



Sacred Heart  
UNIVERSITY

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Institute for Public Policy  
Statewide Poll - April 2021



Report of Findings

May 17, 2021

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## Our Story

Sacred Heart University's Institute for Public Policy and GreatBlue Research partner to analyze salient issues facing the State of Connecticut. This collaboration combines the academic excellence of a top-rated private University and the research design, analysis and reporting expertise of GreatBlue Research.

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## Areas of Investigation

The Sacred Heart University Institute for Public Policy leveraged a dual-methodology quantitative research approach to address the following areas of investigation:

- Thoughts on the quality of life in Connecticut
- Governor Ned Lamont's job approval ratings
- Sentiment regarding the legalization of Marijuana
- Thoughts on COVID-19 and distribution of the vaccine
- Thoughts on public health insurance in Connecticut
- Thoughts on current Connecticut state-funded pensions
- Demographic profiles of respondents

## Research Methodology Snapshot

Methodology Digital survey*	No. of Completes 1,000	No. of Questions 45**	Sample Procured by GreatBlue
Target Connecticut residents	Margin of Error +/- 3.02%	Confidence Level 95%	Research Dates April 20 - 26, 2021

\* Supervisory personnel, in addition to computer-aided interviewing platforms, ensure the integrity of the data is accurate.

\*\* This represents the total possible number of questions; not all respondents will answer all questions based on skip patterns and other instrument bias.

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71.5%

would still purchase  
at an increased  
price point

5.4%

8.9%

2.8%

0.0%

0.0%

Negative Impact

Boomers

No Impact

Positive Impact

60.0%

40.0%

16.1%

65.7%

27.3%

## SHU Institute for Public Policy - April 2021 Headlines

- ❖ In April 2021, 73.0% of surveyed Connecticut residents reported their quality of life in the State as being either “excellent” (18.7%) or “good” (54.3%), which marked an increase from the 71.2% who reported the same in March of 2021.
  - A consistent frequency of April 2021 respondents expressed the belief that the quality of life in Connecticut is “improving” (17.8%), compared to 18.2% in March 2021.
  - 30.3% of respondents in April 2021 stated their mental health has declined due to COVID-19 (from 31.0%).
- ❖ A decreased rate of Connecticut residents surveyed in April 2021 (55.7% from 57.3% in March 2021) reported to “approve” of how Ned Lamont is handling his job as governor.
  - 35.3% approval among Republicans (12.9% unsure)
  - 43.4% approval among Unaffiliated voters (23.2% unsure)
  - 53.8% approval among Independent voters (23.8% unsure)
  - 81.3% approval among Democrats (10.1% unsure)
- ❖ During the COVID-19 pandemic, high frequencies of respondents reported to “approve” of the way Ned Lamont is handling “communication to the public” (71.0% from 73.2% in March 2021) and his “overall response and handling of the COVID-19 crisis” (69.0% from 70.1% in March 2021).
  - 55.7% reported they “approve” of the way Governor Lamont is “addressing a plan for Connecticut residents and families” (from 59.3% in March 2021).
  - 53.5 reported they “approve” of the way Governor Lamont is “addressing a plan for businesses in the state” (over 52.7% in March 2021).



## SHU Institute for Public Policy - April 2021 Headlines

- ❖ More than three-fifths of Connecticut residents surveyed in April 2021 (63.9% from 65.7% in March 2021), support the legalization of recreational marijuana in State for use and possession of adults, 21 and older.
  - Of note, 47.8% of respondents indicated they agree the legalization of marijuana would result in a significant increase in the number of individuals operating vehicles under the influence.
- ❖ The majority of Connecticut residents surveyed in April 2021, 76.3%, reported they believe marijuana has either “fewer effects” (41.2%) or “the same amount of effects” (35.1%) as alcohol (from 77.0% in March 2021).
  - Of note, 70.1% of survey respondents indicated they believe marijuana has fewer effects than other drugs, such as heroin, amphetamines, and prescription pain medications (from to 72.3% in March 2021)
- ❖ If marijuana were legalized, 61.6% of surveyed residents would support the erasure of criminal records for those previously convicted of recreational offenses/possession (consistent with 62.3% in March 2021).
- ❖ Roughly one-half of surveyed Connecticut residents (49.3%) indicated they would support executive orders to prevent housing evictions (from 53.7% in March 2021).
- ❖ More than two-fifths of surveyed Connecticut (42.7%) residents indicated they do not believe the homeless population should be prioritized for the COVID-19 vaccine (from 40.8% in March 2021).
  - 56.0% of surveyed Connecticut residents indicated that when considering which of the homeless population should receive the COVID-19 vaccine, both “age” and “risk factors (medical conditions)” should be prioritized (from 59.1%).

## SHU Institute for Public Policy - April 2021 Headlines

- ❖ When respondents were asked what should be implemented or considered to keep the homeless population safe from the spread of the virus, 31.4% reported “ensure a protocol to provide immediate access to vaccines” (over 29.6% in March 2021), 24.9% reported protocols to distribute “Government provided Personal Protection Equipment” (from 23.4%) and 12.9% indicated “ensure COVID education through facilities like shelters and food pantries” (from 14.4%).
- ❖ 43.6% of surveyed Connecticut residents would either “strongly support” (23.9%) or “somewhat support” (19.7%) the ability for individuals to choose not to receive a vaccine based on their religious beliefs (consistent with 43.7% in March 2021).
- ❖ When respondents were asked to estimate what percentage of Connecticut businesses have closed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, 8.8% indicated less than 20% have closed, 12.1% indicated 20% to 29%, 12.5% indicated 30% to 39%, 7.9% indicated 40% to 49% and 16.6% indicated 50% or more. Of note, 42.1% of respondents reported that they were unsure (over 40.0% in March 2021).
- ❖ 48.5% of respondents indicated being aware of the programs available to CT businesses that provide funding as a result of the pandemic (over 46.6% in March 2021).
  - Of note, when asked to indicate how long financial assistance should be given to businesses as a result of the pandemic, 54.3% indicated either “for the next 6 months” (25.9%) or “for the next year” (28.4%).
  - 55.3% of respondents indicated they believe the State has supported businesses well during the pandemic (consistent with 55.4% in March 2021).

## SHU Institute for Public Policy - April 2021 Headlines

- ❖ When surveyed Connecticut residents were prompted to describe their level of health insurance prior to the pandemic, 27.4% indicated they were "insured with a PPO plan (preferred provider organization)" (from 25.9% in March 2021) and 25.2% indicated they were insured through "Medicare" (consistent with 25.2%). Comparatively, when asked to describe their current level of health insurance, 25.8% indicated they were "insured with a PPO plan" (from 25.2%%) and 25.0% indicated "Medicare" (from 24.1%).
- ❖ 88.6% of surveyed Connecticut residents reported their current health insurance package covered "medical" services (over 88.4% in March 2021), 76.4% indicated "prescription drug" services (over 76.2%), 63.9% indicated "dental" services (from 65.0%) and 62.8% indicated "vision" services (from 63.7%).
- ❖ When asked how strongly they support or oppose an increase in the amount of government sponsored healthcare options, 63.6% indicated they support the initiative (from 66.8% in March 2021).
- ❖ 45.9% of surveyed Connecticut residents indicated they were aware of the potential impacts of eliminating state-funded retirement (over 45.4% in March 2021).
- ❖ 54.7% of surveyed Connecticut residents indicated they believe Connecticut state pensions should be reformed (over 53.3% in March 2021).
- ❖ 44.2% of respondents indicated they support the elimination of income and capital gains taxes to prevent tax-free pensions, rather than "paying in" to help stabilize the budget (over 42.4% in March 2021).

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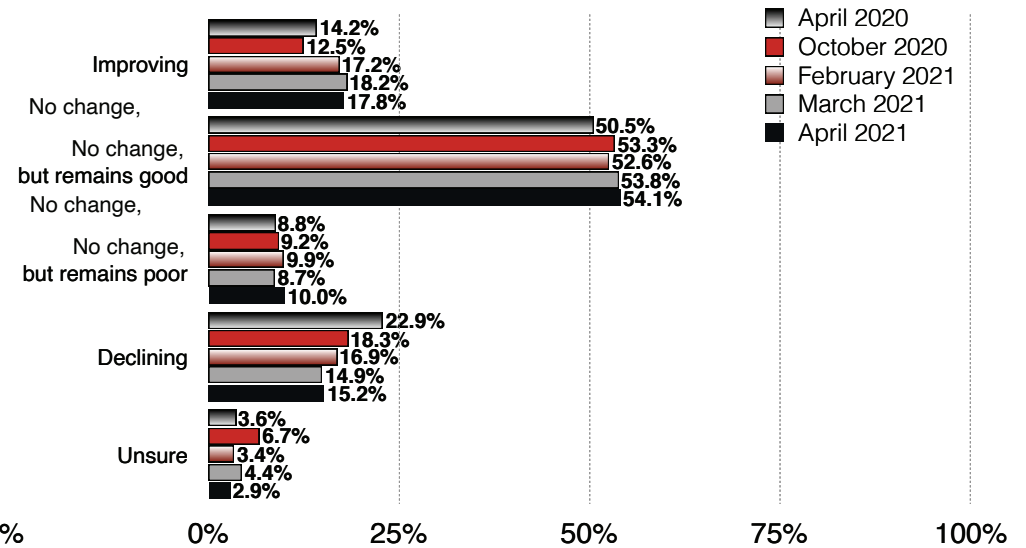
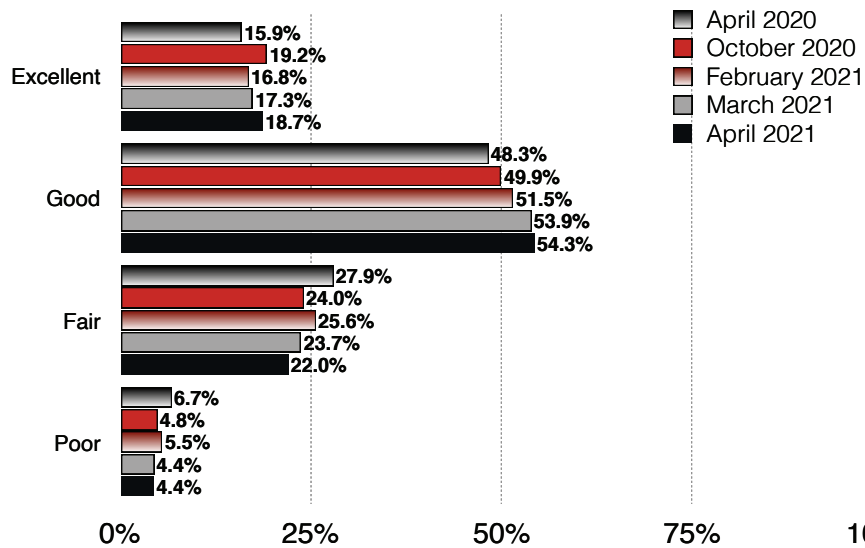
Negative Impact

Boomers

# Quality of Life in Connecticut

The majority of Connecticut residents surveyed in April 2021, 73.0%, reported their quality of life in the State is either “excellent” (18.7%) or “good” (54.3%), which marks an increase over the 71.2% who reported the same in March of 2021. A consistent frequency of April 2021 respondents expressed the belief that the quality of life in Connecticut is “improving” (17.8%), compared to the rate of those who reported the same in March 2021 (18.2%).

