



Omnibus Report



Healthcare in Canada Omni

Date: 10 / 21 / 2026
Project: 10019262



Methodology



Method

Online survey via Leger's LEO panel, with n=1,510 Canadians aged 18+.

When

The weekly online omnibus was in field from the 16th to the 18th of October 2026, inclusive, using Leger's online panel, LEO.

Margin of error

For comparison purposes, a probability sample of this size (n=1,510) yields a margin of error no greater than $\pm 2.5\%$, (19 times out of 20).

Detailed Results



A majority (84%) of Canadians believe the healthcare system where they live requires at least some degree of change; three-in-five (58%) believe it requires a *major* change.

A quarter (26%) of Canadians believe the healthcare system in their area requires some minor changes, and a tenth (10%) believe the system does not need change but does need more public funding. Women, those residing in Quebec and those born in Canada are more likely to believe that the healthcare system needs at least some change.

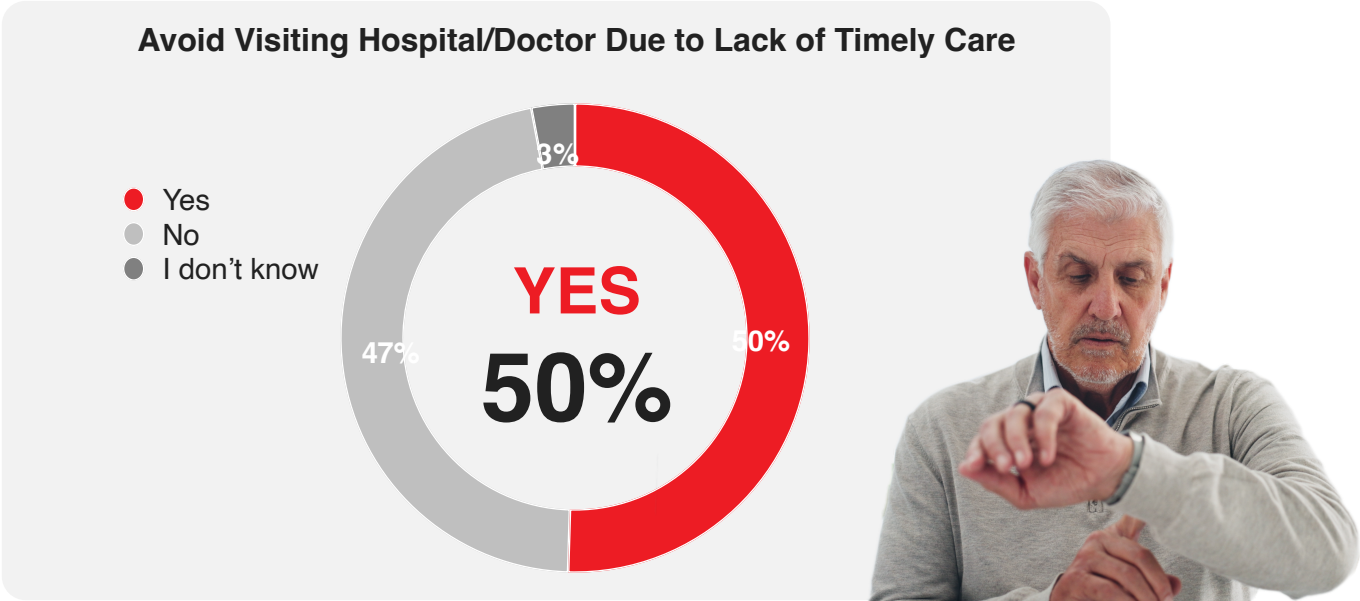
Level of Change Required for Healthcare System		GENDER		REGION		Born in Canada	
		Men	Women	Quebec	RoC	Yes	No
(NET) Needs change	84%	80%	86%	88%	82%	85%	78%
The system needs a major change	58%	51%	65%	69%	54%	59%	51%
The system needs some minor changes	26%	30%	22%	19%	28%	25%	27%
need to change, it just needs more public funding	10%	13%	7%	7%	11%	10%	12%
I don't know	6%	6%	6%	5%	7%	5%	10%

Q1. When you think of the changes necessary to improve health services where you live, which of the following best describes the level of change you feel is required to the health care system?
Base: All (n=1,510)

Significantly higher

Half (50%) of Canadians have avoided visiting a hospital or doctor due to the belief that they will not receive timely treatment.

