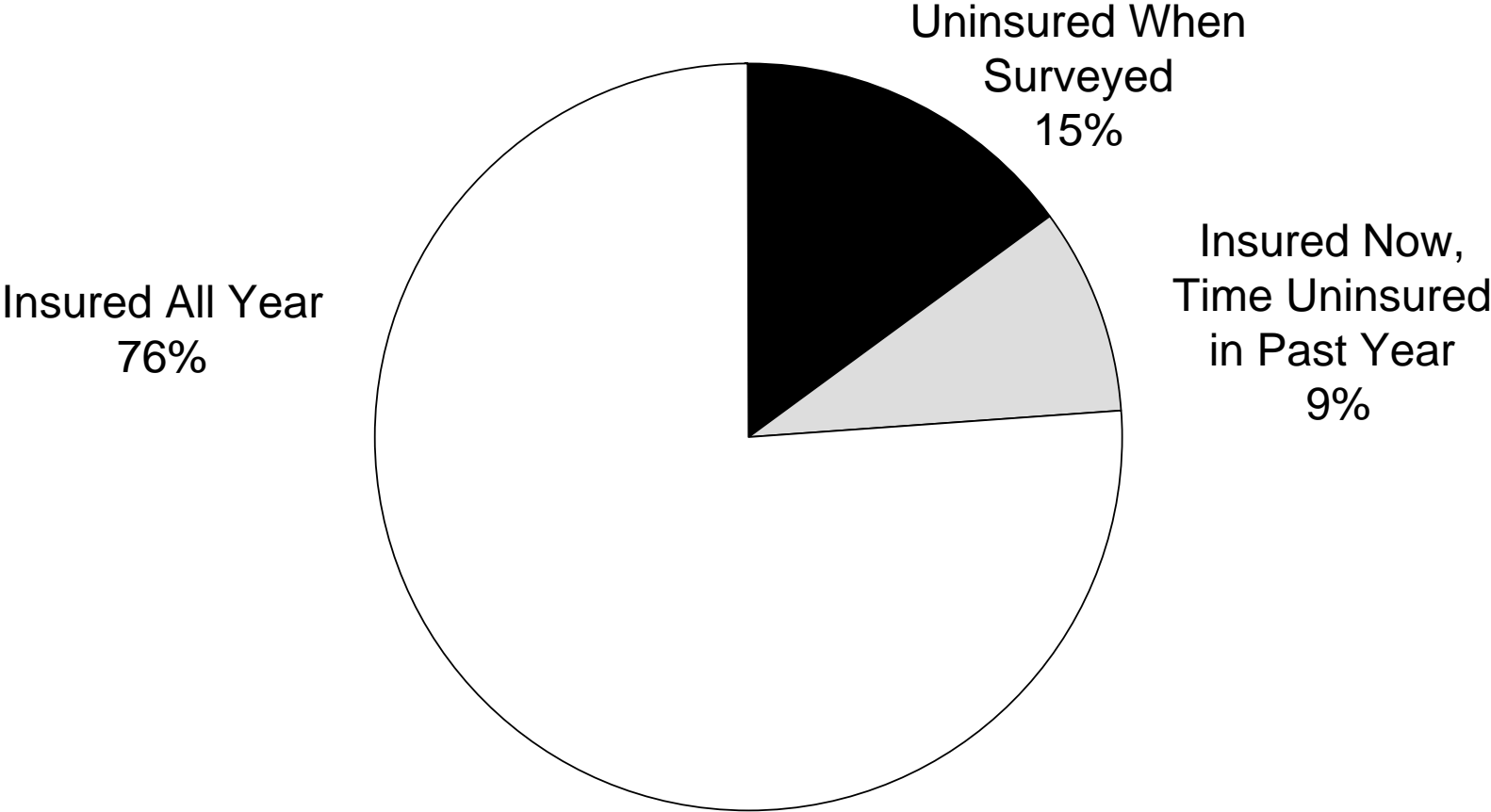


**SECURITY MATTERS:
HOW INSTABILITY IN HEALTH INSURANCE
PUTS U.S. WORKERS AT RISK**

**FINDINGS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH FUND
2001 HEALTH INSURANCE SURVEY**

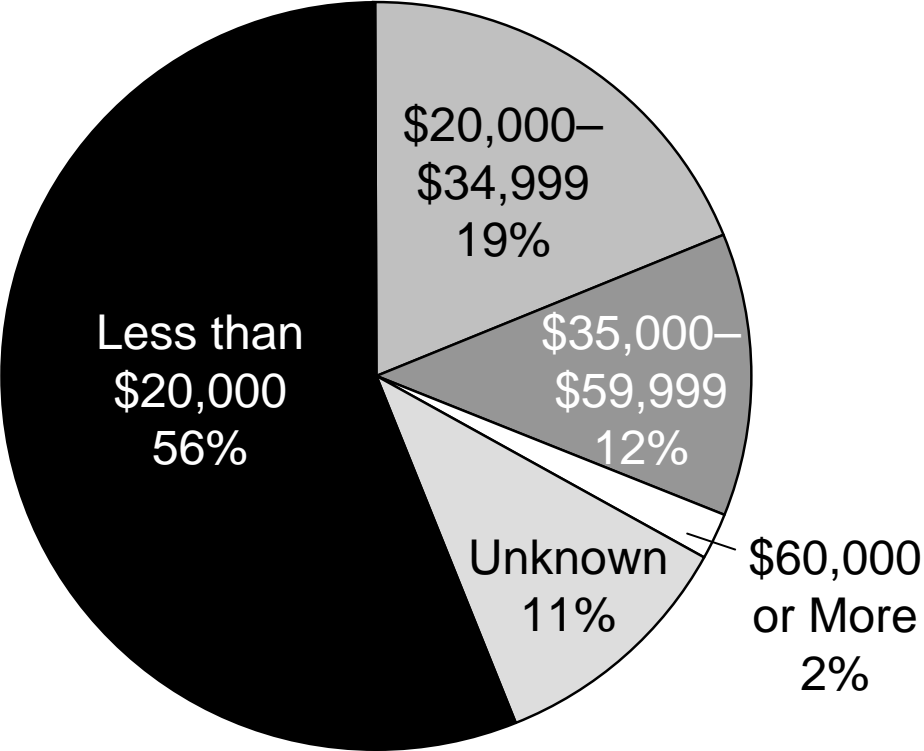
CHARTS

One of four adults—38 million—was uninsured during the past year.

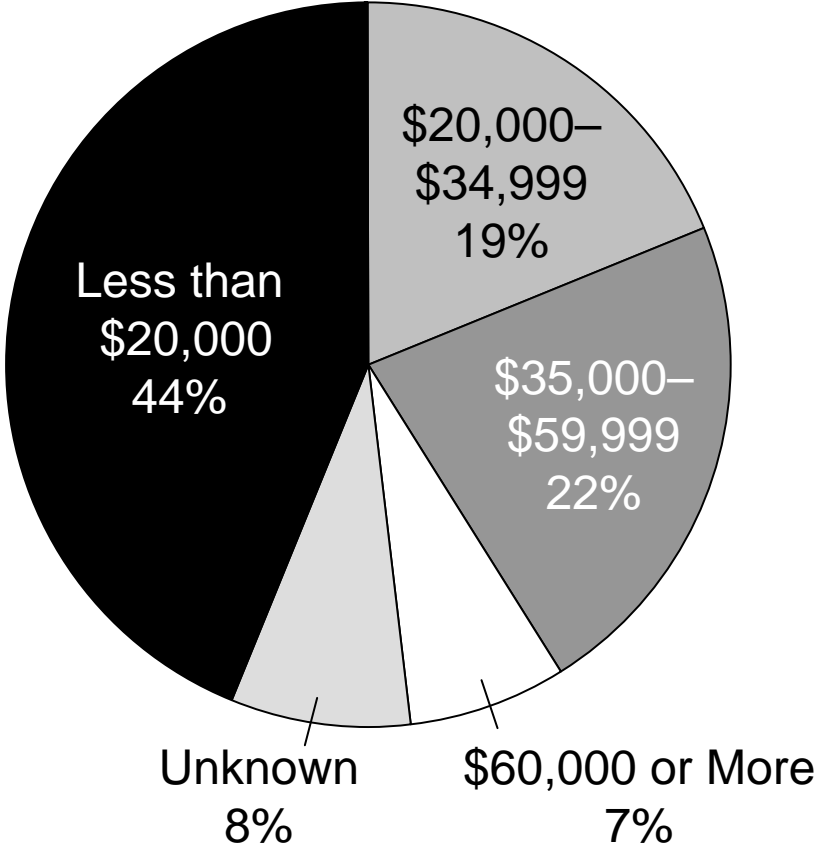


161.3 Million Adults Ages 19-64

Most uninsured adults have low family incomes.

