



Rutgers Center for
State Health Policy

*Institute for Health, Health Care Policy
and Aging Research*

New Jersey Health Care Opinion Poll

Views on Health Care and the Need for Reform in New Jersey

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Acknowledgements

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Contents

Executive Summary	4
Concerns and Problems	6
Need for Reform	10
Specific Reform Proposals	14
Willingness to Pay Higher Taxes.....	20
Policies Addressing Affordability	22
Private Insurance Regulation	24
How the Poll Was Conducted	26

Executive Summary

New Jersey residents express deep concerns about health care in the state, and large majorities want lawmakers to enact policies addressing rising costs, the uninsured, and quality of care. The poll reveals that most NJ residents are willing to support a broad range of possible reforms, and many are willing to accept higher taxes to achieve sustainable coverage for the uninsured.

- Two-thirds of poll participants are worried about being able to afford the health care they need, 82% are worried about having to pay more for their care or coverage, and nearly half (47%) express concern about the possibility of losing their health insurance.
- A third of the public (34%) agreed that health care in New Jersey has so much wrong with it that “we need to completely rebuild it” and another half (49%) say “fundamental changes are needed” even though they believe some aspects of the current system can be preserved.
- Large majorities say they want NJ government leaders to act this year to address health care cost, coverage for the uninsured, and other health care problems.

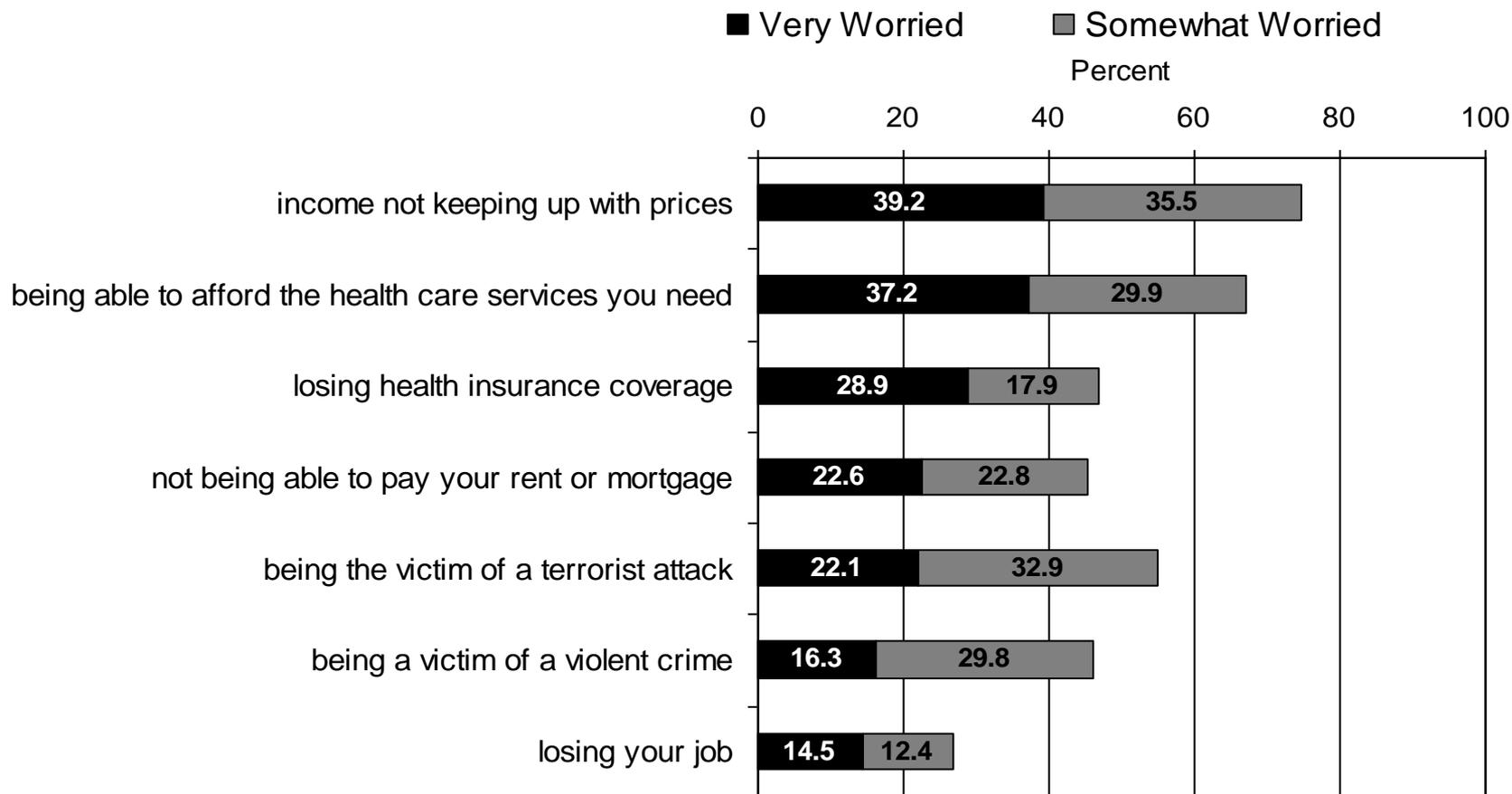
Executive Summary - continued

- About half of respondents said they would be willing to pay \$500 or more per year in additional taxes if everyone in New Jersey would have coverage that they could not lose, with another one-in-ten willing to accept a more modest tax hike.
- The majority of New Jersey residents support reform proposals ranging from requiring employers or individuals to purchase coverage to expanding public coverage programs.
 - When asked about potential negative tradeoffs such as job loss or higher taxes, support for specific reforms declines.
 - In spite of strong support for reform, few respondents say that they have read or heard much about health reform proposals in New Jersey.
- Between June 1 and July 9, 2007, a total of 1,104 adults in NJ were interviewed by telephone, including 300 who rely exclusively or mainly on mobile phones. The sample was designed to represent the New Jersey adult population. The poll has a margin of error of +/-3%.

Concerns and Problems

Concerns About Major Issues

How worried are you about ...

