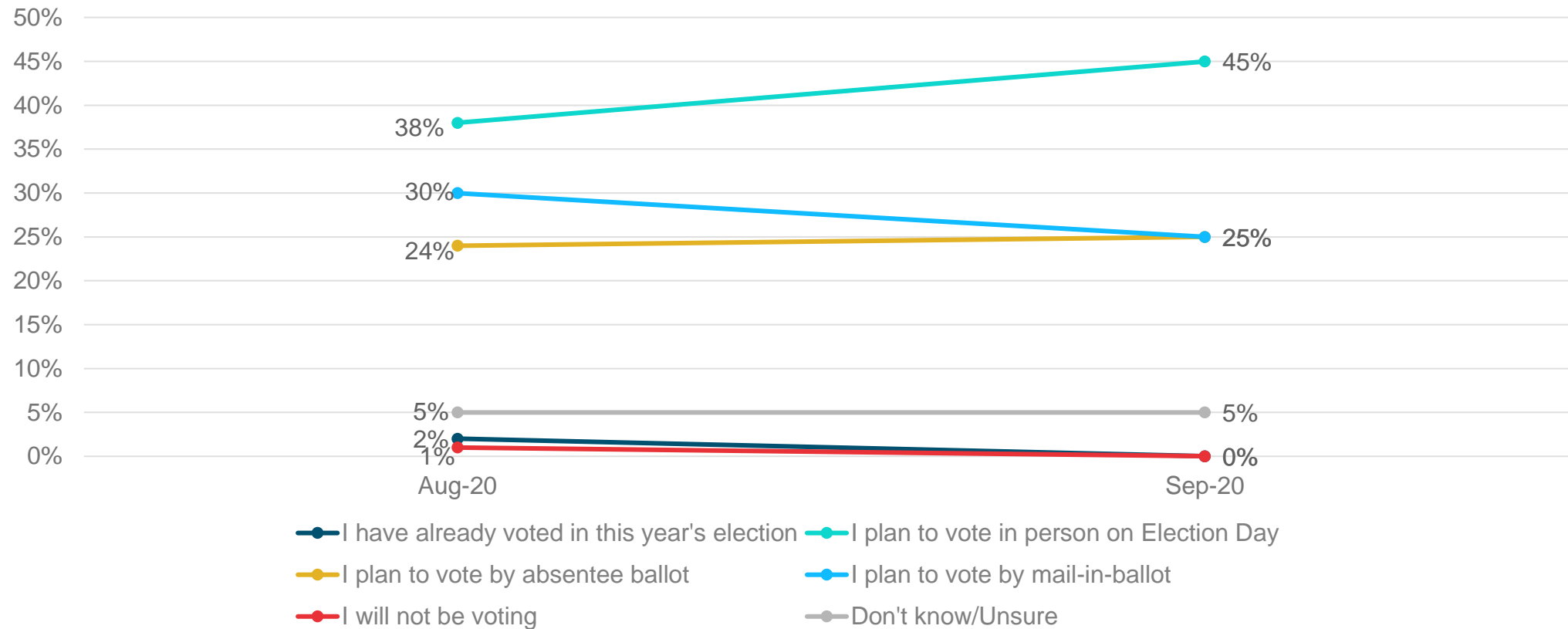
Which of the following applies to you when it comes to voting in the 2020 presidential election?



VOTING + TOP ISSUES IN 2020 | TREND OVER TIME

The percent of senior voters planning to vote in person on Election Day increased 7% over the past month.

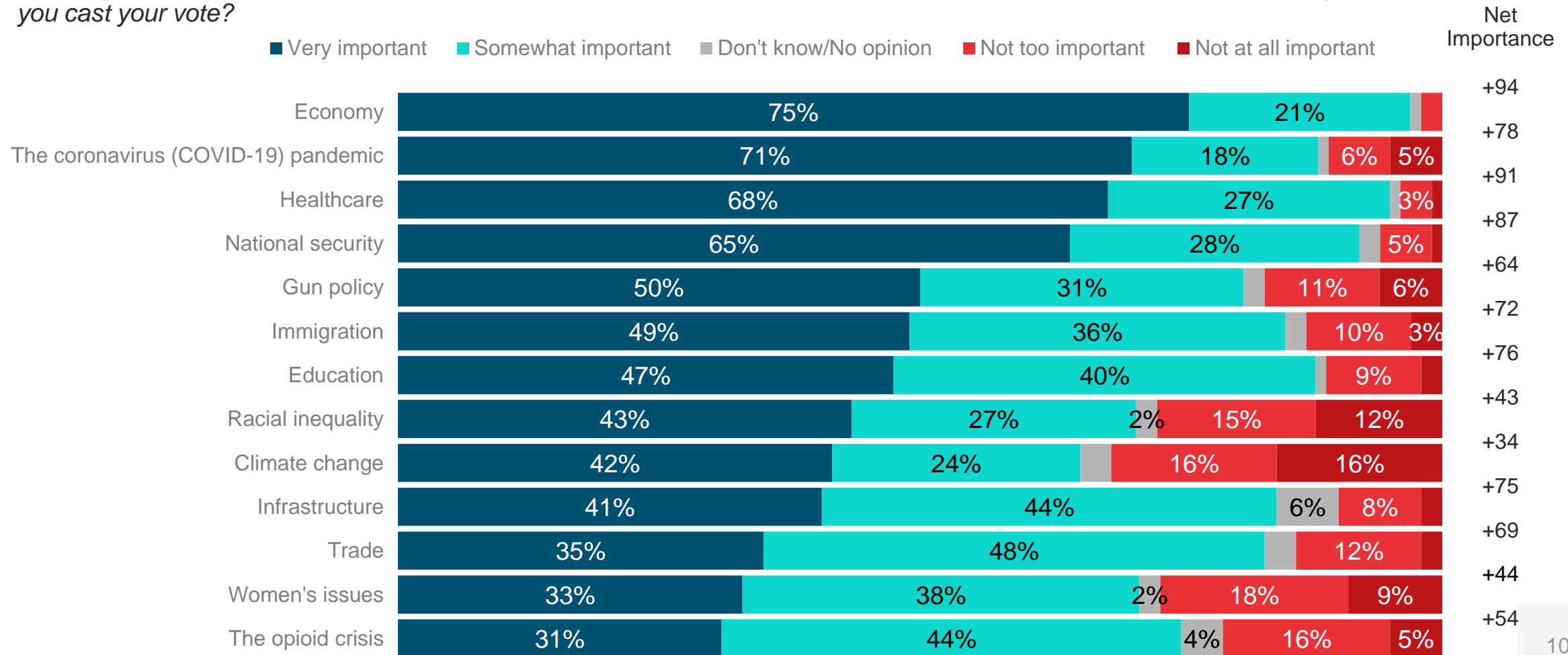
Which of the following applies to you when it comes to voting in the 2020 presidential election?



VOTING + TOP ISSUES IN 2020 | SEPTEMBER 2020

The economy (75%), COVID-19 (71%), health care (68%), and national security (65%) see the highest *very important* ratings from senior voters as they consider what issues will matter when they cast their vote.

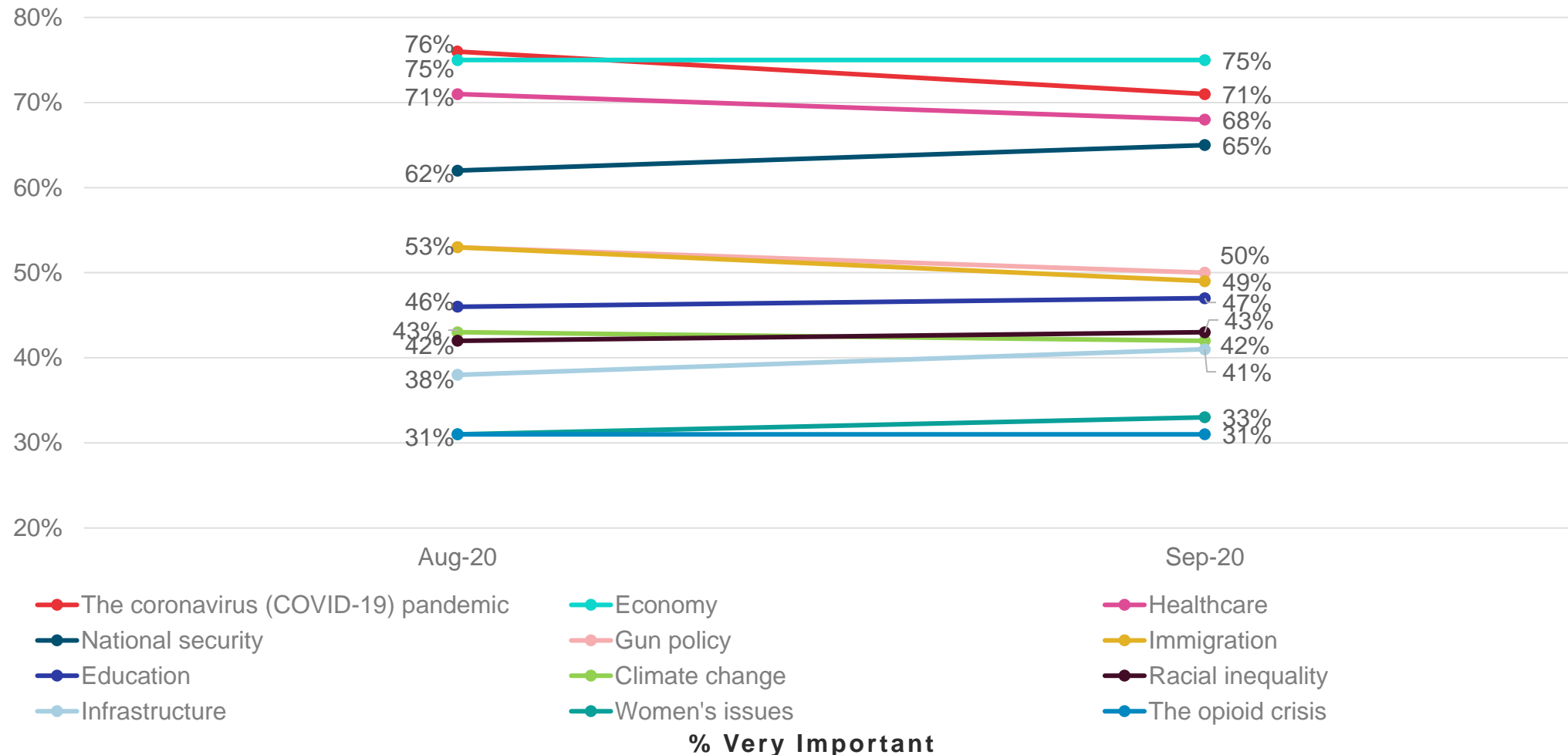
Thinking about your vote in the 2020 presidential election in November, how important, if at all, are each of the following issues when you cast your vote?



VOTING + TOP ISSUES IN 2020 | TREND OVER TIME

The percent of senior voters ranking COVID-19 as a *very important* issue when they cast their vote decreased 5% over the past month.

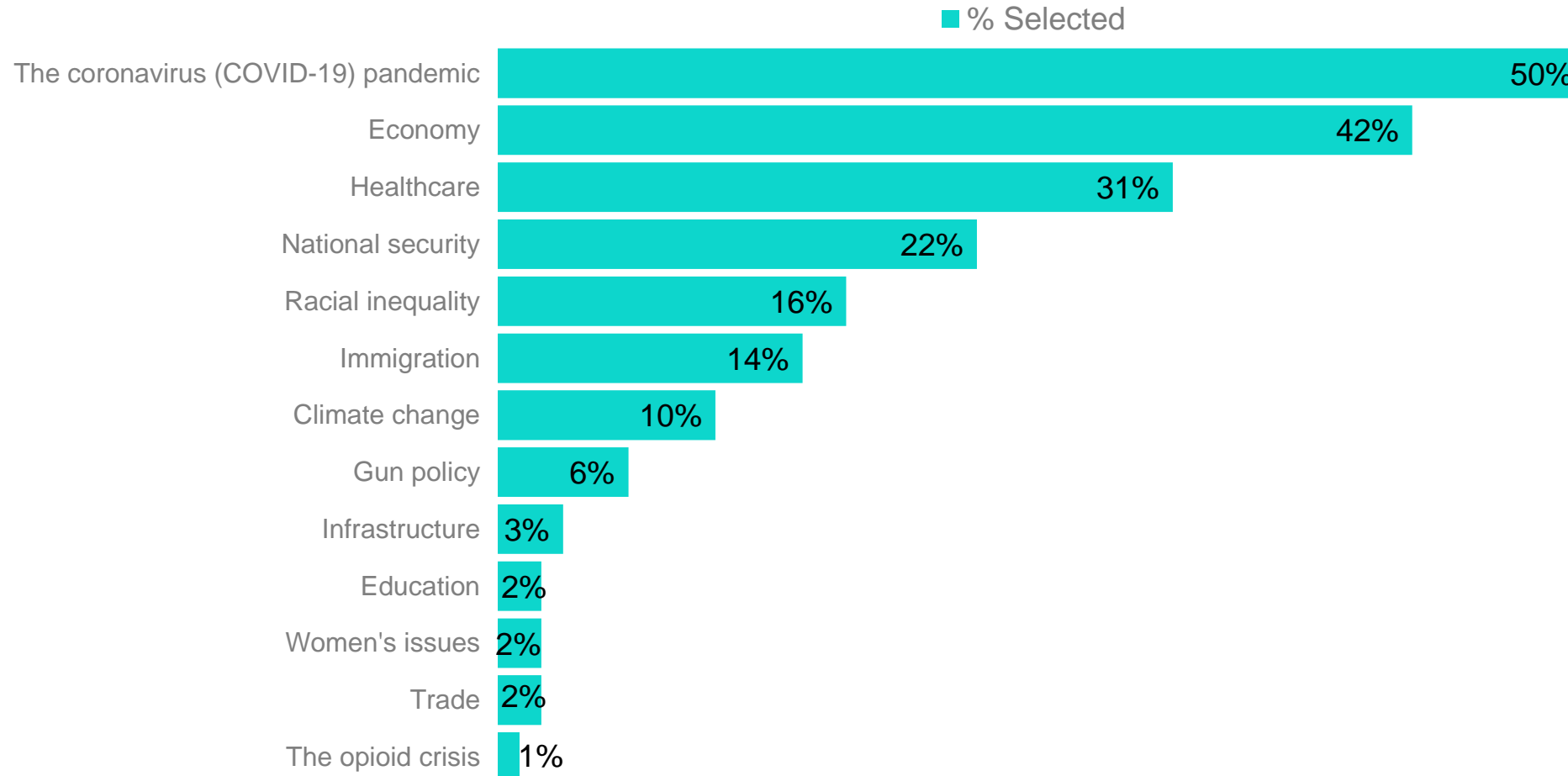
Thinking about your vote in the 2020 presidential election in November, how important, if at all, are each of the following issues when you cast your vote?



VOTING + TOP ISSUES IN 2020 | SEPTEMBER 2020

When respondents are forced to select their top two voting issues, the same three stand out: COVID-19 (50%), the economy (42%), and health care (31%).

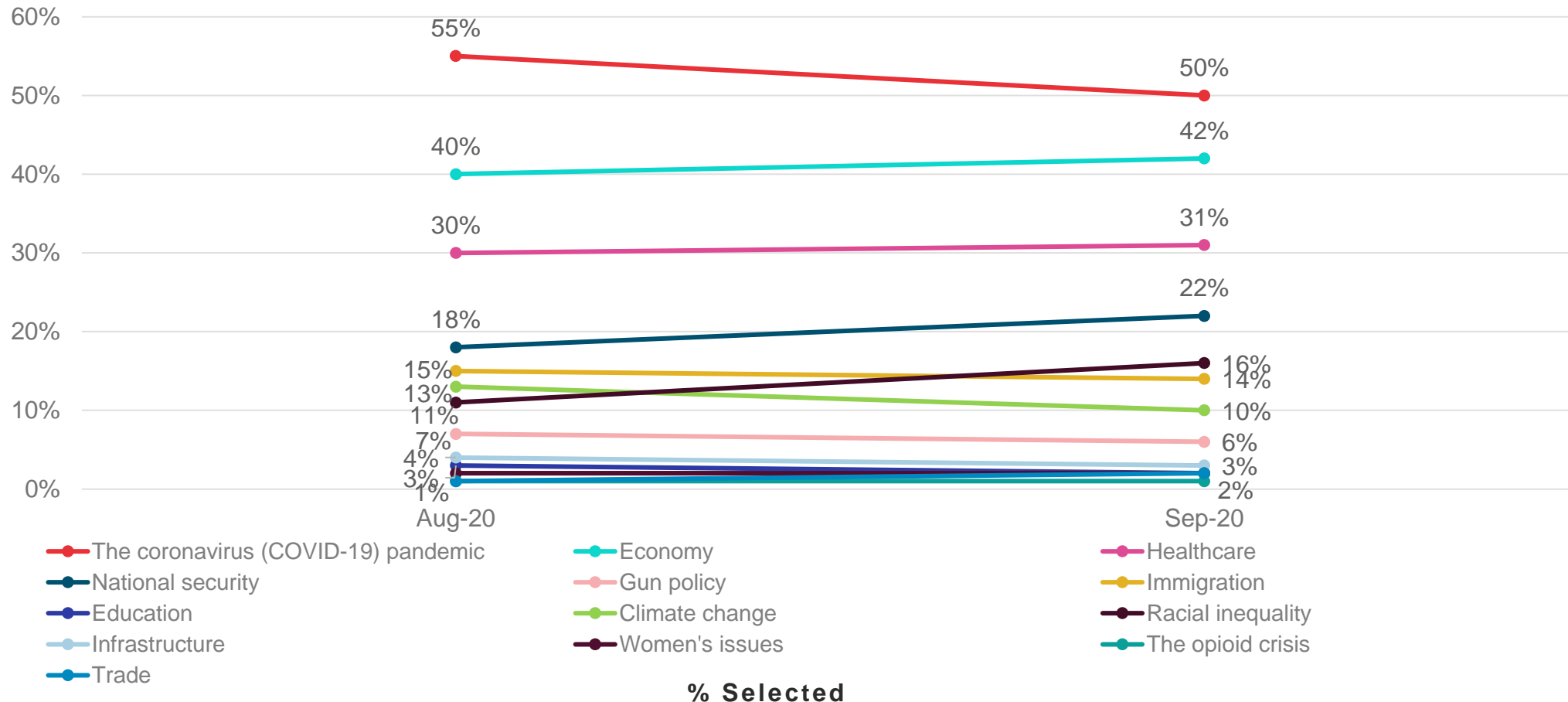
*And, thinking about your vote in the 2020 presidential election in November, what would you say are the top issues on your mind when you cast your vote? **Please select your top 2 issues.***



VOTING + TOP ISSUES IN 2020 | TREND OVER TIME

While senior voters selecting COVID-19 as one of their top issues decreased 5% over the past month, the percent selecting national security (+4%) and racial inequality (+5%) increased.

