

What do Canadians think about public and private health care?

Nine key insights from a new national poll

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About the public opinion survey

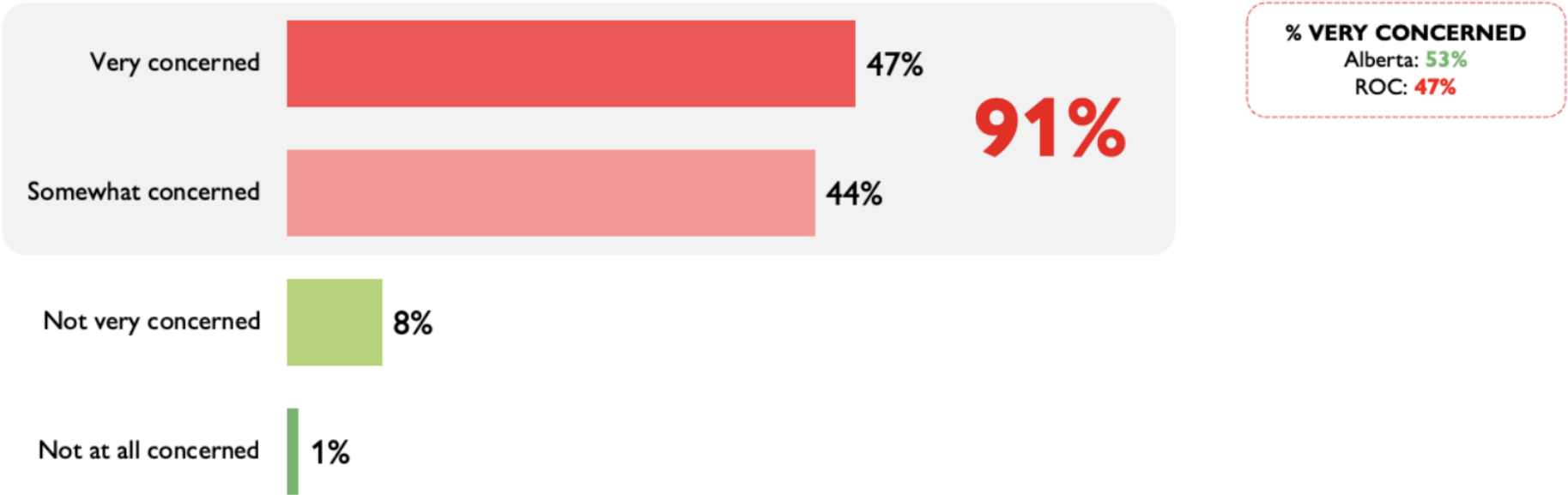
- Conducted by Abacus Data for the Canadian Health Coalition
- Based on two surveys conducted from July 9 to 20, 2026, involving a combined sample of 3,000 Canadian adults
 - 1,500 in Alberta and 1,500 rest of Canada
- The margin of error for a comparable probability-based random sample of the same size is ± 1.79 percentage points, 19 times out of 20

1. Most Canadians are quite concerned about the future of public health care



How concerned are you about the future of Canada's public health care system?

9 in 10 Canadians are concerned about the future of Canada's public health care system, including nearly half who are very concerned.



