

IMMUNISATION  
COALITION

# General Practitioner Survey

Immunisation Coalition | Q2 2023





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# Methodology & Sample

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# Details of the Methodology

*The methodology utilised a nationwide sample size, representative of General Practitioners & Nurse Practitioners throughout Australia, involving 2 stages of qualitative & quantitative research.*

## Stage 1: In-Depth Interviews

- 148 face-to-face, in-depth interviews were conducted, comprising a representative sample of GP’s, throughout Australia.
- Detailed qualitative and specific quantitative information was obtained.
- Each interview took on average 26 minutes to complete.
- Interviews were conducted in General Practitioners surgeries and medical centres, in the below cities:
  - Sydney
  - Melbourne
  - Brisbane
  - Hobart
  - Adelaide
  - Perth
  - Canberra
  - Darwin
  - Newcastle
  - Bendigo
  - Toowoomba
  - Bunbury

## Stage 2: Online Survey

- The online survey was were conducted amongst a representative sample of 454 General Practitioners and Nurse Practitioners throughout Australia.
- The survey utilised the latest online technology, where images, audio and video were included for some questions, making the survey interactive and engaging.
- Detailed quantitative information was obtained.
- The survey took on average 22 minutes to complete.
- The survey was completed using the following devices:
  - PC’s: 76%
  - Tablets: 18%
  - Smartphones: 6%



**Sample**

- Large nationwide sample size, involving:
  - 148 in-depth interview participants & 454 online survey participants
- Representative of General Practitioners & Nurse Practitioners throughout Australia, across all States, Territories, metropolitan, regional & rural areas.



**Comprehensive**

- 2-stage methodology.
- Qualitative stage:
  - 148 face-to-face, in-depth interviews, conducted across 12 cities
- Quantitative stage:
  - 454 online survey participants, conducted nationwide



**Confidence**

- Very high level of statistical confidence across all findings.
- Between 95-97% statistical confidence for most questions.

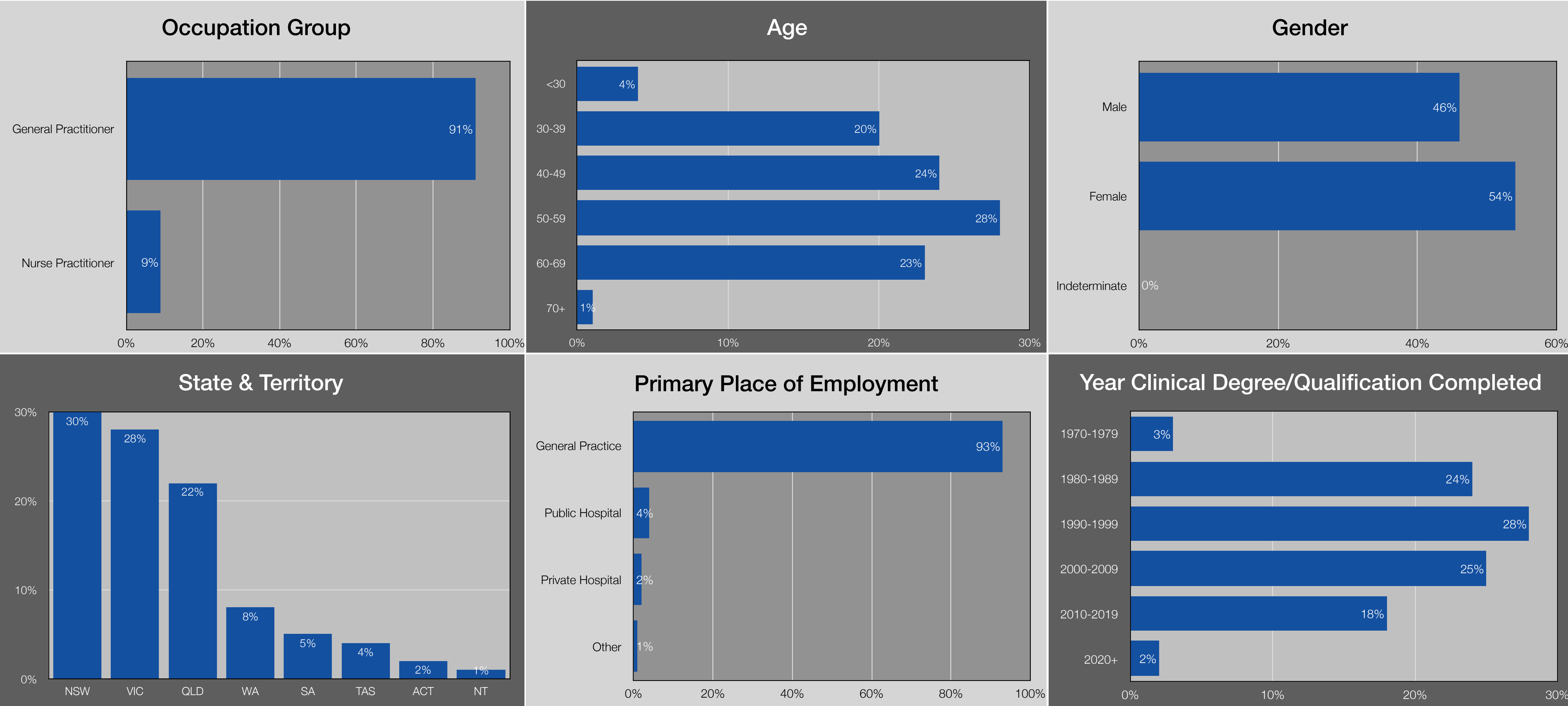


**Dates**

- Qualitative stage
  - Face-to-face, in-depth interviews: 20th April to 3rd May
- Quantitative stage:
  - Online survey: 8th to 25th May



# Sample of General Practitioners & Nurse Practitioners





**2**

## **Findings**

**6**



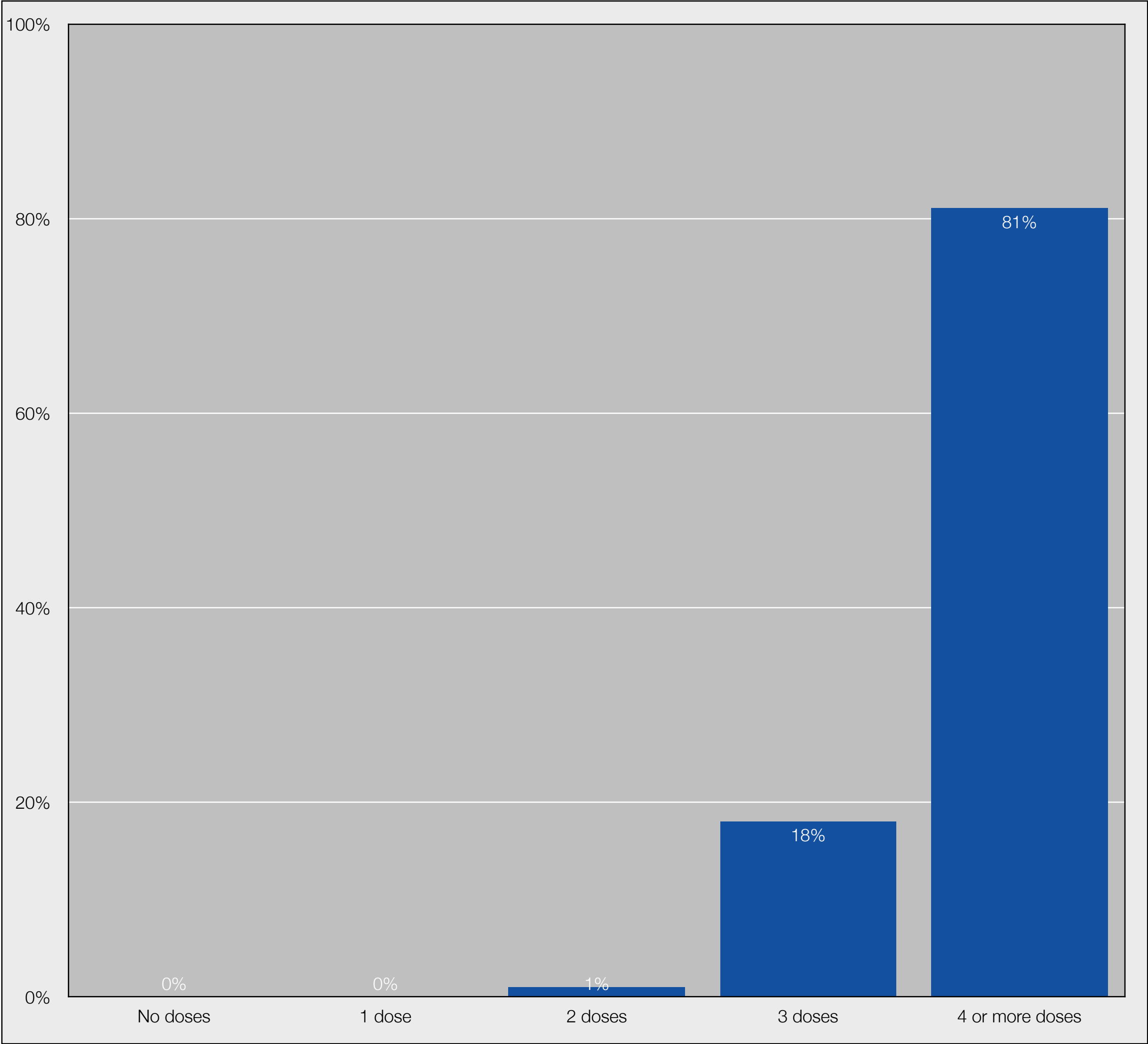


# 81% have had 4 more more doses of a COVID-19 vaccine

1. How many doses of COVID-19 vaccine have you had?

**81% have had 4 more more doses**

- 81% answered '4 or more doses'
- 18% '3 doses'
- 1% '2 doses'
- There were no responses for '1 dose' or 'No doses'



