



Credit: Andrea Piacquadio, Pexels

# MANITOBANS' VIEWS ON THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

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**PROBE** RESEARCH INC.

# KEY FINDINGS

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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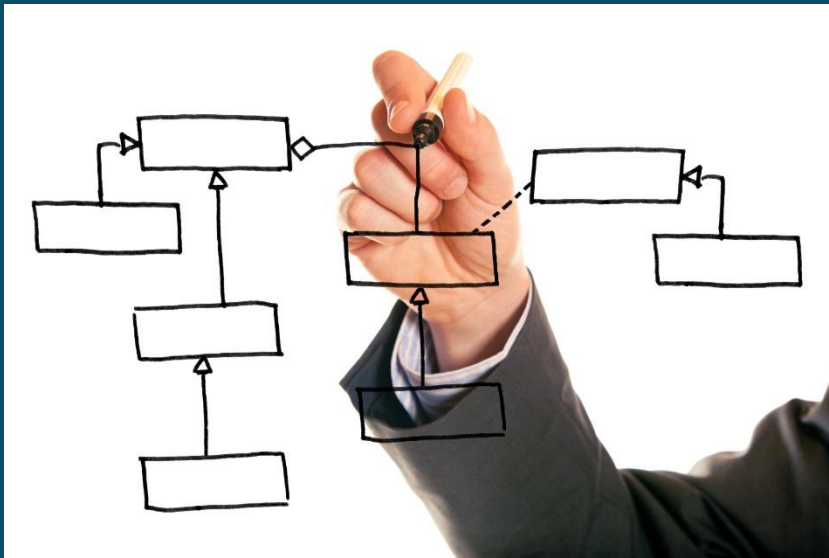


- Manitobans strongly support moving the province's capital and largest city to Code Red. Indeed, three-quarters of Winnipeg residents *strongly* support the decision by provincial health officials to impose new restrictions on Winnipeg.
  - Meanwhile, slightly more than one-half of Manitobans agree other areas of the province should also move to the highest level of the province's four-stage pandemic response system. Opposition to this idea is higher among rural and northern Manitobans, with more than one-third opposing this measure compared to just 15 per cent of Winnipeggers.
- More than one-half of Manitobans say provincial health orders and restrictions are not strict enough for the current conditions. Only one-in-ten complain that restrictions are excessive and just over one-third say they're about right. Women and Winnipeggers are more likely to want tougher restrictions.
- Manitobans are modestly confident these new restrictions will stop the spread of COVID-19. Just over one-half are confident the restrictions will be enough, though fewer than one-in-ten feel *very* confident these moves will contain the virus in Manitoba. Meanwhile, only three-in-ten Manitobans are confident their local hospital will have enough capacity to care for an influx of COVID-19 patients.
- About eight-in-ten Manitobans say they are willing to endure another full lockdown for a few weeks, with a slightly higher proportion agreeing their fellow citizens are not doing the things they should be doing to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- A significant eight-in-ten Manitobans feel the province should have been better prepared for the virus' second wave.

## KEY FINDINGS (con't)

- While Manitobans feel the provincial government should do more to protect citizens' health and safety, a sizable proportion agree the economy cannot afford another lockdown – no matter how bad the pandemic gets. This view is more likely to be shared by rural and northern Manitobans, those with children at home and those who voted for the governing Progressive Conservative party in the last election.
- Manitobans are less likely now to feel the pandemic is overblown than they were last March. Today, only one-in-five say the issue of COVID-19 is overblown.
- Although a majority of Manitobans agree their fellow citizens are not doing enough to prevent the spread of COVID-19, nearly two-thirds say they personally follow all recommendations without fail, with fewer than one-in-ten admitting they only follow recommendations in certain circumstances – or not at all. The same groups that are more likely to urge the province to bring in further restrictions – women, Winnipeg residents and those with higher levels of formal education – are also more likely to say they are most diligent about following the rules.
- About six-in-ten Manitobans report they have closely followed COVID-19 guidelines set out by provincial health officials since the pandemic began, with about one-quarter saying they are following these guidelines more closely now. Importantly, about one-in-ten admit to more attentively following recommended health protocols when the virus first appeared.

# METHODOLOGY



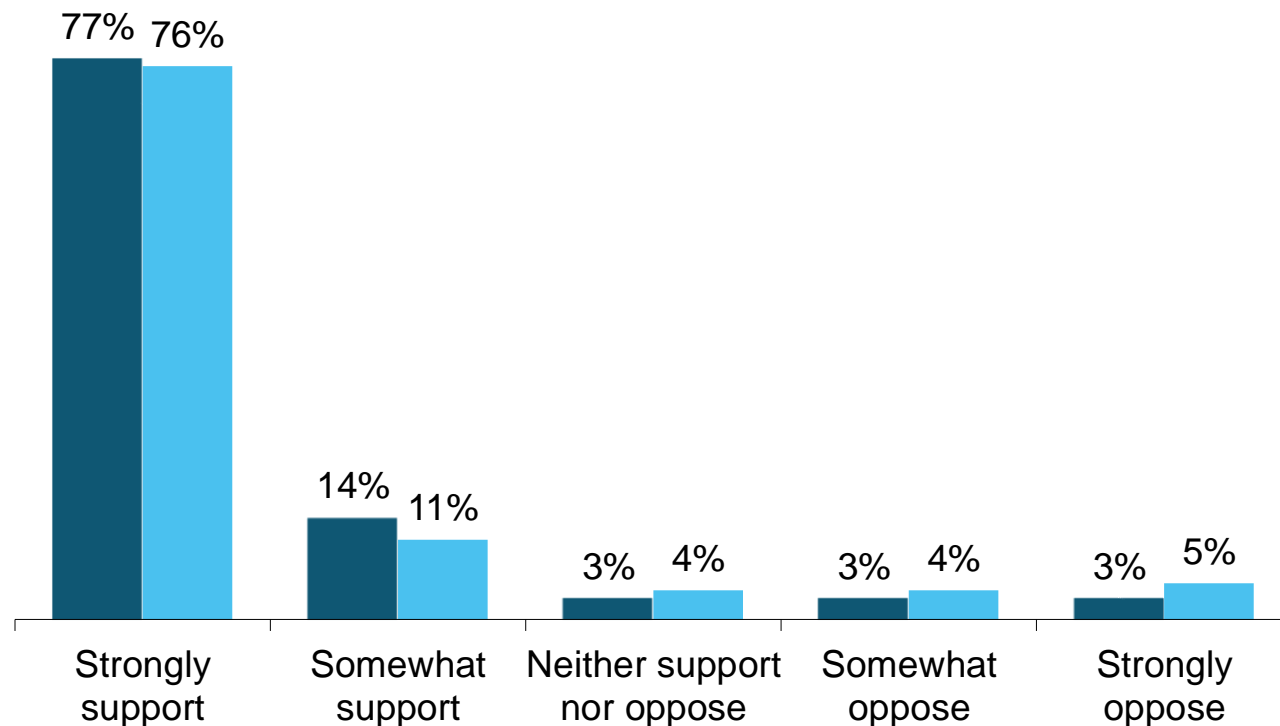
- Between October 31st and November 3rd, 2020, Probe Research surveyed a representative sampling of 800 adults residing in Manitoba. This included members of Probe Research's online proprietary panel, as well as Dynata, a supplemental online panel.
- Because an online survey is a sample of convenience, 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  $\pm 3.5$  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.

