SPAN
Schizophrenia Policy Action Network

Mental Health and Schizophrenia Survey

April 28, 2026

PREPARED BY:

Neil Newhouse, Partner

LRP LAKE RESEARCH PARTNERS

PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES
turning questions into answers

Methodology

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turning questions into answers

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Schizophrenia & Psychosis Action Alliance

Overview

Public Opinion Strategies conducted a national survey on behalf of the Schizophrenia & Psychosis Action Alliance (S&PAA).

Timeline

The survey was conducted April 16-23, 2026.

Audiences

The survey was conducted among N=1,000 registered voters with a separate sample conducted of N=491 clients.

The credibility interval for a survey of N=1000 is ±3.53%.

The credibility interval for a survey of N=491 is ±5.04%.

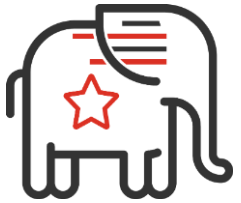
Profile of National Voters Surveyed (N=1,000)

Gender	% of Sample
Men	**48%**
Women	**52%**

Age	% of Sample
18-34	**24%**
35-44	**15%**
45-54	**15%**
55-64	**21%**
65+	**25%**

Ethnicity	% of Sample
White	**70%**
Hispanic	**10%**
Black	**13%**
Other	**7%**

Party ID	% of Sample
Republican	**41%**
Independent	**18%**
Democrat	**41%**



GOP Support	% of Sample
More Donald Trump	**32%**
More Republican Party	**46%**
Both	**21%**

2024 Vote	% of Sample
Donald Trump	**44%**
Kamala Harris	**43%**

HC Plan Type	% of Sample
Provided by Employer or Spouse's Employer	**32%**
Medicare	**29%**
Medicaid	**19%**
Plan You Purchase Yourself	**9%**
Other	**5%**
Do Not Have Insurance	**6%**

Education	% of Sample
High School or Less	**28%**
Some College	**34%**
College+	**39%**

Profile of Clients Surveyed (N=491)

Gender	% of Sample
Men	**19%**
Women	**79%**

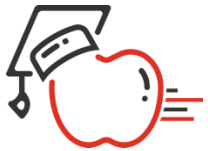
Age	% of Sample
18-44	**22%**
45-54	**16%**
55-64	**26%**
65+	**36%**

Ethnicity	% of Sample
White	**81%**
Hispanic	**4%**
Black	**5%**
Other	**9%**

Party ID	% of Sample
Republican	**19%**
Independent	**29%**
Democrat	**52%**

GOP Support	% of Sample
More Donald Trump	**15%**
More Republican Party	**60%**
Both	**25%**

HC Plan Type	% of Sample
Provided by Employer or Spouse's Employer	**39%**
Medicare	**32%**
Medicaid	**9%**
Plan You Purchase Yourself	**11%**
Other	**7%**
Do Not Have Insurance	**3%**



Education	% of Sample
High School or Less	**6%**
Some College	**19%**
College+	**76%**

Take-Away Points

Take-Away Points

1

Voters believe the nation's health care system, along with the country's mental health care system, is broken. *While 97% of Americans believe the issue of mental illness is important, and 77% say it is just as important as one's physical health, only 18% of Americans rate the availability of mental health services in the country positively, and just 4% believe that those with serious mental illness are getting adequate care.*

Further, just 17% of voters believe that there is sufficient availability in hospitals to treat people with serious mental illness.

2

Americans recognize that "mental illness is a medical condition that requires professional treatment" (83%), and even more believe that "mental health care is a basic need that we should ensure people have access to" (89%).

Take-Away Points

3 ***Further, more than nine out of ten voters believe that health insurance companies should be required to cover mental health care just as they do physical health care.*** *That goes for Medicare and Medicaid as well, with 85% of Americans believing those programs should cover the costs of serious mental illness.*

4 ***Voters believe that the high cost of treatment and medication as well as inadequate health insurance coverage are the main barriers to receiving mental health care.***

5 ***More than three-fourths of voters not only believe that serious mental illness can be effectively treated, but that it can be effectively managed.***

Take-Away Points

6 ***Further, 69% of voters believe that policymakers "should focus on regulating health insurance practices that make it harder to get the care and treatment" people need.***

7 ***There is a strong sense among voters that the federal government spends too little on resources for health services for serious mental illness (75%), and this sentiment cuts across the partisan board, with two-thirds of Republicans agreeing.*** *Taking this a step further, 88% of voters support increasing federal funding for health programs for serious mental illnesses (84% GOP, 85% IND, 93% DEM), and 77% say they support increasing funding "even if it meant paying higher taxes" (71% GOP, 75% IND, 85% DEM).*

Take-Away Points

8 ***Fully half of Americans are touched in some way by serious mental illness, as 51% say they either have mental illness, are a caregiver for or a friend of someone with mental illness, or are a professional working in the field.*** *Younger Americans (18-44) are significantly more likely to be touched by this issue (64%).*

9 ***When voters are asked which of a number of areas need the most increased public funding to help support people with serious mental illness, they focus on "access to consistent psychiatric care and medication," with "crisis intervention," "affordable housing," and "research into treatments" far behind.***

10 ***By a stunning 78%-6% margin, voters say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate for political office who made mental health care a top priority (GOP'er – 72%, IND – 77%, DEM – 85%).*** *Fully 41% say they would be "much more likely" to vote for such a candidate.*

Take-Away Points

11 ***While there is strong support for the Inflation Reduction Act provision that allows the government to negotiate the prices of prescription drugs, voters express concern about whether this could reduce future treatment options for mental health and lead to potential increases in what patients pay.***

12 ***Voters strongly oppose (68%-16%) the 1965 law that prohibits Medicaid coverage for care in psychiatric hospitals with more than 16 beds, with 70% believing the 16-bed limitation should be removed.***

13 ***When voters are informed about the impact of mental illness on homelessness and the criminal justice system, what stands out the most is the fact that 67% of homeless live with a mental health disorder, and the fact that individuals with untreated serious mental illness are 16 times more likely to be involved in fatal encounters with law enforcement.***

Bottom Line

Bottom Line

Voters believe the nation's mental health care system is broken – those with serious mental illnesses are not getting the care they need, there are too few facilities to provide that care, the costs for care and insurance or lack thereof are the major barriers to that care, and there is insufficient funding provided by the federal government. Not only do Americans believe that private health insurance as well as Medicaid and Medicare should cover mental health issues that same as they do physical health issues, but the vast majority consider mental health just as important as physical health.

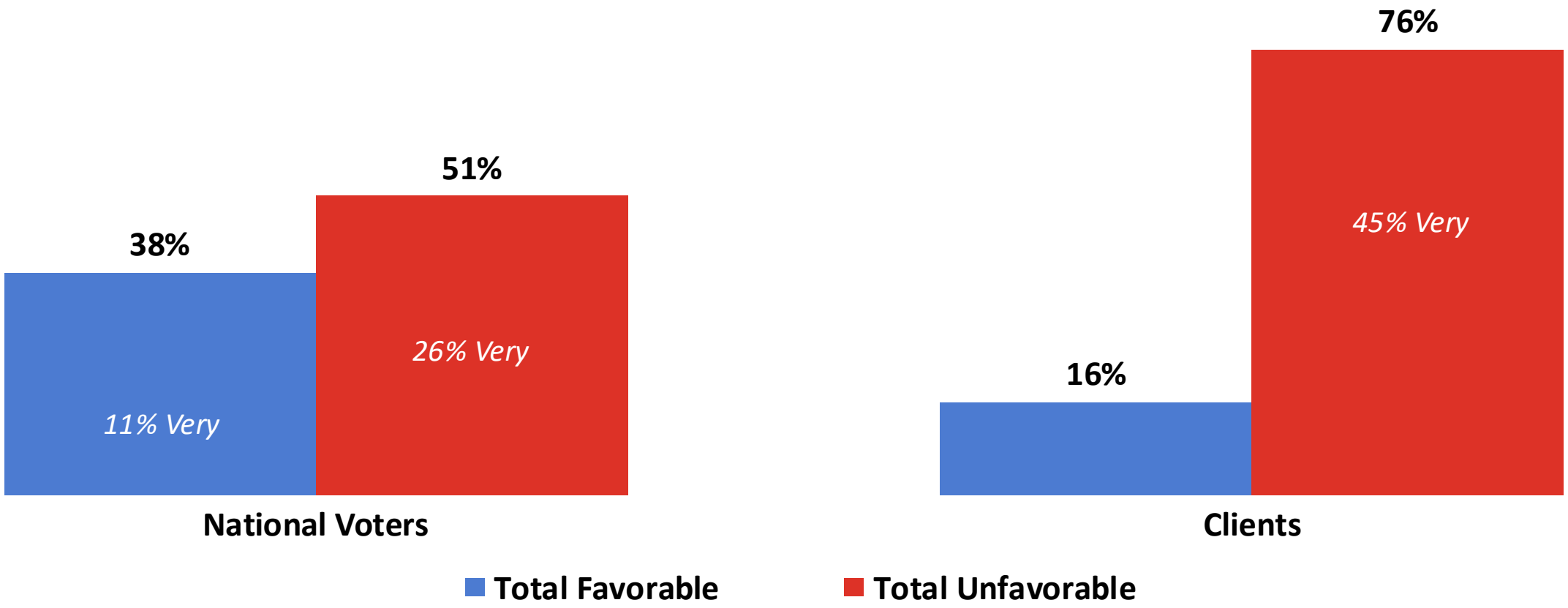
Finally, voters across the partisan board want to see an increase in funding for mental health care in the country, with a majority supporting it even if it raises taxes. And, voters say they will take their opinions on this issue to the polls in November, with 78% saying they would be more likely to vote for a candidate for political office if they made mental health care a top priority.

Key Polling Data

Both the national sample and the SCZ respondents are “unfavorable” to the nation’s health care system.

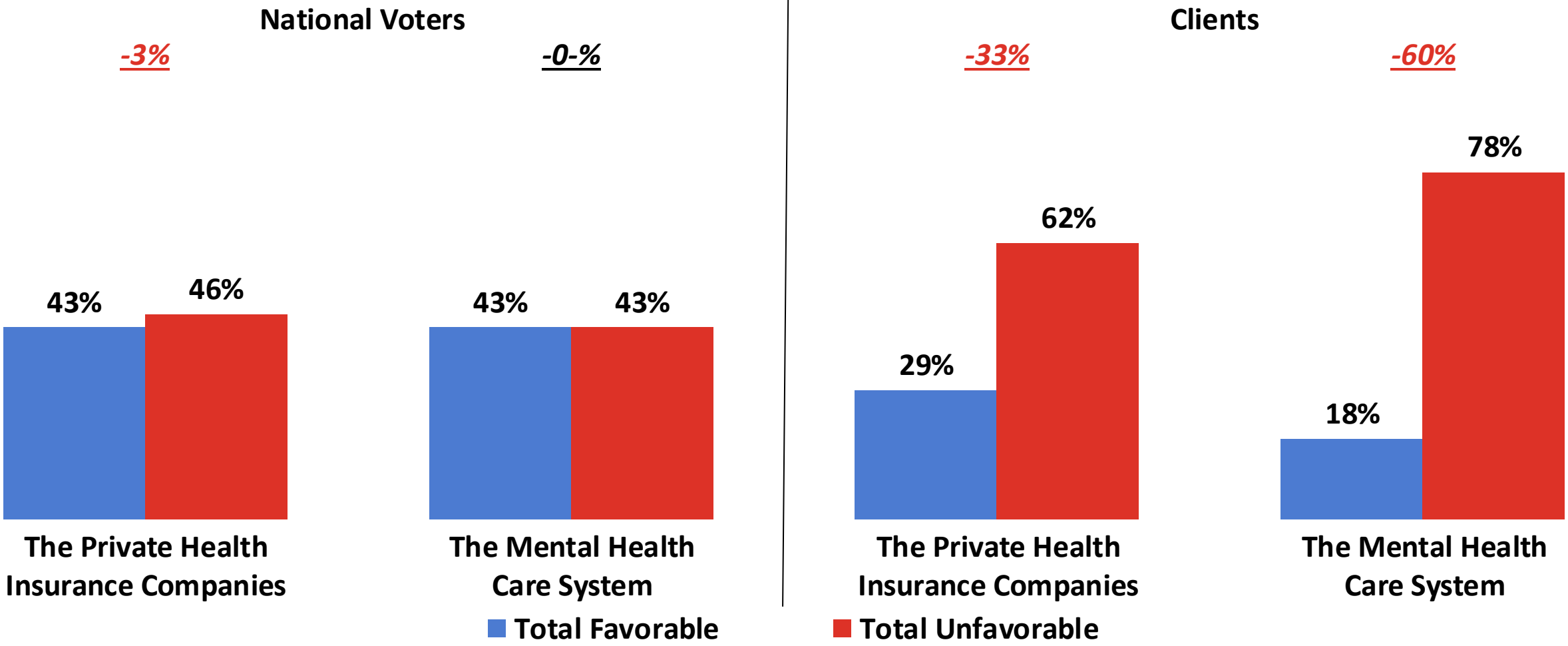
Please read the list below of names of different groups and organizations. For each one, please indicate if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable image of that group or organization. If there is a group or organization you don't know too much about, just indicate that and go on to the next one.

-13% **The Nation’s Health Care System** ***+60%***



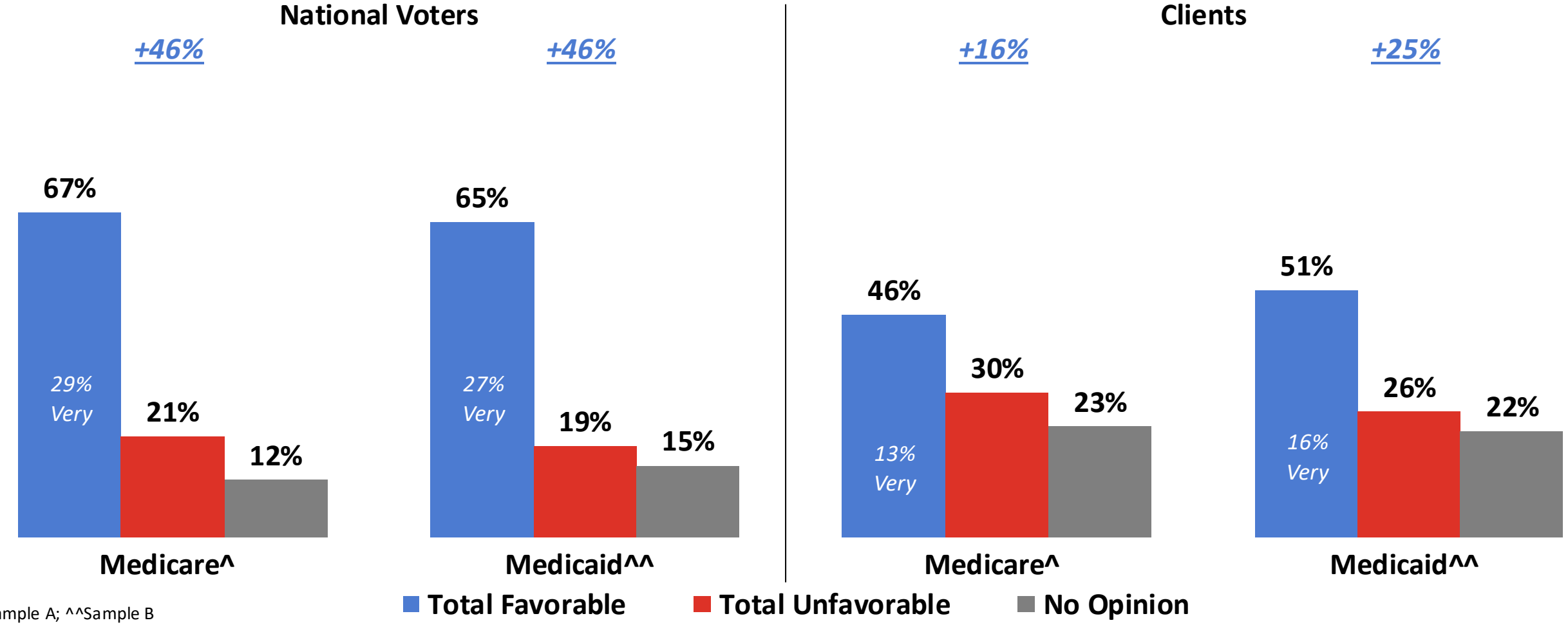
National voters split their views toward private health insurance companies and the mental health care system, while the client sample is decidedly negative.

Please read the list below of names of different groups and organizations. For each one, please indicate if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable image of that group or organization. If there is a group or organization you don't know too much about, just indicate that and go on to the next one.



Yet, both groups have favorable impressions of Medicare and Medicaid.

