

The background of the slide is a solid teal color with a repeating pattern of small, light teal human silhouettes. The silhouettes are arranged in a grid-like pattern, with some appearing slightly larger or more prominent than others, creating a sense of movement and a crowd.

The Massachusetts Health Reform Law: Public Opinion and Perception

A REPORT ISSUED BY THE BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MASSACHUSETTS FOUNDATION

Robert J. Blendon

Tami Buhr

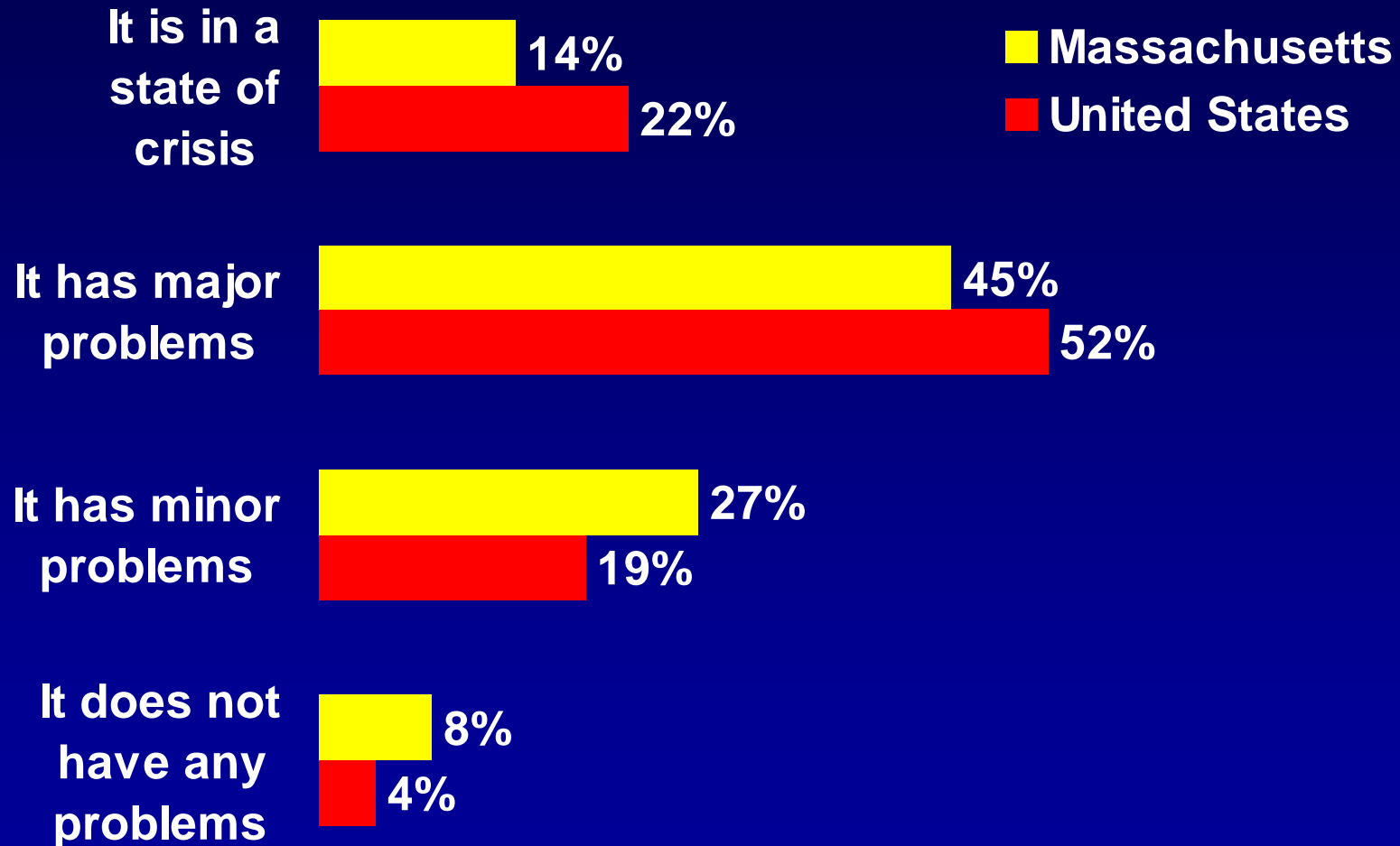
Channtal Fleischfresser

John M. Benson

Key Issues in the Survey

- **Views of health system today?**
- **Awareness of new law?**
- **Levels of support?**
- **Support for elements of the law?**
- **Expected impact on health care/economy?**
- **Who will be helped/hurt?**
- **Views about reasonably priced plans for the uninsured?**

Public beliefs about the health care system in the country today

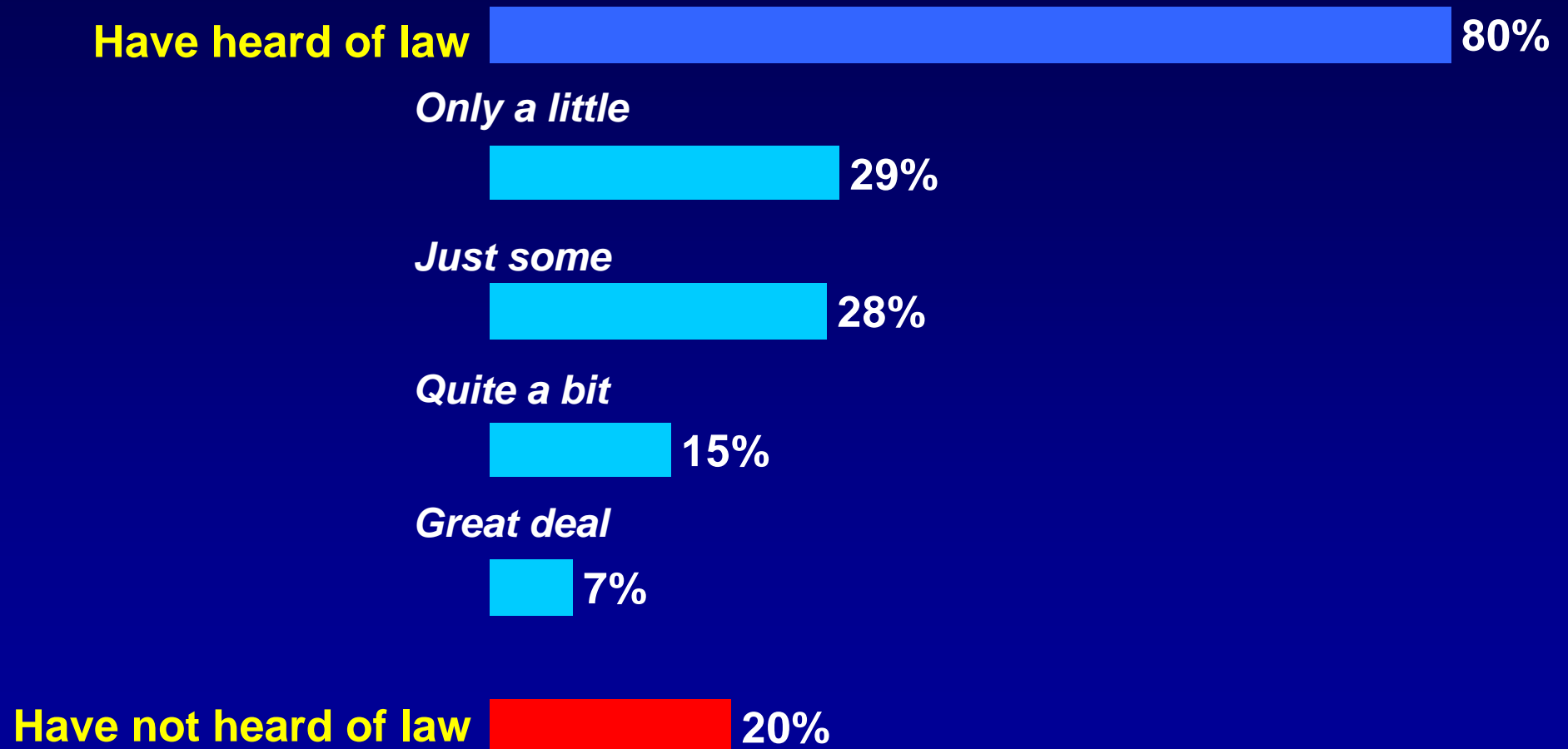


Note: "Don't know" responses not shown

Harvard School of Public Health/BCBS of Mass. Foundation/ICR September 2006

Harvard School of Public Health/Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Poll, August 2006

