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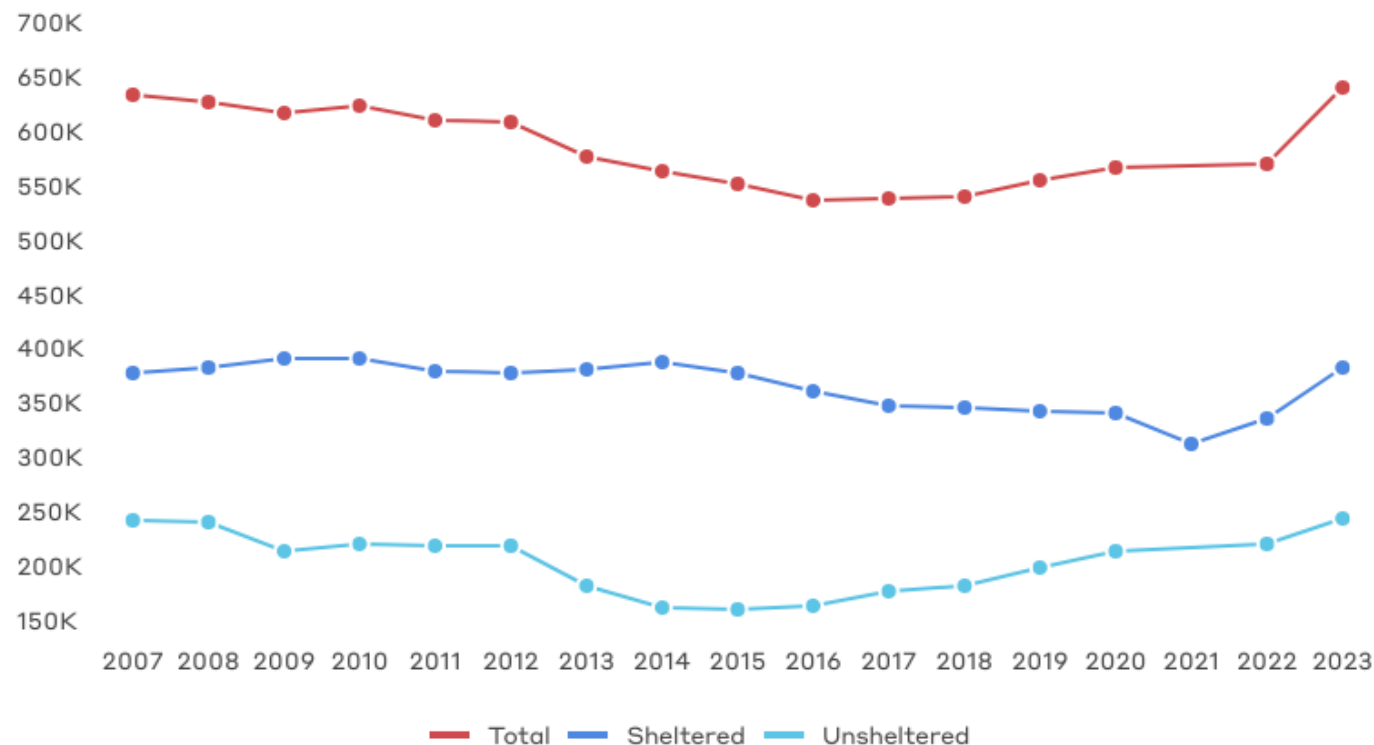
Transformation Talk: Rethinking the Role of Federal Government in Ending Homelessness

