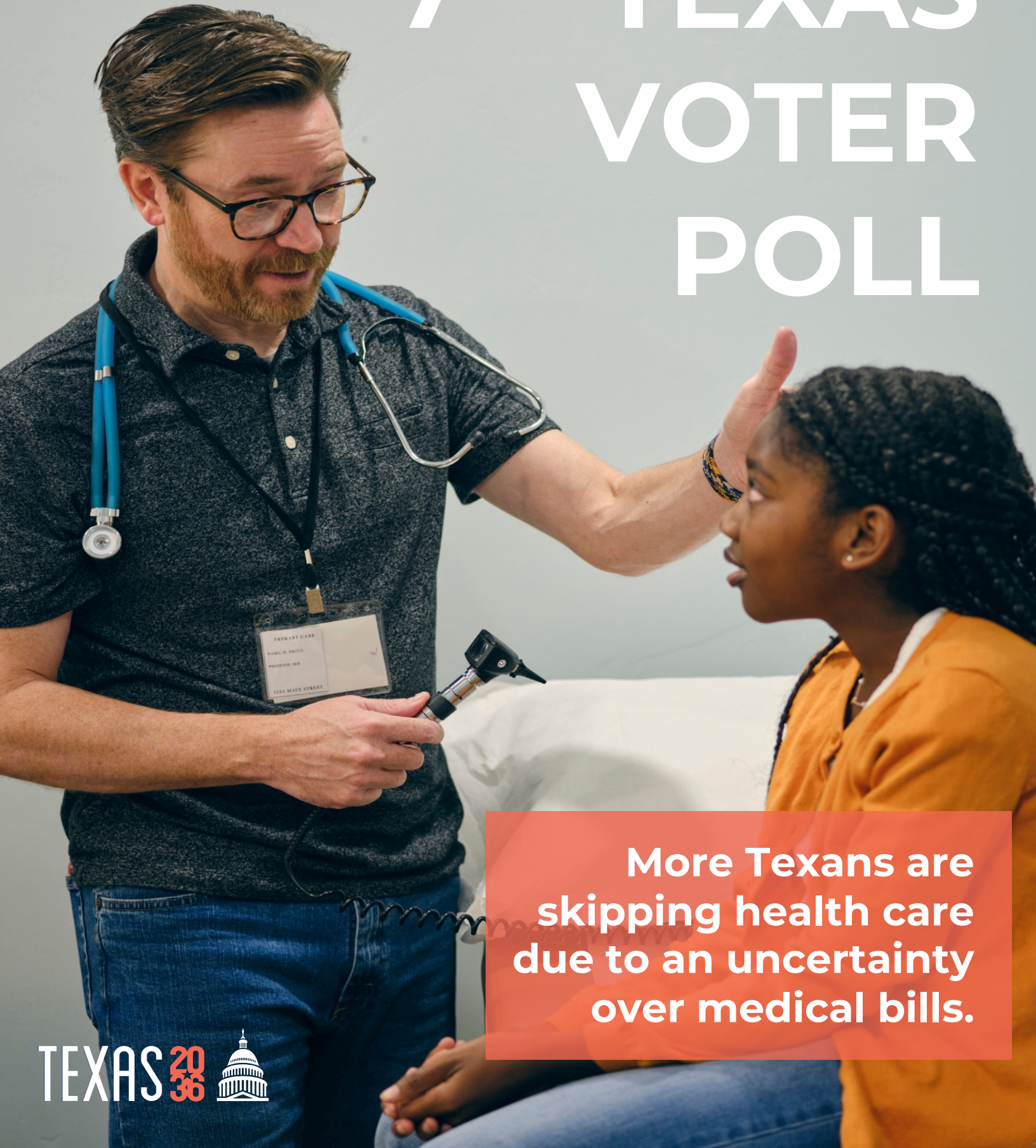


August 2023

# 7TH TEXAS VOTER POLL



More Texans are  
skipping health care  
due to an uncertainty  
over medical bills.

