



ANTIVIRALS RESEARCH

National Association of Chain Drug Stores

FEBRUARY 2022

KEY FINDINGS

1. While only around half of adults (51%) say they have seen, read, or heard something about FDA authorization of antiviral medications in the last two to three months, three quarters of adults (78%) say that it should be a priority for **COVID-19 antiviral medications authorized by the FDA to be made widely available to the public.**
2. Two thirds of adults (69%) **support allowing pharmacists to prescribe patients COVID-19 antiviral treatment at pharmacies.**
 - While Democrats (78%) are more supportive than Republicans (67%) or Independents (60%) of allowing pharmacists to prescribe patients antiviral treatments at pharmacies, **the majority across political parties remain supportive.**
3. In fact, over half (54%) of **adults indicate they would be likely to seek antiviral medication from a pharmacist and 56% say the same about their pharmacist.**
4. And, approximately two thirds of adults say that allowing pharmacists to prescribe COVID-19 antiviral medications would have a **mostly positive impact on the convenience of receiving care (66%) and ability to find care (62%)** for COVID-19.

Methodology: This poll was conducted between February 15 and February 16, 2022 among a sample of 2210 Adults. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of Adults based on gender, educational attainment, age, race, and region. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

AGENDA

ANTIVIRAL AWARENESS

UTILITY OF ANTIVIRAL MEDICATION

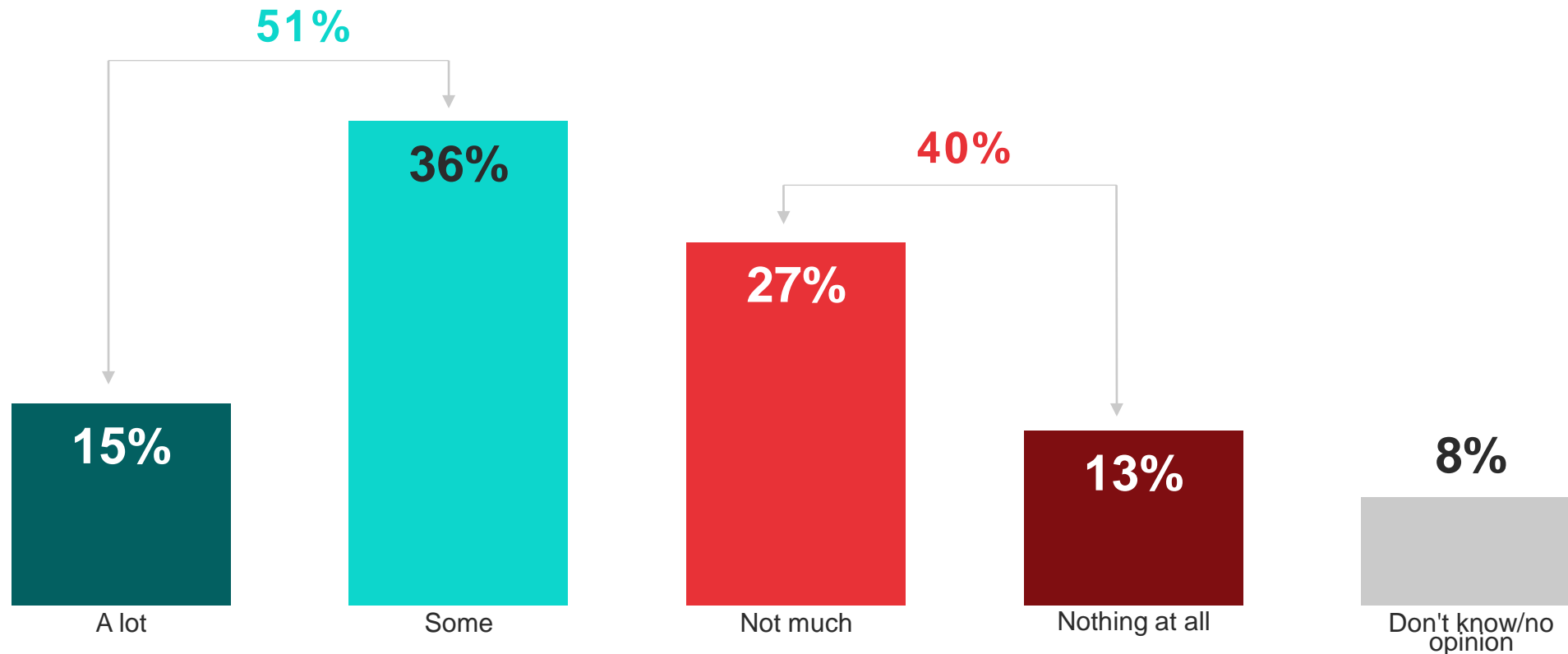
PHARMACIES AND ANTIVIRALS



ANTIVIRAL AWARENESS

In the past 2-3 months, half (51%) of adults have seen, read, or heard *a lot / some* about antiviral medications authorized by the FDA for emergency use to treat COVID-19.

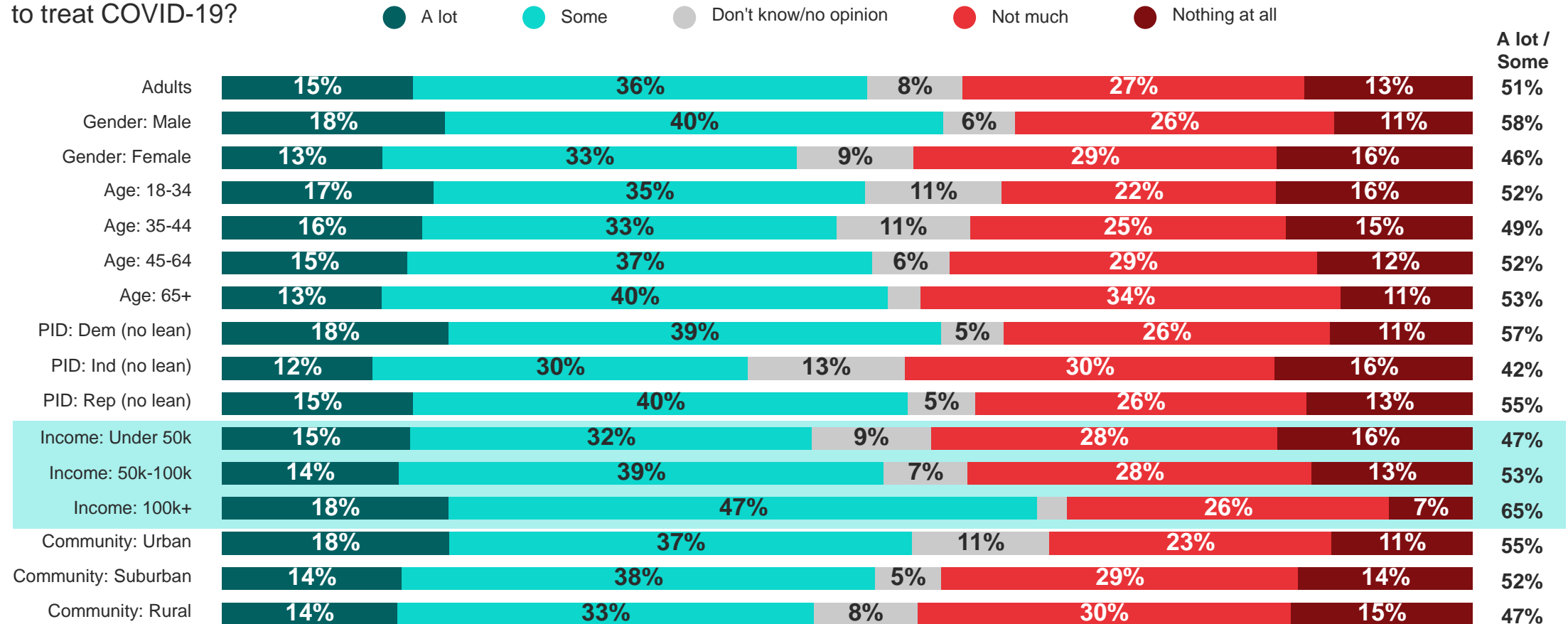
In the past 2-3 months, how much have you seen, read, or heard about antiviral medications authorized by the FDA for emergency use to treat COVID-19?



ANTIVIRAL AWARENESS

Higher income adults are more likely (65%) than lower income adults (47%) to have heard *a lot / some* about antiviral medications being authorized by the FDA for emergency use to treat COVID-19.

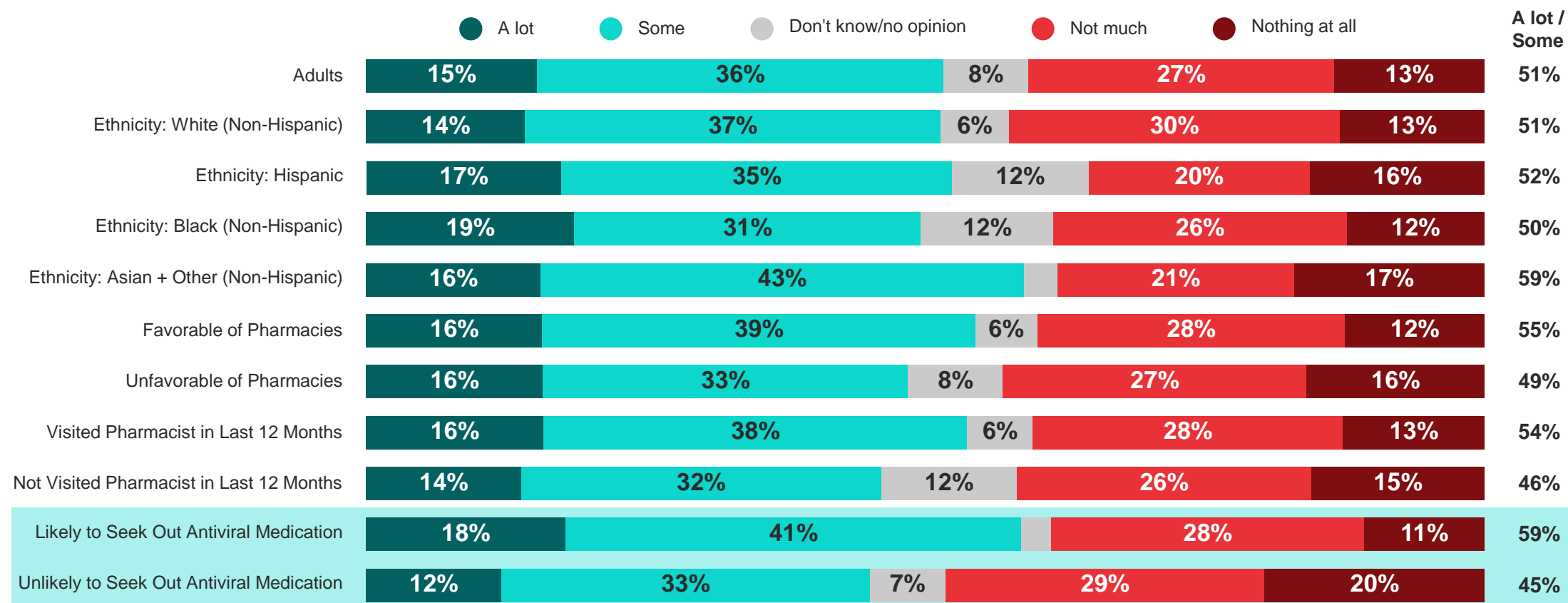
In the past 2-3 months, how much have you seen, read, or heard about antiviral medications authorized by the FDA for emergency use to treat COVID-19?



