

# Coloradans' Perspectives on Health, Quality of Life, and Midterm Elections

October 10, 2018



Filling the need for trusted information on national health issues.

# Speakers

## **Kyle Legleiter**

Senior Director of Policy and Advocacy  
Colorado Health Foundation

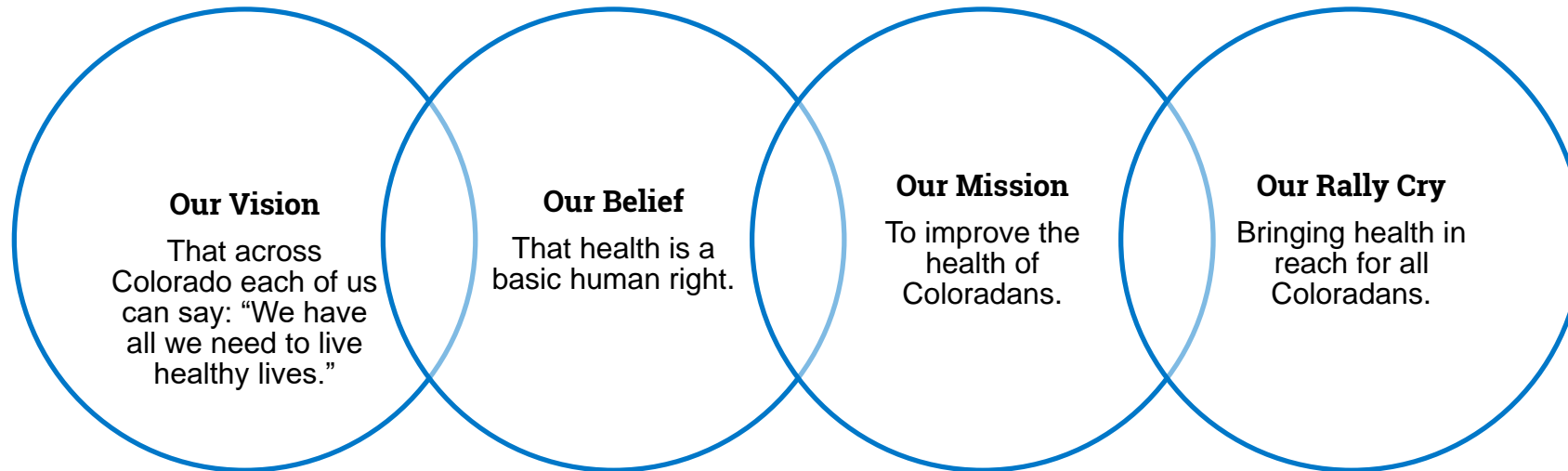
## **Ashley Kirzinger, Ph.D.**

Senior Survey Analyst  
Kaiser Family Foundation

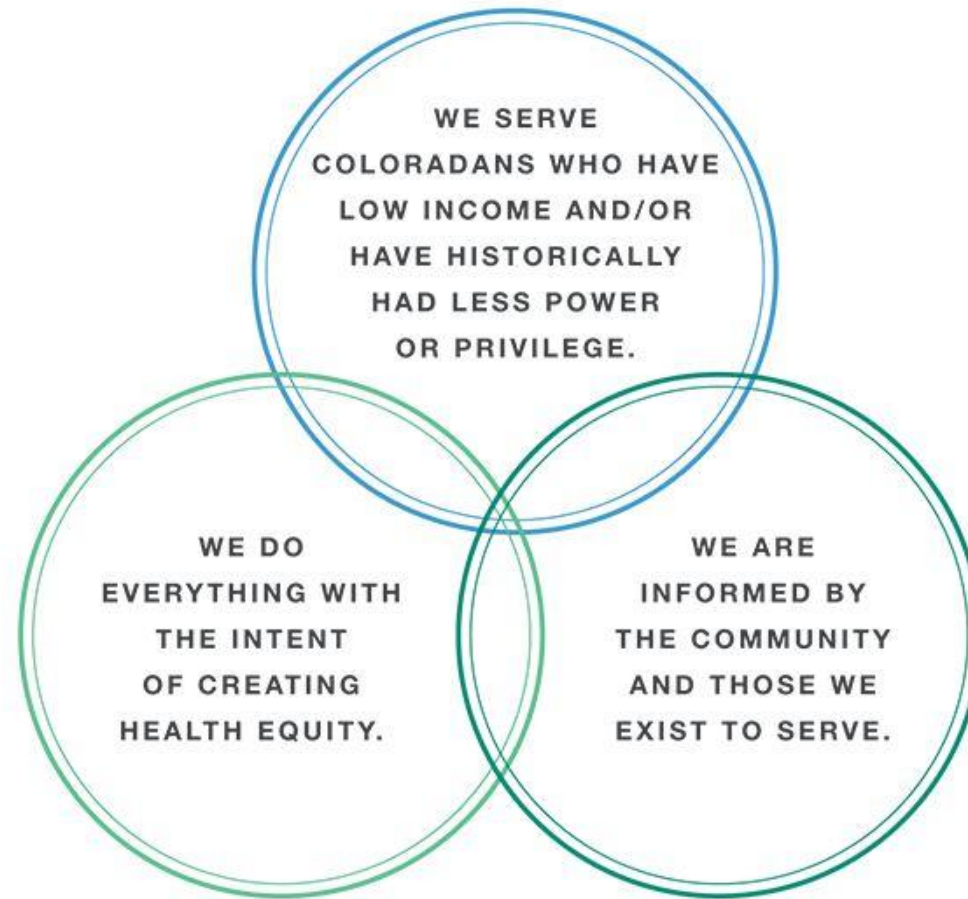


# About the Colorado Health Foundation

We are bringing health in reach for all Coloradans by engaging closely with communities across the state through investing, policy advocacy, learning and capacity building.



# Colorado Health Foundation: Cornerstones of How We Work



# Poll Methodology

- 1803 Colorado adult residents
- August 15 – September 19, 2018
- Conducted in English and Spanish
- Weighted to 2016 Colorado state-based estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau's ACS.
- The margin of sampling error including the design effect for the full sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points.
- KFF is a charter member of the Transparency Initiative of the American Association for Public Opinion Research.



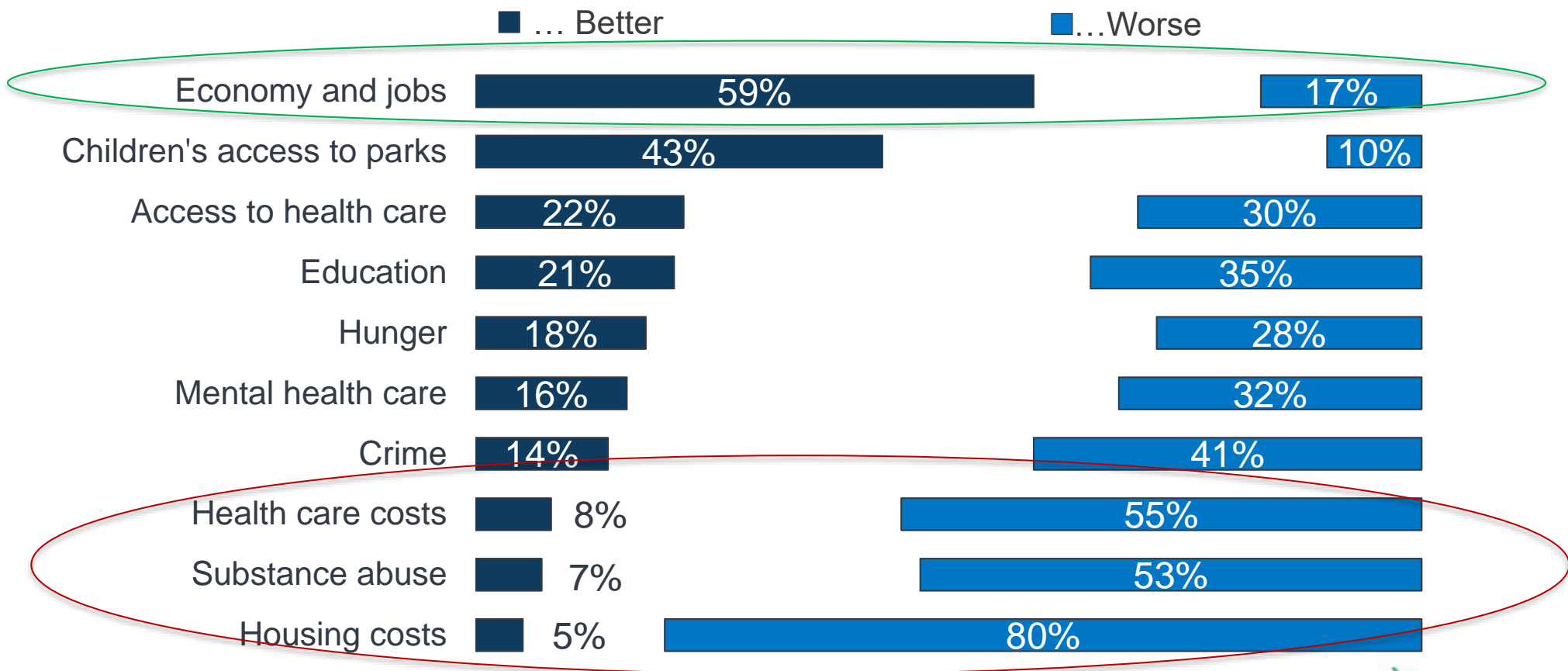
# Key Findings

- Coloradans generally have a positive outlook for the future of both the state and their own local communities, and think the economy in the state is improving. However, **housing and health care affordability weigh heavily on the minds of Coloradans**. These issues also are forefront on the minds of voters leading into the 2018 midterm elections.
- Nearly **three in ten Coloradans are worried that they might lose their home** because they cannot afford their monthly housing costs.
- Similar to KFF national polling, health care and specifically – the **affordability of health care is among the top issues for Coloradans**. Half of Coloradans say it has gotten harder for people like them to afford health care.
- There are still signs of **inequality with individuals from certain demographic groups reporting poorer health status and a lower quality of life** in the state.



# Majority Of Coloradans Say Economy And Jobs Are Getting Better, Housing And Health Care Costs, Substance Abuse, Are Getting Worse In Their State

Percent who say that each of the following is an issue where things in Colorado are getting...



NOTE: Items asked of half sample. White space indicates “Staying about the same,” as well as Don’t know/Refused responses.

