

Attitudes Toward the Coronavirus Crisis Among Vulnerable Californians

*Key Findings from a Statewide Survey
Conducted April 25-30, 2020*



OPINION
RESEARCH
& STRATEGY



Methodology

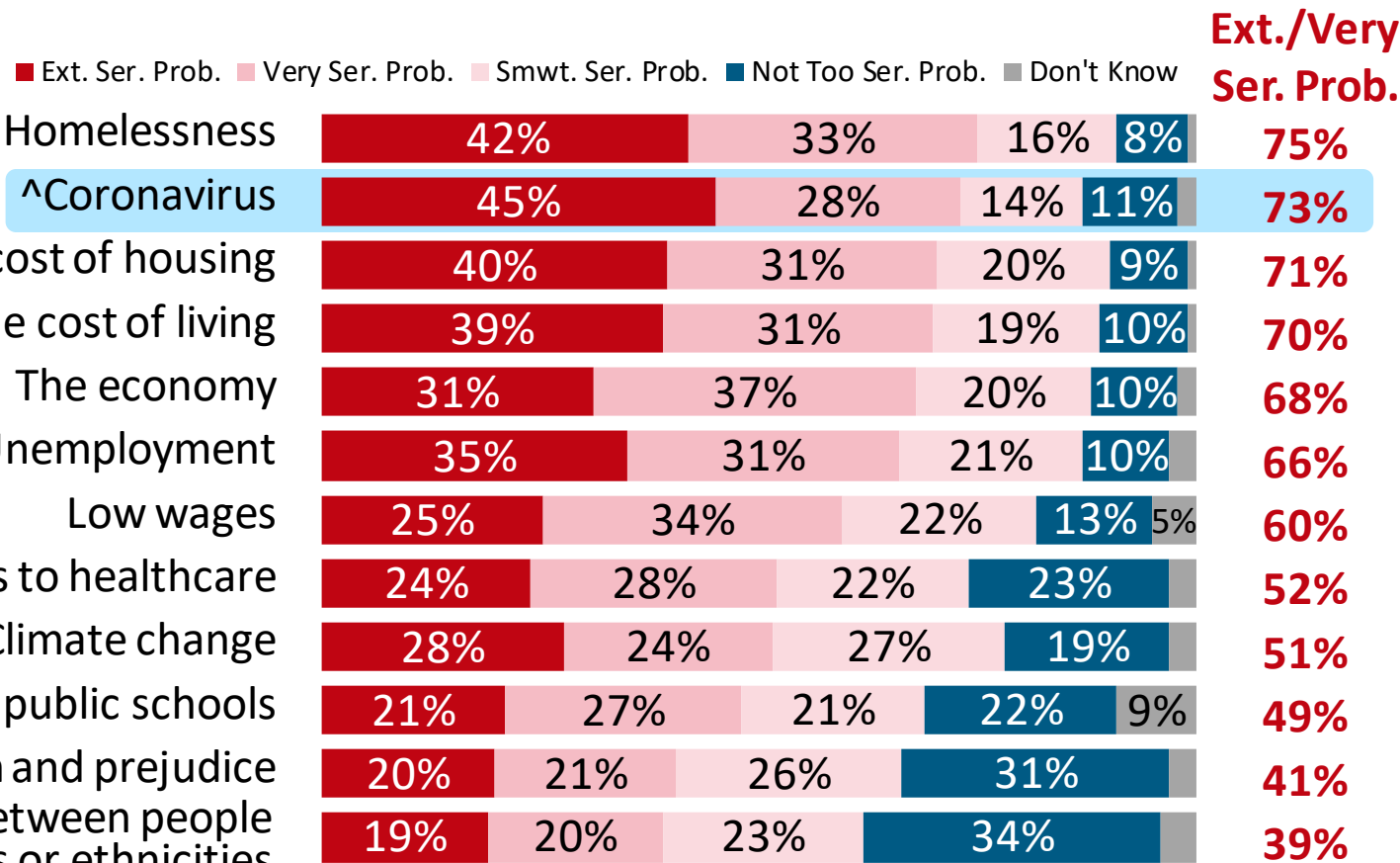


- 813 online and telephone interviews with adult Californians
- All respondents were either Californians of color, Spanish speakers, or had household incomes of \$50,000 or less
- Interviews conducted April 25-30, 2020
- Interviews online, on landlines and cell phones
- Margin of sampling error of +/-3.5% at the 95% confidence level
- Some percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding

Views of the Pandemic

Coronavirus is among respondents' top concerns.

I'd like to read you some problems facing your community that people have mentioned. Please tell me whether you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, somewhat serious problem, or not too serious a problem in your community.



Residents of the rural north are far less concerned about coronavirus than those in other parts of the state.

(Extremely/Very Serious Problem)

Problem	All Resp.	Region					
		Los Angeles County	Counties Surrounding Los Angeles	Bay Area	San Diego	Sacramento/Rural North	Central Valley/Central Coast
Homelessness	75%	76%	80%	74%	65%	66%	76%
^Coronavirus	73%	83%	71%	70%	74%	53%	68%
The cost of housing	71%	78%	74%	62%	67%	68%	60%
The cost of living	70%	76%	73%	59%	69%	63%	65%
The economy	68%	70%	72%	68%	69%	61%	61%
Unemployment	66%	77%	54%	58%	59%	76%	58%
Low wages	60%	61%	63%	59%	58%	50%	60%
Access to healthcare	52%	60%	39%	57%	38%	43%	55%
Climate change	51%	62%	47%	56%	34%	30%	48%
The quality of public schools	49%	49%	49%	56%	54%	39%	44%
Racial discrimination and prejudice	41%	48%	30%	46%	35%	31%	39%
Divisions and tensions between people of different races or ethnicities	39%	38%	39%	43%	31%	58%	32%

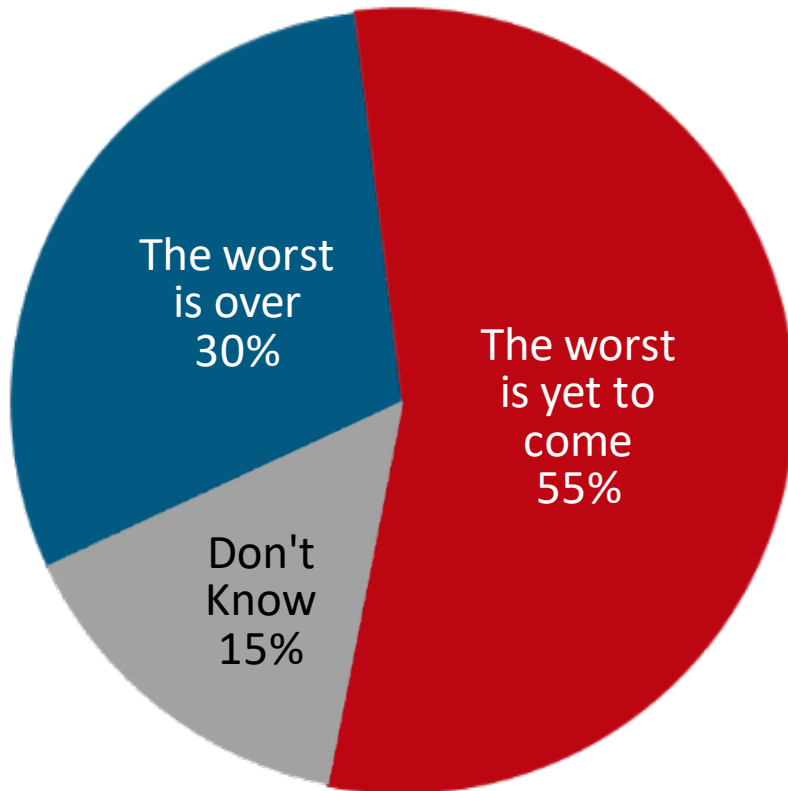
Respondents of color are more likely to be concerned about the coronavirus than are white respondents.

(Extremely/Very Concerned)

Problem	All Resp.	Race/Ethnicity				
		Whites	Latinos	African Americans	Asians/ Pacific Islanders	All People of Color
Homelessness	75%	77%	76%	69%	68%	74%
^Coronavirus	73%	62%	77%	70%	79%	77%
The cost of housing	71%	67%	71%	85%	68%	72%
The cost of living	70%	70%	73%	71%	53%	70%
The economy	68%	65%	70%	66%	63%	68%
Unemployment	66%	54%	70%	77%	68%	70%
Low wages	60%	60%	63%	49%	51%	60%
Access to healthcare	52%	43%	54%	71%	54%	55%
Climate change	51%	34%	59%	51%	51%	57%
The quality of public schools	49%	49%	50%	37%	48%	48%
Racial discrimination and prejudice	41%	25%	45%	56%	39%	46%
Divisions and tensions between people of different races or ethnicities	39%	33%	41%	42%	37%	41%

A majority says the worst of the pandemic is “yet to come.”

