

# Views on Provincial Government Performance During COVID-19

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*PHOTO CREDIT: MIKAELA MACKENZIE, WINNIPEG FREE PRESS*

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**PROBE**  
RESEARCH INC.

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# Key Findings

As caretaker premier Kelvin Goertzen prepares to hand over the office to his successor, a new Probe Research survey finds a majority of Manitobans approve of the way Premier Goertzen has handled the COVID-19 pandemic during his two months in office.

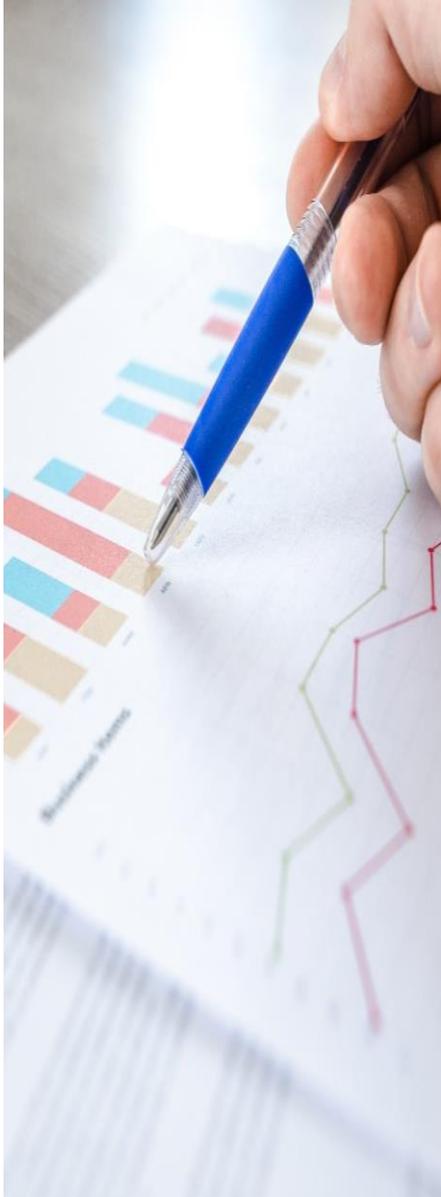
More than six in ten Manitobans strongly or somewhat approve of Goertzen's performance – double the proportion who approved of former premier Brian Pallister's performance when this question was last asked in June. A slightly higher proportion of Manitobans also approve of the current health minister's performance. Slightly more than one-half think Audrey Gordon is doing a good job, compared to four in ten who approved of the approach her two immediate predecessors took to the pandemic.

While Manitobans are happier now with the work of their political leaders when it comes to COVID-19, they remain more likely to praise non-partisan public health officials such as Dr. Brent Roussin, Dr. Joss Reimer and Lanette Siragusa.

Overall, one-half think the provincial government has done a good job protecting Manitobans' health during the pandemic, though a slightly lower proportion praising its efforts to deal with the economic fallout. Interestingly, views regarding the provincial government's economic performance have not changed significantly during the past year.

While Manitobans do not offer overwhelming praise for their provincial government, three-quarters do think it has done a better job than neighbouring governments in Saskatchewan and Alberta. As these two provinces struggle with the Delta variant and the fourth wave, more than eight in ten Manitobans support the idea of accepting patients from intensive care units in Alberta and Saskatchewan into our hospitals.

Nearly one-quarter of Manitobans believe the current public health orders are excessive, up from one in ten at this time last year. Nearly two-thirds think they are just right, while one in ten feel they do not go far enough.



# Methodology

## Research Objectives

Probe Research Inc. conducted a survey among Manitoba adults regarding a variety of issues relating to the pandemic. The questionnaire was designed by Probe Research and contained several areas of inquiry explored in previous surveys conducted in July and October 2020 as well as new areas.

## Methodology

A 14-minute (average) online survey was conducted between October 19 and 26 with a representative sample of 1,189 Manitoba adults, including an oversample of N=174 respondents living in south-central and southeastern Manitoba.