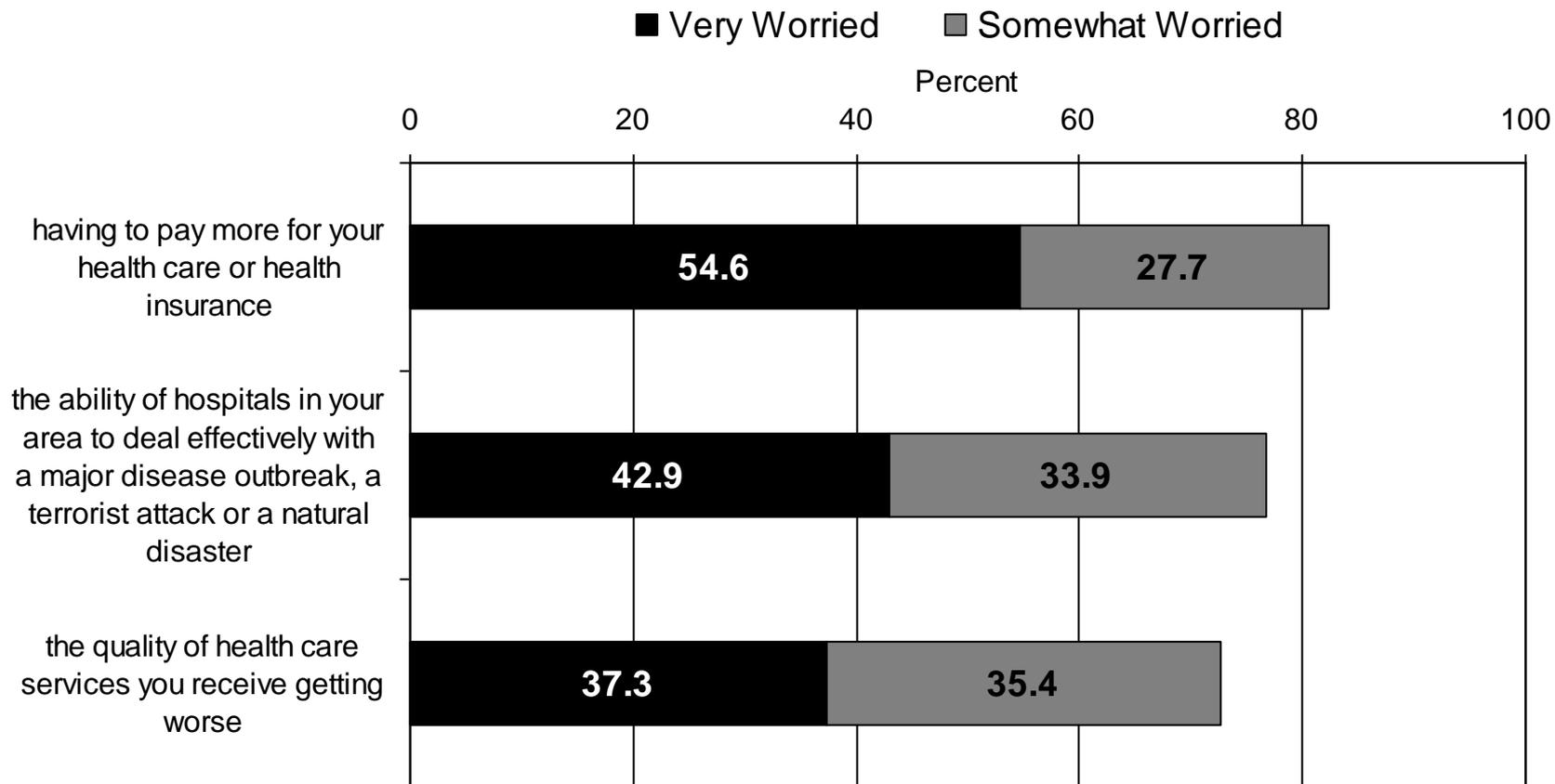


Note: "Not too worried", "Not at all worried", "Don't know", non-applicable, and refused responses not shown

Source: Rutgers Center for State Health Policy, New Jersey Health Care Opinion Poll (conducted June 1 to July 9, 2007)

Specific Health Care Concerns

How worried are you about ...



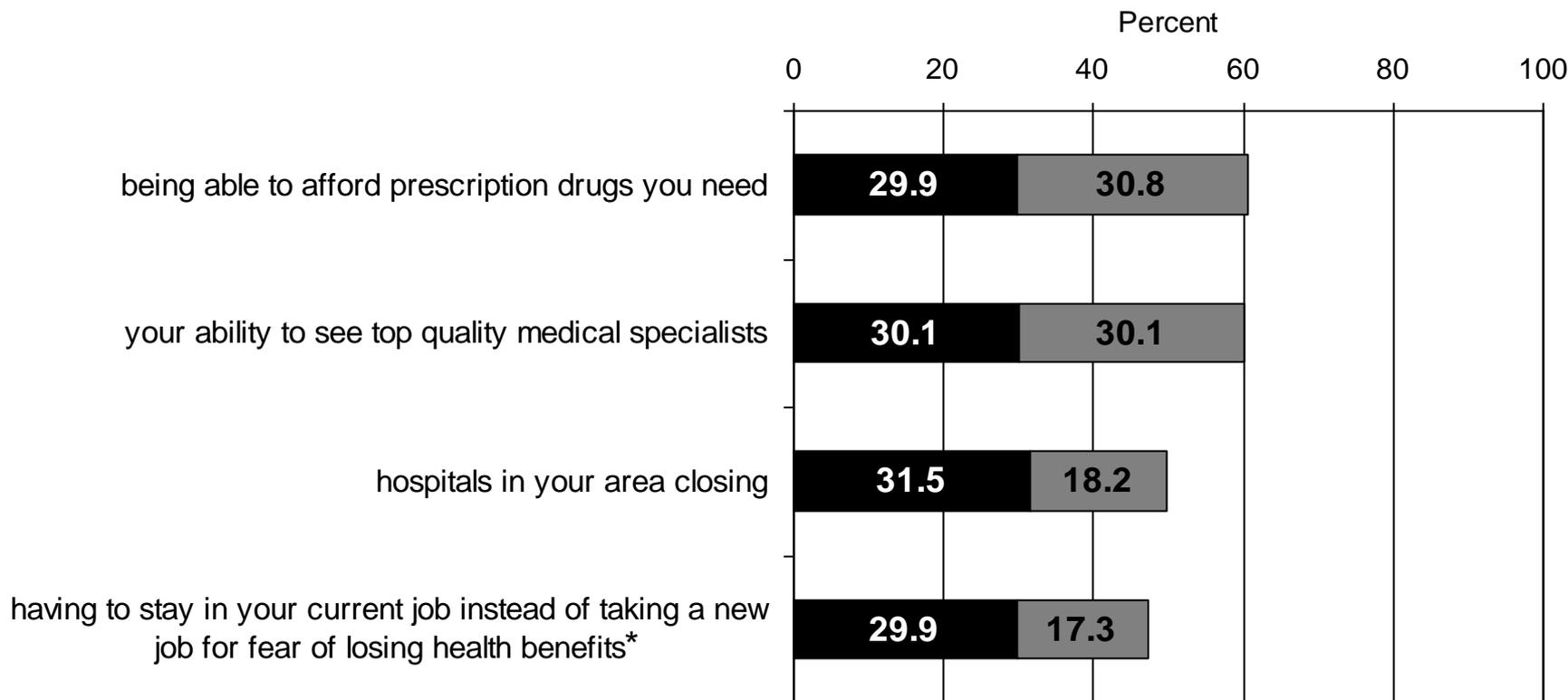
Note: "Not too worried", "Not at all worried", "Don't know", non-applicable, and refused responses not shown

Source: Rutgers Center for State Health Policy, New Jersey Health Care Opinion Poll (conducted June 1 to July 9, 2007)

Additional Specific Health Care Concerns

How worried are you about ...

