



Credit: Jesse Boily/Winnipeg Free Press

VIEWS ON GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE AND SCHOOLS DURING COVID-19

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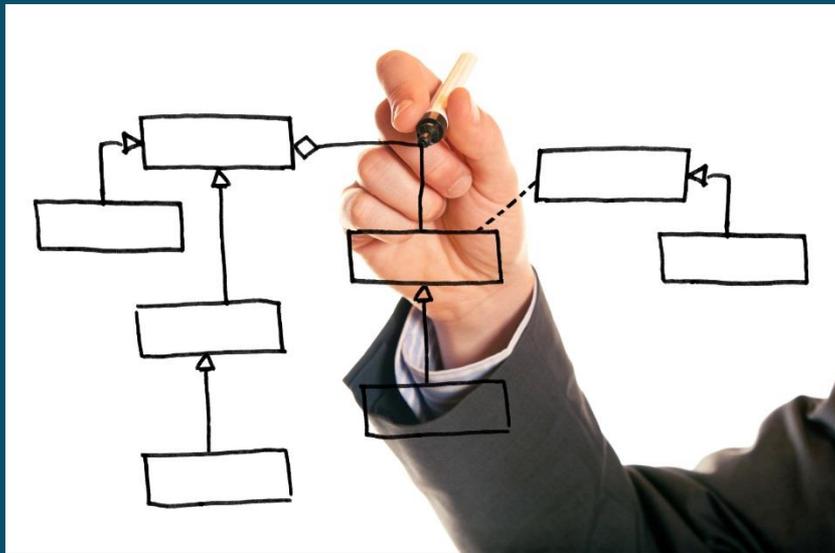
KEY FINDINGS

- As the number of COVID-19 cases surge in Manitoba, residents are giving their provincial government significantly lower marks for its ability to handle the public health and economic consequences of the pandemic.
- Today, fewer than one-half of Manitoba approve of the work Premier Brian Pallister's Progressive Conservative government has done to protect Manitobans' health and address the economic fallout caused by COVID-19. The proportion of Manitobans who say the provincial government is doing a good job of protecting public health has plummeted from nearly three-quarters in June to 45 per cent today – including just one-in-ten who strongly approve of the government's efforts in this area. Similarly, slightly fewer than one-half of Manitobans say the province is doing a good job of managing the economic consequences – down from six-in-ten in June.
 - There is a significant urban-rural divide on these measures. Those outside Winnipeg (as well as older Manitobans) are more likely than those living in Winnipeg to praise the provincial government's efforts in these two areas.
- Manitobans are twice as likely to express confidence in the performance of non-partisan public health officials than in the provincial government's elected leaders. More than eight-in-ten Manitobans approve of the job being done by Manitoba's chief nursing officer, Lanette Siragusa, and its chief public health officer, Dr. Brent Roussin. Only four-in-ten Manitobans, meanwhile, approve of the work being done by Health Minister Cameron Friesen and Premier Brian Pallister during the pandemic.

KEY FINDINGS (cont'd)

- Nearly three-quarters of Manitobans agree the province's approach to dealing with the pandemic has been more reactive than proactive.
- Slightly more than one-half say they find public health guidelines issued by provincial officials confusing.
- Manitobans hold mixed views when it comes to the provincial government's approach to schools. While more than eight-in-ten agree all students should be able to learn remotely, fully three-quarters agree it is important to keep schools in the province open. At the same time, six-in-ten say the provincial government is keeping students safe, while fewer than one-in-five feel the government has gone overboard with its rules to manage the spread of COVID-19 in schools.
 - Parents of children in the school system hold fairly similar views to the rest of the population. The only difference is that parents of school-aged children are slightly more likely to agree the provincial government's rules go too far than those who do not have day-to-day interactions with the education system.