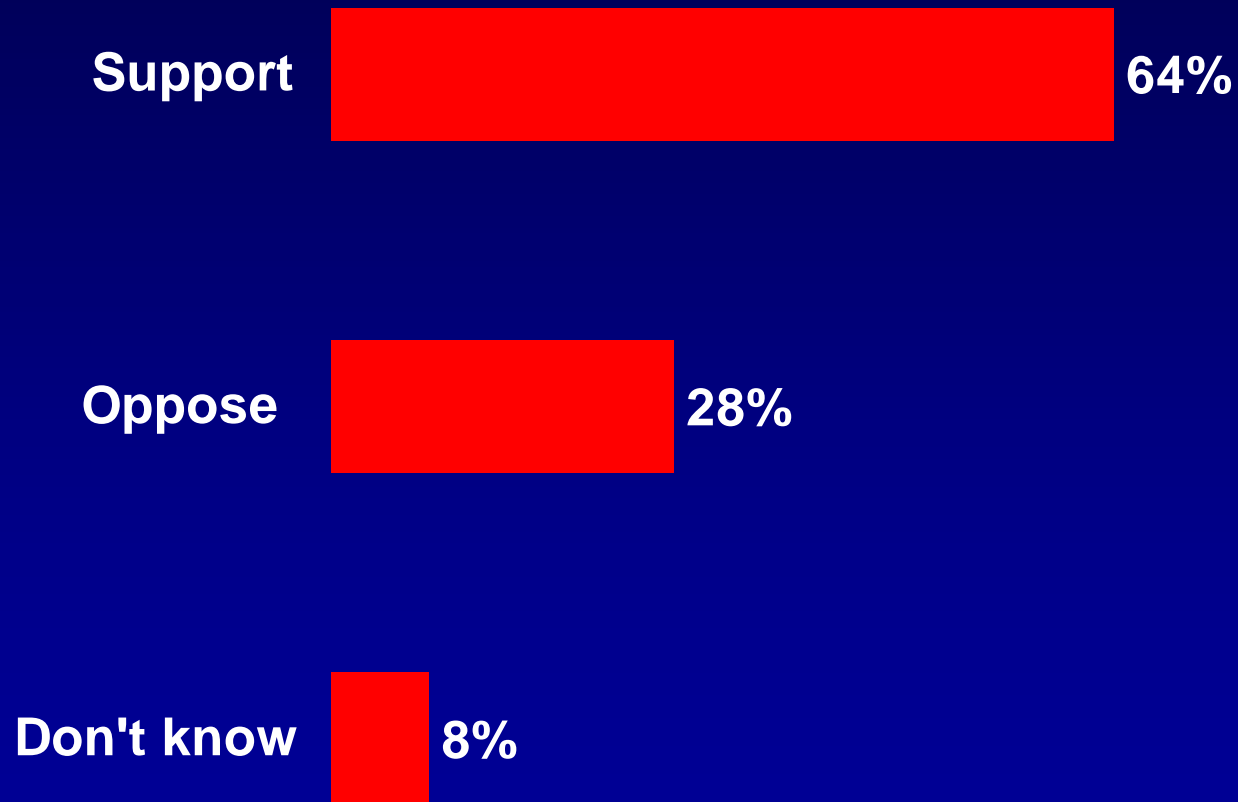
Familiarity with the Massachusetts Health Reform Law



Note: "Don't know" responses not shown

Harvard School of Public Health/BCBS of Mass. Foundation/ICR September 2006

Support for Massachusetts Health Reform Law



Note: "Don't know" responses not shown

Harvard School of Public Health/BCBS of Mass. Foundation/ICR September 2006

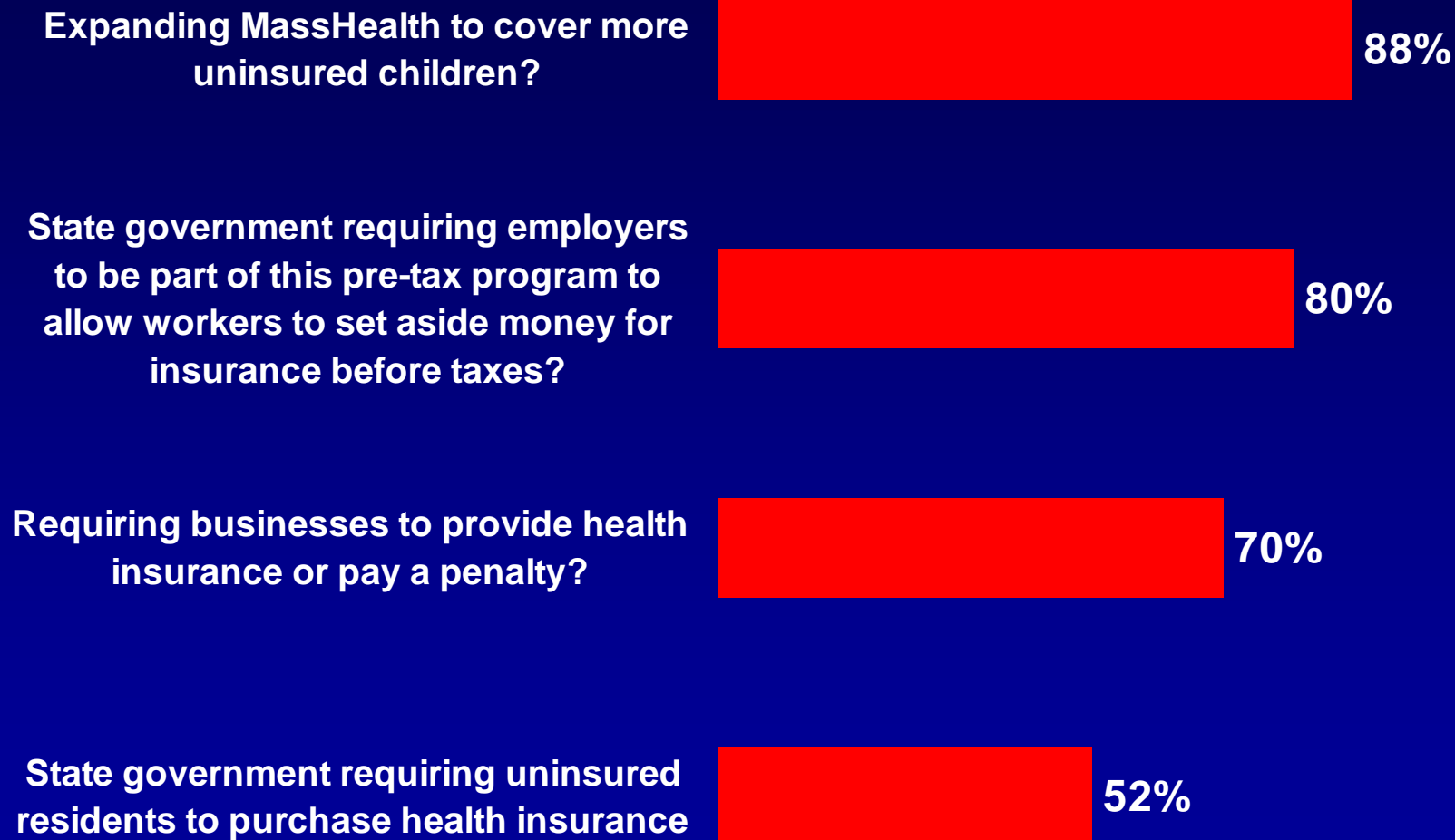
Support for Massachusetts Health Reform Law