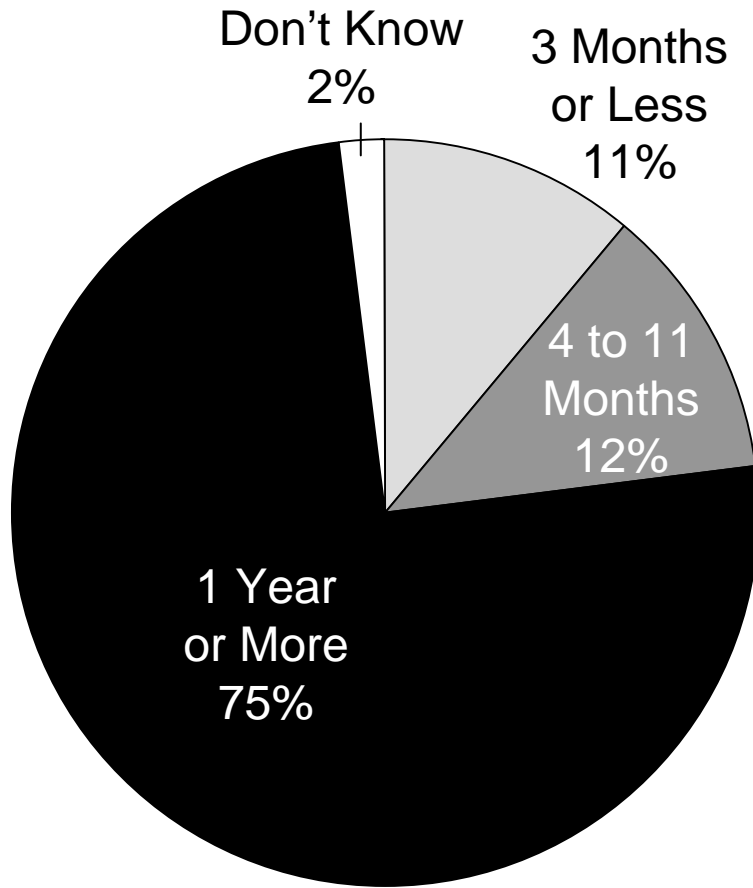


Uninsured Now
23.8 million

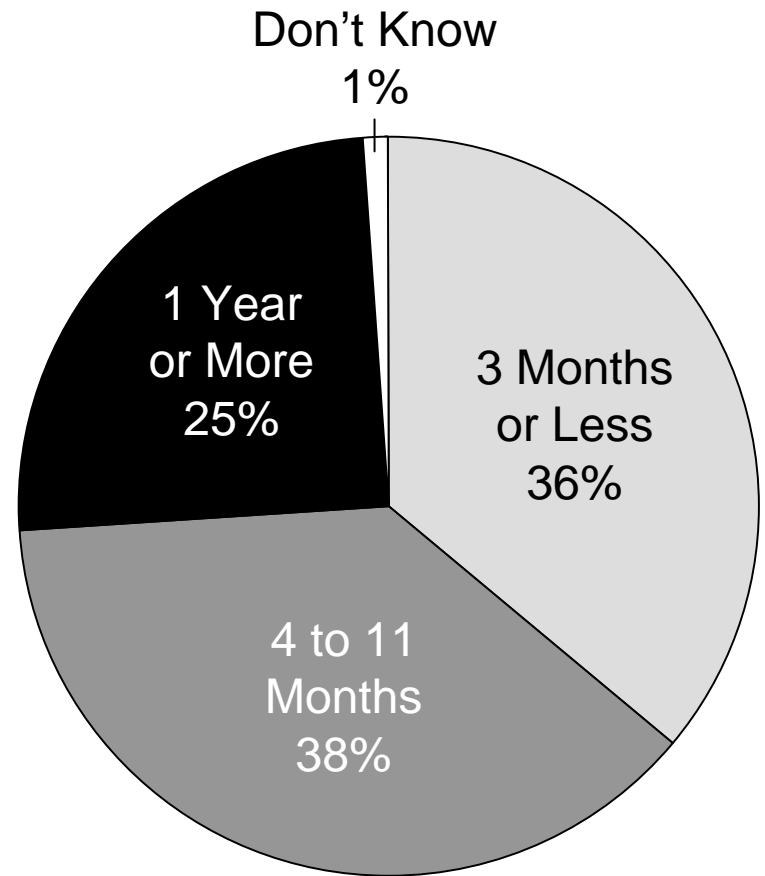


Insured Now,
Time Uninsured in Past Year
14.5 million

Length of Time Uninsured, Adults Ages 19–64



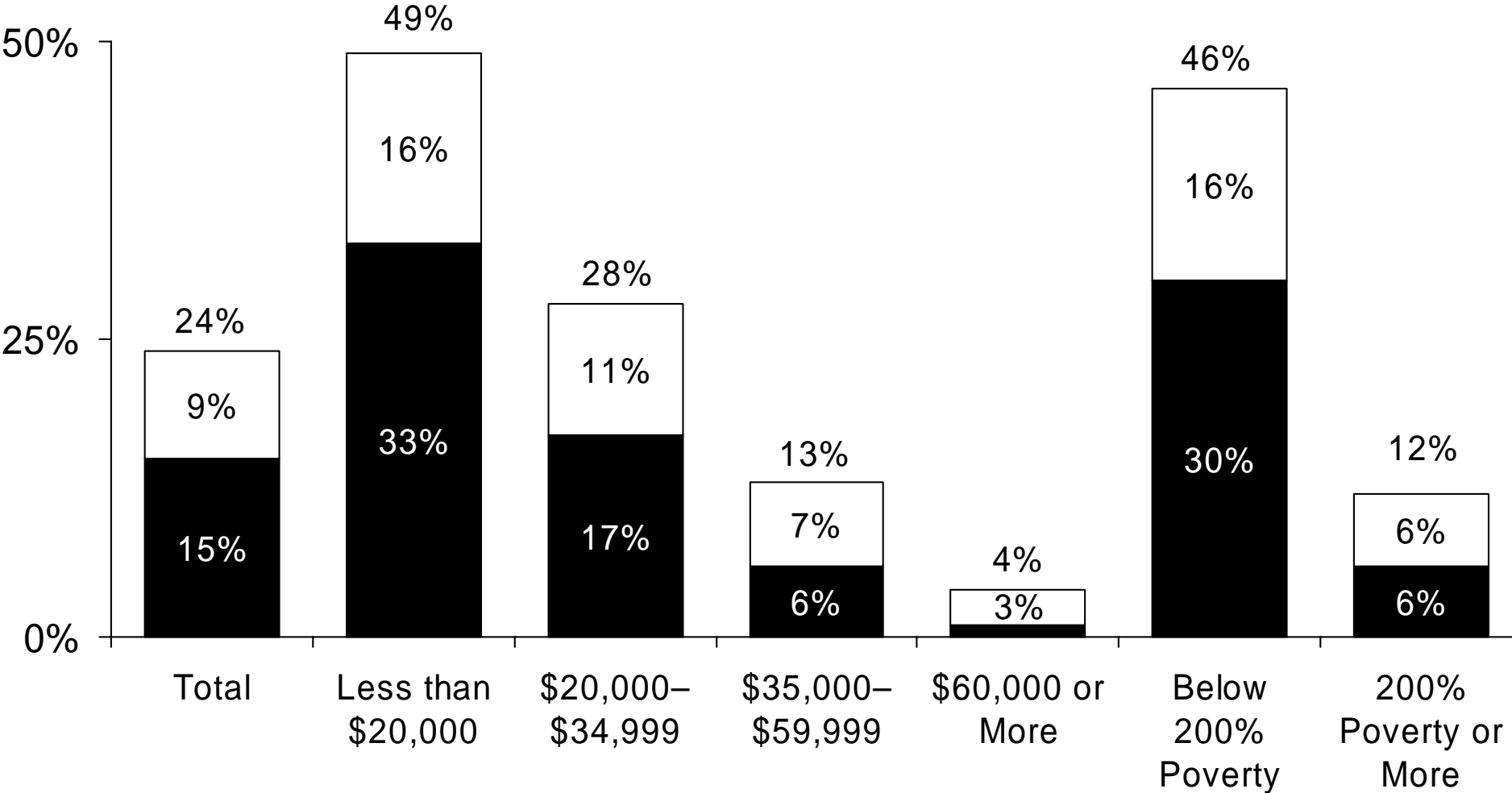
Uninsured Now



Insured Now,
Time Uninsured in Past Year

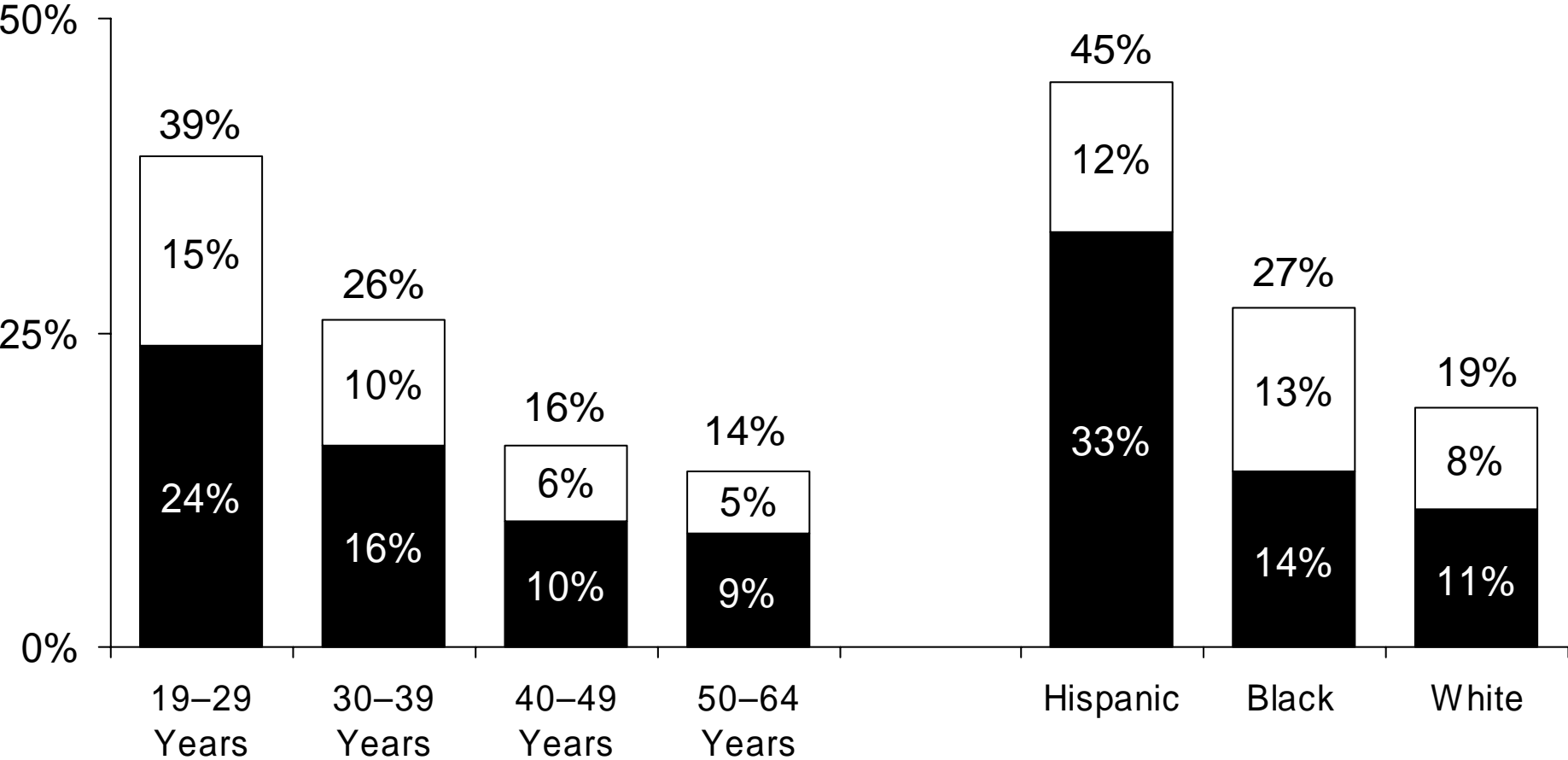
Nearly half of low-income adults were uninsured during the year as of July 2001.

■ Uninsured now □ Insured now, time uninsured in past year

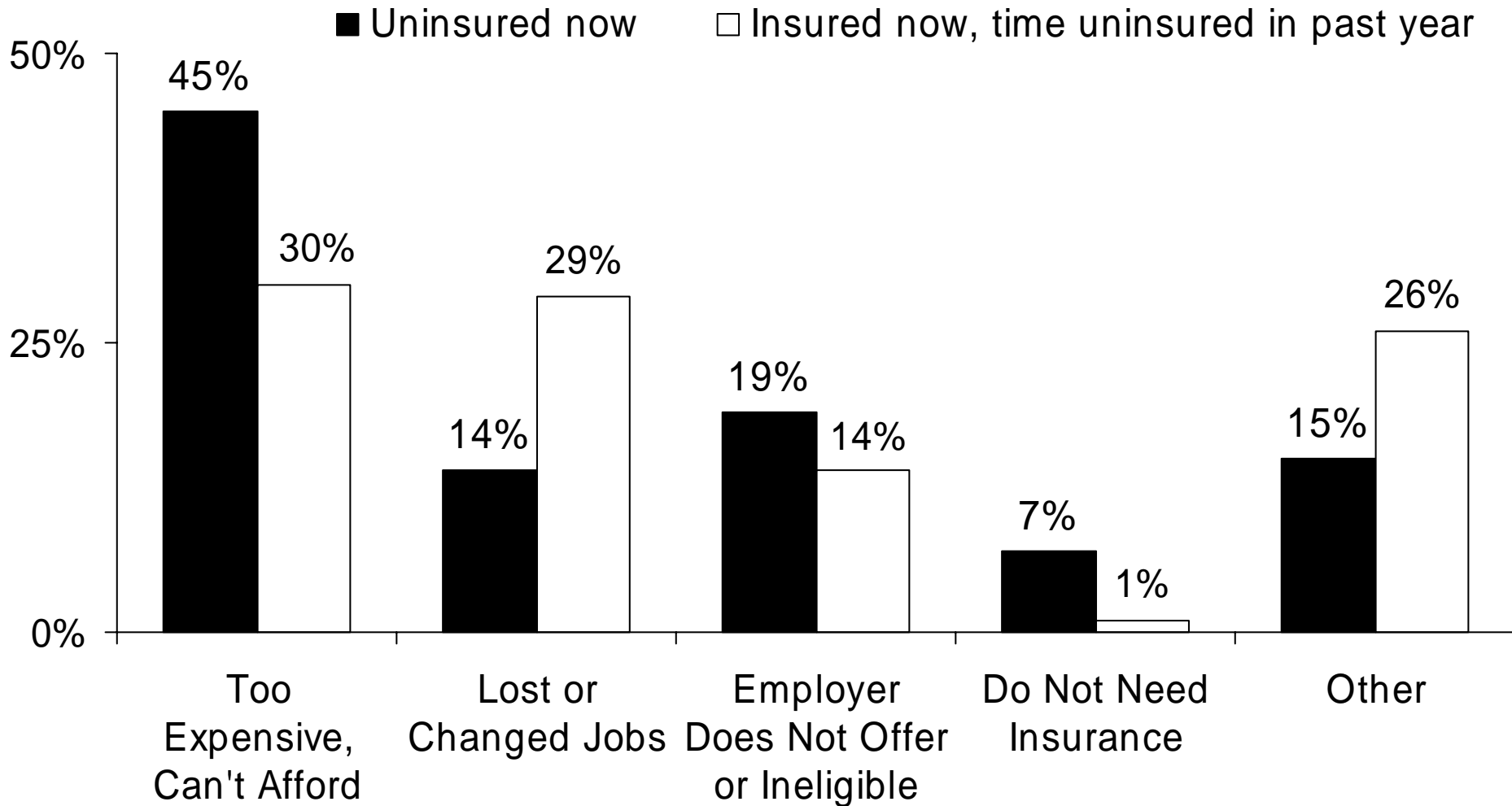


Young adults and Hispanics are at high risk for being uninsured.

