

 MORNING CONSULT

# Better Medicare Alliance

HHS REBATE PROPOSAL POLLING  
PRESENTATION

April 5, 2019

# Key Points

- 1 Seniors on Medicare are satisfied with their health insurance coverage.**
  - A strong majority of seniors on Medicare (92%) are satisfied with their health insurance coverage.
  - And, 3 in 5 seniors (58%) on a Medicare Advantage plan are **very satisfied** with their health insurance coverage.
- 2 Supplemental benefits are highly valued by seniors on Medicare Advantage.**
  - A majority (79%) of seniors on Medicare Advantage value their access to supplemental benefits.
- 3 Initially, seniors on Medicare are more likely to support (45%) rather than oppose (30%) the HHS proposal to remove rebates under Medicare Part D.**

- 4 However, in the post-test of the proposal, opposition of the proposal doubled, increasing to 62%.**
- 5 About half of seniors on Medicare are more likely to oppose the HHS proposal knowing it would negatively affect nearly 16 million people on Medicare Part D.**
  - And, 48% of seniors on Medicare are more likely to oppose the HHS proposal knowing eliminating rebates could destabilize premiums and cause an increase in prescription drug prices.
- 6 Among seniors who have a Part D Medicare plan, 43% say a \$29/month increase in their healthcare premium if the proposal is passed would have a major impact on their ability to pay for their monthly healthcare premium.**
  - Half of seniors (54%) on a Medicare Part D plan who would be impacted if their premium increased say they would make lifestyle changes in order to afford the \$29/month increase such as cutting other expenses like groceries, gas, etc.

## **Methodology**

*This poll was conducted between April 2- April 3, 2019 among a national sample of 499 Seniors on Medicare. The interviews were conducted online. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.*

# Content



**Measuring Satisfaction of  
Health Insurance**



**Evaluating Support of HHS  
Proposal**

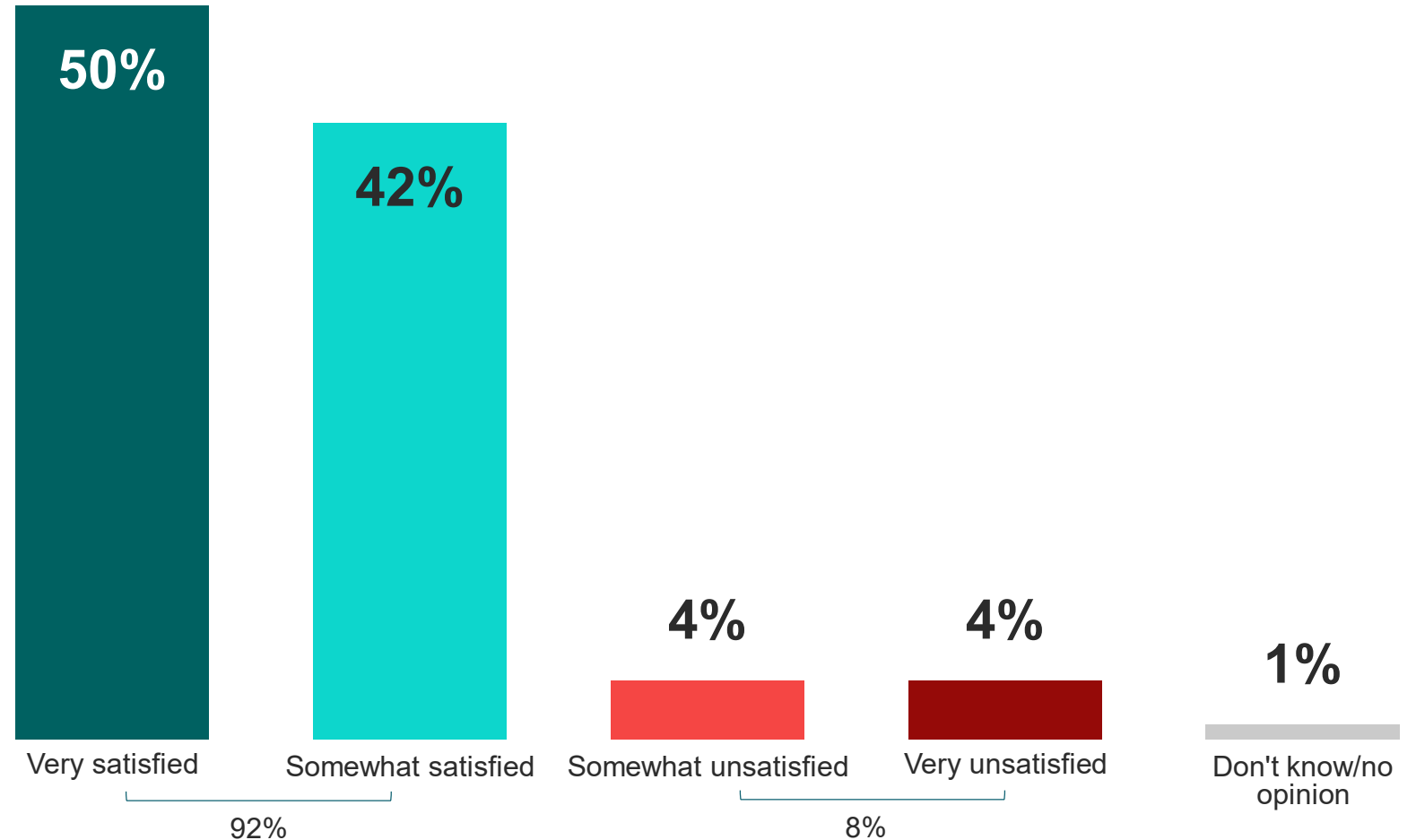


**Personal Impact of the HHS  
Proposal**

## A strong majority of seniors on Medicare (92%) are satisfied with their health insurance coverage.

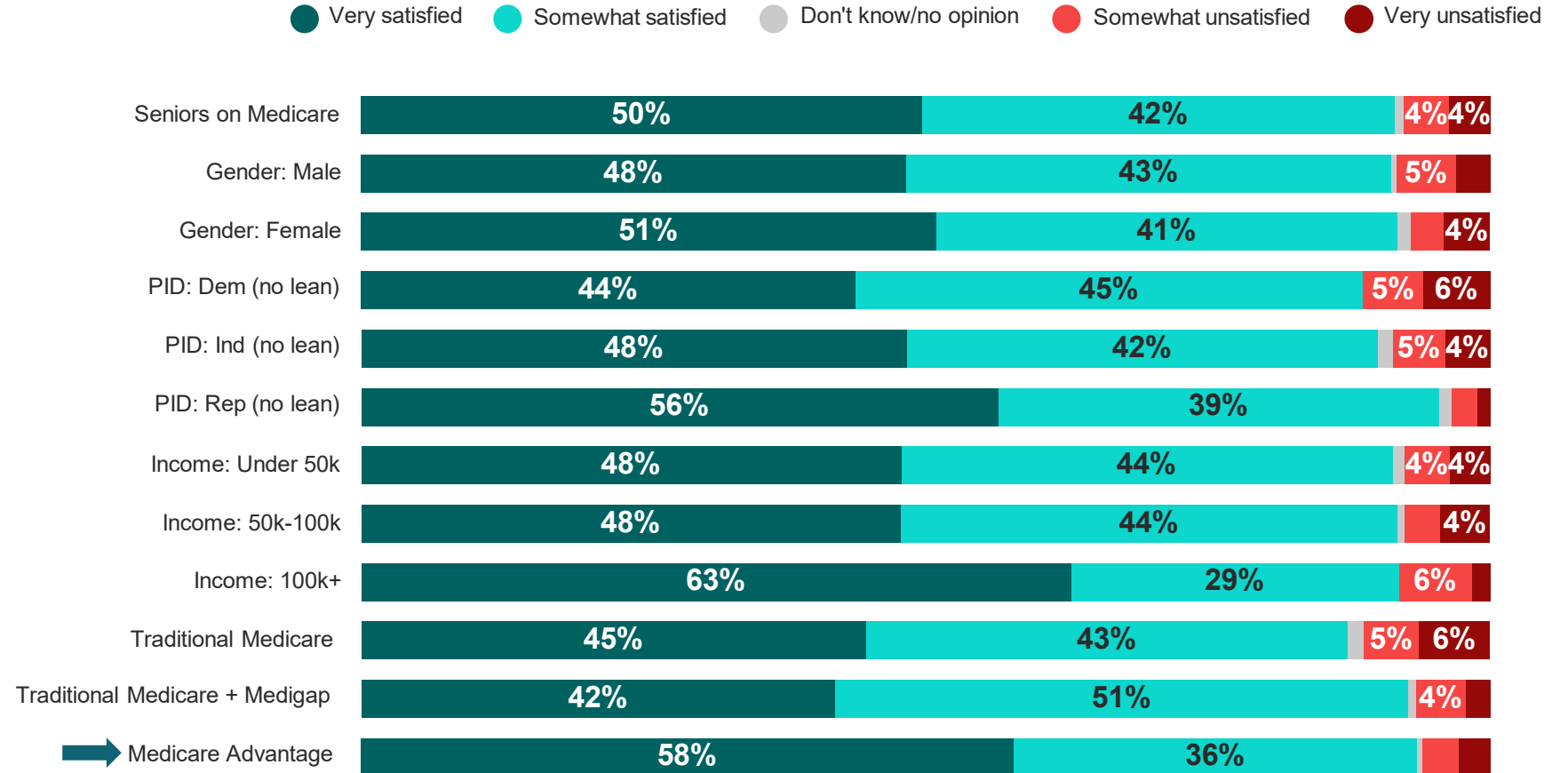
*Personally, how satisfied are you with your health insurance coverage?*

