

NATIONAL SURVEY OF POTENTIAL ACCEPTANCE OF COVID-19 VACCINES IN HEALTHCARE WORKERS

DETAILED REPORT

Capturing the Pulse of Health Community through research partnership
between the two premiere institutions



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Introduction by Executive Director Gallup Pakistan – Bilal Ijaz Gilani

I am very pleased that Gallup Pakistan (Pakistan's oldest survey and opinion research organization) has partnered with Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA) to undertake a unique survey of health professionals across Pakistan on the issue of Vaccine Confidence especially with respect to COVID-19.

The survey is unique in many ways :

1. It's the first national attempt to track the voice of health professionals in Pakistan on any subject. In pandemic times , health professionals are the frontline workers. What are they thinking, how are they coping and how we as a society, can help them, are important and crucial questions to answer. Opinion polling is the only scientific method to answer these questions. This is second of such polls that Gallup Pakistan has done in order to serve this purpose. With over 35 districts and all 6 provinces of Pakistan covered, this is a very exhaustive exercise.
2. There has been, to this date, no national study on vaccine confidence among health workers in Pakistan especially on COVID-19. As the most trusted source of information for the wider public, its crucial to note what the doctors' community is thinking about COVID-19 vaccination and how we can potentially move towards behavior change to reduce vaccine hesitancy is a key question that this collaboration aims to answer.

Introduction by Executive Director Gallup Pakistan – Bilal Ijaz Gilani

5 Key learnings for me:

1. Health Professionals across Pakistan have been significantly impacted by COVID-19. Over 9 in 10 are working in places where COVID-19 patients come and over 50% have had significant exposure to such patients. Most alarmingly, as high as 4 in 10 report having contracted COVID-19 already! Given the sacrifices our front-line workers have already made, the support and recognition offered to them has been paltry!
2. Vaccine rollout has been slow: The survey exercise coincided with the vaccine rollout to the health community. We see that almost 50% doctors say they have not yet been offered the vaccine. This could be an information problem as well as a logistical issue. In KP, as high as 75% say they have not been offered vaccine. If we are to vaccinate all the 400,000+ health workers, the current pace needs to change rapidly.
3. Almost 1 in 5 doctors show a relaxed attitude towards COVID-19, and another 20% a less than required serious attitude. When asked to rate the threat of COVID-19 as a disease to the wider population, 4 in 10 rate it be low or somewhat low. A pandemic that has killed millions and infected over 50 million may need to be taken more seriously by the health community.
4. Despite everything, a large majority, over 80% are willing to take the COVID-19 vaccine. The most popular vaccine however is Pfizer which is not on the horizon to be offered. Currently offered vaccines have the lowest acceptability (Chinese and Russian). This may be the single largest explanation for the currently seen slow roll out and early signs of rejection. The largest cause of concern for those who have low vaccine confidence are safety concerns as well as the lack of belief in COVID-19 itself. Unfortunately, social media was cited as the largest source of information and given the pervasiveness of fake news and various conspiracies, the findings are no big surprise.
5. Positive news is that 9 in 10 doctors say they will be recommending the vaccine to their patients.

Message from the esteemed President of PIMA, Professor Khubaib Shahid:

“It is a privilege for me to announce the results of the first of its kind survey of facts and perceptions about COVID-19 polled by doctors in Pakistan. The survey was organized by PIMA and conducted by Gallup Pakistan through answers to online queries from 555 responders from our profession. I am sure that the inferences will be a source of first-hand information on the subject for our health authorities and public at large.”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND KEY LEARNINGS



Executive Summary and Key Learnings

Section 1 : General Attitude of Doctors towards COVID-19

Almost 50% doctors think COVID-19 is a moderate to low seriousness disease!

Doctors in KP most likely to say that Covid is a low-risk disease as compared to other provinces, potentially explaining why intention to vaccinate lowest in KP

Section 2 : Exposure to COVID-19 among Doctors in Pakistan

89% of surveyed doctors work in a facility where they have already seen and treated Covid patients

Over 4 in 10 doctors in Pakistan claim that they come in contact/ attend a patient with COVID-19 as a doctor/health professional

32% doctors say they already tested positive for COVID-19!

More than 2 in 5 doctors who have treated a lot of COVID-19 patients have tested positive themselves, experienced doctors more likely to report having contracted COVID-19 as compared to younger doctors

More than 1 in 2 doctors reported that someone from their immediate families have tested positive for COVID- 19

Seasonal Influenza Vaccination a rarity with 63% Doctors report having not received shots before!

More than 4 in 5 doctors have not been vaccinated against seasonal influenza for winter 2019/20

Section 3 : Information Sources for Doctors

Social Media by far the most dominant source of information about COVID-19 Vaccine for even the medical community!

Journals / Research papers and organizations like WHO/NHS and CDC other quoted sources of information for COVID-19 news among health professionals

Section 4 : Vaccination Situation and Intention to get Vaccinated and Reasons for Vaccine Hesitancy

Nearly 2 in 5 doctors reported that the vaccine has been offered to them

KP slowest in rolling out vaccine as 75% doctors say they have not yet been offered vaccine, highest in Sindh where nearly half say they have been offered

More than 5 in 6 doctors claim that they are likely get vaccinated if COVID-19 vaccine was offered to them

Vaccine hesitancy among doctors highest in KP, female doctors slightly more hesitant and as experience increases, vaccine hesitancy reduces

Pfizer most preferred choice among Doctors willing to take COVID-19 Vaccine; Chinese Vaccine not very popular!

Vaccine not being safe tops the reason for vaccine hesitancy, followed by belief that its not effective; however, significantly large number unable to explain why they are hesitant.

Among other reasons for not taking COVID-19 Vaccine, doubts about safety and lack of belief that they would contract COVID-19 tops

More than 5 out of 9 doctors agree that the safety of a vaccine developed in an emergency, during an epidemic, cannot be considered guaranteed

Doubts about safety of vaccine during emergency times explains a large portion of vaccine hesitancy; respondents who believe safety of emergency time vaccine is also possible 14% more likely to say they would get vaccinated

1 in 4 doctors say its preferable to acquire immunity against diseases naturally rather than getting vaccinated!

Preference to acquire natural immunity highest in KP where nearly 1 in 3 doctors say they would prefer to acquire immunity against diseases naturally rather than through any pharmaceutical intervention

More than 5 in 6 doctors agree that they trust science to develop safe effective new vaccines

More than 1 in 2 doctors agree that they trust the ministry of health (provincial) to ensure that vaccines are safe

Section 6 : Are Doctors going to recommend vaccination?

Nearly 9 in 10 doctors in Pakistan are 'very likely' to recommend the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available to the patients they consult/treat

Majority of doctors who plan not to get vaccinated also plan not to encourage their patients to get vaccinated!

SURVEY RESULTS

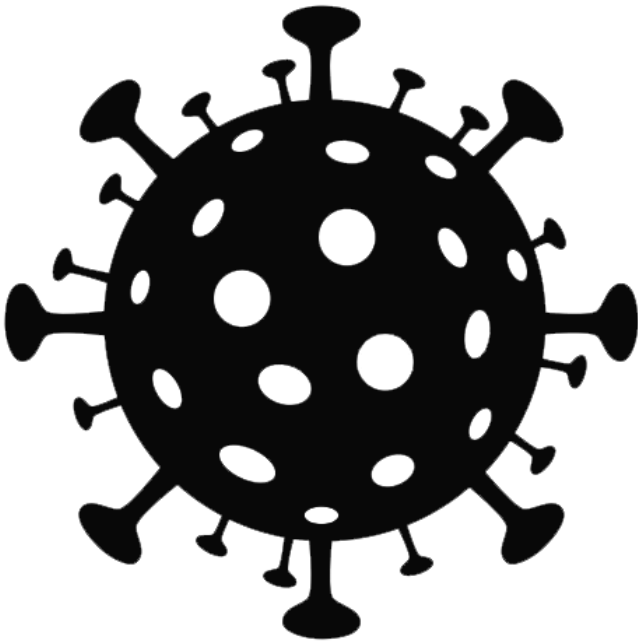
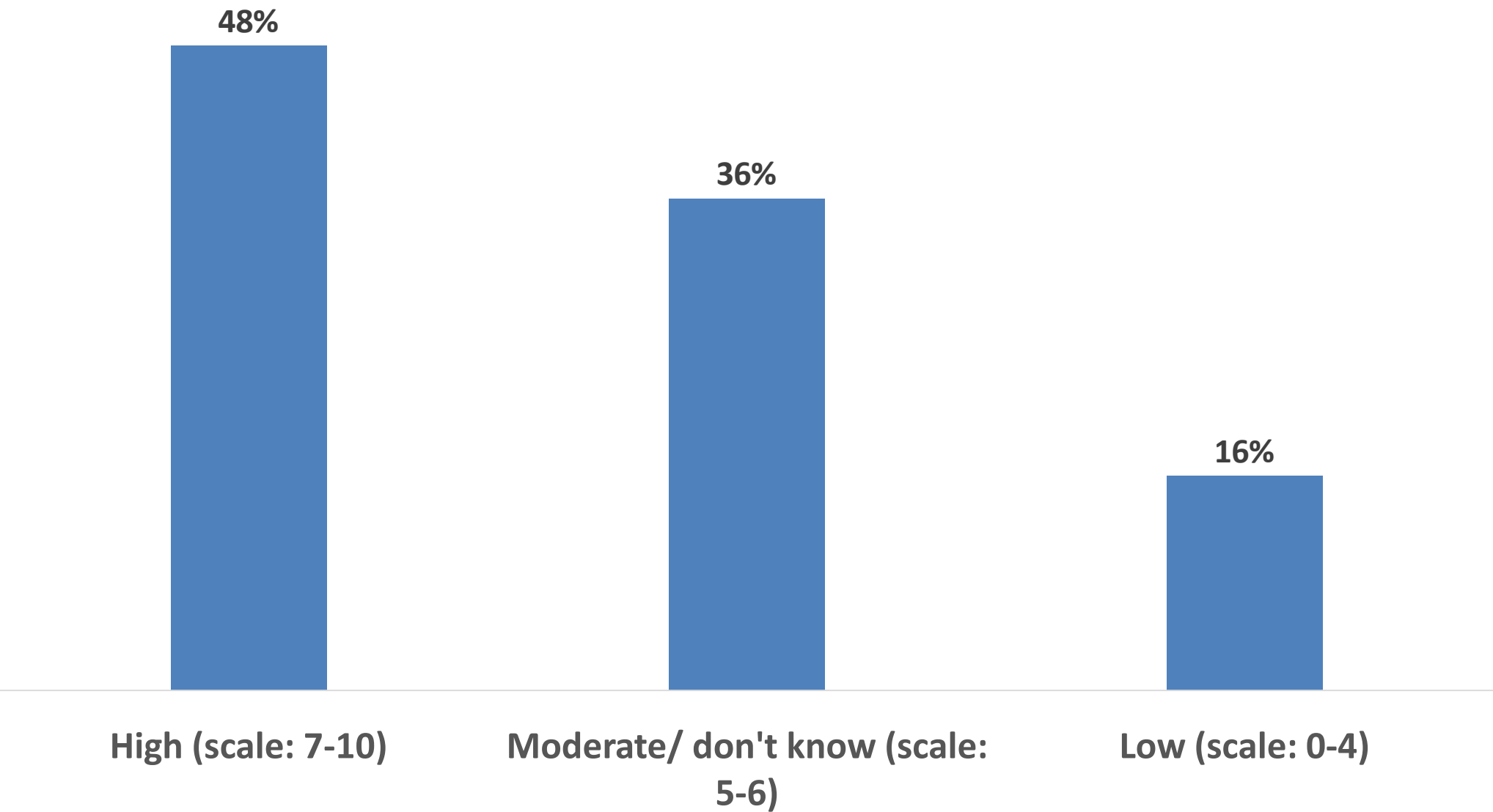




Section 1 : General Attitude of Doctors towards Covid 19

84% of surveyed health professionals consider COVID-19 to be of moderate to serious risk for the population at large on a scale of 5 to 10.

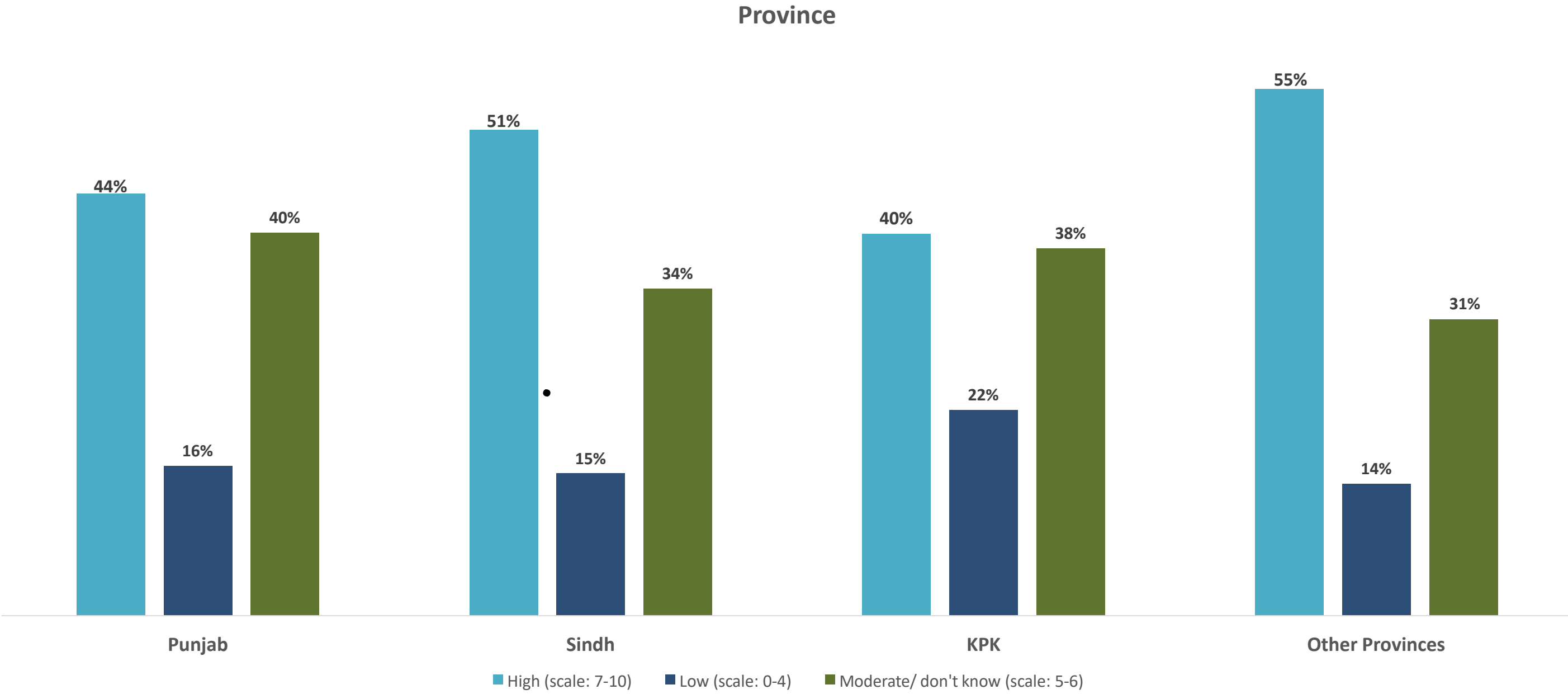
Question: In your opinion, for the population as a whole, how serious is COVID-19 on a scale of 0 to 10?



Source: Gallup & PIMA study on Healthcare workers on Vaccine Confidence

Doctors in KP most likely to say that COVID-19 is a low-risk disease as compared to other provinces, potentially explaining why intention to vaccinate lowest in KP

Question: In your opinion, for the population as a whole, how serious is COVID-19 on a scale of 0 to 10?