- ❖ In April 2021, a higher frequency of respondents earning less than \$50,000 annually (65.1% over 57.9% in March 2021) reported their quality of life is either “excellent” (14.2%) or “good” (50.9%).
- ❖ Respondents ages 18-34 reported their quality of life is “improving” at a 26.2% frequency, which is the highest rate among all age segments.



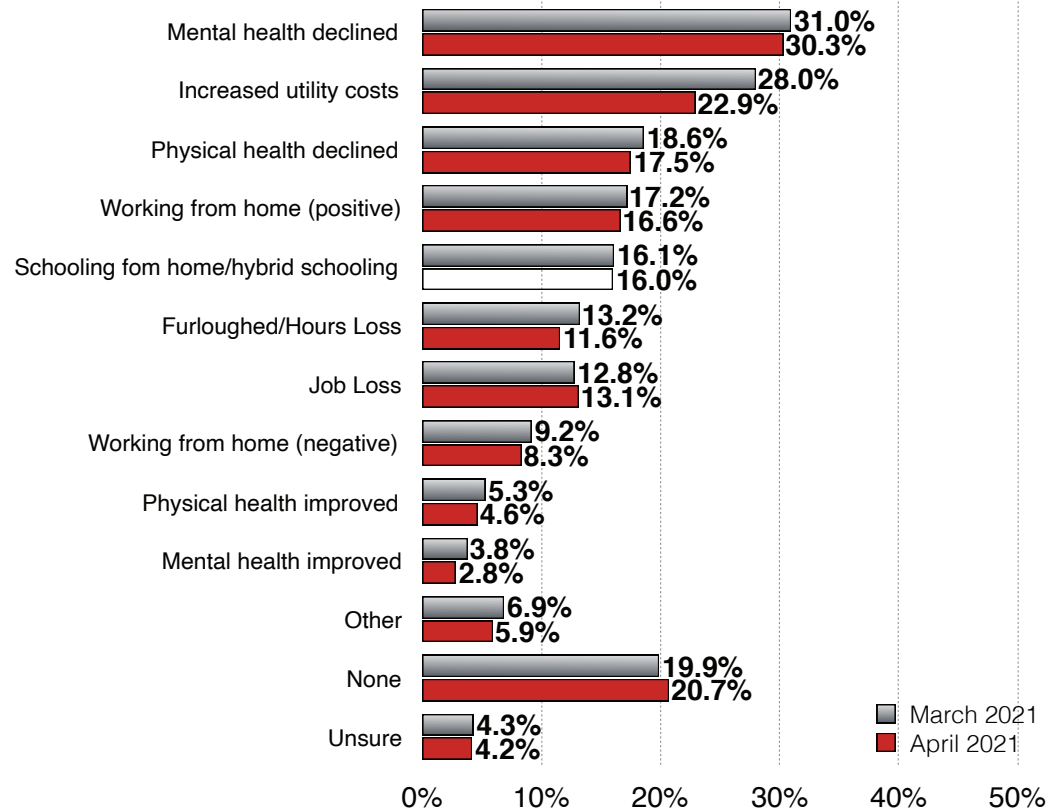
**Q** How would you rate your overall quality of life in Connecticut? Would you say...

**Q** Would you say, overall, your quality of life in Connecticut is...

# Impact of COVID on Quality of Life

In April 2021, 30.3% of respondents stated their mental health has declined due to COVID-19, while 2.8% stated their mental health has improved as a result of the pandemic. Additionally, 22.9% of respondents stated that increased utility costs have impacted their quality of life (from 28.0% in March 2021). Also of note, 17.5% of surveyed Connecticut residents reported their physical health has declined since the pandemic, while 4.6% indicated their physical health has improved.

- ❖ Of note, a higher frequency of Female respondents (35.2%) reported that the pandemic has had a negative impact on their mental health in comparison to Male respondents (24.8%).
- ❖ Those ages 18-34 (34.1%) were most likely to indicate their mental health has declined due to the pandemic, while those ages 65 or older (19.2%) were least likely.

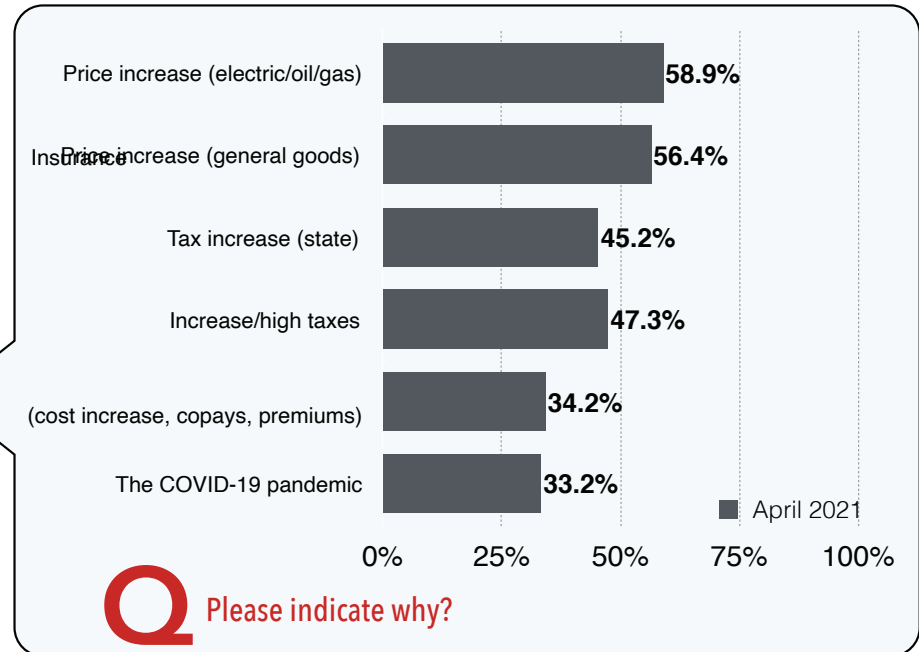
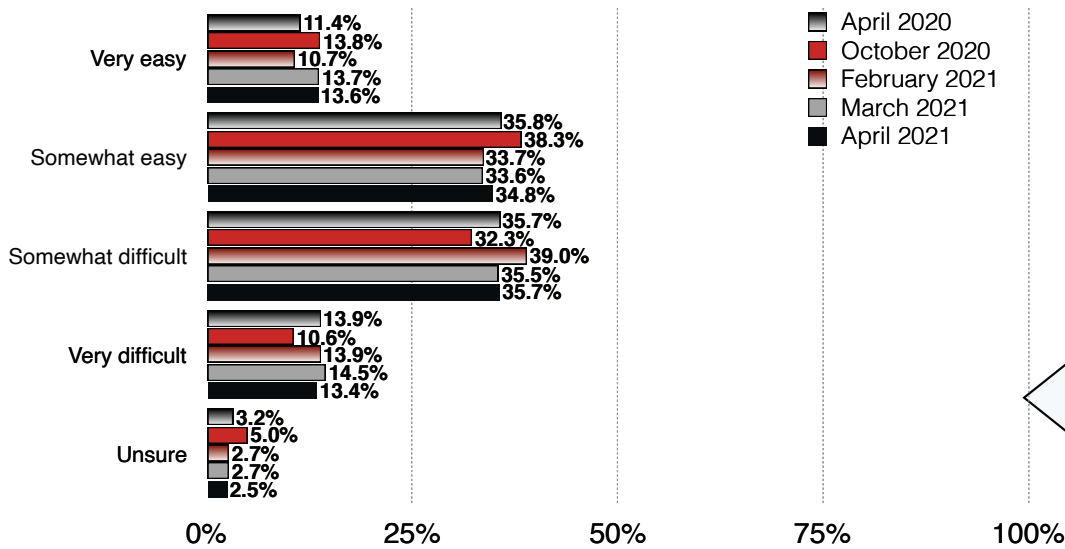


**Q** What kind of impact has the COVID-19 Pandemic had on your quality of life?

# Quality of Life in Connecticut

In April 2021, 48.4% of surveyed residents (over 47.3% in March 2021) reported it being either “very easy” (13.6%) or “somewhat easy” (34.8%) to maintain their standard of living out of their household income today, while 49.1% (from 50.0% in March 2021) reported it being “difficult” to maintain their standard of living.

- ❖ Roughly three-fifths of respondents earning under \$50,000 (61.2% in April 2021 from 65.7% in March 2021) reported it being “difficult” to maintain their standard of living.
- ❖ Consistent with 61.8% in February 2021, 60.9% of respondents ages 45-64 reported it being “difficult” to maintain their standard of living.