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.**

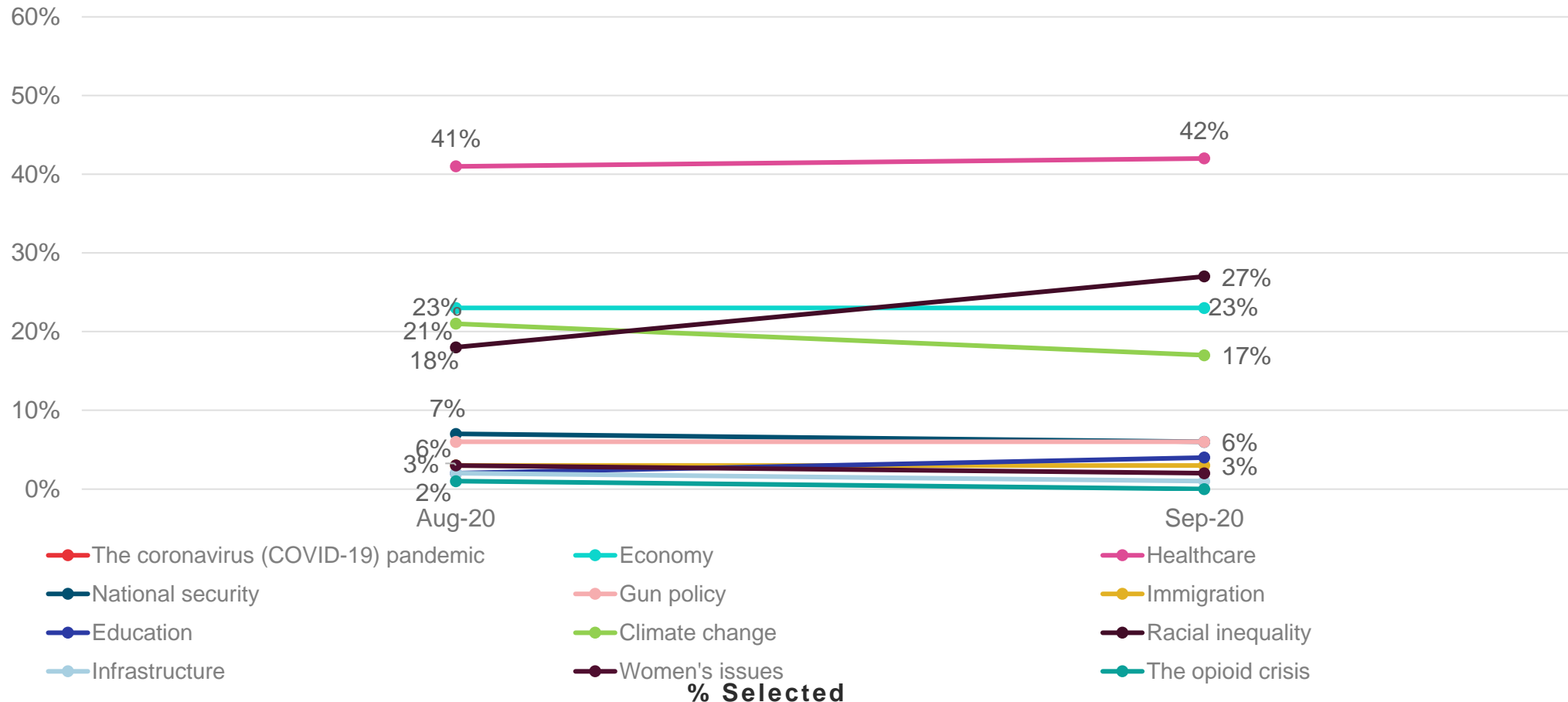


VOTING + TOP ISSUES IN 2020 | TREND OVER TIME

The percent of Democrat senior voters selecting racial inequality as a top 2 issue increased 9% over the past month.

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.**

DEMOCRAT VOTERS

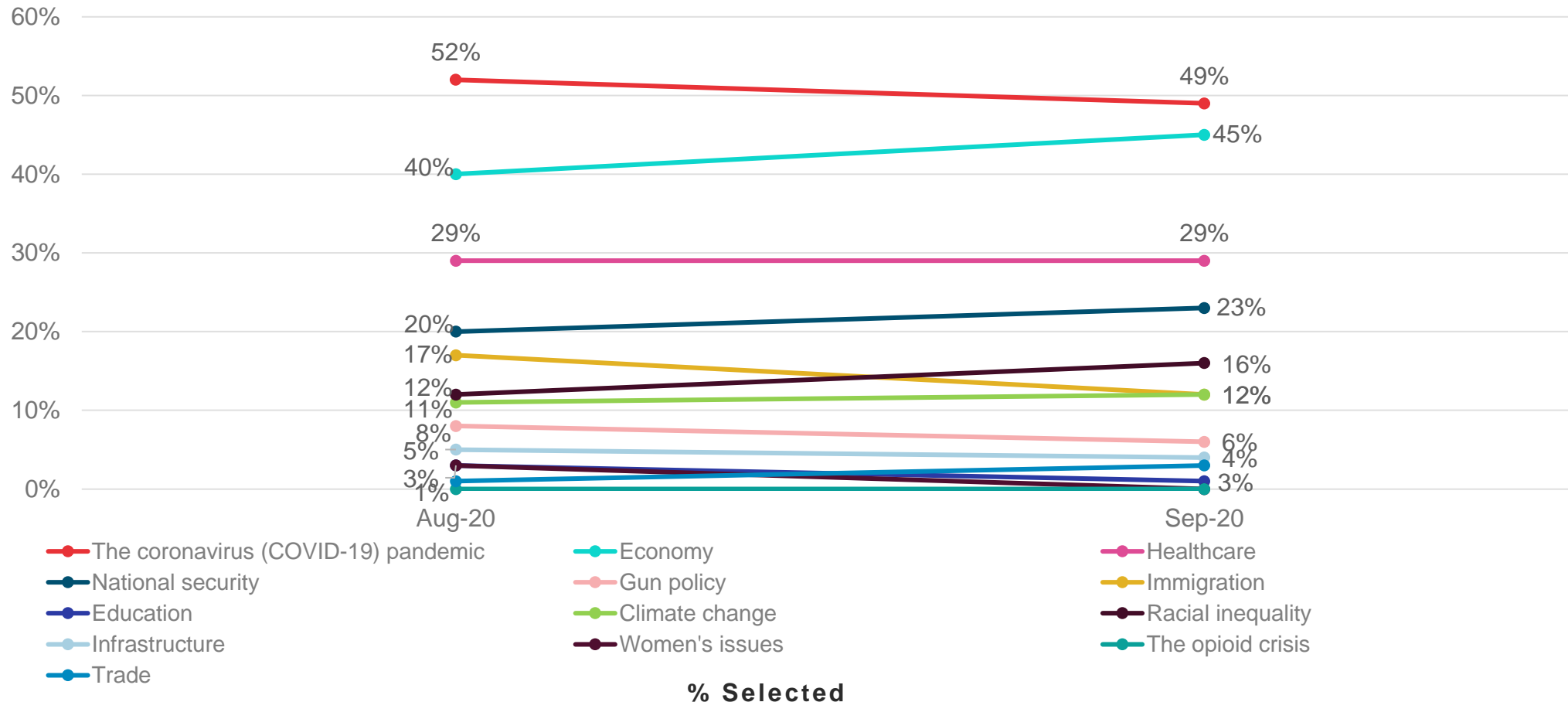


VOTING + TOP ISSUES IN 2020 | TREND OVER TIME

Similarly, the percent of independent senior voters selecting racial inequality increased 4%, and there was a 5% increase among independent voters selecting the economy as a top 2 issue.

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.**

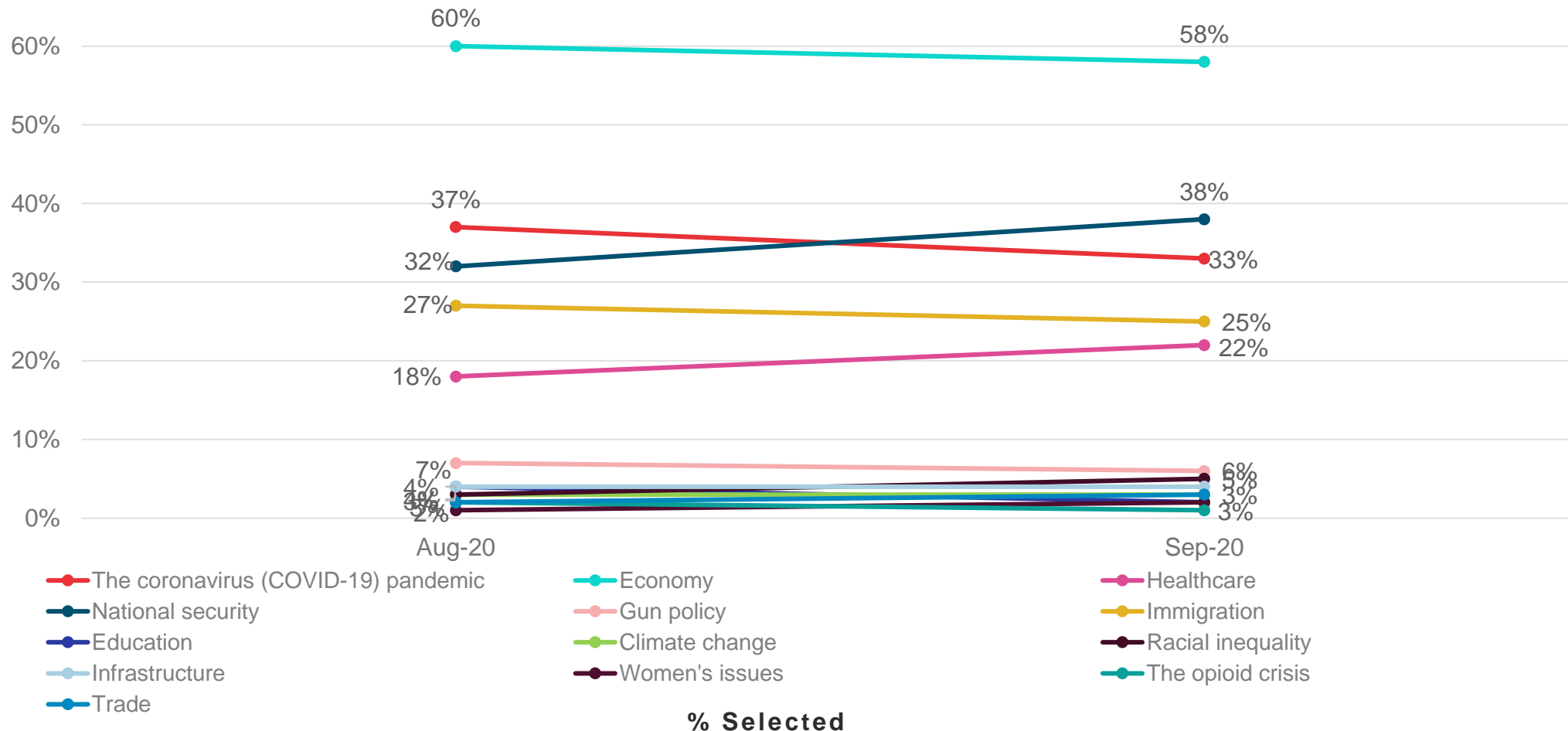
INDEPENDENT VOTERS



VOTING + TOP ISSUES IN 2020 | TREND OVER TIME

Among Republican senior voters, the percent selecting the coronavirus as a top issue slightly decreased (-4%) over the past month while the percent selecting national security increased (+6%).
 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.**

REPUBLICAN VOTERS



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1 Voting + Top Issues in 2020

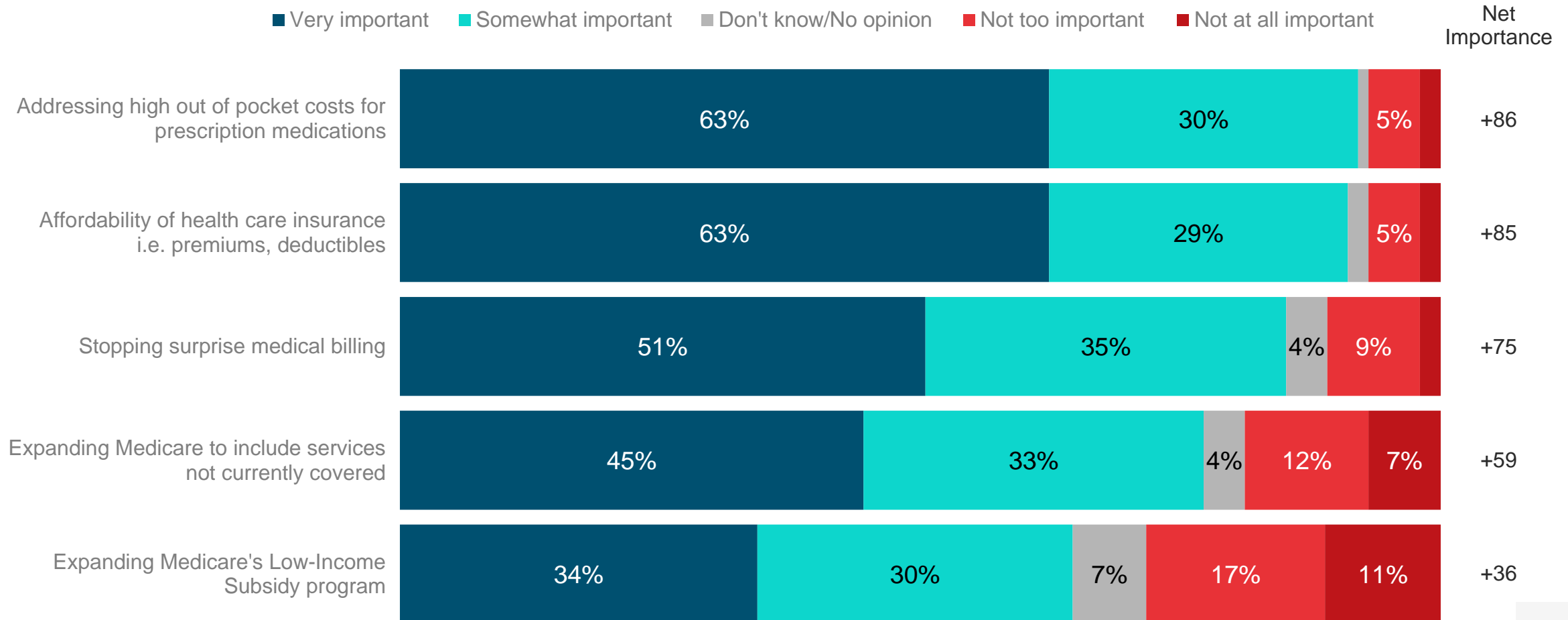
2 Health Care Policy in the
2020 Election

3 Health Care during COVID-19

HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | SEPTEMBER 2020

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

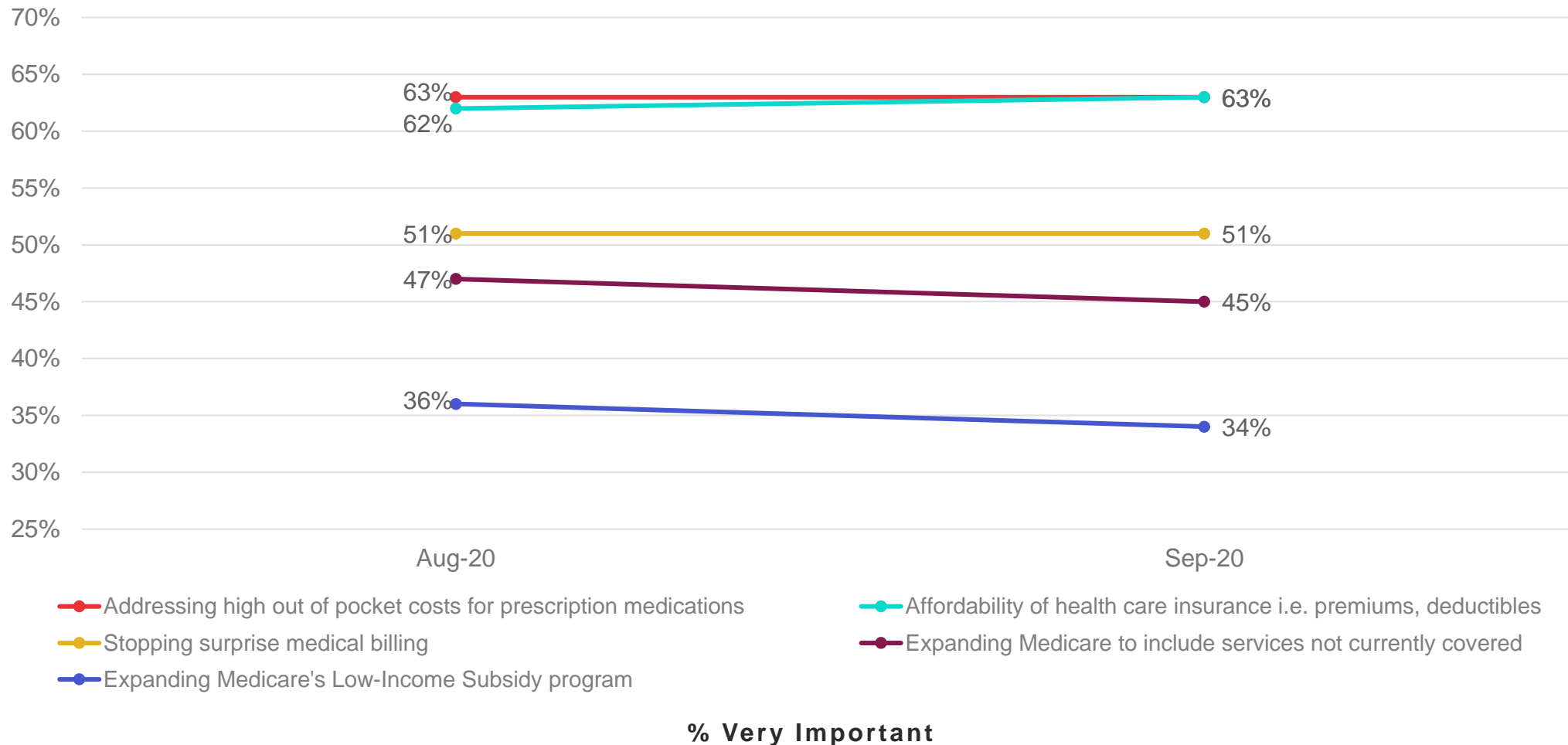
Now focusing on health care issues, thinking about your vote in the 2020 presidential election in November, how important, if at all, is a candidate's plan on each of the following when you cast your vote?



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | TREND OVER TIME

The percentage of senior voters rating these health care issues as *very important* to their vote in November remained high over the past month.