METHODOLOGY

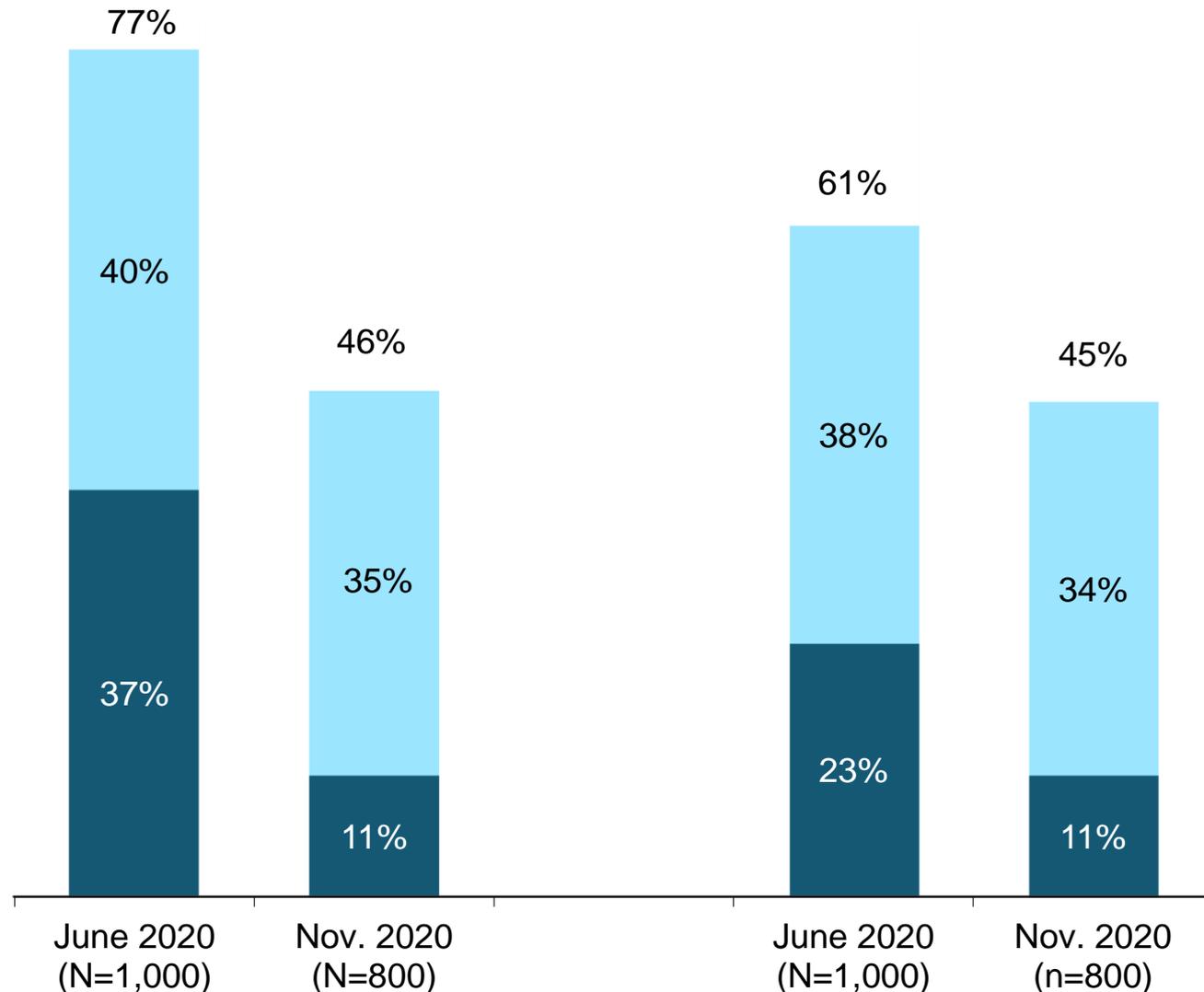


- Between October 31st and November 3rd, 2020, Probe Research surveyed a representative sampling of 800 adults residing in Manitoba. This included members of Probe Research's online proprietary panel, as well as Dynata, a supplemental online panel.
- Because an online survey is a sample of convenience, no margin of error can be ascribed. For the purposes of comparison, a non-probabilistic sample of N=800 would have a margin of error of ± 3.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.
- Minor statistical weighting has been applied to this sample to ensure that age and gender characteristics properly reflect known attributes of the province's population. All data analysis was performed using SPSS statistical analysis software.
- The questionnaire was designed by Probe Research.

SLIGHTLY FEWER THAN ONE-HALF APPROVE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF PUBLIC HEALTH, THE ECONOMY

Q3. "Overall, how would you rate the performance of the Pallister government when it comes to...?"

