



AWARENESS AND USE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES IN WYOMING

August 2024

Table of contents

Executive Summary	3
Detailed Findings	5
Implications	16
Methodology	18
Contact	21



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive summary

AARP was interested in learning more about the awareness and knowledge of Wyoming adults related to access and funding of emergency medical services (EMS) in the state. The results from this survey of 1,003 Wyomingites ages 18 and older suggest that while awareness and use of such services is relatively high, there is a lack of a clear consensus around who should pay for them and how much additional money they would be willing to pay (if anything) for a community EMS system.

- Most Wyoming adults have heard at least something about emergency medical services (EMS) in the state, with nearly four in ten (38%) having heard a great deal and one-third (33%) having heard something.
- Even though four in ten (39%) Wyoming adults say they would need to spend more than 30 minutes to get to a doctor's office for specialty care, two-thirds (66%) report that they are not very or not at all concerned about their ability to access emergency medical services if needed. However, concern about one's ability to access emergency medical services increases when health care providers are further away.
- Many Wyomingites say they (or a family member) have ever called 911 or another emergency number, with nearly half having called for an ambulance. Younger Wyomingites are more likely than those ages 65 and older to say they (or a family member) have ever called 911 or another emergency number (64% and 65% vs. 56%).
- Eight in ten Wyoming adults agree that EMS should be considered an essential government service, and more than half (54%) of Wyoming adults believe that insurance companies should pay for emergency medical services in the state. One-third (35%) believe that the services should be covered through property taxes, while three in ten (30%) think that EMS should be paid for by the individual who accesses the service. Three-quarters (73%) of Wyomingites believe that communities should pay for EMS in the same way as they pay for police and fire department services.
- Wyoming adults are generally willing to pay more for their community EMS system, with eight in ten (83%) saying they would be willing to pay at least something more per year for the system.



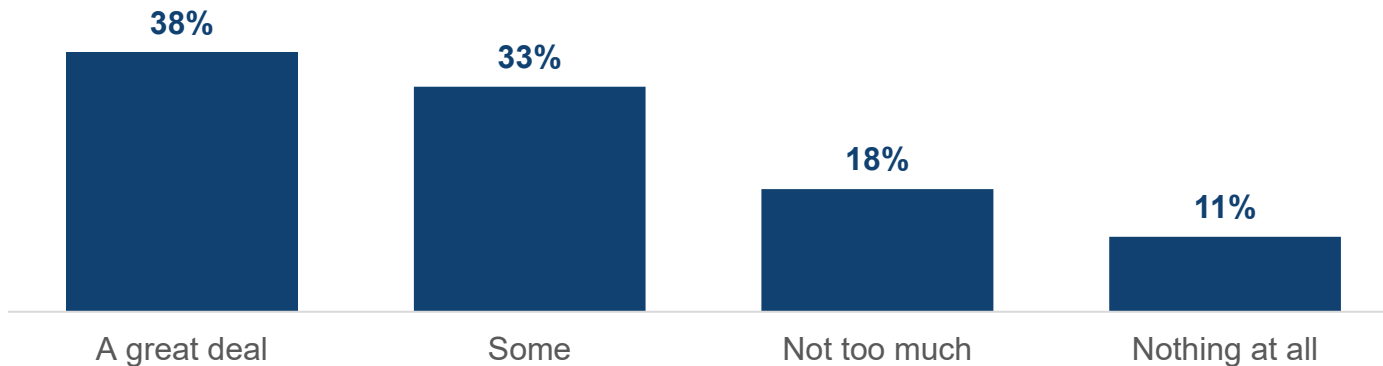
YERİNE GELMEZ
OKSİJEN YARDIMI

DETAILED FINDINGS

Most Wyoming adults have heard at least something about emergency medical services (EMS) in the state.

While there are no gender differences in awareness of EMS in Wyoming, adults ages 45 to 64 are more likely than those ages 65 or older to say they have heard a great deal or some about such services (74% vs. 67%).