■ Very Worried ■ Somewhat Worried



Note: "Not too worried", "Not at all worried", "Don't know", non-applicable, and refused responses not shown

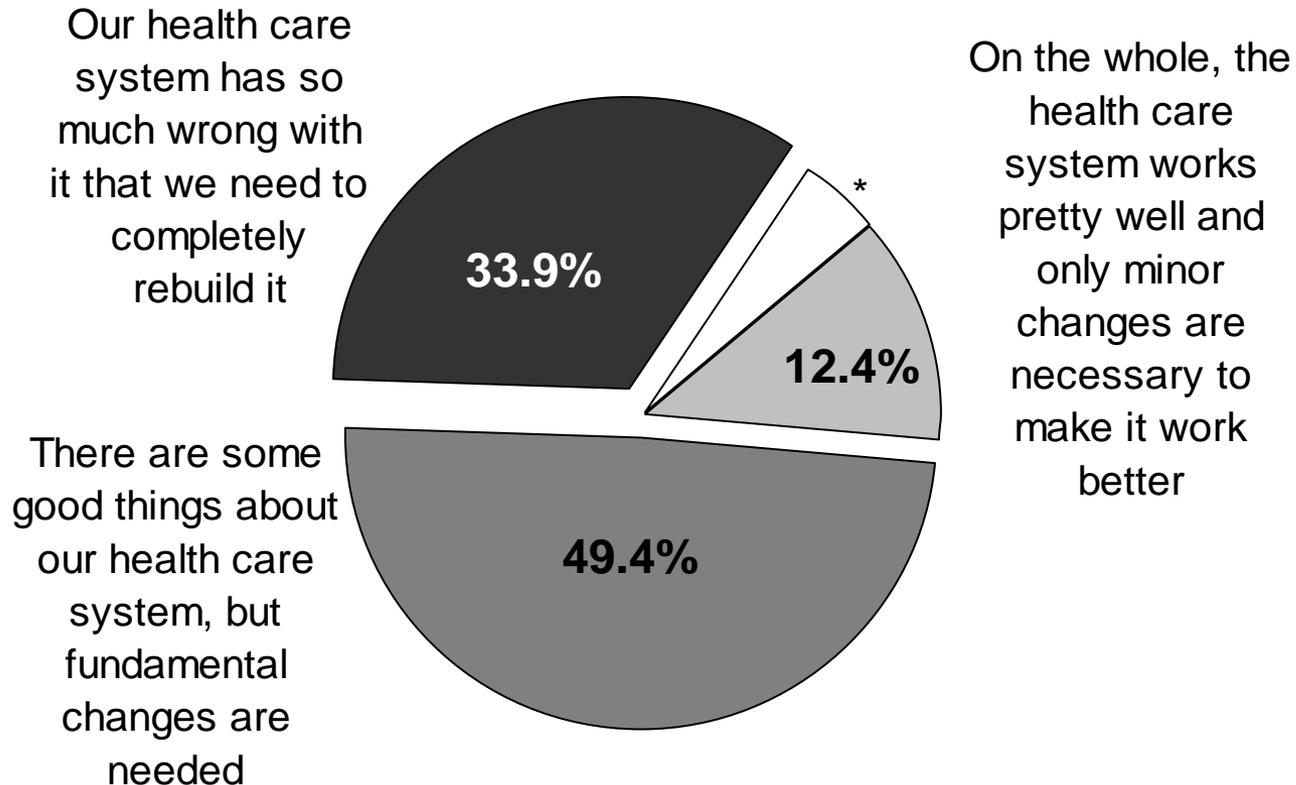
*Base: respondents with jobs (n=830)

Source: Rutgers Center for State Health Policy, New Jersey Health Care Opinion Poll (conducted June 1 to July 9, 2007)

Need for Reform

Need for Reform

Which of the following three statements comes closest to expressing your overall view of the health care system in New Jersey?

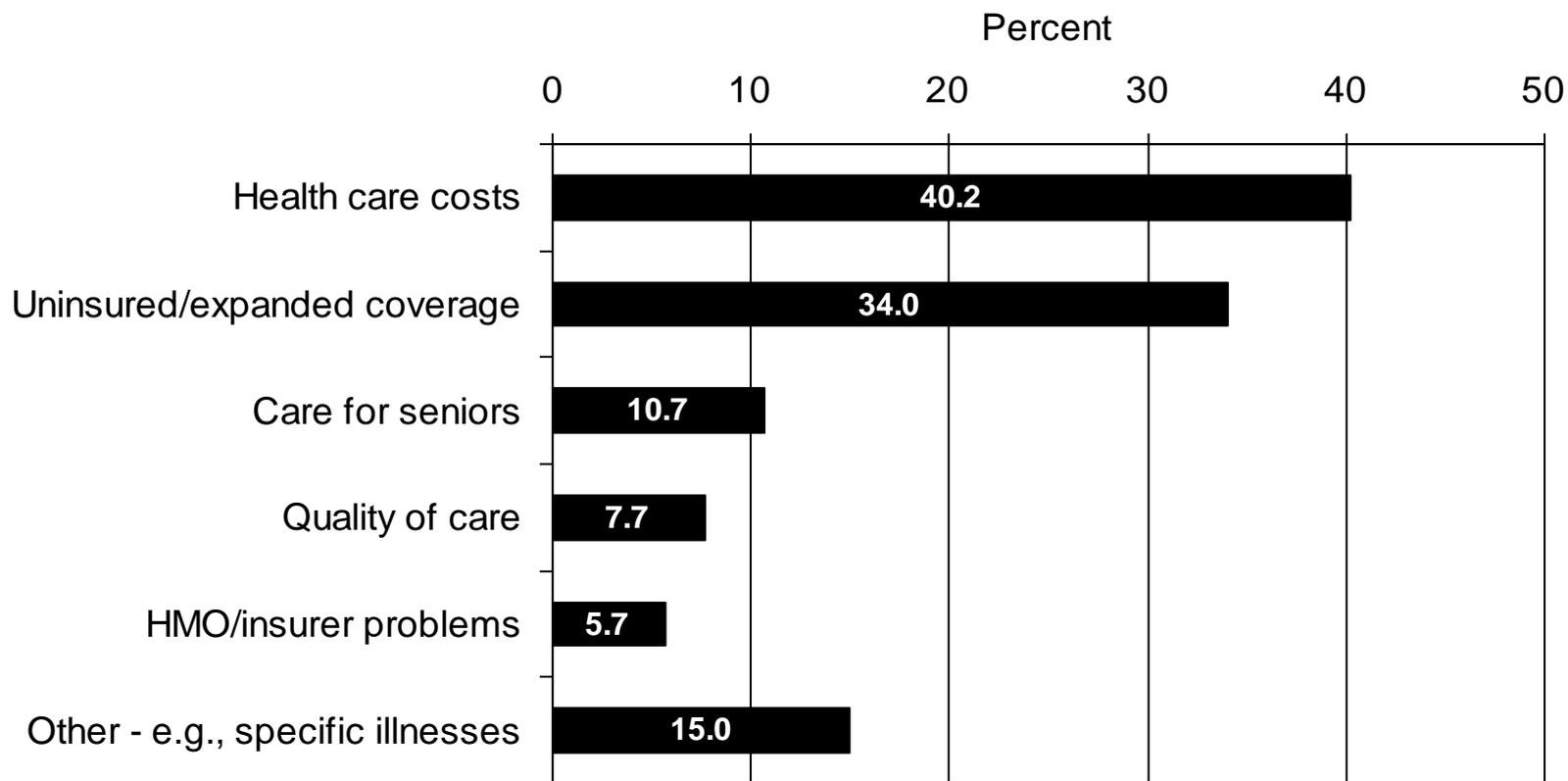


* "Don't Know" and refused responses

Sources: Rutgers Center for State Health Policy, New Jersey Health Care Opinion Poll (conducted June 1 to July 9, 2007)

Priorities for Reform in New Jersey

What do you think is the most important health care problem for the Governor and New Jersey legislature to address?

