



2022 MICHIGAN SURVEY ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

November 2022

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[NOTE: this survey was fielded in July prior to the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act in August 2022.]



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Summary

- **Three-quarters of Michigan voters 50-plus say they regularly take prescription medications**, with about half spending less than \$50 per month and one-fifth spending between \$50 and \$100 per month on average. One-fifth say they have decided not to fill a prescription that their doctor has given them in the past 2 years, and, among those, the cost of the drug was the top reason they cited for not doing so.
- **One-fifth of Michigan voters 50-plus who take prescriptions say they have purchased an over-the-counter medication rather than a prescription**, while about one in eight say they have delayed getting a prescription filled because they didn't have the money to pay for it and another one in eight report shopping online at either a U.S. or Canadian pharmacy for a lower price.
- When asked about activities they may need to do to continue taking their medications, **four in ten Michigan voters 50-plus agree they may have to buy an over-the-counter medicine**. About one-third of Michigan voters 50-plus note each of the remaining six items about which they were asked: having to shop online for lower Rx prices, not getting a prescription filled, or delaying doing so, taking less medication than prescribed, cutting back on other necessities, and having to skip medication doses.

Executive Summary

- **Nearly six in 10 Michigan voters 50-plus are *very or somewhat concerned* they may not be able to afford the cost of a prescription medication they or a family member might need**, while nearly three-quarters believe that U.S. consumers pay more for the same drugs as their counterparts in the U.K., France, and Italy.
- **Nine in 10 Michigan voters 50-plus consider it *very or somewhat important* for Congress and the President to act on lowering Rx prices this year**, and there is strong support among Michigan voters 50-plus for addressing the price of prescription drugs through a variety of legislative and policy changes.
 - For example, **nine in ten support allowing Medicare to negotiate for lower drug prices**, and **nearly as many support requiring drug companies to publicly disclose how prices are set for their medications**.
 - Additionally, between seven in ten and eight in ten Michigan voters **50-plus support Michigan establishing a wholesale prescription drug importation program, capping how much Americans have to pay out-of-pocket for their prescriptions, and allowing Michigan to establish a Prescription Drug Affordability Board**.
- In the light of its successful negotiations on the price of the COVID-19 vaccine, **seven in 10 Michigan voters 50-plus are more likely to agree that the government should negotiate on Rx prices for people on Medicare**.

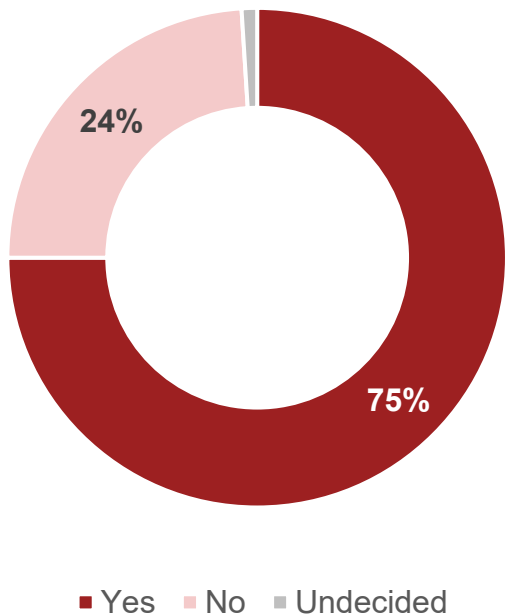


DETAILED FINDINGS

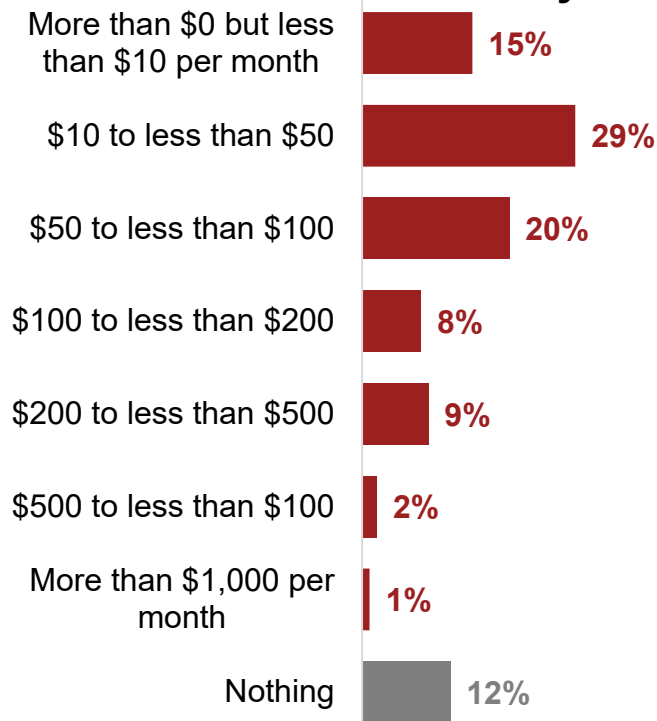
Three-quarters regularly take Rx medications with about half spending less than \$50 per month on average

One-fifth say they have decided not to fill a prescription that their doctor has given them in the past 2 years.

Do you currently take prescription medication on a regular basis?

