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***Over Half of Californians Worry that They or a Family Member
Will Lose Health Coverage if the Affordable Care Act is Repealed.
Support for Affordable Care Act Now at Record Levels. Eighty-Eight Percent Say
Medi-Cal is Important to the State.***

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With the U.S. Congress now considering legislation to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA), 56% of Californians worry that they or a family member might lose their insurance coverage according to a new statewide *Berkeley IGS Poll*. The poll finds public support for the ACA, the national health reform law signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2010, reaching record proportions. Supporters of the ACA now outnumber opponents in California by a greater than two-to-one margin, 65% to 26%, with 45% supporting it strongly.

The survey finds that Medi-Cal, the public program that provides health coverage to low-income adults and children, directly affects a majority of residents, with 69% describing the program as important to themselves and their families. An even larger majority (88%) terms Medi-Cal important when asked about its impact on the state overall.

The poll, administered by telephone in six languages and dialects May 4-31, 2017, was conducted on behalf of the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF). Today's release is the first of a two-part series of reports examining California public opinion about the ACA and health insurance coverage issues. Part two, for release tomorrow, focuses on coverage for mental health and substance use disorder treatment.

"At a time when our society is so polarized, Democrats, Republicans and Independents agree on the value of Medi-Cal to California," said Dr. Sandra R. Hernández, president and chief executive officer of CHCF. "Policymakers in Washington may not understand how vital Medi-Cal is, but Californians certainly do."

More than half worry about losing health coverage if the ACA is repealed

The poll asked Californians if they were worried that they or a family member will lose their health insurance coverage if the ACA law is repealed and replaced, as is now being proposed by the Trump administration and Republicans in the U.S. Congress. The results indicate that a 56% majority are worried about this, with 39% “very worried” and 17% “somewhat worried.”

1a*

Concern about losing health coverage varies with household income. Of residents at the lowest end of the income scale (less than \$20,000 per year), 77% are worried, as are 81% of those currently covered by Medi-Cal. By contrast, only about one in three residents with incomes of \$100,000 or more express such concerns.

1b

Majorities of residents in most major regions of the state reported being worried about losing health coverage should the ACA be repealed and replaced: including 61% in Los Angeles County, 59% in the San Francisco Bay Area and the Inland Empire, 53% of residents of the San Joaquin Valley and 52% of those in the Sacramento and North Valley region. (See below for regional definitions.)

1c

Latinos (71%) and African Americans (67%) are somewhat more likely to be concerned about losing health coverage than white non-Hispanics (46%) and Asian Americans (50%).

1c

Supporters of the ACA outnumber opponents more than two to one in California

When Californians are asked whether they support or oppose the ACA, two in three (65%) now say they support the law, 45% strongly. By comparison, just 26% oppose the law, while another 9% are undecided. This represents a record level of public support for the ACA, exceeding measures found in prior annual statewide surveys by The California Wellness Foundation between 2010 and 2015, where the same question was asked.

2a

Public support for the ACA spans all major regional and demographic subgroups of the state. Support exceeds 70% in California’s two largest urban areas, Los Angeles County (73%) and the San Francisco Bay Area (71%), and includes more than six in ten residents of the South Coast (62%). The poll also finds that support exceeds opposition by a large margin in both the southern and northern portions of the Central Valley. For example, backers outnumber opponents 56% to 32% in the San Joaquin Valley. Similarly, residents of the Sacramento and North Valley region also back the law 58% to 34%.

2b

Greater than seven in 10 of the state’s Latinos (72%) support the law, as do 80% of African Americans. This compares to 60% support among white non-Hispanics and 65% among the state’s Asian Americans. The ACA is backed by slightly more women (69%) than men (61%) and by a larger proportion of Californians under the age of 30 (73%) than their elders, although support exceeds 60% in all age categories.

2c

Opinions about the law, however, remain highly partisan. While Democrats are overwhelmingly supportive of the law (88% to 9%), among Republicans fewer than one in four (22%) favor it and 69% are opposed.

2b

* refers to table numbers in the PowerPoint graphs where percentage distributions are reported in more detail.

Nearly nine in ten believe Medi-Cal is important to the state

The poll also asked Californians two questions about the importance of the state's Medi-Cal health program, which provides health insurance and long-term care to low-income adults and children, as well as seniors and people with disabilities. One question asked residents how important they felt Medi-Cal was to the state overall. An overwhelming majority (88%) responds by describing Medi-Cal as important, with 72% considering it very important and 16% answering somewhat important. By comparison, just 7% say it is not too or not at all important.

3a

The view that Medi-Cal is important to the state is broad-based and includes overwhelming majorities in most major regions and subgroups of the adult population. For example, regionally, the belief that Medi-Cal is important to the state is shared by greater than nine in ten residents of the San Francisco Bay Area (92%), the San Joaquin Valley (92%) and the Sacramento and North Valley region (92%). Similarly, the demographic subgroups in which greater than nine in ten say this include those with annual household incomes of less than \$20,000 (96%), registered Democrats (95%), Latinos (95%), African Americans (94%), Medi-Cal beneficiaries (93%), and women (93%).

3b & 3c

Although Medi-Cal is considered to be somewhat less important to registered Republicans, even among this segment 75% consider it important to the state.

3b

More than two in three consider Medi-Cal important to themselves and their families

A second question asked Californians how important they felt Medi-Cal was to themselves and their families. The results indicate that Medi-Cal directly affects greater than two in three families (69%), with 53% deeming it very important to them, and another 16% rating it somewhat important.

4a

Nearly all families with household incomes of less than \$20,000 (95%) consider Medi-Cal important to themselves and their families, as do 96% of Medi-Cal beneficiaries, with most deeming it very important. Other segments of the population where greater than eight in ten describe Medi-Cal as being important to themselves and their families include Latinos (84%), African Americans (84%), those with annual household incomes of between \$20,000 and \$40,000 (82%), and residents who are not registered to vote (82%).

4b & 4c

Partisanship also is a factor in personal assessments of the importance of Medi-Cal, with registered Democrats (77%) much more likely than Republicans (46%) to say the program is important to themselves or their families.

4b

Note: The attached PowerPoint slides summarize the findings in graphic form.

About the Survey

The findings in this report come from a telephone survey completed by the Institute of Governmental Studies (IGS), at the University of California, Berkeley for the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF). The questions reported in this release were included on CHCF's behalf by adding them onto the May 2017 *Berkeley IGS Poll*, which conducts periodic surveys of California public opinion on matters of politics, public policy and public issues. The *Berkeley IGS Poll* is housed within IGS's newly established Jack Citrin Center for Public Opinion Research.

