

 MORNING CONSULT®

The background of the entire page is a photograph of two elderly people, one in a red jacket and one in a grey jacket, holding hands. The image is slightly desaturated and has a dark overlay.

pivotal  
VENTURES

BPC  
Action

# VOTER SENTIMENT ON CAREGIVING IN THE U.S.

JUNE 2024

## METHODOLOGY

This poll was conducted by Morning Consult on behalf of Pivotal Ventures and BPC Action between May 31-June 2, 2024 among a sample of 4,003 registered voters.

The interviews were conducted online and the data was weighted to approximate a target sample of registered voters based on based on gender by age, educational attainment, race, marital status, home ownership, race by educational attainment, 2020 presidential vote, and region.

Results from the full survey have a margin of error of +/- 2 percentage points, unless otherwise specified.

# Key Takeaways

1

## Caregiving is common—impacting work, finances, and mental health

One-in-four (26%) voters are caregivers providing regular care for their family members. Most say being a caregiver has impacted their stress (76%), mental health (68%), and personal finances (67%). Furthermore, one-third (30%) of employed caregivers report reducing their regularly scheduled work hours on a weekly basis due to caregiving responsibilities, while a similar share of are unable to save for emergencies (36%) or retirement (30%) due to their caregiving responsibilities.

2

## Despite this, employer caregiving benefits are uncommon

Although one-third of employed voters are caregivers, just 36% say their employer offers paid family caregiving leave—even fewer offer other types of caregiving benefits. Notably, most (59%) employees say they would be more likely to stay at their job if their employer offered better or more comprehensive caregiving benefits, while two-in-three (65%) voters say caregiving benefits would be important in their decision to accept a new job.

3

## There is bipartisan support for caregiving to be a legislative priority

An overwhelming majority (82%) of voters say it should be a priority for political candidates and policymakers to support increasing investments that make it easier for Americans to care for their loved ones—a sentiment shared across party lines. In fact, most Democrats and Republicans say it is important they know a political candidate's position on caregiving before voting (84%; 70%), and that they would be more likely to vote for a candidate based on this issue (76%; 55%).

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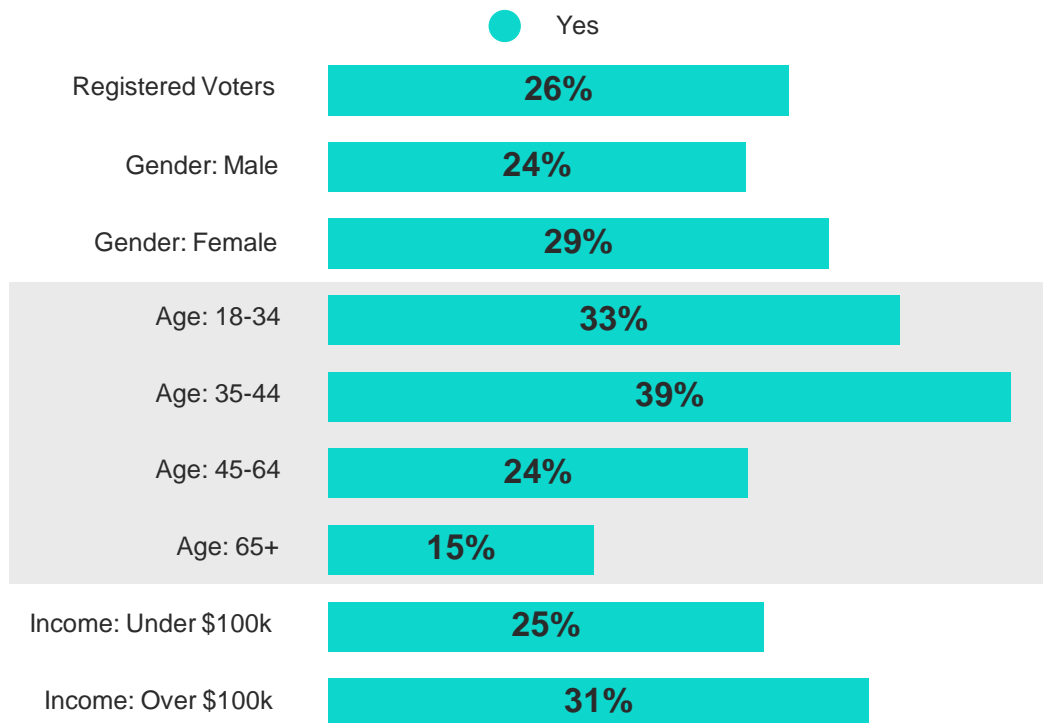
Appendix



## CAREGIVER EXPERIENCES

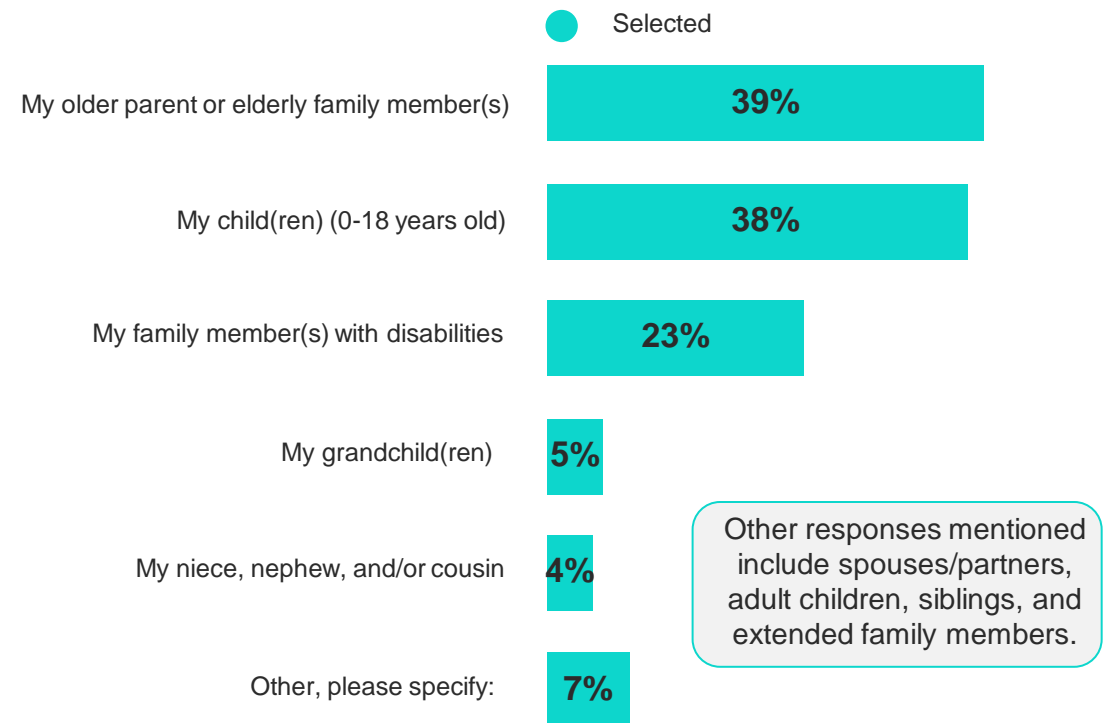
**One-in-four (26%) voters are caregivers providing regular care for their family members—most commonly to their *older parents* (39%) or *children* (38%). Voters ages 18-44 are more likely than older voters to be caregivers.**

Are you a **caregiver** providing regular care to your **family member(s)**? *Being a caregiver can involve caring for children in your family, caring for ill or disabled family members, or caring for aging relatives by providing ongoing assistance with tasks like preparing meals, school or appointment drop-offs, dressing and bathing, managing medical care, or dealing with paperwork and bills.*



You mentioned you are a caregiver to your family member(s). Who do you regularly care for? Select all that apply.

### AMONG CAREGIVERS (n=1,059; MOE: 3%)

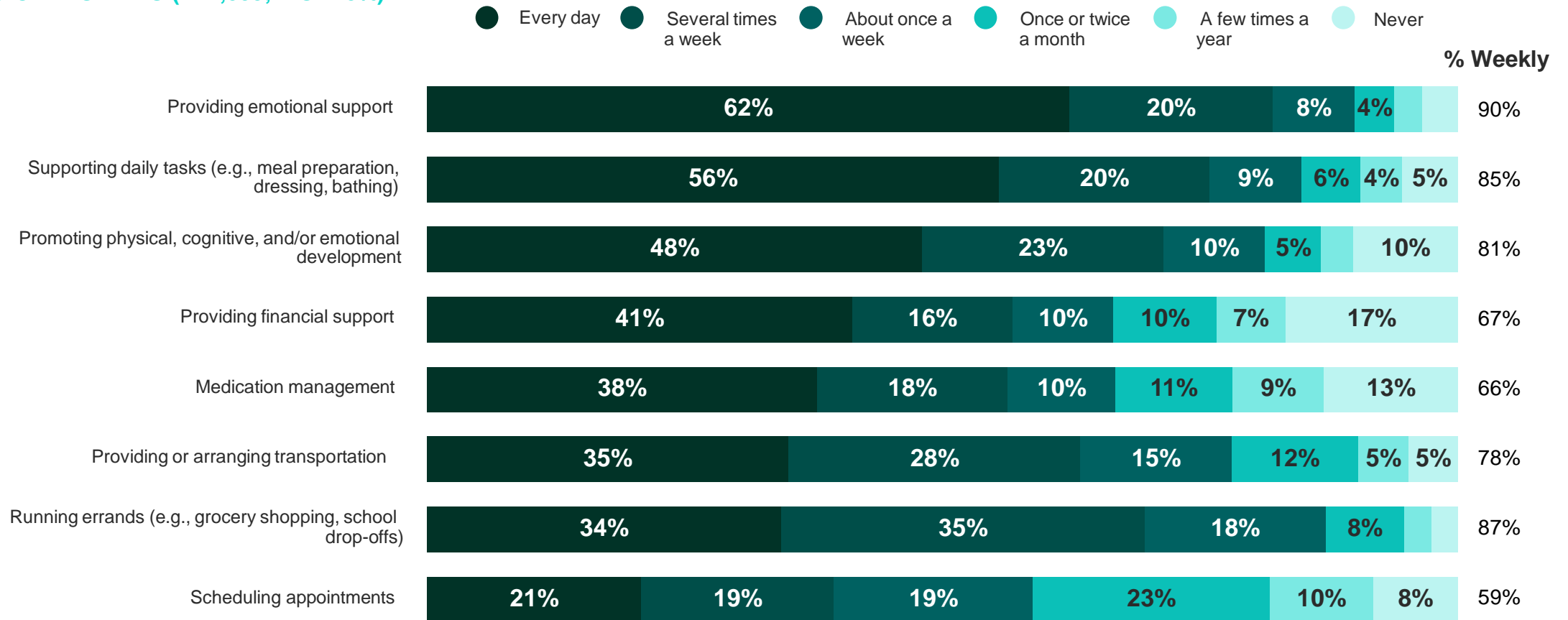


## CAREGIVER EXPERIENCES

In their role, caregivers most frequently *provide emotional support (90%)*, *run errands (87%)*, and *support daily tasks (85%)*. Two-thirds (67%) of caregivers say they *provide financial support on at least a weekly basis*.

Thinking about your role as a caregiver, how often do you provide each of the following types of care?

AMONG CAREGIVERS (n=1,059; MOE: 3%)



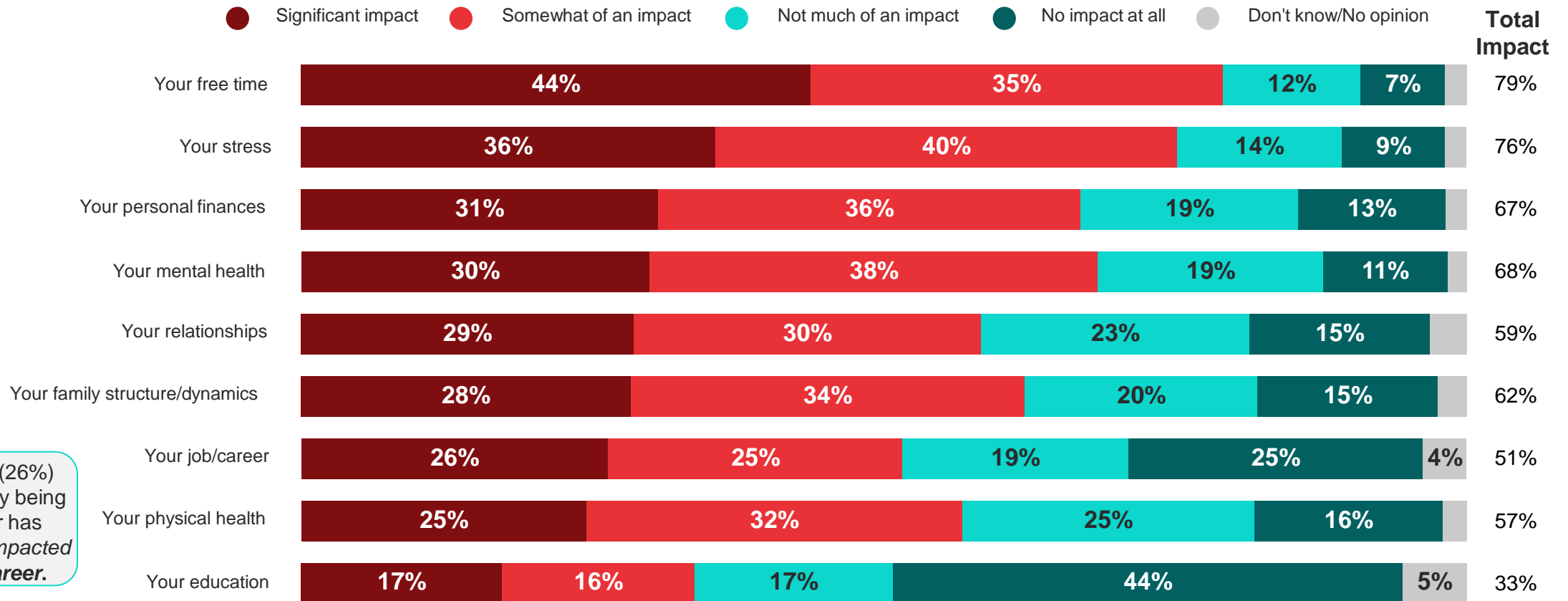
% Weekly = Every day + Several times a week + About once a week

## CAREGIVER EXPERIENCES

The impact of being a caregiver is far-reaching—more than three-fourths say being a caregiver has impacted their *free time* (79%) and *stress* (76%), while two-thirds say it has impacted their *mental health* (68%) and *personal finances* (67%).