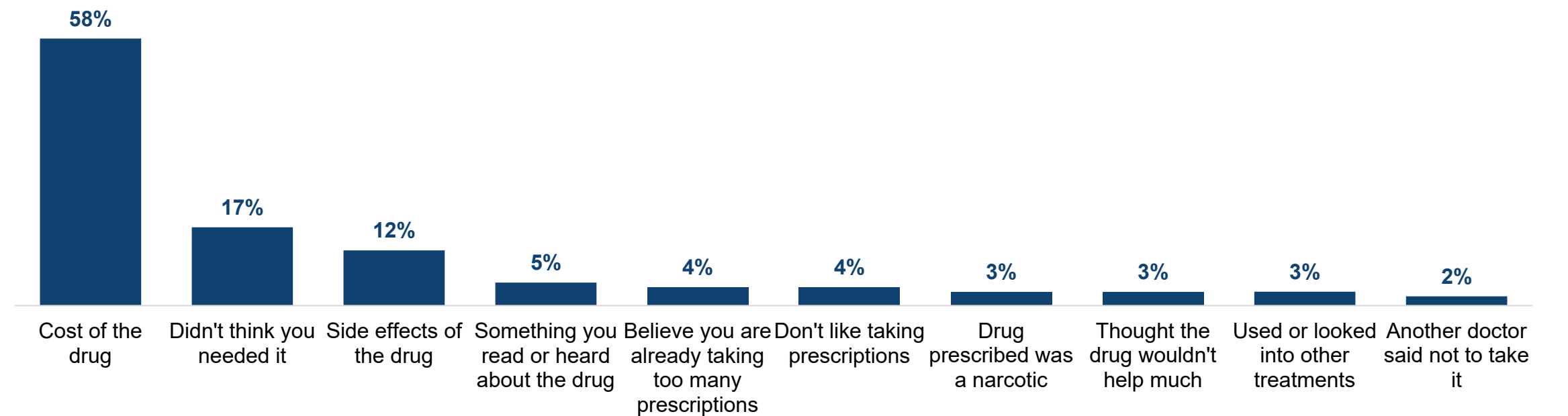


On an average basis approximately how much have you spent...?



Q5. Do you currently take prescription medication on a regular basis, for example daily, weekly, or monthly? Base: Total Respondents (n=1,000); Q6. In the past 12 months, approximately how much have you spent out of your own pocket for prescription drugs? Base: Respondents who take prescription drugs (n=751); Q7. In the last two years, did you ever decide not to fill a prescription that your doctor had given you? Base: Respondents who take prescription drugs (n=751)

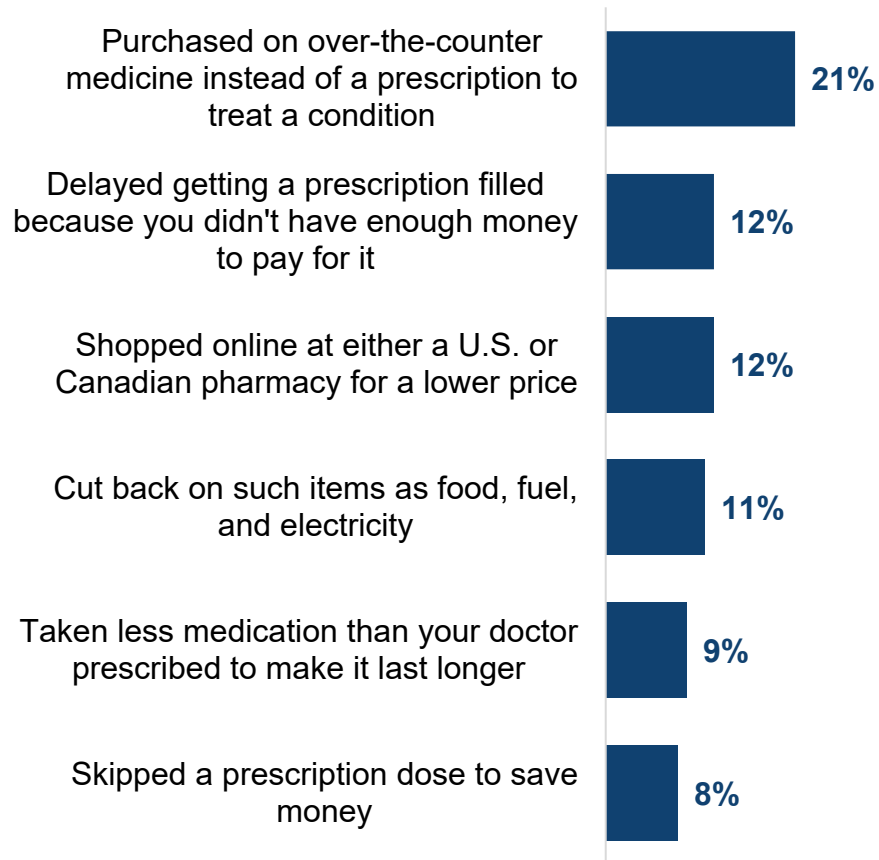
Among those who did not fill a prescription their doctor had given them, the cost of the drug was the top reason



Q8. What were the reasons you didn't fill your prescription? Was it...? Base: Respondents who did not fill a prescription their doctor had given them (n=149)*

One-fifth of Michigan voters 50-plus who take prescriptions say they have purchased an over-the-counter medication rather than a prescription

