



Shipbuilding

Among 2,204 U.S. adults

 **MARCH 2025**



Objectives

- Determine if U.S. adults find China's dominance on global shipbuilding concerning, especially when it comes to national security
- Understand if U.S. adults believe the government should step in to act in strengthening domestic shipbuilding to better compete with China

Methodology

This poll was conducted between March 10 - 12, 2025 among a sample of 2,204 Adults. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of Adults based on age, gender, race, educational attainment, region, gender by age, and race by educational attainment.

Results from the full survey have a margin of error of +/- 2 - 6 percentage points depending on the audience.

Key Takeaways

1

Concerns arise from China's dominance in shipbuilding and America's reliance on Chinese-built shipyards.

- Most (58%) adults find it concerning that China dominates the global shipbuilding industry, with a third (31%) saying it's very concerning. Additionally, seven in ten believe American navy's use of Chinese-built drydocks for military vessel repairs is a national threat.
- 68% think it is a matter of national security that the U.S. maintain the capability to build the ships and vessels to serve our commercial and military needs, as opposed to depending on foreign countries for shipbuilding needs.

2

There is strong support for domestic shipbuilding efforts.

- A majority of adults (72%) believe America's shipbuilding is too critical to our military and commercial success to be dependent on foreign manufacturers for shipbuilding needs.
- 71% support the U.S. government investing in domestic shipbuilding, primarily out of national security concerns.
- To effectively compete with China, roughly half of adults support implementing a docking fee on Chinese vessels to encourage U.S. shipbuilding (49%), and 56% favor requiring a percentage of U.S. exports to be transported on U.S.-built vessels with U.S. crews.



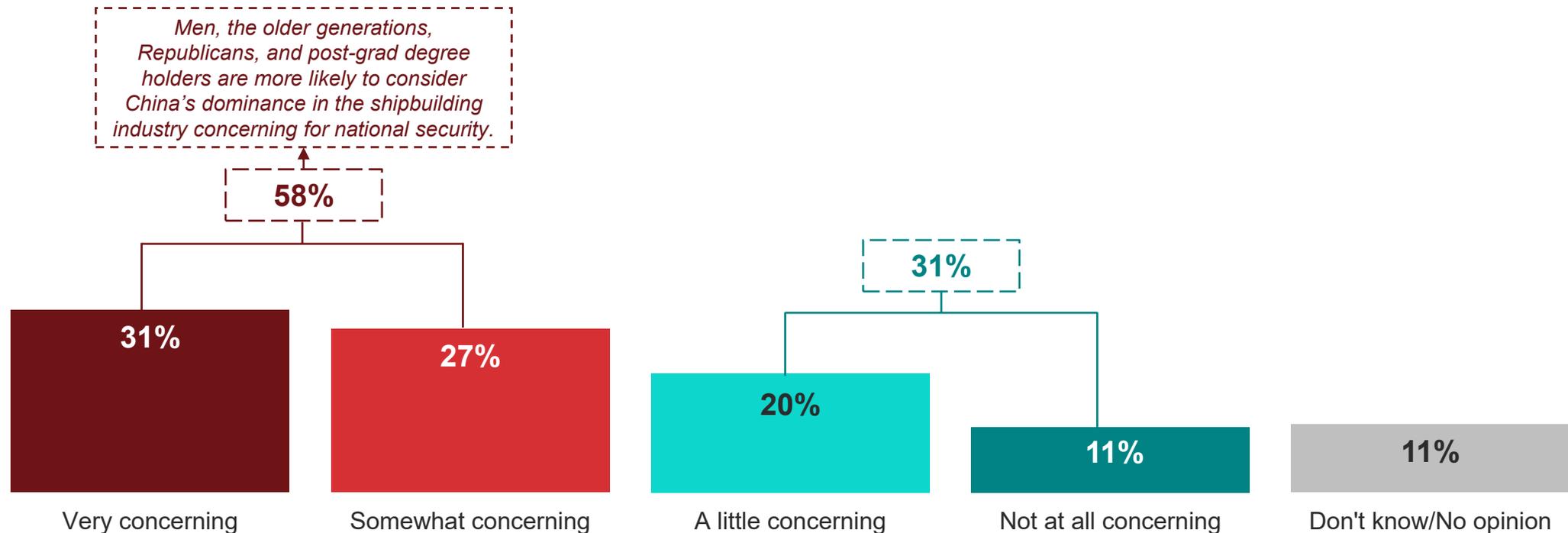
SECTION 1

National Security

NATIONAL SECURITY

Nearly three-in-five adults consider China's dominance in both the U.S. and global shipbuilding industries as concerning, although this sentiment has decreased by 6 points since December 2023.

