

THE MISSOURI FOUNDATION FOR HEALTH

**Presentation of Findings from a Survey of 800
Likely Voters in Missouri**

May 10-14, 2007



Survey Methodology

- **Lake Research Partners designed and administered this survey, which was conducted by phone using professional interviewers.**
- **The Tarrance Group partnered with LRP in the analysis of the data.**
- **The survey reached 800 likely voters across the state and was conducted May 10-14, 2007.**
- **Telephone numbers for the survey were drawn from a random digit dial sample and stratified geographically by county based on projected turnout.**
- **The margin of error for the survey is +/- 3.5%.**

Executive Summary

- **The agenda remains set for health care reform in Missouri. Health care continues to top the voters' agenda in the state, and more than 8 in 10 Missourians are concerned about affordable health care for themselves and their families.**
- **Voter perceptions of their own personal health care coverage have grown slightly more negative. Voters are very worried that health insurance will become so expensive they won't be able to afford it.**
- **Voters are thinking broadly about the challenges facing the state and the nation; their concerns expand beyond themselves and their families.**
- **Strong majorities worry about the rising number of uninsured in the state and believe it is important for the government to offer health care coverage for uninsured people who cannot afford it on their own.**
- **Despite some caution about the level of change they would accept, solid majorities support providing quality health care to all, even if it means higher taxes or an expanded role for government in financing care.**

Strategic Summary: Growing Dissatisfaction with the State of Health Care in Missouri

- **Health care remains the top concern of Missouri voters, followed by the economy and jobs, education, and retirement security.**
 - **Though there are differences across party and regional lines, healthcare is a top-tier concern for all voters across the state.**
- **By and large, voters report being in good health and tend to like their health care providers, but they are increasingly critical of nearly every other measure regarding health care in the state.**
- **There is widespread concern about the cost of health care coverage and the growing number of uninsured or underinsured in Missouri.**
 - **These concerns have only increased since January of this year and cross traditional partisan and demographic divides, though Democrats, African Americans, and voters in St. Louis are all disproportionately pessimistic.**

Strategic Summary: Rising Costs Fuel Voters' Concerns and Desire for Change

- **The number of Missourians rating their coverage negatively continues to grow, and with increasing intensity. Fewer than 10 percent say their coverage has gotten better.**
- **More than four in ten Missourians report having experienced some change to their plans over the past year, and slightly more expect changes to their coverage over the next year.**
 - **Among those who have seen a change in their coverage over the last year, most saw an increase in their premium payment and co-pays.**
- **Voters have many worries about their health care coverage, but the most pressing are that the cost will increase so they cannot afford it, they won't be able to afford their prescriptions, and they won't be able to afford needed medical services.**
- **Missourians, and Democrats in particular, believe very strongly that the large profits of insurance and drug companies are a major factor in rising health care costs. Independents point to bureaucracy and red-tape, and Republicans blame the cost of malpractice insurance.**

Strategic Summary: Despite Some Successes, Voters See Medicare in Bad Shape

- **Almost half of Missouri voters are on Medicare or know someone who is.**
- **While voters admit some success on providing care to the elderly and disabled, they fault Medicare for not reducing the cost of prescription drugs and not improving the quality of care.**
- **A solid majority of Missourians believes that Medicare is in crisis or at least has *major* problems.**

Strategic Summary: Voters Are Prepared to Sacrifice in Order to Solve the Health Care Crisis

- Voters are receptive to specific proposals for moving towards universal health care coverage.
 - A strong majority would be willing to pay more taxes or have an expanded role for the federal government in order to ensure access to affordable health care for everyone.
 - An expansion of Medicare to cover *everyone* is preferred over the current situation where some are uninsured or a program in which the government subsidizes coverage for those who cannot afford it themselves.
- While voters fear dramatic change more than the status quo, majorities are willing to accept tax increases and expanded government in order to provide everyone access to affordable health coverage.

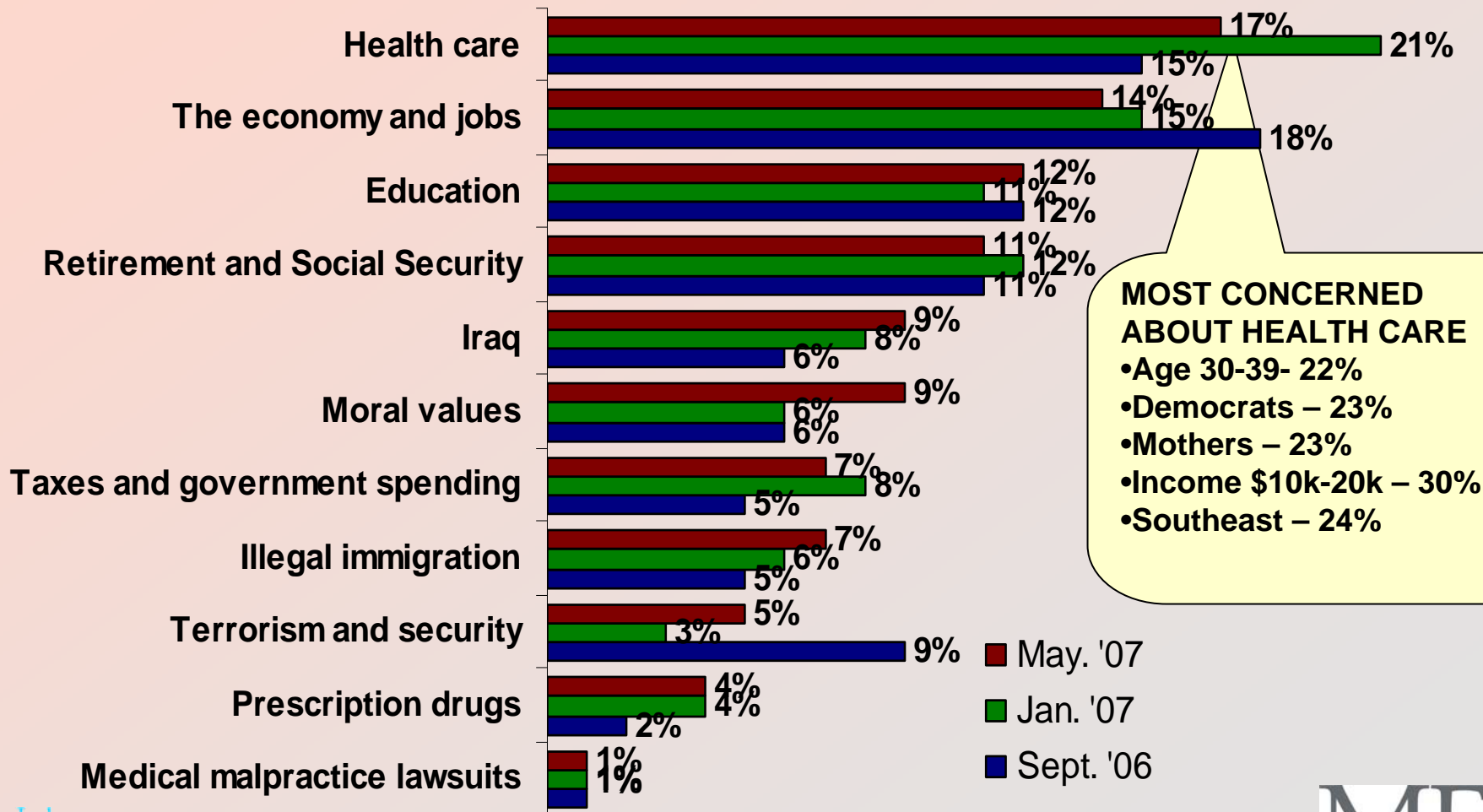
CONTEXT

Voters' top concern in the state is health care. Anxiety over rising costs and the growing number of uninsured is widespread.



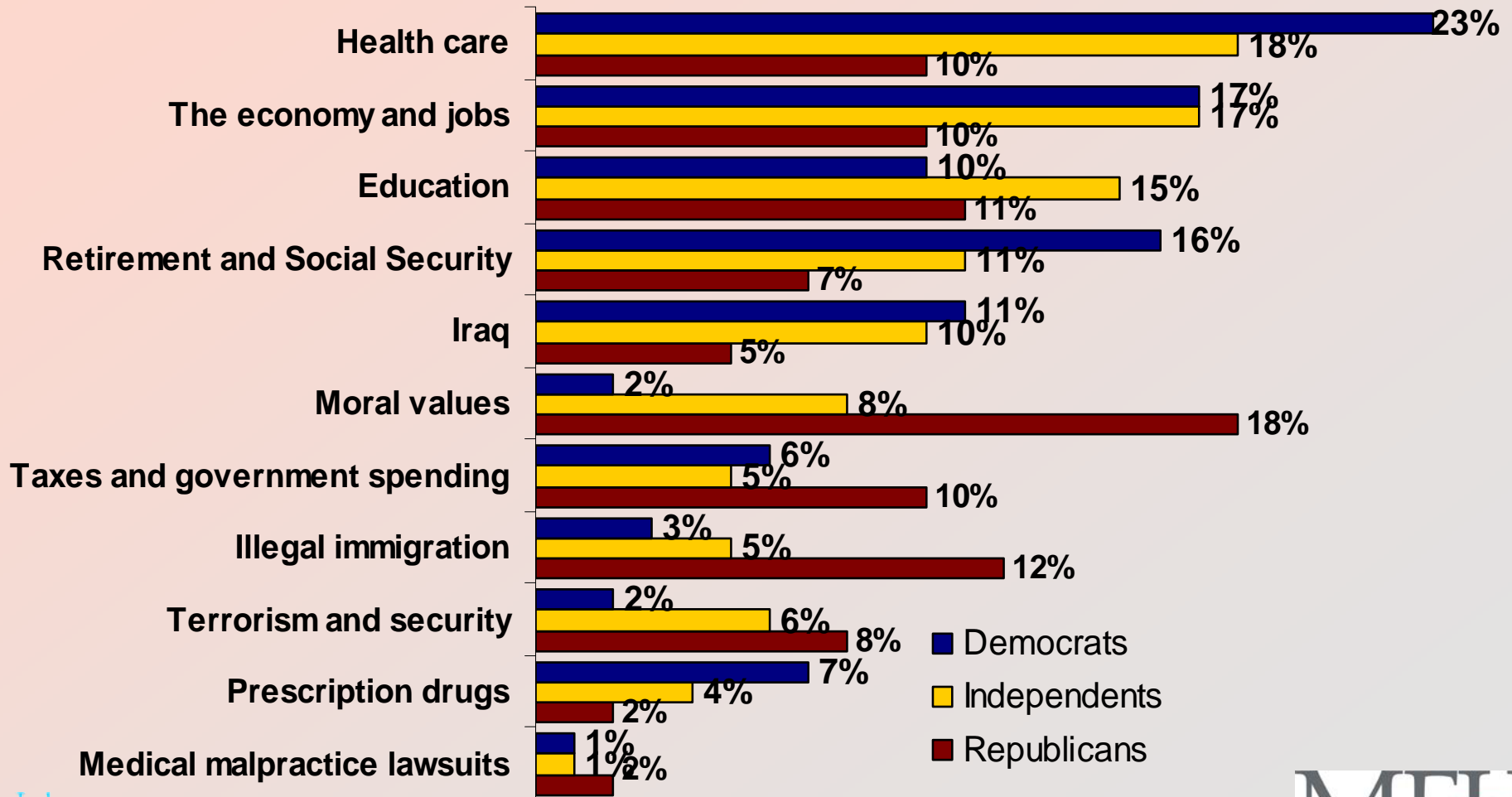
Healthcare remains the top concern for voters in Missouri.

I am going to read you a list of concerns that some people have in Missouri. Please tell me which one of these is the most important issue to you personally?



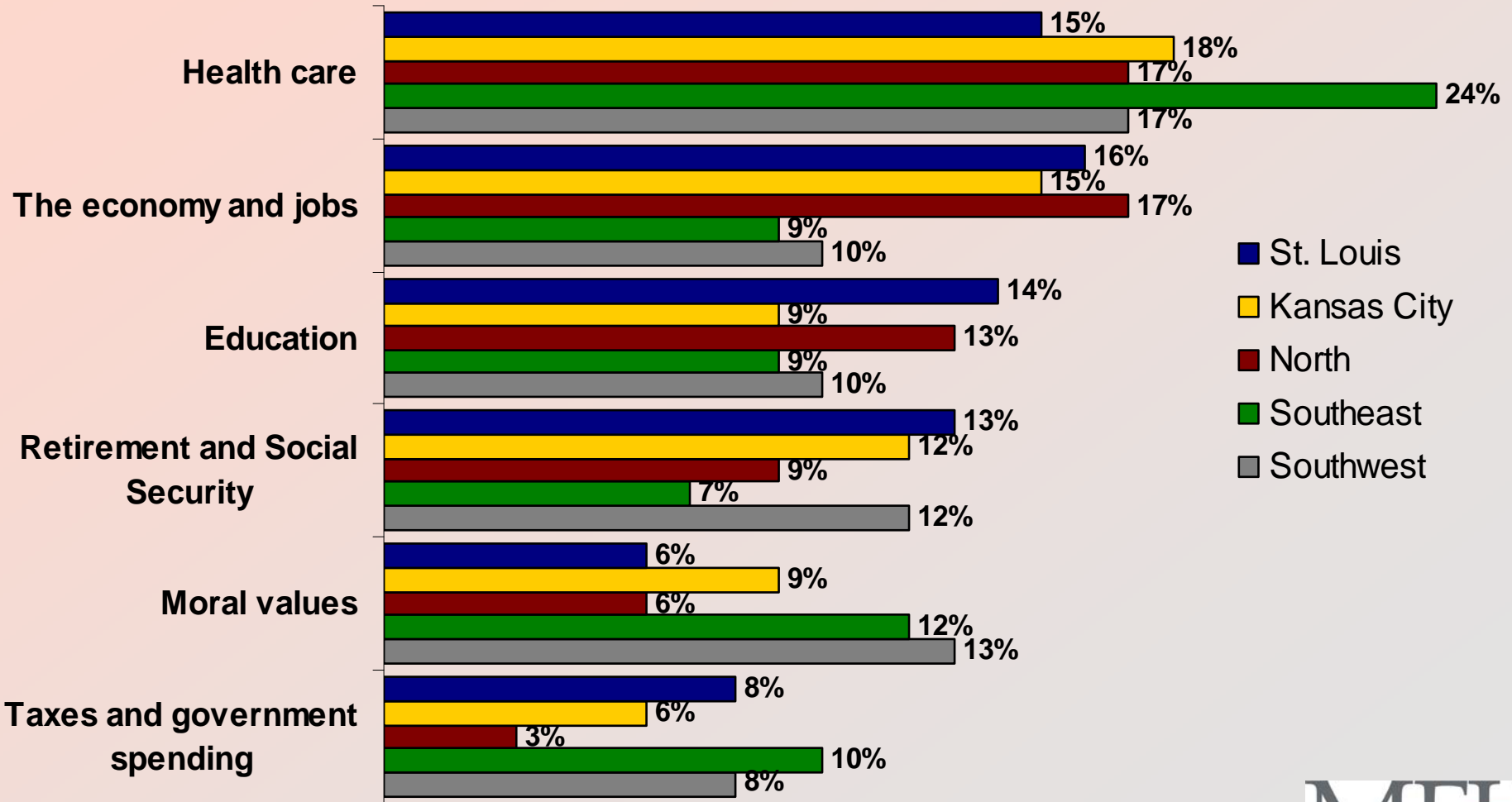
Democrats are particularly focused on health care as a top concern, while Republicans are most worried about moral values.

I am going to read you a list of concerns that some people have in Missouri. Please tell me which one of these is the most important issue to you personally?



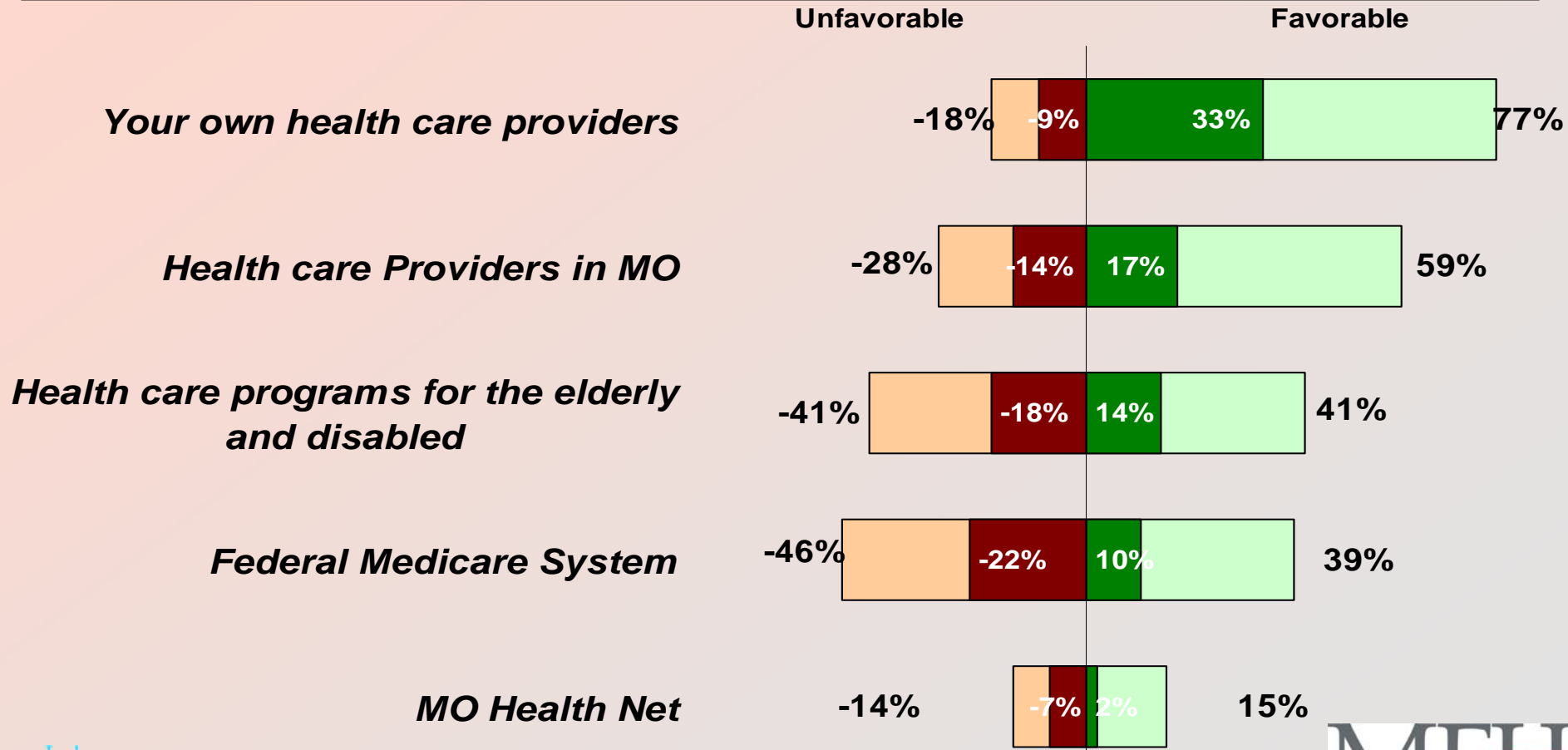
Health care concerns predominate across the state, particularly in the Southeast.