When it comes to the pandemic, do you think that the worst is over; OR the worst is yet to come?

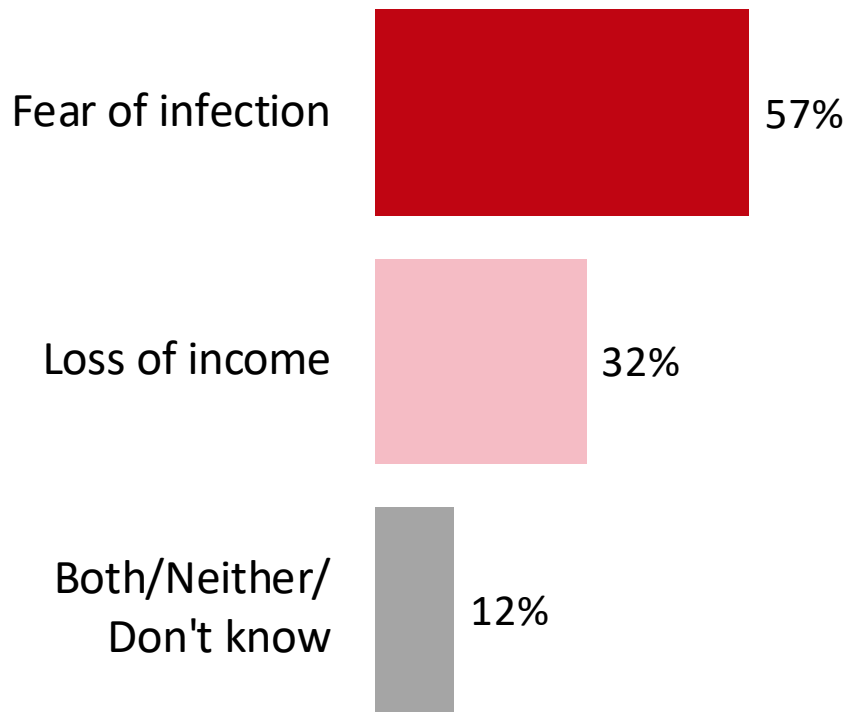


Demographic groups disproportionately likely to fall into each category.

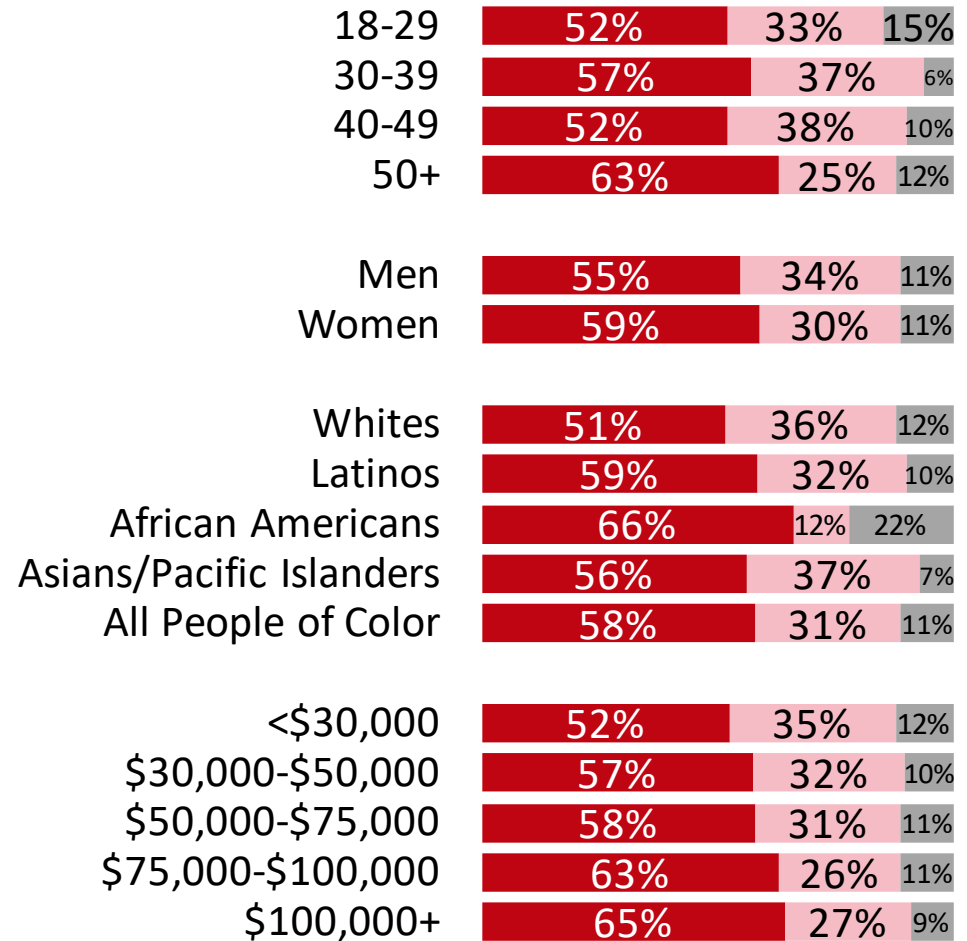
The Worst is Over	The Worst is Yet to Come
30% of Electorate	55% of Electorate
Interviewed in Spanish	HH Income \$75,000-\$100,000
Uninsured	Asians/Pacific Islanders
San Diego	African Americans
Latino Men	College-Educated Women
Men Ages 18-39	Ages 65-74
Latinos Ages 18-49	Latino Women
HH Income \$100,000+	Four-year College or More
Whites	Counties Surrounding Los Angeles
Bay Area	Have Children at Home
Live in Rural Area	Women Ages 18-39

A majority is more personally afraid of infection than of economic impacts.

Which is a greater concern for you: that you, a family member or friend will be infected with the coronavirus; OR that the coronavirus will threaten your household's livelihood, through loss of jobs or income?

