



ATTITUDES TOWARDS HEALTH CARE

Summary Report, July 2024

ENVIRONICS
RESEARCH



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The purpose of this research was to understand Canadians' perspectives on key health care issues across provinces.

In the lead up to the next Council of the Federation meeting, the Canadian Health Coalition (CHC) commissioned Environics to understand Canadians' views on various health care issues, including personal experiences and concerns, pharmacare, long term care, and workforce challenges.

RESEARCH METHODS

A total of 2,135 adult Canadians completed this online survey.

The survey was conducted between June 26 and July 9, 2024. The survey data was weighted by region, age, and gender to match census data.

Region	Unweighted Sample Size	Weighted Sample Size
Newfoundland and Labrador	84	30
Prince Edward Island	16	6
Nova Scotia	164	55
New Brunswick	151	49
Quebec	401	491
Ontario	500	822
Manitoba	154	73
Saskatchewan	154	70
Alberta	234	246
British Columbia	264	288
Territories	13	6
Total	2,135	2,135

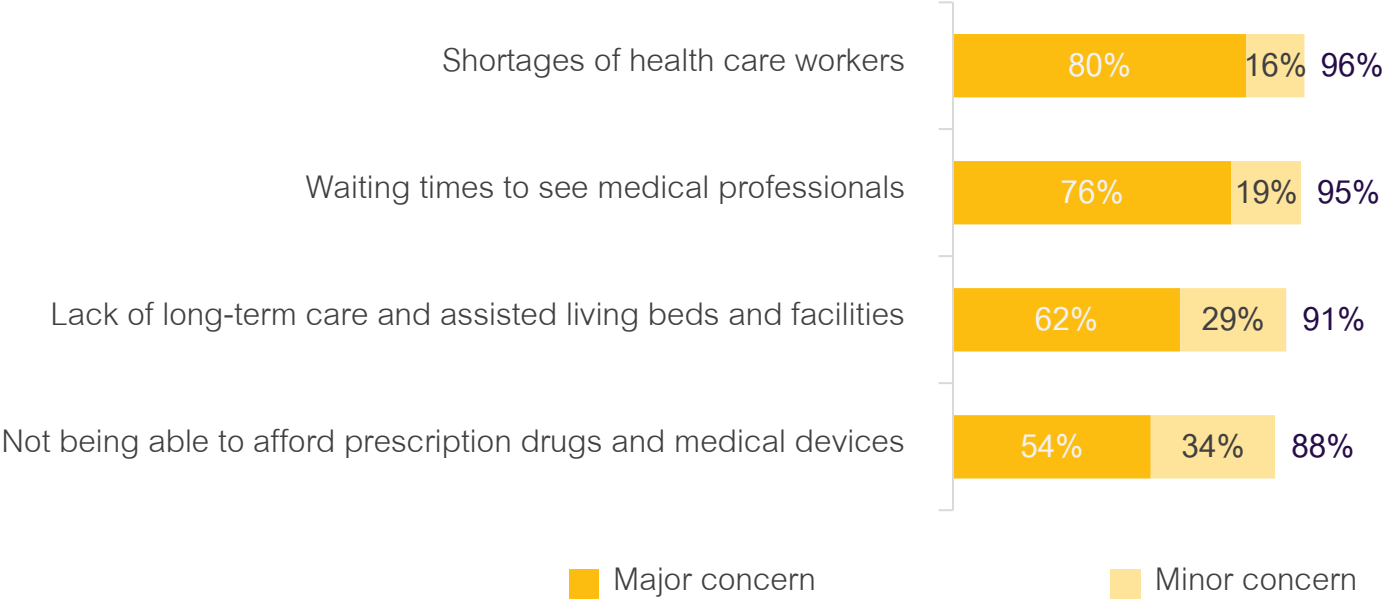
In this report, results are expressed as percentages unless otherwise noted. Results may not add to 100% due to rounding or multiple responses. NB: Due to small sub-sample sizes, data for Prince Edward Island and the Territories are not included in the appendix of provincial breakdowns.

NATIONAL RESULTS

Health Care Concerns

A large majority of Canadians are very concerned about three key health care issues in their province: shortages of health care workers, waiting times to see medical professionals, and the lack of long-term care and assisted living beds and facilities. Additionally, over half of Canadians have major concerns about affording prescription drugs and devices.

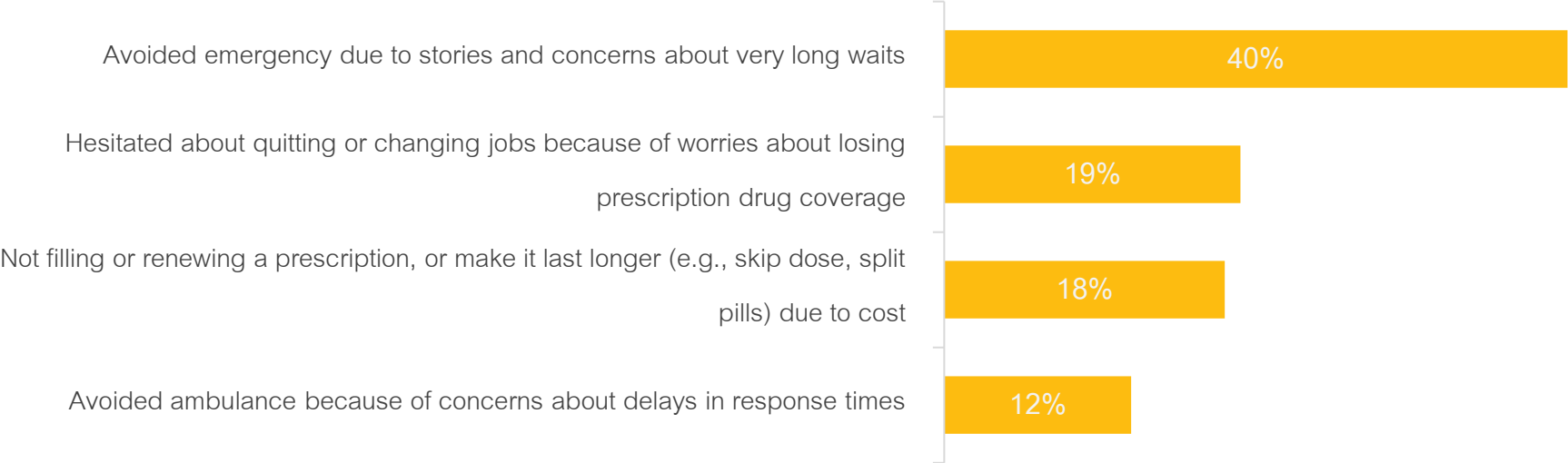
Q1. How concerned are you about each of the following health care related issues in your province? Is each a major concern, a minor concern or not a concern at all?



Personal Health Care Experiences

Four in ten Canadians report having avoided going to emergency at a hospital in the past year due to concerns about waiting times to see medical professionals. Two in ten have hesitated about changing jobs due to fears of losing drug coverage and two in ten have not filled or split prescriptions due to cost.

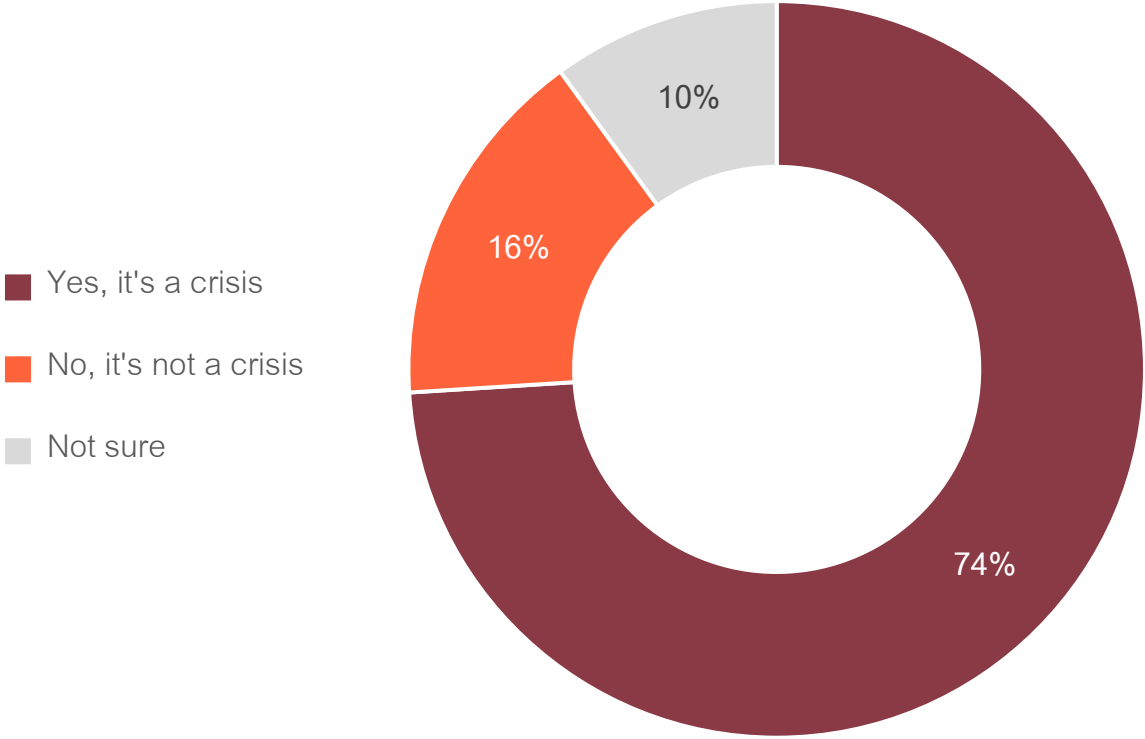
Q5. In the past year, have you or anyone in your household experienced any of the following?



