



Key Findings From a Survey of Wyoming Voters Regarding Medicaid Expansion

September 2021

Methodology

New Bridge Strategy conducted a survey among N=500 registered voters throughout Wyoming September 21-26, 2021. Interviews were conducted via live telephone interviews (both cell phones and landlines). They were distributed proportionally throughout the state by county. Quotas were also set for key demographic sub-groups, such as gender and age. The sample was representative by party registration as well: 67% Republican, 18% Democrat and 14% independent/other.

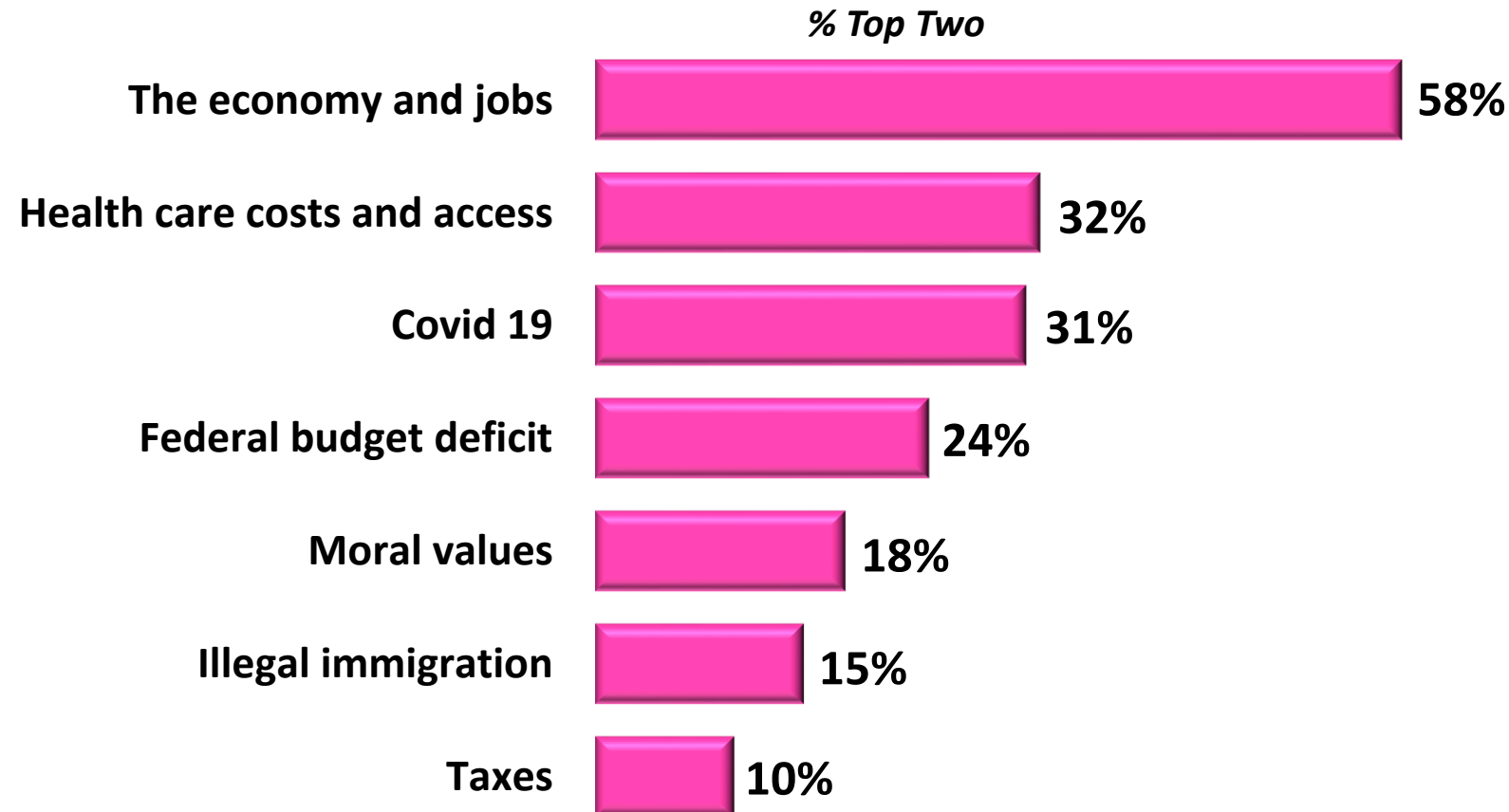
The margin of error is $\pm 4.38\%$ for the overall sample. The margin of error will vary for sub-groups. The survey was preceded by an online focus group of Wyoming voters.

New Bridge Strategy is a Republican polling firm based in Colorado. The firm's principal Lori Weigel has conducted research in Wyoming since the mid-1990's, starting with the campaigns of then Congressman Craig Thomas, and has conducted dozens of policy and ballot measure polls in the state over the last 25 years. Weigel previously was a Partner at Public Opinion Strategies, the largest GOP polling firm, and a Vice President at The Tarrance Group, another GOP polling firm.



