








# **San Mateo County Safe Medicine Disposal Resident Survey**

*Results of a Study Conducted March 30-April 7, 2024*



OPINION  
RESEARCH  
& STRATEGY

# Survey Methodology

Dates	March 30 -April 7, 2024
Survey Type	Dual-mode Voter Survey
Research Population	San Mateo County Residents
Total Interviews	1,100
Margin of Sampling Error	(Full Sample) $\pm 3.1\%$ at the 95% Confidence Level (Half Sample) $\pm 4.0\%$ at the 95% Confidence Level
Contact Methods	 Telephone Calls  Email Invitations  Text Invitations
Data Collection Modes	 Telephone Interviews  Online Interviews
Languages	English, Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Tagalog

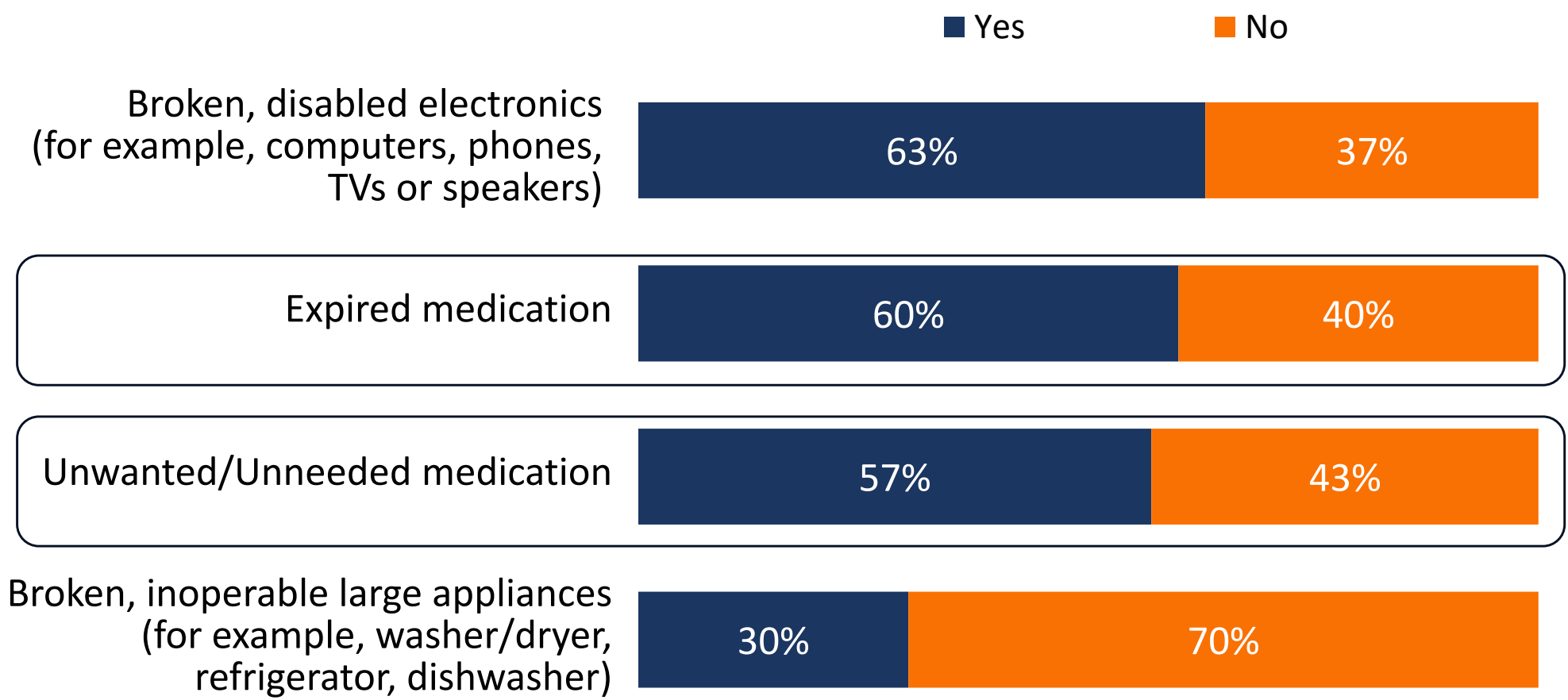
*(Note: Not All Results Will Sum to 100% Due to Rounding)*



# **Medicine Disposal Awareness**

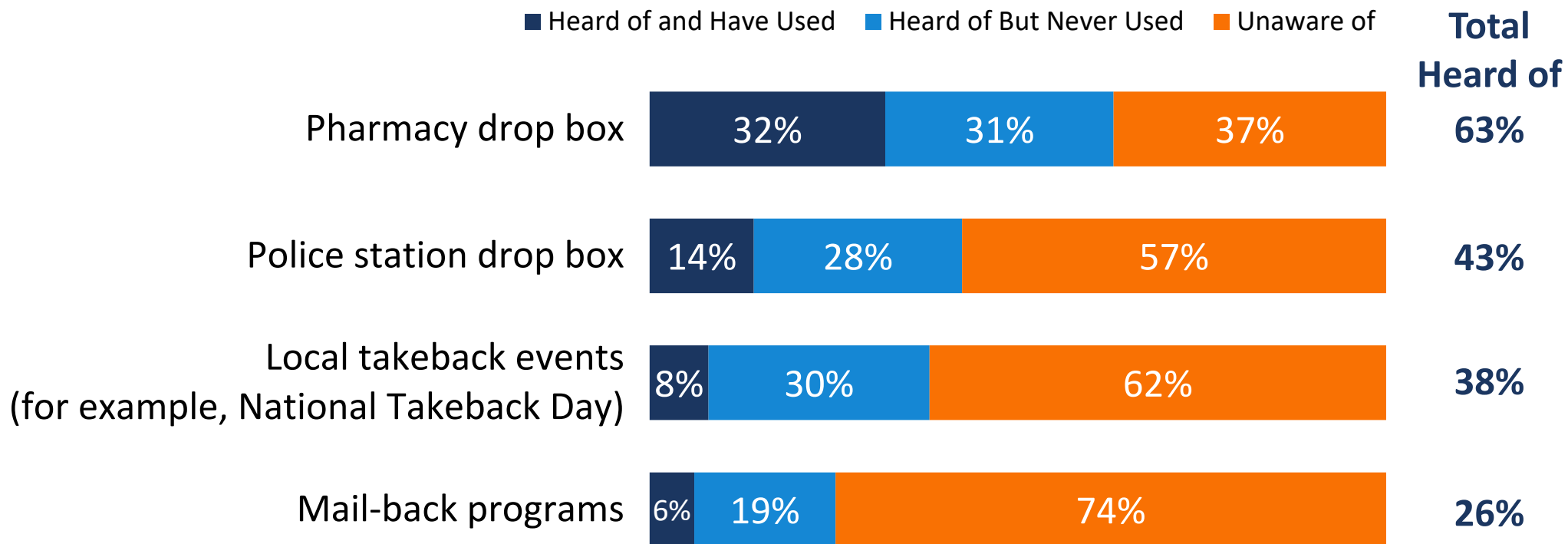
# A majority of San Mateo County residents have unwanted or unneeded medication in their home.

