

THE FIELD POLL

THE INDEPENDENT AND NON-PARTISAN SURVEY
OF PUBLIC OPINION ESTABLISHED IN 1947 AS
THE CALIFORNIA POLL BY MERVIN FIELD

Field Research Corporation
601 California Street
San Francisco, CA 94108-2814
(415) 392-5763 FAX: (415) 434-2541
EMAIL: fieldpoll@field.com
www.field.com/fieldpollonline

Release #2478

Embargoed for Print Publication: Wednesday, August 20, 2014

2014 TCWF-Field Health Policy Poll - Part 2

Over One in Three Voters Under Age 65 Personally Visited the Covered California Website Medi-Cal Viewed as Increasingly Important to Voters and Their Families Support for Proposals Aimed at Improving State's Health Care System, Including Prop. 45

By Mark DiCamillo and Mervin Field

The major findings from Part 2 of the 2014 TCWF-Field Health Policy Survey conducted among 1,535 California registered voters about changes in the state's health care system following implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) include the following:

- Over one in three voters under the age of 65 (36%) have personally visited the Covered California website and 9% say they obtained their health coverage there.
- While a majority (56%) of voters who visited the Covered California web site were satisfied with their experience there, 42% were dissatisfied. Voter evaluations of the web site are colored largely by a voter's party affiliation and overall opinion of the ACA. For example, 63% of registered Democrats and 71% of voters supportive of the ACA say they were satisfied with their experience at the web site. By contrast, 39% of Republicans and just 28% of voters opposed to the ACA who visited the site were satisfied. Interest in visiting the web site in the future is similarly partisan and is tied to a voter's party affiliation and overall opinion of the ACA.
- Nearly two in three voters (62%) say that the state's Medi-Cal program is important to themselves or their families. This is up from 58% who reported this in 2013 and 51% who said this in 2011. The proportion of voters who consider Medi-Cal to be "very important" has also increased from 29% in 2011 to 40% in the current survey. Two in three voters (65%) also believe Medi-Cal has been successful in meeting its program objectives, while just 16% feel it has not.
- Large majorities of voters support a number of proposals aimed at improving the state's health care system. These include: encouraging insurance companies to reward doctors and hospitals more for the quality of care they provide than the number of patients they serve (82%), encouraging insurance companies to reduce costs by allowing physician assistants and nurse practitioners to play a bigger role in providing care to patients (81%), and expanding state funding of not-for-profit health insurance co-ops (78%). Another 62% favor allowing insurance companies to offer a lower cost, high deductible plan option through Covered California.

- Opinions are more divided in regard to the proposal to expand Medi-Cal to provide preventive health services to undocumented immigrants. Slightly more than half (51%) support the idea, but 45% are opposed. Views about this are highly partisan and divide voters along racial/ethnic lines.
- There is strong early support for Proposition 45, the "Approval of Healthcare Insurance Rate Changes" initiative that will appear on the November 2014 statewide election ballot. Greater than two in three likely voters (69%) say they would vote YES after being read a summary of its official ballot description, while just 16% are initially opposed. Another 15% are undecided.
- Somewhat smaller majorities of likely voters say they're inclined to vote YES on Prop. 46, the "Drug and Alcohol Testing of Doctors; Medical Negligence Lawsuits" initiative (58%) and Prop. 47, the "Criminal Sentencing/Misdemeanor Penalties" initiative (57%).

"It is heartening to see that California voters increasingly observe the important role the Medi-Cal program plays in the health care safety net," said Judy Belk, president and CEO of The California Wellness Foundation. "Expanding access to Medi-Cal for hundreds of thousands of Californians has been a key element of the Affordable Care Act in our state and has helped them access health care that was out-of-reach for many before this important reform."

More than one in three voters under age 65 have personally visited the Covered California website and 9% obtained their health coverage there

Greater than one in three California voters under age 65 (36%) say they personally visited the Covered California web site to see what kinds of health insurance were being offered there. Of these, 9% say they obtained their health insurance coverage there.

Most likely to have visited the site were those currently uninsured (50%) or report having had a lapse in their insurance coverage during the past two years (47%).

The under age 65 segments least likely to have visited the site were non-English speakers (23%), those with no more than a high school education (24%), voters who have been continuously insured over the past two years (28%), and Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders (28%).

Evaluations of the Covered California web site and interest in visiting it in the future are colored by voters' political affiliations and their opinions of the ACA

When voters who visited the Covered California web site are asked to evaluate their experience at the site, 56% say they were satisfied, while 42% were dissatisfied. However, evaluations are directly related to voters' party affiliation and overall opinion of the ACA. Large majorities of registered Democrats (63%) and ACA supporters (71%) say they were satisfied with their experience at the site. On the other hand, just 39% of Republicans and only 28% of ACA opponents who visited the site say they were satisfied.

When voters are asked whether they are interested in visiting the web site in the future, 46% of voters under age 65 express some interest, while 51% do not. Interest is again highly partisan and tied to a voter's overall opinion of the ACA. More than twice as many Democrats (56%) as Republicans (25%) say they are interested in visiting the site in the future. Similarly, while 61% of

those who support the ACA express an interest in visiting the site in the future, just one in four (24%) of the law's opponents say this.

Increasing proportions consider the state's Medi-Cal program important to themselves and their families

The current survey finds that nearly two in three voters (62%) say that Medi-Cal, the state program that provides health insurance and long-term care to California's low-income adults and children, is important to themselves or their families. This is up from 58% who reported this last year and 51% who said this in 2011.

The proportion that consider Medi-Cal to be "very important" has also grown. In 2011 just 29% of voters reported Medi-Cal to be very important to themselves and their families. Last year this increased to 38%, while now it stands at 40%.

Most voters (65%) also believe the state's Medi-Cal program has been successful in meeting its goals. This compares to just 16% who feel the Medi-Cal program has not been successful in meeting its goals, down from 20% who felt this way last year and 24% in 2011.

Support for a number of proposals aimed at improving the state's health care system

Voters were asked their opinions of five proposals aimed at improving the state's health care system. Three proposals are favored overwhelmingly. They include:

- Encouraging insurance companies to reward doctors and hospitals more for the quality of care than the number of patients they serve. (82% favor vs. 12% oppose)
- Encouraging insurance companies to reduce health care costs by allowing physician assistants and nurse practitioners to play a bigger role in providing care to patients. (81% favor vs. 14% oppose)
- Expanding state funding of not-for-profit health insurance co-ops. (78% favor vs. 15% oppose)

A fourth proposal, to allow insurance companies to offer a new lower cost, high deductible coverage option through the Covered California insurance marketplace is also supported by a two-to-one margin (62% favor vs. 29% oppose).

On the other hand, a fifth proposal, expanding Medi-Cal to provide preventive health services to undocumented immigrants, divides the voting public. At present, 51% of voters favor the idea, but 45% are opposed. Views about this are highly partisan and divided along racial/ethnic lines. While Democrats support expanding Medi-Cal to include undocumented immigrants greater than two to one (68% to 28%), Republicans are opposed more than three to one (74% to 23%). In addition, larger proportions of Latinos (73%), African Americans (62%) and Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders (57%) are supportive, compared to white non-Hispanics (41%).

Strong early support for Proposition 45, the "Approval of Healthcare Insurance Rate Changes" initiative on the November statewide election ballot

There is strong early support for Proposition 45, the "Approval of Healthcare Insurance Rate Changes" initiative. After being read a summary of Prop. 45's official ballot description, 69% of likely voters say they would vote YES, while 16% say they would vote NO. Another 15% are undecided. Support crosses party lines, and currently includes about three in four Democrats (75%) and non-partisans (73%), and 58% of Republicans.

Somewhat smaller majorities of likely voters are also backing Propositions 46 and 47 on the general election ballot. Proposition 46, the "Drug and Alcohol Testing of Doctors; Medical Negligence Lawsuits" initiative, is currently supported by 58% and opposed by 30%, with 12% undecided. YES voters outnumber No voters on Proposition 47, the "Criminal Sentencing/Misdemeanor Penalties" initiative, 57% to 24%, with 19% undecided.

-30-

About the Survey

The 2014 TCWF-Field Health Policy Survey is the eighth in an annual series of health policy surveys conducted among random samples of California registered voters by *The Field Poll* through a grant from The California Wellness Foundation. This year's findings are based on a survey of 1,535 California registered voters completed by telephone in seven languages and dialects – English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, Vietnamese and Tagalog. Interviews were completed on either a voter's landline phone or a cell phone. In this survey 859 voters were contacted on their cell phone, while 676 were reached on a regular landline or other phone.

In order to enable the survey to more closely examine the opinions of the state's growing ethnic voter populations the survey included additional interviews with Asian American voters. A total of 1,167 of the interviews were conducted in English and 368 in non-English languages.

Interviewing was conducted June 26 – July 19, 2014 from Field Research Corporation's central location call center. Up to six attempts were made to reach and interview each randomly selected voter on different days and times of day during the interviewing period. After the completion of interviewing, the overall sample was weighted to align it to the proper statewide distribution of voters by race/ethnicity and by other demographic, geographic and political characteristics of the California registered voter population.

Sampling error estimates applicable to any probability-based survey depend upon its sample size. According to statistical theory, 95% of the time results from the overall sample are subject to a maximum sampling error of +/- 2.6 percentage points. The maximum sampling error is based on percentages in the middle of the sampling distribution (percentages around 50%). Percentages at either end of the distribution have a smaller margin of error. Sampling error will be larger for analyses based on subgroups of the overall sample.

