



# NATIONAL SURVEY

## Paramedics and Paramedicine Perception

Conducted for the Paramedics Association of Canada  
(PAC)

April 2023

# METHODOLOGY

- Sample size: 3,150 Canadians aged 18 and over.
- Survey field dates: April 24 to 28, 2023.
- The data was weighted by region, age, gender and education.
- Totals may not add up to 100 due to rounding.



# Executive summary

Healthcare remains a top-of-mind issue and Canadians are in support of paramedics initializing treatment and making decisions in emergency situations.

Since the last survey in 2021:

- Replacing healthcare as the top issue facing Canadians today is the economy (34%). Though, healthcare remains one of the top issues for Canadians. 25% rate it as the most important issue facing Canada – a 10-point decrease from 2021.
- More Canadians believe that “emergency room wait times and capacity”, “hospital overcrowding” and “access to a family doctor” are a major problem than in 2021 (each increasing 9-points or more).
- Respect for paramedics remains very high and is consistent with 2021. 62% say they have a lot of respect for paramedics – just below firefighters (66%) and the same as nurses (62%) but higher than doctors (59%). 91% have considerable respect or more of paramedics.
- 57% of Canadians believe paramedics play a central role in healthcare (unchanged since 2018). Only doctors and registered nurses are viewed by more as being central.
- 61% also consider paramedics to be central to public safety, just less than firefighters and more so than police officers.
- Canadians remain split on whether paramedics are health care providers or emergency responders. 25% think health care, 40% think emergency responder, while 35% think both equally.
- Nearly all Canadians continue to believe that paramedics are highly educated and specifically trained professional healthcare providers and they can play a larger role in delivering healthcare to Canadians.
- 82% trust paramedics to make on-the-spot medical decisions – up 5-points since 2018, and no change from 2021.
- While awareness of community paramedics remains low (14%), 83% support the idea when given more information about it. Only 2% are opposed.
- A majority believe that if they call 911 for a paramedic they expect to be taken to a hospital – though 65% feel that a paramedic should have able to decide whether there is a more effective treatment than going to the hospital. In the case of emergency medical care, most (81%) would be comfortable receiving initial treatment by a paramedic.
- Violence and assault towards paramedics is perceived as a minor or major problem (84%) in Canada, and that it’s either getting worse (36%) or staying the same (49%) – few (15%) feel it’s improving. Most support including paramedics in the Criminal Code.

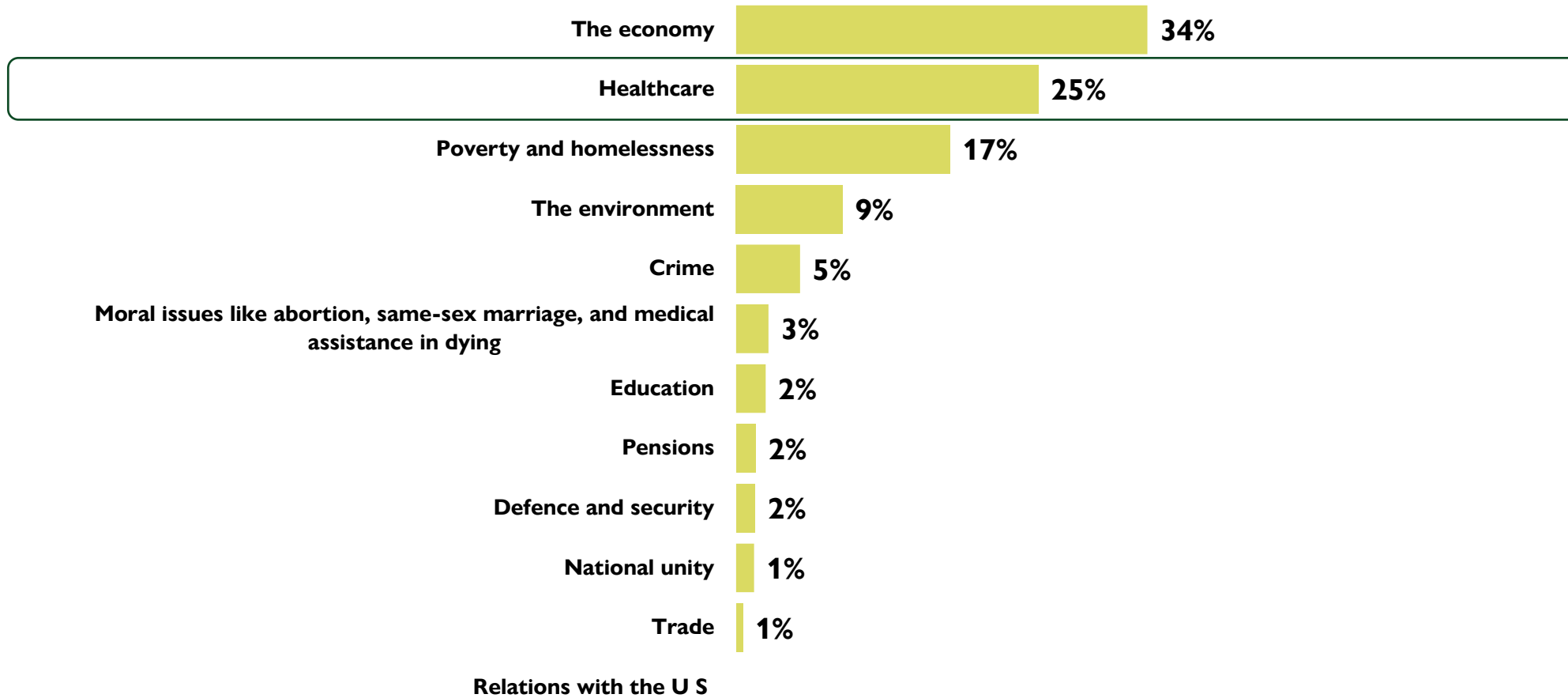
# TOP ISSUES





What is the most important issue facing Canada today?

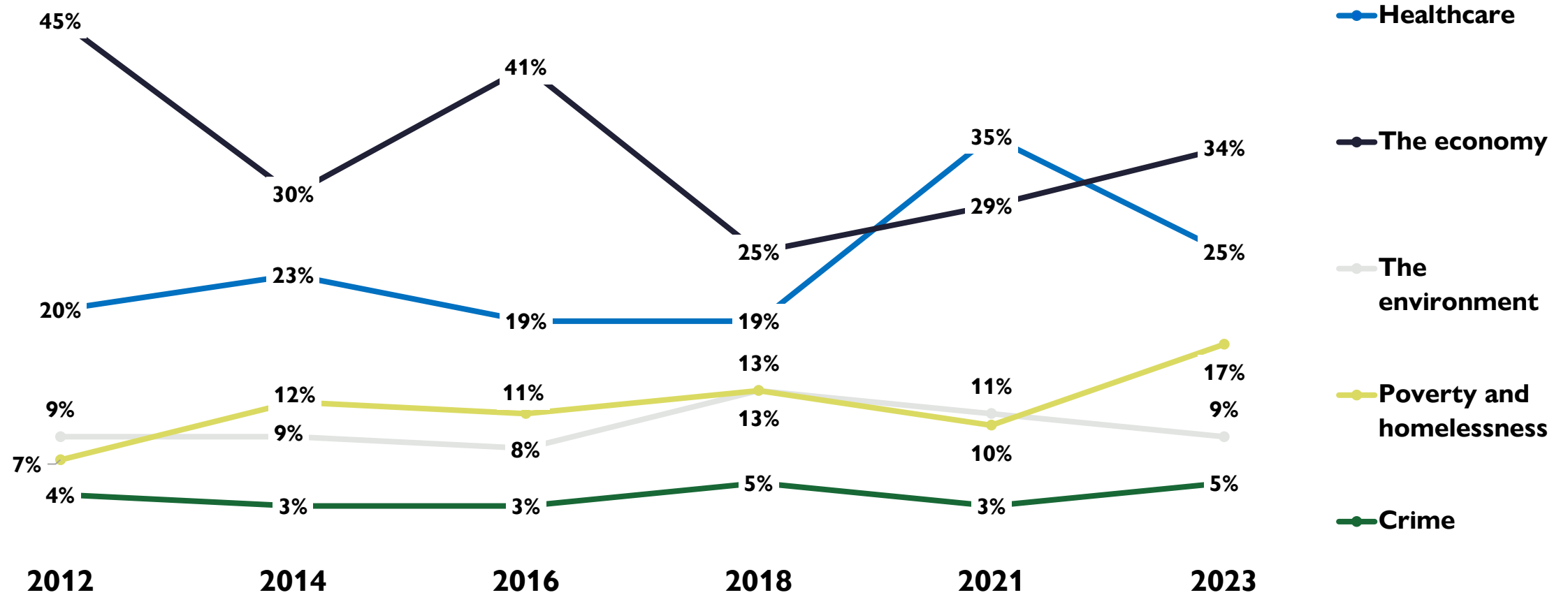
# TOP ISSUES FACING CANADA TODAY





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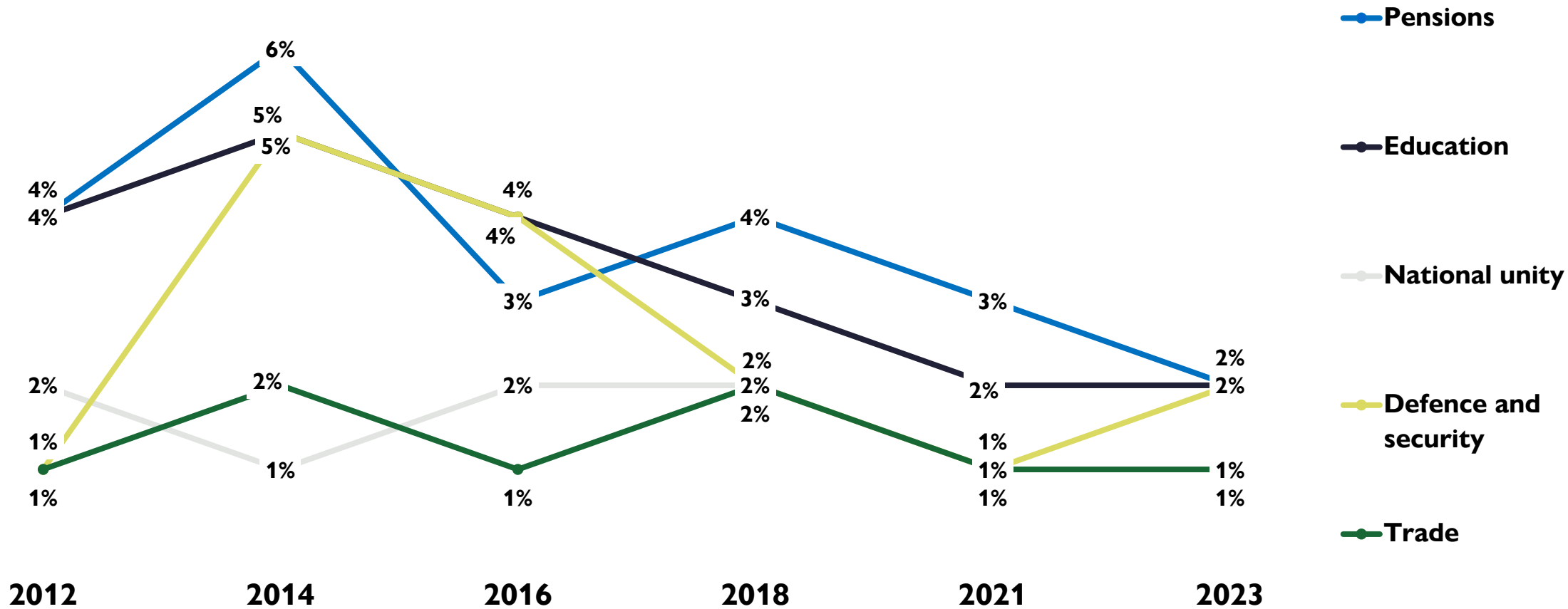
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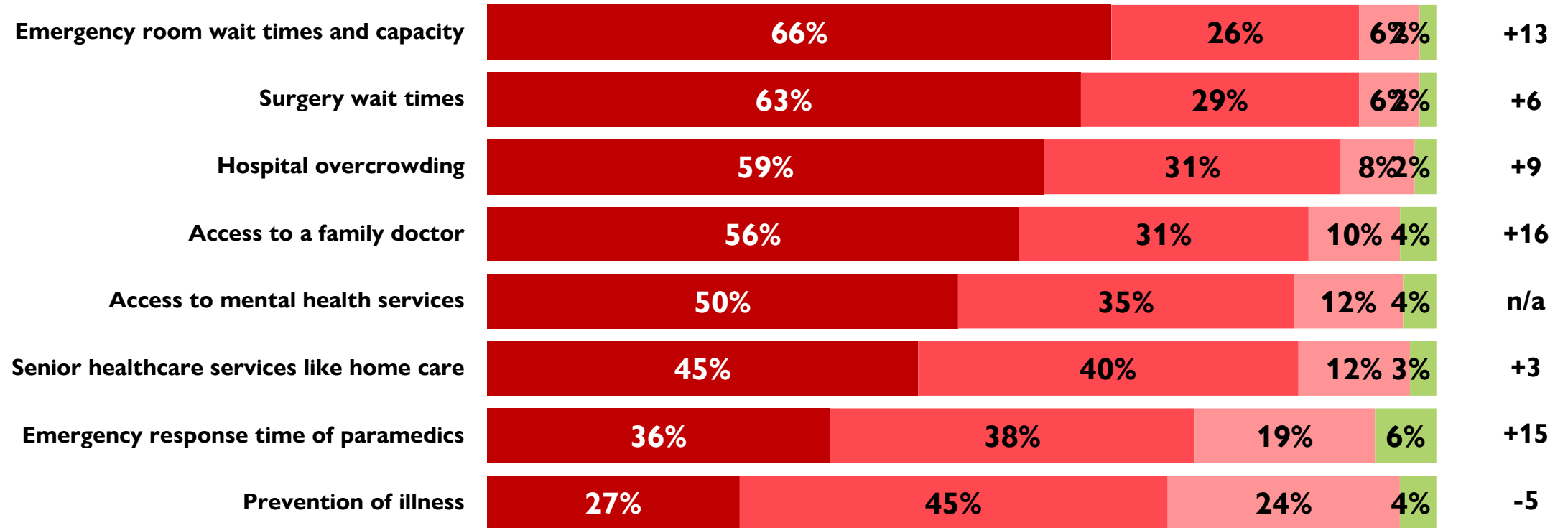




Thinking specifically about health care. Below are a number of problems some have raised about health care in Canada. For each one, please tell us whether you think it is a major problem, a moderate problem, a minor problem, or not a problem at all.

# ISSUES WITHIN HEALTHCARE IN CANADA

△ A major problem 2023-2021



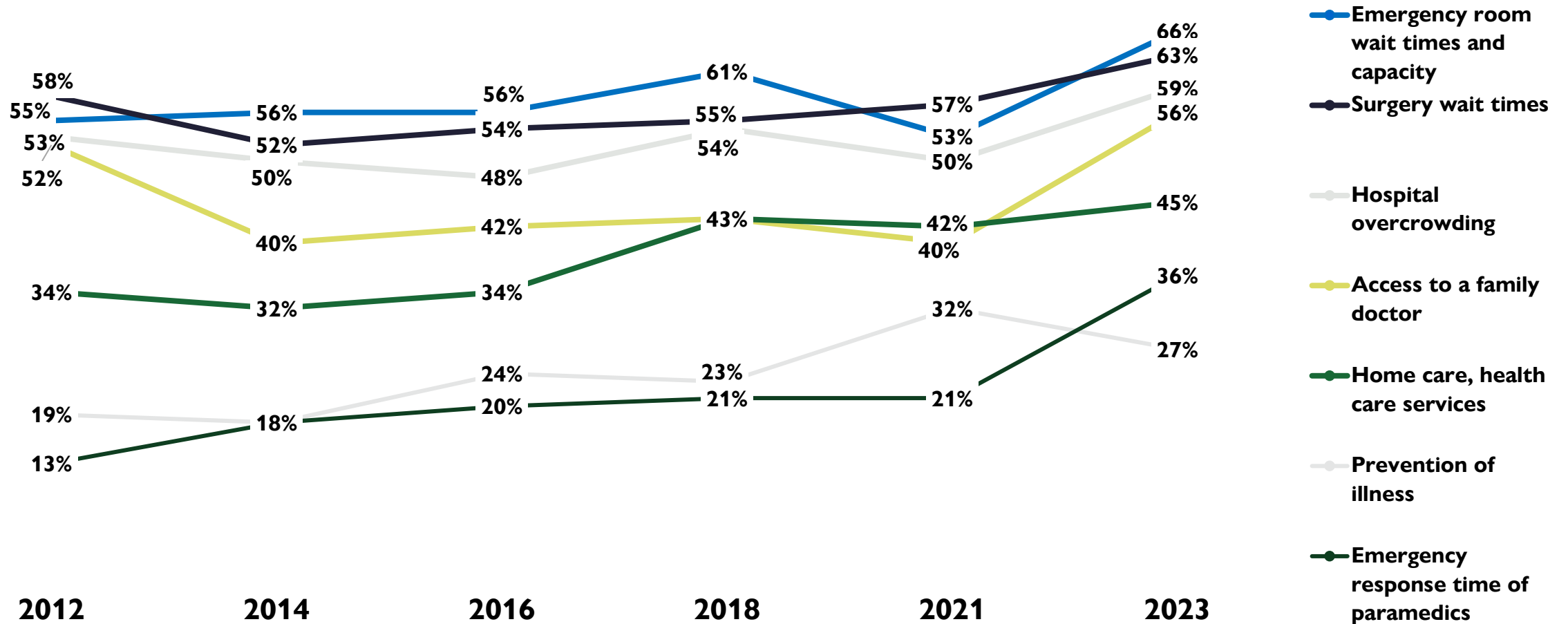
■ A major problem   ■ A moderate problem   ■ A minor problem   ■ Not a problem at all





Thinking specifically about health care. Below are a number of problems some have raised about health care in Canada. For each one, please tell us whether you think it is a major problem, a moderate problem, a minor problem, or not a problem at all.

# ISSUES WITHIN HEALTHCARE IN CANADA



A major problem.