I am going to read you a list of concerns that some people have in Missouri. Please tell me which one of these is the most important issue to you personally?



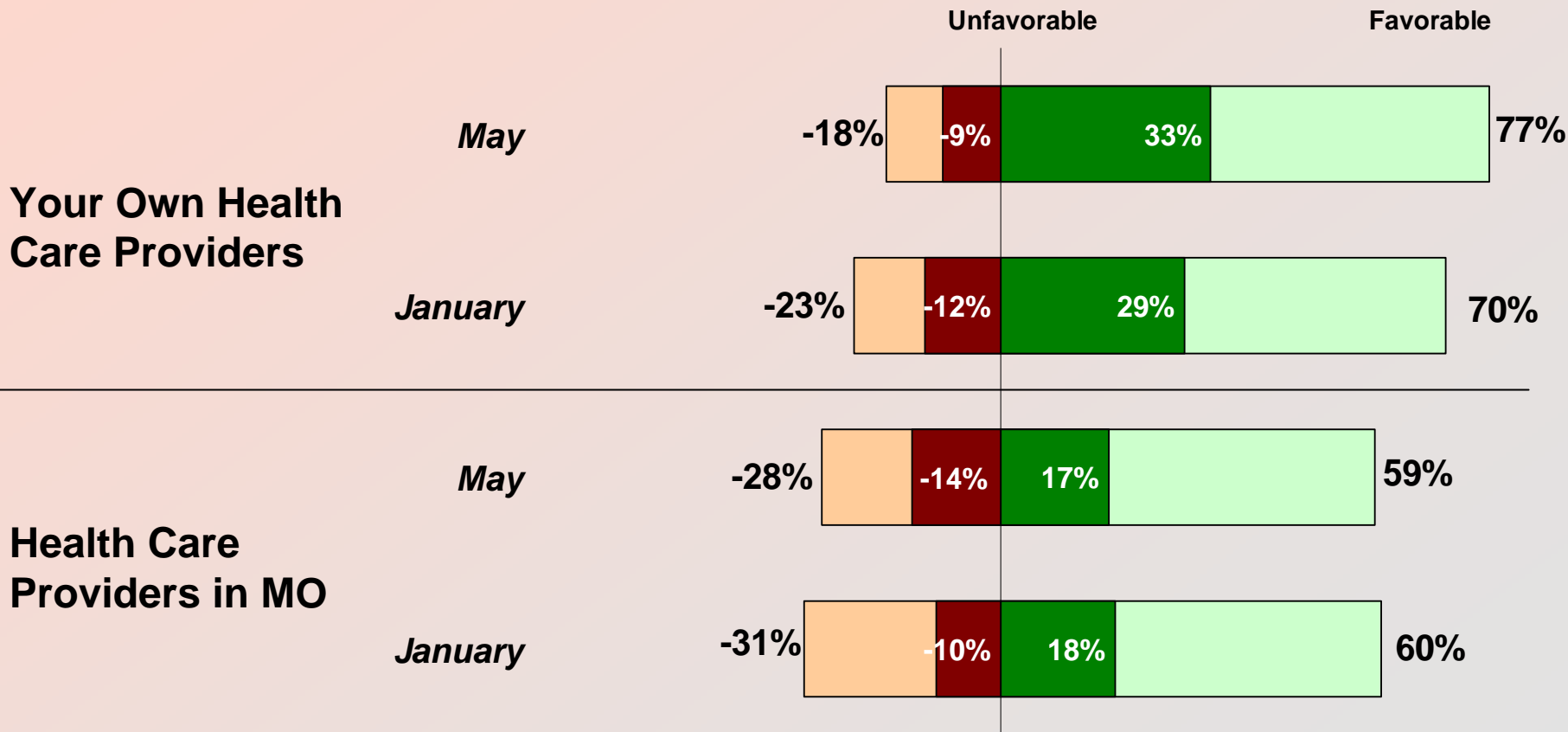
While Missouri voters tend to be happy with their own health care providers, they have less favorable feelings toward health care providers in the state generally. Voters are split on their views of Medicare and health care programs for the elderly and disabled. Less than a third are familiar with Missouri Health Net.

Now I'd like to ask you about some public figures and programs. For each one, please tell me whether you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable impression of that person or program.



Voters have grown more favorable toward their own health care providers since January.

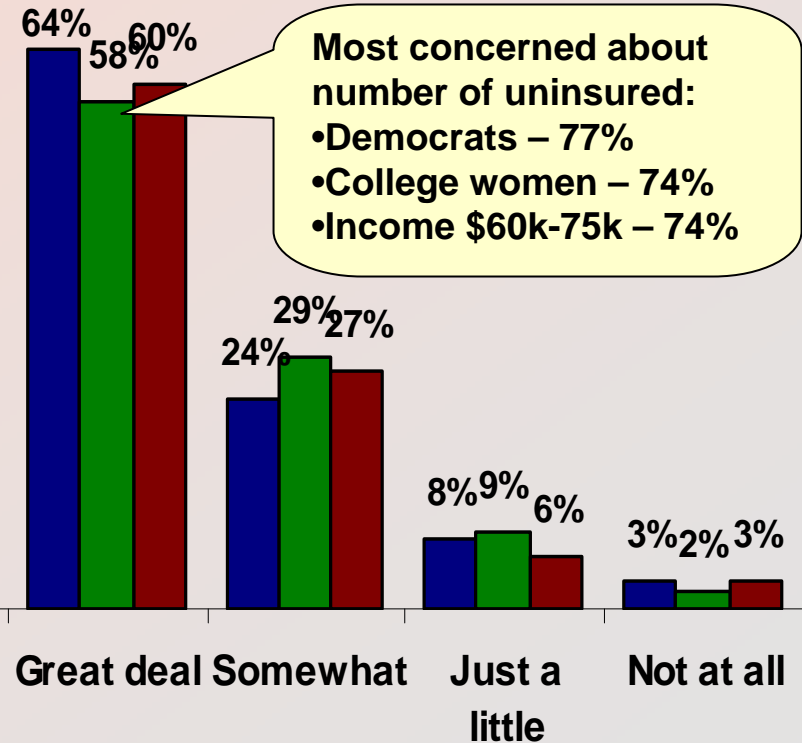
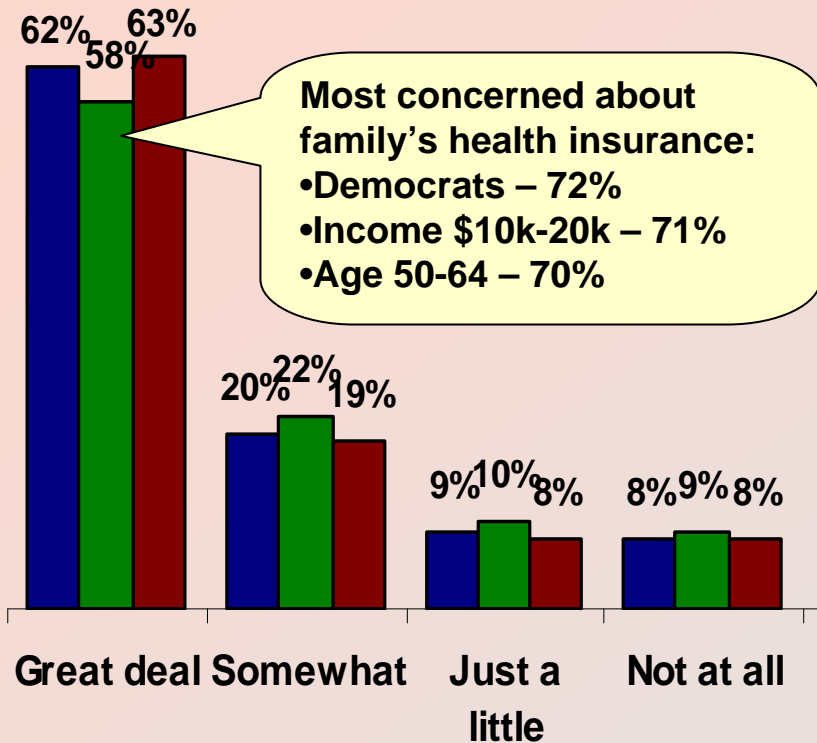
Now I'd like to ask you about some public figures and programs. For each one, please tell me whether you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable impression of that person or program.



A solid majority of Missourians remains concerned a great deal about affordable health insurance for their families, and most are very concerned over the number of underinsured or uninsured in the state.

Still thinking about health care, how concerned would you say you are about **affordable health insurance for you and your family**? Would you say you are concerned a great deal, somewhat, just a little, or not at all?

And how concerned would you say you are about **the number of people who are uninsured or underinsured in Missouri**? Would you say you are concerned a great deal, somewhat, just a little, or not at all?

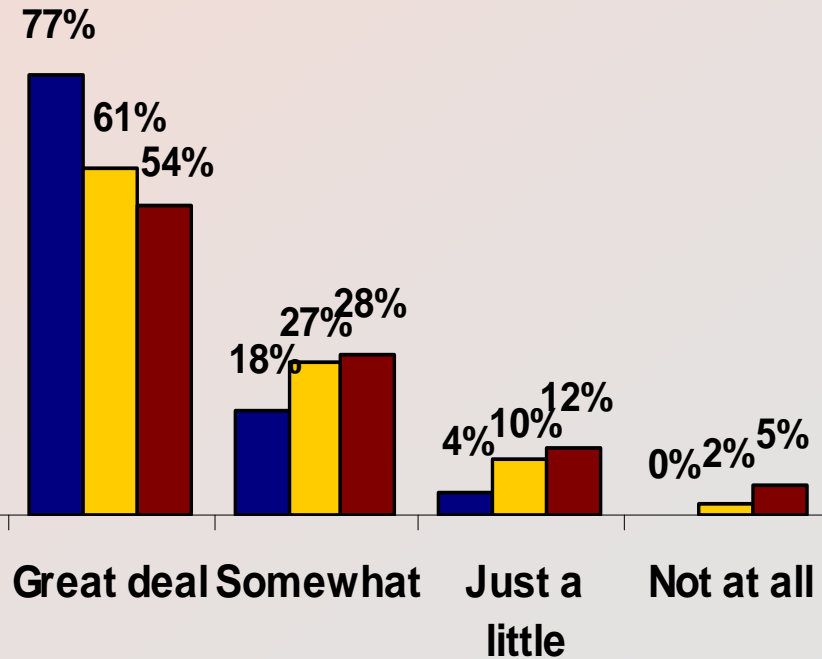
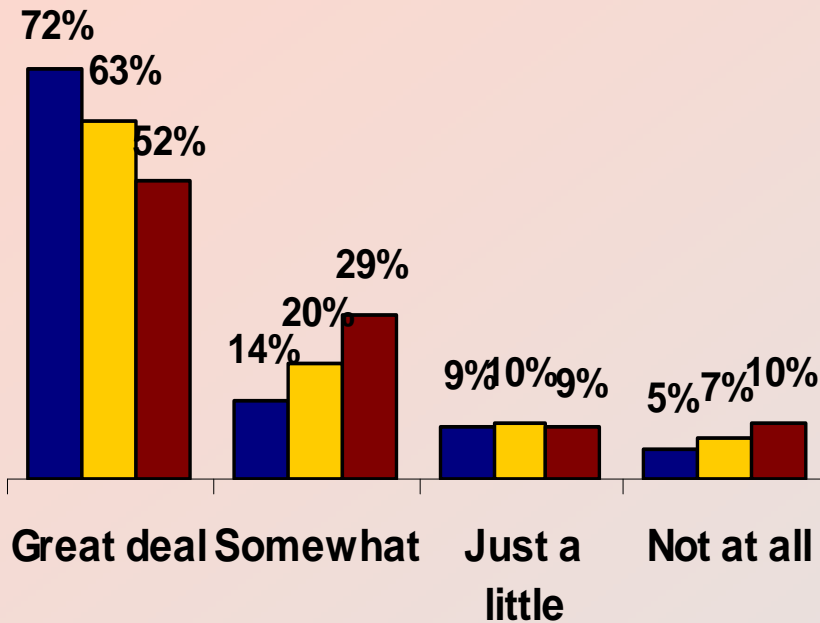


■ May '07 ■ Jan. '07 ■ Sept. '06

Across party lines, majorities are highly concerned about the affordability of their own health coverage and the number of un- and under-insured in Missouri.

Still thinking about health care, how concerned would you say you are about **affordable health insurance for you and your family**? Would you say you are concerned a great deal, somewhat, just a little, or not at all?

And how concerned would you say you are about **the number of people who are uninsured or underinsured in Missouri**? Would you say you are concerned a great deal, somewhat, just a little, or not at all?



■ Democrat ■ Independent ■ Republican

Personal Experiences with Health Care

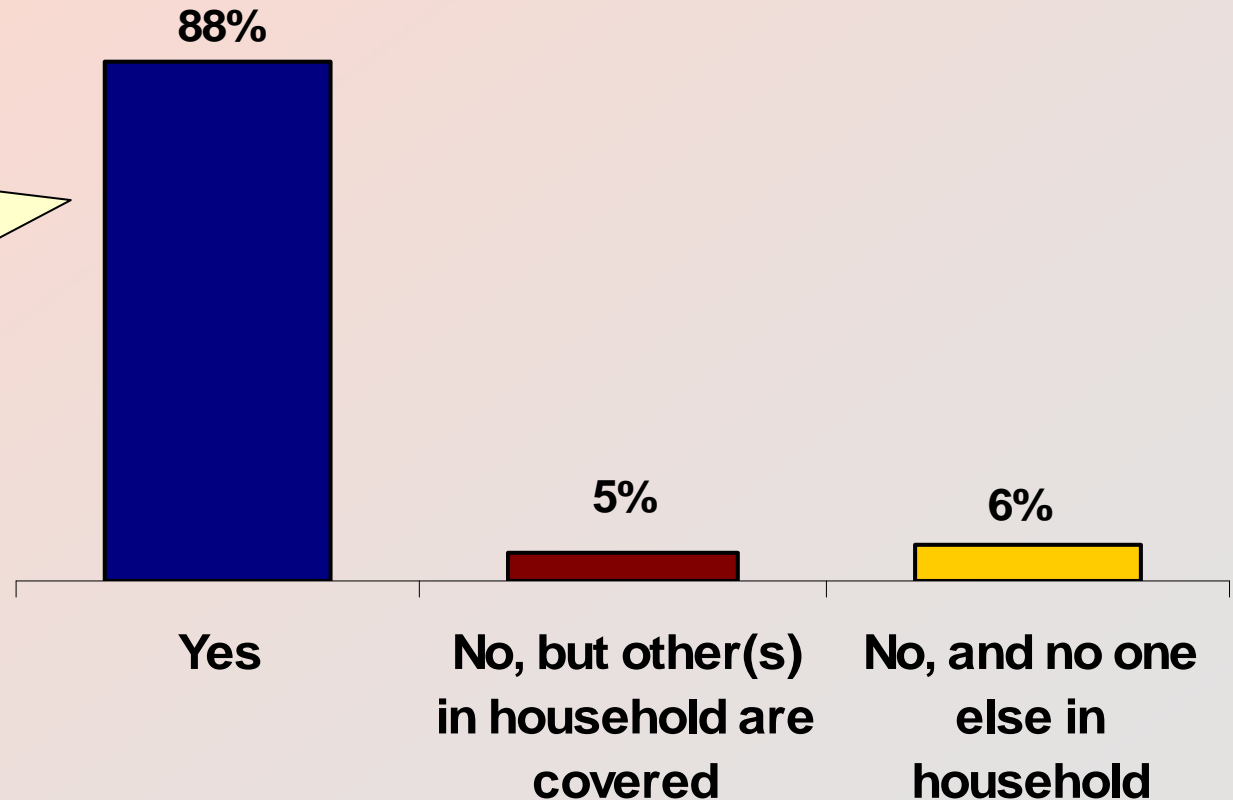
Amid rising premiums and co-pays, voters' dissatisfaction with their health care coverage is growing.



Almost nine in ten Missouri voters are currently covered by some form of health insurance. Only 6 percent live in households where no one is covered.

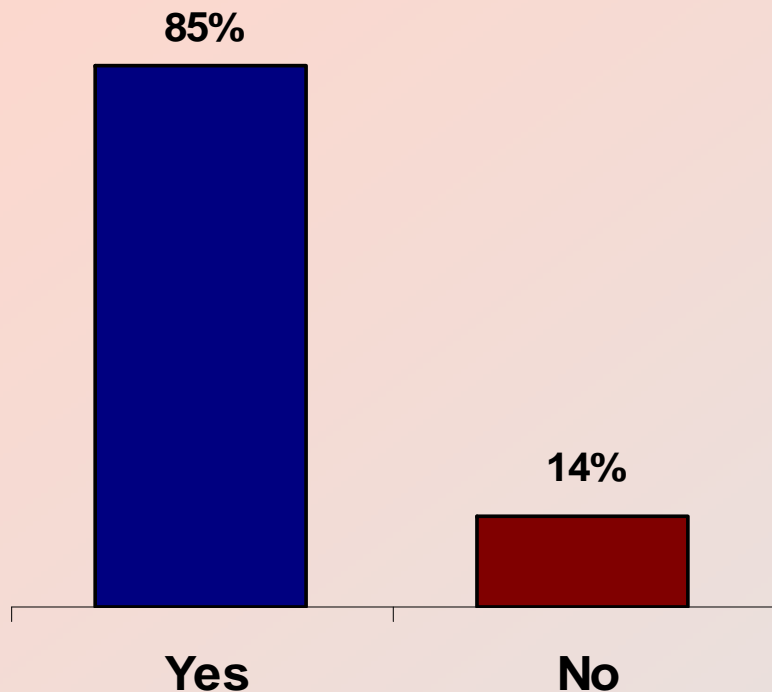
Are you now covered by any form of health insurance or health plan, or do you not have any health insurance at this time? A health plan includes any private insurance plan through your employer or a plan that you purchased yourself, as well as a government program like Medicare or Medicaid.

Among those who are covered, the vast majority (84%) say that everyone in their household is covered as well.

