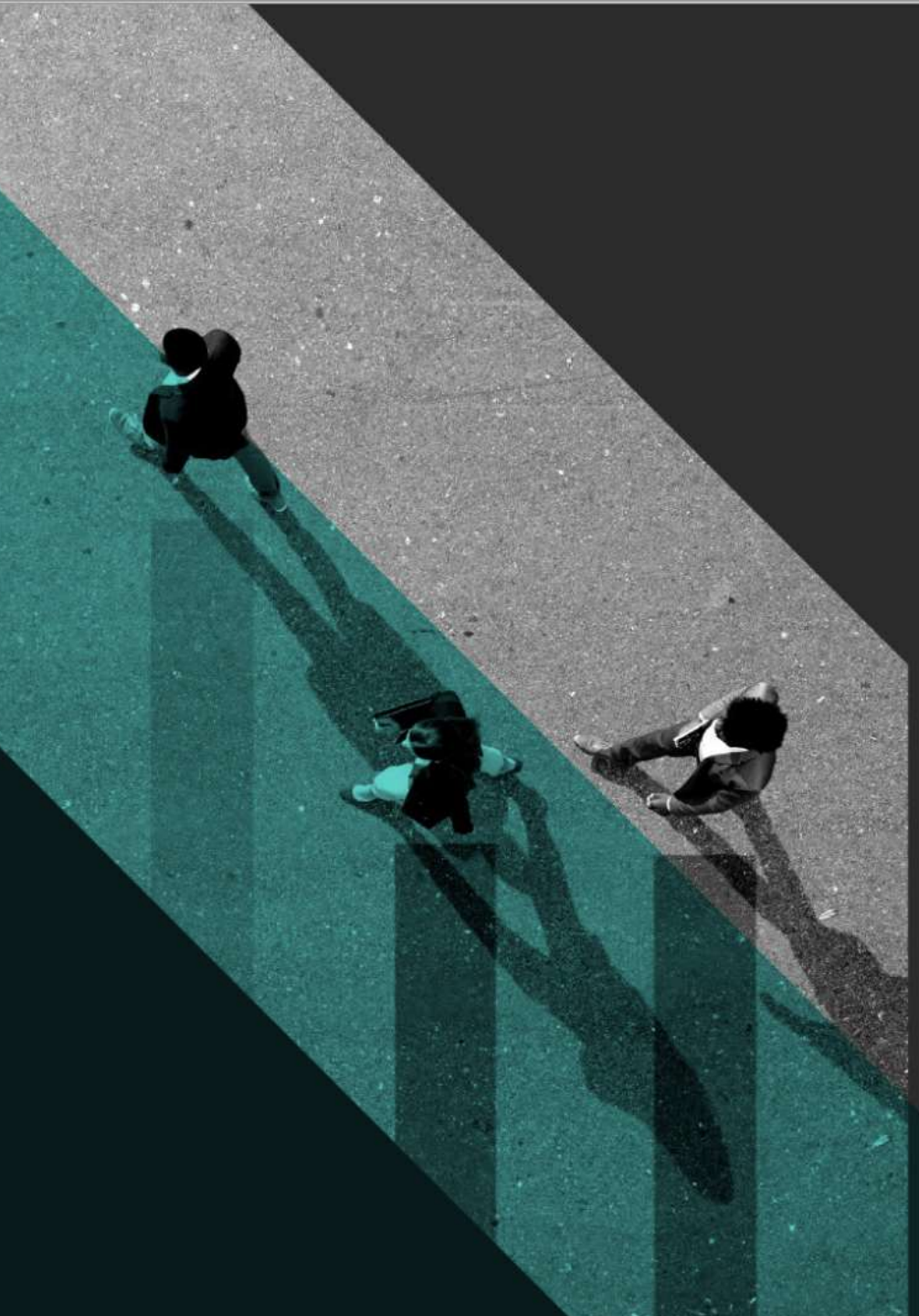


de Beaumont
BOLD SOLUTIONS FOR HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

MORNING CONSULT

SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

de Beaumont Foundation

MAY 2021

POLL: SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

- A new poll conducted by Morning Consult with the de Beaumont Foundation in May 2021 reveals strong support for local public health departments and the services they provide.
- U.S. adults rate public health departments as *the most important* community organizations in creating a healthy community – above hospitals, schools, businesses, police and fire departments, and others.

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FINDINGS: IMPORTANCE OF HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Among other community organizations, adults say public health departments play the most important role in creating a healthy community.

- 92% of adults say public health departments play an important role in creating a healthy community. *(This compares with a previous poll de Beaumont conducted with Public Opinion Strategies that showed 73% in 2020 and 56% in 2018.)*
- When asked to choose the organization that plays the most important role, respondents chose public health departments over hospitals, schools, businesses, police departments, parks, fire departments, and libraries. *(In the 2020 Public Opinion Strategies poll, public health departments ranked lower than hospitals, schools, fire departments, and police departments.)*

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FINDINGS: FAMILIARITY WITH HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

More than half of adults say they're familiar with their local health department.

- 57% said they are familiar with their local health department (23% "very familiar"), compared with 44% who said they're familiar with their local health official (16% "very familiar").
- By comparison, the 2018 and 2020 Public Opinion Strategies polls showed that 49% and 60% of adults, respectively, said they were familiar with their local health department. The percentage of people saying "very familiar" was 15% in 2018 and 17% in 2020, compared with 23% in the new Morning Consult poll.

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FINDINGS: PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITIES

Adults place a high priority on ensuring every community in their state receives public health services and are likely to prioritize funding for future pandemic prevention efforts.

- Three-quarters of adults (76%) say it is a high priority for their state's government to ensure that every community within their state receive all of the tested public health services.
- A third of adults (31%) say that funding future pandemic prevention efforts should be the most important priority.
- Two-thirds of adults (63%) say they support an increase in corporate taxes for public health services.