SOURCE: KFF/CHF Survey (August 15-September 19, 2018)

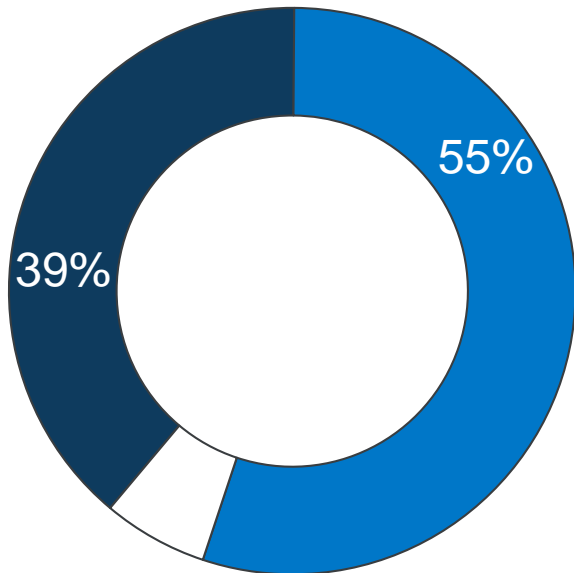
# Majorities Say Colorado And Local Community Are Headed In Right Direction, Fewer Say Same About Country

Do you feel things in ... are generally going in the right direction today, or do you feel things have pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

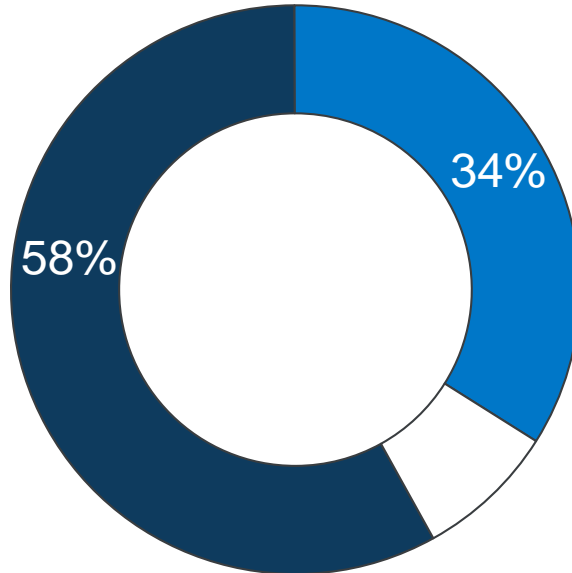
■ Right direction

■ Wrong track

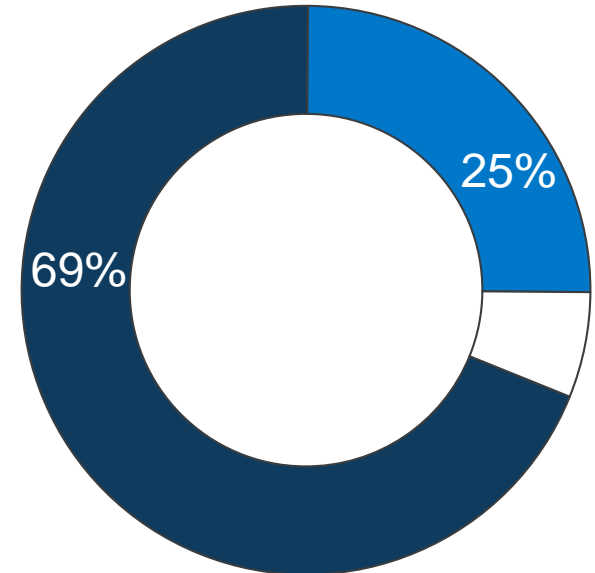
...the country...



...Colorado...



...your local community...



NOTE: Some items asked of half sample. Don't know/Refused responses shown as white space.

SOURCE: KFF/CHF Survey (August 15-September 19, 2018)



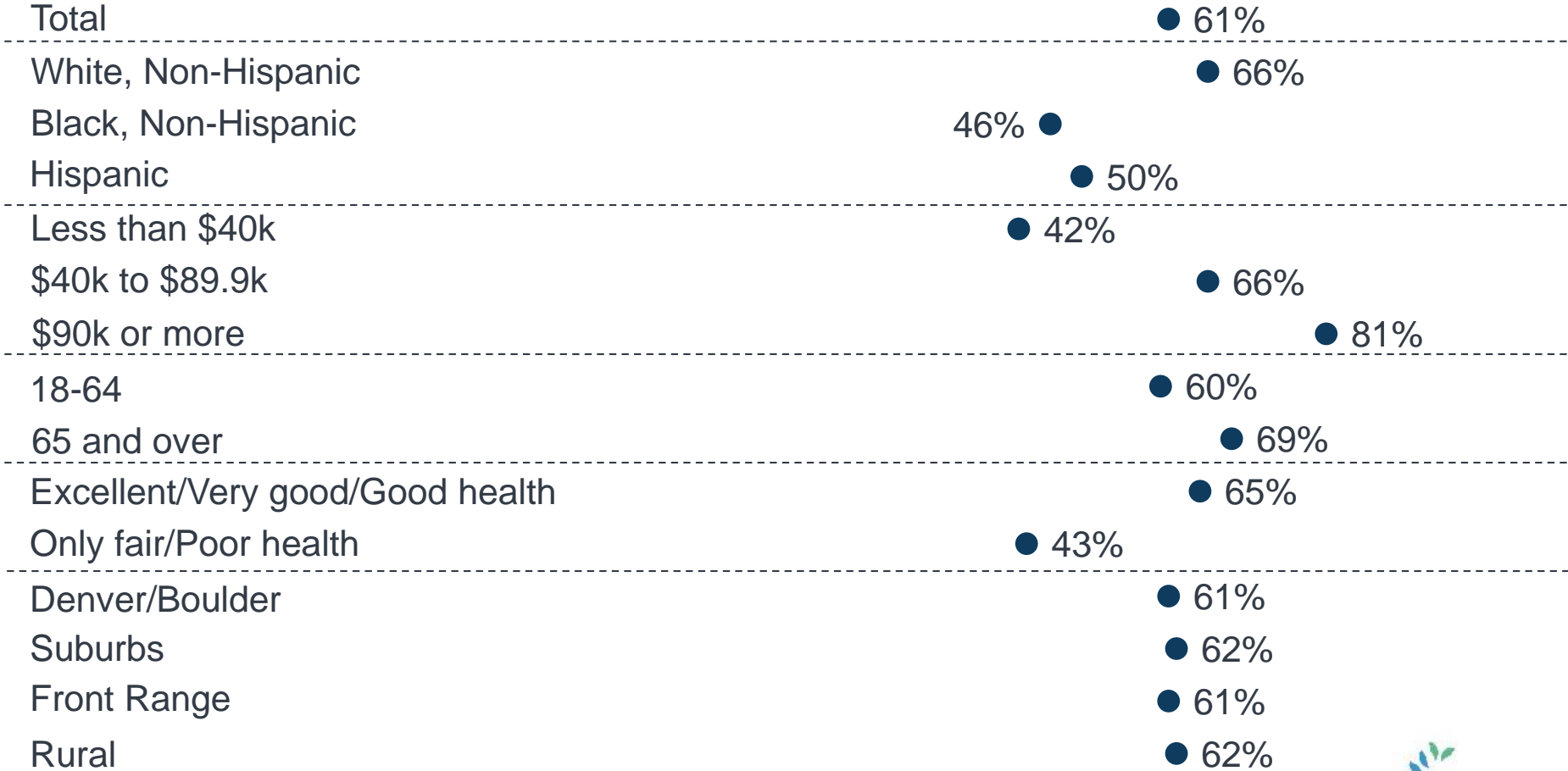
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# Majority Of Coloradans Rate Their Quality Of Life Positively; There Are Some Differences Among Groups

Percent who rate their quality of life in Colorado as “excellent” or “very good”:

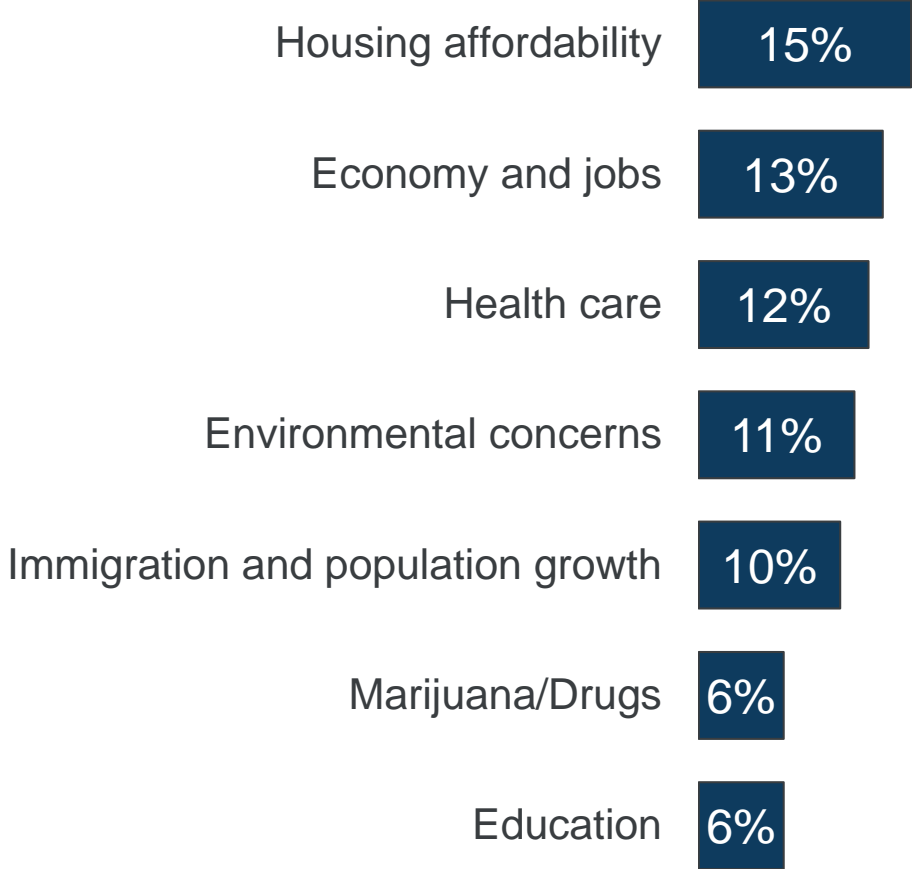


SOURCE: KFF/CHF Survey (August 15-September 19, 2018)



# When Asked In Their Own Words, Coloradans Offer Housing, Economy, Health Care Among Most Important Issues

Thinking about the state as a whole, what do you think is the most important issue facing people in Colorado today?  
*(open-end)*

