



Routine Immunizations in Canada Following the COVID-19 Pandemic

Neighbourhood Pharmacy Association of Canada
and
19 to Zero



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Summary

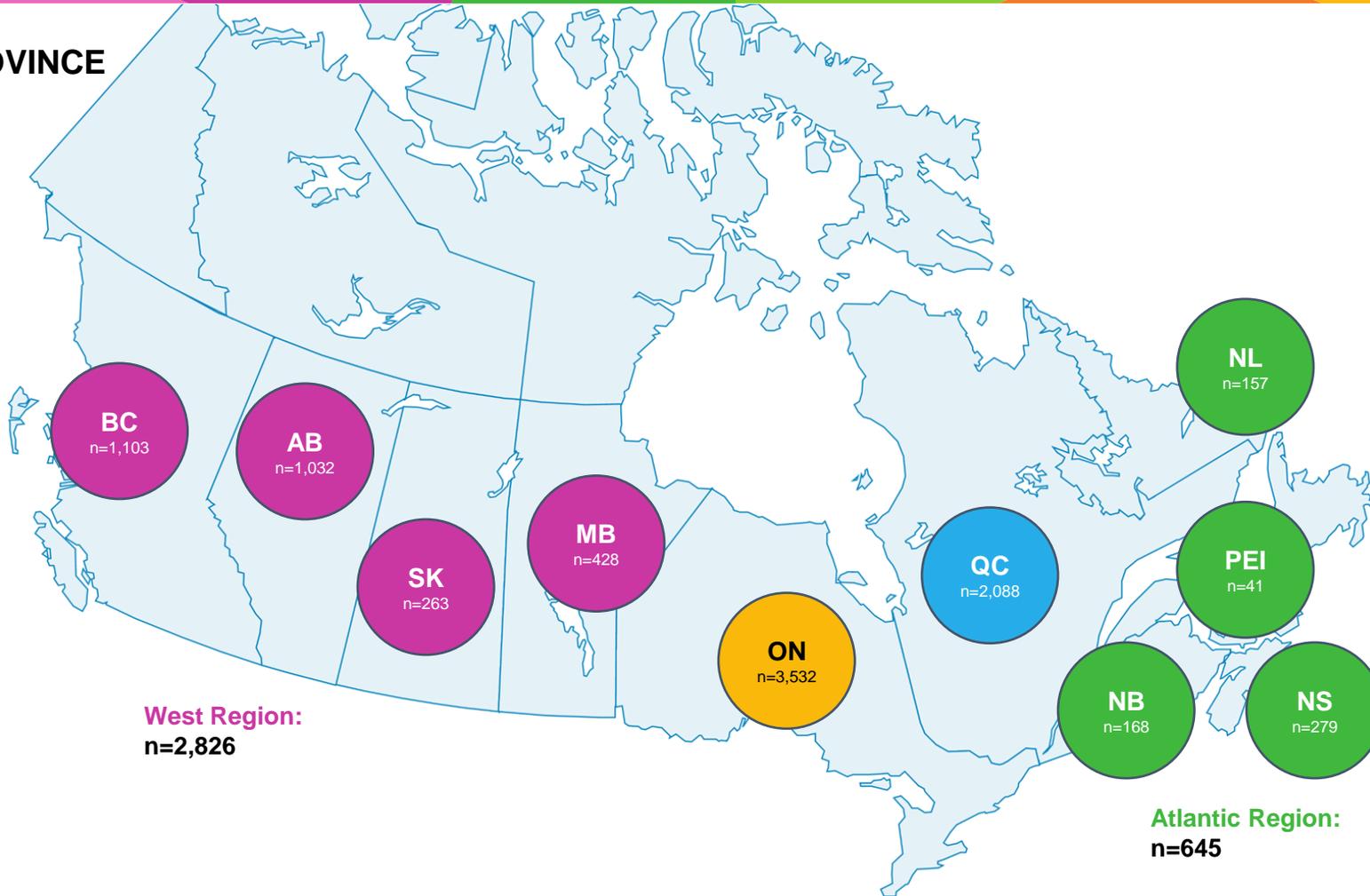
- Routine immunisation rates remain well short of NACI-recommended targets
- Over 5.3 million Canadians have missed or delayed a routine immunization during the pandemic, including 1.3 million school-aged children
- 7 in 10 missed or delayed routine immunizations could have been avoided with improved provider access
- Canadians value convenient, flexible, and accessible routine immunization sites
- Canadians coast-to-coast desire more options to receive routine immunizations at pharmacies
- Most Canadians trust pharmacists with their vaccination records and would take pharmacist-recommended routine vaccines, if offered, immediately

