

# Coloradans' Views on Major Issues Facing the State

*Key Findings from Pulse:  
The Colorado Health Foundation Poll 2022*



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## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On behalf of The Colorado Health Foundation, the bipartisan research team of FM3 Research (D) and New Bridge Strategy (R) conducted **Pulse: The 2022 Colorado Health Foundation Poll**, exploring Coloradans' attitudes toward a wide range of issues facing the state. This year's survey built on the findings of the inaugural poll in 2020 and its follow-up in 2021, and also included more detailed exploration of public sentiment around the cost of living, drug and alcohol use, housing and a range of policies that state government might pursue to address these and other major issues facing Colorado.

The **cost of living** emerged as Coloradans' dominant concern in this year's survey, with one in five (20%) volunteering it as the biggest concern facing the state and 88% rating it either an "extremely" or "very serious" problem. That level of concern is 15 points higher than in last year's survey, representing one of the biggest increases in concern for any issue over that period of time. When asked which aspect of the cost of living was most concerning to them, housing, food and fuel prices were named most often – and Coloradans also report significant concern with the cost of health care (67% "extremely" or "very serious"), and the cost of child care (50%). These issues are likely to be on voters' minds when they cast their ballots in November: concerns related to the economy, inflation and the cost of living, as well as housing costs, were most often named as the issues that would guide their choice of candidates in the election.

Clearly, the cost of living has impacted Coloradans' sense of their own **financial well-being**. More than two in five Coloradans (43%) report that they are worse off financially than they were one year ago, while fewer than one-quarter (24%) see themselves as better off. This marks a sharp departure from the past two years, when most Coloradans saw no net change in their financial position, and roughly equal numbers (about one-quarter of the population in each case) said they were better off or worse off. Roughly three-in-five or more Coloradans rate a variety of policies as potentially effective solutions to the rising cost of living, including changing government regulations to reduce costs; raising taxes on upper income households to expand the availability of support services; requiring employers to increase pay and benefits; and making government investments to stimulate the economy.

Perhaps the biggest contributor to Coloradans' concern about the cost of living is the **cost of housing**: concern about the issue spiked in last year's survey, and rose further still this year, with 86% now labeling it an "extremely" or "very serious" problem. Three in ten Coloradans (30%) say they are worried about losing their home because they cannot afford the rent or mortgage, up from 21% last year. Roughly one-third report having to make a variety of difficult choices to keep their housing, including working multiple jobs or longer hours, cutting back on other needs like food or health care, and avoiding asking their landlord to address problems. Coloradans identify a range of policy approaches as potentially effective solutions to rising housing costs, including ensuring landlords cannot raise rents on current tenants too quickly (74%); requiring developers to build more affordable housing (71%); and reducing government regulations to speed up housing construction (57%).

Cost of living concerns may be impacting the way that Coloradans are accessing **health care**. Nearly half of all residents of the state (45%) report delaying medical or dental care in the last year, up from 39% in last year's survey. Looking forward, more than one-third (37%) are worried that they or someone else in their household will be without health insurance coverage in the coming year – up from 27% in last year's survey. There are clear income correlations with these concerns, with low-income households, those who are unemployed and those who are currently uninsured more likely to report facing these challenges. One in five (21%) say that they or someone they know has been treated unfairly when seeking health care services on the basis of race or ethnicity; rates of unfair treatment were much higher among Black Coloradans, Native American/Indigenous Coloradans, Latino Coloradans and Multiracial Coloradans than among white or Asian American/Pacific Islander Coloradans.

**Mental health** continues to be a widespread concern for Coloradans as well, with 63% rating it an “extremely” or “very serious” problem for the state. More than three in five Coloradans say that they have experienced mental health strain in the past year – particularly LGBTQ Coloradans, women under 50, those who live with a disability, Native American/Indigenous Coloradans, and those who are unemployed, uninsured, or are in households with incomes under \$50,000. Those who have experienced such strain also report a number of barriers that make it harder to get mental health care, including the high out-of-pocket costs of care and a lack of available appointments. Coloradans do identify a number of policies they think would prove effective in addressing these challenges, including creating more options for people to access mental health care where they live (85%); requiring health insurance companies to cover mental health services without copays (80%); and pairing mental health professionals with law enforcement to respond to people in crisis (77%).

**Alcohol and drug use** is also a concern for Coloradans, with 58% labeling it an “extremely” or “very serious” problem. Though more Coloradans have reduced their consumption of alcohol and drugs in the past year (24%) than say they have increased it (13%), more than one in ten Coloradans (13%) say that they have worried about their own consumption of alcohol and drugs in the past year. At least two-thirds of Coloradans see a range of policy approaches to the issue as effective, from making treatment for addiction more easily and affordably available to sending people to treatment, rather than prison, for crimes connected to alcohol or drug use.

In addition to exploring the above issues deeply, this year's survey briefly touched on a number of other topics of concern for Coloradans: the COVID-19 pandemic, jobs and work, crime and policing, and climate change and wildfires.

Concern about the **COVID pandemic** has receded notably over the past several years; today, fewer than one in four Coloradans view the spread of new variants of COVID-19 as a “very serious” problem. In addition, Coloradans have a broad – if not very strongly-held – confidence in the state's ability to handle a new pandemic: a 53-percent majority is confident in the state's ability to handle it, though fewer than one in five (14%) are “very confident.”

After the disruptions brought on by the pandemic, many Coloradans are eager to re-enter the **workforce**. The proportion of Coloradans who said they did not expect to be employed in the coming year fell from 21% last year to just eight percent this year. The proportion who have been laid off or had their work hours cut back has held steady or declined. But at the same time, worries about maintaining gainful employment have risen: one-quarter of Coloradans want to be working, but are worried that they may not be employed in the coming year – up from 16% in last year's survey.

The greatest increase in concern evident in this year's survey came around the issue of **crime**: nearly three in five (57%) view it as an "extremely" or "very serious" problem this year, up from 41% last year. Concern about police violence and misconduct is less widespread (30%) and has largely held steady over the past year, though it remains a significantly more widespread concern for Black/African American, Native American/Indigenous, and LGBTQ residents of the state. Almost three-in-10 Coloradans (29%) say that they or someone they know has experienced unfair treatment as a result of their race or ethnicity when interacting with law enforcement; among those respondents, a majority (59%) are concerned about police violence and misconduct

Finally, two other issues generated significant concern among Coloradans in this year's survey: **climate change and wildfires**. Overall, a 53-percent majority rates climate change a "very serious" problem, though with a deep partisan divide – 82% of Democrats and just 14% of Republicans share that concern. There is notably broader and more widely-shared concern about wildfires or other natural disasters (68% extremely/very serious), which cuts across partisan and geographic subgroups.

## 2 TOP CONCERNS

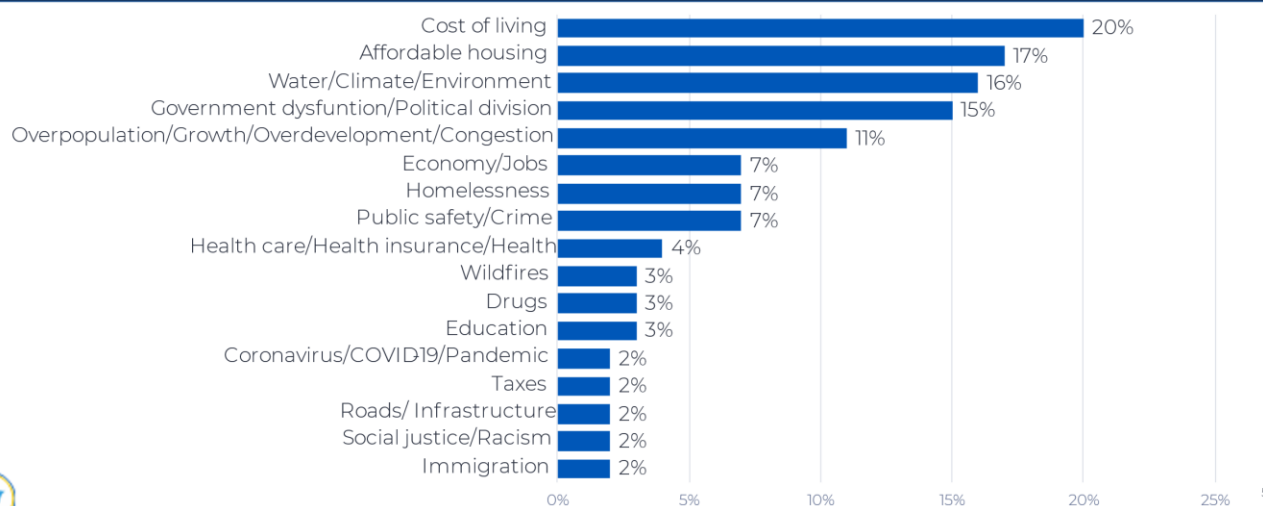
When asked to identify the top issue facing Colorado, one in five pointed to the cost of living. This concern outpaces every other issue and has increased notably since last year, when only 7% identified it as the top issue facing the state, compared to 20% today. Affordable housing is also seen as a top problem, with 17% volunteering it as the most serious issue (up from 10% in 2021). Fifteen percent point to government and politics and 10% to overpopulation and growth; these concerns have remained stable over time.

**Figure 1: Coloradans' Views of the Most Important Issue Facing the State**

### Cost of living, affordable housing and environmental concerns are seen as the top issues facing Colorado.

Q13. In a few words of your own, what is the most important issue facing Colorado right now?

(Open-ended)



COVID-19 has had the most notable drop as a serious issue: in 2020 it was one of the top issues, with 26% volunteering it as the state's most pressing problem. By 2021, it was mentioned slightly more than half as often (by 14%), and this year only 2% named it the state's most important issue (as shown in **Figure 2** on the following page).

Figure 2: Change in Issues Named as Most Important, 2020-2022

## Concern about the cost of living has increased, while concern about COVID has fallen.

Q13. In a few words of your own, what is the most important issue facing Colorado right now?

(Open-ended)

Issue	2020	2021	2022	Difference (2020-2022)
Cost of living	10%	7%	20%	+13%
Water/Wildfires/Climate change/Environment	13%	20%	21%	+8%
Cost of housing/Affordable housing	--	10%	17%	+7%
Traffic/Overpopulation/Infrastructure	6%	19%	13%	+7%
Public safety/Crime/Drugs	4%	5%	10%	+6%
Immigration	--	1%	2%	+1%
Homelessness	--	6%	7%	+1%
Education	4%	3%	3%	-1%
Social justice/Racism/Police issues	5%	2%	2%	-3%
Health care/Health insurance/Health	8%	4%	4%	-4%
Government dysfunction/Political division/Government/Politics	19%	14%	15%	-4%
Economy/Jobs/Taxes	13%	12%	9%	-4%
Coronavirus/COVID-19/Pandemic	26%	14%	2%	-24%

7

Respondents were also offered a list of individual concerns facing Colorado and asked to rate each as either an “extremely,” “very,” “somewhat,” or “not too serious” problem. Overall, the rising cost of living and the cost of housing were rated most serious, followed by homelessness, wildfires, the cost of health care and mental health (**Figure 3**). While concern about the cost of housing has remained consistently high in the past year, the percentage who say the cost of living is at least a “very serious” problem rose from 73% to 88%.

Some striking differences are evident in the way subgroups of Coloradans view these issues:

- White Coloradans express lower degrees of concern about all issues facing the state than do Coloradans of other racial and ethnic groups.
- Native American Coloradans are most likely to be worried about mental health (79%) and Asian/Pacific Islanders are least likely to say it is a serious problem (53%).
- Two-thirds of Latinos worry about drug and alcohol use (68%) – a much higher rate of concern than 56% of white residents and 59% of all Coloradans of color in total.
- Asian and Pacific Islander Coloradans are most likely to view climate change as a serious problem (73%) and African Americans are least likely to (46%).
- Those under age 40 are much less likely to worry about crime at 40% than those over age 40 (68%).
- Those under age 50 are much more concerned about climate change (56%) than those 50 and over (49%). The youngest respondents, ages 18-29, are most likely to see this as a serious problem (63%).
- Women express a higher degree of concern about all the problems facing the state than do men.

- While concern about the cost of housing is high across the board, unemployed respondents were most likely to say it is a “very serious” problem (97%), as were Coloradans with household incomes below \$75,000 and renters.

**Figure 3: Rating of the Seriousness of Problems Facing Colorado**

Problem	Total Ext/Very	Ext. Serious	Very Serious	SW Serious	Not Serious/DK
The rising cost of living	<b>88%</b>	61%	27%	10%	2%
The cost of housing	<b>86%</b>	61%	25%	11%	3%
Homelessness	<b>72%</b>	39%	33%	21%	6%
Wildfires or other natural disasters	<b>68%</b>	37%	31%	20%	10%
The cost of health care	<b>67%</b>	38%	29%	22%	10%
Mental health	<b>63%</b>	30%	33%	28%	7%
Drug and alcohol use	<b>58%</b>	28%	30%	26%	12%
Crime, in general	<b>57%</b>	29%	28%	27%	14%
Climate change	<b>53%</b>	31%	22%	16%	29%
The cost of child care	<b>50%</b>	23%	26%	22%	9%
Jobs and the economy	<b>49%</b>	26%	23%	30%	18%
Hunger	<b>40%</b>	14%	26%	32%	22%
Racial bias and discrimination	<b>35%</b>	16%	20%	21%	39%
Police violence and misconduct	<b>30%</b>	15%	15%	25%	42%
The spread of new variants of COVID-19	<b>24%</b>	8%	16%	27%	46%

Coloradans who identify as LGBTQ are also generally more likely to see most issues as more serious, notably wildfires or natural disasters (90%) and mental health (79%). While this may be addressed by the fact that some issues are perceived to be more serious within the LGBTQ community itself, the fact that Coloradans who identify as LGBTQ are also more likely to be Democratic or independent voters may also contribute to higher perceptions of seriousness overall.