Awareness of emergency medical services (EMS) in Wyoming
Among all respondents

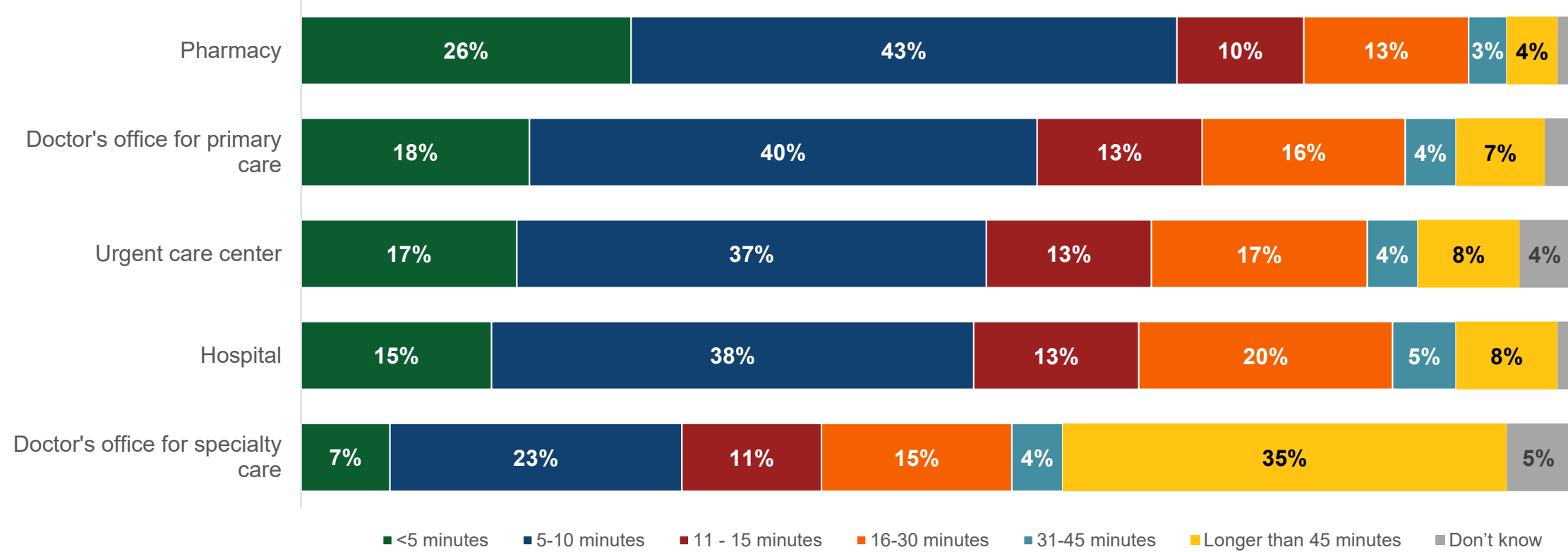


Q1. How much have you seen, read, or heard about emergency medical services (EMS) in your state?

Base: Total respondents (n=1,003)

Four in ten Wyoming adults say they would have to spend more than 30 minutes to get to a doctor's office for specialty care.

Distance (in minutes) to the following health services
Among all respondents

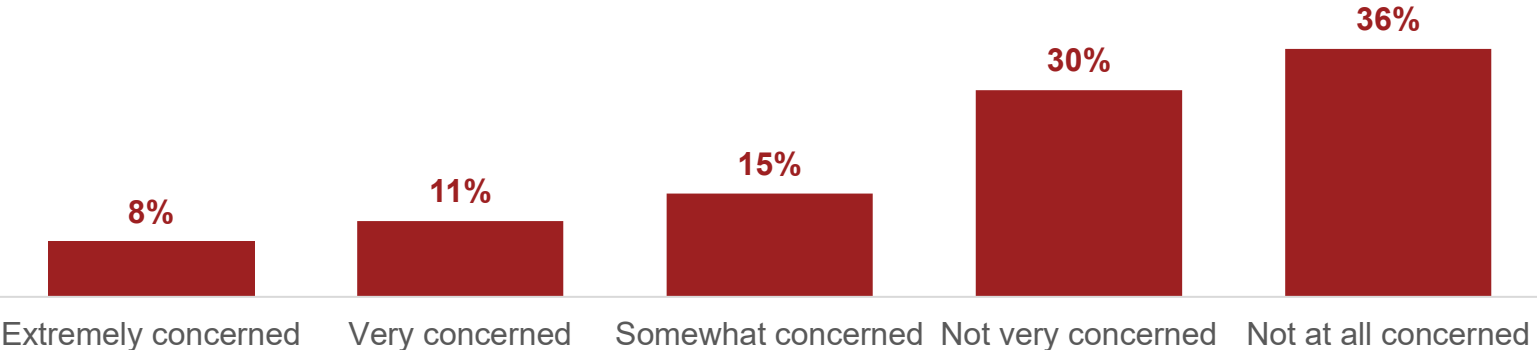


Q10. About how long would it take you, in minutes, to get to...? Base: Total respondents (n=1,003)

Two-thirds of Wyoming adults report that they are not very or not at all concerned about their ability to access emergency medical services if needed.

Women are more likely than men to say they are extremely or very concerned about their ability to access emergency medical services (22% vs. 15%), but there are no differences in concern across age groups.

