

NAMI / IPSOS SUMMER 2026 MEDICAID SPOTLIGHT

July 2026



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Methodology

About the Study

This NAMI/Ipsos poll was **conducted July 10 – 12, 2026**, by Ipsos using the probability-based KnowledgePanel®. This poll is based on a **nationally representative probability sample of 2,038 general population adults age 18 or older**.

The **margin of sampling error** for this study is plus or minus 2.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level, for results based on the entire sample of adults. The margin of sampling error takes into account the design effect, which was 1.05. The margin of sampling error is higher and varies for results based on other sub-samples.

The data for the total sample were **weighted** to adjust for gender by age, race/ethnicity, education, Census region, metropolitan status, household income, and party identification. The demographic benchmarks came from the 2025 March Supplement of the Current Population Survey (CPS). Party Identification benchmark came from the 2025 Pew's National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS) with a midyear adjustment estimated across aggregated KnowledgePanel surveys accounting for changes in panelists' party identification over time.

Reporting Notes

In our reporting of the findings, percentage points are rounded off to the nearest whole number. As a result, percentages in a given table column may total slightly higher or lower than 100%. In questions that permit multiple responses, columns may total substantially more than 100%, depending on the number of different responses offered by each respondent.

This report includes references to subgroups by....

- Age (18-29, 30-49, 50-64, 65+) Age (18-29, 30-49, 50-64, 65+)
- Gender (Male, Female)
- Race/Ethnicity (White, Non-Hispanic; Black, Non-Hispanic; Hispanic; AAPI)
- Income (<\$50K, \$50K-<\$100K, \$100K+)
- Urbanicity (Urban, Rural, Suburban)
- Voter status (registered voter, non-voter)
- Education (college degree, no college degree)
- Concern about coverage loss with Medicaid community engagement requirements (Concerned, Not concerned)
- Personal connection to Medicaid (Self, Family member)

Americans value Medicaid and support protecting vulnerable populations, but lack awareness of policy changes

Medicaid is viewed as an essential source of health and mental health care access

- Seventy-eight percent of Americans consider Medicaid essential for providing health care to vulnerable groups.
- Agreement that Medicaid saves lives by improving mental health care access rose from 64% to 73% since Nov 2025.
- Half of Americans have Medicaid experience; of these, 83% say it improved access to doctor visits and 69% report better access to health care, including mental health services.

Americans have limited understanding of upcoming community engagement requirements

- Seventy-nine percent of Americans are aware of Medicaid work requirements, but only 62% are aware of Medicaid community engagement requirements.
- Most Americans (71-78%) are unsure of details related to community engagement requirements.
- This knowledge-gap persists regardless of concern level, as 77% of those concerned about coverage loss and 82% of those not concerned could not identify when the requirements take effect.

There is overwhelming support to protect vulnerable populations from losing coverage

- Support for protecting people with disabilities, including mental illness, from losing their Medicaid coverage stands at 81%.
- Nearly 8 in 10 Americans (79%) back policies that allow people with mental illness who are on Medicaid to keep their coverage.
- A majority of Americans (65%) express concern about people losing their Medicaid coverage when community engagement requirements go into effect on January 1, 2027.

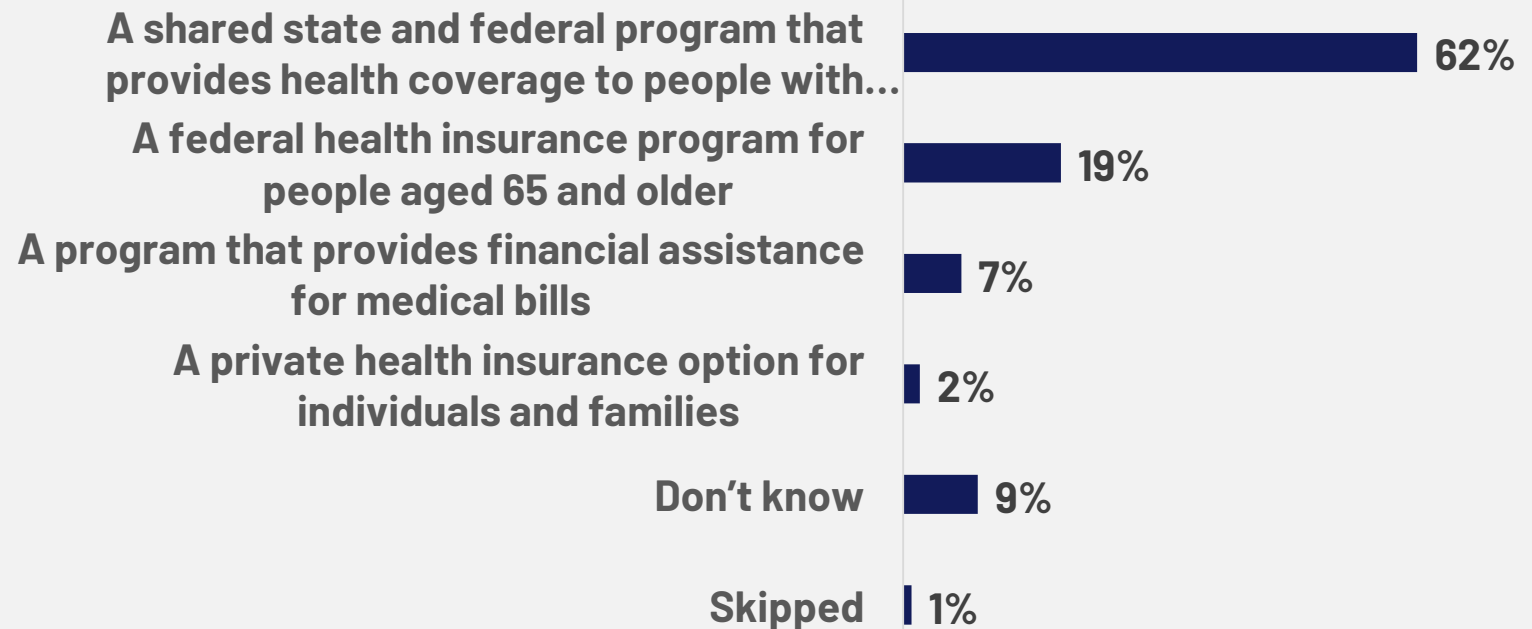
MEDICAID PERCEPTIONS

Gap In Understanding

- **Young adults lag on Medicaid understanding:** 49% of 18–29-year-olds correctly identify Medicaid vs. 74% of adults 65+.
- **Non-voters are a major knowledge-gap group:** 43% correctly identify Medicaid vs. 65% of registered voters.
- **No college respondents are more accurate than college grads:** 71% correctly identify Medicaid vs. 57% of college graduates.