Among Coloradans who are registered to vote, there are notable partisan differences in perceptions of concerns facing the state (as shown on the following page in **Figure 4**). The cost of living, cost of housing and homelessness are viewed similarly across partisan lines. However, there is a distinct split – particularly between Democrats and Republicans – on other issues. Top tier issues like wildfires, the cost of health care and mental health are perceived to be more serious by Democrats than Republicans. Republicans express greater concern about crime and jobs and the economy. Other issues with a distinct partisan split are climate change, the cost of child care, hunger, police misconduct and racial bias and discrimination. The spread of COVID-19 variants is the lowest-ranking problem among voters of all partisan affiliations.

**Figure 4: Divisions in Perceptions of the Seriousness of Problems Facing Colorado, by Party**  
(Ranked by % Extremely/Very Serious Among Registered Voters)

Problem	All Respondents	Party		
		Democrats	Independents	Republicans
The rising cost of living	<b>88%</b>	89%	88%	89%
The cost of housing	<b>86%</b>	92%	87%	78%
Homelessness	<b>72%</b>	76%	69%	72%
Wildfires or other natural disasters	<b>68%</b>	86%	71%	49%
The cost of health care	<b>67%</b>	72%	69%	57%
Mental health	<b>63%</b>	75%	61%	51%
Drug and alcohol use	<b>58%</b>	54%	55%	64%
Crime, in general	<b>57%</b>	48%	52%	75%
Climate change	<b>53%</b>	82%	57%	13%
The cost of child care	<b>50%</b>	65%	50%	33%
Jobs and the economy	<b>49%</b>	42%	46%	58%
Hunger	<b>40%</b>	55%	39%	23%
Racial bias and discrimination	<b>35%</b>	54%	35%	13%
Police violence and misconduct	<b>30%</b>	47%	28%	12%
The spread of new variants of COVID-19	<b>24%</b>	39%	21%	7%

Voters' concerns have shifted notably over the last few years (**Figure 5**) with growing concern over crime and the cost of living and somewhat reduced concern about racial bias and discrimination.

**Figure 5: Rating of the Seriousness of Problems Facing Colorado, 2020-2022**

### Crime and the cost of living have increased most as concerns; concern about racial bias and discrimination has declined the most.

Q14 b-j, l-o. I'd like to read you some problems facing Colorado that people have mentioned. Please tell me whether you think is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, somewhat serious problem, or not too serious a problem in Colorado.

(% Extremely/Very Serious Problem)

Problem	2020	2021	2022	Difference (2021-2022)
Crime, in general	--	41%	57%	<b>+16%</b>
*The rising cost of living	63%	73%	88%	<b>+15%</b>
Drug and alcohol use	45%	50%	58%	<b>+8%</b>
The cost of child care	--	44%	50%	<b>+6%</b>
Jobs and the economy	63%	44%	49%	<b>+5%</b>
The cost of housing	67%	82%	86%	<b>+4%</b>
The cost of health care	--	65%	67%	<b>+2%</b>
Climate change	44%	52%	53%	<b>+1%</b>
Homelessness	67%	72%	72%	<b>0%</b>
Mental health	55%	63%	63%	<b>0%</b>
Hunger	39%	41%	40%	<b>-1%</b>
Police violence and misconduct	38%	32%	30%	<b>-2%</b>
Racial bias and discrimination	42%	43%	35%	<b>-8%</b>



Split Sample, \*Wording Slightly Different in 2022

10



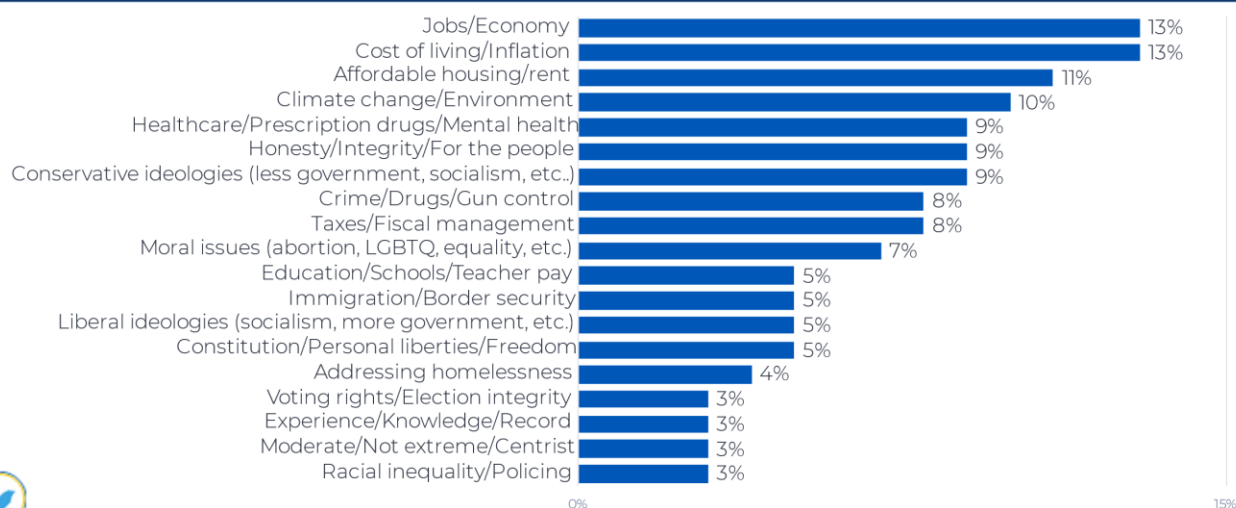
Further evidence of the dominance of cost-of-living concerns came in a question where registered voters were asked to say in their own words which issues will be most important to them in deciding who they vote for in November (as shown in **Figure 6**). The themes of jobs and the economy and cost of living and inflation were mentioned most frequently, followed closely by affordable housing and climate change.

**Figure 6: Most Important Factors in Choosing Candidates in November**

### Voters say that the economy, cost of living and housing will play big roles in whom they vote for in November.

Q38. In a few words of your own, which issues will be most important to you in deciding which candidates to vote for this November?

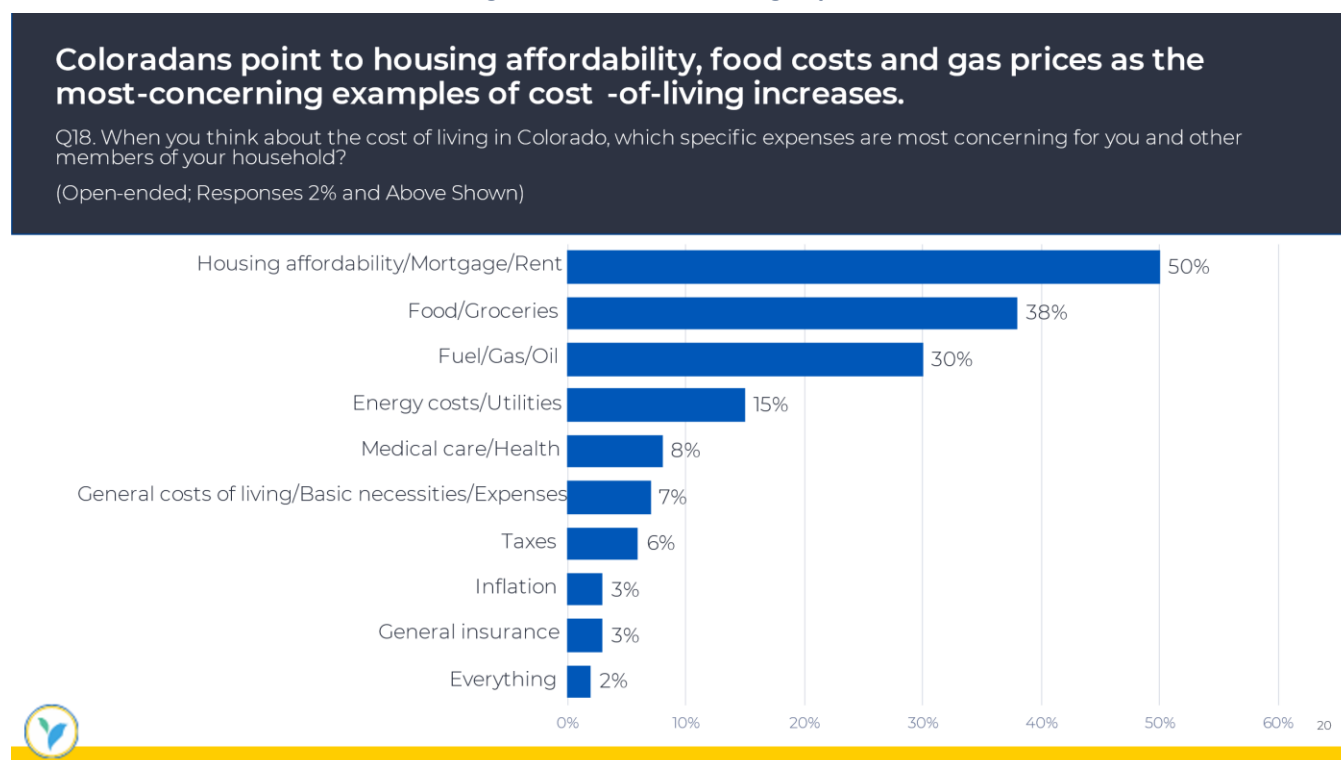
(Open-ended; Asked of Registered Voters, n=2,599, All Items Mentioned by at Least 3%)



### 3 THE COST OF LIVING

The greatest strain on cost of living comes from housing, food and the cost of gas. When asked (in an open-ended question) which expenses are most concerning for their household, 50% identify housing or rent, 38% point to food, and 30% say fuel, gas or oil (**Figure 7**). The table makes clear that most Coloradans do not choose just *one* cost-of-living concern – instead, many name a range of different household expenses that they say cause them significant worry.

**Figure 7: Most Concerning Expenses**



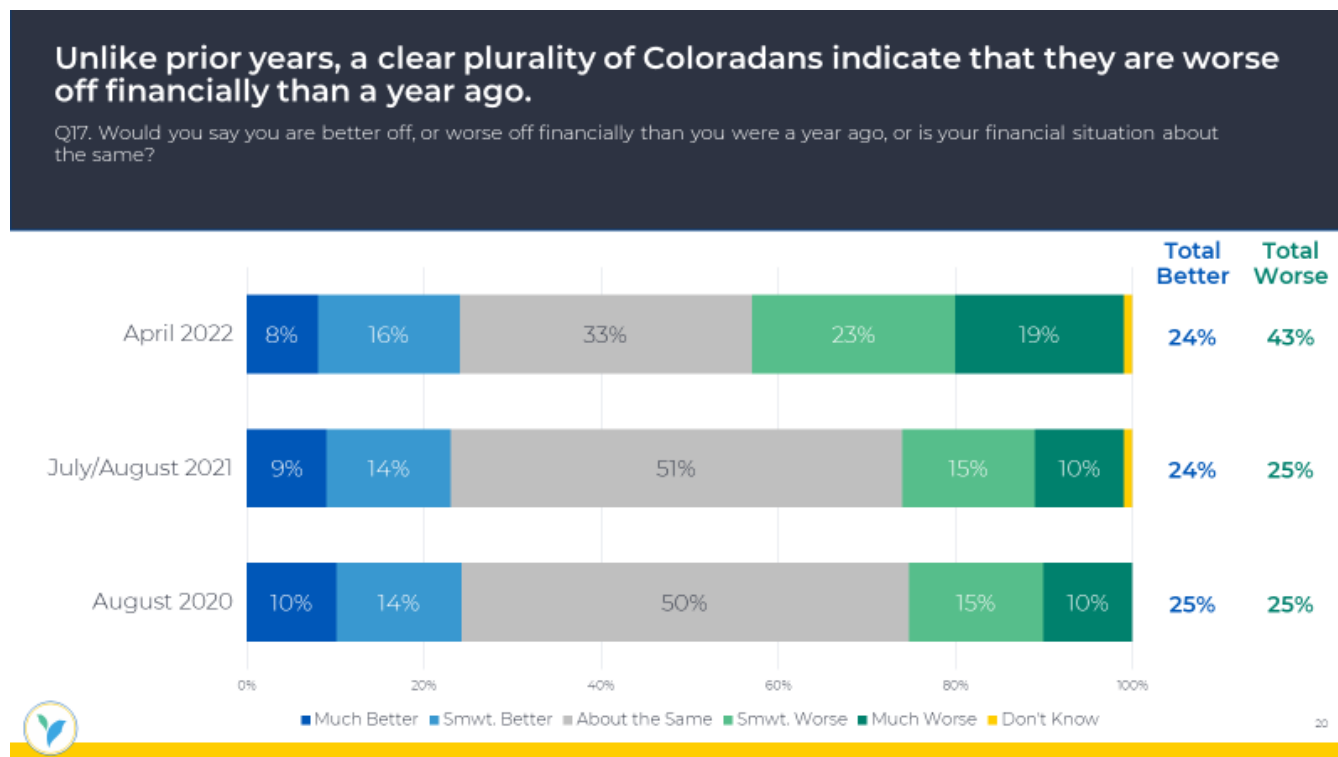
With cost of living the predominant concern, Coloradans increasingly say that their financial situation is worse than it was a year ago (as shown on the following page in **Figure 8**). Two in five say they are financially worse off than they were a year ago (43%) -- a very large increase compared to 2021 when only 25% said they were financially worse off than the prior year. While the number of respondents who say their financial position is unchanged was consistent from 2020 to 2021, it has declined from 51% last year to 33% this year.

