



# AFRICAN AMERICAN 50+ VOTERS' VIEWS ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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## KEY FINDINGS



# Key Findings

**Three-quarters of African American voters age 50+ take at least one prescription medication**, and six in ten overall are at least somewhat concerned about affording prescription drugs for themselves or their family over the next few years. A full 18% said they would not fill a prescription that their doctor had given them. Cost is the top reason for people deciding *not* to fill a prescription provided by their doctor.

**Nearly two-thirds believe that the prices of medications in the United States are higher than in other countries.**

**African American voters age 50+ overwhelmingly agree that this year, it is important for the president and Congress to agree on solutions to lower prescription drug prices.** Successful government negotiations with drug companies for the COVID-19 vaccine has made many voters more likely to agree that the government should negotiate for lower prices for other drugs.

**Support for various proposals to lower prescription drug prices is very high**, with eight in ten agreeing that Medicare should be allowed to negotiate with drug companies for lower prices. Nearly three-quarters of African American voters age 50+ say they would view a member of Congress *more favorably* if they supported legislation to lower prescription drug prices.



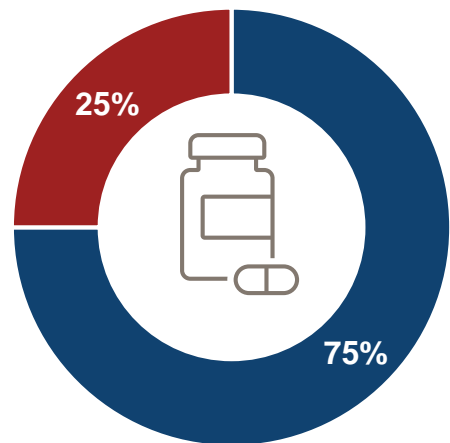
A close-up photograph of a middle-aged woman with short brown hair and glasses. She is holding a white telephone receiver to her ear with her left hand and a large orange pill bottle with a white cap in her right hand. The background is a warm, out-of-focus brown. A semi-transparent white box with blue text is overlaid on the bottom right of the image.

# **PRESCRIPTION DRUG USE AND PERCEPTIONS**

# Most registered African American voters 50-plus take prescriptions regularly; cost is top reason for not filling a prescription.

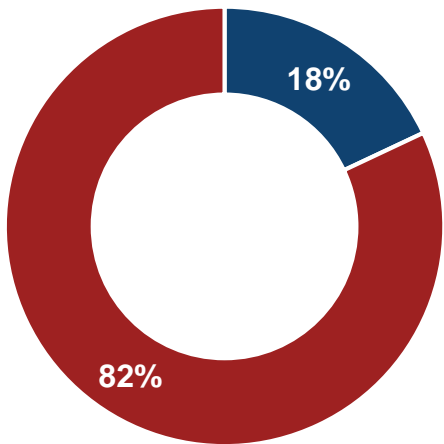
Respondents ages 65 and older are roughly twenty-percentage points more likely than those ages 50-64 to report taking prescription drugs regularly (87% vs. 68%), but younger respondents are more likely to report not filling a prescription (23% vs. 9%).

Take prescription drugs regularly?

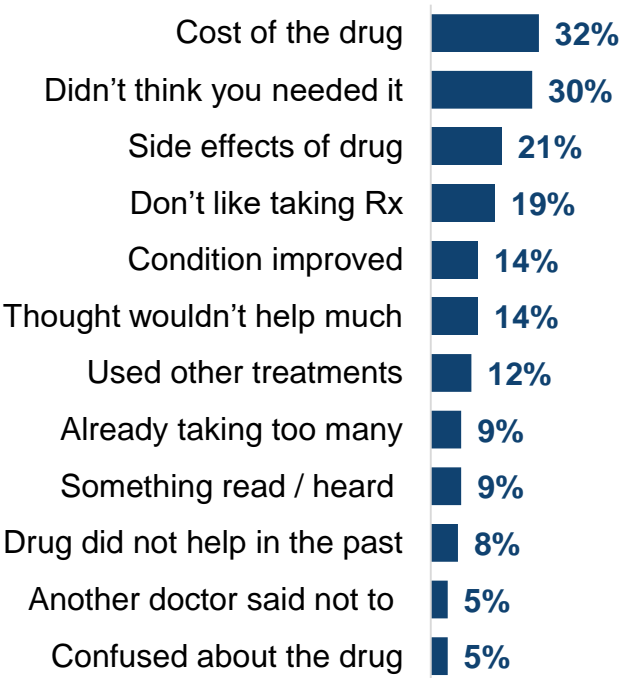


■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know/ref.

Decided to not fill Rx?



