



# BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER

Public Opinion on the Opioid Crisis

MAY 2022



## BACKGROUND

The research conducted by Morning Consult on behalf of the Bipartisan Policy Center sought to understand the following:

1. General views of the misuse of opioids in the United States
2. The personal impact of opioid addiction
3. Sentiment towards Congress' response to the opioid crisis

## METHODOLOGY

This poll was conducted between May 17-19, 2022 among a sample of 2,210 adults. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of adults based on gender, age, race, educational attainment, and region. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of +/-2%.

## DEFINITION

The following information was provided to respondents about opioids:

As you may know, **opioids** are drugs that produce a variety of effects, including relaxation and relief from pain. Opioids can be prescription medications (Morphine, Oxycodone, hydrocodone) and illegal or synthetic drugs (heroin, fentanyl). Opioids can be abused when used outside of prescribed parameters.

**Opioid use disorder** (also commonly referred to as **opioid addiction**) is a problematic pattern of opioid use that causes significant impairment or distress.

The larger issue of opioid abuse and addiction in the United States is sometimes referred to as the **opioid crisis**.

## What U.S. Adults Think About The Opioid Crisis

61%

Of adults consider the misuse of opioids in the United States to be a **major public health emergency**, including a bipartisan majority of adults (66% Democrats, 57% independents, 59% Republicans).

68%

Of adults recognize the **opioid crisis as a major problem in the United States** but are less likely to recognize it as a major problem in their state (53%) and community (36%).