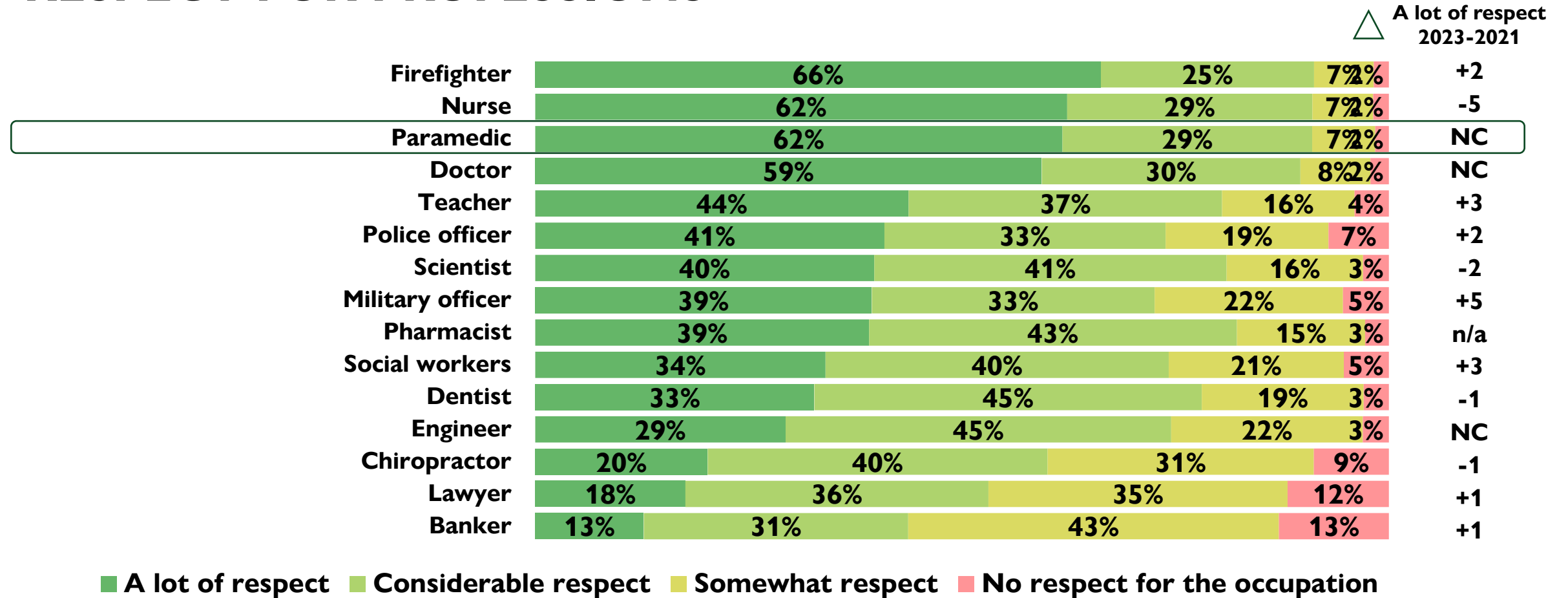
# RESPECT FOR PROFESSIONS





Below is a list of different professions. For each, please tell me if you have a lot of respect, considerable respect, somewhat respect, or no respect for the occupation

# RESPECT FOR PROFESSIONS

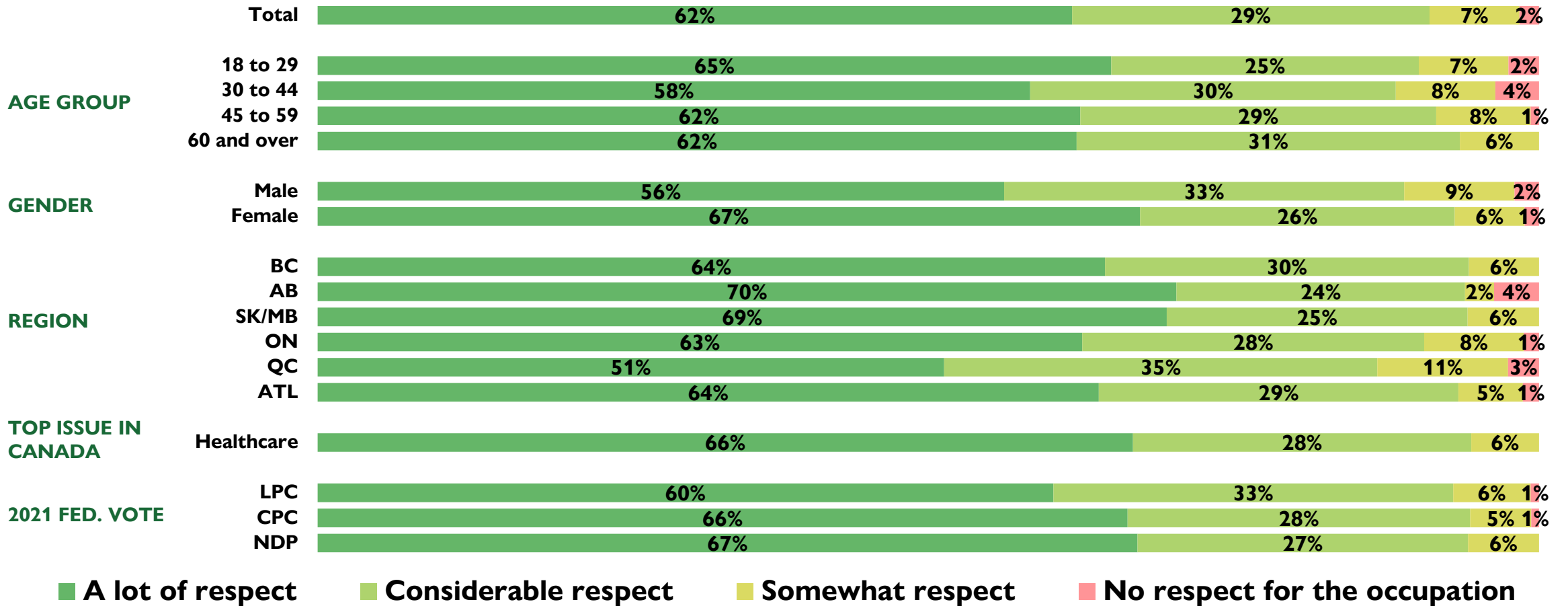




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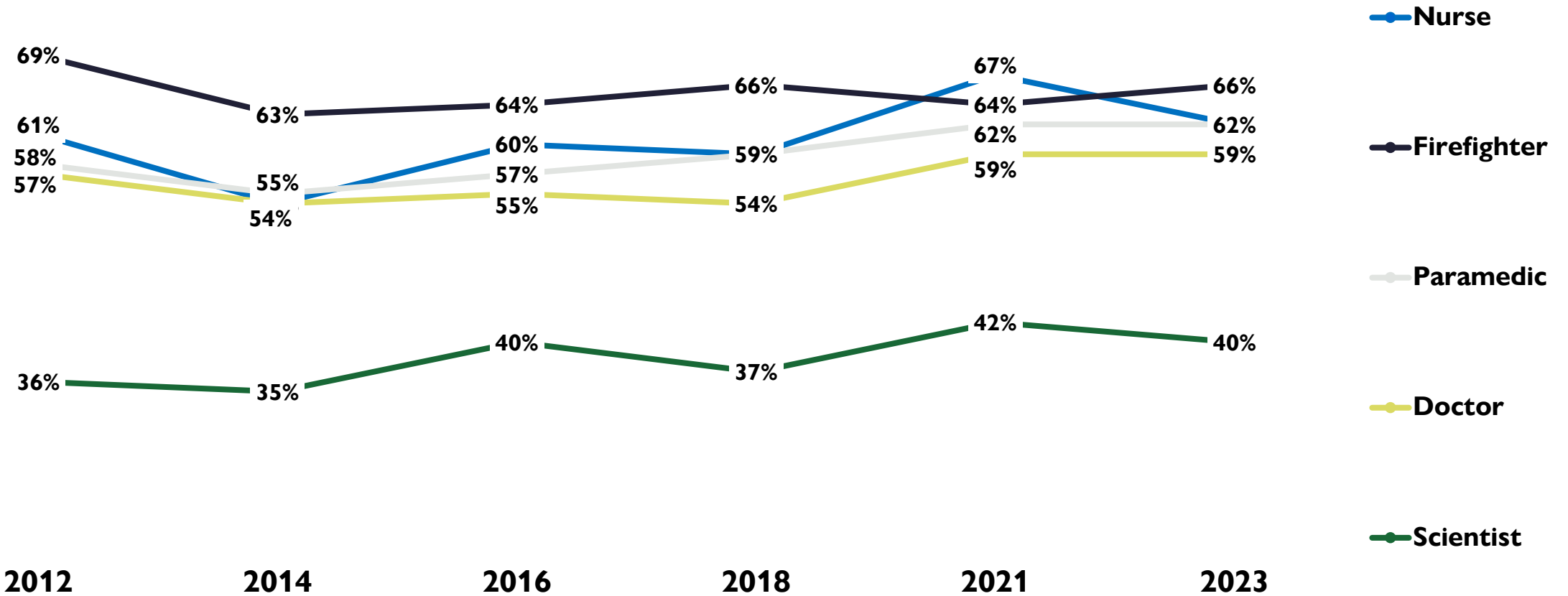
## PARAMEDIC





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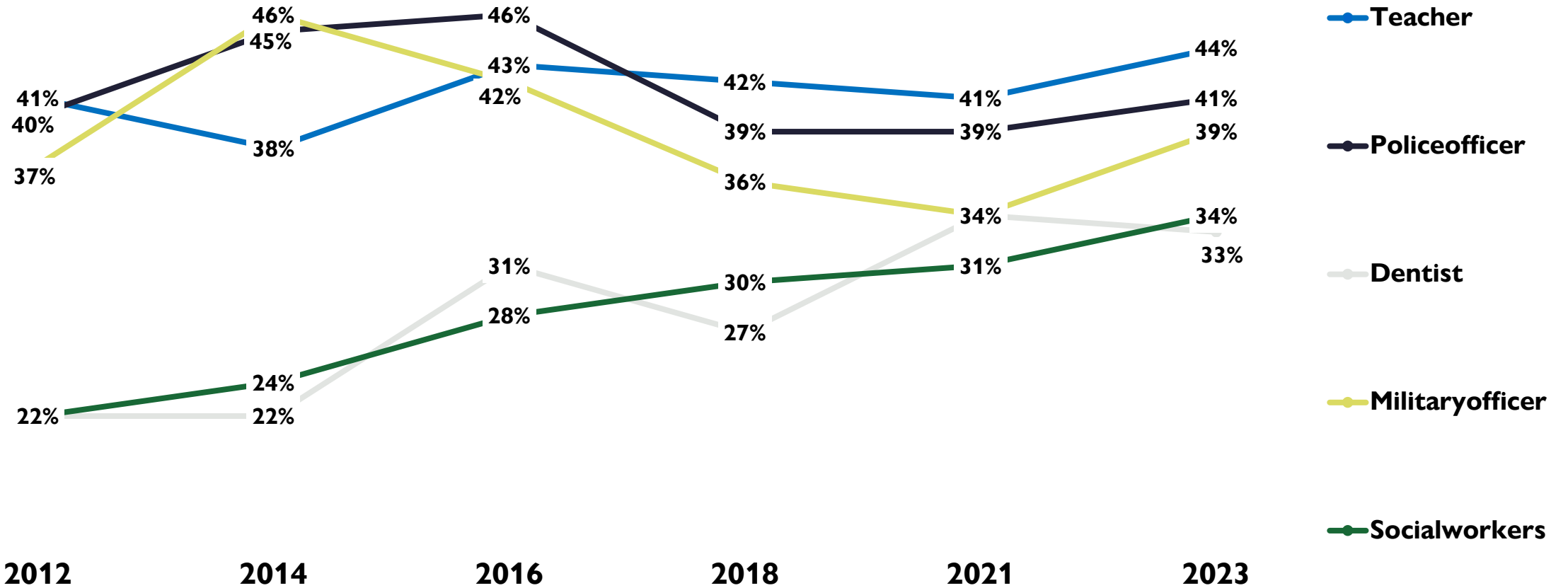


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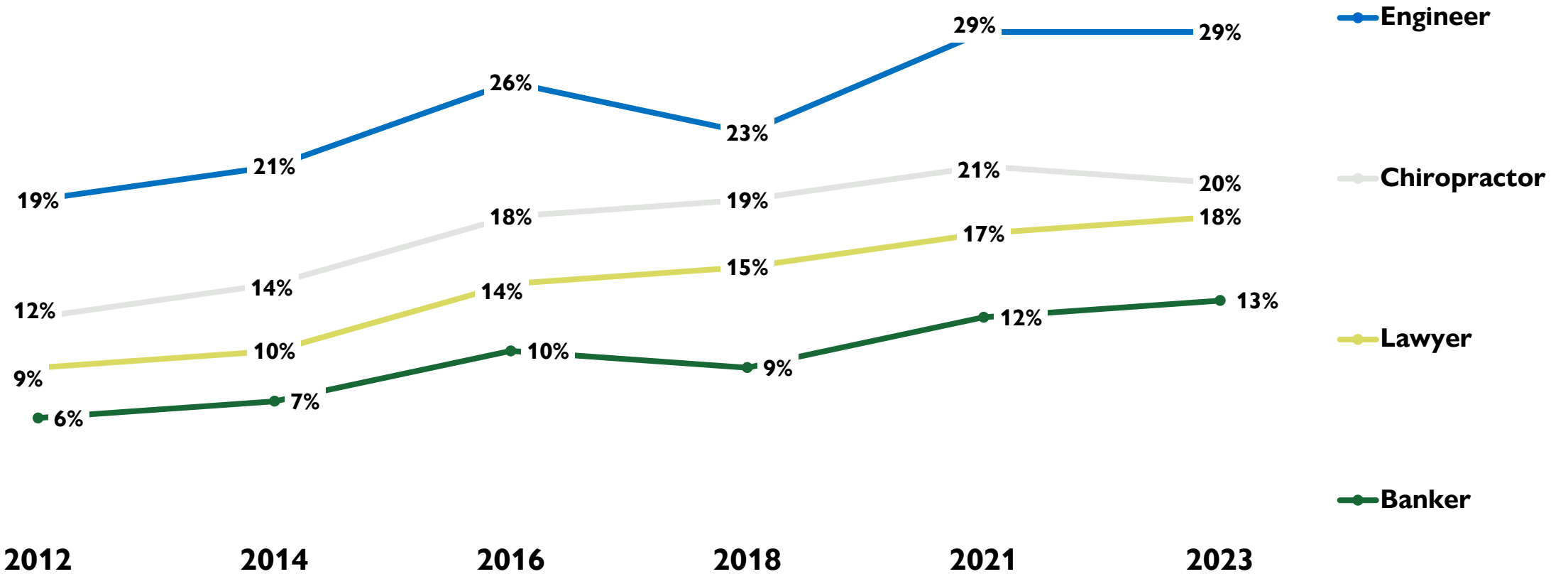


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# RESPECT FOR PROFESSIONS



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# ROLE OF PARAMEDICS IN HEALTHCARE

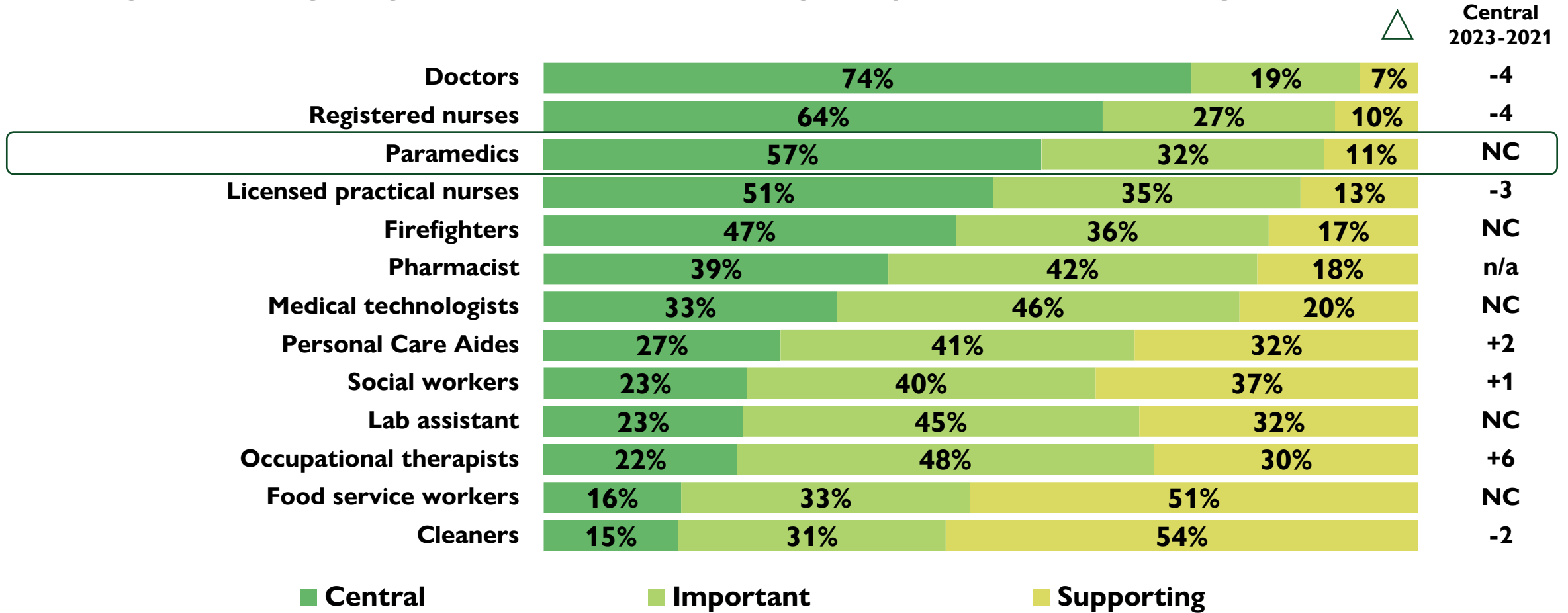






Think about the health care system overall and the role and importance of different people within the system. We are going to show you a number of different professions within the health care system and ask you to classify their role into one of three groups.

