



ABACUS DATA

National Pharmacare in Canada

A survey of Canadian attitudes towards developing a national pharmacare program.

Commissioned by the Canadian Pharmacists Association

July 2015

The background of the lower half of the slide features several thin, light-colored lines that intersect to form a network of triangles and polygons, creating a subtle geometric pattern.

Methodology

Survey Methodology	Survey was conducted online, with a representative sample of 2,000 respondents, randomly selected from Research Now's online panel Comparable margin of error for a random sample of 2,000 would be 2.2%
Field dates	July 3 to 6, 2015
Statistical Weighting	Data was weighted by age, gender, education and region according to census data.

Results in the report highlighted with a dashed blue line indicate findings and/or relationships that are worth noting.

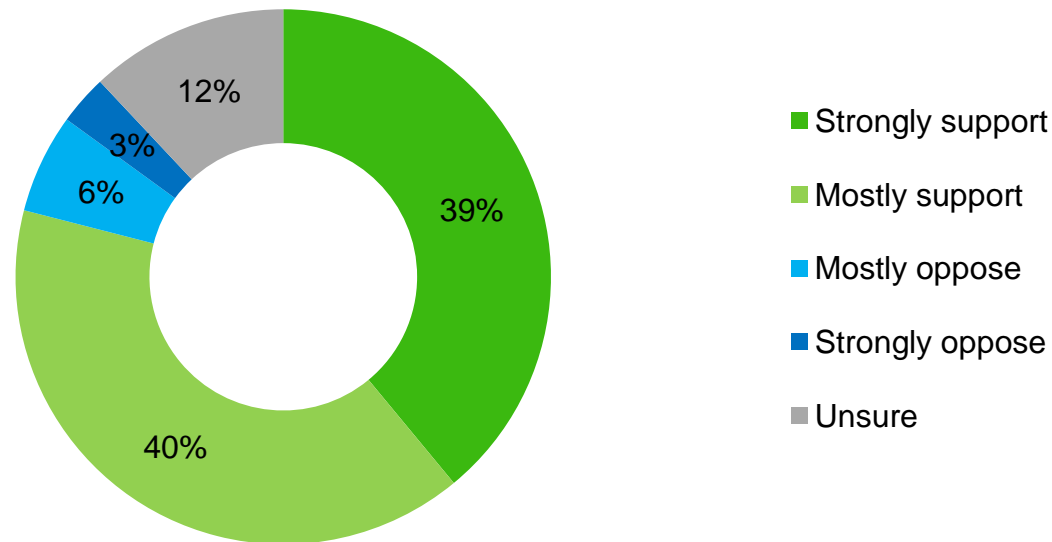
Key Findings

- Overall, a strong majority (79%) of Canadians support the idea of a national pharmacare program, with support consistently high across demographic and political subgroups.
- When three approaches to pharmacare are tested; one replacing all existing plans and covering all Canadians, another covering only those who are not currently covered, and a third only focused on those facing extreme circumstances, responses were split. Nearly a third of Canadians (31%) supported the first option, 46% supported the second, and 23% supported the third.
- Respondents felt that it was important that a national pharmacare program cover more than just the cost of medications. When asked, 78% felt it was very or somewhat important that pharmacists' professional fees be covered, with a nearly identical proportion (77%) feeling the same towards other health advice provided by pharmacists. Conservative voters expressed more resistance to additional service coverage than Liberal or NDP supporters.
- Although Canadians were supportive of the proposed national pharmacare plan, most said they would be concerned if a national pharmacare program replaced their current plan with a public plan that had fewer options, if it increased costs to governments because patients use more prescription drugs than they do now, and of the ability of governments to administer the plan efficiently and effectively.
- Among those with prescription drug coverage in Canada, most are very satisfied or mostly satisfied (79%) with their current plan. Just seven percent are dissatisfied.

Support for National Pharmacare

As you may know, there is some discussion about creating a national pharmacare program that would make sure all Canadians have access to the prescription medications they need.

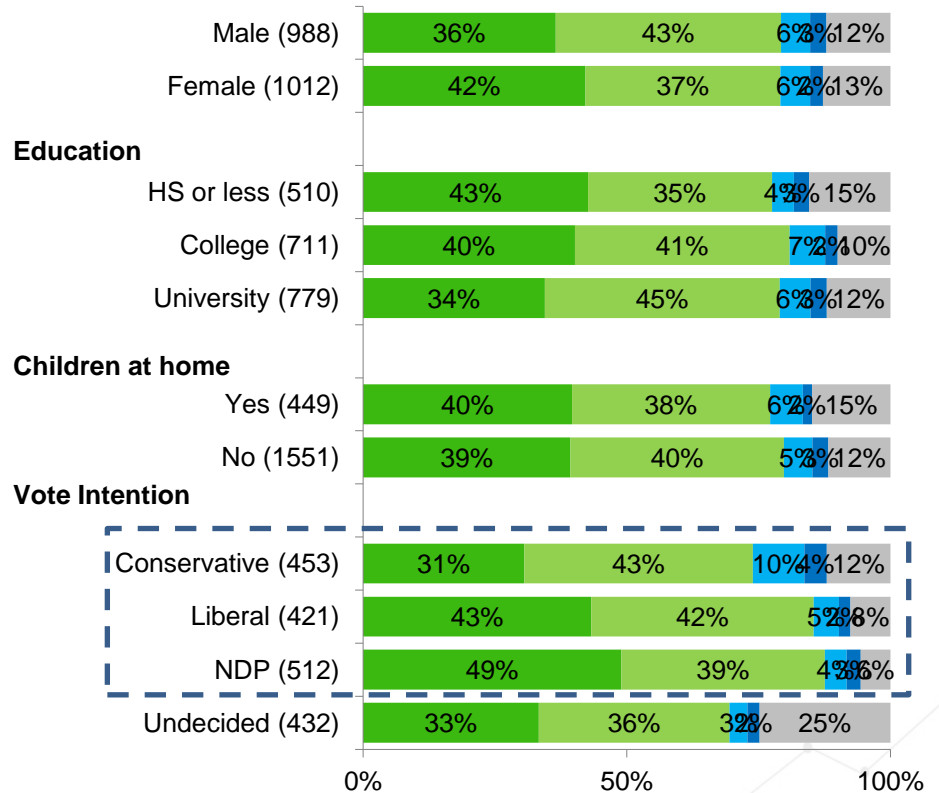
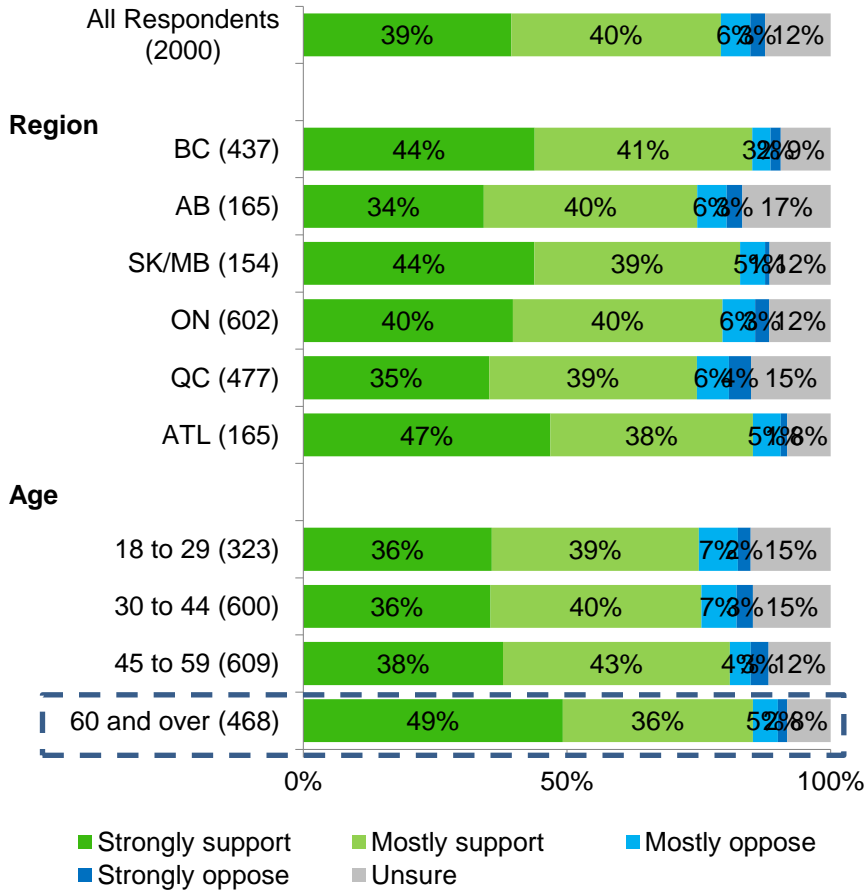
Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the idea of a national pharmacare program that would provide all Canadians access to the prescription medications they need?