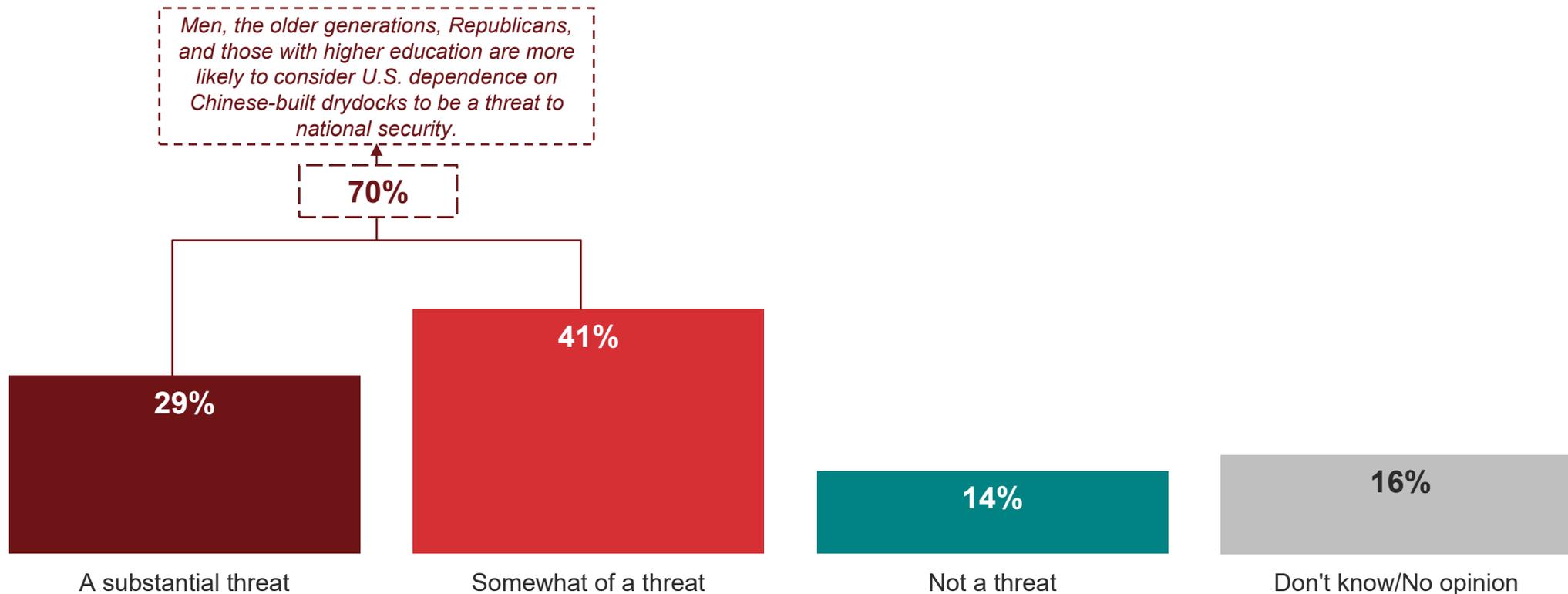
China dominates the global shipbuilding industry, making more than 1,500 oceangoing vessels a year. The United States, on the other hand, makes fewer than 10 oceangoing ships a year. How concerning do you consider this to be to our national security?



NATIONAL SECURITY

While most adults view U.S. reliance on Chinese-built drydocks as a national security threat, two in five consider it to be a moderate threat.

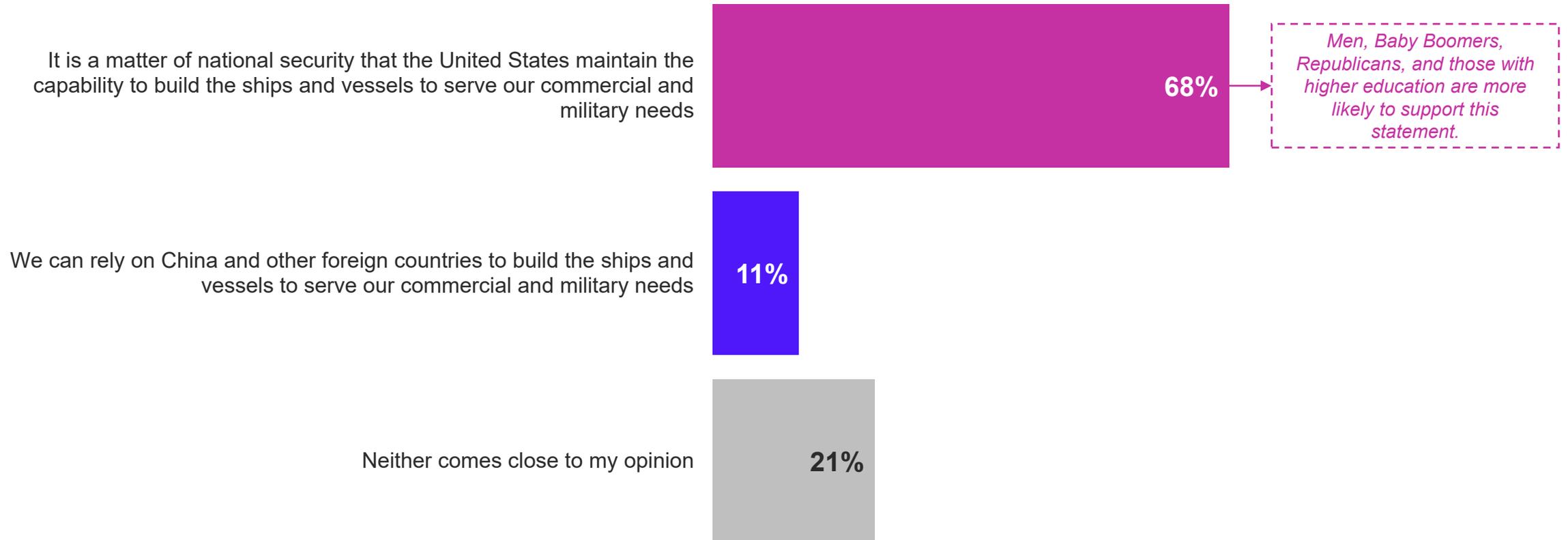
According to the former Secretary of the Navy, China has 13 shipyards, and just one of theirs has more capacity than all U.S. shipyards combined. As a result, Chinese-built drydocks have been bought by our Navy to repair, maintain, and retrofit our military vessels. How much of a threat do you consider this to be to our national security?



NATIONAL SECURITY

The majority of adults consider it a national security priority for the U.S. to maintain shipbuilding capacity to serve both commercial and military needs.

Some say it is a **matter of national security that the United States maintain the capability to build** the ships and vessels to serve our commercial and military needs. Others say we can **rely on China and other foreign countries to build** the ships and vessels to serve our commercial and military needs. Which (if any) comes closest to your opinion?





