



HOUSING EXPENSES AND SUPPORT FOR THE HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM

Bipartisan Policy Center

MAY 2023

KEY FINDINGS

1. **Adults continue to experience increases in their housing expenses and have had difficulty paying these expenses over the past 3 months.** Two-in-five (41%) renters say it has been difficult to pay for their monthly rent over the past 3 months.
2. Three-in-four adults (74%) say the lack of an **adequate supply of affordable homes in the United States is a problem** and think an **inadequate supply** of affordable homes **contributes to high housing costs** (75%).
3. A **bipartisan majority of adults** think passing bipartisan legislation to increase the supply of affordable homes and help address high housing costs should be a priority for Congress, as well as **expanding** and **reforming** the **Housing Choice Voucher Program**. Adults who are familiar with the HCVP are more likely to think passing this legislation should be a priority.
4. A majority of adults, including a majority of Republicans and Democrats, think each of the tested initiatives should be included in bipartisan legislation to **reform and improve the Housing Choice Voucher Program**, with support being highest for providing additional vouchers for low-income veterans and their families (74%).

Methodology: This poll was conducted between April 24-27, 2023 among a sample of 2,201 adults. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of adults based on age, gender, race, educational attainment, region, gender by age, and race by educational attainment. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

AGENDA

HOUSING EXPERIENCES AND EXPENSES

HOUSING POLICY

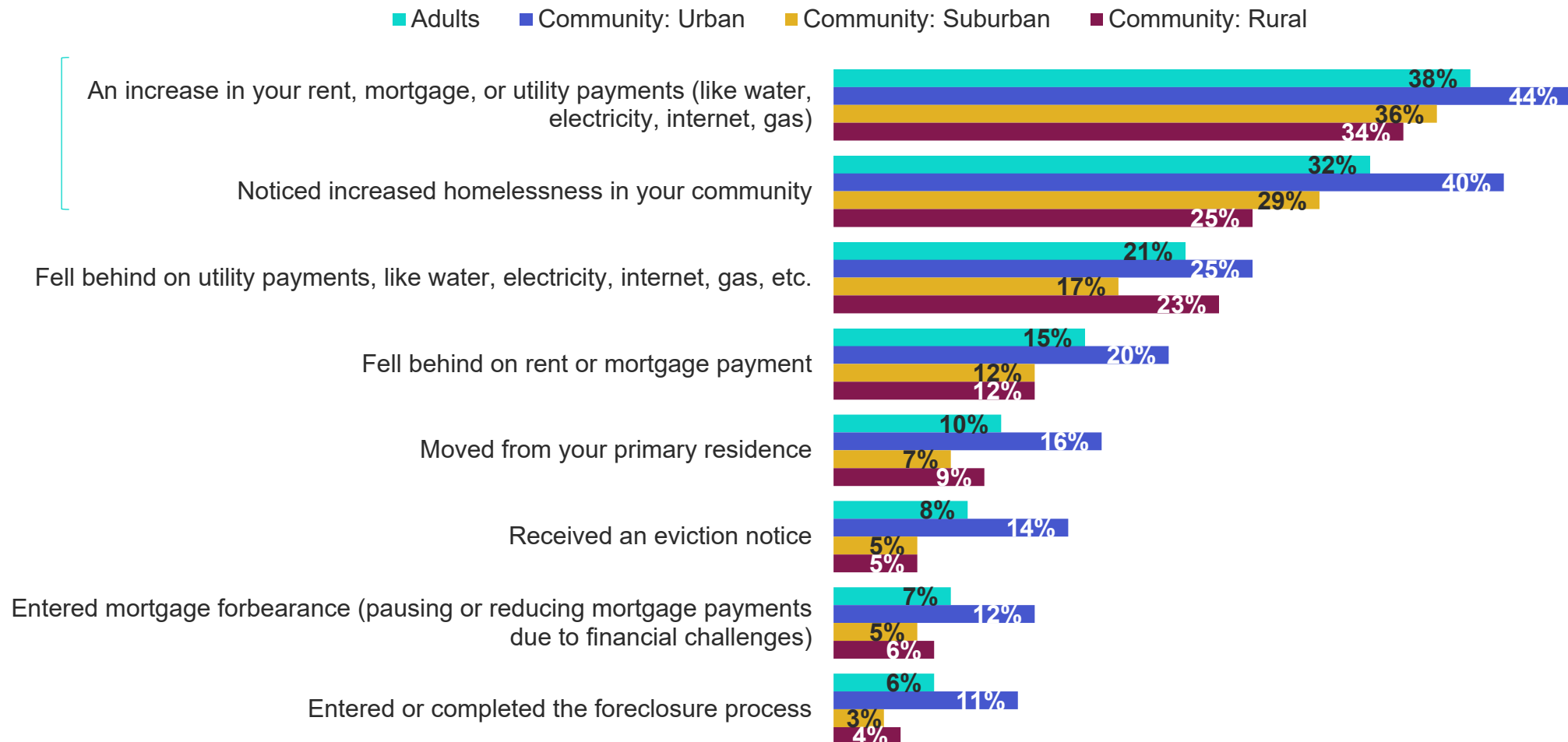
APPENDIX



HOUSING EXPERIENCES AND EXPENSES

Urban adults are more likely than adults of other community types to have experienced the tested events over the past 3 months, specifically an increase in their housing expenses and homelessness in their community.

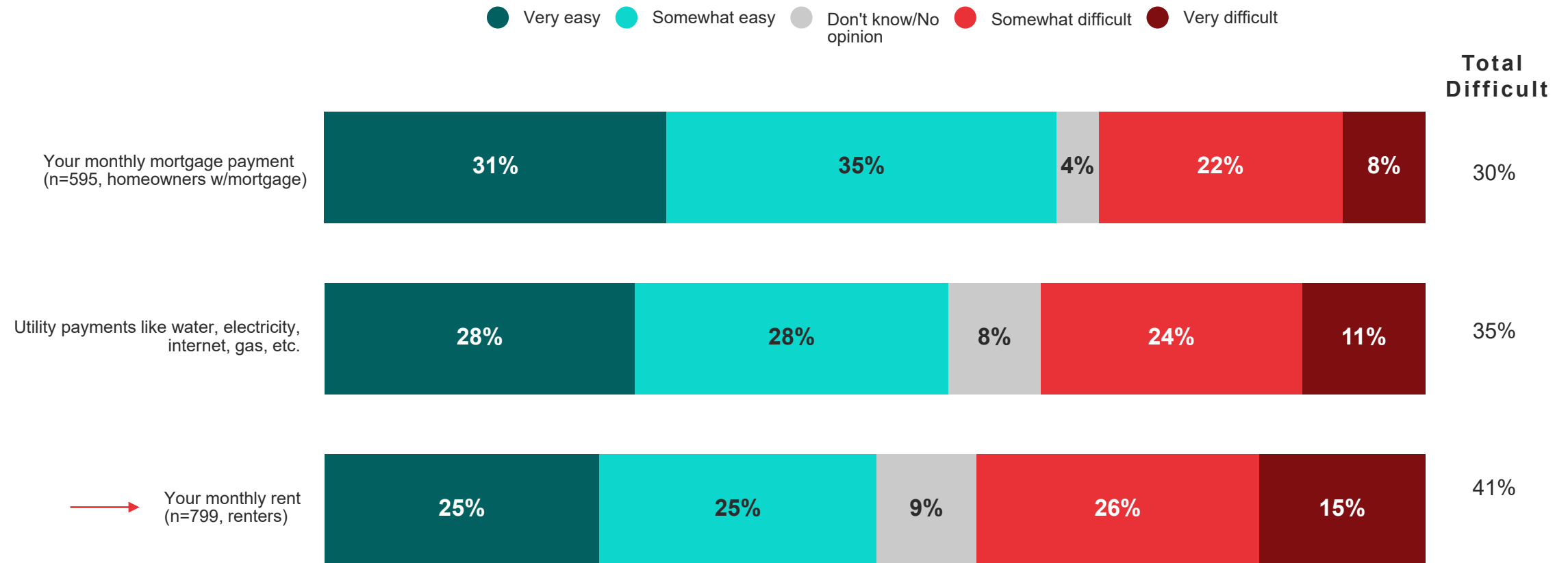
Over the past 3 months, have you experienced the following? % yes



HOUSING EXPERIENCES AND EXPENSES

Two-in-five (41%) renters say it has been difficult to pay for their monthly rent over the past 3 months.

Over the past 3 months, how easy or difficult has it been for you and/or your household to pay for the following?