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Source: Gallup & PIMA study on Healthcare workers on Vaccine Confidence

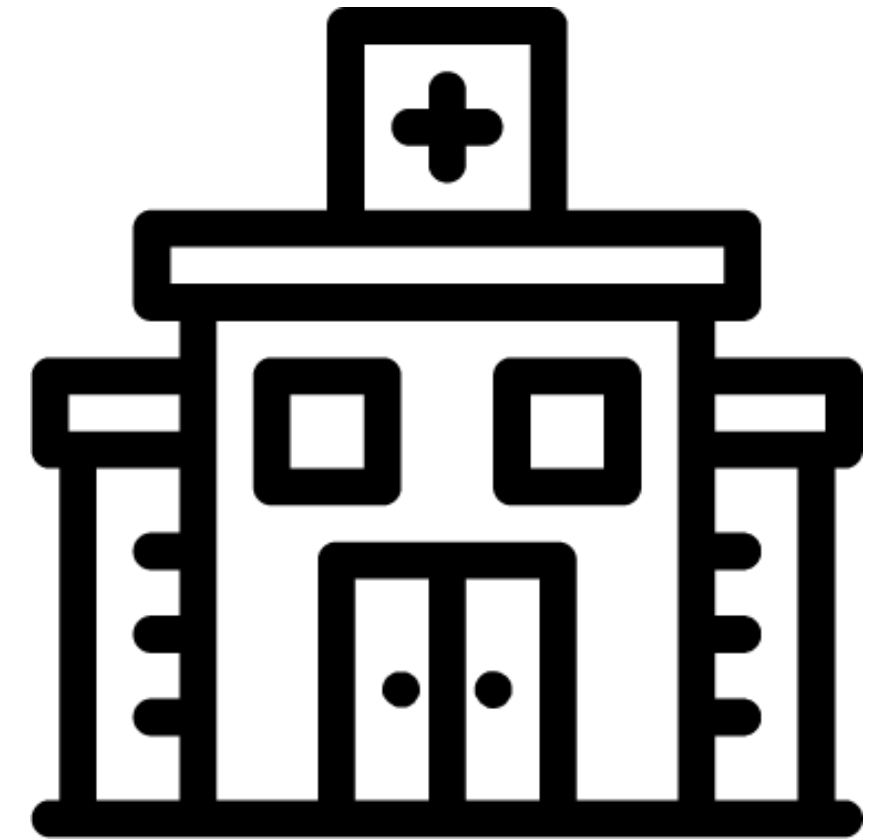
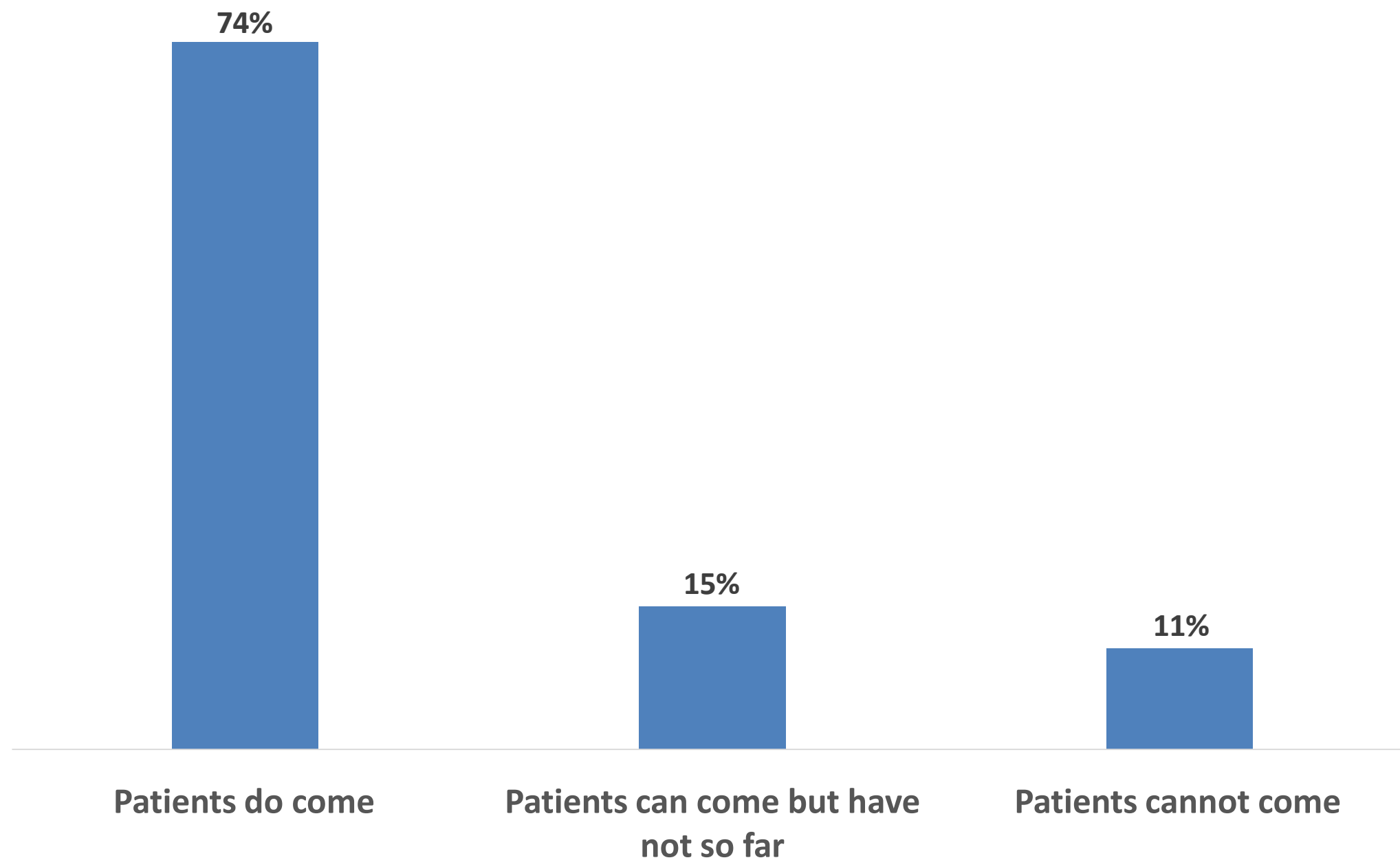




Section 2 : Exposure to Covid 19 among Doctors in Pakistan

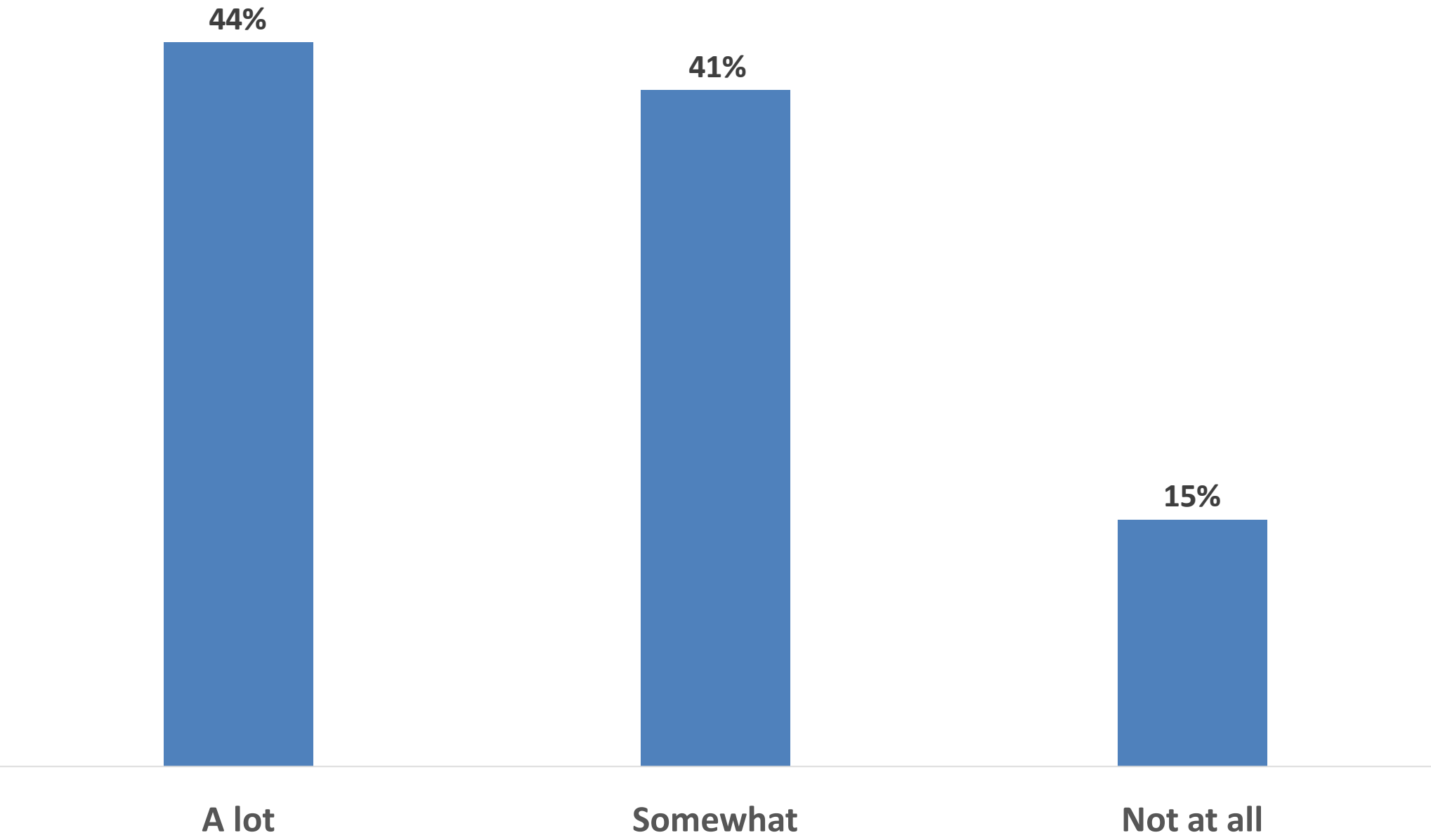
89% of surveyed health professionals worked in facilities where they could encounter COVID-19 patients

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



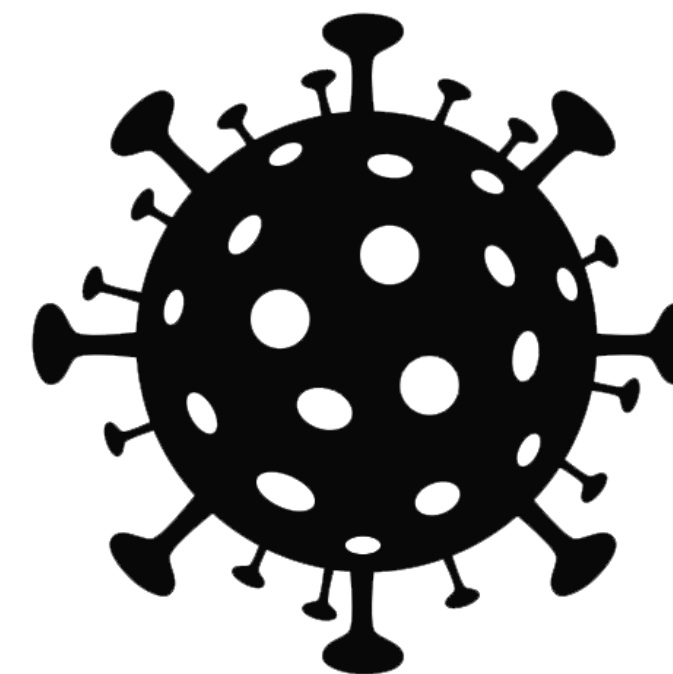
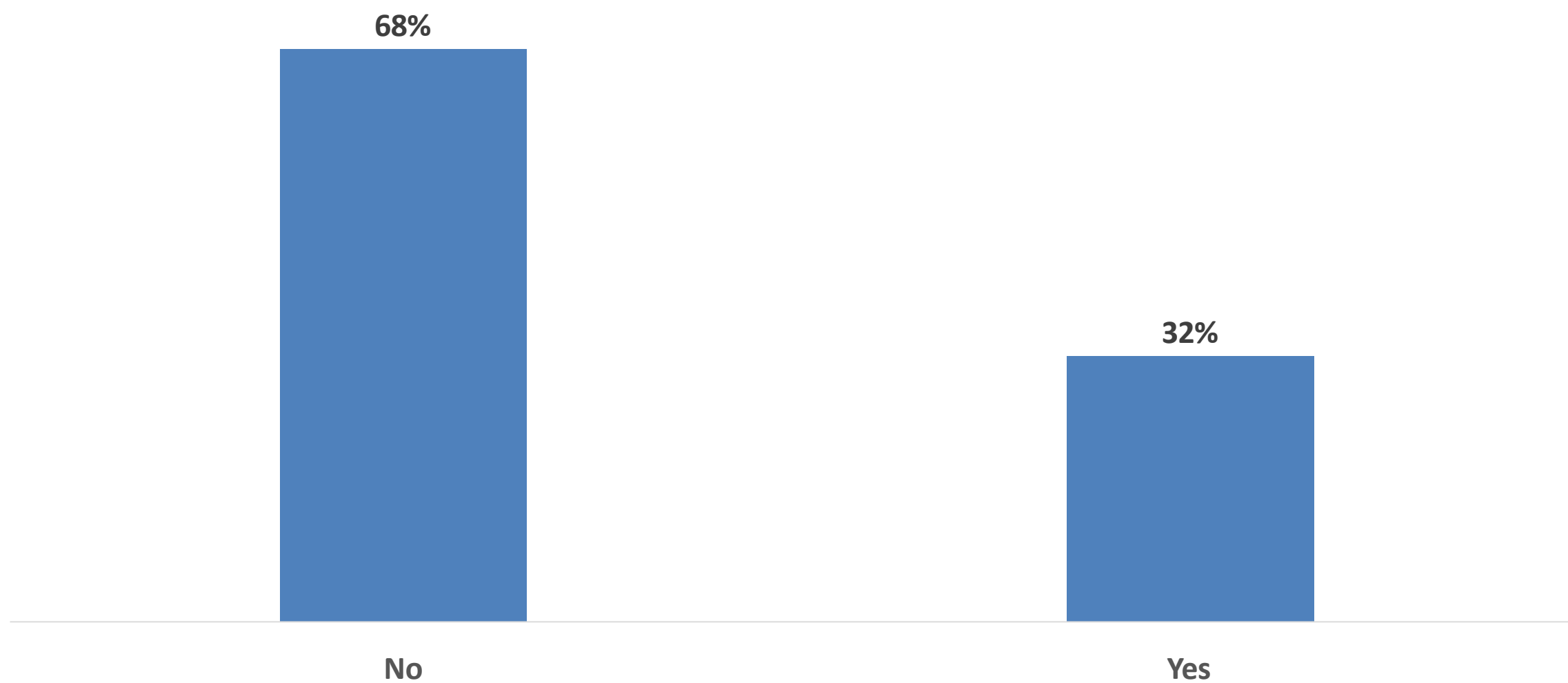
Over 4 in 10 doctors in Pakistan claim that they come in contact/ attend a patient with COVID-19 as a doctor/health professional

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



32% doctors have tested positive previously

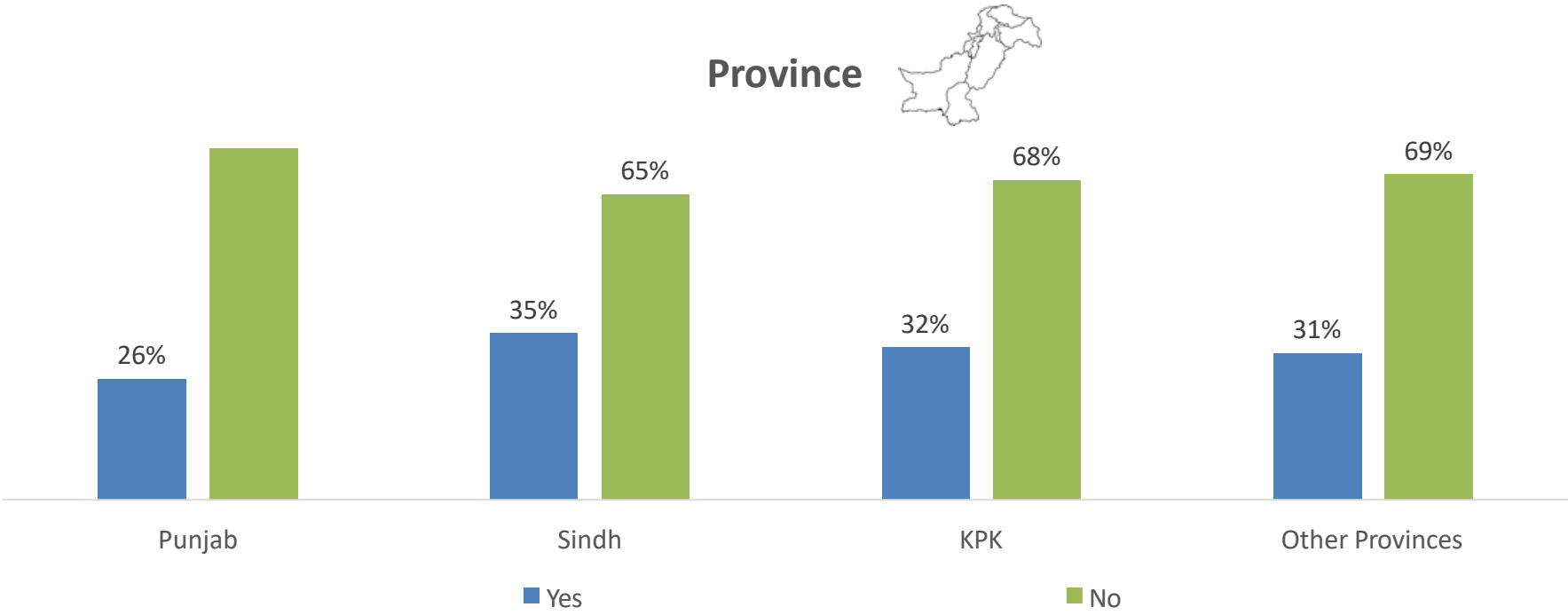
Question: Have you tested positive for COVID-19 previously?



