



Temperature Check Poll:

**July 2021
Results**



In July 2021 [Black to the Future Action Fund](#) and [Socioanalítica Research](#) conducted the first Temperature Check Poll, a national survey of Black people about important issues impacting our communities. We asked people to weigh in on the current state of the country and its leaders, policy priorities, and how issues like the COVID-19 pandemic and its health and economic consequences have affected our communities. Read on to find out what they had to say.

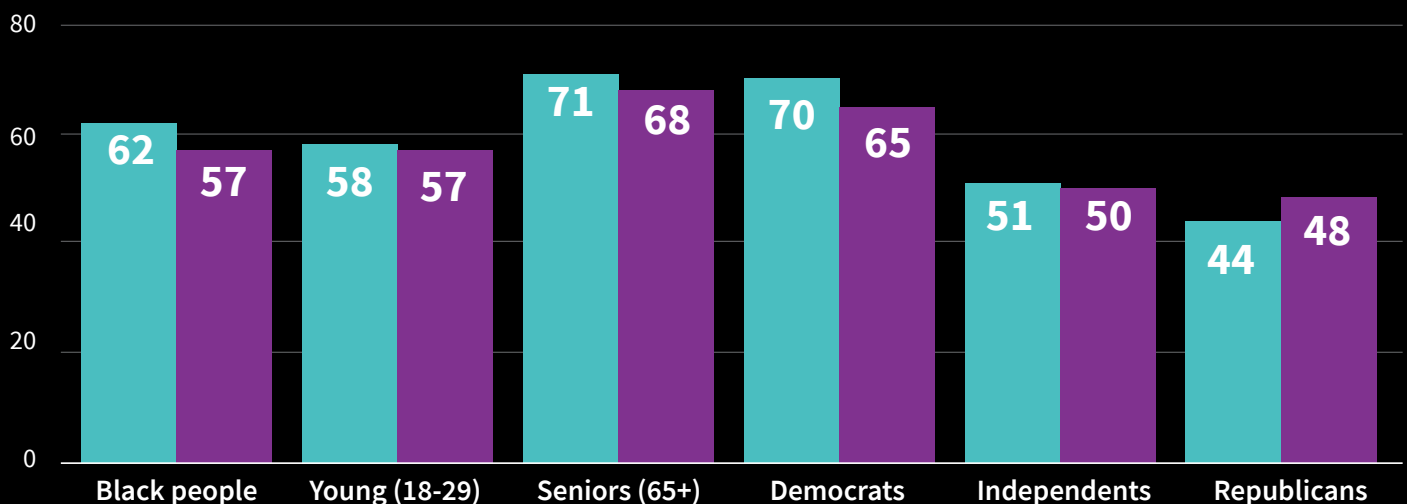
Evaluation of the Country and its Leaders

More than six in ten (62%) Black people report that they are satisfied with the direction the country is headed. A majority (57%) also say they are satisfied with how the economy is doing. Some of the largest gaps in the evaluation of the state of the country and the economy are between Democrats and Republicans, and between Black people under 30 years and Black people over 65 years.

Generally speaking, are you very satisfied, satisfied, dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with...

The direction the country is headed

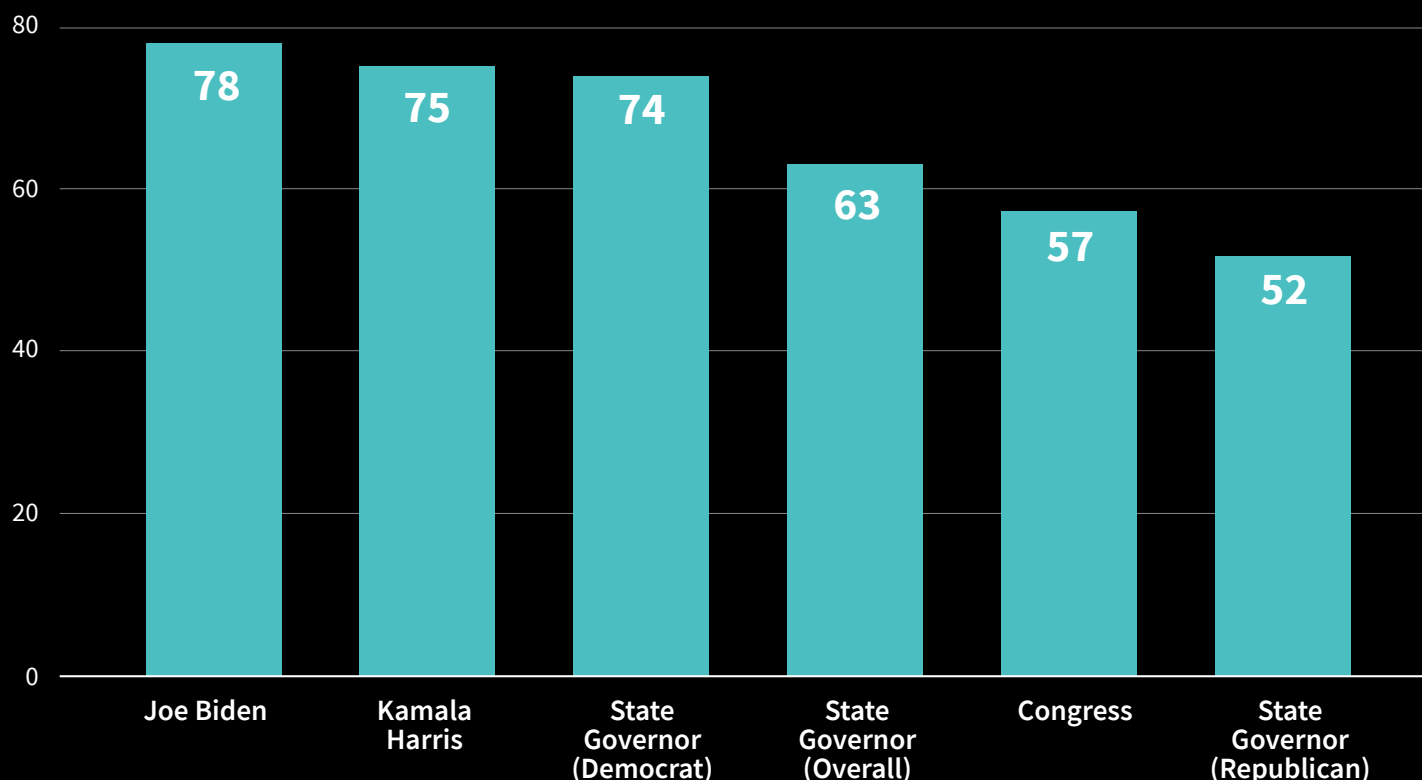
How the economy is doing



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More than three-quarters of Black people approve of the job that President Joe Biden (78%) and Vice-President Kamala Harris (75%) are doing. Biden (90%) and Harris (86%) receive their highest support from Democrats. Biden and Harris also have majority approval from independents (63%, for both), and Republicans (58% for Biden and 55% for Harris).

Do you approve or disapprove of the job _____ is doing?



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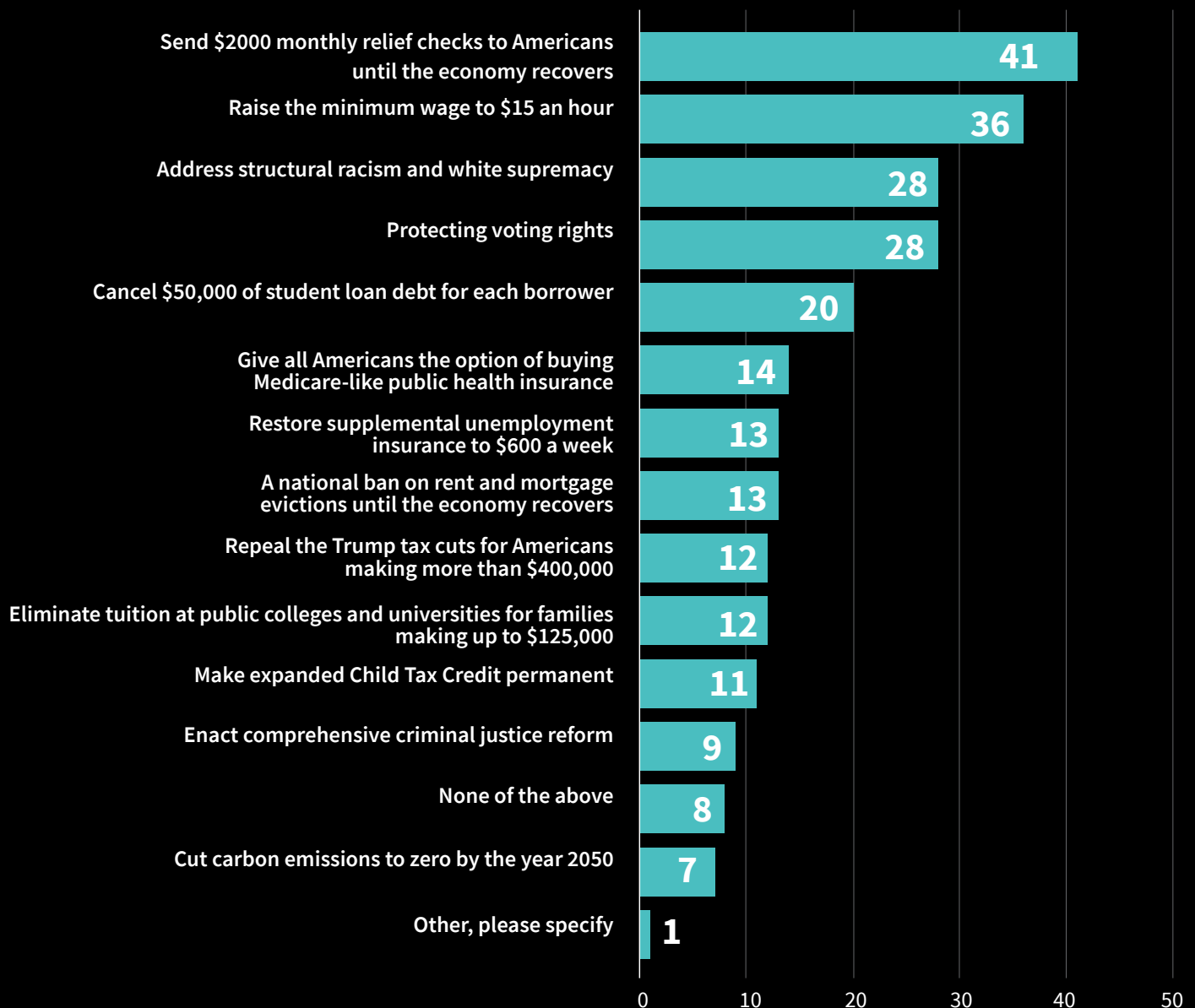
Sixty-three percent of Black people approve of the job their governors are doing, though there are major differences depending on the state they live in. Nearly three-quarters (74%) of Black people who live in states with a Democratic governor approve of them, a figure similar to Biden and Harris's own approval ratings. Just above half (52%) of Black residents in states with Republican governors approve of them.

