



# OBESITY IN AMERICA

Polling Presentation

*Obesity Care Advocacy Network*

NOVEMBER 2021

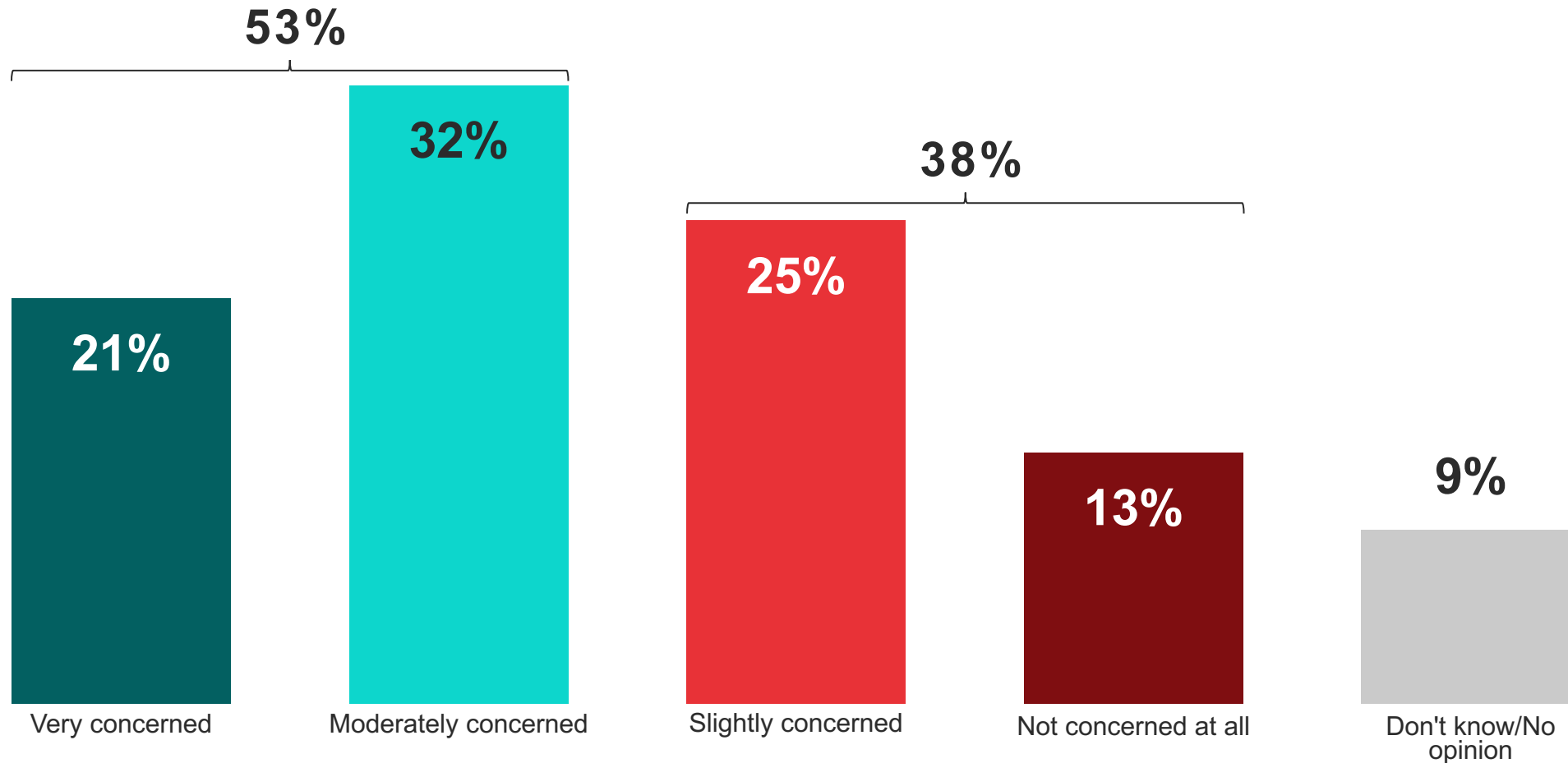
# KEY FINDINGS

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1. Adults generally agree that the **obesity epidemic** in the U.S. is *getting worse*, and that the federal government has a responsibility to respond to such crises that adversely affect public health.
2. More than twice as many respondents say the federal government is *not doing enough* to bridge racial and ethnic **disparities in public health** than say it is *doing too much*.
3. Seventy percent of adults surveyed *agree* that government programs like Medicare are **not updated frequently enough** to keep up with scientific advances, and nearly two-thirds agree the government should classify obesity as a disease to align with the American Medical Association.
4. Strong majorities of U.S. adults support **expanding Medicare coverage** for preventative care and treatment of adult obesity and agree that doing so should be a top priority for federal lawmakers.
5. Where **increasing support** for Medicare coverage of obesity-related treatments is concerned, the most compelling statements tested were those linking the condition to 200+ other serious medical conditions and likening its nuanced treatment to that of mental health conditions.