The May 2017 poll included a large-scale statewide sample of 1,628 California adults, and an oversampling of residents of the Central Valley, including residents of the San Joaquin Valley and the Sacramento/North Valley (see definitions below), yielding a total of 1,845 interviews.

To capture the diversity of the state's adult population, the survey was administered in six languages and dialects – English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese and Korean. Interviewing was completed May 4-31, 2017 by professionally trained and supervised interviewers calling from Davis Research in Calabasas (Los Angeles County), California.

The survey was administered with adults either on their cell or landline telephone using a dual frame random digit dial cell and landline sampling methodology. In this survey over 85% of the interviews were conducted with residents on their cell phone. Up to six attempts were made to reach, screen and interview each randomly selected adult on different days and times of day during the interviewing period. After the completion of interviewing, weights were developed to align the combined statewide sample and Central Valley oversample to their proper population proportions, and to a wide range of demographic characteristics of the state's adult population.

The maximum sampling error for results from the overall statewide sample is +/- 2.4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. Results from the poll's subsamples are subject to somewhat larger margins of sampling error, and depend on its sample size and the percentage distributions being examined.

Regional Definitions

Los Angeles County: Los Angeles County

South Coast: San Diego and Orange counties

Inland Empire: Riverside and San Bernardino counties

San Joaquin Valley: San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Kern counties

Sacramento/North Valley: Shasta, Tehama, Glenn, Butte, Colusa, Yuba, Placer, Sutter, Yolo, El Dorado, and Sacramento counties

San Francisco Bay Area: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma, and Solano

Questions Asked

As you know, in 2010 the Congress passed and then-President Barack Obama signed into law the Affordable Care Act to reform the nation's health care system. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the (Affordable Care Act) health care law? **(IF SUPPORT OR OPPOSE, ASK:)** Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

How worried, if at all, are you that you or someone in your family will lose your health insurance coverage if the health care law is repealed and replaced – very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried or not at all worried?

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?

And, in your opinion, how important is the Medi-Cal health program to the state of California – very important, somewhat important, not too important or not at all important?

About the Institute of Governmental Studies

The Institute of Governmental Studies (IGS) is an interdisciplinary organized research unit that pursues a vigorous program of research, education, publication and public service. A component of the University of California (UC) system's flagship Berkeley campus, it is the oldest organized research unit in the UC system and the oldest public policy research center in the state. It conducts periodic surveys of California public opinion on matters of politics, public policy and public issues through its *Berkeley IGS Poll*, housed within IGS's newly established Jack Citrin Center for Public Opinion Research. A listing of poll stories issued by the *Berkeley IGS Poll* can be found at <https://igs.berkeley.edu/research/berkeley-igs-poll>.

About the California Health Care Foundation

The California Health Care Foundation (CHCF) is dedicated to advancing meaningful, measurable improvements in the way the health care delivery system provides care to the people of California, particularly those with low incomes and those whose needs are not well served by the status quo. CHCF seeks to inform policymakers and industry leaders, invest in ideas and innovations, and connect with changemakers to create a more responsive, patient-centered health care system. It also commissions research and analysis that policymakers, clinical leaders, payers, consumers and the media depend on to better understand California's health care delivery system. More information about CHCF can be found at www.chcf.org.

Californians' Views of the Affordable Care Act and the Importance of the State's Medi-Cal Program

- Results from a new statewide survey conducted for the -

California Health Care Foundation

- by the -

Berkeley IGS Poll

Institute of Governmental Studies

University of California, Berkeley

for publication June 20, 2017

Table 1a

More than half of Californians are worried that they or someone in their family will lose their health insurance coverage if the ACA is repealed and replaced

