



Medication Education & Disposal

Resident and Healthcare Provider Survey Results: Used or Unwanted Home-Generated Sharps – Alameda County, California

Survey Conducted: April-May 2026

Survey Commissioned by MED-Project – Research Independently Conducted

Executive Summary

Resident Awareness

Healthcare Provider Awareness

Appendix - Demographics

Study Objectives & Methodology

Study Objectives

- MED-Project has been tasked with measuring awareness of the take-back of Sharps from households and to evaluate the effectiveness of its education and outreach activities among residents and health professionals in Alameda County.

Study Design

- 1,000 Alameda County residents (18 years and older) were surveyed between April 23 and May 3, 2026, and 200 healthcare professionals were surveyed between April 23 and April 30, 2026.
- 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.)
- Healthcare providers (doctors, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, pharmacy technicians, veterinarians, or health office administrators) were sampled.

Sampling & Analysis

- Random sampling conducted through a quality-controlled panel of county residents.
- When the surveys were completed, the raw data was analyzed 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% (for residents) and 6.91% (for healthcare providers), which means that if the same survey was conducted 100 times, 95 out of 100 times the results would fall within what is reported herein, +/-3.10% (for residents) and +/-6.91% (for healthcare providers).

Executive Summary – Used or Unwanted Home-Generated Sharps

Awareness

Resident	Provider
— 87% of Alameda County residents have heard of at least one in-county sharps disposal option. — 78% of residents are aware of pharmacy drop boxes as a disposal method for unwanted home-generated sharps. 66% are aware of takeback events, 59% of mail-back services, and 57% of police station drop boxes. — Residents would prefer to receive information about safe disposal of unwanted home-generated sharps through pharmacies, hospitals, and other healthcare providers, direct mail, email, and text message.	— 99% of Alameda County providers have heard of at least one in-county option for disposal of home-generated sharps. — 98% of providers are aware of pharmacy drop boxes as a disposal method for unwanted home-generated sharps. 92% are aware of takeback events, 85% of police station drop boxes, and 80% of mail-back services. — Providers would prefer to receive information about safe disposal of unwanted home-generated sharps through pharmacies, hospitals, and other healthcare providers, websites, and email.

Disposal Method

— Of residents who have not utilized a safe disposal option, 45% of residents are aware of pharmacy drop boxes, 45% are aware of takeback events, 43% are aware of police station drop boxes, and 41% are aware of mail-back services as ways to dispose of home-generated sharps.	— 93% of Alameda County healthcare providers have encouraged their patients or clients to safely store and dispose of unwanted home-generated sharps.
--	---

Perception

— 69% of Alameda residents agree that home-generated sharps disposal programs are easy to use, while 69% agree they are convenient, and 66% agree they are accessible.	— 77% of providers agree that home-generated sharps disposal programs available to residents in Alameda County are accessible, while 74% agree they are convenient, and 72% agree they are easy to use.
--	---

Executive Summary

Resident Awareness

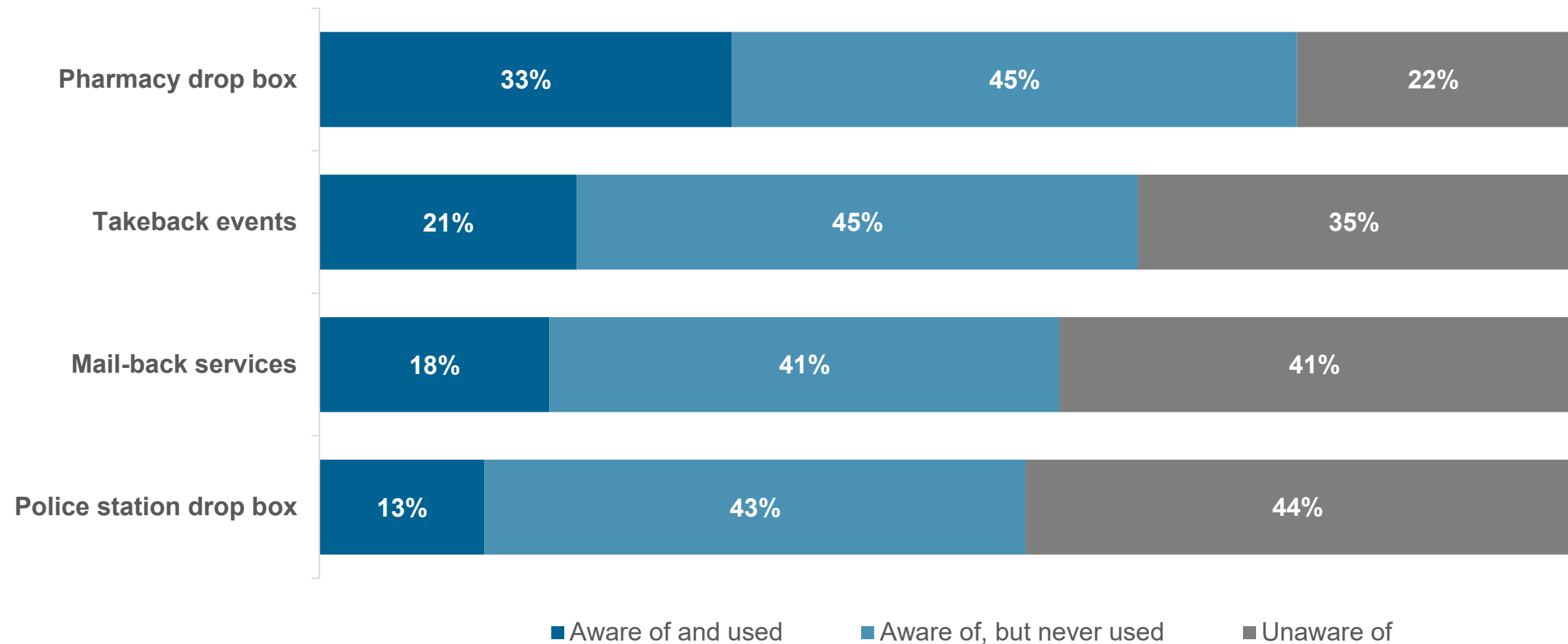
Healthcare Provider Awareness

Appendix - Demographics

87% of Alameda County residents have heard of at least one in-county sharps disposal option.*