Specific demographic subgroups have been particularly impacted financially in the past year:

- Coloradans ages 40 and above are more likely to say they are worse off than are those under age 40. It is worth noting that Coloradans ages 40 and over are also more likely to be homeowners than those under 40, which may contribute to their financial outlook.
- Coloradans of color are also more likely to say they are worse off than are white Coloradans.
- While respondents across the state are more likely to say they are financially worse off, the sentiment is most acute in Pueblo County where 52% say things are worse.

- The lowest income respondents are most likely to say things are worse off; 62% of those with incomes under \$30,000 say their financial situation is worse compared to 29% on the highest end of the spectrum who have household incomes of \$100,000 or more.

**Figure 8: Financial Situation Compared to the Prior Year**



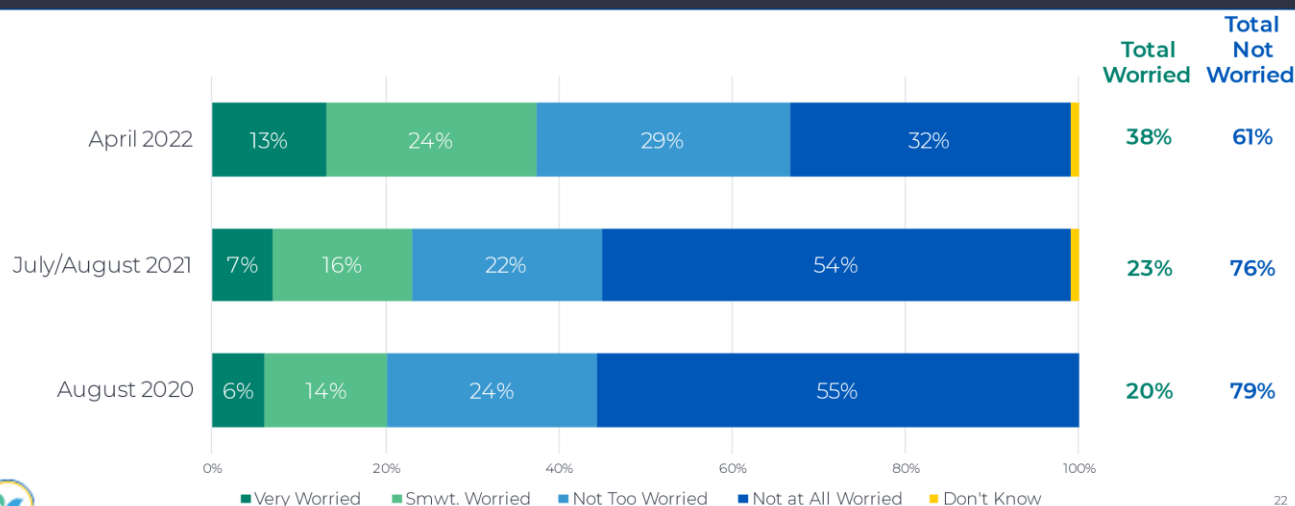
Coloradans' evaluation of their food security has been notably impacted by cost-of-living concerns. As noted in the previous section, four-in-five Coloradans view hunger as a "very serious" problem in the state. Nearly one in five (16%) say that they have skipped meals in the past twelve months due to an inability to afford food, up from nine percent last year. This challenge has been particularly acute for households with incomes under \$30,000 per year (among whom 38% of skipped meals) and Native American and Indigenous Coloradans (for whom the figure is 39%).

Moreover, a growing number of Coloradans are concerned about being able to afford food in the coming year. As shown on the following page in **Figure 9**, more than one-third of Coloradans (38%) now share this worry – up significantly from 23% last year. Majorities of a number of subgroups of Coloradans express concern about affording food in the coming year, including residents of Pueblo County; households with incomes under \$75,000 per year; Black/African-American respondents; and Native American/Indigenous Coloradans.

Figure 9: Worry about Being Unable to Afford Food in the Coming Year

Looking forward, nearly two in five worry about affording food, a notable increase since 2021.

Q21. Thinking ahead over the next year, how worried are you that you might not always be able to afford enough food to feed yourself and your family:



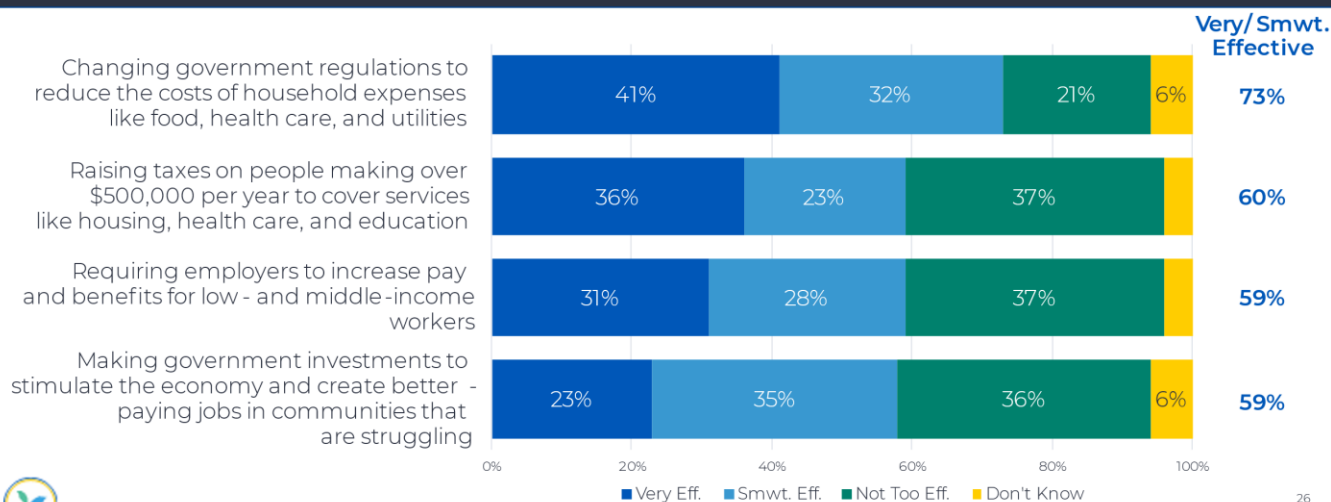
In response to cost-of-living concerns, respondents were asked to rate the effectiveness of a series of proposed solutions to address the rising cost of living in Colorado (**Figure 10** on the following page). Respondents viewed changing government regulations to reduce the cost of household expenses as most effective (73%). Three in five viewed raising taxes on high earners, requiring employers to increase pay and benefits for low and middle-income workers, and making investments to stimulate the economy and create jobs in struggling communities as effective.

Among registered voters, respondents of all parties viewed changing regulations to reduce costs of household expenses as effective. However, all other solutions tested were subject to stark partisan splits, with Democrats highly likely to view them as effective, independents offering more middle-ground perceptions, and Republicans least likely to view them as effective. The most divisive proposal tested was the idea of raising taxes on people making over \$500,000 (**Figure 11** on the following page).

**Figure 10: Perceived Effectiveness of Policies to Address the Cost of Living**

### Three-quarters say that changing regulations to reduce costs of household expenses would be effective.

Q25. Here are some actions that some people say will address the rising cost of living in Colorado. Please tell me how effective you think it will be in helping Coloradans make ends meet: very effective, somewhat effective, or not too effective.



**Figure 11: Perceived Effectiveness of Policies to Address the Cost of Living, by Party Affiliation**

### Voters across the partisan spectrum view changing regulations to reduce costs on essentials as effective.

Q25. Here are some actions that some people say will address the rising cost of living in Colorado. Please tell me how effective you think it will be in helping Coloradans make ends meet: very effective, somewhat effective, or not too effective.

(% Very/Somewhat Effective)

Proposal	All	Party			Dem-Rep. Diff.
		Democrats	Independents	Republicans	
Changing government regulations to reduce the costs of household expenses like food, health care, and utilities	73%	79%	72%	69%	+10%
Raising taxes on people making over \$500,000 per year to cover services like housing, health care, and education	60%	86%	59%	33%	+53%
Requiring employers to increase pay and benefits for low and middle-income workers	59%	82%	57%	38%	+44%
Making government investments to stimulate the economy and create better-paying jobs in communities that are struggling	59%	76%	58%	42%	+34%

Views across the state are relatively consistent. Some variation seen in the Denver Metro region and the Eastern Plains regions is likely driven by the differing ideological leanings of residents of those regions.

**Figure 12: Perceived Effectiveness of Policies to Address the Cost of Living, by Region**

**The perceived effectiveness of raising taxes on high-earners is greatest in Denver Metro and weakest in the Eastern Plains.**

Q25. Here are some actions that some people say will address the rising cost of living in Colorado. Please tell me how effective you think it will be in helping Coloradans make ends meet: very effective, somewhat effective, or not too effective.

(% Very/Somewhat Effective)

Proposal	All	Region					
		Eastern Plains	El Paso	Pueblo	Larimer Weld	Denver Metro	Western Slope
Changing government regulations to reduce the costs of household expenses like food, health care, and utilities	<b>73%</b>	66%	75%	71%	74%	75%	68%
Raising taxes on people making over \$500,000 per year to cover services like housing, health care, and education	<b>60%</b>	44%	53%	51%	56%	64%	55%
Requiring employers to increase pay and benefits for low- and middle-income workers	<b>59%</b>	52%	54%	53%	54%	64%	49%
Making government investments to stimulate the economy and create better-paying jobs in communities that are struggling	<b>59%</b>	54%	50%	54%	59%	62%	55%



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## 4 HOUSING

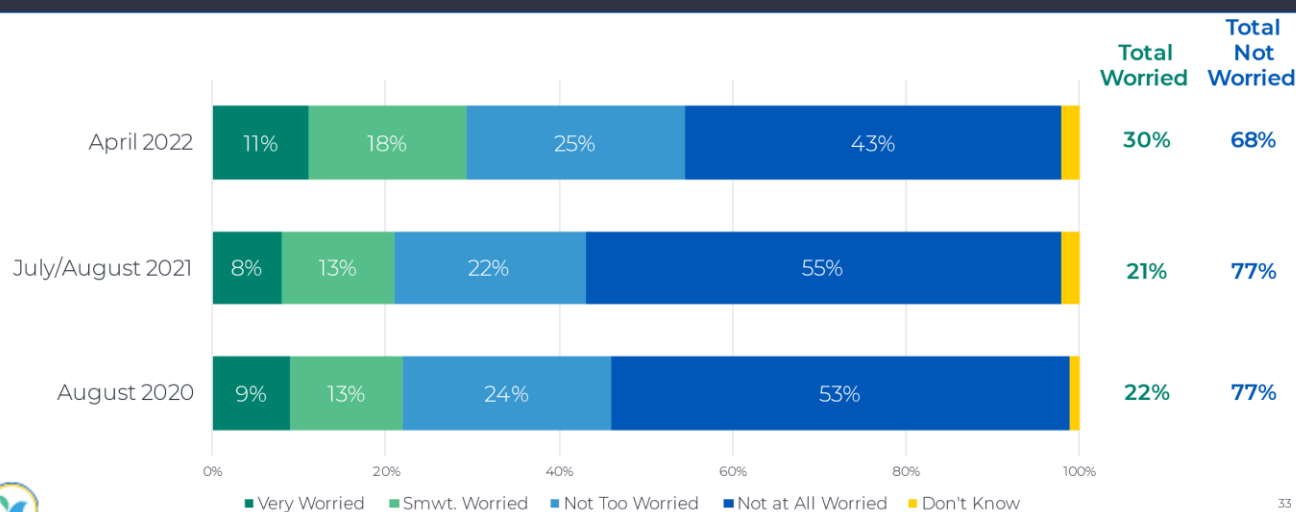
In the last few years the cost of housing has been a top-tier issue in Colorado, and a major driver of rising concerns about cost of living in the state. Eighty-six percent of Coloradans say the cost of housing is a “very serious” problem facing the state; half of Coloradans say it is the day-to-day expense that concerns them most; and at least one in five has had to make difficult choices to afford their rent or mortgage.

In fact, for nearly three-in-ten Coloradans, their worries about being unable to afford their rent or mortgage are so intense that they fear they may lose their home in the coming year (as shown in **Figure 13**). Among many key subgroups of Coloradans, outright majorities are worried about losing their home – including those with household incomes under \$30,000 per year (57%); Native American and Indigenous Coloradans (58%); and those who are currently unemployed (58%).

**Figure 13: Worry about Being Unable to Afford Rent or Mortgage in the Coming Year**

**Nearly one-third are worried about losing their home because they can't afford the rent or mortgage.**

Q19. Thinking ahead over the next year, how worried are you that you might lose your home because you can't afford the monthly rent or mortgage:



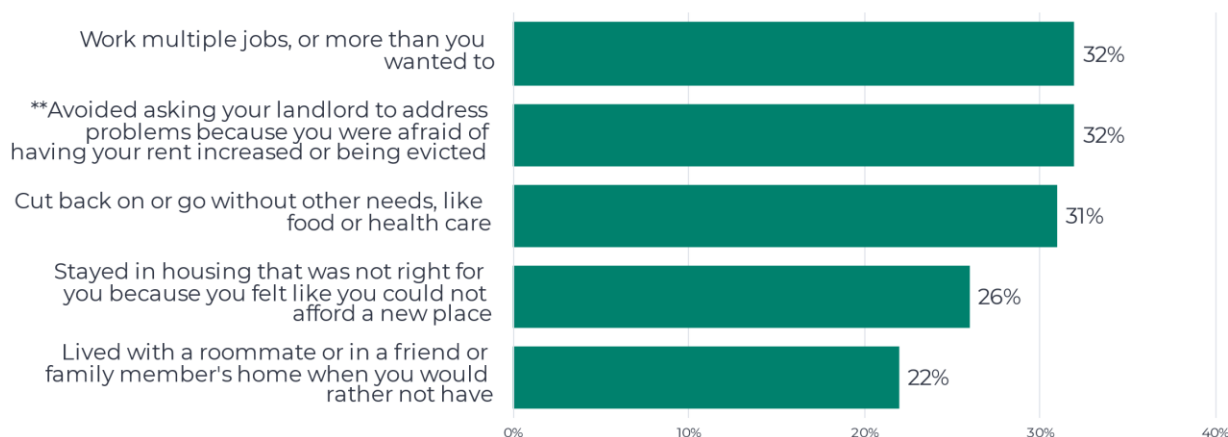
Many Coloradans have already taken extraordinary steps to try to keep from losing their housing, as shown on the following page in **Figure 14**. One-third worked multiple jobs, or more than they wanted to, to afford housing and 31% cut back on other needs such as food or health care. Among renters, 32% avoided asking their landlord to address problems for fear of eviction. More than one-quarter of respondents stayed in housing that was not right for them, and 22% lived with a roommate or family when they would rather not have.

