

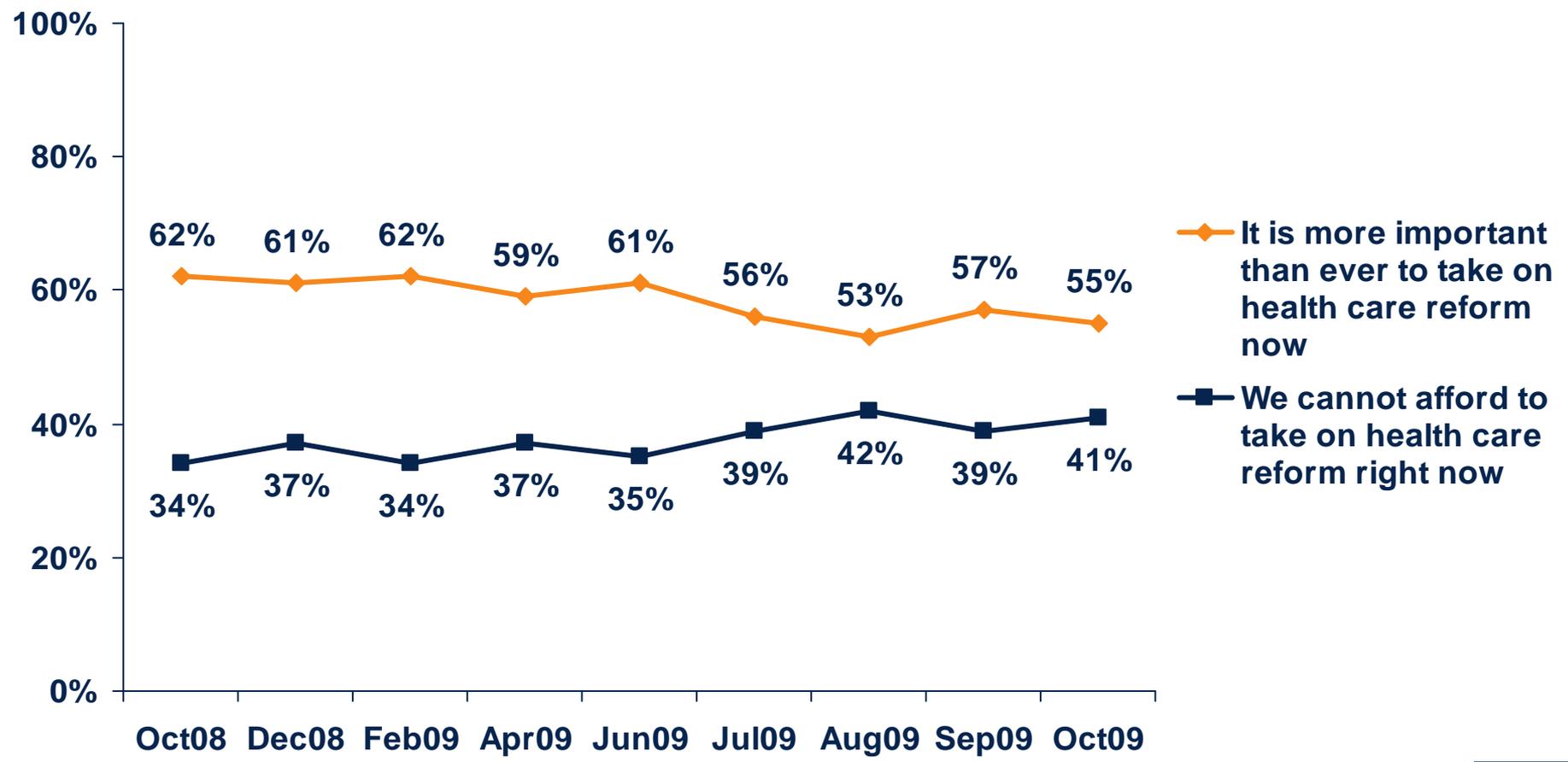
Kaiser Health Tracking Poll

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October 2009

Health Care Reform... Is Now the Right Time?