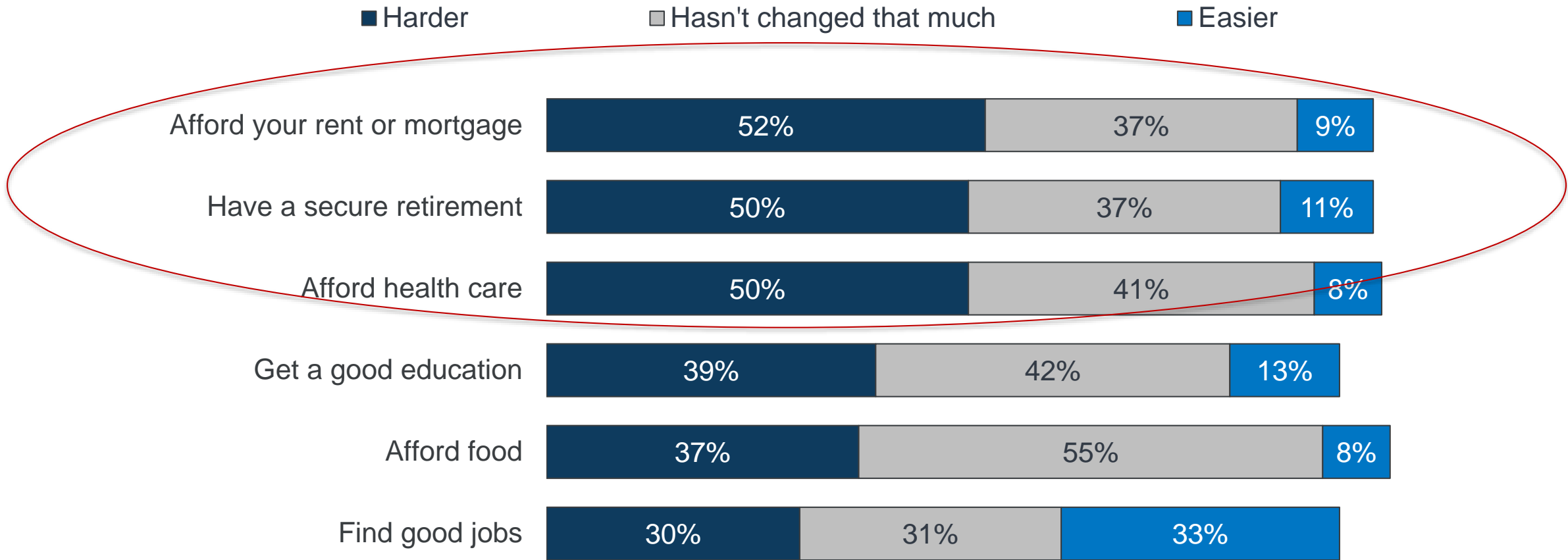


NOTE: Only top six responses shown.

SOURCE: KFF/CHF Survey (August 15-September 19, 2018)

# Half Of Coloradans Say It Has Become Harder To Afford Rent/Mortgage, Health Care, Or Have A Secure Retirement

Thinking about the past few years, would you say it has become easier or harder for people like you to afford each of the following, or hasn't that changed much?



NOTE: Items asked of half sample. Don't know/Refused responses not shown.

SOURCE: KFF/CHF Survey (August 15-September 19, 2018)



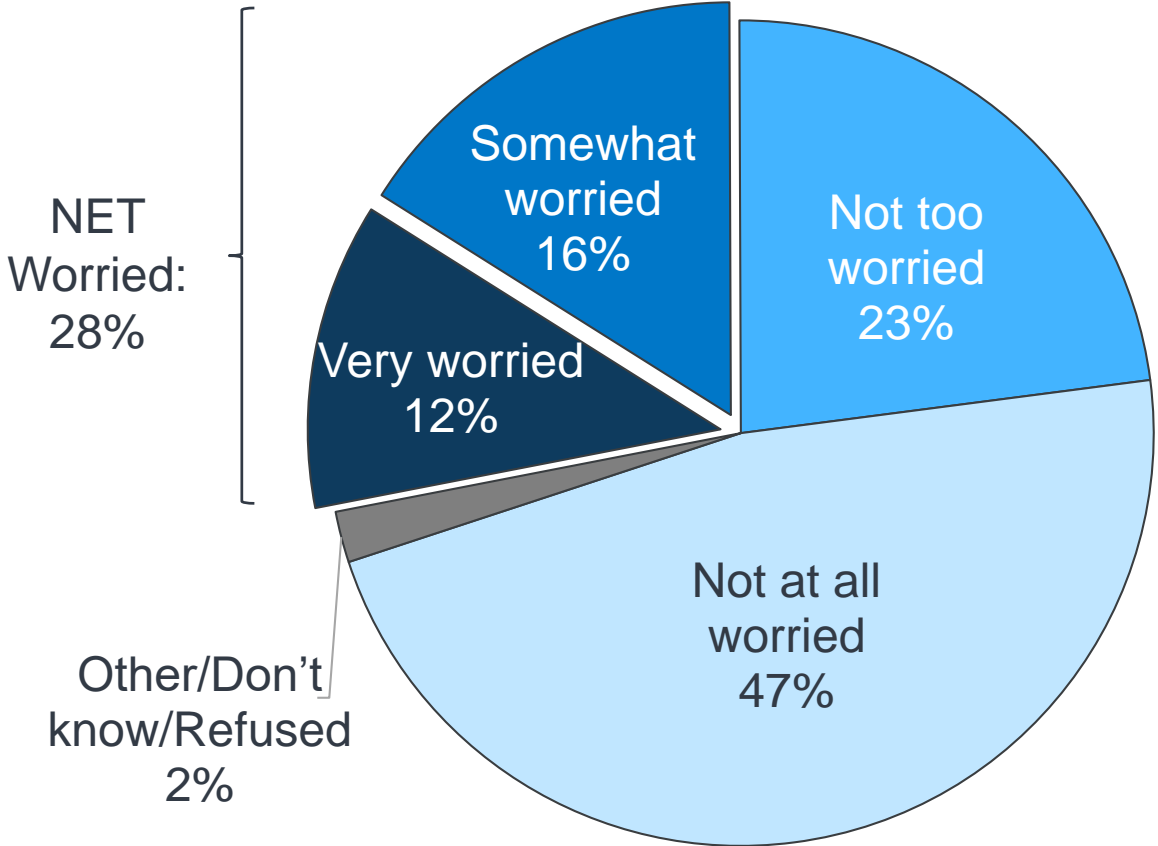
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# Housing Affordability

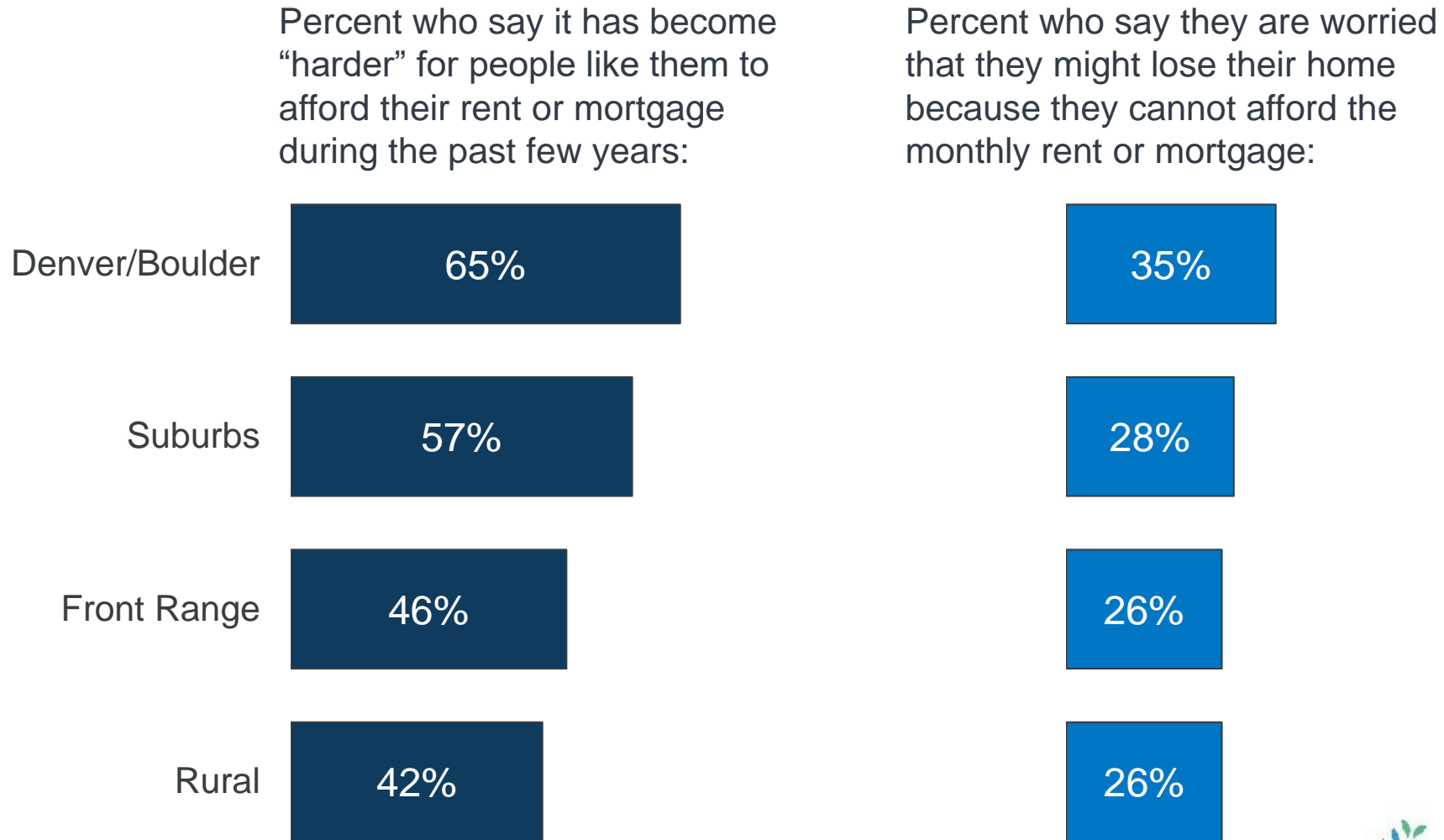
# About Three In Ten Coloradans Are Housing Insecure And Are Worried About Losing Their Home Due To The Cost

Thinking ahead over the next year, how worried, if at all, are you that you might lose your home because you cannot afford the monthly rent or mortgage?



