

The 2025 Cover Michigan Survey:

Public Opinion on Medicare, Medicaid and the ACA

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Executive Summary

This research brief examines Michiganders' perceptions of three pivotal government healthcare programs: Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The 2025 Cover Michigan Survey highlights generally positive views of all three programs, with Medicare receiving the highest overall support (67% favorable), followed by Medicaid (+38 net favorability), and the ACA (+10 net favorability).

Political affiliation plays a substantial role in shaping opinions. While support for Medicare remains robust across the political spectrum, views on Medicaid and especially the ACA show marked partisan divides. Democrats and Independents display strong favorability toward Medicaid and the ACA, whereas Republicans are more divided or negative, with a notable share expressing uncertainty, particularly about Medicaid.

Despite these divides, concern over the future of these programs—such as potential cuts or changes—bridges some of the partisan gap. Majorities across all affiliations report worry about the sustainability and stability of Medicare, Medicaid, and the ACA, with Democrats expressing the highest levels of concern, followed by Independents and Republicans.

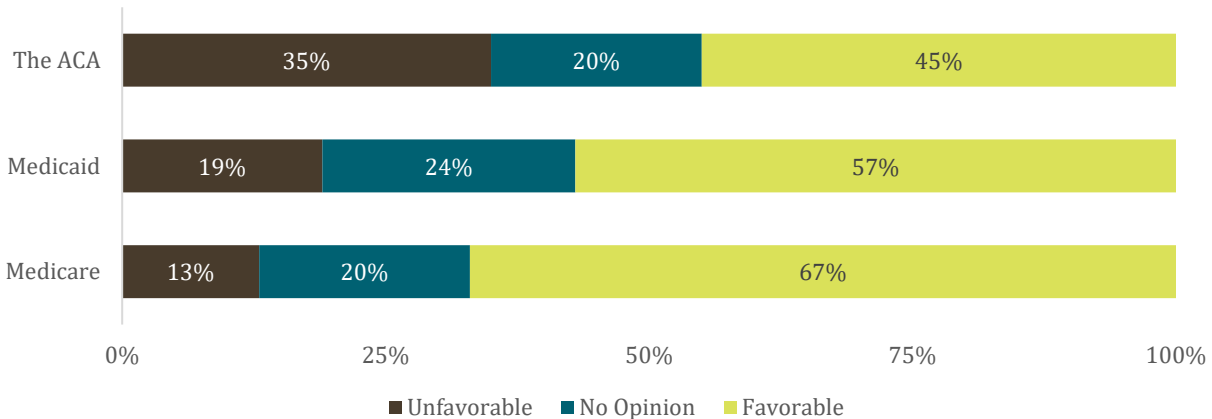
Interestingly, geographic factors such as rural versus urban residency do not substantially change support or levels of concern. Opinions on these programs and their futures remain consistent regardless of community type, challenging common assumptions about regional polarization.

In summary, while traditional party lines shape favorability ratings, broad concern over the future of Medicare, Medicaid, and the ACA transcends those divides, reflecting widespread value placed on these safety net programs. These findings highlight areas for future inquiry, particularly exploring how personal experience with these programs may influence perspectives, and who are the primary users of these services within Michigan's diverse population.

Public Opinion of Medicare, Medicaid, and the ACA

A majority of Michiganders view Medicare, Medicaid, and the ACA positively, though margins vary. Medicaid holds a strong +38 net favorability (57% favorable vs. 19% unfavorable). The ACA also sits in positive territory with a net rating of +10, though it faces higher opposition compared to Medicaid. Medicare continues to lead in overall support with 67% total favorability.