# POLL METHODOLOGY

**Baselice and Associates** conducted the survey, polling 1,000 registered Texas voters on August 22-29, 2023. It has a *margin of error of  $\pm 3.1\%$* .

The interviews were conducted via:



Phone  
**52%**

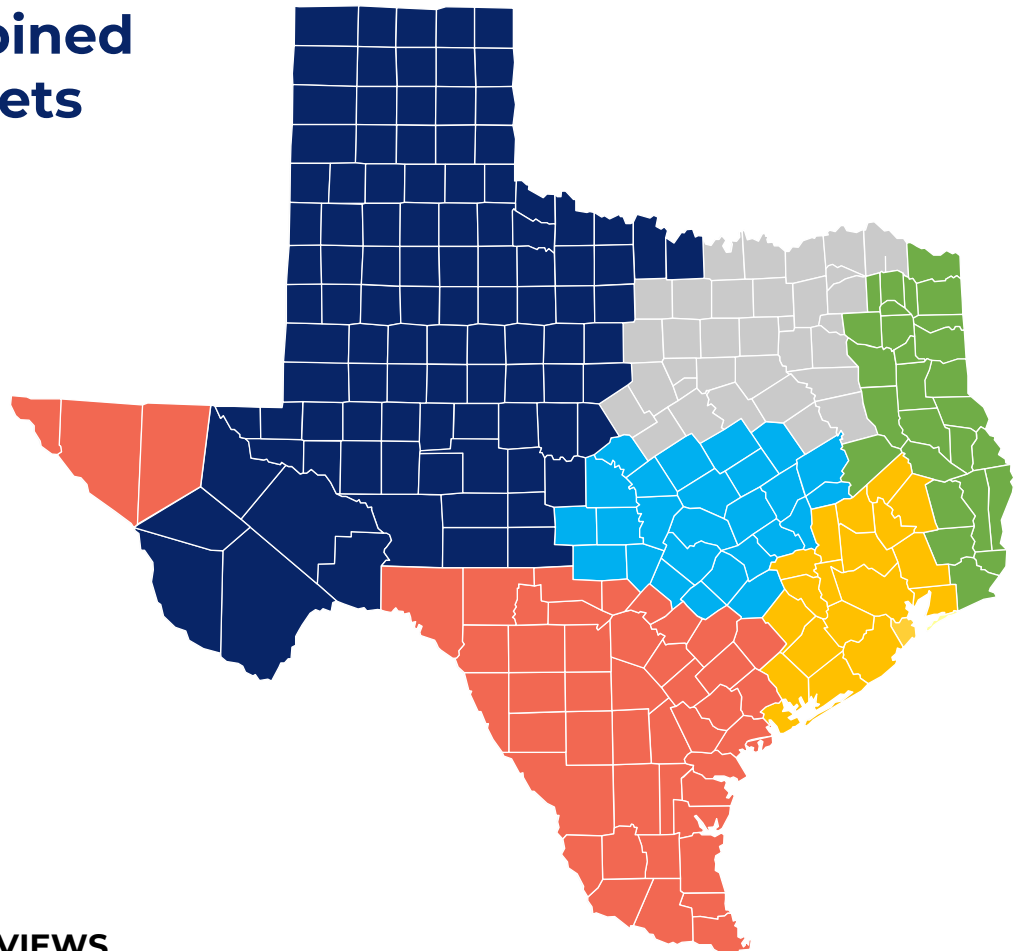


SMS  
**13%**

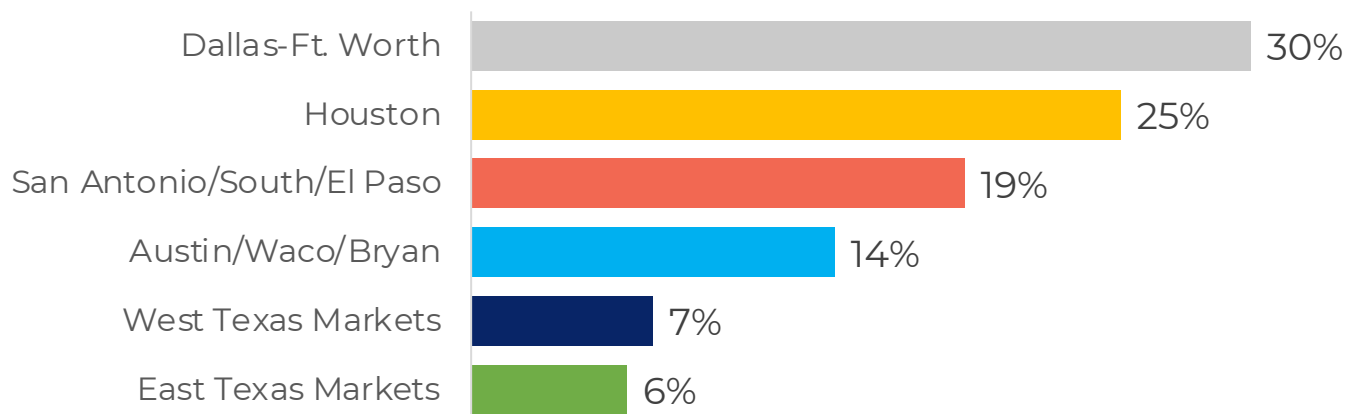


Web  
**35%**

## Texas Combined Media Markets



### PERCENT OF INTERVIEWS



# HEALTH CARE

## More Texans Skipping Care Due to Uncertainty Over Medical Bills

41% Texas voters said they or a household member postponed medical treatment due to worries over the final size of medical bills; the Texas Voter Poll also finds high levels of voter concern over higher prices caused by health care consolidation and majority support for government action to curb consolidation.

**AUSTIN, TX** — More than four in 10 Texas voters, or 41%, say they or a household member postponed or skipped treatment or surgery because of uncertainty over what the final price of care might run, in the latest release of polling data from the Texas Voter Poll, a survey of 1,000 registered Texas voters conducted at the end of August by Baseline and Associates for Texas 2036.

Concerns over the final size of medical bills were especially pronounced among mothers and Hispanics, our poll found. A total of 52% of surveyed mothers and 50% of surveyed Hispanics said they or a household member postponed or skipped care over anticipated medical bills.

The number of Texans with fears about the size of their medical bills is up 10 points from September 2022 when last we asked this question as part of the Texas Voter Poll. It is also up seven points from when we measured this in January 2021.



Policymakers interested in addressing high prices for Texas health care could consider policies to limit opportunities for further market concentration, reduce existing concentration of markets and mitigate the harmful impacts that existing concentration has on prices. By addressing any of these underlying causes of high health care prices, Texas could make major improvements in the availability of affordable care.

Texans are clear that doing nothing isn't an option, and they have expressed a preference for market-based solutions, rather than a wholesale government takeover. But if lawmakers don't engage to empower healthy markets, single-payer alternatives loom on the horizon as more popular than the status quo.