Methodology

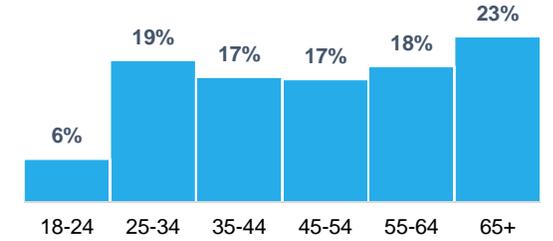
- 9,091 adult Canadian citizens surveyed online between August 30th and October 10th, 2021
- Opt-in non-probability sample provided by Dynata and Abacus
- Quotas set on gender, age (18-34, 35-54, 55+), language, region (Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario, West) to match 2016 census benchmarks
- Ranked weighting algorithm used to construct sample weights based on population benchmarks within region by age and gender

Respondent Characteristics

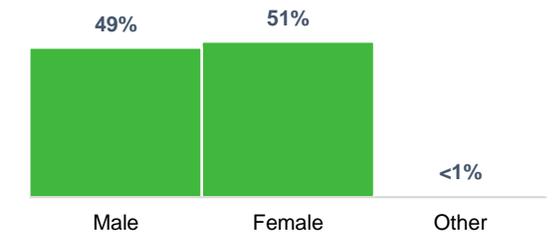
PROVINCE



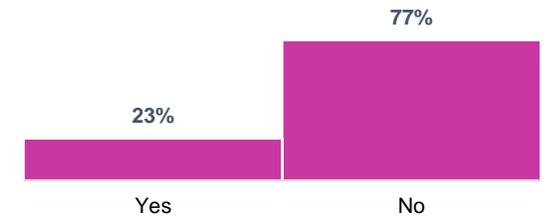
AGE



GENDER



PARENT