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IMPORTANCE OF HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

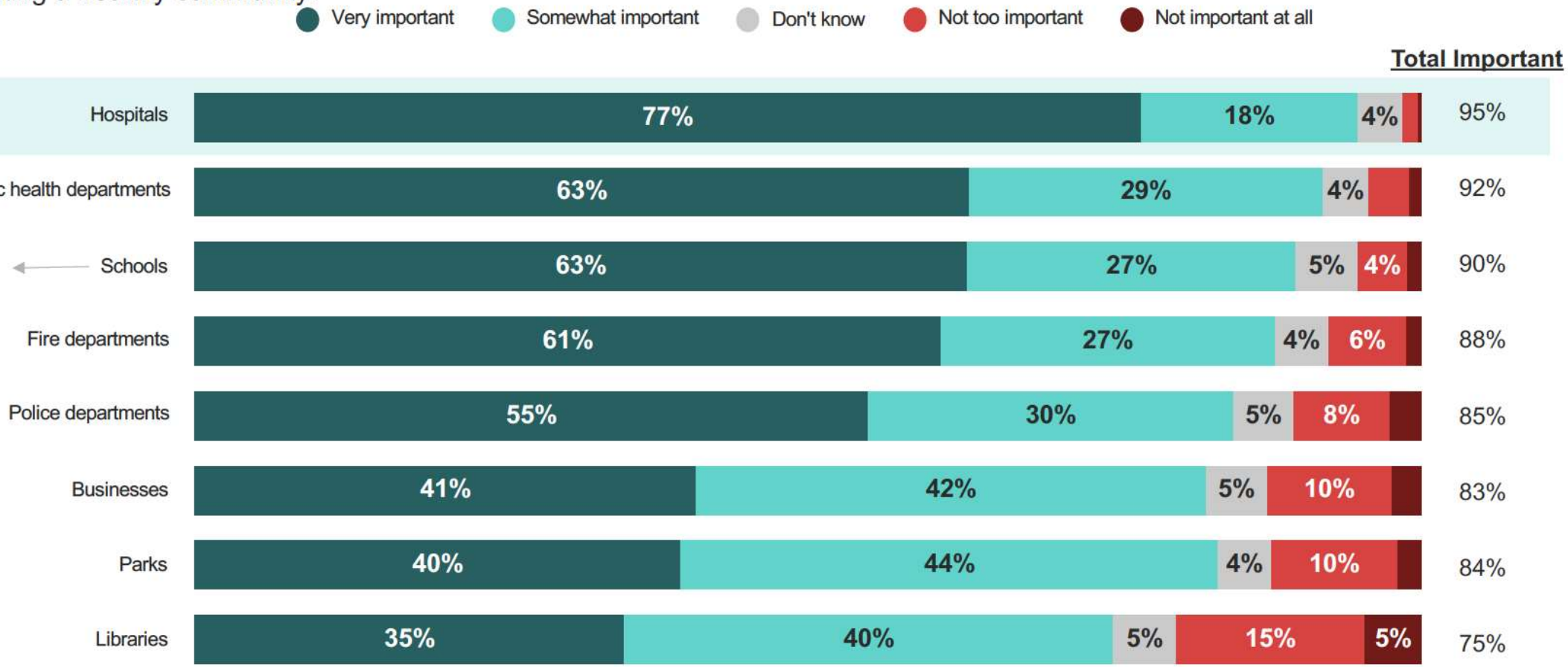
PERCEPTIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPTS.

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Three quarters of adults (77%) say that hospitals play a *very important role* in creating a healthy community.

At the local level, many factors go into having a healthy community where people can live, work, and play. Below is a list of different organizations that can help create a healthy community. In your opinion, how important of a role, if at all, do each of the following have in creating a healthy community?



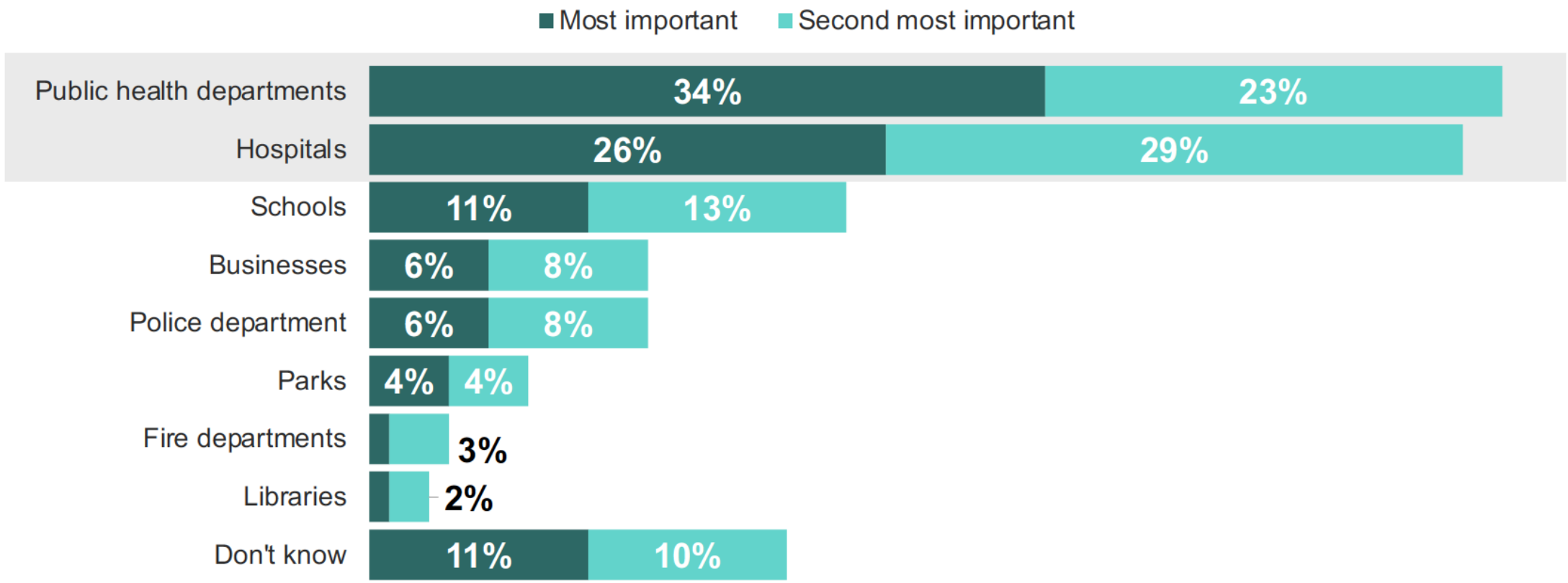
Two thirds of adults also say that **public health departments** (63%) and **schools** (63%) play a *very important role* in creating a healthy community.

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When asked to chose who plays the most important role in creating a health community, adults are most likely to select public health departments and hospitals.

And, which of the following would you say has the most important and second most important role in creating a healthy community?