March 4, 2024

The Case for More Federal Action

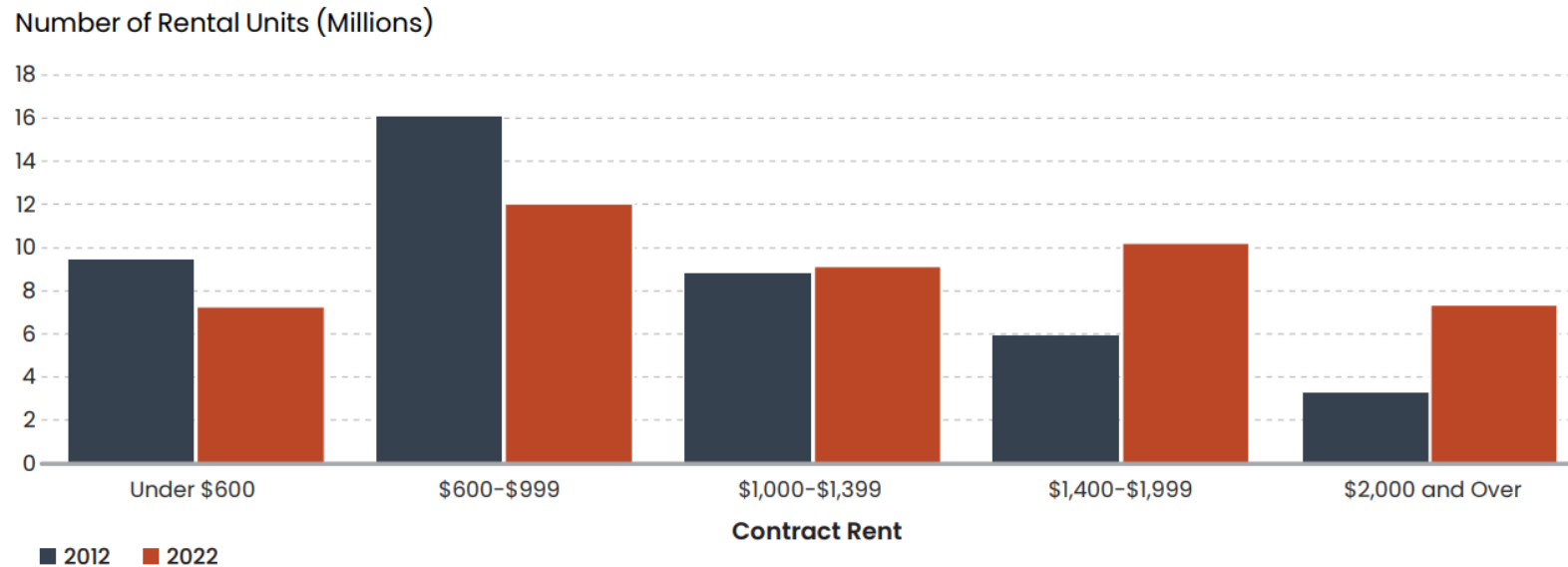
Historic Increase in Yearly PIT Count

PIT Estimates of People Experiencing Homelessness by Sheltered Status



- Over **650,000 unhoused people** counted in January 2023.
- **12% YoY increase** in homelessness
- **15% YoY increase** in major cities

Rising Rent Cost Burdens & Shrinking Supply of Low-Rent Homes



Source: Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies.

Note: Rents are adjusted for inflation using the CPI-U Less Shelter. Units that are occupied but do not receive payment are excluded. Contract rents exclude utility costs.