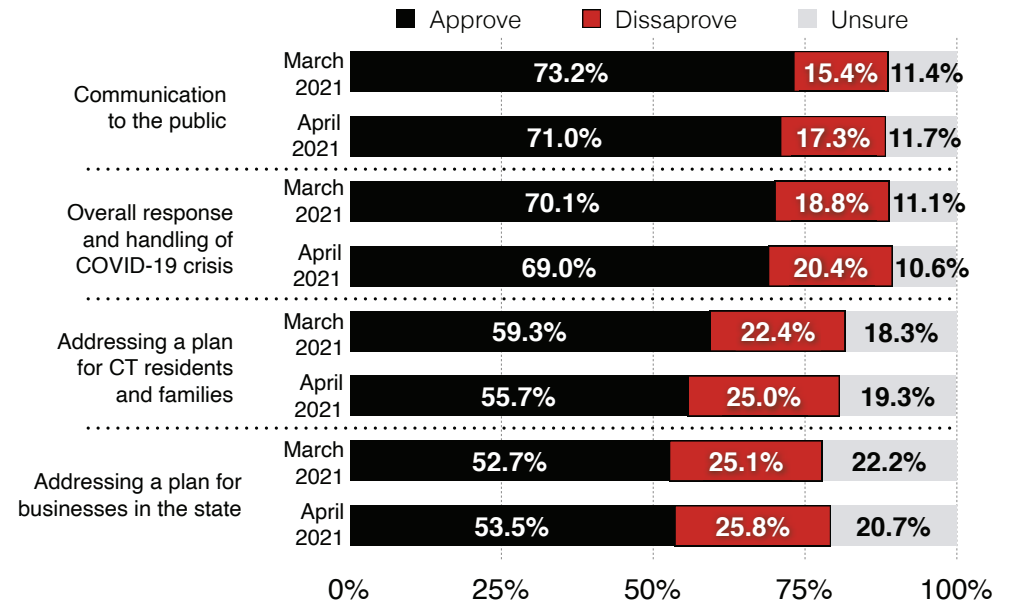
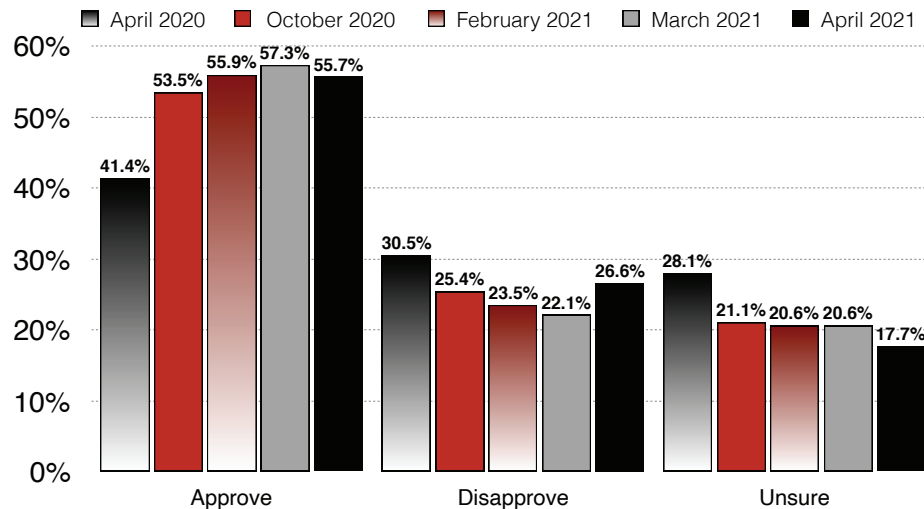
**Q** Overall, how easy or difficult are you finding it to maintain your standard of living out of your total household income today. Would you say...

**Q** Please indicate why?

# Governor's Approval Rating

55.7% of Connecticut residents surveyed in April 2021 reported they "approve" of how Ned Lamont is handling his job as governor, which marks a slight decrease from the 57.3% of respondents who reported the same in March 2021.

- ❖ Rates of approval regarding the way Ned Lamont is handling his job as governor decreased among Republican respondents (35.3% from 41.9% in March 2021).
- ❖ 64.0% of respondents ages 18-34 currently "approve" of Governor Lamont's overall response to COVID-19, which marks a significant increase over 60.6% in March 2021.
- ❖ 60.8% of respondents earning under \$50,000 per year currently "approve" of Governor Lamont's overall response to COVID-19, compared to 80.9% of those earning \$150,000 or more.



**Q** Since he took office in January 2019, overall do you approve or disapprove of the way Ned Lamont is handling his job as governor?

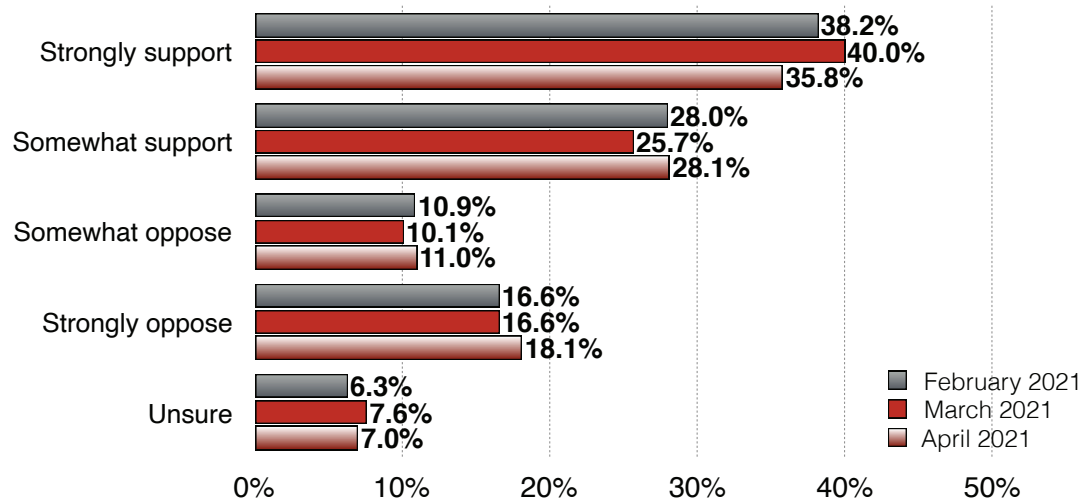
**Q** Please indicate if you approve or disapprove of the way Ned Lamont has handled the following issues related to COVID-19...



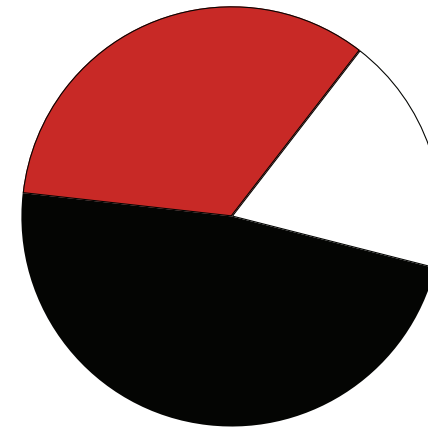
# Legalization of Recreational Marijuana

The majority of Connecticut residents surveyed in April 2021, 63.9%, reported they “strongly support” (35.8%) or “somewhat support” (28.1%) the legalization of Marijuana in CT for use and possession of adults 21 and older (from 65.7% in March 2021). Of note, slightly less than one-half of respondents (47.8%) reported they believe the legalization of marijuana would result in a significant increase in the number of individuals operating vehicles under the influence.

- ❖ A higher frequency of respondents ages 35-44 (51.2%) reported they “strongly support” the legalization of marijuana in CT when compared to those age 65 or older (17.8%).
- ❖ Democratic respondents (39.9%) were significantly more likely to indicate they “strongly support” the legalization of marijuana than Republican respondents (26.7%).



**Belief that the legalization of marijuana would result in a significant increase in the number of individuals operating vehicles under the influence:**

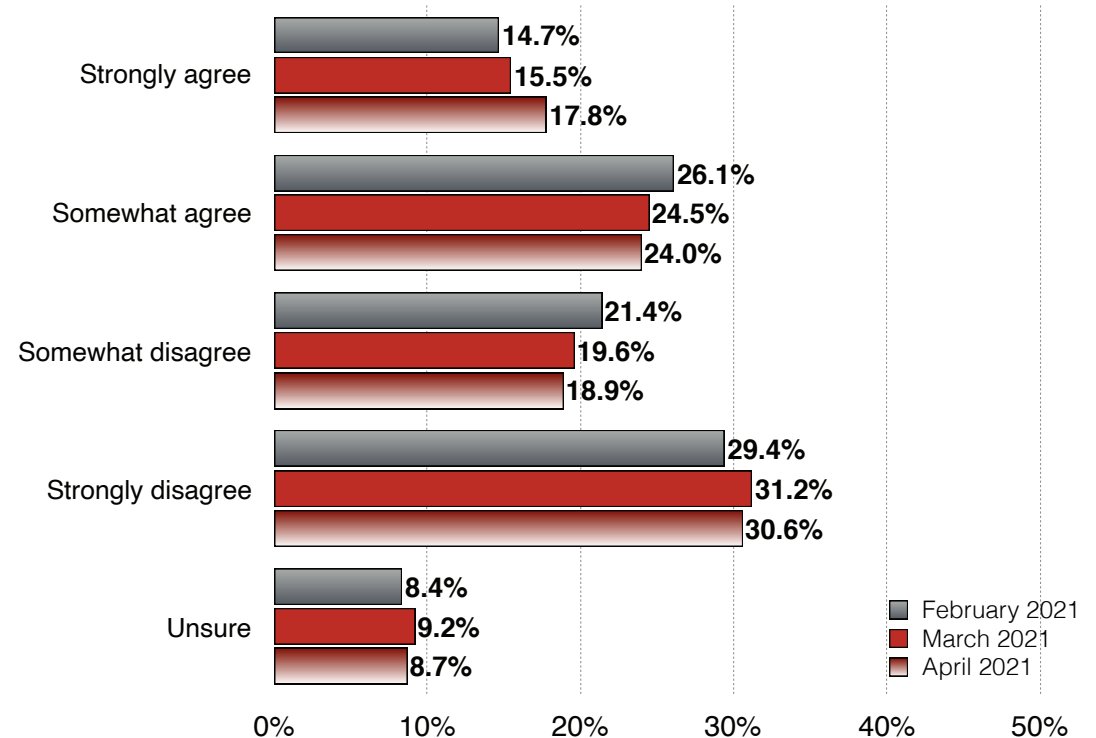


**Q** How strongly do you support the legalization of Marijuana in CT for use and possession of adults 21 and older?

## Legalization of Recreational Marijuana cont.

41.8% of survey respondents “strongly agree” (17.8%) or “somewhat agree” (24.0%) marijuana is a “gateway drug” that leads to using other drugs/substances, slightly elevated over 40.0% recorded in March 2021.

- ❖ Republican respondents (25.1%) were more likely to “strongly agree “marijuana is a ‘gateway drug’ that leads to using other drugs/substances” in comparison to Democratic respondents (18.1%).
- ❖ Hispanic respondents (25.7%) were more likely to “strongly agree” with this statement than Black (23.2%) or White respondents (16.3%).

