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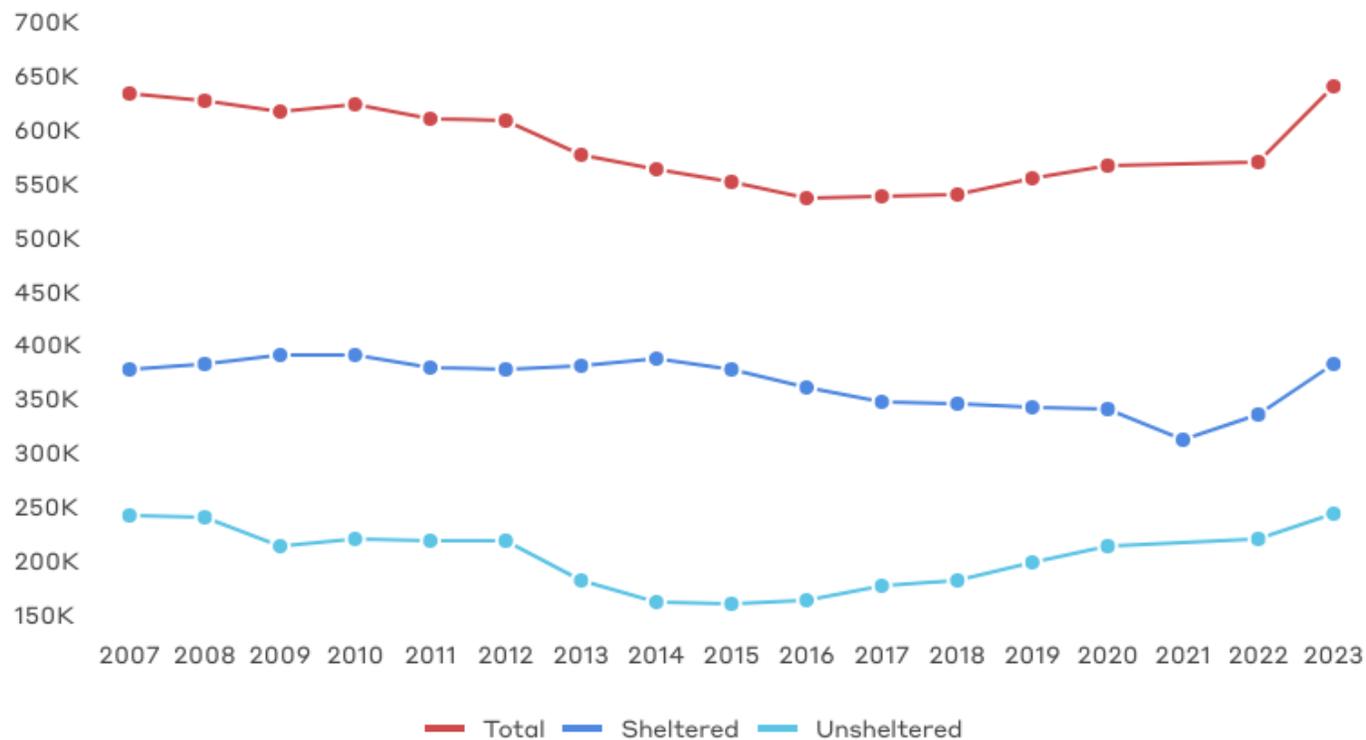
**Transformation Talk:
Rethinking the Role of Federal Government
in Ending Homelessness**

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 unsheltered 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.

