



ABACUS DATA

Pharmacists in Newfoundland and Labrador

Perceptions and attitudes towards pharmacists in NL with national comparisons.

February 2016

Prepared for the Pharmacists' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador

The background of the lower half of the slide features a complex, abstract line art graphic. It consists of several thin, light-colored lines that intersect and form a series of interconnected, irregular shapes, resembling a network or a stylized map. The lines are set against a dark grey background.

Methodology

Online Survey	Survey was conducted online with a representative sample of Canadians from Research Now's online panel.
Sample Size	Canada-wide: 3,824 (Comparable Margin of Error \pm 1.6%) Newfoundland and Labrador: 500 (Comparable Margin of Error \pm 4.5%)
Field dates	February 19 to 25, 2016
Statistical Weighting	Data was weighted by age, gender, region.

Key Findings – NL Specific

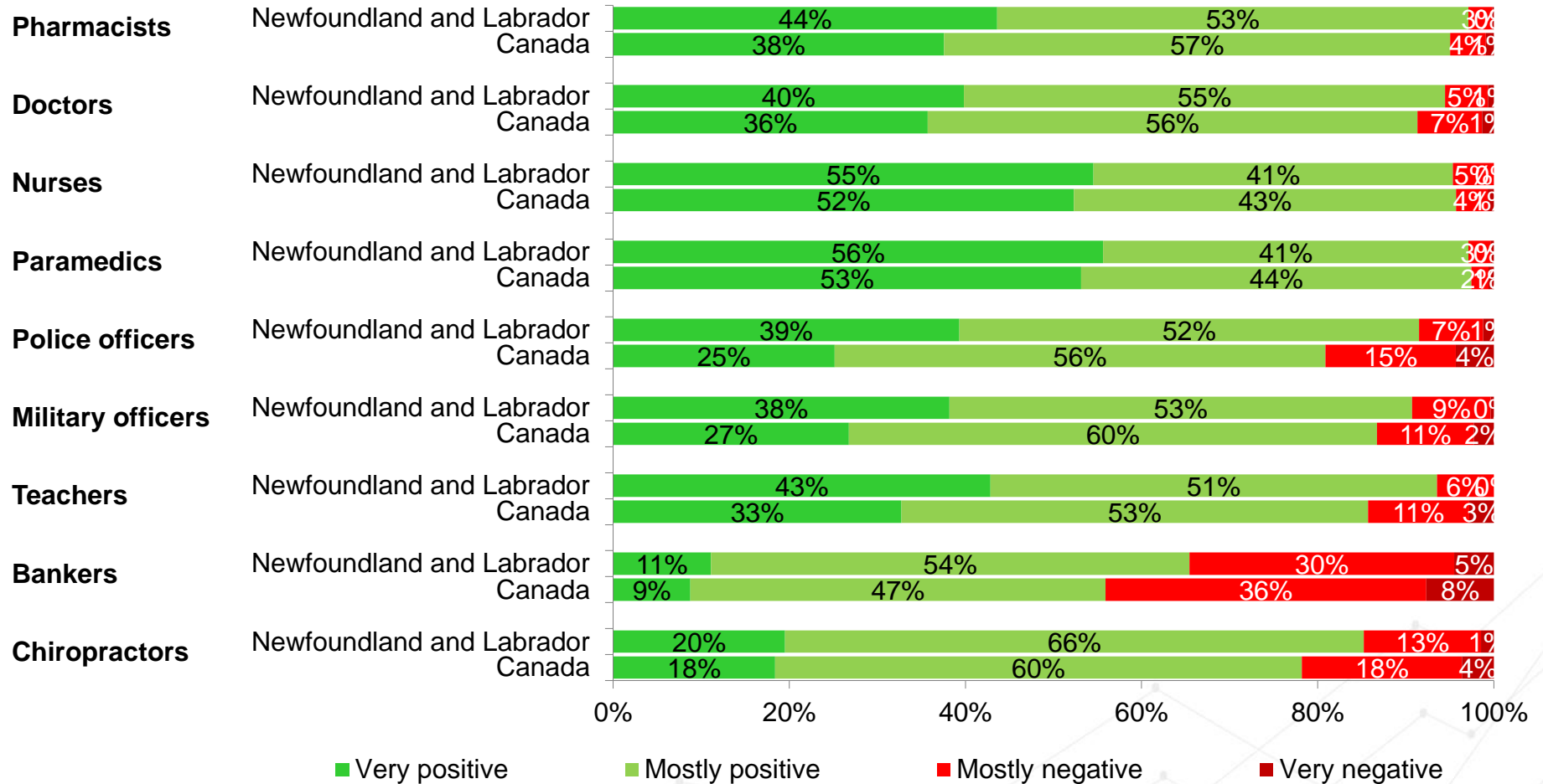
- After being told that residents in NL are now able to visit a pharmacy to receive a flu shot and the cost will range from \$20-25 while no fee is paid if the flu shot is received at a doctor's office or clinic, only 11% said they would be more likely to get a flu shot from a pharmacy.
- Almost all NL residents would support the provincial government changing its policy so that patients do not pay out of pocket for a flu shot. 62% strongly support a policy change while another 30% support the change. Only 4% are opposed.
- 81% of NL residents support the provincial government subsidizing the cost to patients who see a pharmacist for assessments and prescribing for common ailments. Only 9% are opposed.
- Most believe (78%) that wait times at doctor offices and emergency room will be reduced if fees to see a pharmacist to assess common ailments is covered by the provincial health plan.