ANTIVIRAL AWARENESS

Adults who are likely to seek out antiviral medication to treat COVID-19 have seen, read, or heard more (59%) about antiviral medications being authorized by the FDA for emergency use than those who are unlikely to seek out antiviral medication (45%) to treat COVID-19.

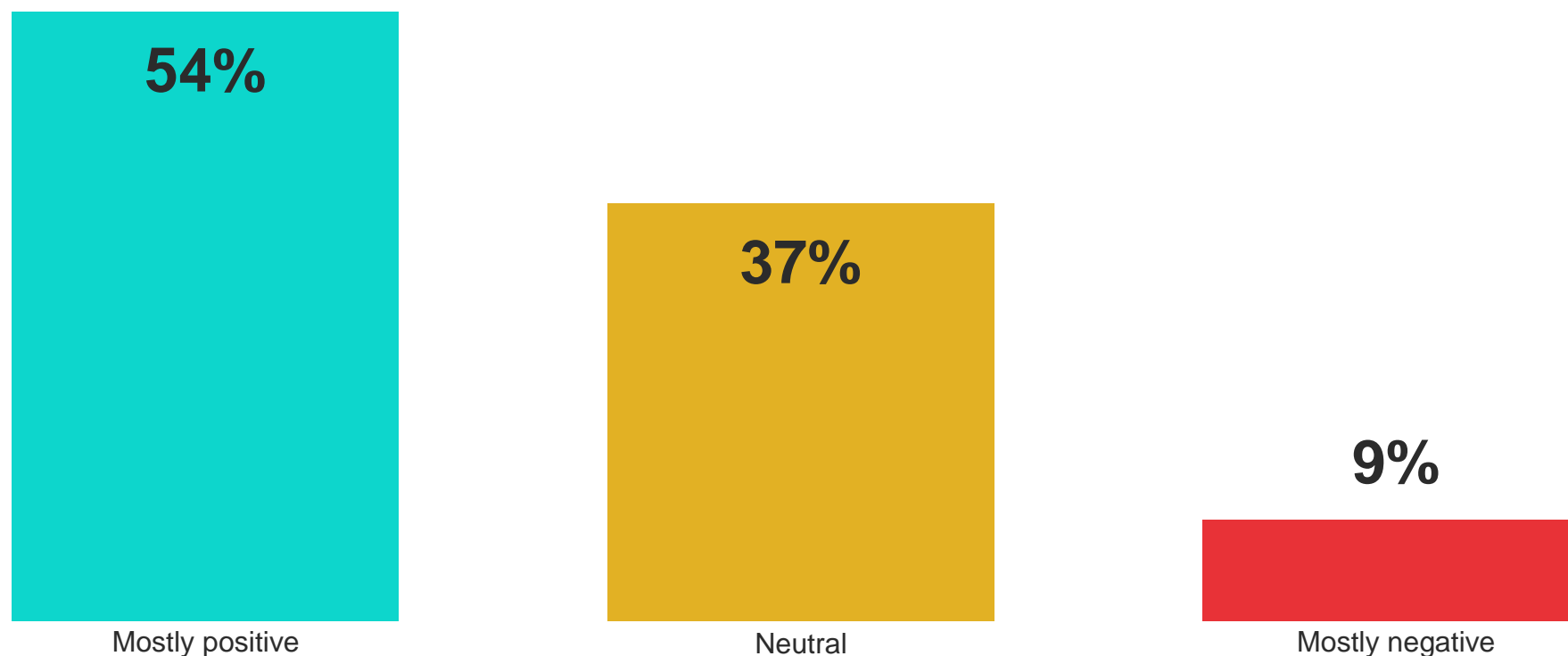
In the past 2-3 months, how much have you seen, read, or heard about antiviral medications authorized by the FDA for emergency use to treat COVID-19?



ANTIVIRAL AWARENESS

Among those who have seen, read, or heard *a lot / some* about the FDA authorizing antiviral medication to treat COVID-19, over half (54%) said that what they seen, read, or heard was positive – only 9% said it was negative.

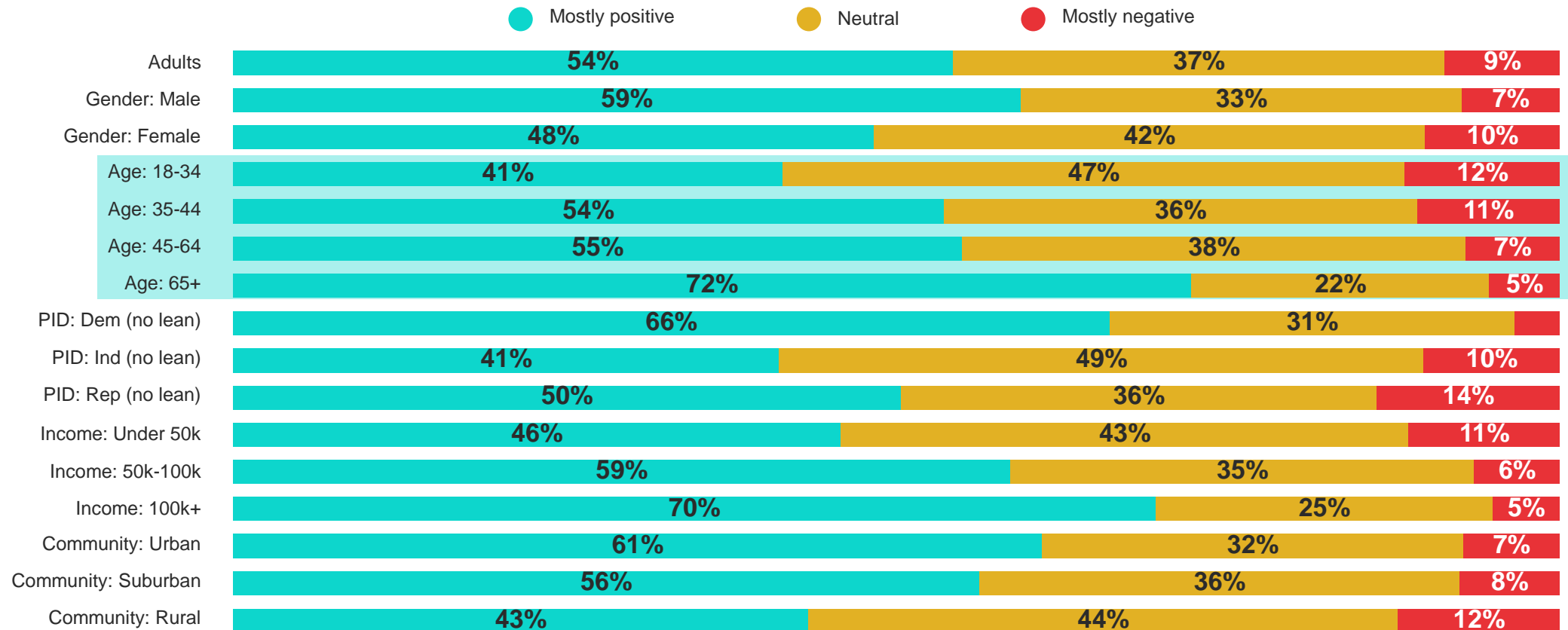
And was what you heard about COVID-19 antiviral medication authorized by the FDA for emergency use mostly positive, mostly negative, or neutral?



ANTIVIRAL AWARENESS

Among those who have seen, read, or heard *a lot / some* about the FDA authorizing antiviral medication to treat COVID-19, seniors (72%) are more likely than any other age group to indicate what they heard was positive.

And was what you heard about COVID-19 antiviral medication authorized by the FDA for emergency use mostly positive, mostly negative, or neutral?



*only asked among adults who indicated they SRH a lot / some about the FDA authorizing antiviral medication to treat COVID-19 (N=1,141)

ANTIVIRAL AWARENESS

Among those who have seen, read, or heard *a lot / some* about the FDA authorizing antiviral medication to treat COVID-19, adults who are likely to seek out antiviral medication are more likely (64%) than those who are unlikely (26%) to say what they have heard about the authorization is *positive*.

And was what you heard about COVID-19 antiviral medication authorized by the FDA for emergency use mostly positive, mostly negative, or neutral?



*only asked among adults who indicated they SRH a lot / some about the FDA authorizing antiviral medication to treat COVID-19 (N=1,141)

ANTIVIRAL AWARENESS

When it comes to COVID-19 antivirals, adults say they have seen, read, or heard about potential side effects, government intervention, conflicting information generally, and that they could reduce risks and symptoms.

In a few words, what have you seen, read, or heard about COVID-19 antiviral medication authorized by the FDA for emergency use?

HEARD ABOUT POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS

“**Rare side effects**, not 100% effective.”

“That **the side effects** can sometimes be more serious than covid-19 itself.”

HEARD ABOUT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION

“Although these medications seem to work on COVID symptoms, **the federal government is making it difficult** for states to get these for their constituents.”

“I saw where they are very effective [in] reducing the symptoms and severity of COVID but **that the government is limiting the use of them.**”

HEARD GENERALLY CONFLICTING THINGS

“I have heard everything and anything you can think of about COVID-19 and antivirals, and honestly, I don't know what to believe **because it is so misconstrued.**”

“I have not seen much; I have just been **seeing conflicting results**, but I am still not confident in them.”

HEARD IT HELPS REDUCE RISKS AND SYMPTOMS

“I read that an antiviral medication became available and that, if taken at the onset of symptoms, should greatly **reduce the risk of serious or fatal symptoms.**”

“I heard that people are responding to it well and it helps with **having less severe symptoms** of COVID.”

**only asked among adults who indicated they SRH a lot / some about the FDA authorizing antiviral medication to treat COVID-19 (N=1,141)*

AGENDA

ANTIVIRAL AWARENESS

UTILITY OF ANTIVIRAL MEDICATION

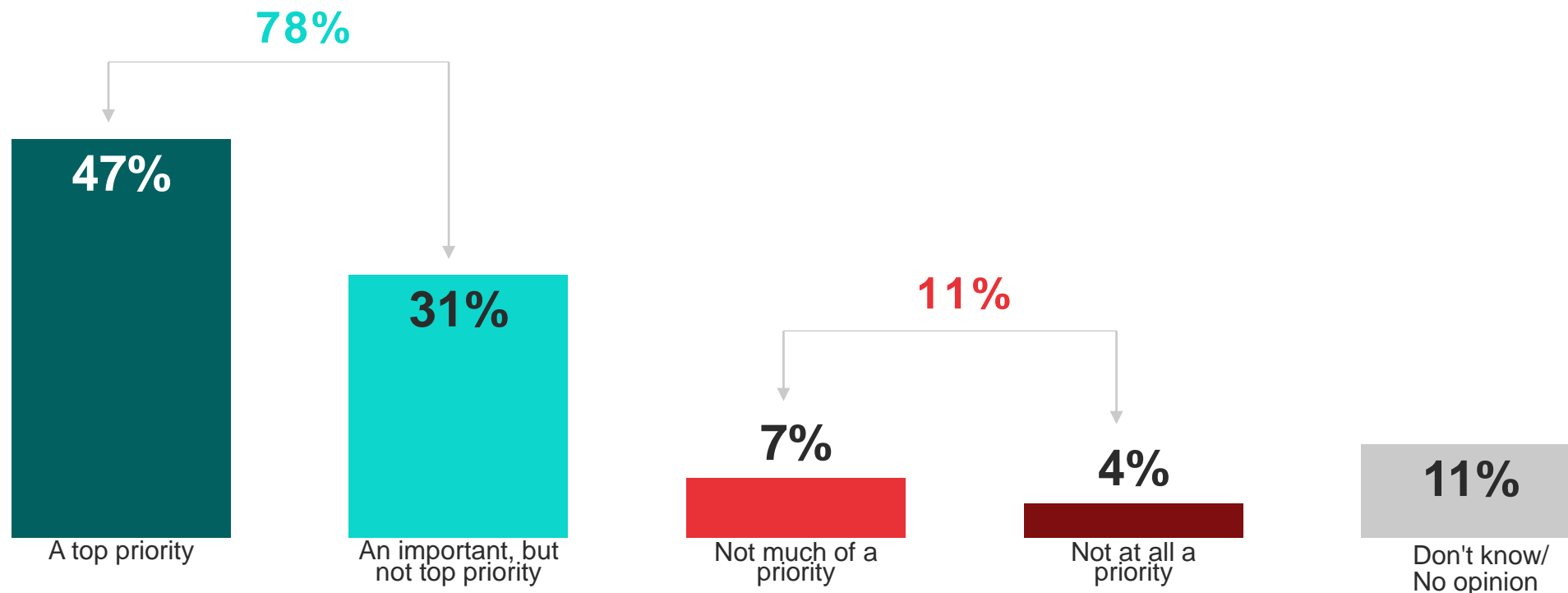
PHARMACIES AND ANTIVIRALS



UTILITY OF ANTIVIRAL MEDICATION

Three-in-four (78%) adults say that it should be a *top / important* priority for COVID-19 antiviral medications authorized by the FDA to be made widely available to the public.