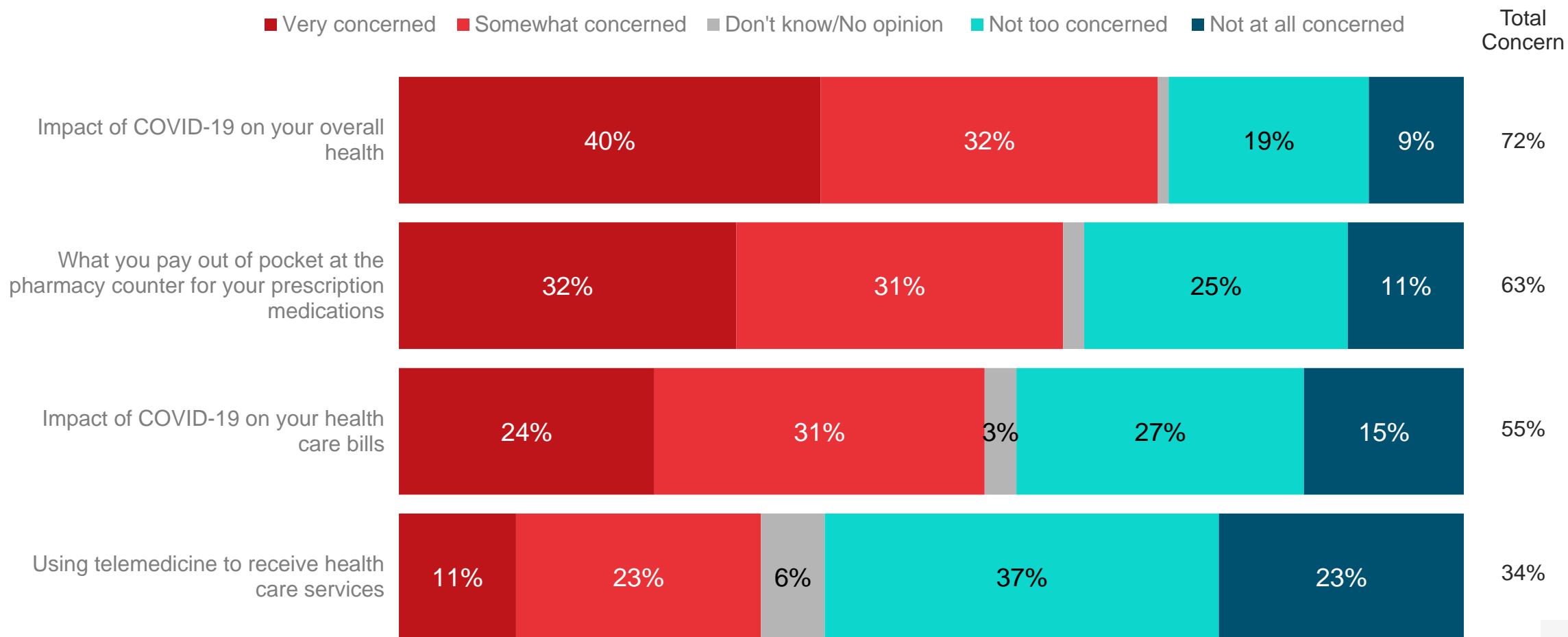
Now focusing on health care issues, thinking about your vote in the 2020 presidential election in November, how important, if at all, is a candidate's plan on each of the following when you cast your vote?



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | SEPTEMBER 2020

Amid COVID-19, senior voters are quite concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on their overall health (72% concerned) and what they pay out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs (63% concerned).

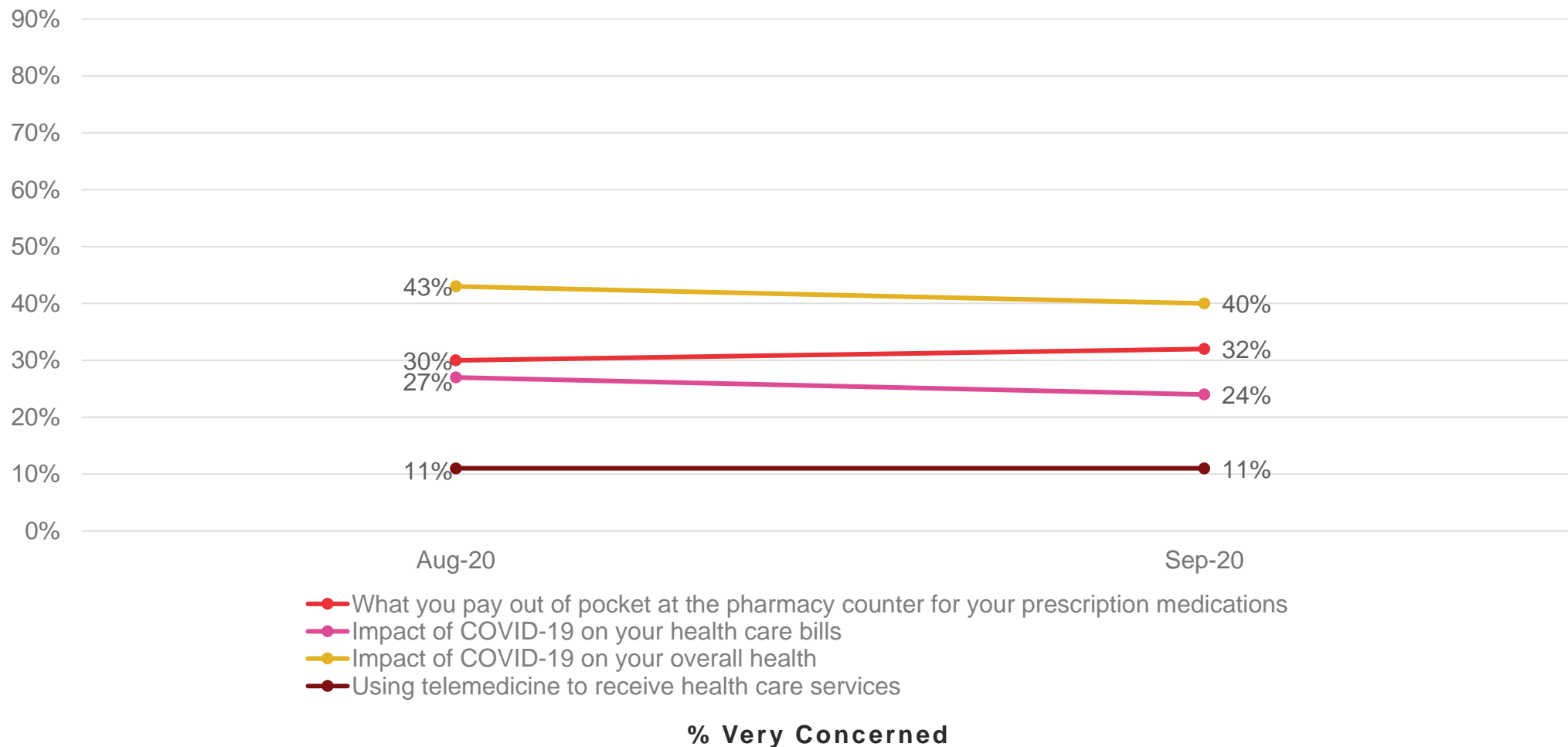
Thinking about your health care, how concerned are you, if at all about each of the following?



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | TREND OVER TIME

The percent of senior voters on Medicare who are *very concerned* about out-of-pocket costs, impacts of COVID-19 on health overall and bills, and using telemedicine remained the same over the past month.

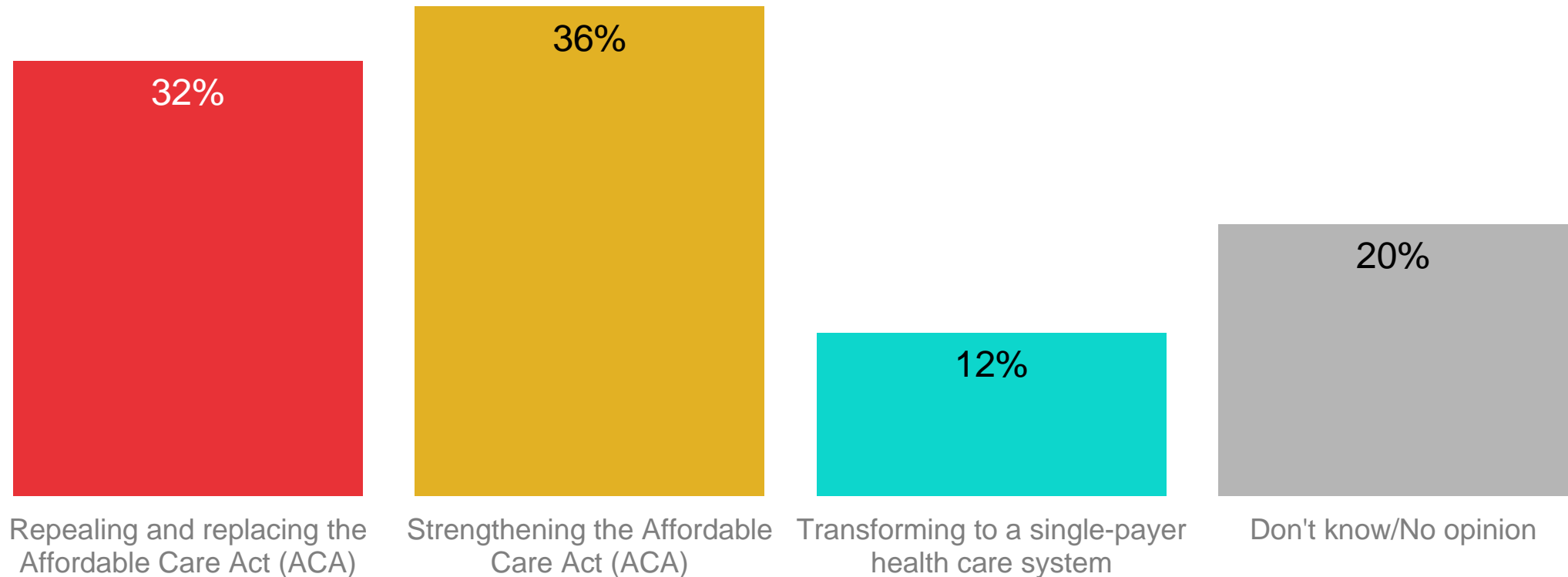
Thinking about your health care, how concerned are you, if at all about each of the following?



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | SEPTEMBER 2020

A slight plurality of senior voters on Medicare (36%) want to strengthen the Affordable Care Act (ACA) rather than repeal and replace the ACA (32%) or move to a single-payer system (12%).

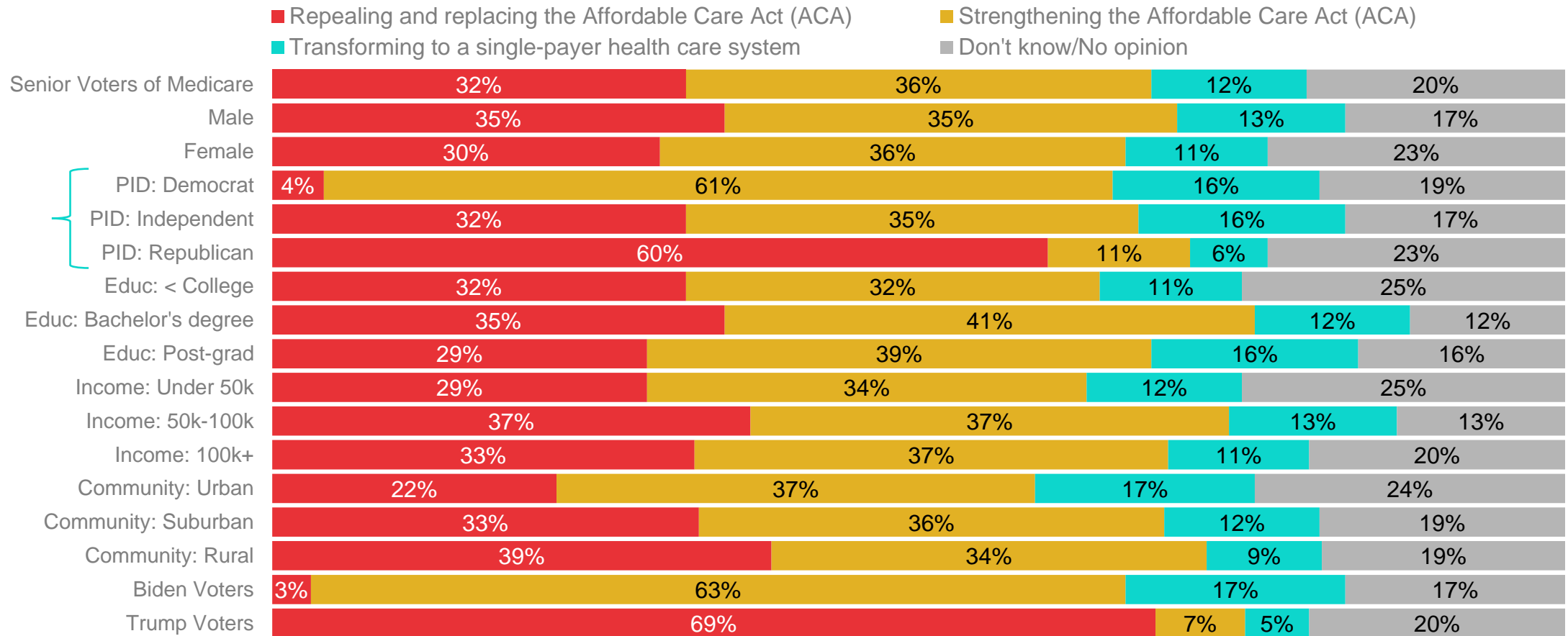
As you may know, there have been different proposals to reform the U.S. health care system. Of the following options, which health care reform plan do you support the most?



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | SEPTEMBER 2020

This issue divides along partisan lines for senior voters: a majority of Democrats (61%) want to strengthen the ACA, while a majority of Republicans (60%) want to repeal and replace the ACA.

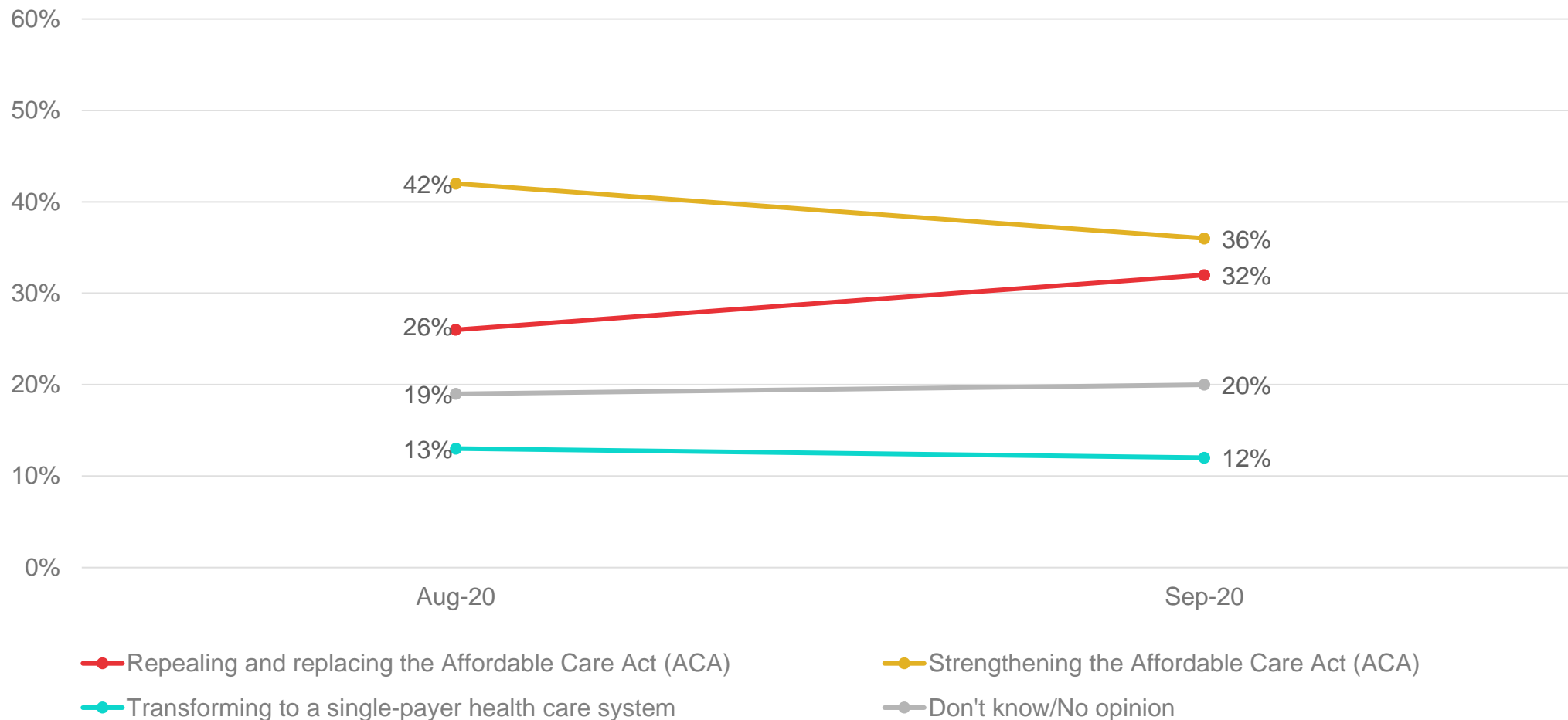
As you may know, there have been different proposals to reform the U.S. health care system. Of the following options, which health care reform plan do you support the most?



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | TREND OVER TIME

The percent of senior voters on Medicare who selected repealing and replacing the ACA increased 6% over the past month, while the percent who selected strengthening the ACA decreased 6%.

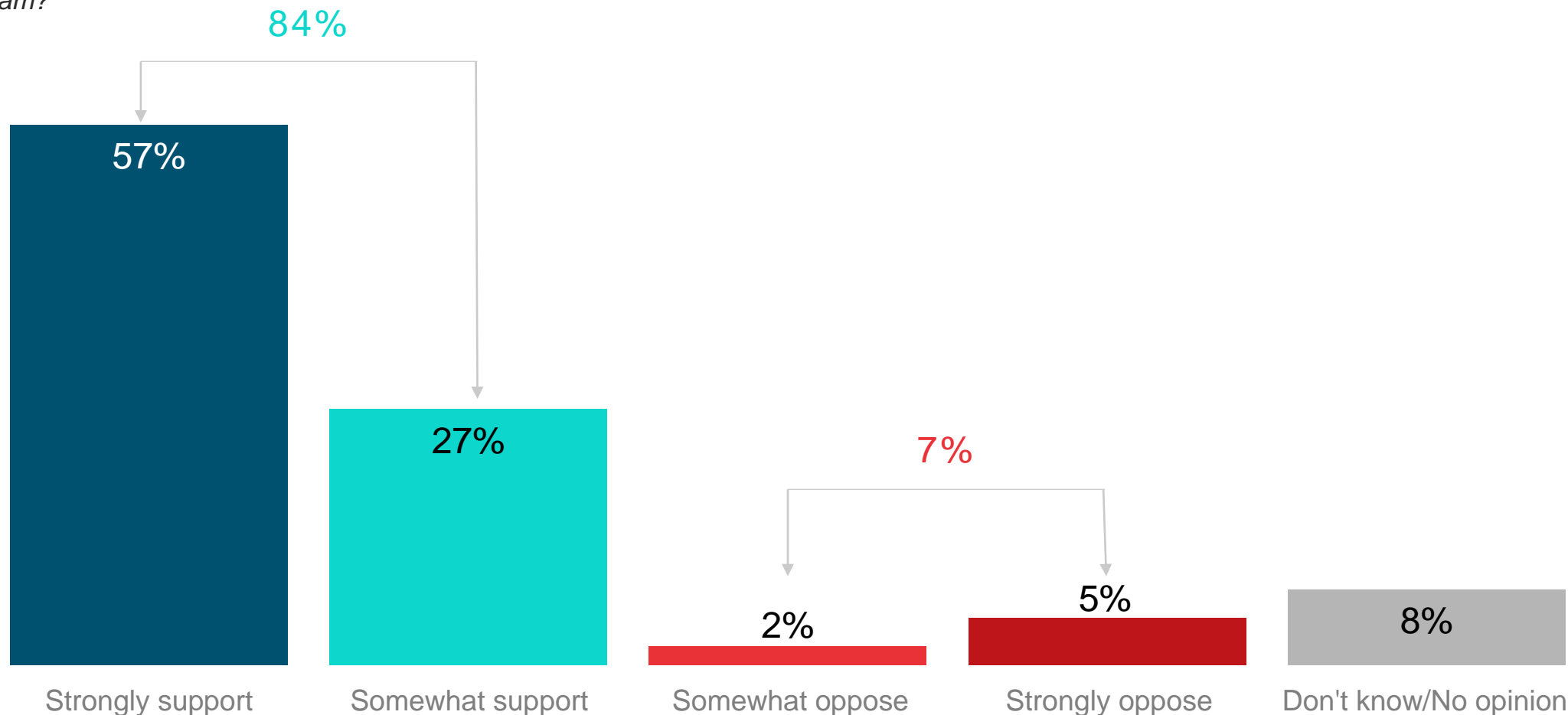
As you may know, there have been different proposals to reform the U.S. health care system. Of the following options, which health care reform plan do you support the most?



