



Medication Education & Disposal

**Resident and Healthcare Provider Survey Results:
Home-generated Sharps – Santa Clara County, California**

Survey Conducted: May - July 2026

Survey Commissioned by MED-Project – Research Independently Conducted

Executive Summary

**Resident Awareness –
Home-generated Sharps**

**Provider Awareness –
Home-generated Sharps**

Appendix – Demographics

Study Objectives & Methodology

Study Objectives

- MED-Project has been tasked with measuring the awareness, accessibility, availability, ease of use, frequency of use, and exposure to disposal options for home-generated sharps among residents and healthcare providers in Santa Clara County, consistent with the April 10, 2026 County approval of survey questions and methodology.

Study Design

- 1,000 residents and 231 healthcare providers in Santa Clara County were surveyed between May 21 and July 9, 2026.
- Quotas for race/ethnicity and age were established to align with the 2024 U.S. Census demographic distribution of Santa Clara County residents (18 years and older).
- Healthcare providers (doctors, advanced practice providers, nurses, pharmacists/pharmacy technicians, veterinarians/vet techs/nurses, dentists, and medical office assistant or other health care professional) practicing in Santa Clara County were sampled.

Sampling & Analysis

- Random sampling originated from lists of residents and healthcare providers practicing in Santa Clara County.
- The data was analyzed at a confidence level of 95% and a margin of error of 3.1% (for residents) and 6.4% (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, plus or minus 3.1% (for residents) or 6.4% (for healthcare providers).

Executive Summary – Home-generated Sharps

	Resident	Provider
Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 83% of Santa Clara County residents are aware of at least one in-county disposal method for home-generated sharps. 72% of residents are aware of pharmacy drop boxes, 51% of mail-back programs, 50% of police station drop boxes, and 48% of take back events as disposal options for home-generated sharps. 37% of residents learned about the take back program for home-generated sharps from pharmacies, hospitals, and other healthcare providers, 35% heard from friends or family, and 19% learned from online news sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 97% of providers are aware of at least one in-county disposal method for home-generated sharps. Among providers, 97% are aware of pharmacy drop boxes, 85% of mail-back programs, 84% of police station drop boxes, and 81% of take back events as disposal options for home-generated sharps. Providers most often learned about the take back program for home-generated sharps through pharmacies, hospitals, or other healthcare providers (86%), followed by information provided through their workplace (72%).
Disposal Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of Santa Clara residents who disposed of home-generated sharps in the last year, 62% used a drop-off location, 36% used mail-back services, and 20% used take back events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 94% of providers are likely to encourage their patients or clients to safely dispose of home-generated sharps.
Perception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 55% of residents agree that home-generated sharps disposal options are easy to use, while 55% agree they are convenient, 49% agree they are easy to locate, and 48% agree they are readily available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 64% of providers agree that disposal programs for home-generated sharps are easy to use, while 60% agree they are easy to locate, 59% agree they are convenient, and 54% agree they are readily available.

Executive Summary

**Resident Awareness –
Home-generated Sharps**

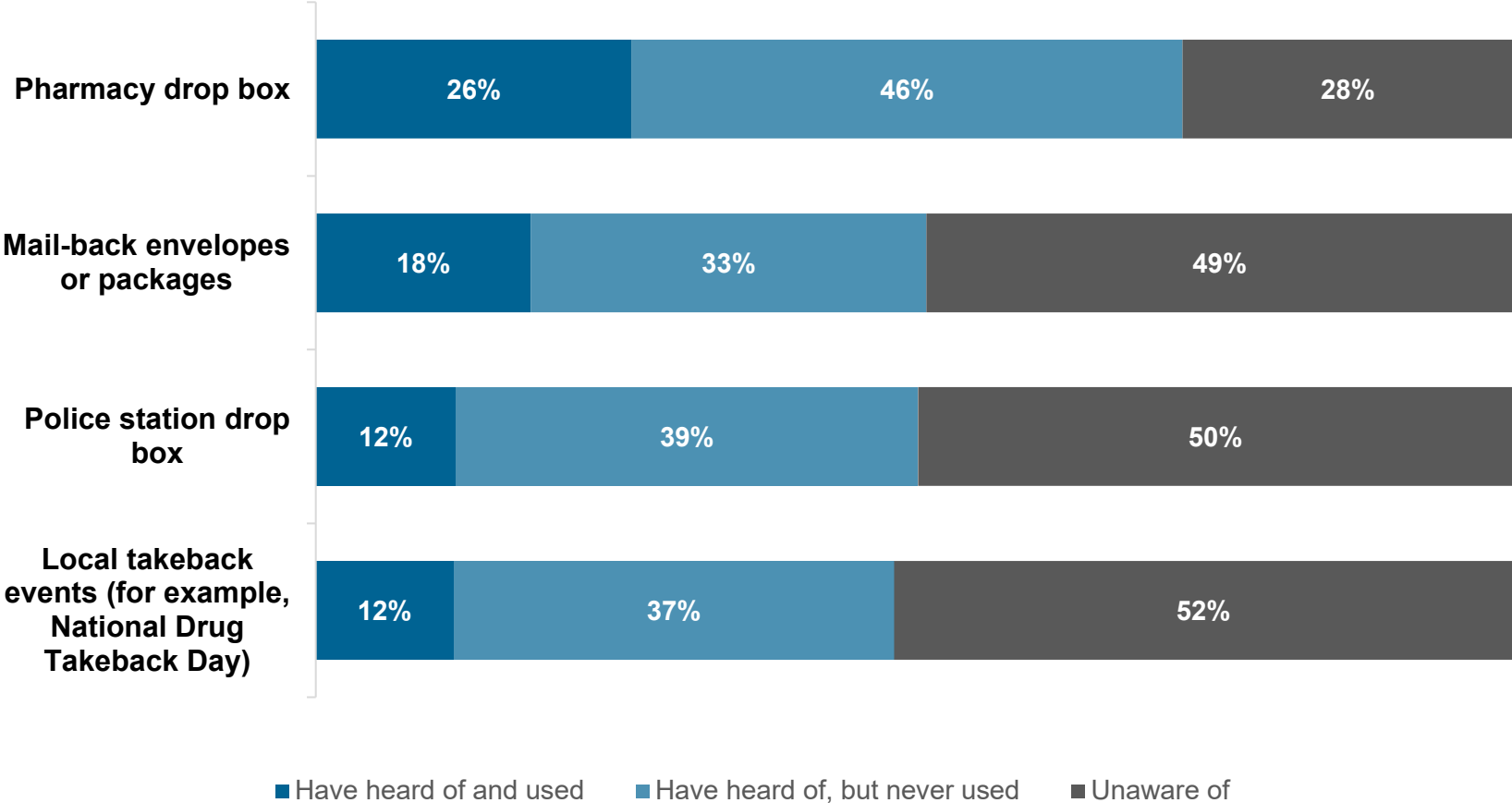
**Provider Awareness –
Home-generated Sharps**

Appendix – Demographics

83% of Santa Clara County residents are aware of at least one in-county disposal method for home-generated sharps*.

