



Voice of Covid-19 Frontline Workers in Pakistan

A Gallup Pakistan Publication in collaboration with PIMA

**DOCTORS ON THE FRONTLINE OF CORONA
SEEK RESPECT AND CARE. 55% EXPECT
CORONA THREAT CAN LAST FOR LONGER
THAN A YEAR & ADVISE STRICTER
LOCKDOWN.**

Introduction to the Study

On July 17, 2020, Gallup Pakistan is releasing its **first public poll among doctors serving on the frontline of Corona pandemic.**

The nation-wide poll includes more than **400** randomly chosen **doctors of various ages, specialties and seniority levels.** It is the first poll of its kind in the country, and among only a handful conducted world-wide.

Collaboration with Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA)

The poll findings are being released jointly with **Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA)**, one of the different professional associations constituted by members of Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC). Support provided in not only reviewing the questionnaire but also pushing the questionnaire to be filled by a representative body of medical community by PIMA is pivotal to make this report a success.

In order to facilitate communication with around 200,000 practicing doctors of Pakistan, we would greatly welcome similar joint releases with other associations of the nation's community of doctors. **Gallup Pakistan is honored to provide a bridge to provide the views of doctors to the public, their patients, and in turn the views of the public, and those whom they treat to the medical community.**

Message from PIMA

"The current pandemic of COVID-19 has adversely affected & toppled the norms of the whole world & Healthcare system is no exception. Pakistan being a thirdly world country, is facing multiple challenges which not only have an impact on patients suffering from COVID-19 but also on the healthcare providers.

According to media reports more than 5000 health care professionals have contracted COVID-19 so far and around 60 health care professionals have lost their lives in the line of duty.

In order to get evidence-based insight about the stress, fears, shortage of PPEs & other difficulties faced by healthcare professionals, a survey was conducted by Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA) and Gallup Pakistan to tabulate the experience & views of the health care workers throughout Pakistan regarding their problems. This data will not only highlight their concerns but also provide an opportunity for policy makers to adopt a better strategy & future planning followed by its execution."

Professor Muhammad Afzal Mian
President PIMA
Pakistan

Further collaborations

Seminars and Roundtables;

Considering the centrality of doctors and the medical profession to the treatment of Corona, Gallup Pakistan would greatly welcome a series of seminars and roundtables, based on the findings of polls, with various collegial associations in the profession as well as medical universities and teaching institutions across the country. We would enthusiastically respond to institutions interested in joining hands in this public service activity.

Remote is our Special Preference;

Considering that Pakistan is a vast country and effective treatment is at the local level, we are particularly keen to seek collaboration with doctors at the provincial and district level, especially in the remote locations of Interior Sindh, Punjab, KP and in particular the vast expanse of Balochistan. We have a feeling of regret that the representation of Balochistan is not as adequate in this particular survey as we would have liked it to be.

Doctors on the frontline is not an abstract and cold expression. More doctors have given their lives to face the Corona threat than any other segment of Pakistani society. the casualty rate due to Corona could be several times more than the average number of per million corona related deaths in the country, of a total of around 200,000 practicing doctors in the country, the casualty rates specially among younger segment are alarming and deserve deep gratitude and sincere prayer from the over 200 million Pakistanis whom they serve. Their expectations experienced in this poll are not misplaced.

Executive Summary



8 Key Learnings from the Survey

- 1/ Practicing doctors advise caution and patience beyond current practices by the public and 2 in 3 advocate lockdown re-imposition/hardening.***
- 2/ 80% of more than 400 doctors followed by Gallup Pakistan have personally treated Corona patients in their cities, towns and rural hospitals, dispensaries and private clinics.***
- 3/ A majority of 58% are not satisfied with their protective gears and even more are worried about same for other staff members***
- 4/ Availability of ventilators is less of a concern for most health professionals in the country.***
- 5/ 6 in 10 doctors interviewed poorly rate Pakistan's response to Covid. Dissatisfaction lowest in Punjab where close to majority are satisfied with Pakistan's response to Covid.***
- 6/ A significant majority believe media unjustly criticizes doctors (66%) only 33% say they receive praise in the media***
- 7/ 4 in 10 doctors feel public does not respect them as doctors . Feeling of disrespect higher among Sindh doctors and among female doctors.***
- 8/ Hospital Management most poorly rated in terms of performance over the past 2 months showing significant dissatisfaction among Doctors and hospitals, which could potentially be lowering their performance and reducing engagement levels.***

Executive Summary

- ❑ 4 in 5 doctors that were surveyed have attended **COVID-19** patients so the burden of the epidemic on healthcare services is clearly visible and the rising concerns that the system may be unable to meet the required capacity cannot be ignored.
- ❑ Almost half of the doctors are concerned that the existing safety/protective measures are either bad or not present at all. The expressed concern is worse for other healthcare professionals like nurses and technical staff. This is another indication of why the health system should do more investment in the nursing and allied staff and services.
- ❑ The responses on the questions on the quality of specific things like masks, gloves, gowns show reasonable quality but issues regarding availability of more sophisticated items like face shields have also been raised.



Executive Summary

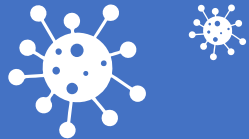


- ❑ Doctors consider the government to be the most responsible for providing protective equipment. This is followed by the hospitals and then the doctors themselves.
- ❑ There is a significant difference in the self-reported performance of doctors themselves and their view of the performance of the hospital management (bad performance of 5% vs. 40%) during COVID-19. 60% are satisfied by the overall performance of the country in this regard.
- ❑ Majority doctors are aware that the pandemic will last for several months and are in favour of a prolonged lockdown in the country. Again it would be interesting to see how it compares with the general public's response on these questions.

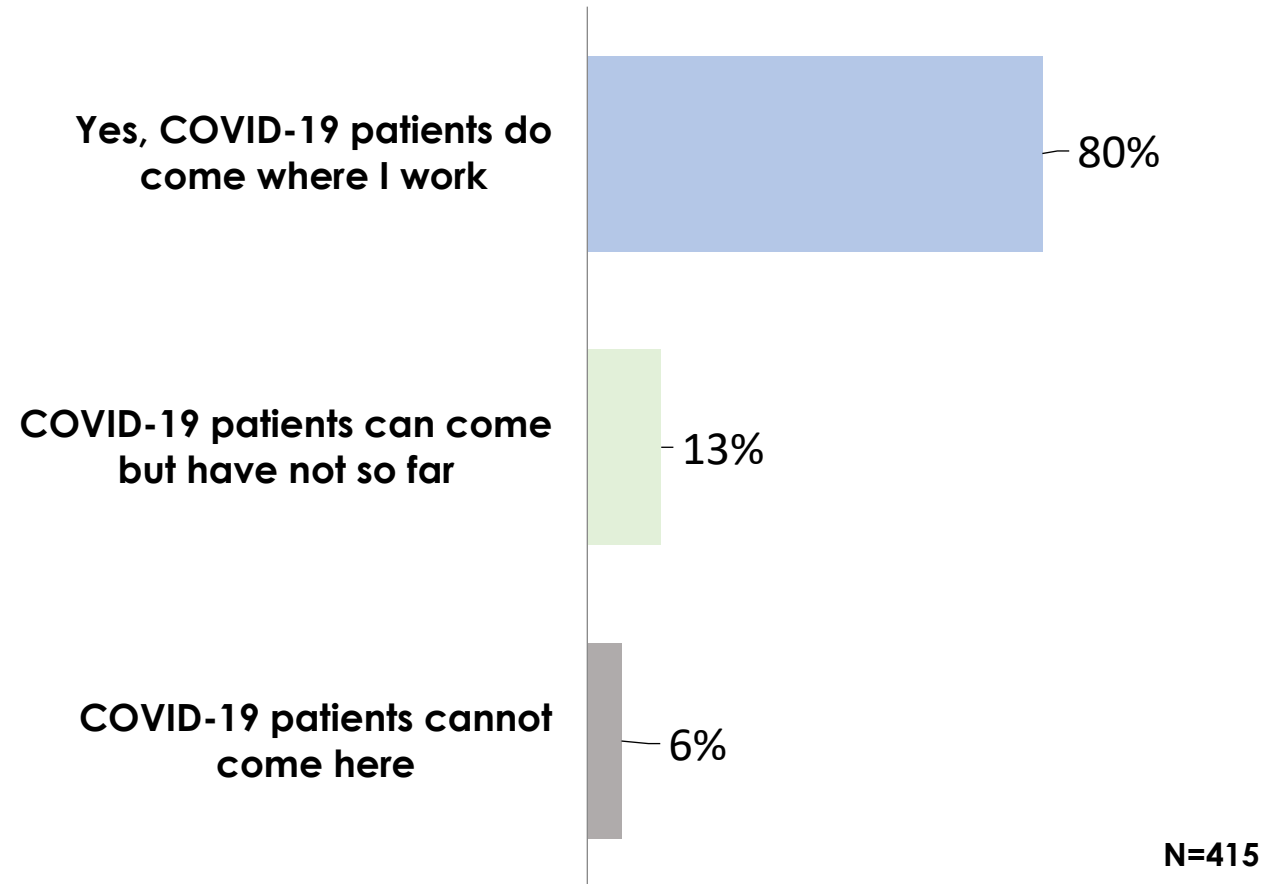
Detailed Findings



An overwhelming majority,
80% of health professionals
interviewed say that COVID-
19 patients are likely to
come in for treatment at
their hospital/clinic



Do you work at any such place where COVID-19 patients come for treatment or are likely to come for treatment?



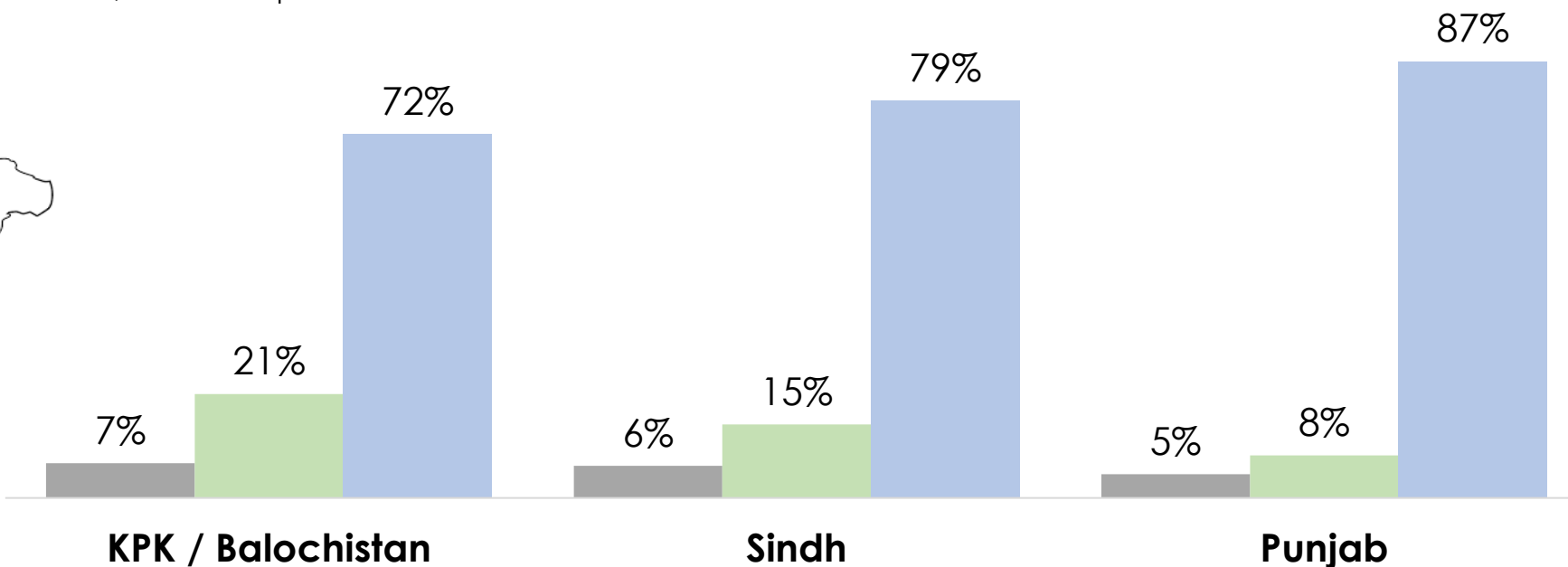
Balochistan/KP health professionals (21%) reporting that although patients can come but they are not coming for COVID treatment at their institution

Do you work at any such place where COVID-19 patients come for treatment or are likely to come for treatment?