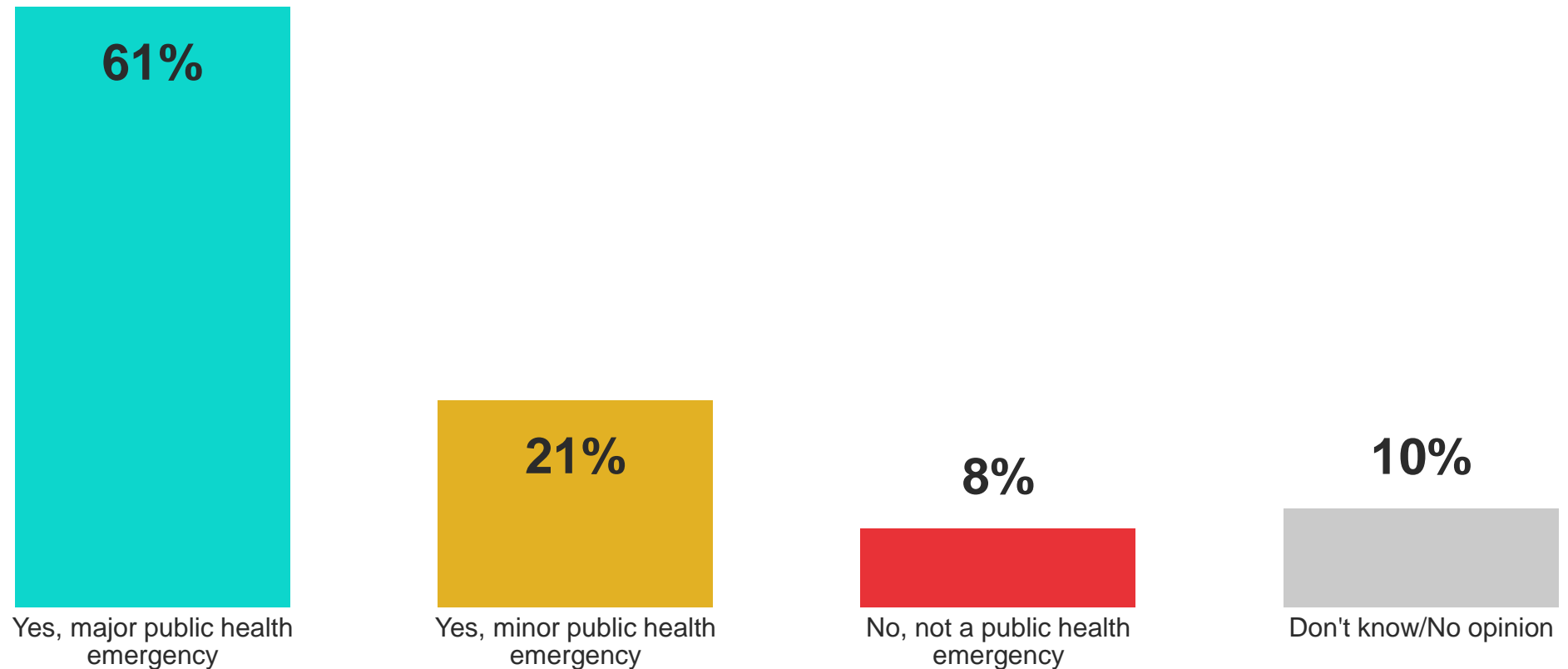
58%

Of adults think **Congress is not doing enough to combat the opioid crisis**, including a bipartisan majority of adults (62% Democrats, 54% independents, 58% Republicans).

## PUBLIC OPINION ON THE OPIOID CRISIS

Three in five adults (61%) consider the misuse of opioids in the United States to be a major public health emergency.

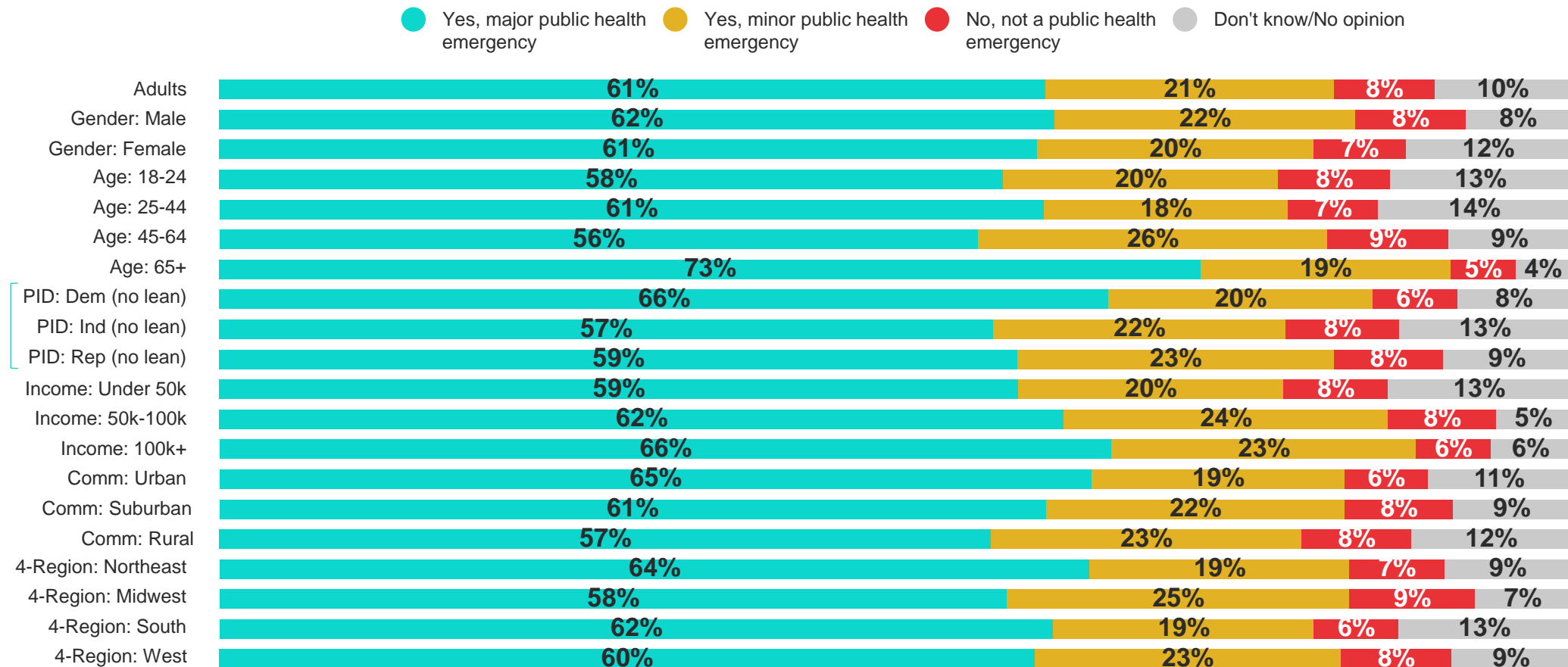
Do you consider the misuse of opioids in the United States to be a public health emergency?