Key Findings – National Comparison

- The overall impression of pharmacists in Newfoundland and Labrador is comparable to the national average. 97% of Newfoundland and Labrador residents have a positive impression with 44% saying they have a very positive impression of the profession.
- Newfoundland and Labrador residents are more likely to believe that pharmacists play an essential role in the healthcare system than the national average (NL 67% vs. 54% nationally).
- Newfoundland and Labrador residents are more trusting of pharmacists to deliver advice on a range of health services including vaccinations (NL 64% vs. CAN 59%) and managing common ailments like the cold or flu (NL 74% vs. CAN 53%).
- Awareness about the services pharmacists can deliver was mostly comparable in Newfoundland and Labrador to the national average. Newfoundland and Labrador residents were less likely to be aware that pharmacists can provide therapeutic substitution (-10 from national average), extend prescriptions (-10), and adapt prescriptions (-12).

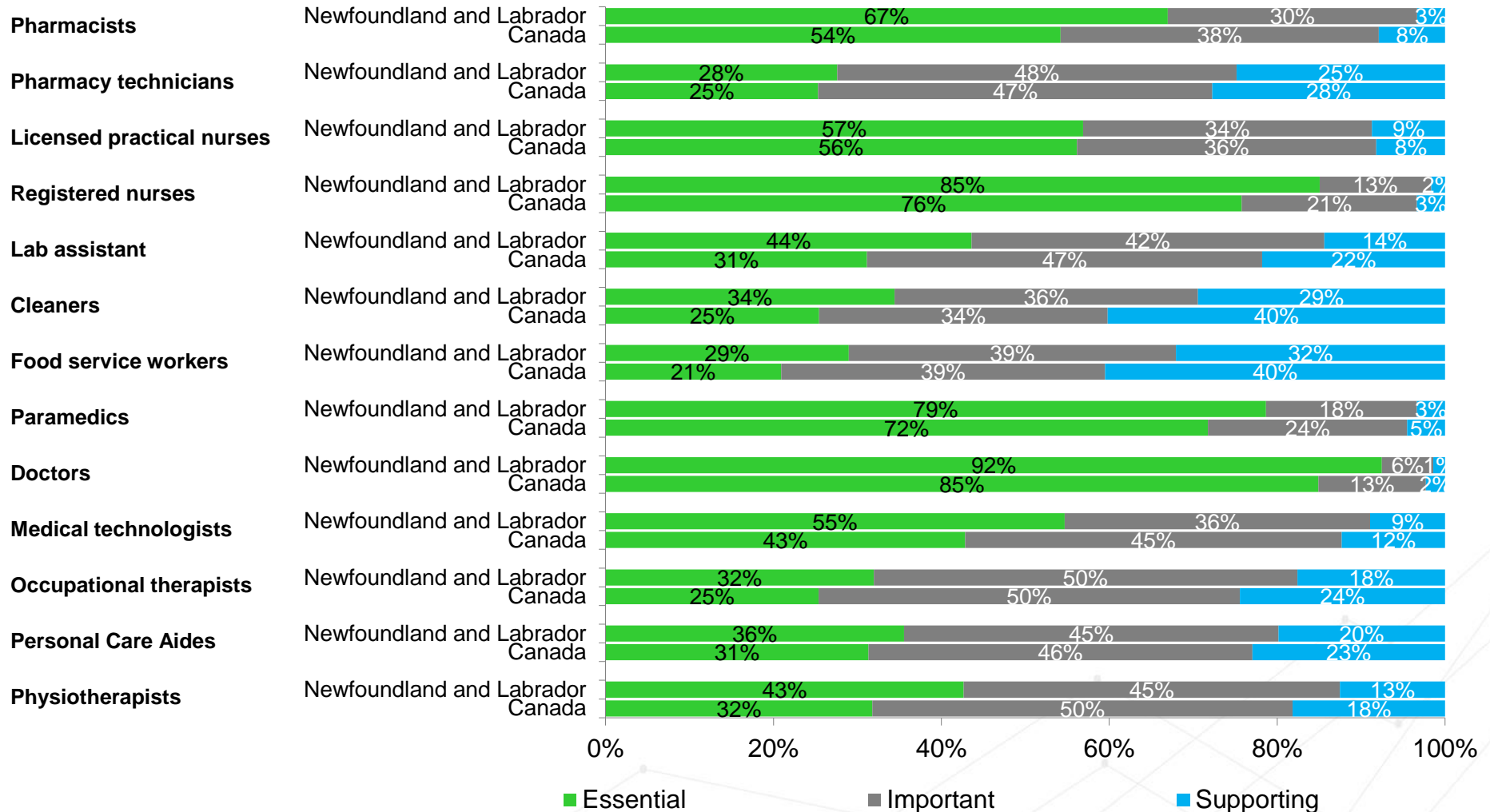
Impression of Professions

Below is a list of different professions in Canada. Please tell us if you have a very positive, mostly positive, mostly negative, or very negative impression of each.