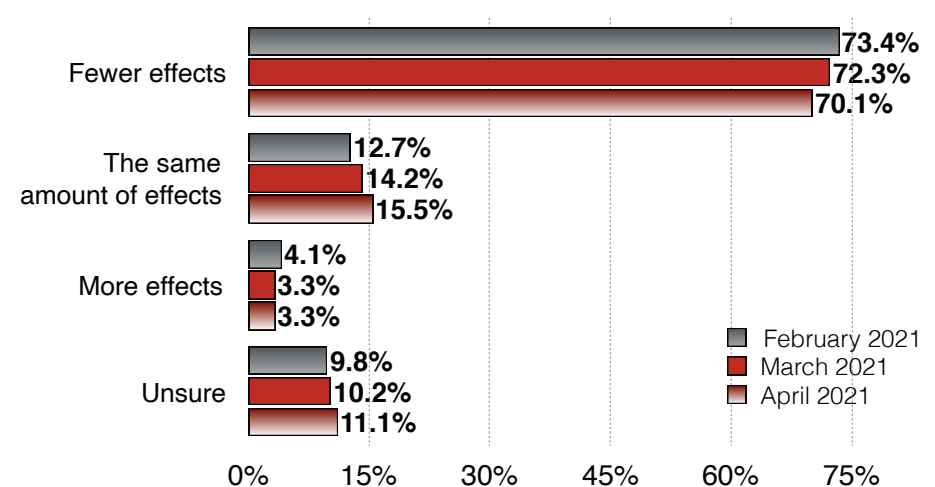
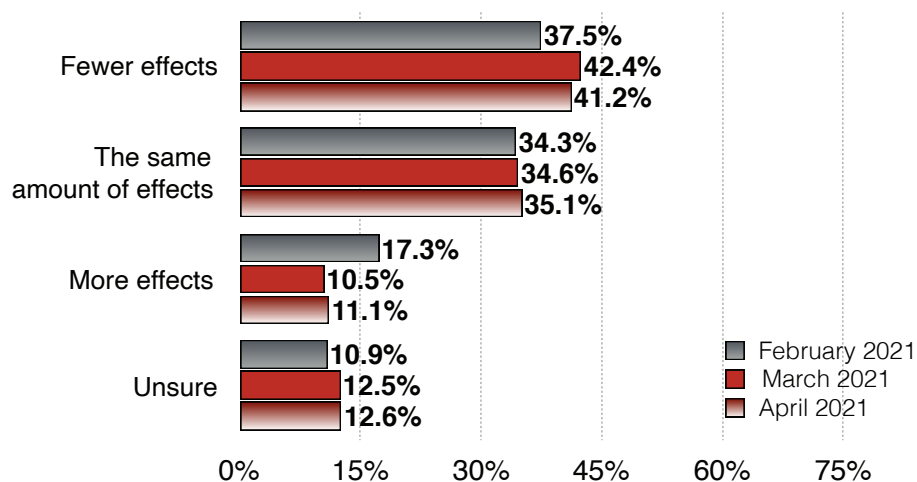


**Q** How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “Marijuana is a ‘gateway drug’ that leads to using other drugs/substances.”

## Legalization of Recreational Marijuana cont.

The majority of Connecticut residents surveyed in April 2021, 76.3%, reported they believe marijuana has either “fewer effects” (41.2%) or “the same amount of effects” (35.1%) as alcohol (from 77.0% in March 2021). Of note, 70.1% of survey respondents indicated they believe marijuana has fewer effects than other drugs, such as heroin, amphetamines, and prescription pain medications (compared to 72.3% in March 2021), while 15.5% reported “the same amount of effects,” 3.3% reported “more effects” and 11.1% were unsure.

- ❖ A higher frequency of respondents ages 18-34 (55.1%) reported they believe the effects of marijuana are fewer than alcohol when compared to those age 65 or older (26.9%).
- ❖ Of note, a higher frequency of those earning \$150,000 or more per year (77.9%) reported they believe the effects of marijuana are fewer than other drugs such as heroin, amphetamines, and prescription pain medicines, when compared to those earning less than \$50,000 annually (66.3%).



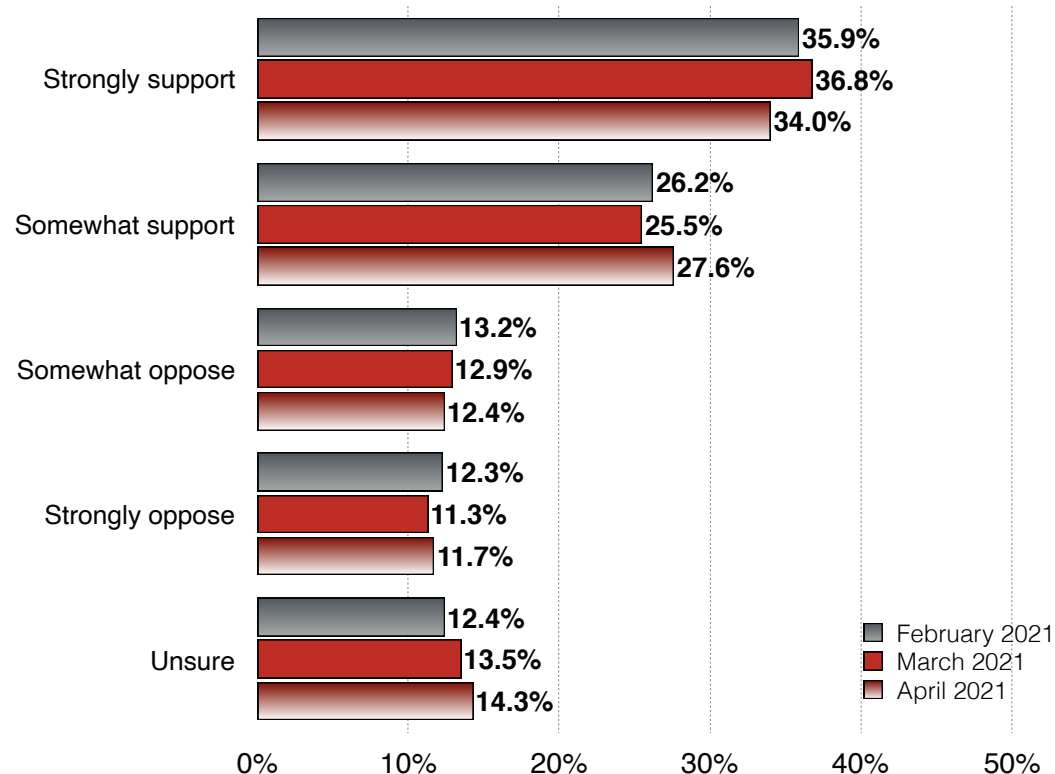
**Q** Compared to alcohol, do you believe that marijuana has the same amount of effects, fewer effects, or more effects?

**Q** Compared to other drugs such as heroin, amphetamines, and prescription pain medicines, do you believe that marijuana has the same amount of effects, fewer effects, or more effects?

## Legalization of Recreational Marijuana cont.

If marijuana were legalized, 61.6% of respondents would either "strongly support" (34.0%) or "somewhat support" (25.5%) the erasure of criminal records for those previously convicted of recreational offenses/possession (from 62.3% in March 2021). Comparatively, 24.1% of surveyed Connecticut residents indicated they would "strongly oppose" (11.7%) or "somewhat oppose" (12.4%) this measure, consistent with 24.1% in March 2021.

- ❖ A higher frequency of respondents ages 18-34 (48.1%), reported they "strongly support" the erasure of criminal records for those previously convicted of recreational offenses/possession related to marijuana, when compared to those age 65 or older (23.2%).
- ❖ Democratic respondents (46.3%) were more likely to support erasure of these criminal records, when compared to Republican respondents (19.6%).

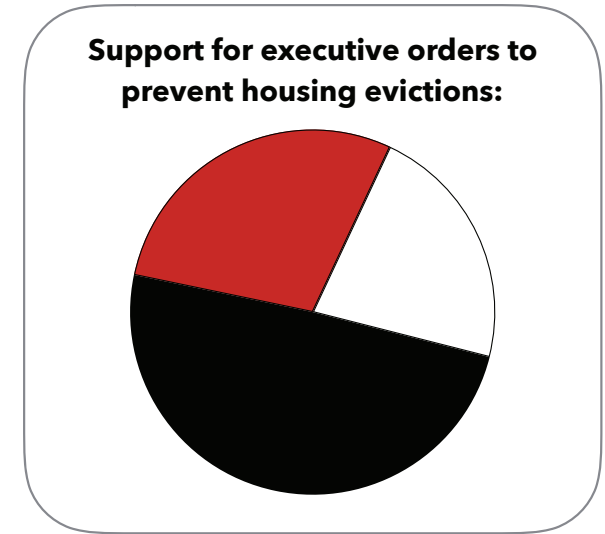


**Q** If marijuana is legalized, how strongly do you support or oppose the erasure of criminal records for those previously convicted of recreational offenses/possession?

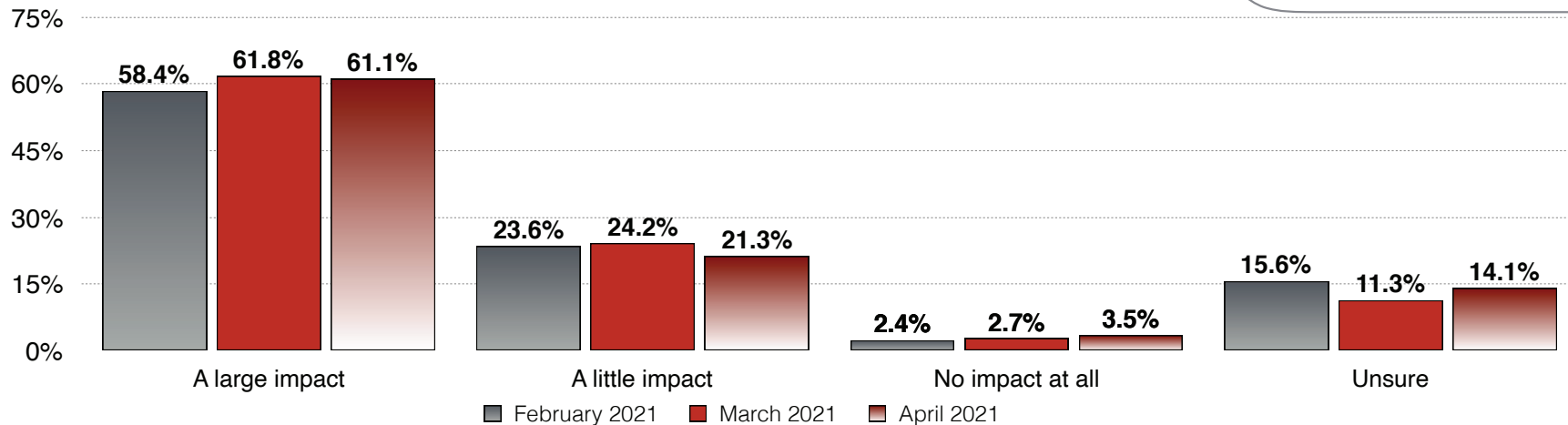
# COVID-19

In April 2021, just under one-half of Connecticut residents surveyed (49.3%) indicated they would support executive orders to prevent housing evictions (from 53.7% in March 2021). Of note, the strong majority of respondents, 82.4% reported they believe that eviction moratoriums have had either “a large impact” (61.1%) or “a little impact” (21.3%) on landlords in the State (from 86.0% in March 2021).

- ❖ A higher frequency of Democratic respondents (64.9%), reported they support executive orders to prevent housing evictions, when compared to Republican respondents (38.4%).
- ❖ A higher frequency of White respondents (63.8%), reported they believe eviction moratoriums due to COVID-19 have had a large impact on landlords in Connecticut, when compared to Hispanic respondents (54.5%) or Black or African American respondents (44.6%).