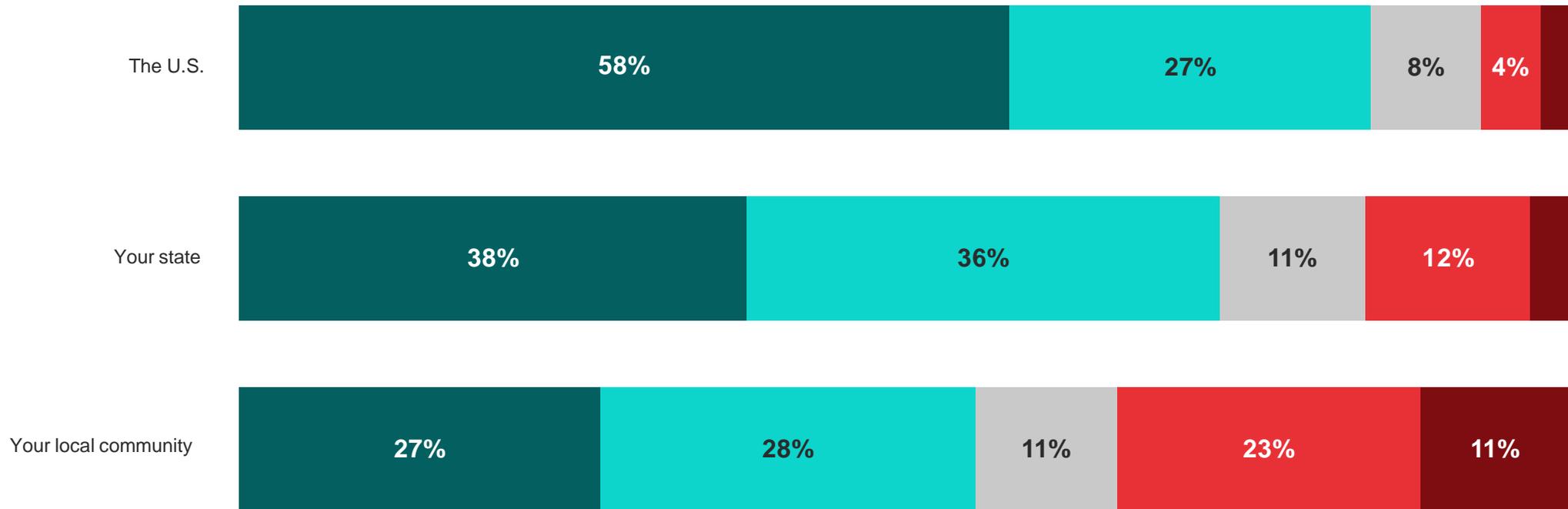
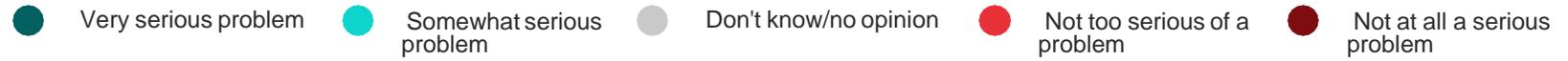
- In 2022, **half of all renter households were cost burdened**, up 3.2 percentage points since 2019 and 9.0 percentage points since 2001
- The number of low-rent units **has fallen by 2.1 million** in the last decade.
- Nationwide, there are only 31 units of housing affordable and available for every 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