PUBLIC OPINION ON THE OPIOID CRISIS

A bipartisan majority of adults consider the misuse of opioids in the United States to be a major public health emergency.

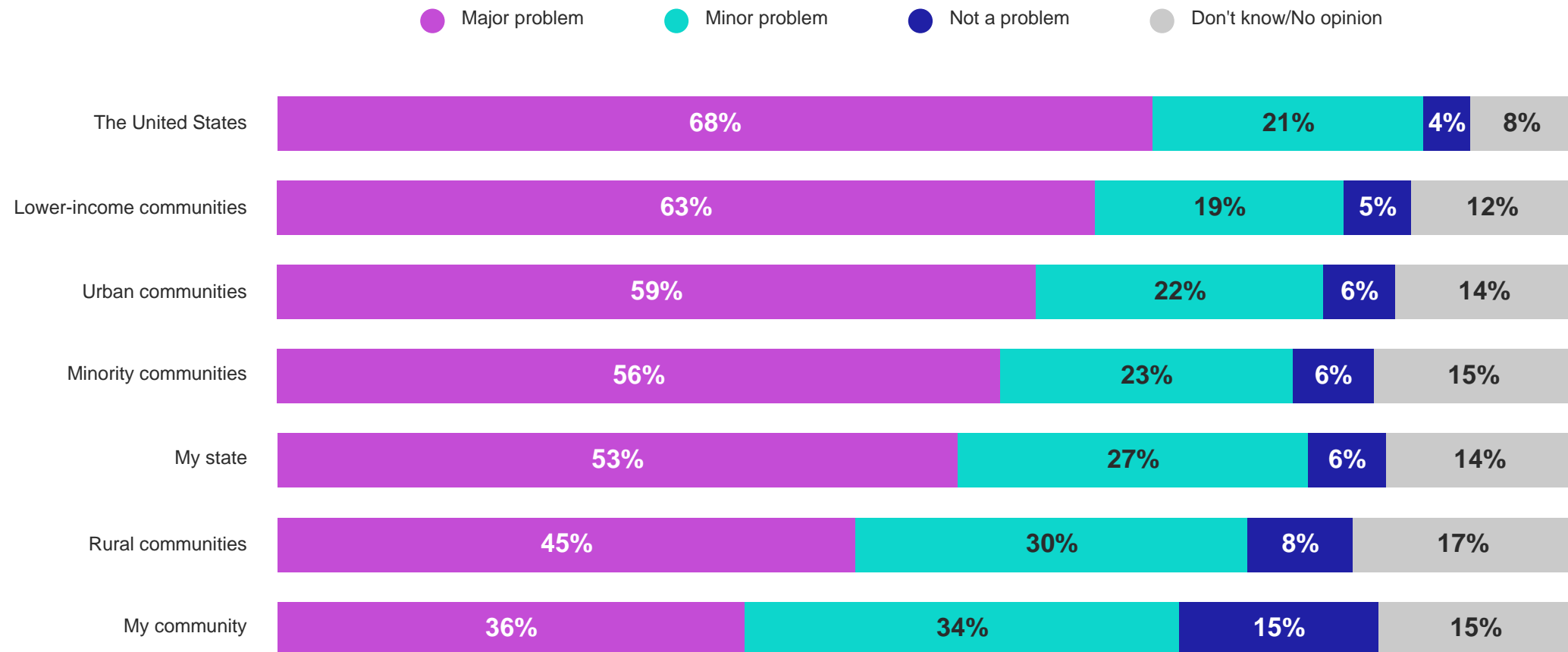
Do you consider the misuse of opioids in the United States to be a public health emergency?



PUBLIC OPINION ON THE OPIOID CRISIS

Two-thirds of adults (68%) think the opioid crisis is a major problem in the United States.

How much of a problem, if at all, do you think the opioid crisis is in each of the following?



## PUBLIC OPINION ON THE OPIOID CRISIS

Adults who are in a low-income or minority community are *less likely* than those who are not to say the opioid crisis is a major problem in these communities.