SECTION 2

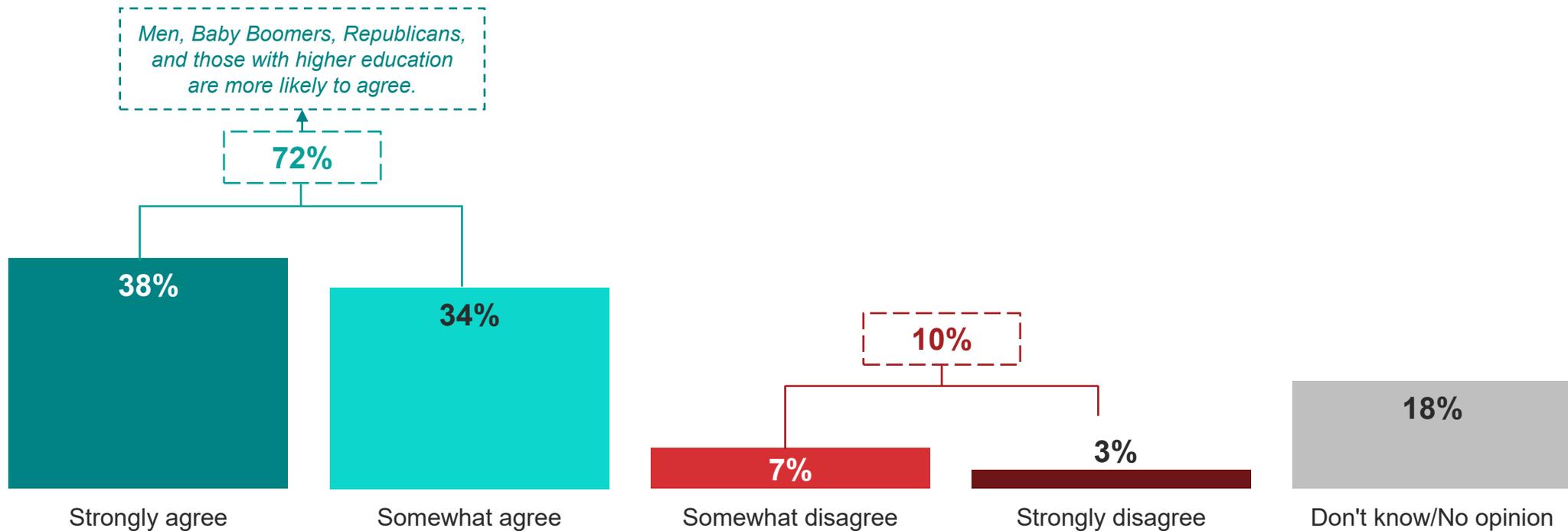
Domestic Shipbuiding

DOMESTIC SHIPBUILDING

There is broad agreement that America's shipbuilding is too critical to remain dependent on foreign manufacturers.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

America's shipbuilding capacity is too critical to our military and commercial success for us to remain dependent on foreign manufacturers to build our ships.

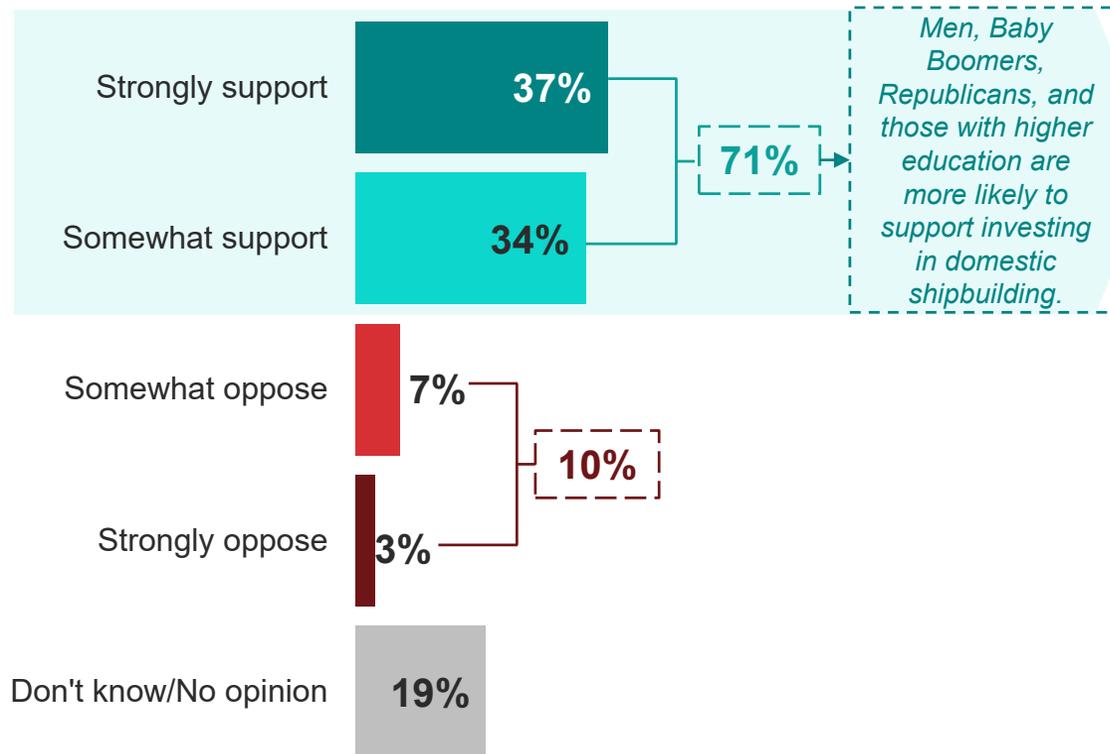


DOMESTIC SHIPBUILDING

The majority of adults believe the U.S. government should invest in the domestic shipbuilding industry, with national security being the top motivator.

