

HEALTH CARE COST CONCERNS AMONG OLDER RESIDENTS OF MASSACHUSETTS

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PROBLEMS PAYING FOR HEALTH CARE IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS

% of Massachusetts residents \geq age 65 who report that paying for the cost of health care services or Rx drugs has gotten worse in the past 5 years

All seniors



23%

Seniors in better health

(in excellent / good health, not disabled)



15%

Seniors in poorer health

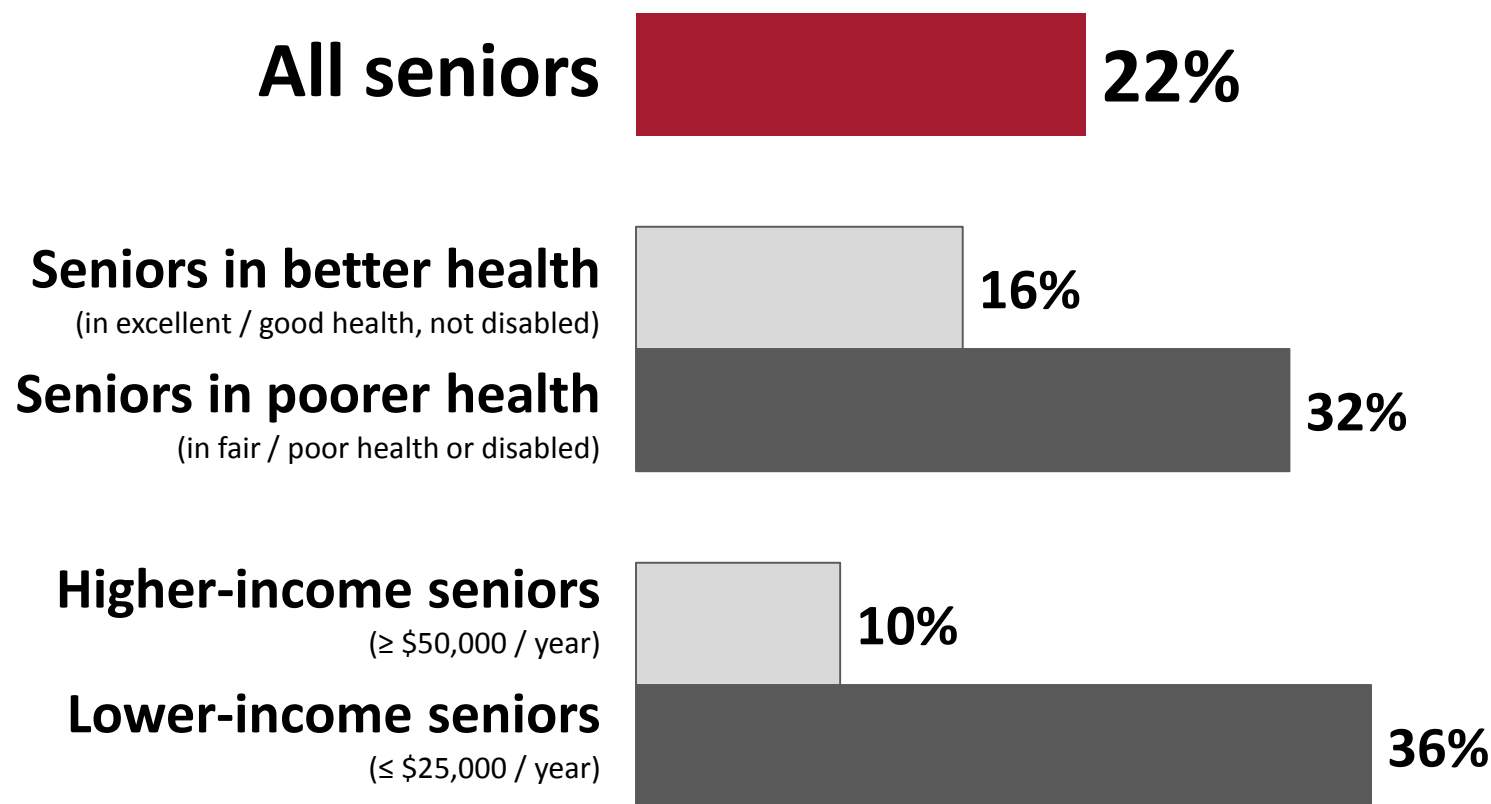
(in fair / poor health or disabled)