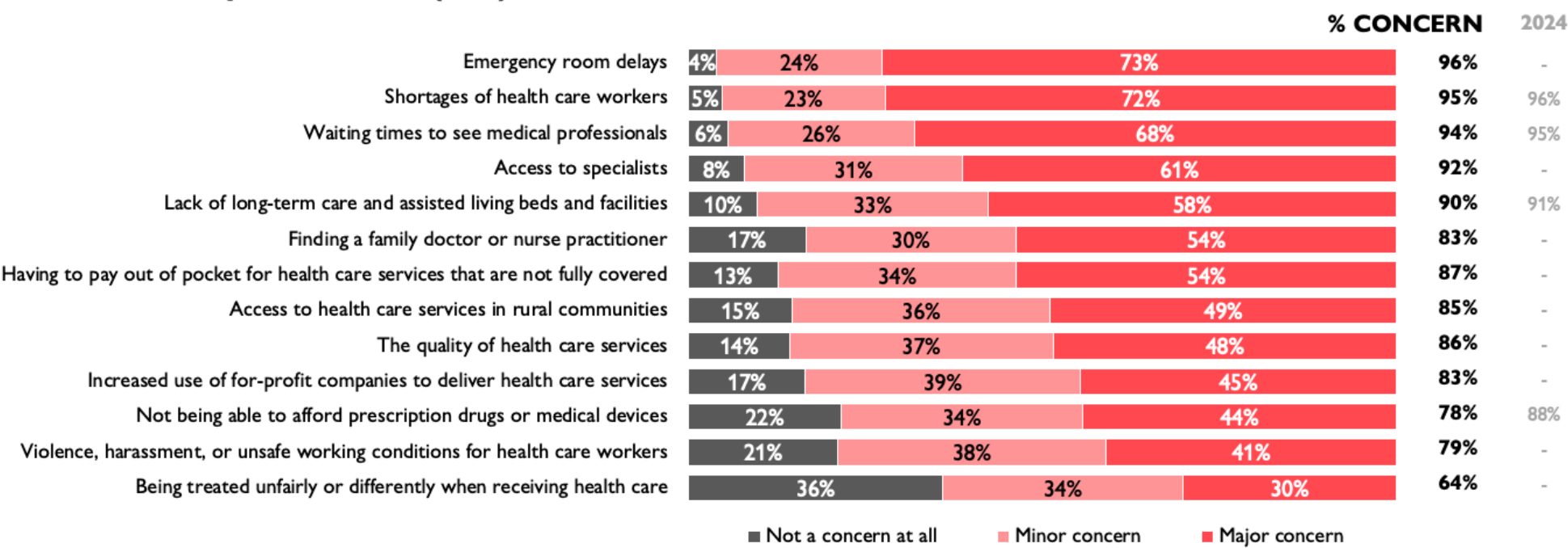
Base: All respondents (n=3,000)



2. Long ER waits, workforce shortages, and access to providers—major concerns

How concerned are you about each of the following health care related issues in your province?

Concern is widespread across healthcare issues, with nearly three-quarters identifying emergency room delays (73%) and healthcare worker shortages (72%) as major concerns, followed by wait times to see medical professionals (68%).



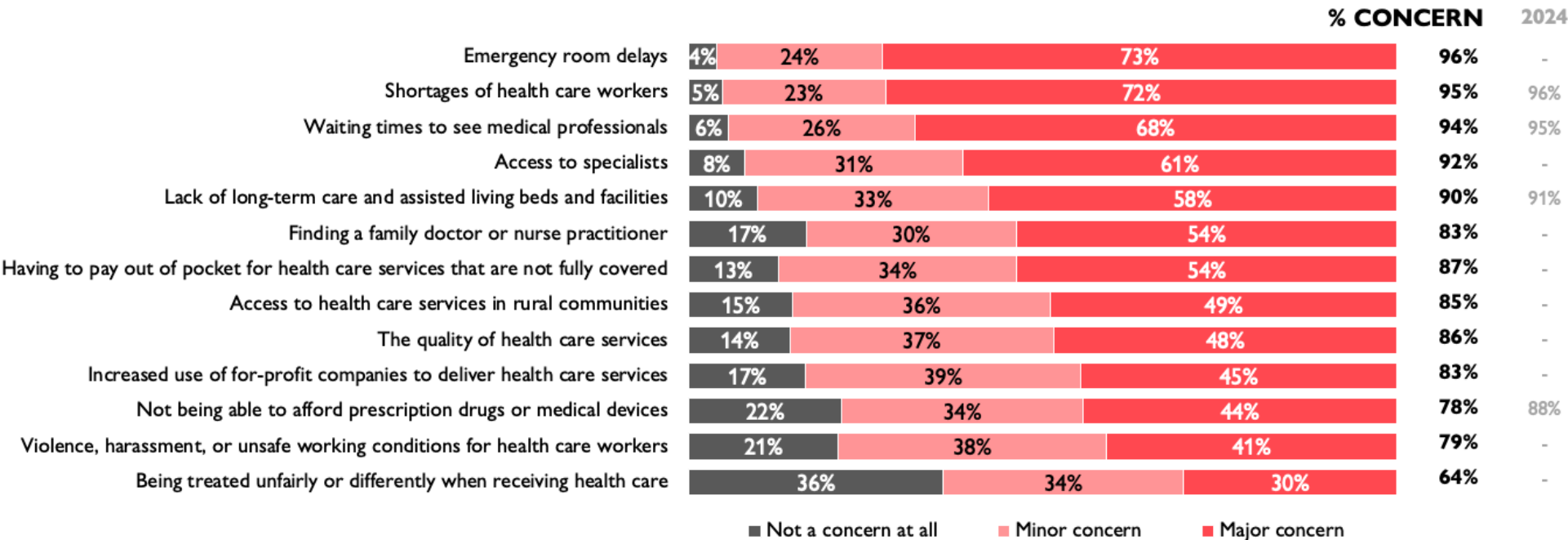
Base: All respondents (n=3,000) | 2026 results compared with July 2024 (EnviroNics); additional issues were included in 2026. Comparisons shown where available.

