

Manitobans' Views on COVID-19 Vaccines and Testing

October 2021

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RESEARCH INC.

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Key Findings

Views on Vaccination

Manitobans overwhelmingly support rules requiring those who work directly with the public to be vaccinated or frequently tested for COVID-19 as a job requirement. Manitobans are most likely to support vaccine mandates for health care workers and educators, with more than eight in ten also supportive of this requirement for civic employees such as police officers, transit drivers and firefighters.

Three-quarters of Manitobans also support the Manitoba government's decision not to pay wages or benefits to employees who refuse to be vaccinated or frequently tested for COVID-19. Support for this varies significantly across the province: nearly nine in ten Winnipeggers back this measure, compared to just six in ten among southern Manitobans. Older Manitobans, women and those who have already been vaccinated are also significantly more likely to be in favour of this idea.

Manitobans continue to be supportive of requiring proof of vaccination for a number of activities, including air travel or attending large indoor events such as a Winnipeg Jets game. During the past three months, support for requiring proof of vaccination in indoor public places, in the workplace and for youth sports has also increased significantly.

Three-quarters of Manitobans are comfortable sharing their vaccination status, with this ranging from eight in ten among Winnipeggers to just over six in ten for southern Manitobans. Those who have not been vaccinated or who have had COVID-19 are much less comfortable sharing their vaccination status.

When vaccinated people are asked how they handle interactions with unvaccinated people, fully one-quarter say they avoid unvaccinated individuals entirely. Four in ten say they take additional precautions such as wearing a mask or social distancing to a greater degree. One in five, meanwhile, say they do not do anything differently when spending time among those who are unvaccinated.

Key Findings (cont'd)

Views on Testing

Nearly one-half of Manitoba adults say they have been tested at some point for COVID-19, with the majority only tested once.

About one in ten Manitobans – including one in five residents of southern Manitoba – report they experienced COVID-19 symptoms at some point but did not get tested. The prevalence of this is higher among younger adults, those who identify as Black, Indigenous or a person of colour (BIPOC) and those who have not yet been vaccinated. When asked what they did while experiencing symptoms, one-third say these symptoms did not stop them from living their regular, everyday lives. Only one-quarter say they completely self-isolated.

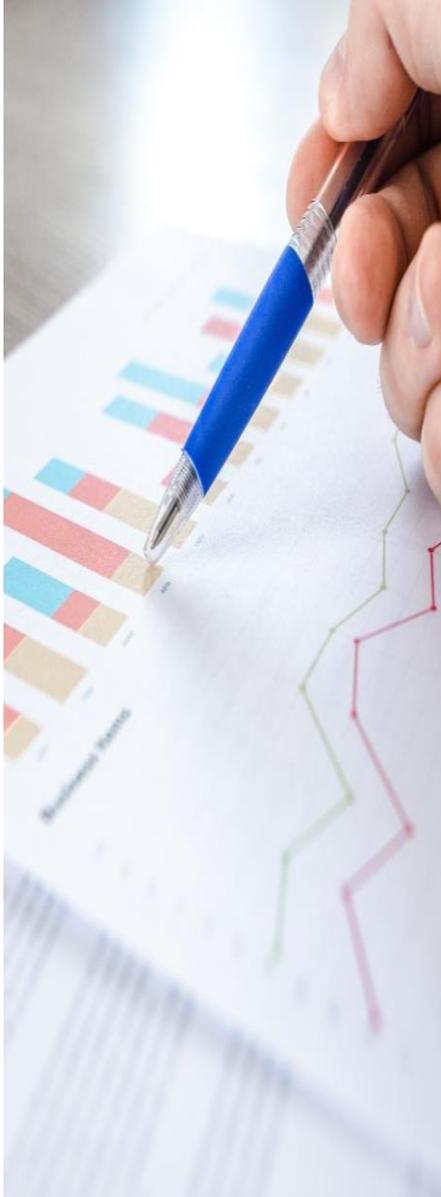
Eight in ten Manitobans agree Manitoba parents should be provided with free rapid antigen tests for COVID-19 to use when their children have symptoms. One-half, meanwhile, agree businesses that have staff working in close contact with one another should be required to conduct regular rapid testing on both vaccinated and unvaccinated employees.

Views on Public Health Orders and Restrictions

More than eight in ten Manitobans think areas currently experiencing higher numbers of COVID-19 cases – and that have lower vaccine rates – should face stronger public health restrictions. There is significantly more support for this idea in Winnipeg but much lower support in southern Manitoba where a relatively high proportion of eligible individuals are not vaccinated.

Only one-half of Manitobans say they follow all public health orders and restrictions to the letter, down from nearly two-thirds who say they did this at this time last year.





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 panel 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 ± 2.8 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

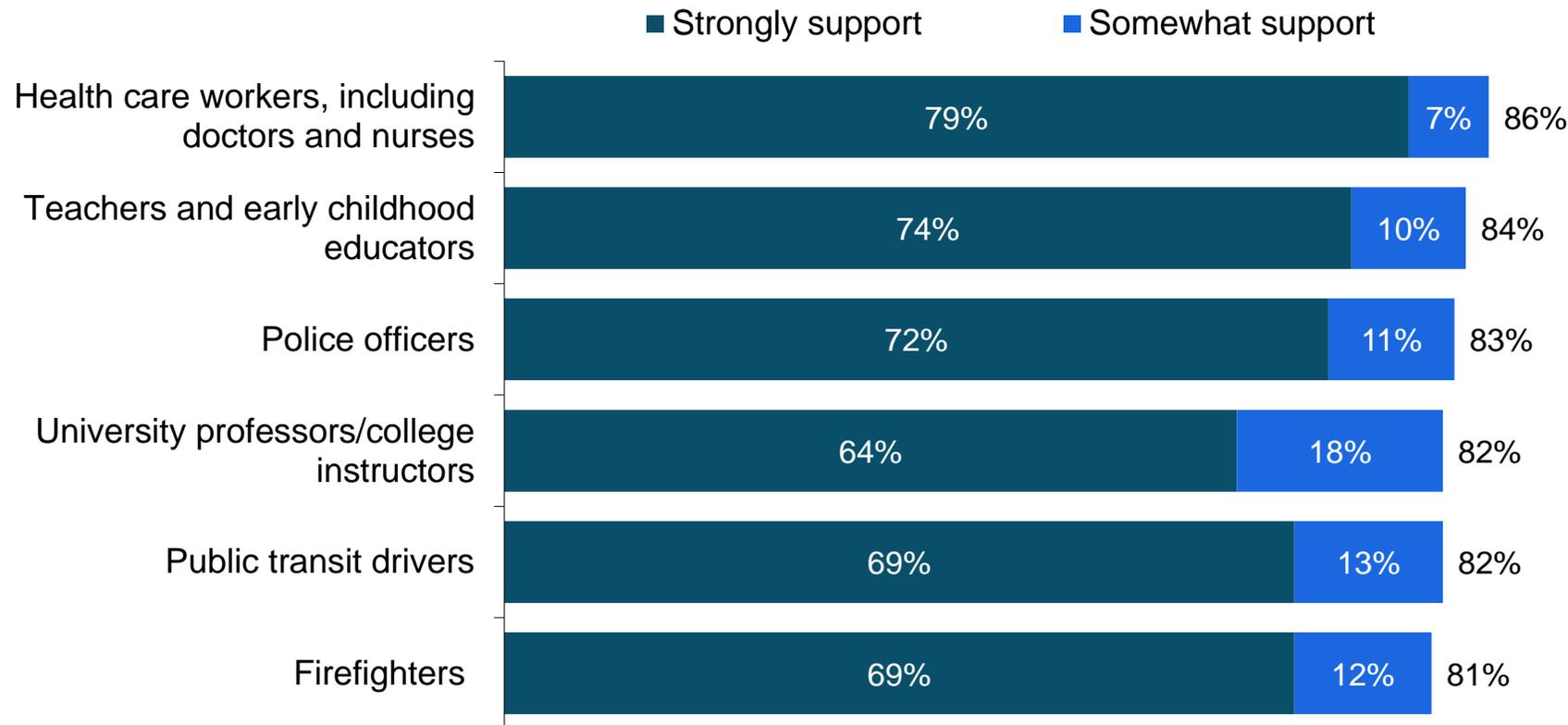
Minor statistical weighting by age, gender and region has been applied to this sample to ensure that it corresponds with the province as a whole.