34%

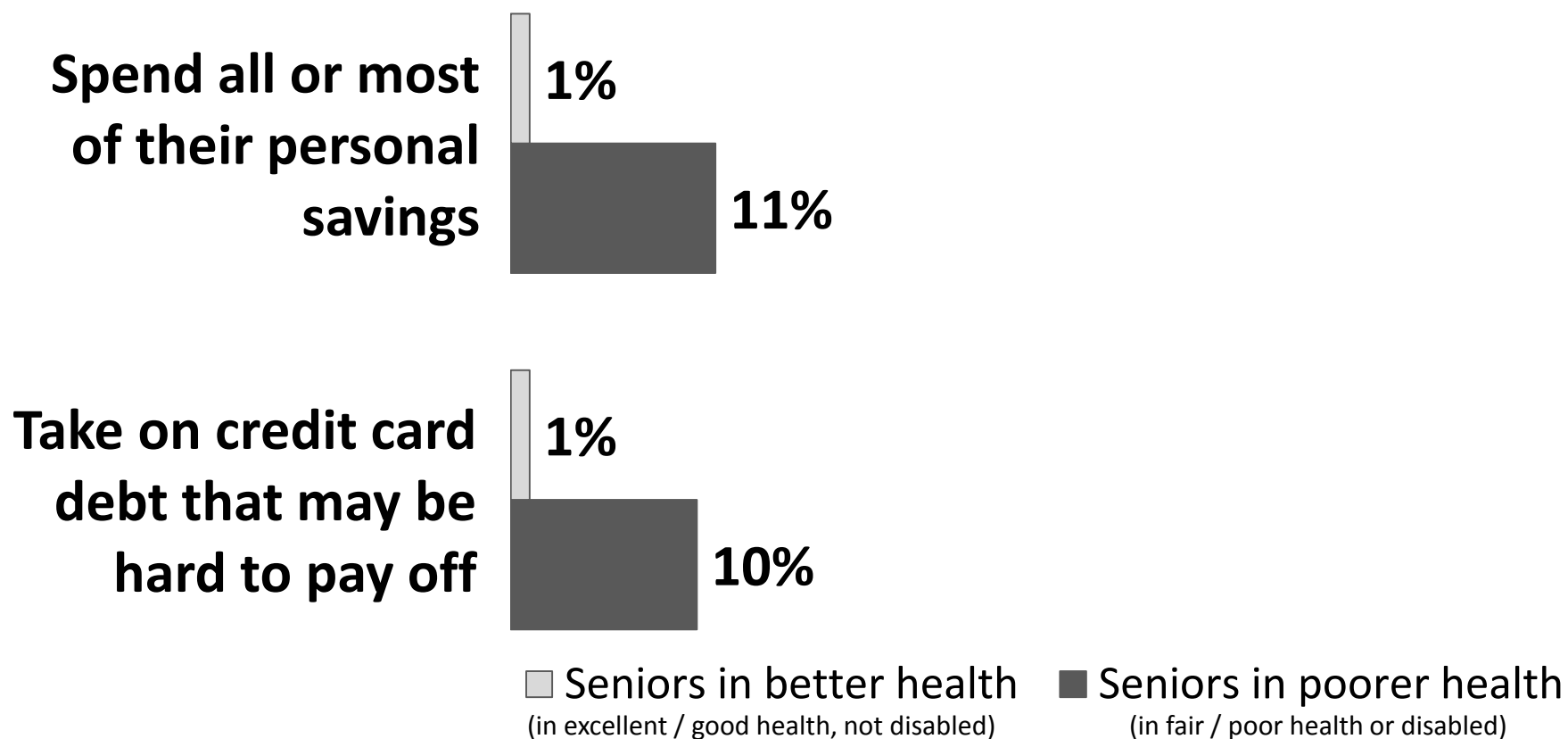
LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN FUTURE ABILITY TO PAY FOR HEALTH CARE

% of Massachusetts residents \geq age 65 who are not confident they will have enough money or insurance to pay for health care they may need in the future