3 in 5 Americans correctly identify Medicaid but knowledge gaps remain across age, voter status, and education

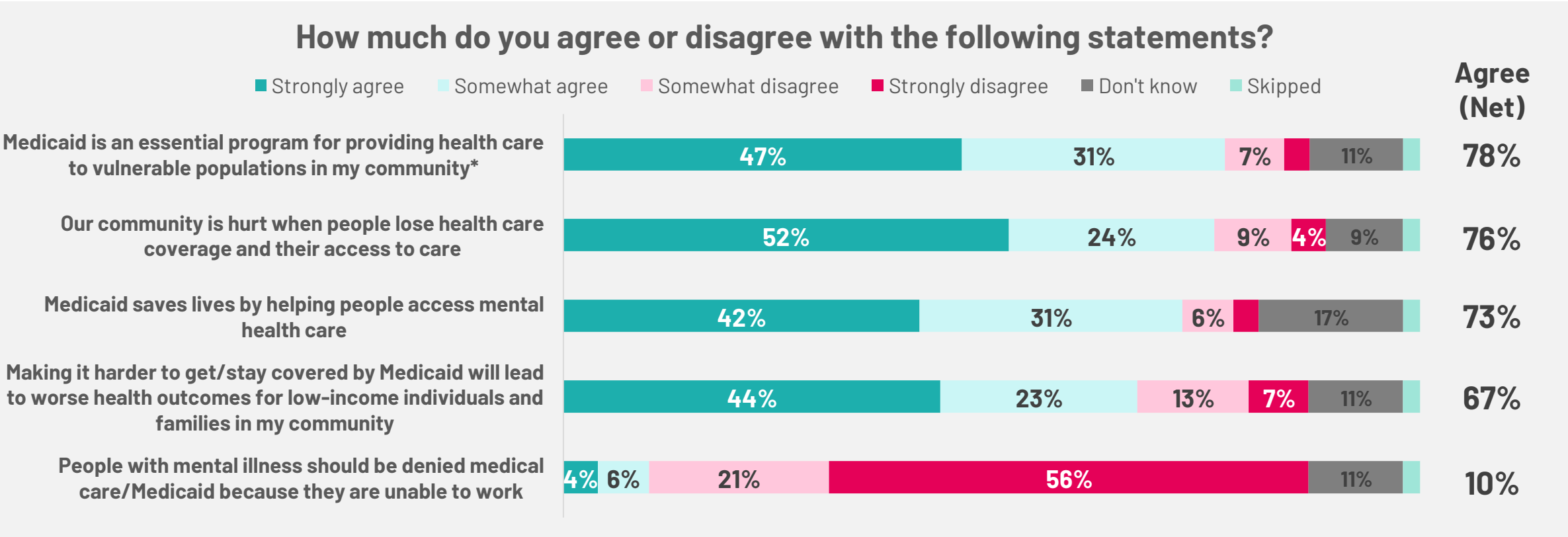
Which of the following best describes your understanding of what Medicaid is?



Q. Which of the following best describes your understanding of what Medicaid is?

Base: All respondents (n=2,038), 18-29 (n=361), 65+ (n=507), Non-voters (n=263), Registered voters (n=1,773), No college degree (n=812), College degree (n=1,226)

Most Americans see Medicaid as essential and believe communities suffer when people lose coverage



Q. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
Base: All respondents (n=2,038)

*Note: In November 2025, this statement read as “Medicaid is an essential program for providing health care to vulnerable populations”



Growth Since 2025

- **Republicans show the largest point increase:** agreement rose from 48% to 65%, a +17-point jump.
- **Women contributed a major lift:** agreement among women increased from 63% to 75%, a +12-point increase, compared with +5 points among men.
- **White, non-Hispanic respondents also moved substantially:** agreement rose from 61% to 73%, a +12-point increase, while Black respondents were already high in Nov. 2025 and increased only slightly, from 75% to 77%.

More Americans than in 2025 agree that Medicaid saves lives by expanding access to mental health care

Medicaid saves lives by helping people access mental health care

Agree (Net)

64%

Nov-25

▲ 9%

73%

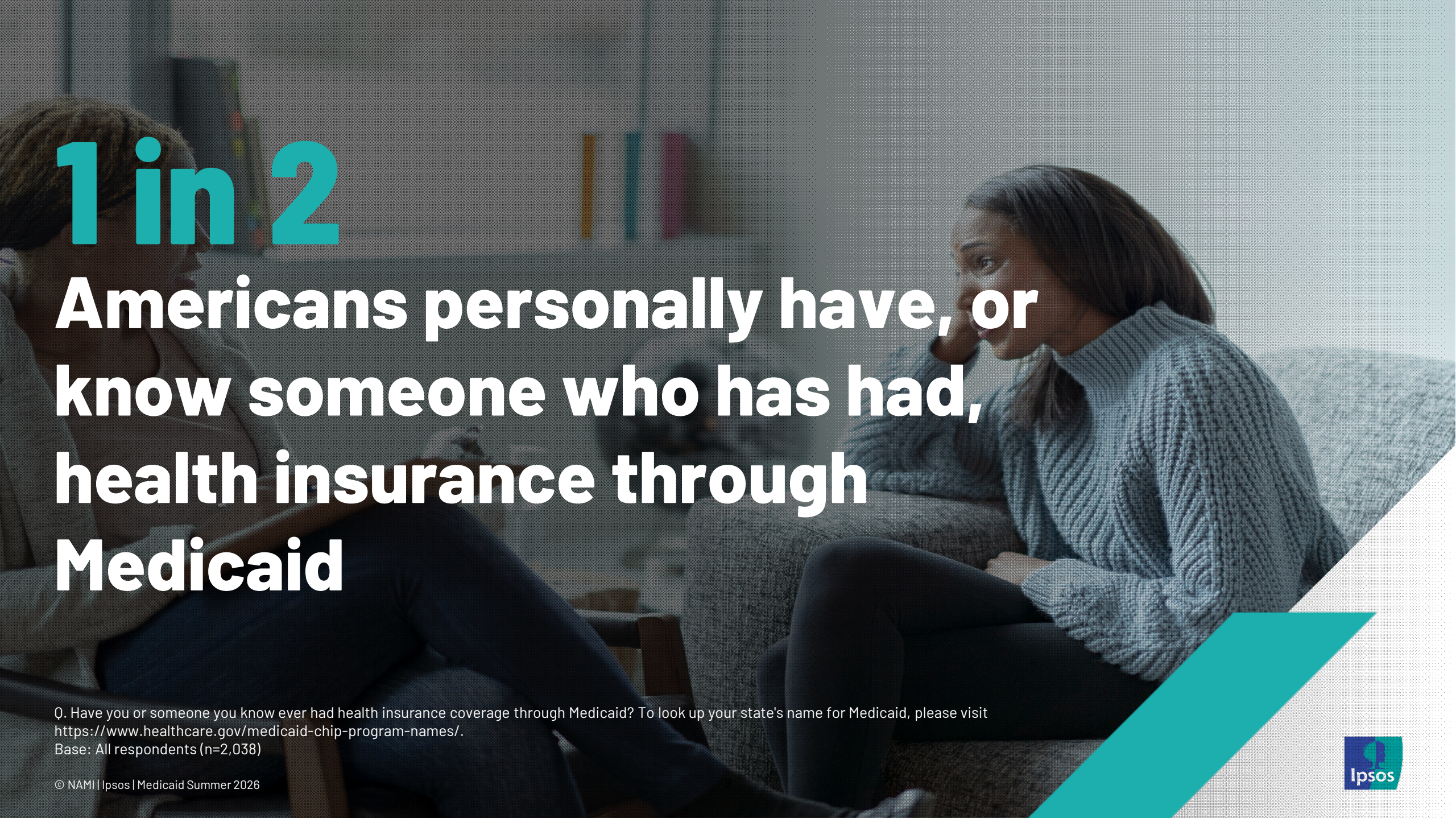
Jul-26



Q. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: All respondents – Nov 25 (n=2,046), All respondents – July 26 (n=2,038), Republicans – Nov 25 (n=604), Republicans – July 26 (n=580), Women – Nov 25 (n=1,011), Women – July 26 (n=1,020), White – Nov 25 (n=1,265), White – July 26 (n=1,294)

