



Results from a Statewide Survey

How New Mexicans Feel about Affordability and Healthcare Reform

CONDUCTED FOR THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION
PREPARED BY PERRYUNDEM

FEBRUARY 2022

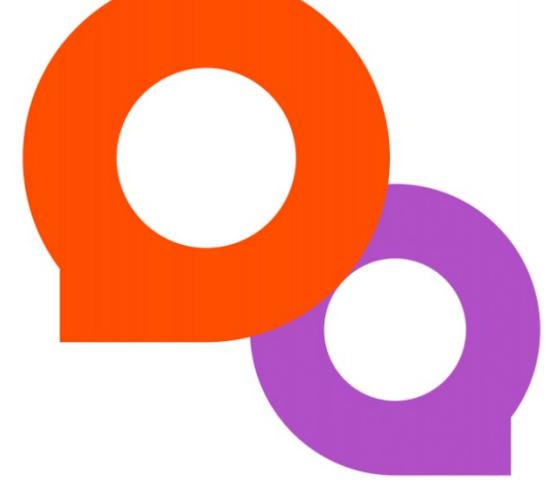
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— Methods.

The non-partisan research firm PerryUndem developed the survey, in conjunction with Betty & Smith, for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and state partners. The 18-minute survey was conducted by telephone (cell and landline) January 12th to February 6th, 2022, using Braun Research, Inc.

The survey included n = 824 New Mexicans 18 and older and included oversamples of Black (n = 214) and Latino / Hispanic (n = 282) adults to ensure their views were included.

The margin of sampling error for total results: ± 3.4 percentage points.



Key Findings.

1.

**More than 1 in 2
New Mexicans have
sacrificed medical
services because of
healthcare costs.**

- Most New Mexicans (65%) aren't very confident they can pay for usual healthcare services. Latino / Hispanic and Black adults are among the most worried about paying for care.
- 65% of New Mexicans say they frequently or sometimes feel like the prices of medical services or procedures are not transparent.
- More than 1 in 2 (56%) New Mexicans have sacrificed medical services in the past two years because of cost. Skipping dental care (31%), delaying a doctor visit or procedure (29%), and avoiding a doctor visit or procedure altogether (26%) were most common.
- 4 in 10 (39%) have faced financial hardship as a result of medical bills. This includes working out a long-term payment plan (18%), using up their savings to pay a bill (15%), and being sent to a collection agency for a bill (14%).

— Key Findings.

2.

New Mexicans support fixing inequities around healthcare, especially for immigrants.

- 63% think it is unfair that frontline workers who are immigrants are unable to access coverage through Medicaid or the marketplace.
- 8 in 10 (80%) agree that the state should take action to ensure healthcare is affordable for all residents including tax-paying immigrants.
- 86% of New Mexicans support allowing tax-paying immigrants to purchase insurance for the same costs as other state residents. And, 3 in 4 (75%) support allowing tax-paying immigrants to enroll in the state's Medicaid program.

— Key Findings.

3.

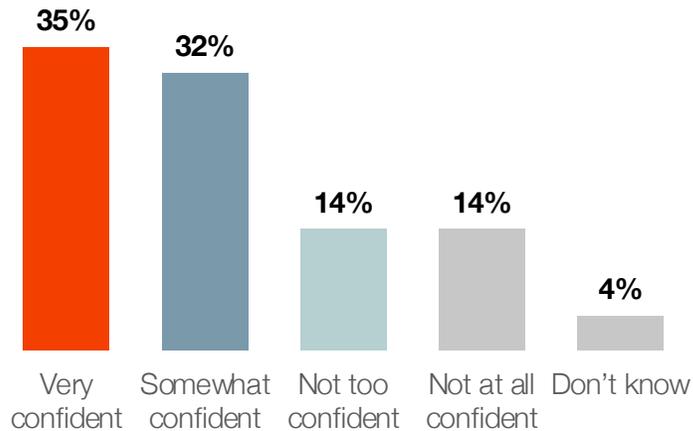
Most New Mexicans want big, fundamental changes from the government on healthcare.

