



Blue Shield of California Foundation is an Independent Licensee of the Blue Shield Association

the intersection of domestic violence and health care

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our presenters



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Blue Shield Against Violence



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Lisa James

Futures Without Violence

today's discussion

- Welcome and introductions
- Review survey, methodology, and results
- Health care, ACA, and domestic violence
- Blue Shield Against Violence work
- Q & A



blue shield against violence

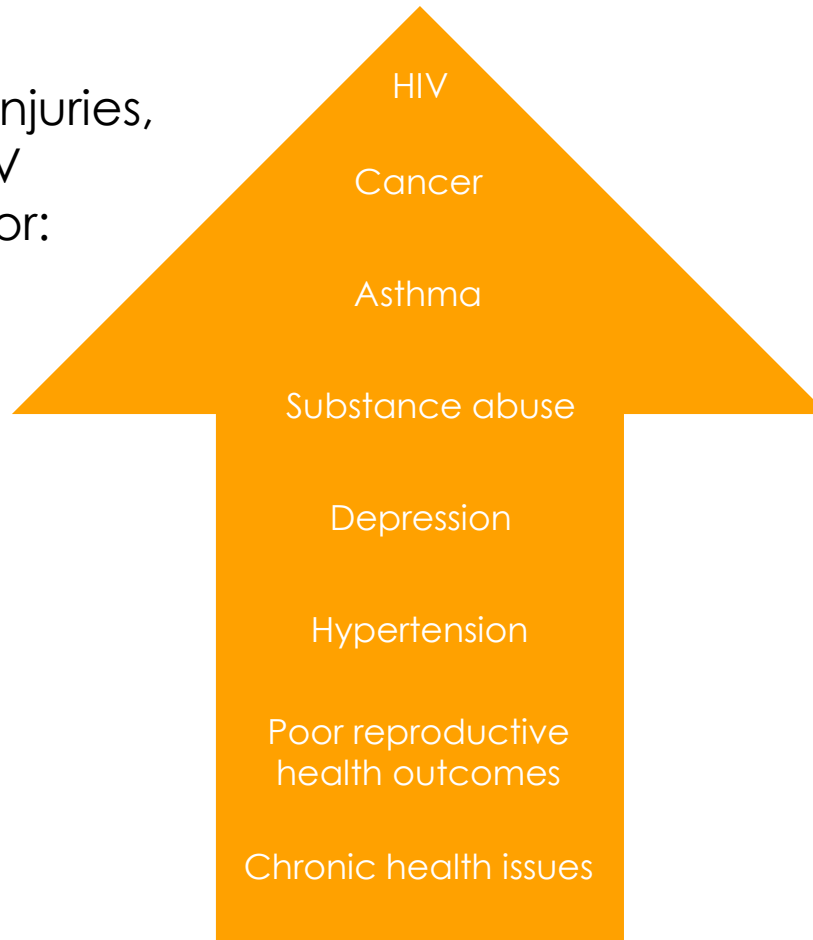
- Why we funded the 2013 DV Poll
- Why this work is so important



what does health have to do with DV?

Long-term health consequences

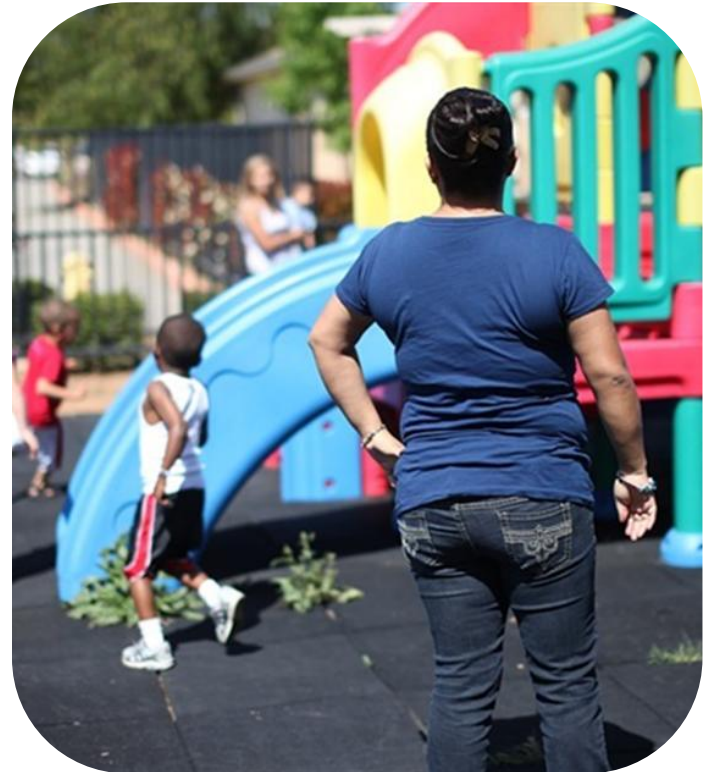
In addition to injuries,
exposure to DV
increases risk for:



why focus on health care?

In addition:

- Many DV victims will never go to a shelter, but they may trust their medical provider
- Need to create new entry points to access DV services that help reduce continued exposure to violence
- Policy opportunities around the Affordable Care Act and prevention guidelines
- Poll results show support for new entry points



what do Californians think?

Presentation of California Statewide Survey Results

Domestic Violence

February 2014

Basics and Context

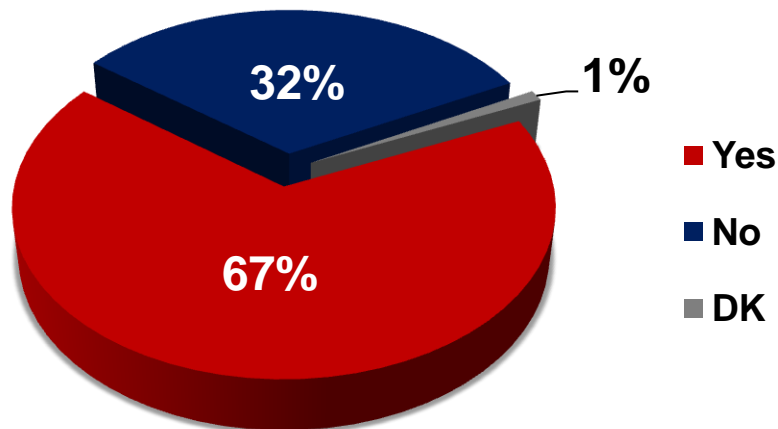
Survey Methodology

- N=800 adults in California age 18 or older
- Fielding conducted October 8 - 15, 2013
 - Random Digit Dialing (RDD) using live telephone interviewers calling both landlines and cell phones
- Surveys conducted in both English and Spanish
- Overall Margin of Error is $\pm 3.46\%$

Two-thirds of Californians Affected by Domestic Violence

As far as you know, have any of the following been a victim of domestic violence in their lifetime?

