

PewResearchCenter

Americans' Views About the MMR Vaccine and Their Trust in Medical Scientists

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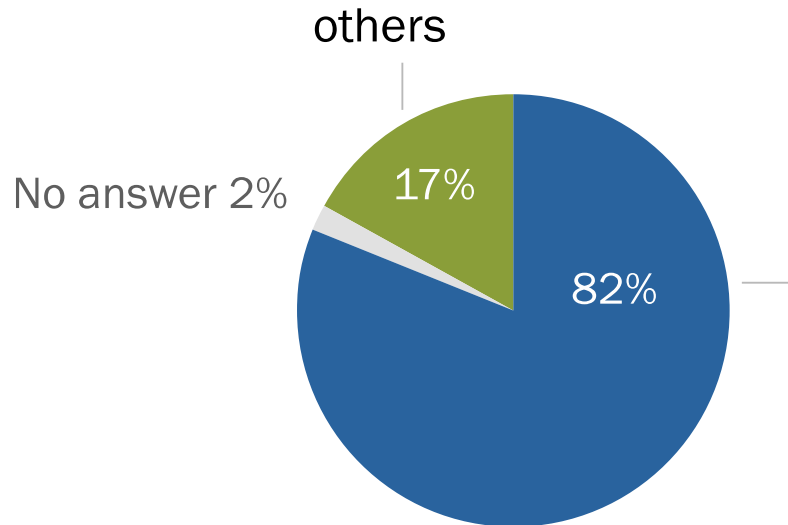
Most Americans support a school-based vaccine requirement

Parents should be able to decide not to vaccinate

their children even if that may create health risks for others

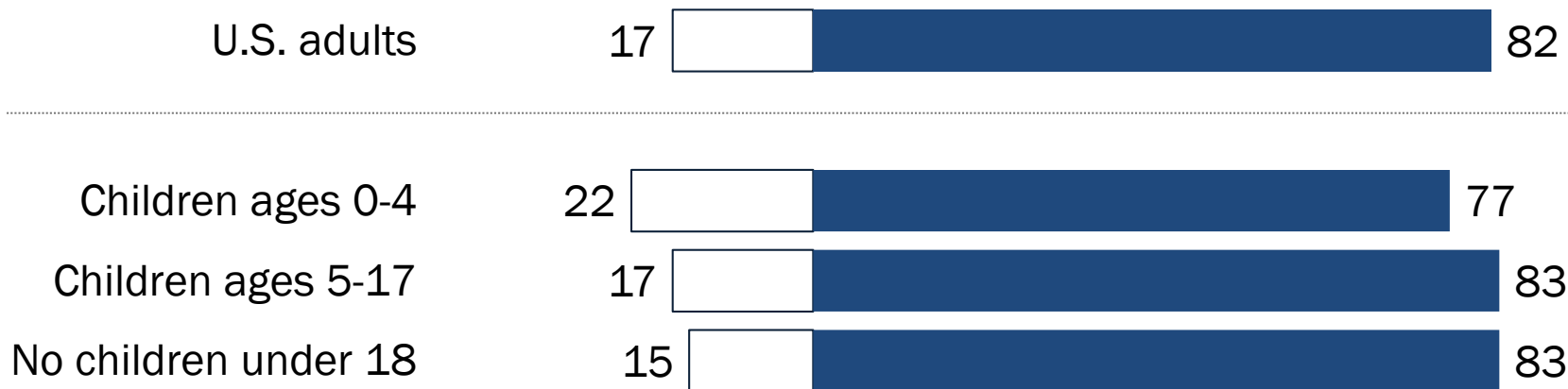
Healthy children should be required to be vaccinated