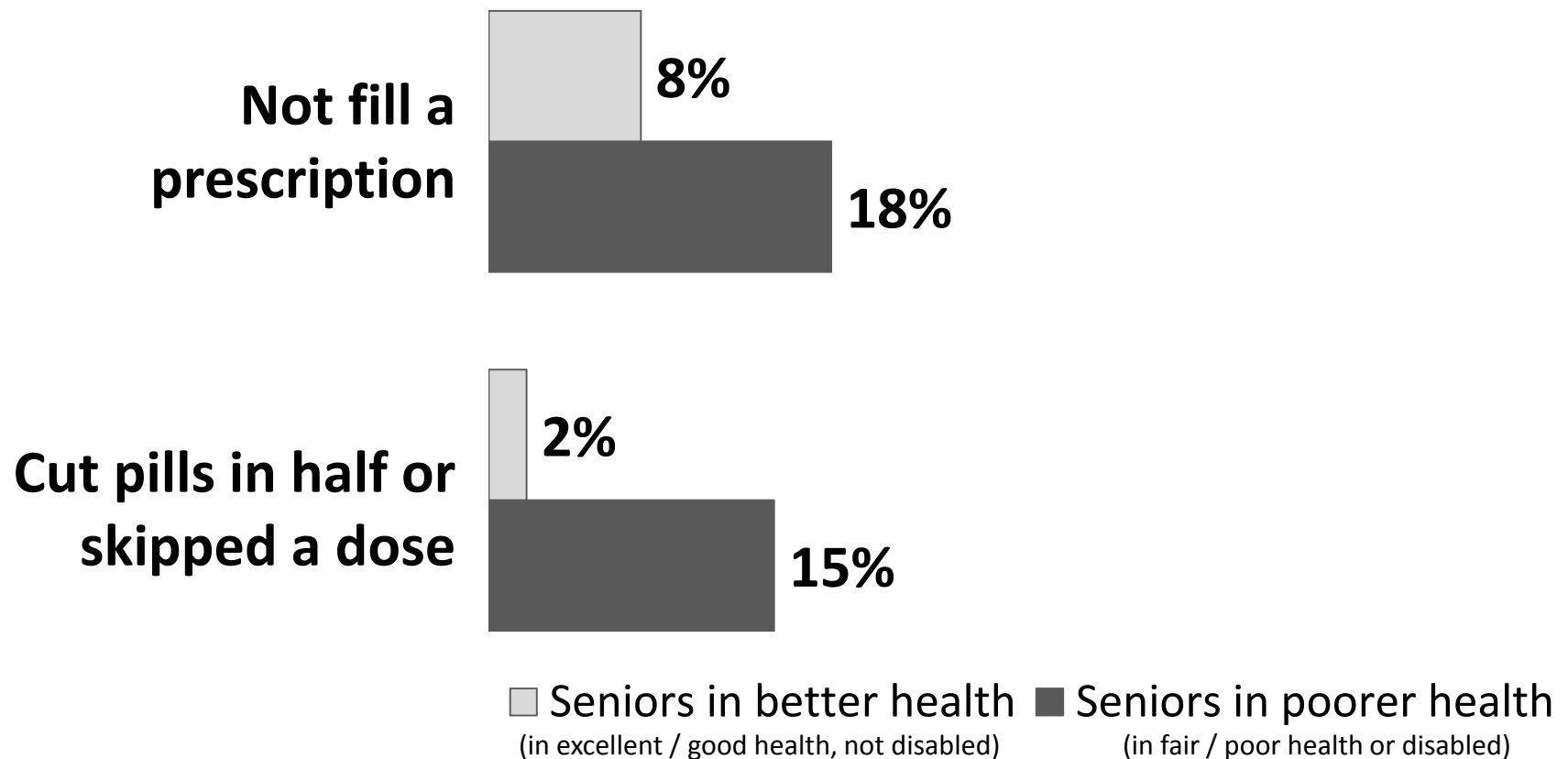
CONSEQUENCES OF LARGE MEDICAL BILLS, BY LEVEL OF HEALTH

% of Massachusetts residents \geq age 65 who had to do the following because of large medical bills