## Sample

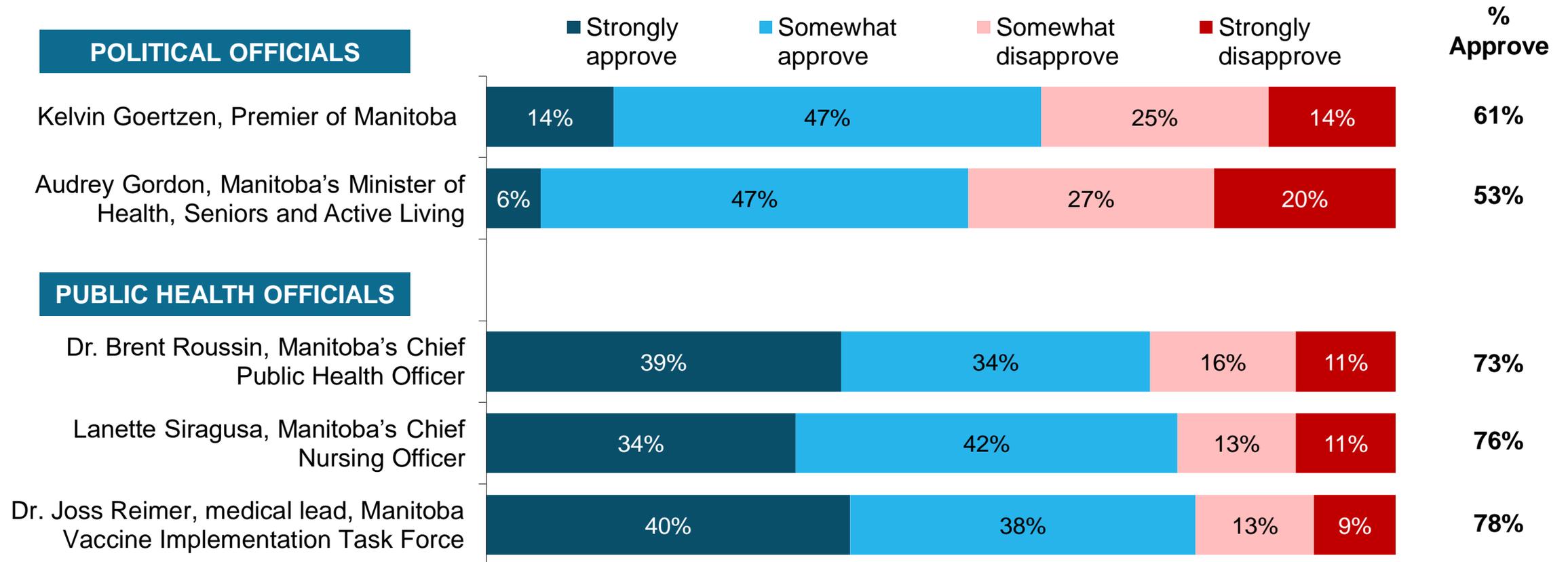
The sample was provided by Probe Research's proprietary panel and supplemented with respondents from a large national panel provider.

As an online survey is a sample of convenience, no margin-of-error can be ascribed. However, a random and representative non-convenience sample of 1,189 adults would have a margin of error of  $\pm 2.8$  percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

Minor statistical weighting by age, gender and region has been applied to this sample to ensure that it corresponds with the province as a whole.

# Approval Ratings of Provincial Government Officials

Manitobans remain more likely to praise public health officials versus political leaders