Concern in ability access emergency medical services if needed
Among all respondents

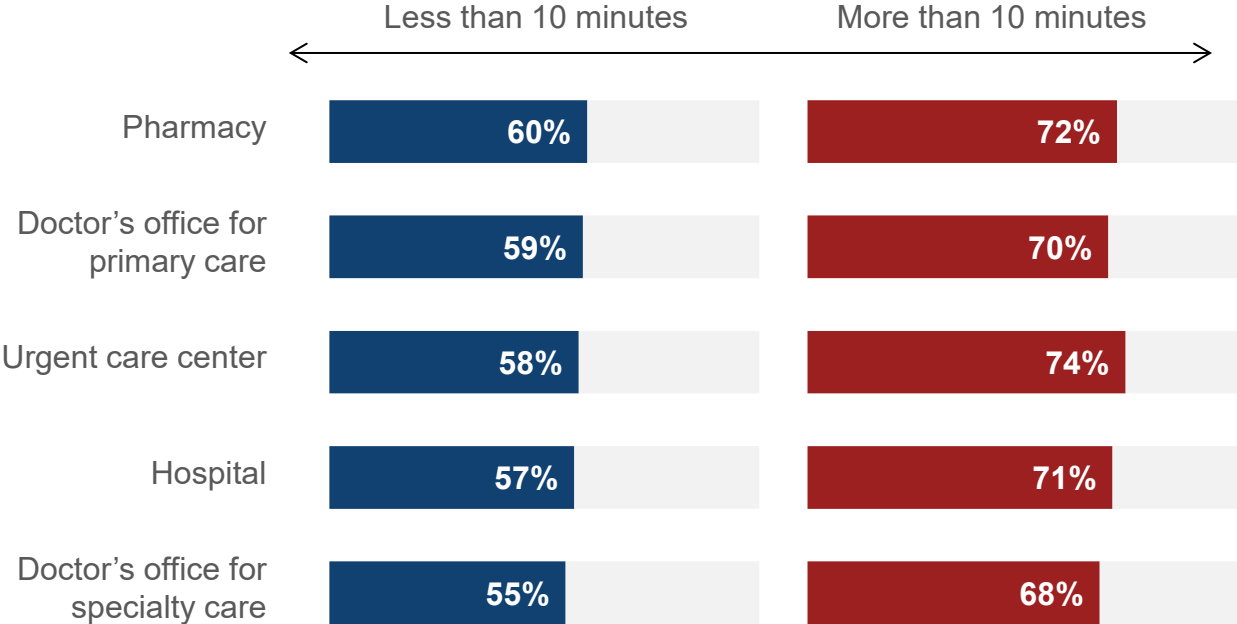


Q2. How concerned are you about being able to access emergency medical services if you or a member of your family needed them?
Base: Total respondents (n=1,003)



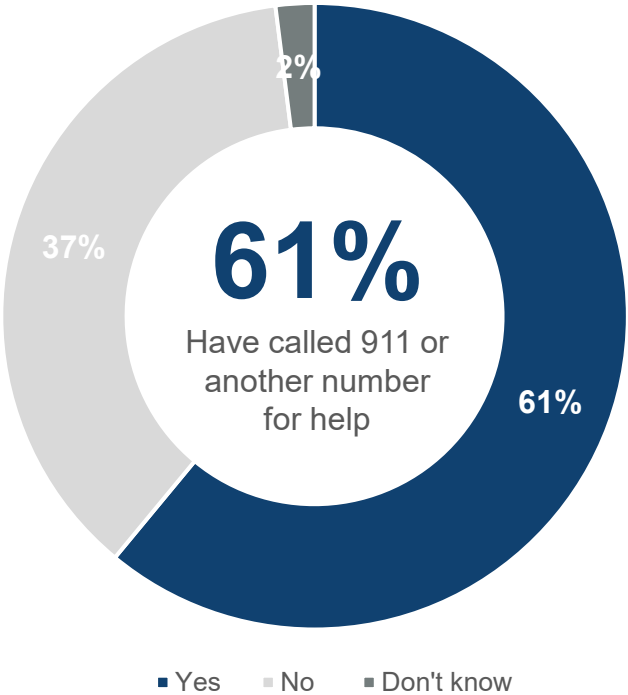
Yet, concern about one's ability to access emergency medical services increases when health care providers are further away.