■ COVID-19 patients cannot come here

■ COVID-19 patients can come but have not so far

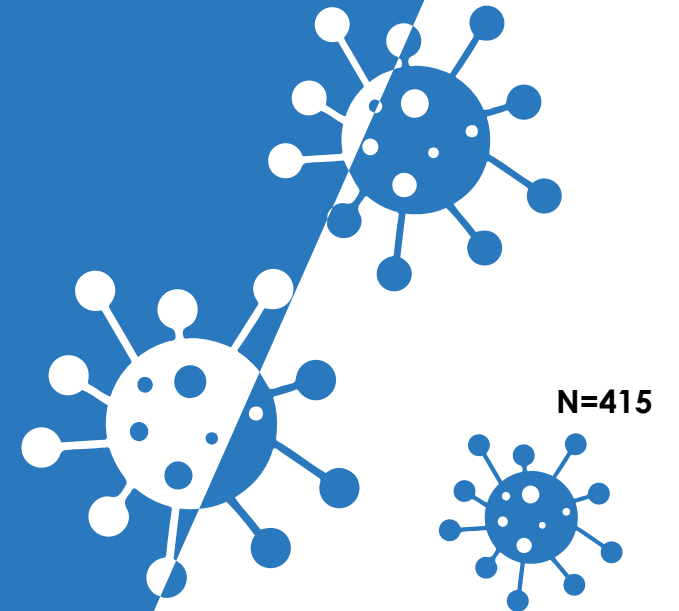
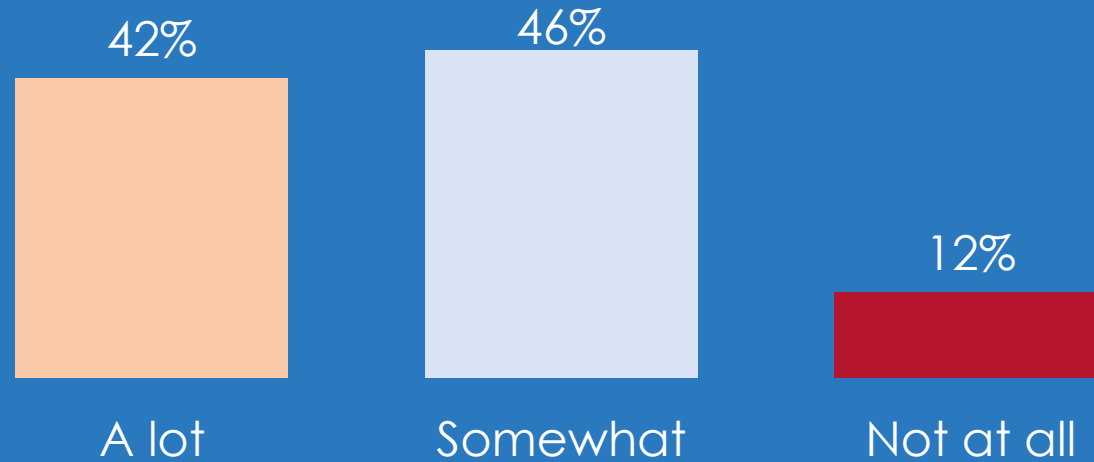
■ Yes, COVID-19 patients do come where I work



N=415

88% health professionals have either come across or attended a COVID-19 patient

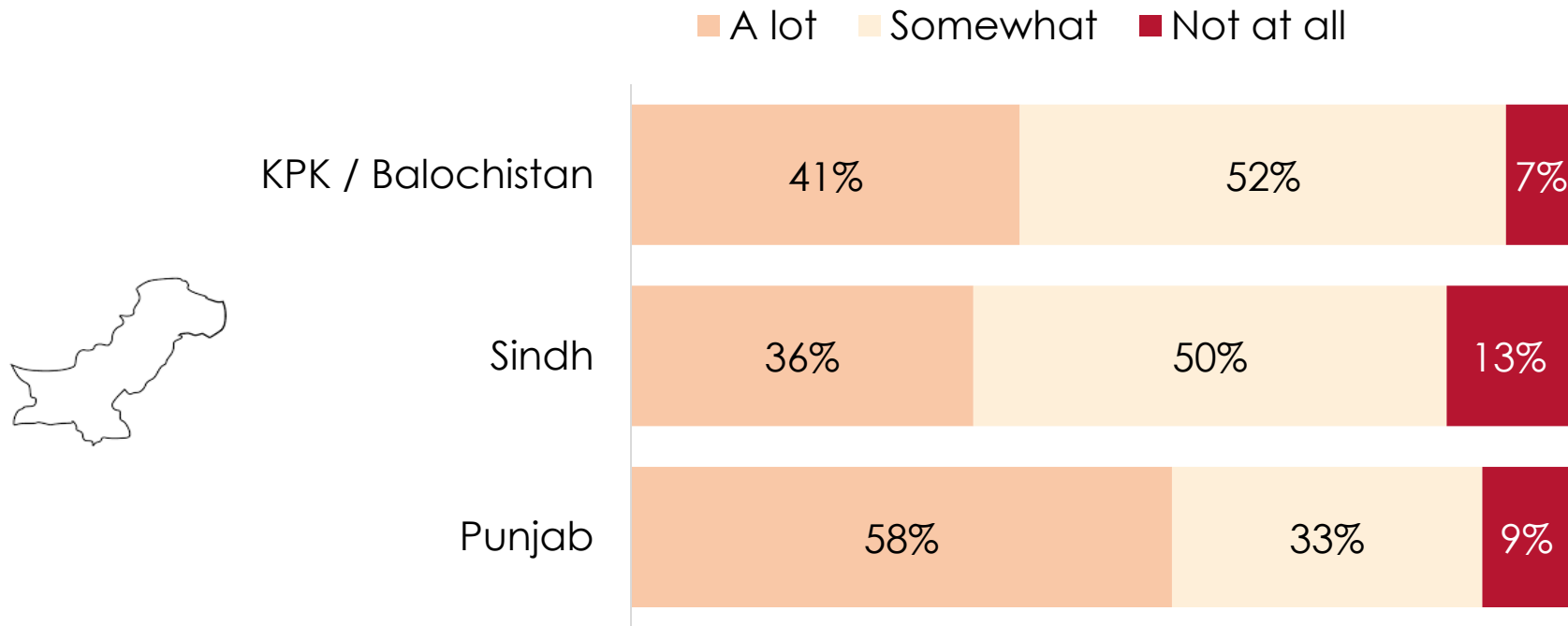
Have you come across or attended a COVID-19 patient as a doctor/health professional?



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Significantly more health professionals from Punjab report attending COVID-19 patients than professionals from other provinces: 58% from Punjab as opposed to 36% in Sindh and 41% in Balochistan/KP report seeing COVID patients

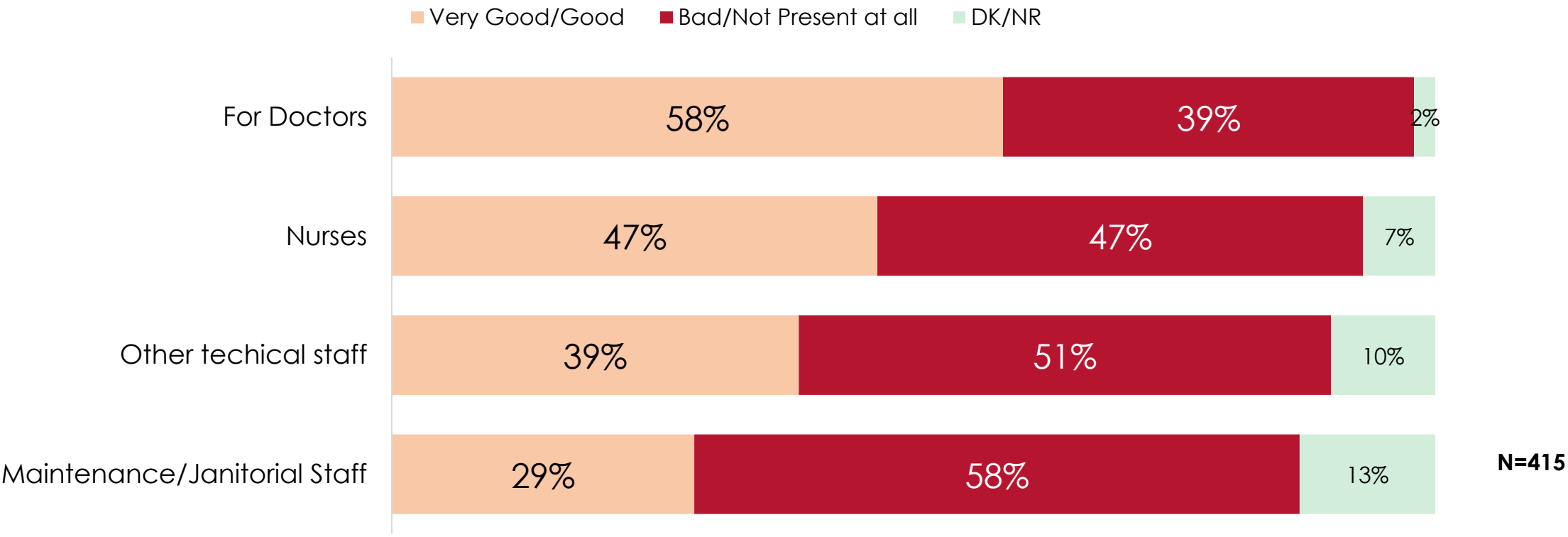
Have you come across or attended a COVID-19 patient as a doctor/health professional?