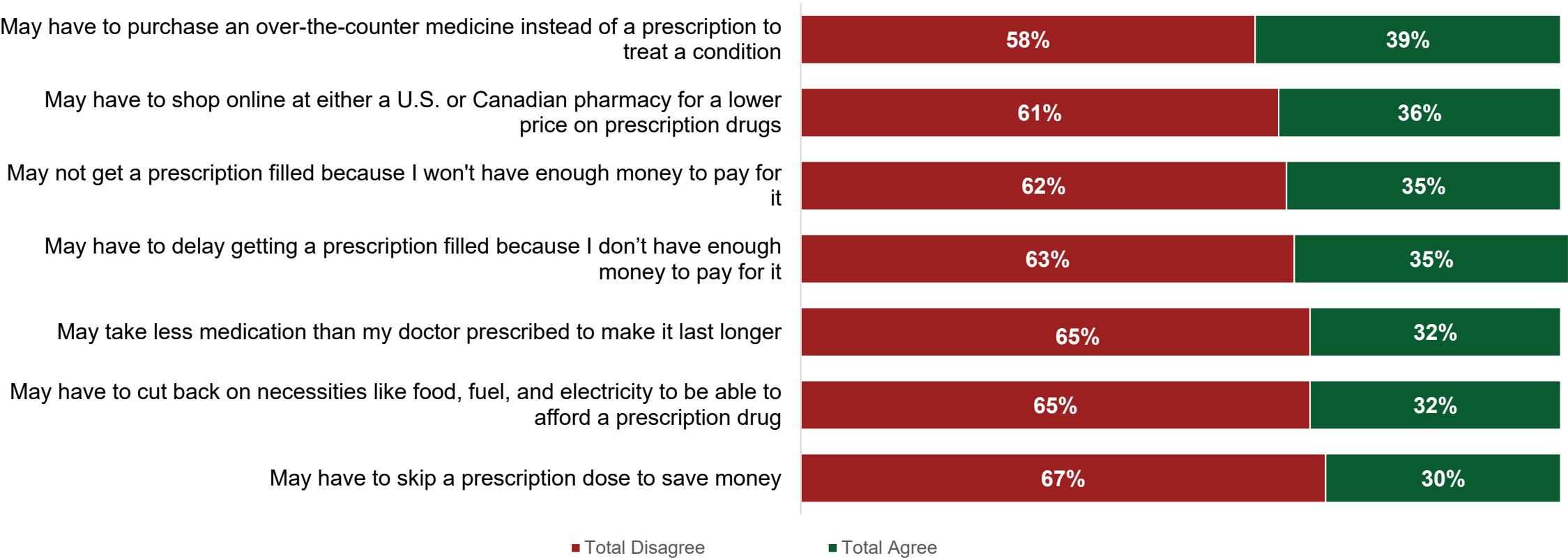
In the past 12 months, have you...?



Q9.-Q15. Many people face difficult decisions when buying prescription drugs. In the past 12 months, have you...? Base: Respondents who take prescription drugs (n=751)

Four in 10 Michigan voters 50-plus agree they may have to buy an over-the-counter medicine

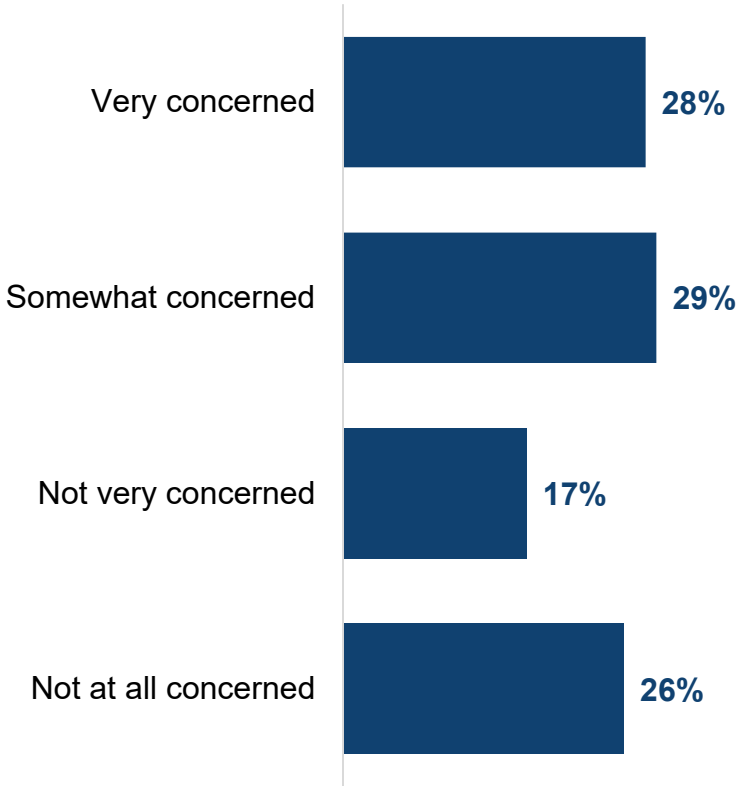
Concerns about having to shop online for lower Rx prices, not getting a prescription filled, or delaying doing so, taking less medication than prescribed, cutting back on other necessities, and having to skip doses are also mentioned.