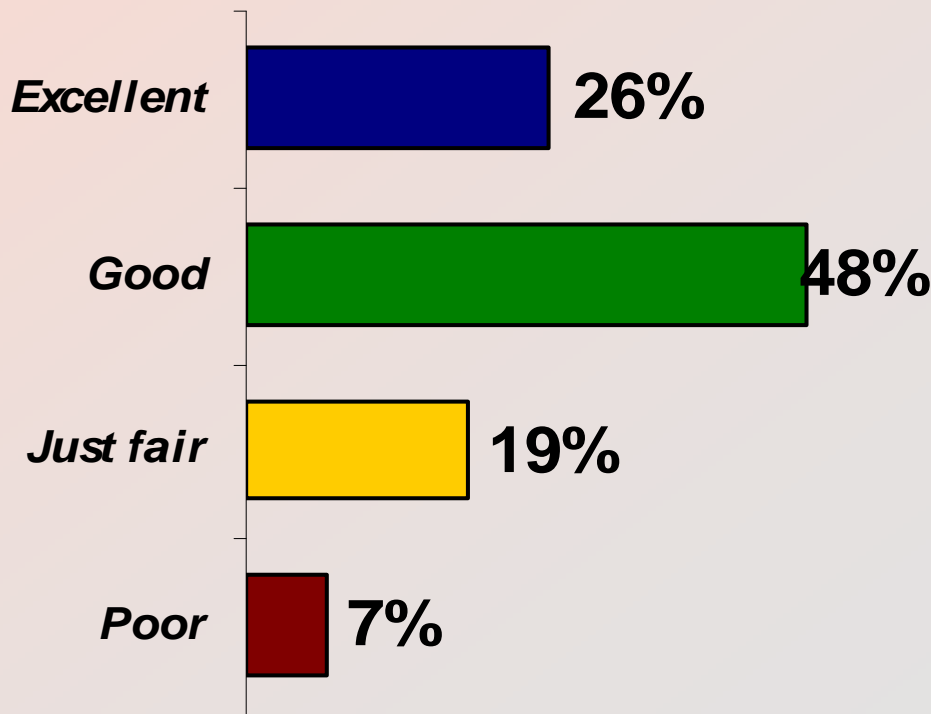


The vast majority of Missouri voters have a primary care physician and nearly three-quarters rate their own health status as either excellent or good.

Do you have a primary care doctor?

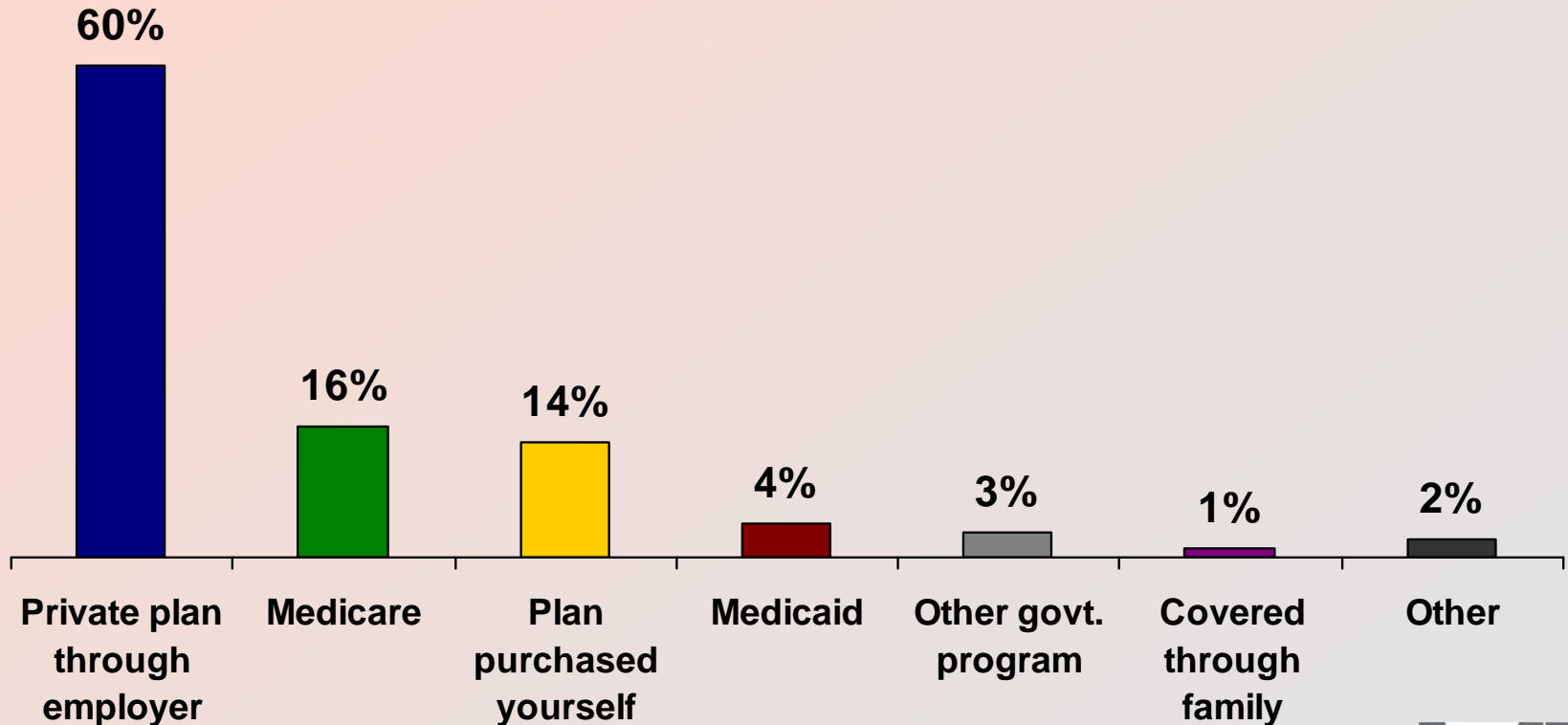


In general, would you say your health is excellent, good, just fair, or poor?



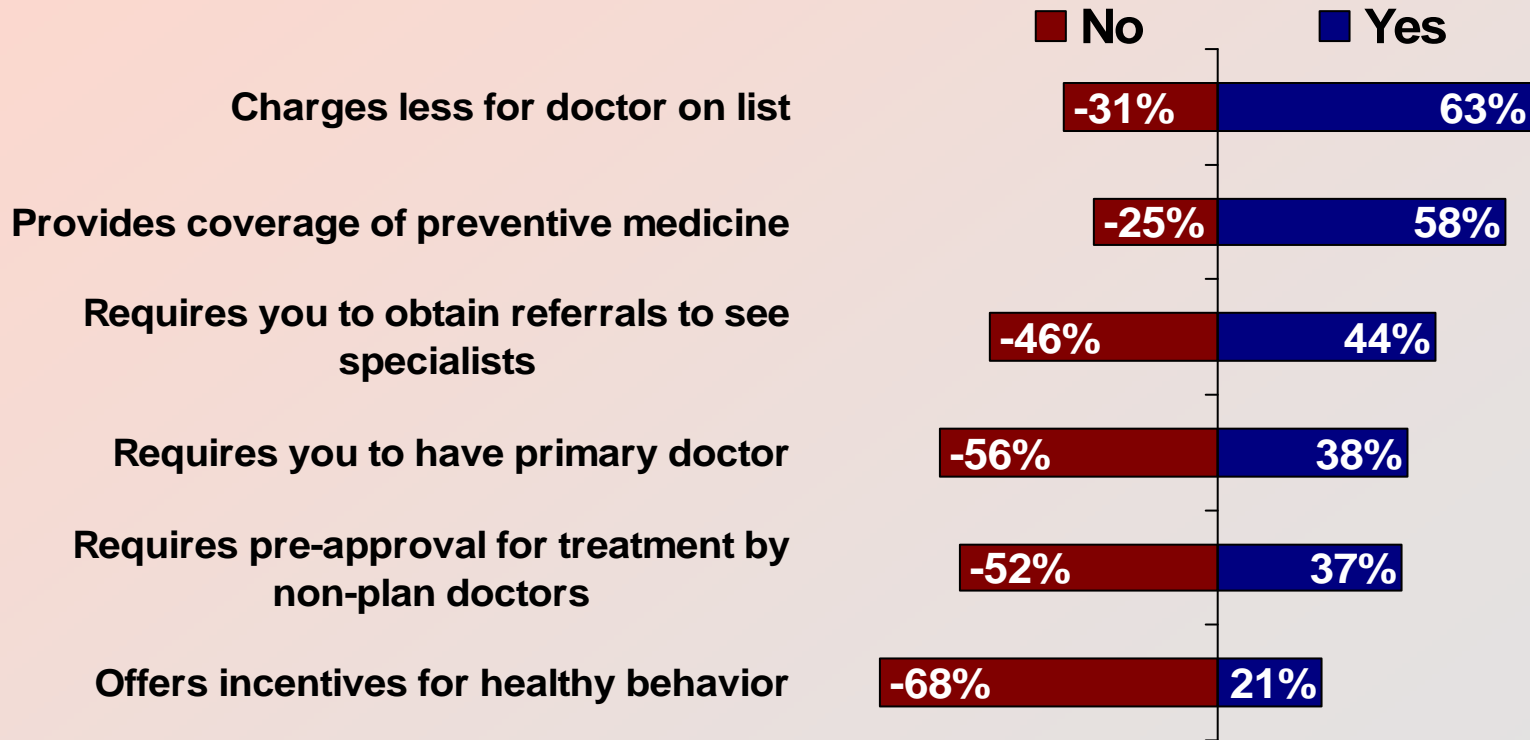
Most who have health care coverage are covered through their employer. More than one in five are covered by Medicare, Medicaid or some other government program, and only 14 percent purchase their own plan.

Which type of health insurance do you now have?



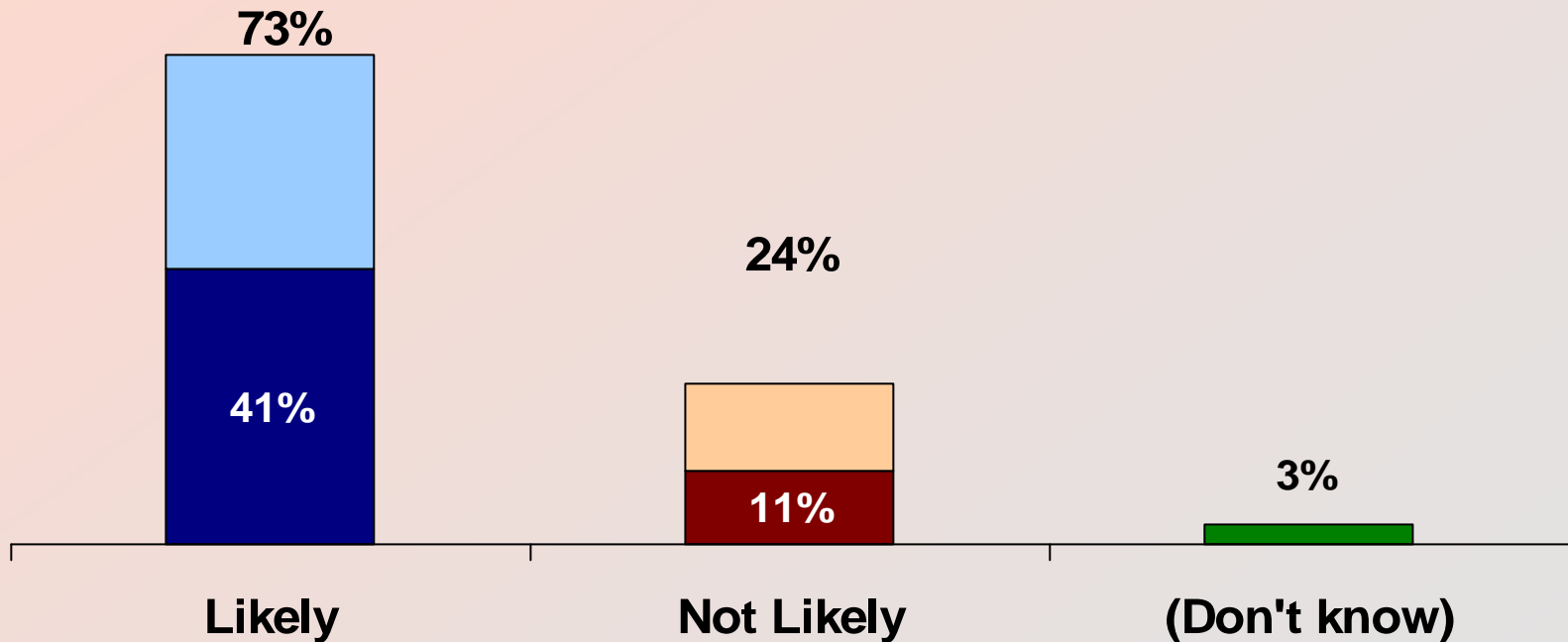
Most voters who are covered say their health plans charge less for doctors on an approved list and provide coverage of preventative medicine. Many require patients to obtain referrals to see specialists, but most do not require primary doctors or require pre-approval for treatment by doctors outside the plan. Few offer incentives for healthy behavior.

Does your current health plan work this way or not?



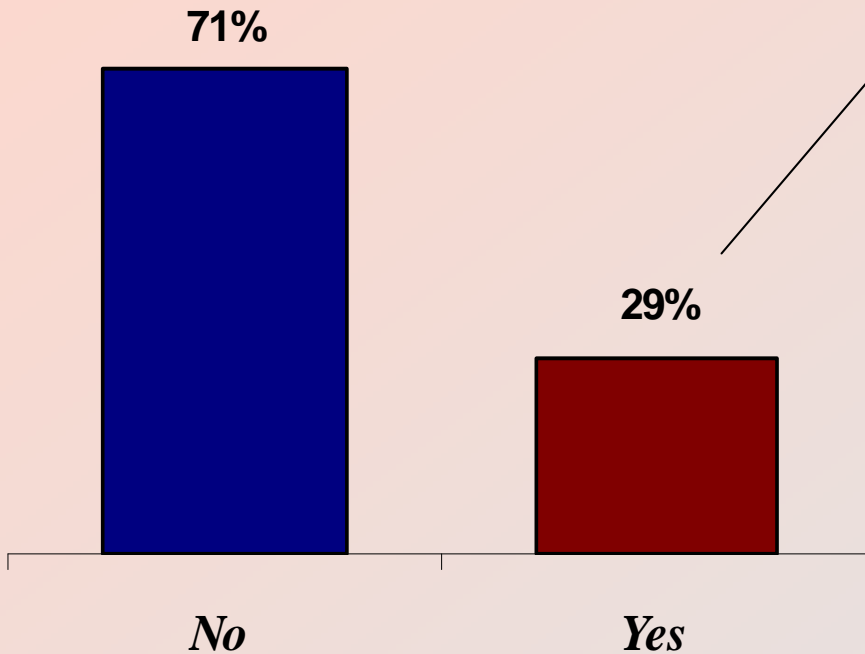
Among those participants whose health plans do not offer incentives for healthy behavior, nearly three in four would take advantage of such incentives if offered.

If your health plan were to offer incentives such as lower premiums and gym memberships for you to engage in healthy behaviors, including regular exercise, healthy eating, and quitting smoking, how likely would you be to take advantage of that offer?

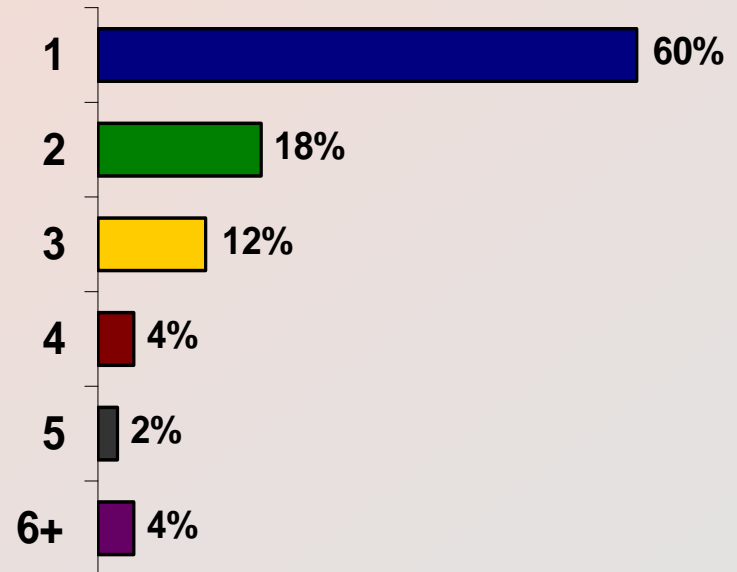


Most have not visited the emergency room in the last year. Among those who have, a majority only visited once.

Have you visited the emergency room in the last year?

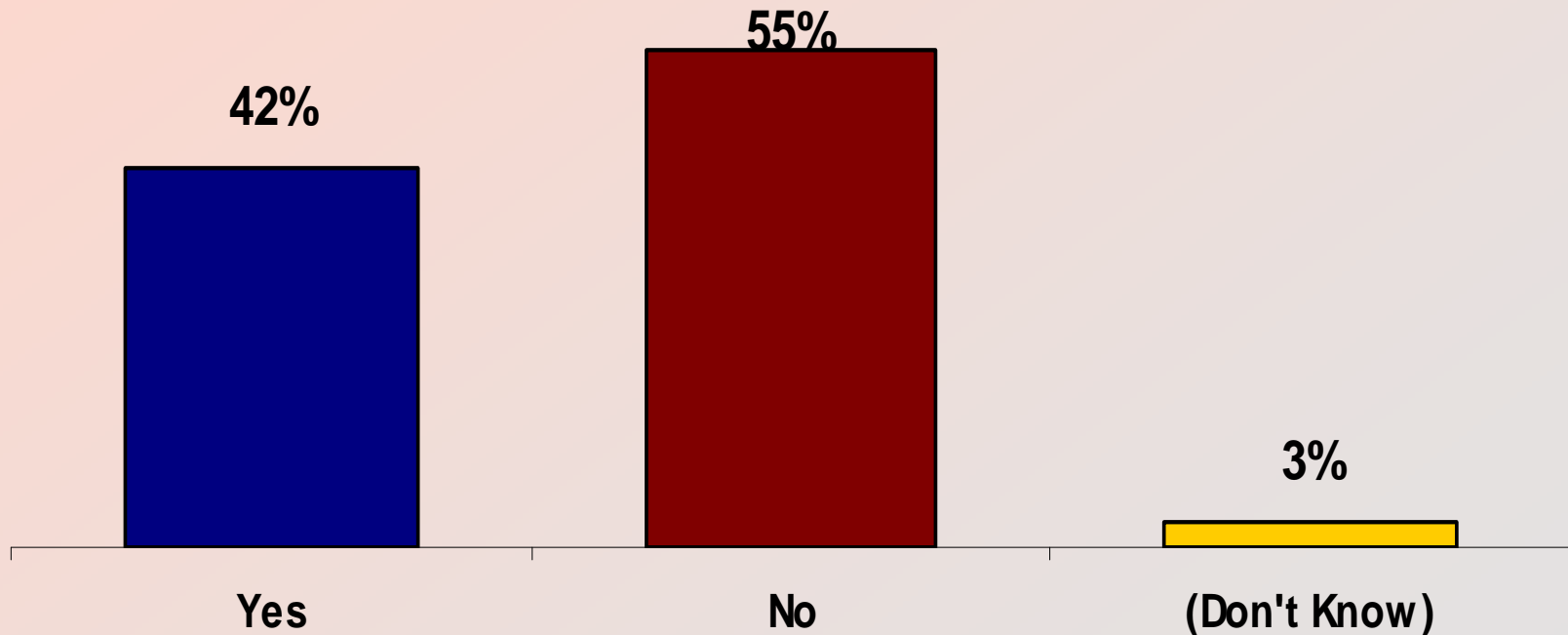


How many times have you visited the emergency room in the last year?