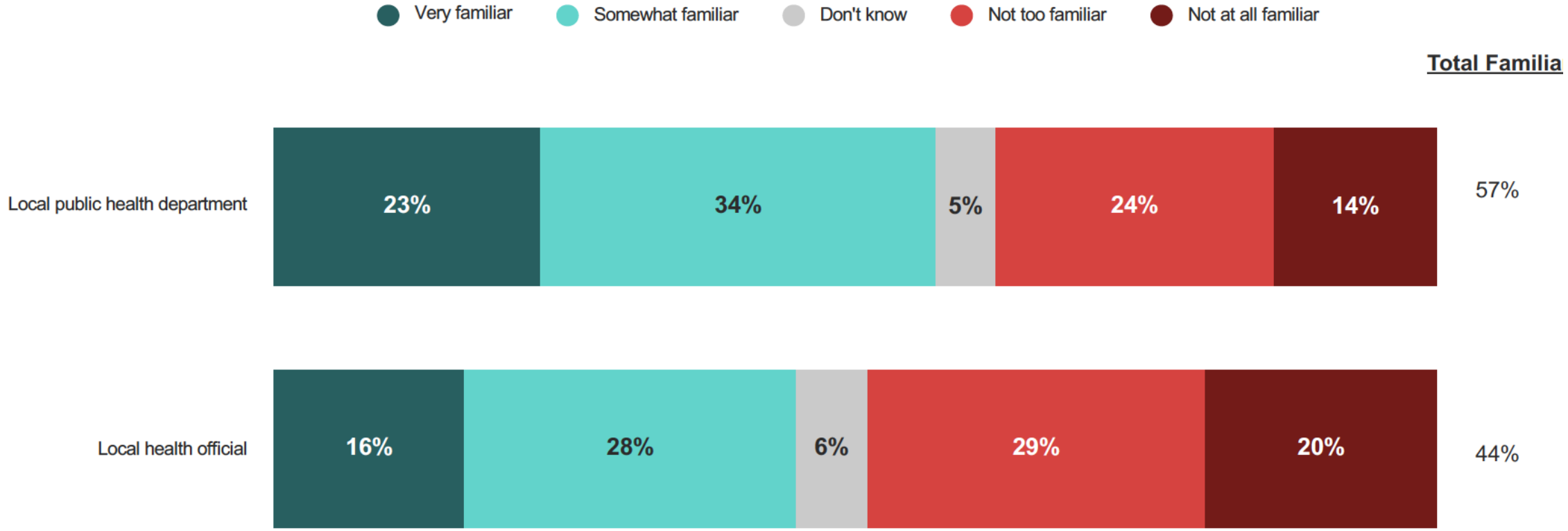
FAMILIARITY WITH HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

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Adults are more likely to be familiar with their local health department (57%) than their local health official (44%).

Most communities across the country have local public health departments and health officials. How familiar, if at all, would you say you are with each of the following?

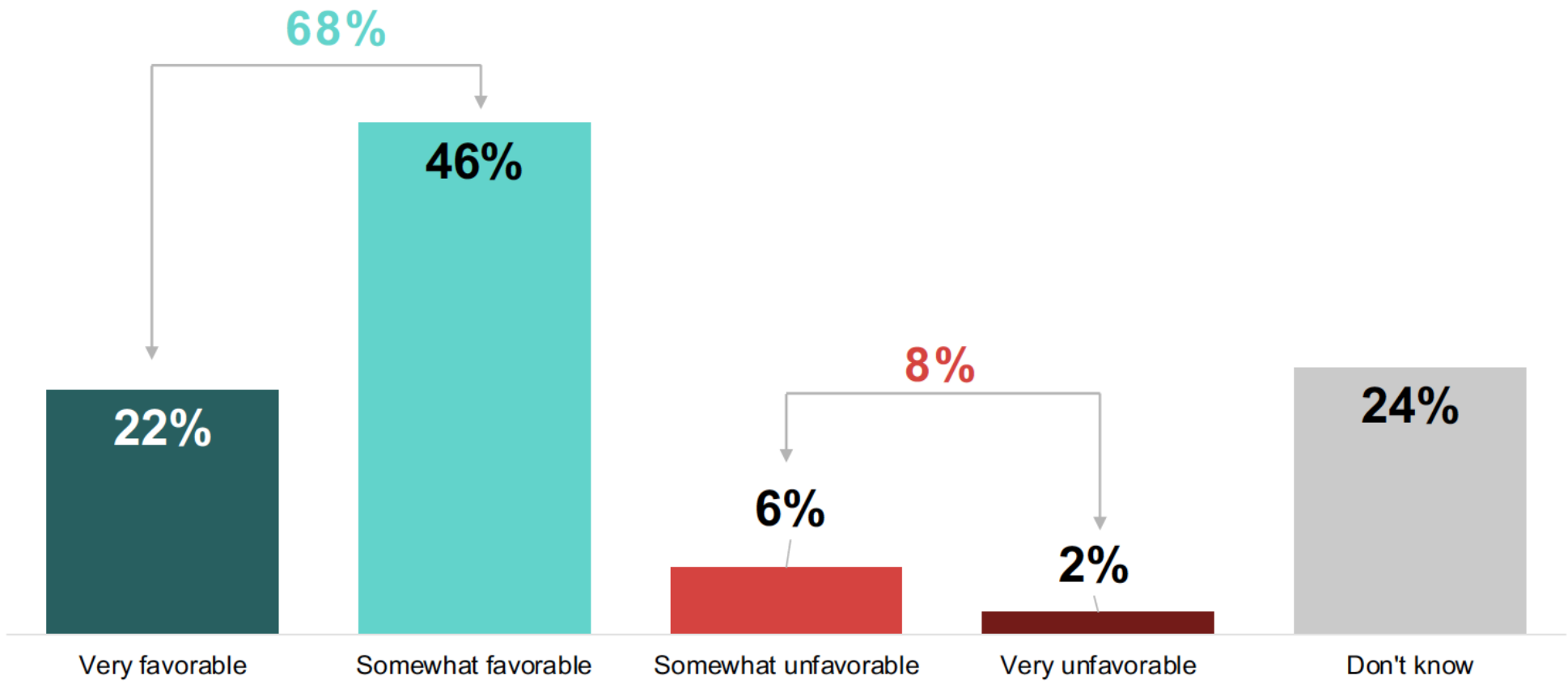


PERCEPTIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPTS.

Among those familiar with their local health official, two thirds (68%) have a favorable opinion of their local health official.

And, based on what you know, do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of your local health official?

