



San Mateo County Safe Medicine Disposal Resident Survey

Results of a Study Conducted May 8 – 17, 2026

*Commissioned by MED-Project and Inmar Intelligence;
Research Conducted Independently*



Survey Methodology

Dates	May 8-17, 2026
Survey Type	Dual-mode Resident Survey
Research Population	San Mateo County Residents
Total Interviews	1,033
Margin of Sampling Error	(Full Sample) $\pm 3.1\%$ at the 95% Confidence Level
Contact Methods	 Telephone Calls  Email Invitations  Text Invitations
Data Collection Modes	 Telephone Interviews  Online Interviews
Languages	English, Spanish, Chinese, & Tagalog

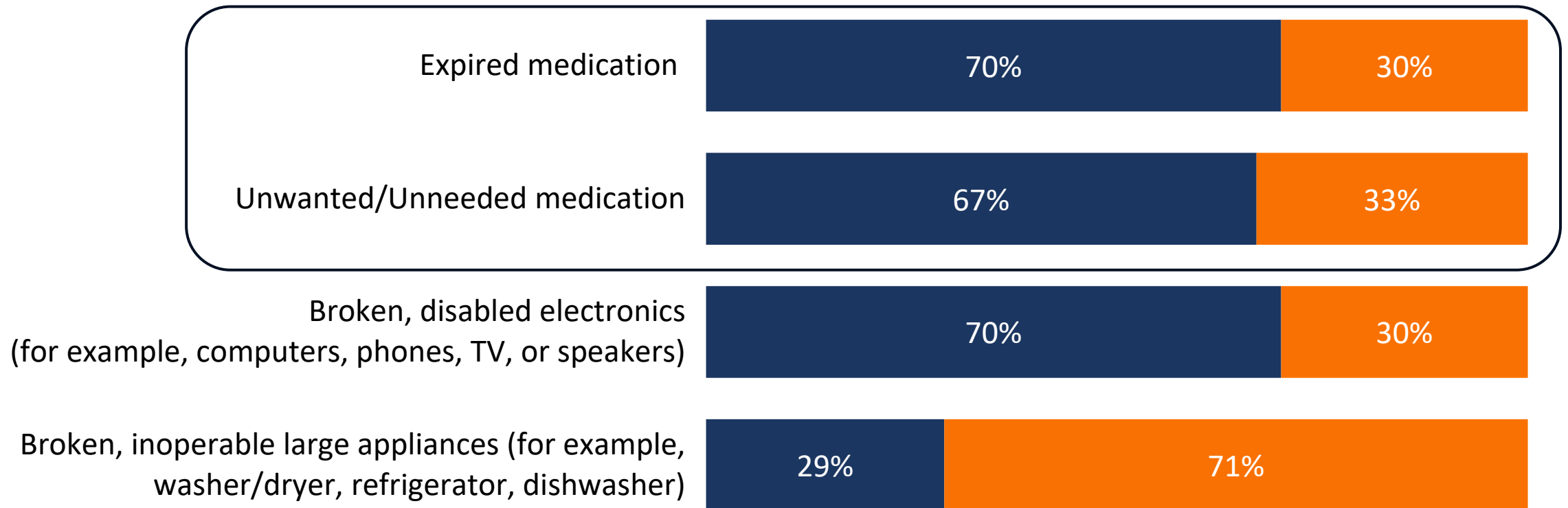
(Note: Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures, and not all results will sum to 100%)

70% of residents have expired medication, and 67% have unwanted/unneeded medication in their home.

Q9. Do you ever have the items below in your home?

n=1,033

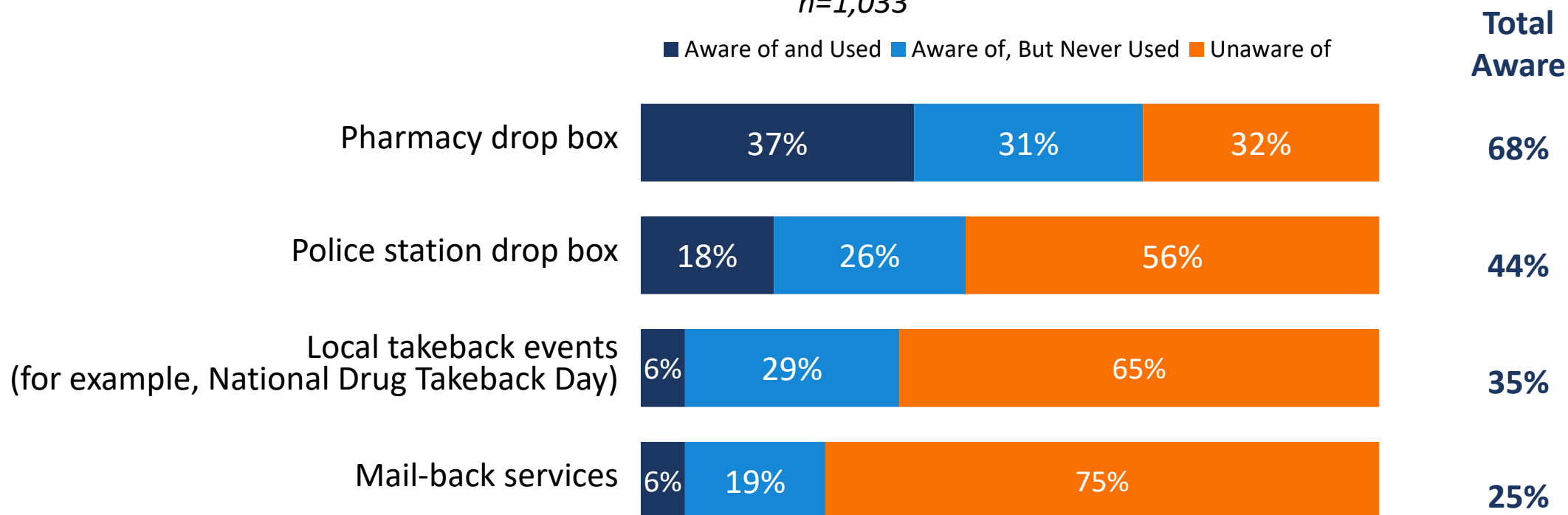
■ Yes ■ No



79% of residents are aware of at least one in-county disposal option.*

Q10. How aware are you of each of the following ways someone can dispose of (get rid of) expired or unwanted household medication in the County of San Mateo?