How much of an impact, if at all, has being a caregiver had on each of the following aspects of your life?

AMONG CAREGIVERS (n=1,059; MOE: 3%)



One-in-four (26%) caregivers say being a caregiver has significantly impacted their **job/career**.

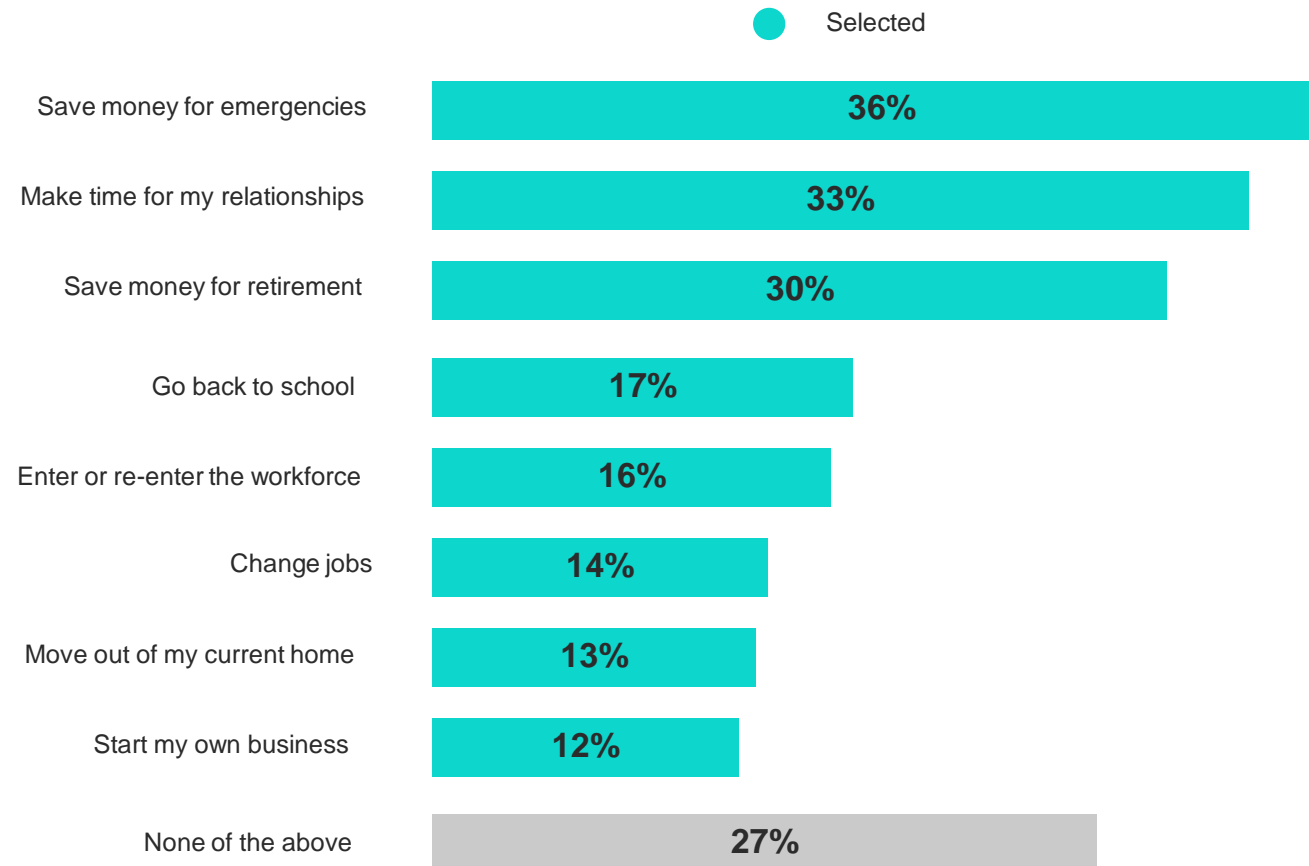
Total Impact = Significant impact + Somewhat of an impact

## CAREGIVER EXPERIENCES

**One-in-three caregivers say they have been unable to *save for emergencies* (36%) or *retirement* (30%) due to their caregiving responsibilities, while one-in-six (16%) say they have been unable to enter or re-enter the workforce.**

Which of the following, if any, have you been unable to pursue because of your caregiving responsibilities? Select all that apply.

AMONG CAREGIVERS (n=1,059; MOE: 3%)



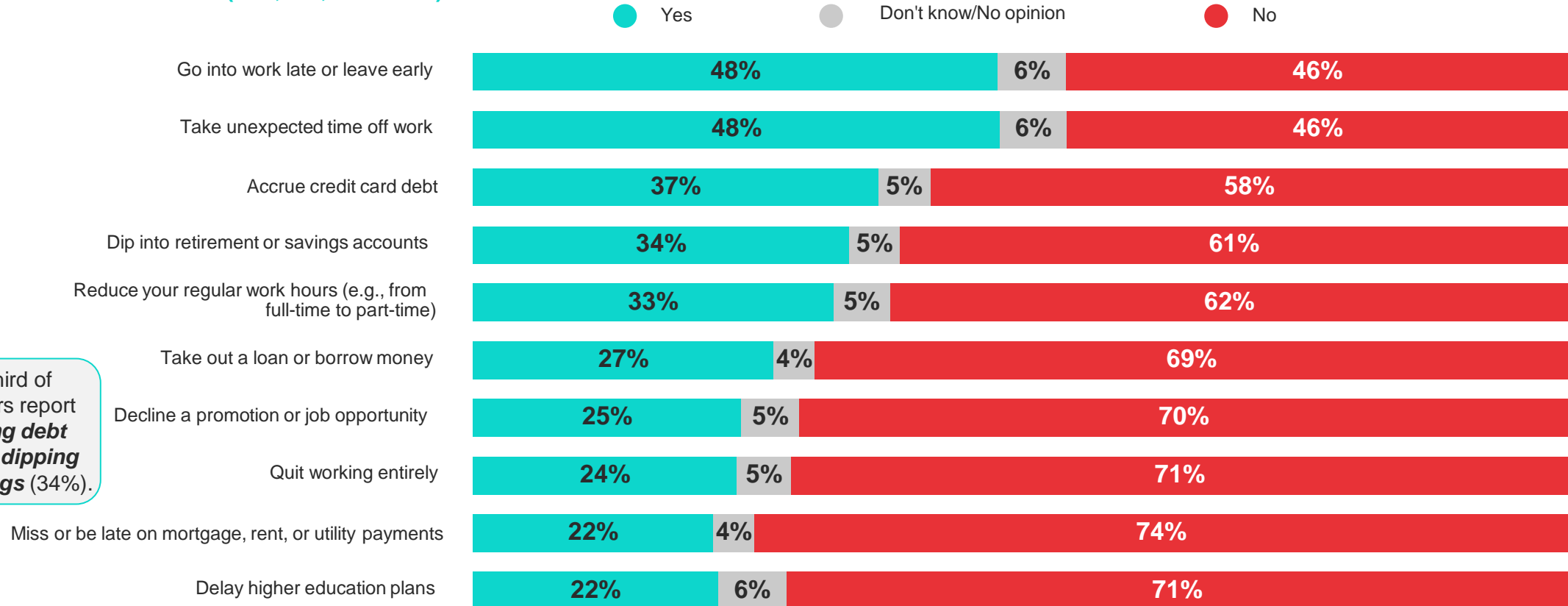


## CAREGIVER EXPERIENCES

Due to their caregiving responsibilities, many caregivers have had to *take unexpected time off work (48%), go into work late/leave early (48%), reduce their work hours (33%), or quit working entirely (24%).*

Have you **ever** had to do any of the following due to your caregiving responsibilities?

AMONG CAREGIVERS (n=1,059; MOE: 3%)



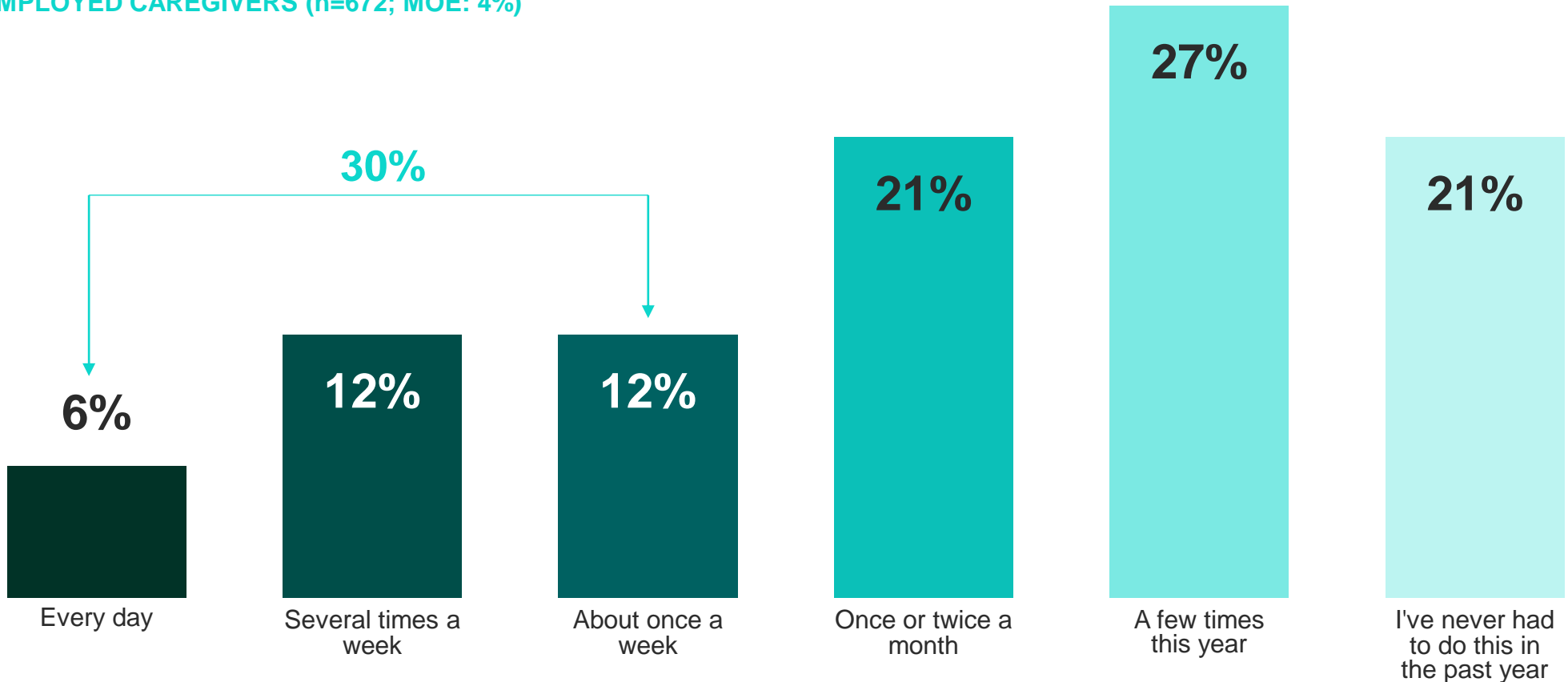
One-third of caregivers report **accruing debt (37%)** or **dipping into savings (34%)**.

## CAREGIVER EXPERIENCES

In fact, among caregivers who are currently employed, one-third (30%) say they have to reduce their regularly scheduled work hours on a *weekly basis* due to caregiving responsibilities.

In the **past 12 months**, how often have you had to reduce your regularly scheduled work hours due to caregiving responsibilities?

AMONG EMPLOYED CAREGIVERS (n=672; MOE: 4%)

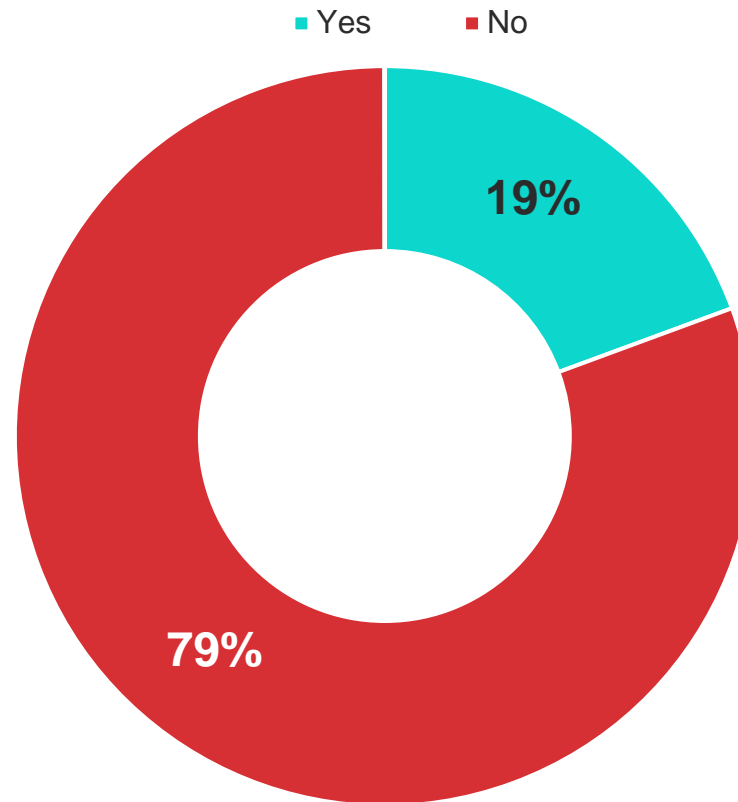


## CAREGIVER EXPERIENCES

**Despite the impact of caregiving on work and finances, one-in-five (19%) caregivers say they receive government financial assistance for their time spent caregiving.**

To the best of your knowledge, do you receive any government financial assistance for your time spent caring for your family member(s)?