Residents' Awareness of Disposal Programs for Home-generated Sharps

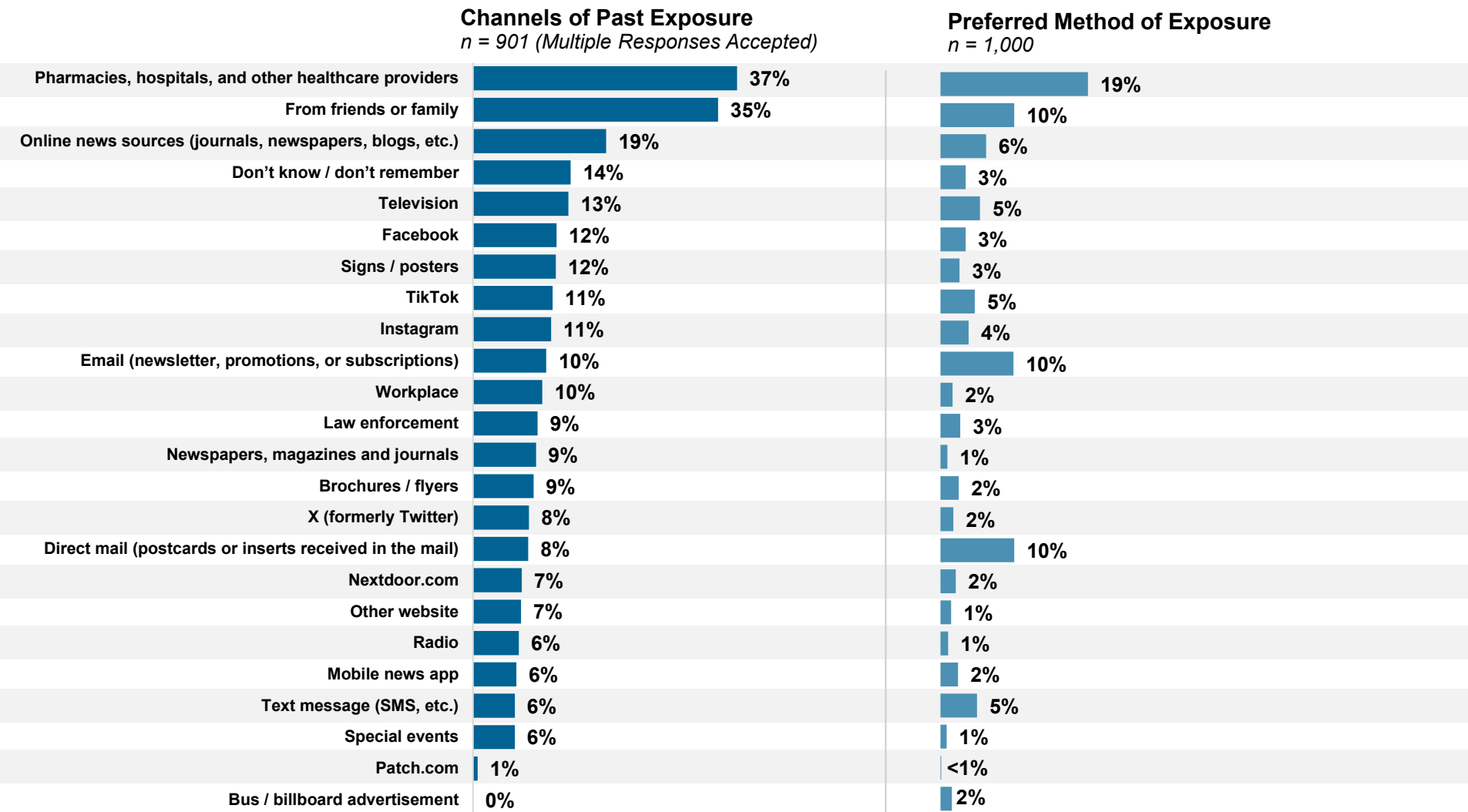
n = 1,000



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

37% of residents learned about the take back program for home-generated sharps from pharmacies, hospitals, and other healthcare providers, 35% heard from friends or family, and 19% learned from online news sources.

Residents' Communication Channels



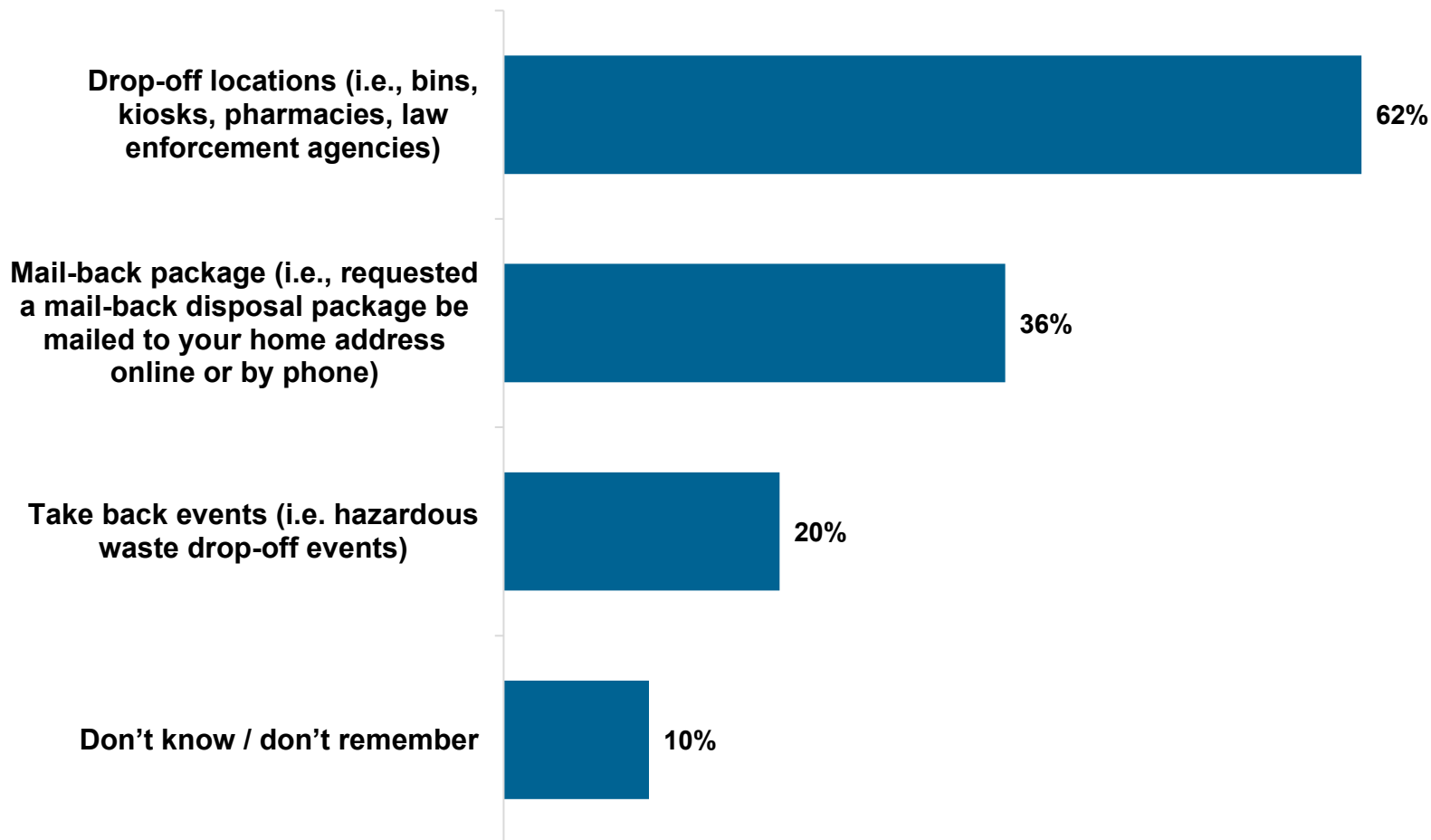
(Note: Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures, and not all results will sum to 100%.)

Q12: How did you learn about the take back program for expired or unwanted household medications or home-generated sharps for residents or pet owners living in Santa Clara County?
 Q13: What is your preferred method to receive important information about how to safely store and where to dispose of expired or unwanted household medications for humans or pets and/or home-generated sharps for humans or pets in Santa Clara County?