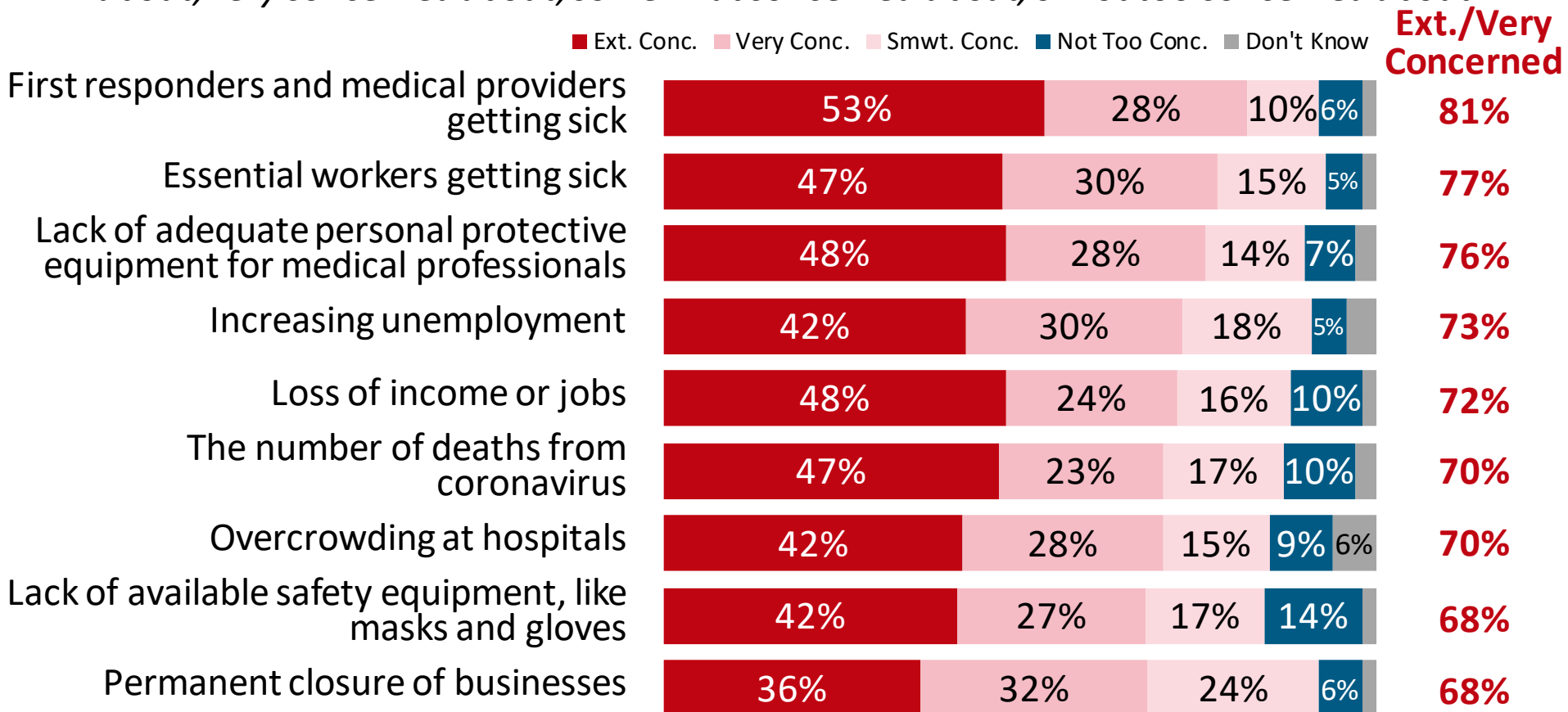


■ Fear of Infection ■ Loss of Income ■ Both/Neither/Don't Know

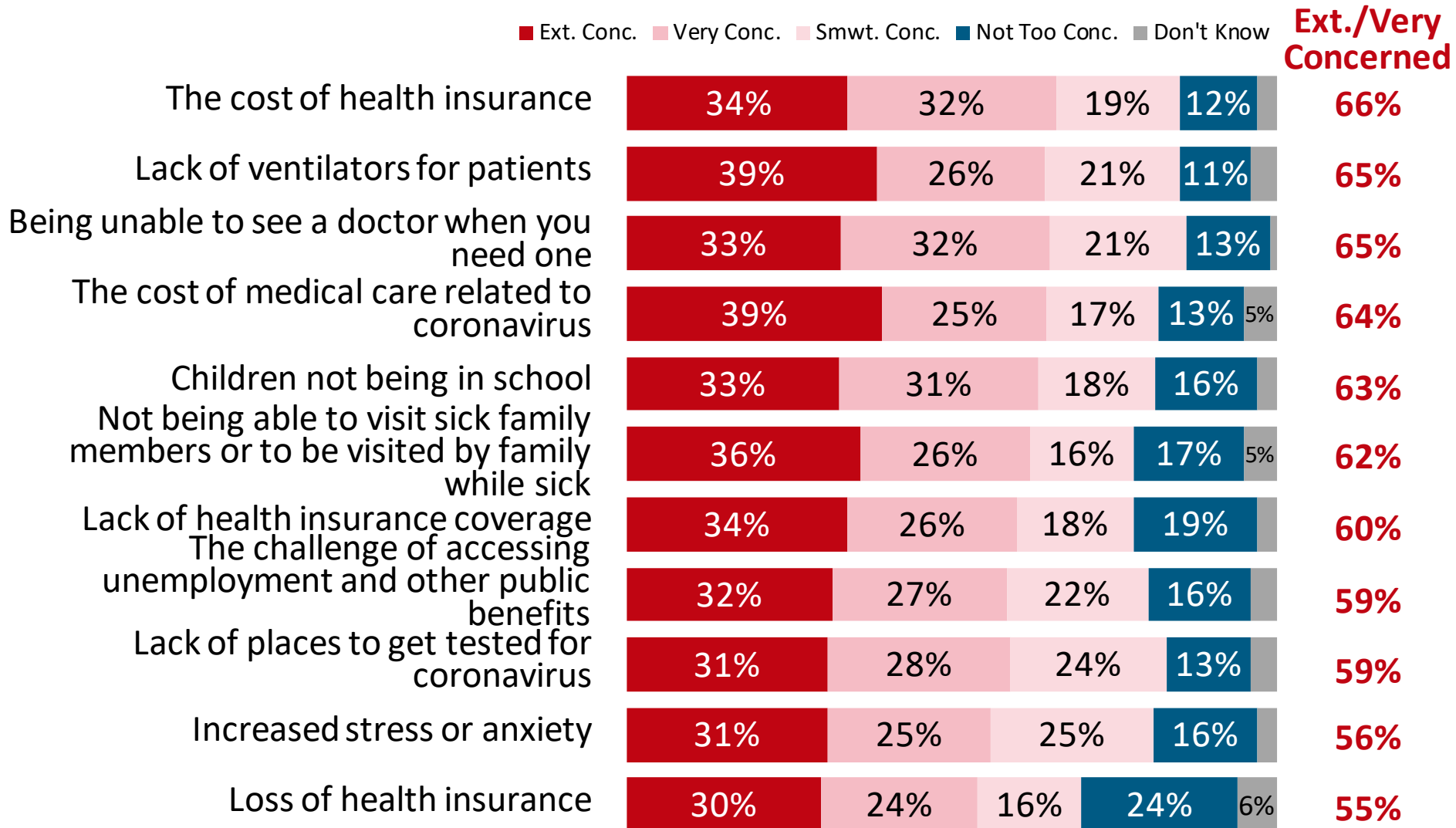


Respondents are most concerned about frontline workers getting sick and a lack of PPE; they're similarly concerned health and economic impacts.

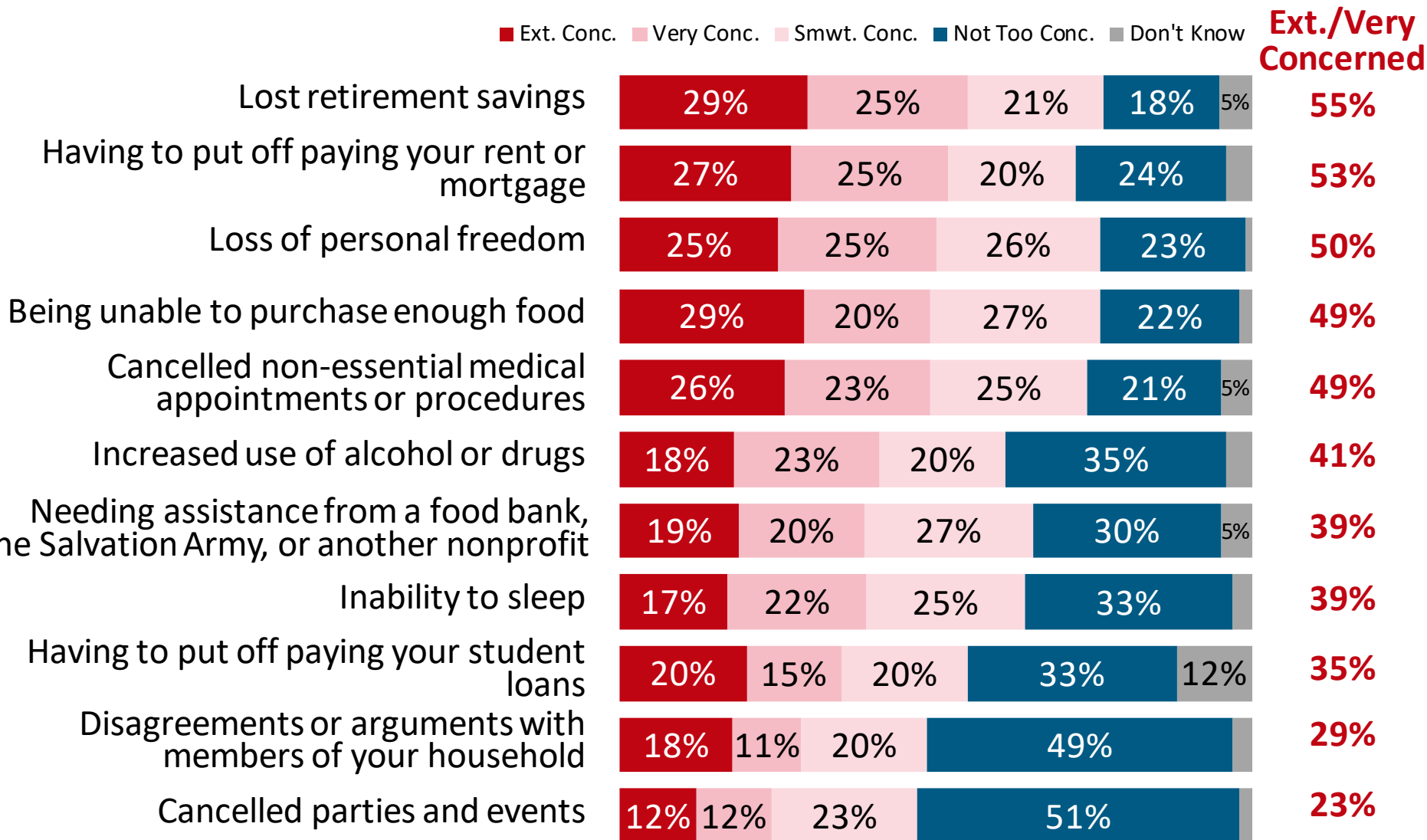
Here are some problems some people in California are concerned about related to coronavirus. Please tell me whether this is something you personally are extremely concerned about, very concerned about, somewhat concerned about, or not too concerned about.