n=1,033

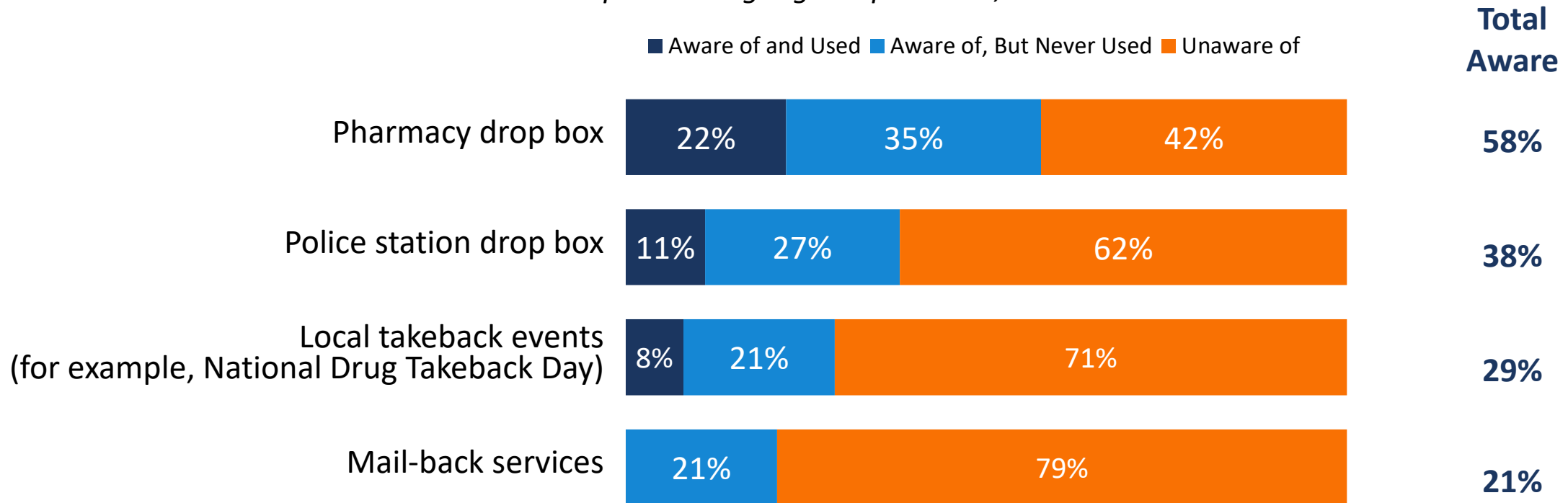


***Calculations account for overlap; residents aware of multiple options are counted once.**

68% of Spanish-language respondents are aware of at least one in-county disposal option.*

Q10. How aware are you of each of the following ways someone can dispose of (get rid of) expired or unwanted household medication in the County of San Mateo?

Spanish-language respondents, n=54



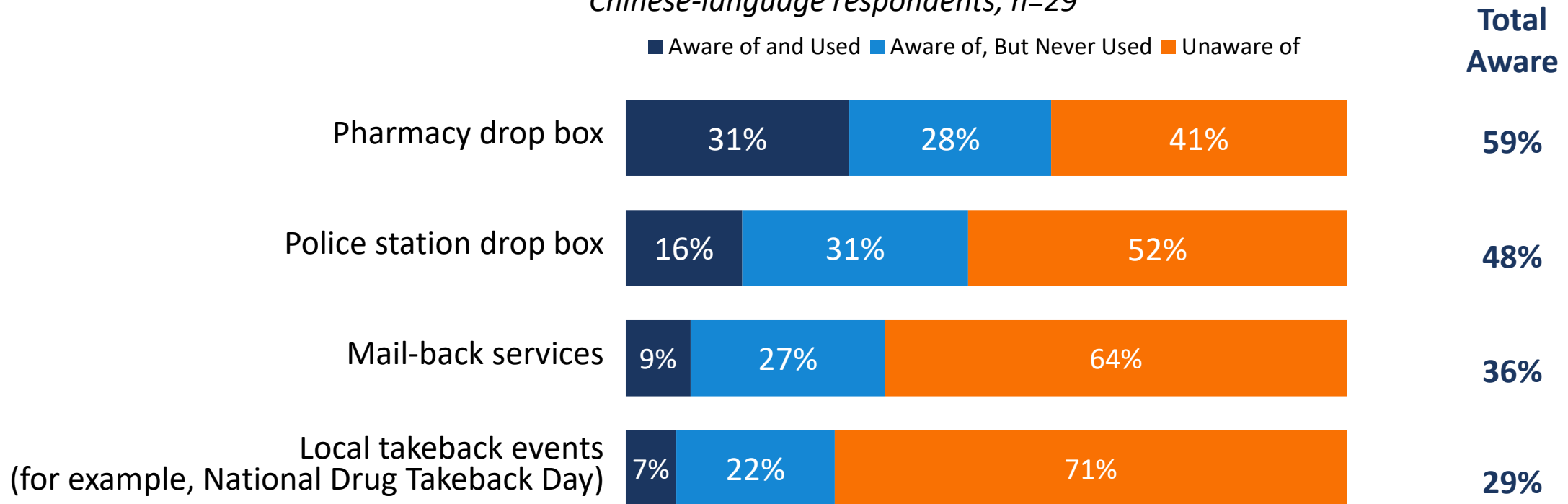
*Calculations account for overlap; residents aware of multiple options are counted once.

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

69% of Chinese-language respondents are aware of at least one in-county disposal option.*

Q10. How aware are you of each of the following ways someone can dispose of (get rid of) expired or unwanted household medication in the County of San Mateo?

Chinese-language respondents, n=29



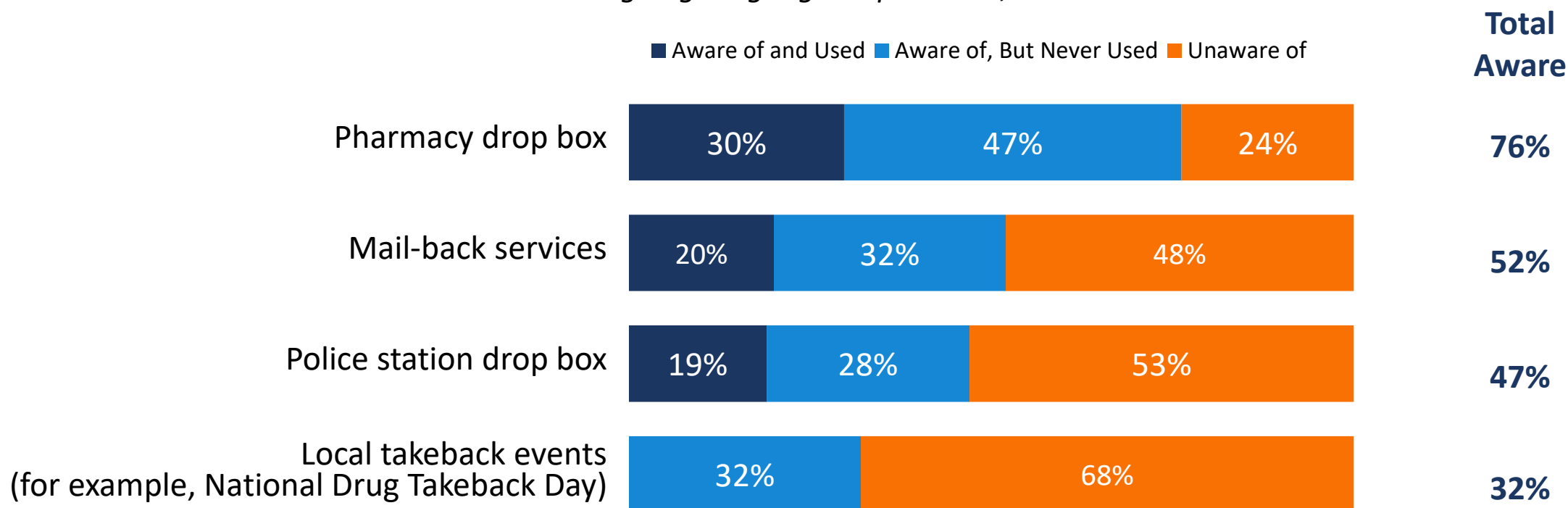
*Calculations account for overlap; residents aware of multiple options are counted once.