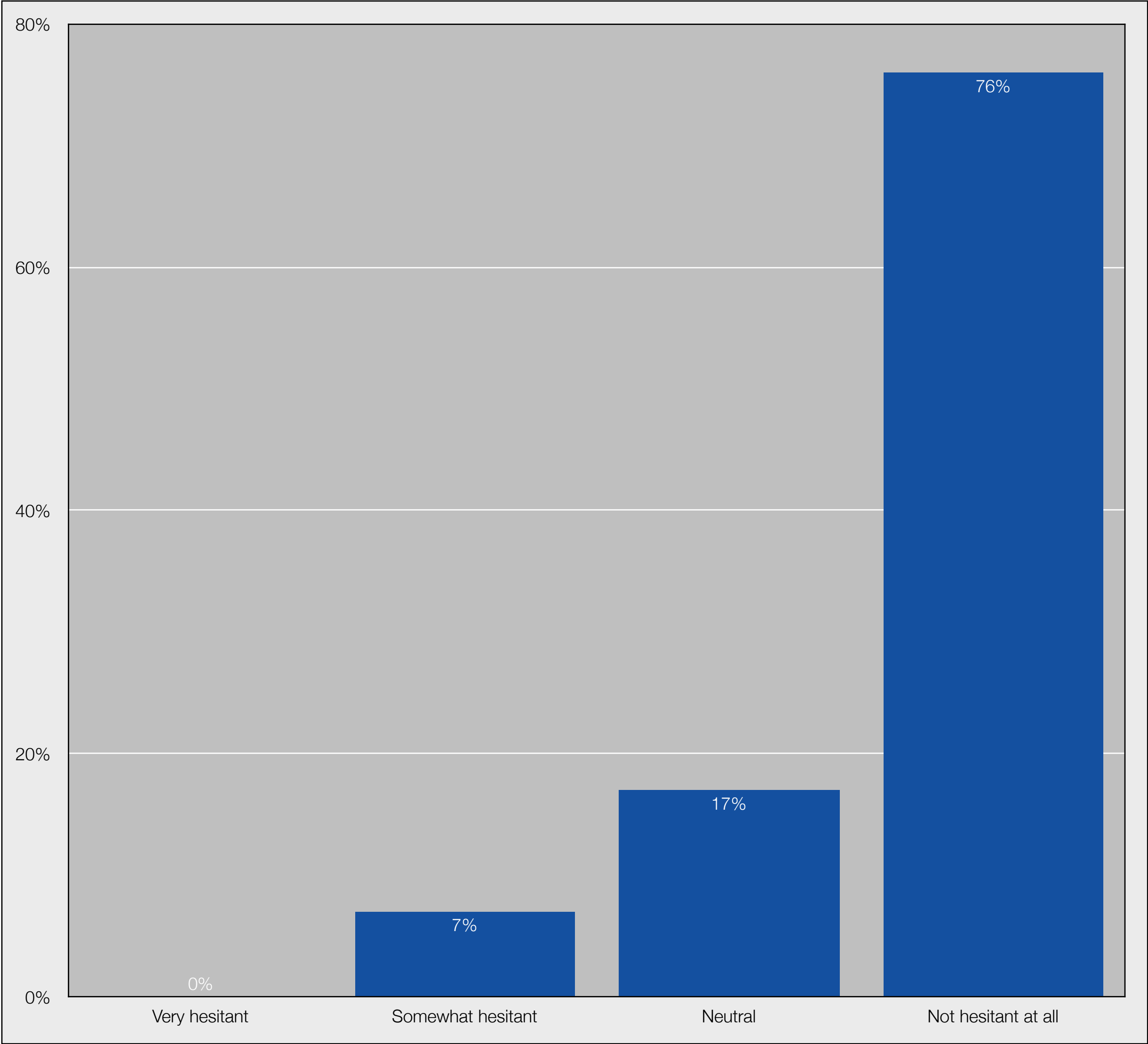


# 76% not hesitant at all about currently receiving a COVID-19 vaccine

2. How hesitant do you feel about receiving a COVID-19 vaccine currently?

**76% not hesitant at all**

- 76% answered 'Not hesitant at all'
- 17% 'Neutral'
- 7% 'Somewhat hesitant'
- 0% 'Very hesitant'





# Don't think they need a COVID-19 vaccination currently

## 3. If you are hesitant to receive COVID-19 vaccination currently, what are the reasons why?

**Asked only to those who answered ‘Very hesitant’ or ‘Somewhat hesitant’ in previous question**

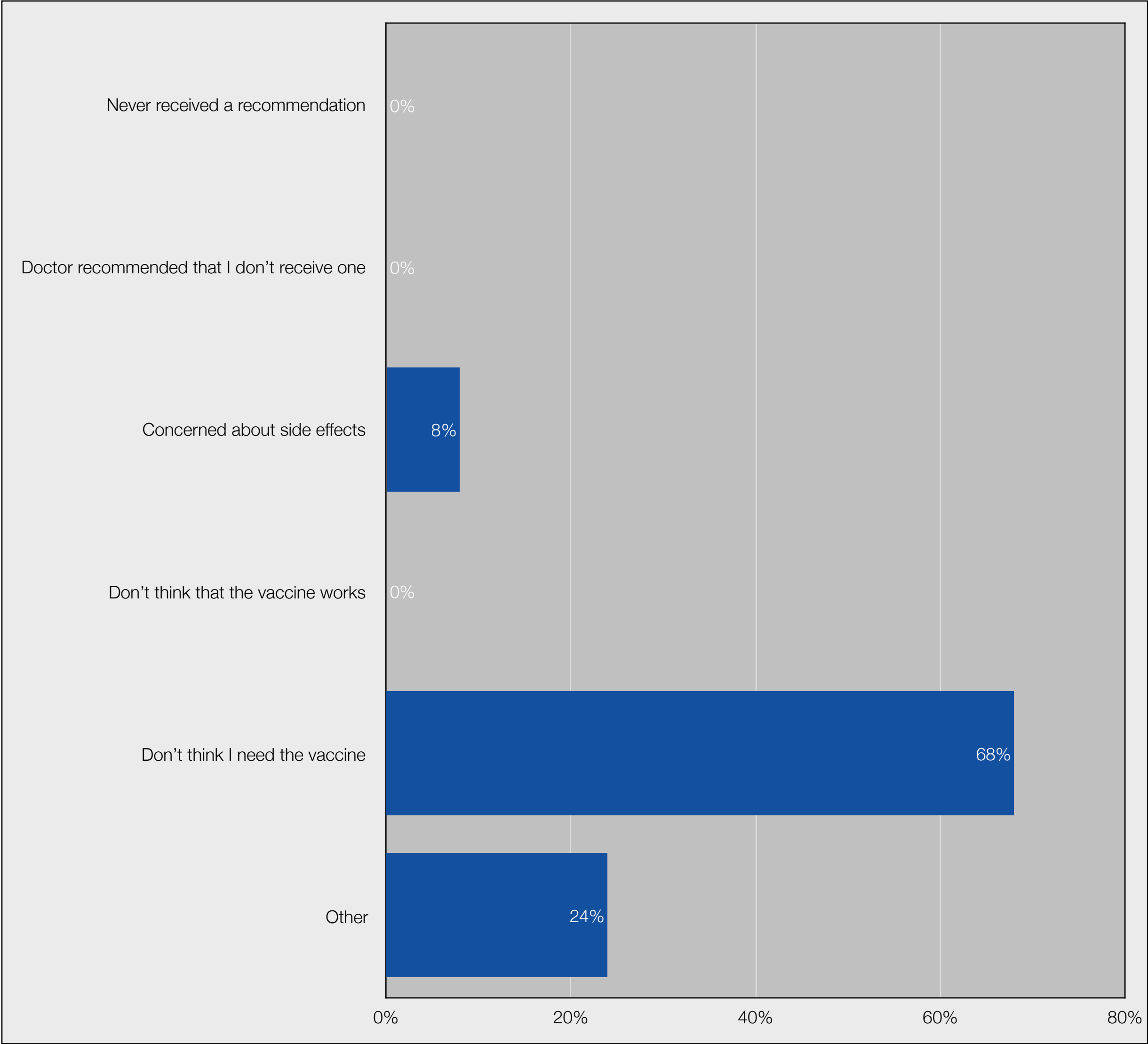
- This question was asked only to those who answered ‘Very hesitant’ or ‘Somewhat hesitant’ in the previous question, specifically 7% of respondents.

### Don't think I need the vaccine and other reasons

- 68% answered ‘Don't think I need the vaccine’
- 8% ‘Concerned about side effects’
- 24% answered ‘Other’ and specified their reason/s
- There were no responses given for the other answer options

### Other responses

- 24% selected ‘Other’ where they were asked to state their reason/s, which were similar to the option ‘Don't think I need the vaccine’ being:
  - Have received maximum recommended doses
  - Not due to receive a further dose at present
  - Minimal benefit perceived in currently receiving another dose