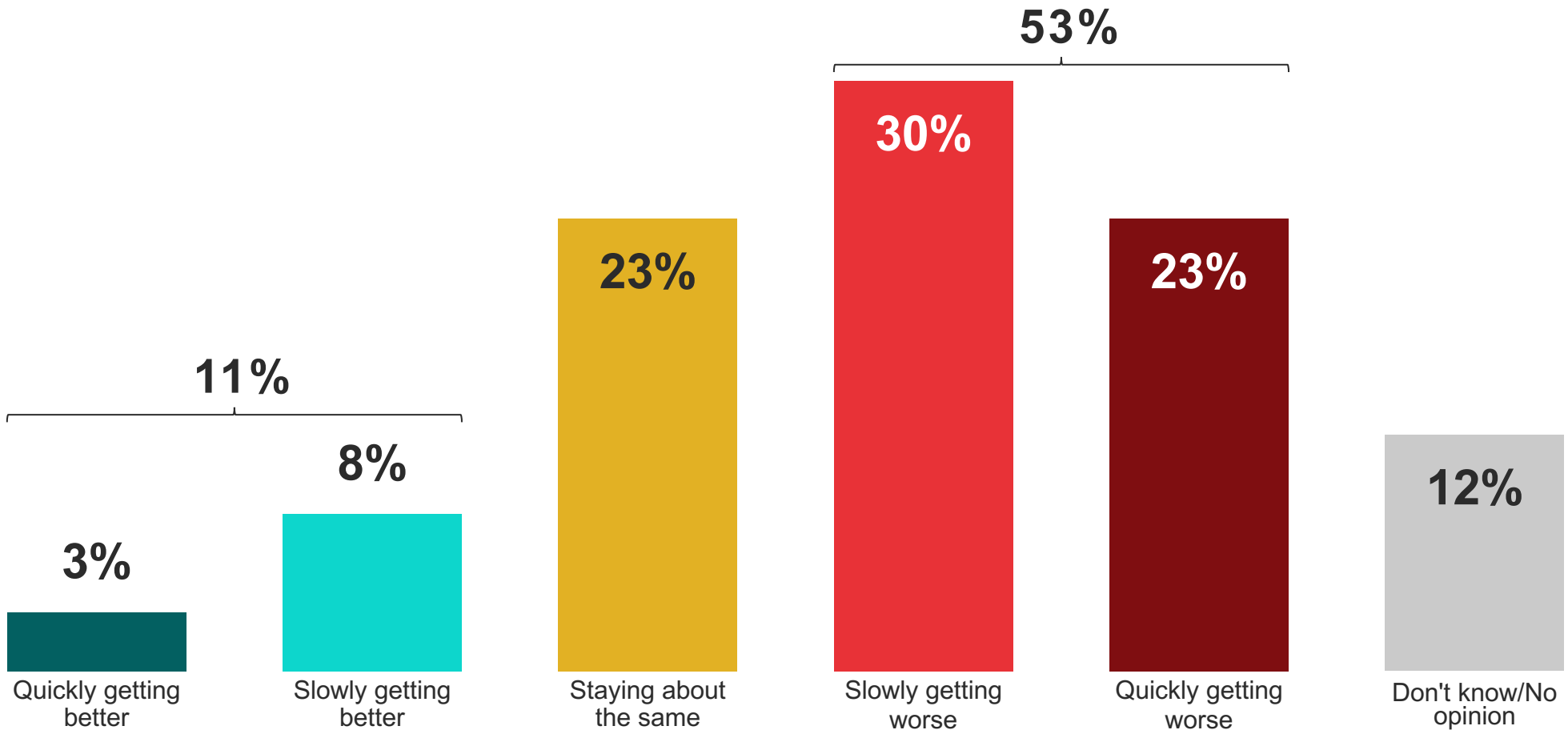
# A majority of adults surveyed express concern about the obesity epidemic.

How concerned, if at all, are you about the obesity epidemic in the United States?



# Most adults feel the obesity epidemic in the U.S. is *getting worse* as time goes on.

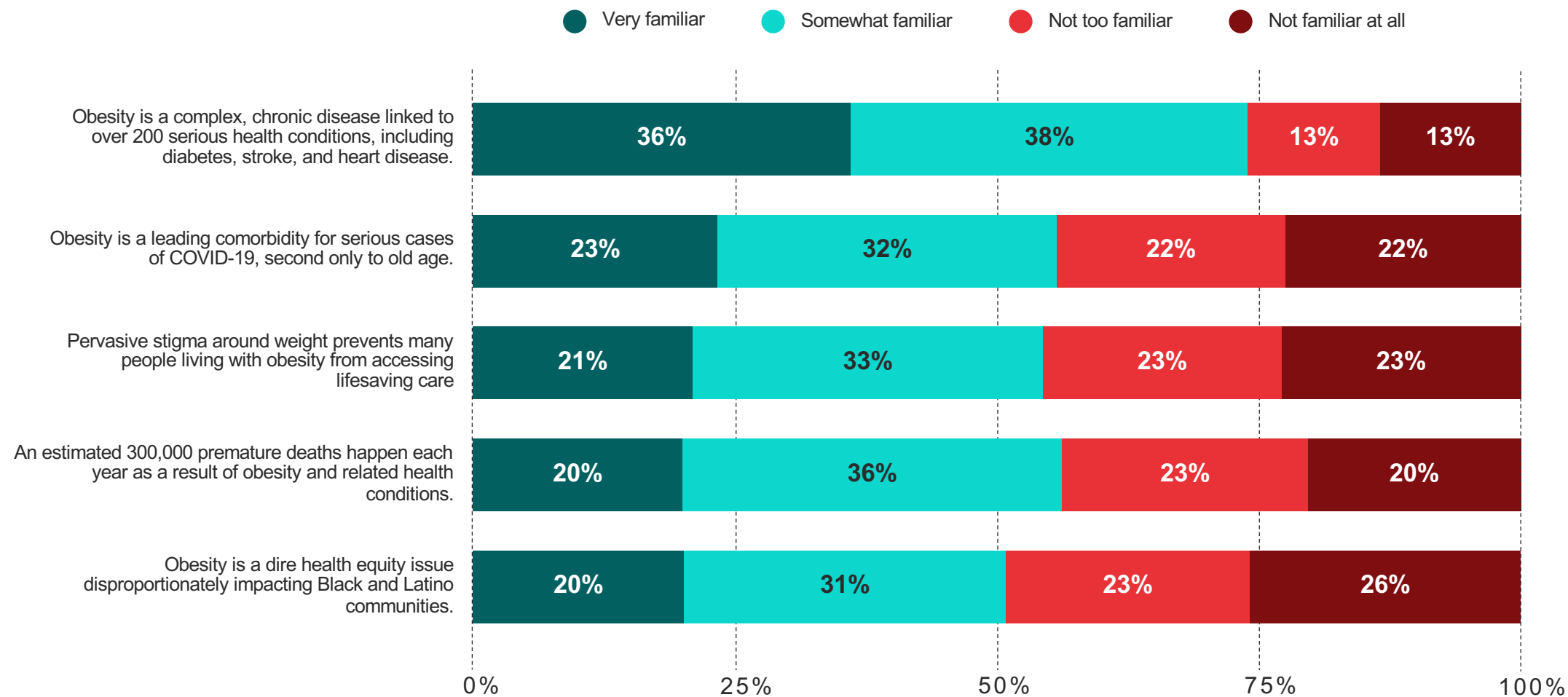
As far as you know, which of the following best describes the severity of the obesity epidemic in the United States?