3. Universal public health care is a core value in Alberta and across Canada



How concerned are you about each of the following health care related issues in your province?

Concern is widespread across healthcare issues, with nearly three-quarters identifying emergency room delays (73%) and healthcare worker shortages (72%) as major concerns, followed by wait times to see medical professionals (68%).



Base: All respondents (n=3,000) | 2026 results compared with July 2024 (Environics); additional issues were included in 2026. Comparisons shown where available.





Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each statement.

ATTITUDES TOWARD PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HEALTH CARE

% AGREE	TOTAL	PROVINCE						REGION		AGE				GENDER		HOUSEHOLD INCOME			COMMITTED FED. VOTE		
		BC	AB	SK/MB	ON	QC	ATL	AB	ROC	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Male	Female	<\$50K	\$50K-\$100K	\$100K+	LPC	CPC	NDP
Universal health care based on a person's need, not how much money they have, is a core Canadian value	85%	85%	86%	83%	87%	78%	90%	86%	85%	80%	83%	81%	91%	85%	84%	83%	83%	89%	91%	83%	92%
Canada's public health care system can meet Canadians' needs if governments invest more in it	80%	80%	78%	79%	85%	75%	77%	78%	81%	84%	81%	78%	79%	78%	82%	79%	82%	80%	87%	75%	87%
More private health care providers could help improve health care services	59%	61%	59%	64%	55%	63%	61%	59%	59%	66%	64%	56%	52%	63%	55%	54%	61%	62%	58%	68%	38%
Corporations and doctors should have the unrestricted ability to charge patients for health care	23%	22%	23%	24%	26%	20%	16%	23%	23%	41%	33%	14%	10%	26%	19%	22%	24%	22%	22%	29%	19%

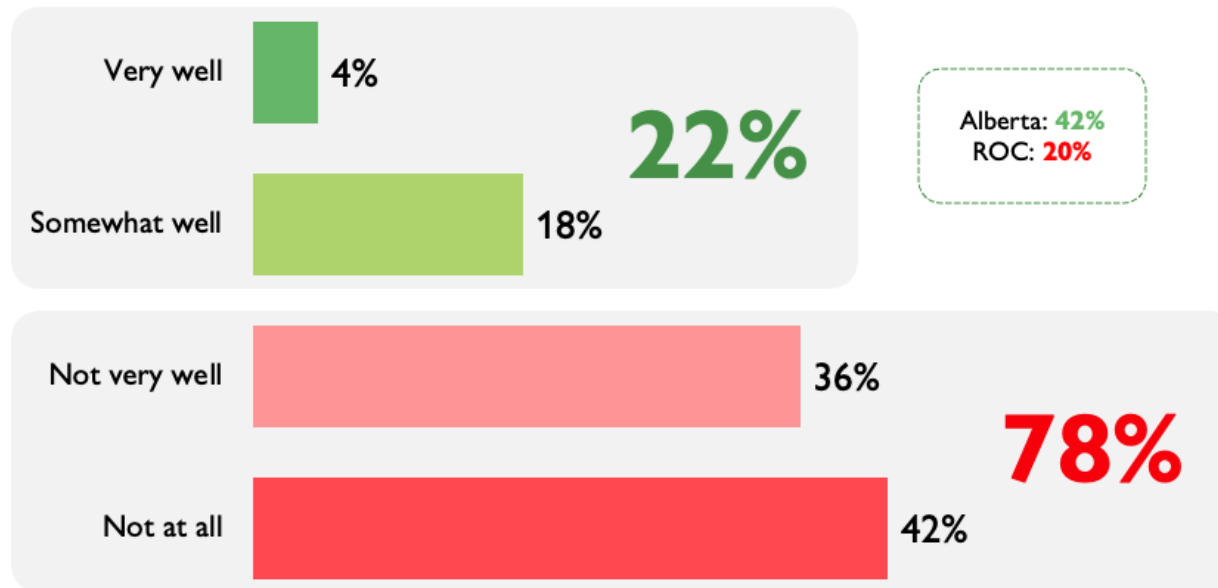
Base: All respondents (n=3,000)