- 56% want big, fundamental changes to the health system. Another 24% want smaller, modest changes. Black adults, Democrats, and Independents have the greatest appetite for big, fundamental changes to the healthcare system.
- When asked about who's to blame for high costs, New Mexicans are most likely to say the federal government, followed by prescription drug companies and health insurance companies.
- 8 in 10 (81%) support requiring all hospitals in the state to provide the same financial assistance and payment plans so all residents know what help is available to them.
- When asked about specific reforms, majorities support several policies. This includes requiring full cost transparency for medical services and procedures (88%), creating a Prescription Drug Affordability Board (84%), limiting what hospitals can charge for services (82%), eliminating or capping deductibles (81%), opening up Medicaid to every New Mexican who needs it (74%), and a public option (72%).

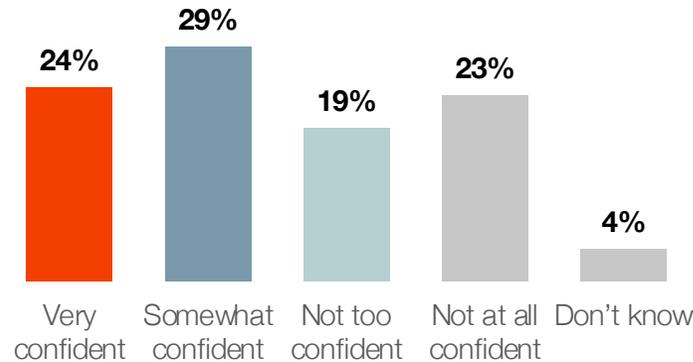
Detailed Findings.

Two-thirds of New Mexicans express uncertainty about paying for usual healthcare services; 8 in 10 aren't very confident about paying for costs related to a major illness or injury.

Q: Generally speaking, how confident are you that you have enough money or health insurance to pay the medical costs for the USUAL healthcare services that you or your family require?



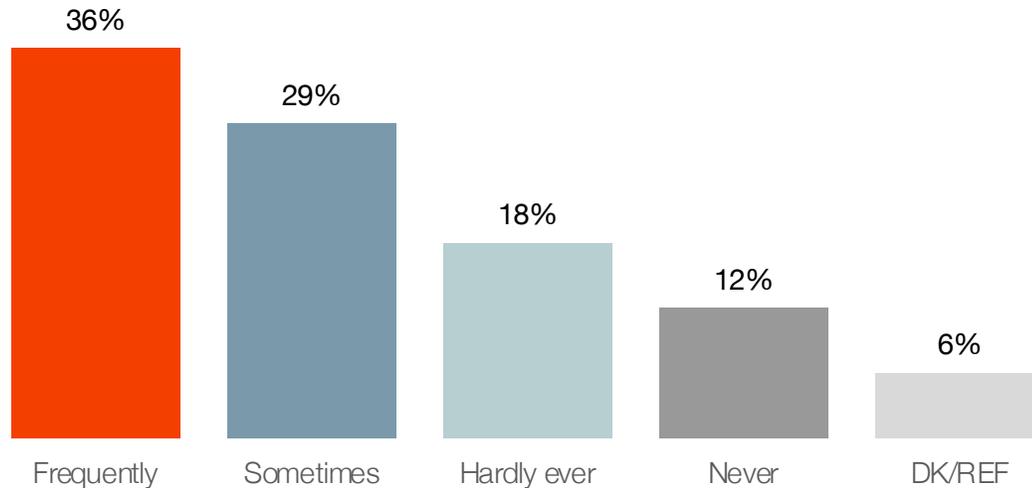
Q: How confident are you that you have enough money or health insurance to pay the medical costs if you or a family member have a MAJOR ILLNESS OR INJURY?