PERCEPTIONS OF OBESITY EPIDEMIC

Majorities of respondents indicated they are familiar with the various effects of obesity tested, particularly how it increases the risk of conditions like diabetes and heart disease.

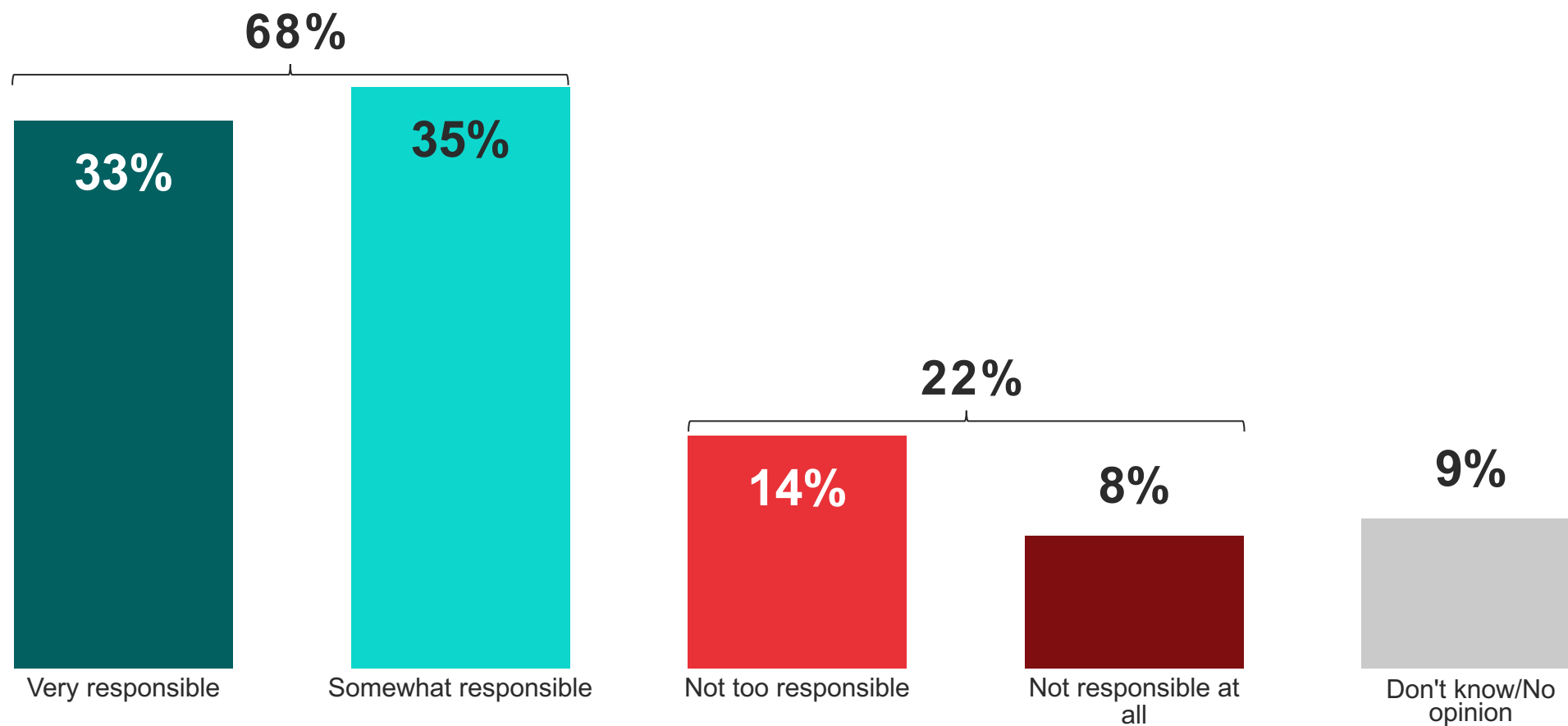
How familiar, if at all, are you with the following ways in which obesity impacts a person's whole health?



GENERAL HEALTH CARE ATTITUDES

Two-thirds of adults *agree* the federal government has a responsibility to respond to events that threaten public health.