Opinions of Medicare, Medicaid, and The ACA



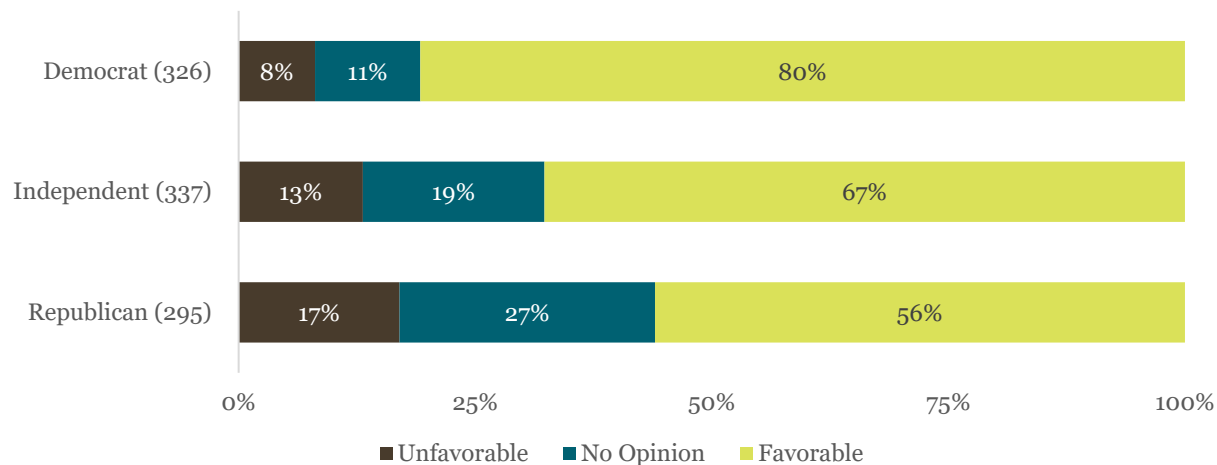
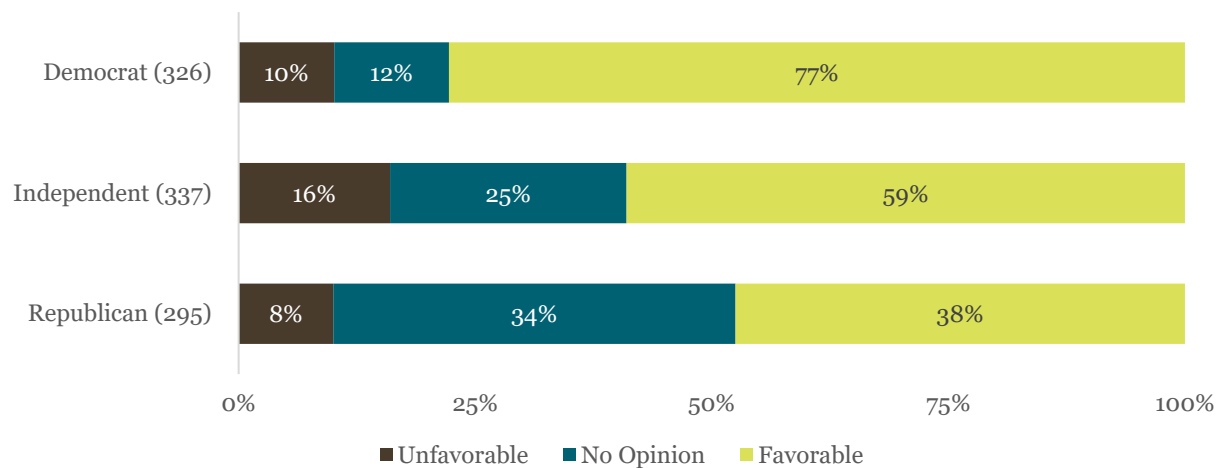
Public Opinion by Political Party Affiliation

Support for government healthcare programs varies significantly by political affiliation, though the intensity differs by program.