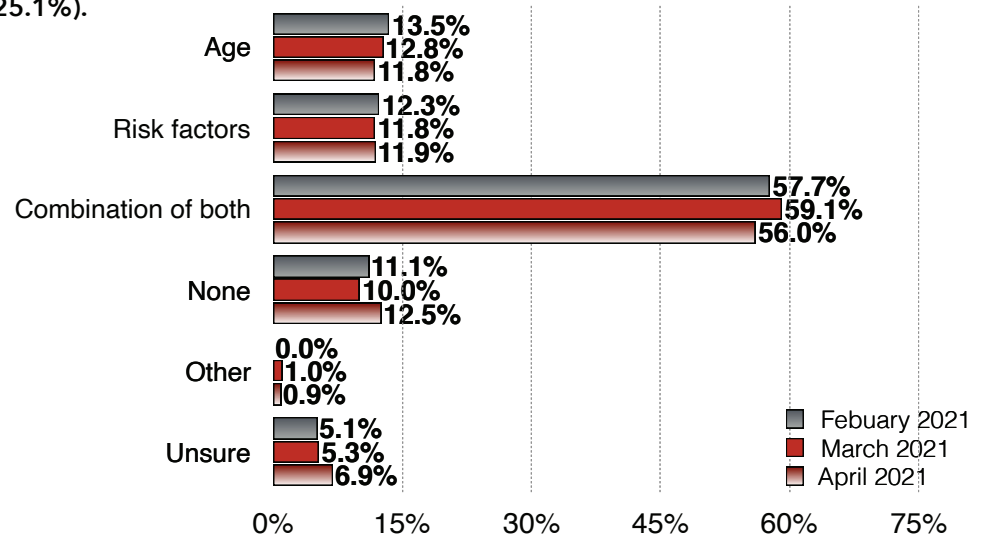
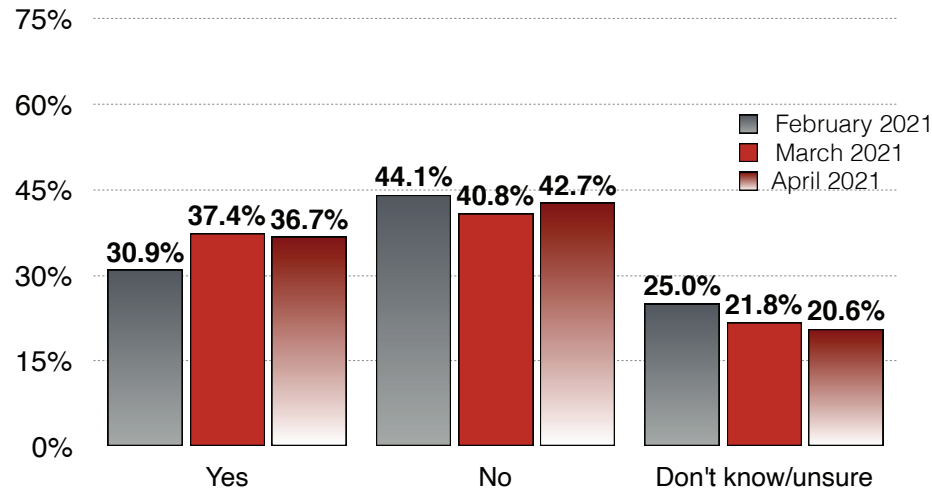
**Q** To what degree do you think landlords in Connecticut have been impacted by eviction moratoriums in the state?



# COVID-19 cont.

42.7% of surveyed Connecticut residents indicated they do not believe the homeless population should be prioritized for the COVID-19 vaccine (over 40.8% in March 2021), while 36.7% reported they should be prioritized (from 37.4%) and 20.6% were unsure (from 21.8%). Additionally, 56.0% of surveyed residents indicated that when considering which of the homeless population should receive the COVID-19 vaccine, both "age" and "risk factors (medical conditions)" should be prioritized (from 59.1%). Of note, 11.8% reported "age" should be prioritized and 11.9% indicated "risk factors (medical conditions)."

❖ A higher frequency of Democratic respondents (48.6%), reported they believe the homeless population should be prioritized for the COVID-19 vaccination, when compared to Republican respondents (25.1%).



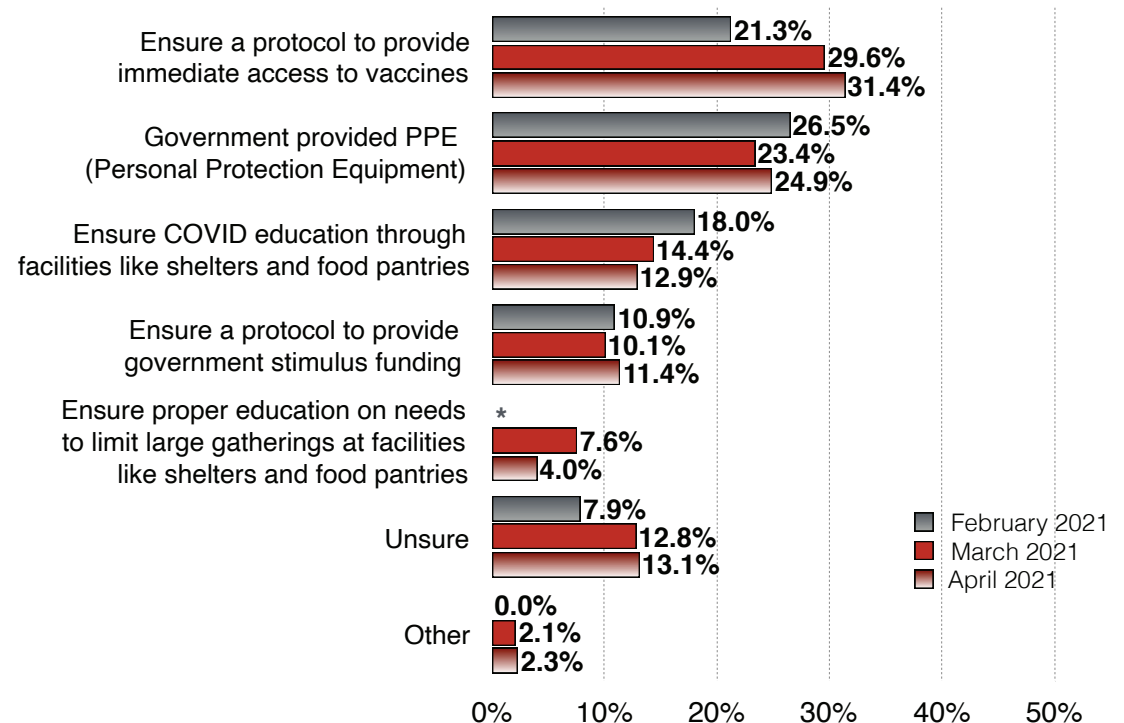
**Q** Do you think the homeless population should be prioritized in the distribution process and receive the COVID-19 vaccine sooner than other population groups?

**Q** In terms of prioritizing the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine, do you think the homeless population should be considered for a vaccine based on age, based on risk factors (medical condition), or a combination of both?

## COVID-19 cont.

When respondents were asked what should be implemented or considered to keep the homeless population safe from the spread of the virus, 31.4% reported “ensure a protocol to provide immediate access to vaccines” (over 29.6% in March 2021), 24.9% reported protocols to distribute “Government provided Personal Protection Equipment” (over 23.4%) and 12.9% indicated “ensure COVID education through facilities like shelters and food pantries” (from 14.4%).

- ❖ A higher frequency of respondents ages 18-34 (36.4%), reported “Government provided PPE” should be implemented or considered to keep the homeless population safe from the spread of the virus, when compared to those age 65 or older (10.4%).
- ❖ Comparatively, those age 65 or older (44.4%), reported “a protocol to provide immediate access to vaccines” should be implemented or considered to keep the homeless population safe from the spread of the virus, when compared to those ages 18-34 (17.3%).



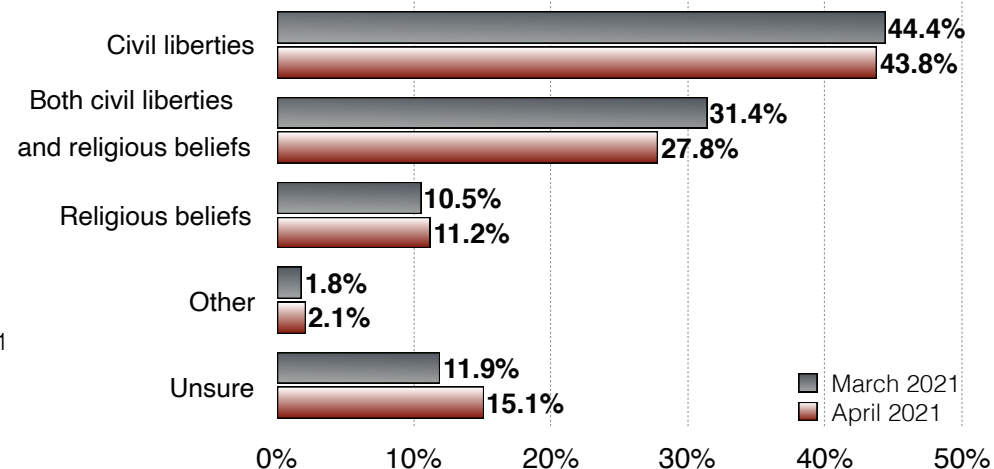
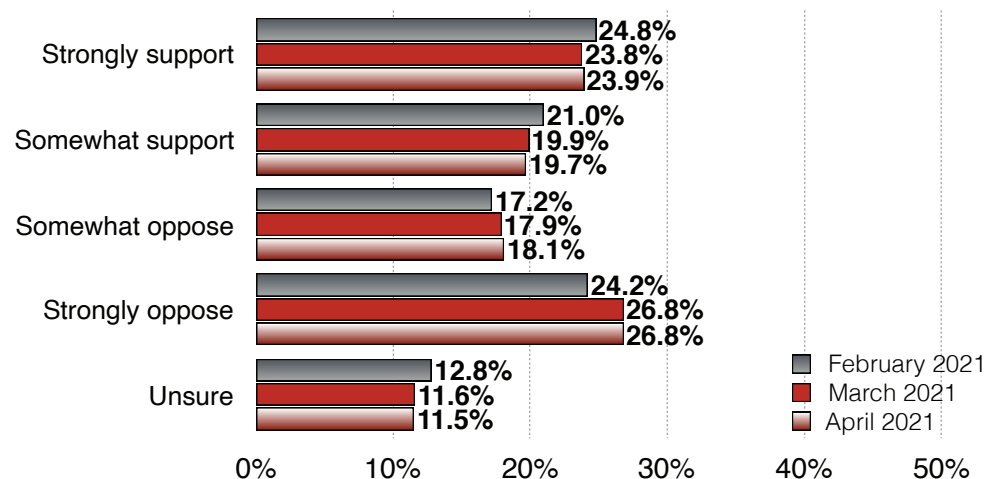
**Q** In thinking about the homeless population, what, if any, COVID-19 protocols should be implemented or considered to keep these individuals safe from the spread of the virus?