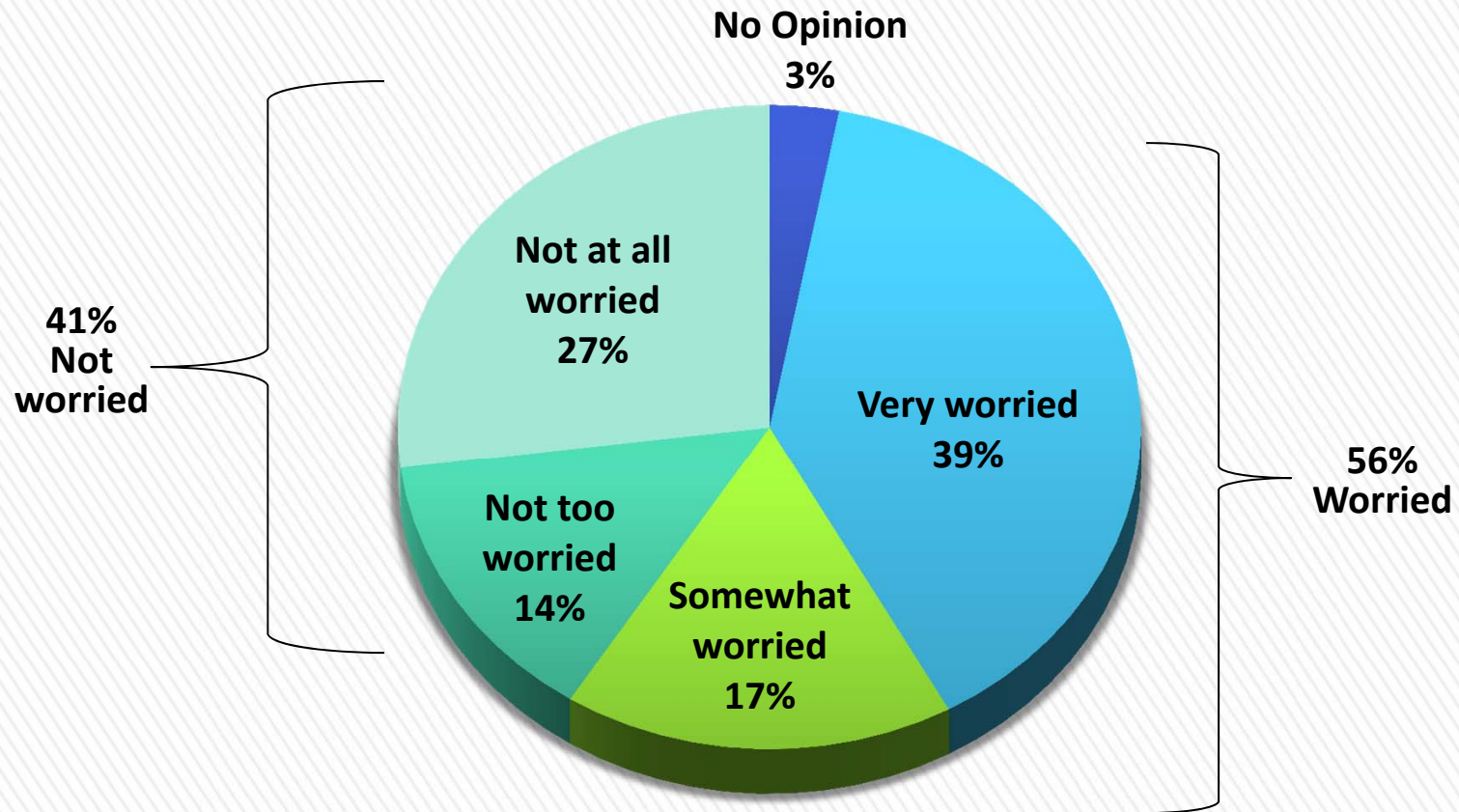
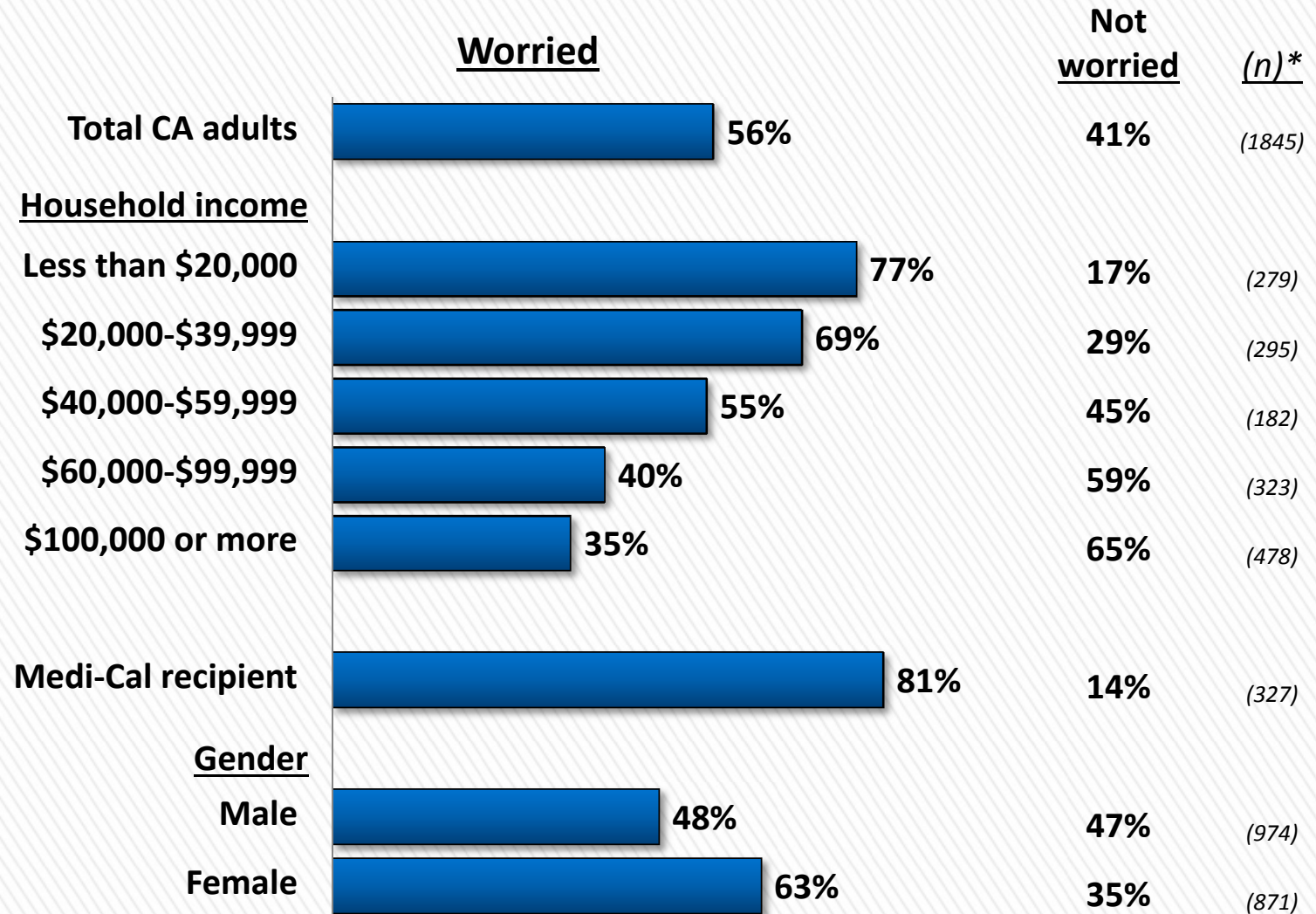


Table 1b

Worries about losing health coverage greatest among women and lower income adults, particularly Medi-Cal recipients



*In this and succeeding tables, this column reports the survey's unweighted sample sizes of each subgroup.

Table 1c

Latinos and African Americans also express greater concerns about losing their health coverage if the ACA is repealed