Of Santa Clara residents who used home-generated sharps disposal options in the past year, 62% used a drop-off location, and 36% used mail-back packages.

Residents' Disposal Methods Used for Home-generated Sharps

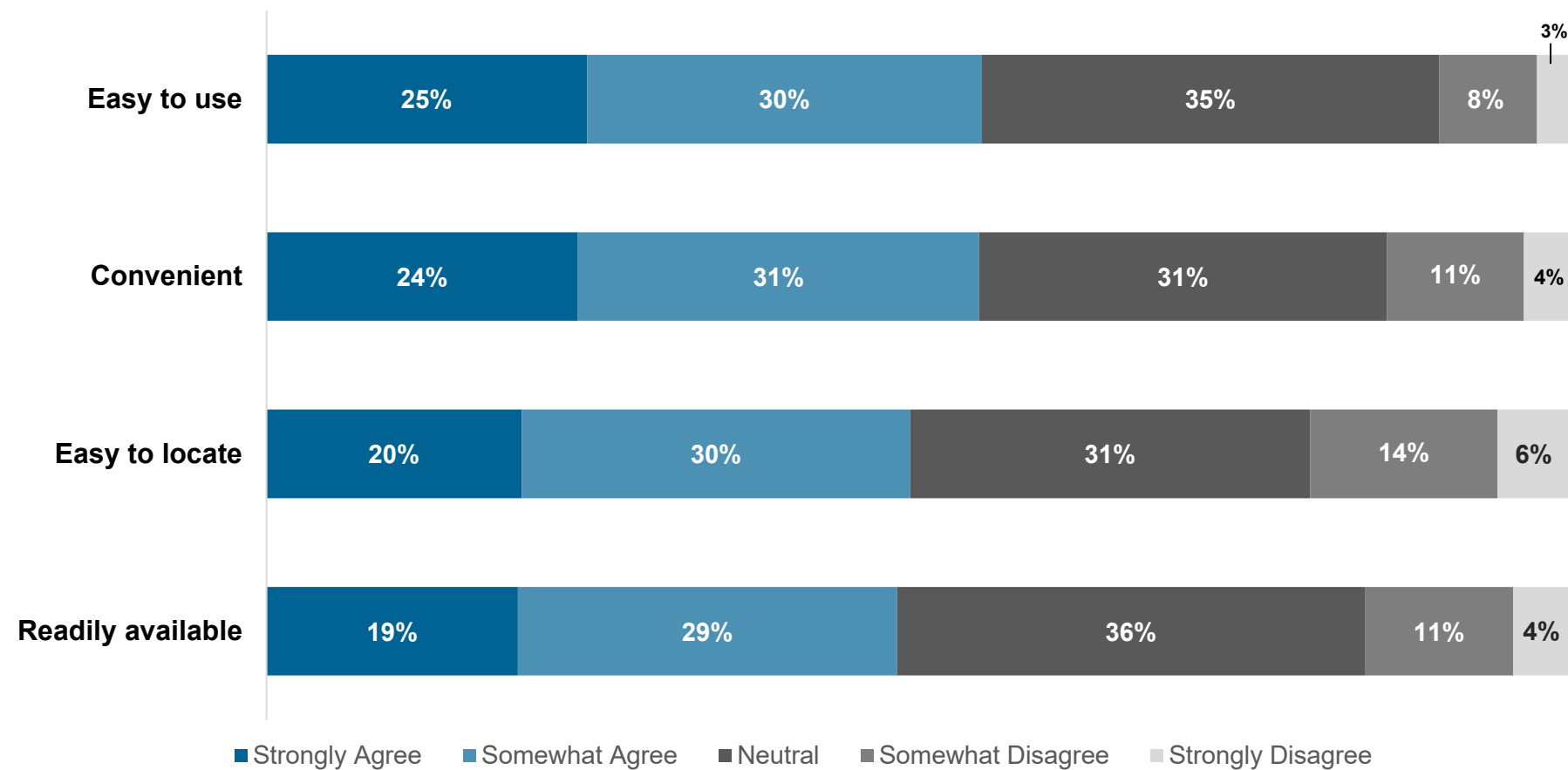
n = 467 (Respondents who did not select 'I have not used any of these methods'; Multiple Responses Accepted)



55% of residents agree that home-generated sharps disposal options are easy to use, while 55% agree they are convenient, 49% agree they are easy to locate, and 48% agree they are readily available.

Residents’ Description of Home-generated Sharps Disposal Options

n = 1,000



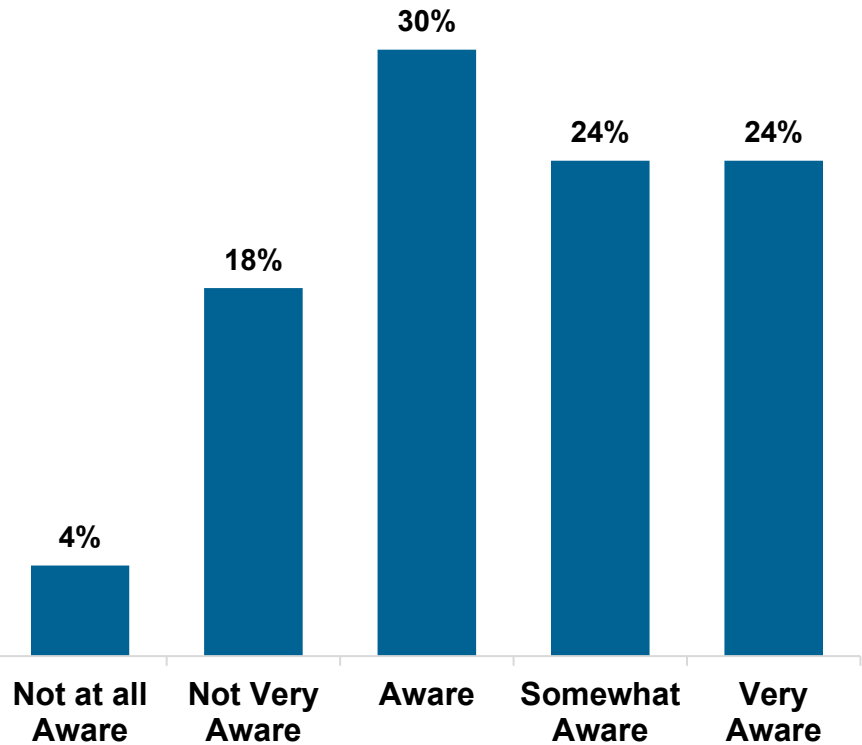
1% of residents responded “Don’t Know”

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

78% of Santa Clara residents are aware of the risks associated with the improper disposal of home-generated sharps.