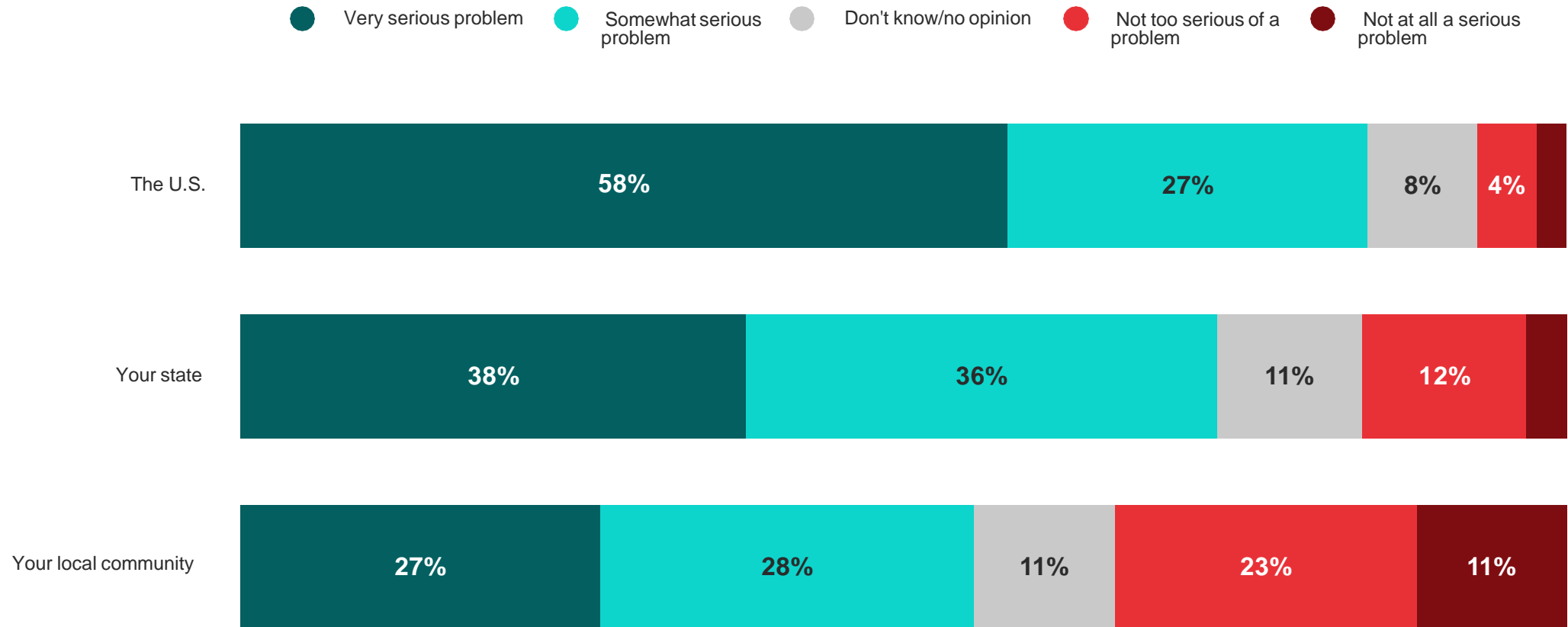
- In 2022, **half of all renter households were cost burdened**, up 3.2 percentage points since 2019 and 9.0 percentage points since 2001
- The number of low-rent units **has fallen by 2.1 million** in the last decade.
- Nationwide, there are only 31 units of housing affordable and available for every 100 extremely low-income Americans (source: NLIHC).
- Homelessness tends to increase in places where median rent exceeds 32 percent of median income (source: Zillow).