# IMPORTANCE OF DIFFERENT ROLES IN HEALTHCARE



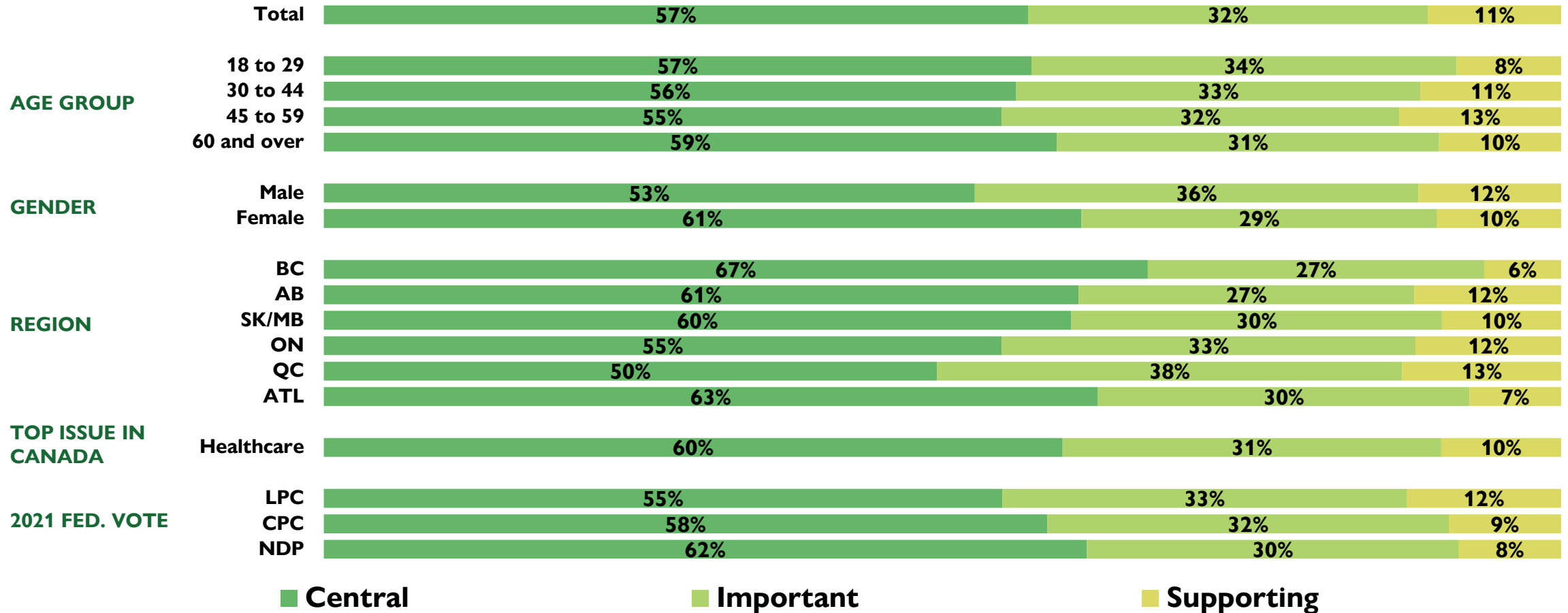
Central: They play a central role in the delivery of health care in your community. Important: They play an important but not essential role in the system. Supporting: They play a supporting role in making the entire system work.



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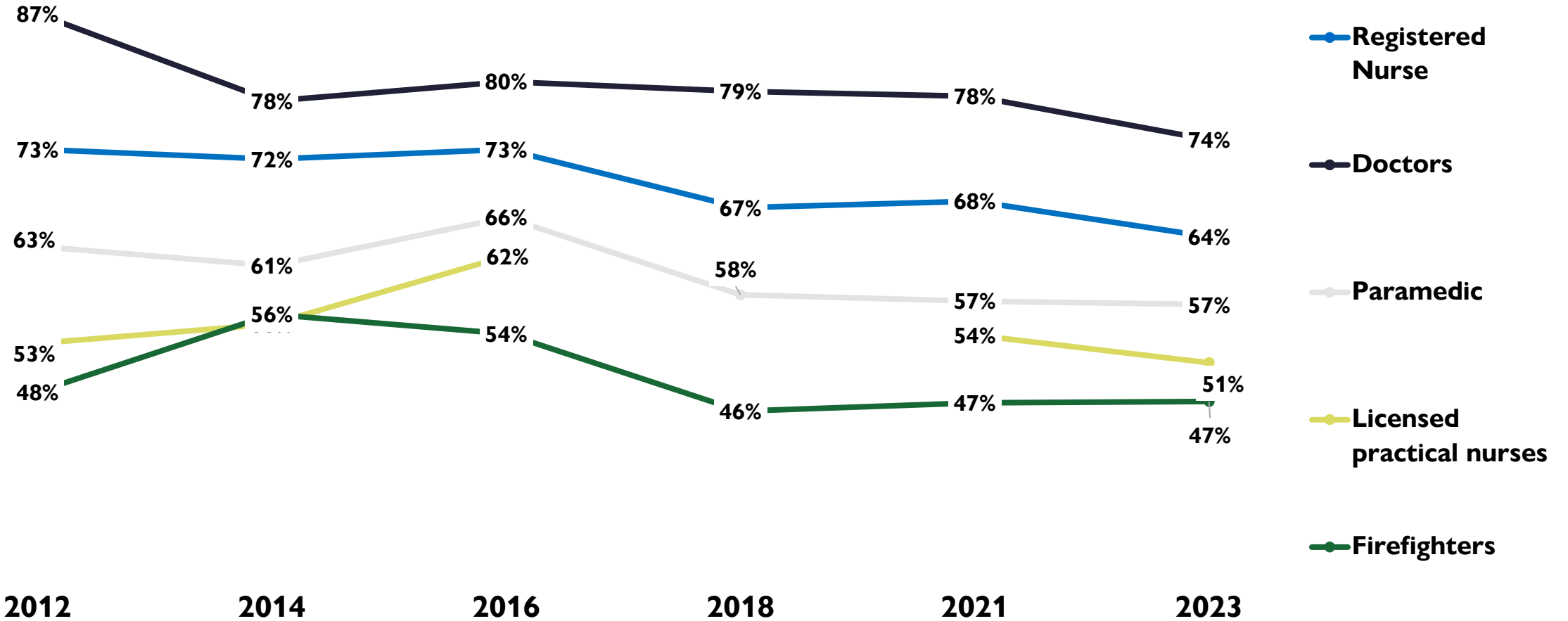


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# IMPORTANCE OF CENTRAL GROUPS IN HEALTHCARE

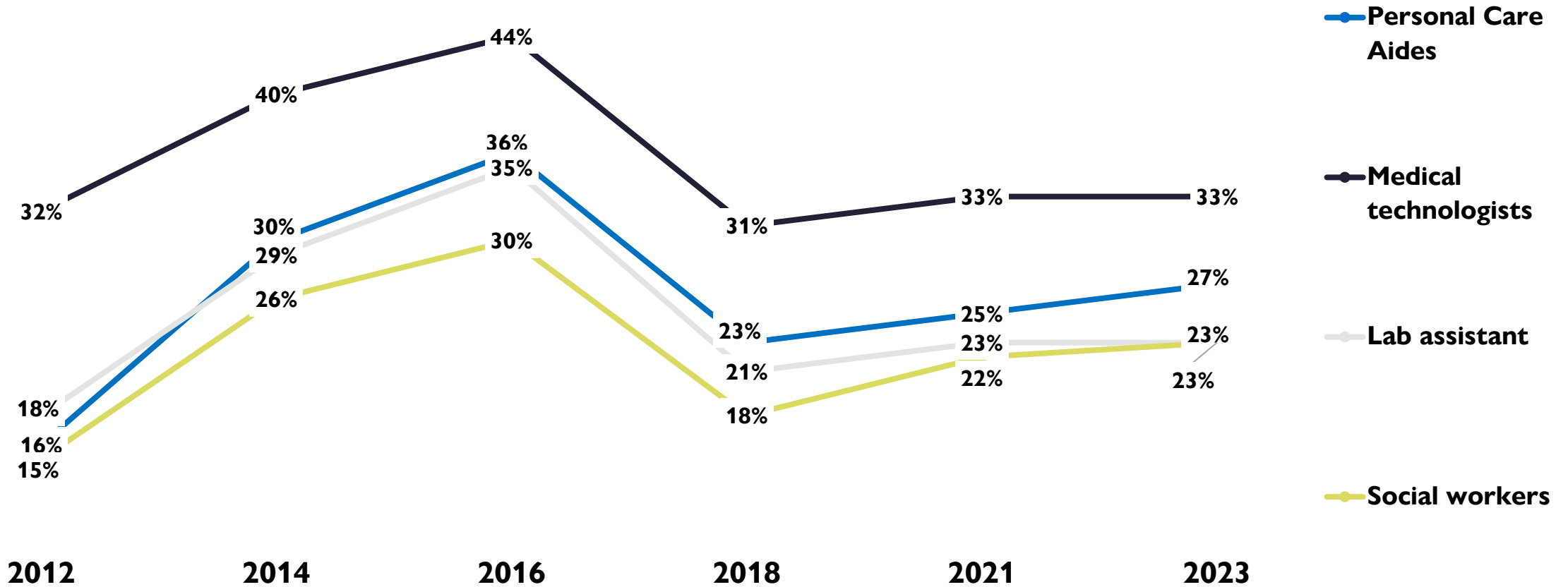


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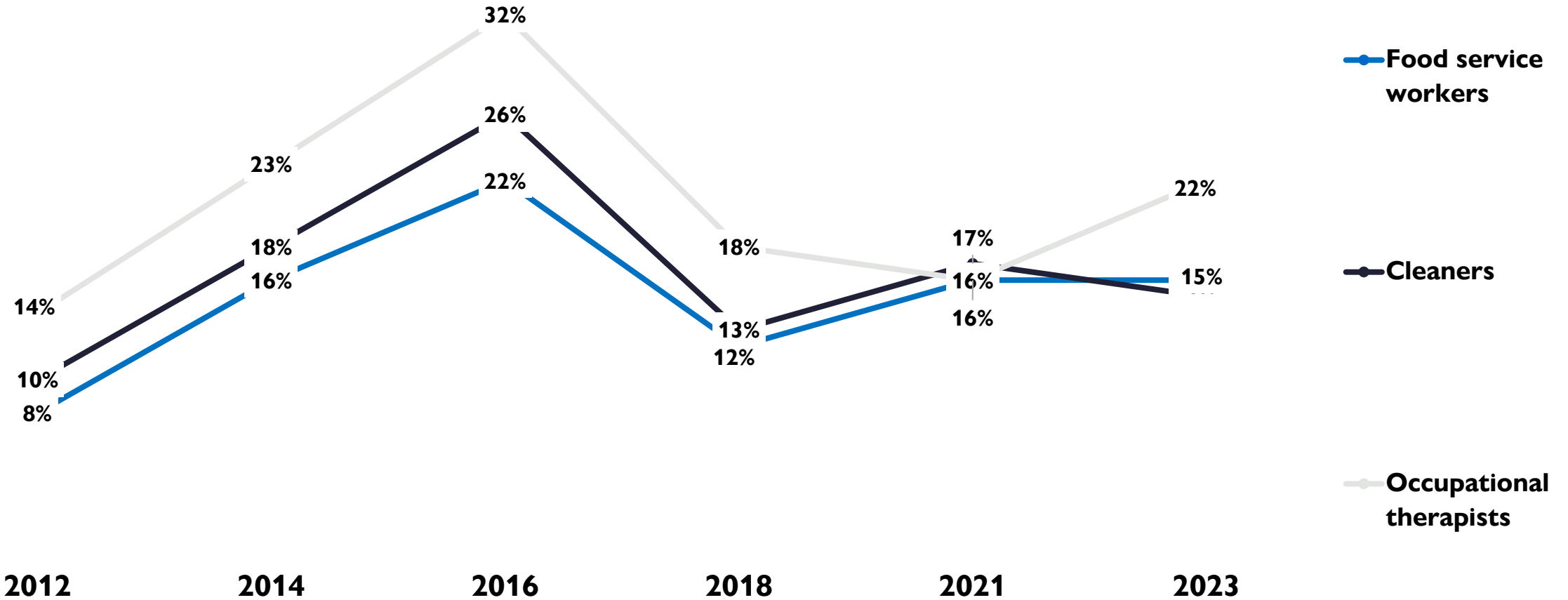


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# IMPORTANCE OF CENTRAL GROUPS IN HEALTHCARE



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# ROLE OF PARAMEDICS IN PUBLIC SAFETY



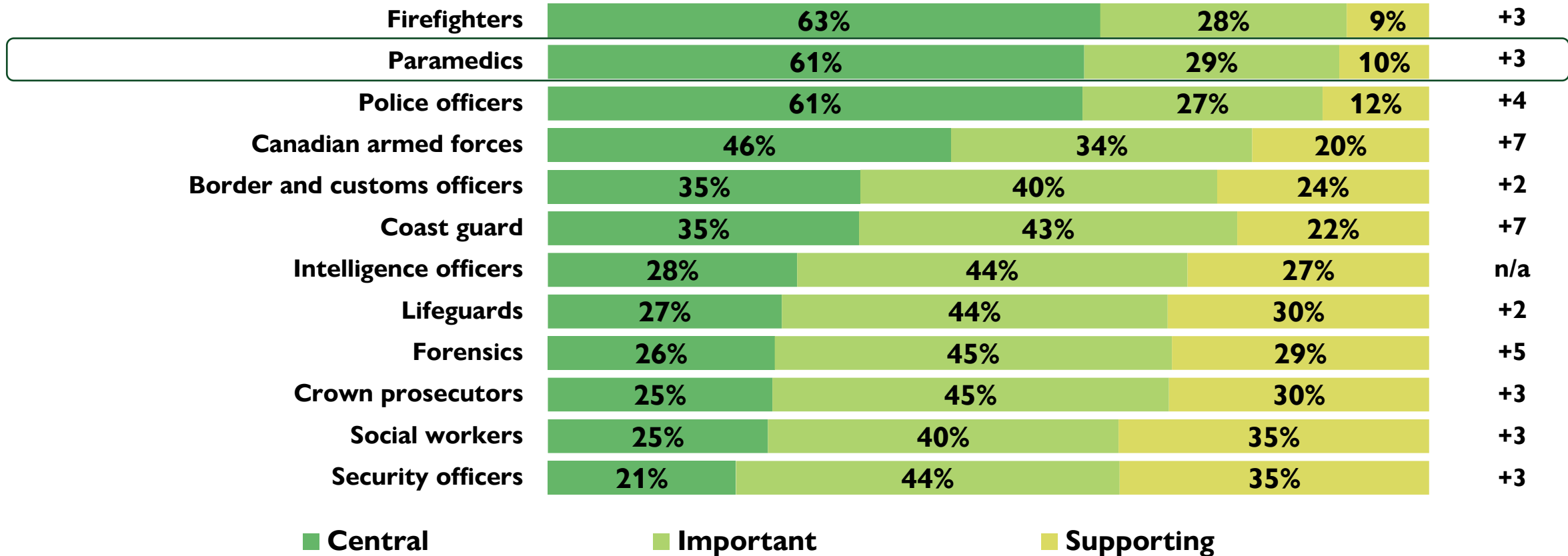


Think about the different people who work to keep Canadians safe. We are going to show you a number of different professions within the public safety system and ask you to classify their role into one of three groups

# IMPORTANCE OF DIFFERENT ROLES IN PUBLIC SAFETY



Central  
2023-2021



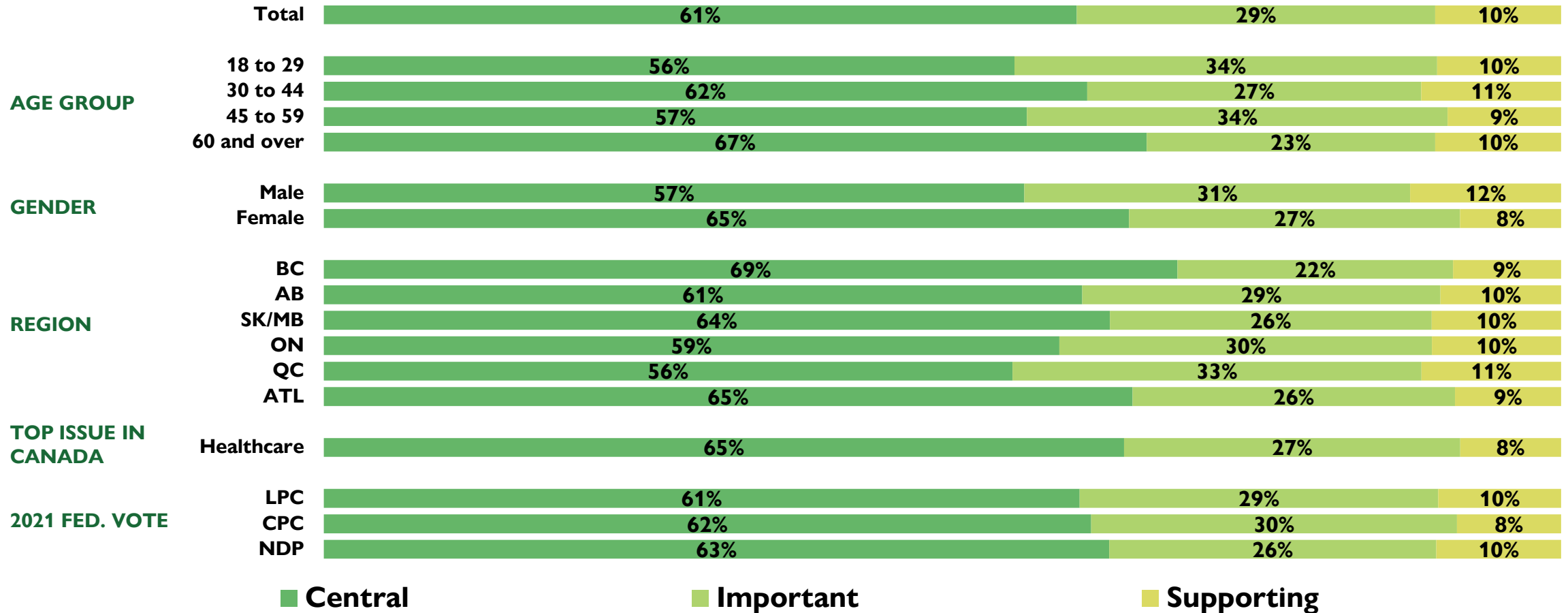
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# IMPORTANCE OF DIFFERENT ROLES IN PUBLIC SAFETY