4. Alberta's U.S.-style reforms are advancing with very little public understanding of the significance



How well do you feel you understand Bill 11?

Knowledge of Bill 11 is limited, with only 22% saying they understand it well, rising to 42% in Alberta but just 20% elsewhere in Canada.



Base: All respondents (n=3,000)



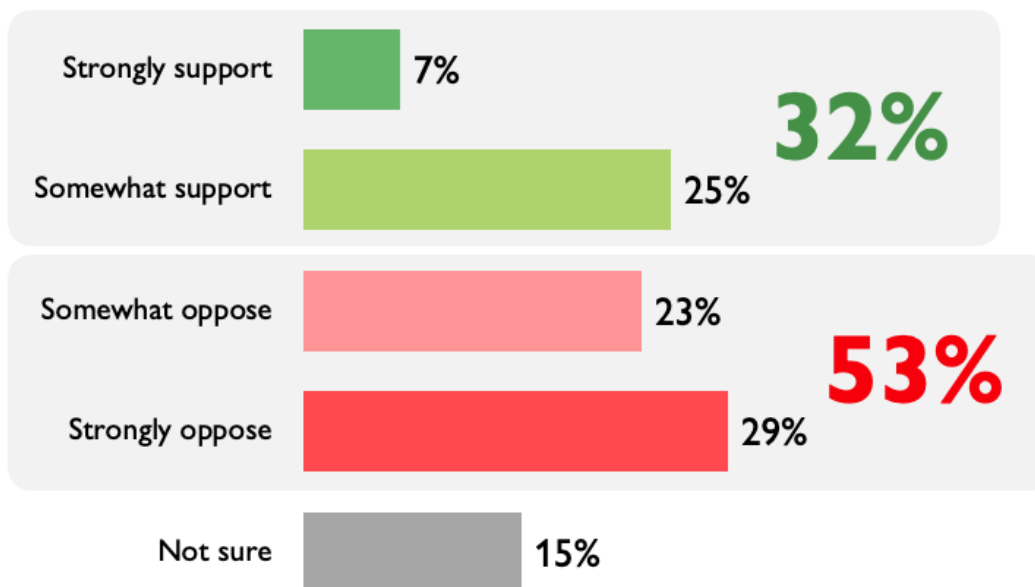
5. Once Bill 11 is explained to Canadians, the majority oppose it



Based on what you know, do you support or oppose this approach?

Canadians are nearly twice as likely to oppose the legislation (53%) as to support it (32%).

Bill 11 would allow physicians to bill the public health care system or patients directly for certain medically necessary services. The legislation would permit patients to pay out of pocket for some physician services that have traditionally been covered exclusively through the public health care system. It would also allow the development of a private insurance market for medically necessary health care services.