Women, those aged <55 and those residing in Quebec are more likely to have avoided visiting a hospital/doctor.



	Total	GENDER		AGE		REGION	
		Men	Women	<55	55+	Quebec	RoC
Yes	50%	41%	59%	55%	44%	56%	49%
No	47%	56%	37%	42%	54%	42%	48%
I don't know	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%

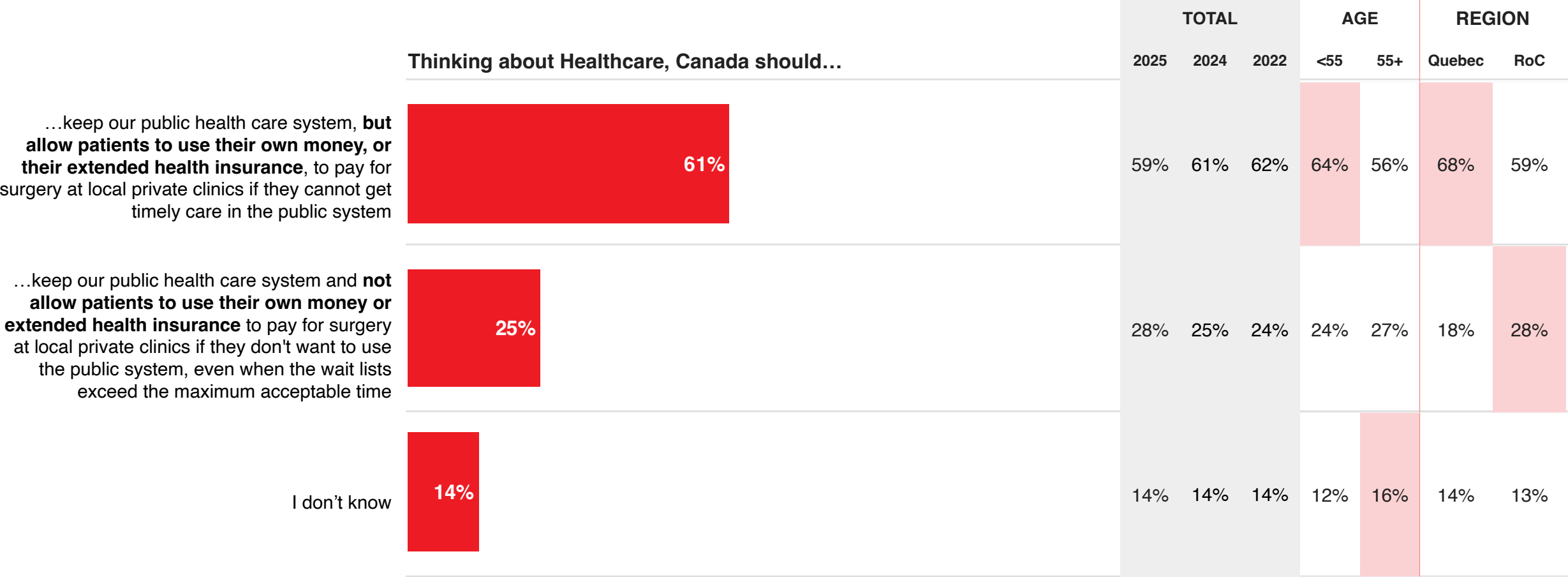
A quarter (27%) of Canadians have paid for private health care services to avoid long wait times or unsatisfactory services in the public system.

Most commonly, Canadians have sought private healthcare in their own province (21%), while few have sought it outside their province (4%) or the country (4%). Men, those <55, those residing in Quebec, those born outside of Canada (34% vs 25% born in Canada), and those earning \$60K+ in annual household income (31% vs 23% earning less) are more likely to have sought out private healthcare.

