



2023 VIRGINIA PRESCRIPTION DRUG SURVEY

July 2023

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Executive Summary

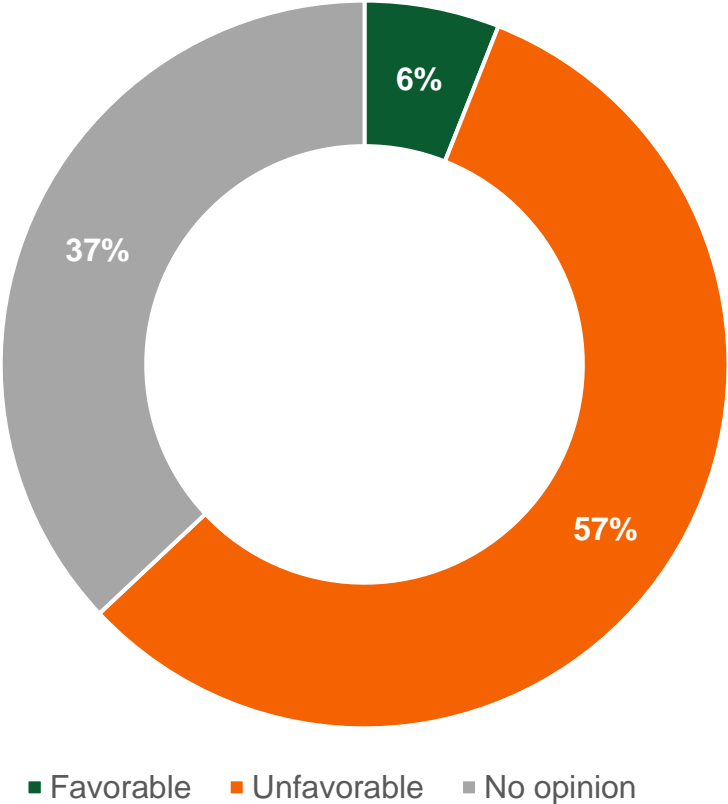
- **Two-thirds of Virginia voters ages 18 and older say they regularly take prescription medications**, with about one-third spending less than \$50 per month and one in seven spending between \$50 and \$100 per month on average. Overall, more than one-third of Virginia registered voters report having opted not to fill a prescription their doctor had given them and nearly two-thirds say they are very or somewhat concerned about being able to afford the cost of medications they may need in the next two years.
- **Support is high among Virginia voters ages 18 and older for the four legislative proposals about which they were asked.** Nearly nine in ten voters voice support for having the Commonwealth join buying pools with other states to be able to offer discounted prescription drugs. Three-quarters of voters say they support establishing a maximum amount to be paid for certain drugs, importing drugs from countries with equivalent safety and quality standards, and creating a prescription drug affordability board. Support for legislation creating a Prescription Drug Advisory Board (PDAB) would motivate most voters to vote.



DETAILED FINDINGS

Majority of Virginia voters has unfavorable view of big prescription drug companies, with little variability by political party

Favorable or unfavorable opinion of big prescription drug companies?

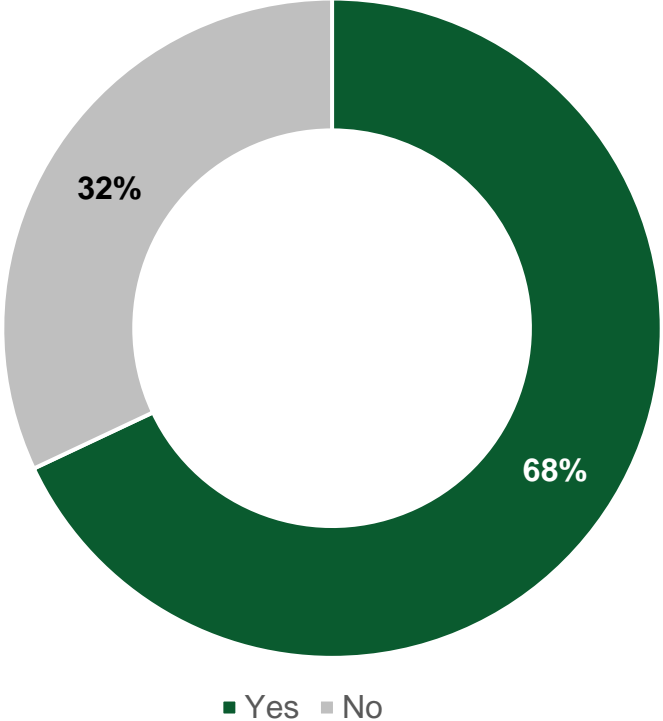


Q1. In general, would you say you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of big prescription drug companies, or do you have no opinion about them? Base: Total respondents (n=1,000)