	USUAL SERVICES	MAJOR ILLNESS/INJURY
% NOT VERY CONFIDENT	65%	76%
Women	65%	78%
Men	64%	73%
18 to 34	67%	80%
35 to 54	69%	81%
55 to 64	67%	76%
65+	54%	60%
Black	69%	74%
Latino/Hispanic	70%	74%
White	61%	73%
Less than \$30K	69%	78%
\$30K to \$50K	71%	81%
\$50K to \$75K	72%	81%
\$75K to \$100K	67%	77%
\$100K or more	38%	61%
Plan through employer	57%	74%
Medicare	57%	68%
Medicaid	70%	78%

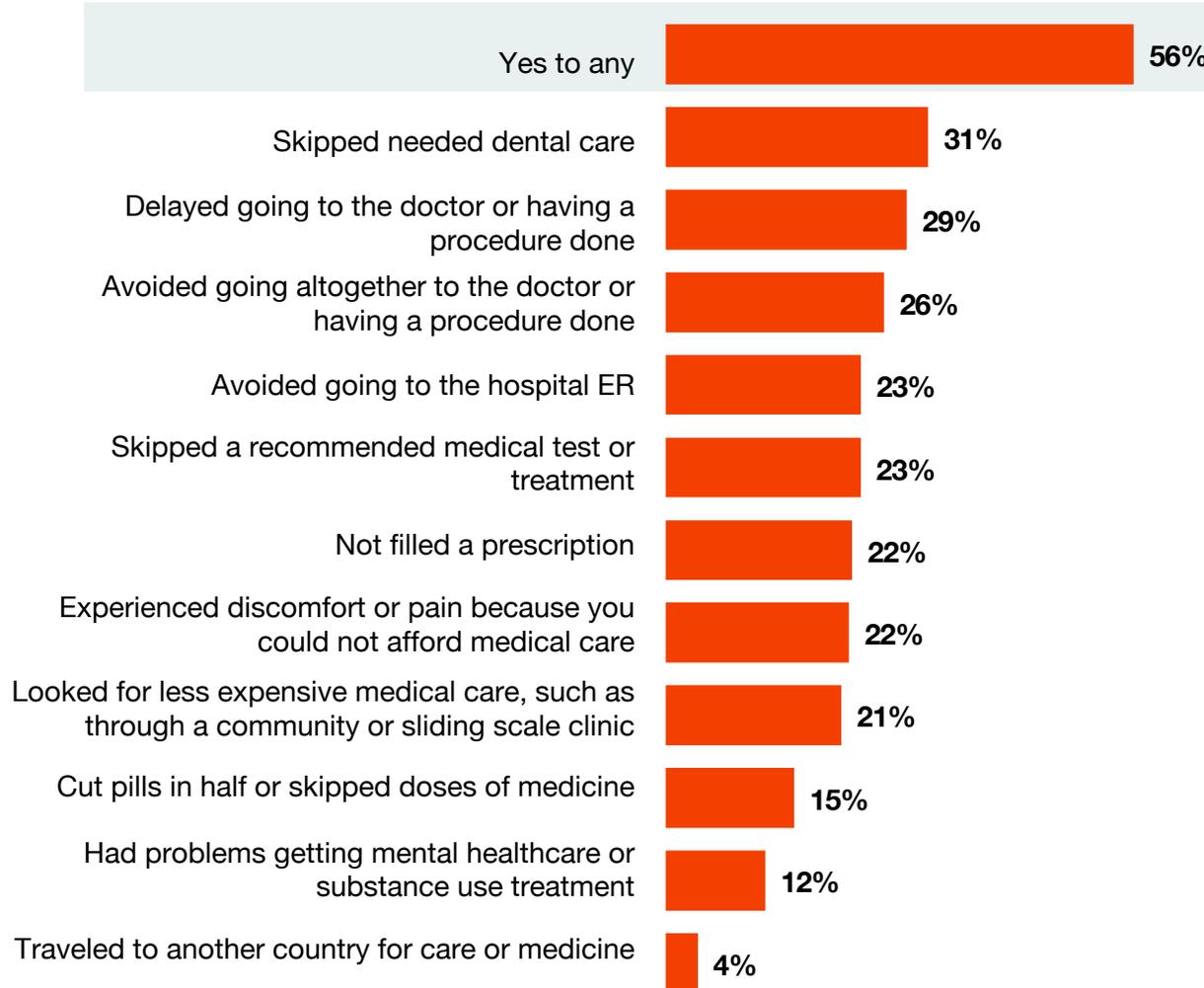
Most New Mexicans feel the costs for medical services are often not transparent.