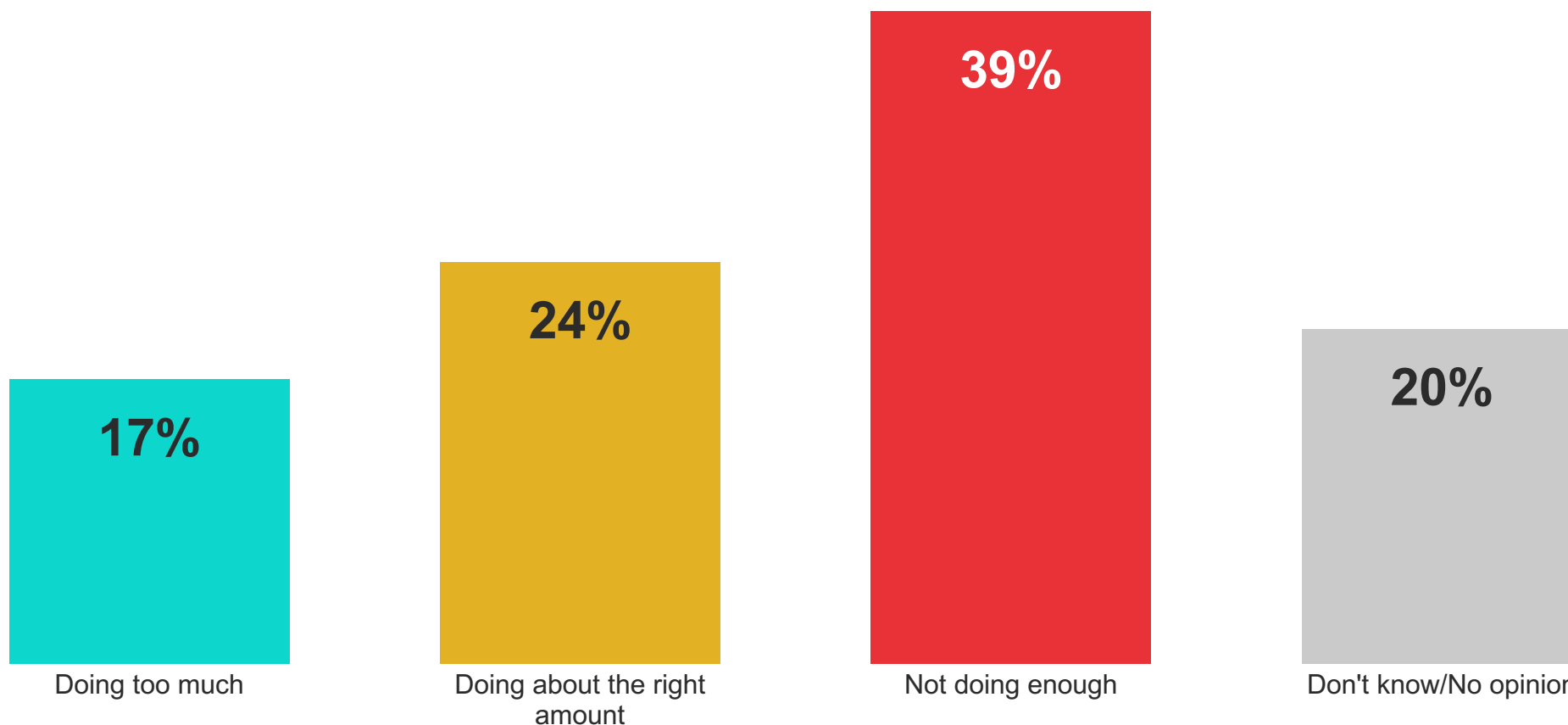
How responsible, if at all, do you believe the U.S. government is for responding to epidemics and similar public health crises that threaten the health of U.S. citizens?



## GENERAL HEALTH CARE ATTITUDES

Two in five adults say the government is *not doing enough* to bridge public health disparities between different racial and ethnic groups in the United States.

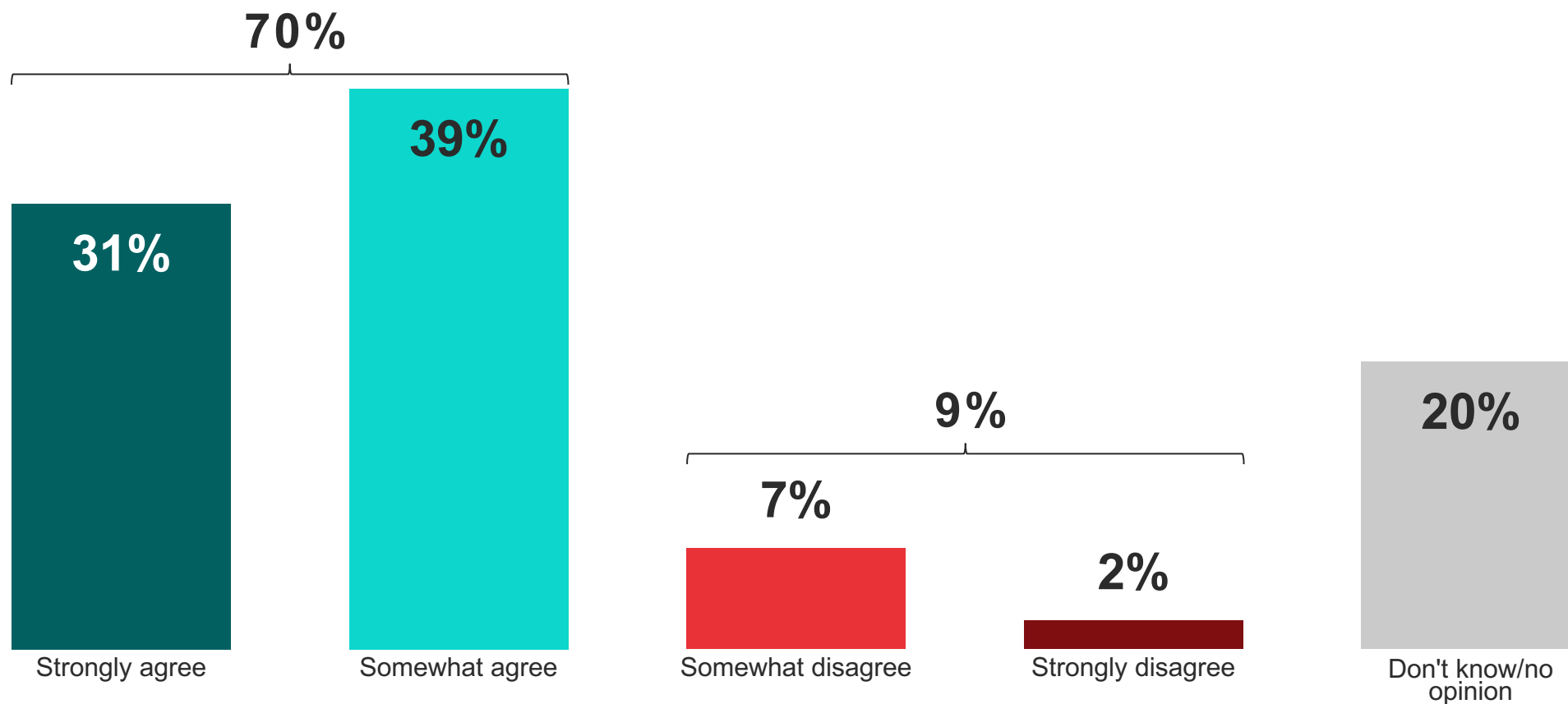
In your opinion, which of the following best describes the amount of resources the federal government is devoting to address racial and ethnic disparities in public health?