The cost of health insurance, lack of ventilators and inability to see a doctor are concerning to majorities.



Household disagreements and cancelled events are the least-prevalent concerns.

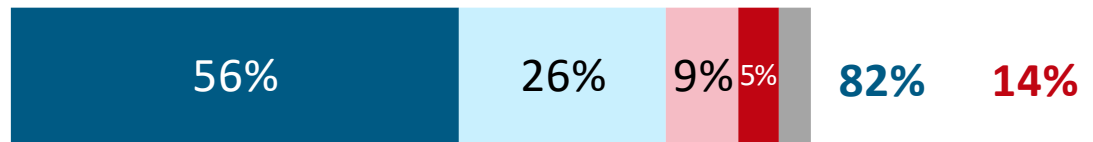


Respondents recognize the disproportionate impact of the virus on low-income households and communities of color.

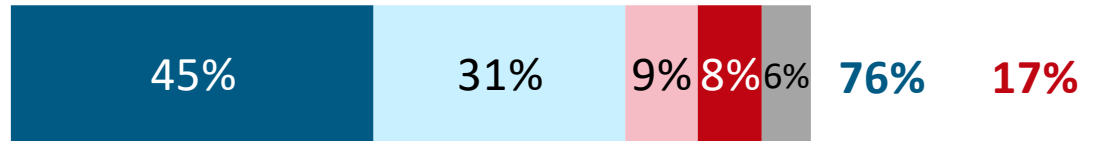
Here are some statements about the coronavirus pandemic. Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.

■ Strng. Agree
 ■ Smwt. Agree
 ■ Smwt. Disagree
 ■ Strng. Disagree
 ■ Don't Know
 Total Agree
 Total Disagree

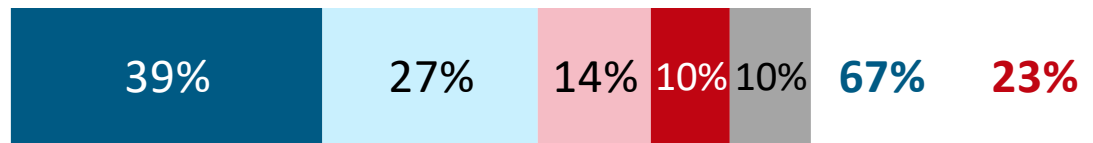
Low-income Californians are disproportionately harmed by the economic impacts of the coronavirus



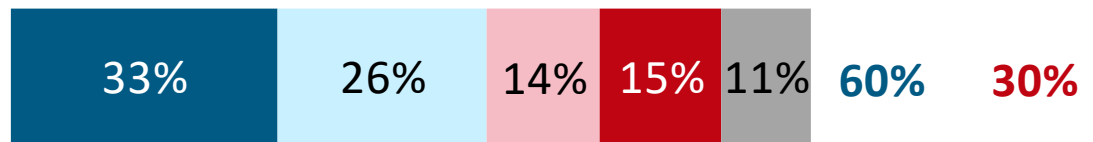
Low-income Californians are disproportionately harmed by the health impacts of the coronavirus



People of color are disproportionately harmed by the economic impacts of the coronavirus



People of color are disproportionately harmed by the health impacts of the coronavirus



Communities of color are more likely to recognize racial inequities in the impact of the coronavirus.

(Total Agree)

Statement	All Resp.	Race/Ethnicity				
		Whites	Latinos	African Americans	Asians/Pacific Islanders	All People of Color
<u>Low-income Californians are disproportionately harmed by the economic impacts</u> of the coronavirus	82%	81%	85%	70%	77%	82%
<u>Low-income Californians are disproportionately harmed by the health impacts</u> of the coronavirus	76%	74%	81%	48%	77%	77%
<u>People of color are disproportionately harmed by the economic impacts</u> of the coronavirus	67%	59%	67%	70%	82%	69%
<u>People of color are disproportionately harmed by the health impacts</u> of the coronavirus	60%	52%	59%	53%	82%	62%

The lowest-income Californians are least likely to think POC are experiencing the greatest economic impacts.

(Total Agree)

Statement	All Resp.	Household Income				
		<\$30,000	\$30,000-\$50,000	\$50,000-\$75,000	\$75,000-\$100,000	\$100,000+
<u>Low-income Californians are disproportionately harmed by the economic impacts</u> of the coronavirus	82%	79%	81%	82%	86%	87%
<u>Low-income Californians are disproportionately harmed by the health impacts</u> of the coronavirus	76%	76%	79%	76%	77%	69%
<u>People of color are disproportionately harmed by the economic impacts</u> of the coronavirus	67%	55%	72%	71%	77%	80%
<u>People of color are disproportionately harmed by the health impacts</u> of the coronavirus	60%	57%	61%	63%	69%	54%

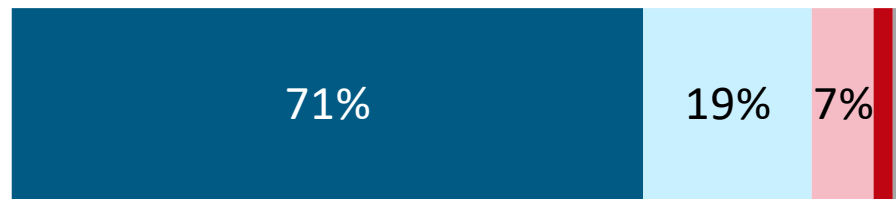
There is broad agreement on a shared responsibility to prevent the spread of the virus.

Here are some statements about the coronavirus pandemic. Please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree.

■ Strng. Agree ■ Smwt. Agree ■ Smwt. Disagree ■ Strng. Disagree ■ Don't Know

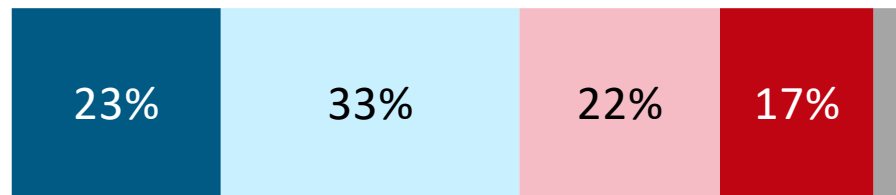
Total Agree **Total Disagree**

All Californians have a shared responsibility to prevent the spread of coronavirus