AMONG CAREGIVERS (n=1,059; MOE: 3%)



# CAREGIVERS

Voters reporting they provide regular care for their family member(s)

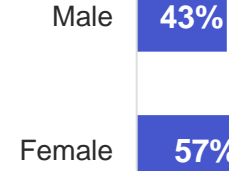
*n=1,059 ; MOE: 3%*

## DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

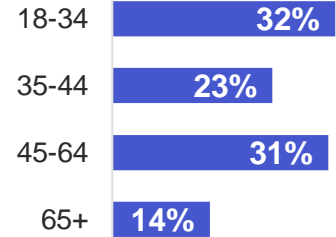
- Tend to be females, younger than 65 years old, and employed
- Most likely to care for an elderly family member (39%) or their own children (38%)
- Most (72%) have an annual household income of \$100k or less, but few (19%) receive government financial assistance for their time spent caregiving



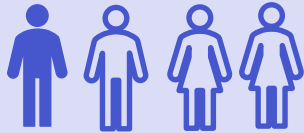
### GENDER



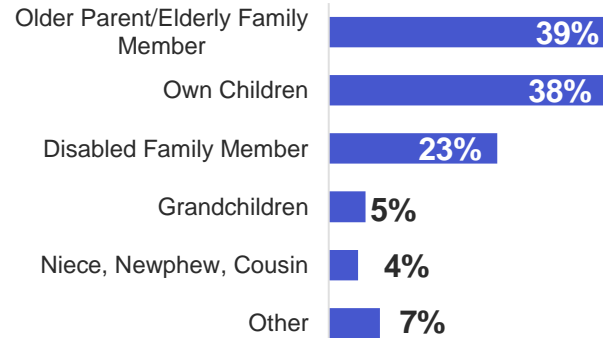
### AGE



One-in-four (26%) voters are caregivers



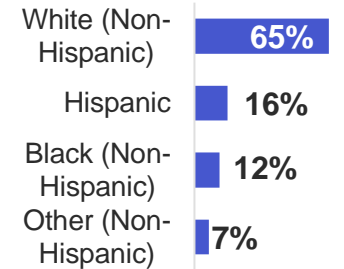
### CAREGIVER TYPE



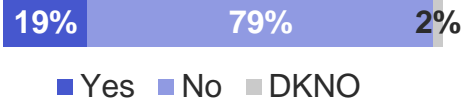
### INCOME



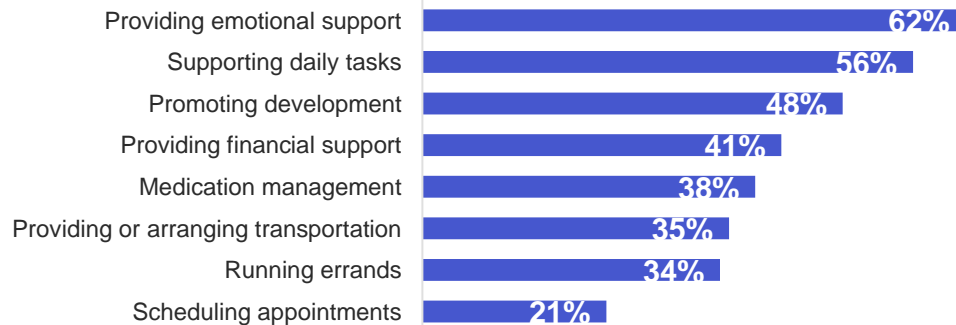
### RACE/ETHNICITY



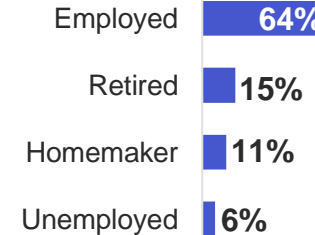
### RECEIVE CAREGIVING GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



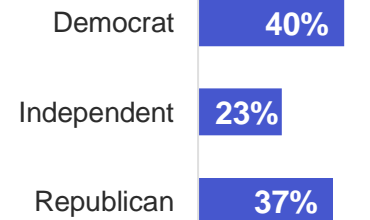
### TYPES OF DAILY CARE



### EMPLOYMENT



### PARTY ID



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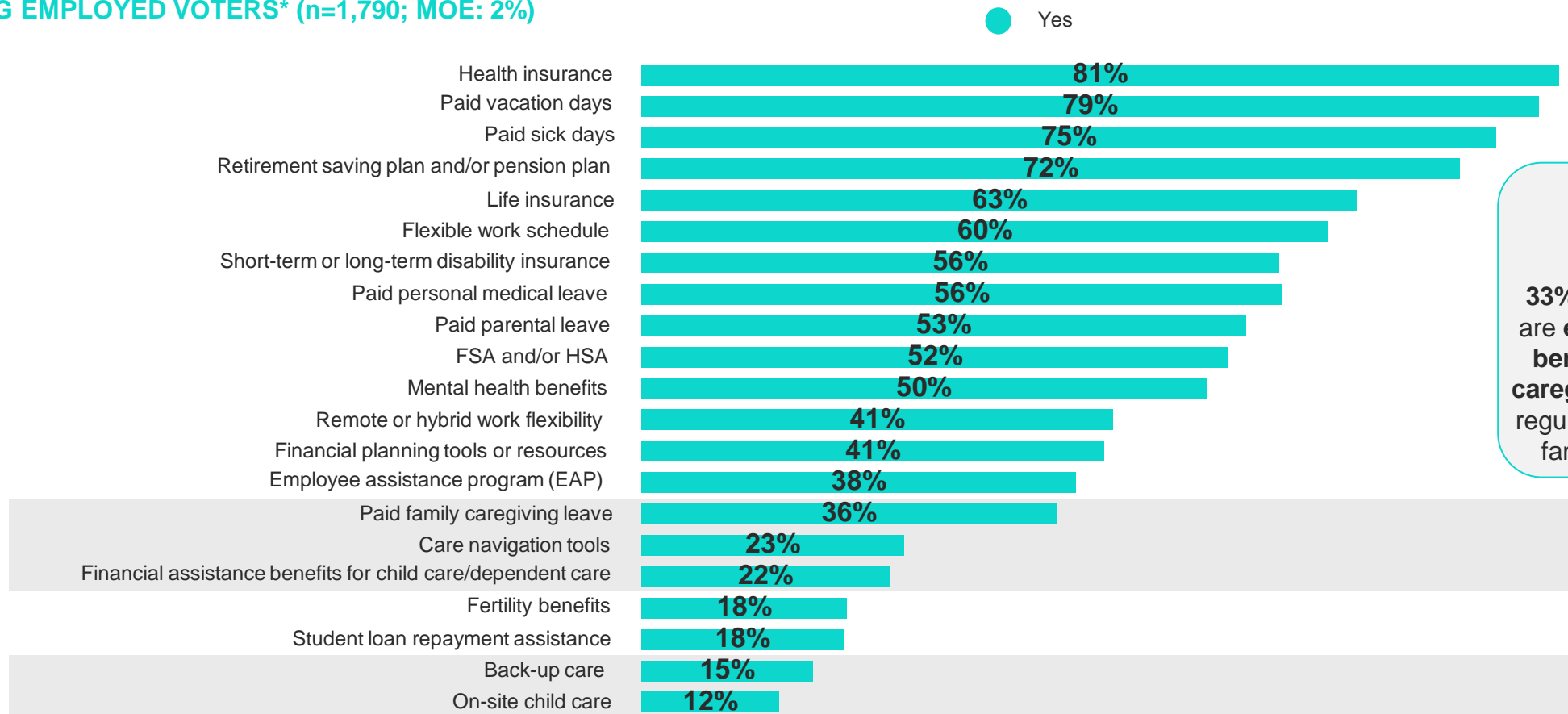


## ROLE OF EMPLOYERS IN CAREGIVING

Despite one-third of employed voters being caregivers, caregiving benefits are uncommon—just 36% say their employer offers *paid family caregiving leave*, while even fewer say their employer offers other types of caregiving benefits.

To the best of your knowledge, does your employer **currently offer** each of the following employee benefits?

AMONG EMPLOYED VOTERS\* (n=1,790; MOE: 2%)



33% of voters who are **employed with benefits** are also **caregivers** providing regular care for their family members

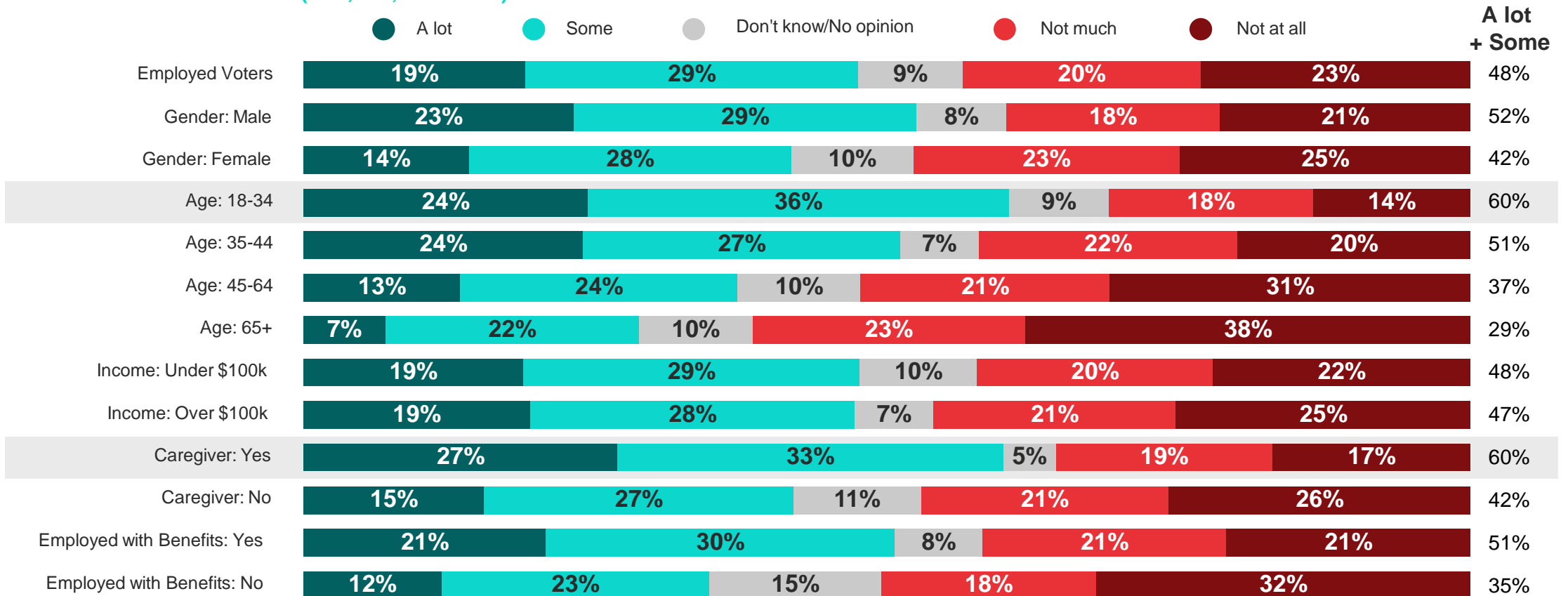
\*Does not include self-employed voters  
Descriptions of benefits not displayed for brevity

## ROLE OF EMPLOYERS IN CAREGIVING

**Half (48%) of employees say they considered the caregiving benefits offered by their employer when accepting their current role. Younger employees ages 18-34 (60%) and caregivers (60%) are especially likely to say they did so.**

Thinking about your current job, how much did you consider, if at all, **caregiving benefits** offered by your employer when accepting the role (e.g., paid family leave, financial assistance for child care, flexible work schedules)?

**AMONG EMPLOYED VOTERS\*** (n=1,790; MOE: 2%)



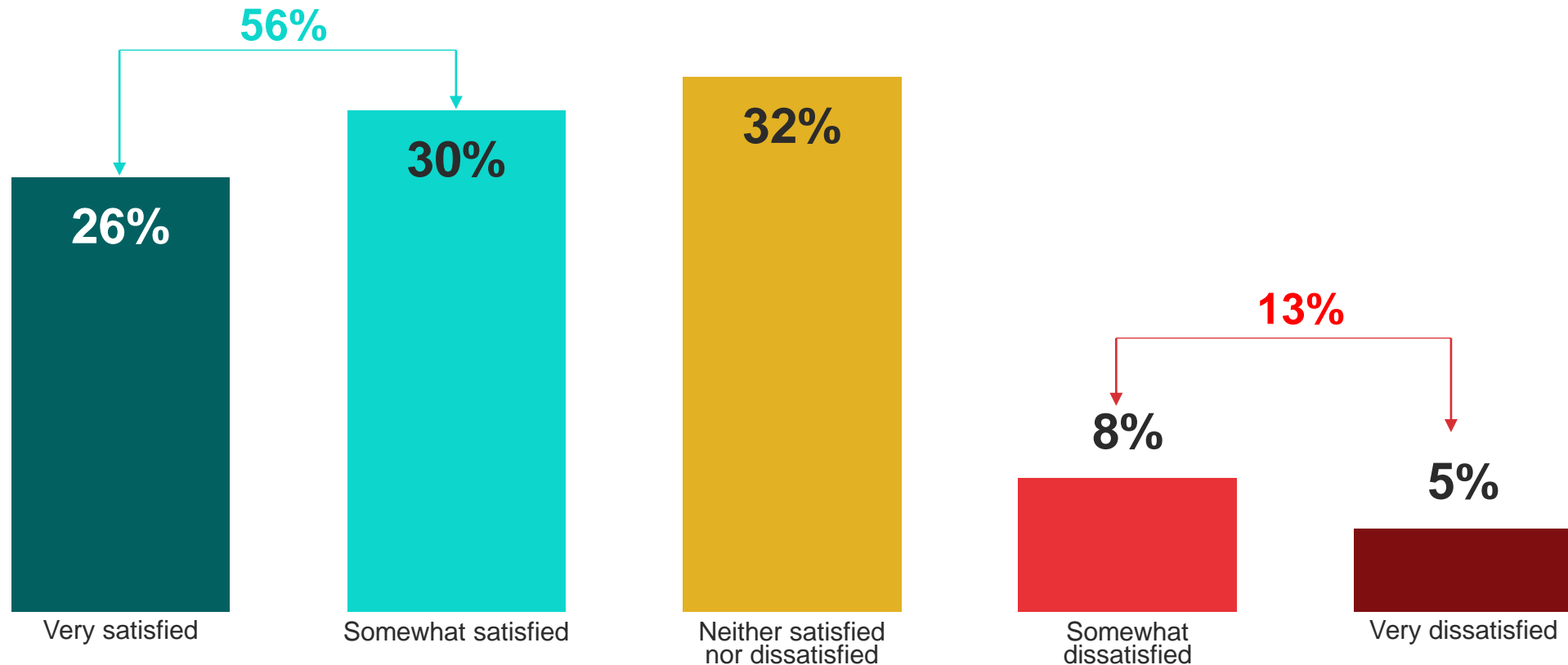
\*Does not include self-employed voters

## ROLE OF EMPLOYERS IN CAREGIVING

However, a plurality (32%) of employees say they are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied with the caregiving benefits offered by their employer suggesting there is room to improve employee satisfaction in this area.