Figure 14: Choices Made to Afford Housing

**One-third have worked more than they wanted, avoided asking their landlord to address problems and cut back on basic needs in order to afford housing.**

Q27. In order to pay your rent or your mortgage in the last year, have you had to do any of the following:

(% Yes)



\*\*Asked of Renters Only, n=793

36

As shown in **Figure 15** on the following page, these experiences were especially prevalent among renters, with approximately half staying in suboptimal housing, cutting back on basic needs and working multiple jobs. Additionally, those with household incomes under \$100,000 – especially those with incomes of \$50,000 and under – were more likely to have had to make one of these choices when it came to affording housing.

When analyzing the data by racial and ethnic groups, there are on average greater impacts among Coloradans of color than white Coloradans. Native American Coloradans are particularly likely to have made difficult choices in order to afford housing, compared to other groups, and Native American and Latino respondents were more likely than others to have had to cut back on basic needs to afford housing. LGBTQ respondents and those living with a disability were also more likely to have had to make one of these tradeoffs in order to afford housing. Coloradans living in the Eastern Plains and Colorado Springs were less likely than those in other areas of the state to have to make these compromises.

One contributing factor to the difficulty that many Coloradans have faced in maintaining stable housing is unfair treatment along racial or ethnic lines in the housing market. As shown in **Figure 16** on the following page, nearly one in four (22%) say that they or someone they know has experienced unfair treatment on the basis of race or ethnicity when seeking a place to live. This experience is far more prevalent among Coloradans of color (31%) than among white Coloradans (19%), and notably more frequent among Native American (55%), Black and African American respondents (36%) and Hispanic or Latino Coloradans (33%).



Figure 15: Choices Made to Afford Housing, by Homeownership

## Renters are more likely to have had to make difficult choices to afford their housing than homeowners.

Q27. In order to pay your rent or your mortgage in the last year, have you had to do any of the following:  
(% Yes)

Experience	All	Residence	
		Homeowners	Renters
Work multiple jobs, or more than you wanted to	32%	24%	48%
**Avoided asking your landlord to address problems because you were afraid of having your rent increased or being evicted	32%	--	32%
Cut back on or go without other needs, like food or health care	31%	22%	49%
Stayed in housing that was not right for you because you felt like you could not afford a new place	26%	13%	52%
Lived with a roommate or in a friend or family member's home when you would rather not have	22%	10%	44%



\*\*Asked of Renters Only, n=793

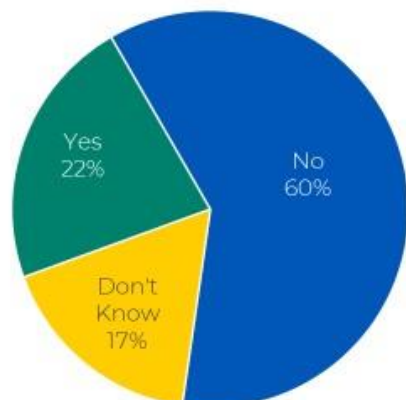
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Figure 16: Experience with Racial/Ethnic Unfair Treatment in Seeking Housing

## About one in five Coloradans know someone who has been treated unfairly on the basis of race or ethnicity when seeking housing.

Q16a. Please tell me whether you - or someone you know - has been treated unfairly in any of the following situations here in Colorado as a result of their race or ethnicity: When trying to rent or purchase a place to live.

(% Yes)



Demographic Group	Total Experienced
All	22%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	
Asian/Pacific Islander	23%
Black/African American	36%
Hispanic/Latino	33%
Native American/Indigenous	55%
White	19%
Multiracial	34%
All People of Color	31%



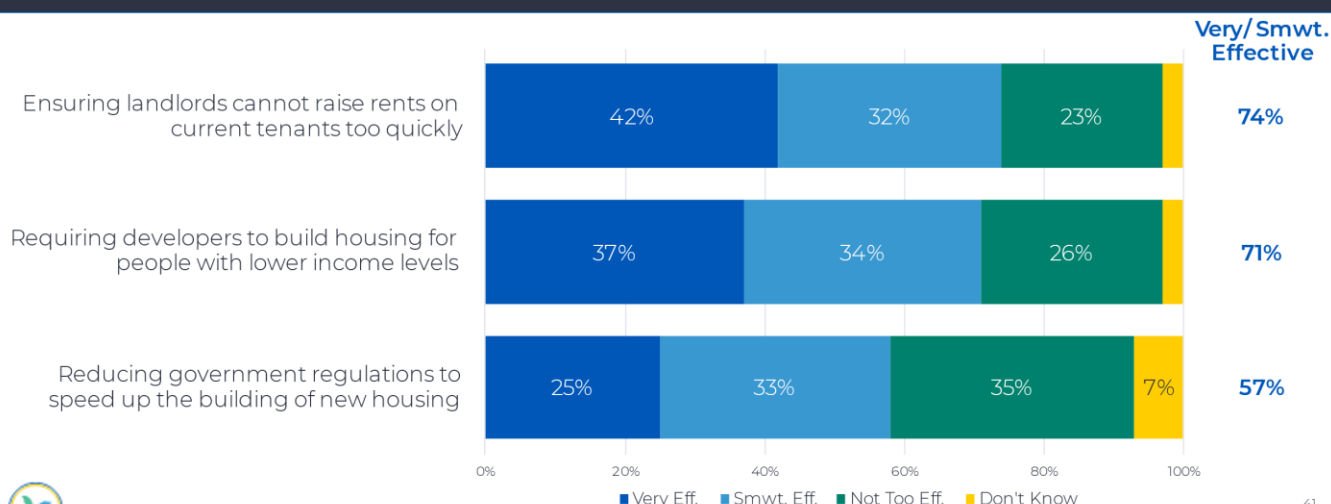
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Respondents were asked to rate the effectiveness of a series of proposals that could help make housing more affordable in Colorado, as shown in **Figure 17**. Three-quarters of respondents said that ensuring landlords cannot raise rents on tenants too quickly would be effective, and 71% said that requiring developers to build housing for lower income levels would be effective. A majority also said that reducing government regulations to speed up the building of new housing would be effective.

**Figure 17: Perceived Effectiveness of Policies to Address Housing Affordability**

**Coloradans view ensuring landlords can't raise rents too quickly and requiring developers to build housing for people with lower incomes as effective solutions.**

Q28. Here are some actions that some people say will make housing more affordable for people who live in Colorado. Please tell me how effective you think it will be in making housing more affordable: very effective, somewhat effective, or not too effective.



While both homeowners and renters view the proposals as broadly effective, renters are especially likely to view all three proposed solutions as effective. Respondents from across the state perceive and rank the approaches similarly, with residents of the Eastern Plains expressing slightly more modest views than those in other areas of the state. Among those registered to vote, the perceived effectiveness of these approaches cuts across partisan lines (see **Figure 18** on the following page). Democrats are especially likely to say that preventing landlords from raising rents too quickly and building housing for lower-income levels are effective solutions.

**Figure 18: Perceived Effectiveness of Policies to Address Housing Affordability, by Party Affiliation**

**There is less partisan division around reducing regulation to speed up housing development.**

Q28. Here are some actions that some people say will make housing more affordable for people who live in Colorado. Please tell me how effective you think it will be in making housing more affordable: very effective, somewhat effective, or not too effective.

(% Very/Somewhat Effective)

Proposal	All	Party			Dem-Rep. Diff.
		Democrats	Independents	Republicans	
Ensuring landlords cannot raise rents on current tenants too quickly	<b>74%</b>	87%	74%	64%	+23%
Requiring developers to build housing for people with lower income levels	<b>71%</b>	89%	71%	55%	+34%
Reducing government regulations to speed up the building of new housing	<b>57%</b>	58%	56%	62%	-4%

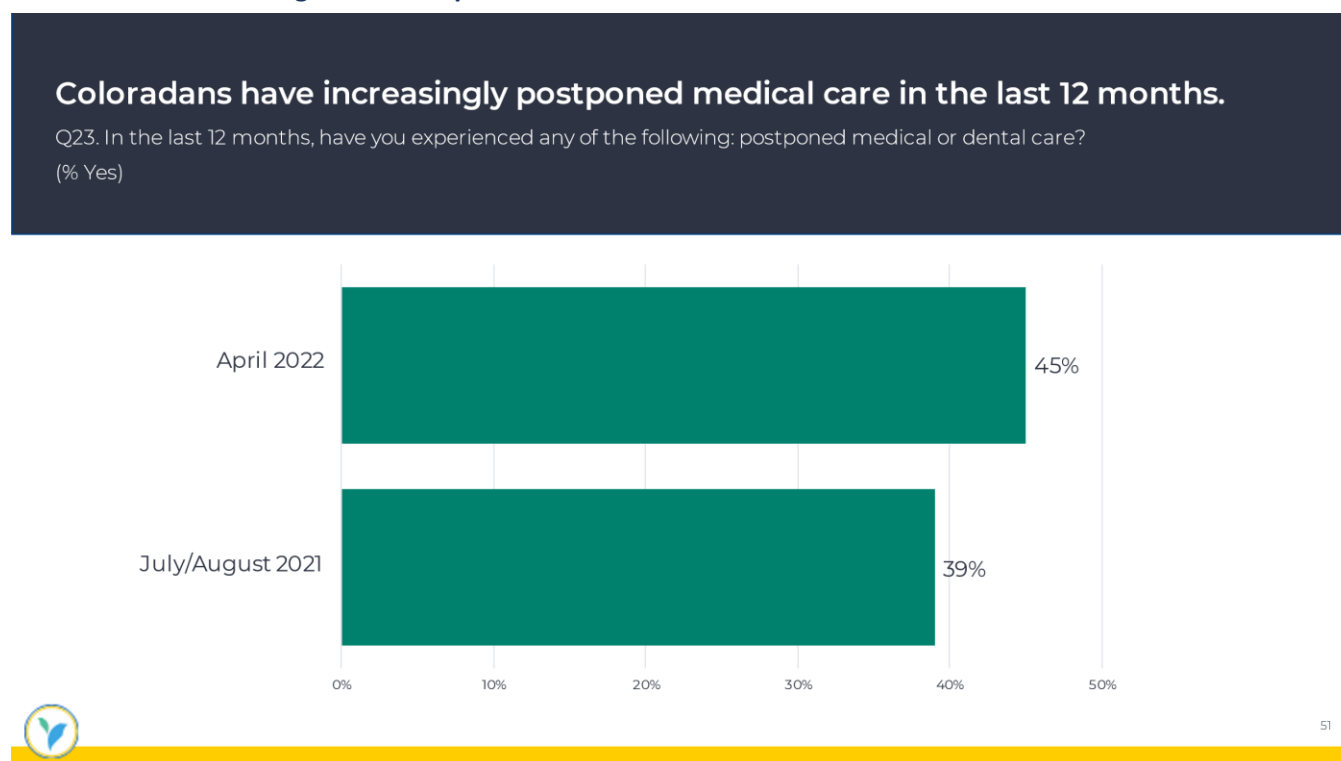


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## 5 HEALTH CARE

While Coloradans' concern about the overall cost of living has increased dramatically in the past year, one household expense has ranked as a consistent high concern in every Pulse poll: the cost of health care. Two-thirds (67%) rate it a "very serious" problem in Colorado this year – but last year a statistically-identical 65% said the same. Now, however, in the context of growing concern about a wide range of household expenses, health care costs may be pressing Coloradans to make some more difficult choices. As shown in **Figure 19** below, nearly half of Coloradans (45%) say that they put off medical or dental care in the past year – up from 39% in 2021. Those who live with a disability (61%) or identify as LGBTQ (56%) are particularly likely to say that they have made a decision to postpone care.

**Figure 19: Postponement of Medical or Dental Care in the Last Year**



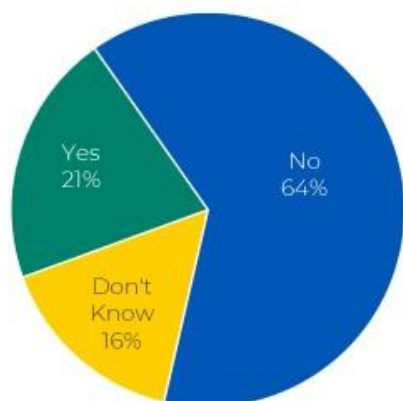
A number of factors might contribute to Coloradans' making the difficult decision to postpone medical or dental care, and the survey sheds some light on some of the potential factors involved. Lack of insurance coverage may play a role: 65% of uninsured Coloradans and 64% of those who are worried about not having insurance postponed care. Broader financial instability also factors in, with 78% of people who skipped meals because they couldn't afford food also saying that they postponed medical or dental care.