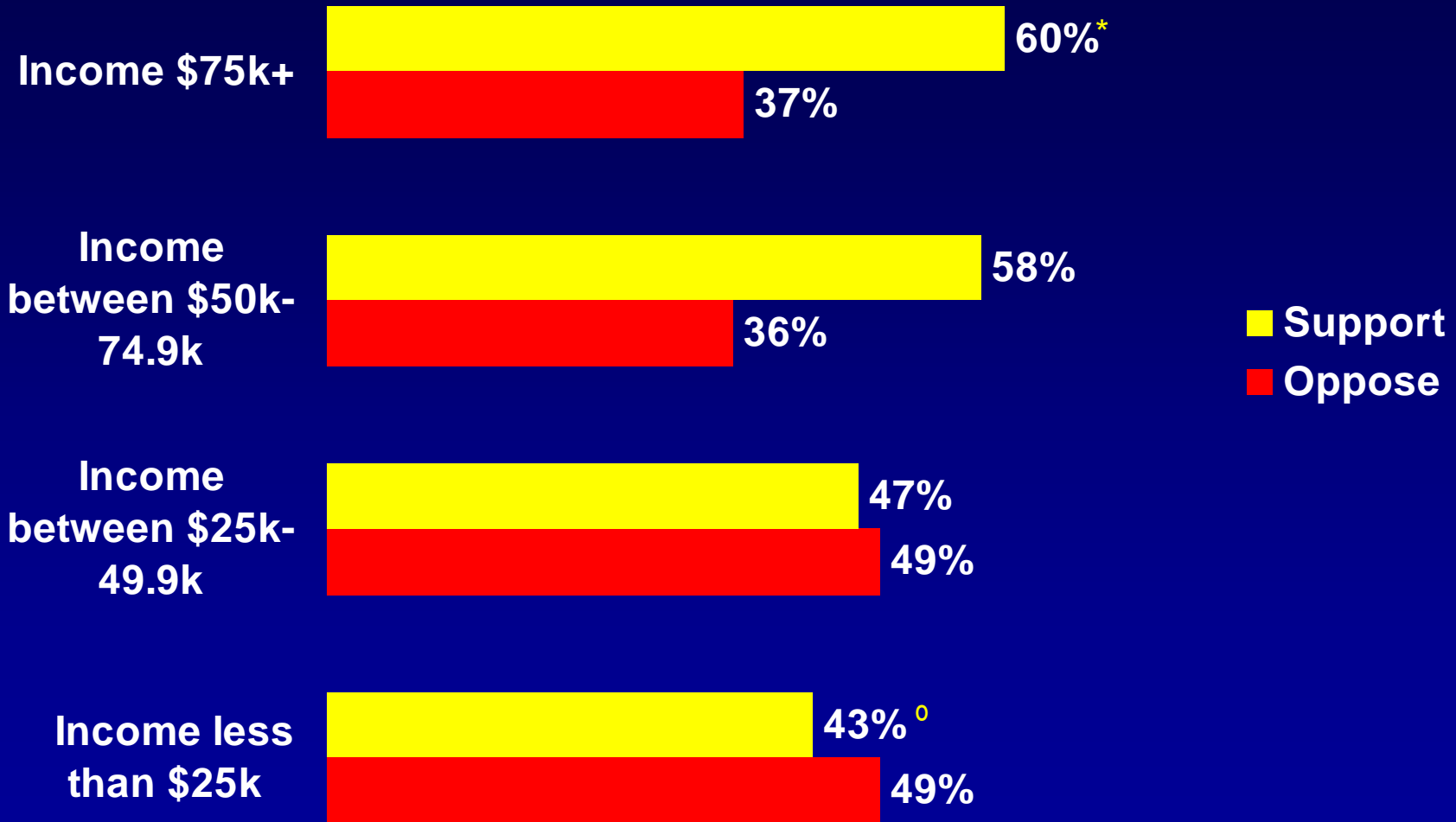
*Statistically significant difference from '65+ year olds' at $p \leq .05$

Harvard School of Public Health/BCBS of Mass. Foundation/ICR September 2006

Support for provisions of Massachusetts Health Reform Law



Support for requiring uninsured residents to purchase health insurance



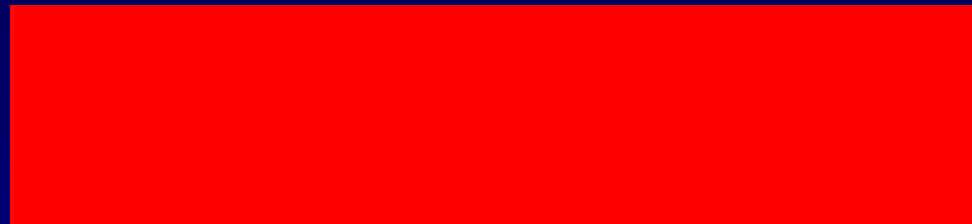
*Statistically significant difference from both 'income less than \$25k' and 'income between \$25k-49.9k' at $p < .05$

^oStatistically significant difference from 'income \$75k+' at $p < .05$

Harvard School of Public Health/BCBS of Mass. Foundation/ICR September 2006

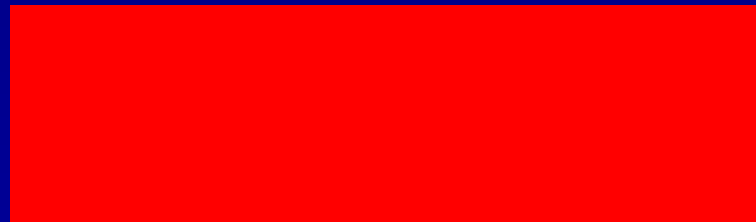
Public confidence that the Massachusetts Health Reform Law will ultimately provide health insurance for all Massachusetts residents

Yes it will



54%

No it won't



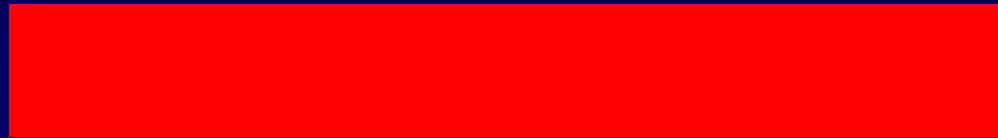
42%

Note: "Don't know" responses not shown

Harvard School of Public Health/BCBS of Mass. Foundation/ICR September 2006

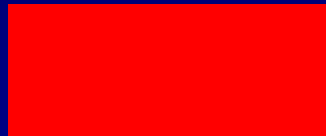
Public confidence that the Massachusetts Health Reform Law will help the availability of affordable healthcare in Massachusetts

Will Help



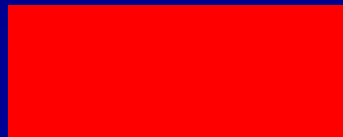
56%

Will Hurt



18%

Not much
impact



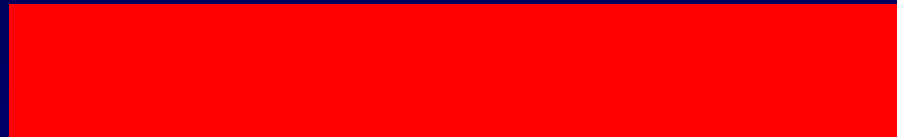
19%

Note: "Don't know" responses not shown

Harvard School of Public Health/BCBS of Mass. Foundation/ICR September 2006

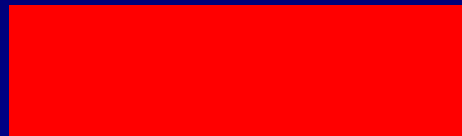
Public confidence that the Massachusetts Health Reform Law will help the quality of health care in Massachusetts