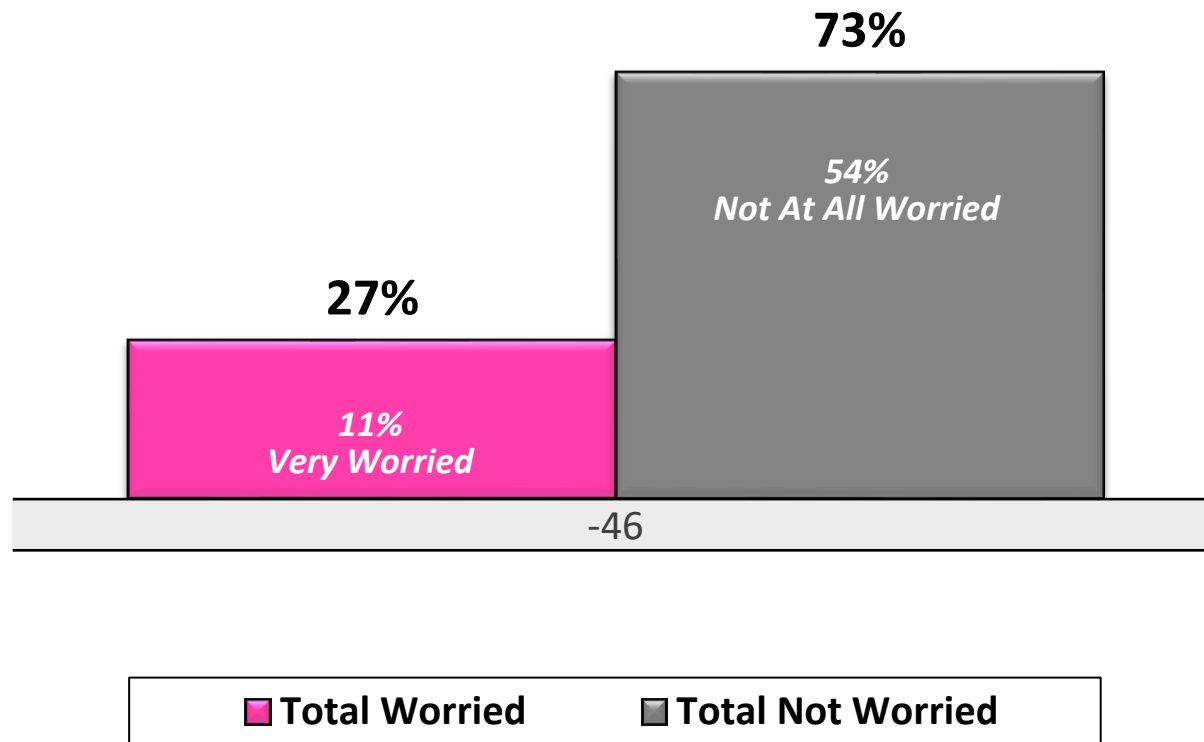
Health Care in Wyoming

The economy is the top issue facing Wyoming, although nearly one-in-three say health care is one of the top problems.



Which ONE or TWO of the following do you believe is the most important issue facing Wyoming?

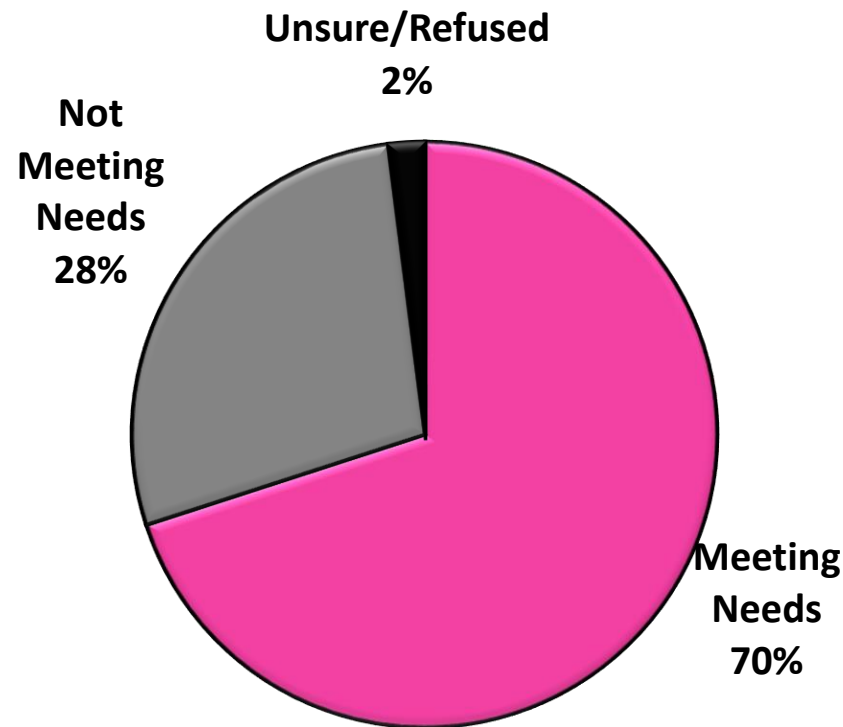
Many Wyoming voters indicate feeling instability in their health insurance – more than one-in-four are worried about losing health insurance in the next year and many lacked it in the recent past.