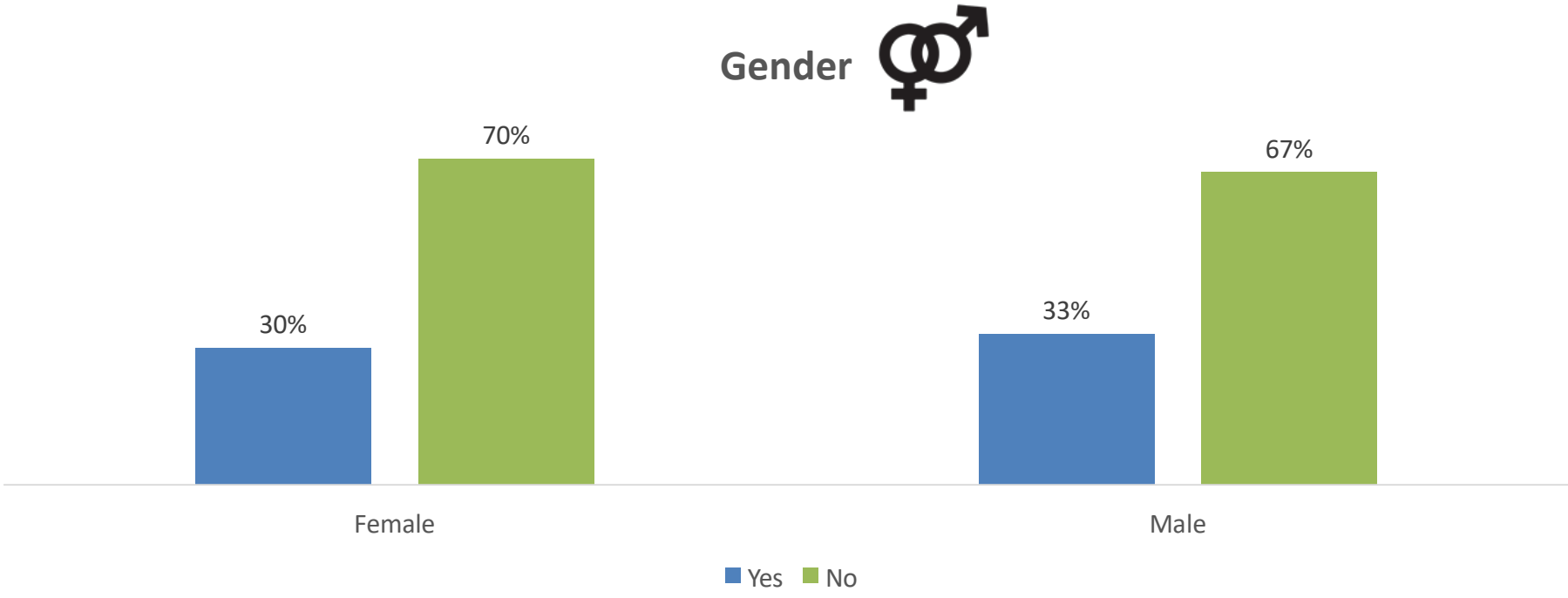
More than 2 in 5 doctors who have treated a lot of COVID-19 patients have tested positive themselves; experienced doctors more likely to report having contracted COVID-19 than younger doctors

Question: Have you tested positive for COVID-19 previously?

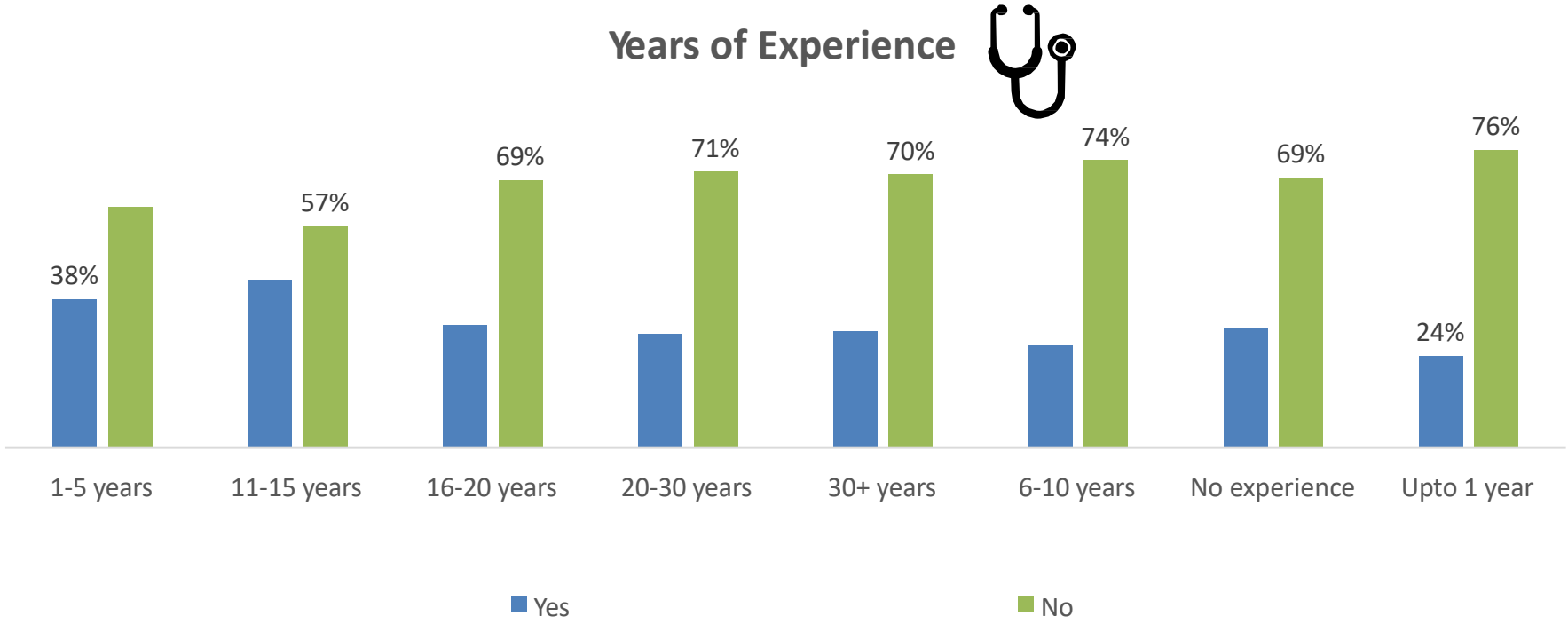
Province



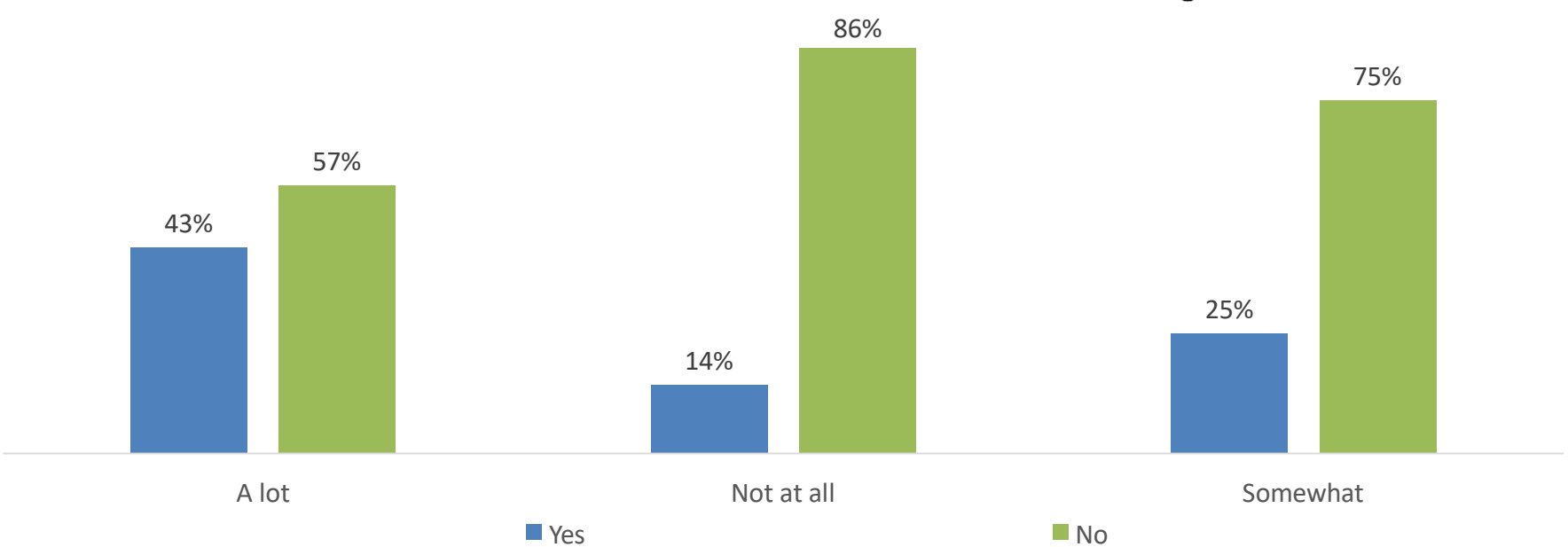
Gender



Years of Experience



Treated COVID-19 Patients or Not

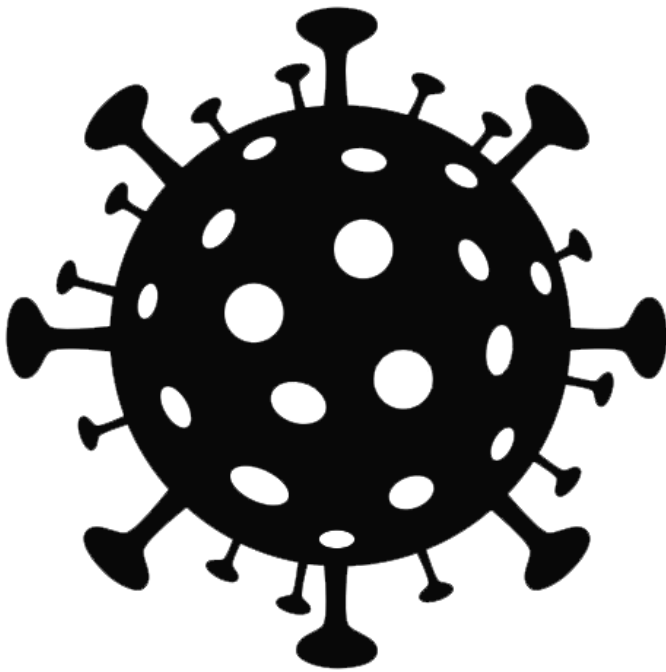
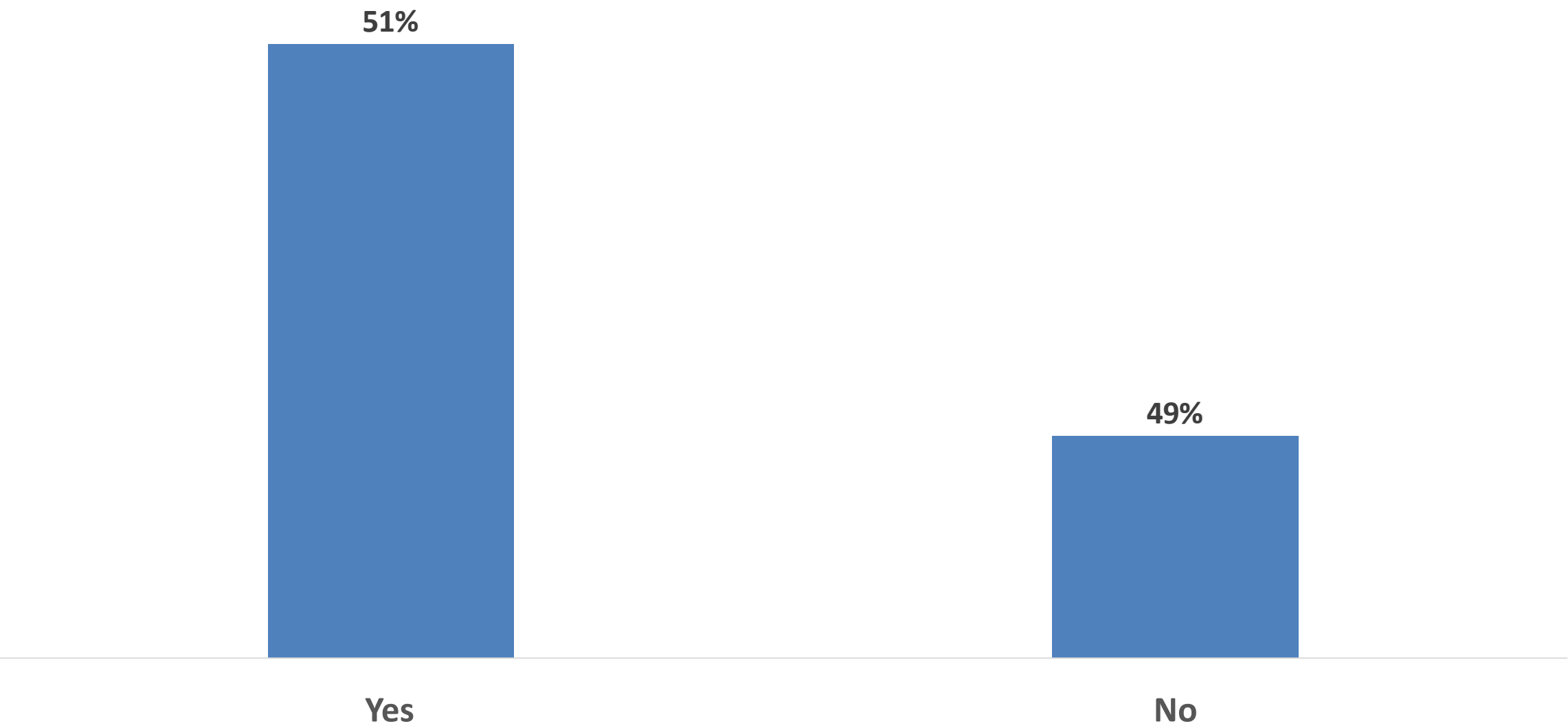


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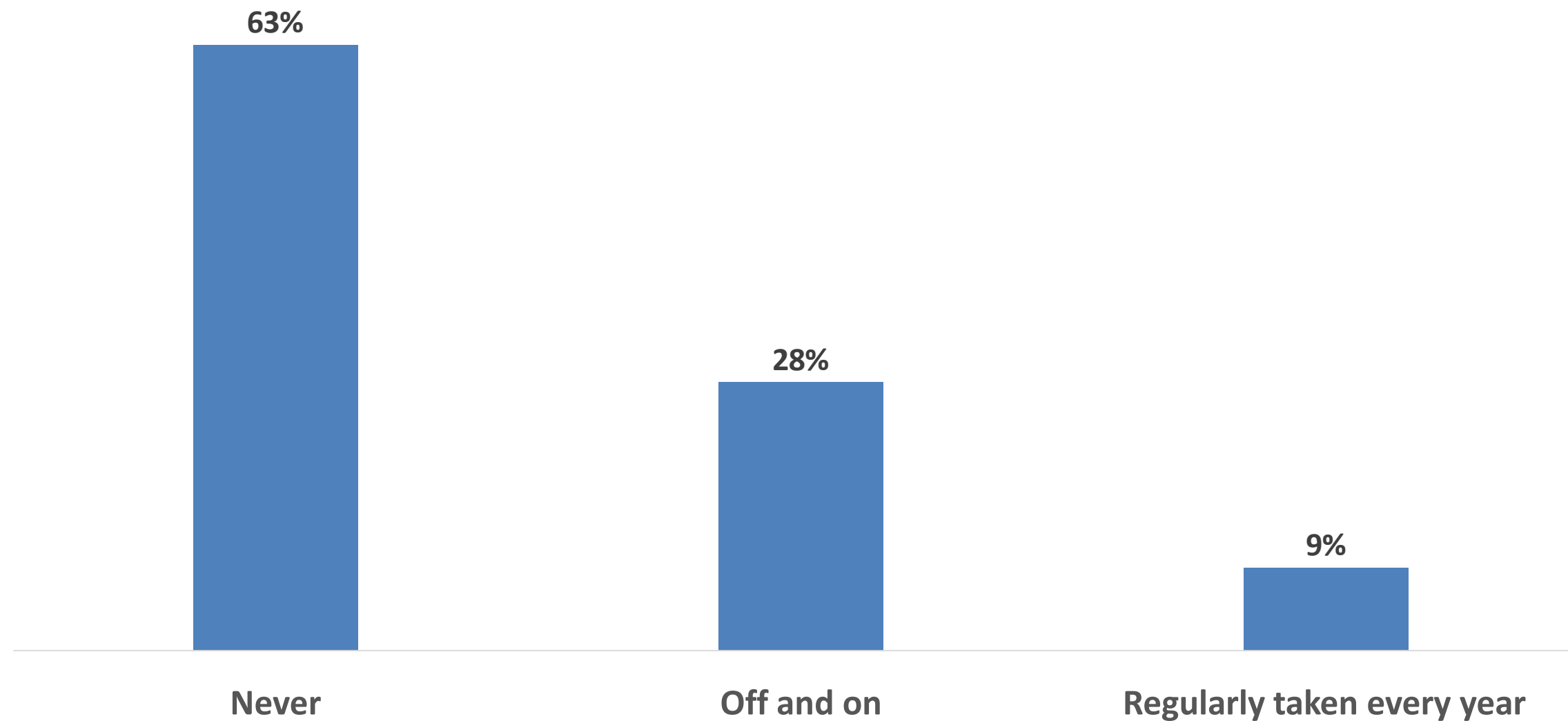
More than 1 in 2 doctors reported that someone from their immediate families has tested positive for COVID- 19 previously

Question: Has anyone from your immediate family tested positive for COVID-19 previously?