While nine in ten voters are insured, more than four in ten Missourians know families whose children are not insured.

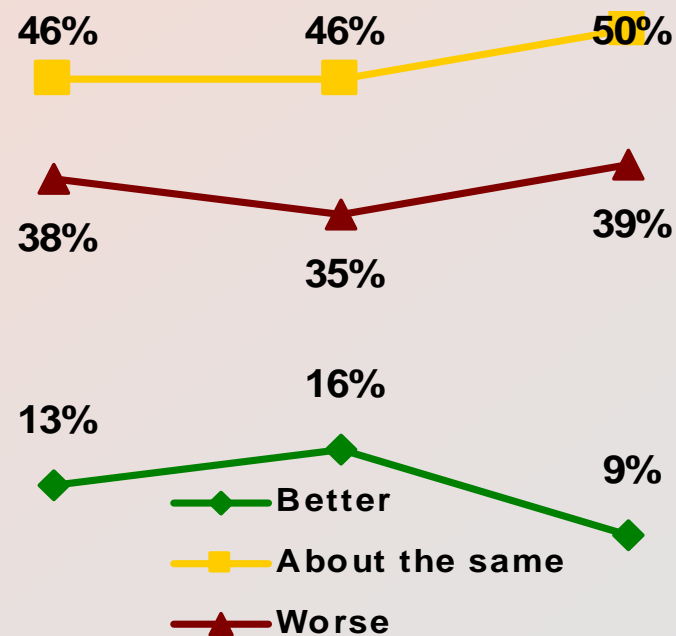
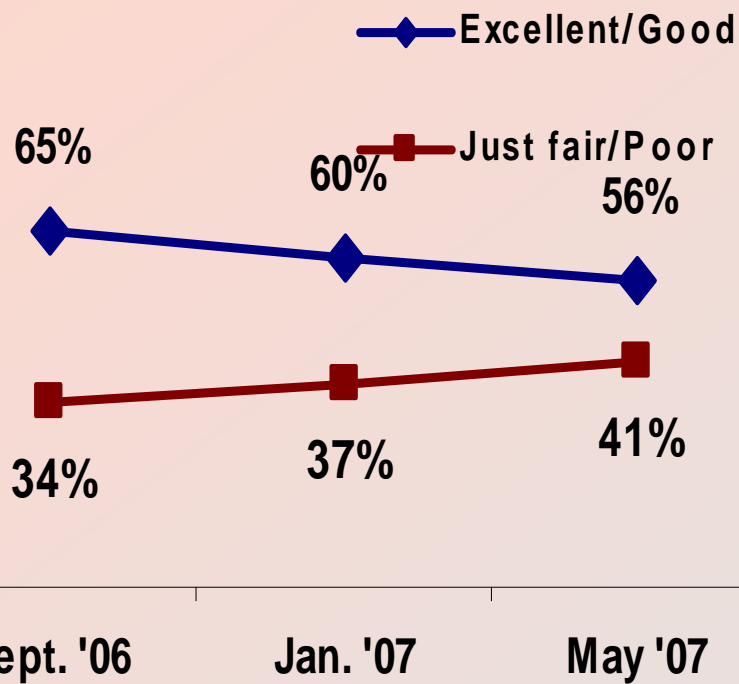
Do you personally know any families whose children are not insured?



The number of Missourians rating their coverage negatively continues to grow, and with increasing intensity. Fewer than 10 percent say their coverage has gotten better.

How would you rate your personal health care coverage these days as excellent, good, just fair, or poor?

Do you think the quality of your personal health care coverage has gotten better, stayed about the same, or gotten worse?

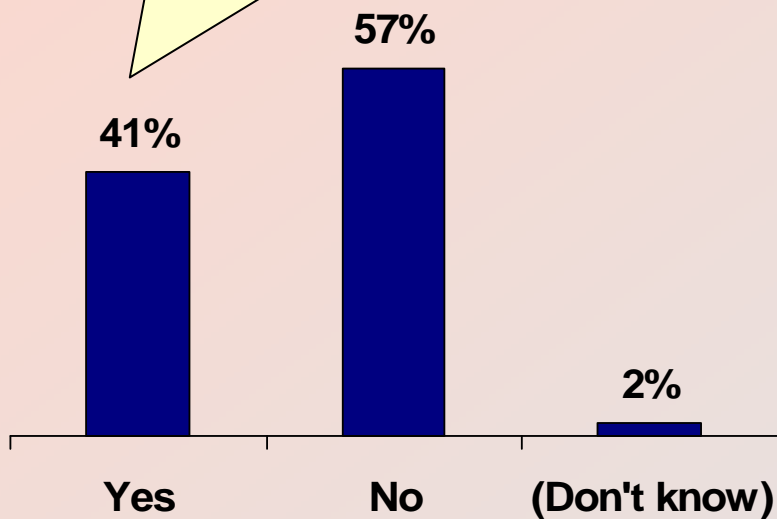


More than four in ten Missourians report having experienced some change to their plans over the past year, and slightly more expect changes to their coverage over the next year.

Have you experienced changes to your health coverage over the course of the past year?

Most likely to have experienced changes :

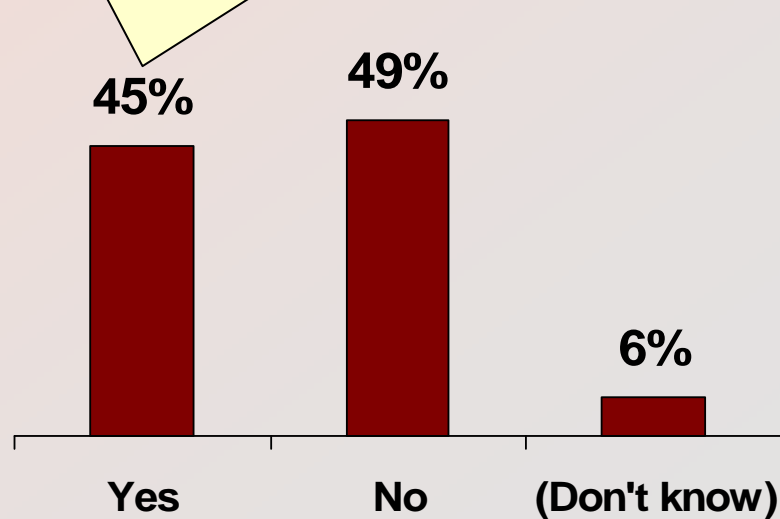
- Women <50 (54%)
- Mothers (52%)
- College women (51%)



Do you expect changes to your health coverage over the course of the next year?

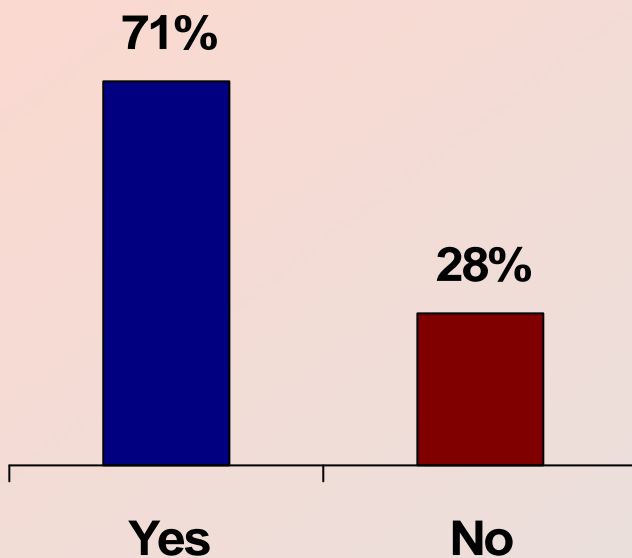
Most likely to expect changes to their coverage:

- College women (58%)
- College <50 (57%)
- Age 40-49 (55%)

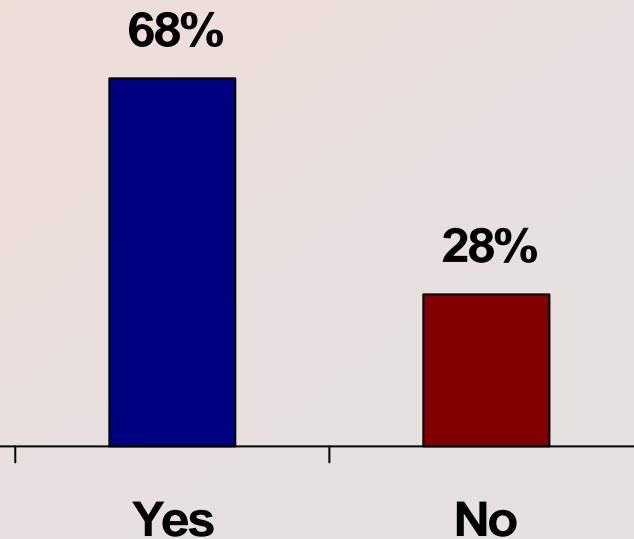


Among those who have seen a change in their coverage over the past year, most saw an increase in their premium payment and co-pays.

Have changes to your health coverage resulted in an increase in the amount you pay for your health care premium?

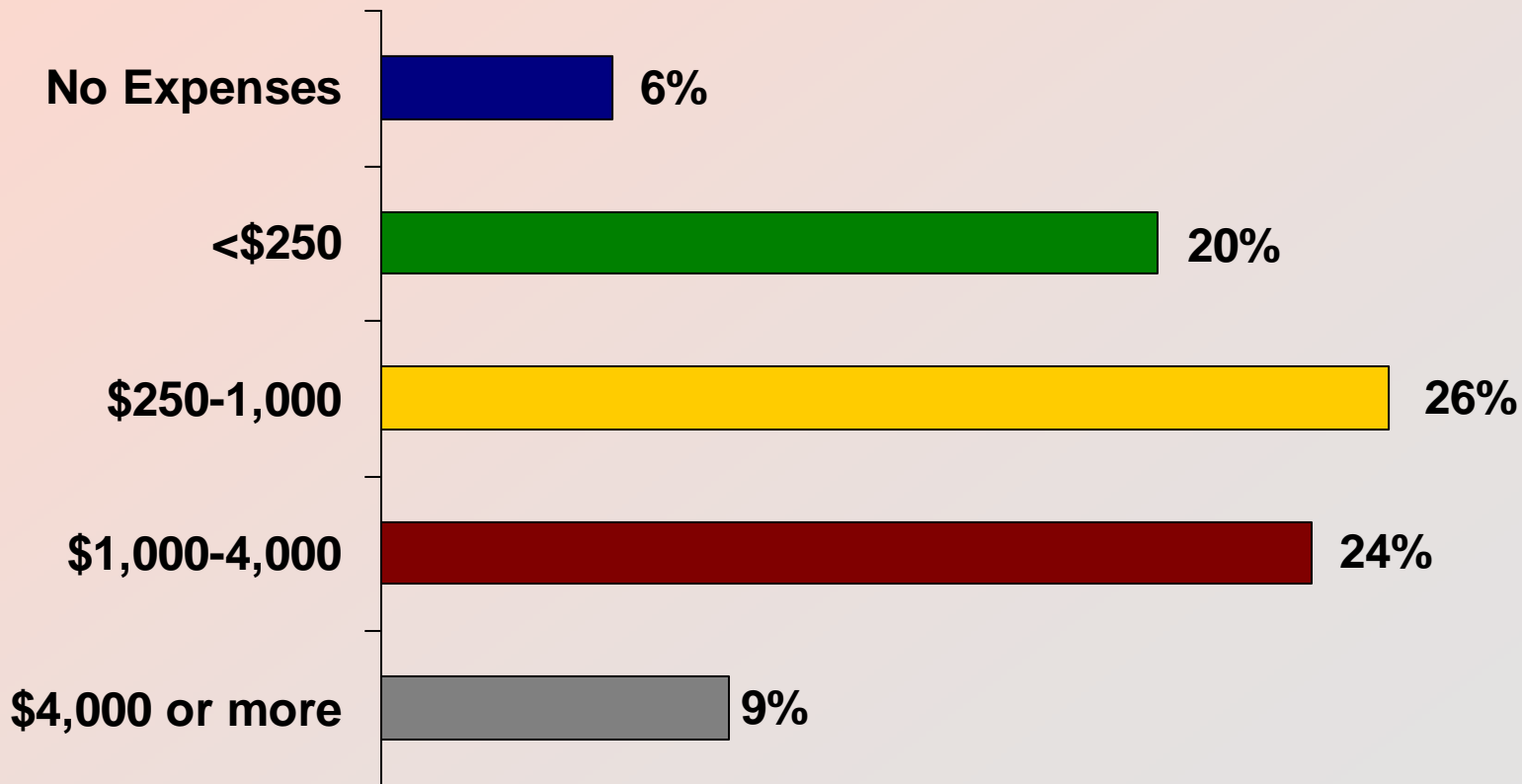


Have changes to your health coverage resulted in an increase in your health care co-pays, or the dollar amount you pay for medical service?



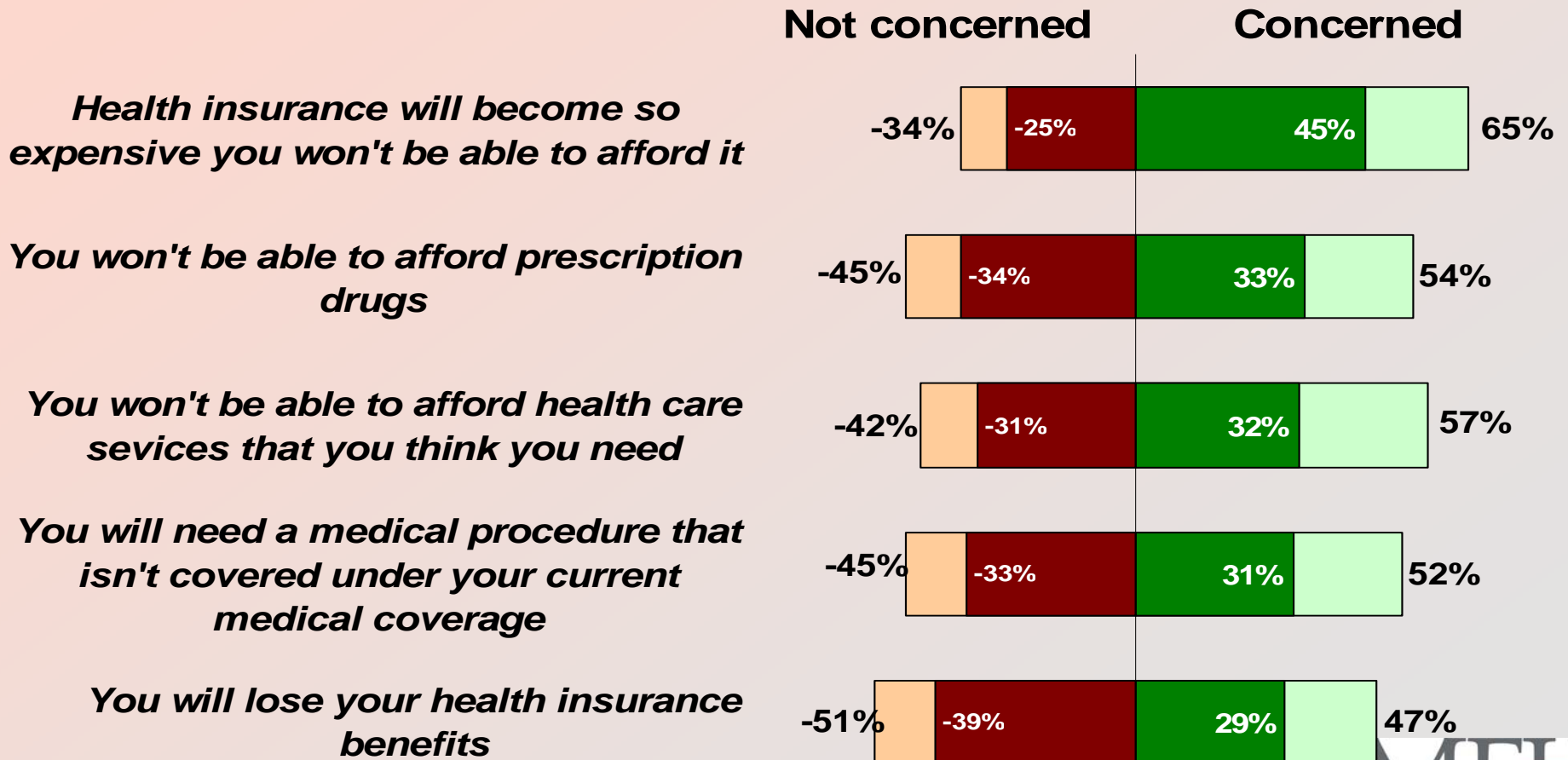
A majority of Missourians have more than \$250 in out-of-pocket health care expenses in the average year. A third spend over \$1,000.

In an average year, how much would you say your family spends per person on out-of-pocket health care costs?



Voters have many worries about their health care coverage, but the most pressing are that the cost will increase so they cannot afford it, they won't be able to afford their prescriptions, and they won't be able to afford needed medical services.

And thinking ahead over the course of next year, how concerned would you say you are that you with each of the following – concerned a great deal, somewhat, just a little, or not at all?