Reasons for Not filling Rx\*

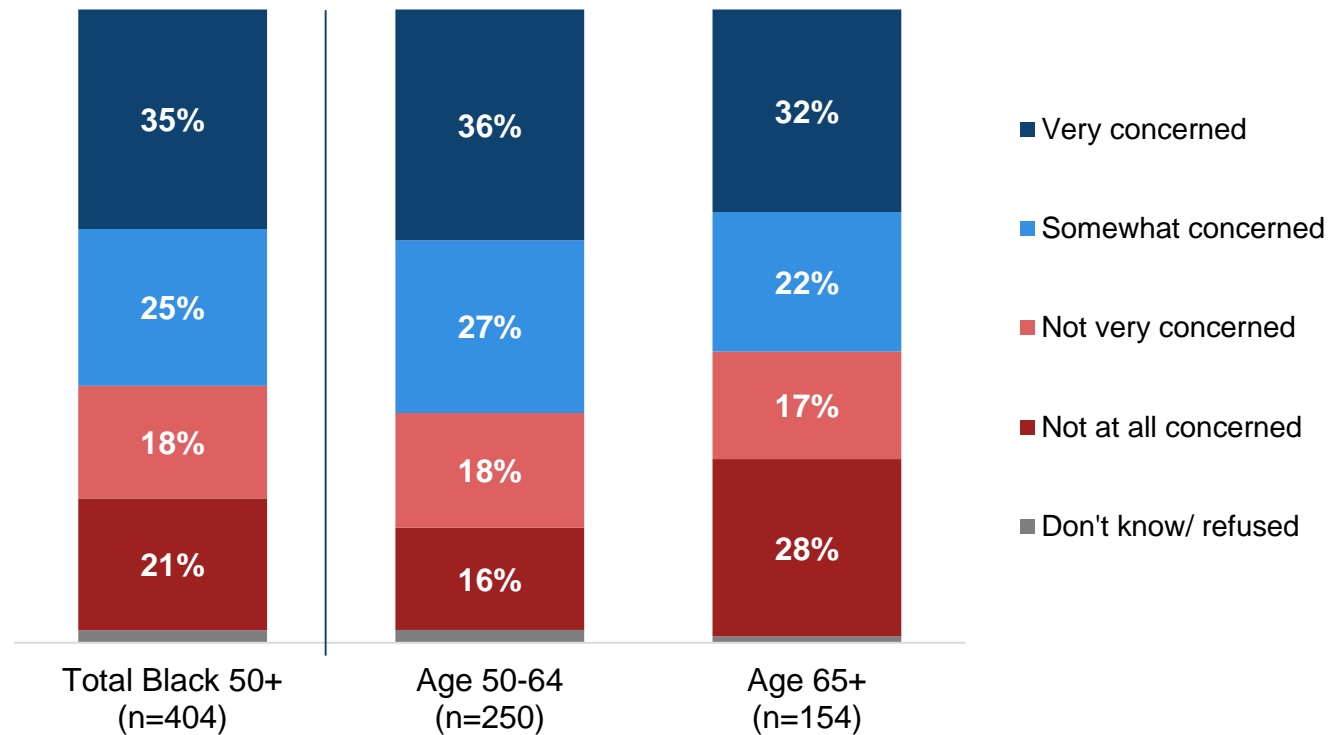


Q1. Do you currently take prescription medication on a regular basis, for example daily, weekly, or monthly? Q2. In the last two years, did you ever decide not to fill a prescription that your doctor had given you? (Base: African American respondents: n=404) Q3. What were the reasons you didn't fill your prescription? (Base: Those who did not fill a prescription n=74\* small sample)



# High levels of concern around affordability of prescription drugs among African American voters age 50 and older.

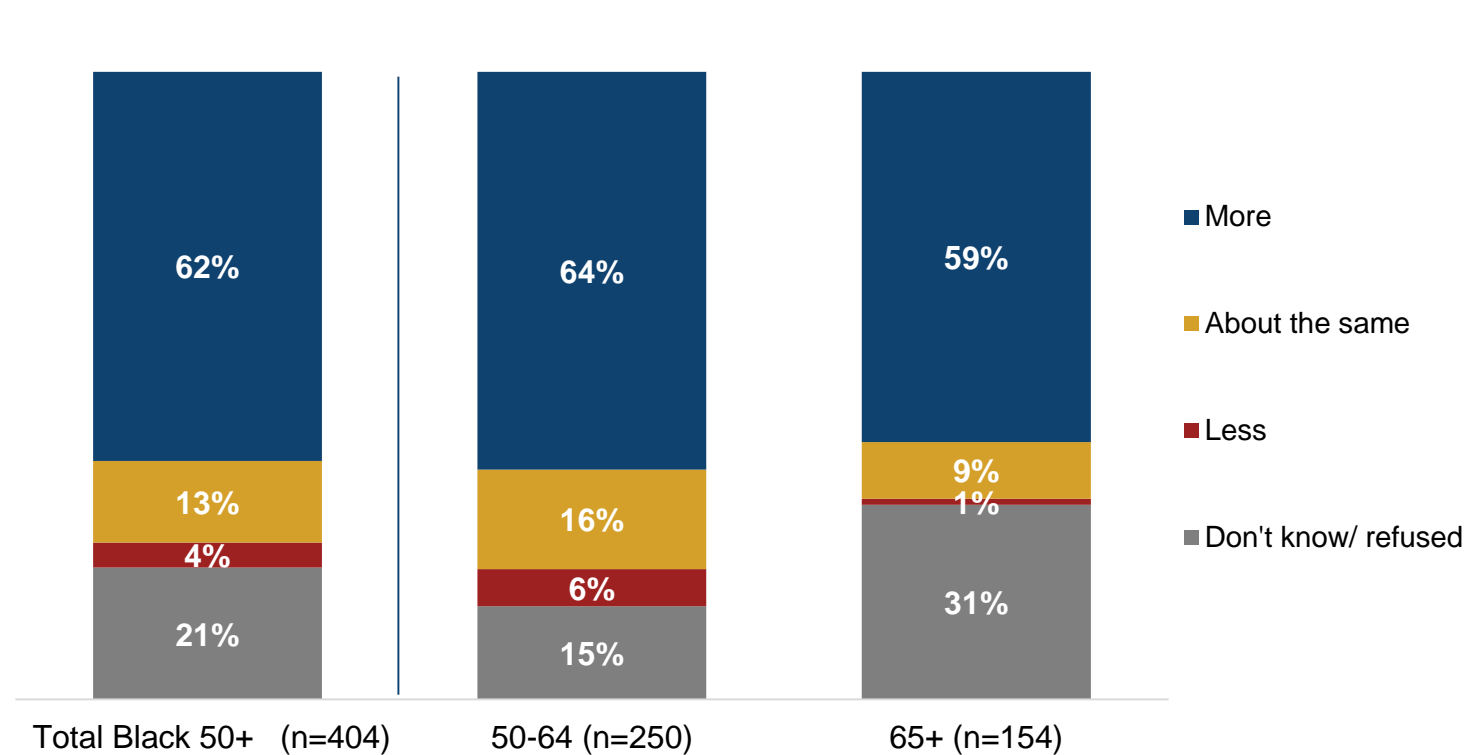
## Concern About Affordability of Prescriptions, by Age