Views on Vaccination

Support for Required Vaccinations in Specific Professions

More than eight in ten Manitobans support mandatory vaccination policies for public workers



In general, those who are more likely to support mandatory vaccinations for these types of workers include:

- Winnipeg residents
- Women
- Older adults aged 55+
- University graduates
- Those who are fully vaccinated

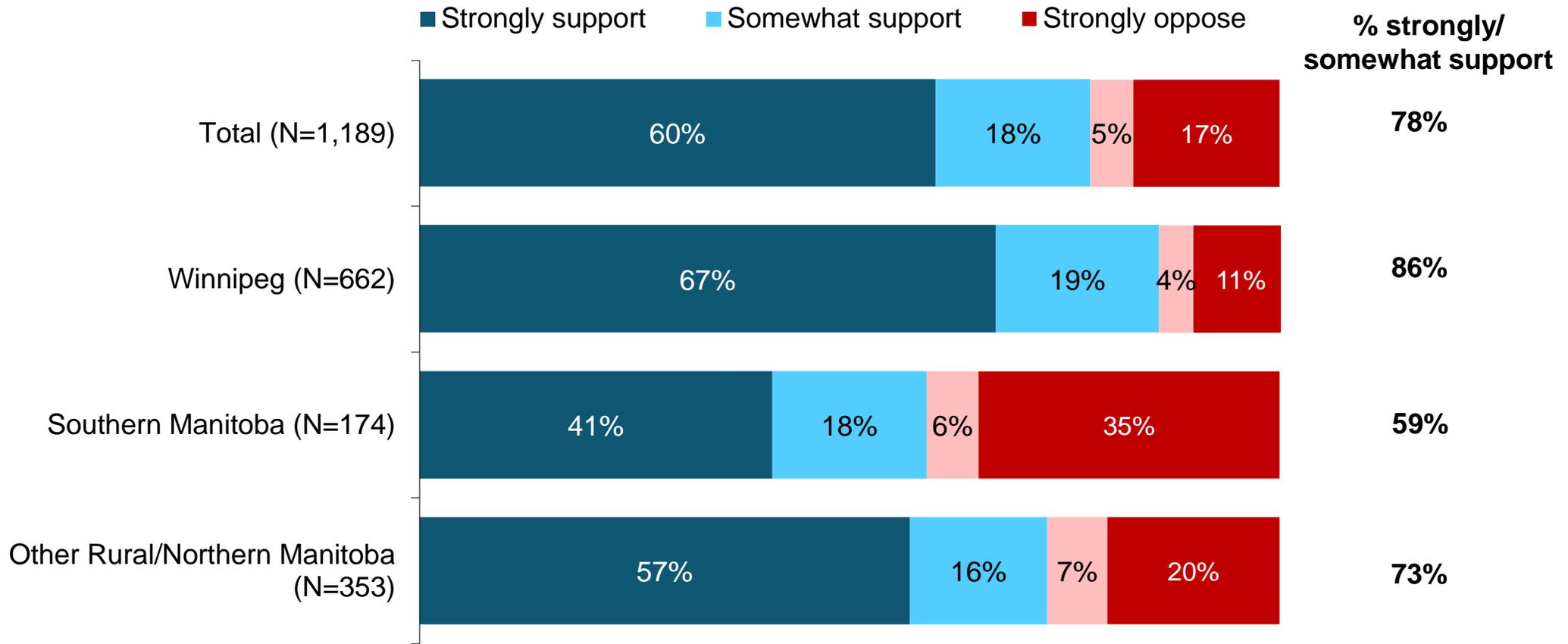
Progressive Conservative party supporters tend to be less likely to support mandatory vaccination for these professions.

Q11. The Manitoba government and the City of Winnipeg have mandated that employees who perform specific types of jobs need to be either vaccinated against COVID-19 or take frequent tests for the virus. For each of the following types of employees, please indicate if you support or oppose requiring them to be vaccinated or take these tests: (RANDOMIZED)

Base: All respondents (N=1,189)

Support for Refusing Pay and Benefits for the Unvaccinated

More than three-quarters support not paying those who miss work due to testing/vaccine refusal



