



WOMEN'S VIEWS ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

July 2021

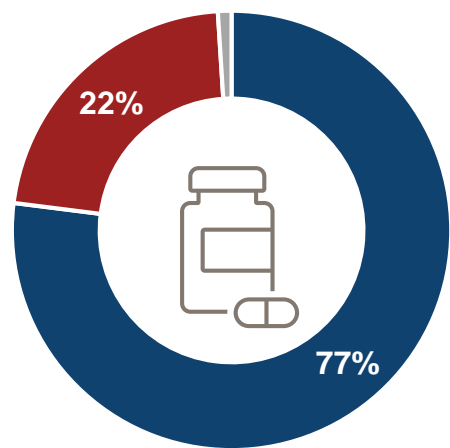


Key Findings

- Most women voters 50-plus take prescriptions and refill them regularly; cost is the top reason cited for not filling a prescription, with about half as many women citing concerns about side effects.
- Women are more likely than men to express high levels of concern about the affordability of prescription drugs.
- Most voters 50+ believe U.S. consumers pay more for the same Rx drugs than do consumers in other countries, with no differences by gender.
- Support is consistently high for all five legislative proposals related to lowering the prices of prescription drugs, with women more likely to favor penalizing drug companies that raise prices above inflation.
- Six in ten voters 50+ disagree that innovation will suffer if Medicare negotiates for lower prices making it harder to get lifesaving drugs to market.
- Eight in ten voters 50+ agree that drug prices can be lowered without harming the innovation of new medicines, with no differences by gender.
- Women are more likely than men to *strongly* or *somewhat* agree that Congress needs to take action to lower prescription drug prices.
- Successful COVID-19 vaccine negotiations increase voters' agreement that government should negotiate for lower prices for other drugs, with no differences by gender.
- Women voters 50+ are more likely to consider Presidential/Congressional agreement on lowering Rx drug prices as *very* or *somewhat important*.
- Most voters 50-plus would be more favorable to a member of Congress who supports legislation to lower drug prices, with no differences by gender.

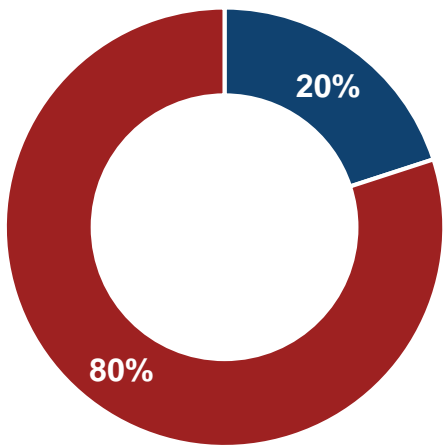
Most women voters 50-plus take prescriptions and refill them regularly; cost is top reason for not filling a prescription.

Take prescription drugs regularly?

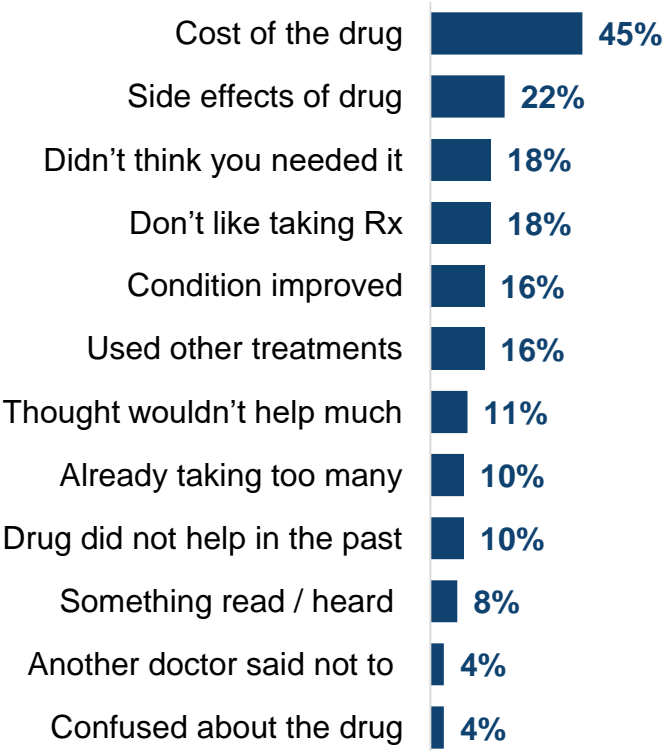


■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know/ref.