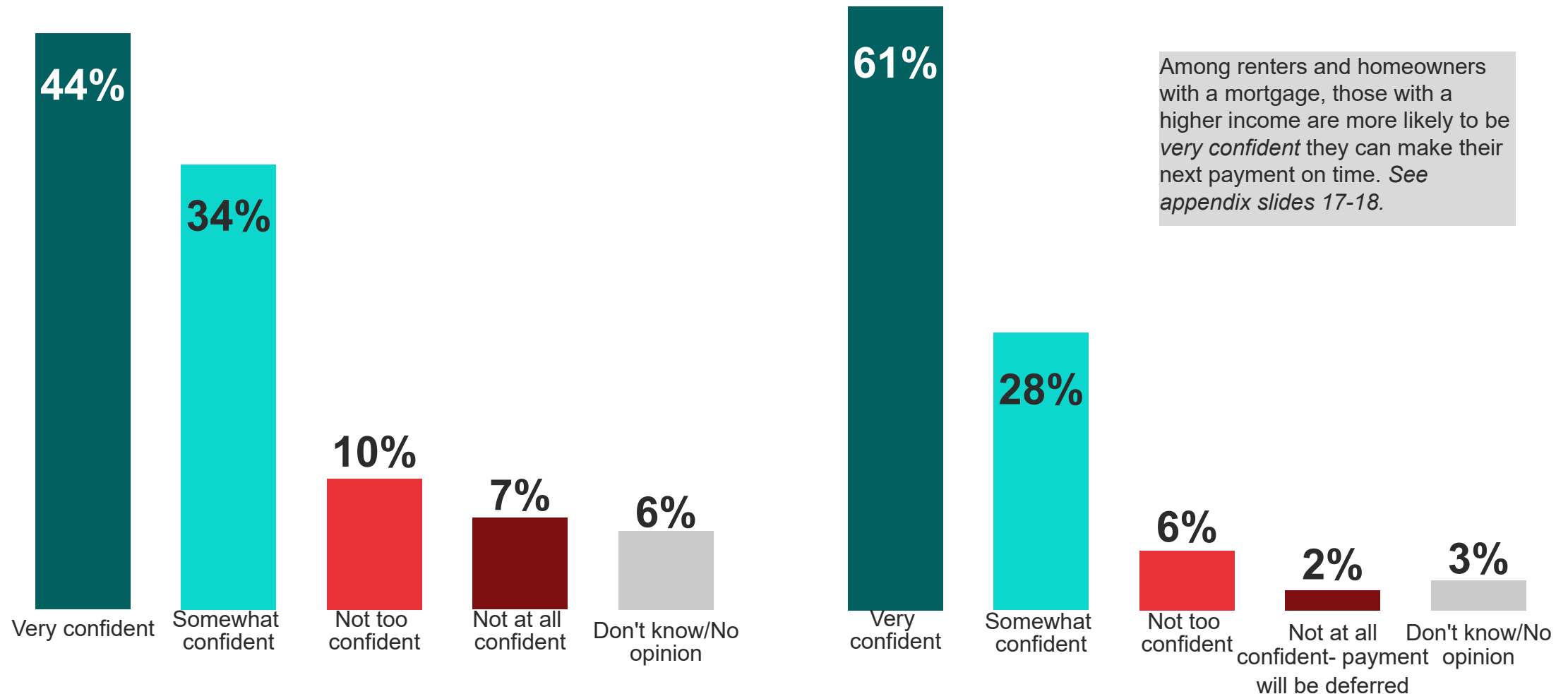
HOUSING EXPERIENCES AND EXPENSES

While a majority of renters (78%) and homeowners (89%) are confident they will be able to make their next rent or mortgage payment on time, confidence is higher among homeowners.

How confident, if at all, are you that your household will be able to make your next rent/mortgage payment on time?

AMONG RENTERS, N=799

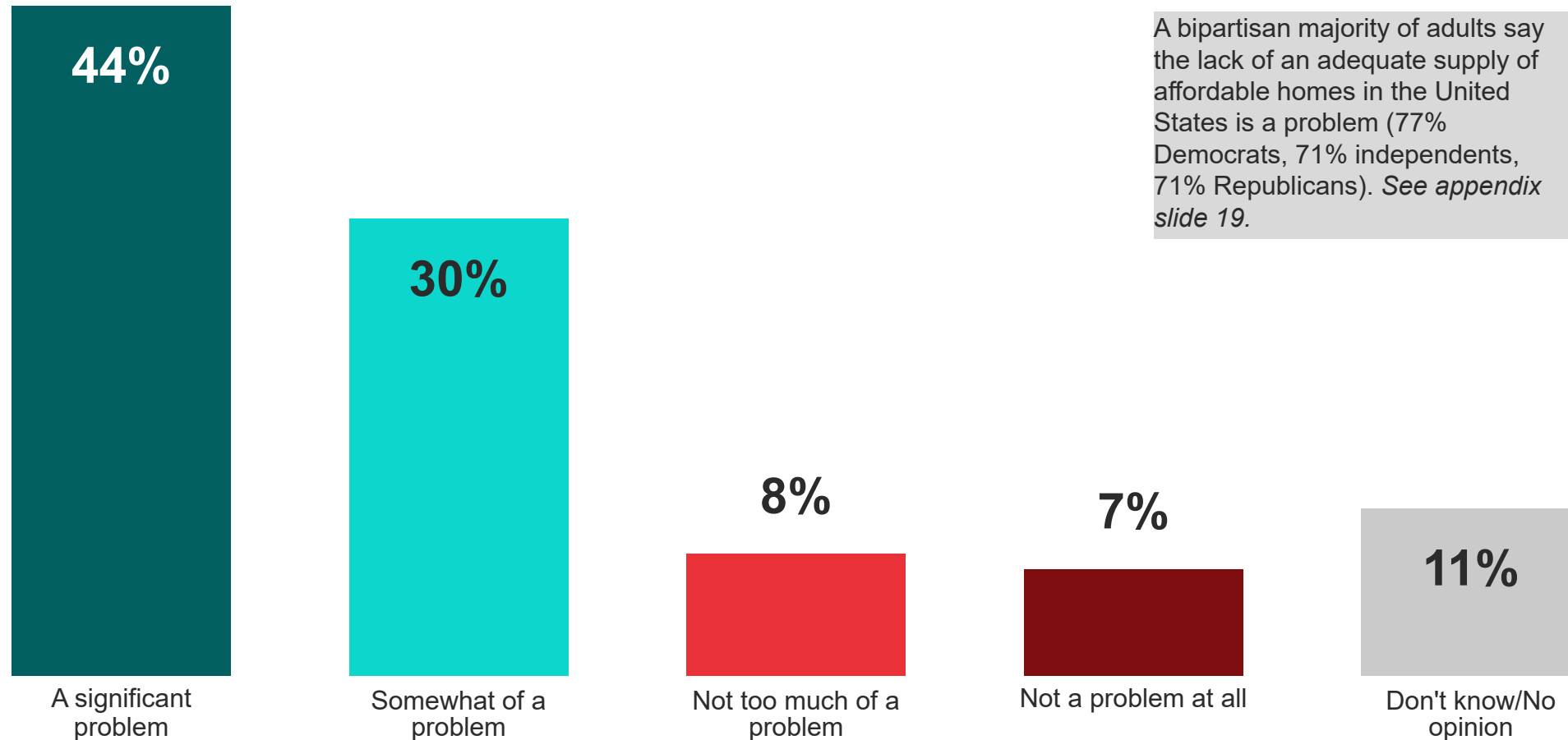
AMONG HOMEOWNERS W/MORTGAGE, N=595



HOUSING EXPERIENCES AND EXPENSES

A majority of adults (74%) say the lack of an adequate supply of affordable homes in the United States is a problem, including 44% who say this is *a significant problem*.

