



CURRENT EVENTS SURVEY

MARCH 2022

TOP-LINE RESULTS

Introduction

Conducted in March 2022, this survey covered a variety of issues, including people's views on current news events, the use and trust in mainstream media, concern about potential threats, attitudes to authority and trust in various organizations and occupations, the COVID pandemic and misinformation

- The survey was conducted from February 27th to March 21st 2022 and yielded a sample size of 1,212 respondents
- The results have been weighted by age, gender, region and education using data from Statistics Canada.
- As a scientific sample, the survey data has a margin of error of +/- 2,9 percentage points with 95% confidence

Highlights I

- While people are very optimistic about their own well being, they are very pessimistic about the state of the Canadian economy and the social and political health of Canada with less than a quarter of respondents being optimistic about the latter
- In general, people trust the coverage of mainstream news on the major issues, although more people use social media for their news than use TV news, daily newspapers or radio
- The majority of Canadians (two-thirds) are in favour of military support for Ukraine (and nearly 60% support NATO's actions) although nearly 60% are very concerned that the war will escalate into a broader conflict
- Most Canadians support the mandate to have truckers vaccinated but opinion is sharply divided on the use of the Emergencies Act and the freezing of protesters' bank accounts with 40-50% in favour and a similar number against
- Nearly 60% of Canadians are very concerned about an escalation of the Ukrainian conflict. This was only exceeded as a concern by Inflation with even Climate Change being rated as a lesser concern. These issues were closely followed by Government surveillance of personal data where 47% said they were very concerned

Highlights II

- Fully 75% of Canadians think that the ownership of news media is too concentrated
- A slim majority agree that Government should have the right to surveil people in public places but over 70% say that Government should not have the right to demand financial information from banks, collect their personal information without their knowledge, or monitor their emails or other online information
- Very few people (<10%) trust big tech, telecommunications, or pharmaceutical companies. Not many more (<20%) trust government, big banks, mainstream media or unions. Much greater trust is expressed for credit unions, the military and the police with the greatest trust being shown for public health agencies
- In terms of occupations, only 31% of Canadians trust police completely whereas more than half trust pharmacists, scientists and doctors. Nurses are the most trusted with nearly two-thirds trusting them completely

Highlights III

- Turning to COVID, two-thirds of people think that the pandemic will improve over the next six months and nearly 70% believe that government health restrictions should be eased in general. Clear majorities support their lifting for indoor gatherings and indoor sporting events but opinion on proof of vaccination and the wearing of masks is evenly split. Only a minority (38%) were in favour of vaccine mandates being lifted.
- Regarding the statements made about vaccines, most people (60%) believe vaccines are perfectly safe, over 50% believe that vaccination is better than natural immunity and 35% think that people who say that vaccines are not safe should be censored on social media. Only 30% believe that the dangers of COVID have been exaggerated
- With respect to vaccine effectiveness, two-thirds of Canadians believe they prevent serious illness but opinion is divided on whether they prevent contraction and only 25% believe that vaccines prevent transmission
- Of the various beliefs about COVID, two-thirds or more think that masks prevent transmission and that lockdowns help stop the spread of COVID. Only 50% believe that natural immunity proves protection against COVID and that vaccines can have serious side effects
- Nearly two-thirds of Canadians are very concerned about COVID misinformation on social media but opinion is divided on what should be done about it, A third say put a warning on the content, 25% say do nothing and 13-16% say the content should be highlighted, or deleted, or perpetrators should be banned



Looking Out the Next 12 Months

How optimistic or pessimistic are you about each of the following over the next 12 months?

■ Pessimistic (1-3)

■ Neutral (4)

■ Optimistic (5-7)

Your well being



State of the Canadian economy



The social and political health of Canada





Follow Stories in The News

Over the past month, how closely have you followed the news about each of the following?

■ Not followed (1-2)

■ Somewhat followed (3-5)

■ Followed closely (6-7)

The conflict with Russia over Ukraine



The trucker convoy protests



How governments and public health authorities are responding to the COVID pandemic



Canadian Federal Politics



Pandemic developments such as the number of COVID cases, hospitalizations and deaths





Trust in Mainstream Media

Overall, to what extent do you trust Canadian mainstream news media coverage of each of these stories?

■ Do not trust (1-2)

■ Trust somewhat (3-5)

■ Trust completely (6-7)

Pandemic developments such as the number of COVID cases, hospitalizations and deaths



The conflict with Russia over Ukraine



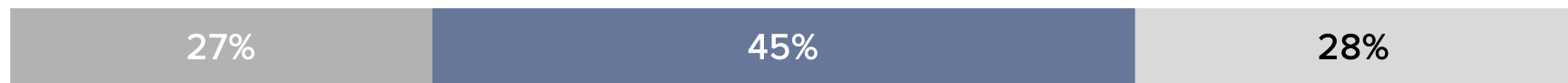
How governments and public health authorities are responding to the COVID pandemic



The trucker convoy protests



Canadian Federal Politics





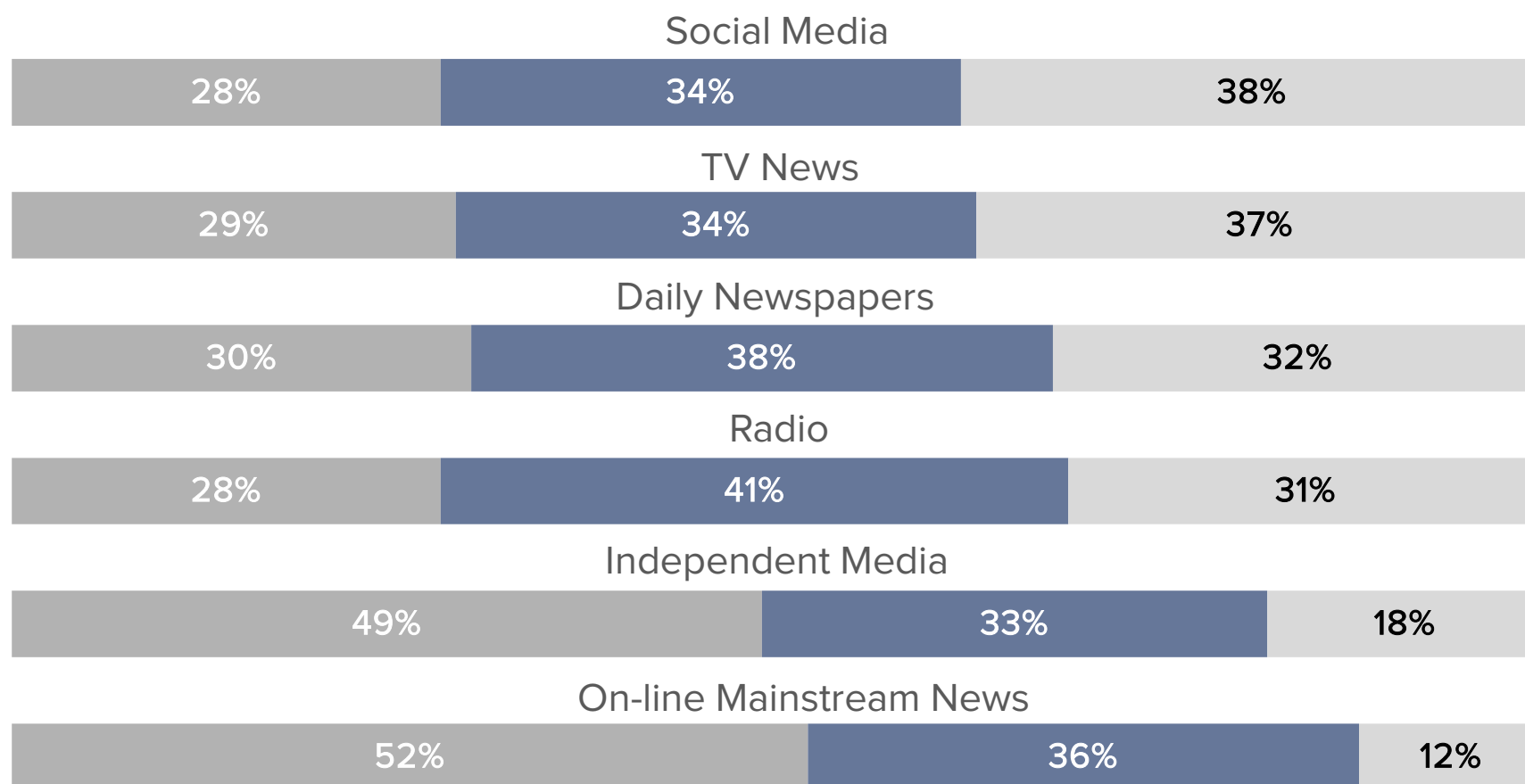
Media Usage

How often, if ever, do you check the following media for your news?