Overall, a strong majority (79%) of Canadians supported the idea of a national pharmacare program, with support consistently high across demographic subgroups.

Support for National Pharmacare

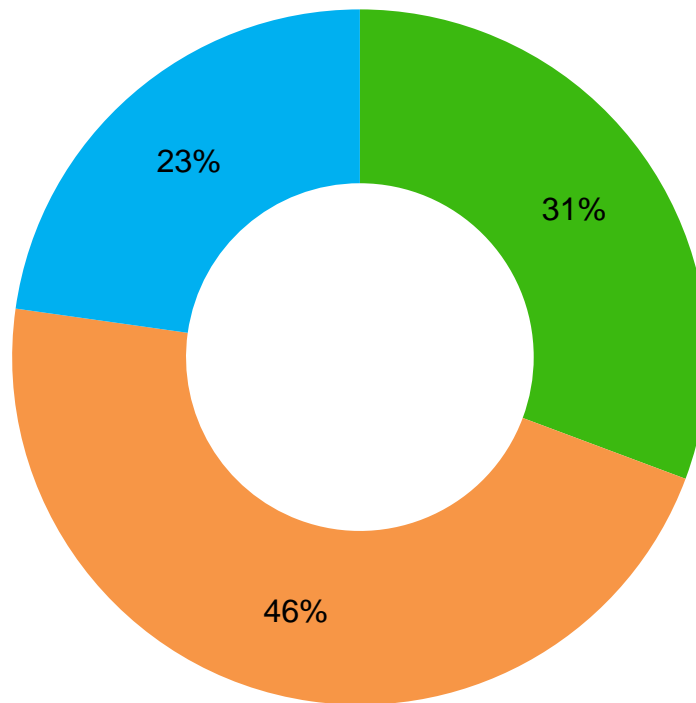
Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the idea of a national pharmacare program that would provide all Canadians access to the prescription medications they need?



Pharmacare Coverage

While many Canadians want enhanced access to medications, many Canadians are also concerned about the cost of a national pharmacare program, losing their private drug plans, and the ability of governments to administrate drug plans effectively.

Which approach to pharmacare comes closest to your view?

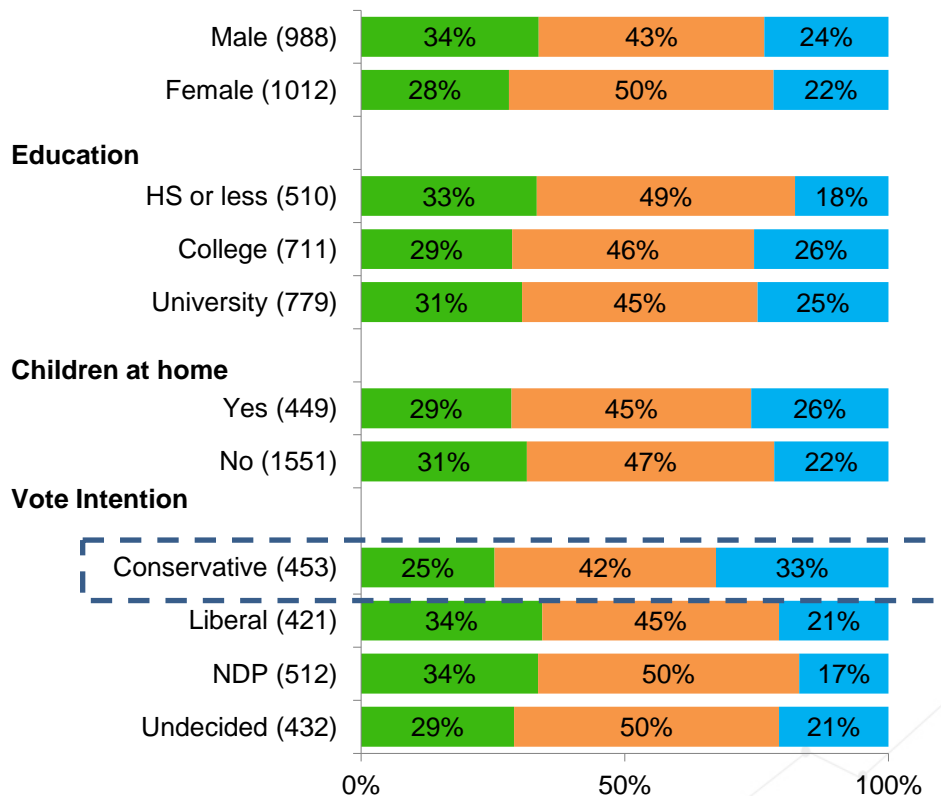
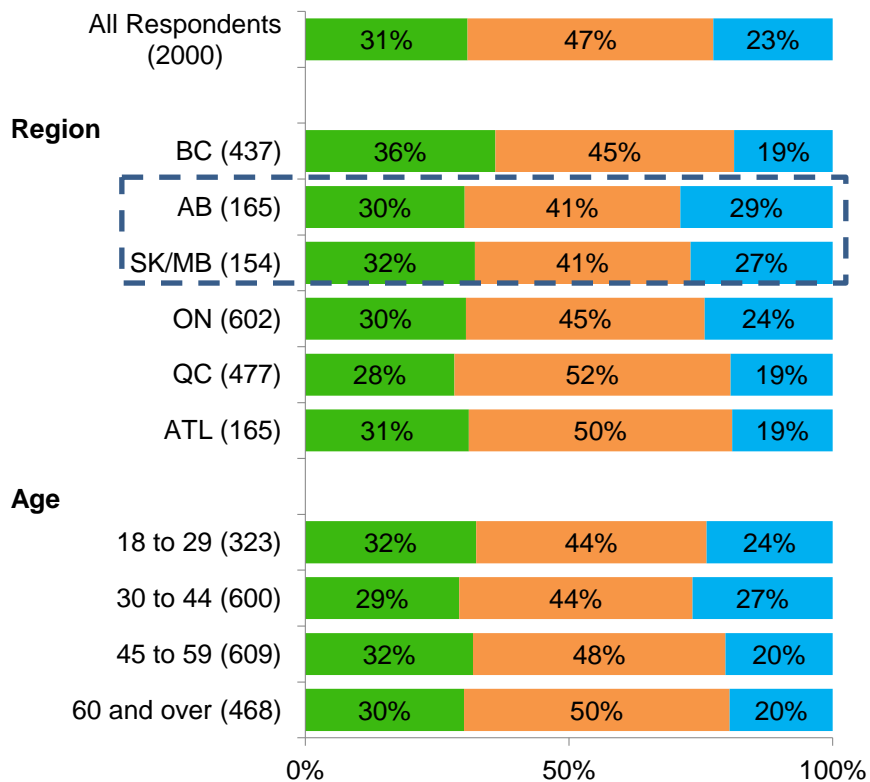


- Pharmacare should cover all Canadians and replace all existing government and private insurance plans
- Pharmacare should only cover those Canadians who are not currently covered through some other existing government or private plan
- Pharmacare should only focus on those Canadians facing extreme circumstances (e.g. catastrophic drug coverage; covering expensive drugs for rare diseases)

Overall, a plurality of Canadians believed that pharmacare should only cover those Canadians who are not currently covered through some other existing government or private plan. Another 31% believe that pharmacare should cover all Canadians and replace all existing plans while 23% believed that pharmacare should only focus on those who face extreme circumstances.