BPC – Morning Consult Survey

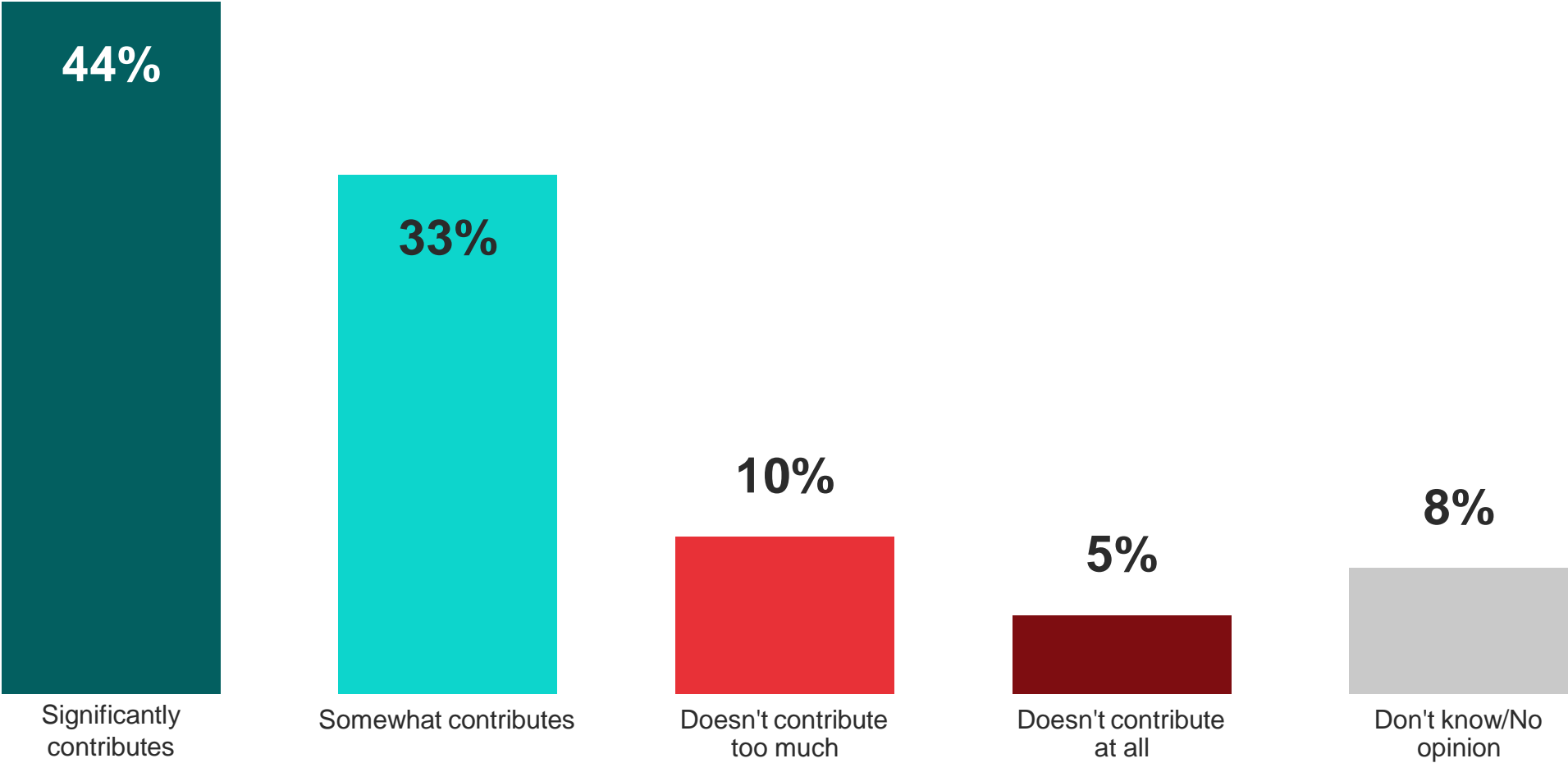
June 2023

BPC/MORNING CONSULT POLL

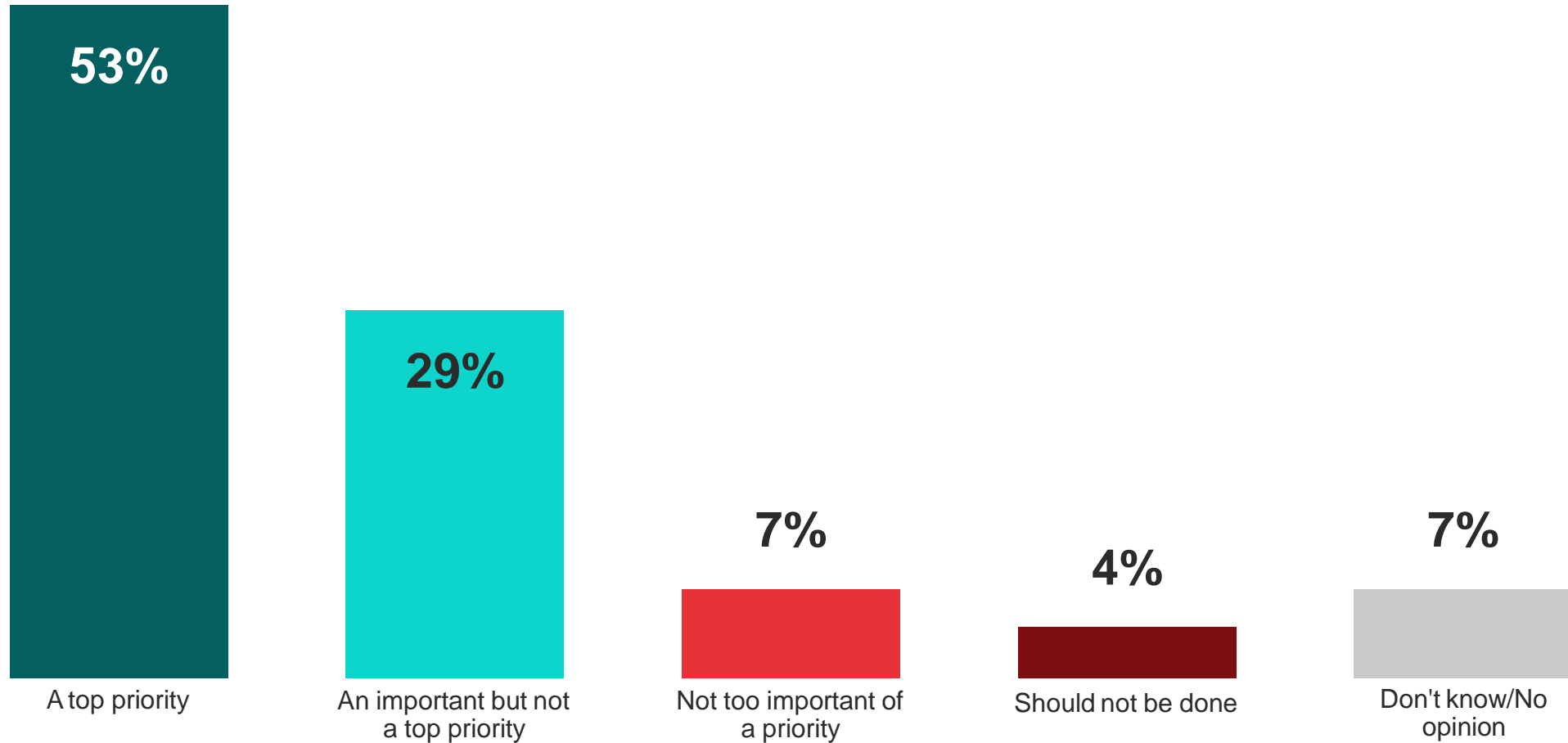
How serious of a problem, if at all, is homelessness in the following areas?