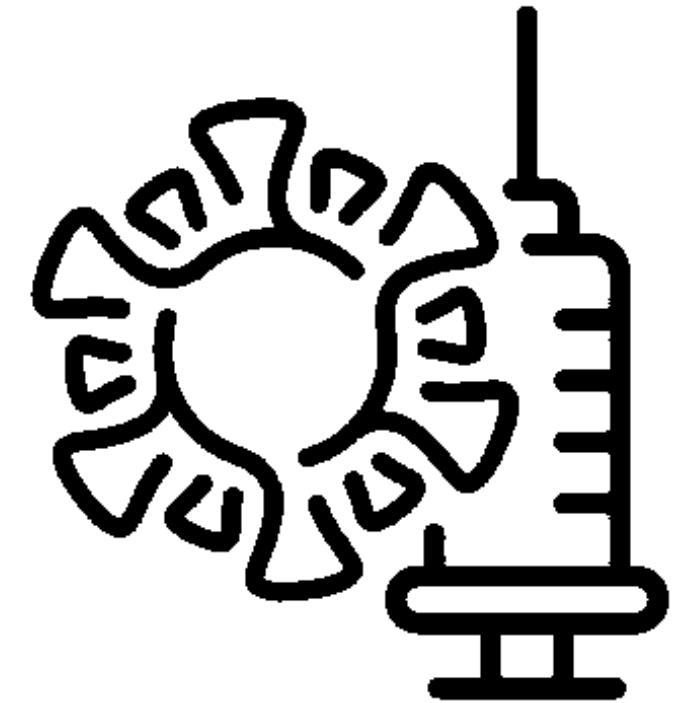
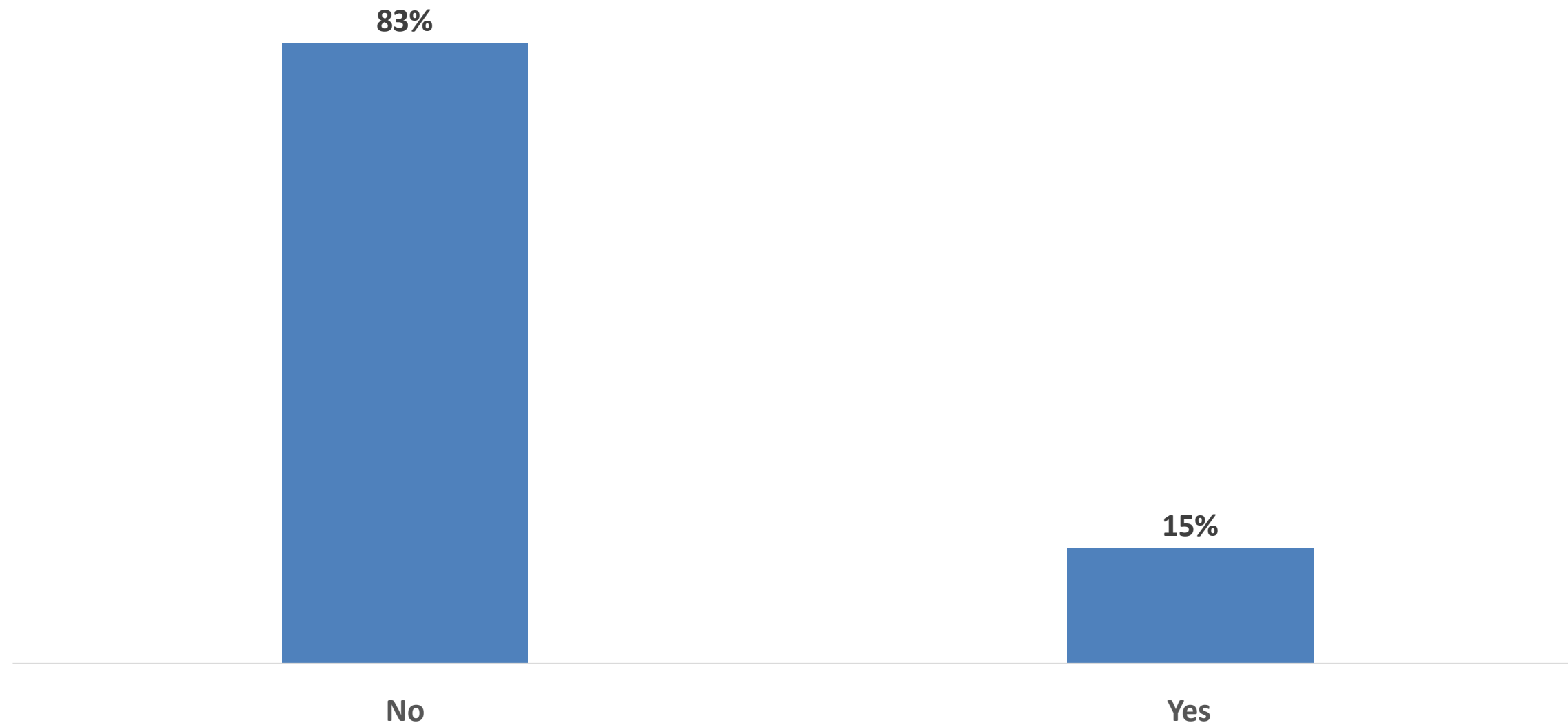
Seasonal Influenza Vaccination a rarity; 63% doctors report having not received shots before!

Question: Have you received the seasonal influenza vaccine?



More than 4 in 5 doctors have not been vaccinated against seasonal influenza for winter 2019/20

Question: Were you vaccinated against seasonal influenza for winter 2019/20?

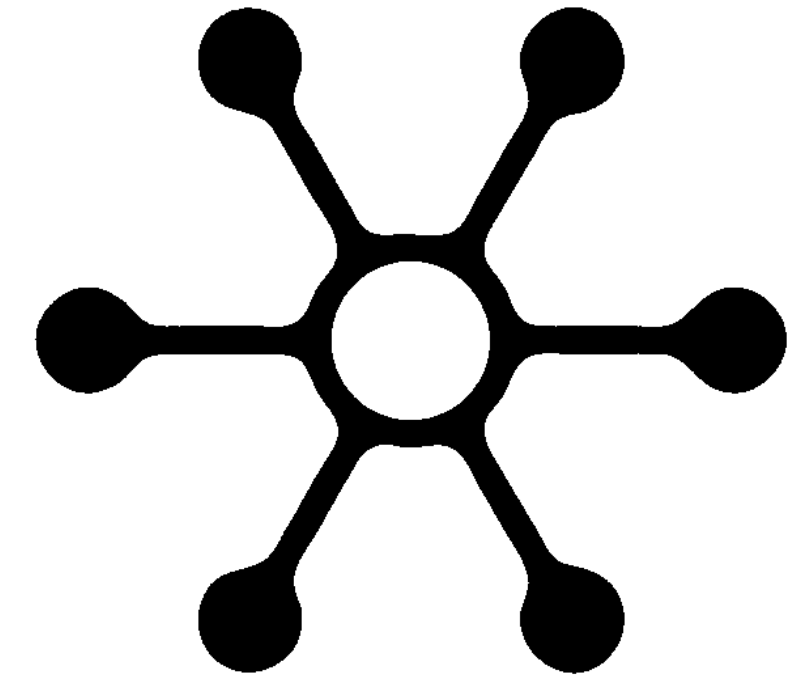
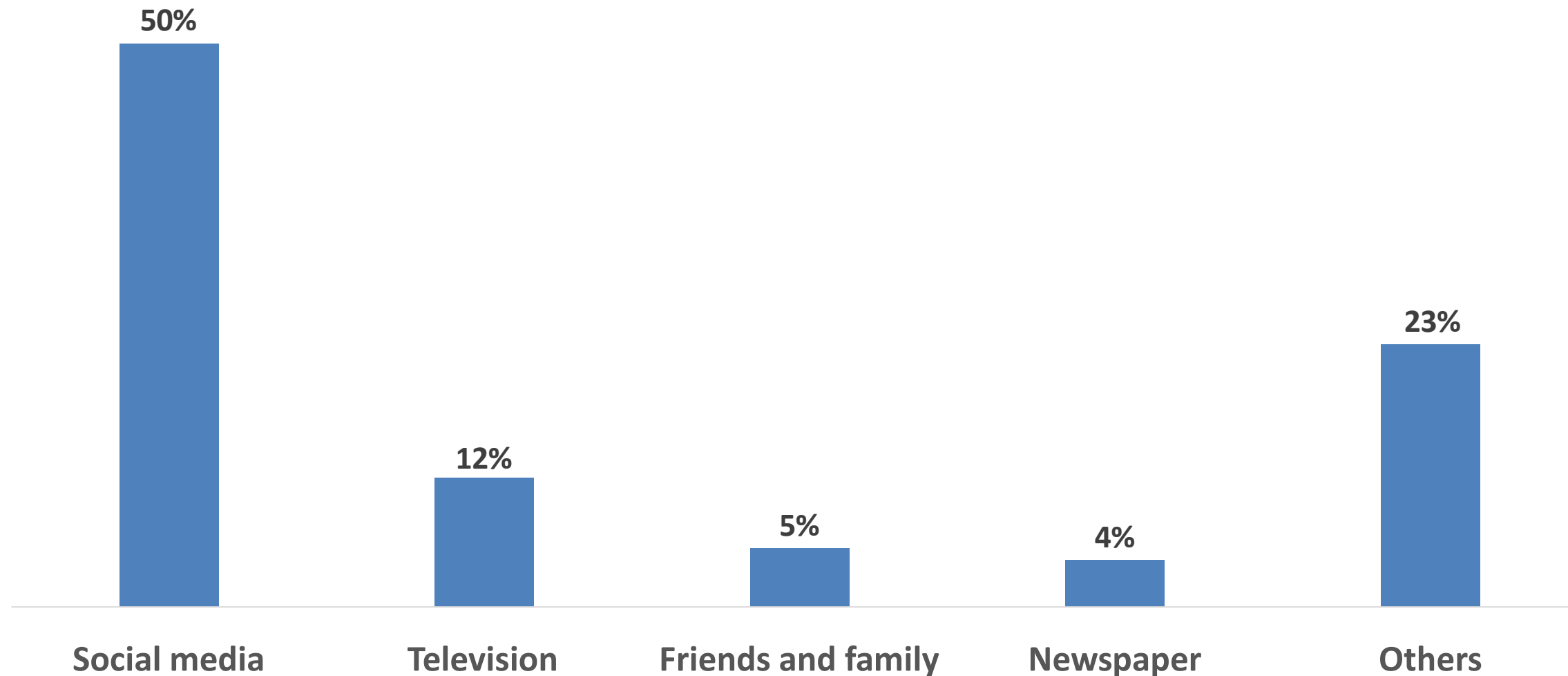




Section 3 : Information Sources for Doctors

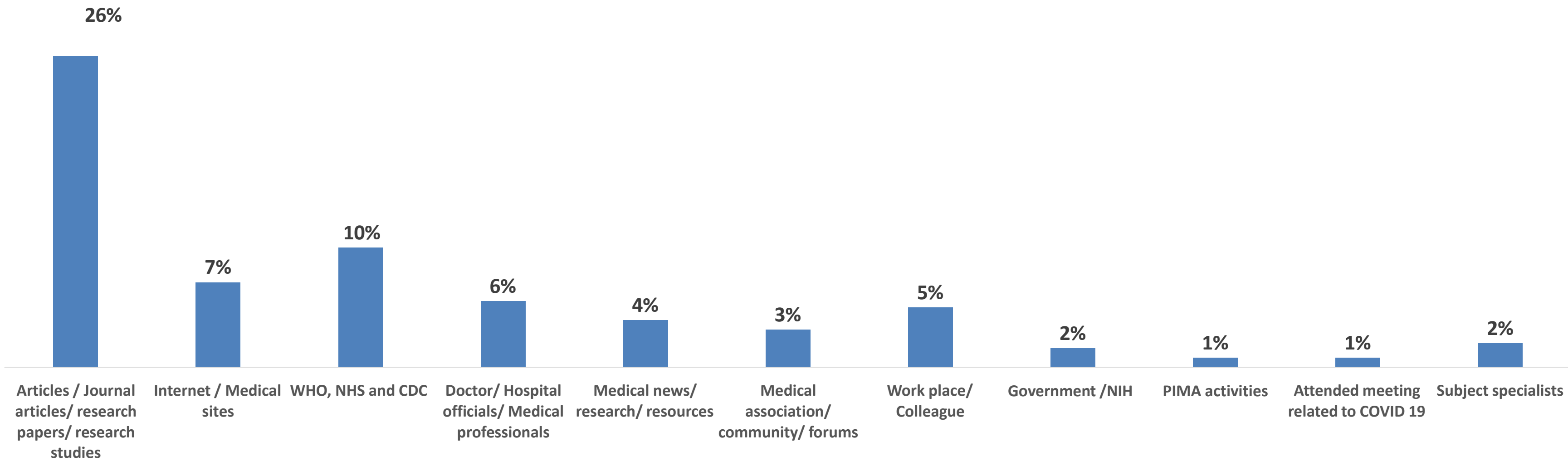
Social Media by far the most dominant source of information about COVID-19 Vaccine for even the medical community!

Question: What is your source of information about COVID-19 vaccine?



Journals / Research papers and organizations like WHO/NHS and CDC other quoted sources of information for Covid news among health professionals

Question: What is your source of information about COVID-19 vaccine? (others)

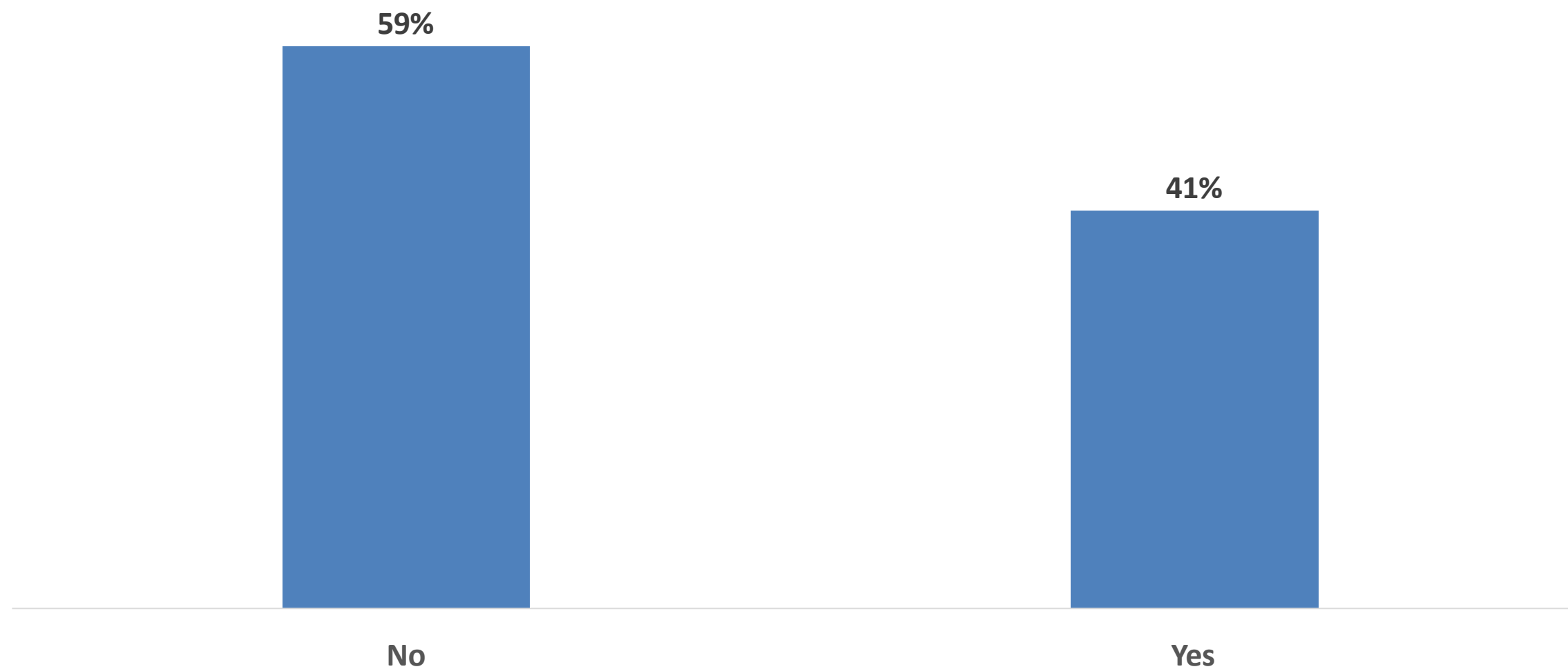




Section 4: Vaccination Situation, Intention to get Vaccinated and Reasons for Vaccine Hesitancy

Vaccine roll-out is slow as 59% health professionals have not been offered vaccination, the figure for KP is 74%

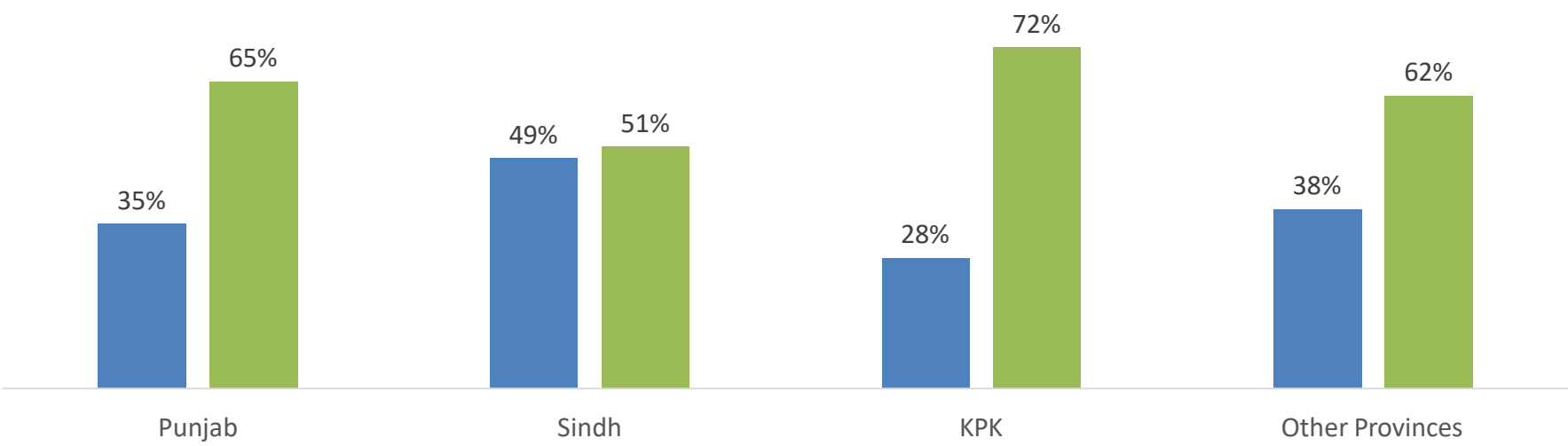
Question: Has a COVID-19 vaccine been offered to you till now?