Residents’ Awareness of Disposal Programs for Used or Unwanted Home-Generated Sharps

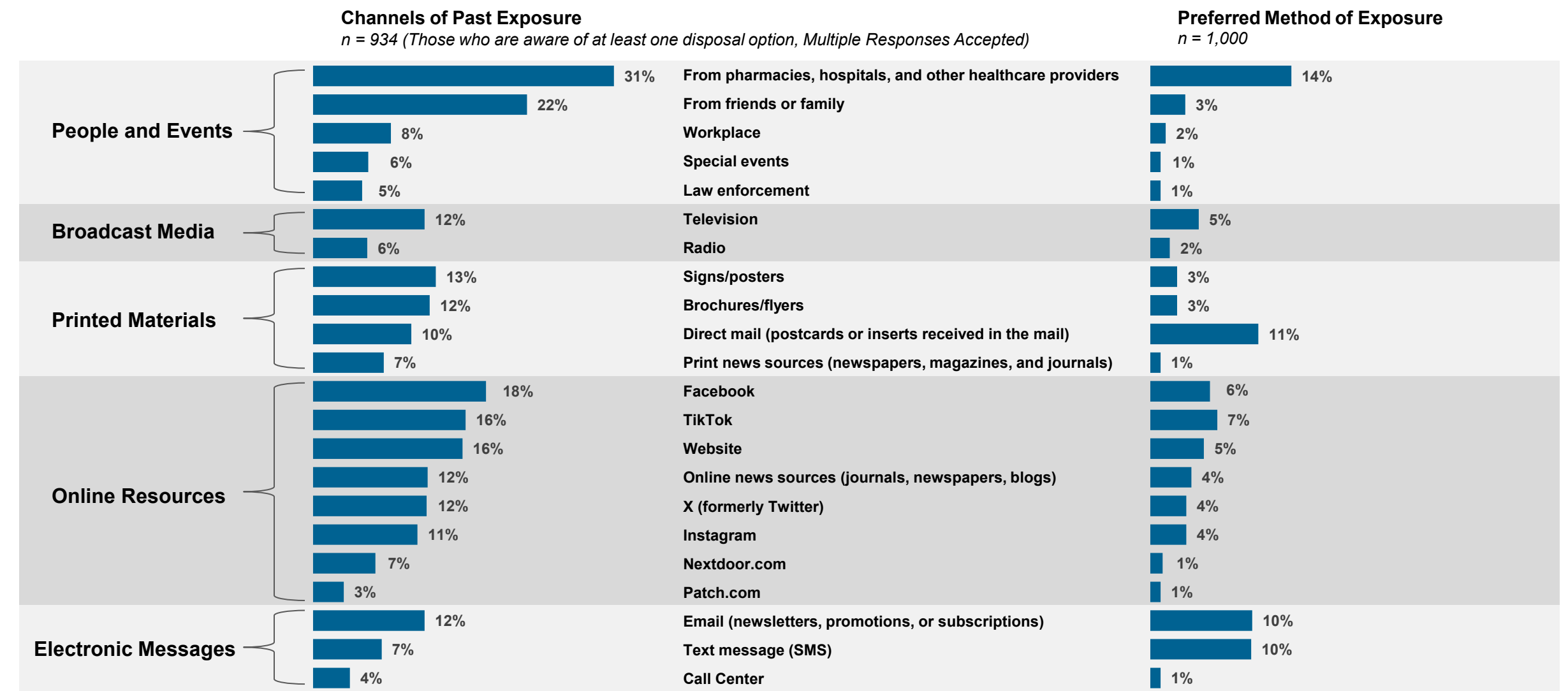
n = 1,000



*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%).