to attend school because of potential risk to others

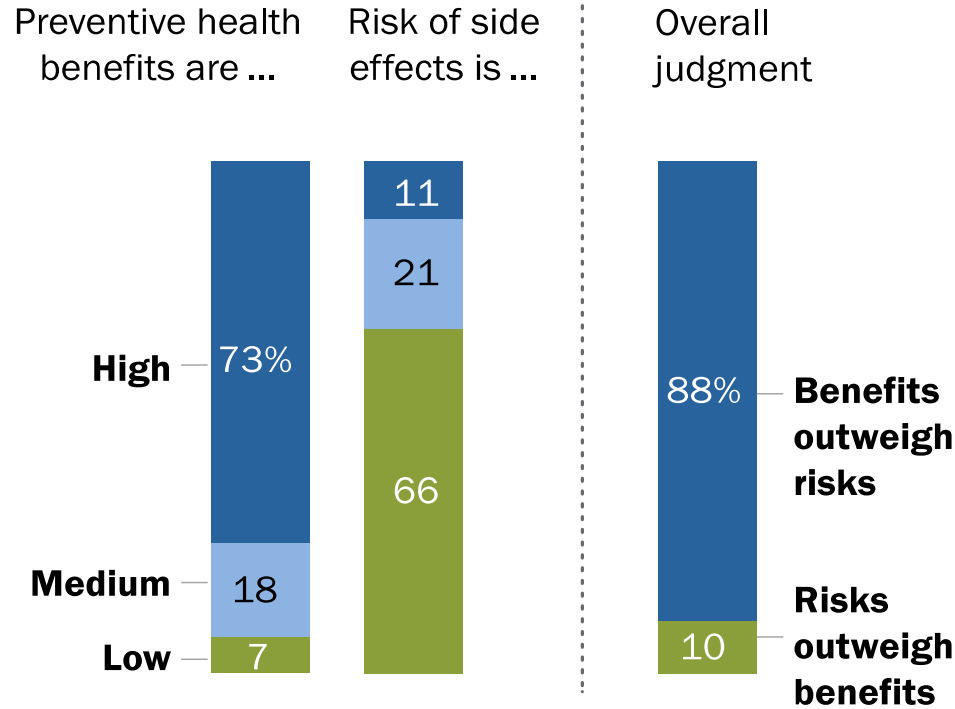


Most Americans support school-based requirement for vaccines

- Parents should be able to decide not to vaccinate their children, even if that may create health risks for others
- Healthy children should be required to be vaccinated to attend school because of potential health risk to others



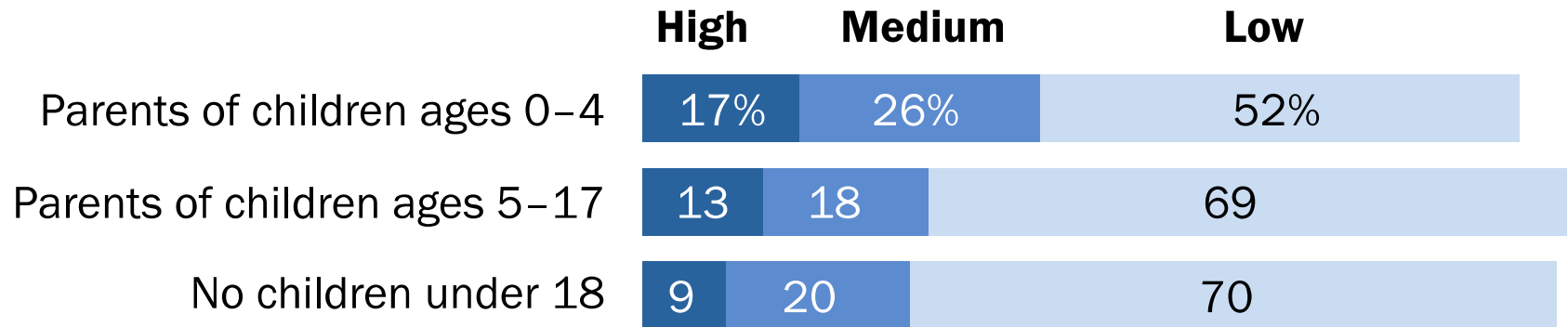
Most rate MMR vaccine's preventive health benefits as high, risk of side effects as low



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Parents of young children rate the risk of side effects from the MMR vaccine higher than other Americans

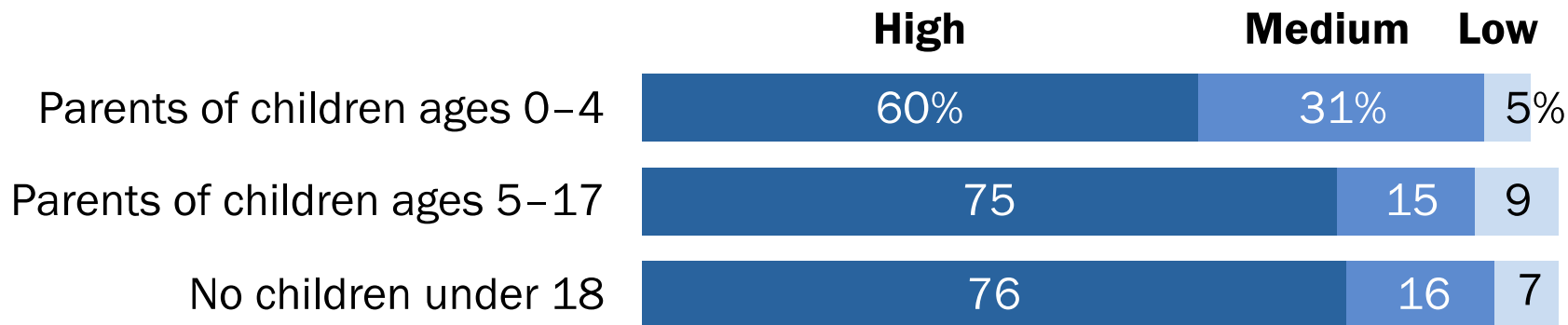
The risk of side effects is...



