

**MANY CANADIANS SEE
BROKEN HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**

**MOST ASSUME MISALLOCATION
OF PUBLIC RESOURCES**

**LABOUR BURNOUT SEEN AS
BIG DRIVER OF ACCESS
BARRIERS**

ABACUS DATA

DETAILED RESULTS

HEALTH CARE IN CANADA

CONDUCTED FOR NUPGE
DECEMBER 2022

RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS FROM CANADA'S LEADING PUBLIC AFFAIRS
AND MARKET RESEARCH EXPERTS

A close-up photograph of a person in a white lab coat, likely a doctor or nurse, holding a red stethoscope. The person's hands are visible, and the stethoscope is draped around their neck. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the person and the stethoscope.

METHODOLOGY

This survey was conducted with 2,260 Canadians aged 18 and over, from November 24 to December 10, 2022. A random sample of panelists were invited to complete the survey from a set of partner panels based on the Lucid exchange platform. These partners are typically double opt-in survey panels, blended to manage out potential skews in the data from a single source.

The margin of error for a comparable probability-based random sample of the same size is +/- 2.06%, 19 times out of 20.

The data were weighted according to census data to ensure that the sample matched Canada's population according to age, gender, and region. Totals may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

KEY FINDINGS

1. Over half of Canadians want their provincial government to prioritize funding the public healthcare system today, the only highly ranked priority that isn't about cost of living.
2. The vast majority of Canadians agree public healthcare in Canada should be universal; based on people's needs rather than their ability to pay. There is a significant generational cleavage on this, with Canadians over 60 nearly twice as likely to strongly hold this belief as Canadians under 30.
3. The most common unprompted justification for why the public believes their healthcare system isn't working well is a lack of employees/staff.
4. Canadians who believe the public healthcare system is working poorly acknowledge multiple factors at play driving poor performance, including worker shortages, government mismanagement, and underinvestment.
5. They believe staff shortages are being driven by health professionals leaving their jobs due to burn out from long hours, and the emotional and physical strains of the job.

KEY FINDINGS: ASSESSING THE SYSTEM

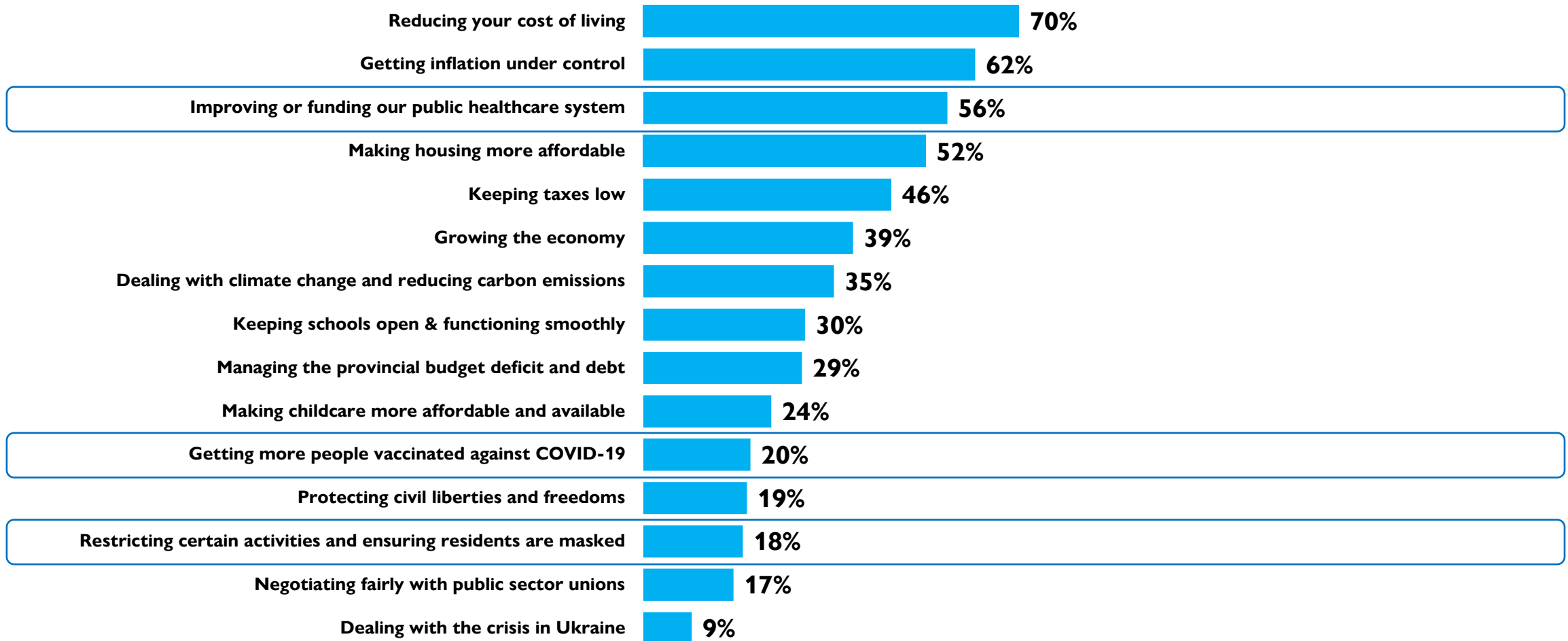
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8. They believe staff shortages are being driven by health professionals leaving their jobs due to burn out from long hours, and the emotional and physical strains of the job.
9. Canadians do not believe the availability of funding dollars is the driver of the current quality of healthcare in their province. More assume governments choose other priorities over healthcare spending, causing mediocrity.

KEY FINDINGS: ASSESSING THE SYSTEM

10. More Canadians assume the funding being allocated to healthcare is falling behind the rising costs of the system, than assume funding is keeping up or surpassing the costs of healthcare.
11. When asked who is most responsible for the current state of healthcare, most Canadians blame government. While marginally more blame their provincial government than the federal government, the majority blame both equally.
12. Most Canadians have a positive view of healthcare workers and their impact on the system. They hold them in higher esteem than employers, unions, or either level of government.
13. That said, healthcare unions are acknowledged by most Canadians to be playing an important role in advocating for quality care in Canada, and in preventing the collapse of the public system. Few demonize unions the way they blame the provinces or federal government for the state of the system. While unions are thought to prioritize workers over patients or Canadians in general, this is not incompatible with what the public sees as their positive outcomes.