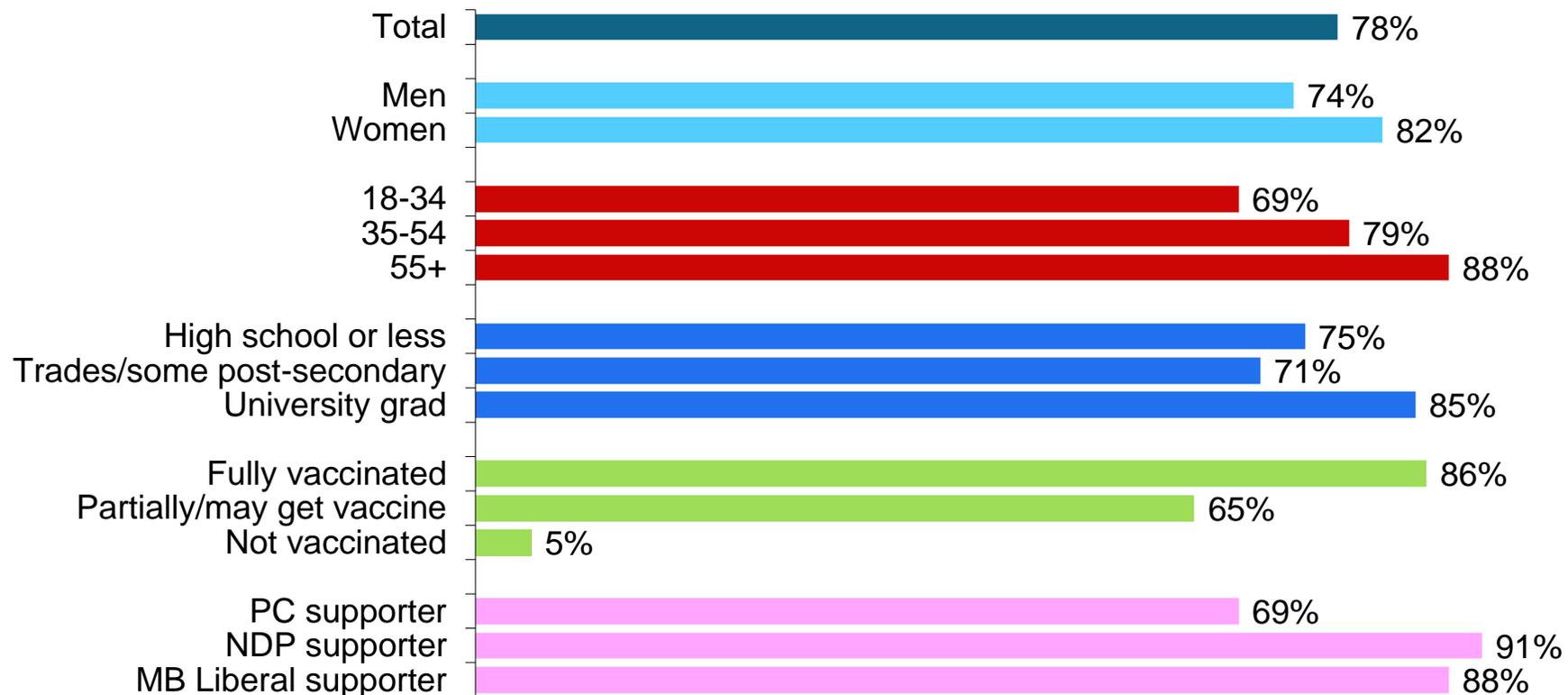
Q12. The provincial government has announced that employees who refuse to get vaccinated and get tested for COVID-19 will not be paid or receive benefits. Do you support or oppose this stance?

Base: All respondents

Support for Refusing Pay/Benefits: By Subgroup

Older adults, women are more likely to support refusing pay and benefits to unvaccinated workers

% who strongly/somewhat support refusing pay/benefits to those who refuse to get vaccinated

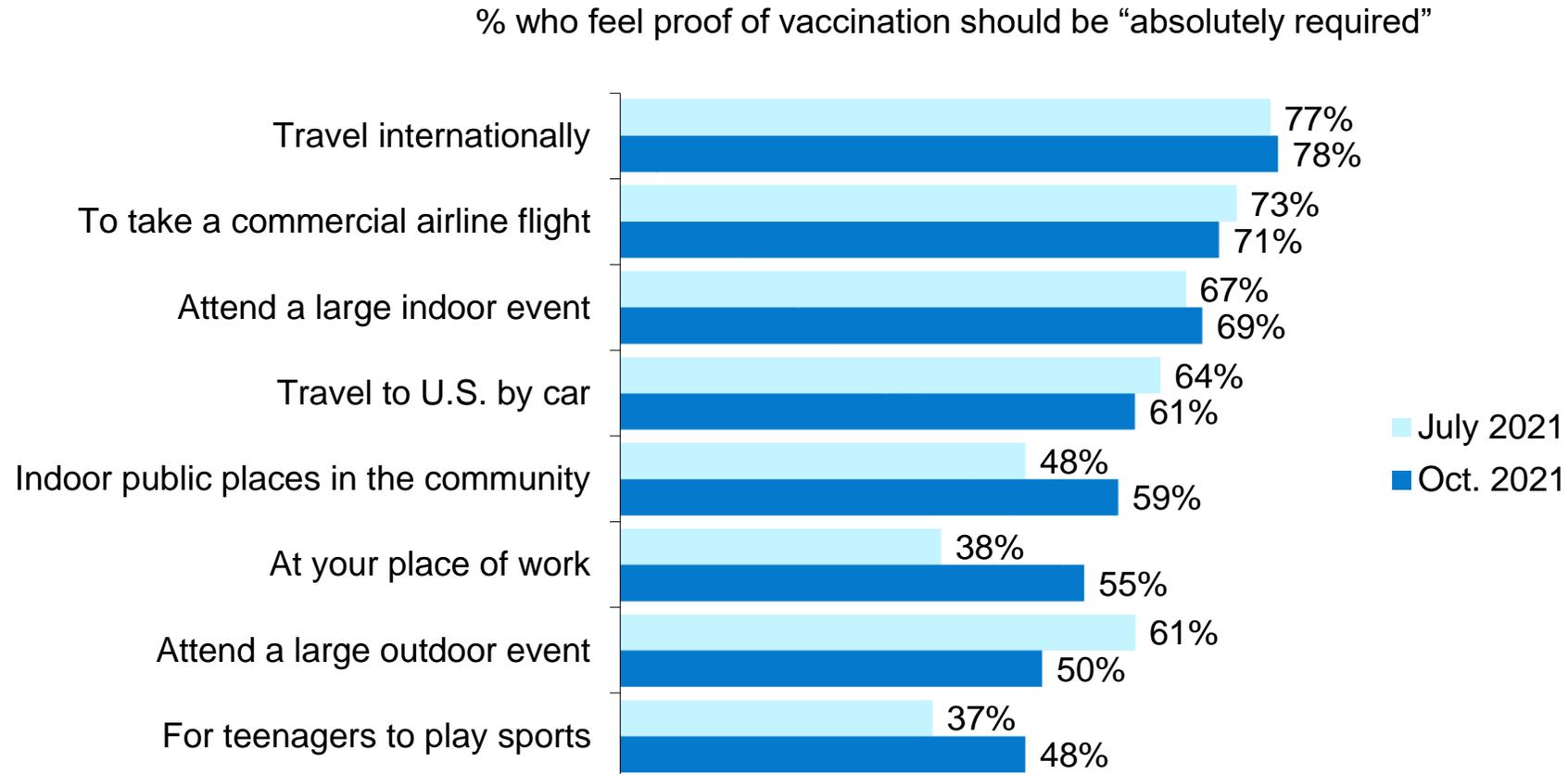


Q12. The provincial government has announced that employees who refuse to get vaccinated and get tested for COVID-19 will not be paid or receive benefits. Do you support or oppose this stance?