Have You Ever Paid for Private Healthcare Services?		GENDER		AGE		REGION	
		Men	Women	<55	55+	Quebec	RoC
(NET) Yes	27%	30%	25%	34%	18%	46%	22%
Yes, in my own province	21%	23%	19%	25%	16%	41%	15%
Yes, I traveled out of province	4%	4%	3%	5%	1%	4%	3%
Yes, I traveled out of the country	4%	5%	3%	5%	2%	3%	4%
No	73%	70%	75%	66%	82%	54%	78%

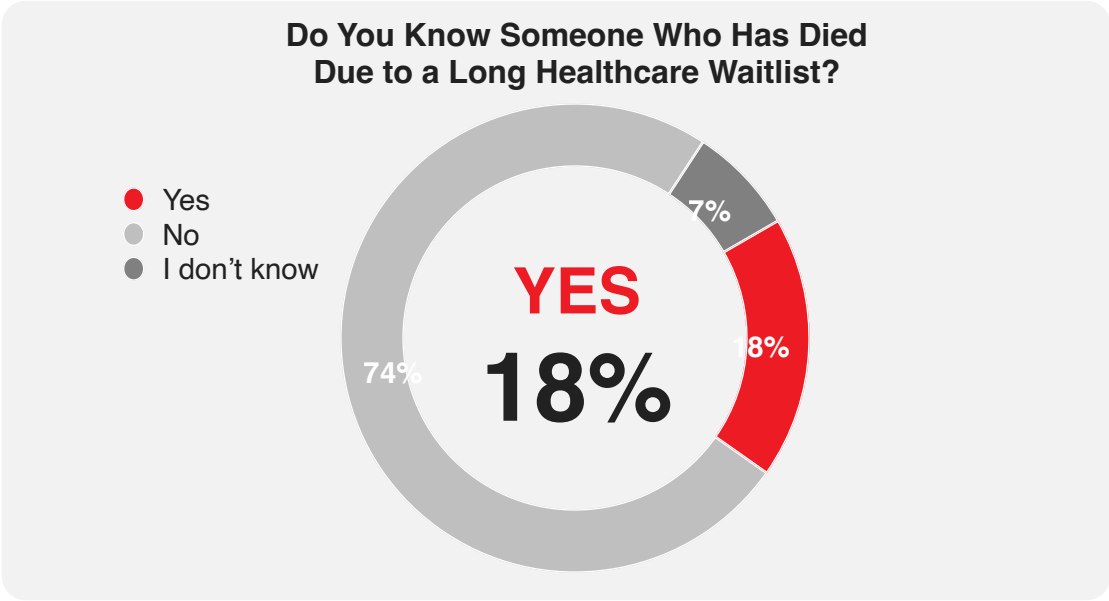
Three-in-five (61%) Canadians believe Canada should retain the public health system but allow patients to seek out private surgery options if they cannot receive timely care.

A quarter (25%) on the other hand, believe that Canada should retain the public health system and not allow patients to use their own money or extended health insurance to pay for surgery at local private clinics. Those aged <55 and those residing in Quebec are more likely to support allowing patients to seek private surgery. Outside of Quebec, residents of Manitoba and Saskatchewan are also more likely to be in support (75%, compared to British Columbians, Albertans and Ontarians). Support for allowing patients to seek private surgery options has increased slightly from 2025 (+2 percentage pts).



One-in-five (18%) Canadians know someone who has died due to a long healthcare waitlist.

Those more likely to know Canadians who have died due to a long healthcare waitlist include those aged <55 and those residing in rural areas.