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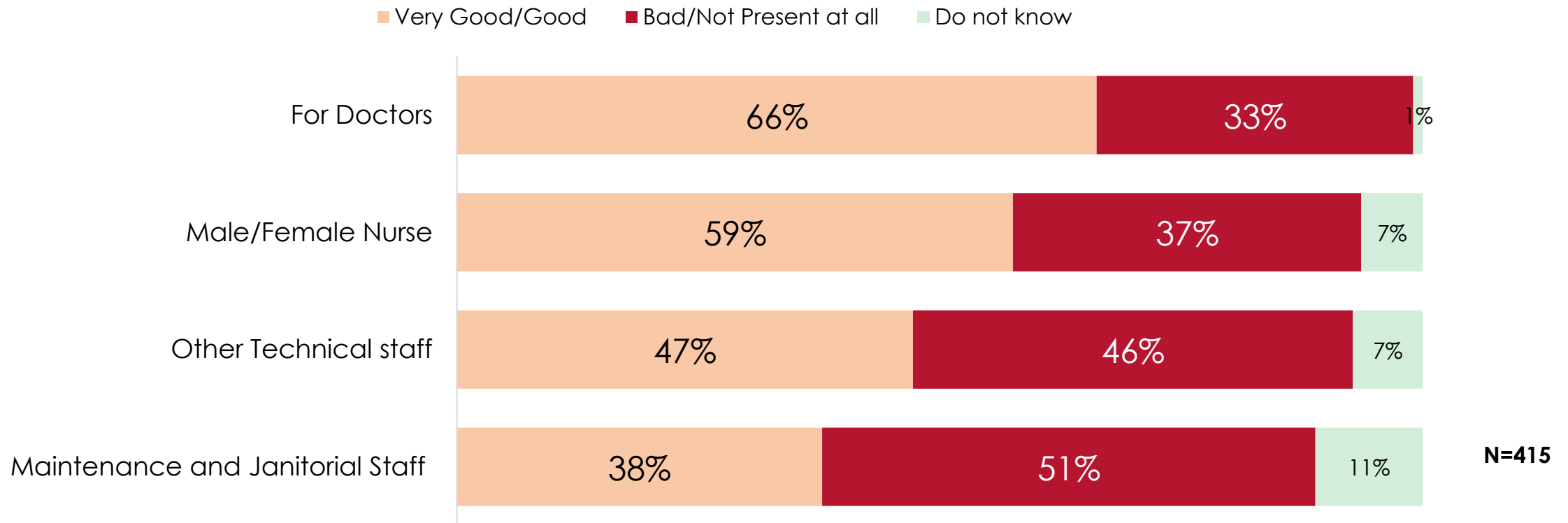
Majority of doctors 58% feel that doctors have reasonable protective gears for the themselves. However, their confidence about protective equipment for nurses, technical staff and janitorial staff is quite different and they feel that the lower one is in hierarchy the less protective equipment they have

In your opinion, do doctors and medical staff in Pakistani hospitals have the necessary protective gears/ measures to protect themselves? In your opinion are these protective measures good or bad?



66% doctors opine that adequate safety/protective measures are in place for them at their hospitals/clinics. 1 in 3 say otherwise. Doctors express most dissatisfaction with safety measures in place for maintenance and janitorial staff

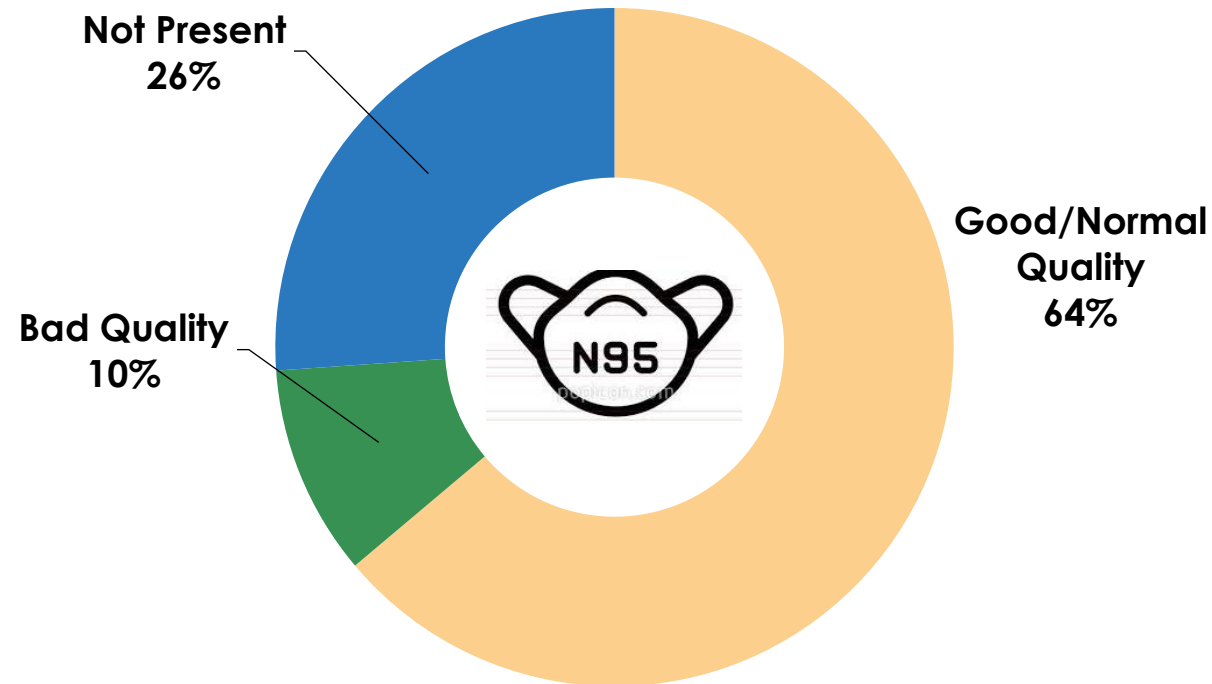
Are there safety/ protective measures for your protection in the hospital/clinic where you work at? Are those measures very good, good or bad?



64% of respondents believe that the N95 respirator masks available for their protection are either good or normal quality, while 26% say they are not available at all

What are the measures/gears available for your protection against the coronavirus and how is their standard?

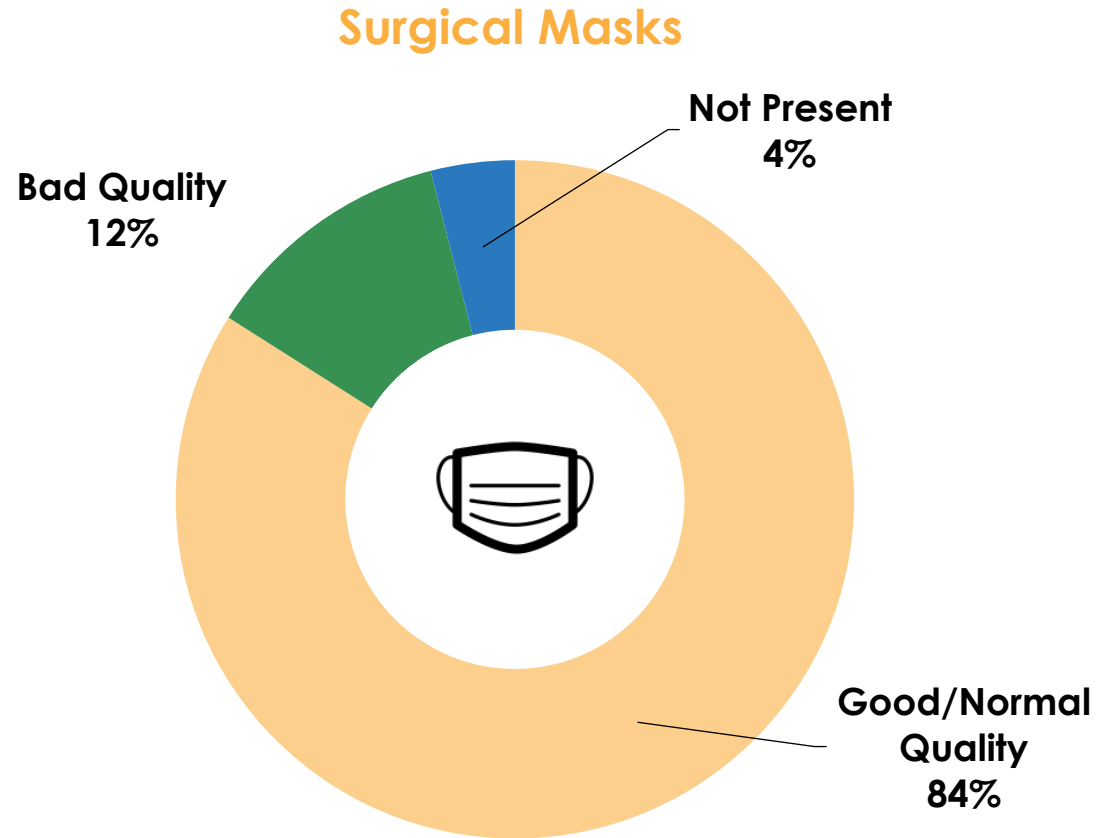
N95 Respirator Masks



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84% of respondents believe that the surgical masks available for their protection are good/normal quality

What are the measures/gears available for your protection against the coronavirus and how is their standard?



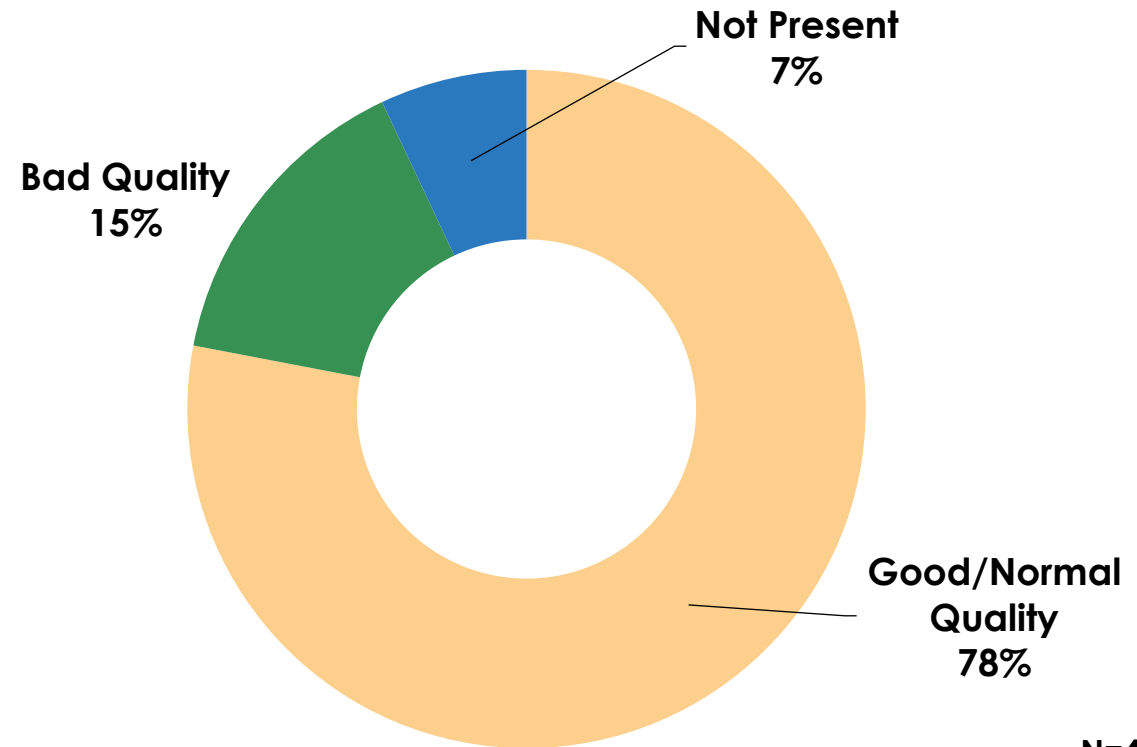
N=415

78% health professionals say that the sanitizers available for their protection are either good or normal quality. 15% opine they are bad quality

What are the measures/gears available for your protection against the coronavirus and how is their standard?