TOP PRIORITIES FOR GOVERNMENT

PROVINCIAL TOP ISSUES



And in the same vein, which of the below issues are MOST important to you for the provincial government to be working on right now? Choose as many as apply.

UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Strongly agree



52%

Somewhat agree



37%

89%
agree healthcare
should be
universal, based
on people's needs

Somewhat disagree



9%

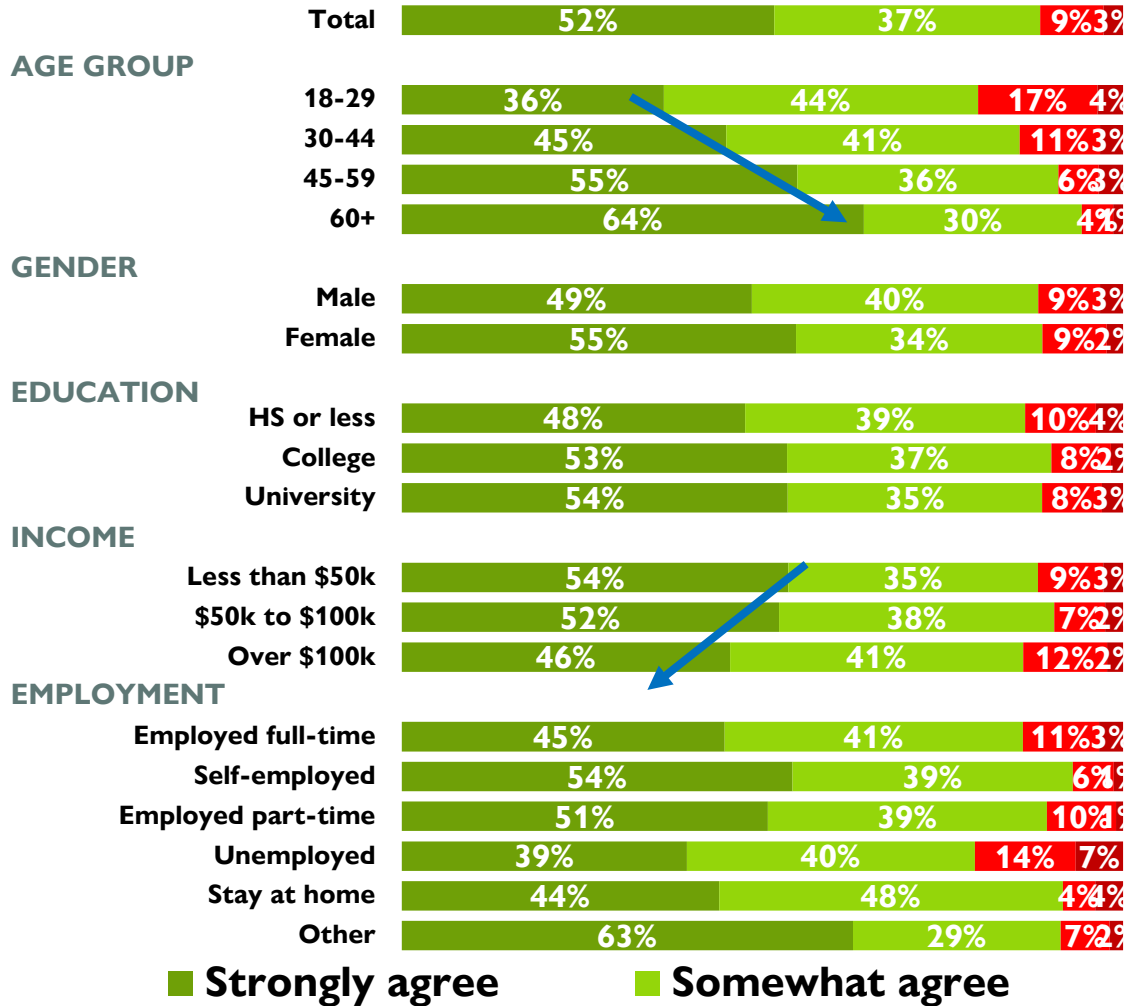
Strongly disagree



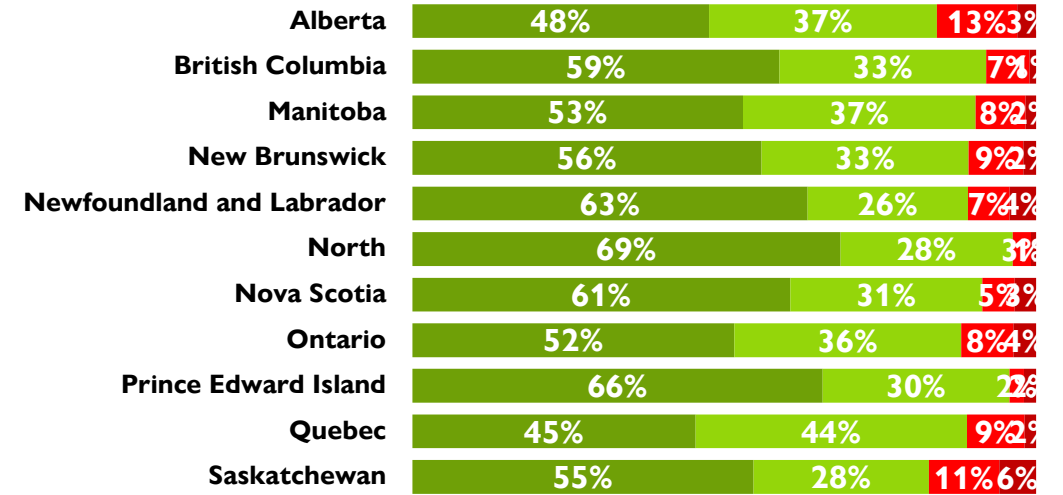
3%

To what extent do you agree the public healthcare system in Canada should be universal, based on people's needs rather than their ability to pay for services?