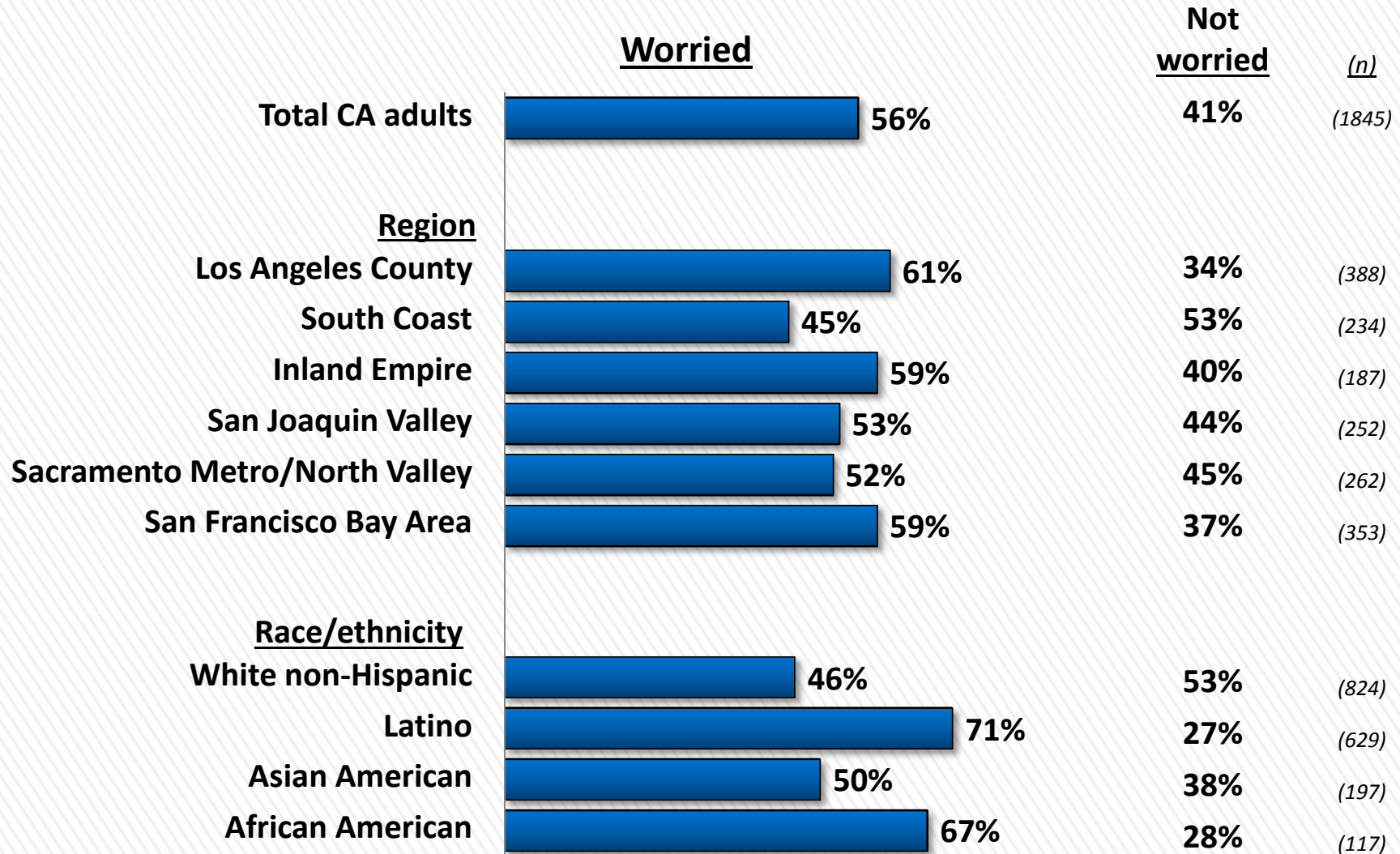
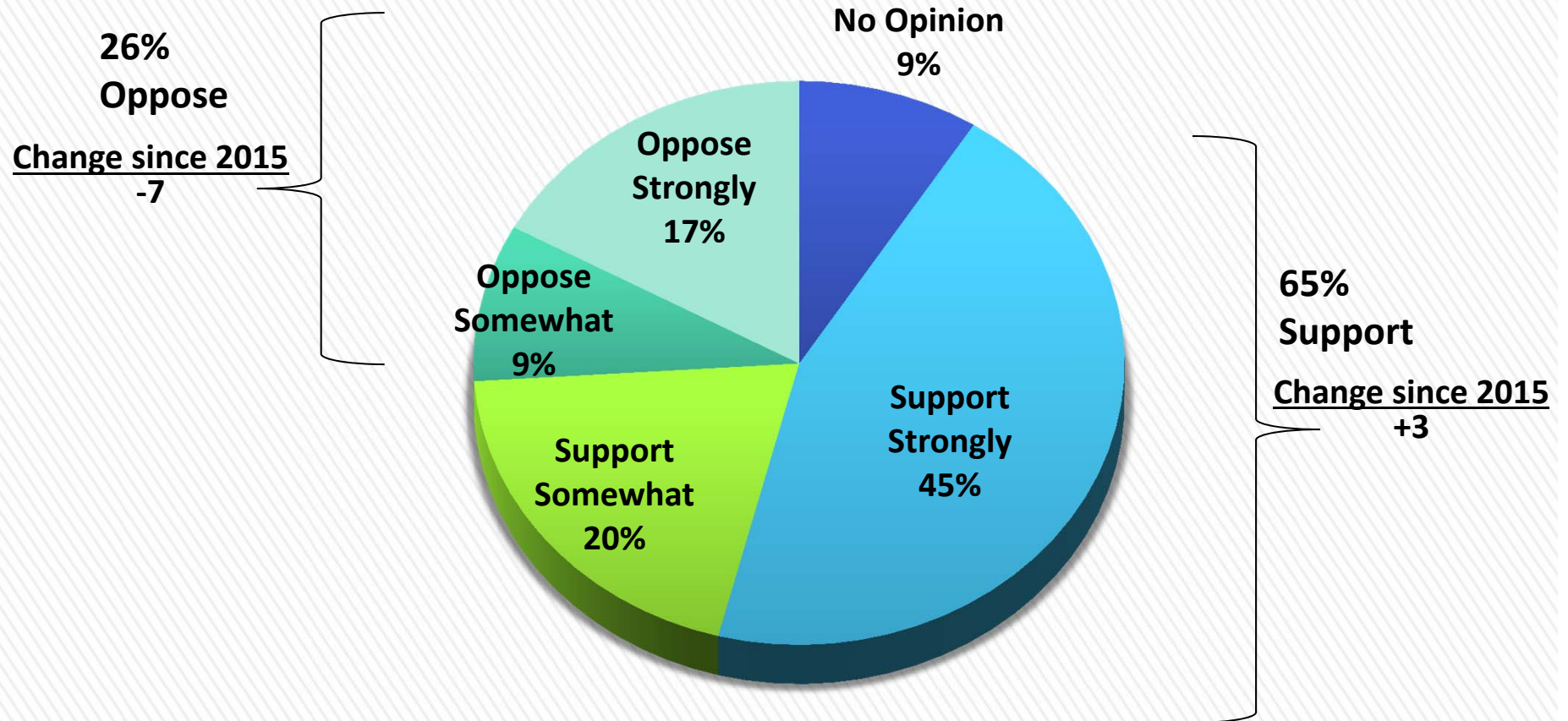


Table 2a

Support for the Affordable Care Act has grown in California since 2015 and now is backed more than two to one



Note: Comparisons made to a 2015 statewide survey conducted by The California Wellness Foundation among 1,555 California registered voters.