# WINNIPEGGERS STRONGLY SUPPORT MOVING THE CITY TO CODE RED

■ Winnipeg (N=480)    ■ Rural/Northern (N=320)

**Support:**  
Winnipeg: 91%  
Rural/Northern: 87%

**Oppose:**  
Winnipeg: 6%  
Rural/Northern: 9%



Those most likely to **strongly support moving Winnipeg to Code Red** include:

- Women (83% vs. 70% among men)
- Older adults (85% among those aged 55+ vs. 68% among those 18-34)
- Those with higher levels of education and household income
- Those who voted for the NDP in the 2019 provincial election (85% vs. 69% among those who voted for the Progressive Conservatives and 76% among those who voted for the Manitoba Liberal Party)

Q8a. "Do you support or oppose the decision made Friday (Oct. 30) to move the Winnipeg region into the highest stage (red) that includes restrictions similar to those that were in place in March?"

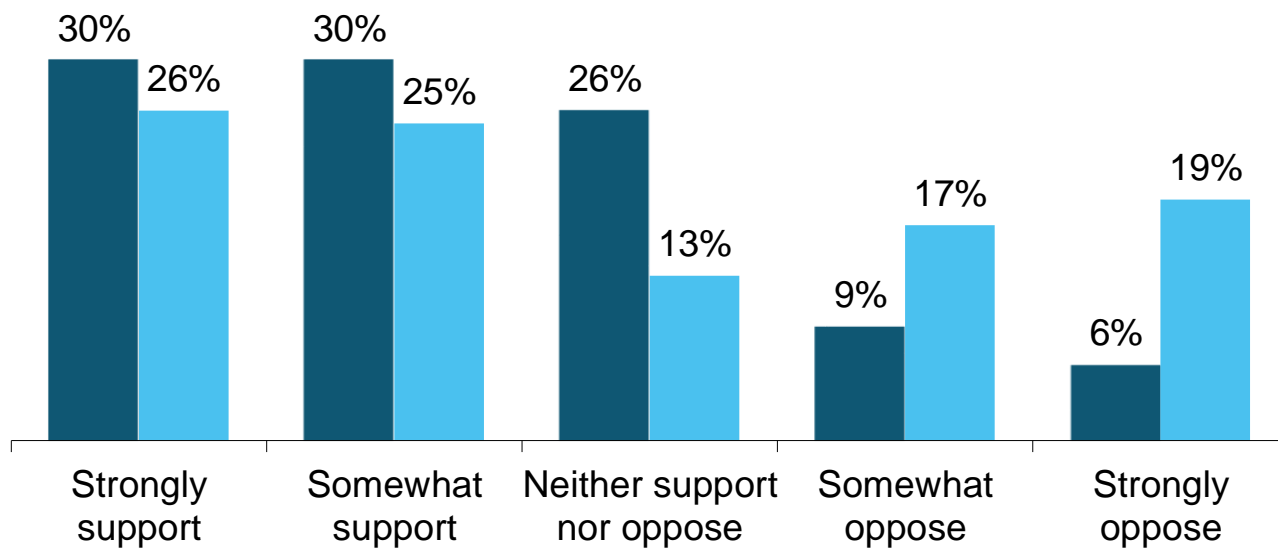
Base: All respondents

# MORE THAN ONE-HALF SUPPORT MOVING OTHER REGIONS TO CODE RED

■ Winnipeg (N=480)    ■ Rural/Northern (N=320)

**Support:**  
**Winnipeg: 60%**  
**Rural/Northern: 51%**

**Oppose:**  
**Winnipeg: 15%**  
**Rural/Northern: 36%**



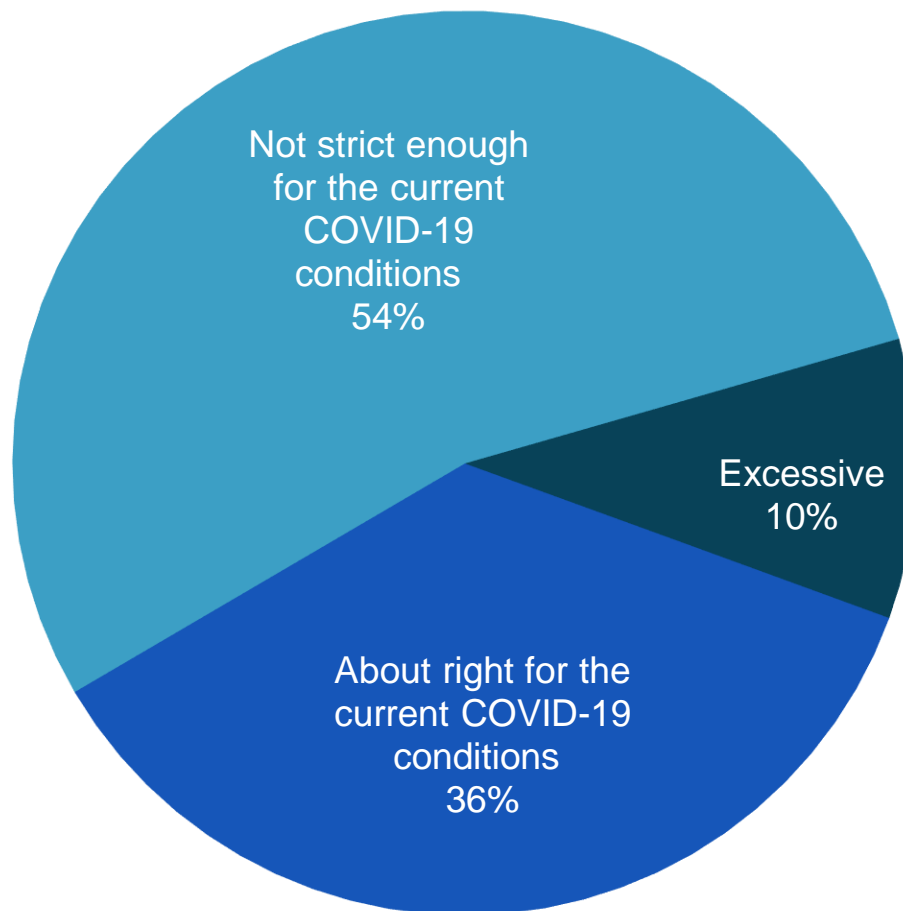
Q8b. "And do you support or oppose moving all other regions of Manitoba into the highest stage (red)?"