Decided to not fill Rx?



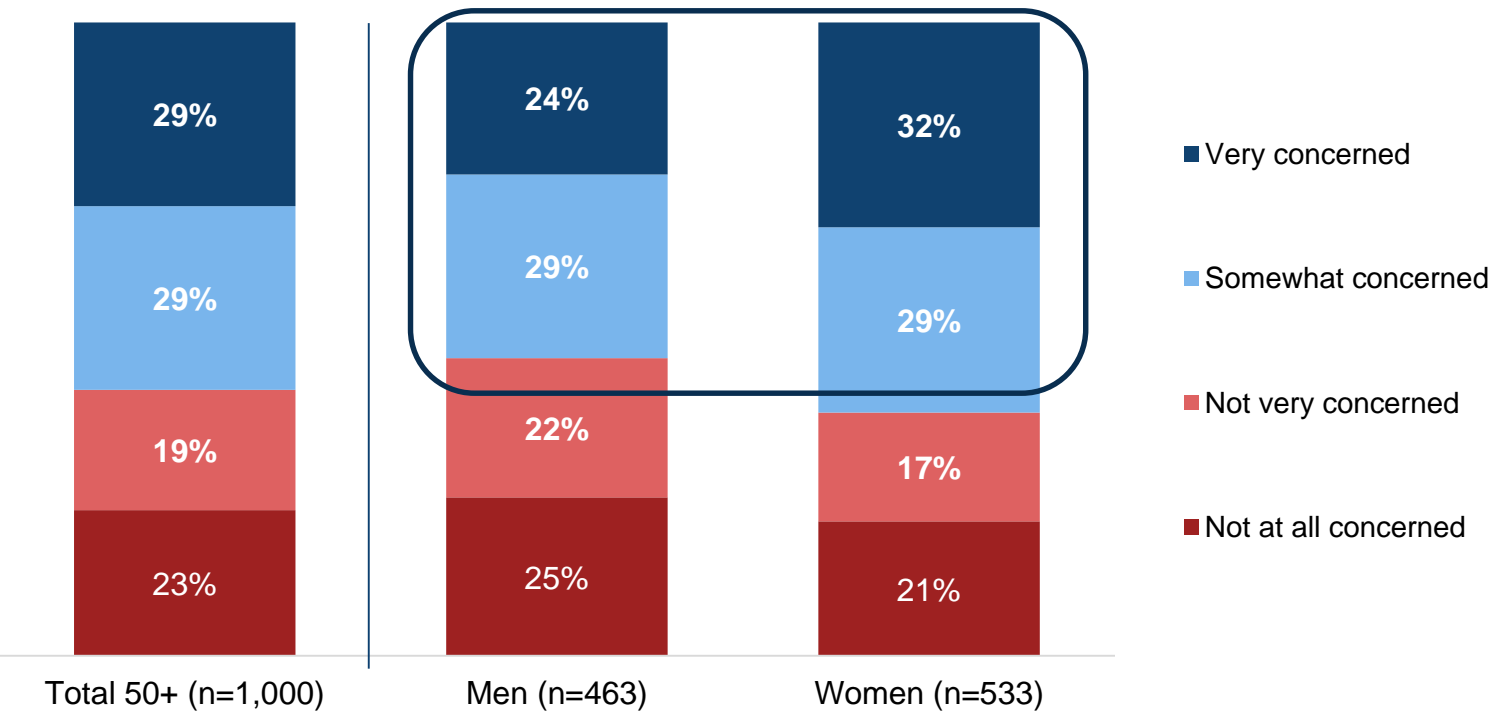
Reasons for Not filling Rx*



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: Women voters 50+: n=533) Q3. What were the reasons you didn't fill your prescription? (Base: Those who did not fill a prescription n=109* small sample)

Women are more likely than men to express high levels of concern about the affordability of prescription drugs.