### Measuring Satisfaction of Health Insurance



## And, 3 in 5 seniors (58%) on a Medicare Advantage plan are very satisfied with their health insurance coverage.

*Personally, how satisfied are you with your health insurance coverage?*

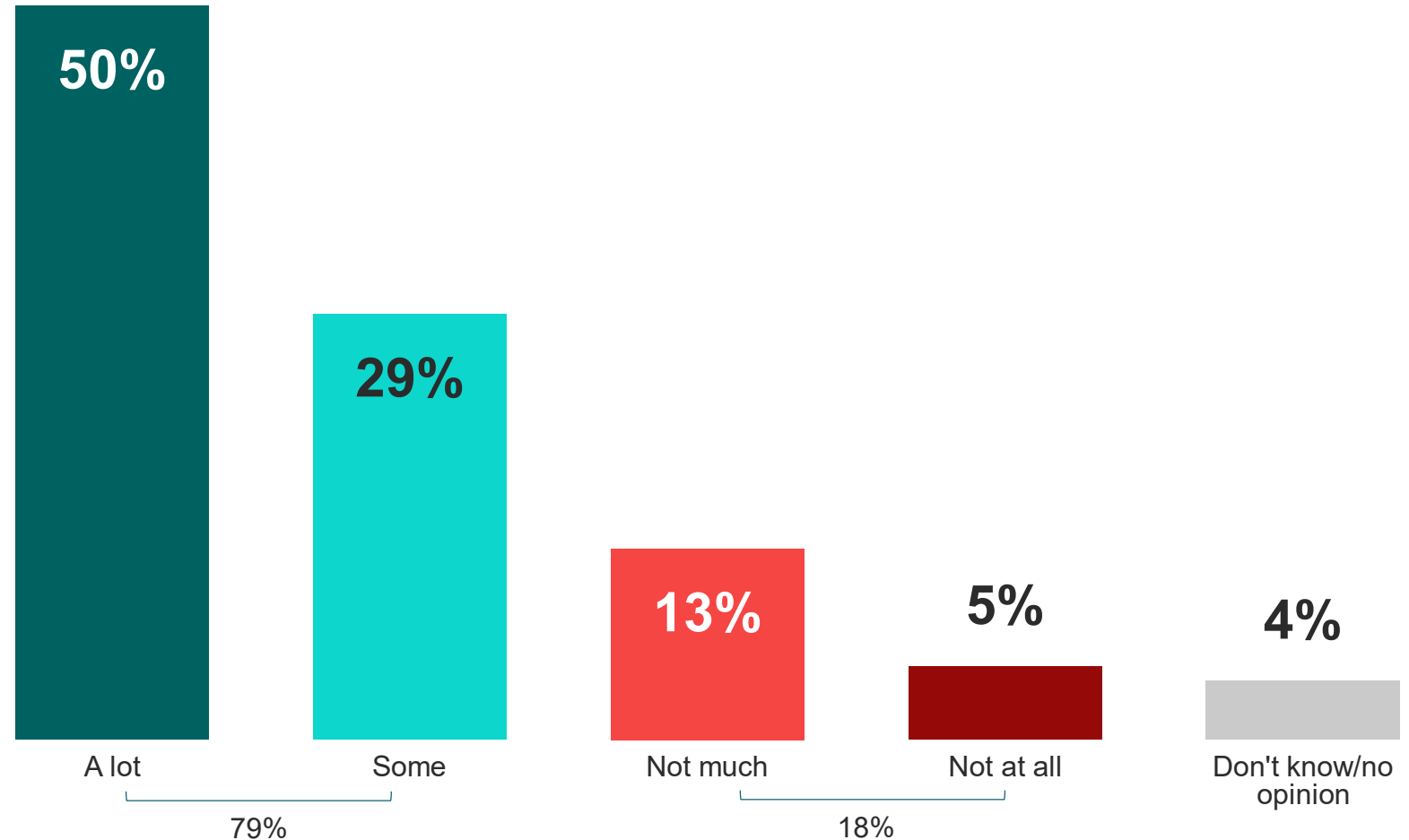


## Measuring Satisfaction of Health Insurance

## Measuring Satisfaction of Health Insurance

### A majority (79%) of seniors on Medicare Advantage value their access to supplemental benefits.

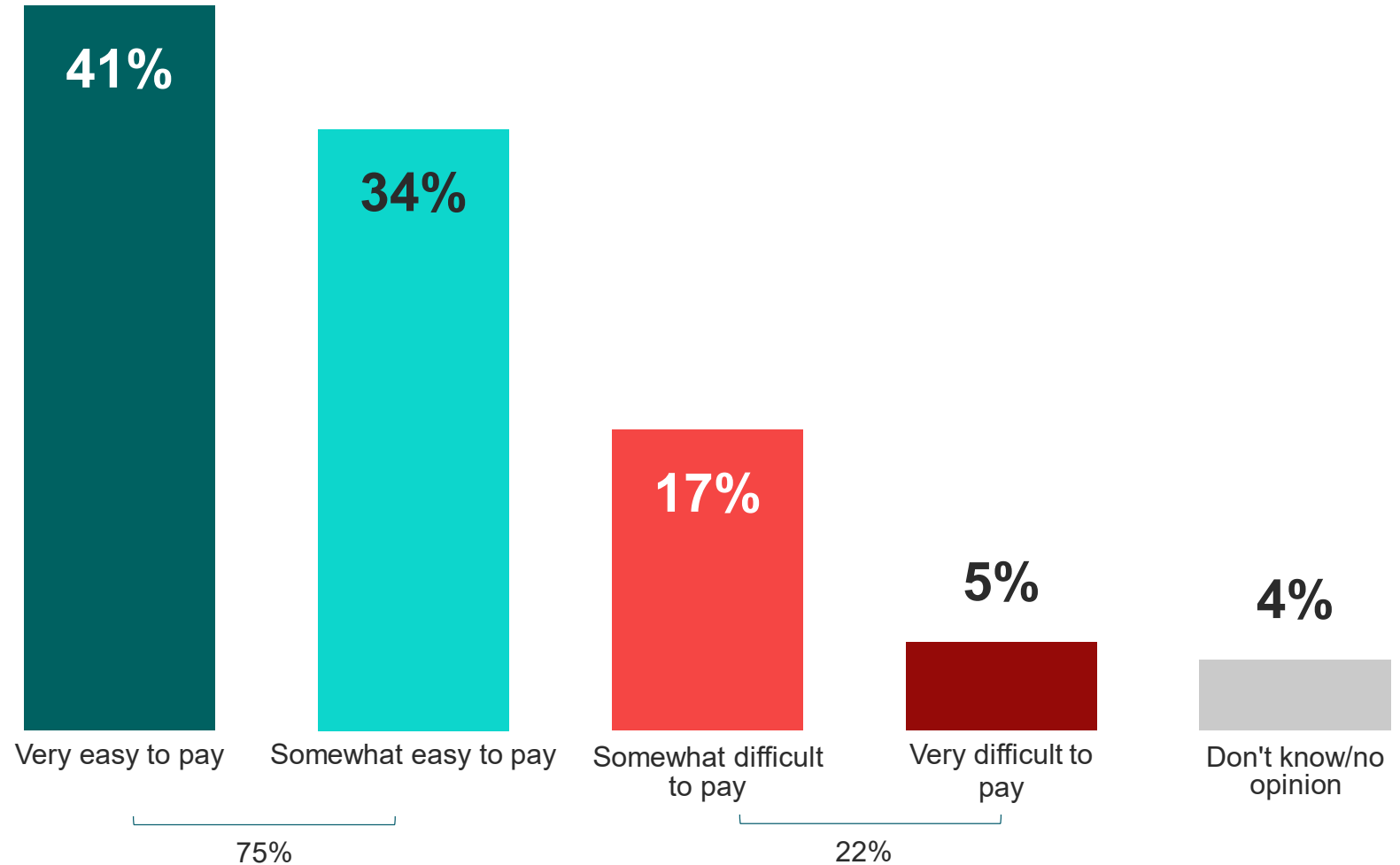
*How much do you value the supplemental benefits you have access to through your health insurance plan, such as vision and dental benefits?*