Another factor could be fear of racial bias. As shown on the following page in **Figure 20**, more than one in five say that they or someone they know experienced unfair treatment on the basis of race and ethnicity – an experience particularly prevalent among Black/African-American or Native American/Indigenous Coloradans. These experiences could well play into decisions to postpone care: 65% of those who experienced or know someone who has experienced unfair treatment when seeking health care postponed medical or dental care in the past year.

**Figure 20: Experience with Racial/Ethnic Unfair Treatment in Seeking Health Care Services**

**One in five Coloradans say they or someone they know has experienced unfair treatment based on race or ethnicity when seeking health services.**

Q16d. Please tell me whether you - or someone you know - has been treated unfairly in any of the following situations here in Colorado as a result of their race or ethnicity: When seeking health care services



Demographic Group	Total Experienced
All	21%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	
Asian/Pacific Islander	19%
Black/African American	32%
Hispanic/Latino	27%
Native American/Indigenous	52%
White	18%
Multiracial	29%
All People of Color	27%



64

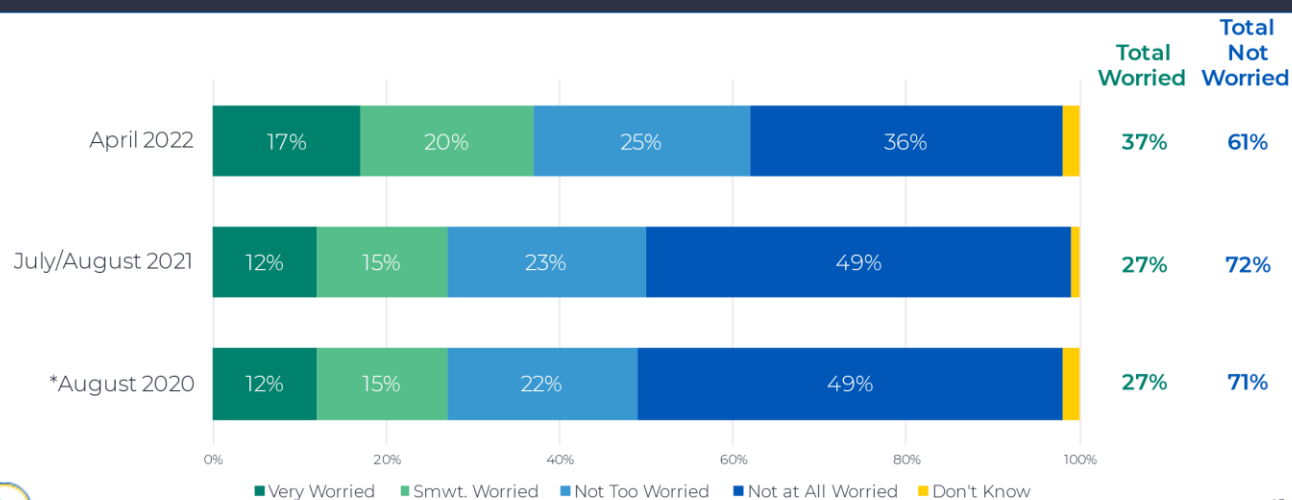
Looking forward, many Coloradans are concerned about their ability to obtain health care in the coming year, with more than one-third (37%) indicating that they are worried they will have to go without health coverage – up ten points from the level of concern expressed in last year’s survey (as shown on the following page in **Figure 21**). Concern about going without health insurance coverage is particularly acute among a number of subgroups of Coloradans:

- A 55-percent majority of those who are currently unemployed worry about going without health insurance, but even those employed part-time (42%) or full-time (37%) express significant concern.
- A majority of those with household incomes under \$30,000 per year express concern (55%), as do more than two in five in households that make up to \$100,000 per year; and even in households with six-figure incomes, nearly one-quarter (24%) are worried about going without health insurance coverage.
- Immigrants (49%) express more concern than do non-immigrants (39%).
- Those who speak a language other than English at home express ten points more concern (45%) than those who do not.
- Coloradans of color are significantly more likely to worry about going without health insurance coverage (48%) than are white Coloradans (33%).

**Figure 21: Worry about Going Without Health Insurance Coverage in the Coming Year**

**Nearly two in five worry about going without health insurance coverage, a 10 - point increase since 2021.**

Q20. Thinking ahead over the next year, how worried are you that you or someone else in your household will be without health insurance coverage?



\*Wording Slightly Different

48

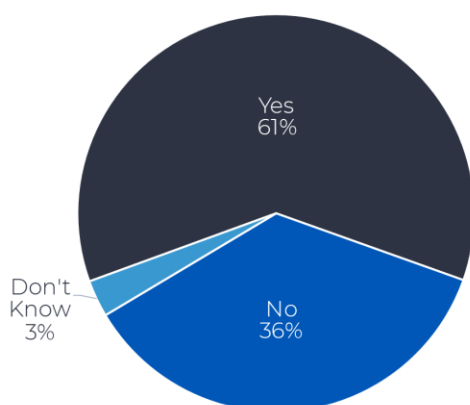
## 6 MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Mental health (and access to mental health care) remains a top-tier concern for Coloradans. Nearly two-thirds (63%) say mental health is a “very serious” problem in the state, and much of that concern stems from personal experience. Three in five Coloradans say that they have experienced mental health strain in the last year, as detailed in **Figure 22**. Among those most likely to have experienced strain are LGBTQ Coloradans and those who are under age 30, live with disabilities, have household incomes under \$50,000, or are uninsured or covered by Medicaid.

**Figure 22: Experiences with Mental Health Strain**

**Three in five say they've experienced mental health strain in the last year.**

Q29. In the last year, have you experienced mental health strain such as anxiety, depression, loneliness, or stress?



### Most Likely to Have Experienced Mental Health Strain

LGBTQ Coloradans (84%)  
 Women ages 18-49 (80%)  
 Under age 30 (79%)  
 Native American (79%)  
 Insured through Medicaid (74%)  
 Live with disability (73%)  
 Income under \$50K (72%)  
 Uninsured (72%)



57

Those who had experienced mental health strain were asked a follow-up question about the barriers they had experienced in getting care, as shown on the following page in **Figure 23**. The cost of services was the most common challenge to accessing mental health care; other frequently-cited difficulties were a lack of available appointments, a lack of understanding of how to find a provider and not being able to find a provider who understands their background or experiences.

There are some key distinctions in barriers to accessing mental health care experienced by different racial and ethnic subgroups:

- Native American, Black, and Asian/Pacific Islander Coloradans are more likely than others to say that they had difficulty finding a provider who could understand their background.
- Native Americans are especially concerned about privacy or having to disclose personal information to their provider.

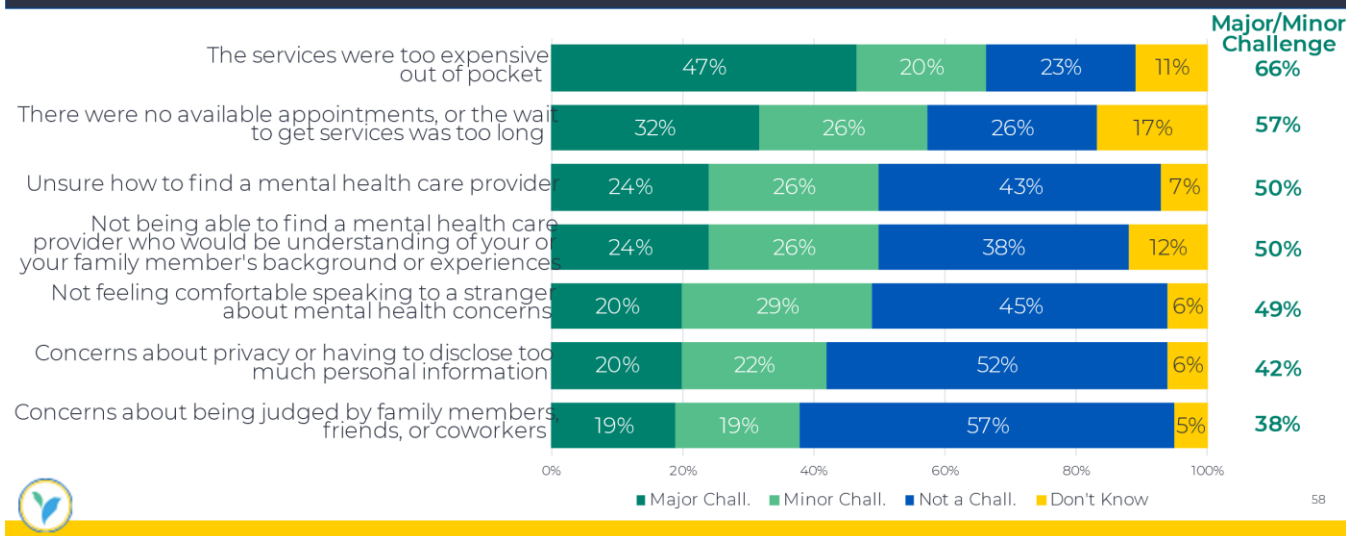
- Concern about being judged by friends and family is far more widespread among Coloradans of color than it is among white Coloradans.

**Figure 23: Challenges to Accessing Mental Health Care**

### Out-of-pocket costs present the greatest challenge to accessing mental health care.

Q30. Here are some reasons that some people who live in Colorado have been unable to get access to the mental health care they needed. Please tell me if this was a major challenge, minor challenge, or not a challenge for you or a family member in accessing mental health services.

(Asked of Those Who Experienced Mental Health Strain Only, n=1,819)



- Uncertainty about how to find a provider is also more common among Coloradans of color, especially among Asian/Pacific Islanders and Black Coloradans.
- Asian/Pacific Islander Coloradans are more likely than others to report encountering long wait times.

Other key demographic distinctions in barriers to accessing mental health care include:

- Women are more likely than men to say out-of-pocket costs are too expensive and that wait times are too long, while men are more likely than women to worry about privacy.
- Those living with disabilities are more likely than other Coloradans to be uncertain of how to find a provider, to have trouble finding a provider who understands their experiences, to experience discomfort talking with a stranger about their experiences, to have privacy concerns or to worry about judgment from family and friends.
- LGBTQ Coloradans report experiencing all the challenges listed more frequently.

Respondents were also asked to rate the effectiveness of a series of proposals to improve mental health in the state, as detailed in **Figure 24** on the following page. Coloradans broadly view as effective creating more options for people to access mental health where they live, requiring health insurance to cover more mental health services without copays and pairing mental health professionals with law enforcement to respond to mental

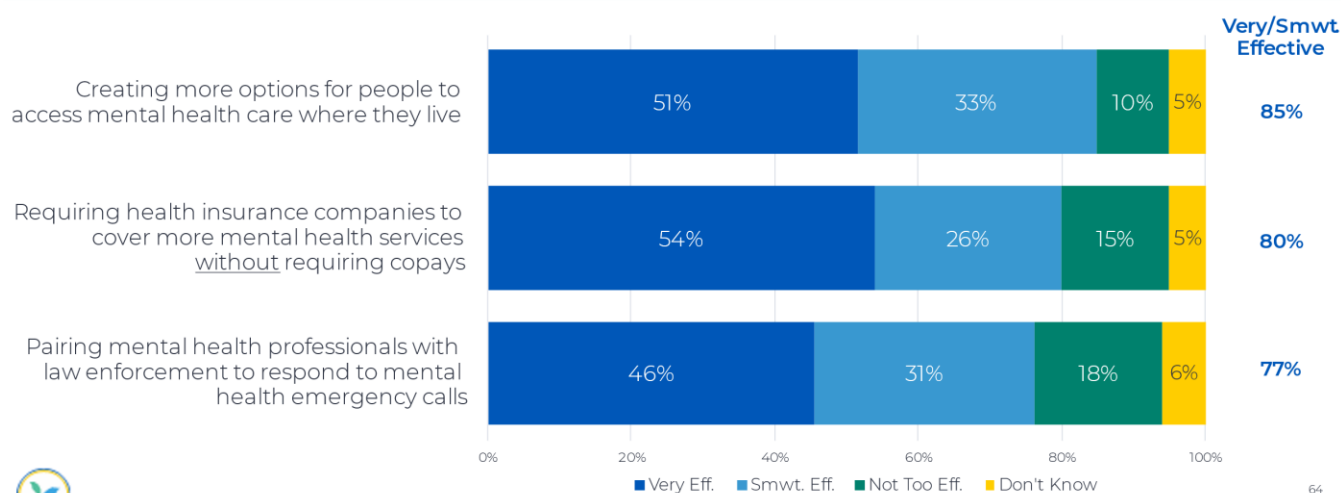


health emergency calls. Majorities of Coloradans across ethnic groups, partisan backgrounds and regions of the state view each of these approaches as effective.

**Figure 24: Perceived Effectiveness of Policies to Improve Mental Health in Colorado**

### Coloradans view a series of proposals to improve mental health as effective.

Q31. Here are some actions that some people say will improve mental health in Colorado. Please tell me how effective you think it will be in improving mental health: very effective, somewhat effective, or not too effective.



64

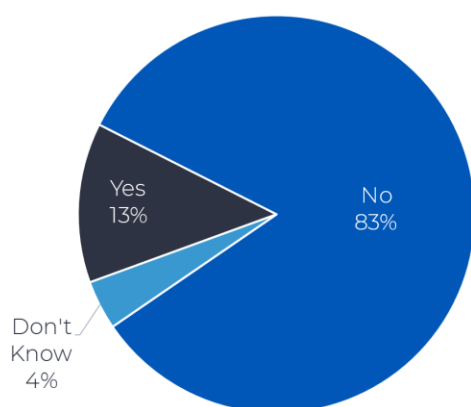
## 7 ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE

A majority of Coloradans views drug and alcohol use as a serious problem; while most say their use has stayed the same in the past year (52%) or even decreased (27%), 13% say their use has increased. A similar 13% say that they have been “worried” about their drug and alcohol use in the past year (as shown in **Figure 25** below). Among those who have increased their use of alcohol, two in five are worried about their overall consumption (representing 6% of all Coloradans). Those most likely to report concern about their use of drugs and alcohol include LGBTQ Coloradans, those under age 50, Native American Coloradans, those without a college degree, those living with a disability, Black Coloradans and more.

