



Medication Education & Disposal

Resident Survey Results: Unwanted Medication – Alameda County, California

Survey Conducted: April-May 2026

Survey Commissioned by MED-Project – Research Independently Conducted

Executive Summary

Resident Awareness

Appendix - Demographics

Study Objectives & Methodology

Study Objectives

- MED-Project has been tasked with measuring awareness of the take-back of expired or unwanted medication from households among residents of Alameda County.

Study Design

- 1,000 Alameda County residents (18 years and older) were surveyed between April 23 and May 3, 2026.
- Residents were randomly sampled to minimize bias.
- Quotas for race/ethnicity and age were established to align with the 2020 U.S. Census demographic distribution of Alameda County residents (18 years and older.)

Sampling & Analysis

- Random sampling conducted through a quality-controlled panel of county residents.
- When the surveys were completed, the raw data was reviewed and cleaned to remove incomplete surveys. The data was then analyzed at a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of 3.10%, which means that if the same survey was conducted 100 times, 95 out of 100 times the results would be anticipated to fall within what is reported herein, +/-3.10%.

Executive Summary – Expired and/or Unwanted Medication

	Resident
Awareness	– 92% of Alameda County adults have heard of at least one in-county medication disposal option. – 84% of residents are aware of pharmacy drop boxes as a disposal method for expired and/or unwanted household medication. 64% are aware of takeback events, 63% of mail-back services, and 59% of police station drop boxes. – The most common sources of information about safe disposal have been pharmacies, hospitals, and other healthcare providers; friends or family; Facebook; TikTok; and websites. – Residents would prefer to receive information about safe disposal programs through pharmacies, hospitals, and other healthcare providers; direct mail; email; and text message.
Disposal Method	– Of Alameda residents who have utilized a safe disposal option for expired and/or unwanted medication in the last year, 60% used a pharmacy drop box. – Of residents who have not utilized a safe disposal option, 47% of residents are aware of pharmacy drop boxes, 45% are aware of police station drop boxes, 45% are aware of takeback events, and 44% are aware of mail-back services as methods to safely dispose of expired and/or unwanted medication.
Perception	– 80% of Alameda residents agree that medication disposal programs are easy to use, while 76% agree they are convenient. – 53% of residents are extremely or very concerned that keeping unwanted medication in the home can lead to accidental poisonings or overdoses.