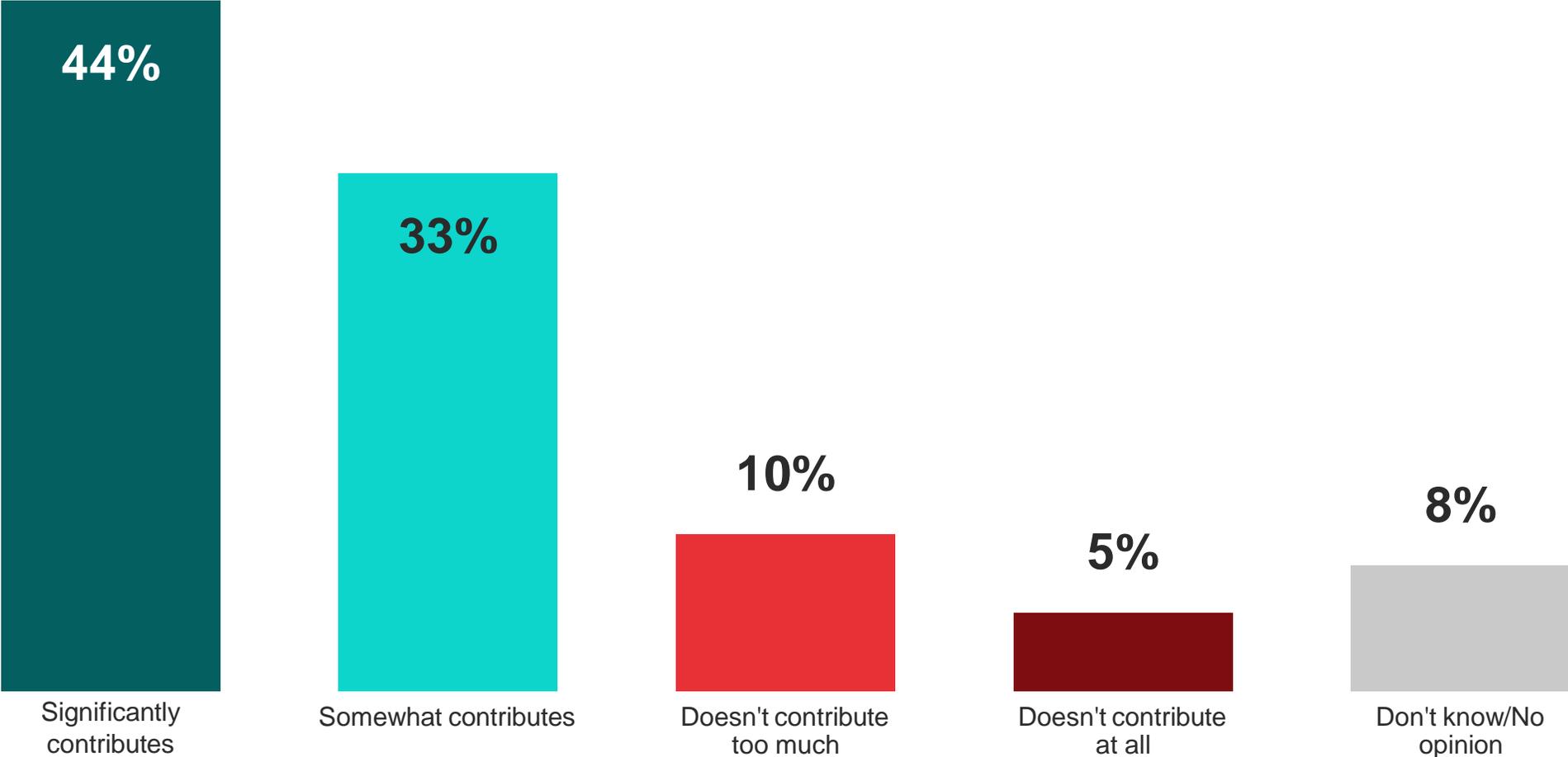
June 2023

BPC/MORNING CONSULT POLL

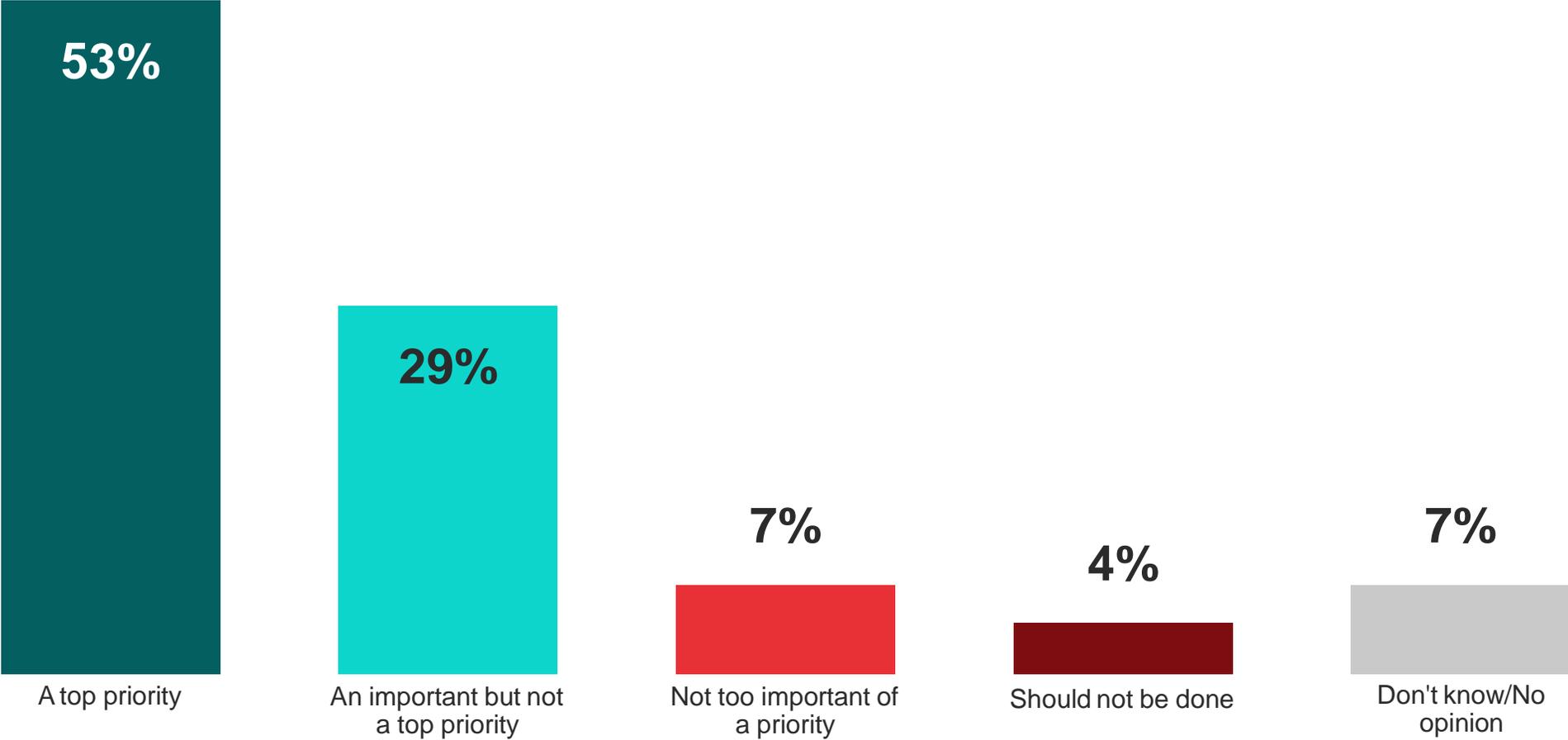
How serious of a problem, if at all, is homelessness in the following areas?