Crisis in Health Care?

Over seven in ten Canadians believe that health care in their province is currently in a state of crisis.

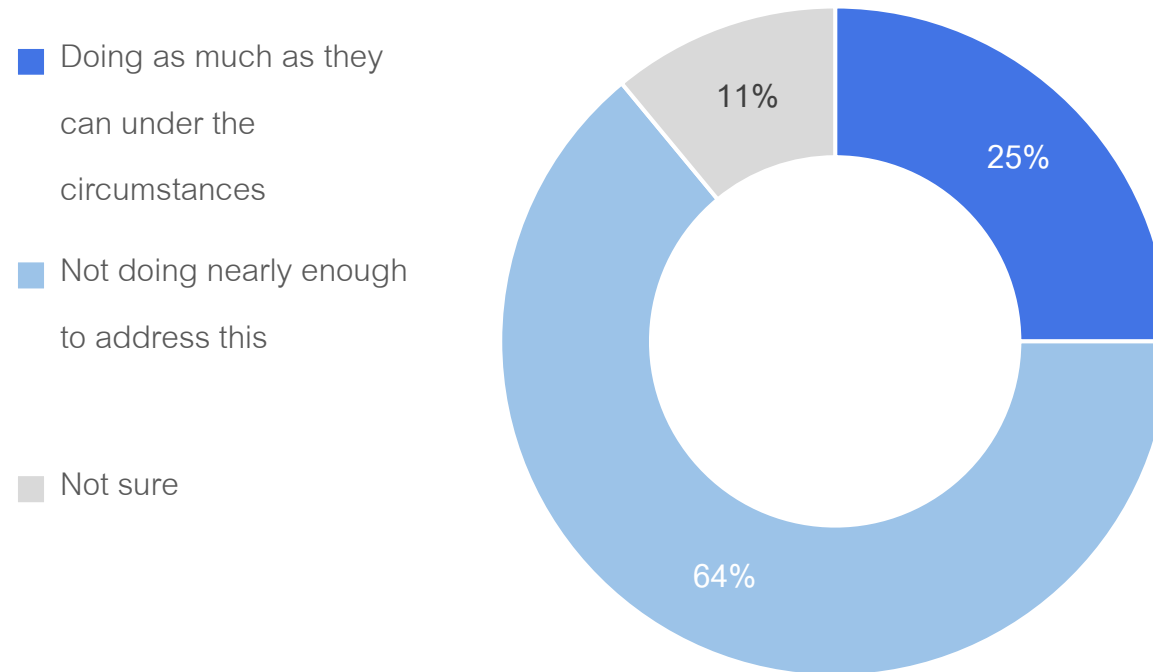
Q2. Would you say that health care in your province is currently in a state of crisis or not?



Doing Enough to Address Health Care Workforce Shortages?

Over six in ten Canadians believe their provincial government/premier are not doing nearly enough to address shortages of health care workers. One in four think they are doing as much as they can under the circumstances.

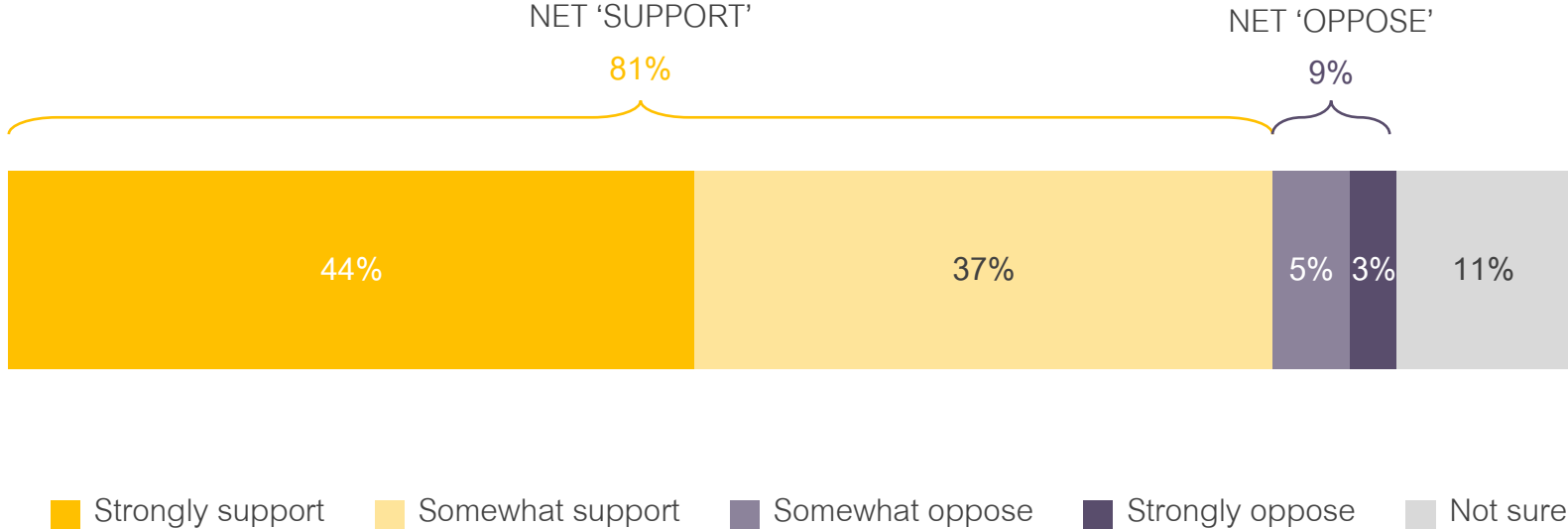
Q6. As you may know, there are serious shortages of health care workers across Canada, which some say has caused a crisis in health care. How would you describe the performance of your provincial government and premier in addressing this?



Collaboration on Health Care Worker Retention/Recruitment

The vast majority of Canadians support their premier collaborating with the federal government and other provinces to develop and implement a comprehensive national strategy to recruit and retain health care workers, with over four in ten strongly supporting this initiative. Just one in ten are at all opposed to this.