Base: All respondents

The same demographic groups (women, older Manitobans, NDP voters and those with higher socio-economic status) are more likely to be in favour of moving other parts of the province to Code Red.

# MAJORITY PROTEST PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS ARE NOT STRICT ENOUGH

Q7. "Of the following, which best describes your thoughts on the current public health orders and restrictions, given current COVID-19 conditions? I think the current restrictions are..."



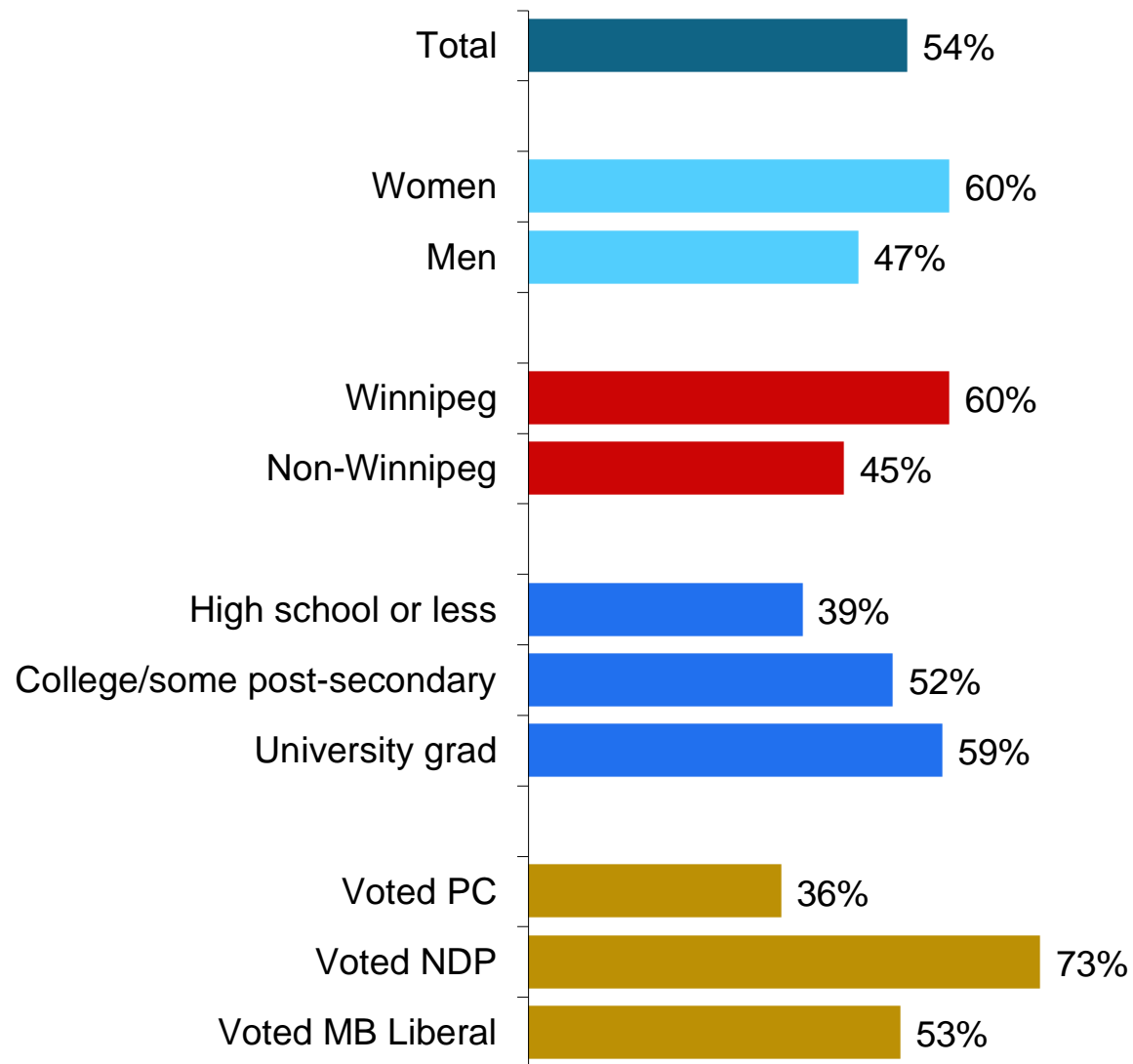
Base: All respondents (N=800)

# WOMEN, WINNIPEG RESIDENTS MORE LIKELY TO URGE TOUGHER RESTRICTIONS

Q7. "Of the following, which best describes your thoughts on the current public health orders and restrictions, given current COVID-19 conditions? I think the current restrictions are..."

Base: All respondents (N=800)