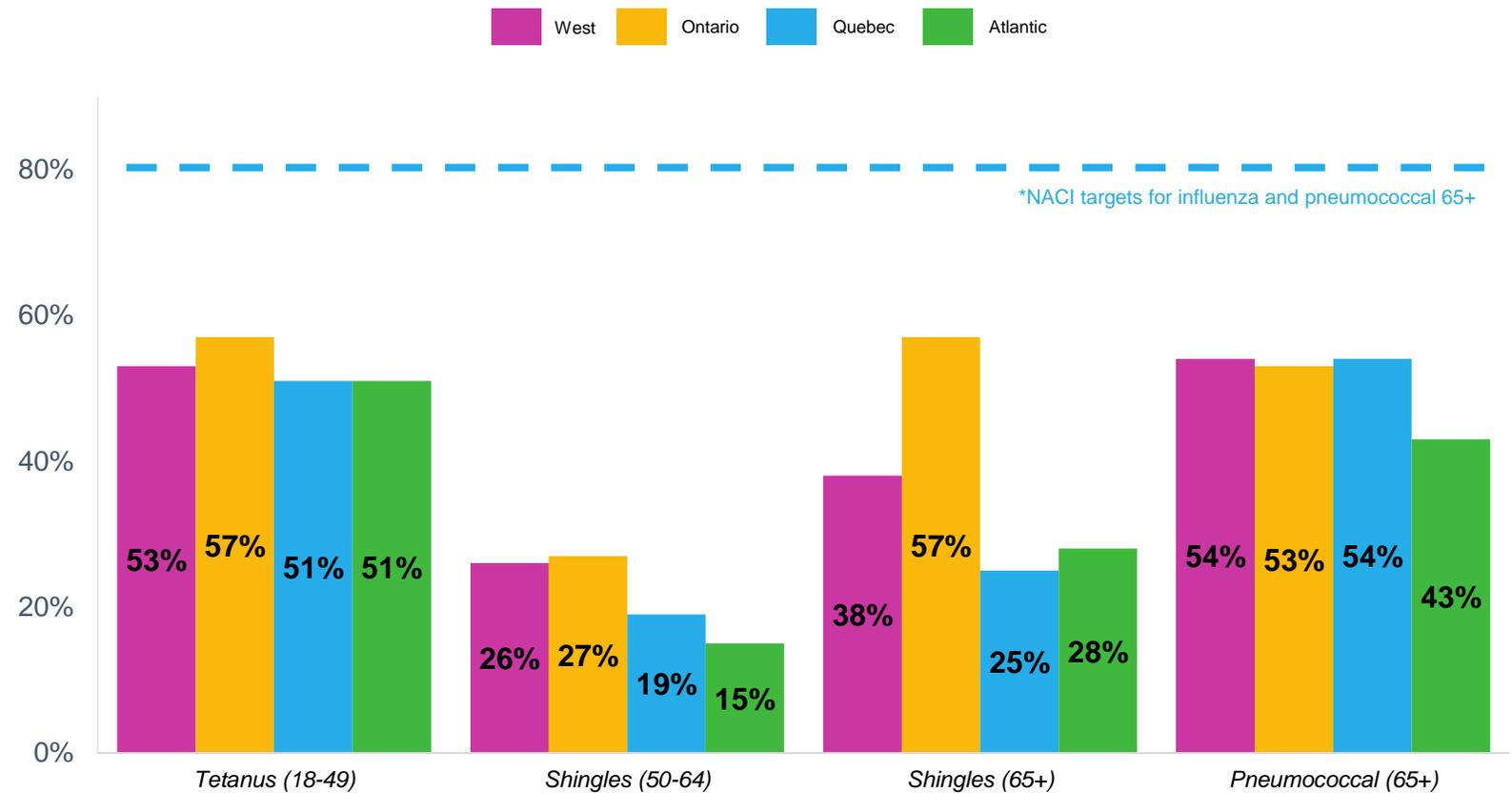
Routine Immunization Coverage

Routine immunization rates across the country fall short of NACI targets of 80%*

Insights

- Routine immunization rates for tetanus, shingles, and pneumococcal **should be improved dramatically to reach NACI targets**
- Each region is on par with other regions for tetanus and pneumococcal coverage rates
- Shingles vaccine coverage is highest in Ontario** for the 65+ age group who have had access to publicly funded shingles vaccines

Up to date immunizations by region



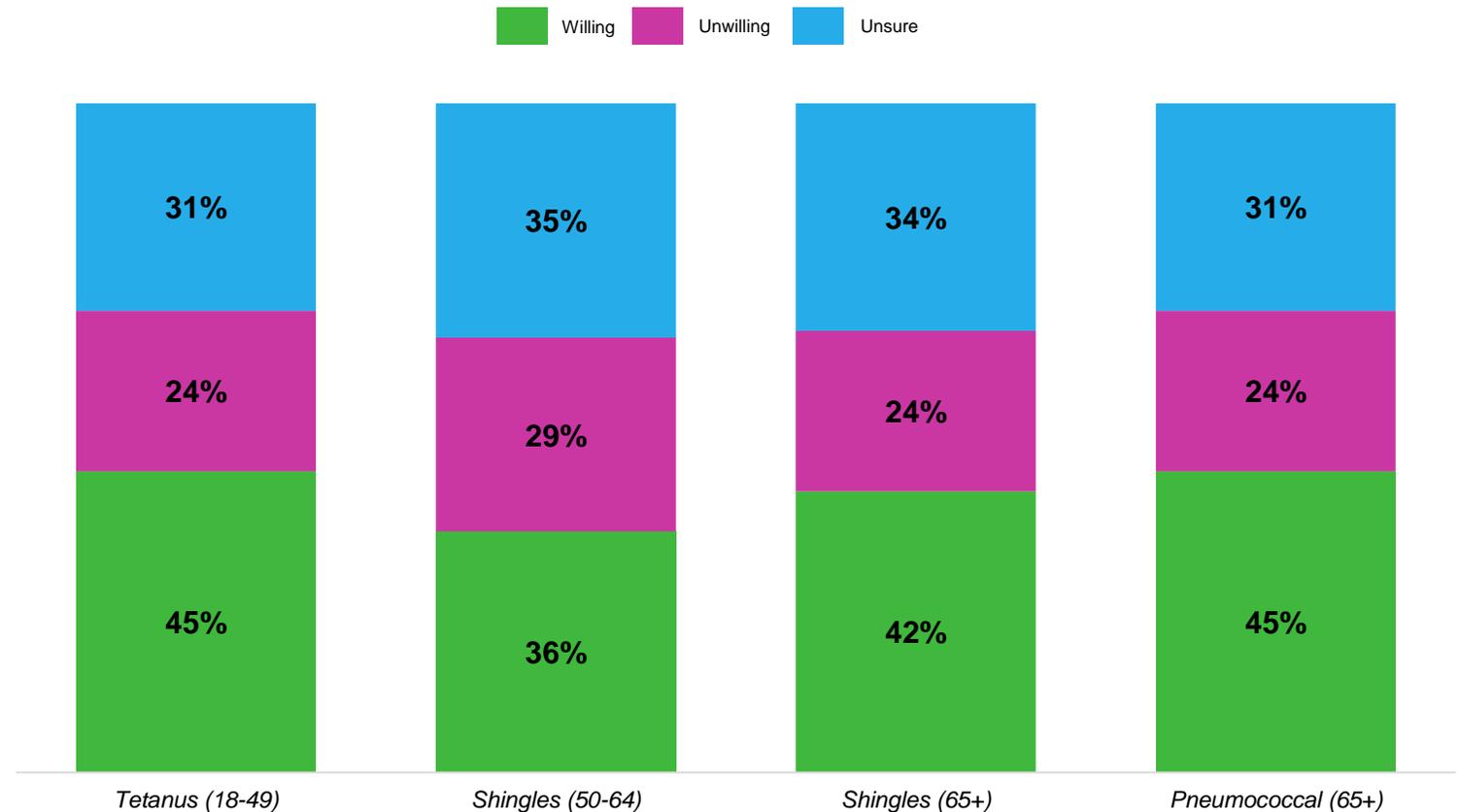
Note: only Ontario has enacted public reimbursement for shingles vaccines