\*Indicates the response option was not included in the February 2021 survey.

## COVID-19 cont.

43.6% of surveyed Connecticut residents would either “strongly support” (23.9%) or “somewhat support” (19.7%) the ability for individuals to choose not to receive a vaccine based on their religious beliefs (consistent with 43.7% in March 2021). Of the 436 who indicated they support this ability, 43.8% reported their opposition to the removal of religious exemptions was tied to “civil liberties” (from 44.4% in March 2021), 11.2% indicated “religious beliefs” (over 10.5%) and 27.8% indicated both civil liberties and religious beliefs (from 31.4%).

- ❖ Republican respondents (27.1%) were significantly more likely to support an individual’s ability to choose not to receive the vaccine based on religious beliefs than Democratic respondents (21.8%).
- ❖ Additionally, a higher frequency of Hispanic respondents (38.6%) reported they support this right in comparison to Black or African American (30.4%) or White respondents (21.4%).



**Q** The Connecticut State Legislature is reviewing a bill that would remove religious exemptions related to vaccines. How strongly do you support the ability for individuals to choose not to receive a vaccine based on their religious belief?

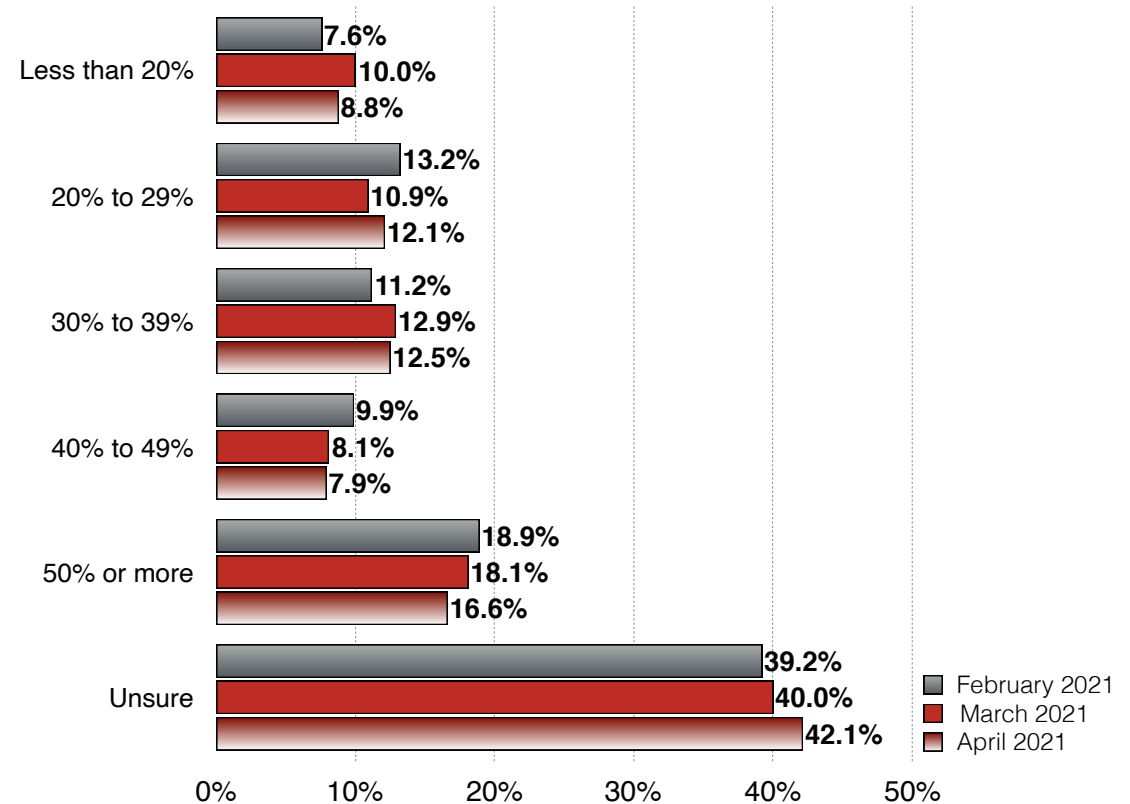
**Q** Is your opposition to the removal of religious exemptions tied to your personal religious beliefs, or is it a question of civil liberties in the country? (n=437)



## COVID-19 cont.

When respondents were asked to estimate what percentage of Connecticut businesses have closed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, 8.8% indicated less than 20% have closed, 12.1% indicated 20% to 29%, 12.5% indicated 30% to 39%, 7.9% indicated 40% to 49% and 16.6% indicated 50% or more. Of note, 42.1% of respondents reported that they were unsure (over 40.0% in March 2021).

- ❖ Of note, a higher frequency of those earning less than \$50,000 annually (48.8%), reported they were unsure, when compared to those earning \$150,000 or more per year (33.1%).

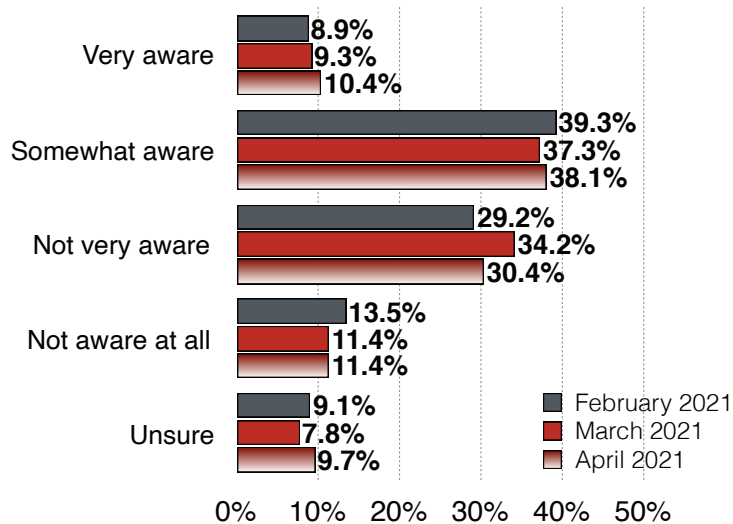


**Q** What percentage (%) of Connecticut businesses do you think closed as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic?

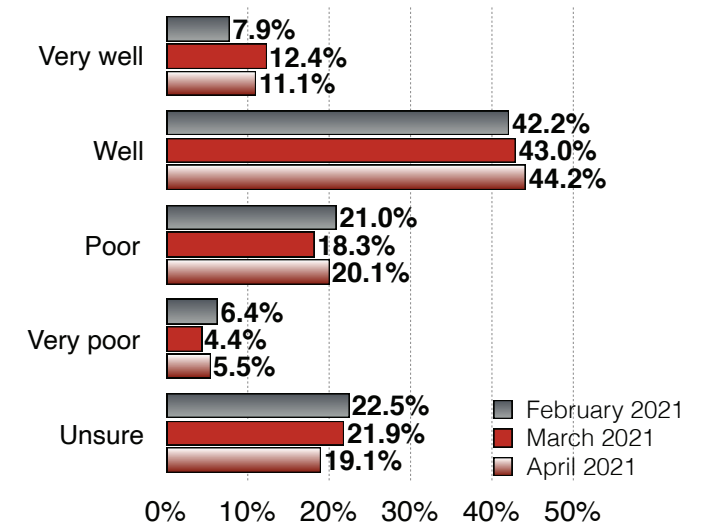
# COVID-19 cont.

48.5% of respondents in April 2021 were “very aware” (10.4%) or “somewhat aware” (38.1%) of the programs available to CT businesses that provide funding as a result of the pandemic (over 46.6% in March 2021). When asked to indicate how long financial assistance should be given to businesses as a result of the pandemic, 54.3% indicated either “for the next 6 months” (25.9%) or “for the next year” (28.4%), a decrease from 57.8% in March 2021. Also of note, 55.3% of respondents indicated they believe the State has supported businesses “very well” (11.1%) or “well” (44.2%) during the pandemic (consistent with 55.4% in March 2021).

❖ Of note, a higher frequency of Democratic respondents (19.0%), reported they believe the state of Connecticut has supported businesses in the state during the pandemic “very well,” when compared to Republican respondents (5.1%).



	Feb 2021	March 2021	April 2021
For the next month	3.0	5.5	5.7
For the next 3 months	10.2	12.8	13.8
For the next 6 months	25.9	26.1	25.9
For the next year	35.8	31.7	28.4
Beyond the next year	12.1	11.0	9.5
Financial assistance should end now	1.7	1.7	3.3
Don't know / unsure	11.3	11.2	13.4



**Q** How aware are you of the programs available to CT businesses that provide funding as a results of the pandemic?

**Q** How long should financial assistance due to COVID-19 be made available to businesses?

**Q** How well do you believe the state of Connecticut has supported businesses in state during the COVID-19 pandemic?

# Health Insurance



When surveyed Connecticut residents were prompted to describe their level of health insurance prior to the pandemic, 27.4% indicated they were "insured with a PPO plan (preferred provider organization)" (over 25.9% in March 2021) and 25.2% indicated they were insured through "Medicare" (consistent with March, 25.2%). Comparatively, when asked to describe their current level of health insurance, 25.8% indicated they were "insured with a PPO plan" (from 25.2%) and 25.0% indicated "Medicare" (over 24.1%).

❖ Of note, a higher frequency of those earning \$150,000 or more per year (35.3%) reported they were "insured with a PPO plan (preferred provider organization)," when compared to those earning less than \$50,000 (14.2%).