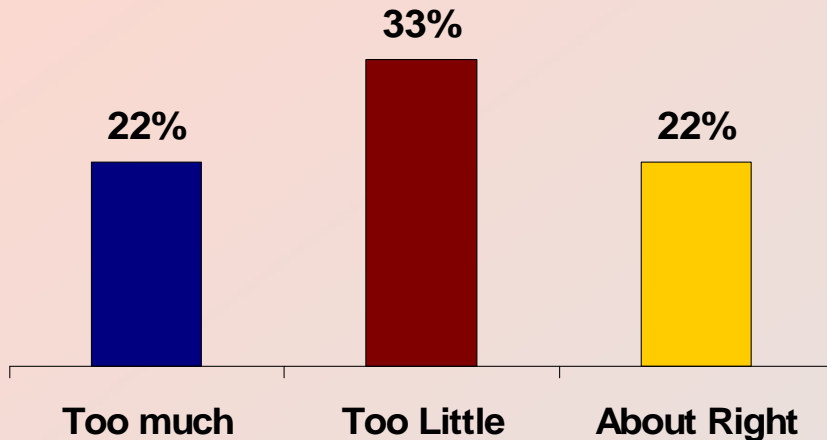


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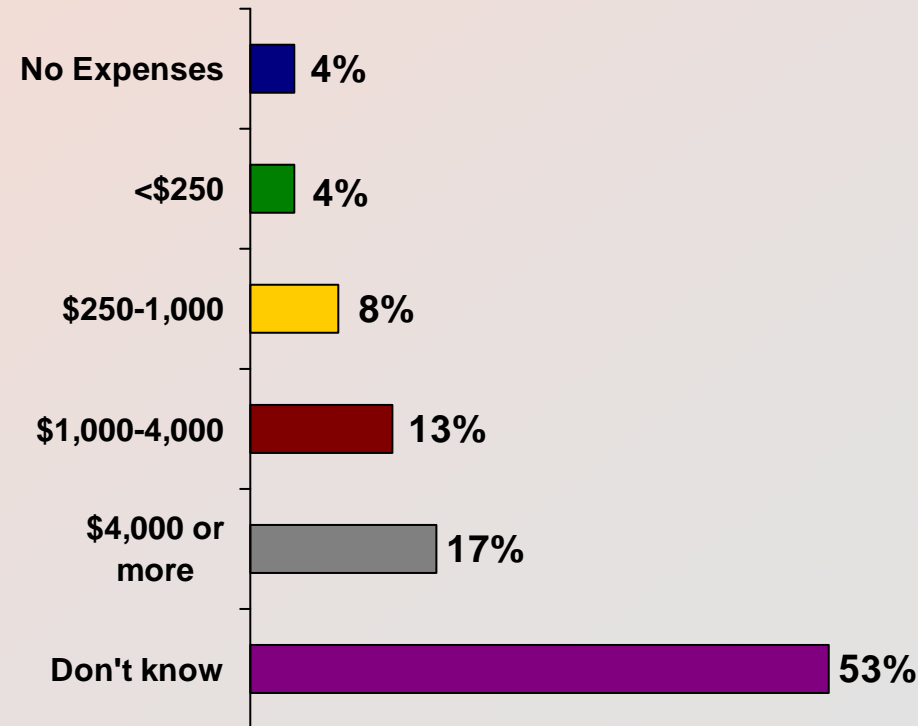
Darker colors indicate intensity.

While most voters have no idea how much private employers spend on health care per employee, a plurality believes they spend too little.

Do you think private employers are paying too much, too little, or about the right amount for their employees health care?

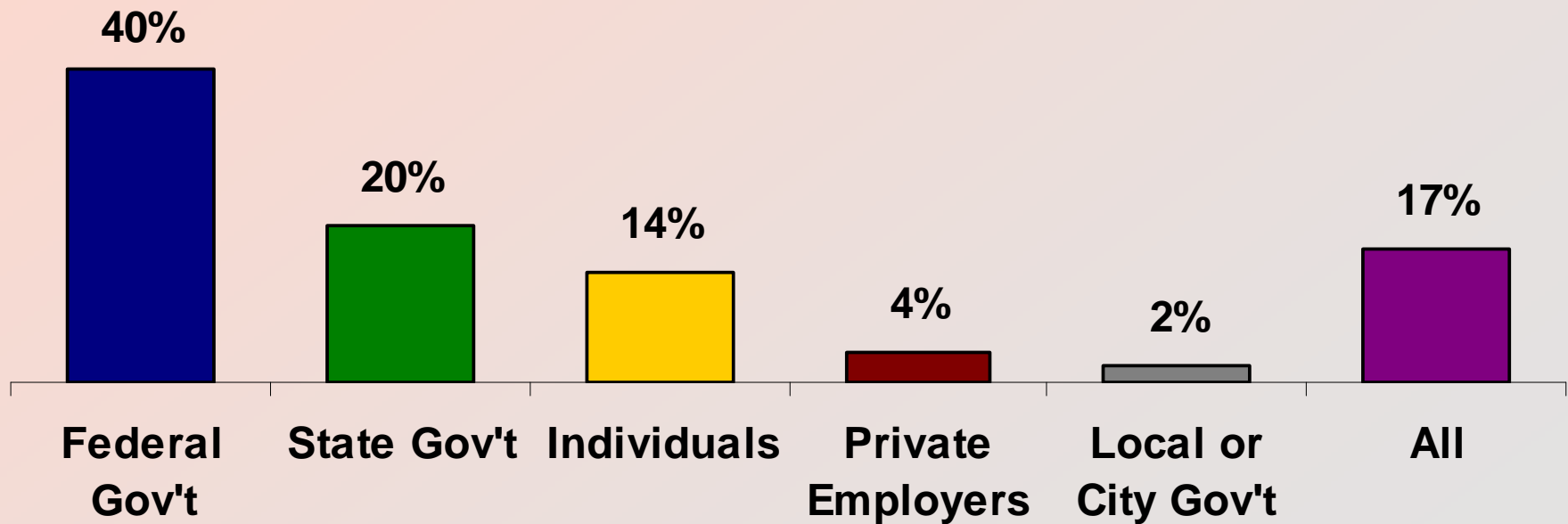


In the past year, how much do you think the average employer spent per employee on their health care policy?



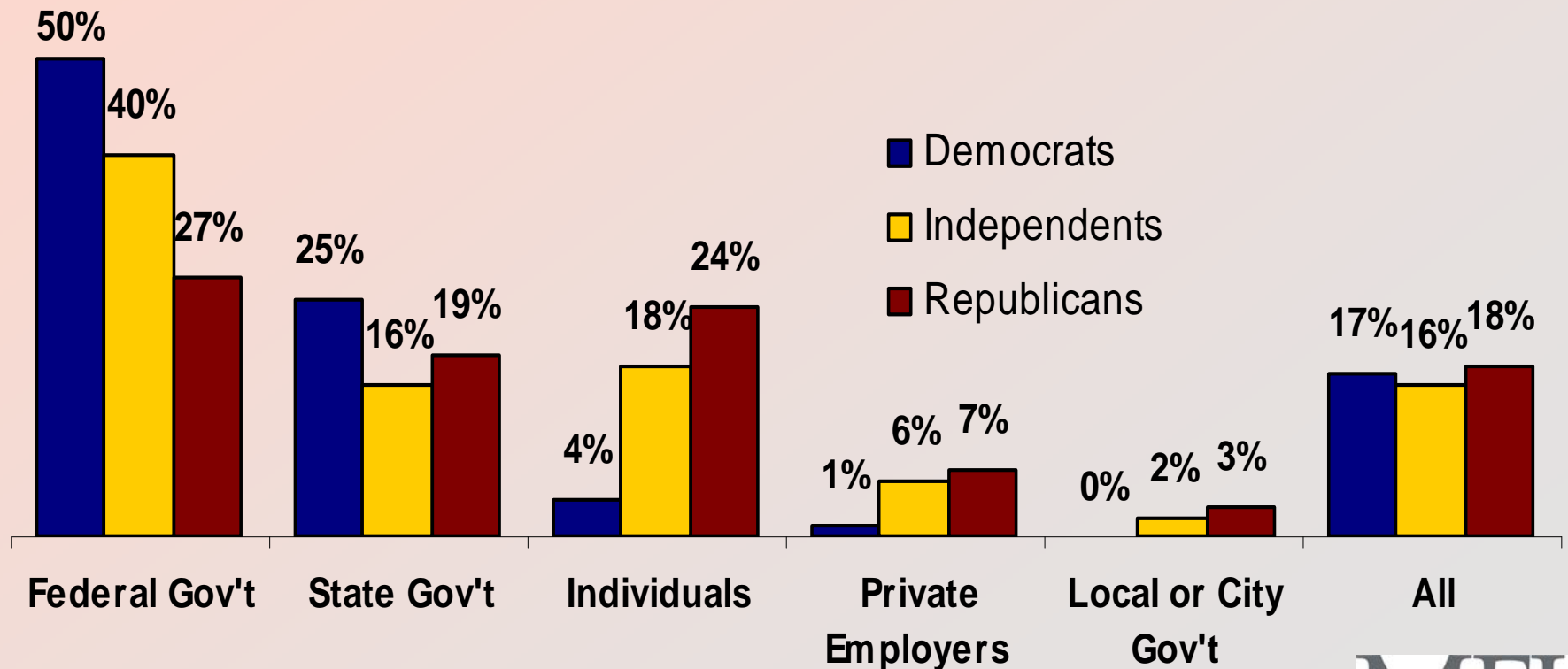
Forty percent of voters think that the federal government is the most responsible for making sure that everyone has access to healthcare. One-in-five believes state government should take the lead, and almost as many believe all of these groups have some share in the burden.

Who do you think should be most responsible for making sure everyone has access to health care? Is it the federal government, state government, local or city government, private employers, or individuals?



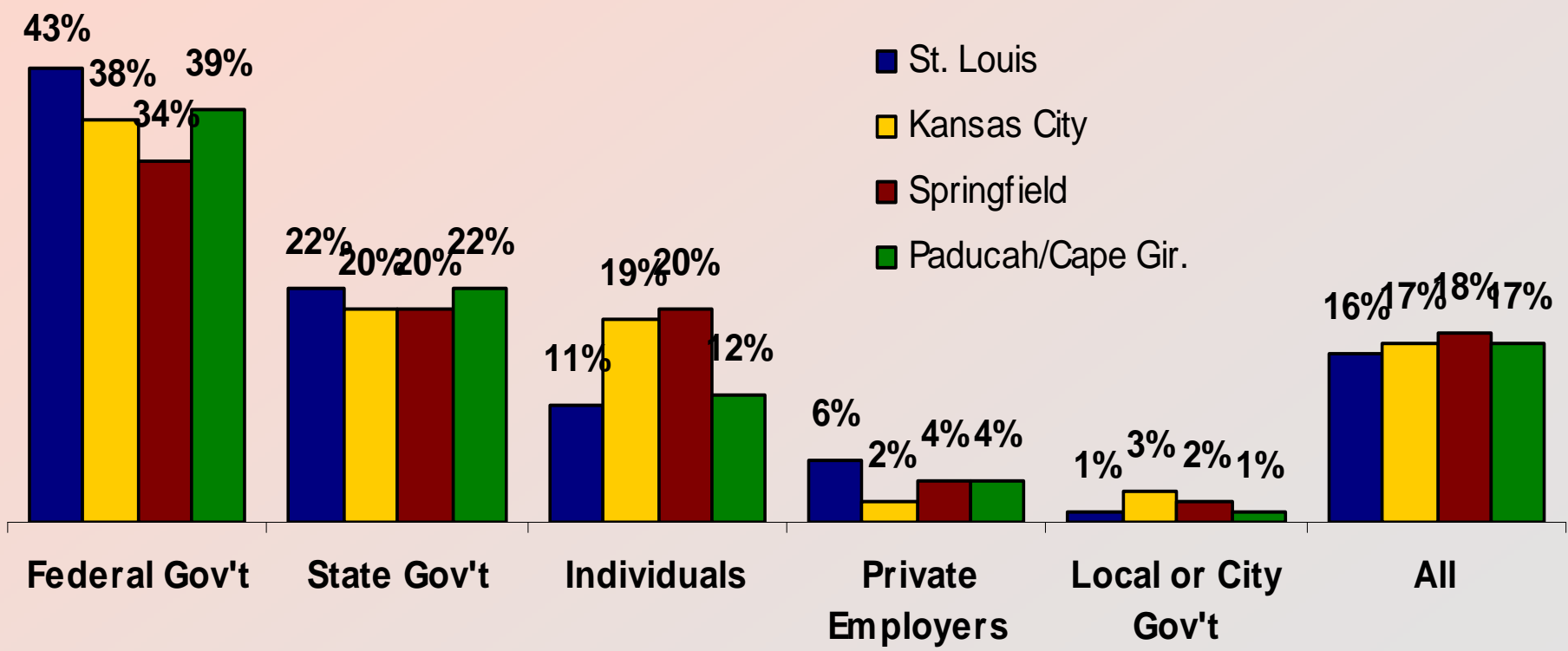
Democrats and, to a lesser extent, independents believe that the federal government is most responsible for ensuring access to healthcare. While the federal government is also top among Republicans, it only narrowly edges out individuals, whom almost a quarter of Republicans believe should be responsible for their own healthcare.

Who do you think should be most responsible for making sure everyone has access to health care? Is it the federal government, state government, local or city government, private employers, or individuals?



Voters in all media markets are most likely to say that the federal government should take responsibility for access to healthcare, though voters in the Kansas City and Springfield markets are more likely to point to individuals than are voters in other areas.

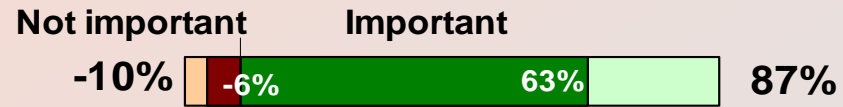
Who do you think should be most responsible for making sure everyone has access to health care? Is it the federal government, state government, local or city government, private employers, or individuals?



Missourians believe very strongly that the large profits of insurance and drug companies are a major factors in rising health care costs.

Next, a number of factors have been suggested as possible reasons for rising health care costs. For each factor I mention, please tell me whether you feel it is very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not important at all in causing higher health care costs. If you do not know enough about some of these factors to have an opinion, just let me know. How important is _____ as a factor in causing rising health care costs?

High profits made by insurance companies



High profits made by drug companies



Too much bureaucracy and red tape



The high cost of malpractice insurance



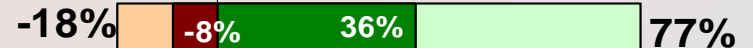
Malpractice lawsuits from trial lawyers



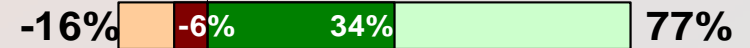
The aging of the population



The use of expensive, high-tech medical equipment



The use of expensive new drugs

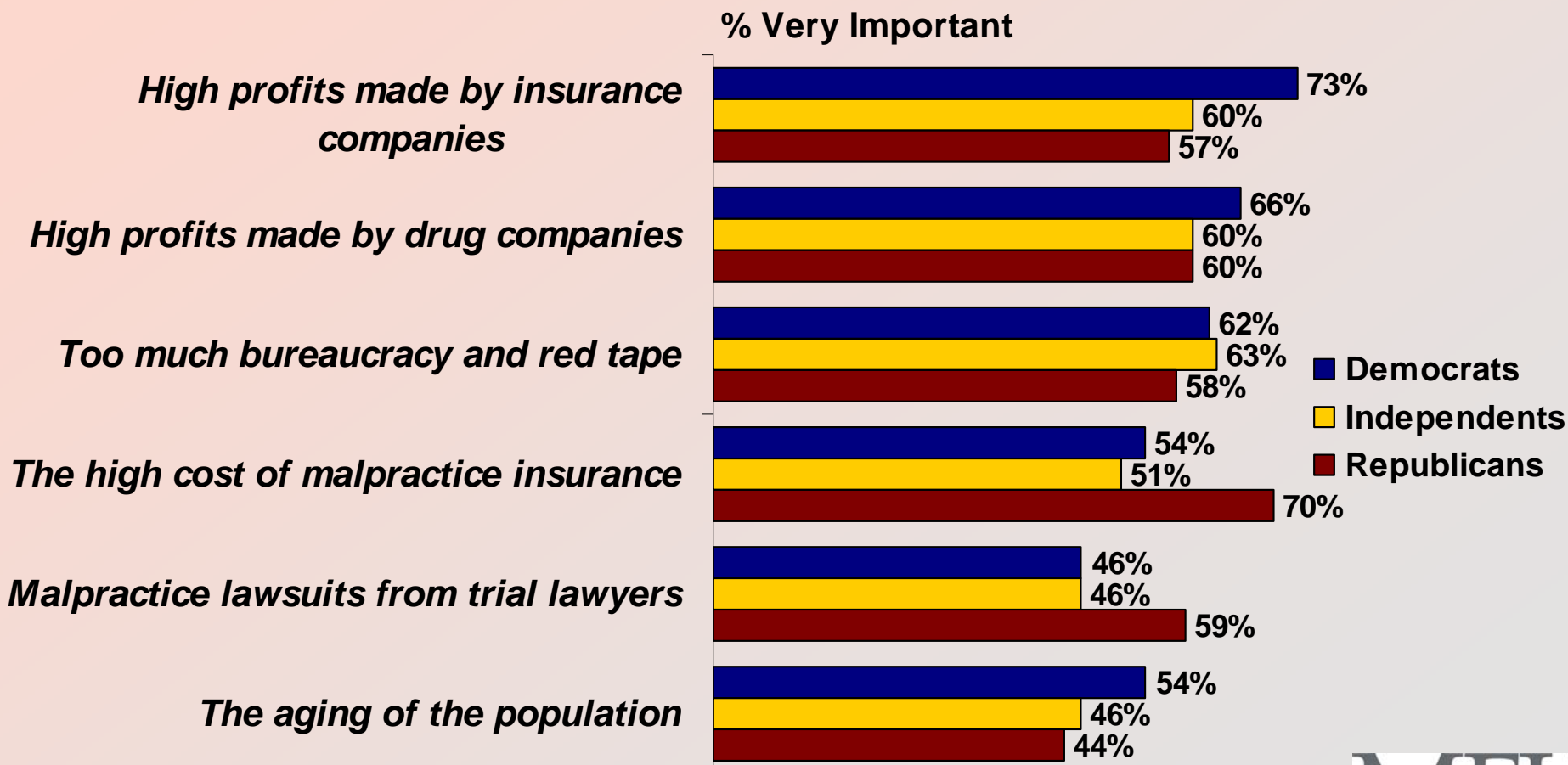


B/C of health insurance, no incentive to look for lower-priced Dr.s/ services



While Democrats place the most blame on insurance and drug company profits, independents believe that too much bureaucracy is the problem, and Republicans blame the cost of malpractice insurance.

How important is _____ as a factor in causing rising health care costs?