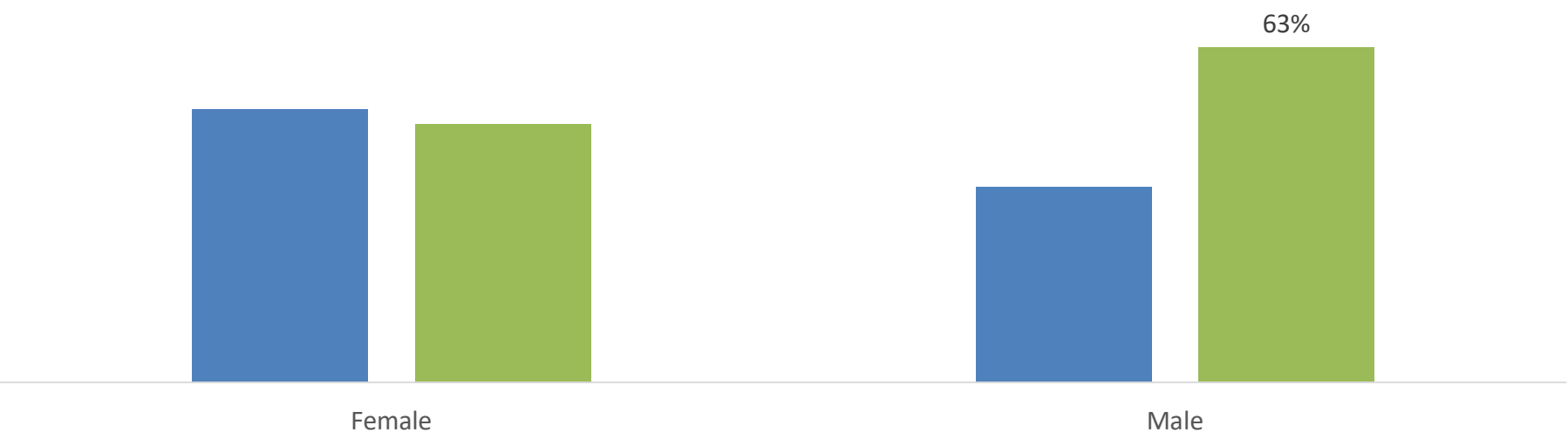
KP slowest in rolling out vaccine as 75% doctors say they have not yet been offered vaccine, highest in Sindh where nearly half say they have been offered

Question: Has a COVID-19 vaccine been offered to you till now?

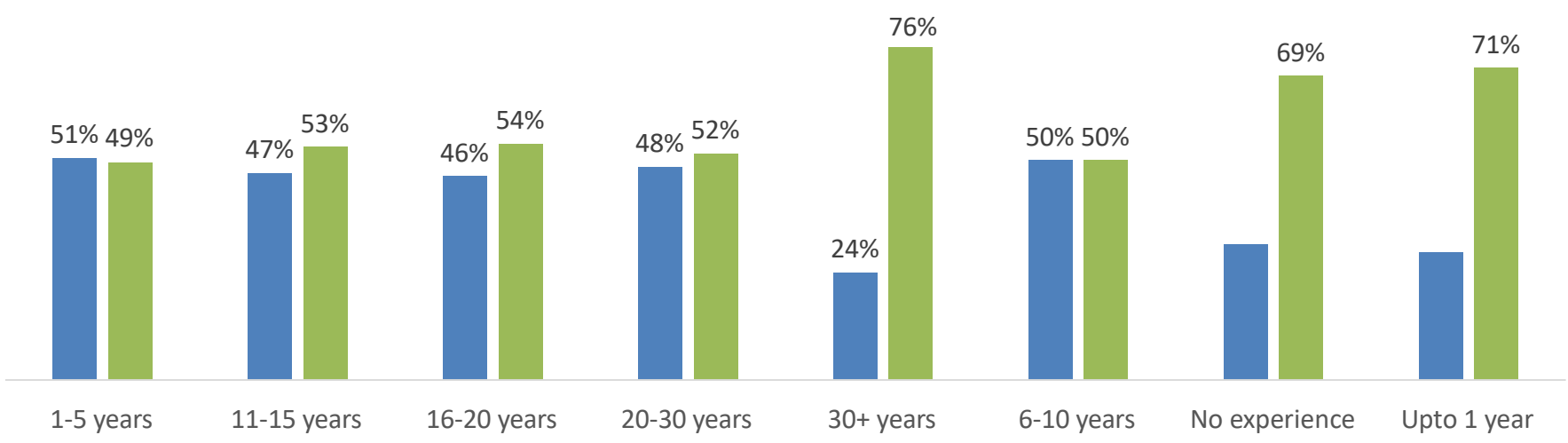
Province 



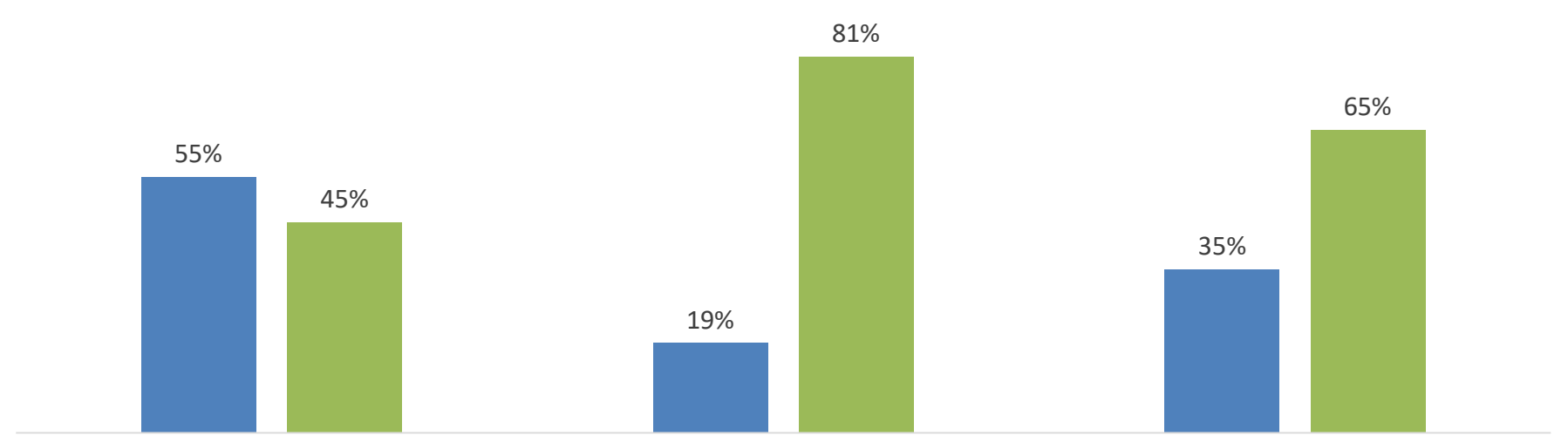
Gender 



Years of Experience 



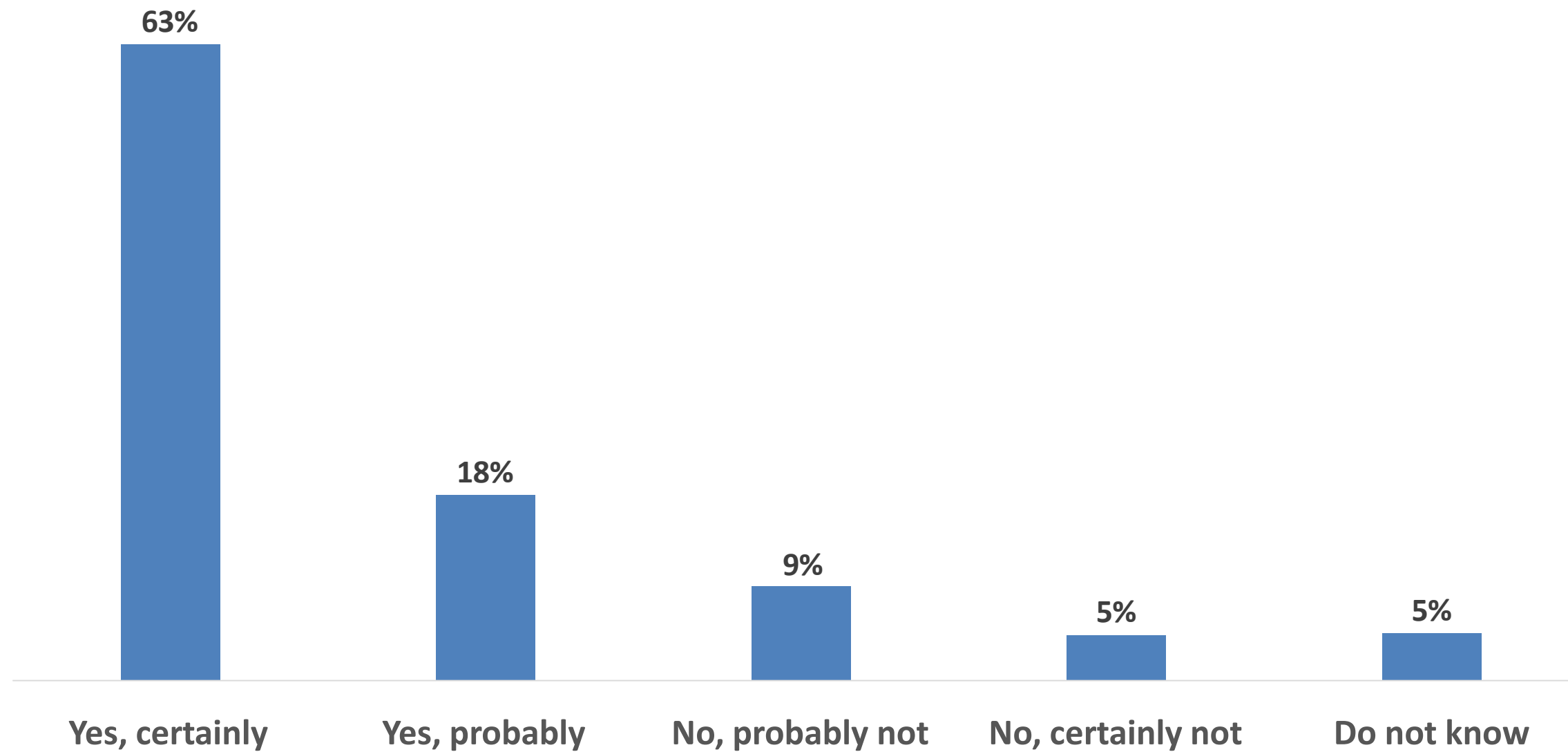
Treated COVID-19 Patients or Not 



Sample size below national level is only indicative and may not be statistically significant. Interpret with caution.

81% doctors surveyed were ready to be vaccinated while 19% were not convinced to take these.

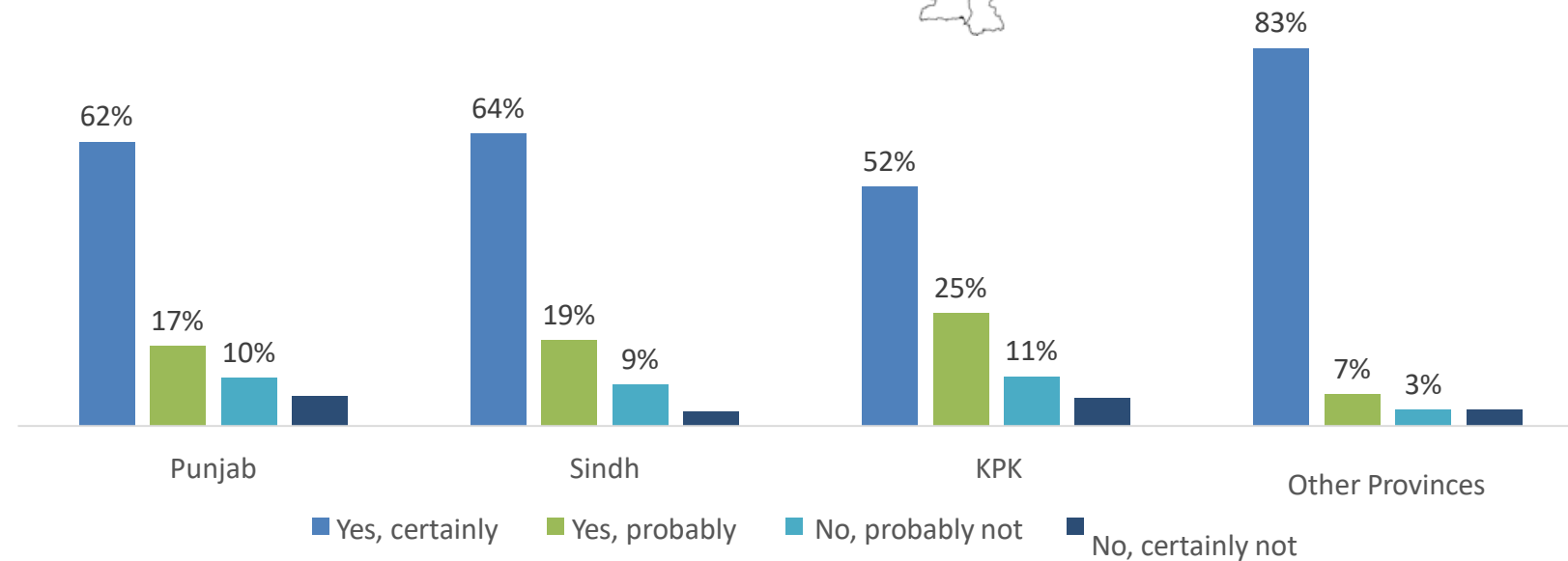
Question: If COVID-19 vaccine was offered to you, how likely is it that you would get vaccinated?



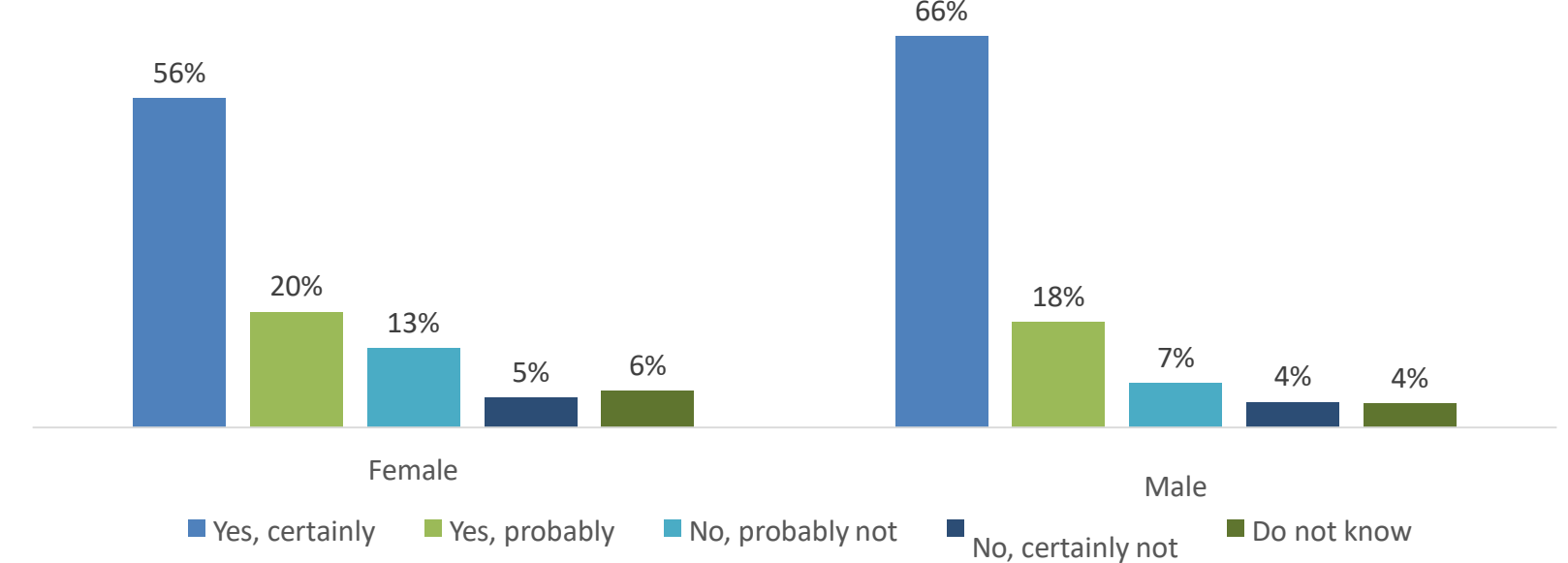
Vaccine hesitancy among doctors highest in KP, female doctors slightly more hesitant and as experience increases vaccine hesitancy reduces

Question:.. If COVID-19 vaccine was offered to you, how likely is it that you would get vaccinated?