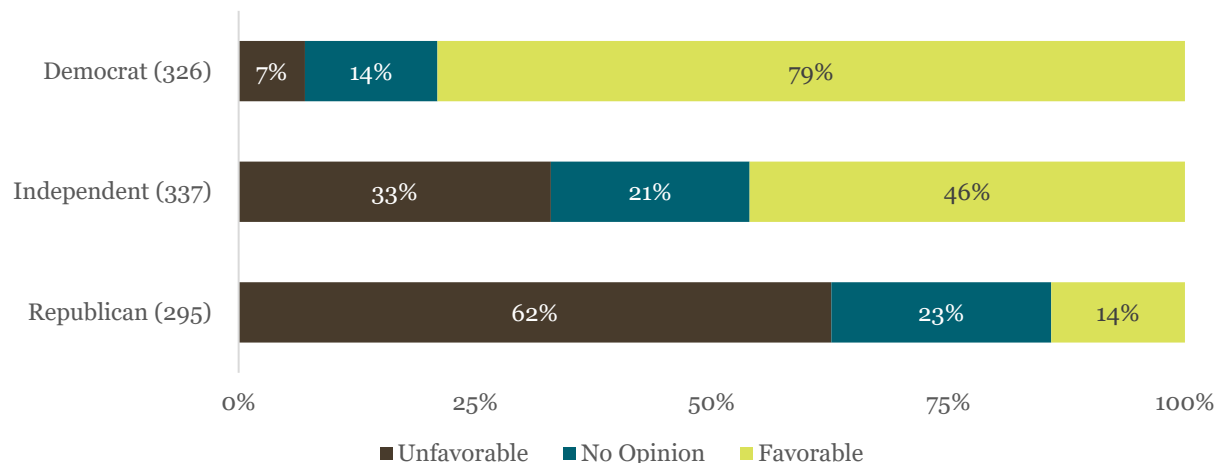
Medicaid: Democrats are the strongest proponents of Medicaid with a +67 net favorability rating (77% favorable vs. 10% unfavorable). Independents also show robust support with a +43 net rating. While Republican support is more tepid, it remains in positive territory at +10%. This lower favorability rating is driven largely by uncertainty. Republicans were nearly three times as likely as Democrats to report having 'No Opinion' (34% vs. 12%). In fact, more Republicans reported having no opinion on Medicaid than an unfavorable one.

The ACA: Opinions on the ACA are far more polarized. Democrats maintain high level of support with a +72 net favorability rating (79% favorable vs. 7% unfavorable). Independents remain the swing group with a +13 net favorability rating. However, unlike Medicaid, the ACA faces deep opposition from Republicans with a net negative favorability rating of -48%. Only 14% of Republicans view the program favorably while 62% view it unfavorably.

Medicare: Opinions on Medicare are the least polarized across political affiliation with a +72% net favorability among Democrats, +54 net favorability among Independents, and a +39 net favorability among Republicans.

Political Party and Opinions of **Medicare**, MichiganPolitical Party and Opinions of **Medicaid**, Michigan

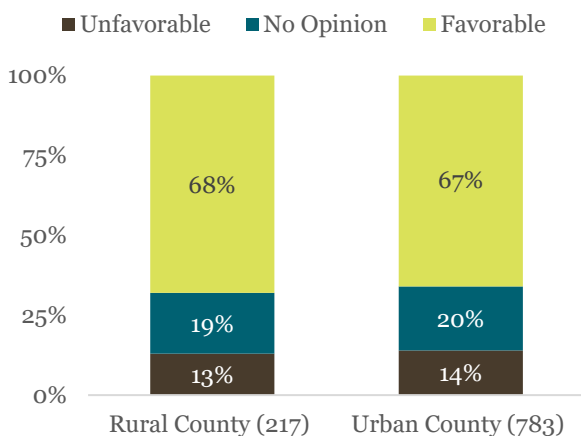
Political Party and Opinions of the ACA, Michigan



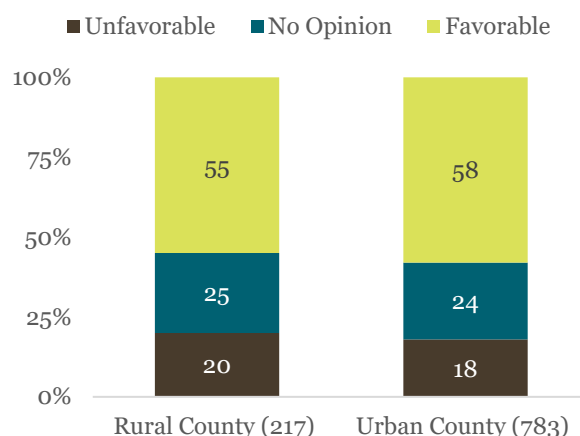
Public Opinion by Community Type

There were no significant differences between opinions about Medicare, Medicaid, and the ACA across rural and urban populations. Most respondents (across both urban and rural populations) had favorable opinions about Medicare (68% of rural respondents, 67% of urban respondents) and Medicaid (55% of rural respondents, 58% of urban respondents). While opinions of the ACA were generally less favorable, there was no difference in opinion between rural (41% favorable) and urban (47% favorable) populations.