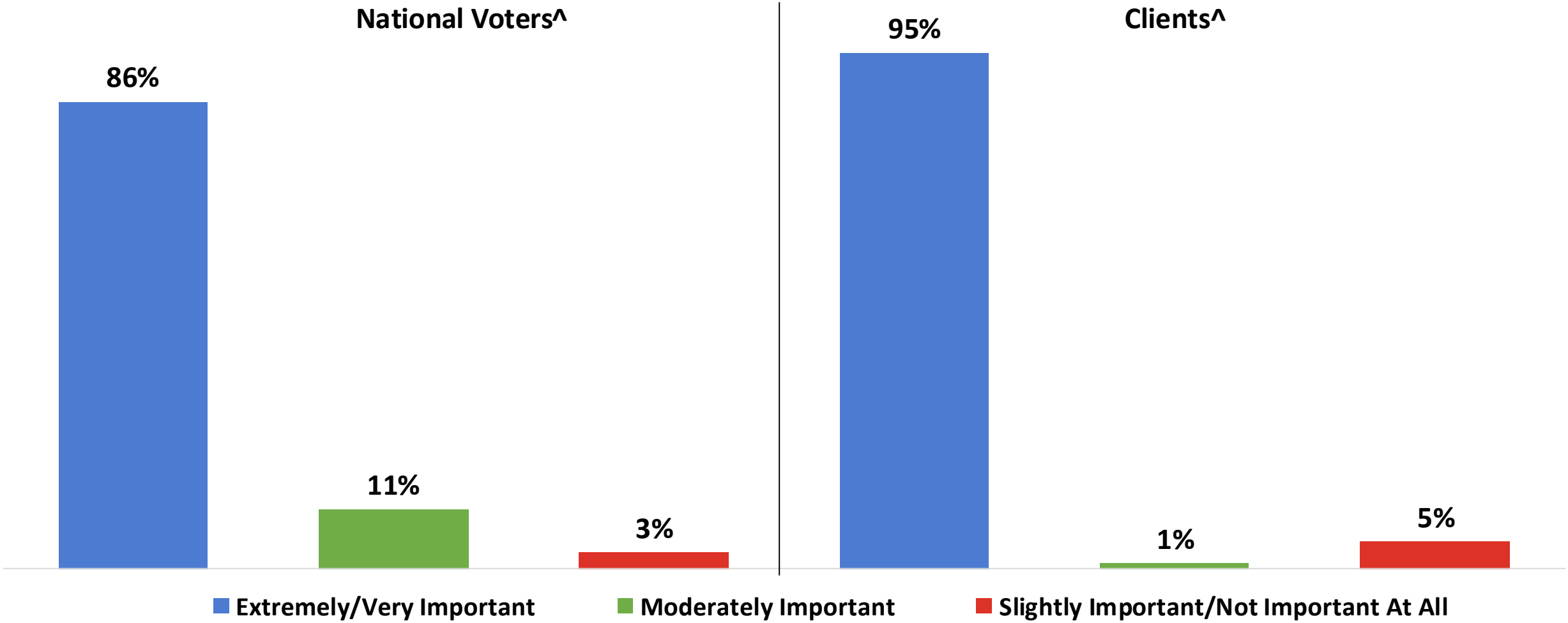
Please read the list below of names of different groups and organizations. For each one, please indicate if you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable image of that group or organization. If there is a group or organization you don't know too much about, just indicate that and go on to the next one.



^Sample A; ^^Sample B

Voters and SCZ respondents both consider mental illness an “extremely important” issue facing the I+US.

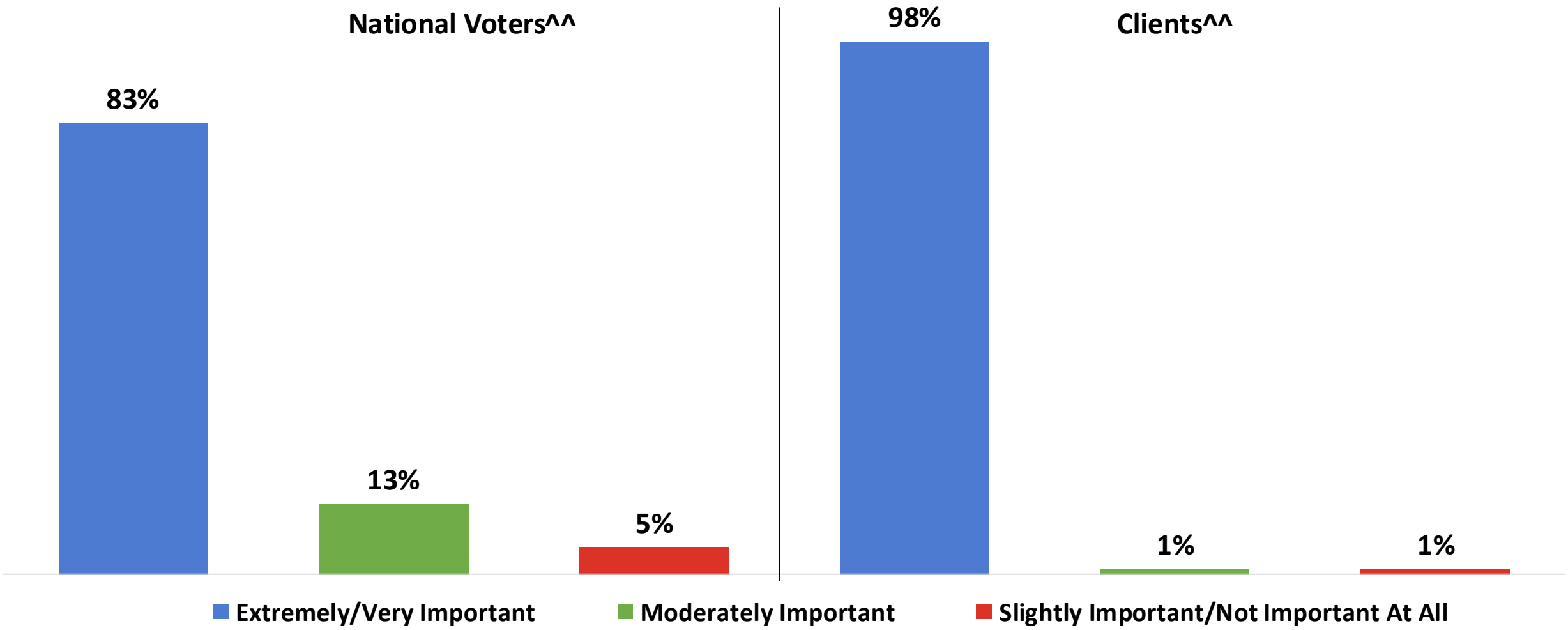
In your opinion, how important is the issue of mental illness in the United States today?



^Sample A; ^^Sample B

Both groups give similar ratings on the importance of “serious mental illness.”

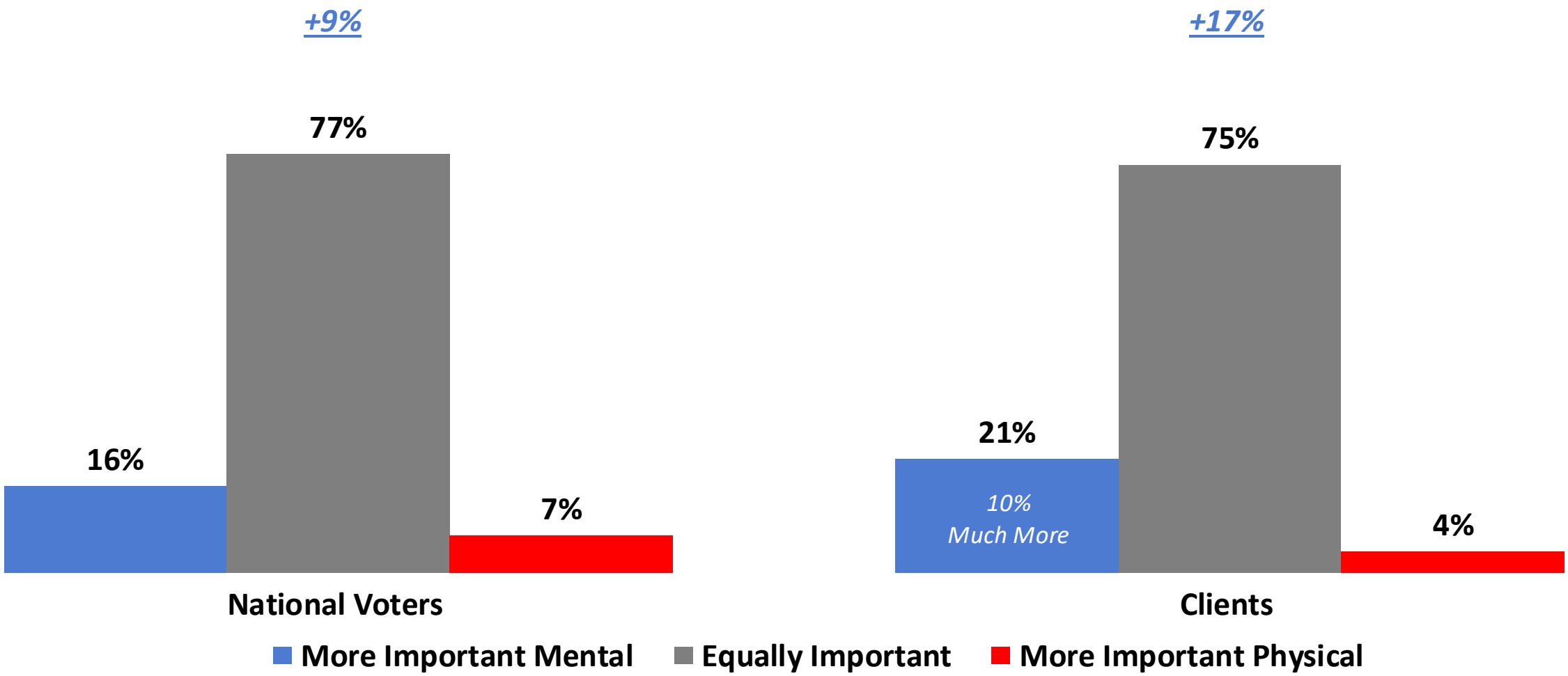
In your opinion, how important is the issue of serious mental illness in the United States today?



^Sample A; ^^Sample B

Fully three-quarters of those sampled on our national poll and the SCZ respondents consider mental health care as equally important to physical health care.

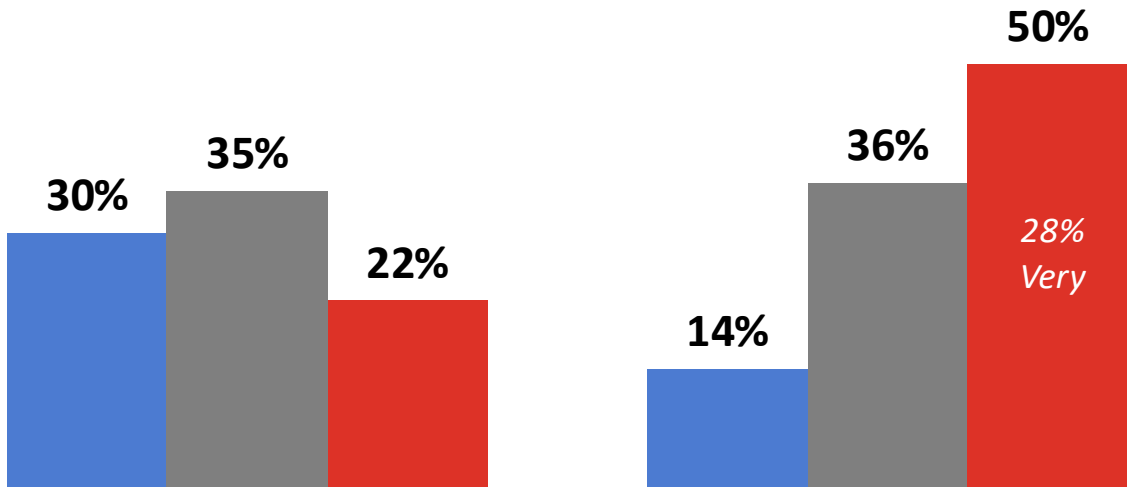
And, how important do you believe mental health care is compared to physical health care?



Neither voters nor SCZ respondents rate either the availability of mental health services in their community or the country positively.

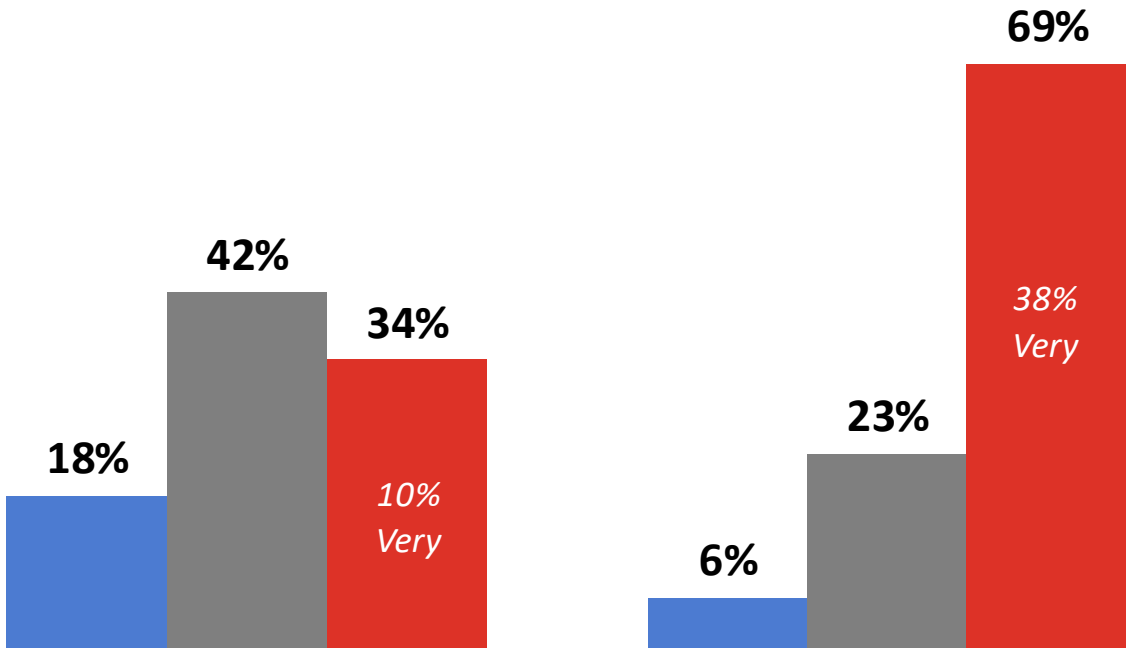
Generally speaking, how would you rate the availability of mental health services in your community?

+8% ***-36%***



Generally speaking, how would you rate the availability of mental health services in the country?

-16% ***-63%***



Total Good Fair Total Poor

^Sample A; ^^Sample B

There is an overwhelming sentiment that mental illness is a medical condition rather than a personal struggle people need to overcome.

And, which of the following two statements comes closer to your view about mental illness, even if neither one is exactly right?

	National Voters^	Clients^
Mental illness is primarily a medical condition that requires professional treatment.	**83%**	**97%**
...or...		
Mental illness is primarily a personal struggle that people need to overcome themselves.	**10%**	**1%**

^Sample A; ^^Sample B

Further, there is a near unanimous belief that "mental health care and support is a basic human need."

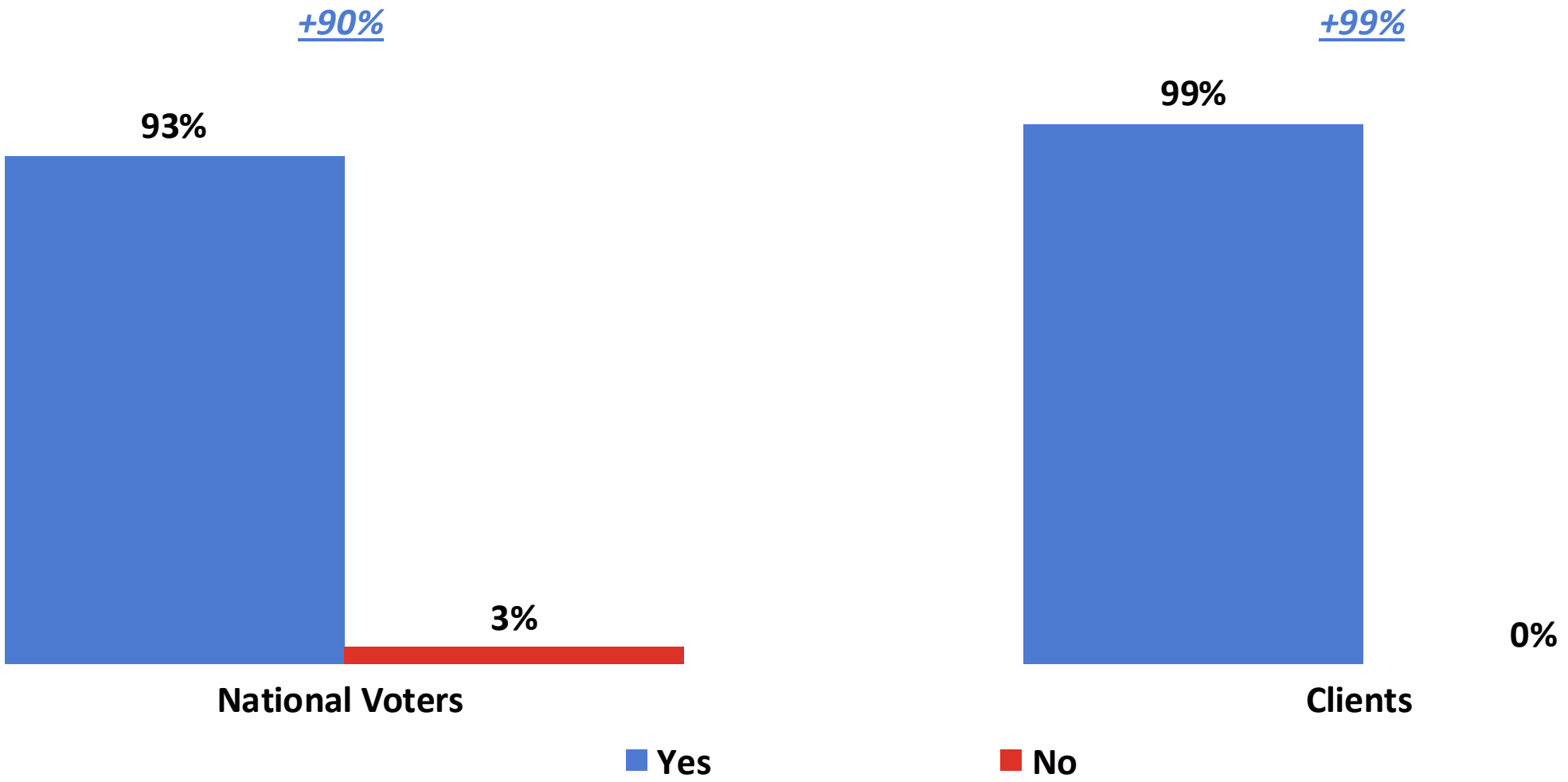
And, which of the following two statements comes closer to your view about mental illness, even if neither one is exactly right?