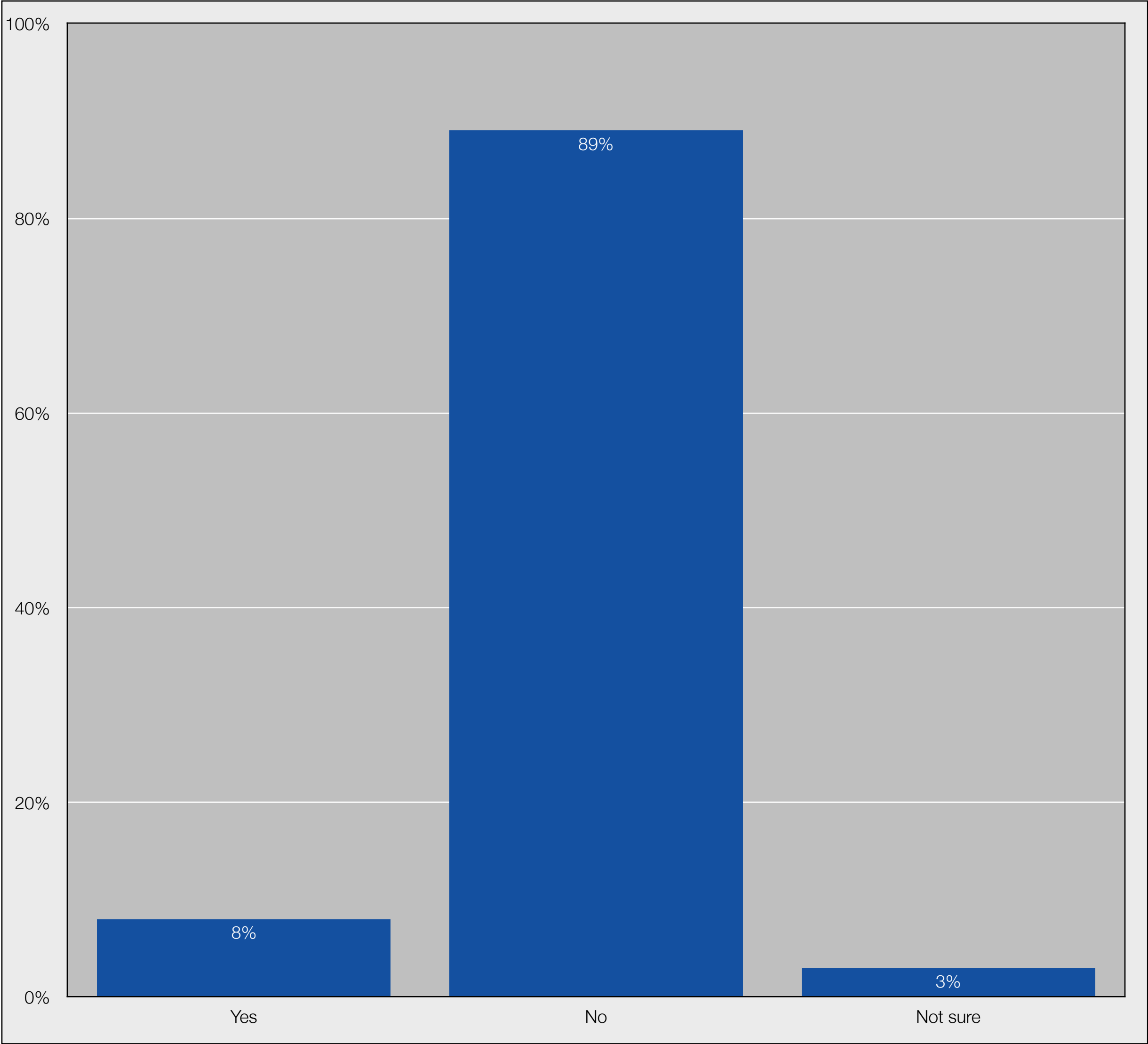


# 8% were hesitant to initially receive the COVID-19 vaccine

## 4. Were you hesitant to initially receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

8% were hesitant to initially receive the COVID-19 vaccine

- 8% answered 'Yes'
- 89% 'No'
- 3% 'Not sure'





# Reasons for overcoming initial hesitancy

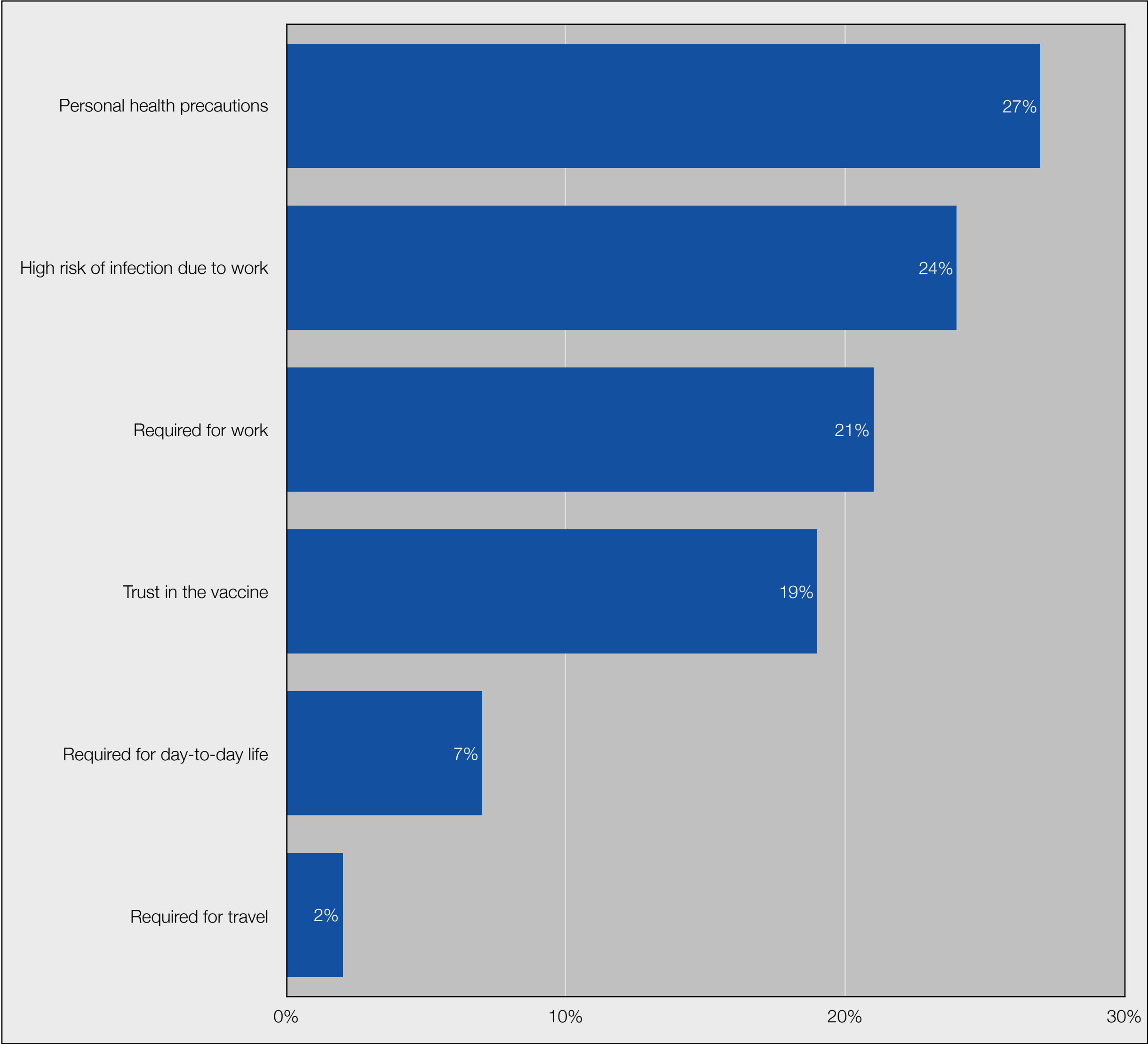
5. If you were hesitant initially and then received the vaccine, what were the reasons that made you change your mind to get vaccinated?

Asked only to those who answered ‘Yes’ in the previous question

- This question was asked only to those who answered ‘Yes’ in question, specifically 8% of respondents.

## Reasons given for overcoming initial hesitancy

- 27% of reasons were ‘Personal health precautions’
- 24% ‘High risk of infection due to work’
- 21% ‘Required for work’
- 19% ‘Trust in the vaccine’
- 7% ‘Required for day-to-day life’
- 2% ‘Required for travel’



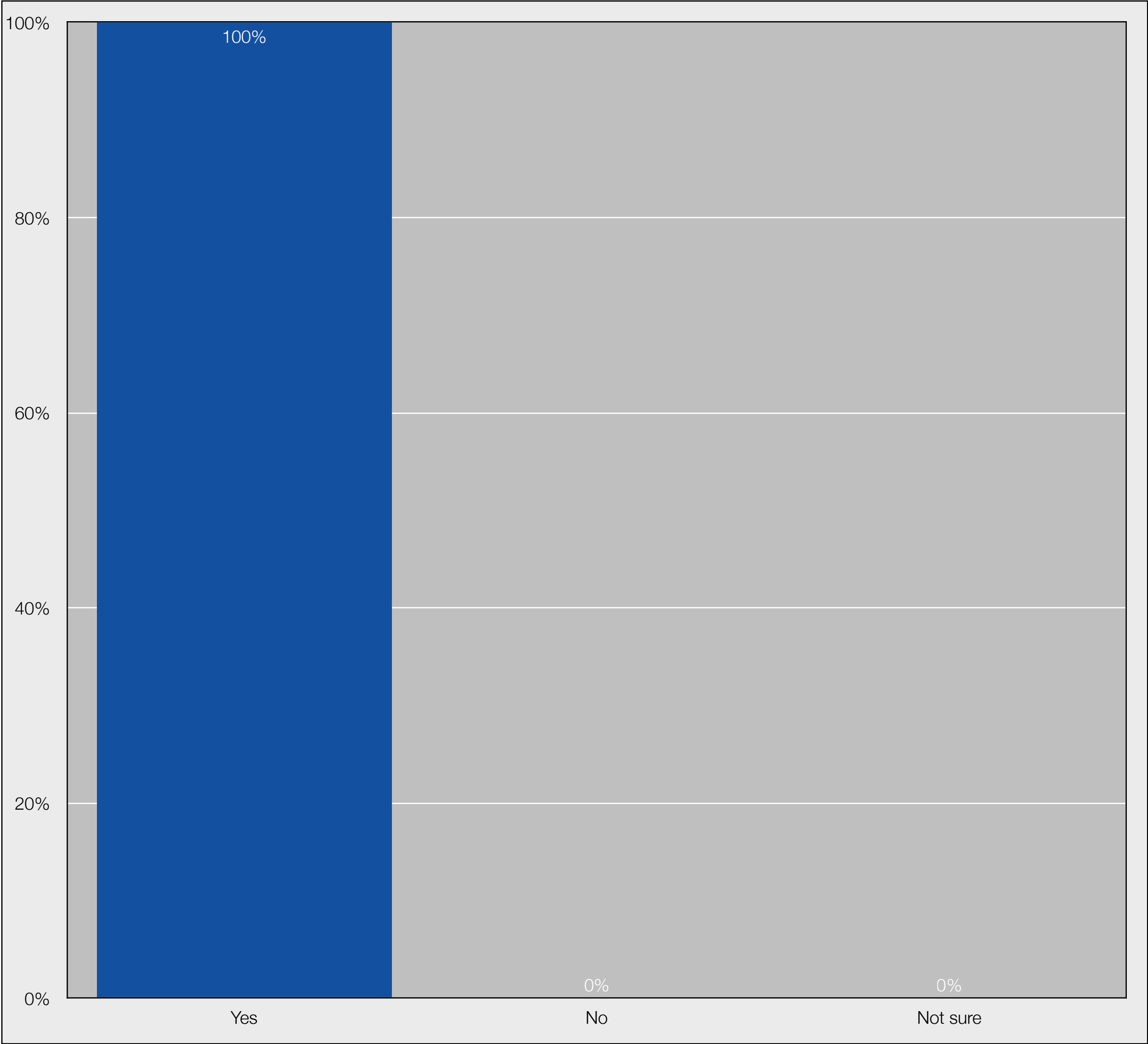


# 100% have recommended the COVID-19 vaccine to patients

## 6. Have you recommended the COVID-19 vaccine to patients?

**100% have recommended the COVID-19 vaccine to patients**

- 100% answered 'Yes'
- There were no responses for 'No' and 'Not sure'