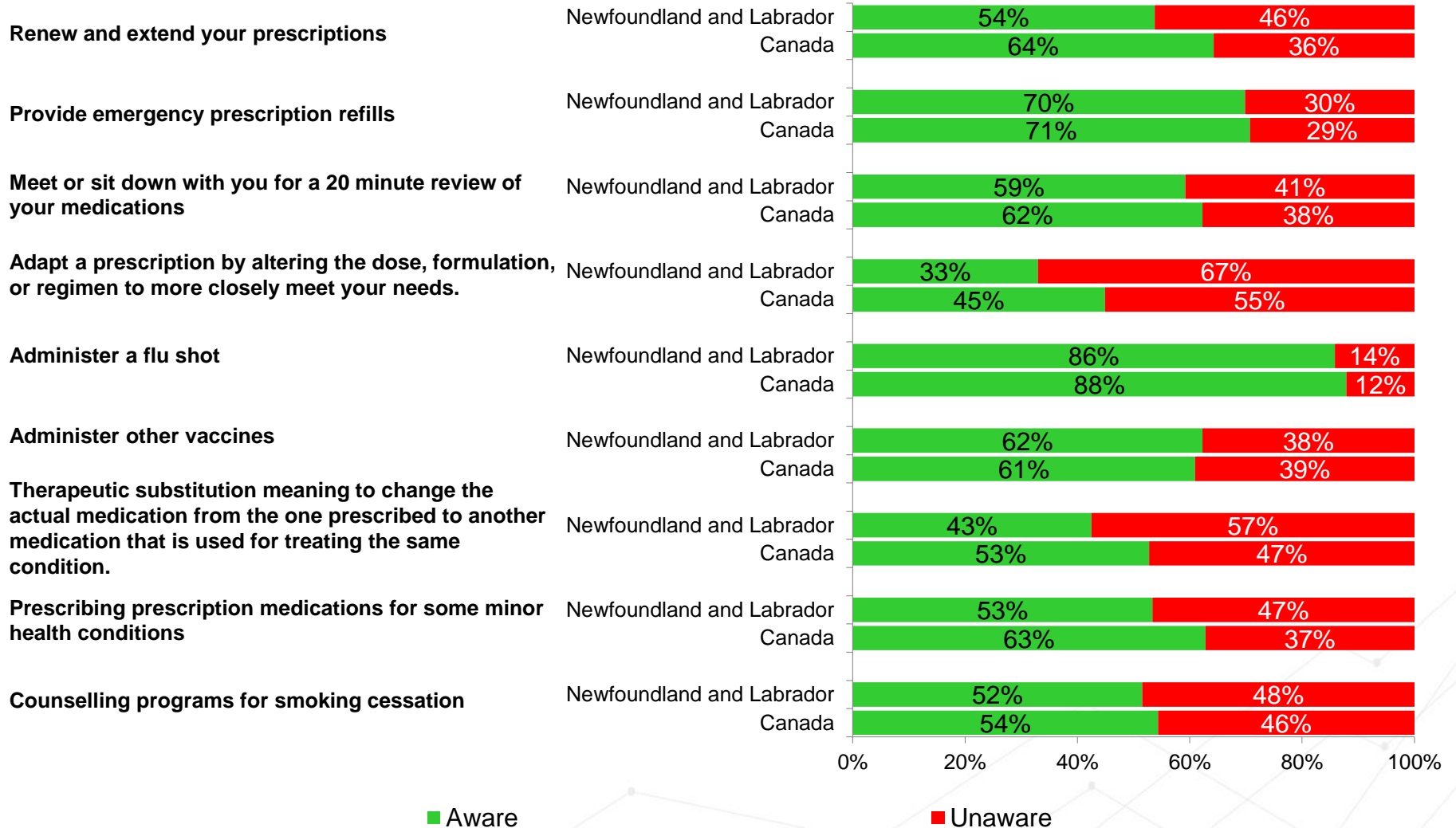
Roles in Healthcare

Think about the health care system overall and the role and importance of different people within the system. We are going to show you a number of different professions within the health care system and ask you to classify their role into one of three groups.



Awareness of Services