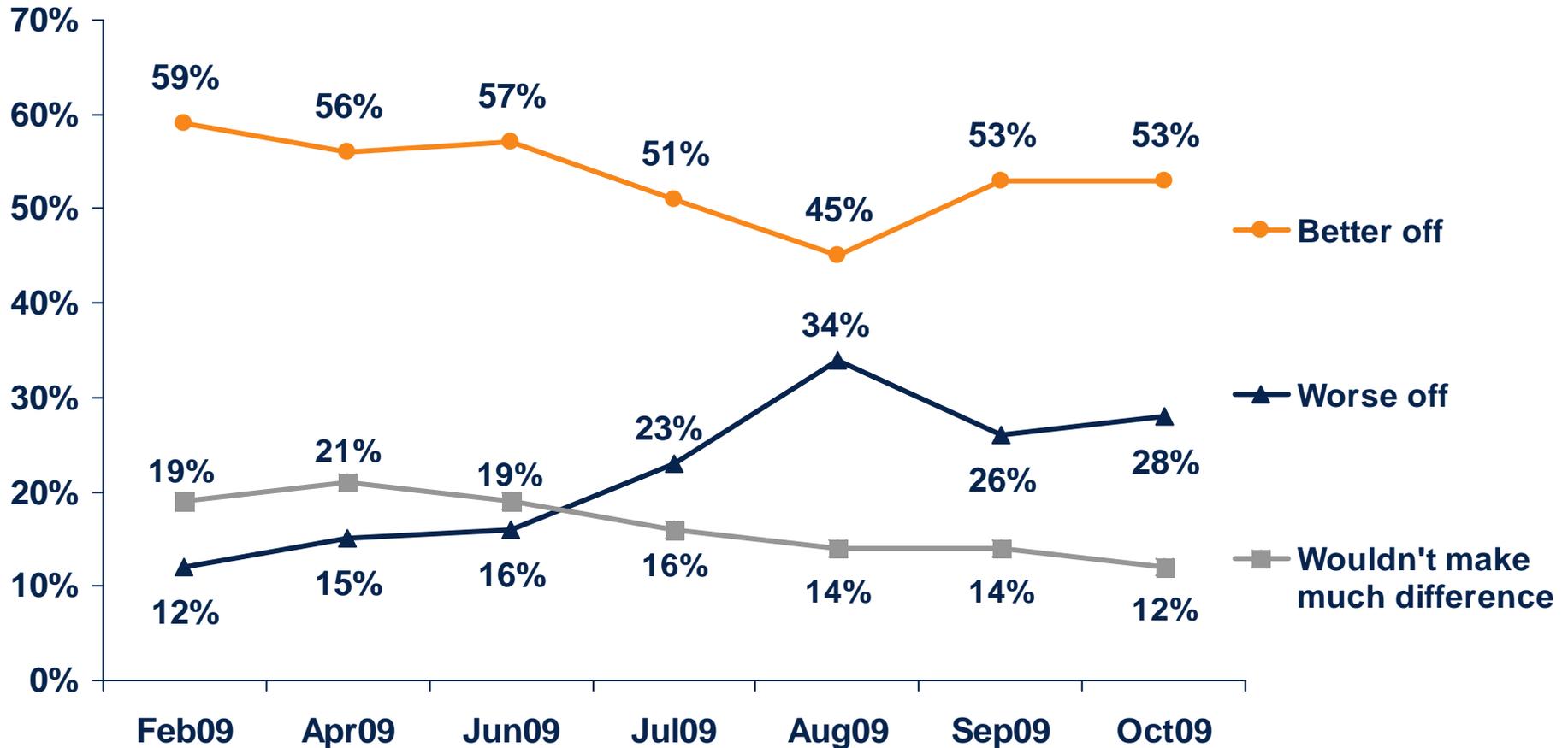
Which comes closer to describing your own views? Given the serious economic problems facing the country...



Note: "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.
Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation surveys

Impact on Country: Time Trend

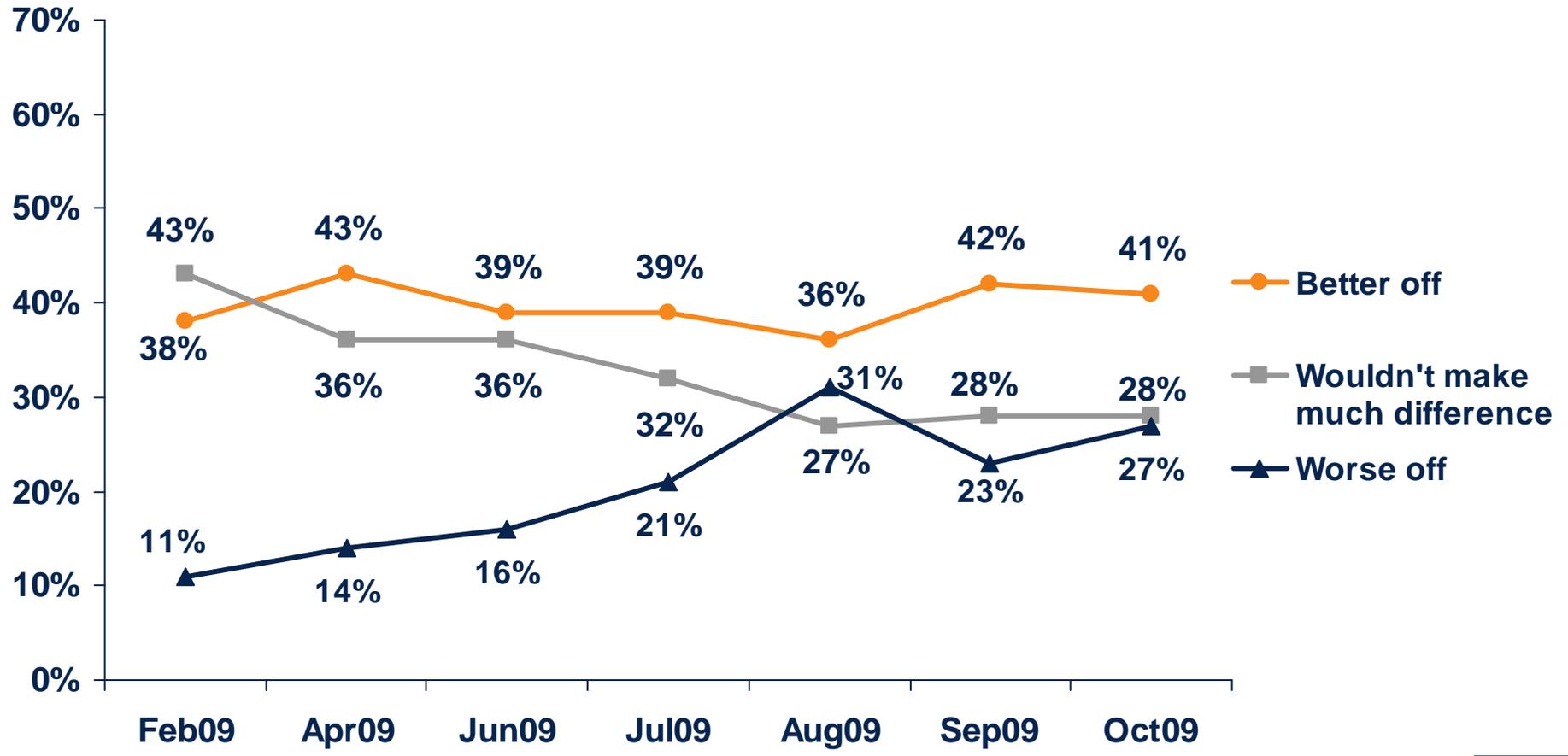
Do you think the country as a whole would be better off or worse off if the president and Congress passed health care reform, or don't you think it would make much difference?