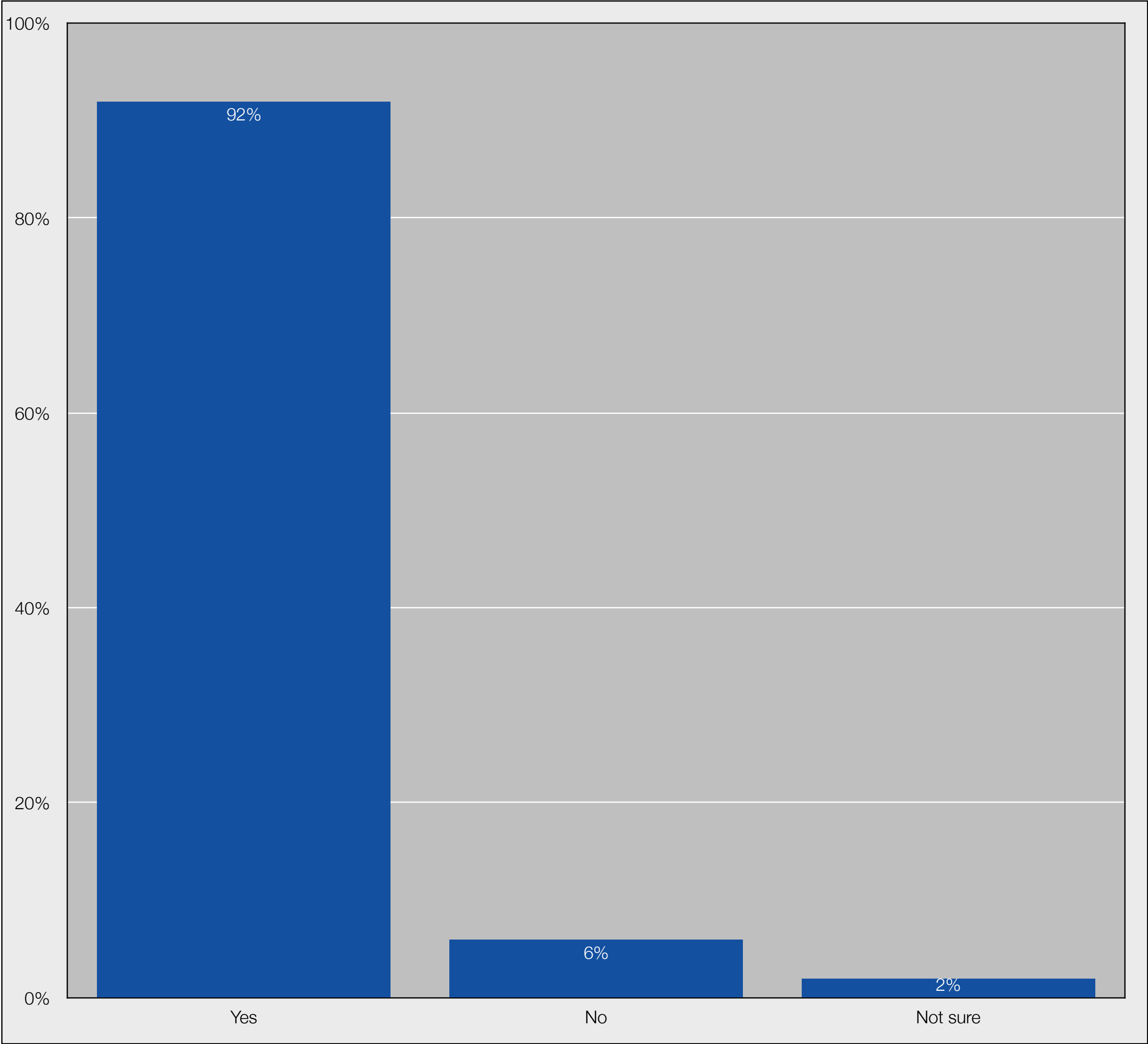


# 92% feel comfortable discussing COVID-19 vaccination

7. Do you feel comfortable discussing COVID-19 vaccination with your patients?

92% feel comfortable discussing COVID-19 vaccination

- 92% answered 'Yes'
- 6% 'No'
- 2% 'Not sure'





# Difficult conversations around vaccination hesitancy and animosity

## 8. If not, why not?

**Asked only to those who answered ‘No’ in the previous question**

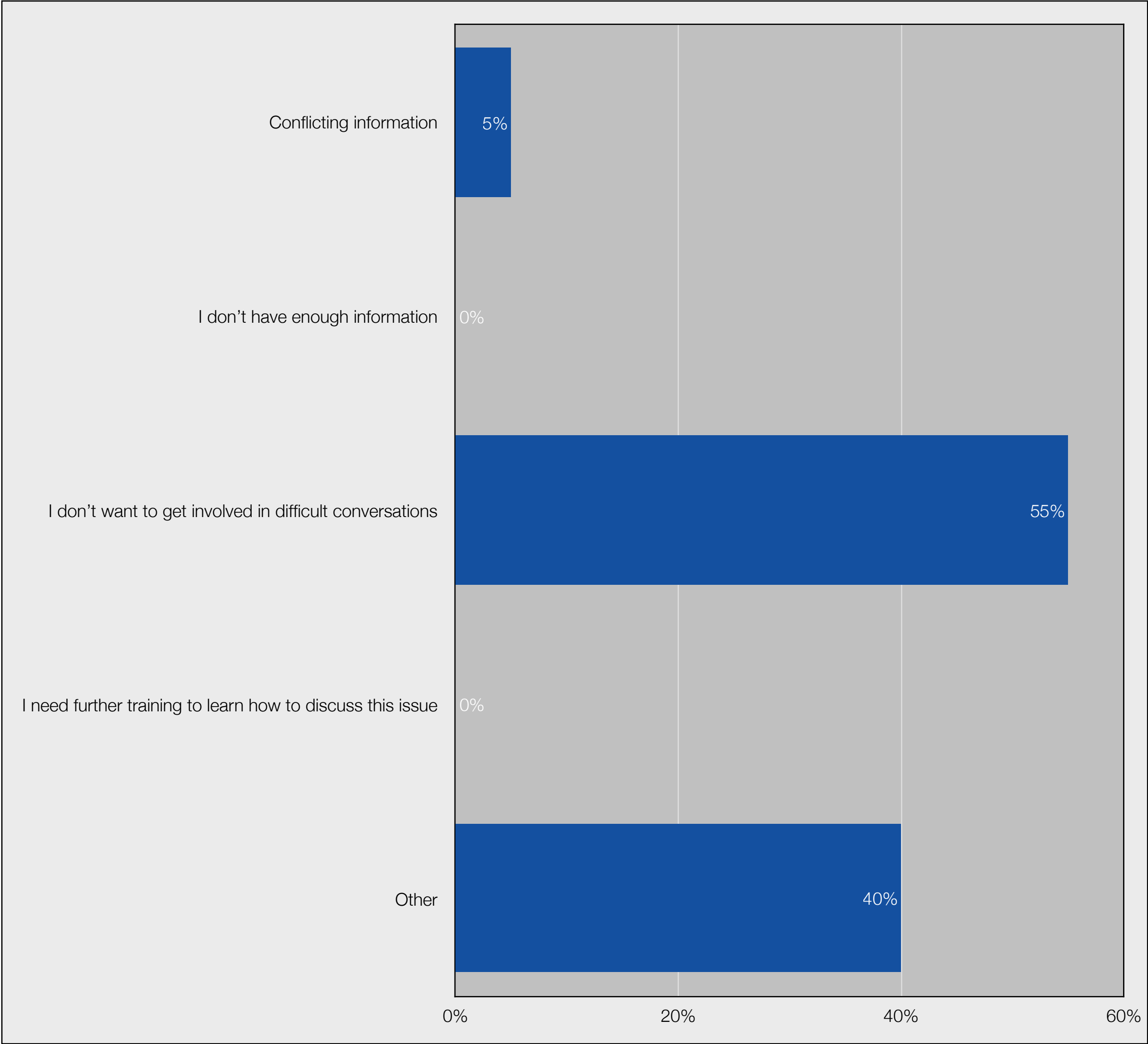
- This question was asked only to those who answered ‘No’ in question, specifically 6% of respondents.