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1 in 2

Americans personally have, or know someone who has had, health insurance through Medicaid

Q. Have you or someone you know ever had health insurance coverage through Medicaid? To look up your state's name for Medicaid, please visit <https://www.healthcare.gov/medicaid-chip-program-names/>.
Base: All respondents (n=2,038)

For Americans with Medicaid experience, coverage helped them access a range of health care services and support

83% of those who have used or have a family member who has used Medicaid say it **helped them access doctor's office visits**

69% of those who have used or have a family member who has used Medicaid say it **helped them access health care, including mental health care**

49% of those who have used or have a family member who has used Medicaid say it **helped them access therapy**

45% of those who have used or have a family member who has used Medicaid say it **helped them avoid hospitalization and stay in their community**

Q. You mentioned that you or someone you know is/was previously covered by Medicaid. In your experience, did Medicaid coverage help with...?

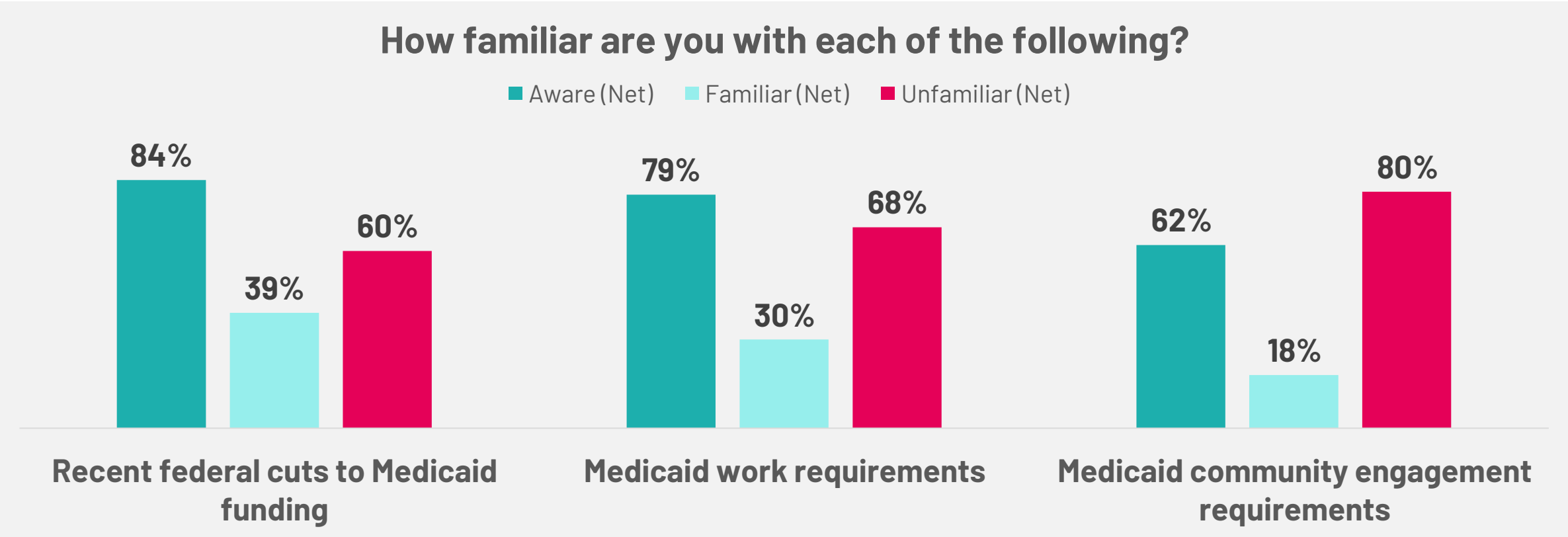
Q. You mentioned that you or someone you know is/was previously covered by Medicaid. In your experience, did Medicaid coverage help with accessing...?

Base: Have used or have family member that has used Medicaid (n= 845)



AWARENESS OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Most have heard of Medicaid work requirements, but few are familiar; even fewer know about community engagement requirements



Q. How familiar are you with each of the following?
Base: All respondents (n=2,038)

Note: "Aware" is a net of "Very familiar, Somewhat familiar, Not very familiar, Have heard of it, but that's it"
"Familiar" is a net of "Very familiar and Somewhat familiar"
"Unfamiliar" is a net of "Not very familiar, Have heard of it, but that's it, and I have never heard of it"

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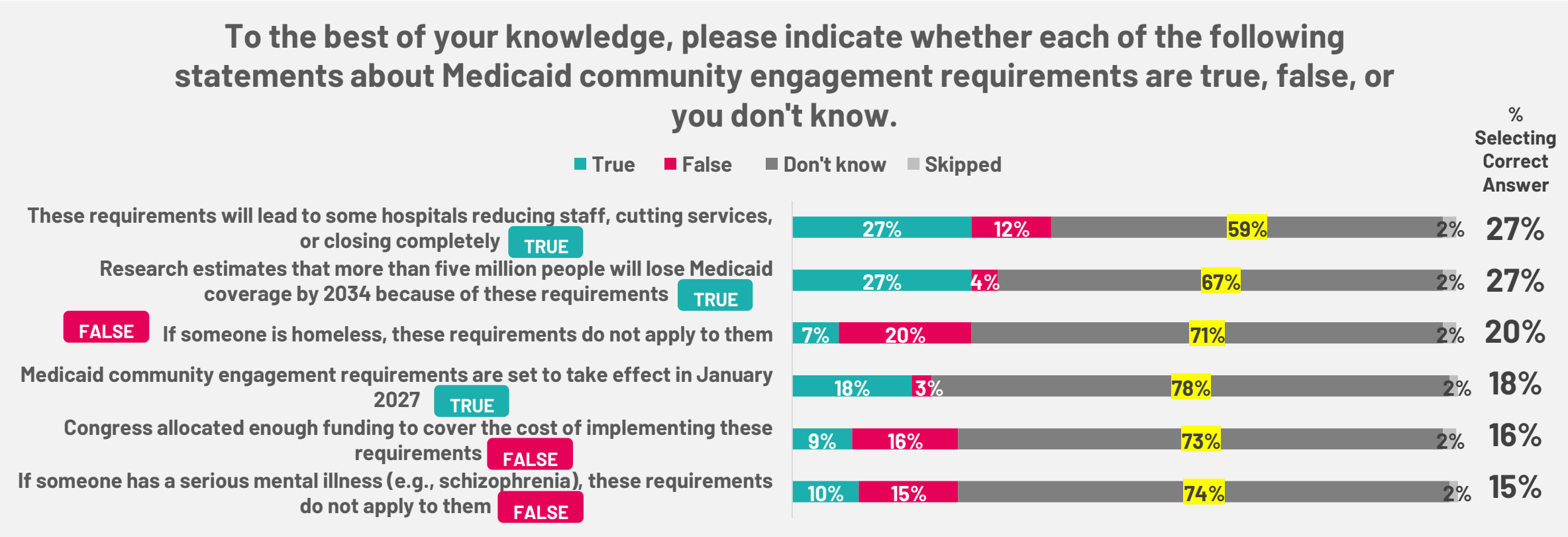


Information provided to respondents after assessing familiarity with
Medicaid community engagement requirements:

Medicaid community engagement requirements are an upcoming federal policy change that would require certain adults to verify they are working, in school, volunteering, or meeting another qualifying activity for a minimum number of hours each month in order to keep their Medicaid coverage. These requirements are sometimes also referred to as "work requirements." For the rest of this survey, we will refer to them as "community engagement requirements."