Generally speaking, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the **caregiving benefits** offered by your employer (e.g., paid family leave, financial assistance for child care, flexible work schedules)?

AMONG EMPLOYED VOTERS\* (n=1,790; MOE: 2%)



\*Does not include self-employed voters  
For additional details, see appendix slide 37.

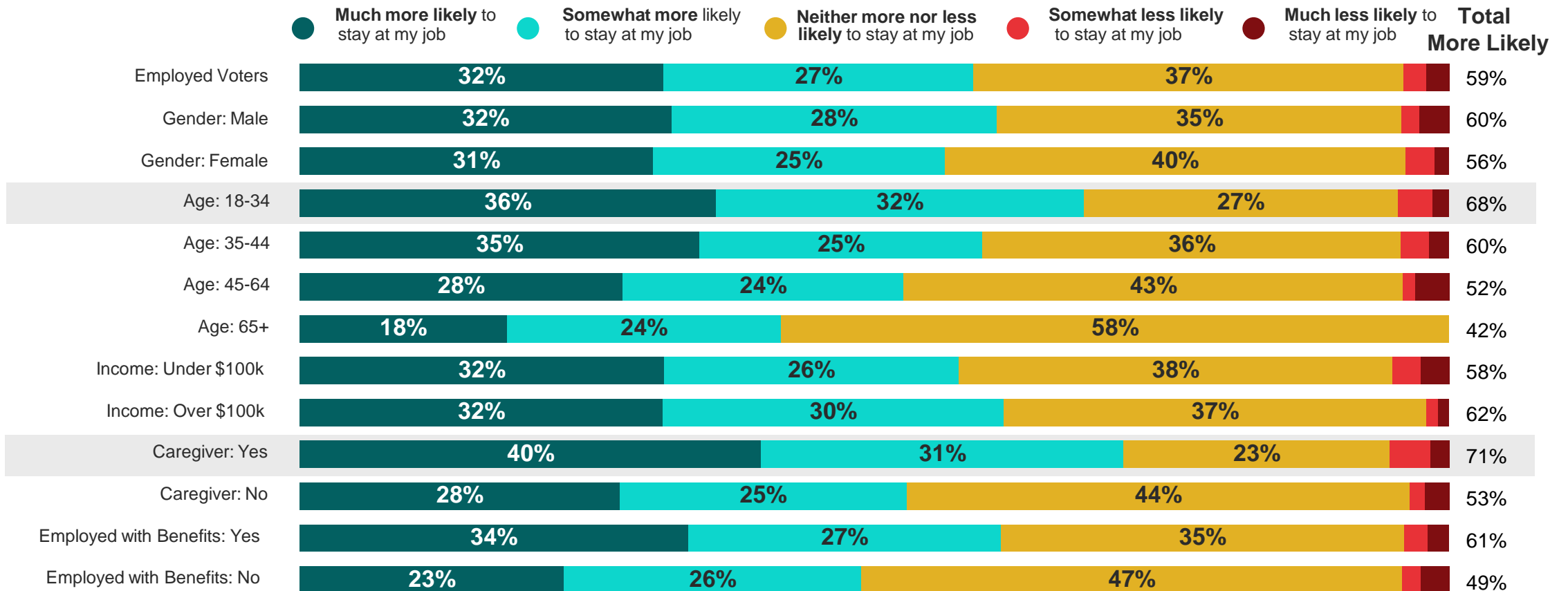


## ROLE OF EMPLOYERS IN CAREGIVING

If their employer offered better or more comprehensive caregiving benefits, a majority (59%) of employees say they would be more likely to stay at their job, especially younger employees (68%) and those who are caregivers (71%).

If your employer offered better or more comprehensive caregiving benefits, how would this impact your likelihood to stay at that job?

AMONG EMPLOYED VOTERS\* (n=1,790; MOE: 2%)



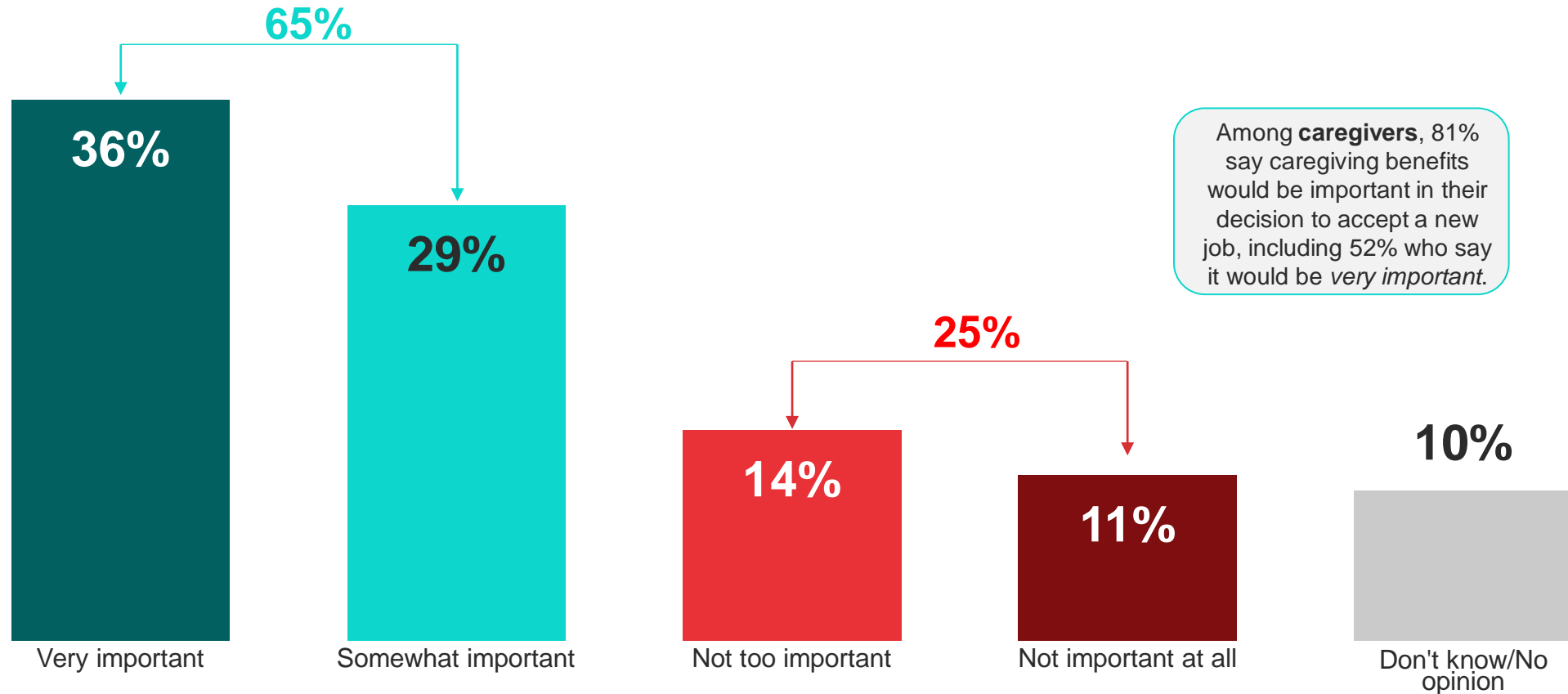
\*Does not include self-employed voters

Total More Likely = Much more likely to stay + Somewhat more likely to stay at my job

## ROLE OF EMPLOYERS IN CAREGIVING

Similarly, two-in-three (65%) voters say caregiving benefits would be important in their decision to accept a new job, including one-third (36%) who say it would be *very important*.

If you were offered a job today, how important would **caregiving benefits** be in your decision to accept the role (e.g., paid family leave, financial assistance for child care, flexible work schedules)?



\*Does not include self-employed voters  
For additional details, see appendix slide 38.

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## VOTER SENTIMENT ON CAREGIVING

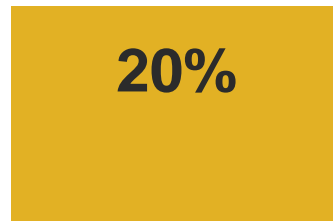
# Two-in-three (67%) caregivers say the government *needs to do more* to address the needs, challenges, and financial costs of being a caregiver.

Based on your experience as a caregiver to your family member(s), do you think the government is doing enough to address the needs, challenges, and financial costs of being a caregiver?

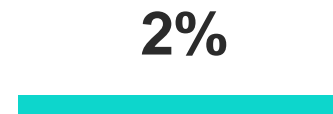
AMONG CAREGIVERS (n=1,059; MOE: 3%)



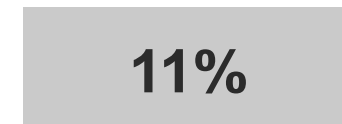
Needs to do more



Is currently doing enough



Needs to do less



Don't know/No opinion

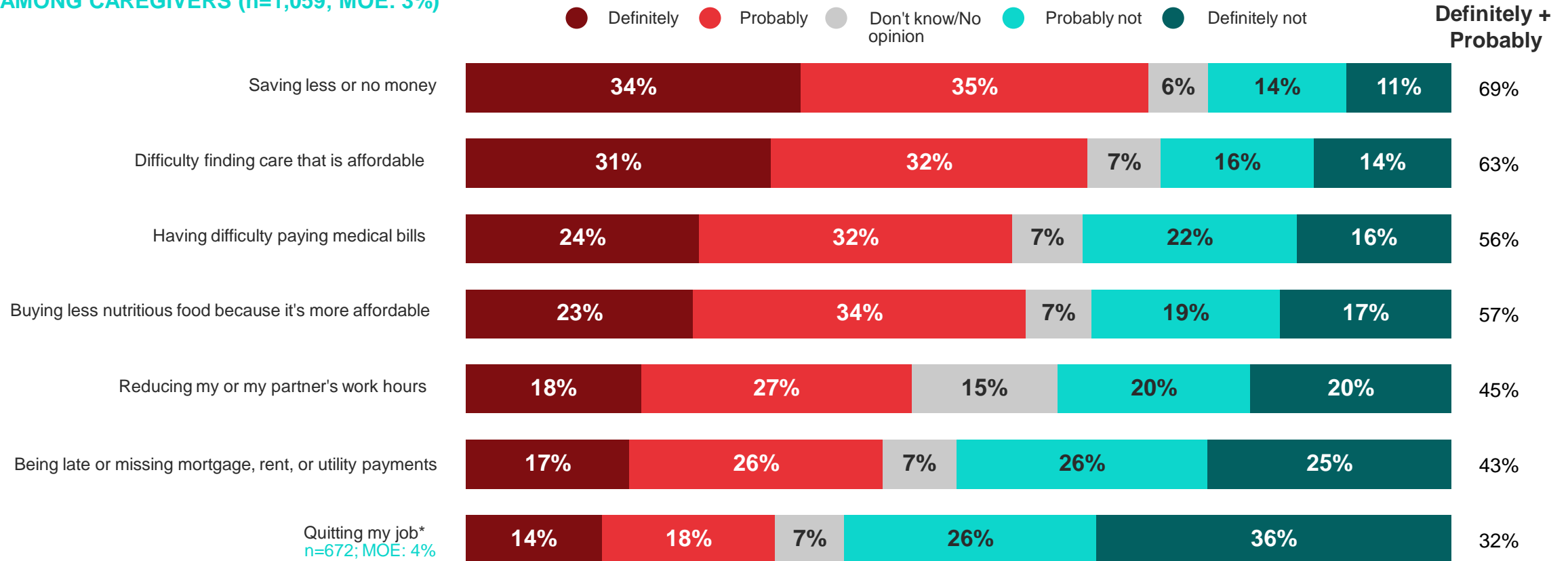
Demographic	% Needs to do more
Gender: Male	61%
Gender: Female	72%
PID: Democrat	72%
PID: Independent	65%
PID: Republican	64%

## VOTER SENTIMENT ON CAREGIVING

If the government fails to enact policies that support family caregivers, two-thirds of caregivers anticipate *saving less or no money* (69%) and *having difficulty finding affordable care* (63%).

If the government fails to enact policies that support family caregivers, do you anticipate experiencing any of the following?

AMONG CAREGIVERS (n=1,059; MOE: 3%)



One-third (32%) of caregivers who are currently employed anticipate having to **quit their job** if the government fails to enact policies to support them.