Policy Priorities

The top four priorities of Black people are:

- ✓ \$2,000 monthly relief checks (41%)
- ✓ Raising the minimum wage to \$15/hour (36%)
- ✓ Addressing structural racism and white supremacy (28%)
- ✓ Protecting voting rights (28%)

What do you think are the three most important legislative or policy policies for Joe Biden to achieve



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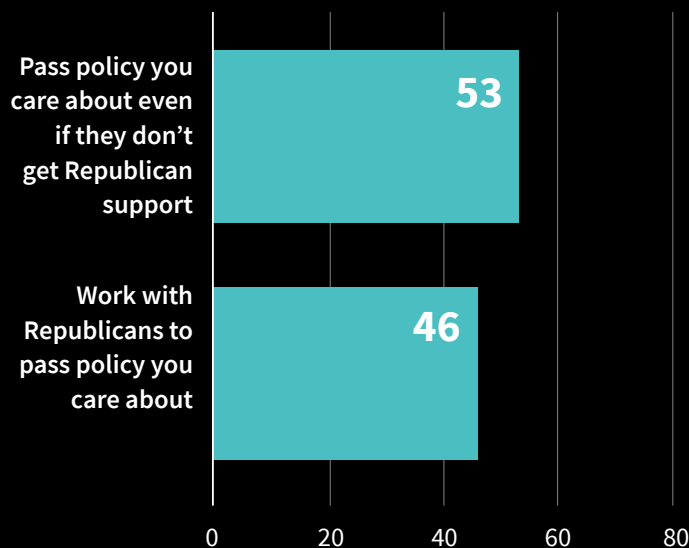
Though the top three or four selections are similar across various segments of the Black population, there are some notable differences in priorities.

- ✓ Black people under 30 are the most likely to want the elimination of tuition at public colleges and universities for families making up to \$125,000 (16%)
- ✓ Nearly three in ten Black college graduates want Congress and the Biden administration to cancel \$50,000 of student loan debt (28%)
- ✓ Nearly half of renters (48%) want Congress to send \$2,000 monthly relief checks
- ✓ About one in five families with children want to make the expanded child tax credit permanent

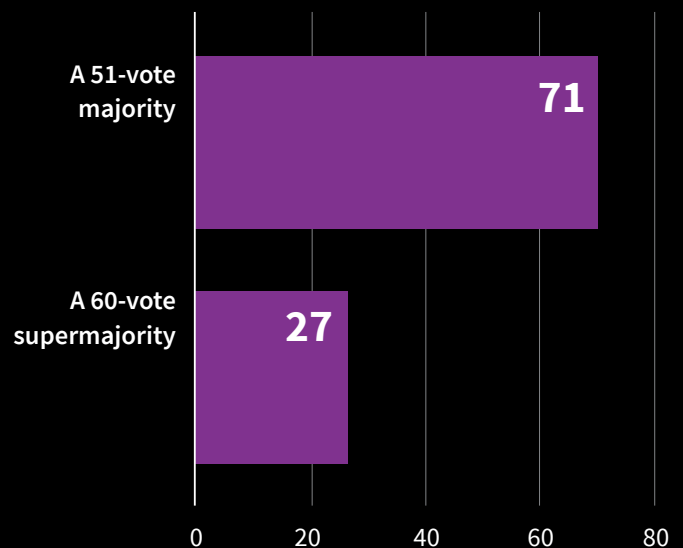
Bipartisanship and the Filibuster

A majority (53%) of Black people say that Democrats in Congress should do their best to pass policy even if they don't get Republican support.

Democrats in congress should do their best to...



When thinking about passing legislation in the Senate do you think it should require...



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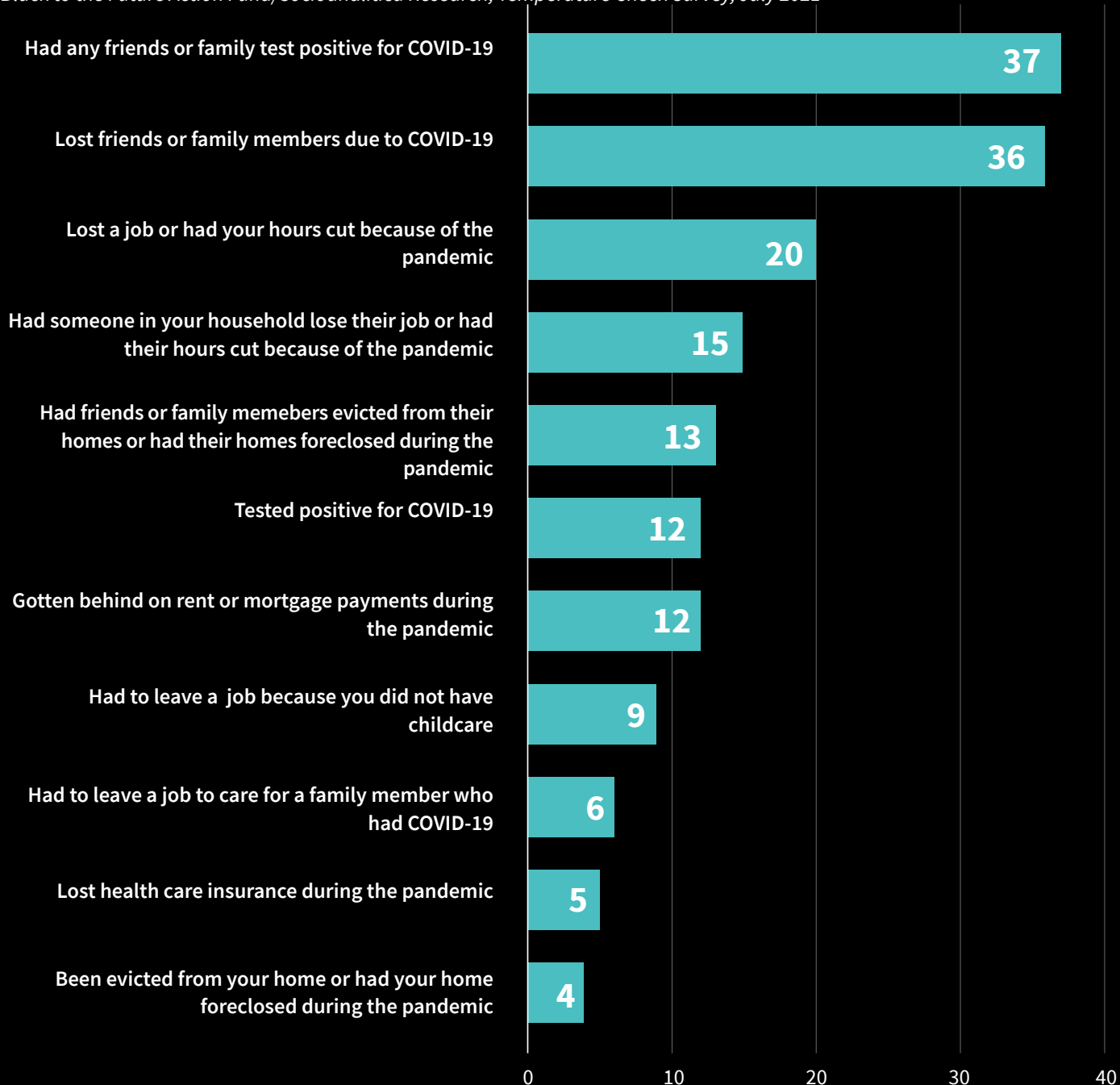
Support for eliminating the Senate filibuster is even stronger. More than seven in ten (71%) say the Senate should require a simple majority of 51 votes to pass legislation while only 27% say it should require a 60-vote supermajority.