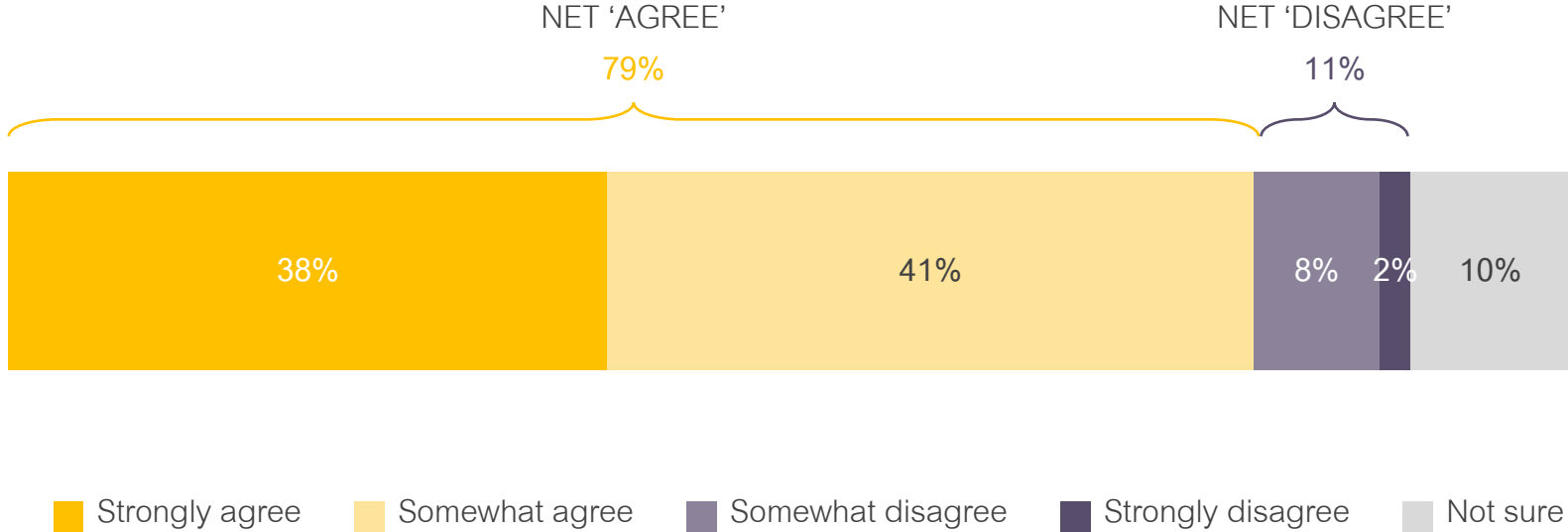
Q7. Health care is primarily a provincial responsibility, but some other countries have had success by implementing a national strategy to deal with staffing issues. To what extent would you support or oppose your premier and provincial/territorial government working with the federal government and other provinces to develop and implement a comprehensive national strategy to recruit and retain health care workers?



Emergency Spending on Health Care Worker Retention

Eight in ten Canadians agree that the premiers should implement an immediate, emergency increase in health care spending targeted at recruiting and retaining public health care workers, with nearly four in ten expressing strong agreement. Opposition to this is negligible.

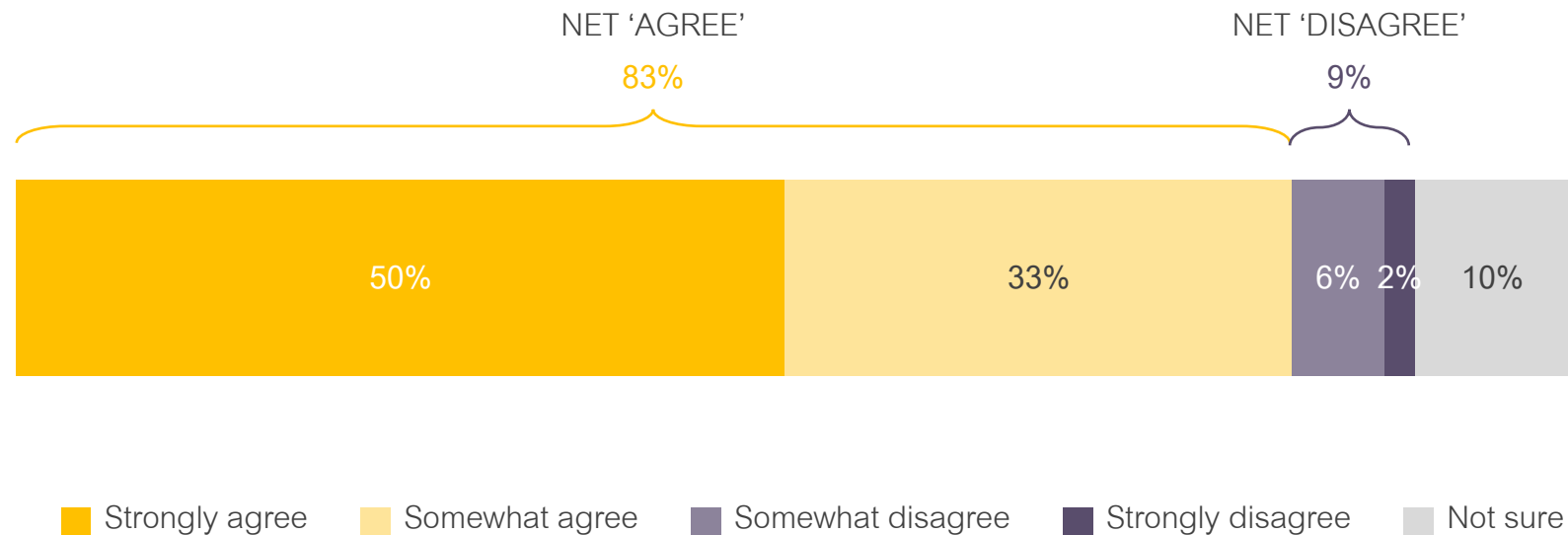
Q8. Some people say that Canada's premiers should implement an immediate, emergency increase in health care spending that is targeted at recruiting and retaining public health care workers? To what extent do you agree or disagree?



Action to Retain Public Health Care Workers

The vast majority of Canadians agree that provincial/territorial governments should take action to retain health care workers in the public system such as improving their working conditions and increasing their wages, with half strongly supporting these actions. Just one in ten express any disagreement with this.

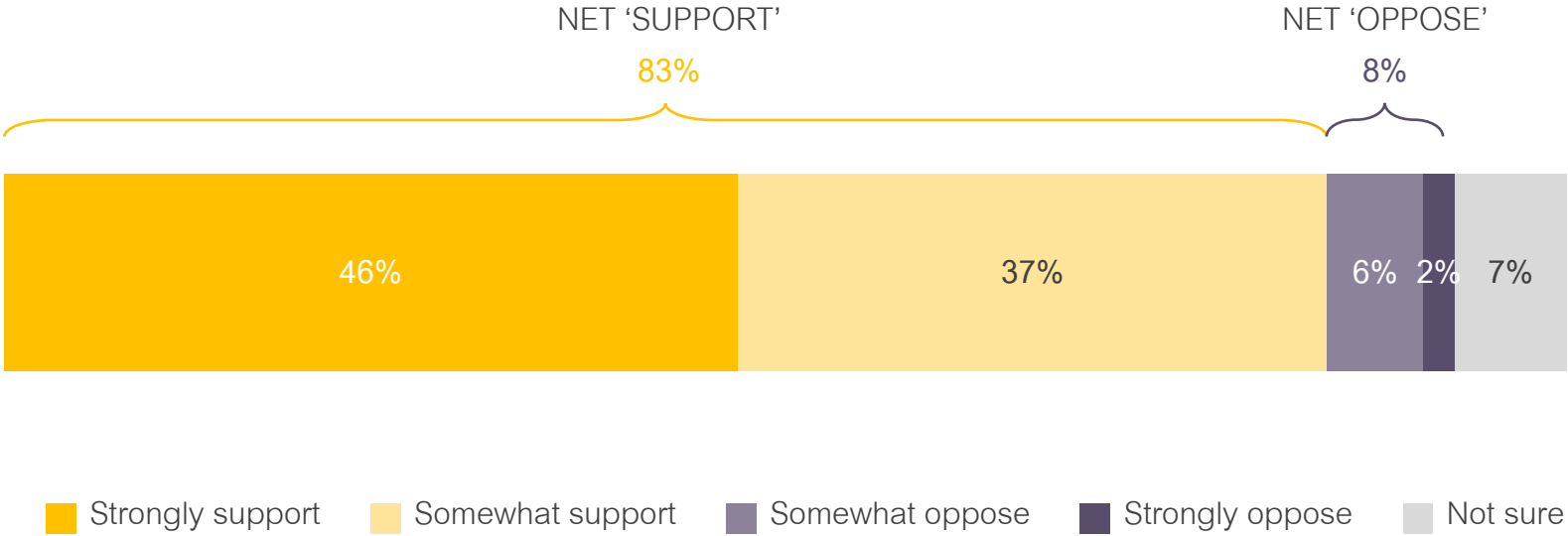
Q9. As you may know, more and more health care workers (e.g. doctors, nurses, and allied health professionals) in the public system are being recruited to work in private, for-profit health care – adding to the staff shortages in the public system. Do you agree or disagree that provincial and territorial governments should take action to retain health care workers in the public system by actions such as improving their working conditions and increasing their wages?



Investing in Public Long-Term Care

The vast majority of Canadians support their provincial/territorial government making a significant investment in building more public long-term care and assisted living facilities, with almost half strongly supporting this initiative.