Q: After you get healthcare, how often do you feel the prices of medical services or procedures were not transparent or you were not made aware of all the costs involved?



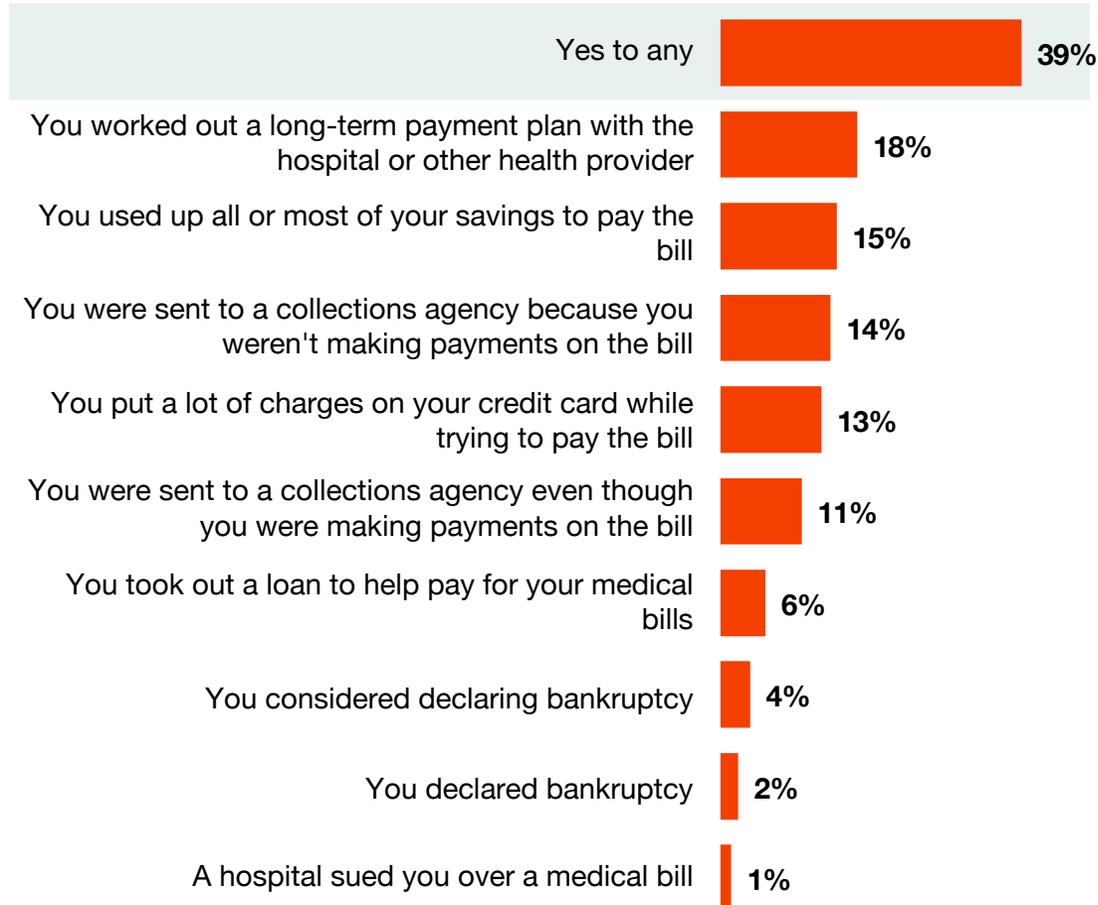
	Frequently	Frequently/ Sometimes
Total	36%	65%
Women	32%	64%
Men	40%	66%
18 to 34	32%	59%
35 to 44	44%	73%
55 to 64	35%	65%
65+	29%	58%
Black	33%	58%
Latino/Hispanic	29%	58%
White	39%	68%
Less than \$30K	24%	53%
\$30K to \$50K	36%	63%
\$50K to \$75K	52%	78%
\$75K to \$100K	39%	74%
\$100K or more	40%	70%
Democrats	37%	70%
Independents	33%	61%
Republicans	40%	65%
Plan through employer	45%	74%
Medicare	31%	64%
Medicaid	29%	59%