>40% of those needing a routine vaccine are willing to be immunized, suggesting access as an uptake barrier

Insights

- Only a quarter of Canadians are unwilling to become up-to-date on their routine immunizations, suggesting other factors such as access may be limiting uptake
- Among those who are not immunized, willingness to get vaccinated does not vary between products
- About a third of Canadians who are not up-to-date with their routine vaccines are unsure about receiving them, suggesting an opportunity for healthcare providers to assist

Willingness to take a recommended vaccine

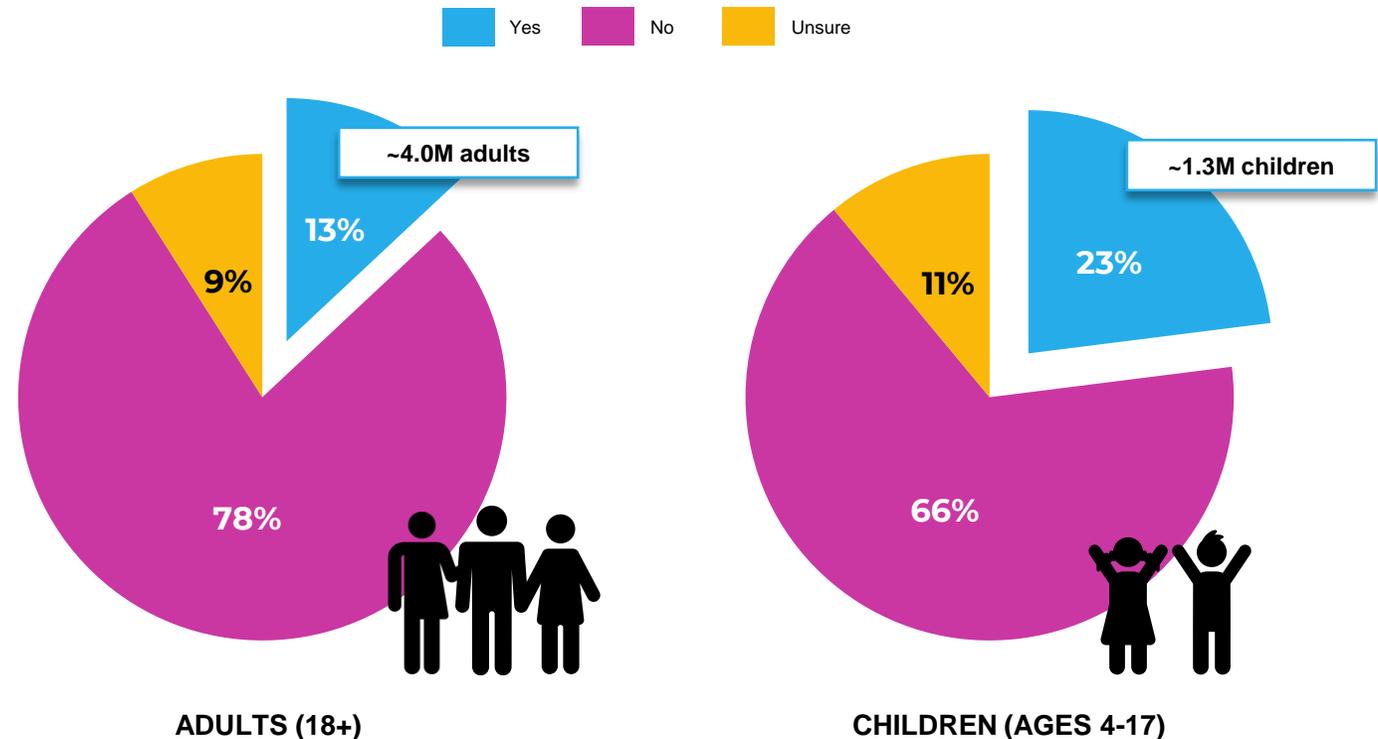


Over 5.3 million Canadians have missed or delayed a routine immunization since the beginning of COVID-19

Insights

- 13% of adults and 23% of children adults missing or delaying immunizations is significant: Most Canadians were not due for a routine immunization over the past 18 months
- Figure is likely an underestimate due to self-reporting: many Canadians are not aware of the need for a routine immunization unless informed by a healthcare provider
- Many of those who are “unsure” may have missed immunizations for themselves or their child due to lack of awareness