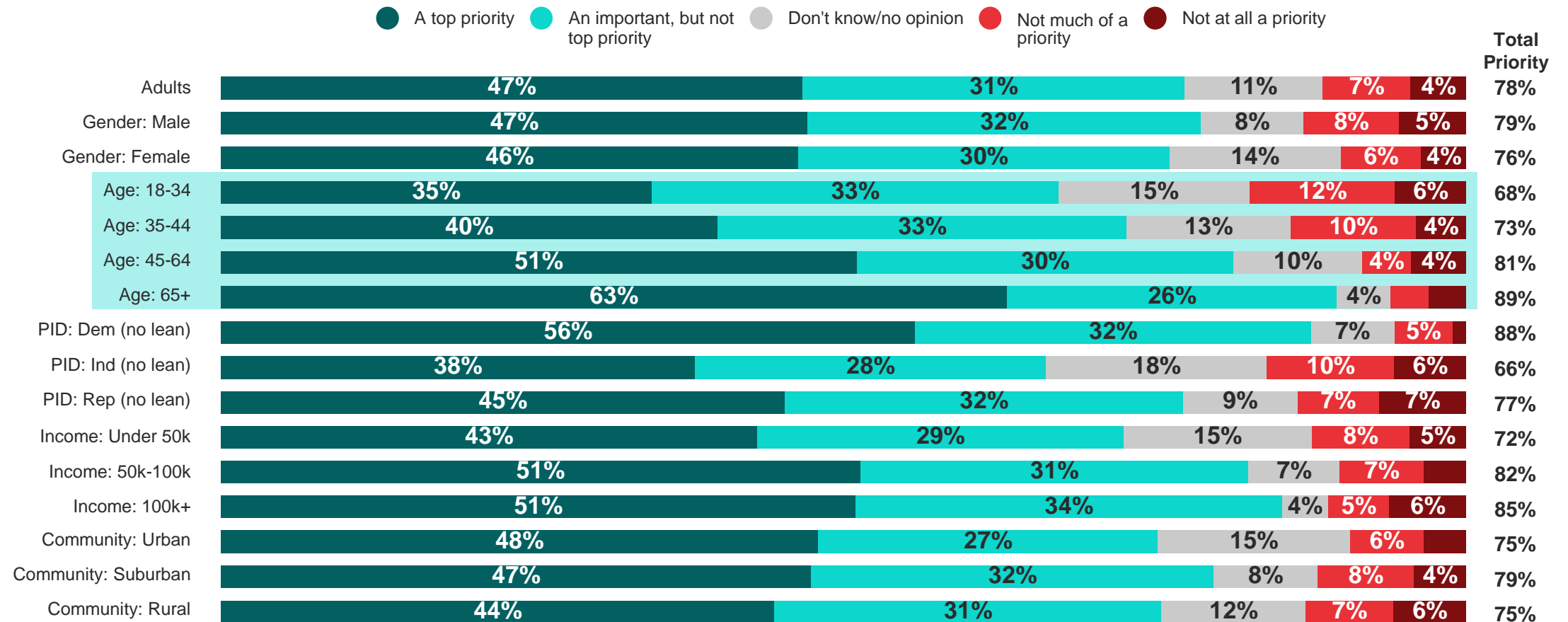
How much of a priority, if at all, should it be for COVID-19 antiviral medications authorized by the FDA for emergency use to be made widely available to the public?



UTILITY OF ANTIVIRAL MEDICATION

Seniors (63%) are more likely than all other age groups to indicate that making COVID-19 antiviral medications available to the public should be *a top priority*.

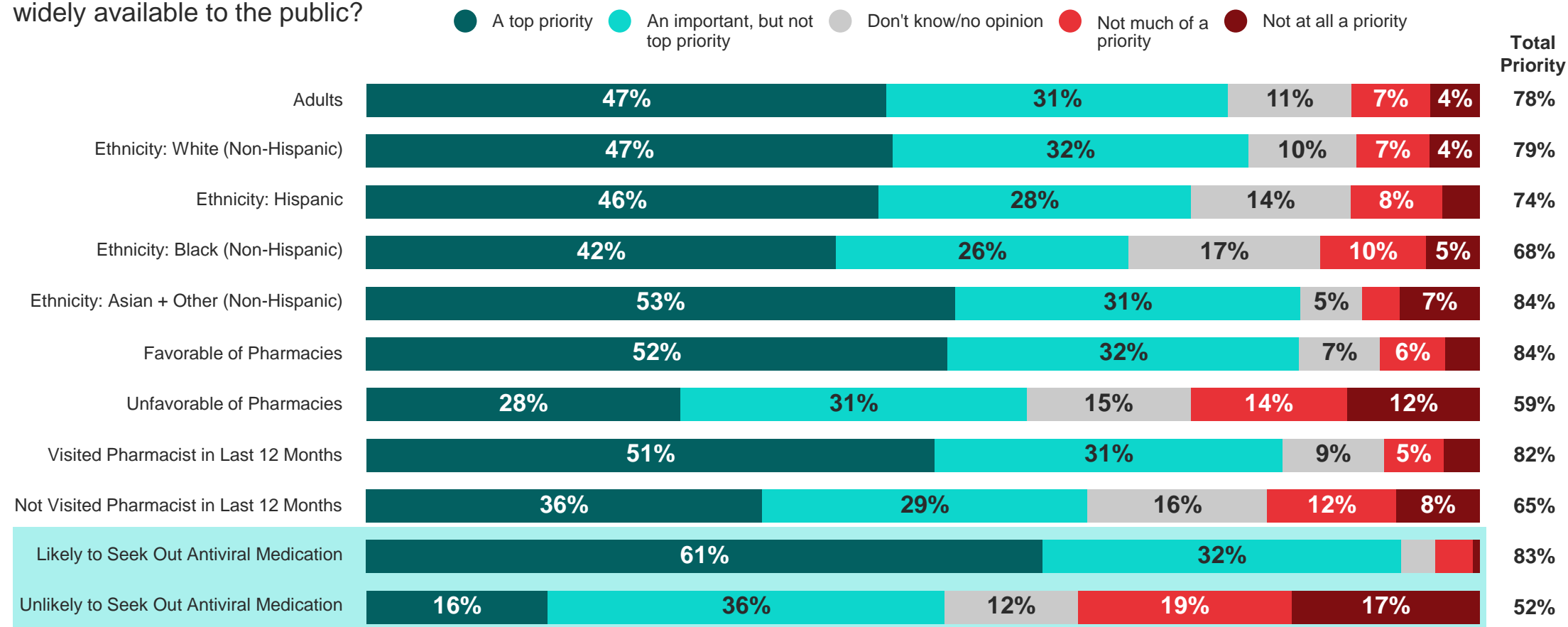
How much of a priority, if at all, should it be for COVID-19 antiviral medications authorized by the FDA for emergency use to be made widely available to the public?



UTILITY OF ANTIVIRAL MEDICATION

Adults who are likely to seek out antiviral medication to treat COVID-19 are more likely (61%) to indicate that it should be a *top priority* for COVID-19 antiviral medications to be made to the public than those who are unlikely to seek out antiviral medication (16%).

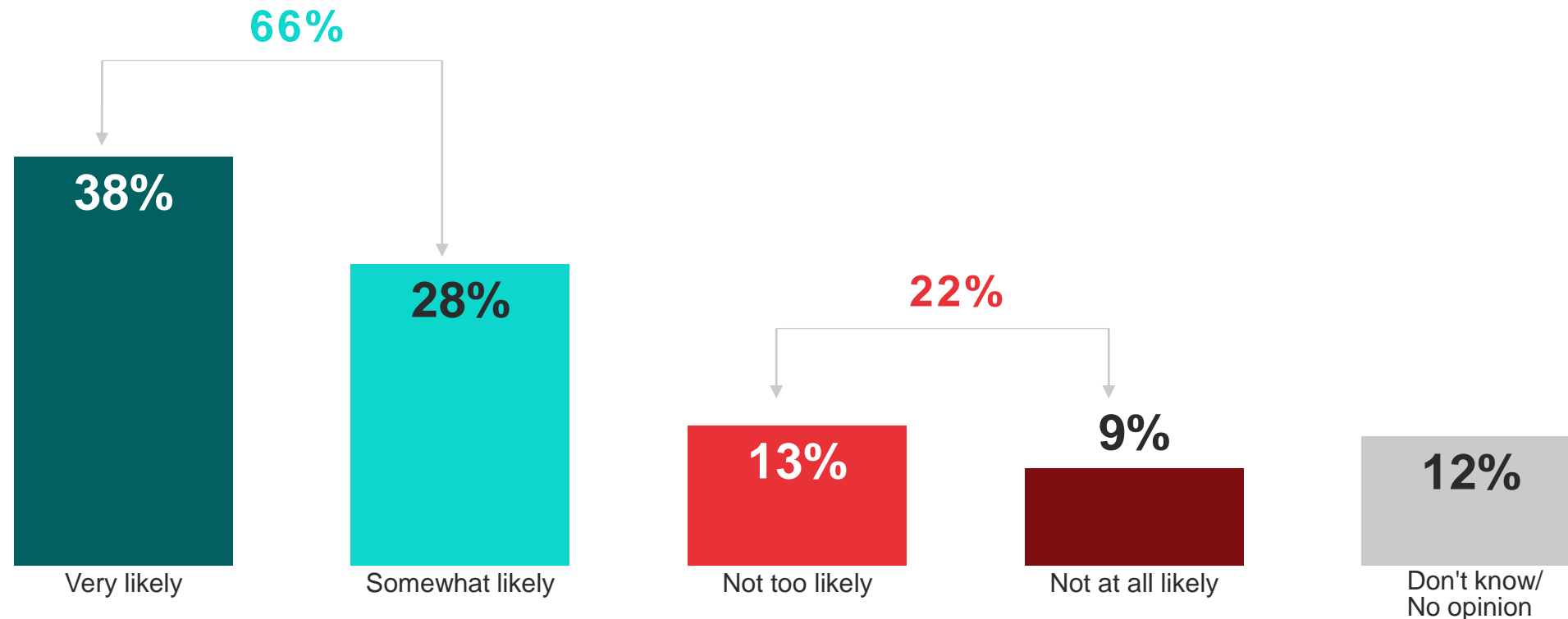
How much of a priority, if at all, should it be for COVID-19 antiviral medications authorized by the FDA for emergency use to be made widely available to the public?