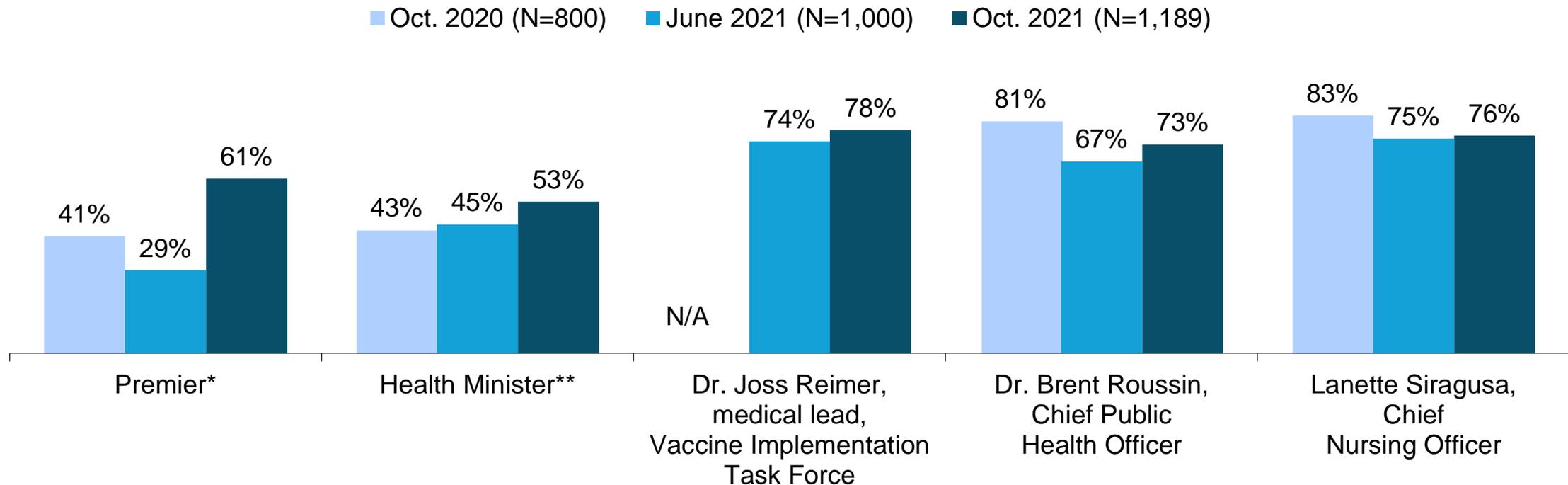
Q5. How would you rate the performance of each of the following public officials during the pandemic? For each, please indicate if you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove or strongly disapprove of their performance. (ROTATE NAMES)

Base: All respondents (N=1,189)

# Approval of Political and Public Health Officials: Tracking

Kelvin Goertzen's current approval rating twice as high as that of former premier Pallister

% approve (strongly and somewhat)



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. (ROTATE NAMES)

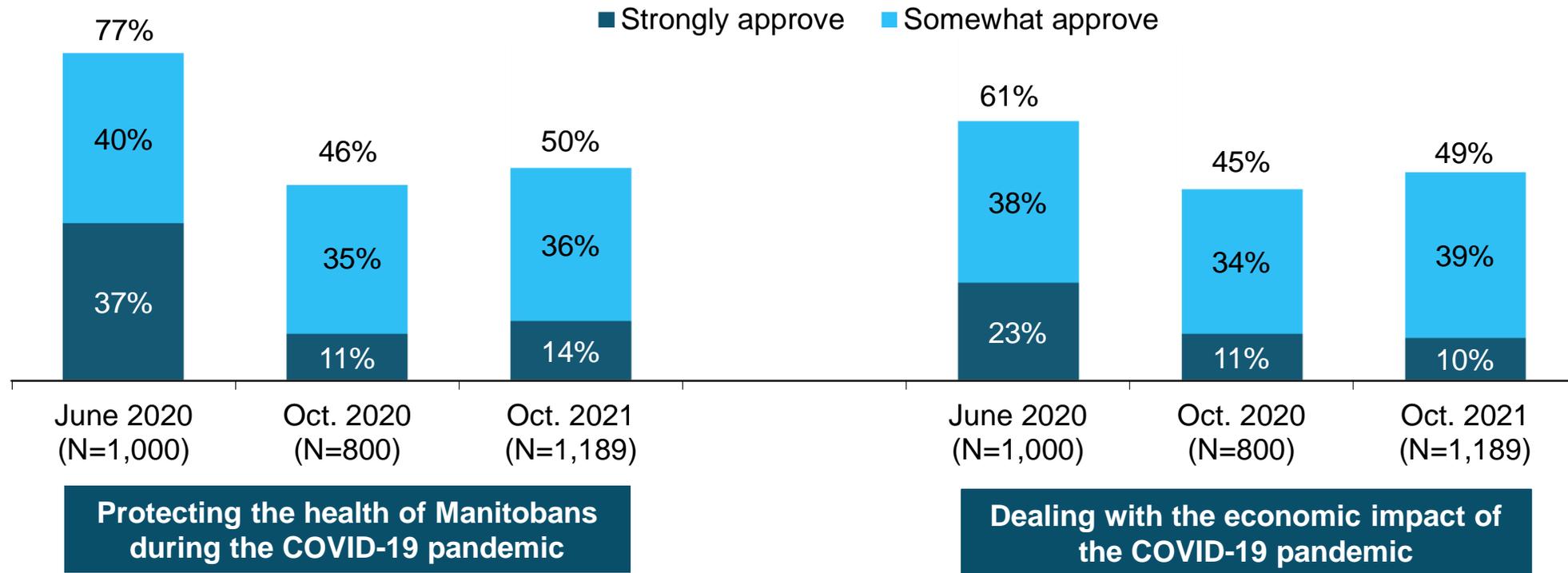
\*Premier Brian Pallister in Oct. 2020 and June 2021 and Kelvin Goertzen in Oct. 2021