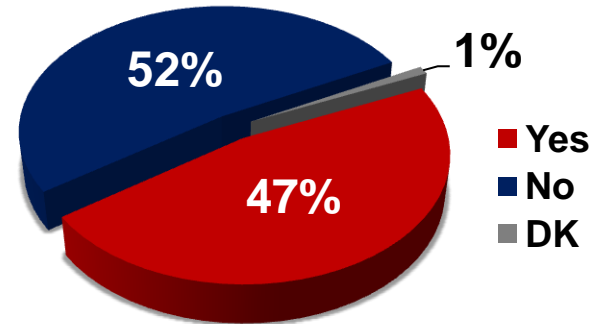
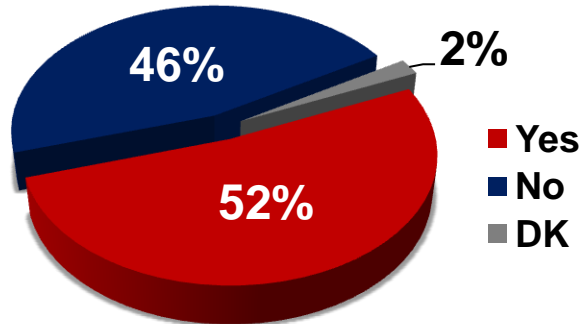
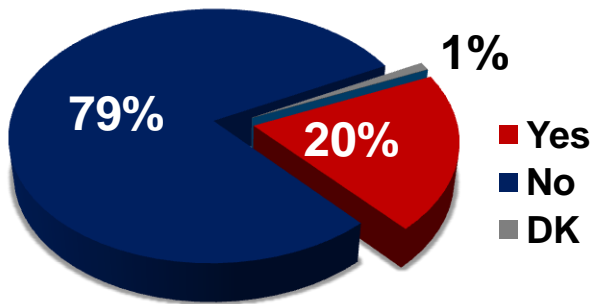
**Total Affected
(You/Friend/Family)**



You

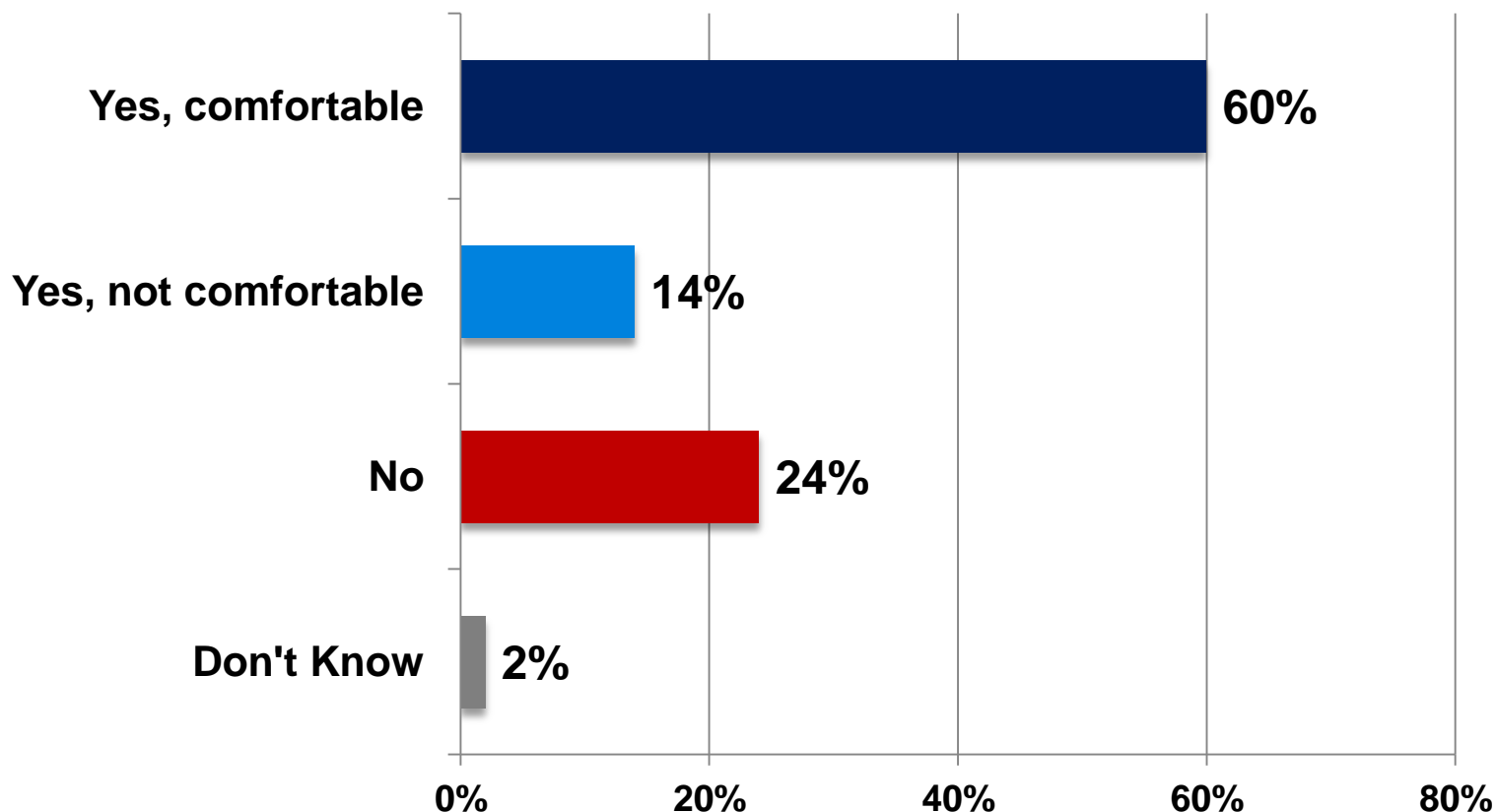
A Friend

A Family Member



A Strong Majority of Adults Have a Doctor They Would Feel Comfortable with Asking About Domestic Violence