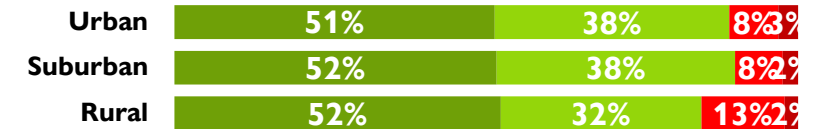
UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM



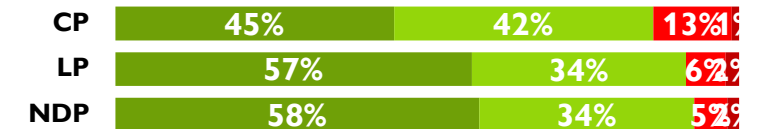
REGION



AREA



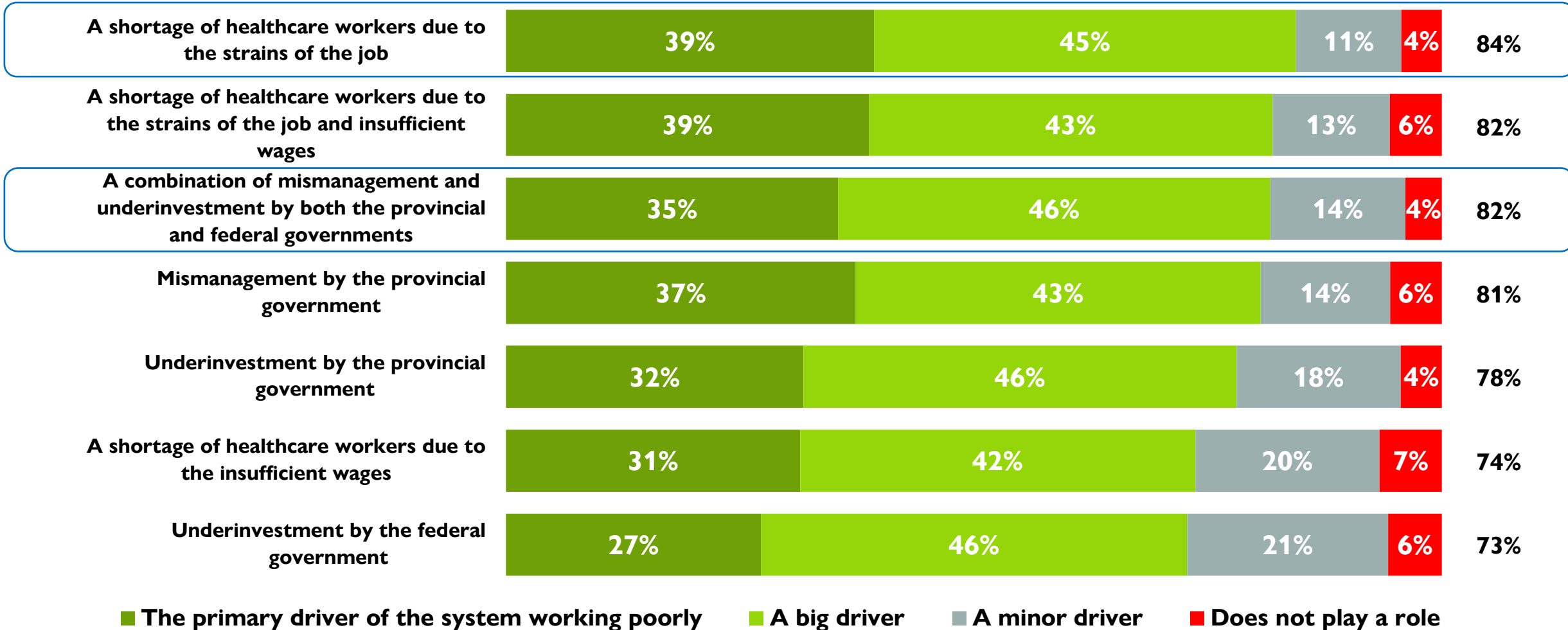
2021 FEDERAL VOTE



To what extent do you agree the public healthcare system in Canada should be universal, based on people's needs rather than their ability to pay for services?