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | SEPTEMBER 2020

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

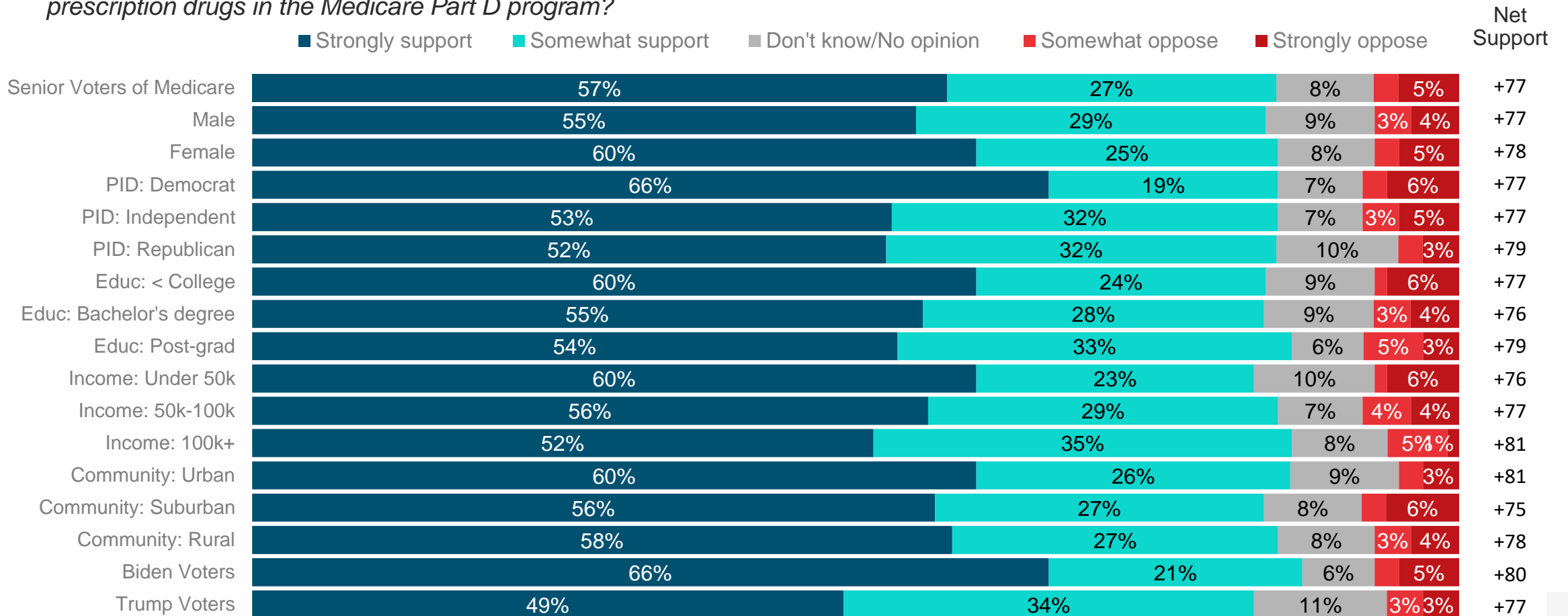
Currently there is no cap or limit on what a Medicare beneficiary pays out-of-pocket each year for prescription drugs under Medicare Part D. Congress is considering legislation that would cap or limit what seniors on Medicare Part D spend on prescription drugs. Do you support or oppose legislation that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



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | SEPTEMBER 2020

Support for this cap on out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs is bipartisan, though the intensity of support is higher among Democrats (66% *strongly support*) than Republicans (52% *strongly support*).

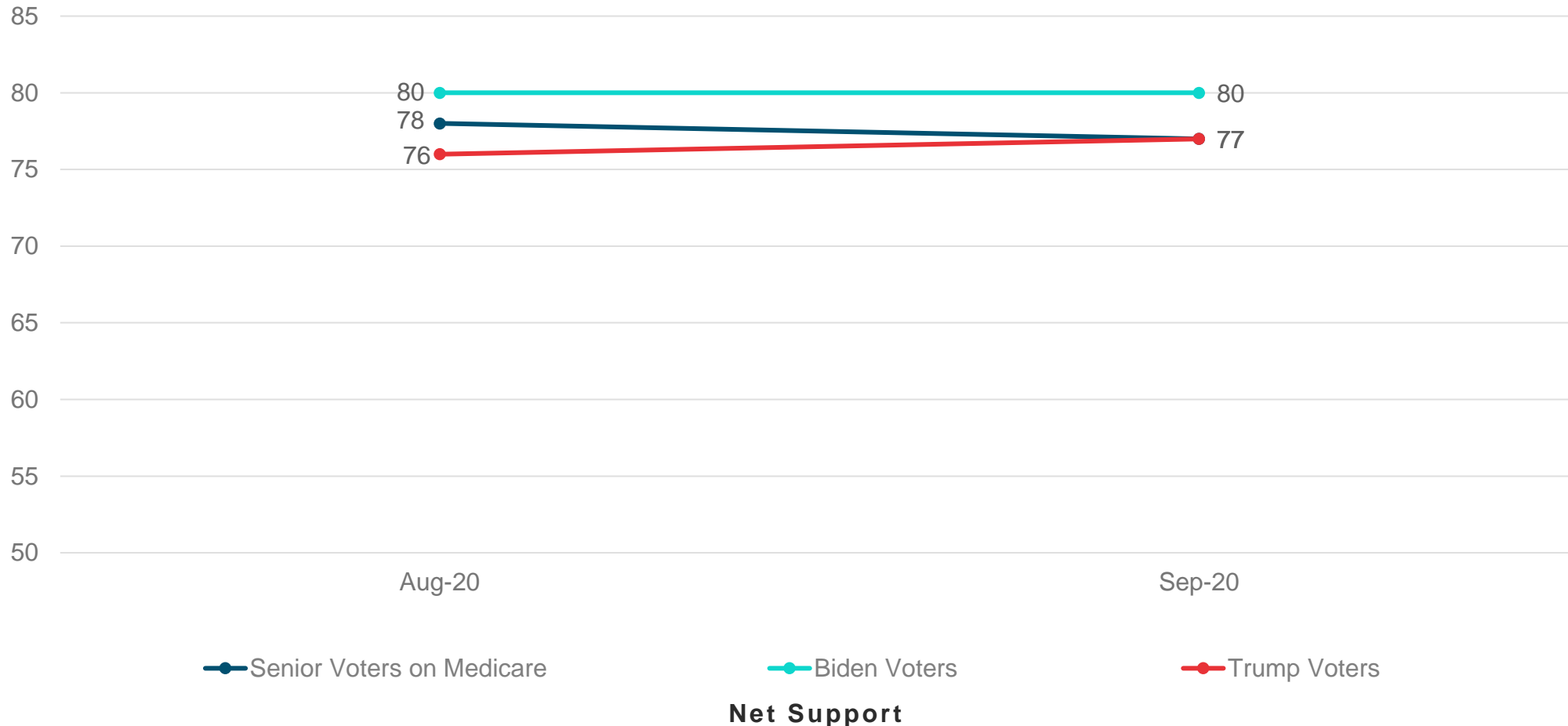
Currently there is no cap or limit on what a Medicare beneficiary pays out-of-pocket each year for prescription drugs under Medicare Part D. Congress is considering legislation that would cap or limit what seniors on Medicare Part D spend on prescription drugs. Do you support or oppose legislation that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



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | TREND OVER TIME

Net support for implementing a cap on out-of-of pocket costs in the Medicare Part D program remained high among Biden and Trump voters over the past month.

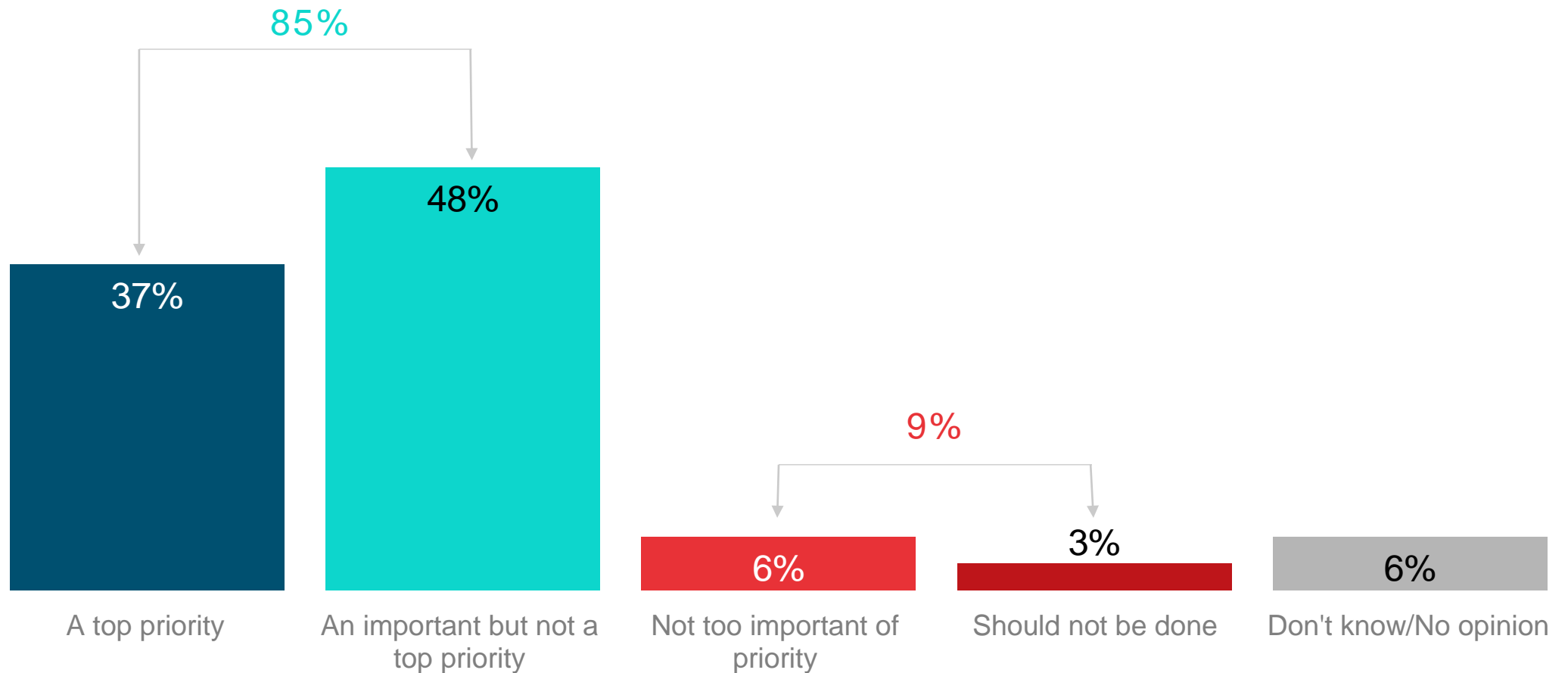
Currently there is no cap or limit on what a Medicare beneficiary pays out-of-pocket each year for prescription drugs under Medicare Part D. Congress is considering legislation that would cap or limit what seniors on Medicare Part D spend on prescription drugs. Do you support or oppose legislation that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



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | SEPTEMBER 2020

Thirty-seven 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.

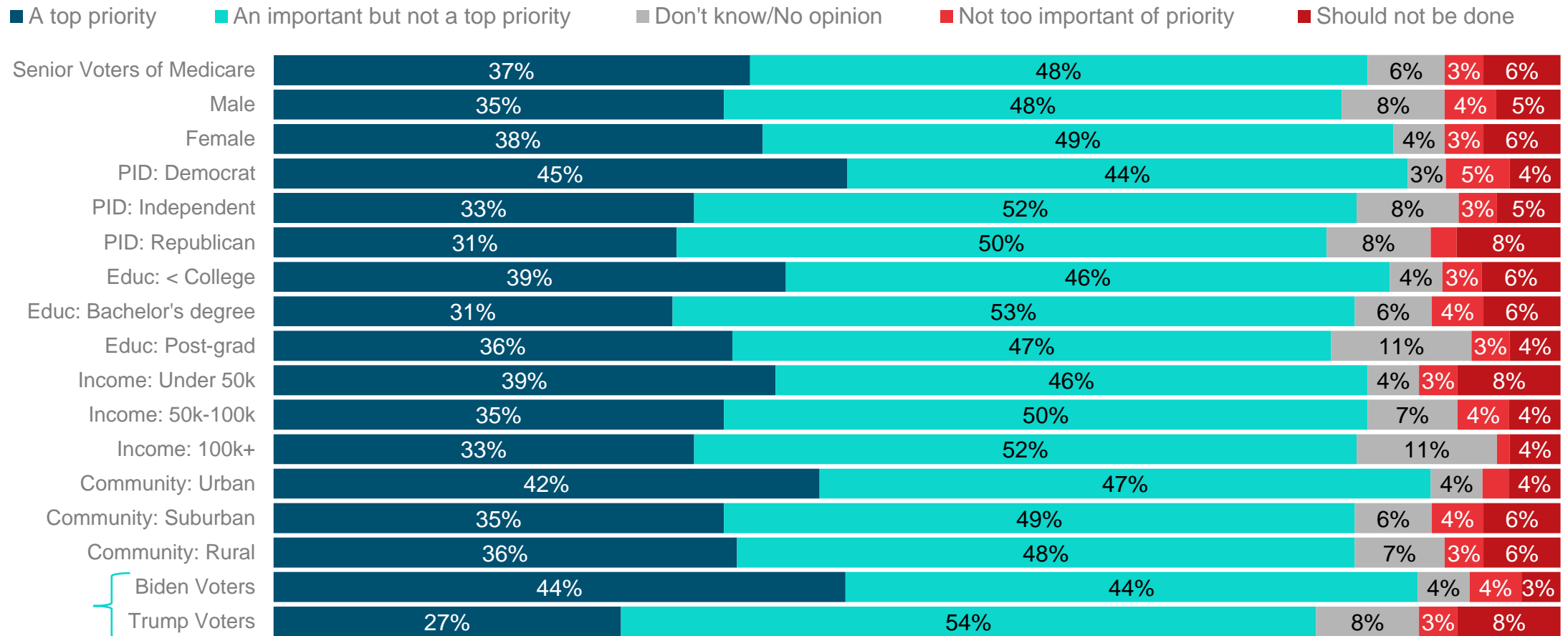
Based on what you know, how much of a priority, if at all, should it be for Congress to pass legislation that places a cap or limit on what seniors pay out-of-pocket for prescription drugs in the Medicare Part D program?



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | SEPTEMBER 2020

Biden voters are more likely than Trump voters to think this cap on prescription drugs for Medicare Part D should be *a top priority*.

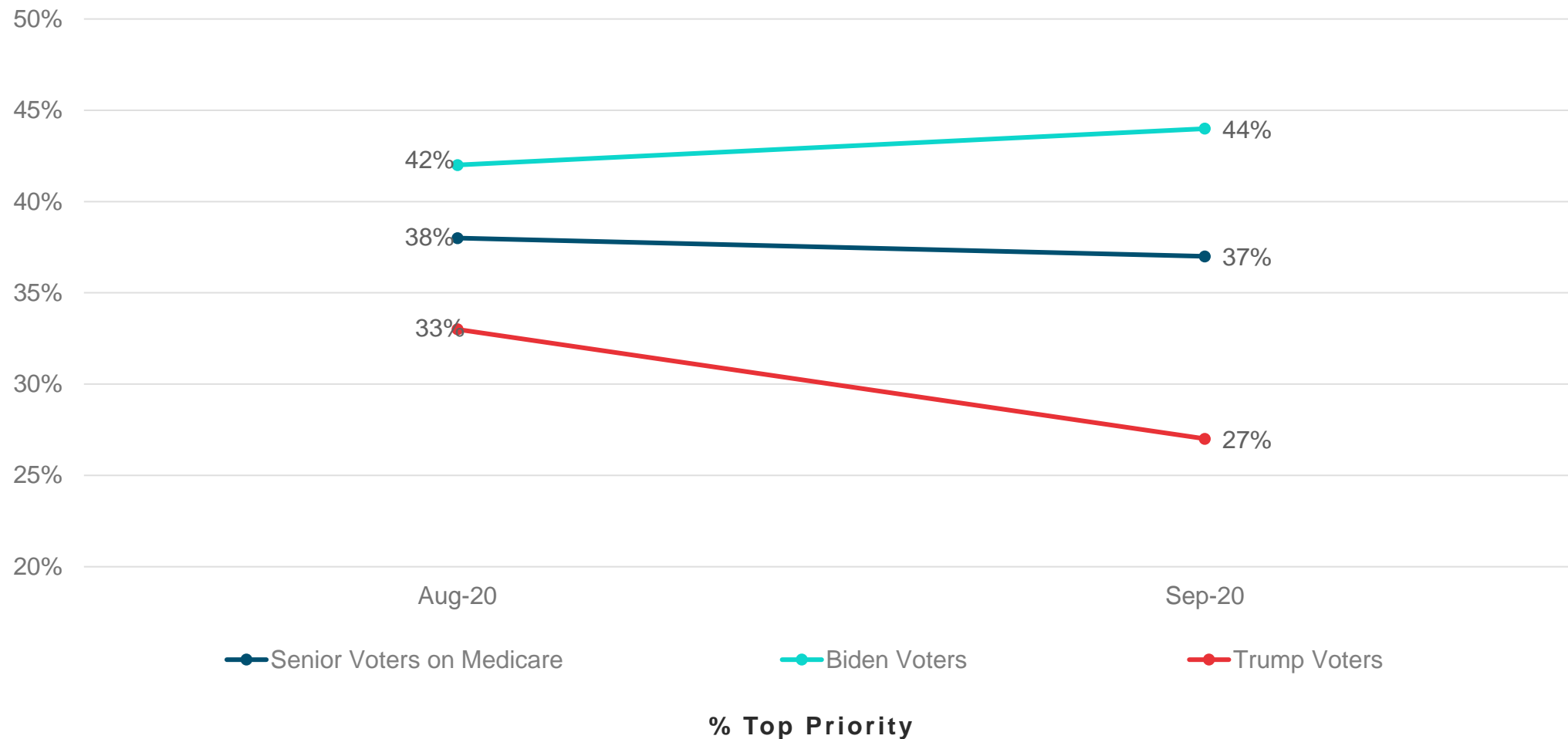
Based on what you know, how much of a priority, if at all, should it be for Congress to pass legislation that places a cap or limit on what seniors pay out-of-pocket for prescription drugs in the Medicare Part D program?