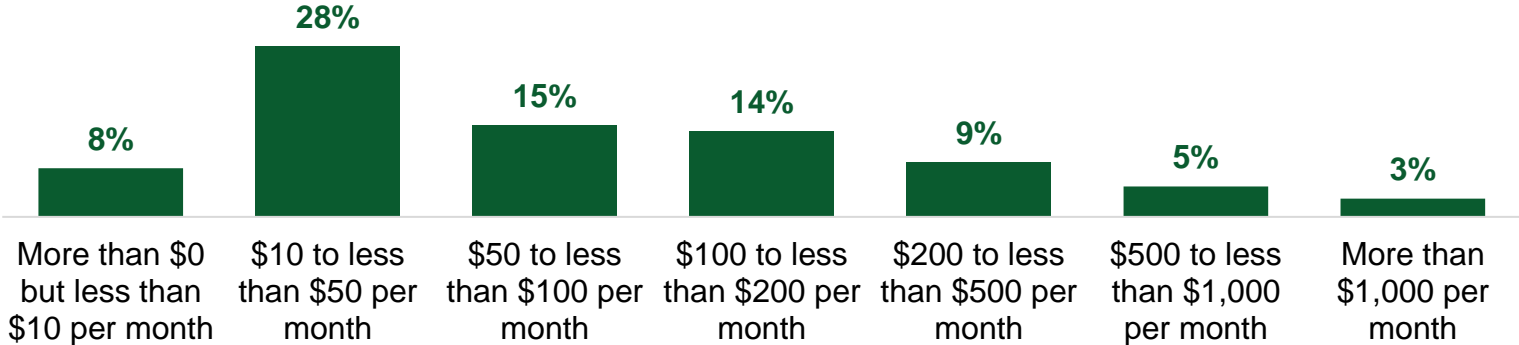
Two-thirds of Virginia voters take prescription drugs regularly, with half of them spending more than \$50 per month on them

One in six (16%) Virginia registered voters say they have paid nothing out-of-pocket for prescription drugs in the past year [not shown].

Do you take Rx medication on a regular basis?



In the past 12 months, how much have you spent out of your own pocket for Rx drugs?

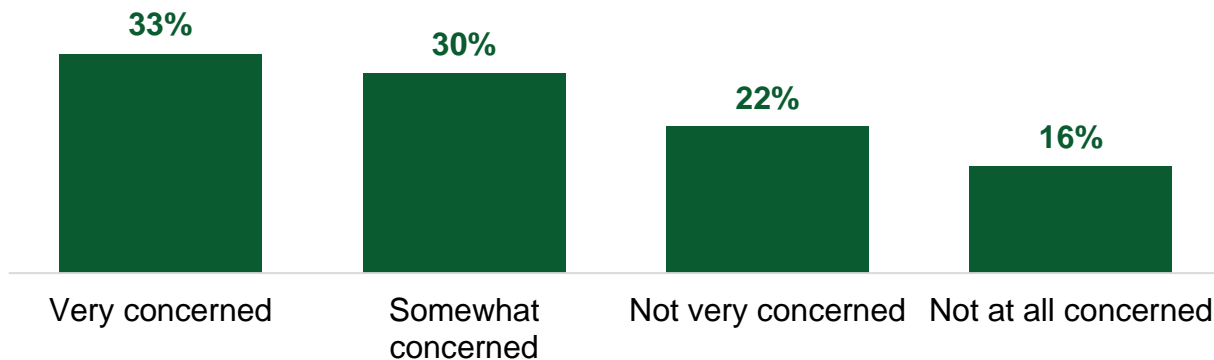


Q2. Do you currently take prescription medication on a regular basis, for example daily, weekly, or monthly? Base: Total respondents (n=1,000)

Q3. In the past 12 months, approximately how much have you spent out of your own pocket for prescription drugs? (Read list) Base: Those who take Rx medications (n=680)

Most Virginia voters are concerned about drug costs

Overall, more than one-third (35%) of Virginia registered voters report having opted not to fill a prescription their doctor had given them [not shown] and nearly two-thirds (63%) say they are very or somewhat concerned about being able to afford the cost of medications they may need.