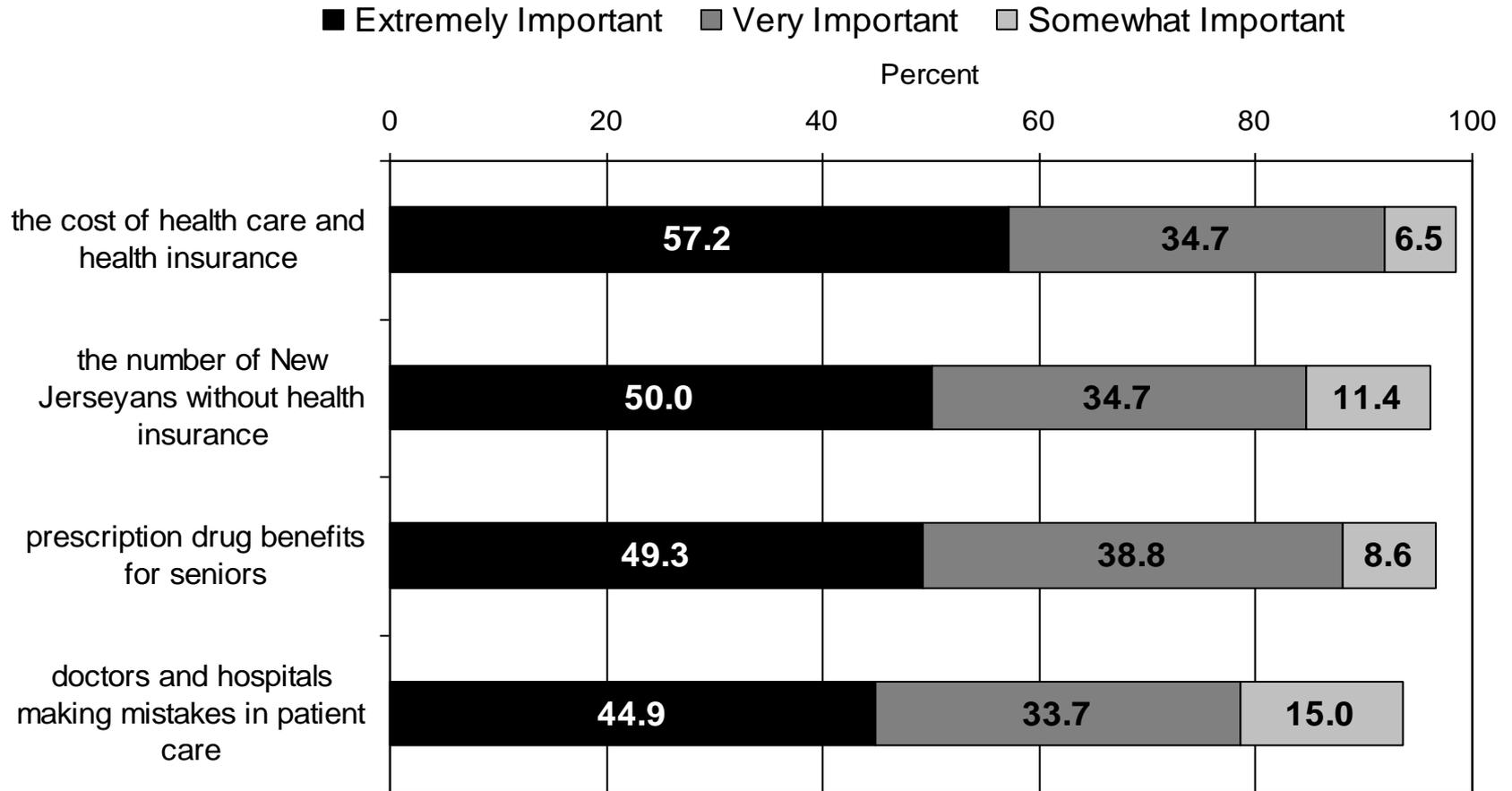


Note: Up to two answers are accepted per respondent. Sums to more than 100% because of multiple responses.

Source: Rutgers Center for State Health Policy, New Jersey Health Care Opinion Poll (conducted June 1 to July 9, 2007)

Support for NJ Government Action This Year

How important will it be for New Jersey's government leaders to address ... this year?



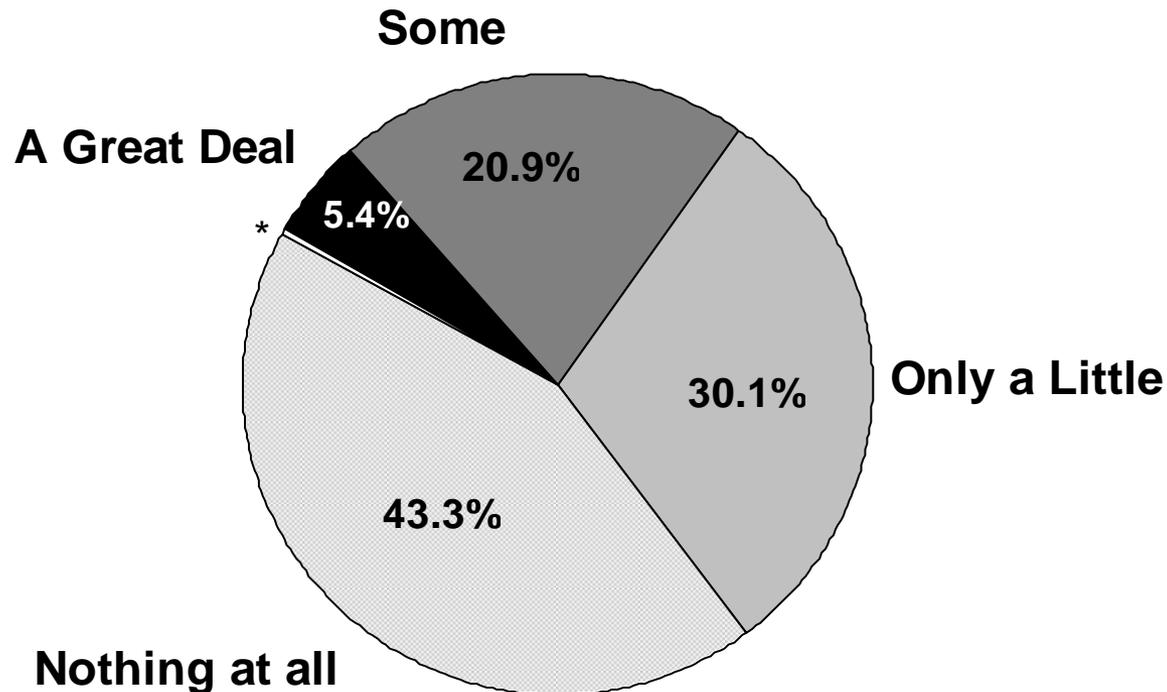
Note: "Not Important", "Don't Know", non-applicable, and refused responses not shown

Source: Rutgers Center for State Health Policy, New Jersey Health Care Opinion Poll (conducted June 1 to July 9, 2007)

Specific Reform Proposals

New Jerseyans Following Health Reform

How much have you heard or read about health care reform proposals currently being discussed in New Jersey?