GENERAL HEALTH CARE ATTITUDES

Seven in ten adults believe updates to government health care systems are too infrequent to keep up with scientific advances.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *Government systems like Medicare are not updated frequently enough given the speed at which scientific breakthroughs are being made in health care every year*

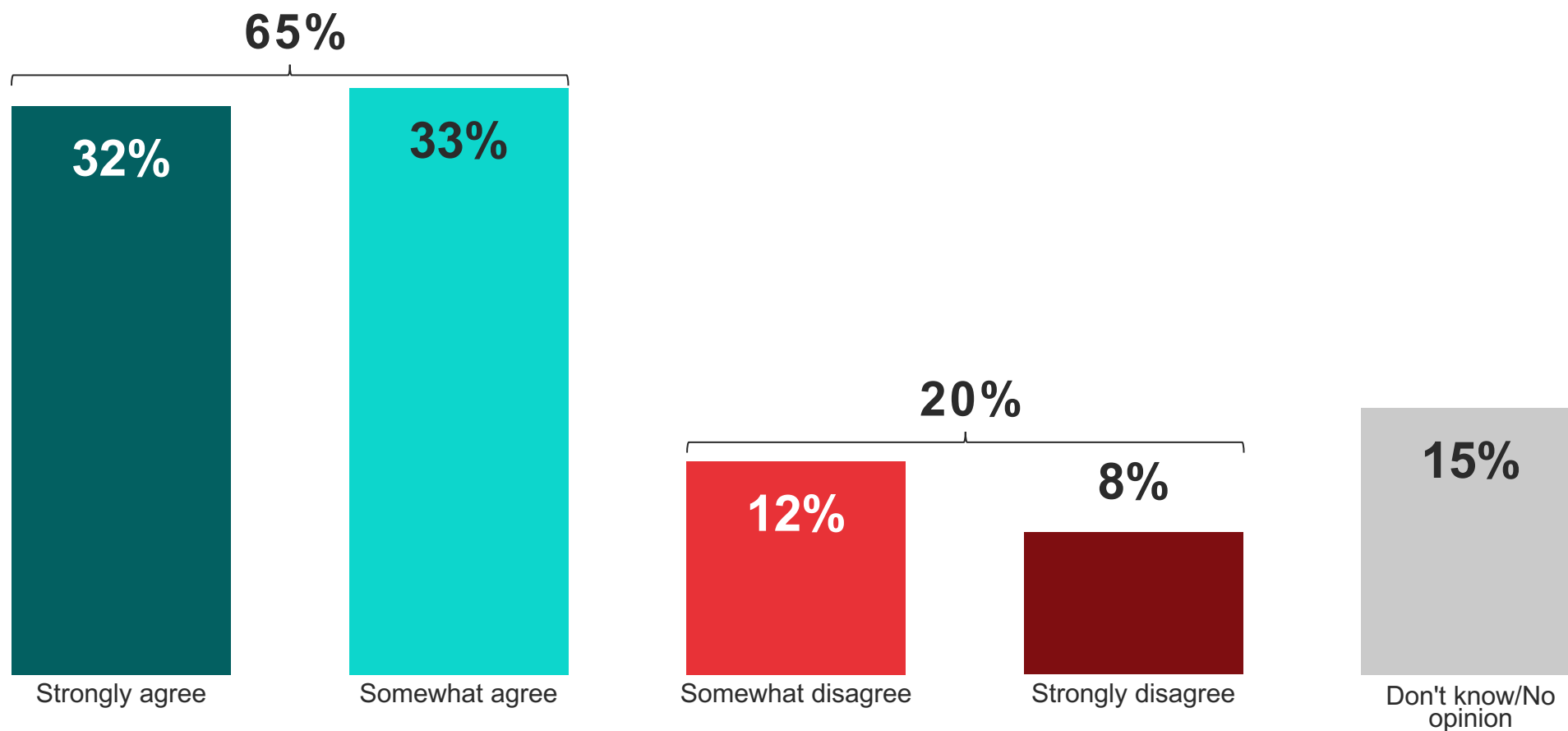




## CLASSIFICATION OF OBESITY

Nearly two-thirds of adults *agree* the federal government should recognize obesity as a disease.