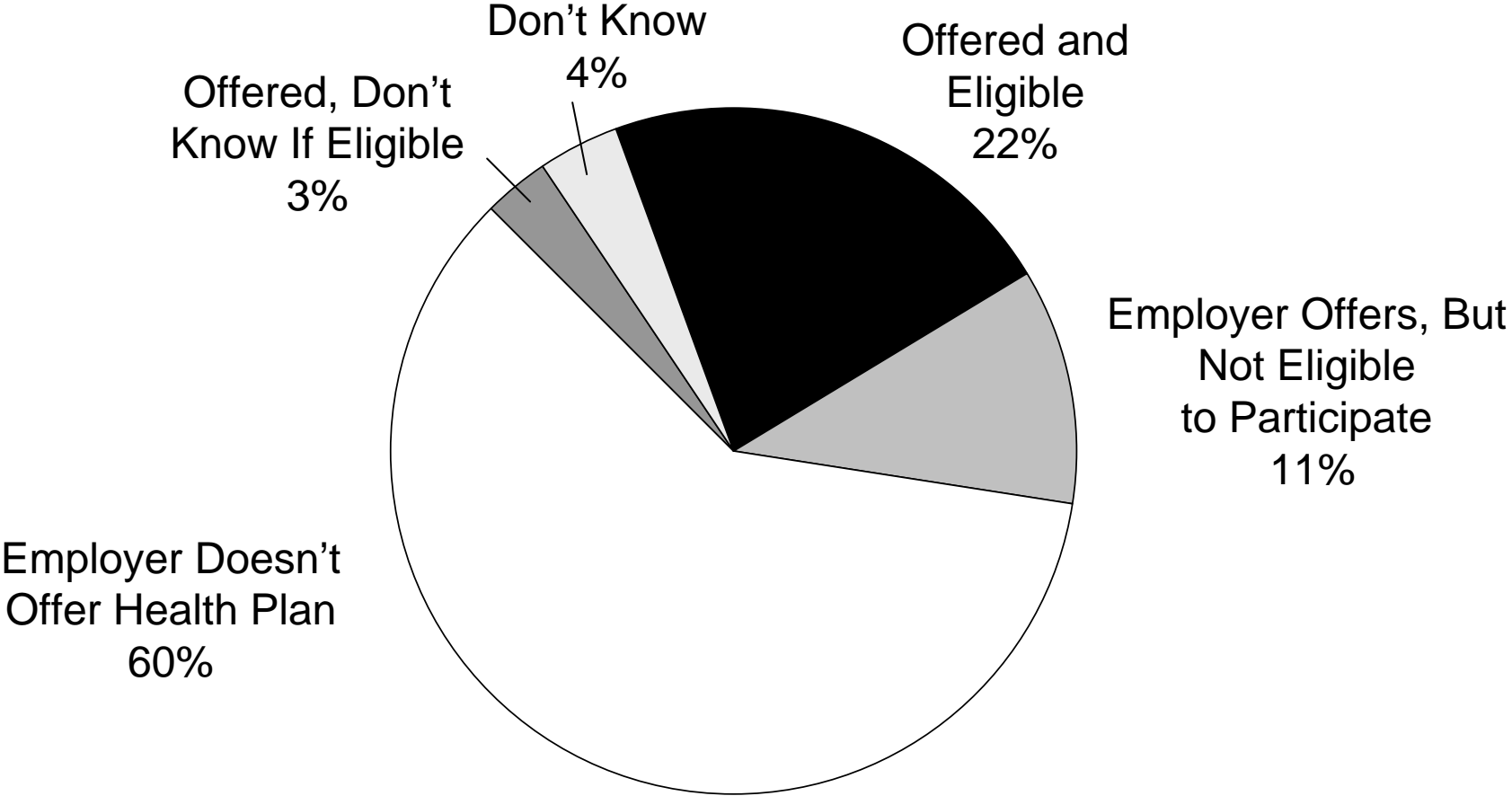
■ Uninsured now □ Insured now, time uninsured in past year



Why are you uninsured now? Why were you uninsured earlier in the year?



Most uninsured workers are not offered or eligible to participate in job-based coverage.

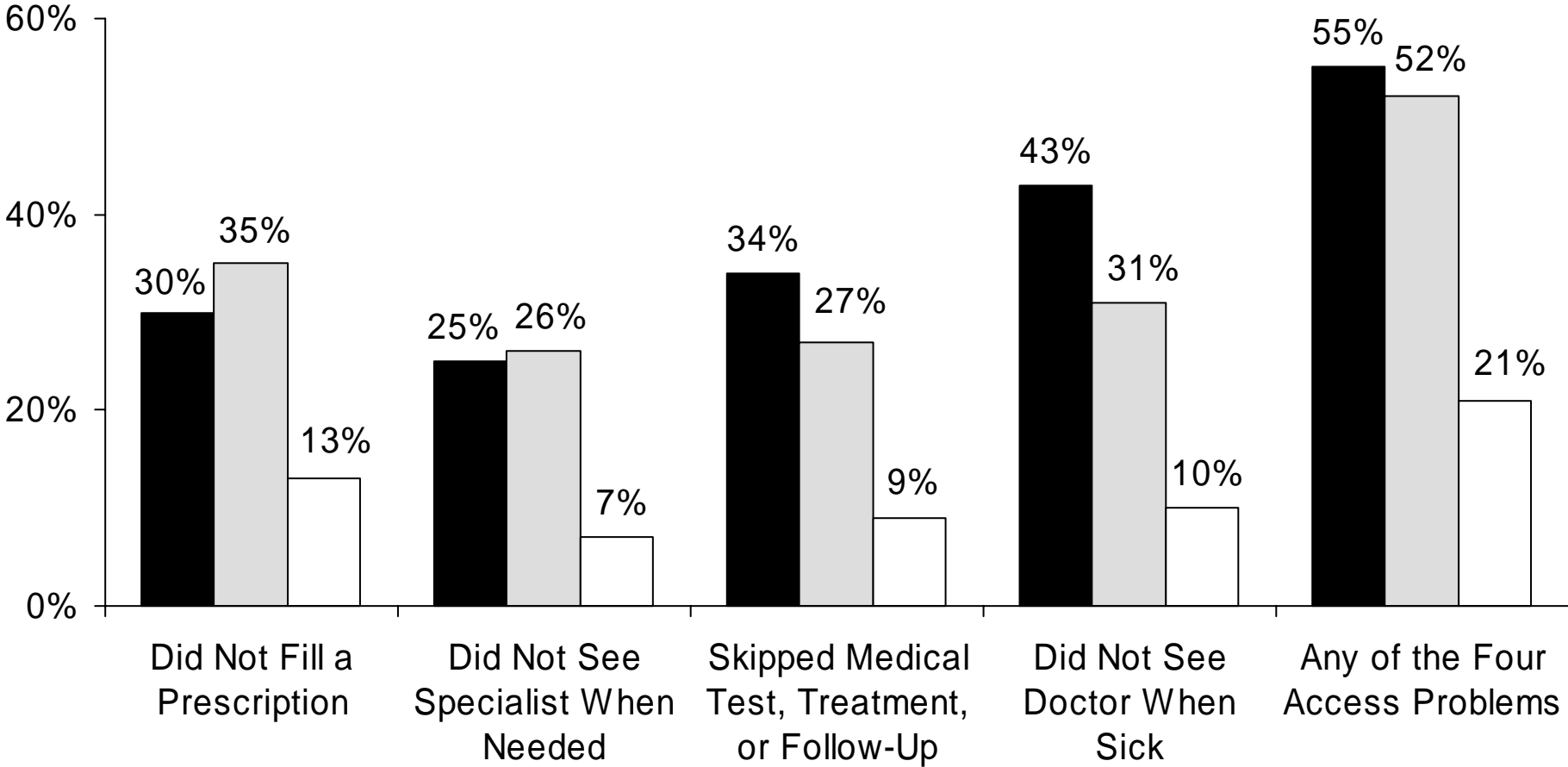


Currently Uninsured Working Adults Ages 19–64

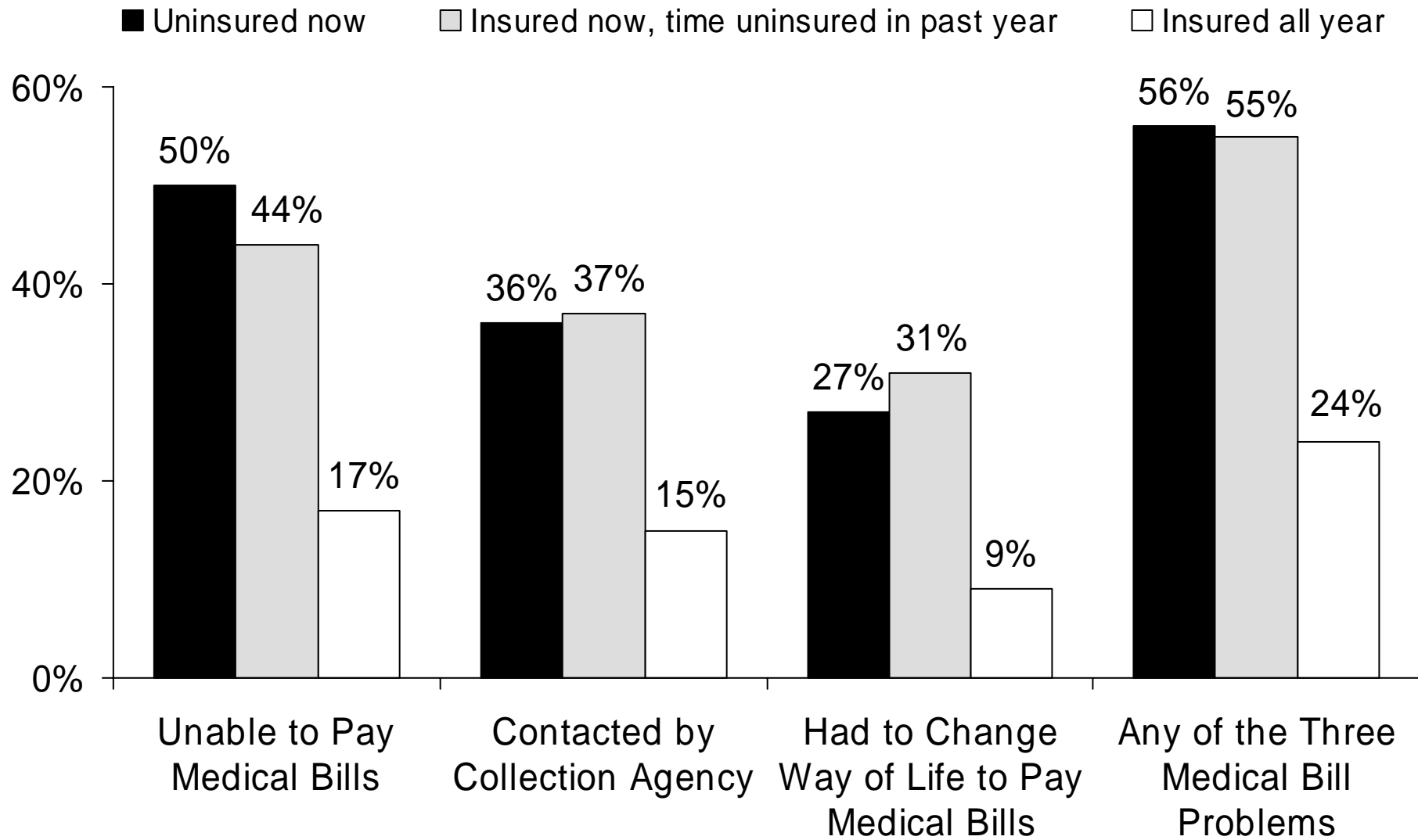
Adults with any time uninsured in the past year are two to four times more likely to have access problems than those insured all year.

Percent of adults who went without needed care in the past year due to cost

■ Uninsured now ■ Insured now, time uninsured in past year □ Insured all year



Over half of adults uninsured during the year had problems paying medical bills.