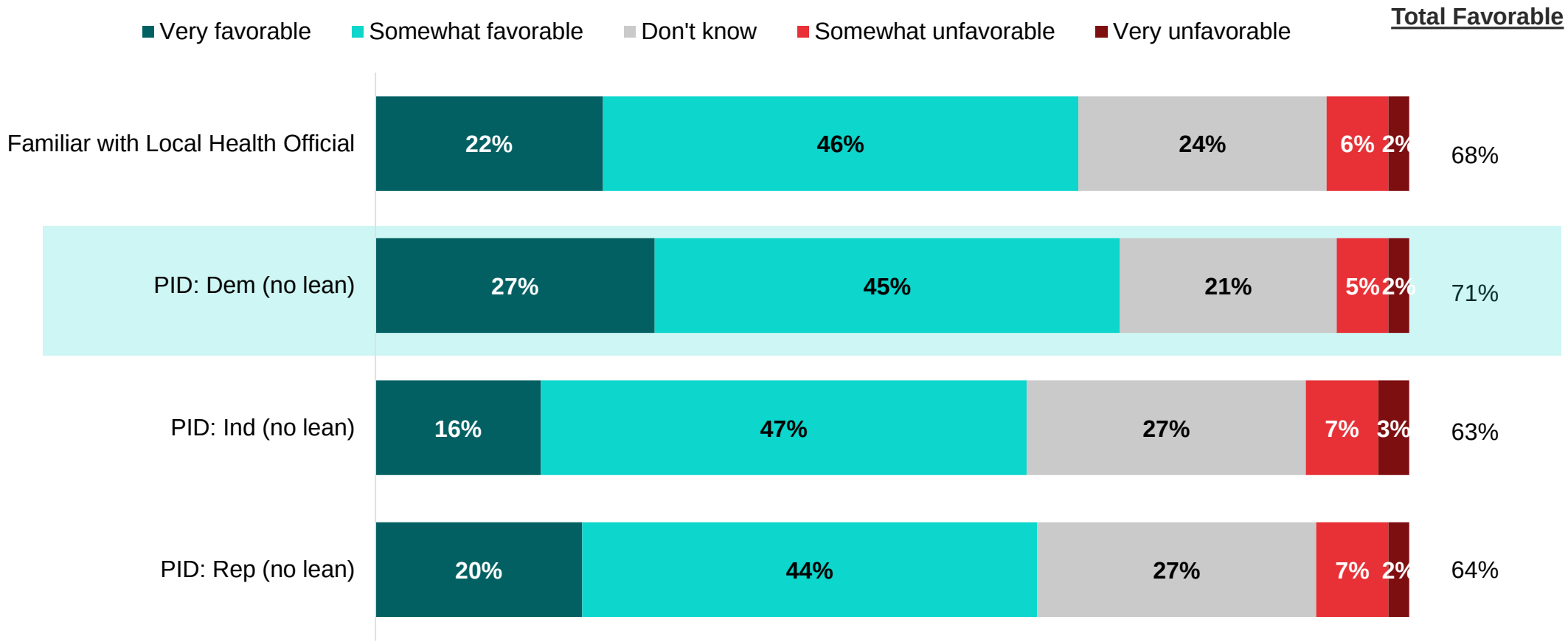
AMONG THOSE VERY, SOMEWHAT, OR NOT TOO FAMILIAR WITH THEIR LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIAL, n=1629



Among those familiar with their local health official, Democrats (71%) are more likely than Republicans (64%) and independents (63%) to have a favorable opinion.

- And, based on what you know, do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of your local health official?

AMONG THOSE VERY, SOMEWHAT, OR NOT TOO FAMILIAR WITH THEIR LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIAL, n=1629



PERCEPTIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPTS.

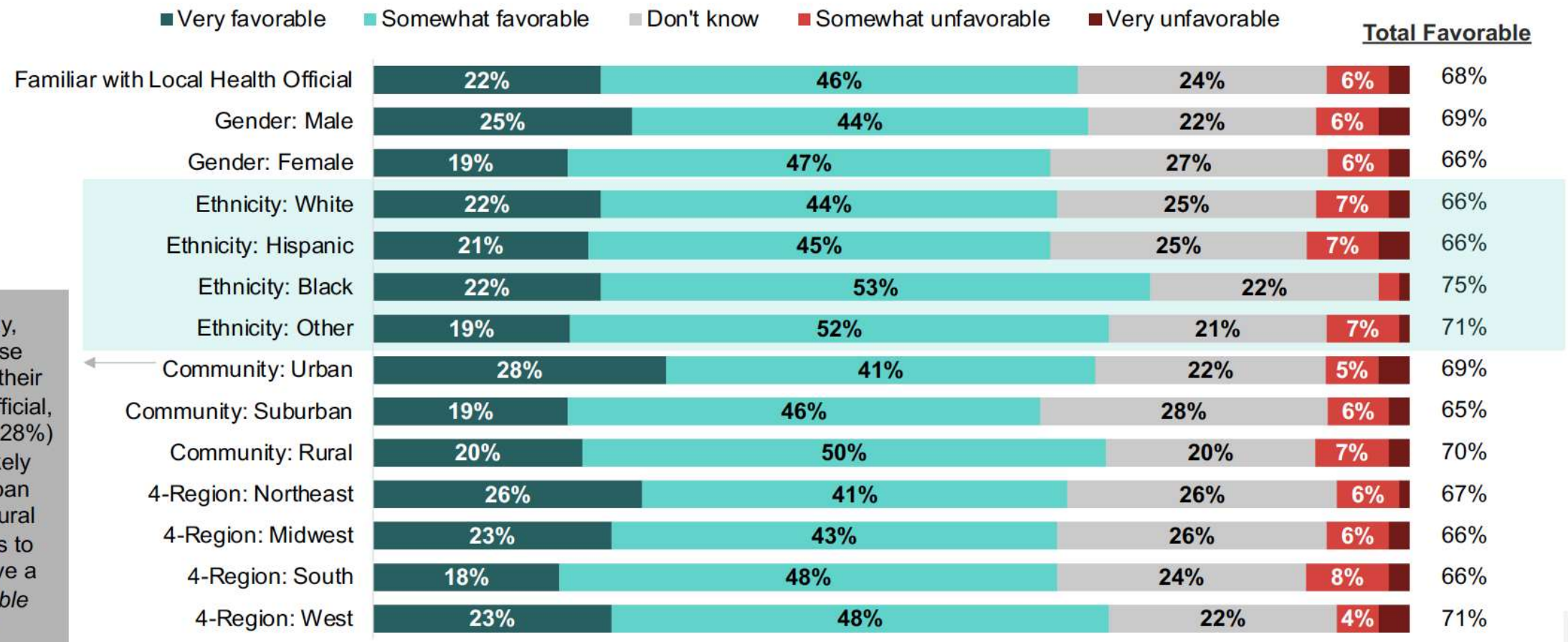
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Among those familiar with their local health official, Black adults (75%) are more likely to be favorable of their local health than other ethnicities.