Q: In the past two years, have you (or a family member living with you) done any of the following because of the COST?



More than half of New Mexicans say they or a family member have sacrificed needed healthcare services due to costs.

Q: In the last 2 years, have you experienced any of the following because of a medical bill? Choose any that apply.



4 in 10 New Mexicans have faced significant financial hardship due to medical bills.

Nearly 6 in 10 New Mexicans want big, fundamental changes to the health system.

Q: How much change, if any, do you want in our healthcare system in order to bring down healthcare costs?

56%

Big, fundamental changes to the health system

Democrats	63%
Independents	62%
Republicans	40%

Black	61%
Latino / Hispanic	52%
White	56%

24%

Smaller, modest changes to the health system

Democrats	21%
Independents	25%
Republicans	28%

Black	18%
Latino / Hispanic	22%
White	24%

15%

No changes, the system works for me the way it is

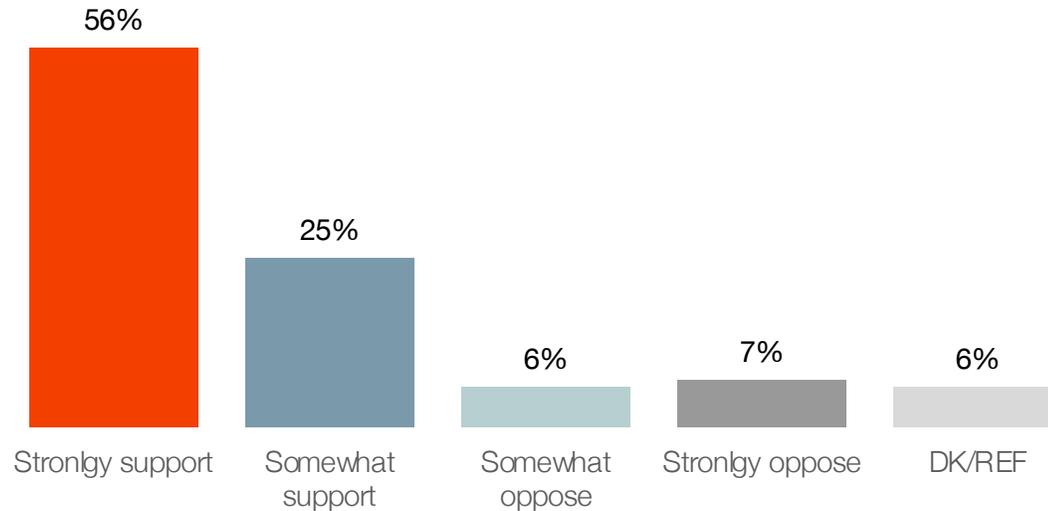
Democrats	12%
Independents	9%
Republicans	26%

Black	11%
Latino / Hispanic	18%
White	15%

* 6% of respondents say they didn't know or refused to answer the question.

8 in 10 support requiring all hospitals in the state to provide the same financial assistance and payment plans so all residents can know in advance what help is available.