	National Voters^^	Clients^^
Mental health care and support is a basic human need that we should ensure people can have access to.	**89%**	**98%**
...or...		
Mental health care and support is a private responsibility that everyone should handle themselves.	**8%**	**1%**

^Sample A; ^^Sample B

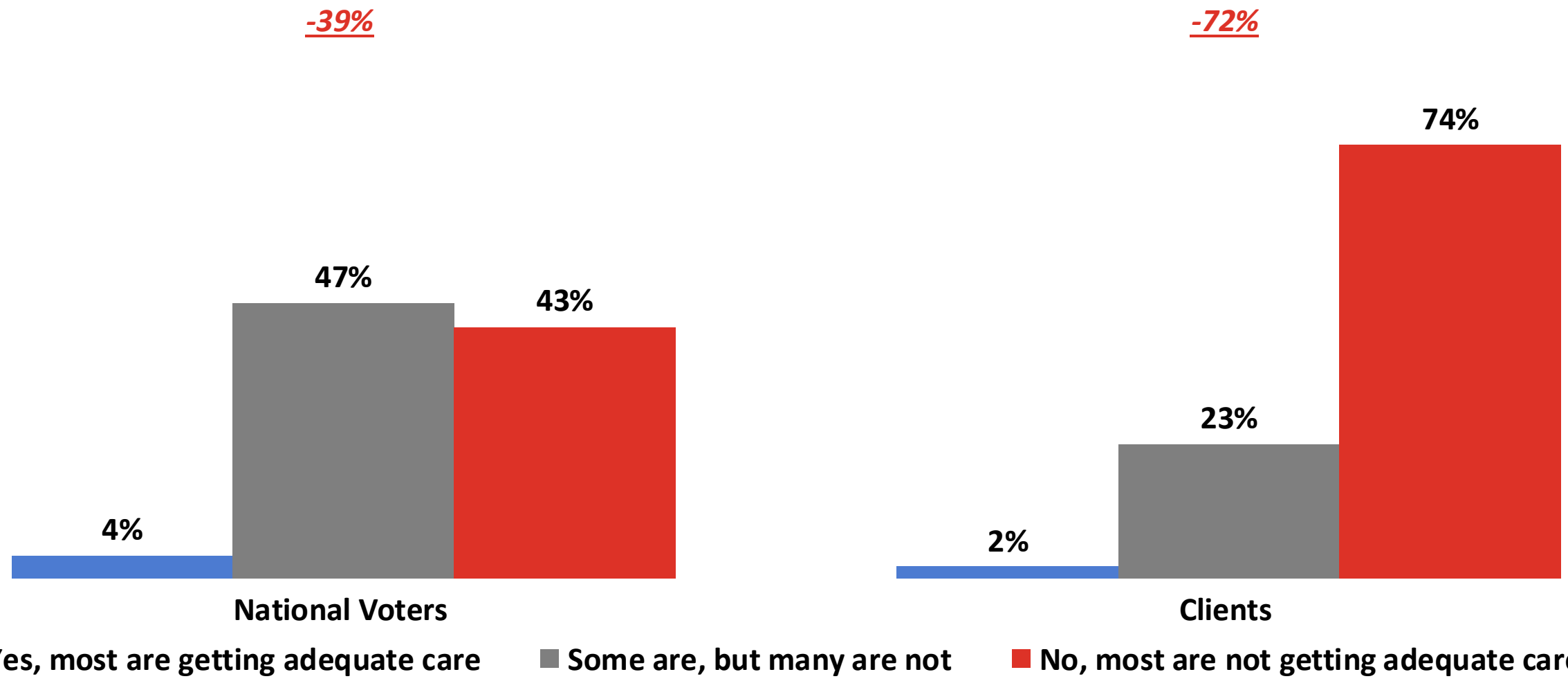
More than 90% of both samples believe that health insurance companies should be required to cover mental health care just as they do physical health care.

And, do you believe that health insurance companies should be required to cover mental healthcare just as they do physical health care?



Few voters or SCZ respondents believe that people with serious mental illness are getting the treatment they deserve.

Do you believe that people with serious mental illnesses are getting the treatment and support they need in America today?



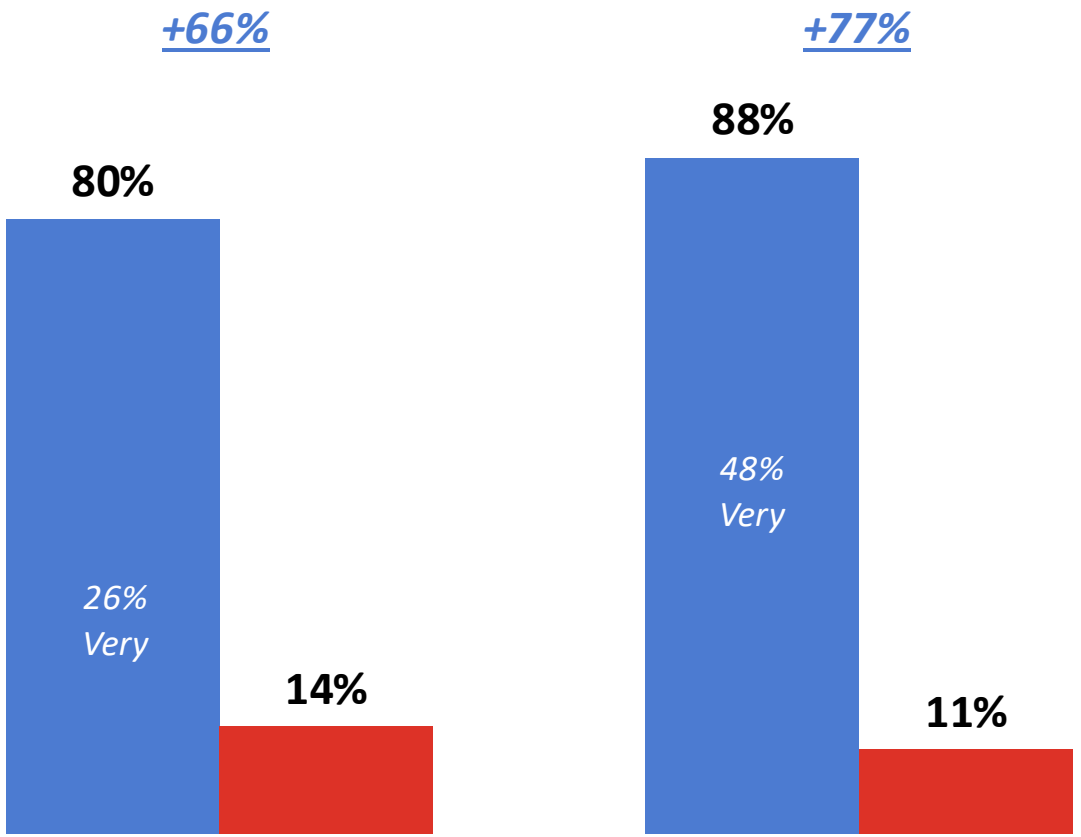
While voters generally point to high cost of treatment/medication and inadequate insurance coverage as the biggest barriers to receiving health care, SCZ respondents cite as many as eight barriers.

And, which TWO or THREE of the following do you believe are the biggest barriers to receiving mental health care?

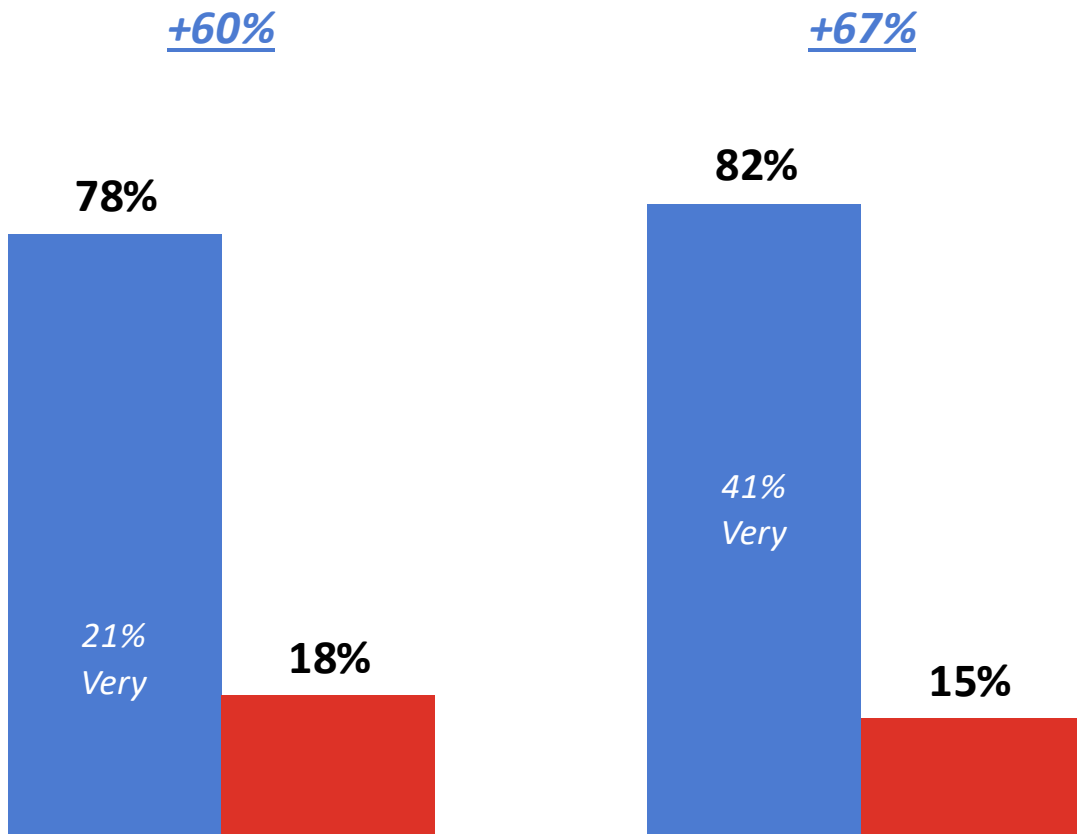
Ranked by % – National Voters	National Voters	Clients
High Cost of Treatment and Medication	57%	36%
Inadequate Insurance Coverage	44%	30%
Stigma and Discrimination	29%	30%
Lack of Public Awareness and Understanding	24%	30%
Treatment Refusal	23%	33%
Long Waitlists for Services	23%	26%
Lack of Early Intervention	22%	26%
Insufficient Number of Providers	21%	32%
Lack of Affordable Housing	11%	18%
Inability to Coordinate Specialty Care	9%	21%

Both voters and SCZ respondents believe that "serious mental illness can be effectively treated," and "effectively managed," though intensity with voters is low.

How confident are you that serious mental illness can be effectively treated?



How confident are you that serious mental illness can be effectively managed?

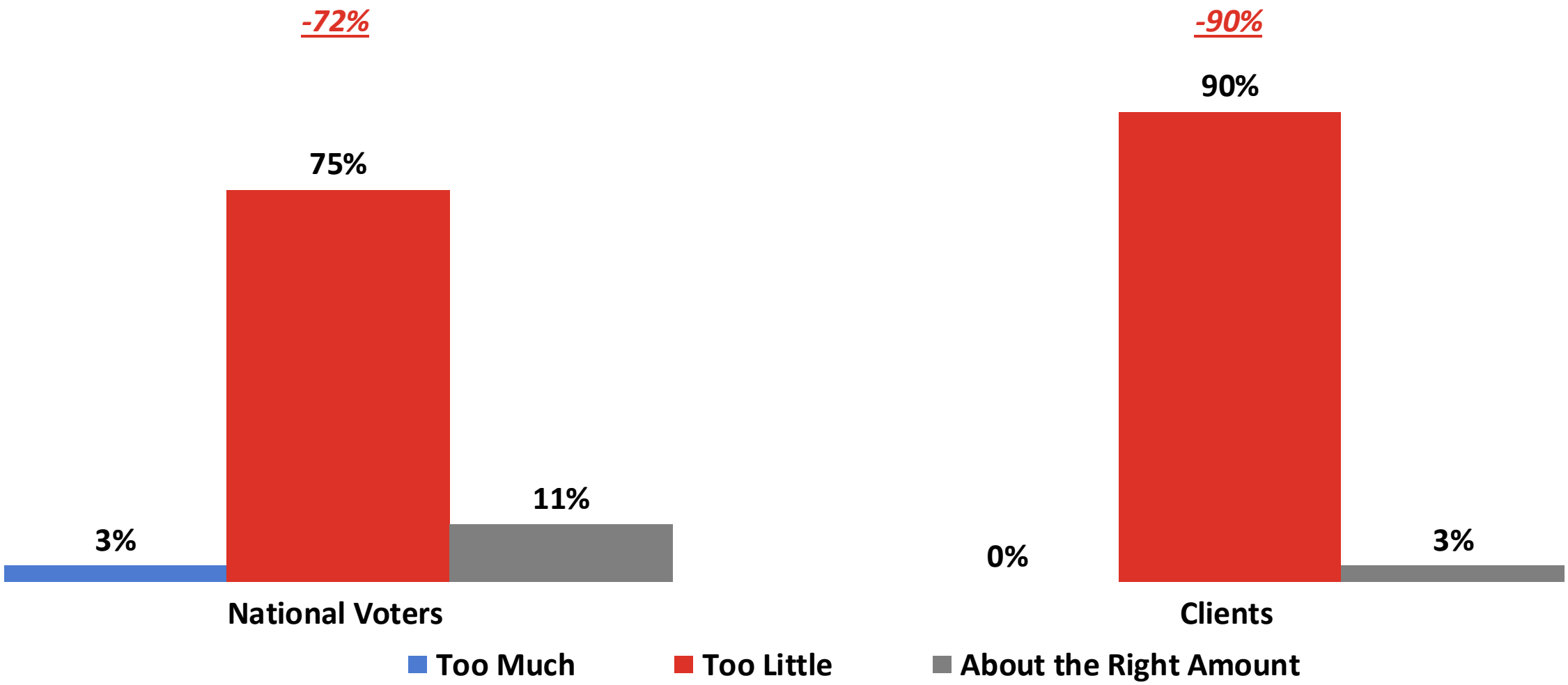


■ Total Confident ■ Total Not Confident

^Sample A; ^^Sample B

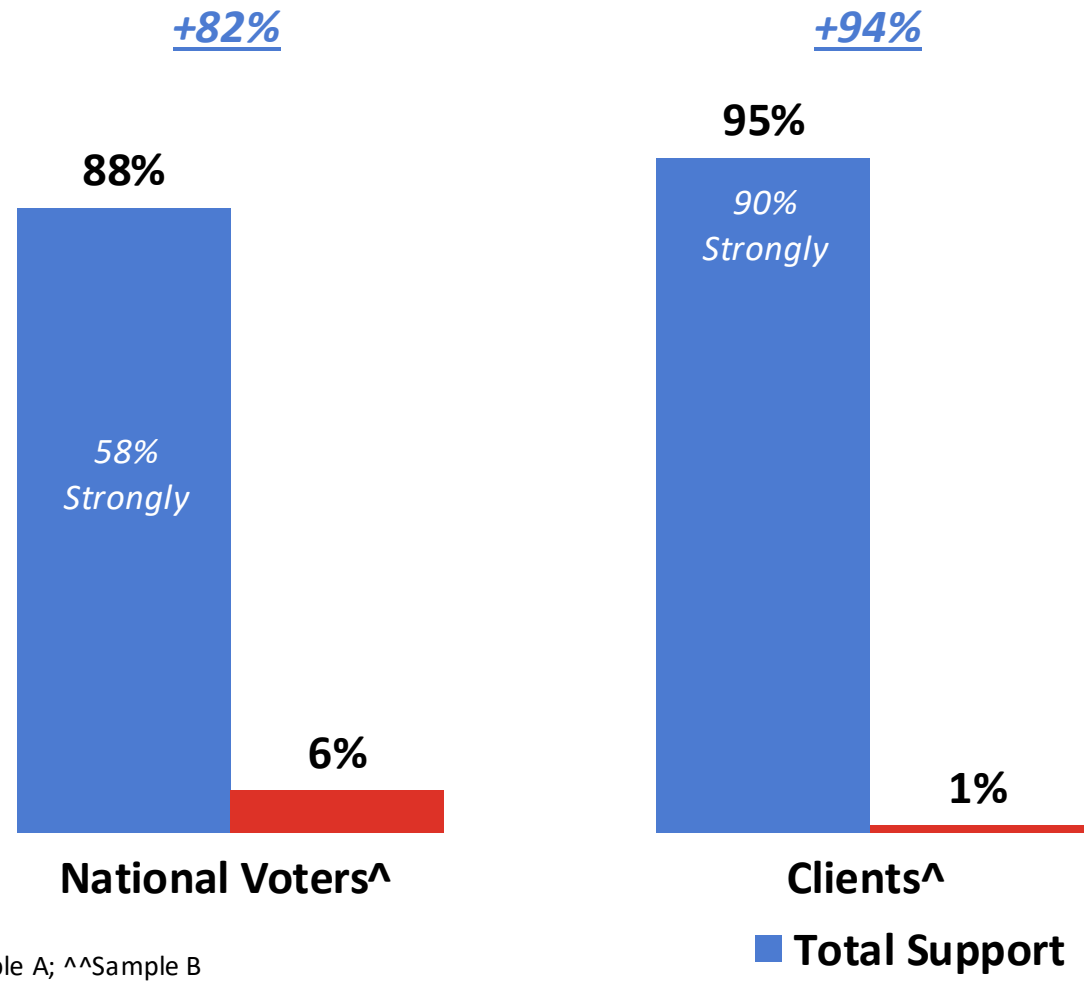
Voters overwhelmingly believe that the federal government spends "too little on resources for health services for serious mental illnesses."

In your opinion, do you think the Federal Government spends too much, too little, or just about the right amount on resources for health services for serious mental illnesses?