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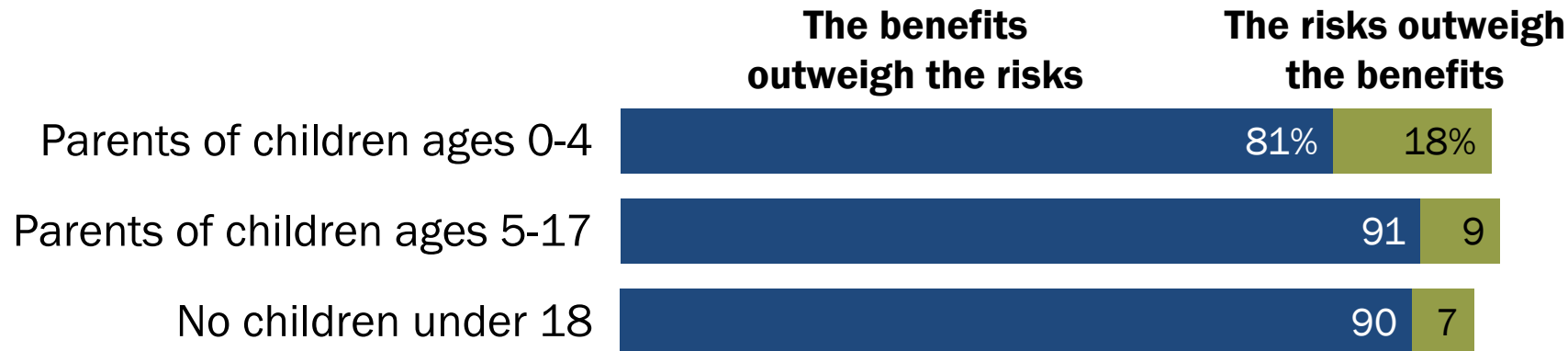
Parents of young children rate the preventive health benefits of the MMR vaccine lower than other Americans

The preventive health benefits are...