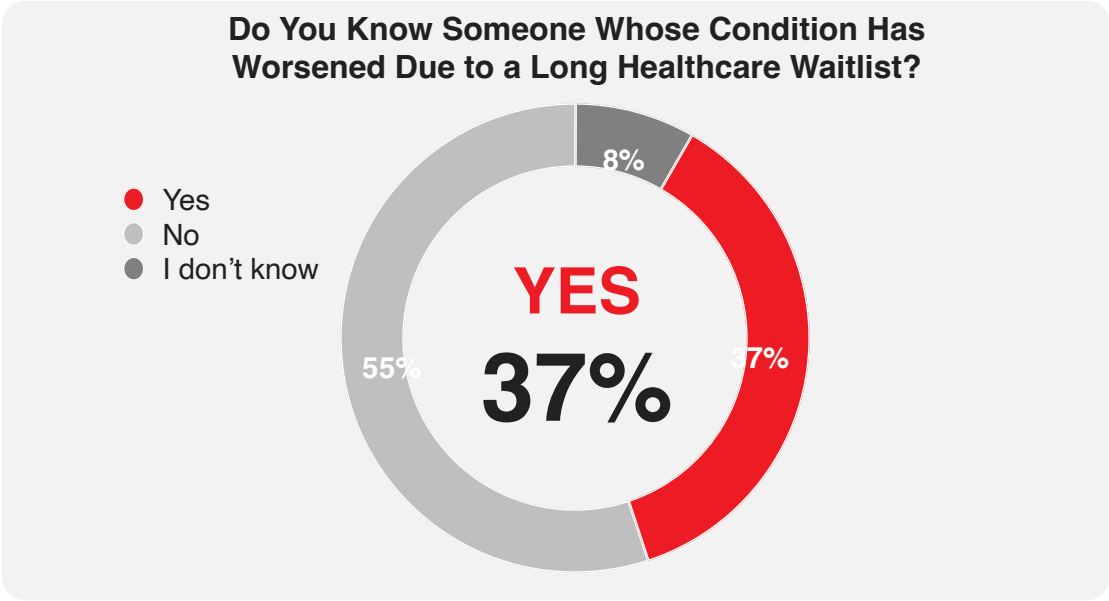
	Total	AGE		AREA		
		<55	55+	Urban	Suburban	Rural
Yes	18%	21%	13%	17%	17%	24%
No	74%	71%	79%	76%	77%	66%
I don't know	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	9%

Q5. Do you personally know any Canadians who have died because of a long health care waitlist?
Base: All (n=1,510)

Significantly higher

Two-in-five (37%) Canadians personally know someone whose condition permanently worsened due to a long waitlist for treatment.

Women, those aged <55 and those residing outside of Quebec, especially those in Manitoba/ Saskatchewan (47%) and Atlantic provinces (52%) are more likely to report knowing someone whose condition has worsened.



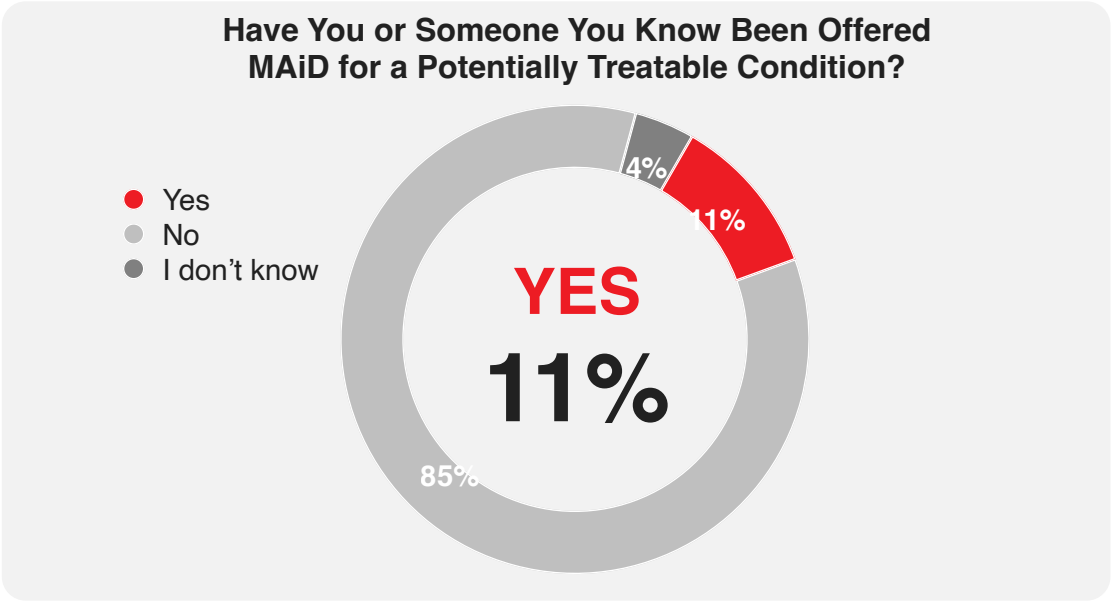
	Total	GENDER		AGE		REGION	
		Men	Women	<55	55+	Quebec	RoC
Yes	37%	33%	40%	40%	32%	32%	38%
No	55%	59%	51%	53%	59%	62%	53%
I don't know	8%	8%	8%	7%	10%	7%	9%