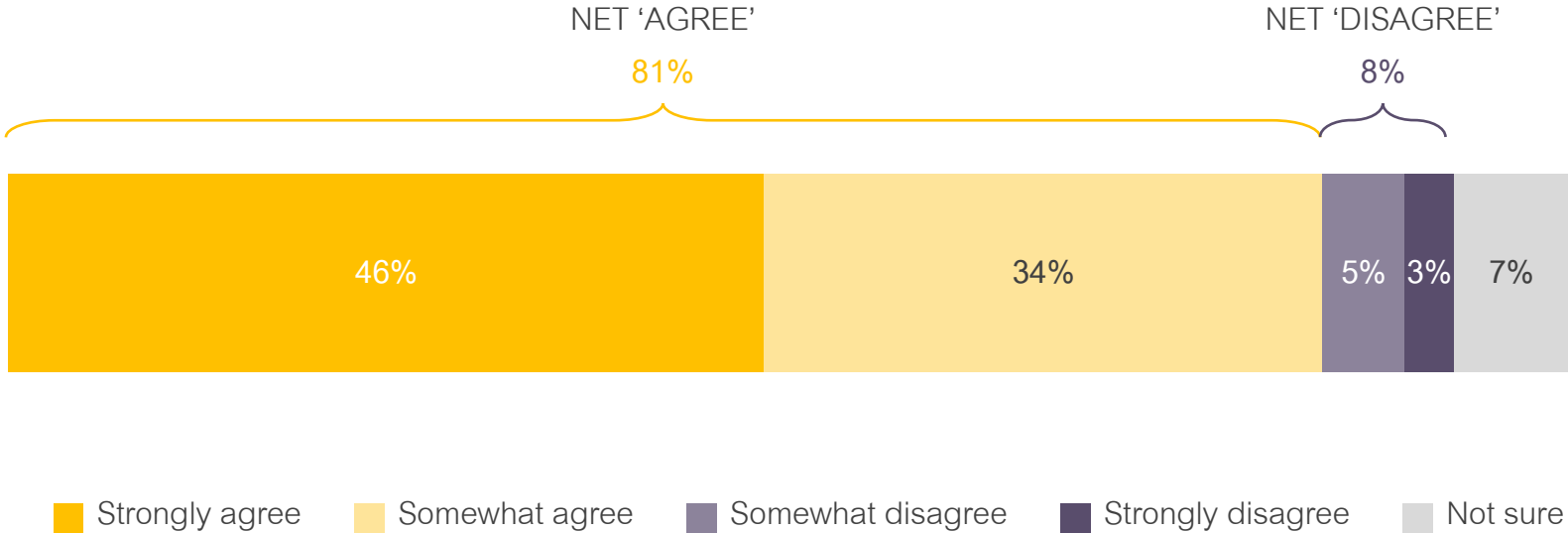
Q10. Canada's population is aging, and we will require more and more long-term care and assisted living beds. This means private companies and/or governments will have to build more facilities. Currently most beds in Canada are in private facilities. To what extent do you support or oppose your provincial/territorial government making a significant investment in building more public long-term care and assisted living facilities.



Standards for Long-Term Care

Eight in ten Canadians agree that the federal Safe Long-Term Care Act must include mandatory, enforceable standards for minimum numbers of hours of care and staffing ratios for each patient in long-term care facilities, with almost half strongly supporting these measures.

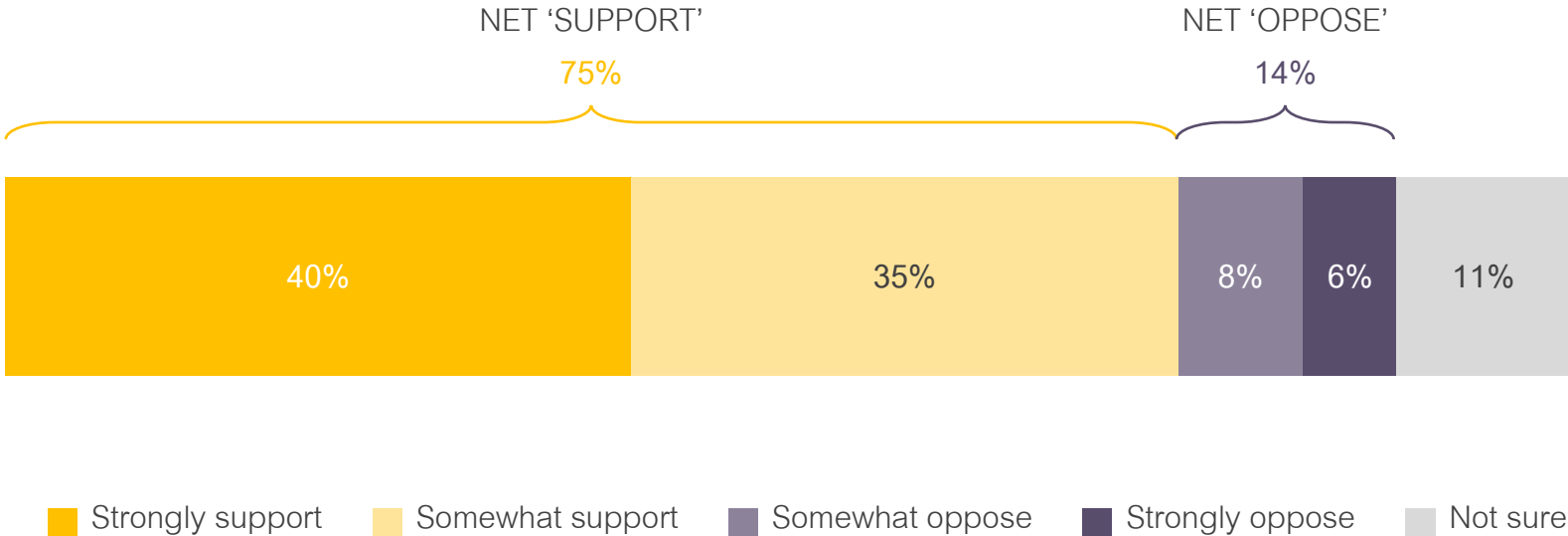
Q11. The federal government plans to introduce a Safe Long-Term Care Act. To what extent do you agree or disagree that this act must include mandatory, enforceable standards for minimum numbers of hours of care and staffing ratios for each patient in long-term care facilities?



Support for Pharmacare

Three-quarters of Canadians support the implementation of a national Pharmacare program, with four in ten expressing strong support for this. A small minority of are at all opposed to this.

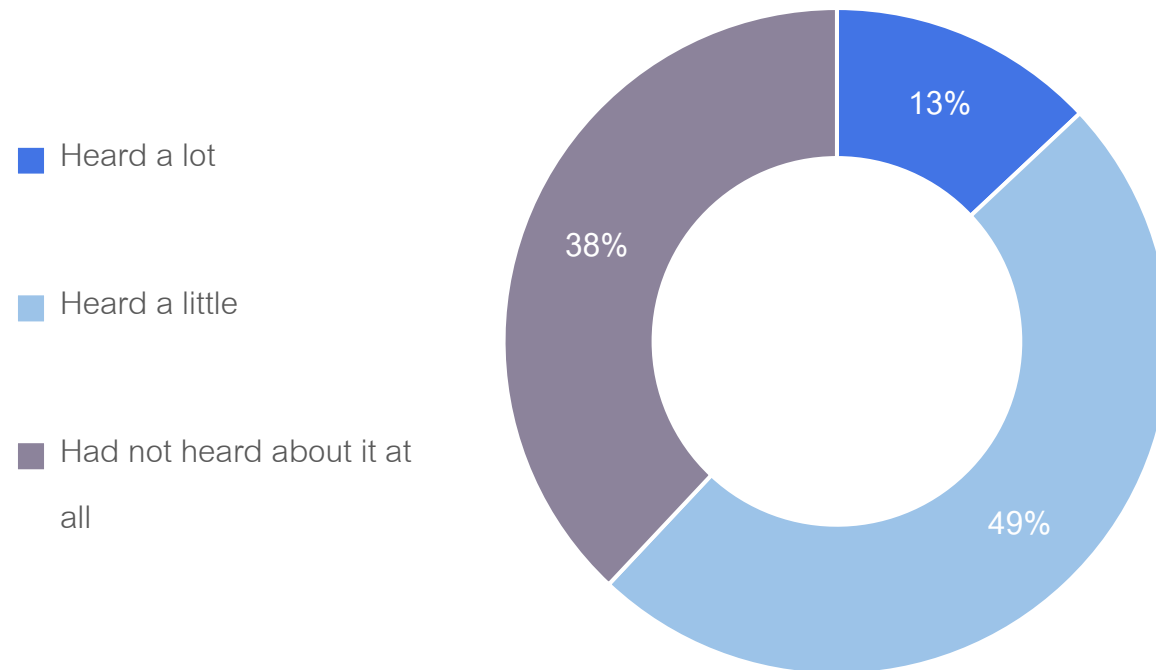
Q13. Canada's public health care system does not currently include coverage for the costs of prescription drugs outside of hospitals. Right now, some people are covered through private drug plans at work, and some get their drugs covered through various provincial or territorial government programs (e.g., programs for seniors, those on social assistance etc.). Other Canadians have to pay for their prescription drugs out of their own pockets or they go without drugs because they can't afford them. Some people say Canada should implement a national Pharmacare program that would provide equal access to prescription drugs for everyone in Canada, similar to how we do not pay out-of-pocket to be treated by doctors or in hospitals. Is this something you would...?