And, based on what you know, do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of your local health official?

AMONG THOSE VERY, SOMEWHAT, OR NOT TOO FAMILIAR WITH THEIR LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIAL, n=1629



Additionally, among those familiar with their local health official, urban adults (28%) are more likely than suburban (19%) and rural (20%) adults to say they have a *very favorable opinion.*

PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITIES

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Roles of Public Health Departments

Below are some roles public health departments play in their local community. Adults were asked to indicate how important, if at all, it is to them personally that their local health department performs each role in their local community. For communicable diseases, half of adults were asked Split Sample A and the other half were asked Split Sample B to measure the impact of including COVID-19.

[SPLIT A] Stop the spread of communicable diseases, such as COVID-19:	**[SPLIT A]** Help **stop the spread of communicable diseases**, **such as COVID-19,** Meningitis, Salmonella, and the flu.
[SPLIT B] Stop the spread of communicable diseases:	**[SPLIT B]** Help **stop the spread of communicable diseases**, such as Meningitis, Salmonella, and the flu.
Establish prevention programs:	**Establish prevention programs in the** community to address chronic disease and injury, such as diabetes and domestic violence.
Ensure environmental health:	**Ensure environmental health,** such as clean air and clean water.
Work together with the broader healthcare system:	**Work together with the broader healthcare system**, such as with local hospitals and community clinics to address problems before they become health crises.
Bring others in government together:	**Bring others in government, like police and fire departments and state authorities, together** to respond to public health emergencies, such as those resulting from natural and human caused disasters and rebuild afterward.
Reach out to people that are at greatest risk of having poor health outcomes:	**Reach out to people that are at greatest risk of having poor health outcomes,** such as the elderly, disabled, or low-income families, and providing prenatal care and appropriate nutritional assistance to women and children.
Work with partners to help create strong local policies:	**Work with partners to help create strong local policies** that support and protect people's health, such as smoke-free workplace laws, increasing seatbelt use and encouraging employers to offer paid maternity leave.
Work to improve other local community services:	Work to improve other local community services such as **public education, housing, and employment opportunities**

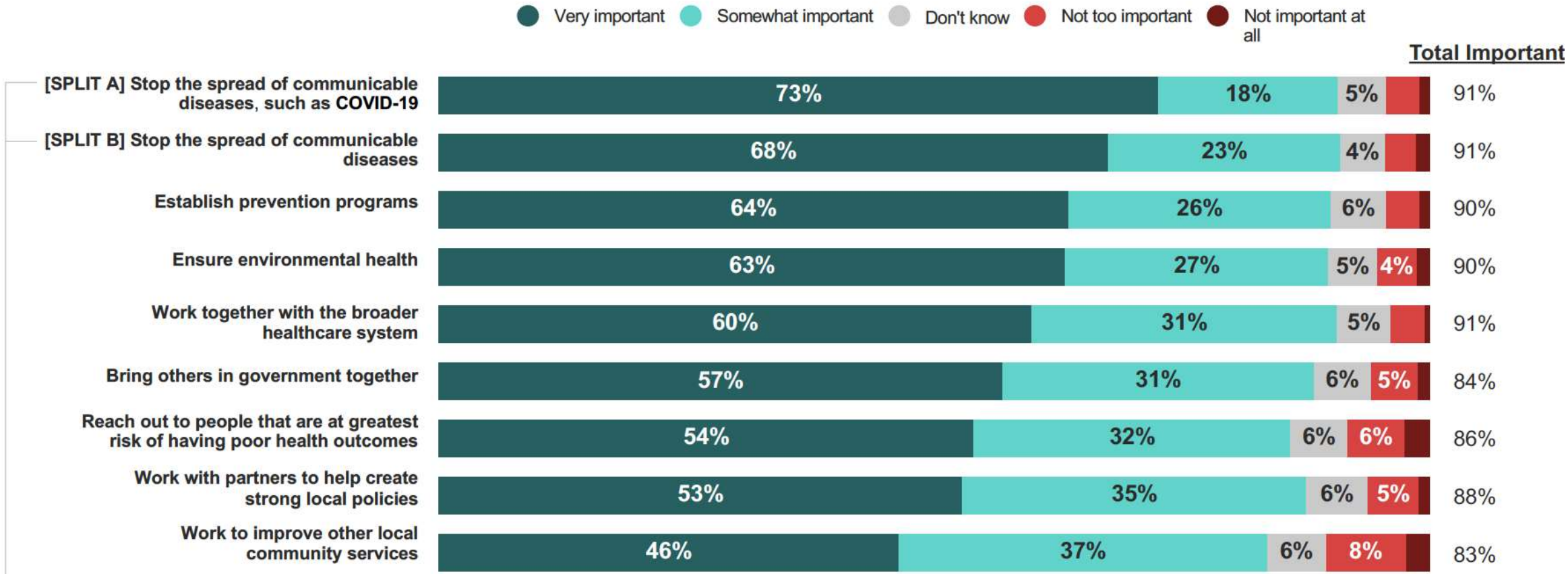
PERCEPTIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPTS.

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A majority of adults say it is important that their local health department does all of the tested actions in their local community.

Below are some things that your local public health department could do in your community. For each item, indicate how important, if at all, it is to you personally that your local health department does this in your local community.



Adults in split sample A (73%) are more likely than adults in split sample B (68%) to say that “stop the spread of communicable diseases” is *very important*.