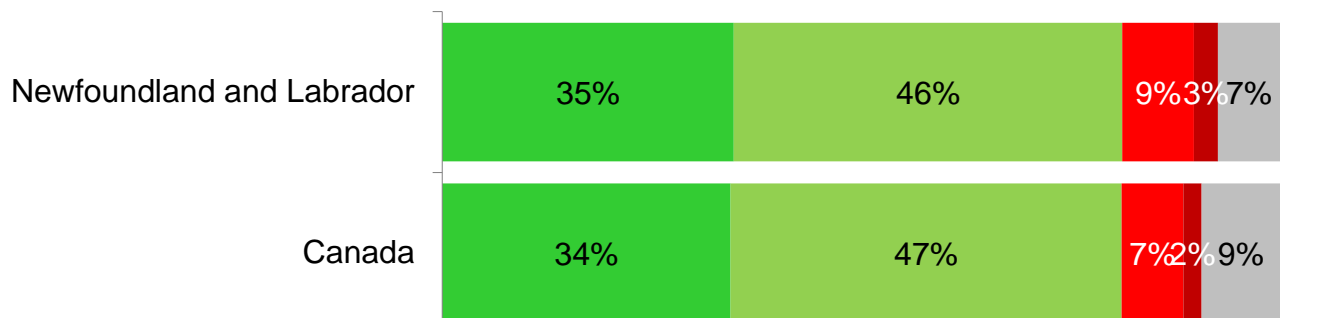
Before today, were you aware or unaware that pharmacists provide the following services?



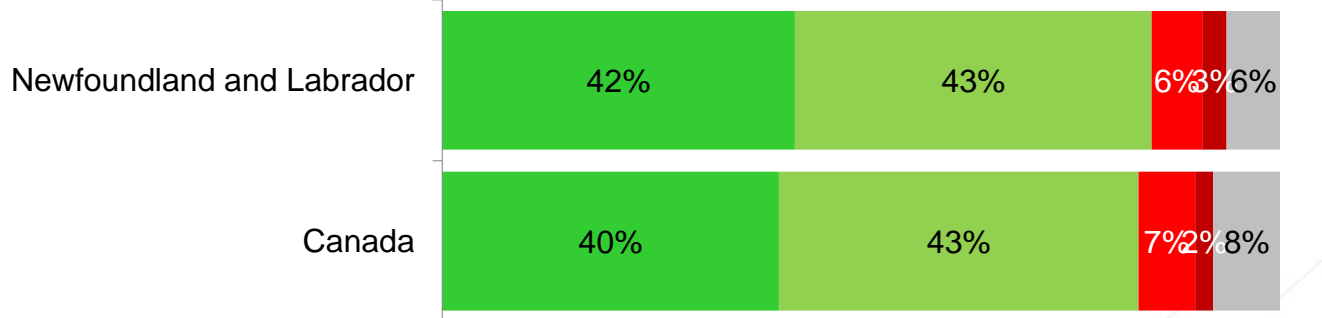
Impact of Expanded Scope

Below are a number of statements that could be used to describe pharmacists in your community. Please tell us whether you agree or disagree with each statement.