Q16.-Q22. Now I would like to read several statements that describe the concerns some people have about their ability to continue with their medications in the future. For each one, please tell me if you agree or disagree with that statement. Base: Total Respondents (n=1,000)

Nearly six in 10 Michigan voters 50-plus are *very* or *somewhat* concerned they may not be to afford the cost of a needed prescription medication

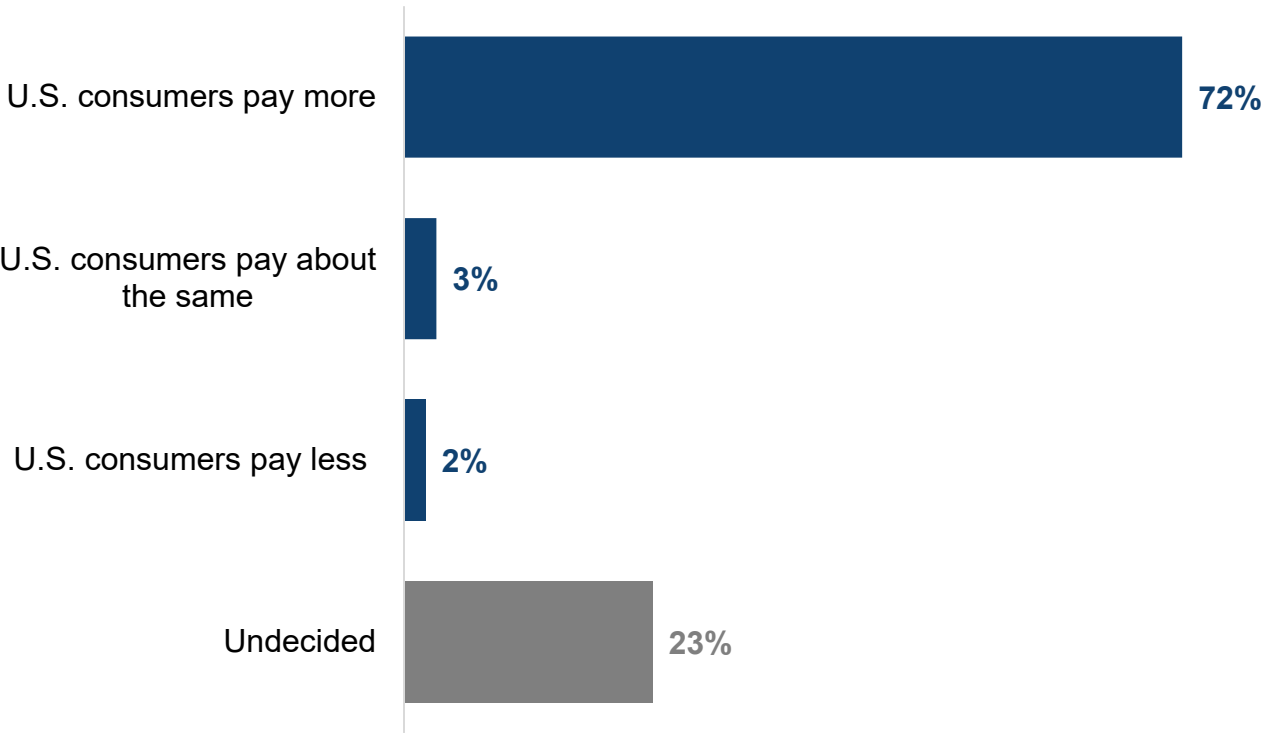
How concerned are you about being able to afford the cost of a prescription medication?



Q23. Thinking about the next few years, how concerned are you about being able to afford the cost of prescription medication you or a family member may need? Base: Total Respondents (n=1,000)

Nearly three-quarters of Michigan voters 50-plus believe U.S. consumers pay more for the same drugs as their counterparts in the U.K., France, and Italy

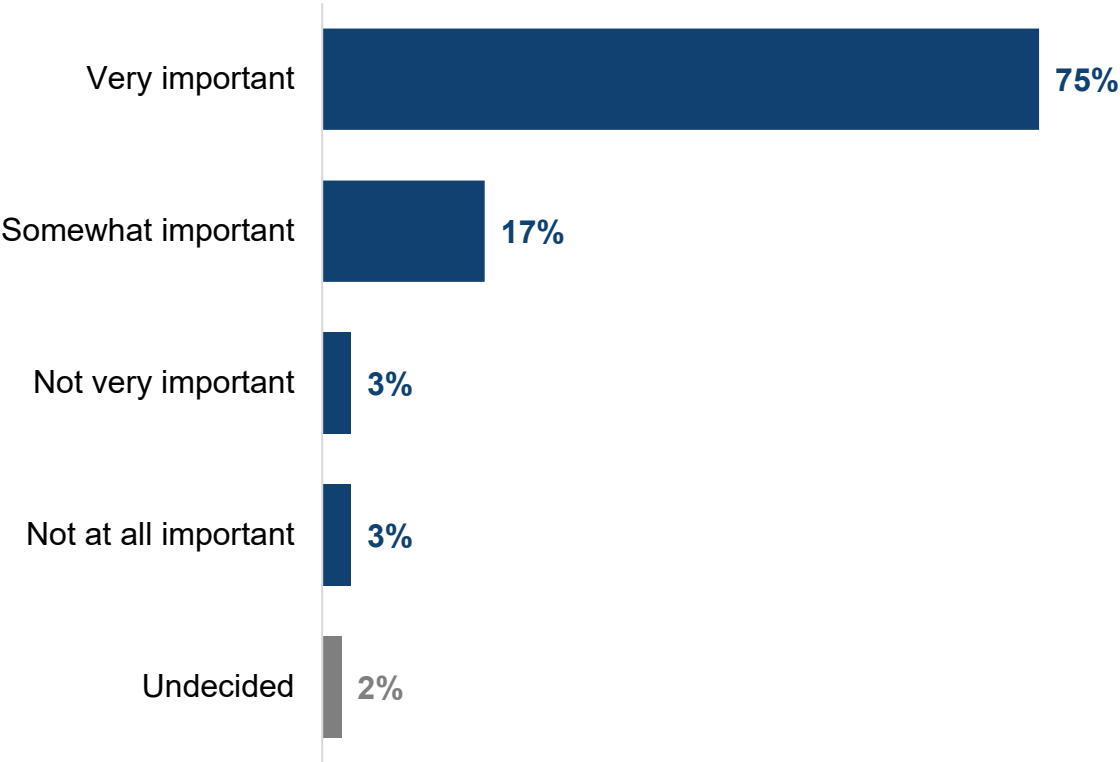
Do consumers in the U.S. pay more, less, or about the same for