## PARAMEDIC



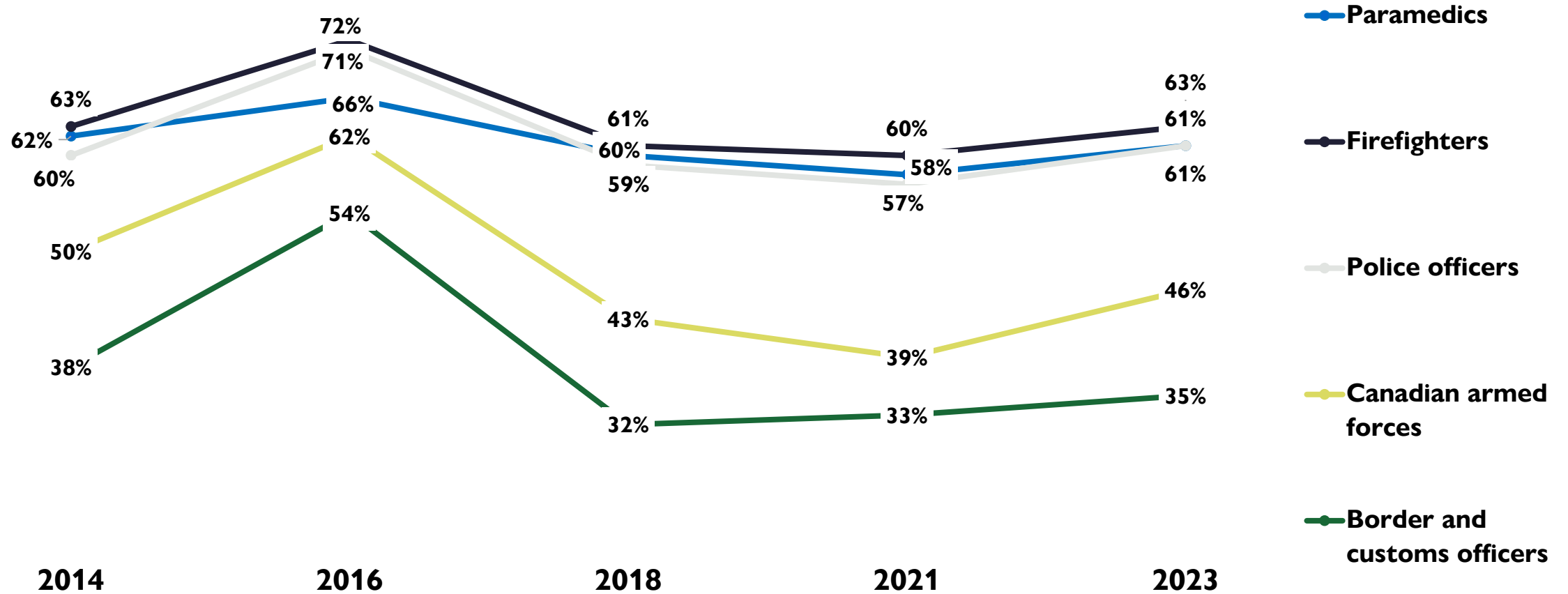
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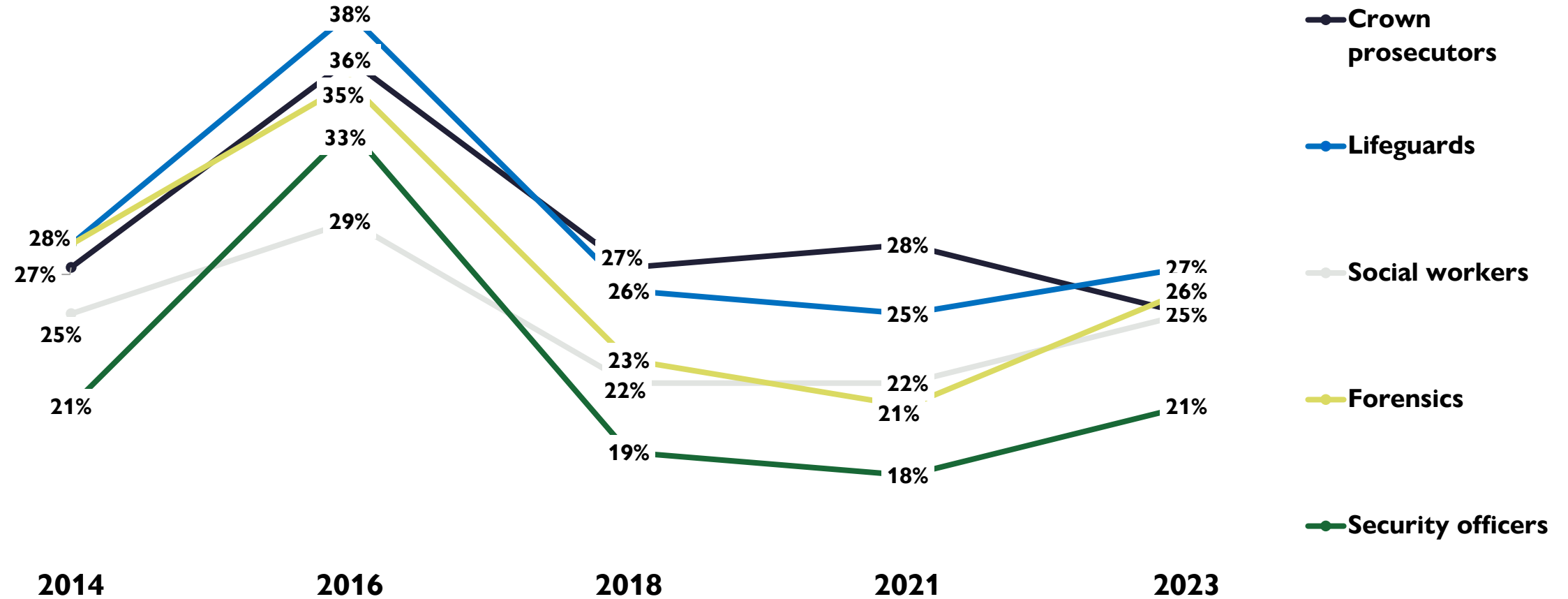


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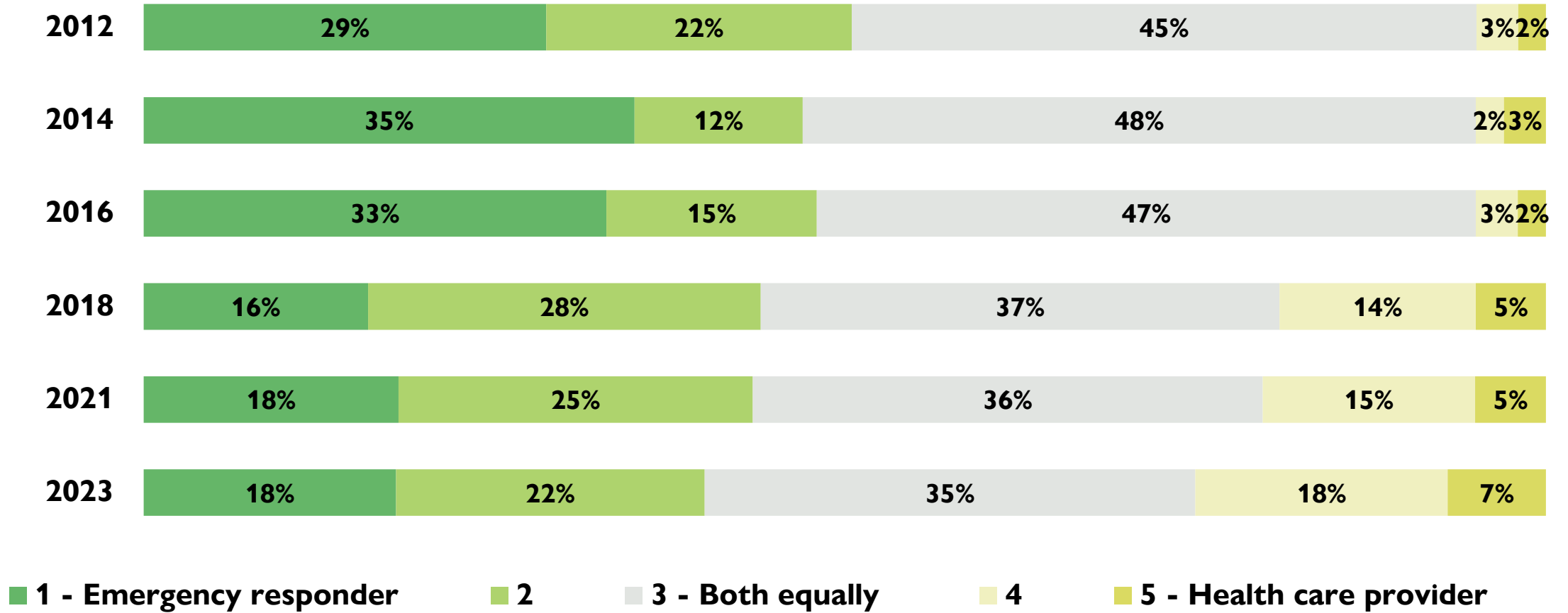
# HOW PARAMEDICS ARE VIEWED BY CANADIANS





Some people consider paramedics to be emergency responders while others consider them to be health care providers. Using the scale below, please tell us where you think paramedics fit on a scale between the two descriptions

# PARAMEDIC: EMERGENCY RESPONDER OR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER?



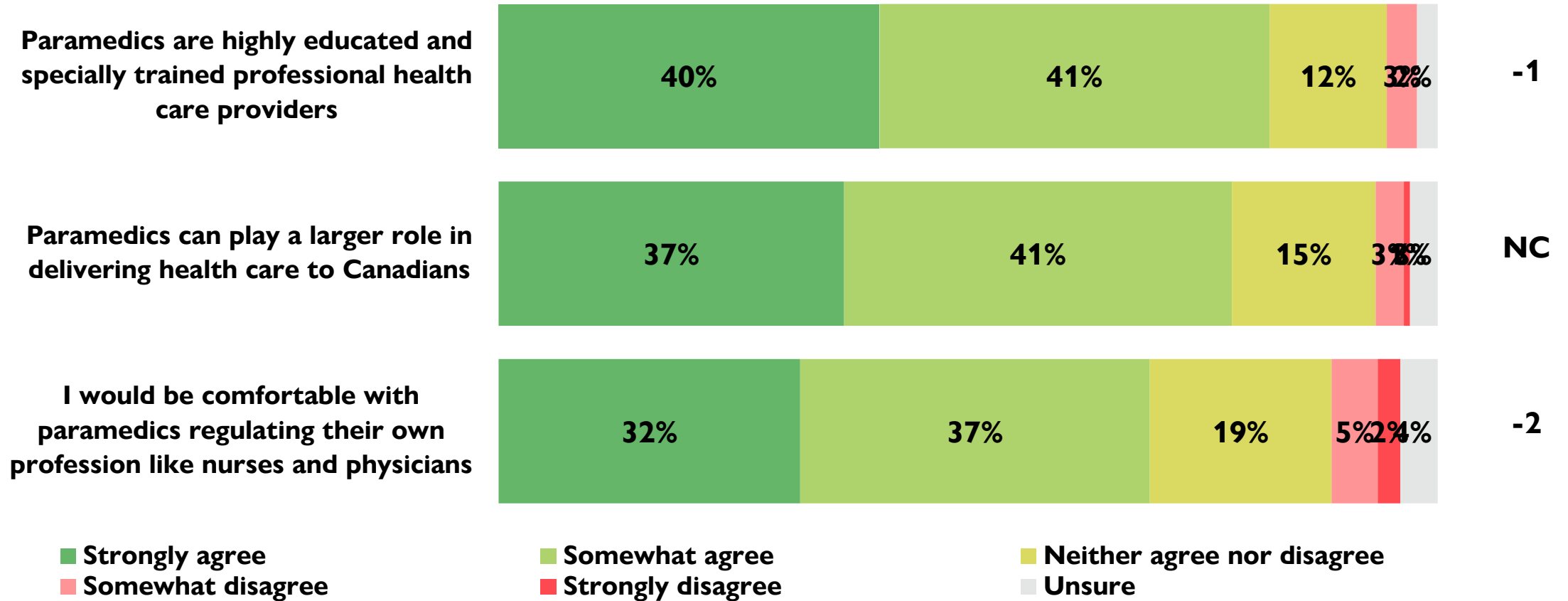


Below are a number of statements that could be used to describe paramedics in your community. Please tell us whether you agree or disagree with each statement

# HOW PARAMEDICS ARE VIEWED IN THE COMMUNITY



Agree  
2023-2021

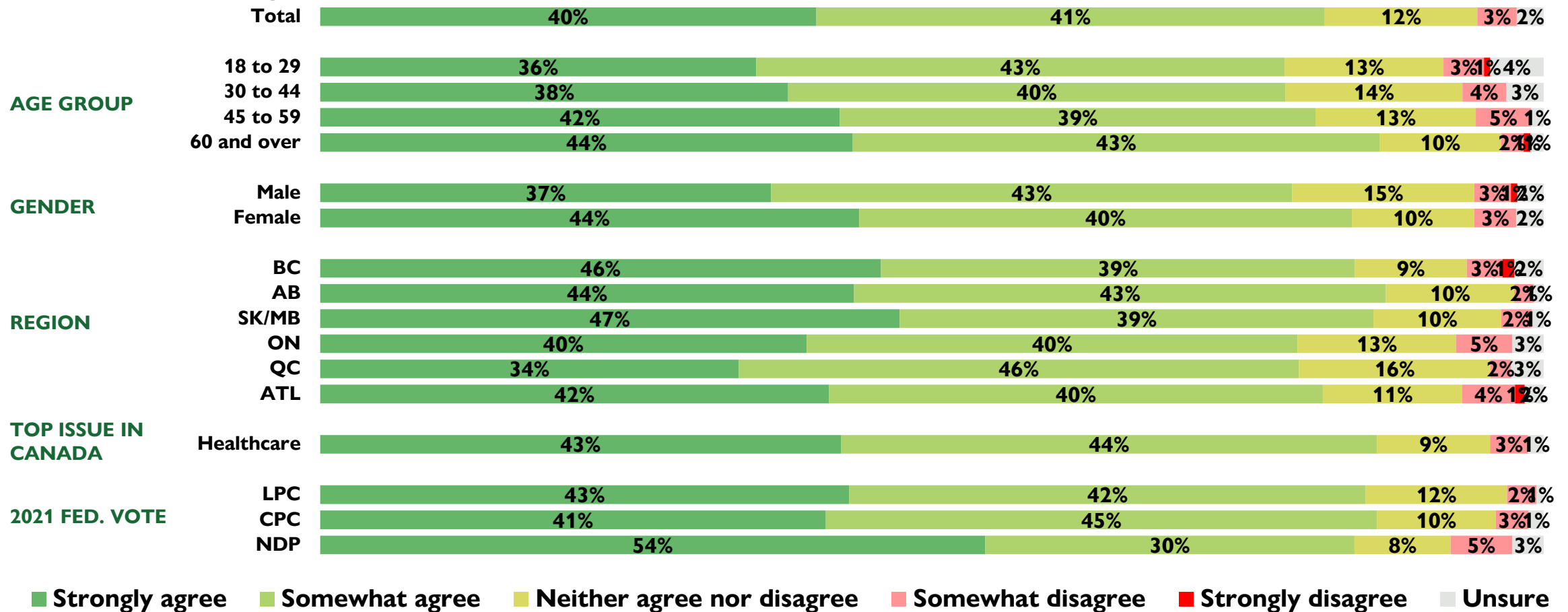




Below are a number of statements that could be used to describe paramedics in your community. Please tell us whether you agree or disagree with each statement

# HOW PARAMEDICS ARE VIEWED IN THE COMMUNITY

*Paramedics are highly educated and specially trained professional health care providers*

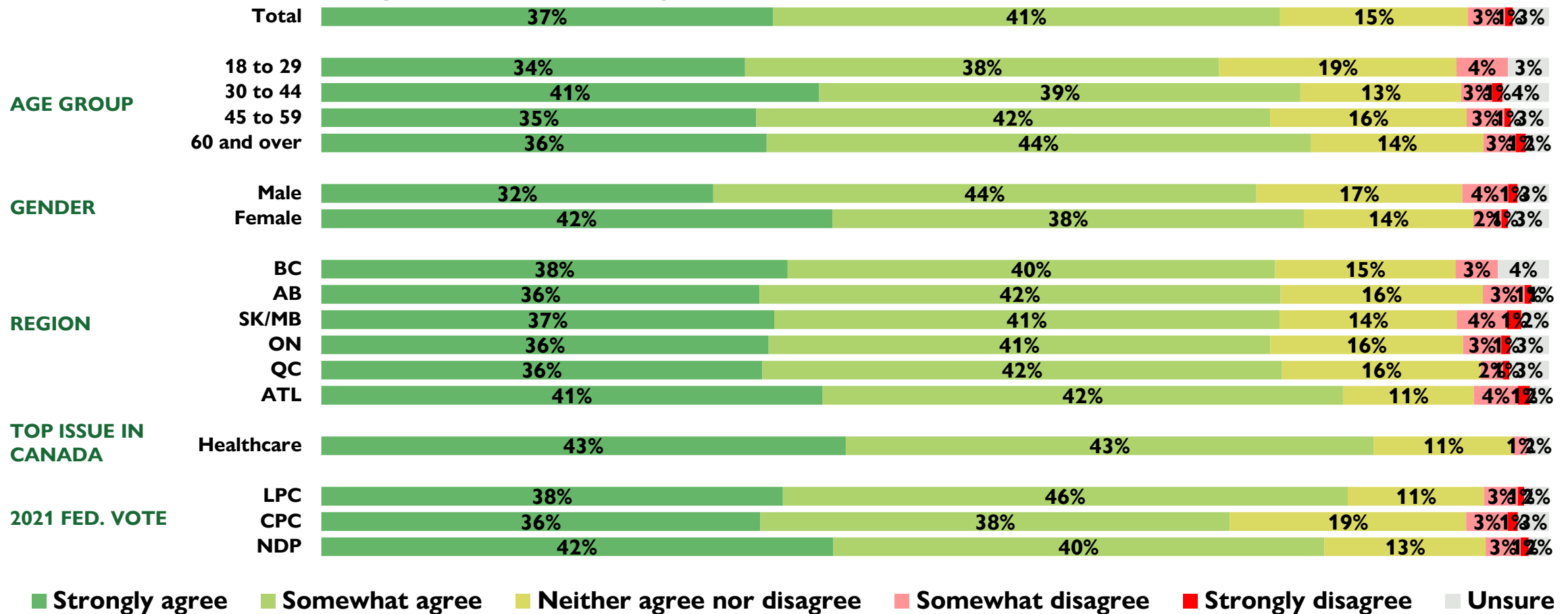




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# HOW PARAMEDICS ARE VIEWED IN THE COMMUNITY

*Paramedics can play a larger role in delivering health care to Canadians*

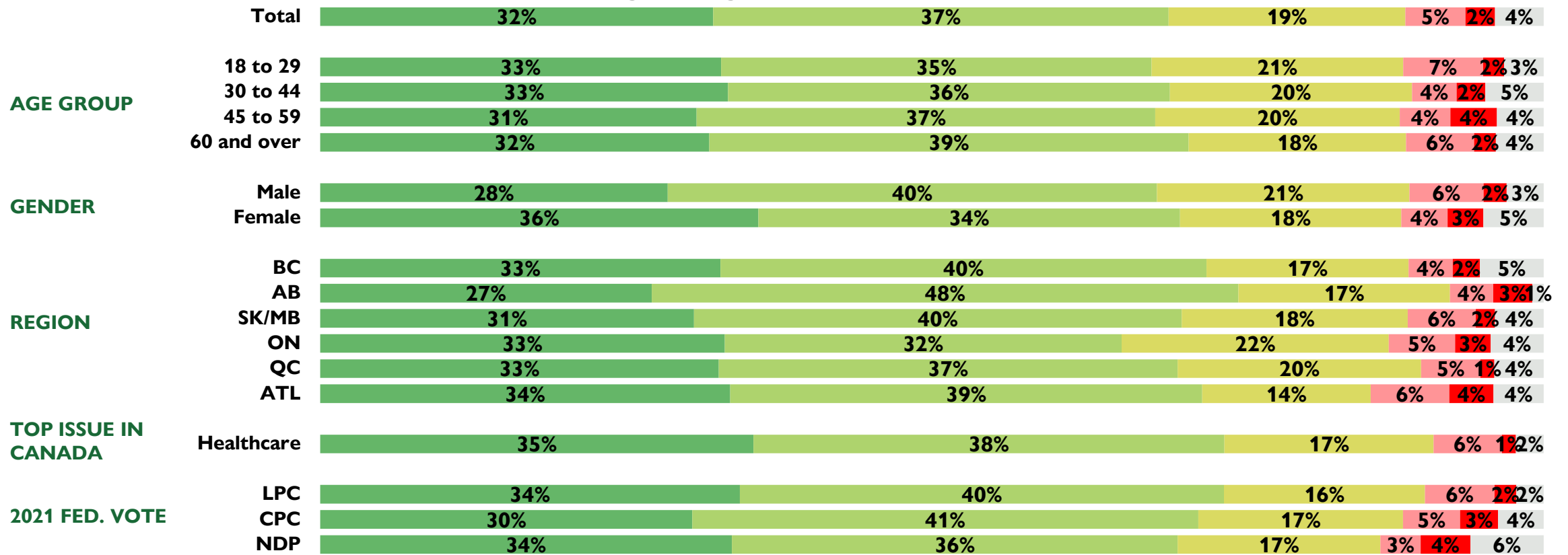




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# HOW PARAMEDICS ARE VIEWED IN THE COMMUNITY

*I would be comfortable with paramedics regulating their own profession like nurses and physicians*