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | TREND OVER TIME

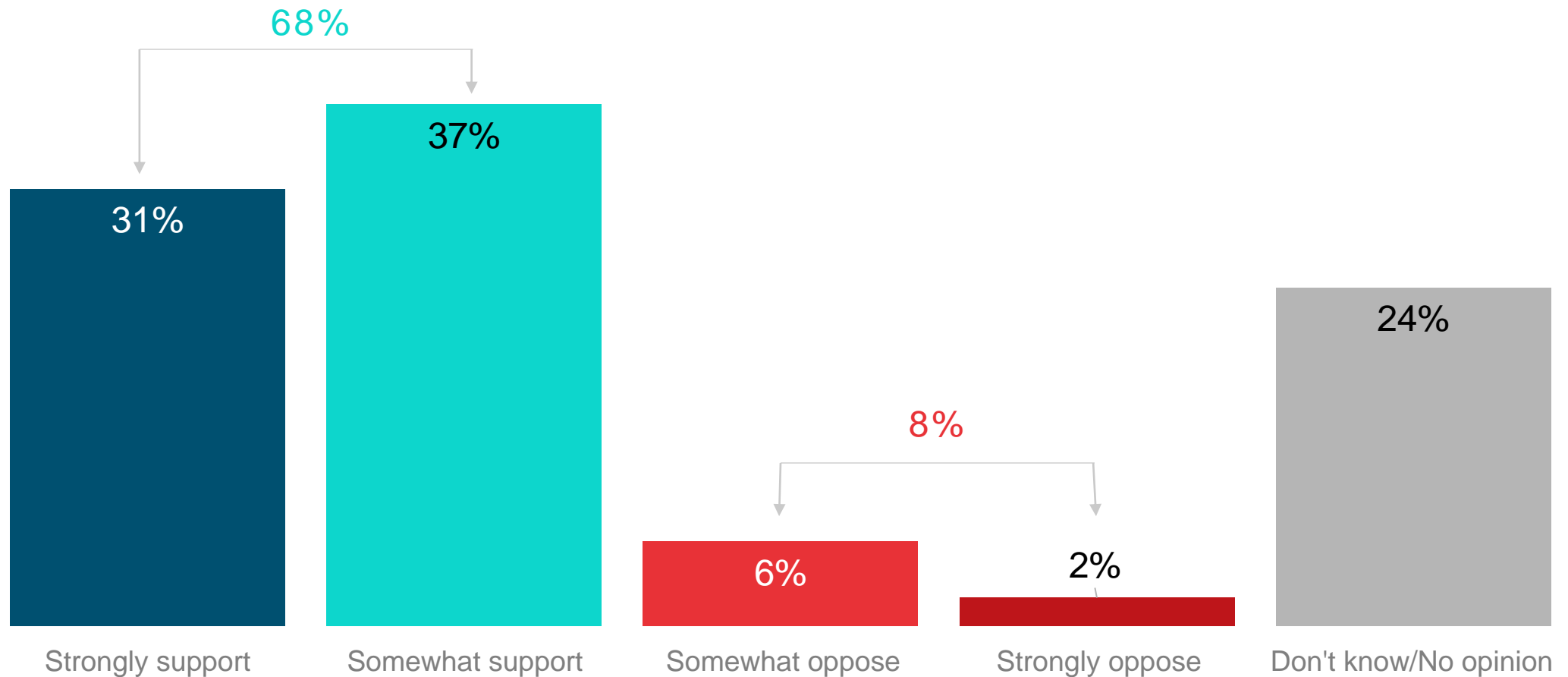
And the percentage of Trump voters who think this legislation should be a *top priority* decreased 6% over the past month.

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 (68%) of senior voters on Medicare support “smoothing” the out-of-pocket costs for prescription medications throughout the year.

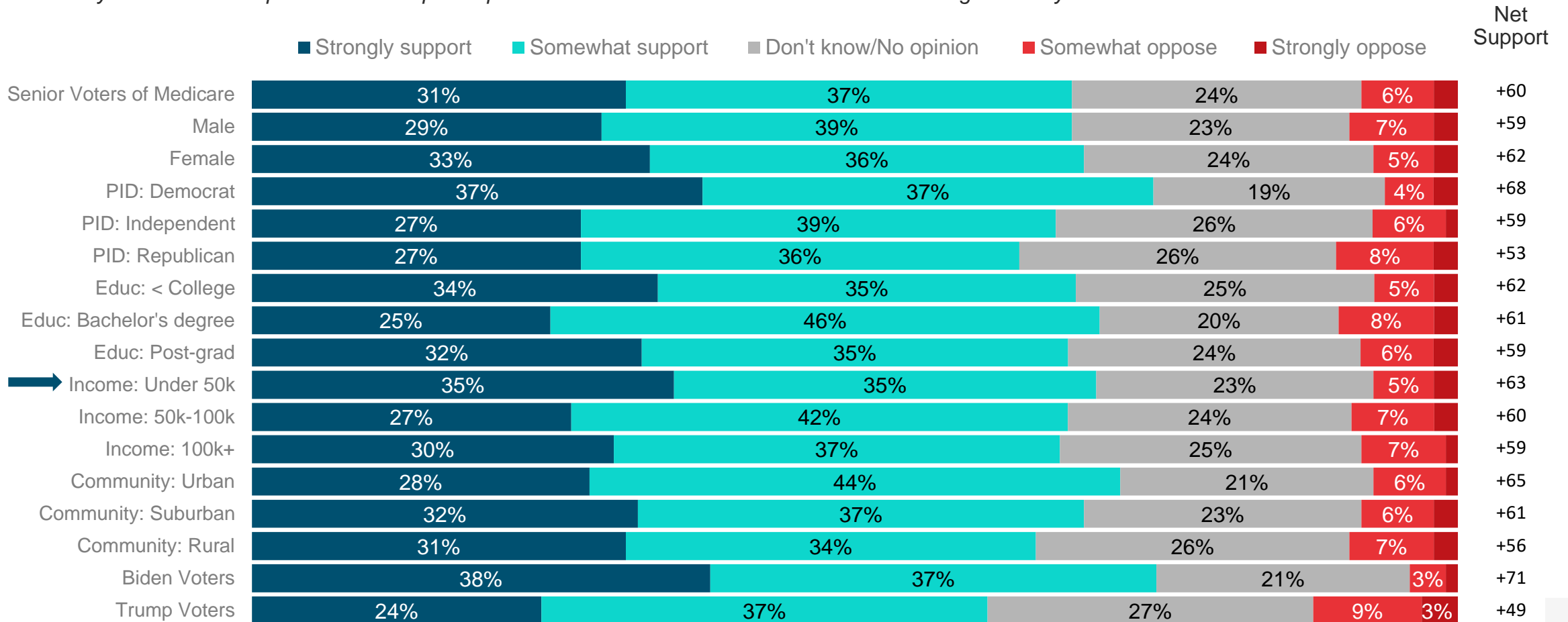
Currently, Medicare beneficiaries pay a large percent of their out of pocket costs for prescription medications in January of each year when deductibles reset. Congress is considering legislation that would evenly distribute these costs throughout the year. Do you support or oppose legislation that would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



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | SEPTEMBER 2020

Senior voters with an income under \$50k are more likely than senior voters of other income groups to *strongly support* evenly distributing out-of-pocket costs over the course of the year.

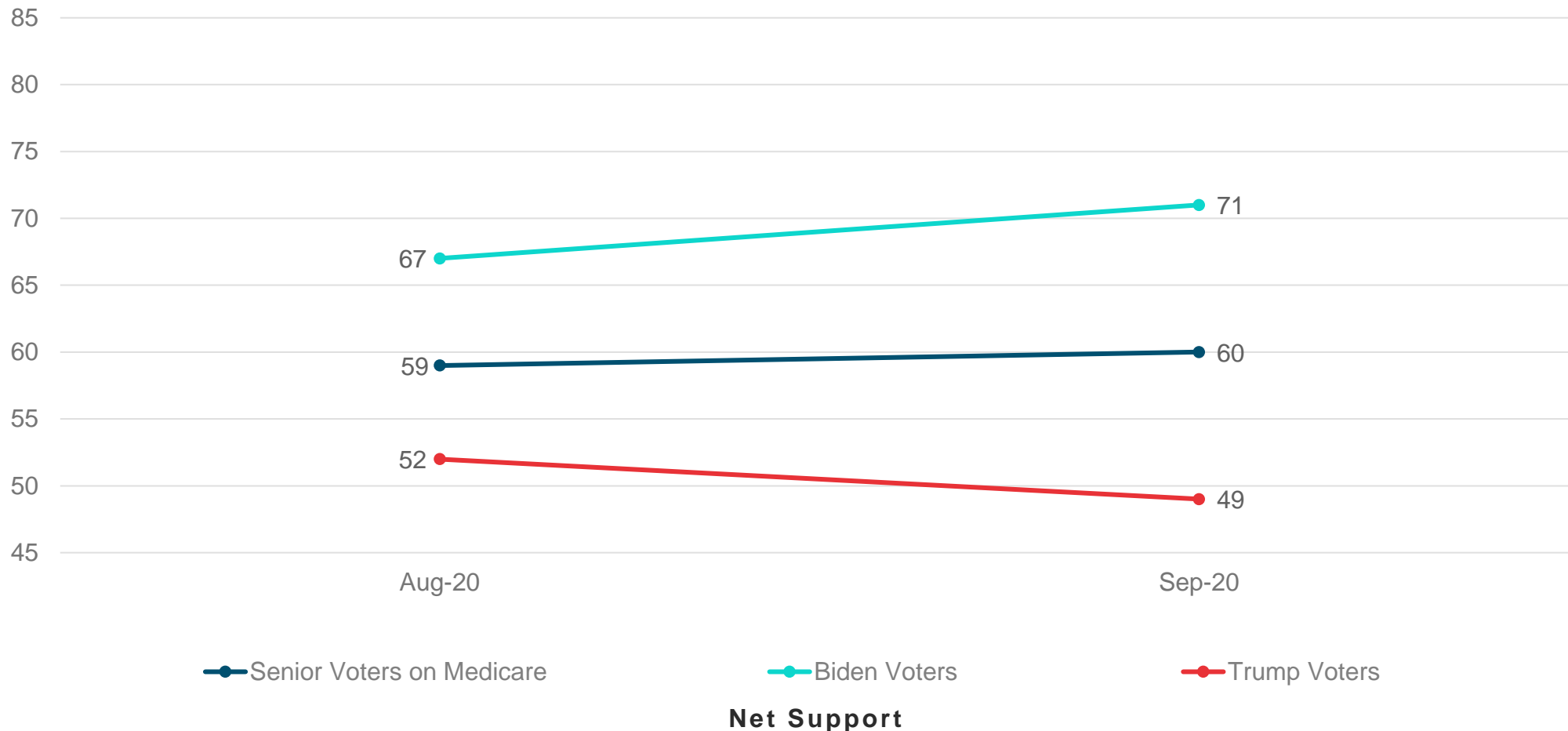
Currently, Medicare beneficiaries pay a large percent of their out of pocket costs for prescription medications in January of each year when deductibles reset. Congress is considering legislation that would evenly distribute these costs throughout the year. Do you support or oppose legislation that would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



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | TREND OVER TIME

Net support for legislation that would evenly distribute out-of-pocket costs over the cost of the year slightly increased among Biden voters (+4).

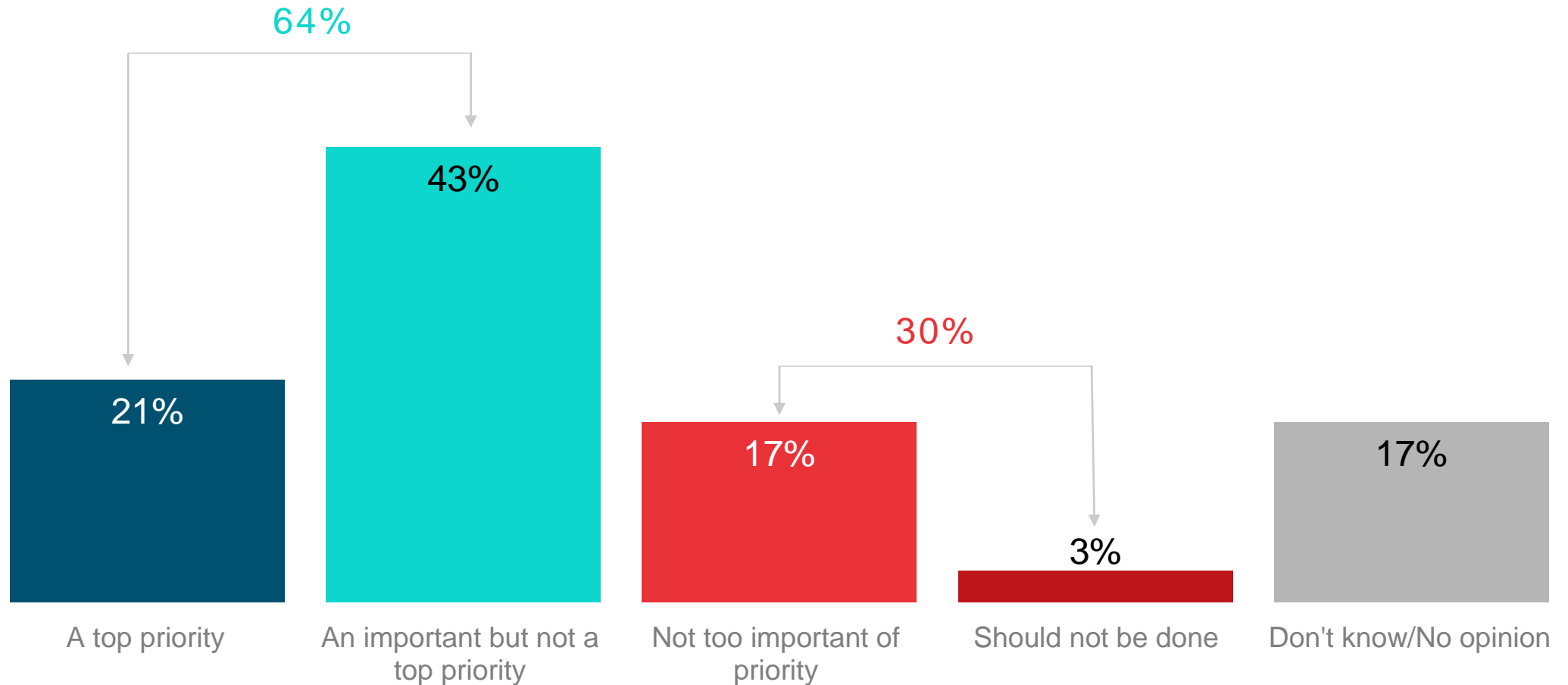
Currently, Medicare beneficiaries pay a large percent of their out of pocket costs for prescription medications in January of each year when deductibles reset. Congress is considering legislation that would evenly distribute these costs throughout the year Do you support or oppose legislation that would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



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | SEPTEMBER 2020

A fifth of senior voters (21%) 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.

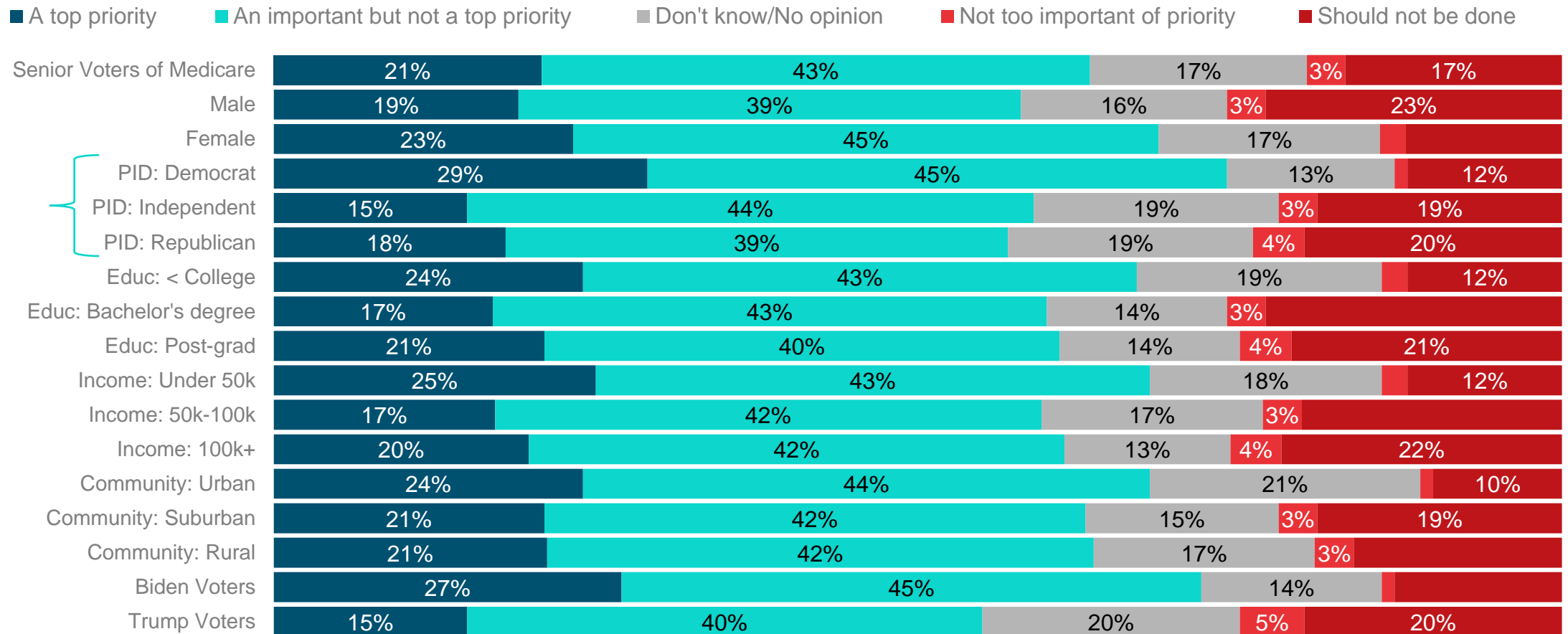
Based on what you know, how much of a priority, if at all, should it be for Congress to pass legislation that evenly distributes out of pocket costs for prescription medications for Medicare beneficiaries throughout the year?



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | SEPTEMBER 2020

Democrat senior voters are more likely than their Republican counterparts to think passing legislation that smooths out-of-pocket costs should be a top priority for Congress.