## Measuring Satisfaction of Health Insurance

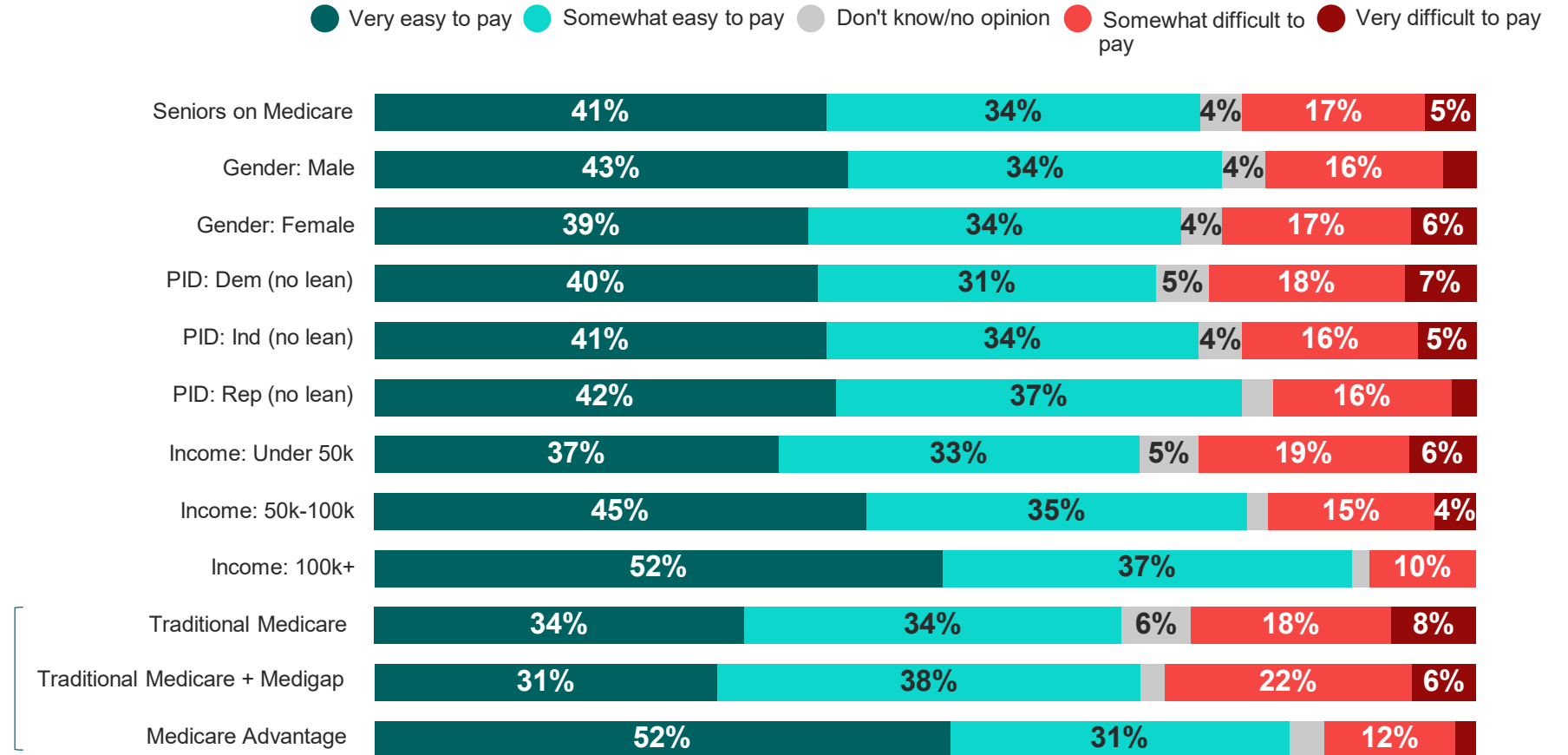
### Three in 4 of seniors on Medicare say it is easy to pay for their healthcare costs each month.

*When paying for your healthcare costs each month, do you feel it is:*



# And, it is easier for seniors on Medicare Advantage plans than for seniors on other types of Medicare plans to pay for their healthcare costs each month.

*When paying for your healthcare costs each month, do you feel it is:*

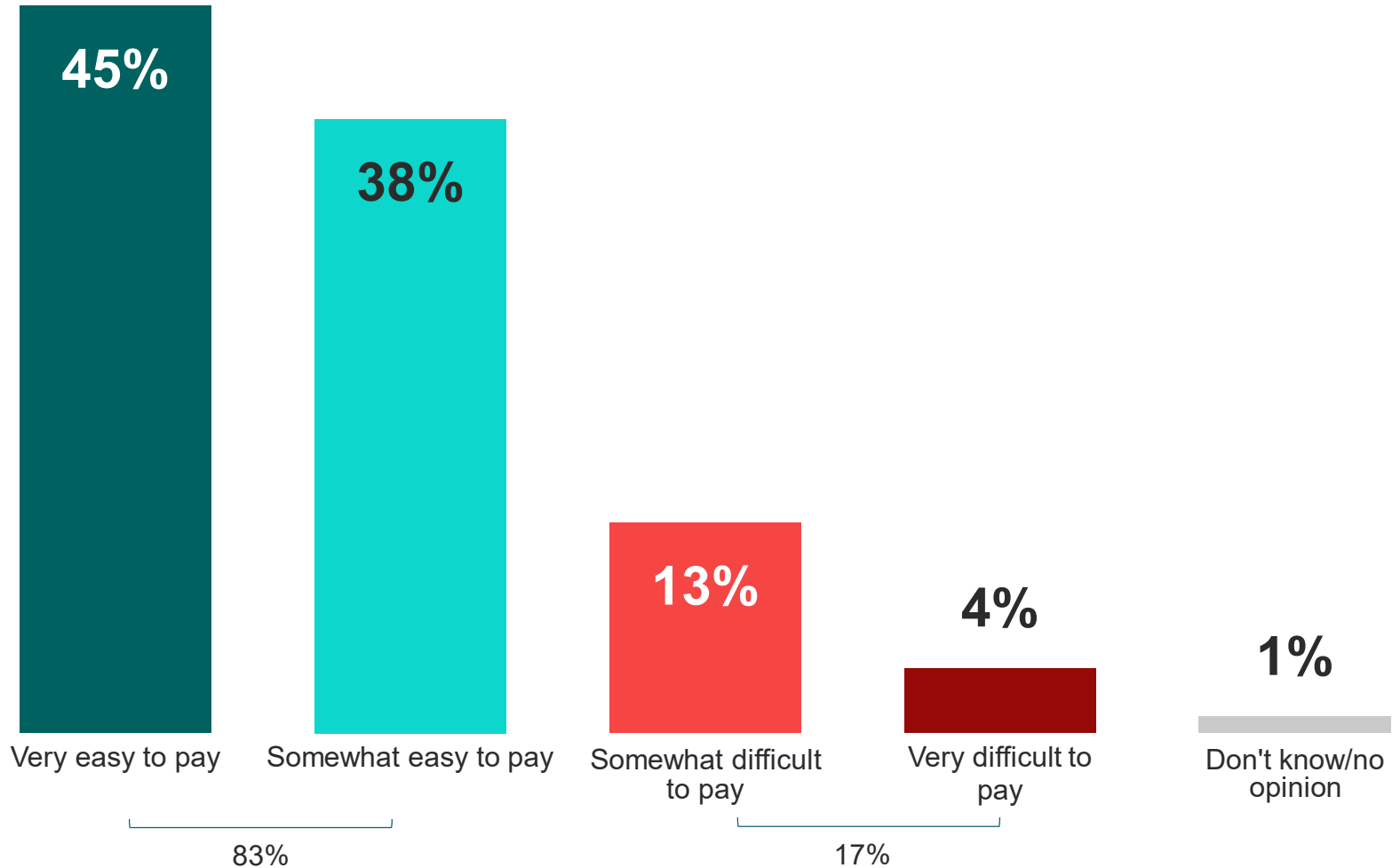


## Measuring Satisfaction of Health Insurance



Similarly, 4 in 5 (83%) seniors on Medicare who currently take prescription medicine say it is easy to pay for their prescription drugs each month.

*When paying for your prescription drugs each month, do you feel it is:*

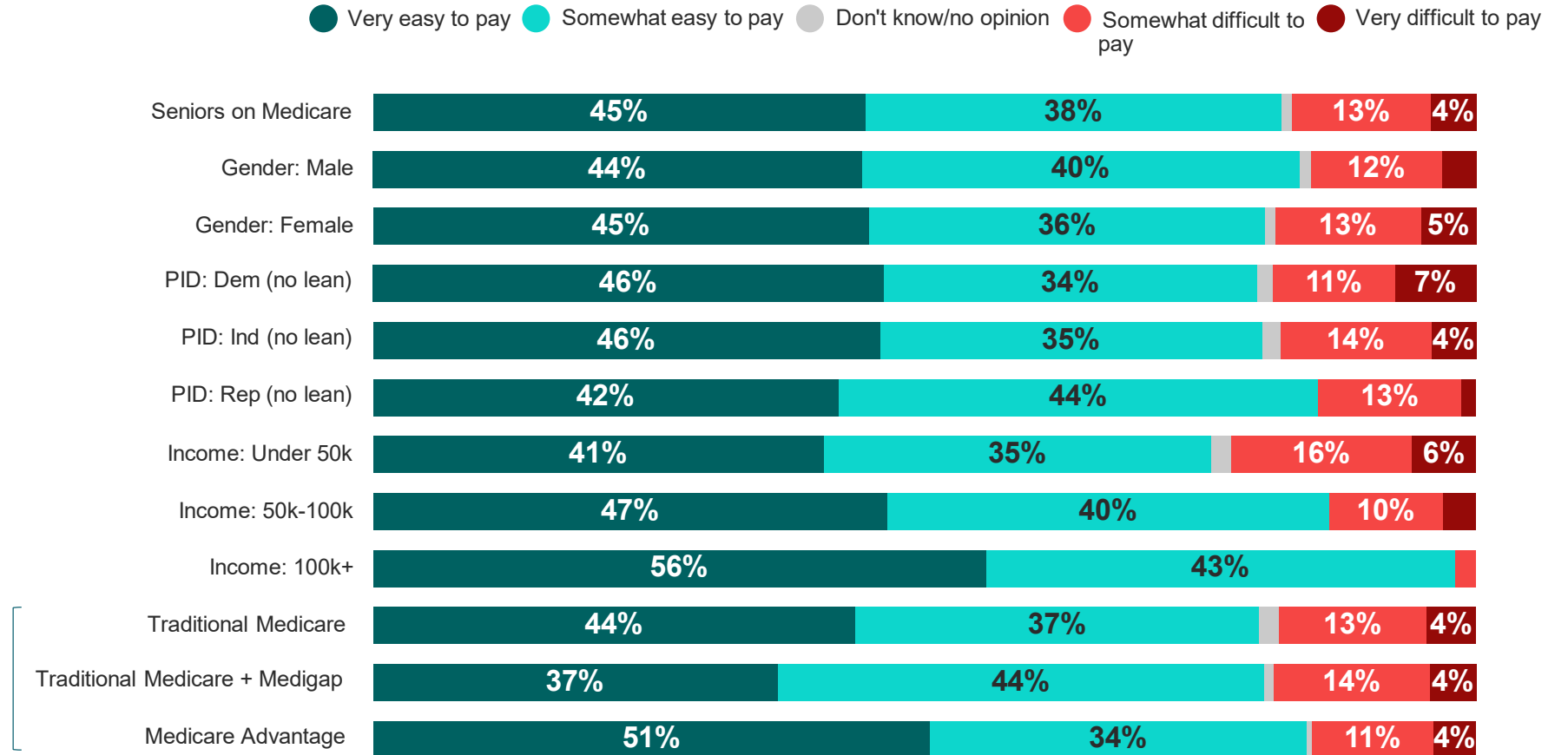


## Measuring Satisfaction of Health Insurance

# Measuring Satisfaction of Health Insurance

**And, it is easier for seniors on Medicare Advantage plans than seniors on other types of Medicare plans to pay for their prescription drugs each month.**