Executive Summary

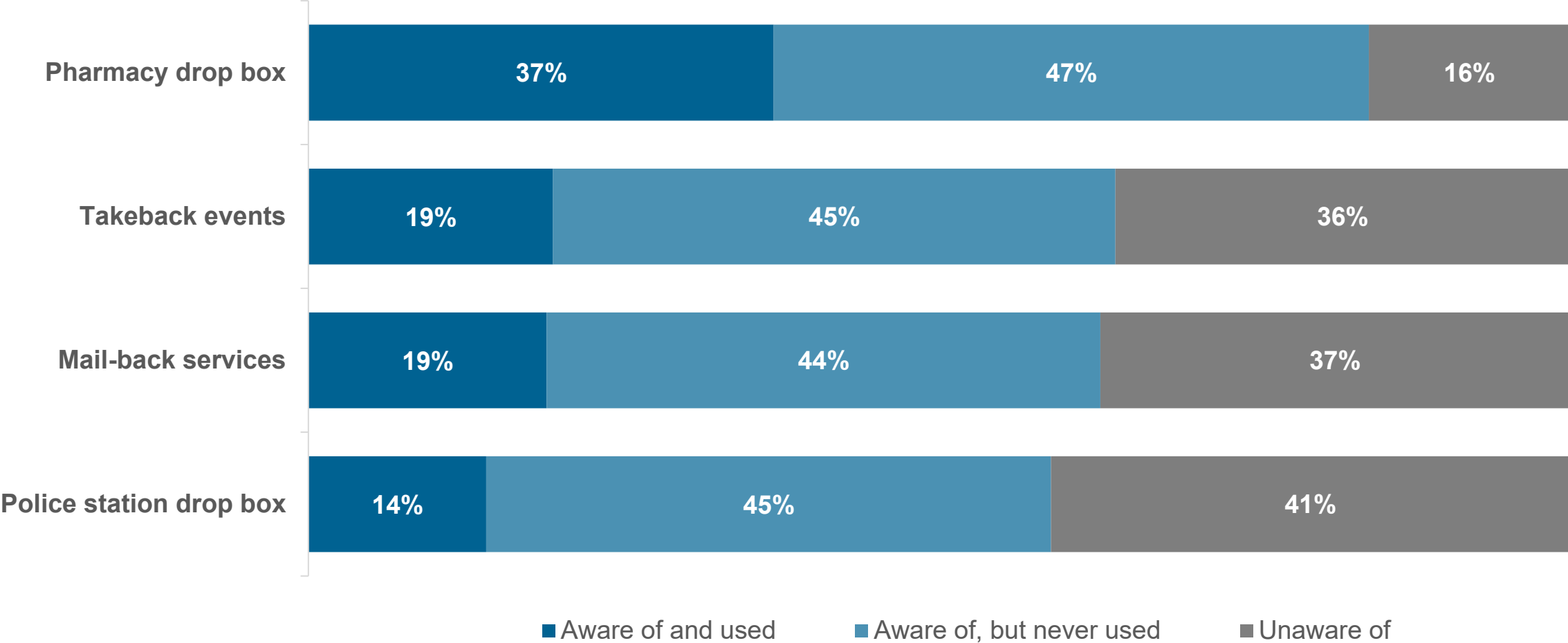
Resident Awareness

Appendix - Demographics

92% of Alameda County adults have heard of at least one in-county medication disposal option.*

Residents' Awareness of Disposal Programs for Unwanted Medication

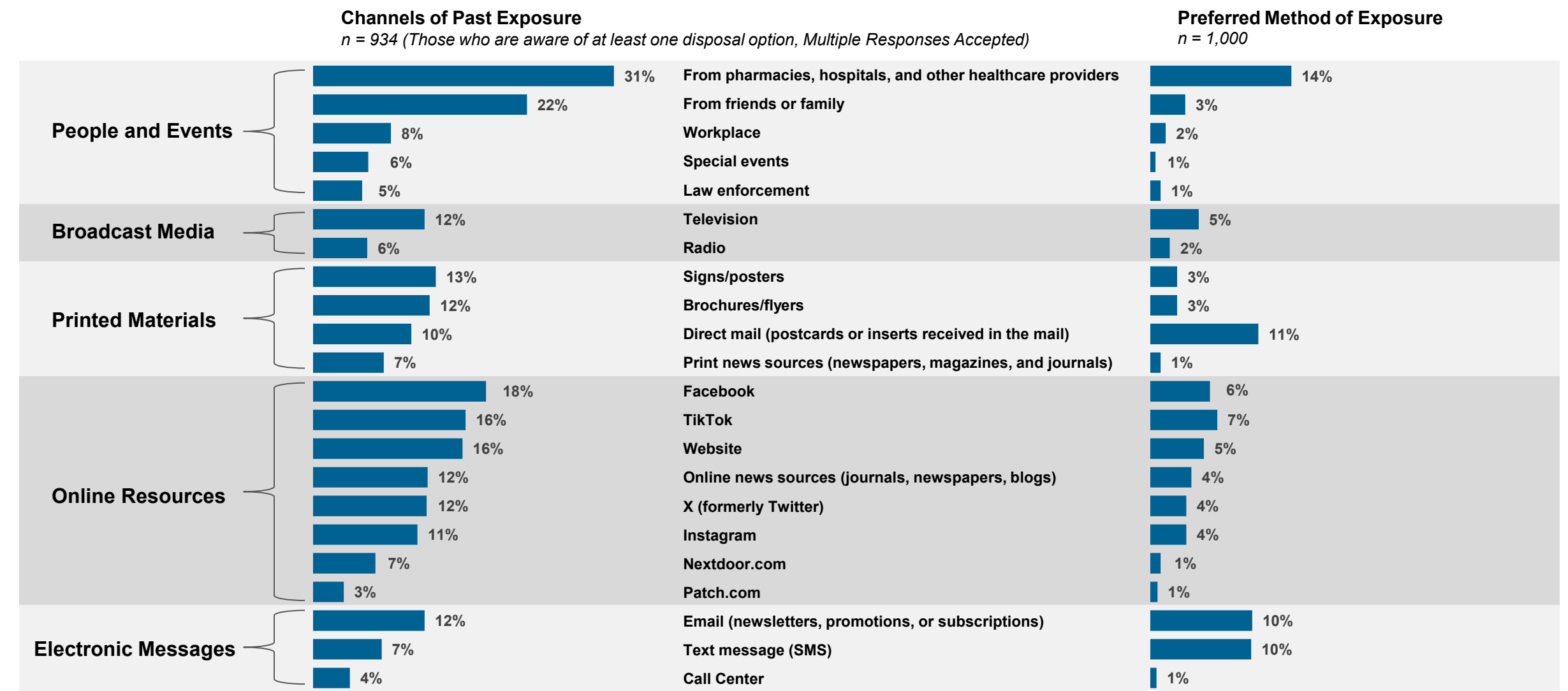
n = 1,000



*Calculations account for overlap, residents familiar with multiple options counted once.