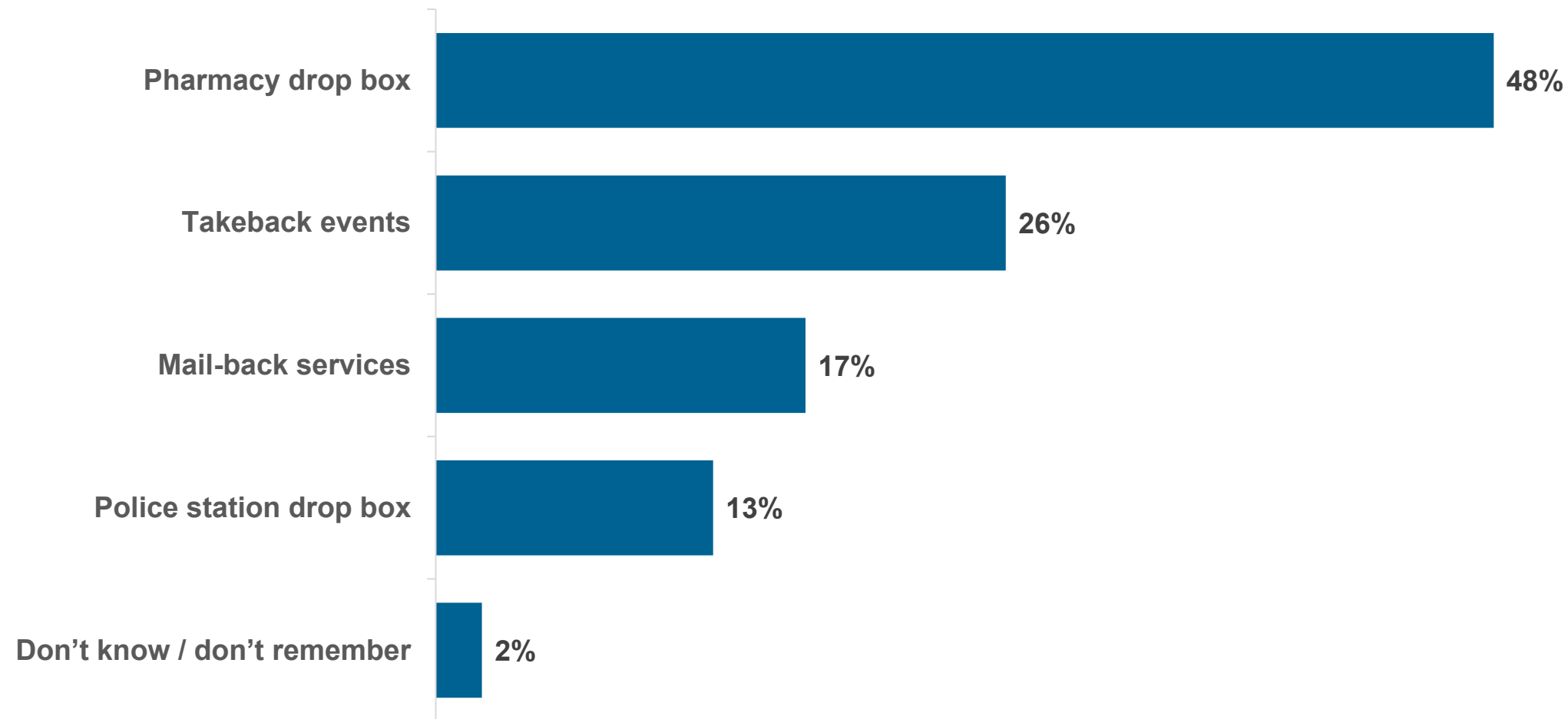
Residents’ Communication Channels



Of residents who utilized a safe disposal option for used or unwanted home-generated sharps in the past year, 48% used a pharmacy drop box.

Residents’ Disposal Methods Utilized for Used or Unwanted Home-Generated Sharps in the Past Year

n = 429 (Those who have used any sharps disposal options, Multiple Responses Accepted)

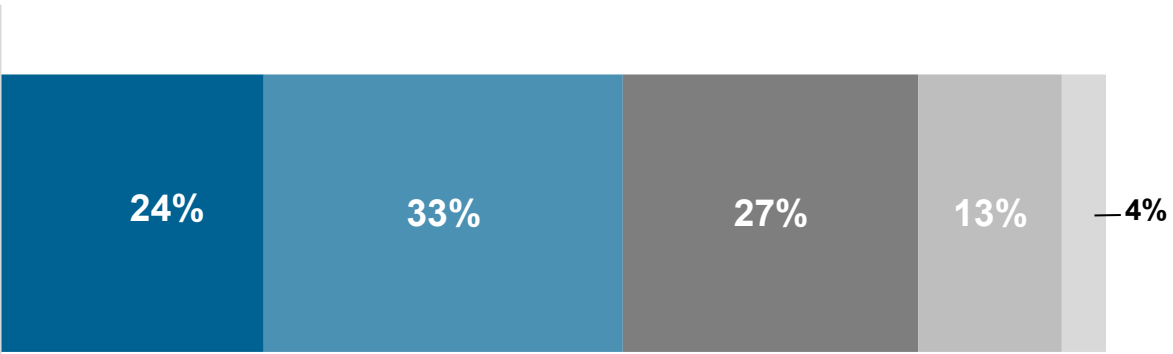


57% of Alameda residents are extremely or very concerned that keeping used or unwanted home-generated sharps in the home can lead to accidental injury or exposure to illness.

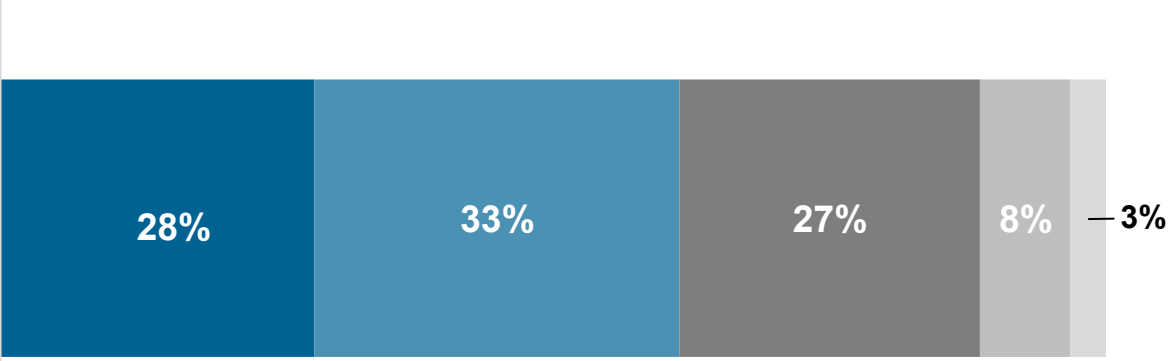
Residents’ Concerns Regarding Used or Unwanted Home-Generated Sharps in the Home

n = 1,000

Keeping used or unwanted home-generated sharps in the home can lead someone in my family or others in my home like children or visitors, to accidental injury, misuse or exposure to illness.



Improper disposal of used or unwanted home-generated sharps, such as in the trash, can lead to injury, misuse or exposure to illness of animals and/or individuals.