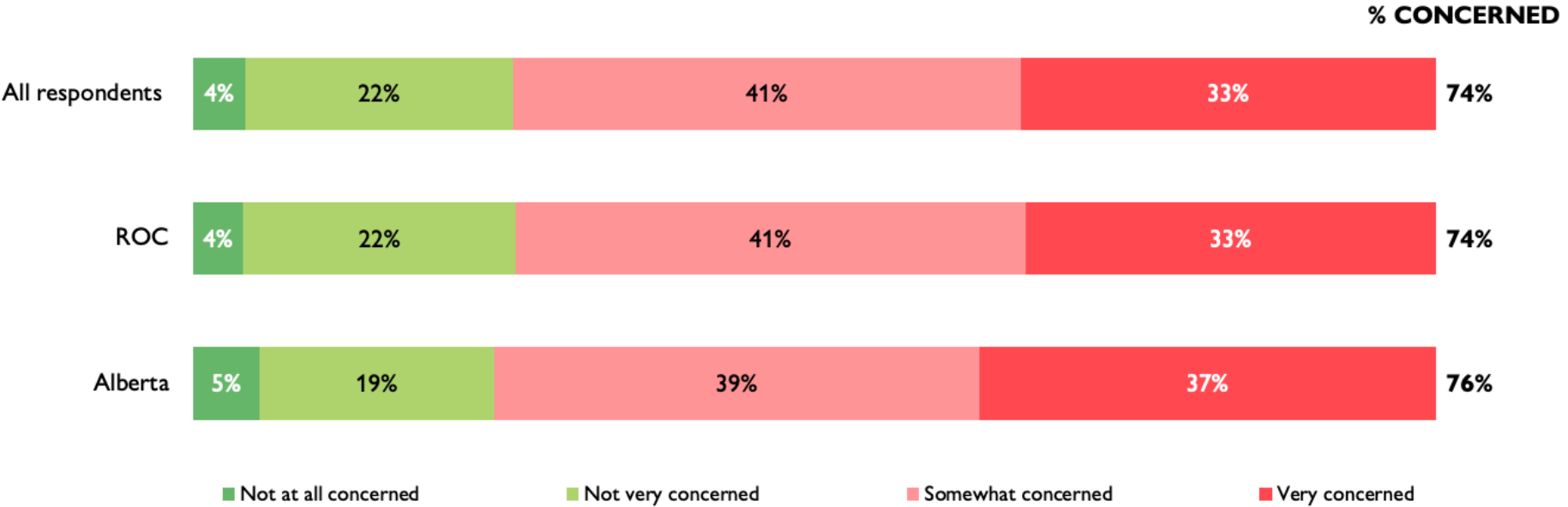
Base: All respondents (n=3,000)



6. Canadians are concerned about U.S.-style, private-pay health care spreading to other provinces

 ROC: How concerned are you that policies similar to Bill 11 could be adopted in other provinces? AB: How concerned are you about Bill 11 remaining in place and expanding over time in Alberta?

Nearly three-quarters of Canadians (74%) are concerned about Bill 11 expanding or similar policies being adopted elsewhere, with concern equally high in Alberta (76%).



Base: All respondents (n=3,000)

7. Alberta women, lower-income households, and even United Conservative voters are concerned about Bill 11

How concerned are you about Bill 11 remaining in place and expanding over time in Alberta?

CONCERN ABOUT BILL 11 – ALBERTA RESIDENTS

	TOTAL	AGE				GENDER		HOUSEHOLD INCOME			COMMITTED PROV. VOTE		
		18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Male	Female	<\$50K	\$50K-\$100K	\$100K+	NDP	UPC	ALP
[NET] CONCERNED	78%	81%	78%	79%	76%	73%	84%	84%	76%	75%	94%	63%	84%
Very concerned	39%	36%	39%	41%	39%	34%	44%	41%	38%	37%	66%	23%	35%
Somewhat concerned	39%	45%	39%	38%	37%	40%	39%	43%	38%	39%	28%	40%	48%
Not very concerned	17%	17%	18%	16%	17%	21%	13%	13%	18%	19%	5%	27%	16%
Not at all concerned	5%	2%	4%	5%	7%	6%	3%	3%	5%	6%	1%	11%	0%