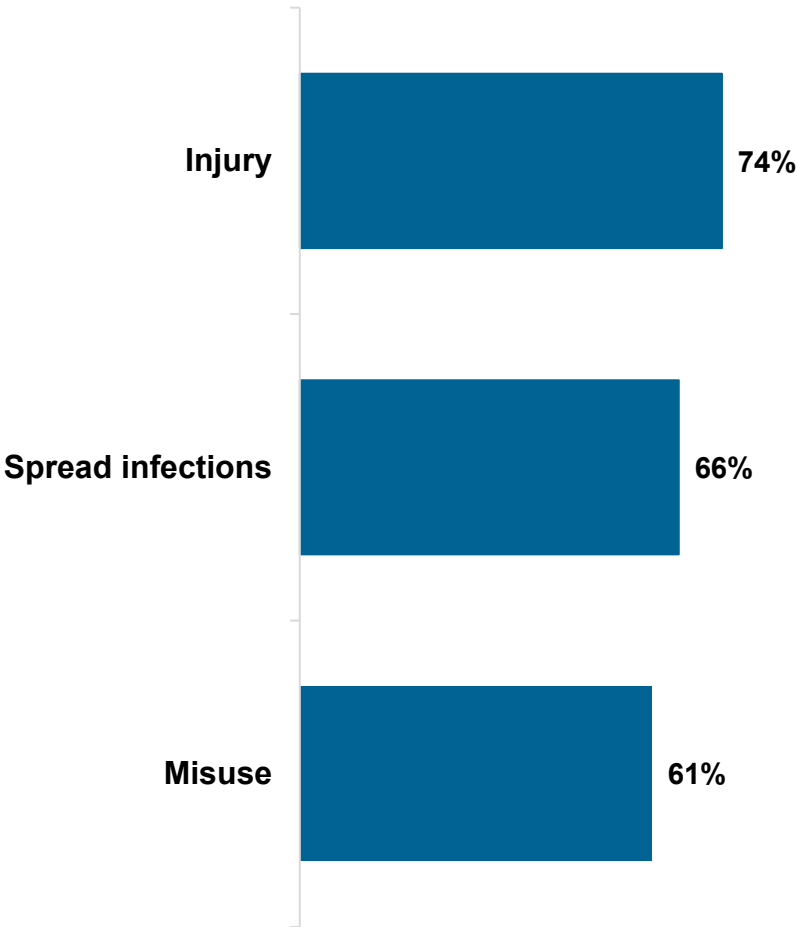
Residents' Awareness of Risks Associated with Improper Disposal of Home-generated Sharps

n = 1,000



Residents' Perceptions of Risks Associated with Improper Disposal of Home-generated Sharps

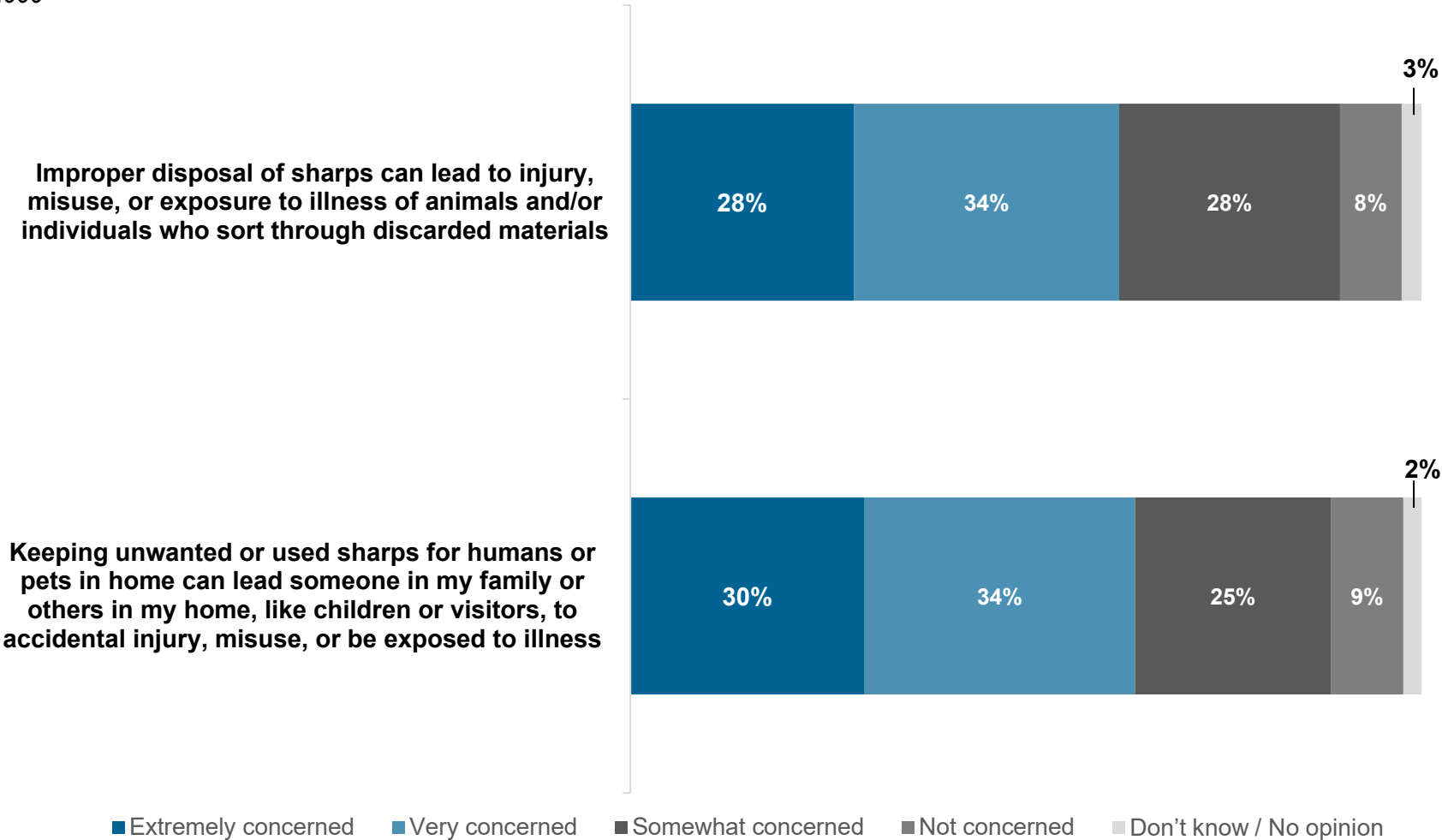
n = 1,000 (Multiple Responses Accepted)



64% of residents are extremely or very concerned that keeping unwanted or used sharps in the home can lead to accidental injury, misuse, or exposure to illness.