NOTE: "Other/Don't know/Refused" includes the share who say "Don't pay rent or mortgage (Vol.)."  
SOURCE: KFF/CHF Survey (August 15-September 19, 2018)

# Denver And Boulder Residents More Likely To Report Increased Problems Affording Housing



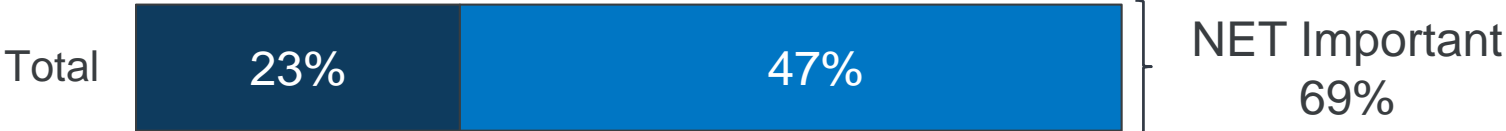
NOTE: First question was asked of half sample.

SOURCE: KFF/CHF Survey (August 15-September 19, 2018)

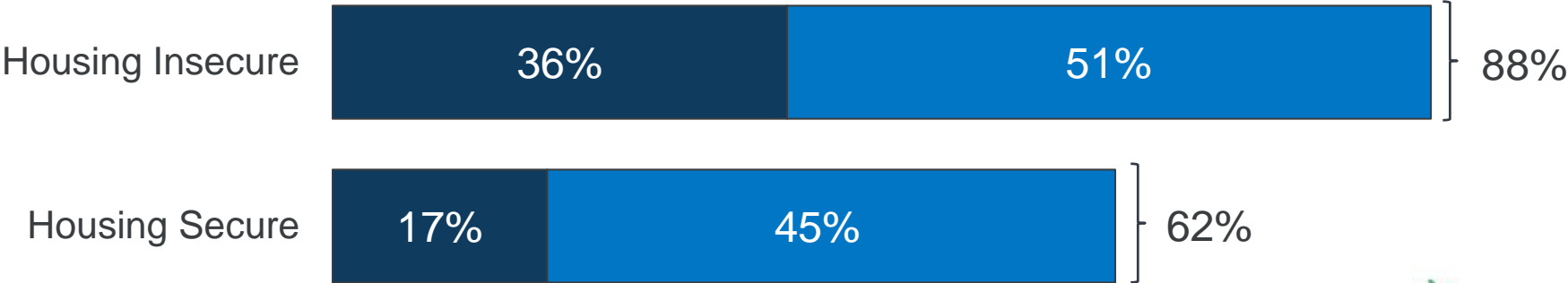
# Seven In Ten Coloradans Say It Is Important For The State Government To Work On Making Housing More Affordable

Percent who say **programs to make housing more affordable** is “the most important” or “very important but not the most important” health issue for the Colorado state government to work on:

■ The most important issue      ■ Very important but not the most important



## By Housing Insecurity



SOURCE: KFF/CHF Survey (August 15-September 19, 2018)

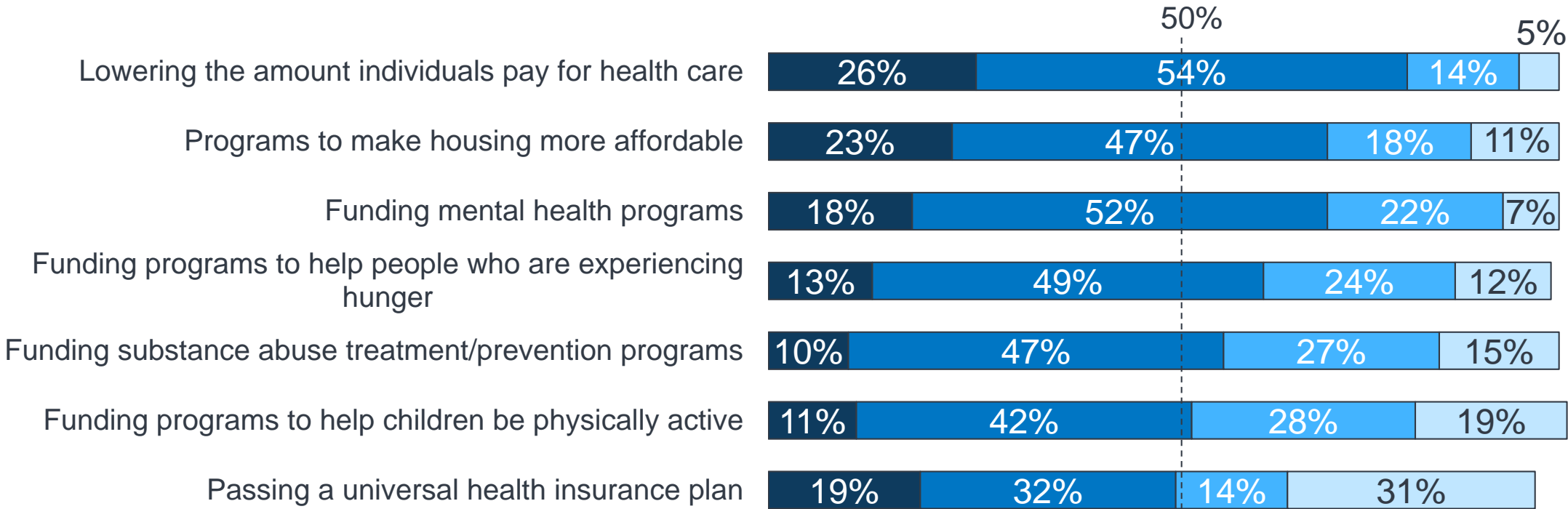
# Health Care Affordability



# Lowering Health Care And Housing Costs Top Coloradans' List Of Issues For State Government To Work On

Thinking about each issue, do you think it is the most important health issue for the Colorado state government to work on, very important but not the most important, somewhat important, or not too important?

- The most important issue
- Very important but not the most important
- Somewhat important
- Not too important



NOTE: Some items asked of half sample. Don't know/Refused responses not shown. Question wording modified. See topline for full question wording.

SOURCE: KFF/CHF Survey (August 15-September 19, 2018)



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# Lowering Amount People Pay For Health Care Is Top Health Care Issue Across Partisanship

Percent who say each of the following is the most important health issue for the Colorado state government to work on:

<u>RANK</u>	<u>DEMOCRATS</u>	<u>INDEPENDENTS</u>	<u>REPUBLICANS</u>
1	Lowering the amount individuals pay for health care (33%)	Lowering the amount individuals pay for health care (26%)	Lowering the amount individuals pay for health care (17%)
2	Passing a universal health insurance plan (31%)	Making housing more affordable (25%)	Making housing more affordable (11%)
3	Making housing more affordable (27%)	Funding for mental health programs (18%)	Funding for mental health programs (10%)

NOTE: Some items asked of half sample. Only top three responses shown.

SOURCE: KFF/CHF Survey (August 15-September 19, 2018)

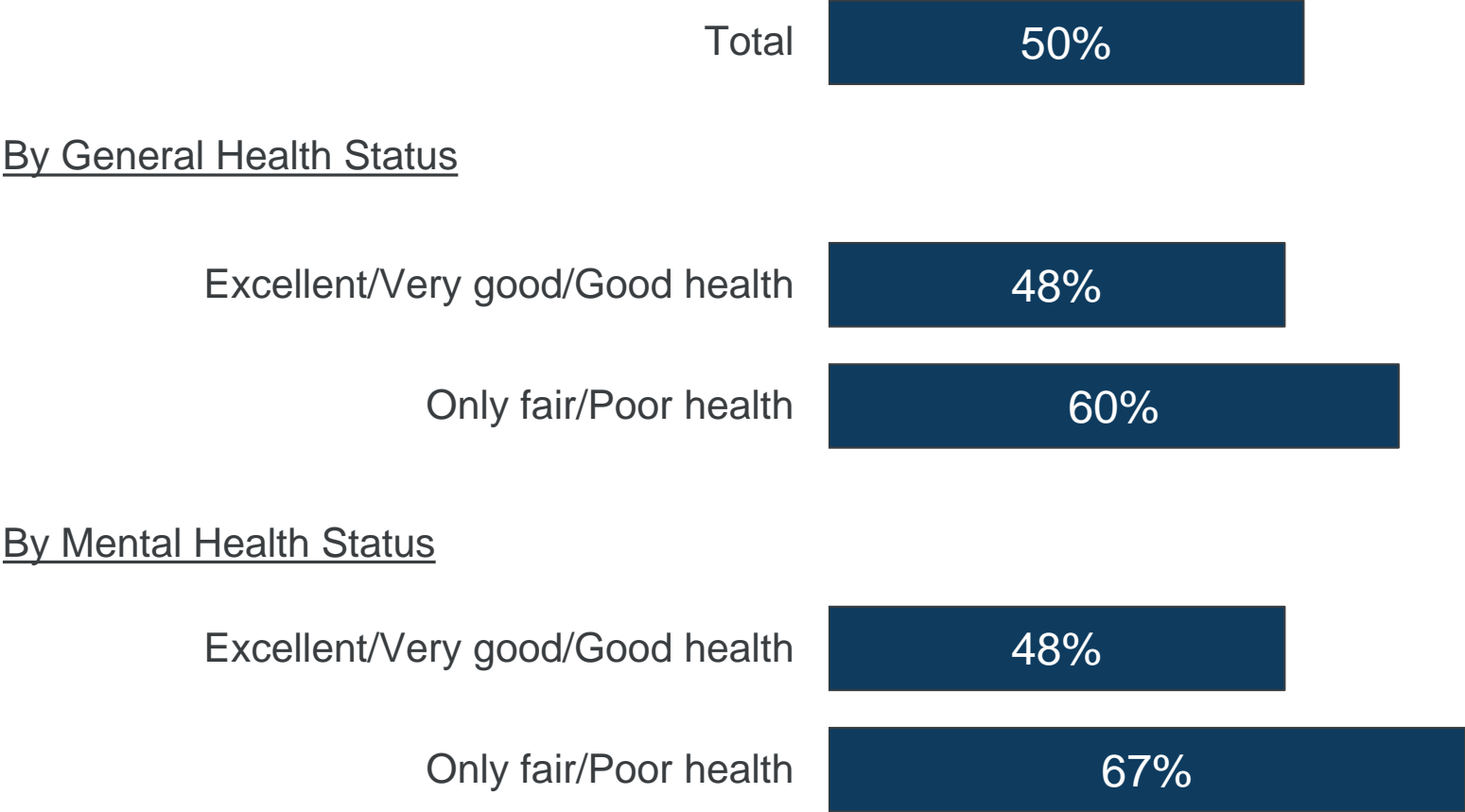


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# Majorities Of Coloradans With Fair or Poor Health Say It Has Become Harder To Afford Health Care