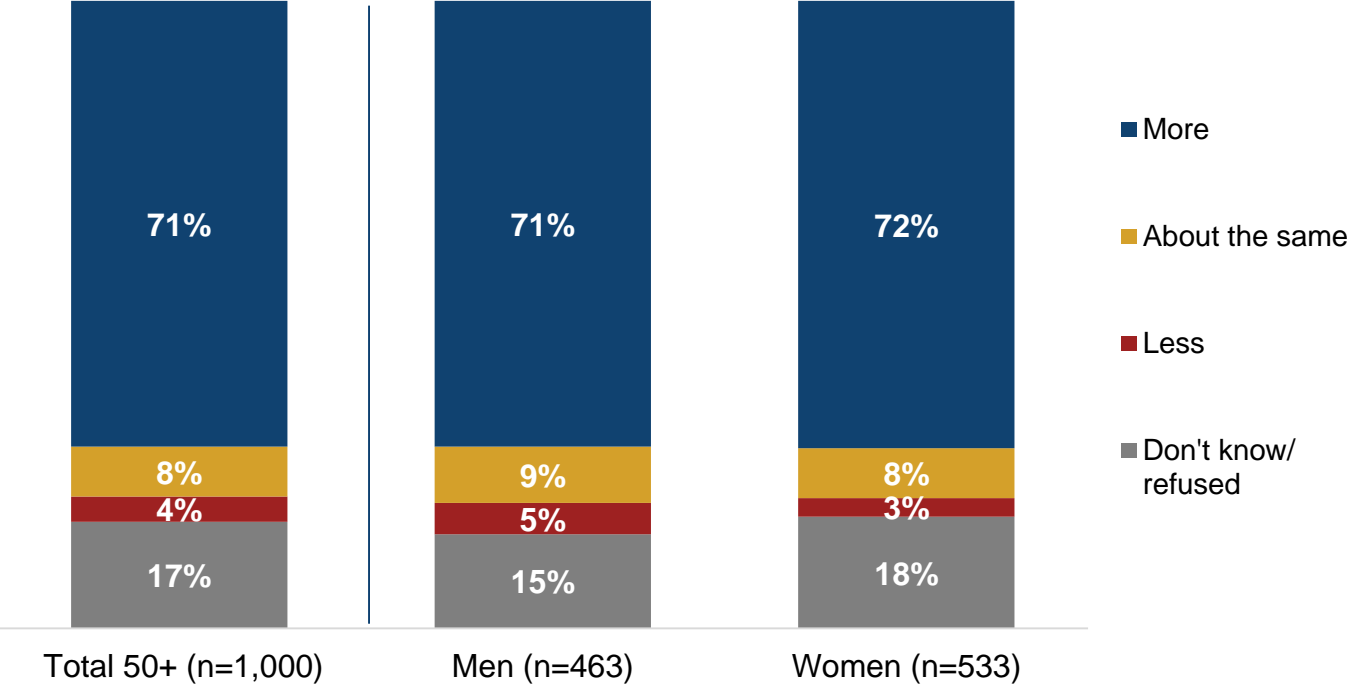
Concern About Affordability of Prescriptions, by Gender



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: All respondents n=1,000)

Most voters 50+ believe U.S. consumers pay more for the same Rx drugs than do consumers in other countries, with no differences by gender.

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: All respondents n=1,000)

Support is consistently high for all five legislative proposals, with women more likely to favor penalizing drug companies that raise prices above inflation.