About The California Wellness Foundation

The California Wellness Foundation is a private, independent foundation created in 1992, with a mission to improve the health of the people of California by making grants for health promotion, wellness education and disease prevention. Since its founding in 1992, the Foundation has awarded 7,338 grants totaling more than \$890 million. For more information, visit the Foundation's website, www.calwellness.org, or contact Cecilia Laiché, communications officer, at (818) 702-1900.

2014 TCWF-Field Health Policy Survey

Part 2

**Voter Views of the
Implementation of the
Affordable Care Act in California and
Recent Proposals Aimed at Improving
the State's Health Care System**

Conducted by
The Field Poll

for
The California Wellness Foundation

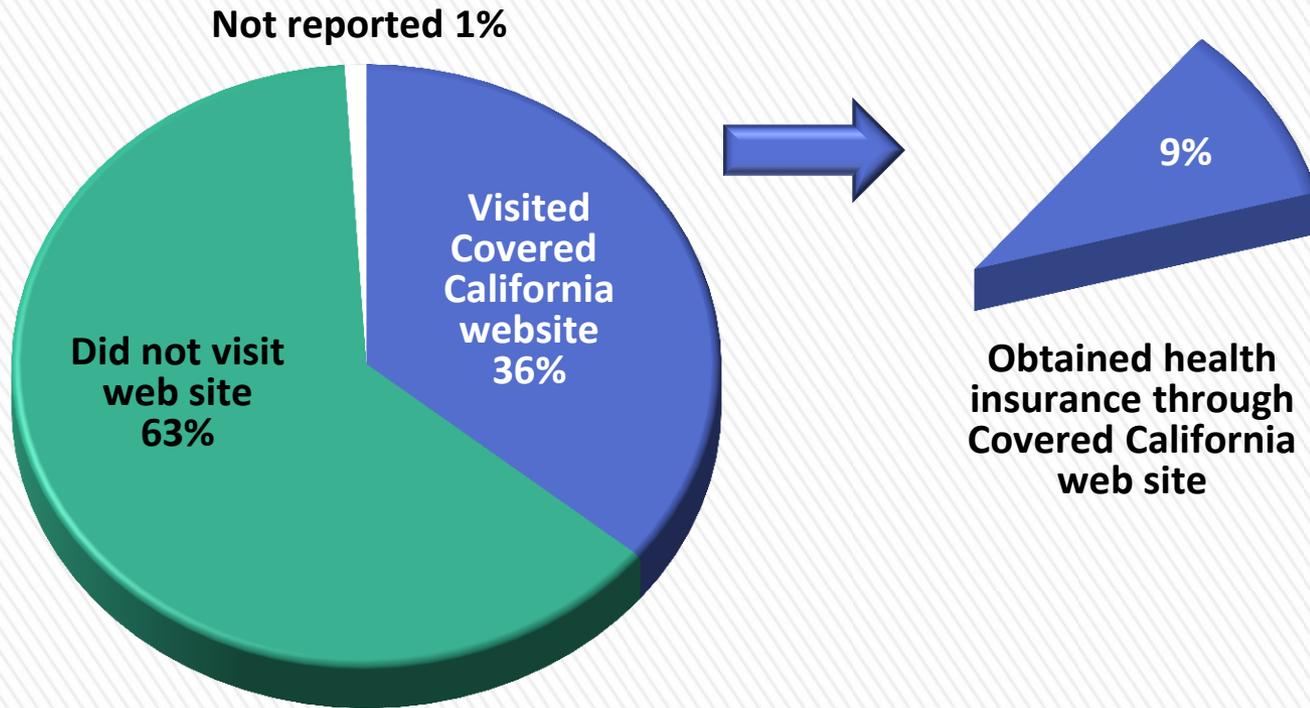
for release
Wednesday, August 20, 2014

About the Survey

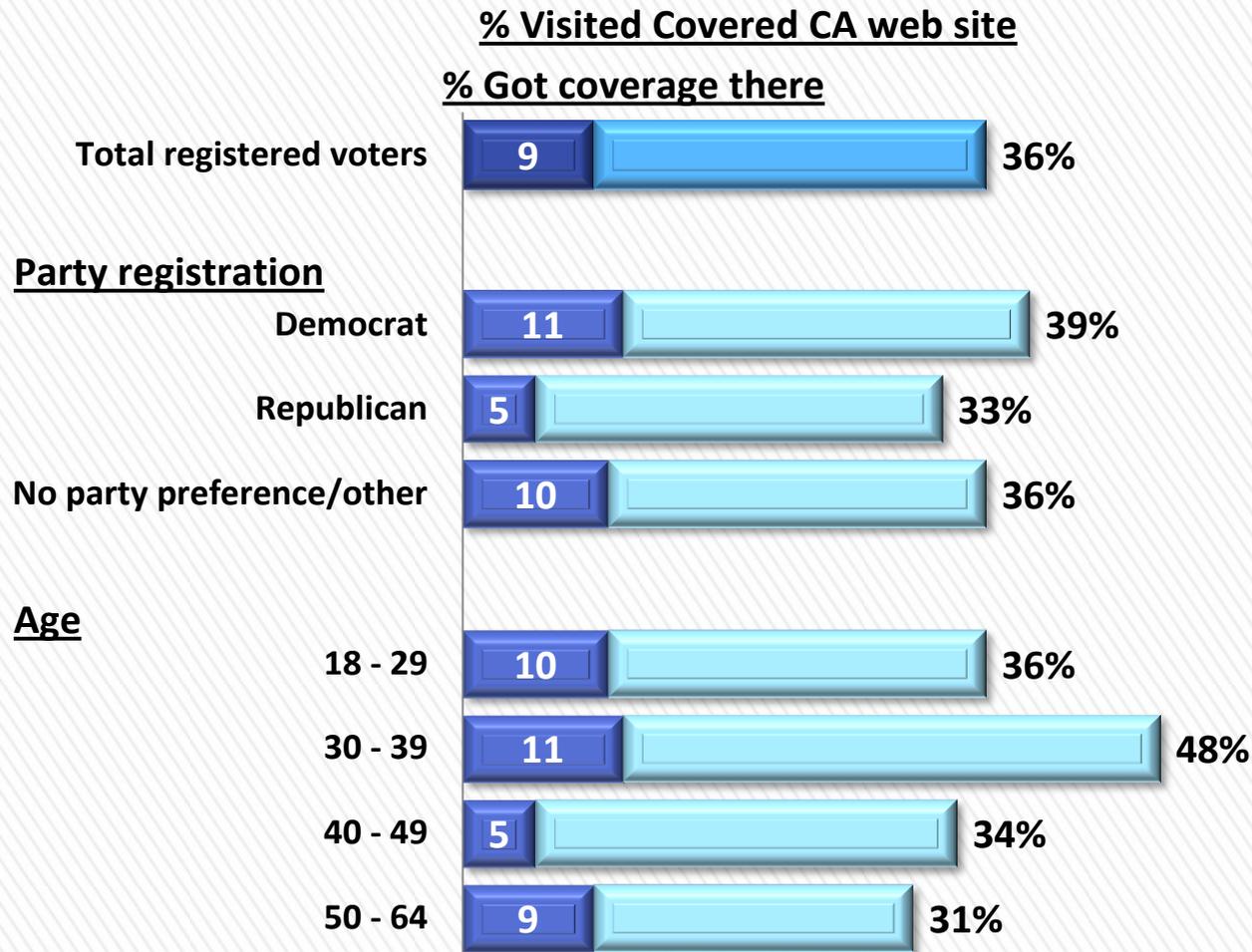
- Population surveyed:** California registered voters.
- Number of interviews:** 1,535 interviews completed including an augmented sample of Asian American voters.
- Data collection:** June 26-July 19, 2014 by cell and landline telephone using live interviewers from Field Research's central location call center.
- Languages of administration:** English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Tagalog, Korean and Vietnamese. 1,169 completed in English and 368 in non-English languages.
- Sampling error:** Overall findings have a sampling error of +/- 2.6 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Graph 1