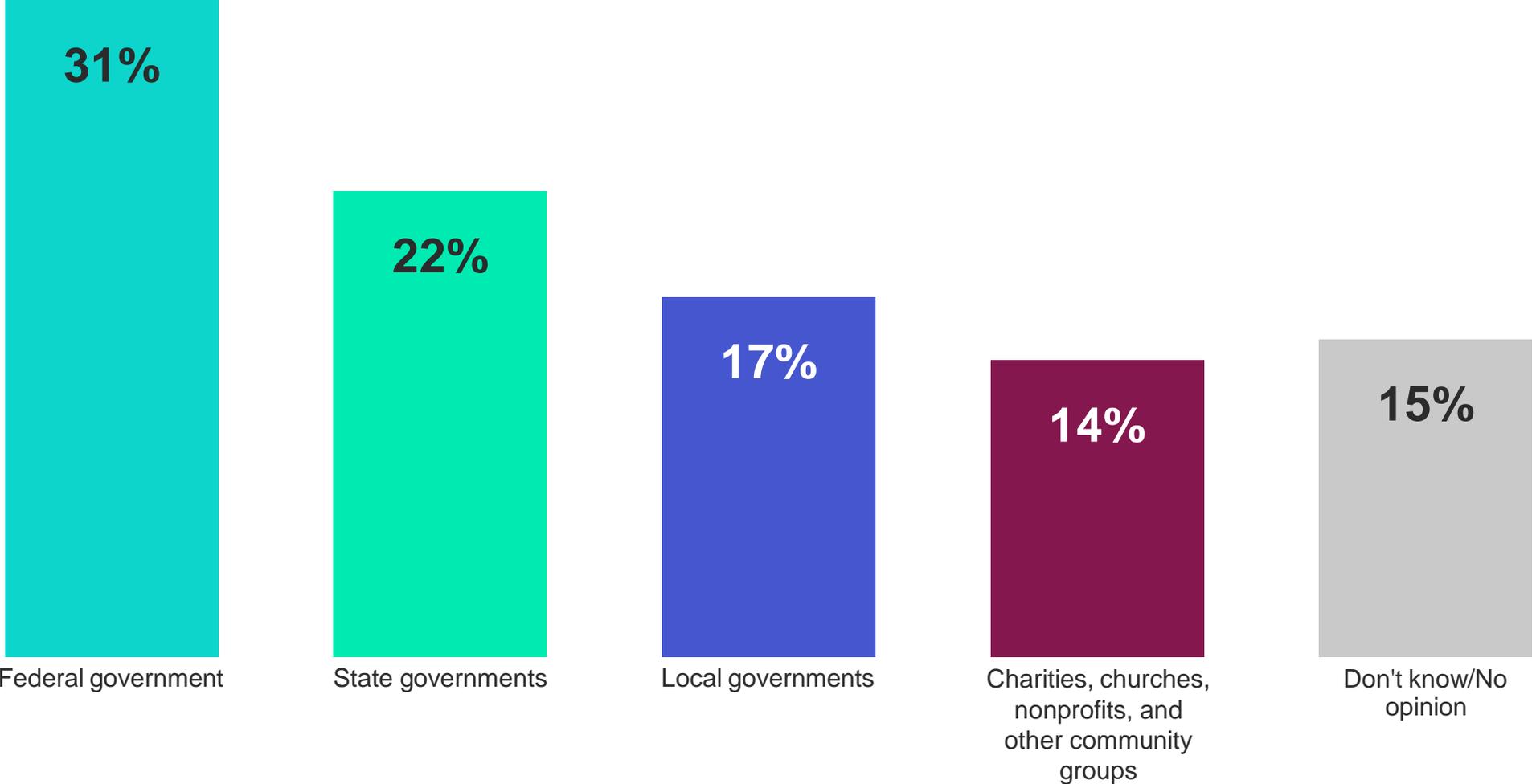
How much, if at all, do you think an inadequate supply of affordable homes contributes to homelessness in America?