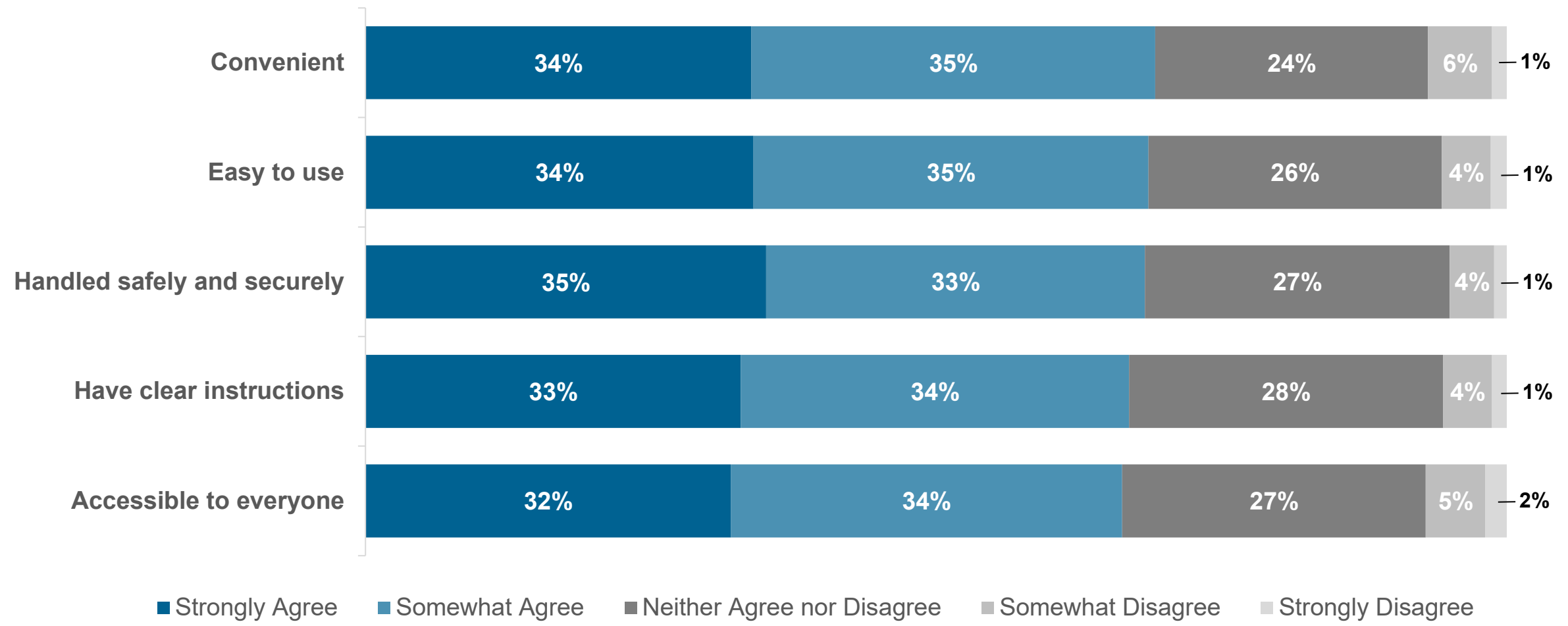


■ Extremely concerned ■ Very concerned ■ Somewhat concerned ■ Not concerned ■ Don't know/ No opinion

69% of Alameda residents agree that home-generated sharps disposal programs are easy to use, while 69% agree they are convenient, and 66% agree they are accessible to everyone.

Residents' Description of Disposal Programs for Used or Unwanted Home-Generated Sharps