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

80% of Tagalog-language respondents are aware of at least one in-county disposal option.*

Q10. How aware are you of each of the following ways someone can dispose of (get rid of) expired or unwanted household medication in the County of San Mateo?

Tagalog-language respondents, n=20



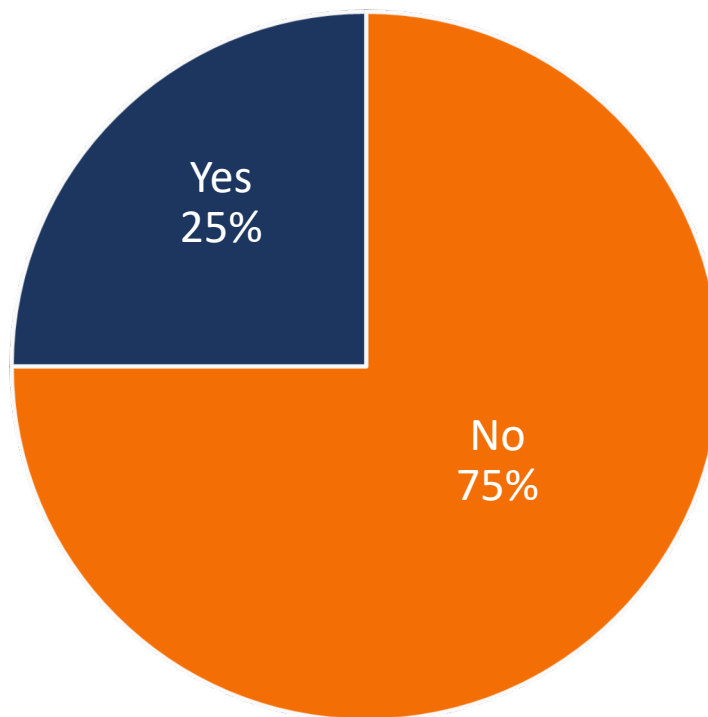
*Calculations account for overlap; residents aware of multiple options are counted once.

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

25% of residents have seen information or advertisements about medication disposal options in the last two years.

Q11. In the last two years, have you seen information or advertisements about drug takeback programs or medication disposal options in the County of San Mateo such as information about drop box locations, posters in a pharmacy, social media posts, etc.?

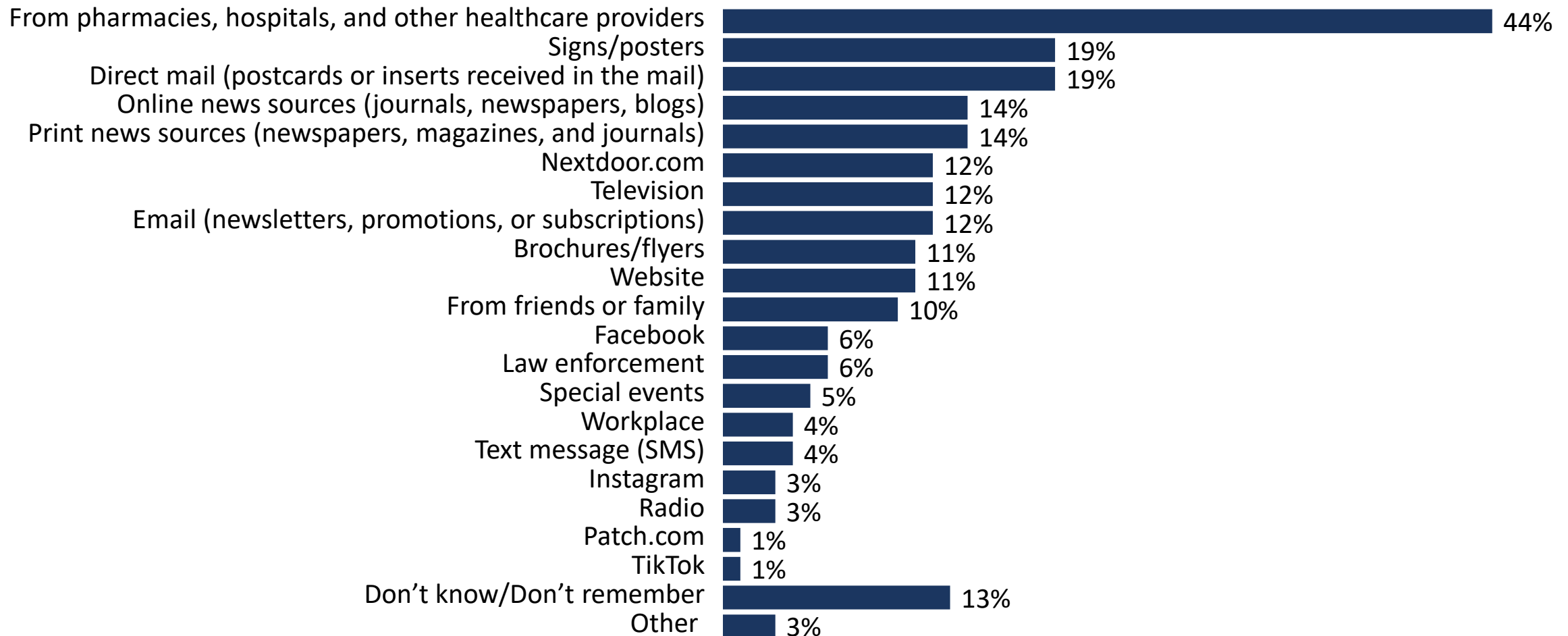
n=1,033



Residents' most common sources of information about medication disposal options are from pharmacies, hospitals, and other healthcare providers (44%) and signs/posters (19%).

Q12. Where did you see the advertisements or receive information?