Q24. From what you may know, or had to guess, do consumers in the United States pay more, the same or less for the same drugs than consumers in other countries (such as the United Kingdom, France, and Italy)? Base: Total Respondents (n=1,000)

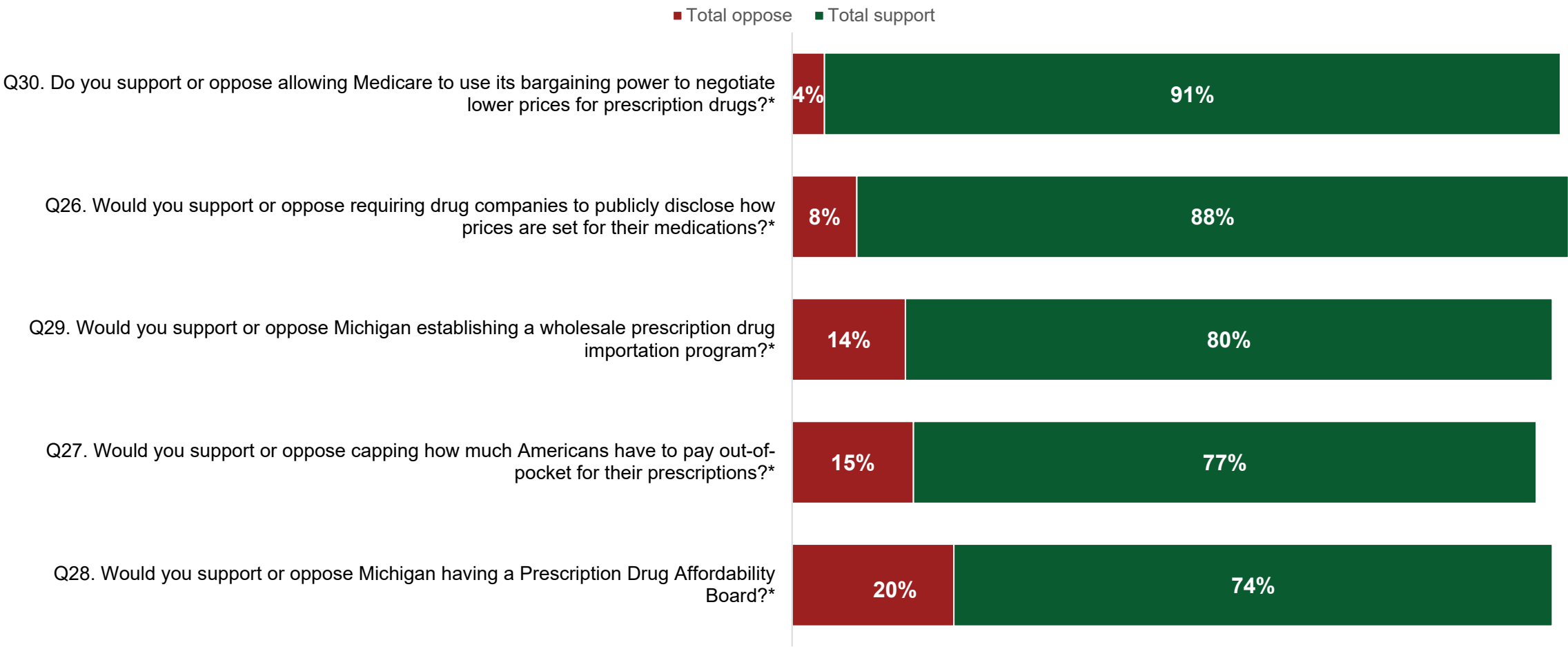
Nine in 10 Michigan voters 50-plus consider it *very* or *somewhat important* for Congress and the President to act on lowering Rx prices this year

How important is it for the President and



Q25. How important is it for the president and Congress to agree on solutions to lower prescription drug prices this year? Base: Total Respondents (n=1,000)