■ Strongly approve ■ Somewhat approve



Base: All respondents (N=800)

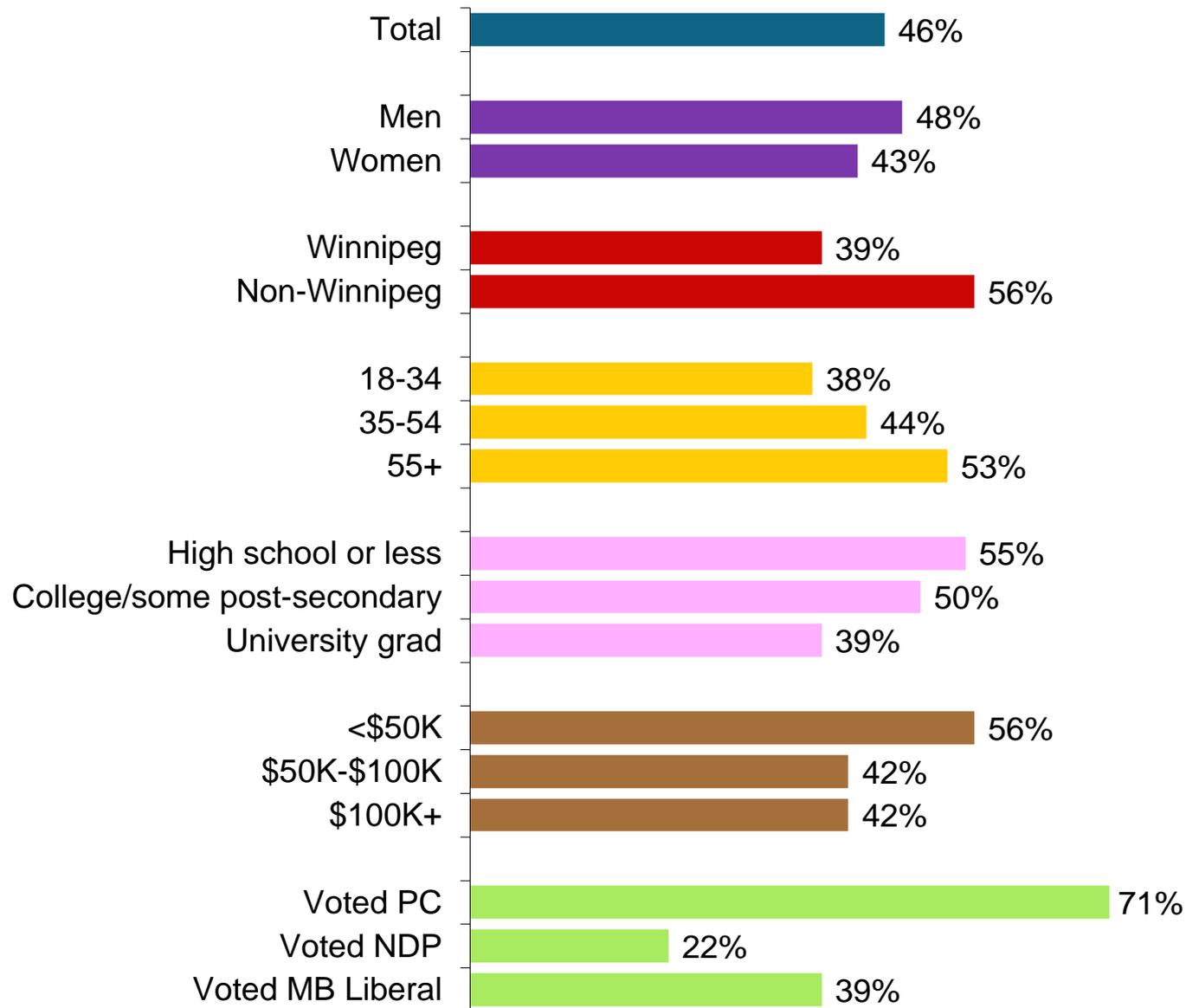
Protecting the health of Manitobans during the COVID-19 pandemic

Dealing with the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

OLDER, RURAL MANITOBANS MORE LIKELY TO APPROVE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH

Q3. "Overall, how would you rate the performance of the Pallister government when it comes to...?"