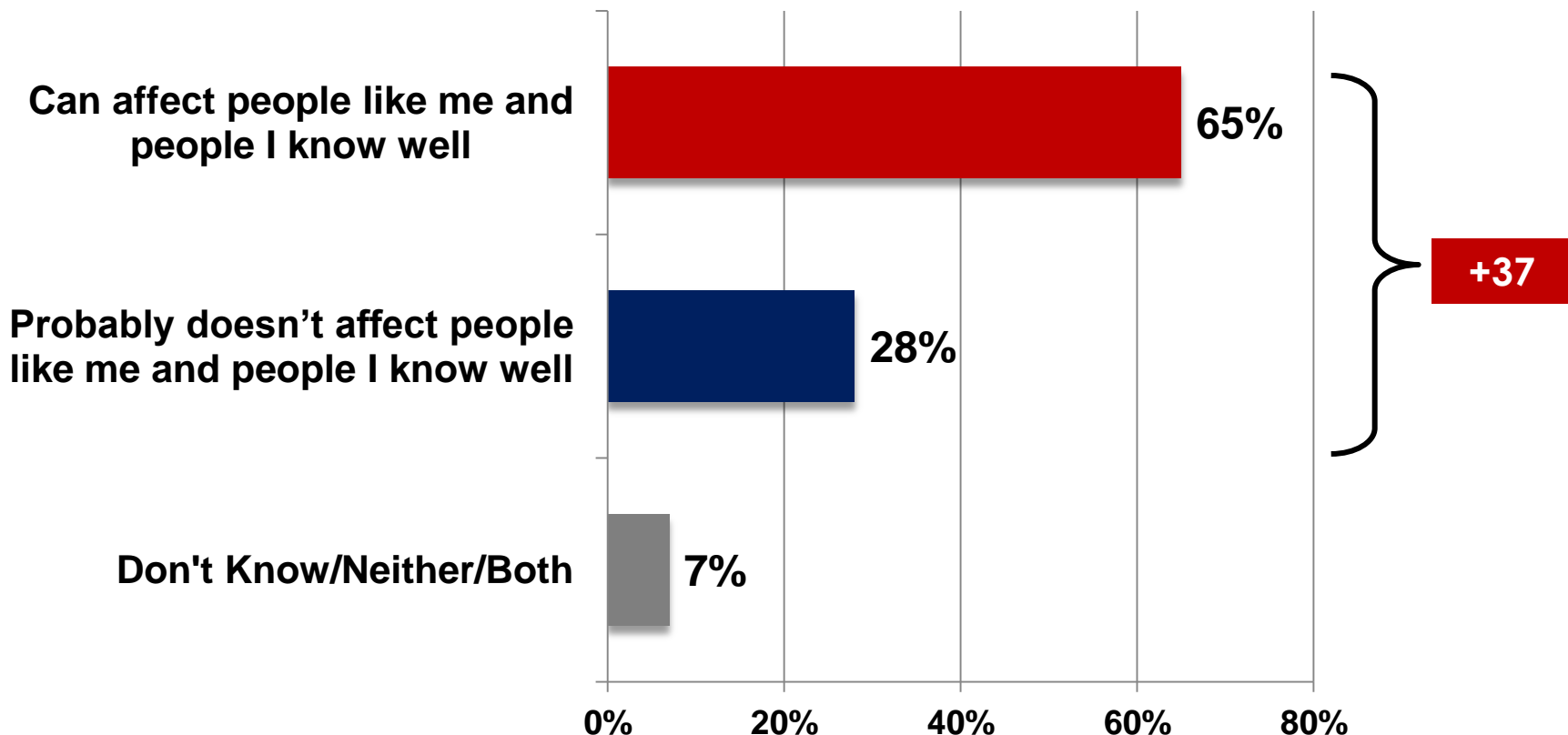
Do you have a doctor that you or your family sees regularly? (IF YES) Would you say you would feel comfortable asking your own doctor about a personal domestic violence concern?



Beliefs About Domestic Violence

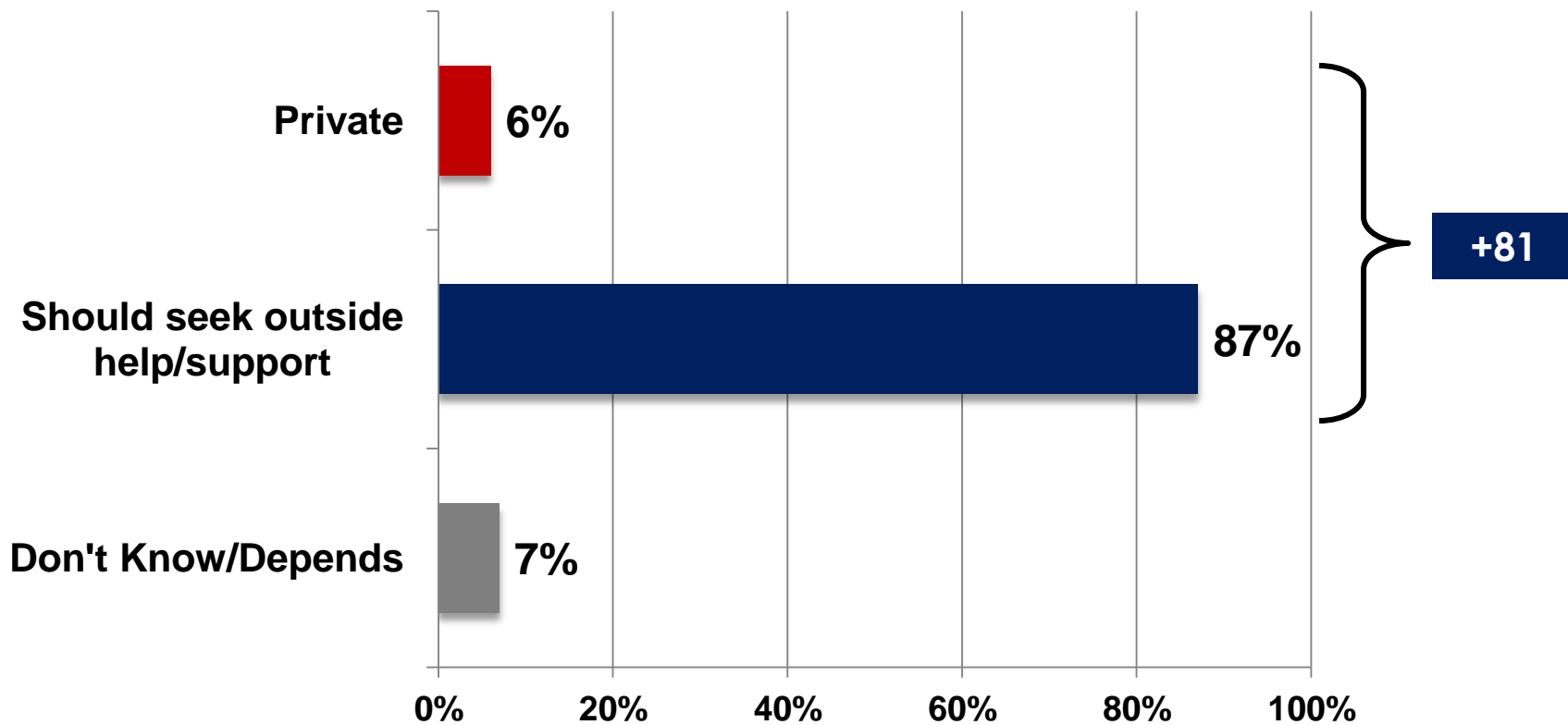
Overwhelming Majority of Adults Thinks Domestic Violence Can Affect People Like Themselves

In thinking about domestic violence, would you say it is an issue that typically:



Even More Adults Think People Should Seek Outside Help and Support In Dealing With Domestic Violence

Do you view domestic violence as a private matter best addressed within a family, or is it something someone should seek outside help or support for?