Provided as an information screen to all participants following asking their familiarity with Medicaid community engagement requirements

When asked about the specifics of community engagement requirements, most Americans say they don't know and few answer correctly

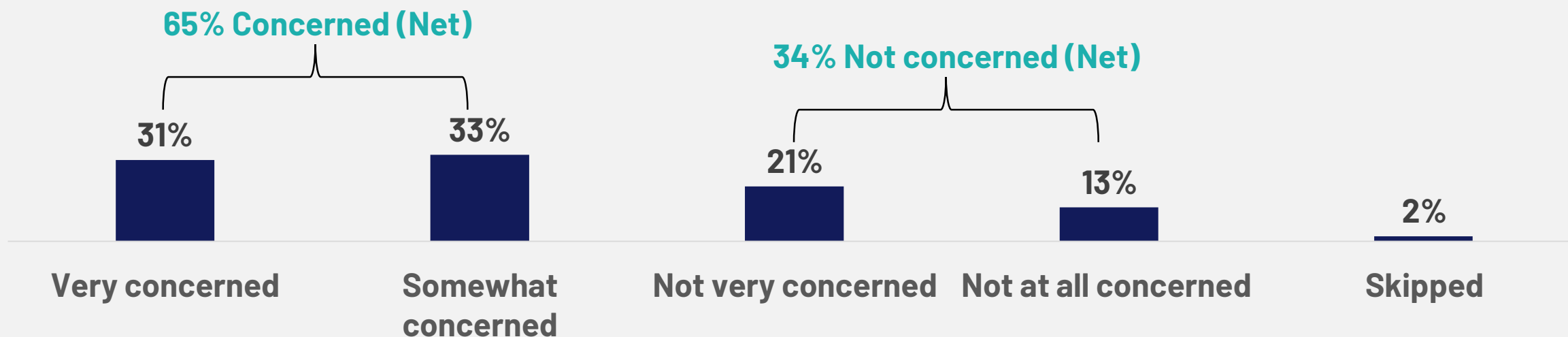


Q. To the best of your knowledge, please indicate whether each of the following statements about Medicaid community engagement requirements are true, false, or you don't know. Base: All respondents (n=2,038)



A majority of Americans express concern about people losing Medicaid coverage when community engagement requirements take effect

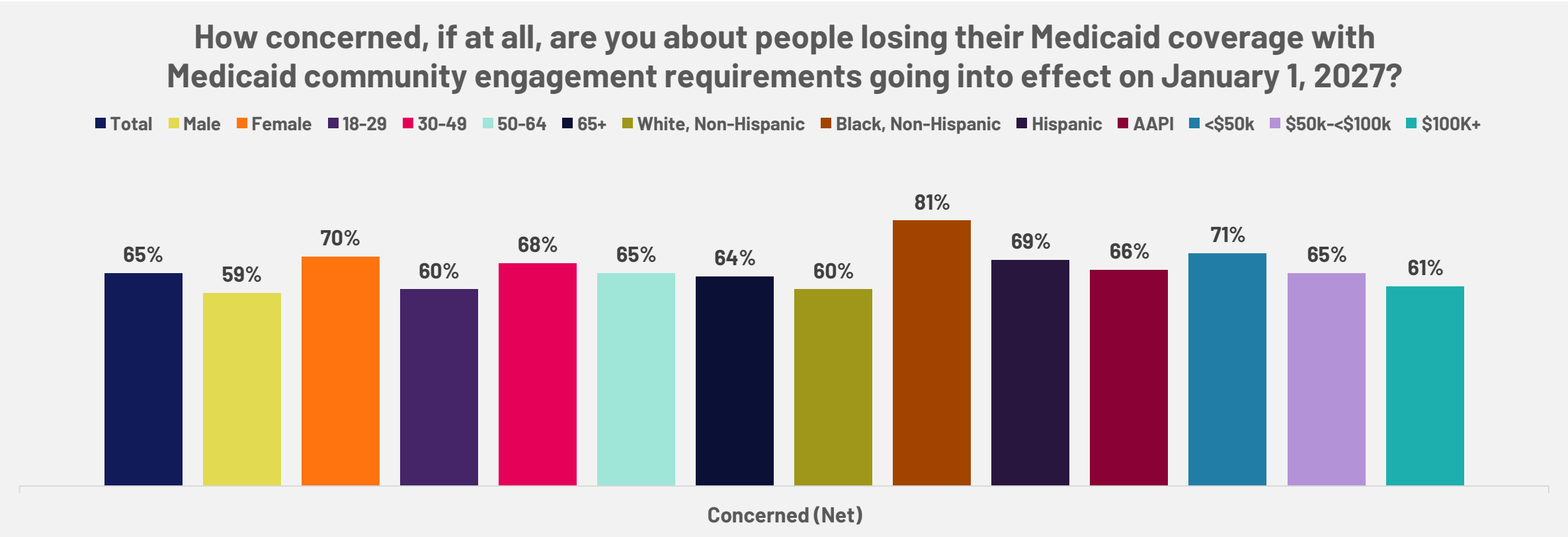
How concerned, if at all, are you about people losing their Medicaid coverage with Medicaid community engagement requirements going into effect on January 1, 2027?



Q. How concerned, if at all, are you about people losing their Medicaid coverage with Medicaid community engagement requirements going into effect on January 1, 2027?

Base: All respondents (n=2,038)

Concern about Medicaid coverage loss is highest among Black, lower-income adults, and women



Q. How concerned, if at all, are you about people losing their Medicaid coverage with Medicaid community engagement requirements going into effect on January 1, 2027?
Base: All respondents (n=2,038), Male (n=1,018), Female (n=1,020), 18-29 (n=361), 30-49 (654), 50-64 (n=516), 65+ (n=507), White, Non-Hispanic (n=1,294), Black, Non-Hispanic (n=254), Hispanic (n=322), AAPI (n=124), AAPI (N=124), <\$50k (n=495), \$50k-<\$100k (n=493), \$100k+ (n=1,050)



Concern about coverage loss does not translate to greater knowledge of policy details

Both concerned and unconcerned Americans struggle with basic facts about community engagement requirements

1

When asked when the requirements take effect, 77% of concerned Americans and 82% of not concerned Americans say they don't know.