*Do you ever have the following items in your home?*



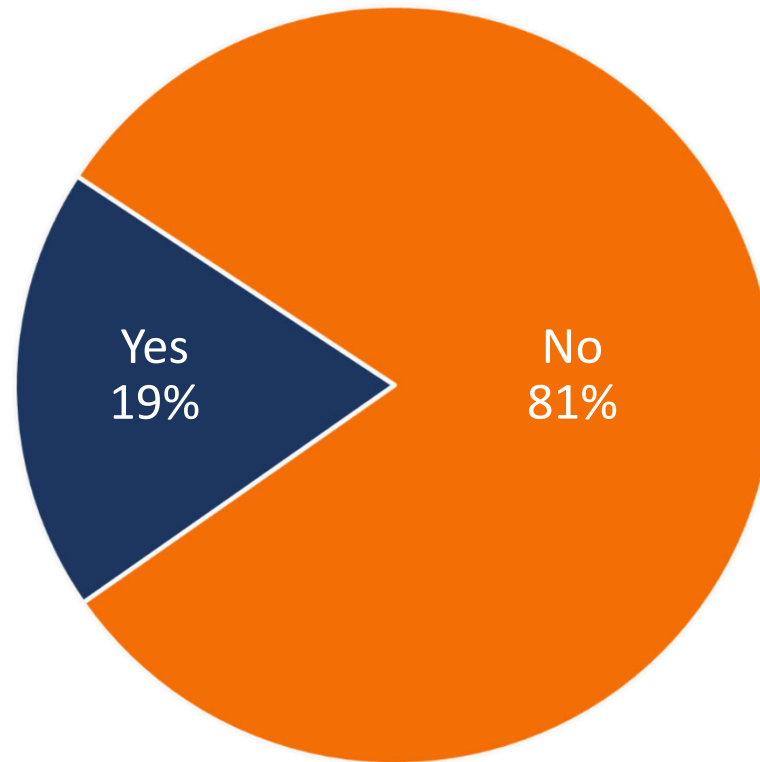
# Three in five have heard of a pharmacy drop box; it is also the disposal method they are most likely to have used.

*How familiar are you with each of the following ways someone can dispose of (get rid of) expired or unwanted household medication in the County of San Mateo? Please tell me if you are unaware of this way of disposing of expired or unwanted household medications, have heard of it but never used it, or if you have heard of it and have used it.*



# One in five have seen advertisements about drug takeback programs in San Mateo County.

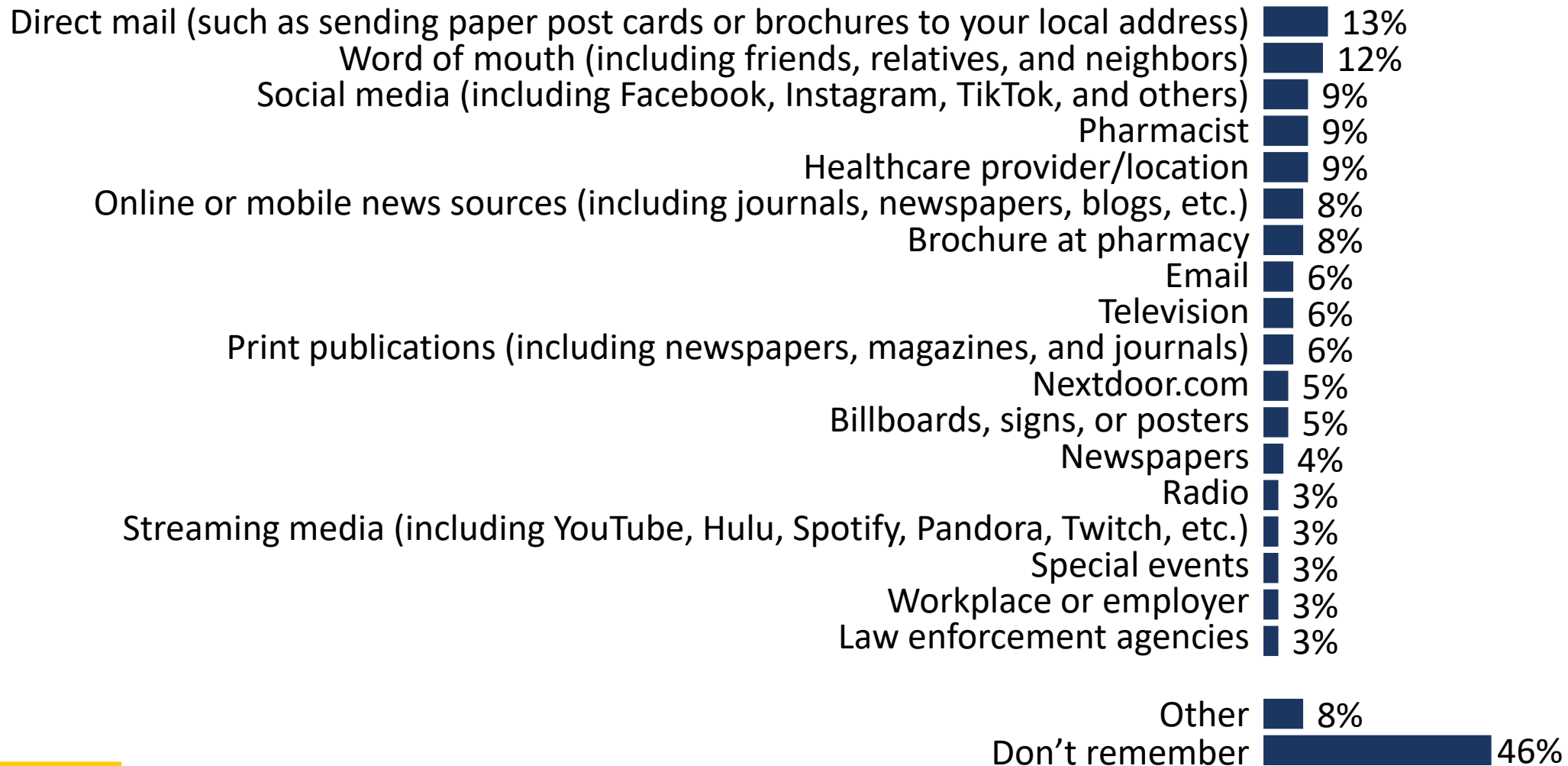
*In the last two years, have you ever seen or received advertisements or information about drug takeback programs or medicine disposal programs in the County of San Mateo (e.g., listing drop box locations, takeback events, or mail-back options?)*