Residents’ most common sources of information about safe disposal are pharmacies, hospitals, and other healthcare providers (31%), friends and family (22%), and Facebook (18%).

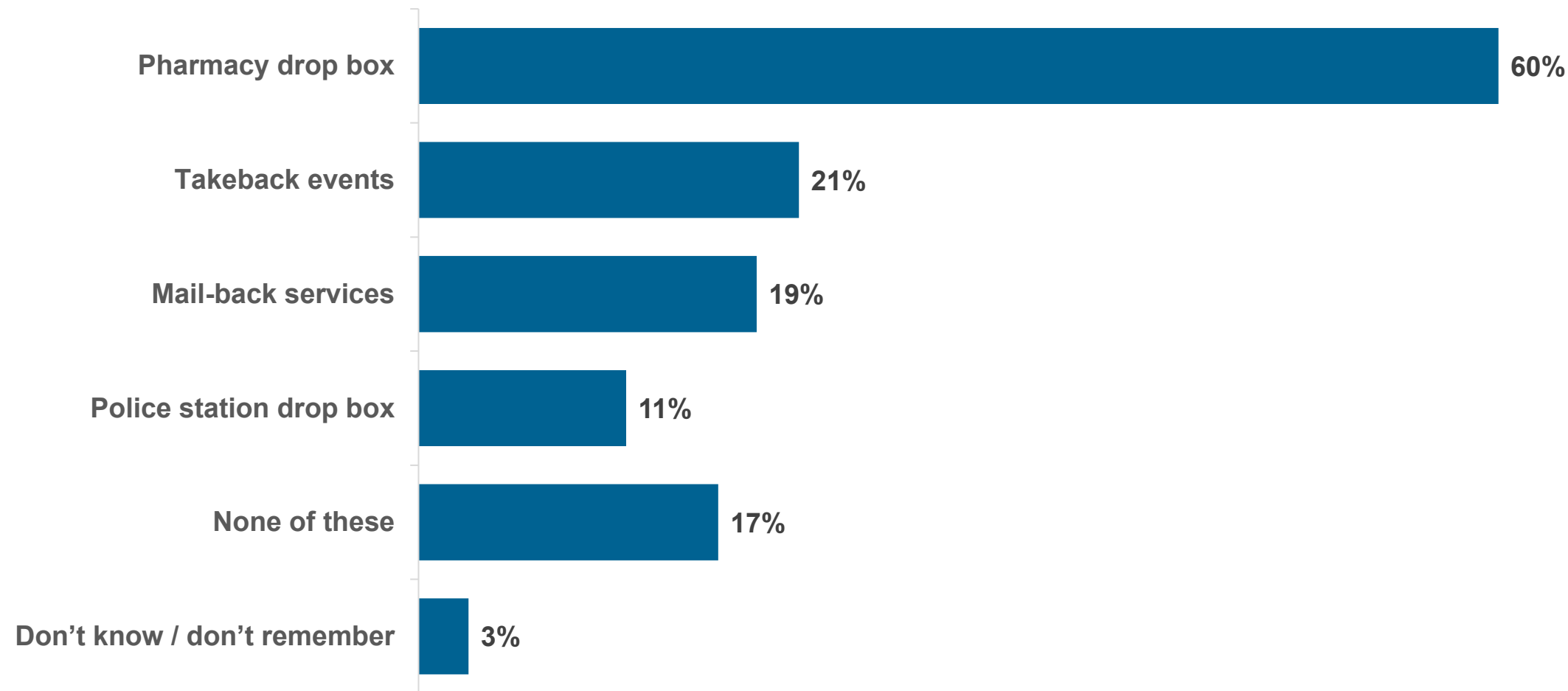
Residents’ Communication Channels



Of Alameda residents who utilized a safe medication disposal option in the past year, 60% used a pharmacy drop box.