89% **9%**

I feel more connected to others in my community right now



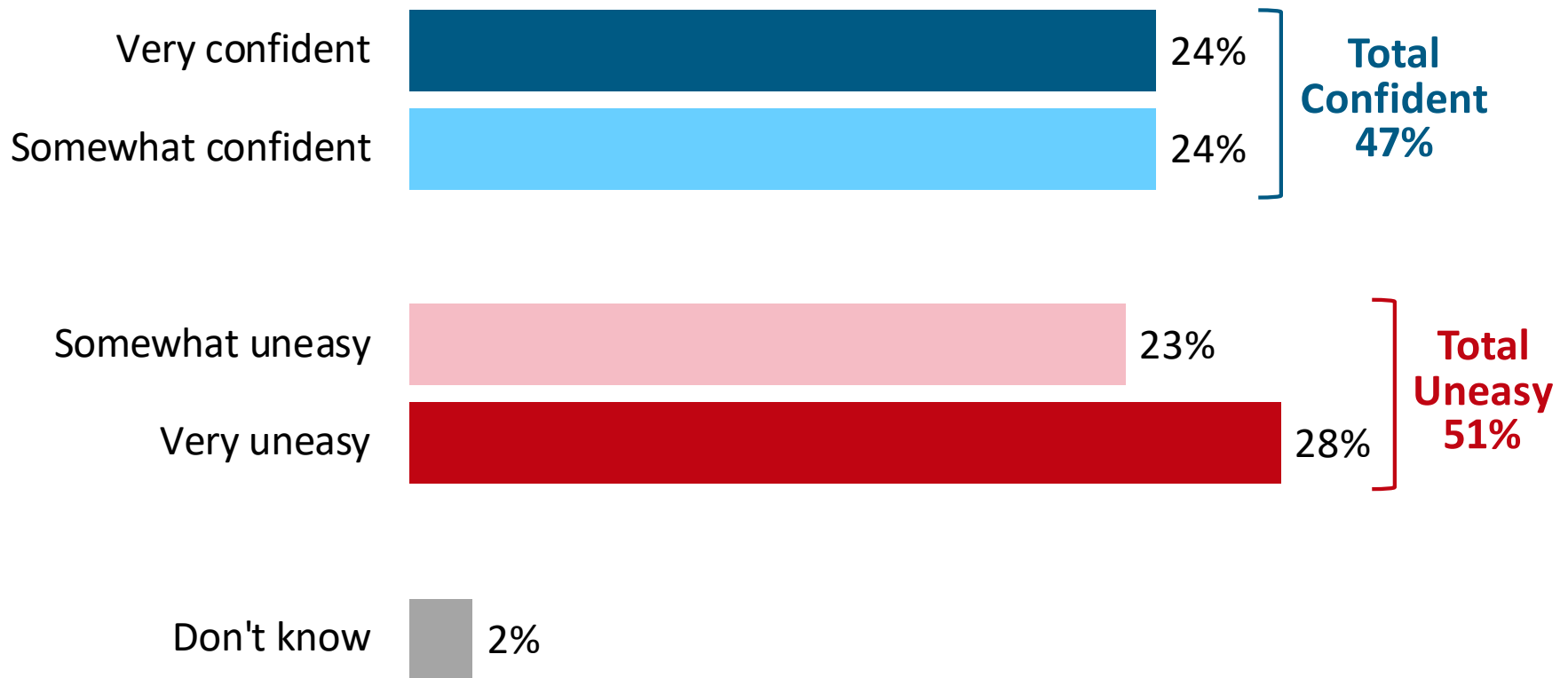
56% **39%**

Respondents age 75 and over, Spanish-speakers, healthcare workers, and those living in rural areas or the Bay Area are more likely than others to say they feel more connected to their community right now.

Financial Impacts of the Pandemic

Most respondents are uneasy about meeting living expenses.

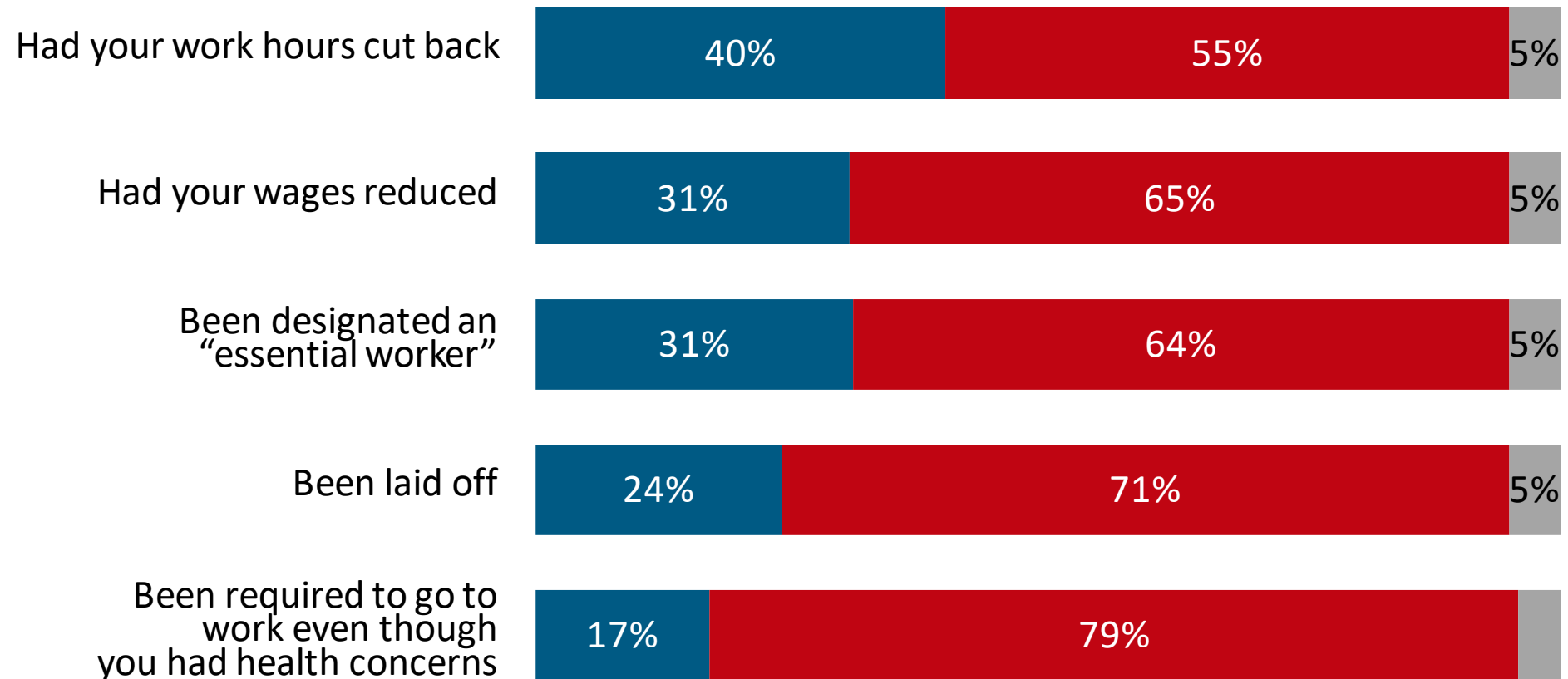
Thinking about your personal financial situation over the next few months, do you feel confident or uneasy you will be able to meet your living expenses?



Two in five respondents have had their hours cut back and one-third have had their wages reduced.

In response to the coronavirus crisis, have you experienced any of the following?

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't Know



Latino respondents were most likely to have been impacted negatively, while Asian/Pacific Islander respondents were most likely to have been designated “essential.”

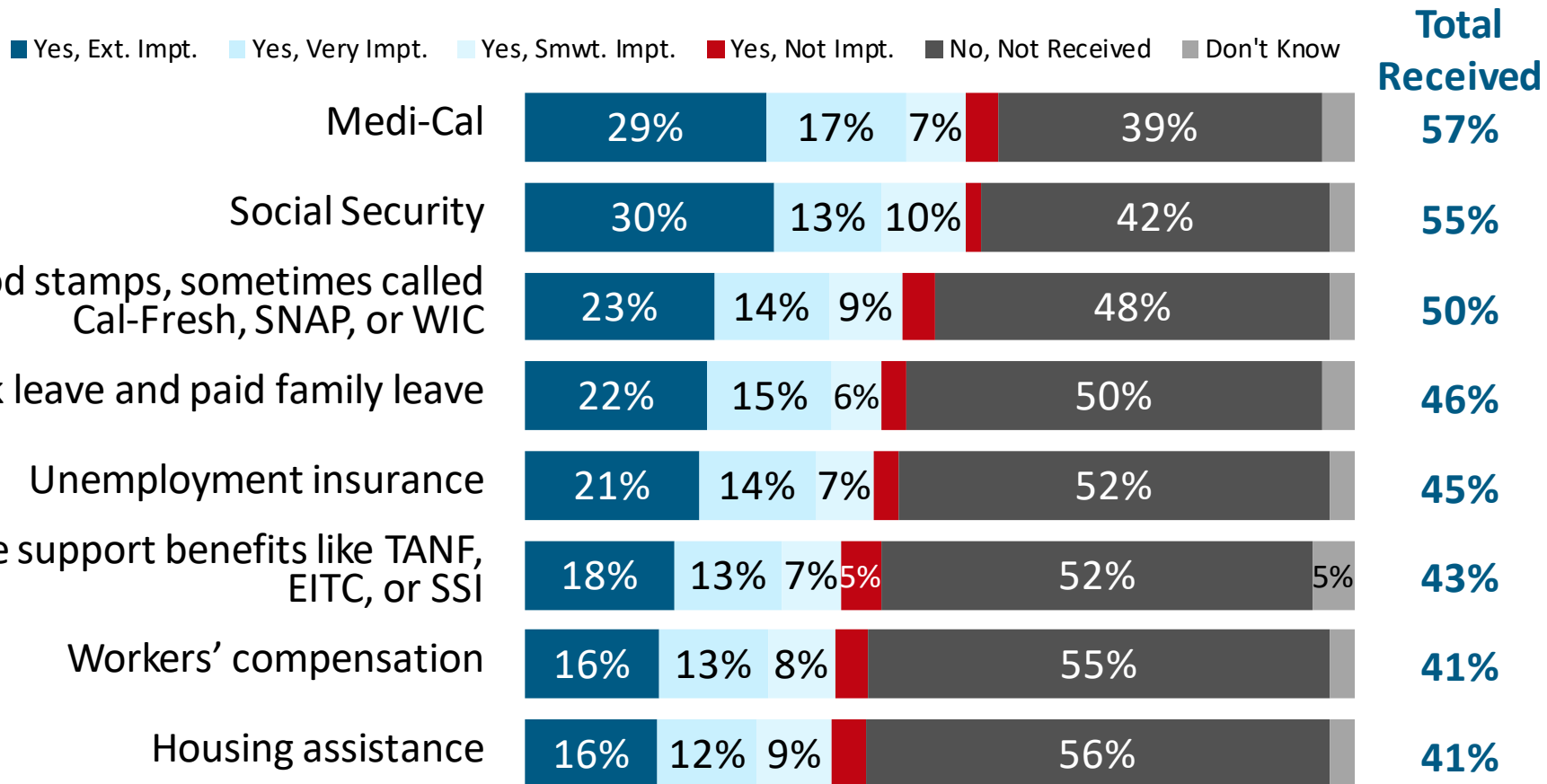
(Total Yes)