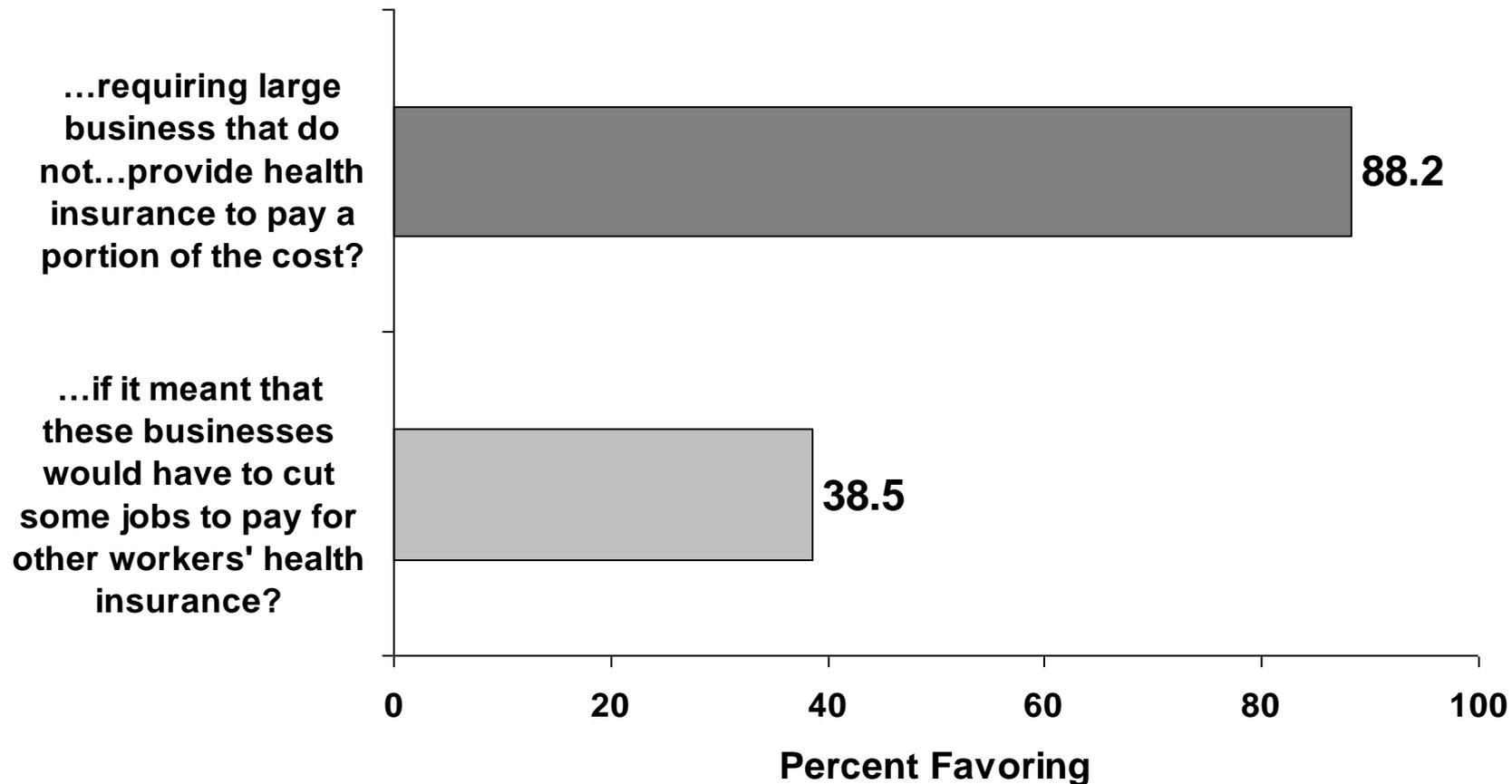


* "Don't Know" and refused responses

Source: Rutgers Center for State Health Policy, New Jersey Health Care Opinion Poll (conducted June 1 to July 9, 2007)

Require Employers to Pay for Coverage

Would you favor or oppose the New Jersey government...

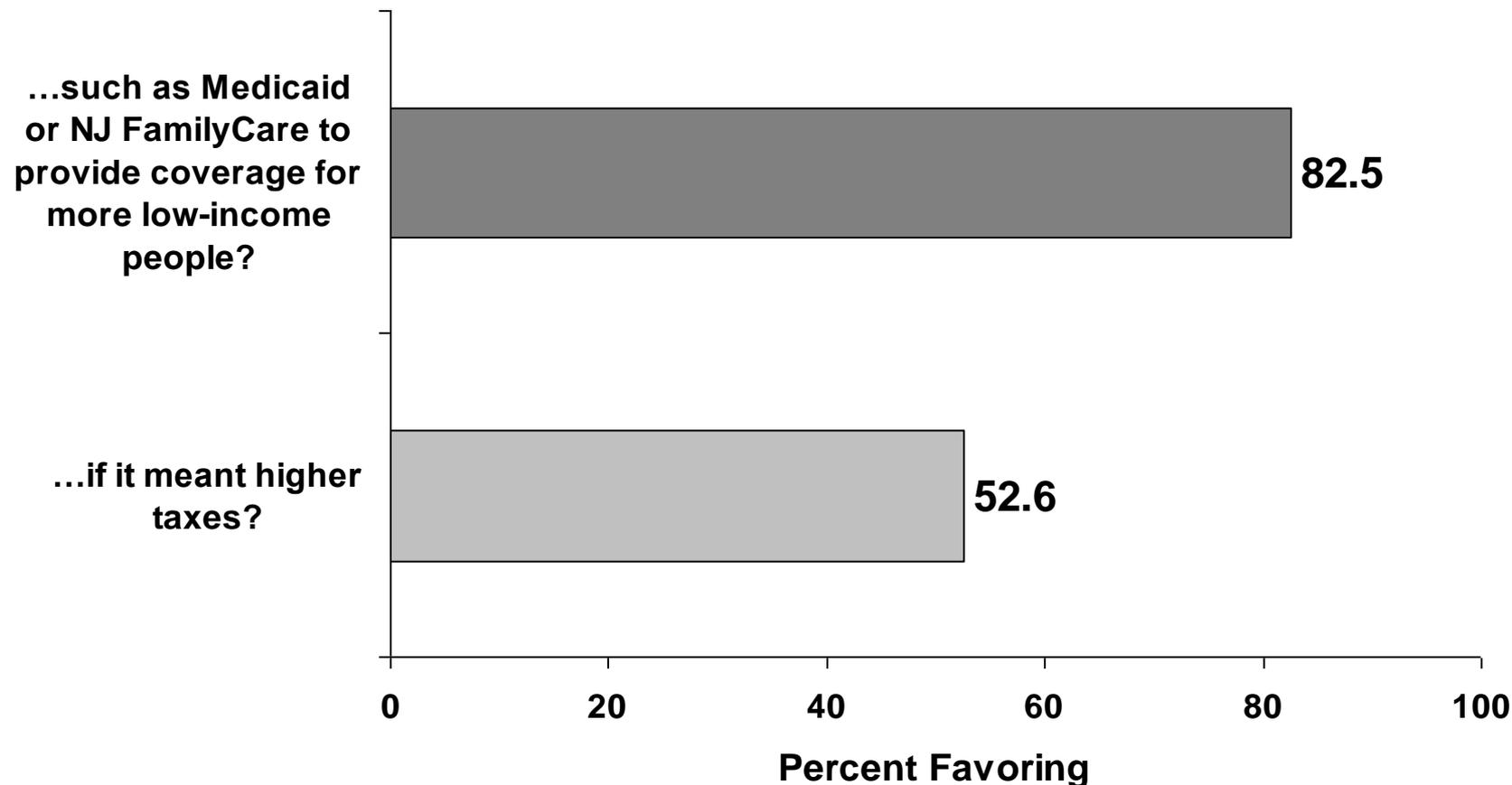


Note: "Oppose", "Don't Know", and refused responses not shown

Sources: Rutgers Center for State Health Policy, New Jersey Health Care Opinion Poll (conducted June 1 to July 9, 2007)

Expand Public Coverage Programs

Would you favor or oppose expanding New Jersey's programs...