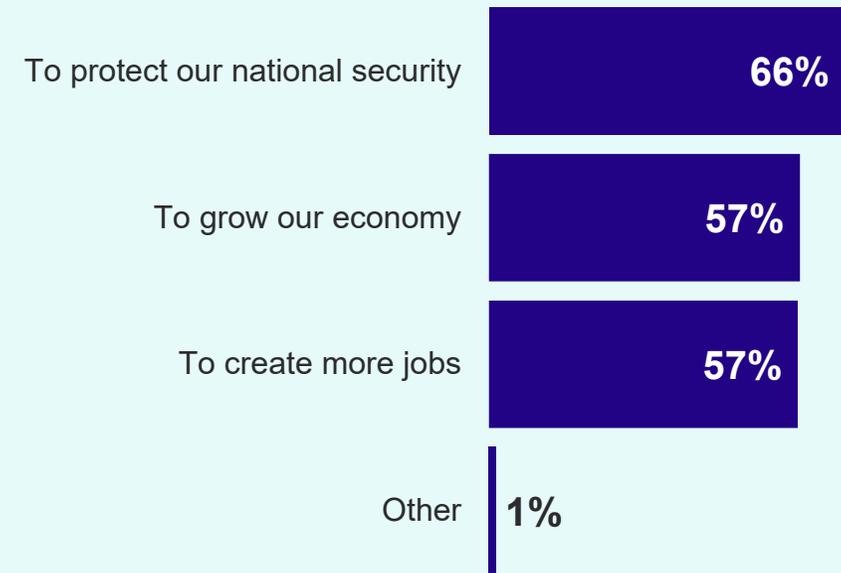
To what extent do you support the U.S. government investing in the domestic shipbuilding industry? // Which of the following are reasons why you support investing in our nation's shipbuilding industry? Please select all that apply.

SUPPORT FOR DOMESTIC SHIPBUILDING INVESTMENTS



REASONS FOR SUPPORTING INVESTING IN DOMESTIC SHIPBUILDING

(Among those who support investing in domestic shipbuilding)

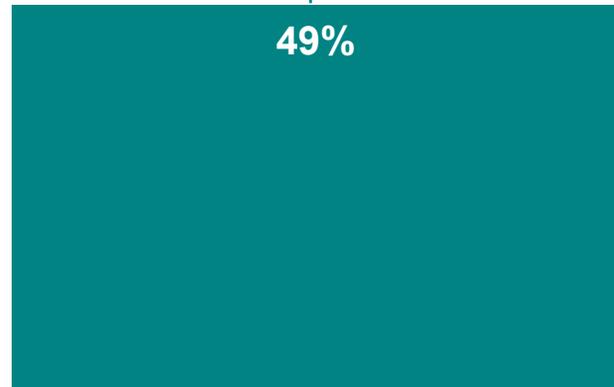


DOMESTIC SHIPBUILDING

To compete with China, approximately half of adults support implementing a docking fee on Chinese vessels to strengthen U.S. shipbuilding.

China dominates the global shipbuilding industry which is considered a threat to our national security because military and commercial ships share supply chains. Would you support a docking fee on Chinese vessels to incentivize more U.S. shipbuilding?

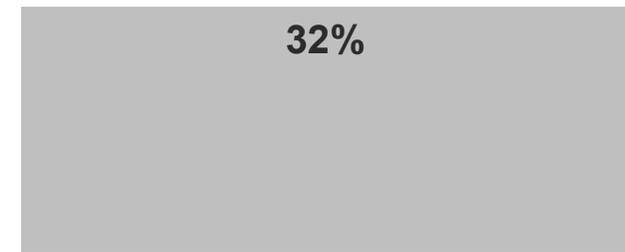
Men, the older generations, Republicans, and those with higher education are more likely to support a docking fee.



Yes



No



32%

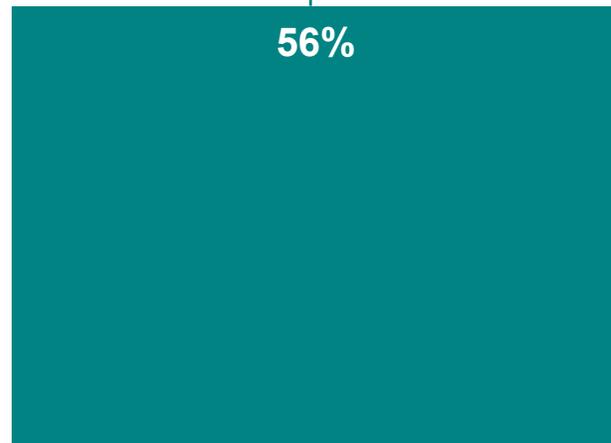
Don't know/No opinion

DOMESTIC SHIPBUILDING

More than half of adults believe that a portion of U.S. exports should be required to be transported on U.S.-built vessels with American crews.

The Trump administration's United States Trade Representative (USTR) proposed a requirement that a growing percentage of U.S. exports be transported on U.S.-built and U.S.-flagged ships with American crews. Do you support requiring a percentage of U.S. exports to be carried on U.S.-built vessels with U.S. crews?

Men, Baby Boomers, Republicans, and those with higher education are more likely to support the requirement.