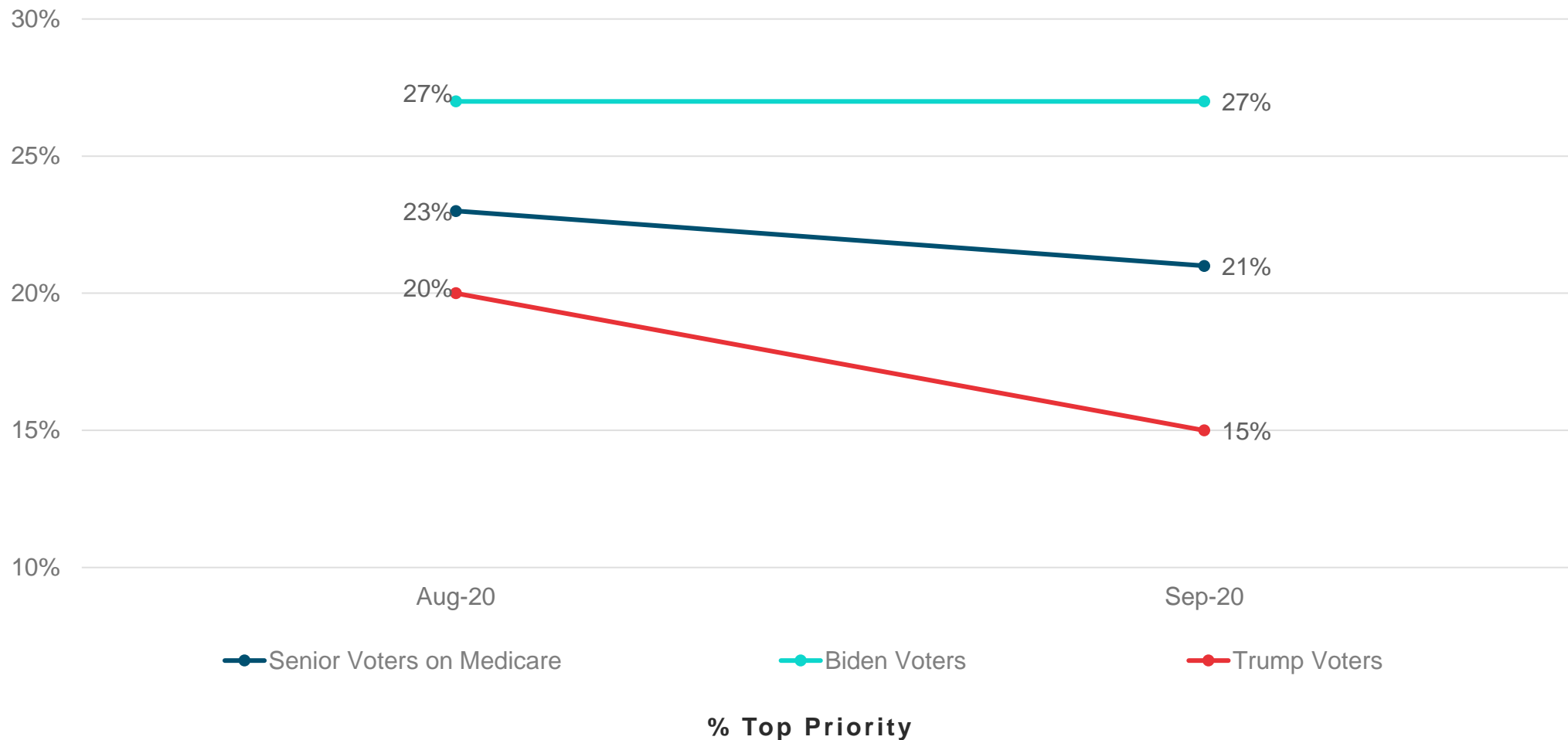
Based on what you know, how much of a priority, if at all, should it be for Congress to pass legislation that evenly distributes out of pocket costs for prescription medications for Medicare beneficiaries throughout the year?



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | TREND OVER TIME

The percentage of Trump senior voters who think smoothing legislation should be a *top priority* decreased 5% over the past month.

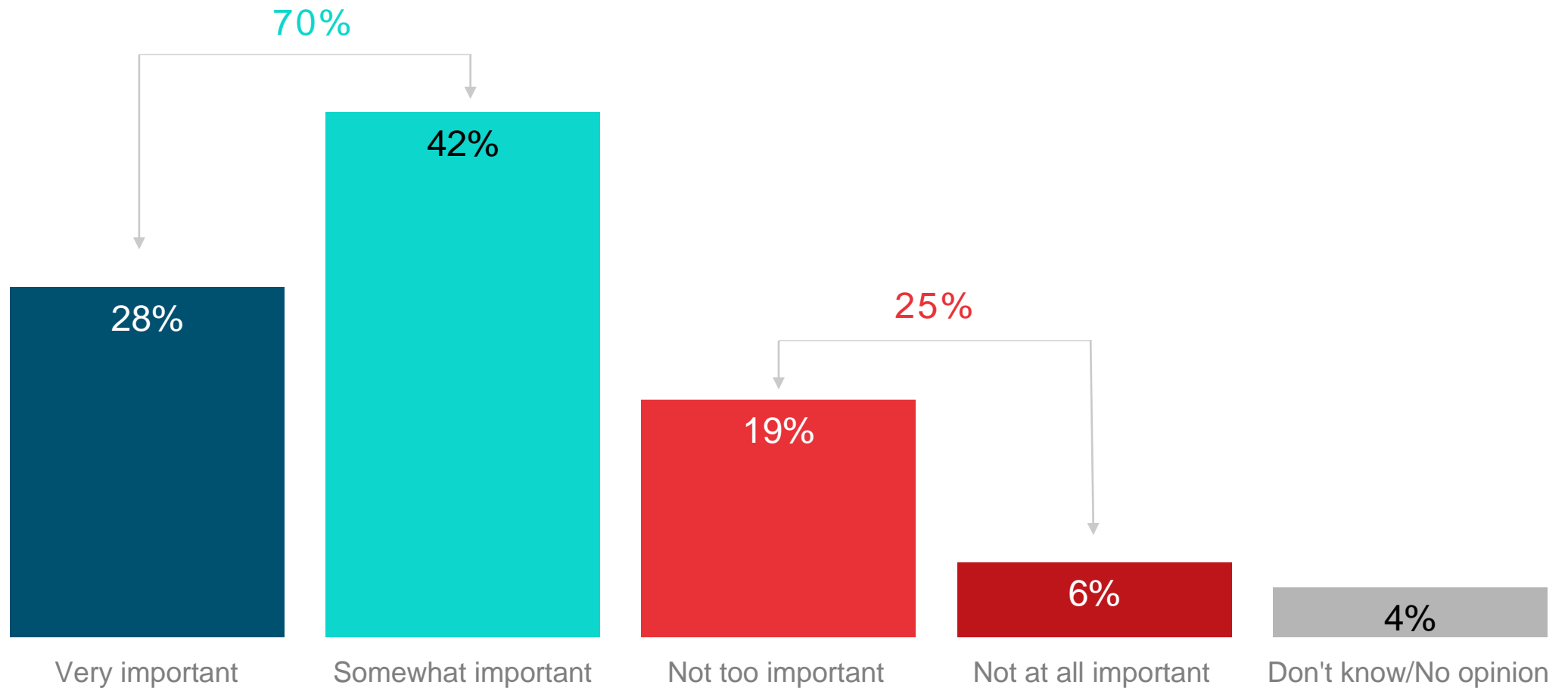
Based on what you know, how much of a priority, if at all, should it be for Congress to pass legislation that evenly distributes out of pocket costs for prescription medications for Medicare beneficiaries throughout the year?



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | SEPTEMBER 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.

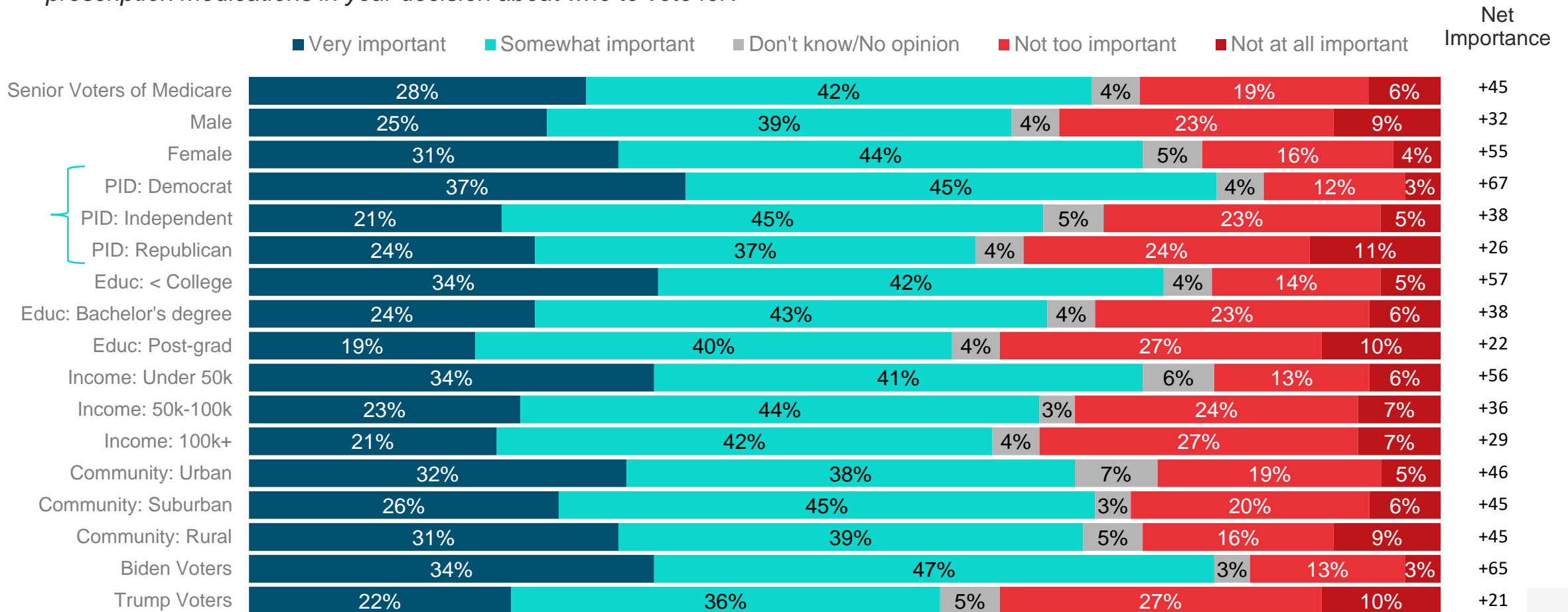
Thinking about the 2020 presidential election, how important, if at all, is a candidate's plan to address out-of-pocket costs for prescription medications in your decision about who to vote for?



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | SEPTEMBER 2020

A candidate’s plan to address out-of-pocket costs for prescription medications is important to senior voters across the political spectrum, although intensity of importance is higher among Democrat voters.

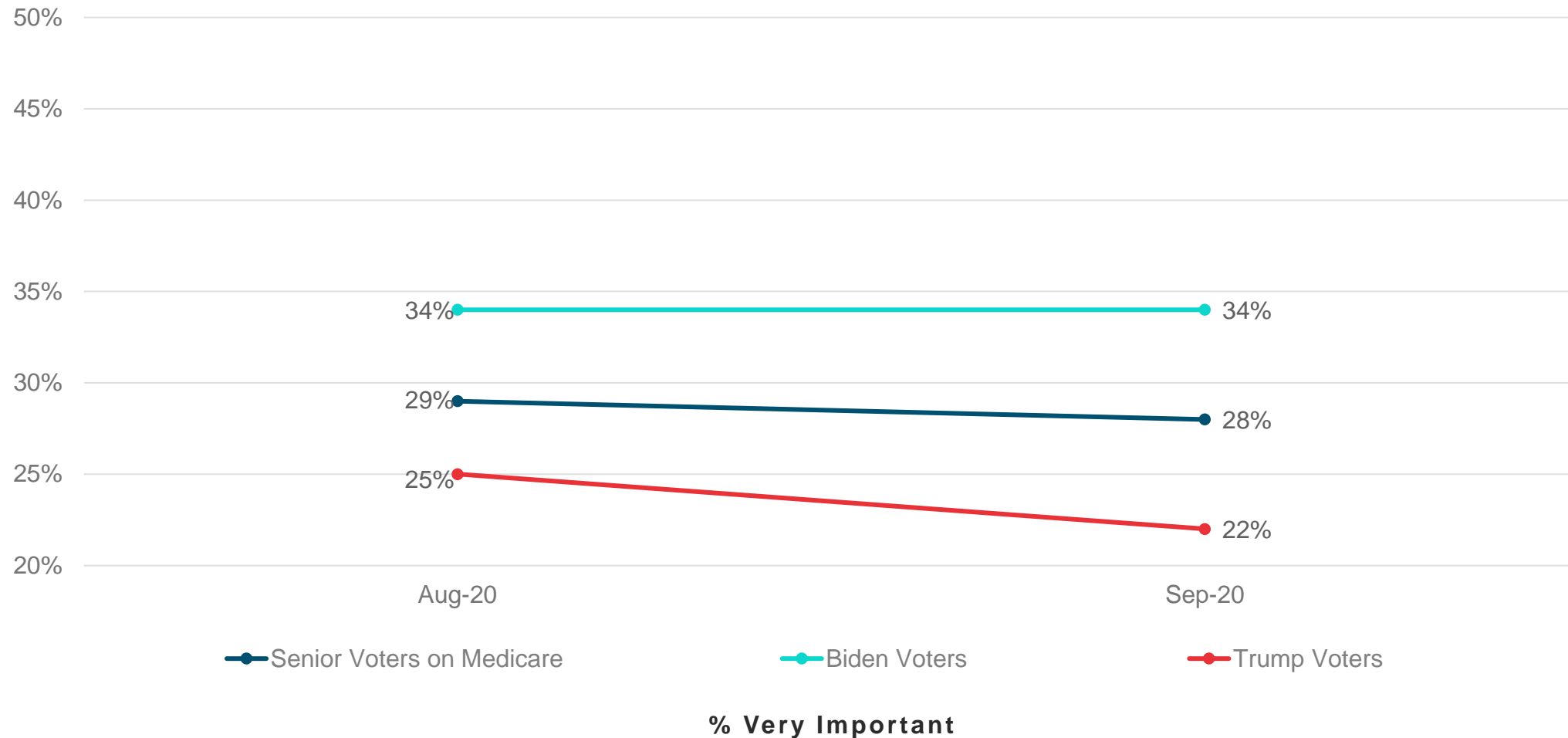
Thinking about the 2020 presidential election, how important, if at all, is a candidate's plan to address out-of-pocket costs for prescription medications in your decision about who to vote for?



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | TREND OVER TIME

The percentage of Biden and Trump voters who think a candidate’s plan to address out-of-pocket costs is *very important* remained unchanged over the past month.

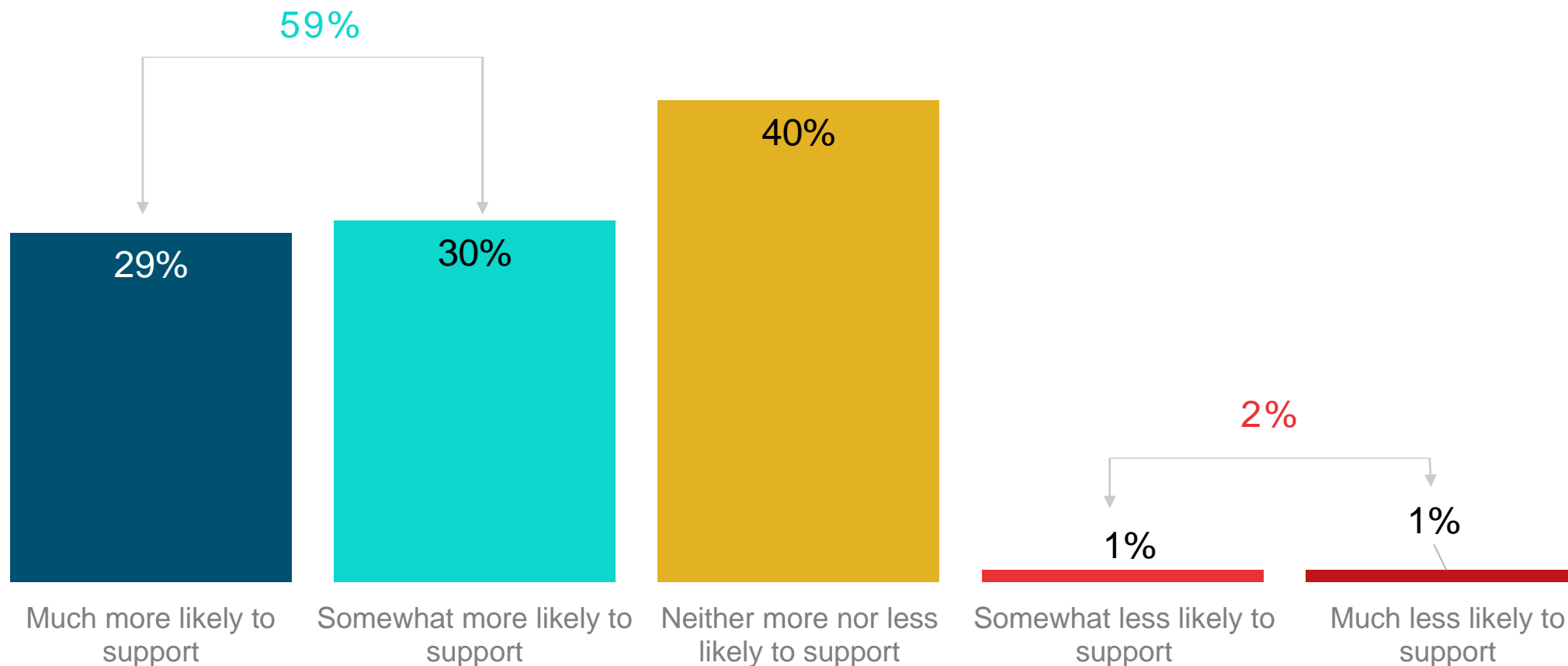
Thinking about the 2020 presidential election, how important, if at all, is a candidate's plan to address out-of-pocket costs for prescription medications in your decision about who to vote for?



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | SEPTEMBER 2020

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: 59% of senior voters are more likely to support that candidate while just 2% are less likely to support a candidate for that stance.

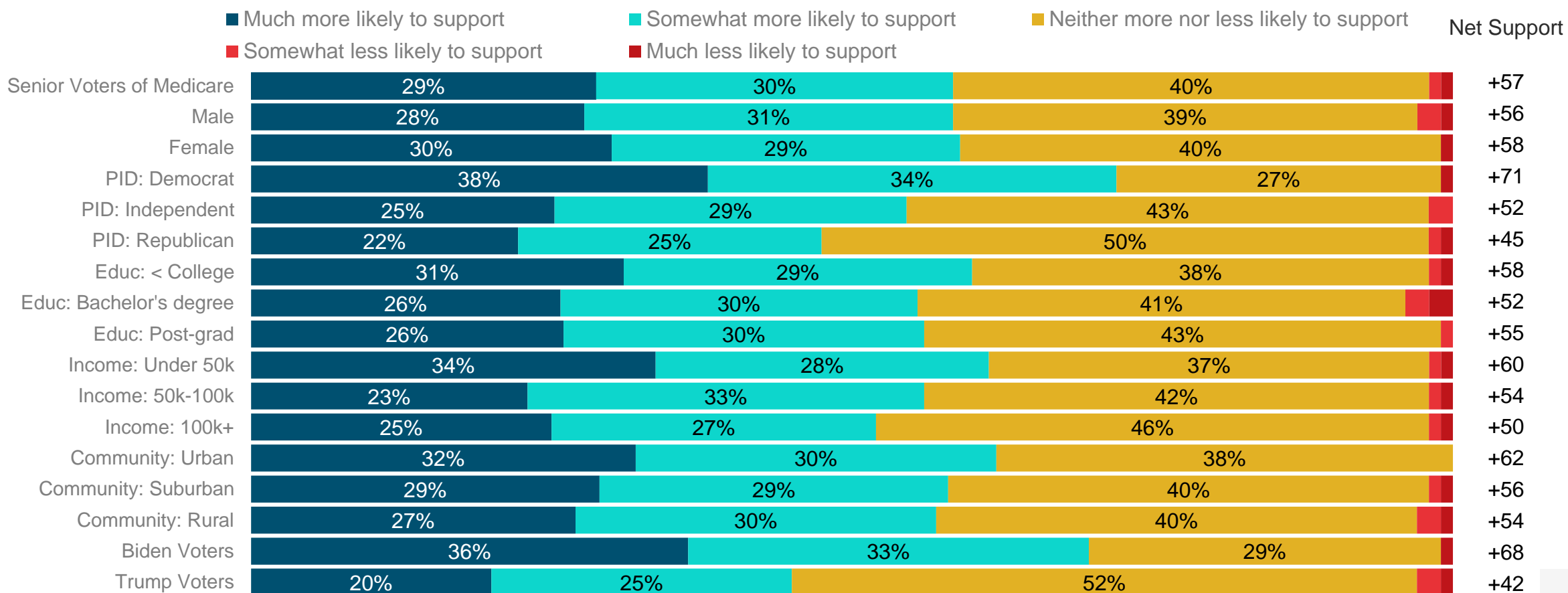
Would you be more or less likely to support a 2020 presidential candidate who supported placing a cap or limit on what seniors pay out-of-pocket for prescription drugs in the Medicare Part D program, or would it have no impact on your support either way?