UTILITY OF ANTIVIRAL MEDICATION

Two-in-three (66%) adults are likely to seek out antiviral medication if they were to contract COVID-19.

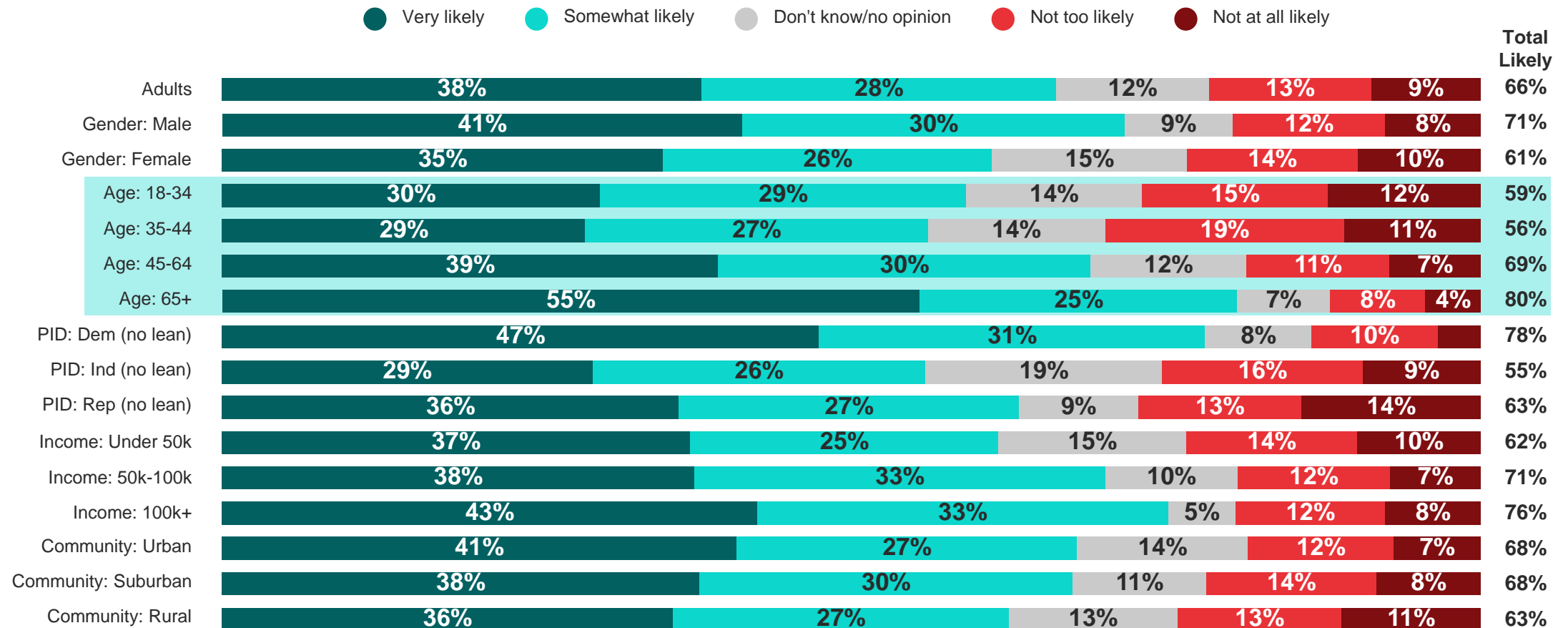
If you were to contract COVID-19, how likely would you be to seek out antiviral medication to treat it?



UTILITY OF ANTIVIRAL MEDICATION

Seniors are more likely (80%) than younger adults (18-34) (59%) to seek out antiviral medication to treat COVID-19.

If you were to contract COVID-19, how likely would you be to seek out antiviral medication to treat it?



UTILITY OF ANTIVIRAL MEDICATION

Adults say that they would not seek out antiviral medication to treat COVID-19 because they are worried about side effects, they do not need it because they are already vaccinated, they are healthy and just do not need it, and that they are worried about access and price.

You previously mentioned you would not be likely to seek out antiviral medication to treat COVID-19 if you were to contract it. In a few words, why would you be unlikely to do this?

WORRIED ABOUT SIDE EFFECTS

“The threat of long-term **side effects** due to limited trials.”

“I feel my immune system is strong enough to fight off the virus. Pharmaceutical companies don't really care about **side effects** and public safety as much as they do about the profit.”

ALREADY VACCINATED

“Because I've been vaccinated [and] there's nothing to do with it after you've been **vaccinated.**”

“Since I'm **vaccinated**, I think I'd likely have mild symptoms and wouldn't need to take medication.”

LIMITED ACCESS / TOO EXPENSIVE

“My doctor's office is booked months out at a time and if it's something that insurance doesn't cover then I wouldn't be able to get it. I'm supposed to be on a prescription for my stomach and I couldn't even pick it up due to it being so **high in price.**”

“I **wouldn't know the best way to get access to it.** I also do not like putting medicine in my body that hasn't been out long and may have bad side effects.”

I AM HEALTHY / DO NOT NEED IT

“I believe I am **healthy** enough to be alright if I catch COVID.”

“I am **pretty healthy** so I do not think COVID would affect me badly so I would just stay home and stay away from others while I get better.”

AGENDA

ANTIVIRAL AWARENESS

UTILITY OF ANTIVIRAL MEDICATION

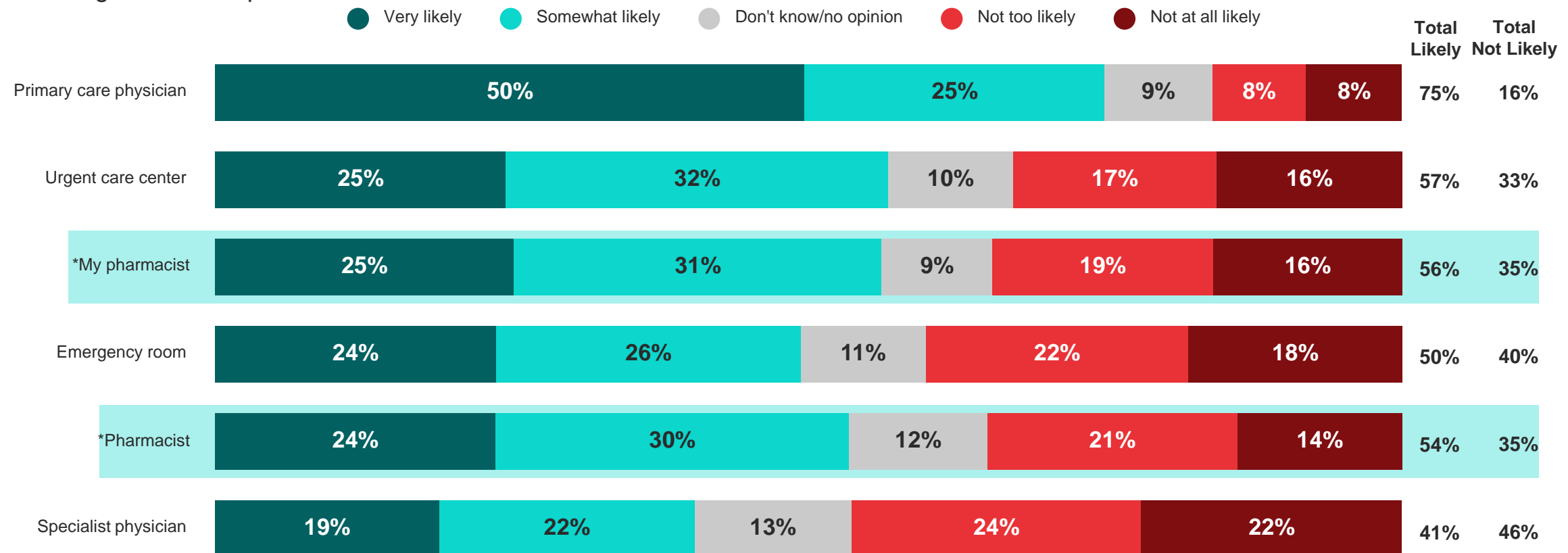
PHARMACIES AND ANTIVIRALS



PHARMACIES AND ANTIVIRALS

Over half (54%) of adults indicate they would be likely to seek antiviral medication from a *pharmacist* and 56% say the same about *their pharmacist*. One third (35%) indicate they are not likely to seek out medication from both options tested.

If you were to contract COVID-19 and seek out antiviral medication to treat it, how likely would you be to seek care from each of the following health care providers?

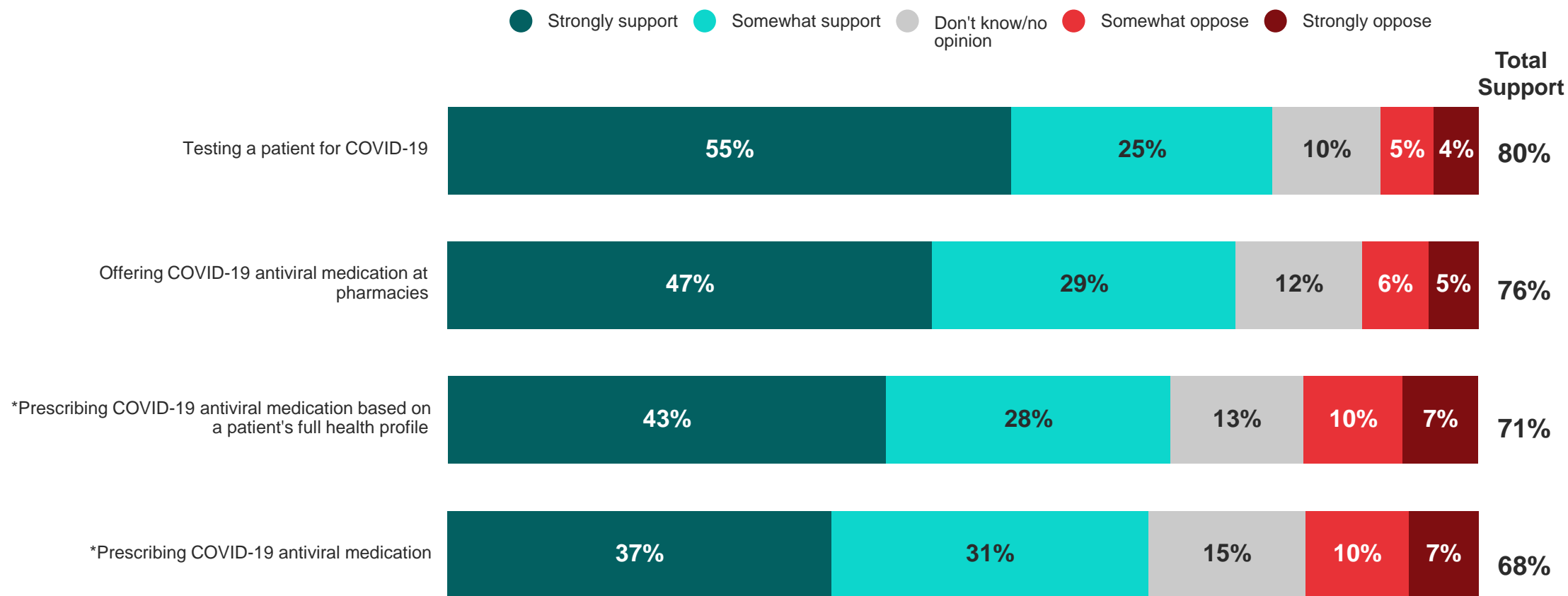


*indicates half sample

PHARMACIES AND ANTIVIRALS

Adults are more supportive of pharmacists offering COVID-19 antiviral medication (76%) than they are of pharmacist prescribing it (68%), though the majority support both offerings.