Q4. Thinking about the next few years, how concerned are you about being able to afford the cost of prescription medication you or a family member may need? (Base: African American respondents: n=404)

# African American registered voters 50+ believe U.S. consumers pay more for the same Rx drugs than do consumers in other countries.

Perceived Prices of Drugs Paid in U.S.  
Compared to that Paid in Other Countries



Q5. From what you may know, or had to guess, do consumers in the United States pay more, the same or less for the same drugs than consumers in other countries (such as the United Kingdom, France, and Italy)?  
(Base: African American respondents: n=404)





## POLICY AND INNOVATION

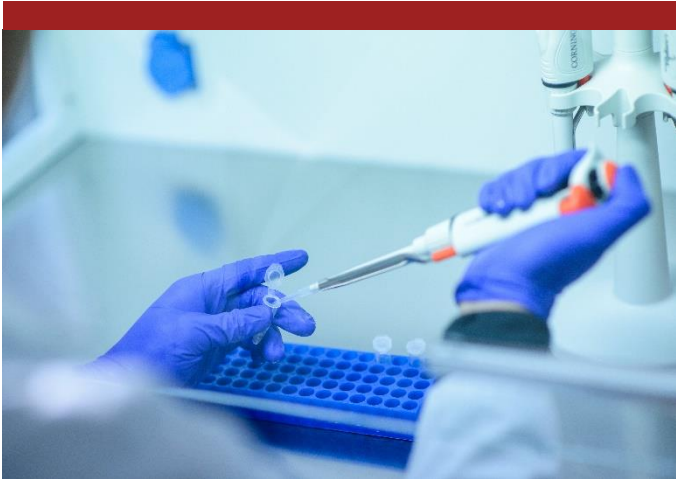
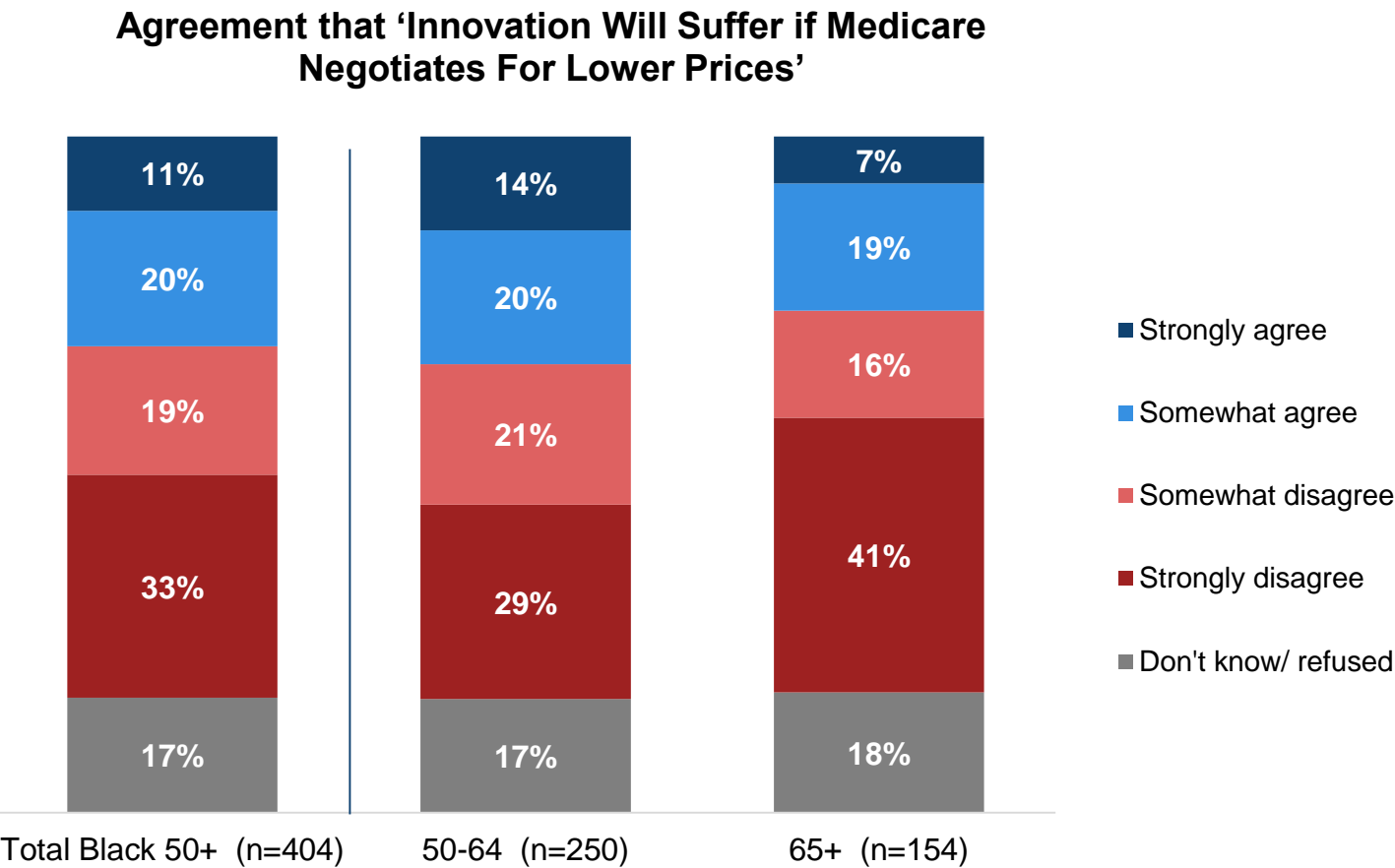
# African American voters 50+ note strong support for all five legislative proposals.