16%
Have insurance
now, but lacked it
at some point in
the last 3 years

*How worried are you that you or someone else in your household will be without health insurance coverage over the next year?
Among insured: And sometime in the last THREE years, was there a period of time where you or your family did NOT have health care coverage?*

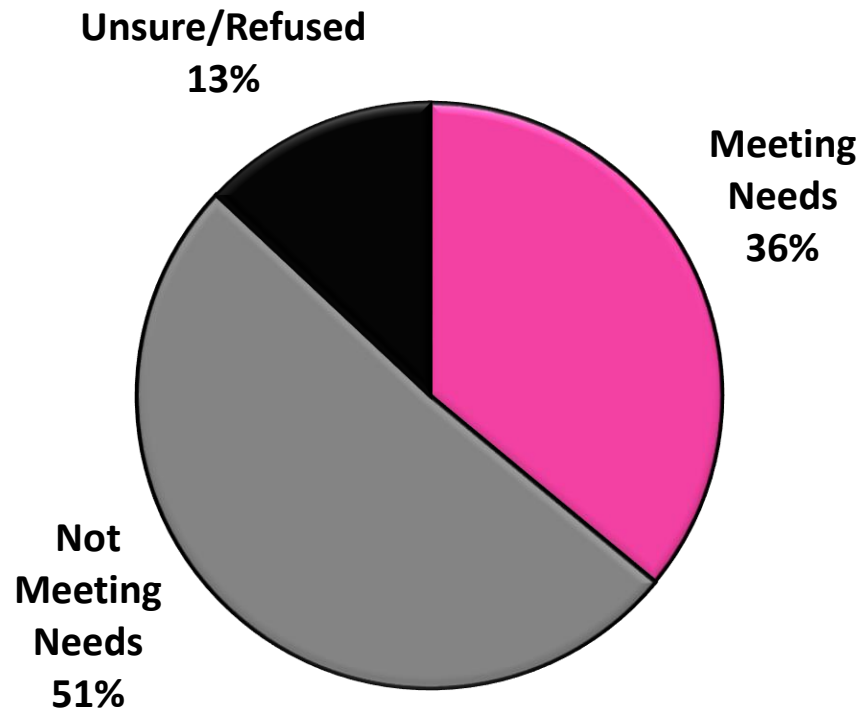
Most voters say the current health care system is meeting their and their family's needs, although significant proportions of key sub-groups say it is not.



Top Groups – Health Care System is NOT Meeting Needs of You and Your Family	
Lacked Coverage at Some Point in Last 3 Years	52%
Democrats	39%
Independent/Democratic Women	39%
Ages 55-64	37%
Independents	36%
Independent/Democratic Men	36%
Income – \$40K-\$60K	36%
Health Care Worker in Household	36%
Women <\$60K	35%
SW Region	34%
Women College+	33%
Small Town/Rural Women	33%

Now, thinking about just one of these – health care. Generally speaking, is the current health care system meeting the needs of you and your family?

Over half of voters say the current health care system is NOT meeting the needs of lower-income, working people in the state.



Quotes from Qualitative Research

*"I know so many families that fall in the gap of qualifying for Medicaid. They can't afford health insurance, their job doesn't offer insurance, and they make just enough to not qualify for Medicaid." **Female, Age 23-34, Small Town, Strong GOP, Mostly GOP***

*"I know people that need glasses and dental care, but will not go because they can't afford it! I feel that even with insurance, it could still break someone until they meet their deductible." **Female, Age 35-44, City, Strong GOP, Mostly GOP***

*"No, because health care is rarely affordable and the people who do need it sometimes make too much and then they don't get that assistance either." **Female, Age 23-34, Small Town, NSSR, Mostly GOP***

And, would you say that the current health care system is meeting the needs of working people with lower-incomes here in Wyoming?