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | SEPTEMBER 2020

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.

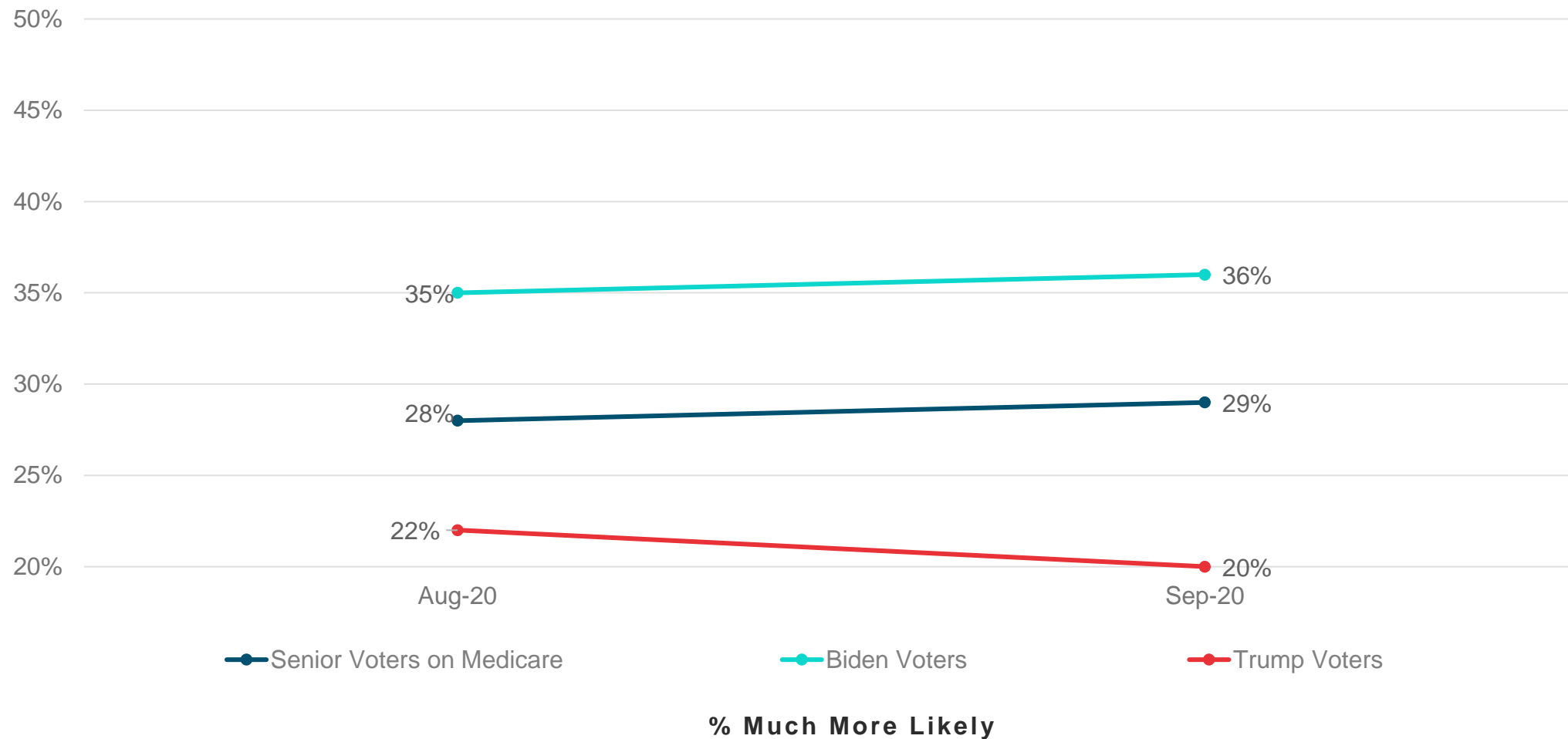
Would you be more or less likely to support a 2020 presidential candidate who supported placing a cap or limit on what seniors pay out-of-pocket for prescription drugs in the Medicare Part D program, or would it have no impact on your support either way?



HEALTH CARE POLICY IN THE 2020 ELECTION | TREND OVER TIME

The percentage of Biden and Trump voters who would be *much more likely* to support a candidate who supported a cap on what seniors pay out-of-pocket remained unchanged over the past month.

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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1 Voting + Top Issues in 2020

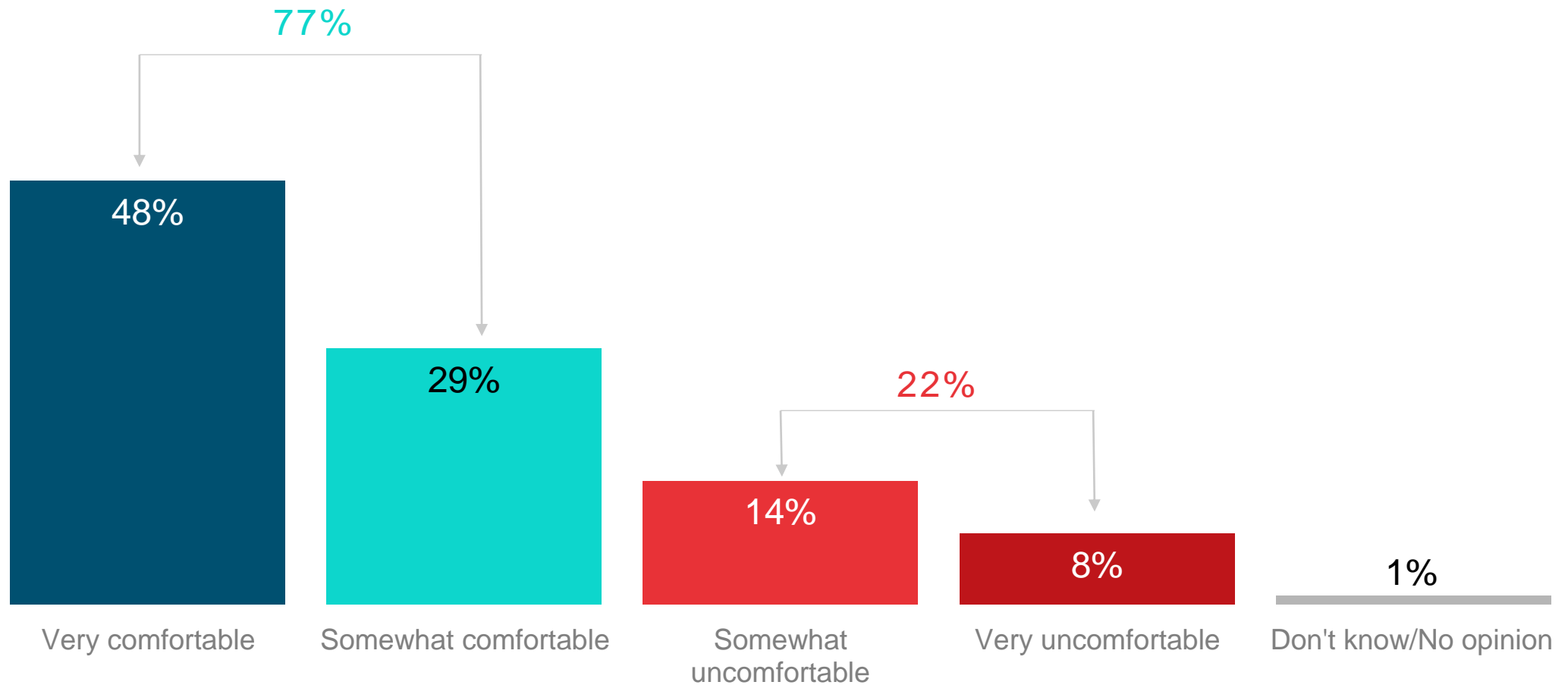
2 Health Care Policy in the
2020 Election

3 Health Care during COVID-19

HEALTH CARE DURING COVID-19 | SEPTEMBER 2020

More than three in four (77%) senior voters on Medicare are currently comfortable going to their doctor to receive routine medical care in person.

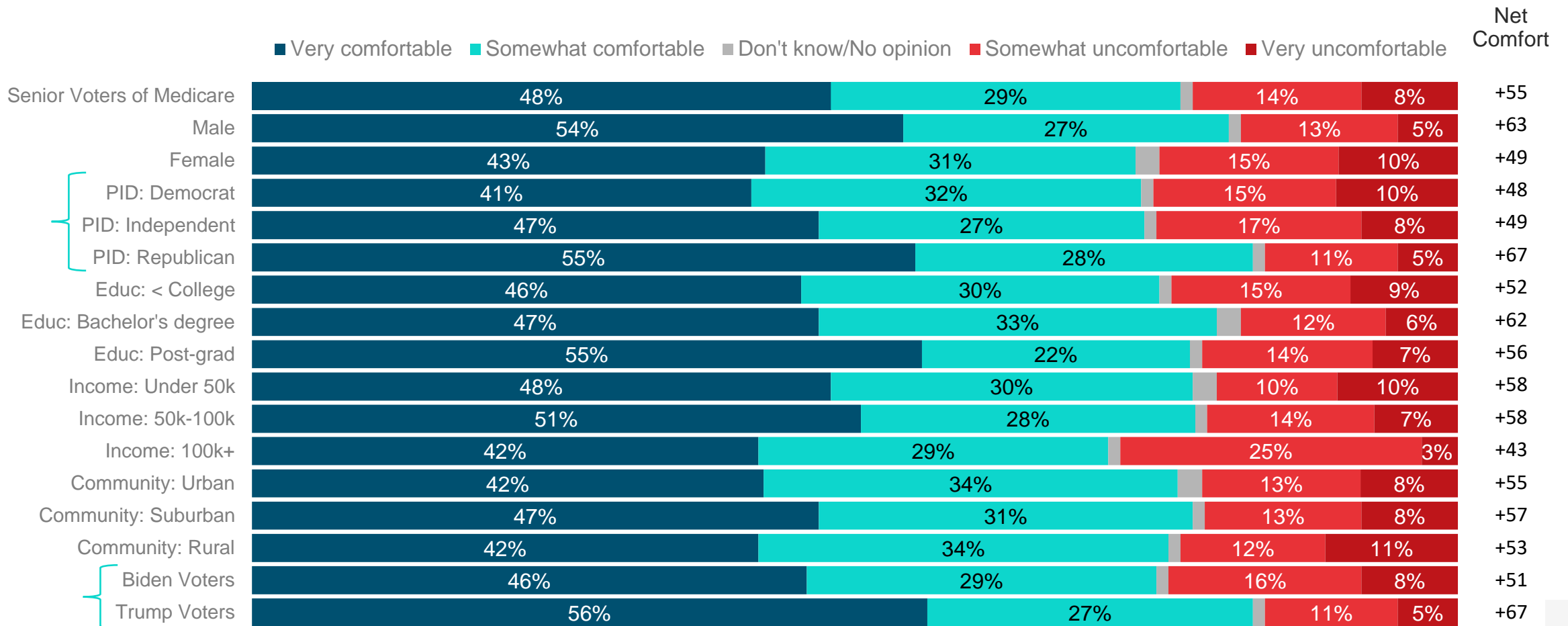
Currently, how comfortable or uncomfortable are you going to your doctor to receive routine medical care in person?



HEALTH CARE DURING COVID-19 | SEPTEMBER 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.

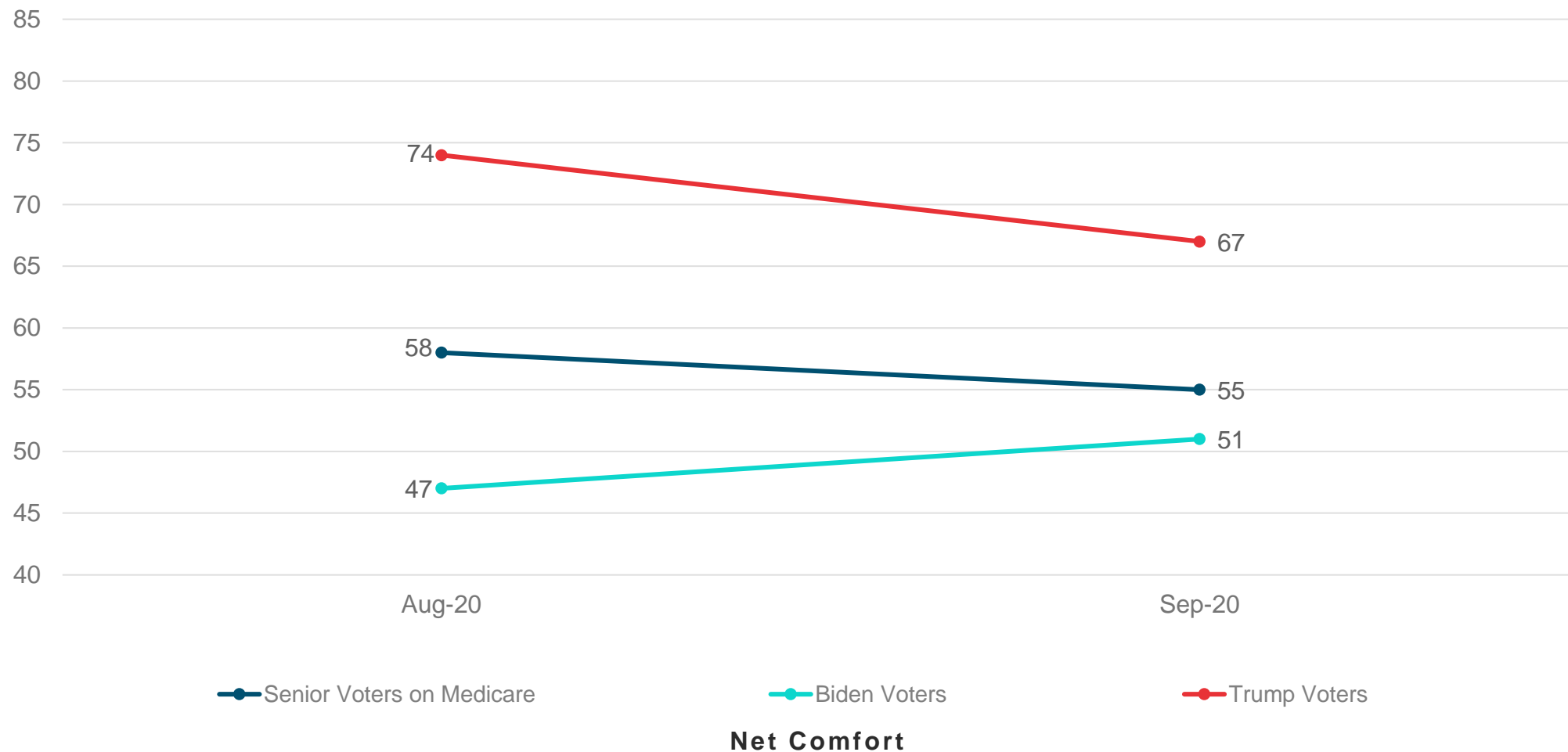
Currently, how comfortable or uncomfortable are you going to your doctor to receive routine medical care in person?



HEALTH CARE DURING COVID-19 | TREND OVER TIME

Net comfort going to the doctor decreased among Trump voters (-7), while it slightly increased among Biden voters (+4).

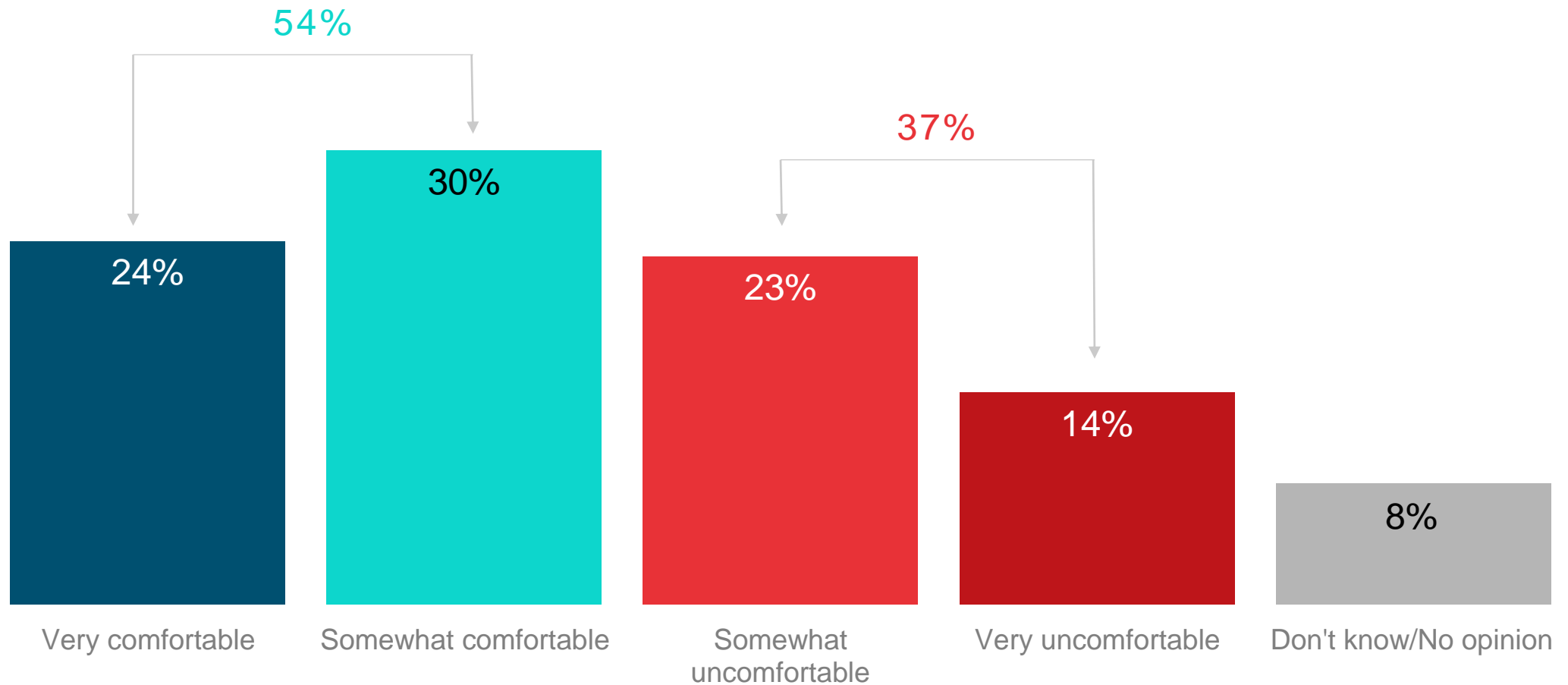
Currently, how comfortable or uncomfortable are you going to your doctor to receive routine medical care in person?