% who feel restrictions are not strict enough





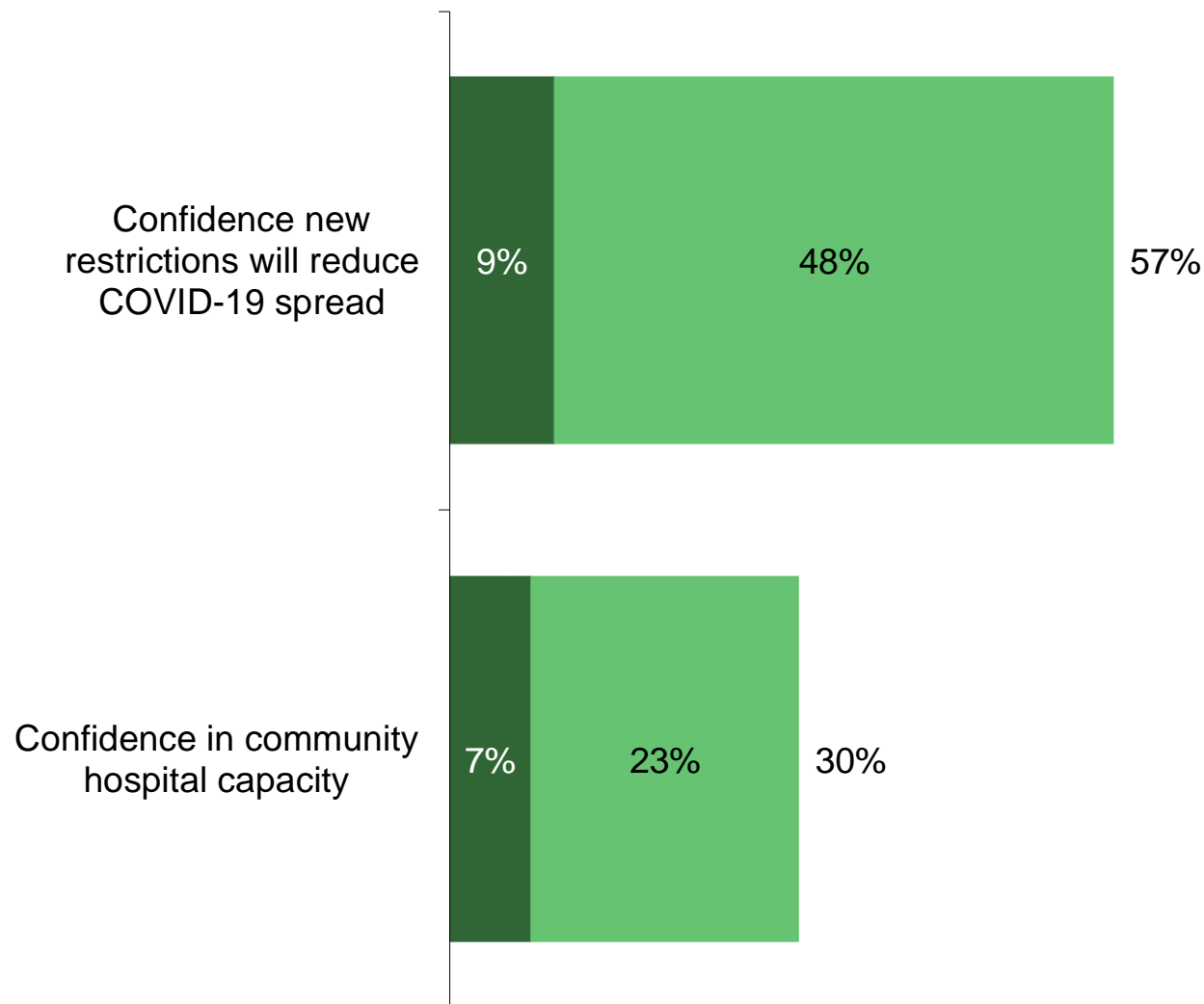
# ONE-HALF FEEL RESTRICTIONS WILL STOP COVID-19 SPREAD; ONLY THREE-IN-TEN CONFIDENT IN HOSPITAL CAPACITY

**Q9a.** "How confident are you that these new restrictions announced by the Manitoba government Friday (Oct. 30) will reduce the spread of COVID-19?"

**Q9b.** "And how confident are you that your community hospital has enough capacity to care for COVID-19 patients?"

Base: All respondents (N=800)