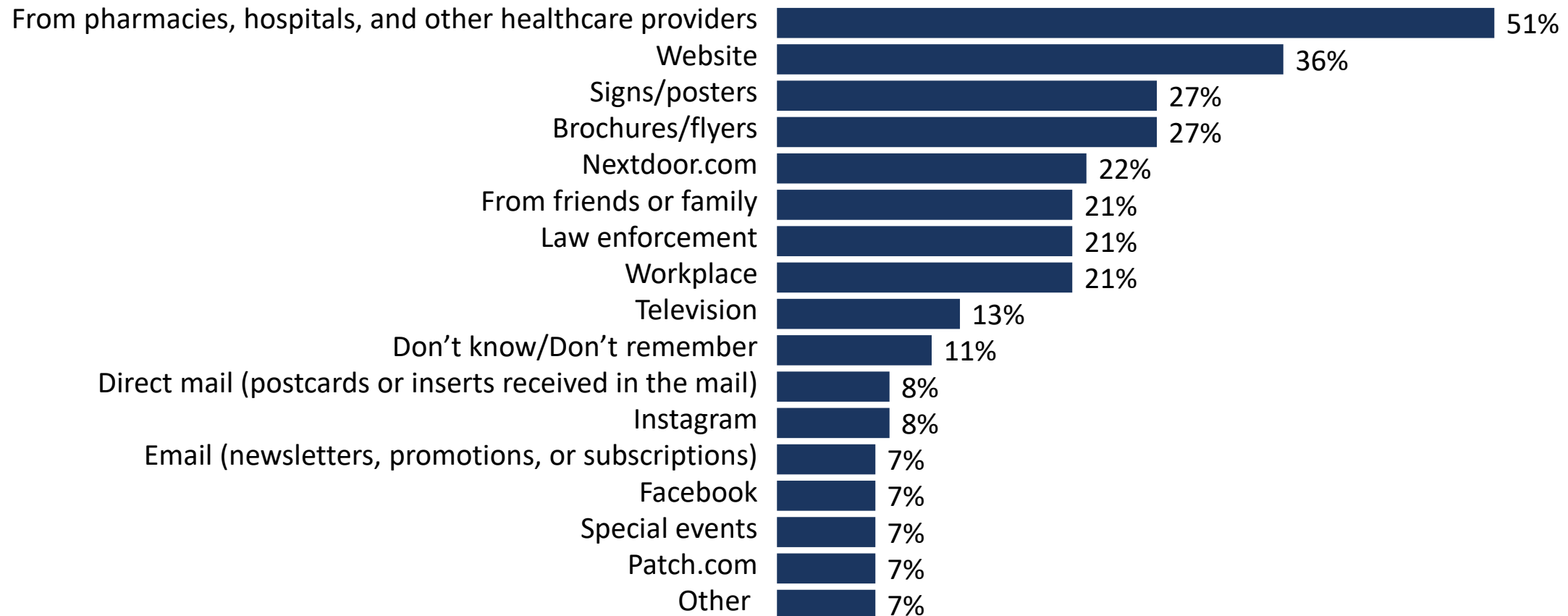
(Asked of Those Who are Aware Only; Multiple Responses Accepted; n=256)



51% of Spanish-language respondents received information about medication disposal options from pharmacies, hospitals, and other healthcare providers.

Q12. Where did you see the advertisements or receive information?

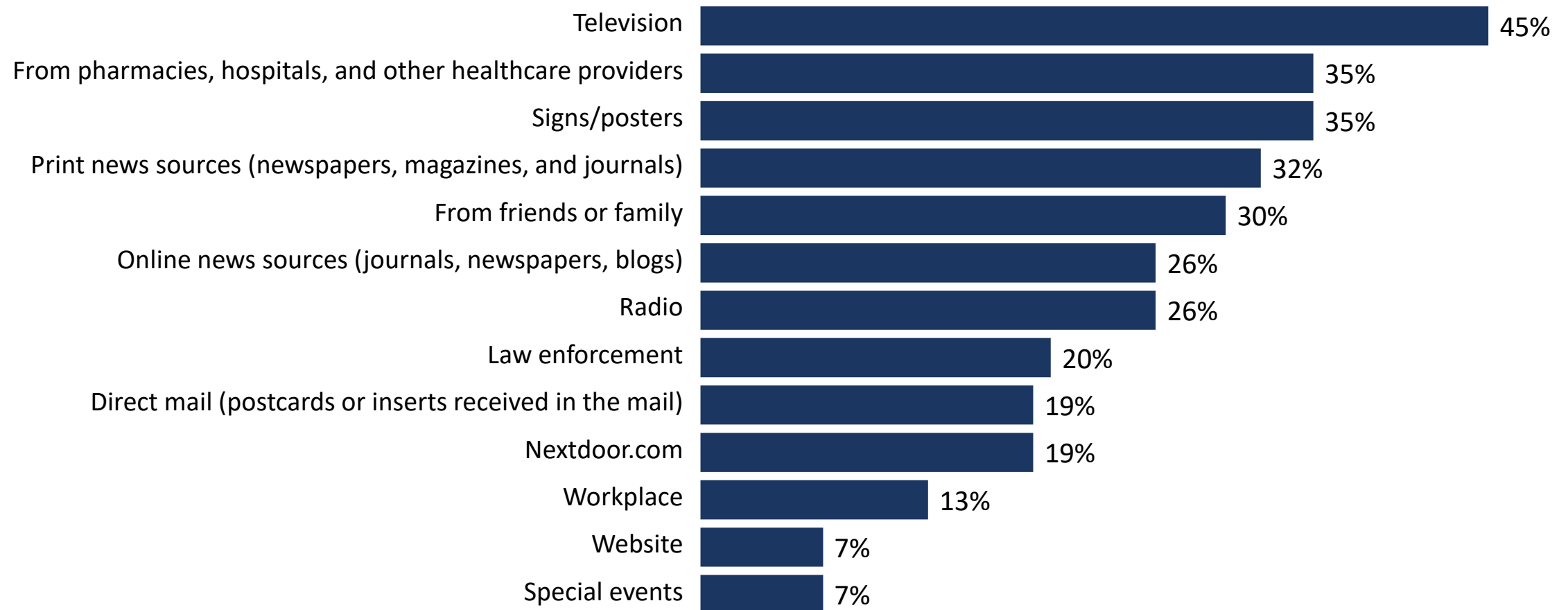
(Spanish-language respondents, Asked of Those Who are Aware Only; Multiple Responses Accepted; n=13)



45% of Chinese-language respondents saw information about medication disposal options on television, while 35% received information from pharmacies, hospitals, and healthcare providers.

Q12. Where did you see the advertisements or receive information?

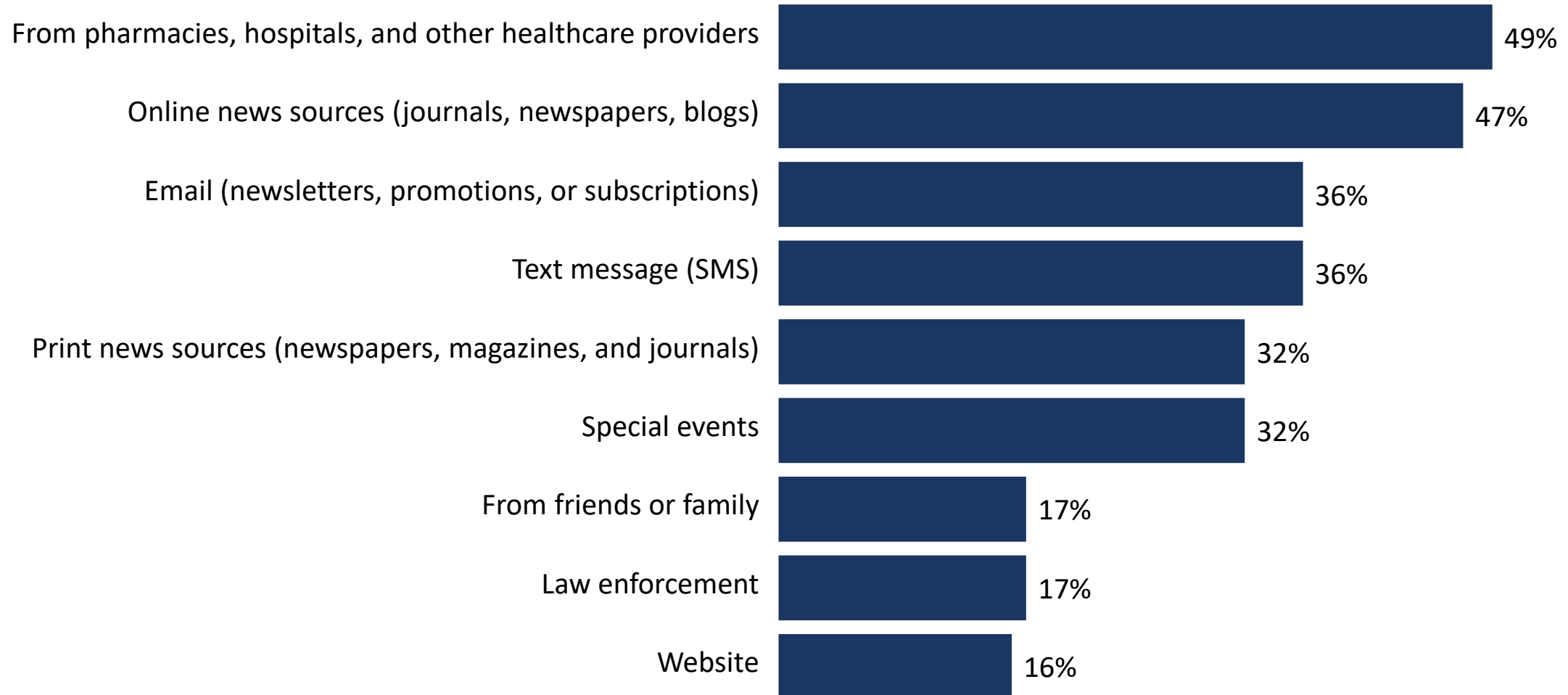
(Chinese-language respondents, Asked of Those Who are Aware Only; Multiple Responses Accepted; n=7)