Residents' Level of Concern

n = 1,000



Executive Summary

**Resident Awareness –
Home-generated Sharps**

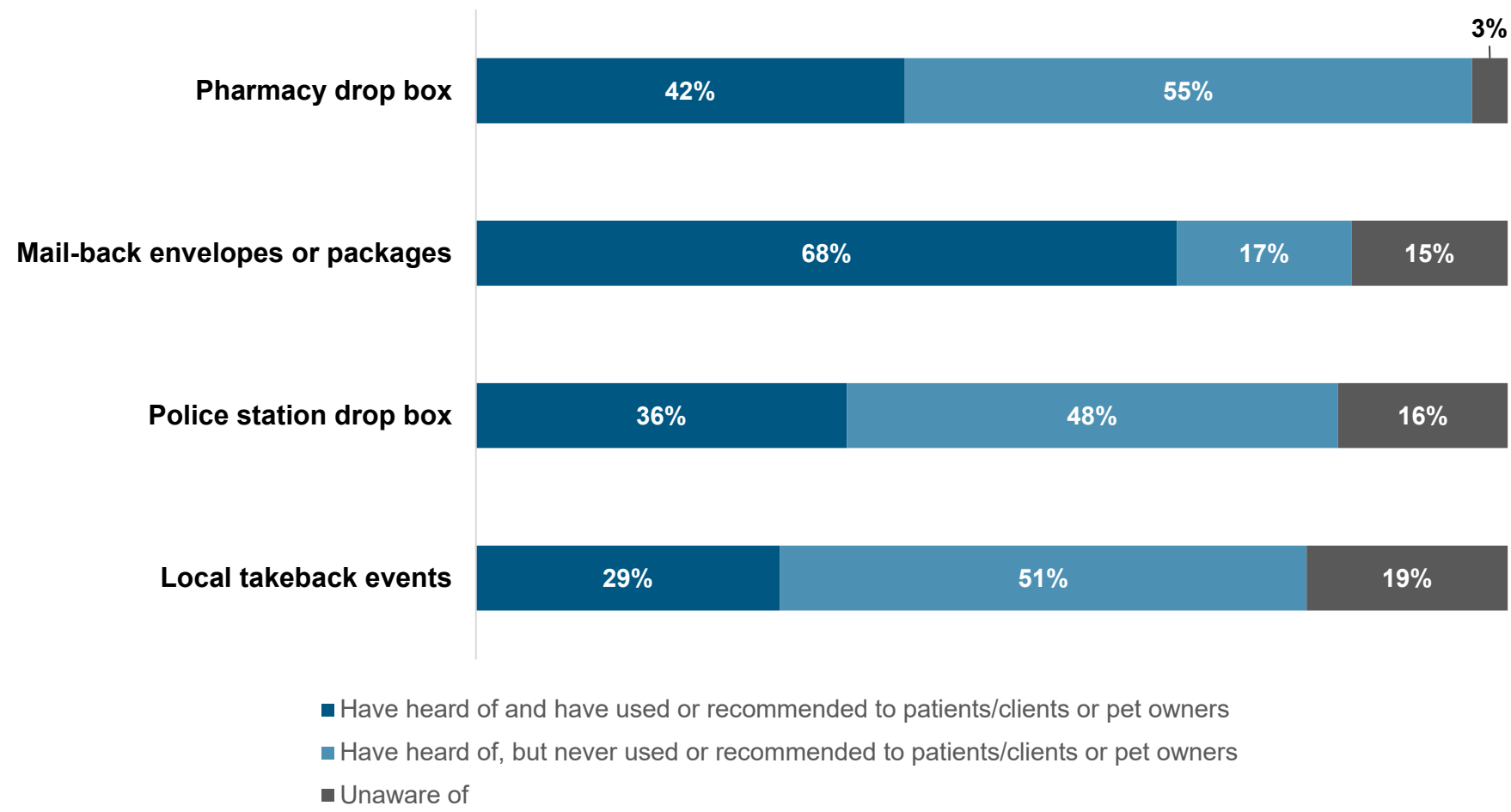
**Provider Awareness –
Home-generated Sharps**

Appendix – Demographics

97% of providers are familiar with at least one in-county disposal method for home-generated sharps*.

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

n = 231

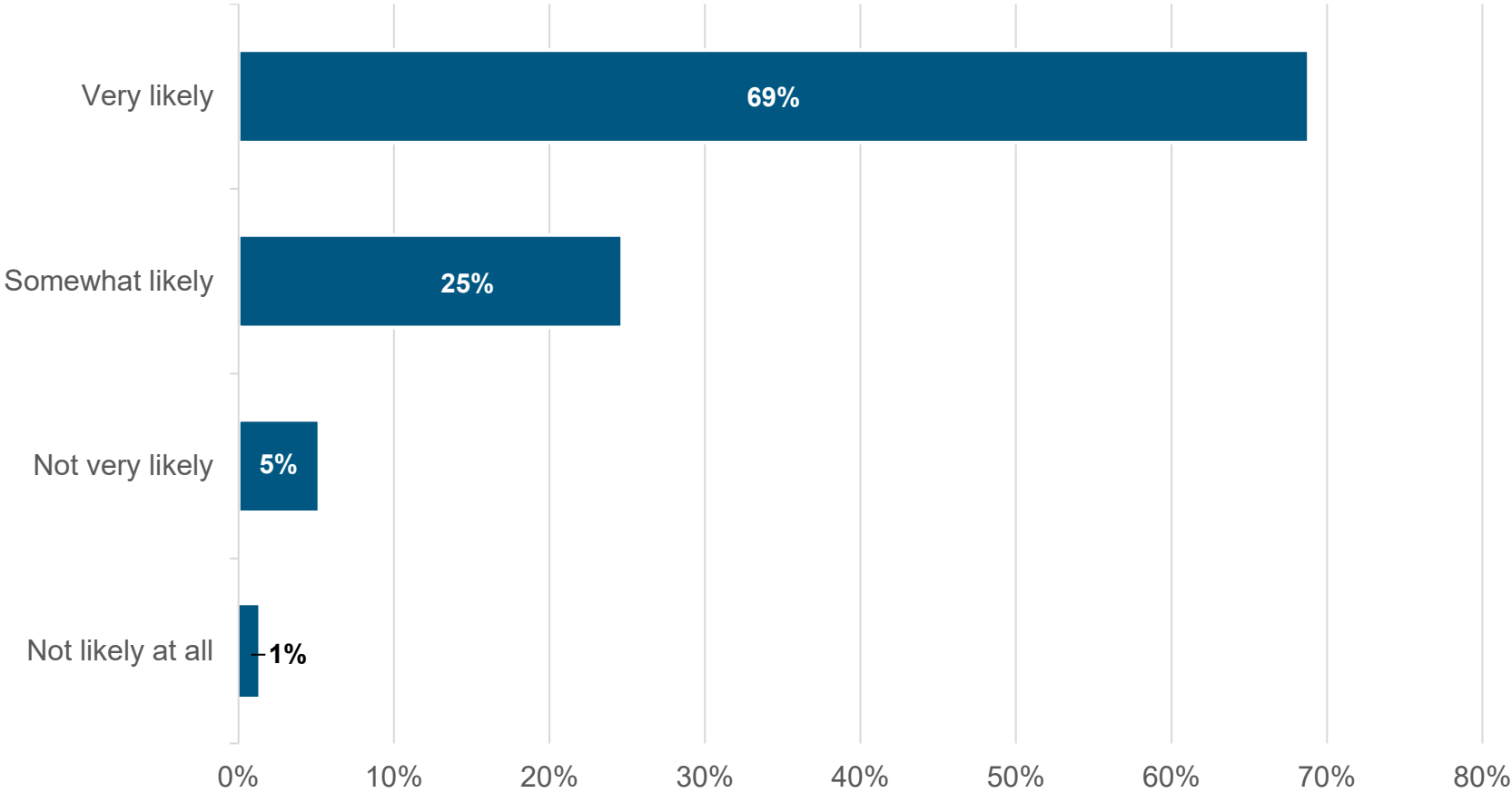


*Calculations account for overlap; providers familiar with multiple options counted once.

94% of providers are likely to encourage their patients or clients to safely dispose of home-generated sharps.