*When paying for your prescription drugs each month, do you feel it is:*

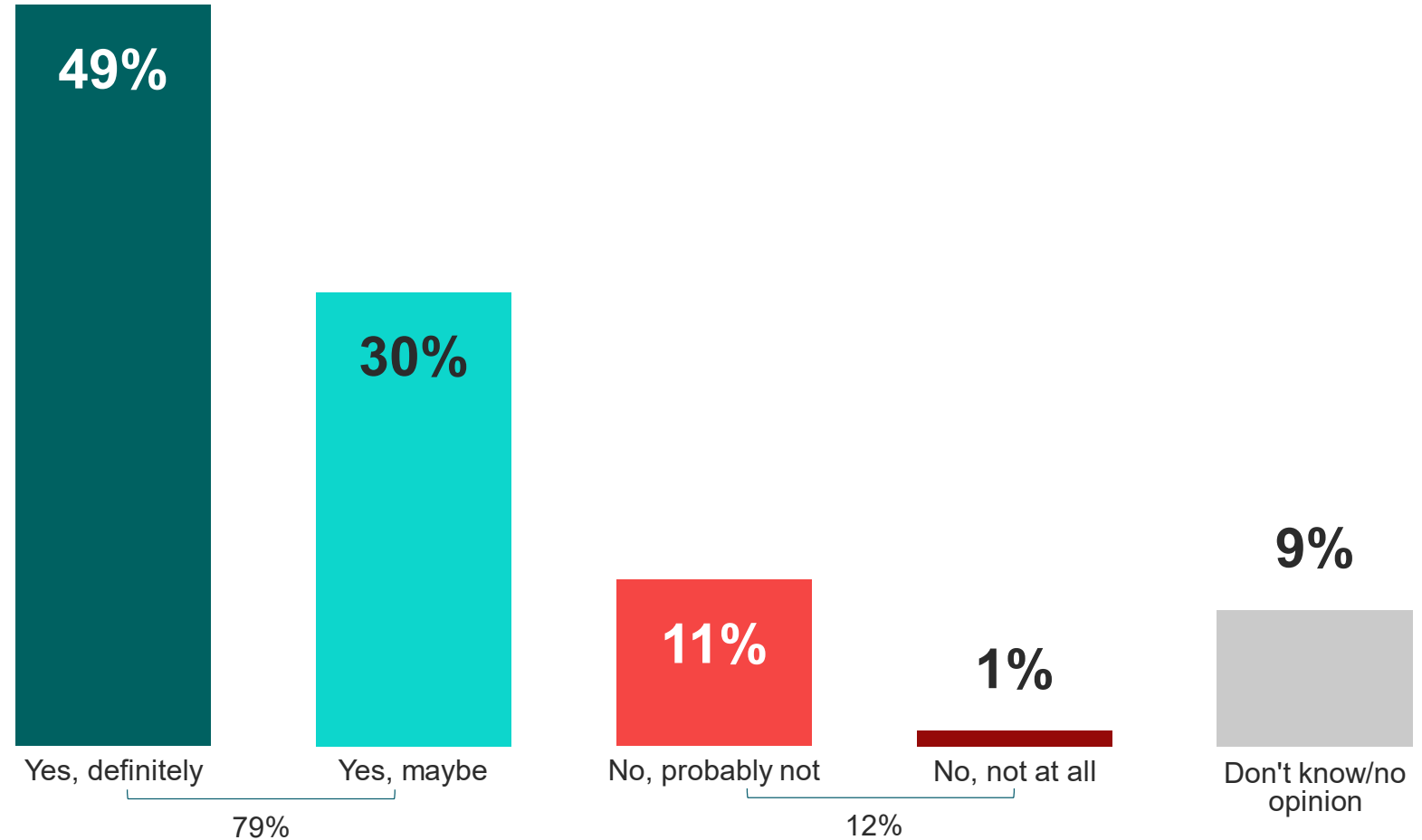


Among seniors who currently take prescription medicine, n=414

**Four in 5 seniors on Medicare (79%) think it would make a difference in the price they pay for prescription drugs if drug manufacturers were more transparent about how they determine the list price of prescription drugs.**

*Do you think it would make a difference in the price you pay for your prescription drugs if drug manufacturers were more transparent about how they determine the list price of prescription drugs?*

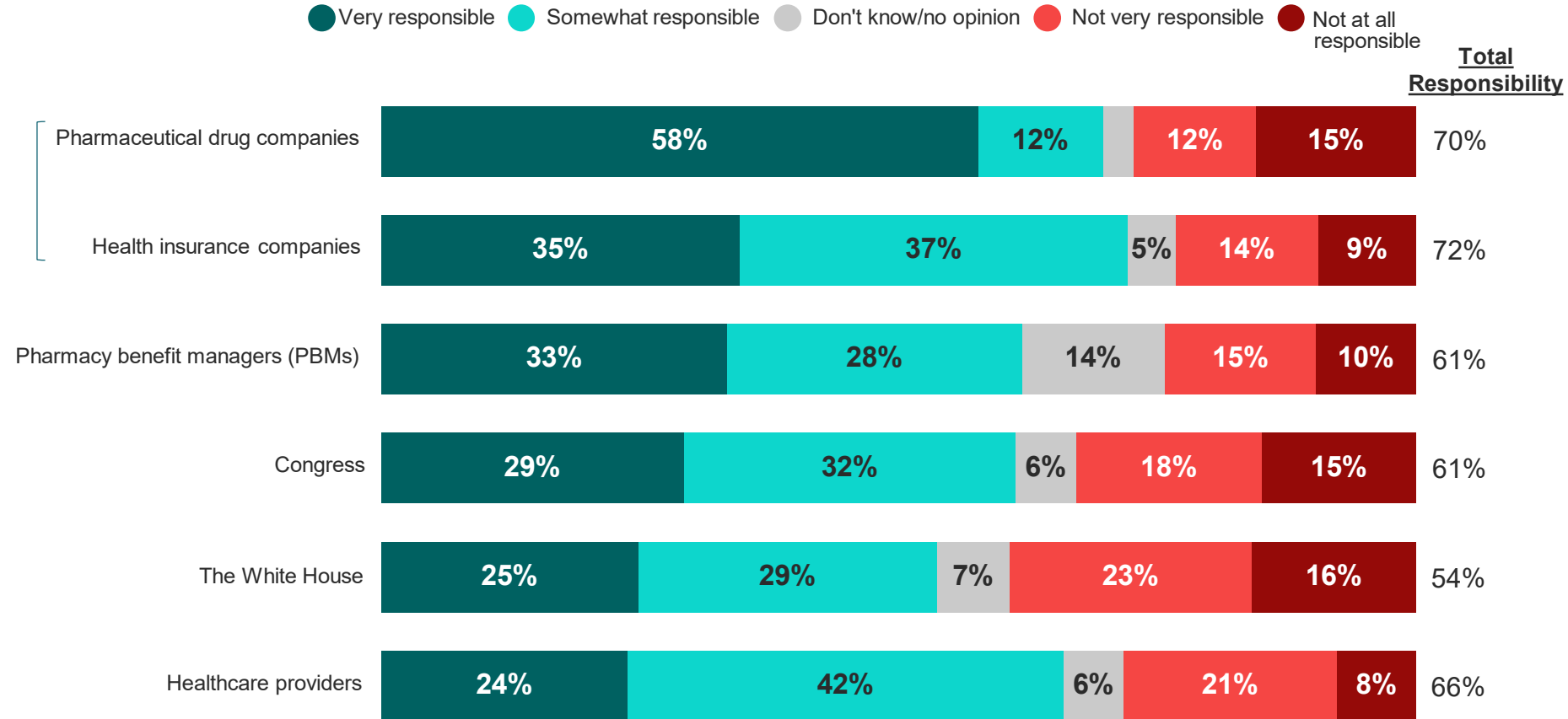
## Measuring Satisfaction of Health Insurance



# Measuring Satisfaction of Health Insurance

**Of the tested options, seniors on Medicare think health insurance companies (72%) and pharmaceutical drug companies (70%) are most responsible to help lower the cost of prescription drugs for consumers.**

*How responsible do you think the following are to help lower the cost of prescription drugs for consumers?*