Q6. Do you personally know anyone whose condition permanently worsened because of a long waitlist for treatment in the health system?
Base: All (n=1,510)

Significantly higher

One-in-ten (11%) Canadians have been offered or know someone who has been offered MAiD for a condition they felt was treatable.

Those earning <\$100K in annual household income (13% vs 8% earning more) are more likely to report being offered or knowing someone who has been offered MAiD for a condition they felt was potentially treatable.



Over four-in-five (84%) of Canadians recall seeing the front-of-pack warning labels on products that are high in sodium, saturated fats or sugar.

Women, those aged <55 and those born in Canada are more likely to have seen warning labels on packaged food products.

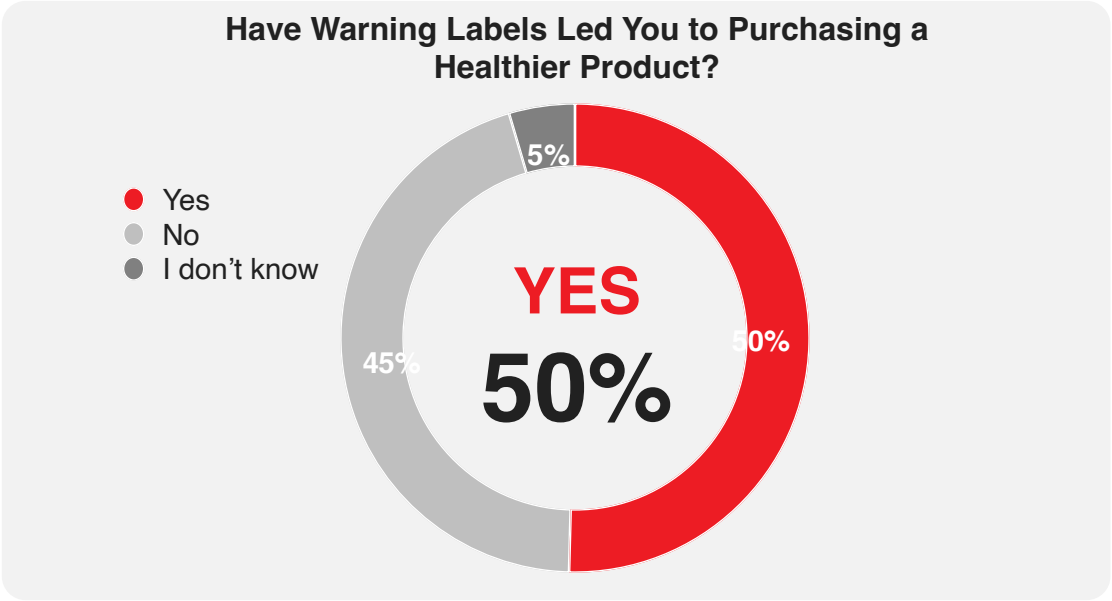


	Total	GENDER		AGE		BORN IN CANADA	
		Men	Women	<55	55+	Yes	No
Yes	84%	80%	87%	89%	76%	85%	77%
No	13%	17%	9%	8%	20%	12%	17%
I don't know	3%	3%	4%	3%	4%	3%	6%

Q8. As of January of this year, the federal government has required most packaged food products to have labels that warn if the product has a high level of sodium, saturated fats or sugar. Have you seen these new black and white labels on packaged foods? Base: All (n=1,510)

Half (50%) of those who have seen the warning labels say that the labels have led them to purchasing a healthier product.