Do you support or oppose pharmacists doing each of the following?



*indicates half sample

PHARMACIES AND ANTIVIRALS

Adults likely to seek out antiviral medication are more supportive of pharmacists prescribing COVID-19 antiviral medication (83%) than those who are unlikely to seek out antiviral medication (44%).

Do you support or oppose pharmacists doing each of the following?

Total Support	Adults	Democrats	Independents	Republicans	Visited Pharmacist in Last 12 Months	Not Visited Pharmacist in Last 12 Months	Likely to Seek Out Antiviral Medication	Unlikely to Seek Out Antiviral Medication
Testing a patient for COVID-19	80%	88%	72%	78%	86%	67%	90%	67%
Offering COVID-19 antiviral medication at pharmacies	76%	84%	68%	75%	81%	65%	89%	57%
*Prescribing COVID-19 antiviral medication based on a patient's full health profile	71%	82%	57%	70%	74%	60%	82%	54%
*Prescribing COVID-19 antiviral medication	68%	81%	58%	64%	74%	56%	83%	44%

*indicates half sample

PHARMACIES AND ANTIVIRALS

While only 17% of adults are opposed to pharmacists prescribing COVID-19 antiviral medication, those who are opposed say it's because prescriptions should come through a doctor, they do not trust pharmacists to make prescriptions, and general distrust toward antivirals.

You previously mentioned that you oppose pharmacists prescribing COVID-19 antiviral medication. In a few words, why do you oppose pharmacists prescribing COVID-19 antiviral medication?

PRESCRIPTION SHOULD
COME THROUGH DOCTOR

“The medicine should be **prescribed by your doctor**. This is not what a pharmacist should be doing, especially not knowing a patient's medical history.

“**Pharmacists don't prescribe medications to patients, physicians do**. Why should COVID-19 antiviral medications be any different?”

DO NOT TRUST PHARMACIST TO PRESCRIBE ANYTHING

“I **don't** think pharmacists should **prescribe ANY medication**.”

“A pharmacist is **not a doctor** and shouldn't be able to prescribe meds.”

DO NOT TRUST ANTIVIRALS

“They may be highly qualified, **but they are not doctors**.”

“It is **not part of their training to prescribe medications**. If something happened to a patient, they may be held liable.”

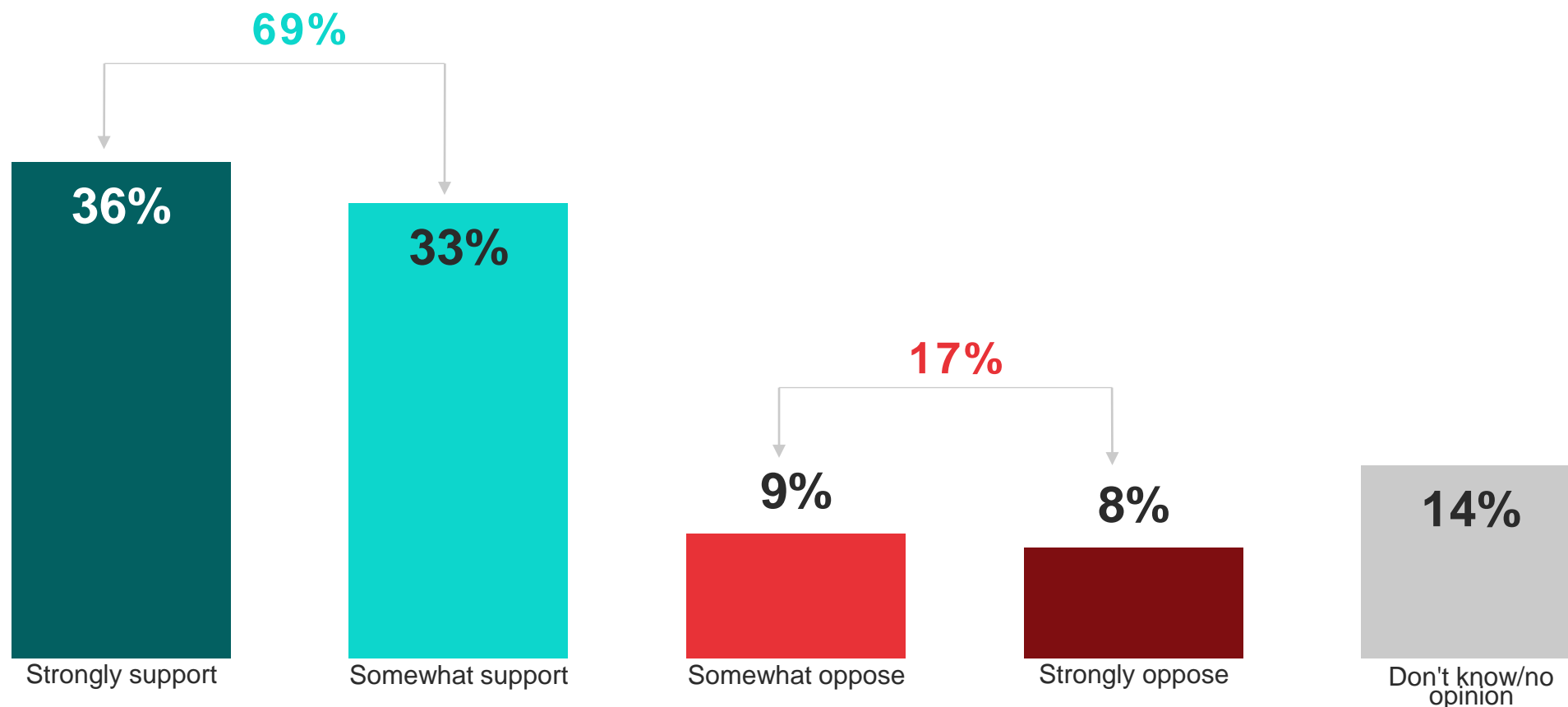
“I **have not** seen anything that **says these are safe or approved**.”

“There is **not enough information on long term effects**, I think this whole COVID is political nonsense.”

PHARMACIES AND ANTIVIRALS

Seven-in-ten (69%) adults support allowing pharmacists to prescribe patients COVID-19 antiviral treatment at a pharmacy.

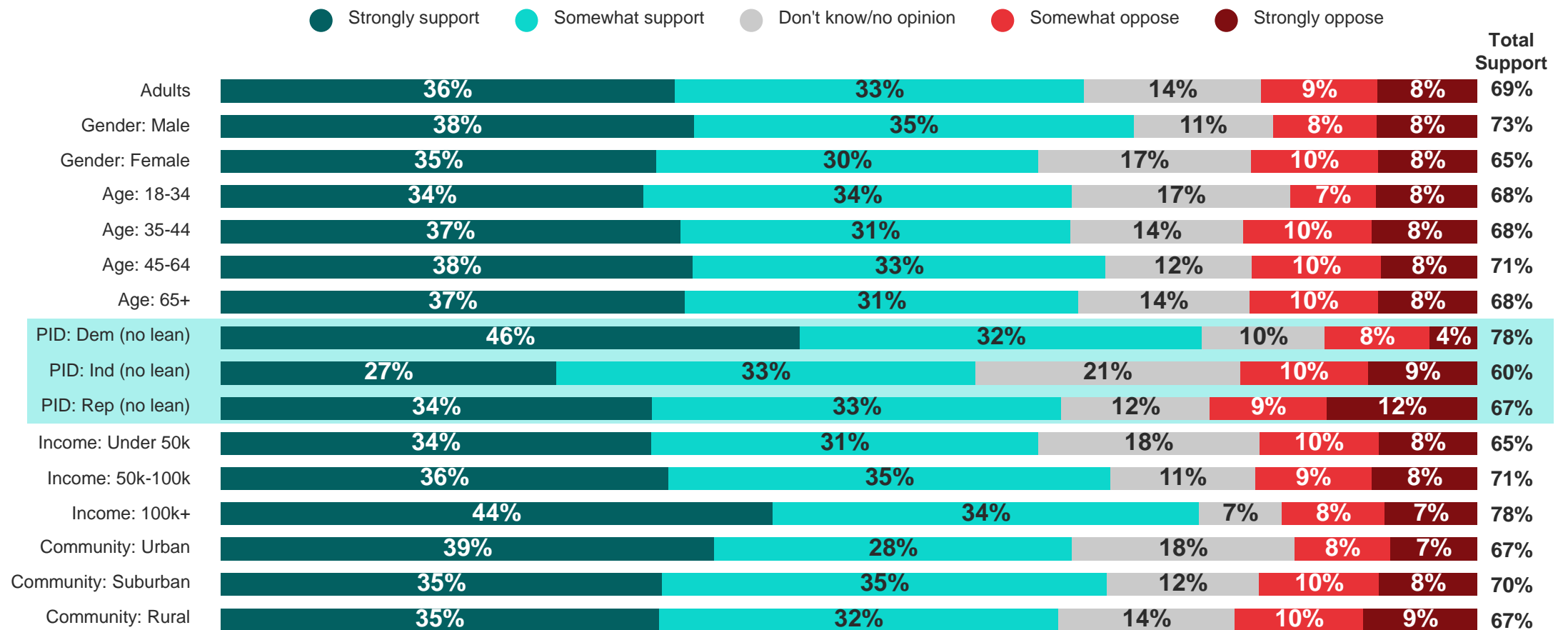
Do you support or oppose allowing pharmacists to prescribe patients COVID-19 antiviral treatment at a pharmacy?



PHARMACIES AND ANTIVIRALS

While Democrats (78%) are more supportive than Republicans (67%) or Independents (60%) of allowing pharmacists to prescribe patients antiviral treatments at pharmacies, the majority across political parties remain supportive.

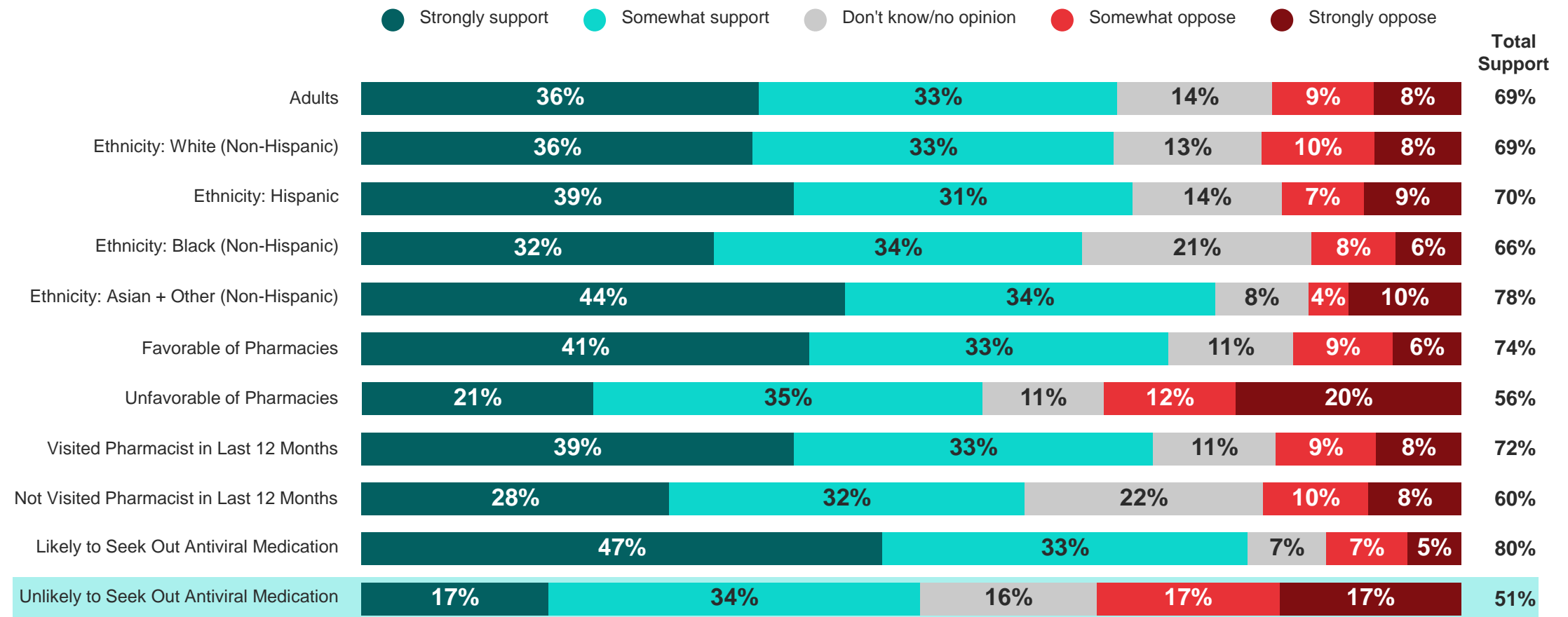
Do you support or oppose allowing pharmacists to prescribe patients COVID-19 antiviral treatment at a pharmacy?