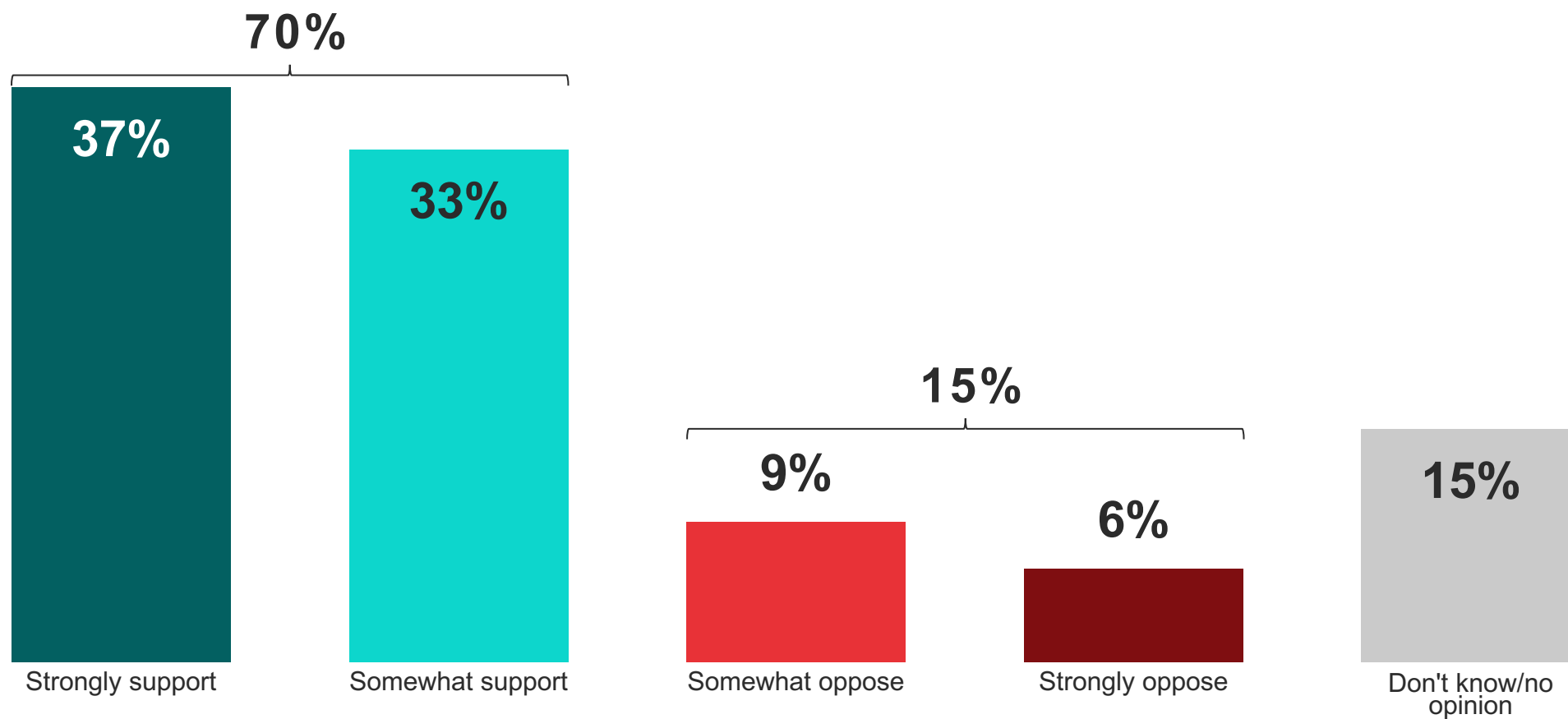
As you may know, the American Medical Association chose to classify obesity as a disease in 2013. Do you agree or disagree that the federal government should recognize obesity as a disease as well?



CLASSIFICATION OF OBESITY

A strong majority of adults support Medicare and similar programs recognizing obesity as a treatable medical condition.

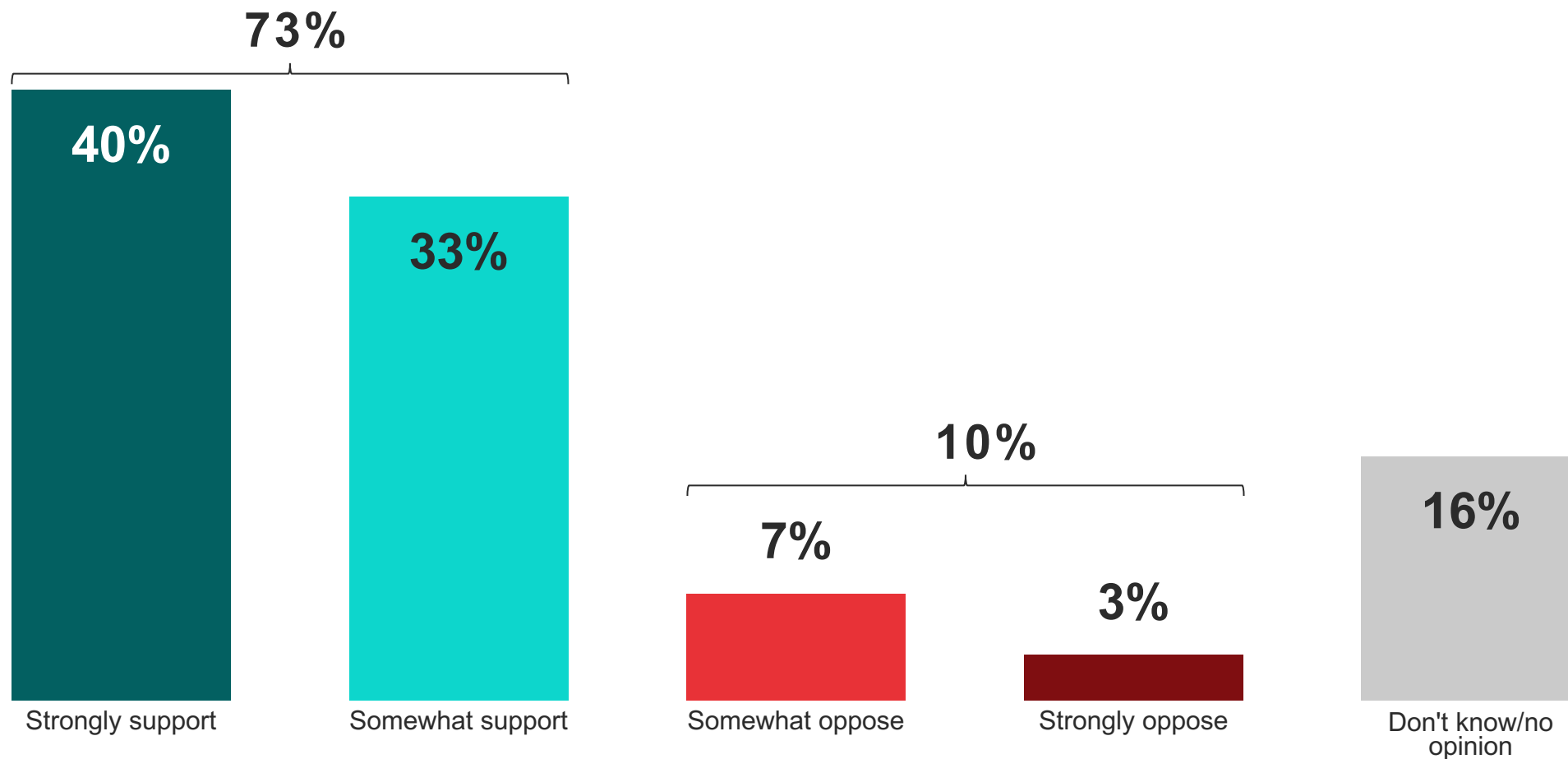
Do you support or oppose federal health care programs like Medicare recognizing obesity as a disease and a treatable medical condition?



INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR OBESITY

Nearly three-quarters of adults surveyed expressed *support* for expanding Medicare coverage for prevention and treatment of obesity in adults.

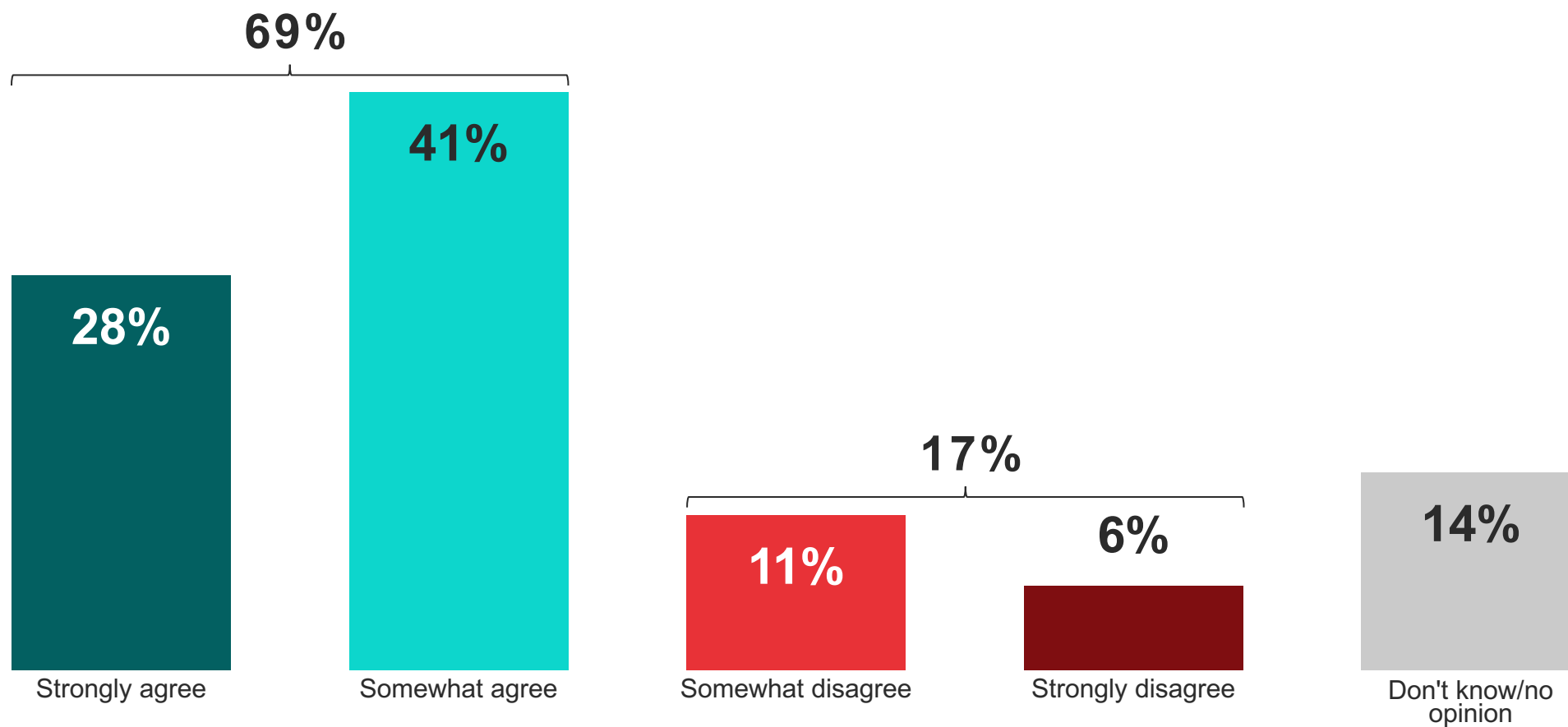
Do you support or oppose Medicare expanding its coverage for preventative care and treatment for obesity in adults?



INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR OBESITY

More than two-thirds of adults agreed that obesity care should be a top priority for federal health care programs.