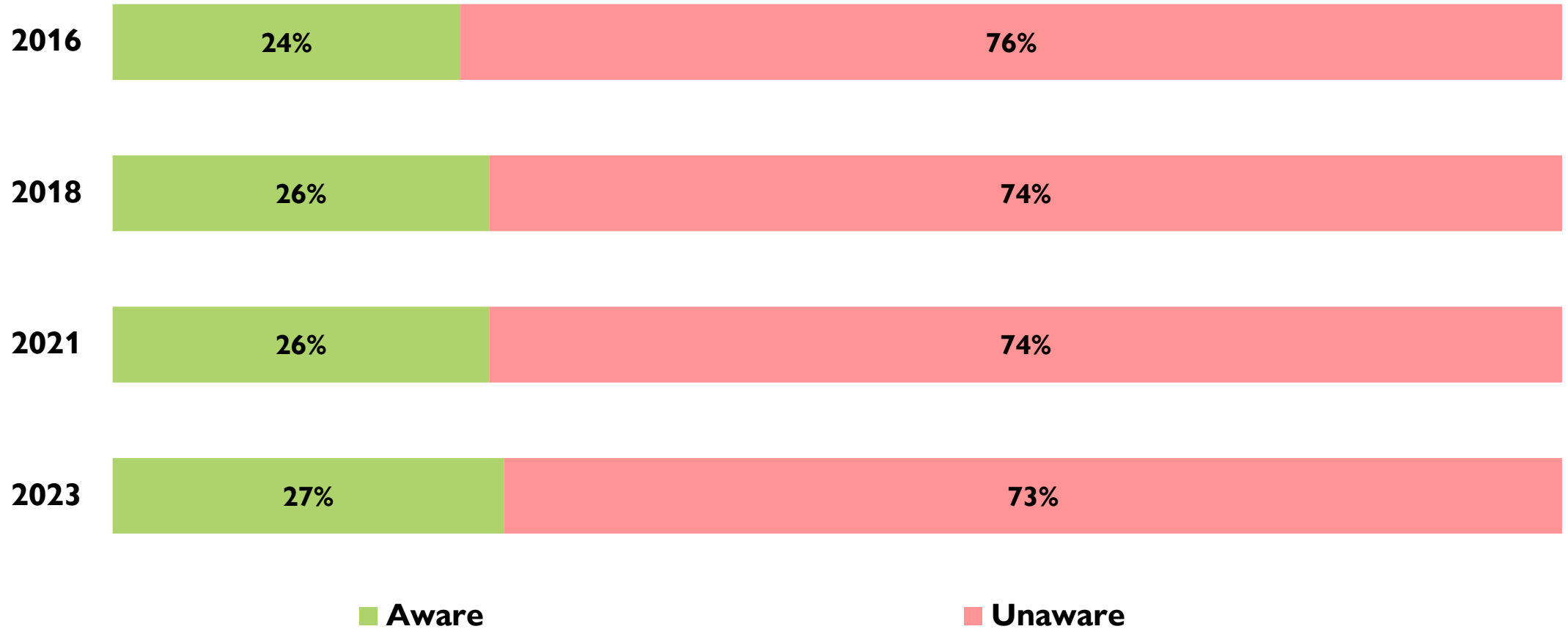
■ Strongly agree  
 ■ Somewhat agree  
 ■ Neither agree nor disagree  
 ■ Somewhat disagree  
 ■ Strongly disagree  
 ■ Unsure





Before today, were you aware that there are four levels of paramedics with each providing a different level of care to patients? The levels are emergency medical responder, primary care paramedic, advanced care paramedic, and critical care paramedic

# AWARENESS: LEVELS OF CARE PROVIDED BY PARAMEDICS

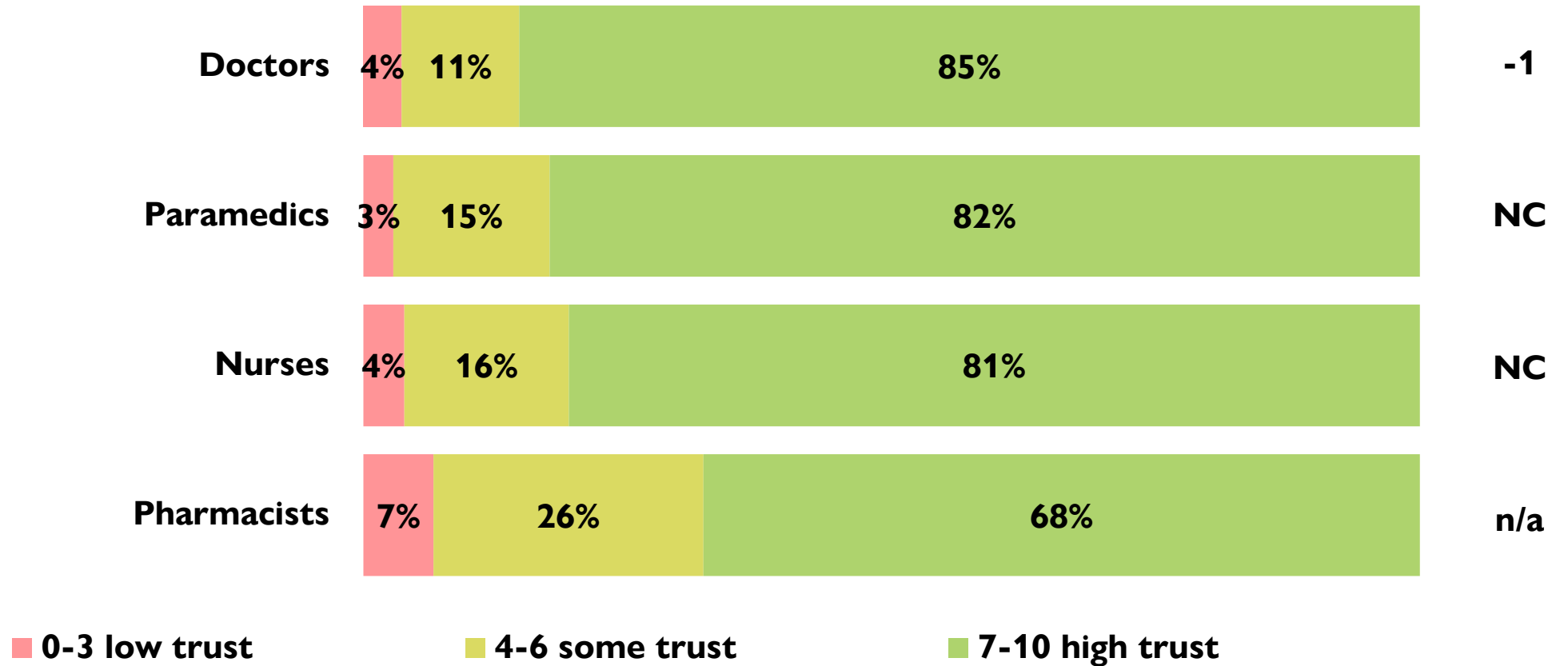




To what extent do you trust each of the following health professionals to make on-the-spot medical decisions about your personal health?

# COMPARATIVE TRUST FOR ON-THE-SPOT MEDICAL DECISIONS

△ 7-10 high trust 2023-2021

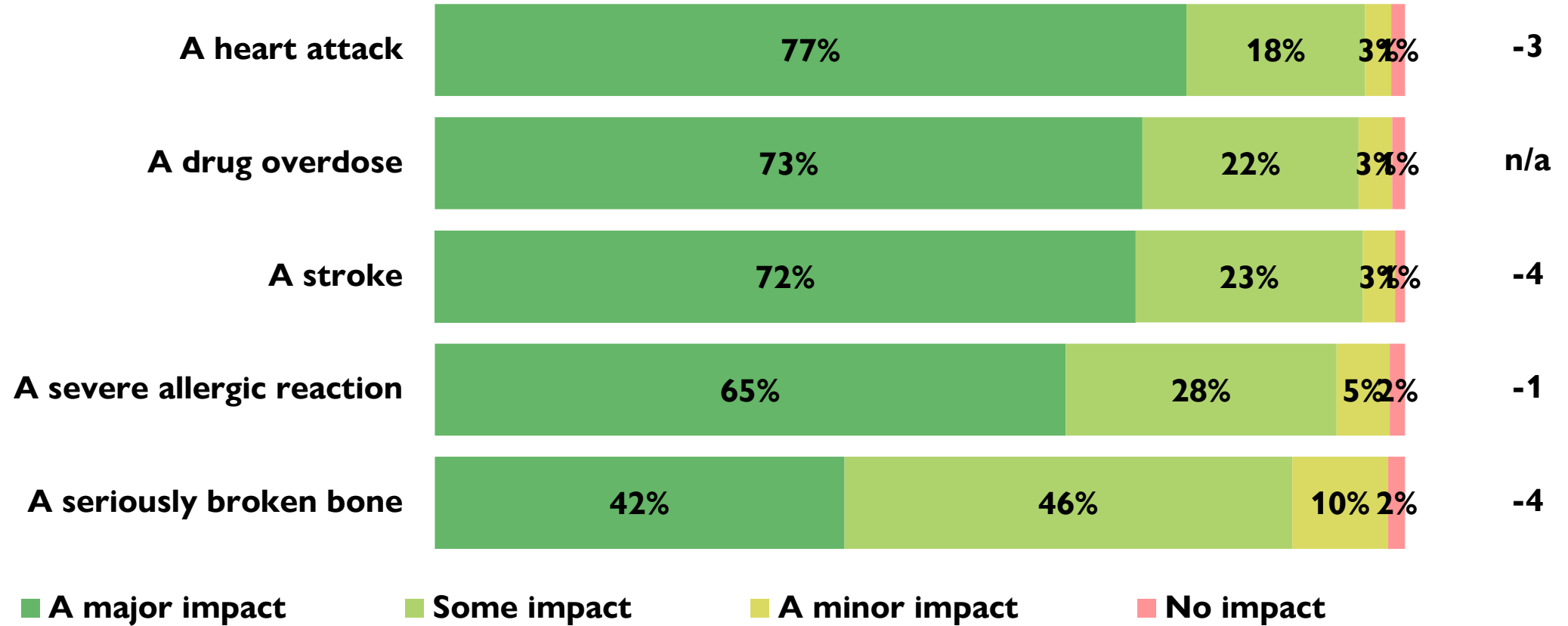




Based on what you think, for each of the following types of medical incidents, how much of a difference can a paramedic make in improving the likelihood of a positive outcome for the patient? Will a paramedic have a major impact, some impact, a minor impact, or no impact on a person affected by...

# IMPACT: PARAMEDICS IN MEDICAL INCIDENTS

△ A major impact 2023-2021

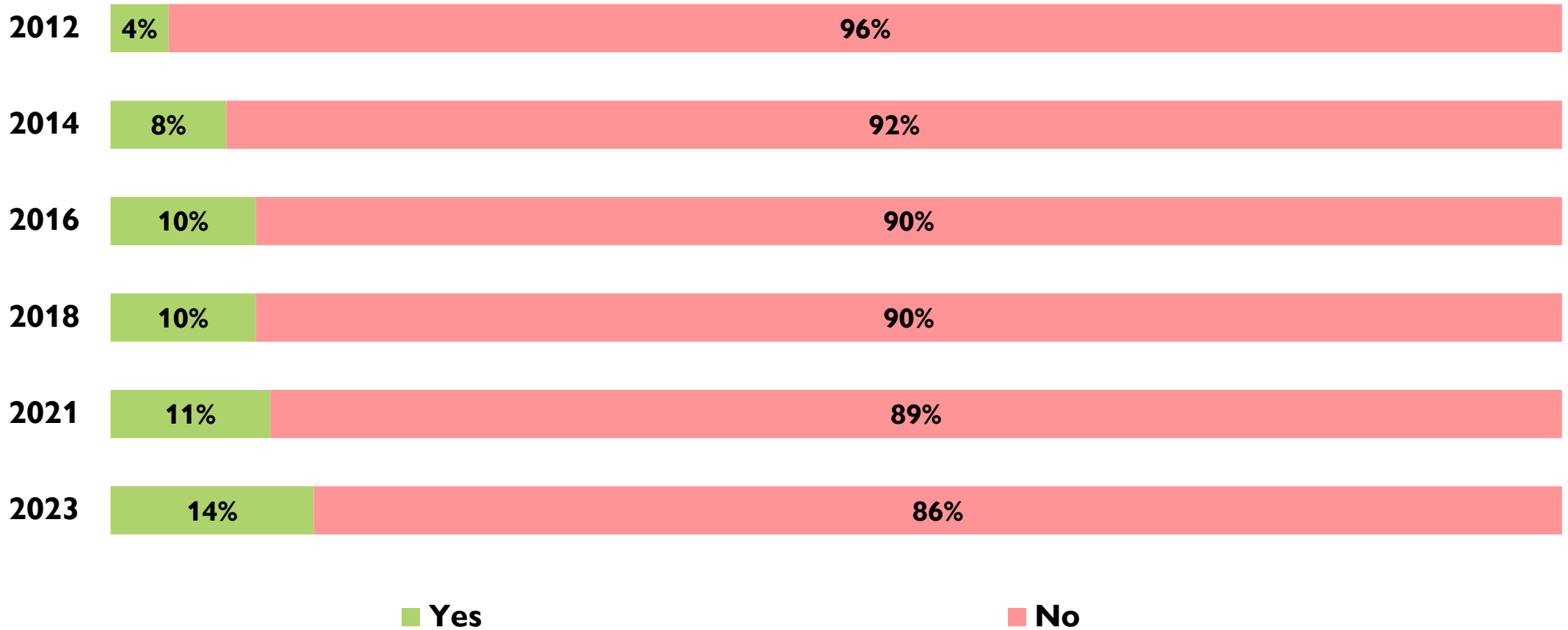


# COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE



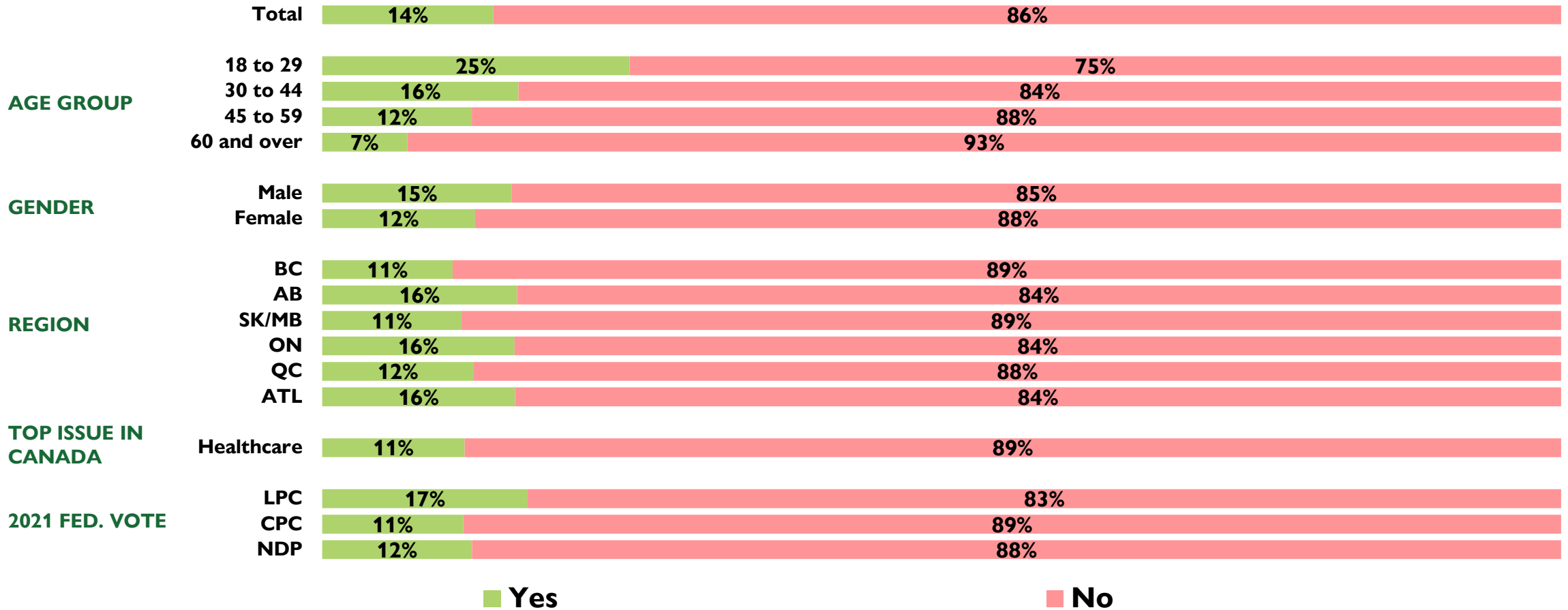
Before today, had you heard of a concept for health care delivery called Community Paramedicine?

# COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE AWARENESS



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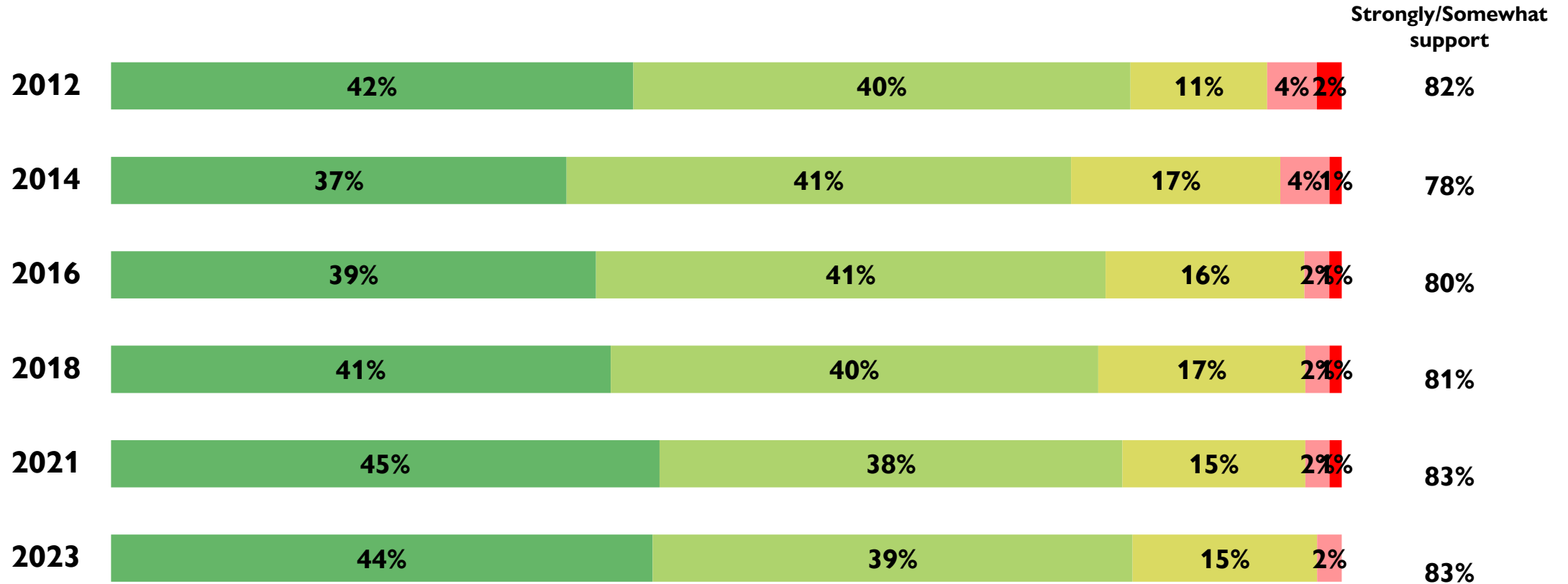
# COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE AWARENESS





In principle, do you support or oppose the idea of Community Paramedicine?

# OUTLOOK ON THE IDEA OF COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE

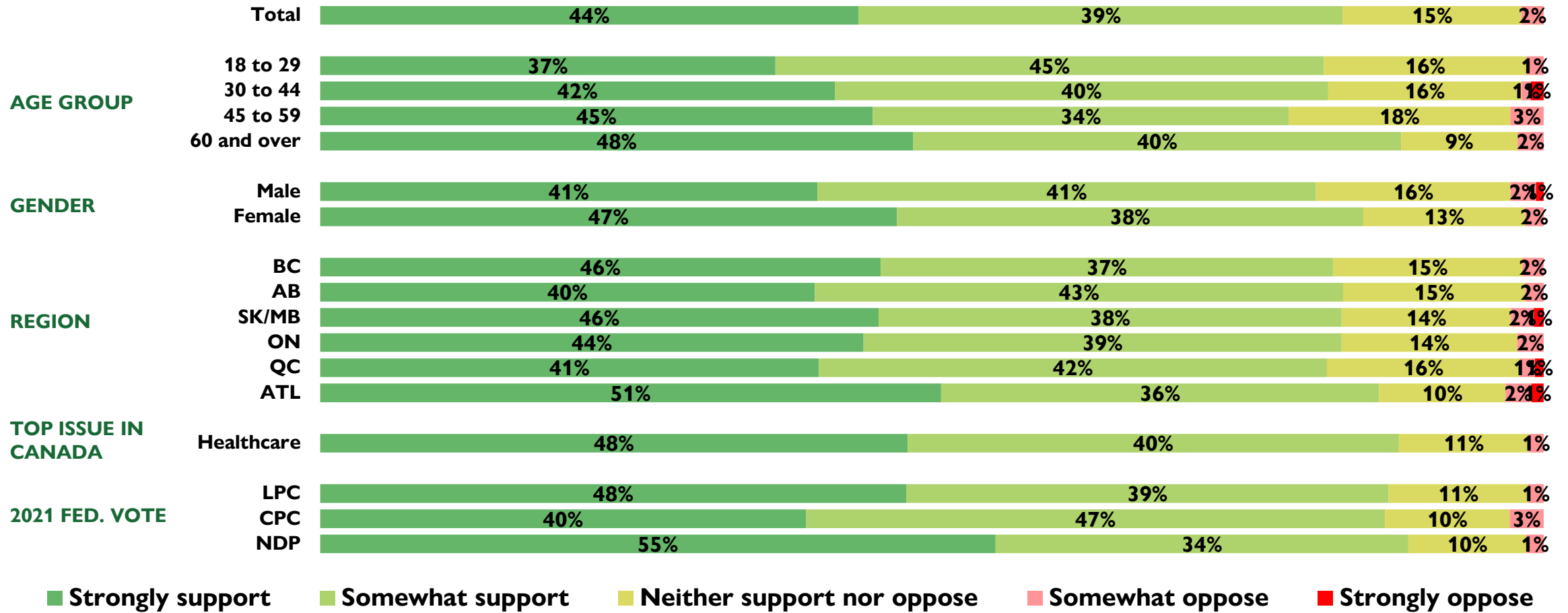


■ Strongly support 
 ■ Somewhat support 
 ■ Neither support nor oppose 
 ■ Somewhat oppose 
 ■ Strongly oppose



In principle, do you support or oppose the idea of Community Paramedicine?

# OUTLOOK ON THE IDEA OF COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE





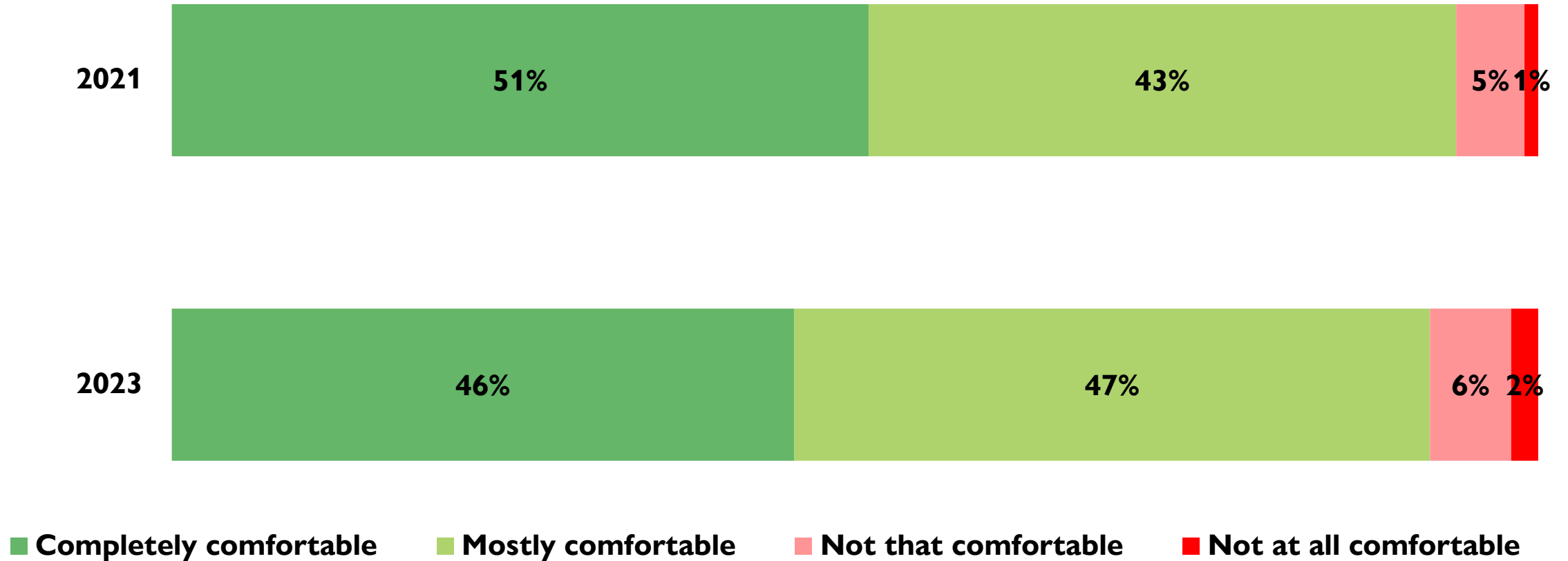
# PARAMEDICS ROLE IN DELIVERING HEALTHCARE SERVICES





To what extent are you comfortable with the idea of paramedics playing a greater role in the delivery of healthcare services in your community?

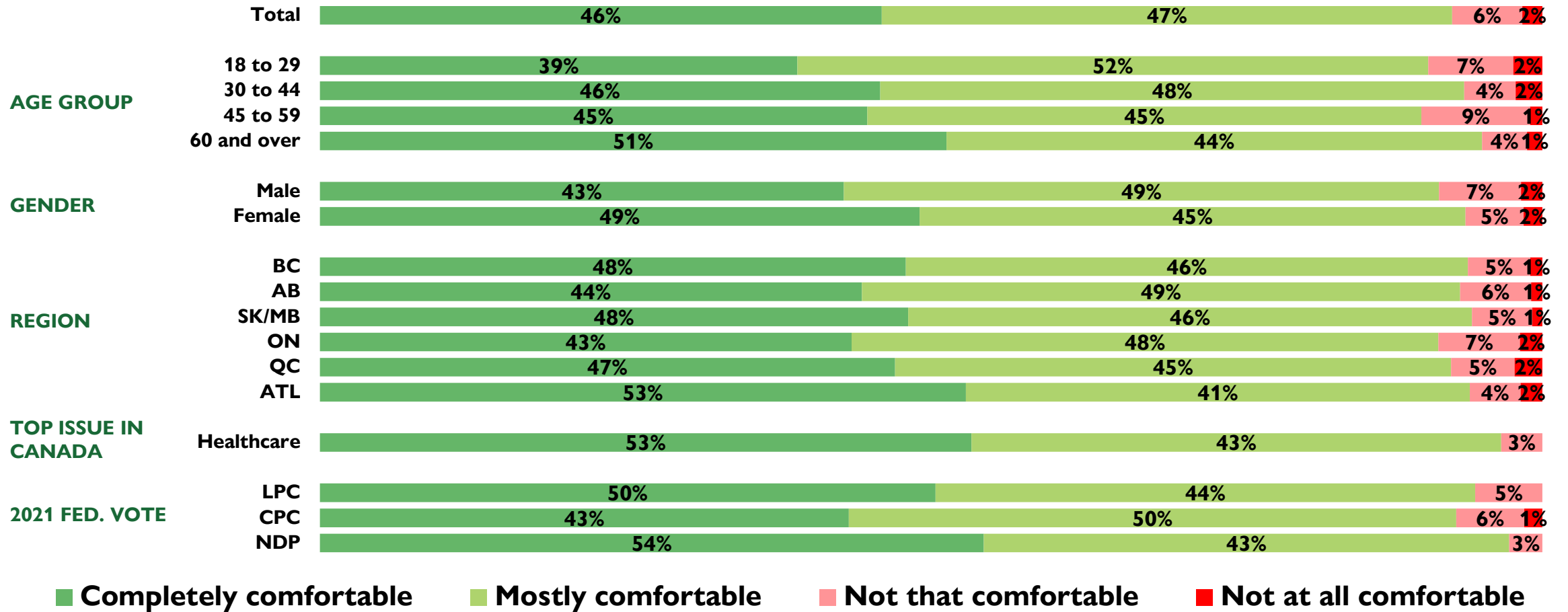
# IDEA OF PARAMEDICS DELIVERING HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY






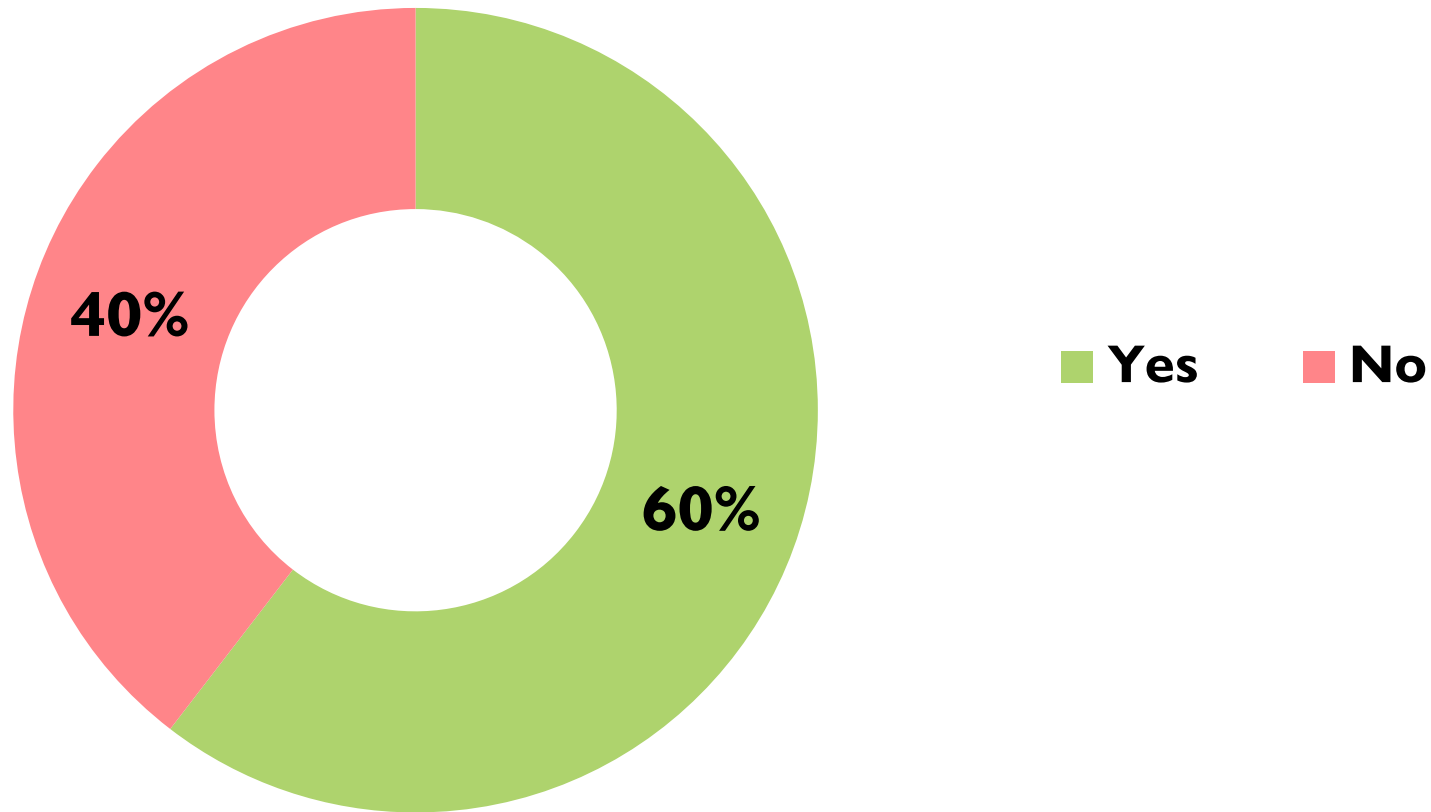
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# IDEA OF PARAMEDICS DELIVERING HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY



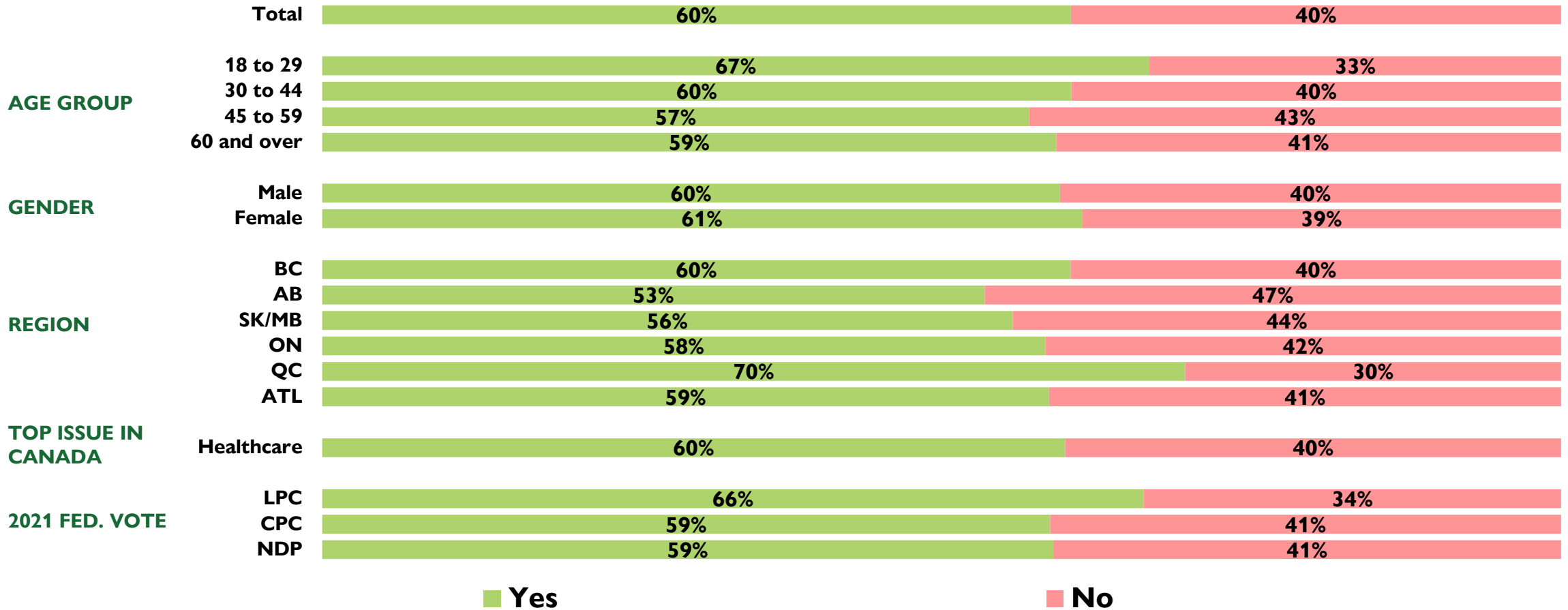
 If you called 911 for a paramedic, regardless of the reason, do you expect to be taken to a hospital?