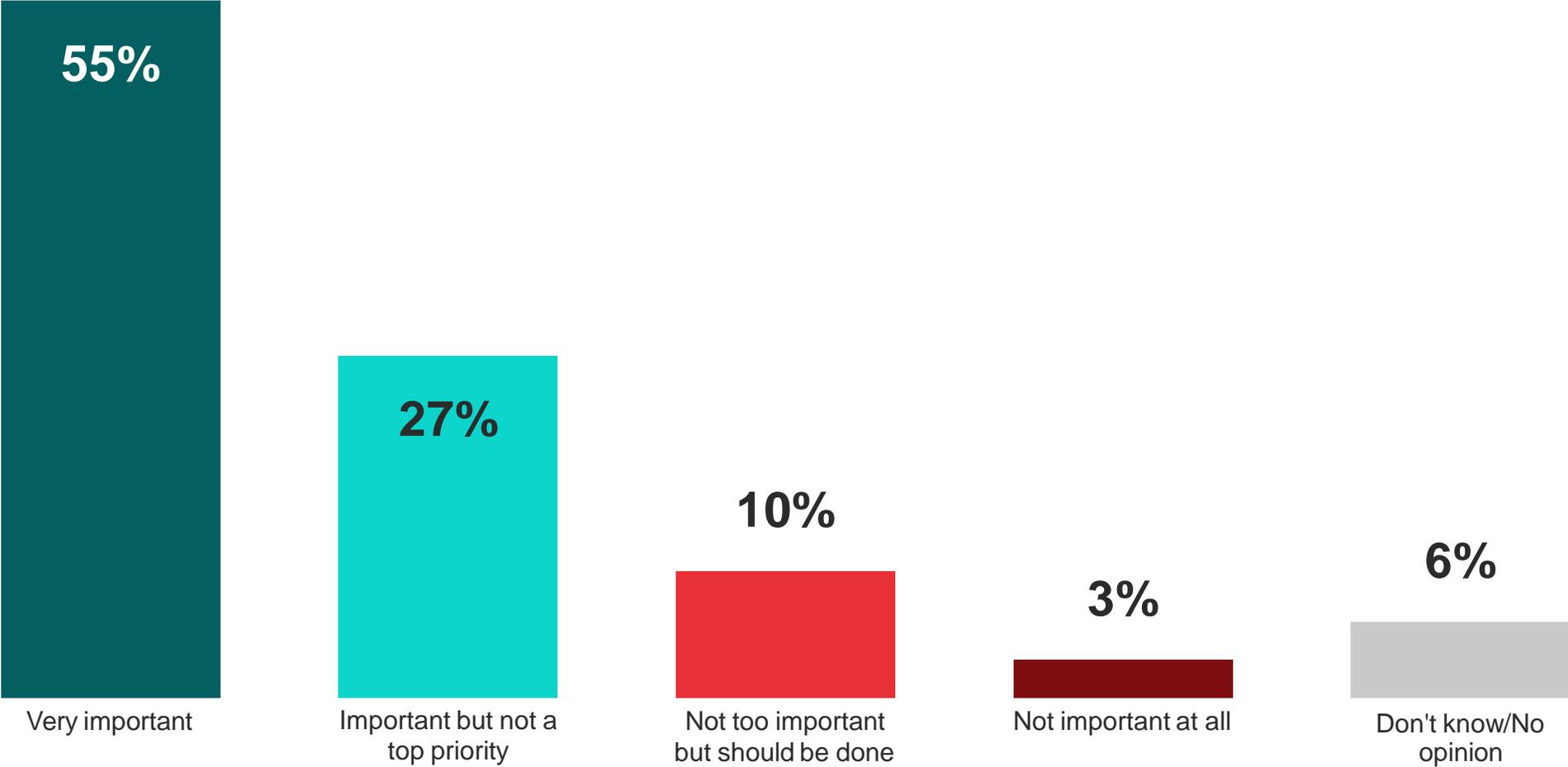
How much of a priority, if at all, should it be for the **federal government** to help ensure that everyone has access to a safe and affordable place to live?