# Content



**Measuring Satisfaction of  
Health Insurance**



**Evaluating Support of HHS  
Proposal**

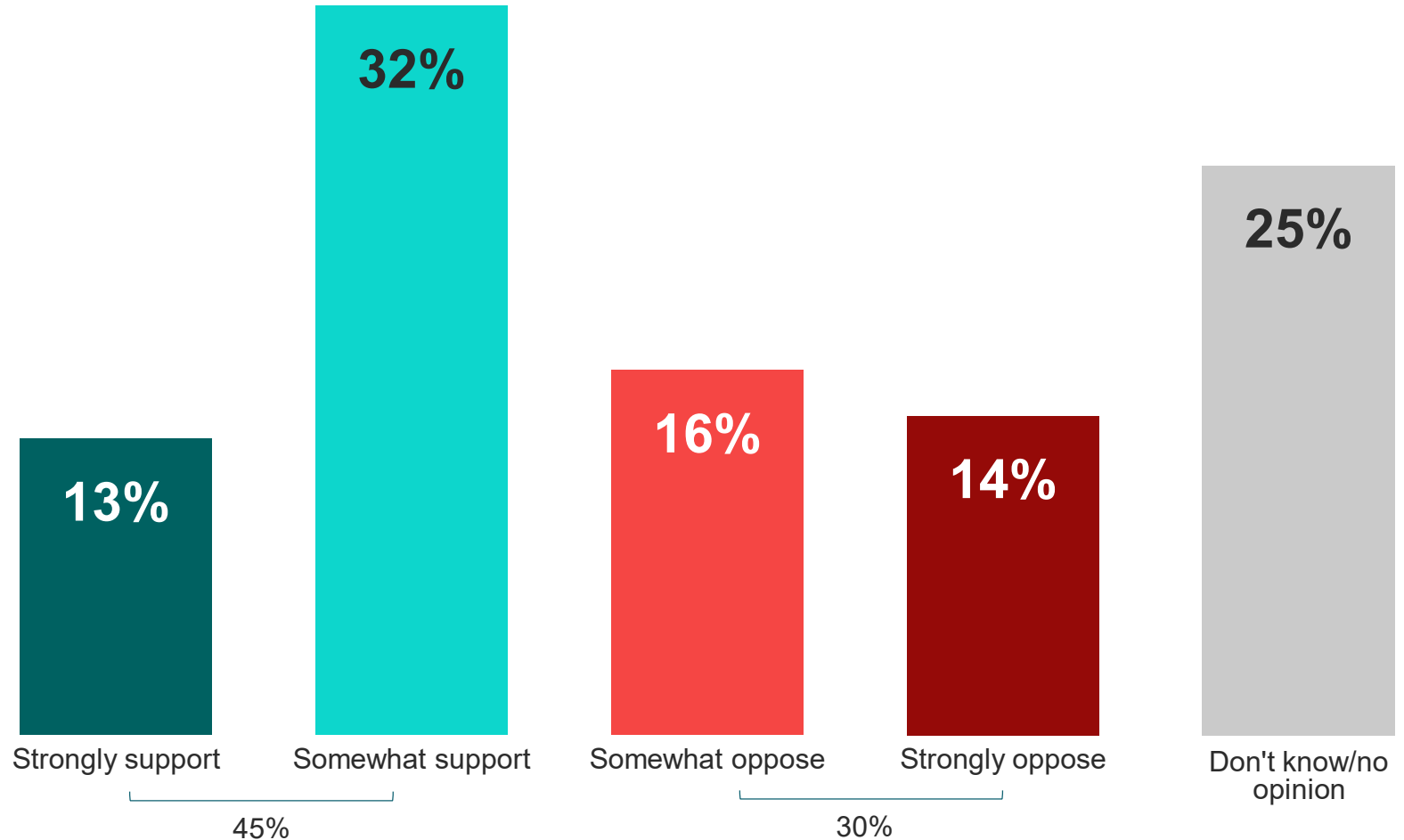


**Personal Impact of the HHS  
Proposal**

## Seniors on Medicare are more likely to support (45%) rather than oppose (30%) the HHS proposal to remove rebates under Medicare Part D. However, 25% are unsure.

*Currently, pharmaceutical drug companies offer rebates to pharmacy benefit managers to discount the list price of prescription drugs. Currently, the rebates negotiated under Medicare Part D give health insurance companies the ability to lower insurance premiums, or the amount of money patients pay for health insurance under Medicare Part D. As you may know, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently proposed to remove these rebates. Instead of reducing health insurance premiums for everyone, the savings from eliminating the rebates would be directed to seniors buying high cost drugs at the pharmacy counter. Based on what you know, do you support or oppose this proposal?*

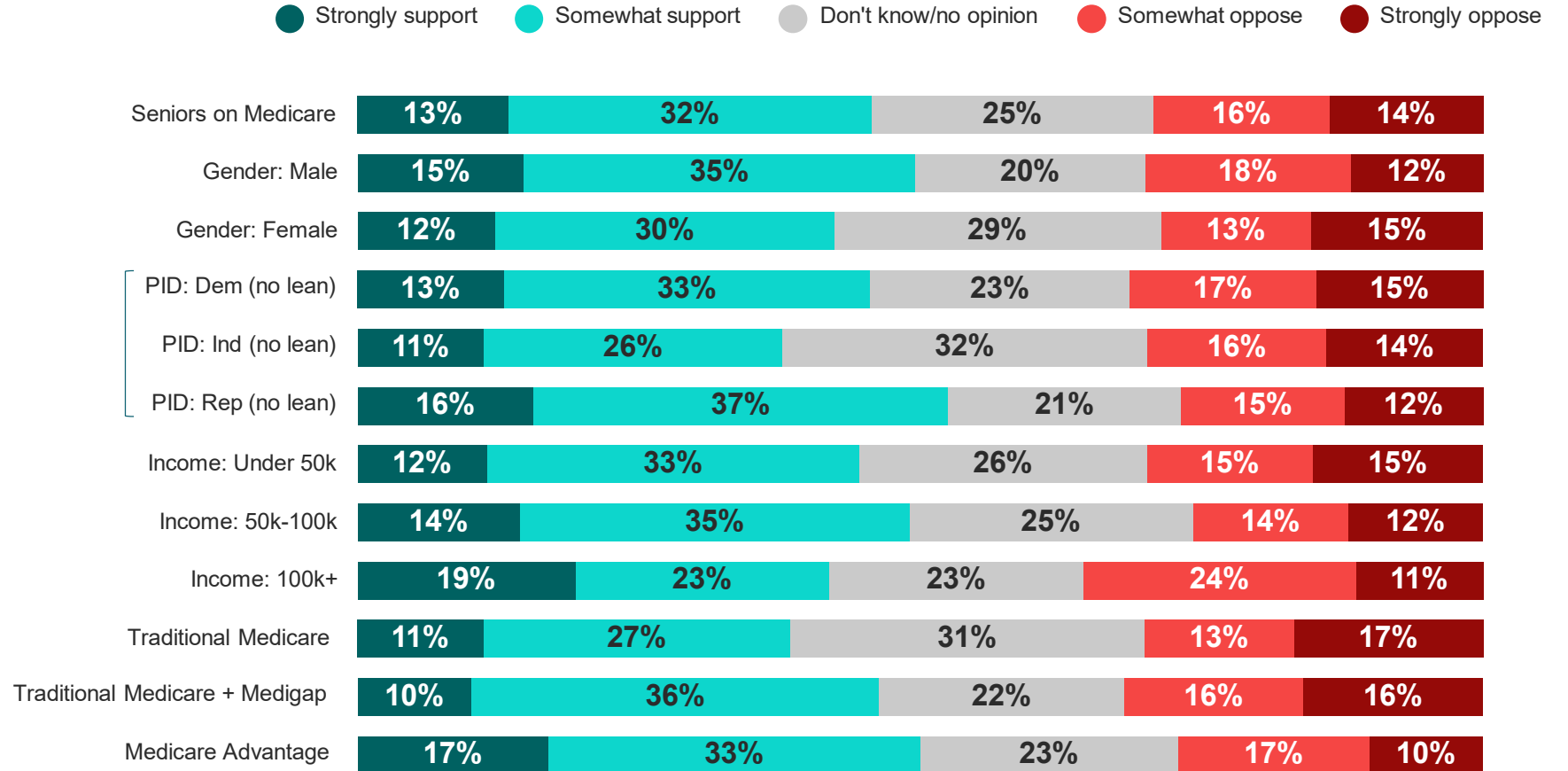
## Evaluating Support of HHS Proposal



# Evaluating Support of HHS Proposal

## Republicans (53%) are more likely than Democrats (46%) to support the HHS proposal to remove rebates in the Medicare Part D program.