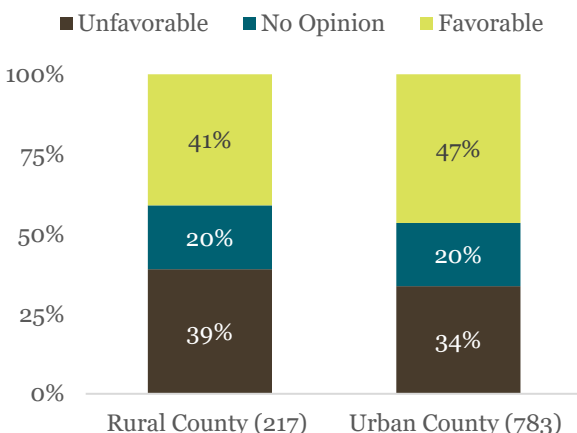
Urban v. Rural County and Opinions of Medicare



Urban v. Rural County and Opinions of Medicaid



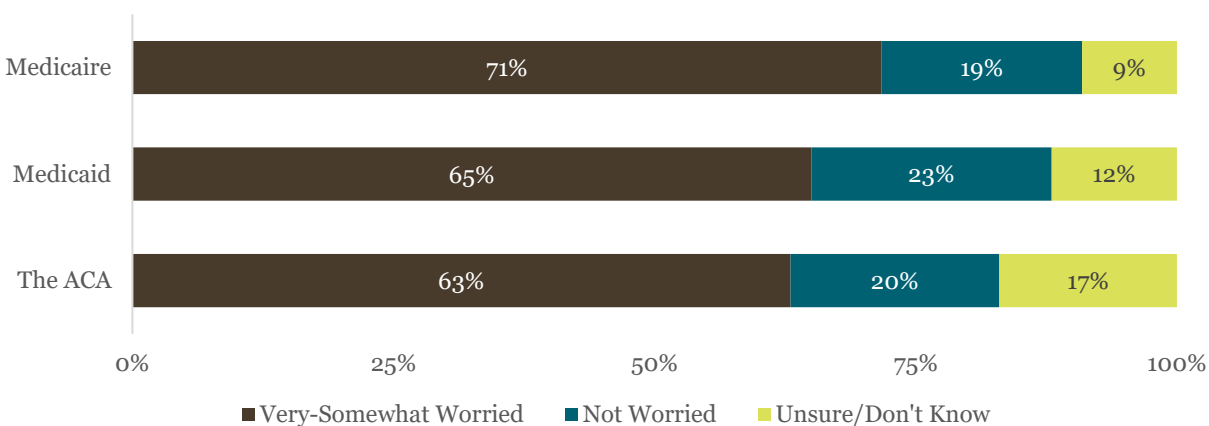
Rural v. Urban County and Opinions of the ACA Title



Concerns about Future of Medicare, Medicaid, and the ACA

Concern about benefit changes and cuts to these programs were widespread and consistent. In response to a question about changes or cuts to programs, a clear majority of Michiganders expressed worry about changes to Medicare (71%), Medicaid (65%), and the ACA (63%), with those worried outnumbering those who are not by a margin of roughly 3-to-1 for both programs.