Percentage concerned about accessing needed emergency medical services
By distance to health care provider

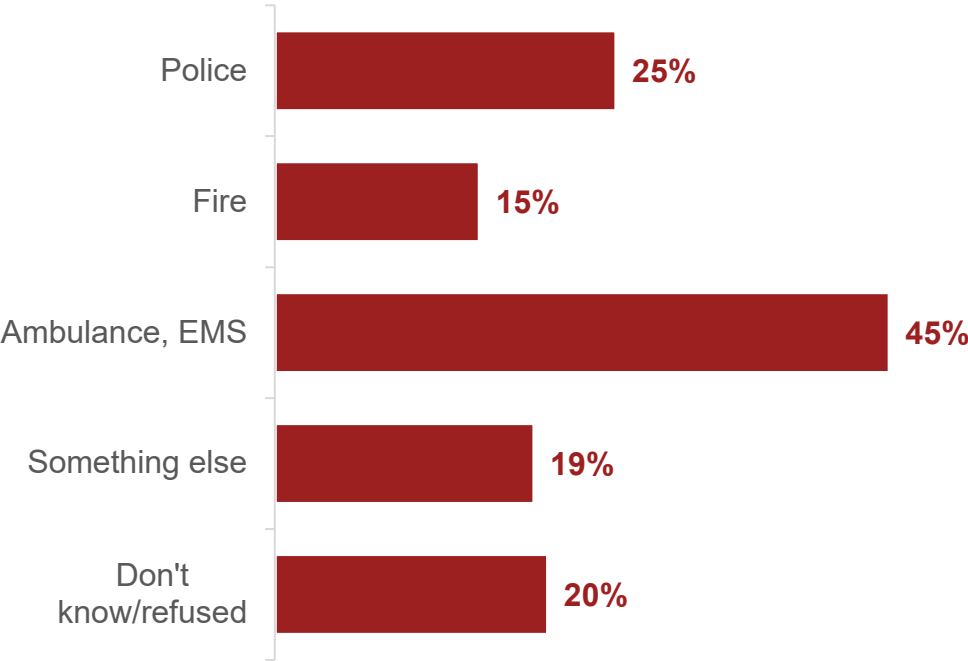


A majority of Wyomingites say they (or a family member) have ever called 911 or another emergency number, with nearly half having called for an ambulance.

Percentage who have called 911 or another number for help
Among all respondents



Type of assistance requested
Among all respondents

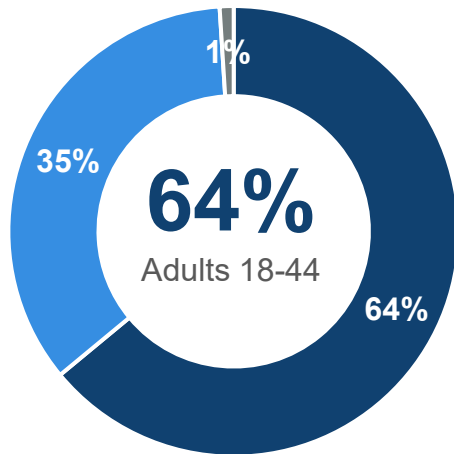


Q3. Have you or anyone in your family ever called 911 or another emergency number for help? Please include any type of emergency, not just those involving motor vehicle crashes. Base: Total respondents (n=1,003)

Q4. Did you or a family member call for police, fire, an ambulance, or something else? Again, please include any type of emergency, not just those involving motor vehicle crashes. If you have called more than once, then answer for the most recent time you called 9-1-1 or another emergency number. Base: Total respondents (n=1,003)

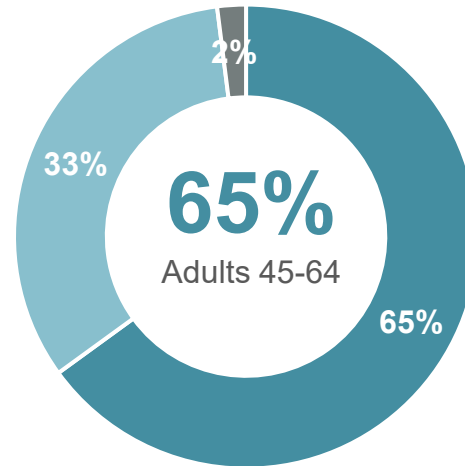
Younger Wyomingites are more likely than those ages 65 and older to say they (or a family member) have ever called 911 or another emergency number.

Percentage of adults 18-44 who have called 911 or another number for help



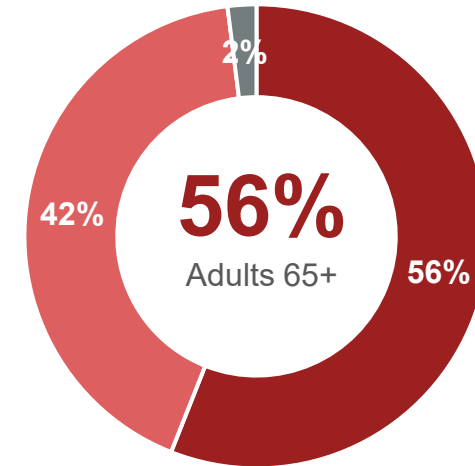
■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know