Pharmacare Coverage

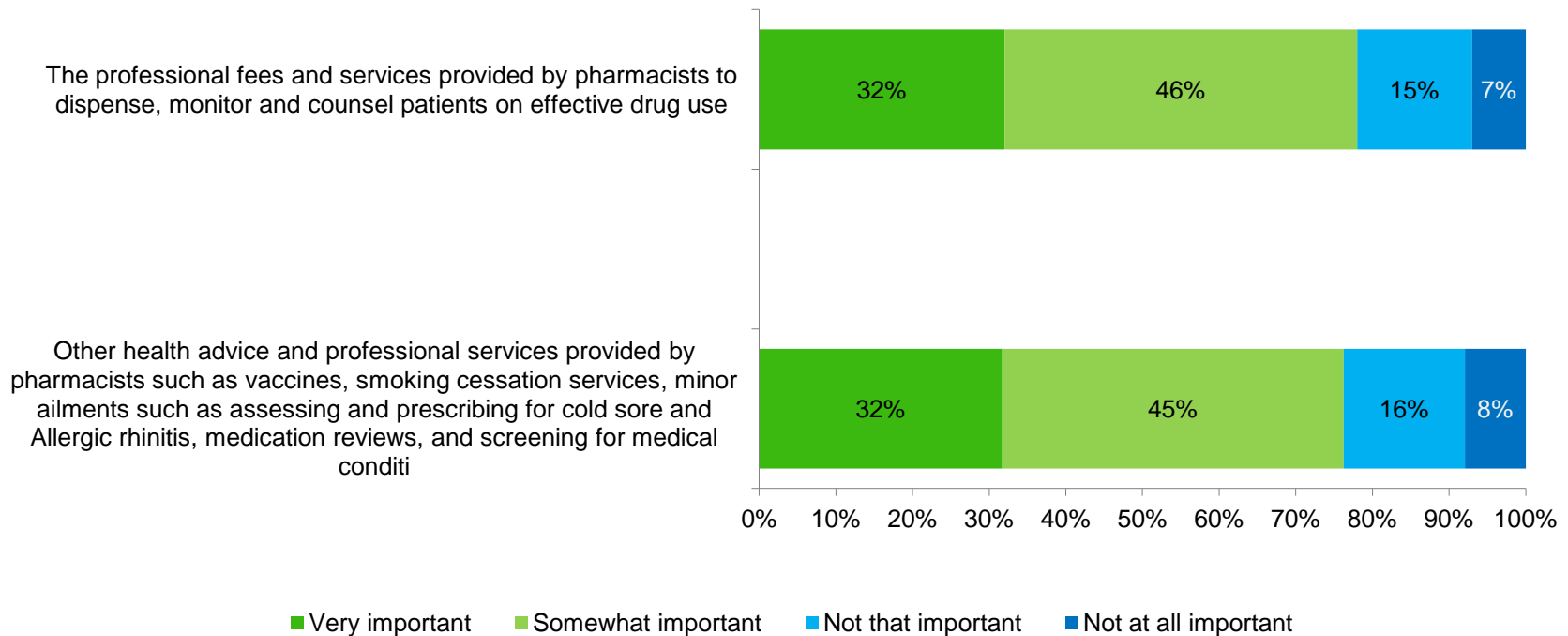
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Additional Services Coverage

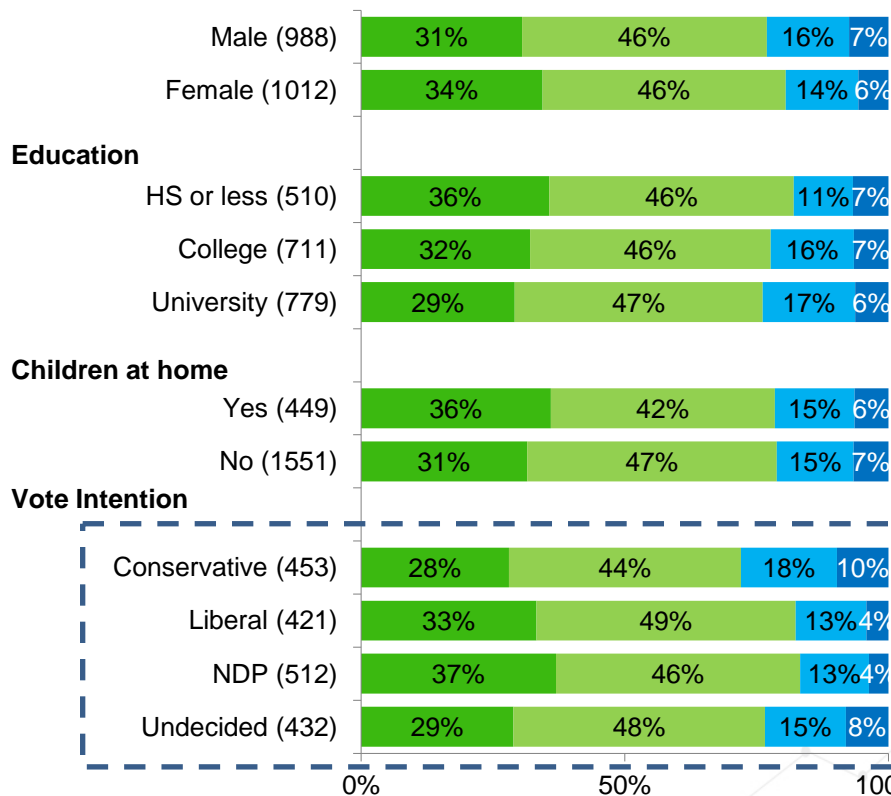
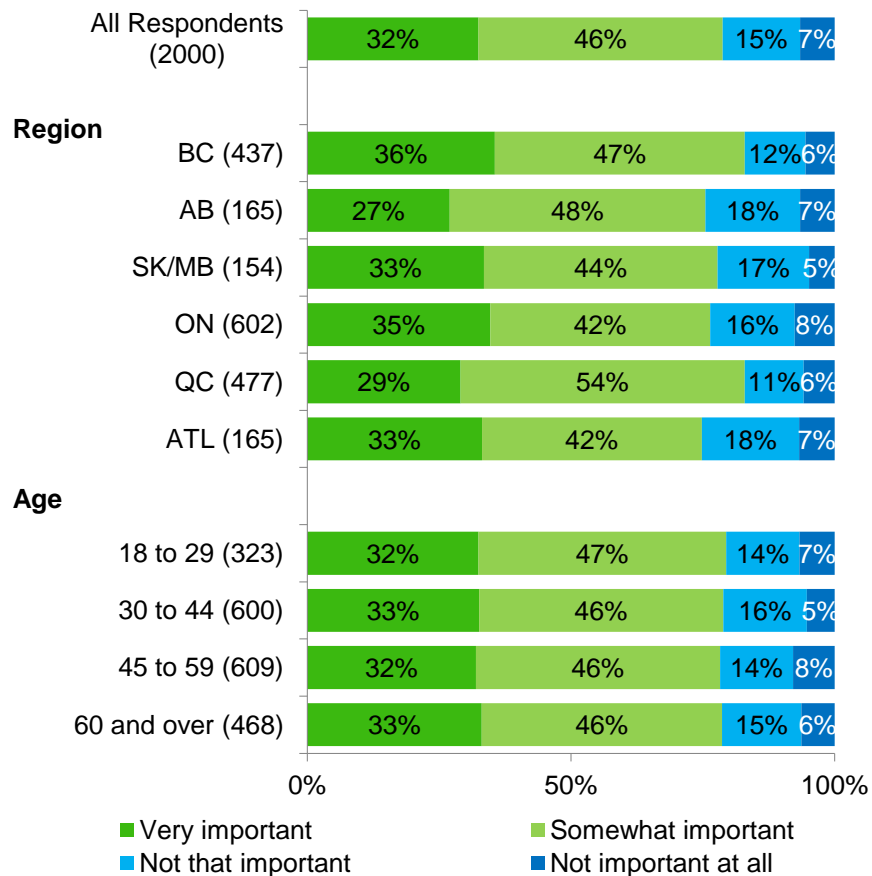
Apart from covering the cost of prescription medications, how important is it to you that a national pharmacare program also cover each of the following?



A majority of respondents felt that that it was important a national pharmacare program should also cover the professional fees and services provided by pharmacists and other health advice and services provided by pharmacists. There was almost no variation between the two additional features tested.