Table 2b

Support for the ACA in California spans all major regions, but remains partisan

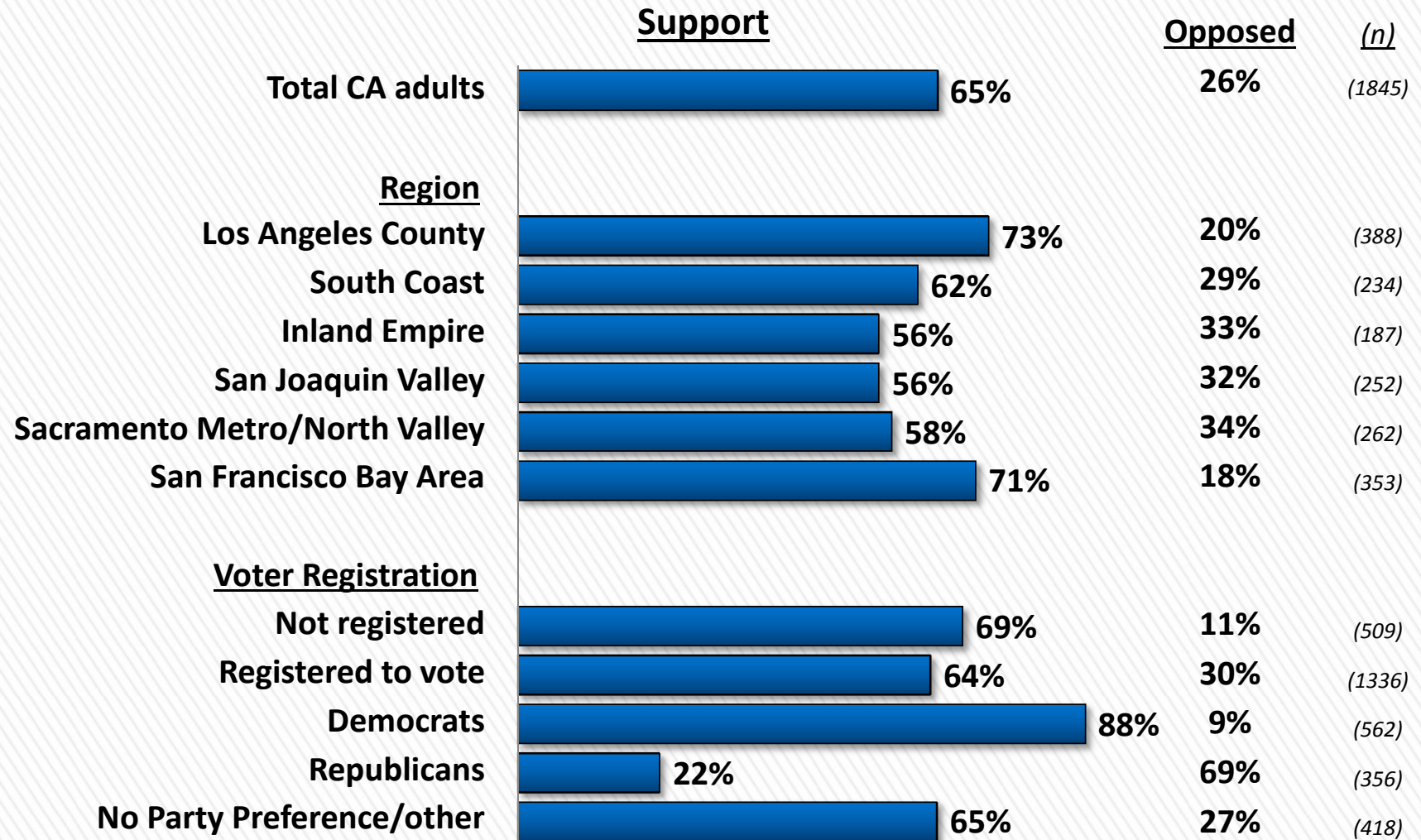


Table 2c

There is broad-based support for the ACA across all major demographic subgroups of the public

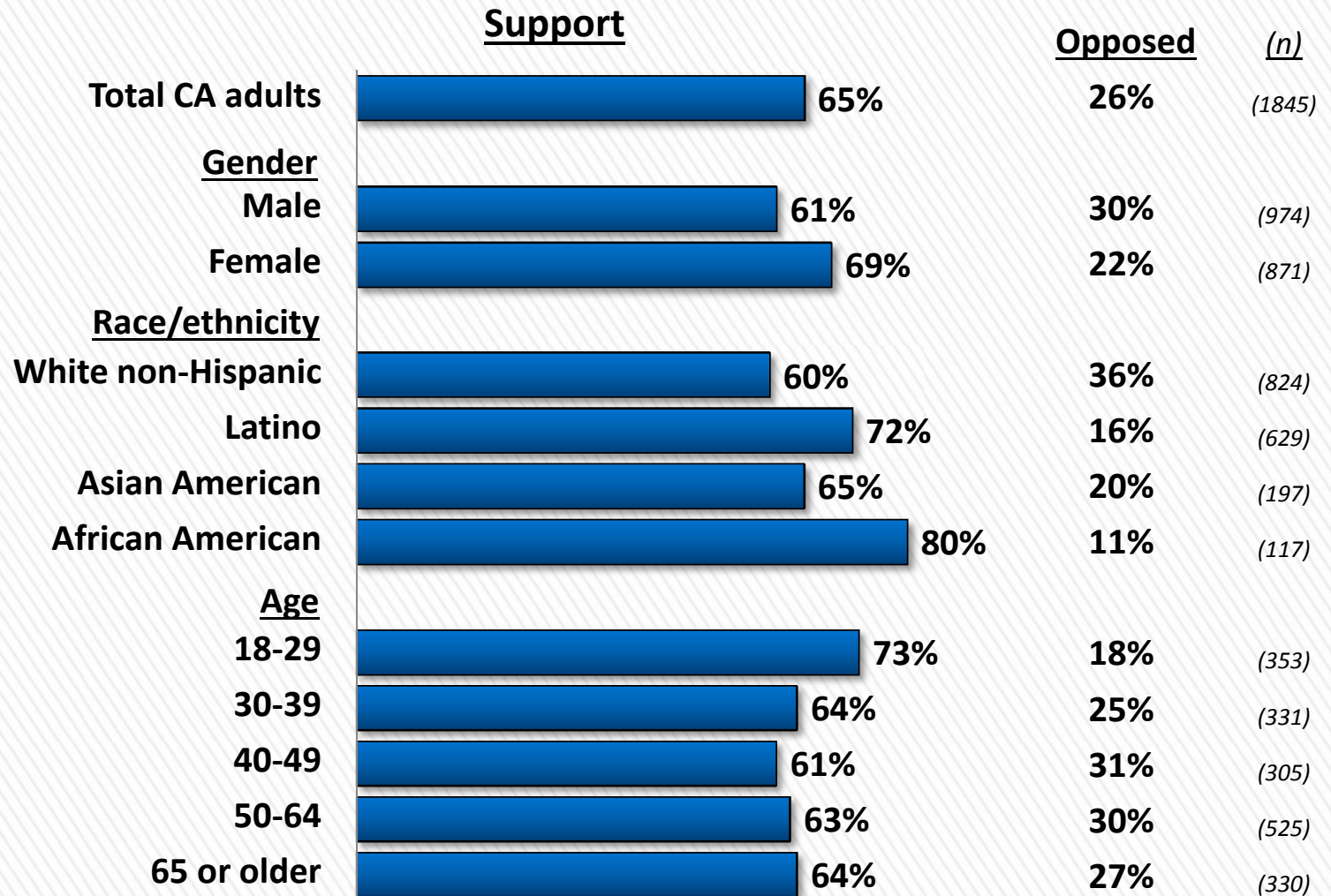


Table 3a

Nearly nine in ten consider Medi-Cal health program important to the state, with 72% saying it's "very important"