## Support for Proposals To Lower Prescription Drug Prices (Percent 'Favor')

By Race/Ethnicity	African American
	<i>n=404</i>
Allow Medicare, the largest prescription drug purchaser in the U.S., to negotiate with drug companies for lower prices	82%
Put a cap on the amount seniors have to pay out of pocket every year for their prescription drugs	81%
Prevent drug companies from charging more for drugs in the United States than they do in other countries	76%
Close the loopholes that allow brand-name pharmaceutical companies to charge high prices for new drugs that are simply copycats or minor improvements over existing drugs	69%
Penalize drug companies that raise their prices higher than inflation	73%

Q6. The following are proposals that have been made to lower the prices of prescription drugs. Please indicate whether you would favor or oppose each. If you are unsure, please indicate that.  
(Base: African American respondents: n=404)

# Three in ten African American voters 50+ agree that allowing Medicare to negotiate for lower drug prices will make it harder to get lifesaving drugs to market.

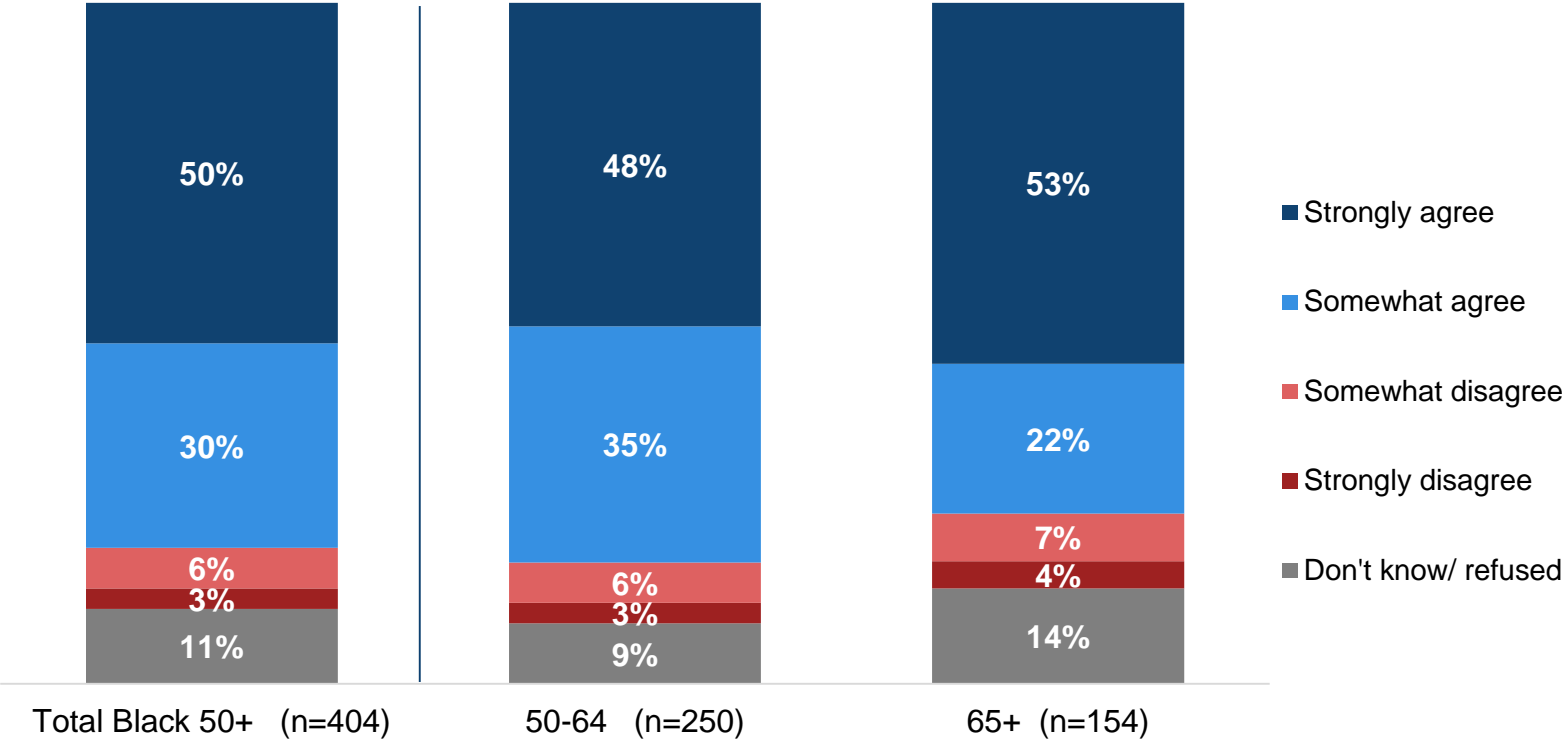


Q7. Some people say that if Congress passes legislation to allow Medicare to negotiate for lower prices, innovation will suffer, making it harder to get lifesaving drugs to market. Do you agree or disagree? (Base: African American respondents: n=404)



# Majority agrees that drug prices can be lowered without affecting innovation.

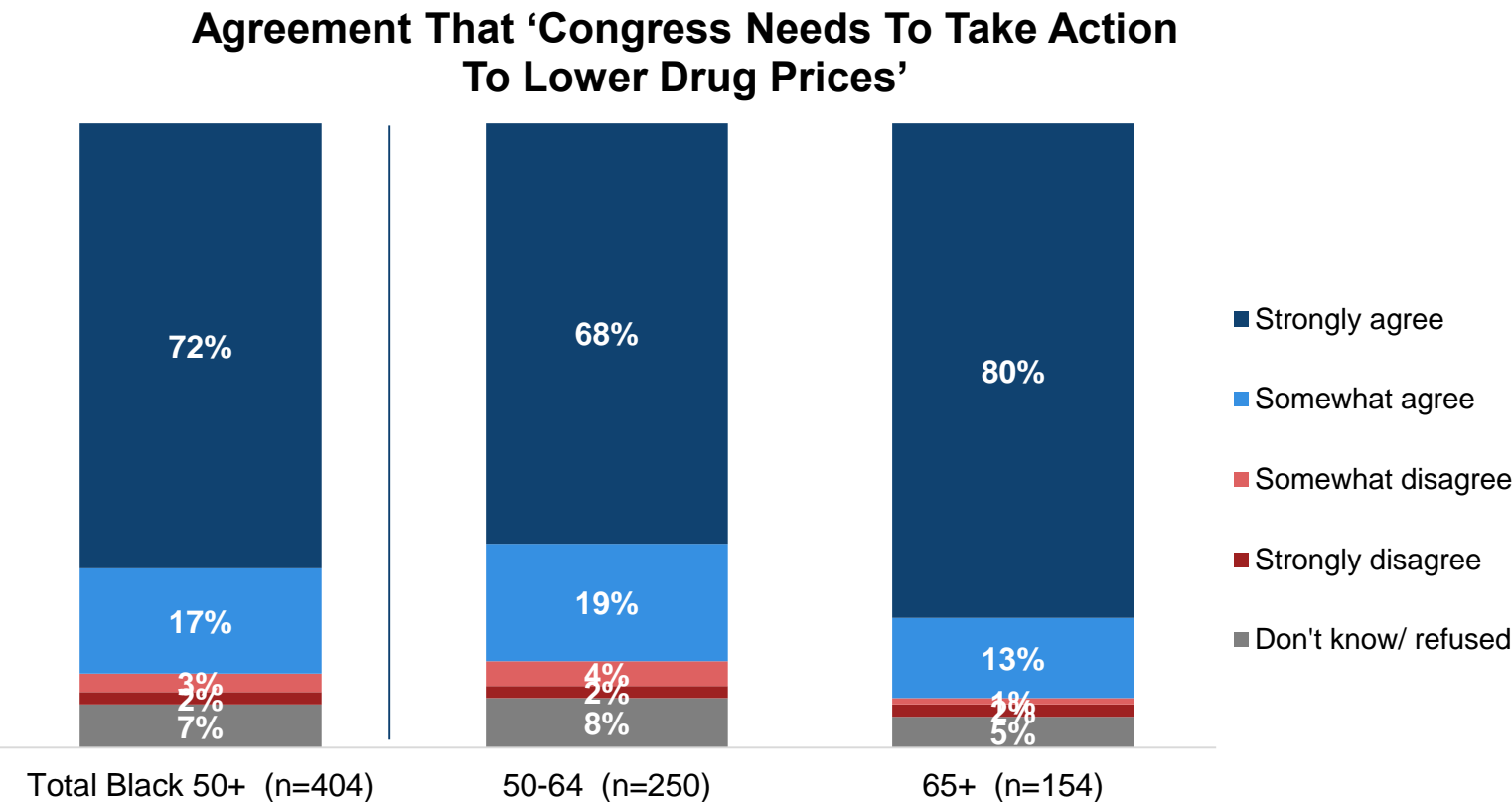
Agreement That ‘Drug Prices Can Be Lowered Without Harming Innovation Of New Medicines’