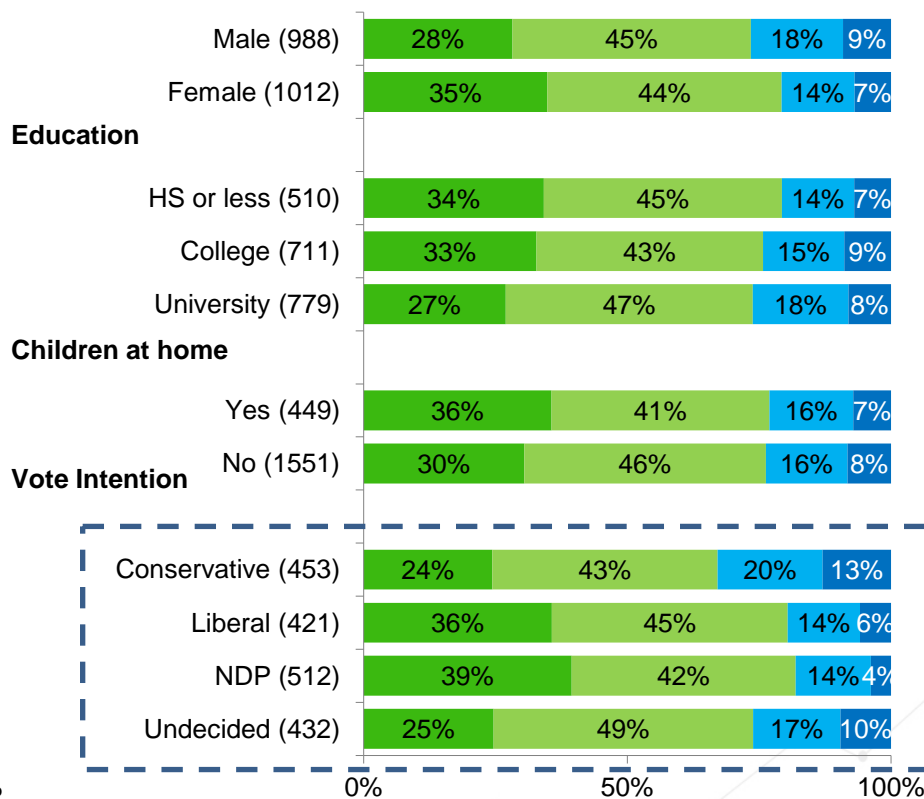
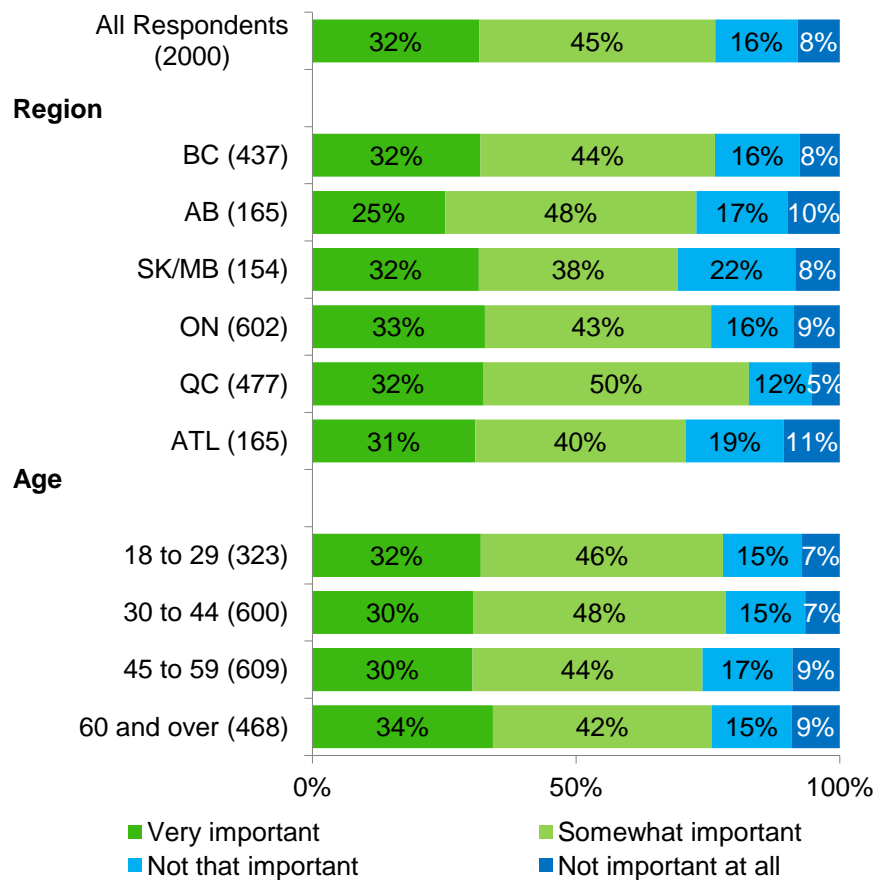
Additional Service Coverage

The professional fees and services provided by pharmacists to dispense, monitor and council patients on effective drug use



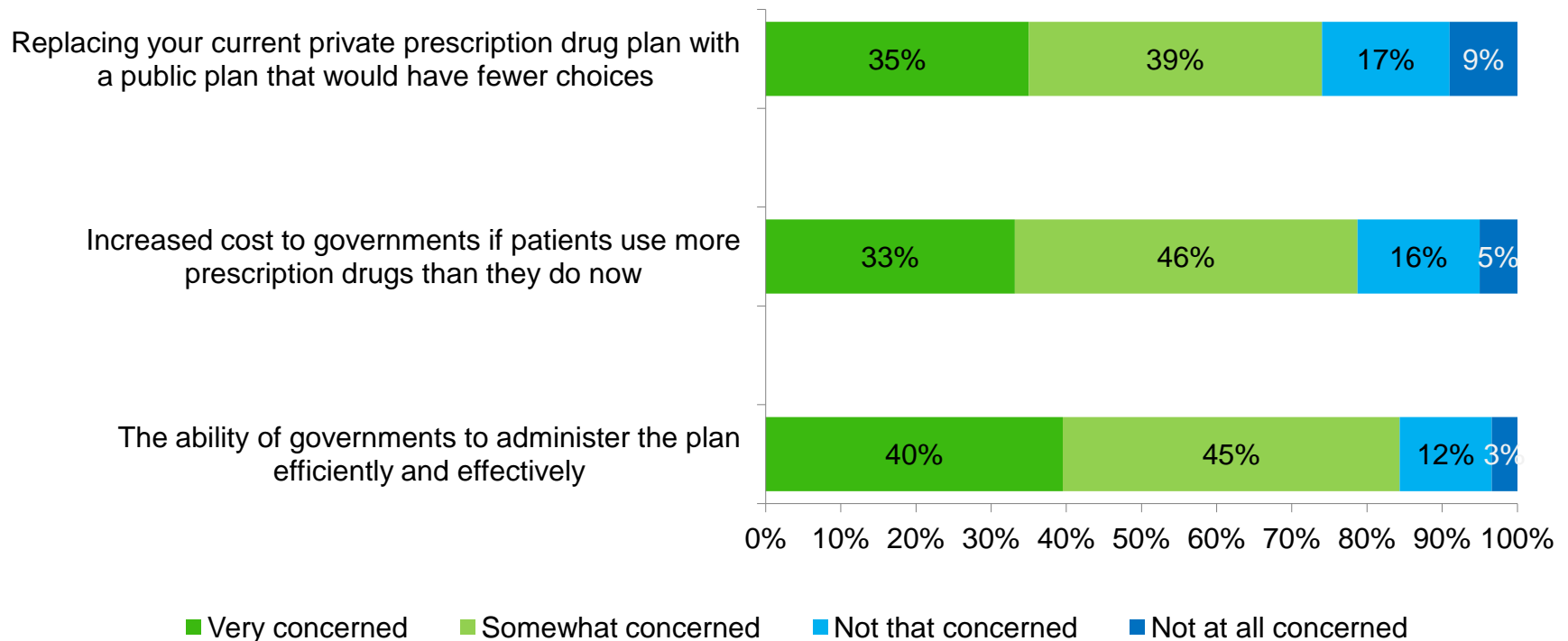
Additional Service Coverage

Other health advice and professional services provided by pharmacists such as vaccines, smoking cessation services, minor ailments such as assessing and prescribing for cold sore and Allergic rhinitis, medication reviews, and screening for medical conditions such as diabetes