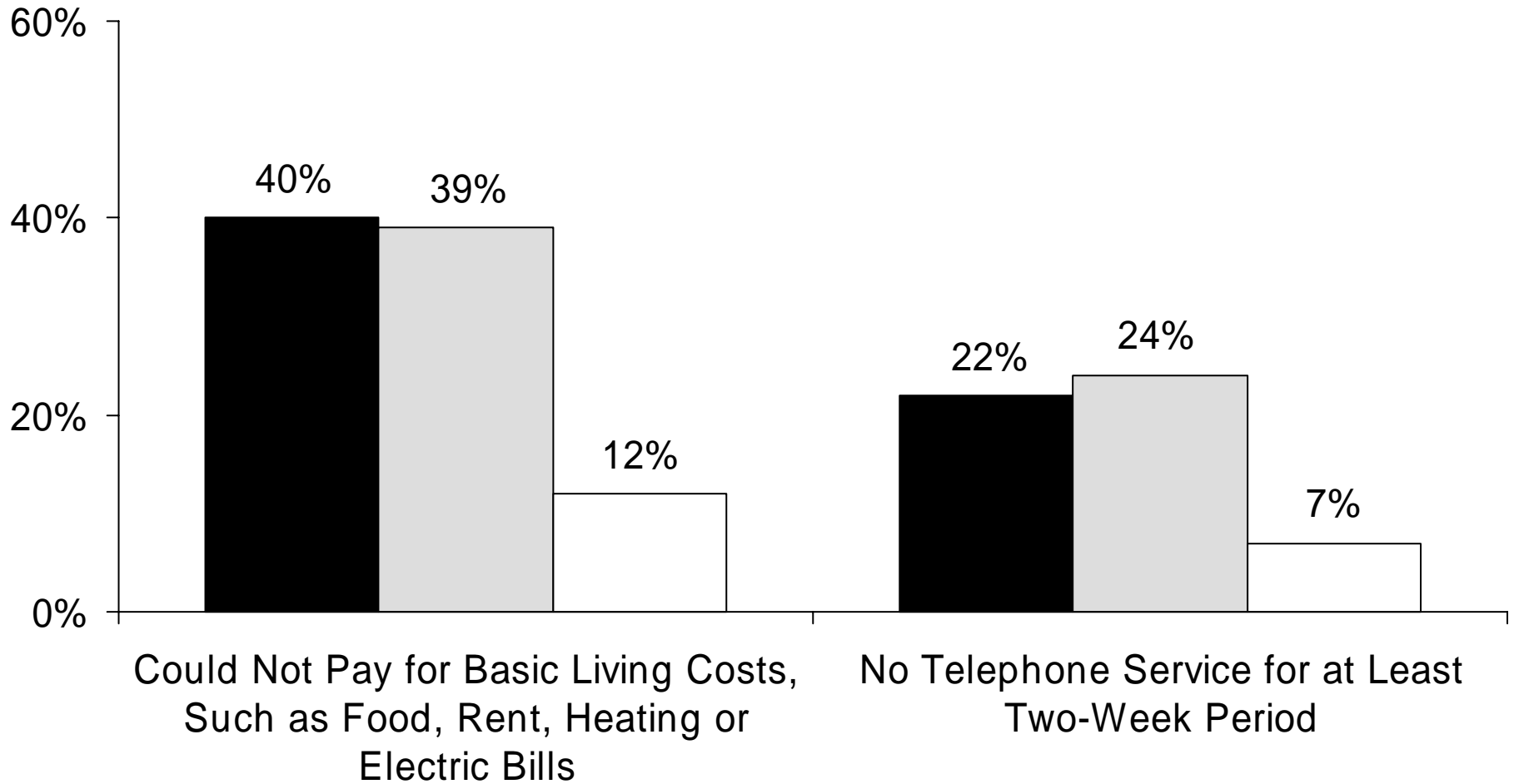
Financial Insecurity Due to Medical Bills Among Adults Ages 19–64

	Total	Uninsured Now	Insured Now, Time Uninsured in Past Year	Insured All Year
Had to change way of life to pay bills	13%	27%	31%	9%
Ways adults had to change life				
Used all or most of savings	70	70	76	68
Borrowed money from family or friend	58	64	70	49
Unable to pay for basic necessities	54	55	61	51
Needed loan or mortgage home	23	27	26	19

Difficulty Meeting Basic Needs Within Last Year

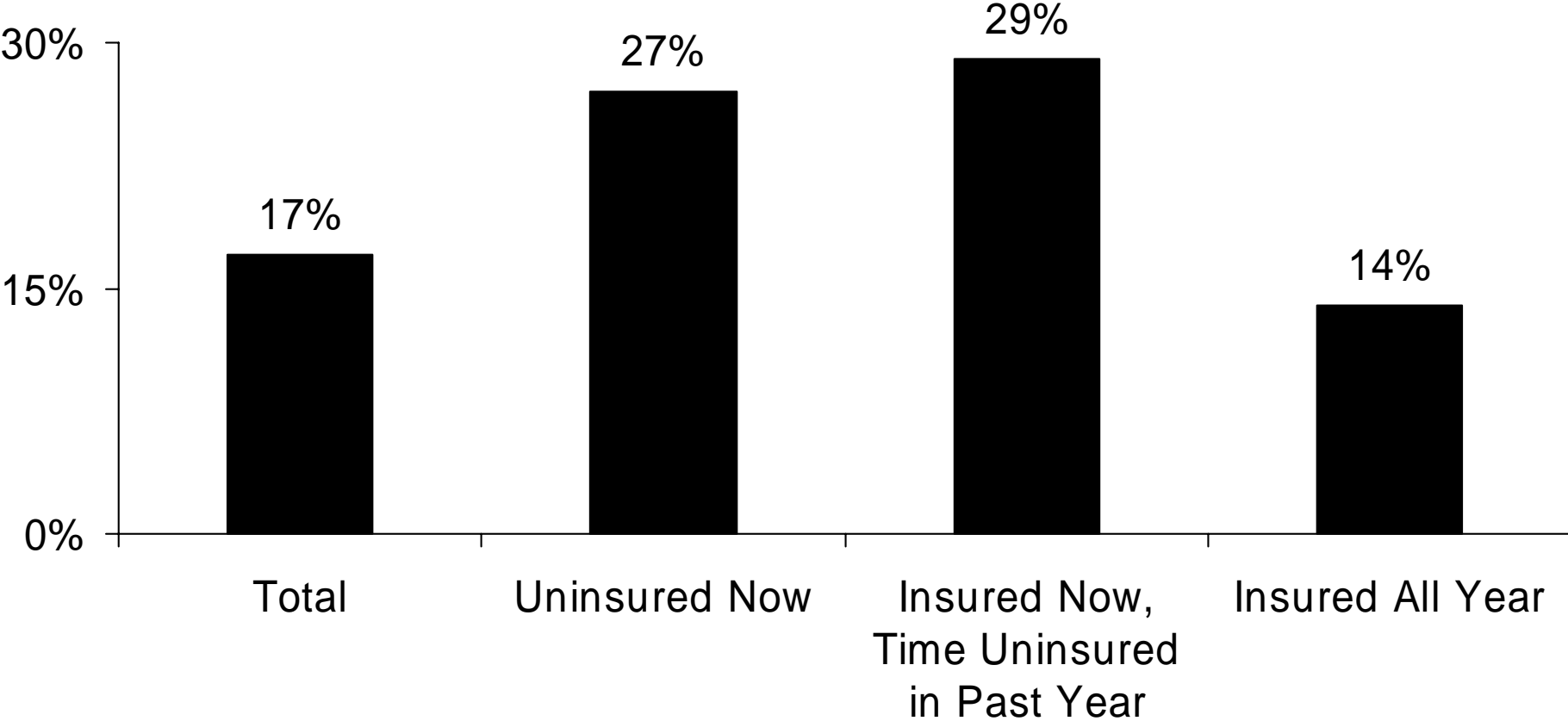
Percent of adults reporting:

■ Uninsured now ■ Insured now, time uninsured in past year □ Insured all year



More than one of four uninsured adults had to pay cash in advance for medical care.

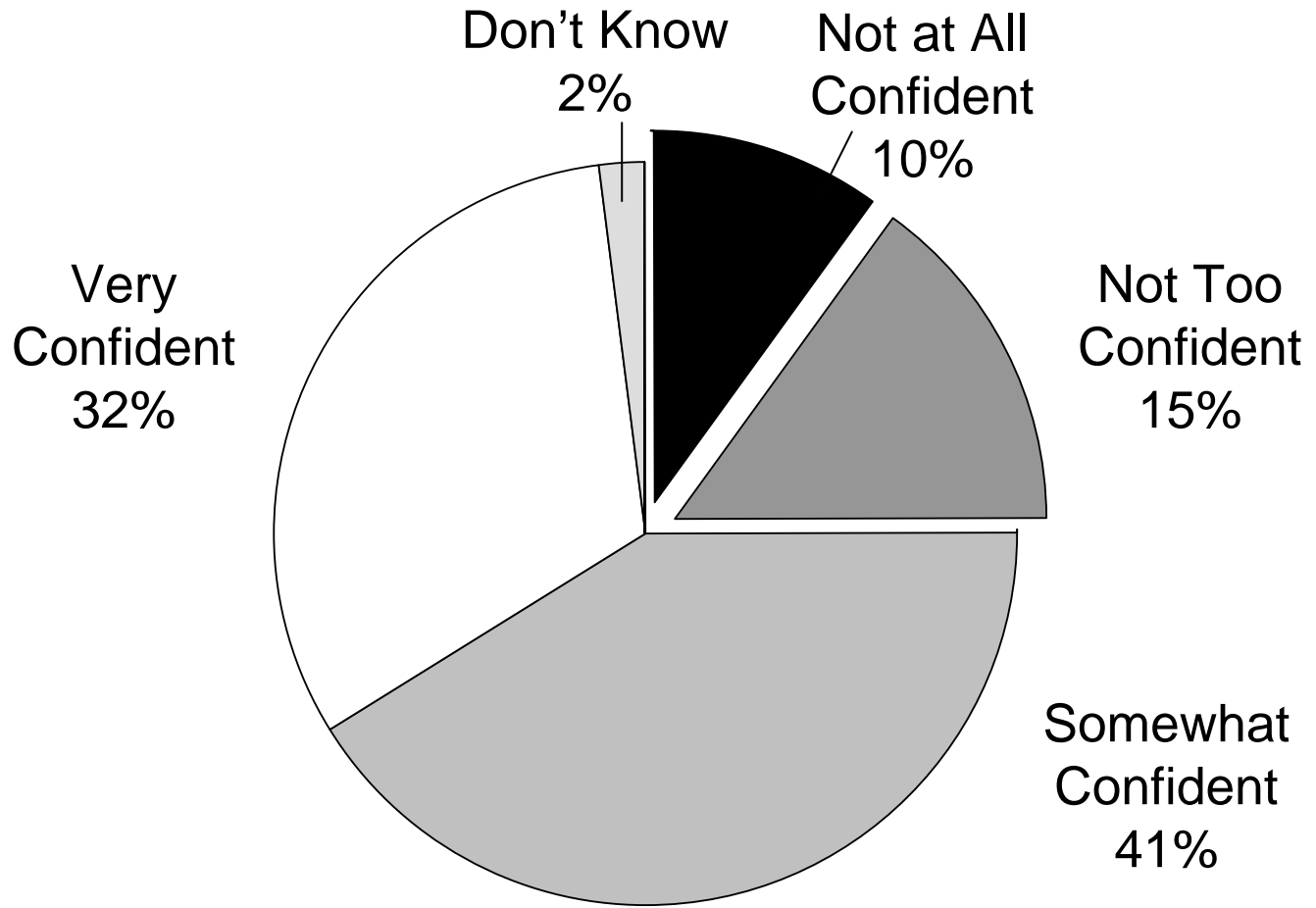
Percent of adults who had to pay cash in advance for medical care



Regular Source of Care and Doctor Ratings, by Insurance Status, Adults Ages 19–64

	Total	Uninsured Now	Insured Now, Time Uninsured in Past Year	Insured All Year
Have regular doctor you rely on for care	76%	42%	69%	84%
With current source of care five years or more	51%	38%	35%	55%
Rating of quality of physician care				
Excellent or very good	67%	43%	63%	72%
Good	23%	33%	28%	20%
Only fair or poor	8%	18%	7%	6%