Statement	All Respondents	Race/Ethnicity				
		Whites	Latinos	African Americans	Asians/ Pacific Islanders	All People of Color
Had your work hours cut back	40%	33%	45%	35%	36%	42%
Had your wages reduced	31%	25%	35%	20%	28%	32%
Been designated an “essential worker”	31%	15%	36%	30%	41%	36%
Been laid off	24%	16%	30%	18%	12%	26%
Been required to go to work even though you had health concerns	17%	5%	23%	15%	18%	21%

Attitudes Toward Social Supports

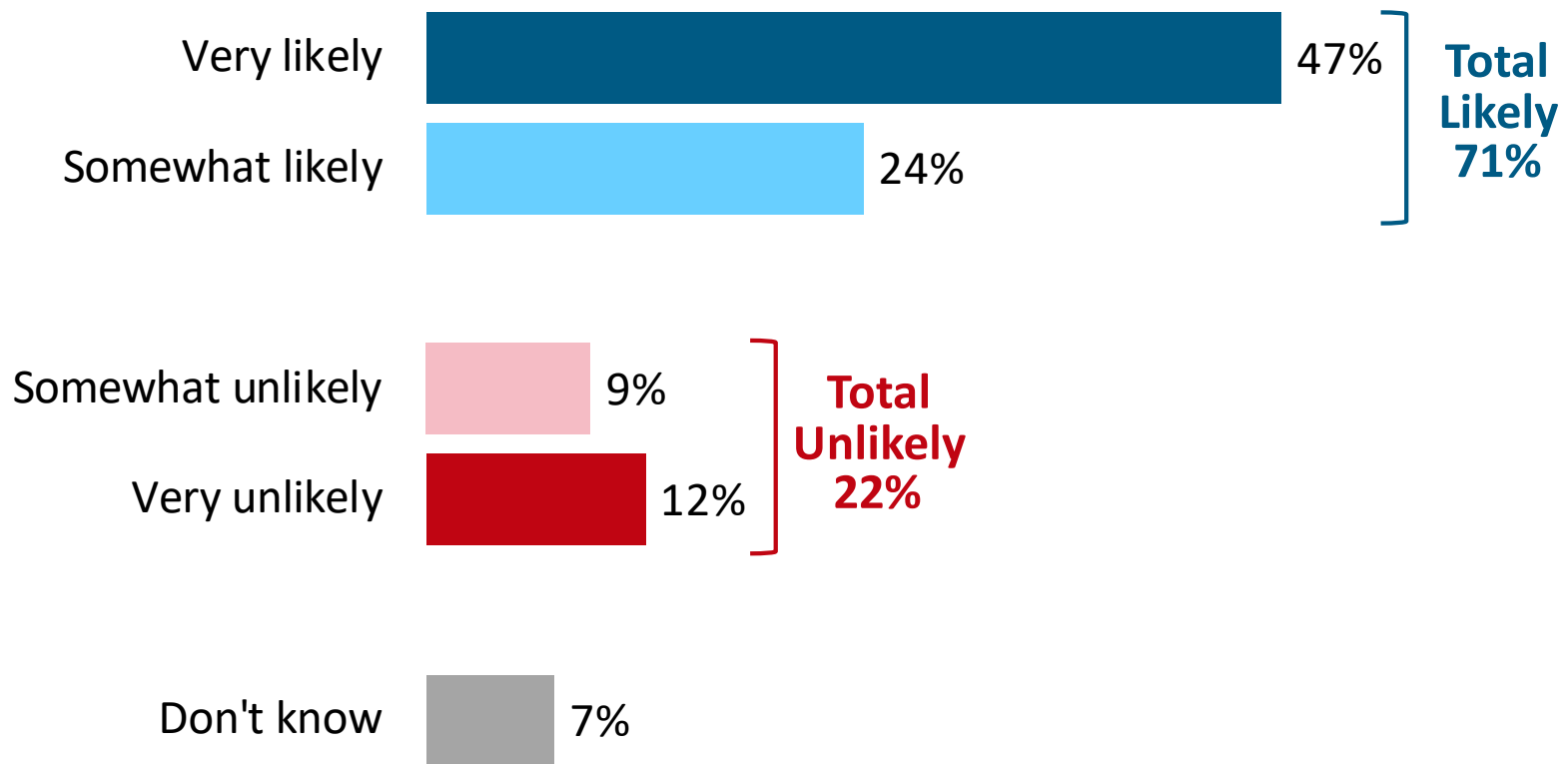
At least two in five report receiving each of a range of public benefits to help those in economic need.

Here are some public benefits that are available to people all the time, along with some that people may need to apply for when they lose their jobs or their wages are cut back. Please indicate if this is a benefit you currently receive.



Seven in ten say they are likely to apply for public benefits if they lose their income.

Regardless of whether you are working currently or not, if you did lose your main source of income how likely would you be to apply for public benefits like unemployment or Medi-Cal?