Note: "Don't know/Refused" and "It depends (vol.)" responses not shown.
Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation surveys

Impact on Own Family: Time Trend

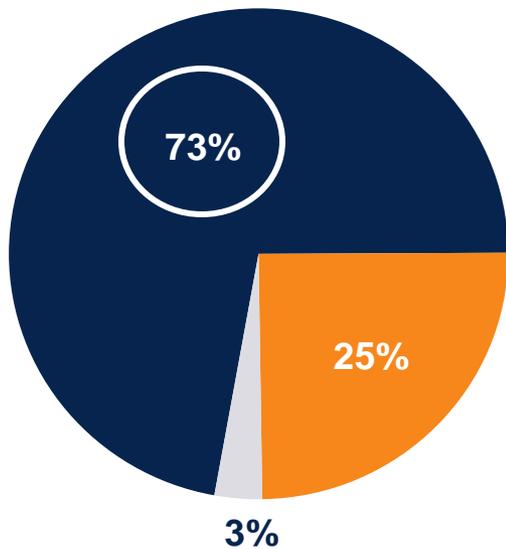
Do you think you and your family would be better off or worse off if the president and Congress passed health care reform, or don't you think it would make much difference?



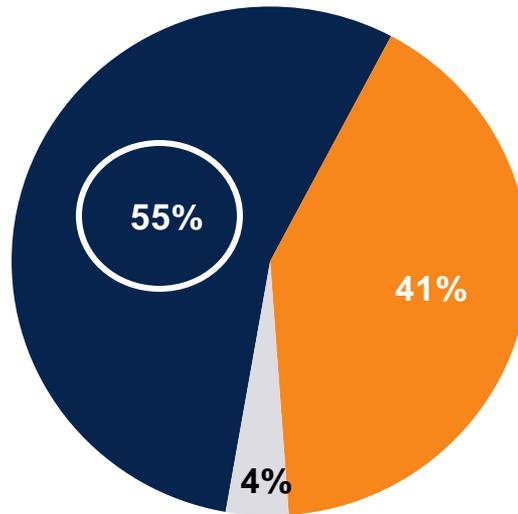
Note: "Don't know/Refused" and "It depends (vol.)" responses not shown.
Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation surveys

Partisans Disagree

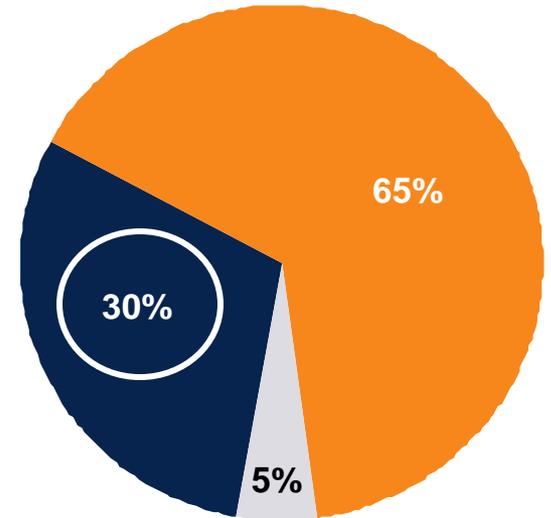
■ It is *more important than ever* to take on health care reform now
 ■ We *cannot afford* to take on health care reform right now
 ■ Don't know/Refused