COVID in Black America

More than one-third of Black people have lost friends or family members to COVID-19 (36%) or had friends or family members test positive for the disease (27%).

Next are some questions about COVID-19's impact in your life. Have you...

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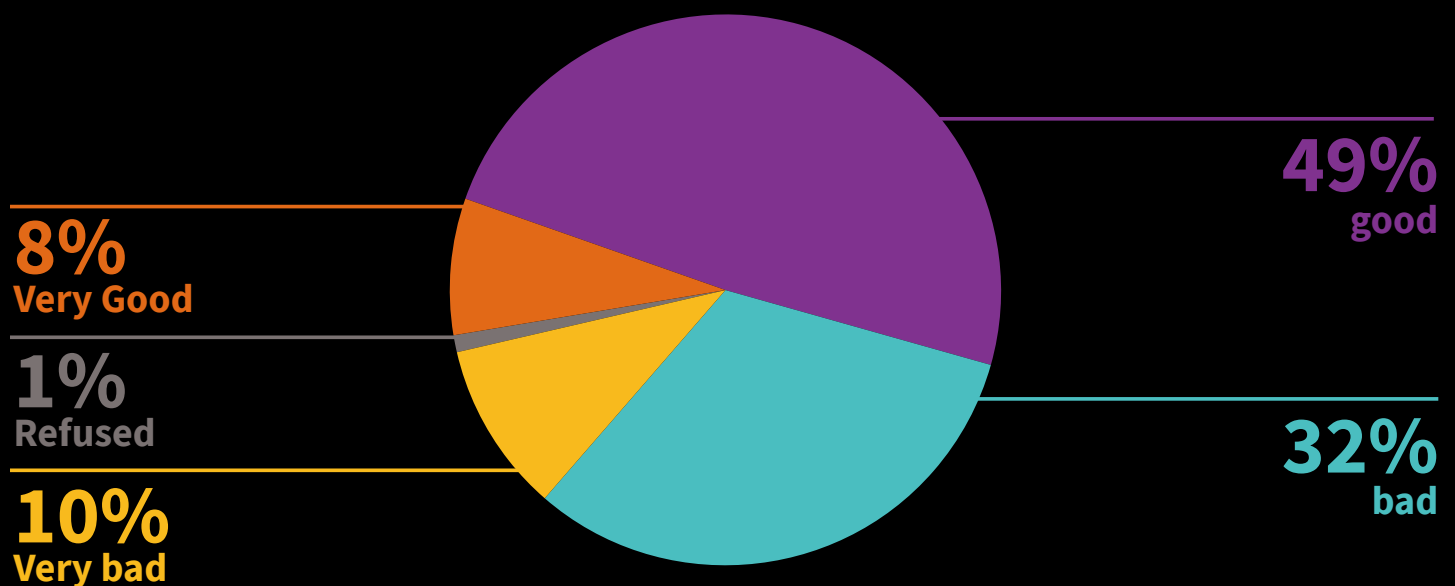


In addition:

- ✓ One-quarter (25%) of Black people under 30 report job loss or reduced hours during the pandemic.
- ✓ Nearly one in five Black people with an income under \$20,000 report getting behind on rent payments (17%) and having friends or family members evicted during the pandemic (19%).
- ✓ Black people working in the gig economy are 2X more likely to report testing positive for COVID than those who do not (18%) and 3X more likely to have left a job due to a lack of childcare.

Families were hit particularly hard during the pandemic. Nearly one in five (19%) families with multiple children at home had to leave a job because they did not have childcare and got behind on rent or mortgage payments. One-quarter (25%) of families with children or dependent adults lost a job or lost hours during the pandemic.

How would you rate your personal financial situation?

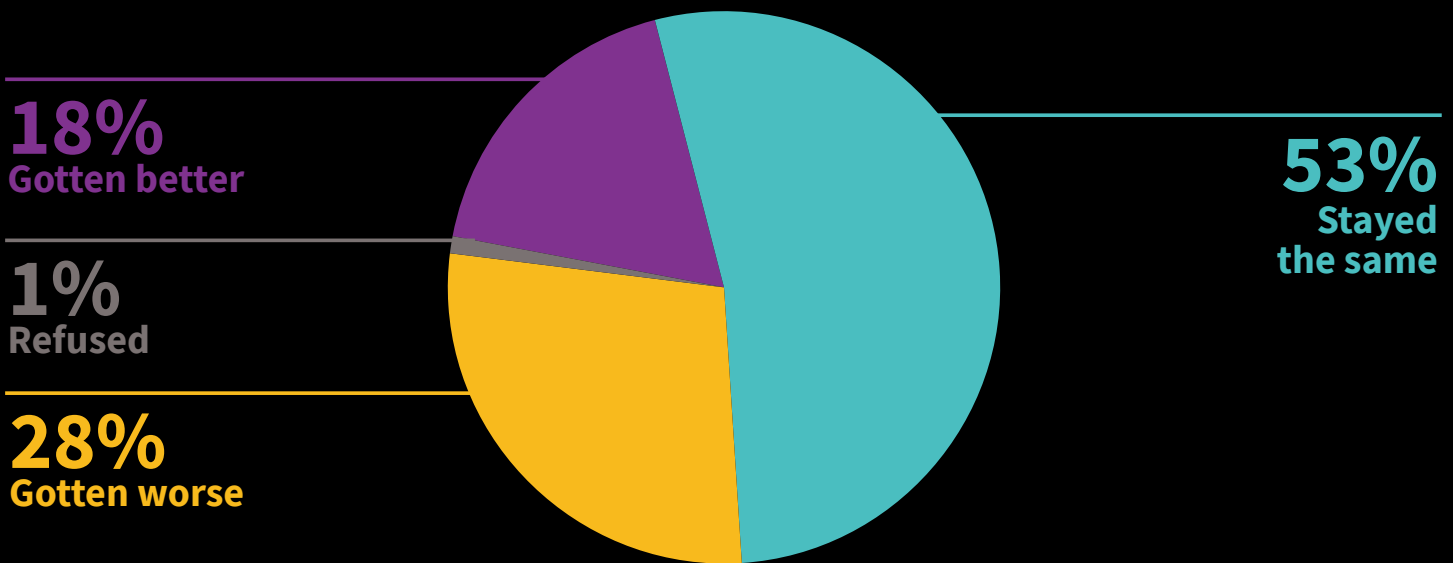


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A plurality (49%) of Black people rate their financial situation as good and an additional 8% rate it as very good. However, several portions of the Black population have overall negative ratings of their personal finances.

- ✓ A majority of Black people with incomes under \$20,000 report their financial situation as bad (40%) or very bad (13%)
- ✓ Nearly six in ten (58%) of Black people who report being unemployed say their personal finances are bad (36%) or very bad (22%)

Since the pandemic has your household's financial situation gotten better, stayed the same, or gotten worse?

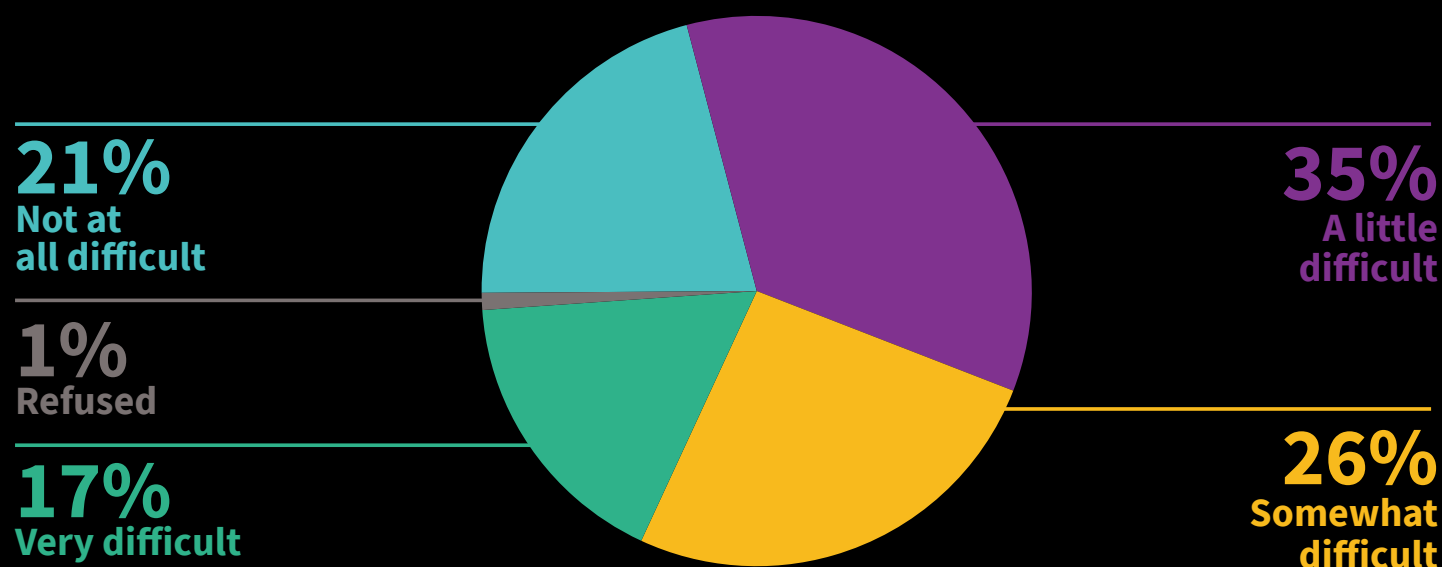


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A majority (53%) of Black people say that since the pandemic their household's financial situation has stayed the same. A sizable segment of the Black population says their household financial situation has gotten worse (28%). Only 18% of Black people say their finances have gotten better since the pandemic.