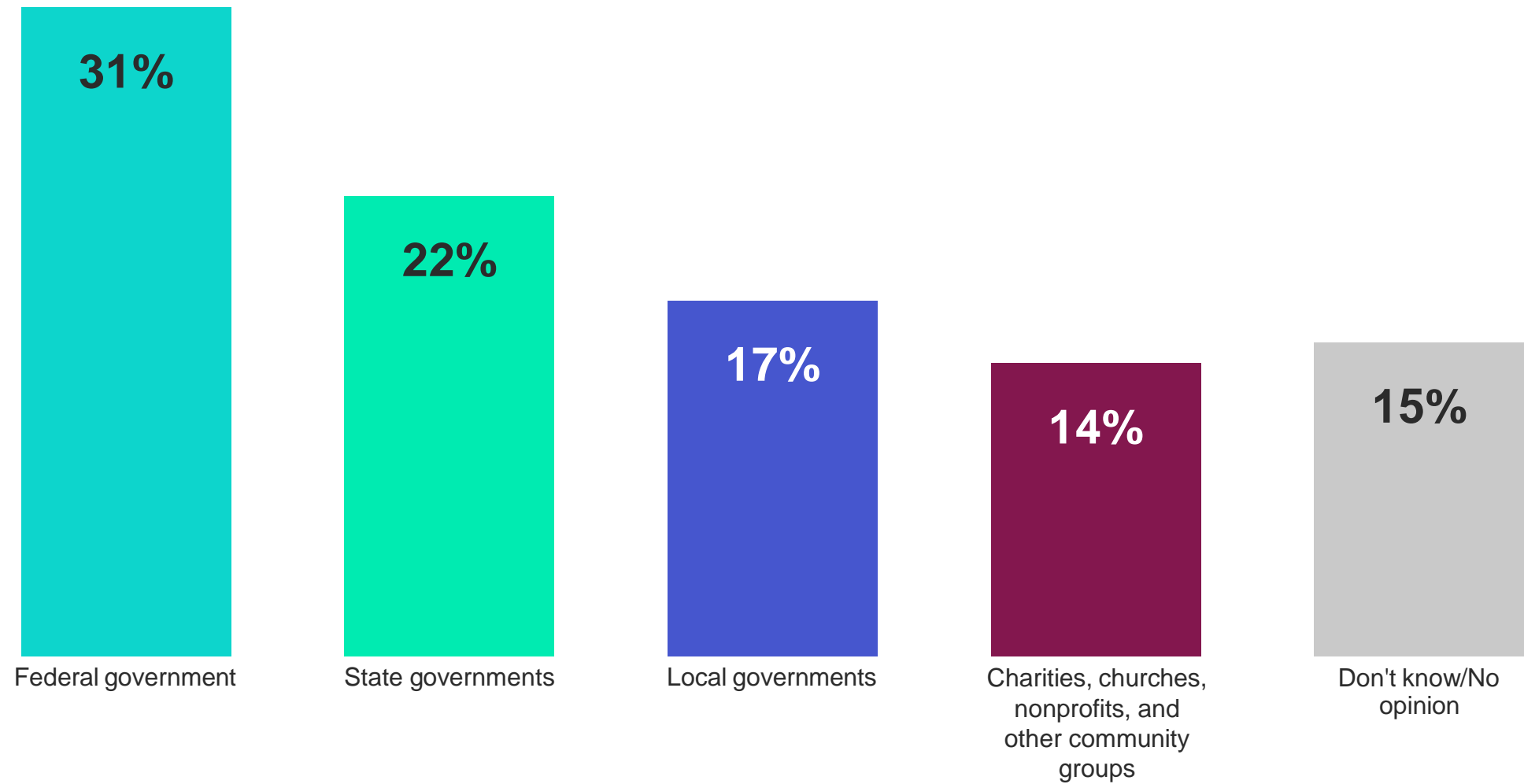
How much, if at all, do you think an inadequate supply of affordable homes contributes to homelessness in America?