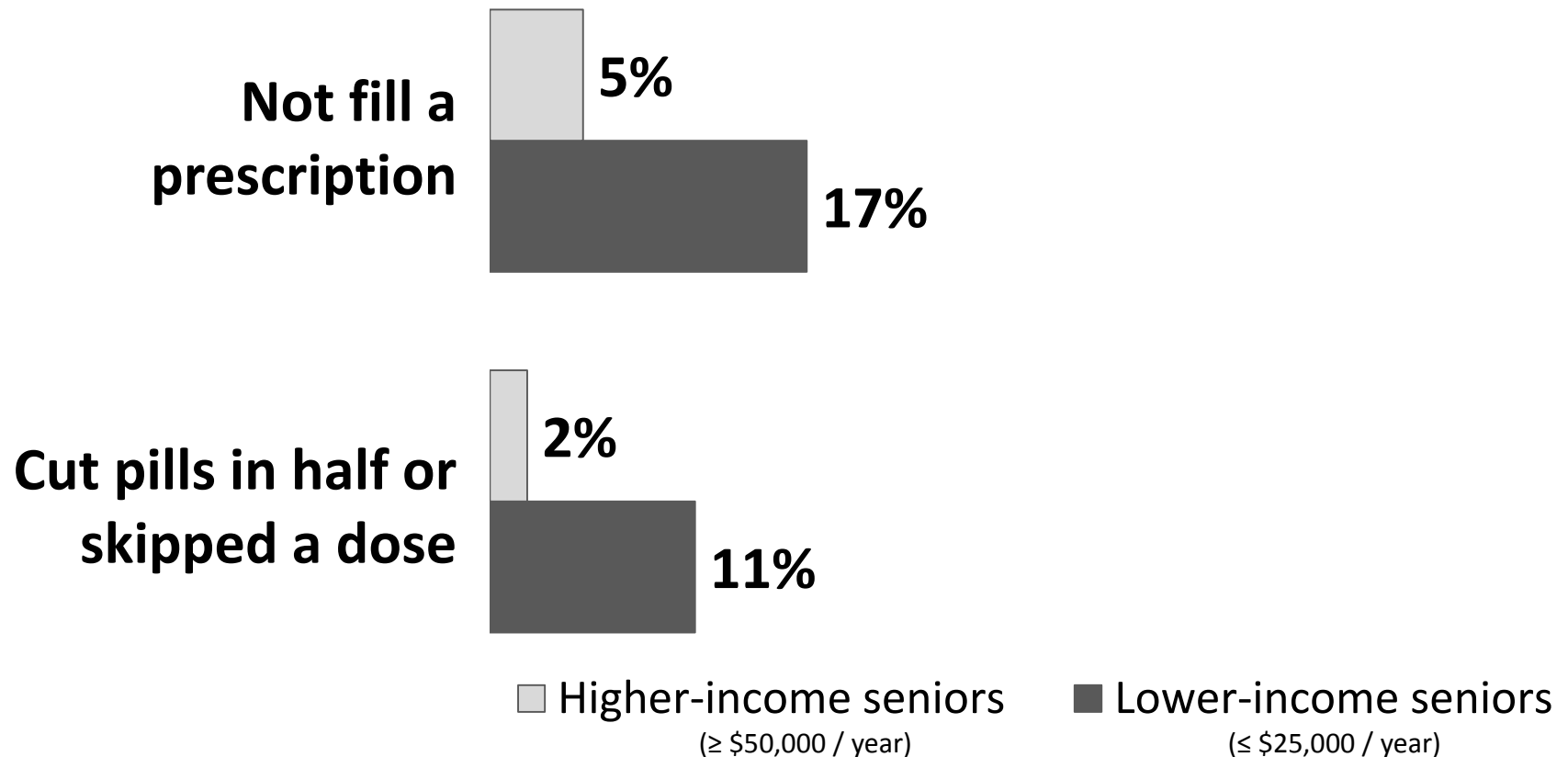
CONSEQUENCES OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS, BY LEVEL OF HEALTH

% of Massachusetts residents \geq age 65 who had to do the following because of the cost of prescription drugs