Healthcare Provider Encouragement to Dispose of Home-generated Sharps

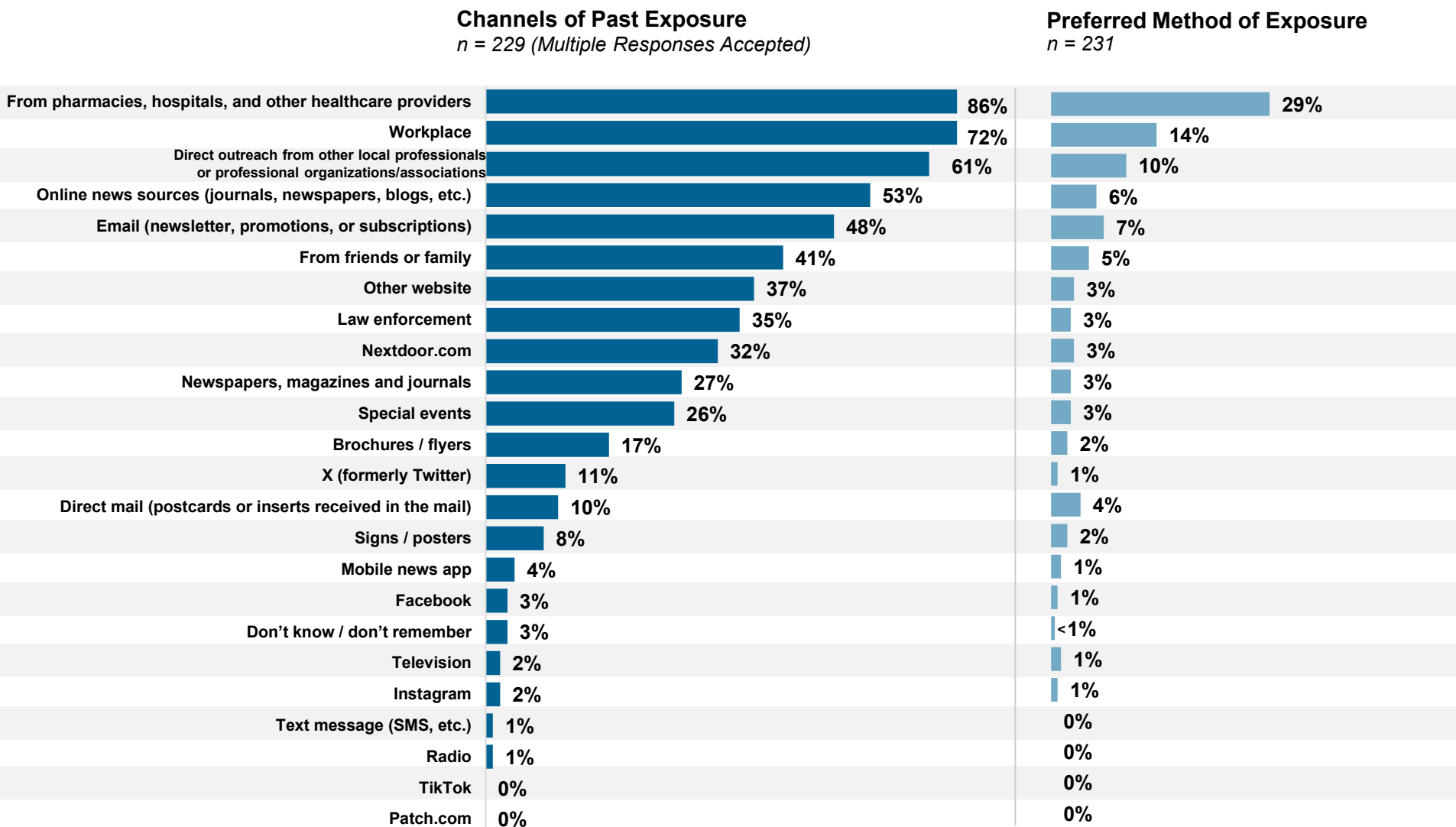
n = 231



0% of providers responded "Don't Know/No Opinion"

86% of providers learned about take back programs from pharmacies, hospitals, and other healthcare providers, while 72% learned from information provided through their workplace.

Healthcare Providers' Communication Channels



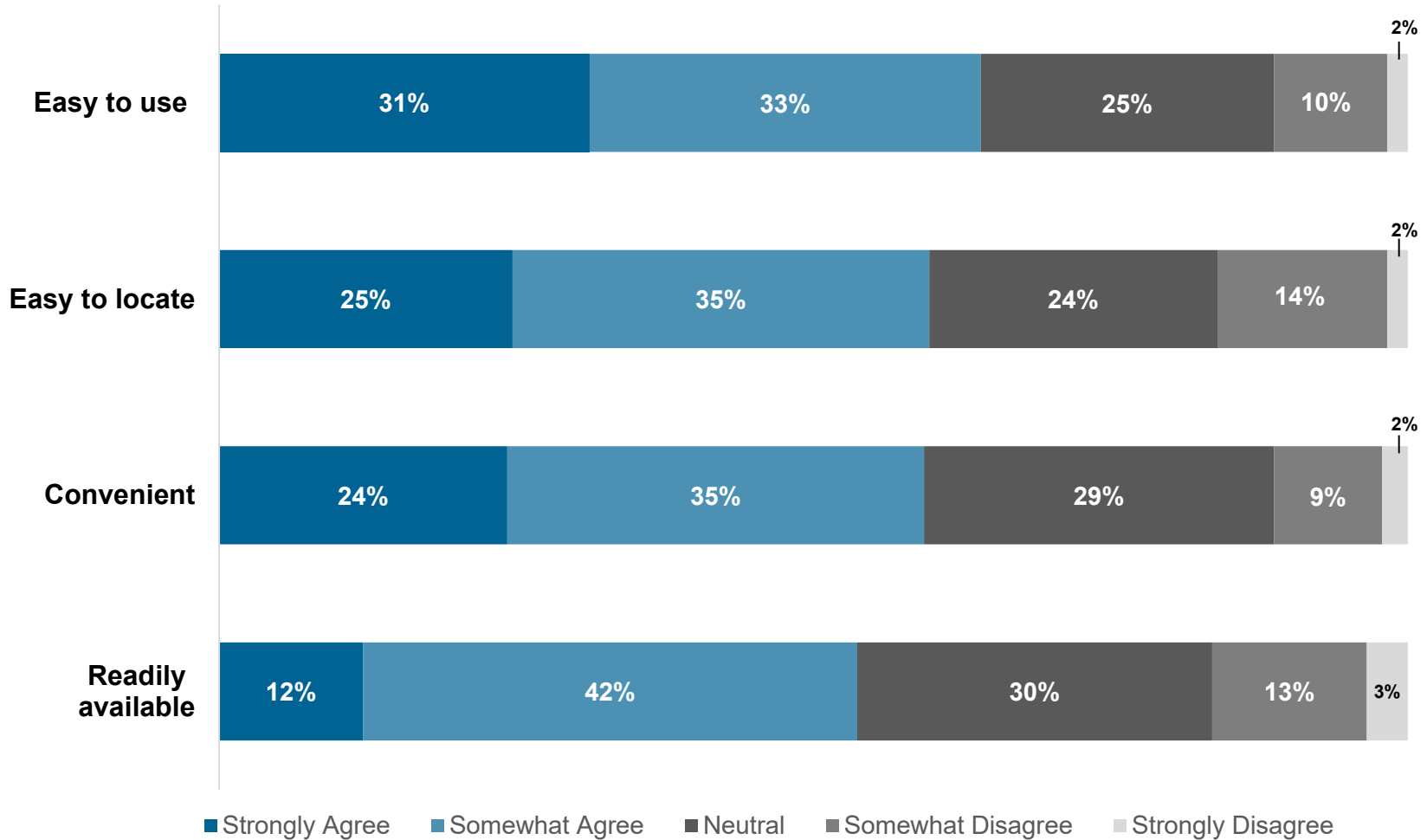
Q6: How did you learn about the take back program for expired and/or unwanted medications or home-generated sharps for residents or pet owners living in Santa Clara County?
 Q7: What is your preferred method to receive important information about how to safely store and where to dispose of expired and/or unwanted medicines for humans or pets or home-generated sharps for humans or pets in Santa Clara County?

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

64% of providers agree that disposal programs for home-generated sharps are easy to use, while 60% agree they are easy to locate, 59% agree they are convenient, and 54% agree they are readily available.