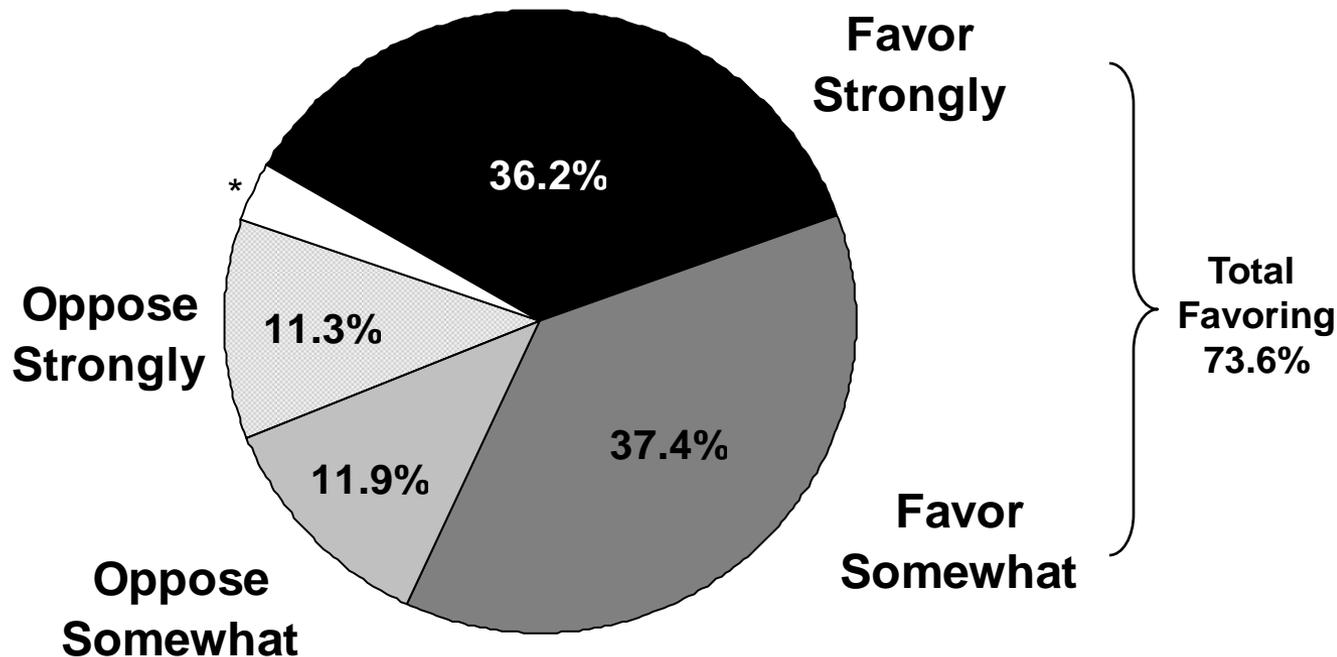


Note: "Oppose", "Don't Know", and refused responses not shown

Sources: Rutgers Center for State Health Policy, New Jersey Health Care Opinion Poll (conducted June 1 to July 9, 2007)

Require Everyone to Have Coverage

To achieve universal coverage, one proposal would require everyone to have health insurance, the way all drivers are required to have automobile insurance. People with higher incomes who do not have coverage would be required to buy insurance, and the government would help pay for those who can't afford it.

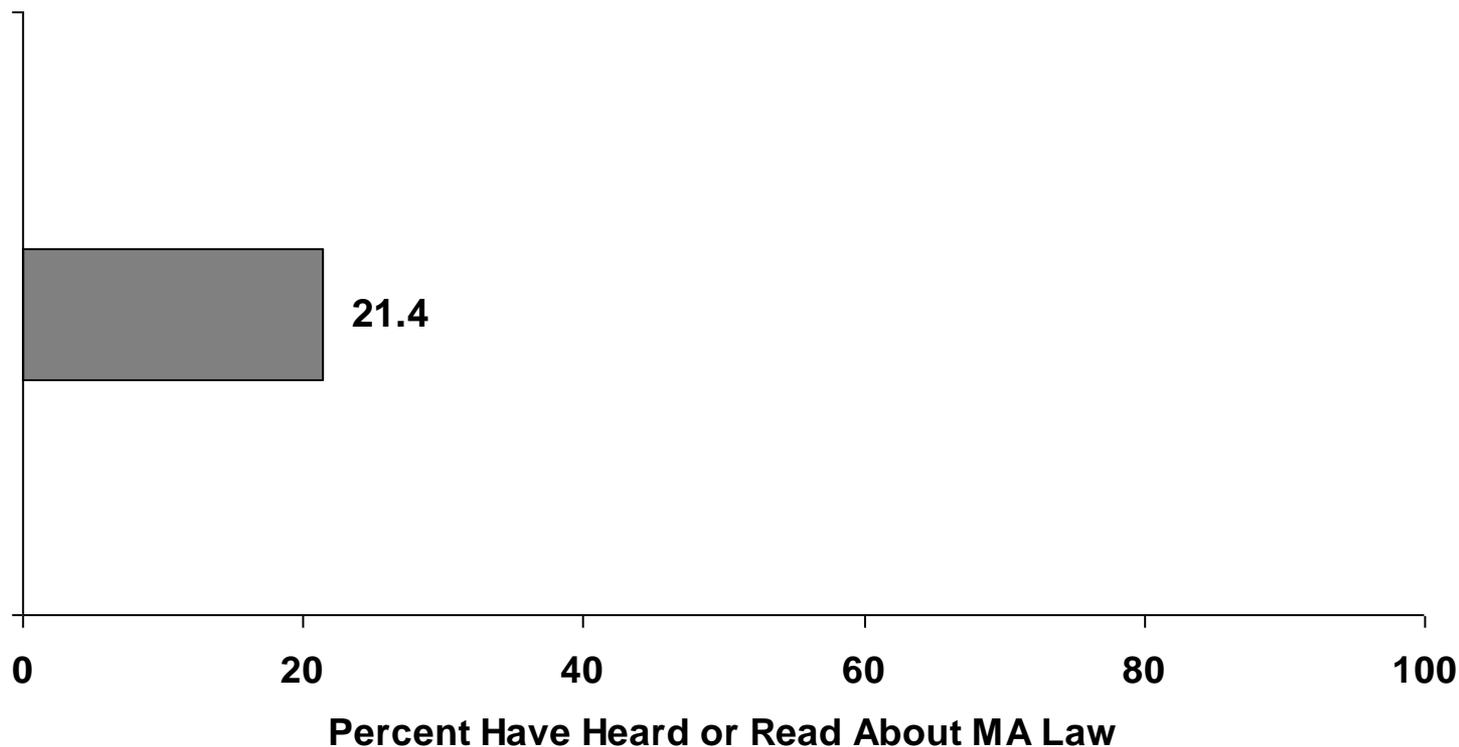


* "Don't Know" and refused responses

Sources: Rutgers Center for State Health Policy, New Jersey Health Care Opinion Poll (conducted June 1 to July 9, 2007)

New Jerseyans Following Massachusetts Reform

Have you heard or read anything about a new law in Massachusetts that requires everyone to have health insurance and provides help for people who can't afford it?