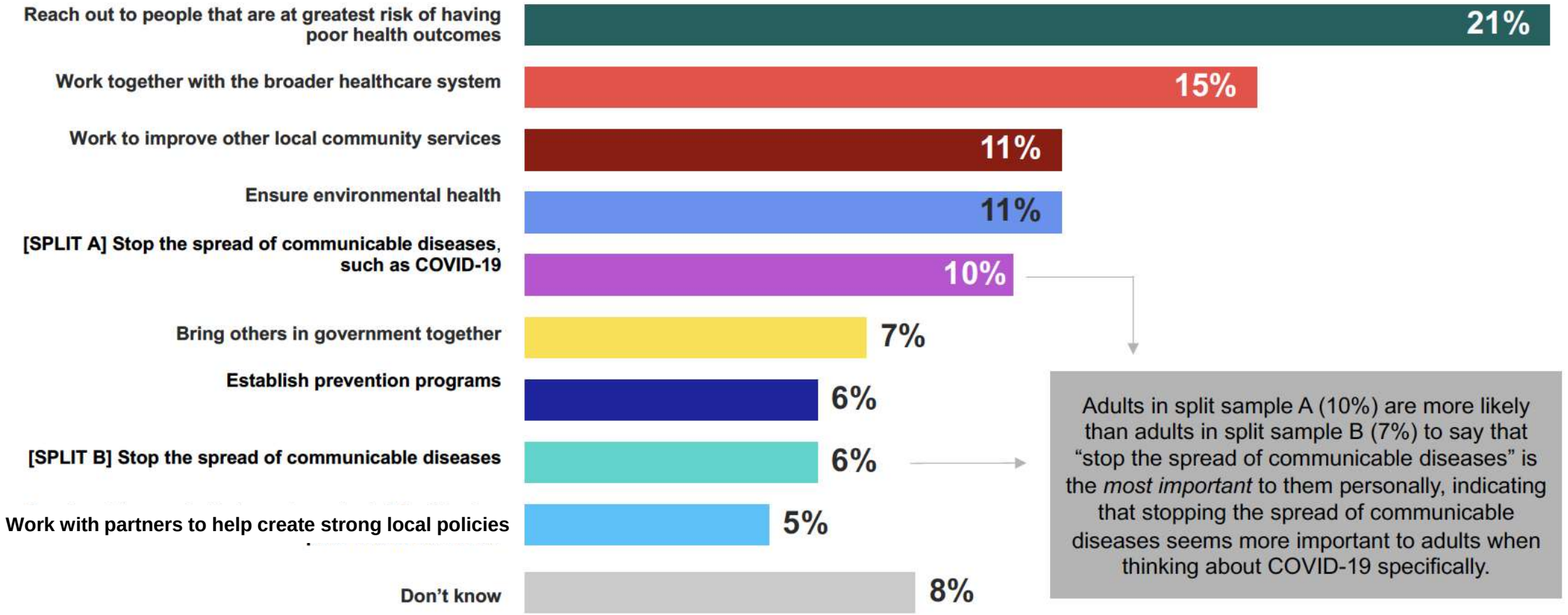
PERCEPTIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPTS.

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When asked to select the most important item, a plurality of adults say it is most important their local health department reach out to people that are at greatest risk of having poor health outcomes (21%), followed by work together with the broader health care system (15%).

And, which of the following is **most important** to you personally that your local health department does in your local community?



Adults in split sample A (10%) are more likely than adults in split sample B (7%) to say that "stop the spread of communicable diseases" is the *most important* to them personally, indicating that stopping the spread of communicable diseases seems more important to adults when thinking about COVID-19 specifically.

PERCEPTIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPTS.

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Rural adults (25%) are more likely than suburban (19%) and urban (19%) adults to say it is *most important* that their local health department reach out to people that are at greatest risk of having poor health outcomes.

And, which of the following is **most important** to you personally that your local health department does in your local community?

Total Important	All Adults	Community Type			Income Level		
	Adults	Urban	Suburban	Rural	<$50k	$50k-$100k	$100k+
[SPLIT A] Stop the spread of communicable diseases, such as COVID-19	10%	11%	10%	10%	10%	11%	10%
[SPLIT B] Stop the spread of communicable diseases	6%	6%	6%	6%	5%	6%	7%
Establish prevention programs	6%	8%	7%	4%	6%	7%	8%
Ensure environmental health	11%	11%	11%	10%	11%	11%	9%
Work together with the broader healthcare system	15%	15%	16%	14%	14%	16%	18%
Bring others in government together	7%	6%	8%	6%	5%	9%	10%
Reach out to people that are at greatest risk of having poor health outcomes	21%	19%	19%	25%	22%	20%	18%
Work with partners to help create strong local policies	5%	5%	4%	6%	4%	7%	6%
Work to improve other local community services	11%	12%	12%	10%	13%	9%	10%
Don't Know	8%	8%	7%	9%	10%	5%	5%

PERCEPTIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPTS.

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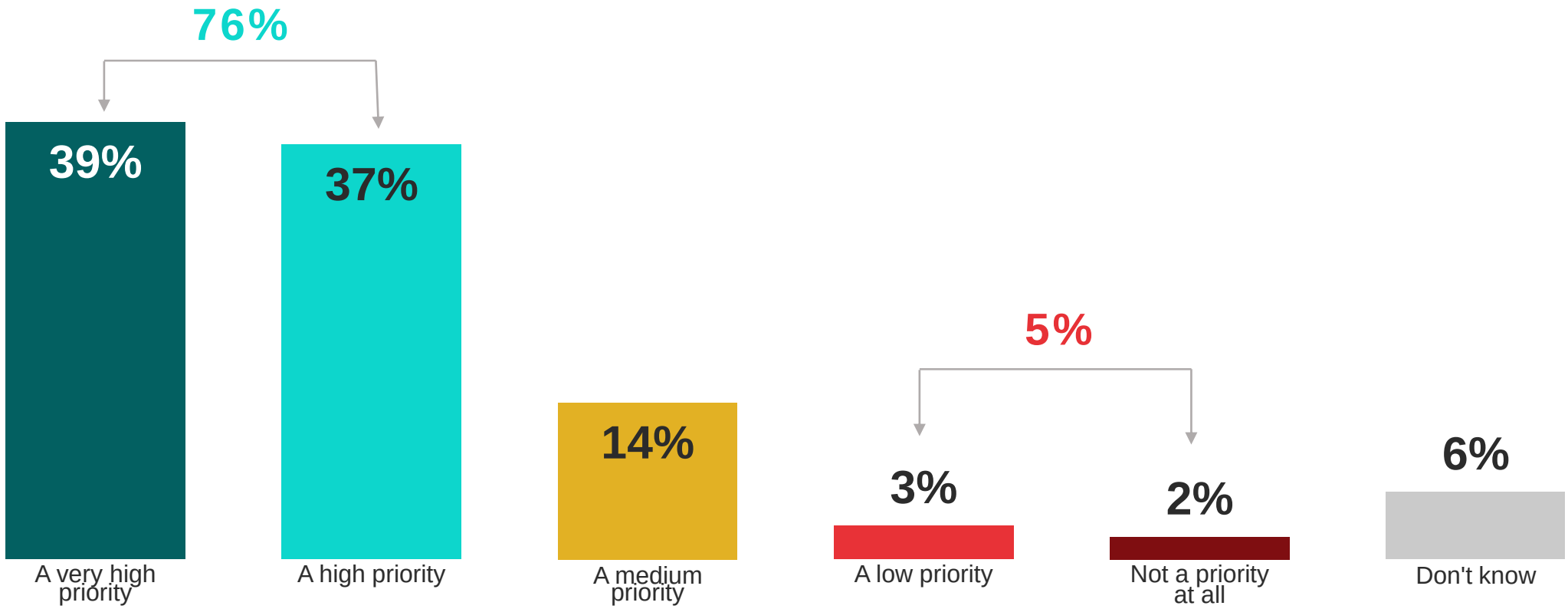
Younger adults are more likely than older adults to say it is most important to them that their local health department works to improve other local community services.