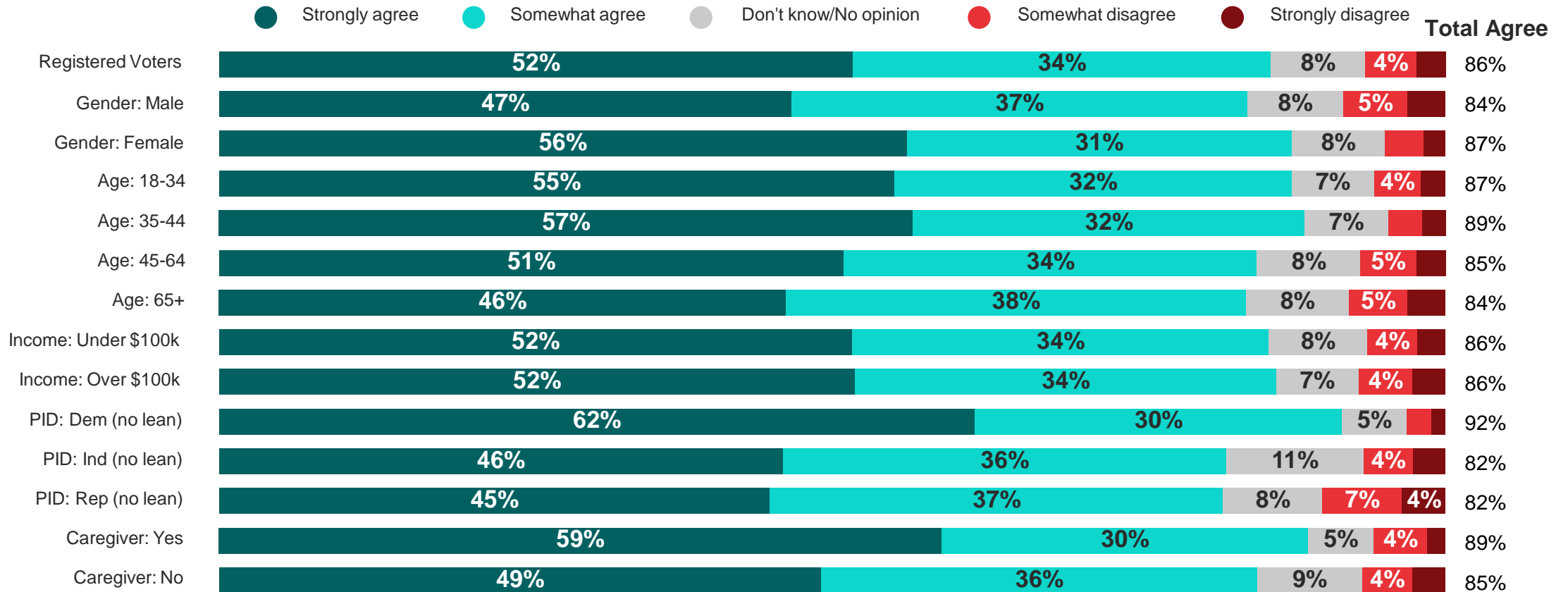
\*Only asked among employed caregivers

## VOTER SENTIMENT ON CAREGIVING

Nearly all (86%) voters agree America's economy would be stronger if there were national policies that made it easier for Americans to work and care for their loved ones—a trend consistent across key demographics.

Please indicate if you agree or disagree with the following statement.

*America's economy would be stronger if we had national policies that made it easier for Americans to work and care for their loved ones.*

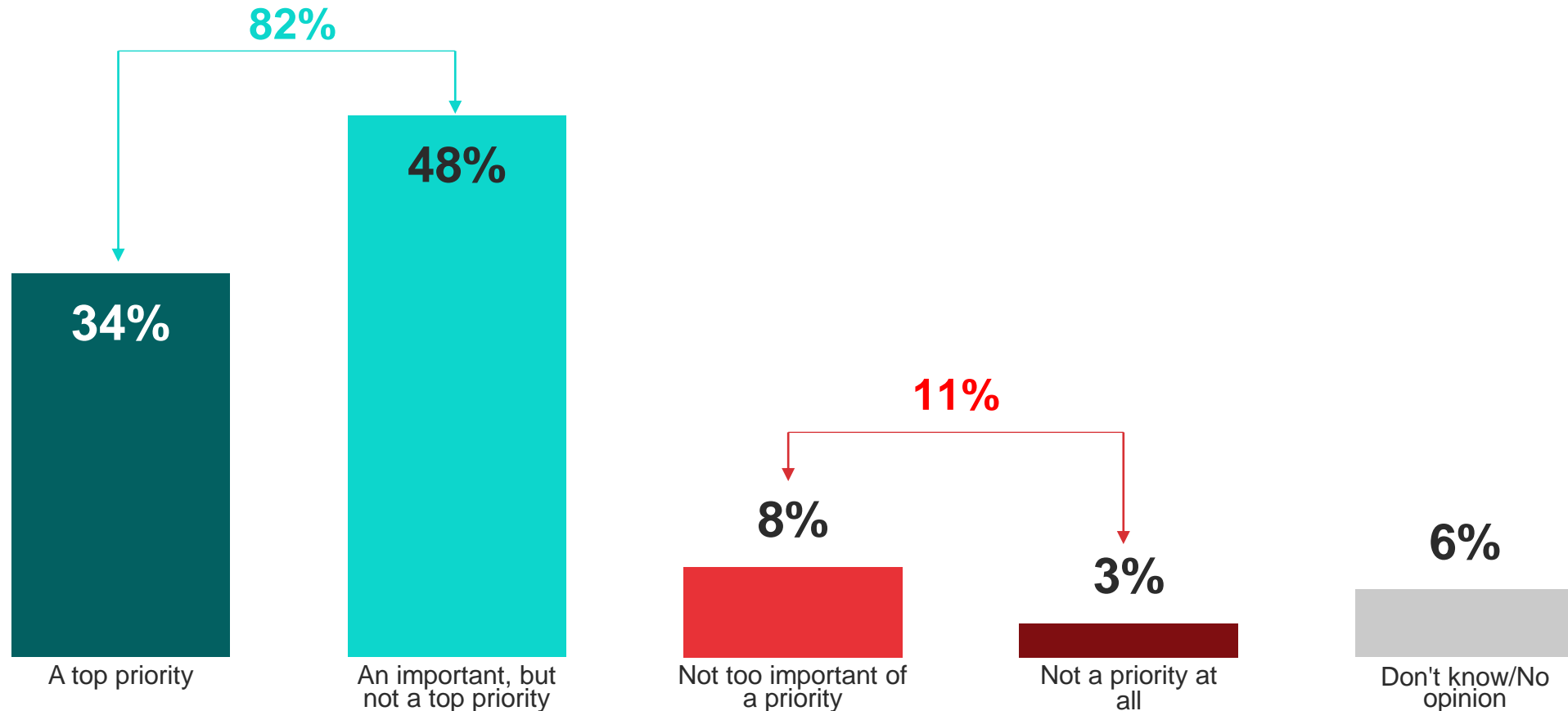


Total Agree = Strongly agree + Somewhat agree

## VOTER SENTIMENT ON CAREGIVING

An overwhelming majority (82%) of voters say it should be a priority for political candidates and policymakers to support increasing investments that make it easier for Americans to care for their loved ones.

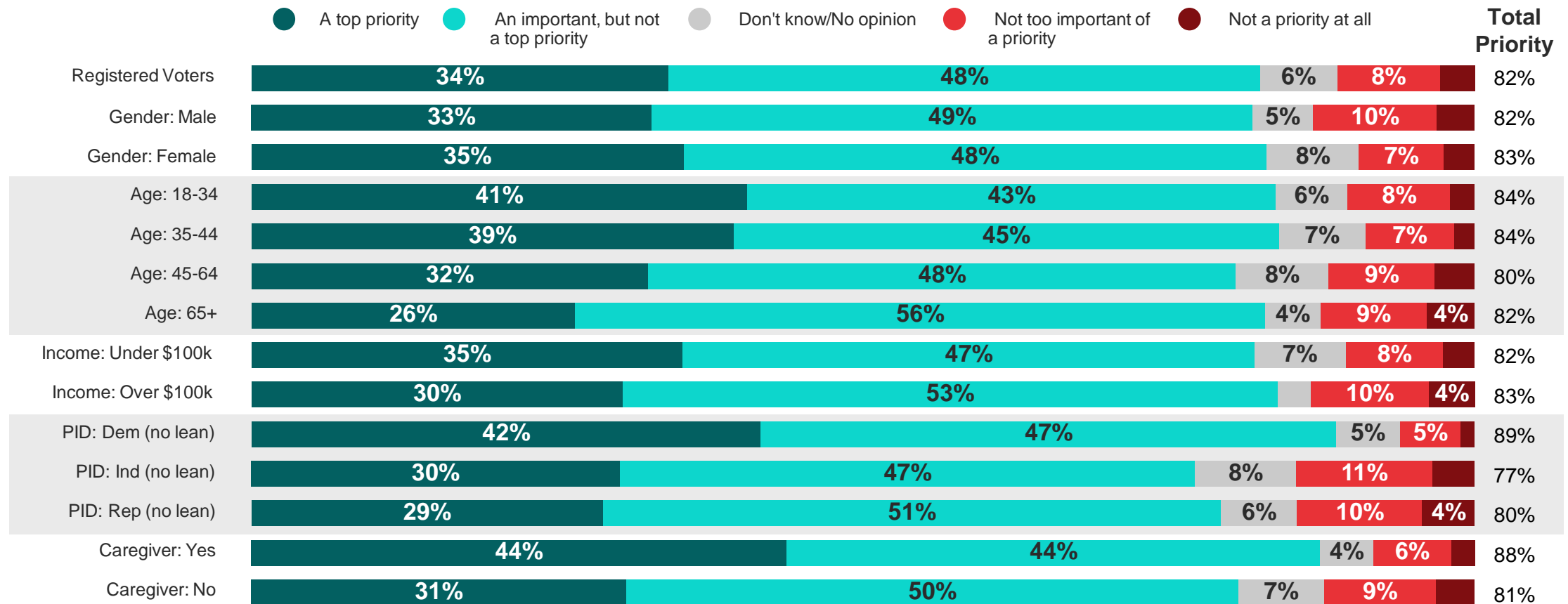
How much of a priority, if at all, should it be for political candidates and policymakers to support increasing investments that make it easier for Americans to care for their loved ones?



## VOTER SENTIMENT ON CAREGIVING

**In fact, at least 75% of voters across party lines say increasing caregiving investments should be a priority for policymakers. However, younger voters are more likely than older voters to say this should be a *top priority*.**

How much of a priority, if at all, should it be for political candidates and policymakers to support increasing investments that make it easier for Americans to care for their loved ones?



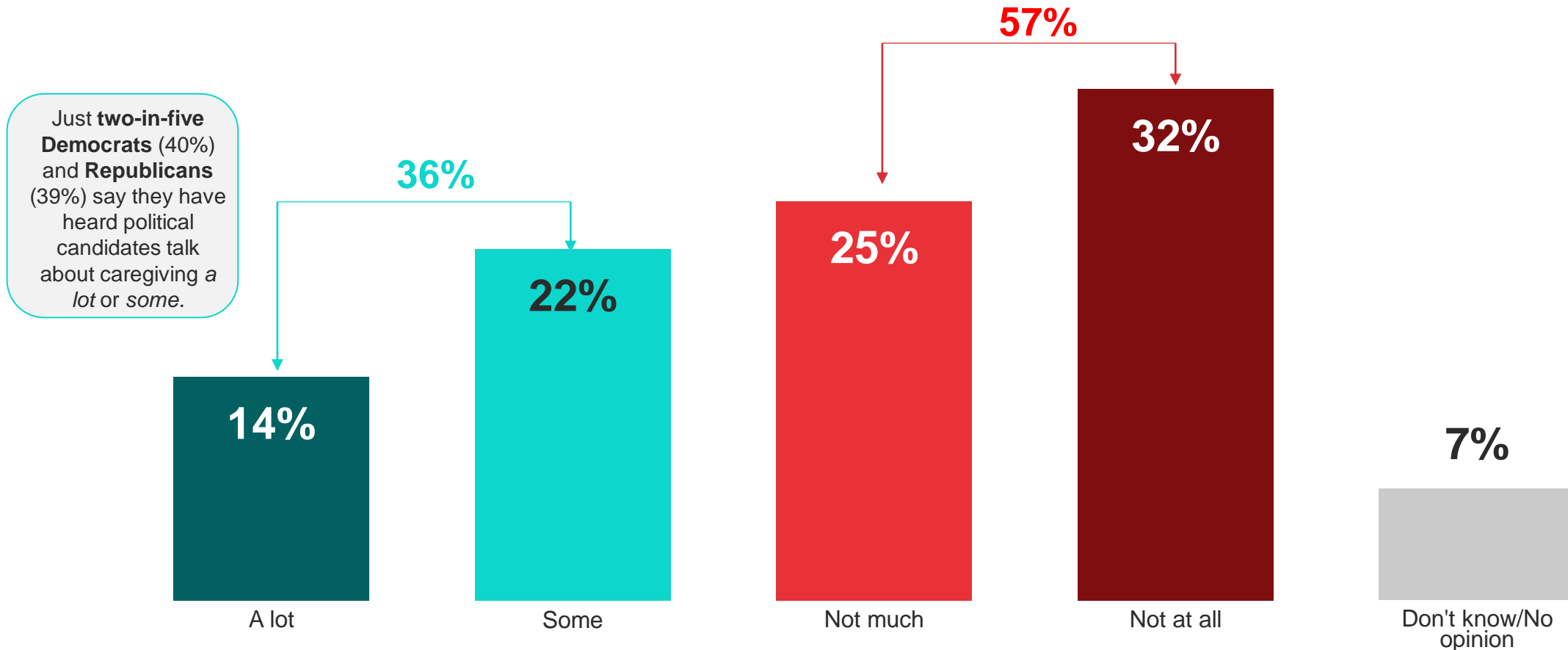
Total Priority = A top priority + An important, but not a top priority



## VOTER SENTIMENT ON CAREGIVING

Despite its importance to voters, the majority (57%) of voters say they have not heard political candidates talk about the needs, challenges, and financial costs of caregiving and proposed policies to address them.

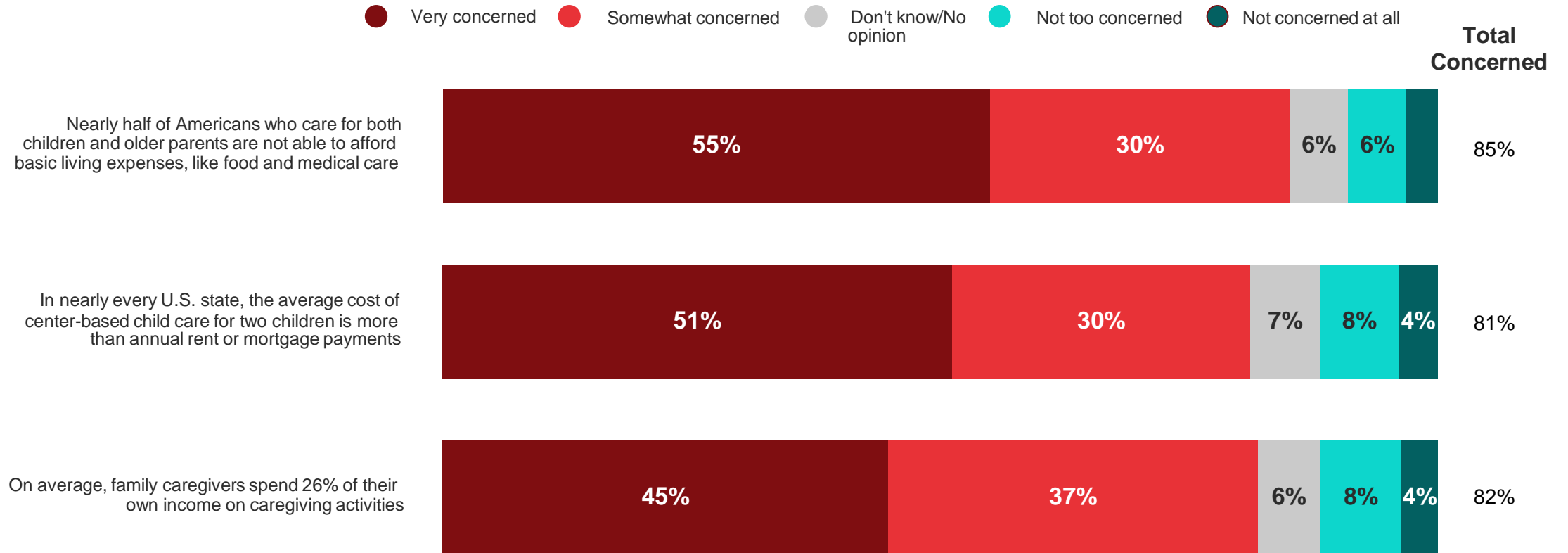
Thinking about the upcoming election, how much have you seen, read, or heard political candidates talk about the needs, challenges, and financial costs of caregiving and proposed policies to address them?