■ Very confident    ■ Somewhat confident

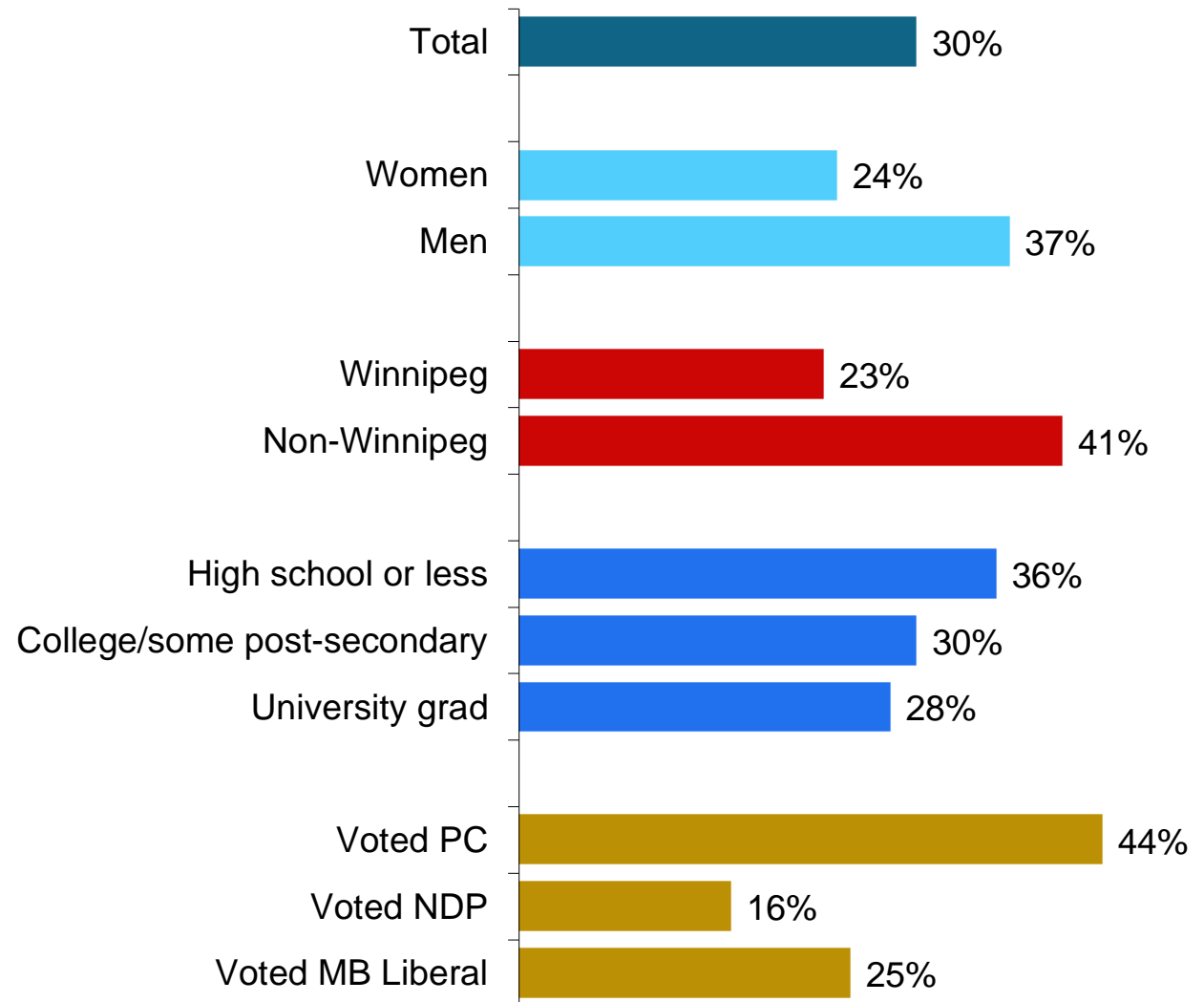


# WOMEN, WINNIPEGGERS MOST LIKELY TO LACK CONFIDENCE IN HOSPITAL COVID CAPACITY

**Q9b.** "And how confident are you that your community hospital has enough capacity to care for COVID-19 patients?"

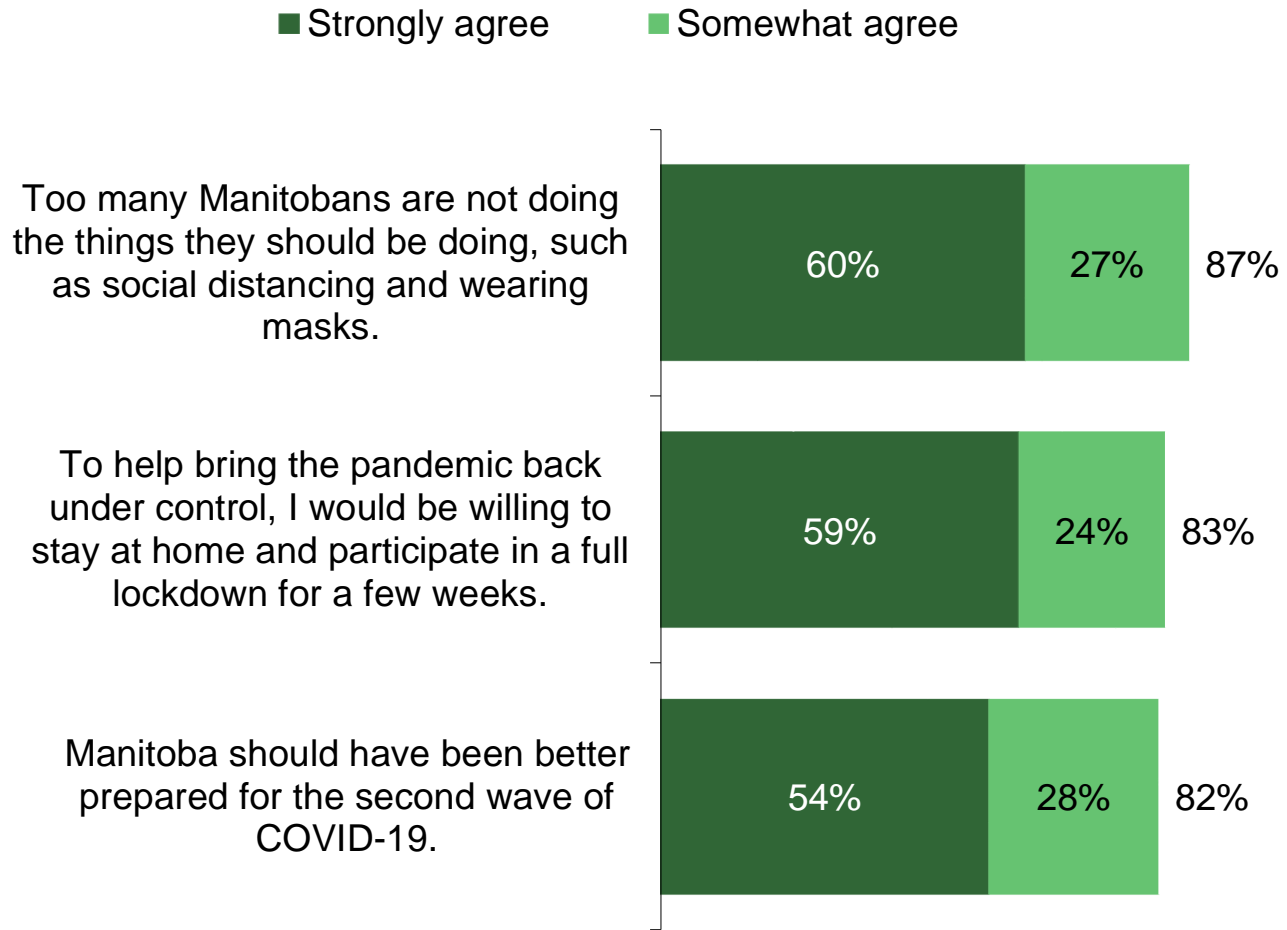
Base: All respondents (N=800)

% who are confident their hospital has enough capacity to treat COVID-19 patients



# MORE THAN EIGHT-IN-TEN MANITOBA SHOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER PREPPED FOR A SECOND WAVE

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



Those most likely to **agree Manitoba should have been better prepared** include:

- Women (85% vs. 79% among men)
- Winnipeg residents (87% vs. 73% among those living outside the provincial capital)