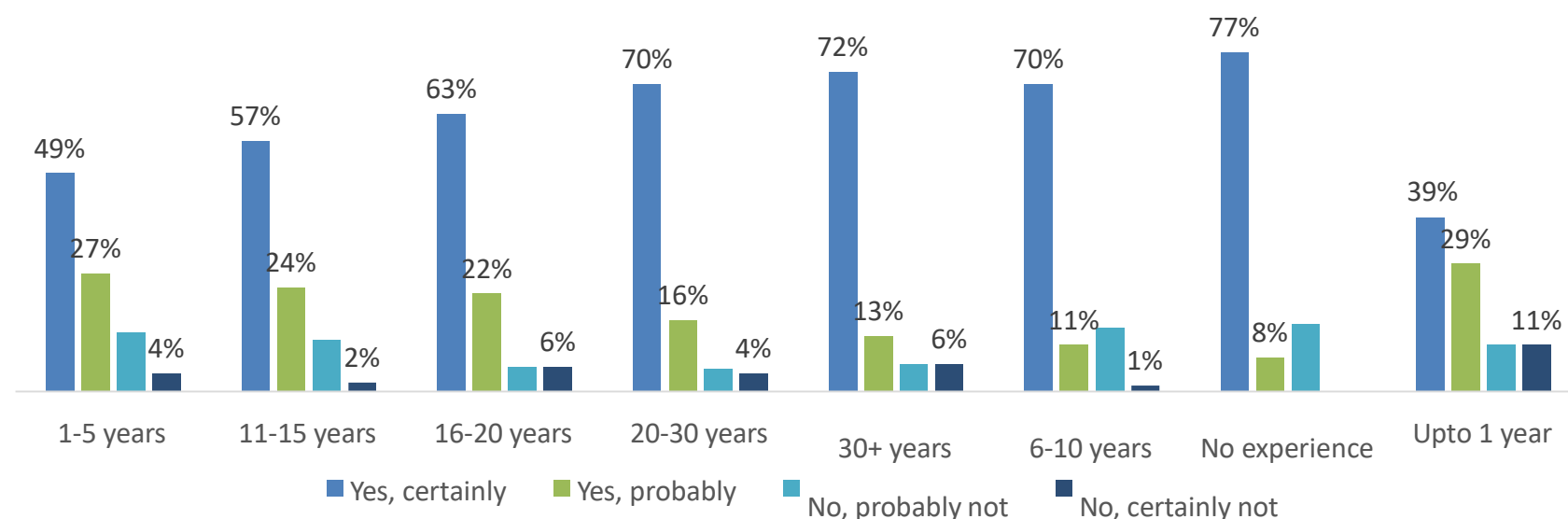
Province



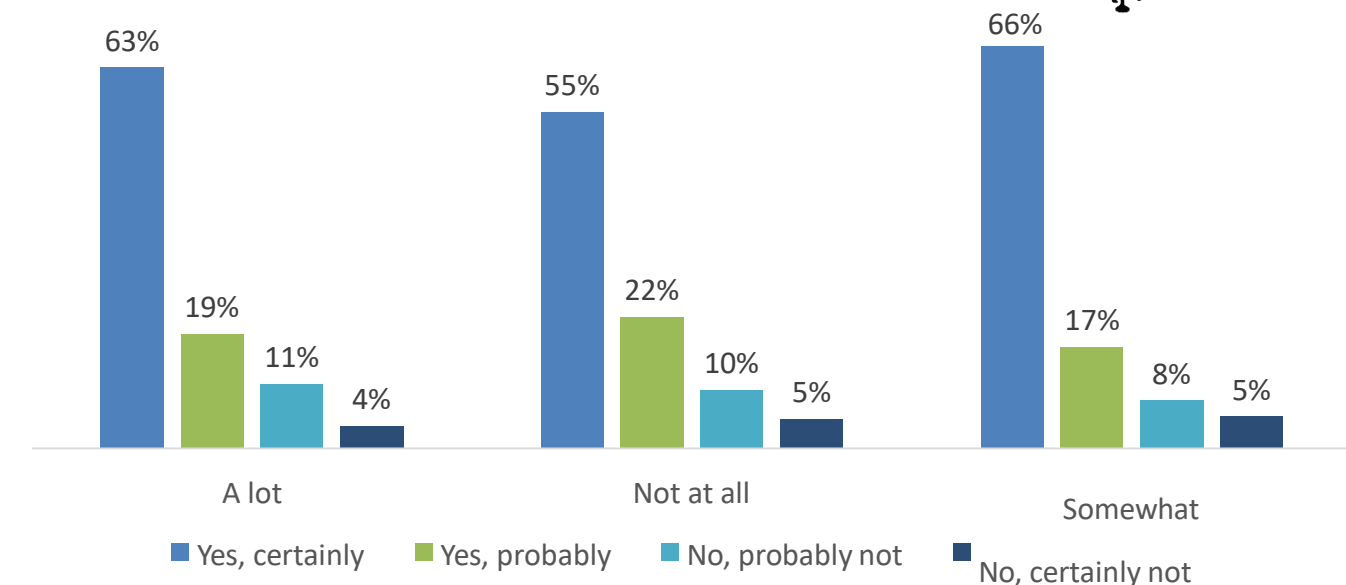
Gender



Years of Experience



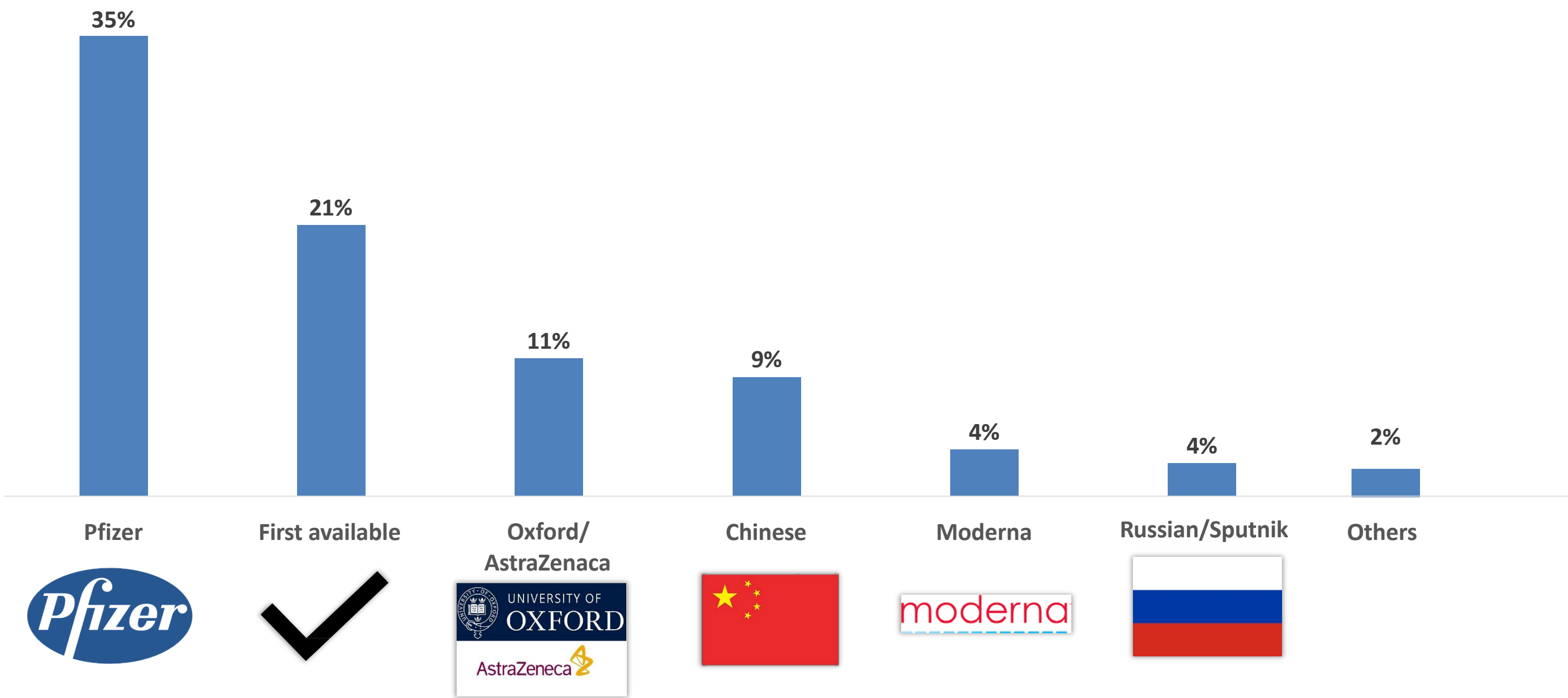
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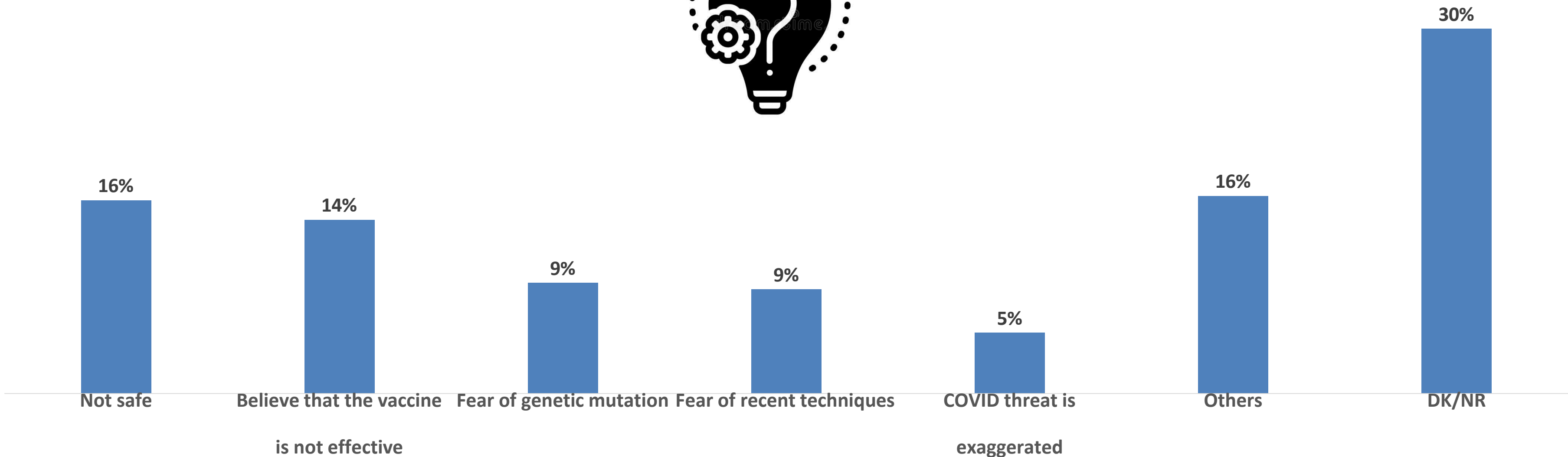
While 21% were ready to take the first available vaccine, 46% would like to be offered Astra-Zeneca or Pfizer in ascending order of preference.

Question: Out of the following, which COVID-19 vaccine would you be willing to get?



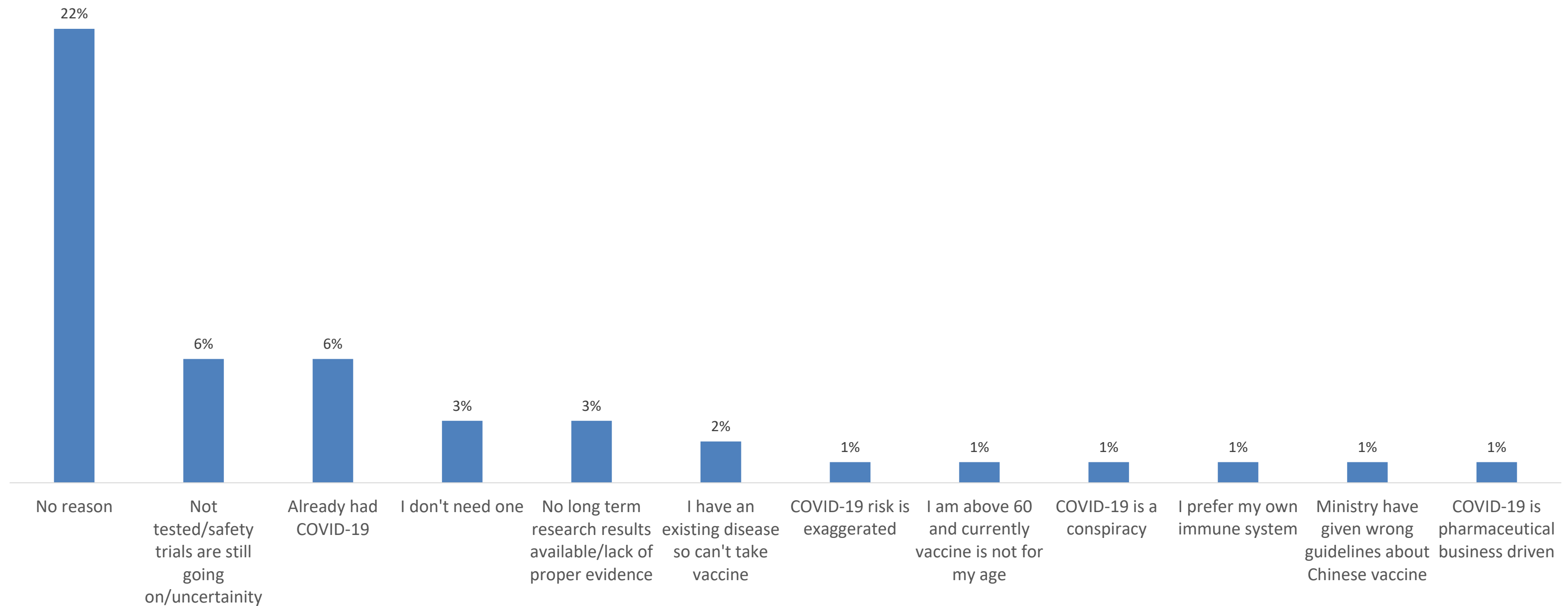
Vaccine not being safe tops the reason for vaccine hesitancy, followed by belief that its not effective; however significantly large number unable to explain why they are hesitant.

Question: If you are not likely to get the vaccine, what is the reason behind it?



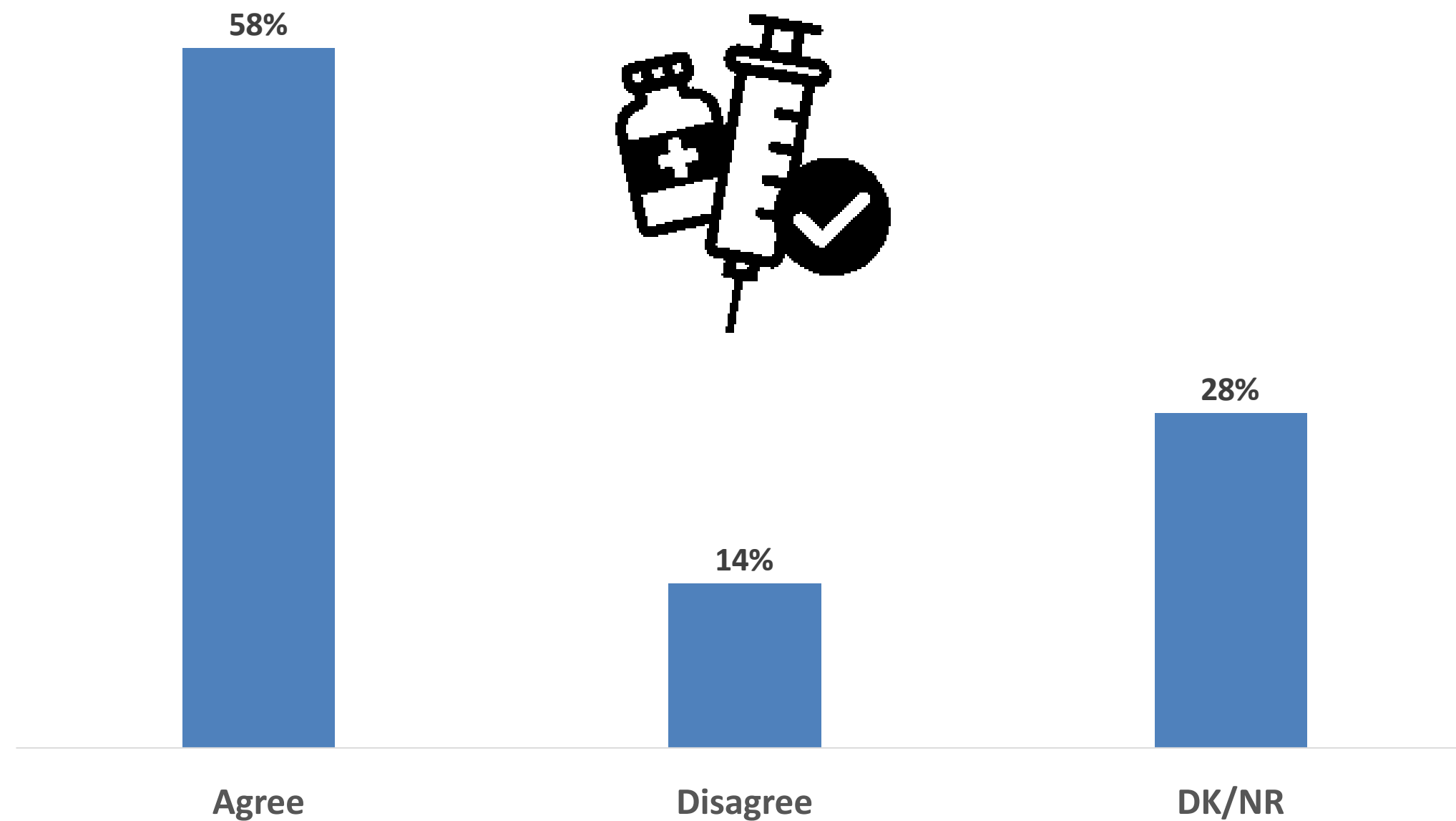
Among other reasons for not taking COVID-19 Vaccine, doubts about safety and lack of belief that they would contract COVID are at the top

Question: If you are not likely to get the vaccine, what is the reason behind it? (others)



More than 5 out of 9 doctors agree that the safety of a vaccine developed in an emergency, during an epidemic, cannot be considered guaranteed

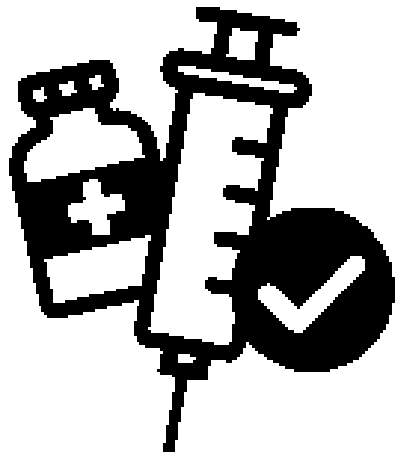
Question: The safety of a vaccine developed in an emergency, during an epidemic, cannot be considered guaranteed. Do you agree or disagree or you would rather say you don't know?