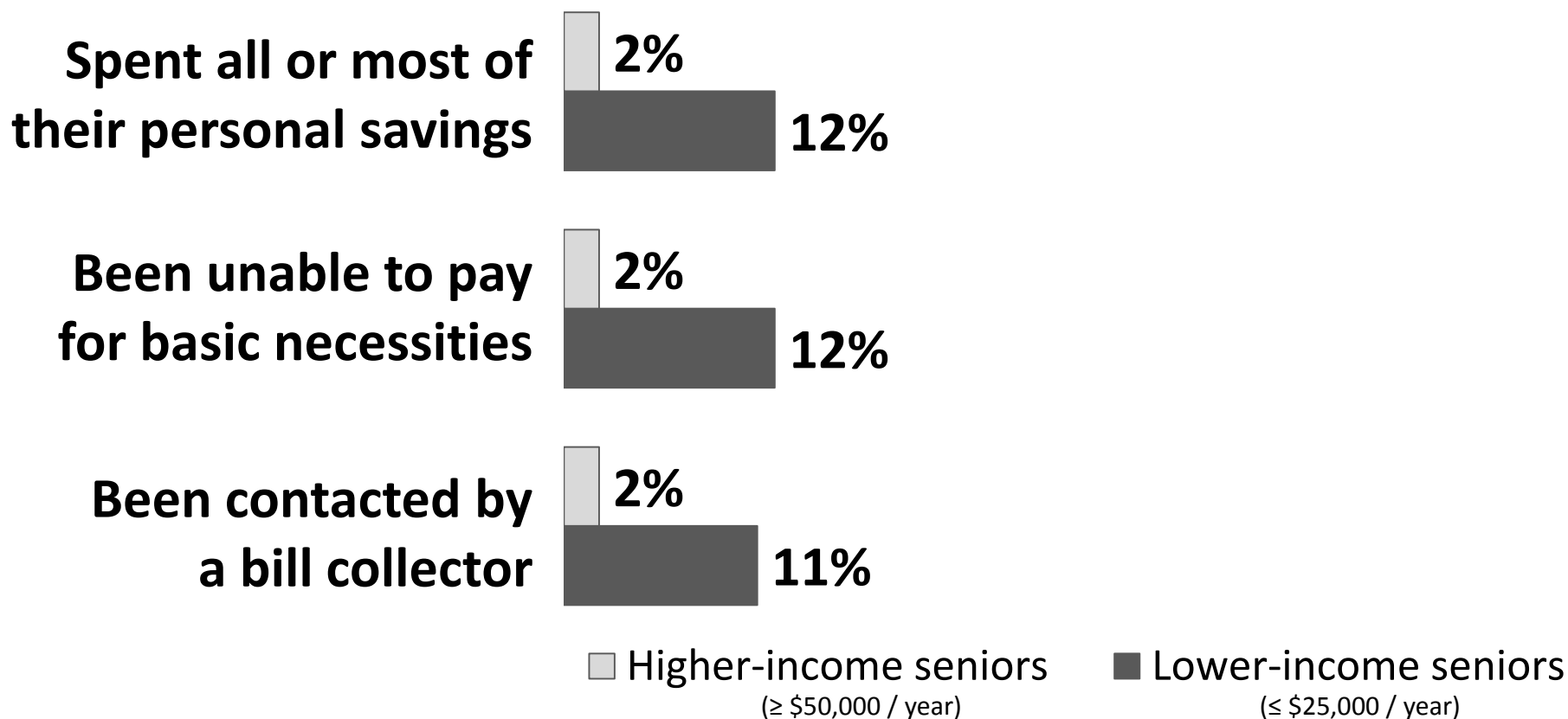
CONSEQUENCES OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS, BY INCOME LEVEL

% of Massachusetts residents \geq age 65 who had to do the following because of the cost of prescription drugs