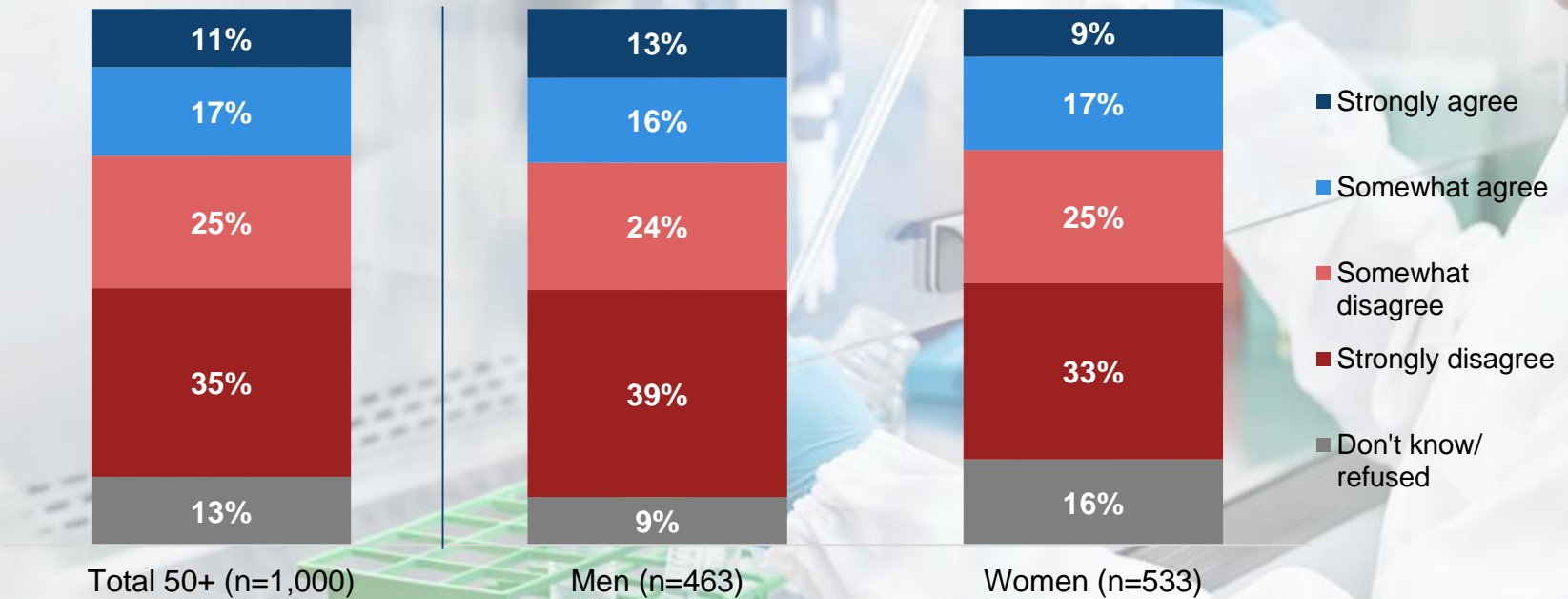
Support for Proposals to Lower Prescription Drug Prices, by Gender (Percent 'Favor')

By Political Party	Total	Men	Women
	<i>n=1,000</i>	<i>n=463</i>	<i>n=533</i>
Allow Medicare, the largest prescription drug purchaser in the U.S., to negotiate with drug companies for lower prices	87%	87%	87%
Put a cap on the amount seniors have to pay out of pocket every year for their prescription drugs	78%	75%	80%
Prevent drug companies from charging more for drugs in the United States than they do in other countries	77%	73%	80%
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	74%	72%	76%
Penalize drug companies that raise their prices higher than inflation	71%	65%	75%

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: All respondents n=1,000)

Six in ten voters 50+ disagree that innovation will suffer if Medicare negotiates for lower prices making it harder to get lifesaving drugs to market.