Percent who say it has become “harder” for people like them to afford **health care** during the past few years:

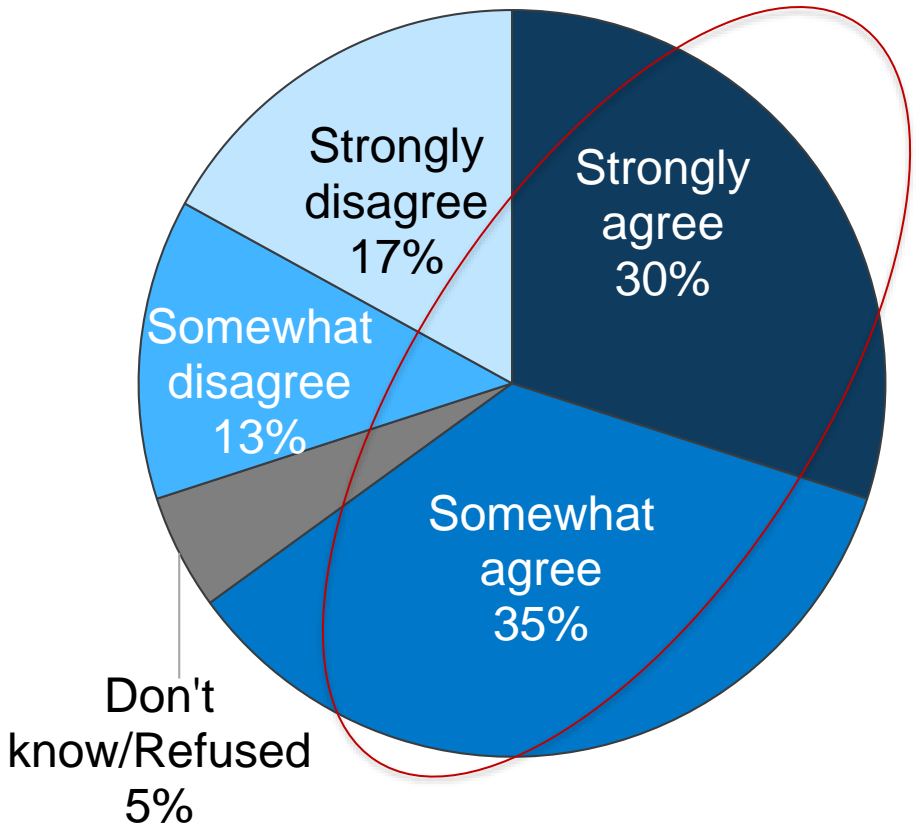


SOURCE: KFF/CHF Survey (August 15-September 19, 2018)

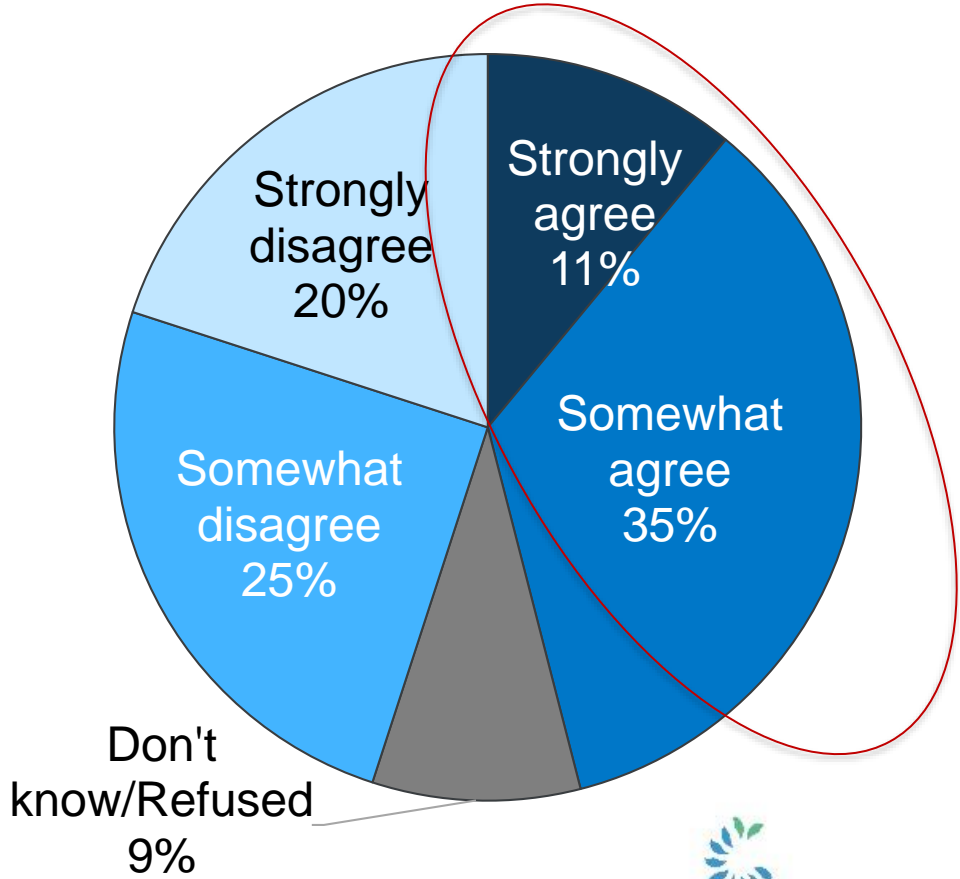
# Coloradans Say Current Health Care System Is Meeting Their Needs, Concerned About Meeting Others' Needs

Generally speaking, do you agree or disagree that the current Colorado health care system is meeting the needs of ...

...you and your family?



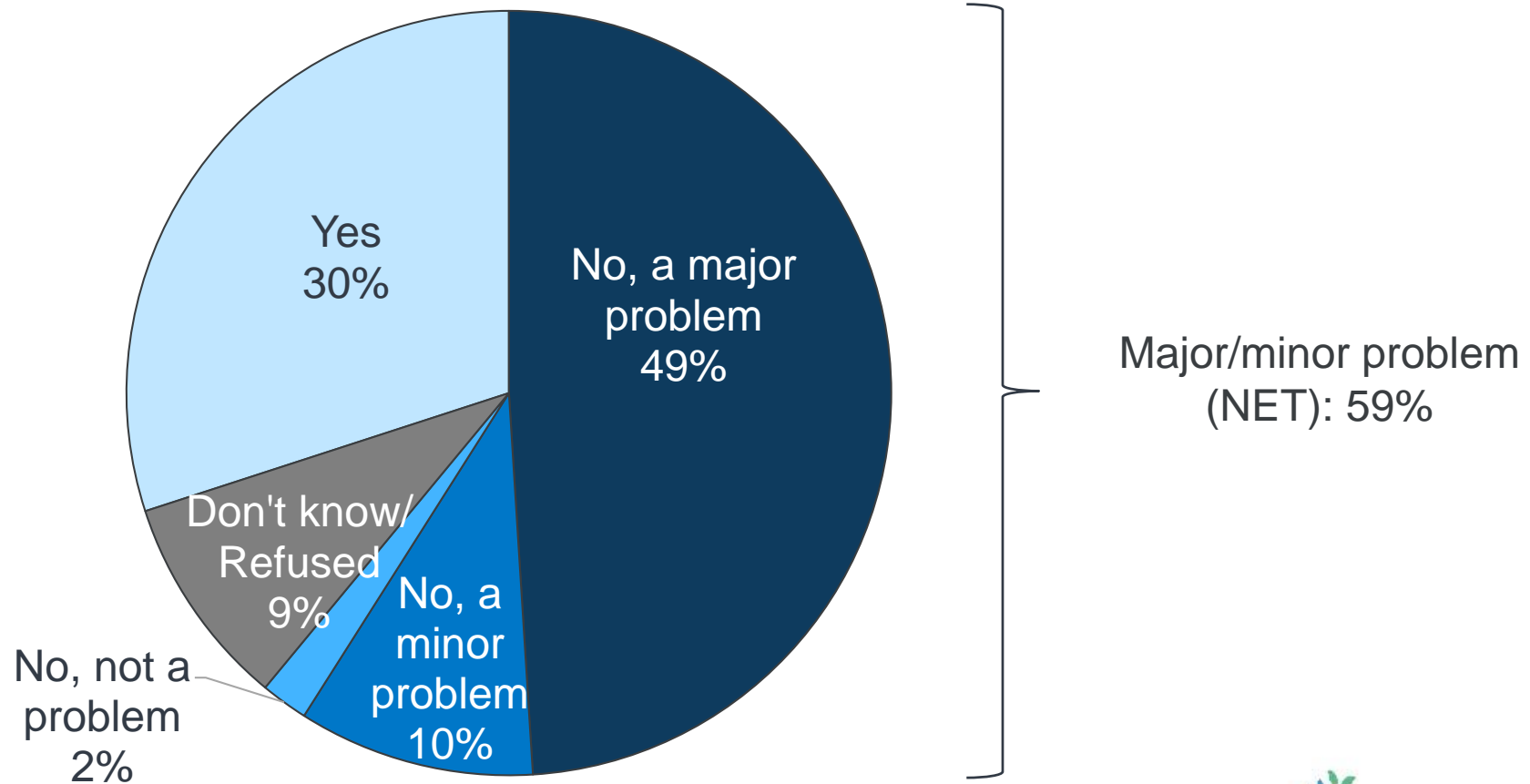
...most Coloradans?



SOURCE: KFF/CHF Survey (August 15-September 19, 2018)

# Most Coloradans Say People In The State Are Not Able To Get Needed Mental Health Services

Do you think that most people in Colorado who need mental health services are able to get them, or not? Is this a major problem, a minor problem, or not a problem?



NOTE: Question asked of half sample.