## VOTER SENTIMENT ON CAREGIVING

**At least 80% of voters are concerned about the cost of caregiving in the U.S.—particularly that *nearly half of Americans who care for both children and older parents are not able to afford basic living expenses (85%)*.**

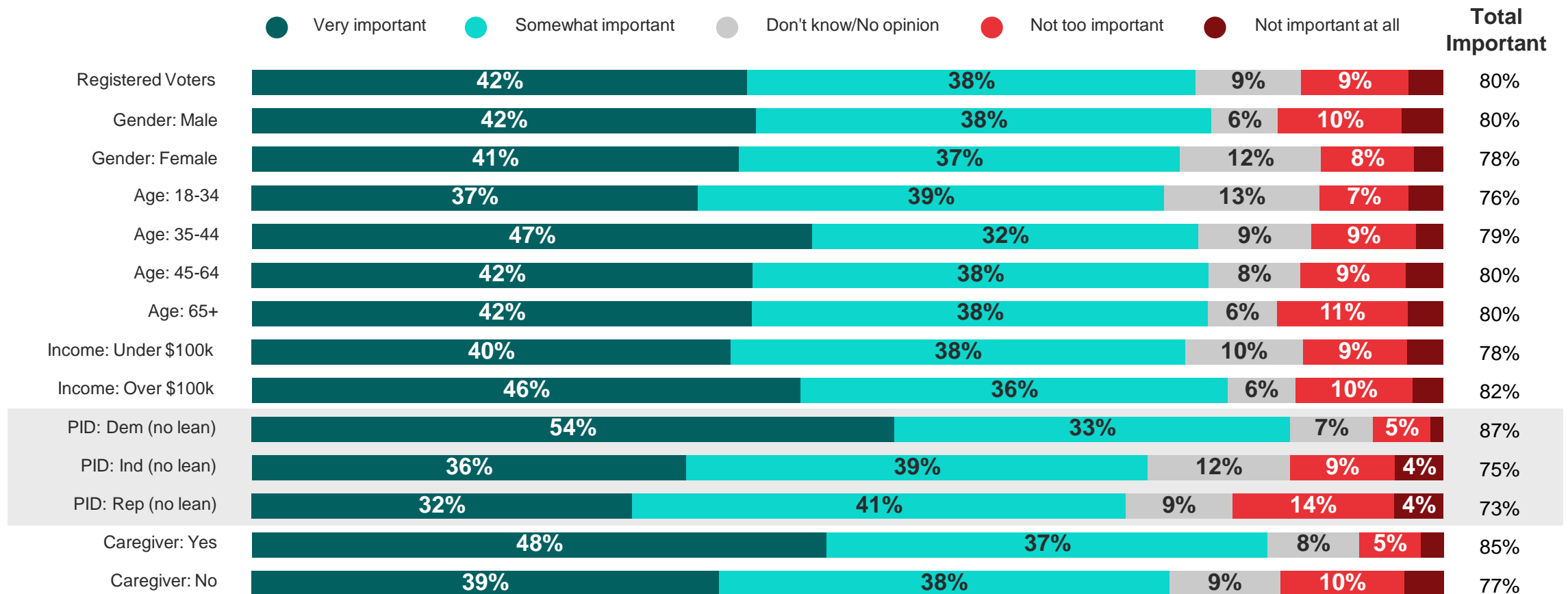
How concerned are you, if at all, about each of the following statements about the cost of caregiving in the U.S.?



## VOTER SENTIMENT ON CAREGIVING

Notably, both Democrats (87%) and Republicans (73%) say it is important for policymakers to work on bipartisan solutions to make caregiving easier and more affordable for families.

How important is it to you, if at all, for policymakers to work on **bipartisan solutions** to make caregiving easier and more affordable for families?

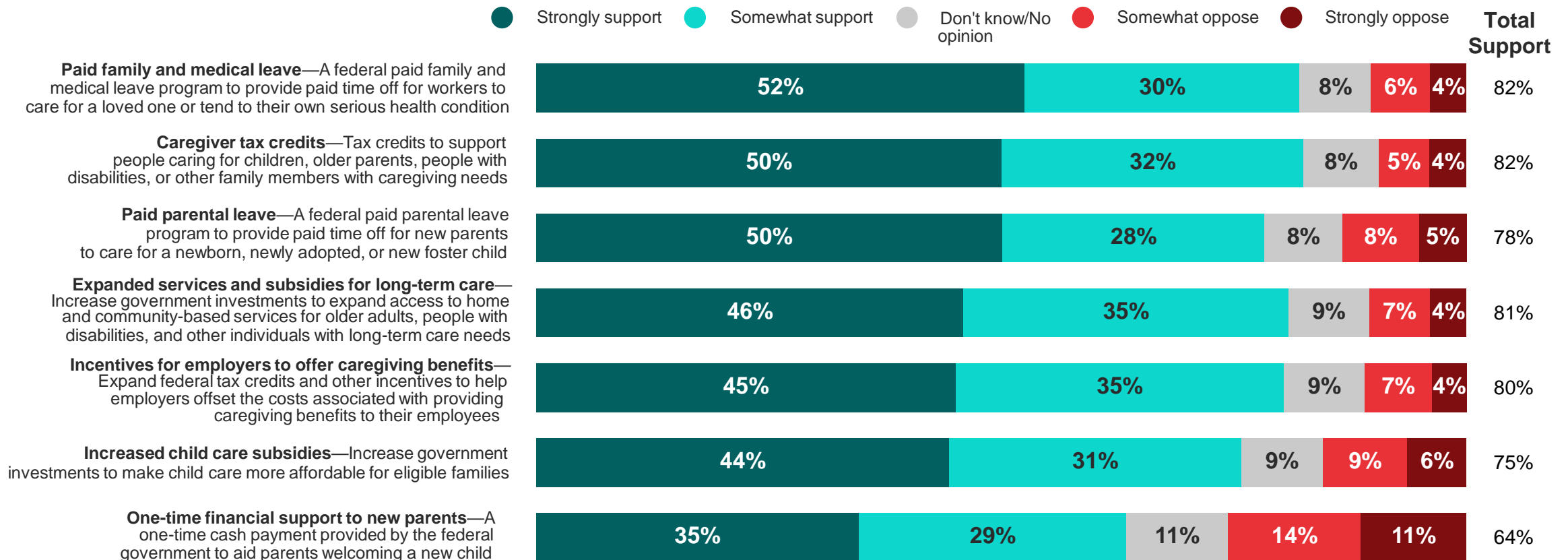


Total Important = Very important + Somewhat important

## VOTER SENTIMENT ON CAREGIVING

Voter support is high for a range of policies to support caregivers, such as *paid family and medical leave* (82%) and *caregiver tax credits* (82%).

Below is a list of potential measures the government could take to support caregivers. Do you support or oppose each of the following?



Total Support = Strongly support + Somewhat support

## VOTER SENTIMENT ON CAREGIVING

# Most voters across party lines support each of the tested policies to support people caring for children, older parents, and people with disabilities.

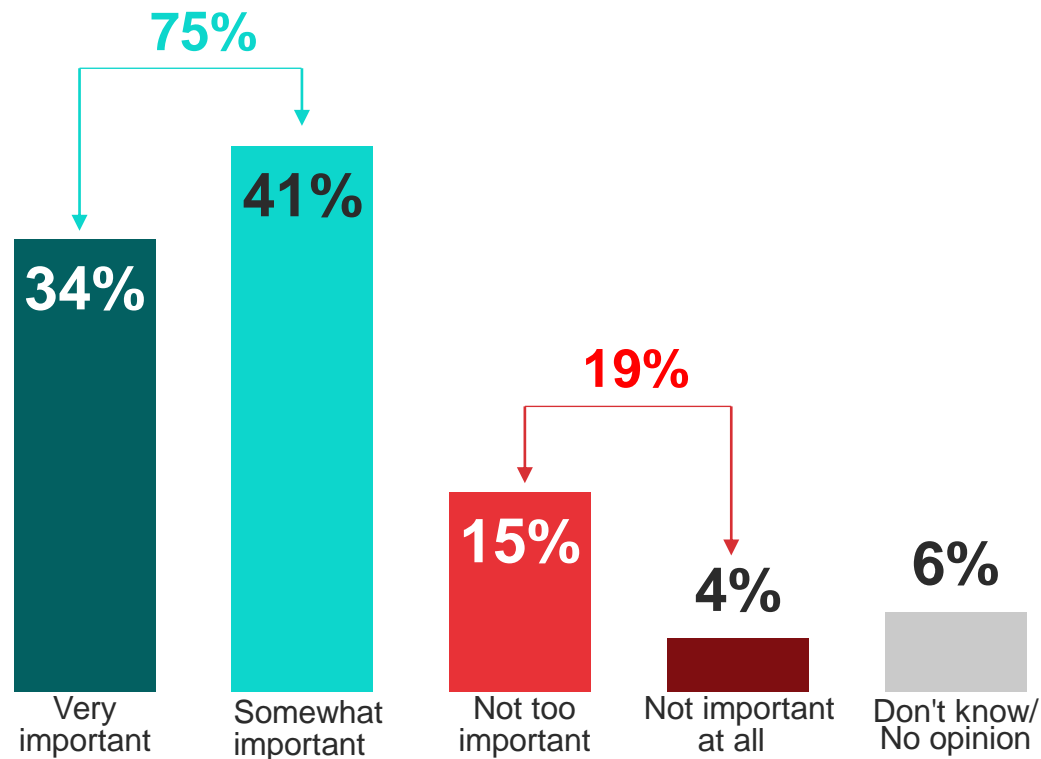
Below is a list of potential measures the government could take to support caregivers. Do you support or oppose each of the following?

<i>Total Support</i>	Registered Voters	PID: Democrat	PID: Independent	PID: Republican
Paid family and medical leave	82%	90%	79%	76%
Caregiver tax credits	82%	87%	81%	79%
Expanded services and subsidies for long-term care	81%	89%	77%	75%
Incentives for employers to offer caregiving benefits	80%	87%	78%	75%
Paid parental leave	78%	88%	76%	70%
Increased child care subsidies	75%	86%	71%	69%
One-time financial support to new parents	64%	74%	56%	57%

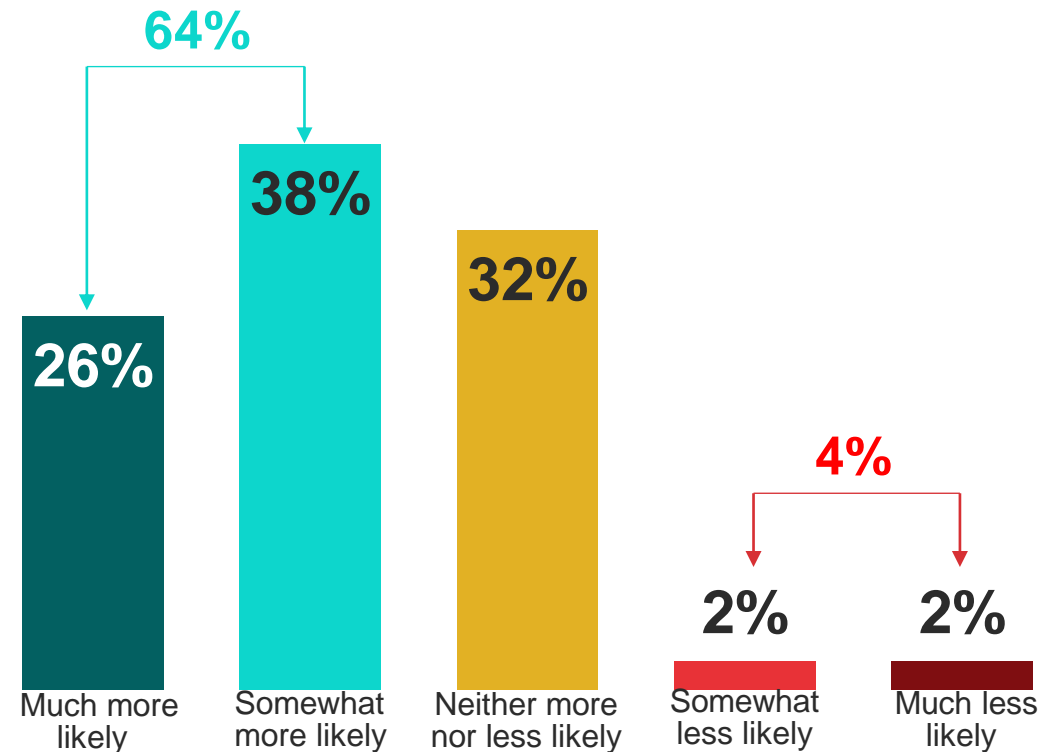
## VOTER SENTIMENT ON CAREGIVING

**Most (75%) voters say it is important they know a political candidate's position on making caregiving easier and more affordable before voting; most (64%) also say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who pledges to do so.**

How important is it for you, if at all, to know a political candidate's position on making caregiving easier and more affordable before voting?