■ Never

■ Less than daily

■ Daily





Position on Issues in the News I

How strongly do you support or oppose each of the following?

■ Oppose (1-3)

■ Neutral (4)

■ Support (5-7)

Canada sending military personnel and weapons to Ukraine



Requiring two vaccinations plus a booster shot to be considered fully vaccinated



NATO's actions in Eastern Europe



Vaccine passports



The mandate to have truckers who cross the US border vaccinated





Position on Issues in the News II

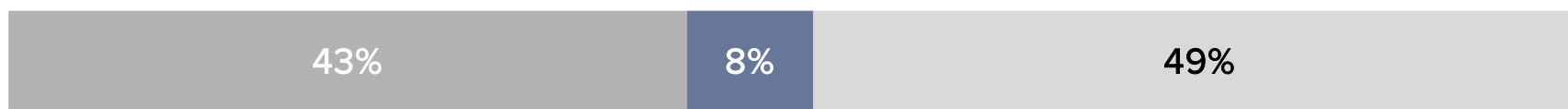
How strongly do you support or oppose each of the following?

■ Oppose (1-3)

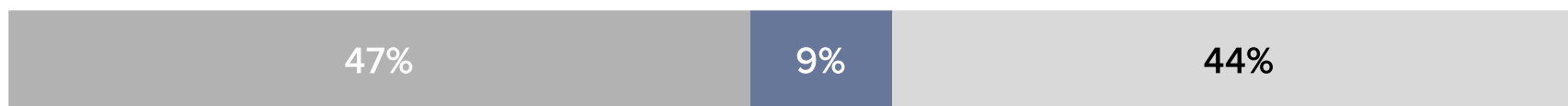
■ Neutral (4)

■ Support (5-7)

The federal government using the Emergencies Act to deal with protestors



Giving Canadian banks the power to monitor/freeze bank accounts of protestors



The trucker convoy protests



Russia's actions in Ukraine





Concern About Potential Threats I

How concerned are you about how each of the following may impact your well being?

■ Not concerned (1-2)

■ Somewhat concerned (3-5)

■ Very concerned (6-7)

Inflation



The conflict with Russia escalating into a broader European or world war



Climate change



Government surveillance of your personal communications and financial transactions



The threat of nuclear war





Concern About Potential Threats II

How concerned are you about how each of the following may impact your well being?

■ Not concerned (1-2)

■ Somewhat concerned (3-5)

■ Very concerned (6-7)

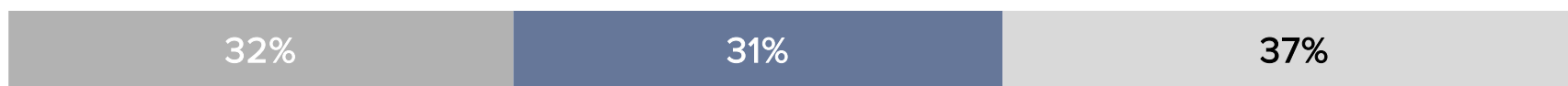
Interest rates rising over the next year



How your food is produced



People who refuse to get vaccinated



Getting seriously ill from COVID



Driving on Canada's highways





Attitudes to authority I

In general, how strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

■ Disagree (1-3)

■ Neither agree nor disagree (4)

■ Agree (5-7)

People who have a different view on things than me should be free to voice their opinions



Questioning authority is important, however unpopular it might be



The ownership of news media is concentrated in too few hands



Respect for authority is something all children need to learn





Attitudes to authority II

In general, how strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

■ Disagree (1-3)

■ Neither agree nor disagree (4)

■ Agree (5-7)

I admire the courage of people who protest against things that the majority support