Residents’ Disposal Methods Used for Unwanted Medication in the Past Year

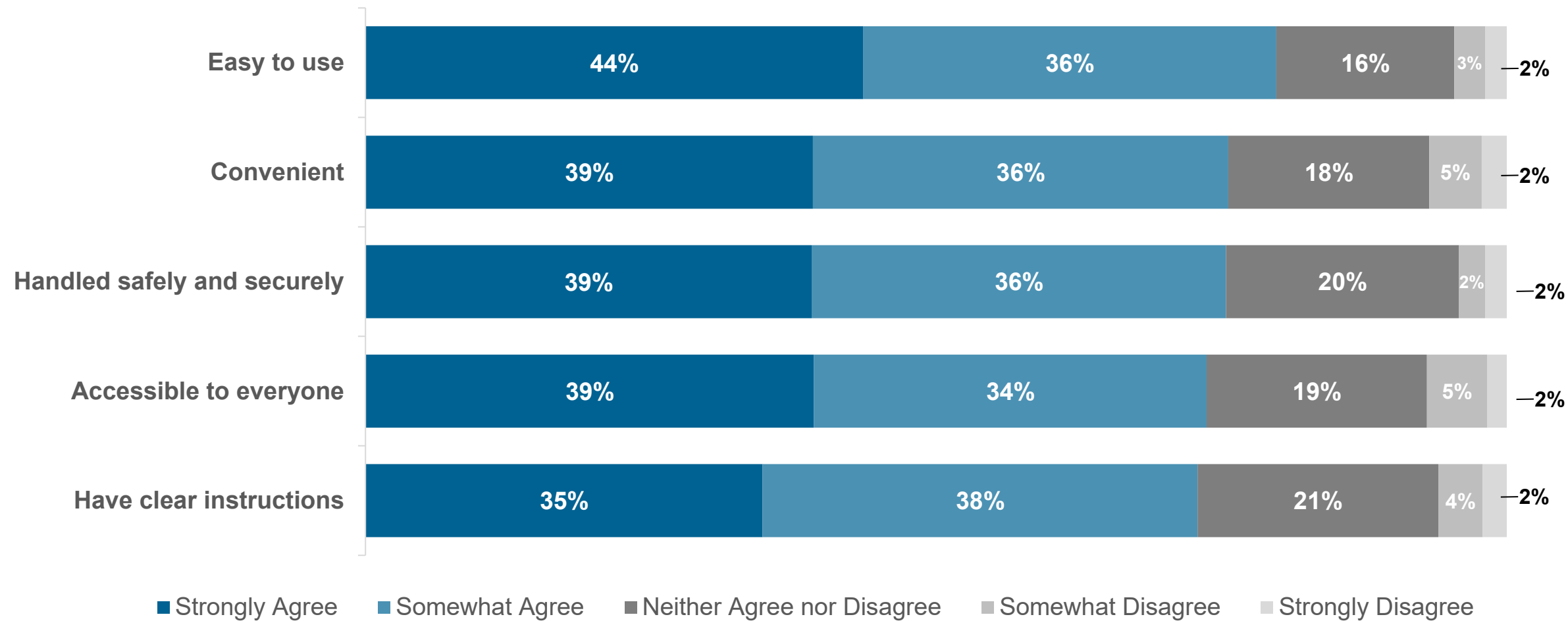
n = 472 (Those who have used any medication disposal options, Multiple Responses Accepted)



80% of Alameda residents agree that medication disposal programs are easy to use, 76% agree they are convenient and 74% agree they are accessible to everyone.