n = 1,000



Executive Summary

Resident Awareness

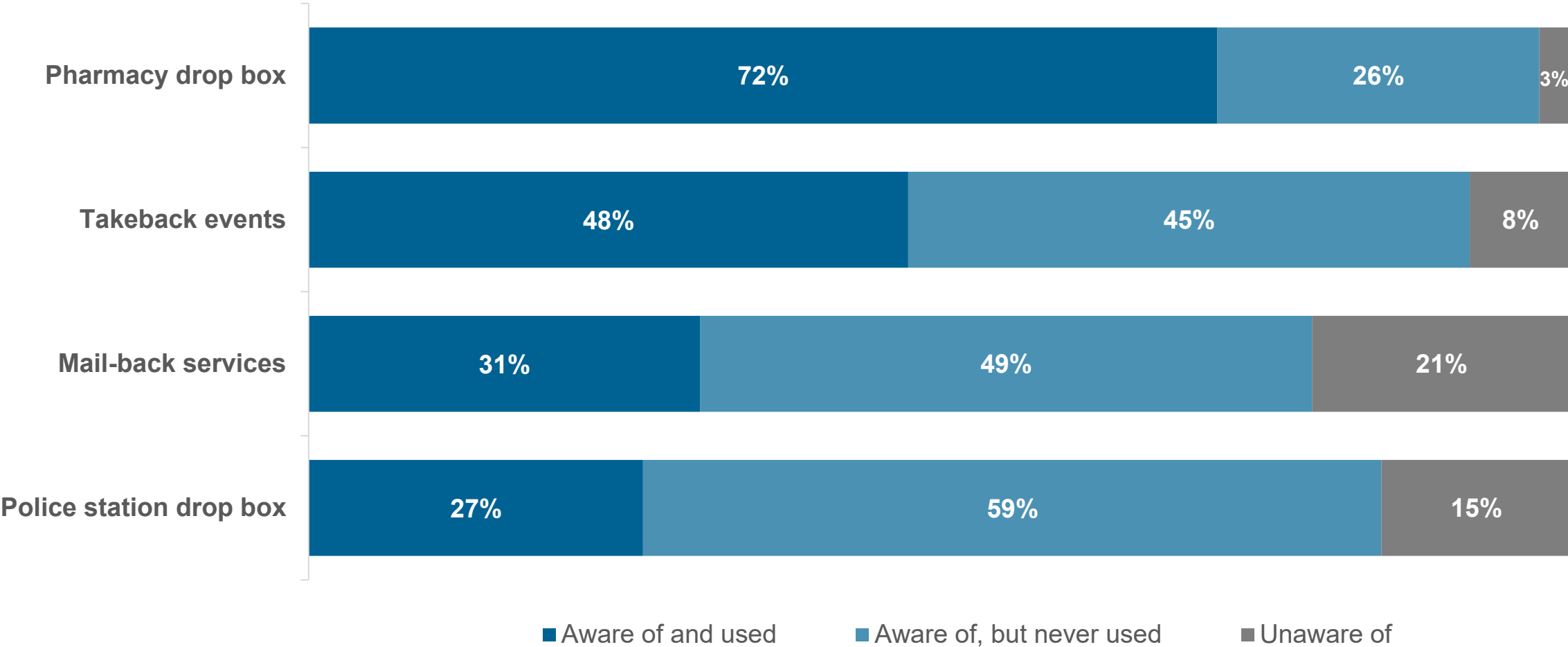
Healthcare Provider Awareness

Appendix - Demographics

99% of Alameda County providers have heard of at least one in-county option for disposal of home-generated sharps.*

Providers' Awareness of Disposal Programs for Unwanted Home-Generated Sharps

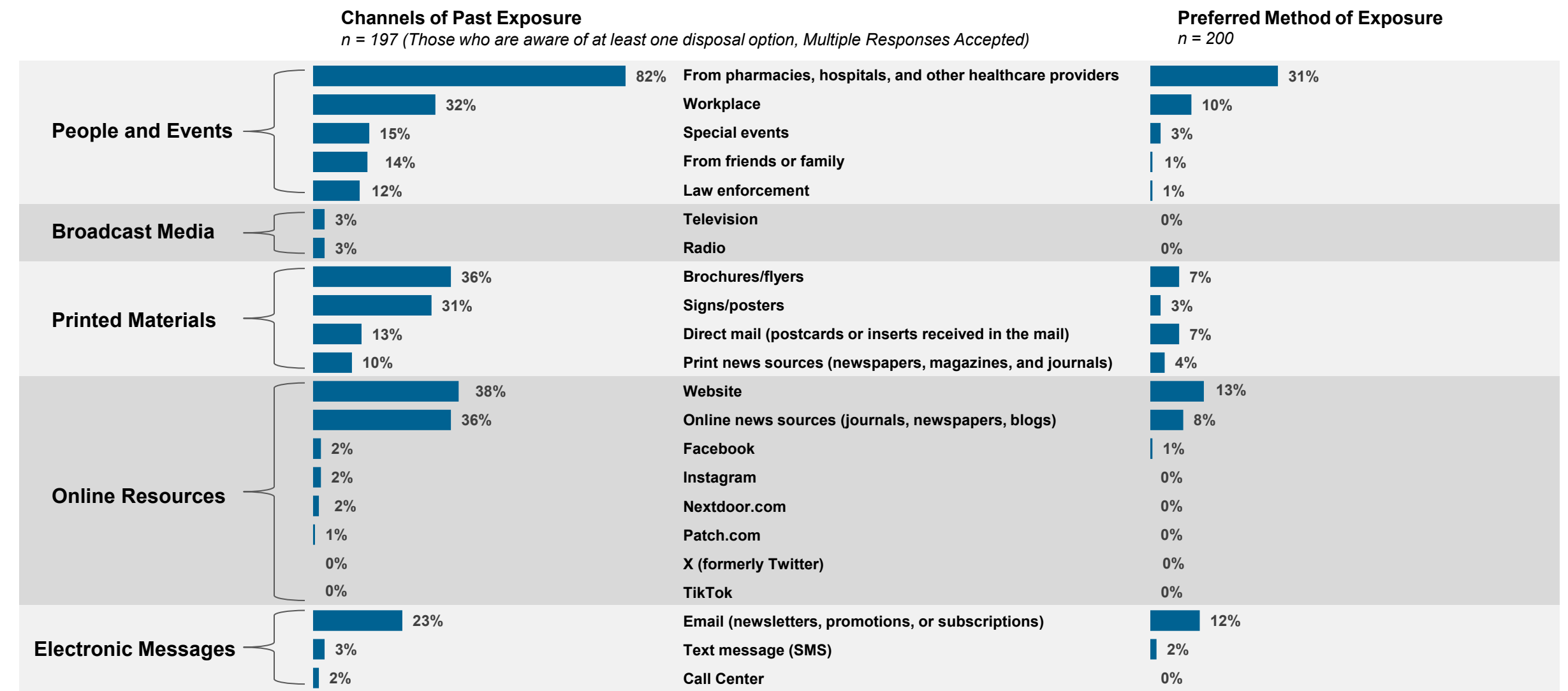
n = 200



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

Providers preferred receiving information about safe disposal from pharmacies, hospitals, and other healthcare providers (31%), website (13%), and email (12%).