% Canadians who missed or delayed a routine immunization due to the pandemic

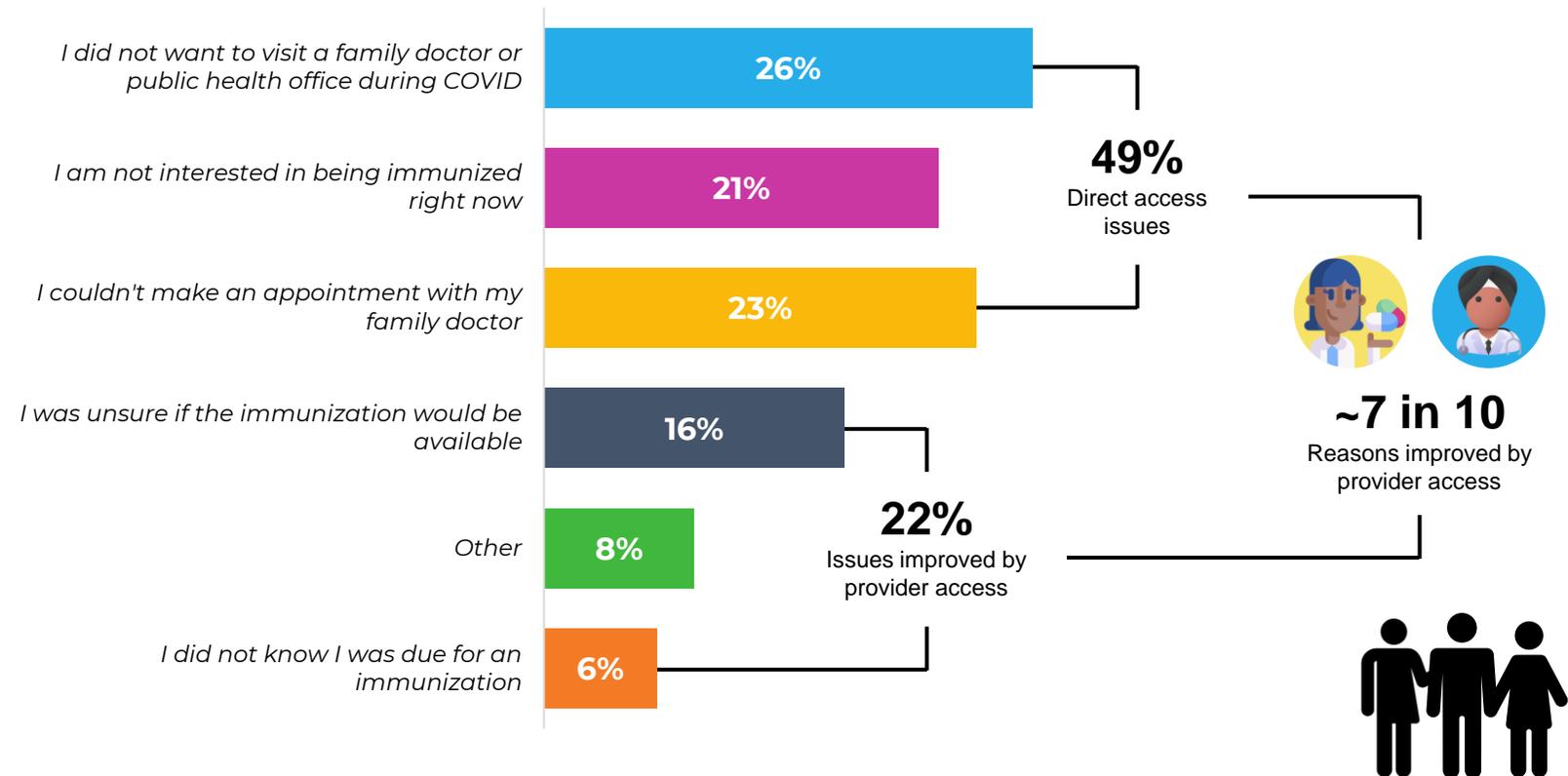


7 in 10 missed or delayed adult routine immunizations in Canada could have been avoided with improved provider access

Insights

- Lack of access to family doctors or public health directly accounted for about half of missed immunizations in Canada
- Uncertainty about the need for a vaccine or its availability caused about 20% of delays
- The vast majority of delays in routine immunizations (7 of 10) could have been avoided by improved access to healthcare providers