Will Help



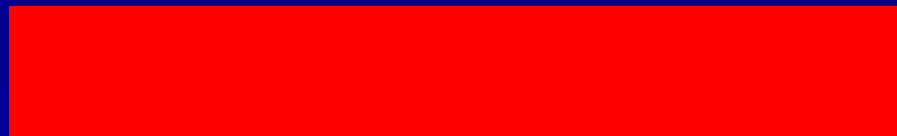
37%

Will Hurt



19%

**Not much
impact**

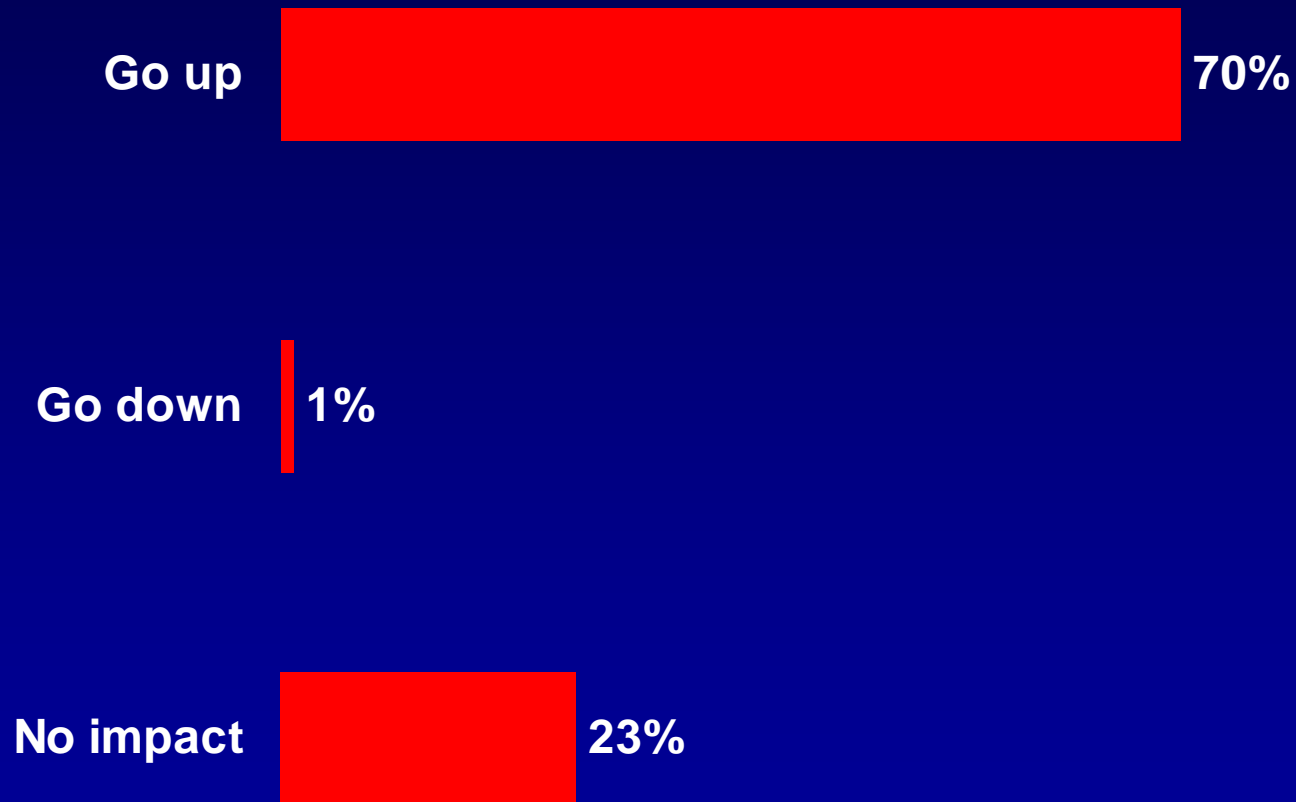


37%

Note: "Don't know" responses not shown

Harvard School of Public Health/BCBS of Mass. Foundation/ICR September 2006

Public belief that the Massachusetts Health Reform Law will cause taxes to go up



Note: "Don't know" responses not shown

Harvard School of Public Health/BCBS of Mass. Foundation/ICR September 2006

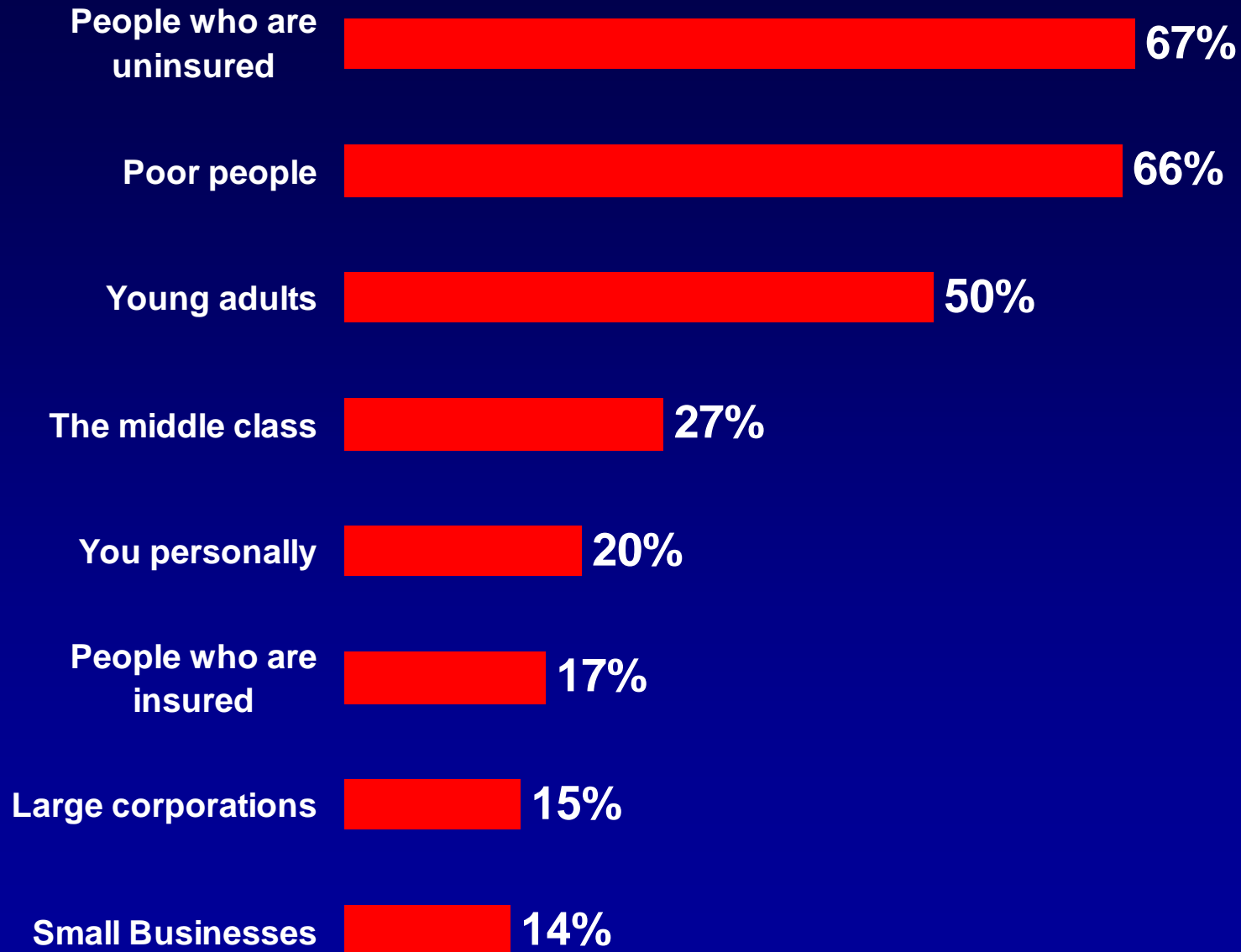
Public confidence that the new Massachusetts Health Reform Law will help the Massachusetts economy