How much of a problem, if at all, do you think the opioid crisis is in each of the following? % major problem

	Adults	Income: Under 50k	Income: 50k-100k	Income: 100k+	Ethnicity: White	Ethnicity: Hispanic	Ethnicity: Black	Ethnicity: Other
The United States	68%	68%	67%	66%	68%	68%	70%	60%
Lower-income communities	63%	60%	66%	69%	65%	55%	60%	56%
Urban communities	59%	57%	60%	61%	60%	52%	58%	44%
Minority communities	56%	52%	59%	61%	58%	47%	49%	47%
My state	53%	51%	52%	57%	55%	49%	49%	42%
Rural communities	45%	43%	45%	49%	45%	46%	45%	41%
My community	36%	39%	34%	31%	36%	35%	40%	31%

## PUBLIC OPINION ON THE OPIOID CRISIS

A majority of adults (61%) living in an urban community think the opioid crisis is a major problem in urban communities.

How much of a problem, if at all, do you think the opioid crisis is in each of the following? % major problem

	Adults	Community: Urban	Community: Suburban	Community: Rural	4-Region: Northeast	4-Region: Midwest	4-Region: South	4-Region: West
The United States	68%	66%	69%	68%	69%	65%	70%	66%
Lower-income communities	63%	61%	66%	61%	68%	60%	64%	61%
Urban communities	59%	61%	59%	55%	63%	55%	59%	58%
Minority communities	56%	51%	58%	57%	61%	56%	54%	54%
My state	53%	52%	53%	53%	56%	49%	52%	53%
Rural communities	45%	45%	45%	43%	48%	38%	47%	44%
My community	36%	41%	34%	34%	39%	30%	37%	38%



PUBLIC OPINION ON THE OPIOID CRISIS

A third (37%) of adults know someone who has been directly impacted by opioid addiction, and 15% say they have been directly impacted by opioid addiction.

Have you or someone you know been directly impacted by opioid addiction?

● Yes      ● No      ● Prefer not to answer

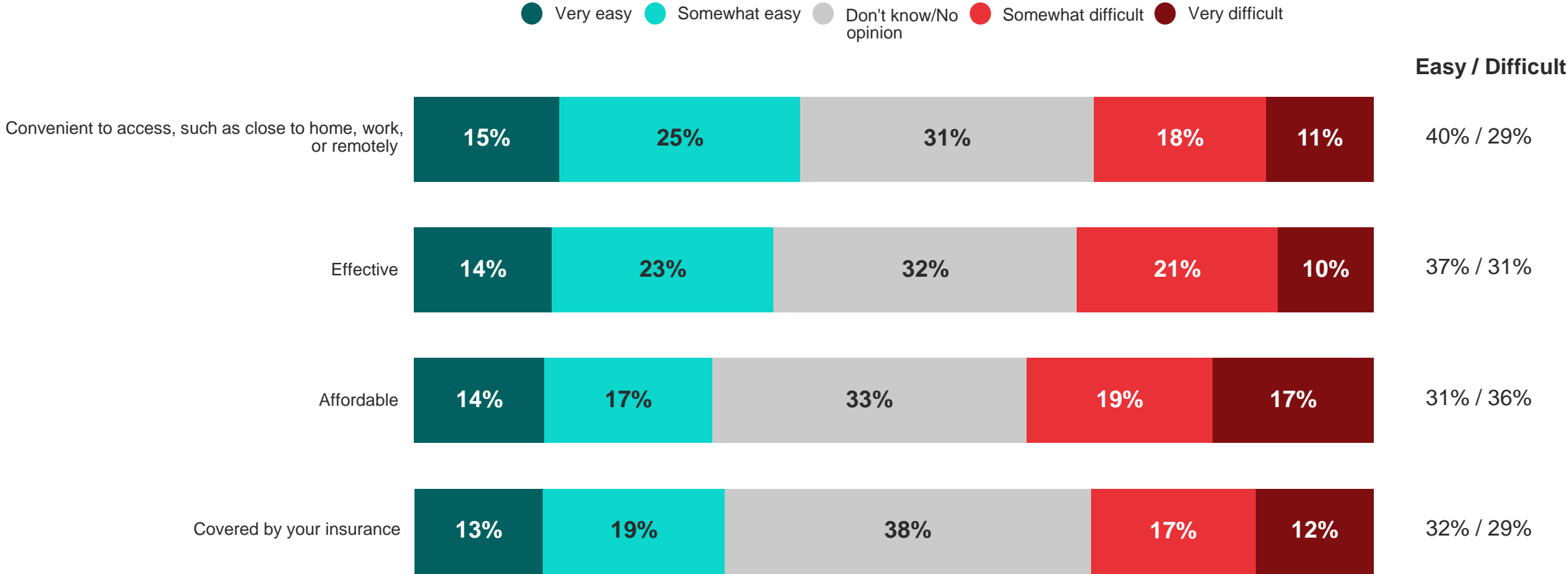


Millennials (25%), adults in urban communities (21%), and those who are currently unemployed (21%) are especially likely to say they have been directly impacted by opioid addiction.