BIPOC Canadians, and Canadians born outside of Canada are more likely to have chosen a healthier product due to the warning labels.

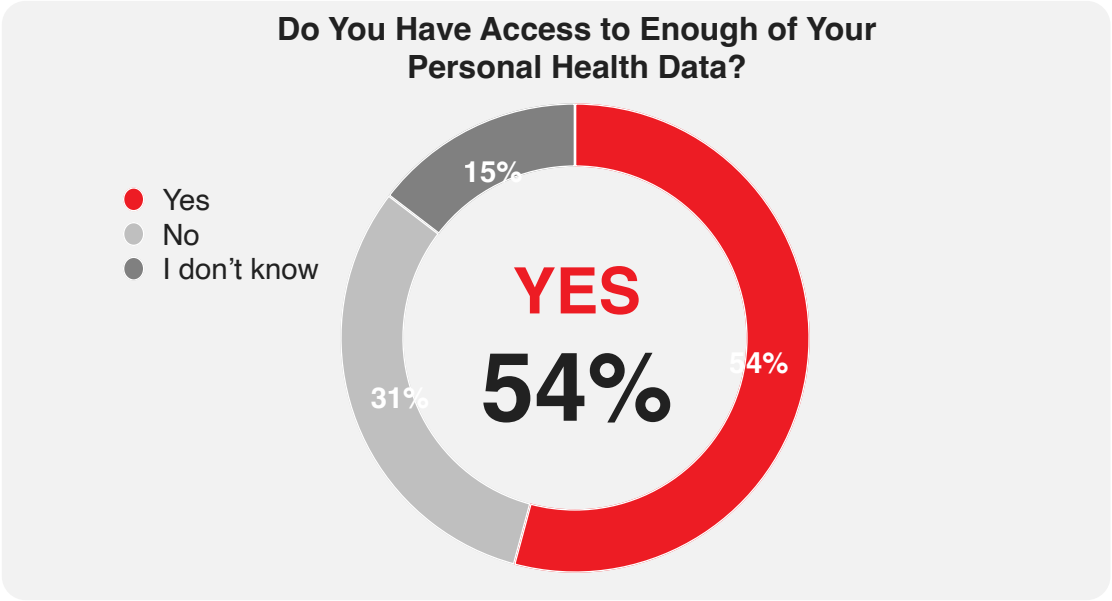


	Total	AREA			ETHNICITY		BORN IN CANADA	
		Urban	Suburban	Rural	White	BIPOC	Yes	No
Yes	50%	54%	49%	44%	48%	59%	48%	62%
No	45%	40%	48%	51%	48%	36%	48%	34%
I don't know	5%	6%	3%	5%	4%	5%	5%	4%

Q9. Have those labels led you to deciding to purchase a healthier product?
Base: Those who have seen warning labels (n=1,260)

Over half (54%) of Canadians say they have access to enough of their health data from the provincial health system to make good health decisions; three-in-ten (31%) say they *do not*.

Those aged <55, residing in Western Canada, and BIPOC Canadians are more likely to say they *do not* have access to enough of their health data.