**Not wanting to get involved in difficult conversations the main reason**

- 55% answered ‘I don’t want to get involved in difficult conversations’
- 5% ‘Conflicting information’
- 40% ‘Other’
- There were no answers for ‘I don’t have enough information’ or ‘I need further training how to discuss this issue’

**Other reasons centred around vaccine hesitancy and animosity**

- 40% selected ‘Other’ where they were asked to state their reason/s, which were predominately centred around hesitancy and animosity towards further COVID-19 vaccination, being:
  - Some patients believe 1-2 COVID-19 boosters per year is excessive and/or unnecessary and are now strongly opposed to future discussion
  - Some patients that have experienced strong side effects from previous COVID-19 vaccinations are now strongly against further COVID-19 vaccinations and discussion
  - Some patients who have had COVID-19 and experienced minimal symptoms do not believe it is severe enough to warrant further or ongoing vaccination and do not wish to discuss
  - Some patients who have received 2-4 vaccinations and experienced moderate to severe illness from COVID-19 question the vaccine’s efficacy and are against further vaccination



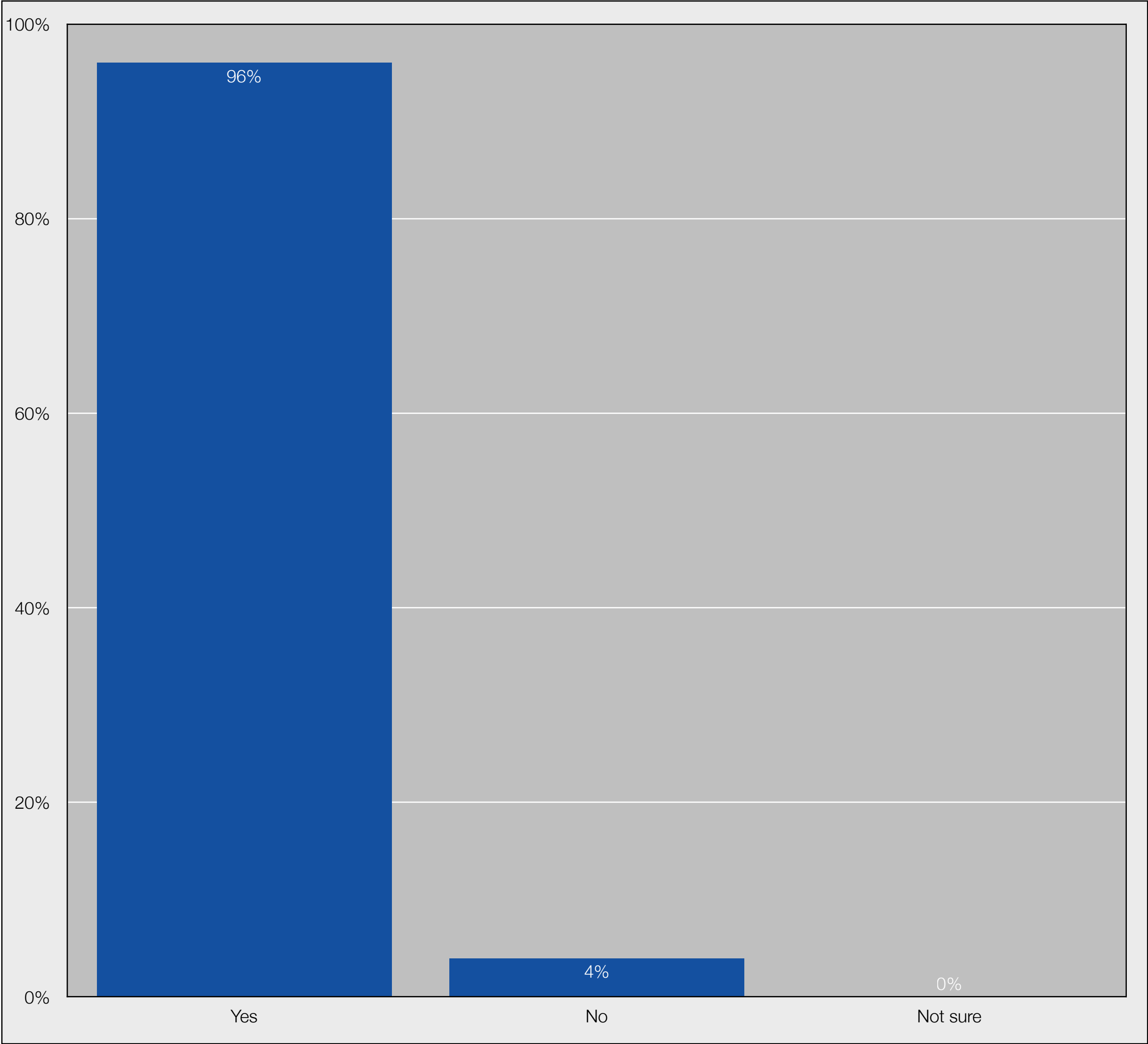


# 96% have themselves or staff given the COVID-19 vaccine

9. Have you or your staff given the COVID-19 vaccine to patients?

96% have themselves or staff given the COVID-19 vaccine

- 96% answered 'Yes'
- 4% 'No'
- There were no responses for 'Not sure'





# Don't have capacity, the main reason preventing COVID-19 vaccine

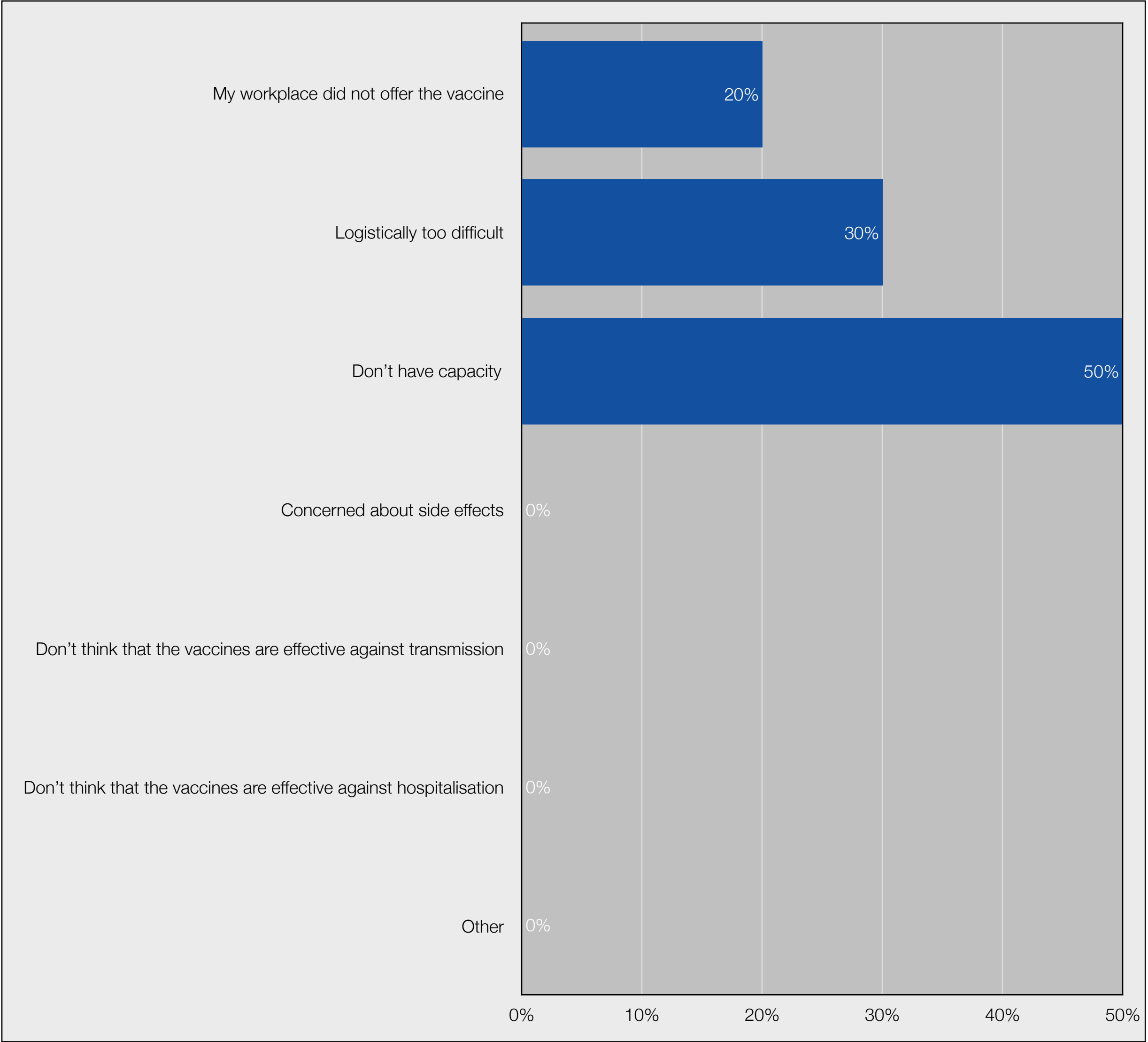
10. If you haven't offered the vaccine, what prevented you from doing it?

Asked only to those who answered 'No' in previous question

- This question was asked only to those who answered 'No' in the previous question, specifically 4% of respondents.

Don't have capacity, the main reason

- 50% answered 'Don't have capacity'
- 30% 'Logistically too difficult'
- 20% 'My workplace did not offer the vaccine'
- There were no responses given for the other answer options.