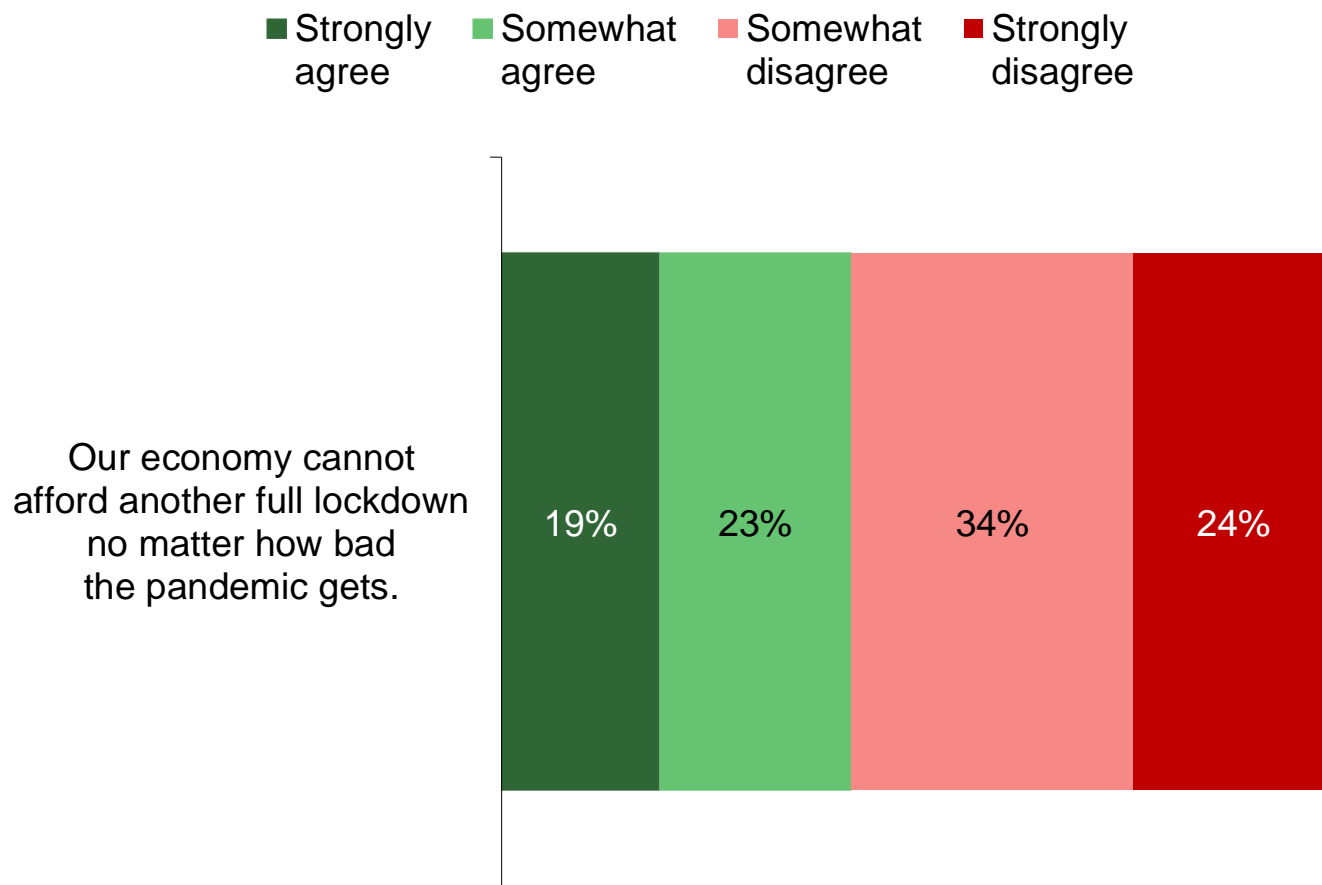
Those most likely to **express a willingness to go back into a full lockdown** include:

- Women (87% vs. 78% among men)
- Older adults (89% among those 55+ vs. 77% among those aged 35-54)
- Those with higher levels of formal education (88% among university graduates vs. 72% among those with high school or less)

Base: All respondents (N=800)

# SIX-IN-TEN SAY MANITOBA CAN AFFORD ANOTHER FULL LOCKDOWN TO COMBAT THE VIRUS

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



Those most likely to say the economy **cannot afford** another full lockdown include:

- Those in rural and northern Manitoba (50% vs. 36% among those living in Winnipeg)
- Those with children at home (50% vs. 38% among those with no kids in the household)
- Those with lower levels of formal education and household income
- Those who voted for the PC party in the last provincial election (59% vs. 24% among NDP supporters and 35% among Manitoba Liberal supporters)

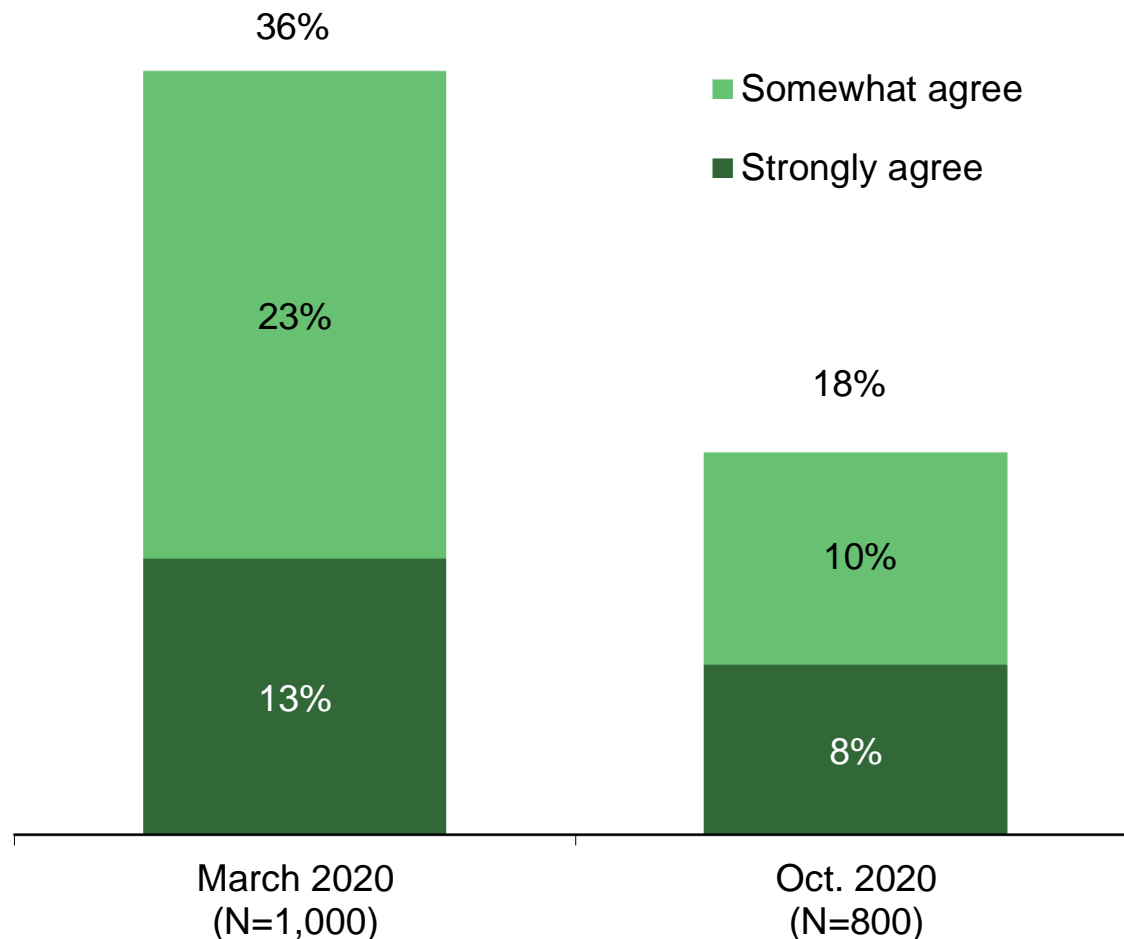
Base: All respondents (N=800)

# MANITOBANS MUCH LESS LIKELY NOW TO FEEL THE PANDEMIC IS OVERBLOWN

Q1. "Please read the following statements about the COVID-19 virus and indicate if you agree or disagree with each one: This whole issue of the COVID-19 virus is overblown for people living in this country."