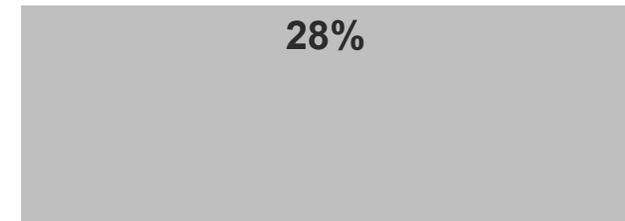


Yes



16%

No



28%

Don't know/No opinion

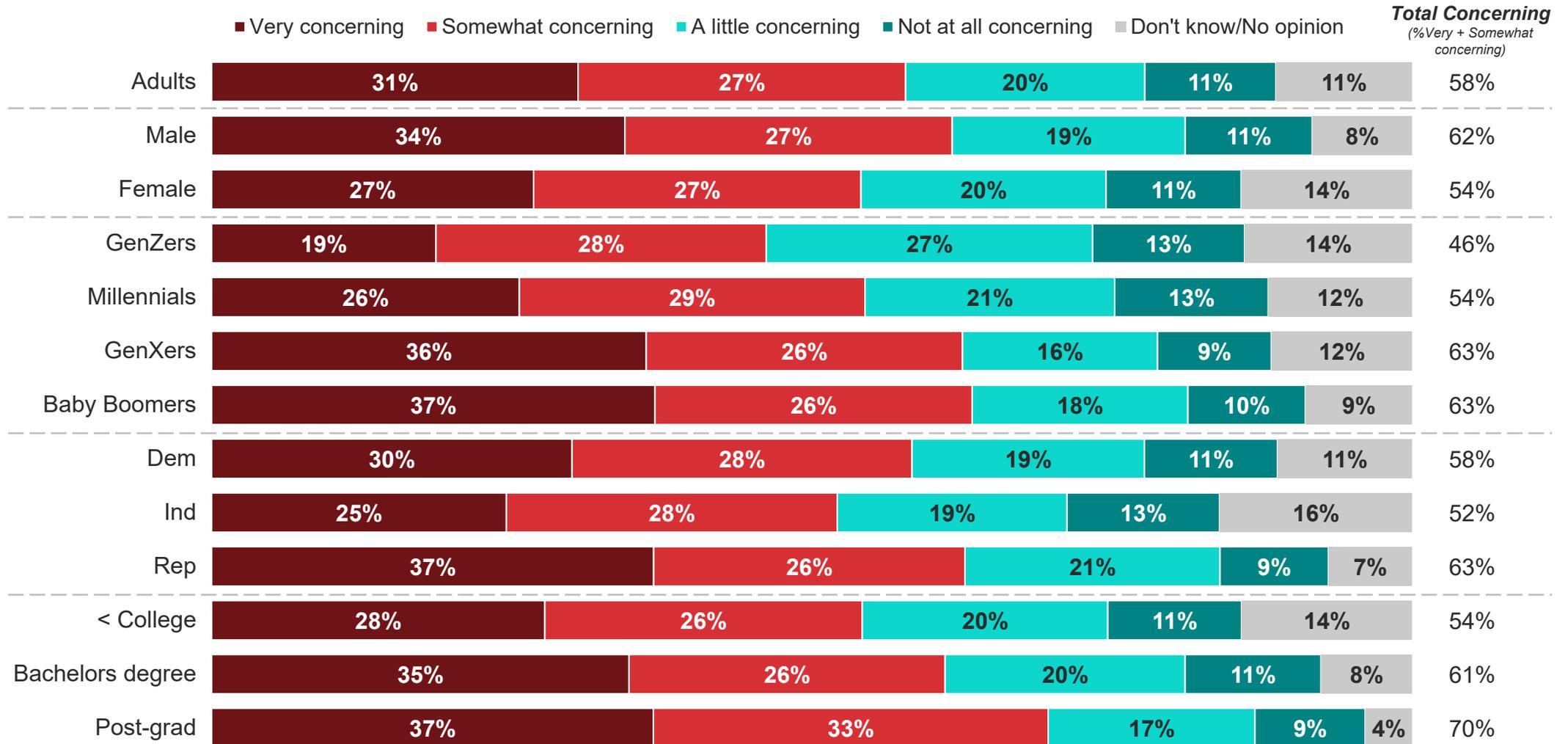


SECTION 4

Appendix

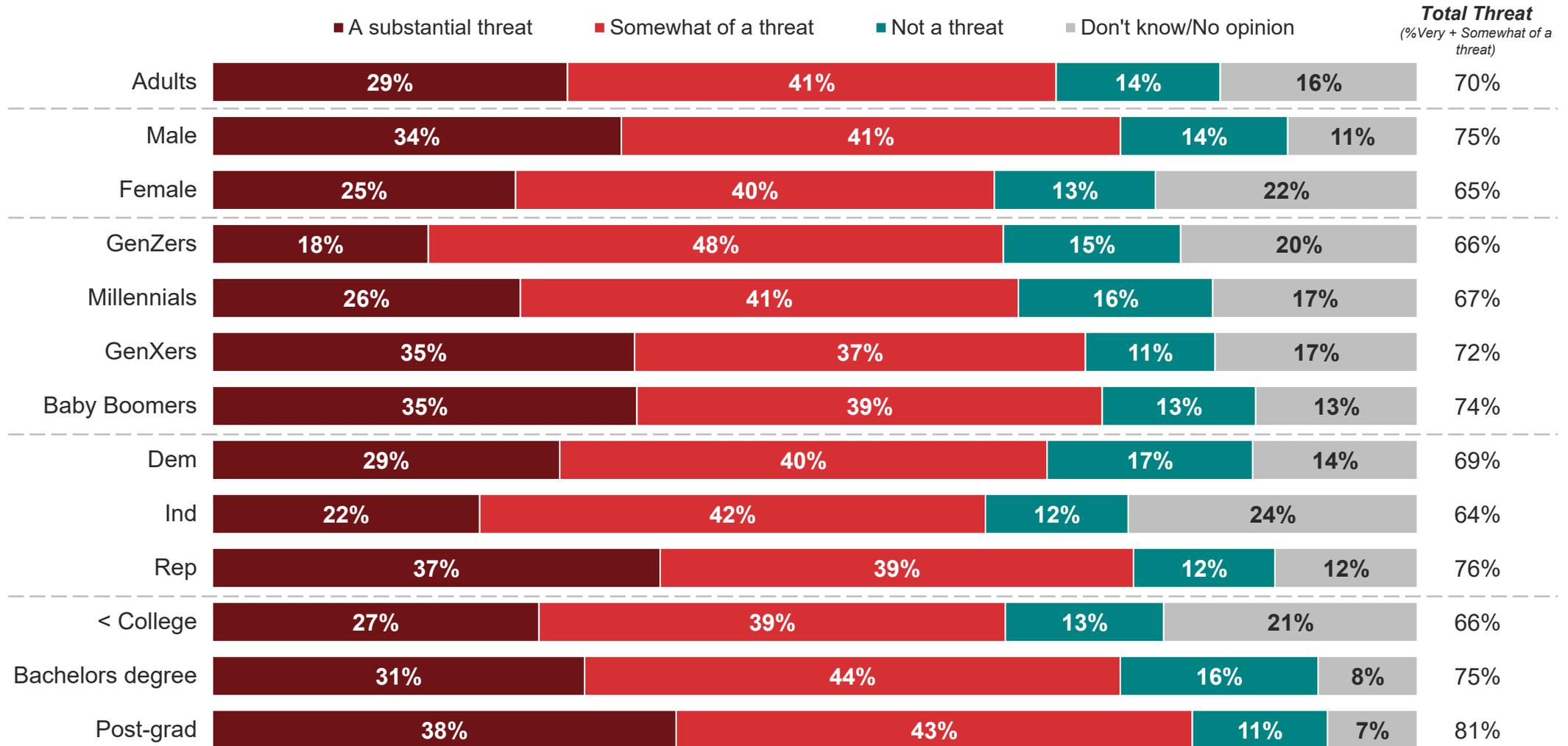
APPENDIX

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APPENDIX