Concerns about National Pharmacare

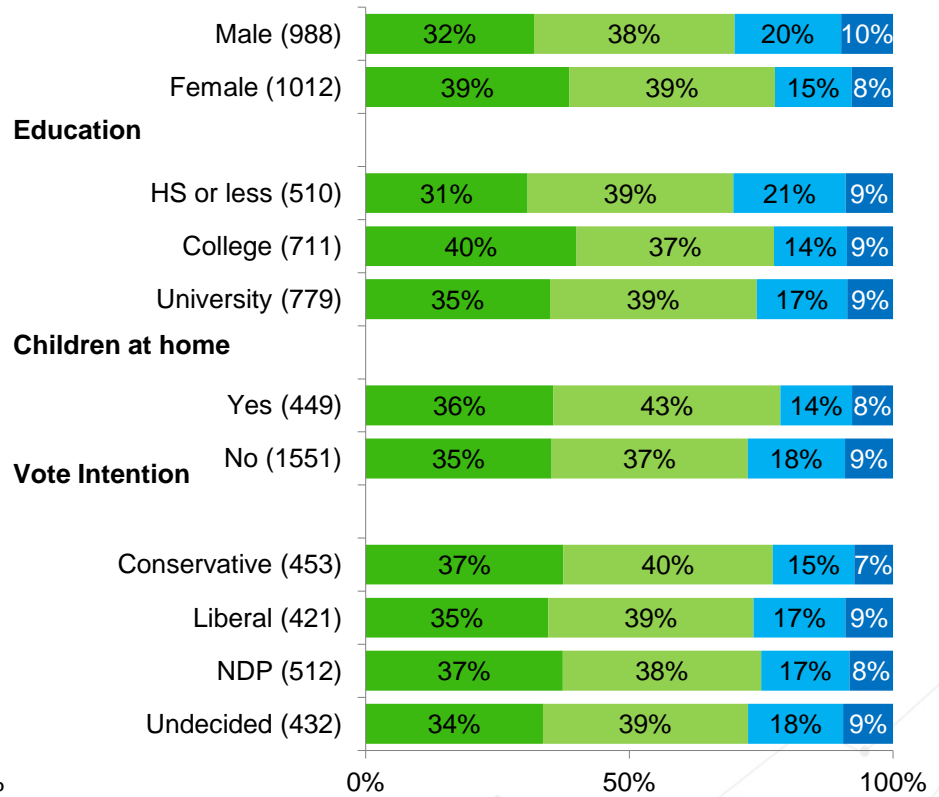
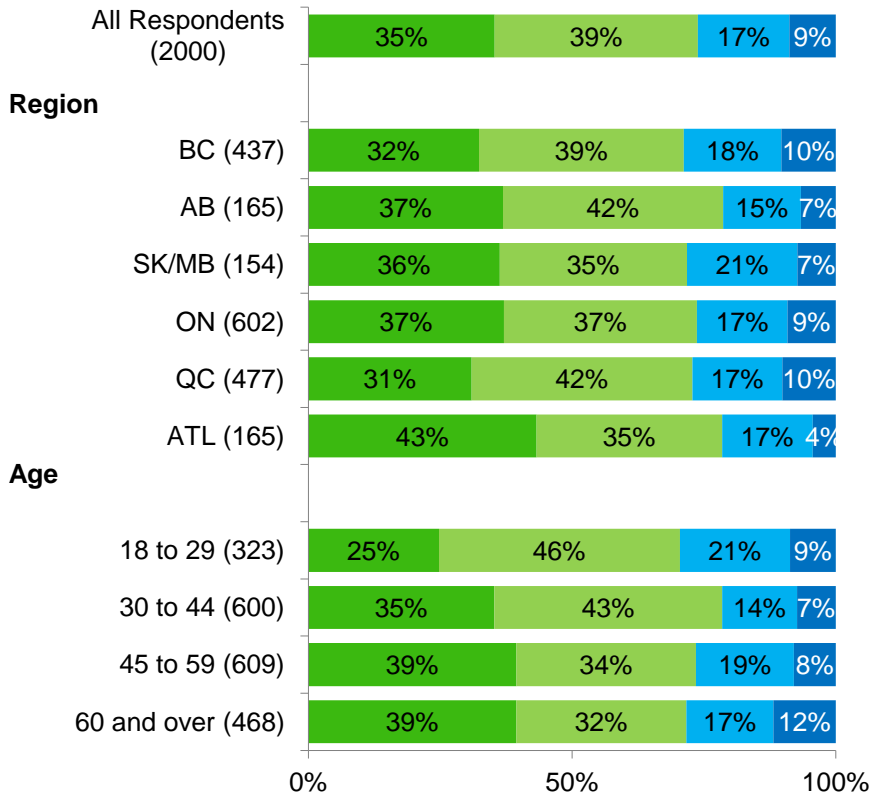
To what extent are you concerned about the following issues related to a national pharmacare program?



Although Canadians were supportive of the proposed national pharmacare plan, most said they would be concerned if a national pharmacare program replaced their current plan with a public plan that had fewer options, if it increased costs to governments because patients use more prescription drugs than they do now, and of the ability of governments to administer the plan efficiently and effectively.

Concerns about National Pharmacare

Replacing your current private prescription drug plan with a public plan that would have fewer choices

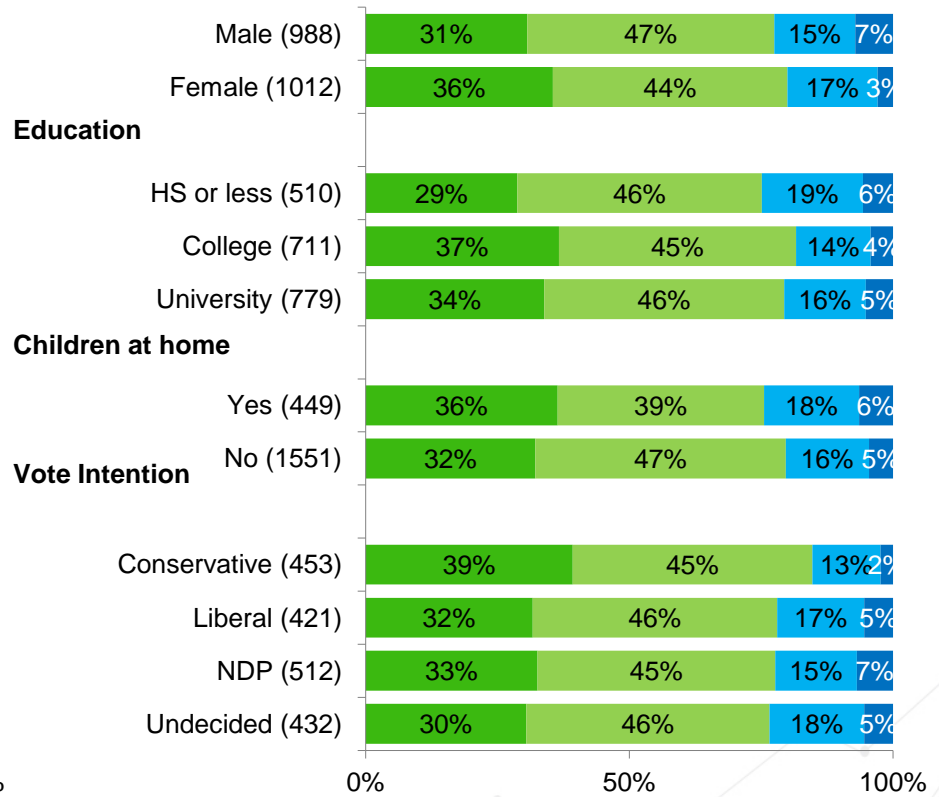
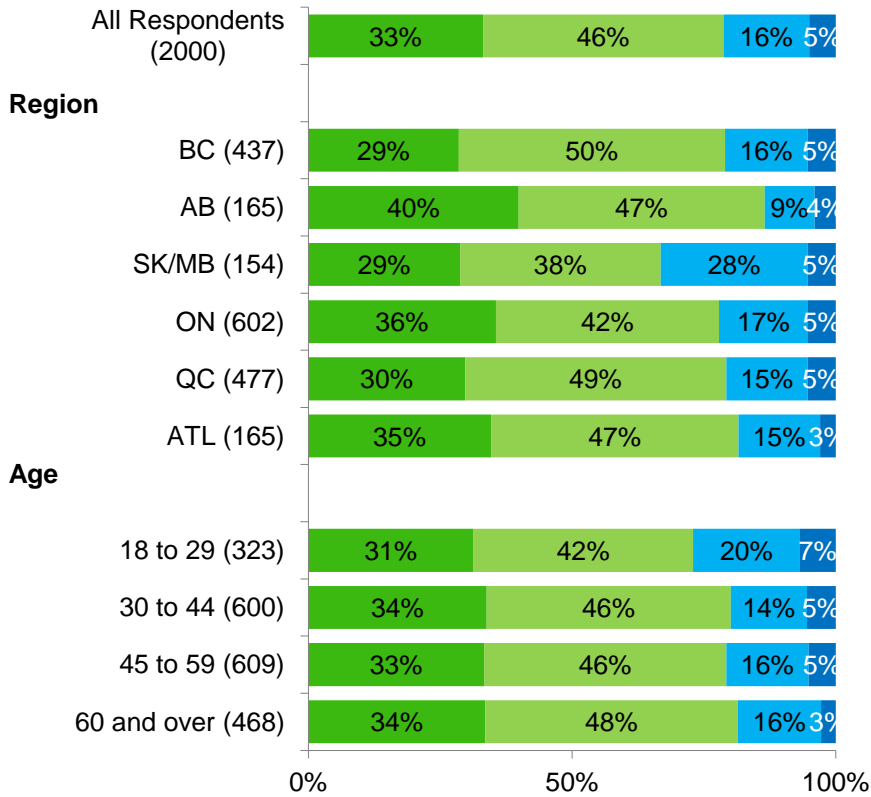


■ Very concerned
 ■ Somewhat concerned
■ Not that concerned
 ■ Not at all concerned

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Concerns about National Pharmacare