And, which of the following is **most important** to you personally that your local health department does in your local community?

Total Important	All Adults	Age				Ethnicity			
	Adults	18-34	35-44	45-64	65+	White	Hispanic	Black	Other
[SPLIT A] Stop the spread of communicable diseases, such as COVID-19	10%	7%	8%	11%	14%	11%	10%	7%	10%
[SPLIT B] Stop the spread of communicable diseases	6%	4%	7%	7%	6%	6%	4%	4%	7%
Establish prevention programs	6%	7%	7%	6%	5%	6%	7%	7%	5%
Ensure environmental health	11%	14%	9%	11%	7%	11%	15%	6%	15%
Work together with the broader healthcare system	15%	12%	14%	18%	18%	16%	10%	18%	8%
Bring others in government together	7%	5%	7%	6%	11%	7%	6%	8%	6%
Reach out to people that are at greatest risk of having poor health outcomes	21%	19%	18%	20%	25%	20%	19%	23%	20%
Work with partners to help create strong local policies	5%	6%	7%	4%	4%	5%	4%	5%	5%
Work to improve other local community services	11%	15%	17%	9%	5%	10%	18%	14%	16%
Don't Know	8%	10%	6%	9%	5%	8%	7%	10%	9%

Three quarters of adults (76%) say it is a high or very high priority for their state's government to ensure that every community within their state receive all of the tested public health services.

- Thinking again about all of the services that your local public health department could do in your community, how much of a priority, if at all, do you think it is for your state's government to ensure that every community in your state receive all of these public health services from their local public health department?

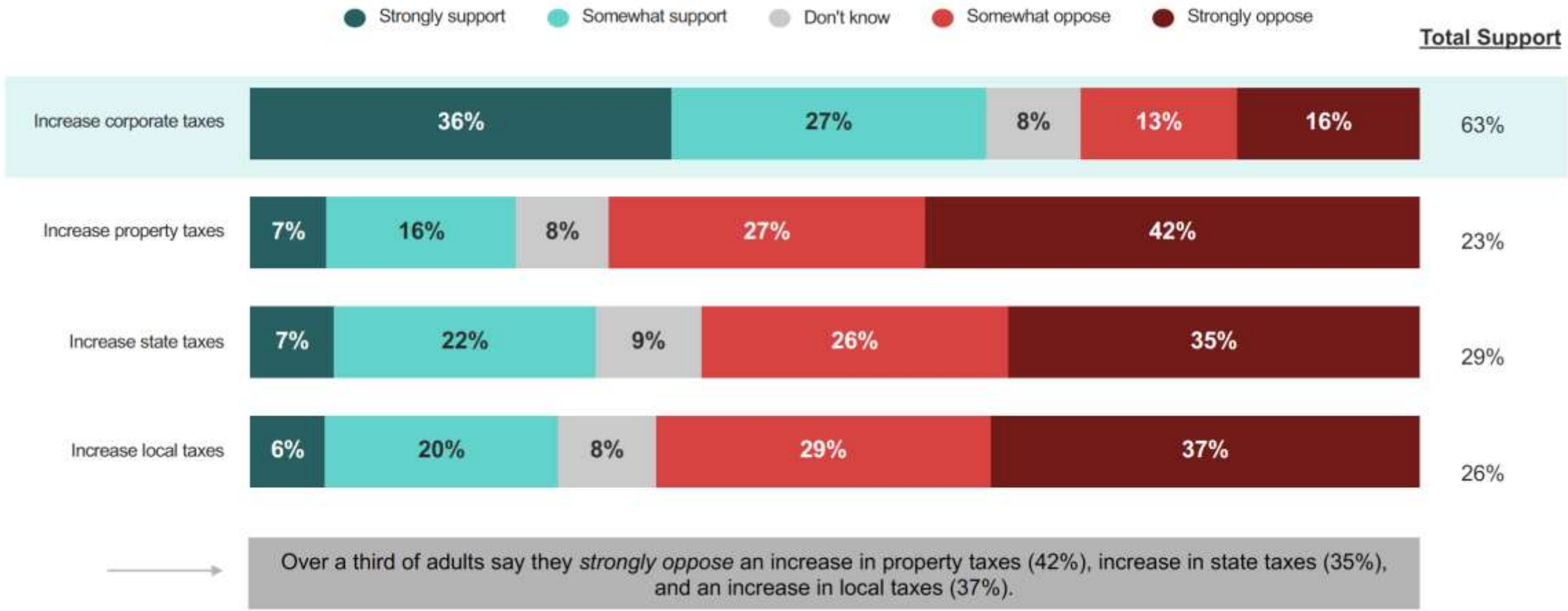


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PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITIES

Two thirds of adults (63%) say they support an increase in corporate taxes to ensure that every community within their state receives public health services from their local health department, including 36% that say they *strongly support* an increase.

Do you support or oppose each of the following ways to fund public health services in your local health department to ensure that every community in your state receives public health services from their local public health department?



Over a third of adults say they *strongly oppose* an increase in property taxes (42%), increase in state taxes (35%), and an increase in local taxes (37%).

Democrats are more likely than independents and Republicans to say they support an increase in corporate, property, state, and local taxes.

Do you support or oppose each of the following ways to fund public health services in your local health department to ensure that every community in your state receives public health services from their local public health department?