Reasons why Canadian adults missed or delayed a routine immunization

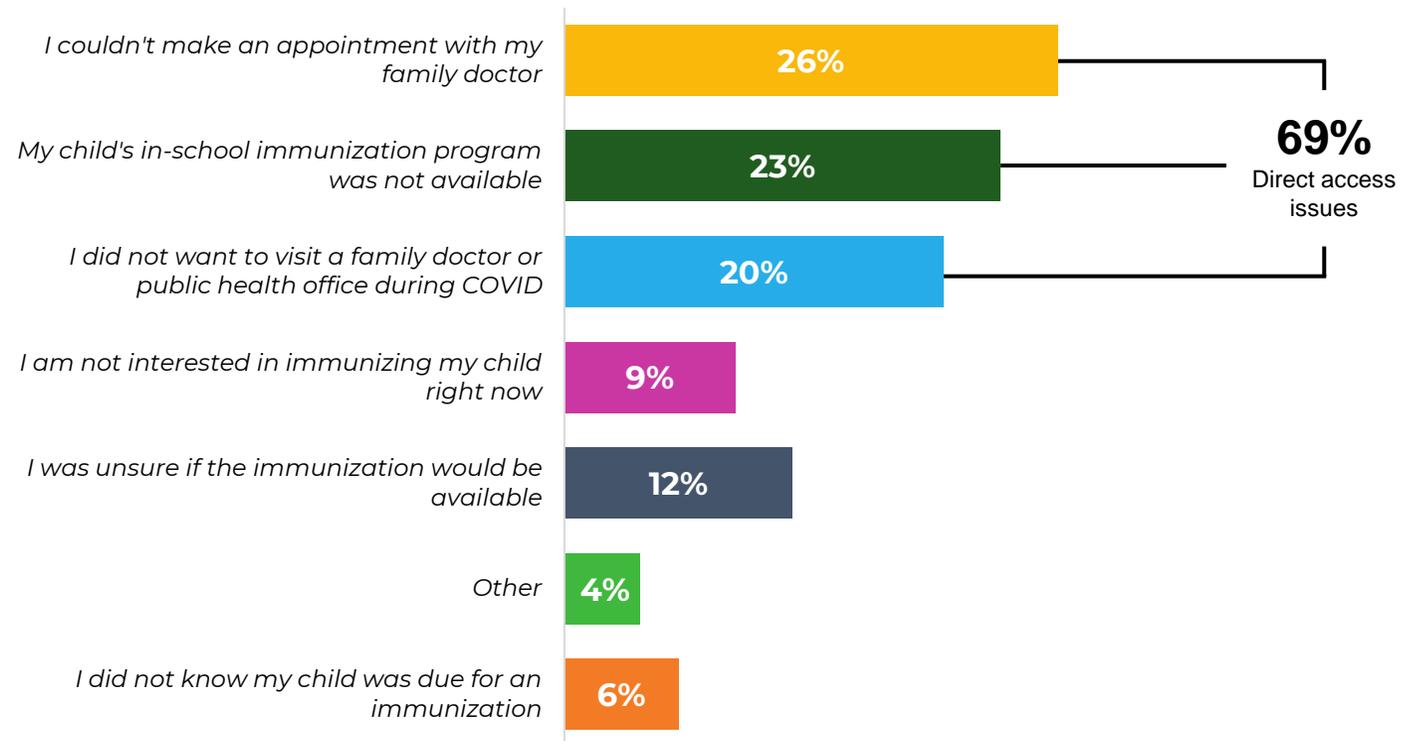


300,000 children missed or delayed routine immunizations due to cancelled school-based programs

Insights

- Provider access impacted children more than adults, with about 70% of delays caused by direct access barriers
- School-based cancellations were responsible for about a quarter of missed vaccines
- Unwillingness to vaccinate is considerably lower (<10%) for children than for adults