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*

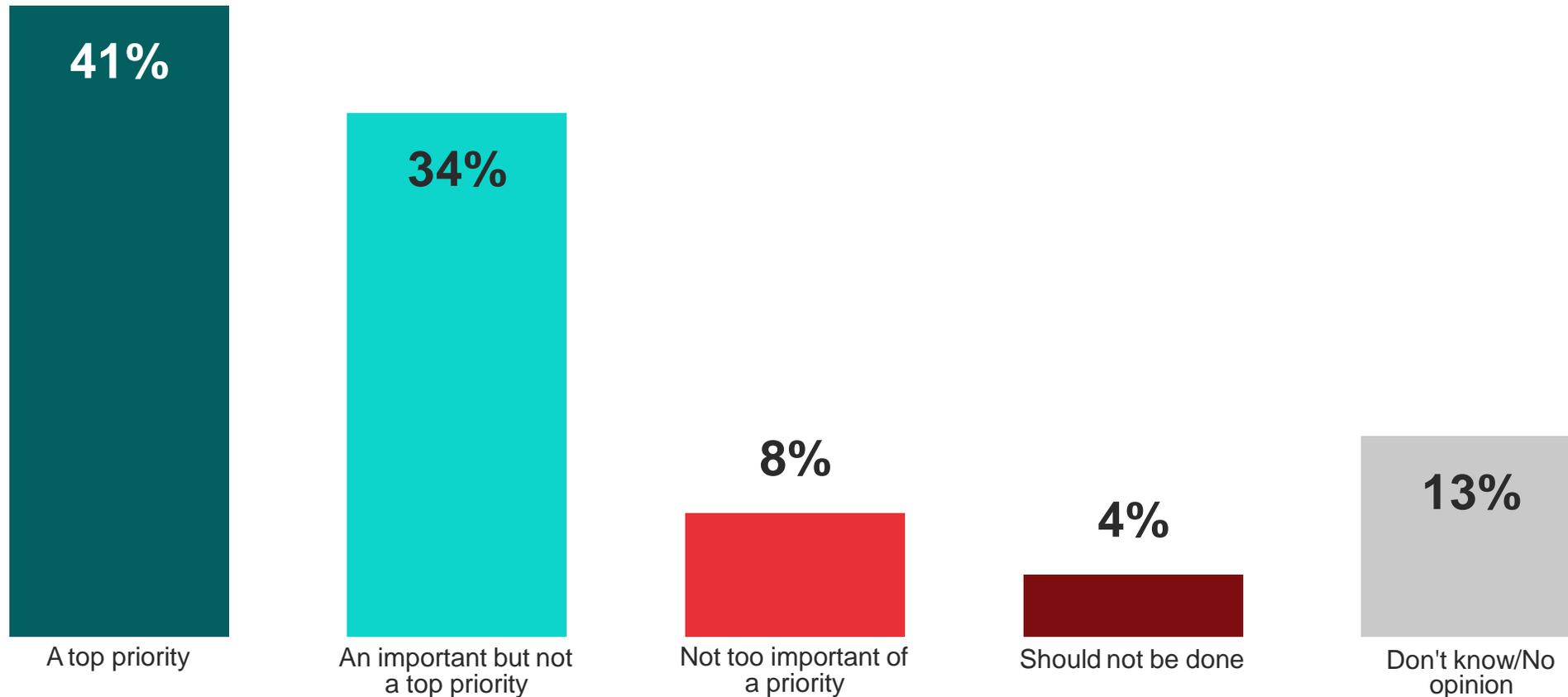
Supporting Households

- 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

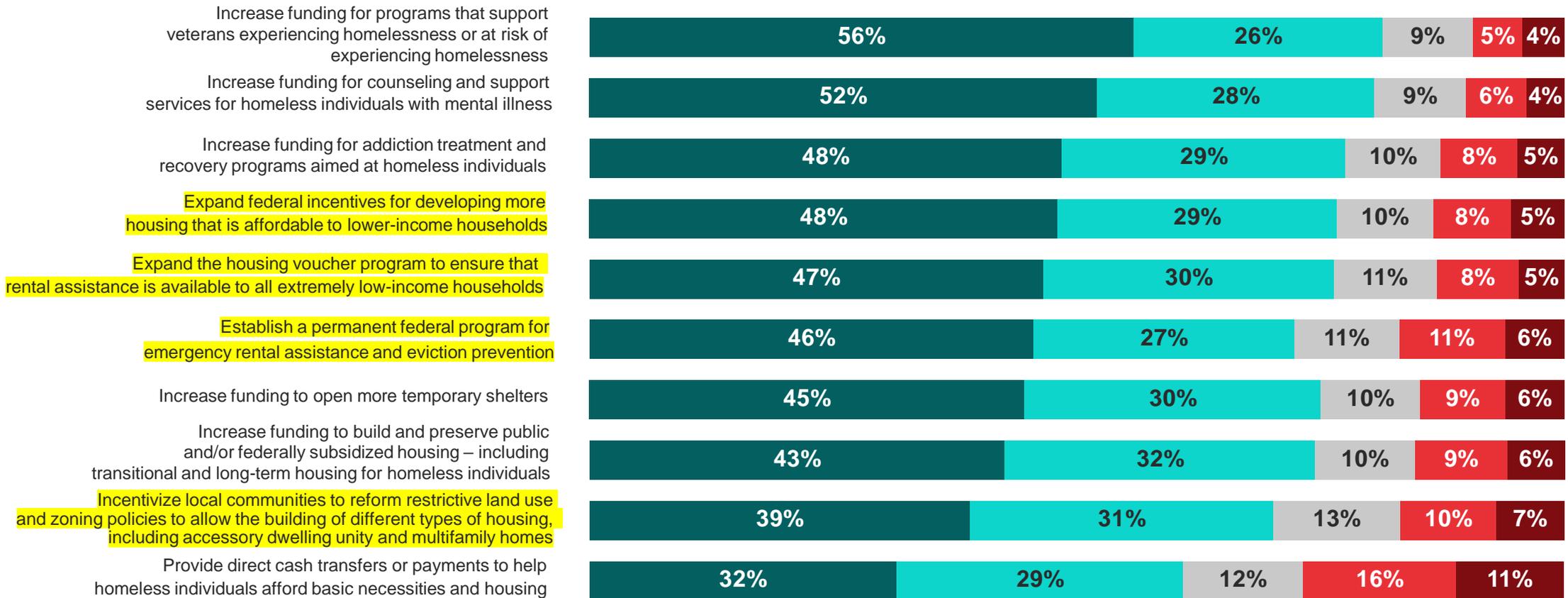
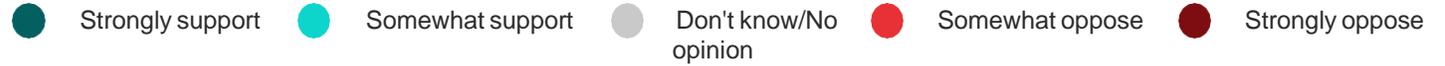
- Strengthen federal tax incentives for affordable housing development via the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC).
- Provide incentives for jurisdictions that eliminate barriers to affordable housing production.

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?



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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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