Base: All respondents (N=1,189)

Scenarios for Showing Proof of Vaccination: Tracking

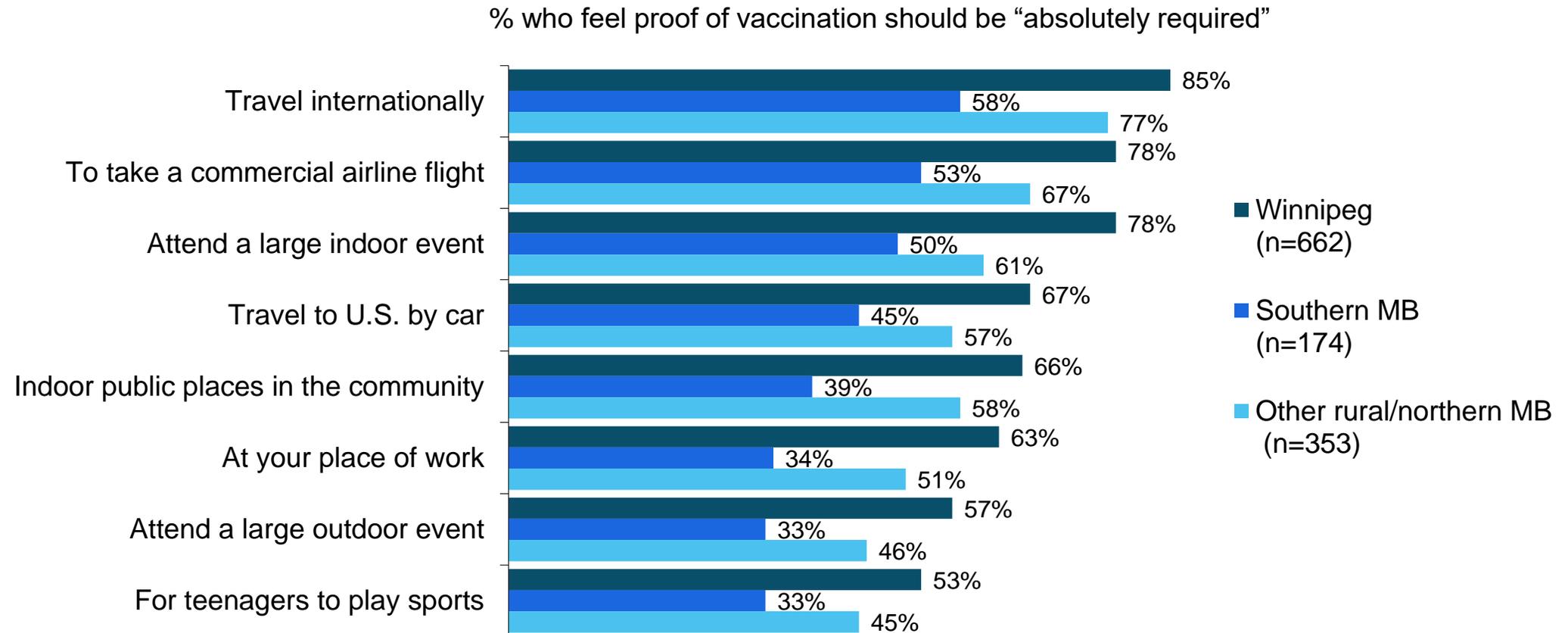
Manitobans now more likely to support mandatory vaccinations at workplaces, indoor public places



Q8. For each of the following scenarios or places, do you think proof of vaccination should be required to take place part in this activity?

Scenarios for Showing Proof of Vaccination: By Region

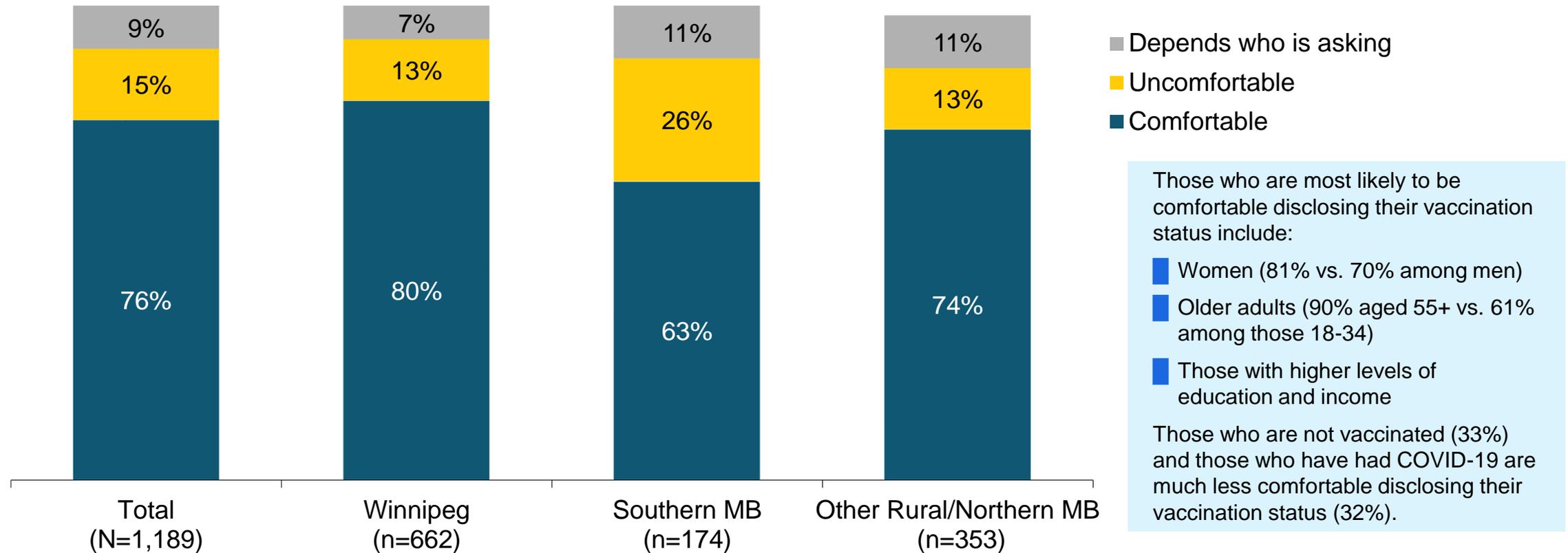
Those in southern Manitoba much less likely to think proof of vaccination should be required



Q8. For each of the following scenarios or places, do you think proof of vaccination should be required to take place part in this activity?