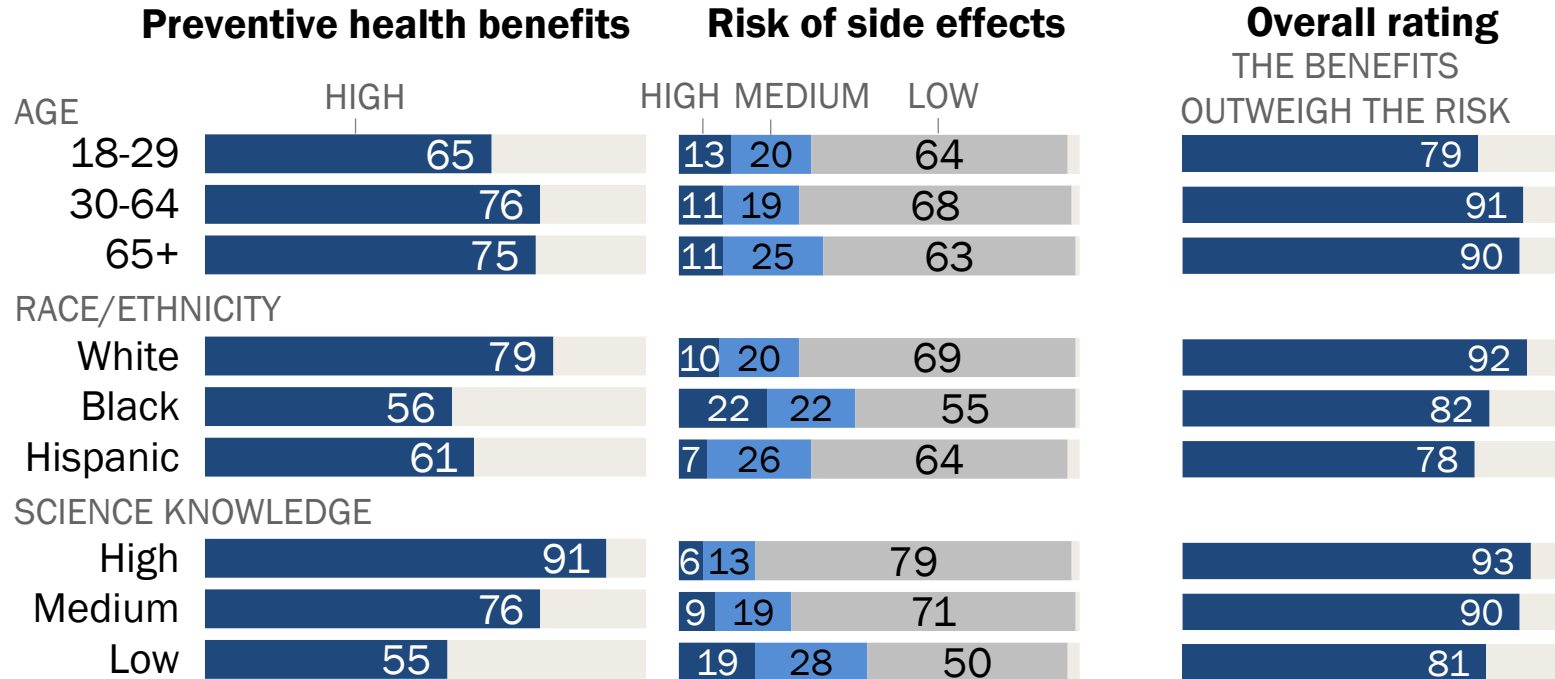


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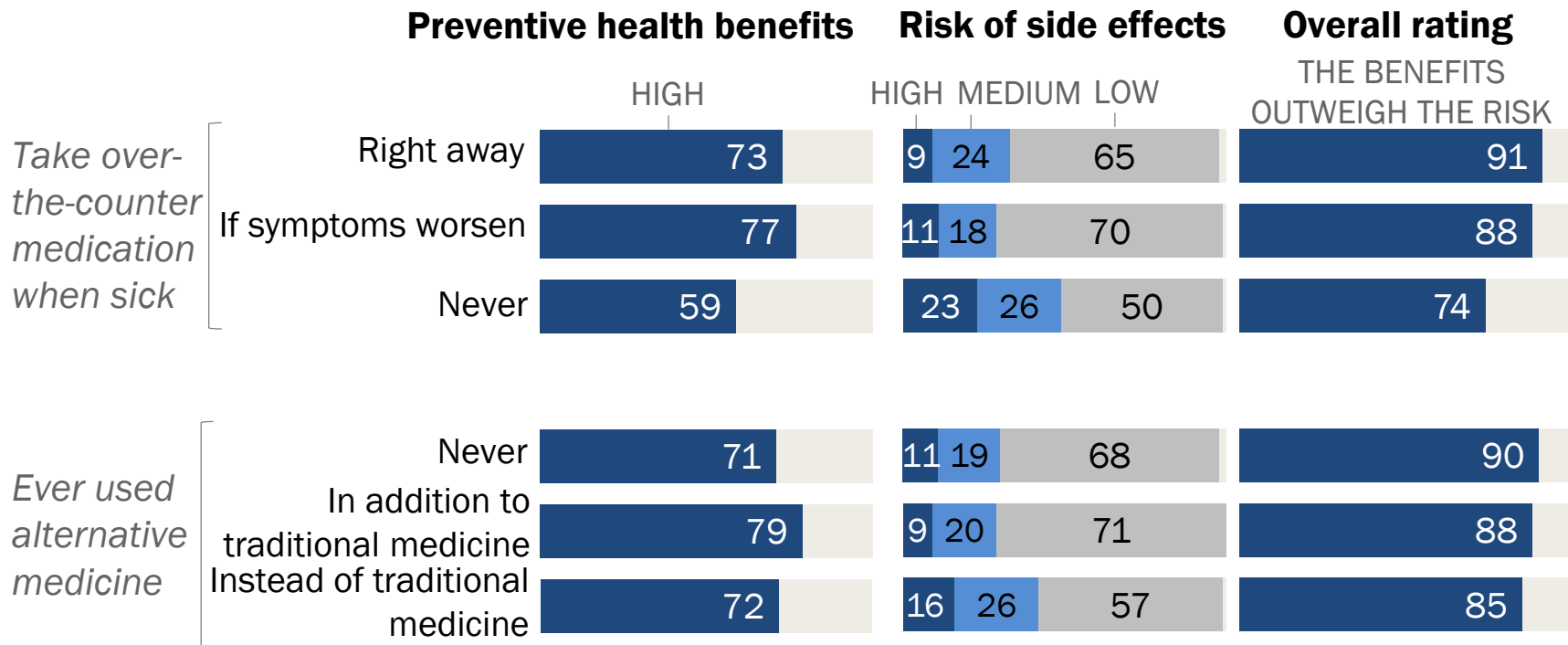
Parents of young children are less likely to think that the benefits of the MMR vaccine outweigh the risks



Americans with low science knowledge and blacks see lower benefits and a higher risk of side effects from the MMR vaccine

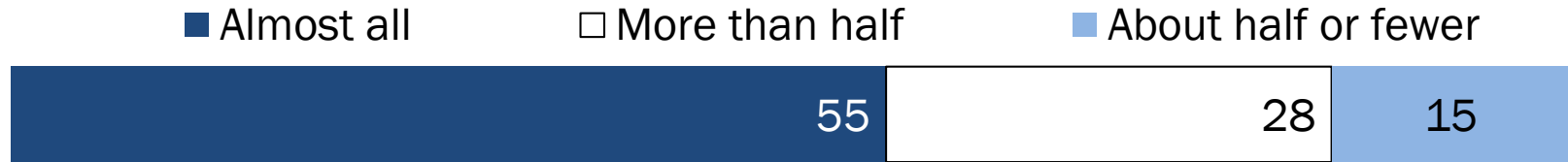


People's alternative and conventional medicine practices link with their beliefs about the benefits and risks of the MMR vaccine