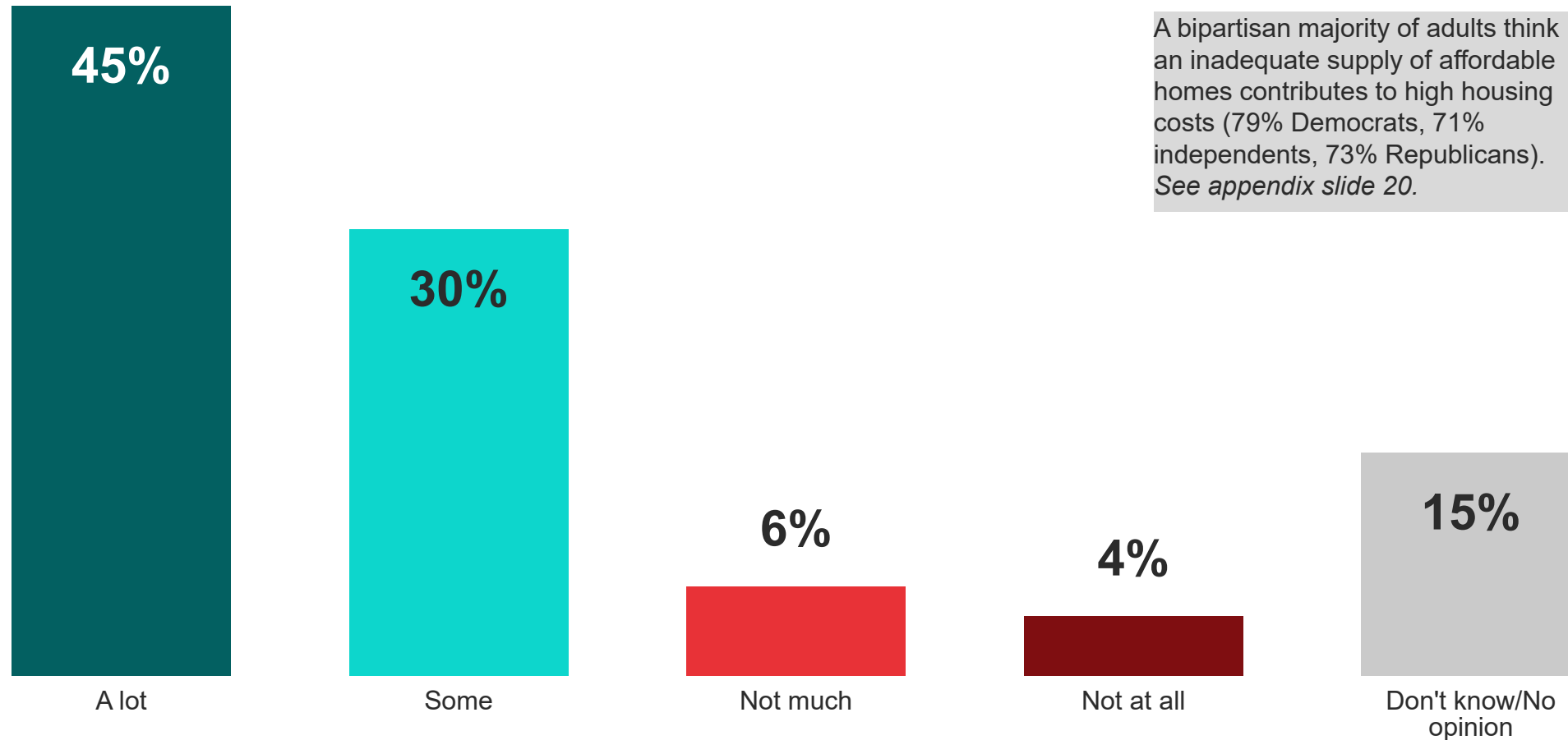
How much of a problem, if at all, is the lack of an adequate supply of affordable homes in the United States?



HOUSING EXPERIENCES AND EXPENSES

Additionally, a majority of adults (75%) think an inadequate supply of affordable homes contributes to high housing costs.

How much, if at all, does an inadequate supply of affordable homes contribute to high housing costs?



AGENDA

HOUSING EXPERIENCES AND EXPENSES

HOUSING POLICY

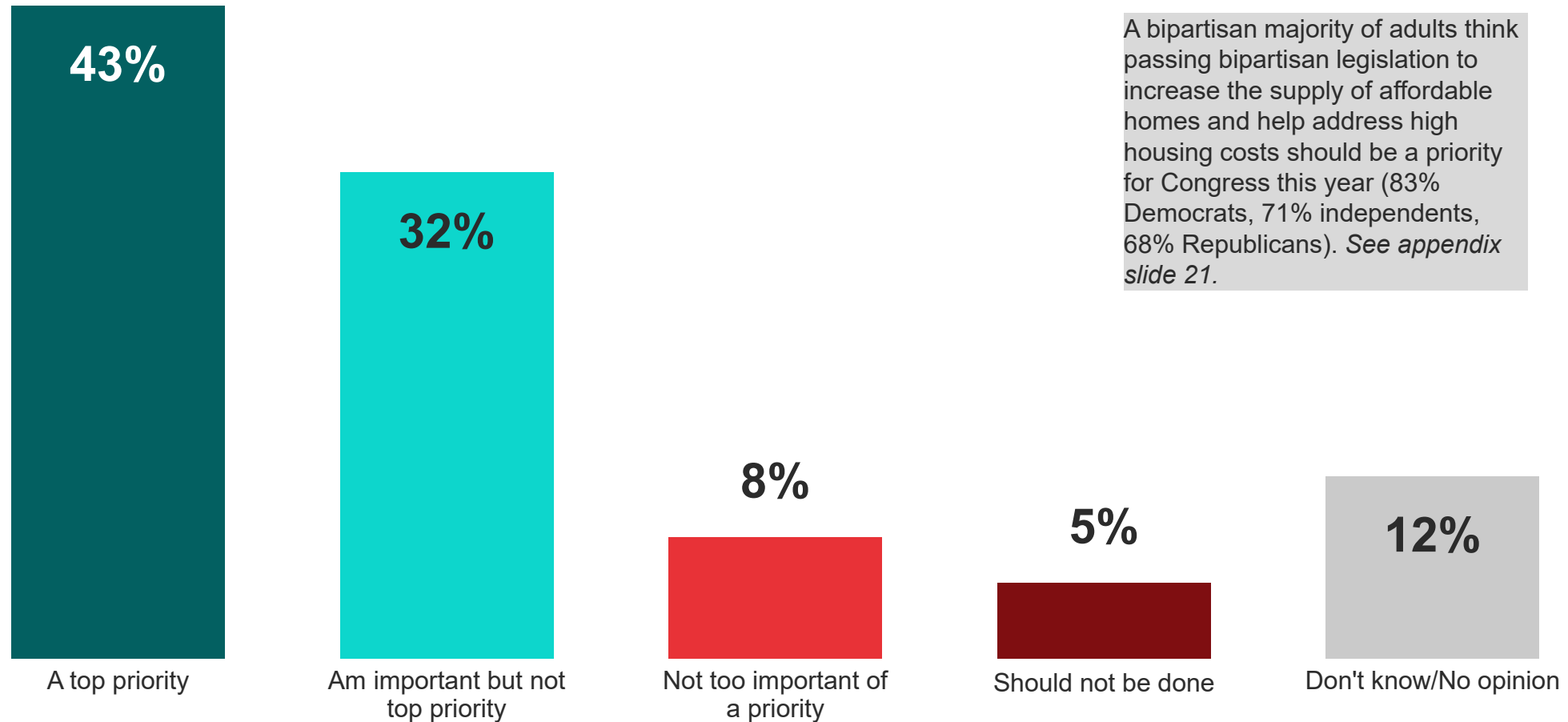
APPENDIX



HOUSING POLICY

Three-in-four adults (75%) think passing bipartisan legislation to increase the supply of affordable homes and help address high housing costs should be a priority for Congress this year, including 43% who think it should be *a top priority*.

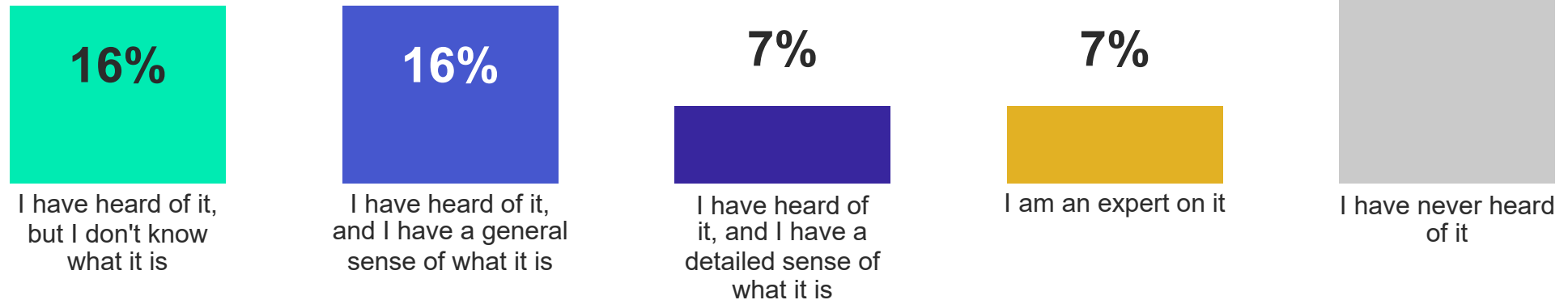
How much of a priority, if at all, should it be for Congress to pass bipartisan legislation to increase the supply of affordable homes and help address high housing costs?