2

Only 20% of concerned Americans and 14% of not concerned Americans correctly identified the January 2027 start date.

3

When asked whether people with serious mental illness are exempt, 73% of concerned Americans and 77% of not concerned Americans say they don't know – with correct answers at just 17% and 11%, respectively.

Q. To the best of your knowledge, please indicate whether each of the following statements about Medicaid community engagement requirements are true, false, or you don't know.

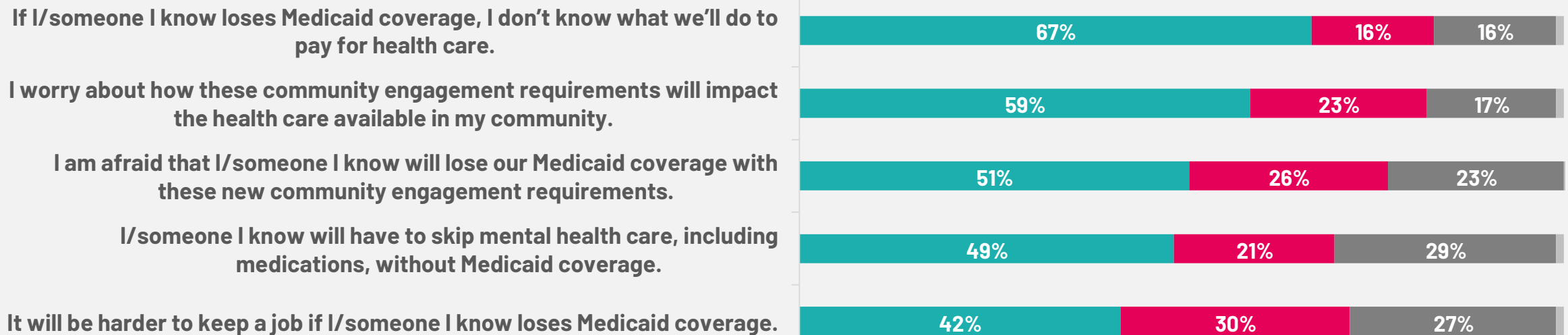
Base: Concerned about Medicaid community engagement requirements (Net) = (n=1, 325), Not concerned about Medicaid community engagement requirements (Net) = (n=693)

VIEWS ON MEDICAID POLICY APPROACHES

Two-thirds of Americans with Medicaid ties are unsure how they'd pay for health care if coverage is lost

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

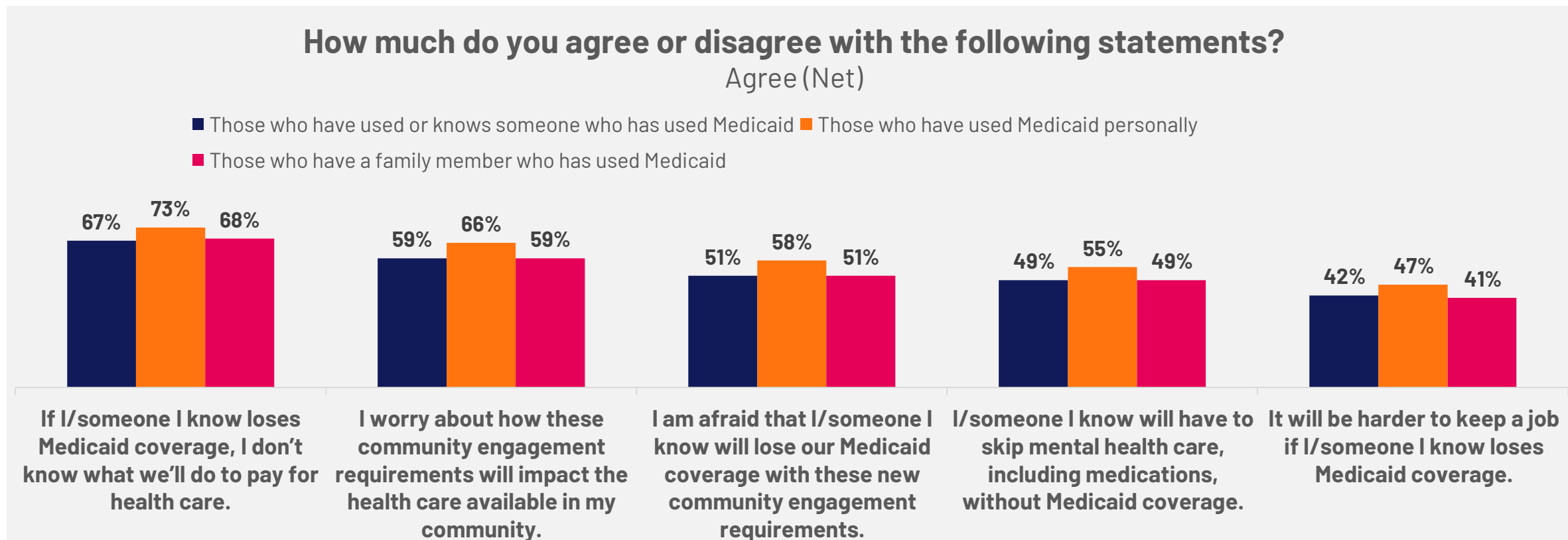
■ Agree (Net) ■ Disagree (Net) ■ Don't know ■ Skipped



Q. You mentioned that you or someone you know is/was previously covered by Medicaid. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: Those who have used or know someone who has used Medicaid (n=1,028)

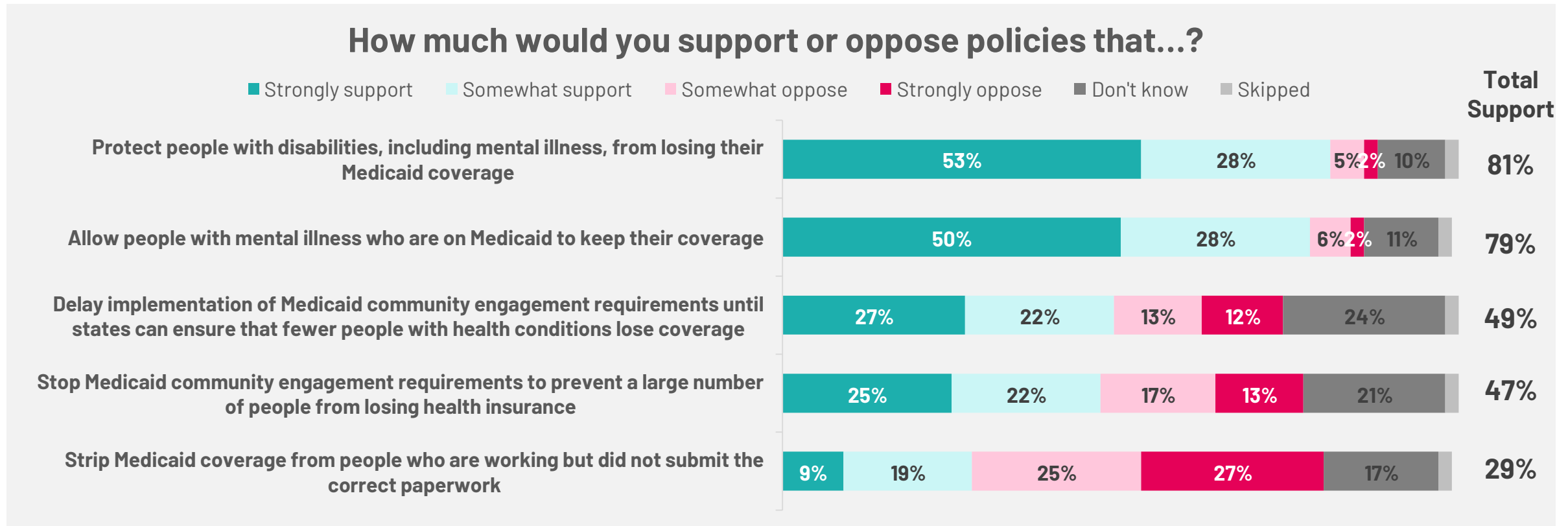
Those who have used Medicaid personally are most concerned about losing coverage