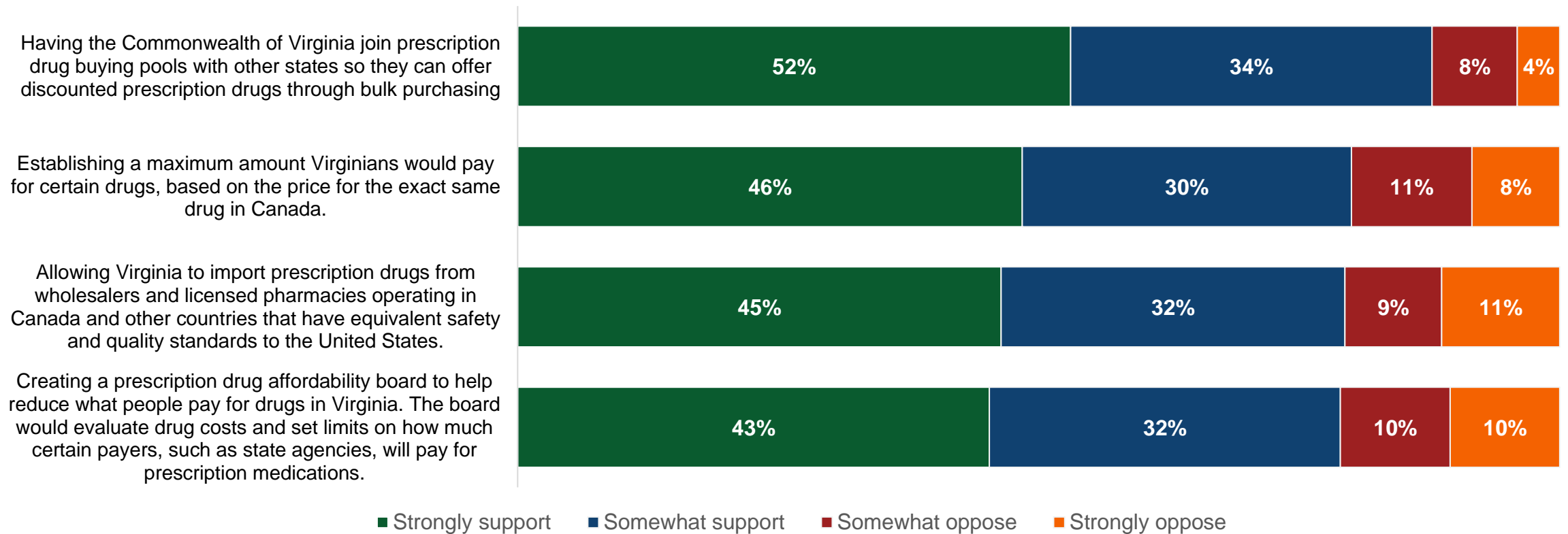


Q4. In the last two years, did you ever decide not to fill a prescription that your doctor had given you? Base: Total respondents (n=1,000)

Q5. Thinking about the next few years, how concerned are you about being able to afford the cost of prescription medication you or a family member may need? Would you say you are...? Base: Total respondents (n=1,000)

Support is high among Virginia voters for all legislative proposals

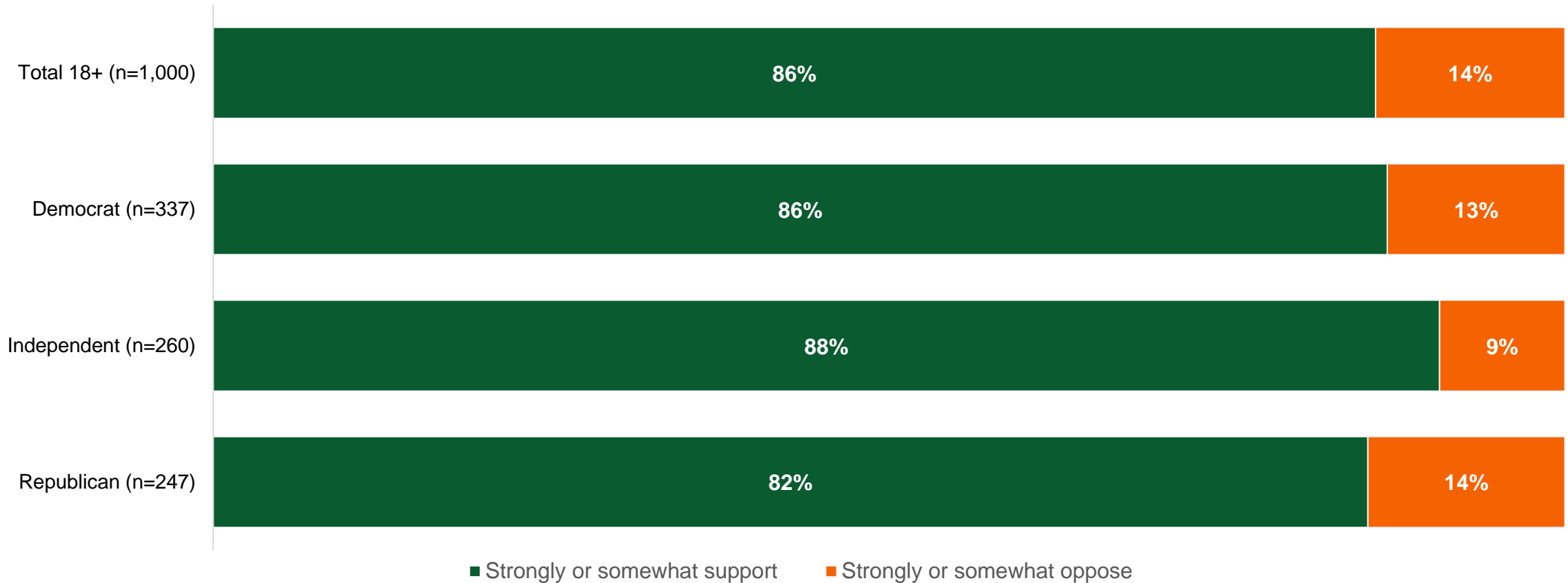
Nearly nine in ten (86%) Virginia registered voters support having the Commonwealth join buying pools with other states to be able to offer discounted prescription drugs. Three-quarters support establishing a maximum amount to be paid for certain drugs (76%), importing drugs from countries with equivalent safety and quality standards (77%), and creating a prescription drug affordability board (75%).