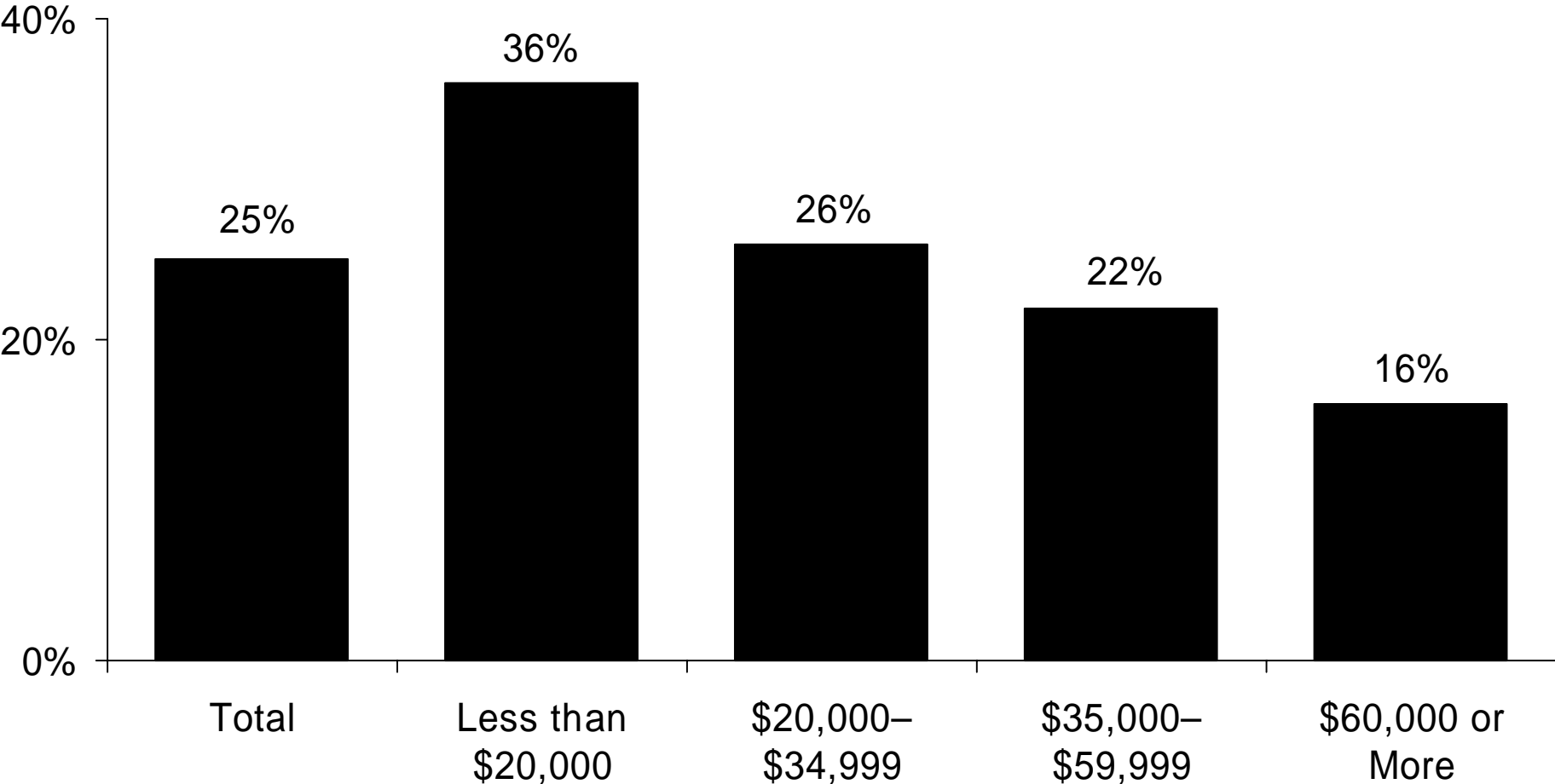
Thinking about your future medical care needs, how confident are you that you will be able to get high-quality health care when you need it?



Adults Ages 19-64

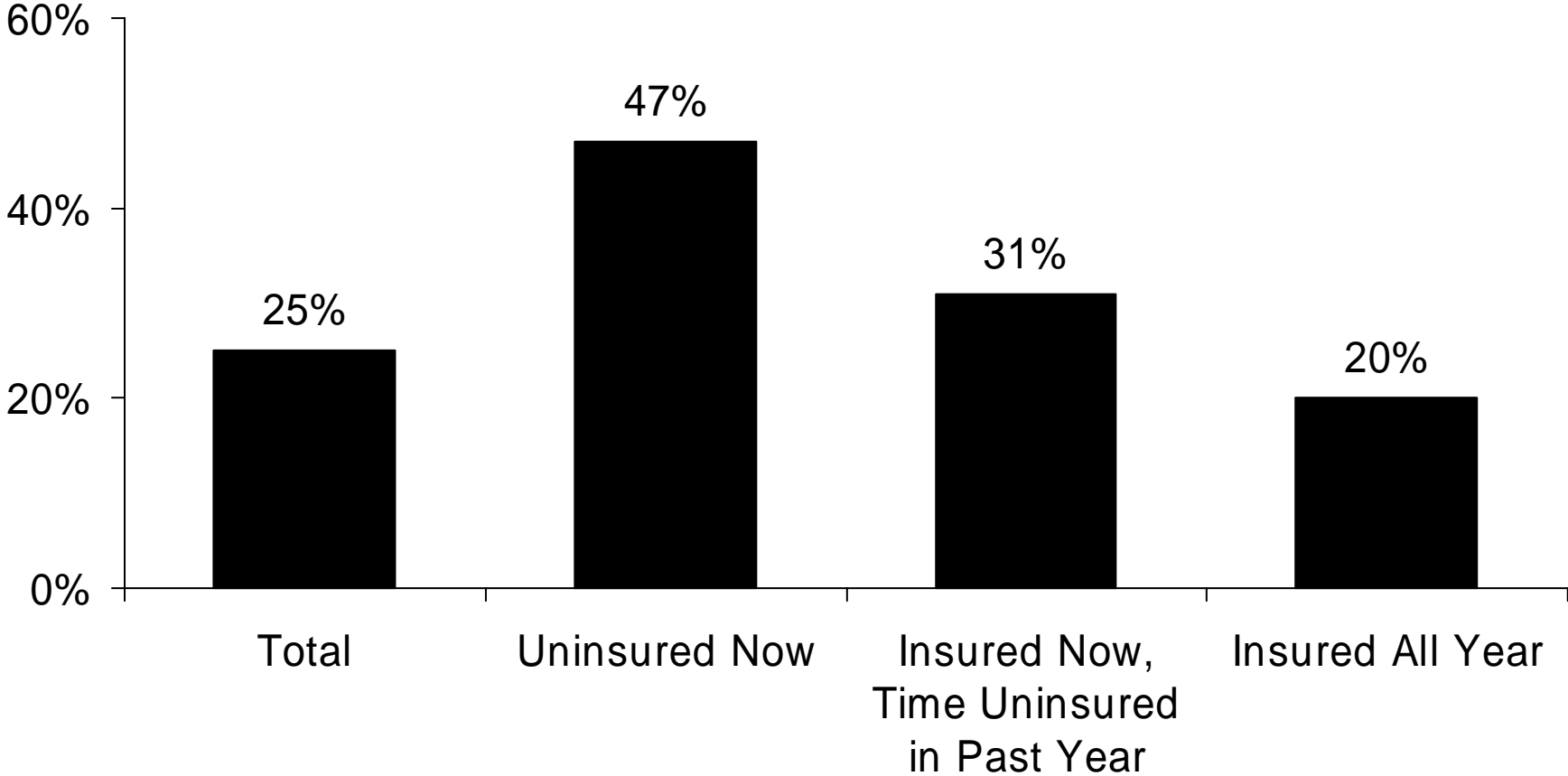
Low-income adults ages 19 to 64 are more likely to lack confidence they will get high-quality care when needed.

Percent of adults not too or not at all confident about getting high-quality care



Adults with any time uninsured lack confidence in their ability to get high-quality care when needed.

Percent of adults not too or not at all confident about getting high-quality care



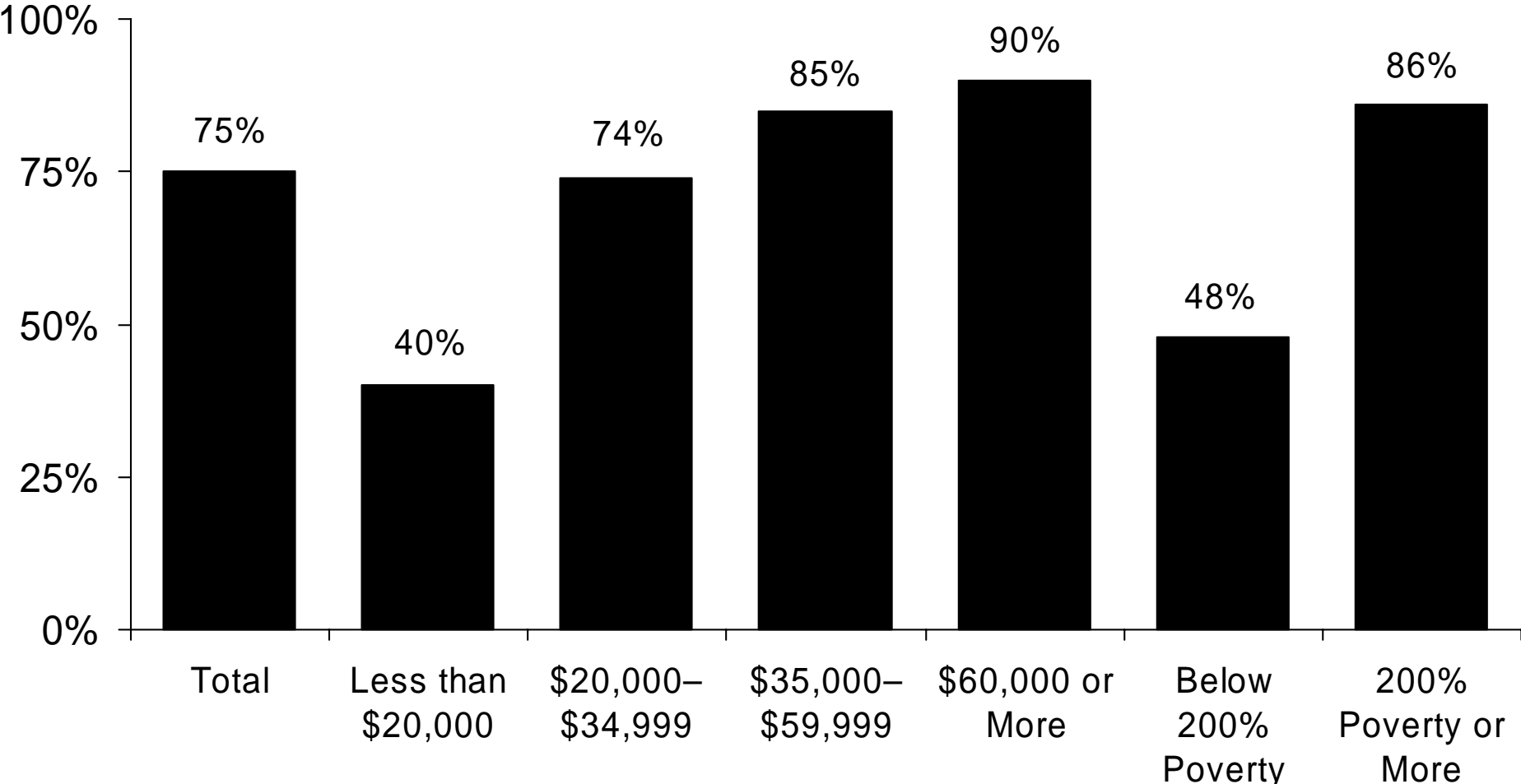
Lack of insurance for any family member increases family risk of financial insecurity due to medical bills.*

	Total	All Uninsured Now	Some Insured, Some Not Insured	All Continuously Insured
Total adults with families		4%	23%	73%
Financial Experiences				
Medical bill problems in past year				
Not able to pay medical bills	25	58	47	16
Contacted by collection agency for medical bills	22	44	38	15
Had to change way of life significantly to pay bills	14	37	27	9
At least one of three types of medical bill problems	33	62	56	25

* Based on adults ages 19–64 who are married and/or have a child/children.