PHARMACIES AND ANTIVIRALS

Half (51%) of adults who are unlikely to seek out antiviral medication to treat COVID-19 are supportive of pharmacists being able to prescribe antiviral medications at a pharmacy.

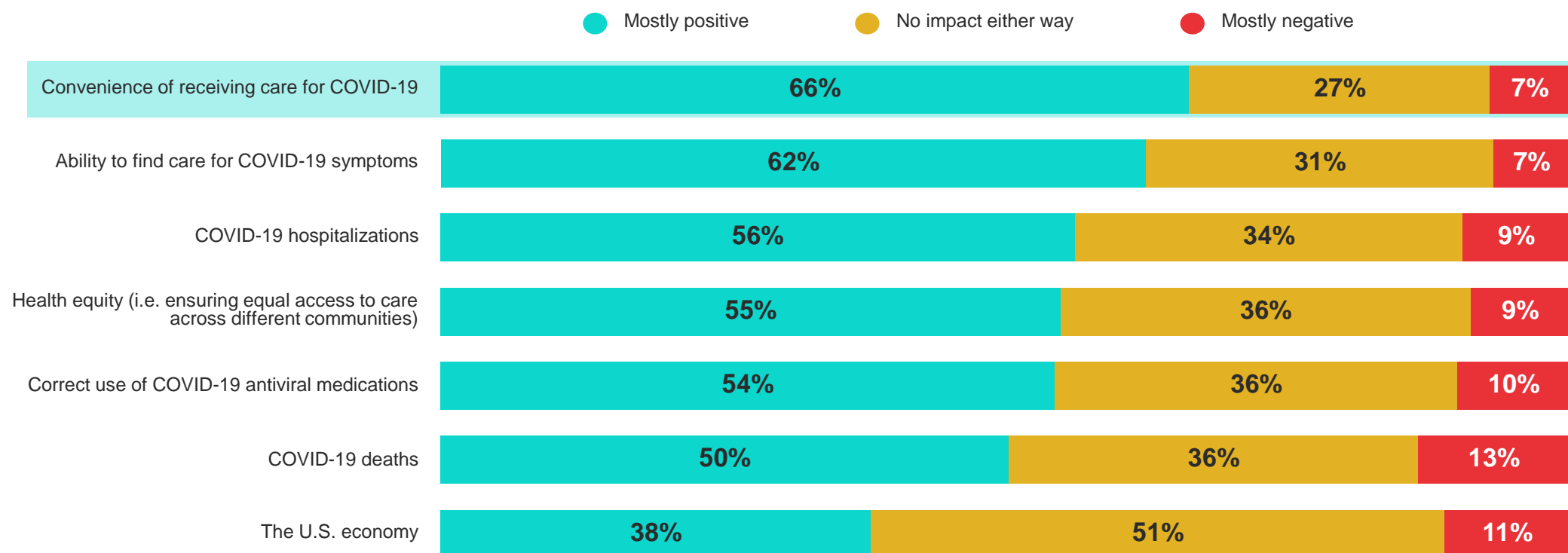
Do you support or oppose allowing pharmacists to prescribe patients COVID-19 antiviral treatment at a pharmacy?



PHARMACIES AND ANTIVIRALS

Approximately two thirds of adults say that allowing pharmacists to prescribe COVID-19 antiviral medications would have a mostly positive impact on the convenience of receiving care (66%) and ability to find care (62%) for COVID-19.

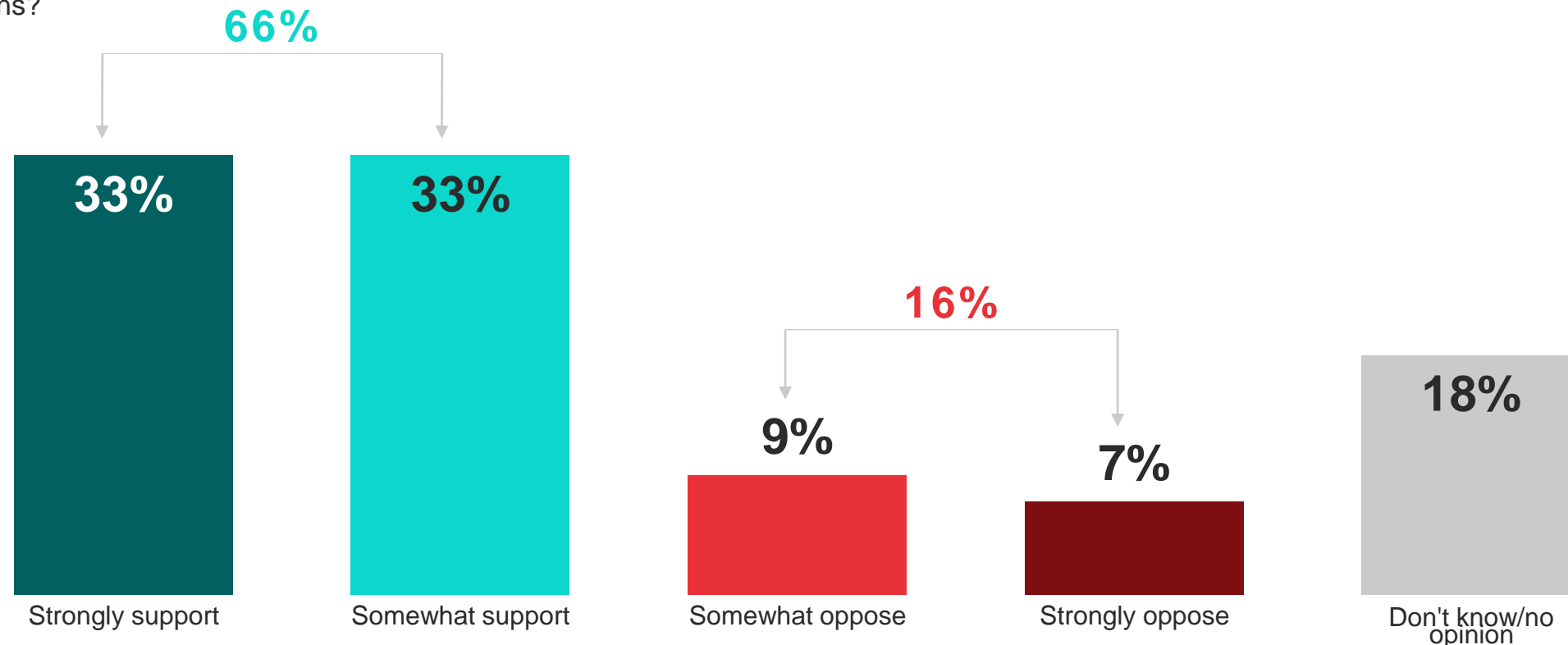
As you may know, the government recently took formal action to allow pharmacists to prescribe COVID-19 antiviral medications during the public health emergency, in preparation for when these medications became available. However, when the antiviral medications were approved for emergency use, the government then did not include pharmacists among those who can prescribe the antiviral medications. The government is allowing physicians, advanced practice registered nurses, and physician assistants to prescribe the antiviral medications. If the U.S. were to allow pharmacists to prescribe COVID-19 antiviral medications, would it have a mostly positive or mostly negative impact on each of the following, or would it not have an impact either way?



PHARMACIES AND ANTIVIRALS

Two thirds of adults support increasing the reimbursement amount paid to pharmacies in order to fully cover the pharmacies cost of providing antiviral medications (66%).

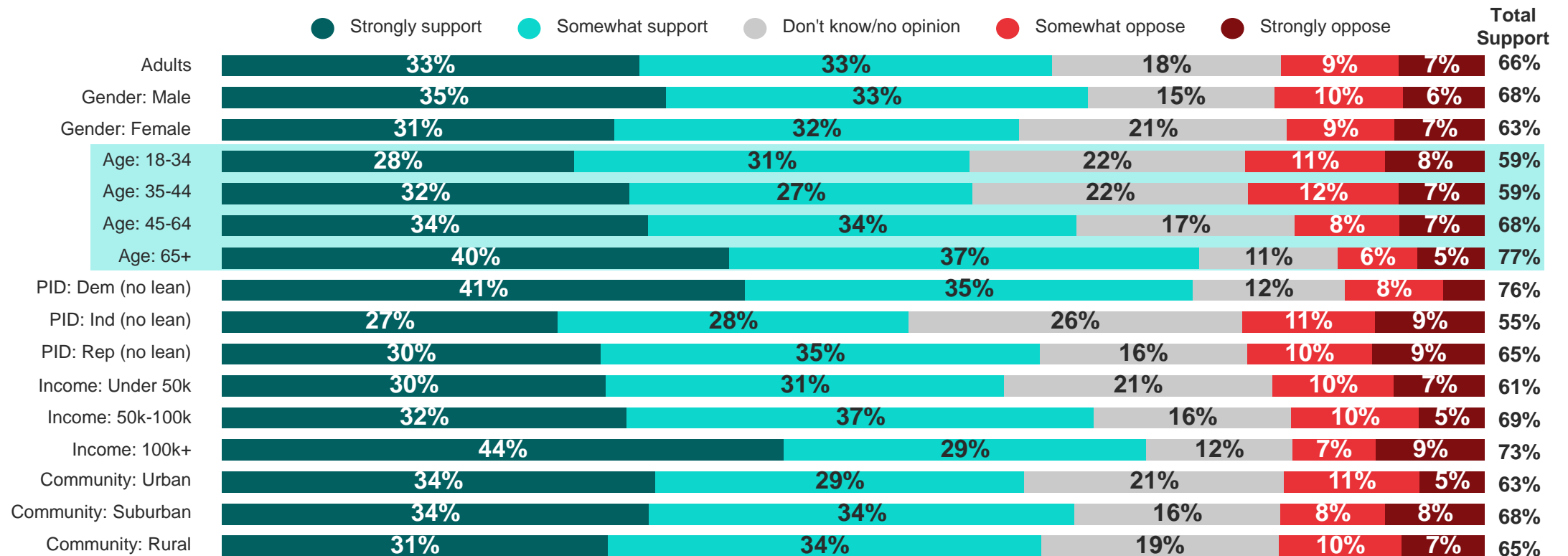
As you may know, under today's COVID-19 antiviral medication program, pharmacies are only reimbursed for the cost of dispensing the COVID-19 antiviral medication by health insurance companies. The dispensing fee is meant to cover a pharmacy's costs beyond that of the medication, such as the pharmacy staff's time, costs of pharmacy operations, and health and safety precautions for patients and pharmacy staff. No costs for these antiviral medications, including these dispensing fees, are passed along to the patient. Do you support or oppose increasing the reimbursement amount paid to pharmacies in order to fully cover the pharmacies' cost of providing COVID-19 antiviral medications at their locations?