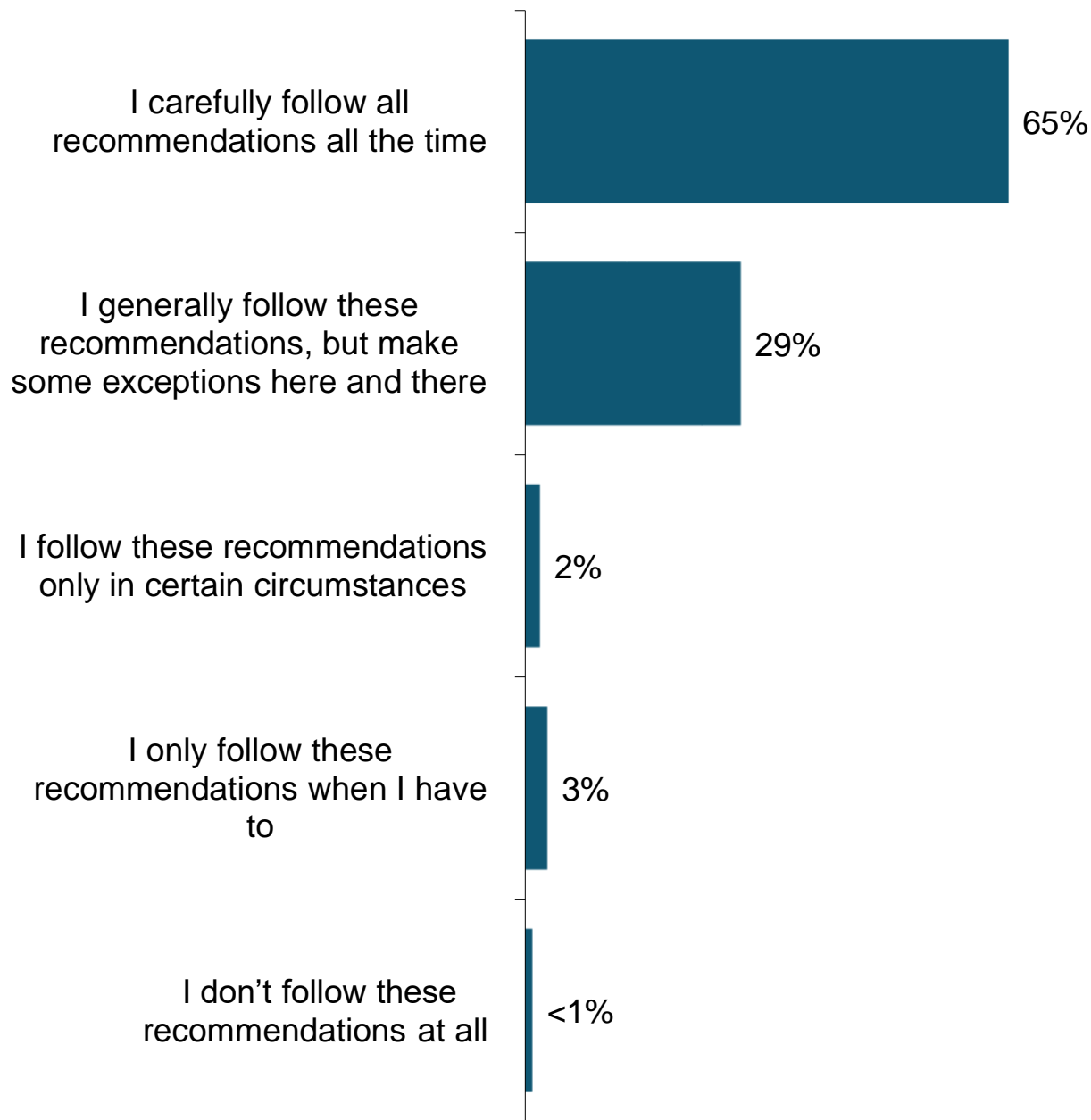
Base: All respondents

% who agree COVID-19 is overblown



# MORE THAN SIX-IN-TEN SAY THEY DILIGENTLY FOLLOW ALL COVID-19 GUIDELINES

Q10. "When it comes to activities such as respecting group size limits, wearing masks, social distancing and limiting your contacts, how would you describe your own behaviours right now?"



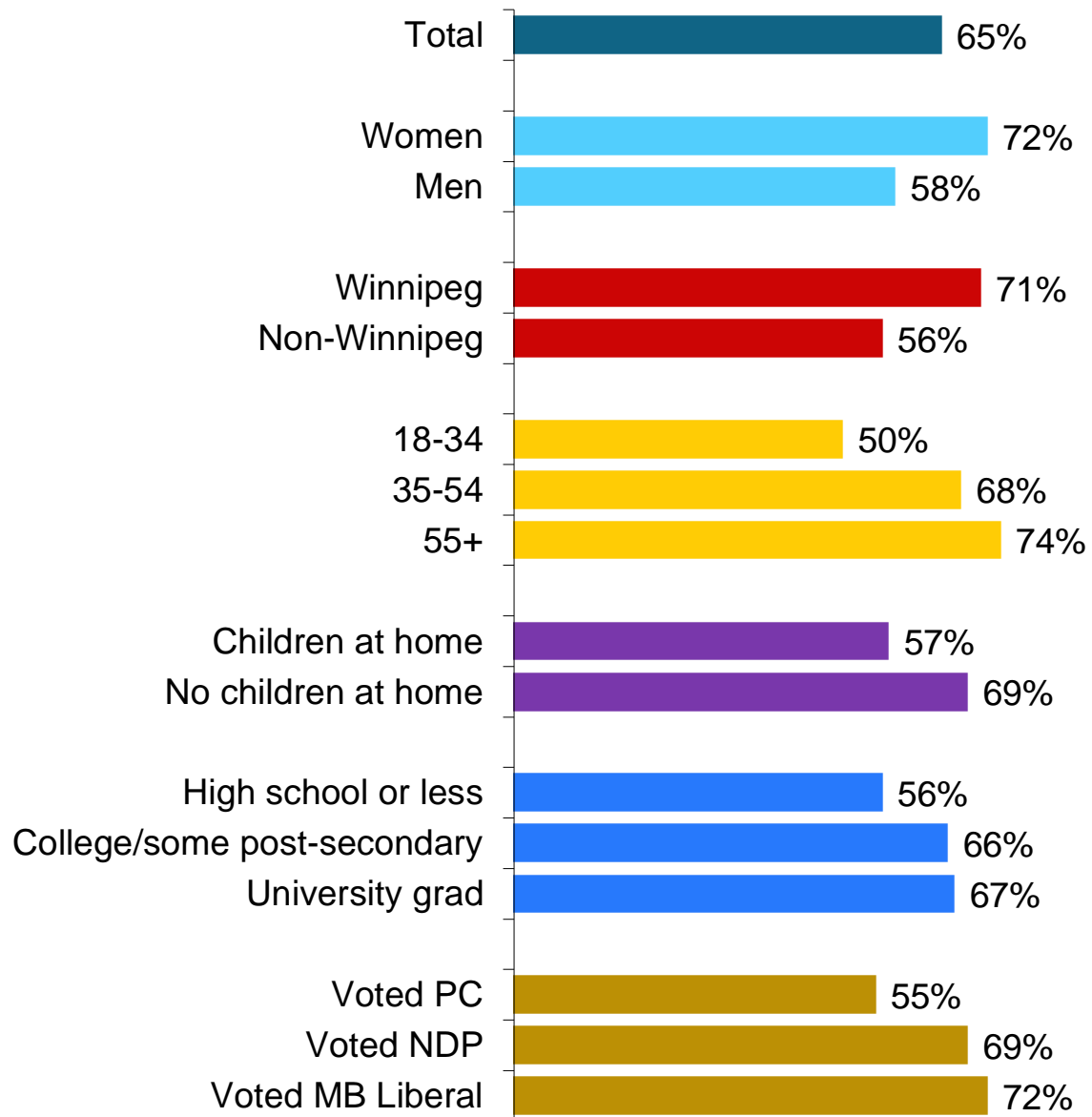
Base: All respondents (N=800)