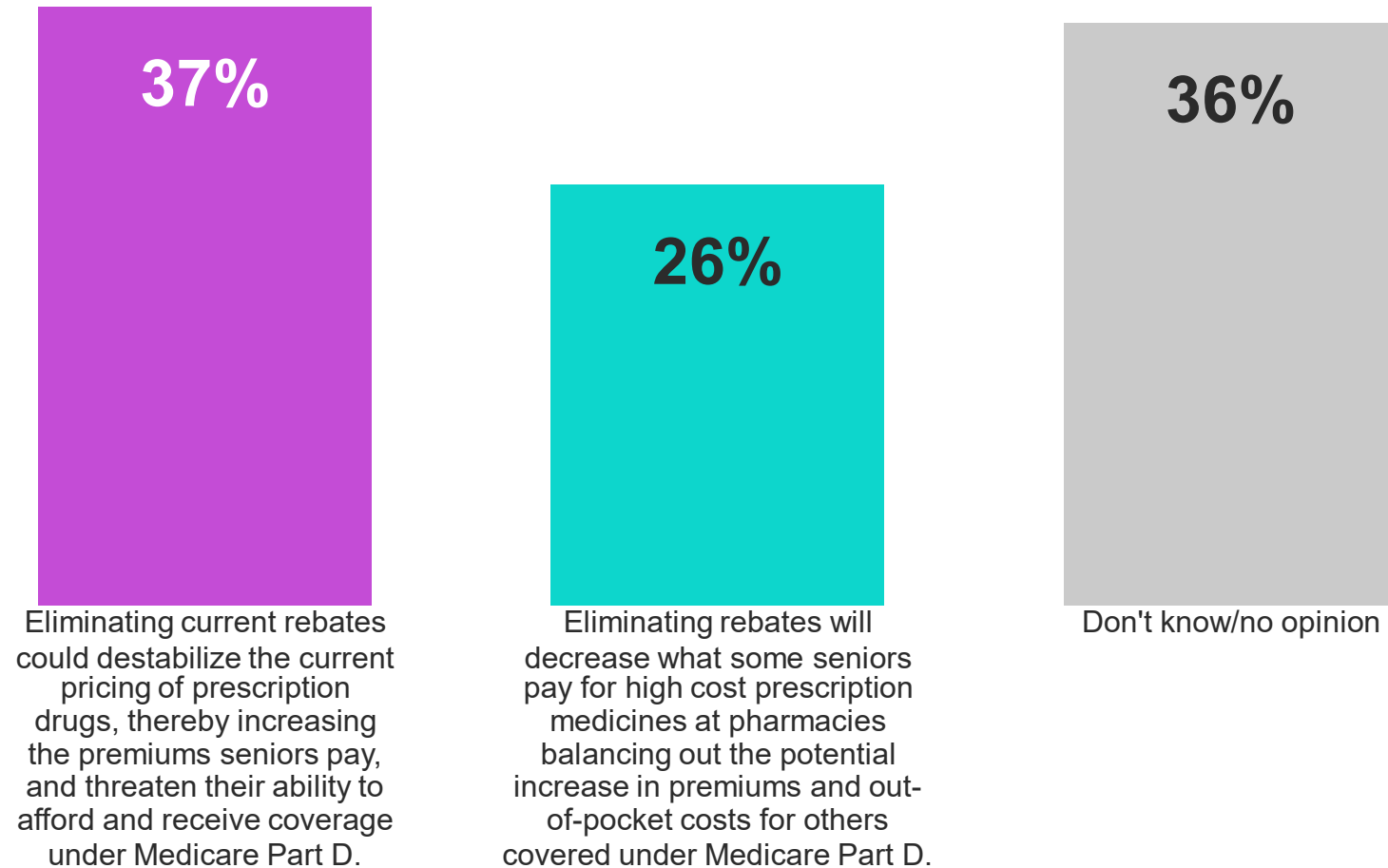
Currently, pharmaceutical drug companies offer rebates to pharmacy benefit managers to discount the list price of prescription drugs. Currently, the rebates negotiated under Medicare Part D give health insurance companies the ability to lower insurance premiums, or the amount of money patients pay for health insurance under Medicare Part D. As you may know, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently proposed to remove these rebates. Instead of reducing health insurance premiums for everyone, the savings from eliminating the rebates would be directed to seniors buying high cost drugs at the pharmacy counter. Based on what you know, do you support or oppose this proposal?



## Evaluating Support of HHS Proposal

**Two in 5 seniors (37%) on Medicare think eliminating current rebates could destabilize the current pricing of prescription drugs rather than decreasing what some seniors pay for high cost prescription drugs (26%).**

*Based on what you know, which of the following best represents your view, even if neither is exactly correct?*

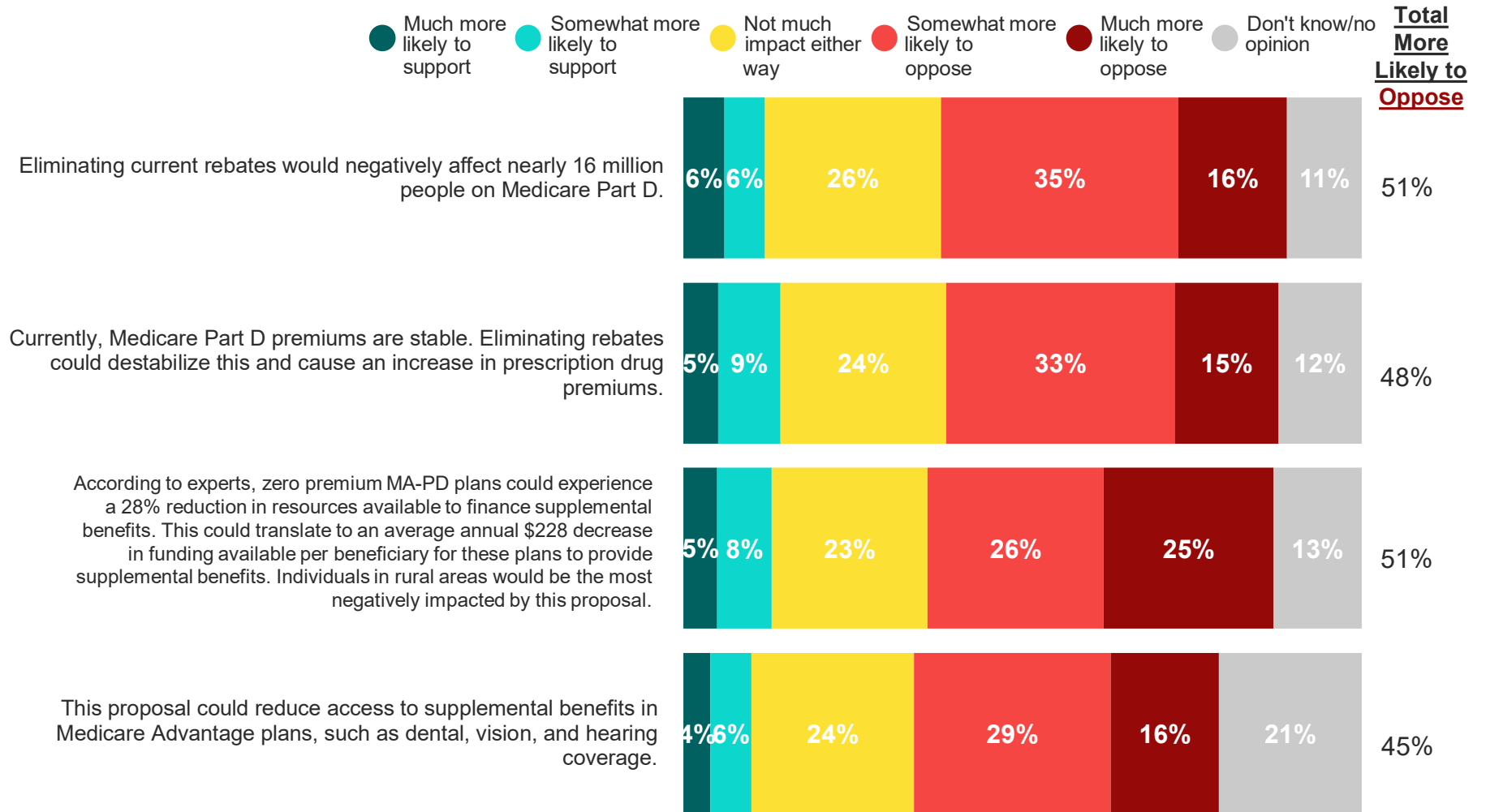




# Evaluating Support of HHS Proposal

About half of seniors on Medicare are more likely to oppose implementing the HHS proposal knowing it would negatively affect nearly 16 million people on Medicare Part D (51%), Medicare Part D beneficiaries would experience a reduction in resources to finance supplemental benefits and impact individuals in rural areas the most (51%), and destabilize and cause an increase in prescription drug premiums (48%).

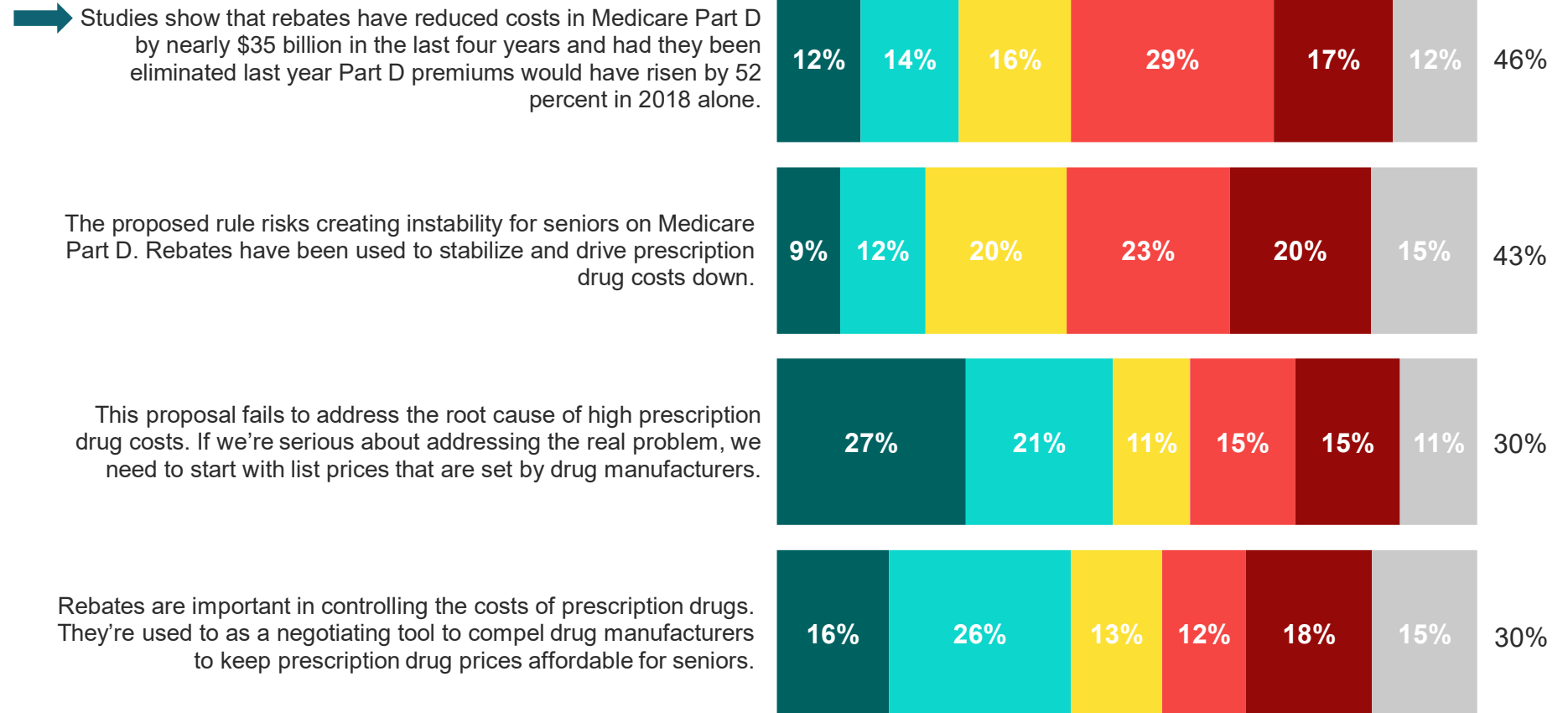
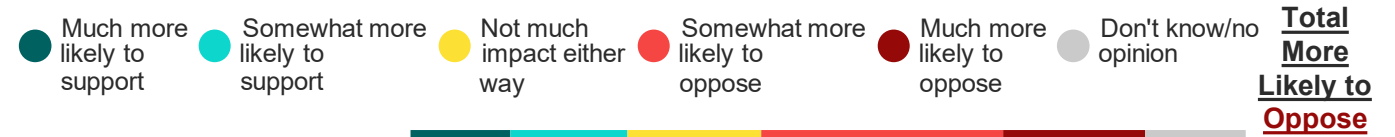
*The following are statements some have made regarding the proposal to eliminate rebates in Medicare Part D. Do the following make you more likely to support or oppose implementing this proposal?*