Nearly two-thirds of people who rated their finances as "very bad" say that their situation has gotten worse (65%). Nearly half of people who say their situation is bad also say it is getting worse (49%).

In the last 12 months, how difficult has it been for your household to pay for usual household expenses?



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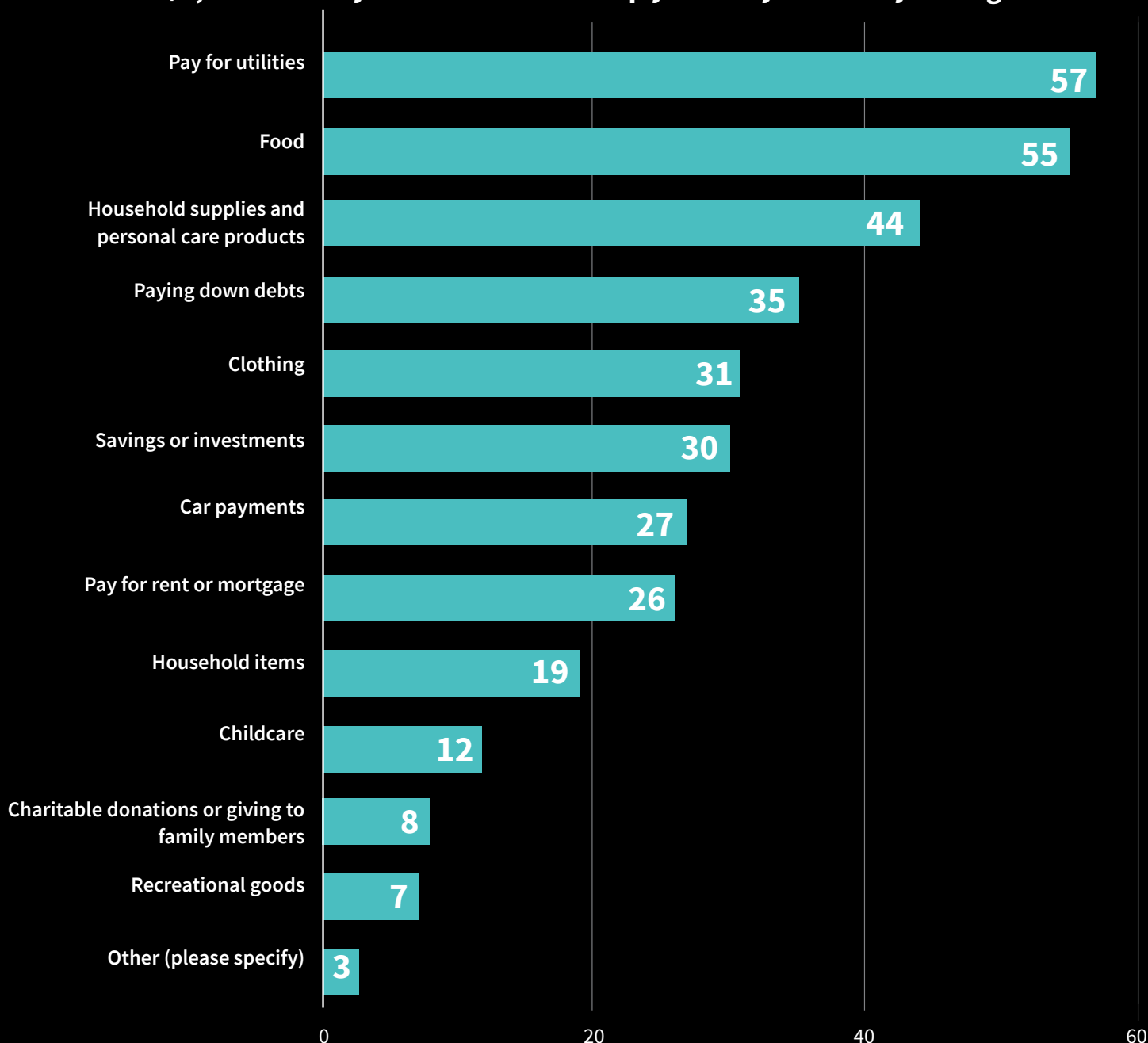
Forty-three percent of Black people also say that it has been somewhat difficult (26%) or very difficult (17%) to pay for household expenses. A majority (56%) say it has been a little difficult (35%) or not at all difficult (21%).

Among people who rate their personal finances as very bad, the percentage who say it has been difficult to pay for expenses is 87%, including 57% who say it has been very difficult. Three-quarters (75%) of Black people whose household finances have gotten worse say they have had difficulties paying for household expenses.

\$2,000 Payments

When asked what they would spend a monthly stimulus check of \$2,000 on, a majority of respondents said they would use the money to pay for utilities (57%) or food (55%). An additional 44% say they will use the money to pay for household supplies or personal care products. Among people who report their situation as very bad or getting worse, 70% say they will spend it on utilities while 64% say they will spend it on food.

How would \$2,000 monthly stimulus checks help you and your family during this time?

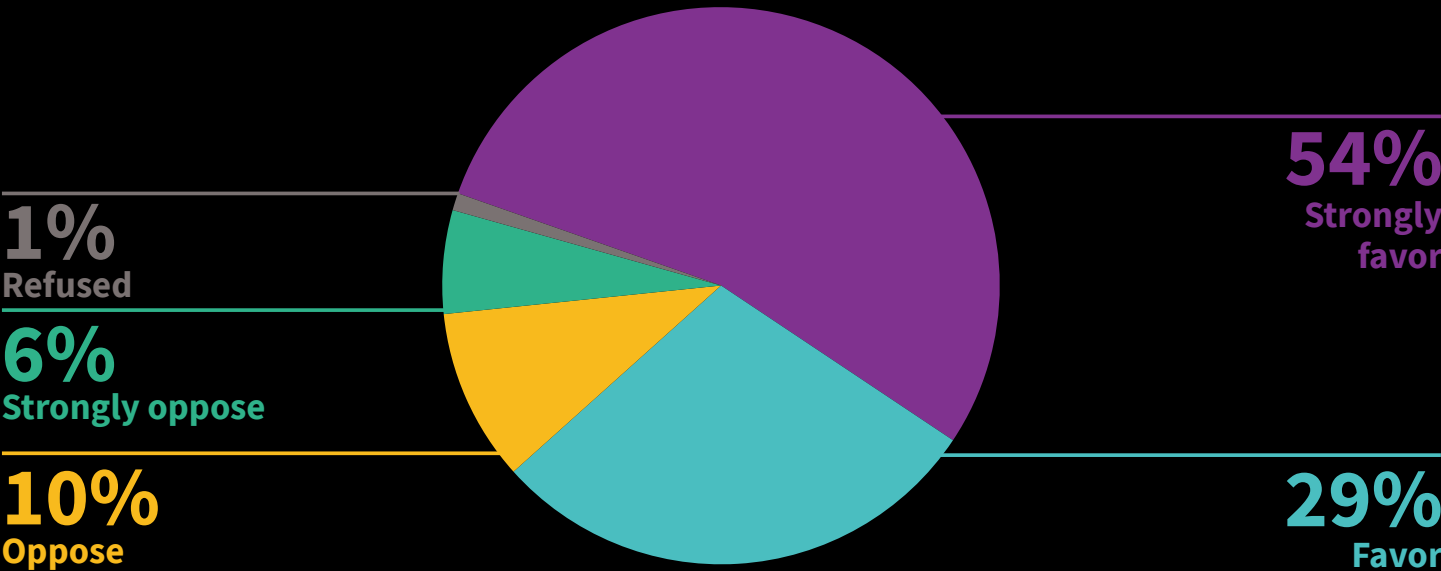


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More than eight in ten Black people (83%) are in favor of sending \$2,000 monthly COVID relief checks until the economy recovers. Majorities of all segments of the Black population support this policy though it is worth mentioning that support is more intense among those who report financial struggles. For example, support for the policy among people who say their household finances have gotten worse is 87%, including 68% who *strongly favor* the relief checks.

Congress authorizing \$2,000 monthly COVID-19 relief checks for every American until the economy recovers?