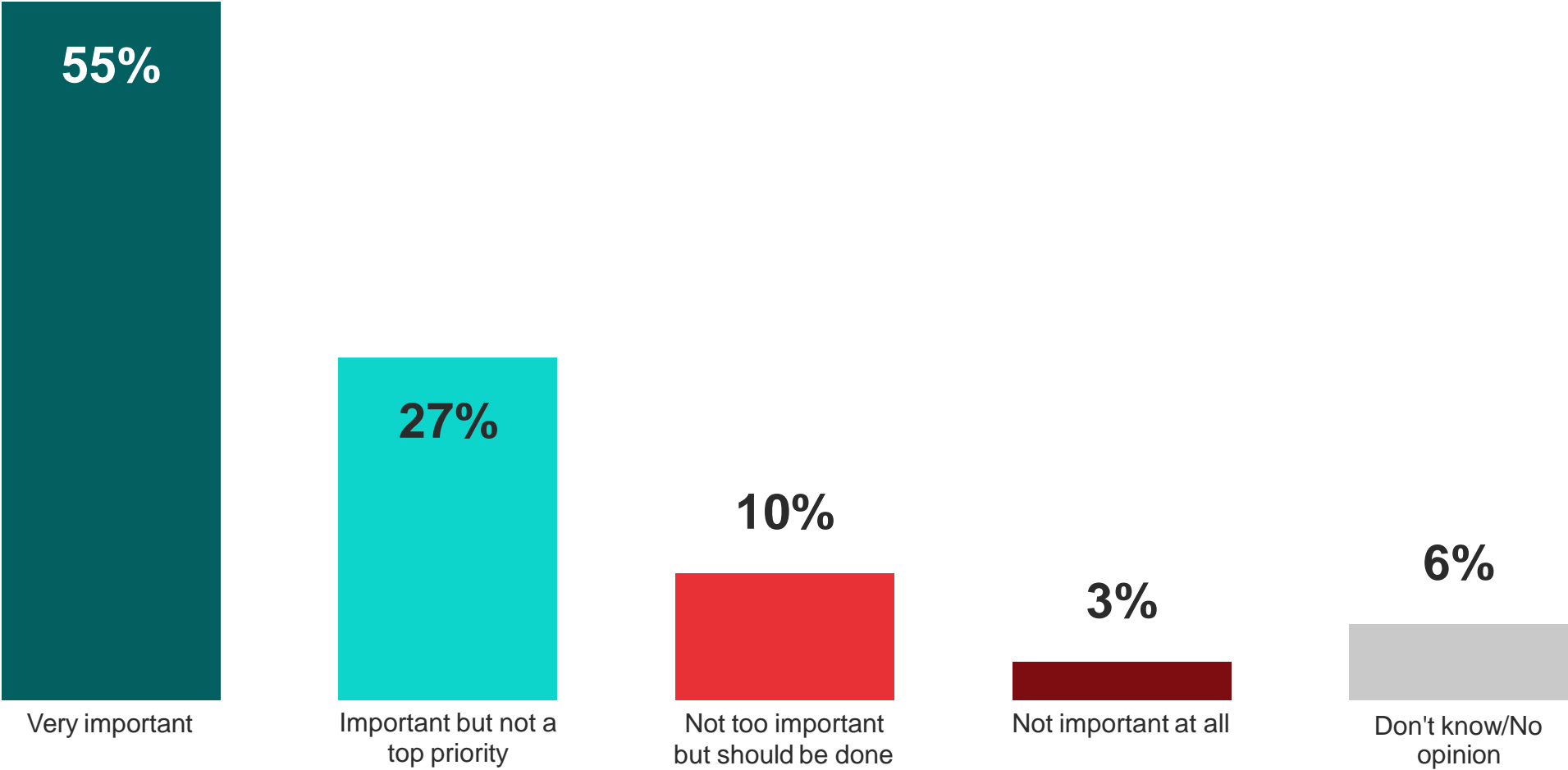
How much of a priority, if at all, should it be for the **federal government** to help ensure that everyone has access to a safe and affordable place to live?