Comfort Level Disclosing Vaccine Status

Three-quarters of Manitobans are comfortable telling others if they are vaccinated or unvaccinated

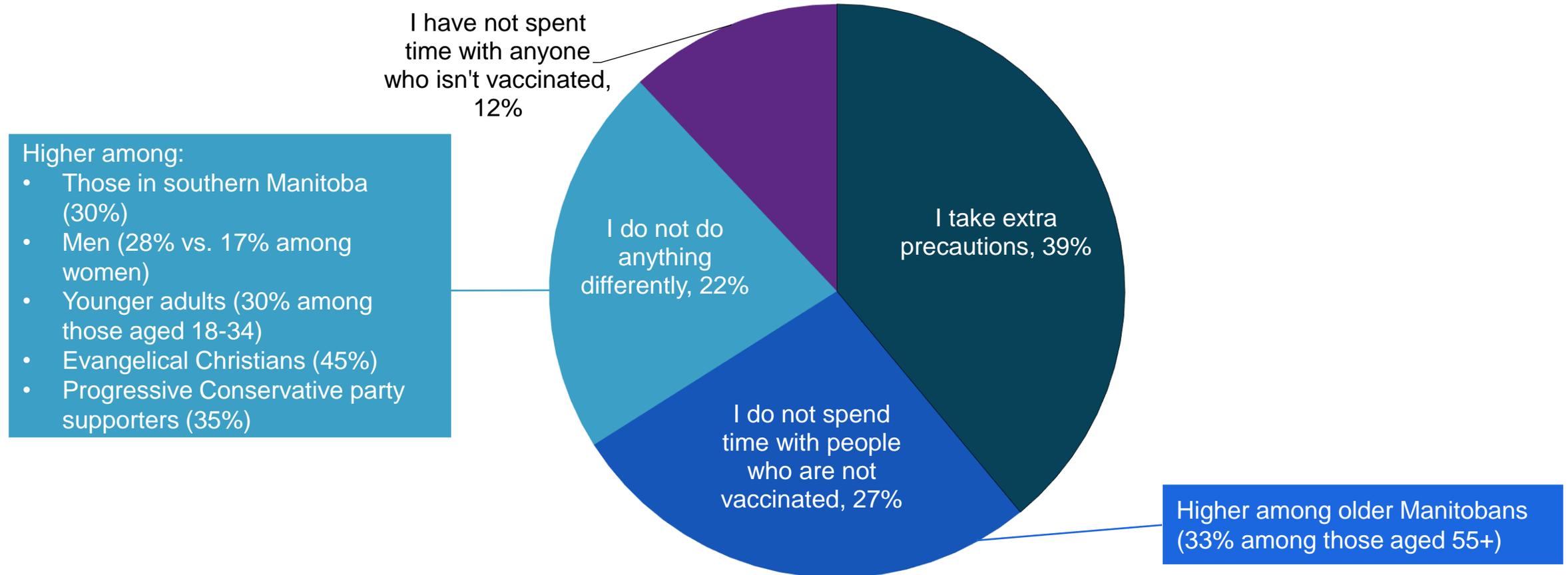


Q9. How comfortable do you feel when people ask whether you have been vaccinated?

Base: All respondents

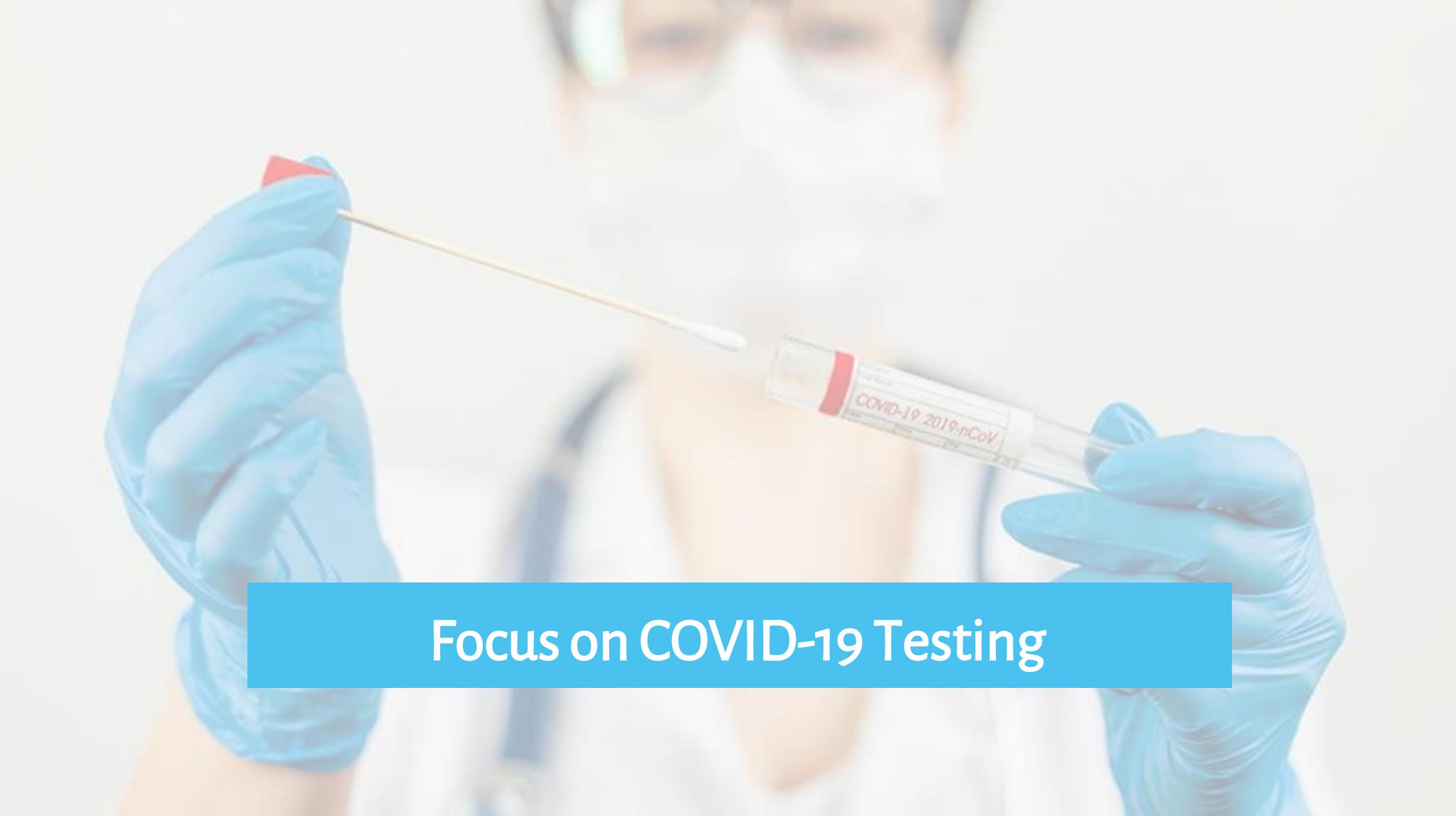
Approach to Dealing with Non-Vaccinated People

One-quarter avoid unvaccinated people, with four in ten taking extra precautions



Q10. What approach do you take when encountering people you know who are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine but have chosen not to receive it?