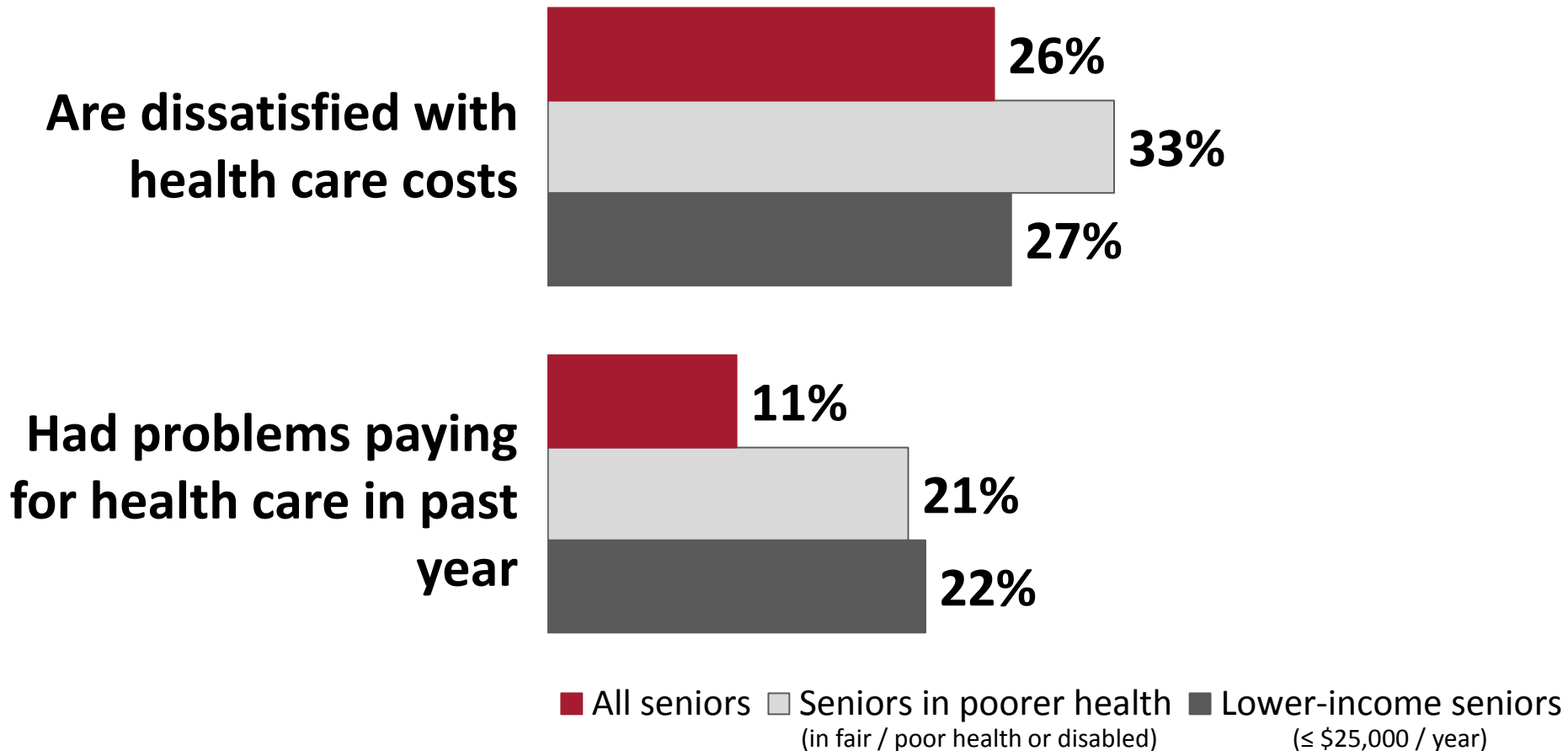
CONSEQUENCES OF LARGE MEDICAL BILLS, BY INCOME LEVEL

% of Massachusetts residents \geq age 65 who have experienced the following because of large medical bills



PROBLEMS WITH HEALTH CARE COSTS

% of Massachusetts residents \geq age 65 who ...



DIFFERENCES IN LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE PURCHASING

% of Massachusetts residents \geq age 65 who report having long-term care insurance, by income

All seniors



15%

Higher-income seniors

(\geq \$50,000 / year)



18%

Lower-income seniors

(\leq \$25,000 / year)



4%

OPINIONS ON LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE

% of Massachusetts residents \geq age 65 who have heard of long-term care insurance



Among those 73% who have heard of it, main barriers to buying a long-term care plan