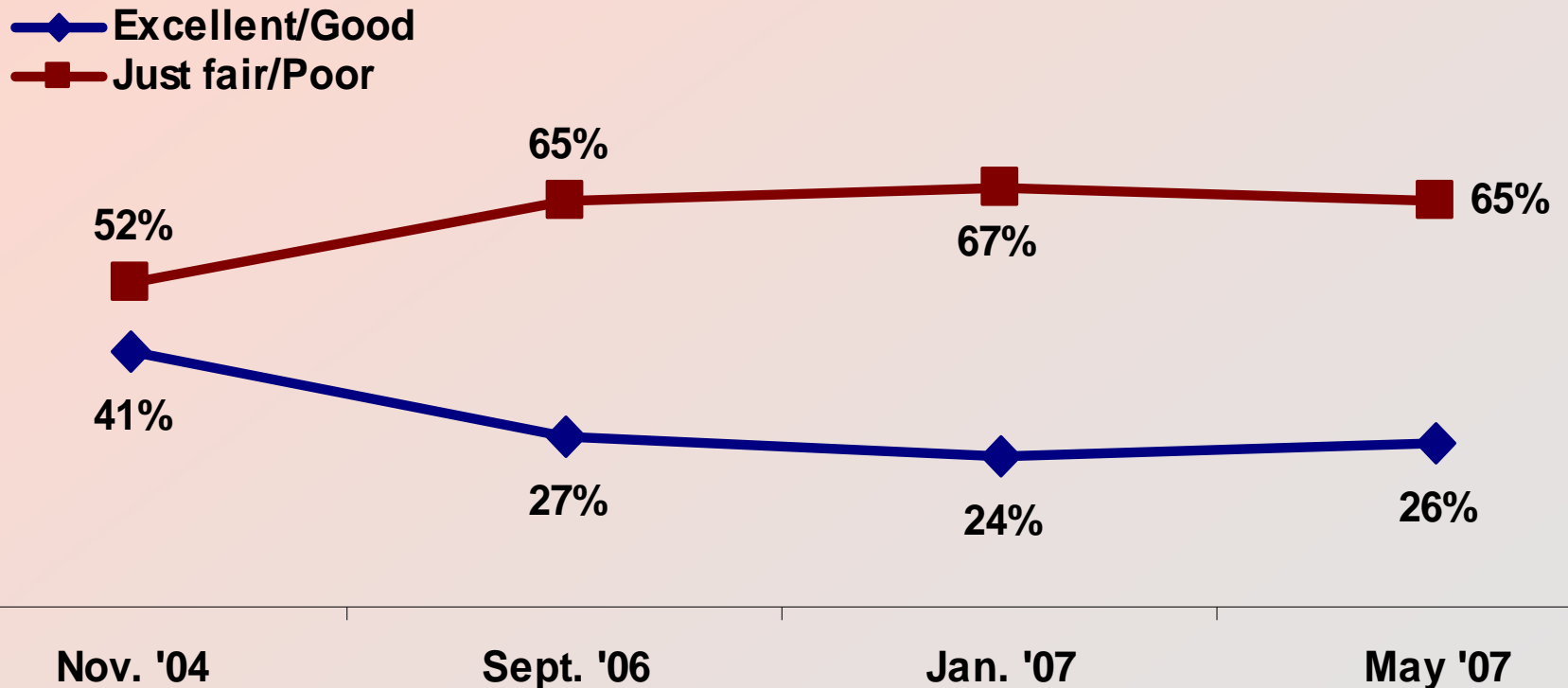
General Attitudes Toward the Health Care System in Missouri

Across party and regional lines, majorities of Missouri voters are critical of the state's health care system and do not see any improvement.



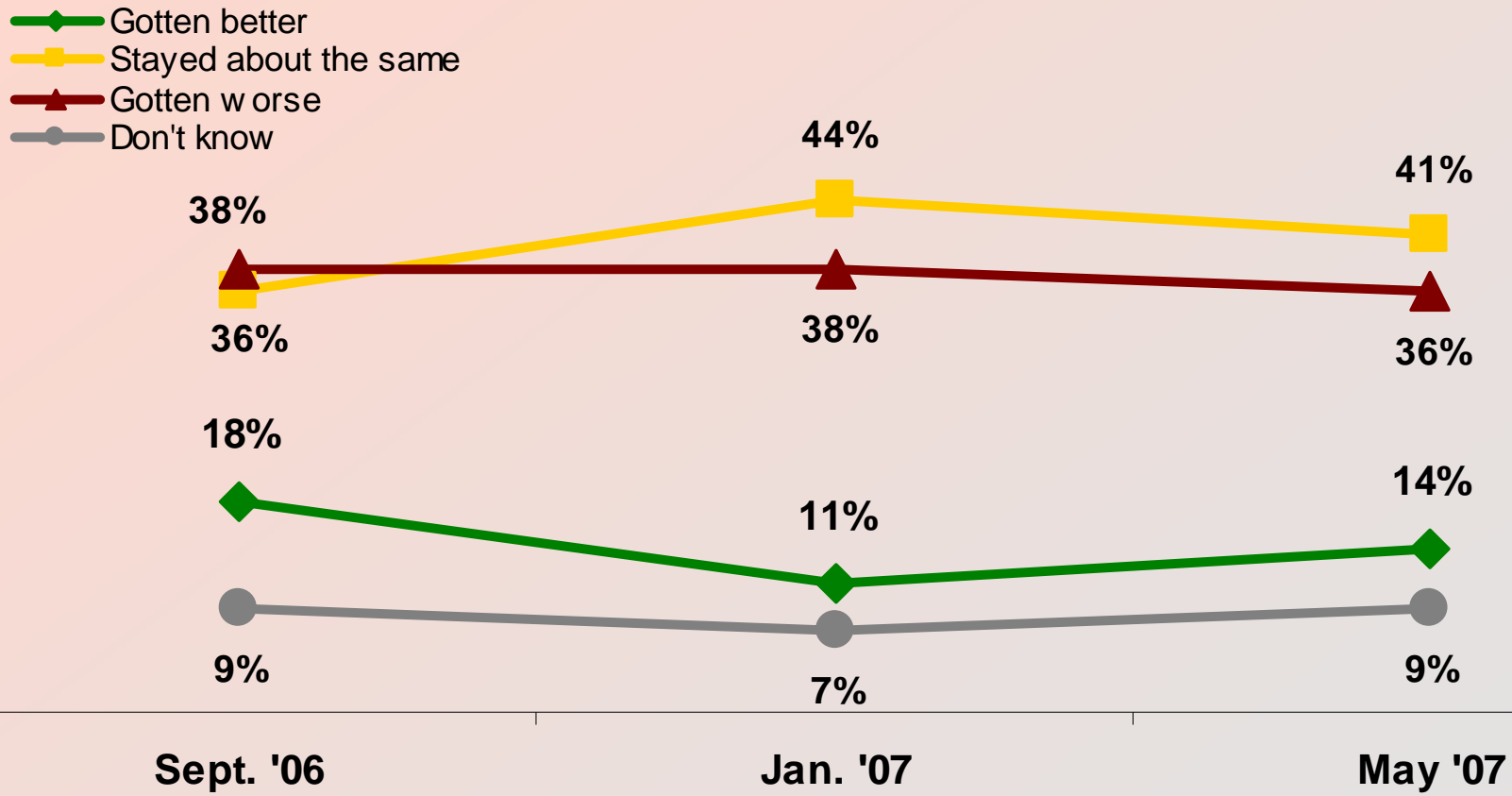
The number of Missourians who rate Missouri's health care system as poor continues to rise. A majority believe the system is just fair or poor.

And would you rate Missouri's health care system these days as EXCELLENT, GOOD, just FAIR, or POOR?



A plurality believes the Missouri health care system has stayed the same, but over a third say it has gotten worse.

Overall, do you think the quality of Missouri's health care system has gotten better, stayed about the same, or gotten worse?



Fathers, independent men, and those with incomes just above the poverty line are most likely to say things have gotten better. Democrats, African Americans, and mothers are most likely to say things have gotten worse. Among no subgroup does a plurality believe things have gotten better.

**Most likely to say “gotten better”
(14%)**

- Fathers – 26%
- Independent men – 26%
- Springfield market – 25%
- Income \$20k-40k – 24%
- North – 24%
- Southeast – 23%
- Income over \$100k – 22%
- Southwest – 22%
- Age 30-39 – 21%
- Republican men – 20%

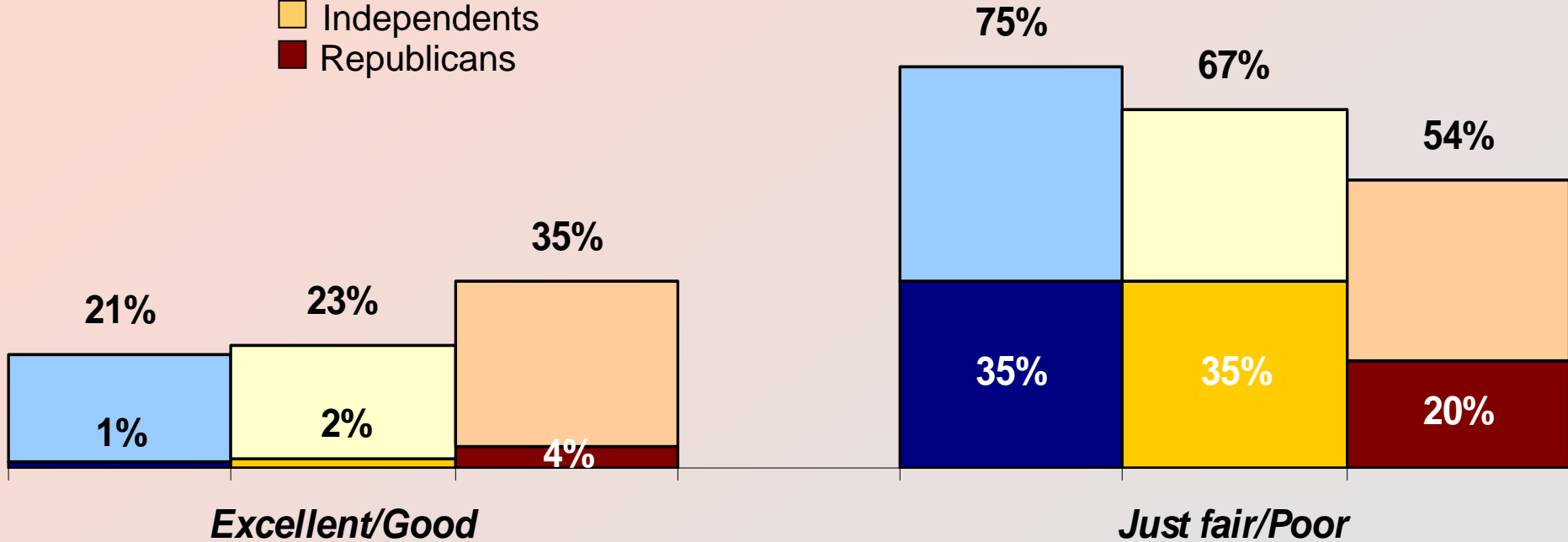
**Most likely to say “gotten worse”
(36%)**

- Democrats – 53%
- Income \$75k-100k – 51%
- African Americans – 47%
- St. Louis market – 45%
- Mothers – 44%
- Catholics – 44%
- St. Louis region – 44%
- Age 40-49 – 44%
- Age 50-64 – 43%
- Women <50 – 43%
- Non-college women – 42%
- Parents – 42%

Dissatisfaction is strong across party lines, although Republicans are somewhat less critical than Democrats and independents.

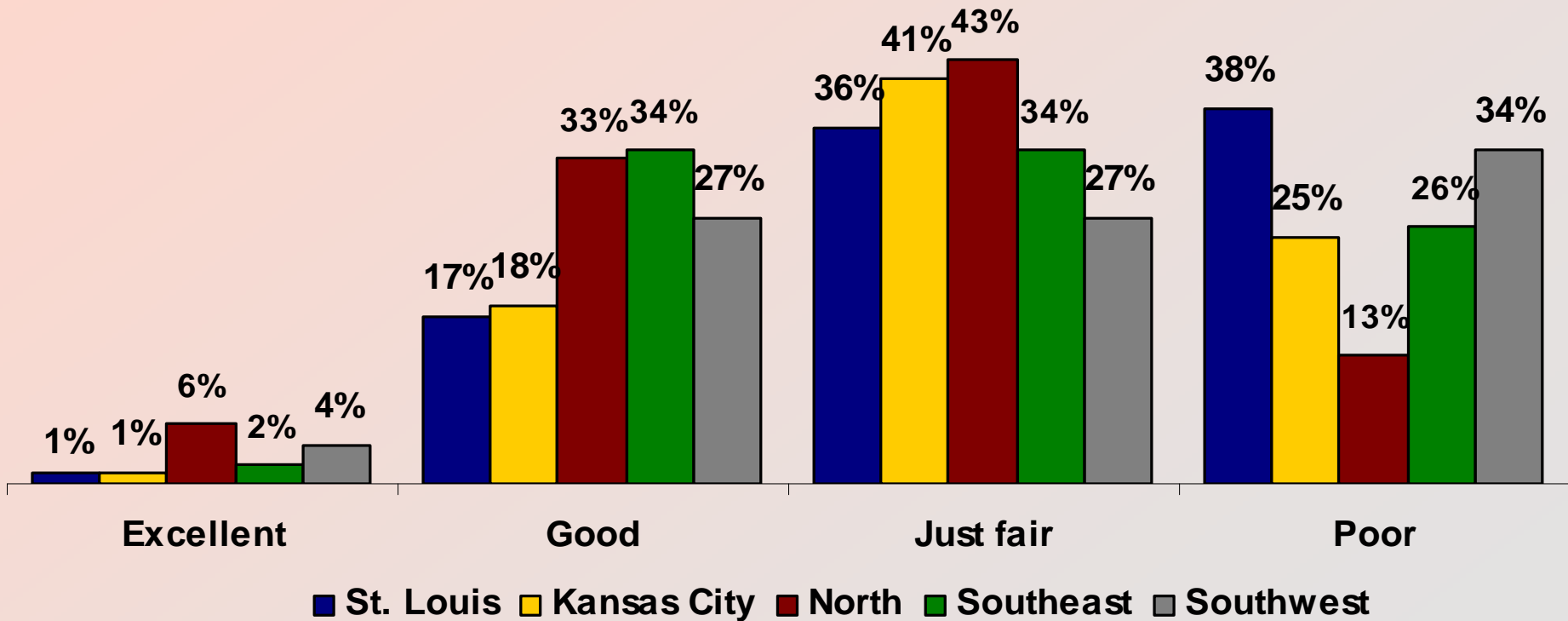
And would you rate Missouri's health care system these days as EXCELLENT, GOOD, just FAIR, or POOR?

- Democrats
- Independents
- Republicans



Voters in the North are least likely to say the system is poor, while voters in St. Louis are most unhappy with it.

And would you rate Missouri's health care system these days as EXCELLENT, GOOD, just FAIR, or POOR?



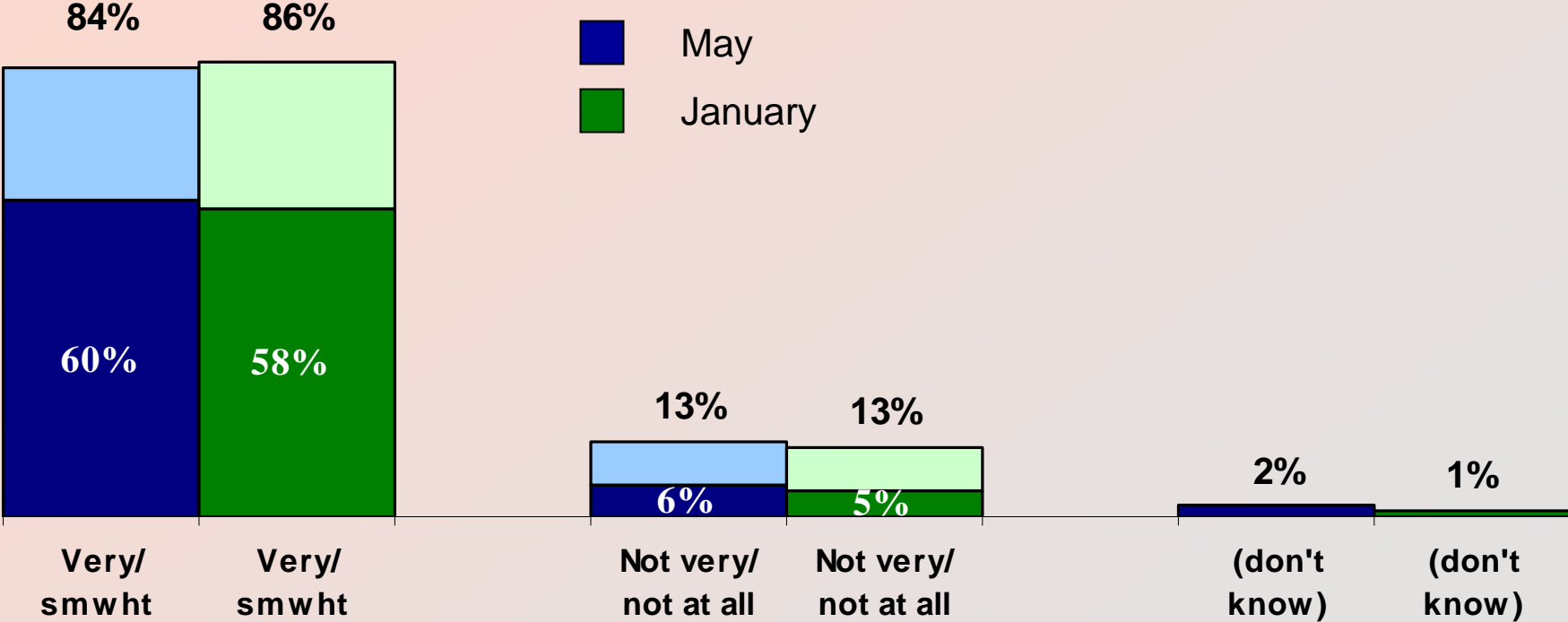
Solutions to Health Care Problems

Missourians are generally willing to accept tax increases and expanded government in order to provide everyone access to affordable health coverage. Still, more are afraid of drastic change than of keeping the system as it is.