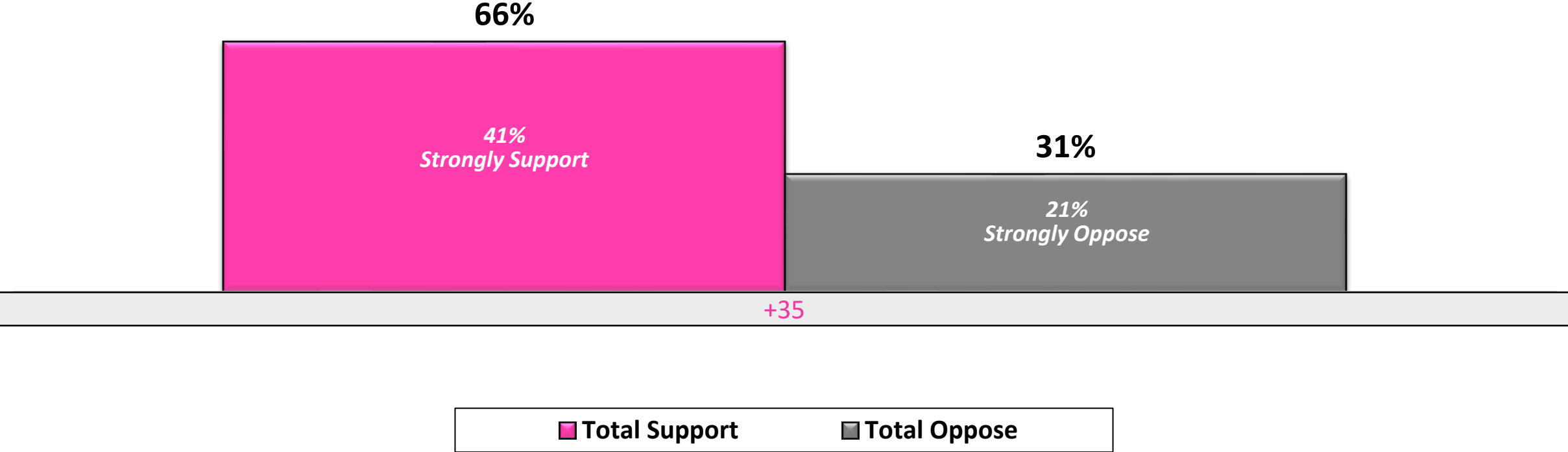
Medicaid Expansion in Wyoming

Having seen in the online discussion that most were not very familiar with Medicaid, we provided a brief neutral explanation of what it is before asking about expansion.

Thinking some more about Medicaid – Medicaid is the joint federal and state government health insurance program primarily for the elderly with low incomes and few assets, the mentally and physically disabled, some parents and children of low-income families – most adults under 65 who are not disabled are NOT eligible right now in Wyoming, even if their jobs do not provide health insurance.

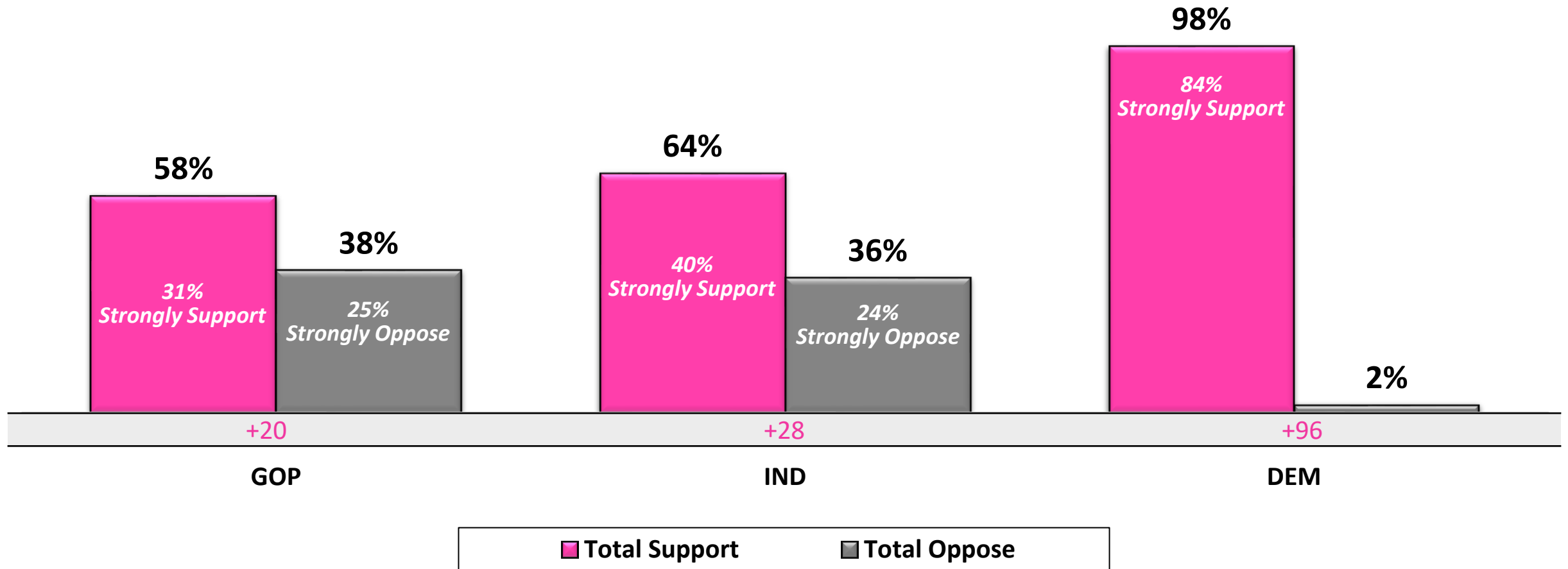
There could be a proposal in the state legislature that would expand Medicaid health care coverage to Wyoming residents who earn under eighteen thousand dollars per year for an individual or approximately thirty thousand dollars for a mother with two kids. The federal government will cover 90 percent of the costs, while the state covers the other 10 percent.

Nearly two-thirds support expanding Medicaid coverage to Wyoming residents.