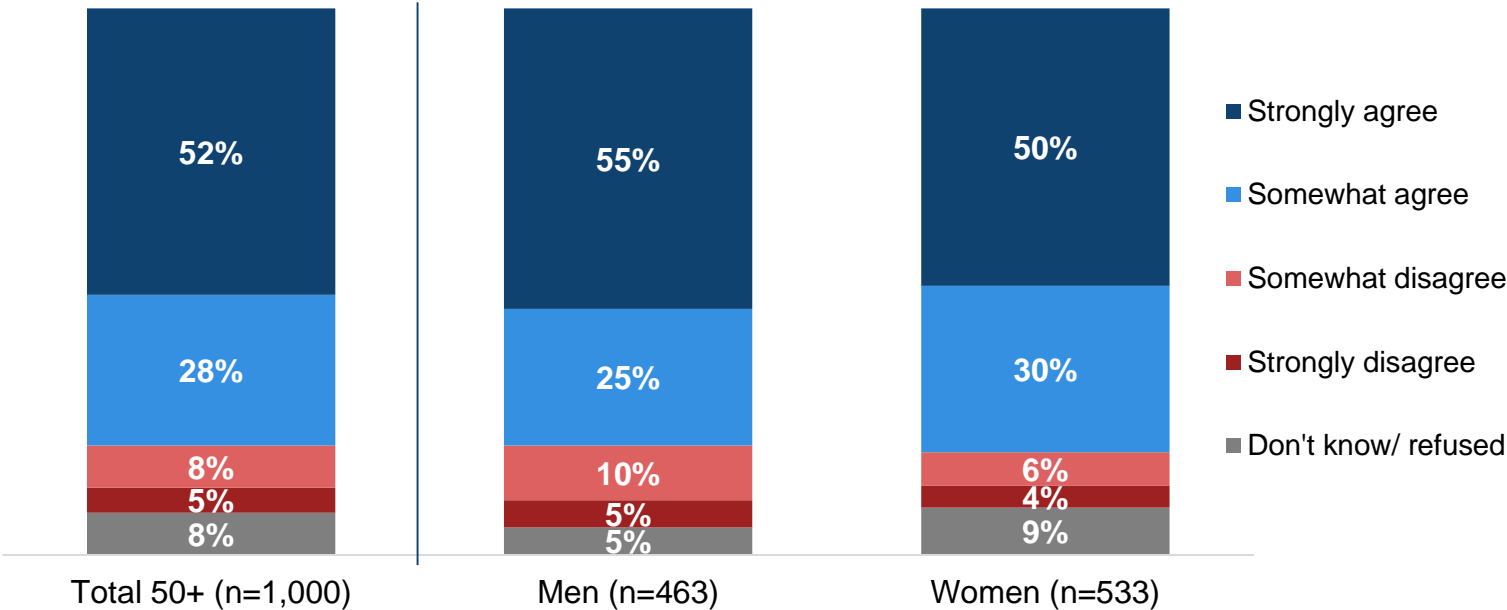
Agreement that 'Innovation Will Suffer if Medicare Negotiates For Lower Prices'



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: All respondents n=1,000)

Eight in ten voters 50+ agree that drug prices can be lowered without harming the innovation of new medicines, with no differences by gender.

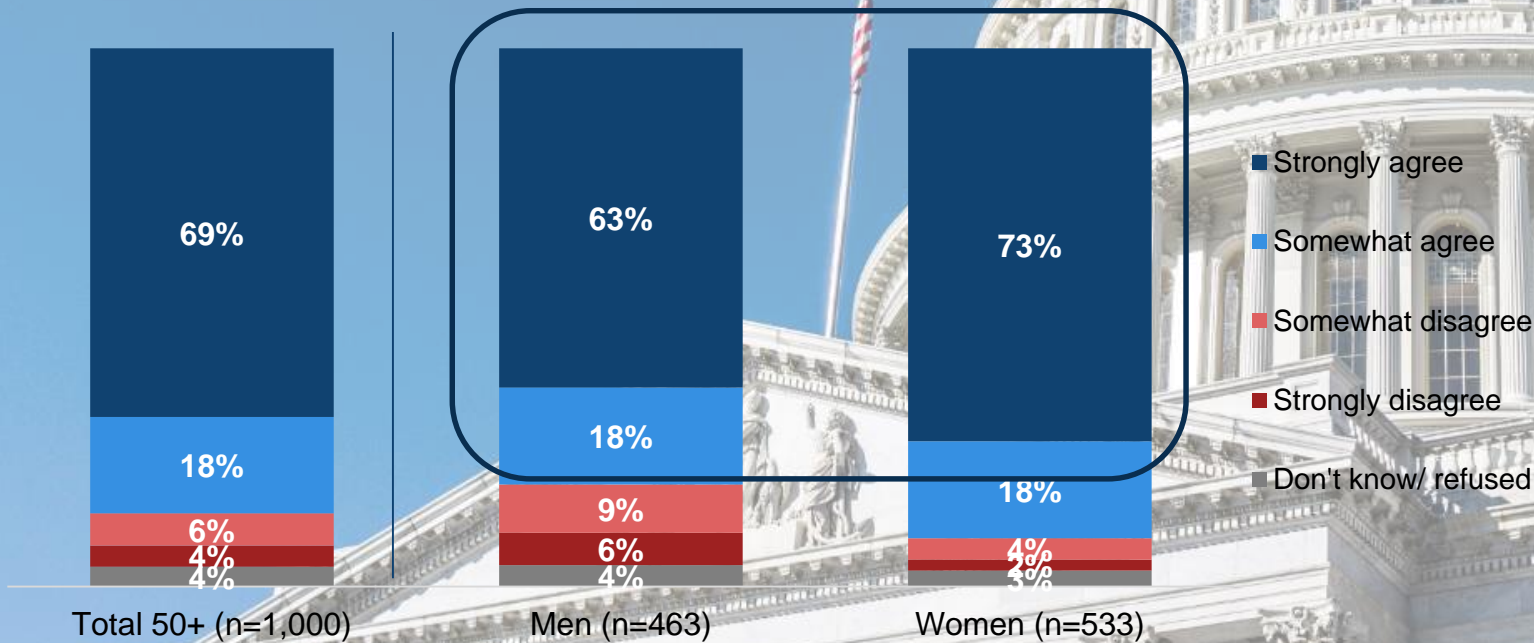
Agreement That ‘Drug Prices Can Be Lowered Without Harming Innovation Of New Medicines’