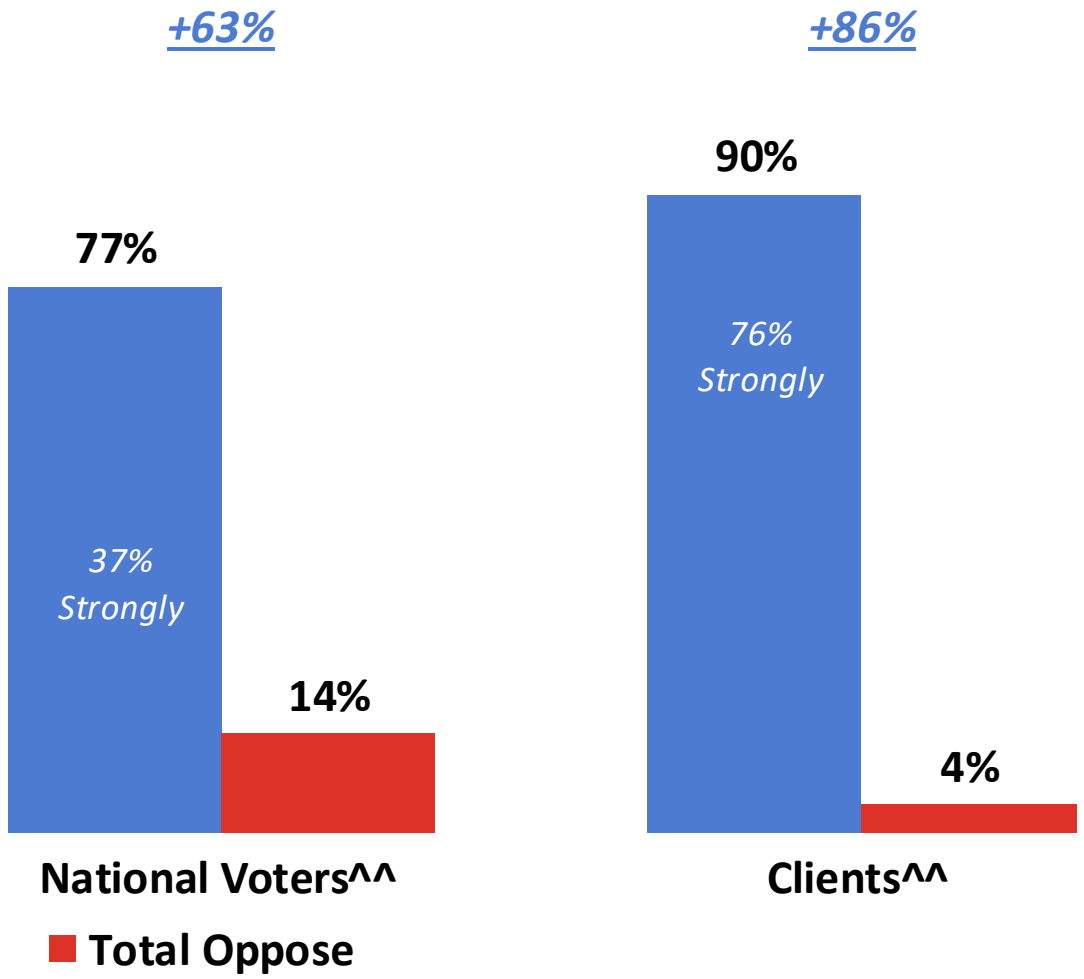


There is strong support for increasing federal funding for health programs for serious mental illness… even if it means raising taxes. (Although "strong support" drops among voters.)

And, would you support or oppose increasing federal funding for health programs for serious mental illness?



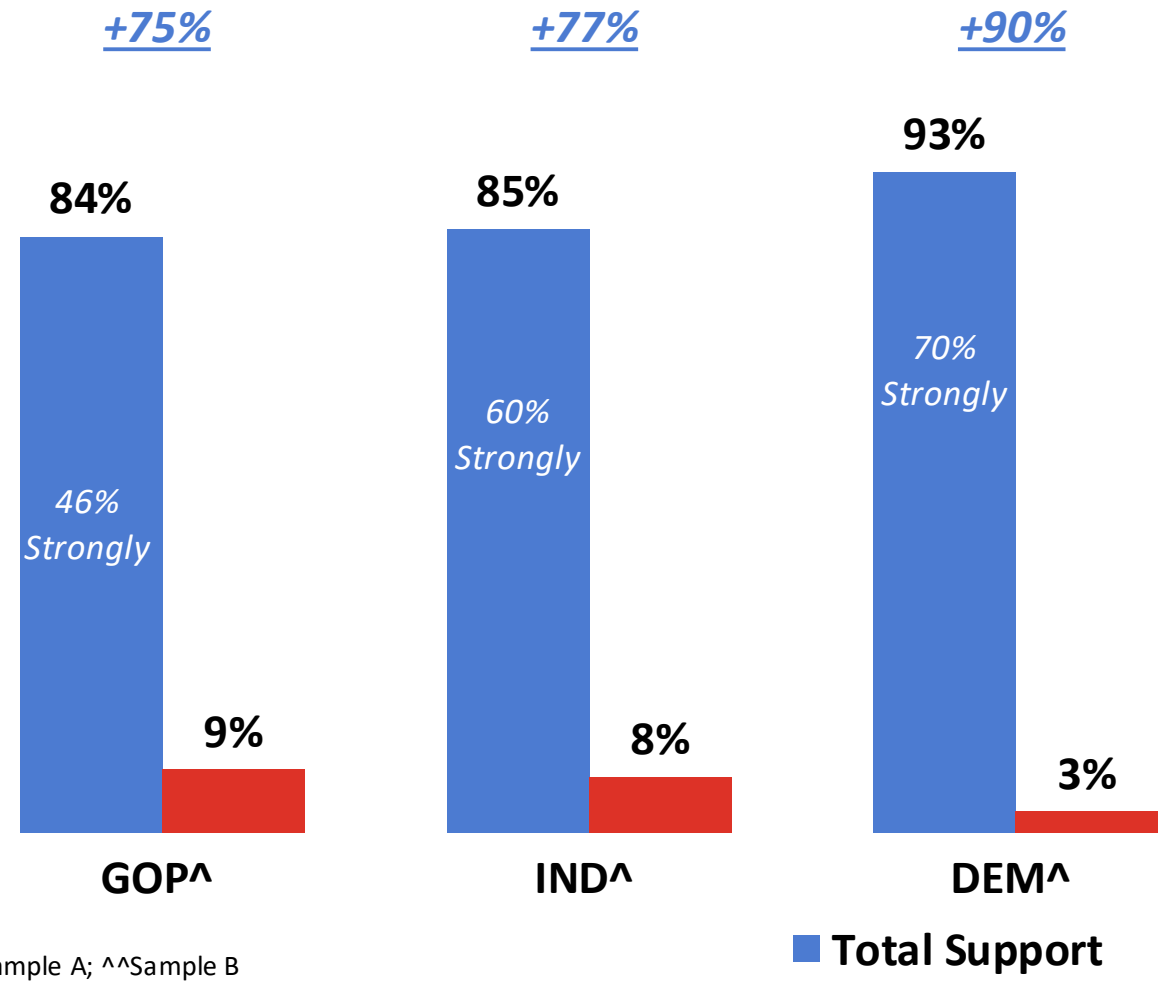
And, would you support or oppose increasing federal funding for health programs for serious mental illness if it meant paying higher taxes?



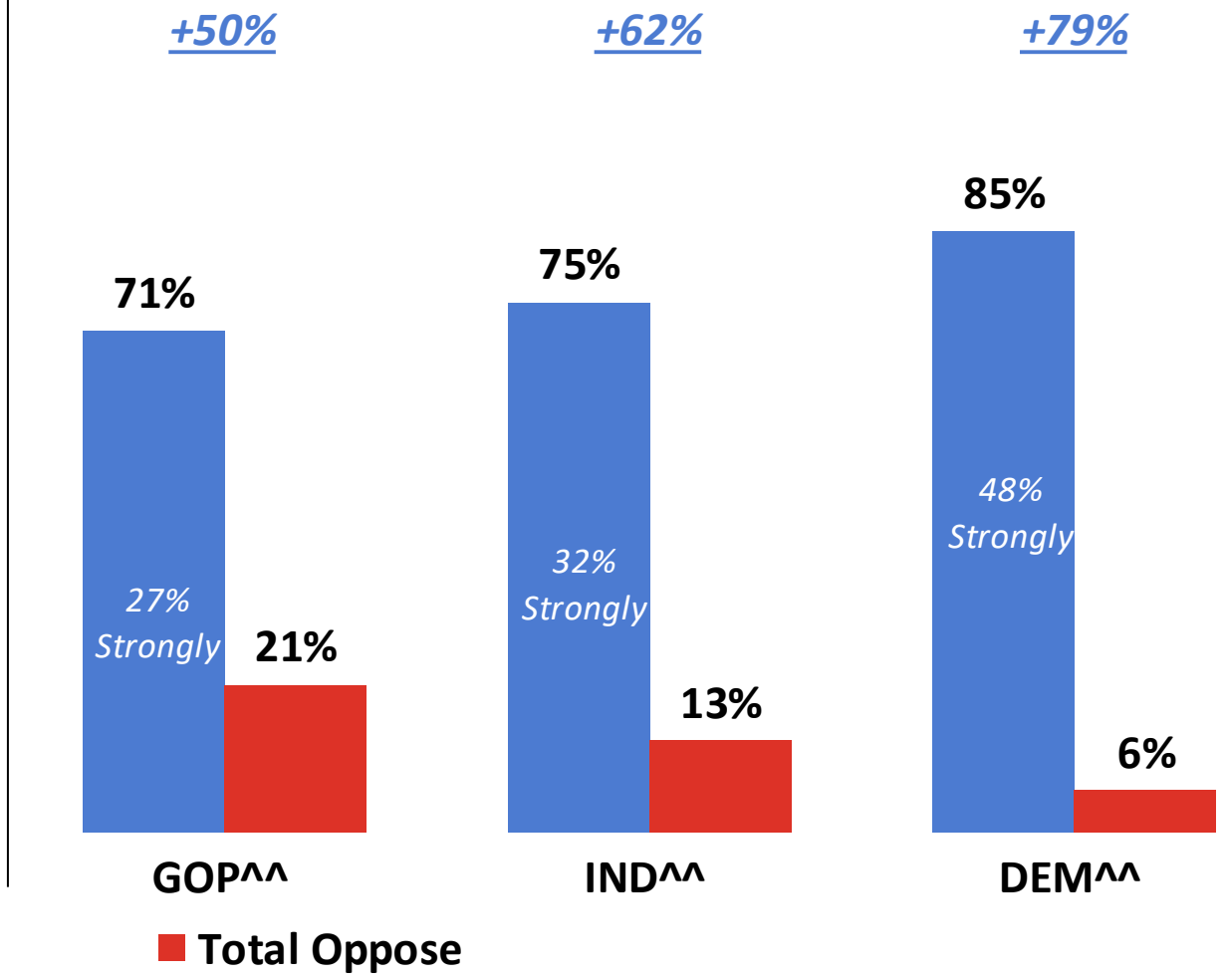
^Sample A; ^^Sample B

Voters across party lines not only support increased federal spending, but also raising taxes to pay for it. (Though "tax increases" lowers voter intensity.)

And, would you support or oppose increasing federal funding for health programs for serious mental illness?



And, would you support or oppose increasing federal funding for health programs for serious mental illness if it meant paying higher taxes?



^Sample A; ^^Sample B

Support for increased funding is broad and rooted in unmet need and the view that mental illness is a growing crisis.

And, what are the most important reasons why you support / oppose increasing funding for health programs for serious mental illnesses?

Among National Voters

Reasons for Supporting Increased Funding (88%)

- **Access & Unmet Need:** The single most dominant theme. Respondents across the board believe too many people are falling through the cracks, cannot afford care, or simply cannot find it. *"A lot of people need the treatment, but only a few are getting it."*
- **Public Safety & Crime Reduction:** A surprisingly bipartisan argument. Many respondents, including conservatives, connect untreated mental illness to violence, crime, homelessness, and mass shootings. *"Managing mental health can help reduce violence and crime."*
- **Personal & Family Experience:** A large share of respondents cited direct personal connection to mental illness, either in themselves or a loved one, as their primary motivation. This lends the issue a deeply emotional, not just policy-driven, quality.
- **Mental Illness as a Crisis:** Respondents consistently described the situation as an epidemic or crisis that is getting worse, not better. *"It is a major health crisis in the nation and just keeps getting worse."*
- **Early Intervention & Prevention:** Many noted that catching mental illness earlier saves lives and money downstream. *"If more people with mental health problems were identified earlier and treated earlier it could save a lot of lives and heartache."*
- **Homelessness Connection:** Frequently linked untreated mental illness to the homelessness crisis. *"Many people with mental illnesses are homeless and not being treated."*
- **Parity with Physical Health:** Respondents want mental illness treated the same as any other medical condition. *"Mental illness is not any different than treating cancer or heart disease."*
- **Mental Health as a Gateway Issue:** Many respondents connect mental illness to a cascade of other societal problems, framing mental health funding not as a standalone issue but as a root cause solution. Respondents link untreated mental illness to drug addiction, unemployment, family breakdown, and even teen suicide.

Reasons for Opposing Increased Funding (6%)

- **Skepticism About Government Effectiveness:** Several opponents don't necessarily oppose mental health care itself, but doubt that government funding will actually reach people in need or be spent wisely. There is a distrust of bureaucracy and a concern about waste.

There is overwhelming support for increased funding, driven by a belief that the current system is failing patients and caregivers.

And, what are the most important reasons why you support / oppose increasing funding for health programs for serious mental illnesses?

Among Clients

Reasons for Supporting Increased Funding (95%)

- **The System Is Broken and Built to Fail:** This group doesn't just say care is lacking; they describe a system structurally set up for failure. Short hospital stays, inadequate discharge planning, revolving doors, and lack of long-term care are cited repeatedly. *"Our system is set up for the person to fail, and after that failure they might get better treatment. We need proactive treatment, not reactive."*
- **Caregiver Burden Is Unsustainable:** Family members and caregivers describe being left entirely on their own, without training, respite, or support. Some describe it as destroying their own lives.
- **Homelessness and Incarceration as Default Outcomes:** Many respondents explicitly name jail and homelessness as where untreated serious mental illness leads. *"Prisons and jails are becoming the standard treatment center in many counties."*
- **Early Intervention Is Critical:** Strongly and repeatedly emphasized. Respondents believe earlier action would have changed outcomes dramatically. *"Early intervention could save money as it improves treatment outcomes."*
- **Medication and Insurance Barriers:** Specific medications are frequently denied, not covered, or unaffordable. Some respondents pay thousands out of pocket. *"The entire nation needs more beds, more coordinated long-term care, a stronger commitment to medication management."*
- **Stigma Compounds Everything:** Stigma is named as a barrier to seeking care, maintaining employment, and accessing housing.
- **Economic Argument:** Several respondents, including professionals, make a clear cost-benefit case: treating SMI now is cheaper than jails, ERs, and homelessness later. *"The US loses around $282 billion annually to serious mental illness."*
- **The Human Right Framing:** Respondents frame access to treatment as a basic right and a moral obligation. *"People with serious mental illness can contribute to their communities only if they receive effective services."*

While 99% of the SCZ respondents are living with, caring for or close to someone with mental illness…

Moving on, which one of the following best describes your experience with mental illness, or with people with mental illness? Please select only your primary role.

	Clients
Total	**99%**
I am a person living with a mental illness.	**27%**
I am a caregiver of someone with a mental illness.	**49%**
I am close to someone with mental illness (friend, family member, colleague, etc.) and or have helped provide care for that person.	**17%**
I know someone with mental illness (acquaintance, neighbor, community member, etc.).	*
I am a professional working in the field of mental illness (psychiatrist, psychologist, therapist, researcher, etc.).	**6%**
I do not have any personal or peripheral experience with mental illness.	*

Fully 51% of the sampling of national voters say they are living with, caring for, close to, or friends with someone with mental illness.

Which of the following, if any, best describes your experience with mental illness, or with people with mental illness? Please select as many as may apply.

	National Voters
Total Living With/Caregiver/Close To	**51%**
I am a person living with a mental illness.	**25%**
I am a caregiver of someone with a mental illness.	**7%**
I am close to someone with mental illness (friend, family member, colleague, etc.) and or have helped provide care for that person.	**36%**
I know someone with mental illness (acquaintance, neighbor, community member, etc.).	**38%**
I am a professional working in the field of mental illness (psychiatrist, psychologist, therapist, researcher, etc.).	**3%**
I do not have any personal or peripheral experience with mental illness.	**28%**

Note the significant difference by age of the voter.

