

CPhA Pharmacy Community Survey: Assisted Dying

October 5th – 18th, 2015



CANADIAN
PHARMACISTS
ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION DES
PHARMACIENS
DU CANADA

CPhA Asked Pharmacists for their Input on Assisted Dying

Last month CPhA conducted an online survey of nearly 1000 individual members of the Canadian pharmacy community to seek their input on assisted dying:

- **8 questions** dealing with protection of conscience, pharmacist participation, pharmacist counseling and drug information issues
- **978 respondents** (majority community and hospital pharmacists)
- Representation from **every province and territory**
- Diverse views on a contentious and emotional issue



Key Findings

- Pharmacists do not wish to be obligated to participate in assisted dying
- Pharmacists strongly believe that any federal legislation which protects physicians' freedom of conscience should apply equally to pharmacists
- Similar to other health care professionals, pharmacists are divided on the obligation to refer
- Pharmacists are strongly in favour of a requirement in legislation for pharmacist counseling to the patient, physician, or patient's family as part of dispensing lethal medication
- Pharmacists strongly agree that in dispensing lethal medication, they should have access to the patient's diagnosis and care plan

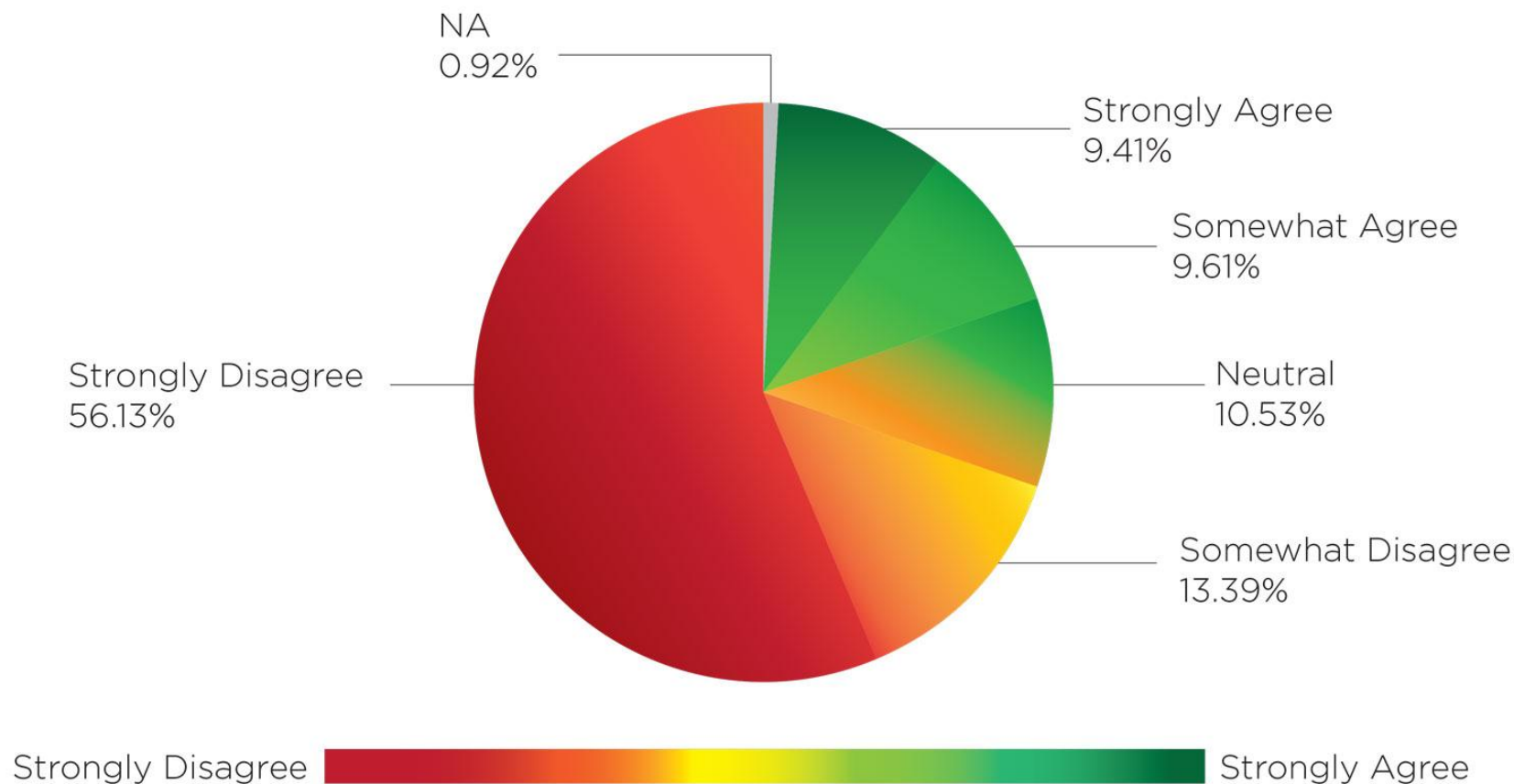


Additional Considerations

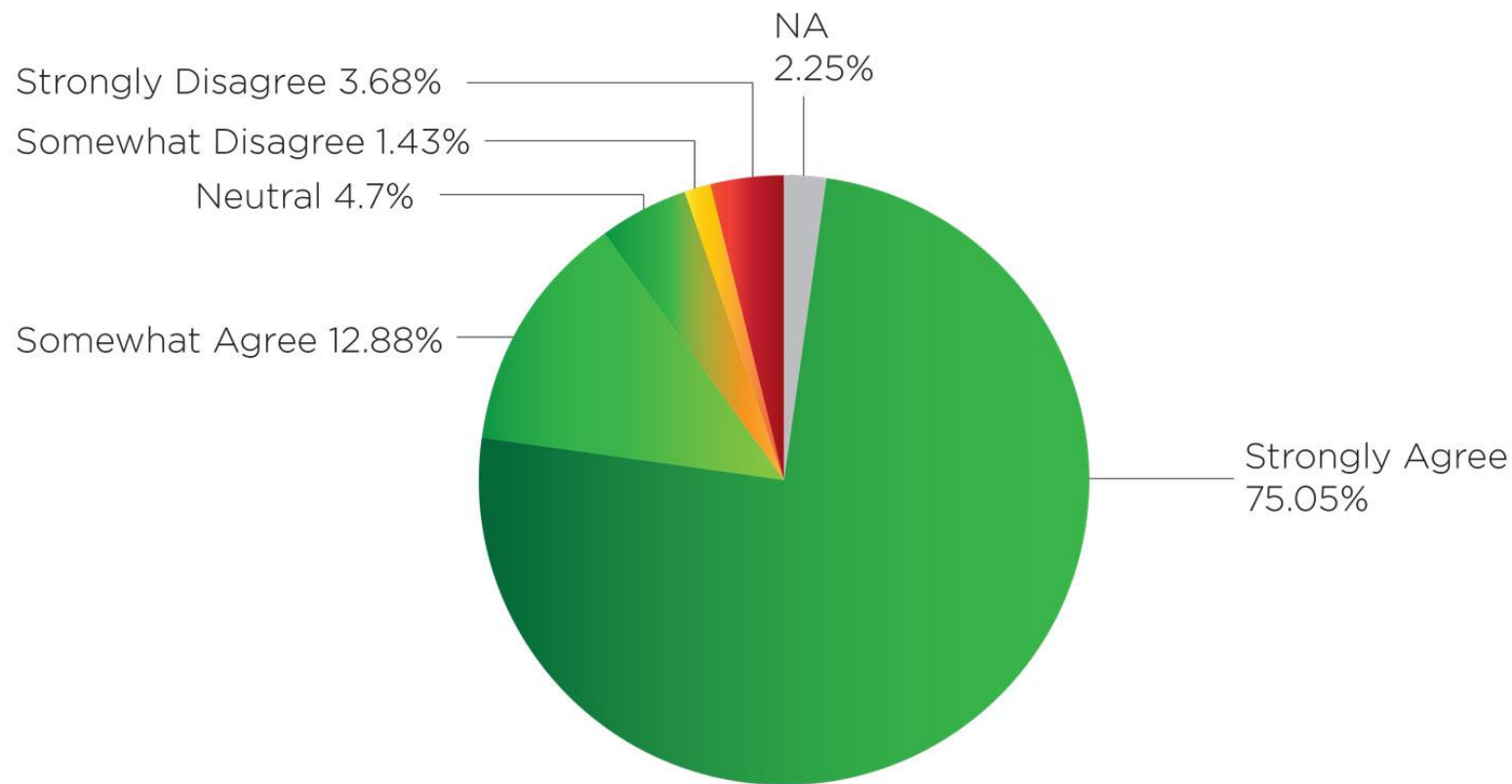
- Pharmacists expressed concern that they presently lack the training to dispense prescriptions for lethal medication and provide appropriate counseling
- Pharmacists highlighted the need to consider the unique practice environments of hospital and community pharmacists
- Pharmacists expressed concerns about limiting liability associated with their participation
- Pharmacists were divided on whether or not a requirement to refer is adequate protection for those who object to participate for reasons of conscience.