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: All respondents n=1,000)

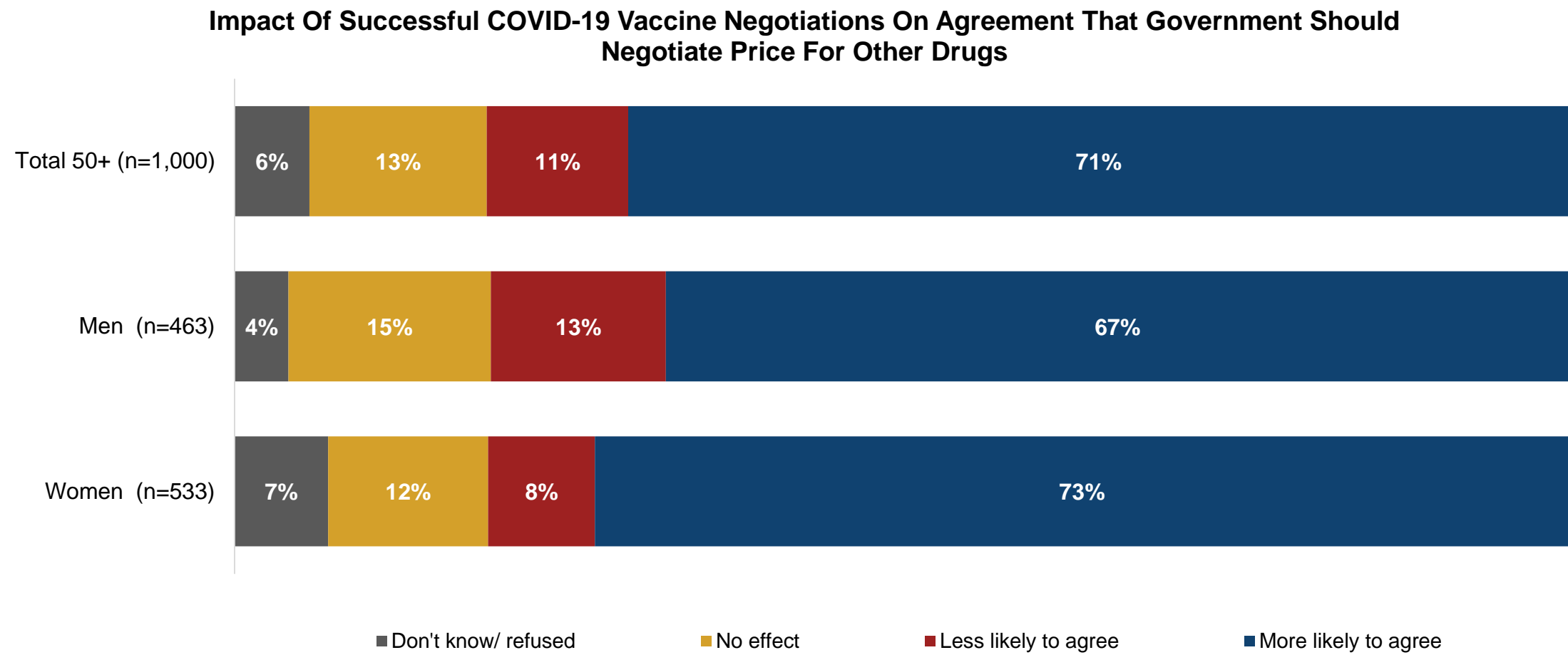
Women more likely than men to *strongly* or *somewhat* agree that Congress needs to take action to lower prescription drug prices.