Reasons why Canadian children missed or delayed a routine immunization



Pharmacies and Routine Immunizations



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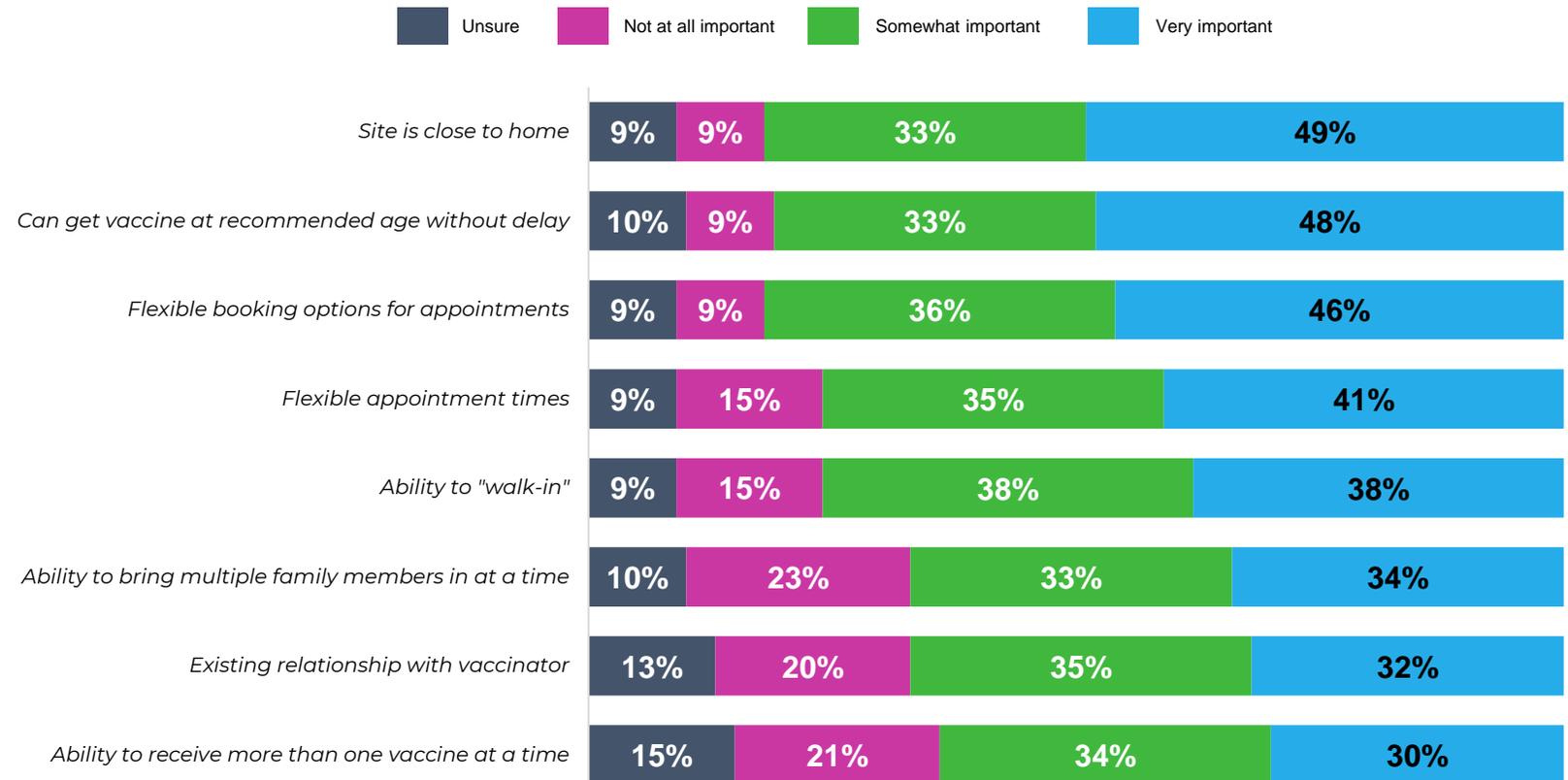
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Canadians value timely, flexible, and convenient routine immunization appointments that are close to home

Insights

- Canadians tend to favour flexible, community-based options for routine immunizations, suggesting pharmacies may be naturally advantaged as a vaccination site
- Proximity to the vaccination site, and receiving a vaccine at the recommended age, is most important to Canadians
- Receiving a vaccine at the recommended age is of particular importance to older Canadians, many of whom are more vulnerable to severe illness from vaccine-preventable disease

Important factors when choosing a routine immunization site



Question: What factors are important when choosing a routine vaccination site?