## EXPECTED TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL AFTER A 911 CALL?



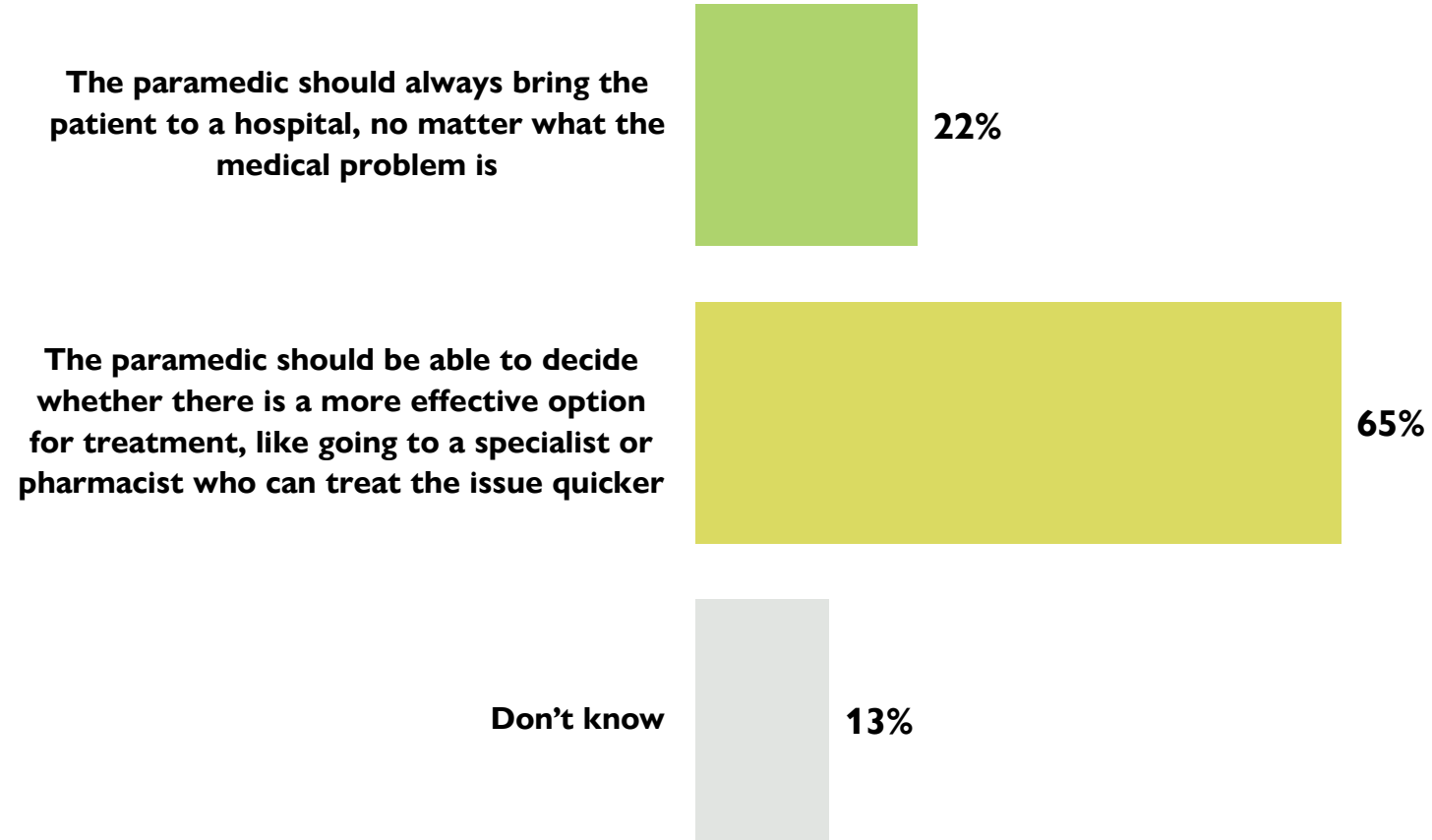
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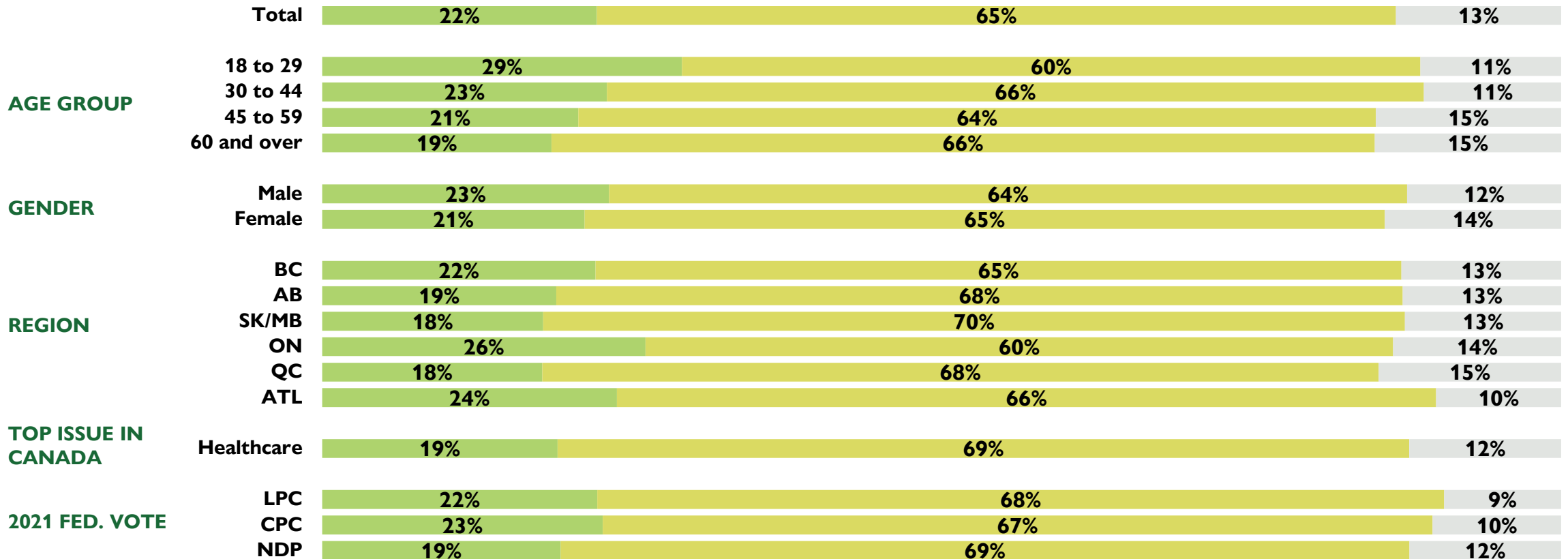
When a paramedic responds to a medical emergency, which do you think is the better approach?

## BETTER APPROACH FOR A PARAMEDIC



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# BETTER APPROACH FOR A PARAMEDIC

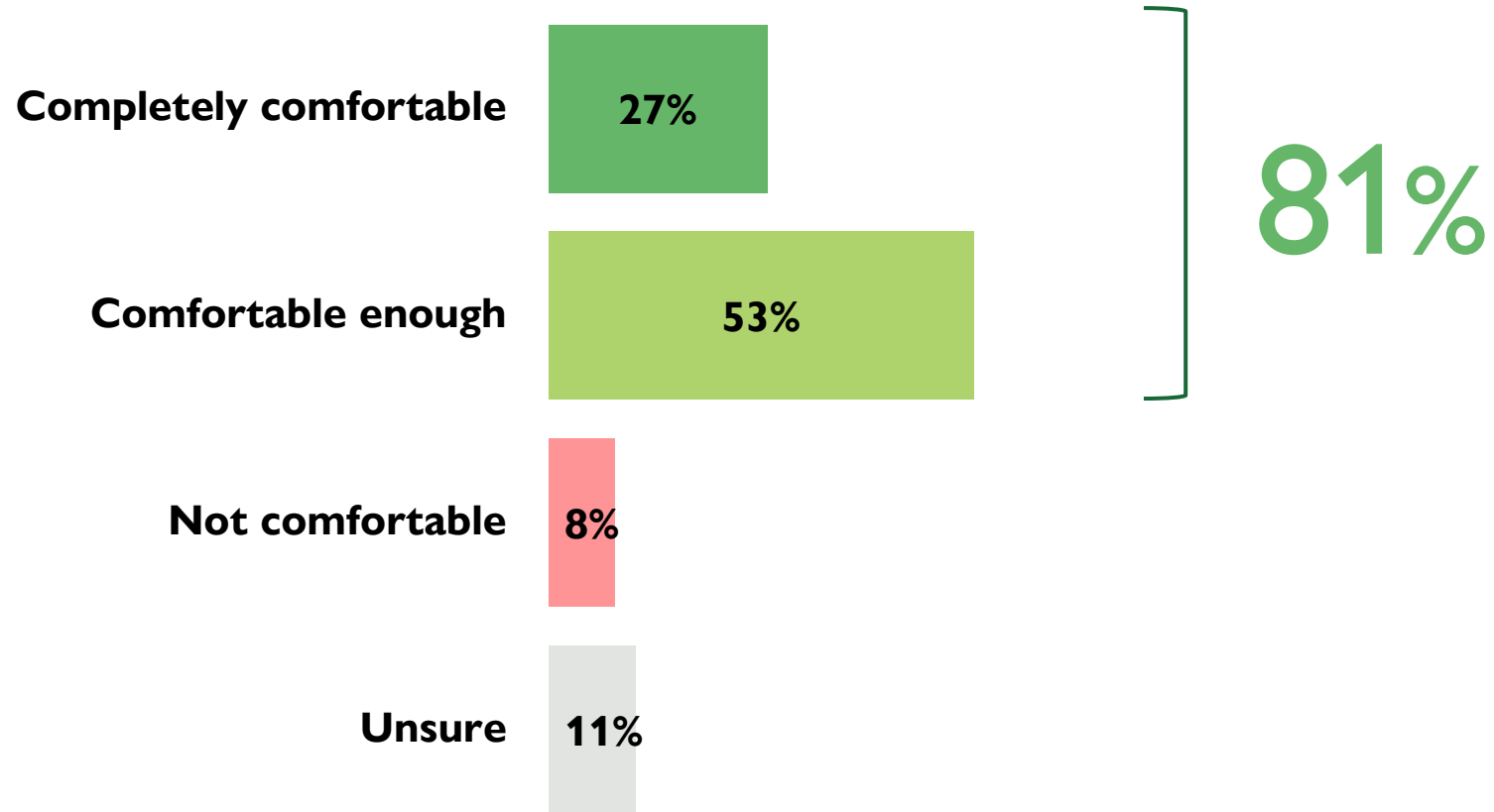


■ The paramedic should always bring the patient to a hospital 
 ■ The paramedic should be able to decide whether there is a more effective option for treatment 
 ■ Don't know



Now imagine if you called for emergency medical care and you were treated initially by a paramedic. How comfortable would you be that the paramedic determined that you could be treated at a medical clinic, pharmacy, or online medical appointment rather than a hospital given the severity of the illness or injury?

# COMFORTABLE WITH AN INITIAL TREATMENT BY A PARAMEDIC?

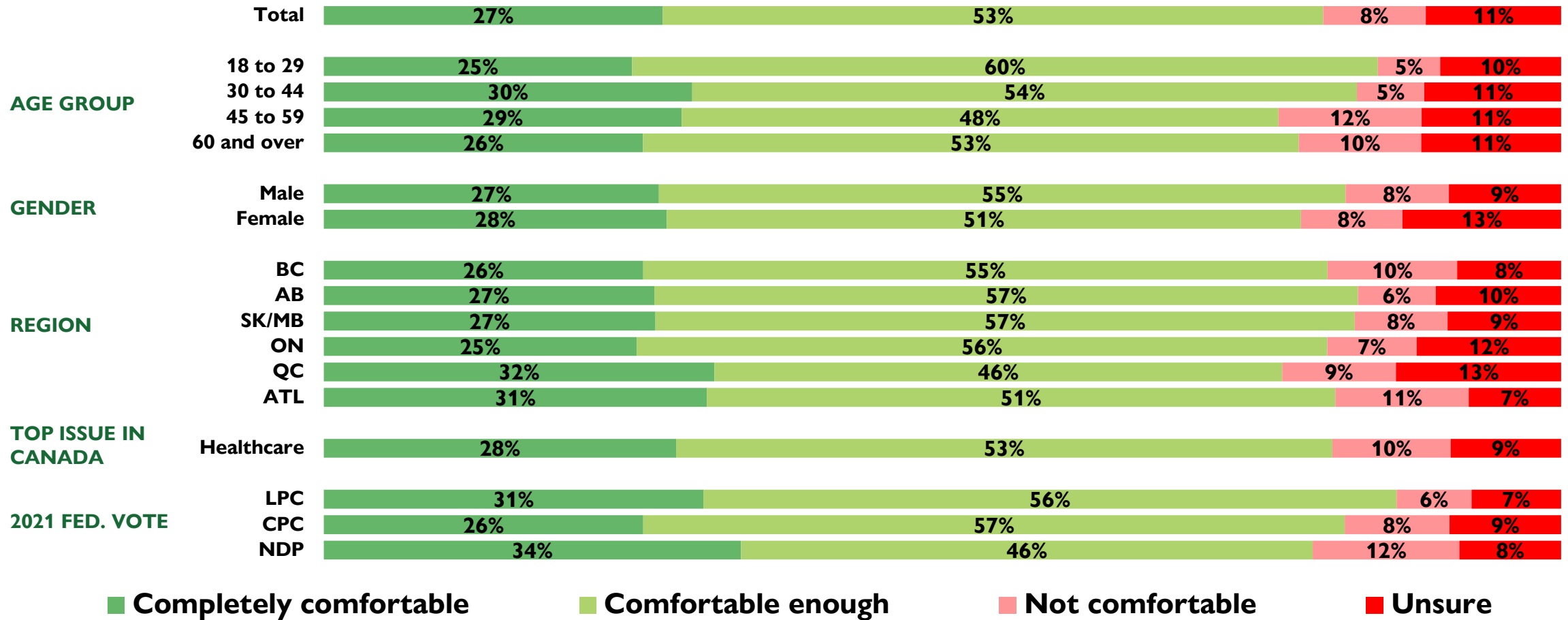






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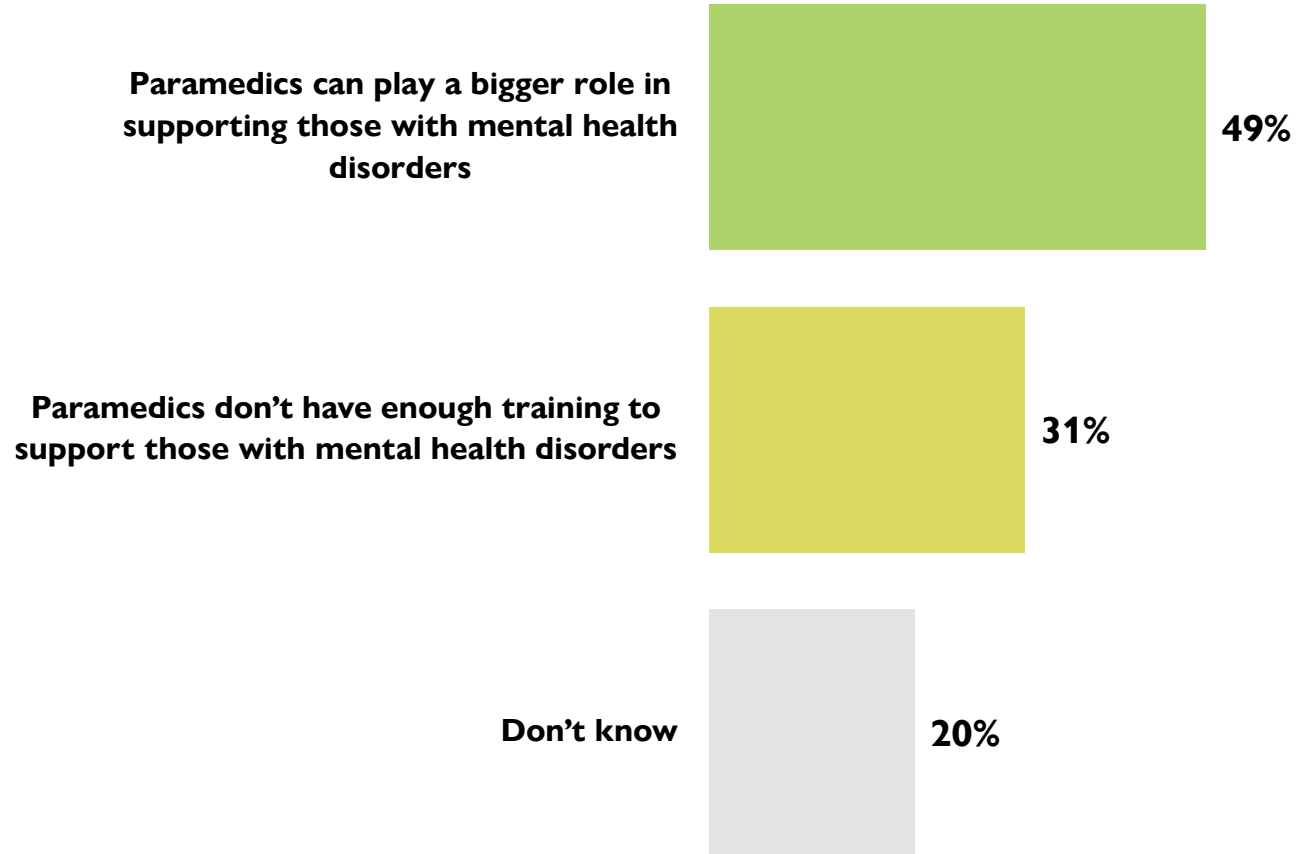
# COMFORTABLE WITH AN INITIAL TREATMENT BY A PARAMEDIC?





Do you think paramedics can play a bigger role in supporting those with mental health disorders or do you think they don't have enough training to do this kind of work?