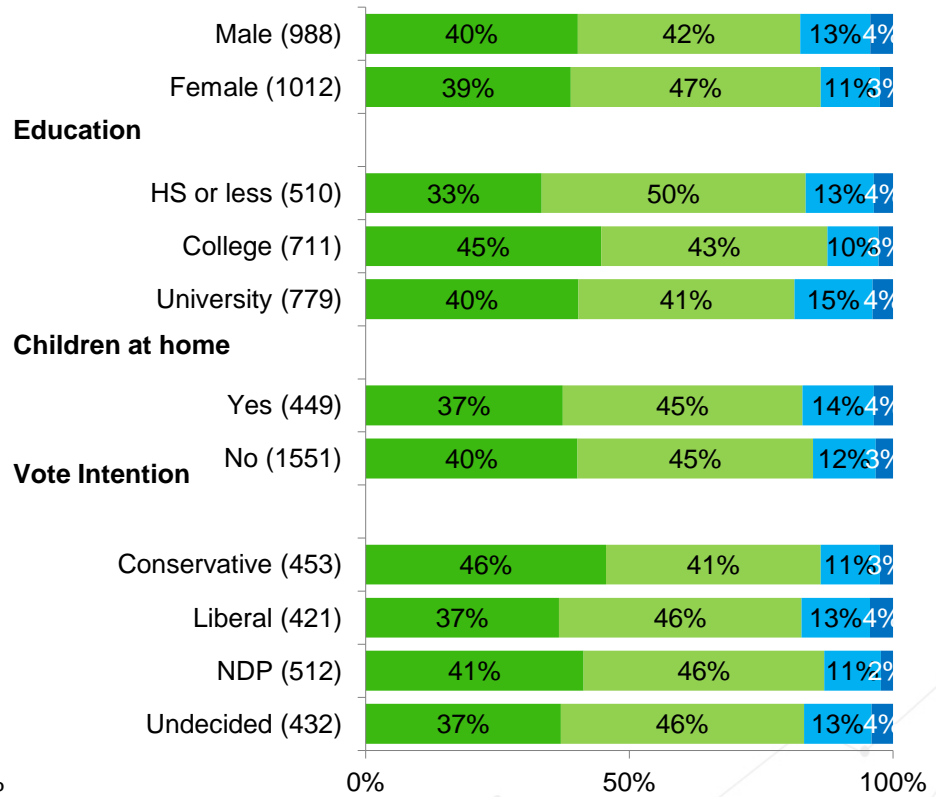
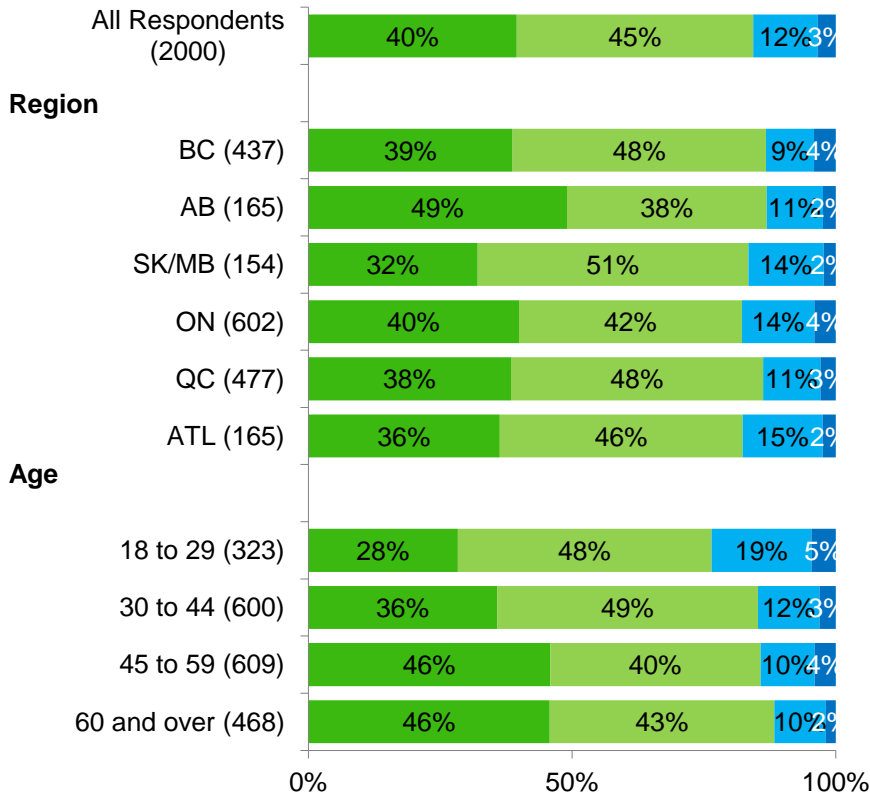
Increased cost to governments if patients use more prescription drugs than they do now



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Concerns about National Pharmacare

The ability of governments to administer the plan efficiently and effectively

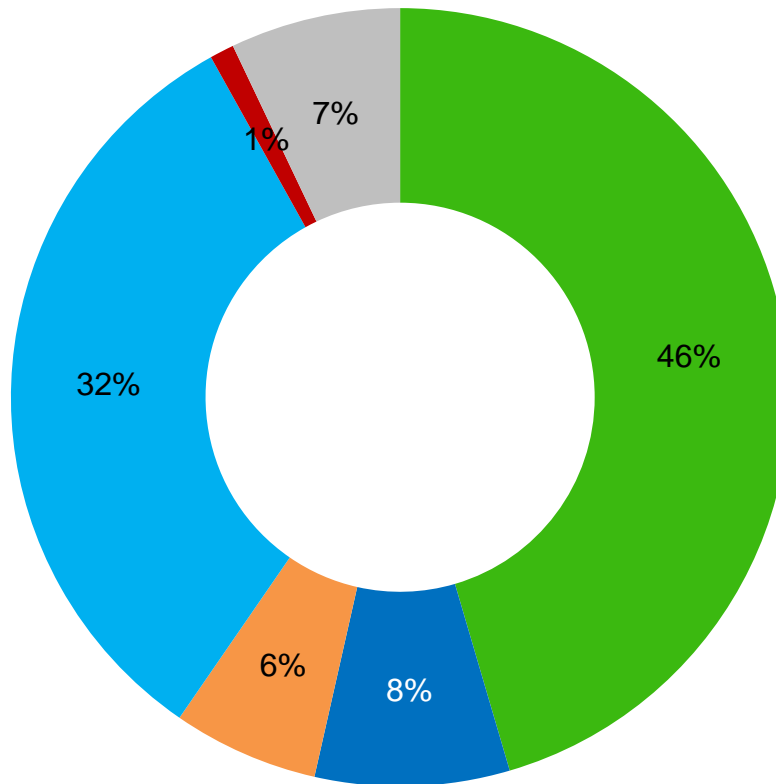


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Drug Plan Provider (Quebec)

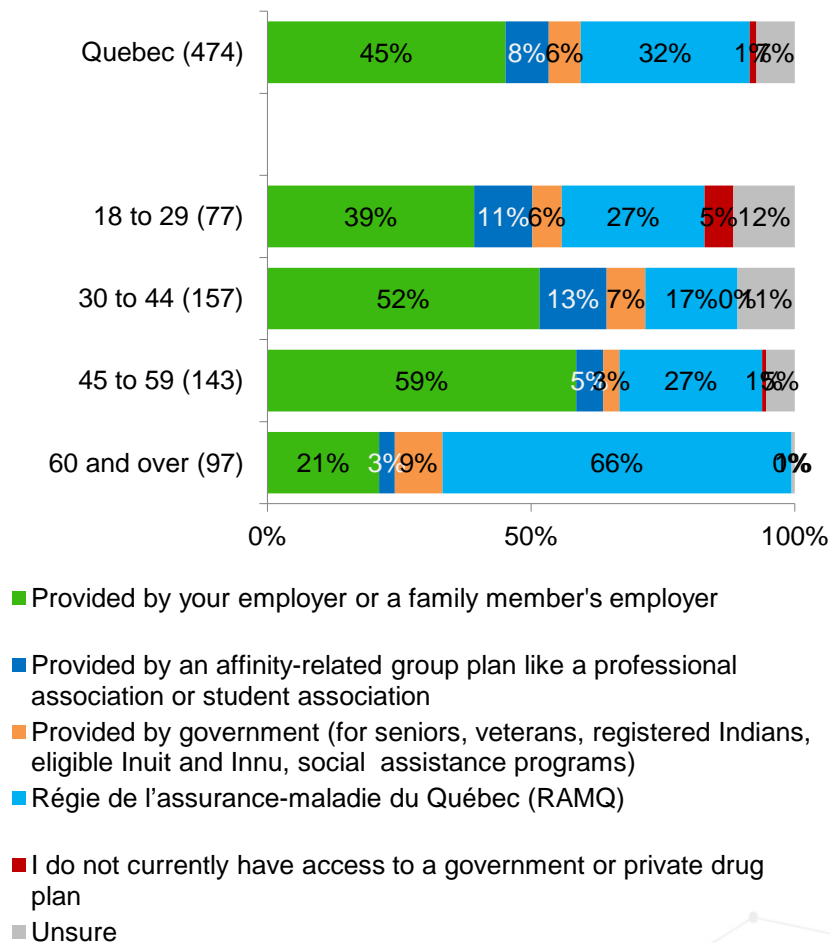
Which of the following best describes your current prescription drug insurance plan?