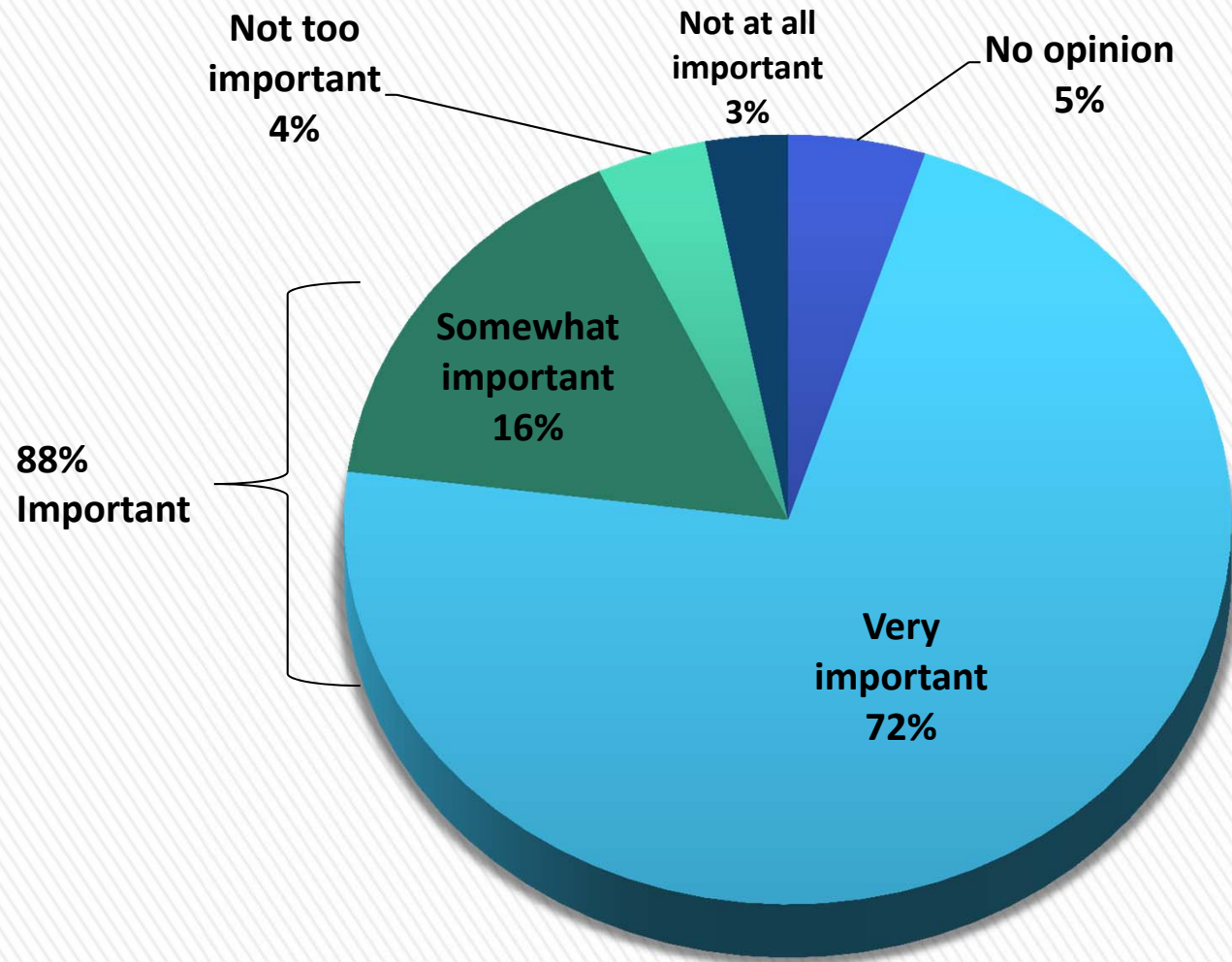


Table 3b

Large majorities across all regions and parties deem Medi-Cal important, although Republicans less apt to say “very important”