Q8. Some people say that drug prices in the U.S., which are 3 times higher than those in other countries, can be lowered without harming innovation of new medicines. Do you agree or disagree?  
(Base: African American respondents: n=404)

# Consistent agreement that Congress needs to take action to lower Rx prices.

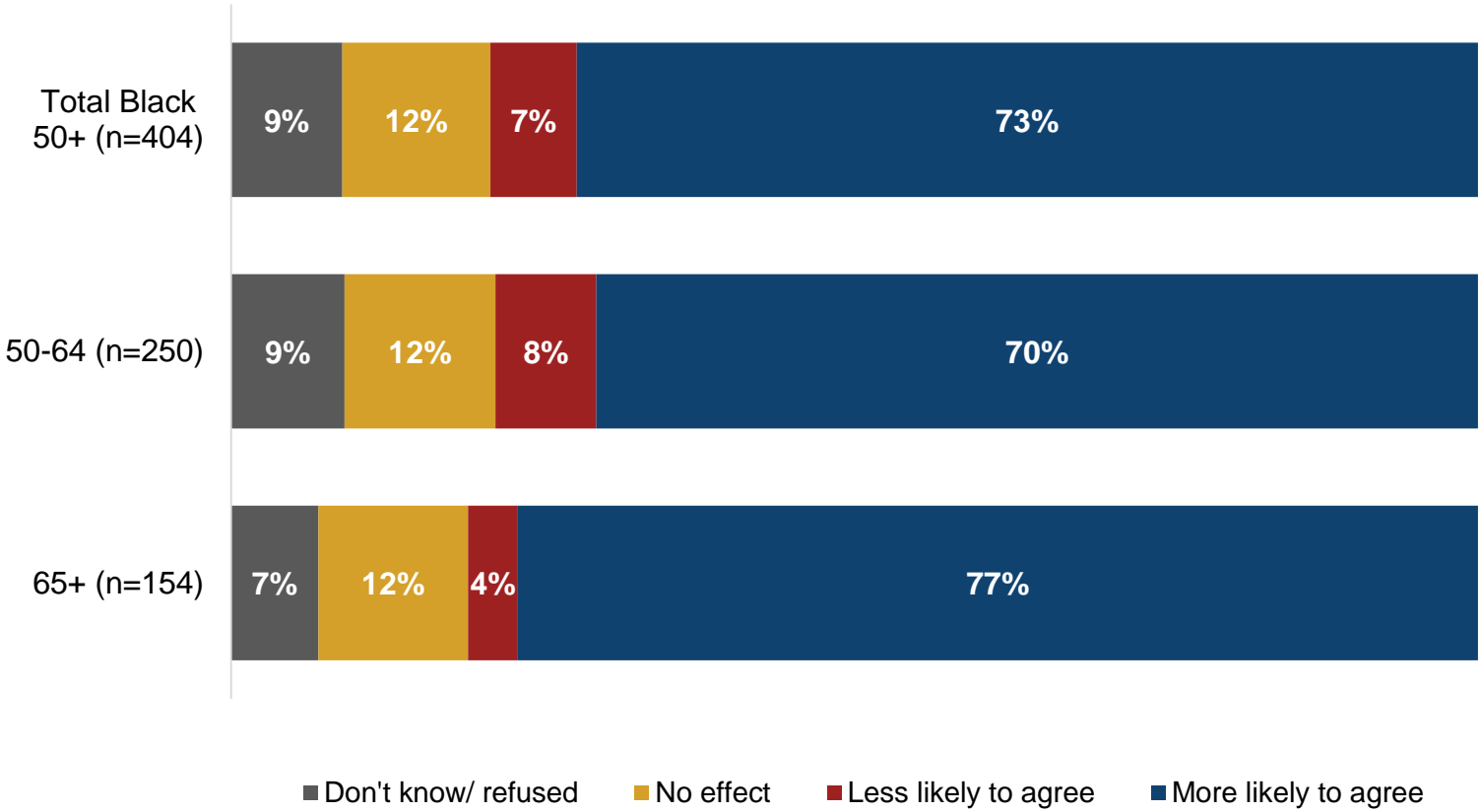
Agreement is higher among Black voters 65-plus than among their younger counterparts (80% vs. 68%).



Q9. Some people say Congress needs to take action to lower drug prices because some people can't afford to buy medicine and pay for other necessities. Do you agree or disagree?  
(Base: African American respondents: n=404)

# Majorities say recent successful COVID-19 vaccine negotiations made them more likely to agree that the government should negotiate for lower prices for other drugs.