- Provided by your employer or a family member's employer
- Provided by an affinity-related group plan like a professional association or student association
- Provided by government (for seniors, veterans, registered Indians, eligible Inuit and Innu, social assistance programs)
- Régie de l'assurance-maladie du Québec (RAMQ)
- I do not currently have access to a government or private drug plan
- Unsure

Drug Plan Provider (Quebec)

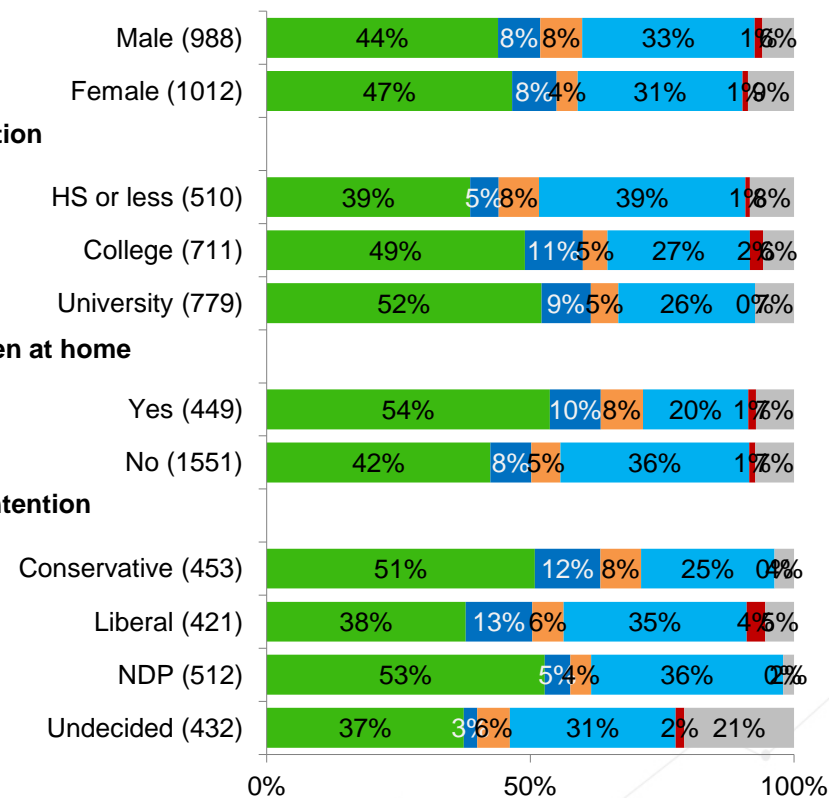
Which of the following best describes your current prescription drug insurance plan?



Education

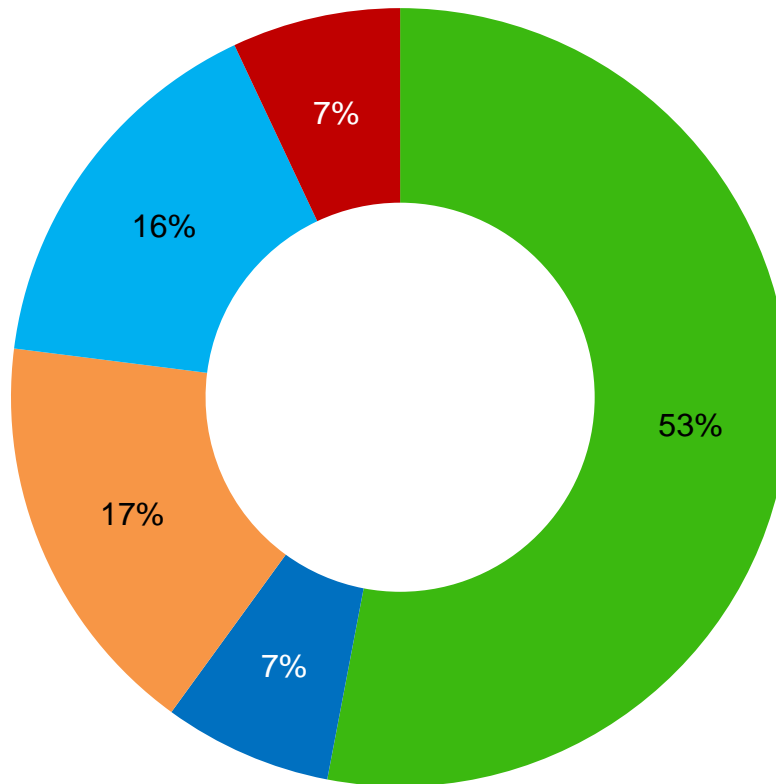
Children at home

Vote Intention



Drug Plan Provider (Rest of Canada)

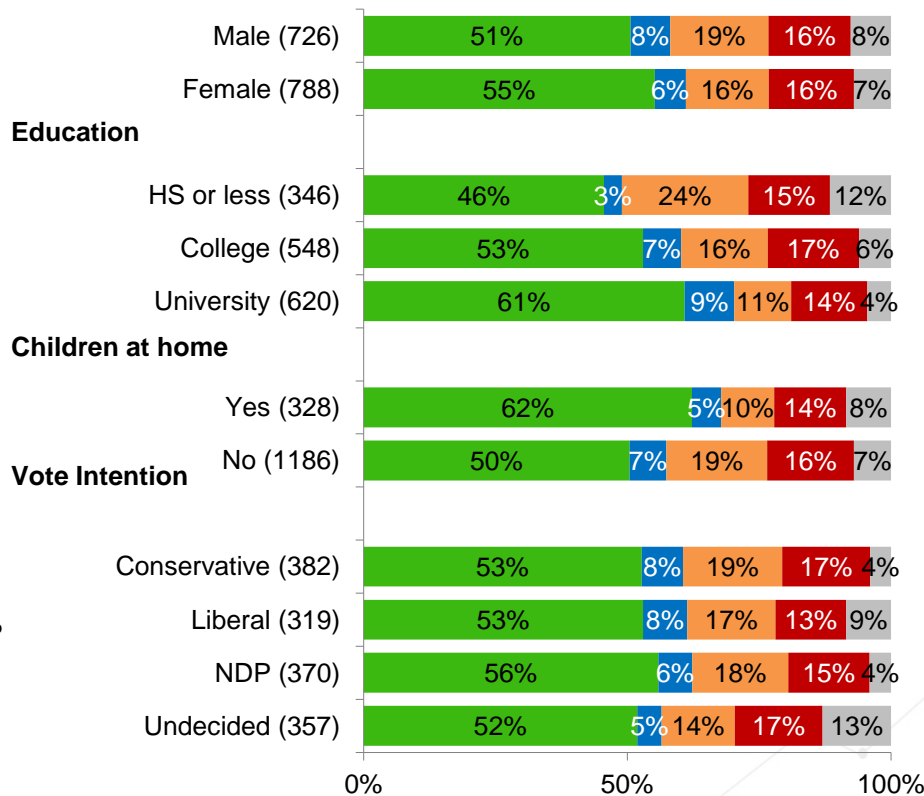
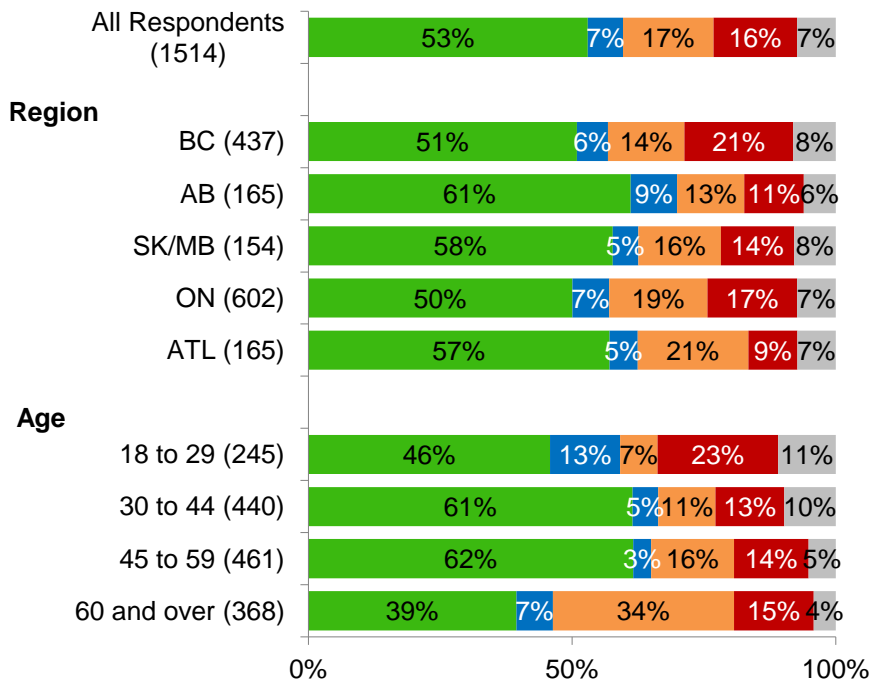
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- Provided by your employer or a family member's employer
- Provided by an affinity-related group plan like a professional association or student association
- Provided by government (for seniors, veterans, registered Indians, eligible Inuit and Innu, social assistance programs)
- I do not currently have access to a government or private drug plan
- Unsure