People in positions of authority are no more likely to lie than other people



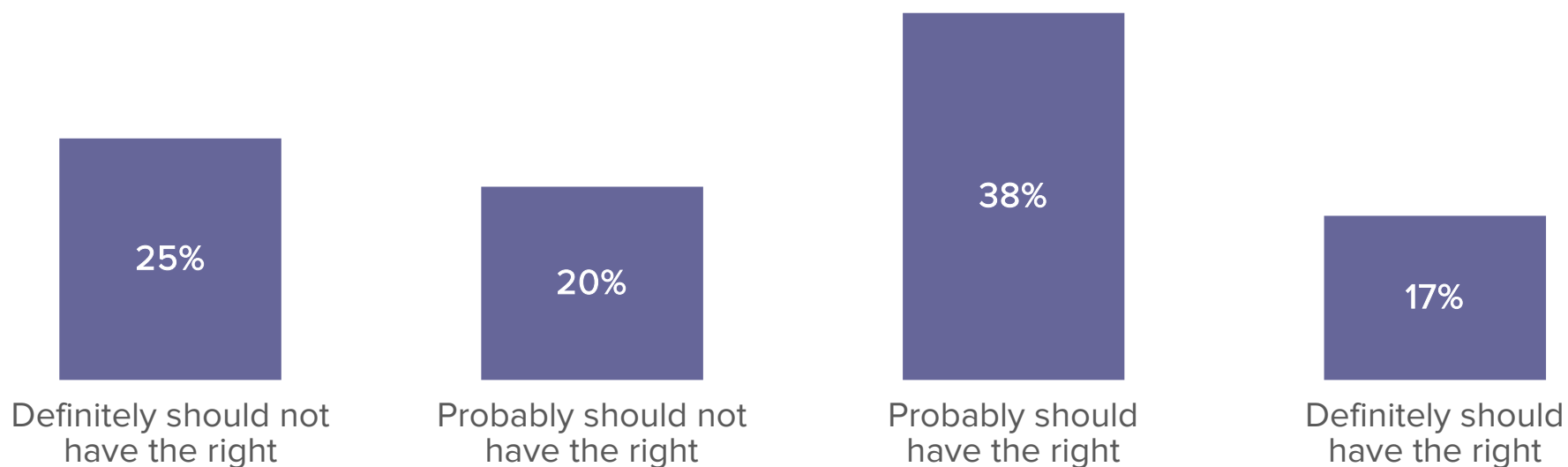
People who defy authority are immature





Government right to - video surveillance

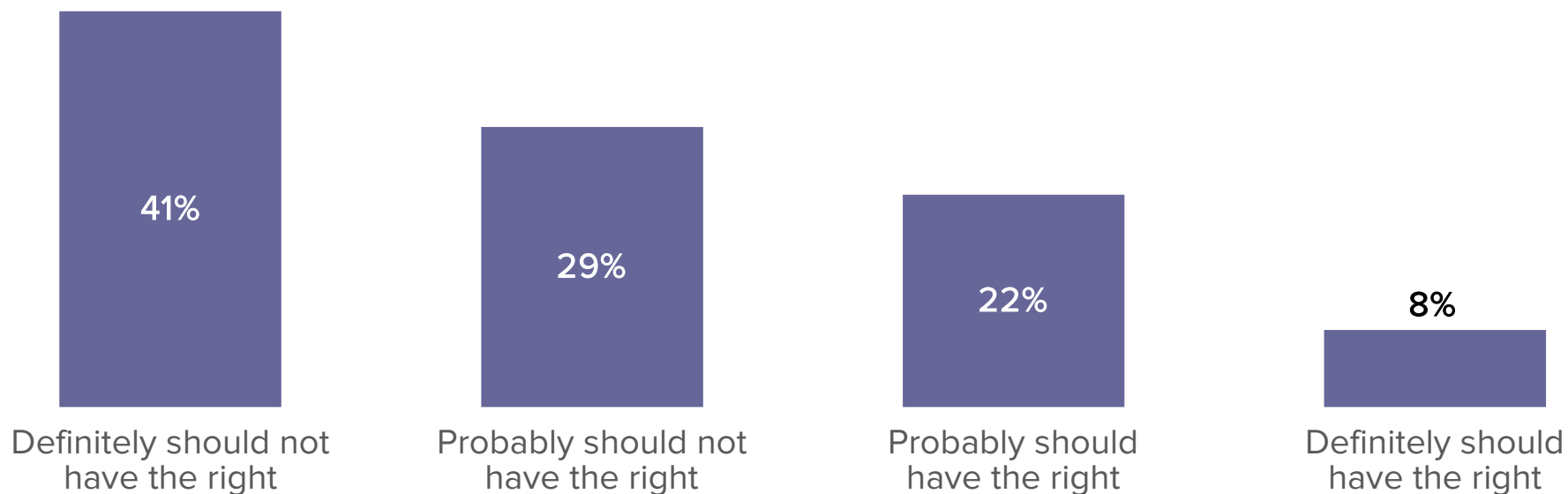
Do you think that the Canadian government should or should not have the right to keep people under video surveillance in public areas?





Government right to – demand financial information

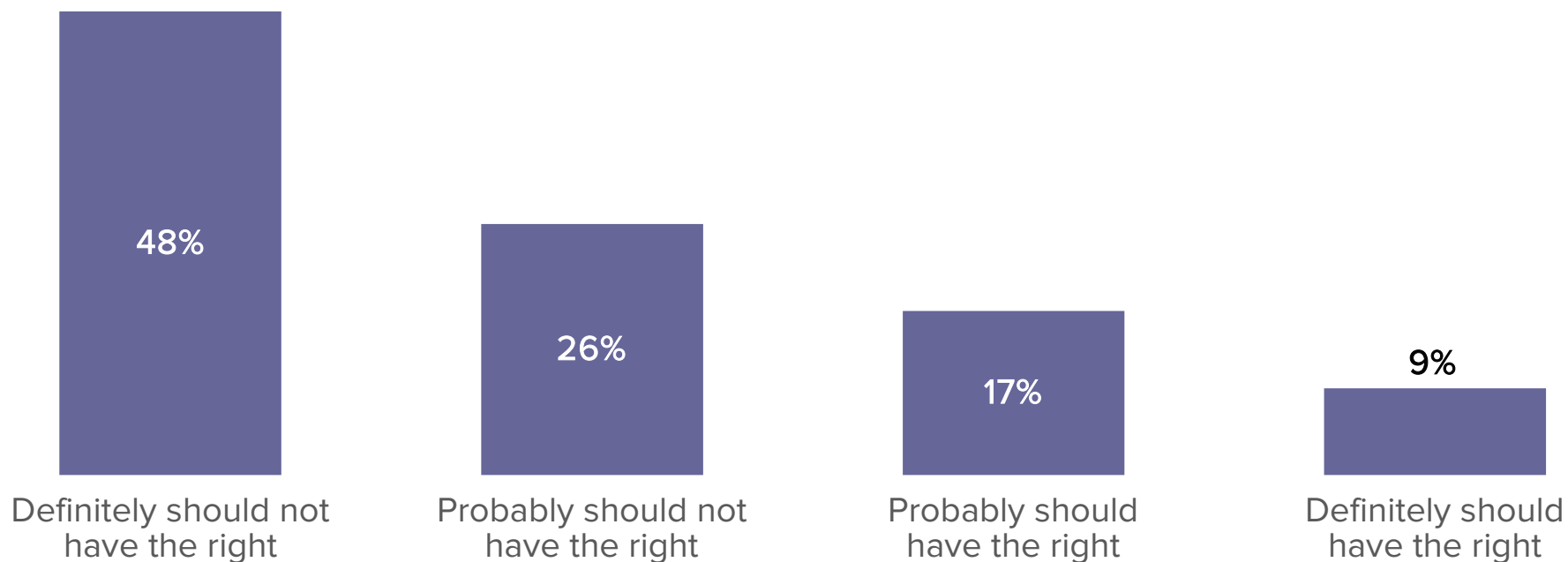
Do you think that the Canadian government should or should not have the right to demand information about peoples' finances from banks





Government right to – collect information

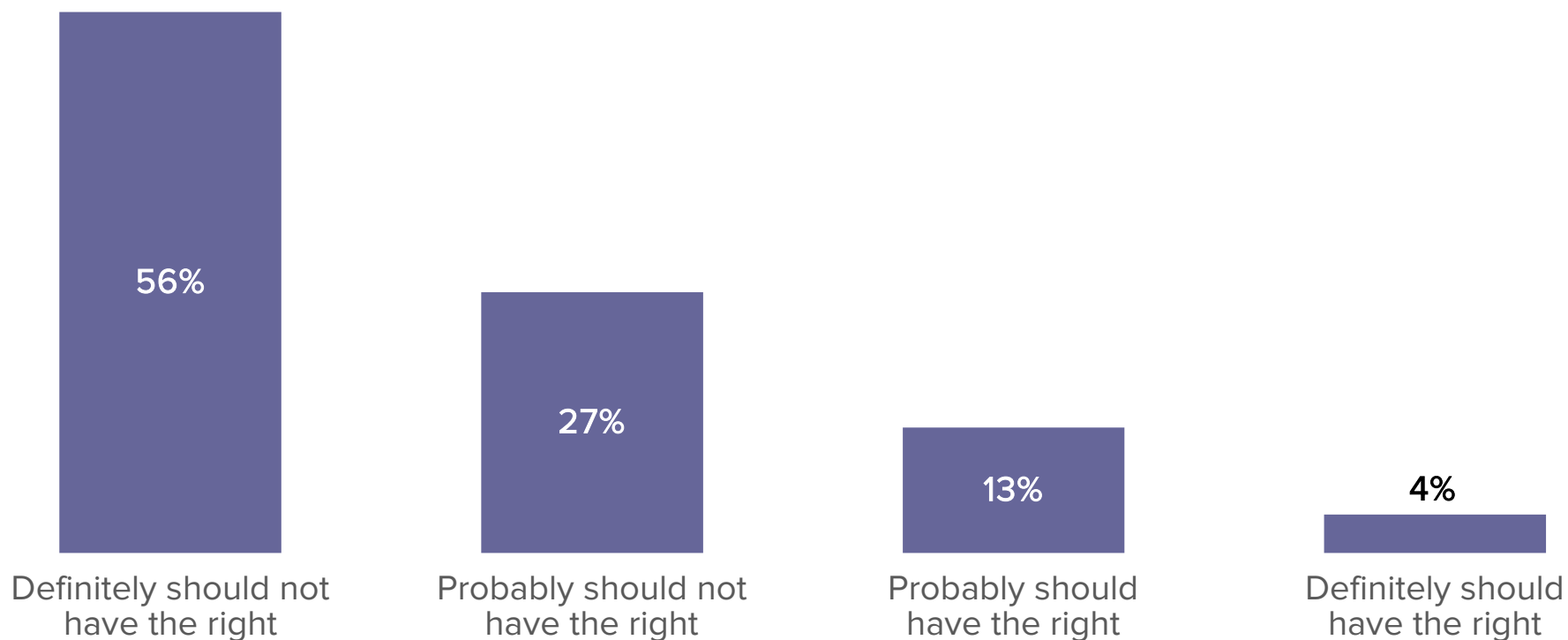
Do you think that the Canadian government should or should not have the right to collect information about anyone living in this country without their knowledge?