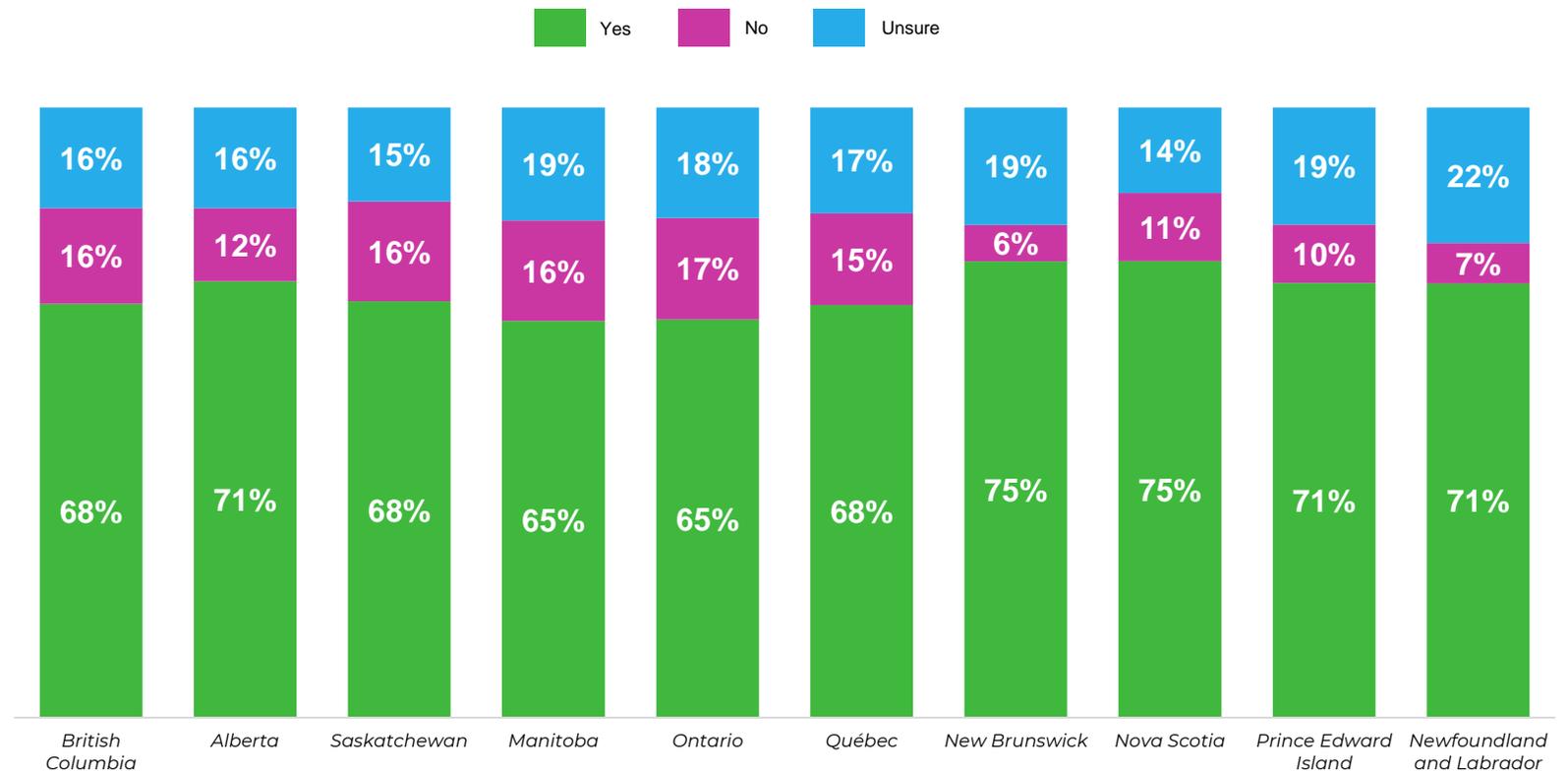
Source: University of Toronto & 19 to Zero National Vaccine Survey Fall 2021
n = 9,055

Canadians coast-to-coast want more options to be immunized at pharmacies

Insights

- About 7 in 10 Canadians indicate that they favour having additional options to get routine immunizations at their community pharmacy
- Support for more options to get immunized at pharmacies is consistently high across the country

Canadians who want more options to receive routine immunizations at their local pharmacy



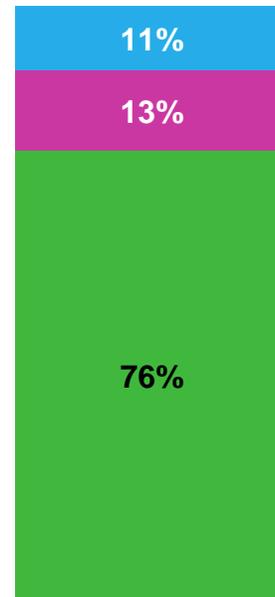
Canadians trust pharmacists with their vaccine records, and most would take a pharmacist-recommended vaccine

Insights

- Pharmacists are **trusted with having access to vaccination records and recommending routine vaccinations based on those records**
- Pharmacists' **high frequency of patient touchpoints**, and their ability to review, recommend, and administer routine immunizations, represents a potential opportunity to **increase vaccine uptake**

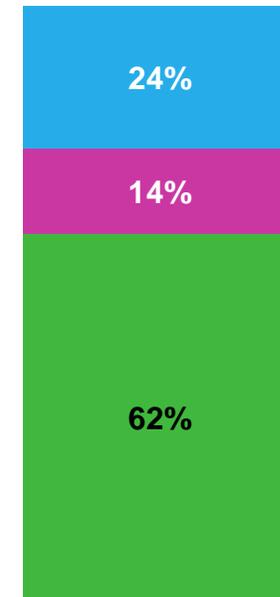
Canadians comfortable with pharmacists accessing vaccination records

Yes No Unsure



Canadians who would take a pharmacist-recommended vaccine after reviewing records

Yes No Unsure



56% of Canadians would accept a routine immunization if they were in a pharmacy for another reason and a pharmacist offered to administrate

Insights

- Most Canadians would take a pharmacist-recommended vaccine **immediately** if in a pharmacy for another reason, such as picking up a household item or groceries
- Many Canadians rely on their healthcare provider to recommend routine immunizations; pharmacists have many opportunities to interact with patients, making them **well-suited to offer and administer “unplanned” immunizations**

Canadians willing to take an “unplanned” routine vaccine if offered by a pharmacist