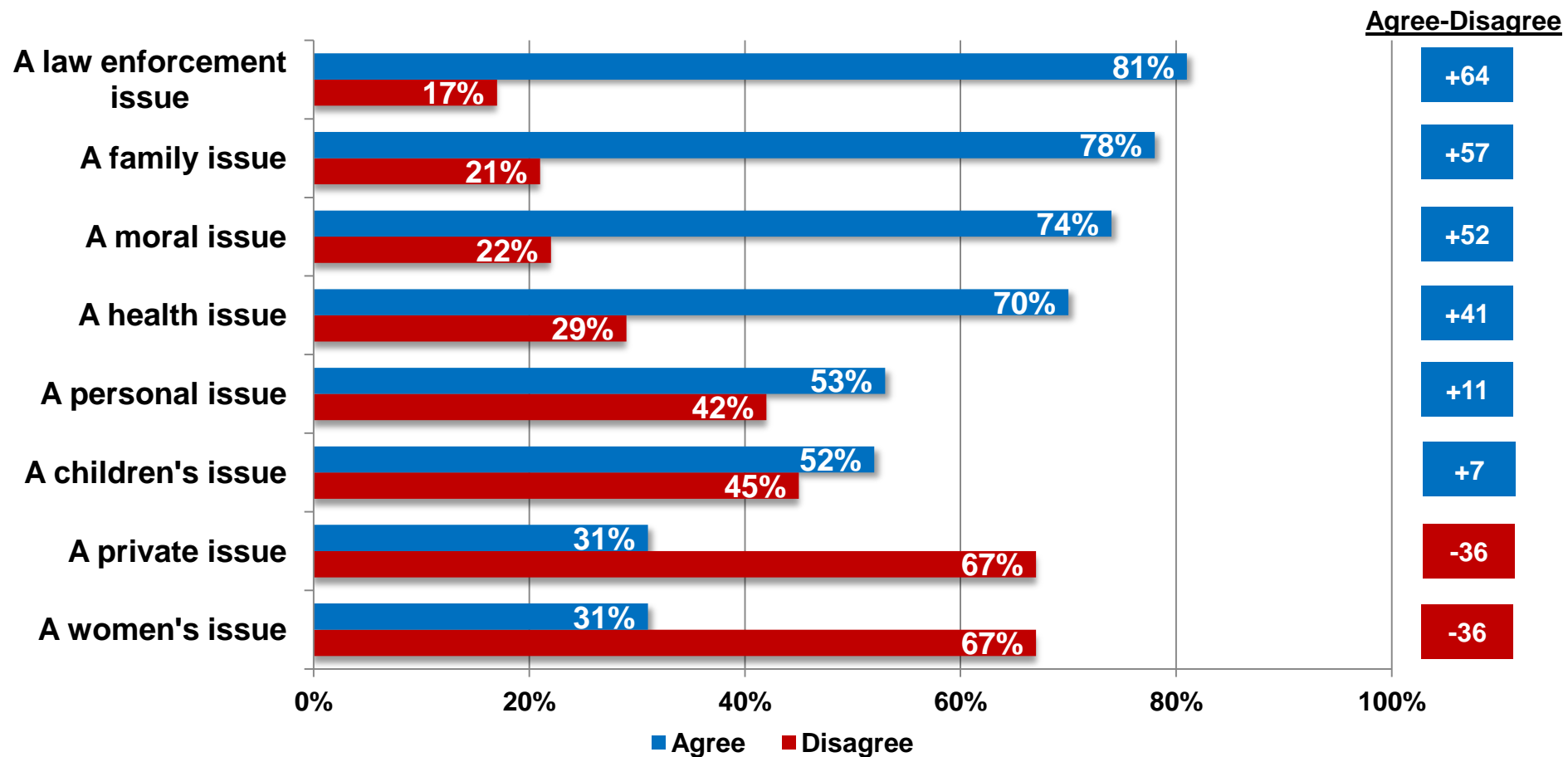
Mental Health Experts, Workers at Domestic Violence Shelters and Doctors Seen as Most Trustworthy to Help Victims

Now I am going to read you a list of different types of people who could help a domestic violence victim. If you were a victim, or knew someone who was, please tell me whether you would trust that person a great deal, somewhat, only a little, or not at all.



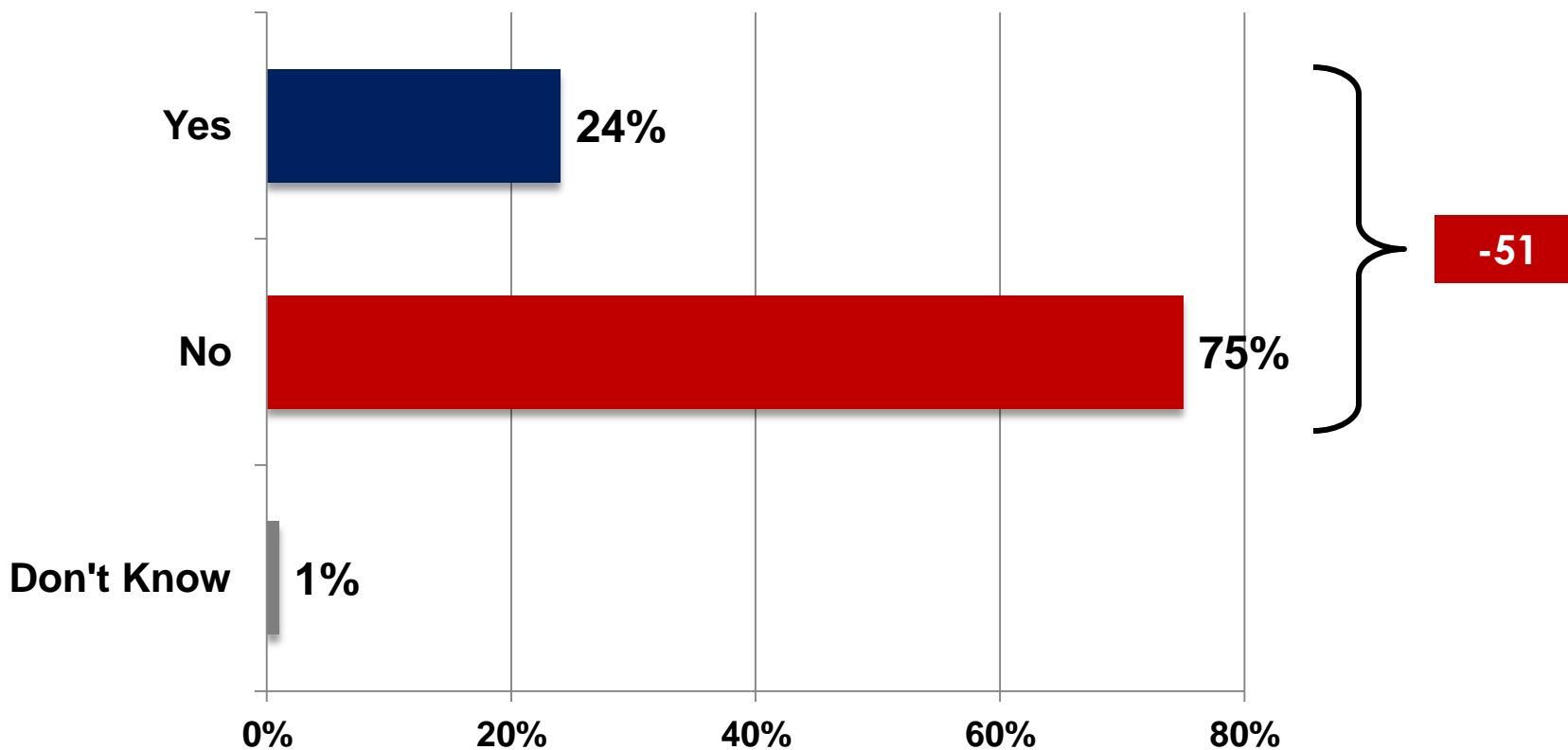
Most Agree Domestic Violence is a Law Enforcement Issue, but also a Moral, Family and Health Issue