Q. You mentioned that you or someone you know is/was previously covered by Medicaid. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Base: Those who have used or know someone who has used Medicaid including a family member, a close friend, or someone else (n=1,028), Those who have used Medicaid personally (n=413), Those whose family members have used Medicaid (n=591)

Americans overwhelmingly support policies that protect people with disabilities and mental illness from losing Medicaid coverage



Q. How much would you support or oppose policies that...?

Base: All respondents (n=2,038)

Broad support exists for protecting Medicaid coverage among both the general public and those personally connected

How much would you support or oppose policies that...? Support (Net)

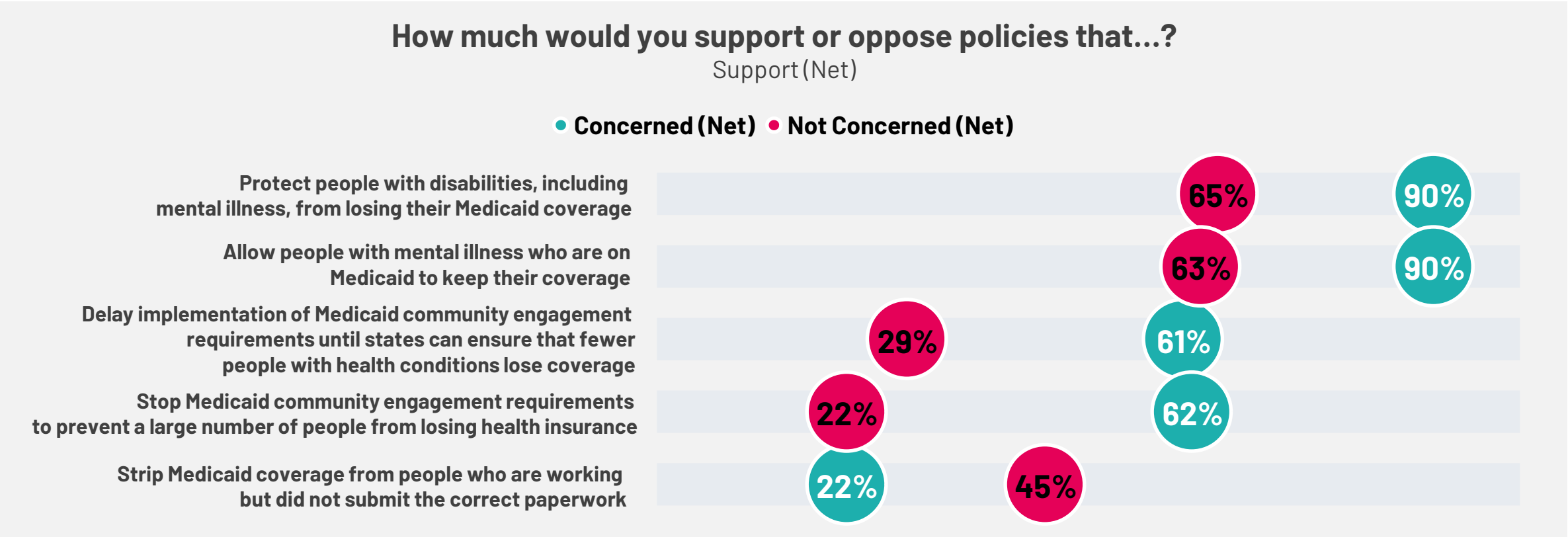
	Total	Any Connection to Medicaid (A)	Personal Connection to Medicaid (B)	Familial Connection to Medicaid (C)
Protect people with disabilities, including mental illness, from losing their Medicaid coverage	81%	87%	89%	89% ^A
Allow people with mental illness who are on Medicaid to keep their coverage	79%	86%	86%	88% ^A
Delay implementation of Medicaid community engagement requirements until states can ensure that fewer people with health conditions lose coverage	49%	56%	57%	57%
Stop Medicaid community engagement requirements to prevent a large number of people from losing health insurance	47%	56%	63% ^{AC}	55%
Strip Medicaid coverage from people who are working but did not submit the correct paperwork	29%	30%	28%	30%

Q. How much would you support or oppose policies that...?

Base: All respondents (n=2,038), Those with a connection to Medicaid (n=1,028), Those who have personally used Medicaid (n=413), Those who have a family member who has used Medicaid (n=591)