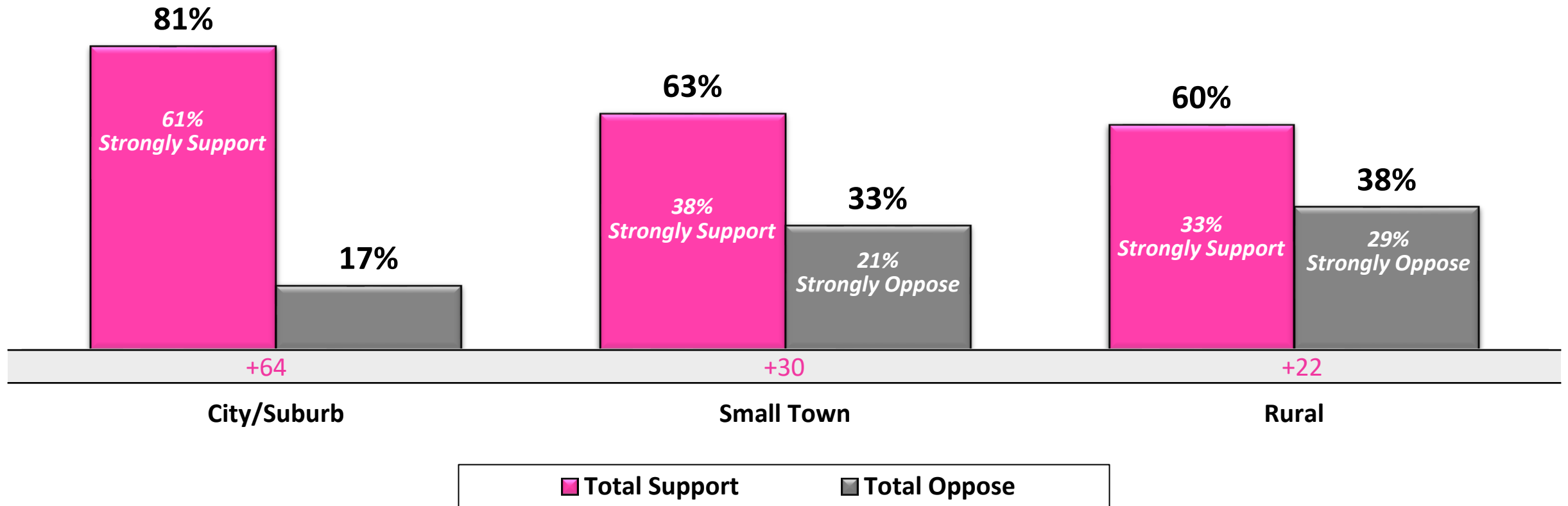
Does that sound like something you would support or oppose?

Support for Medicaid expansion spans across party affiliation.



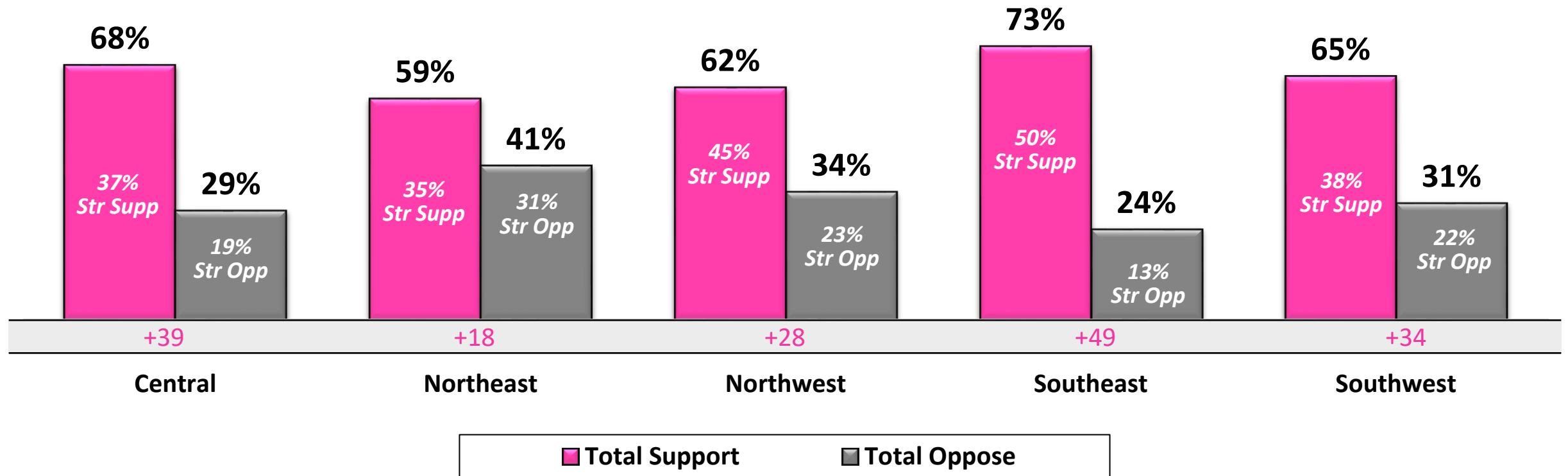
Does that sound like something you would support or oppose?