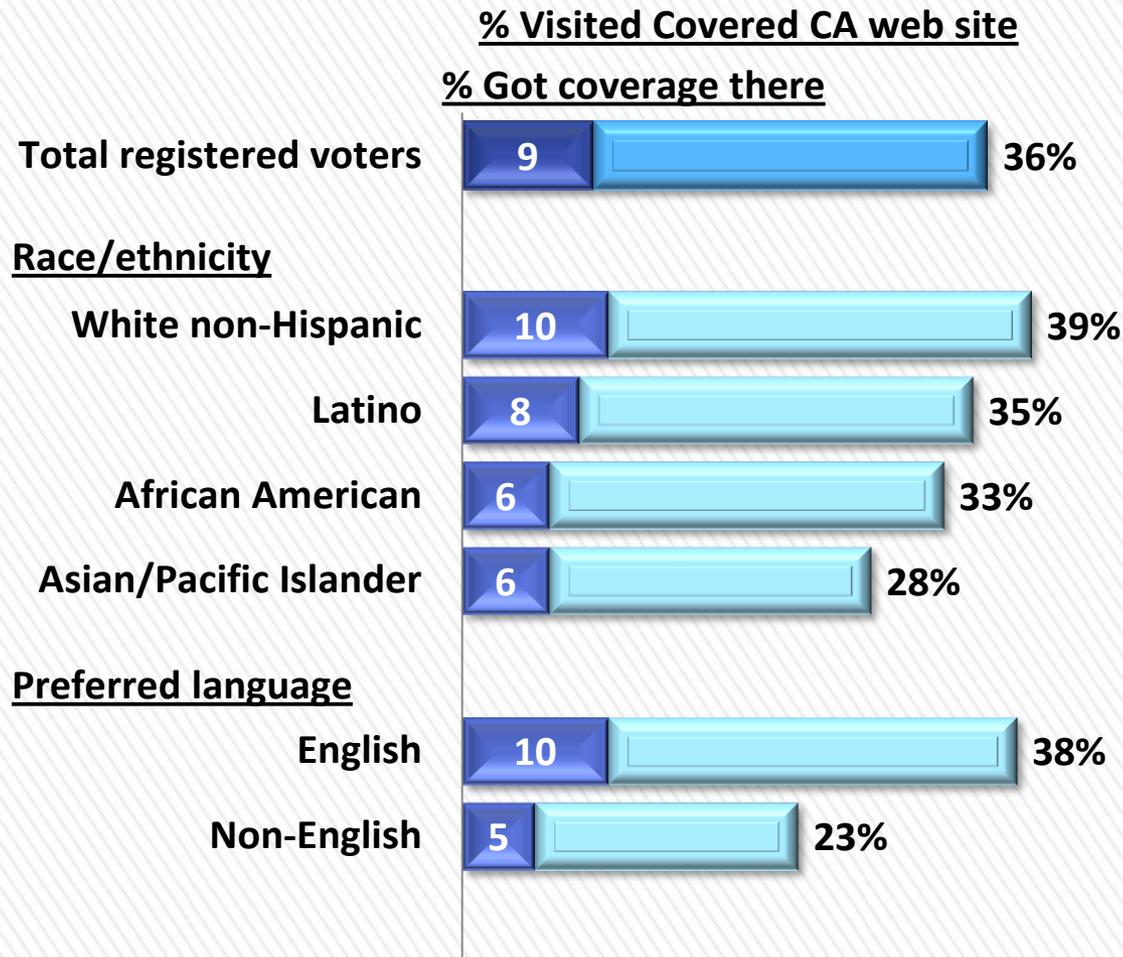
Voters reporting having visited the Covered California website and those who obtained their coverage there (among registered voters under age 65)



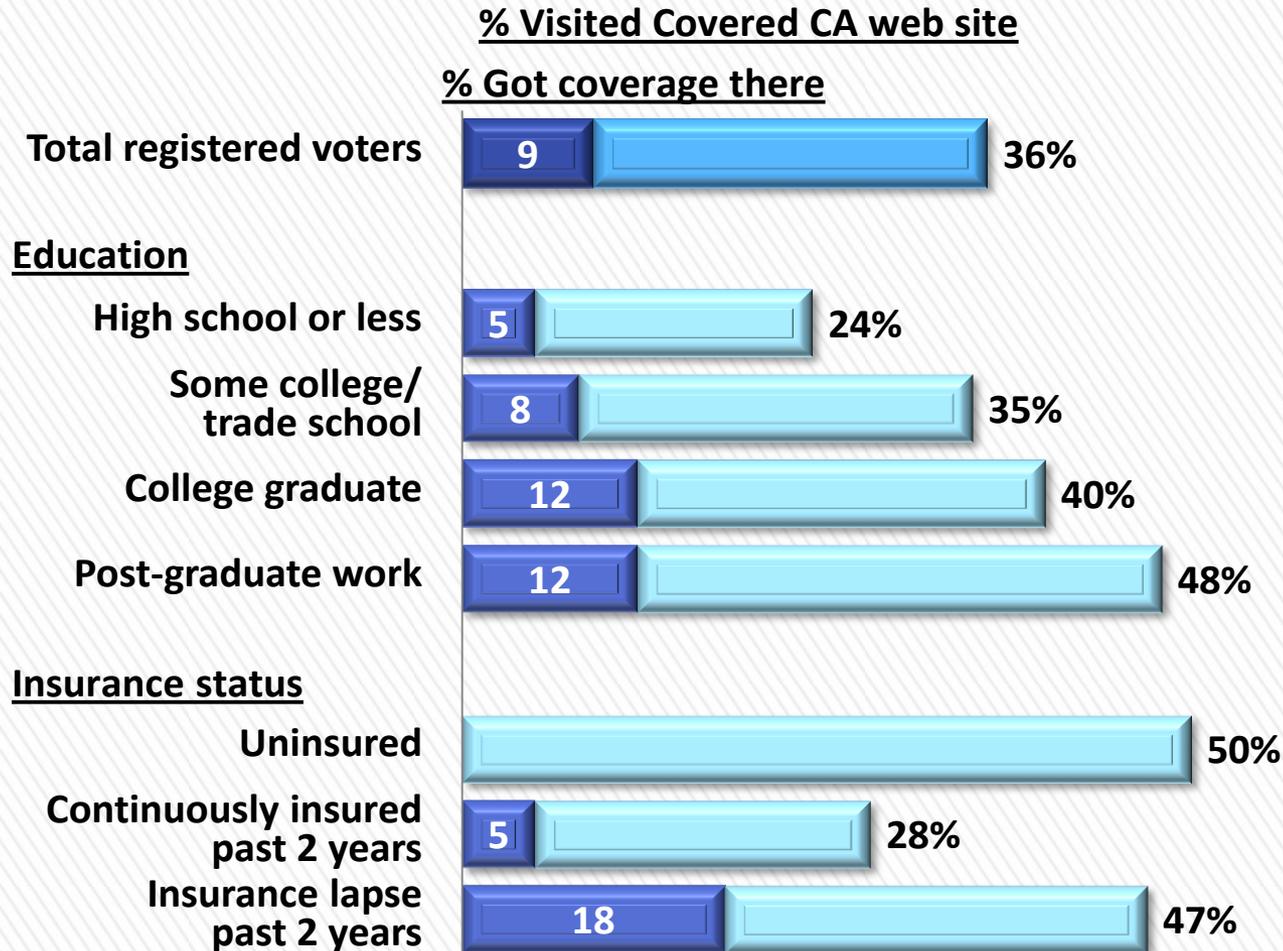
Demographic characteristics of voters who visited the Covered California web site and the proportion who obtained insurance coverage there (among voters under age 65) (1 of 3)



Demographic characteristics of voters who visited the Covered California web site and the proportion who obtained insurance coverage there (among voters under age 65) (2 of 3)

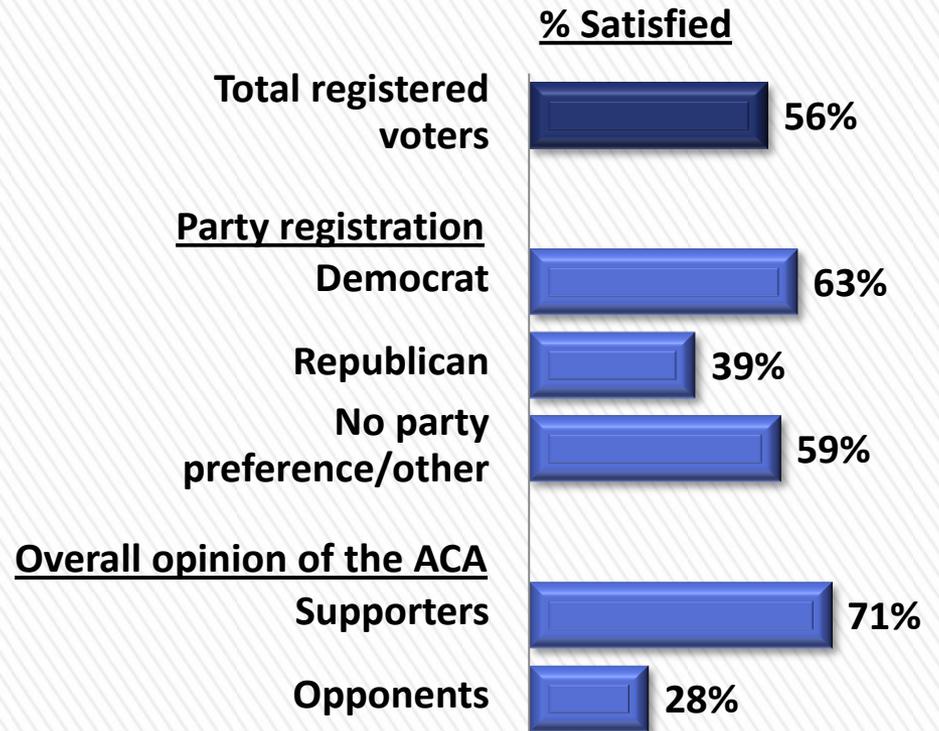
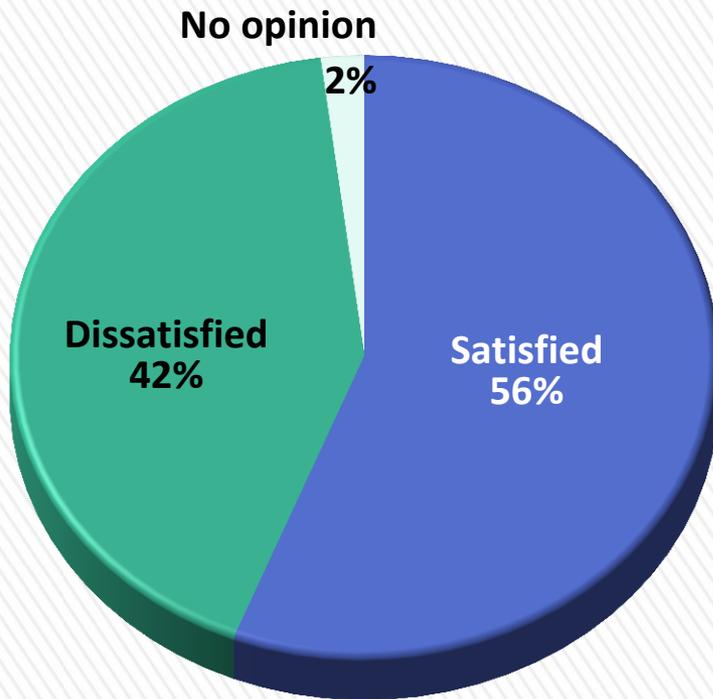