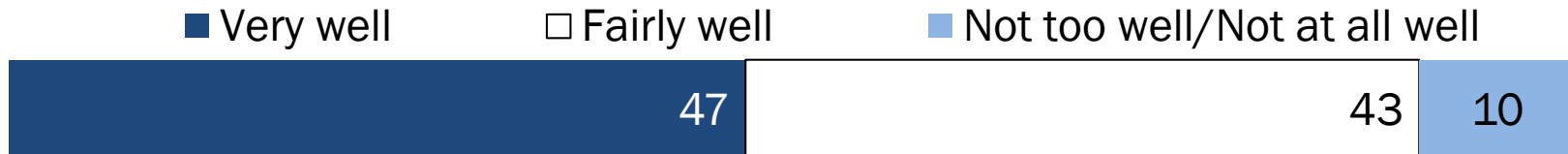


About half of Americans see widespread scientific consensus on safety of the MMR vaccine

_____ *medical scientists say the MMR vaccine is safe for healthy children*

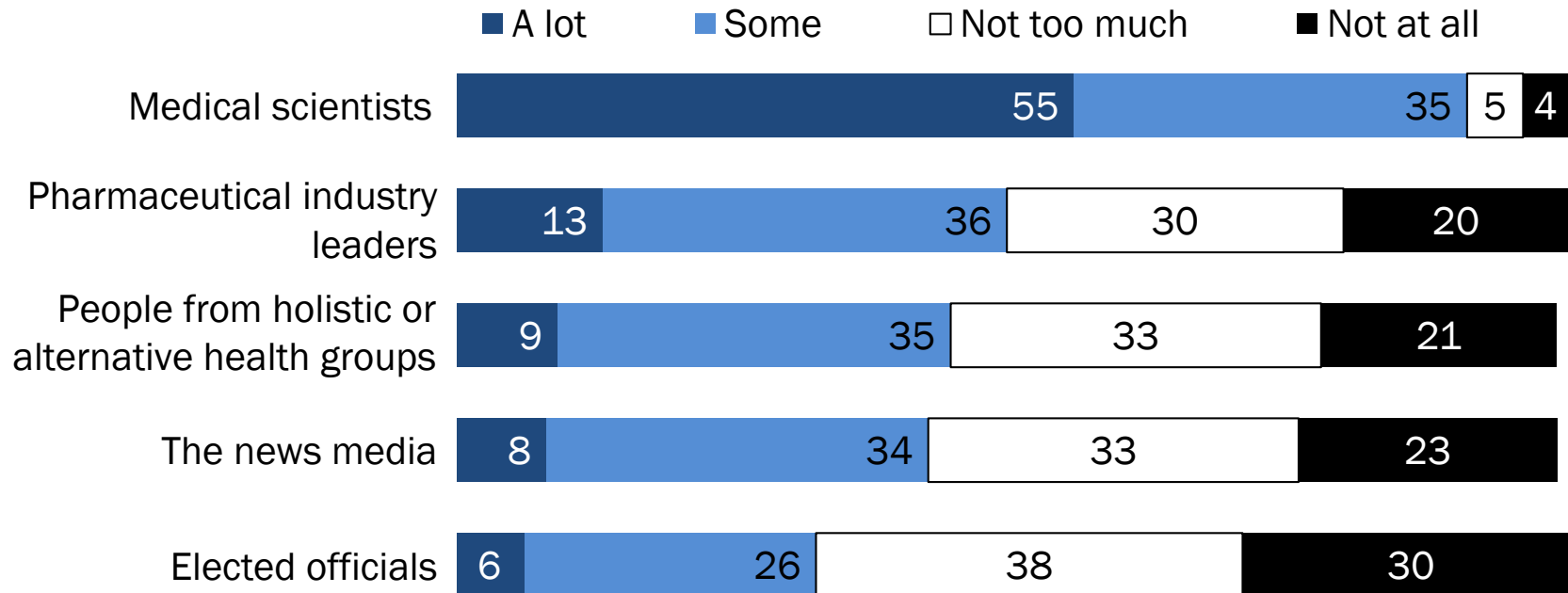


Medical scientists understand the health risks and benefits of the MMR vaccine...