Which of the following do you believe is **MOST responsible** for addressing homelessness?



How important is it to you, if at all, for **presidential candidates in the 2024 election** to develop and advance a plan to significantly reduce homelessness?



Key facts:

- The U.S. has seen historic increases in both homelessness and rent-burdened households.
- The nationwide supply of homes affordable to low-income households has been significantly reduced.
- The American public views homelessness as a national problem linked to affordable housing and believes federal government should play a greater role in addressing it.

Takeaway:

- There is a window of opportunity to push for policies that address homelessness by focusing on the underlying problem of housing affordability.



Policy Proposals

“Any public intervention will necessitate a dual thrust. First, the precariously housed need support, either in the form of cash assistance or rental subsidies. Second, the low end of the market in particular requires a robust supply response. Either approach alone is likely insufficient. Rental assistance is essential, but subsidies and time-limited vouchers don’t work if the units aren’t there.”

– Gregg Colburn, *Homelessness is a Housing Problem*

Supporting Households

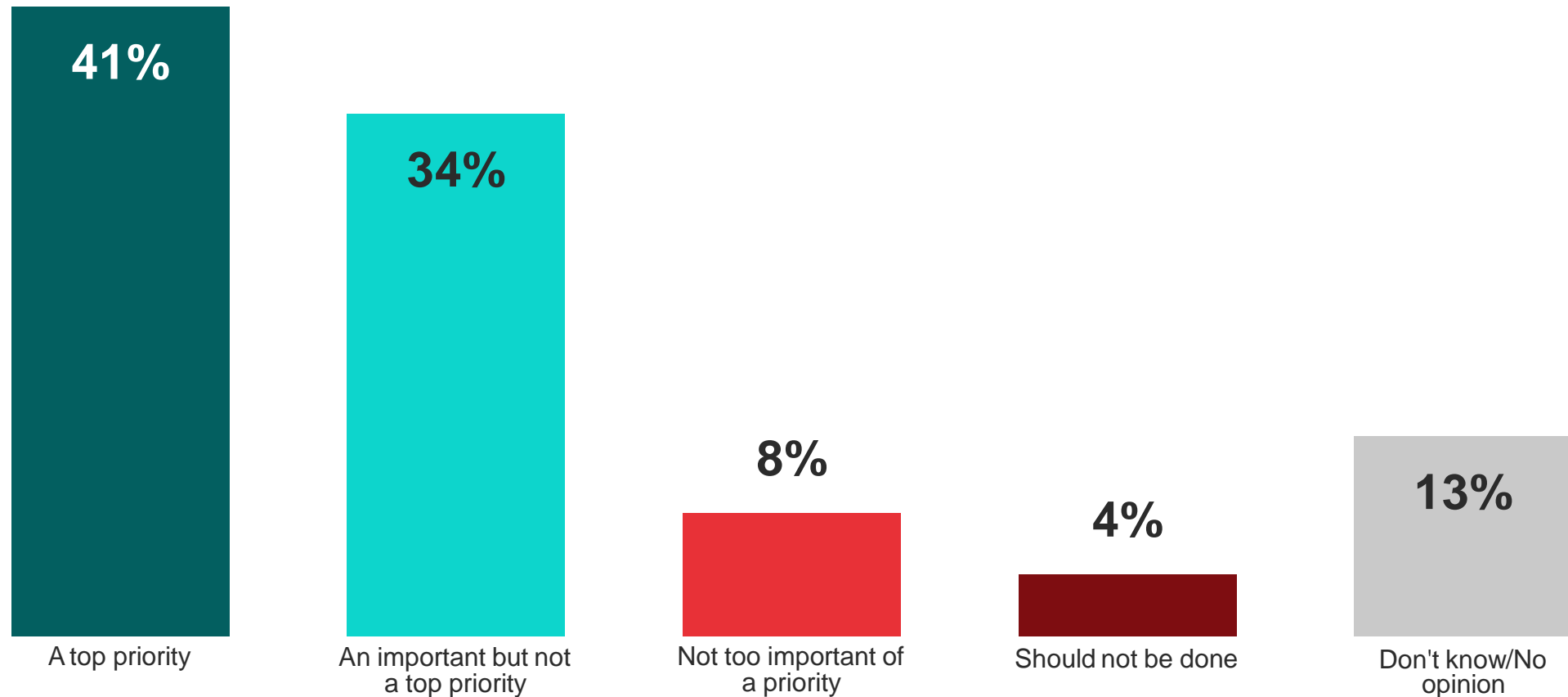
- Reform the HCV program to increase landlord take-up, and eventually expand funding for HCV program to meet the needs of all people who qualify.
- Codify a permanent Emergency Rental Assistance program.
- Scale other pandemic-era housing policies such as eviction protections.