**Figure 25: Coloradans’ Concern About Their Own Alcohol and Drug Consumption**

**Approximately one in ten worry about the amount they consume.**

33. And in the past year, have you ever felt worried about the amount of alcohol or drugs you consume?



### Most Likely to Worry About Consumption

- LGBTQ (25%)
- Under age 30 (20%)
- In their 30's (19%)
- Native American/Indigenous (19%)
- Live with a disability (18%)
- Speak language other than English at home (18%)
- Black/African American (18%)
- Denver County (17%)
- Larimer/Weld (17%)
- Unemployed (17%)
- Asian American/Pacific Islanders (17%)



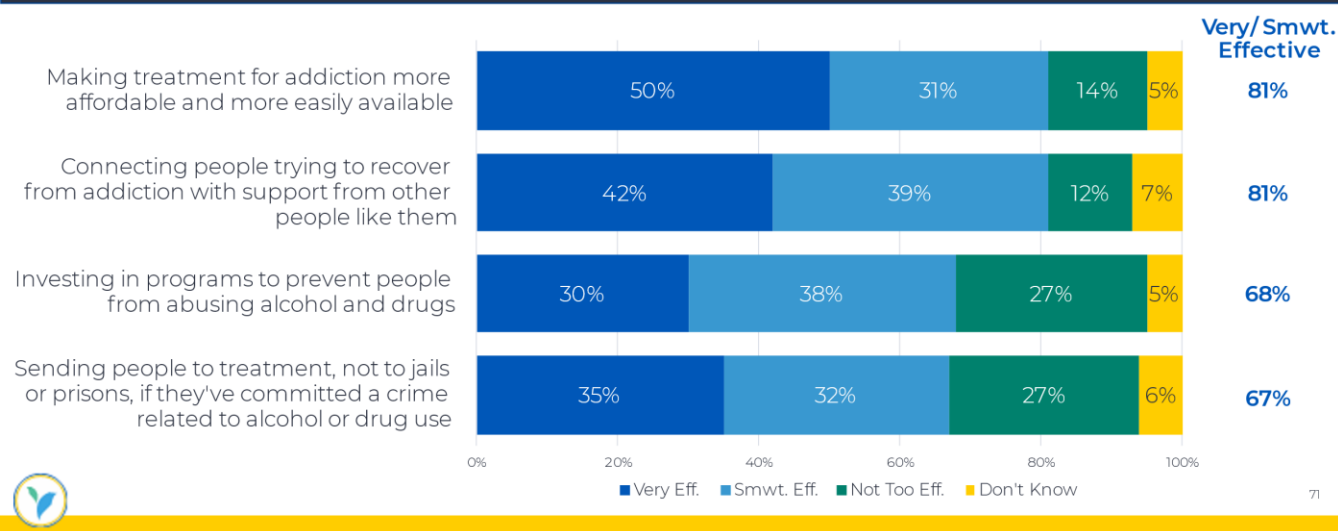
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Respondents were also asked to rate the effectiveness of proposals aimed at decreasing alcohol and drug use in Colorado (as detailed in **Figure 26** on the following page). Eighty-one percent said making treatment for addiction affordable and more available was effective, and an identical 81% said the same of policies to connect people trying to recover from addiction with support from other people like them. Two-thirds agreed that investing in programs to prevent people from abusing alcohol and drugs and sending people to treatment instead of jail would be effective.

**Figure 26: Perceived Effectiveness of Policies to Address Alcohol and Drug Use in Colorado**

### Coloradans view making treatment for addiction affordable and connecting people with others who can support them as most effective.

Q34. Here are some actions that some people say will address increasing rates of alcohol and drug use in Colorado. Please rate how effective you think it will be in decreasing alcohol and drug use: very effective, somewhat effective, or not too effective.



While Coloradans across the partisan spectrum agree that making treatment more accessible and creating support groups is effective, Democrats and independents are much more likely to view investing in treatment over incarceration as effective than are Republicans – by a margin of 85% to 46%, as illustrated in **Figure 27** on the following page.

Majorities across the state view all the proposed approaches as effective, as shown in **Figure 28**. However, residents of Larimer and Weld Counties and the Denver Metro area are most likely to hold that perspective. Those who live in the Eastern Plains offer slightly lower effectiveness ratings. Pueblo County residents are also slightly less likely to view preventive approaches as effective, although a majority still perceives that they are.

**Figure 27: Perceived Effectiveness of Policies to Address Alcohol and Drug Use in Colorado, by Party**

**Republicans are split on sending people to treatment instead of jail, but Democrats and independents widely see the approach as effective.**

34. Here are some actions that some people say will address increasing rates of alcohol and drug use in Colorado. Please tell me how effective you think it will be in decreasing alcohol and drug use: very effective, somewhat effective, or not too effective.

(% Very/Somewhat Effective)

Proposal	All	Party			Dem-Rep. Diff.
		Democrats	Independents	Republicans	
Making treatment for addiction more affordable and more easily available	81%	89%	84%	75%	+14%
Connecting people trying to recover from addiction with support from other people like them	81%	86%	82%	77%	+9%
Investing in programs to prevent people from abusing alcohol and drugs	68%	74%	71%	59%	+15%
Sending people to treatment, not to jails or prisons, if they've committed a crime related to alcohol or drug use	67%	85%	70%	46%	+39%



72

**Figure 28: Perceived Effectiveness of Policies to Address Alcohol and Drug Use in Colorado, by Region**

**Residents of Eastern Plains and Pueblo are less likely to view treatment as a more effective solution than jail.**

Q34. Here are some actions that some people say will address increasing rates of alcohol and drug use in Colorado. Please tell me how effective you think it will be in decreasing alcohol and drug use: very effective, somewhat effective, or not too effective.

(% Very/Somewhat Effective)

Proposal	All	Region					
		Eastern Plains	El Paso	Pueblo	Larimer Weld	Denver Metro	Western Slope
Making treatment for addiction more affordable and more easily available	81%	69%	84%	79%	83%	82%	75%
Connecting people trying to recover from addiction with support from other people like them	81%	74%	84%	73%	82%	81%	78%
Investing in programs to prevent people from abusing alcohol and drugs	68%	63%	69%	58%	70%	68%	66%
Sending people to treatment, not to jails or prisons, if they've committed a crime related to alcohol or drug use	67%	51%	65%	53%	70%	70%	64%

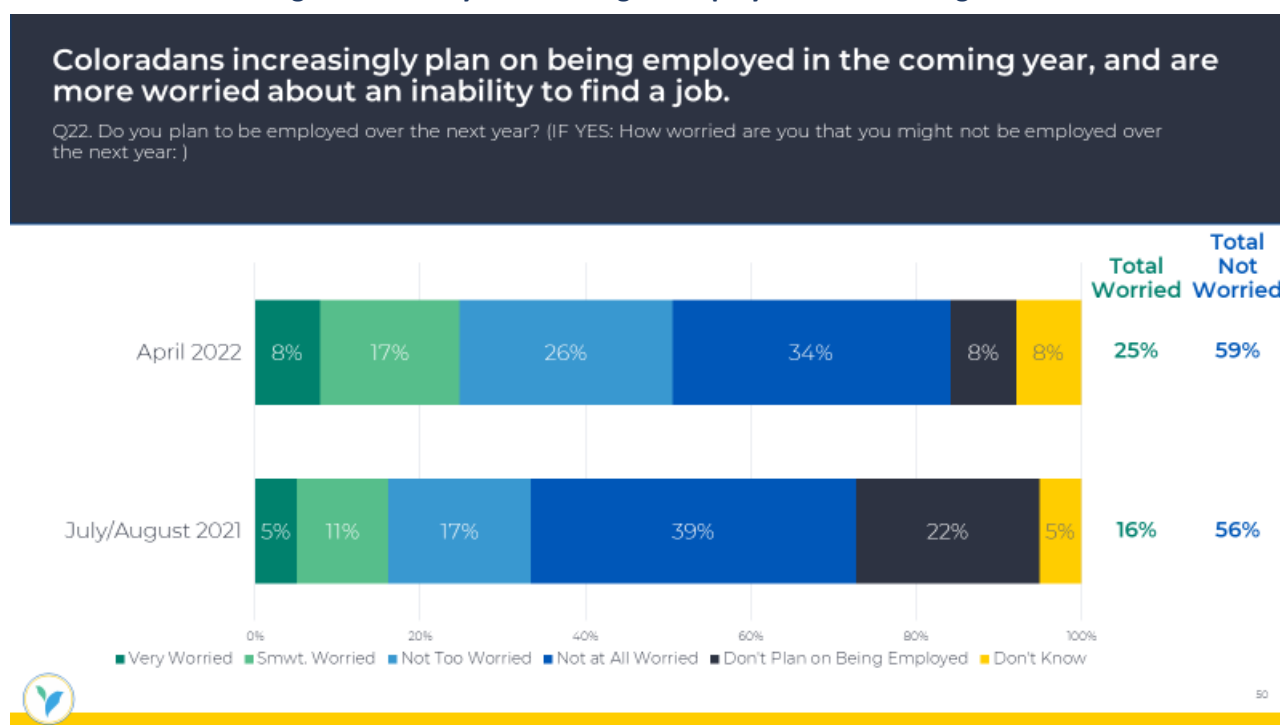


73

## 8 JOBS AND THE GREAT RESIGNATION

As the state's economy continues to emerge from the pandemic, one-quarter of Coloradans plan on being employed next year but are worried they might not be fully employed, compared to 16% who were worried about being unemployed in 2021. These expectations for employment are consistent across most subgroups of the population, with little demographic variation. One notable exception is the 47% of Native American respondents who say they are worried they might not be employed in the coming year (with 23% labeling themselves "very worried"). Thirty-eight percent of part-time workers are worried about going without employment, and 32% of those with household incomes below \$30,000 are as well.

**Figure 28: Worry About Being Unemployed in the Coming Year**

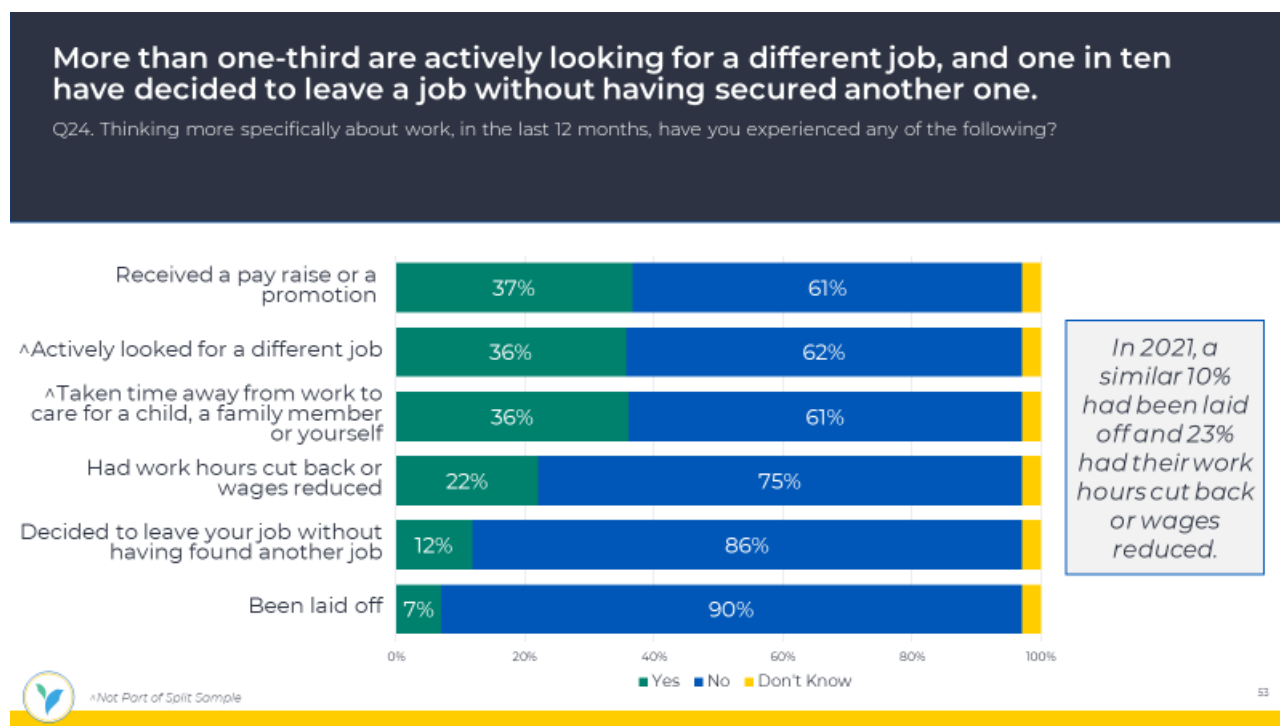


While Coloradans are increasingly worried about being unemployed, they are also more interested in joining the labor force. In 2021, 22% of respondents indicated they did not plan on being employed in the coming year. This number declined to just eight percent this year.

Coloradans do display some restlessness in their employment situations, as illustrated in the following page in **Figure 29**. Among Coloradans who are currently employed, 36% have actively looked for another job and 12% have left their existing job without a backup option.

Experiences with employment do vary significantly by income. For example, those with household incomes below \$50,000 are more likely than higher-income counterparts to have looked for another job and to have left their last position without having found another job. And although more than one-third have received a promotion in the past year, this experience appears to be concentrated among those earning \$50,000 or more, and particularly among those earning \$100,000 or more.