# The Australian Immunisation Handbook website the main source

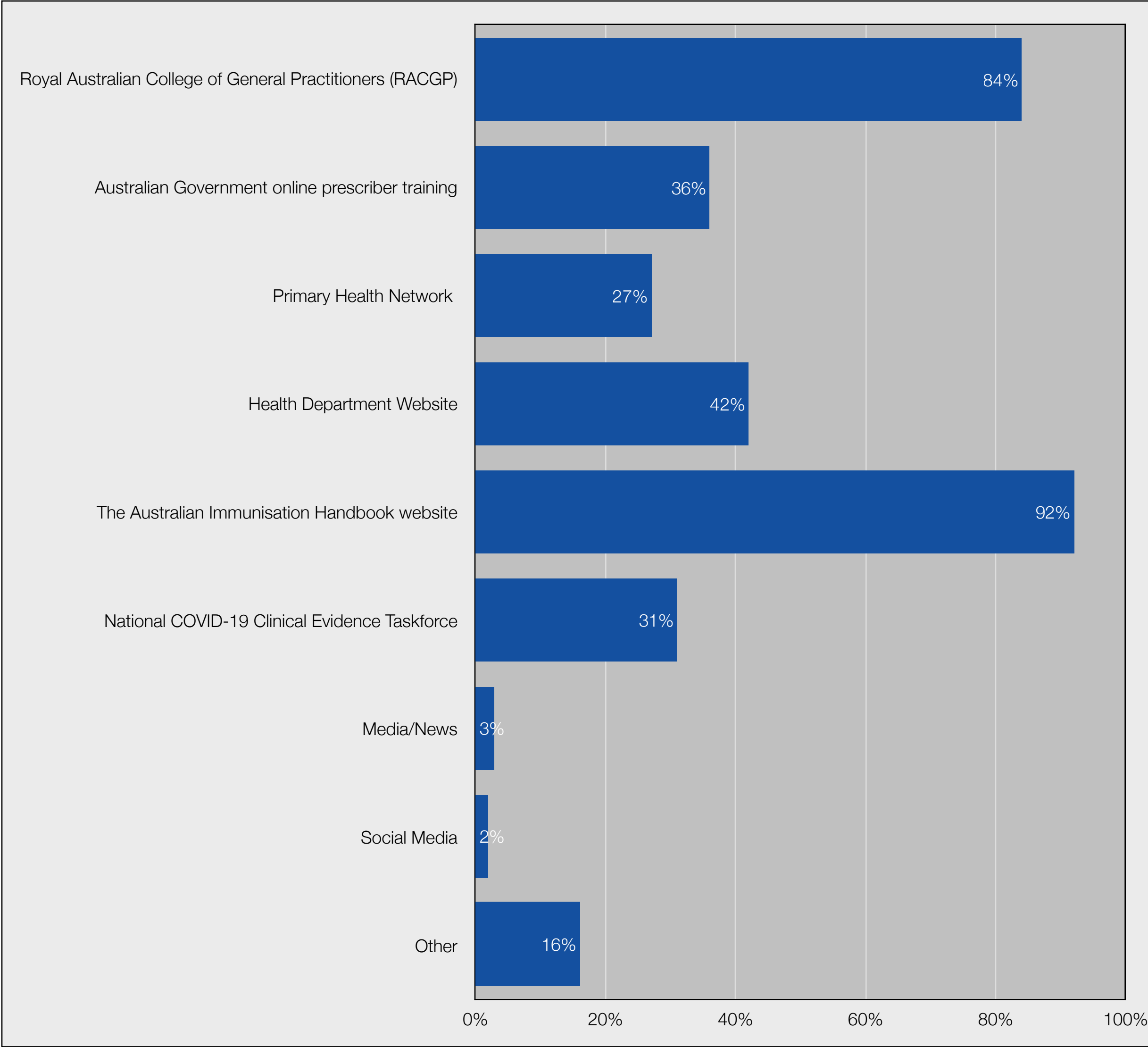
11. What are the main sources of information you use to keep up to date with COVID-19 vaccination information for your practice (tick all that apply)?

## The Australian Immunisation Handbook website the main source

- 92% selected ‘The Australian Immunisation Handbook website’
- 84% ‘Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP)’
- 42% ‘Health Department Website’
- 36% ‘Australian Government online prescriber training’
- 31% ‘National COVID-19 Clinical Evaluation Taskforce’
- 27% ‘Primary Health Network’
- 3% ‘Media/News’
- 2% ‘Social Media’
- 16% ‘Other’

## Other information sources

- 16% selected ‘Other’ where they were asked to state the source/s, the main being:
  - Colleagues
  - Conferences/Seminars
  - Further education and training
  - Pharmaceutical company representatives
  - Journals & published research



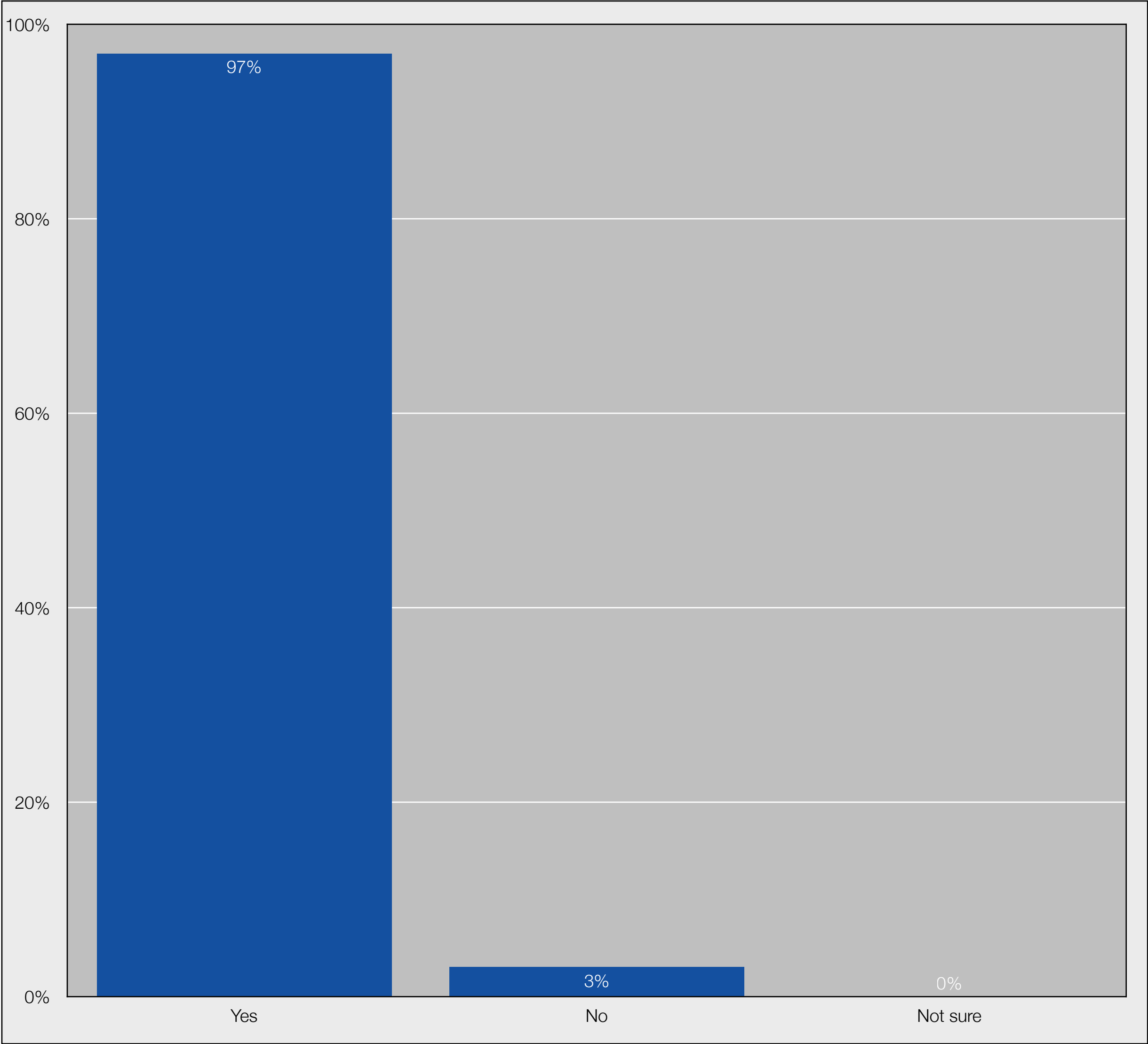


# 97% have treated patients with COVID-19

## 12. Have you treated any patients with COVID-19?

### 97% have treated patients with COVID-19

- 97% answered 'Yes'
- 3% 'No'
- There were no responses for 'Not sure'





# 84% have prescribed antiviral medication under PBS for COVID-19

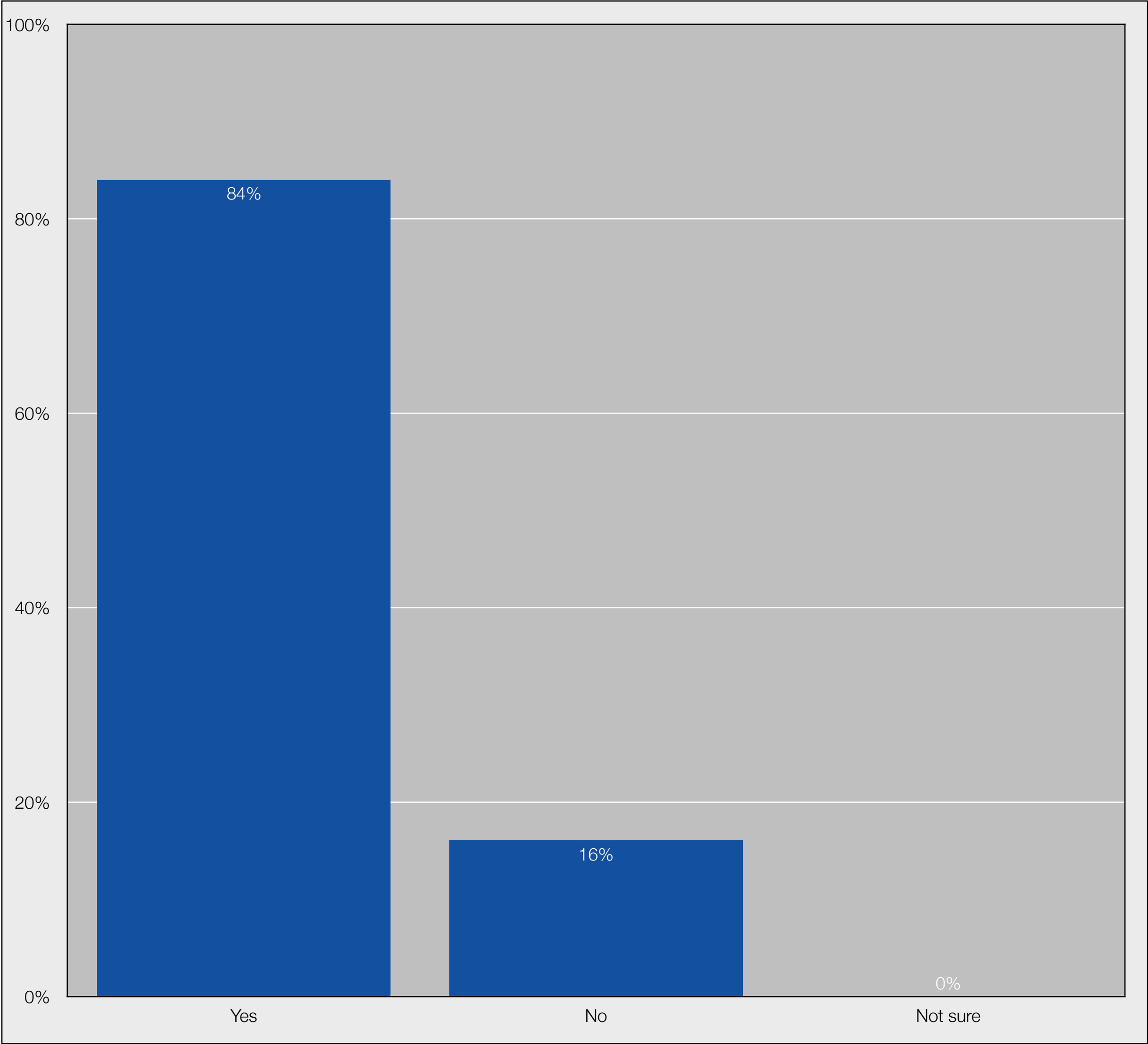
13. If you answered 'Yes' to question 17, have you ever prescribed antiviral medication under the PBS to patients suffering from COVID-19?