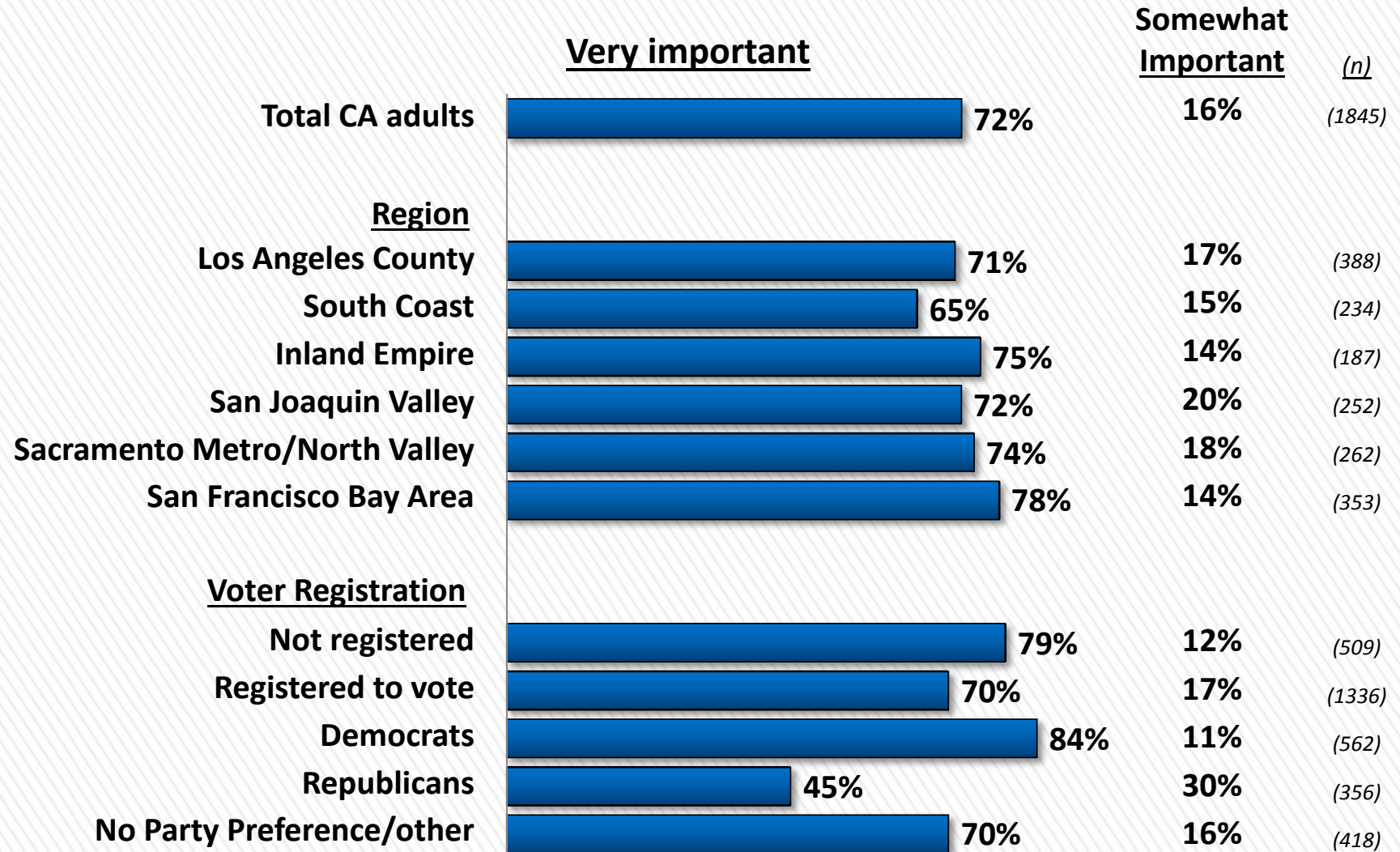


Table 3c

Very large majorities in all demographic subgroups consider Medi-Cal important to the state; low-income residents nearly unanimous

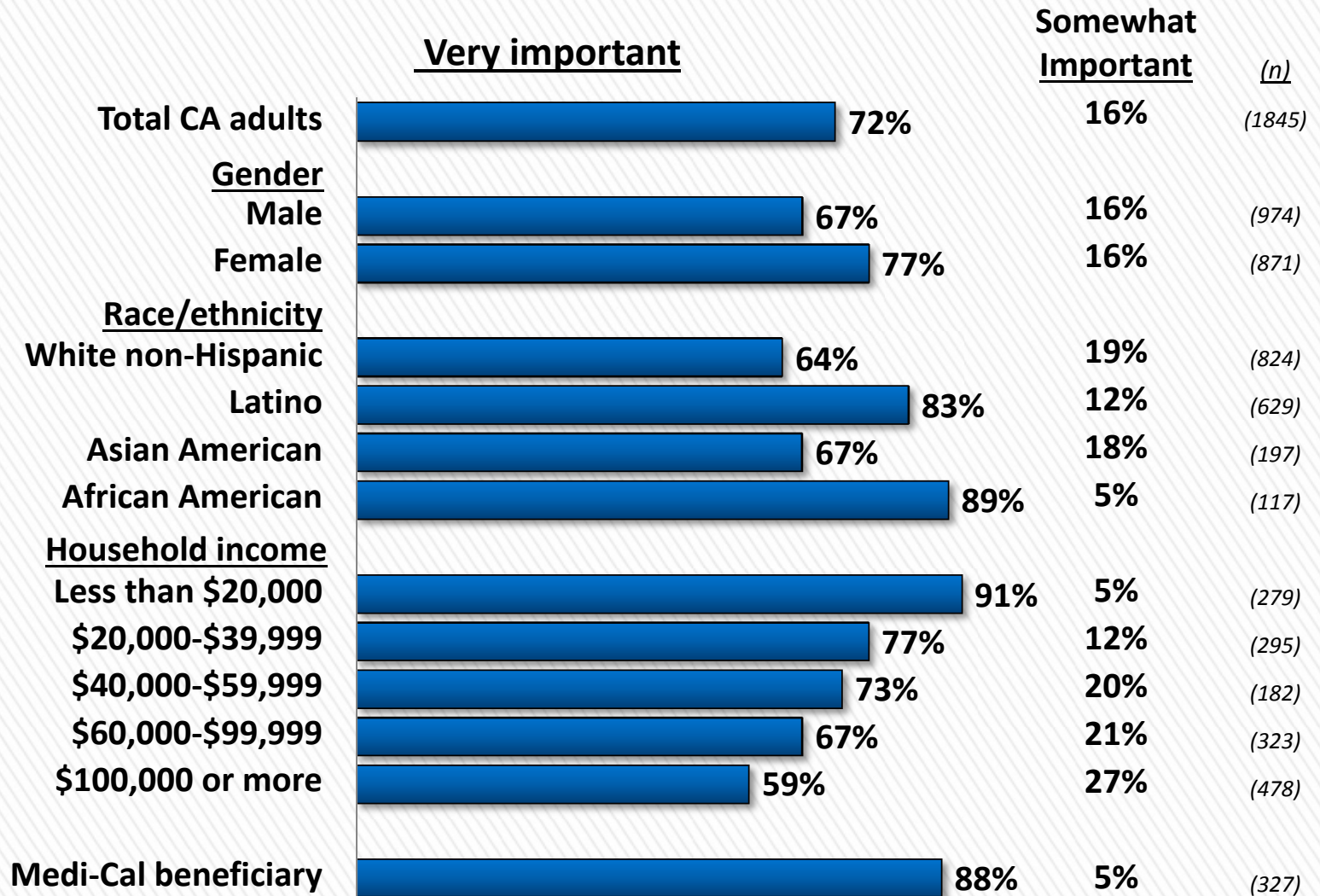


Table 4a

Greater than two in three Californians also describe Medi-Cal as being important to themselves and their families