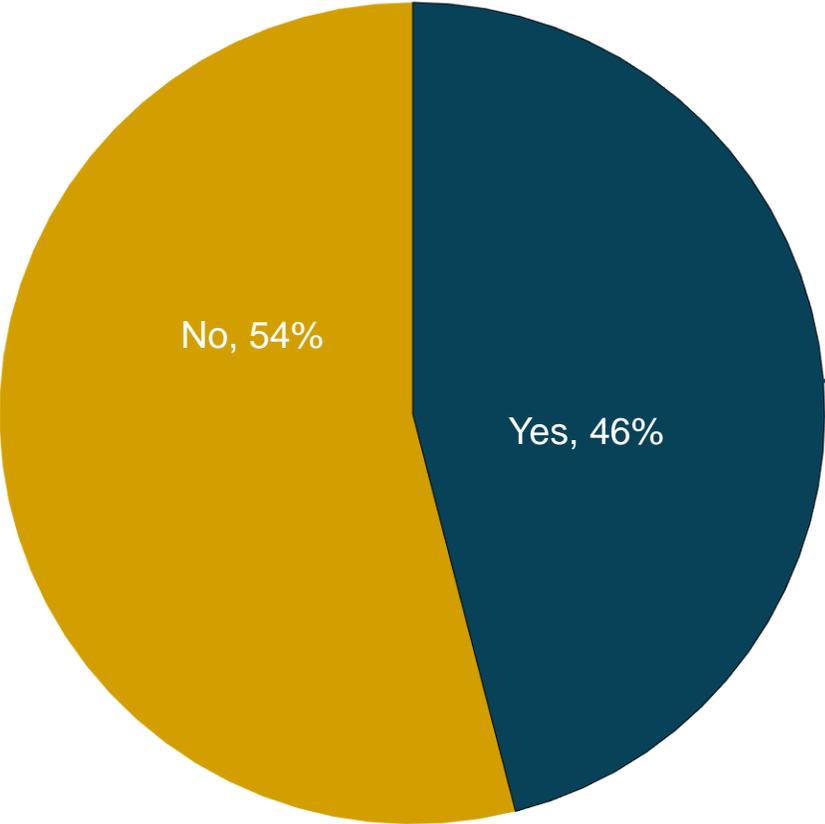
Base: Those who have received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine (N=1,027)



Focus on COVID-19 Testing

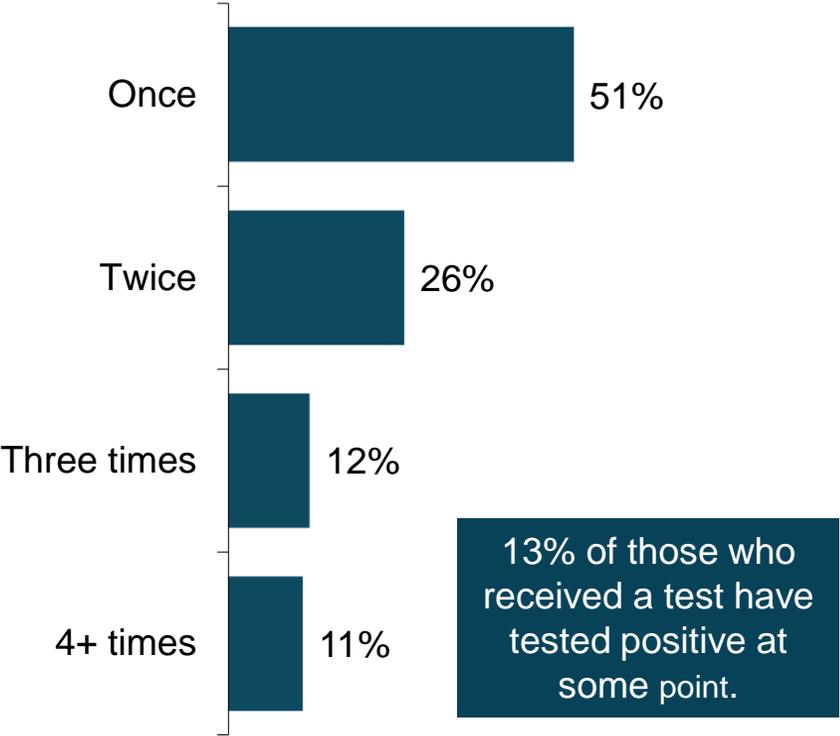
Incidence of COVID-19 Testing Among Manitobans

Nearly one-half of Manitobans have been tested for the virus, particularly young adults and parents



Those most likely to have been tested include:

- Younger adults (55% 18-34 vs. 35% among those 55+)
- Women (50% vs. 41% among men)
- Those with children in the household (57% with school-aged children and 61% among those with younger children vs. 39% among those without children)
- Those who identify as Black, Indigenous or a person of colour (61%)



Q14. Have you ever been tested for COVID-19?

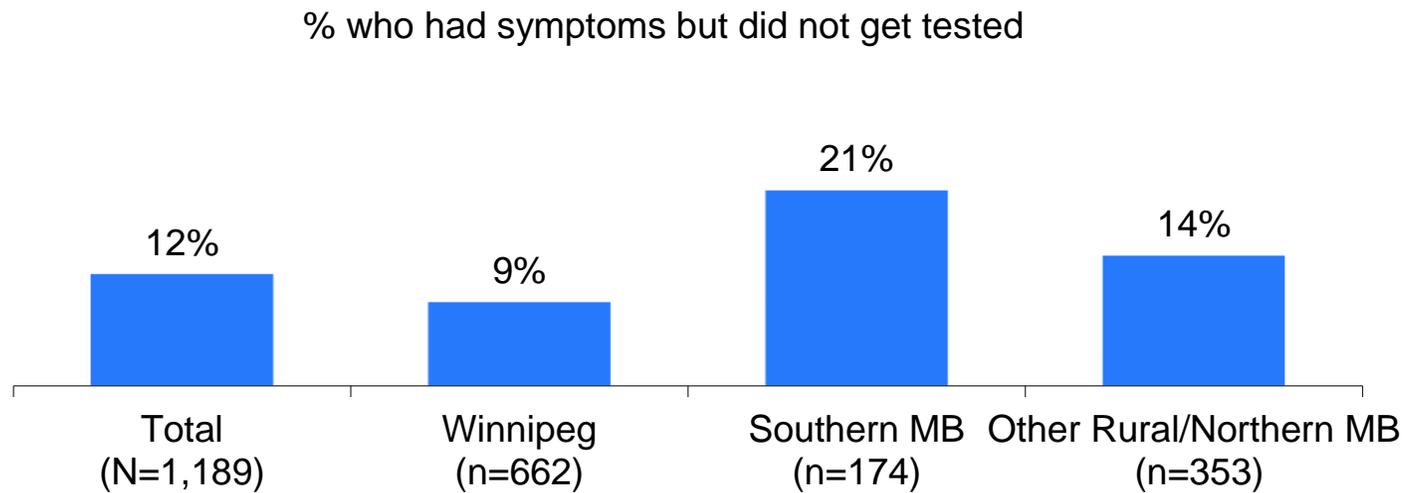
Base: All respondents (N=1,189)

Q15. How many times have you been tested? Please write your response in the space provided below.