Half of adults (55%) have never heard of the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

How familiar are you, if at all, with the Housing Choice Voucher Program?

Younger adults are more likely than older adults to have a higher level of awareness of the Housing Choice Voucher Program. See *appendix slide 22*.

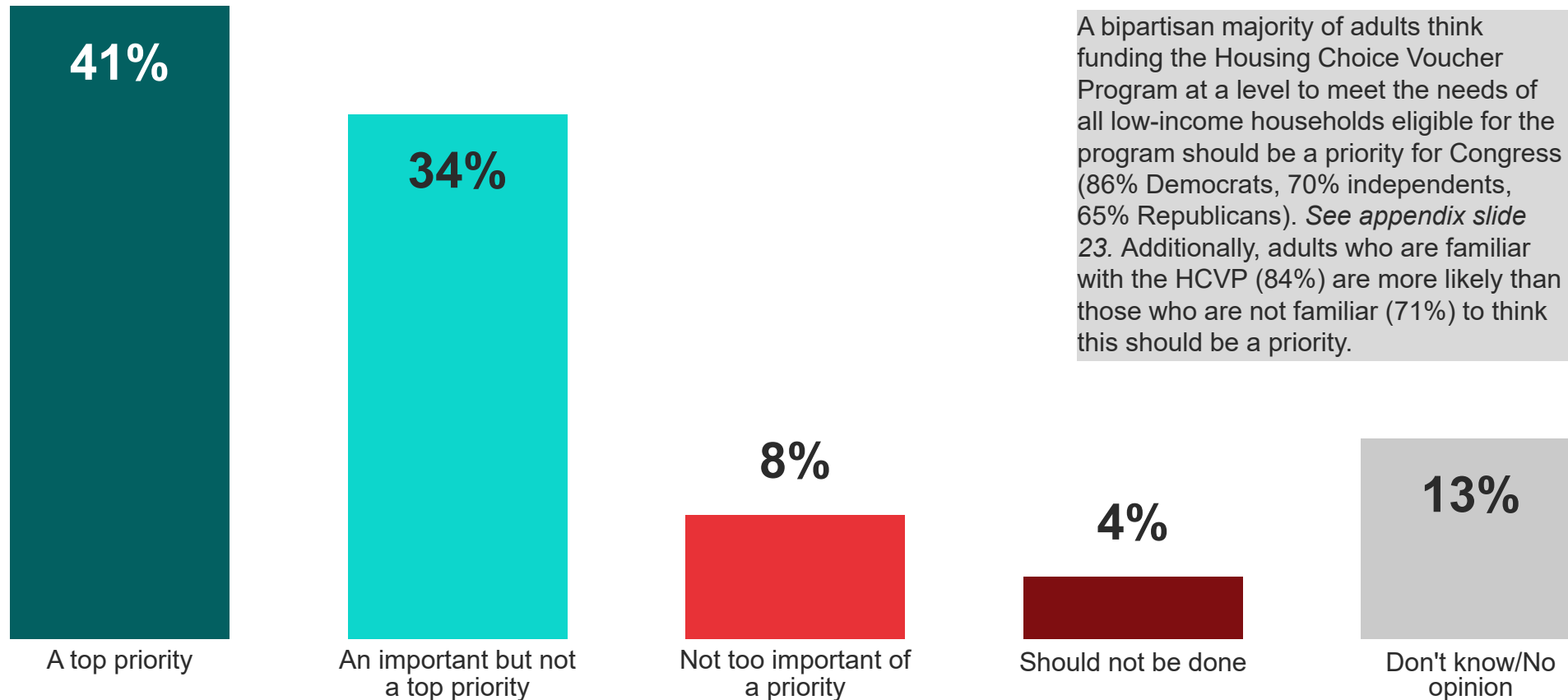


HOUSING POLICY

Three-in-four (75%) adults think funding the Housing Choice Voucher Program at a level to meet the needs of all low-income households eligible for the program should be a priority for Congress, including 41% who think it should be *a top priority*.

As you may know, the Housing Choice Voucher Program provides funding that enables low-income families to afford safe and decent rental housing available in the private market. Since rental assistance is provided on behalf of the family or individual, participants are able to find their own affordable housing, including single-family homes, townhouses and apartments.

*How much of a priority, if at all, should it be for Congress to fund the Housing Choice Voucher Program at a level to meet the needs of all low-income households eligible for the program?



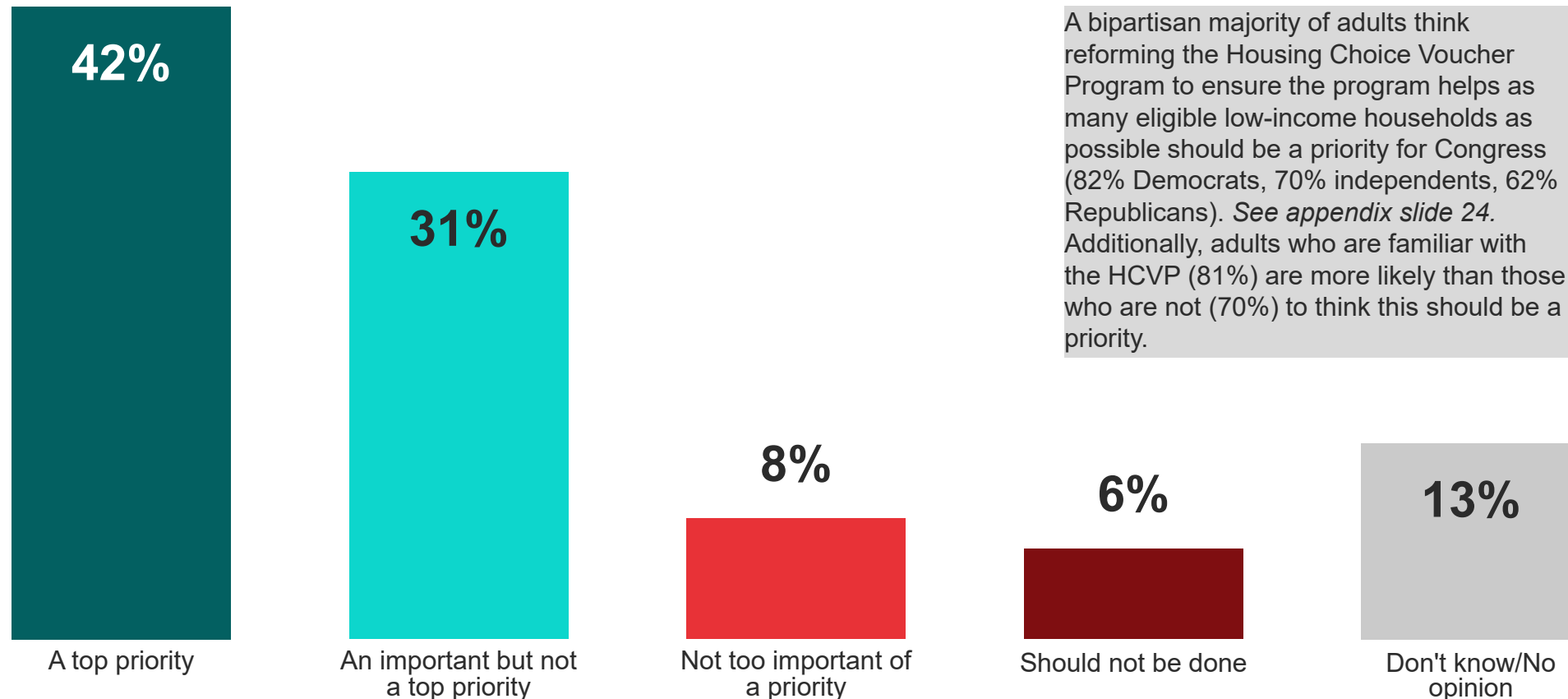
*Questions were split sampled, n=1,114

HOUSING POLICY

Additionally, 73% of adults think reforming the Housing Choice Voucher Program to ensure the program helps as many eligible low-income households as possible should be a priority for Congress, including 42% who think it should be *a top priority*.

As you may know, the Housing Choice Voucher Program provides funding that enables low-income families to afford safe and decent rental housing available in the private market. Since rental assistance is provided on behalf of the family or individual, participants are able to find their own affordable housing, including single-family homes, townhouses and apartments.