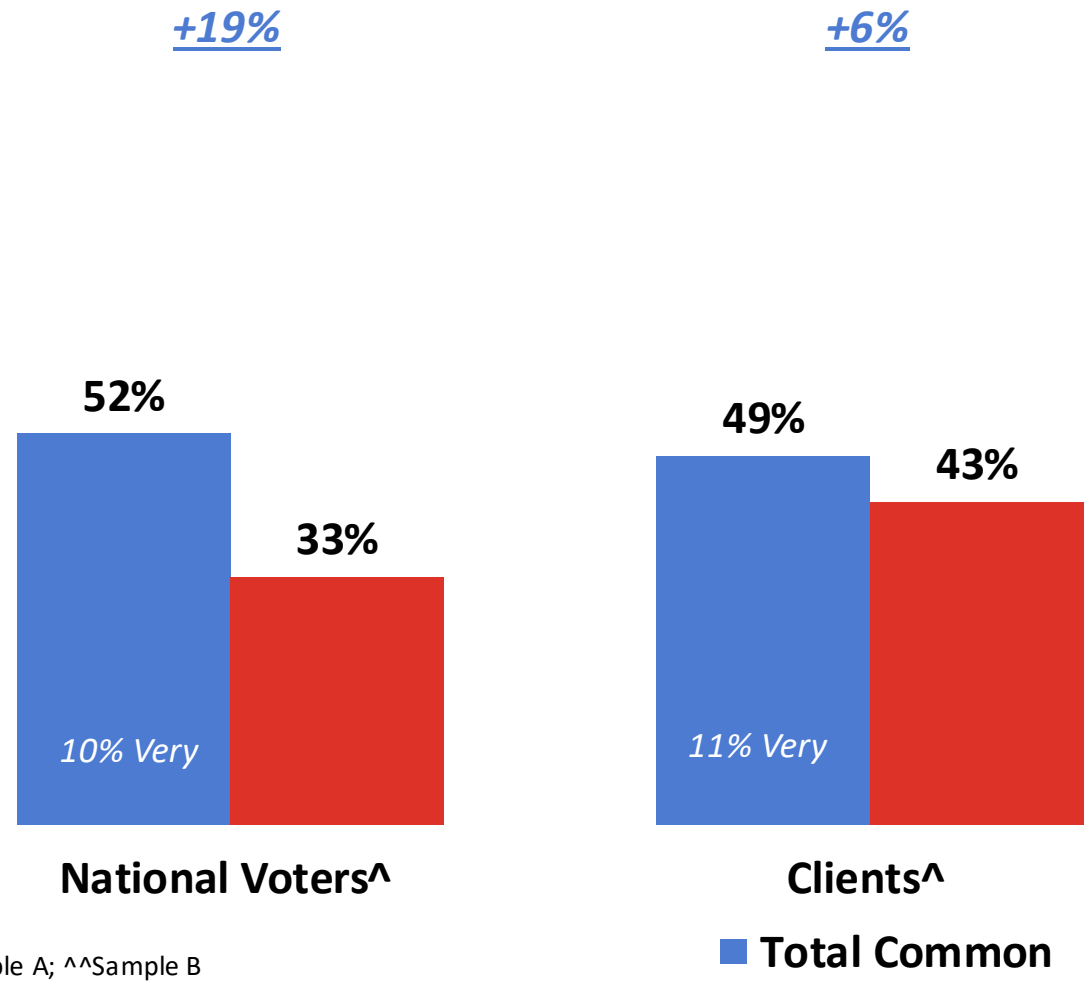
Which of the following, if any, best describes your experience with mental illness, or with people with mental illness? Please select as many as may apply.

	National Voters					Clients			
	Ages 18-34	Ages 35-44	Ages 45-54	Ages 55-64	Ages 65+	Ages 18-44	Ages 45-54	Ages 55-64	Ages 65+
Total Living With/Caregiver/Close To	64%	63%	56%	47%	30%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
I am a person living with a mental illness.	39%	33%	29%	18%	8%	72%	35%	13%	7%
I am a caregiver of someone with a mental illness.	8%	10%	10%	7%	2%	13%	42%	67%	61%
I am close to someone with mental illness (friend, family member, colleague, etc.) and or have helped provide care for that person.	41%	51%	32%	35%	24%	7%	11%	14%	27%
I know someone with mental illness (acquaintance, neighbor, community member, etc.).	40%	44%	36%	37%	35%	-	1%	-	1%
I am a professional working in the field of mental illness (psychiatrist, psychologist, therapist, researcher, etc.).	6%	2%	4%	1%	-	7%	10%	6%	4%
I do not have any personal or peripheral experience with mental illness.	21%	21%	24%	28%	42%	1%	-	-	-

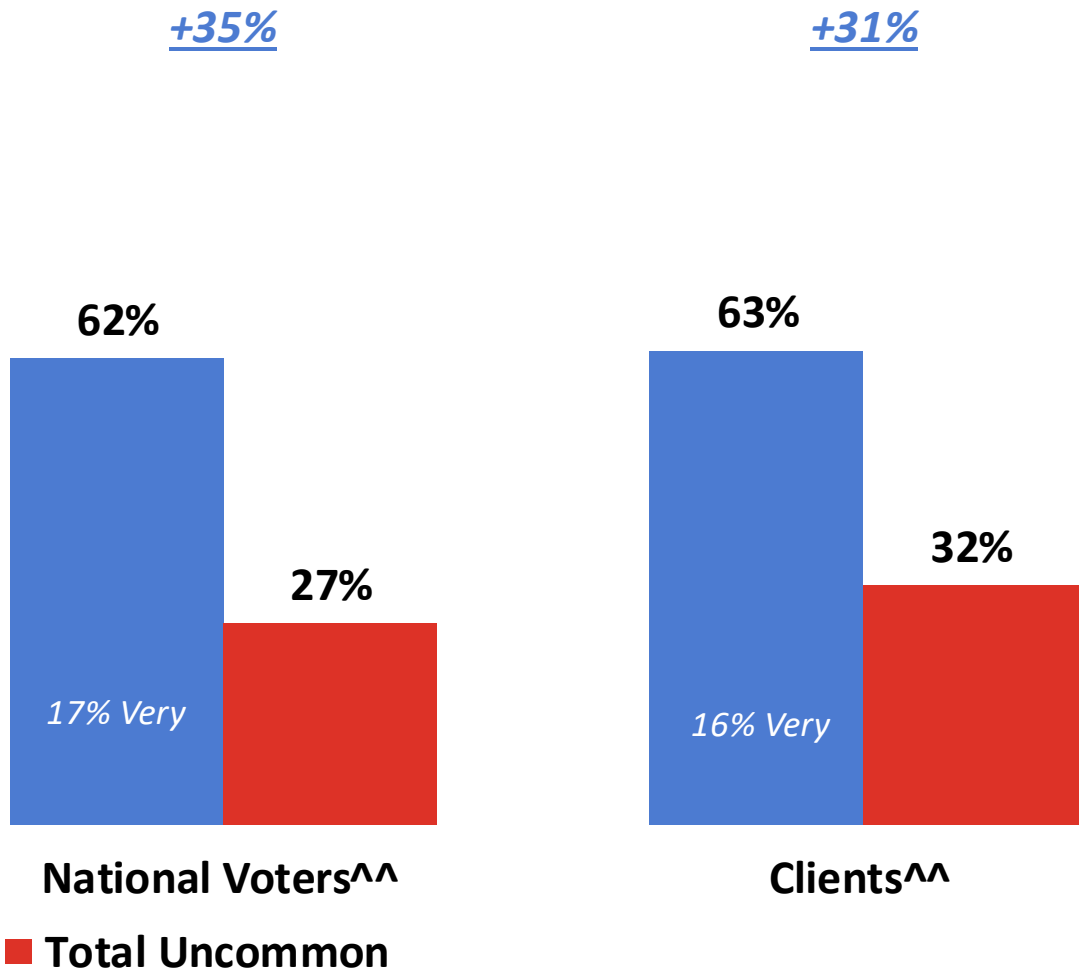
National Attitudes Toward Schizophrenia and Other Psychosis Spectrum Disorders

Both voters and SCZ respondents generally believe it is at least somewhat common for someone to be diagnosed with schizophrenia or other psychosis spectrum disorder or for someone to be living with it.

How common do you believe it is for someone to be diagnosed with schizophrenia or another psychosis spectrum disorder?



How common do you believe it is for someone to be living with schizophrenia or another psychosis spectrum disorder?



^Sample A; ^^Sample B

There is an overwhelming belief that "with proper treatment and support, most people living with schizophrenia or other psychosis spectrum disorders can live a productive and meaningful life."

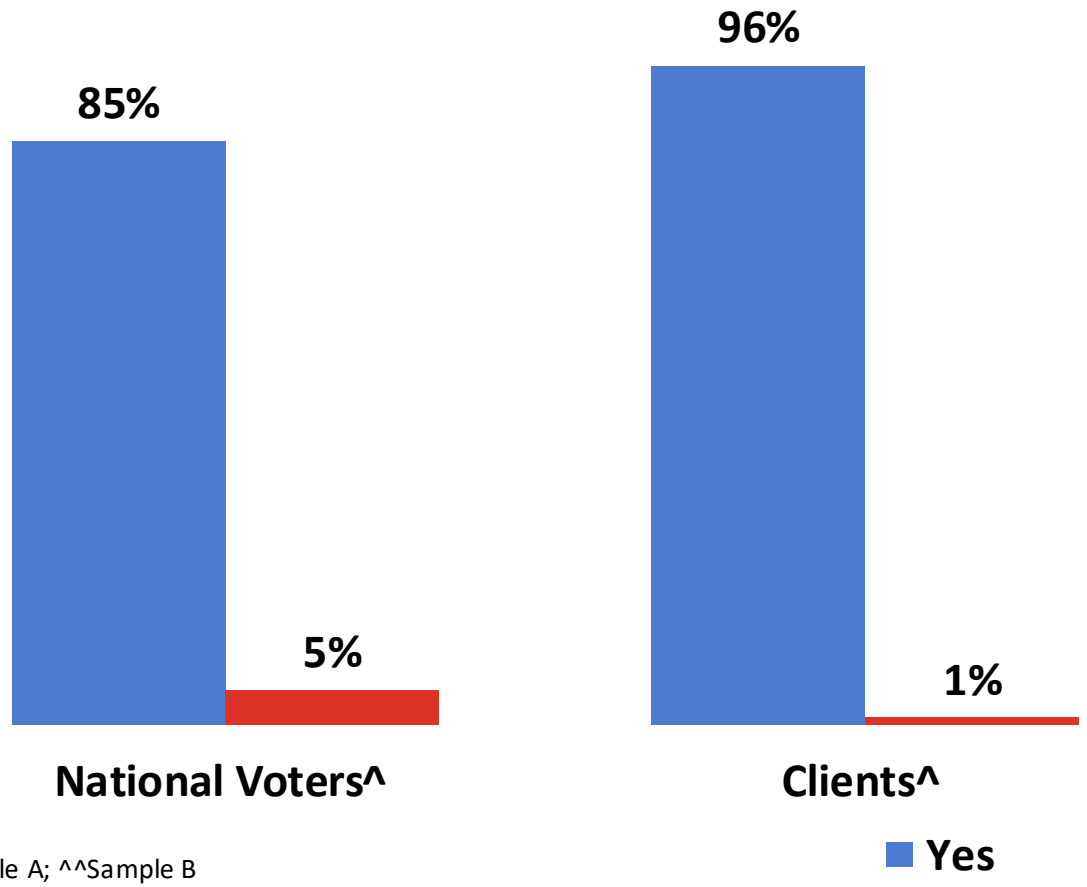
Which of the following two statements comes closer to your view about people living with schizophrenia or another psychosis spectrum disorder, even if neither one is exactly right?

	National Voters	Clients
With proper treatment and support, most can manage symptoms caused by schizophrenia or other psychosis spectrum disorders and live a productive and meaningful life.	**86%**	**91%**
...or...		
Due to the severity of this condition, most people with schizophrenia or other psychosis spectrum disorders cannot live a productive and meaningful life.	**14%**	**9%**

There is strong agreement that Medicare/Medicaid and private health insurance should cover the costs of schizophrenia and other psychosis spectrum disorders, just like they do for cancer treatments."

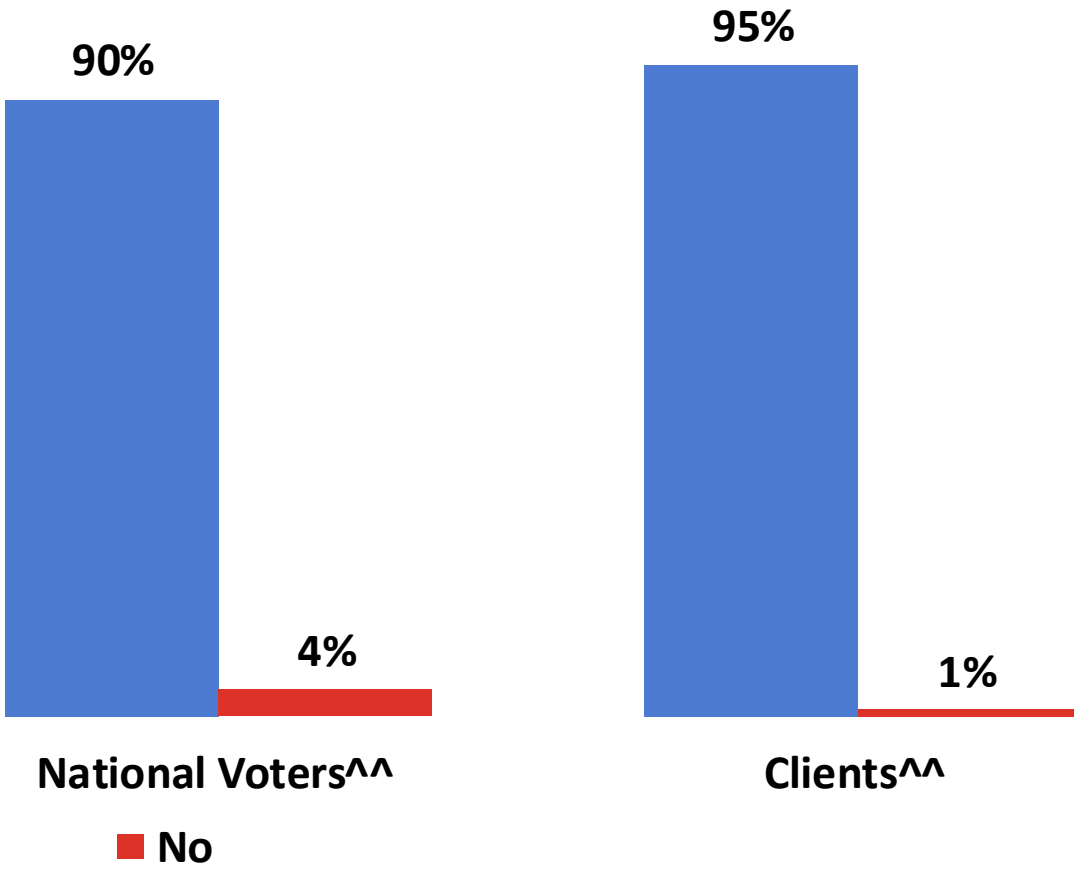
Generally speaking, do you believe that Medicare and Medicaid should cover the costs for schizophrenia and other psychosis spectrum disorder treatments, just like it does for cancer treatments?

+80% ***+95%***



Generally speaking, do you believe that private health insurance should cover the costs for schizophrenia and other psychosis spectrum disorder treatments, just like it does for cancer treatments?

+86% ***+94%***

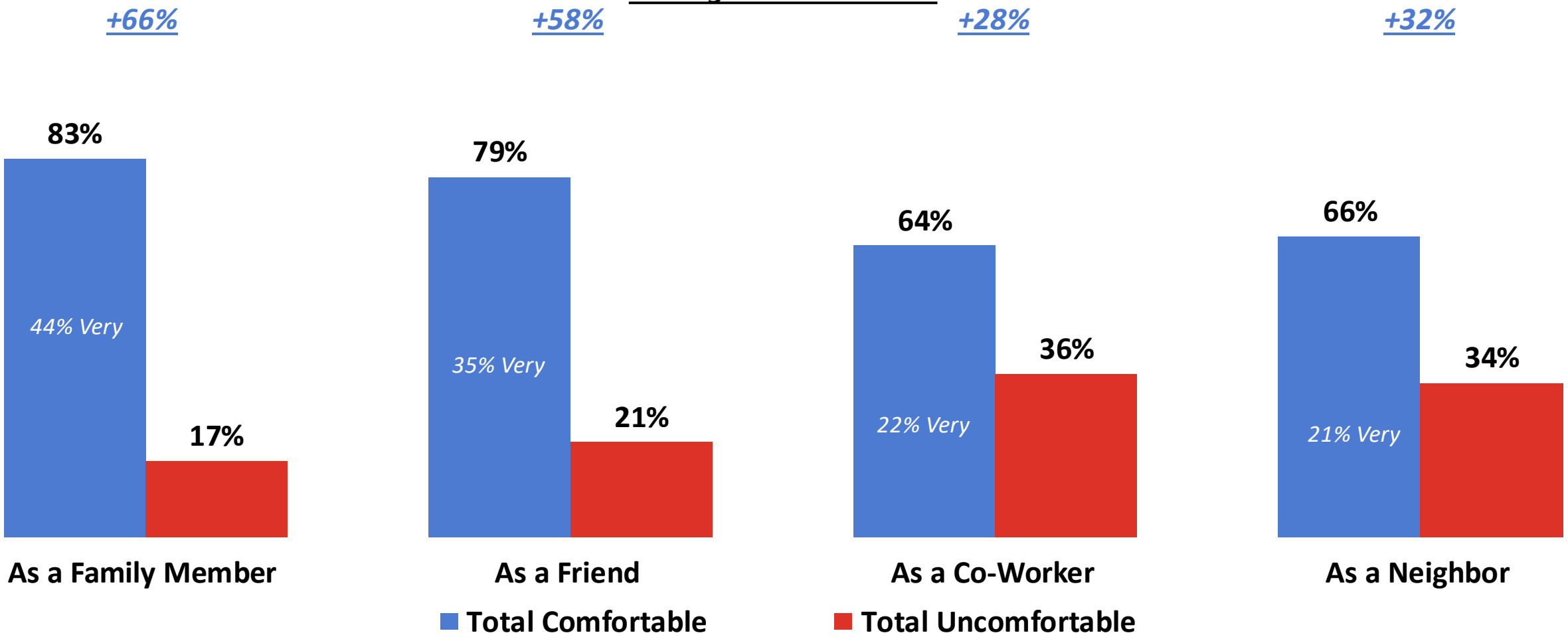


^Sample A; ^^Sample B

At least two-thirds of voters say they would feel "comfortable" interacting with someone diagnosed with schizophrenia or another psychosis spectrum disorder in a number of situations…

How comfortable would you feel interacting with someone diagnosed with schizophrenia or another psychosis spectrum disorder in each of the following situations?