Worry about the Future of Medicare, Medicaid, and The ACA



Concerns about Future by Political Party Affiliation

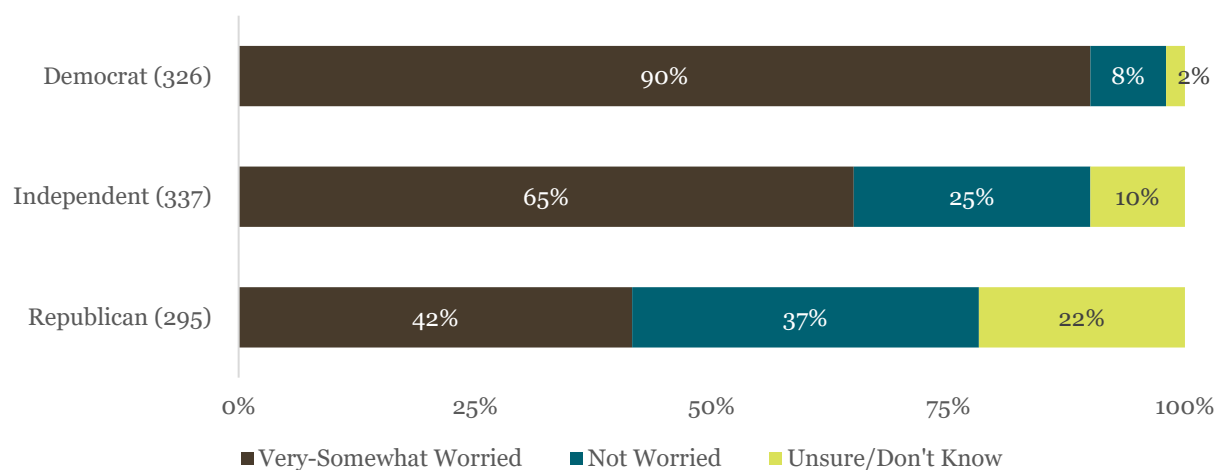
When analyzing these concerns by party affiliation, the partisan gap that was so prominent in favorability ratings narrows significantly when the topic shifts to potential cuts and changes to programs.

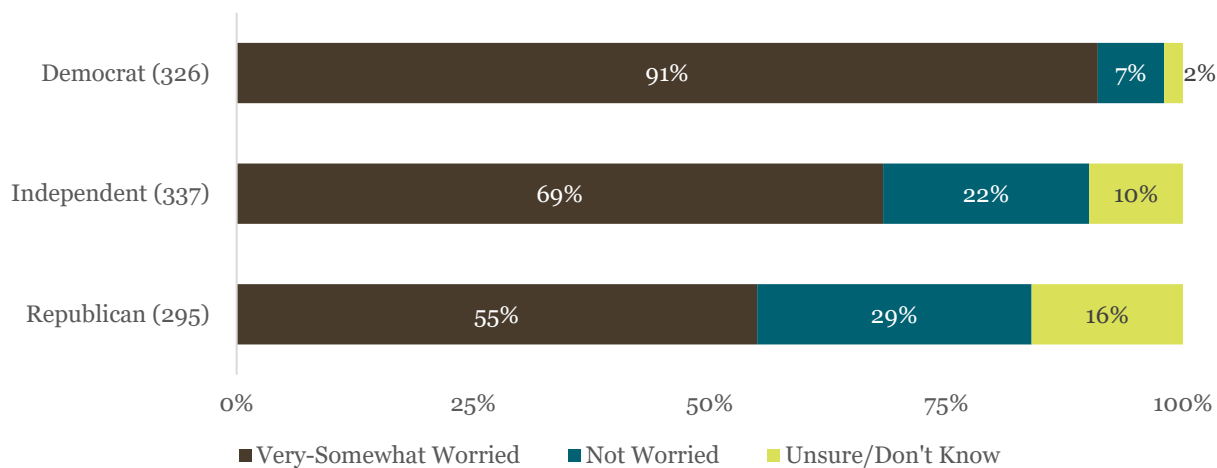
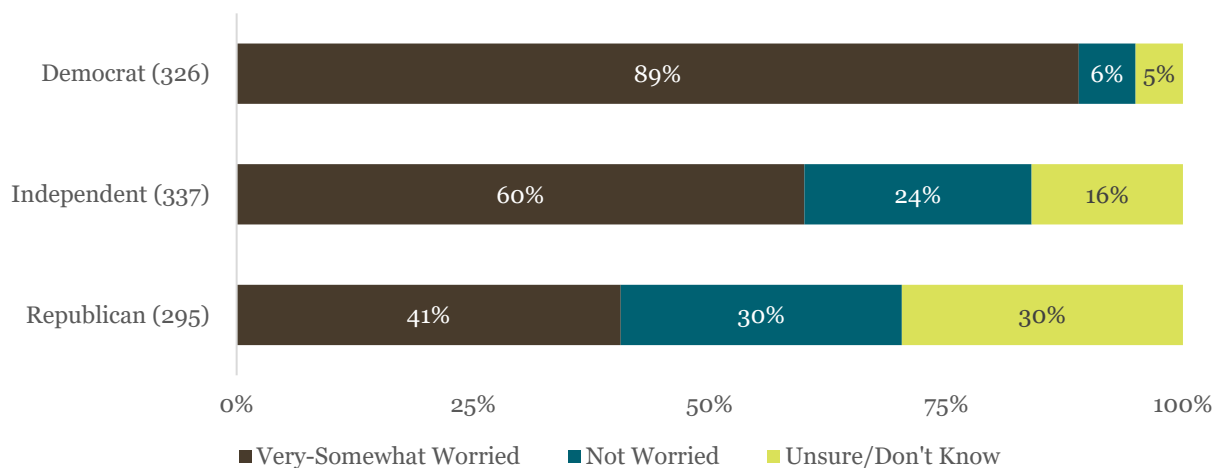
Democrats: Democrats express near-universal concern regarding cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and the ACA. Their net concern ratings are effectively identical for Medicare at +84% (91% very-somewhat worried vs. 7% not worried), Medicaid at +82% (90% very-somewhat worried vs. 8% not worried), and the ACA at +83% (89% very-somewhat worried vs. 6% not worried), indicating they view the protection of all three programs as equally vital.