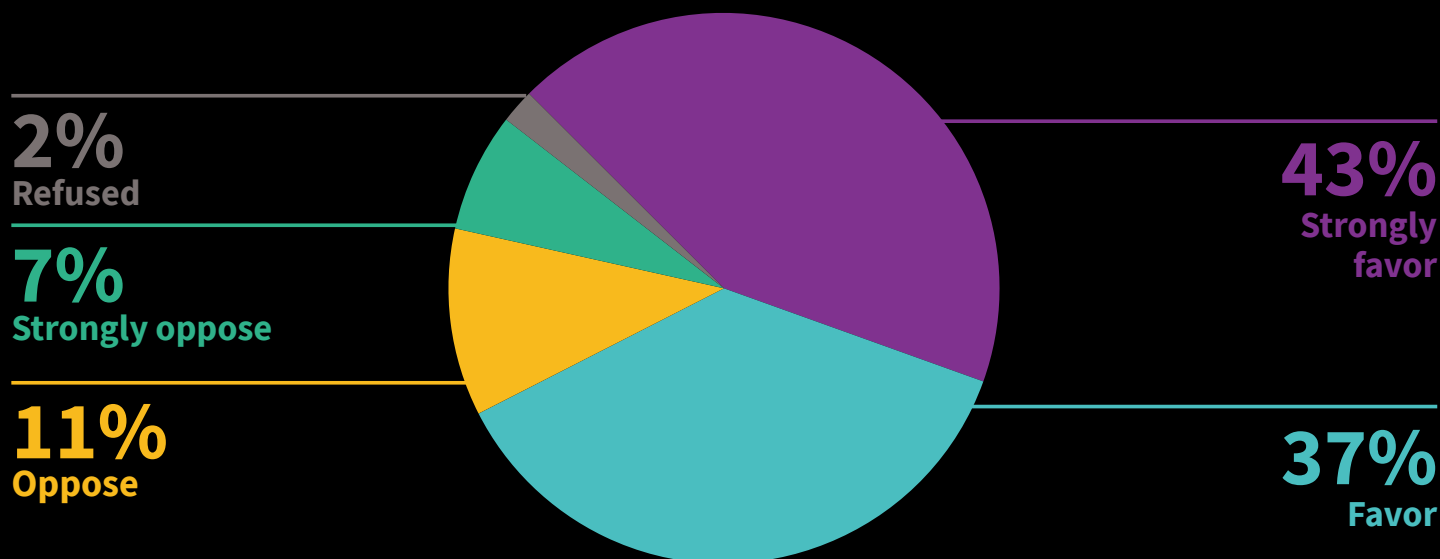


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The Child Tax Credit Expansion

The survey also asked about another policy, currently in place, the Child Tax Credit expansion. We asked people if they favor the cash payments eligible taxpayers started receiving in July 2021. More than eight in ten (81%) Black people favor this policy and support is similar across various segments of the Black population.

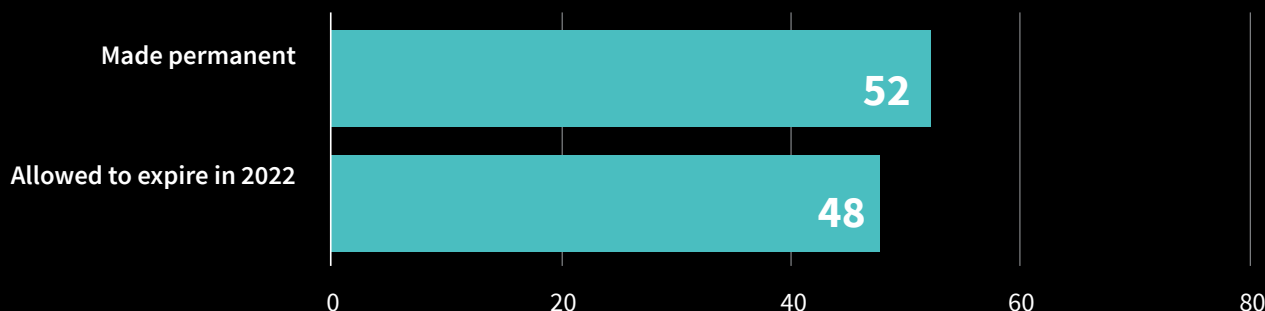
How do you feel about the \$300 per month per child payments that families will get from July to December 2021?



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When asked if the cash payments, which expire in December, should be made permanent, a majority of Black people (52%) favor making these cash payments permanent. Support for the cash payments permanence is highest among people with children at home (60%).

Do you think these up to \$300 monthly payments per child should be...



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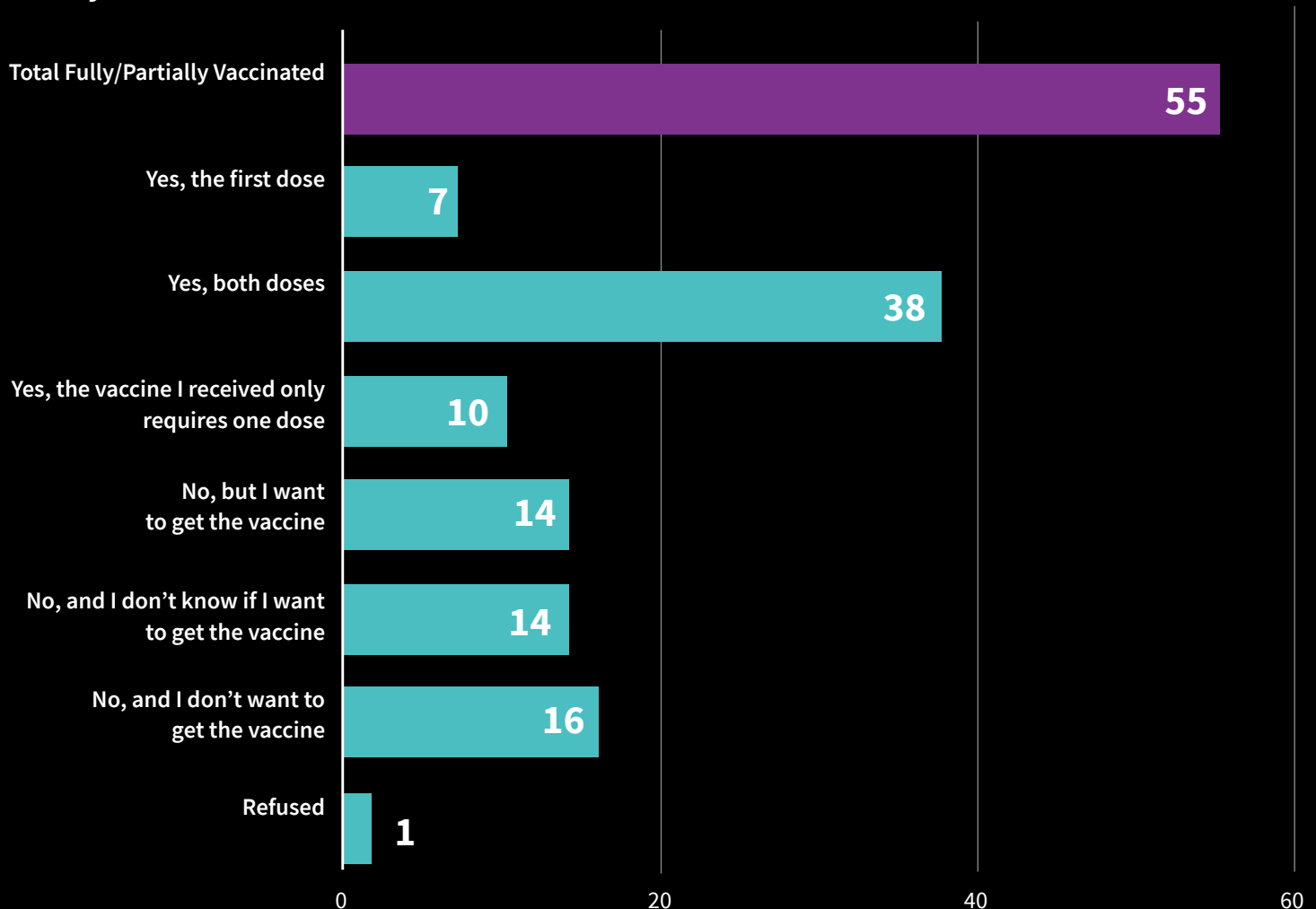
The Vaccination Effort

A majority (55%) of Black people say that they have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, including nearly half (48%) who are fully vaccinated. An additional 14% say they want to get the vaccine but are not vaccinated yet. The remaining 30% is nearly equally divided between those who are unsure about getting the COVID-19 vaccine (14%) and those who do not want the vaccine at all (16%).

Young people have the lowest vaccination rates. Only 41% of people under age 30 report being at least partially vaccinated with about one-third (32%) fully vaccinated. Meanwhile, 85% of Black people aged 65 and older report having received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, including 84% who are fully vaccinated.

Other notable groups with high vaccination rates include people who report having family or friends dying of COVID-19 (59%), and people who live in high-vaccination counties (62%).

Have you received the COVID-19 vaccine?