# WOMEN, WINNIPEGGERS, OLDER RESIDENTS MORE LIKELY TO FOLLOW RULES

Q10. "When it comes to activities such as respecting group size limits, wearing masks, social distancing and limiting your contacts, how would you describe your own behaviours right now?"

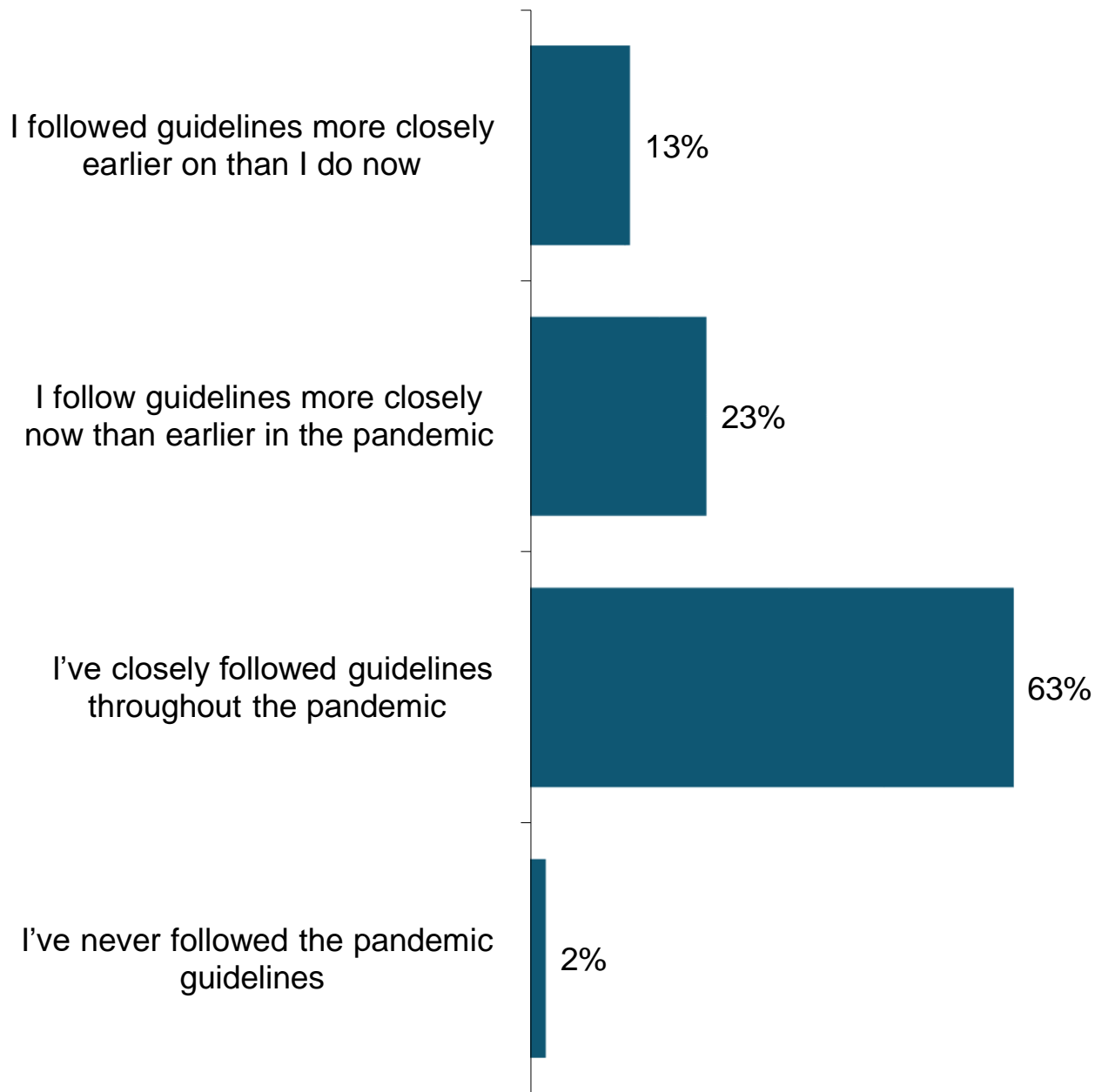
Base: All respondents (N=800)

% who say they follow all recommendations all the time



# NEARLY ONE-QUARTER HAVE BECOME MORE DILIGENT SINCE THE PANDEMIC BEGAN

Q11. "Now think about all your local COVID-19 guidelines, such as group size limits, wearing masks, and social distancing, and how these have changed over the course of the pandemic. Which of the following best describes your behaviour throughout the pandemic?"



Base: All respondents (N=800)



# MEN, RURAL MANITOBBANS SLIGHTLY MORE LIKELY TO BE FOLLOWING RULES MORE CLOSELY NOW

Q11. "Now think about all your local COVID-19 guidelines, such as group size limits, wearing masks, and social distancing, and how these have changed over the course of the pandemic. Which of the following best describes your behaviour throughout the pandemic?"

Base: All respondents (N=800)

% who say they follow rules more closely now