Allowing pharmacists to do more for patients will improve health outcomes for patients.



Allowing pharmacists to do more for patients will reduce costs in the health care system.




■ Strongly agree
 ■ Mostly agree
 ■ Mostly disagree
 ■ Strongly disagree
 ■ Unsure



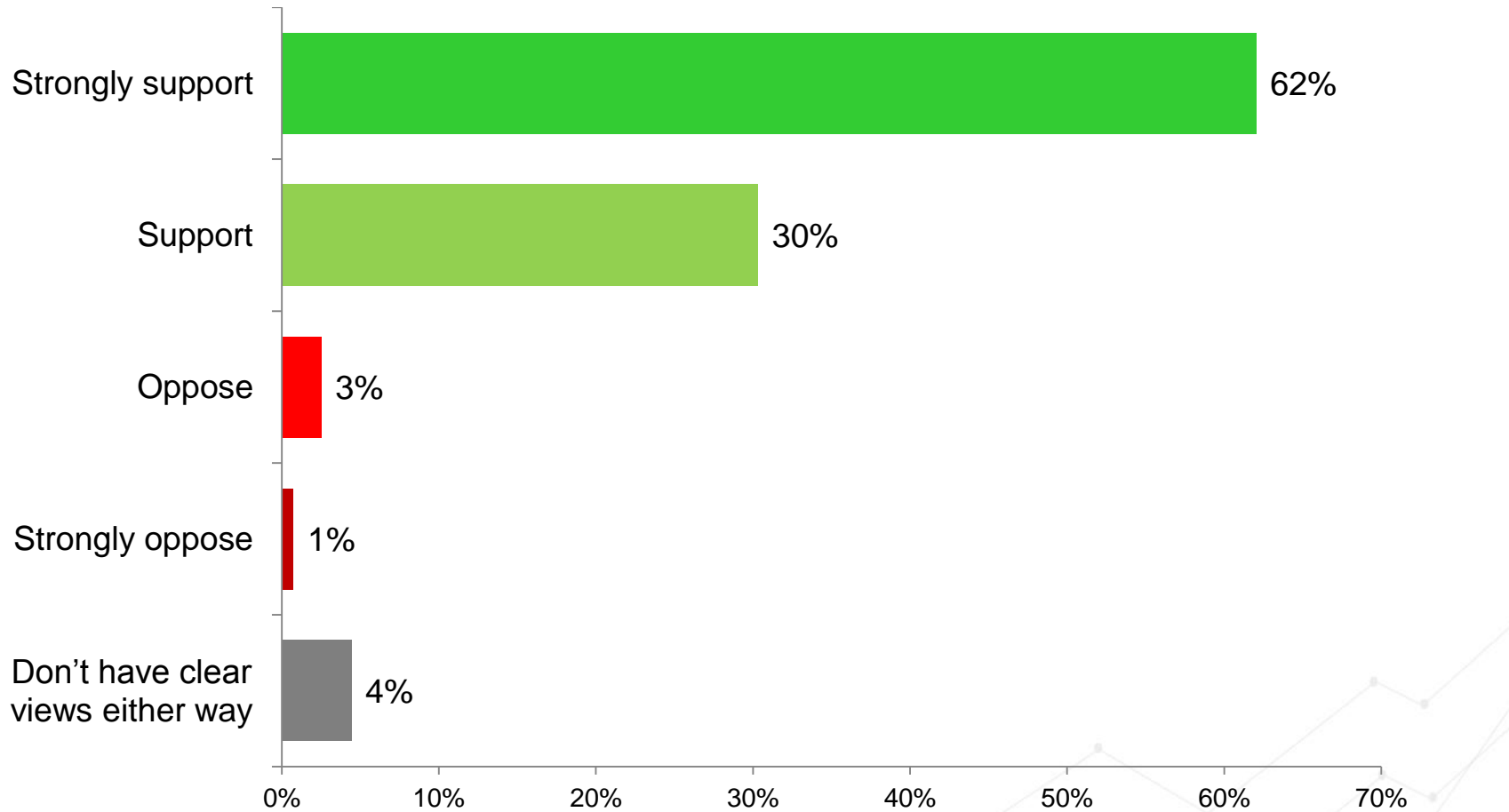
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Newfoundland and Labrador Specific Questions