*How much of a priority, if at all, should it be for Congress to make reforms to the Housing Choice Voucher Program to ensure the program helps as many eligible low-income households as possible?



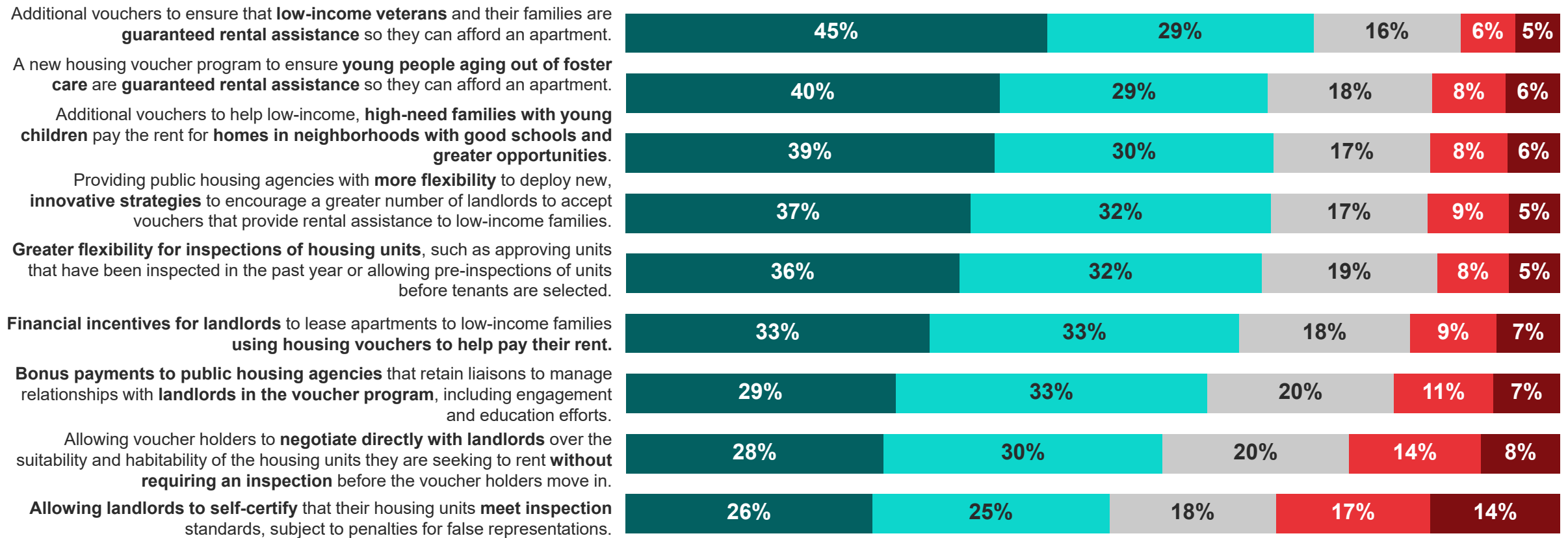
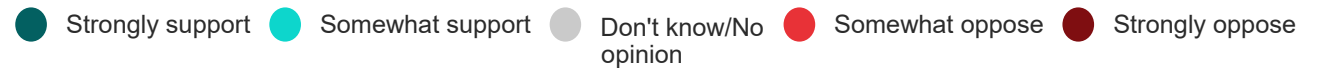
A bipartisan majority of adults think reforming the Housing Choice Voucher Program to ensure the program helps as many eligible low-income households as possible should be a priority for Congress (82% Democrats, 70% independents, 62% Republicans). See appendix slide 24. Additionally, adults who are familiar with the HCVP (81%) are more likely than those who are not (70%) to think this should be a priority.

*Questions were split sampled, n=1,087

HOUSING POLICY

A majority of adults think each of the tested initiatives should be included in bipartisan legislation to reform and improve the Housing Choice Voucher Program, with support being highest for providing additional vouchers for low-income veterans and their families (74%).

If Congress pursues bipartisan legislation to reform and improve the Housing Choice Voucher Program, do you support or oppose the following initiatives being included based on what you know?



*Some statements are shortened and bolding not included in survey, full statements can be seen on slide 14.

HOUSING POLICY

At least half of Democrats and Republicans support each of the tested initiatives being included in bipartisan legislation to reform and improve the Housing Choice Voucher Program.

If Congress pursues bipartisan legislation to reform and improve the Housing Choice Voucher Program, do you support or oppose the following initiatives being included based on what you know?

<i>% Total Support</i>	Adults	PID: Dem	PID: Ind	PID: Rep
Additional vouchers to ensure that low-income veterans and their families are guaranteed rental assistance so they can afford an apartment in which to live.	74%	79%	69%	70%
A new housing voucher program to ensure young people aging out of foster care are guaranteed rental assistance so they can afford an apartment in which to live.	69%	78%	63%	61%
Additional vouchers to help low-income, high-need families with young children pay the rent for homes in neighborhoods with good schools and greater opportunities.	69%	79%	66%	60%
Providing public housing agencies with more flexibility to deploy new, innovative strategies to encourage a greater number of landlords to accept vouchers that provide rental assistance to low-income families.	69%	77%	64%	62%
Greater flexibility for inspections of housing units—which are required for landlords participating in the voucher program—such as approving units that have been inspected in the past year or allowing pre-inspections of units before tenants are selected.	68%	75%	61%	65%
Financial incentives for landlords (such as signing bonuses or security deposit assistance) to lease apartments to low-income families using housing vouchers to help pay their rent.	66%	73%	62%	57%
Bonus payments to public housing agencies that retain liaisons to manage relationships with landlords in the voucher program, including engagement and education efforts.	62%	72%	58%	52%
Allowing voucher holders to negotiate directly with landlords over the suitability and habitability of the housing units they are seeking to rent without requiring an inspection before the voucher holders move in.	58%	64%	55%	51%
Allowing landlords to self-certify that their housing units meet inspection standards, subject to penalties for false representations.	51%	58%	43%	50%