Impact Of Successful COVID-19 Vaccine Negotiations On Agreement That Government Should Negotiate Price For Other Drugs

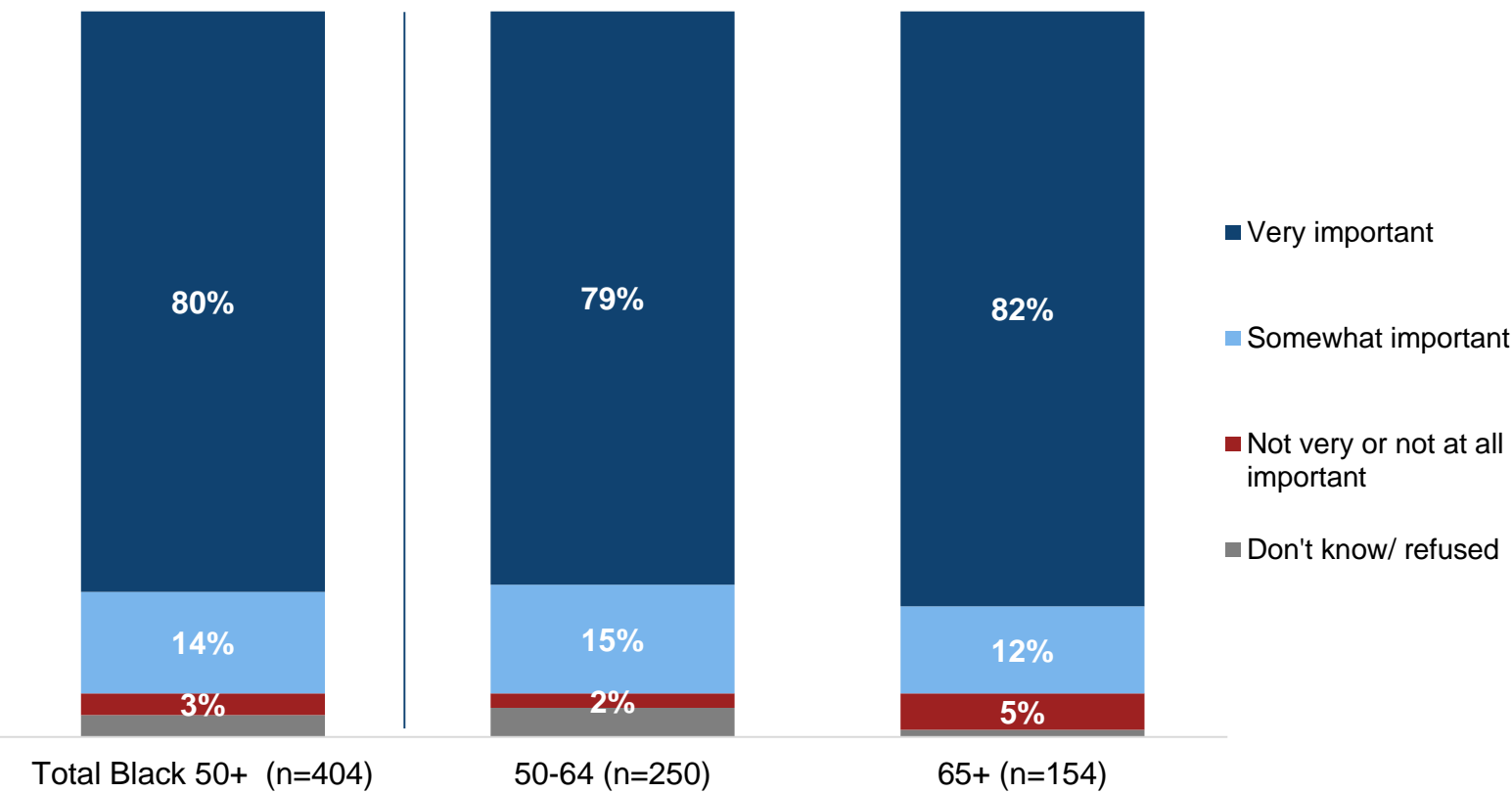


Q10. The U.S. government just successfully negotiated with drug companies on the price for the COVID-19 vaccine. Does that make you more or less likely to agree that the government should negotiate for lower drug prices for people on Medicare?  
(Base: African American respondents: n=404)