\*\*Health Minister Cameron Friesen in Oct. 2020, Heather Stefanson in June 2021 and Audrey Gordon in Oct. 2021

Base: All respondents

# Performance of the PC Government: Tracking

Only one-half of Manitobans approve of the government's health and economic performance

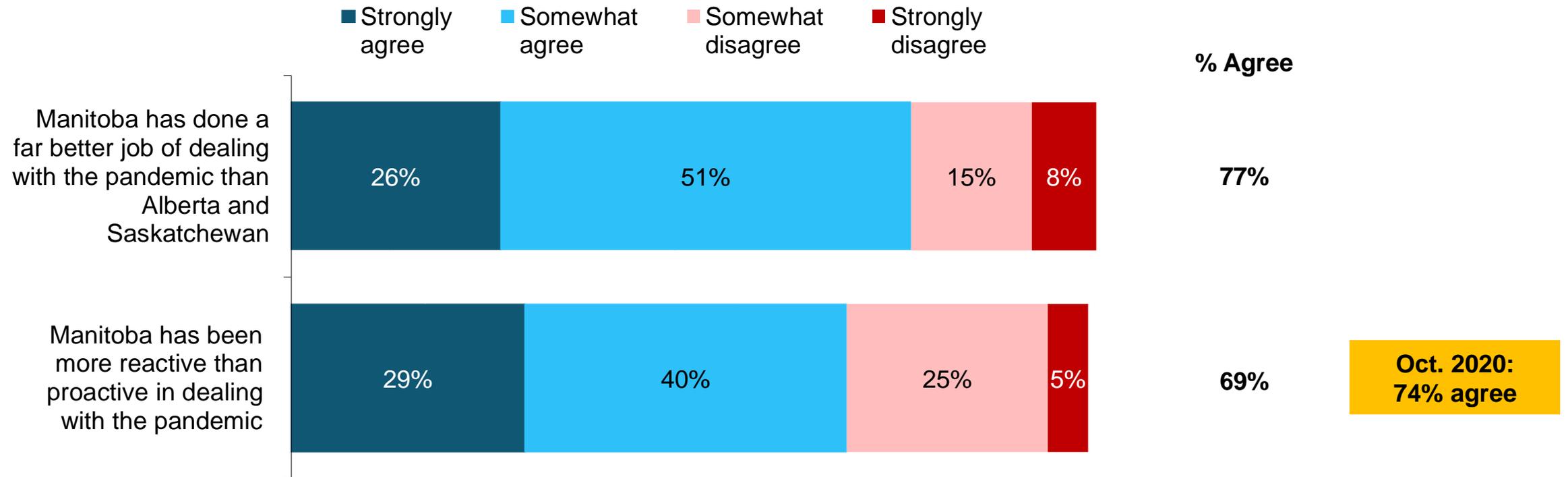


Q4. Overall, how would you rate the performance of Manitoba's Progressive Conservative government when it comes to...? (ROTATE A & B)

Base: All respondents (N=1,189)