Should pharmacists be obligated to participate in assisted dying?

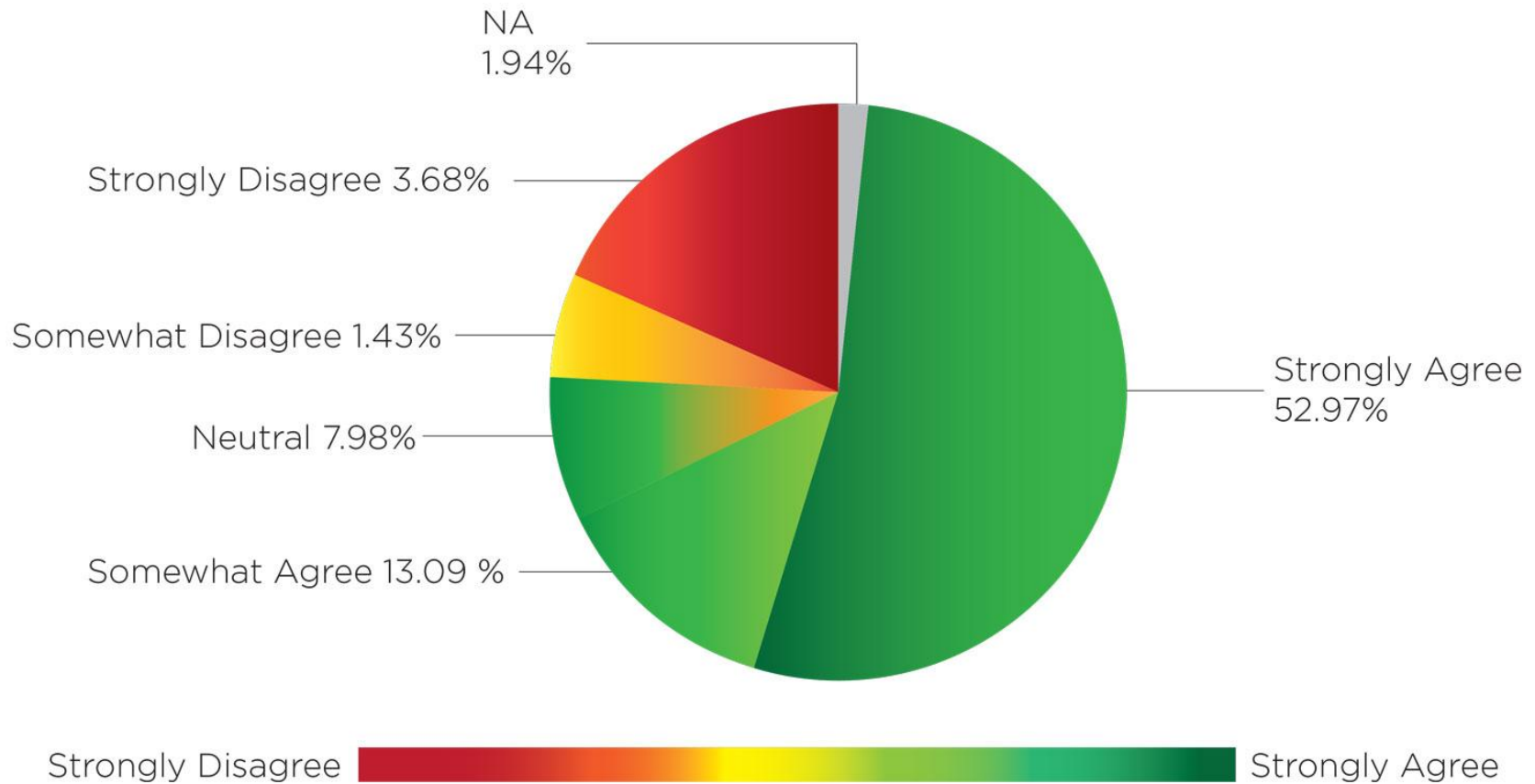


Should federal legislation to protect physicians' freedom of conscience apply equally to pharmacists?