Note: Letters indicate statistical significance

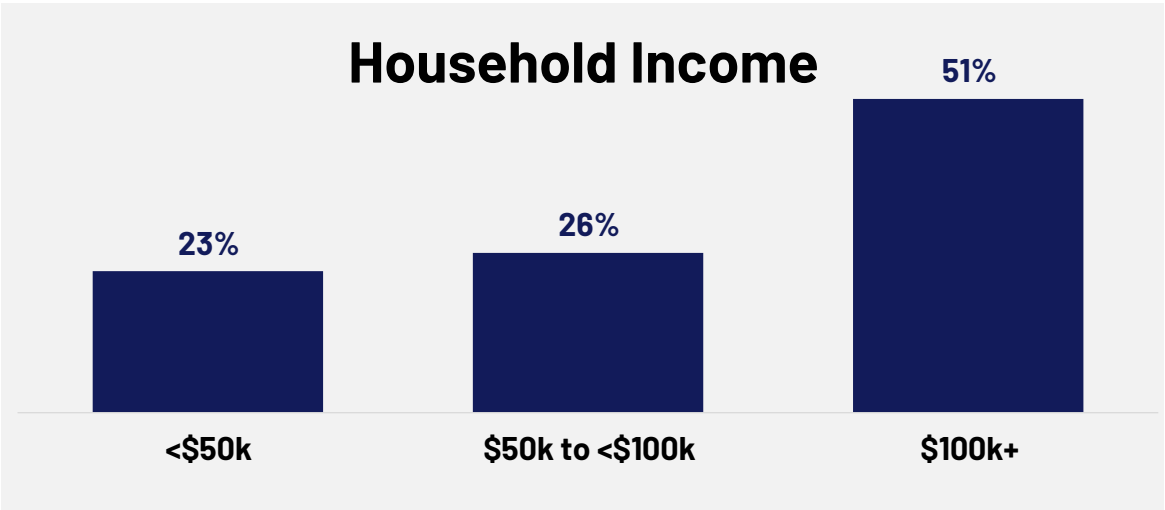
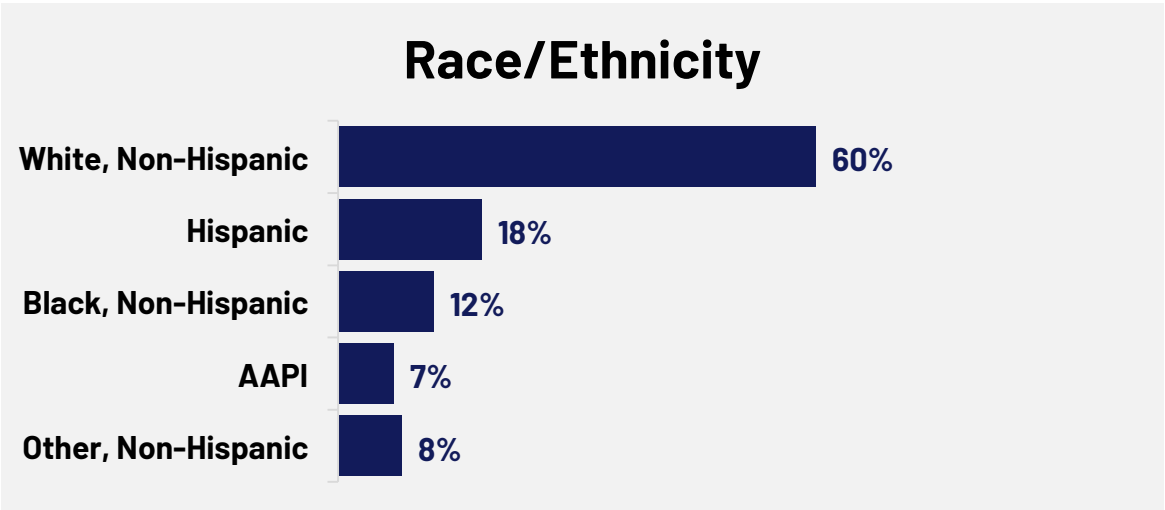
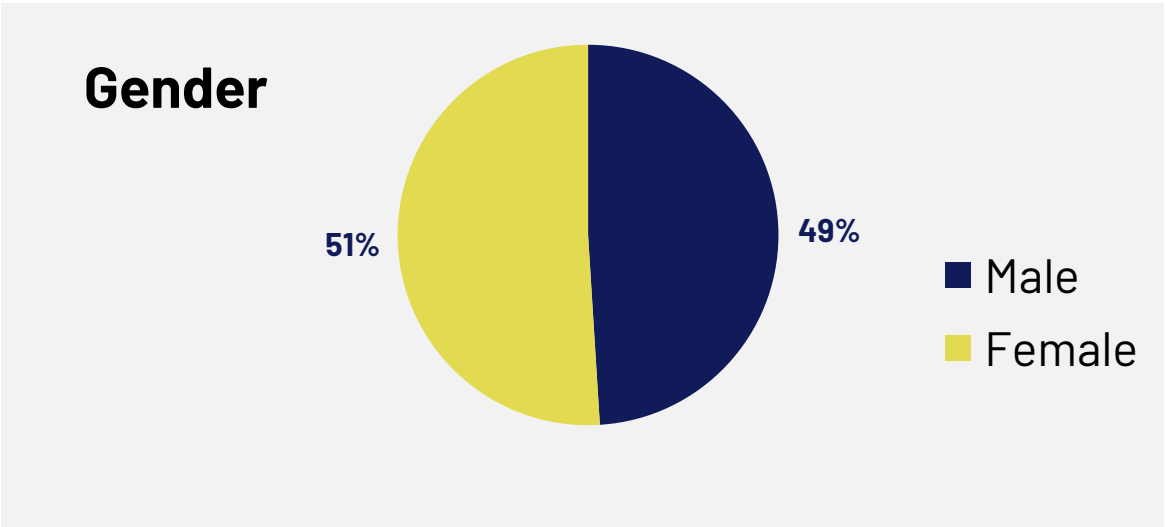
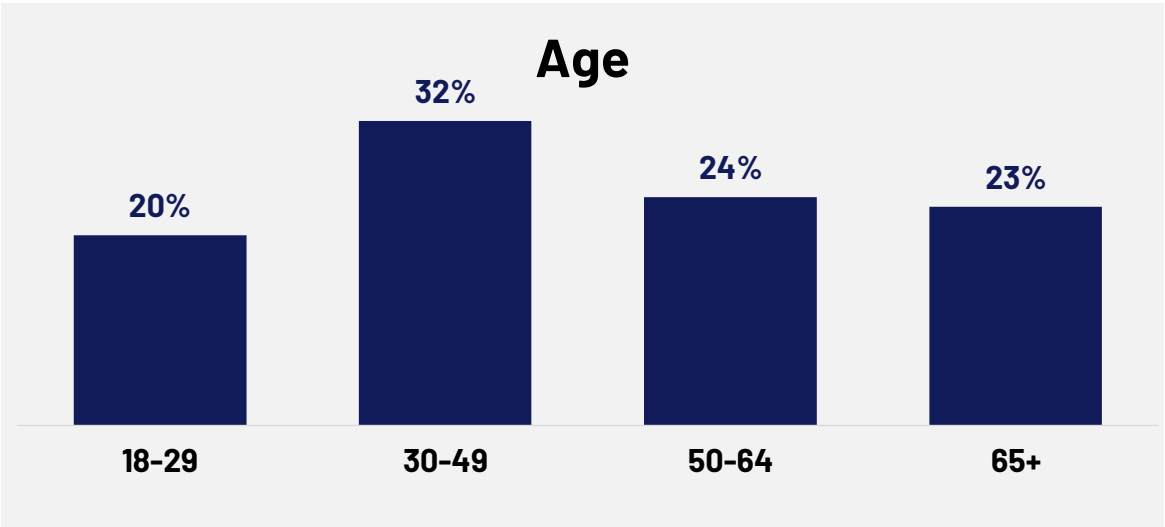
Concern about coverage loss is strongly linked to support for protections – with wide gaps across all policy items



Q. How much would you support or oppose policies that...?
Base: Concerned about Medicaid community engagement requirements (Net) = (n=1, 291), Not concerned about Medicaid community engagement requirements (Net) = (n=671)