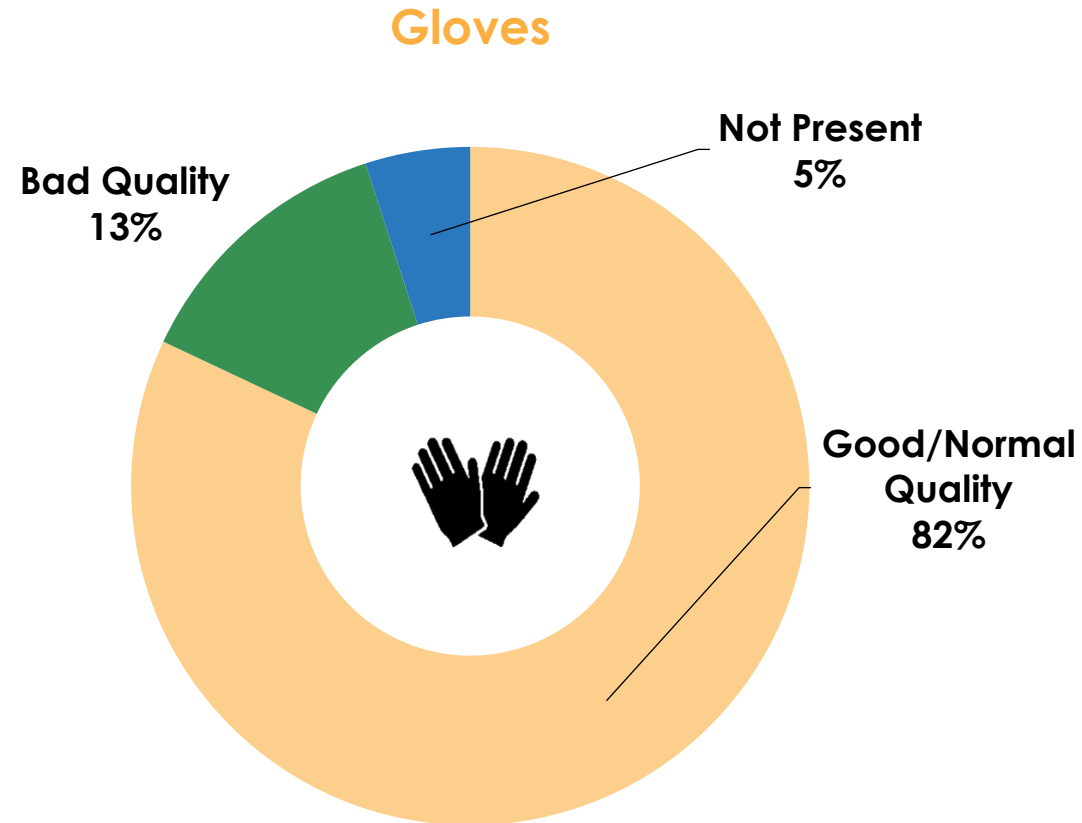
Alcohol-based Sanitizers



N=415

4 in 5 health professionals (82%) say that the gloves available for them are good/normal quality

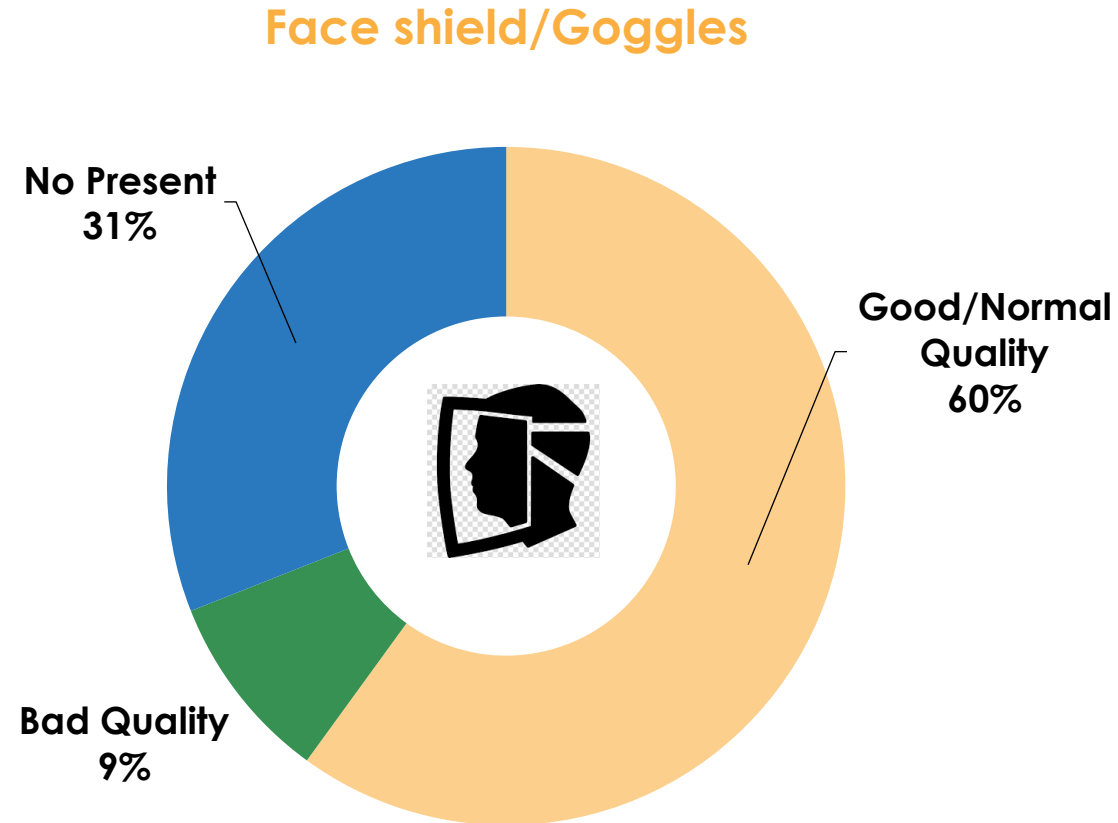
What are the measures/gears available for your protection against the coronavirus and how is their standard?



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31% health professionals dealing with COVID-19 patients say that face shields and goggles are not available to them at all

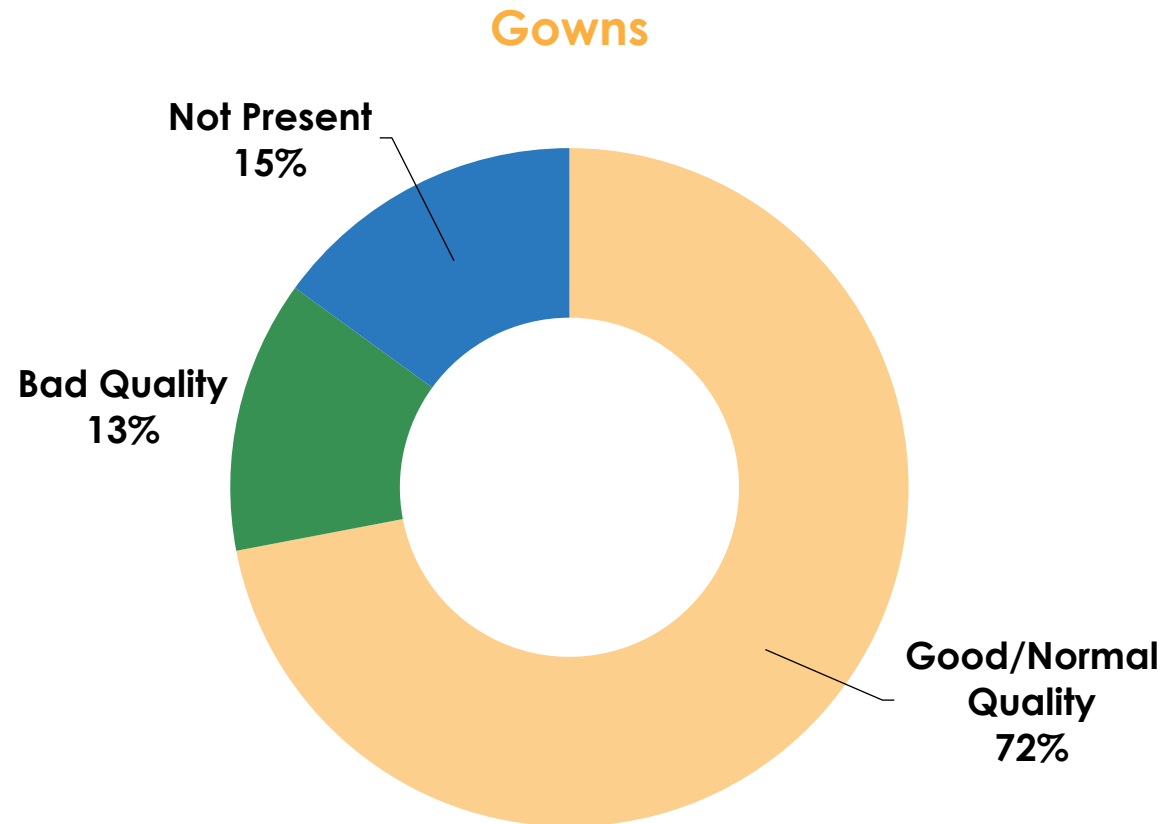
What are the measures/gears available for your protection against the coronavirus and how is their standard?