Awareness of Pharmacare Legislation

Over six in ten Canadians have heard at least a little about the federal government's recent first steps towards a national Pharmacare program.

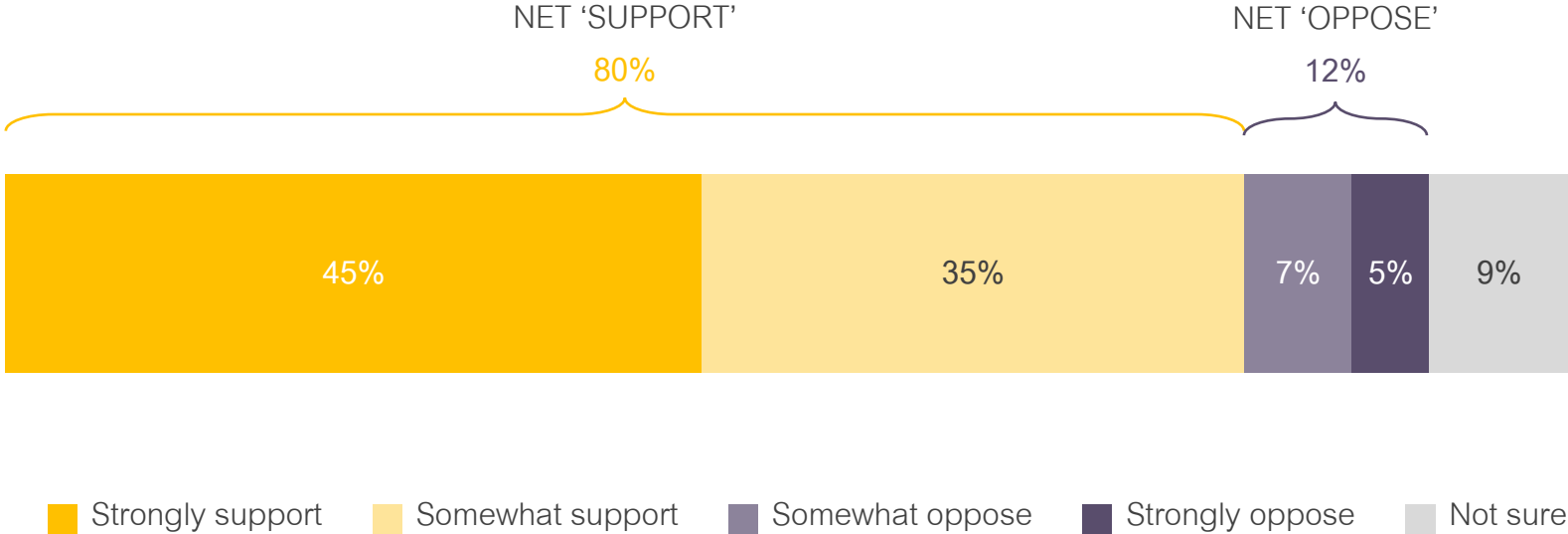
Q14. As you may know, the federal government recently introduced a bill which will be a first step towards a national Pharmacare program in Canada. How much had you heard about this?



Diabetes/Contraceptives Coverage

Eight in ten Canadians support the first step of the Pharmacare program providing free coverage for contraceptives and diabetes medications and devices, with almost half strongly supporting this initiative. Only a small minority express any opposition to this.

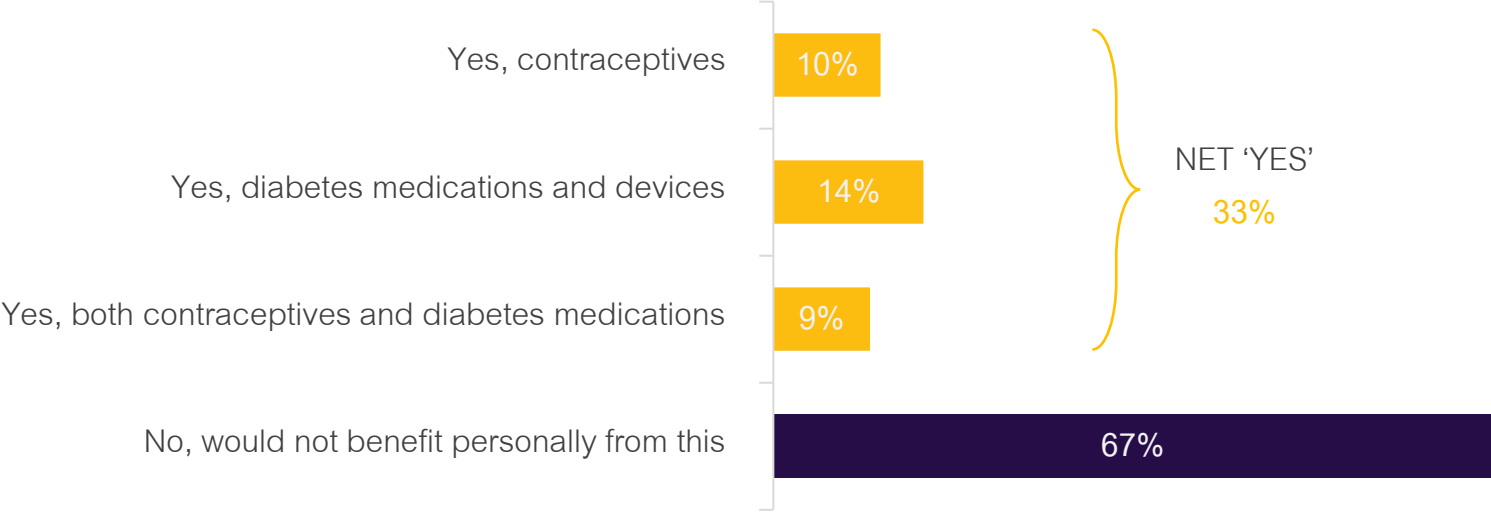
Q15. The first step of the federal government's Pharmacare program is to work with willing provinces to provide free coverage for two types of medications – contraceptives, such as birth control pills, and diabetes medications and devices, such as insulin and insulin pumps. To what extent do you support or oppose this?



Benefitting from Diabetes/Contraceptive Coverage

One third of Canadians would personally benefit from free coverage of contraceptives and diabetes medications/devices.

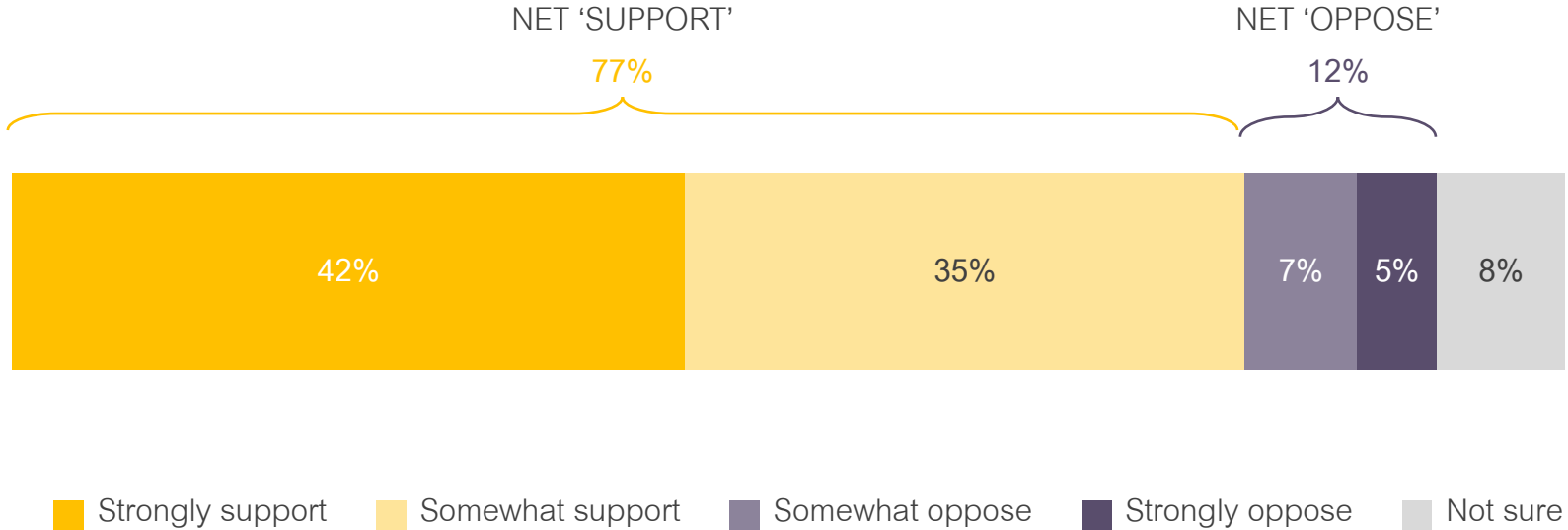
Q16. Would you or anyone in your household personally benefit at all from free coverage of contraceptive and diabetes medications?