Q6-Q9. The following are proposals that have been made to lower the prices of prescription drugs. For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose that proposal. [Would that be strongly or just somewhat?] Base: Total respondents (n=1,000)

Across political parties, Virginia voters voice support for the Commonwealth joining a prescription drug buying pool in order to offer discounted drugs

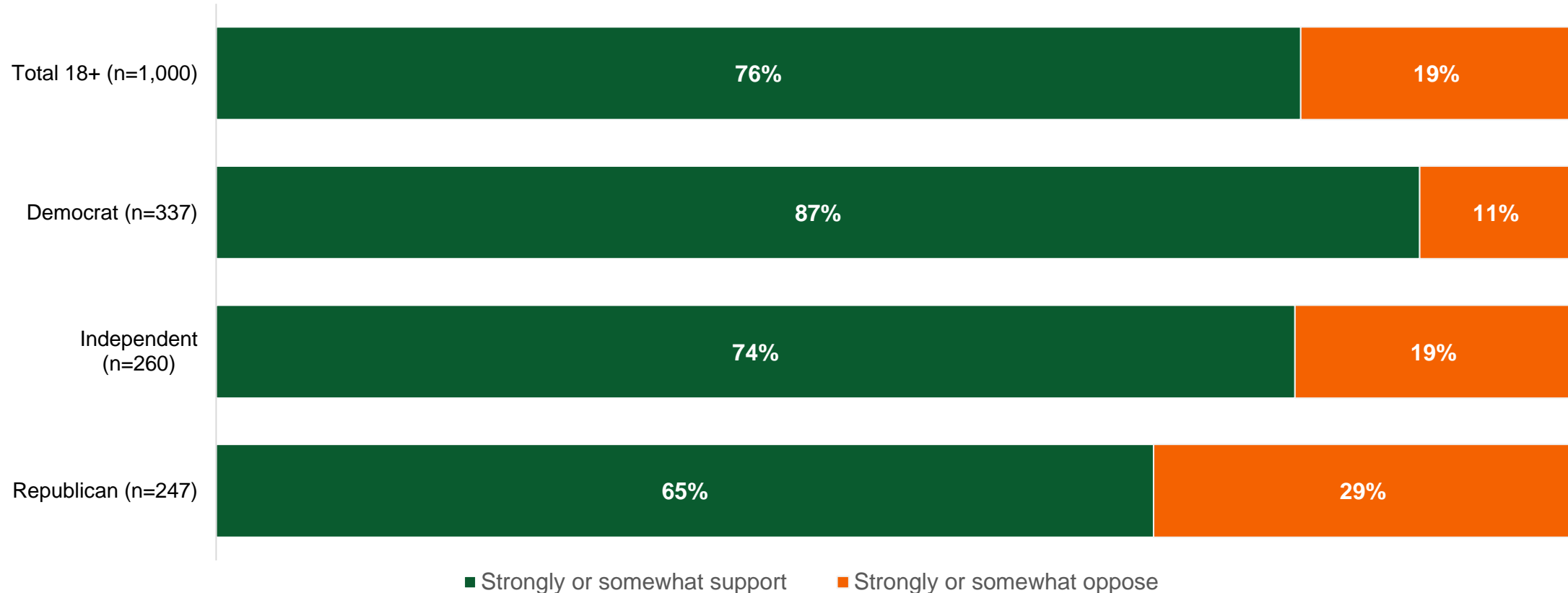
Support or oppose the Commonwealth of Virginia join prescription drug buying pools with other states so they can offer discounted prescription drugs through bulk purchasing?