**Charles Miller**

Senior Policy Advisor  
*Texas 2036*

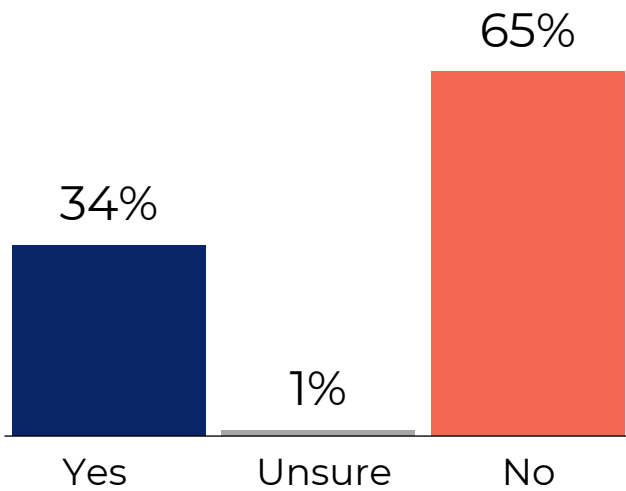




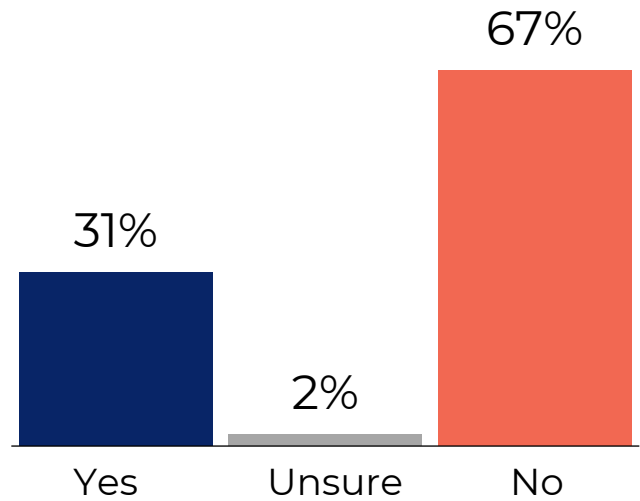
# HEALTH CARE

**Have you or someone in your household postponed or skipped any medical treatment or surgery in recent years because you didn't know what the final medical costs might be?**