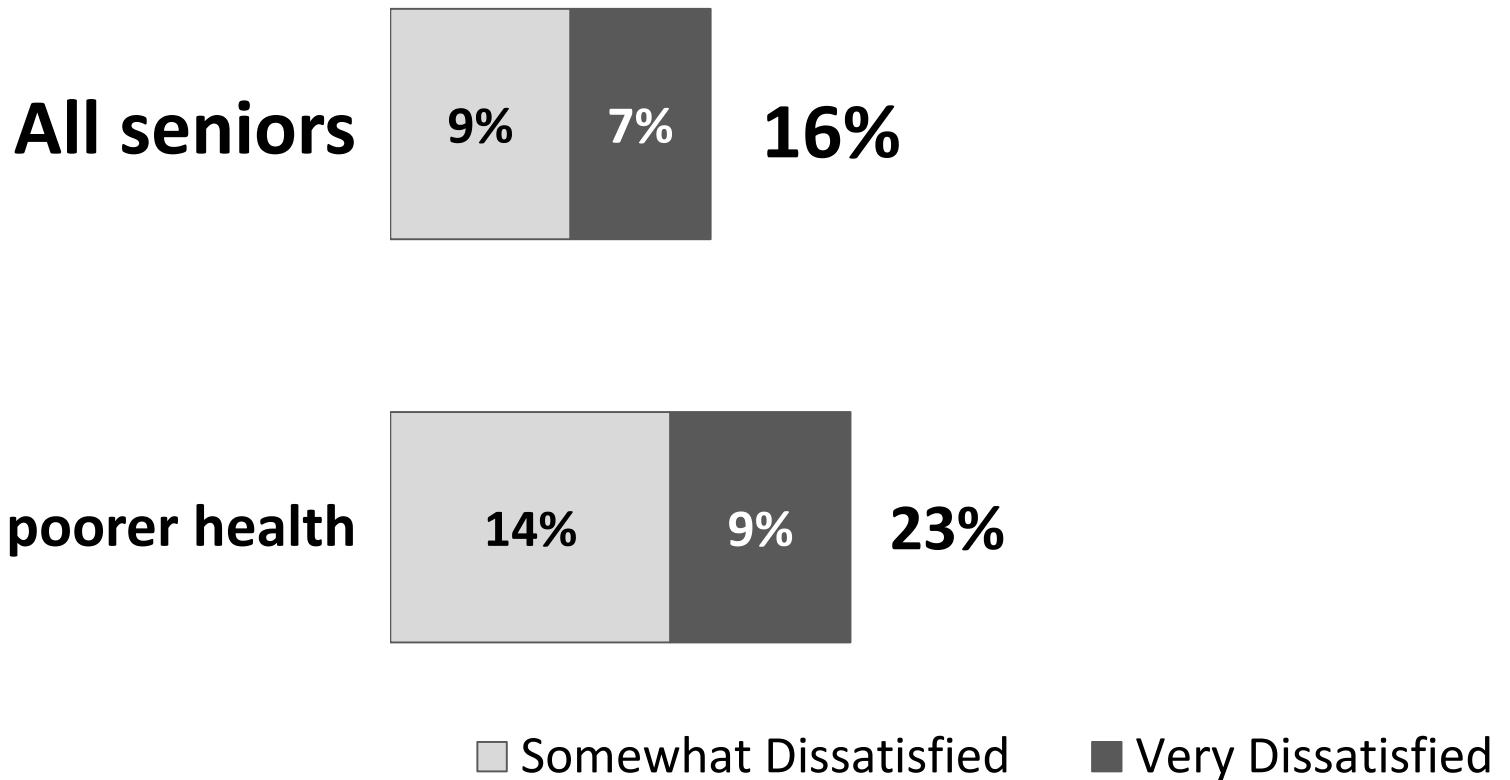


■ It costs too much

■ Do not believe it is needed

OPINIONS ON THE STATE'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

% of Massachusetts residents \geq age 65 who are somewhat or very dissatisfied with the state's health care system



METHODOLOGY

This survey was conducted by researchers at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation.

The project team was led by Robert J. Blendon, Sc.D., Richard L. Menschel Professor of Health Policy and Political Analysis at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and Katharine Nordahl, Senior Director, Massachusetts Medicaid Policy Institute at the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation. The Harvard research team also included John M. Benson, Caitlin L. McMurtry, and Justin M. Sayde.

Interviews were conducted with 502 randomly selected Massachusetts residents, age 65 and over, via cell phones and landline telephones by SSRS, an independent research company. The interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. The interviewing period was June 30 – July 22, 2015.

The margin of error is ± 5.6 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.