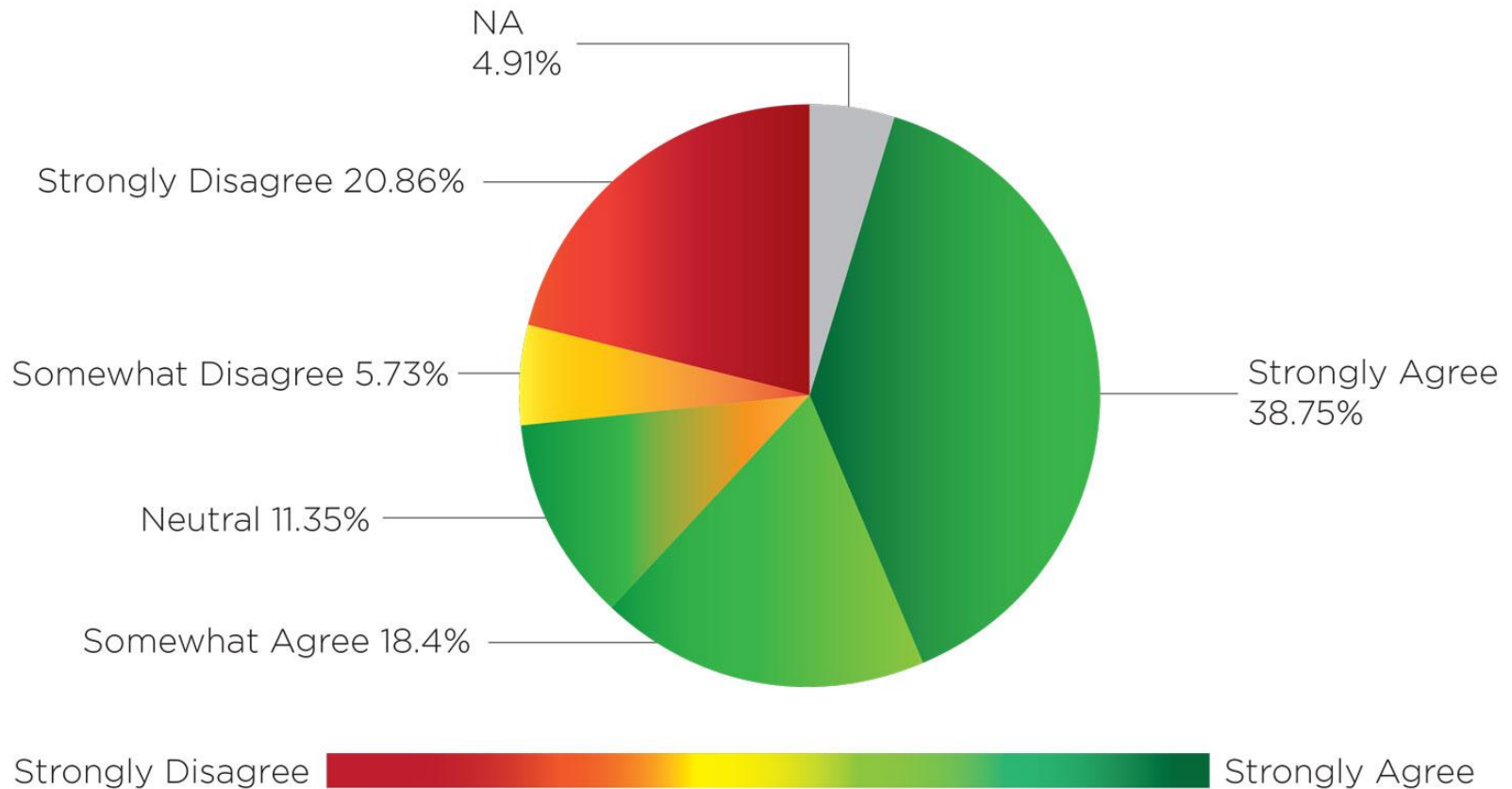


Strongly Disagree  Strongly Agree

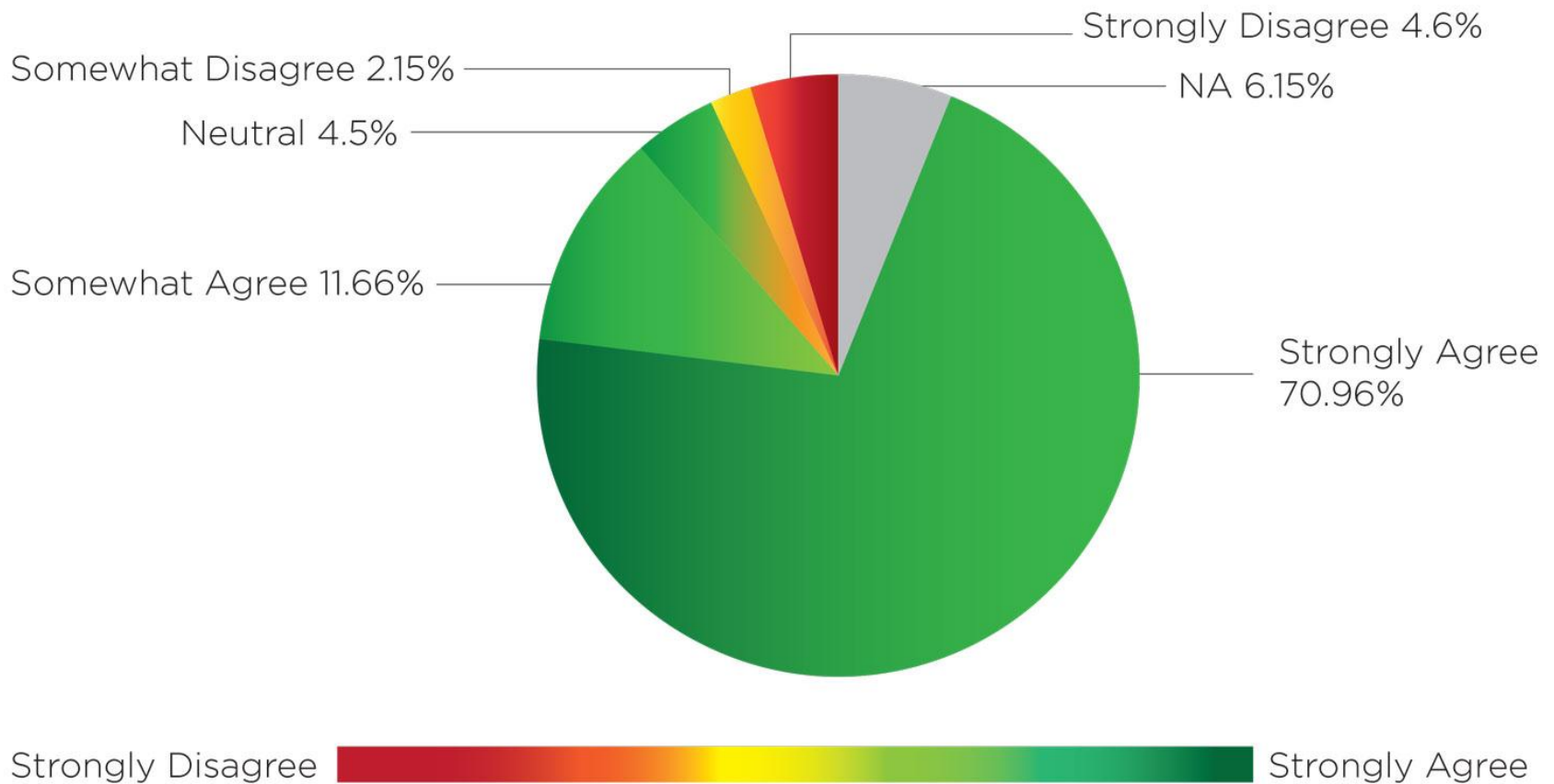
Should pharmacists be obligated to refer patients to another pharmacist who will fulfill the request?