# Direct mail and word of mouth were the most common sources of information.

*Where did you see the advertisements or receive information?*

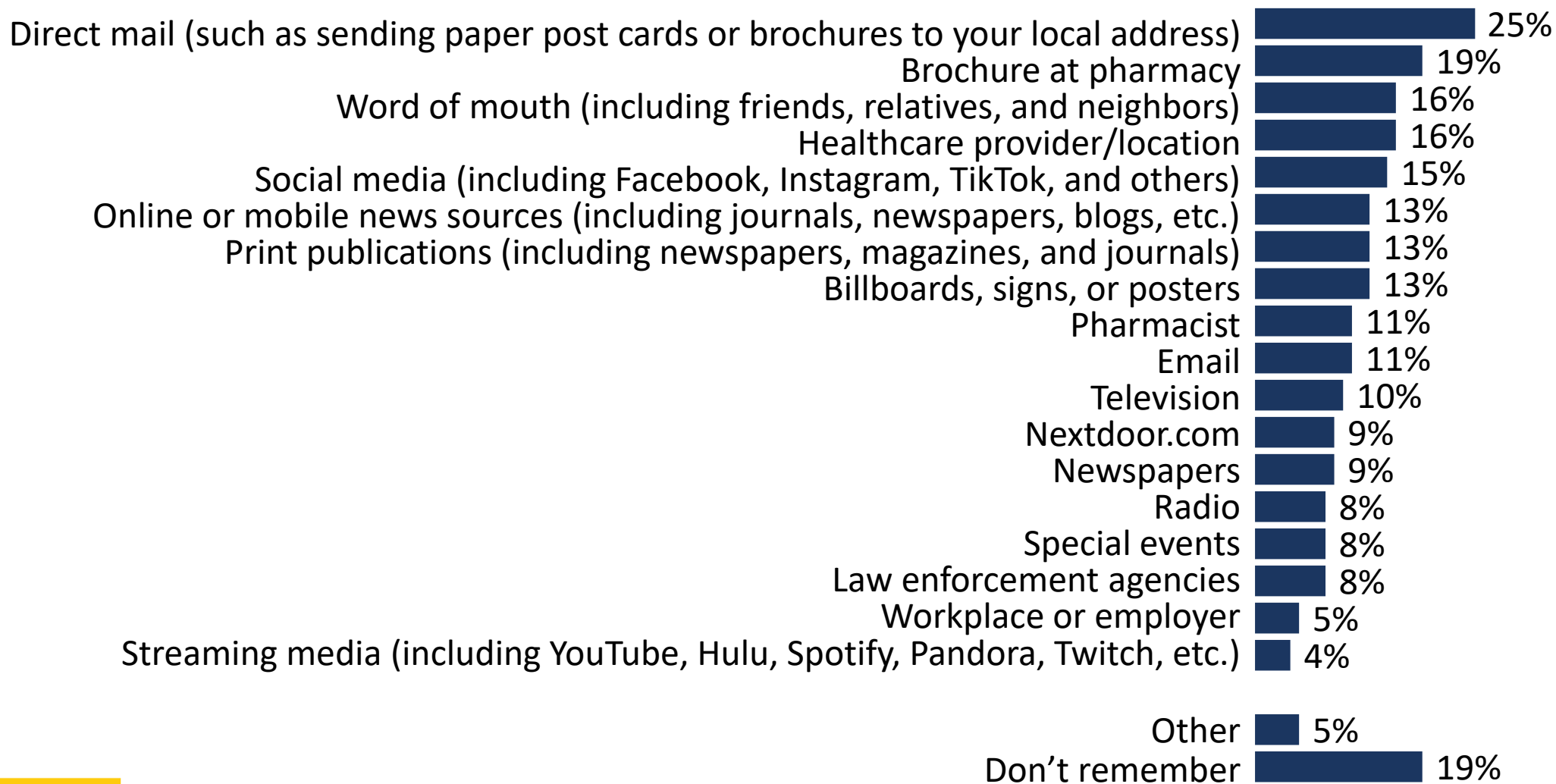
*(Multiple Responses Accepted)*



# Among those who had seen ads on takeback programs, one-quarter received this information through direct mail.

*Where did you see the advertisements or receive information?*

*(Asked of Those Aware Only; Multiple Responses Accepted)*



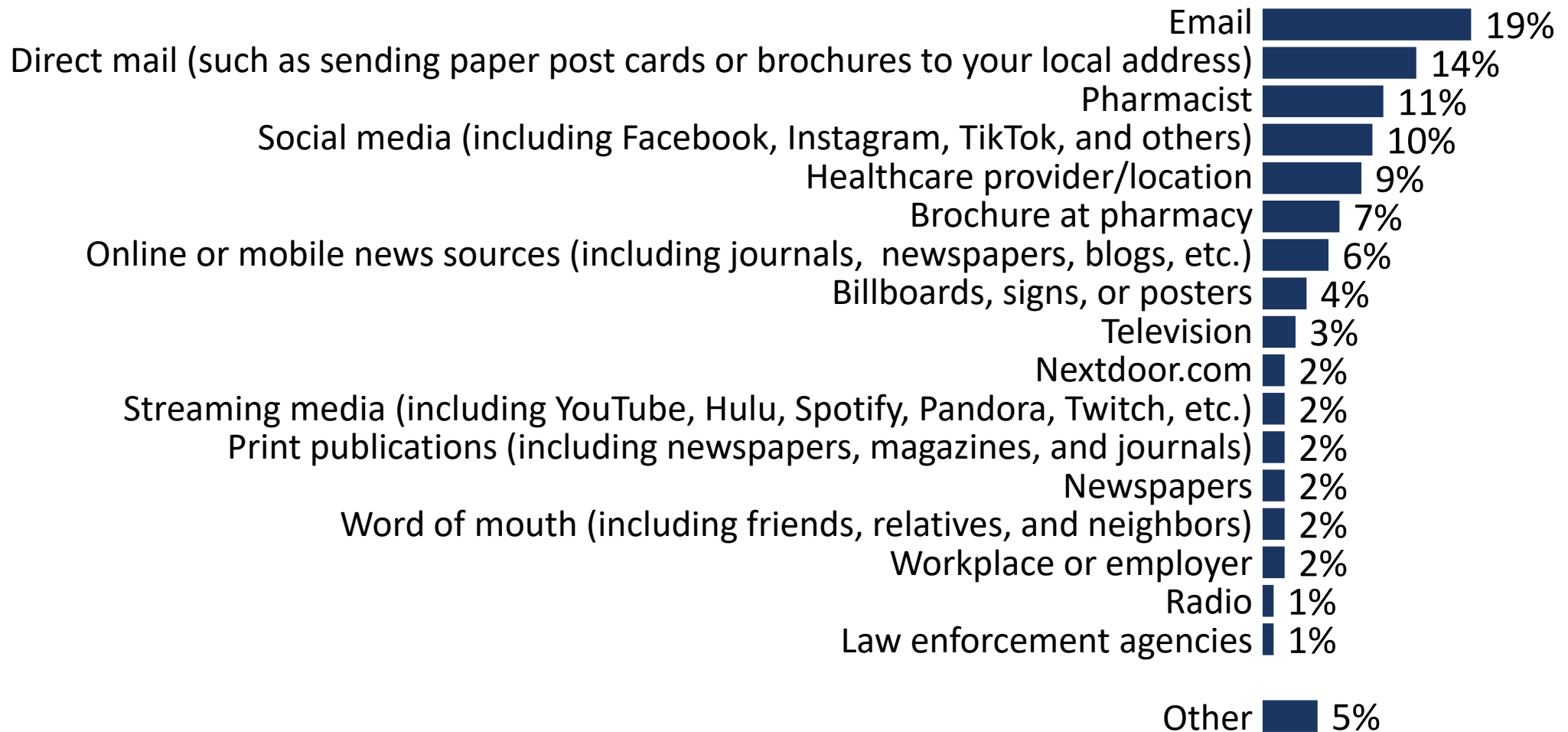




# **Using Medicine Disposal Services**

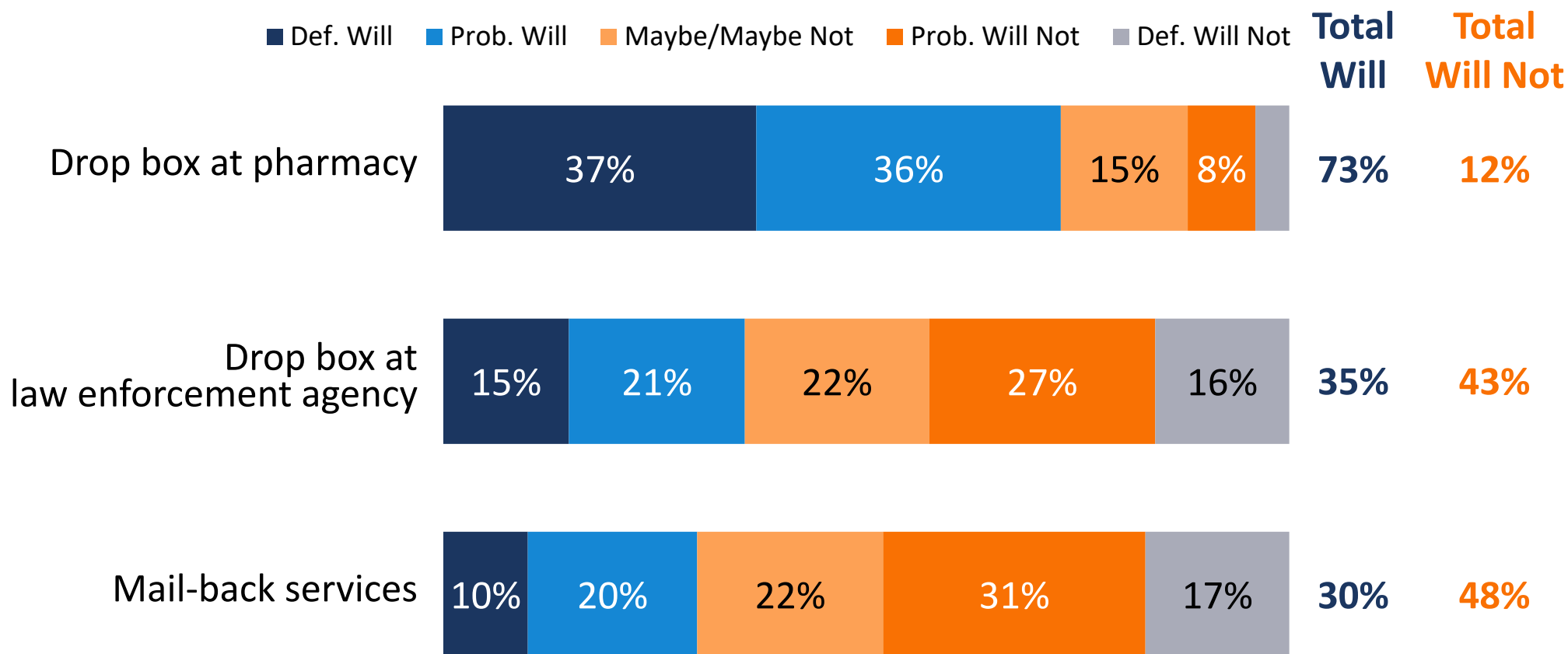
# San Mateo County residents prefer to receive information via email and direct mail.

*What is your preferred method to see or receive information about drug takeback programs?*



# They are most likely to dispose of unwanted medication at a pharmacy drop box.

*How likely are you to use the following options to dispose of expired or unwanted household medication in the future: definitely will not, probably will not, maybe or maybe not, probably will or definitely will?*

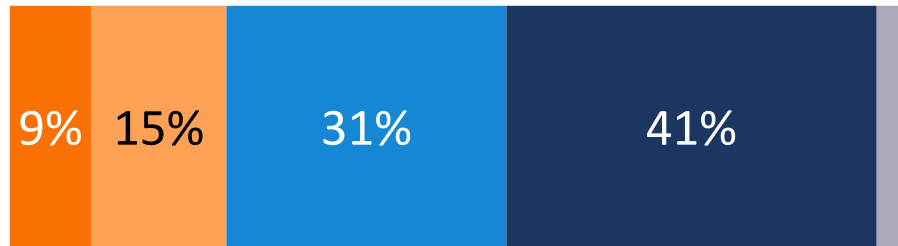


# For the most part, residents do not find the dangers of keeping expired medicines in the home highly concerning.

*After I read the following list of statements about expired and/or unwanted medicines in the home, please tell me whether it is something where you are not concerned, somewhat concerned, very concerned, or extremely concerned.*

Ext. Conc. Very Conc. Smwt. Conc. Not Conc. Don't Know/No Opin. Ext./Very Conc. Smwt./Not Conc.