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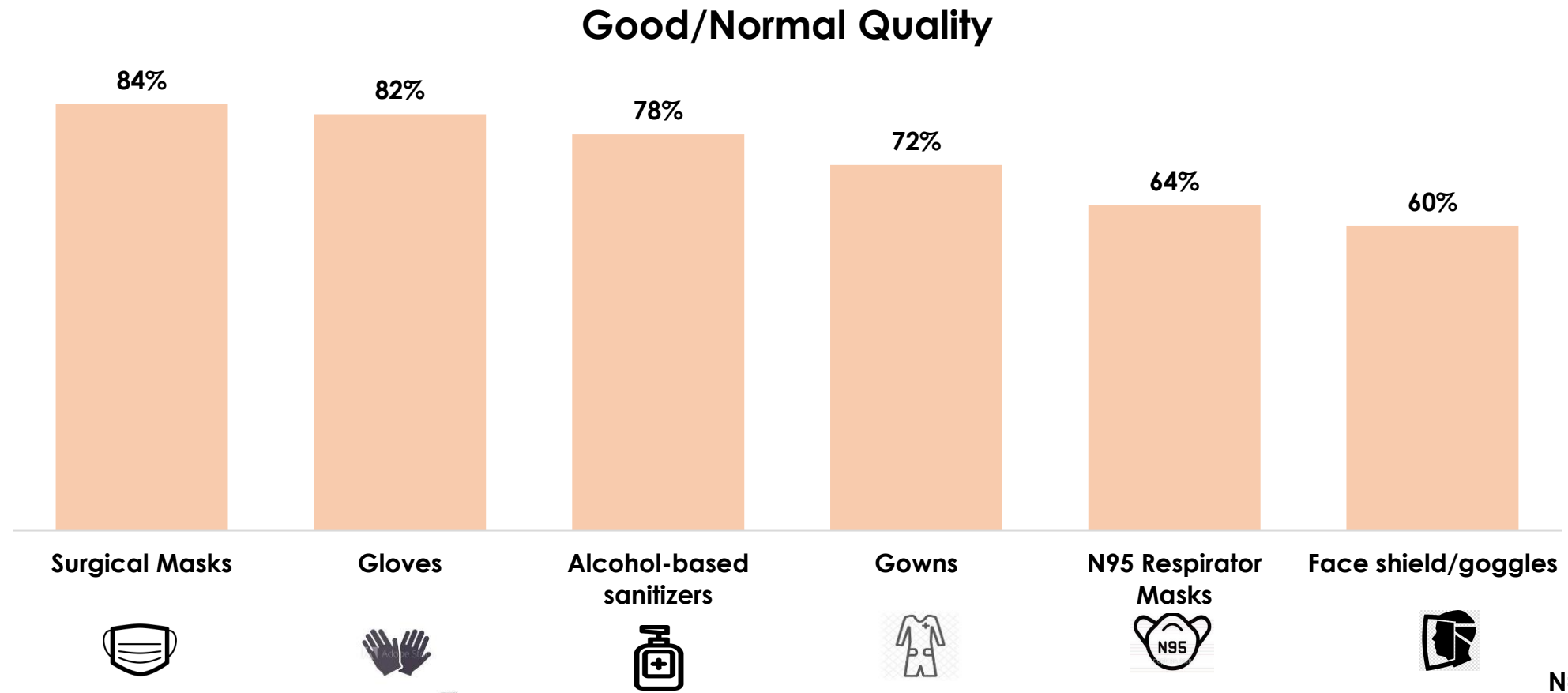
72% of doctors dealing with COVID-19 patients say that gowns available for them are of good / normal quality. Whereas 15% said they are not even available

What are the measures/gears available for your protection against the coronavirus and how is their standard?

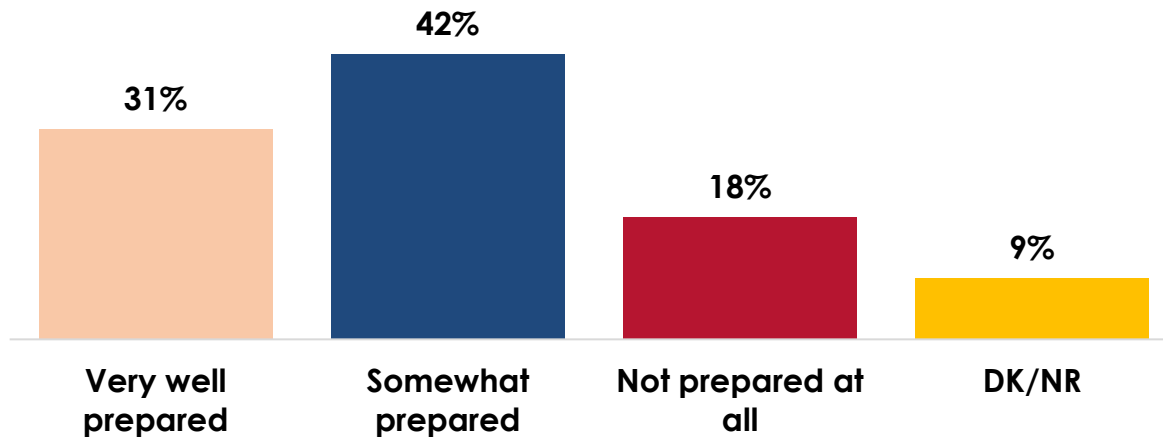


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4 in 5 health professionals are satisfied with quality of surgical masks and gloves available to them. Significantly lower proportion did not have a good opinion regarding availability and standard of N95 masks and face shields for them



Is your hospital prepared to provide ventilator facilities for severe corona cases?



Very well prepared / Somewhat prepared



N=415

Punjab

76%

KPK / Balochistan

72%

Sindh

71%

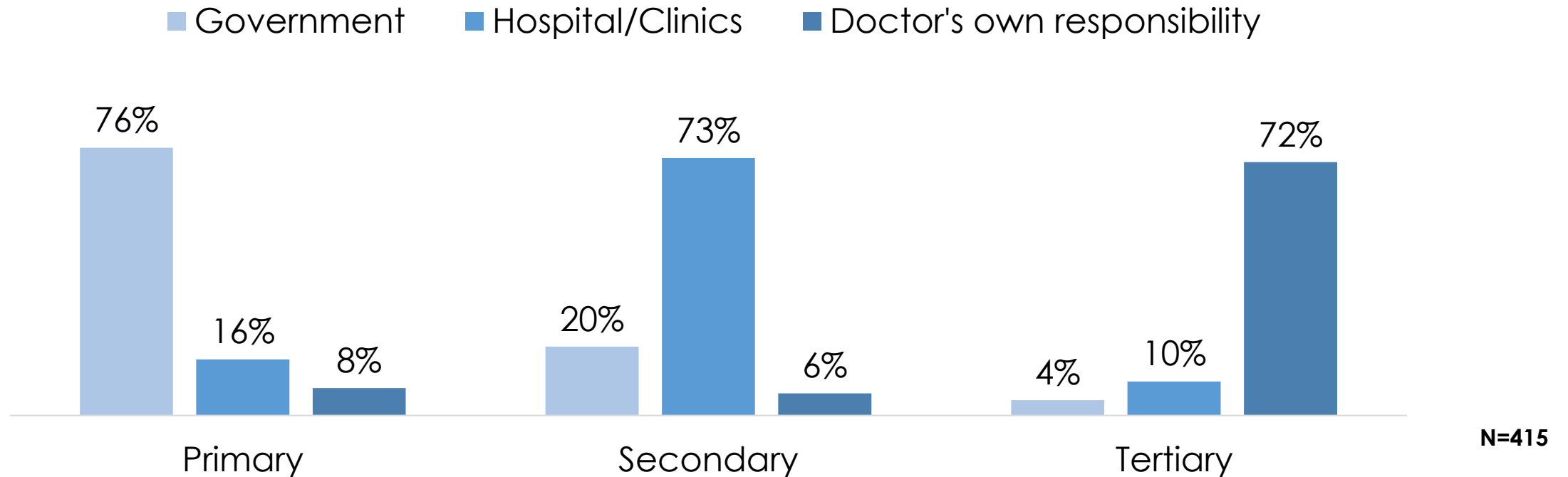
Availability of Ventilators:

73% doctors are confident that their hospital is equipped to provide ventilator facilities for severe Corona patients. 1 in 5 doctors say otherwise

Highest proportion of respondents from Punjab believe that their hospitals are prepared to provide ventilator facilities

3 in 4 health professionals opine that ensuring safety/ protective measures for doctors is primarily the government's responsibility. 25% believe it is the hospital's primary responsibility

In your opinion, whose responsibility is it to ensure safety/protective measures for doctors? Whose responsibility is it foremost, secondly and thirdly?

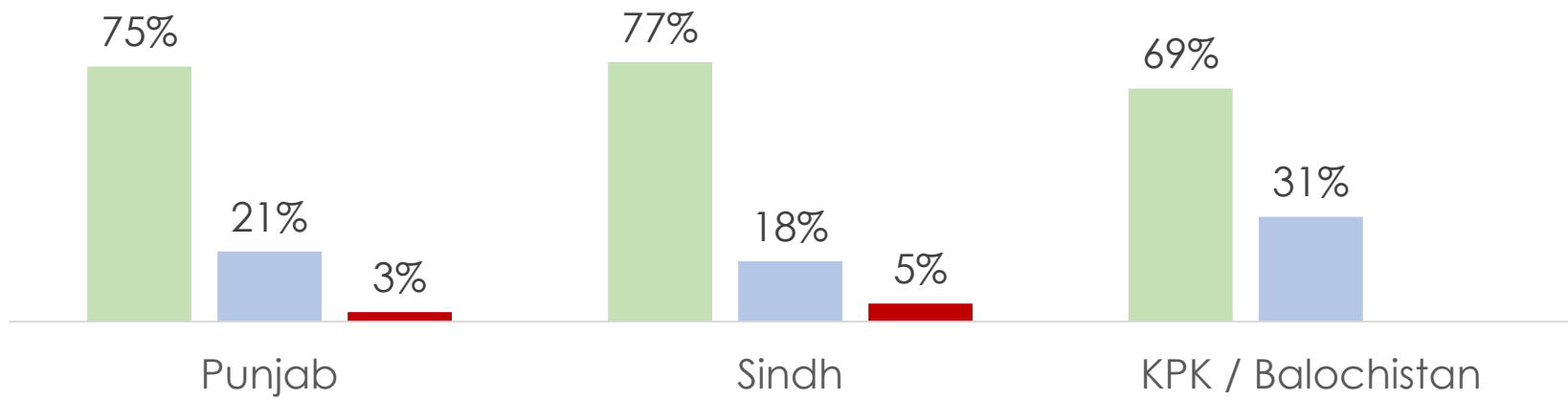


Majority health professionals from all provinces unanimously say that ensuring safety/protective measures for doctors is primarily the government's responsibility. Relatively higher proportion from KP and Balochistan (31%) believe it is the hospital's primary responsibility

In your opinion, whose responsibility is it to ensure safety/protective measures for doctors? Whose responsibility is it foremost, secondly and thirdly?