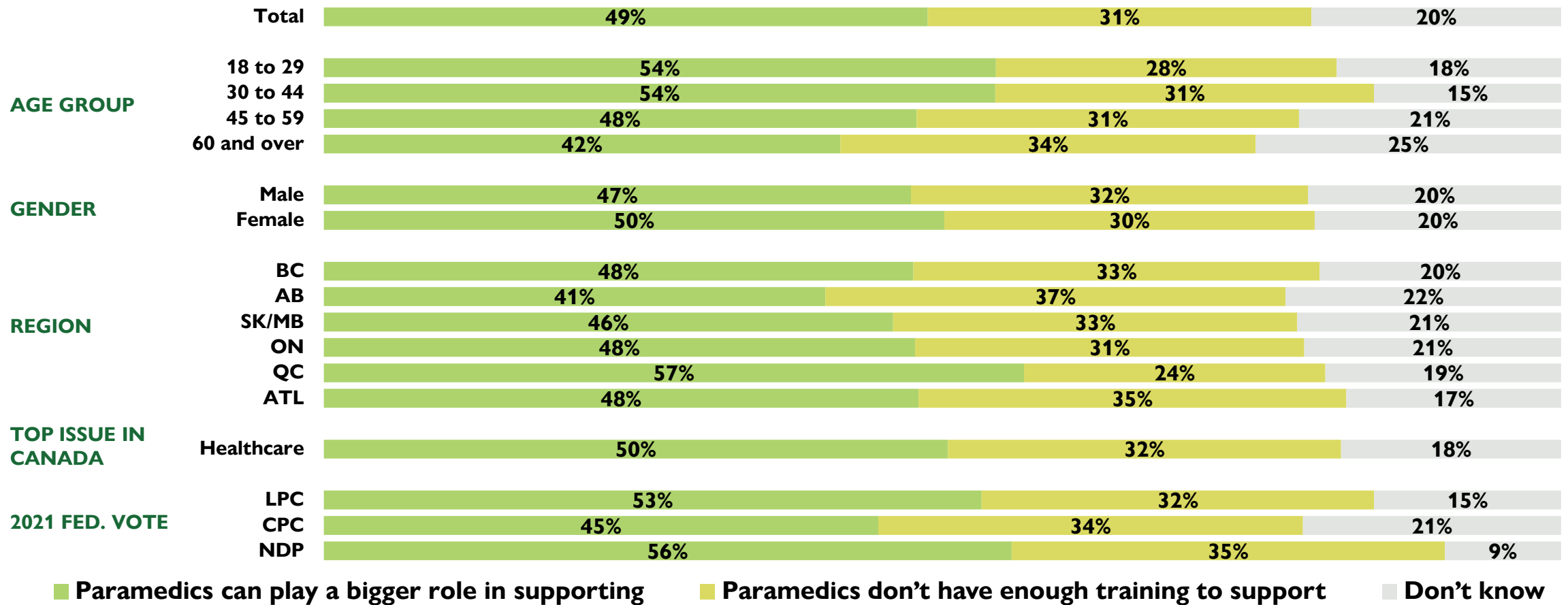
# PARAMEDICS AS SUPPORT FOR MENTAL HEALTH





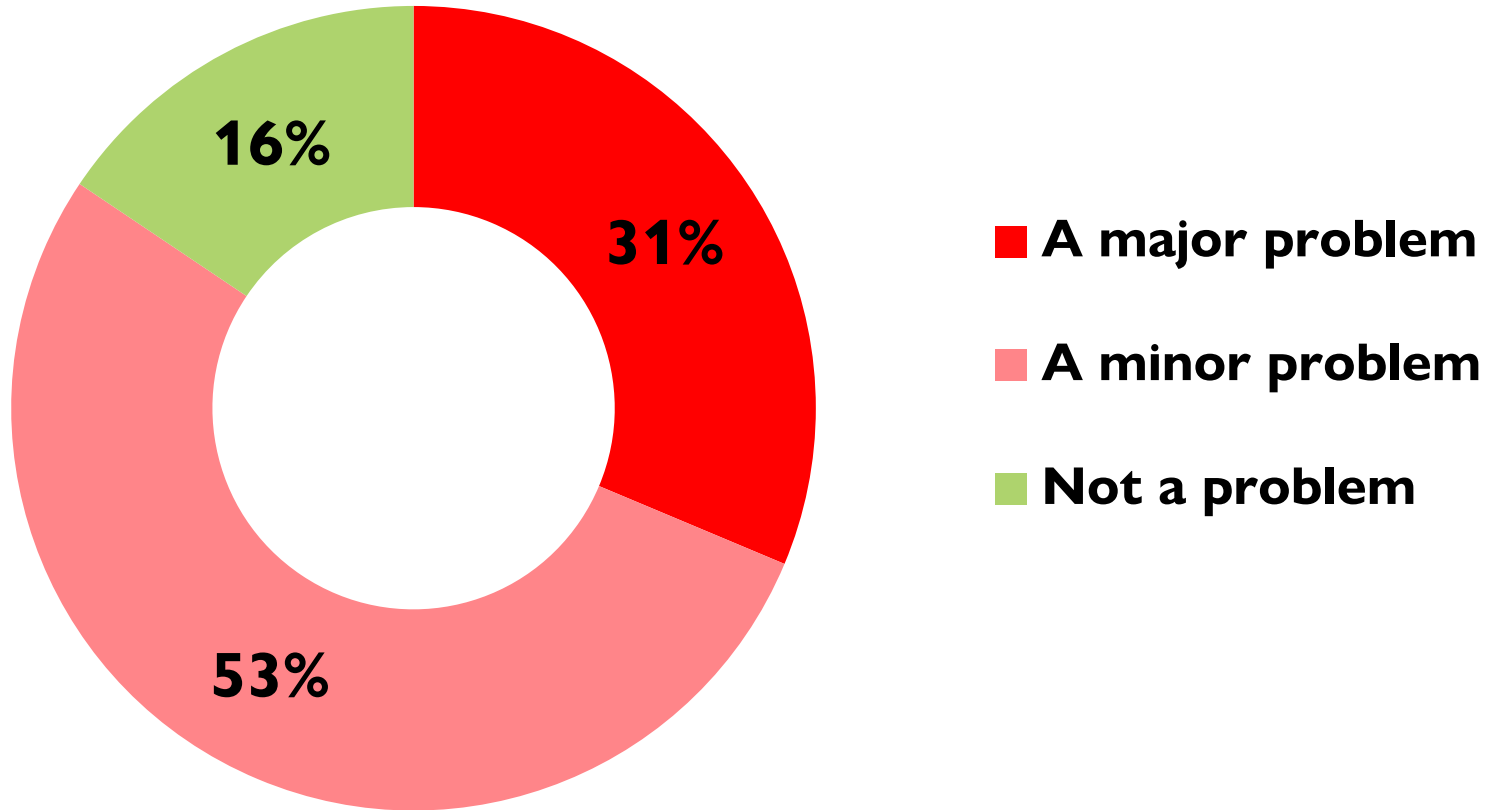
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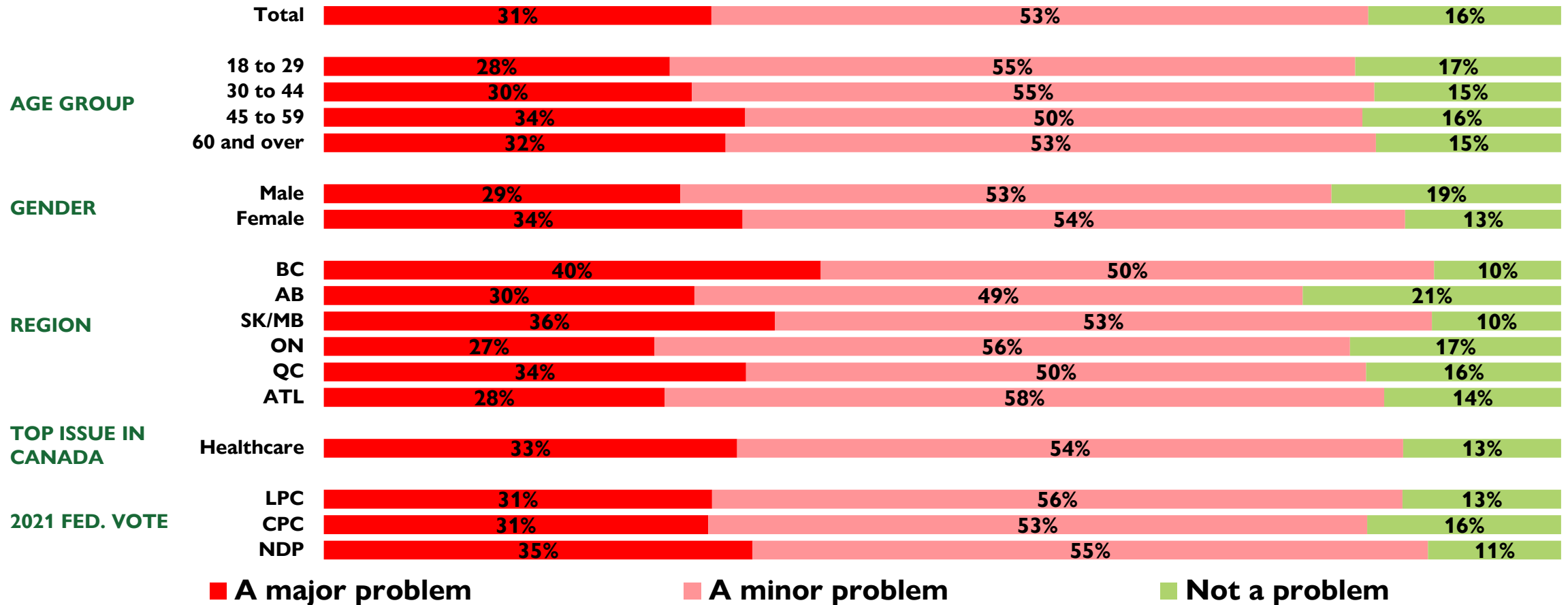


Do you think that violence and assault towards paramedics is a problem in Canada or not a problem?

## ASSAULT TOWARDS PARAMEDICS IN CANADA IS...



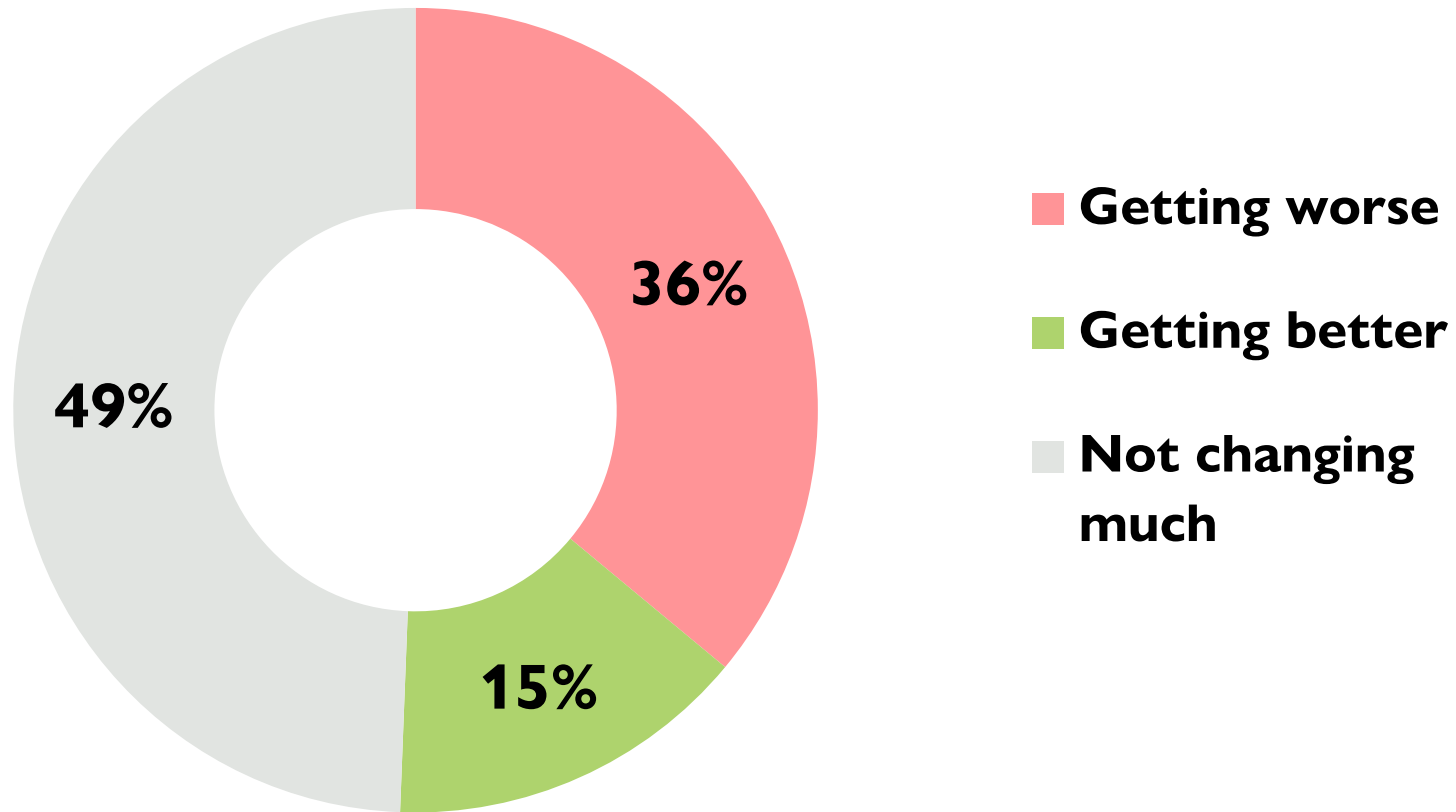
# ASSAULT TOWARDS PARAMEDICS IN CANADA IS...





Do you think violence and assault towards paramedics are getting worse, getting better, or not changing much?

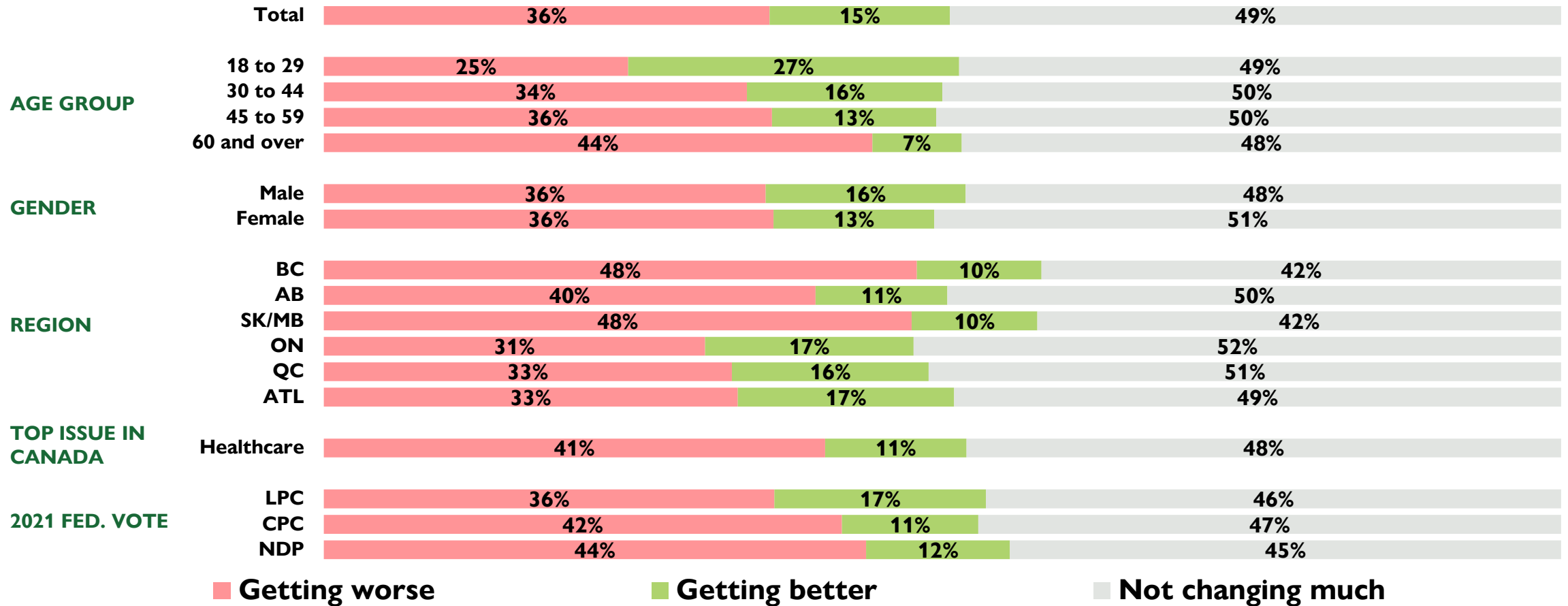
## NOW, ASSAULT TOWARDS PARAMEDICS IS...





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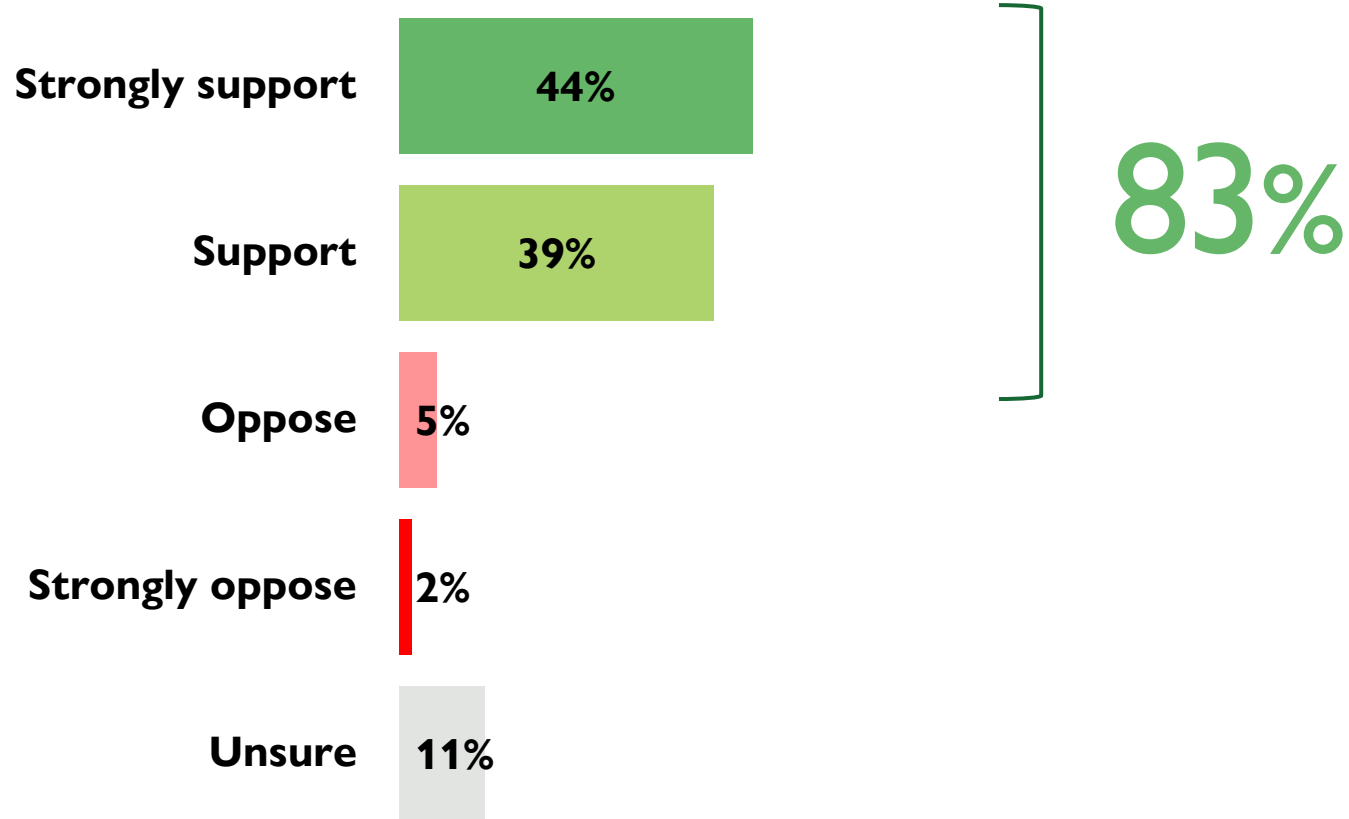
# NOW, ASSAULT TOWARDS PARAMEDICS IS...





Right now, Canada's Criminal Code makes assaulting a police officer a more serious offense than other types of assault. Would you support or oppose including paramedics in the Criminal Code?

# OPINION: INCLUDING PARAMEDICS IN THE CRIMINAL CODE?







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