AGENDA

HOUSING EXPERIENCES AND EXPENSES

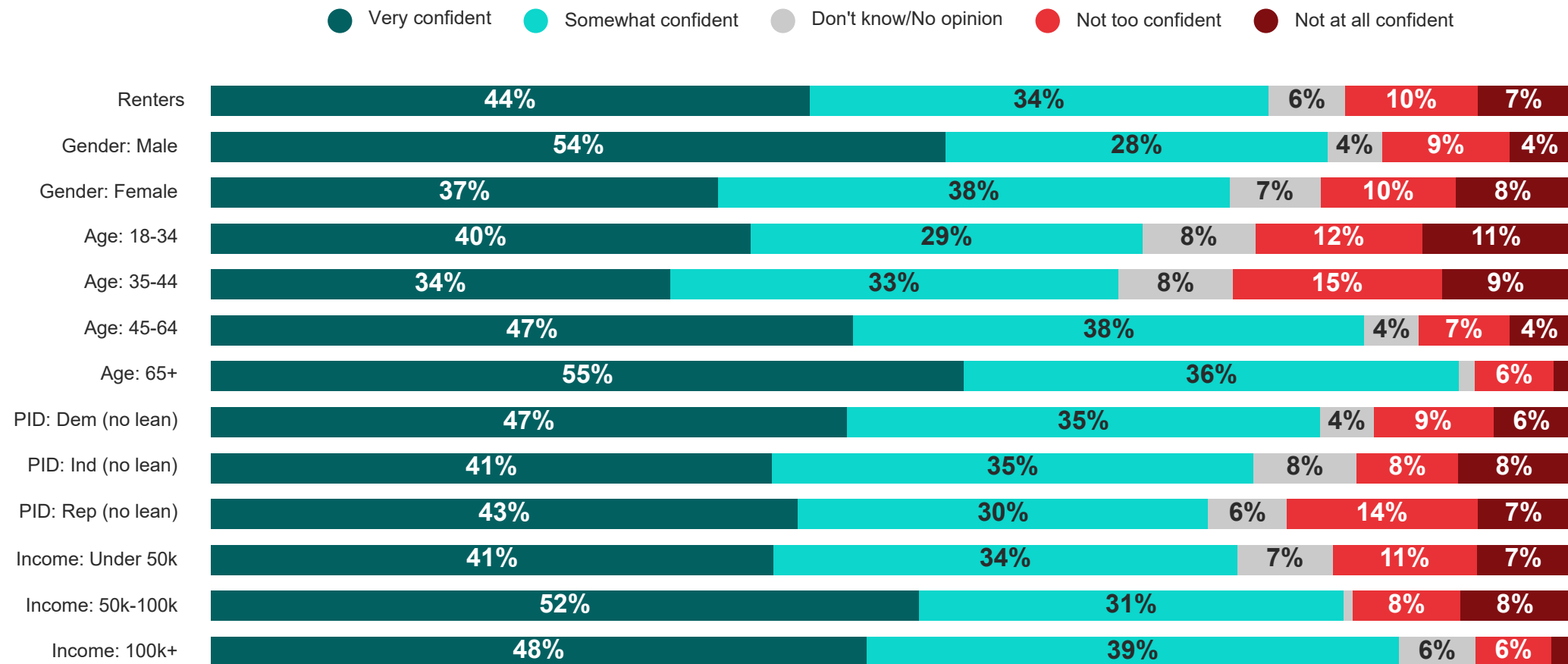
HOUSING POLICY

APPENDIX



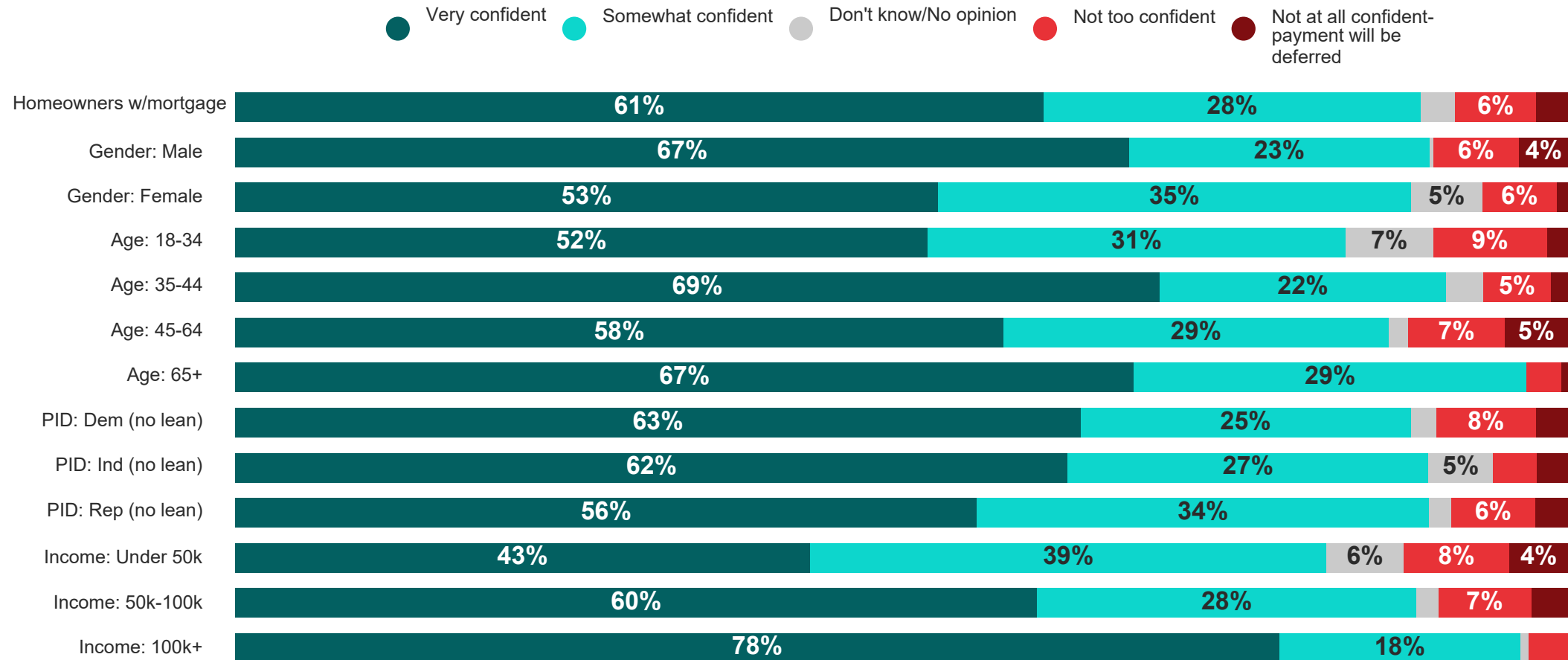
APPENDIX: HOUSING EXPERIENCES AND EXPENSES

How confident, if at all, are you that your household will be able to make your next rent payment on time?



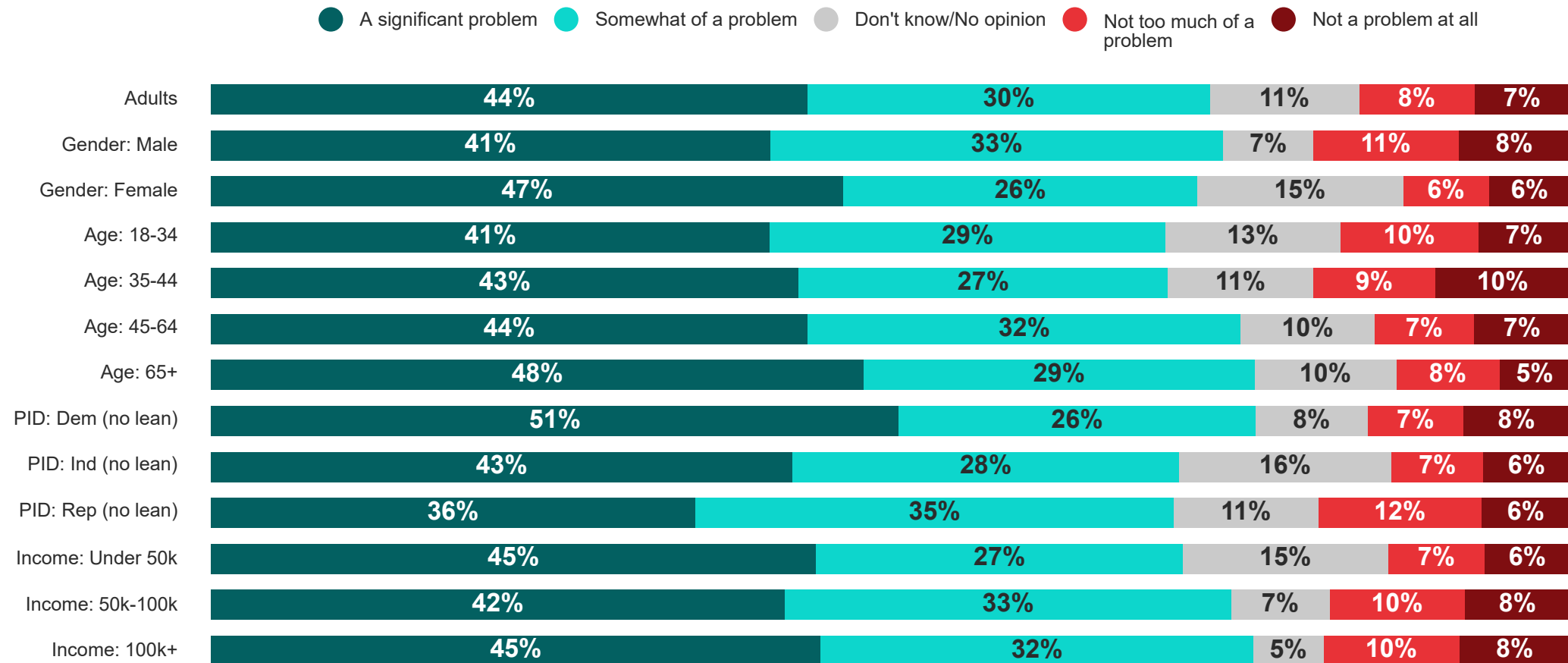
APPENDIX: HOUSING EXPERIENCES AND EXPENSES

How confident, if at all, are you that your household will be able to make your next mortgage payment on time?