Note: "Don't know" responses not shown

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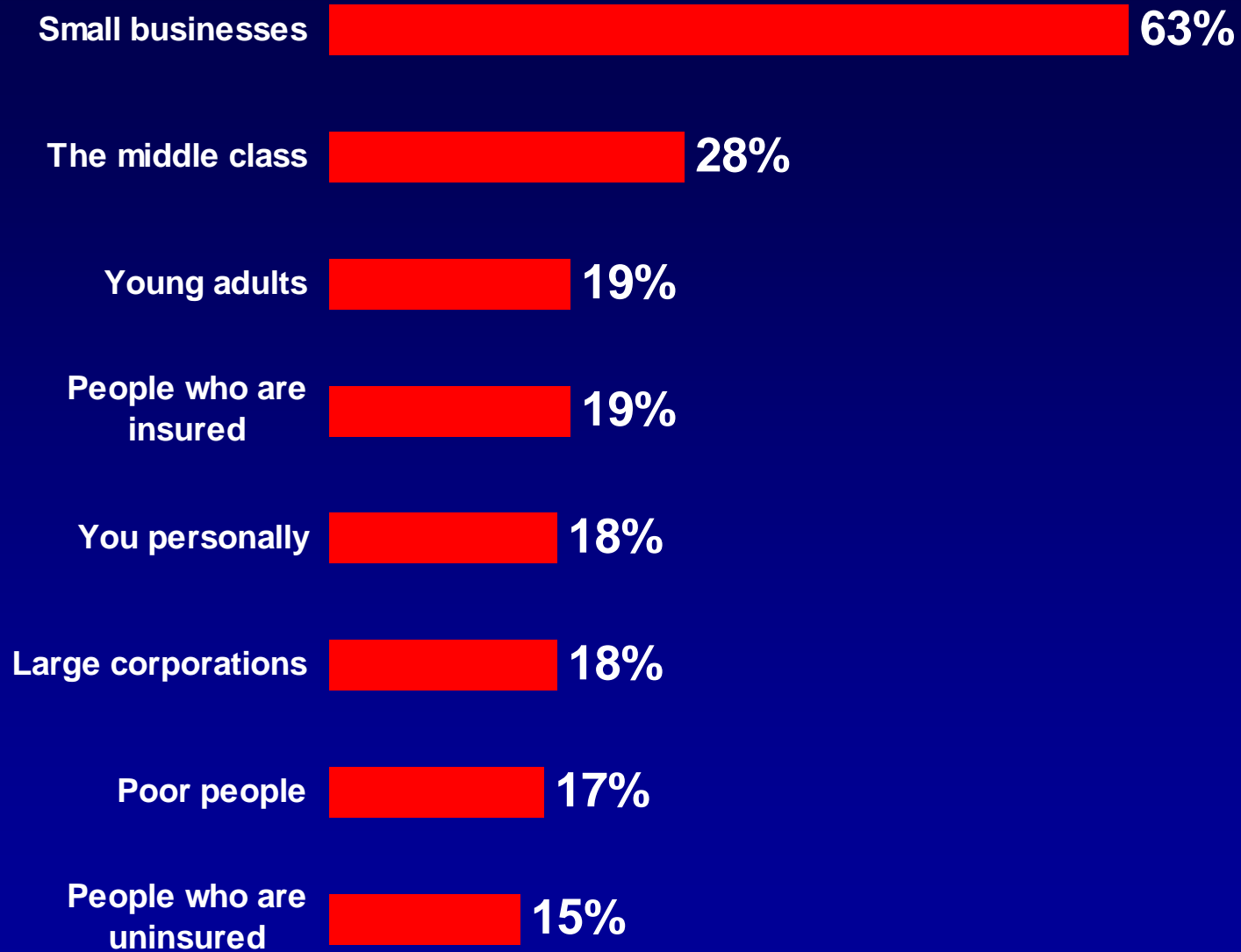
People who think the law will help:



Note: "Don't know" responses not shown

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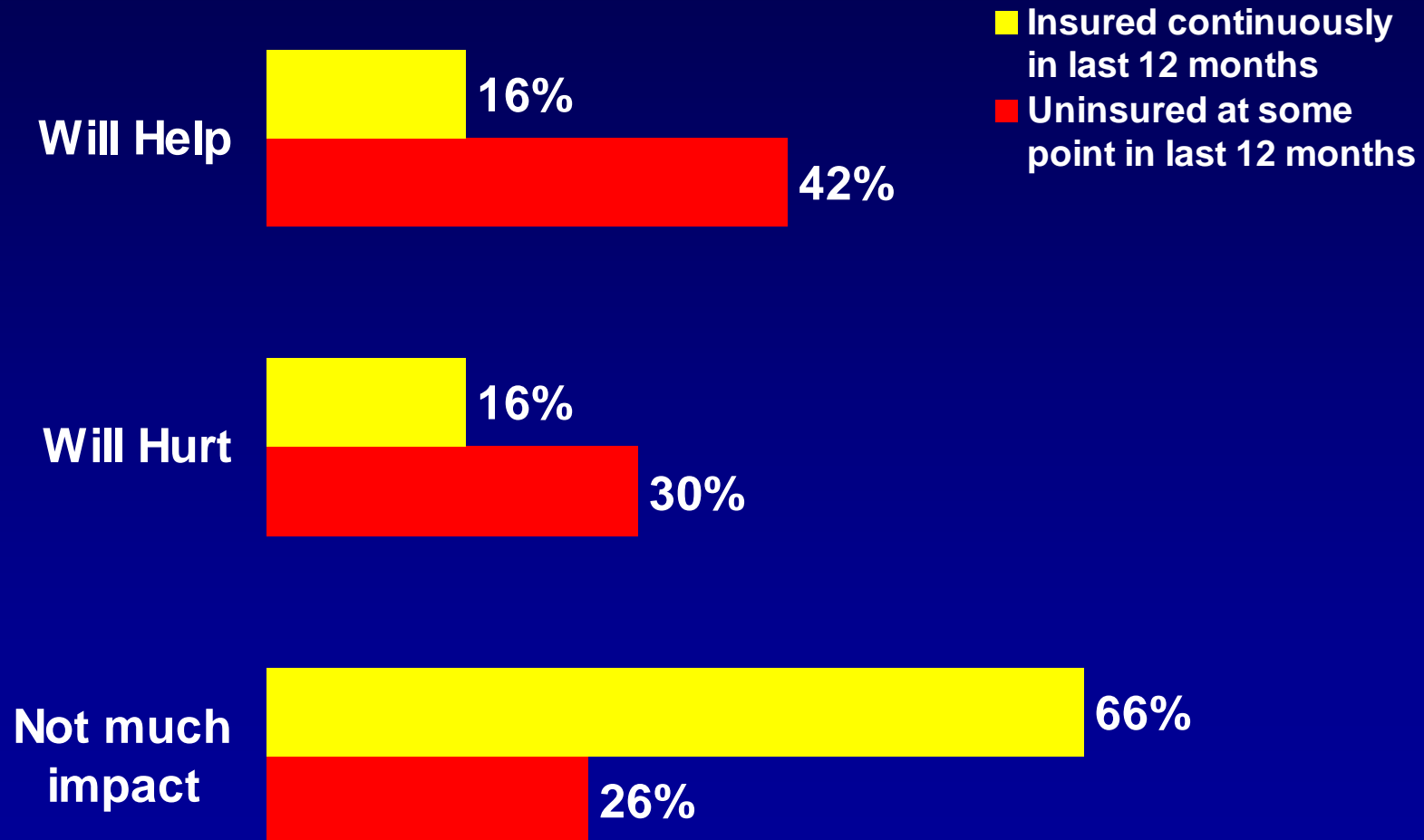
People who think the law will hurt:



Note: "Don't know" responses not shown

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Public confidence that the new Massachusetts Health Reform Law will help you personally