Expanding Pharmacare Coverage

Over three-quarters of Canadians support expanding the pharmacare program to include other categories of prescription drugs, with four in ten strongly supporting this initiative.

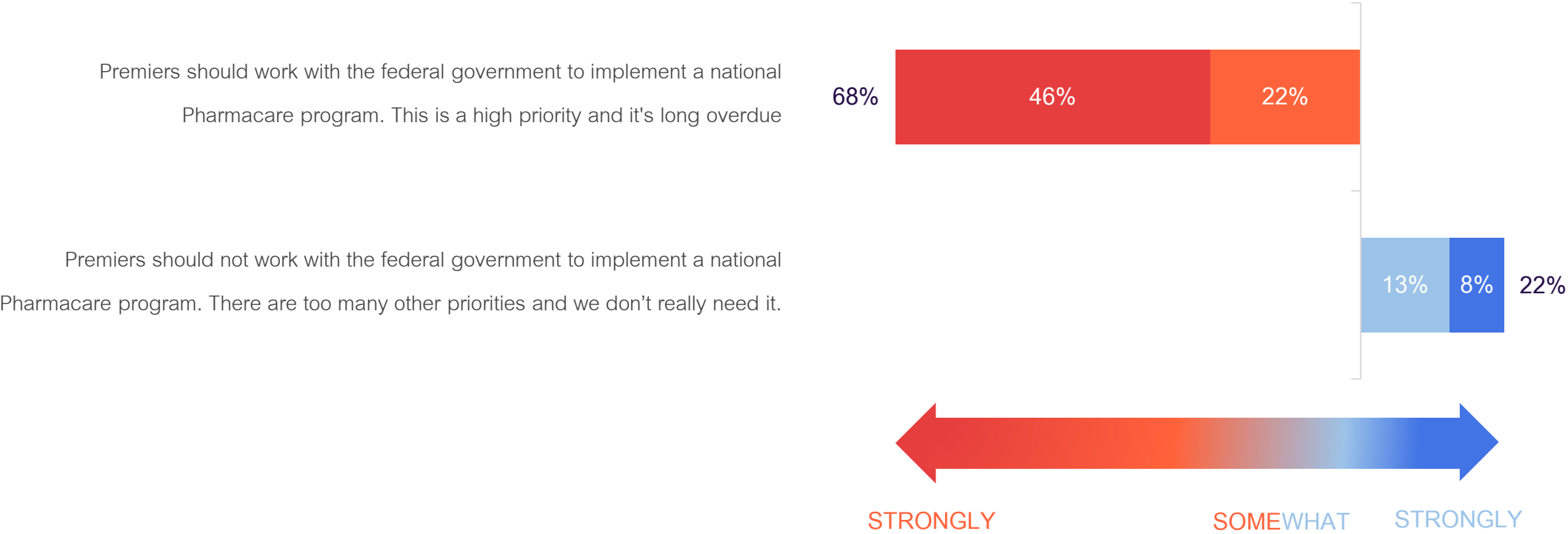
Q17. Currently, Canada is the only country with a public health care system that does not also include coverage of prescription drugs. Would you support or oppose Canada expanding from the initial coverage for diabetes and contraception drugs to implementing a comprehensive public pharmacare program, so that access to other categories of prescription drugs would also become part of the health care system?



Provincial-Federal Collaboration on Pharmacare

A large majority of Canadians feel that premiers should work with the federal government to implement a national Pharmacare program. Less than one quarter feel that premiers should not work with the federal government on this.

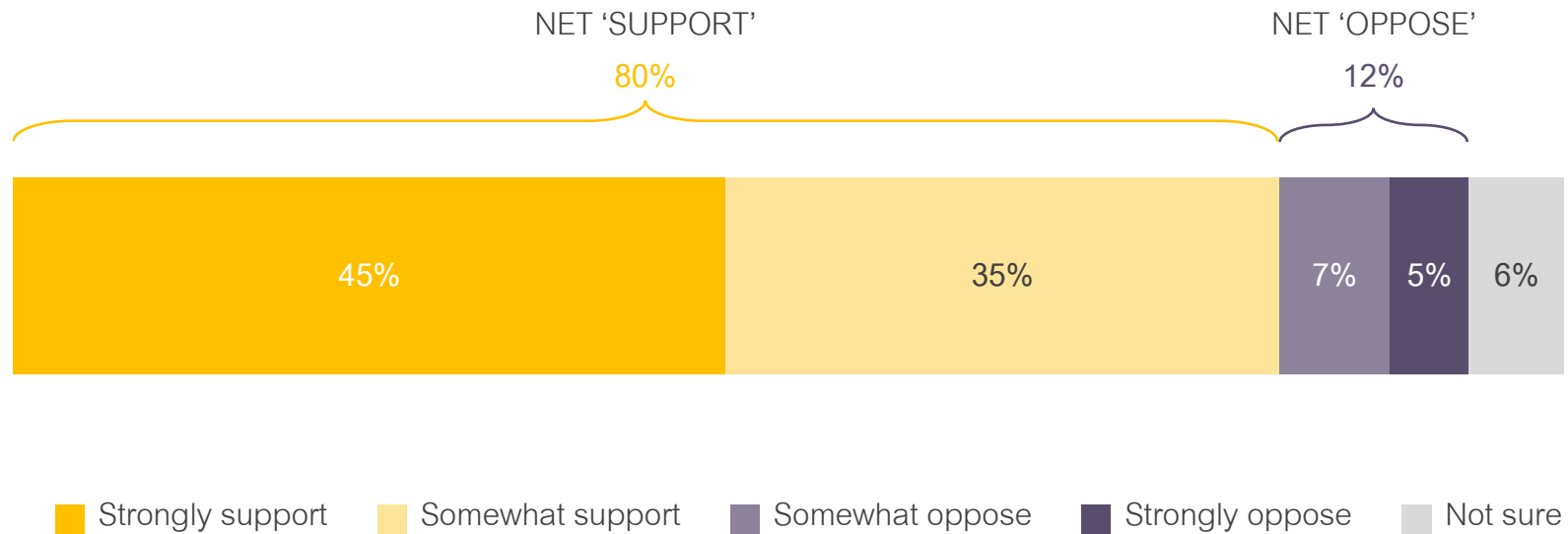
Q18. Health care is a shared responsibility in Canada. Provinces and territories would need to work with the federal government to implement a national Pharmacare program. Which of these points of view is closest to your own?



Premier Working with Feds on Pharmacare Implementation

Eight in ten Canadians support their premier working with the federal government to implement pharmacare in their province/territory, with over four in ten strongly supporting this. Just one in ten are at all opposed.