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The top reasons Black people who want to get vaccinated but have not done so are:

- needing more time to see if the vaccine works (58%)
- lack of transportation (29%)
- not having a vaccine delivery site near their home (25%)
- not being sure if the vaccine is free of charge (24%)

At least three in ten Black respondents who are unsure about getting vaccinated mention five reasons:

- worry about unknown effects in the future (46%)
- worry about how quickly the vaccine was developed (42%)
- not enough information about how the vaccine interacts with other health conditions (39%)
- not having enough information about the vaccine (34%)
- needing more time to understand if the vaccine works (30%)

Vaccine-hesitant Black people report being worried about:

- unknown future effects of the vaccine (53%)
- how quickly the vaccine was developed (45%)
- not having enough information about vaccine interactions with other health conditions (43%)

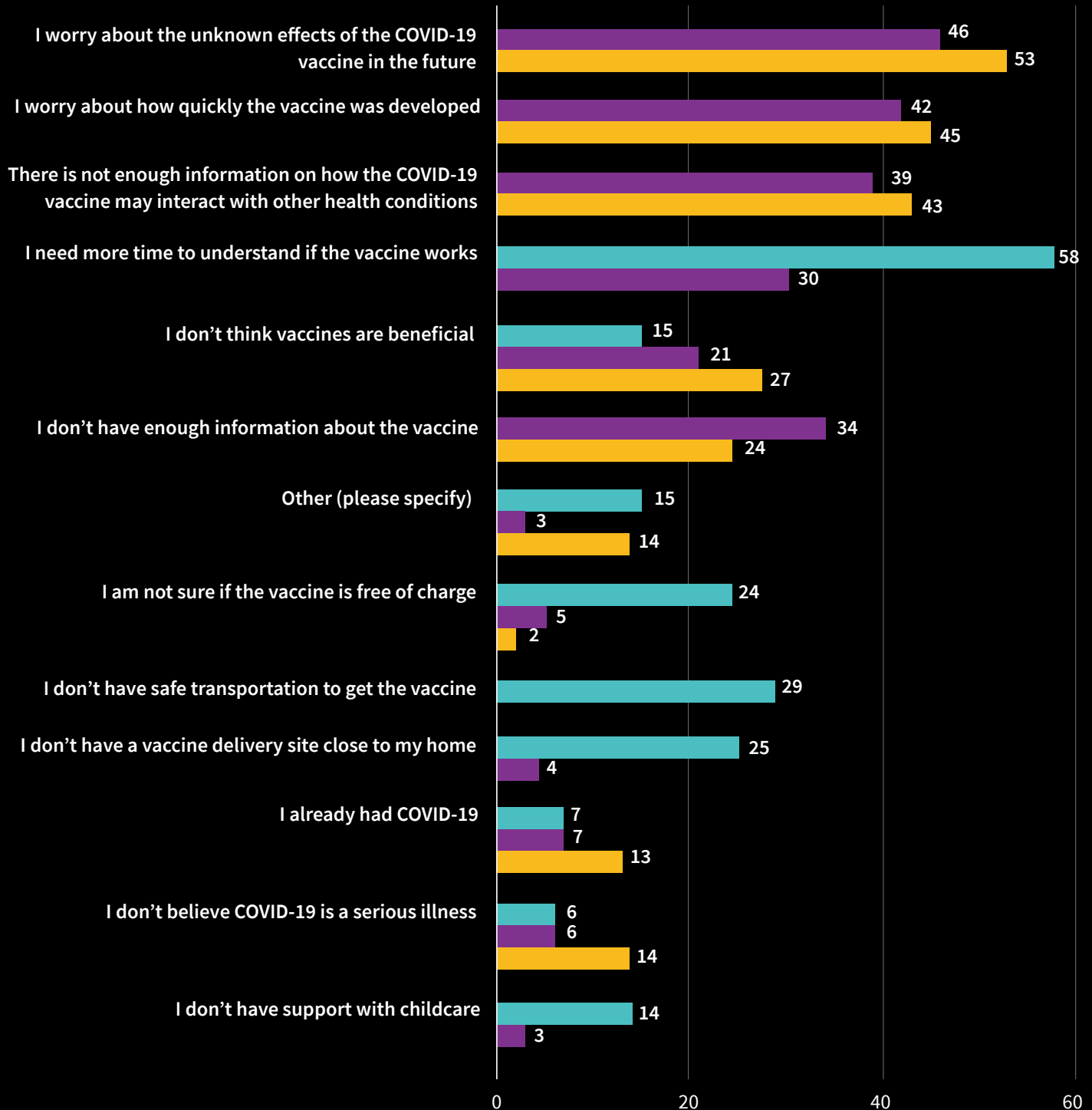
However, this cohort also has the highest proportion of people who do not believe COVID-19 is a serious illness (14%). More than one-quarter (27%) also say that they don't think vaccines are beneficial.

Please select the top three reasons why you haven't gotten/don't want to get the vaccine

No, but I want to get the vaccine

No, and I don't know if I want to get the vaccine

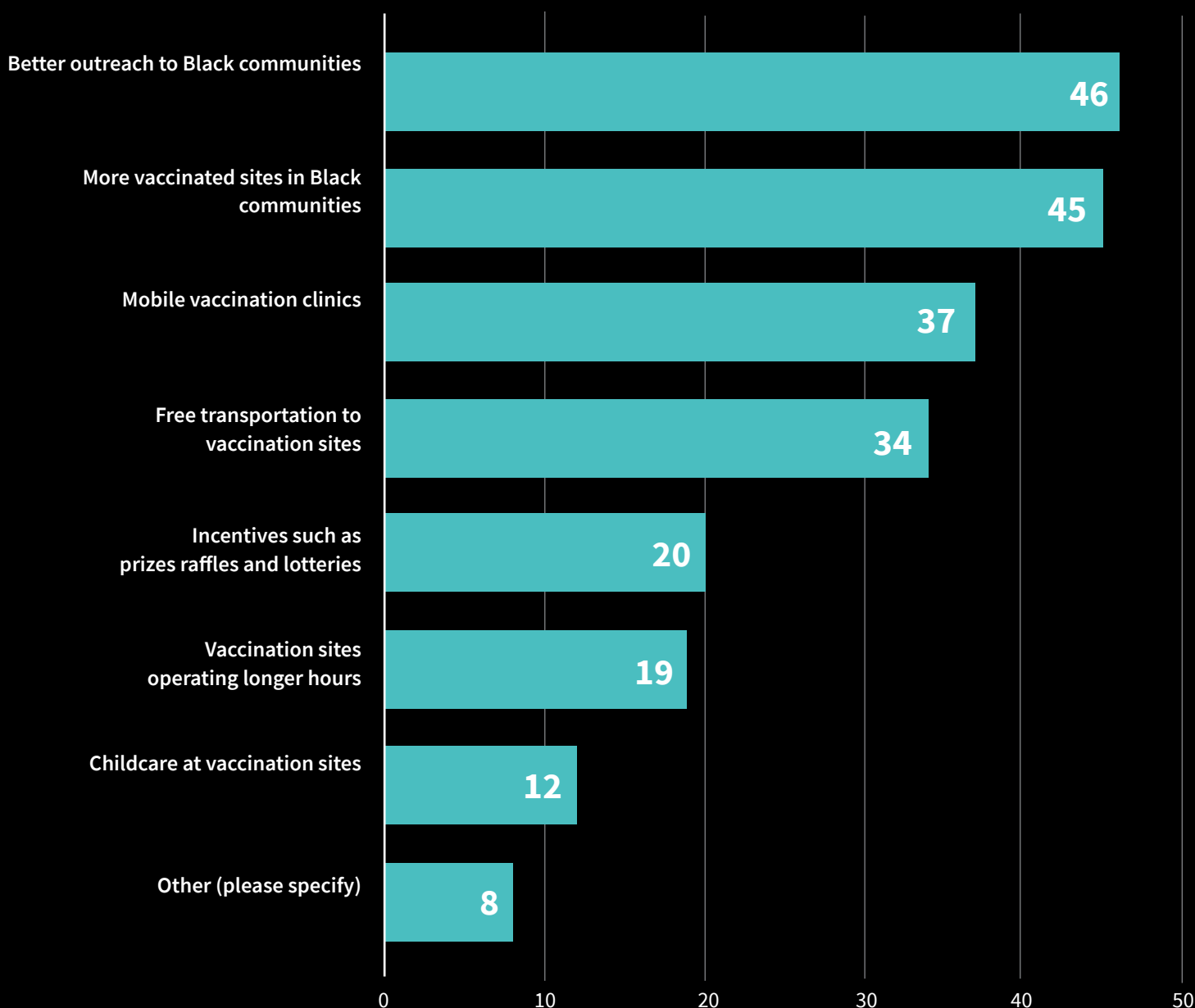
No, and I don't want to get the vaccine



The answers from these three distinct groups of unvaccinated Black people suggest that the government needs a multi-prong strategy to boost the vaccination effort. Though more or better information about the vaccine would be good when reaching out to these three groups, it is clear that the not-vaccinated-but-willing cohort has accessibility issues and that providing transportation, daycare, or even mobile clinics could boost vaccinations among this group.

The hesitant-but-willing cohort has more trust issues and a campaign building trust should help to boost their vaccination rates. The same is true for a large portion of those who are completely hesitant to vaccinate.

What could elected and appointed officials do to ensure the vaccine reaches more Black people?