49% of Tagalog-language respondents saw information about medication disposal options at pharmacies, hospitals, and other healthcare providers.

Q12. Where did you see the advertisements or receive information?

(Tagalog-language respondents, Asked of Those Who are Aware Only; Multiple Responses Accepted; n=6)



50% of residents agree that medication disposal options make it easy to dispose of unwanted medication, while 45% agree they are convenient.

Q13. Please indicate how well you feel the sentences below describes drug takeback programs or medication disposal options in the County of San Mateo.
n=1,033

■ Strongly Agree ■ Somewhat Agree ■ Neither Agree Nor Disagree ■ Somewhat Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree

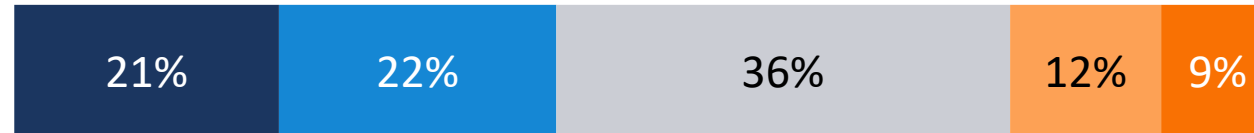
These medication disposal options make it easy to dispose of unwanted medications.



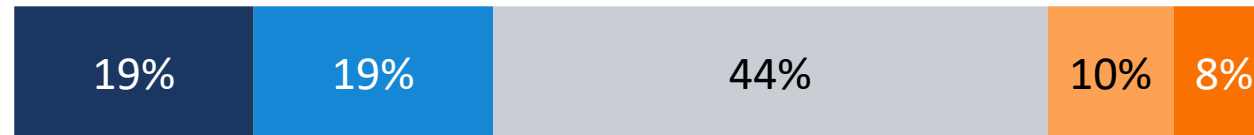
These medication disposal options are convenient.



These medication disposal options are accessible to everyone.



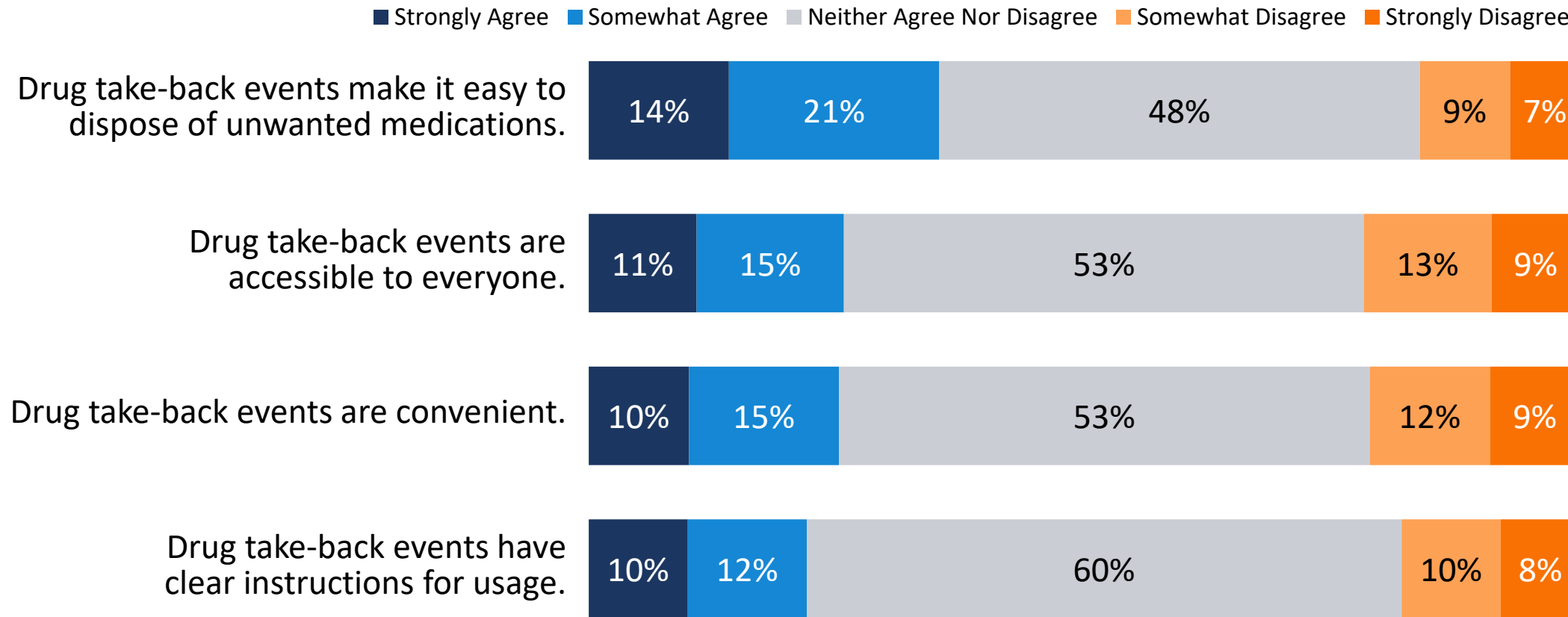
These medication disposal options have clear instructions for usage.



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

26% of residents agree that drug take-back events are accessible to everyone, while 25% agree they are convenient.