**Figure 29: Coloradans' Experiences with Employment Over the Past Year**



Race and ethnicity also impact Coloradans' pursuit of new employment. Forty-two percent of all Coloradans of color have looked for a different job over the last year, compared to only 33% of white Coloradans: among Black and African-American residents of the state, nearly half have looked for a new job (47%). Among Hispanic and Latino Coloradans of Mexican background, 40% have looked for a new job; among Hispanic and Latino Coloradans with other national backgrounds, most (57%) have looked for a new job.

Meanwhile, about one-quarter of Coloradans say that they've had their hours cut back, and nearly one in ten (7%) say they lost their job this year – numbers that varied little from those in last year's survey. However, 36% had to take time away from work to provide care to a loved one. Some notable demographic distinctions in the frequency with which Coloradans have had to take time off for caregiving responsibilities include:

- Coloradans in their 30's and 40's are more likely than other age groups to have had to take time off for this reason;
- Only 29% of college-educated men took time off to provide care, while men without a college degree and women all reported taking time off for caregiving at higher rates;
- Parents were twice as likely to take leave for caregiving (particularly those with a child under age 13) than were non-parents; and
- LGBTQ respondents were more likely to report having taken time for caregiving.

Coloradans also indicate significant experience with encountering unfair treatment in pursuing employment; as shown in **Figure 30**, nearly one-quarter say that they or someone they know has had this experience. Nearly one-third of Coloradans of color report this experience (32%) compared to just 20% of white Coloradans – with multiracial and Native American/Indigenous Coloradans particularly likely to report unfair treatment. Those

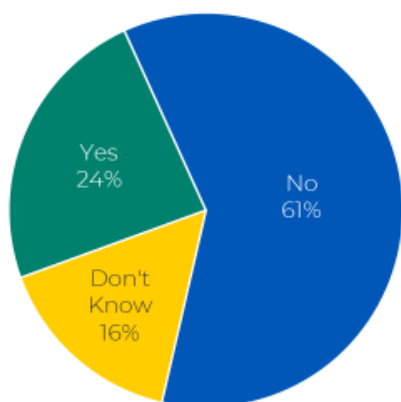
interviewed in Spanish were also more likely to report having been treated unfairly (43%) compared to Hispanic and Latino respondents overall (33%) and those interviewed in English (22%).

**Figure 30: Experience with Racial/Ethnic Unfair Treatment in Seeking Employment**

### One-quarter of Coloradans know someone who has been treated unfairly on the basis of race or ethnicity when seeking employment.

Q16c. Please tell me whether you - or someone you know - has been treated unfairly in any of the following situations here in Colorado as a result of their race or ethnicity: When seeking employment.

(% Yes)



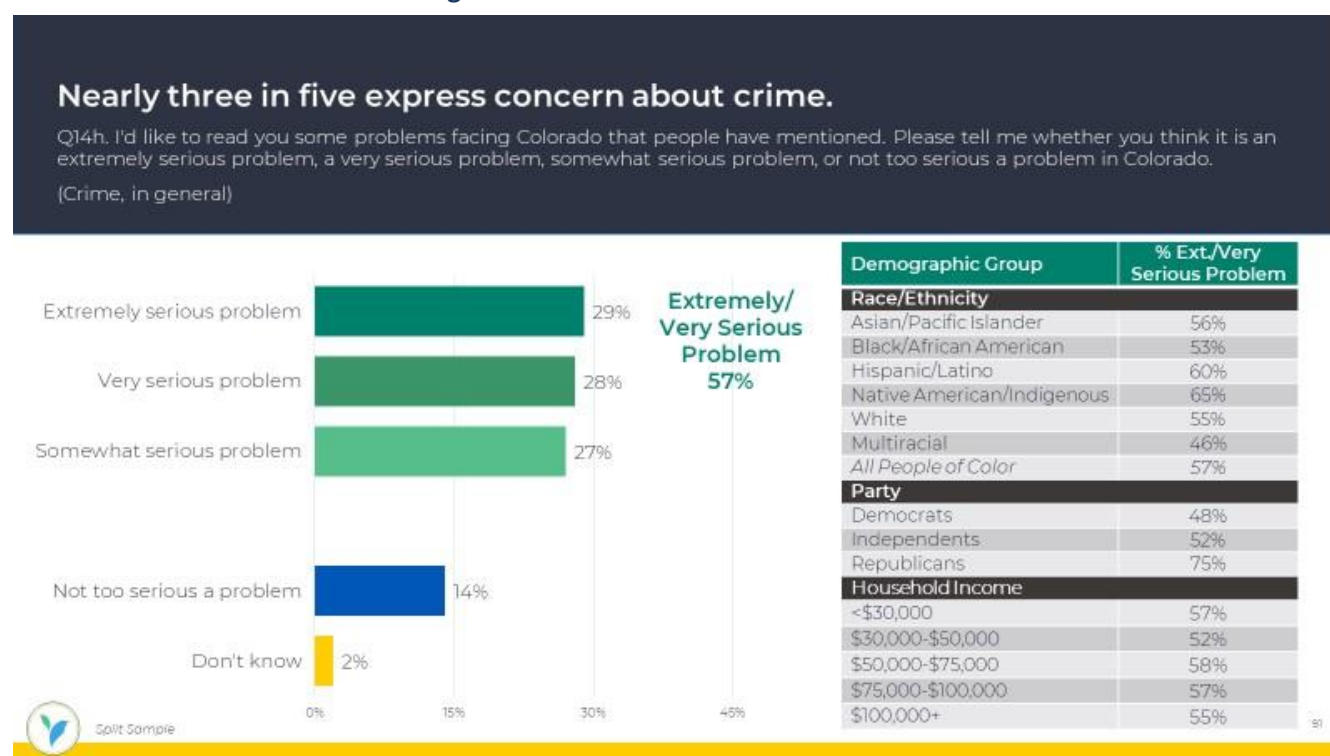
Demographic Group	Total Experienced
All	24%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	
Asian/Pacific Islander	24%
Black/African American	34%
Hispanic/Latino	33%
Native American/Indigenous	51%
White	20%
Multiracial	38%
All People of Color	32%



## 9 CRIME AND POLICING

Concern about crime in Colorado has increased notably in the past year. As shown in **Figure 31**, 57% of Coloradans now rate crime as a “very serious” problem – up from 41% last year, and representing the biggest increase in concern of any of the issues tested in this year’s survey. There is only modest variation in concern about crime across racial and income groups, but there is notable partisan variation: while 75% of Colorado Republicans view crime as a “very serious” problem, only 48% of Democrats view it the same way.

**Figure 31: Concern about Crime in General**



Coloradans also express concern about police violence and misconduct, though it is less intense and less widespread than concern about crime (as shown on the following page in **Figure 32**). Three in ten Coloradans (30%) see police violence and misconduct as a “very serious” problem – including 15% who view it as “extremely serious.” Concern is substantially more widespread among Black/African-American (68%) and Native American/Indigenous Coloradans (68%) than it is among white Coloradans (27%). LGBTQ Coloradans are more than twice as likely to view the issue as a “very serious” problem (57%) than are other Coloradans (26%).

These racial differences likely stem at least in part from personal experience. As illustrated on the next page in **Figure 33** on the next page, Native American/Indigenous (62%) and Black/African-American (48%) Coloradans are much more likely than their white counterparts (27%) to report that they or someone they know has received unfair treatment from law enforcement on the basis of race or ethnicity.



Figure 32: Concern about Police Violence and Misconduct

## One-third of Coloradans – especially Black, Native American/Indigenous, and LGBTQ residents – see police violence as a serious problem.

Q14f. I'd like to read you some problems facing Colorado that people have mentioned. Please tell me whether you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, somewhat serious problem, or not too serious a problem in Colorado.

(Police violence and misconduct)

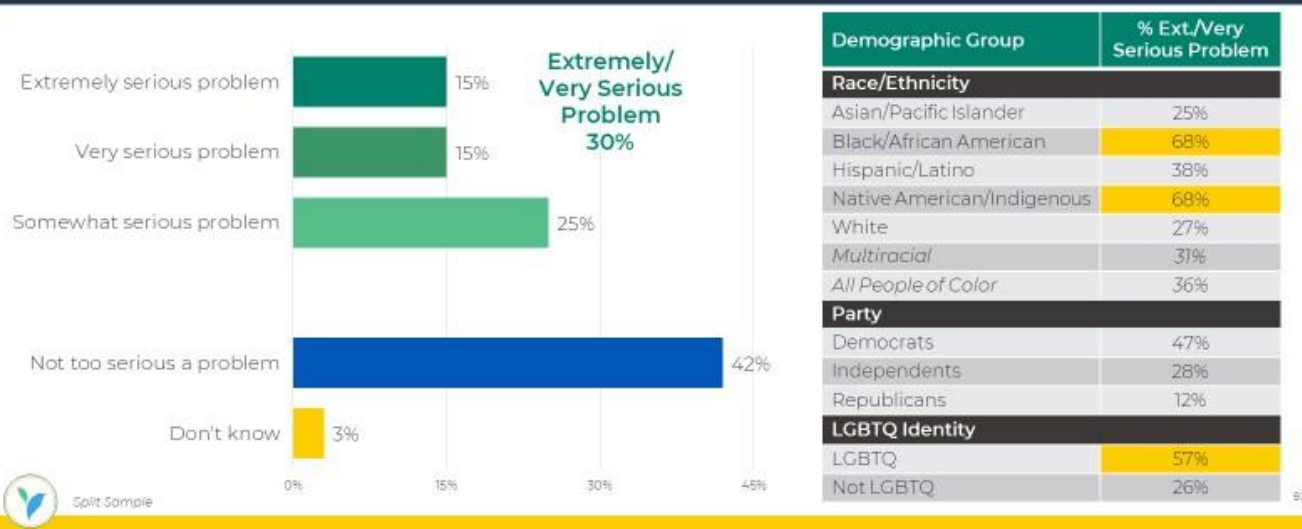
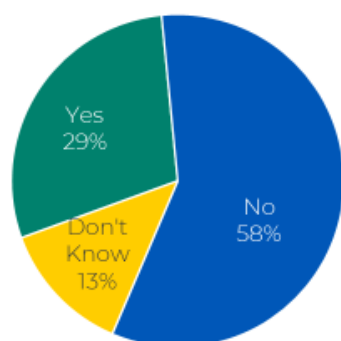


Figure 33: Experience with Racial/Ethnic Unfair Treatment in Interactions with Law Enforcement

## Three in ten Coloradans know someone who has been treated unfairly on the basis of race or ethnicity in interactions with law enforcement.

Q16b. Please tell me whether you - or someone you know - has been treated unfairly in any of the following situations here in Colorado as a result of their race or ethnicity: When interacting with law enforcement.

(% Yes)



Of those who have experienced unfair treatment by law enforcement, a majority – 59% – say that police violence and misconduct is an extremely or very serious problem.

Demographic Group	Total Experienced
All	29%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	
Asian/Pacific Islander	30%
Black/African American	48%
Hispanic/Latino	36%
Native American/Indigenous	62%
White	27%
Multiracial	44%
All People of Color	37%

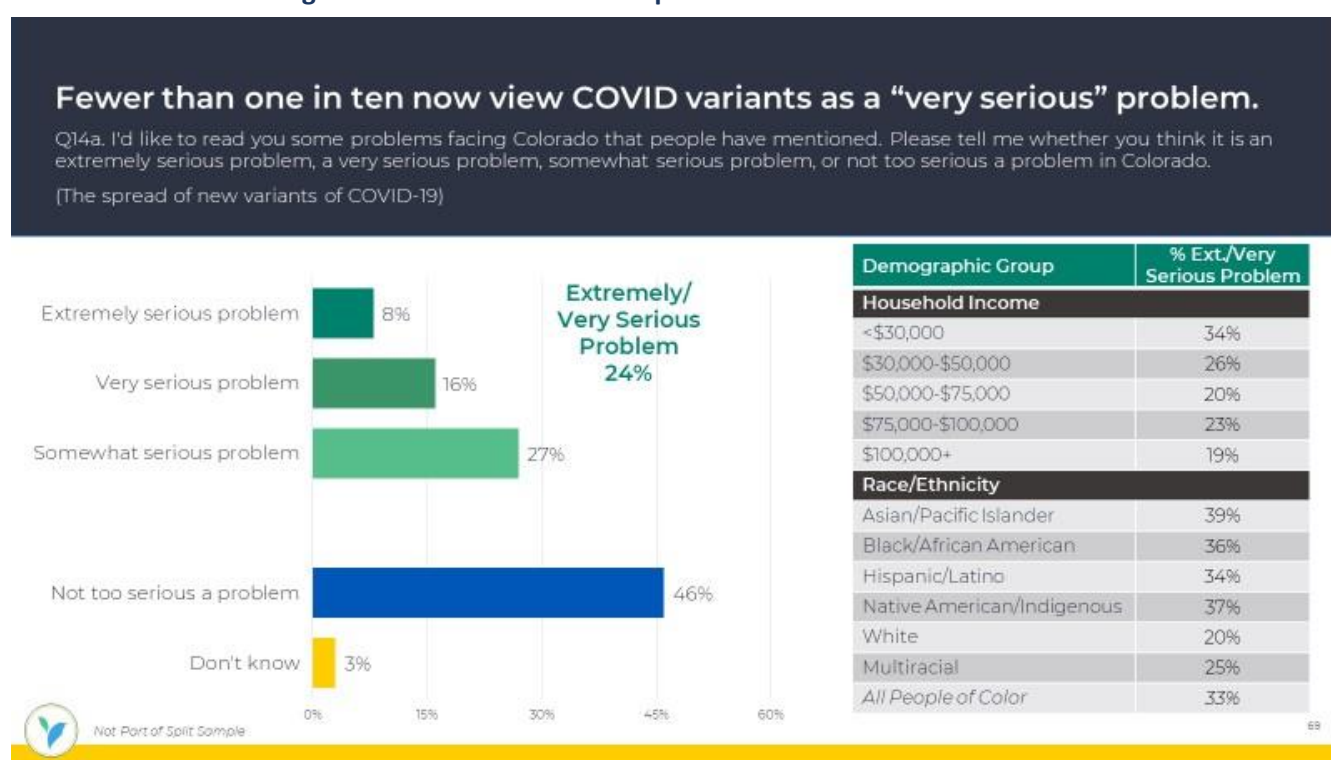


## 10 THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As the COVID-19 pandemic has progressed, and vaccines have become widespread, public concern about the issue has declined. In 2021, 61% rated the impact to the economy from the pandemic as a “very serious” problem and 40% viewed illness and deaths from the coronavirus the same way. Concern was more likely to be concentrated among specific demographic groups, including women, Black Coloradans and Democrats.