PHARMACIES AND ANTIVIRALS

Seniors are more supportive (77%) than younger adults (59%) of increasing the reimbursement amount paid to pharmacies in order to fully cover the pharmacies cost of providing antiviral medications.

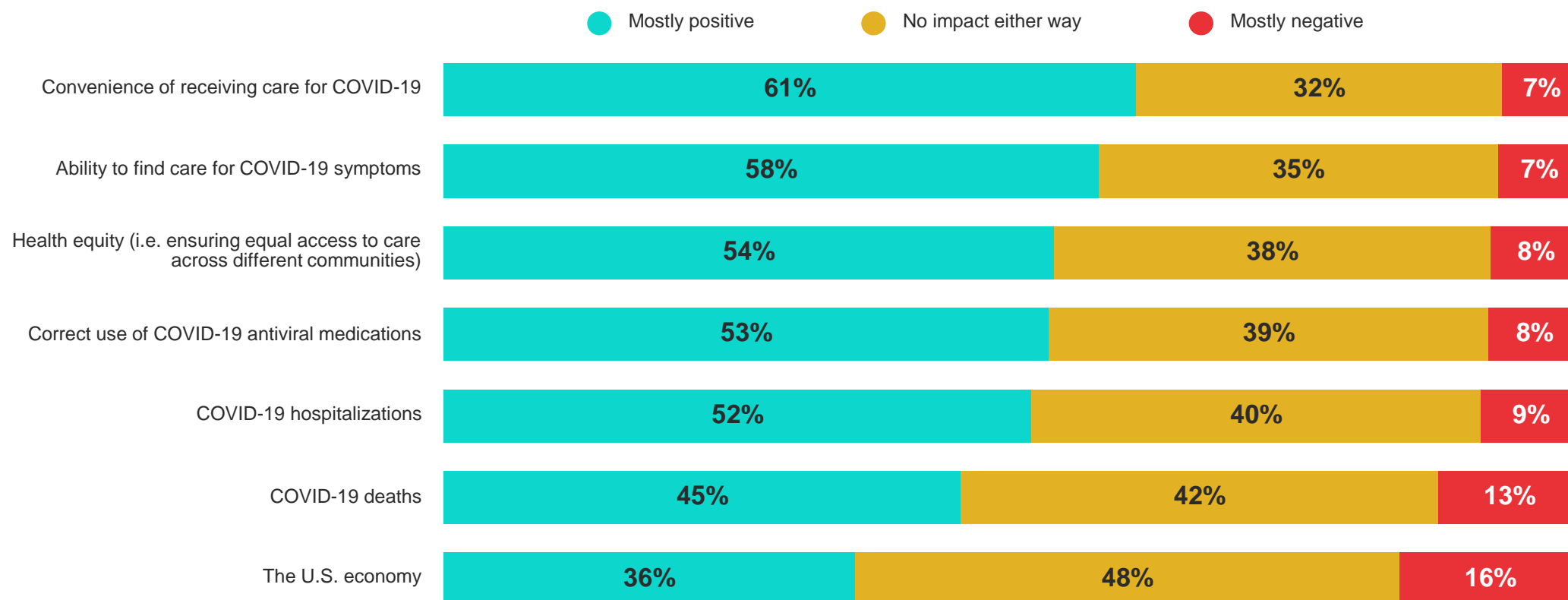
As you may know, under today's COVID-19 antiviral medication program, pharmacies are only reimbursed for the cost of dispensing the COVID-19 antiviral medication by health insurance companies. The dispensing fee is meant to cover a pharmacy's costs beyond that of the medication, such as the pharmacy staff's time, costs of pharmacy operations, and health and safety precautions for patients and pharmacy staff. No costs for these antiviral medications, including these dispensing fees, are passed along to the patient. Do you support or oppose increasing the reimbursement amount paid to pharmacies in order to fully cover the pharmacies' cost of providing COVID-19 antiviral medications at their locations?



PHARMACIES AND ANTIVIRALS

Three-in-five (61%) adults indicate that there would be a *mostly positive* impact on the convenience of receiving care for COVID-19 if the U.S. were to increase the reimbursement amount paid to pharmacies.

If the U.S. were to increase the reimbursement amount paid to pharmacies in order to fully cover the cost of providing COVID-19 antiviral medications, would it have a mostly positive or mostly negative impact on each of the following, or would it not have an impact either way?

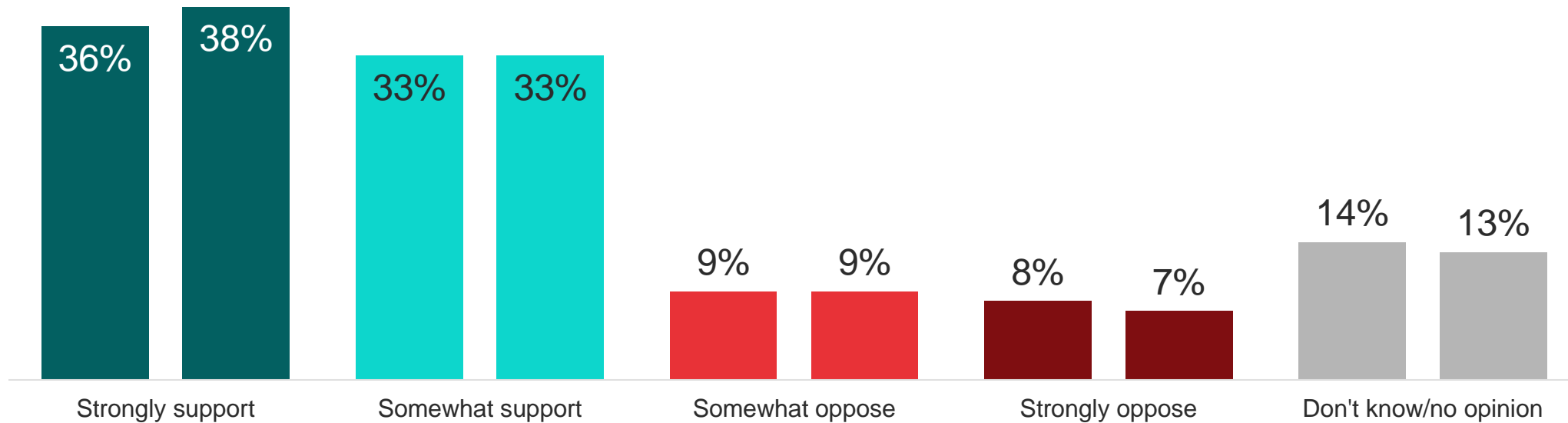


PHARMACIES AND ANTIVIRALS

Support for allowing pharmacists to prescribe antiviral medication at a pharmacy remained consistent after learning more.

After learning more, do you support or oppose allowing pharmacists to prescribe patients COVID-19 antiviral treatment at a pharmacy?

Pre: Total Support: 69% | Total Oppose: 17%
Post: Total Support: 71% | Total Oppose: 16%



PHARMACIES AND ANTIVIRALS

Seniors (+9) are the largest movers in support of allowing pharmacists to prescribe antiviral medications at a pharmacy.

After learning more, do you support or oppose allowing pharmacists to prescribe patients COVID-19 antiviral treatment at a pharmacy?

ABBREVIATION	Total Support (Strongly + Somewhat)		
	Total Support (Pre)	Total Support (Post)	Change
Adults	69%	71%	+2
Gender: Male	73%	73%	+ / - 0
Gender: Female	65%	69%	+4
Age: 18-34	68%	63%	-5
Age: 35-44	68%	70%	+2
Age: 45-64	71%	75%	+4
Age: 65+	68%	77%	+9
PID: Dem (no lean)	78%	82%	+4
PID: Ind (no lean)	60%	62%	+2
PID: Rep (no lean)	67%	69%	+2
Income: Under 50k	65%	67%	+2
Income: 50k-100k	71%	73%	+2
Income: 100k+	78%	78%	+ / - 0
Community: Urban	67%	69%	+2
Community: Suburban	70%	72%	+2
Community: Rural	67%	70%	+3

ABBREVIATION	Total Support (Strongly + Somewhat)		
	Total Support (Pre)	Total Support (Post)	Change
Adults	69%	71%	+2
Ethnicity: White (Non-Hispanic)	68%	73%	+5
Ethnicity: Hispanic	70%	65%	-5
Ethnicity: Black (Non-Hispanic)	67%	67%	+ / - 0
Ethnicity: Asian + Other (Non-Hispanic)	69%	65%	-4
Favorable of Pharmacies	74%	78%	+4
Unfavorable of Pharmacies	56%	52%	-4
Visited Pharmacist in Last 12 Months	72%	75%	+4
Not Visited Pharmacist in Last 12 Months	60%	59%	-1
Likely to Seek Out Antiviral Medication	80%	85%	+5
Unlikely to Seek Out Antiviral Medication	51%	48%	-3

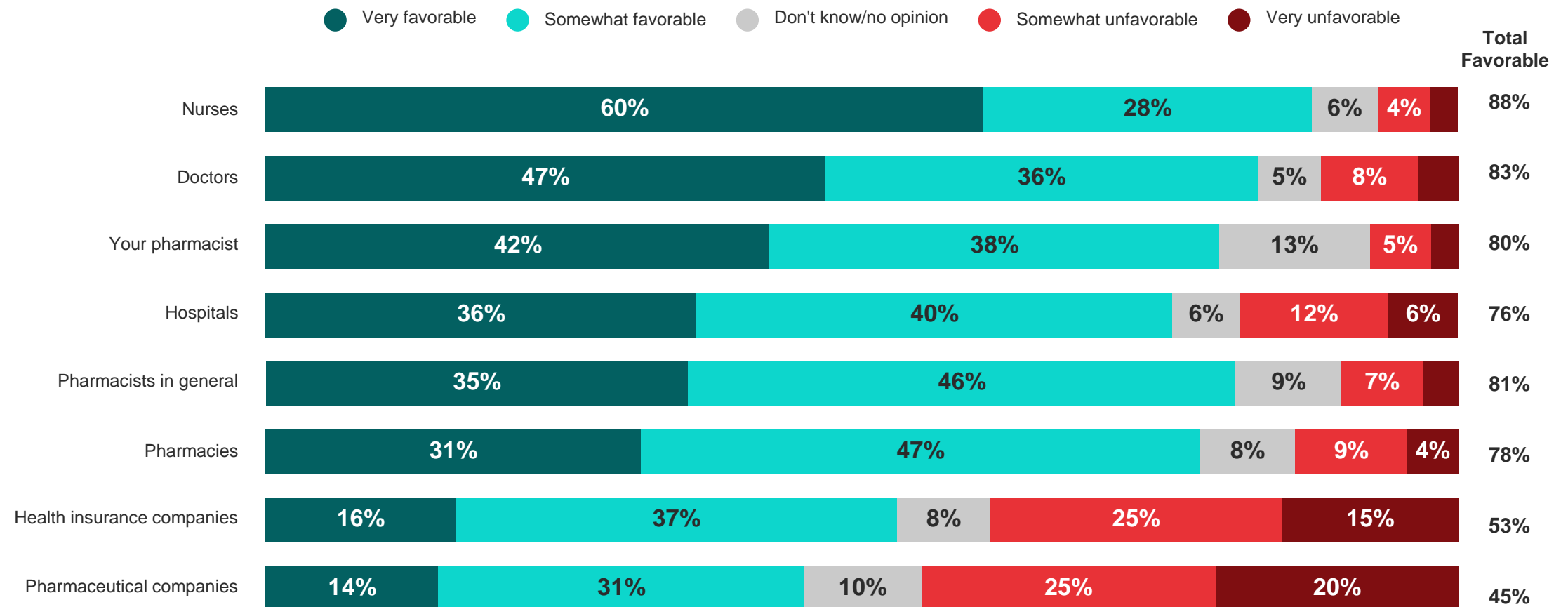


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APPENDIX

Four-in-five (80%) adults say they have a favorable opinion of their pharmacist.