Now I am going to read you some descriptions about how some people think of domestic violence. Please tell me if you agree or disagree with each description: (READ AND RANDOMIZE)



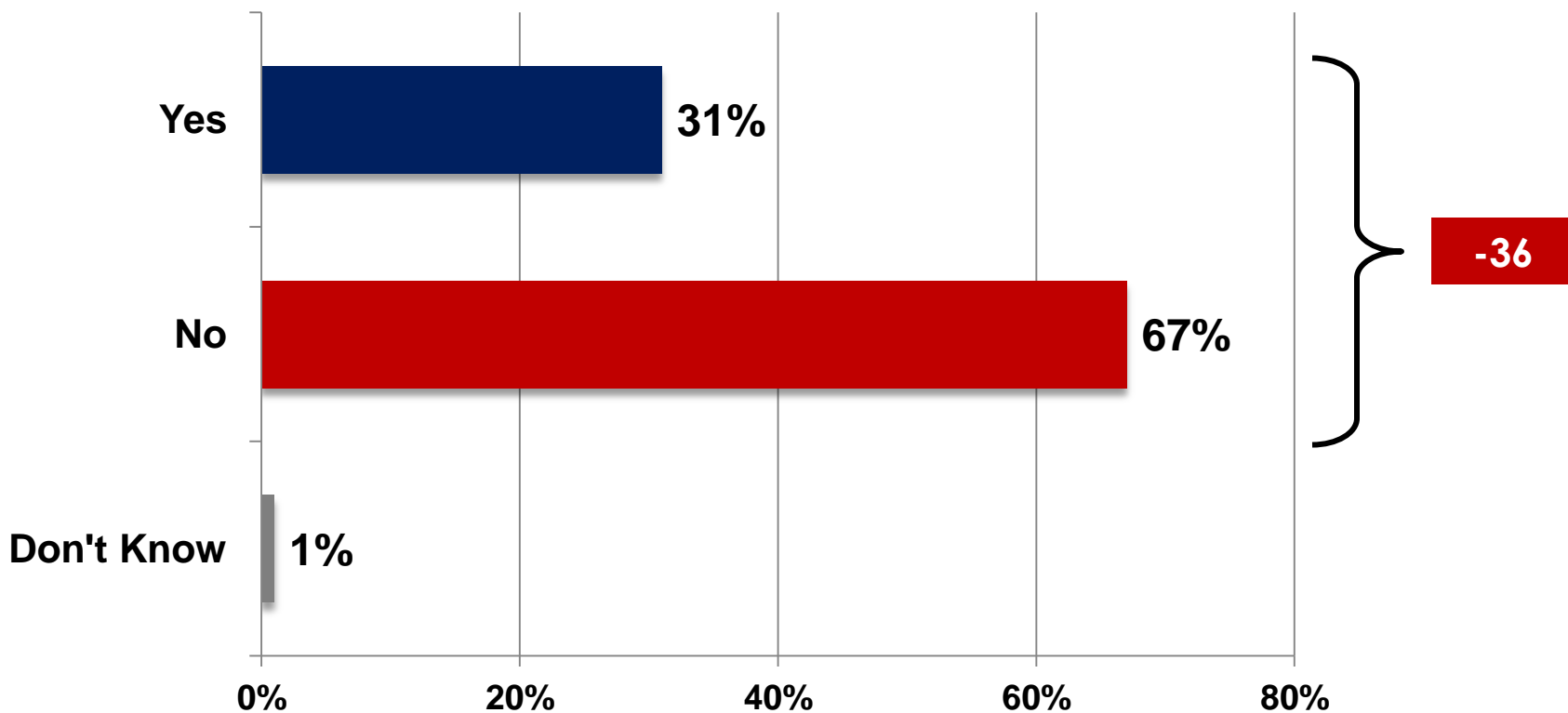
Three-Quarters of Adults Have Never Been Asked by their Provider If They've Been Threatened or Hurt By a Partner or Spouse

Have you ever been asked by your healthcare provider about whether you have been threatened or physically hurt by your partner or spouse?