Foremost/Primary responsibility

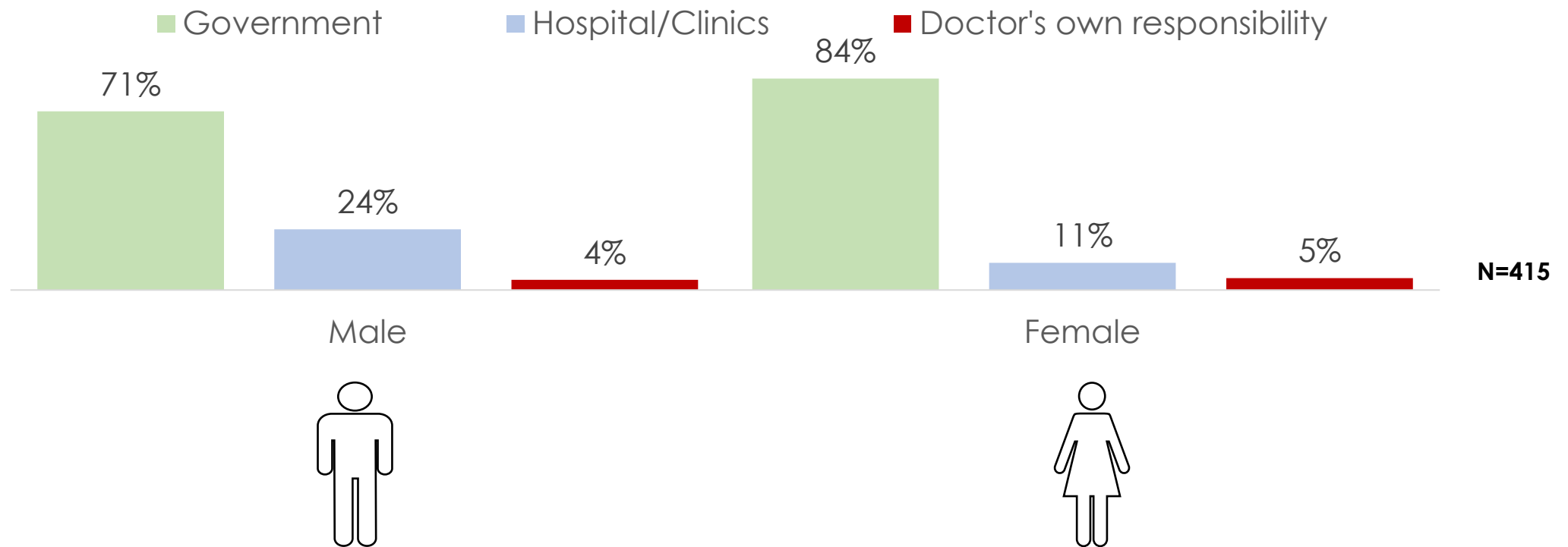
Government Hospital/Clinics Doctor's own responsibility



N=415

More female than male doctors opine that ensuring safety/protective measures for doctors is primarily the government's responsibility. Male doctors more likely to say it is their hospital's primary responsibility

In your opinion, whose responsibility is it to ensure safety/protective measures for doctors? Whose responsibility is it foremost, secondly and thirdly?



44% respondents say that the overall performance of doctors w.r.t tackling Coronavirus over the past two months has been very good. 36% opine the same about the performance of nurses

In your opinion, how has the overall performance of doctors and medical staff been in the past 2 months to tackle coronavirus?

Doctors



■ Very Good ■ Good ■ Bad ■ Very Bad

Nurses



■ Very Good ■ Good ■ Bad ■ Very Bad ■ DK/NR

N=415

Only 12% doctors regard the overall performance of hospital management w.r.t tackling Coronavirus over the past two months as very good

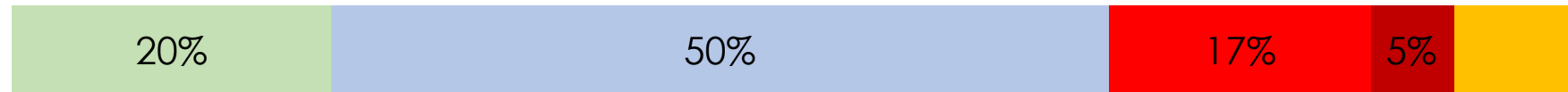
In your opinion, how has the overall performance of doctors and medical staff been in the past 2 months to tackle coronavirus?

Hospital Management



■ Very Good ■ Good ■ Bad ■ Very Bad ■ DK/NR

**Other Staff
(Maintenance & Janitorial Staff)**



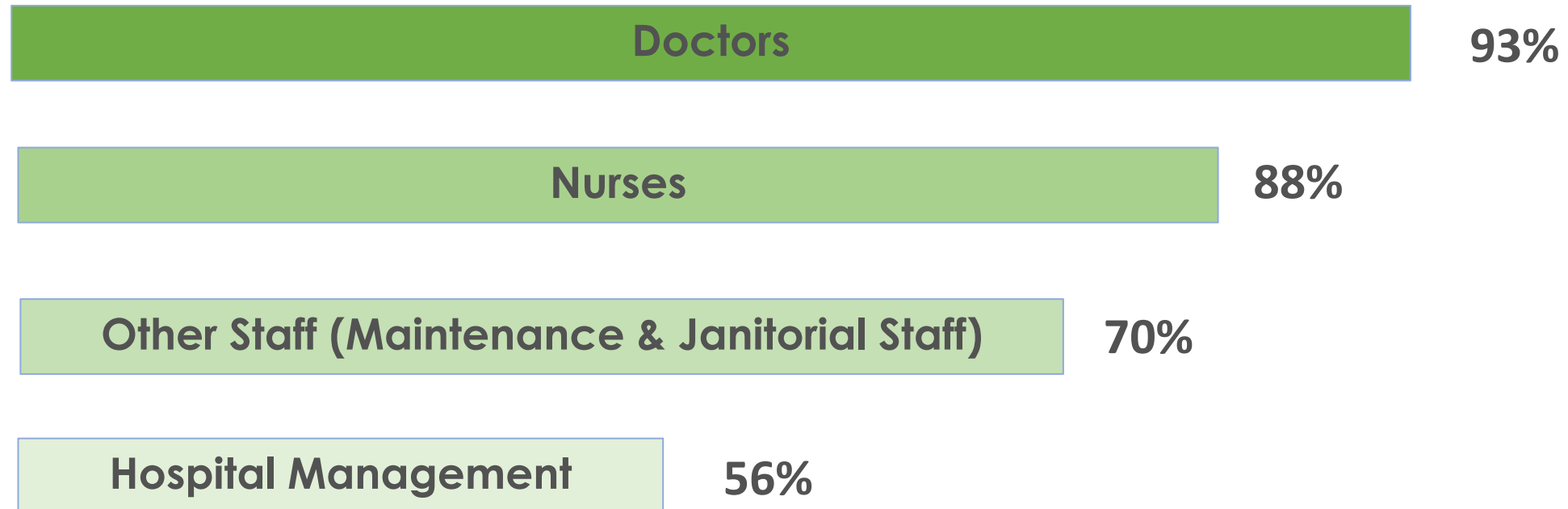
■ Very Good ■ Good ■ Bad ■ Very Bad ■ DK/NR

N=415

There is a significant difference in the self-reported performance of doctors themselves and their view of the performance of the hospital management

In your opinion, how has the overall performance of doctors and medical staff been in the past 2 months to tackle coronavirus?

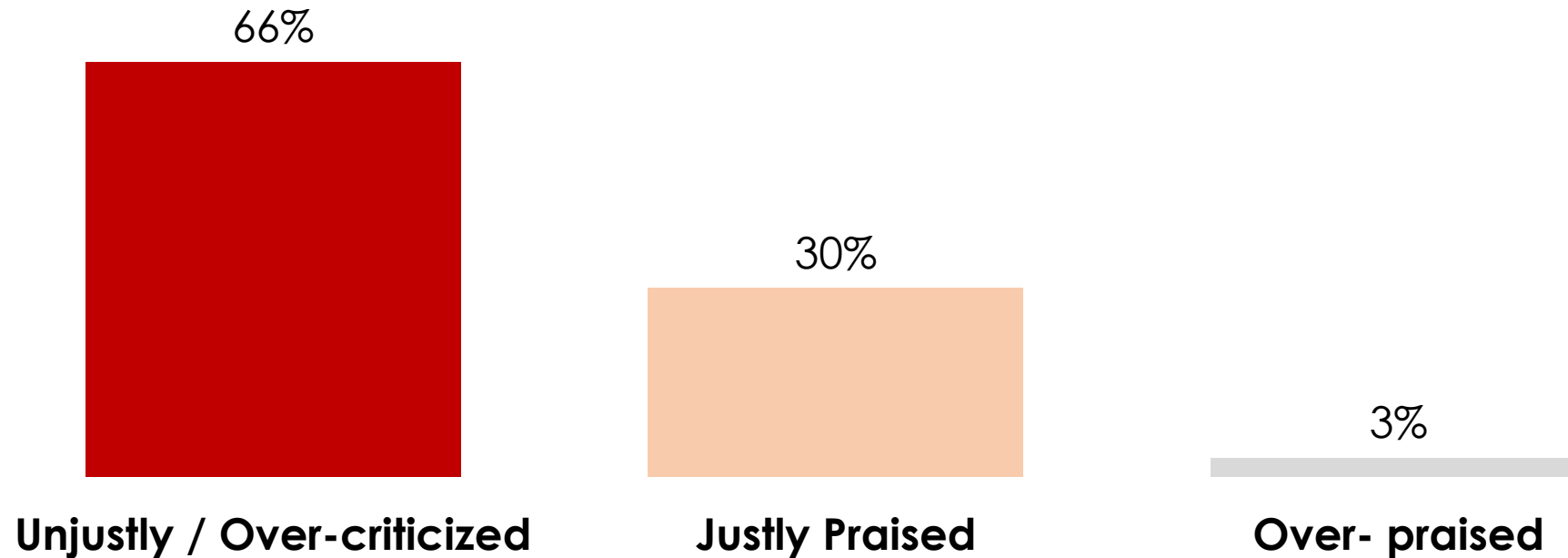
Very Good/Good



N=415

2 in 3 % health professionals opine that efforts of the medical and health staff are unjustly criticized by media. 30% say they receive due praise

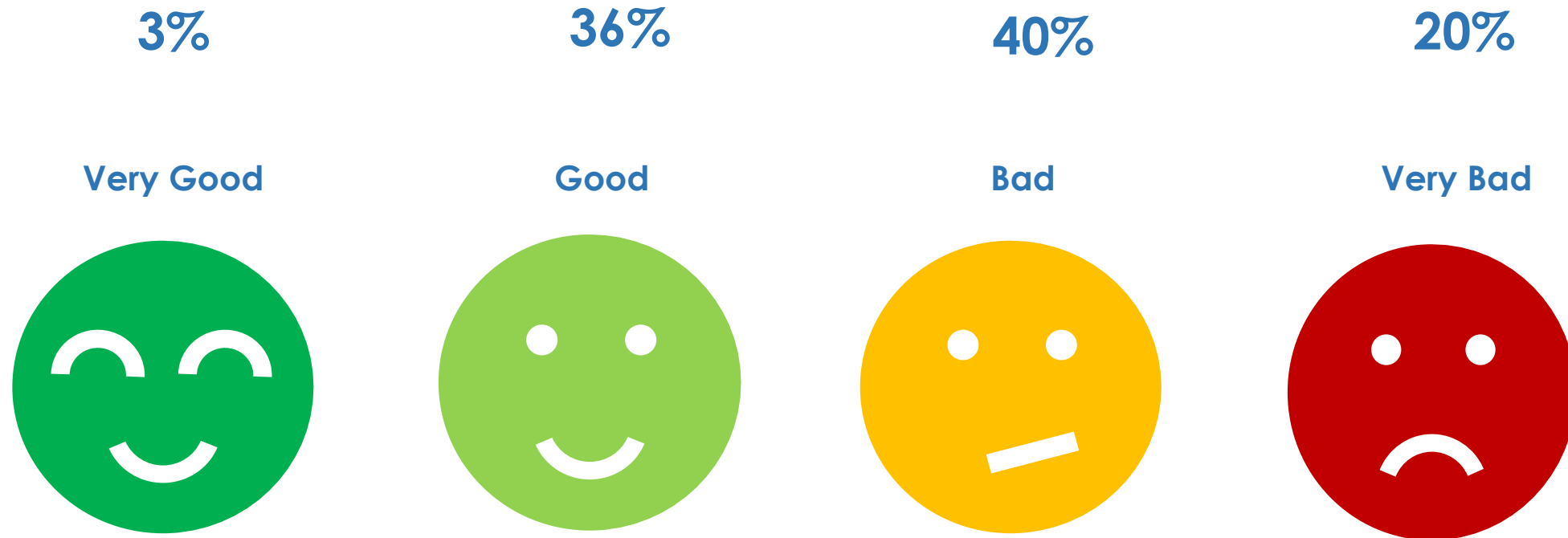
In your opinion, do medical and health staff receive due praise in media over their efforts or are they criticized? Meaning they are praised justly, unjustly criticized or overly praised?