SOURCE: KFF/CHF Survey (August 15-September 19, 2018)

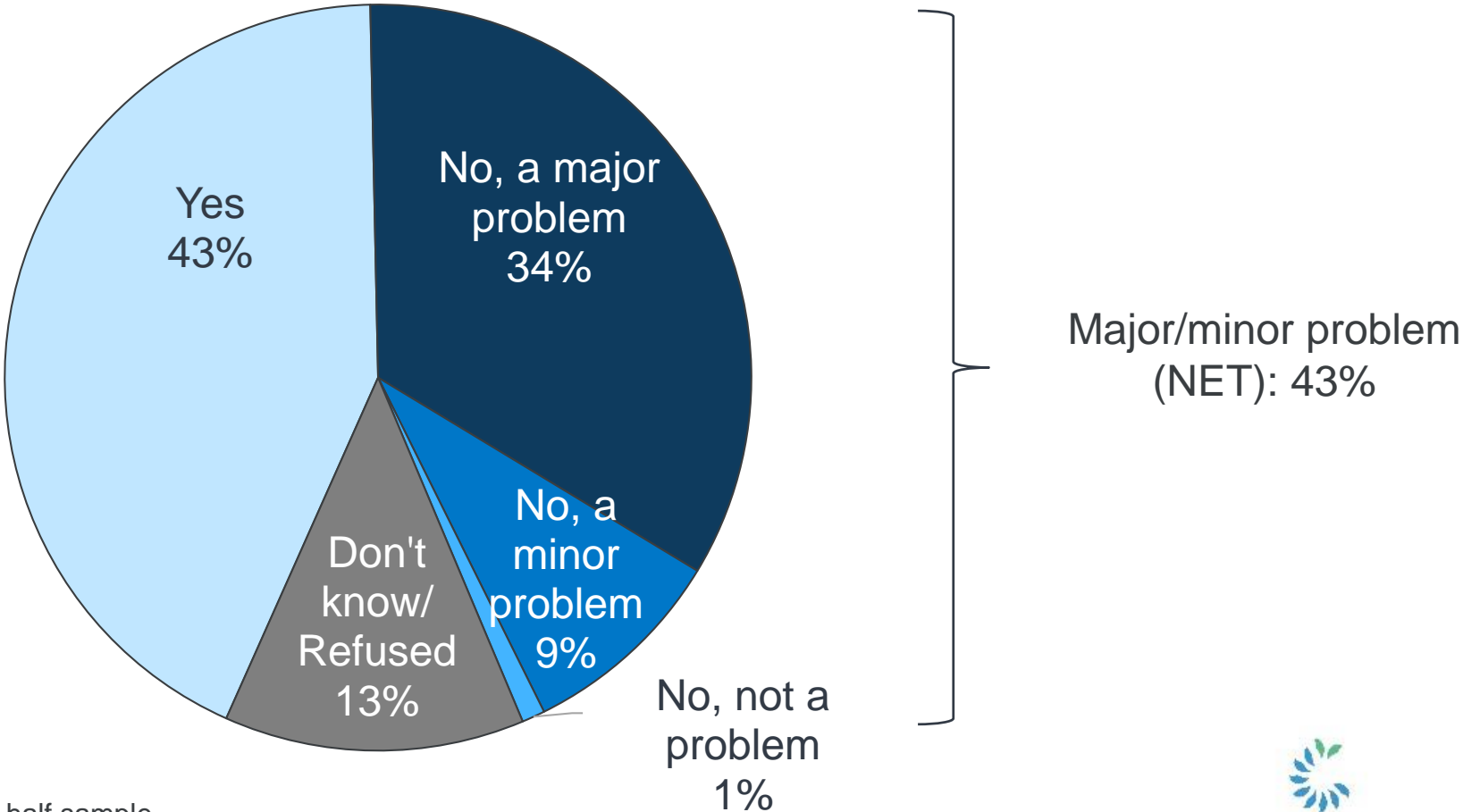


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# Four In Ten Coloradans Say People In The State Are Not Able To Get Needed Substance Abuse Services

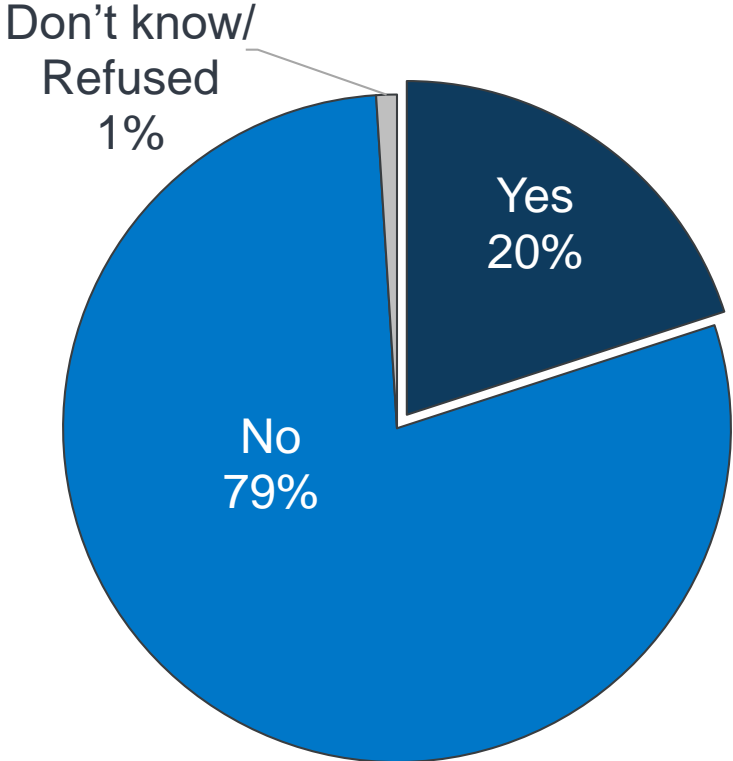
Do you think that most people in Colorado who need substance abuse services are able to get them, or not? Is this a major problem, a minor problem, or not a problem?



NOTE: Question asked of half sample.  
SOURCE: KFF/CHF Survey (August 15-September 19, 2018)

# Four In Ten Coloradans Say People In The State Are Not Able To Get Needed Substance Abuse Services

Was there ever a time when you or another family member living in your household thought you might need mental health or substance abuse services, but did not get them?



Percent who say each of the following is a reason why they or a family member did not get mental health or substance abuse care:



NOTE: The second question was asked of the 20% who did not get needed services. Percentages based on total.  
SOURCE: KFF/CHF Survey (August 15-September 19, 2018)

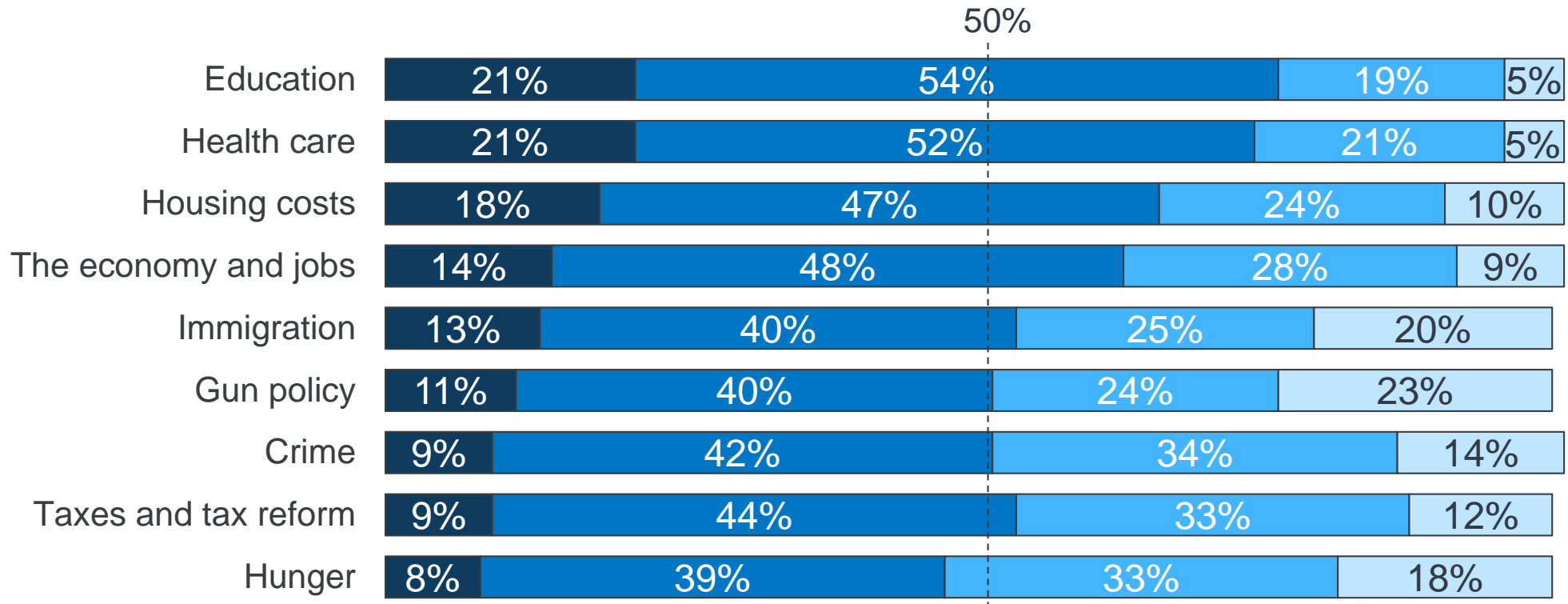
# 2018 Midterm Elections



# Colorado Voters' Top Campaign Issues In Gubernatorial Election Include Education, Health Care, And Housing Costs

REGISTERED VOTERS: How important do you think it is for the candidates for Governor to talk about each of the following?

■ The most important issue ■ Very important but not the most important ■ Somewhat important ■ Not too important