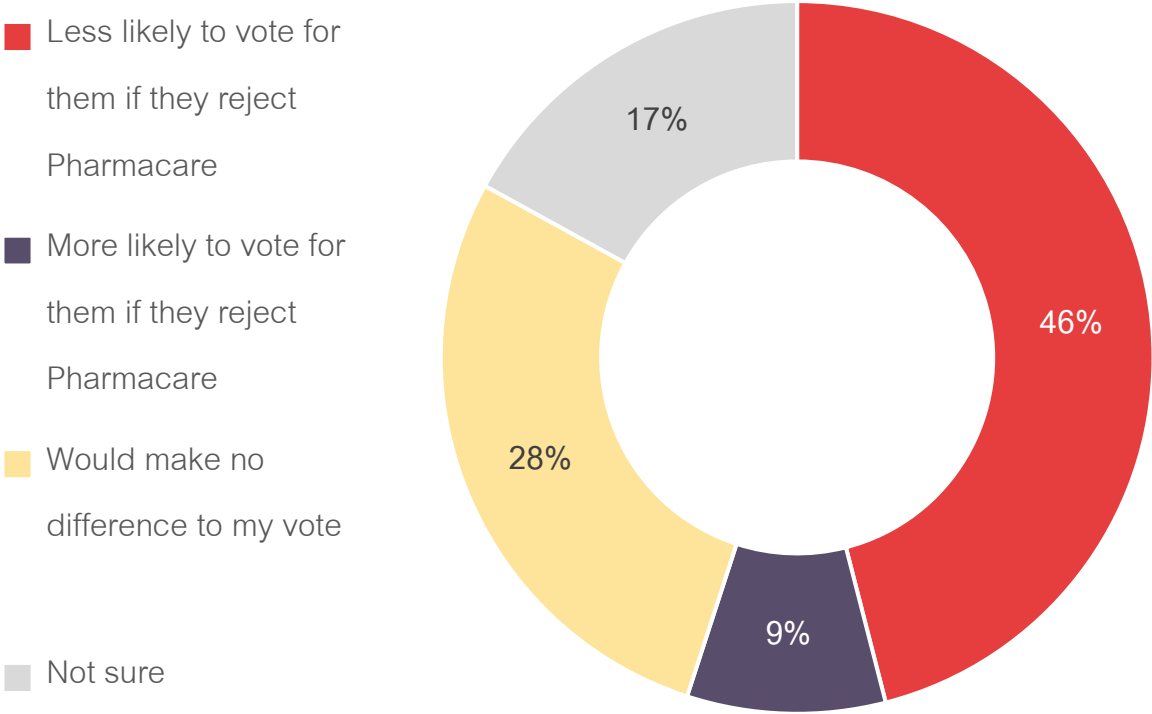
Q19. To what extent would you support or oppose your own premier working with the federal government to implement pharmacare in your province/territory?



Impact on Vote if Premier Rejects Pharmacare

Nearly half of Canadians say they would be less likely to vote for their premier if they reject working with the federal government on implementing Pharmacare in their province.

Q20. If your premier rejects working with the federal government on implementing Pharmacare in your province, would it make you more or less likely to vote for them in the next provincial election, or would it make no difference to your vote?



APPENDIX

RESULTS BY PROVINCE

Health Care – Major Concerns

Q1. How concerned are you about each of the following health care related issues in your province? Is each a major concern, a minor concern or not a concern at all?

	TOTAL CANADA (n=2,135)	Newfoundland and Labrador (n=84)	Nova Scotia (n=164)	New Brunswick (n=151)	Quebec (n=401)	Ontario (n=500)	Manitoba (n=154)	Saskatchewan (n=154)	Alberta (n=234)	British Columbia (n=264)
Shortages of health care workers	80%	91%	85%	82%	75%	79%	82%	87%	79%	84%
Waiting times to see medical professionals	76%	87%	85%	77%	78%	74%	72%	77%	73%	77%
Lack of long-term care and assisted living beds and facilities	62%	61%	66%	67%	59%	65%	67%	61%	60%	59%
Not being able to afford prescription drugs and medical devices	54%	61%	58%	56%	49%	58%	54%	50%	56%	48%

Personal Health Care Experiences

Q5. In the past year, have you or anyone in your household experienced any of the following?

	TOTAL CANADA (n=2,135)	Newfoundland and Labrador (n=84)	Nova Scotia (n=164)	New Brunswick (n=151)	Quebec (n=401)	Ontario (n=500)	Manitoba (n=154)	Saskatchewan (n=154)	Alberta (n=234)	British Columbia (n=264)
Avoided emergency due to stories and concerns about very long waits	40%	52%	52%	64%	43%	39%	41%	41%	33%	34%
Hesitated about quitting / changing jobs because of worries about losing prescription drug coverage	19%	15%	22%	27%	14%	21%	18%	23%	21%	16%
Not filling / renewing a prescription, or make it last longer (e.g., skip dose, split pills) due to cost	18%	22%	21%	24%	18%	18%	21%	22%	18%	15%
Avoided ambulance because of concerns about delays in response times	12%	11%	24%	15%	10%	13%	15%	16%	9%	13%

Crisis in Health Care?

Q2. Would you say that health care in your province is currently in a state of crisis or not?

	TOTAL CANADA (n=2,135)	Newfoundland and Labrador (n=84)	Nova Scotia (n=164)	New Brunswick (n=151)	Quebec (n=401)	Ontario (n=500)	Manitoba (n=154)	Saskatchewan (n=154)	Alberta (n=234)	British Columbia (n=264)
Yes, it's a crisis	74%	81%	87%	83%	83%	71%	60%	70%	71%	70%
No, it's not a crisis	16%	11%	6%	12%	9%	17%	19%	21%	20%	20%
Not sure	10%	8%	7%	6%	8%	12%	21%	9%	9%	10%

Doing Enough to Address Health Care Workforce Shortages?

Q6. As you may know, there are serious shortages of health care workers across Canada, which some say has caused a crisis in health care. How would you describe the performance of your provincial government and premier in addressing this?

	TOTAL CANADA (n=2,135)	Newfoundland and Labrador (n=84)	Nova Scotia (n=164)	New Brunswick (n=151)	Quebec (n=401)	Ontario (n=500)	Manitoba (n=154)	Saskatchewan (n=154)	Alberta (n=234)	British Columbia (n=264)
Doing as much as they can under the circumstances	25%	34%	32%	20%	32%	20%	36%	27%	21%	27%
Not doing nearly enough to address this	64%	57%	60%	71%	59%	68%	51%	66%	69%	61%
Not sure	11%	8%	8%	9%	9%	12%	13%	7%	10%	12%

Collaboration on Health Care Worker Retention/Recruitment

Q7. To what extent would you support or oppose your premier and provincial/territorial government working with the federal government and other provinces to develop and implement a comprehensive national strategy to recruit and retain health care workers?

	TOTAL CANADA (n=2,135)	Newfoundland and Labrador (n=84)	Nova Scotia (n=164)	New Brunswick (n=151)	Quebec (n=401)	Ontario (n=500)	Manitoba (n=154)	Saskatchewan (n=154)	Alberta (n=234)	British Columbia (n=264)
Strongly support	44%	46%	57%	52%	34%	48%	42%	44%	42%	49%
Somewhat support	37%	36%	33%	33%	41%	34%	44%	38%	38%	34%
Somewhat oppose	5%	8%	3%	4%	8%	5%	2%	3%	6%	3%
Strongly oppose	3%	1%	2%	3%	4%	2%	2%	5%	6%	4%
Not sure	10%	9%	6%	8%	13%	10%	8%	10%	9%	9%

Emergency Spending on Health Care Worker Retention

Q8. Some people say that Canada's premiers should implement an immediate, emergency increase in health care spending that is targeted at recruiting and retaining public health care workers? To what extent do you agree or disagree?

	TOTAL CANADA (n=2,135)	Newfoundland and Labrador (n=84)	Nova Scotia (n=164)	New Brunswick (n=151)	Quebec (n=401)	Ontario (n=500)	Manitoba (n=154)	Saskatchewan (n=154)	Alberta (n=234)	British Columbia (n=264)
Strongly agree	38%	45%	41%	48%	32%	44%	31%	43%	36%	34%
Somewhat agree	41%	37%	44%	37%	40%	39%	53%	38%	42%	47%
Somewhat disagree	8%	9%	7%	7%	14%	6%	6%	8%	8%	7%
Strongly disagree	2%	2%	2%	1%	4%	2%	1%	2%	2%	3%
Not sure	10%	6%	6%	7%	10%	10%	10%	9%	12%	10%

Action to Retain Public Health Care Workers

Q9. Do you agree or disagree that provincial and territorial governments should take action to retain health care workers in the public system by actions such as improving their working conditions and increasing their wages?

	TOTAL CANADA (n=2,135)	Newfoundland and Labrador (n=84)	Nova Scotia (n=164)	New Brunswick (n=151)	Quebec (n=401)	Ontario (n=500)	Manitoba (n=154)	Saskatchewan (n=154)	Alberta (n=234)	British Columbia (n=264)
Strongly agree	50%	56%	54%	54%	46%	53%	54%	48%	51%	45%
Somewhat agree	33%	28%	30%	37%	34%	32%	31%	40%	31%	39%
Somewhat disagree	6%	8%	5%	2%	9%	6%	2%	6%	7%	5%
Strongly disagree	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%	2%	3%	2%	3%	2%
Not sure	8%	6%	9%	5%	8%	8%	10%	5%	8%	8%

Investing in Public Long-Term Care

Q10. To what extent do you support or oppose your provincial/territorial government making a significant investment in building more public long-term care and assisted living facilities.