DRIVERS OF A BROKEN HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

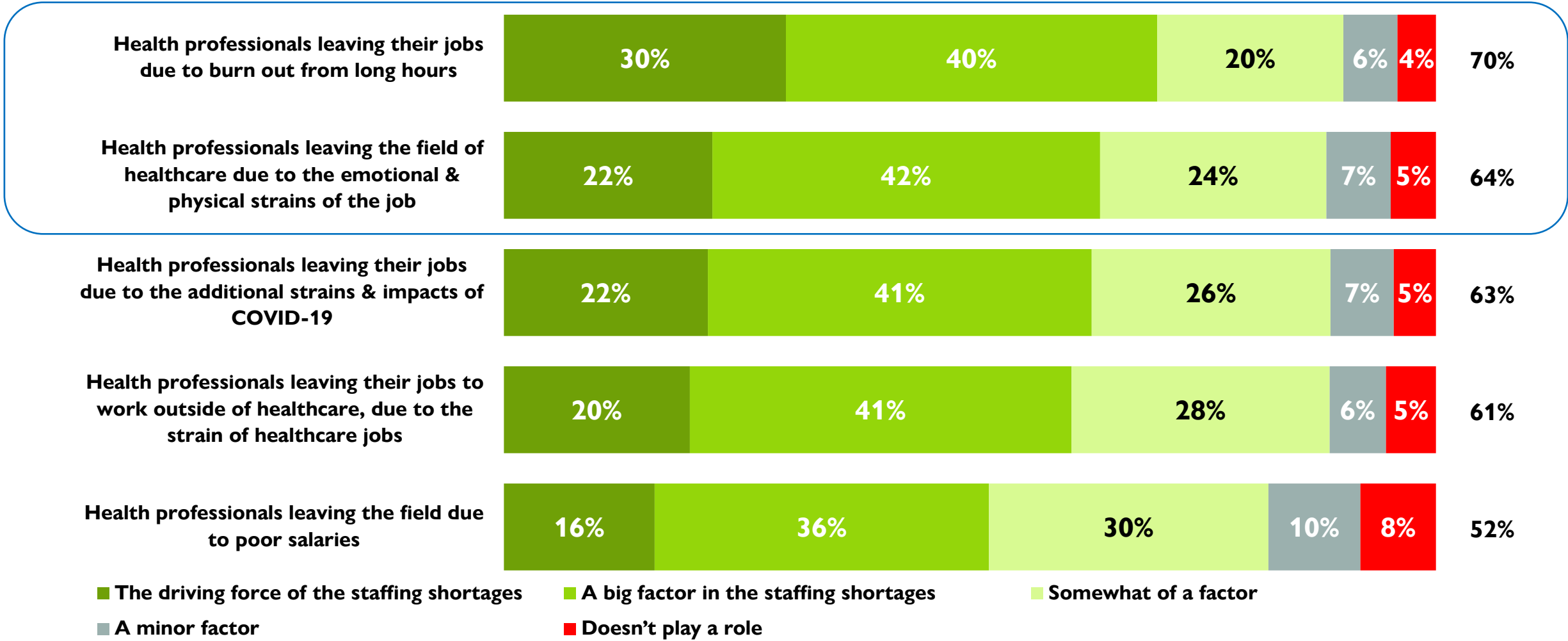
% The primary/
A big driver



[IF BELIEVE HEALTHCARE IS WORKING POORLY] To what extent to each of the following contribute to the system working poorly. You'll note below we reference healthcare workers. Please consider that when we say healthcare workers, we don't mean just doctors, nurses and specialists, but PSWs, support staff, cleaners, and everyone that makes hospitals & clinics function.

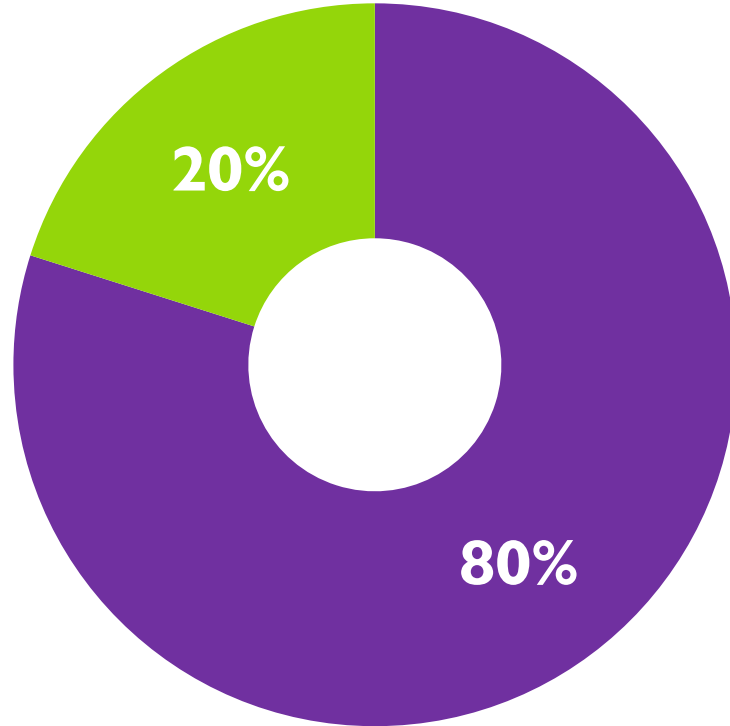
FACTORS THAT DRIVE STAFF SHORTAGES

% Driving force/
A big factor



To what extent do you believe each of the following factors are driving the staffing shortages the system is experiencing today?

FUNDING GAPS – CAPACITY VS. PRIORITIES



■ **Governments choosing other priorities for money instead of investing in healthcare**

■ **Governments not collecting enough taxes in order to invest in healthcare**

Thinking of the current quality of healthcare in your province, which of the following best describes the reason for its state today:

STATE OF HEALTHCARE FUNDING: SUFFICIENCY

Much more funding than it needs



More funding than it needs



13%
More funding

As much funding as it needs



Less funding than it needs



Much less funding than it needs



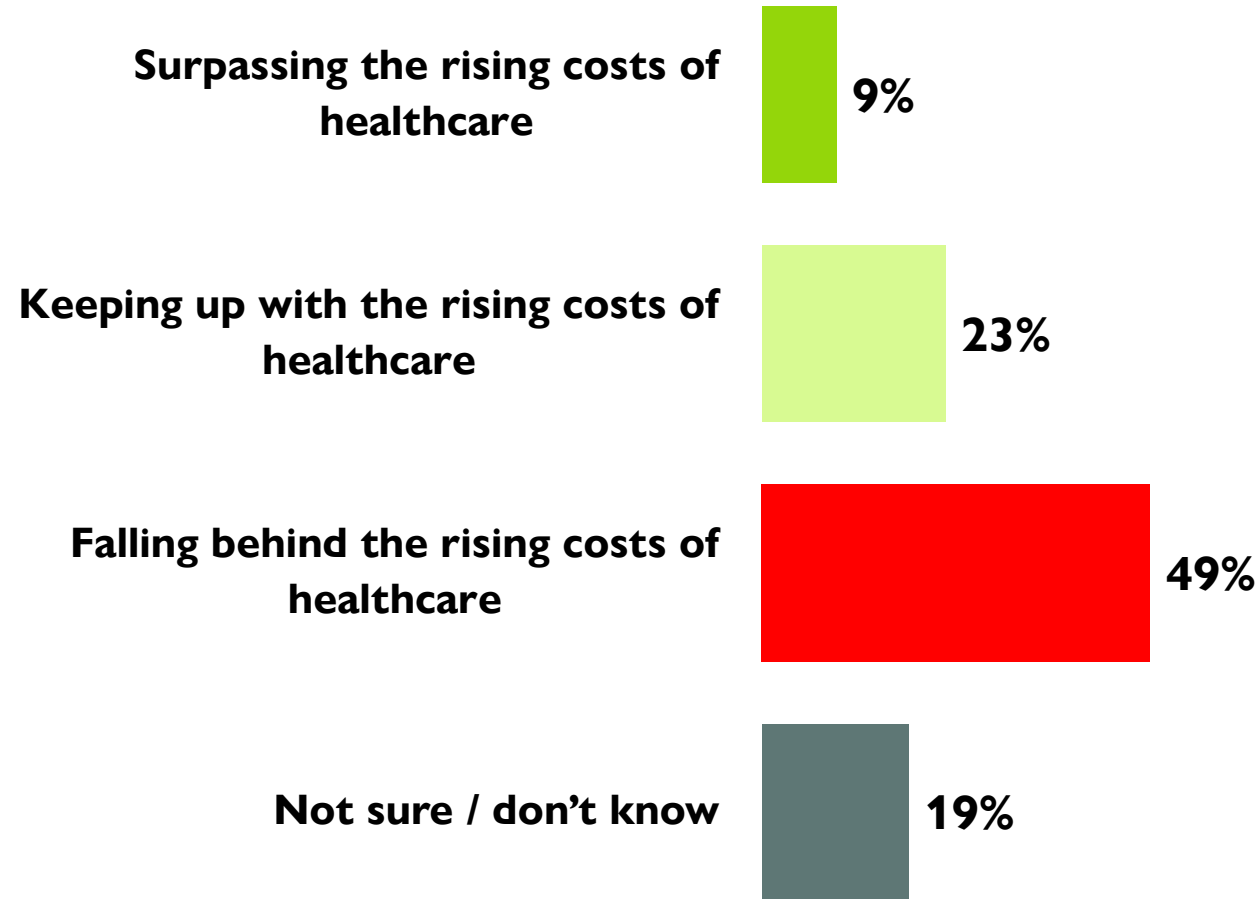
56%
Less funding

Not sure / dont know



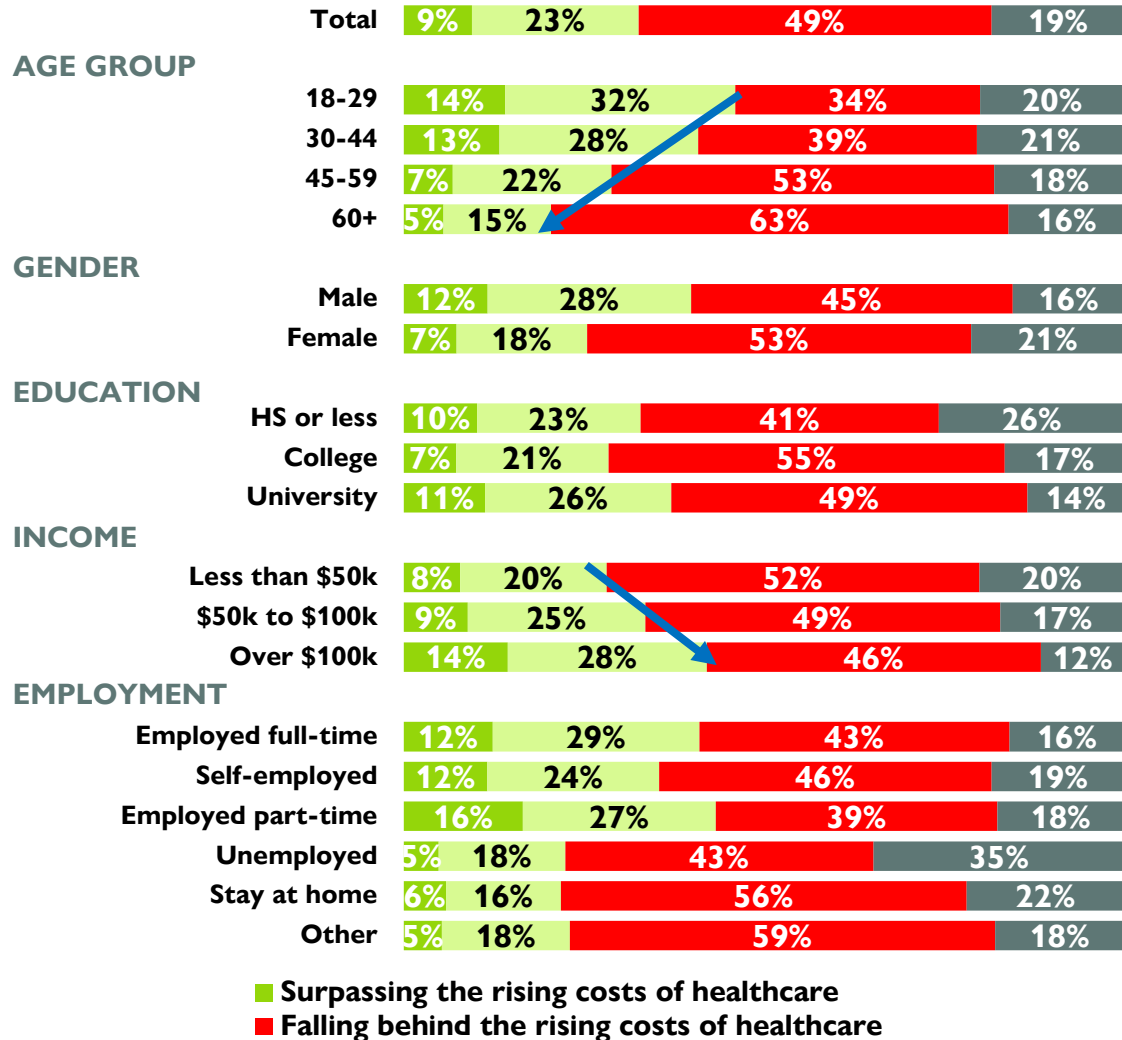
Do you feel that the healthcare system is receiving...

FUNDING VS. RISING COSTS OF HEALTHCARE

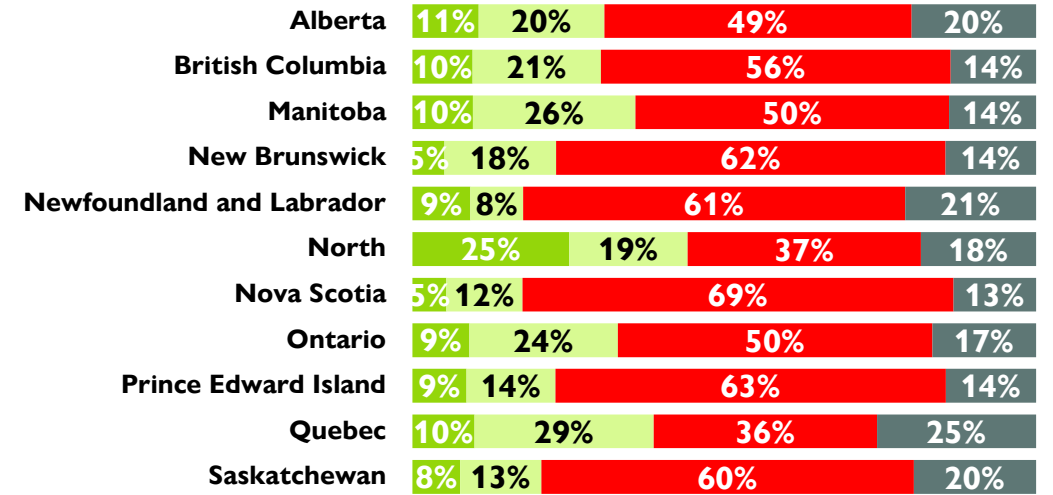


As you may know, Canada has an aging population which results in more expensive healthcare treatments, and as such, higher healthcare expenses as time goes on. With that in mind, do you believe that the rate of funding for healthcare in your province is...