Government right to – monitor all emails

Do you think that the Canadian government should or should not have the right to monitor all e-mails and any other information exchanged on the Internet?





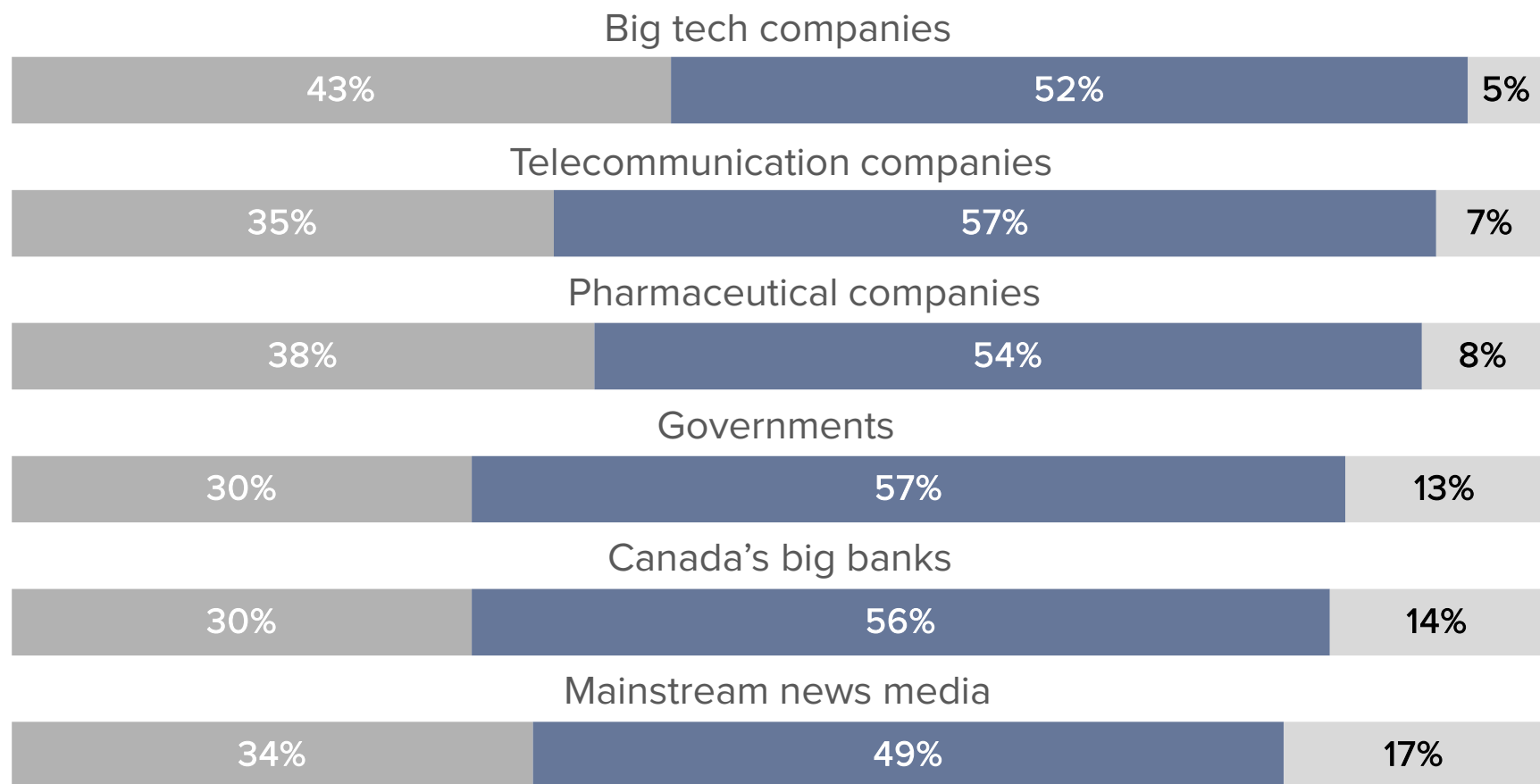
Trust in Organizations I

Generally speaking, to what extent do you trust each of the following types of organizations?

■ Do not trust (1-2)

■ Trust somewhat (3-5)

■ Trust completely (6-7)





Trust in Organizations II

Generally speaking, to what extent do you trust each of the following types of organizations?

■ Do not trust (1-2)

■ Trust somewhat (3-5)

■ Trust completely (6-7)

Unions



Credit Unions



The Military



Police



Public health agencies





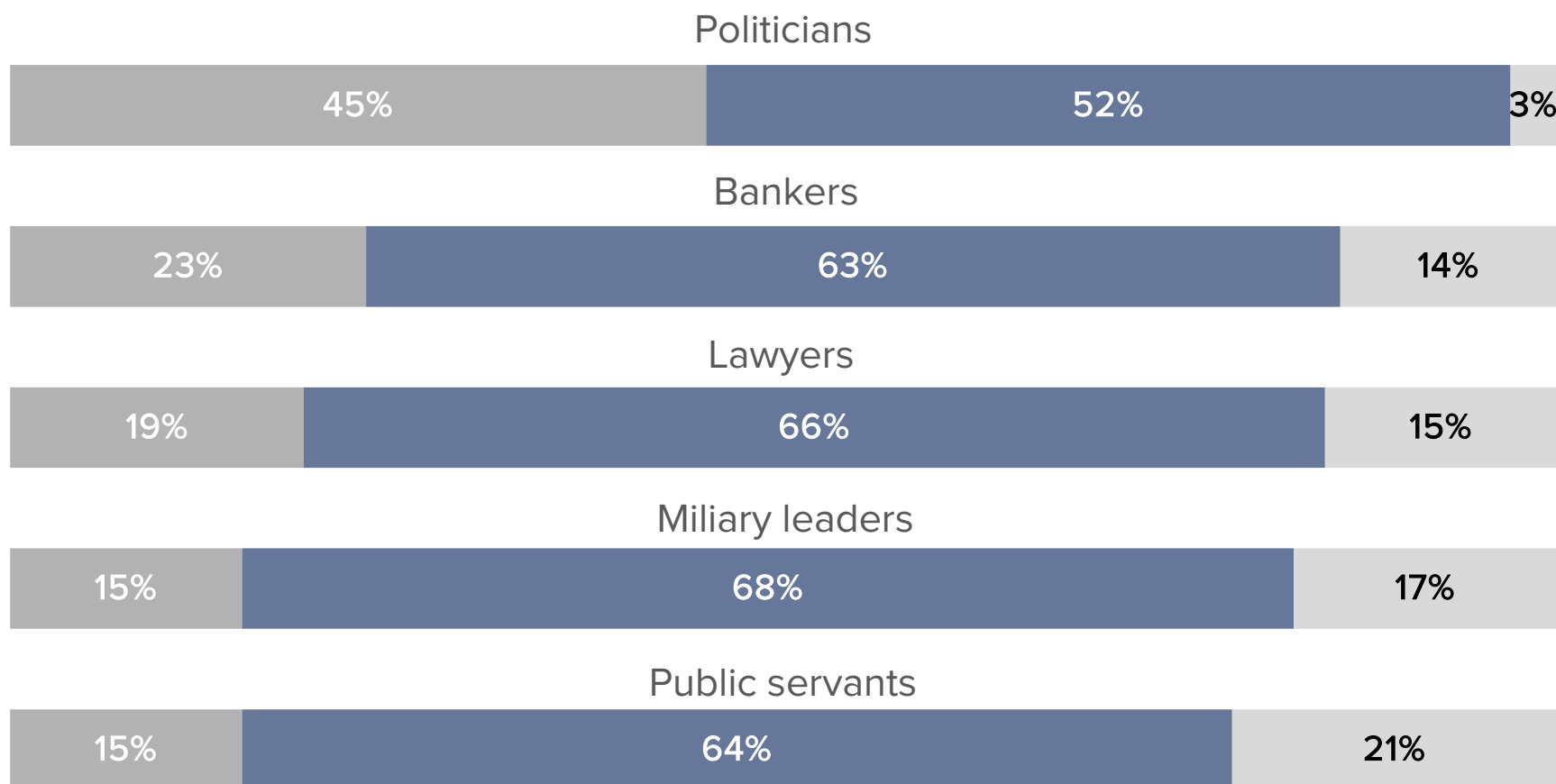
Trust in Occupations I

Generally speaking, to what extent do you trust people working in the following occupations?