**Asked only to those who answered 'Yes' in previous question**

- This question was asked only to those who answered 'Yes' in the previous question, specifically 97% of respondents.

**84% have prescribed antiviral medication under PBS for COVID-19**

- 84% answered 'Yes'
- 16% 'No'
- There were no responses for 'Not sure'



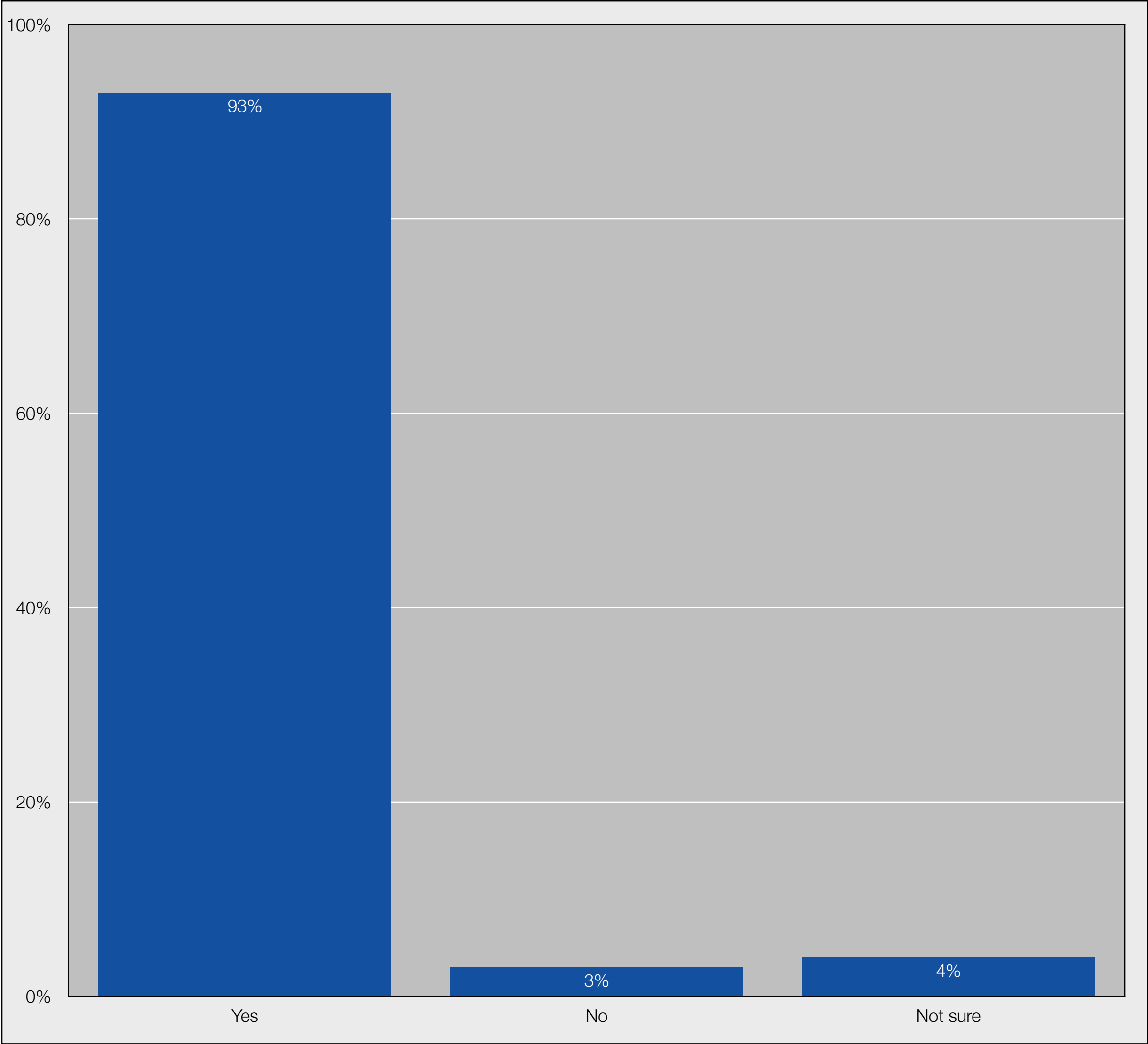


# 93% are familiar with the current eligibility criteria

14. Are you familiar with the current eligibility criteria for antiviral medications for COVID-19 under the PBS?

**93% are familiar with the current eligibility criteria**

- 93% answered 'Yes'
- 3% 'No'
- 4% 'Not sure'



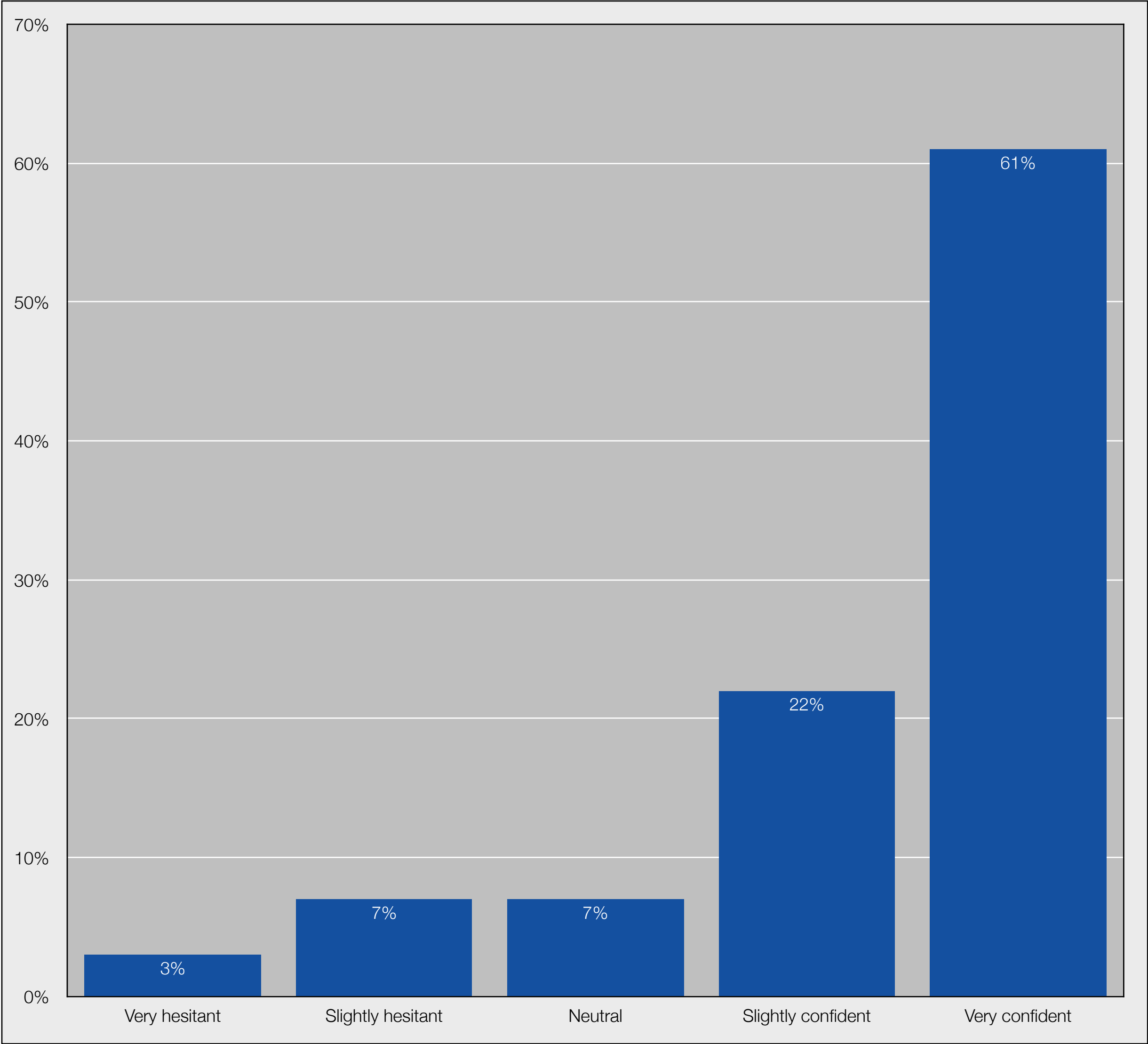


# 61% ‘very confident’ about prescribing antiviral medication for COVID-19

15. How confident do you feel about prescribing antiviral medication for COVID-19 under the PBS?

61% ‘very confident’ about prescribing antiviral medication for COVID-19

- 61% answered ‘Very confident’
- 22% ‘Slightly confident’
- 7% ‘Neutral’
- 7% ‘Slightly hesitant’
- 3% ‘Very hesitant’