Q6-Q9. The following are proposals that have been made to lower the prices of prescription drugs. For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose that proposal. [Would that be strongly or just somewhat?] Base: Total respondents (n=1,000)

Virginia Democrats voice the most support for the establishment of a maximum amount for certain drugs based on the Canadian price

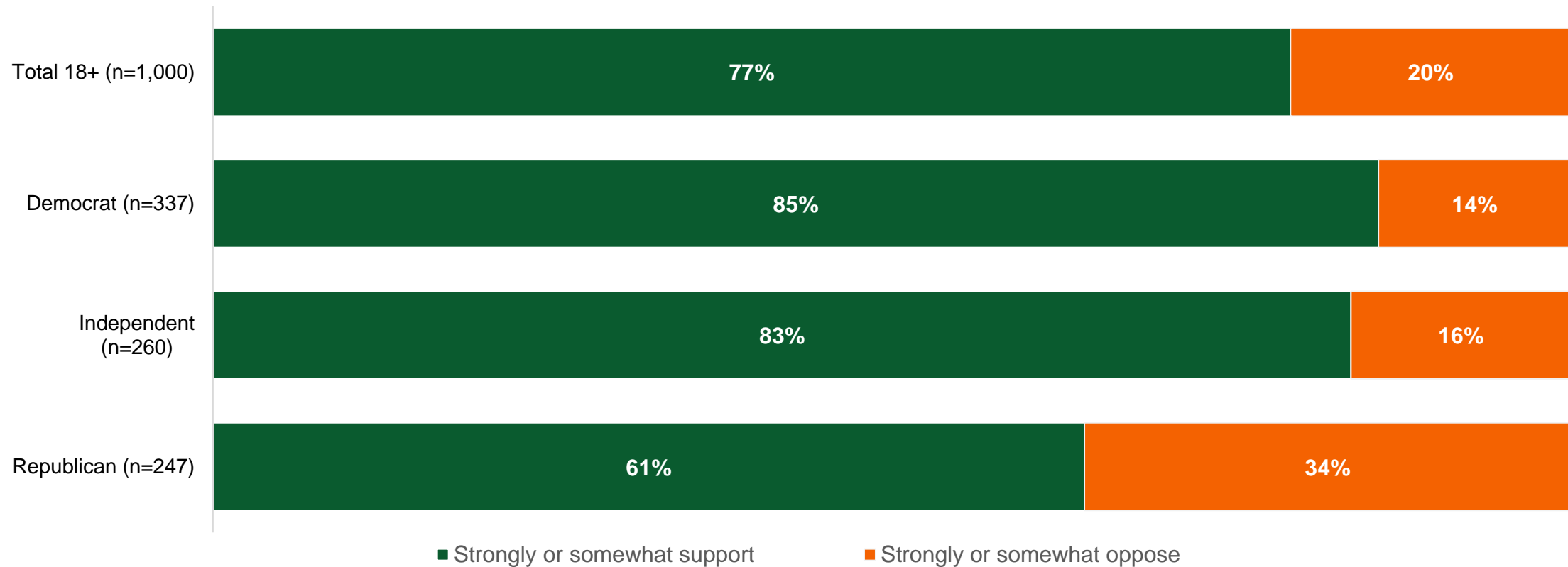
Support or oppose establishing a maximum amount Virginians would pay for certain drugs based on the price for the exact same drug in Canada?



Q6-Q9. The following are proposals that have been made to lower the prices of prescription drugs. For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose that proposal. [Would that be strongly or just somewhat?] Base: Total respondents (n=1,000)

Support for allowing Virginia to import prescription drugs from wholesalers and licensed pharmacies is highest among Democrats and Independents

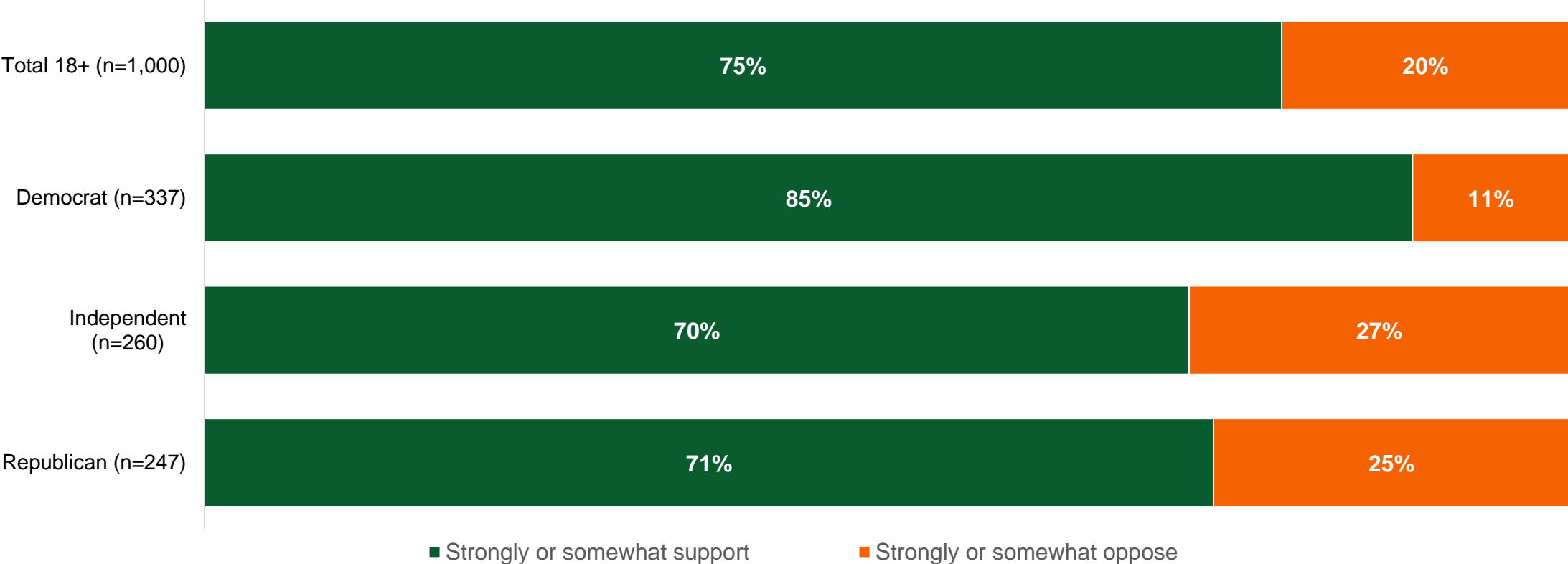
Support or oppose allowing Virginia to import prescription drugs from wholesalers and licensed pharmacies operating in Canada and other countries that have equivalent safety and quality standards to the U.S.?