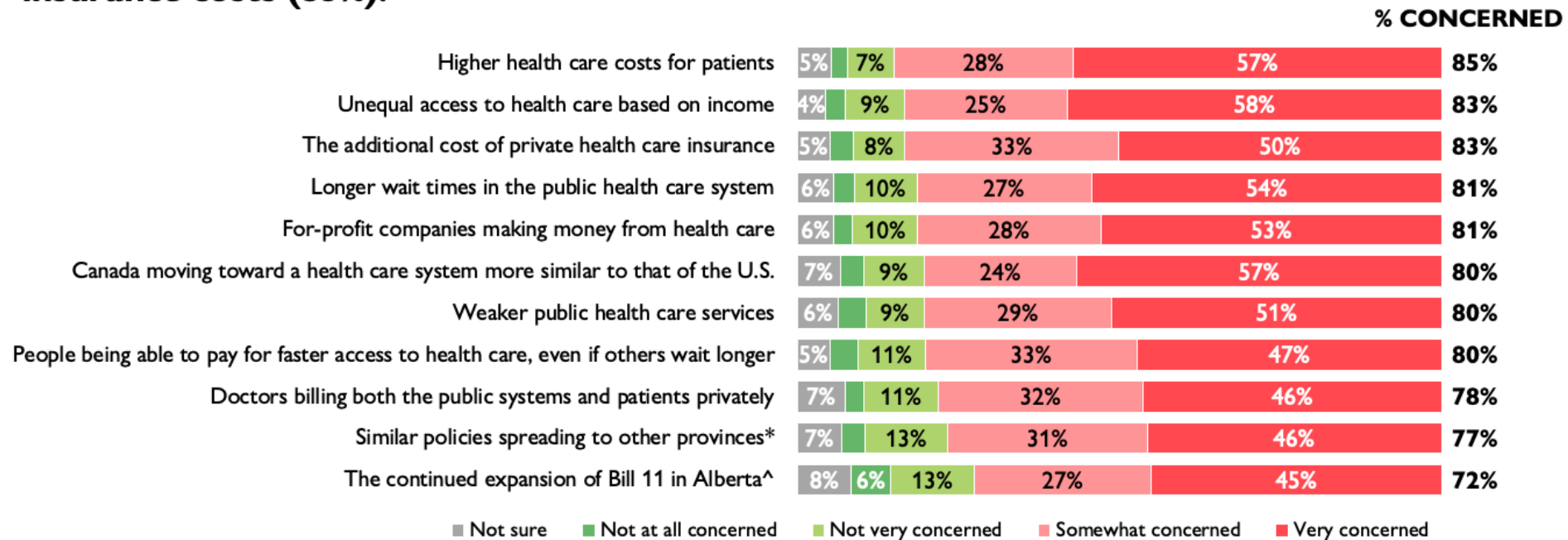
Base: Alberta residents (n=1,500)

8. Across every area polled, Canadians are concerned about the consequences of Bill 11



Thinking about Bill 11, how concerned are you about each of the following?

Canadians express widespread concern across every tested consequence of Bill 11, particularly higher health care costs (85%), unequal access (83%), and private health insurance costs (83%).