Among National Voters

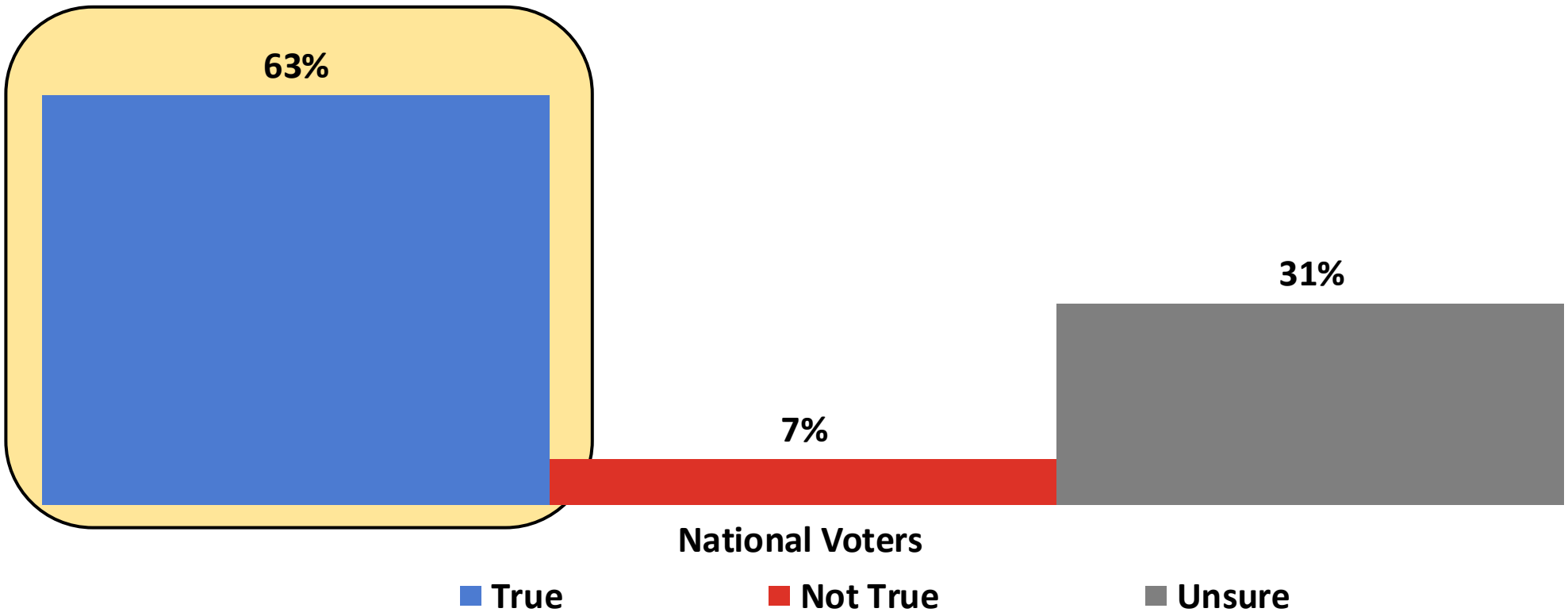


Fully 60% of Americans believe that schizophrenia and other psychosis spectrum disorders are "brain disorders."

Based on what you have seen, read or heard about schizophrenia other psychosis spectrum disorders, please indicate whether each of the following statements are true or not true…

Schizophrenia and other psychosis spectrum disorders are brain disorders.

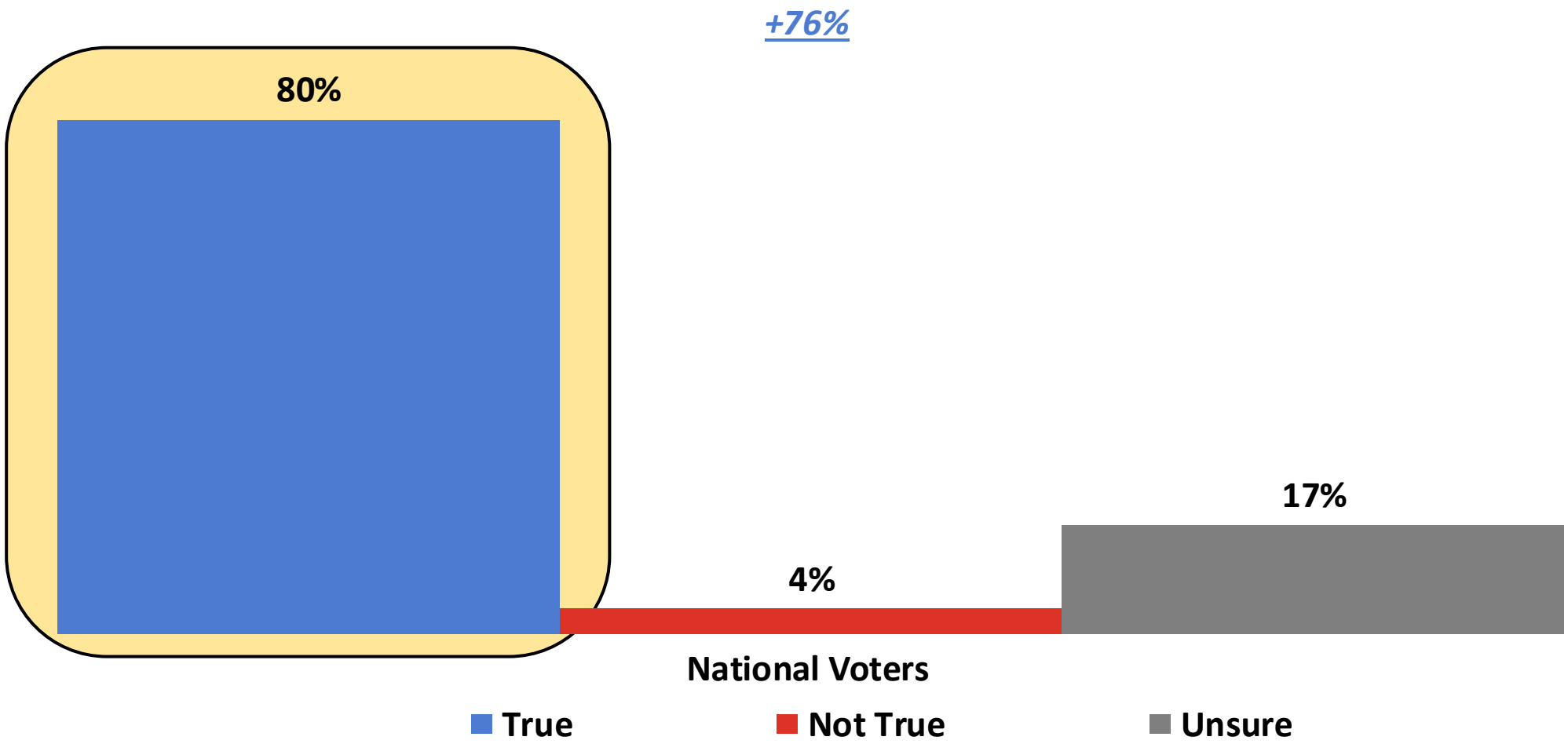
+56%



Eighty percent of voters believe that schizophrenia and other psychosis spectrum disorders cause hallucinations and delusions.

Based on what you have seen, read or heard about schizophrenia other psychosis spectrum disorders, please indicate whether each of the following statements are true or not true…

Schizophrenia and other psychosis spectrum disorders cause hallucinations and delusions.

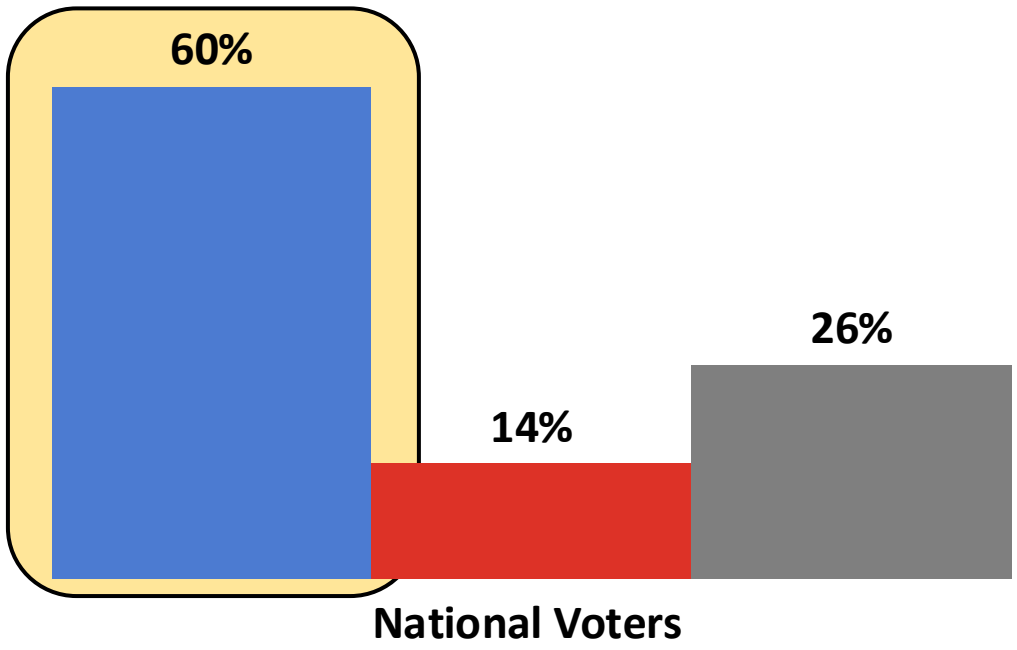


Sixty percent of voters believe that recovery from schizophrenia and other psychosis spectrum disorders is possible, while voters are more divided on whether it can be cured.

Based on what you have seen, read or heard about schizophrenia other psychosis spectrum disorders, please indicate whether each of the following statements are true or not true…

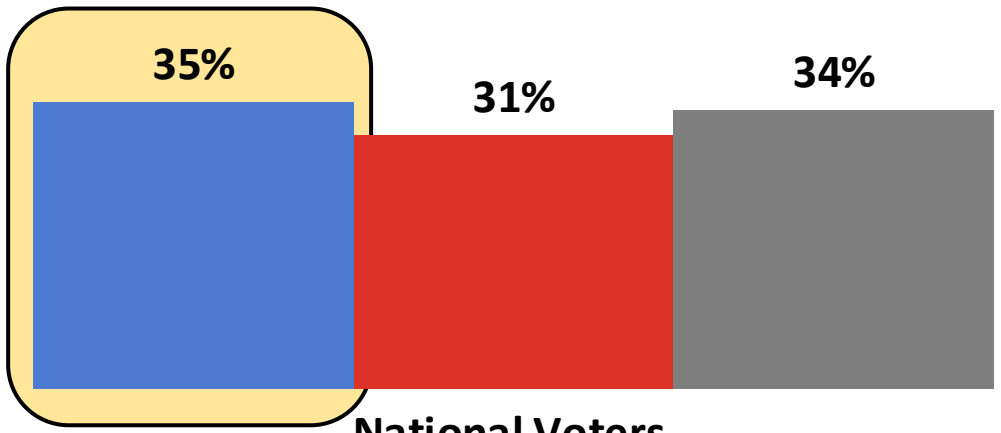
Recovery from schizophrenia and other psychosis spectrum disorders is possible.^^

+46%



Schizophrenia and other psychosis spectrum disorders cannot be cured.^

+4%



True | Not True | Unsure

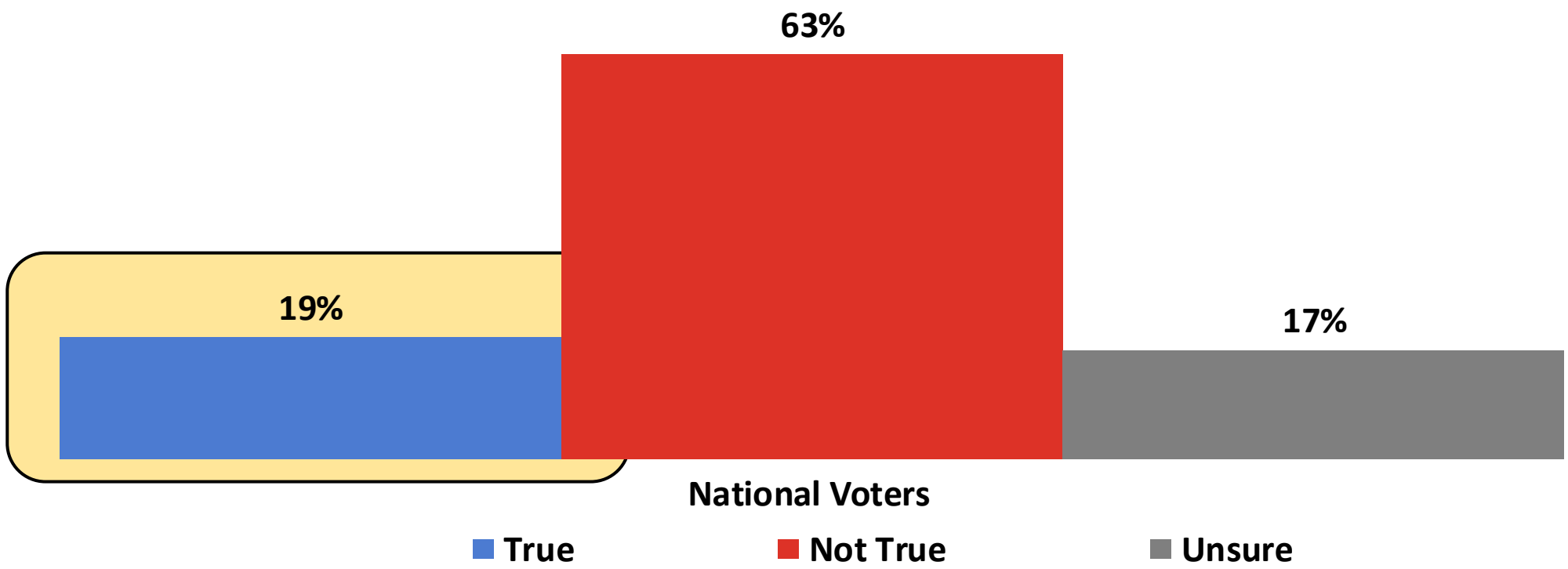
^Sample A; ^^Sample B

Fewer than 20% of Americans believe it is "impossible for someone with schizophrenia and other psychosis spectrum disorders to lead a normal life."

Based on what you have seen, read or heard about schizophrenia other psychosis spectrum disorders, please indicate whether each of the following statements are true or not true…

It is impossible for someone with schizophrenia or other psychosis spectrum disorders to lead a normal life.

-44%

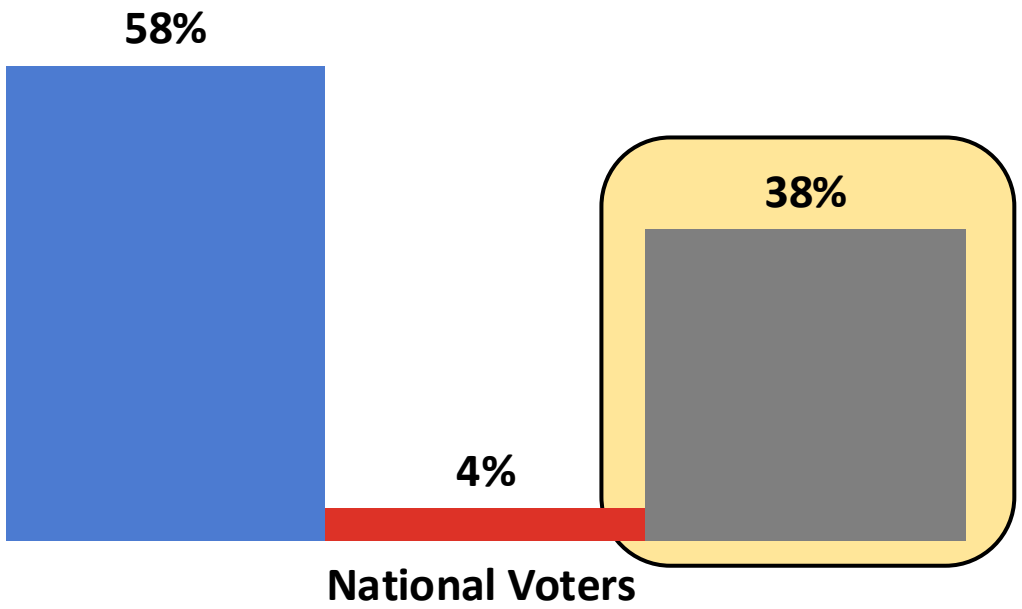


Further, over one quarter of voters think there is not a connection between homelessness and mental illness.

Based on what you have seen, read or heard about schizophrenia other psychosis spectrum disorders, please indicate whether each of the following statements are true or not true…

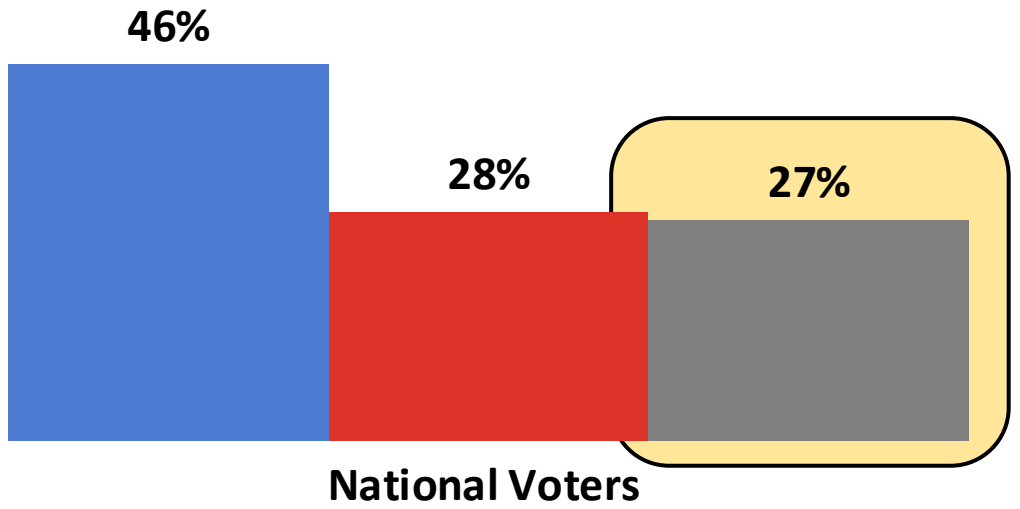
Schizophrenia and other psychosis spectrum disorders affect more than 2.5 million adult Americans.