Percentage of adults 45-64 who have called 911 or another number for help



■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know

Percentage of adults 65-plus who have called 911 or another number for help



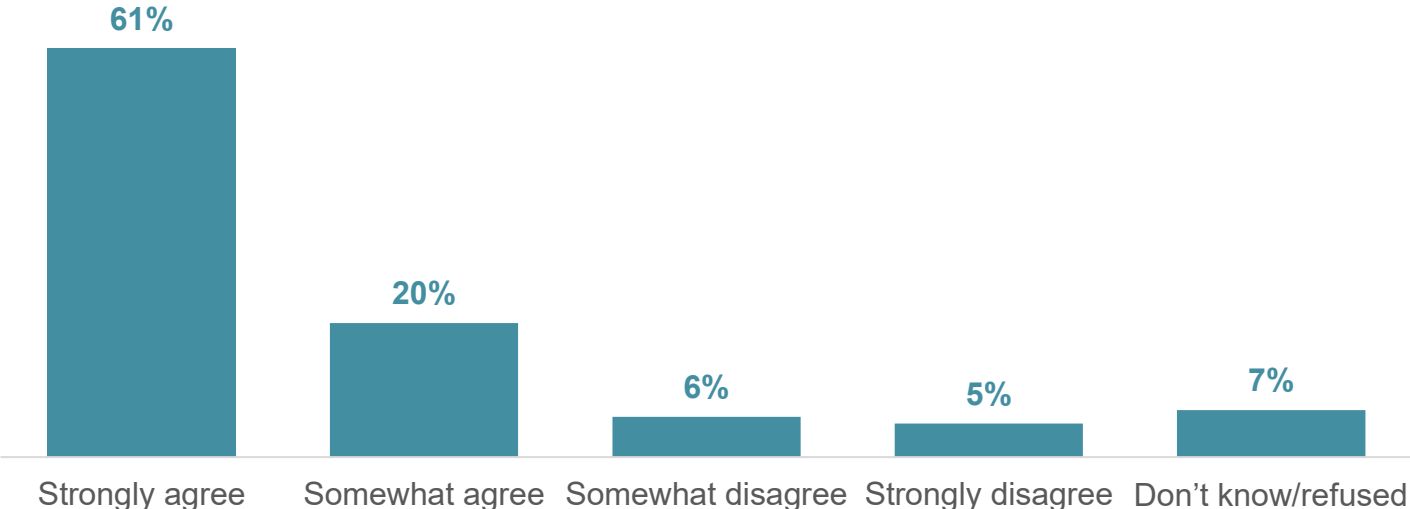
■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know

Q3. Have you or anyone in your family ever called 911 or another emergency number for help? Please include any type of emergency, not just those involving motor vehicle crashes. Base: Total respondents (n=1,003)

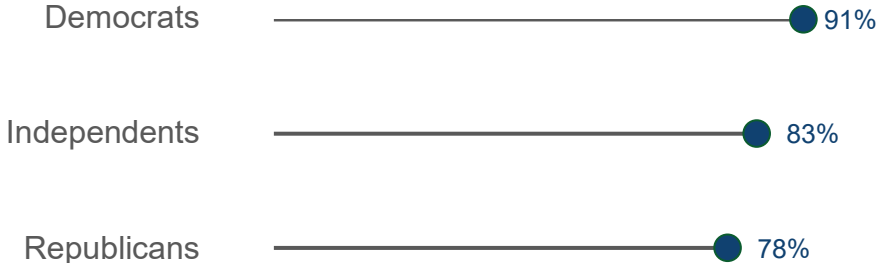
Eight in ten Wyoming adults agree that EMS should be considered an essential government service, while seven percent do not know.

Although there are no differences in agreement across age groups, women are more likely than men to strongly or somewhat agree that EMS should be considered an essential government service (85% vs. 78%).

Belief that EMS should be considered an essential government service
Among all respondents