Agreement That ‘Congress Needs To Take Action To Lower Drug Prices’



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: All respondents n=1,000)

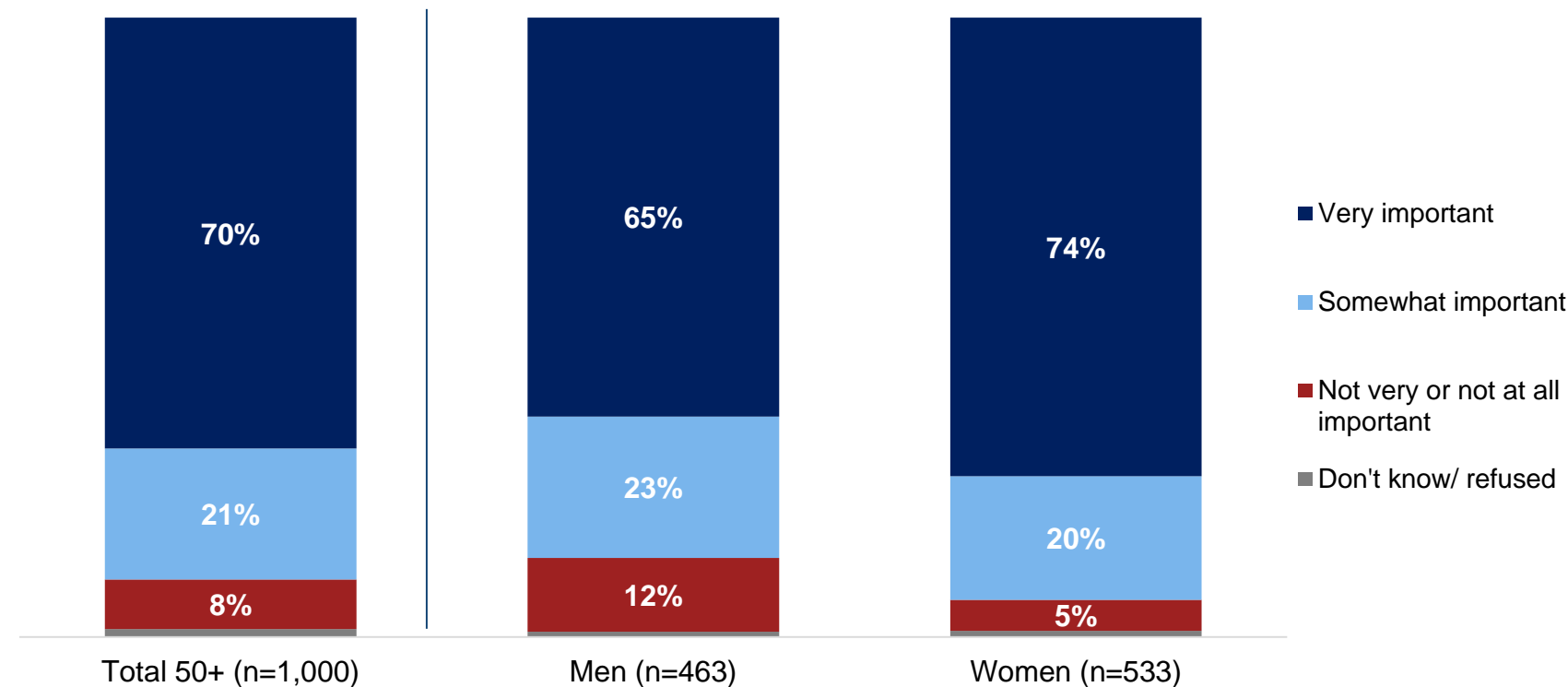
Successful COVID-19 vaccine negotiations increase voters' agreement that government should negotiate for lower prices for other drugs.