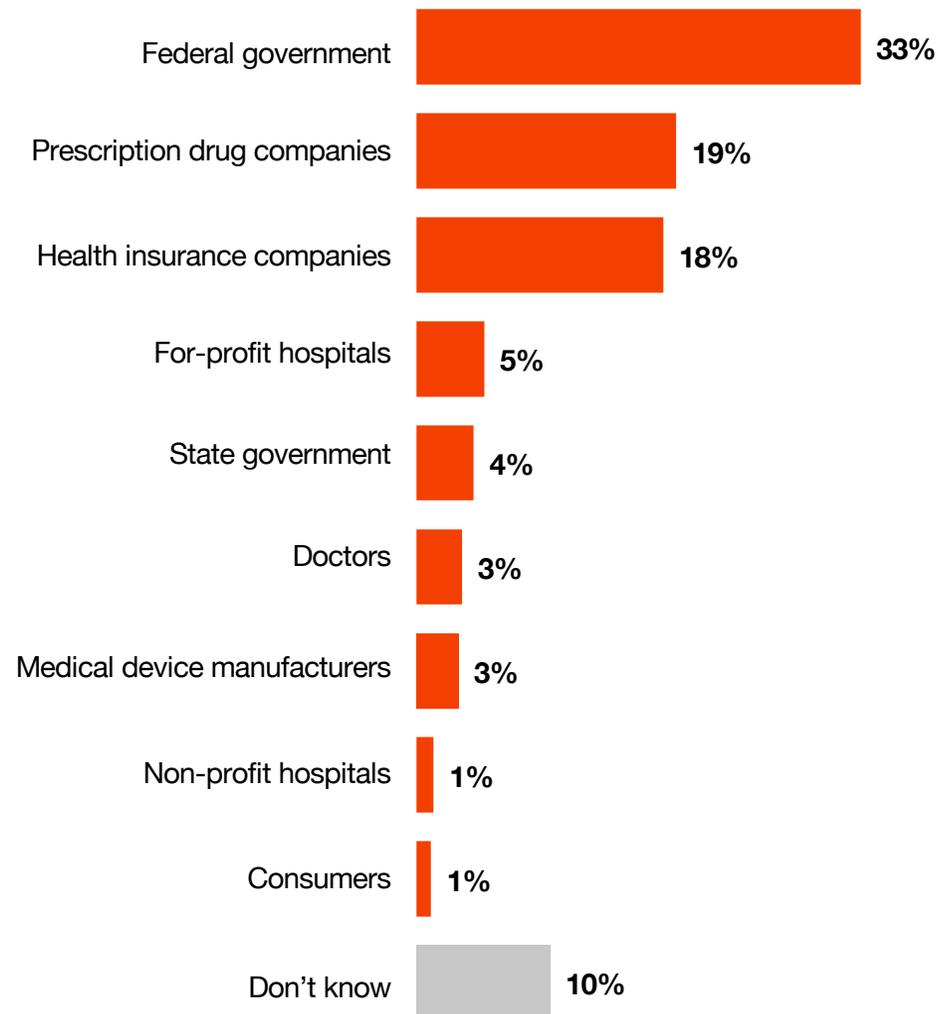
Q: Right now, non-profit hospitals in New Mexico receive big tax breaks. Although they're required to provide financial assistance to patients who cannot afford their medical bills, there are no standards for what that assistance should look like. For-profit hospitals in New Mexico, on the other hand, are not required to offer ANY financial assistance to patients, although some do. Do you support or oppose requiring ALL hospitals in New Mexico to provide the same financial assistance and the same payment plans so that state residents can know in advance what help is available if they cannot pay their bills?



	Strongly support	Support
Total	56%	81%
Women	62%	86%
Men	52%	78%
18 to 34	48%	77%
35 to 44	60%	83%
55 to 64	63%	84%
65+	59%	83%
Black	55%	74%
Latino/Hispanic	59%	84%
White	57%	81%
Less than \$30K	58%	84%
\$30K to \$50K	57%	81%
\$50K to \$75K	65%	89%
\$75K to \$100K	60%	83%
\$100K or more	46%	72%
Democrats	70%	88%
Independents	54%	80%
Republicans	43%	74%
Plan through employer	48%	78%
Medicare	61%	83%
Medicaid	61%	85%

New Mexicans are most likely to blame high costs on the federal government, prescription drug companies, and health insurance companies.