Democrats



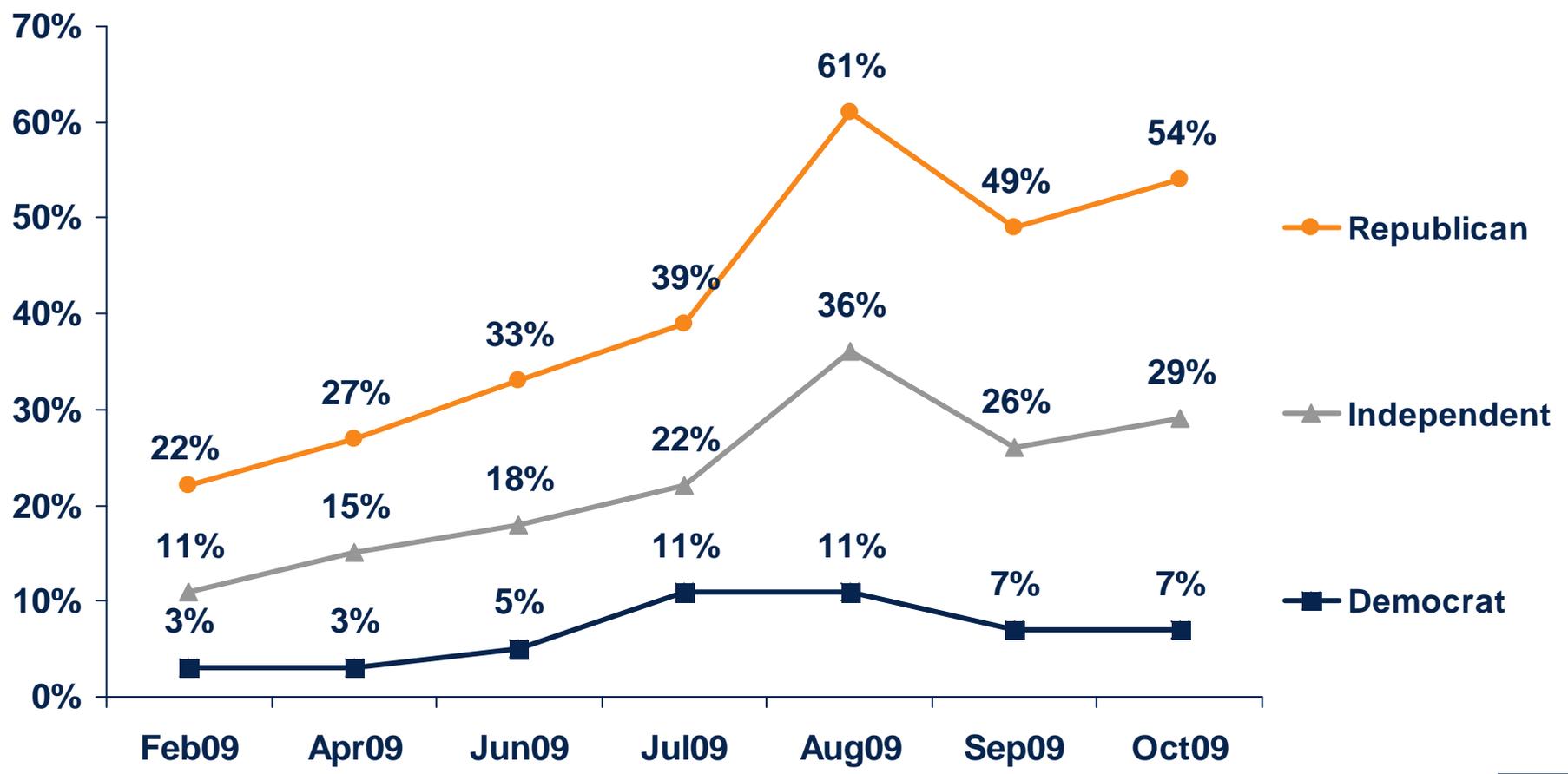
Independents



Republicans

Partisans Disagree: Family Worse Off

% who responded “you and your family would be WORSE off if the president and Congress passed health care reform”



Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation surveys

Views on Key Policy Options

Please tell me if you would favor or oppose each of the following to help pay for health care reform and provide coverage for more of the uninsured.

Strongly favor
 Somewhat favor
 Somewhat oppose
 Strongly oppose



Note: "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

* Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted September 11-18, 2009)

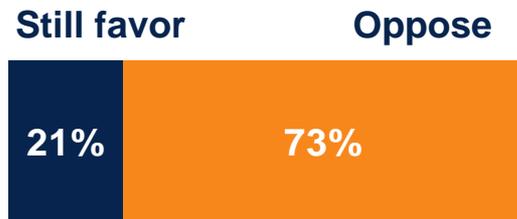
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted October 8-15, 2009)

Individual Mandate

Would you favor or oppose requiring all Americans to have health insurance, either from their employer or from another source, with financial help for those who can't afford it?



Supporters were asked: What if you heard that this could mean that some people would be required to buy health insurance that they find too expensive or did not want?