Drug Plan Provider (Rest of Canada)

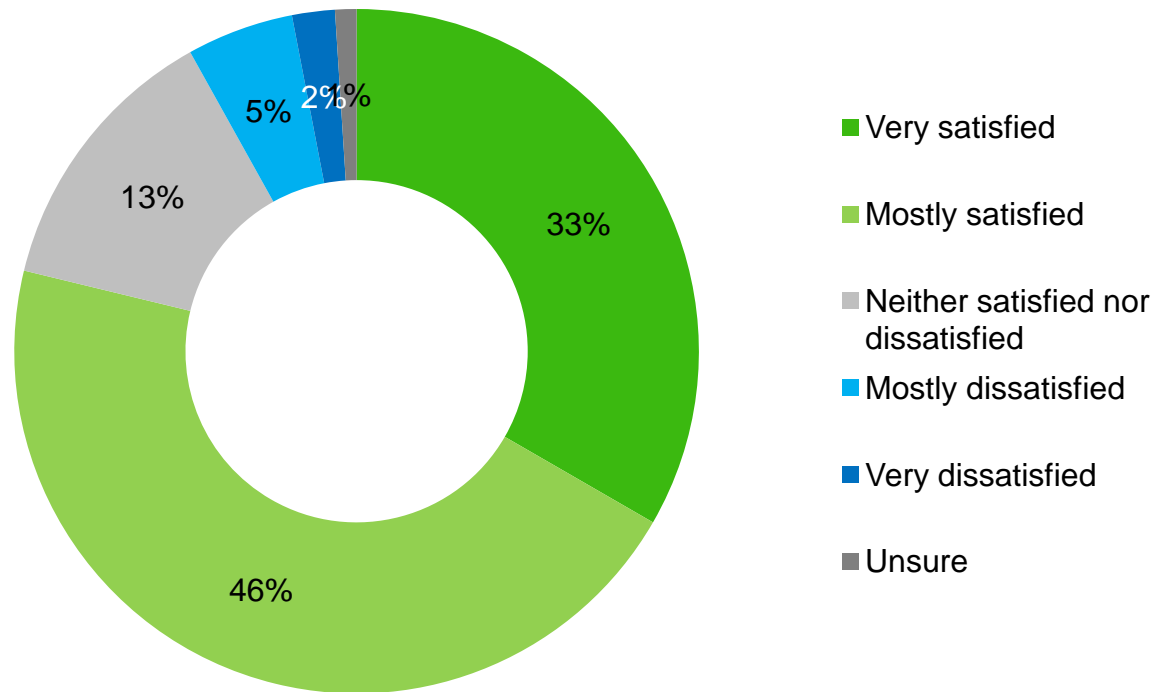
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Satisfaction with Current Plan

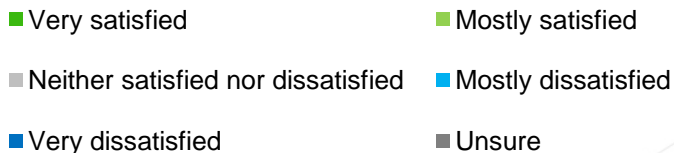
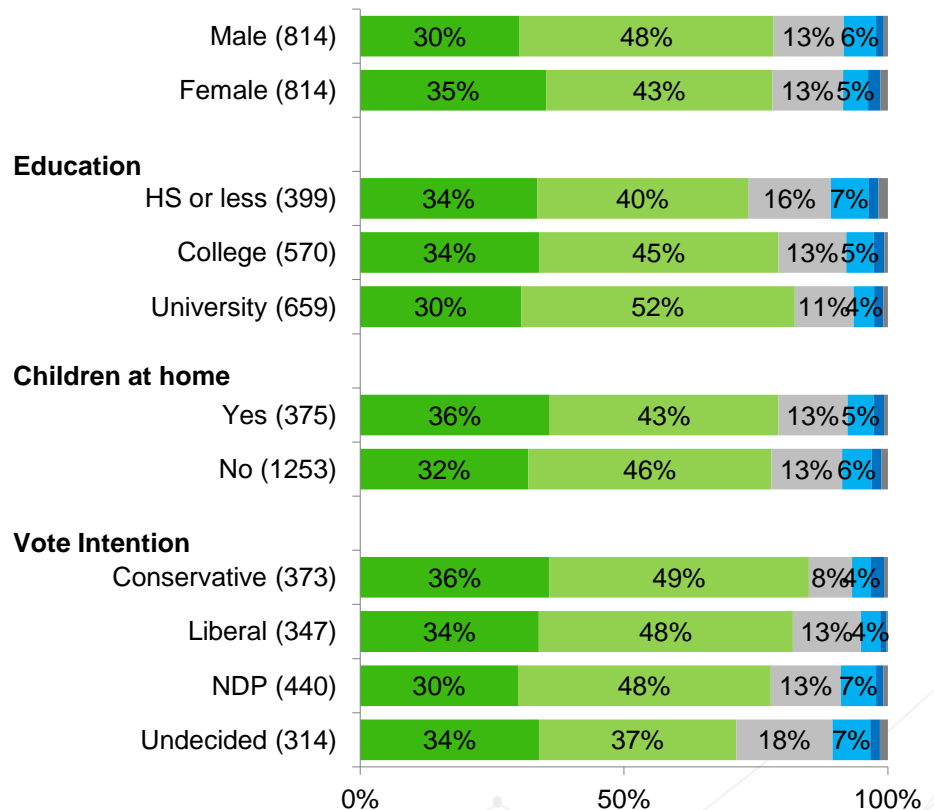
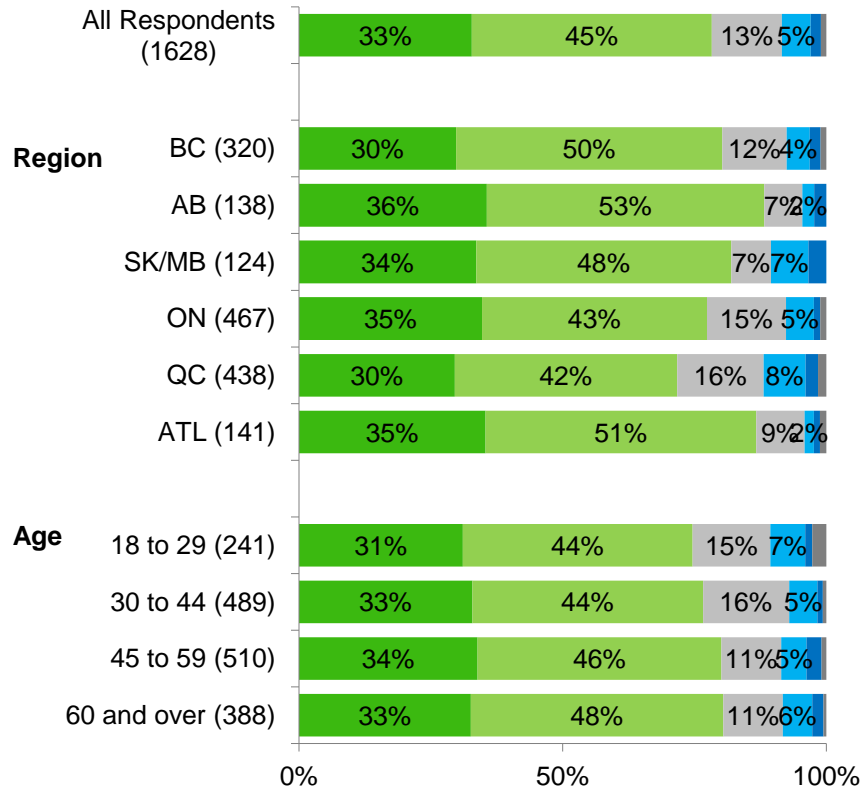
Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the prescription drug plan you currently have access to?



Overall, 79% of respondents were very satisfied or mostly satisfied with their current plan. Just seven percent were dissatisfied.

Satisfaction with Current Plan

Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the prescription drug plan you currently have access to?





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