Boosting Supply

- Strengthen federal tax incentives for affordable housing development via the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC).
- Provide incentives for jurisdictions that eliminate barriers to affordable housing production.



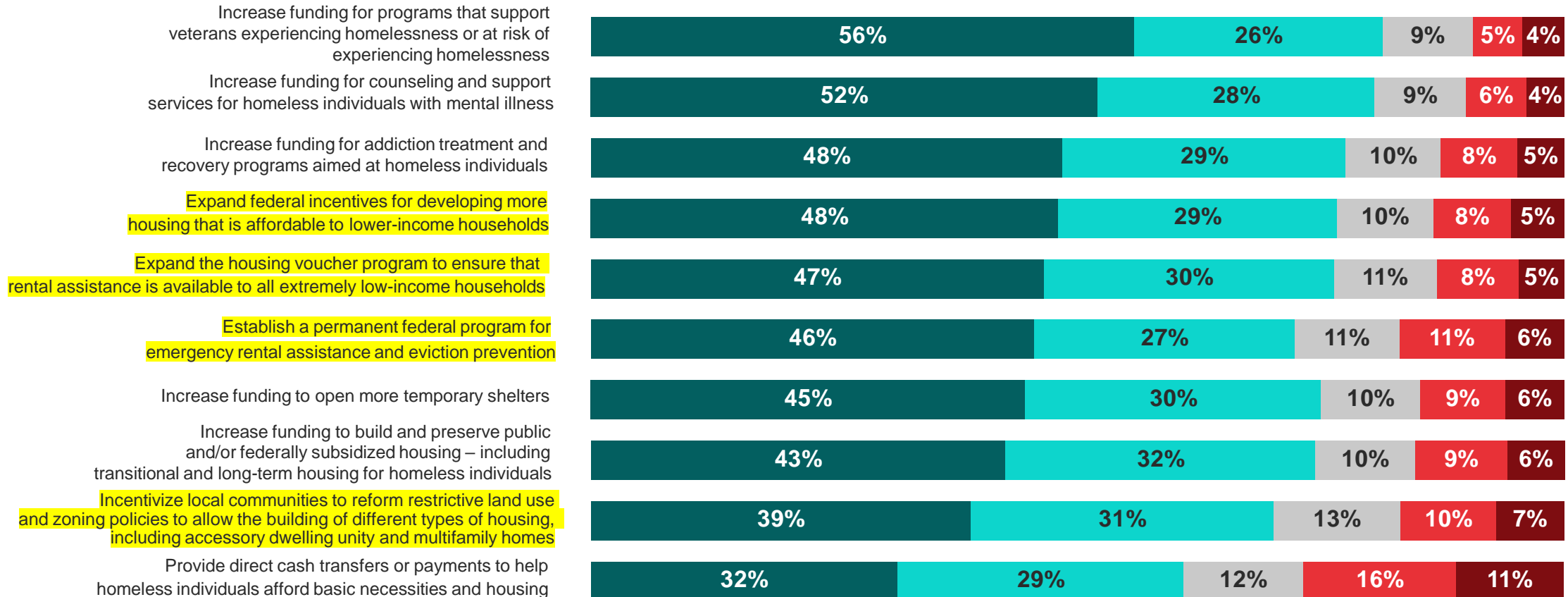
How much of a priority, if at all, should it be for Congress to fund the Housing Choice Voucher Program at a level to meet the needs of all low-income households eligible for the program?



BPC/MORNING CONSULT POLL

If Congress pursues legislation to combat homelessness, would you support or oppose the following initiatives being included?

● Strongly support ● Somewhat support ● Don't know/No opinion ● Somewhat oppose ● Strongly oppose



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Takeaways:

- As federal government work to address these interrelated challenges, there is a window of opportunity to push for policies that address homelessness by focusing on the underlying problem of housing affordability.
- **A bipartisan majority of the public would support legislative action to address homelessness by strengthening household supports and increasing the production of affordable homes.**



Thank you!



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