Q: Who do you blame MOST for rising healthcare costs?



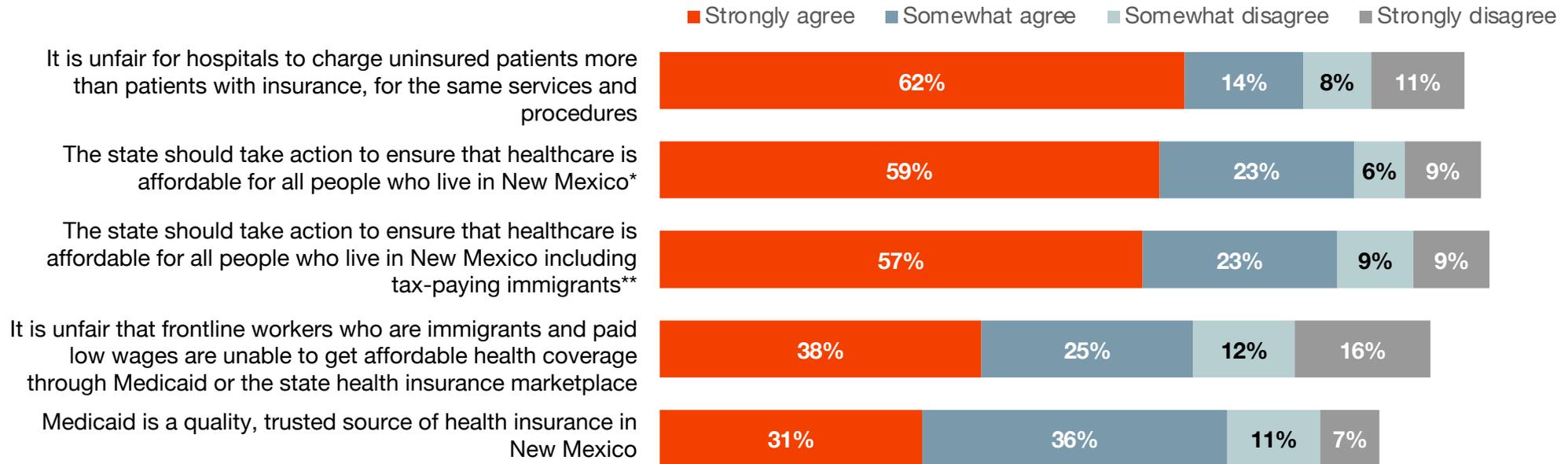
Majorities support different ideas to bring down healthcare costs.

Q: Here are ideas that some people have proposed to bring down healthcare costs. Please indicate how much you support or oppose each idea.

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	DK/REF
Require that doctors, hospitals and all healthcare providers in the state provide full transparency of costs before anyone receives medical services or procedures.	70%	17%	4%	6%	2%
Create a Prescription Drug Affordability Board, an independent board with the authority to set a cap on what people have to pay for high-cost drugs.	59%	24%	5%	6%	5%
Put limits on the prices that hospitals can charge for services.	58%	23%	7%	8%	3%
Eliminate or cap health insurance deductibles and co-payments so that New Mexicans don't have to pay more to use their health insurance.	51%	30%	8%	6%	4%
Put limits on the prices that doctors can charge for services.	51%	26%	10%	9%	4%
Open up Medicaid to more people so that every New Mexican who needs health insurance can buy into the program and get affordable healthcare.	50%	25%	9%	12%	4%
Help uninsured people get health insurance by providing tax credits to residents that need it based on their income.	41%	33%	8%	12%	5%
Allow people to buy into a government-administered health plan, sometimes called a public option, that would be available to all people who live in New Mexico. People would still have the choice of keeping their private or employer-sponsored health insurance, but now they could purchase a government-sponsored plan that would compete with private plans to lower costs.	41%	31%	6%	15%	7%

Majorities of New Mexicans agree more needs to be done on healthcare affordability, equity, and coverage for immigrants.