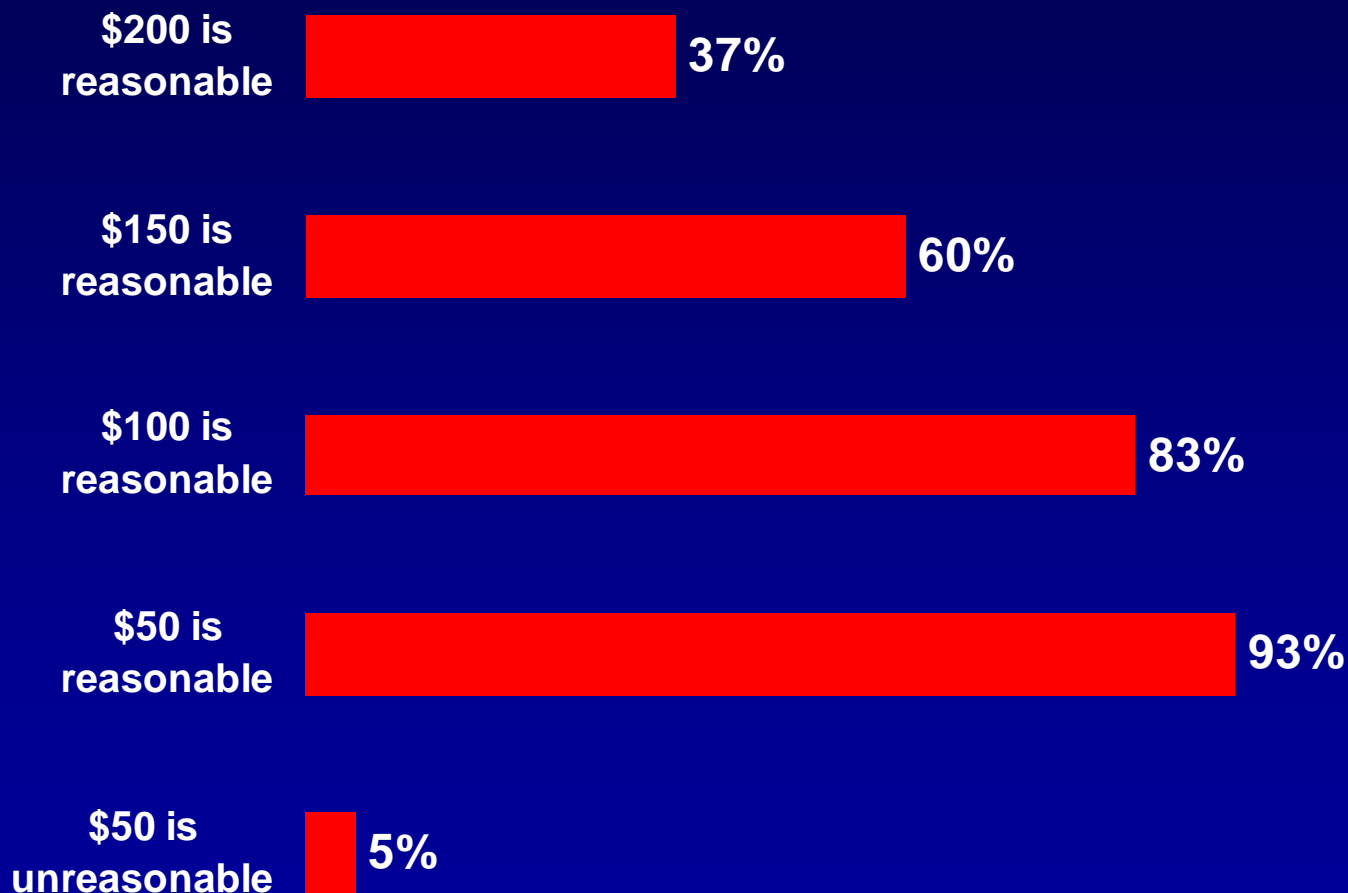


Note: "Don't know" responses not shown

Harvard School of Public Health/BCBS of Mass. Foundation/ICR September 2006

Support for Commonwealth Care Insurance Plans

Would each of these prices a month be a reasonable or unreasonable amount to require an uninsured single adult whose income is \$25,000 a year to pay for health insurance?

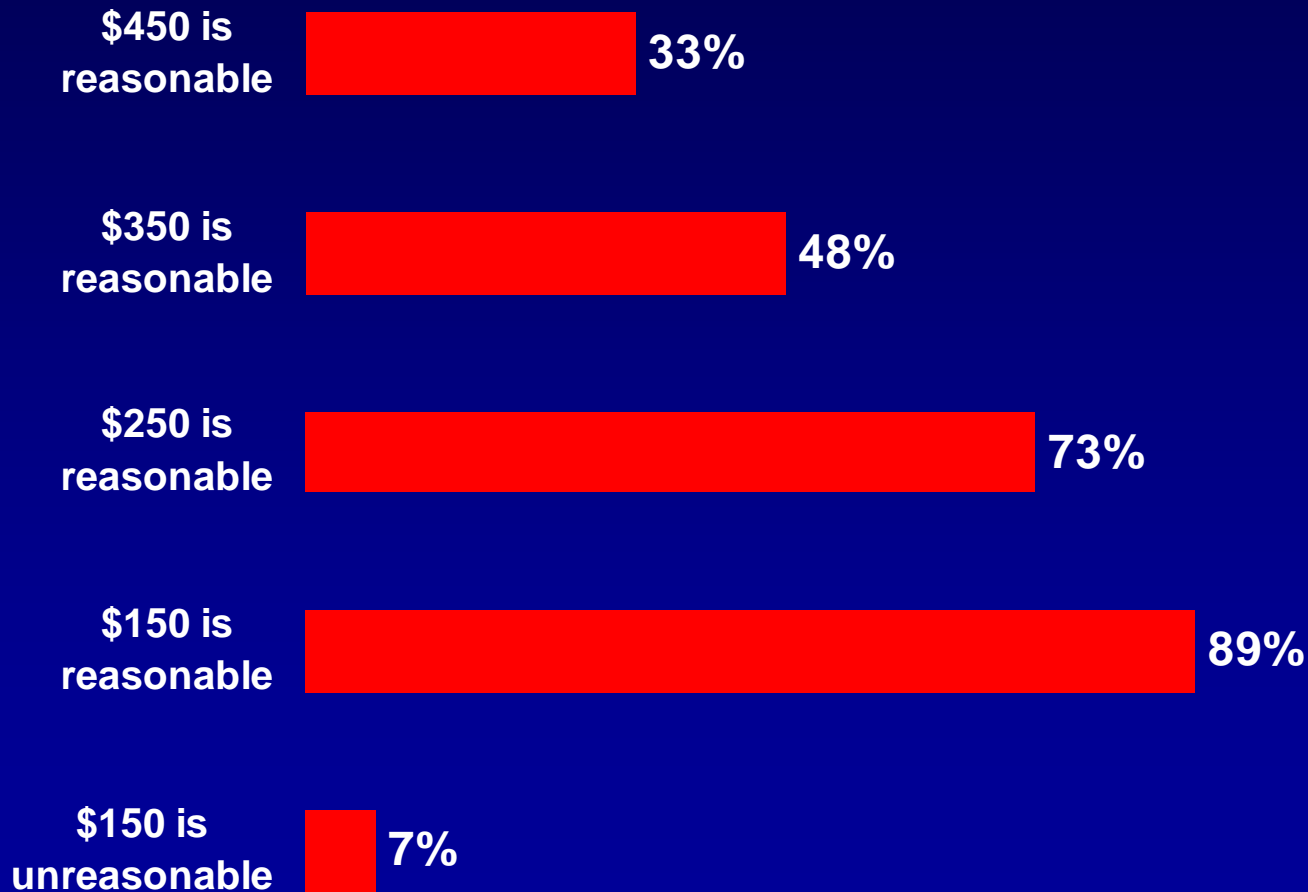


Note: "Don't know" responses not shown

Harvard School of Public Health/BCBS of Mass. Foundation/ICR September 2006

Support for Commonwealth Care Insurance Plans

Would each of these prices a month be a reasonable or unreasonable amount to require an uninsured family of four whose income is \$45,000 a year to pay for health insurance?