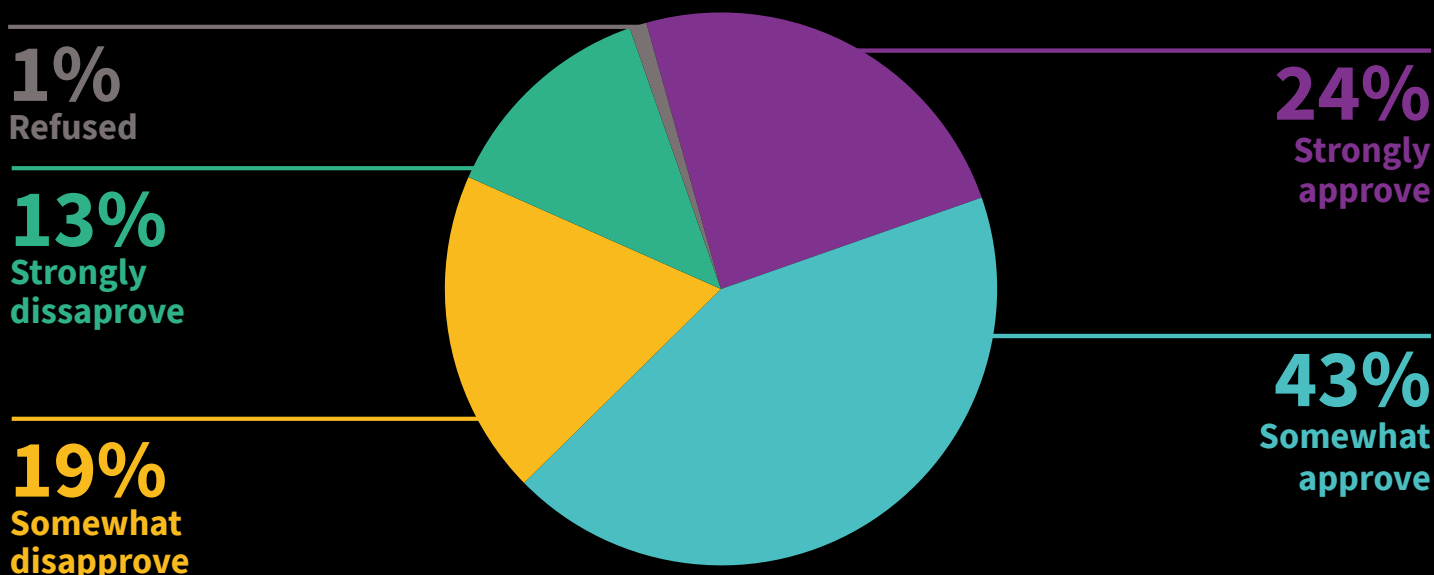


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The survey data supports this approach. When asked about how elected officials can ensure the vaccines reach more Black people, the top three choices are better outreach (46%), more vaccination sites (45%), mobile vaccination clinics (37%), and free transportation (34%). Considering that two-thirds (67%) of Black people approve of the job the government is doing distributing the COVID-19 vaccine, including nearly half (49%) of those who are most hesitant, the government just needs to increase accessibility and goodwill to improve its vaccination effort among Black people.

Do you approve or disapprove of the job the government is doing distributing the COVID-19 vaccine in Black Communities?

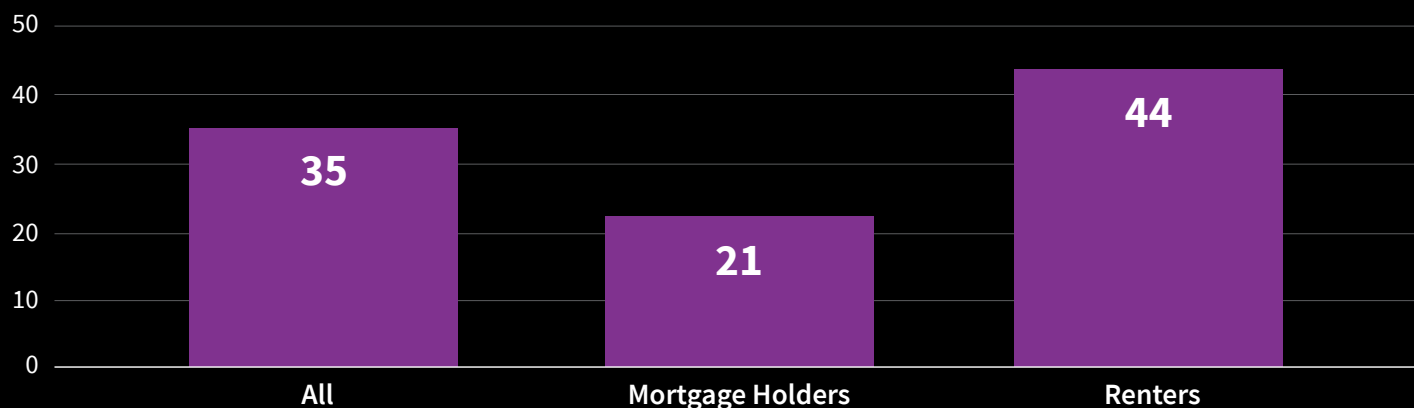


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Housing and Evictions

More than one-third (35%) of Black renters and mortgage holders report that they are not currently caught up with their payments. However, 44% of renters say they are not caught up with payments, more than twice the proportion of homeowners (21%). Sixty-three percent of renters who report being late with their payments also say that they are not confident to make their full payment on time or have already deferred payments.

Is your household currently caught up on rent/mortgage payments?

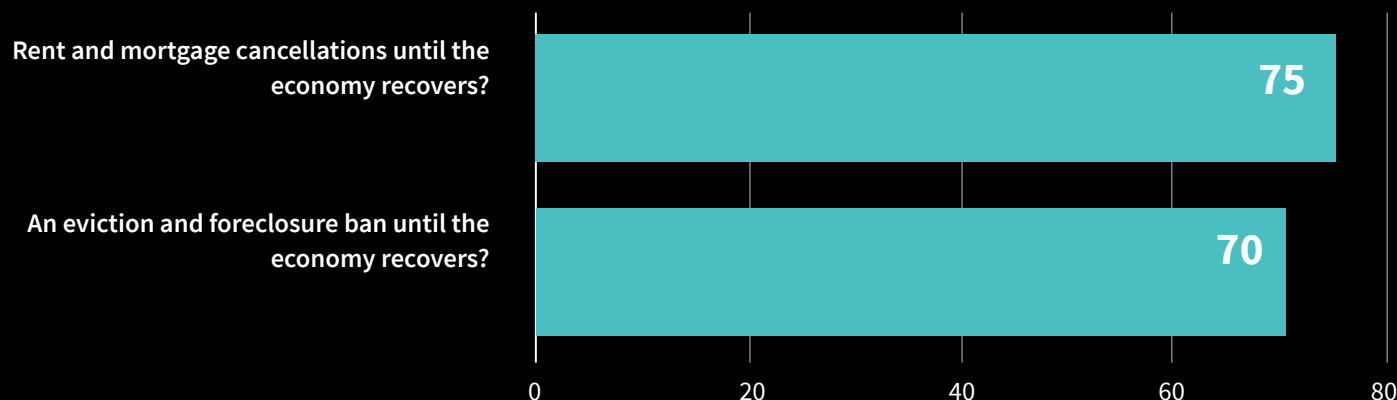


Percent saying no

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In light of this potential eviction crisis, it is not surprising that 70% of Black people say they are in favor of Congress authorizing an eviction and foreclosure ban until the economy recovers. Support for rent and mortgage cancellation is slightly larger as 75% of Black people favor Congress authorizing this policy until the economy recovers.

Do you favor or oppose Congress authorizing...