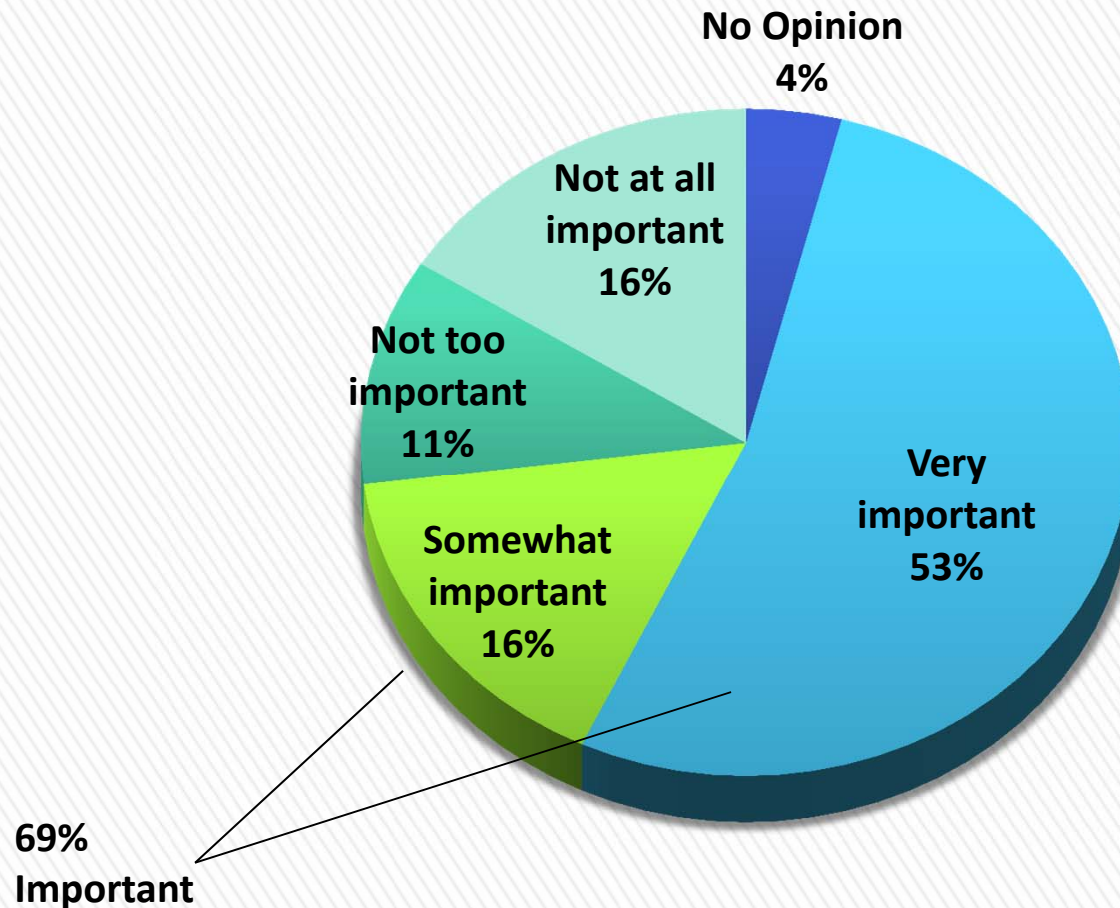


Table 4b

Large majorities in all regions say Medi-Cal is important to them; Democrats more likely than Republicans to say this.

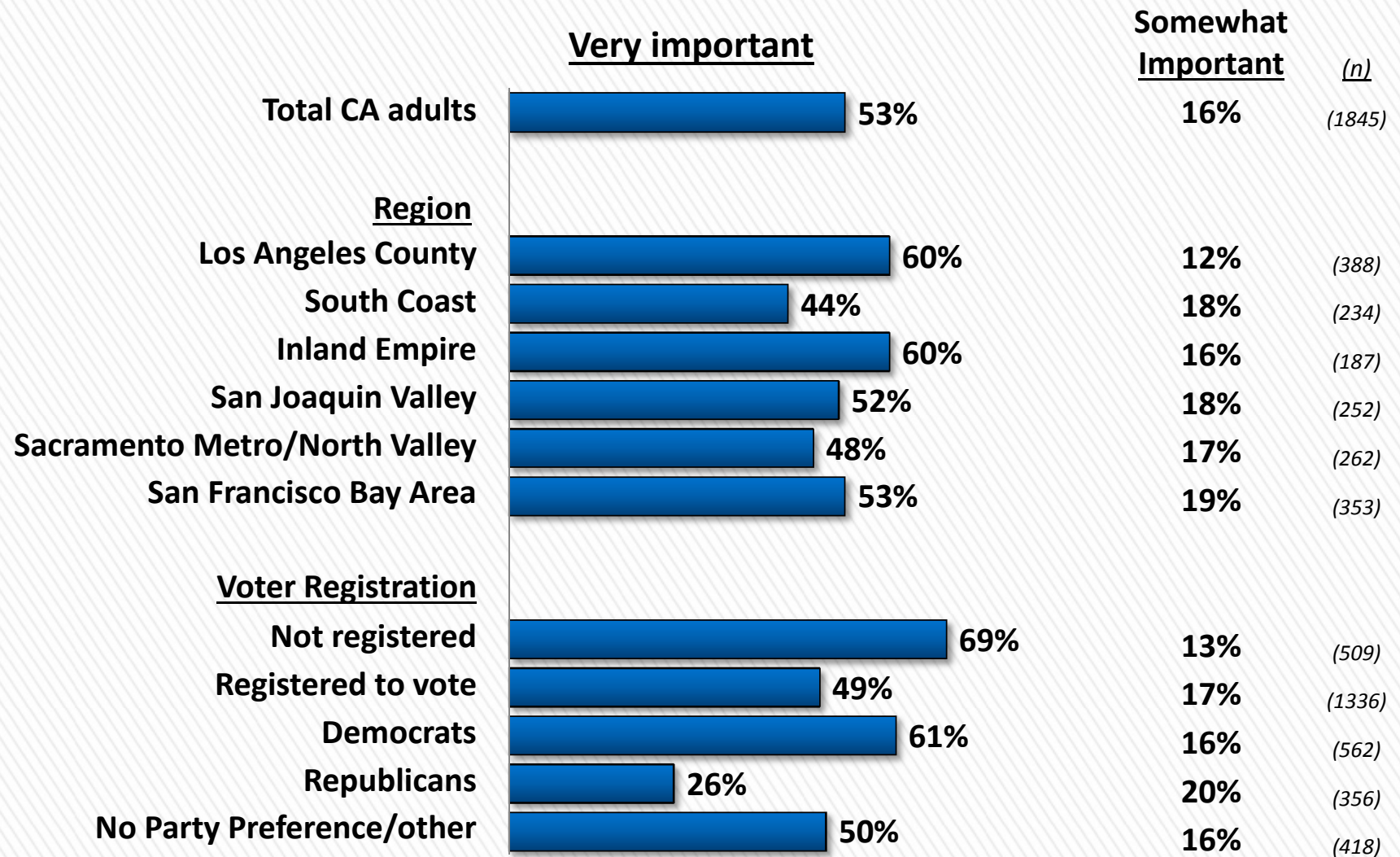


Table 4c

Medi-Cal of greatest importance to Latino, African American, and low-income families