HEALTH CARE DURING COVID-19 | SEPTEMBER 2020

Senior voters are more likely to be comfortable (54%) rather than uncomfortable (37%) using telemedicine for routine medical care.

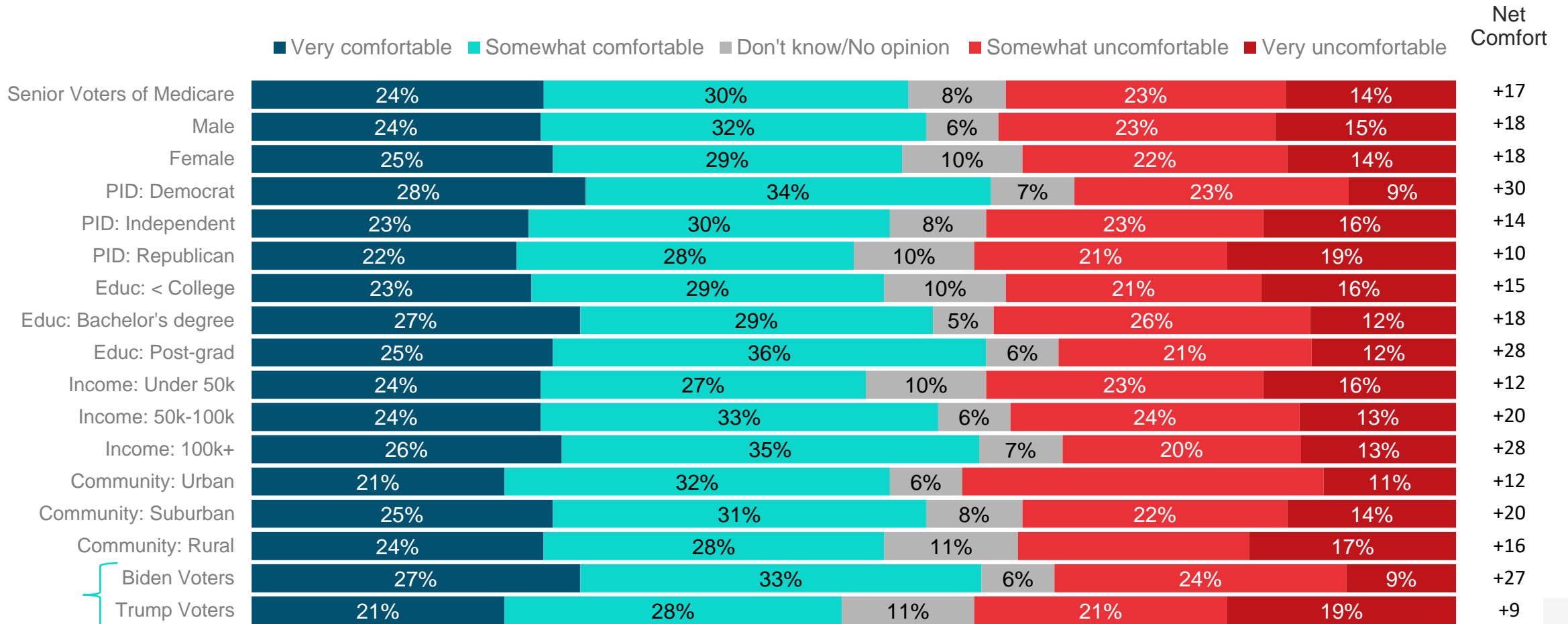
As you may know, **telemedicine** is the remote administration of health care by phone, video, instant messaging, or other digital means. How comfortable or uncomfortable are you using telemedicine for routine medical care?



HEALTH CARE DURING COVID-19 | SEPTEMBER 2020

Biden voters are more comfortable with telemedicine than their Trump voter counterparts (+27 net comfort vs. +9 net comfort).

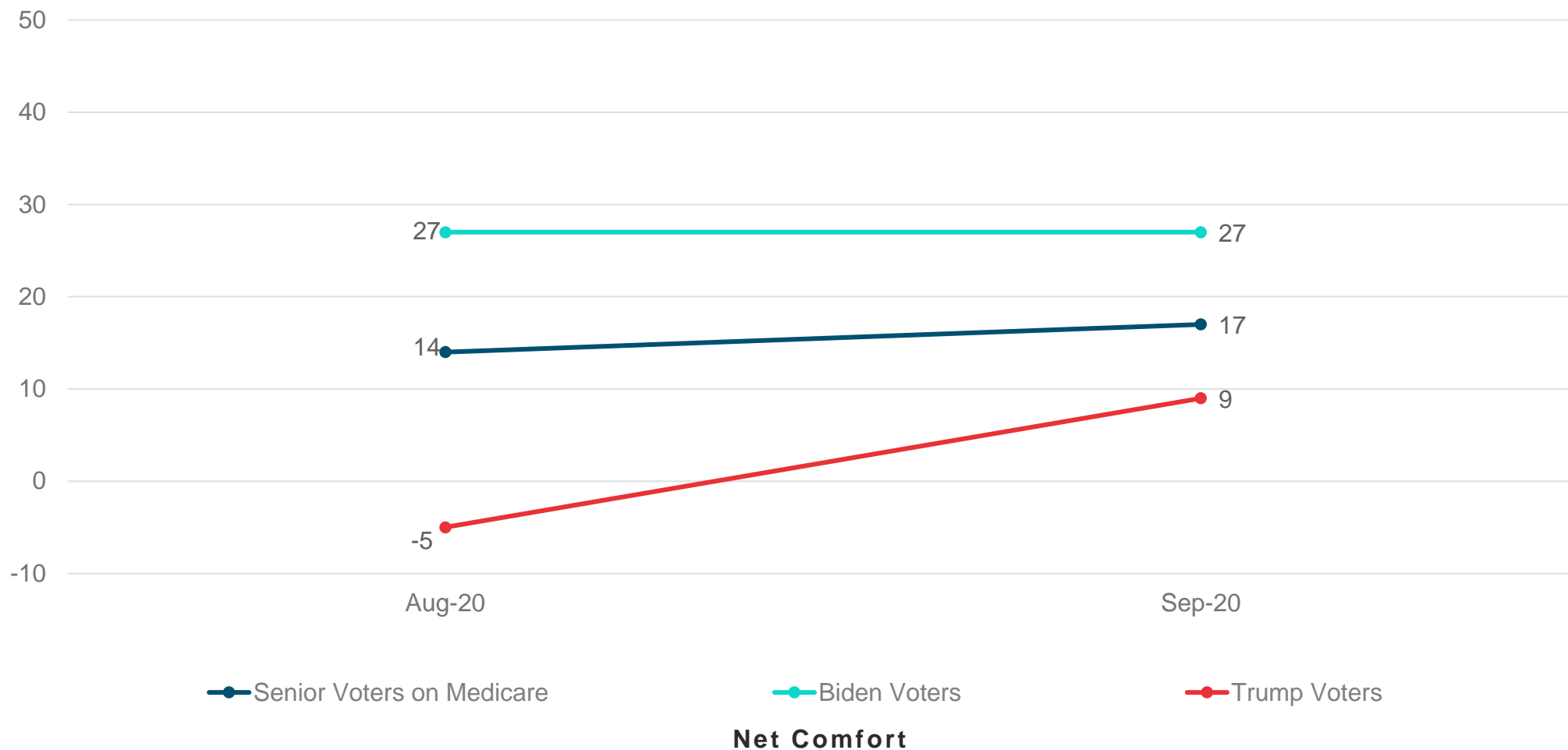
As you may know, **telemedicine** is the remote administration of health care by phone, video, instant messaging, or other digital means. How comfortable or uncomfortable are you using telemedicine for routine medical care?



HEALTH CARE DURING COVID-19 | TREND OVER TIME

Net comfort using telemedicine for routine medical care increased 14 points among Trump voters over the past month.

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 | SEPTEMBER 2020

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

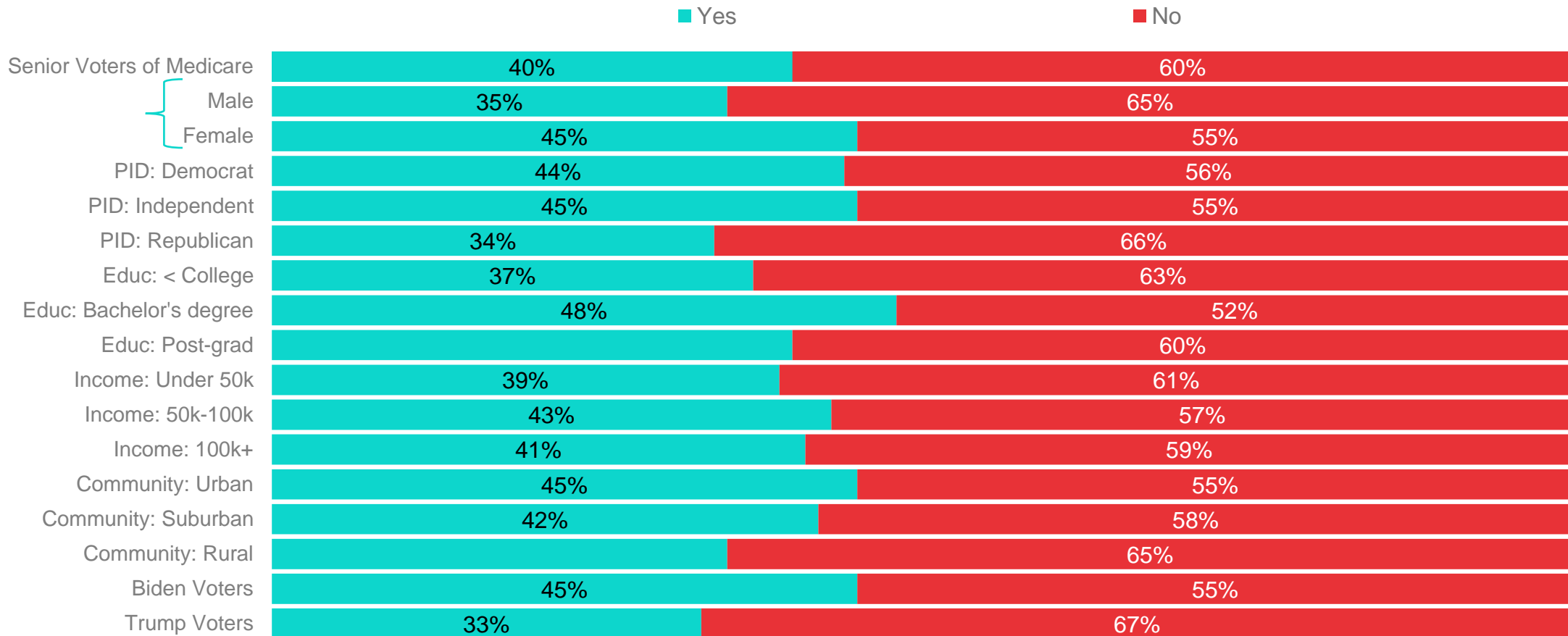
Since the start of COVID-19, have you personally delayed seeking routine medical care, such as an annual physical, mammogram, or colonoscopy?



HEALTH CARE DURING COVID-19 | SEPTEMBER 2020

Women senior voters are 10 points more likely than their male counterparts to have delayed seeking routine medical care since the start of COVID-19.

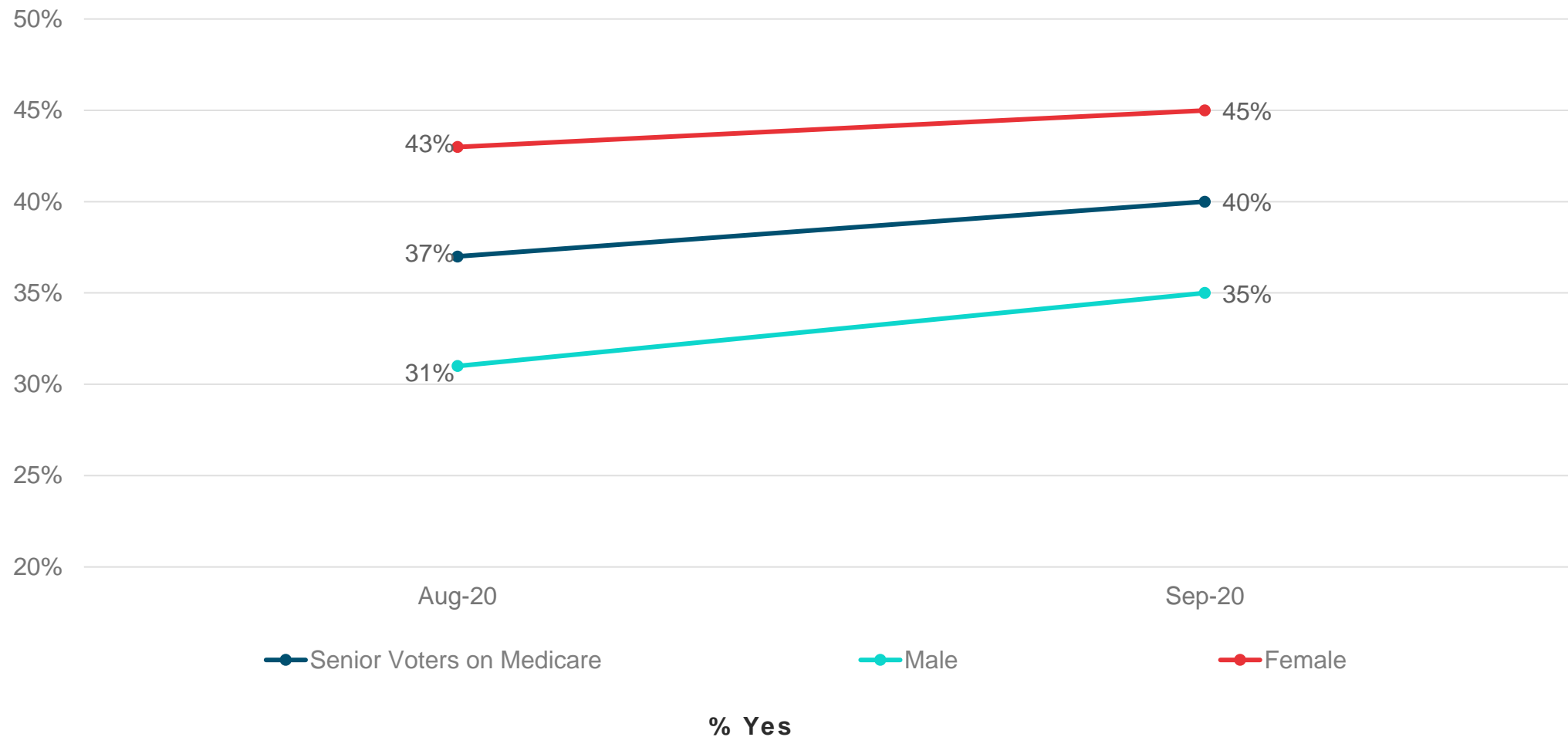
Since the start of COVID-19, have you personally delayed seeking routine medical care, such as an annual physical, mammogram, or colonoscopy?



HEALTH CARE DURING COVID-19 | **SEPTEMBER 2020**

The percent of senior voters on Medicare who have delayed seeking medical care increased 3% over the past month.

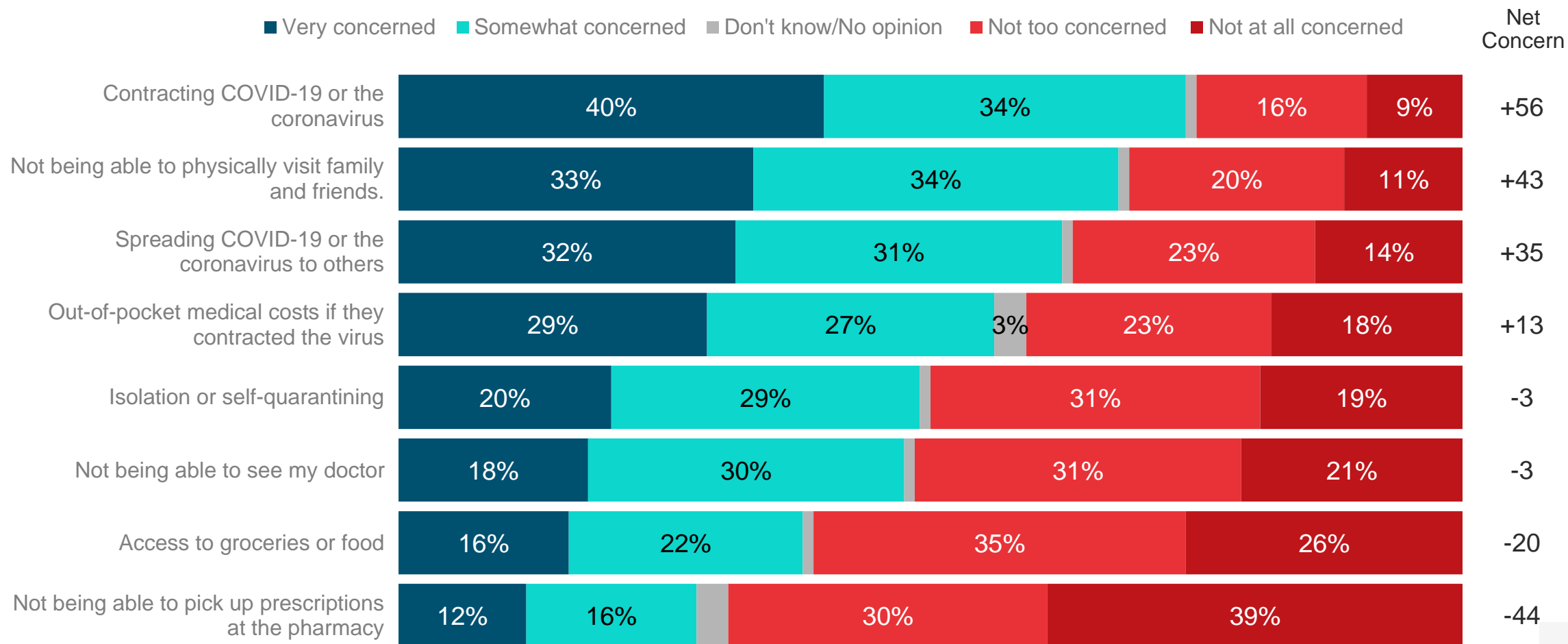
Since the start of COVID-19, have you personally delayed seeking routine medical care, such as an annual physical, mammogram, or colonoscopy?



HEALTH CARE DURING COVID-19 | SEPTEMBER 2020

Of the testing impacts of COVID-19, senior voters on Medicare are most concerned with actually contracting the virus, followed by not being able to physically visit family and friends.

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



HEALTH CARE DURING COVID-19 | TREND OVER TIME

Concern for the tested impacts of COVID-19 remained the same over the past month.

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