% who approve of the government's efforts to **protect public health**



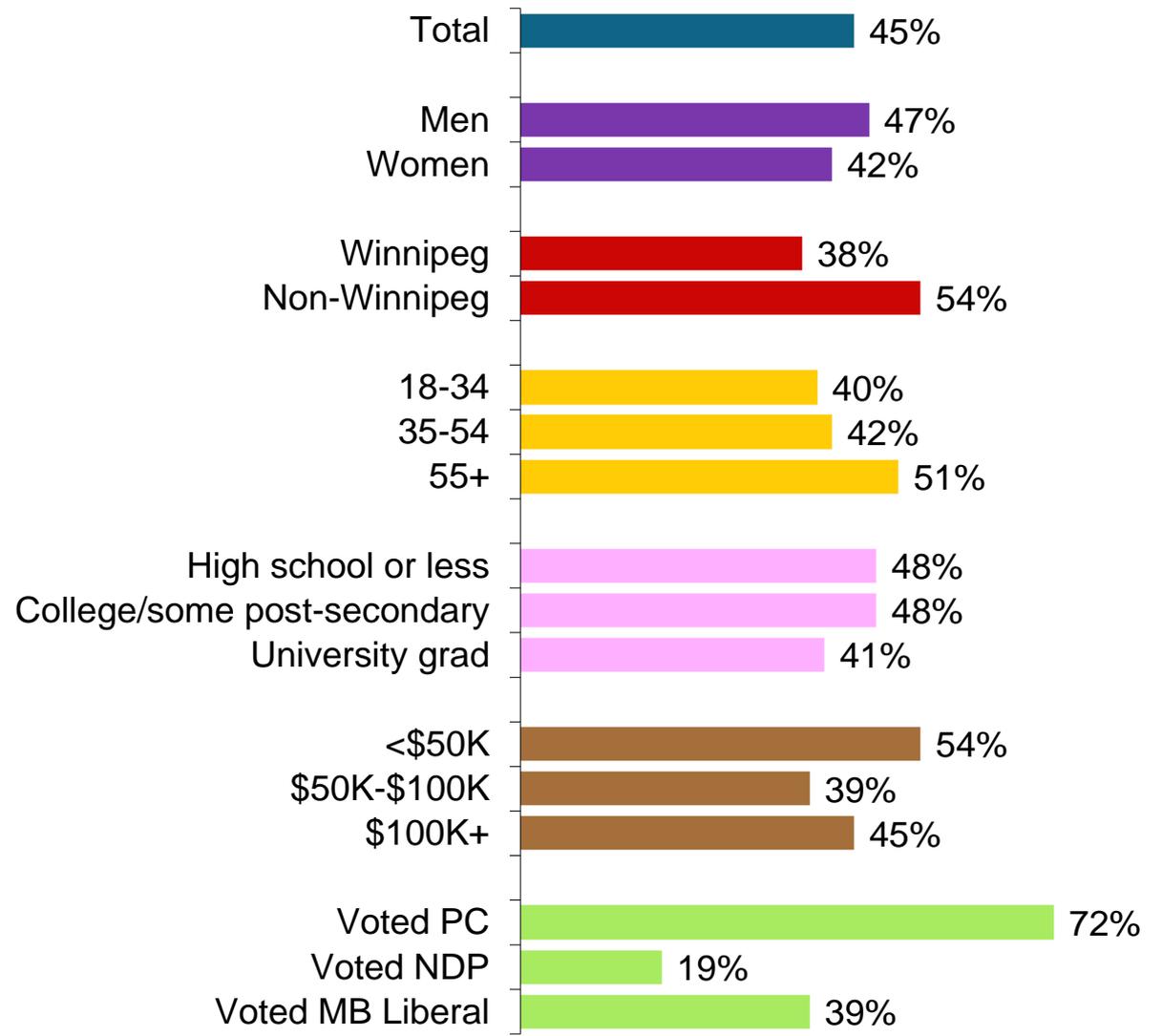
Base: All respondents (N=800)

SAME GROUPS MOST LIKELY TO PRAISE THE GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH TO MANAGING THE ECONOMY

Q3. "Overall, how would you rate the performance of the Pallister government when it comes to...?"