Demographic characteristics of voters who visited the Covered California web site and the proportion who obtained insurance coverage there (among voters under age 65) (3 of 3)

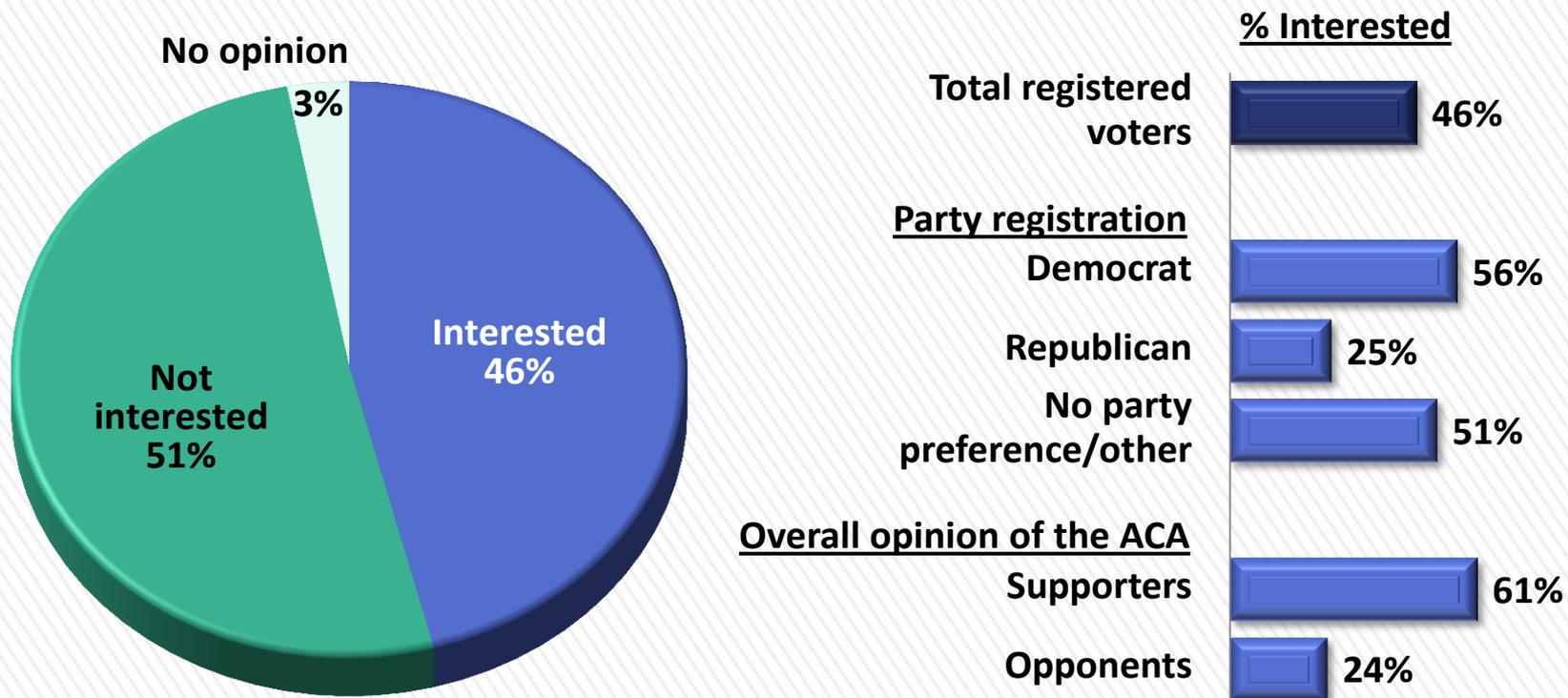


Graph 3

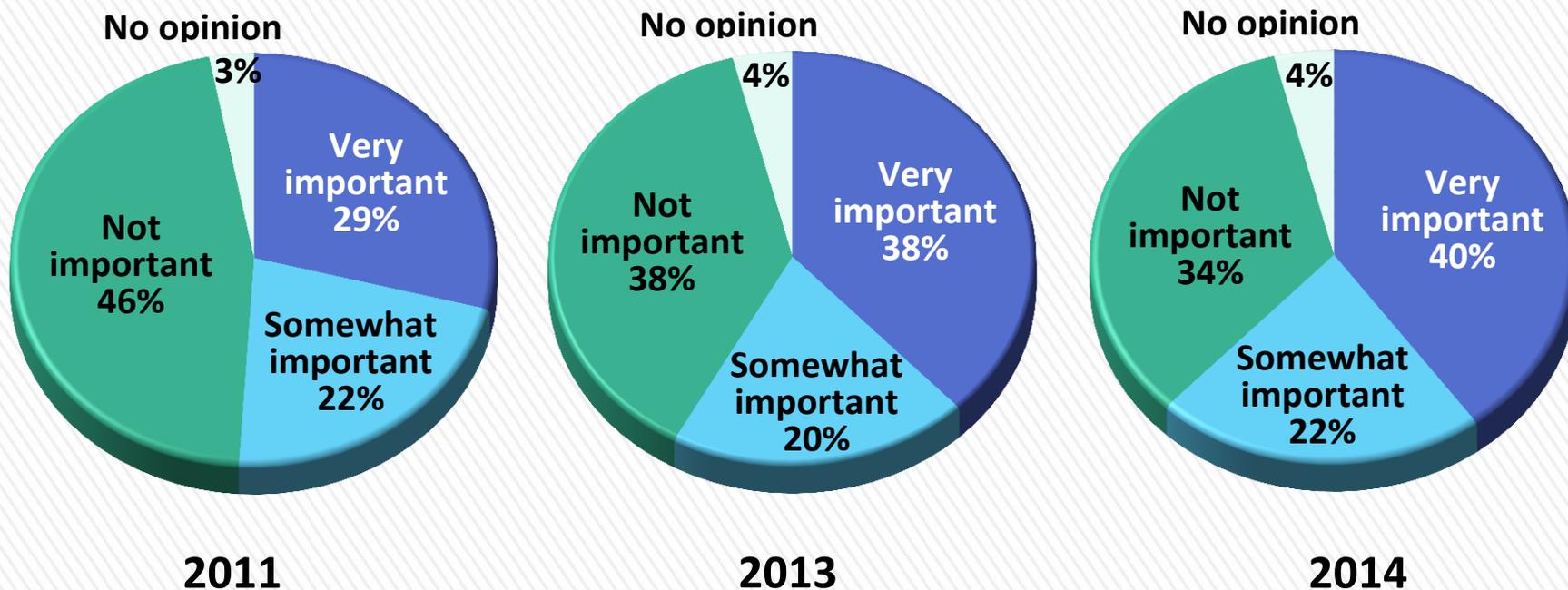
Satisfaction with the Covered California web site (among registered voters who visited the Covered California web site)



Voter interest in shopping for health insurance at the Covered California web site in the future (among registered voters under age 65)