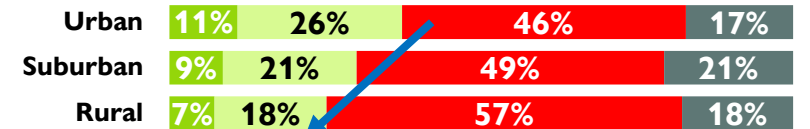
THE RATE OF FUNDING FOR HEALTHCARE IS...



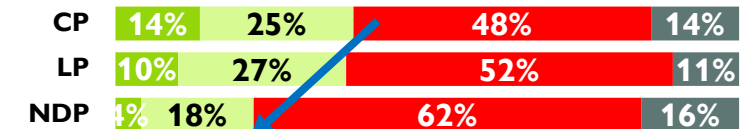
REGION



AREA



2021 FEDERAL VOTE

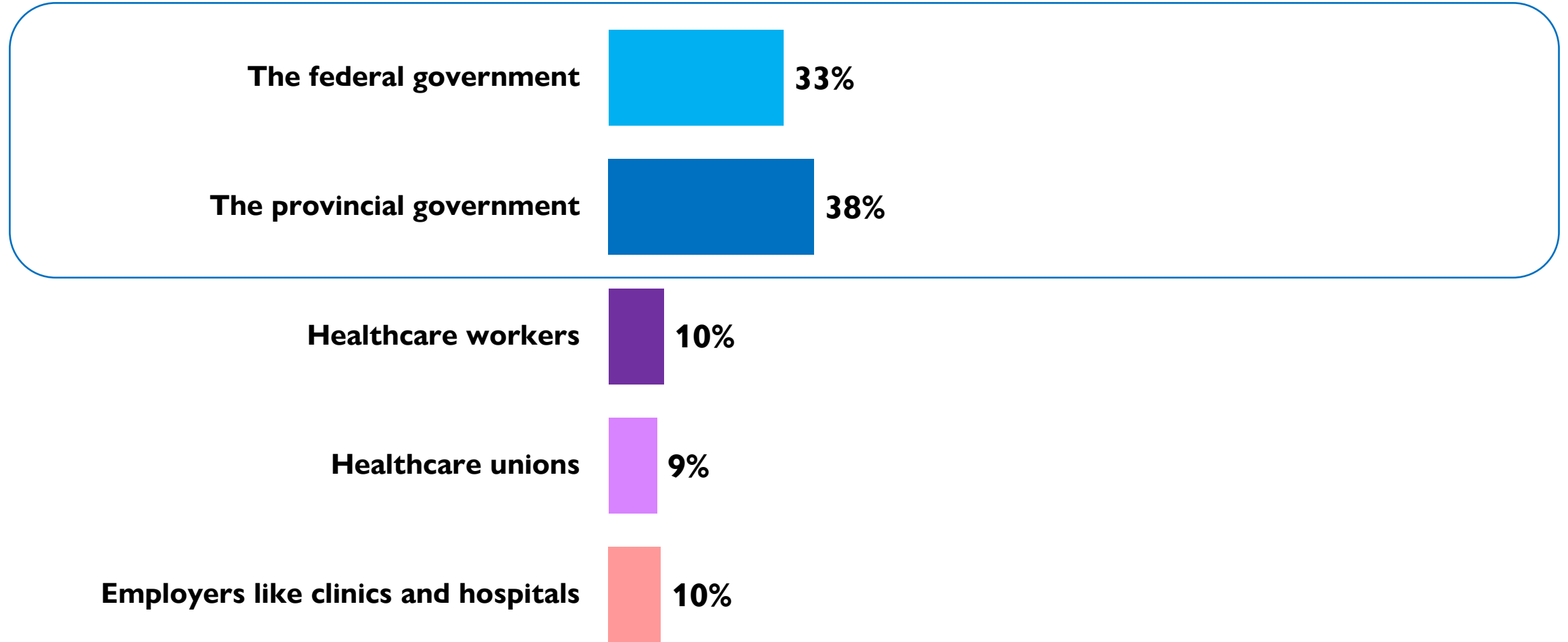


■ Surpassing the rising costs of healthcare
■ Falling behind the rising costs of healthcare