Independents: Independents also show high levels of concern, though slightly more for Medicare (+59 net concern) and Medicaid (+40 net concern) than the ACA (+36 net concern).

Republicans: The Republican data reveals a complex dynamic. While Republicans showed lower levels of support for Medicare and strong opposition to the ACA when compared to Democrats and Independents, they report more mixed concerns about future changes to these programs. Republicans show the most concern over Medicare, with a +26% net concern (55% very-somewhat worried vs. 29% not worried). On Medicaid, Republicans are split with 42% reporting being very or somewhat worried and 37% reporting being not worried (a +5% net concern). On the ACA, while only 14% of Republicans view the ACA favorably, 41% are 'very or somewhat worried' about changes or cuts to the program (a +11% net concern). Additionally, 30% of Republicans were 'Unsure' about the future of the ACA, the highest uncertainty metric recorded in this survey section.

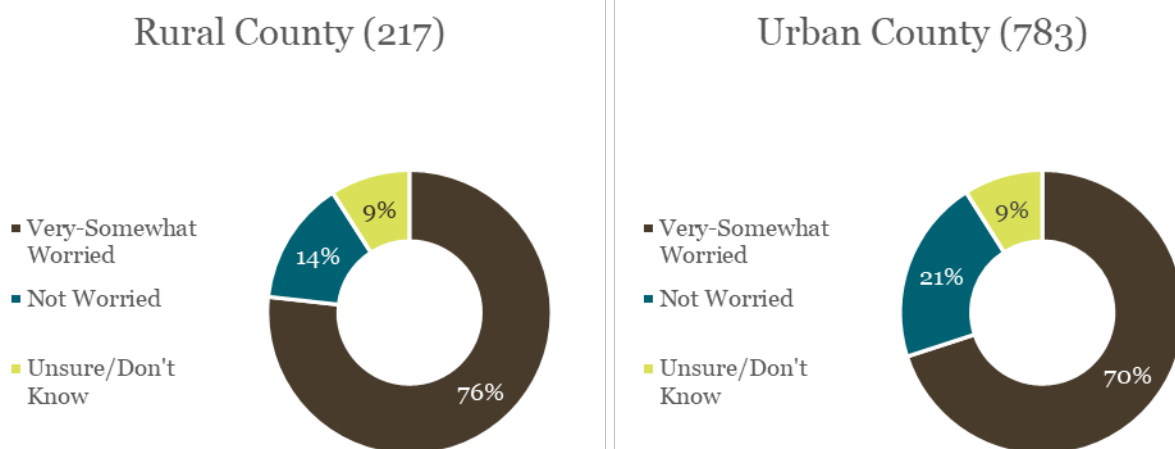
Political Party and Worry About the Future of **Medicaid***