	TOTAL CANADA (n=2,135)	Newfoundland and Labrador (n=84)	Nova Scotia (n=164)	New Brunswick (n=151)	Quebec (n=401)	Ontario (n=500)	Manitoba (n=154)	Saskatchewan (n=154)	Alberta (n=234)	British Columbia (n=264)
Strongly support	46%	45%	57%	44%	40%	48%	49%	49%	46%	47%
Somewhat support	37%	43%	32%	44%	38%	36%	39%	38%	37%	38%
Somewhat oppose	6%	4%	5%	5%	11%	4%	5%	4%	4%	5%
Strongly oppose	2%	1%	1%	-	2%	2%	0%	4%	3%	1%
Not sure	9%	7%	5%	7%	9%	9%	6%	5%	10%	9%

Standards for Long-Term Care

Q11. To what extent do you agree or disagree that this act must include mandatory, enforceable standards for minimum numbers of hours of care and staffing ratios for each patient in long-term care facilities?

	TOTAL CANADA (n=2,135)	Newfoundland and Labrador (n=84)	Nova Scotia (n=164)	New Brunswick (n=151)	Quebec (n=401)	Ontario (n=500)	Manitoba (n=154)	Saskatchewan (n=154)	Alberta (n=234)	British Columbia (n=264)
Strongly agree	46%	57%	59%	42%	37%	50%	52%	46%	45%	48%
Somewhat agree	34%	29%	27%	35%	39%	32%	29%	34%	33%	36%
Somewhat disagree	5%	7%	5%	6%	5%	5%	4%	5%	4%	5%
Strongly disagree	3%	2%	0%	2%	5%	1%	4%	4%	4%	1%
Not sure	12%	5%	9%	15%	14%	1%	10%	11%	14%	9%

Support for Pharmacare

Q13. Some people say Canada should implement a national Pharmacare program that would provide equal access to prescription drugs for everyone in Canada, similar to how we do not pay out-of-pocket to be treated by doctors or in hospitals. Is this something you would...?

	TOTAL CANADA (n=2,135)	Newfoundland and Labrador (n=84)	Nova Scotia (n=164)	New Brunswick (n=151)	Quebec (n=401)	Ontario (n=500)	Manitoba (n=154)	Saskatchewan (n=154)	Alberta (n=234)	British Columbia (n=264)
Strongly support	40%	42%	52%	42%	36%	39%	42%	40%	40%	42%
Somewhat support	35%	40%	28%	33%	34%	38%	36%	39%	29%	33%
Somewhat oppose	8%	5%	10%	8%	11%	8%	9%	7%	8%	7%
Strongly oppose	6%	7%	1%	6%	8%	4%	4%	4%	11%	6%
Not sure	11%	6%	8%	11%	11%	11%	9%	10%	12%	12%

Diabetes/Contraceptives Coverage

Q15. The first step of the federal government’s Pharmacare program is to work with willing provinces to provide free coverage for two types of medications – contraceptives, such as birth control pills, and diabetes medications and devices, such as insulin and insulin pumps. To what extent do you support or oppose this?

	TOTAL CANADA (n=2,135)	Newfoundland and Labrador (n=84)	Nova Scotia (n=164)	New Brunswick (n=151)	Quebec (n=401)	Ontario (n=500)	Manitoba (n=154)	Saskatchewan (n=154)	Alberta (n=234)	British Columbia (n=264)
Strongly support	45%	56%	58%	50%	43%	45%	55%	48%	40%	46%
Somewhat support	35%	28%	27%	31%	36%	35%	34%	35%	31%	35%
Somewhat oppose	7%	8%	7%	6%	7%	7%	4%	4%	9%	8%
Strongly oppose	5%	5%	2%	3%	6%	3%	3%	4%	10%	3%
Not sure	9%	3%	7%	10%	8%	9%	5%	9%	10%	8%

Benefitting from Diabetes/Contraceptive Coverage

Q16. Would you or anyone in your household personally benefit at all from free coverage of contraceptive and diabetes medications?

	TOTAL CANADA (n=2,135)	Newfoundland and Labrador (n=84)	Nova Scotia (n=164)	New Brunswick (n=151)	Quebec (n=401)	Ontario (n=500)	Manitoba (n=154)	Saskatchewan (n=154)	Alberta (n=234)	British Columbia (n=264)
Yes, contraceptives	10%	13%	11%	13%	9%	9%	16%	15%	13%	11%
Yes, diabetes medications and devices	14%	25%	19%	21%	10%	17%	12%	25%	11%	11%
Yes, both contraceptives and diabetes medications	9%	7%	8%	11%	8%	9%	5%	7%	9%	7%
No, would not benefit personally from this	67%	55%	62%	54%	73%	65%	67%	53%	68%	71%

Expanding Pharmacare Coverage

Q17. Would you support or oppose Canada expanding from the initial coverage for diabetes and contraception drugs to implementing a comprehensive public pharmacare program, so that access to other categories of prescription drugs would also become part of the health care system?

	TOTAL CANADA (n=2,135)	Newfoundland and Labrador (n=84)	Nova Scotia (n=164)	New Brunswick (n=151)	Quebec (n=401)	Ontario (n=500)	Manitoba (n=154)	Saskatchewan (n=154)	Alberta (n=234)	British Columbia (n=264)
Strongly support	42%	44%	56%	49%	38%	43%	44%	48%	42%	43%
Somewhat support	35%	38%	27%	32%	34%	35%	38%	34%	34%	38%
Somewhat oppose	7%	5%	5%	7%	8%	7%	5%	4%	7%	4%
Strongly oppose	5%	8%	1%	2%	7%	4%	4%	5%	8%	5%
Not sure	11%	6%	10%	9%	13%	10%	9%	9%	9%	11%

Provincial-Federal Collaboration on Pharmacare

Q18. Health care is a shared responsibility in Canada. Provinces and territories would need to work with the federal government to implement a national Pharmacare program. Which of these points of view is closest to your own?

	TOTAL CANADA (n=2,135)	Newfoundland and Labrador (n=84)	Nova Scotia (n=164)	New Brunswick (n=151)	Quebec (n=401)	Ontario (n=500)	Manitoba (n=154)	Saskatchewan (n=154)	Alberta (n=234)	British Columbia (n=264)
Premiers should work with the federal government to implement a national Pharmacare program.	68%	75%	83%	72%	62%	67%	78%	67%	67%	77%
Premiers should not work with the federal government to implement a national Pharmacare program.	22%	19%	12%	19%	22%	24%	15%	23%	24%	16%

Premier Working with Feds on Pharmacare Implementation

Q19. To what extent would you support or oppose your own premier working with the federal government to implement pharmacare in your province/territory?

	TOTAL CANADA (n=2,135)	Newfoundland and Labrador (n=84)	Nova Scotia (n=164)	New Brunswick (n=151)	Quebec (n=401)	Ontario (n=500)	Manitoba (n=154)	Saskatchewan (n=154)	Alberta (n=234)	British Columbia (n=264)
Strongly support	45%	45%	61%	55%	40%	47%	45%	43%	44%	47%
Somewhat support	35%	40%	26%	21%	34%	35%	43%	34%	32%	38%
Somewhat oppose	7%	7%	6%	8%	10%	7%	3%	4%	7%	4%
Strongly oppose	5%	6%	1%	3%	7%	3%	4%	7%	9%	4%
Not sure	8%	3%	6%	14%	9%	8%	5%	13%	8%	6%

Impact on Vote if Premier Rejects Pharmacare

Q20. If your premier rejects working with the federal government on implementing Pharmacare in your province would it make you more or less likely to vote for them in the next provincial election, or would it make no difference to your vote?

	TOTAL CANADA (n=2,135)	Newfoundland and Labrador (n=84)	Nova Scotia (n=164)	New Brunswick (n=151)	Quebec (n=401)	Ontario (n=500)	Manitoba (n=154)	Saskatchewan (n=154)	Alberta (n=234)	British Columbia (n=264)
Less likely to vote for them if they reject Pharmacare	46%	38%	54%	52%	41%	48%	41%	43%	47%	46%
More likely to vote for them if they reject Pharmacare	9%	8%	6%	11%	8%	10%	8%	9%	12%	9%
Would make no difference to my vote	28%	41%	24%	24%	35%	23%	32%	36%	28%	25%
Not sure	17%	14%	16%	13%	16%	19%	19%	12%	14%	20%

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Thank you.

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