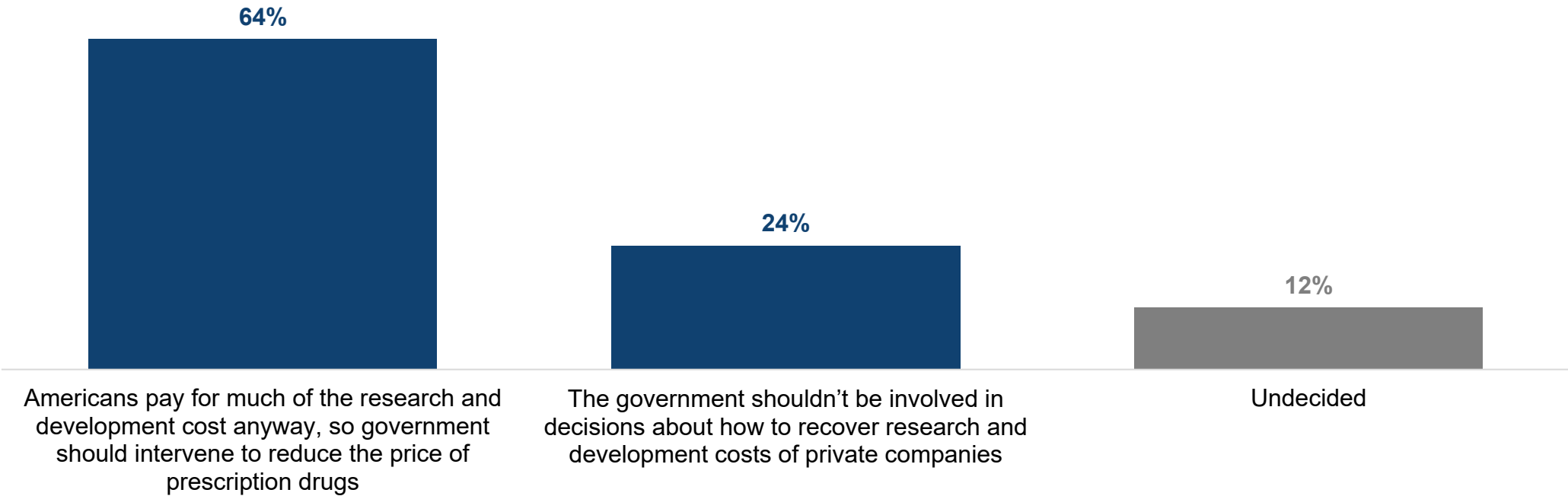
Strong support among Michigan voters 50-plus for addressing the price of prescription drugs through a variety of legislative and policy changes



Q26-Q30: Next, I would like to read several statements that describe some law and policy changes that have been considered to address the price of prescription drugs. For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose that proposal. . Base: Total Respondents (n=1,000)

Nearly two-thirds believe the government should intervene to reduce the price of prescription drugs; one-quarter say it shouldn't be involved

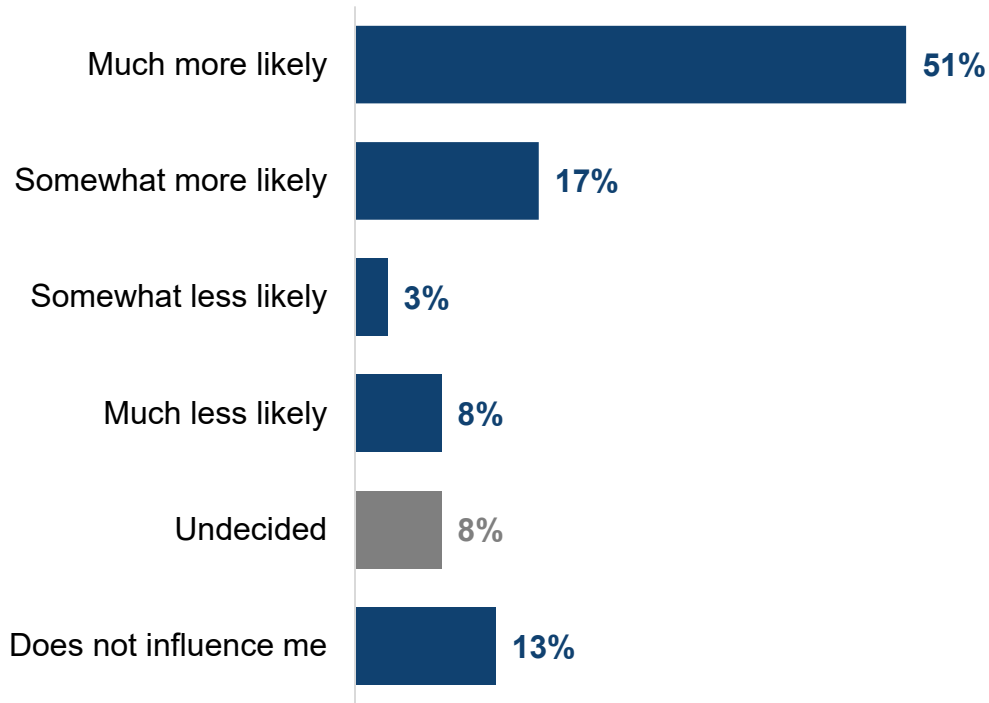
Which statement comes closer to your view?



Q31. Which statement comes closer to your view? Base: Total Respondents (n=1,000)

In light of its successful negotiations on the price of the COVID-19 vaccine, seven in 10 Michigan voters 50-plus are more likely to agree that the government should negotiate on Rx prices for people on Medicare