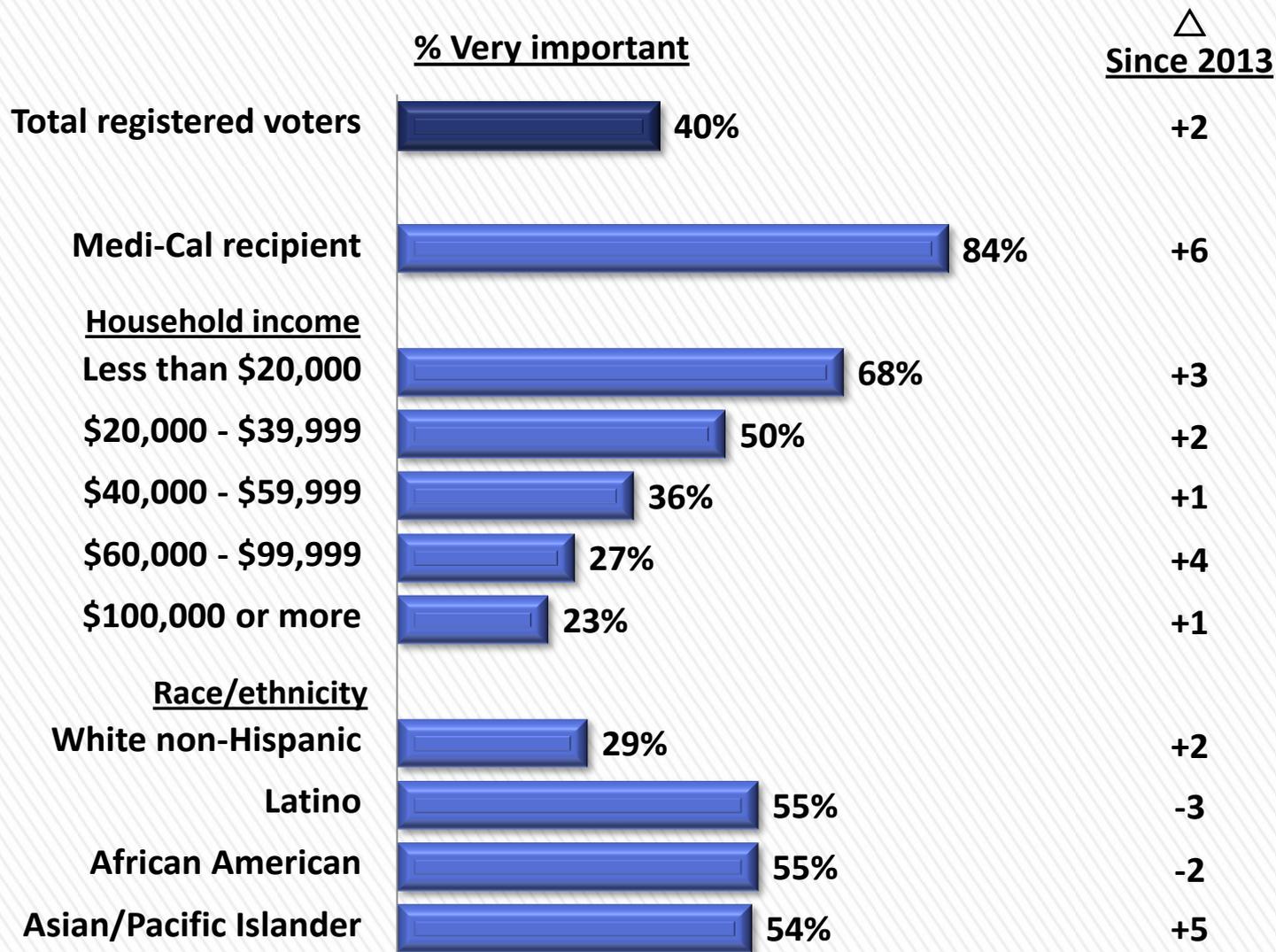
Importance of the state's Medi-Cal program to California voters and their families (2011 – 2014)



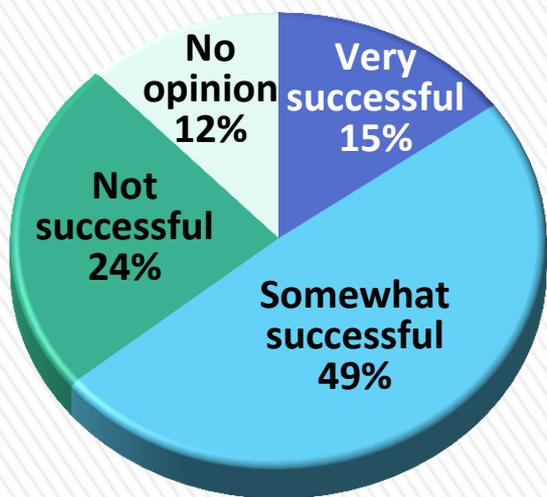
Note: Not asked in 2012 survey. In each survey Medi-Cal was described as California's health program that provides health insurance and long-term care to certain low-income adults and children.

Graph 6

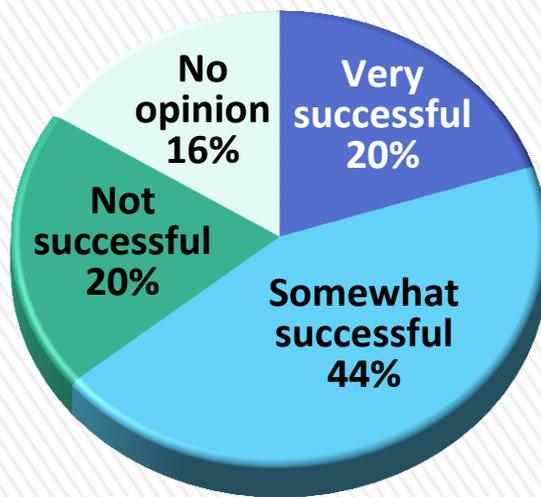
Importance of Medi-Cal among Medi-Cal recipients and by household income and race/ethnicity



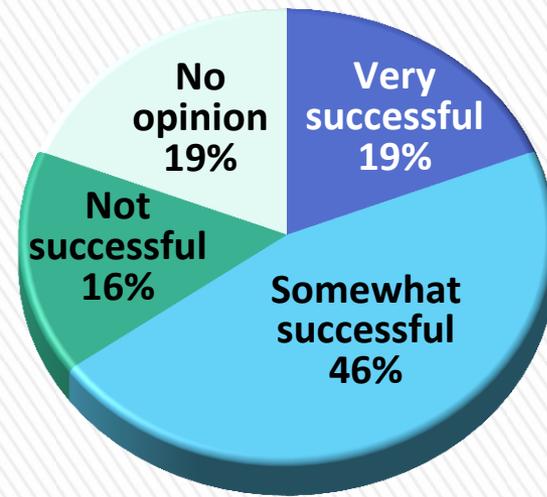
Perceived success of the Medi-Cal program in meeting its goals (2011 – 2014)