■ Do not trust (1-2)

■ Trust somewhat (3-5)

■ Trust completely (6-7)





Trust in Occupations II

Generally speaking, to what extent do you trust people working in the following occupations?

■ Do not trust (1-2)

■ Trust somewhat (3-5)

■ Trust completely (6-7)

Police



Pharmacists



Scientists



Doctors



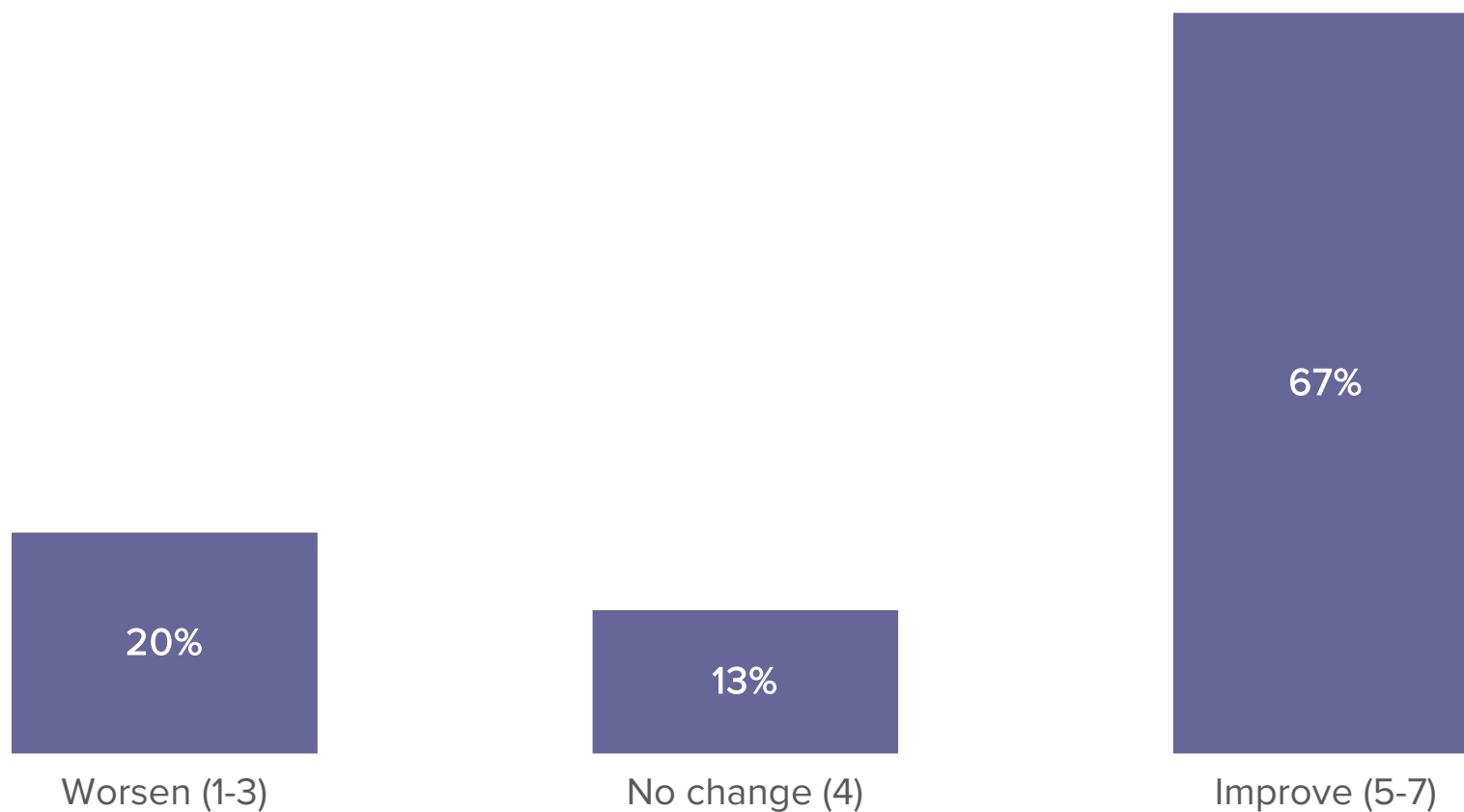
Nurses





The COVID Pandemic in the next Six Months

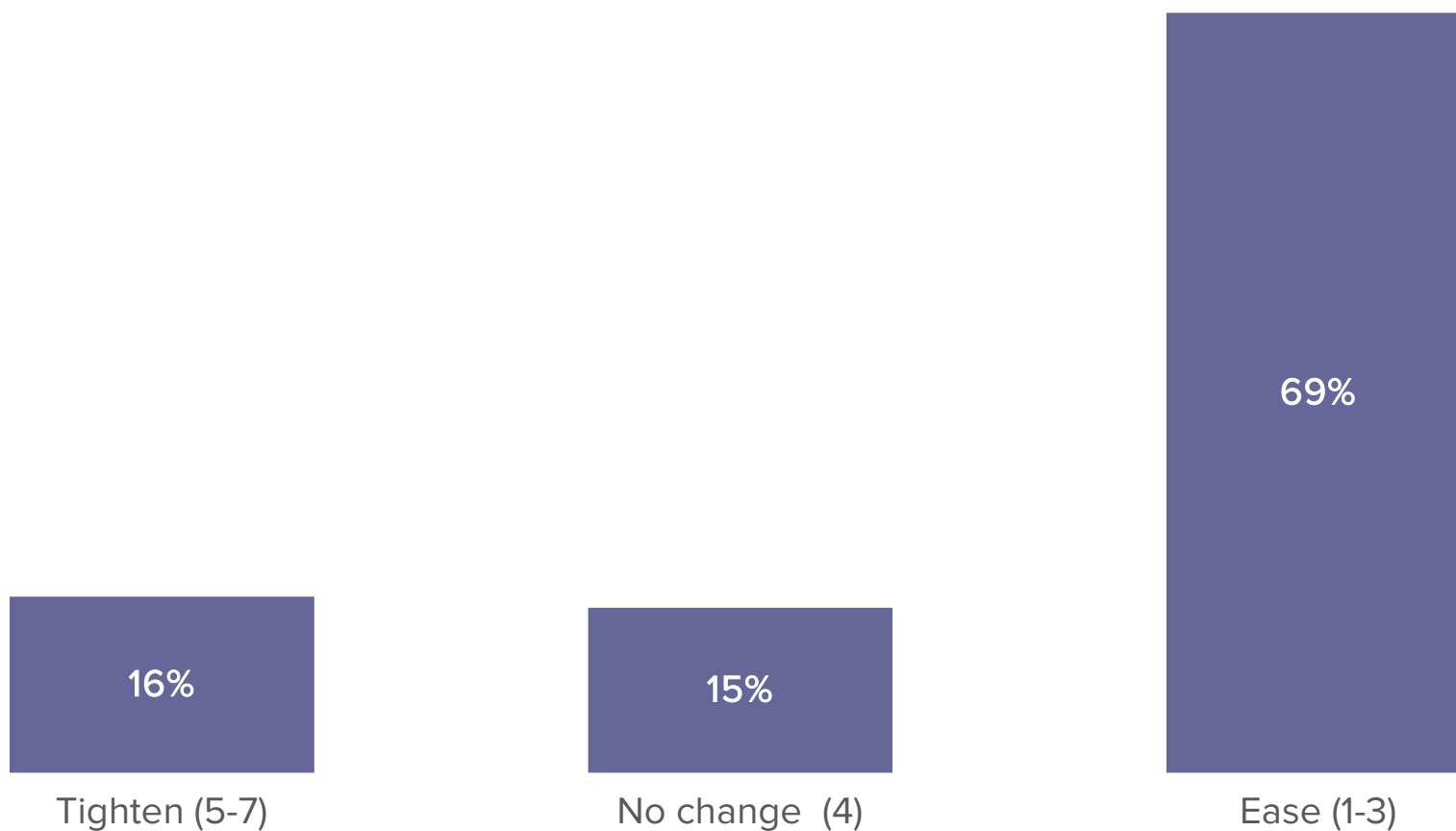
Do you think the COVID pandemic in Canada will worsen or improve over the next six months?