Voters in every type of community support Medicaid expansion.



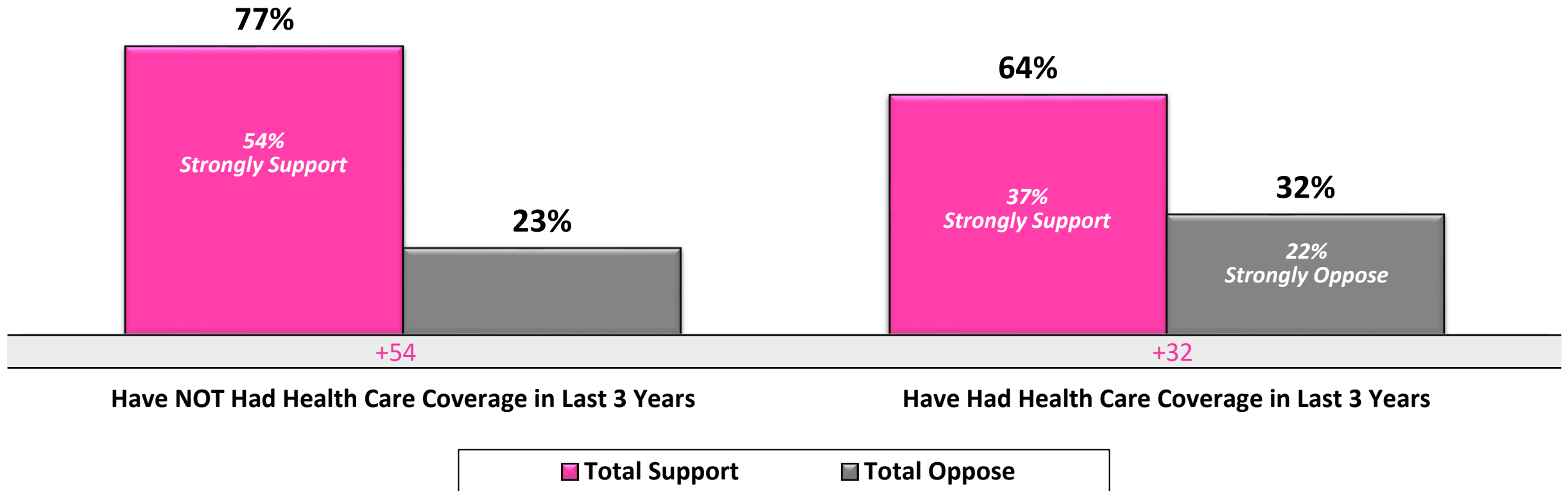
Does that sound like something you would support or oppose?

Voters in the Southeast and Central regions are most supportive of Medicaid expansion.



Does that sound like something you would support or oppose?

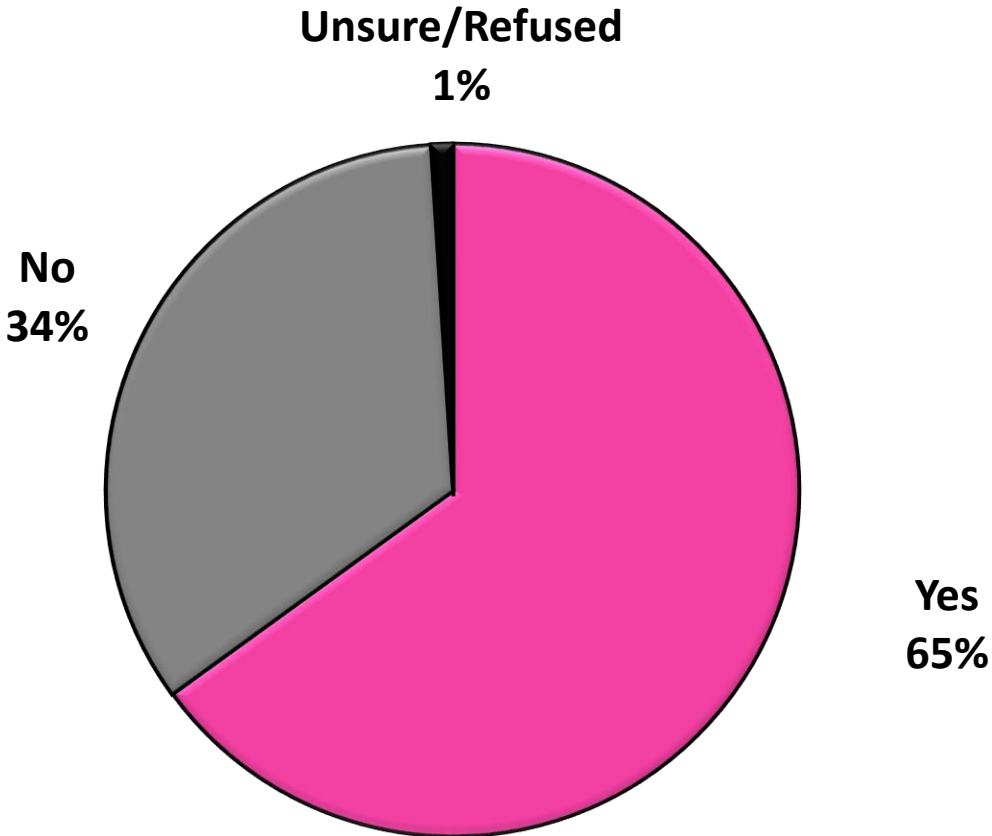
Voters who have experienced having no health coverage in the recent past are more likely to support Medicaid expansion.