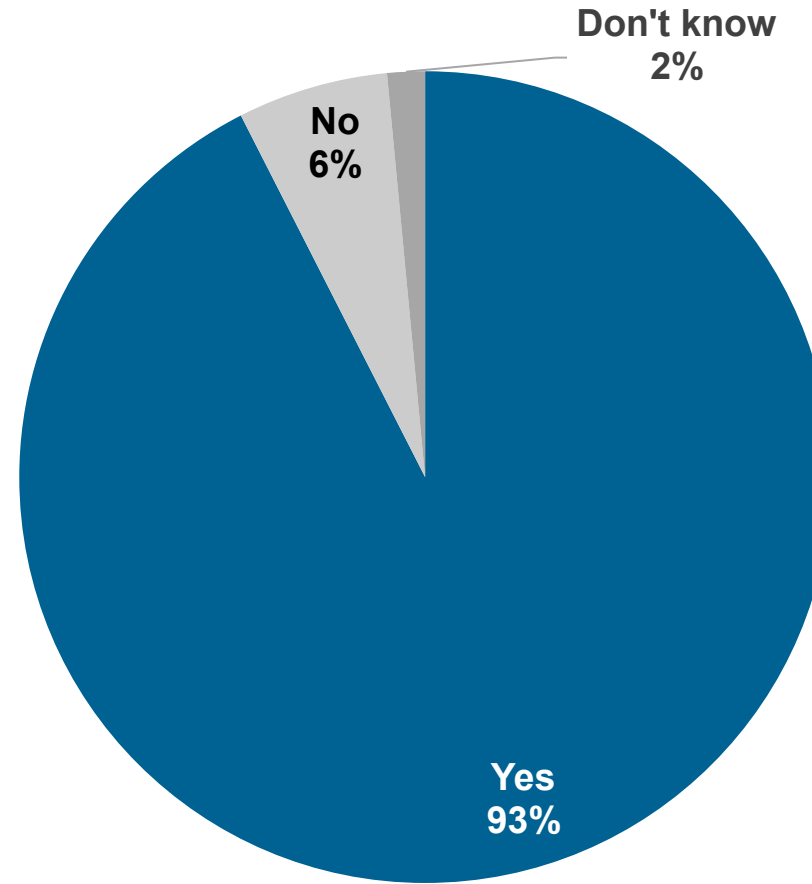
Providers' Communication Channels



93% of Alameda County providers have encouraged their patients or clients to safely store and dispose of unwanted home-generated sharps.

Providers' Encouragement of Patients to Dispose of Unwanted Home-Generated Sharps

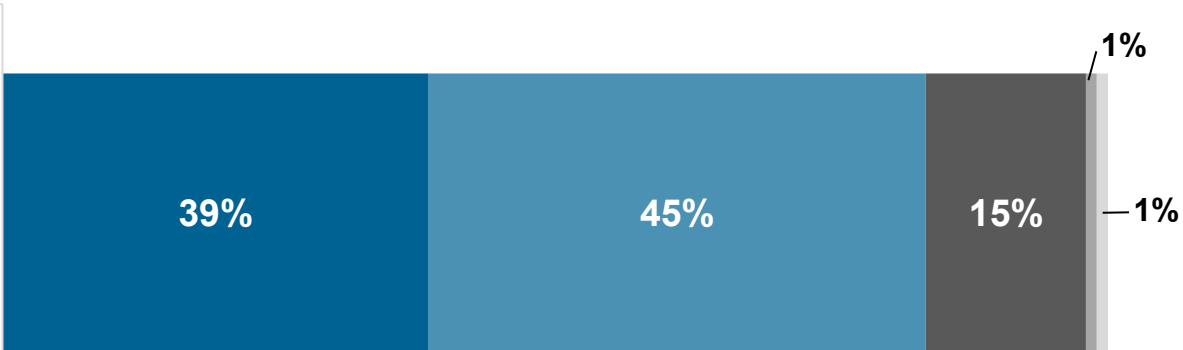
n = 200



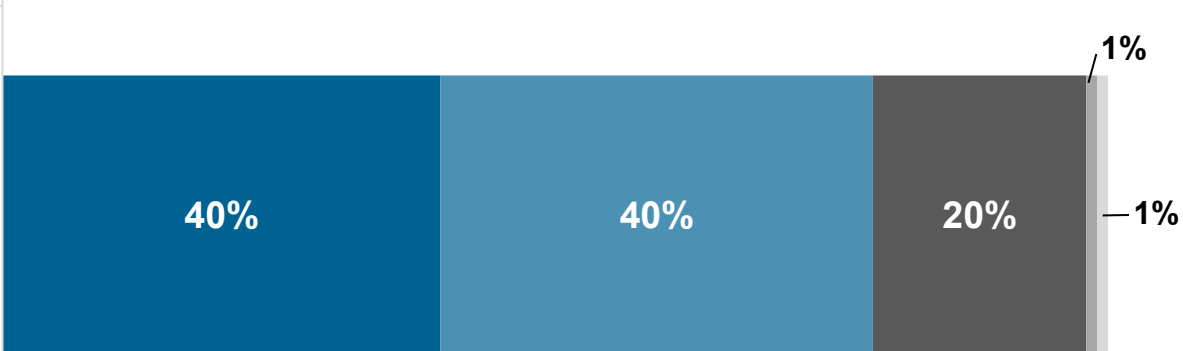
84% of providers are extremely or very concerned that keeping used or unwanted home-generated sharps in the home can lead to accidental injury or exposure to illness.