2011



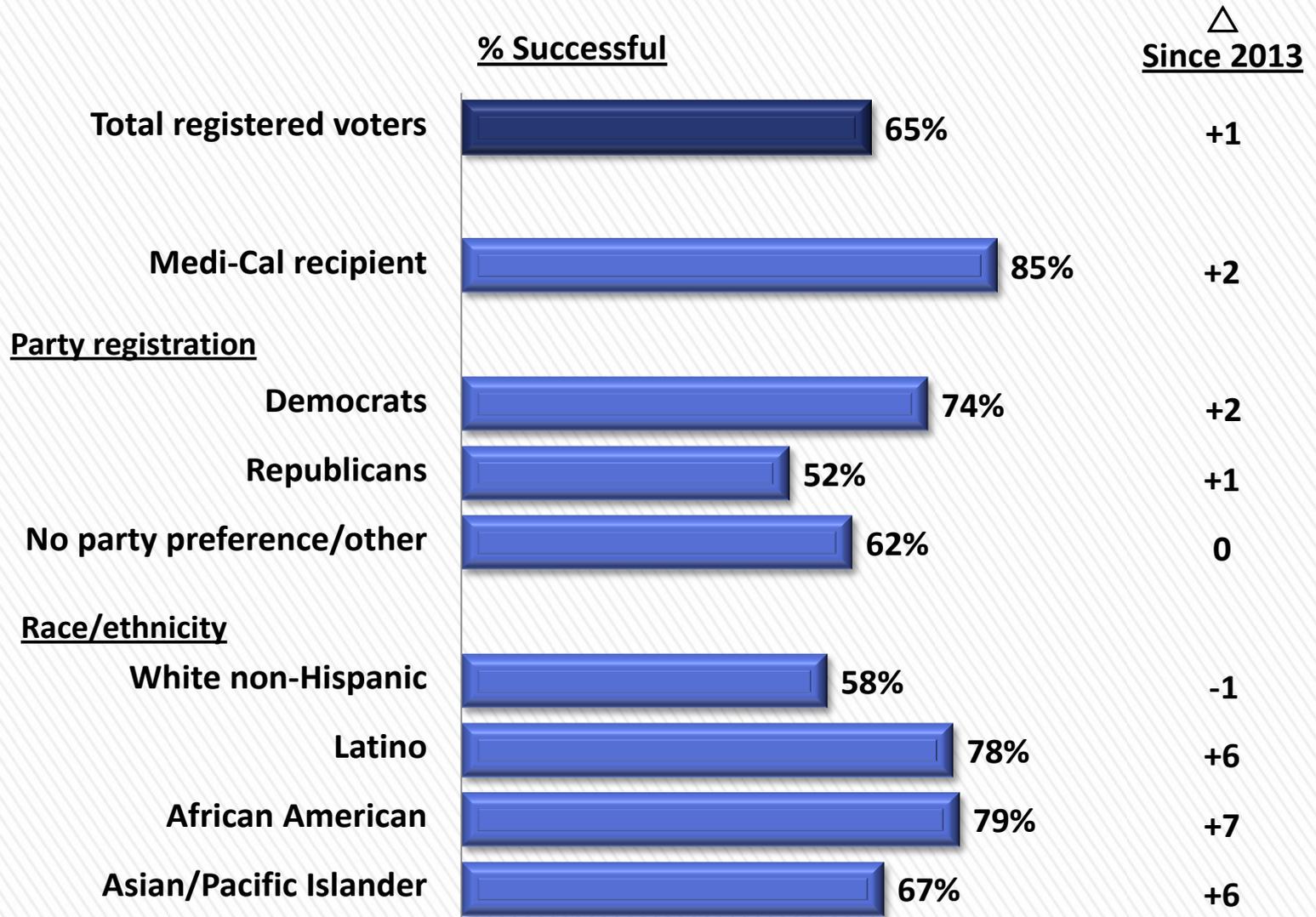
2013



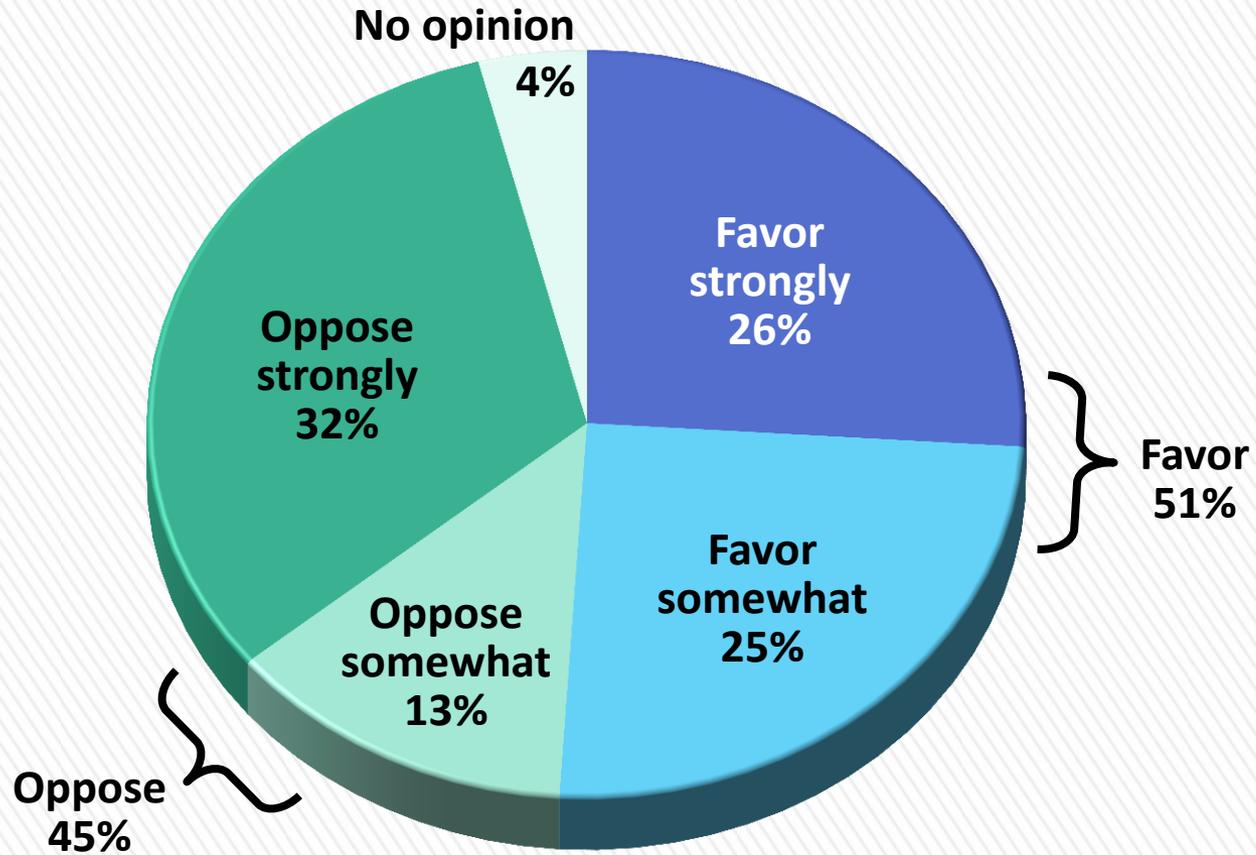
2014

Graph 8

Perceived success of the Medi-Cal program among Medi-Cal recipients, by party registration and race/ethnicity

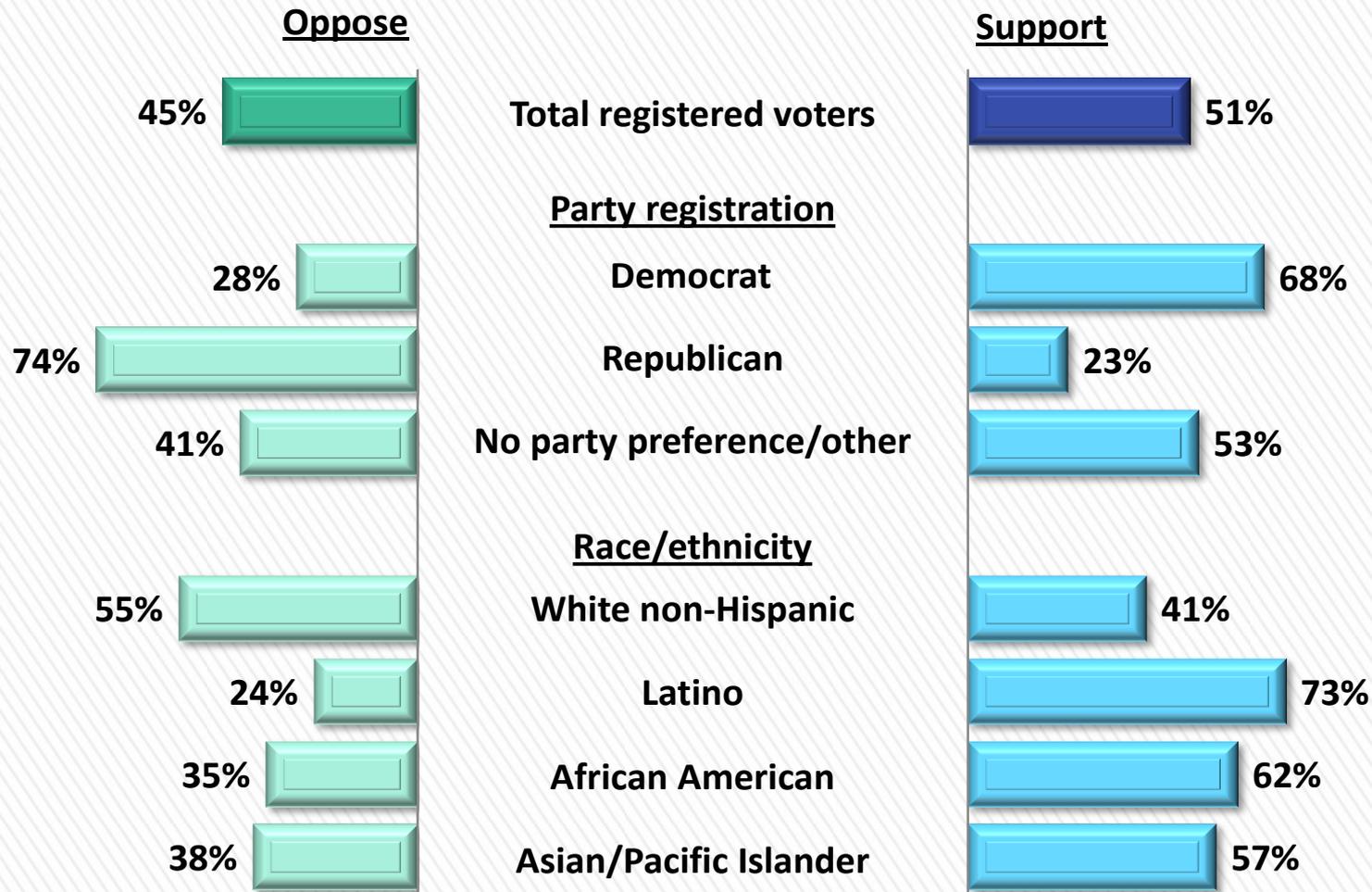


Voter opinion about expanding Medi-Cal preventive health services to the state's undocumented residents