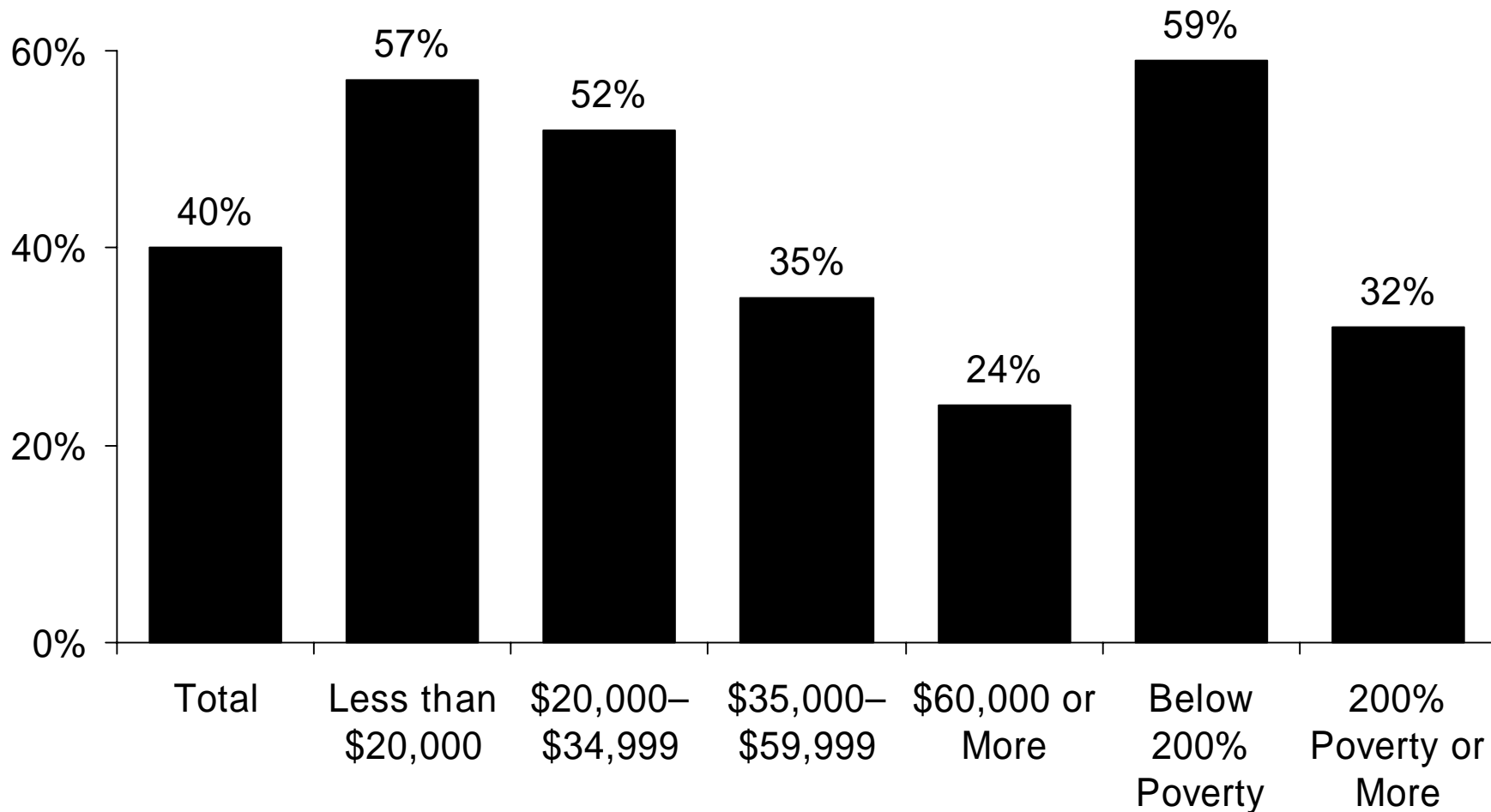
Low-income workers are much less likely to have employer-based insurance coverage.

Percent of workers who have employer-based insurance



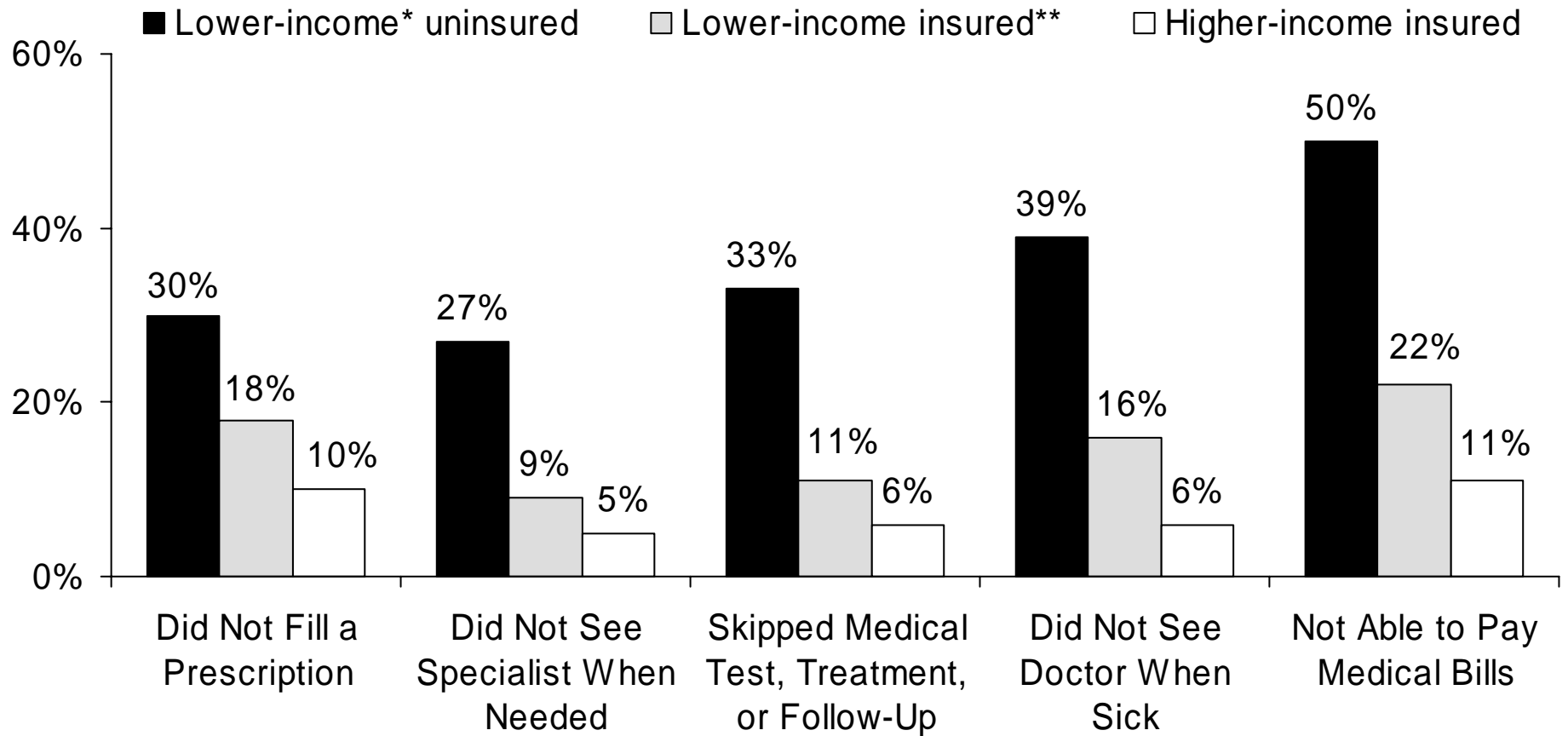
Working adults with low incomes are much more likely to experience access or medical bill problems.

Percent of workers who had an access or bill problem in the past year



Lower-income workers are at risk for access and medical bill problems, if uninsured.

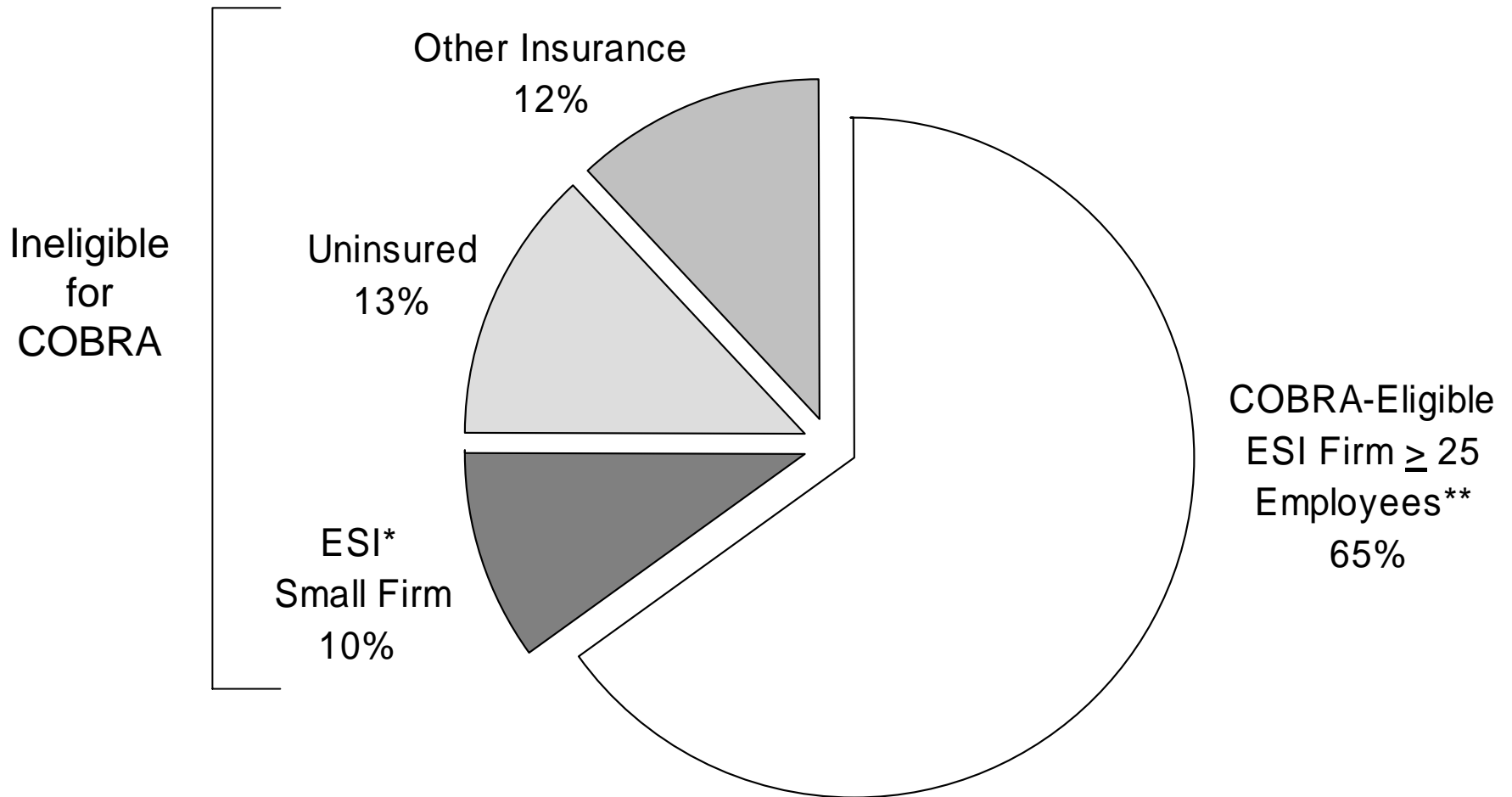
Percent of workers who had the following problems in the past year due to cost



* “Lower-income” is defined as having annual family income of less than \$35,000.

** “Insured” is insured all year.

Likely COBRA Eligibility of Workers Ages 19–64

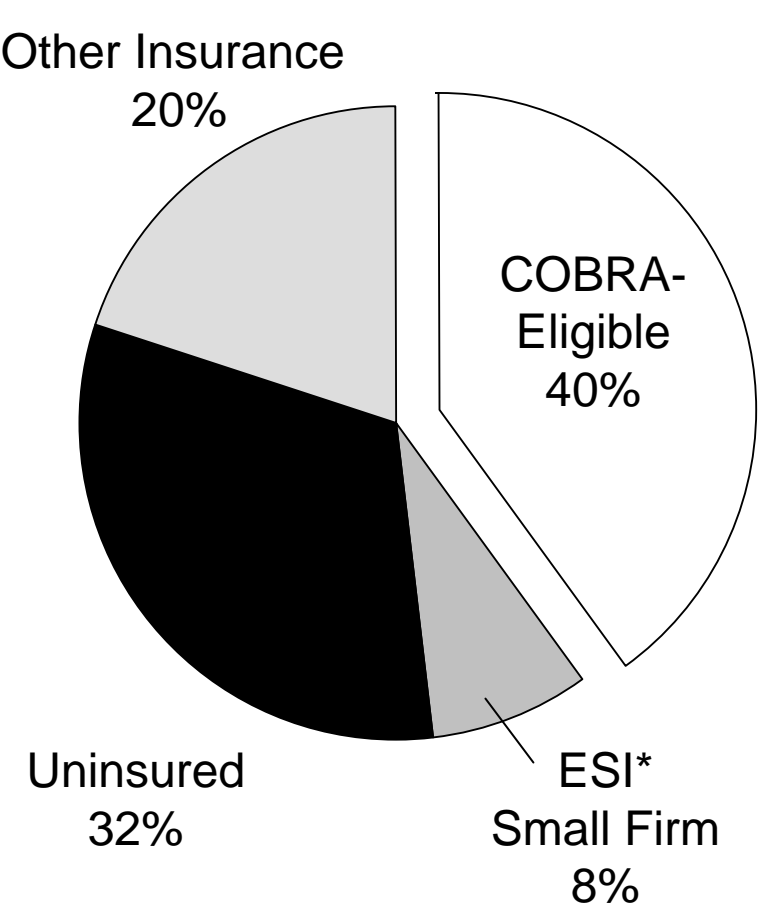


* Employer-sponsored insurance coverage.