Residents’ Description of Disposal Programs for Unwanted Medication

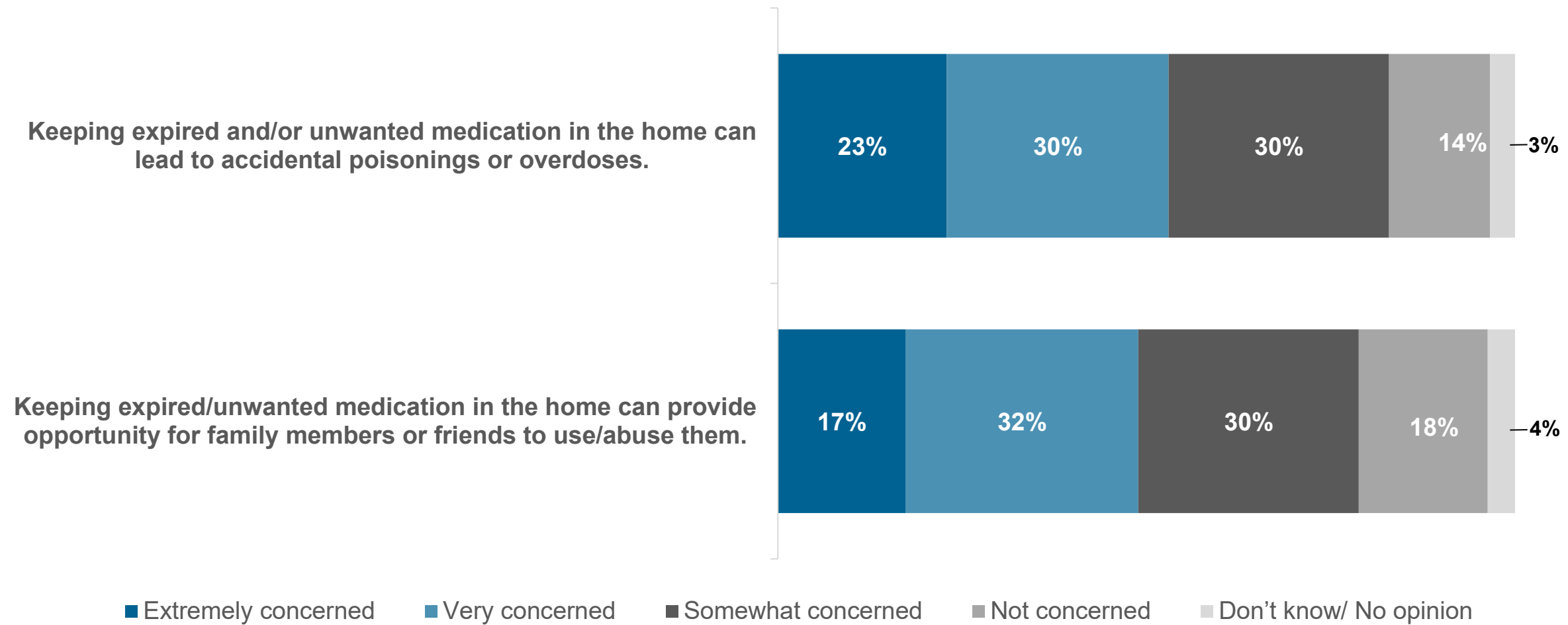
n = 1,000



53% of residents are extremely or very concerned that keeping unwanted medication in the home can lead to accidental poisonings or overdoses.