N=415

2 in 5 health professionals (39%) are satisfied with Pakistan's overall performance in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic & providing patients with necessary facilities

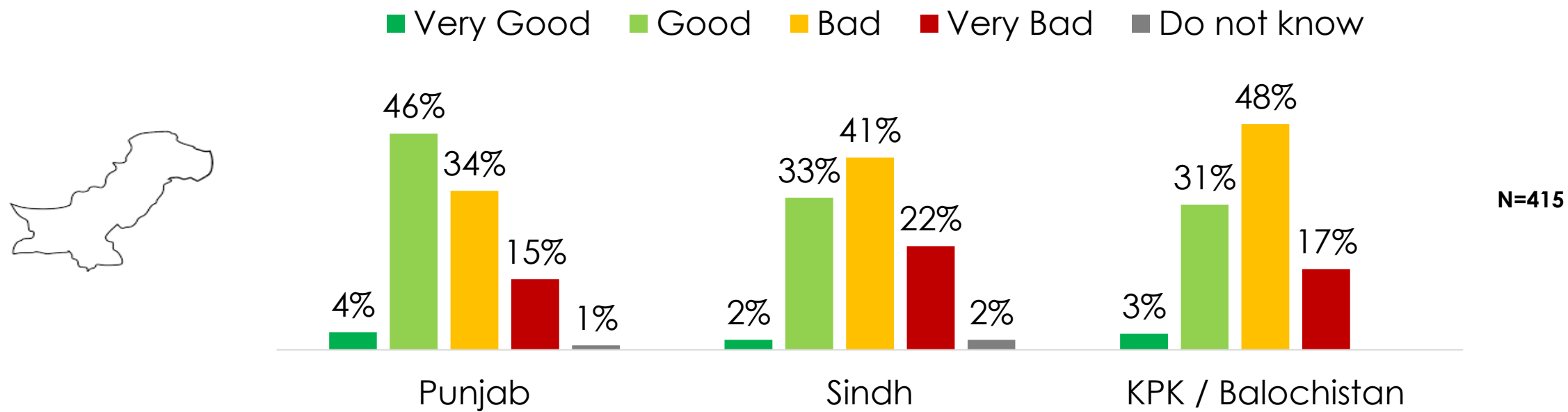
In your opinion, how has Pakistan's overall performance been in tackling the coronavirus pandemic with respect to tackling and providing patients with the necessary facilities?



N=415

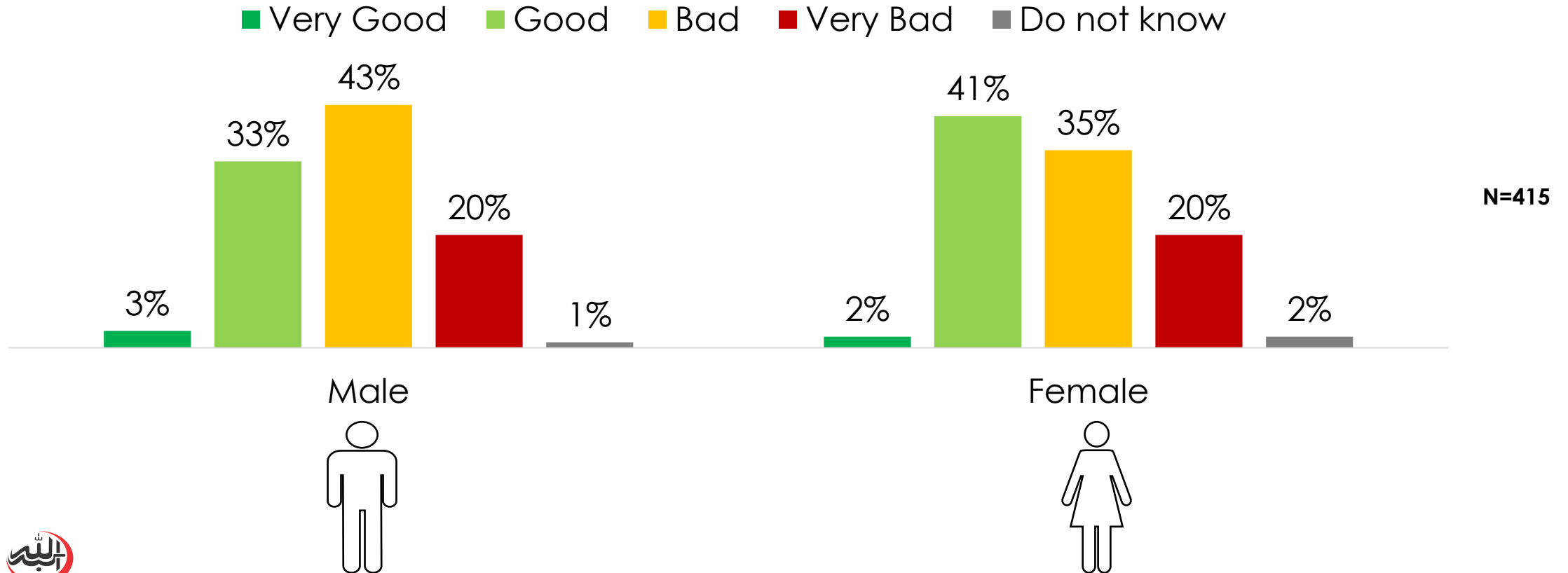
Nearly 2 in 3 doctors from KP/Balochistan (65%) say that Pakistan's overall performance in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic & providing patients with necessary facilities has been bad/very bad

In your opinion, how has Pakistan's overall performance been in tackling the coronavirus pandemic with respect to tackling and providing patients with the necessary facilities?



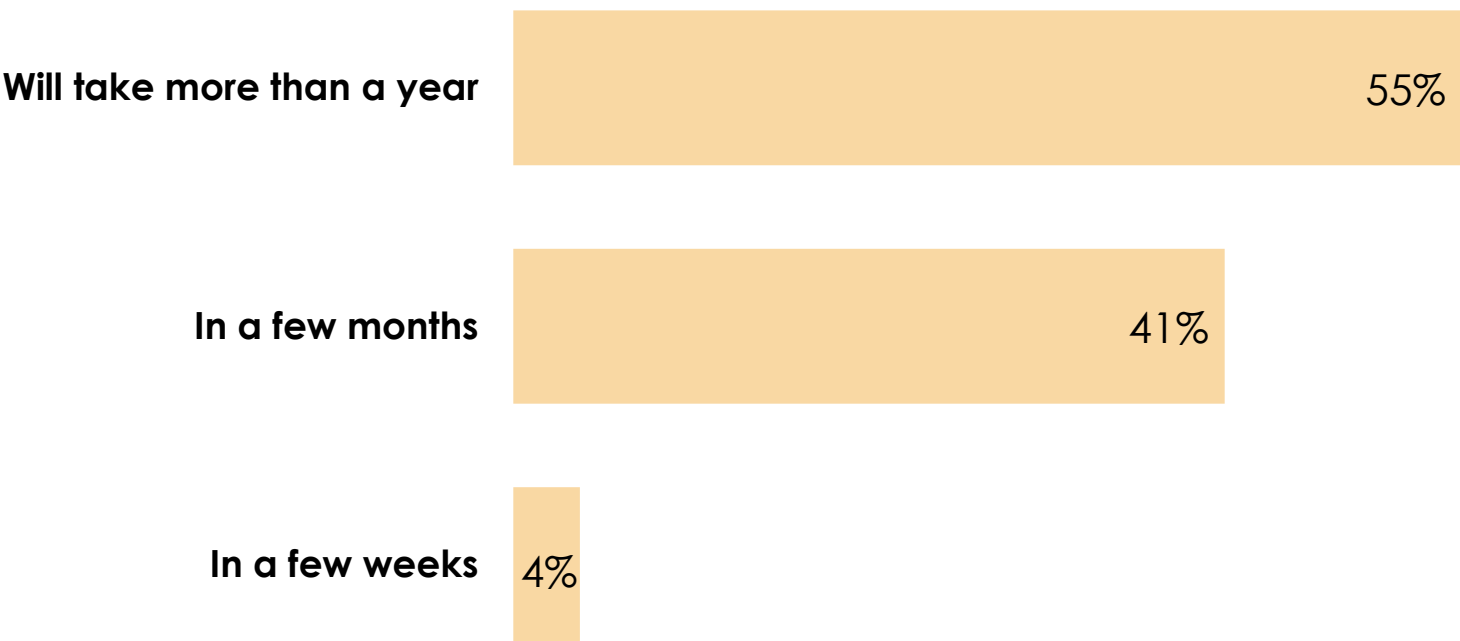
Significantly higher proportion of male (63%) than female doctors (55%) consider Pakistan's overall performance in tackling with the COVID-19 pandemic & providing patients with necessary facilities as bad/very bad

In your opinion, how has Pakistan's overall performance been in tackling the coronavirus pandemic with respect to tackling and providing patients with the necessary facilities?