Providers' Concerns Regarding Unwanted Home-Generated Sharps in the Home
n = 200

Keeping used or unwanted home-generated sharps in the home can lead someone in my family or others in my home like children or visitors, to accidental injury, misuse or exposure to illness



Improper disposal of used or unwanted home-generated sharps, such as in the trash, can lead to injury, misuse or exposure to illness of animals and/or individuals

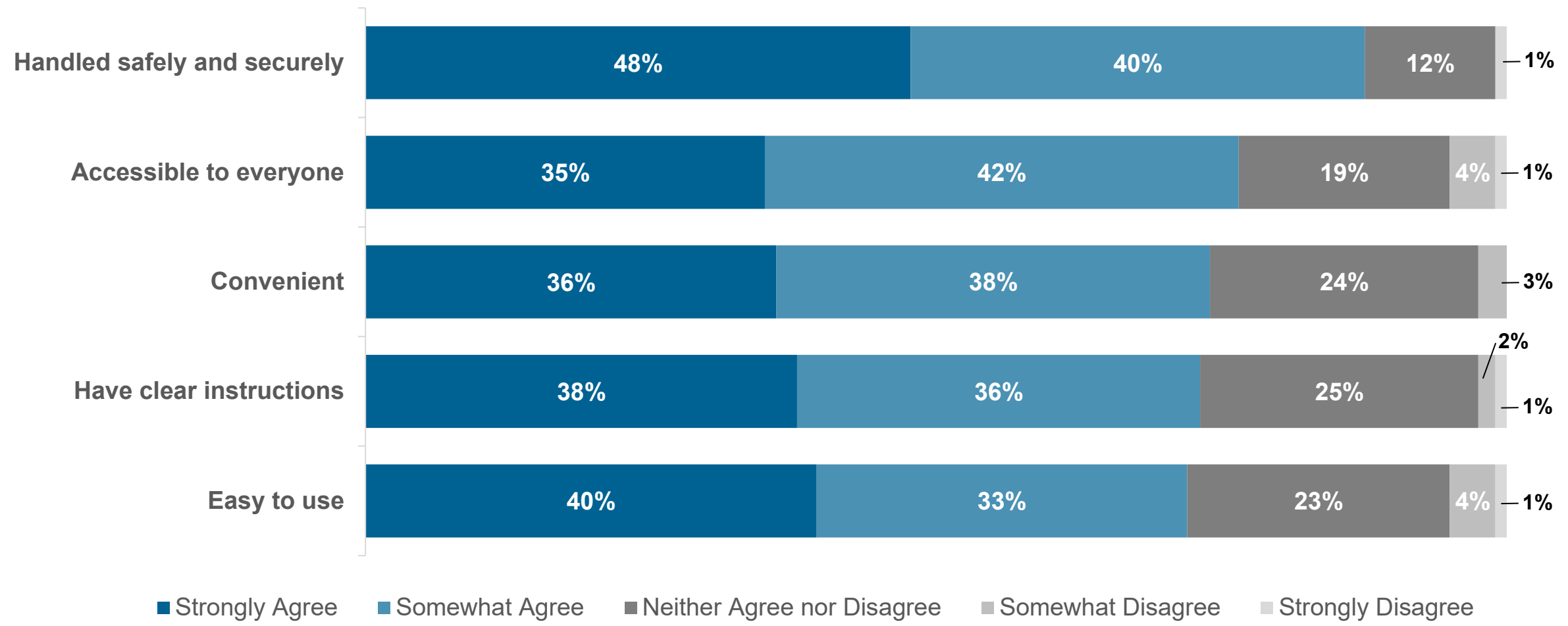


■ Extremely concerned ■ Very concerned ■ Somewhat concerned ■ Not concerned ■ Don't know/ No opinion

77% of Alameda providers agree that home-generated sharps disposal programs are accessible to everyone, while 74% agree they are convenient, and 72% agree they are easy to use.