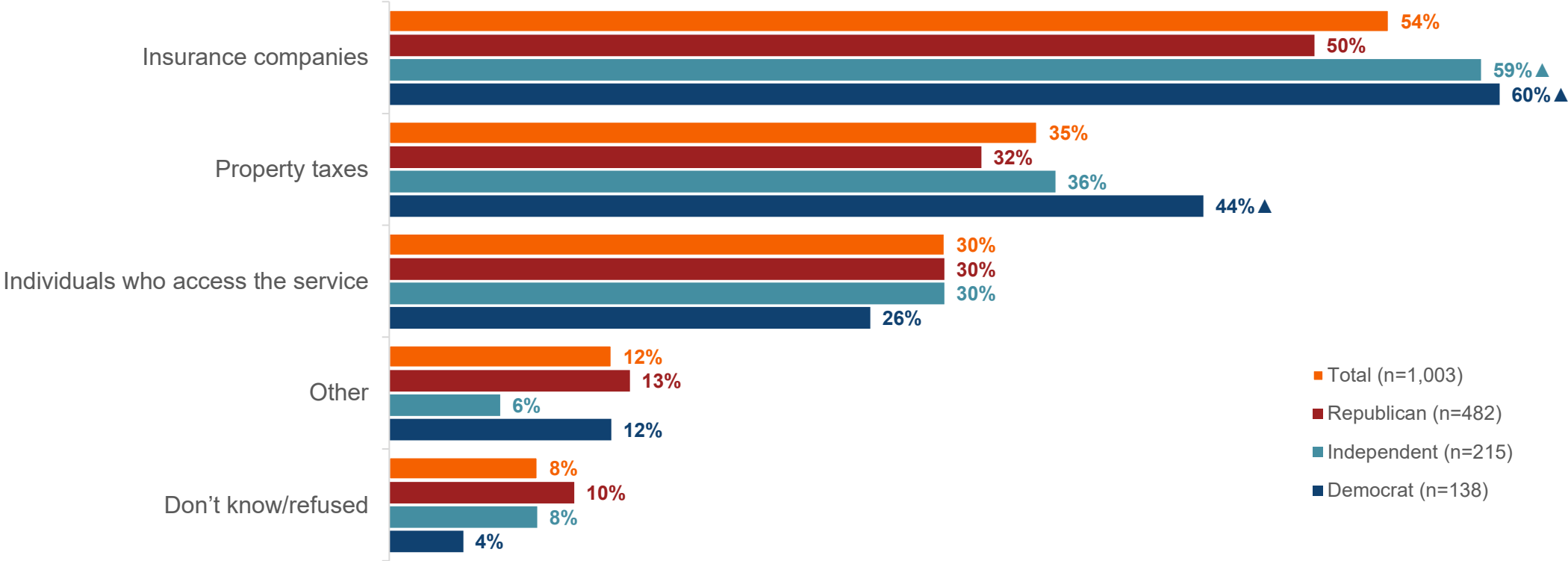
Percentage who strongly or somewhat agree that EMS should be considered an essential government service, by political party affiliation



Q5. Unlike firefighting and law enforcement, emergency medical services (EMS) are not designated as “essential services” which means that counties and cities do not have to pay for ambulance services or ensure that their residents have access to them. To what extent do you agree or disagree that EMS should also be considered an essential government service? Is that strongly or somewhat? Base: Total respondents (n=1,003)

While most believe that insurance companies should pay for emergency medical services in Wyoming, there are some differences of opinion by political party.

Views on who should pay for emergency medical services in Wyoming
Among all respondents and by political party

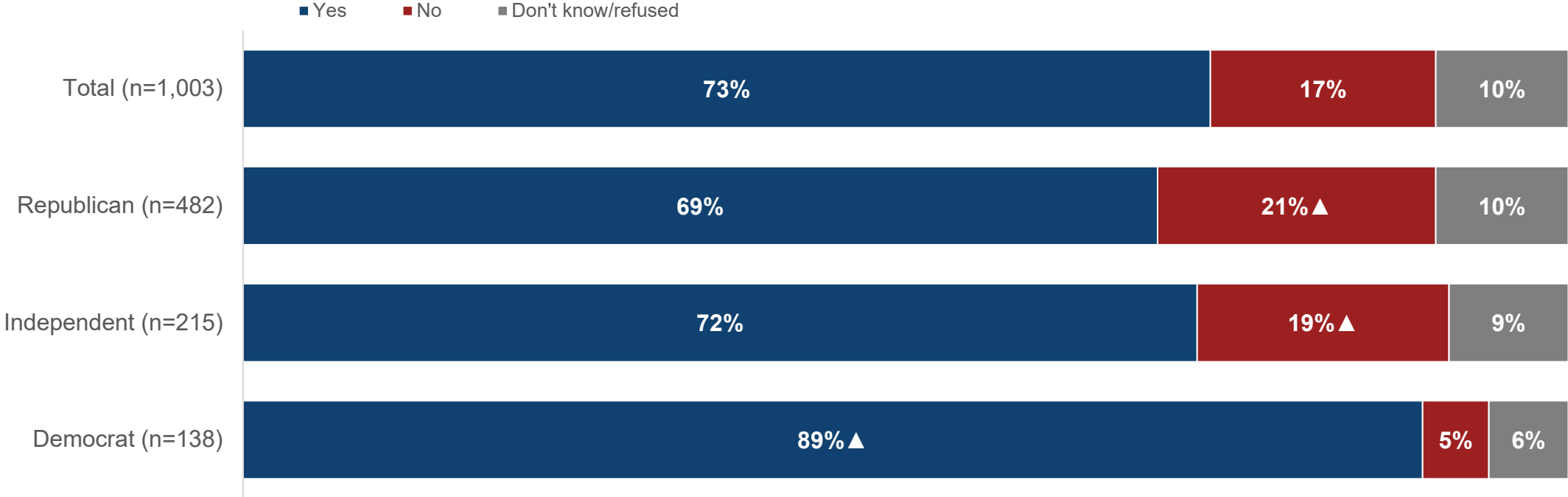


Q6. In your opinion, who do you think should pay for emergency medical services in Wyoming? Base: Total respondents (n=1,003)

▲ indicates a statistically higher result than all other categories displayed. ▼ indicates a statistically lower result.