Opponents were asked: What if you heard that without such a requirement, insurance companies would still be allowed to deny coverage to people who are sick?



Note: Follow up question on left asked of those who initially favored. Graph below it based on total, where "oppose" includes those who initially opposed along with those who opposed after hearing the follow up. Follow up question on right asked of those who initially opposed. Graph below it based on total, where "favor" includes those who initially favored along with those who favored after hearing the follow up. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.

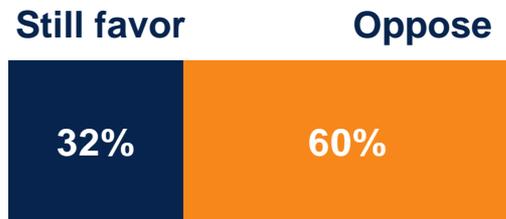
Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted October 8-15, 2009)

Public Option

Would you favor or oppose creating a government-administered public health insurance option to compete with private health insurance plans?



Supporters were asked: What if you heard that a public health insurance option could give the government an unfair advantage over private insurance companies?



Opponents were asked: What if you heard that a public health insurance option was a fallback that would only kick in if not enough people had affordable health plans available through the private marketplace?



Note: Follow up question on left asked of those who initially favored. Graph below it based on total, where “oppose” includes those who initially opposed along with those who opposed after hearing the follow up. Follow up question on right asked of those who initially opposed. Graph below it based on total, where “favor” includes those who initially favored along with those who favored after hearing the follow up. “Don’t know/Refused” responses not shown.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted October 8-15, 2009)

Covering Those with Prior Illnesses

Do you favor or oppose the federal government requiring health insurance companies to cover anyone who applies, even if they have a prior illness?



Supporters were asked: What if you heard this requirement might mean that healthier people would end up paying somewhat more for their health insurance than they do now, while sicker people would pay somewhat less?



Opponents were asked: What if you heard that some people with very expensive illnesses like cancer would have no way of getting insurance otherwise?



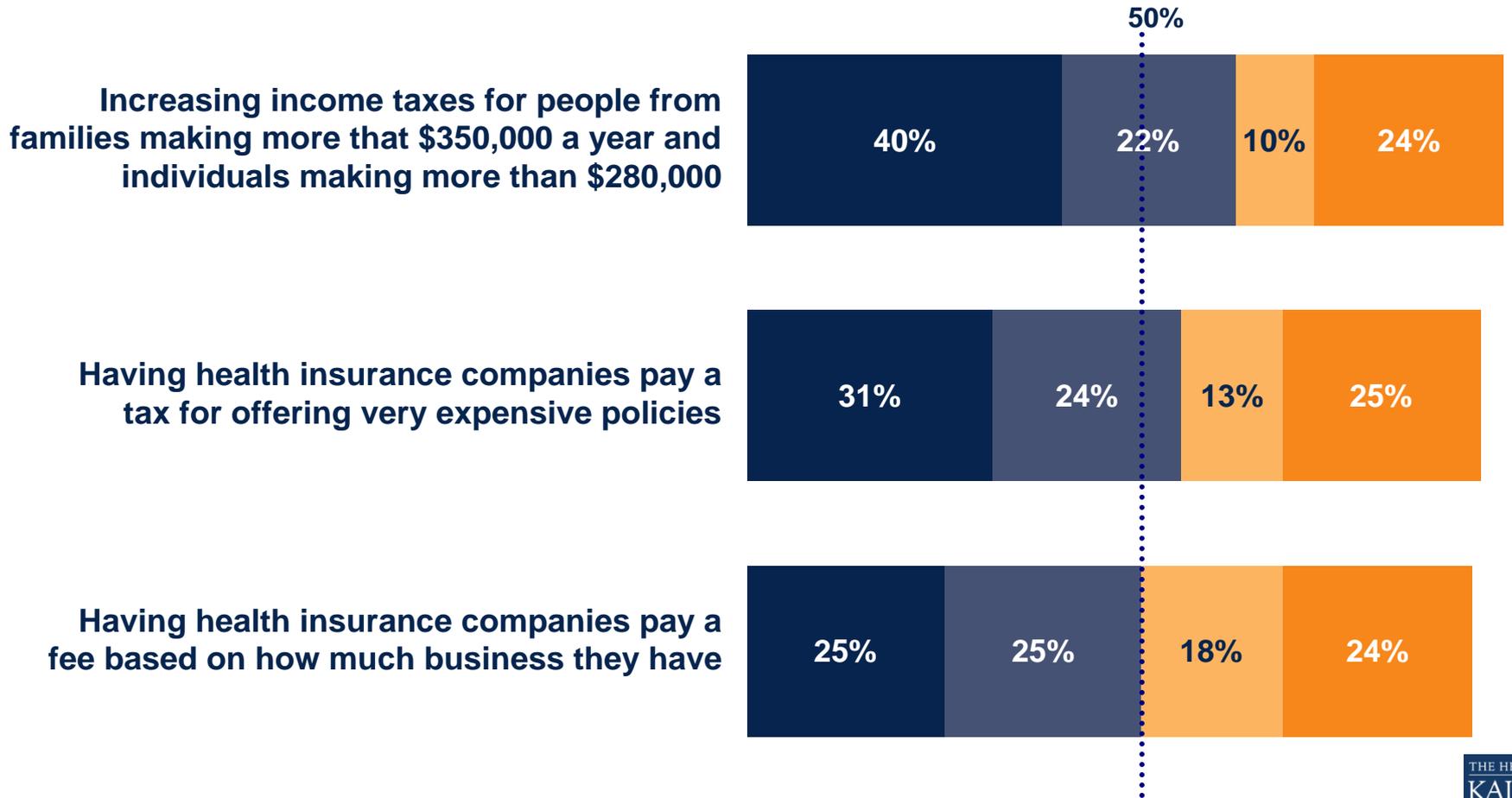
Note: Follow up question on left asked of those who initially favored. Graph below it based on total, where “oppose” includes those who initially opposed along with those who opposed after hearing the follow up. Follow up question on right asked of those who initially opposed. Graph below it based on total, where “favor” includes those who initially favored along with those who favored after hearing the follow up. “Don’t know/Refused” responses not shown.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted September 11-18, 2009)