Base: All respondents (N=800)

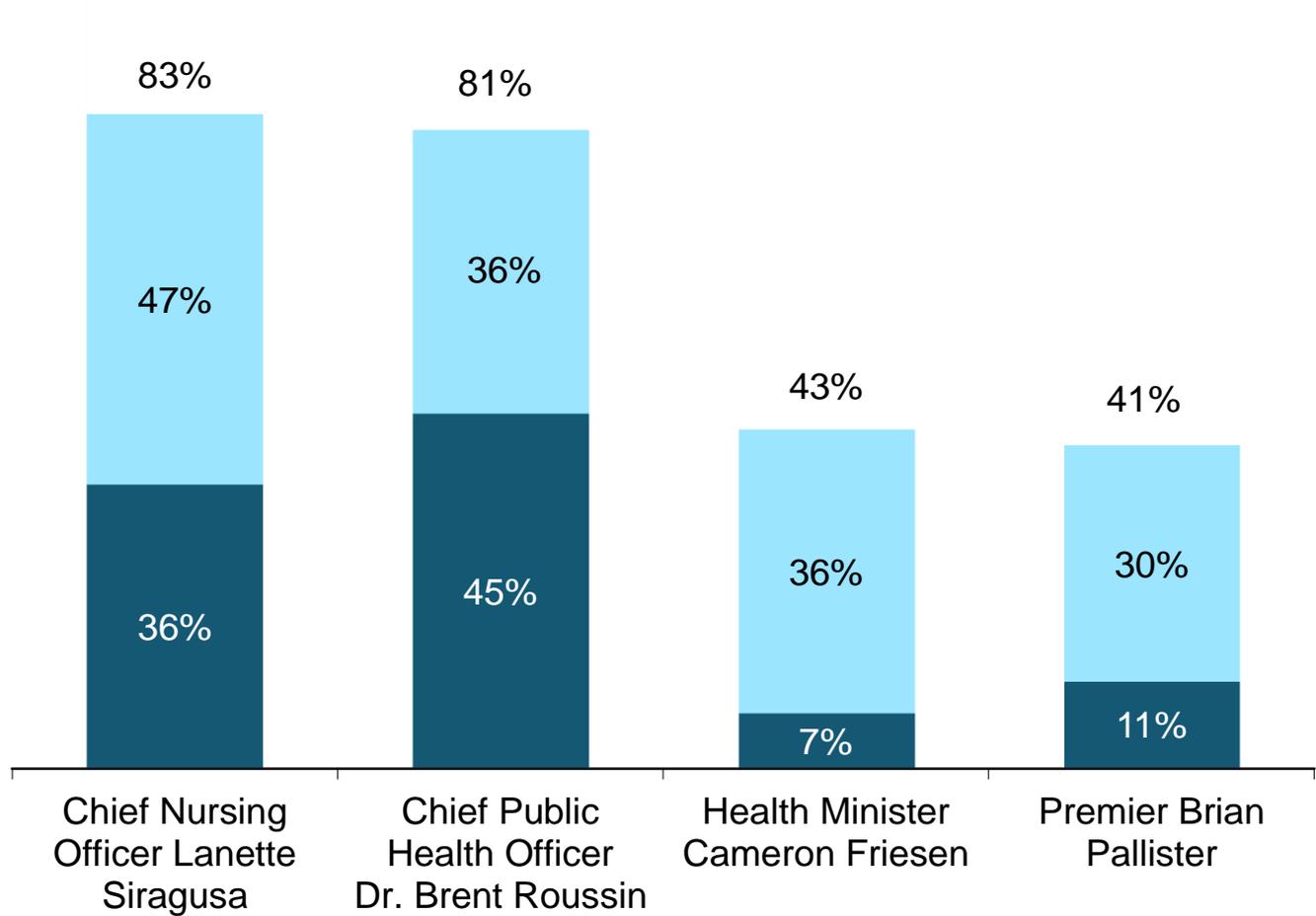
% approve of the government's efforts to deal with the economic impact



APPROVAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIALS MUCH HIGHER THAN THAT OF POLITICAL LEADERS

Q5. "How would you rate the performance of each of the following public officials during the pandemic? For each, please indicate if you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove or strongly disapprove of their performance."