+54%



Most Americans who are homeless are suffering from mental illness.

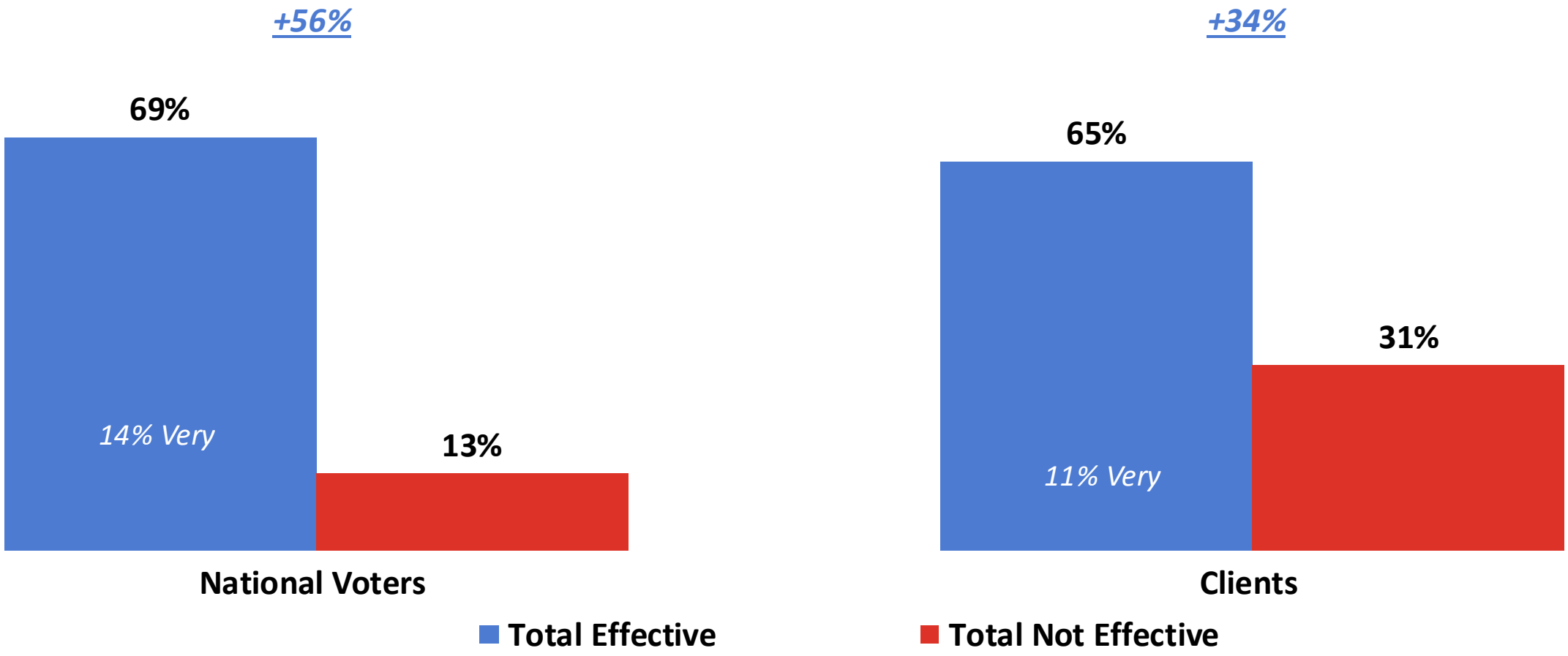
+18%



True Not True Unsure

Both voters and SCZ respondents generally agree that current treatments for schizophrenia and other psychosis spectrum disorders can be at least somewhat effective.

How effective do you believe current treatments are for schizophrenia and other psychosis spectrum disorders?



Voters and SCZ respondents both highlight the need for increased public funding to "improve access to consistent psychiatric care and medication," with SCZ respondents also citing "affordable housing and supported living programs."

Which two or three of the following areas need the most increased public funding to better support people with serious mental illness and their families?

Ranked by % – National Voters	National Voters	Clients
Access to Consistent Psychiatric Care and Medication	**62%**	**58%**
Crisis Intervention and Emergency Services	**37%**	**34%**
Affordable Housing and Supported Living Programs	**34%**	**52%**
Research into Treatments and Recovery Models	**32%**	**32%**
Access to Coordinated Specialty Care	**29%**	**32%**
Family Education and Caregiver Support Programs	**23%**	**18%**
Job Training, Employment Support, and Vocational Rehabilitation	**18%**	**23%**
Anti-Stigma Public Awareness Campaigns	**17%**	**19%**
Community Based Resources	**16%**	**22%**

After learning that…

Currently, serious mental illnesses like schizophrenia and psychosis spectrum disorder receive significantly less federal government research funding than physical diseases affecting similar numbers of people.

Some people believe that research funding for mental illness should be increased.

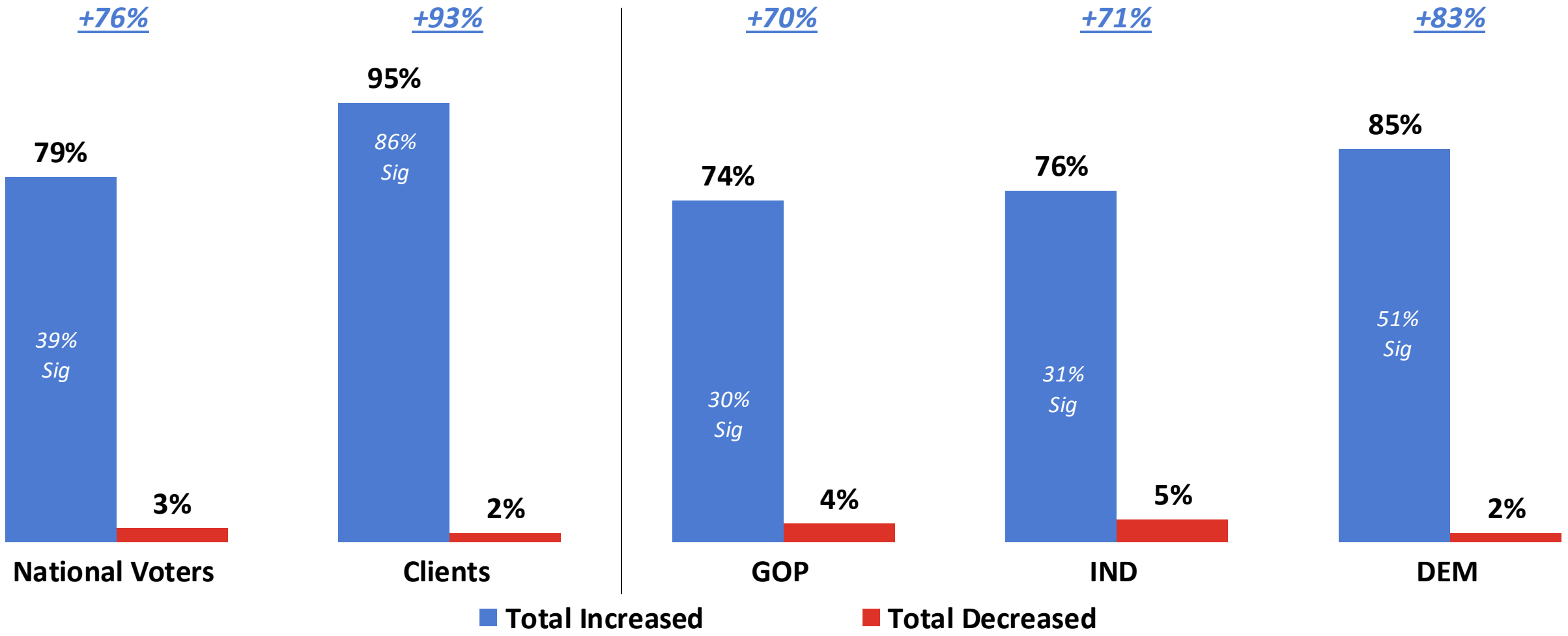
…while…

Other people believe research funding for mental illness should remain the same.

Do you think federal research funding for mental illness should be…

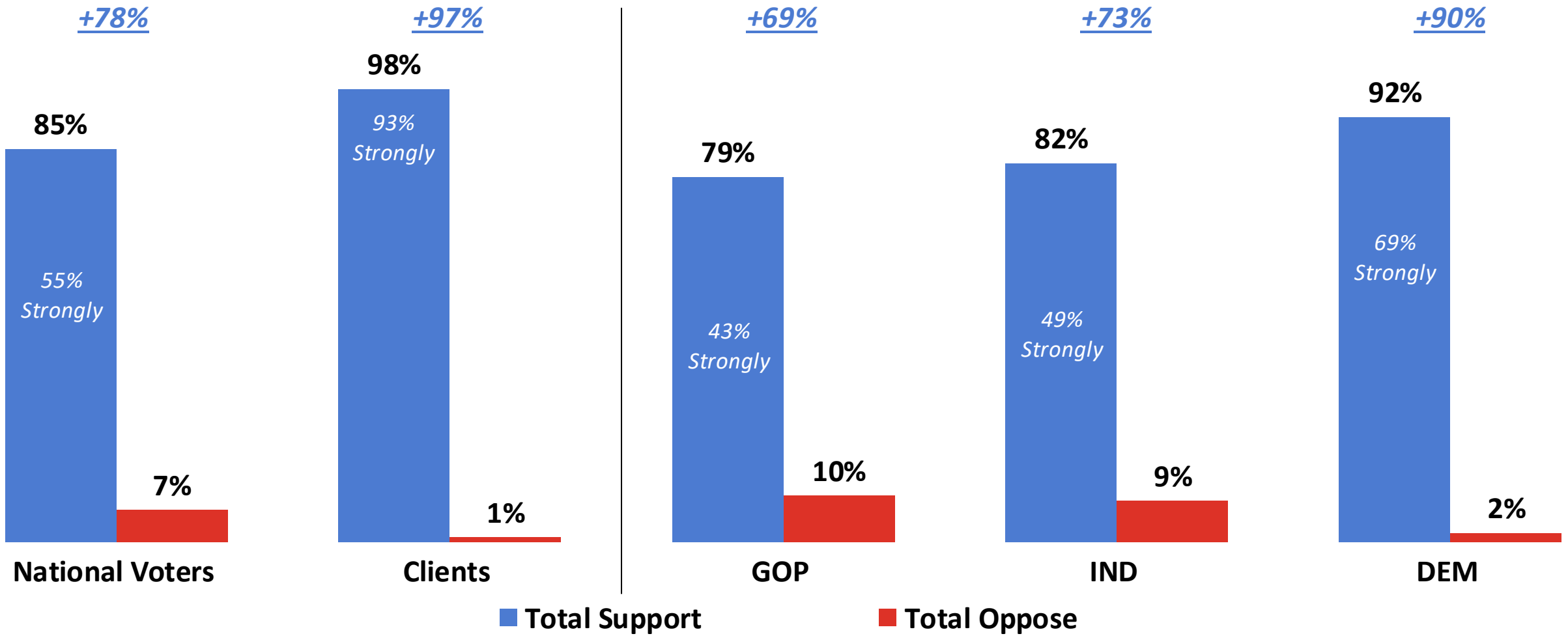
Voters and SCZ respondents overwhelmingly agree that research funding for mental illness should be increased, and this holds true across party lines.

Do you think federal research funding for mental illness should be…



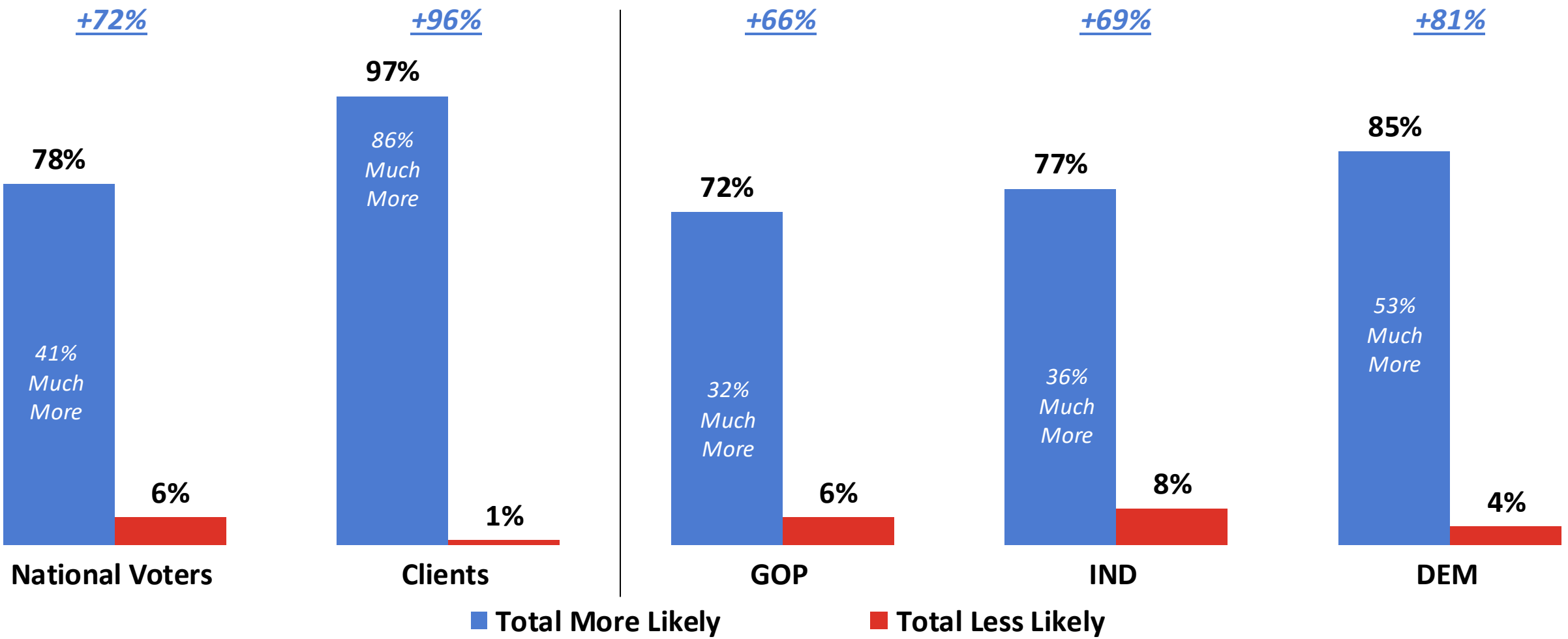
And, there is very strong support for legislation to significantly increase funding for services for those living with serious mental illness and agree with bipartisan support.

If Congress were considering legislation to significantly increase funding for services for those living with serious mental illness, would you...



Voters would take their support for increased funding for serious mental illness to the voting booth.

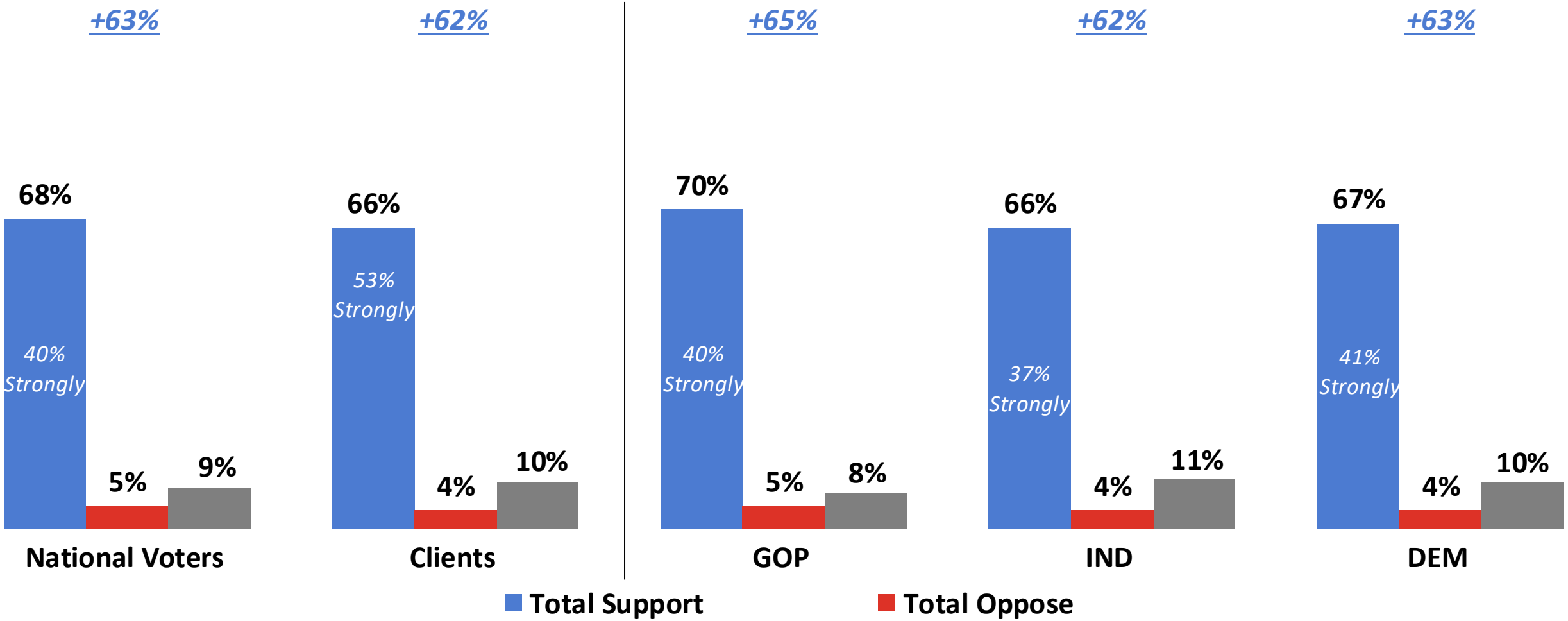
And, would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for political office who made mental health care a top priority?