Doubts about safety of vaccine during emergency times explains a large portion of vaccine hesitancy; respondents who believe safety of emergency time vaccine is also possible 14% more likely to say they would get vaccinated

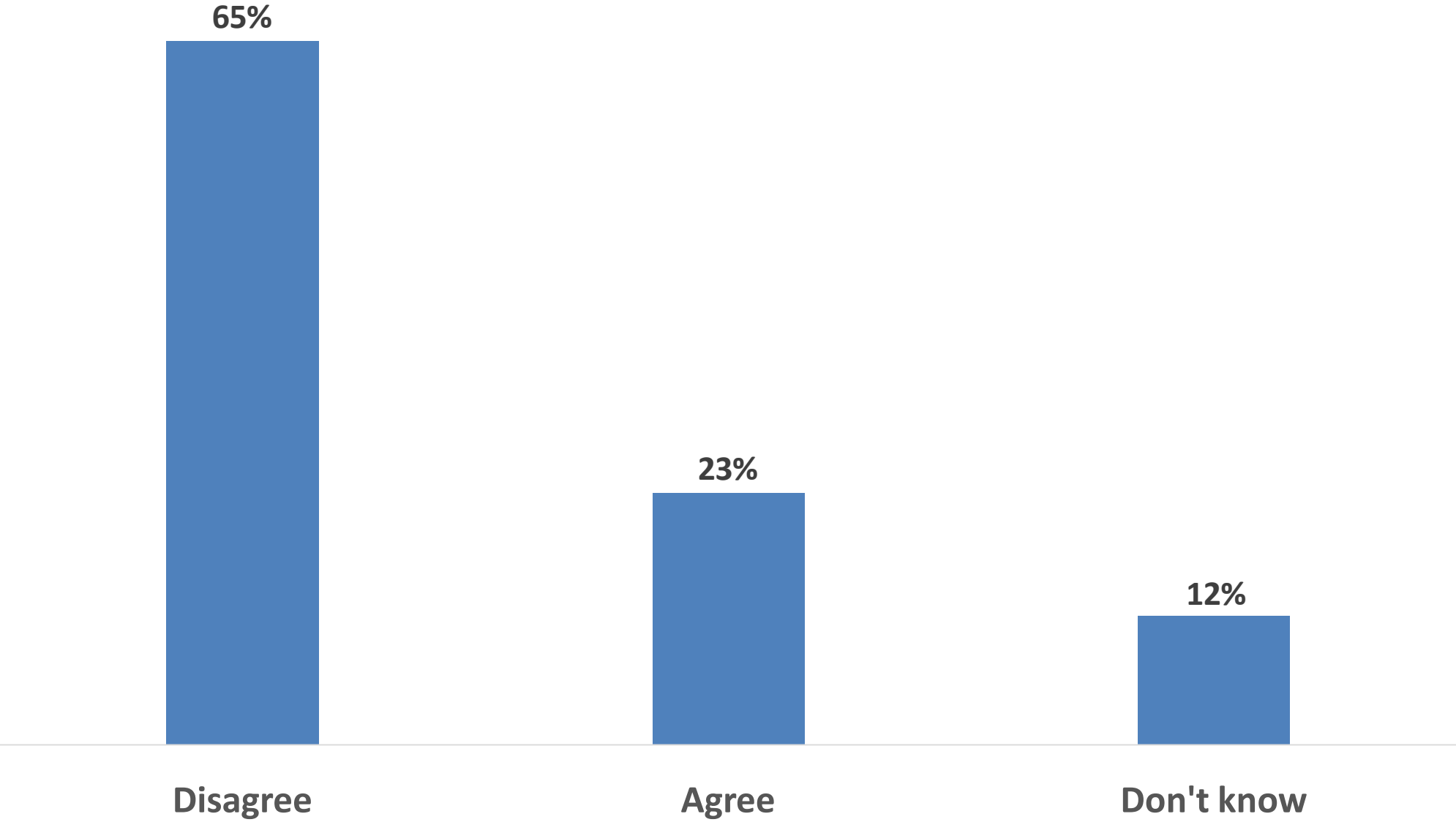
Question: The safety of a vaccine developed in an emergency, during an epidemic, cannot be considered guaranteed. Do you agree or disagree or you would rather say you don't know?

	If Covid 19 vaccine was offered to you, how likely is it that you would get vaccinated?				Total
The safety of a vaccine developed in an emergency, during an epidemic, cannot be considered guaranteed. Do you agree or disagree, or you would rather say you don't know?		Do not know	No, get vaccinated	Yes, get vaccinated	
	Agree	4.00%	19.80%	76.20%	100.00%
	Disagree	2.60%	6.60%	90.80%	100.00%



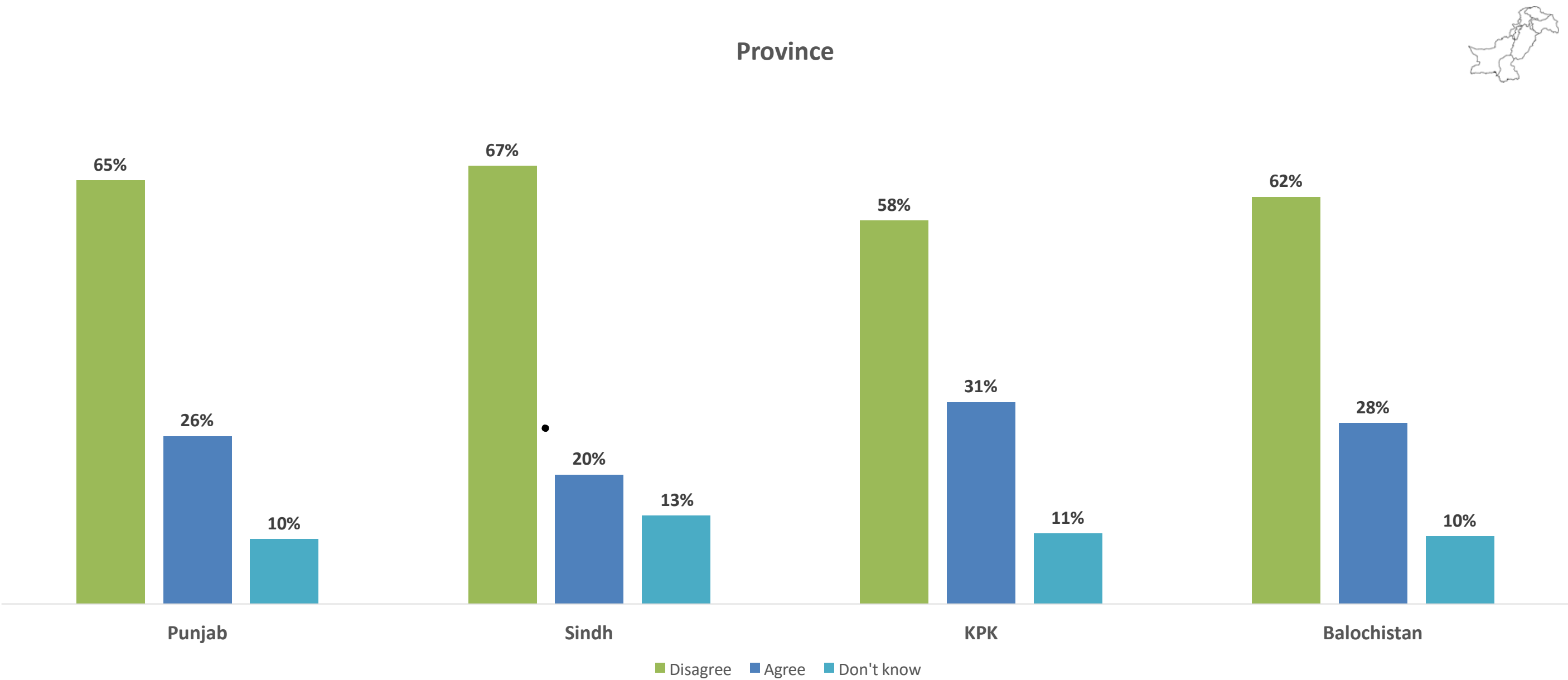
1 in 4 doctors say its preferable to acquire immunity against diseases naturally rather than getting vaccinated!

Question: It is preferable to acquire immunity against diseases naturally (by having the disease) than by vaccination. Do you agree, disagree, or don't know?



Preference to acquire natural immunity highest in KP where nearly 1 in 3 doctors say they would prefer to acquire immunity against diseases naturally rather than through any pharmaceutical intervention

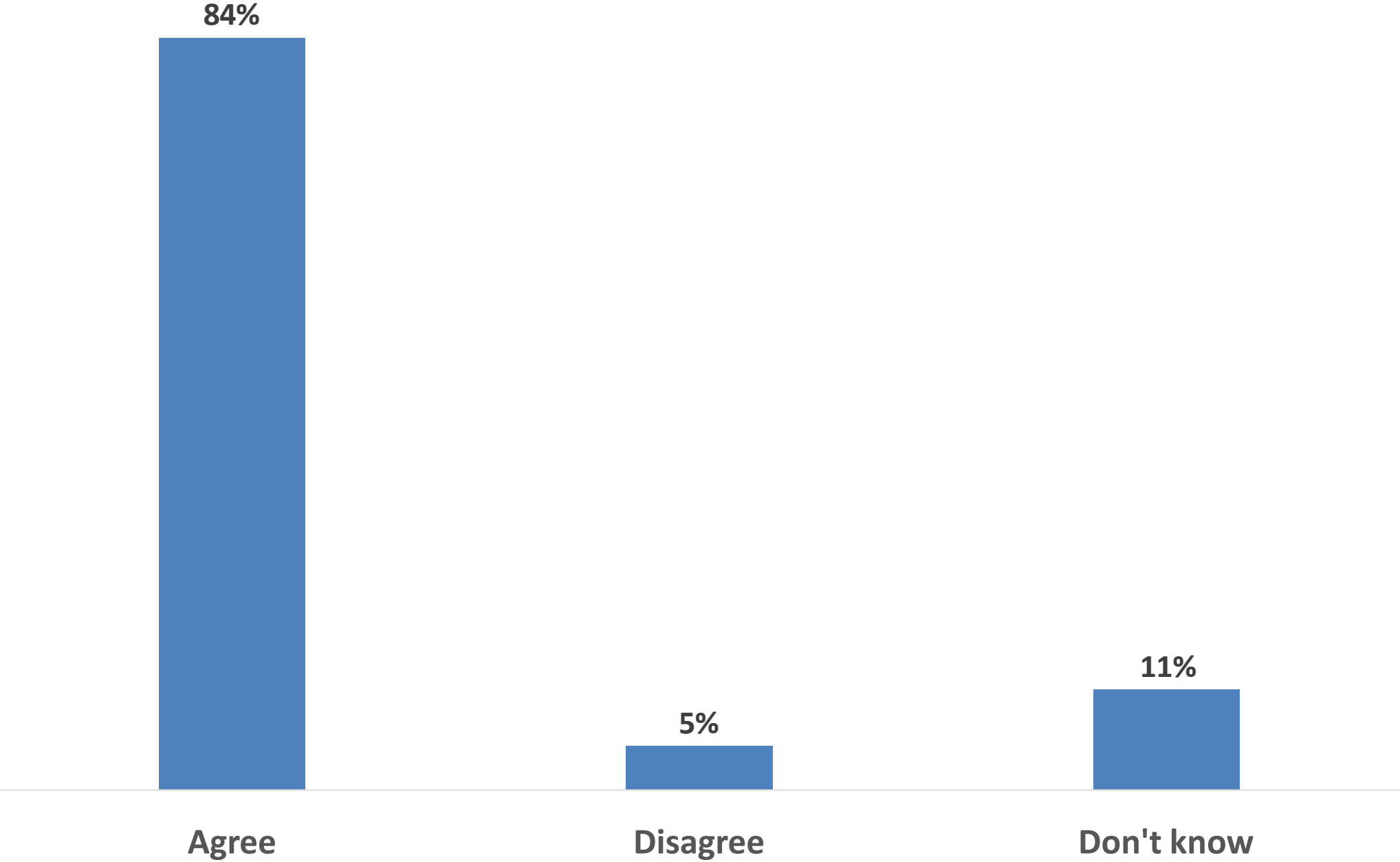
Question: It is preferable to acquire immunity against diseases naturally (by having the disease) than by vaccination. Do you agree, disagree, or don't know?



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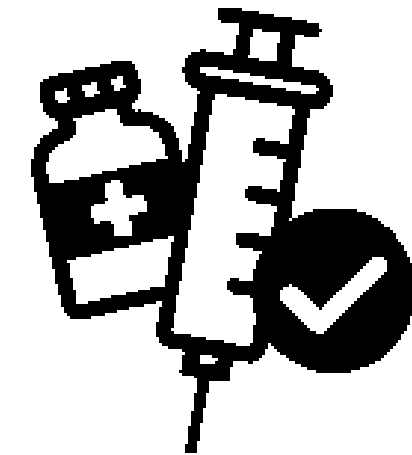
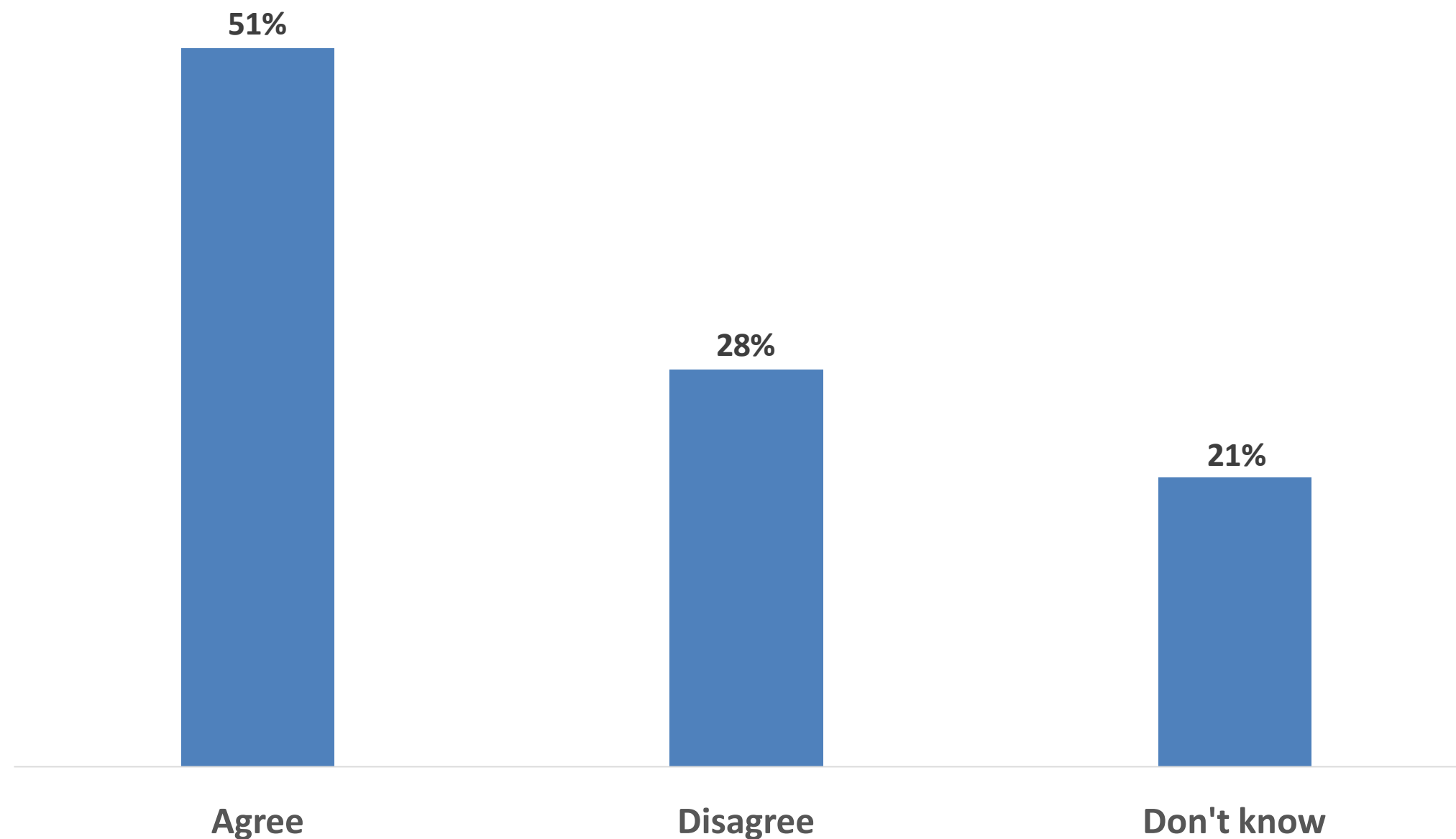
More than 5 in 6 doctors agree that they trust science to develop safe effective new vaccines

Question: I trust science to develop safe effective new vaccines. Do you agree, disagree, or would you say you don't know?