PUBLIC OPINION ON THE OPIOID CRISIS

A third of adults think it would be difficult to find care for opioid addiction that is affordable (36%) and effective (31%).

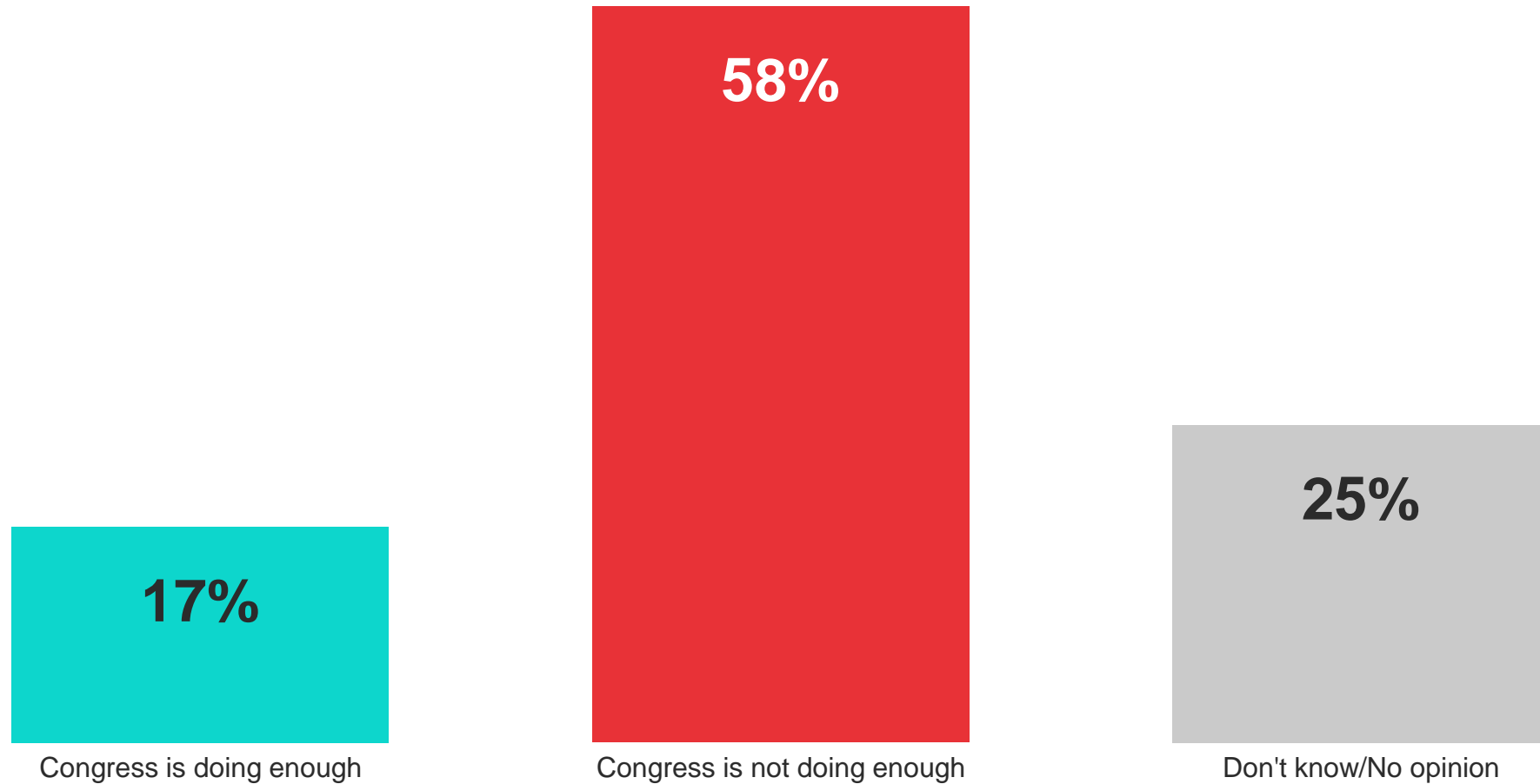
If you or someone you know wanted to seek care for opioid addiction, how easy or difficult would it be to find care that is...