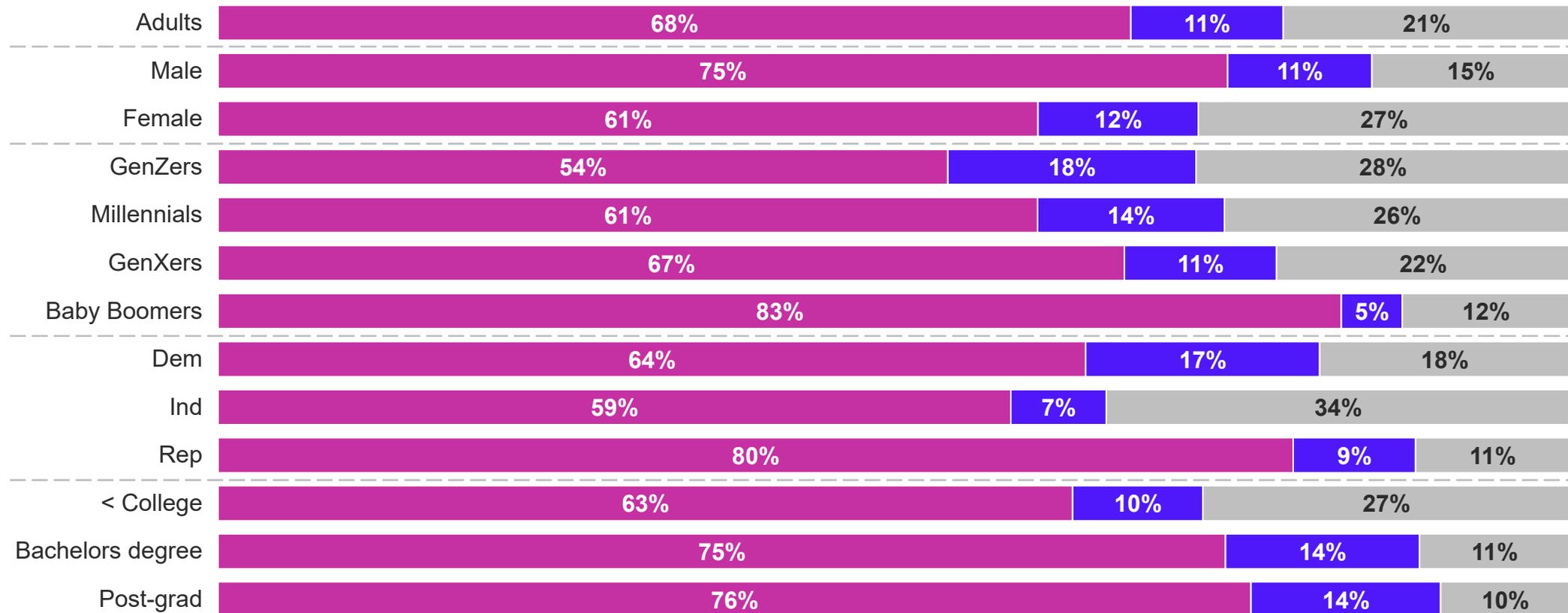
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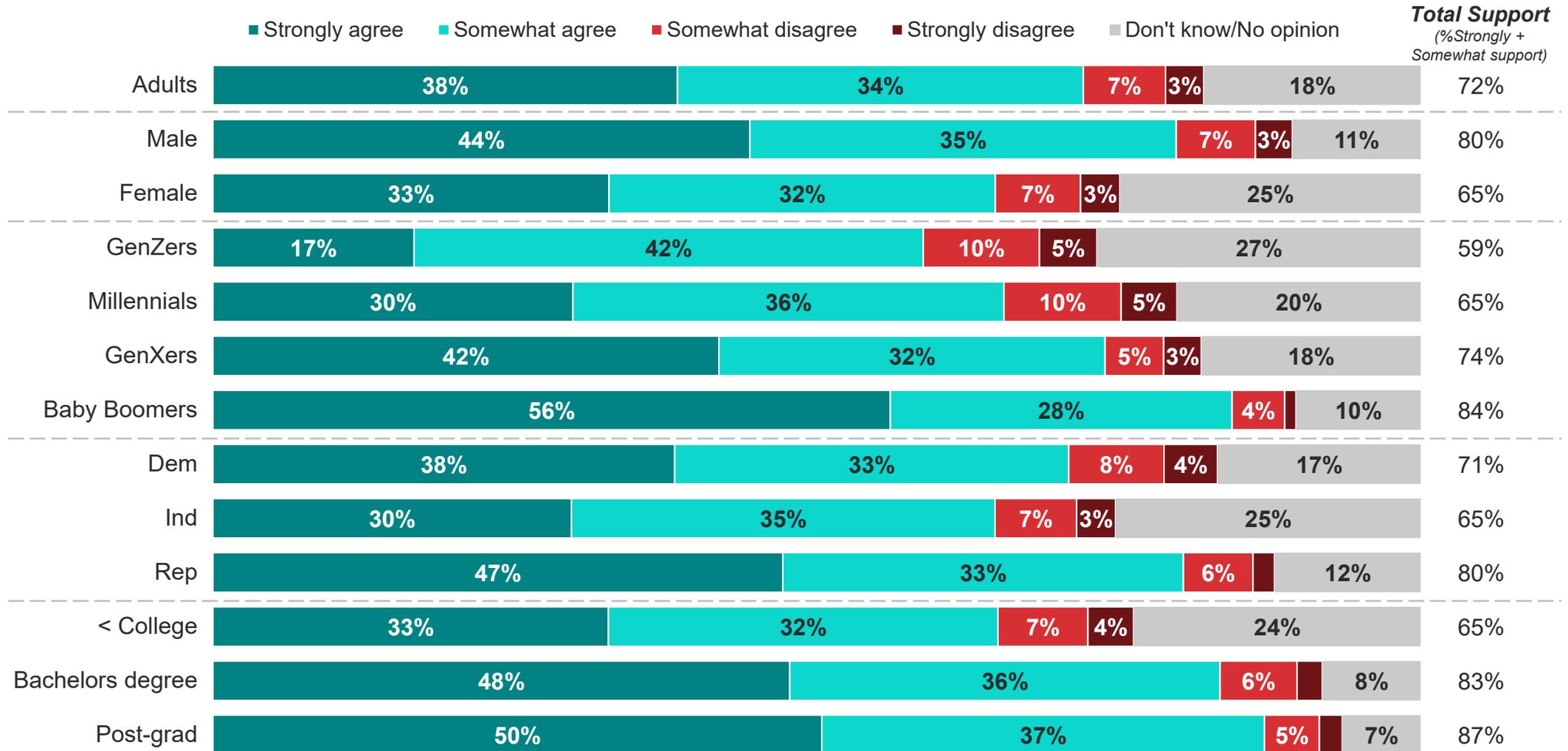
Some say it is a matter of national security that the United States maintain the capability to build the ships and vessels to serve our commercial and military needs. Others say we can rely on China and other foreign countries to build the ships and vessels to serve our commercial and military needs. Which (if any) comes closest to your opinion?