More than 1 in 2 doctors agree that they trust the ministry of health (provincial) to ensure that vaccines are safe

Question: I trust the ministry of health (provincial) to ensure that vaccines are safe.

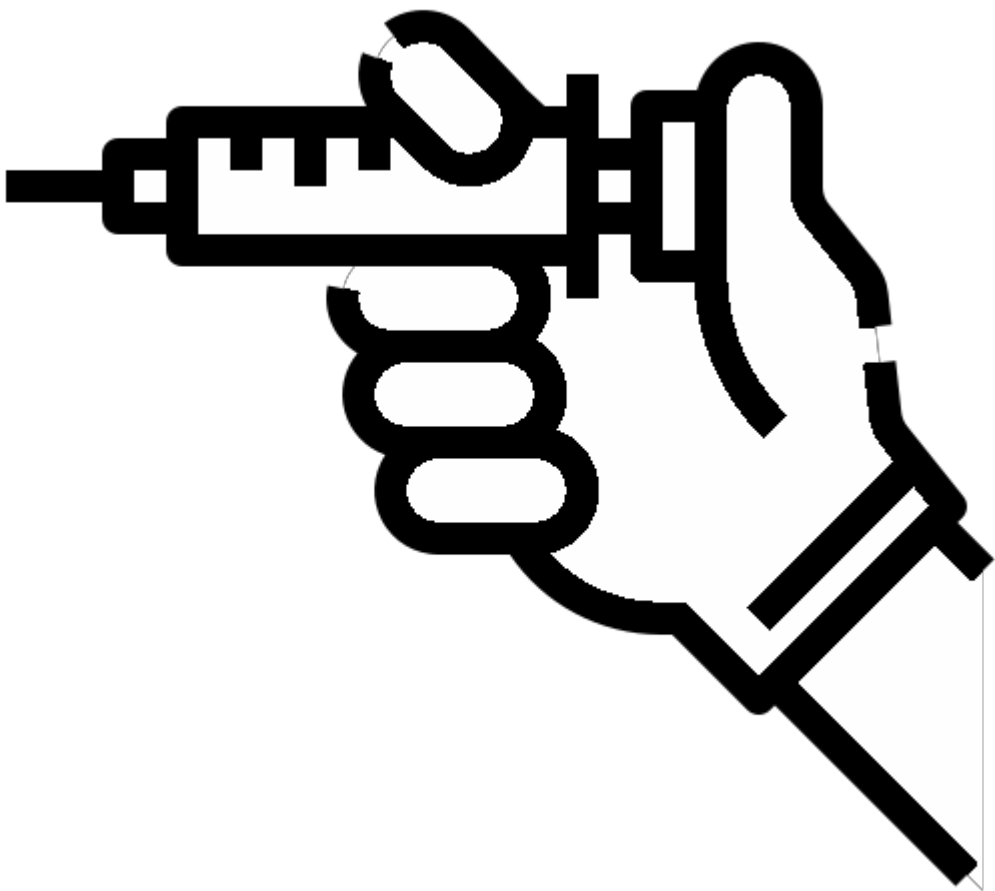
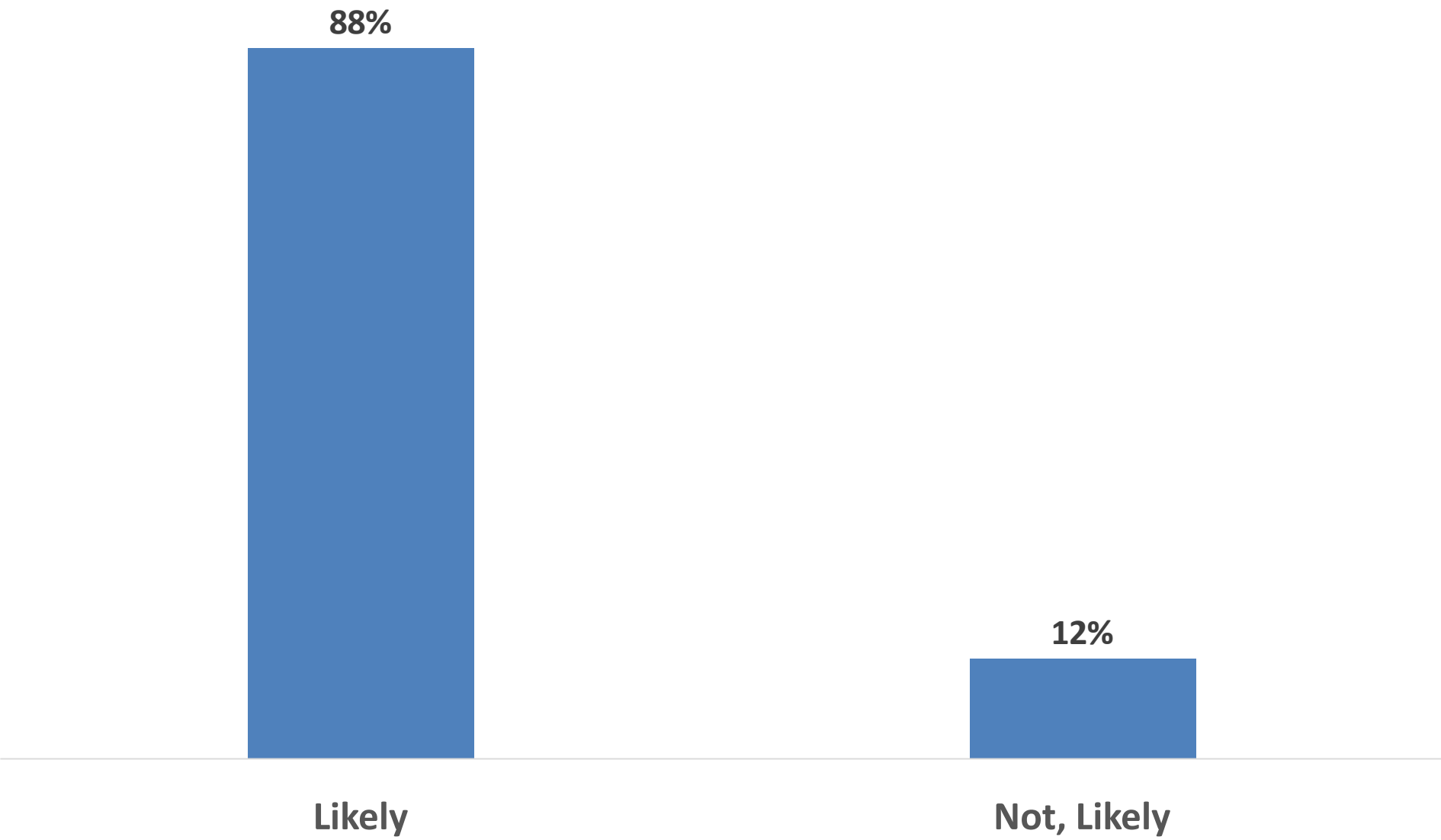




Section 5: Are Doctors going to recommend vaccination?

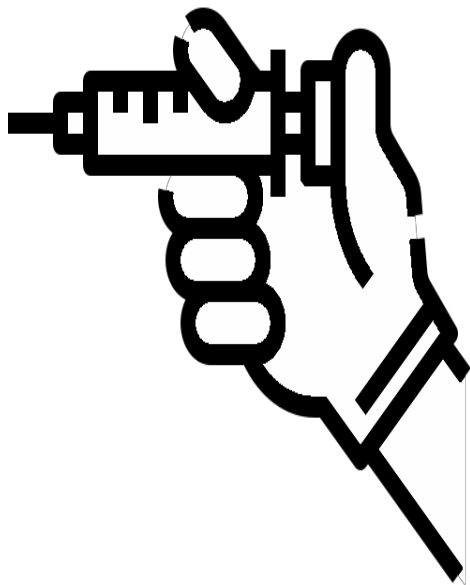
Nearly 9 in 10 doctors in Pakistan are ‘very likely’ to recommend the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available to the patients they consult/treat

Question: Given what you currently know, how likely would you recommend the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available to the patients you consult/treat?



Majority of Doctors who plan not to get vaccinated also plan not to encourage their patients to get vaccinated!

	Given what you currently know, how likely would you recommend the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available to the patients you consult/treat?			Total
If Covid 19 vaccine was offered to you, how likely is it that you would get vaccinated?		Likely	Not Likely	
	No, get vaccinated	41.60%	58.40%	100.00%
	Yes, get vaccinated	96.70%	3.30%	100.00%



DEMOGRAPHICS



METHODOLOGY



SAMPLE SIZE 555



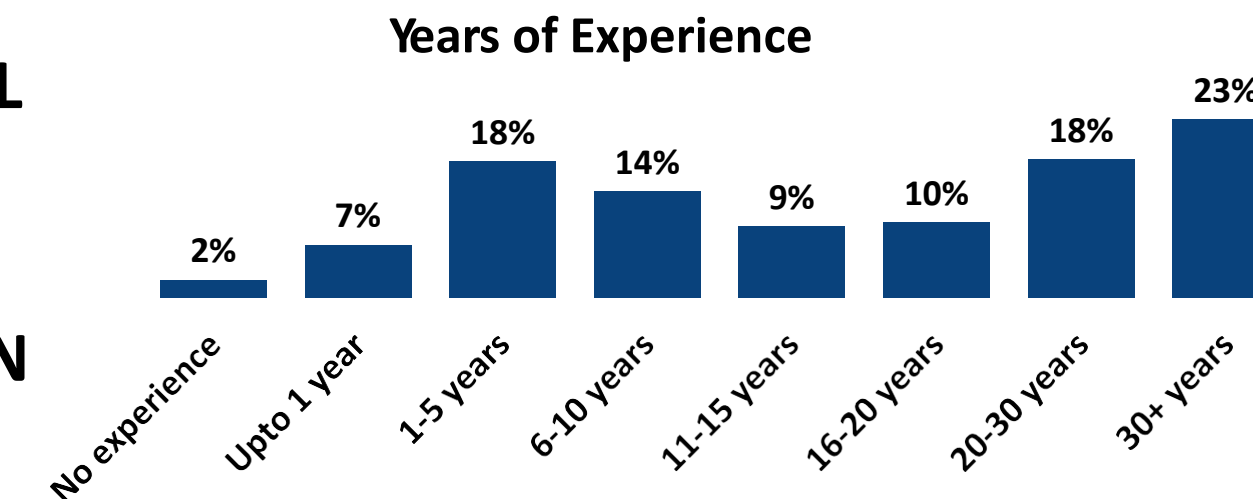
ONLINE INTERVIEWS

Note : The survey has made all attempts to follow scientific polling protocols. Given that there is no Frame available of all the doctors in the country, we have used multiple means to reach out to the doctors community. One main mean has been to reach out to 4000+ membership of PIMA. Other means have been to reach out to other associations as well as through social media. We believe that the sample achieved offers a good cross section of the health professionals in Pakistan and given the limitations of time , resources and lack of frame availability , the methodology followed is robust. However we would not call the survey a probability sample.



RURAL
10%

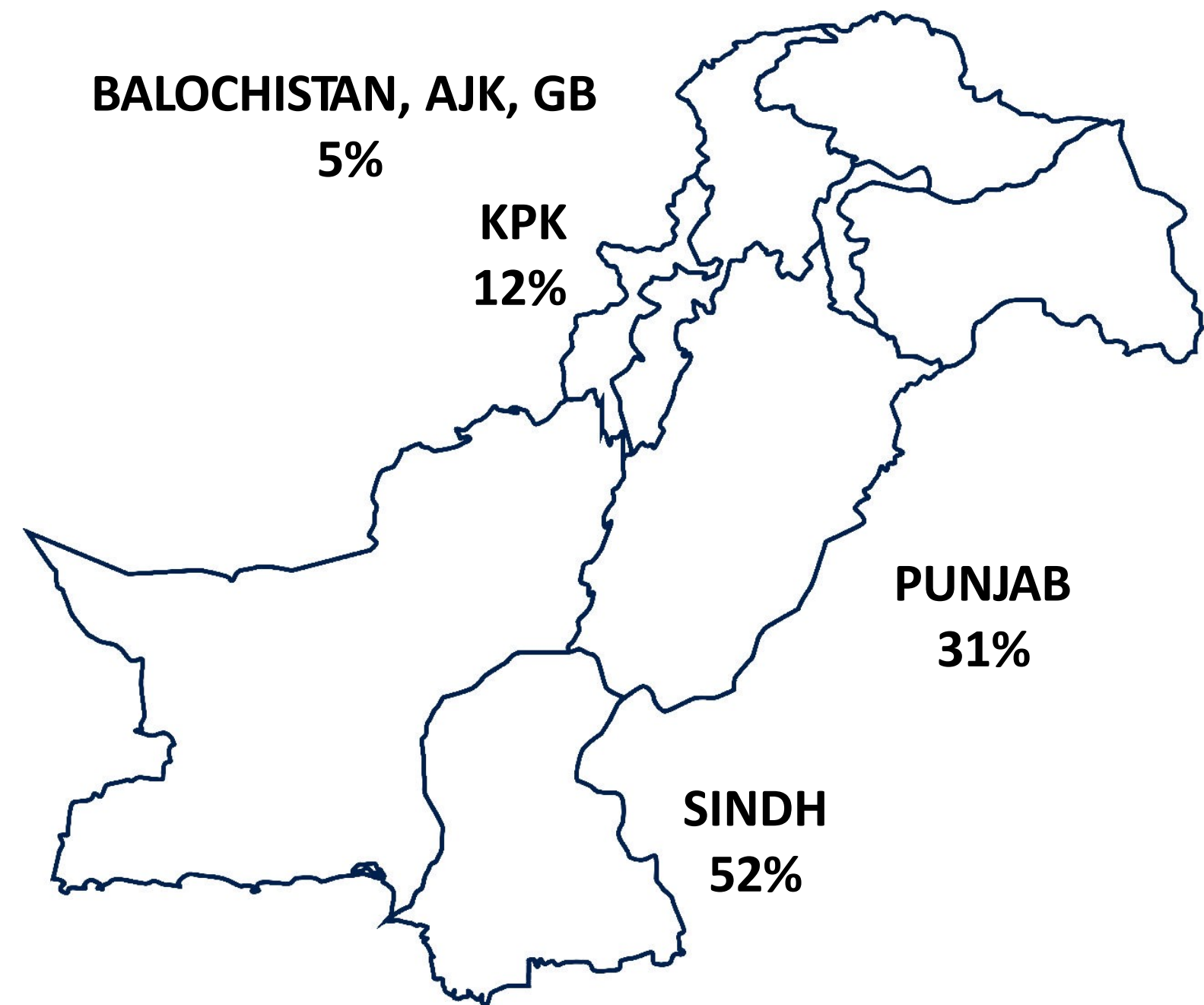
URBAN
90%



FEMALE
32%



MALE
68%



METHODOLOGY

LIST OF CITIES

Abbottabad	Jhelum	Quetta
Bahawalpur	Karachi	Rahim Yar Khan
Bajaur	Kasur	Rajan Pur
Bannu	Khairpur	Rawalakot
Bhimber	Kharian	Rawalpindi
Charsadda	Kohat	Sahiwal
Chiniot	Lahore	Sargodha
Faisalabad	Mandi Bahauddin	Shikarpur
Gilgit	Mansehra	Sialkot
Gojra	Matli	Skardu
Gujranwala	Mian channu	Sukkur
Gujrat	Mianwali	Swabi
Hangu	Mirpur khas	Swat
Haripur	Multan	Tandlianwala
Hub	Muzaffarabad	Tando Muhammad Khan
Hyderabad	Muzaffargarh	Tor Ghar
Islamabad	Nowshera	Toba Tek Singh
Jampur	Okara	Upper Dir
Jamshoro	Pakpattan	Wah Cantt
Jaranwala	Peshawar	

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