Q6-Q9. The following are proposals that have been made to lower the prices of prescription drugs. For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose that proposal. [Would that be strongly or just somewhat?] Base: Total respondents (n=1,000)

Support for a Prescription Drug Affordability Board is strong across party lines

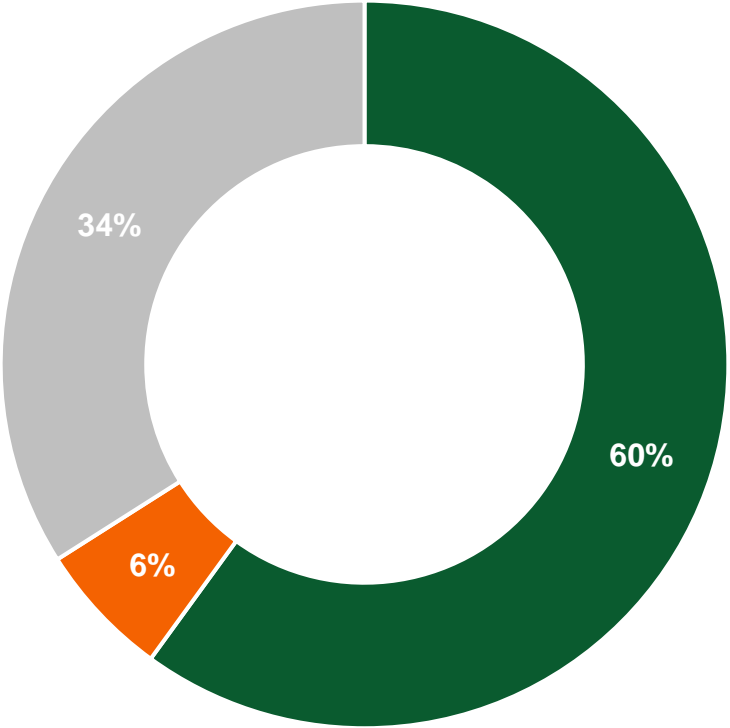
Support or oppose creating a Prescription Drug Affordability Board to help reduce what people pay for drugs in Virginia? The board would evaluate drug costs and set limits on how much certain payers, such as state agencies, will pay for prescription medications.



Q6-Q9. The following are proposals that have been made to lower the prices of prescription drugs. For each one, please tell me if you would support or oppose that proposal. [Would that be strongly or just somewhat?] Base: Total respondents (n=1,000)

Support for legislation creating a Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) would motivate most voters to vote for a candidate

More or less likely to vote for candidate who supported legislation that would create a PDAB?