1 in 2 doctors (55%) believe that it will take more than a year to control the COVID-19 pandemic around the world

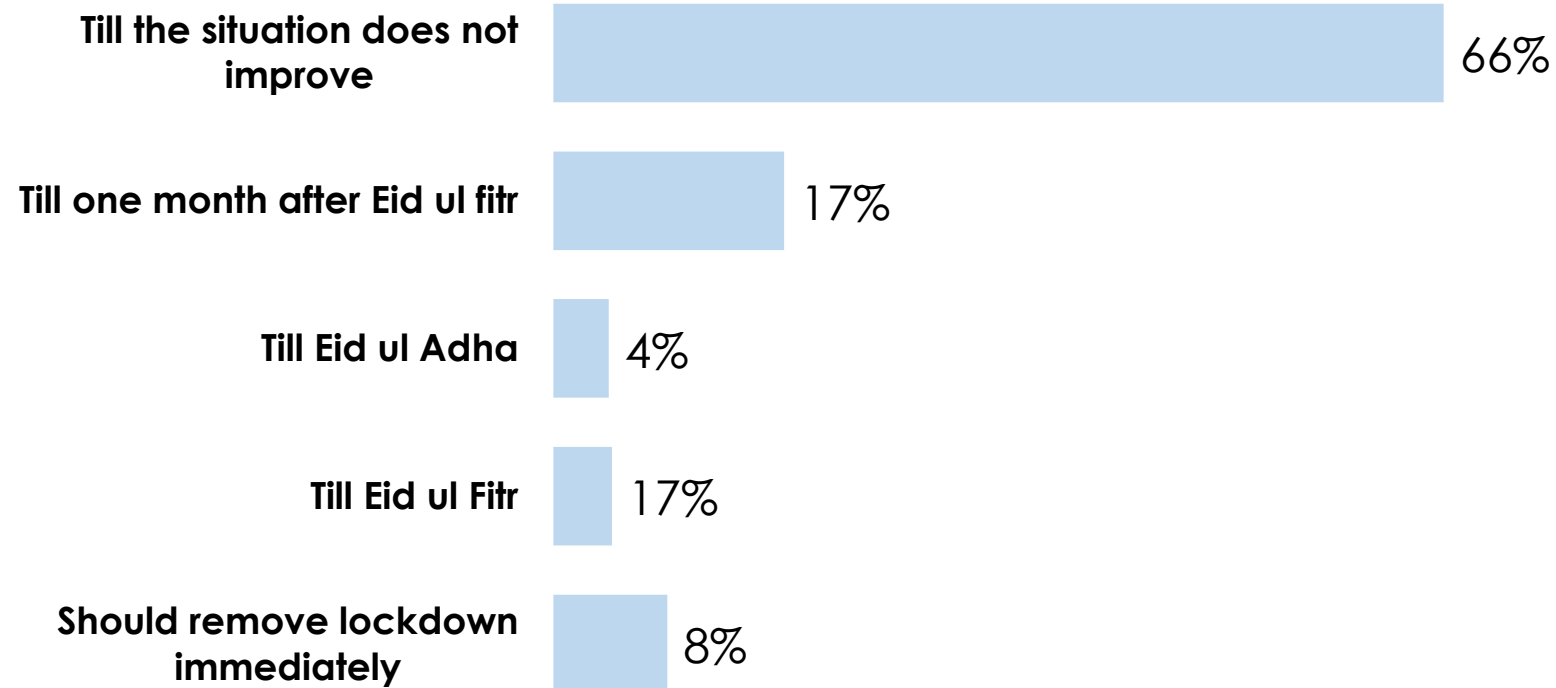
*In your opinion, by when will the world be able to control this pandemic overall?
(Meaning emergency situation will be lifted)*



N=415

66% of doctors say that a lockdown should be imposed till the COVID-19 situation does not improve

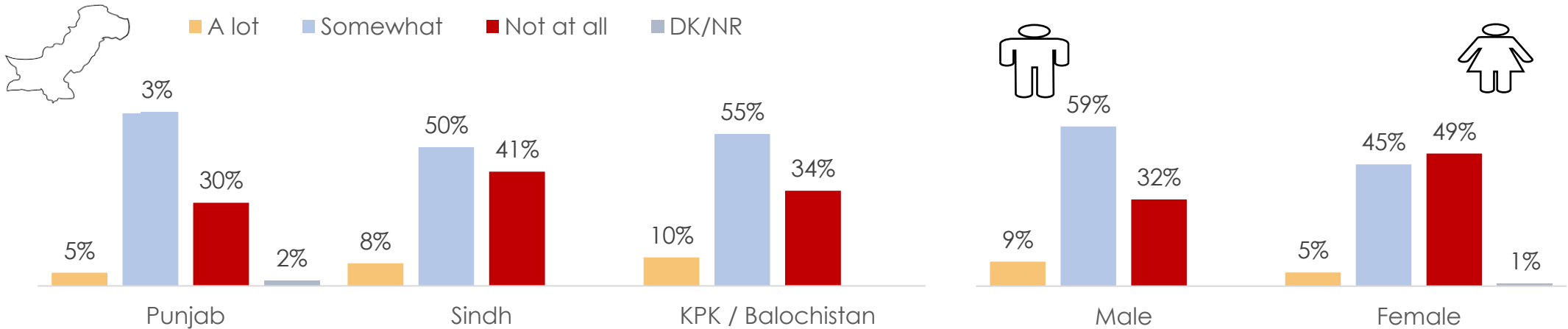
In your opinion, till when should the lockdown be imposed in our country?



Nearly 2 in 5 health professionals in Pakistan feel that the general public does not respect doctors.
Those from Sindh (41%) and female doctors (49%) are most likely to say the same

To what extent do you think Pakistani public respects doctors?

A lot Somewhat Not at all



59% health professionals believe that both the public as well as doctors are at fault for not giving more respect to doctors and health professionals in general. 1 in 3 say it is just the public's fault

In your opinion, what is the main reason for the Pakistani public not respecting doctors?



Both public and doctors are at fault

59%

Public is at fault for not giving respect

33%

Due to doctors' own fault

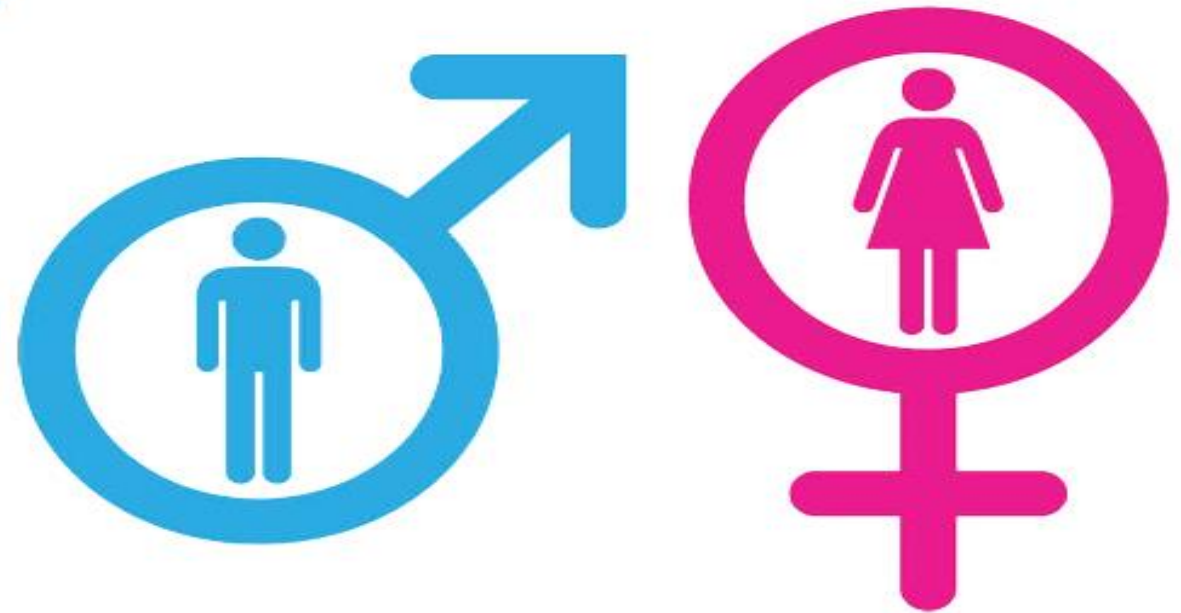
2%

Don't Know

6%

N=415

Demographics



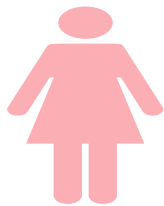


Gender of the Respondent



65%

Male



35%

Female



Urban

93%



Rural

7%

Province

Sindh

67%

Punjab

26%

Balochistan/ KP

7%



Age

11%

20 – 24
years

34%

25 – 34
years

20%

35 – 44
years

13%

45 – 54
years

0%

55 – 64
years

17%

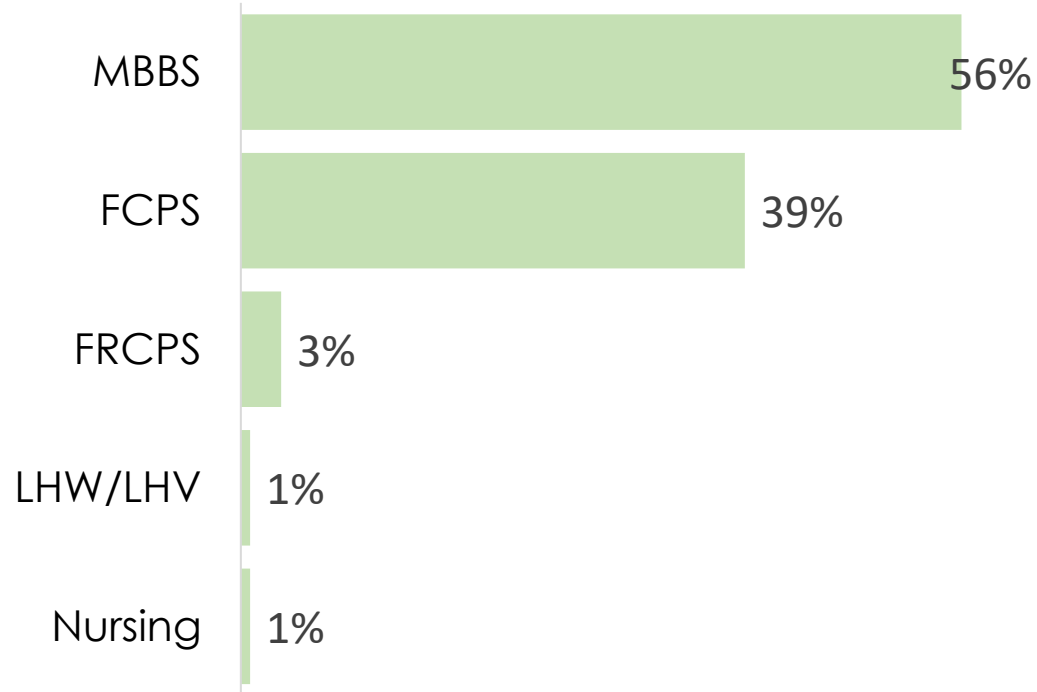
55 – 64
years

4%

65+ years



Education



Designation in Office / Nature of work

Consultant	12%
House Officer	12%
Medical Officer	11%
Professor	7%
Assistant professor	6%
Resident	5%
Associate Professor	3%
Post graduate trainee	3%
Doctor	3%
Head of Department	2%
Senior Registrar	2%
Director	2%
Registrar	2%
Senior Medical officer	2%
Surgeon	2%
Others	27%

Ending Notes

Seminars and Roundtables:

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Your feedback is appreciated. Please feel free to contact us at caf@gallup.com.pk in case of any queries or comments.

CONTACT US

For more information, please contact:

Islamabad:

Phone: +92-51-2655630

Email: isb@gallup.com.pk

www.gallup.com.pk

www.gallup-international.com

Islamabad | Lahore | Karachi | Zurich