# Views on Government Performance During the Pandemic

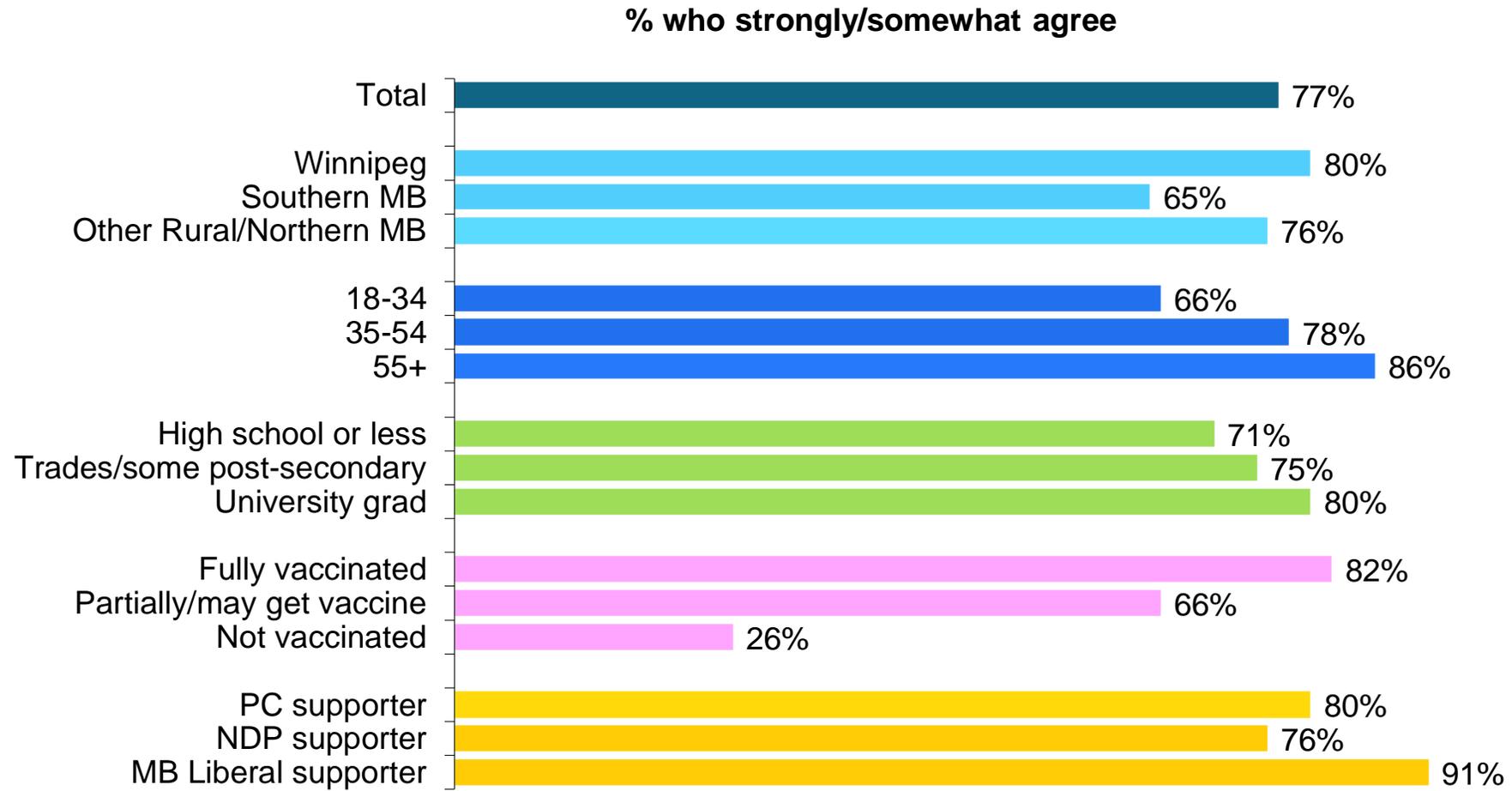
Three-quarters agree Manitoba has done a better job compared to its Prairie neighbours



Q2. On another topic... please read the following statements about the COVID-19 virus and indicate if you agree or disagree with each one:

# Views on Manitoba's Performance vs. Neighbours: By Subgroup

Southern Manitobans less likely to say Manitoba performed better than Alberta, Saskatchewan

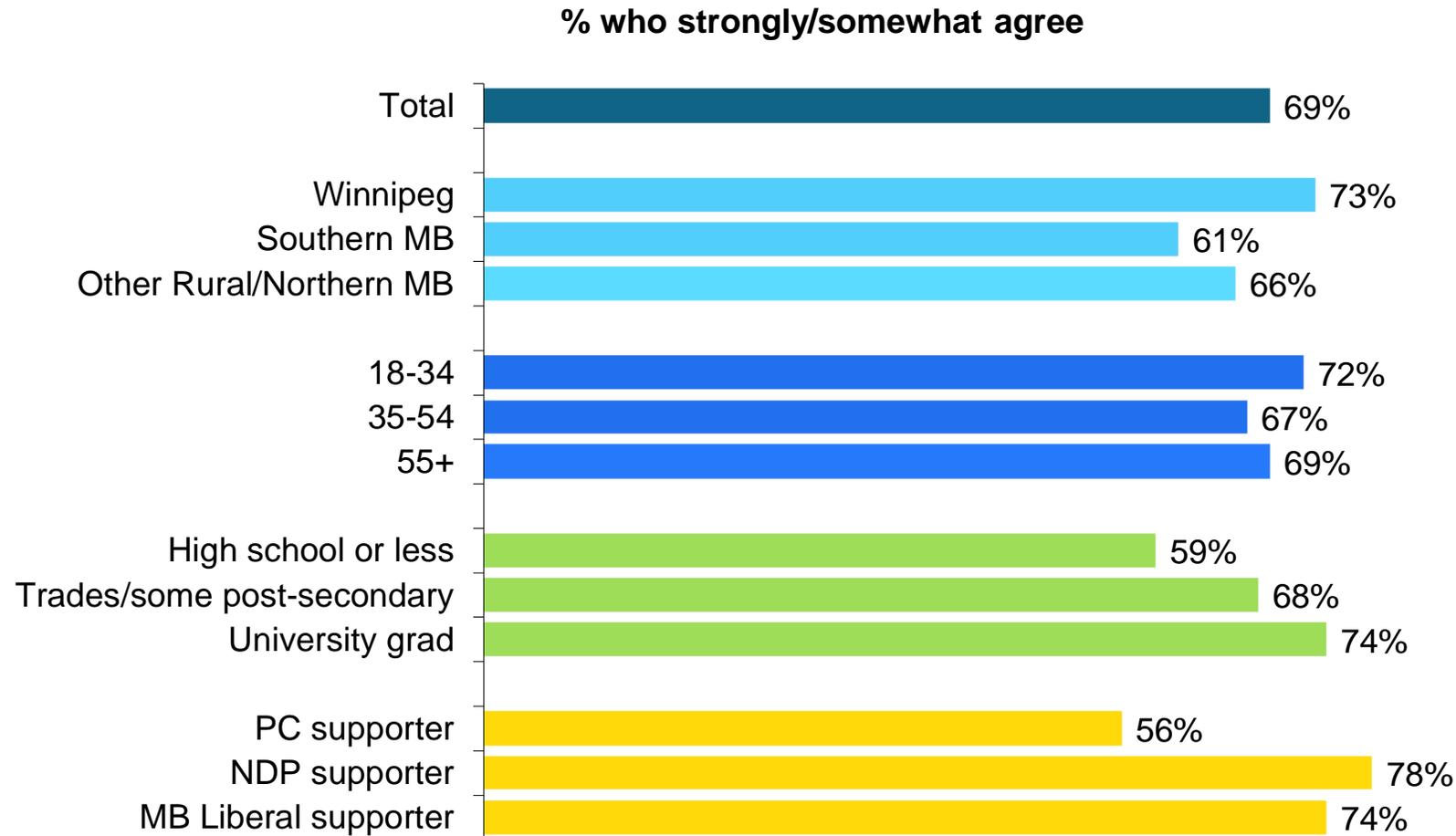


Q2. On another topic... please read the following statements about the COVID-19 virus and indicate if you agree or disagree with each one: Manitoba has done a far better job of dealing with the pandemic than Alberta and Saskatchewan