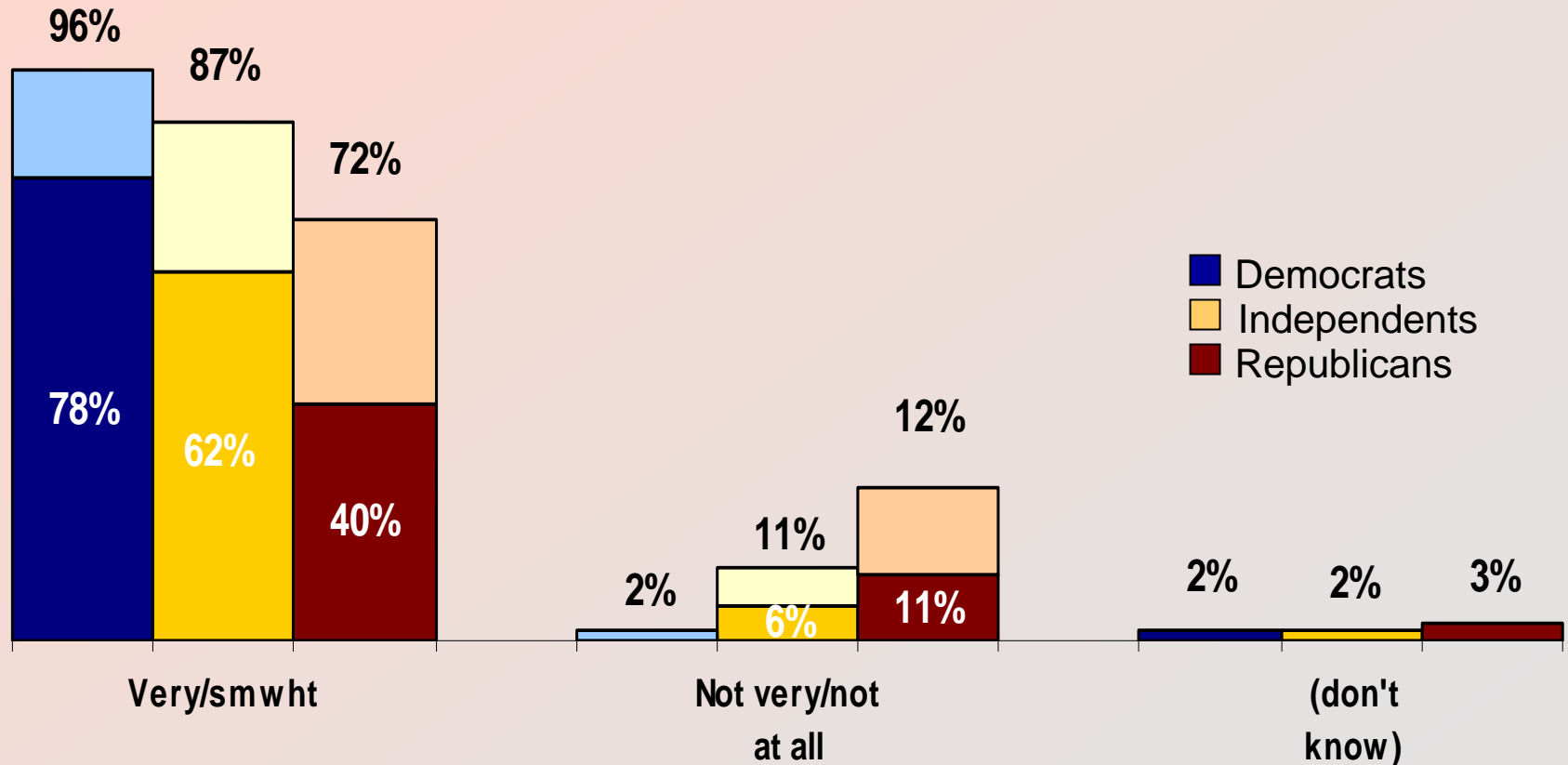
Missouri voters feel very strongly that it is important for the government to step in and provide health coverage for uninsured people who cannot afford it.

How important do you feel it is for the government to offer health care coverage for uninsured people who cannot afford it on their own?



Across party lines, voters overwhelmingly believe that it is important for the government to help those who can't afford health care coverage.

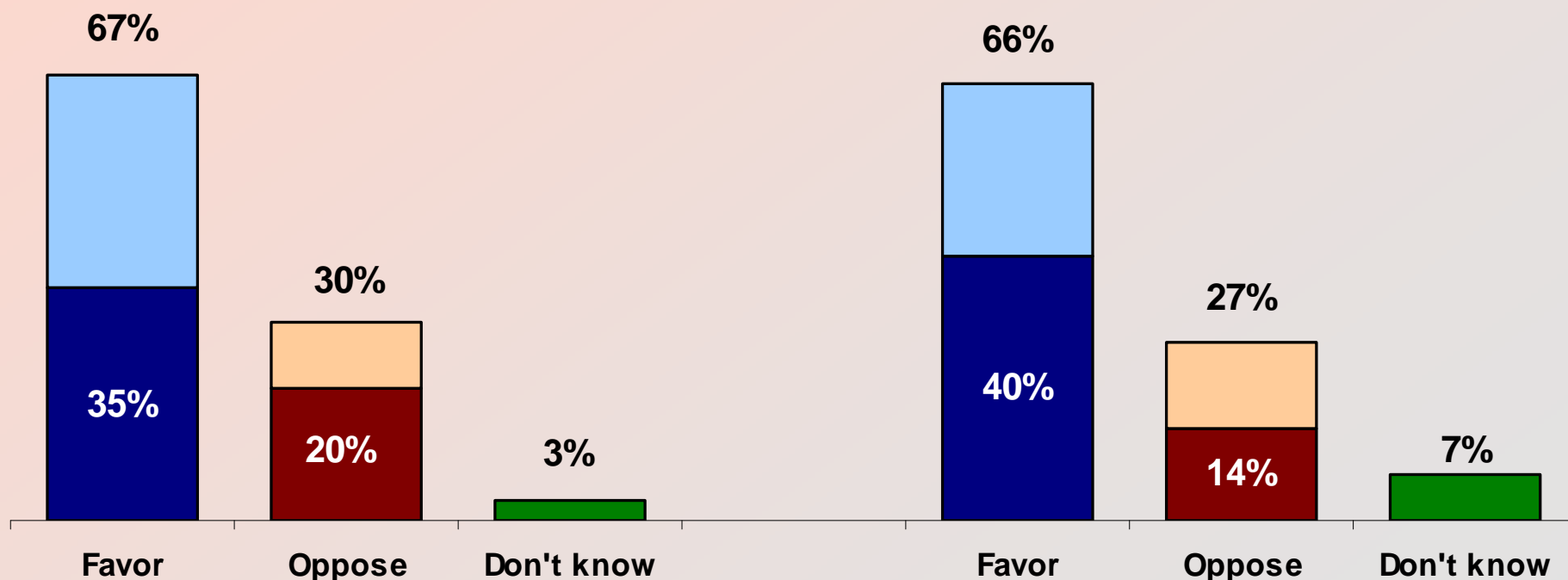
How important do you feel it is for the government to offer health care coverage for uninsured people who cannot afford it on their own—very important, somewhat important, a little important, or not at all important?



Even if it means higher taxes or expanding the federal government's role, two-thirds of Missourians support providing access to affordable, quality health care to all Americans.

Do you favor or oppose providing access to affordable, quality health care for all Americans even if it means raising your taxes?

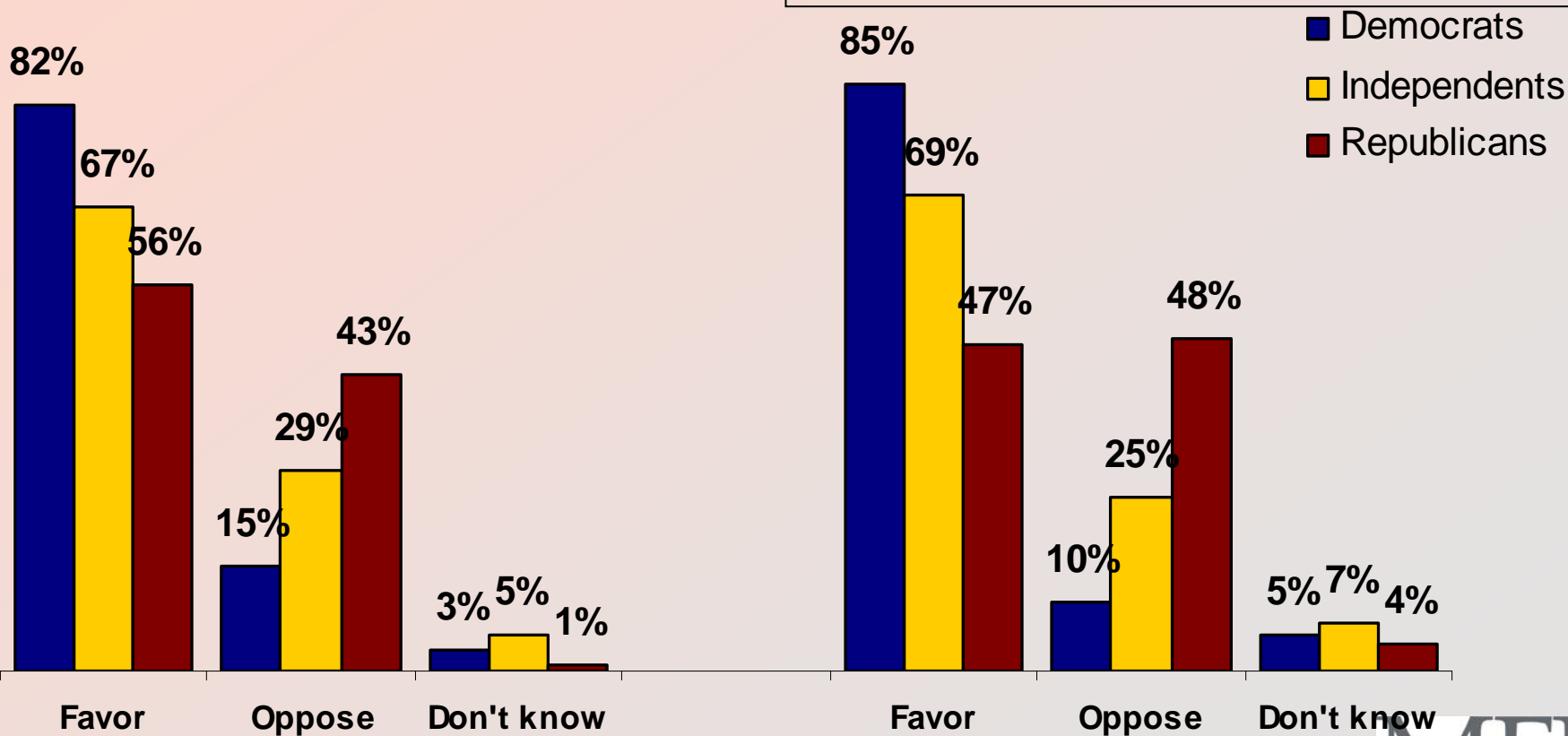
Do you favor or oppose providing access to affordable, quality health care for all Americans even if it means a major role for the federal government in financing care, as they do now for the elderly?



Independents and particularly Republicans are less likely to favor providing access to health care if it means raising taxes or expanding the federal government.

Do you favor or oppose providing access to affordable, quality health care for all Americans even if it means raising your taxes?

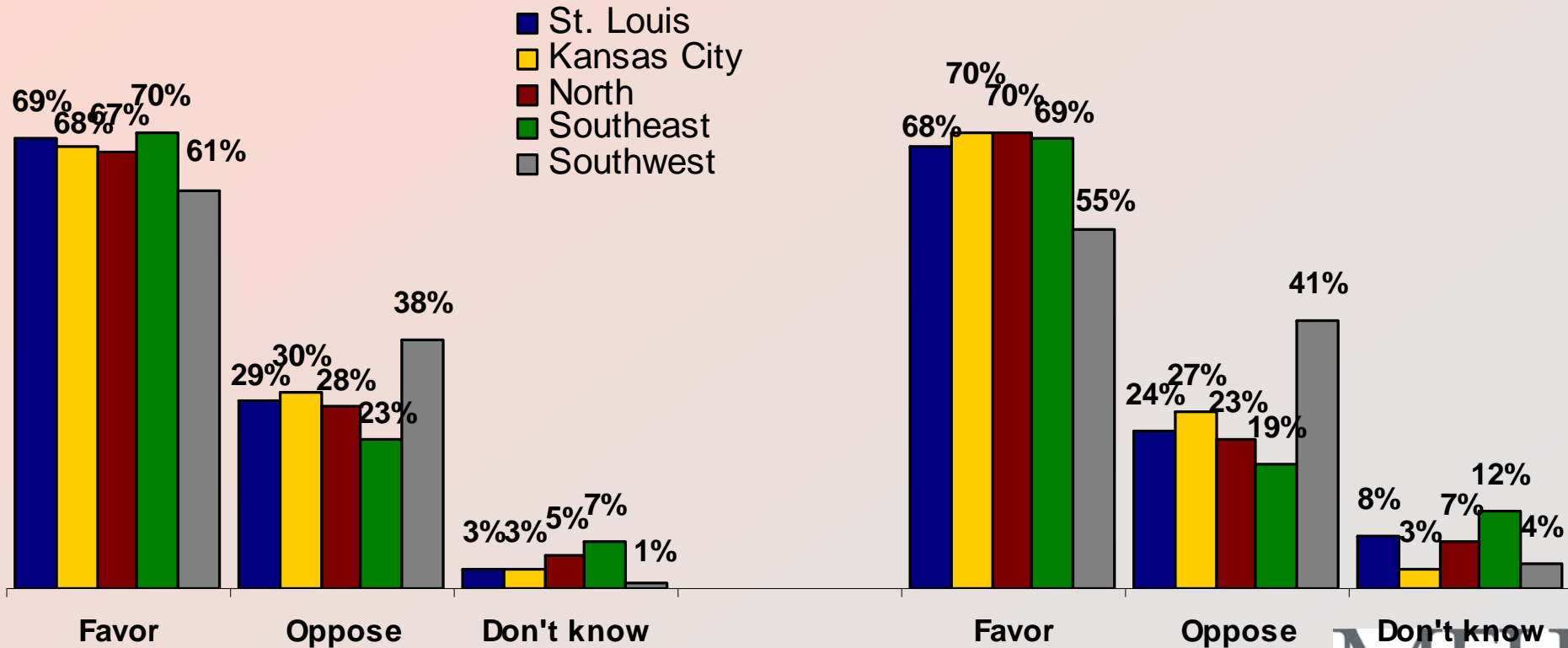
Do you favor or oppose providing access to affordable, quality health care for all Americans even if it means a major role for the federal government in financing care, as they do now for the elderly?



Generally, voters in all regions are willing to accept an increase in taxes or an expansion of government, though there is a noticeable drop-off in this support in the Southwest region.

Do you favor or oppose providing access to affordable, quality health care for all Americans even if it means raising your taxes?

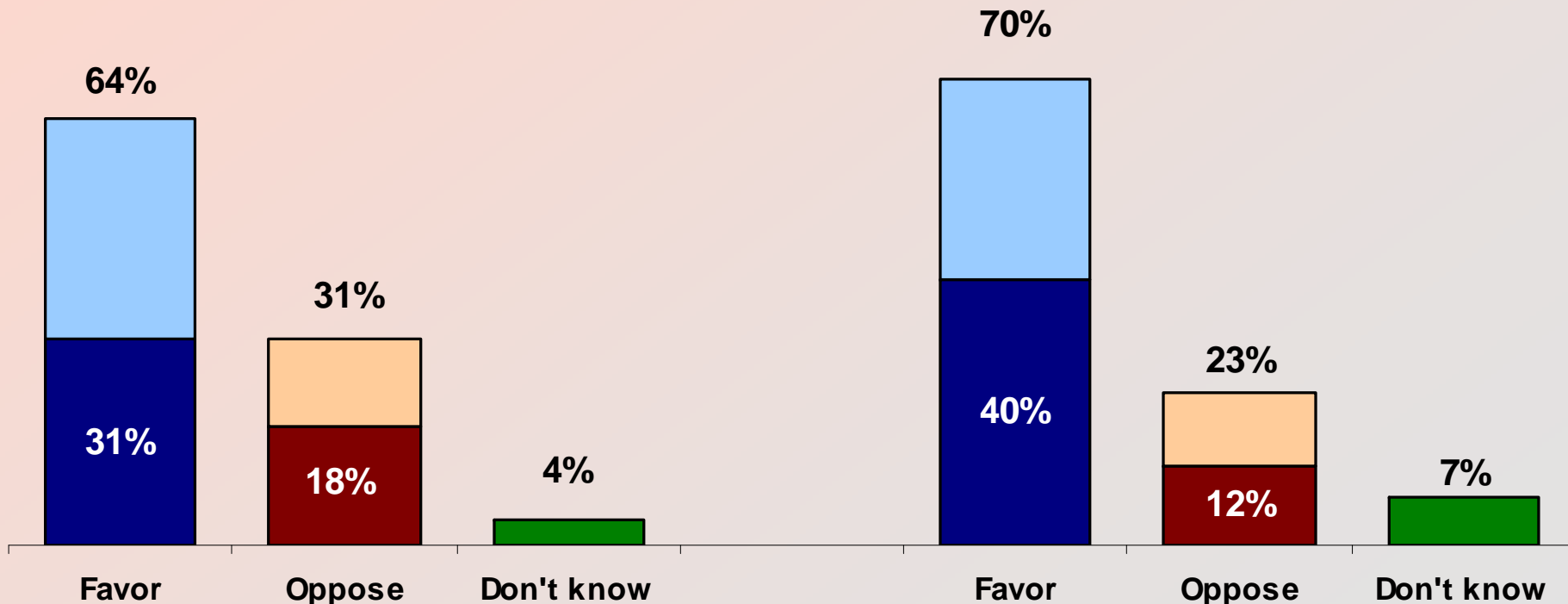
Do you favor or oppose providing access to affordable, quality health care for all Americans even if it means a major role for the federal government in financing care, as they do now for the elderly?



This support for affordable, quality health care for all holds steady at the state level as well.

Do you favor or oppose providing access to affordable, quality health care for all Missourians even if it means raising your taxes?

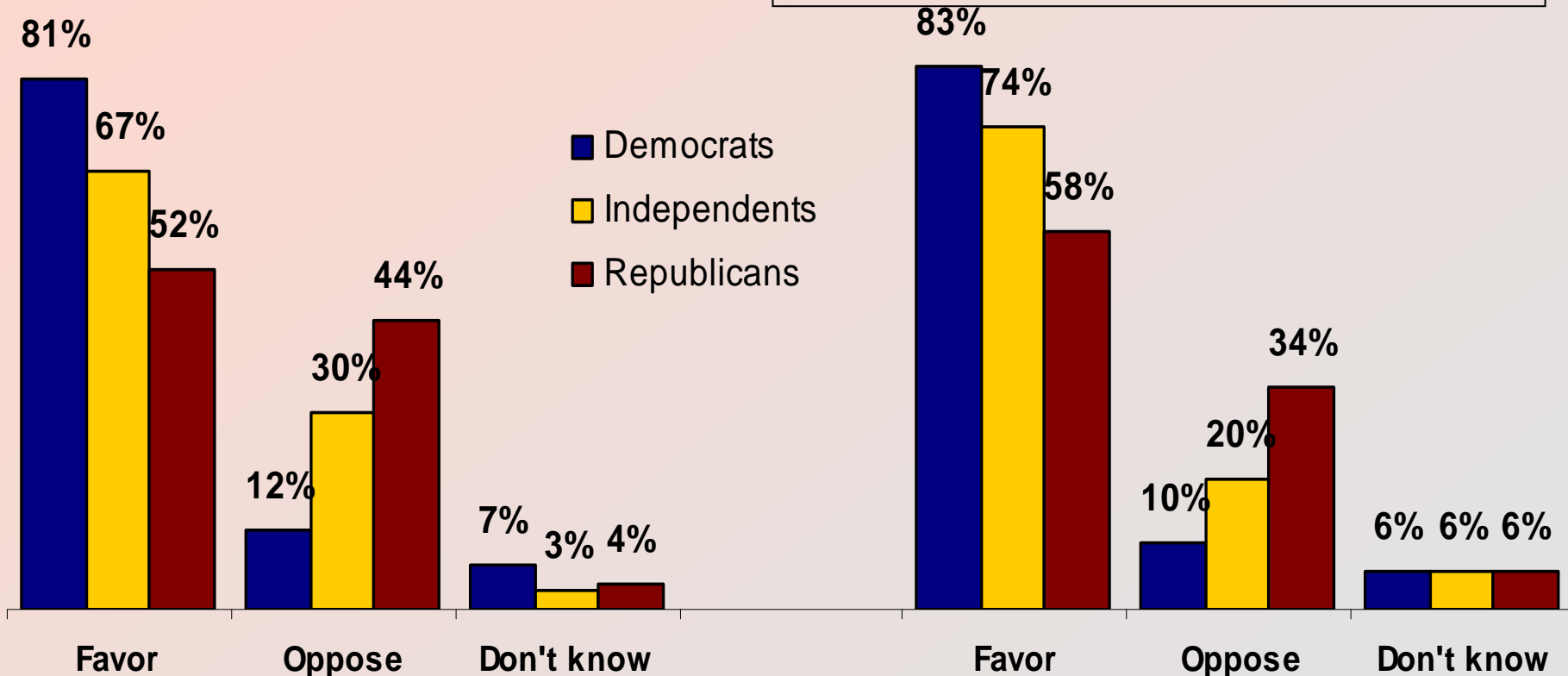
Do you favor or oppose providing access to affordable, quality health care for all Missourians even if it means a major role for the federal government in financing care, as they do now for the elderly?