Q: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



* N = 411 **N = 413.

Most New Mexicans support allowing tax-paying immigrants in the state to purchase health insurance for the same low cost and to enroll in Medicaid.

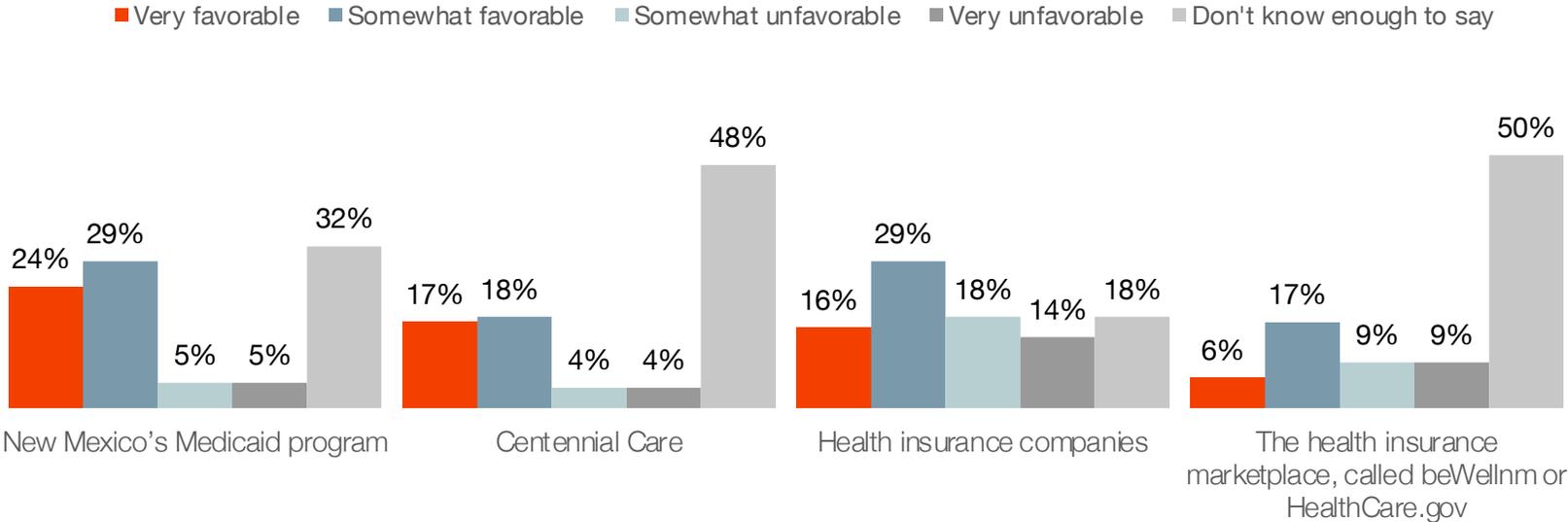
Q: Immigrants play an important role in New Mexico's economy: they pay taxes and a large number are frontline workers. But many are not offered health insurance at their jobs and are paid too little to afford private insurance. Most are also excluded from more affordable health insurance options like Medicaid and the health insurance marketplace. Please tell me if you support or oppose the following ideas:

86% Support allowing tax-paying immigrants in New Mexico to purchase health insurance on the health insurance marketplace for the same low costs as other state residents.

75% Support allowing tax-paying immigrants in New Mexico who need health insurance to enroll in Medicaid, like other state residents.

Most New Mexicans have a favorable opinion of the state's Medicaid program.

Q: Now let me ask you, do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of the following organizations? It is okay if you do not know enough to say.



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