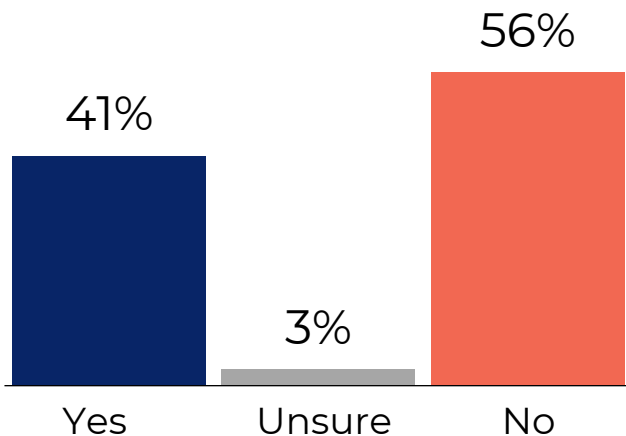
**January 2021**



**September 2022**

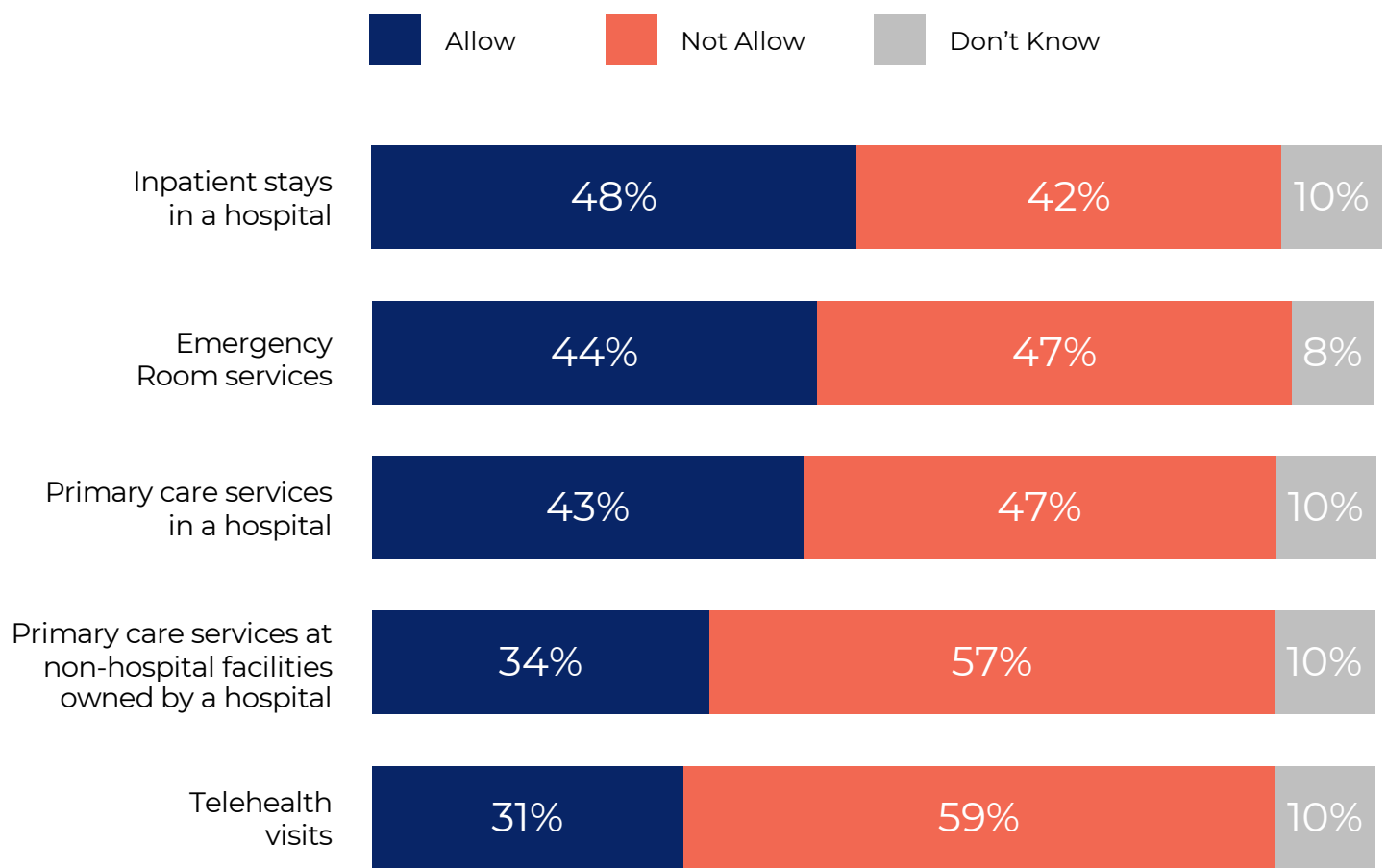


**August 2023**

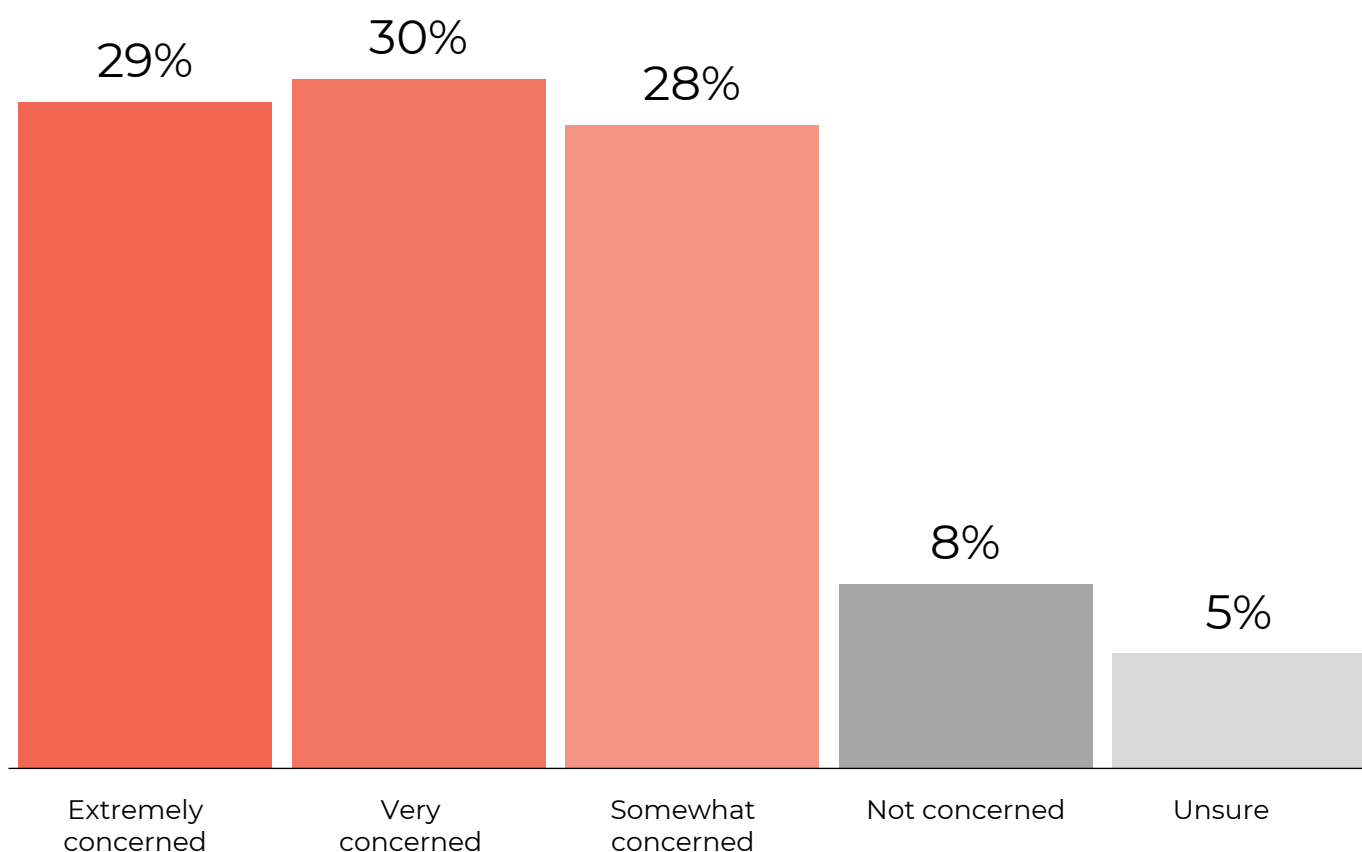


	Yes
<strong>RRACE – Race &amp; Ethnicity</strong>	
Anglo	38%
African-American	37%
Hispanic	50%
Other	40%
<strong>RINCOME – Annual HH Inc.</strong>	
Under \$50,000	46%
\$50,000 - \$79,999	39%
\$80,000 - \$124,999	41%
\$125,000 and over	40%
<strong>RRFAMILY - Gender</strong>	
Male with kids	44%
Male w/o kids	35%
Female with kids	52%
Female w/o kids	40%