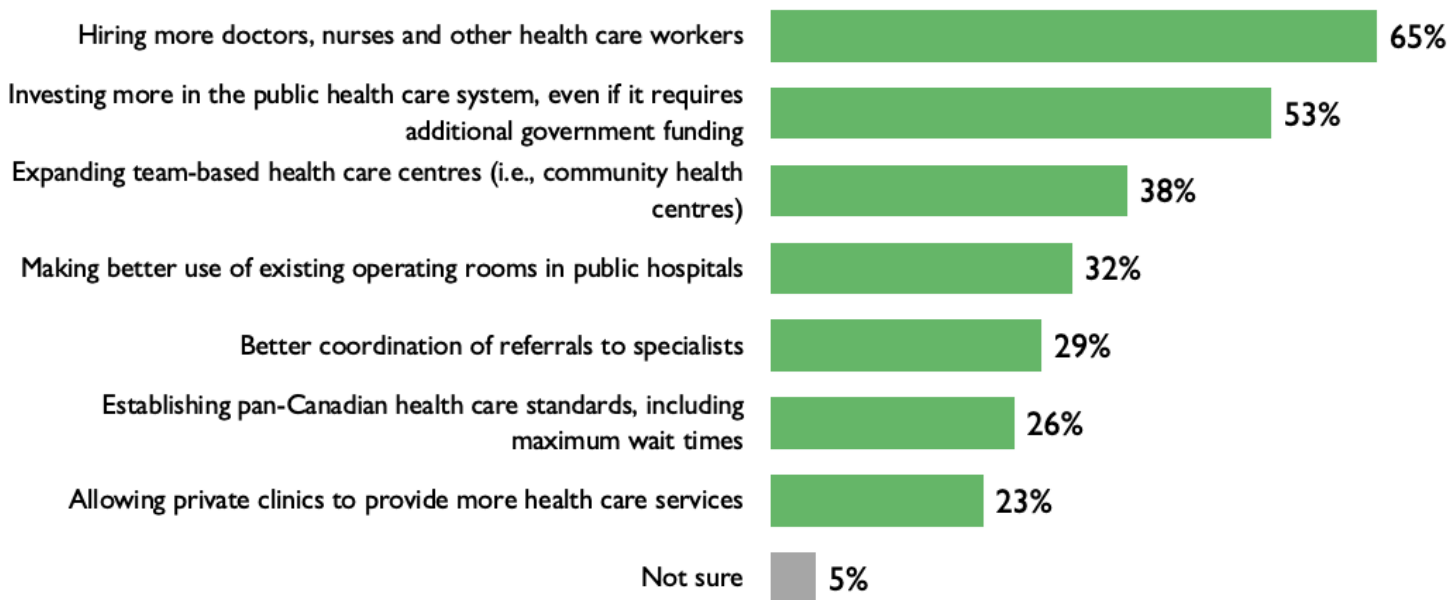
Base: All respondents (n=3,000) | * only shown to respondents from the rest of Canada; ^ only shown to respondents from Alberta

9. Canadians and Albertans strongly favour evidence-based public solutions to reduce wait times



Which THREE of the following approaches do you think would be most effective at reducing health care wait times in Canada? Select up to 3.

Canadians clearly favour public health care solutions to reduce wait times, with hiring more health care workers (65%) and public investment (53%) ranking well ahead of expanding private clinics (23%).



Base: All respondents (n=3,000)





Which THREE of the following approaches do you think would be most effective at reducing health care wait times in Canada? *Select up to 3.*

PREFERRED SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE WAIT TIMES – ALBERTA RESIDENTS

	TOTAL	AGE				GENDER		HOUSEHOLD INCOME			COMMITTED PROV. VOTE		
		18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Male	Female	<\$50K	\$50K-\$100K	\$100K+	NDP	UPC	ALP
Hiring more doctors, nurses and other health care workers	68%	61%	62%	73%	72%	63%	72%	68%	64%	70%	75%	64%	62%
Investing more in the public health care system, even if it requires additional government funding	57%	60%	60%	57%	51%	54%	59%	56%	56%	60%	69%	44%	63%
Making better use of existing operating rooms in public hospitals	36%	27%	31%	35%	51%	39%	34%	36%	36%	38%	31%	38%	32%
Expanding team-based health care centres	34%	33%	31%	40%	34%	34%	35%	35%	37%	33%	37%	34%	36%
Better coordination of referrals to specialists	29%	30%	31%	26%	30%	30%	29%	27%	31%	31%	26%	33%	31%
Establishing pan-Canadian health care standards, including maximum wait times	24%	33%	26%	20%	20%	25%	23%	22%	26%	24%	29%	22%	29%
Allowing private clinics to provide more health care services	24%	29%	25%	25%	19%	26%	22%	20%	27%	26%	11%	39%	20%
Not sure	4%	4%	5%	3%	4%	4%	4%	6%	4%	3%	5%	3%	4%

Base: Alberta residents (n=1,500)

The takeaway

- Canadians and Albertans believe strongly in [evidence-based public solutions](#) to health care wait times and the principle of universal access
- Canadians everywhere **do not want** US-style health care
- Canadians are *very* concerned about health care becoming another household expense
- The Alberta gov't is pushing a policy direction that is not aligned with the research evidence nor does it have support in Alberta and across Canada

Thank you!



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