# Unsure of effectiveness the main reason for not being confident

## 16. If you are not confident, why?

### Asked only to those who answered 'Yes' in previous question

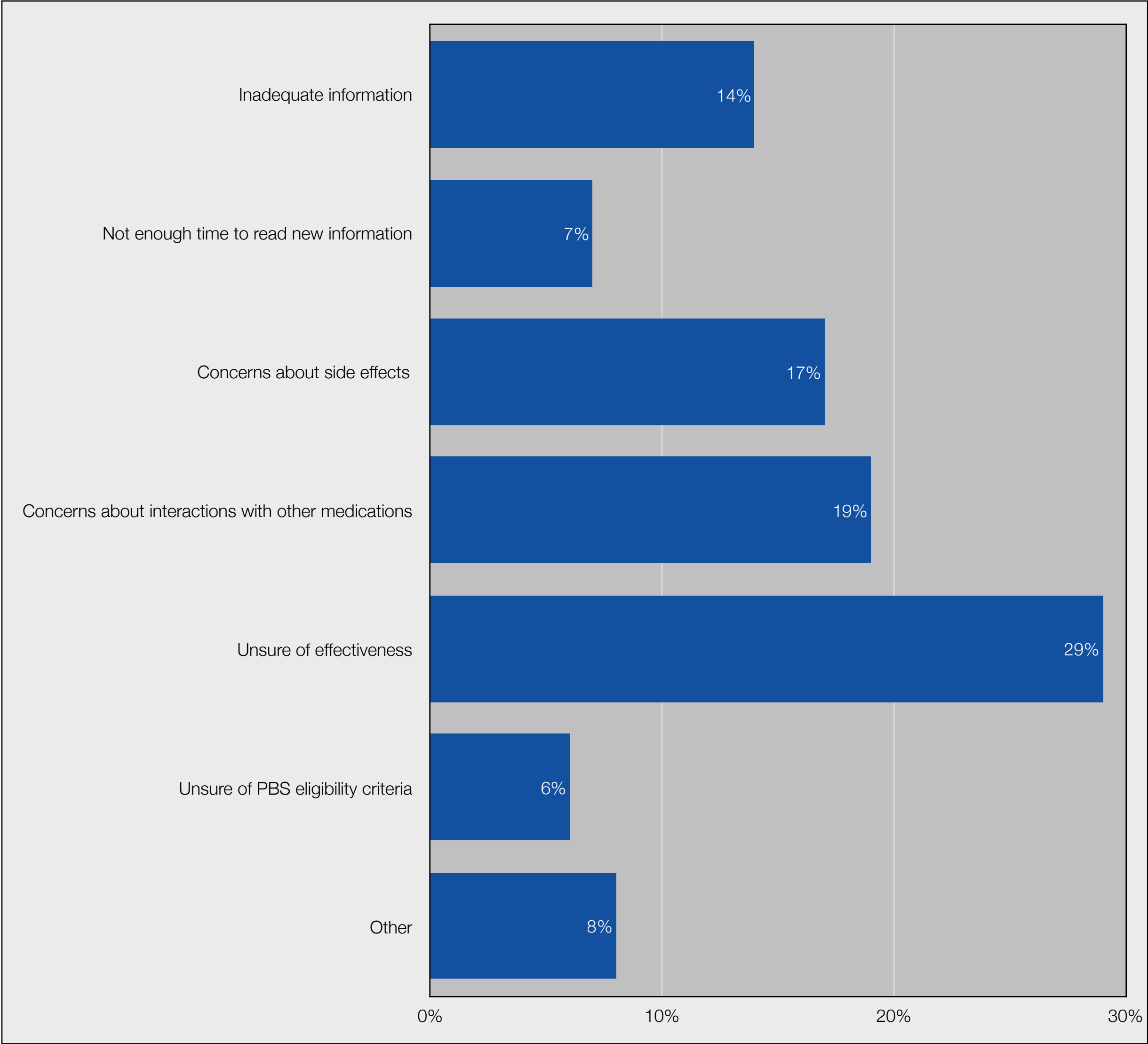
- This question was asked only to those who answered 'Neutral', 'Slightly hesitant' and 'Very hesitant' in the previous question, specifically 17% of respondents.

### Unsure of effectiveness the main reason for not being confident

- 29% answered 'Unsure of effectiveness'
- 19% 'Concerns about interactions with other medications'
- 17% 'Concerns about side effects'
- 14% 'Inadequate information'
- 7% 'Not enough time to read new information'
- 6% 'Unsure of PBS eligibility criteria'
- 8% 'Other'

### Other reasons

- 8% selected 'Other' where they were asked to state their reason/s, being:
  - Short time frame required to commence
  - Patient experience with poor effectiveness
  - Viewed as suitable only for highest risk groups (multiple risk factors)
  - Fertility concerns, especially 3 month post period for men (Lagevrio)





# The Australian Immunisation Handbook website the main source

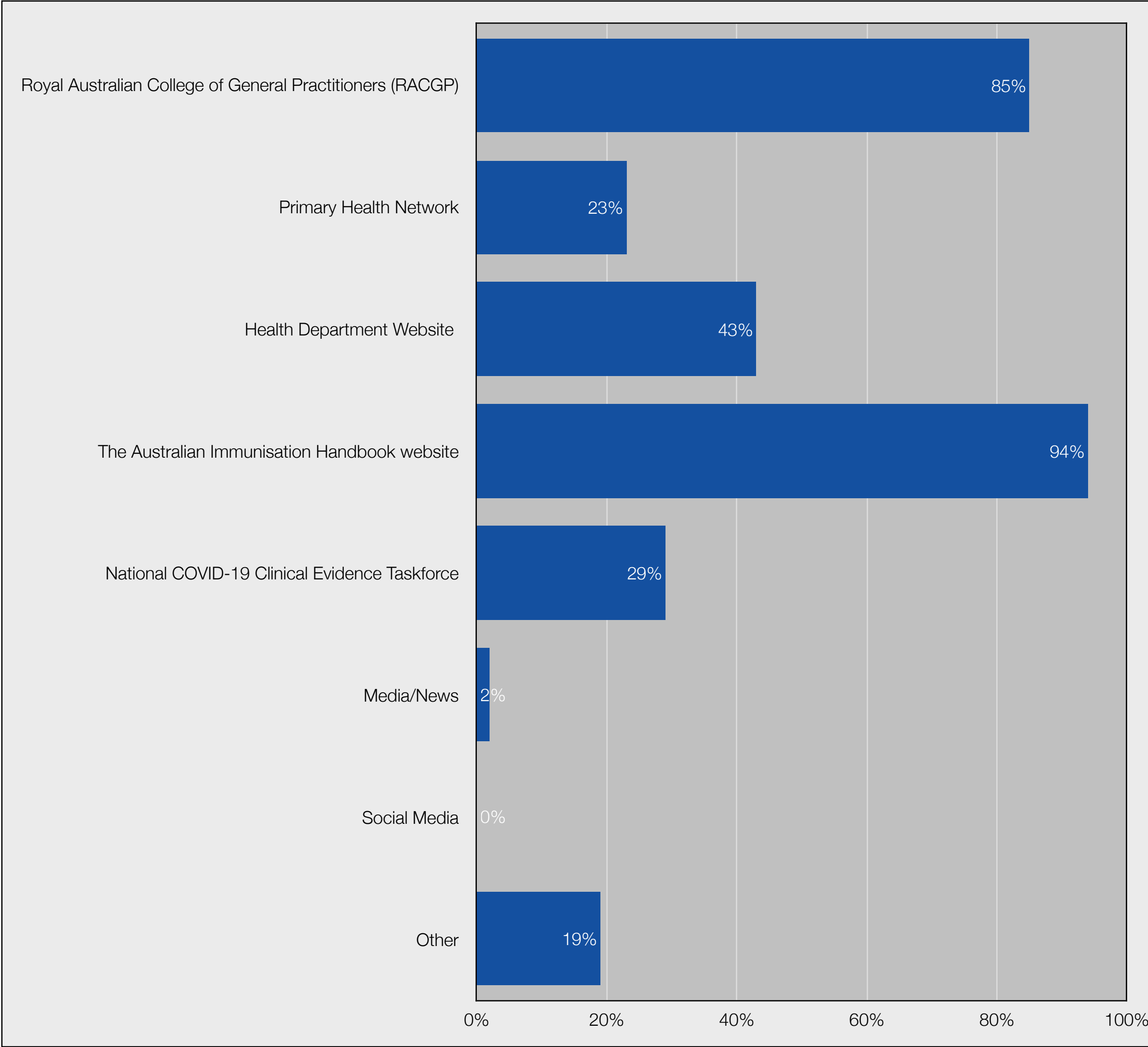
17. Where do you receive information related to antiviral medications for COVID-19 (tick all that apply)?

## The Australian Immunisation Handbook website the main source

- 94% selected ‘The Australian Immunisation Handbook website’
- 85% ‘Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP)’
- 43% ‘Health Department Website’
- 29% ‘National COVID-19 Clinical Evaluation Taskforce’
- 23% ‘Primary Health Network’
- 2% ‘Media/News’
- 0% ‘Social Media’
- 19% ‘Other’

## Other information sources

- 19% selected ‘Other’ where they were asked to state the source/s, the main being:
  - Colleagues
  - Conferences/Seminars
  - Pharmaceutical company representatives
  - Further education and training
  - Journals & published research





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## **Further Information**





3. Further Information

# Contact Details

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For any other enquiries and further information, please visit our website and fill the contact form on:  
[www.immunisationcoalition.org.au/about-us/contact-us/](http://www.immunisationcoalition.org.au/about-us/contact-us/)



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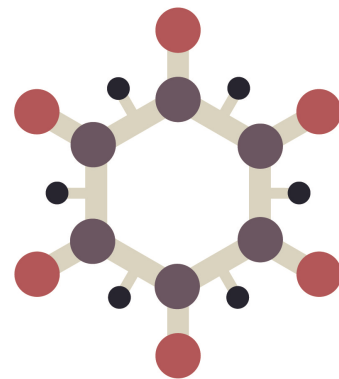
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The Immunisation Coalition wishes to thank APMI Partners (Australia) for producing this survey.

[www.apmipartners](http://www.apmipartners)

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