Support for Government Funded Flu Shot

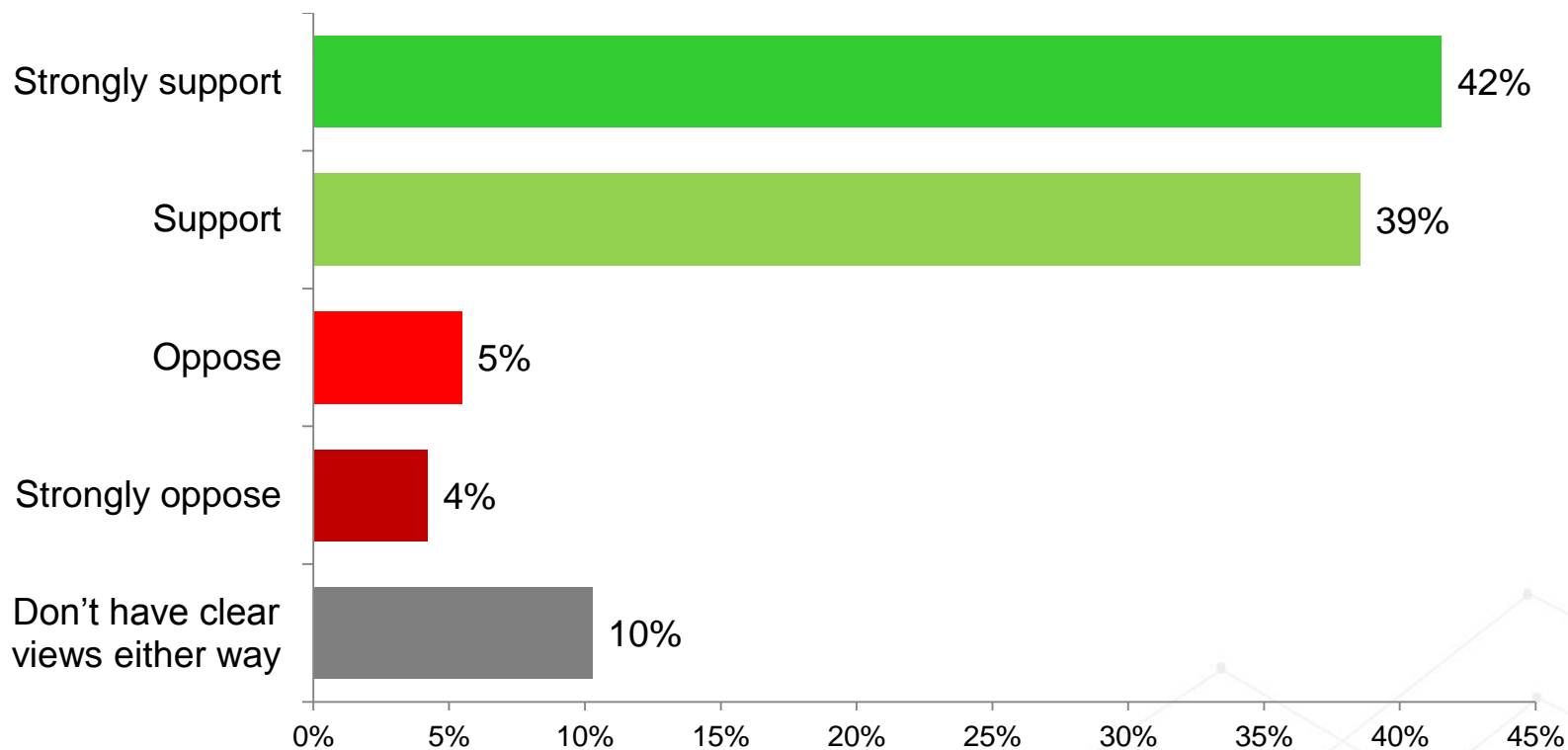
Would you support or oppose the provincial government changing its policy so that patients do not pay out of pocket for a flu shot, whether they receive it in a doctor's office, clinic or pharmacy?