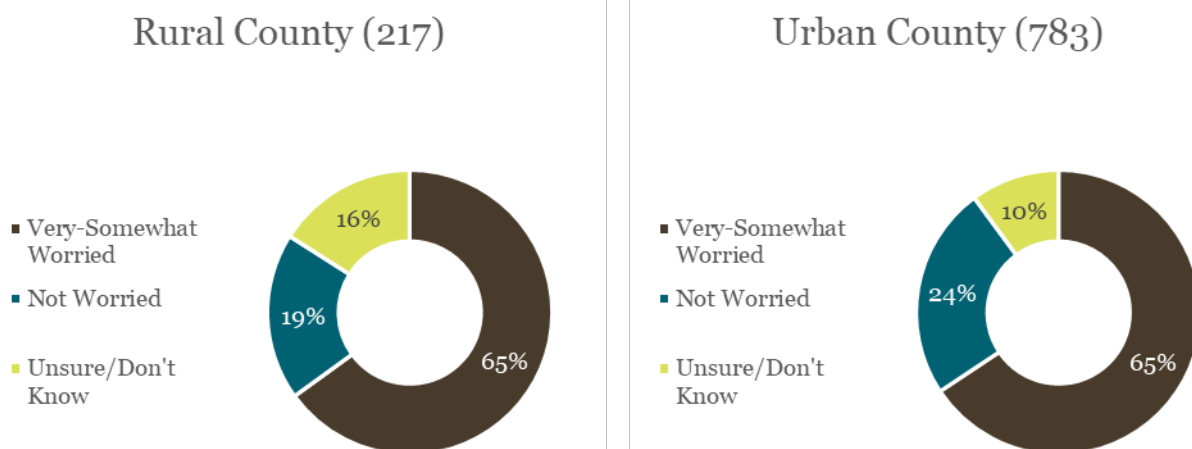
Political Party and Worry About the Future of **Medicare***Political Party and Worry About the Future of the **ACA***

Concerns about Future by Community Type

Urban v. Rural County and Worry About the Future of **Medicare**

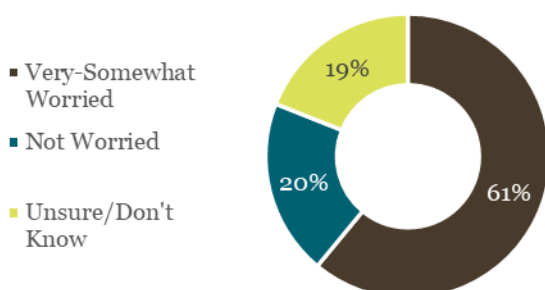


Rural v. Urban County and Worry About the Future of **Medicaid**

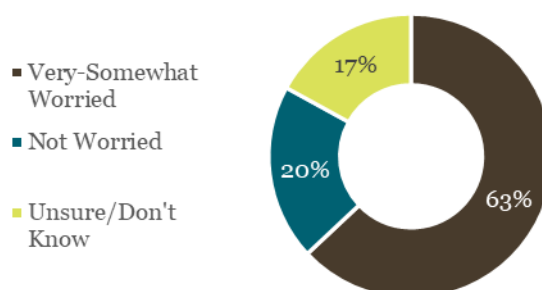


Rural v. Urban County and Worry About the Future of the **ACA**

Rural County (217)



Urban County (783)



Conclusion

The survey results underscore familiar partisan divides in support for Medicare, Medicaid, and the ACA, with broad bipartisan backing for Medicare and heightened polarization around the other two programs. Notably, the level of concern over potential program changes, especially regarding the ACA, seemed to narrow these party differences. Additionally, similarities in opinion among respondents in urban and rural areas did not align with expected patterns, suggesting less polarization based on geographic location than headlines may imply.

While this survey does not explain the underlying motivations behind respondents' answers, it lays valuable groundwork for next steps. Future research could focus on who is utilizing safety net programs and how personal experiences shape perceptions of these programs.