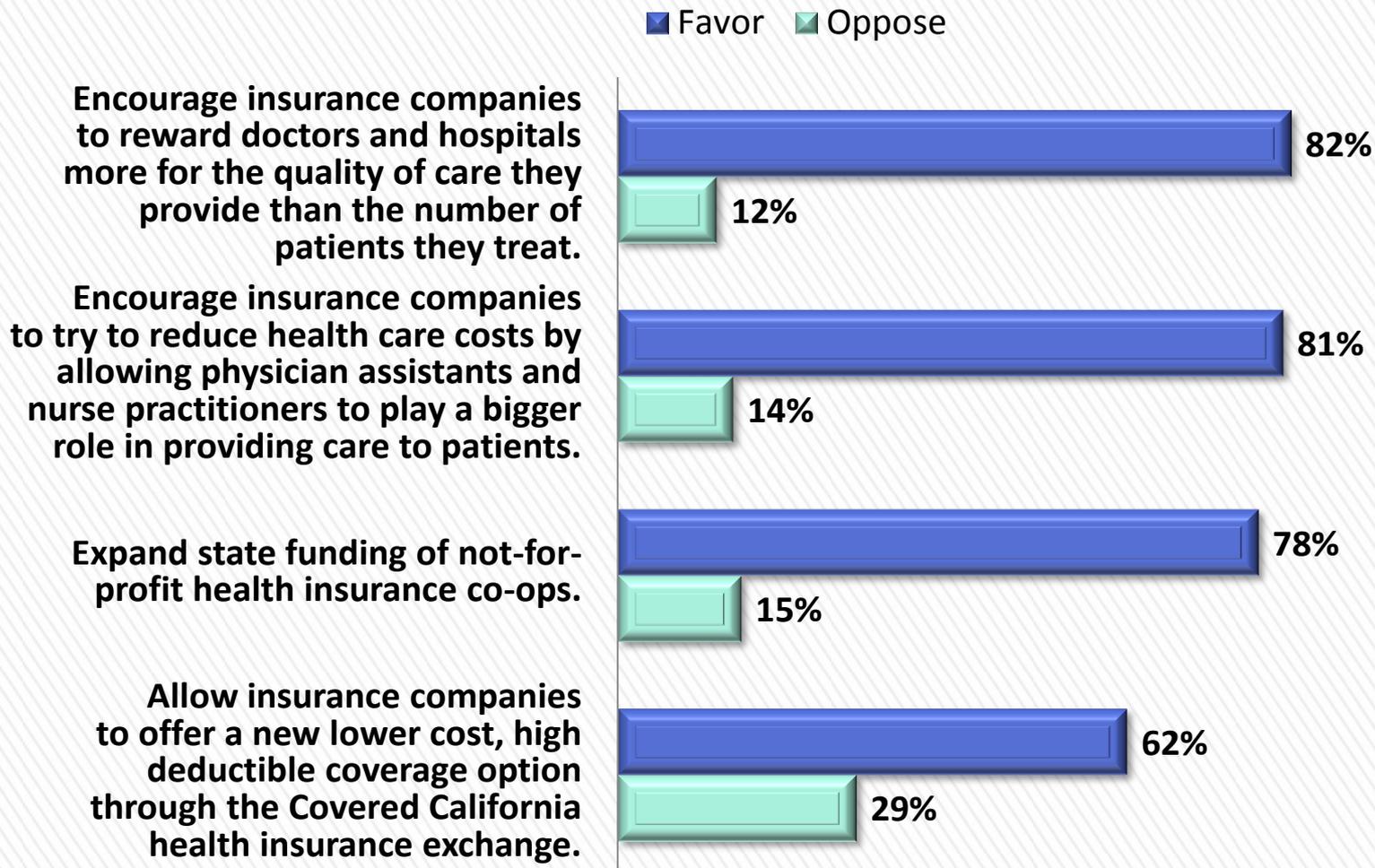
Graph 10

Opinions about expanding Medi-Cal to the state's undocumented residents by party registration and race/ethnicity



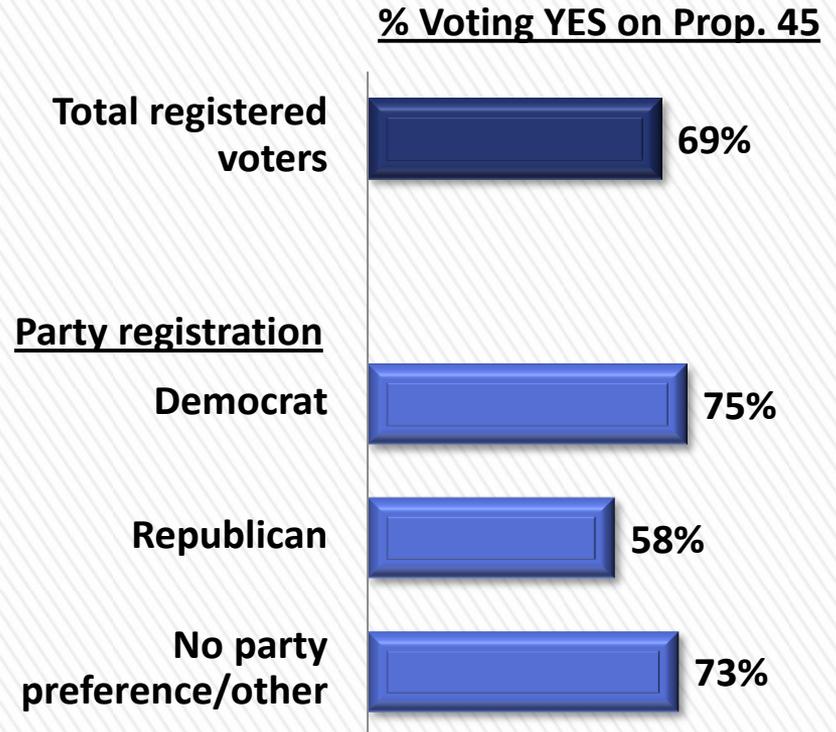
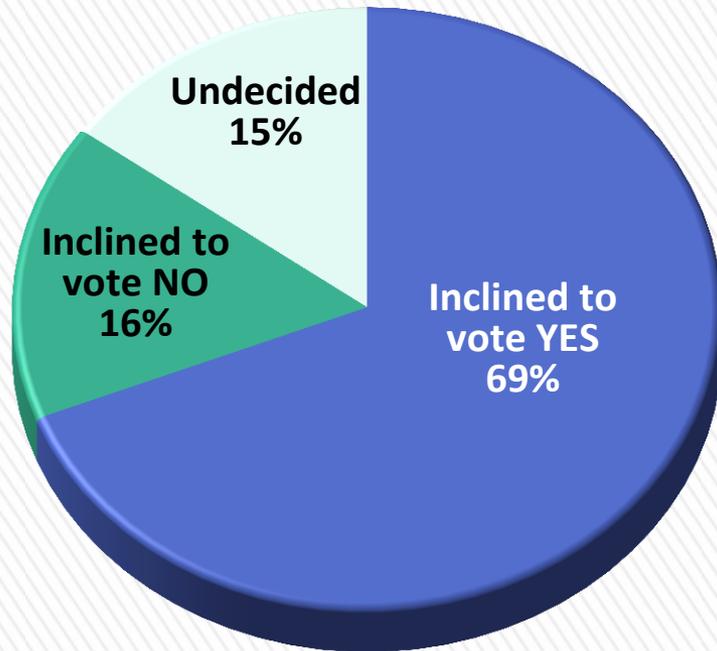
Graph 11

Voter views of proposals aimed at improving the state's health care system



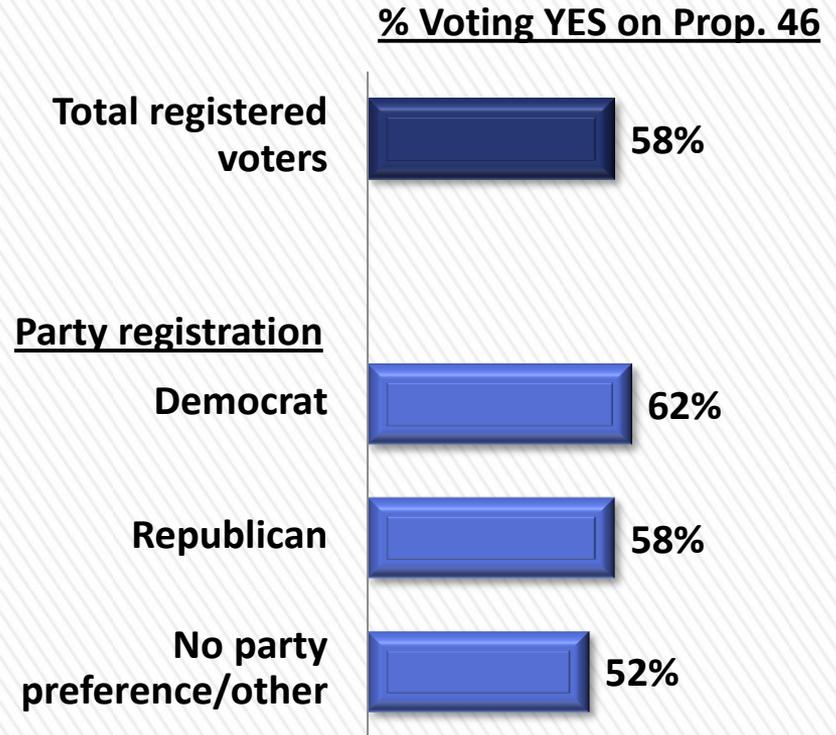
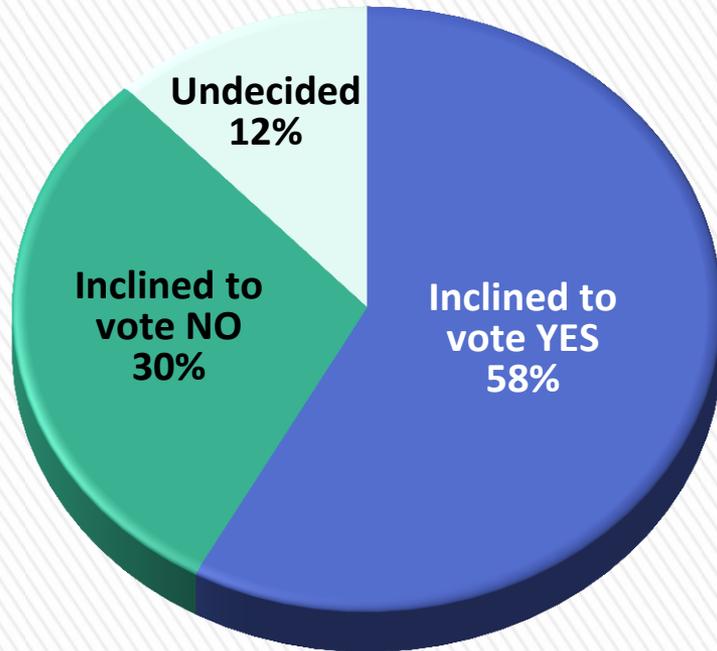
Note: Differences between 100% and the sum of each subgroup's percentages equal proportion with no opinion.