Easing or Tightening COVID Restrictions

Given the current state of the COVID pandemic, should governments be tightening or easing public health restrictions?





Easing Restrictions

How strongly do you support or oppose lifting each of the following restrictions in your province?

■ Oppose (1-3)

■ Neutral (4)

■ Support (5-7)

The number of people permitted to attend indoor gatherings



The number of people permitted to attend indoor sporting events or concerts



The requirement to provide proof of vaccination in various places



The requirement to wear a mask in indoor public spaces



Vaccine mandates or requirements for people to be vaccinated





Thoughts on COVID Vaccines I

How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

■ Disagree (1-3)

■ Neutral (4)

■ Agree (5-7)

All this talk about vaccinated and unvaccinated people is very divisive



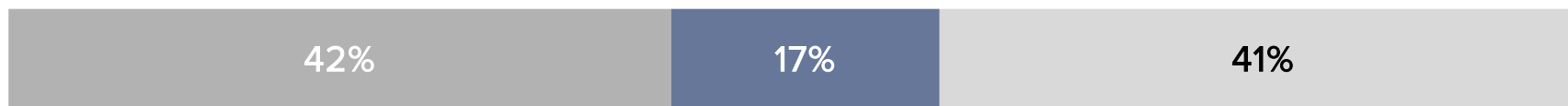
COVID vaccines are perfectly safe



The immunity provided by vaccines is better than natural immunity



Digital vaccine passports will normalize people to being constantly monitored





Thoughts on COVID Vaccines II

How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

■ Disagree (1-3)

■ Neutral (4)

■ Agree (5-7)

People who claim vaccines are not safe need to be censored on social media



The dangers of COVID have been exaggerated



If parents refuse to have their children vaccinated, they should be reported



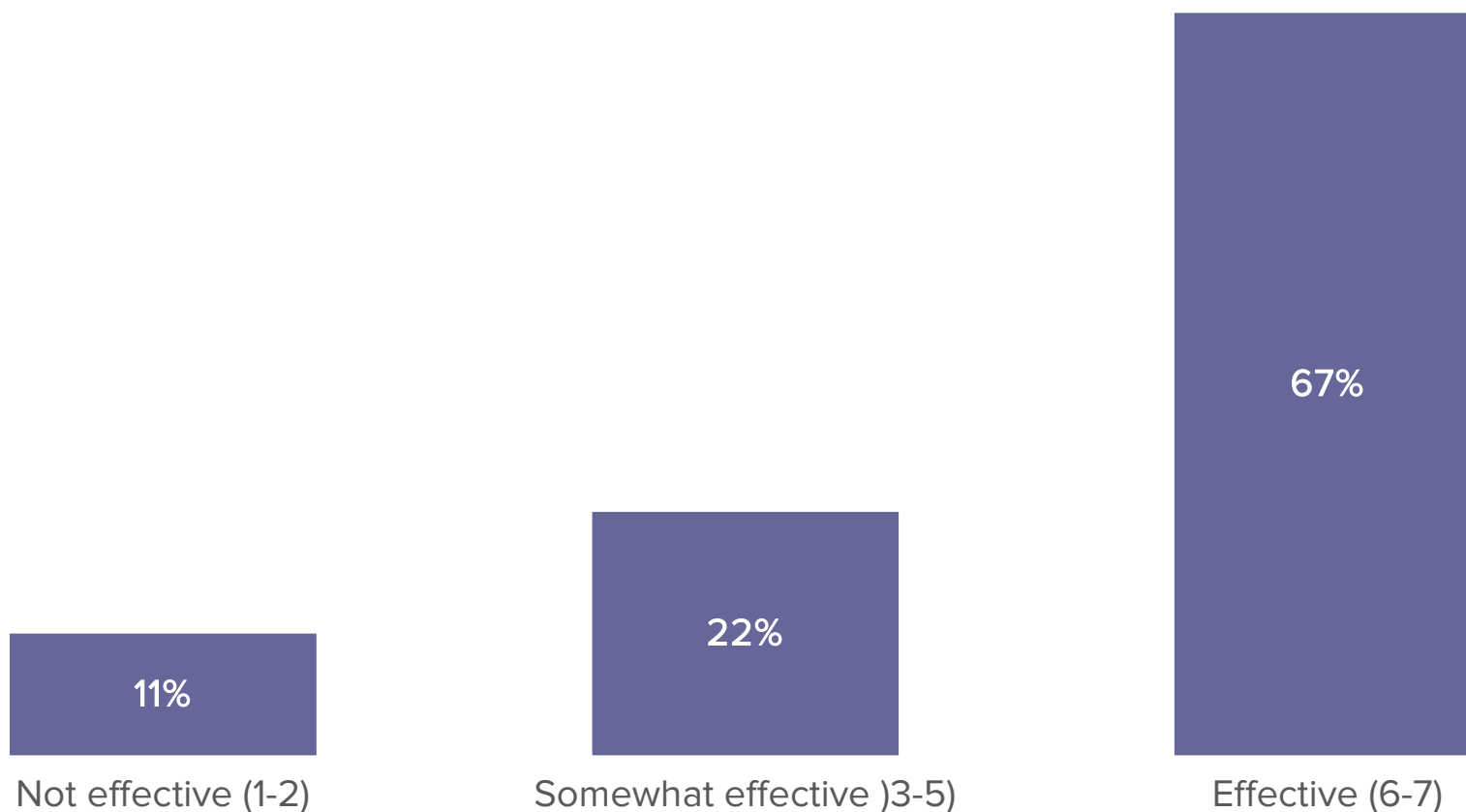
People who refuse to take vaccines should be punished