Base: All respondents (N=1,189)

# Views on Manitoba Being Proactive vs. Reactive: By Subgroup

NDP, Liberal supporters more likely than PC voters to say government was too reactive

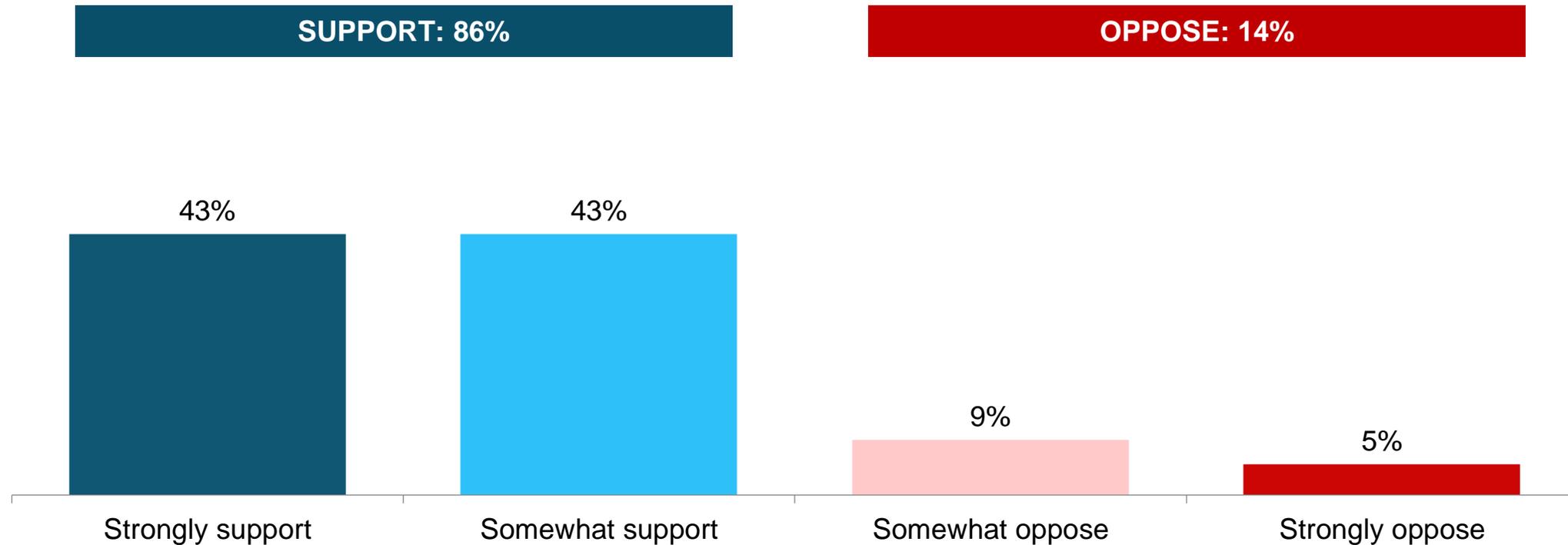


Q2. On another topic... please read the following statements about the COVID-19 virus and indicate if you agree or disagree with each one: Manitoba has been more proactive than reactive in dealing with the pandemic.

Base: All respondents (N=1,189)

# Support for Manitoba Accepting Out-of-Province COVID Patients

More than eight in ten believe Manitoba should take patients from Alberta, Saskatchewan