Base: Those who have been tested (N=544)

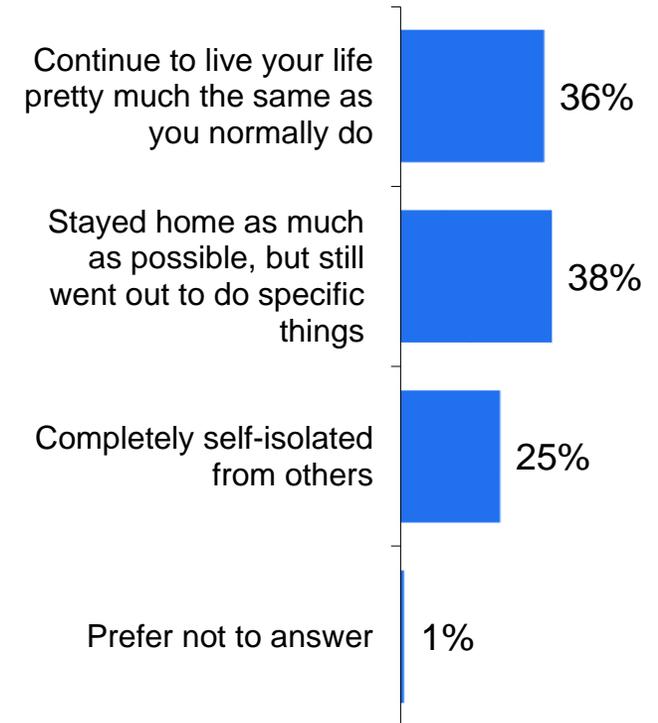
Potentially Symptomatic But Not Tested

One in ten – rising to one in five in southern Manitoba – had symptoms but did not get tested



Those most likely to have experienced symptoms but not been tested include:

- Younger adults (24% aged 18-34 vs. 9% among those aged 35-54 and 2% among those 55+)
- Those with lower levels of formal education (24% among those with high school or less)
- Partially vaccinated and unvaccinated Manitobans (44% and 34% respectively vs. 8% among those fully vaccinated)
- BIPOC Manitobans (26%)



Q18. Have you ever experienced any COVID-19 symptoms but chose not to get tested?

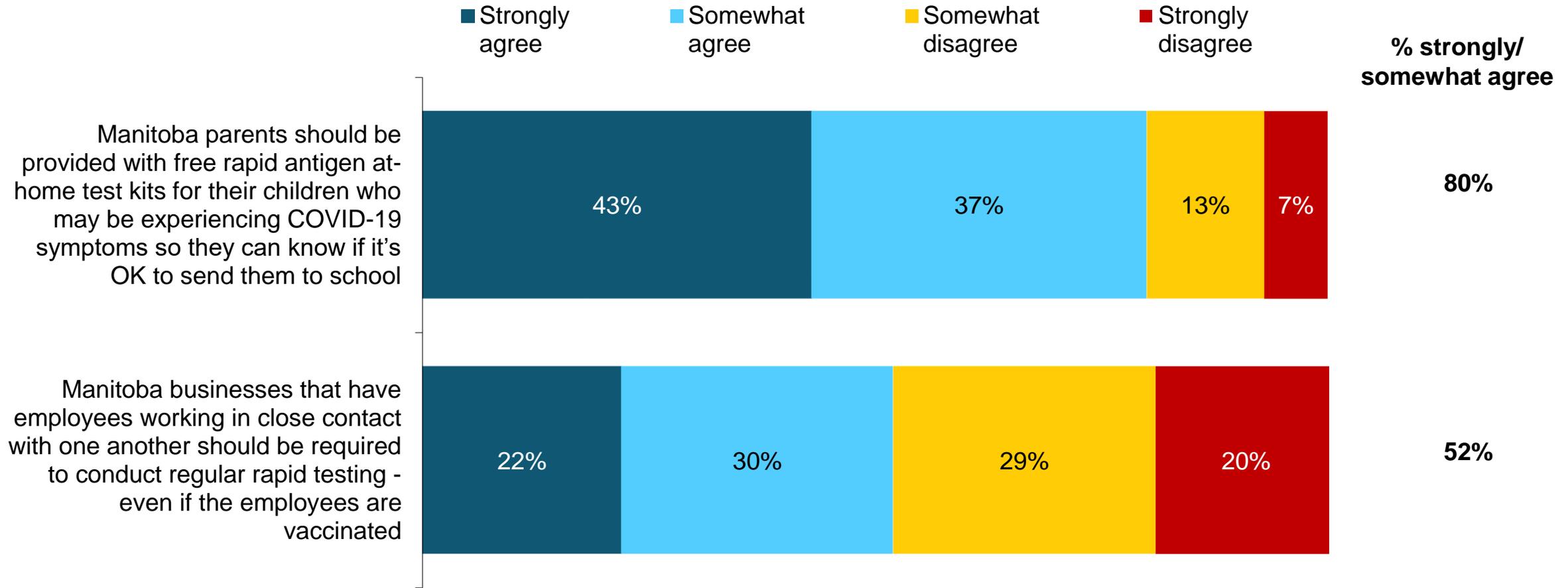
Base: All respondents

Q19. When you had these COVID-19 symptoms, did you ...

Base: All respondents who have experienced symptoms but did not go for testing (N=142)

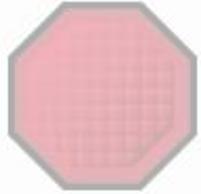
Views on Rapid Antigen Tests

Manitobans want tests kits for parents to use when children have COVID-19 symptoms



Q20. Rapid antigen tests, which can provide results in 15 minutes, can be used as a tool to help limit the spread of COVID-19 by testing asymptomatic people. Do you agree or disagree that...

Base: All respondents (N=1,189)



Critical - Provincial Response Level

Effective Saturday, May 22, 2021 at 12:01 a.m.