Most Adults Don't Know The Location of a Domestic Violence Shelter In Their Community

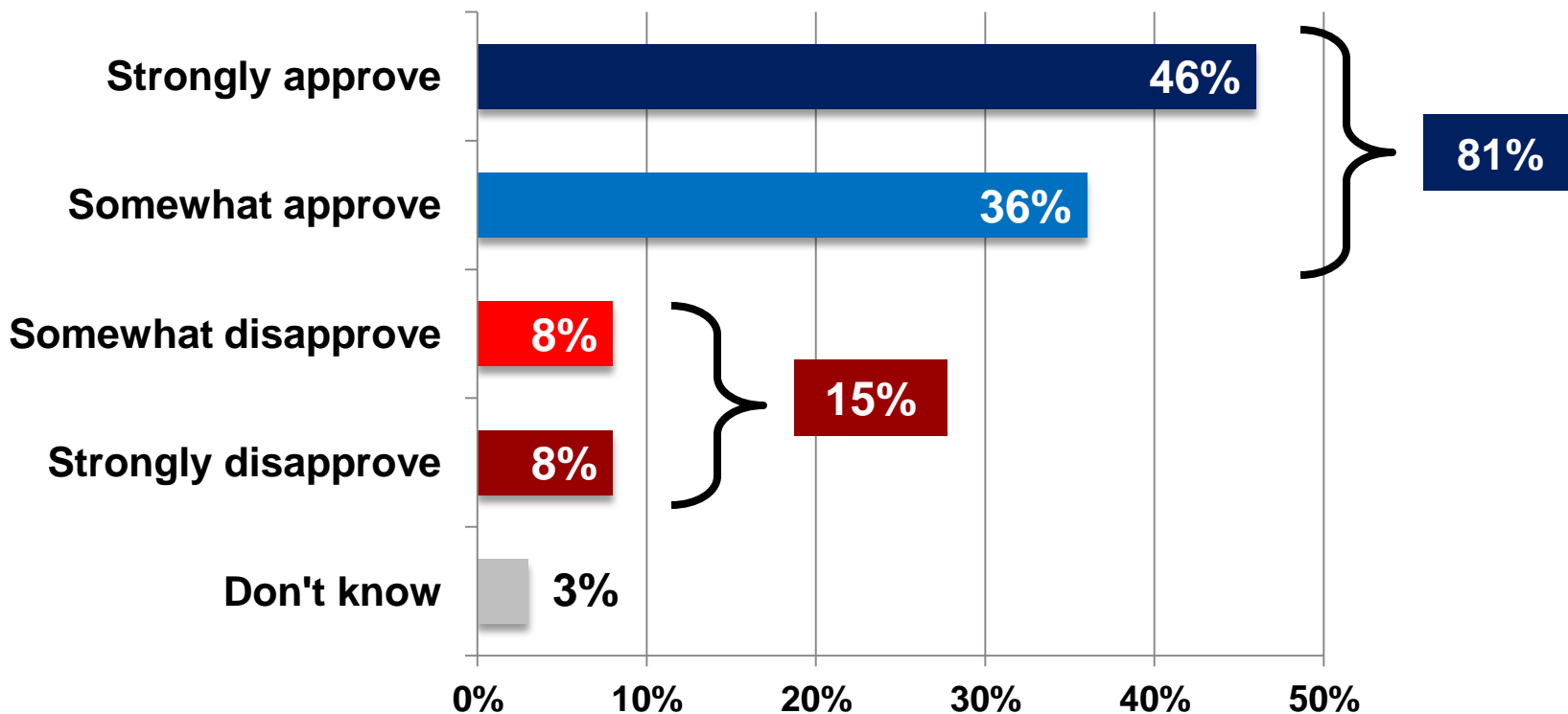
If you needed one or needed to recommend one to someone, do you know where you would find a domestic violence shelter in your community?



Can Health Care Help Reduce Rates of Domestic Violence?

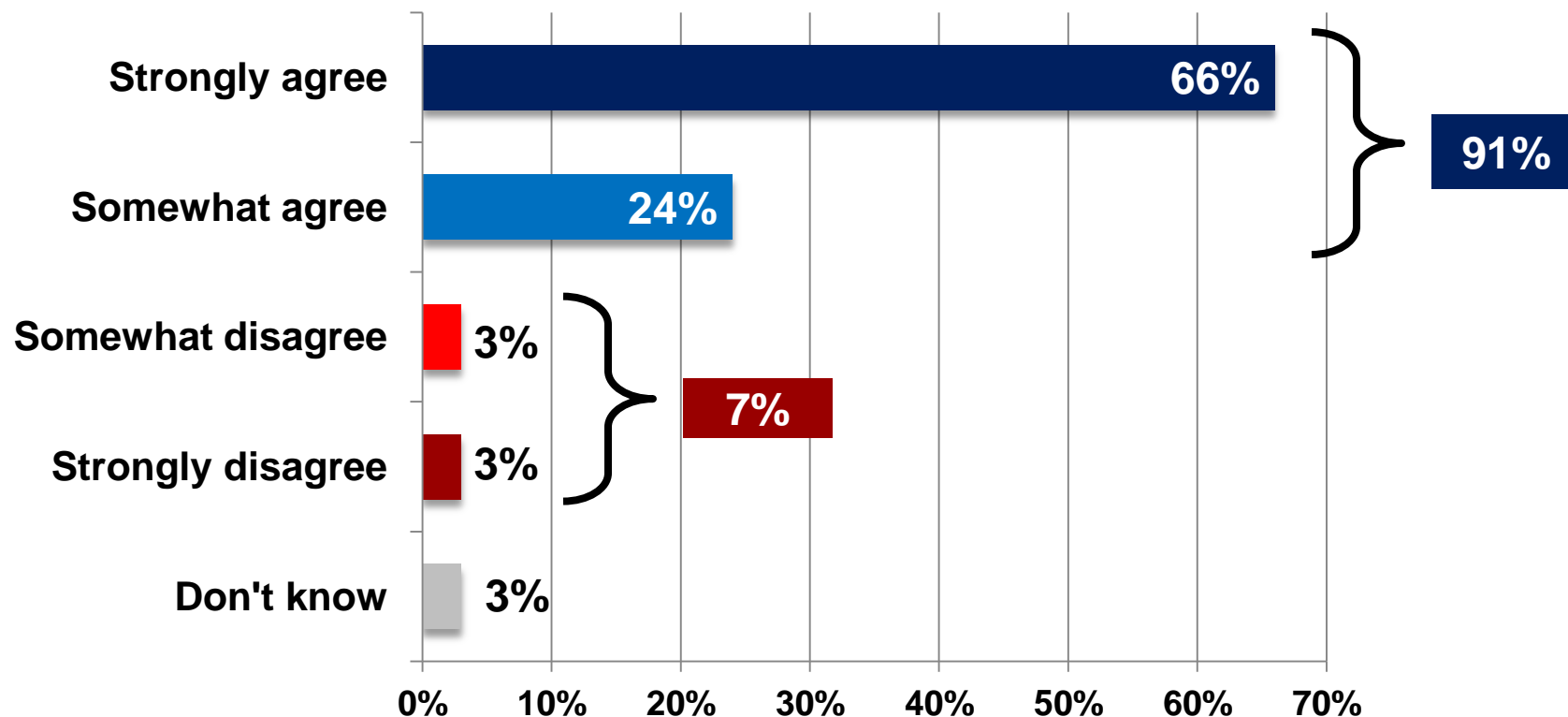
Overwhelming Majority Approve of Treating Domestic Violence As a Public Health Issue

Some people have suggested that domestic violence should be treated more as a public health issue. Specifically, they believe health care professionals like doctors and nurses should look for signs of domestic violence among patients and, if necessary, ask the patient if they are experiencing problems at home. If they determine the patient is a victim of domestic violence, the victim could be referred for help. After hearing this, would you say you approve or disapprove of dealing with domestic violence in this way?