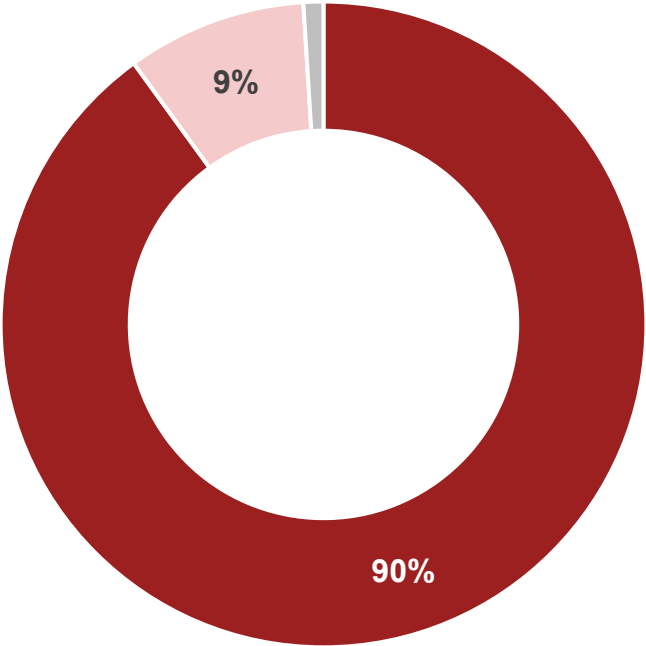
How likely to agree that the government should negotiate for



Q32. The U.S. government just successfully negotiated with drug companies on the price for the COVID-19 vaccine. Does that make you more or less likely to agree that the government should negotiate for lower drug prices for people in Medicare? Base: Total Respondents (n=1,000)

Nine in 10 Michigan voters 50-plus have voted in both the 2018 and 2020 elections, while one in 11 voted only in 2020

Did you get a chance to vote...?



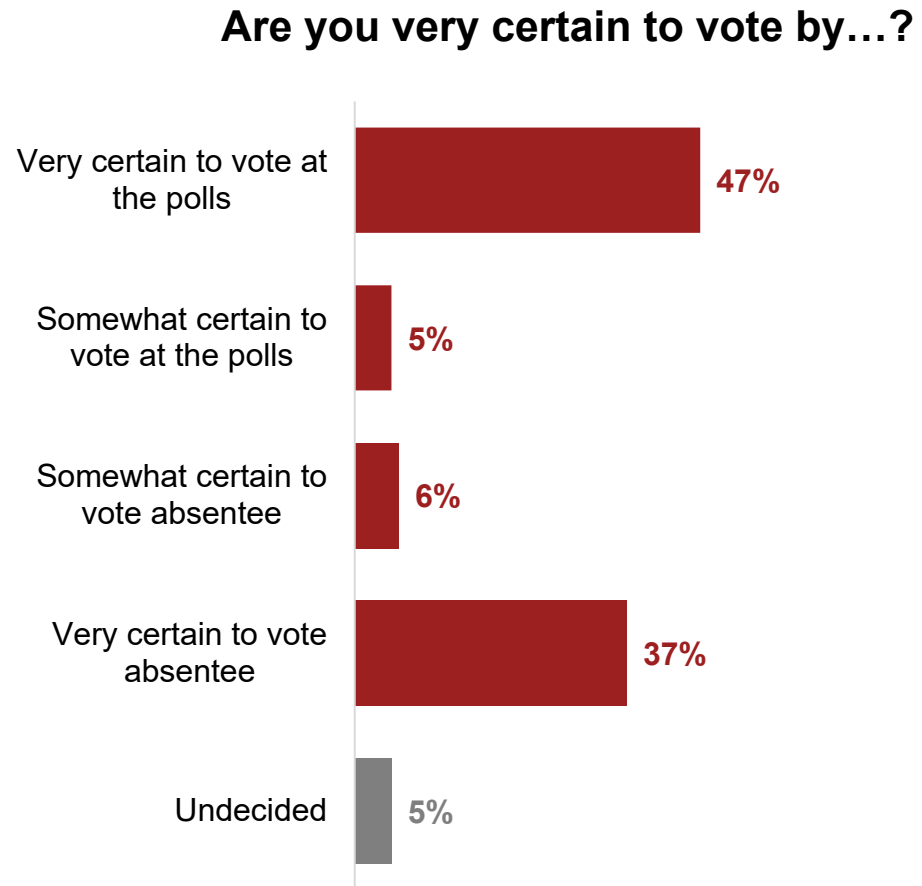
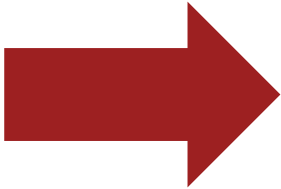
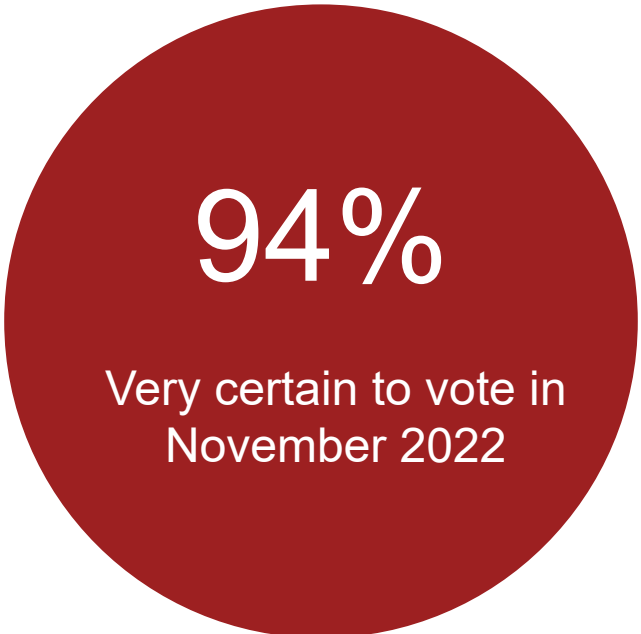
■ Yes, both in 2020 and 2018 ■ Yes, only in 2020 ■ Yes, only in 2018