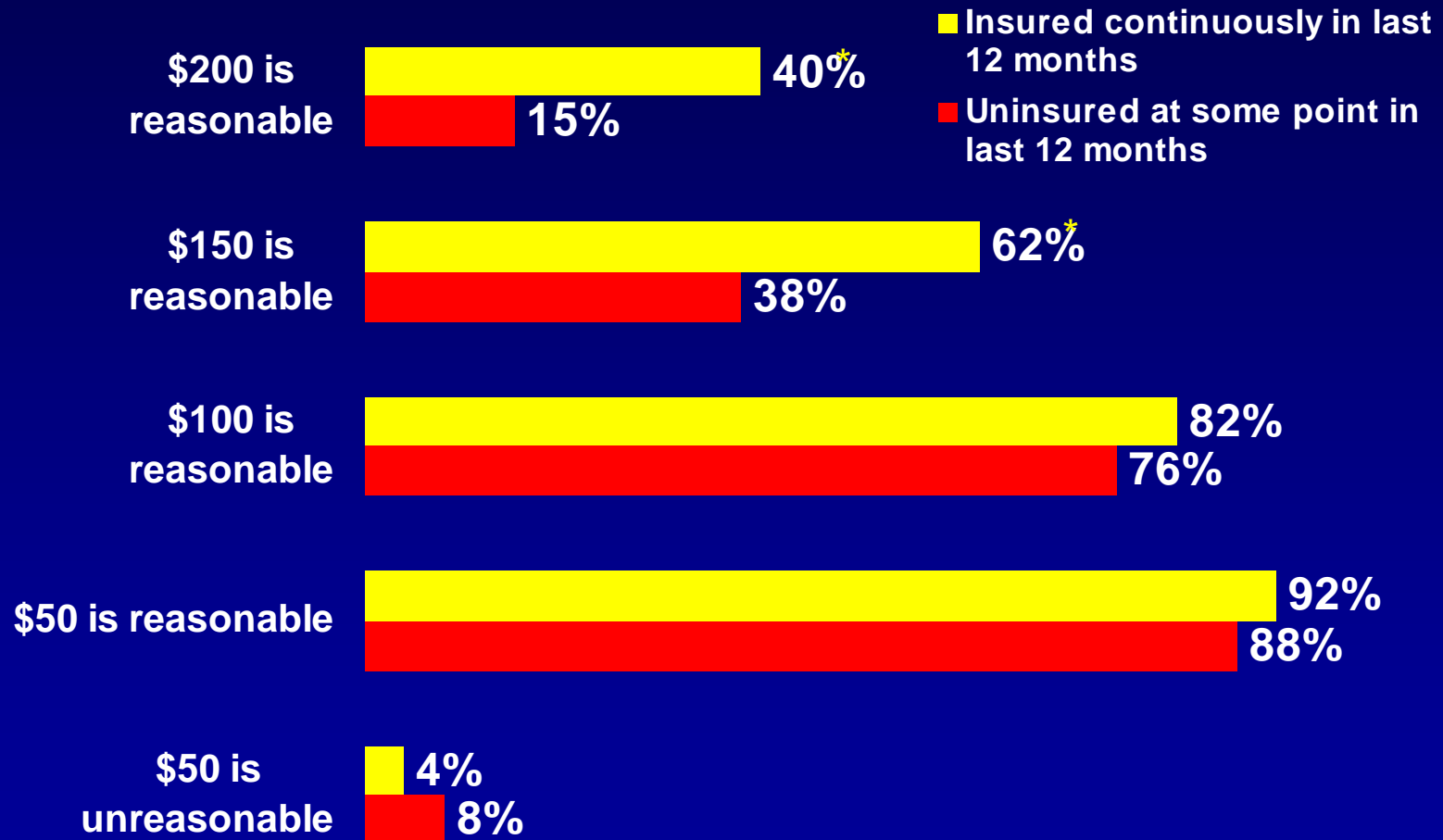


Note: "Don't know" responses not shown

Harvard School of Public Health/BCBS of Mass. Foundation/ICR September 2006

Support for Commonwealth Care Insurance Plans

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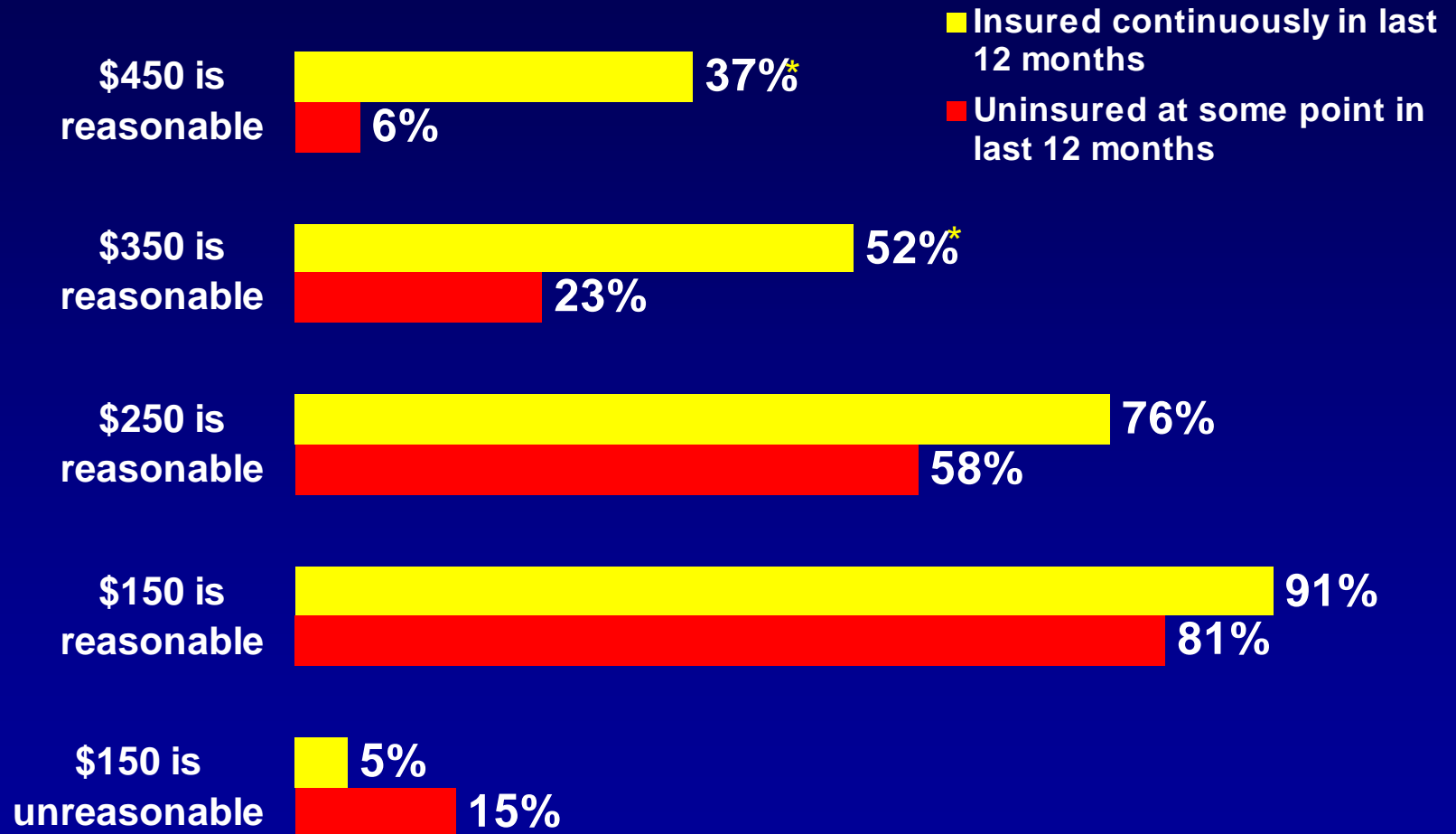
*Statistically significant difference from uninsured at $p \leq .05$

Note: "Don't know" responses not shown

Harvard School of Public Health/BCBS of Mass. Foundation/ICR September 2006

Support for Commonwealth Care Insurance Plans

Would each of these prices a month be a reasonable or unreasonable amount to require an uninsured family of four whose income is \$45,000 a year to pay for health insurance?



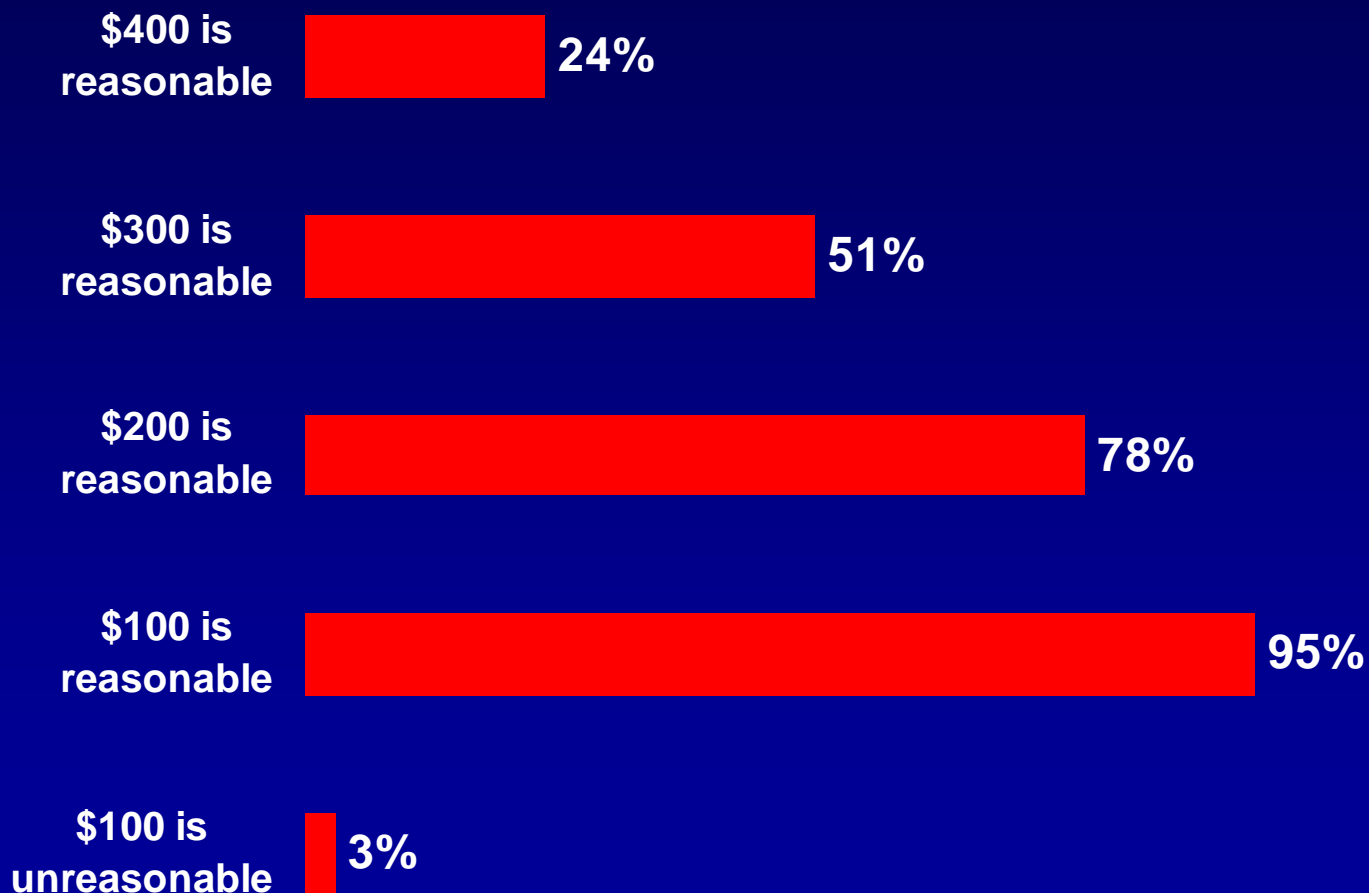
*Statistically significant difference from uninsured at $p \leq .05$