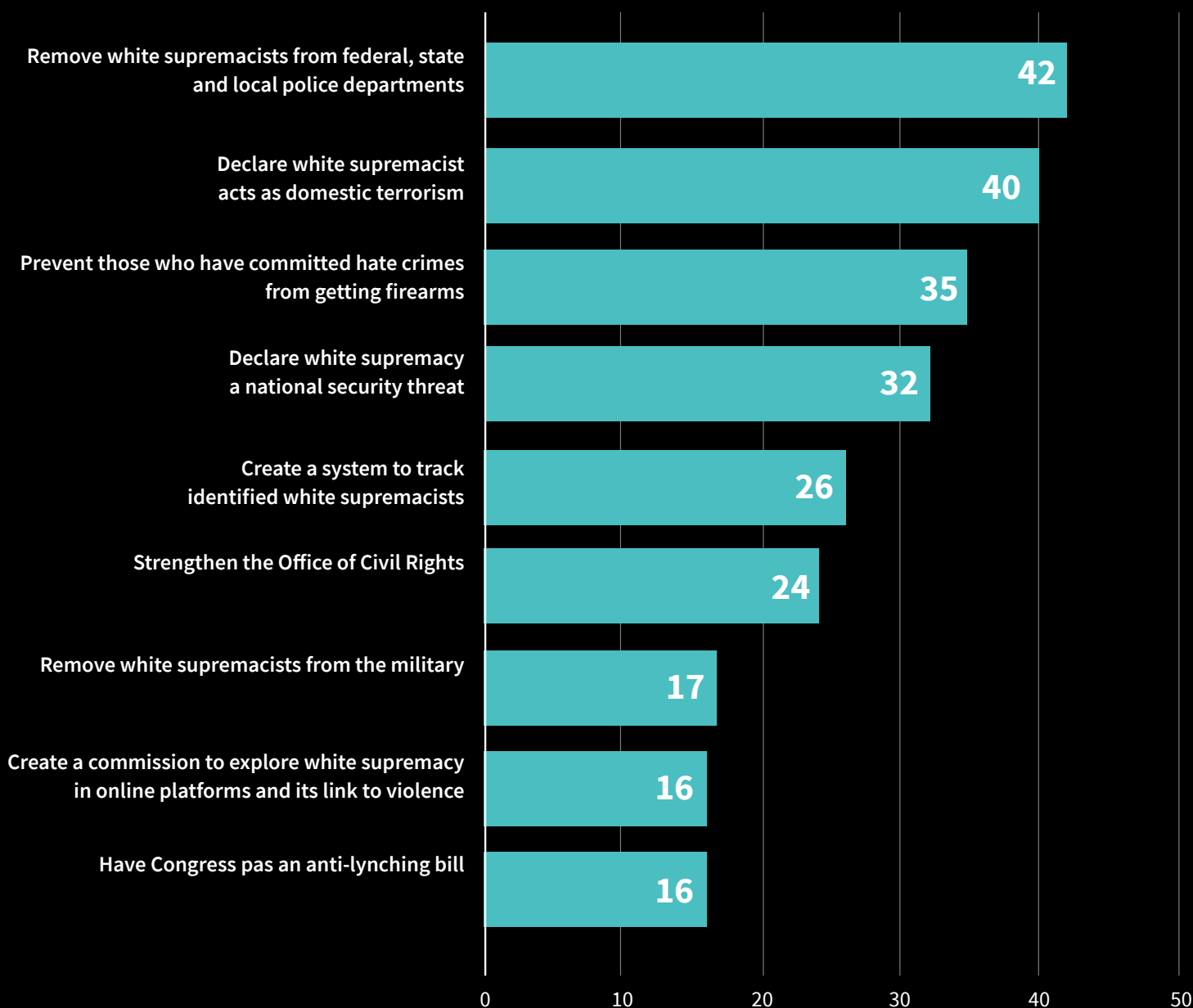


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White Supremacy

Addressing white supremacy and systemic racism is one of the top issues that Black people want Congress and the Biden-Harris administration to prioritize. Black people give some guidance on how to address white supremacy in particular. Asked for a range of potential ways of fighting white supremacy, Black respondents said that they want to (1) remove white supremacists from law enforcement (42%), (2) declare white supremacist acts as domestic terrorism, and (3) prevent those who committed hate crimes from getting firearms.

What do you think the Biden-Harris administration should do to fight white supremacy in the US?

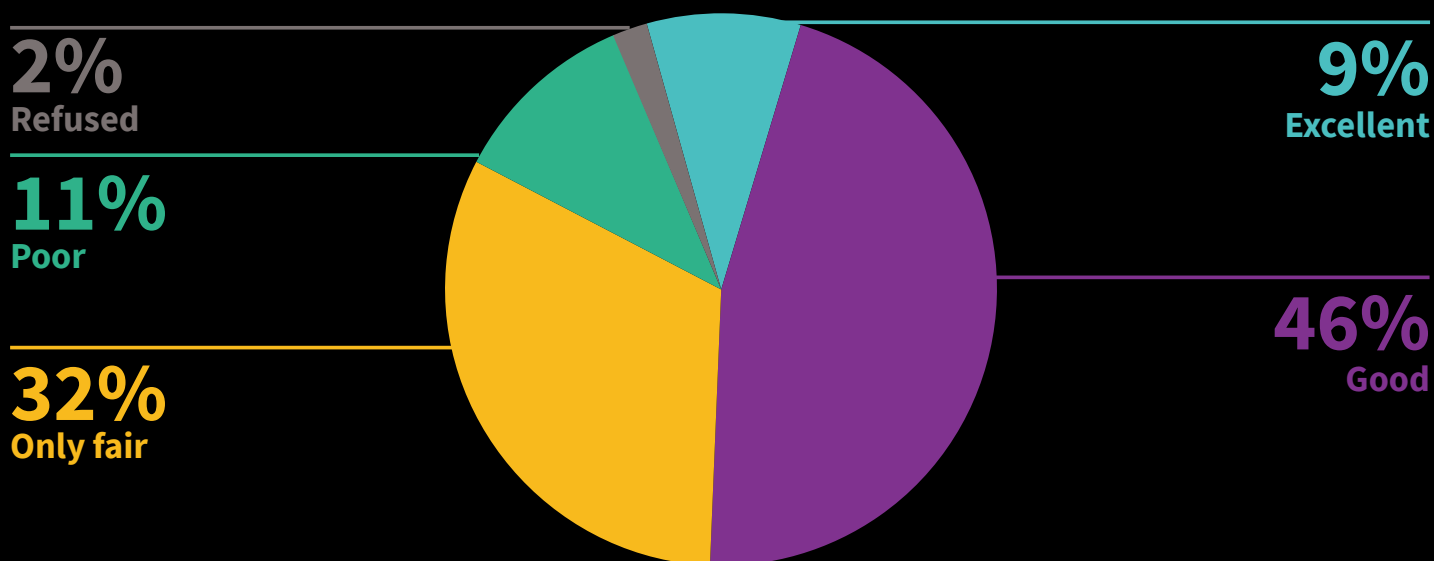


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The Environment

More than four in ten (43%) Black people rate the environmental quality of their communities as “only fair” (32%) or “poor” (11%).

How would you rate the quality of the environment in your community

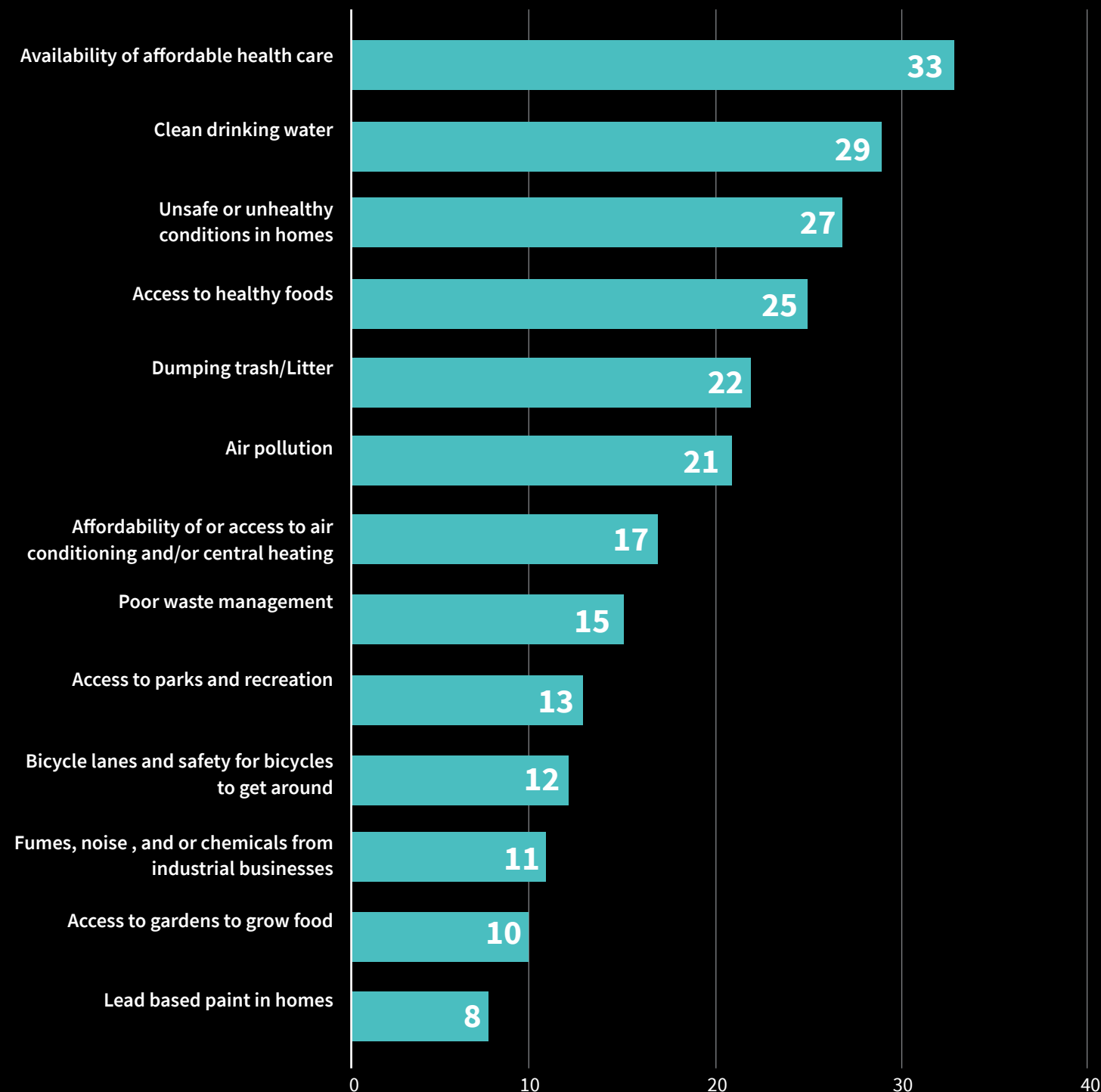


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The top issue that makes it difficult for Black communities to have good health and living conditions is the availability (or lack thereof) of affordable health insurance (33%). Nearly three in ten (29%) mention clean drinking water, while 27% cite unsafe or unhealthy conditions in homes.

What are the top three conditions impacting your community that make it difficult for residents to have good health and living conditions?



Black to the Future Action Fund/Socioanalítica Research, Temperature Check Survey, July 2021



Methodology

The Black to the Future Action Fund/Socioanalítica Research Temperature Check Poll was conducted online in English among a sample of 1,002 Black adults (18 years and older) respondents living in the United States. The survey was conducted between July 7 and July 17, 2021. The data were weighted by region, age, gender, and education using the 2019 American Community Survey 5-year dataset. The margin of error is 3.1% at the 95% confidence level and the design effect is 1.8.