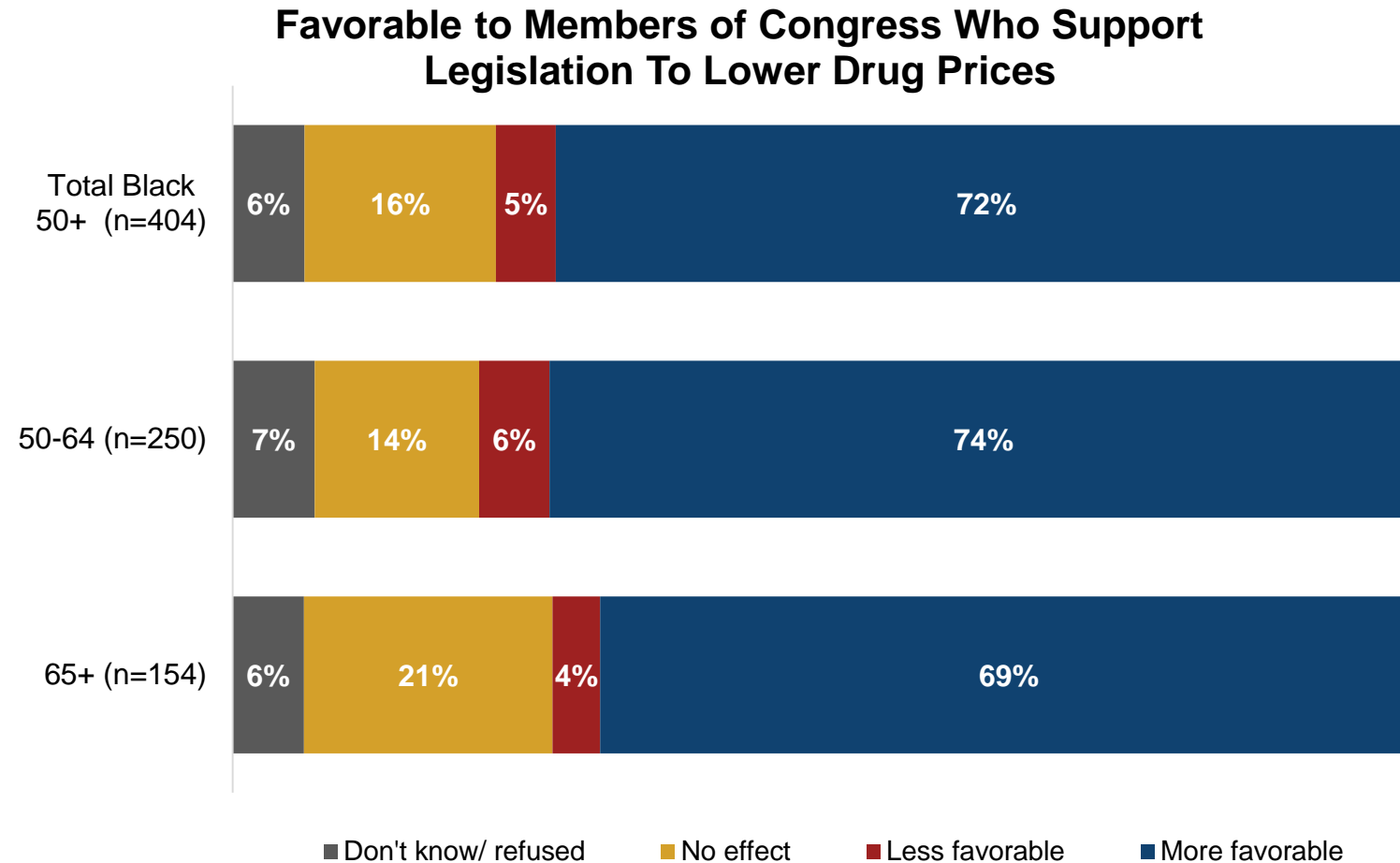
# Eight in ten black voters believe that Presidential/Congressional agreement on solutions to lower drug prices this year is very important.

Importance Of Government Agreeing On Solutions To Lower Drug Prices This Year



Q11. How important is it for the president and Congress to agree on solutions to lower prescription drug prices this year? (Base: African American respondents: n=404)

# Black voters 50-plus would be more favorable to a member of Congress who supports legislation to lower drug prices.



Q12. Would you be more or less favorable to a member of Congress that supported legislation to lower prescription drug prices, or would it have no effect on your opinion?  
(Base: African American respondents: n=404)



## IMPLICATIONS



# Implications

High prescription drug prices affect most U.S. voters age 50 and older, many of whom take medications regularly or are concerned about affording prescription drugs for their family over the next few years.

Voters are united in agreement that Congress should take action to lower prescription drug prices, with an overwhelming number of voters feeling that it is important for the president and Congress to agree on solutions this year.

The majority agree that drug prices can be reduced without harming innovation, and many voters would be more likely to favor a member of Congress who supported legislation to lower prescription drug prices.

Support is high for a variety of proposals that would aim to lower prescription drug prices, particularly those allowing Medicare to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies to lower drug prices for Medicare recipients.





## METHODOLOGY

# Methodology

- **Objectives:** To explore the use of prescription drugs and concerns relating to prescription drugs among United States voters age 50 and older
- **Methodology:** Phone, nationally representative survey
- **Sample:** U.S. registered voters age 50 and older (60% via landline telephones and 40% via cell phones); n=1,605 total sample
  - Base sample: n=1,000
  - Oversamples: n=404 African Americans (focus of this report); n=414 Hispanic/Latinos 50+
- **Interviewing Dates:** June 1, 2021 – June 13, 2021
- **Language:** Interviews conducted in English and Spanish
- **Weighting:** Data weighted by age, gender, race/ethnicity, and education according to 2019 5-year U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) estimates
- **Questionnaire length:** 9.6 minutes (average)
- **Confidence Intervals:**  $\pm 3.1\%$

**Note:** Some percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding or the use of multiple response question formats.





# About AARP

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering Americans 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With nearly 38 million members and offices in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, AARP works to strengthen communities and advocate for what matters most to families with a focus on health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. AARP also works for individuals in the marketplace by sparking new solutions and allowing carefully chosen, high-quality products and services to carry the AARP name. As a trusted source for news and information, AARP produces the nation's largest circulation publications, AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin. To learn more, visit [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org) or follow @AARP and @AARPadvocates on social media.

# About ANR Market Research Consultants

ANR is a full-service market research firm founded in 1978. It has a full-time staff of twelve people and a part-time staff of thirty-five. As a Virginia SWaM-certified small business, ANR is managed by executives age 50+ and also employs multiple professional staff age 50+. Its corporate offices, located in Richmond, Virginia, include a state-of-the-art focus group facility. ANR specializes in business and consumer research to determine attitudes and opinions, advertising effectiveness, organization image and awareness, market positioning and new product development. Its clients span a variety of industries, including state and federal government, health care, communications, finance, manufacturing, retail, travel, tourism, real estate development, and education. For more information, visit [www.anr.com](http://www.anr.com).



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