Wyomingites believe that communities should pay for EMS in the same way as they pay for police and fire department services, with Democrats more likely than Republicans or Independents to say so.

Should communities pay for EMS in the same way as they pay for police and fire department services
Among all respondents and by political affiliation

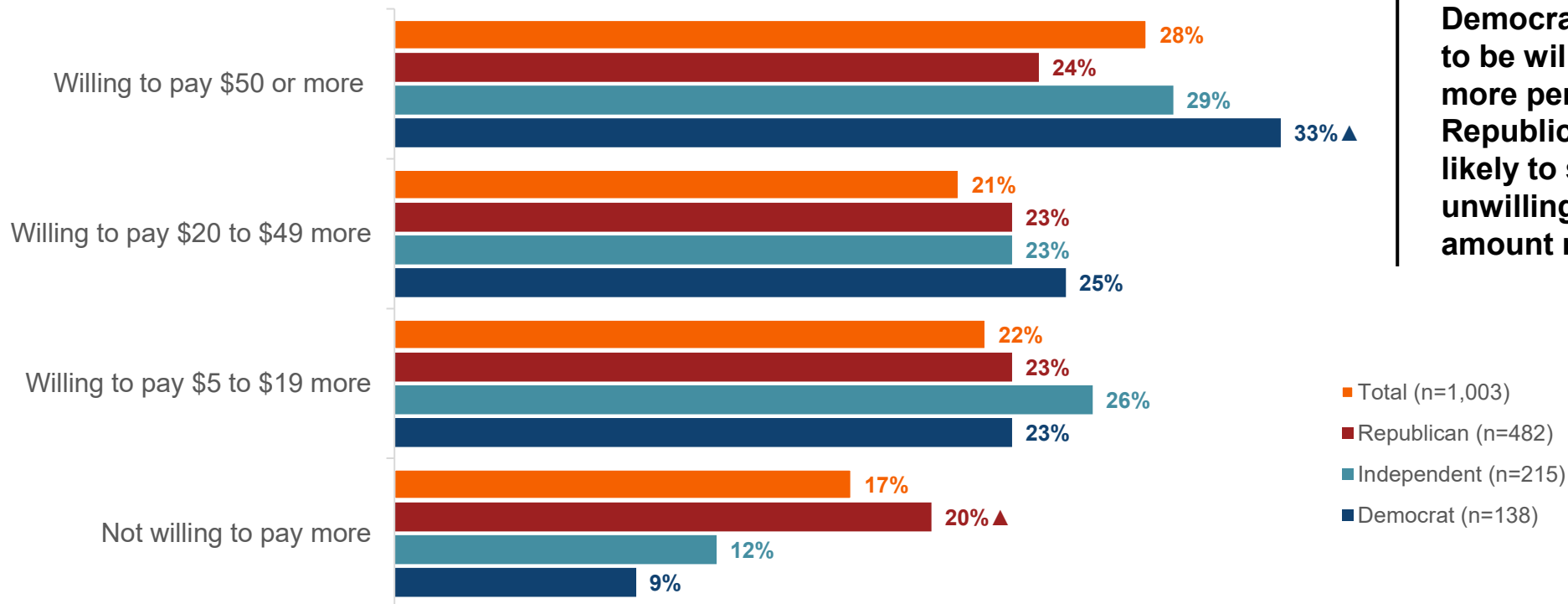


Q7. In your opinion, should communities pay for EMS in the same way that they pay for police and fire department services? Base: Total respondents (n=1,003)

▲ indicates a statistically higher result than all other categories displayed. ▼ indicates a statistically lower result.

Wyoming adults are generally willing to pay more for their community EMS system, with eight in ten willing to pay at least something more.

Amount willing to pay per year for one's community EMS system
Among all respondents and by political party



Democrats are more likely to be willing to pay \$50 or more per year and Republicans are more likely to say they are unwilling to pay any amount more.



Q9. Some communities use other fees and taxes collected from the public to help pay for their EMS systems, which include ambulances, rescue squads, and hospital emergency services.

How much would you be willing to pay for your community's EMS system? Will you be? Base: Total respondents (n=1,003)

▲ indicates a statistically higher result than all other categories displayed. ▼ indicates a statistically lower result.