Unlike at the national level, when thinking about Missouri's system, even Republicans are willing to accept raised taxes or an expanded role for the federal government.

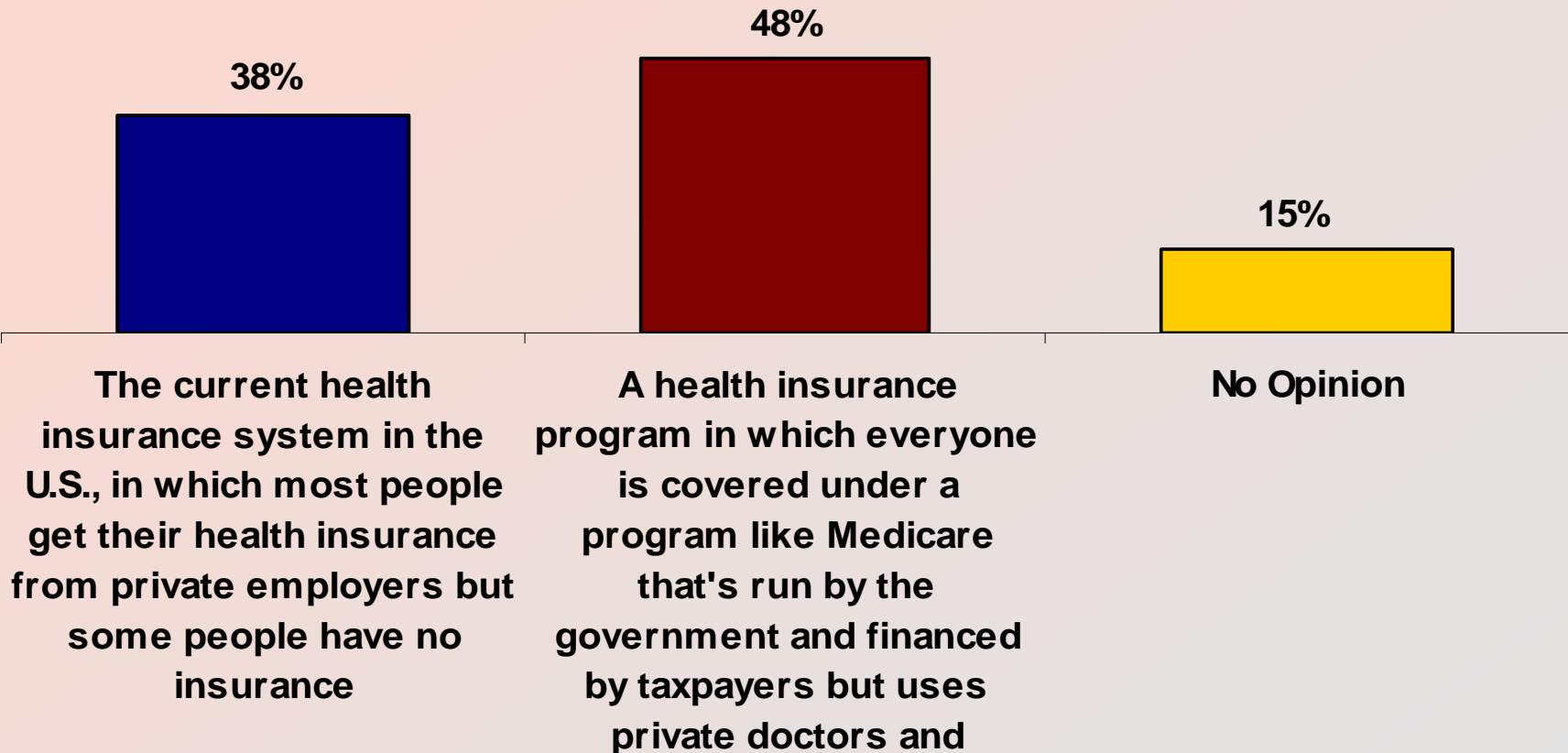
Do you favor or oppose providing access to affordable, quality health care for all Missourians even if it means raising your taxes?

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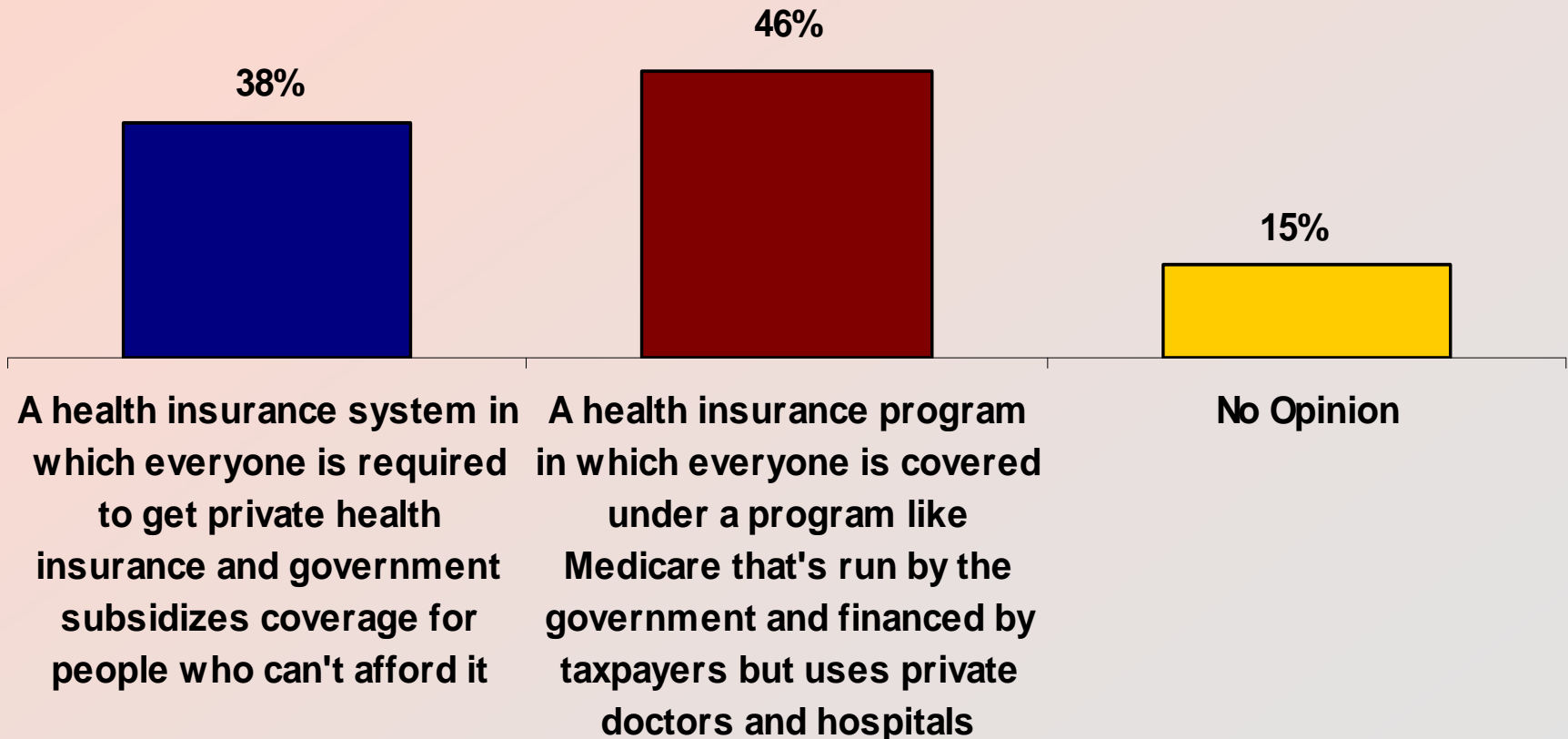
Missouri voters prefer a Medicare-like plan for universal health coverage over the current system, though by less than a majority.

Which do you prefer?



They also prefer, though by only a narrow margin, the Medicare model over a system where people are *required* to get private health insurance but the government subsidizes coverage for those who can't afford it.

Which do you prefer?

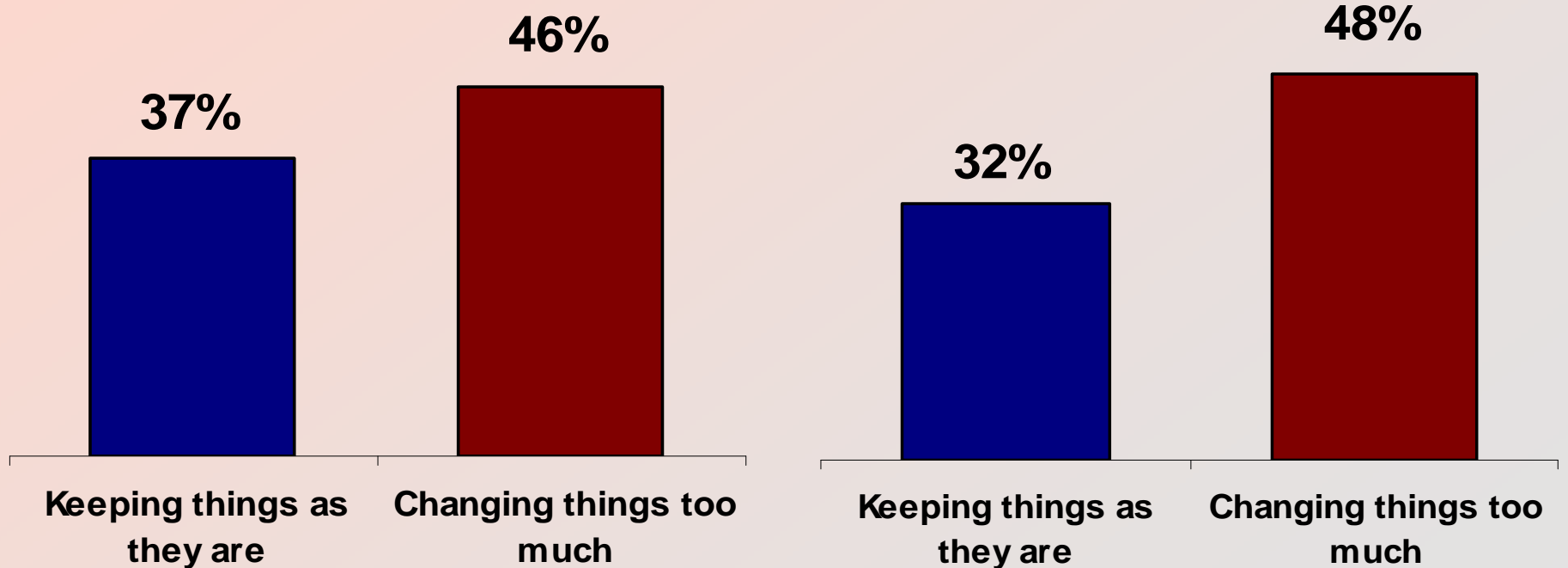


A note of caution, however: both at the national level and the state level, Missourians are more worried about too much change to the health care system than the status quo.

Overall, when you think about health care in [America/ Missouri] today, which are you more worried about, keeping things as they are or changing things too much?

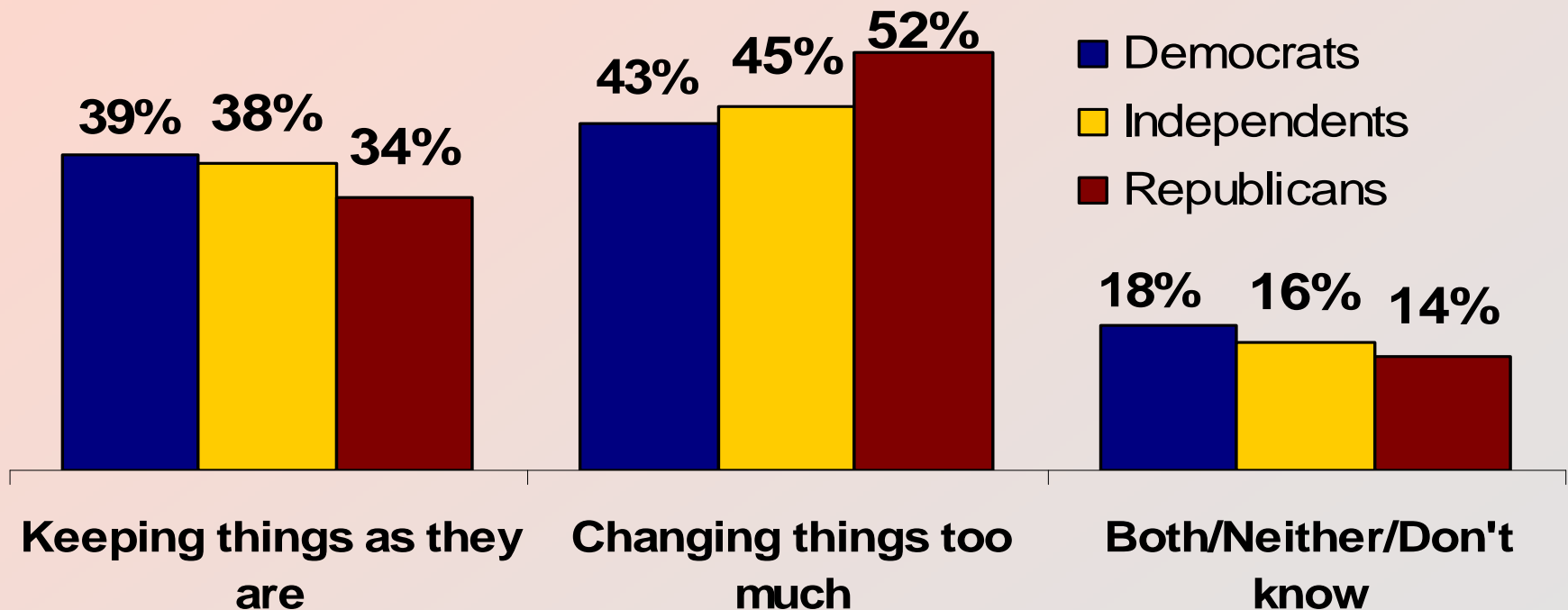
At National Level

At State Level



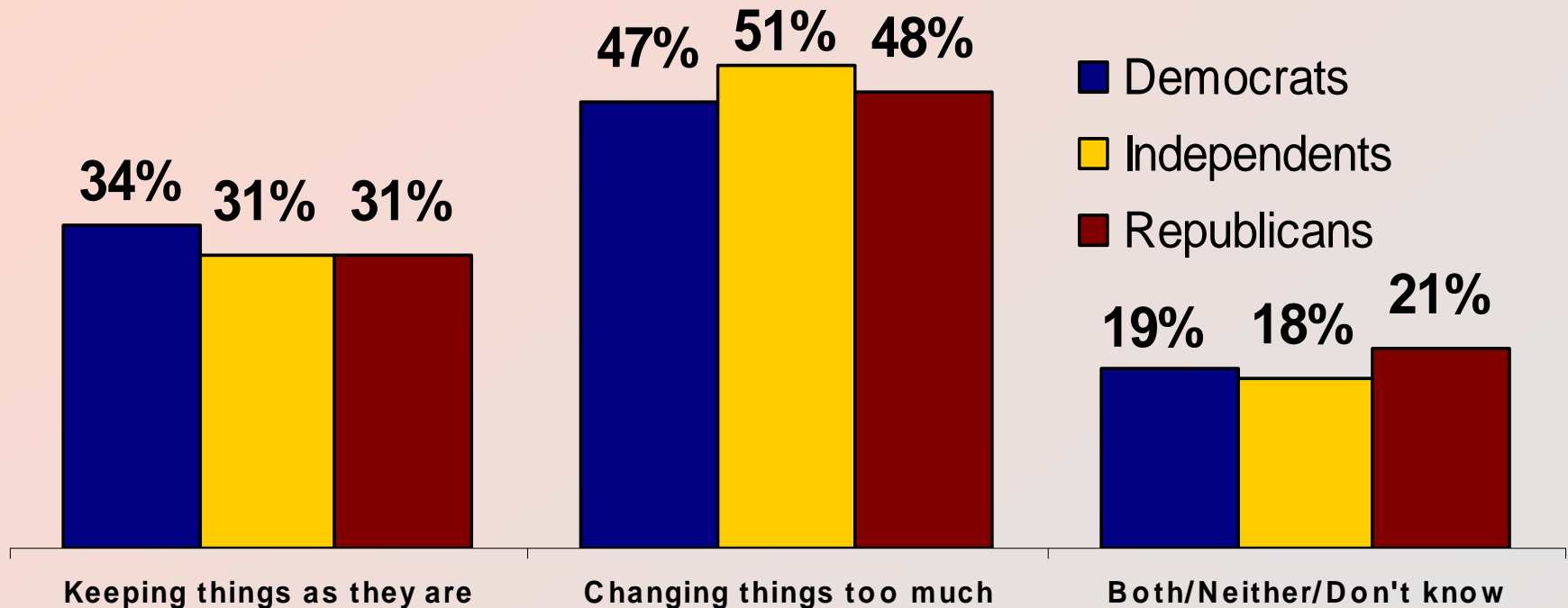
At the national level, Republicans are most concerned with too many changes to the system.

Overall, when you think about health care in America today, which are you more worried about, keeping things as they are or changing things too much?



In Missouri, independents are the most concerned with too much change.

Overall, when you think about health care in Missouri today, which are you more worried about, keeping things as they are or changing things too much?



THE MISSOURI FOUNDATION FOR HEALTH

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