Some Tax Options

Please tell me if you would favor or oppose each of the following to help pay for health care reform and provide coverage for more of the uninsured.

Strongly favor
 Somewhat favor
 Somewhat oppose
 Strongly oppose



Note: "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted October 8-15, 2009)

Taxing Health Insurance Cos. Offering Expensive Policies

Would you favor or oppose having health insurance companies pay a tax for offering very expensive policies?



Supporters were asked: What if you heard that this might result in these costs being passed on to the consumer?



Opponents were asked: What if you heard that this will discourage expensive health insurance policies which could help lower health care costs for everyone?

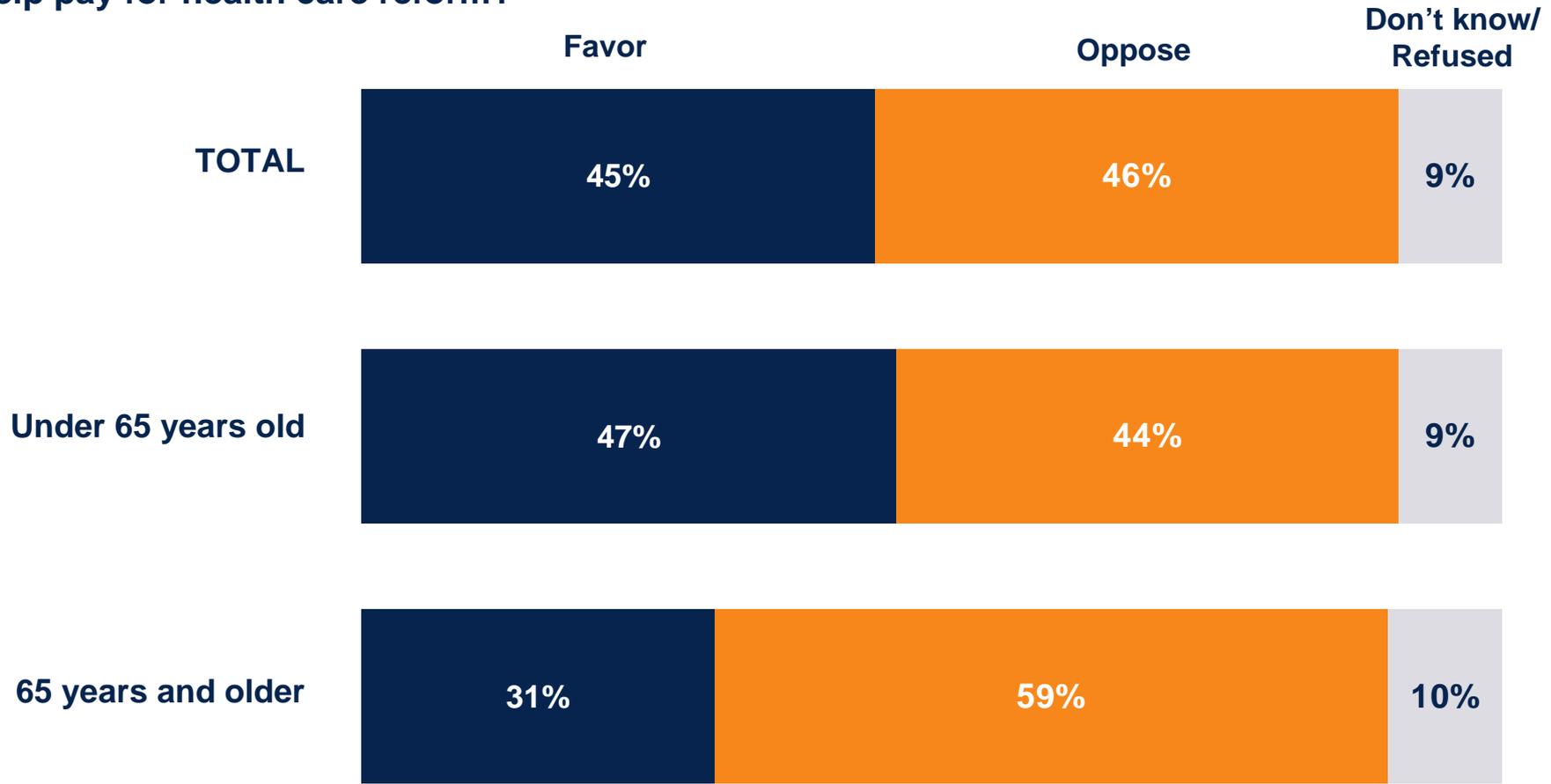