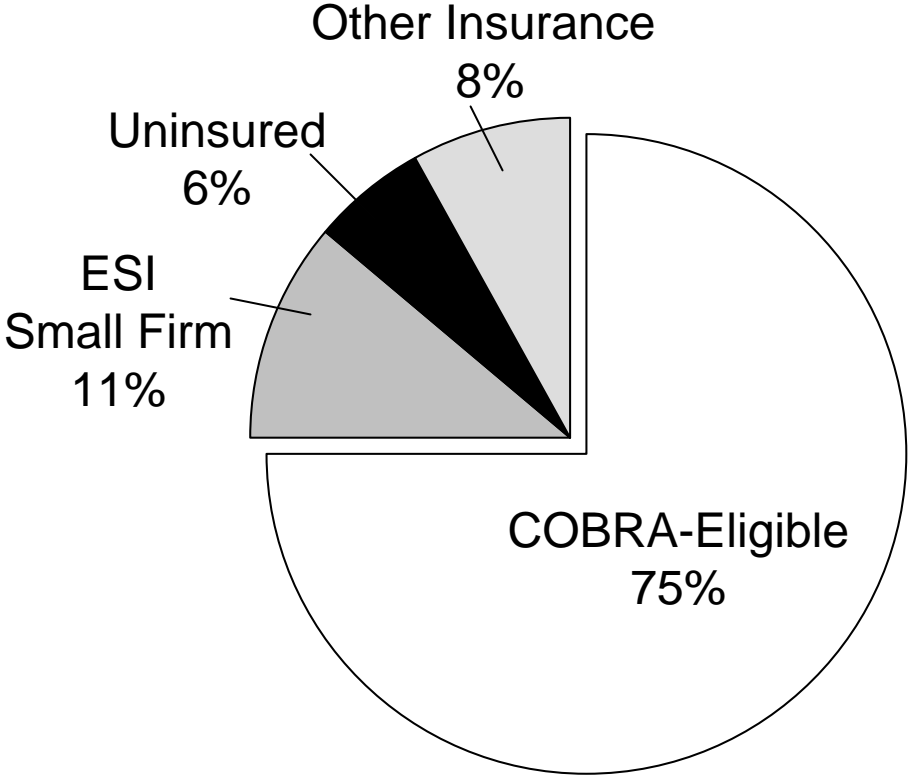
** The survey defines small firms as having fewer than 25 employees; thus, the analysis may underestimate COBRA eligibility.

COBRA Eligibility

Working Adults, Ages 19–64



Below 200% Poverty



200% Poverty or More

* Employer-sponsored insurance coverage.

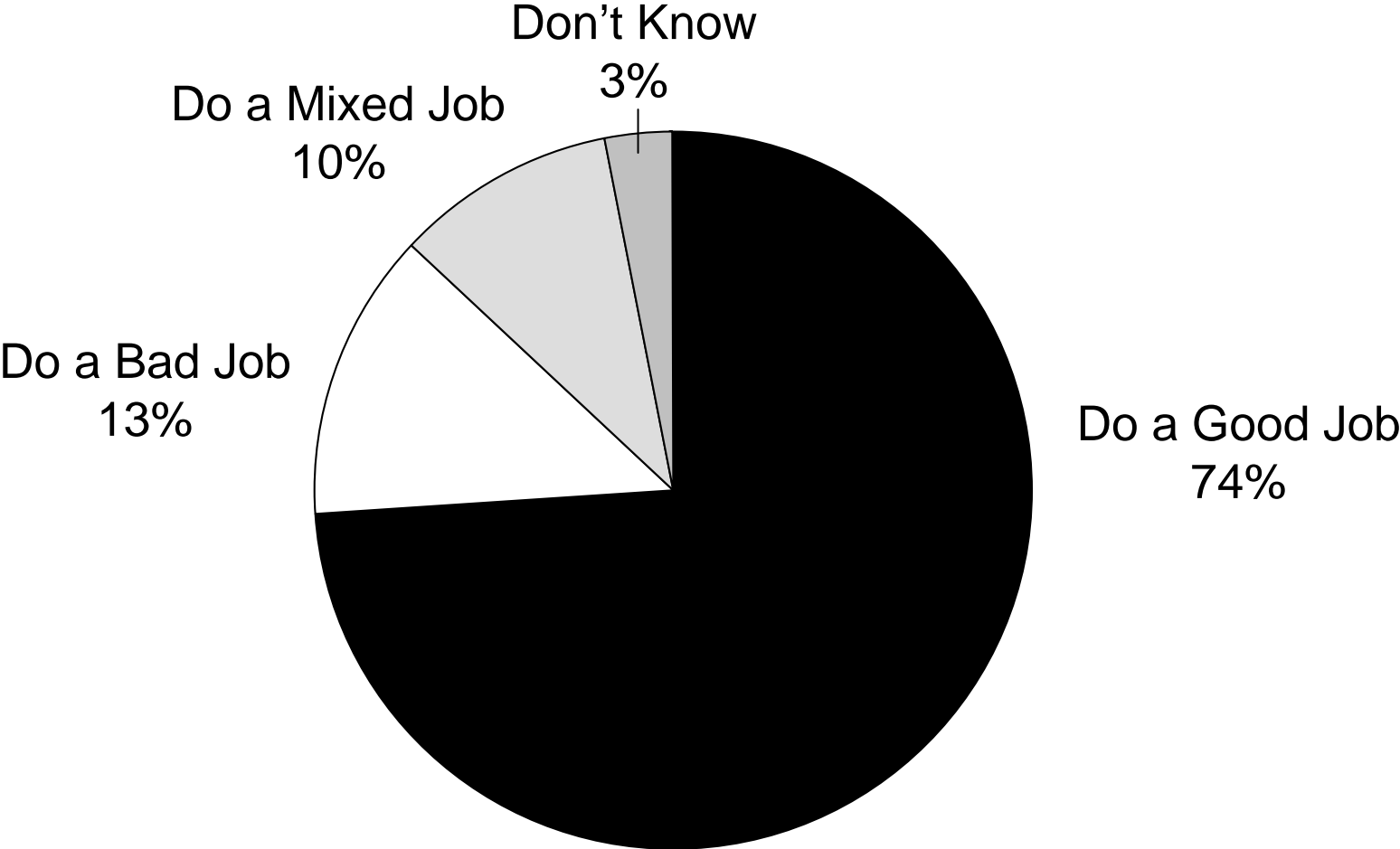
Reports on Individual Market Experiences

Base: Adults who have bought or tried to buy individual insurance in the past three years

	Total	19–29	30–39	40–49	50–64
Percent in individual market in the past three years	27	33	30	26	21
How difficult was it to find a plan with the type of coverage you needed?					
Very/somewhat difficult or impossible	52	54	54	49	51
Not too/not at all difficult	38	36	38	41	36
How difficult was it to find a plan you could afford?					
Very/somewhat difficult or impossible	69	64	74	71	71
Not too/not at all difficult	23	27	23	21	21
Did not end up buying a plan	71	73	72	69	69

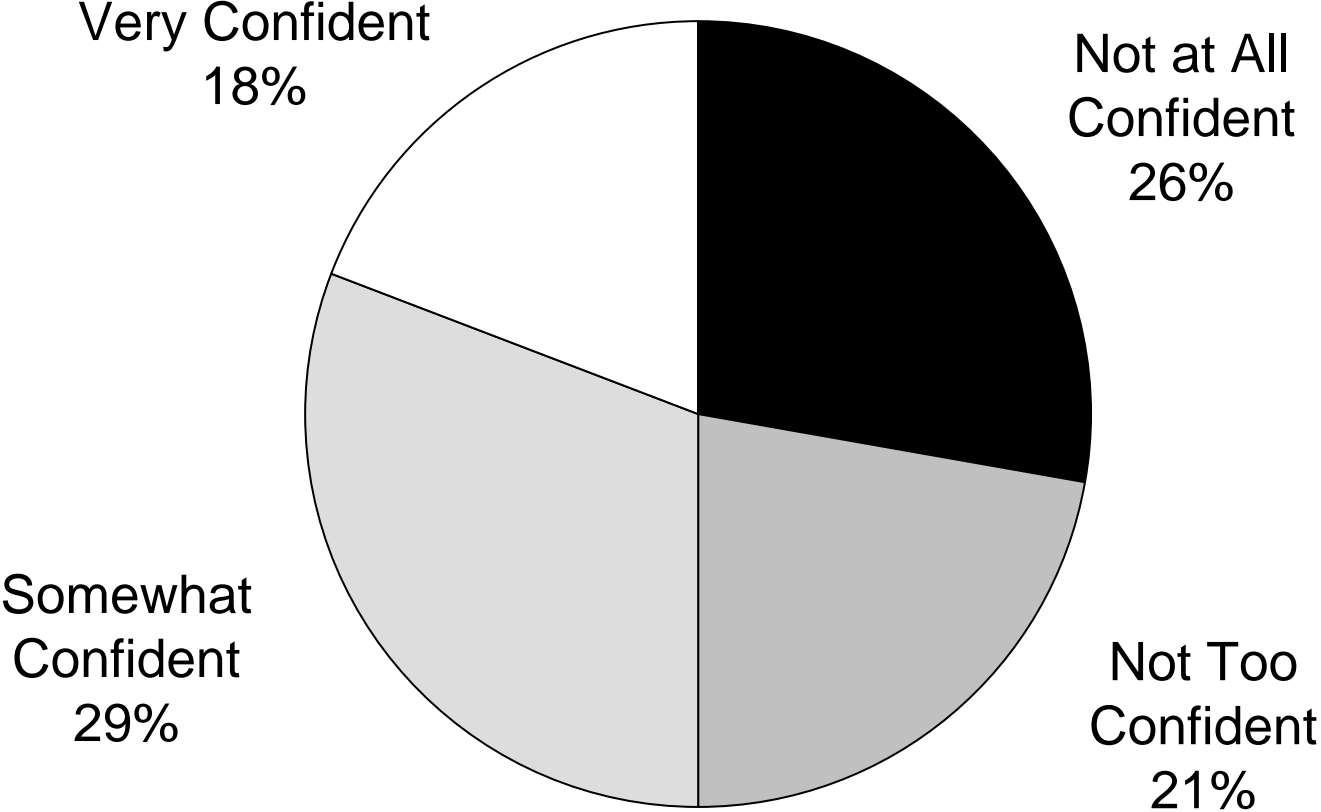
Adults with employer-sponsored plans think employers generally do a good job of selecting quality health plans.

Percent of adults with employer-based coverage who said employers:



If your employer stopped offering coverage, how confident are you that you would be able to find an affordable health plan that meets your needs?