Attitudes Toward The Inflation Reduction Act

There is strong bipartisan support for allowing the government to negotiate the prices of prescription medicines.

On a different topic, there is a federal policy under the Inflation Reduction Act that allows the government to negotiate the prices of prescription medicines. Some argue this will help make medicines more affordable for people with Medicare coverage. Do you support or oppose this policy?

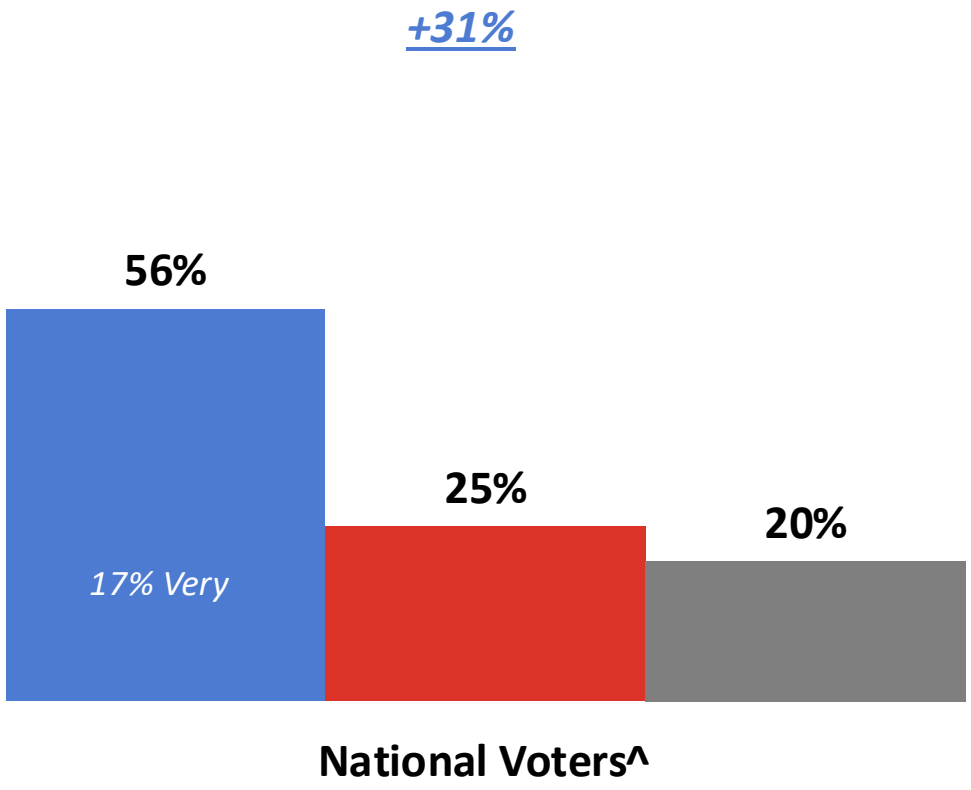


When voters are presented some more information about this policy…

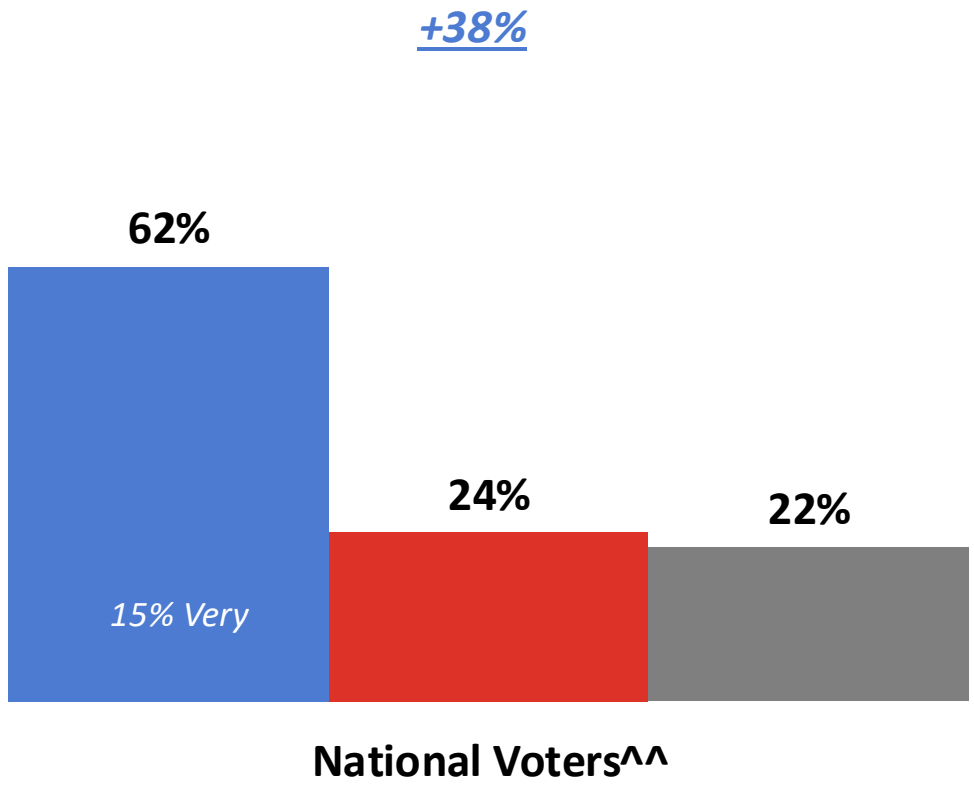
Under the same policy, the government can negotiate the prices of some prescription medicines sooner than others. Medicines that are typically taken as pills or tablets are open to price negotiation 4 years sooner than medicines given by infusion or injection at a hospital or from a doctor.

A majority expresses concern around future medication development and cost increases for mental health treatment.

Some people are concerned this could make companies less likely to invest in developing new pill-based medicine, which could reduce future treatment options for mental health in particular, where many medicines are taken in pill form. How concerned are you about this policy?



Some people are concerned this could lead to potential increases in what the patient has to pay for their care in the treatment of mental health conditions. How concerned are you about this policy?

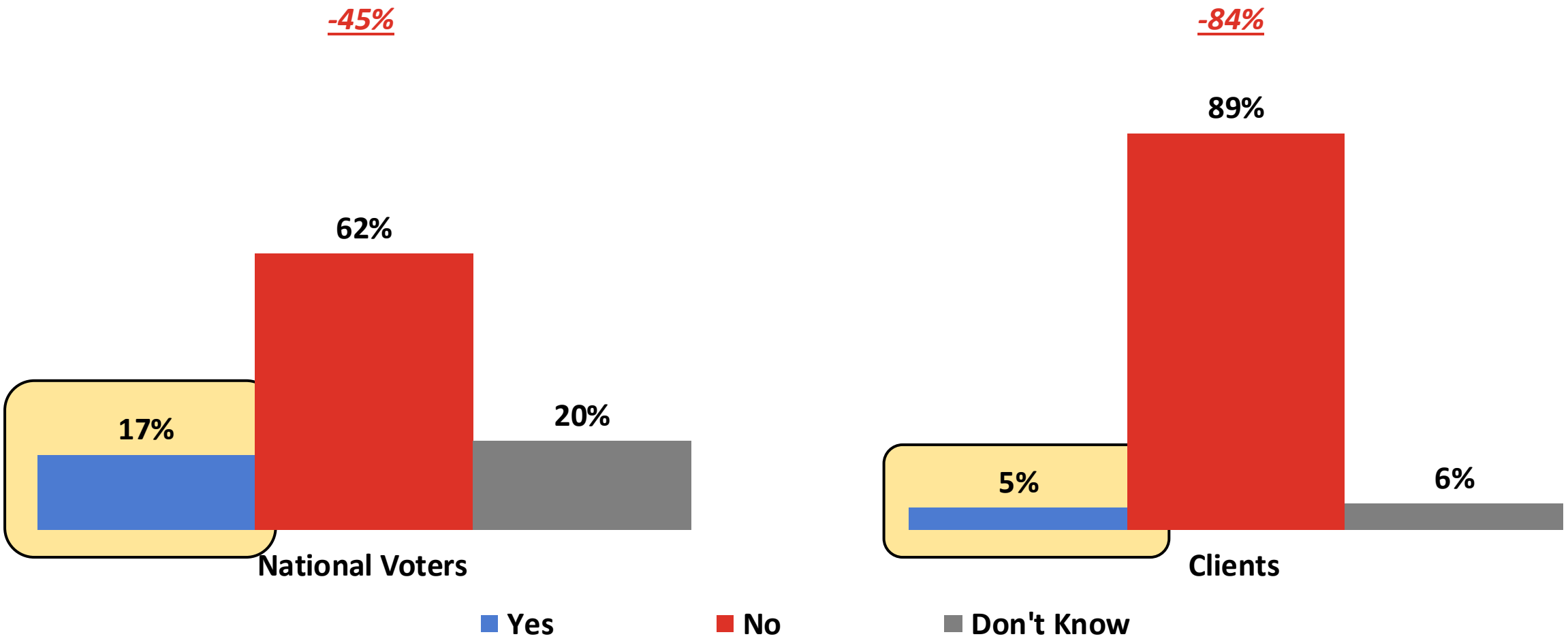


Total Concerned Total Not Concerned Don't Know

^Sample A; ^^Sample B

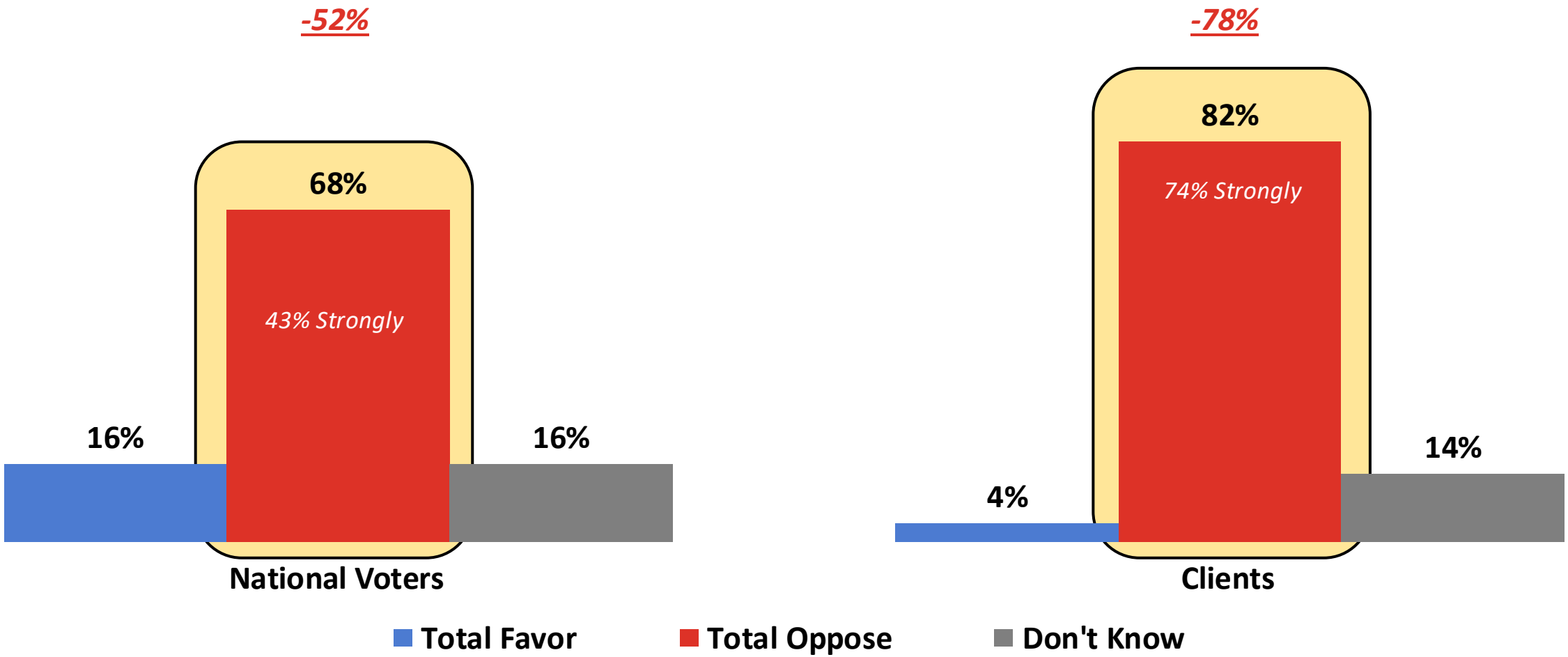
Few voters or SCZ respondents polled believe there is enough availability in hospitals to treat people with serious mental illness.

On a different topic, from what you may have seen, read or heard, do you believe there is enough availability in hospitals to treat people with serious mental illness?



There is overwhelming opposition to keeping the 1965 law prohibiting Medicaid coverage for care in psychiatric hospitals with more than 16 beds.

Now, if you learned that based on a 1965 law, the federal government prohibits Medicaid coverage for care in psychiatric hospitals with more than 16 beds, would you favor or oppose keeping this law in place?



And, when provided a bit more information on this issue…

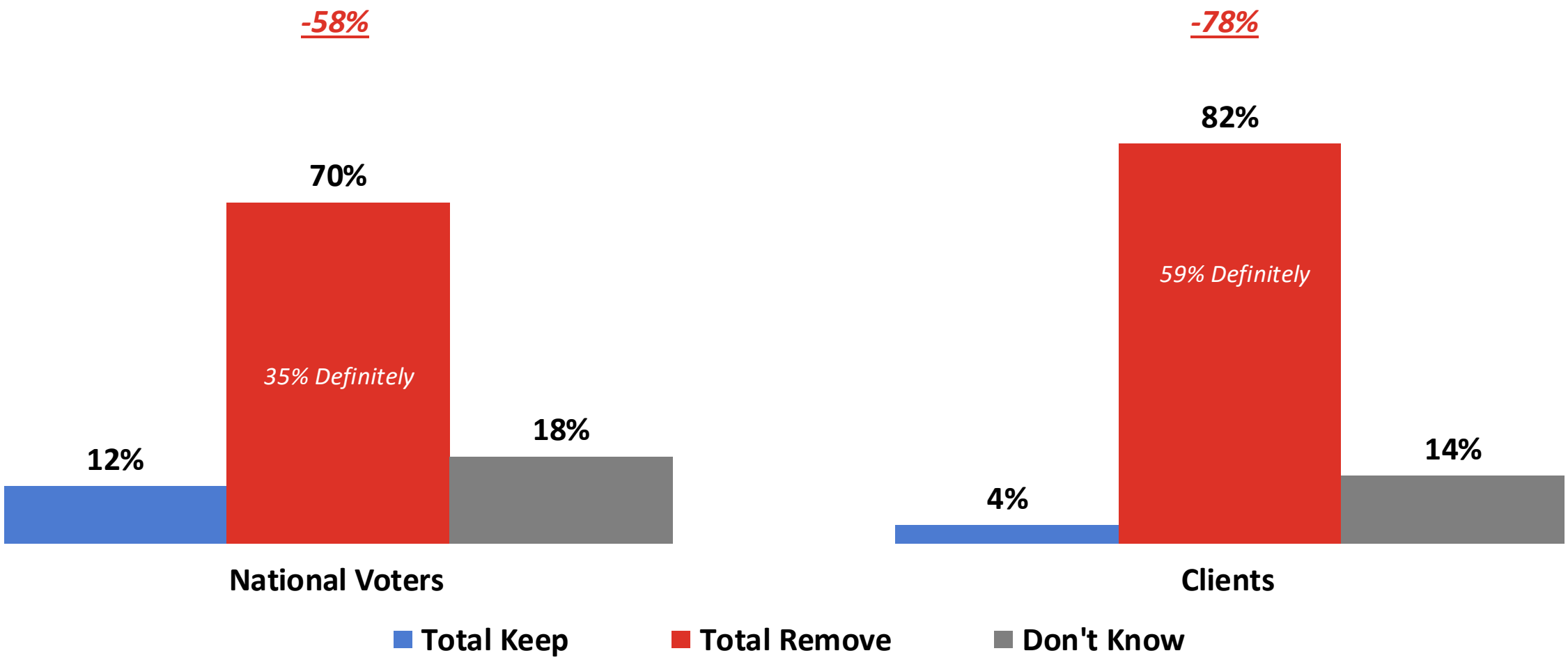
On this same issue…

Some people say that this law is still needed in order to discourage the warehousing of psychiatric patients in mental hospitals, or discharge before they receive care.

Other people say this law should be changed because it is a primary cause of the nationwide psychiatric "boarding" crisis, where patients wait for days in emergency rooms because there aren't enough inpatient beds.

Voters and SCZ respondents both believe the 16-bed limitation should be removed.

Do you believe this 16-bed limitation should be kept or removed?



When voters are asked to read four statements regarding the impact of serious mental illness on the homeless and criminal justice system…

1. ***67% of homeless or unsheltered individuals live with a mental health disorder.***
2. ***Individuals with untreated serious mental illnesses are 16 times more likely to be involved in fatal encounters with law enforcement.***
3. ***It is estimated that nearly two-thirds of incarcerated people with mental health challenges do not receive treatment while behind bars.***
4. ***More than 40% of those in local jails and fully one-third of those in state prisons have a history of mental health issues.***

The two statements that are most concerning to voters pertain to the 67% of homes living with a mental health disorder and individuals with untreated serious mental illness being 16 times more likely to be involved in fatal encounters with law enforcement.

Now, please read the following information about the impact that serious mental illness like schizophrenia and other psychosis spectrum disorders have on homelessness and the criminal justice system, and please indicate which statement concerns you the most…

Ranked by % – National Voters	National Voters
67% of homeless or unsheltered individuals live with a mental health disorder.	**37%**
Individuals with untreated serious mental illnesses are 16 times more likely to be involved in fatal encounters with law enforcement.	**33%**
It is estimated that nearly two-thirds of incarcerated people with mental health challenges do not receive treatment while behind bars.	**20%**
More than 40% of those in local jails and fully one-third of those in state prisons have a history of mental health issues.	**11%**

PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

turning questions into answers

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