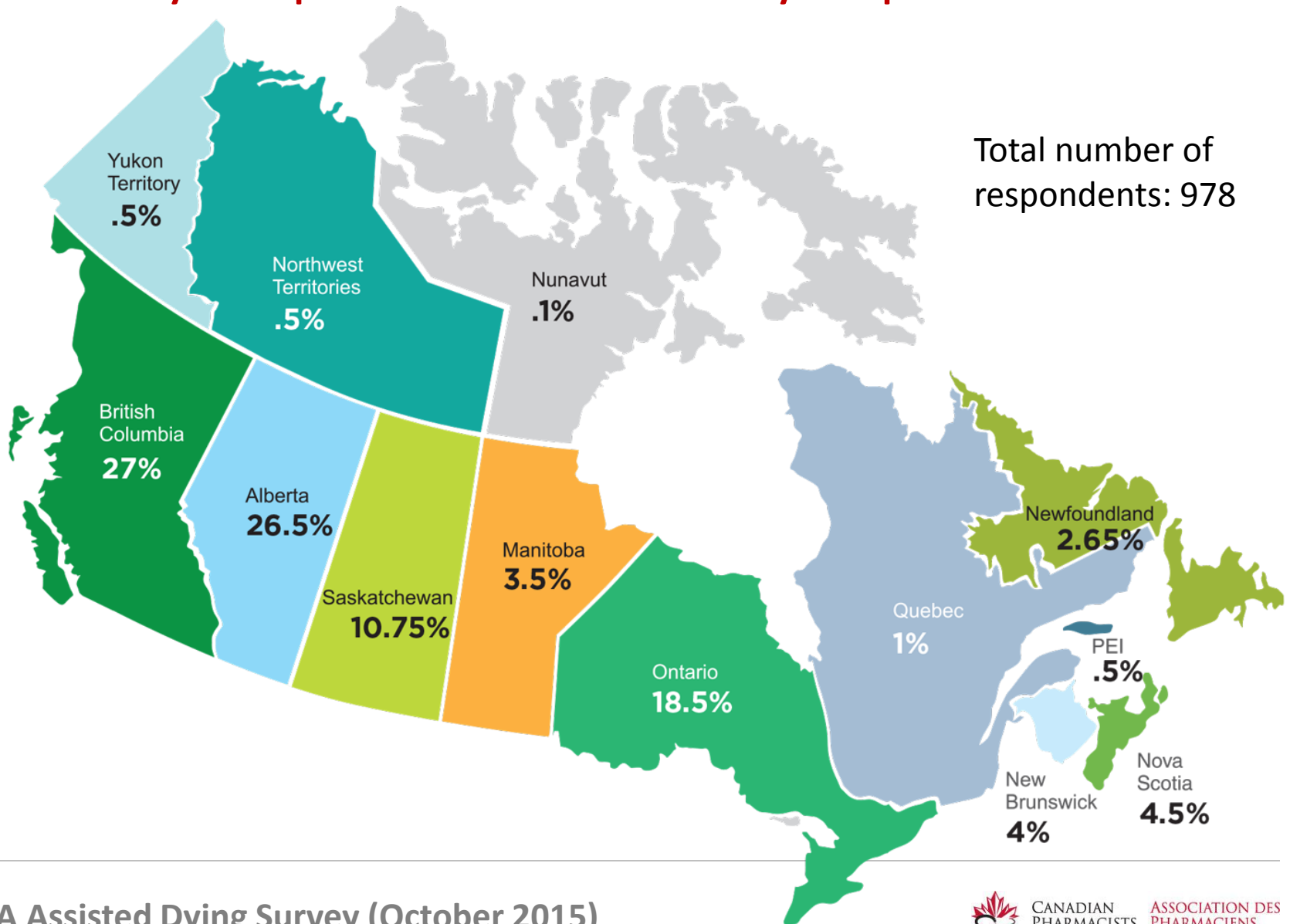
Should a federal legislative framework for assisted dying require pharmacist counseling as part of dispensing lethal medications?



Should a federal legislative framework for assisted dying require that pharmacists have access to a patient's diagnosis and care plan?



What is your province or territory of practice?



Total number of respondents: 978



What occupation best describes your pharmacy background?

Total number of respondents: 978