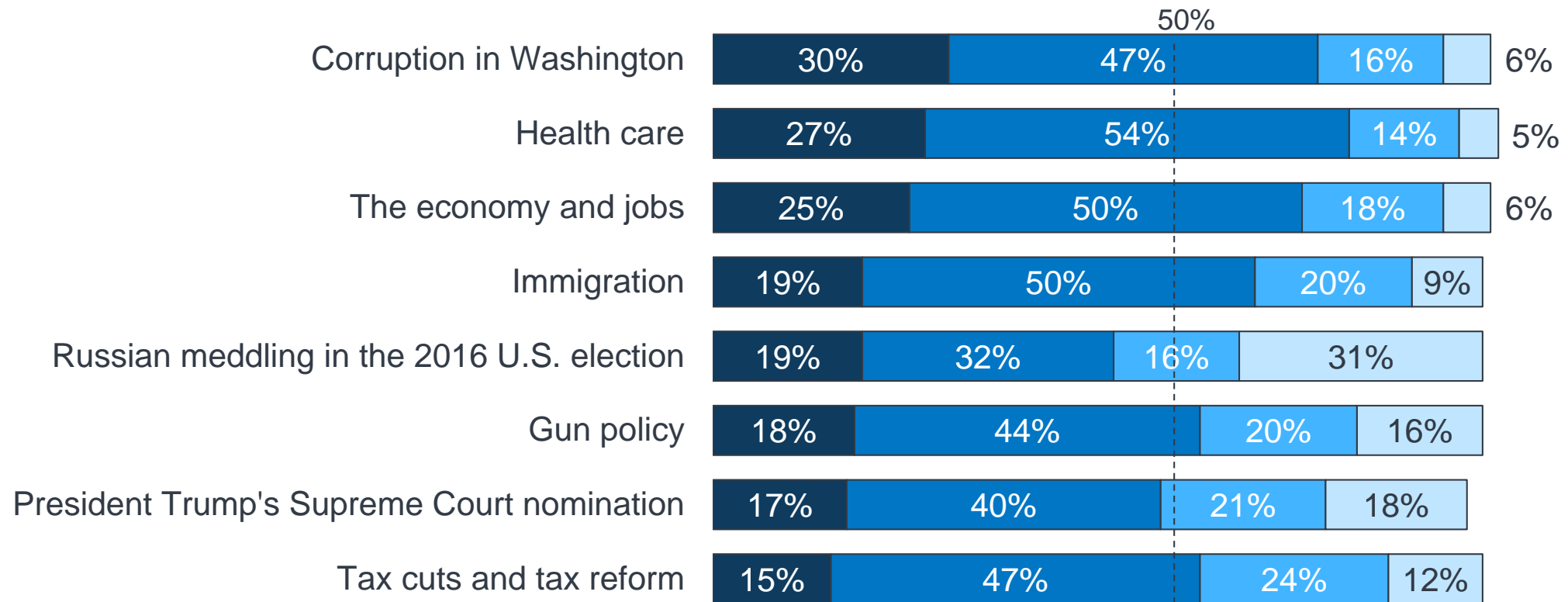
NOTE: "Not at all important (Vol.)" and Don't know/Refused responses not shown. Question wording modified. See topline for full question wording.

SOURCE: KFF/CHF Survey (August 15-September 19, 2018)

# Health Care Also Ranks Among Top Issues In KFF National Polls

REGISTERED VOTERS: How important do you think it is for 2018 candidates to talk about each of the following?

- The most important issue
- Very important but not the most important
- Somewhat important
- Not too important

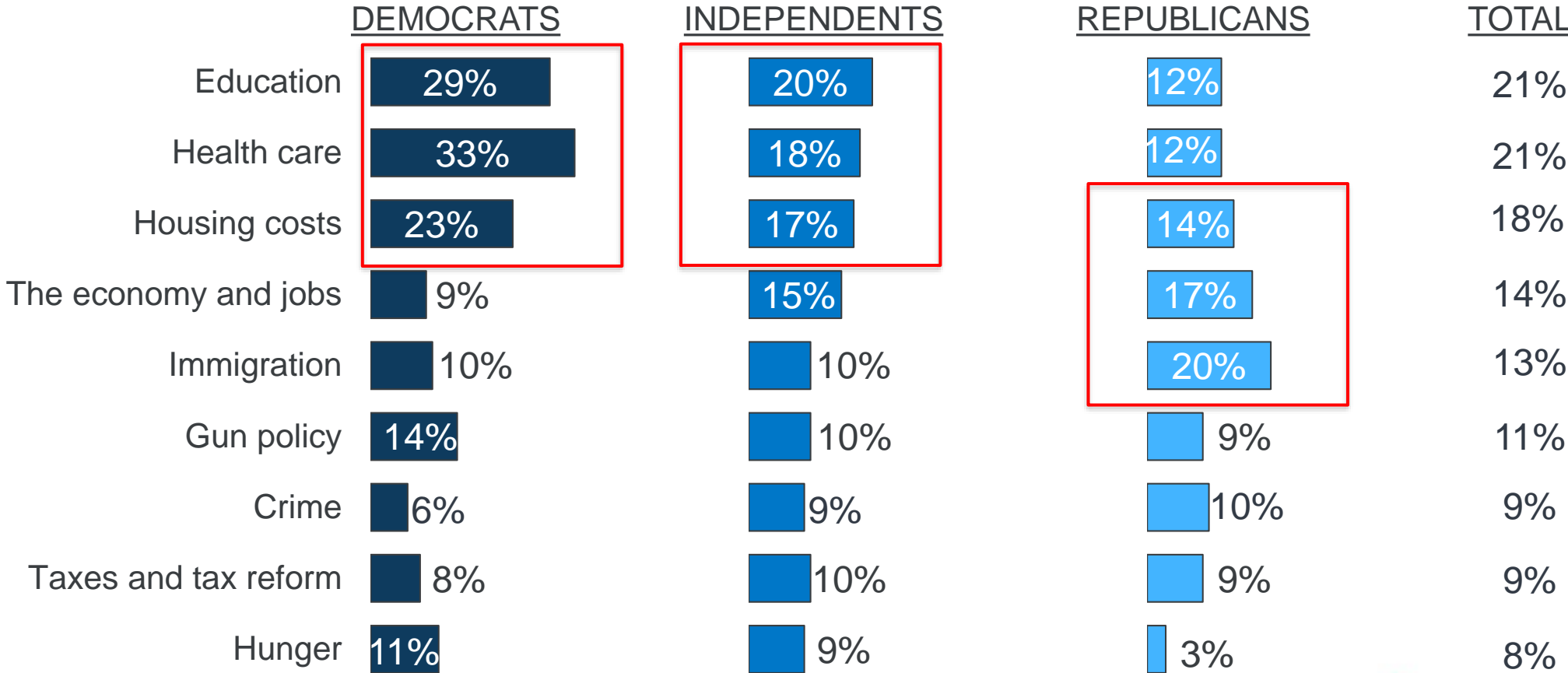


NOTE: "Not at all important (Vol.)" and Don't know/Refused responses not shown. Question wording abbreviated. See topline for full question wording.

SOURCE: KFF Health Tracking Poll (conducted August 23-28, 2018)

# Top Issues For Democratic Voters Include Health Care, Education; For Republicans, Immigration, And The Economy

REGISTERED VOTERS: Percent who say each of the following is the “most important issue” for the candidates for Governor to talk about:

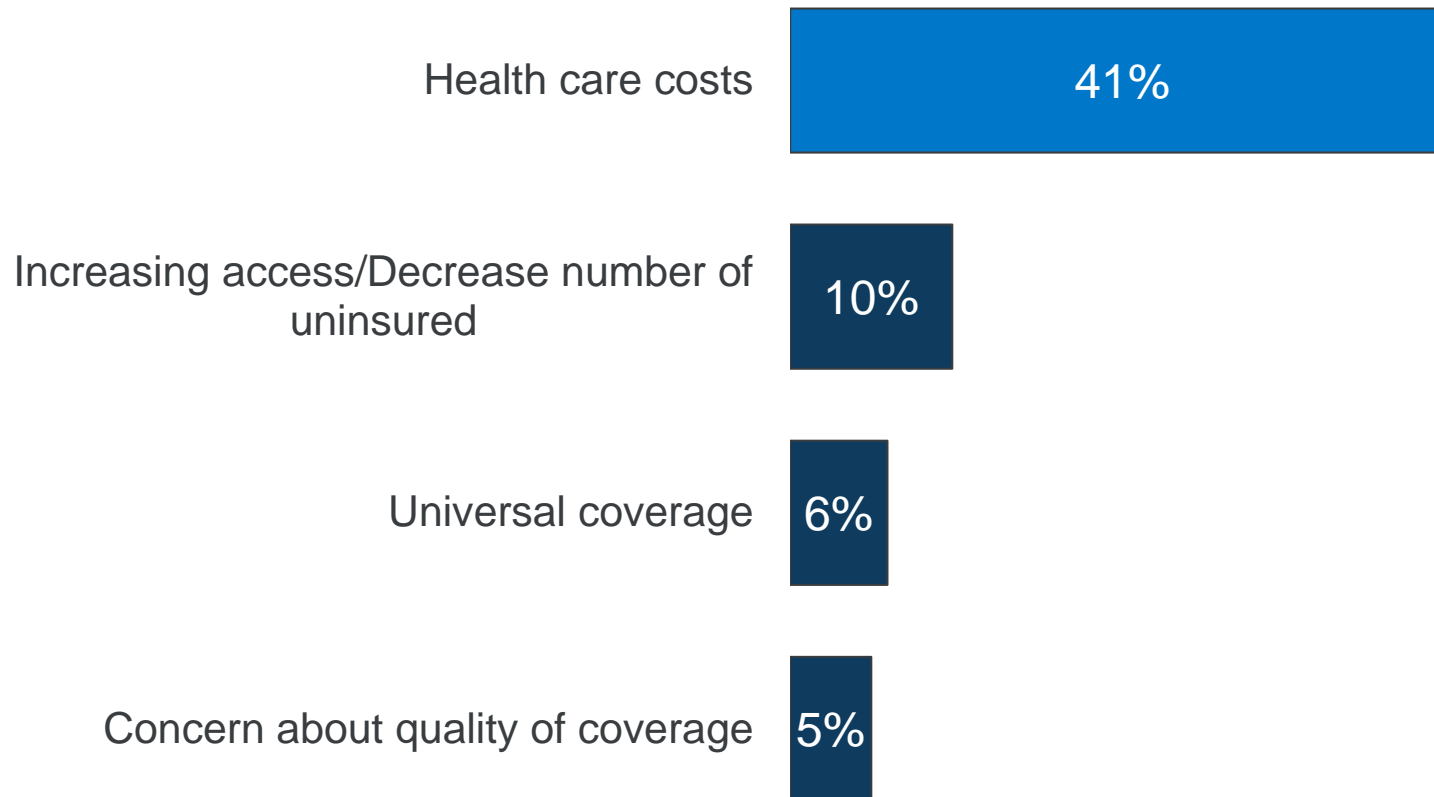


SOURCE: KFF/CHF Survey (August 15-September 19, 2018)



# Health Care Costs Are A Top Health Care Issue For Colorado Voters

REGISTERED VOTERS: Previously you said health care is an important issue for the candidates for Governor to talk about, what specifically do you mean? (*open-end*)