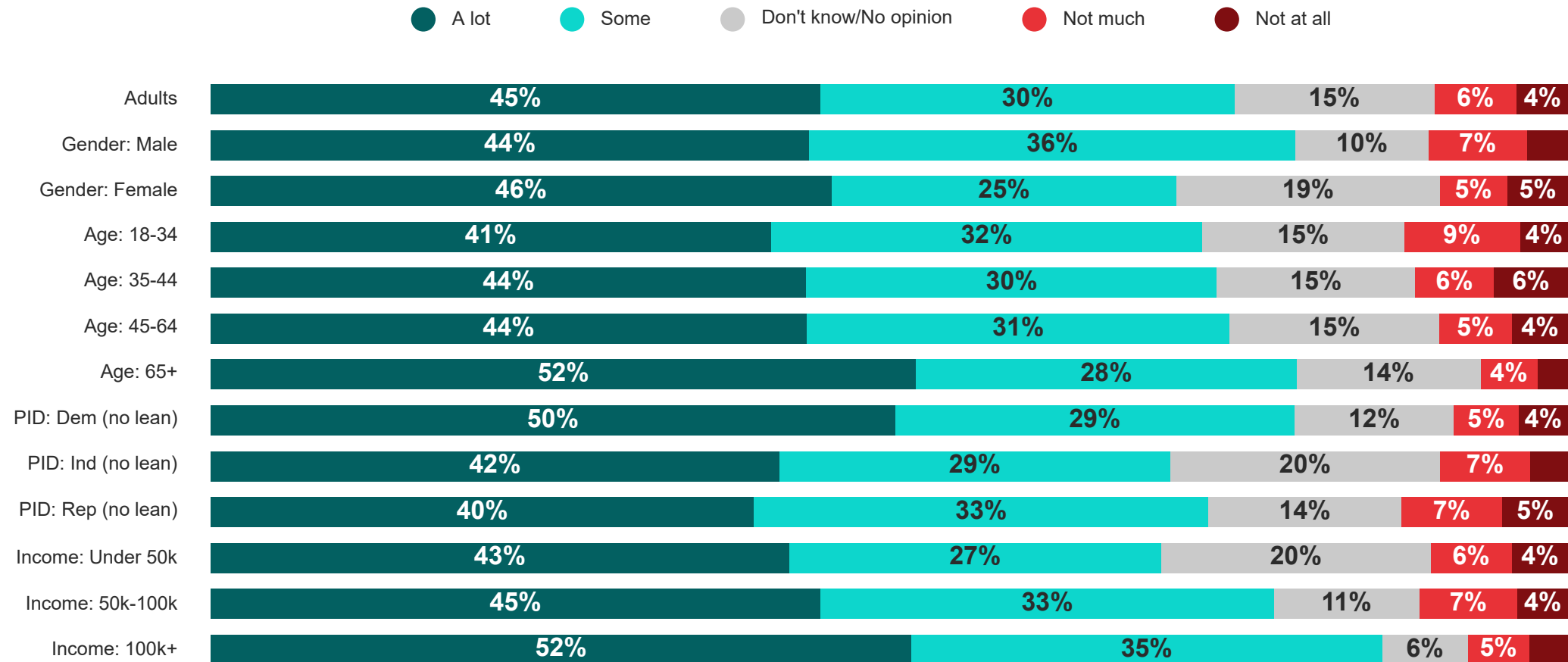
APPENDIX: HOUSING EXPERIENCES AND EXPENSES

How much of a problem, if at all, is the lack of an adequate supply of affordable homes in the United States?

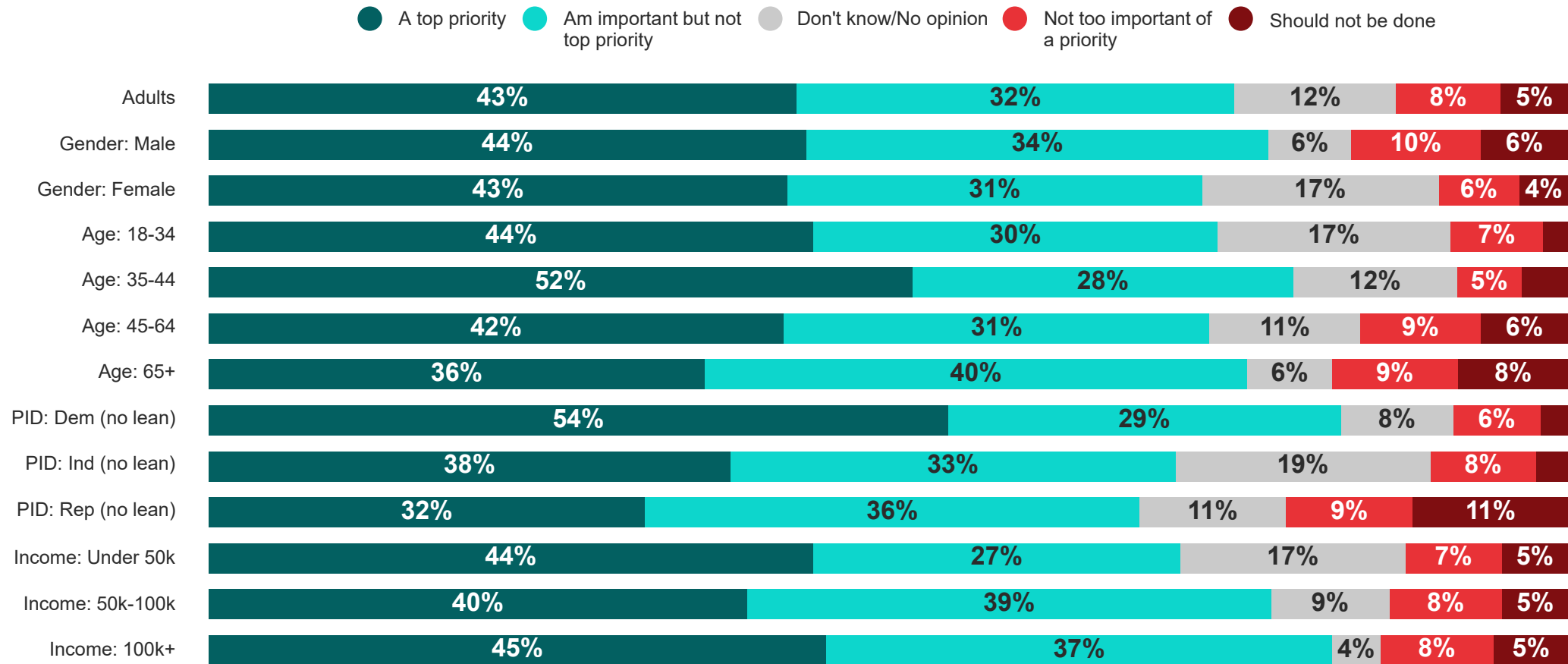


APPENDIX: HOUSING EXPERIENCES AND EXPENSES

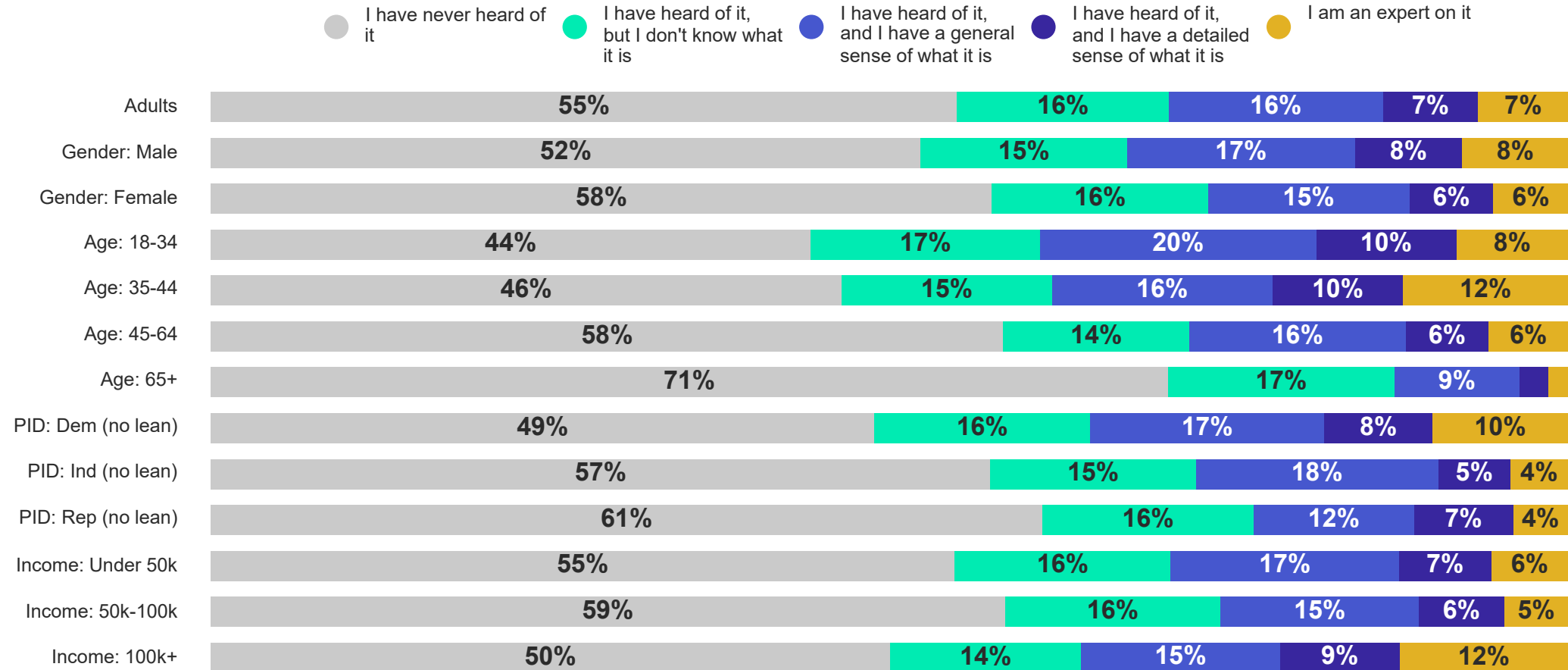
How much, if at all, does an inadequate supply of affordable homes contribute to high housing costs?