Subsidizing Costs – Minor Ailments

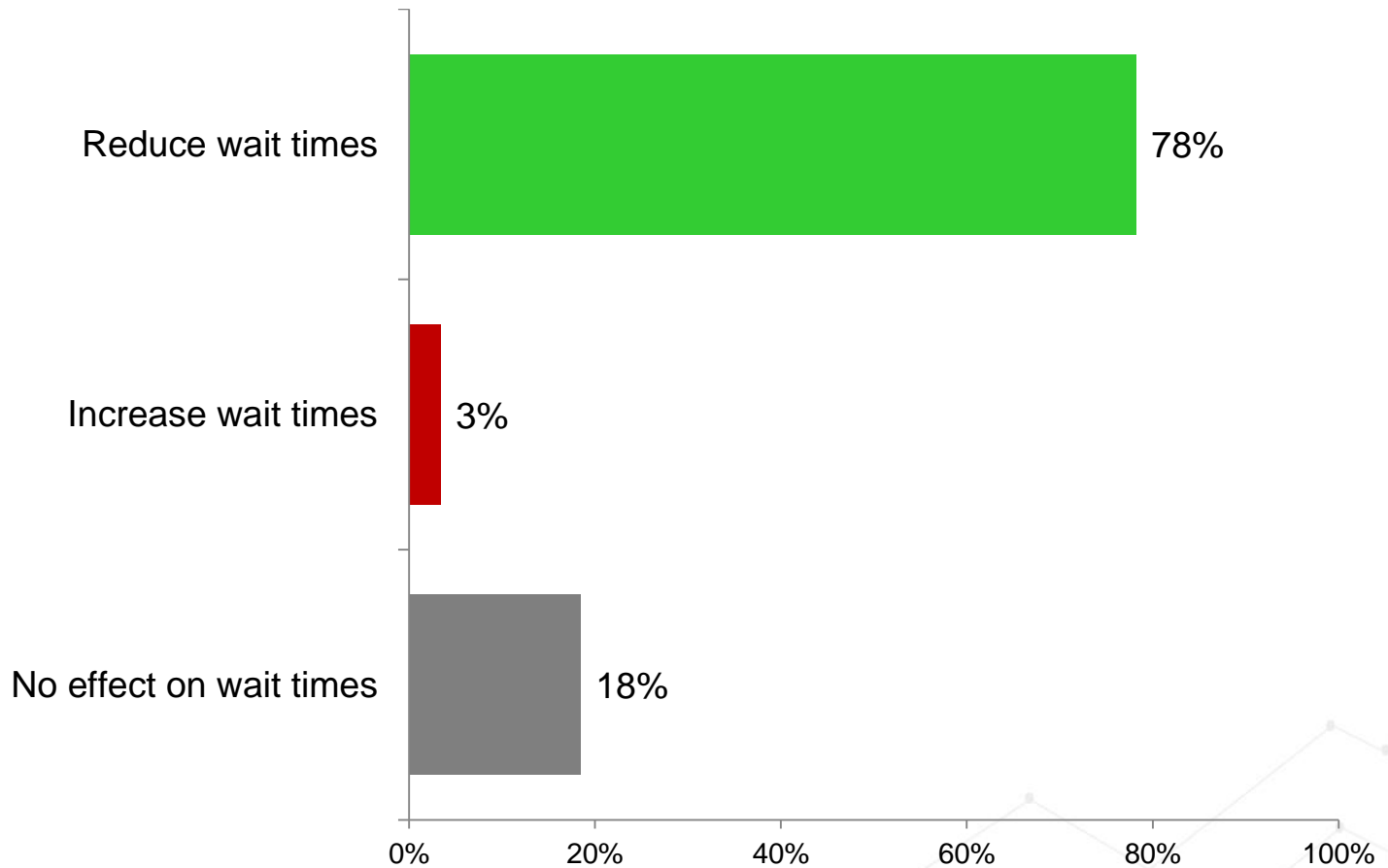
Recently, the province has authorized pharmacists to assess patients dealing with common ailments like sores and reflux and prescribe medications if needed. Currently, if a patient gets this assessment from a pharmacist, that patient has to pay a fee. If that same patient sees a doctor for an assessment, there is no fee or out of pocket costs.

Would you support or oppose the provincial government subsidizing the cost to patients who see a pharmacist for assessments and prescribing common ailments, which could allow doctors and emergency rooms to deal with more serious conditions?



Reducing Wait Times

If the fee to see a pharmacist to assess common ailments is covered by the provincial health plan, do you think it will help reduce wait times, will it increase wait times, or will it have no effect on wait times at doctors offices and emergency rooms?





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CONTACT INFO

David Coletto
CEO

david@abacusdata.ca

613-232-2806

www.abacusdata.ca