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: All respondents n=1,000)

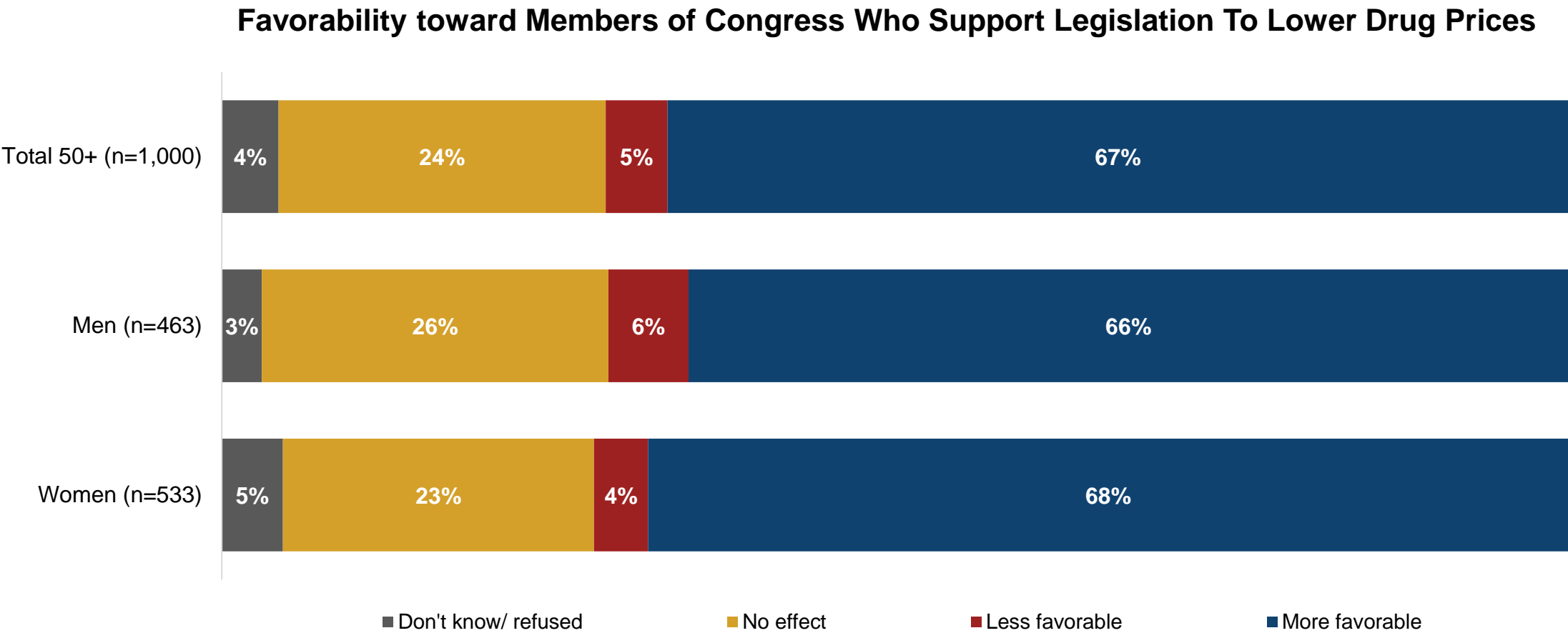
Women voters 50+ more likely to consider Presidential/Congressional agreement on lowering Rx drug prices as *very* or *somewhat important*.

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



Q11. How important is it for the president and Congress to agree on solutions to lower prescription drug prices this year? (Base: All respondents n=1,000)

Most voters 50-plus would be more favorable to a member of Congress who supports legislation to lower drug prices, with no differences by gender.



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: All respondents n=1,000)



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
 - Base sample: n=1,000
 - Oversamples: n=404 African Americans; n=414 Hispanic/Latinos
- **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.





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This research was designed and executed by AARP Research