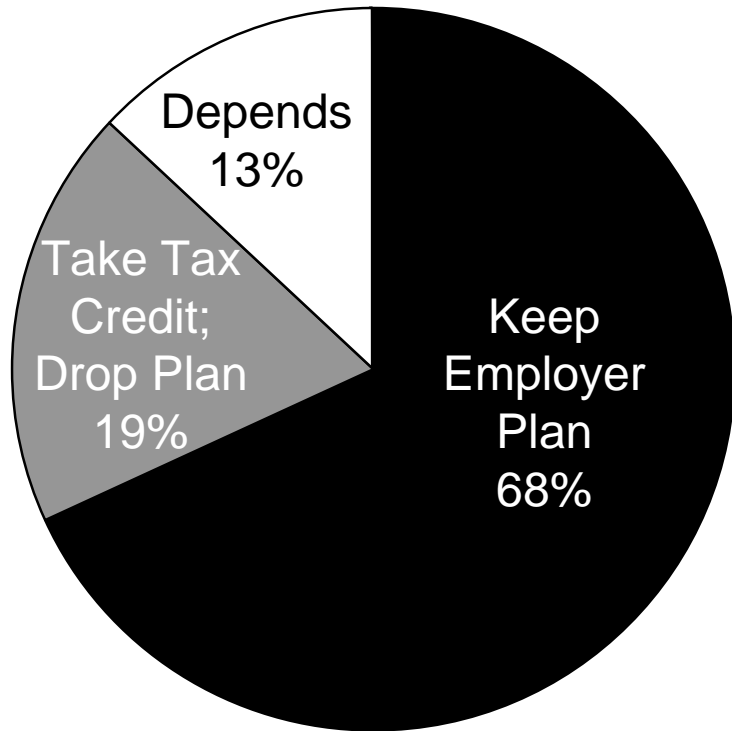
Percent with employer-based coverage who said:



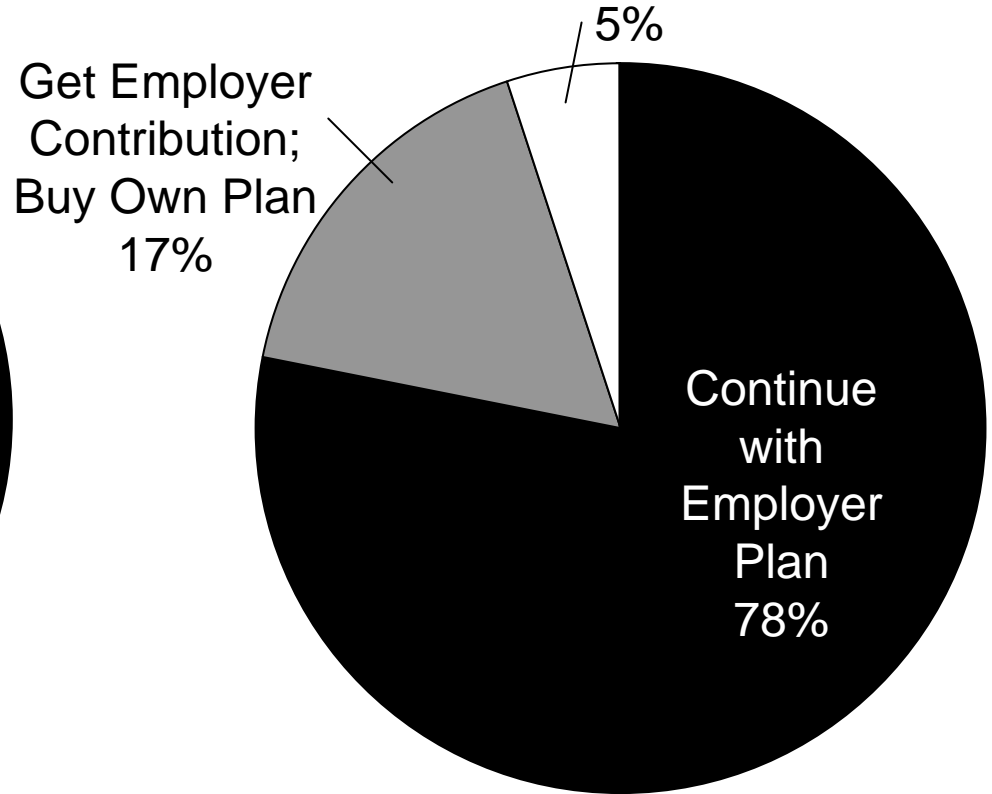
Preferences About Potential Changes in Employer Coverage Arrangements

Adults with Employer-Sponsored Insurance

If you could get a tax credit of (\$1,000 for single/\$2,500 for family), would you DROP the employer plan and get insurance on your own, or would you KEEP the employer plan and give up the tax credit?



Some employers are thinking of giving the money they pay for health insurance directly to employees so employees can buy insurance on their own. Which would you prefer?

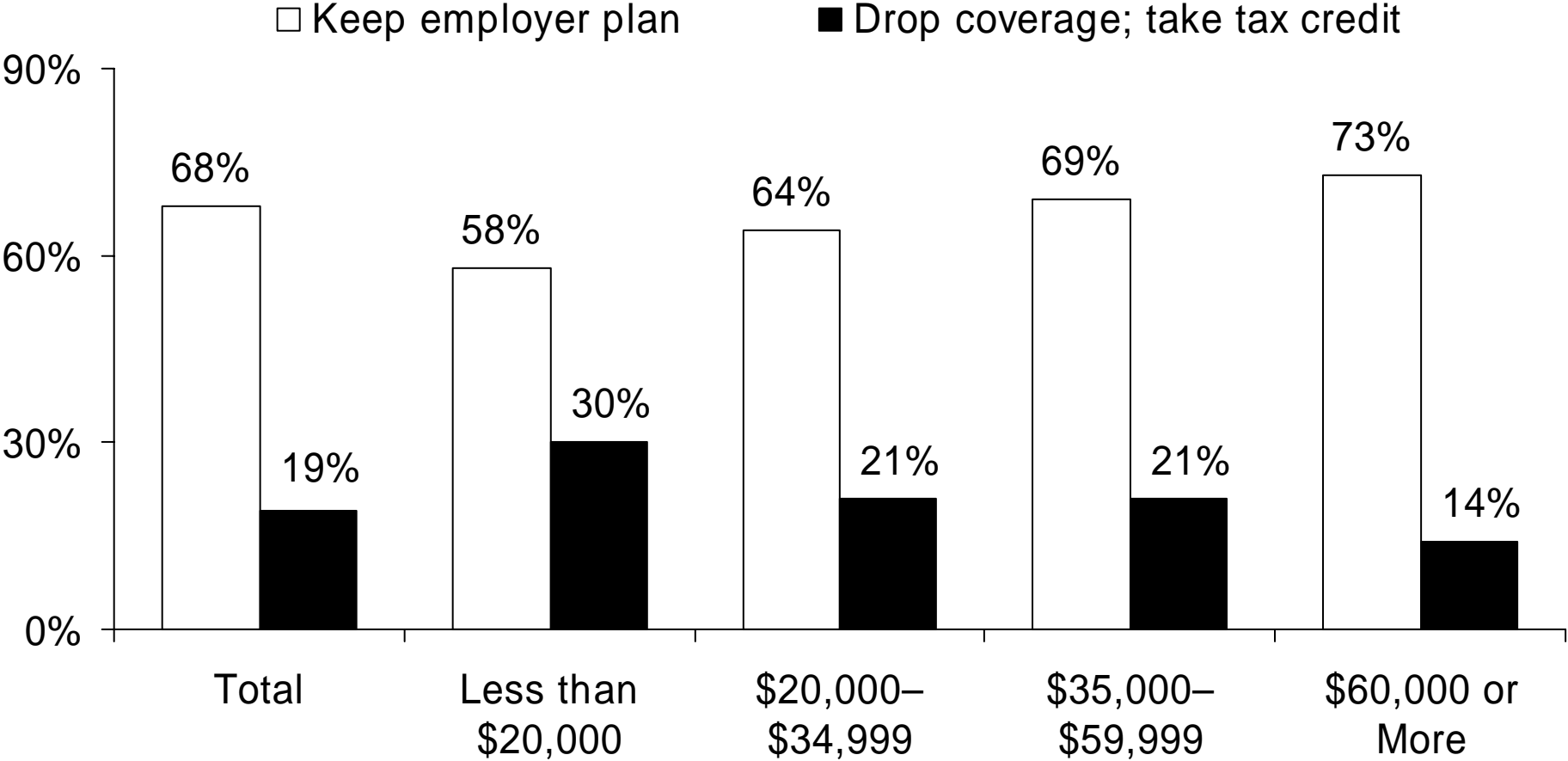


Adults with employer-based coverage generally prefer keeping it. But younger adults are somewhat more likely to consider taking an option to leave group plans.

Alternative insurance arrangements	Total	19–29	30–39	40–49	50–64
Get a tax credit (\$1,000/single; \$2,500/family) to get insurance on your own					
Percent very or somewhat likely to:					
DROP employer plan for tax credit	19	26	20	17	14
KEEP employer plan	68	61	65	68	76
Employer gives money for insurance directly to employees to buy coverage on their own					
Percent with preference to					
Take contribution and find own plan	17	22	19	15	13
Continue with employer plan	78	73	75	79	82

Of those with employer coverage, interest in dropping this coverage for a tax credit* to purchase insurance on one's own is low overall, but declines with income.

Percent who are very or somewhat likely to... ..if offered a tax credit:



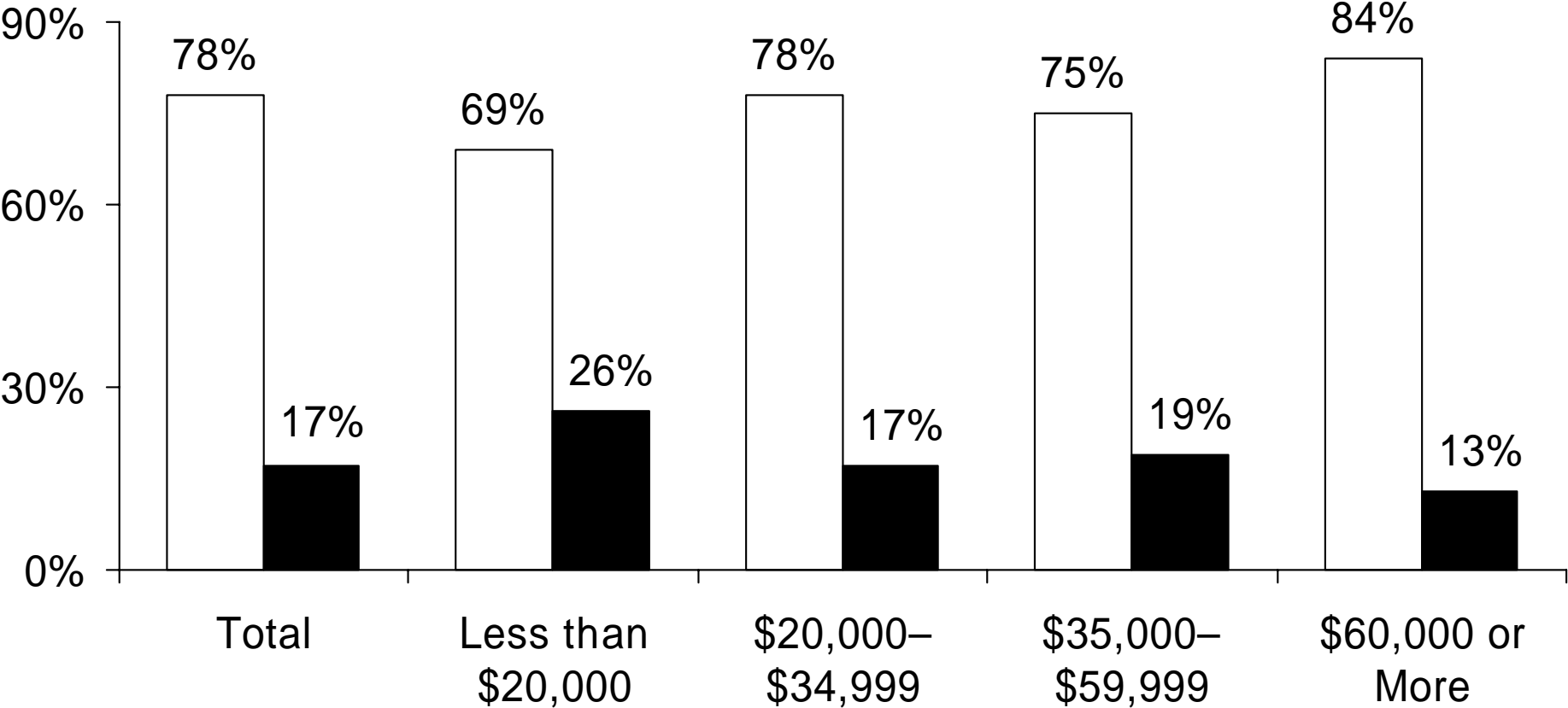
* \$1,000/single; \$2,500/family.

Those with employer coverage generally prefer continuing this coverage over getting an employer contribution to find their own plan.

Percent who prefer to...

□ Keep employer plan

■ Get contribution and find own plan



Support for Proposals to Expand Health Insurance Coverage

Percent of adults in favor of:	Total
Letting uninsured adults participate in state government insurance programs that are for people with low income	82%
Letting uninsured adults participate in Medicare	77%
Offering tax credits or other financial assistance to help people buy health insurance on their own	81%
Requiring all businesses to contribute to the cost of health insurance for their employees	82%