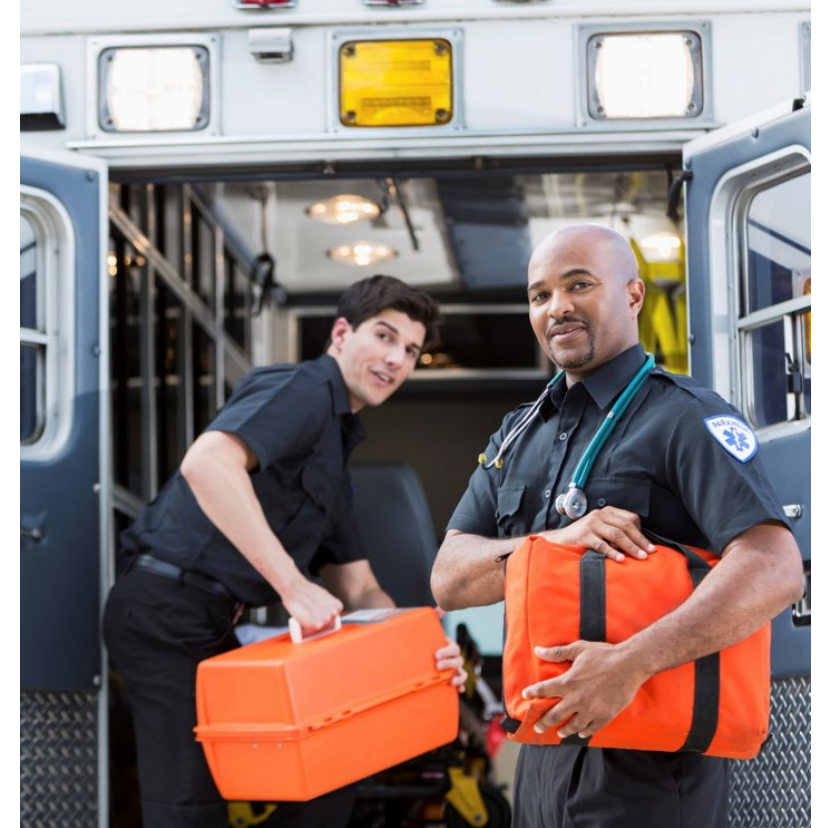
IMPLICATIONS

Implications

Awareness and use of emergency medical services (EMS) is relatively high in Wyoming, but there is a lack of a clear consensus around who should pay for them. Eight in ten Wyoming adults agree that EMS should be considered an essential government service.

Consistent with current practice, most Wyomingites believe that insurance companies should pay for EMS. A large majority also believe that EMS should be paid for in the same way that police and fire department services are.

When asked how much additional money they would be willing to pay (if anything) for a community EMS system, a **full eight in ten (83%) Wyomingites report they are willing to pay something more**, with nearly three in ten (29%) saying they would pay \$50 or more per year.





METHODOLOGY

Methodology

- **Objectives:** To explore the views of Wyoming adults ages 18 and older related to emergency medical services in the state
- **Methodology:** Telephone surveys
- **Qualifications:** Ages 18 or older
- **Sample:** n=1,003
- **Interviewing Dates:** June 17-30, 2024
- **Weighting:** Data were weighted by gender, age, and gender in age (by response) to reflect Wyoming residents ages 18 and older based on the statewide population from the sample source.
- **Questionnaire length:** 12 minutes on average
- **Confidence Interval:** Total sample: $\pm 3.1\%$



About AARP

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With a nationwide presence, AARP strengthens communities and advocates for what matters most to the more than 100 million Americans 50-plus and their families: health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. AARP also produces the nation's largest circulation publications: AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin. To learn more, visit www.aarp.org/about-aarp/, www.aarp.org/español or follow [@AARP](https://twitter.com/AARP), [@AARPenEspañol](https://twitter.com/AARPenEspañol) and [@AARPadvocates](https://twitter.com/AARPadvocates) on social media.

About American Directions Research Group

American Directions Research Group (ADRG) is a veteran-owned, research services company headquartered in Washington, DC. Founded in 1987, ADRG has 35 years of experience and knowledge in designing, implementing and managing state-of-the-art multimodal survey research projects. ADRG is one of the largest survey research data collection providers in the United States, specializing in high-quality research to measure consumer attitudes and awareness, member satisfaction, market trends, program effectiveness and more. The key to this long-term success has been client satisfaction based on reliable data, fast turnaround, competitive costs, and a keen sensitivity to client needs. ADRG clients encompass a wide variety of industries, ranging from Federal to state governments, academia, corporations, non-profits and associations. For more information, please visit www.adg-research.com



Teresa A. Keenan, Ph.D., AARP Research

tkeenanaarp@aarp.org

For media inquiries, please contact

media@aarp.org

This research was designed and executed by AARP Research