Most Americans trust medical scientists for information on childhood vaccines

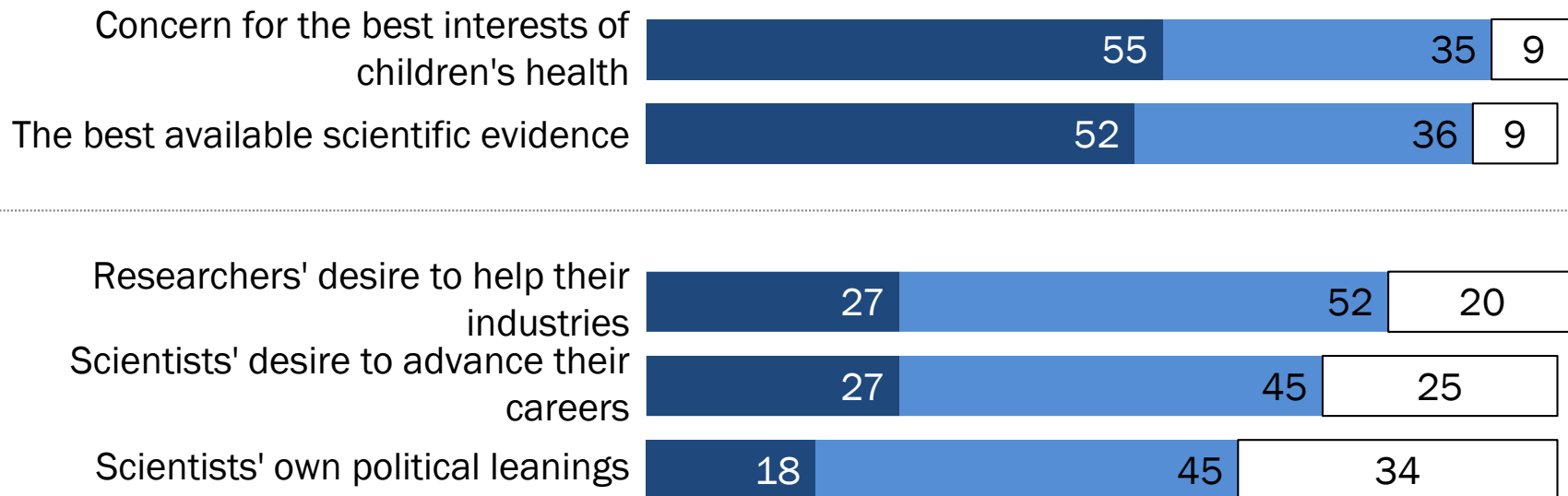
Trust each of these groups ____ for full and accurate information on the health risks and benefits of the MMR vaccine



About half of Americans think the best available evidence influences vaccine research most of the time

Medical scientists' research findings on the health risks and benefits of childhood vaccines are influenced by...

■ Most of the time ■ Some of the time □ Not too often/Never



Younger Americans are more skeptical of medical scientists and their research on childhood vaccines

18-29 30-64 65+

Medical scientists understand the health effects of the MMR vaccine **very well**

39 ● ●● 51

Almost all medical scientists agree the MMR vaccine is safe

44 ● ● ● 66

Trust medical scientists **a lot** to provide full and accurate information on the health effects of the MMR vaccine

54 ●● 59

Medical scientists' research findings are influenced by the best available evidence **most of the time**

47 ●● ● 60



Parents of young children hold views similar to other Americans about medical scientists and their research

Parents of children 0-4

Medical scientists understand the health effects of the MMR vaccine **very well**



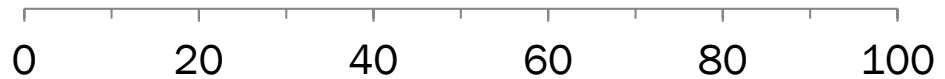
Almost all medical scientists agree the MMR vaccine is safe



Trust medical scientists **a lot** to provide full and accurate information on the health effects of the MMR vaccine



Medical scientists' research findings are influenced by the best available evidence **most of the time**



People high in science knowledge more inclined to see consensus among medical scientists on MMR vaccine safety

Among those with ___ science knowledge

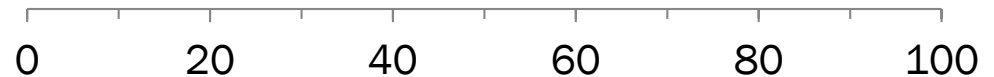
Low Medium High

Almost all medical scientists agree the MMR vaccine is safe

43 ● ● 80

Medical scientists understand the health effects of the MMR vaccine **very well**

37 ● ● 64



Americans with high science knowledge are more trusting of information from medical scientists on vaccines

Trust ___ a lot for full and accurate information on the health effects of the MMR vaccine

Among those with ___ science knowledge

Low Medium High

Medical scientists

40 ● ● 73

Pharmaceutical industry leaders

5 ● ● ● 22

The news media

4 ● ● ● 20

People from holistic or alternative health groups

2 ● ● ● 15

Elected officials

1 ● ● ● 13



People high in science knowledge tend to see medical scientists' research findings more favorably