Q1. Did you get a chance to vote in the recent 2020 November election when [ROTATE] Donald Trump and Joe Biden were running for President? How about in the 2018 election when [ROTATE] Bill Schuette and Gretchen Whitmer were running for Governor? Base: Total Respondents (n=1,000)

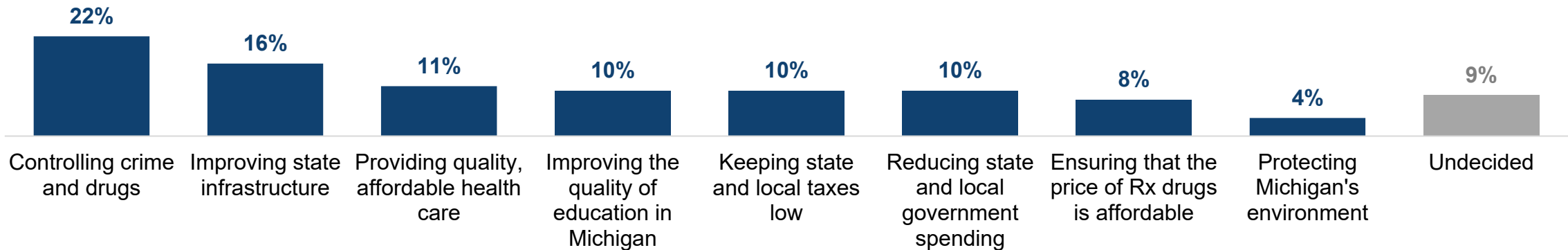
Similarly, more than nine in 10 intend to vote this November

More than half of those intending to vote expect to do so at the polls, with slightly fewer than half planning to vote absentee.



Q2. I know it's a few months off, but what are the chances you will vote in the November 2022 general election when the offices of Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Congress, State Senate, and State Representative will be on the ballot? Base: Total Respondents (n=1,000); Q3. In the November 2022 general election, are you very certain to vote by going to your polling place, somewhat certain to vote at the polls, somewhat certain to vote by absentee ballot, or are you very certain to vote by absentee ballot? Base: Total Respondents (n=994)

One-fifth of Michigan voters 50-plus cite controlling crime and drugs as the state problem about which they are most concerned



Q4. Now I am going to read a list of state problems and issues that Michigan voters say they are concerned about. After I read the whole list of eight problems, please tell me which one problem or issue concerns you the most. Base: Total Respondents (n=1,000)



IMPLICATIONS

Implications

High prescription drug prices affect most Michigan voters ages 50 and older, many of whom are concerned about affording prescription drugs for their family over the next few years and who have already skipped filling prescriptions or shifted to over-the-counter medications.

Michigan voters are united in support for addressing the price of prescription drugs through several legislative and policy changes, including allowing Medicare to negotiate for lower drug prices, requiring drug companies to publicly disclose how prices are set for their medications, establishing a wholesale prescription drug importation program, capping out-of-pocket expenses, and allowing Michigan to establish a Prescription Drug Affordability Board.





DEMOGRAPHICS

Respondent demographics

Gender		Veteran:	14%
Male	47%	AARP Member:	40%
Female	53%	Household income:	
Age:		<\$30,000	13%
50-54	16%	\$30,000-\$49,999	13%
55-59	17%	\$50,000-\$74,999	16%
60-64	18%	\$75,000+	32%
65 and over	49%	Political Identification:	
Race/Ethnicity:		Democrat or Strong Democrat	36%
White	82%	Republican or Strong Republican	38%
Black/African American	9%	Independent	15%
Hispanic/Latino	3%	Undecided	10%
Native American	1%	Marital status:	
Mixed race	1%	Married or living with a partner	58%
Education:		Single and never married	10%
Some college or less	61%	Divorced or separated	13%
Bachelor's degree or higher	39%	Widowed	13%
		Not married, living with partner	3%



METHODOLOGY

Methodology

- **Objectives:** To explore the use of prescription drugs and concerns relating to prescription drugs among Michigan voters ages 50 and over
- **Methodology:** Phone survey; sample drawn from a list of Michigan registered voters drawn from Michigan's Qualified Voter File; if necessary to append that file, phone numbers were purchased from Nationwide.
- **Qualifications:** Michigan registered voters ages 50 and older (40% via landlines phones and 60% via cell phones); n=1,000
- **Interviewing Dates:** July 8-July 16, 2022
- **Weighting:** Strict quotas were held to based on age, gender, and geography (county), stratified across the state using the Michigan Qualified Voter File information.
- **Questionnaire length:** 18 minutes (average)
- **Confidence Interval:** Total sample: $\pm 3.1\%$

Note: Some percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding or the use of multiple response question formats.



About AARP

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With nearly 38 million members and offices in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, AARP works to strengthen communities and advocate for what matters most to families with a focus on health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. AARP also works for individuals in the marketplace by sparking new solutions and allowing carefully chosen, high-quality products and services to carry the AARP name. As a trusted source for news and information, AARP produces the nation's largest circulation publications, AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin. To learn more, visit www.aarp.org or follow @AARP and @AARPadvocates on social media.

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EPIC ▪ MRA is the assumed name for Michigan Researchers Associates, Inc., a for-profit corporation formed in 1991 with headquarters in Lansing, Michigan. It is the successor entity to the partnership Michigan Research Associates, formed in 1985. The principal officers of EPIC ▪ MRA have been active in governmental, political, marketing, business, and health issues at the state and national levels for over 40 years.

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