Healthcare Providers' Description of Home-generated Sharps Disposal Programs

n = 231

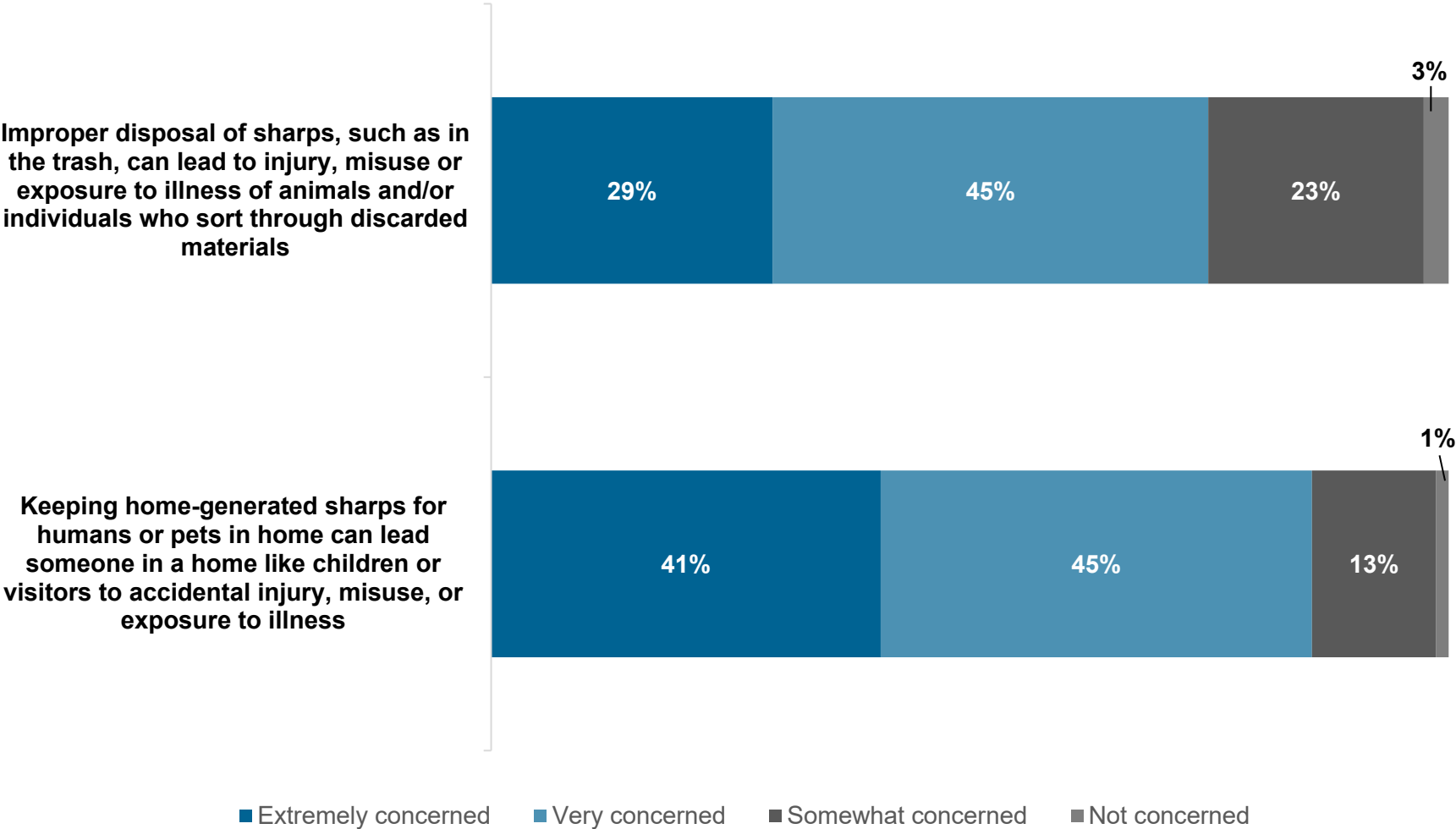


Q12: Please rate the following phrases describing the safe, convenient, and free sharps disposal programs available to residents or pet owners living in Santa Clara County.

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

75% of providers are extremely or very concerned that improper disposal of home-generated sharps can lead to injury, misuse, or exposure to illness.

Healthcare Providers' Level of Concern
n = 231



Executive Summary

Resident Awareness – Home-generated Sharps

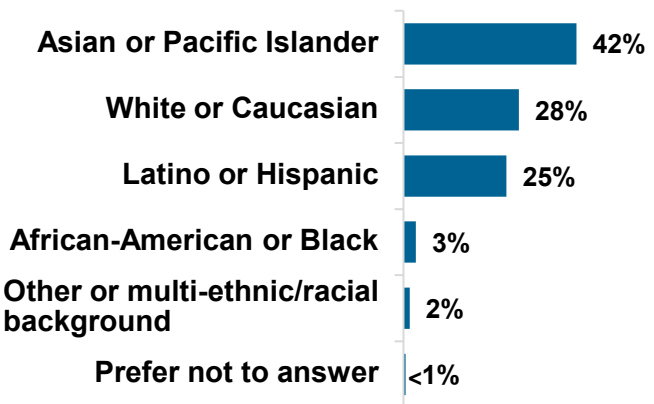
Provider Awareness – Home-generated Sharps