Keeping **expired and/or unwanted medicines** in the home can lead to accidental poisonings or overdoses



Ext./Very Conc. 24% Smwt./Not Conc. 72%

Keeping **expired and/or unwanted medicines** in the home can provide the opportunity for family members or friends to abuse them



Ext./Very Conc. 17% Smwt./Not Conc. 79%



# Conclusions

# Conclusions

- Most San Mateo County residents have unwanted and unneeded medicines in their home.
- However, they express low levels of concern regarding the dangers of expired/unwanted medicines in their home.
- They are most familiar with drop boxes to dispose of expired and unwanted medicines at their local pharmacy, and one-third say they have used this resource.
- One in five have seen an advertisement about drug takebacks, and they are most likely to have seen this information through direct mail.
- Email, direct mail, their pharmacists and social media are their preferred sources of information on this issue.

**For more information,  
contact:**



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# San Mateo County Safe Medicine Disposal Healthcare Provider Survey



*Results of a Countywide Provider Survey  
Conducted March 30-April 10, 2024*



OPINION  
RESEARCH  
& STRATEGY



# Survey Methodology

Dates	March 30-April 10, 2024
Survey Type	Online Survey
Research Population	San Mateo County Medical Professionals
Total Interviews	100
Contact Methods	 Email Invitations
Data Collection Modes	 Online Interviews

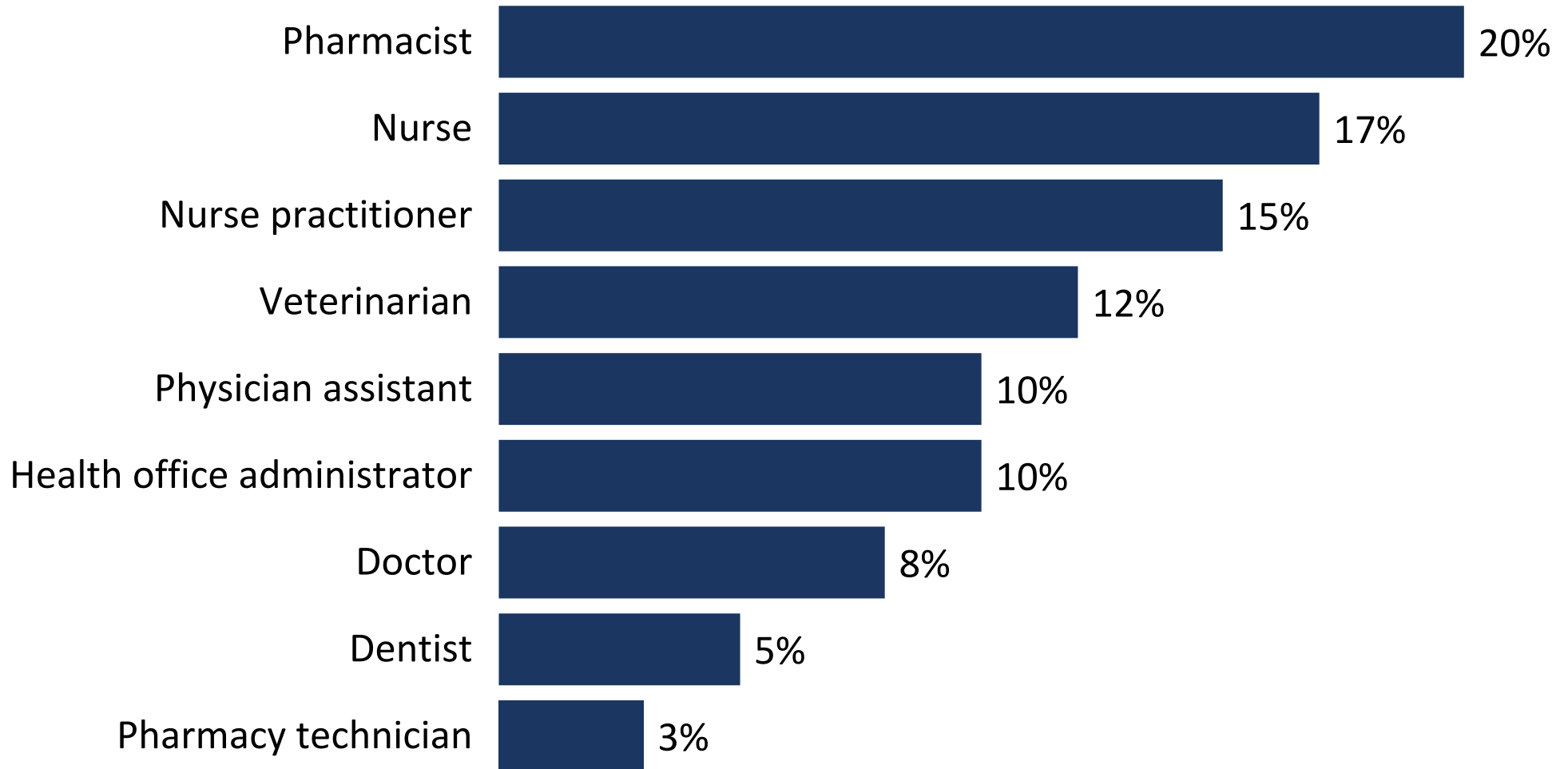
*(Note: Not All Results Will Sum to 100% Due to Rounding)*