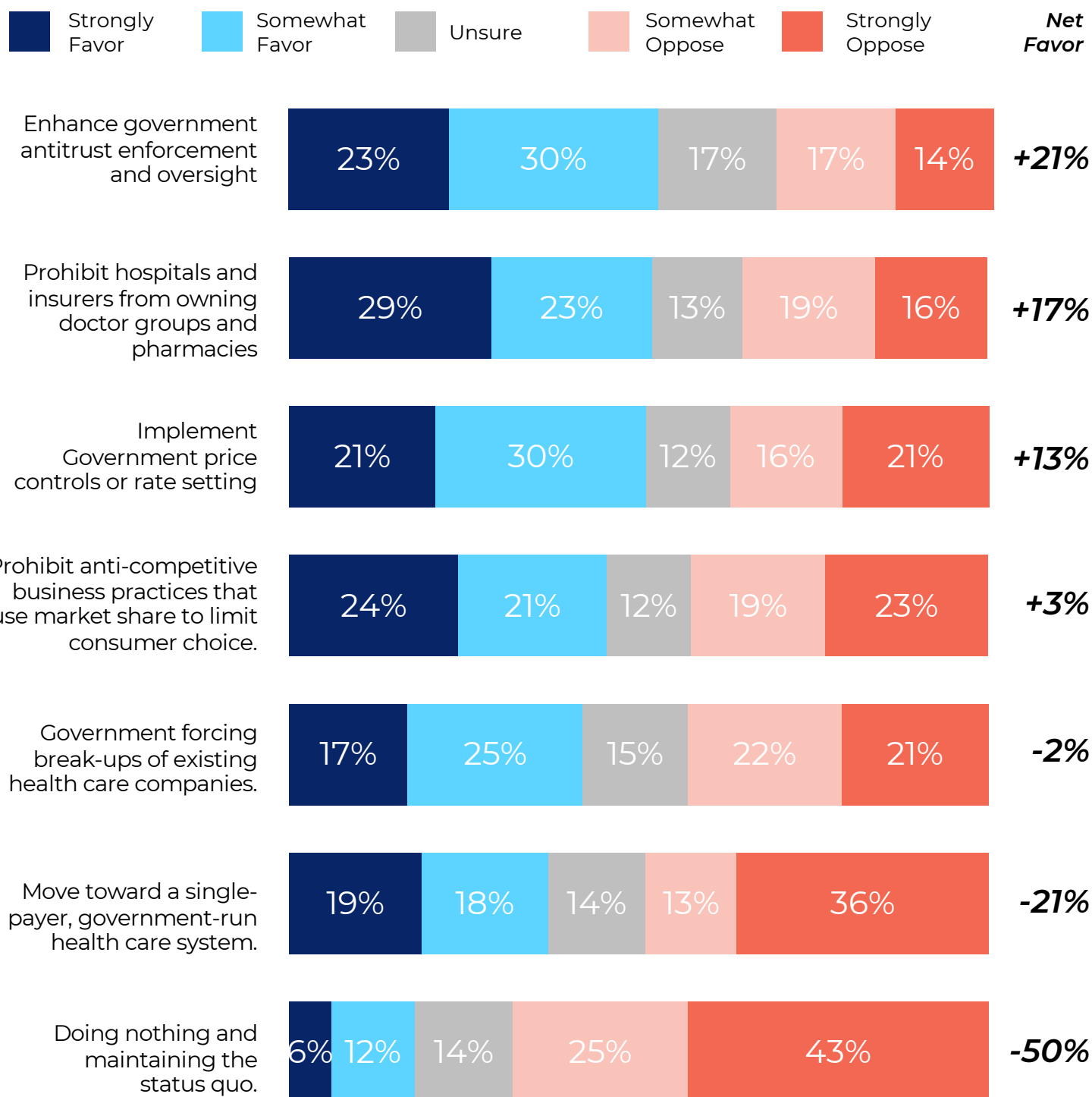
**In addition to billing for services performed, hospitals charge facility fees to cover overhead and expenses, especially as they must remain open 24 hours a day. Some hospital systems have recently begun charging facility fees to their patients at non-hospital facilities they own as well. Should the legislature allow or not allow hospitals to charge facility fees for:**