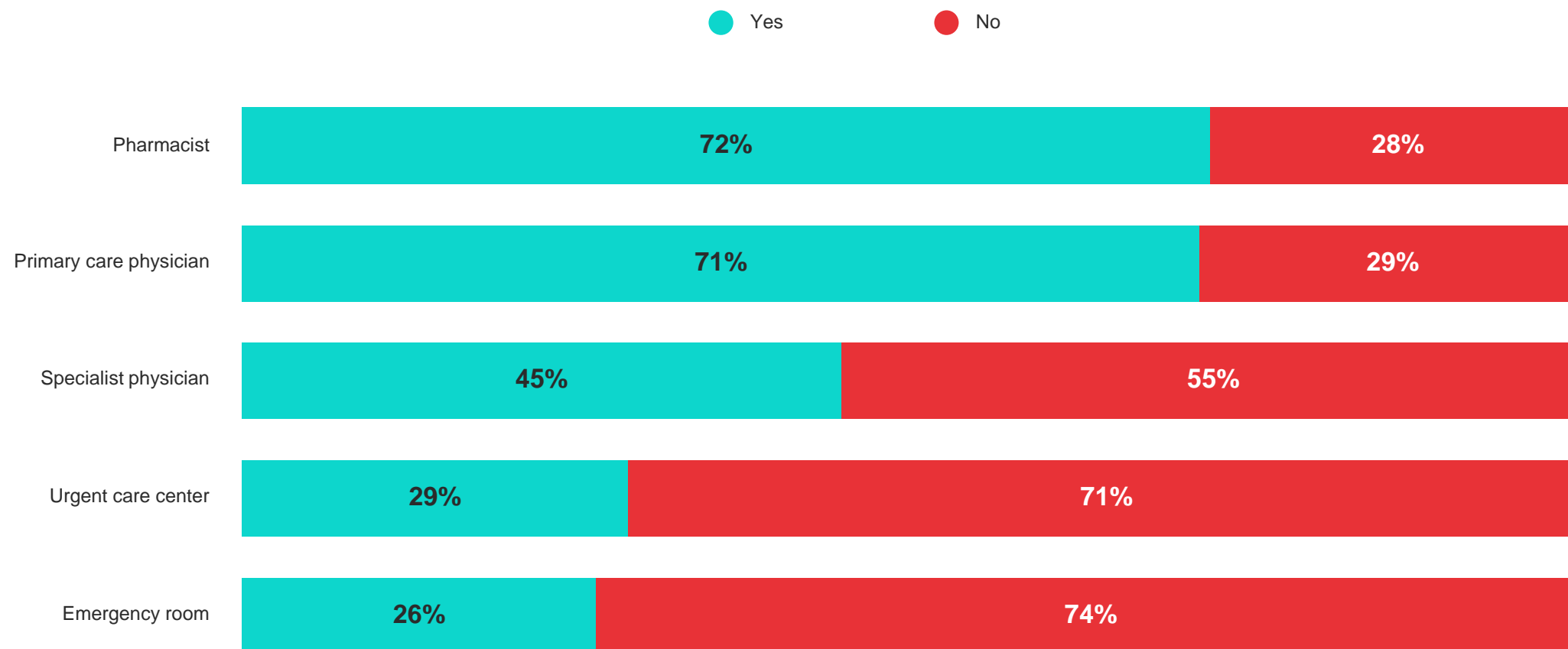
Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each of the following?



APPENDIX

Seven-in-ten adults indicate that they have visited a pharmacist (72%) or primary care physician (71%) in the past 12 months.

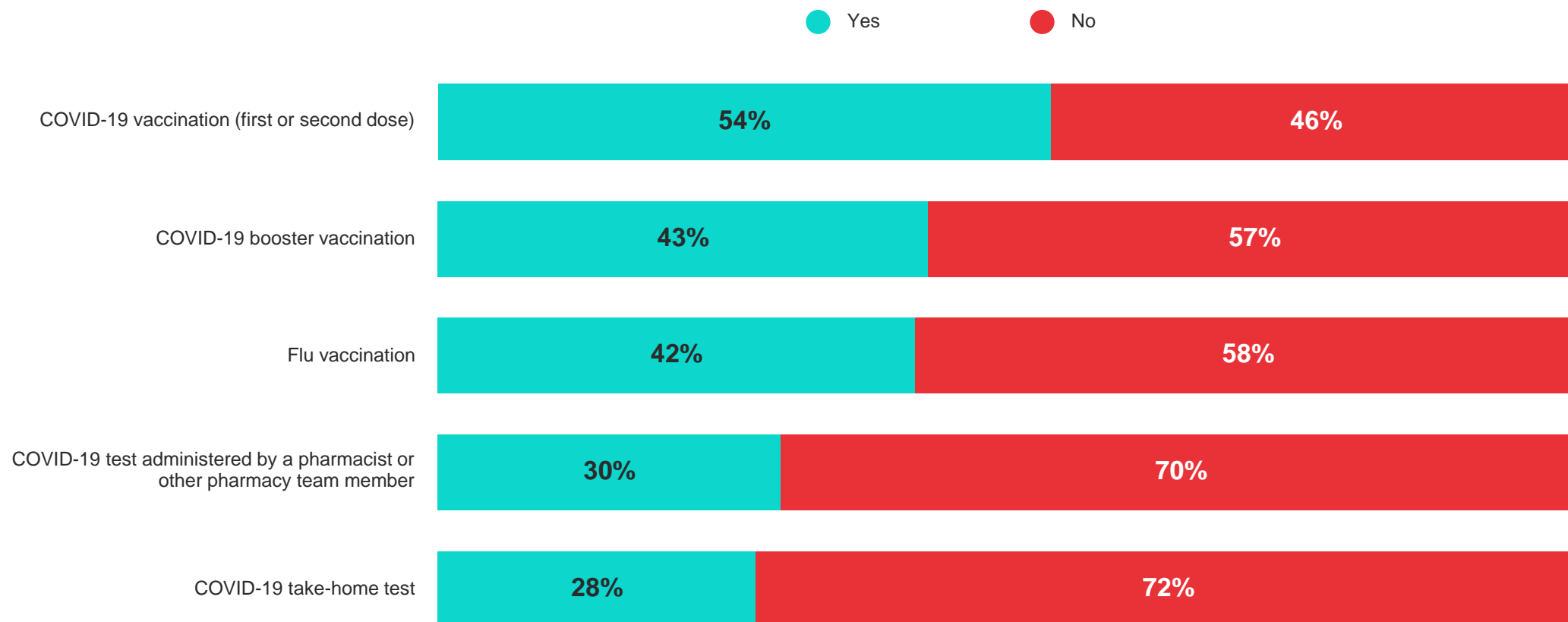
Have you visited any of the following in the past 12 months?



APPENDIX

Over half of adults (54%) indicate they have received a COVID-19 vaccination from a pharmacy or pharmacist in the past 12 months and 43% say they have received a booster vaccination.

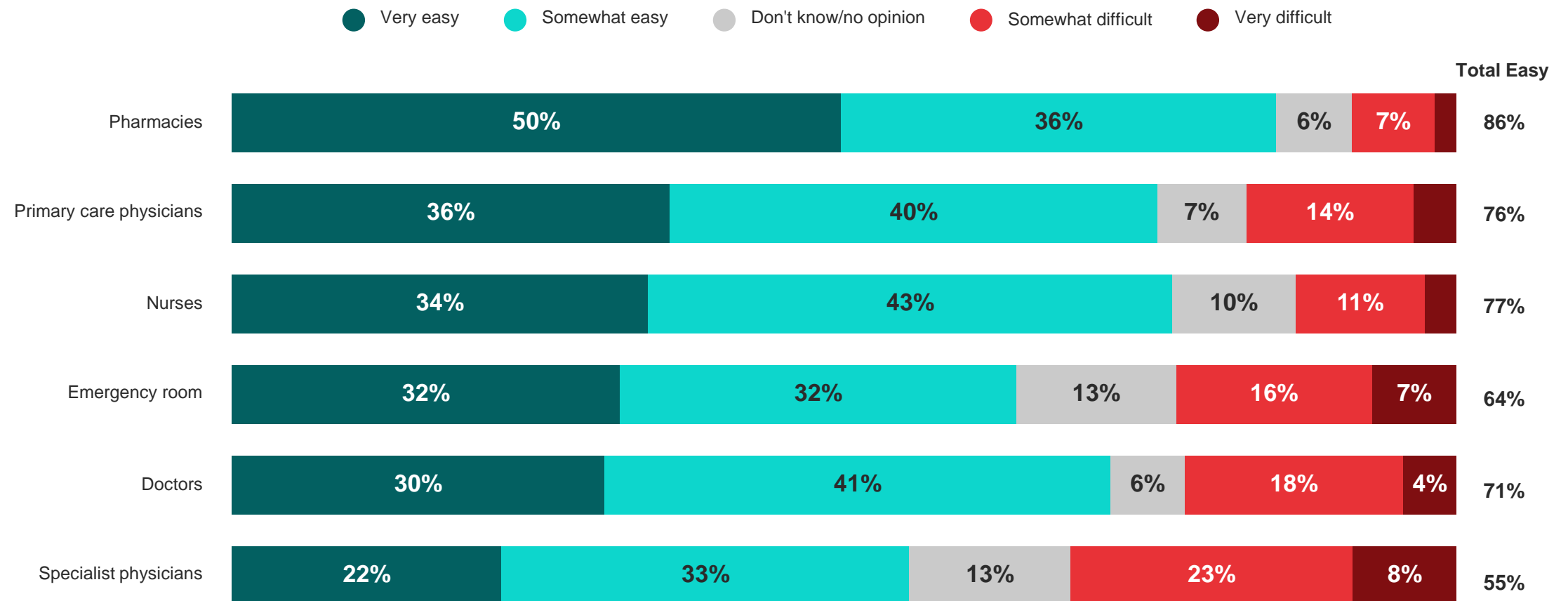
In the past 12 months, have you purchased or received any of the following from a pharmacy or pharmacist? This may include either at a standalone pharmacy location, or a pharmacy located within a grocery store or other business.



APPENDIX

When thinking about healthcare, over four-in-five (86%) adults indicate that it is *easy* to access pharmacies.

When thinking about healthcare, how easy or difficult is it to access each of the following?



APPENDIX

Two-in-three (68%) adults rate pharmacies response to COVID-19 *excellent / good*.

Below is a list of entities working to address coronavirus, also known as COVID-19. For each of the following, how would you rate their response to coronavirus (COVID-19)?