# **Profile of Respondents**

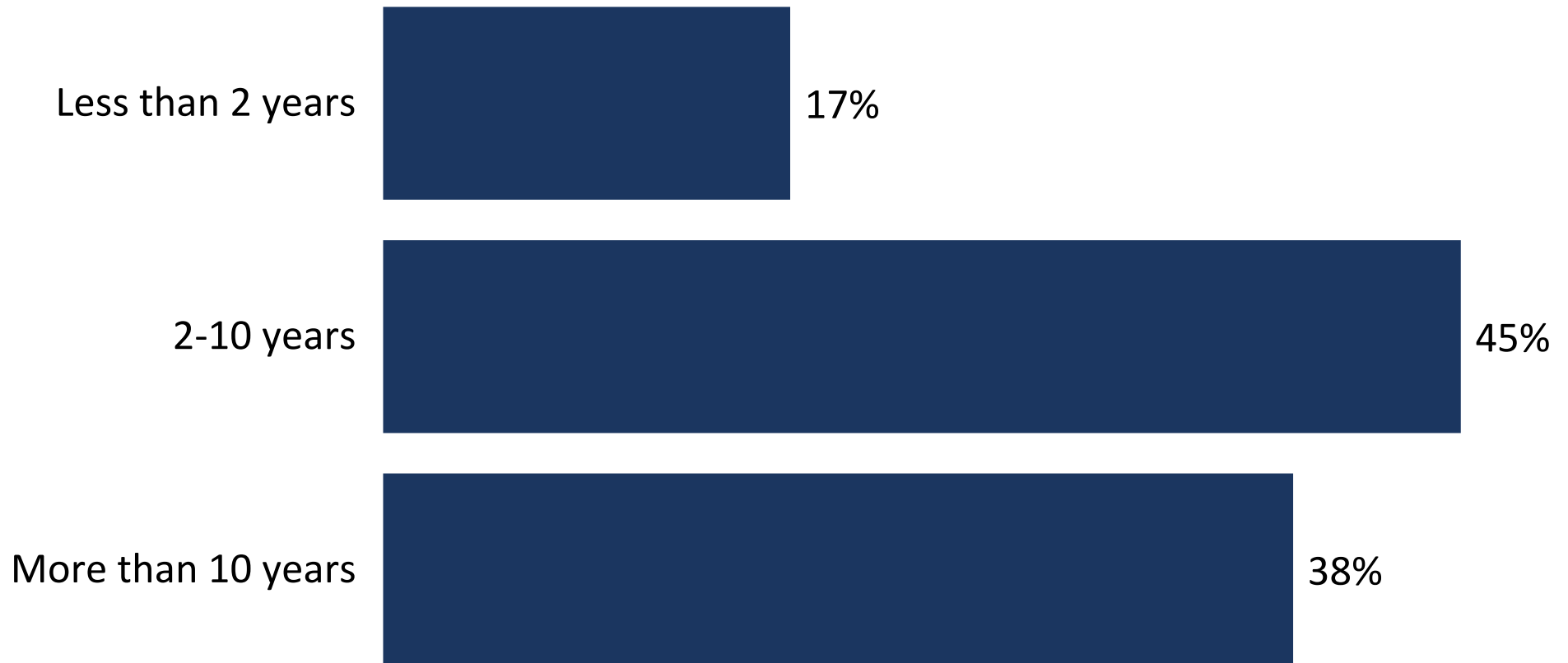
# Professional Background

*What is your profession?*



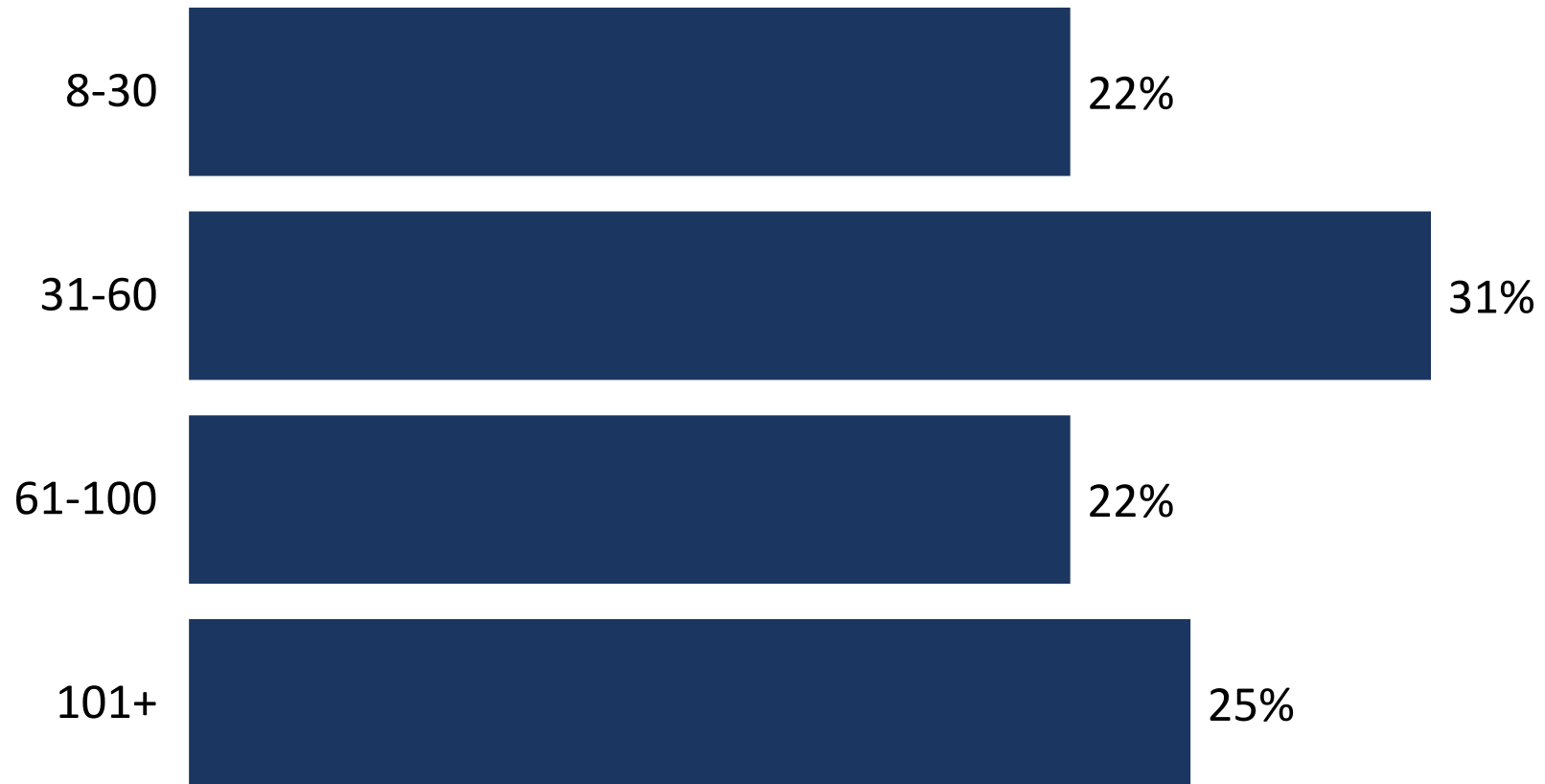
# Years Practicing in San Mateo County

*How long has your practice been in the County of San Mateo?*



# Number of Patients Served on a Daily Basis

*On average, how many patients or clients does your practice serve on a daily basis?  
(Open-ended)*



# Languages Spoken at Practice

*In what languages does your practice offer services?  