Early voter preferences regarding Proposition 45, the “Approval of Healthcare Insurance Rate Changes” statewide ballot initiative (among likely voters)

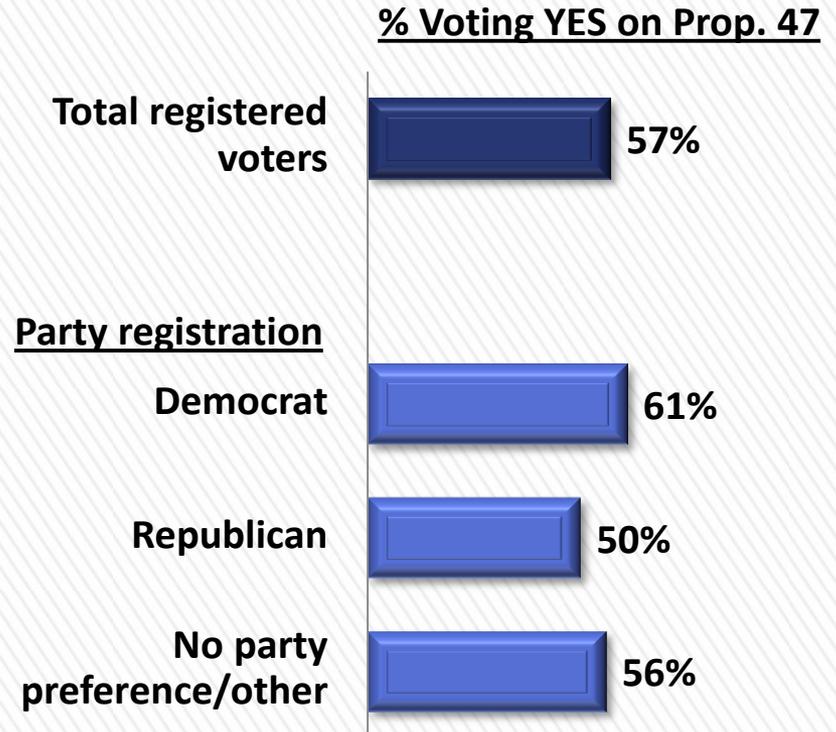
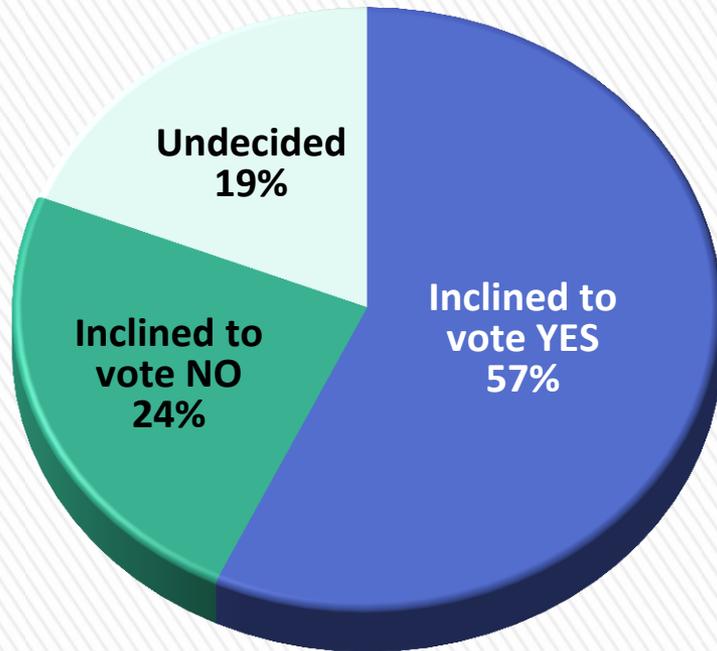


Graph 13

Early voter preferences regarding Proposition 46, the “Drug and Alcohol Testing of Doctors, Medical Negligence Lawsuits” statewide ballot initiative (among likely voters)



Early voter preferences regarding Proposition 47, the “Criminal Sentences/Misdemeanor Penalties” statewide ballot initiative (among likely voters)



Topline Findings
2014 TCWF-Field Health Policy Poll – Part 2
Voter Views of the Implementation of the Affordable Care Act in California and
Recent Proposals Aimed at Improving the State’s Health Care System

1. I am going to read some proposals that have been made to modify the health reform law in California, and please tell me whether you favor or oppose each one. (ITEMS READ IN RANDOM ORDER, ASKING:)
 Do you favor strongly, favor somewhat, oppose somewhat or oppose strongly this proposal?
- | | FAVOR
STRONGLY | FAVOR
SOMEWHAT | OPPOSE
SOMEWHAT | OPPOSE
STRONGLY | DON'T
KNOW |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| () a. Expand the state’s Medi-Cal health care program for low income residents to provide preventive health services to undocumented residents who are not eligible for coverage under the current health care law | 26% | 25 | 13 | 32 | 4 |
| () b. Allow insurance companies to offer a new lower cost, high deductible coverage option through the Covered California health insurance exchange..... | 27% | 35 | 14 | 15 | 9 |
| () c. Encourage insurance companies to change the way health plans are structured so they reward doctors and hospitals more for the quality of care they provide than the number of patients they treat or the number of services they prescribe | 52% | 30 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| () d. Expand state funding of not-for-profit health insurance co-ops, that can provide members with more health coverage choices often at lower prices than those offered by traditional insurance companies..... | 44% | 34 | 7 | 8 | 7 |
| () e. Encourage insurance companies to try to reduce health care costs by allowing physician assistants and nurse practitioners to play a bigger role in providing care to patients | 47% | 34 | 6 | 8 | 5 |
2. How important for you and your family is Medi-Cal, California’s health program that provides health insurance and long-term care to certain low-income adults and children? Is it very important for you and your family, somewhat important, not too important or not at all important?
- | | | |
|--|---------------------------|-----|
| | VERY IMPORTANT | 40% |
| | SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT | 22 |
| | NOT TOO IMPORTANT | 12 |
| | NOT AT ALL IMPORTANT..... | 22 |
| | NO OPINION..... | 4 |
3. Overall, how successful do you think Medi-Cal has been in meeting its goals – very successful, somewhat successful, not too successful or not at all successful?
- | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-----|
| | VERY SUCCESSFUL | 19% |
| | SOMEWHAT SUCCESSFUL..... | 46 |
| | NOT TOO SUCCESSFUL..... | 10 |
| | NOT AT ALL SUCCESSFUL | 6 |
| | NO OPINION..... | 19 |

(ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS UNDER AGE 65)

One part of the health reform law called for allowing each state to set up its own Health Insurance Exchange where individuals and small businesses could shop for health insurance from an online website. The health insurance web site that California set up for this purpose is called Covered California.

4.	Since the Covered California web site became available to Californians in October of last year, have you personally visited the site to see what kinds of health insurance were being offered there?	YES..... 36%
		NO 63
		NO OPINION..... 1

IF YES, ASK:

5.	Overall, how would you rate your experience at the Covered California web site – very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied?	VERY SATISFIED 18%
		SOMEWHAT SATISFIED 38
		SOMEWHAT DISSATISFIED 19
		VERY DISSATISFIED 23
		NO OPINION..... 2

6.	Did you obtain your current health insurance coverage through the Covered California web site?	VISITED COVERED CA (NET) 36%
		YES 9
		NO 25
		NO OPINION..... 2

7.	How interested would you be in shopping for health insurance at the Covered California web site (again) in the future – very interested, somewhat interested, not too interested or not at all interested?	VERY INTERESTED..... 21%
		SOMEWHAT INTERESTED 25
		NOT TOO INTERESTED 15
		NOT AT ALL INTERESTED 36
		NO OPINION..... 2

(ASKED OF LIKELY VOTERS IN THE NOVEMBER 2014 STATEWIDE ELECTION)

8. Next, I am going to read some ballot propositions that are likely to appear on the statewide general election ballot in November. Please tell me if you would be inclined to vote YES or NO on each proposition if the election were being held today. **(READ ITEMS BELOW IN ORDER, ASKING:)** If the election were being held today, would you vote YES or NO on this initiative?

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>DK</u>
() a. Proposition 45 is called the “Approval of Healthcare Insurance Rate Changes’ initiative. It requires that health insurance rate changes be approved by the state Insurance Commissioner before taking effect and requires a sworn statement by health insurers to justify rate changes.	69%	16	..15
() b. Proposition 46 is called the “Drug and Alcohol Testing of Doctors, Medical Negligence Lawsuits” initiative. It requires drug and alcohol testing of doctors and reporting of positive tests to the California Medical Board. It requires the Board to suspend a doctor pending investigation of positive tests and other possible disciplinary actions if the doctor was impaired while on duty. It requires health care practitioners to consult a state prescription drug history database before prescribing certain controlled substances and also increases the 250 thousand dollar cap on pain and suffering damages in medical negligence lawsuits to account for inflation.....	58%	30	..12
() c. Proposition 47 is called the “Criminal Sentences; Misdemeanor Penalties” initiative. It requires a misdemeanor sentence instead of a felony for petty theft, receiving stolen property, forging or writing bad checks of \$950 or less, and for certain drug possession offenses. Allows felony sentences if offender has previous conviction of crimes such as rape, murder, child molestation or is a registered sex offender. It requires resentencing for persons serving felony sentences for these offenses unless a court finds unreasonable public safety risk and would apply cost savings to mental health, drug treatment, K-12 schools and crime victims.....	57%	24	..19