Q14. Please indicate how well you feel the sentences below describe drug takeback events in the County of San Mateo.
n=1,033

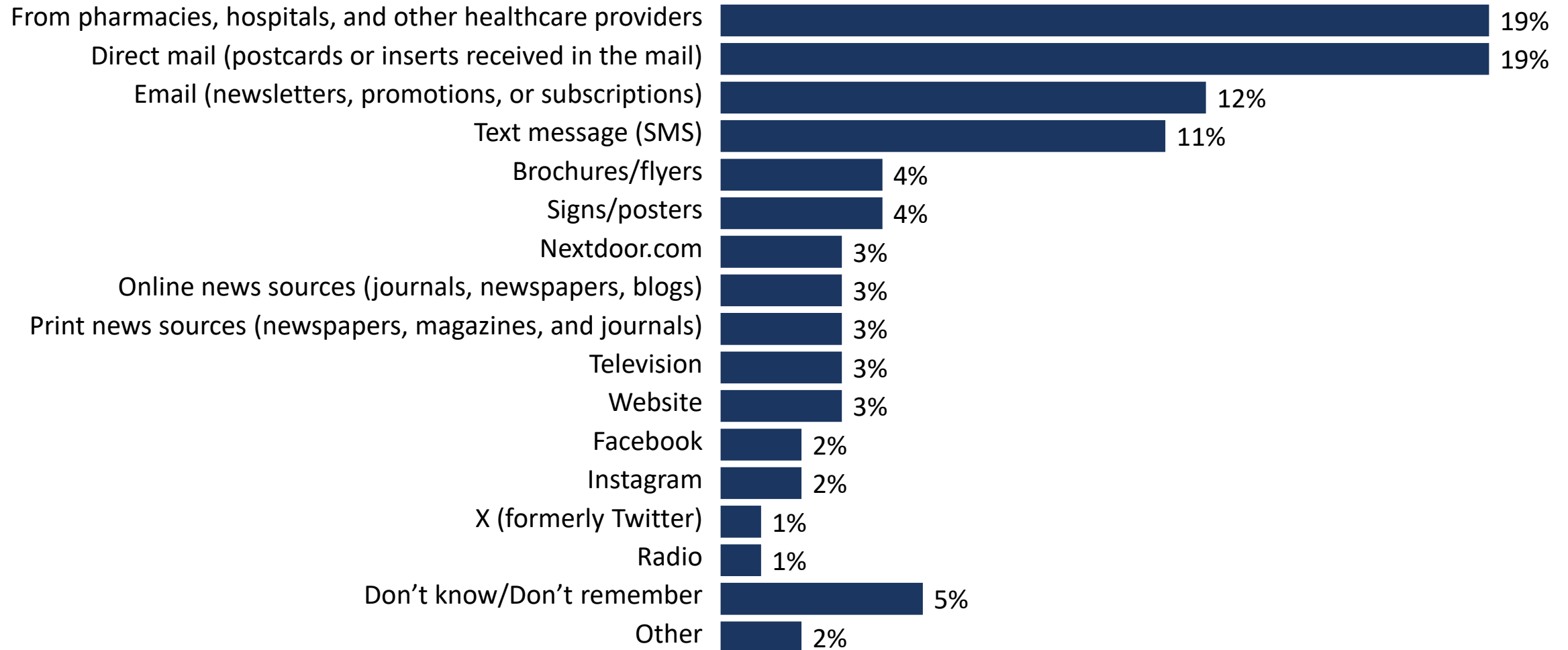


(Note: Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures, and not all results will sum to 100%.)

Residents prefer to receive information about medication disposal options from pharmacies, hospitals, and other healthcare providers (19%), or direct mail (19%).

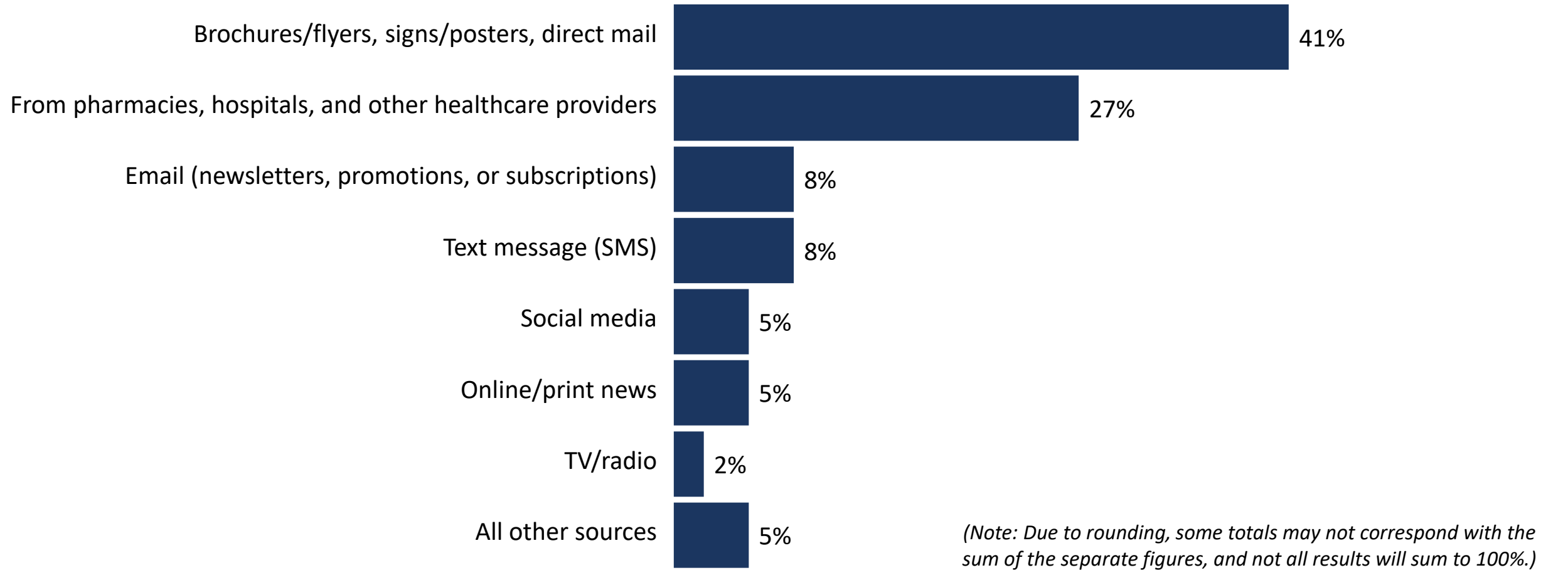
Q15. What is your preferred method to see or receive information about drug takeback programs or medication disposal options?