2021	February	March	April
Insured with a PPO plan (preferred provider organization)	28.2	25.9	27.4
Medicare	24.1	25.2	25.2
Insured with an HMO plan (health maintenance organization)	13.9	13.3	13.2
Medicaid	10.3	11.8	8.1
Insured with a POS plan (point-of-service)	3.9	4.0	4.8
Insured with an HDHP plan (high-deductible health plan)	3.8	3.8	4.5
Not insured prior to the COVID-19	3.3	3.4	2.8
Insured with an HSA (health savings account)	3.4	3.0	1.6
Insured with an EPO plan (exclusive provider organization)	1.6	2.6	3.4
Other	1.2	1.0	1.6
Don't know / unsure	6.3	6.0	7.4

**Q** How would you describe your level of health insurance, prior to COVID-19?

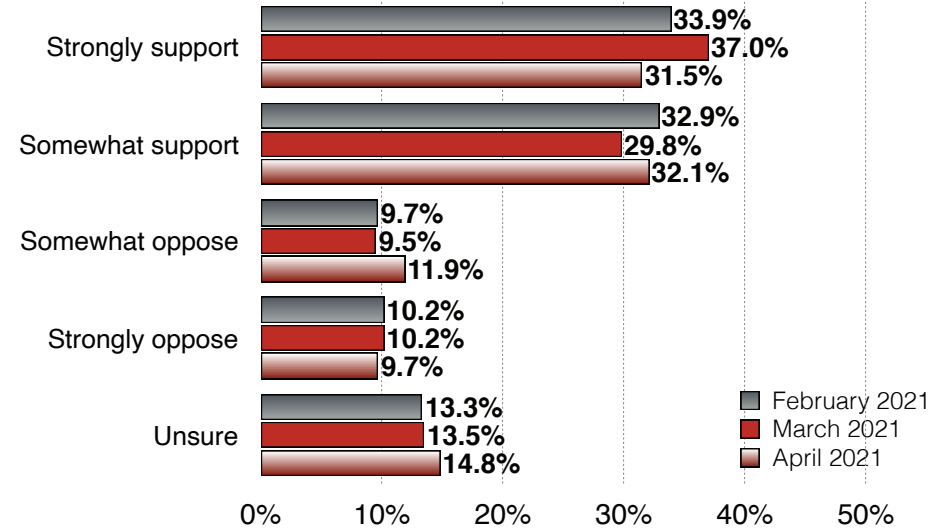
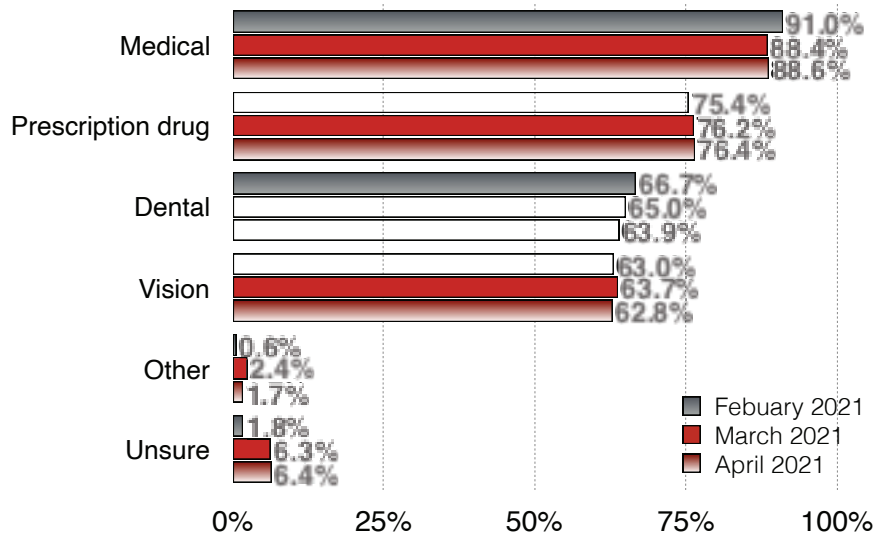
2021	February	March	April
Insured with a PPO plan (preferred provider organization)	27.0	25.2	25.8
Medicare	24.6	24.1	25.0
Insured with an HMO plan (health maintenance organization)	14.4	13.7	13.0
Medicaid	11.5	12.8	9.8
Insured with a POS plan (point-of-service)	3.5	3.6	5.2
Insured with an HDHP plan (high-deductible health plan)	4.3	3.4	4.3
Insured with an EPO plan (exclusive provider organization)	2.1	3.4	3.1
Not insured as of today	2.4	3.3	3.1
Insured with an HSA (health savings account)	3.7	2.7	2.3
Other	1.4	1.7	1.9
Don't know / unsure	5.1	6.1	6.5

**Q** How would you describe your level of health insurance, today?

# Health Insurance

In April 2021, 88.6% of surveyed Connecticut residents reported their current health insurance package covered “medical” services (over 88.4% in March 2021), 76.4% indicated “prescription drug” services (over 76.2%), 63.9 indicated “dental” services (from 65.0%) and 63.9% indicated “vision” services (from 63.7%). When asked how strongly they support or oppose an increase in the amount of government sponsored healthcare options, 63.6% indicated they either “strongly support” (31.5%) or “somewhat support” (32.1%) the initiative (from 66.8% in March 2021).

- ❖ Democratic respondents (84.2%) were significantly more likely to indicate they support the increase in the amount of government sponsored options of healthcare, in comparison to Republican respondents (42.4%).
- ❖ Additionally, a lower frequency of those earning less than \$50,000 annually (68.0%), reported they support increased government sponsored healthcare options, when compared to those earning \$150,000 or more (56.6%).



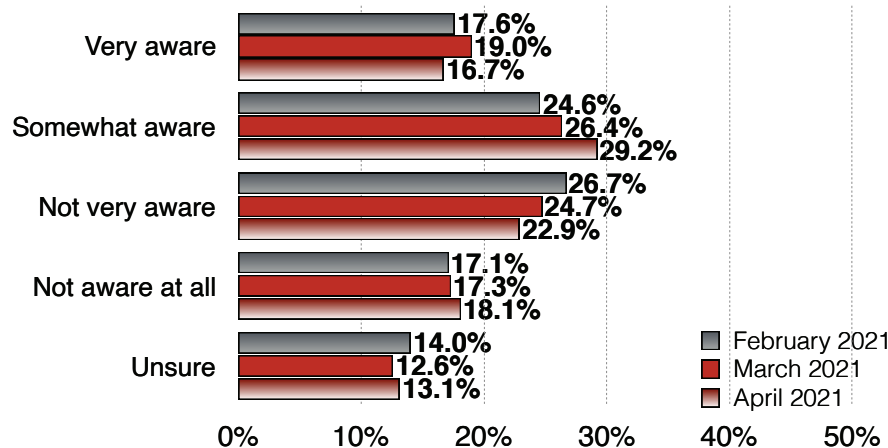
**Q** What services are included in your health insurance package? Please select all that apply.

**Q** How strongly do you support or oppose an increase in the amount of government sponsored options of healthcare?

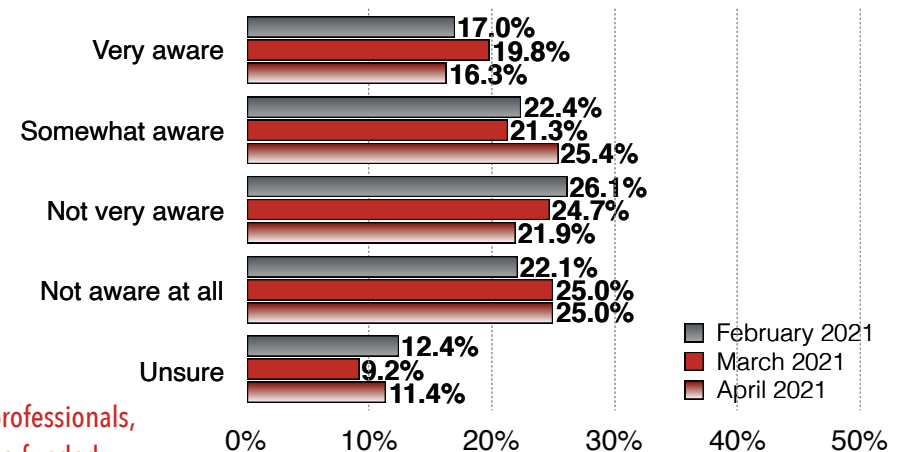
# Budget and Pensions

45.9% of surveyed Connecticut residents indicated they were “very aware” (16.7%) or “somewhat aware” (29.2%) of the potential impacts of eliminating state-funded retirement (over 45.4% in March 2021), while 41.0% were “not very aware” (22.9%) or “not at all aware” (18.1%). Comparatively, 41.7% of survey participants reported they were “very aware” (16.3%) or “somewhat aware” (25.4%) of the stability level of the CT State Employee Retirement Fund (from 45.4%), while 46.9% were “not very aware” (21.9%) or “not aware at all” (25.0%).

- ❖ Male respondents (57.2%) were more likely to indicate they were aware of the potential impacts of eliminating state-funded retirement, in comparison to Female respondents (42.0%).
- ❖ Additionally, a higher frequency of those earning \$150,000 or more per year (63.3%), reported they were aware, when compared to those earning less than \$50,000 annually (37.3%).



**Q** Throughout the United States of America, the State pension funding gap for all 50 states is more than \$1 trillion. Currently, Connecticut is one of 20 states with the lowest-funded pension plans, caused by a lack of funding from long-term investment returns. Prior to this survey, how aware are you of the stability level for CT State Employee Retirement Fund?

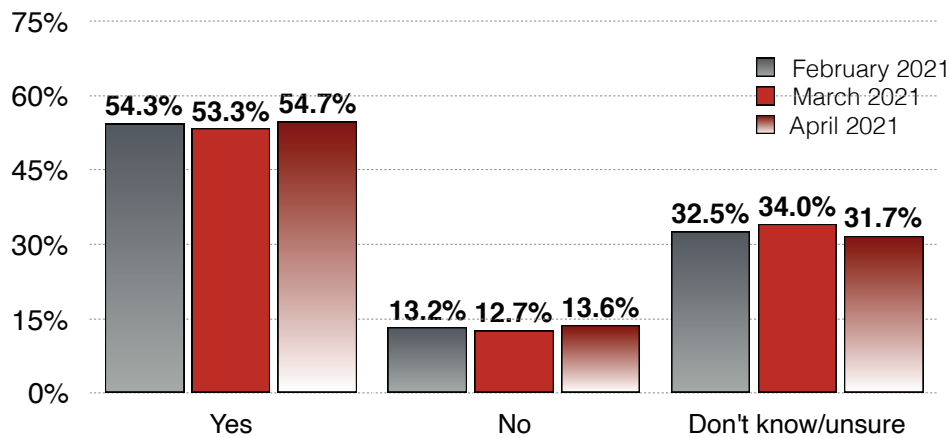


**Q** Nearly 100,000 (50,000 retired/49,000 active) state employees including teachers, education professionals, social workers, and frontline service providers are eligible or are receiving benefits from the state-funded retirement system. How aware are you of the potential impacts of eliminating state-funded retirement?