RESPONDENT PROFILES

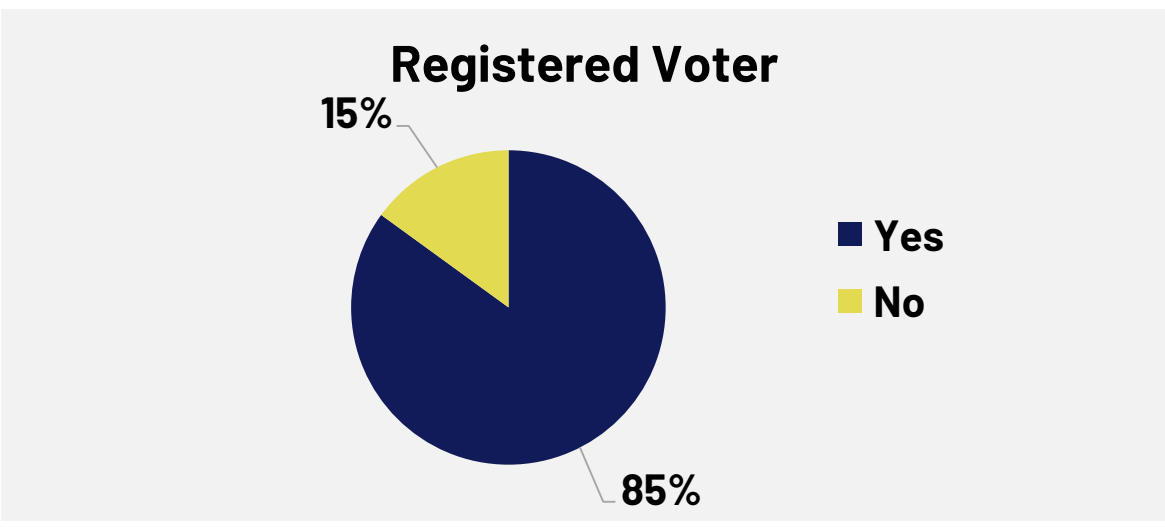
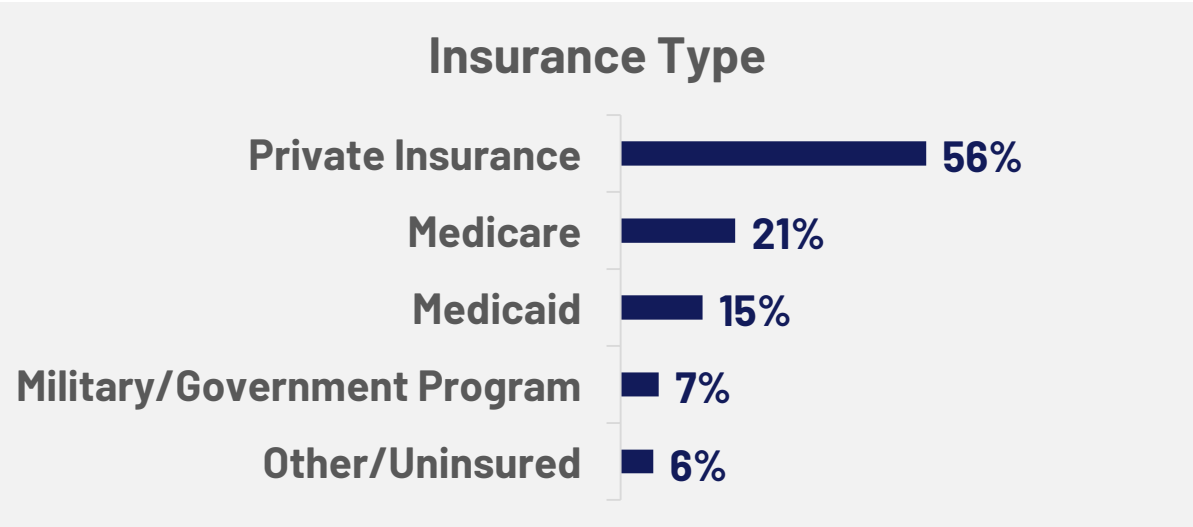
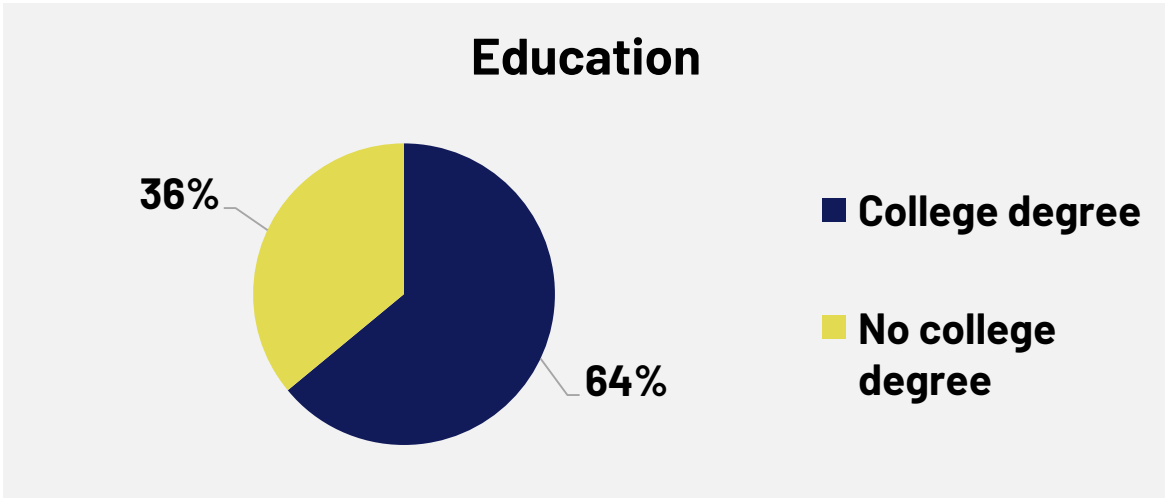
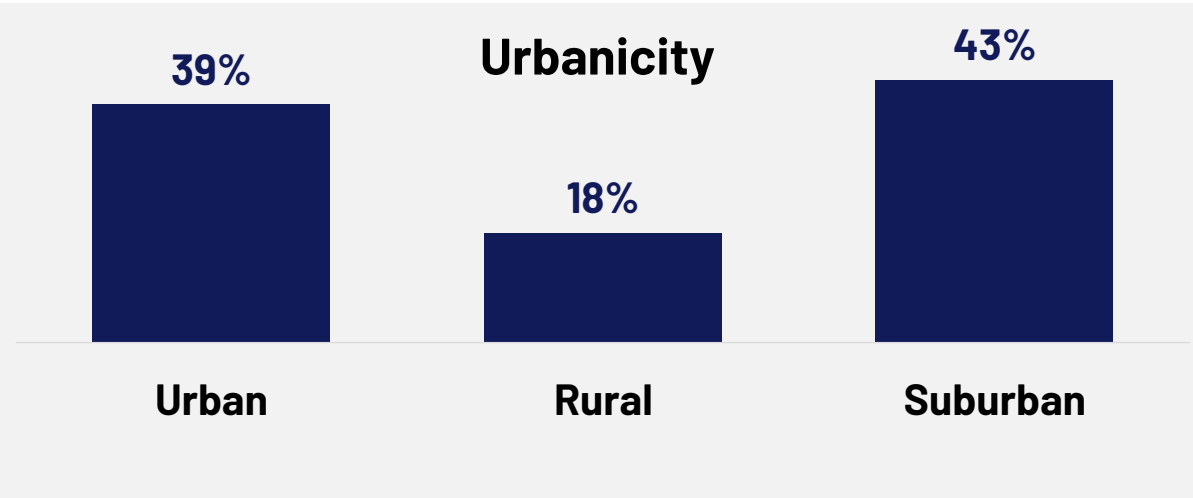
Respondent Profile



Base: All respondents (n=2,038)



Respondent Profile



Base: All respondents (n=2,038)



THANK YOU