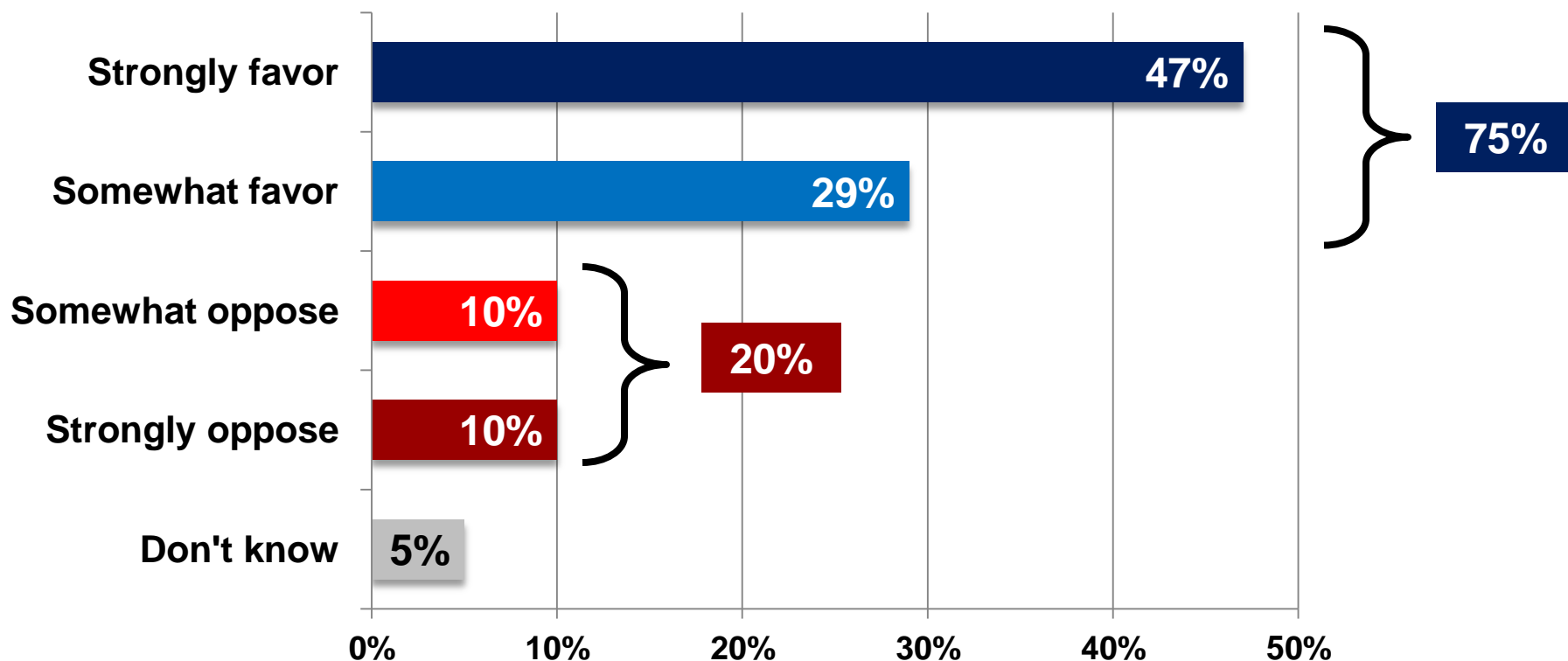
Overwhelming Majority Agree That Victims of Domestic Violence Might Be Afraid of Police Involvement

Please tell me if you agree or disagree with this statement: For various reasons, victims of domestic violence might be just as afraid about getting the police involved in their personal domestic violence dispute as they are about facing their abuser again?



Three-Quarters of Adults Favor Requiring Healthcare Providers to Screen Patients for Signs of Domestic Violence

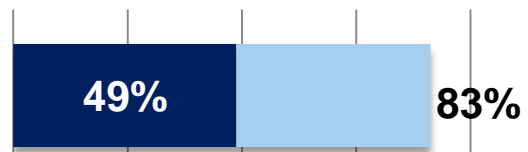
As you may know, next year, health care providers will be required to start screening patients for domestic violence and refer them to special services or counseling if necessary. Do you favor or oppose requiring health care providers to screen patients for domestic violence abuse?



Treating Domestic Violence as a Health Care Issue Should be a Top Priority for Reducing Occurrences

Now, I'd like to read you some statements made by SUPPORTERS of treating domestic violence more like a public health issue and less like a criminal justice issue. After you hear each one, please tell me how convincing each statement is as a reason to treat domestic violence more like a public health issue. Please tell me if you find the reason to be very convincing, somewhat convincing, a little convincing, or not at all a convincing reason treat domestic violence more like a public health issue and less like a criminal justice issue?

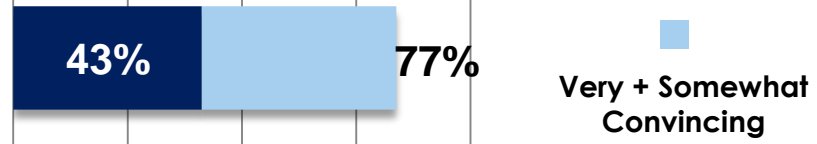
(HEALTH ISSUE) Domestic violence is a health care matter. Doctors, nurses and other health care providers should look for signs of domestic violence. Just like they check for blood pressure, cholesterol, mammograms, the prostate, and screen for cancer, these health care professionals should be asking patients about domestic violence if they notice clear signs of abuse



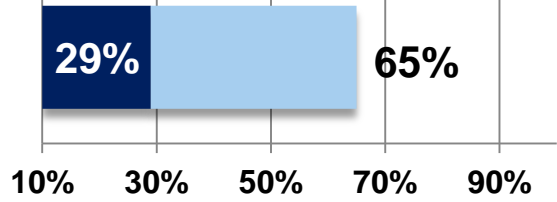
(PREVENTION) We need to stop domestic violence before it starts. By identifying signs early and preventing violence before it starts we can save victims from future danger, trauma and abuses that can lead to chronic health problems and even loss of life. And we can save money from future health care and criminal justice involvement that would otherwise be necessary if we don't get involved



(STATUS QUO) The current system for helping domestic violence victims is not working. If a victim needs to move out of their home and into a shelter to escape the violence then it is already too late. We need a better approach that identifies signs of trouble and helps a potential victim before violence happens