Note: "Don't know" responses not shown

Harvard School of Public Health/BCBS of Mass. Foundation/ICR September 2006

Support for Commonwealth Connector-Offered Insurance Plans

Would each of these prices a month be a reasonable or unreasonable amount to require an uninsured single adult whose income is **\$35,000** a year to pay for health insurance?

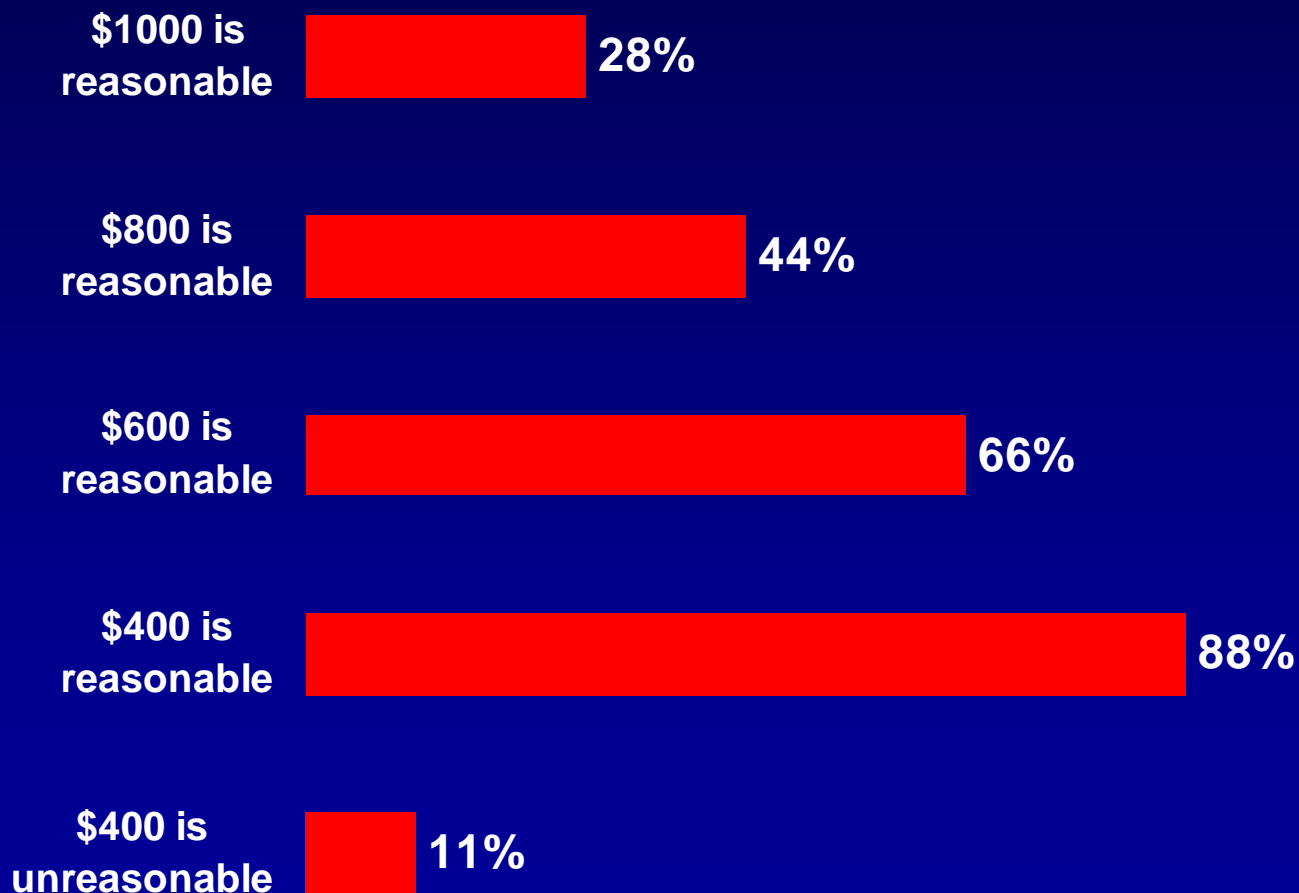


Note: "Don't know" responses not shown

Harvard School of Public Health/BCBS of Mass. Foundation/ICR September 2006

Support for Commonwealth Connector-Offered Insurance Plans

Would each of these prices a month be a reasonable or unreasonable amount to require an uninsured family of four whose income is \$70,000 a year to pay for health insurance?



Note: "Don't know" responses not shown

Harvard School of Public Health/BCBS of Mass. Foundation/ICR September 2006

Public Approval of the Massachusetts Health Reform Law, Medicare Rx Legislation and Clinton Health Care Plan

% approving or favoring

**Mass Health Reform
(September 2006)**



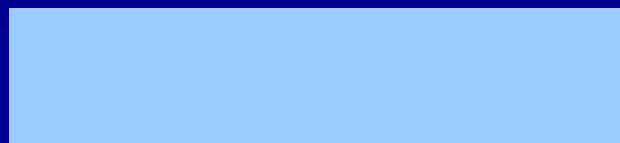
64%

**Medicare Rx
(December 2003¹)**



52%

**Clinton Health Care
Plan (April 1994²)**



43%

¹ CNN/USA Today/Gallup Poll (December 7, 2003) (National respondents)

² CNN/USA Today/Gallup Poll (April 16, 1994) (National respondents)

Implications for the Future

- **Need to maintain broad public support for legislation**
- **Legislation needs to be seen as comprehensive/many popular features/not just an individual mandate**
- **Educational campaigns need to focus on why mandate is critical to success**
- **Public skepticism about implementation needs to be addressed – establish visible benchmarks**
- **Concerns about small business problems need to be taken seriously – reduce administrative burden**
- **Future public support dependent upon Commonwealth-approved insurance plans being seen as affordable**

Methods

The data presented here are derived from a survey of the Massachusetts public. The survey was designed by a team of researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health. The instrument was approximately 18 minutes in length. Respondents could choose to have the interview conducted in either English or Spanish. Interviews were conducted with 1,031 randomly selected Massachusetts state residents, age 18 and older, via telephone by International Communications Research of Media, Pennsylvania. The interviewing period was September 11-18, 2006. The data were weighted to accurately reflect the demographics of the state's adult population as described by the U.S. Census.

When interpreting these findings, one should recognize that all surveys are subject to sampling error. Results may differ from what would be obtained if the whole Massachusetts population had been interviewed. The size of this error varies with the number of persons surveyed and the magnitude of difference in responses to each question. The sampling error for surveys of 1,031 respondents is ± 4 percentage points.