n=1,033



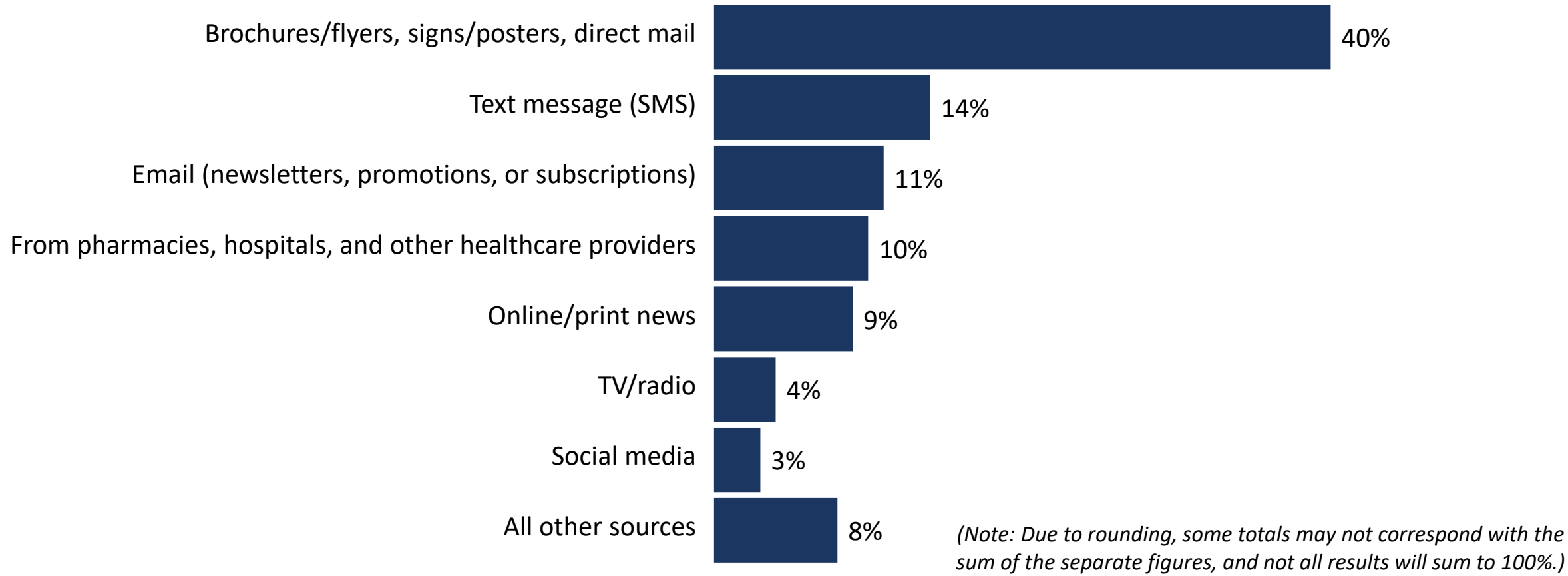
Spanish-language respondents prefer to receive information about medication disposal options from brochures, flyers, signs, posters and direct mail (41%), and pharmacies, hospitals, and other healthcare providers (27%).

*Q15. What is your preferred method to see or receive information about drug takeback programs or medication disposal options?
(Spanish-language respondents, single select, n=54)*



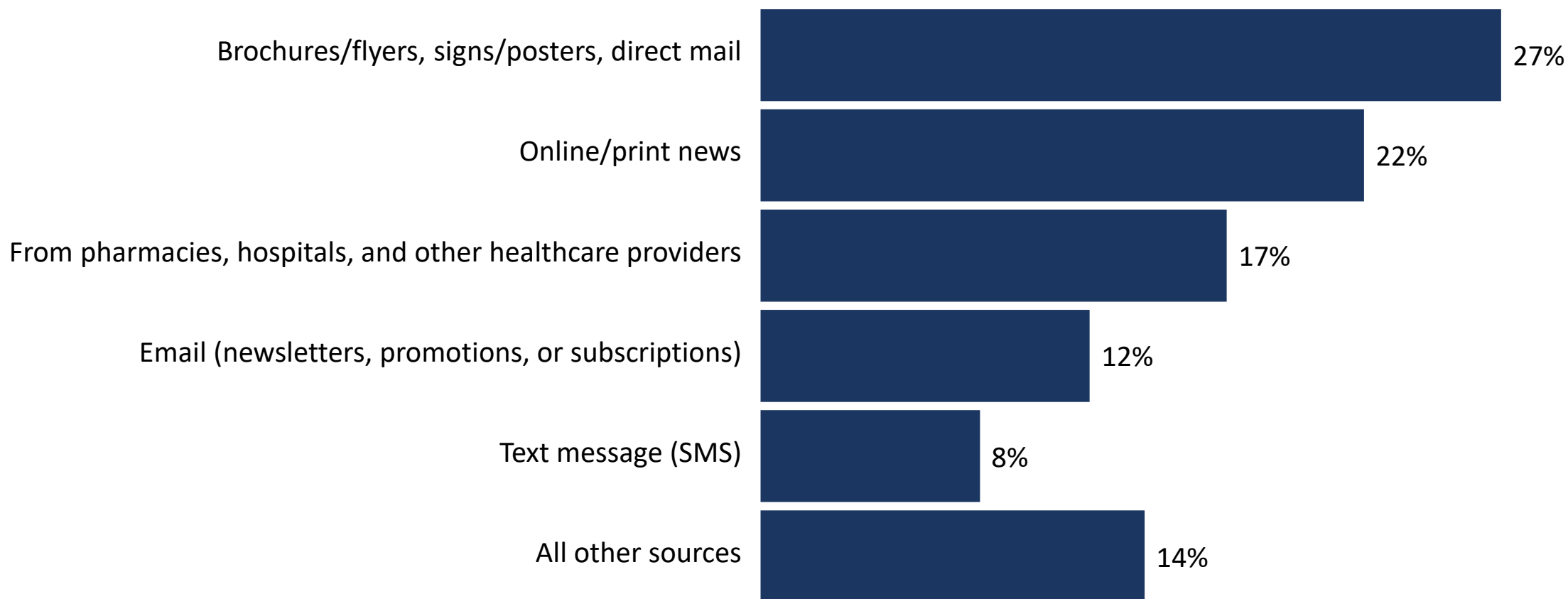
Chinese-language respondents prefer to receive information about medication disposal options from brochures, flyers, signs, posters and direct mail (40%), by text message (14%), via email (11%), or from pharmacies, hospitals, and other healthcare providers (10%).

*Q15. What is your preferred method to see or receive information about drug takeback programs or medication disposal options?
(Chinese-language respondents, single select, n=29)*



Tagalog-language respondents prefer to receive information about medication disposal options from brochures, flyers, signs, posters and direct mail (27%), online/print news (22%), and pharmacies, hospitals, and other healthcare providers (17%).

*Q15. What is your preferred method to see or receive information about drug takeback programs or medication disposal options?
(Tagalog-language respondents, single select, n=20)*