## PUBLIC OPINION ON THE OPIOID CRISIS

A majority of adults (58%) do not think Congress is doing enough to combat the opioid crisis.

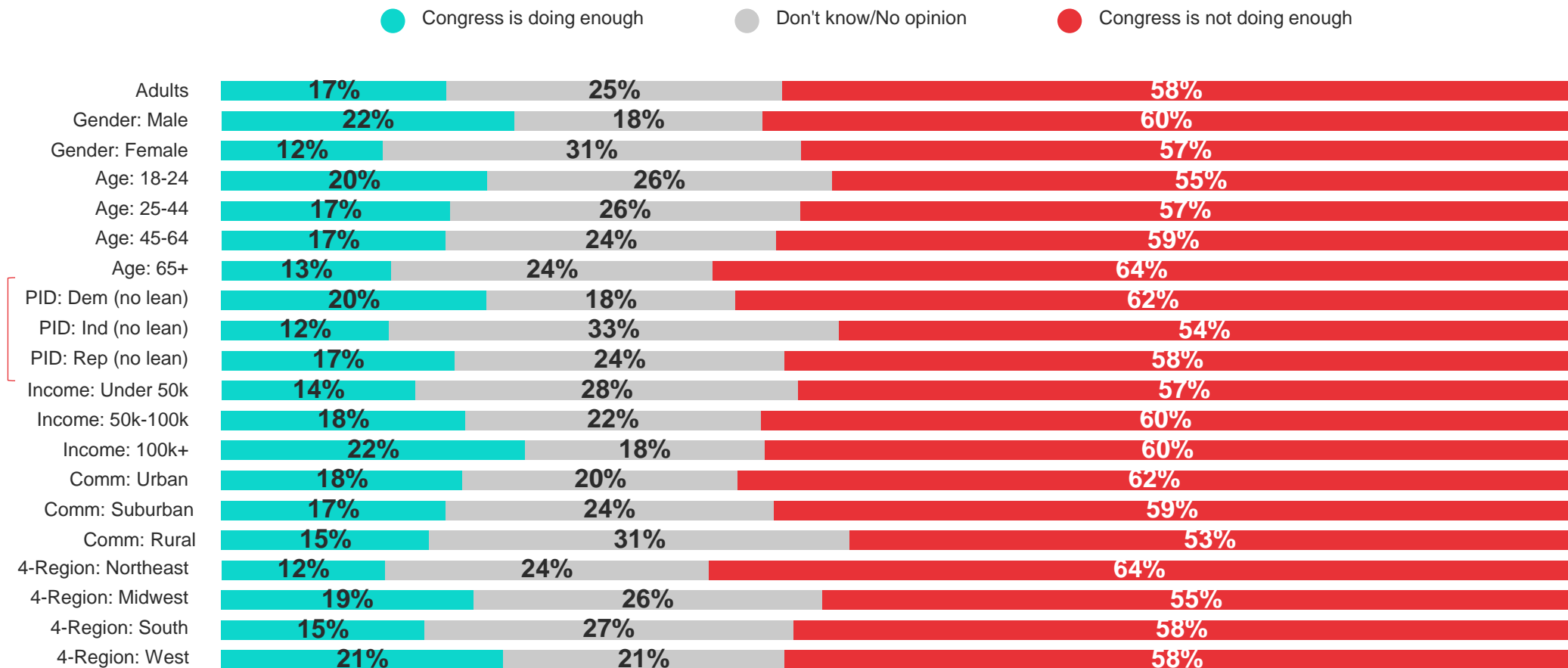
Do you think Congress is doing enough or not doing enough to combat the opioid crisis?



PUBLIC OPINION ON THE OPIOID CRISIS

A bipartisan majority of adults do not think Congress is doing enough to combat the opioid crisis.

Do you think Congress is doing enough or not doing enough to combat the opioid crisis?





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