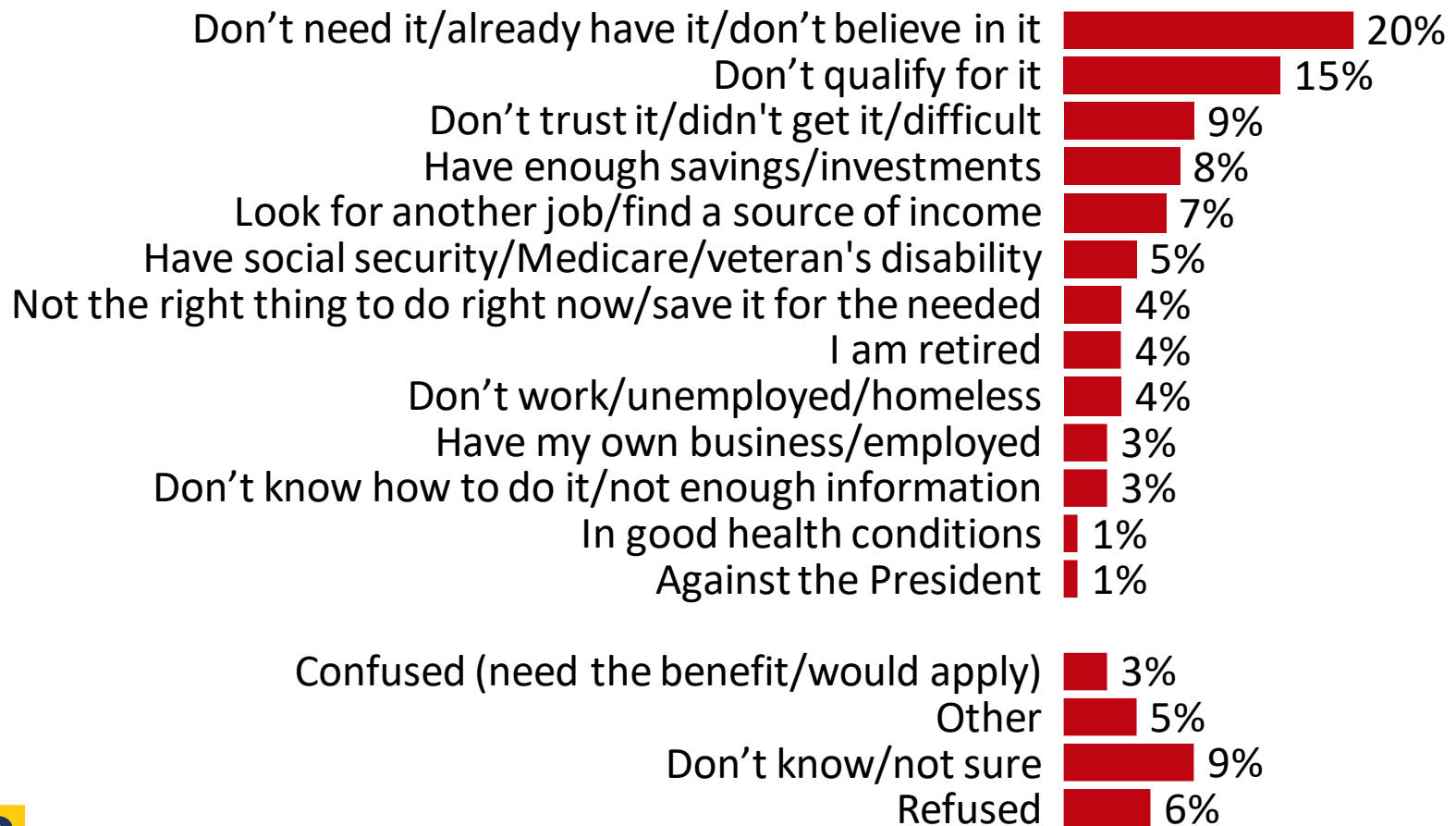


White and African-American respondents are slightly less likely to say they would apply for benefits.

Demographic Group	Total Likely	Total Unlikely	Don't Know
Race/Ethnicity			
Whites	65%	22%	13%
Latinos	73%	24%	3%
African Americans	63%	14%	23%
Asians/Pacific Islanders	75%	17%	8%
<i>People of Color</i>	73%	21%	6%
Language of Interview			
English	71%	22%	7%
Spanish	74%	20%	7%
Household Income			
<\$30,000	69%	23%	8%
\$30,000-\$50,000	71%	20%	9%
\$50,000-\$75,000	77%	16%	8%
\$75,000-\$100,000	77%	19%	4%
\$100,000+	64%	31%	6%

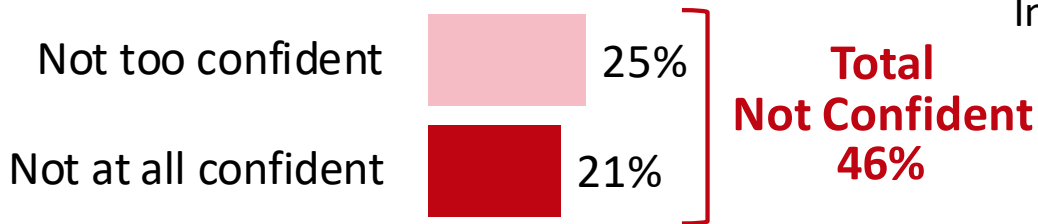
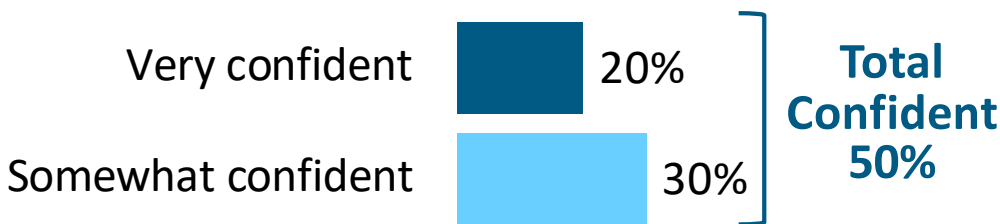
Of those unlikely to apply, the most common reasons are a lack of need or the perception that they would not qualify.

*In a few words of your own, why would you be **UNLIKELY** to apply for public benefits?
(Open-ended; Asked of Those Unlikely to Apply for Public Benefits Only, N=176)*



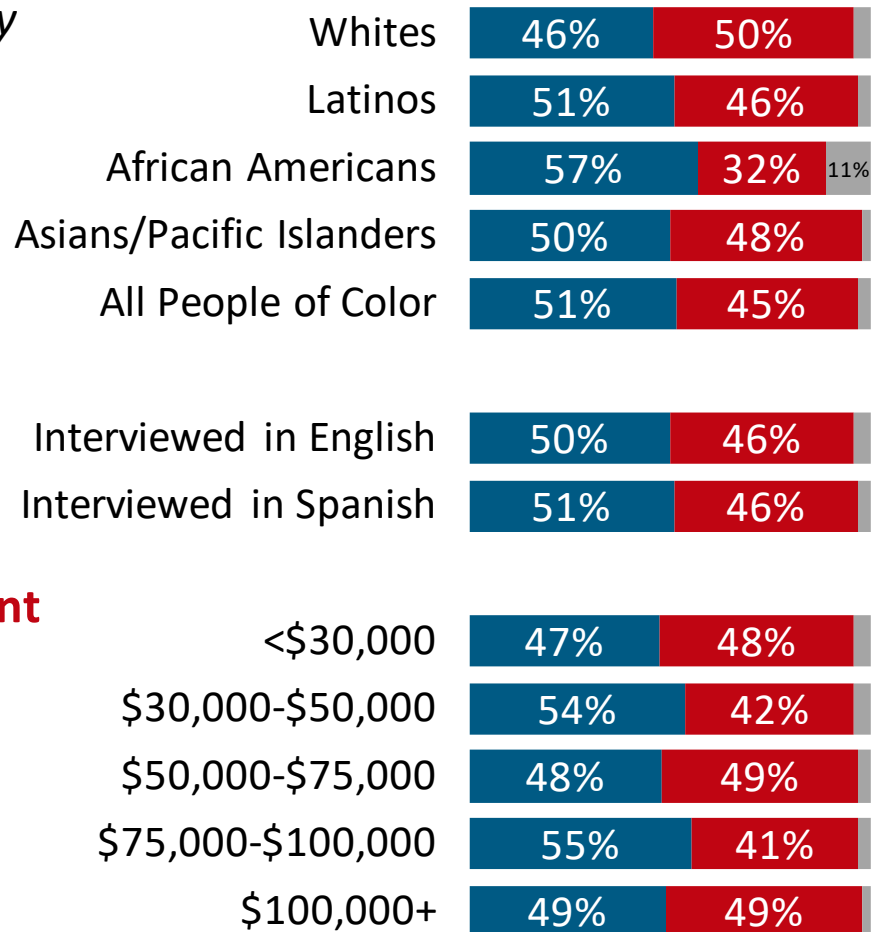
Only half say they are confident they'd know where to turn if they needed help.

How confident are you that if you needed help from the government, a nonprofit, or a private organization to support yourself and/or your family right now, you would know where to turn?



Don't know 4%

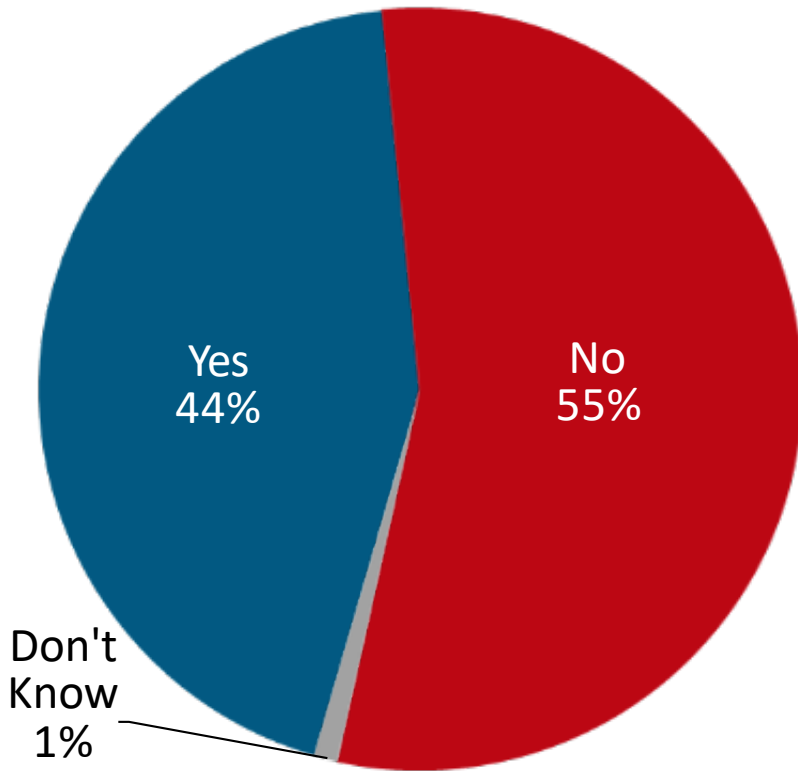
■ Total Confident ■ Total Not Confident ■ Don't Know