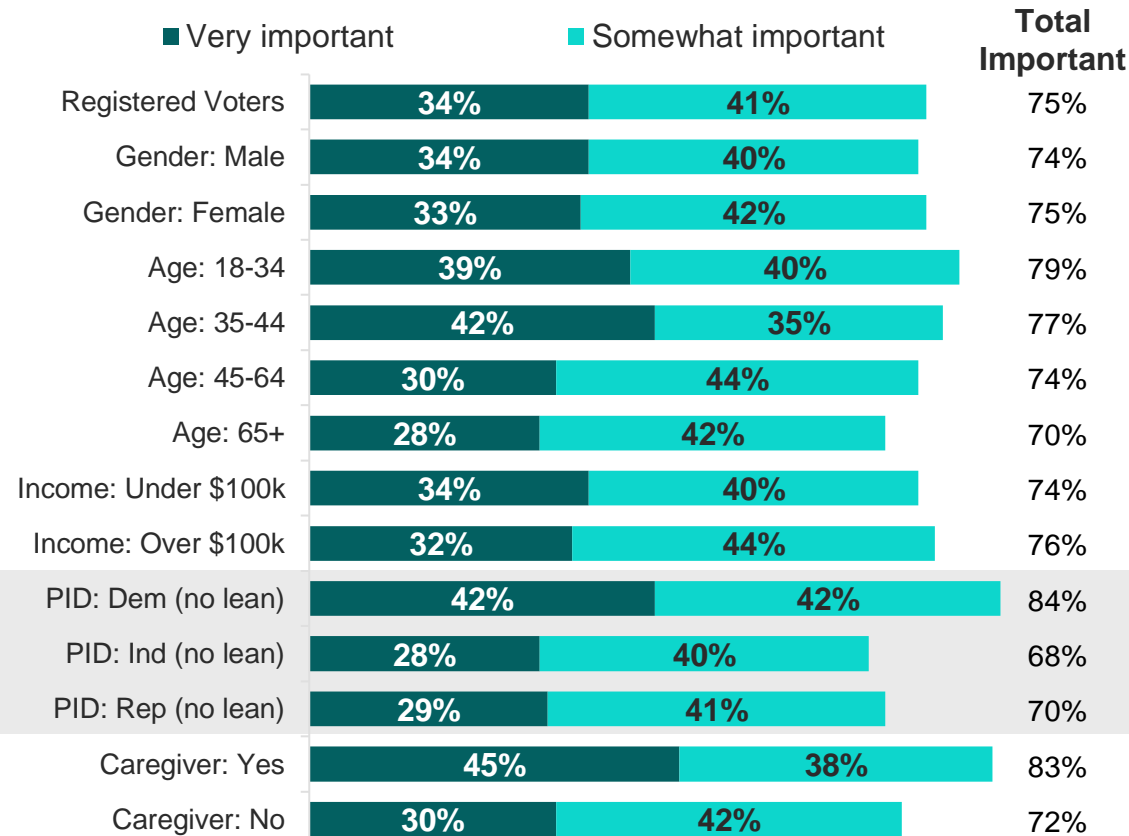
Would you be more or less likely to vote for a political candidate who pledges to make caregiving easier and more affordable for American families?



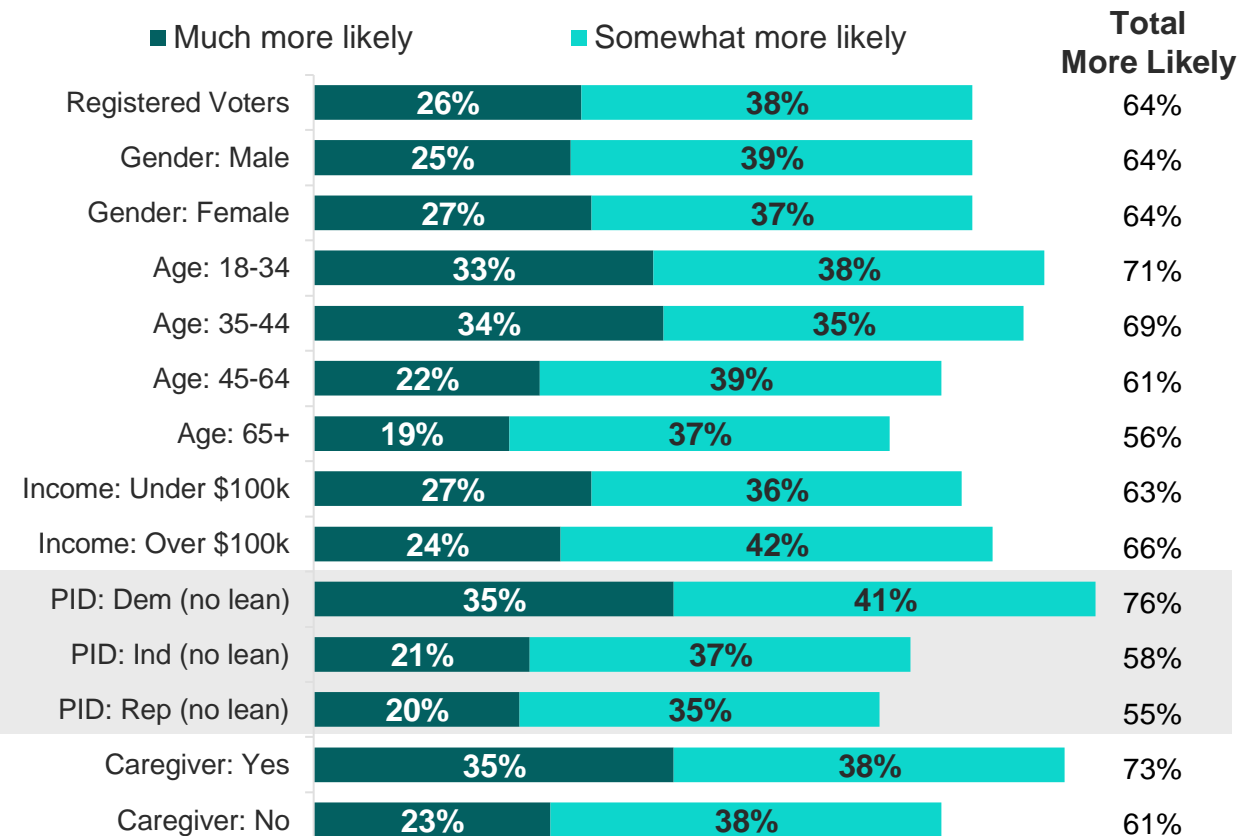
## VOTER SENTIMENT ON CAREGIVING

In fact, a majority of Democrats and Republicans say it is important they know a political candidate's position on caregiving before voting (84%; 70%), and that they would be *more likely* to vote for a candidate based on this issue (76%; 55%).

How important is it for you, if at all, to know a political candidate's position on making caregiving easier and more affordable before voting?



Would you be more or less likely to vote for a political candidate who pledges to make caregiving easier and more affordable for American families?



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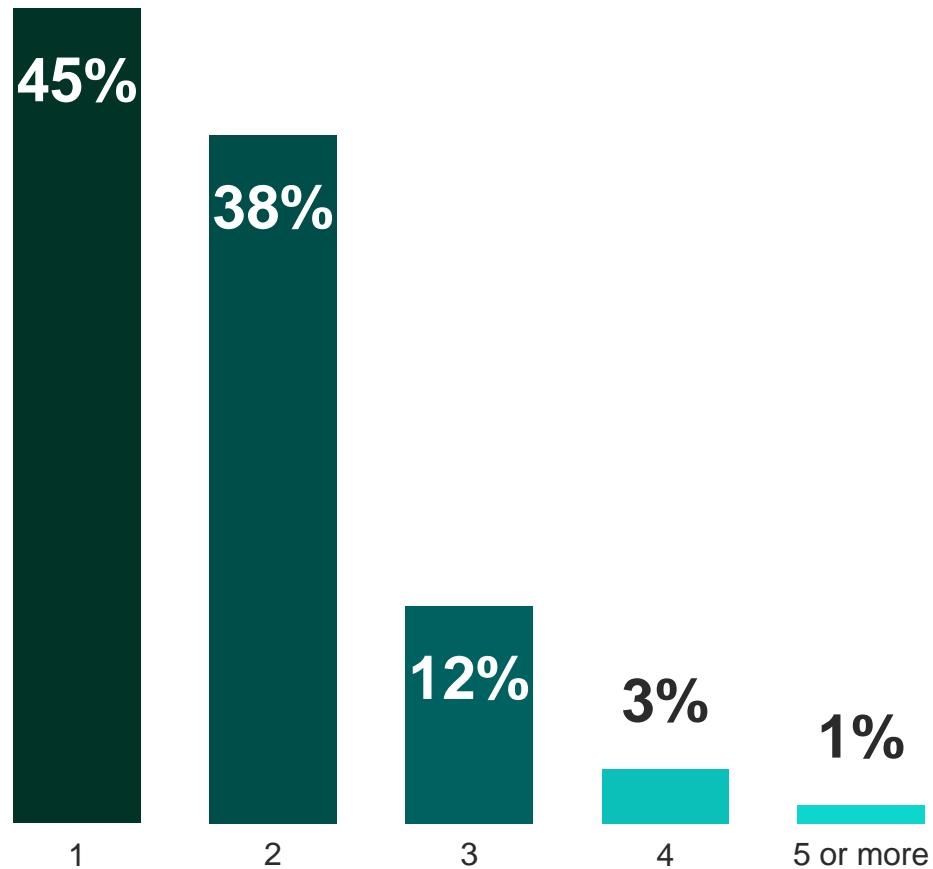


## APPENDIX: PARENTS

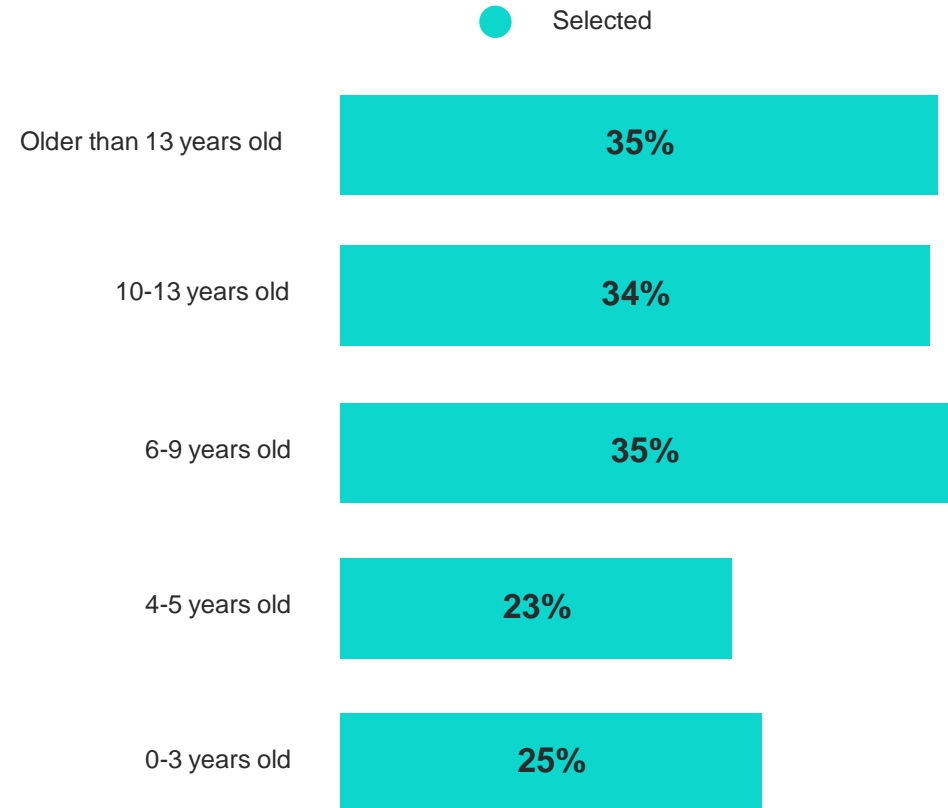
The majority of parents have one (45%) or two (38%) children—most commonly ages 6 or older.

AMONG PARENTS (n=1,138; MOE: 3%)

How many children under 18 do you have?



How old is/are the child/children that are now living in your household? Select all that apply.

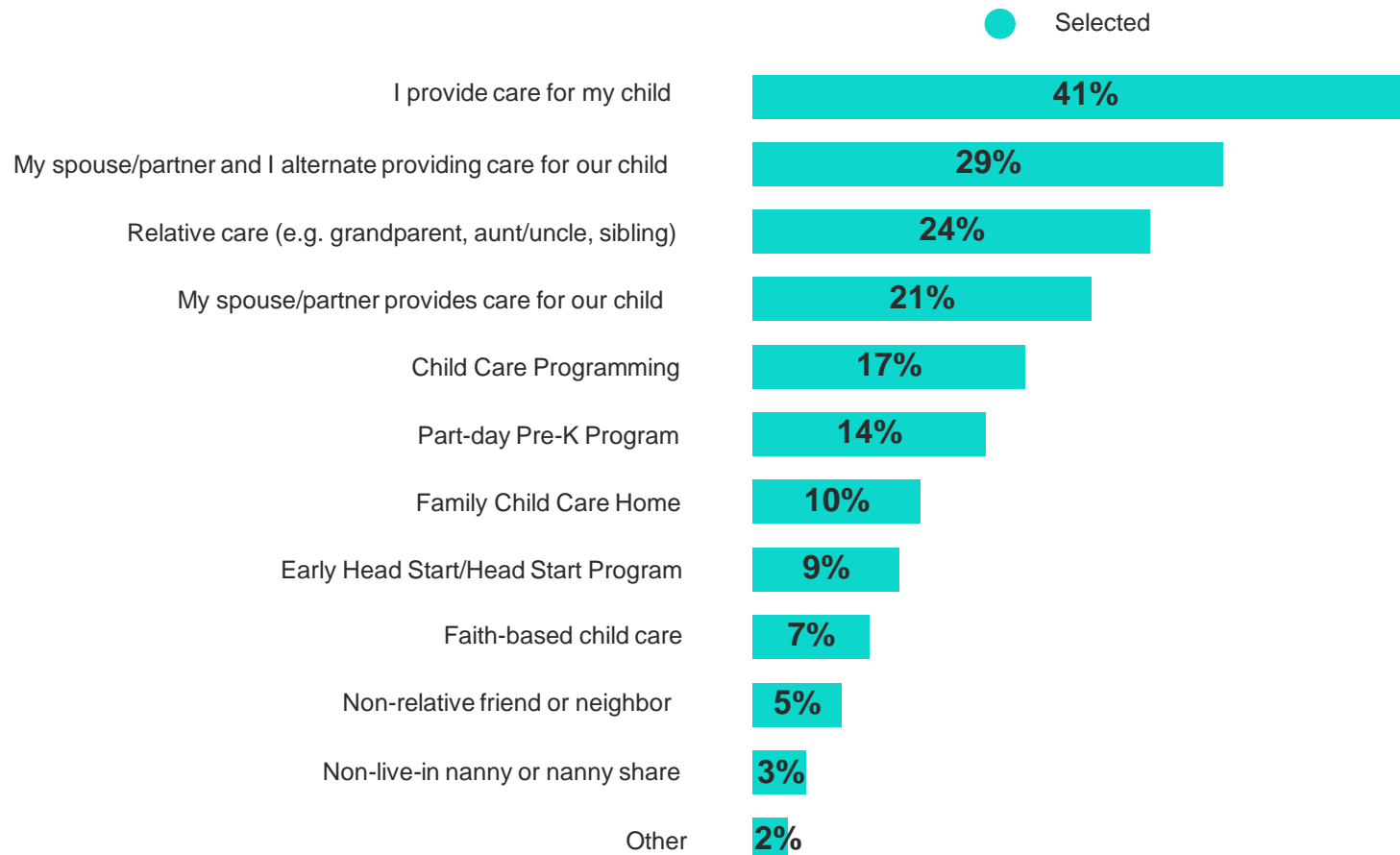


## APPENDIX: CHILD CARE

# Children younger than 6 years old are most often cared for by their parents or relatives.

Which of the following child care arrangements do you currently have for your child(ren) ages 0-5? Select all that apply.