Note: Follow up question on left asked of those who initially favored. Graph below it based on total, where “oppose” includes those who initially opposed along with those who opposed after hearing the follow up. Follow up question on right asked of those who initially opposed. Graph below it based on total, where “favor” includes those who initially favored along with those who favored after hearing the follow up. “Don’t know/Refused” responses not shown.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted October 8-15, 2009)

Medicare and Paying for Health Reform?

Currently, the government determines how much doctors and hospitals get paid to treat people on Medicare. Would you favor or oppose limiting future increases in these payments as a way to help pay for health care reform?

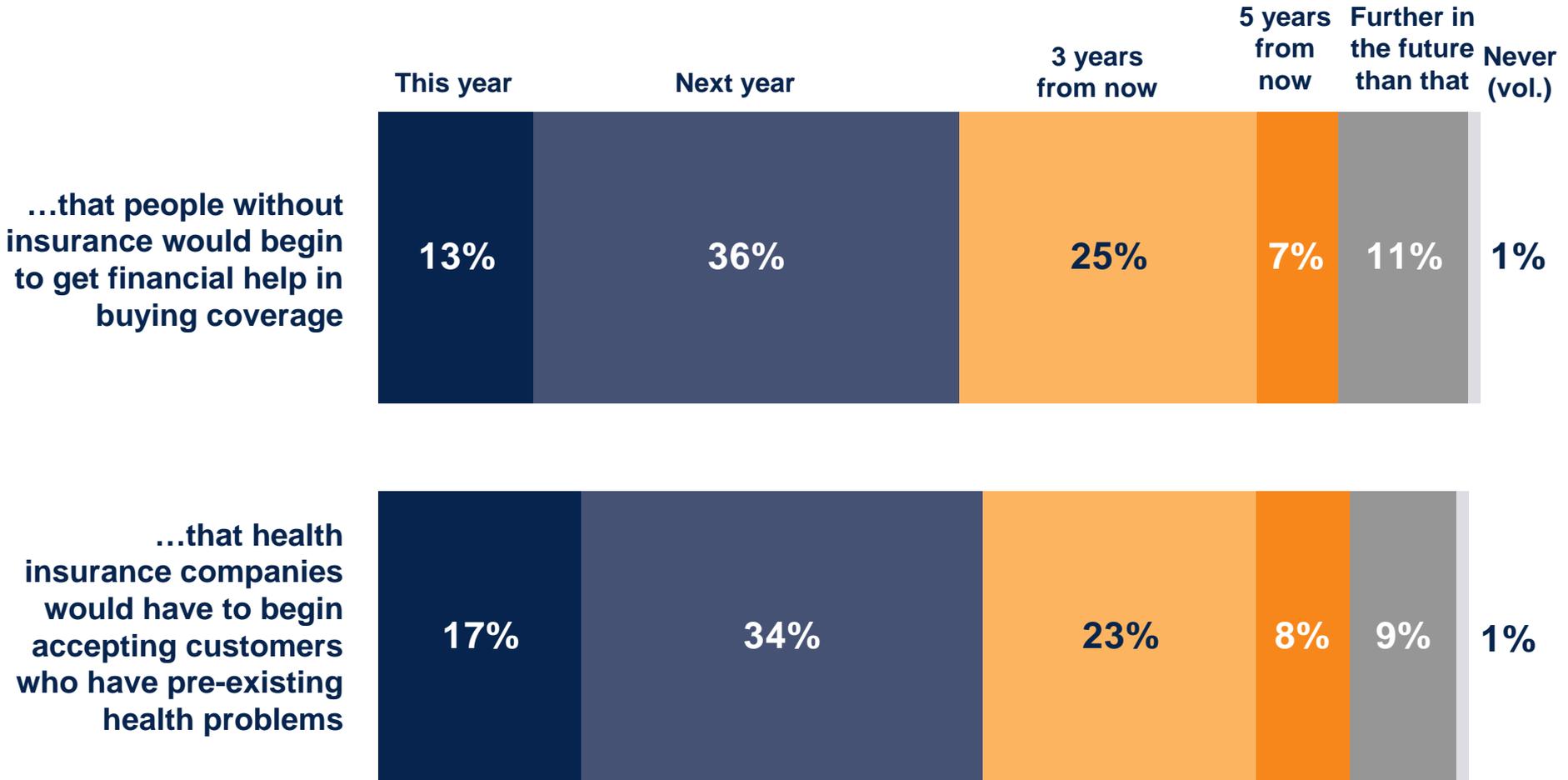


Note: Question asked of half-sample.