Continued on the next slide

# And, 46% of seniors on Medicare are more likely to oppose the proposal knowing rebates have reduced costs in Medicare Part D by nearly \$35 billion in the last four years.

*The following are statements some have made regarding the proposal to eliminate rebates in Medicare Part D. Do the following make you more likely to support or oppose implementing this proposal?*



## Evaluating Support of HHS Proposal

## Evaluating Support of HHS Proposal

### In the post-test of the proposal, opposition to the HHS proposal to remove rebates doubled, increasing from 30% to 62%.

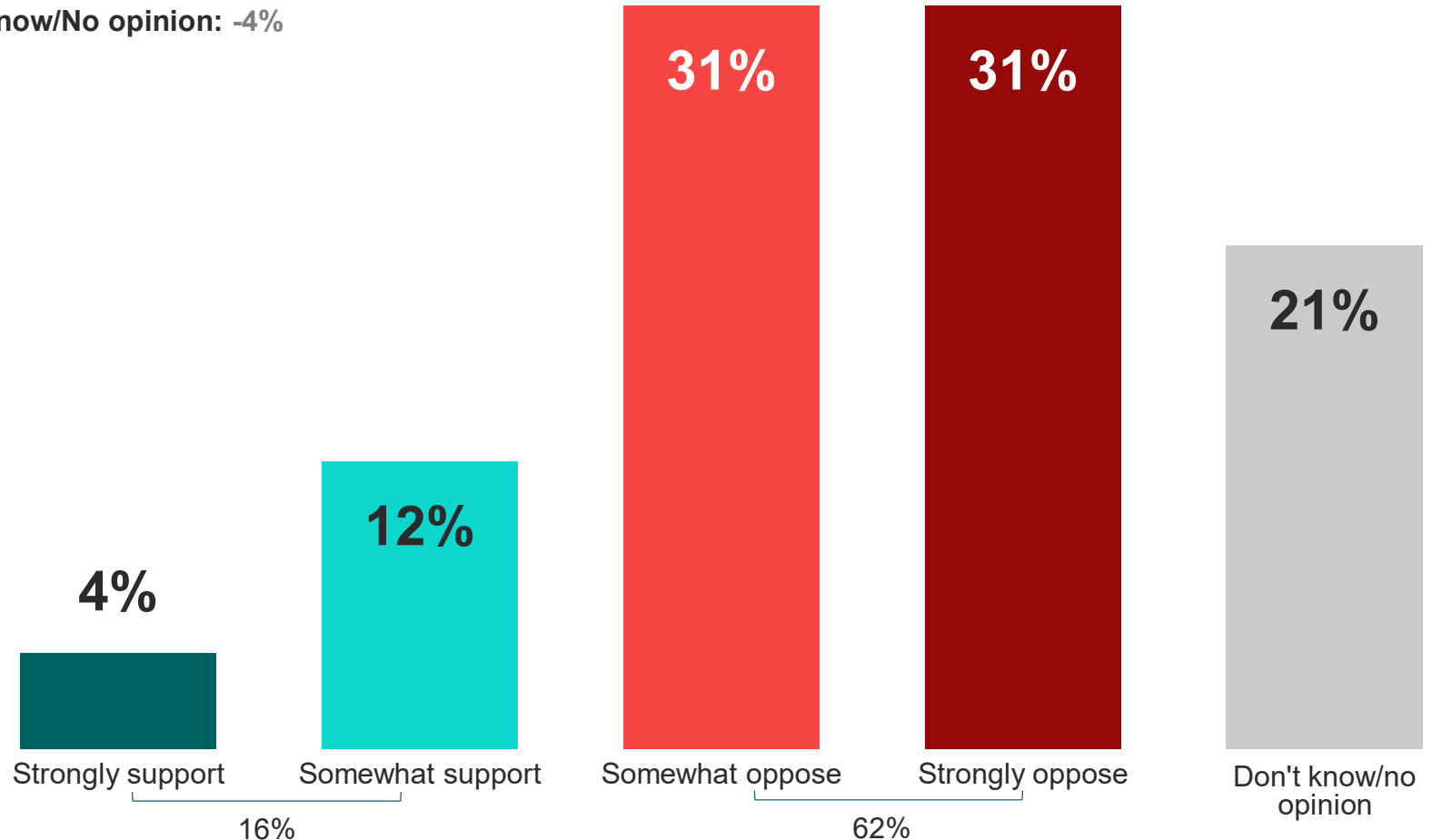
*As a reminder, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently proposed eliminating current rebates provided to pharmacy benefit managers for Medicare Part D plans. Sometimes in a survey like this people change your mind. Based on what you know, do you support or oppose this proposal?*

#### Change from Original Test of Proposal

Support: **-16%**

Oppose: **+32%**

Don't know/No opinion: **-4%**



# Content



**Measuring Satisfaction of  
Health Insurance**



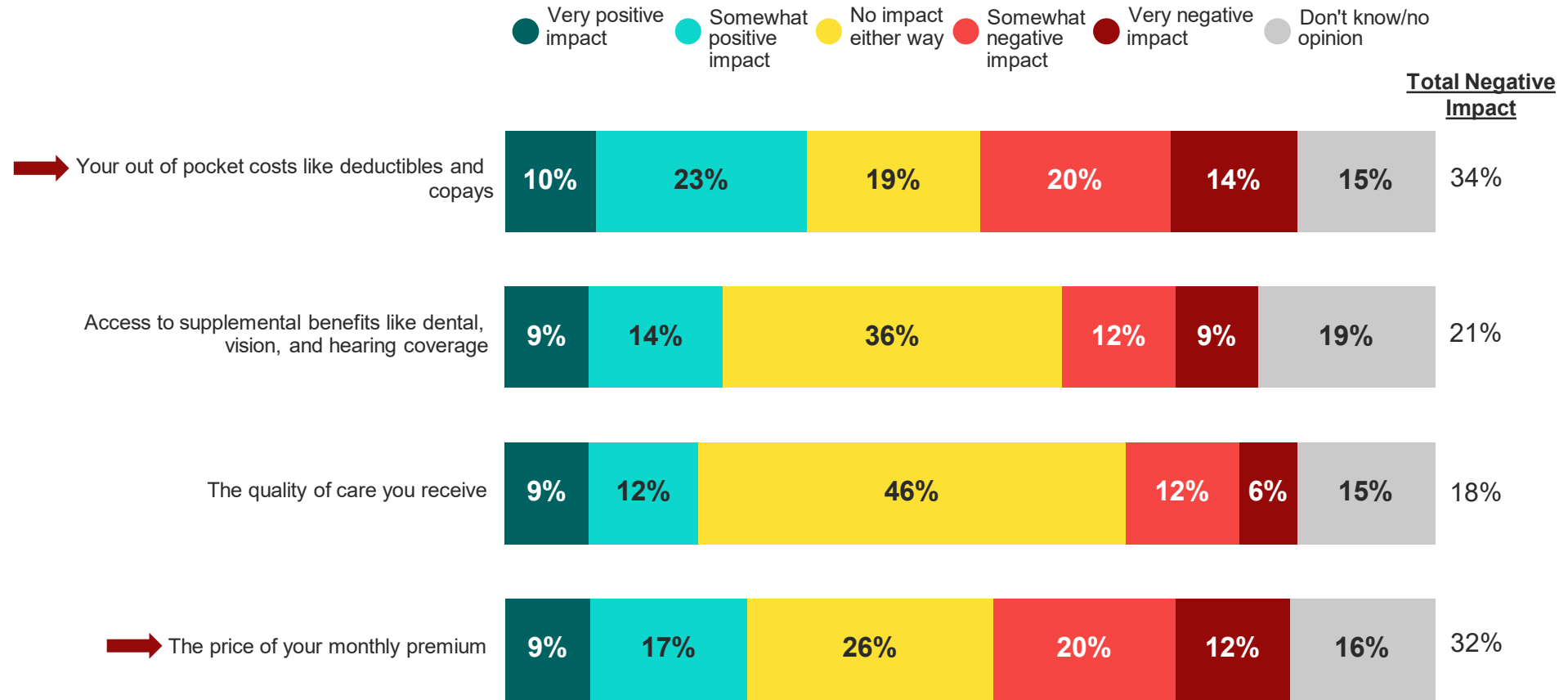
**Evaluating Support of HHS  
Proposal**



**Personal Impact of the HHS  
Proposal**

# One in 3 seniors on Medicare think the proposal from HHS would have a negative impact on their out of pocket costs (34%) and the price of their monthly premium (32%).