However, this year only 24% of respondents indicate they are concerned about the spread of a new variant, as detailed in **Figure 34** below. While it is widely ranked as the least serious problem facing the state among the range of issues tested, Democrats, Coloradans of color and those with household incomes under \$30,000 remain more likely to be concerned about the issue than are others.

**Figure 34: Concern about the Spread of New Variants of COVID-19**

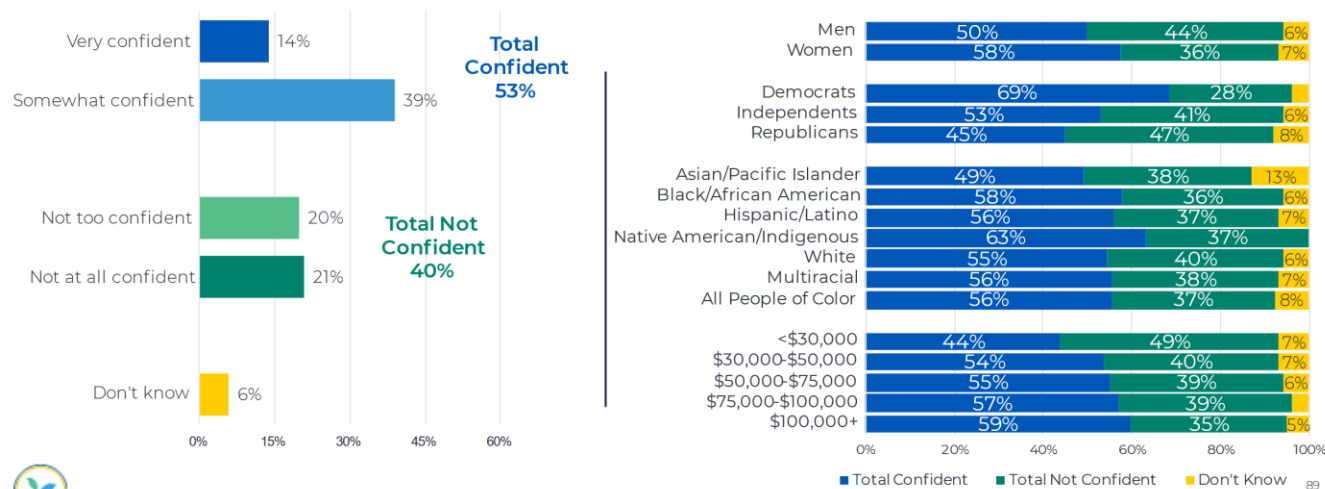


Additionally, this year most Coloradans feel confident that the state is well-prepared to minimize the health and economic impacts of a pandemic (**Figure 35**) – though fewer than one in five (14%) rate themselves “very confident.” Democrats, Native American respondents and those living in the Larimer/Weld and Denver Metro areas express the greatest confidence.

Figure 35: Confidence in Colorado's Pandemic Response Capabilities

## A majority is confident in the state's ability to respond to a pandemic, although few are "very confident."

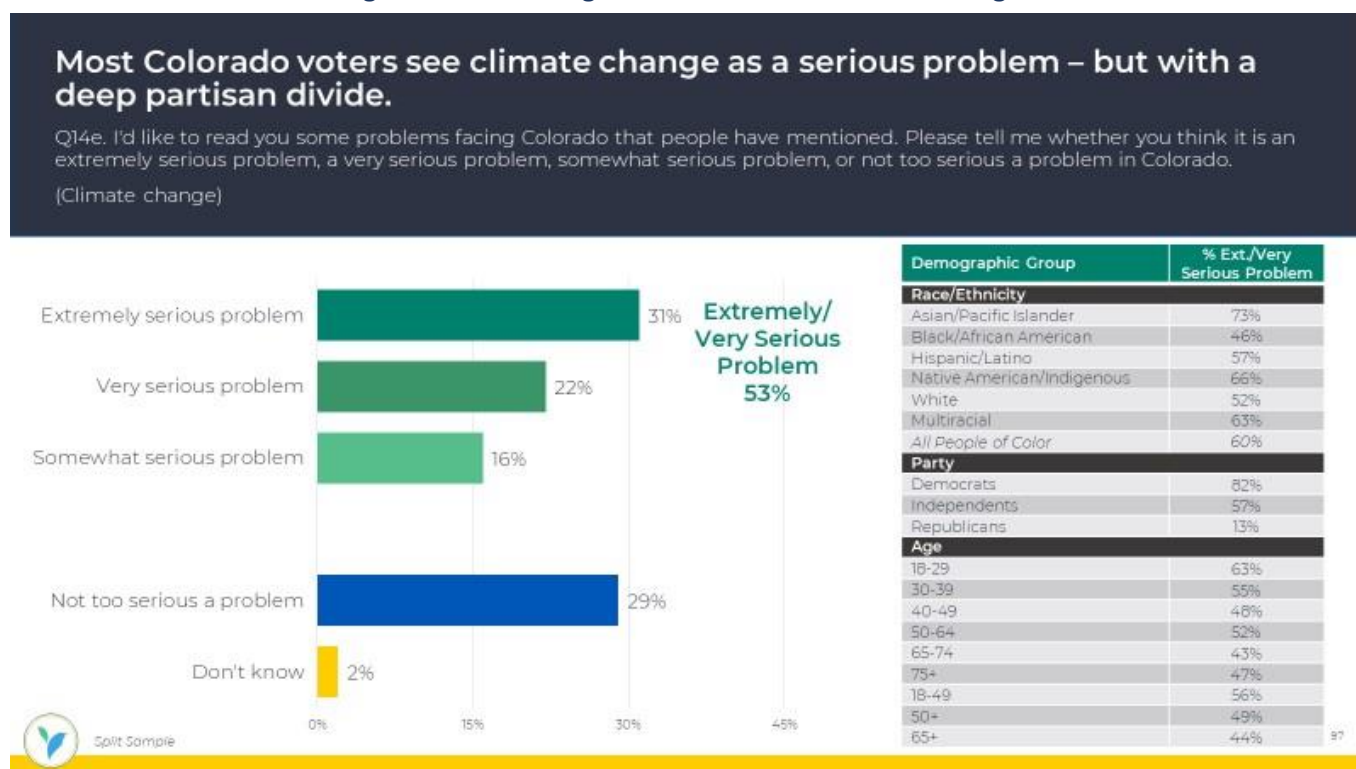
Q15. How confident are you that Colorado is well prepared to minimize the health and economic impacts of another pandemic like COVID-19 in the future:



## 11 CLIMATE CHANGE AND WILDFIRES

This year's survey included questions designed to explore voter concern about climate change and its most notable impacts in Colorado. As referenced in Section 2 of this report and detailed in **Figure 36** below, most Coloradans are concerned about climate change: more than two-thirds (69%) acknowledge it as a problem, with 53% rating it "very serious." However, climate change is also distinguished by significant polarization: it was the sole issue in the survey that a majority rated as a "very serious problem" while simultaneously being dismissed by more than one-quarter (29%) as "not too serious a problem." This dynamic owes a lot to the deep partisan polarization on the issue: 82% of Colorado Democrats view climate change as a "very serious" problem, while only 13% of Colorado Republicans say the same – the greatest partisan gap of any issue tested in the survey.

**Figure 36: Evaluating the Seriousness of Climate Change**



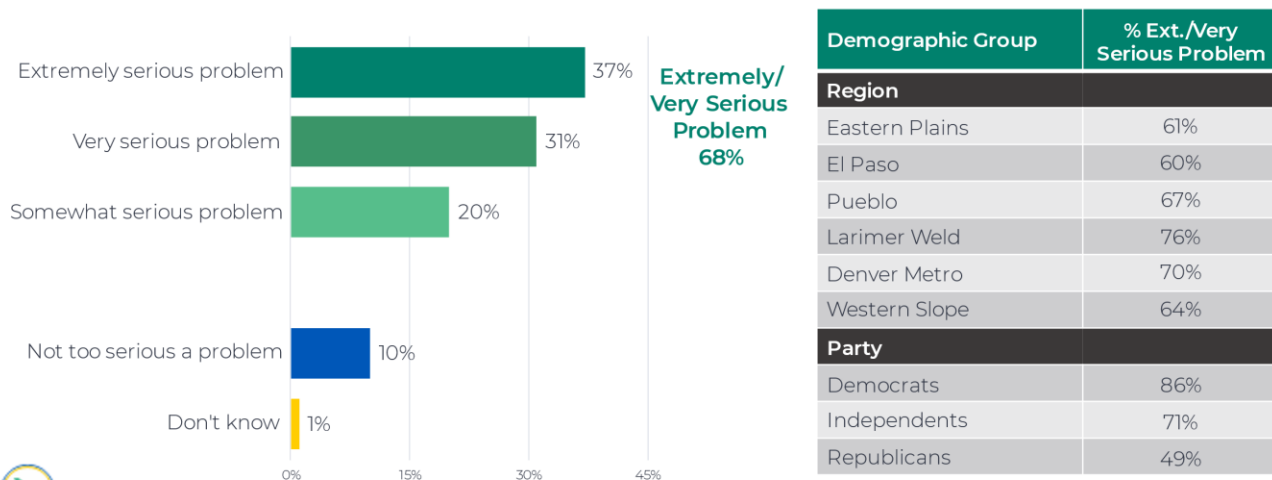
There is more consensus, however, on the impacts of climate change in Colorado – as detailed in **Figure 37** on the following page, over two-thirds of Coloradans (68%) rate "wildfires or other natural disasters" as a "very serious" problem in the state – with almost nine in ten (88%) acknowledging it as at least a "somewhat serious" problem. While there is some partisan division on the issue, it is nowhere near as acute as for climate change. In addition, there is geographic diversity in the recognition of the threat that wildfires and other natural disasters pose: in both urban and rural areas of the state, at least three in five voters see it as a "very serious" problem, reflecting the fact that the impacts of wildfires can be felt in every part of the state.

Figure 37: Evaluating the Seriousness of Wildfires or Other Natural Disasters

## Two-thirds view wildfires as a “very serious” problem – a concern shared across the state.

Q14k. I'd like to read you some problems facing Colorado that people have mentioned. Please tell me whether you think it is an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, somewhat serious problem, or not too serious a problem in Colorado.

(Wildfires or other natural disasters)



92

## APPENDIX A: METHODOLOGY

The 2022 Pulse Survey was conducted by telephone and online from April 5-26, 2022, among a random representative sample of 2,985 adults aged 18 and older living in the state of Colorado. The sample included both landline (132) and cellular telephone (1,042) interviews, as well as 1,811 online interviews (participants were invited via email, text messages, and postcard to participate online). Sampling and weighting were managed by Marketing Systems Group (MSG), and interviewing was conducted by GSK Research in close collaboration with the bipartisan research team of FM3 Research (D) and New Bridge Strategy (R).

The survey was funded by The Colorado Health Foundation (CHF), and FM3 and NBS researchers jointly led the survey design and analysis with frequent consultation with the CHF team. The survey included up to 46 questions, depending on the respondents' answers, with an average length for telephone respondents of 21 minutes and for online respondents of 18 minutes. Telephone interviews were administered in both English and Spanish.

The sampling and screening procedures were based on Address-Based Sampling (ABS), with a random sample of residential addresses in Colorado generated by MSG and drawing from the United States Postal Service Delivery Sequence File (DSF). In order to increase the sampling of Black/African American, Native American/Indigenous, and Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) adults, the base sample was supplemented with 317 interviews in households identified on the state's voter file as containing at least one resident of those ethnicities. Sampled households were matched to public and commercial databases for landline phones, wireless phones and email addresses through MSG and Anchor Computing. Online interviews were obtained from emailed invitations, text messages and postcards with a URL mailed to a sampling of households for whom no other contact information was available. In addition, to obtain additional interviews among Indigenous/Native American adults, 124 online interviews were completed with adults contacted through CHF partner organizations.

All respondents were screened to verify that they resided in Colorado. For the phone interviews, individual respondents were selected by asking for the youngest adult male or female currently at home based on a random rotation. Online interviews were conducted with the qualifying adult who answered the invitation.

A multi-stage weighting design was applied to ensure an accurate representation of the Colorado adult population. The sample was weighted to account for the multiple sources used to obtain additional responses among targeted communities of color. Demographic adjustments were applied to the sample to account for systematic non-response along known population parameters, including gender, age, race, educational attainment, income, voter registration status and partisanship, and region. Weighting parameters were based on estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Census and the Colorado Secretary of State's voter registration files.

The margin of sampling error, including the design effect, for the full sample is plus or minus 2.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence interval. For results based on subgroups, the margin of sampling error may be higher. Sample sizes and margins of sampling error for subgroups are available by request. Note that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll. Some percentages may not sum to 100% because of rounding.

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