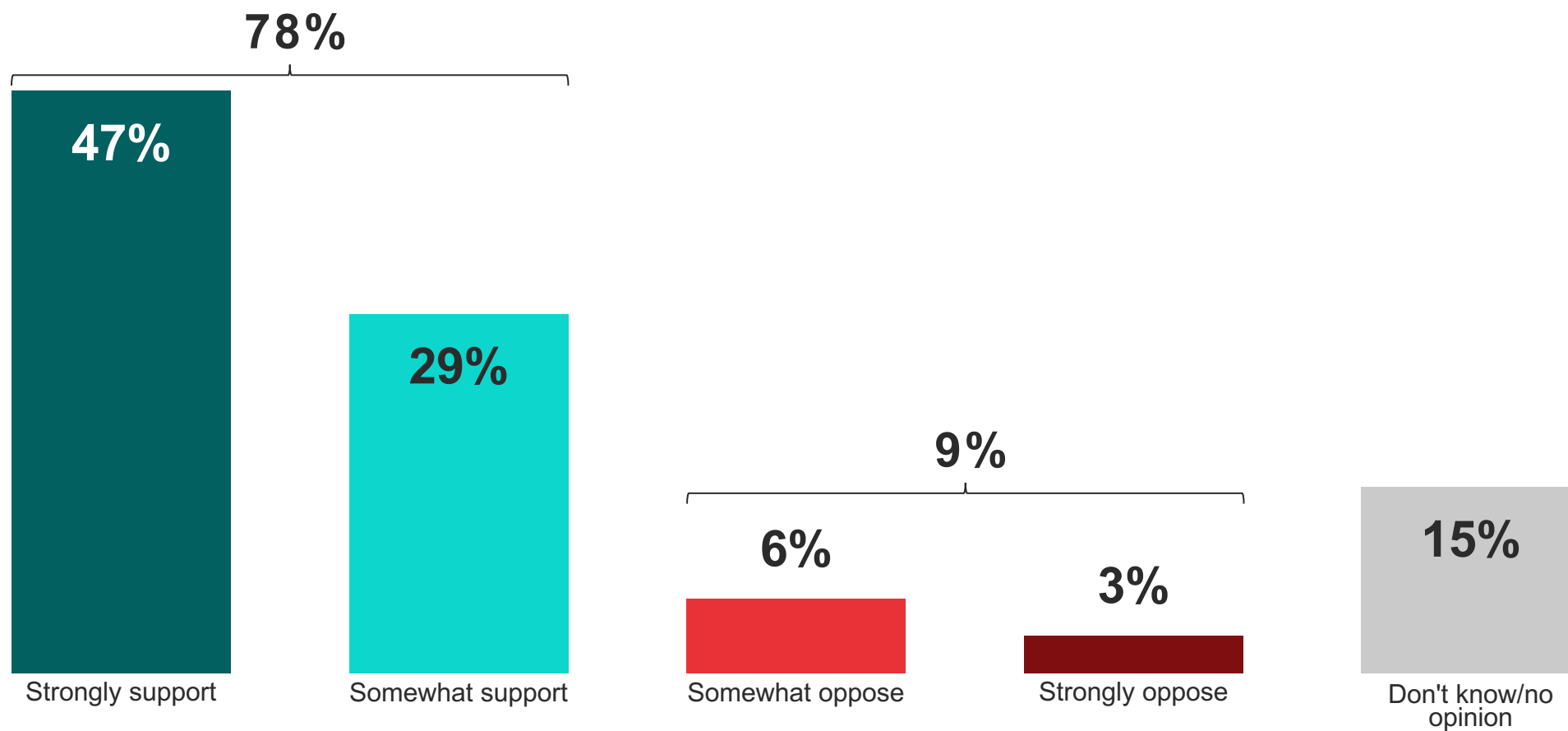
Do you agree or disagree that Congress and the Administration should consider obesity care a top priority to address in federal health care programs?



INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR OBESITY

Almost half of adults surveyed *strongly support* the inclusion of specific provisions for obesity in expansions to Medicare.

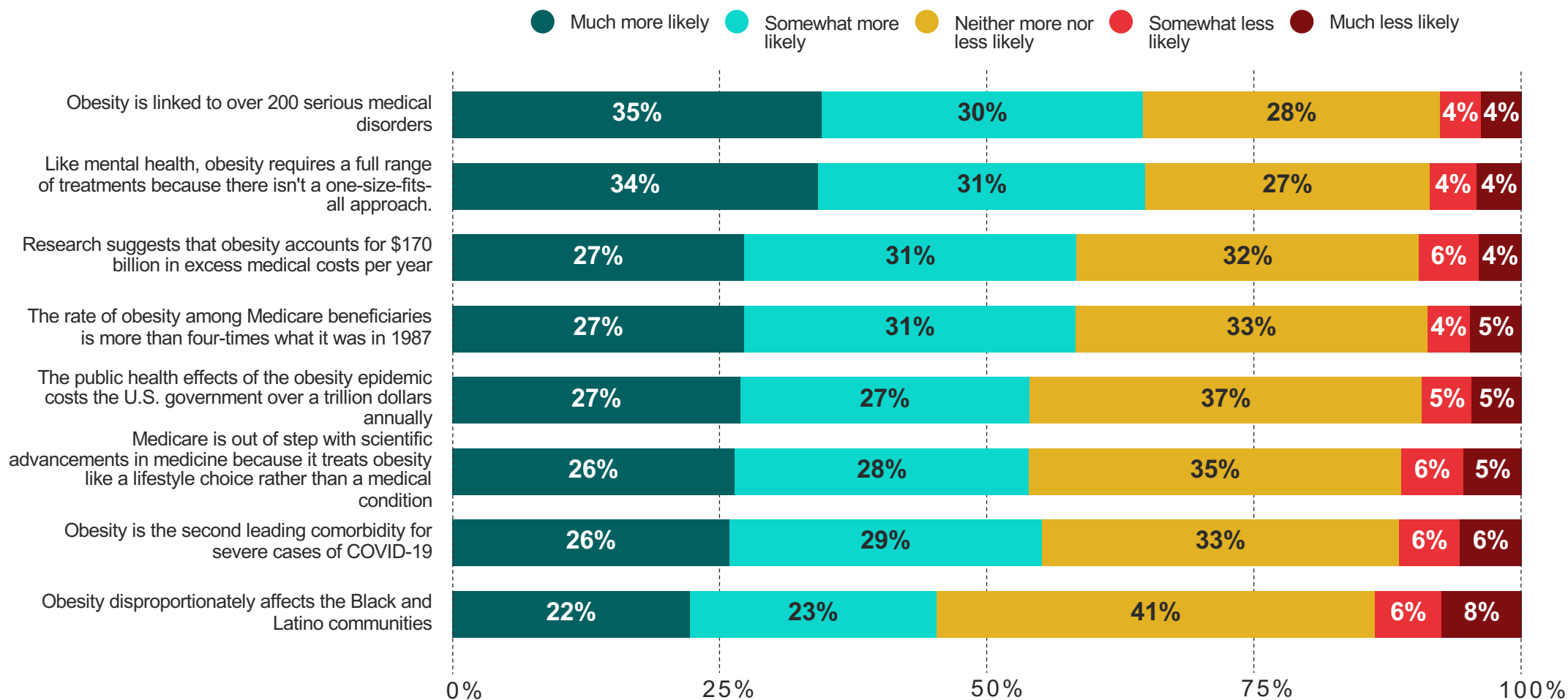
Congress is currently debating whether expansions to Medicare should include things like vision, hearing, and dental coverage. Do you support or oppose including specific provisions to address the health care needs of adults living with obesity?



MESSAGE TESTING

The most compelling statements tested were those stating obesity’s connection to 200+ serious medical disorders and likening its nuanced treatment to that of mental health.

How much more or less likely, if at all, might you be to support expanded Medicare coverage for adult obesity treatment and prevention based on the following statements?





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