- It is a matter of national security that the United States maintain the capability to build the ships and vessels to serve our commercial and military needs
- We can rely on China and other foreign countries to build the ships and vessels to serve our commercial and military needs
- Neither comes close to my opinion



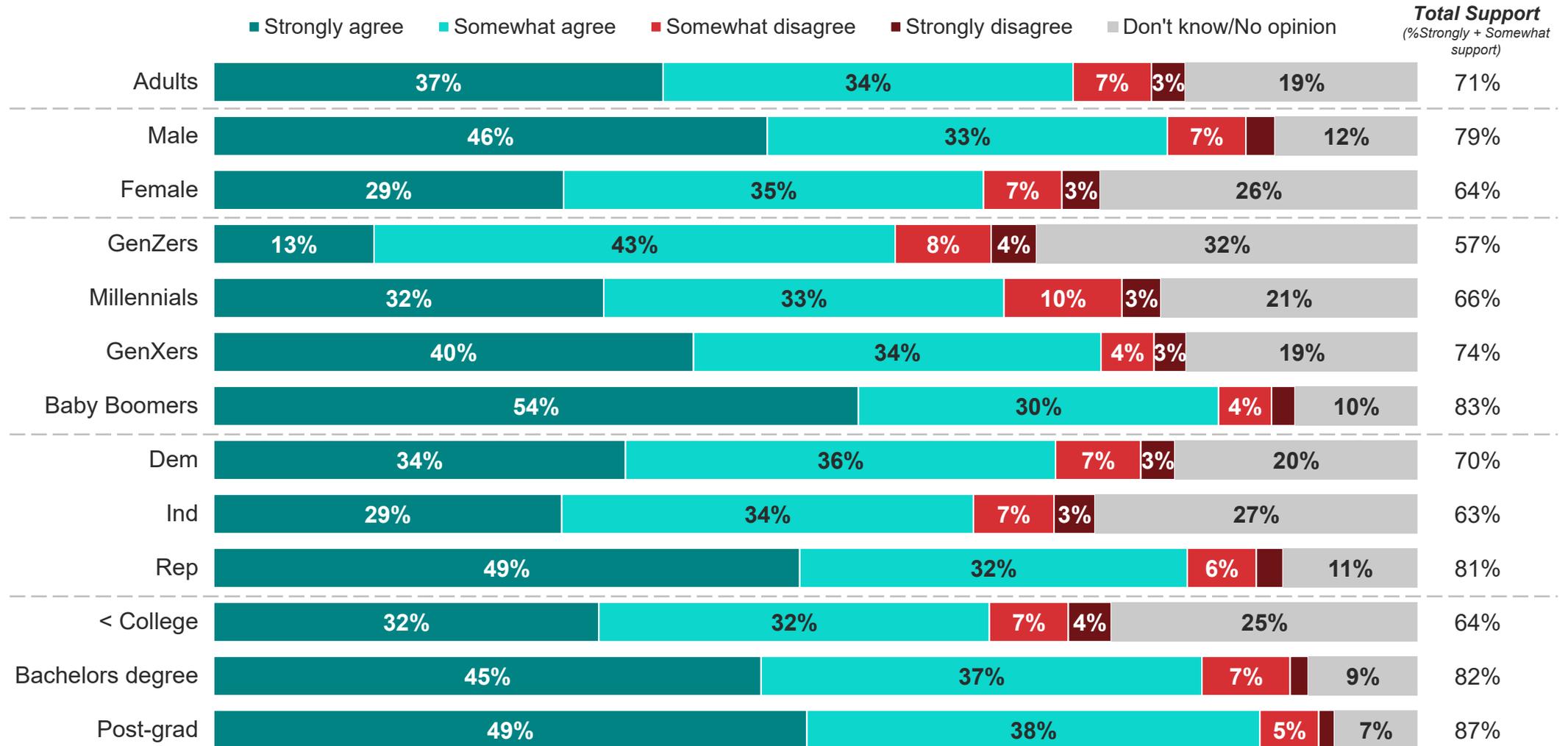
APPENDIX

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? *America's shipbuilding capacity is too critical to our military and commercial success for us to remain dependent on foreign manufacturers to build our ships.*



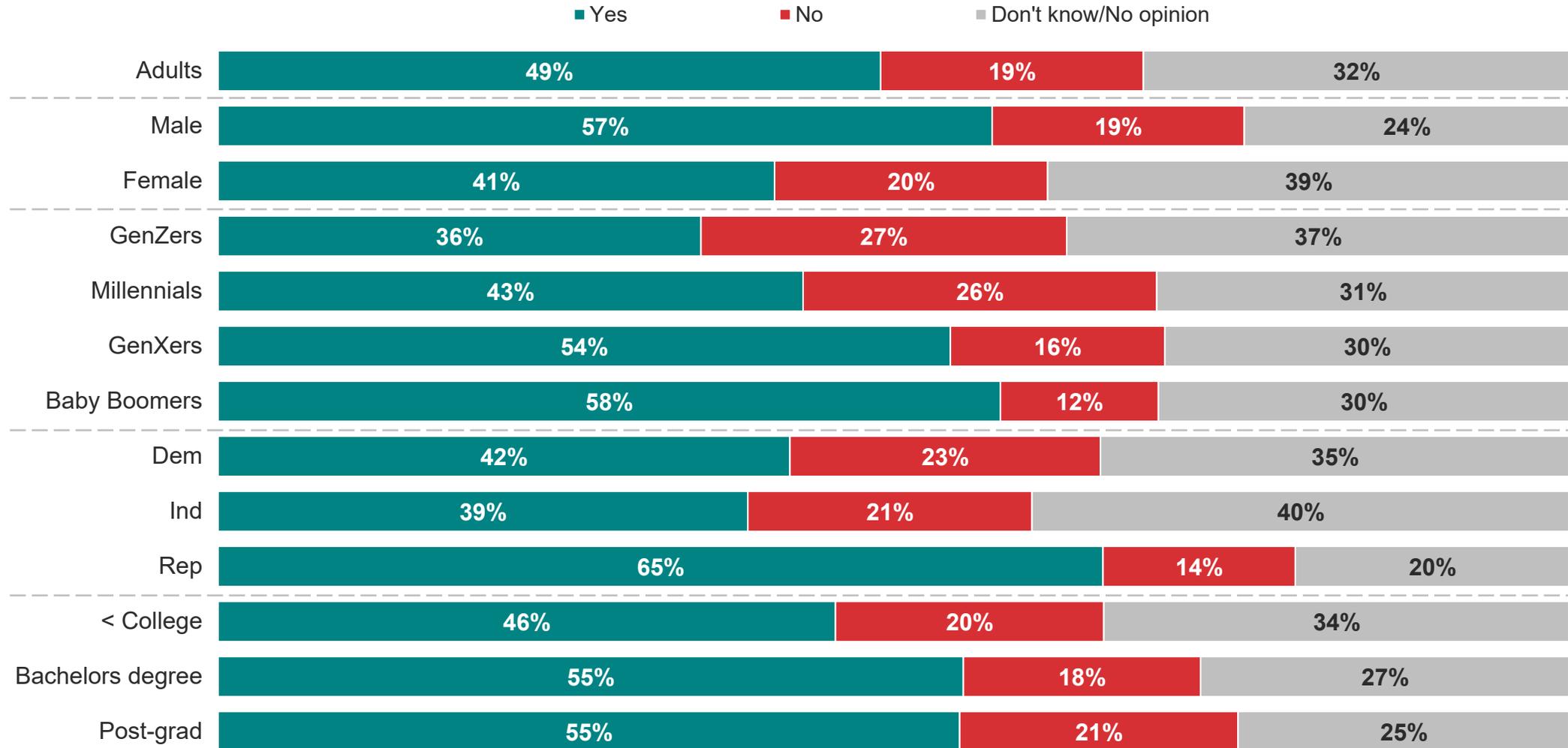
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To what extent do you support the U.S. government investing in the domestic shipbuilding industry?



APPENDIX

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