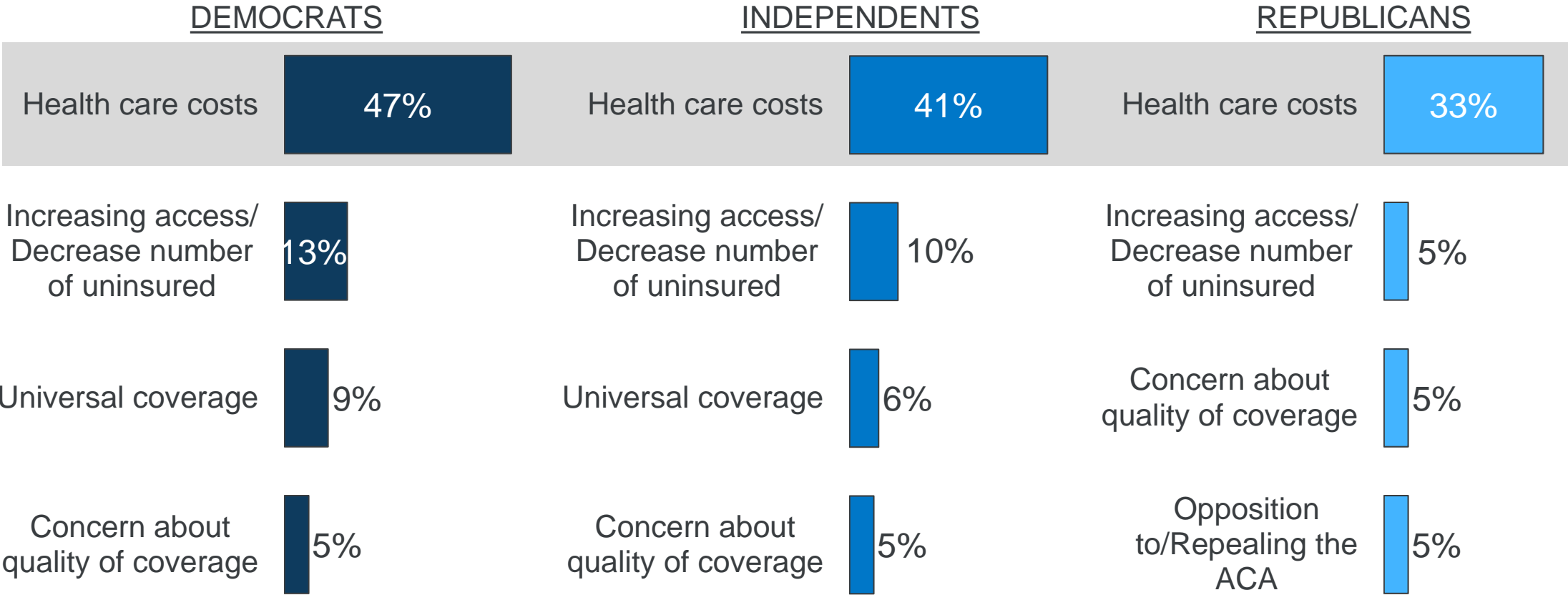


NOTE: Question asked of those who say health care is an important issue for candidates for Governor to talk about. Percentages based on total voters. Only top four responses shown.

SOURCE: KFF/CHF Survey (August 15-September 19, 2018)

# Across Partisanship, Health Care Costs Are A Top Health Care Issue For Colorado Voters

REGISTERED VOTERS: Previously you said health care is an important issue for the candidates for Governor to talk about, what specifically do you mean? (*open-end*)

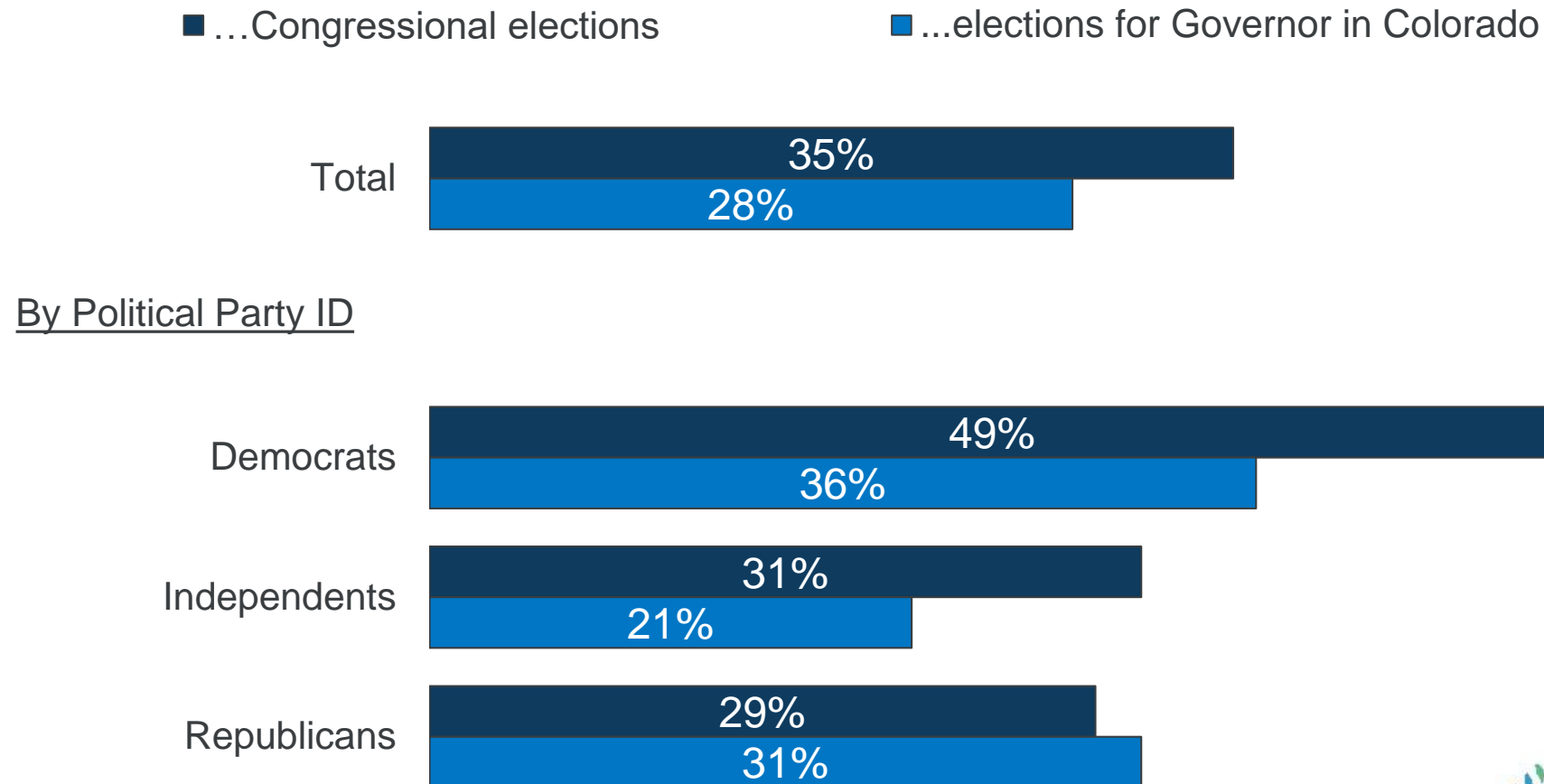


NOTE: Question asked of those who say health care is an important issue for candidates for Governor to talk about. Percentages reported among total voters. Only top four responses shown.

SOURCE: KFF/CHF Survey (August 15-September 19, 2018)

# Half Of Democratic Voters Say They Are More Enthusiastic About Voting In This Year's Congressional Election

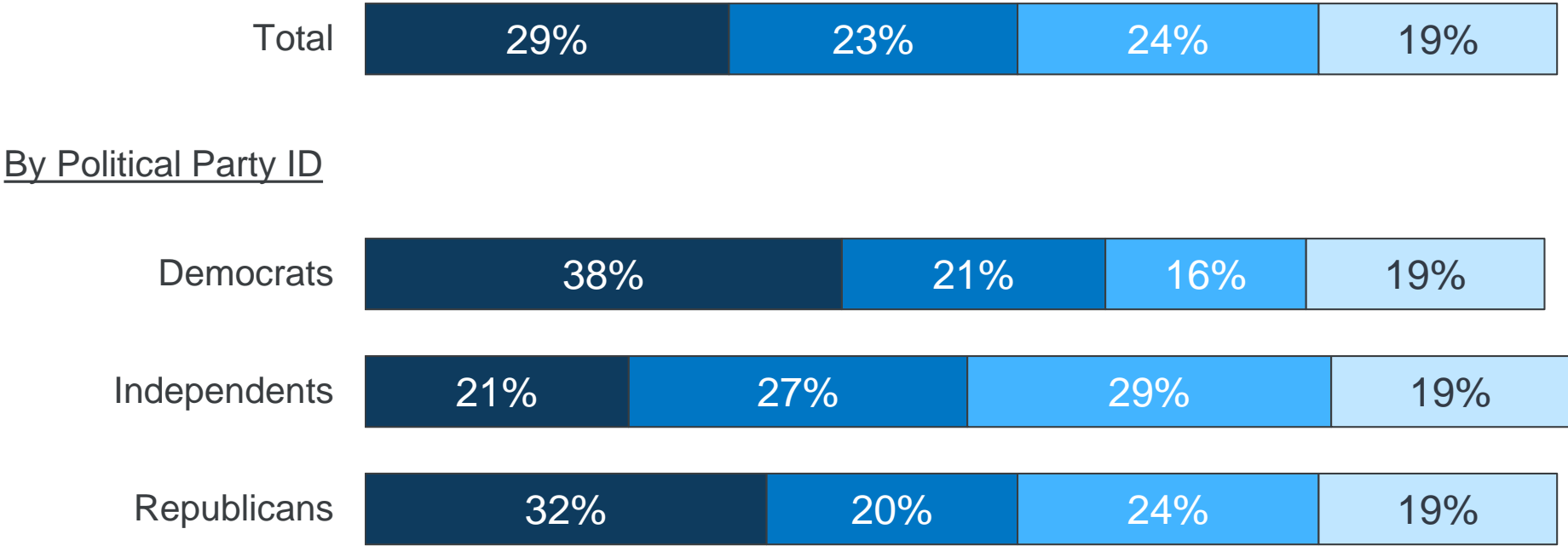
REGISTERED VOTERS: Compared to previous elections, the percent who say they are “more enthusiastic” about voting in this year's...



# Larger Shares Of Partisan Voters Say Candidate's Stance On President Trump Will Make The Biggest Difference In 2018

REGISTERED VOTERS: What will make the biggest difference in how you vote for Congress?

- A candidate's support for or opposition to President Trump
- The candidate's character and experience
- Local or state issues
- Specific national issues



NOTE: "Don't plan to vote (Vol.)," "All (Vol.)," "None/other (Vol.)," and Don't know/Refused responses not shown.

SOURCE: KFF/CHF Survey (August 15-September 19, 2018)



# Kaiser Family Foundation

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The Colorado Health Foundation™





# Contact Us

## **Kyle Legleiter**

Senior Director of Policy and Advocacy  
Colorado Health Foundation  
klegleiter@coloradohealth.org

## **Ashley Kirzinger, Ph.D.**

Senior Survey Analyst  
Kaiser Family Foundation  
AshleyK@kff.org





Thank you.