■ Strongly approve ■ Somewhat approve

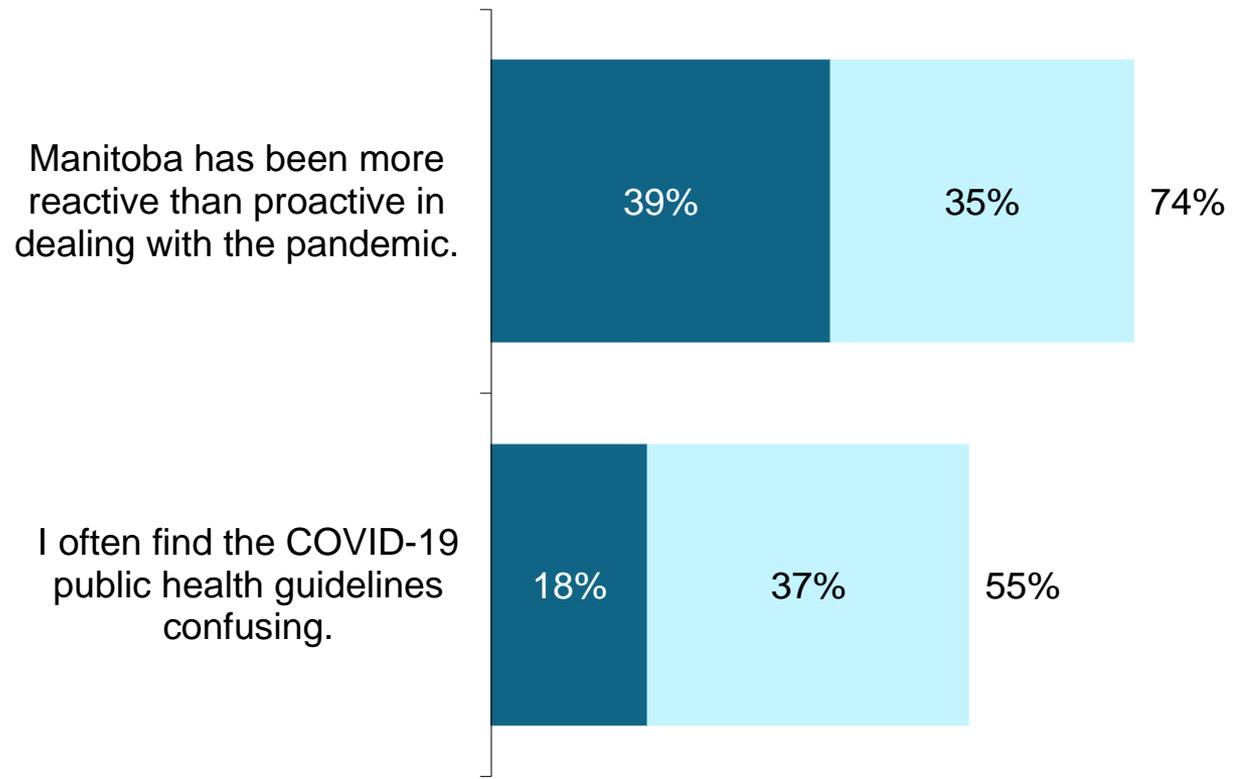


Base: All respondents (N=800)

THREE- QUARTERS AGREE MANITOBA HAS BEEN REACTIVE RATHER THAN PROACTIVE ABOUT THE PANDEMIC

Q1. "Please read the following statements about the COVID-19 virus and indicate if you agree or disagree with each one."

■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree



Those most likely to **agree Manitoba has been more reactive than proactive** include:

- Winnipeg residents (79% vs. 65% among those living in rural/northern Manitoba)
- University graduates (79%)
- Those who voted NDP or Liberal in the last provincial election (85% and 78% respectively vs. 62% among PC supporters)

Those most likely to **agree they often find COVID-19 public health guidelines confusing** include:

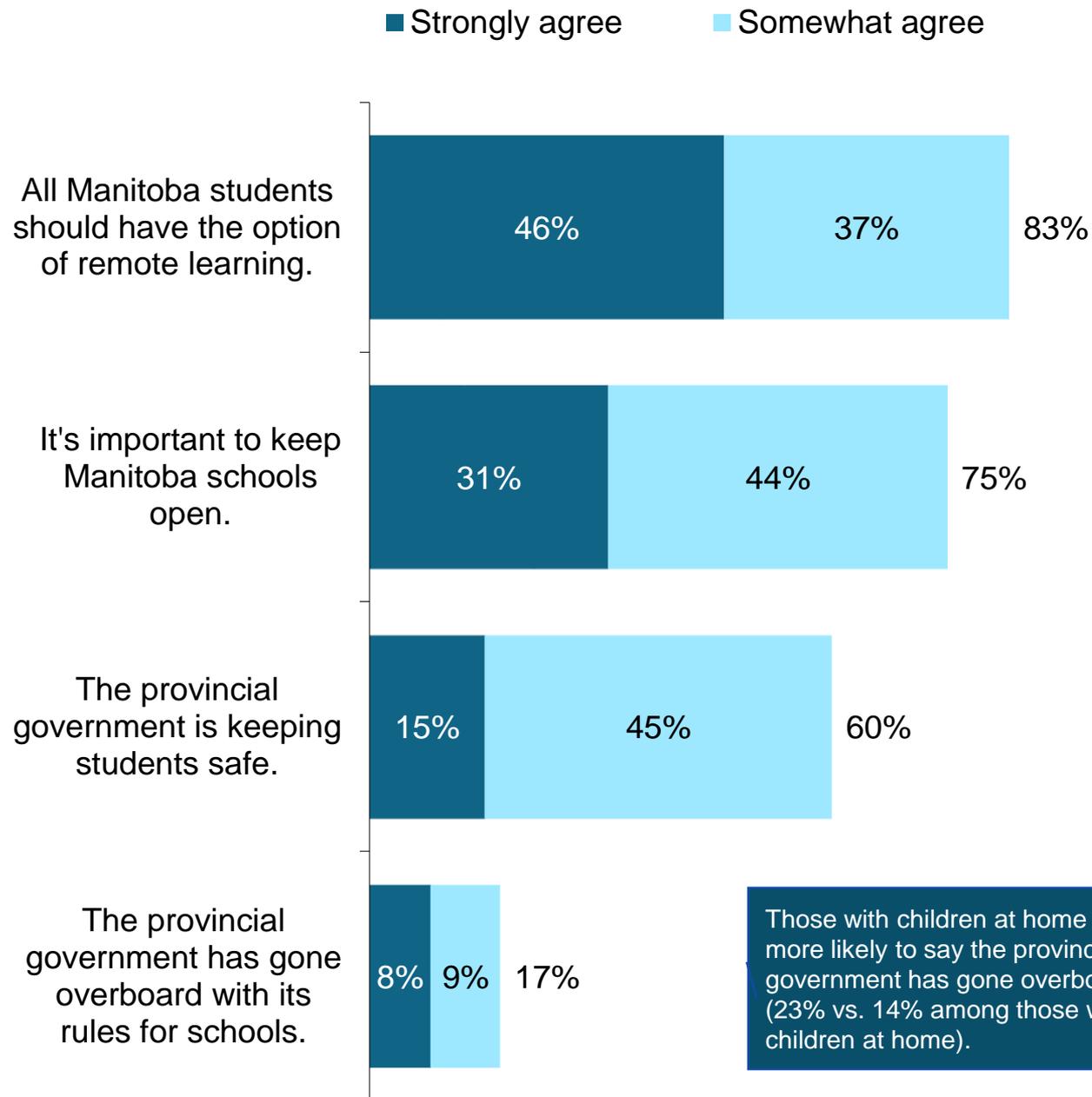
- Young adults aged 18-34 (62% vs. 49% among those 55+)
- Those with children at home (65% vs. 50% among those without kids at home)

Base: All respondents (N=800)

THREE- QUARTERS SAY SCHOOLS SHOULD REMAIN OPEN; SIX-IN-TEN AGREE THE PROVINCE IS KEEPING STUDENTS SAFE

Q6. "Now we'd like to hear your thoughts about Manitoba's elementary, middle and high schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following? During the pandemic..."

Base: All respondents (N=800)



Those with children at home are more likely to say the provincial government has gone overboard (23% vs. 14% among those with no children at home).