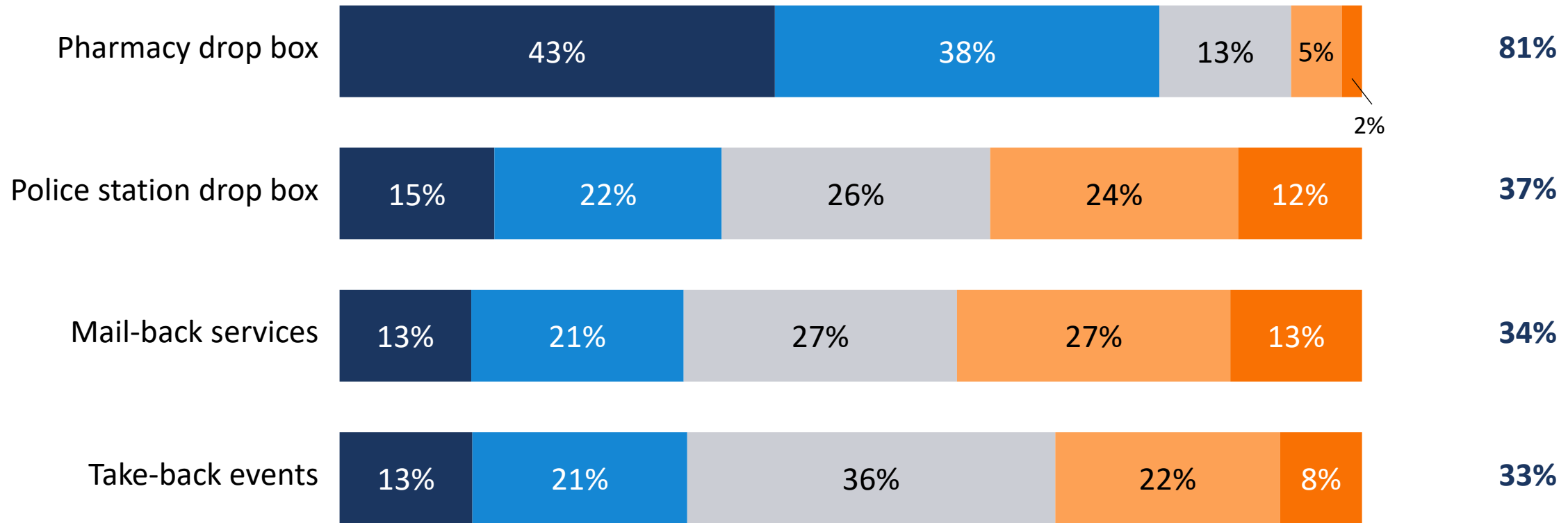
81% of residents are likely to use a pharmacy drop box to dispose of expired and/or unwanted household medication in the future.

Q16. How likely are you to use the option below to dispose of expired and/or unwanted household medication in the future?

n=1,033

■ Definitely Will ■ Probably Will ■ Maybe Or Maybe Not ■ Probably Will Not ■ Definitely Will Not

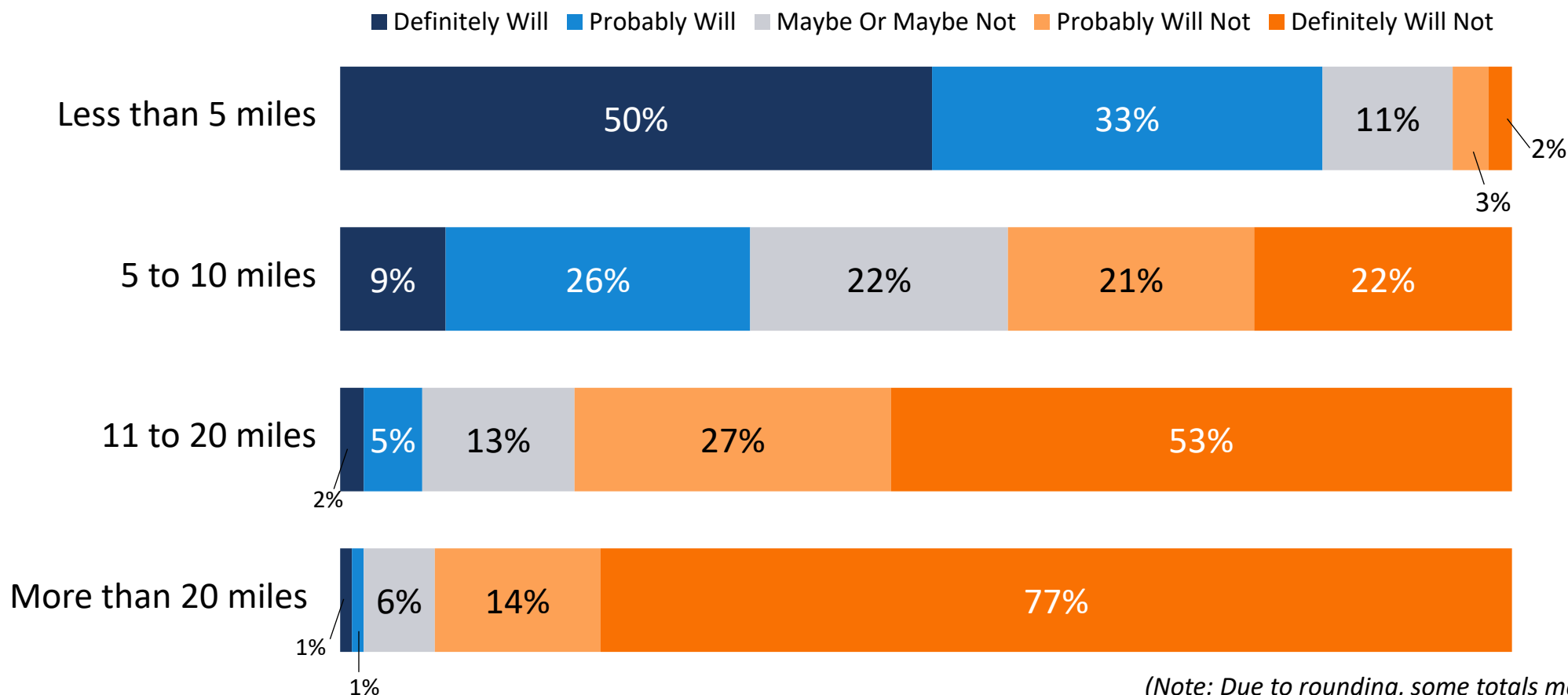
Total Will



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

84% of residents are likely to travel less than 5 miles to drop off medication in the future, while 35% are likely to drive 5-10 miles.

Q17. How likely are you to travel the following distances to drop off medications in the future?
n=1,033



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

55% of residents are concerned about poisoning or overdose, while 55% are not concerned about the misuse of expired and/or unwanted medication kept in the home.

Q18 PHONE: After I read the following list of statements about expired and/or unwanted medication in the home, please tell me whether it is something where you are not concerned, somewhat concerned, very concerned, or extremely concerned, or don't know/no opinion.

Q18 ONLINE: Please carefully read the list of statements about expired and/or unwanted medication in the home. Please indicate your level of concern regarding each statement.

n=1,033

■ Extremely Concerned ■ Very Concerned ■ Somewhat Concerned ■ Not Concerned ■ Don't Know/No Opinion **Not Concerned**

Keeping expired and/or unwanted medication in the home can lead to accidental poisoning or overdoses.



Keeping expired and/or unwanted medication in the home can provide the opportunity for family members or friends to abuse them.



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



Profile of Survey Respondents

Mode, Age, and Gender

n=1,033

Demographic Group	Percentage of Respondents
Mode	
Phone	25%
Online	75%
Age	
18-29	17%
30-49	37%
50-64	25%
65 and older	21%
Gender	
Men	49%
Women	48%
Prefer not to answer	3%
Non-binary	1%

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

Ethnicity and Language of Interview

n=1,033

Demographic Group	Percentage of Respondents
Race/Ethnicity	
Latino or Hispanic	25%
African American or Black	2%
White or Caucasian	42%
Asian or Pacific Islander	26%
Other or multiracial	3%
Prefer not to answer	2%
Language of Interview	
English	90%
Spanish	5%
Chinese	3%
Tagalog	2%

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

City and Residency Length

n=1,033

Demographic Group	Percentage of Respondents
City	
City of Daly City	13%
City of Redwood City	12%
City of San Mateo	15%
Unincorporated San Mateo County	8%
Other Cities	52%
Length of Residence in San Mateo County	
Less than 2 years	3%
2-10 years	14%
More than 10 years	83%