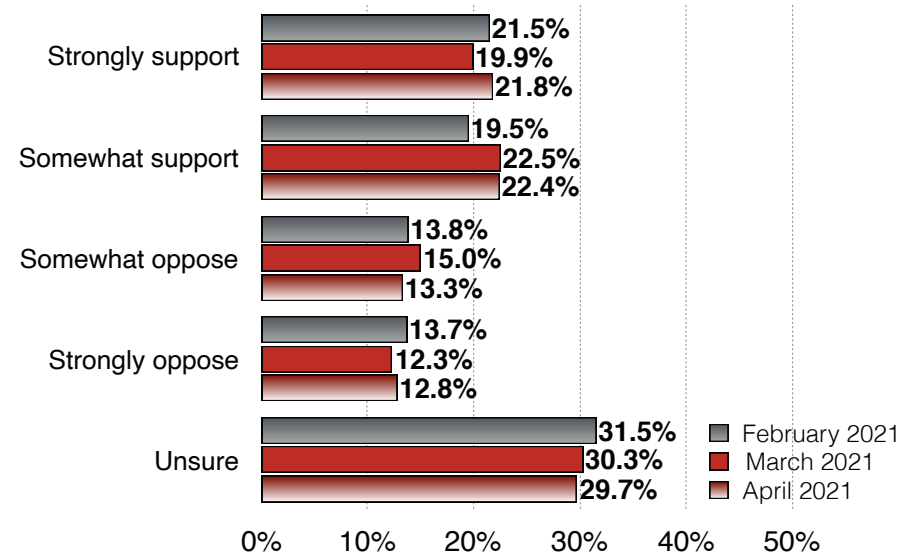
# Budget and Pensions cont.

In April 2021, the majority of surveyed Connecticut residents (54.7% over 53.3% in March 2021) indicated they believe Connecticut state pensions should be reformed, while 31.7% indicated they were unsure and 13.6% indicated state pensions should not be reformed. Further, 44.2% of respondents (over 42.4%) indicated they “strongly support” (21.8%) or “somewhat support” (22.4%) the elimination of income and capital gains taxes to prevent tax-free pensions, rather than “paying in” to help stabilize the budget, while 26.1% reported they “somewhat oppose” (13.3%) or “strongly oppose” (12.8%) the elimination of tax withholdings, and 29.7% were unsure.

- ❖ Male respondents (63.7) were more likely to indicate State pensions should be reformed, in comparison to Female respondents (47.5%).
- ❖ Additionally, a higher frequency of respondents age 65 or older (62.6%) reported State pensions should be reformed, when compared to those ages 18-34 (44.9%).



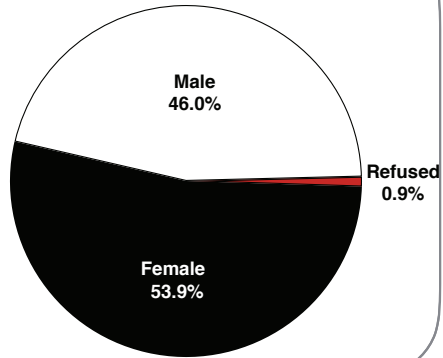
**Q** In your opinion, should State pensions be reformed?



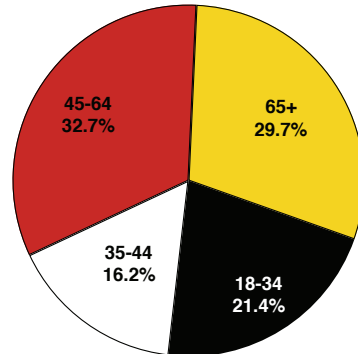
**Q** State pension distributions in Connecticut are currently subject to income tax withholdings. How strongly do you support or oppose the elimination of income tax and capital gains to prevent tax-free pensions, rather than “paying in” to help stabilize the budget?

# Demographic Profile - April 2021

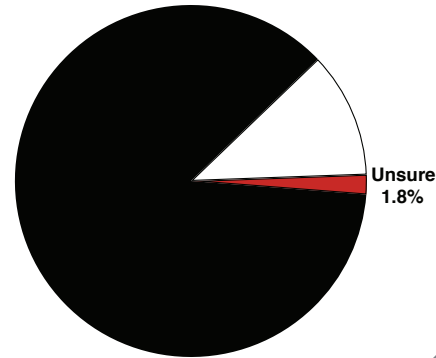
## Gender



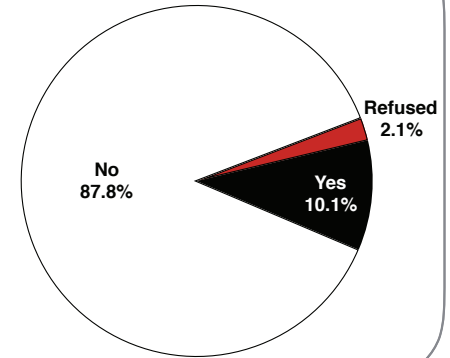
## Age



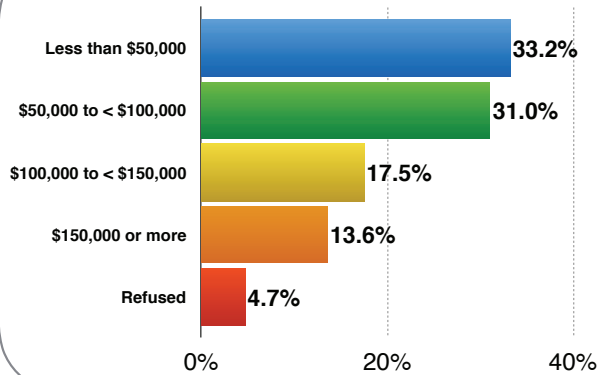
## Registered to vote?



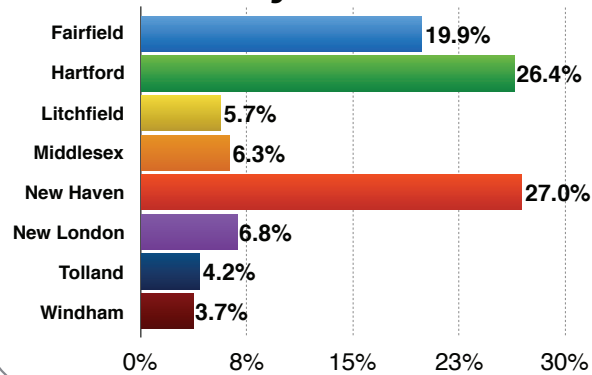
## Hispanic/Latin Origin?



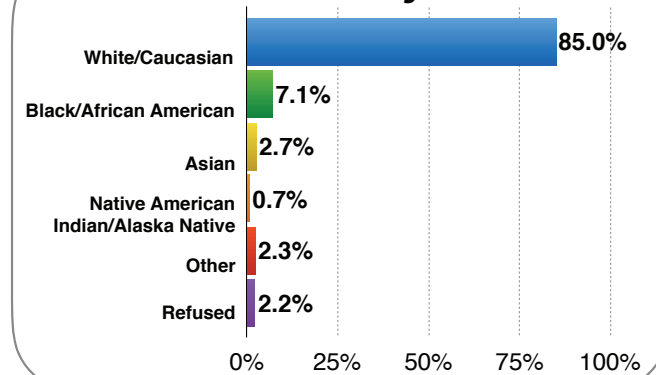
## Income

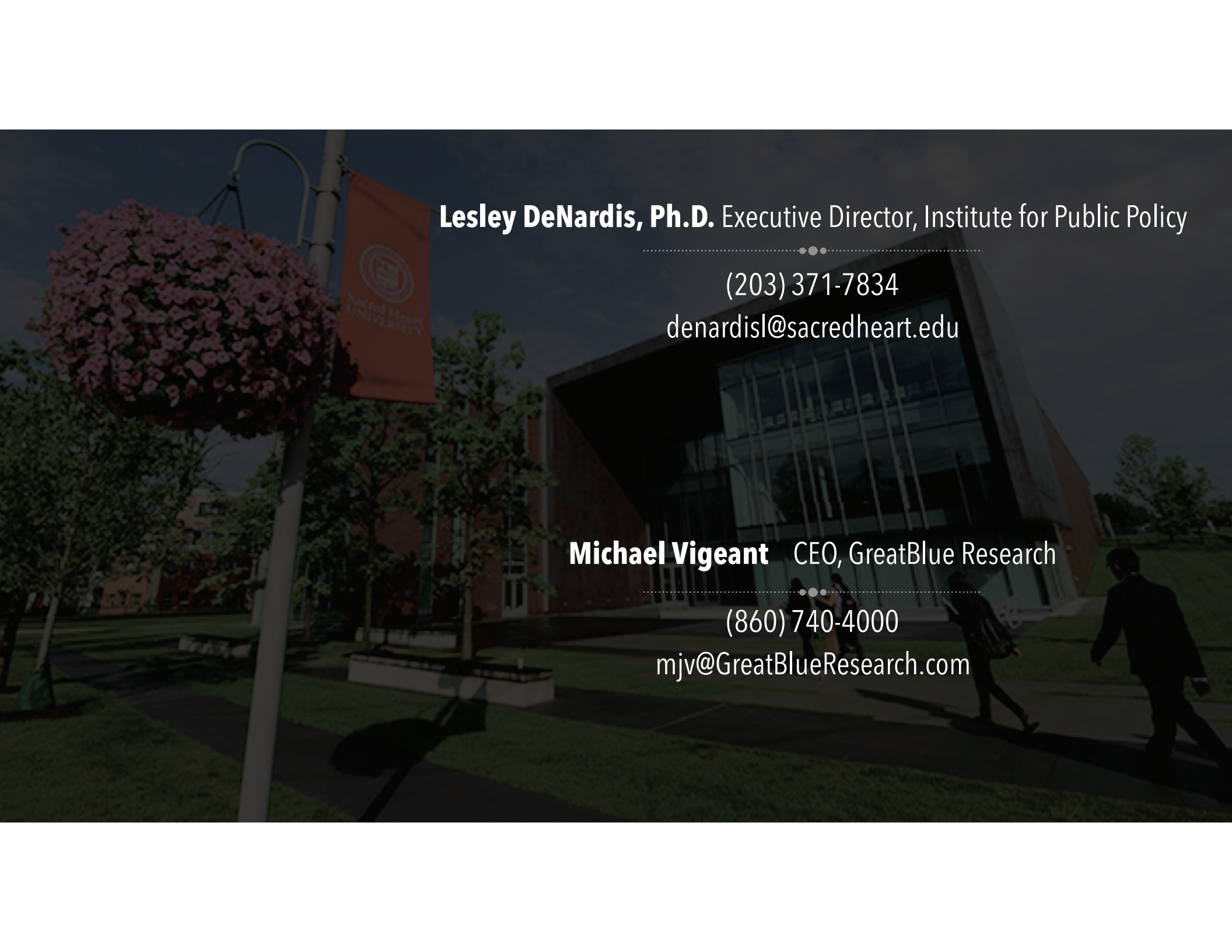


## County of Residence



## Ethnicity





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