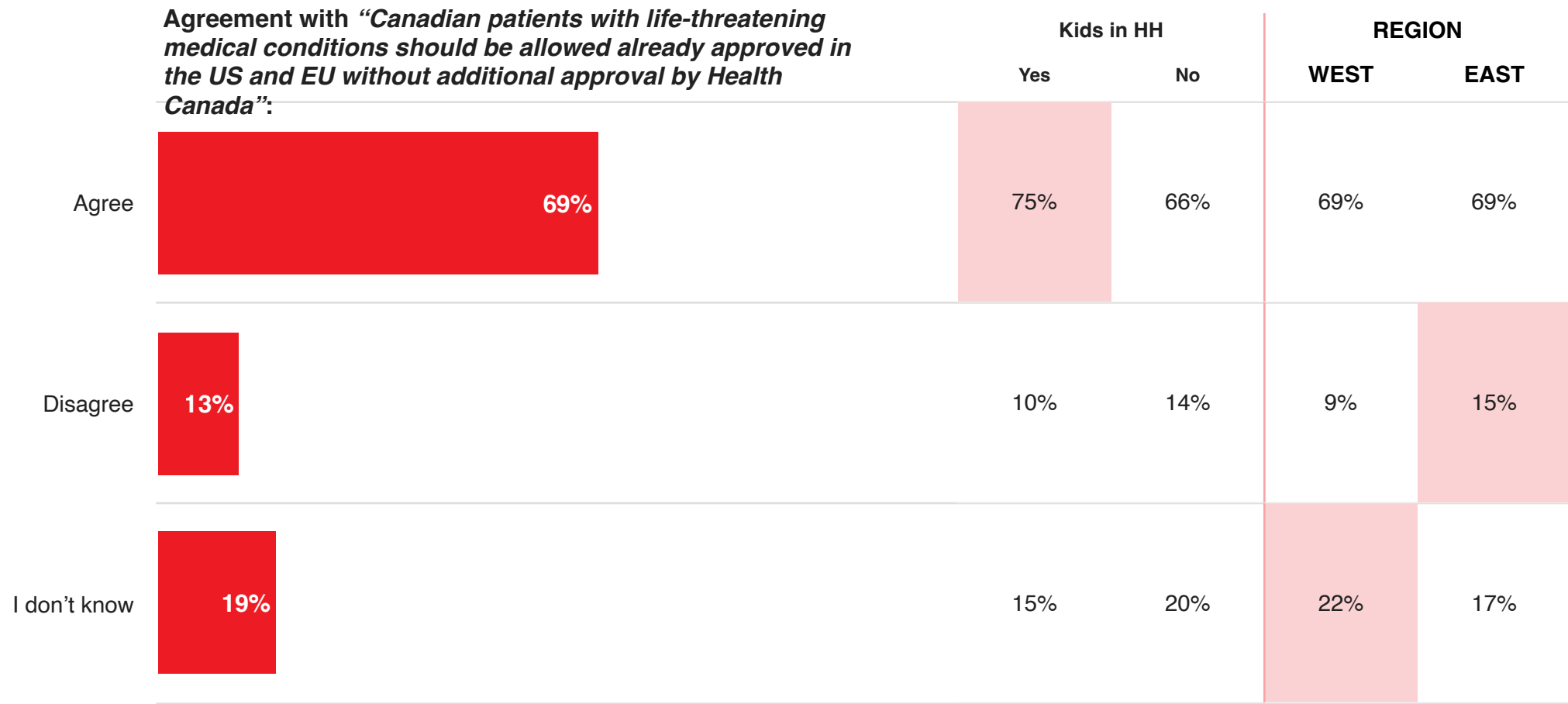
	Total	AGE		REGION		ETHNICITY	
		<55	55+	East	West	White	BIPOC
Yes	54%	52%	58%	60%	52%	56%	48%
No	31%	36%	25%	26%	33%	29%	38%
I don't know	15%	13%	17%	14%	15%	15%	14%

Q10. Do you feel you have access to enough of your own personal health data from your provincial health system in order to be able to make good health decisions?
Base: All (n=1,510)

Significantly higher

Seven-in-ten (69%) Canadians say that patients with life-threatening conditions should be allowed to try treatments approved in the US and EU without additional approval by Health Canada.

A tenth (13%) disagree, while a fifth (19%) are unsure. Those with kids in their household (vs. those without kids in the household) are more likely to agree, while those living in Eastern Canada (vs. Eastern Canada) are more likely to disagree that patients should be allowed to seek treatments already approved by the US and EU without requiring additional Health Canada approval.



Q11. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Canadian patients with life-threatening medical conditions should be allowed to try medical treatments already approved in the US and EU without requiring additional approval by Health Canada (or an equivalent domestic regulator).
Base: All (n=1,510)

Our Team



Our team

The Central Canada Public Affairs Team:



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