Vaccine Effectiveness - serious illness

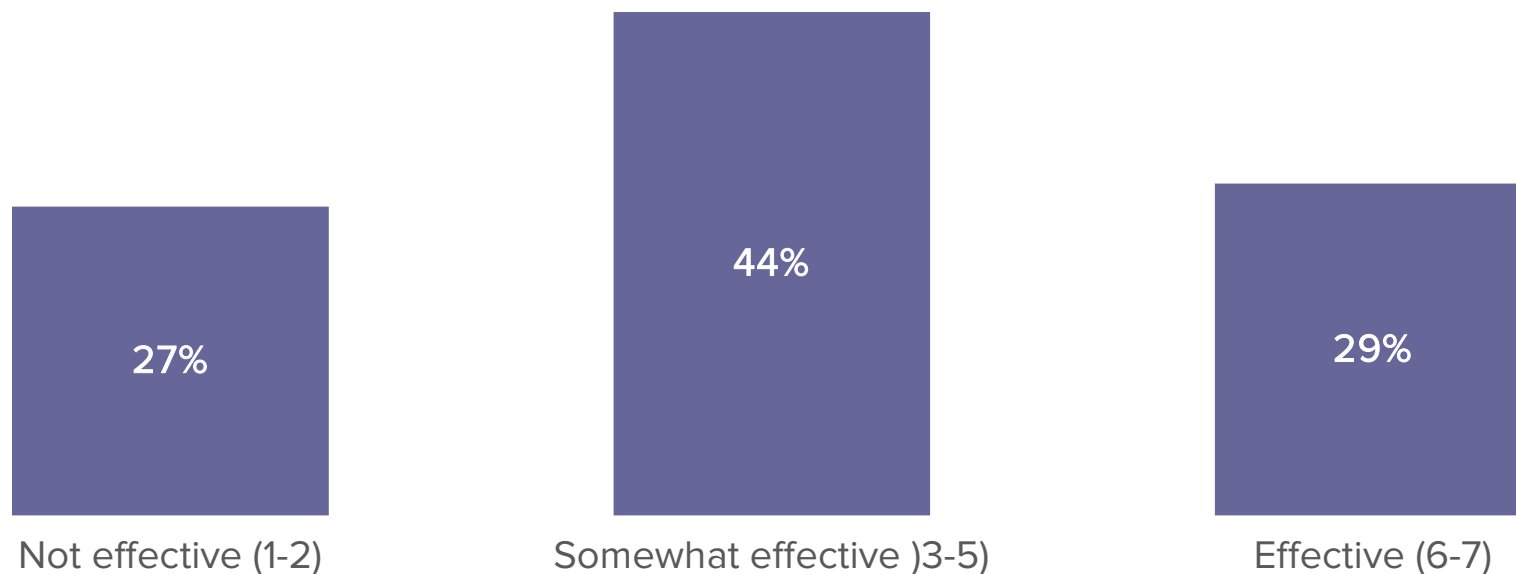
Based on everything you have read or heard about COVID vaccines, how effective do you think they are at protecting people from developing serious illness or death?





Vaccine Effectiveness – contracting

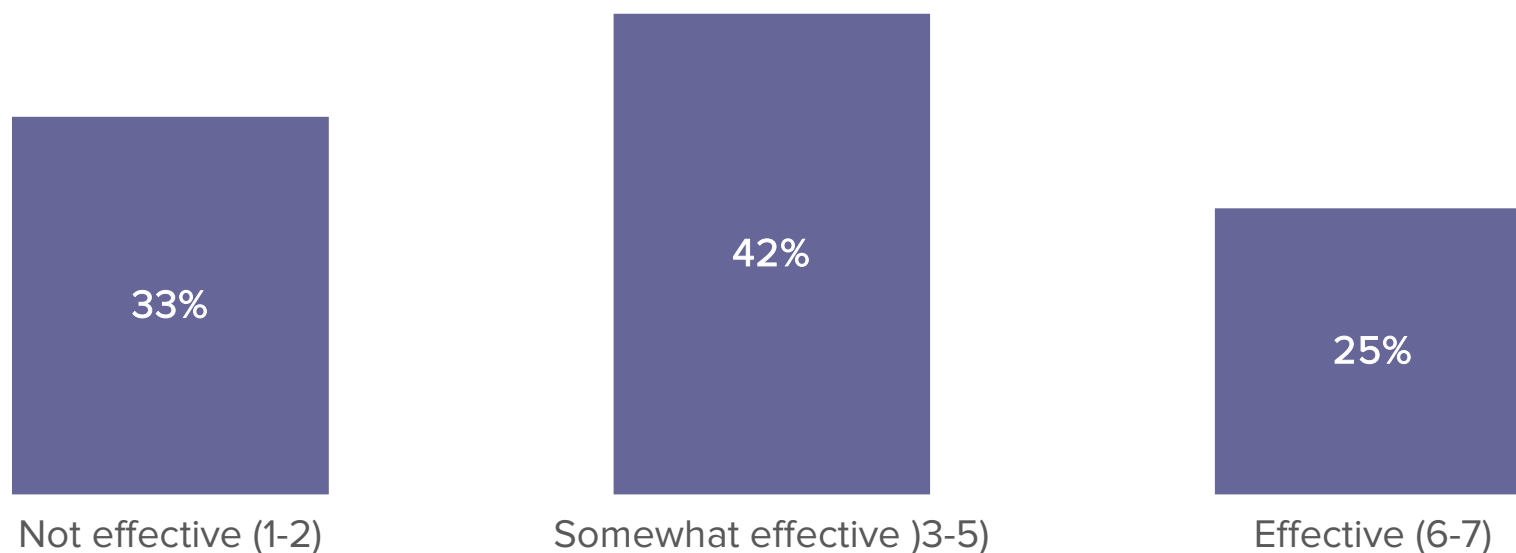
Based on everything you have read or heard about COVID vaccines, how effective do you think they are at protecting people from contracting COVID?





Vaccine Effectiveness - transmission

Based on everything you have read or heard about COVID vaccines, how effective do you think they are at preventing people from transmitting COVID?





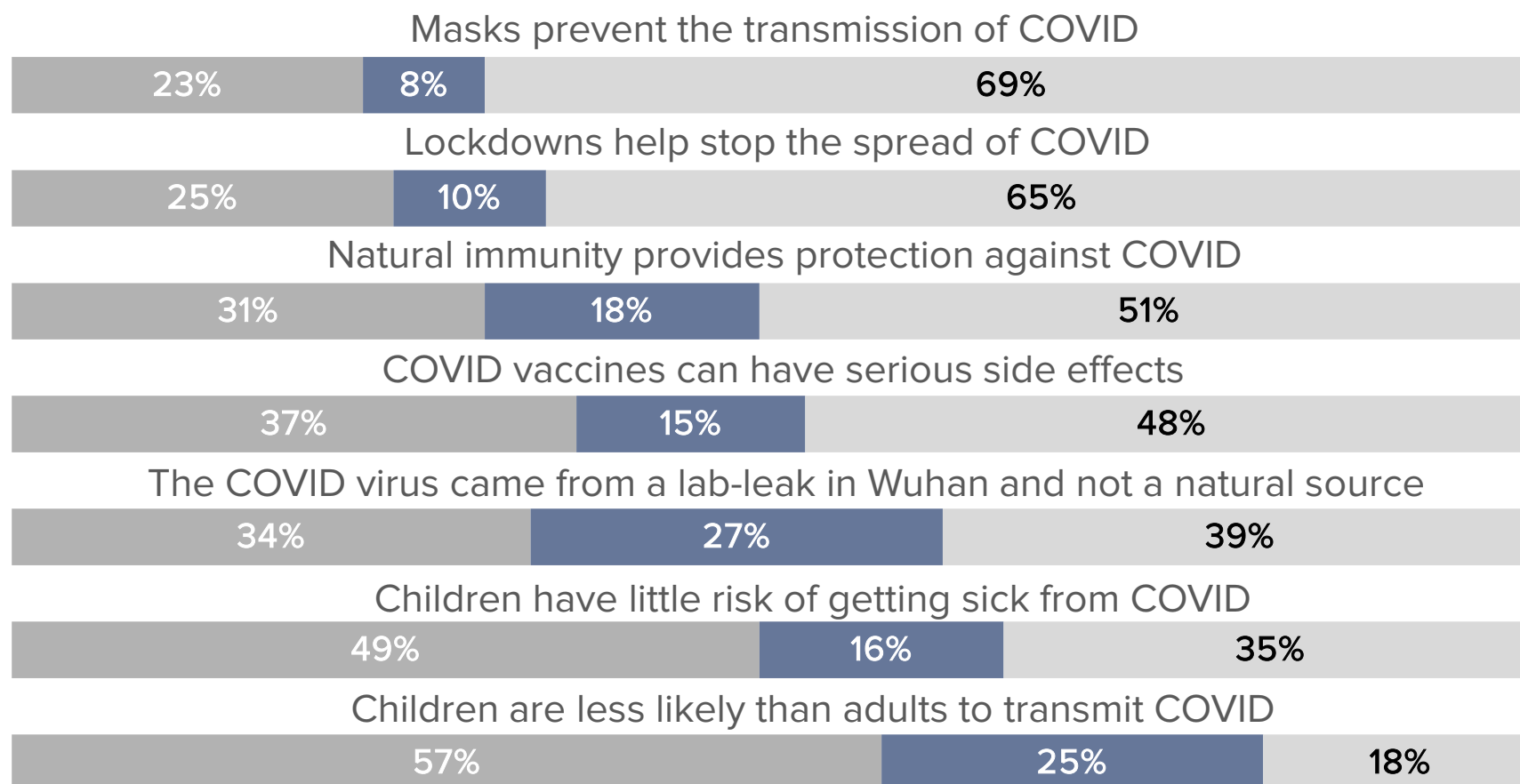
Ideas about COVID

There are a lot of different ideas circulating about COVID and the pandemic. How strongly do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