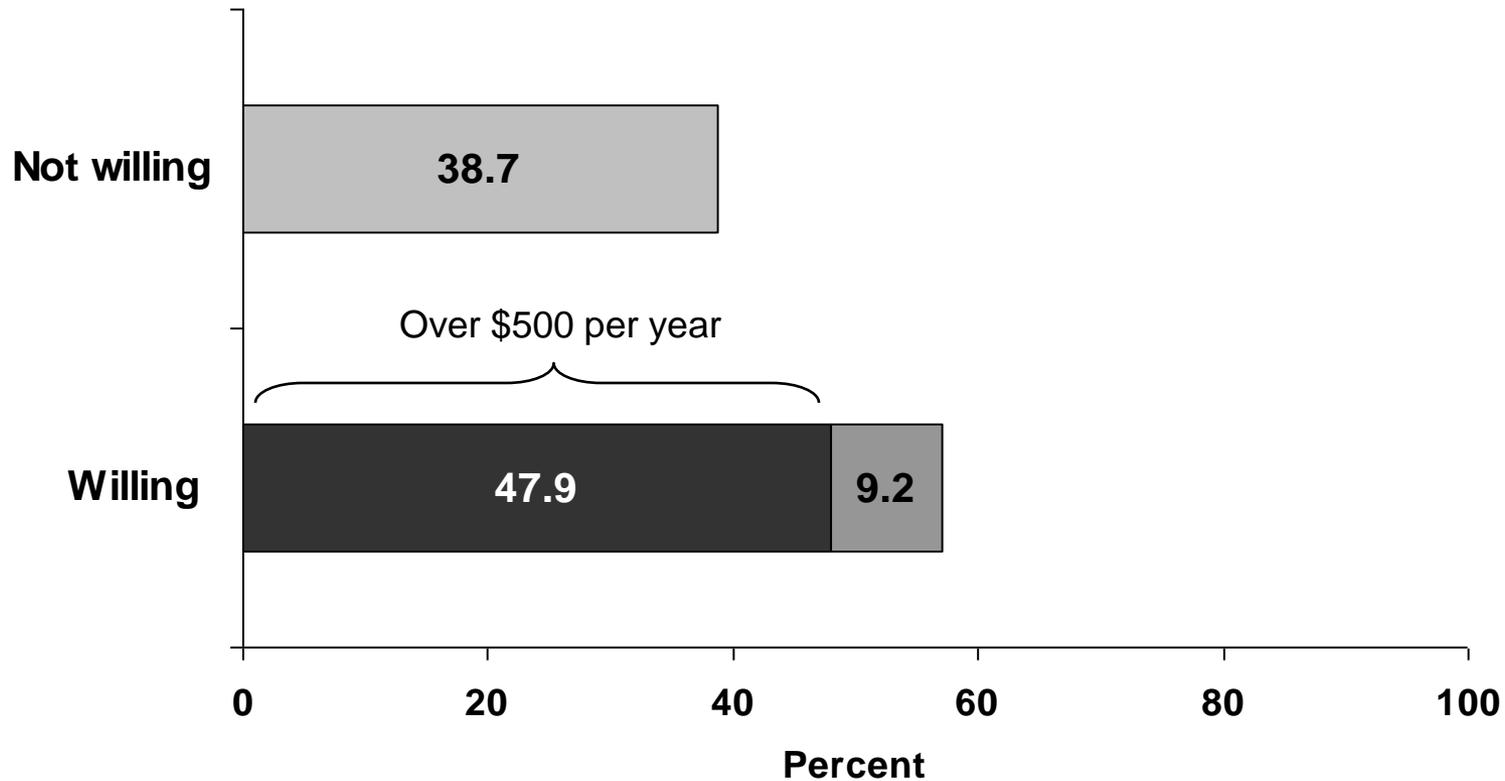
Note: "No", "Don't Know", and refused responses not shown

Sources: Rutgers Center for State Health Policy, New Jersey Health Care Opinion Poll (conducted June 1 to July 9, 2007)

Willingness to Pay Higher Taxes

Willingness to Pay Higher Taxes

Would you be willing or not willing to pay higher taxes so that everyone in New Jersey has health insurance they can't lose, no matter what?



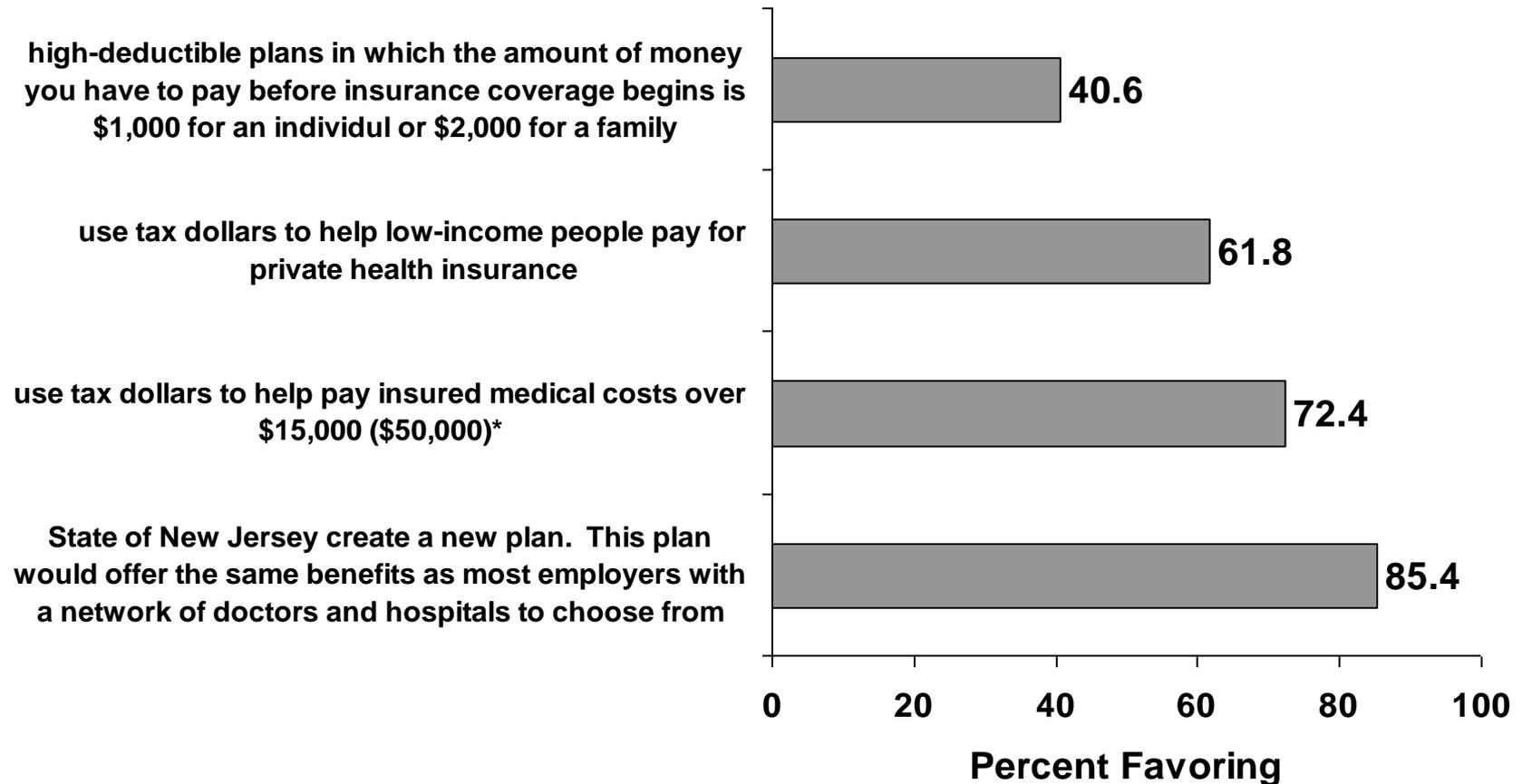
Note: "Don't Know" and refused responses not shown

Sources: Rutgers Center for State Health Policy, New Jersey Health Care Opinion Poll (conducted June 1 to July 9, 2007)

Policies Addressing Affordability

Making Coverage More Affordable

Do you favor or oppose for New Jersey...