AMONG PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGES 0-5 (n=473; MOE: 5%)

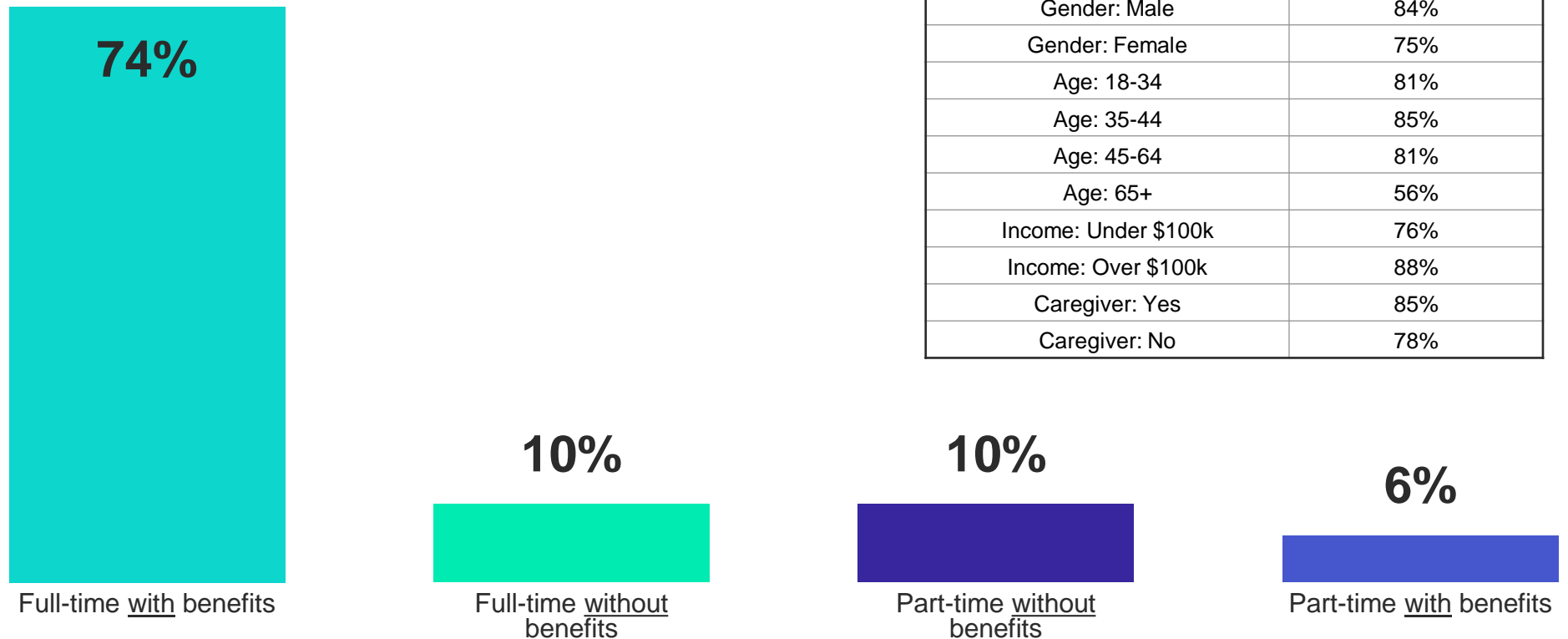


## APPENDIX: EMPLOYEE BENEFIT STATUS

# Among voters who are employed, 80% receive employee benefits.

How would you describe your benefit status as an employee? *Employee benefits often include employer-provided health insurance, retirement saving plans, and paid time off.*

AMONG EMPLOYED VOTERS\* (n=1,790; MOE: 2%)



\*Does not include self-employed voters

## APPENDIX: CAREGIVERS

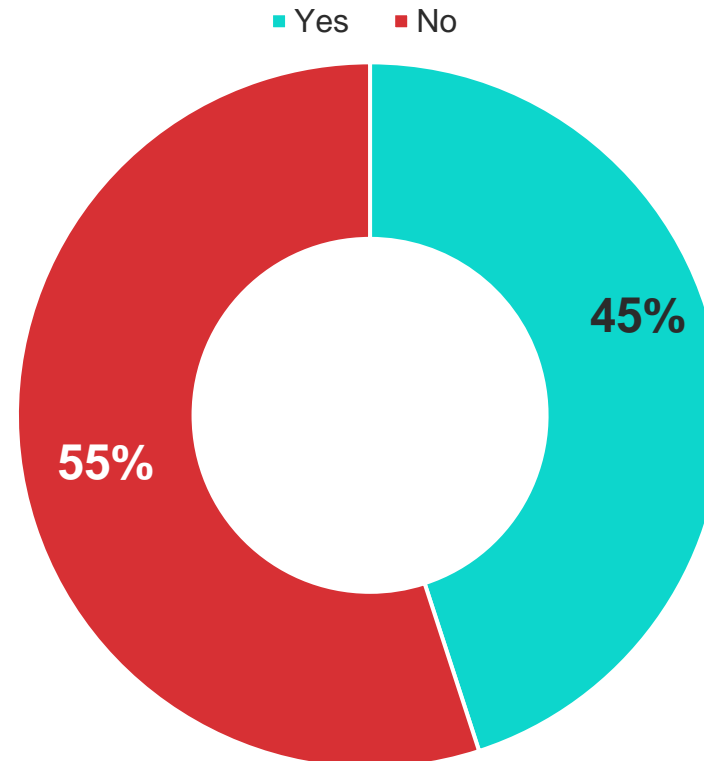
**Nearly half (45%) of voters are either caregivers themselves or know someone personally who is a caregiver.**

Are you a **caregiver** providing regular care to your **family member(s)**?

**OR**

Do you know anyone personally who is a **caregiver** providing regular care to their **family member(s)** (not including yourself)?

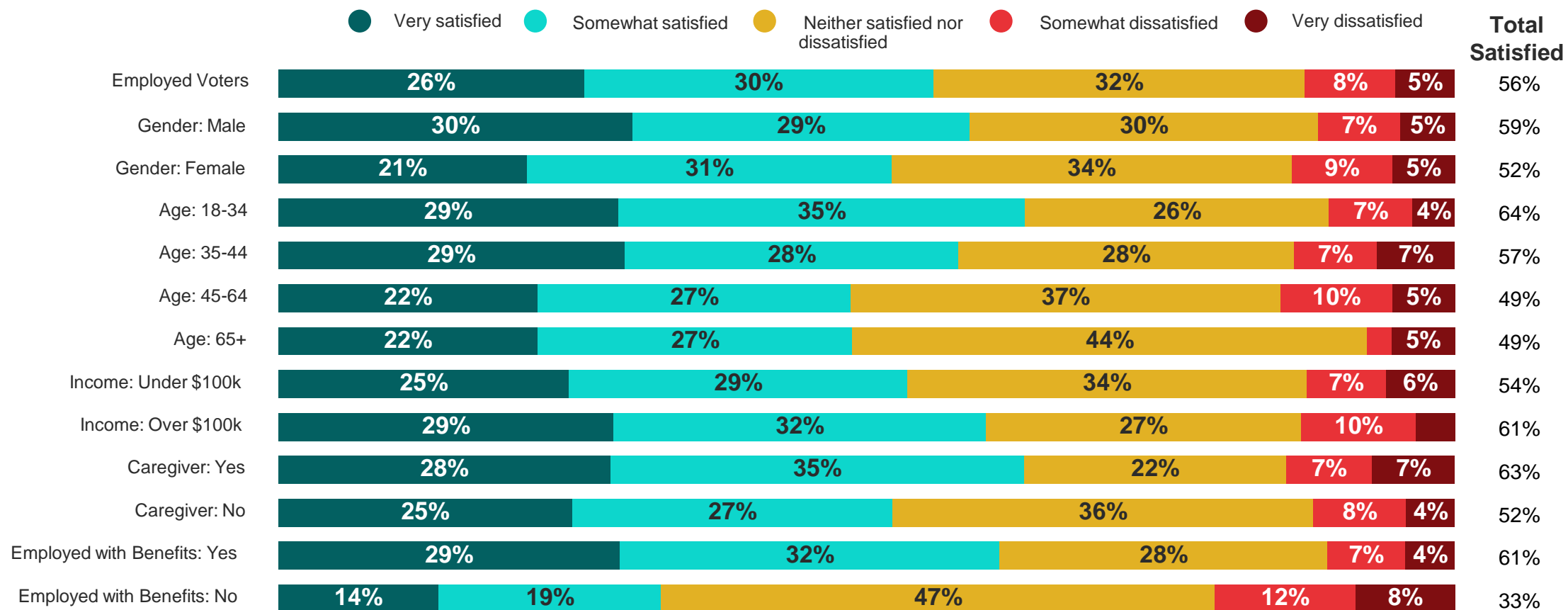
*Being a caregiver can involve caring for children in your family, caring for ill or disabled family members, or caring for aging relatives by providing ongoing assistance with tasks like preparing meals, school or appointment drop-offs, dressing and bathing, managing medical care, or dealing with paperwork and bills.*



## APPENDIX: ROLE OF EMPLOYERS IN CAREGIVING

Generally speaking, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the caregiving benefits offered by your employer (e.g., paid family leave, financial assistance for child care, flexible work schedules)?

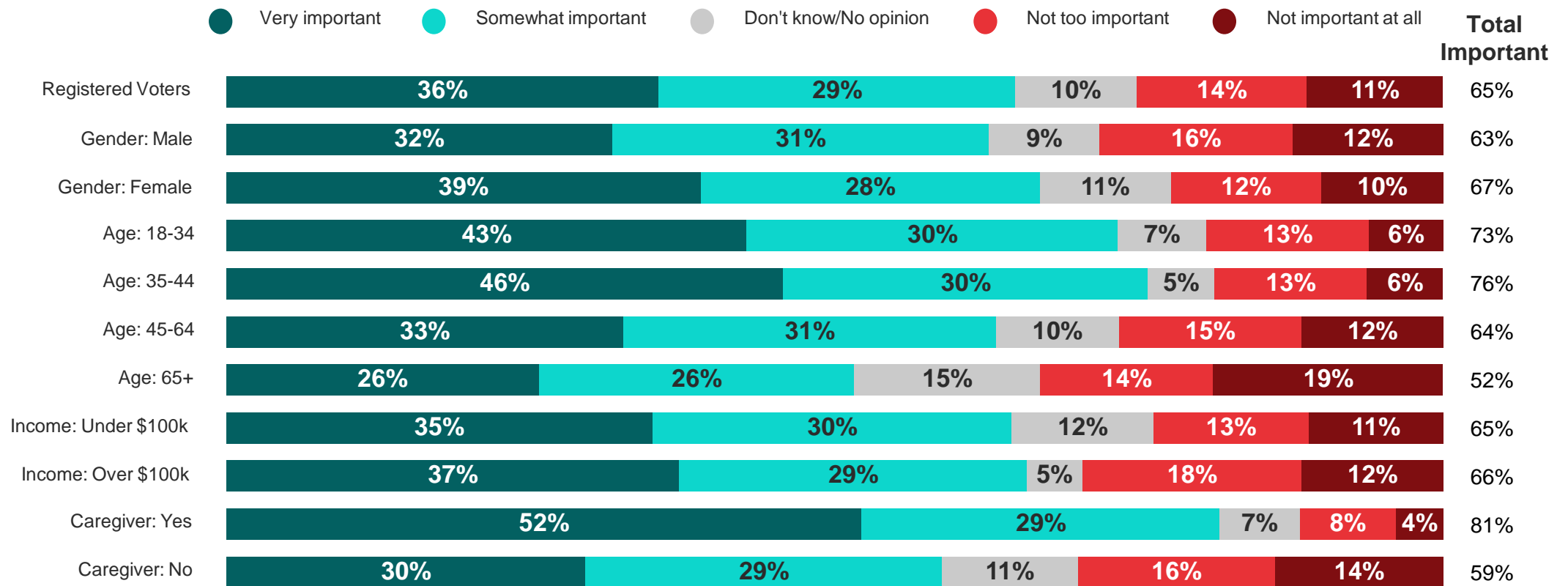
AMONG EMPLOYED VOTERS\* (n=1,790; MOE: 2%)



\*Does not include self-employed voters  
Total Satisfied= Very satisfied + Somewhat satisfied

## APPENDIX: ROLE OF EMPLOYERS IN CAREGIVING

If you were offered a job today, how important would caregiving benefits be in your decision to accept the role (e.g., paid family leave, financial assistance for child care, flexible work schedules)?



## APPENDIX: VOTER SENTIMENT ON CAREGIVING

Thinking about the upcoming election, how much have you seen, read, or heard political candidates talk about the needs, challenges, and financial costs of caregiving and proposed policies to address them?