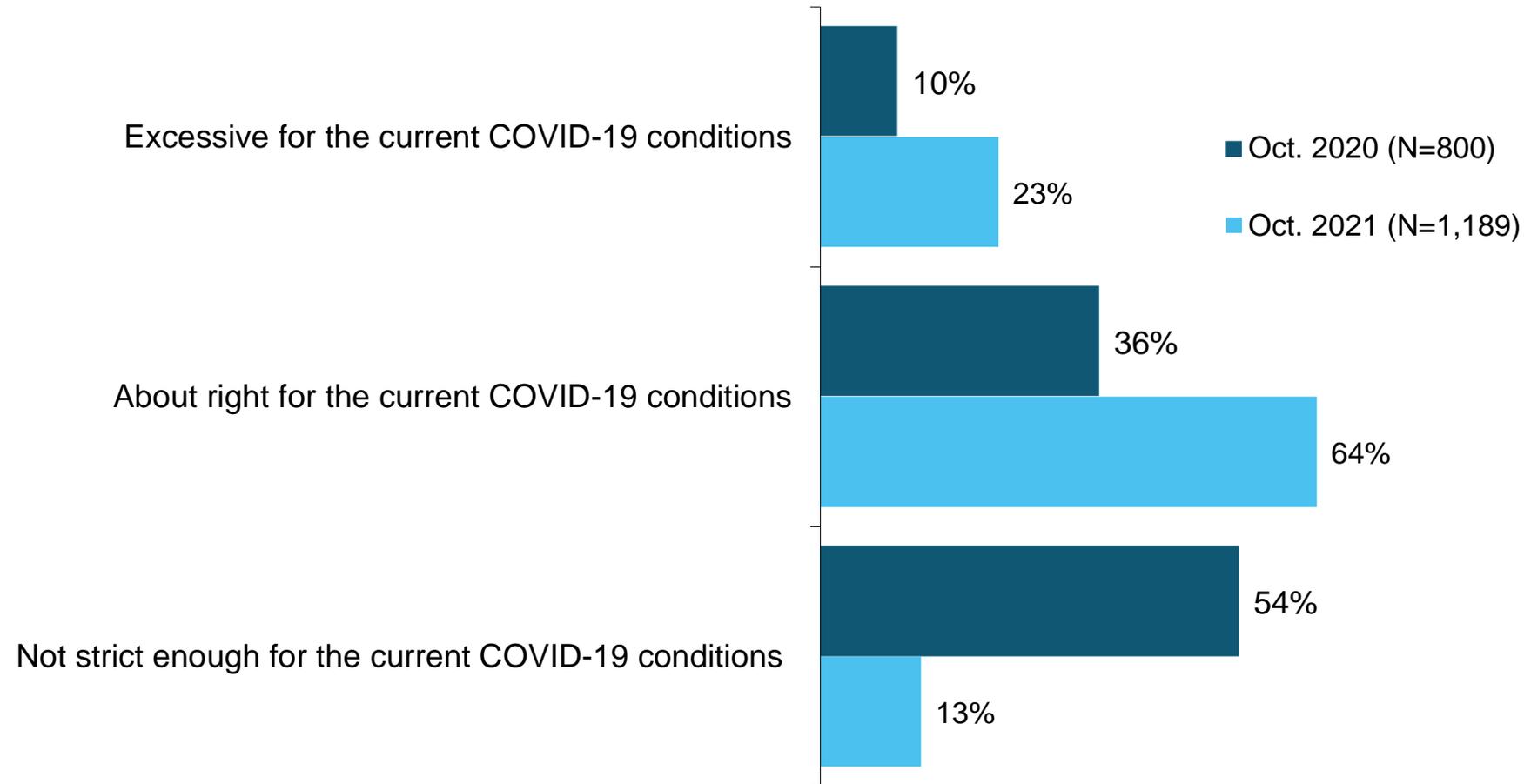


Q24. ICUs at hospitals in Alberta and Saskatchewan are approaching capacity with patients who have severe COVID-19 symptoms. Do you support or oppose Manitoba accepting patients from these provinces at hospitals here?

Base: All respondents (N=1,189)

# Views on Current Public Health Orders and Restrictions: Tracking

Nearly one-quarter now believe current public health orders are excessive



Those who are most likely to say the current restrictions are excessive include:

- Rural Manitobans (35% vs. 18% among Winnipeggers), particularly those living in southern Manitoba (42%)
- Men (29% vs. 18% among women)
- Younger adults (38% aged 18-34 vs. 10% among those 55+)
- Those with a high school diploma or less (41%)
- Those who are not fully vaccinated
- PC party supporters (37% vs. 8% among those who would vote for the NDP)

Q21. 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...