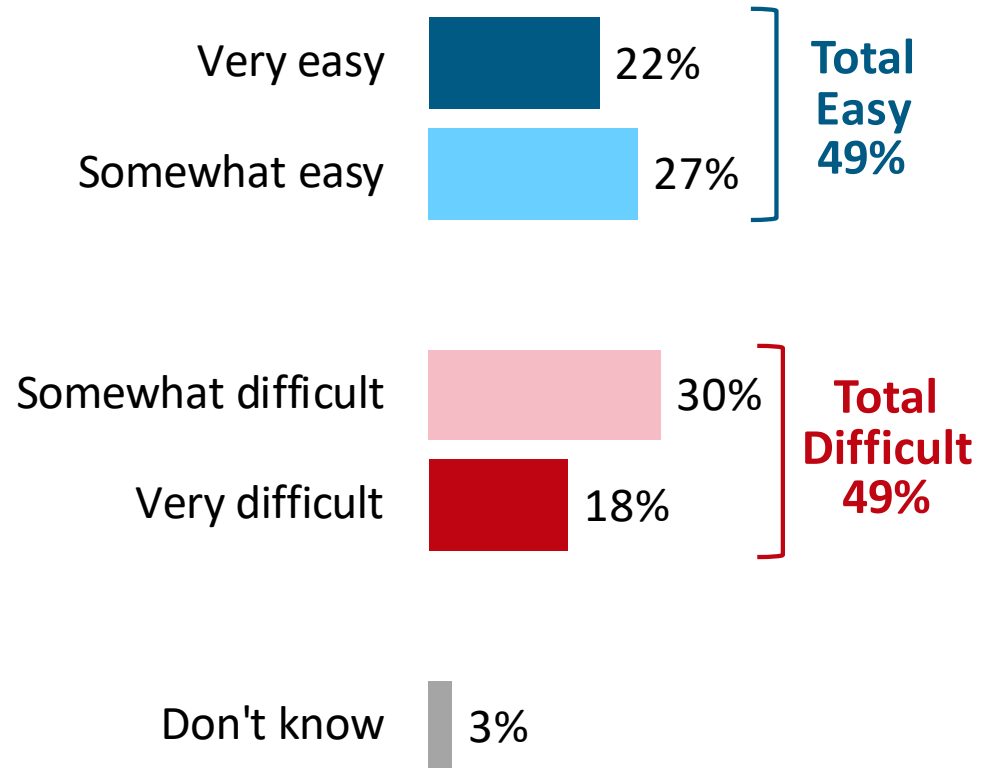
Attitudes Toward Childcare and Education

Respondents with children at home are divided on how easy or difficult it has been to deal with childcare.

Do you have school-aged children living at home with you?



How easy or difficult has it been for you to handle childcare responsibilities during the coronavirus pandemic? (Asked of Those with Children at Home)



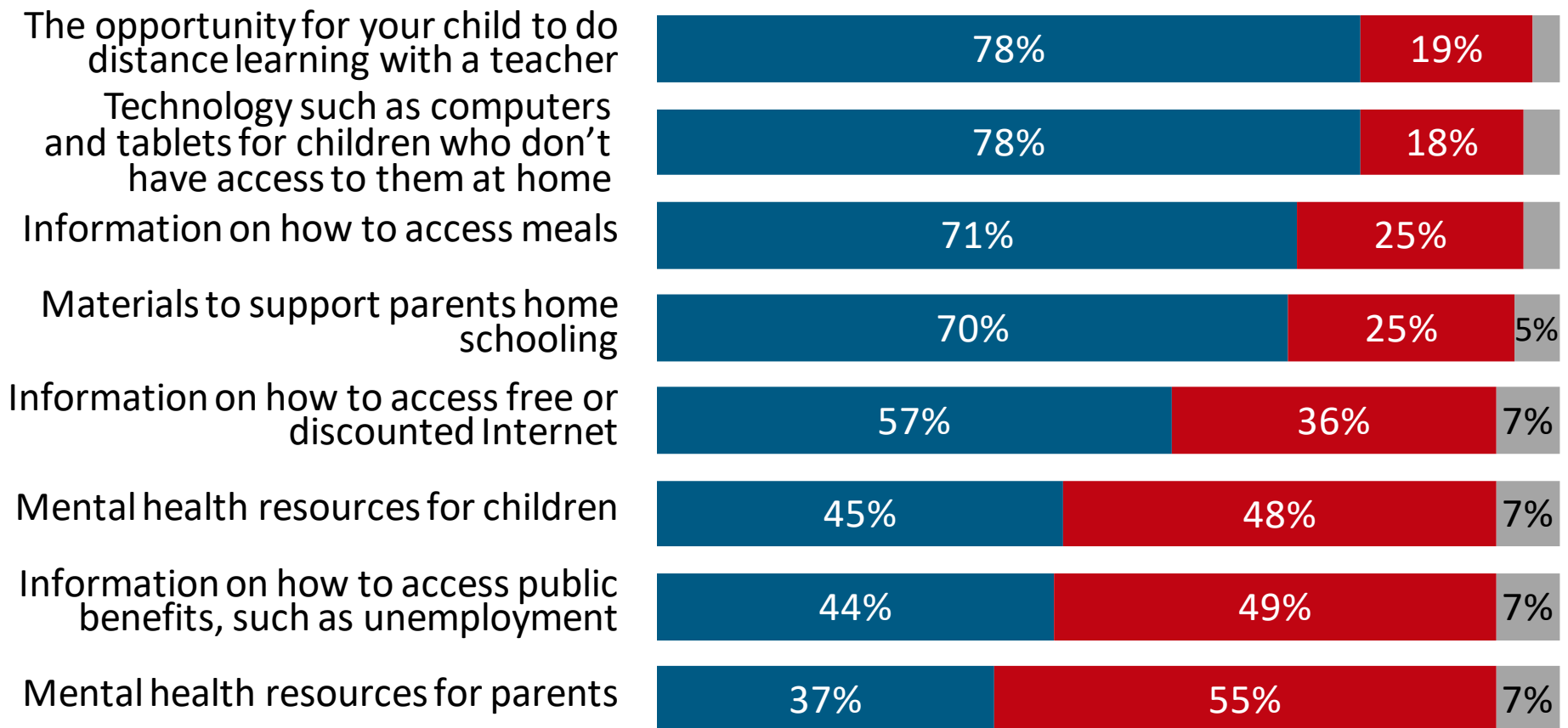
The lowest-income parents are most likely to say childcare has been difficult.

Demographic Group	Total Easy	Total Difficult	Don't Know
All Parent Respondents	49%	49%	3%
Race/Ethnicity			
Whites	48%	38%	14%
Latinos	49%	50%	1%
African Americans	50%	45%	5%
Asians/Pacific Islanders	38%	62%	0%
<i>Parents of Color</i>	49%	50%	1%
Household Income			
<\$30,000	38%	60%	1%
\$30,000-\$50,000	49%	46%	5%
\$50,000-\$75,000	60%	40%	0%
\$75,000-\$100,000	53%	46%	2%
\$100,000+	51%	43%	6%

Parents are least likely to have received mental health resources or information on public benefits from their child's school.

Has your child's school provided any of the following supports to families during the coronavirus pandemic?

■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't Know



Conclusions

Conclusions

- ✓ Coronavirus is among respondents' top concerns; however, strong concerns about homelessness, the cost of living, and cost of housing persist.
- ✓ There is a broad sentiment that the worst of the crisis is yet to come and that it is impacting the health and finances of lower-income Californians and people of color more harshly than others.
 - Latino Californians, in particular, are most likely to report having had been laid off or had their hours cut since the crisis began.
- ✓ A majority expresses greater fear of infection than of loss of income; however, most are uneasy about meeting their basic living expenses.
- ✓ While seven in ten say they would apply for public benefits if needed, only half are confident that they would know where to turn.
- ✓ Half of parents say it has been difficult to address childcare needs; and while many parents say they have received academic support from their school, support for accessing public benefits and mental health resources has been more limited.
- ✓ Respondents offer broad support for new public benefits that have been introduced during the crisis.
- ✓ Collectively, these results indicate that:
 - There are income, ethnic, and gender disparities in how this crisis has impacted California's most vulnerable residents;
 - There is great concern for frontline health workers who may be at risk;
 - There is a clear need to better connect low-income Californians with information on public benefits; and
 - There is a particular opportunity to better connect families with mental health resources.

For more information, contact:



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