As a reminder, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently proposed to eliminate current rebates provided to pharmacy benefit managers for Medicare Part D plans. Do you think this proposal from HHS would have a positive or negative impact on the following?

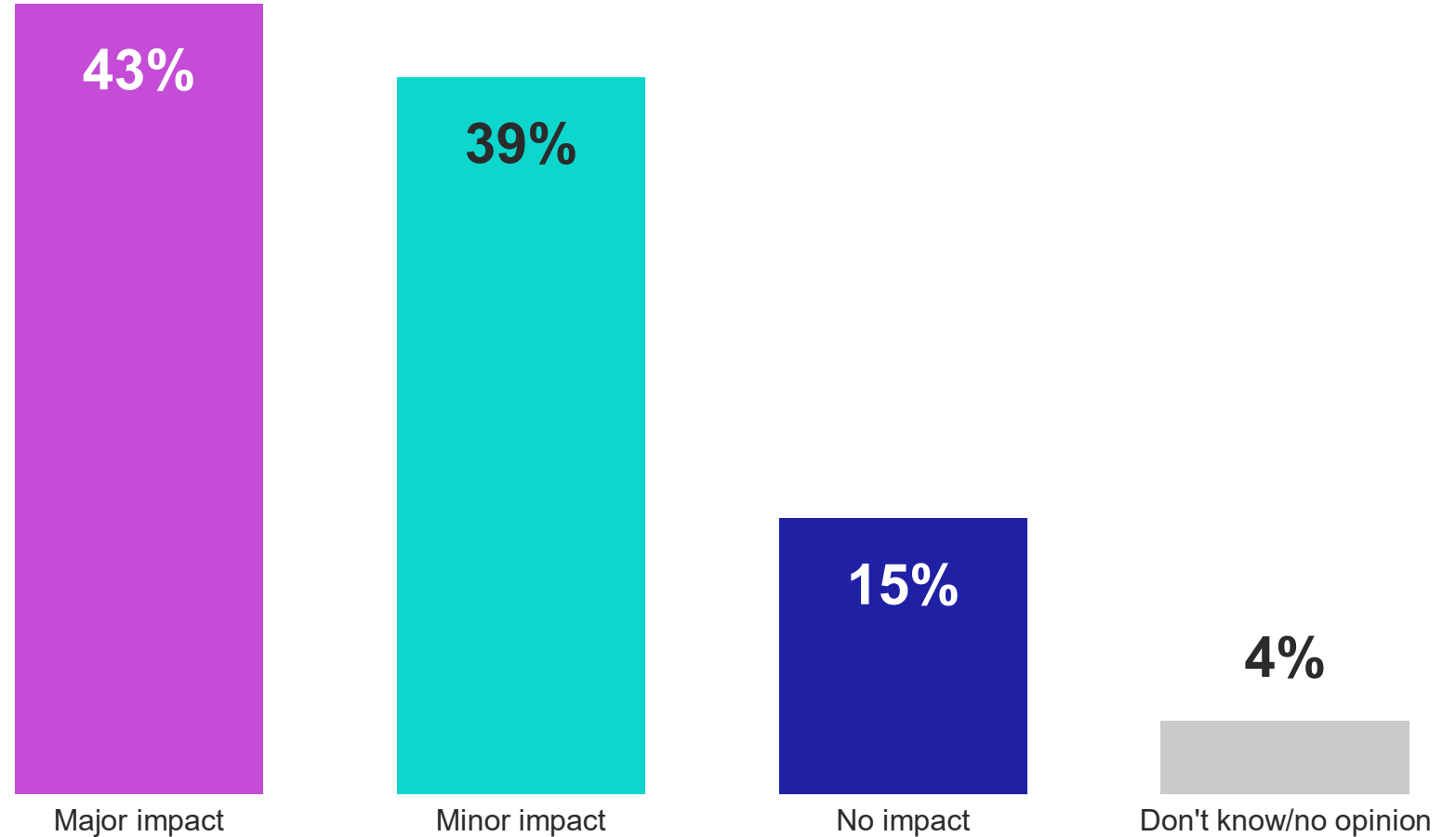


## Personal Impact of the HHS Proposal

**Among seniors who have a Part D Medicare plan, 43% say the \$29/month increase to their premium if the proposal was passed would have a major impact on their ability to pay their monthly healthcare premium.**

*Eliminating current rebates may increase Medicare Part D premiums by \$29 a month on average. How would this \$29 increase impact your ability, if at all, to pay your monthly healthcare premium?*

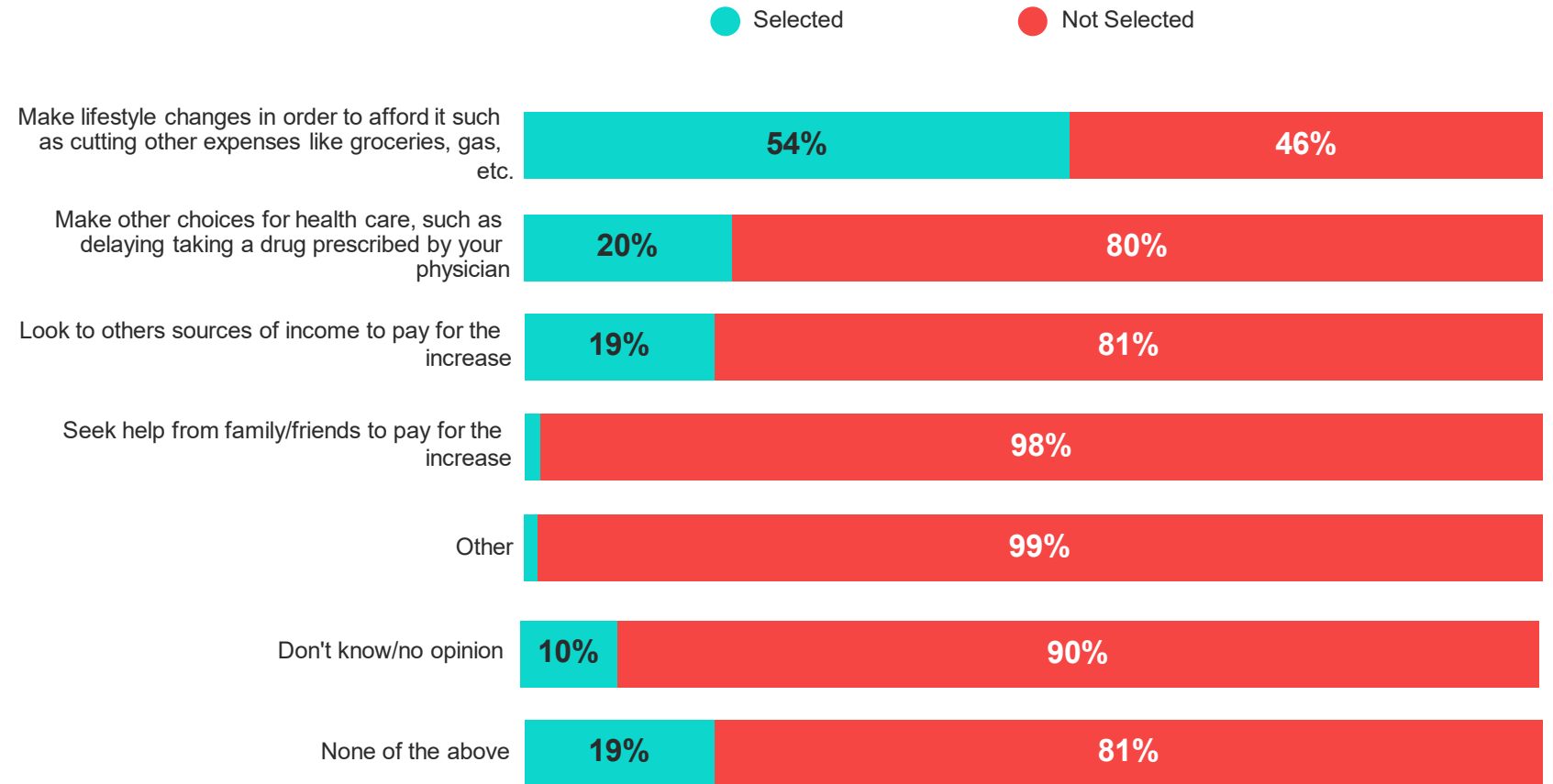
## Personal Impact of the HHS Proposal



# Personal Impact of the HHS Proposal

## Half of seniors (54%) on a Medicare Part D plan who would be impacted if their premium increased say they would make lifestyle changes in order to afford the \$29 a month increase such as cutting other expenses like groceries, gas, etc.

*If your healthcare premium increased \$29 a month, which of the following actions would you take to account for this increase? Please select all that apply.*



Among seniors on Medicare Part D plan who said they would be impacted by a increase to their premium, n=304

 MORNING CONSULT