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted October 8-15, 2009)

When Will Key Provisions Start if Reform Passes?

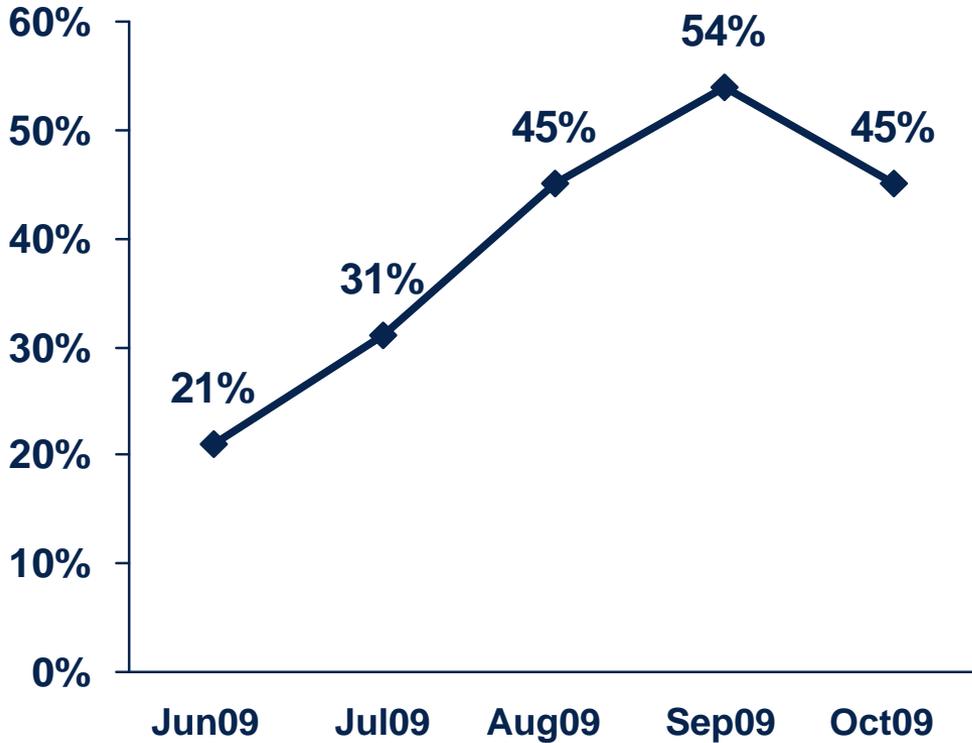
If Congress and the president did pass a health care reform bill, when would you expect ... ?



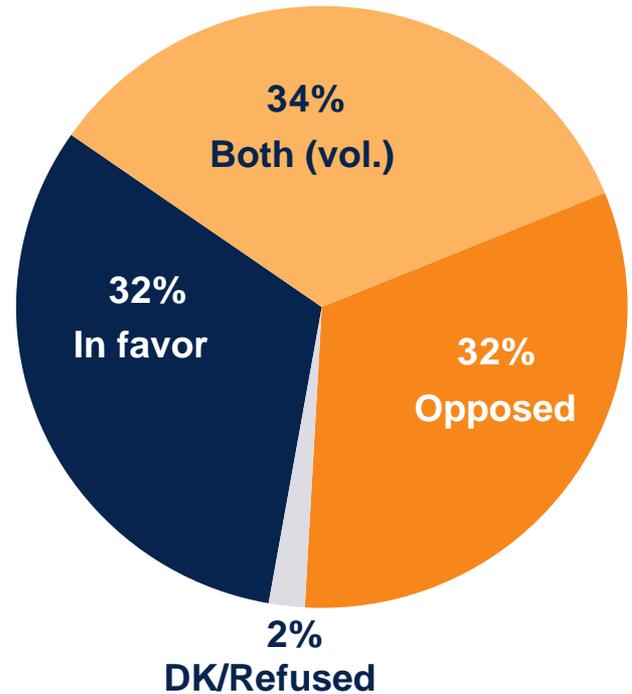
Note: Top item asked of half sample. "Don't know/Refused" responses not shown.
 Source: Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Tracking Poll* (conducted October 8-15, 2009)

Decrease in Reported Viewing of Ads

Percent who say during the past seven days, they have seen, heard or read any advertisements having to do with proposed changes in the health care system:



AMONG THOSE WHO SAY THEY HAVE SEEN, HEARD, OR READ ANY HEALTH REFORM ADS: As far as you could tell, were those ads in favor of or opposed to passing some sort of health care reform this year? (Oct 2009)



Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation surveys

Remember - Real People Having Real Problems

- **Over half say they or a member of their household have put off some sort of health care because of the cost in the past year**
- **One in three say they or a member of their household have had problems paying medical bills over the past year**
- **Almost six in ten say that they or someone in their household has a pre-existing medical condition**
- **These percentages are significantly higher among certain groups, such as the uninsured, those in poor health and those with lower incomes**