■ Not sure / don't know

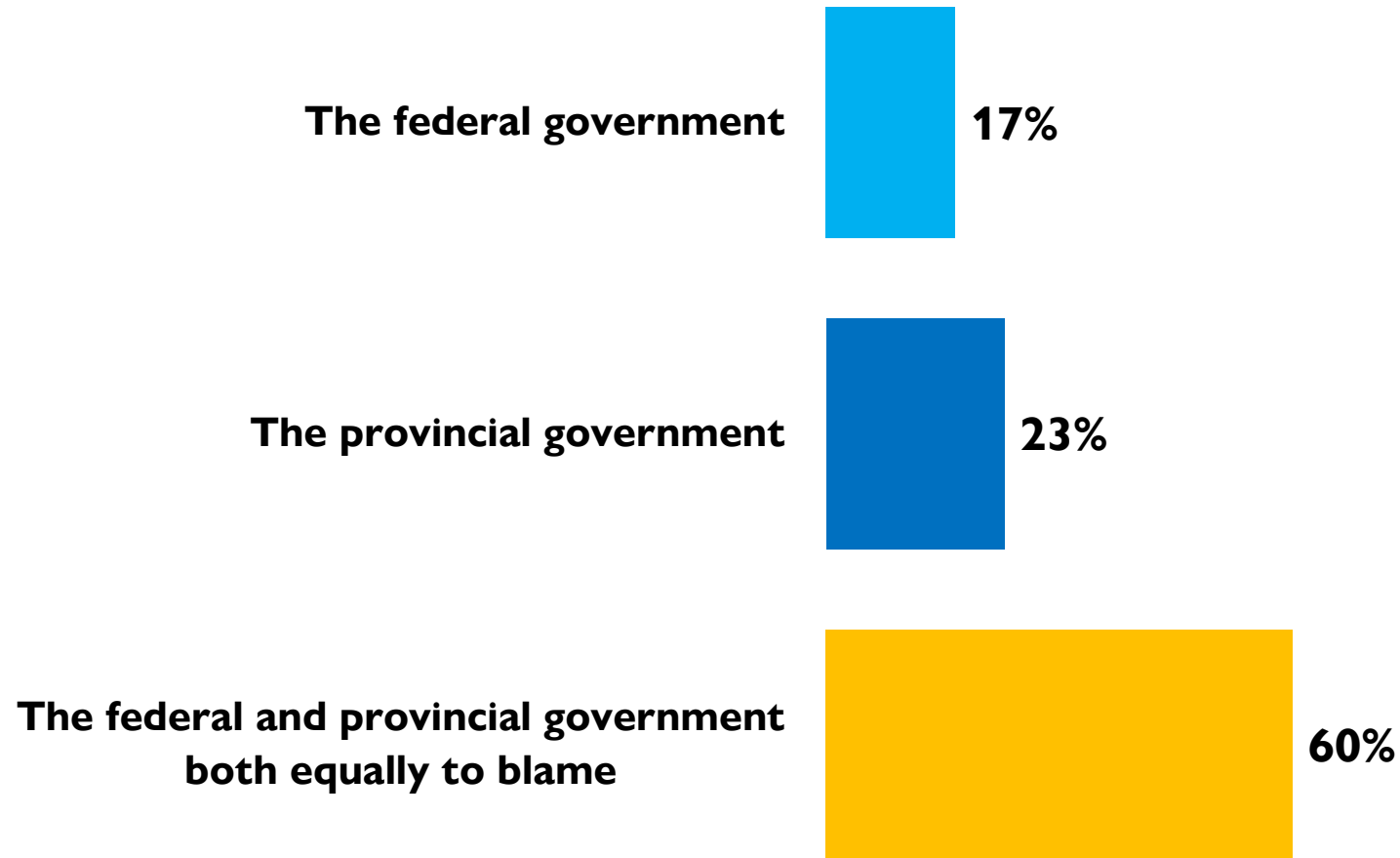
As you may know, Canada has an aging population which results in more expensive healthcare treatments, and as such, higher healthcare expenses as time goes on. With that in mind, do you believe that the rate of funding for healthcare in your province is...

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR STRUGGLING SYSTEM?



And of all these different groups involved in the funding & administration of healthcare, who do you hold most responsible for the problems in the healthcare system as it stands today?

LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT – WHO TO BLAME?



Who do you think is more responsible for problems in the healthcare system today?

ASSESSING HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS

% Very/
Somewhat
positive

Increasing government investments in the public system dedicated to creating more positions in the public system



Increasing government investments in the public system dedicated to higher wages for healthcare workers to increase the attractiveness of healthcare jobs



- Very positive impact on system
- Somewhat negative impact on system

- Somewhat positive impact on system
- Very negative impact on system

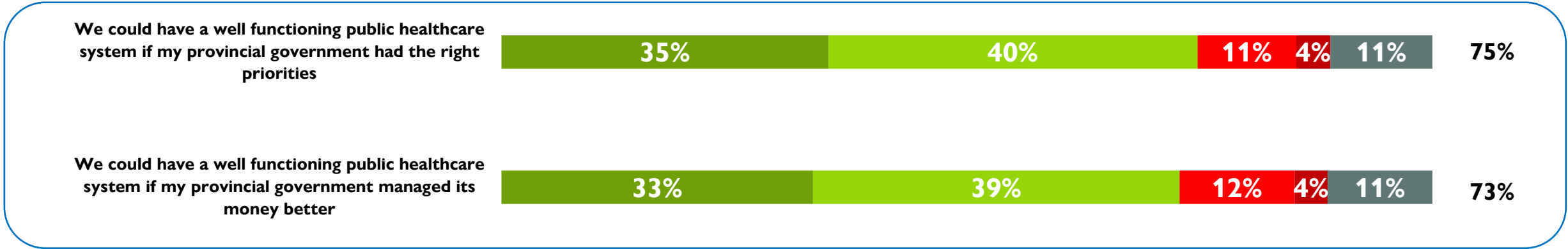
ABACUS DATA

What level of impact do you think each of the following would have on improving the healthcare system in your province?