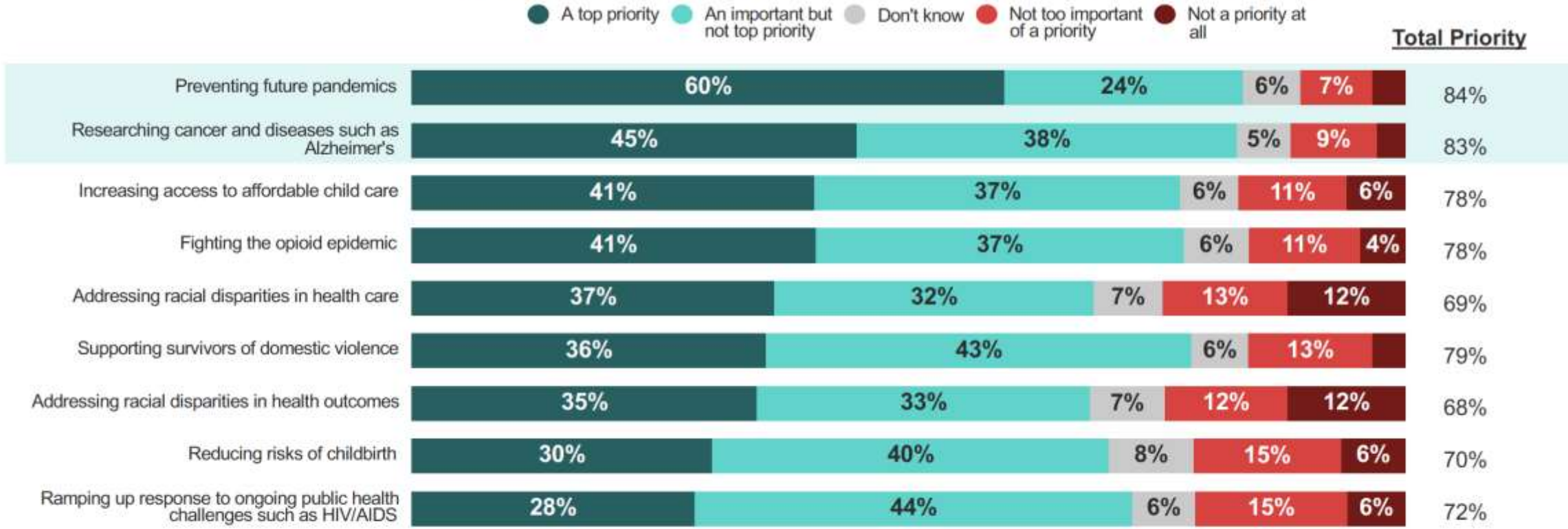
Total Support	All Adults	Party ID		
	Adults	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Increase corporate taxes	63%	79%	59%	46%
Increase property taxes	23%	35%	18%	13%
Increase state taxes	29%	41%	25%	20%
Increase local taxes	26%	38%	21%	18%

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PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITIES

Of the funding priorities tested, adults say that the highest priority is to allocate new funding to preventing future pandemics (84%) and researching cancer and diseases such as Alzheimer's (83%).

As you may know already, the Biden administration recently proposed additional funding to the Department of Health and Human Services. In your opinion, how much of a priority, if at all, is it that new funding is allocated to each of the following?



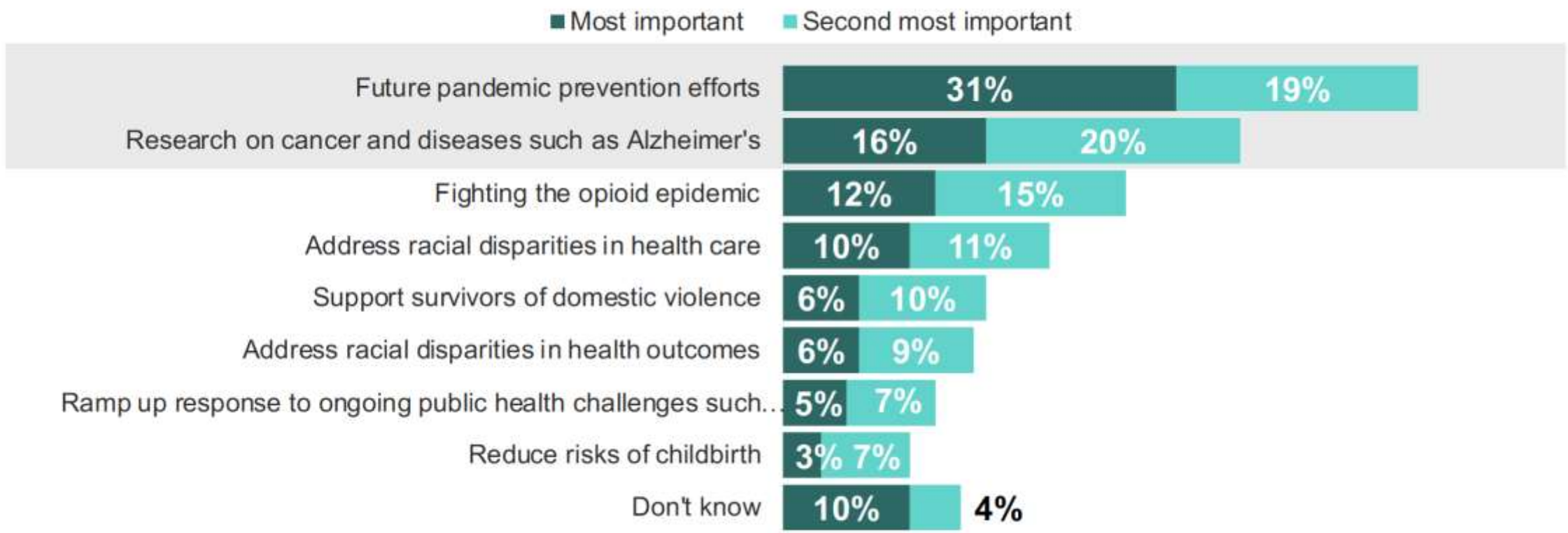
While two thirds of adult say addressing racial disparities in health care (69%) and addressing racial disparities in health outcomes (68%) are a priority, of the priorities tested, both are among the lowest priorities.

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PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITIES

When asked to chose what the most important priorities should be, adults are most likely to select future pandemic prevention efforts, followed by research on cancer and diseases such as Alzheimer's.

And, in your opinion, which of the following should be the most important and second most important priority?



METHODOLOGY

Morning Consult conducted a poll on behalf of the de Beaumont Foundation May 14-17, 2021, among a sample of 2,200 adults.

The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of adults based on gender, educational attainment, age, race, and region.

Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

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METHODOLOGY

Public Opinion Strategies conducted surveys the first week of September 2018 and the second week of July 2020. The sample was drawn randomly from state voter files, with state-specific sample size determined by individual voters' selection probability proportional to size of the state voter population, relative to the national population of registered voters. Quotas were set by specific demographics such as state, region, age, gender, and ethnicity based on data from the U.S. Census and voter files to ensure the sample was representative of the registered voter population nationally. Interviews were conducted by phone using CATI software with trained live interviewers. Nonresponse weights were used to adjust the resulting estimates to be nationally representative. Overall, 1,800 individuals participated in the two polls—1,000 in 2018 and 800 in 2020.

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