(HEALTH/NOT POLICE) Domestic violence is a health care matter. Doctors, counselors, friends and family can help resolve problems without getting the police or the legal system involved. Families run the risk of being torn apart and compounding domestic disputes when the authorities get involved when the problems they face could instead be dealt with professional intervention and support from friends and family



key findings

- Californians view **healthcare providers as one of the most trusted** sources for victims of domestic violence – second only to shelter employees.
- **81%** Approve of treating domestic violence as a **public health issue**
- **78%** Support **training for doctors and nurses** to more effectively screen for abuse and provide services for victims.

what does this mean for health care?
*major changes in health policy
in support of screening and response*

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force

- January 2013 recommendations state that there is sufficient evidence to support domestic violence screening and interventions in health settings for women “of childbearing age.” (46 years)
- Means screening is included in the essential health benefits package in Medicaid and in the exchange



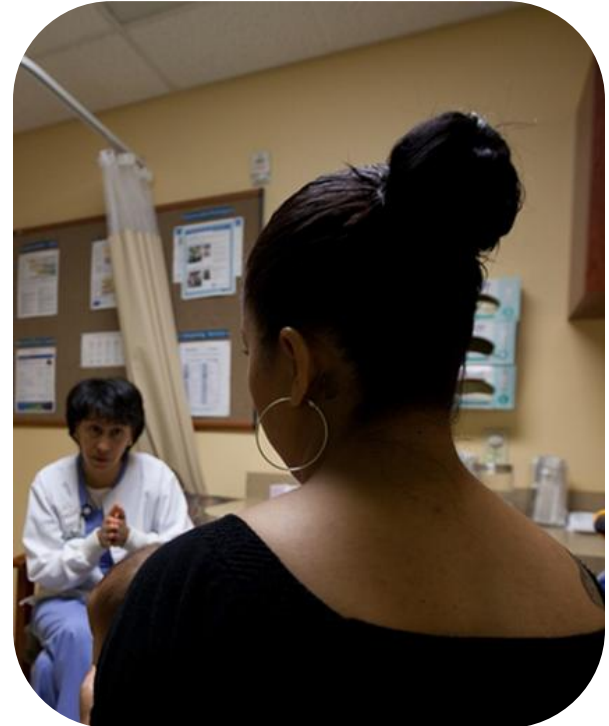
ACA benefits for women



- Domestic violence no longer considered pre-existing condition
- Women have a *new* range of preventive health screenings at no cost share for patient...including domestic and interpersonal violence!

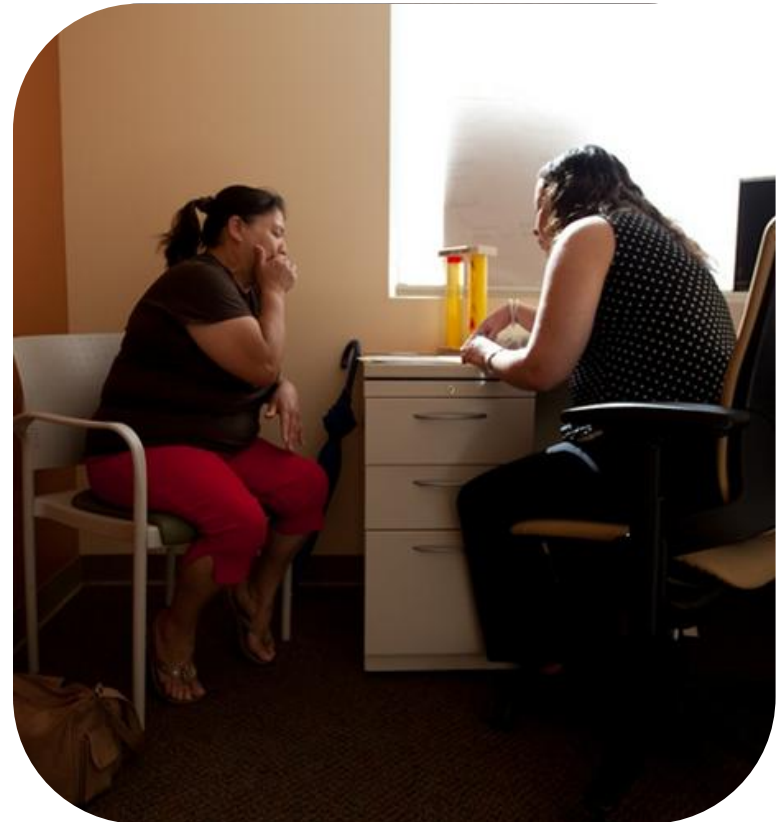
screening

- Screening broadly defined and will vary from plan to plan
- HHS says that it “may consist of a few, brief, open-ended questions”
- Futures Without Violence can provide examples of screening tools—such as a brochure based assessment—which can be effective



counseling

- Counseling will vary from plan to plan
- HHS has said that counseling provides basic information, referrals, tools, safety plans, and provider education tools.
- For tools and resources available – check out healthcaresaboutipv.org



counseling/screening locations



Where can the screening/brief counseling for DV/IPV take place?

- Anywhere; there are no limits on the settings where a screening may take place – this could be done in partnership with DV advocates
- Plans will make setting-specific decisions

how is the foundation responding?

partnerships to increase health & safety



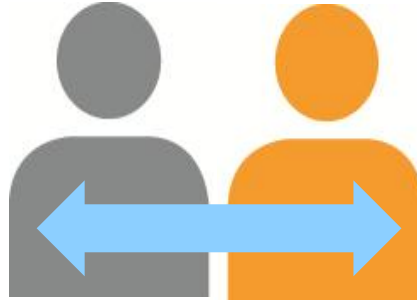
Increased access

- Healthcare providers connect patients to DV services
- DV advocates connect clients to health services

Prevention and early intervention

- DV assessment in primary care settings
- Health screening and basic health services in DV programs

community-based partnerships + best practices



- Shared leadership
- Policy changes in both health and DV programs
- Bi-directional learning
- Warm referrals -> increased utilization
- Co-location of services
 - > Advocates in health settings
 - > Health care offered on-site in DV programs

healthcare providers make a difference!

Women who talked to their health care provider about experiencing abuse were

4 **times more likely** to use an intervention

2.6 **times more likely** to exit the abusive relationship

you can make a difference!

advocates play an important role in connecting their clients to healthcare



17% of abused women reported that a partner prevented them from accessing health care

compared to **2%** of non-abused women

questions?

thank you!

- For more information about the 2013 Poll, visit:
<http://www.blueshieldcafoundation.org/californians-attitudes-domestic-violence>
- For tools for patients, providers and advocates go to:
www.healthcaresaboutipv.org
- Blue Shield of California Foundation:
<http://www.blueshieldcafoundation.org>
- Futures Without Violence:
<http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/>
- Tulchin Research:
www.tulchinresearch.com