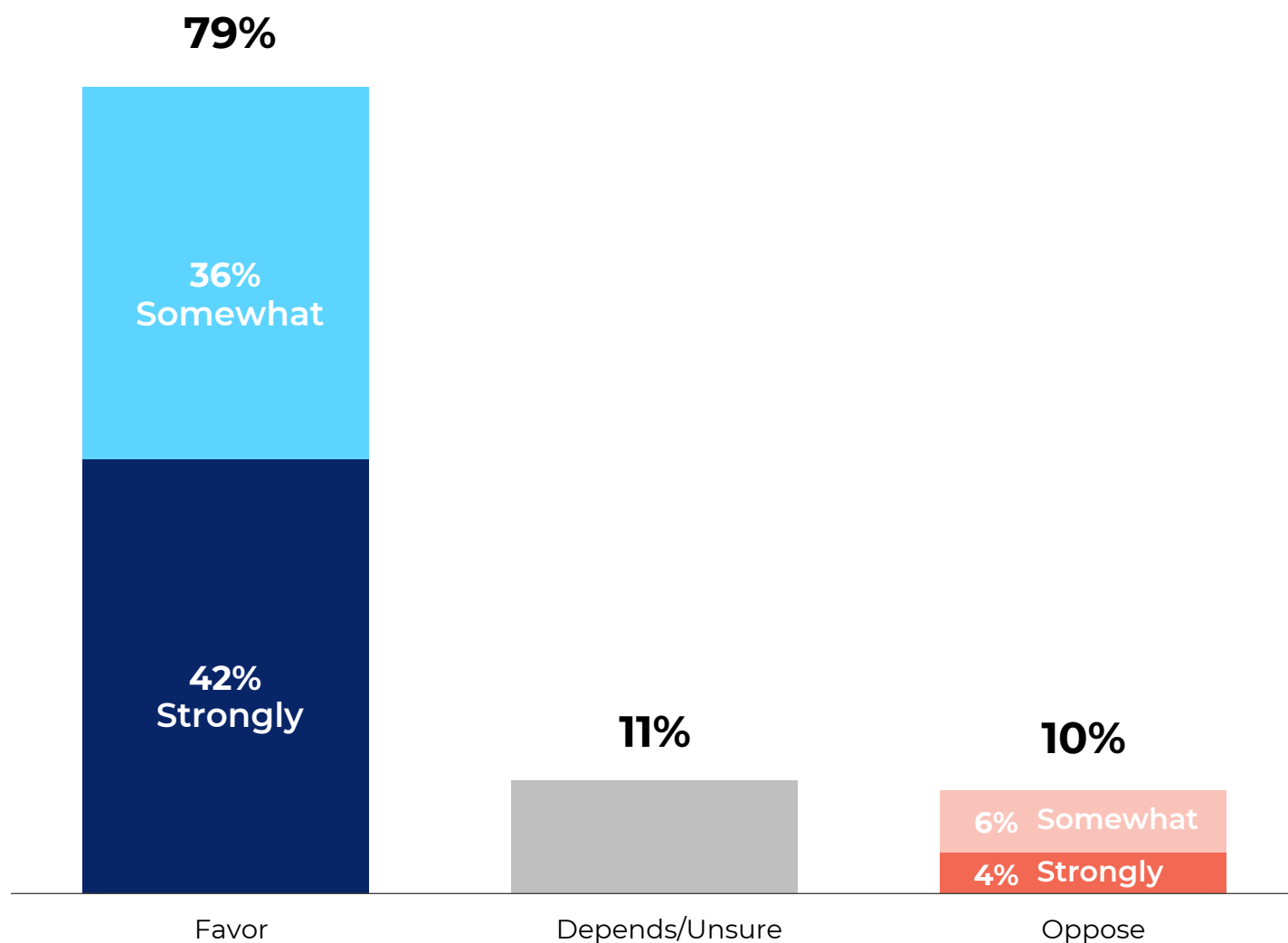
Over the past decade, the health care industry has experienced significant consolidation, meaning that a smaller number of businesses own a larger proportion of health care providers. Today, 61% of Texans live in markets that are considered highly or very highly concentrated - compared to just 3% of Californians. Independent research from health economists has found that consolidation leads to higher prices for health care. Which best describes how concerned you are about consolidation in the health care industry?



# To address health care consolidation, please indicate if you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose each of the following potential policy ideas.



Earlier this year, the Texas Legislature passed a new law that prohibits large health care providers from using anti-competitive contracting practices, meaning that they can no longer increase prices for consumers by forcing customers to accept contract terms that reduce market competition. As a result of this legislation, employers are now better able to help their employees access lower-cost care at smaller, independent providers. Knowing this, do you favor or oppose this legislation?







For additional information,  
please contact :

✉ | [info@texas2036.org](mailto:info@texas2036.org)

☎ | (469) 384-2036

📍 | 210 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1100,  
Austin, Texas 78701

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