■ Disagree (1-3)

■ Neither agree nor disagree (4)

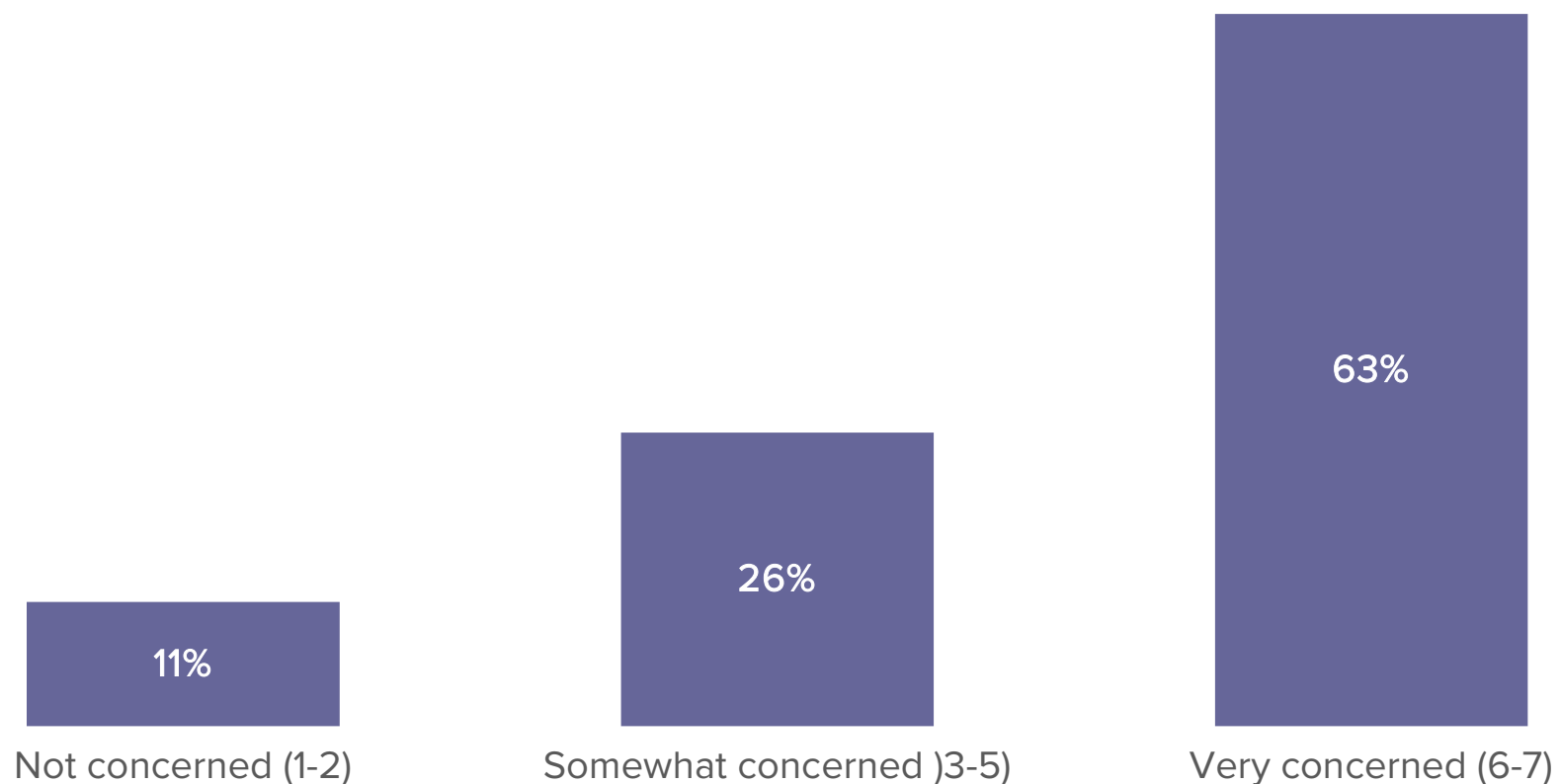
■ Agree (5-7)





COVID Misinformation on Internet or Social Media

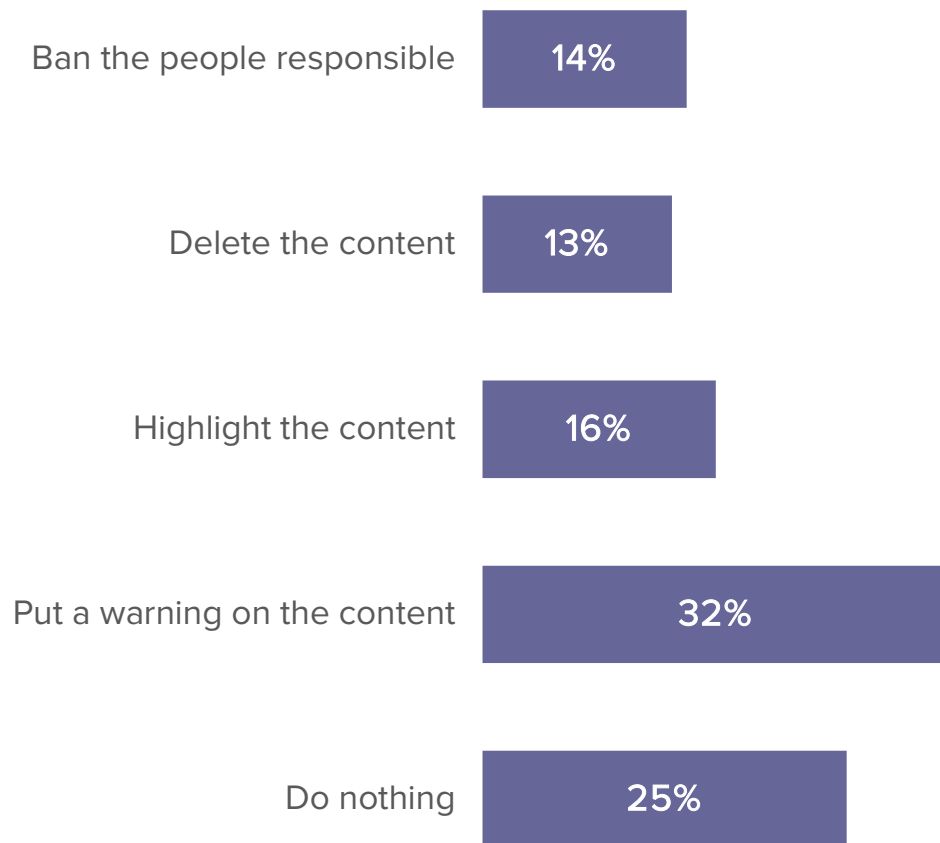
How concerned are you about misinformation about COVID and the pandemic response on the internet or social media?





Dealing with Misinformation on Social Media

Which of the following best describes how you would like to see misinformation dealt with on social media?





Modus

R E S E A R C H