Residents' Concerns Regarding Unwanted Medication in the Home

n = 1,000



Executive Summary

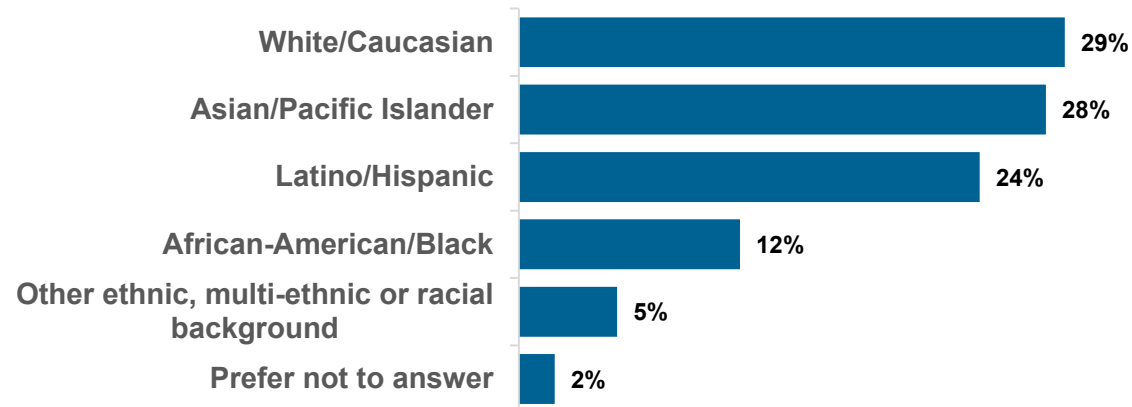
Resident Awareness

Appendix - Demographics

Appendix: Alameda County Resident Demographics

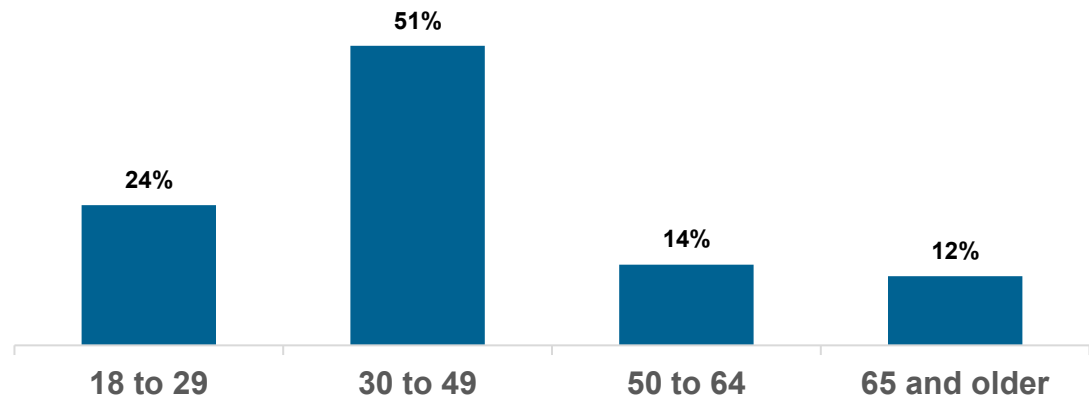
Race and Ethnicity

n = 1,000



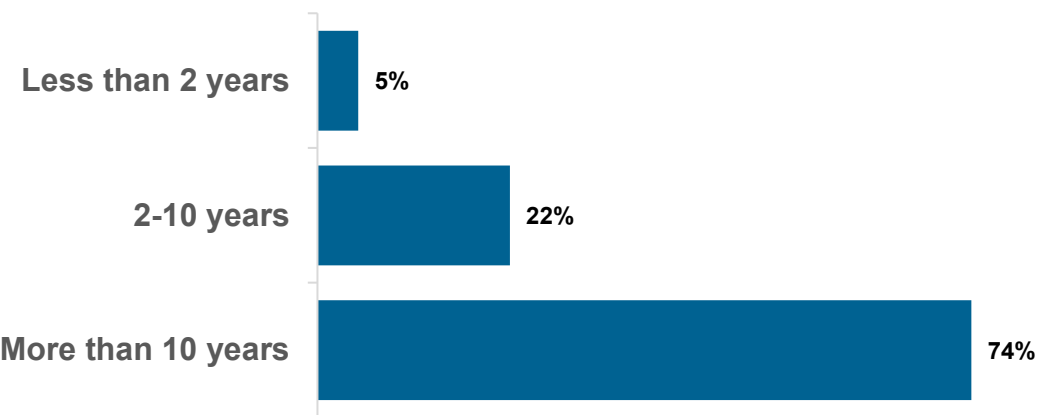
Age

n = 1,000



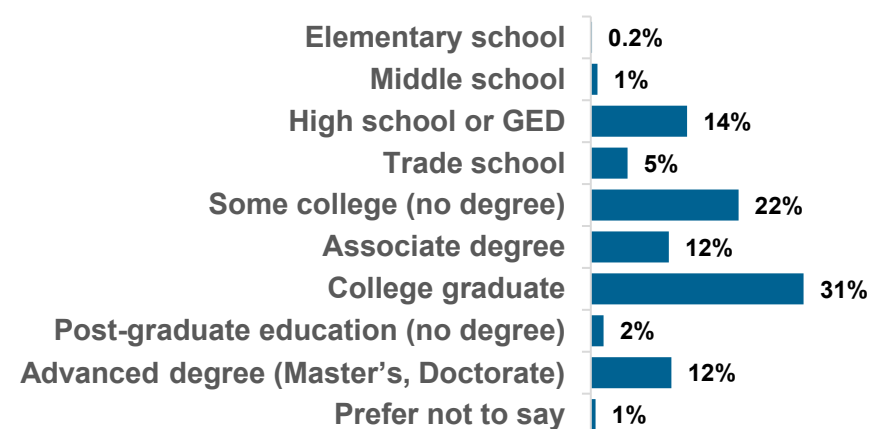
Years Living in Alameda County

n = 1,000



Education

n = 1,000



Q4: Select your age from the following ranges.
Q5: How long have you lived in Alameda County?
Q6: With which racial or ethnic group do you identify?
Q7: What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures, and not all results will sum to 100%.