Appendix – Demographics

Appendix: Santa Clara County Resident Demographics

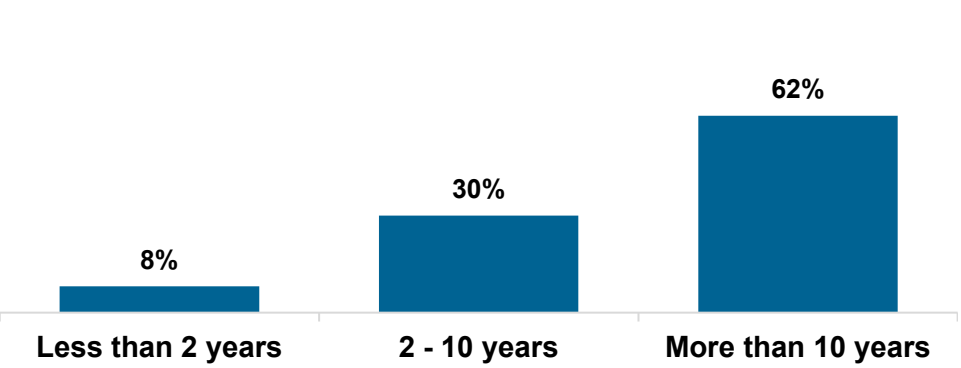
Race and Ethnicity

n = 1,000



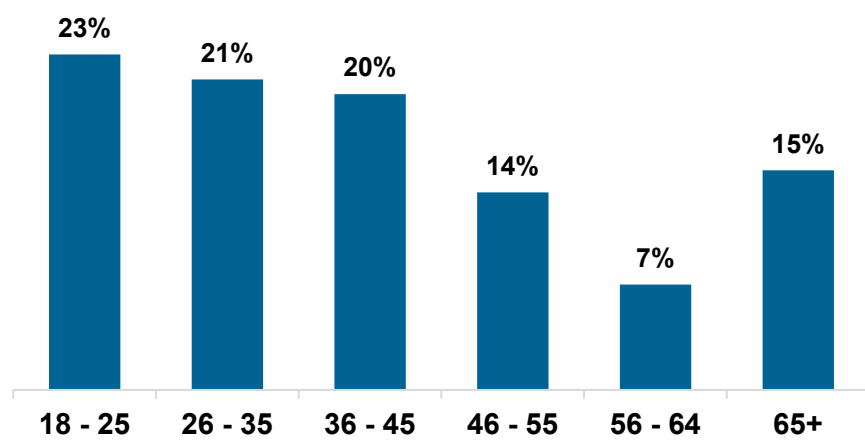
Time in Santa Clara County

n = 1,000



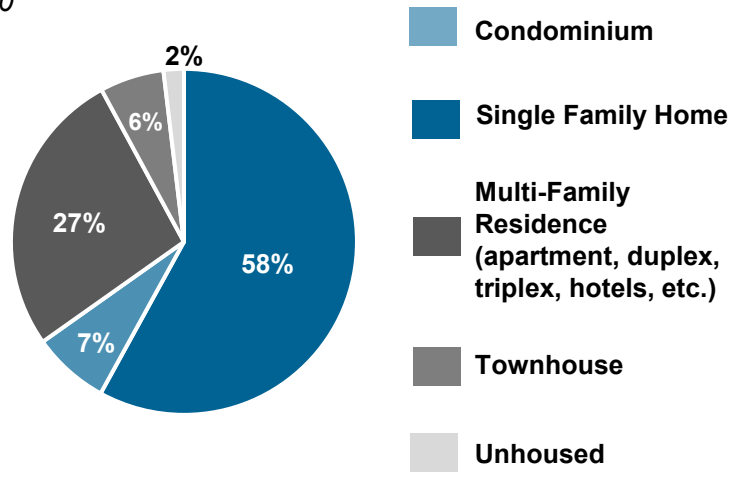
Age

n = 1,000



Living Situation

n = 1,000



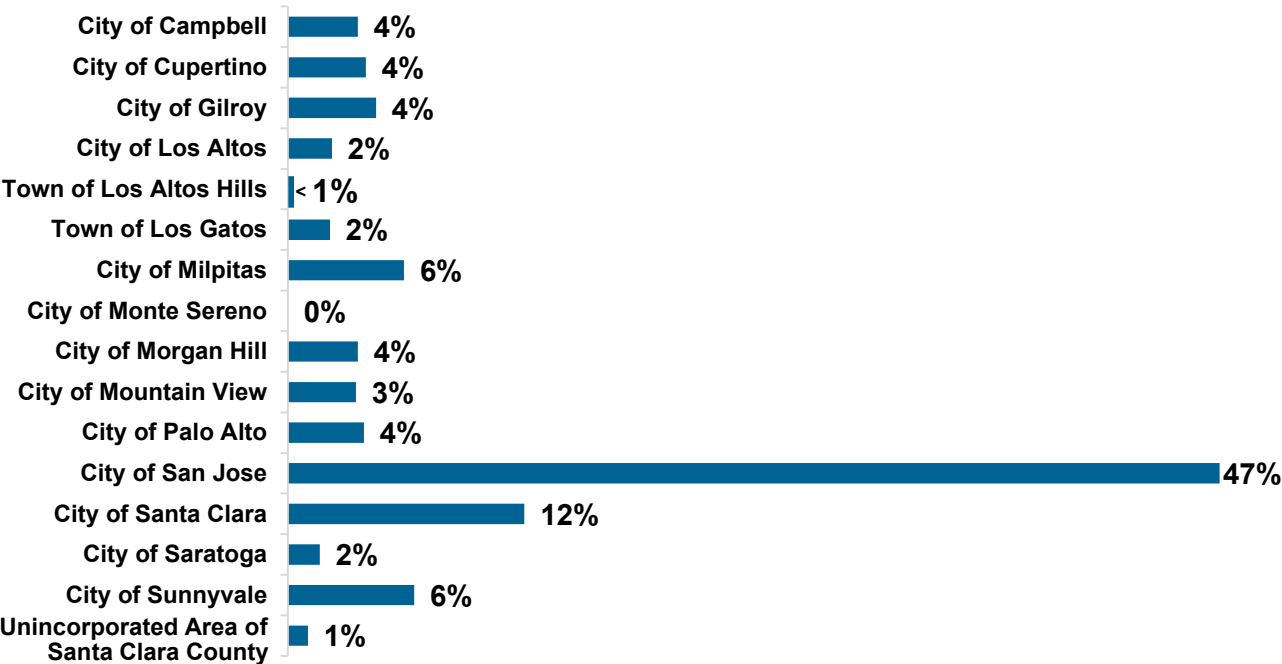
Q4: How long have you lived in Santa Clara County?
Q5: Please select the housing type you currently live in.
Q6: With which racial or ethnic group do you identify?
Q7: Please select your age from the following ranges:

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

Appendix: Santa Clara County Resident Demographics

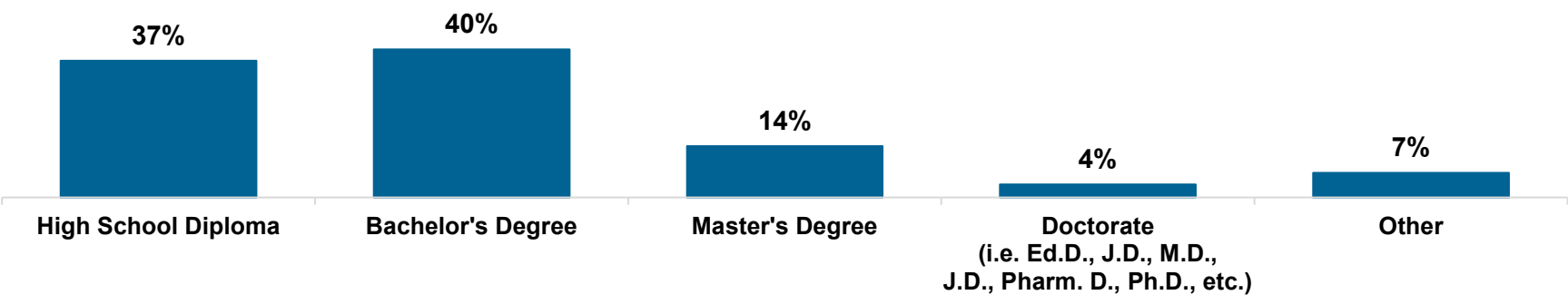
City of Residency

n = 1,000



Education Level

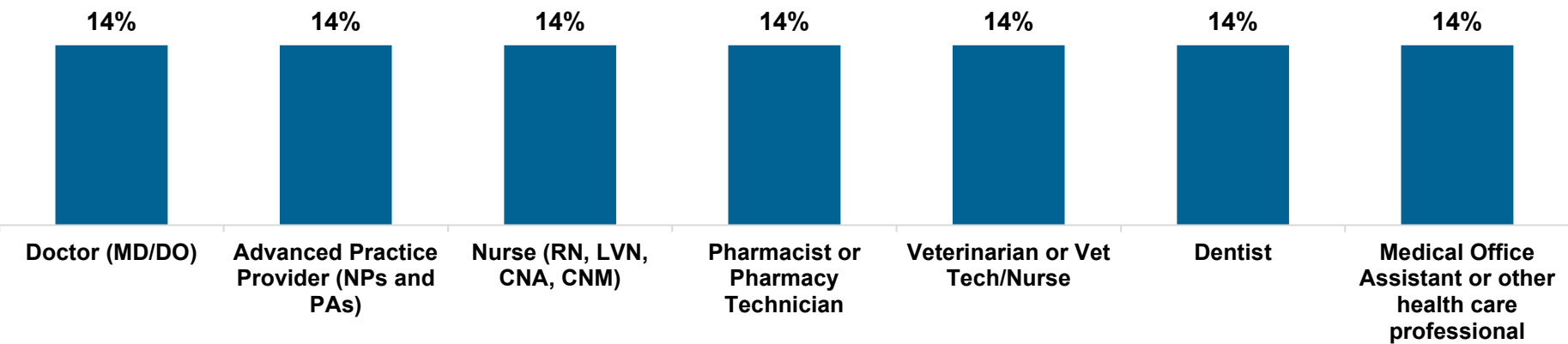
n = 1,000



Appendix: Santa Clara County Healthcare Provider Demographics

Healthcare Provider Type

n = 231



Practice Time in Santa Clara County

n = 231