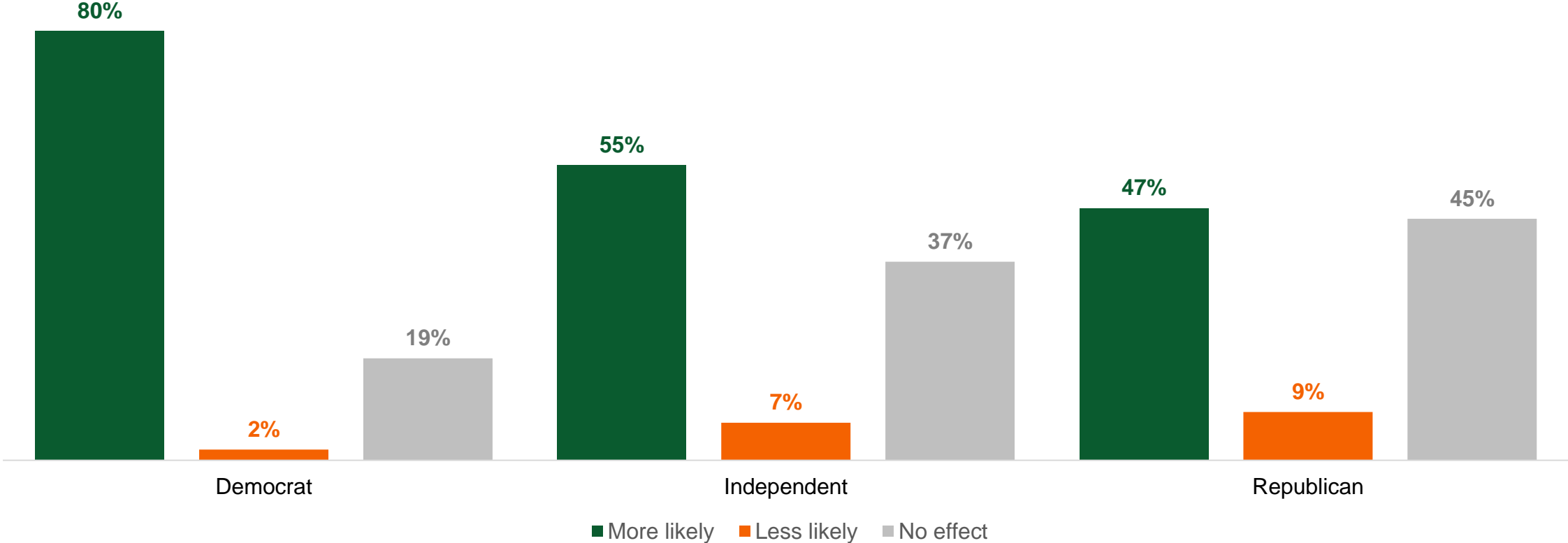
■ More likely ■ Less likely ■ No effect



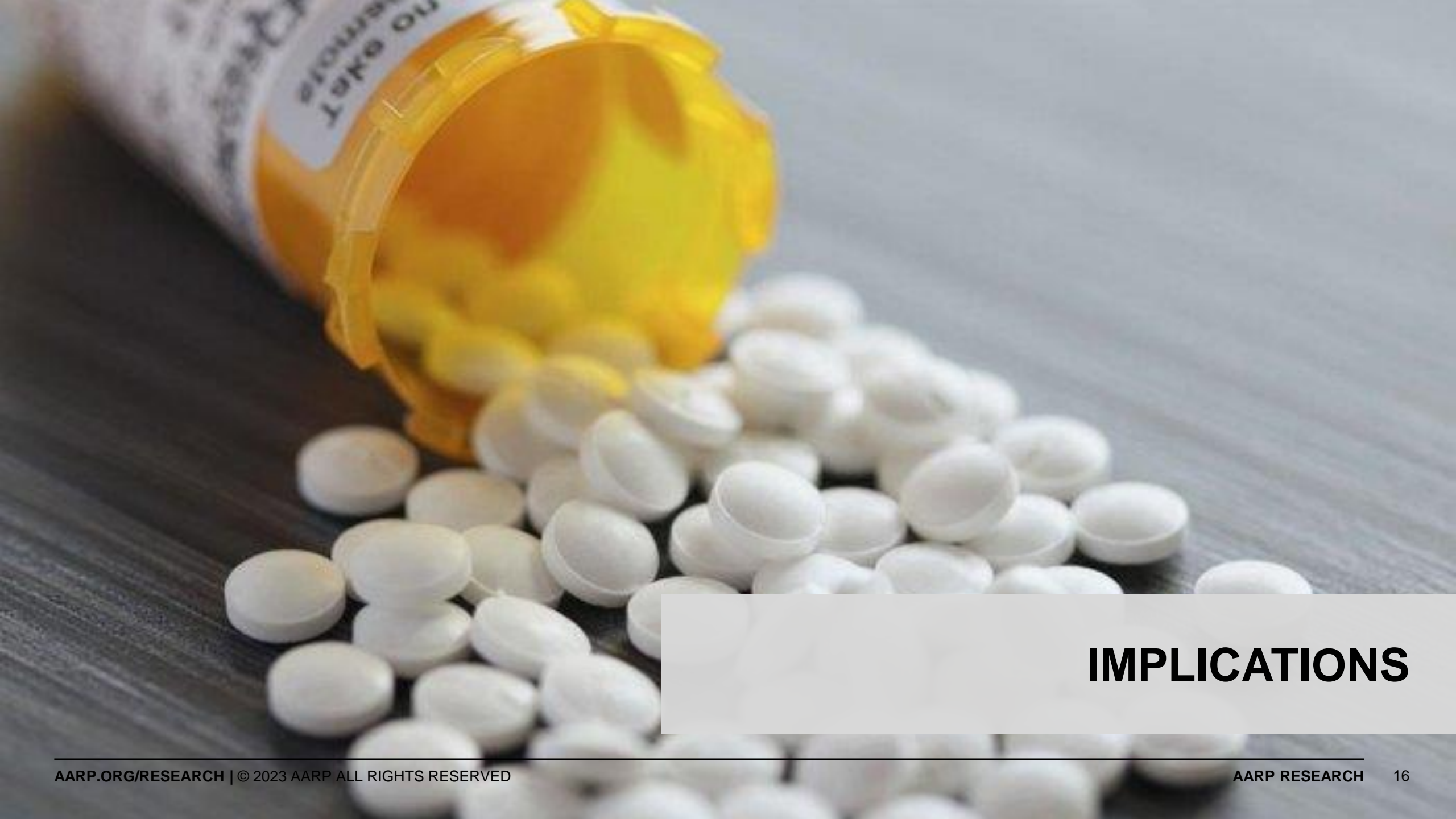
Q10. Would you be more or less likely to vote for candidate to the state legislature who supported legislation that would create a Prescription Drug Affordability Board (to help to reduce the prices that people pay for drugs in Virginia,) or would it have no effect on your opinion? Base: Total respondents (n=1,000)