HEALTHCARE SYSTEM PERSPECTIVES

% Strongly/
Somewhat agree

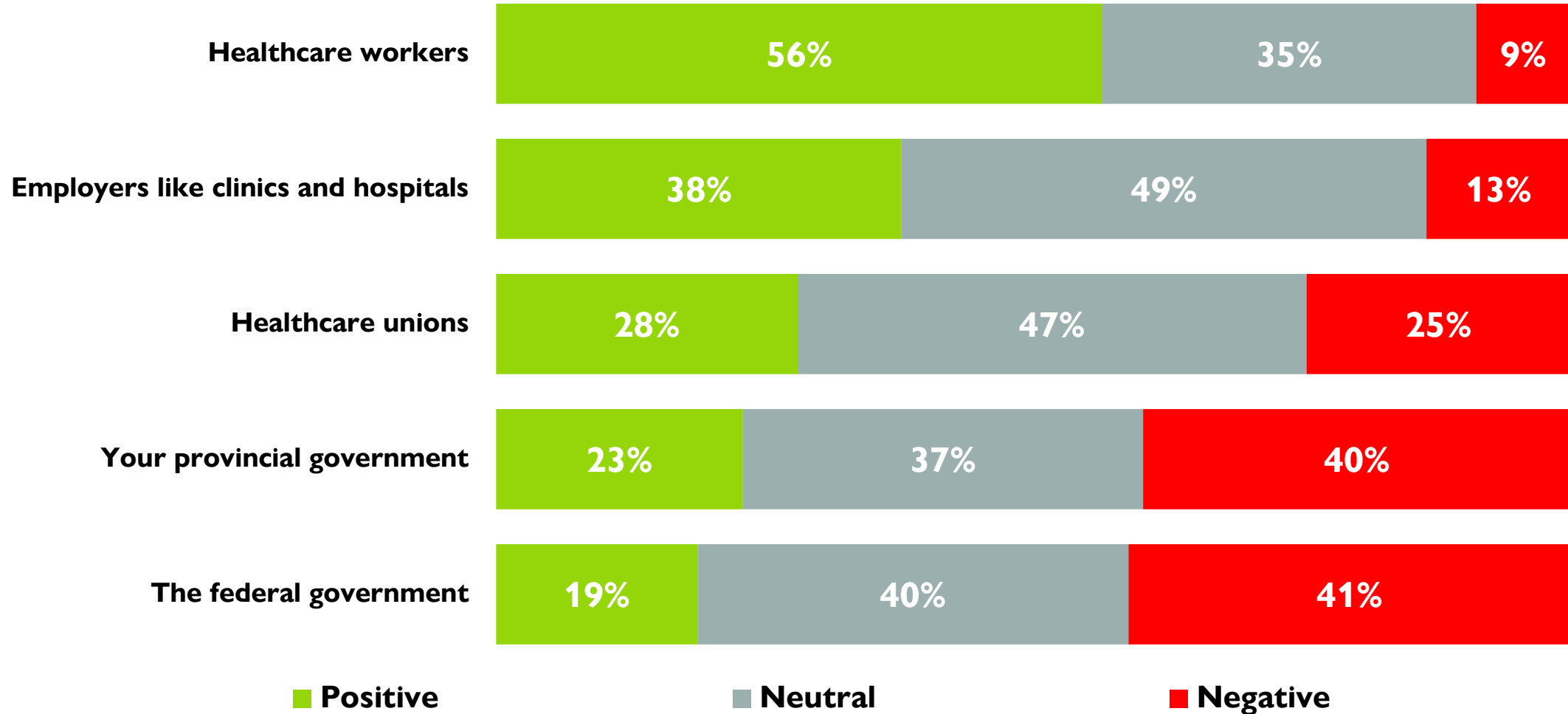


■ Strongly agree
 ■ Somewhat agree
 ■ Somewhat disagree
 ■ Strongly disagree
 ■ Not sure / dont know



To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

IMPACT ON HEALTHCARE SYSTEM



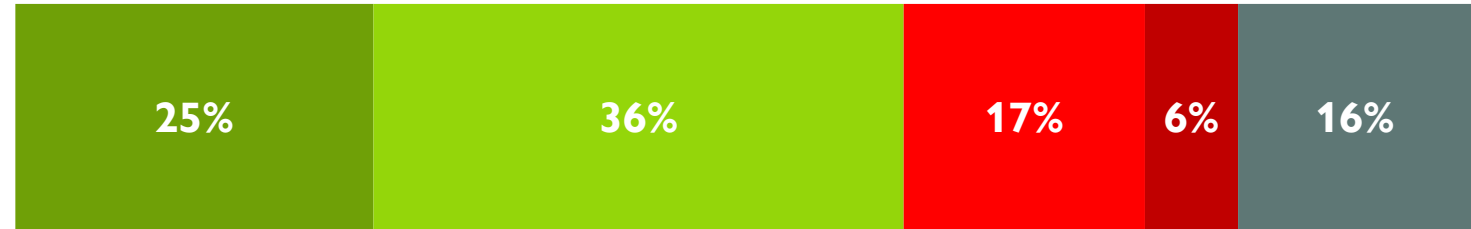
And of all these different groups involved in the funding & administration of healthcare, do you see each as playing a positive, negative or neutral role when it comes to their impact on the overall system?

AGREE – DISAGREE STATEMENTS

ROLE OF HEALTHCARE UNIONS

% Strongly/
Somewhat agree

Healthcare unions look out for healthcare workers, not patients or Canadians in general



61%

Healthcare unions play an important role in advocating for quality care in Canada



57%

Healthcare unions play an important role in preventing the collapse of our public healthcare system



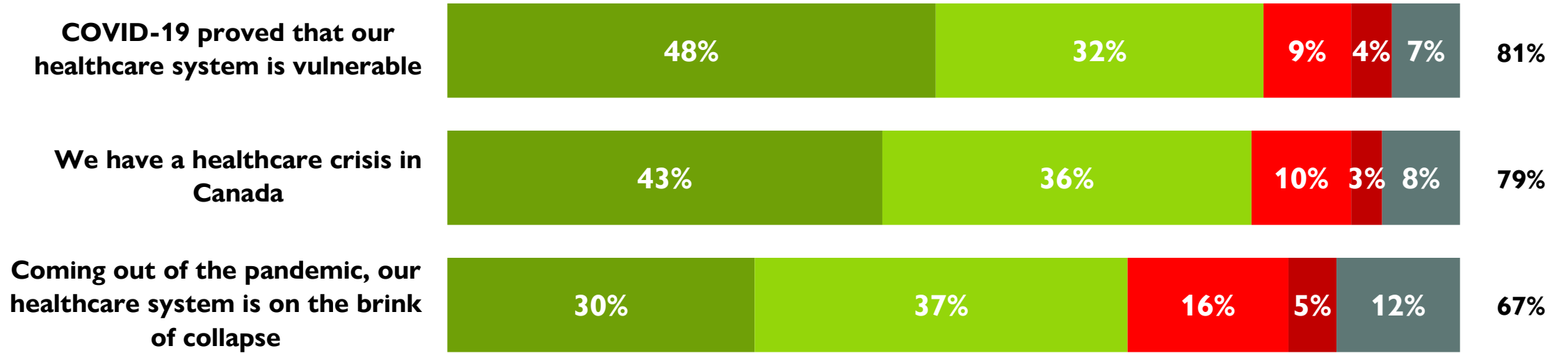
56%

■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Strongly disagree ■ Not sure / don't know

AGREE – DISAGREE STATEMENTS

COVID-19

% Strongly/
Somewhat agree



PERSONAL



■ Strongly agree
 ■ Somewhat agree
 ■ Somewhat disagree
 ■ Strongly disagree
 ■ Not sure / don't know