(Multiple Responses Accepted)*

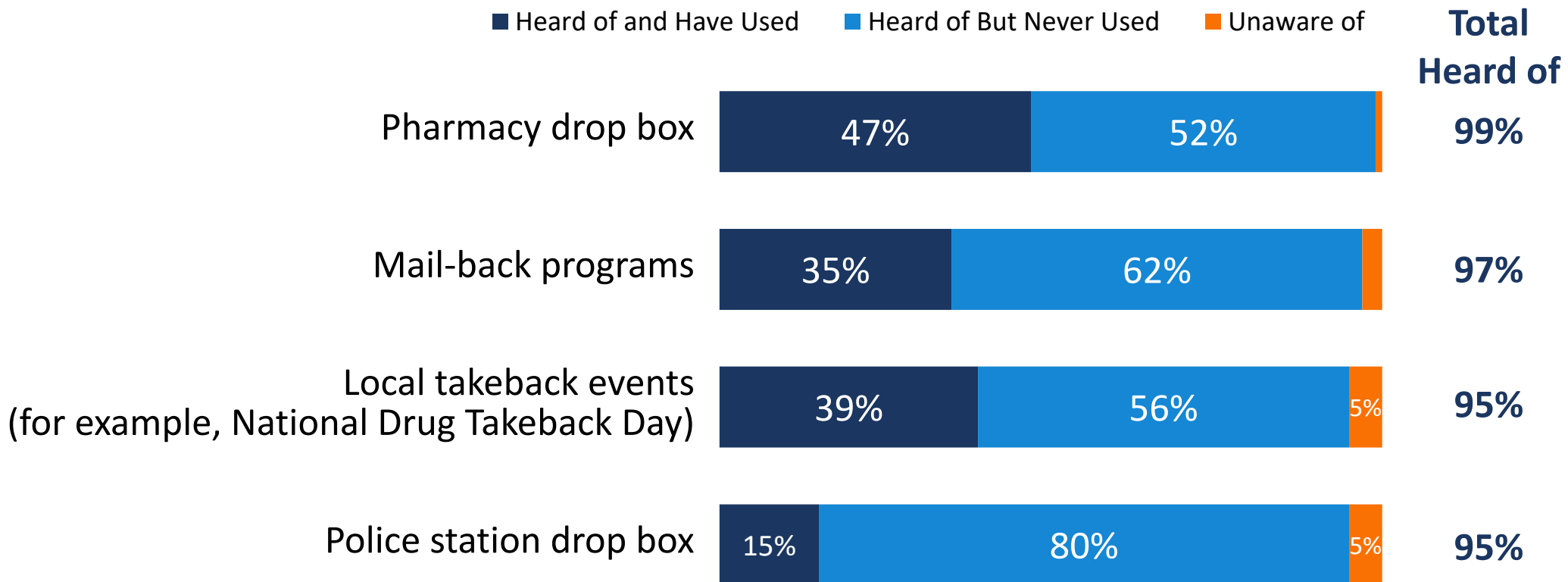




# **Familiarity with Safe Medicine Disposal**

# Providers express widespread awareness of safe medicine disposal; they most commonly have used pharmacy drop boxes.

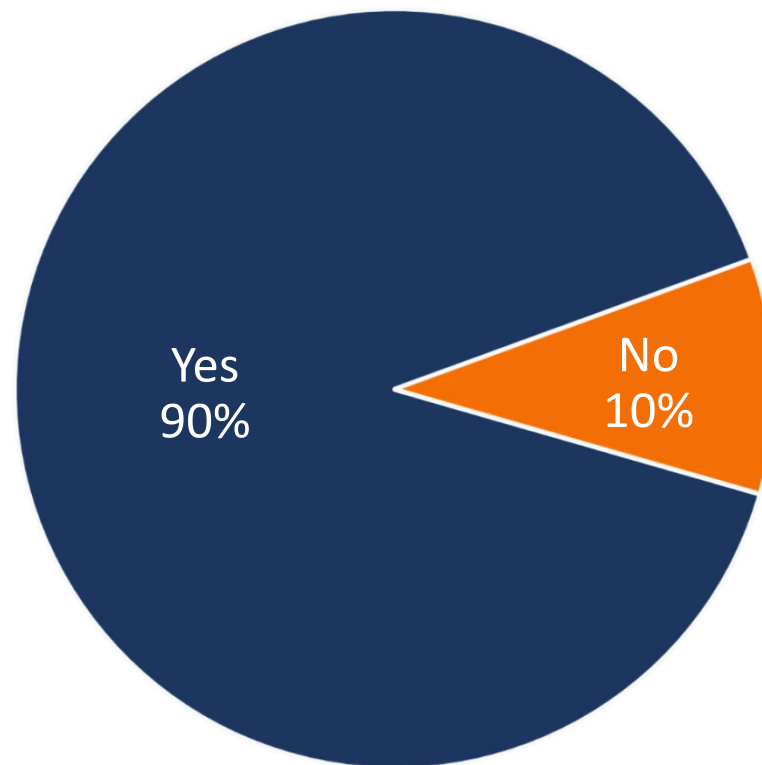
*How familiar are you with each of the following ways someone can dispose of (get rid of) expired or unwanted household medication in the County of San Mateo?*