How much of a priority, if at all, should it be for Congress to pass bipartisan legislation to increase the supply of affordable homes and help address high housing costs?

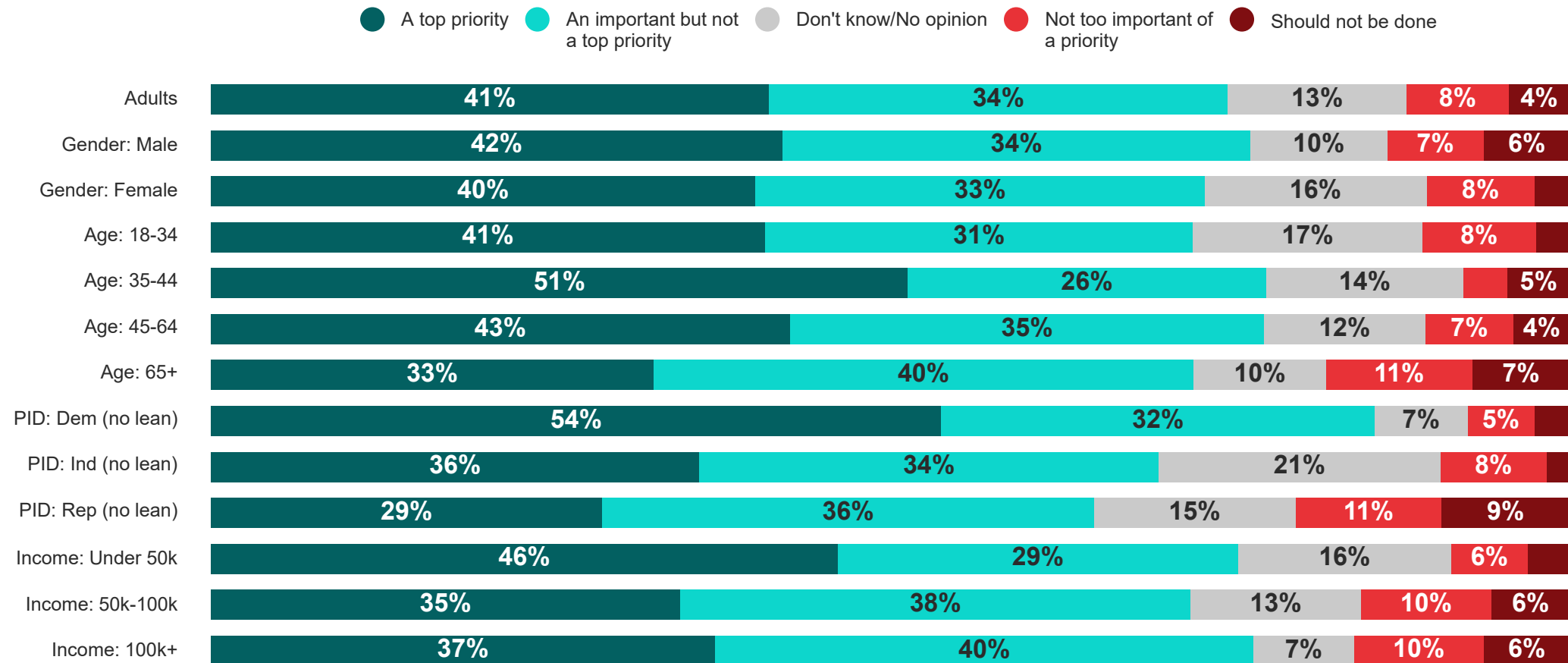


How familiar are you, if at all, with the Housing Choice Voucher Program?



APPENDIX: HOUSING POLICY

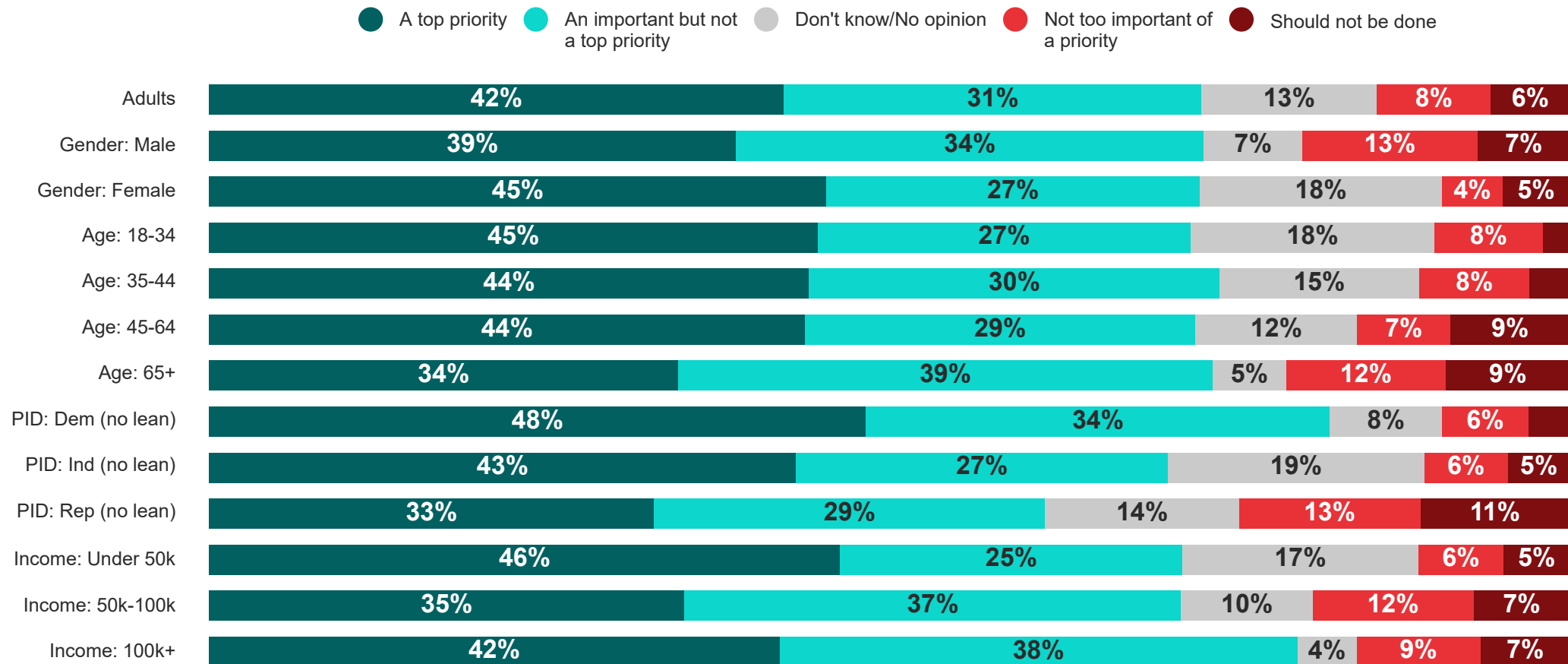
*How much of a priority, if at all, should it be for Congress to fund the Housing Choice Voucher Program at a level to meet the needs of all low-income households eligible for the program?



*Questions were split sampled, n=1,114

APPENDIX: HOUSING POLICY

*How much of a priority, if at all, should it be for Congress to make reforms to the Housing Choice Voucher program to ensure the program helps as many eligible low-income households as possible?



*Questions were split sampled, n=1,087



MORNING CONSULT®