A candidate who supports the establishment of a PDAB would motivate voters across political parties

Would you be more or less likely to vote for candidate who supported legislation that would create a Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB)?



Q10. Would you be more or less likely to vote for candidate to the state legislature who supported legislation that would create a Prescription Drug Affordability Board (to help to reduce the prices that people pay for drugs in Virginia,) or would it have no effect on your opinion? Base: Total respondents (n=1,000)



IMPLICATIONS

Implications

High prescription drug prices affect most Virginia voters ages 18 and older, many of whom are concerned about affording prescription drugs for their family over the next few years and who have already skipped filling prescriptions.

Virginia voters are united in support for addressing the price of prescription drugs through several legislative and policy changes, including having the Commonwealth join prescription drug buying pools, establishing the maximum amount Virginians would pay for certain drugs, allowing Virginia to import prescription drugs from Canada and other countries with equivalent quality and safety standards, and allowing Virginia to establish a Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB).





DEMOGRAPHICS

Respondent demographics

Gender		Household income:	
Male	47%	<\$30,000	9%
Female	53%	\$30,000-\$49,999	12%
Age:		\$50,000-\$74,999	11%
18-49	46%	\$75,000+	54%
50-64	25%	Refused	14%
65 and over	29%	Political Identification:	
Race/Ethnicity:		Democrat	36%
White	71%	Republican	25%
Black/African American	25%	Independent	26%
Hispanic/Latino	4%	Something else	11%
Native American	2%	Refused	5%
Some other race	4%	Marital status:	
Education:		Married or living with a partner	63%
Some college or less	55%	Single and never married	15%
Bachelor's degree or higher	45%	Divorced or separated	11%
Veteran:		Widowed	7%
AARP Member:		Not married, living with partner	3%



METHODOLOGY

Methodology

- **Objectives:** To explore the use of prescription drugs and concerns relating to prescription drugs among Virginia voters ages 18 and over
- **Methodology:** Phone survey; sample drawn from a list of Virginia registered voters
- **Qualifications:** Virginia registered voters ages 18 and older (22% via landlines phones and 78% via cell phones); n=1,000
- **Interviewing Dates:** June 6-20, 2023
- **Weighting:** Data are weighted using an iterative weighting process on region, age, race, sex, and education to reflect the population of Virginia's registered voters. Parameters for the weights come from the 2020 Census and the 2021 American Community Survey 1-year Estimates.
- **Questionnaire length:** 10 minutes (average)
- **Confidence Interval:** Total sample: $\pm 3.7\%$

Note: Some percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding or the use of multiple response question formats.



About AARP

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With a nationwide presence, AARP strengthens communities and advocates for what matters most to the more than 100 million Americans 50-plus and their families: health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. AARP also produces the nation's largest circulation publications: AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin. To learn more, visit www.aarp.org/about-aarp/, www.aarp.org/español or follow [@AARP](https://twitter.com/AARP), [@AARPenEspañol](https://twitter.com/AARPenEspañol) and [@AARPadvocates](https://twitter.com/AARPadvocates) on social media.

About The Wason Center for Civic Leadership

The Wason Center has a 10+ year track record of providing citizens and lawmakers accurate, unbiased and nonpartisan insight into the policy issues shaping the future of the Commonwealth. Students work side-by-side with talented faculty to produce survey research and political analysis that informs decision making around the Commonwealth. In 2021, the Wason Center made a transformational commitment toward inspiring the next generation of civic leaders. To learn more, visit cnu.edu/wasoncenter



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This research was designed and executed by AARP Research