Providers' Description of Disposal Programs for Unwanted Home-Generated Sharps

n = 200



Executive Summary

Resident Awareness

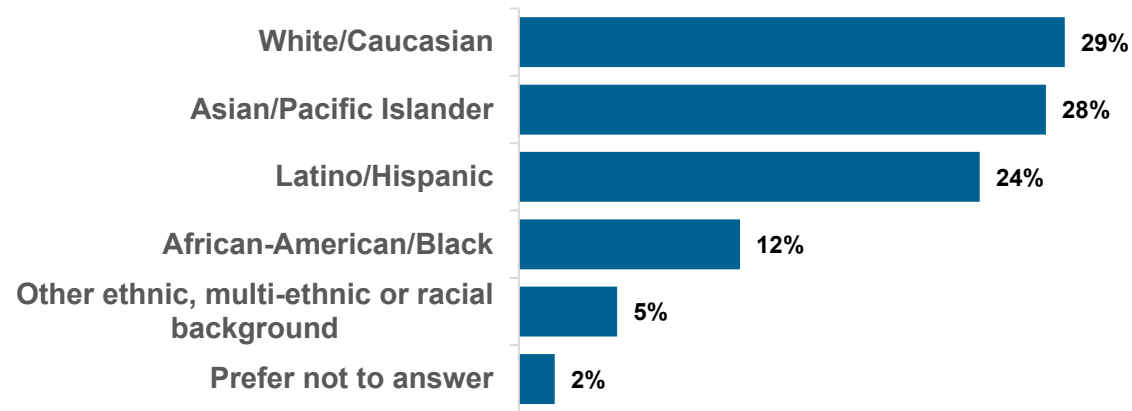
Healthcare Provider Awareness

Appendix - Demographics

Appendix: Alameda County Resident Demographics

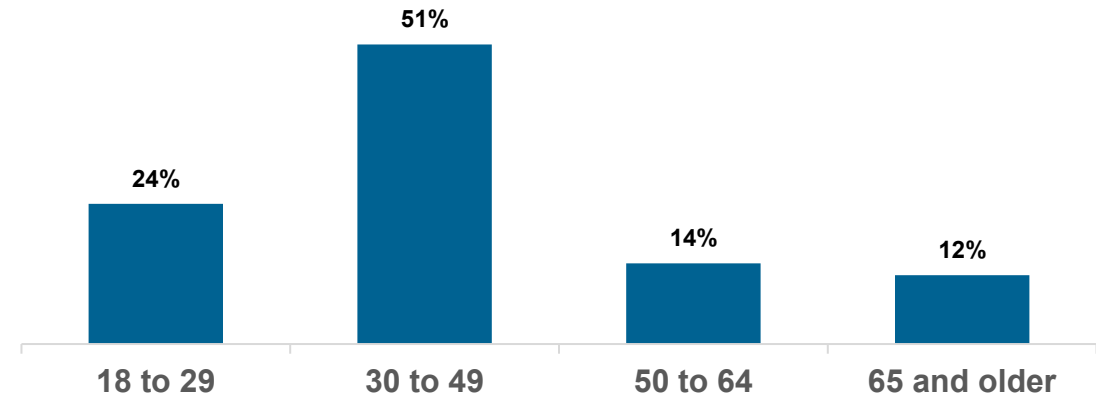
Race and Ethnicity

n = 1,000



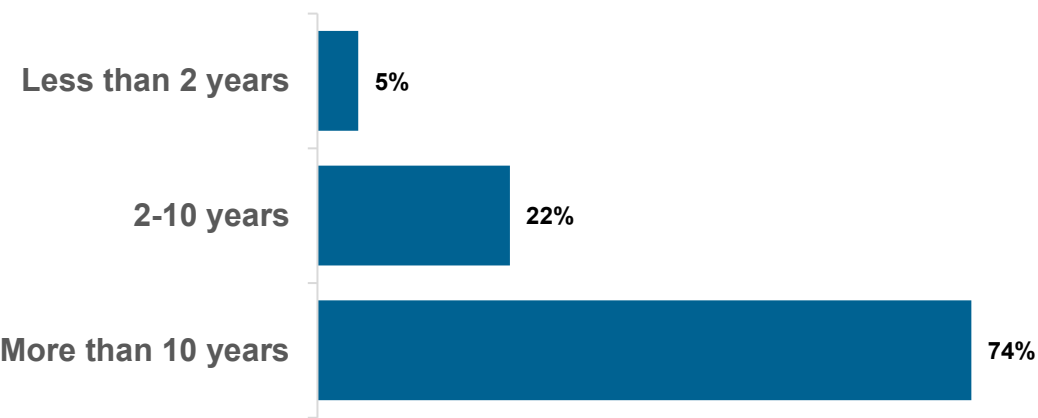
Age

n = 1,000



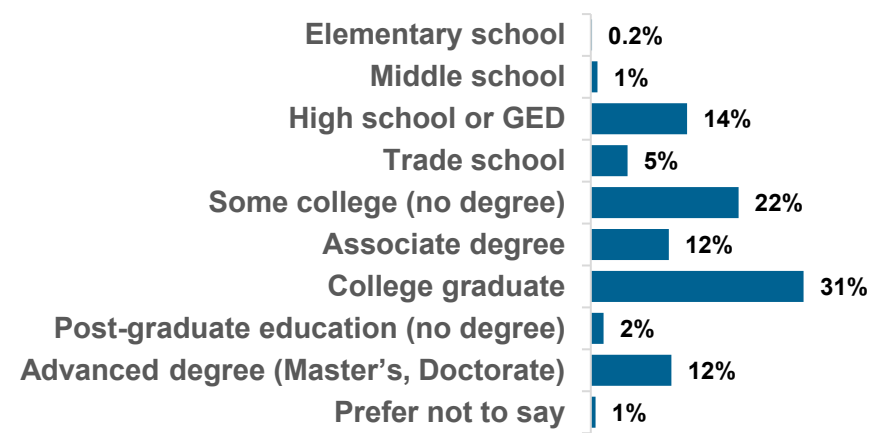
Years Living in Alameda County

n = 1,000



Education

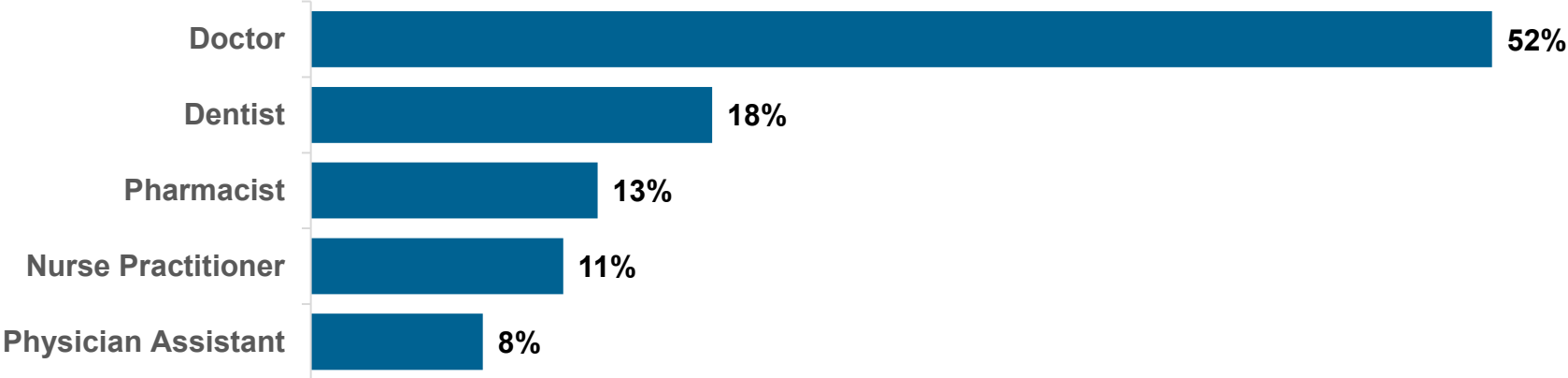
n = 1,000



Appendix: Alameda County Healthcare Provider Demographics

Profession

n = 200



Years in Practice in Alameda County

n = 200