Does that sound like something you would support or oppose?

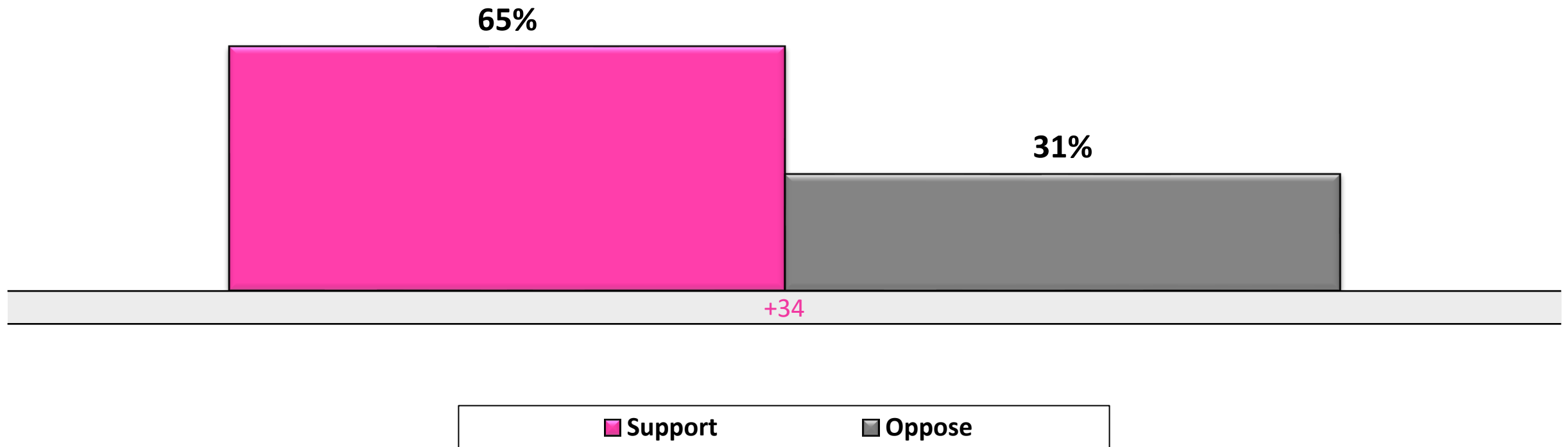
Nearly two-thirds say they know someone who would be eligible for coverage through the Medicaid expansion proposal.

Do you know someone who you think might be eligible for coverage through the proposal to expand health coverage to lower-income Wyoming adults under age 65?



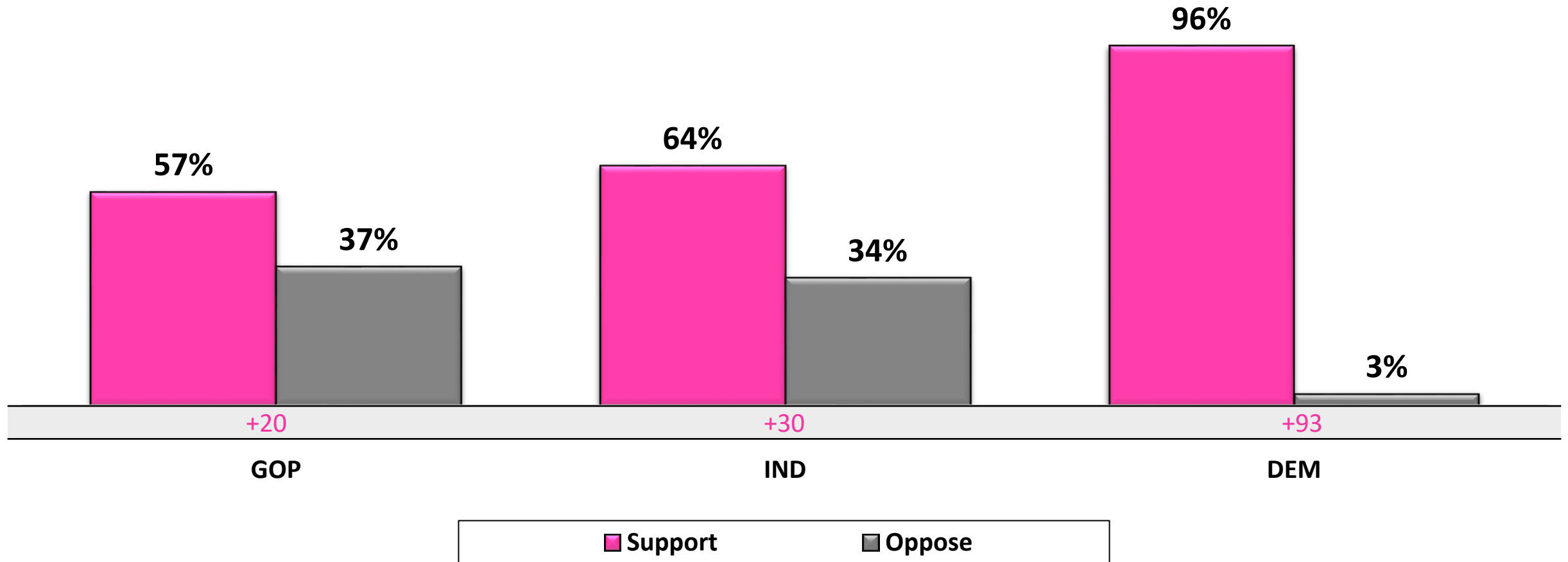
<i>% Yes</i>	%
Men	65%
Women	64%
GOP	59%
IND	75%
DEM	79%
City/Suburb	65%
Small Town	68%
Rural	61%
Central	60%
Northeast	62%
Northwest	68%
Southeast	68%
Southwest	65%