Note: "Oppose", "Don't Know", and refused responses not shown

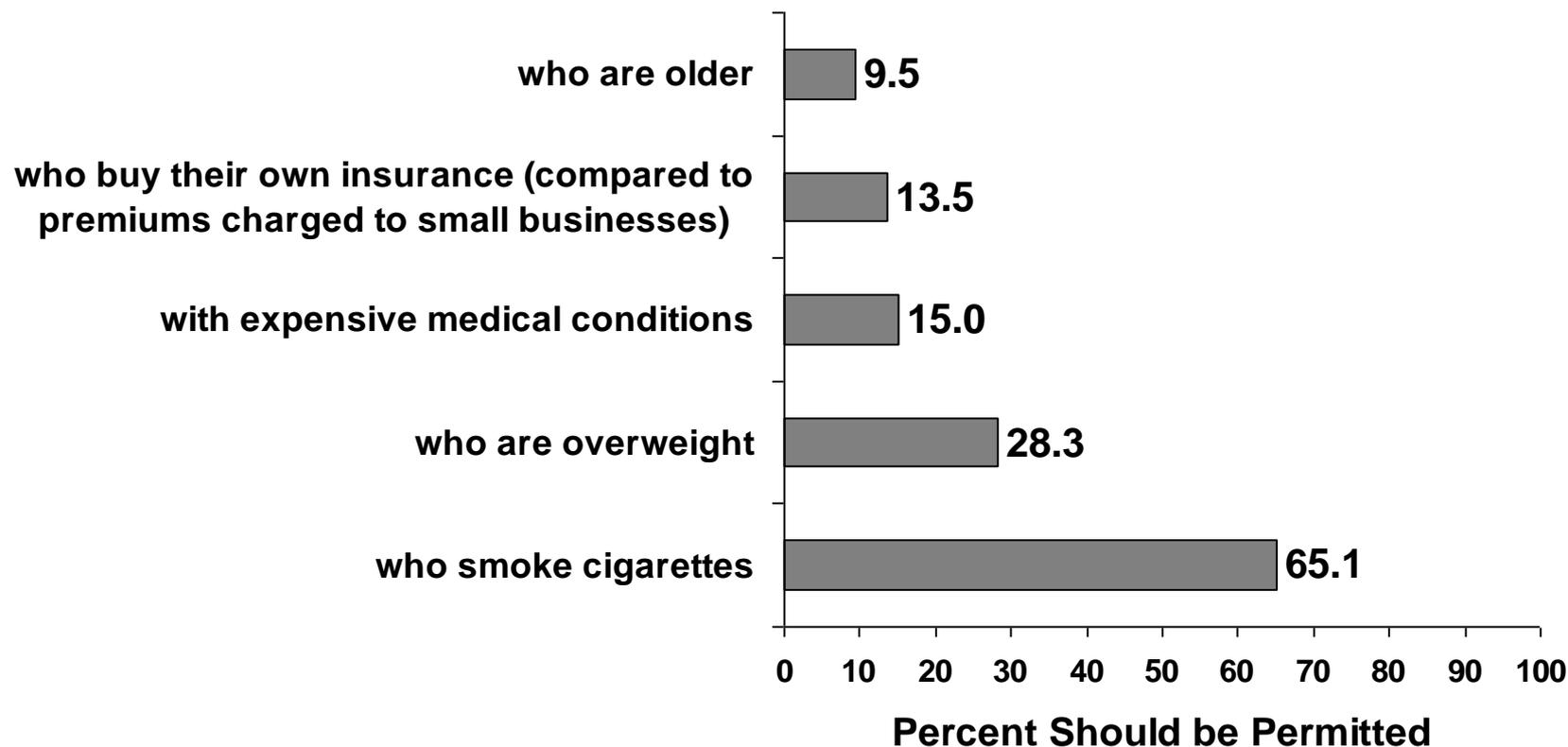
* Combined responses for random halves of the sample asked about costs over \$15,000 and \$50,000, respectively

Sources: Rutgers Center for State Health Policy, New Jersey Health Care Opinion Poll (conducted June 1 to July 9, 2007)

Private Insurance Regulation

Support for Premium Rating Regulations

Do you think health insurance companies should or should not be permitted to charge higher premiums for people ...



Note: "Should Not be Permitted", "Don't Know", and refused responses not shown

Sources: Rutgers Center for State Health Policy, New Jersey Health Care Opinion Poll (conducted June 1 to July 9, 2007)

How the Poll Was Conducted

Survey Design

- The findings in this report are based on surveys of two samples conducted by Rutgers Center for State Health Policy (CSHP). Both samples were interviewed by telephone between June 1 and July 9, 2007. In total, 1,104 New Jersey residents were interviewed. This encompasses a scientifically selected random sample of 804 New Jersey adults interviewed on landline telephones. In this traditional random-digit-dial (RDD) sampling procedure, households in the state with telephone service are sampled in proportion to the distribution of residents in the 21 counties. One adult in each sampled household was selected through a second-stage selection for inclusion in the survey. CSHP also conducted a 300 person sample by cell phone with those who are not reachable through landline phones. These respondents are generally missed by RDD telephone samples, and are on average younger, less educated, more mobile and less likely to have health insurance. Interviewing was conducted by the firm of Schulman, Ronca & Bucuvalas, Inc. based in New York City.

How the Poll Was Conducted - continued

Margin of Sampling Error

- Sample surveys are estimates of the responses that would have been obtained had everyone in the population (all New Jersey adults) been interviewed. All such surveys are subject to sampling error, which is the expected probable difference between interviewing everyone in a population versus a scientific sampling drawn from that population. The amount of sampling error in estimates is generally based on the sample size. The larger the sample, the greater confidence the researcher has in making inferences back from the sample to the underlying population. For our 1,104 person sample, the sampling error is ± 3 percent, at a conventional level of statistical significance (95%). Thus if 56% of our sample said that the cost of health care was a very serious problem for them, one would expect that the true figure would be between 53 and 59 percent (56 ± 3.0) in 95% of samples of the full population. Statements based on population subgroups, such as separate figures reported for residents of North, Central and South Jersey, are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. A chart showing the relationship between sample size and sampling error is shown on page 29.

How the Poll Was Conducted - continued

More Information

- Sampling error is just one source of variation in this type of research and does not take into account other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording or context effects. The wording of questions is extremely important, and for that reason we have made available the verbatim wording of all questions asked in the poll.
- The samples were stratified based on county at the outset of the research design to achieve statewide representativeness. And, given the stratification in the basic research design to represent both households with landlines and New Jerseyans relying on cell phones, the data have been weighted first on that parameter, then on gender, age and education to insure an accurate proportional representation of all residents of our state.
- The questionnaire and other information about the poll can be found at www.cshp.rutgers.edu.

Relationship between Sample Size and Sampling Error