Medical scientists' research findings are influenced by ____ most of the time

Among those with ____ science knowledge

Low Medium High

The best available scientific evidence

34 72

Concern for the best interests of children's health

43 70

Researchers' desire to help their industries

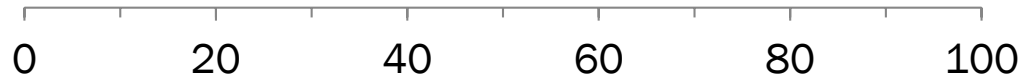
21 25

Scientists' desire to advance their careers

15 38

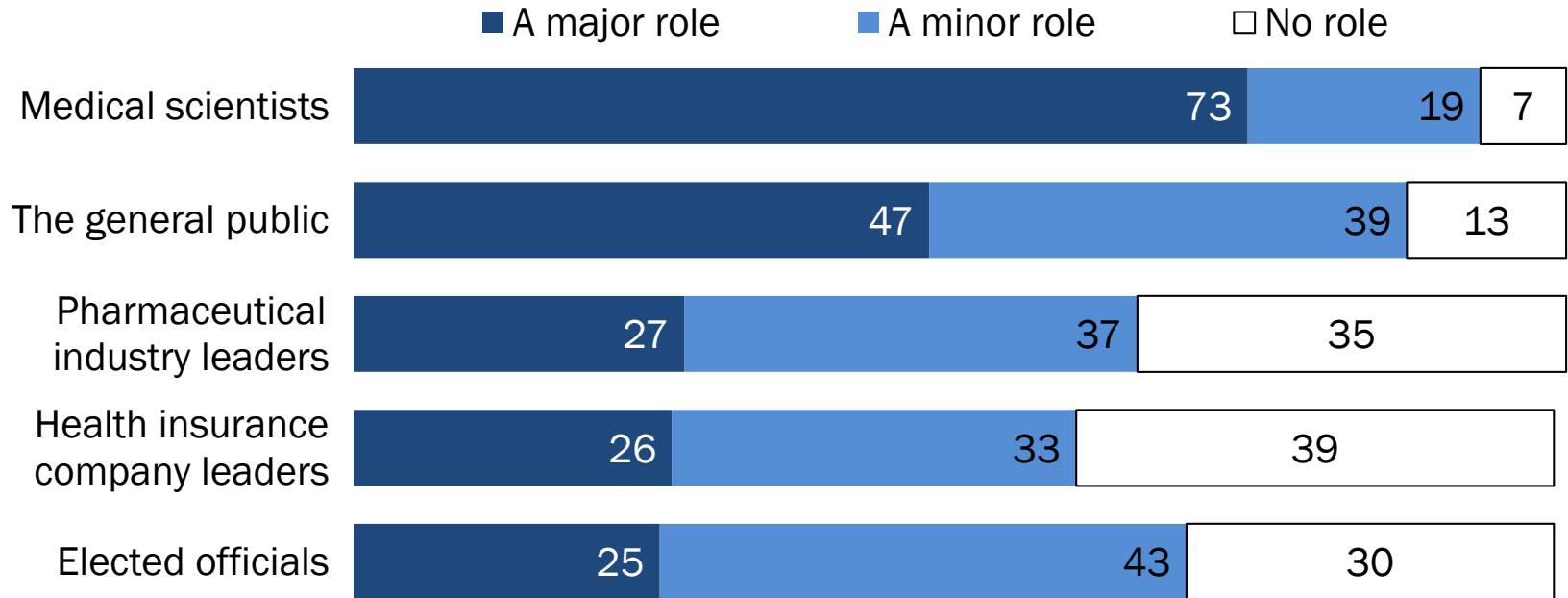
Scientists' own political leanings

12 23



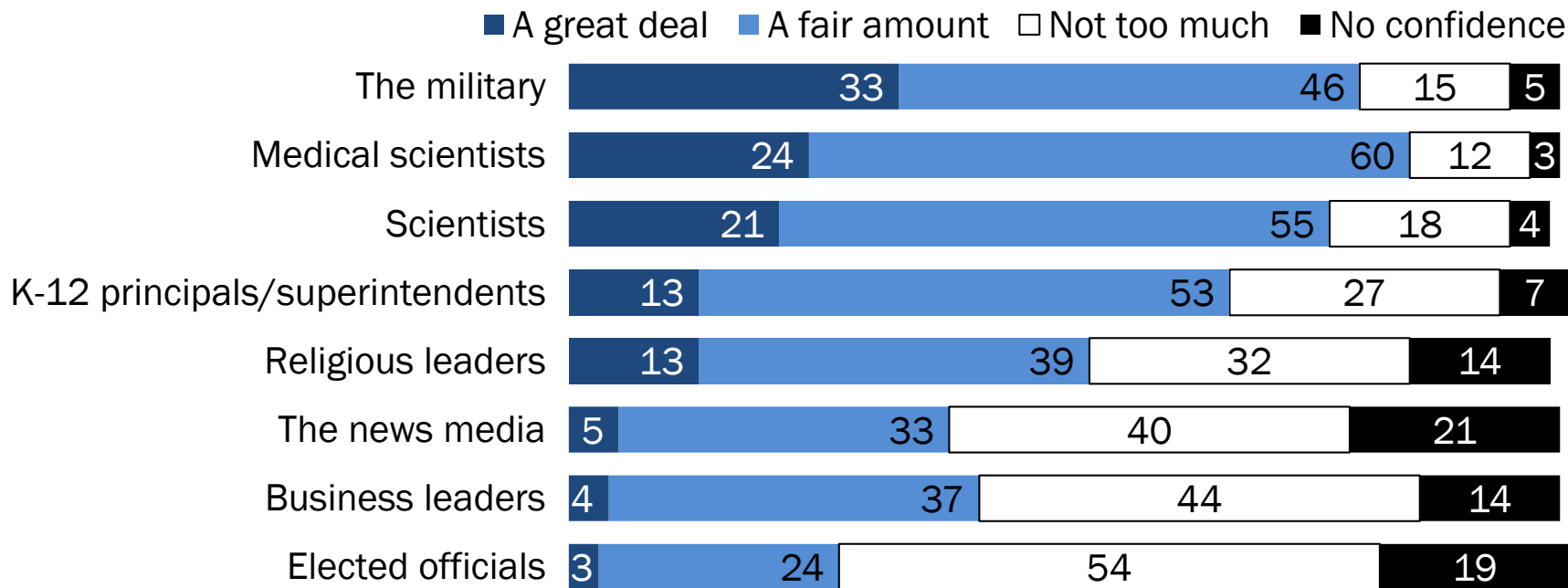
A majority of the public says medical scientists should play a major role in policy decisions