A majority of voters want their state representative and senator to support Medicaid expansion.



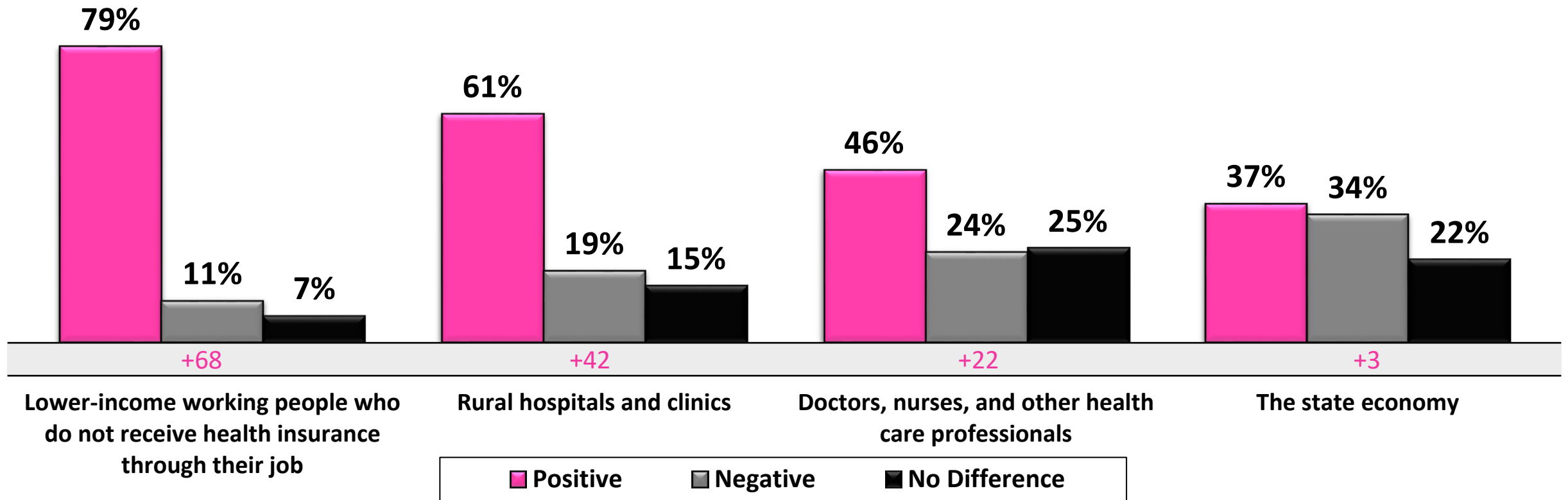
And would you want your State Representative or State Senator to support or oppose this proposal?

Regardless of party, most voters want their state representative and senator to support the proposal.



And would you want your State Representative or State Senator to support or oppose this proposal?

Most say lower-income working people, rural hospitals and health care professionals would be positively impacted by expansion.



This proposal would provide approximately 24 thousand Wyoming residents with access to affordable health coverage through Medicaid. For each of the following, please tell me if you think this proposal would have a –



The Bottom Line

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- A majority say the economy and jobs is the top issue facing the state with nearly one-in-three saying health care costs and access is the most important issue in Wyoming.
- Nearly two-thirds support expanding Medicaid coverage to Wyoming residents. Support for Medicaid expansion spans across party affiliation and regardless of age, women are more likely than men to support the proposal.
- The vast majority of voters say that they know someone who might be eligible for coverage through Medicaid expansion. Many voters also indicate having lacked health care coverage at some point over the past three years.
- A majority of voters want their state representative and senator to support Medicaid expansion. This sentiment spans party affiliation as well. Most know someone who would benefit from expansion.



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