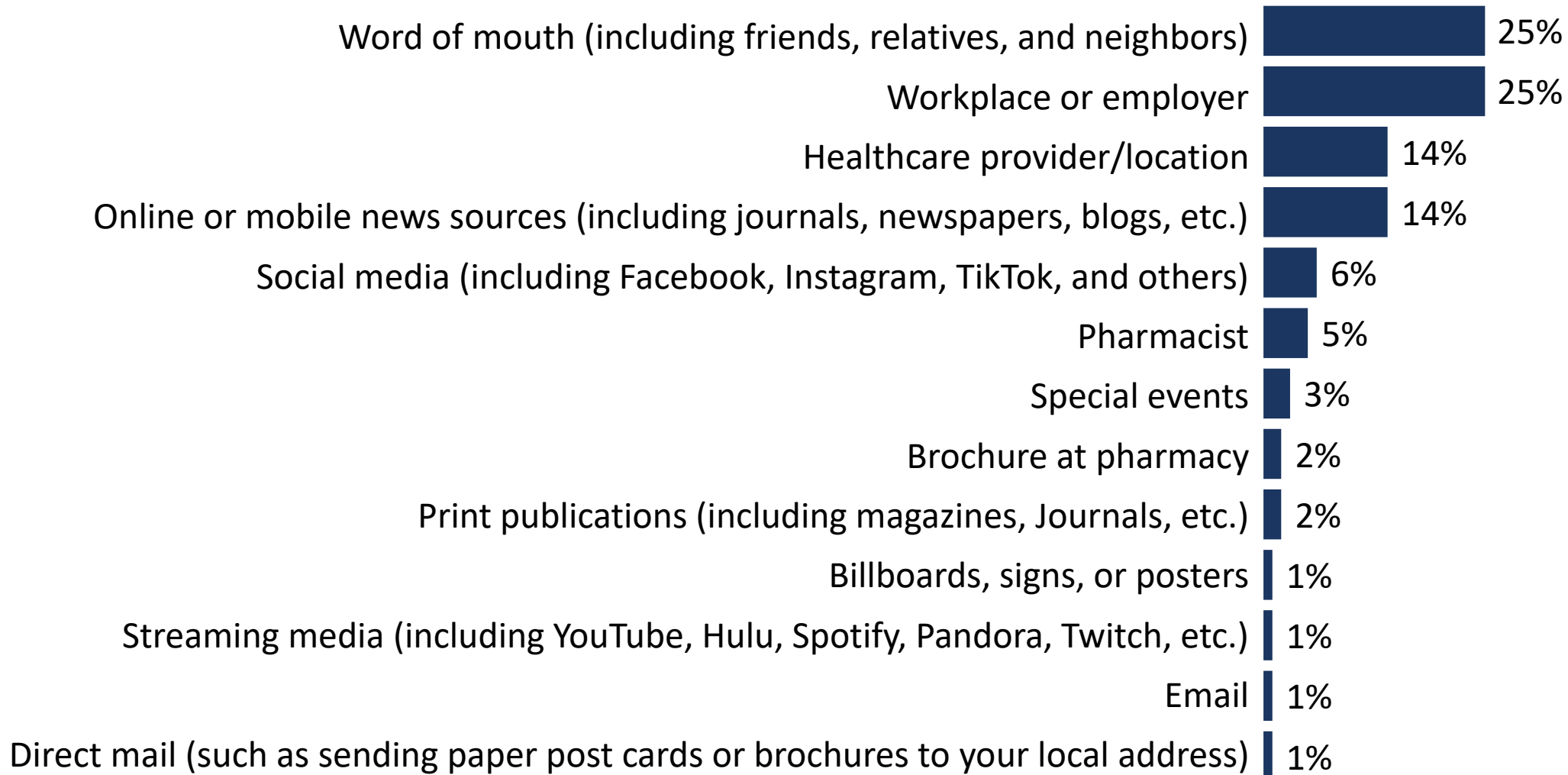
# Nine in ten are aware of available materials for healthcare professionals.

*Are you aware that printed materials are available to pharmacists, veterinarians, and healthcare professionals?*



# They prefer to receive information through word of mouth and their workplace.

*What is your preferred method to see or receive information about drug takeback programs?*



# Providers widely agree that takeback programs are easy to use, available, and convenient.

*Please indicate how well you feel the sentences below describe drug takeback programs or medication disposal program(s) in the County of San Mateo.*

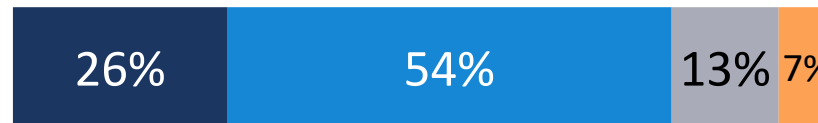
■ Strng. Agree ■ Smwt. Agree ■ Neither ■ Smwt. Disagree ■ Strng. Disagree **Total Agree** **Total Disagree**

These takeback programs make it easy to dispose of unwanted medications.



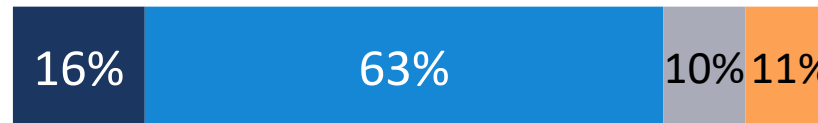
**96%** **0%**

These takeback programs are available and accessible.



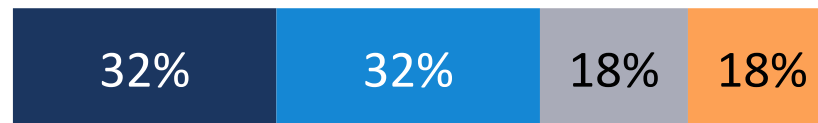
**80%** **7%**

These programs are convenient.



**79%** **11%**

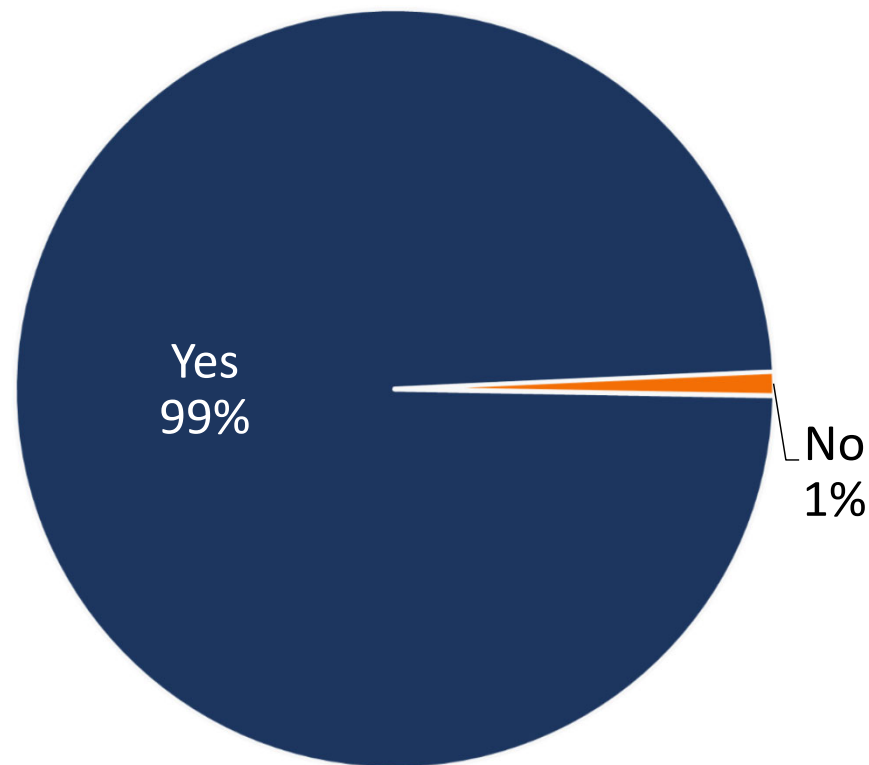
These programs have clear instructions for usage.