Each of these groups should have ____ in making decisions about policy issues related to childhood vaccines



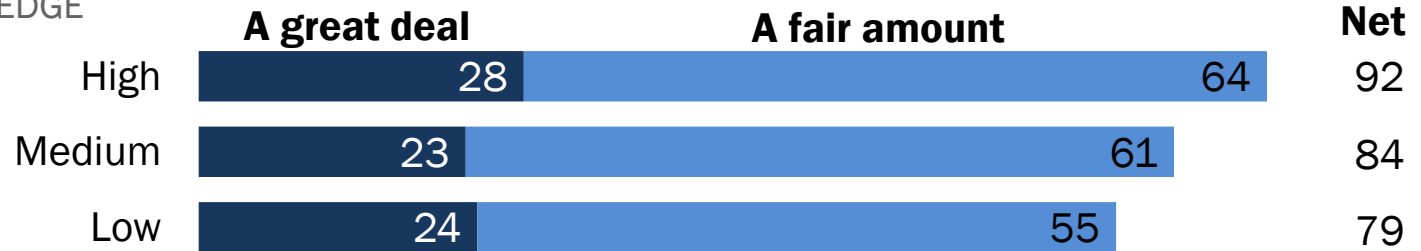
Public confidence to act in the public interest is highest for military, followed by medical scientists and scientists

Have ___ of confidence in each of the following groups to act in the best interests of the public

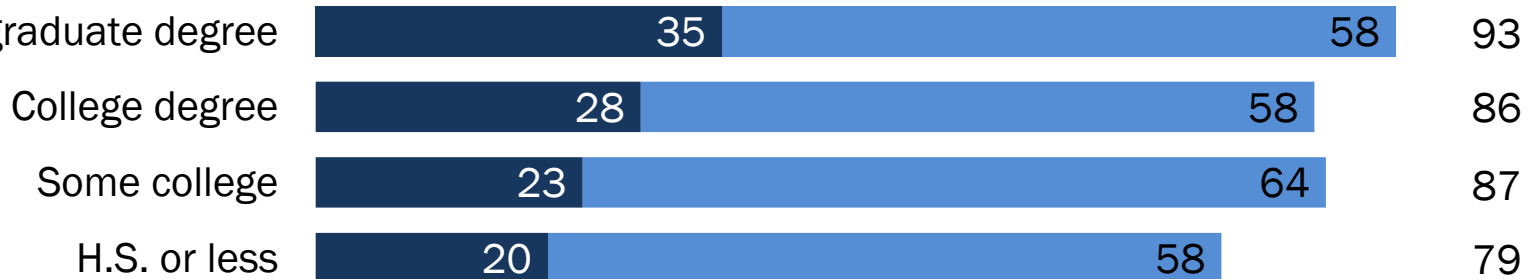


Americans with higher science knowledge have more confidence in medical scientists to act in the public's best interest

SCIENCE KNOWLEDGE



EDUCATION




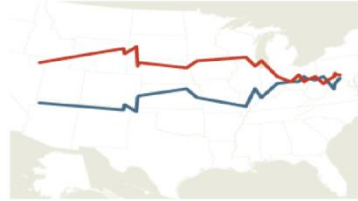
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U.S. Survey Research



**International
Survey Research**



**Content Analysis and
Human/Machine Coding**



Demographic Research

Text only versions

MMR Vaccine Preventative health benefits bar graph

	Preventative Health Benefits are	Risk of side effects are
High	73 %	11 %
Medium	18 %	21 %
Low	7 %	66 %

Overall Judgement:

Benefits Outweigh Risks – 88%

Risks Outweigh Benefits – 10%

Parents rate the risk of side effects from MMR vaccine bar graph

	High	Medium	Low
Parents of children ages 0 - 4	17%	26%	52%
Parents of children ages 5 - 17	13%	18%	69%
No children under 18	9%	20%	70%

Parents rate the preventative health benefits of MMR vaccine bar graph

	High	Medium	Low
Parents of children ages 0 - 4	60%	31%	5%
Parents of children ages 5 - 17	75%	15%	9%
No children under 18	76%	16%	7%