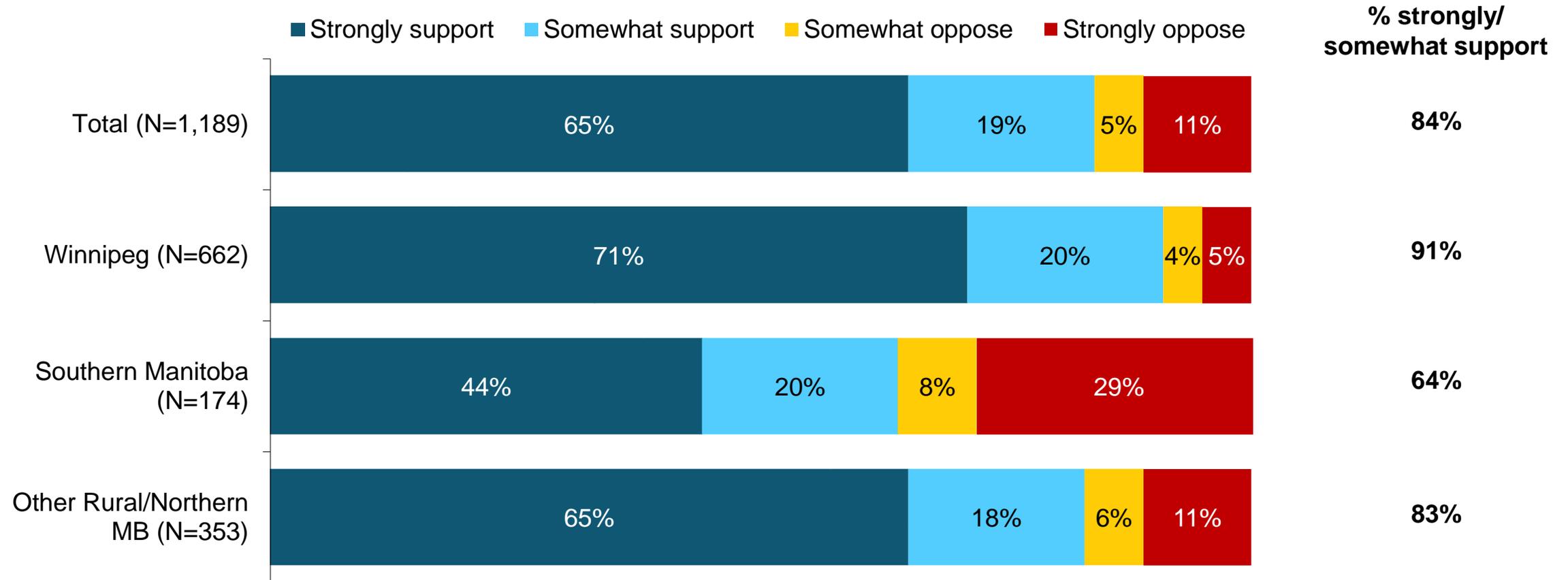
Gatherings:

- **Indoor/Outdoor private property:** Household members only, 1 designated visitor for anyone who lives alone.
- **Outdoor recreation and public places:** Household members only.

**Views on Public Health Orders and
Restrictions**

Support for Regional Restrictions

More than eight in ten support tighter regional restrictions for areas with higher case counts

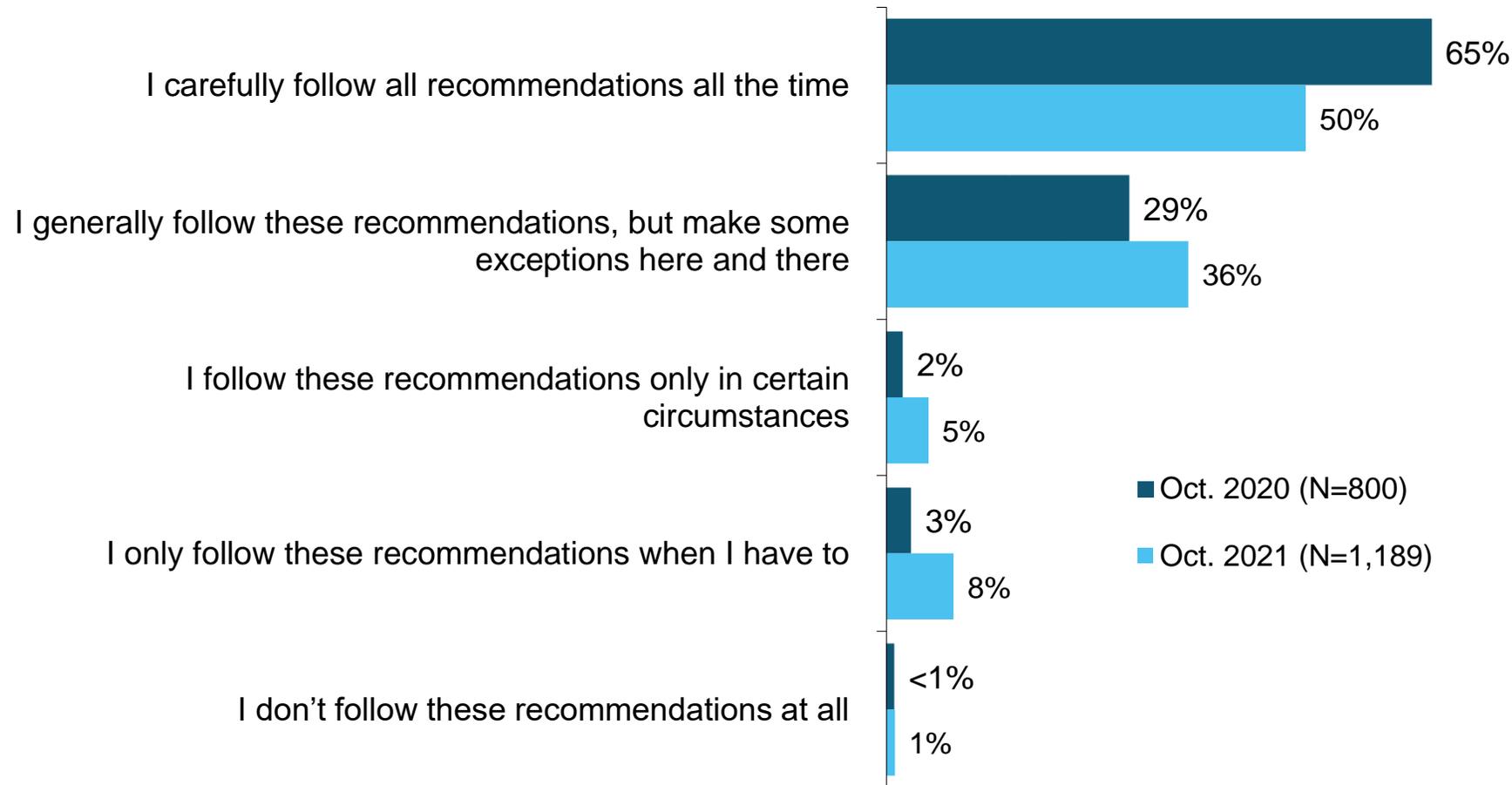


Q23. Within Manitoba, there are major differences in the proportion of people who have been vaccinated and the rate of COVID-19 infections. Do you support or oppose public health officials enacting stronger restrictions in areas with higher number of cases and lower rates of vaccination?

Base: All respondents

Views on Actions Surrounding Current Health Orders: Tracking

Only one-half now say they follow public health recommendations all the time



Those who are most likely to carefully follow recommendations include:

- Winnipeg residents (56% vs. 33% among those in southern Manitoba)
- Women (57% vs. 42% among men)
- Older adults aged 55+ (64% vs. 37% among those 18-34)
- University graduates (56%)
- Fully vaccinated individuals (56%)
- NDP supporters (63% vs. 37% among PC supporters)

Q22. When it comes to following public health orders and recommendations – 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