**64%** **18%**

# Nearly all respondents have received advertisements about takeback programs in San Mateo County.

*In the last two years, have you ever seen or received advertisements or information about drug takeback programs or medicine disposal programs in the County of San Mateo (e.g., listing drop box locations, takeback events, or mail-back options?)*



# Providers express widespread concern about the dangers of storing expired/unwanted medicines.

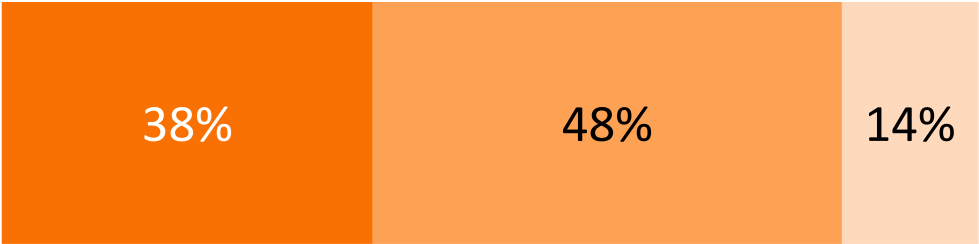
*Please carefully read the list of statements about expired and/or unwanted medicines in the home. Please indicate your level of concern regarding each statement.*

Ext. Conc.   Very Conc.   Smwt. Conc.   Not Conc.   Don't Know/No Opin.   **Ext./Very Concern**

Keeping expired and/or unwanted medicines in the home can provide the opportunity for family members or friends to abuse them



Keeping expired and/or unwanted medicines in the home can lead to accidental poisonings or overdoses

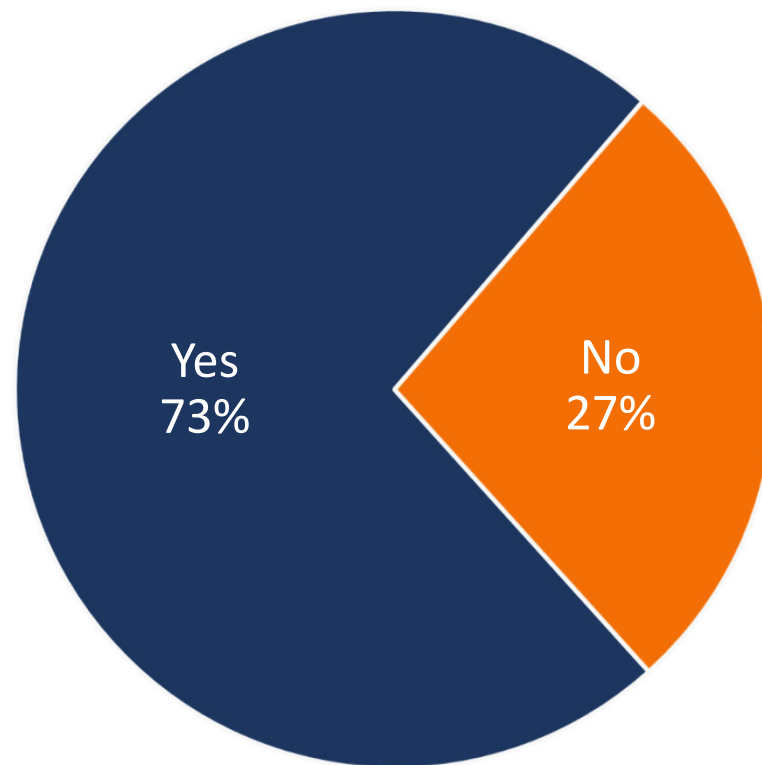




# **Discussing Medicine Disposal with Patients**

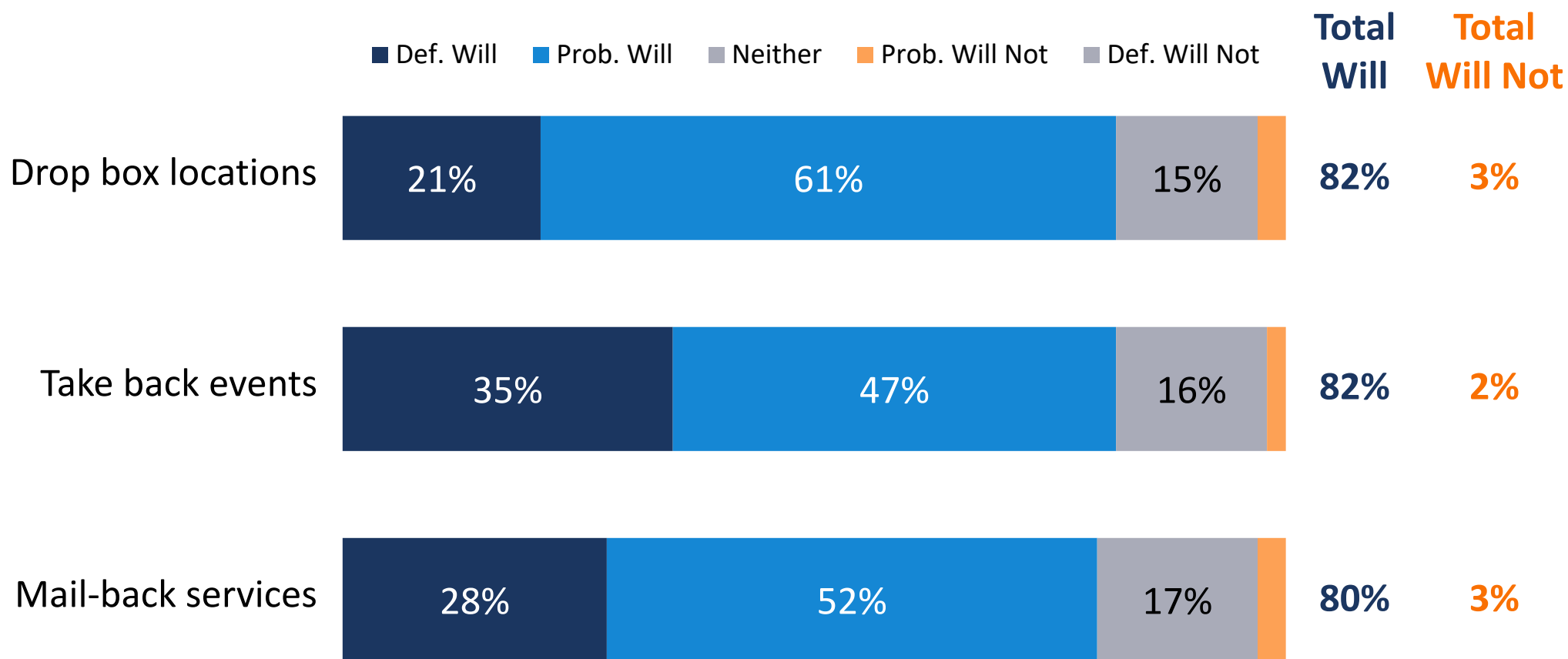
# Approximately three-quarters have encouraged their patients to use drug takeback services.

*Have you encouraged your patients to use drug takeback services for residents of the County of San Mateo to dispose of expired and/or unwanted medicines?*



# They are similarly willing to recommend drop box locations, take back events, and mail-back services.

*How likely are you to recommend the following options below to dispose of expired or unwanted household medication in the future?*







# Conclusions

# Conclusions

- Healthcare providers are widely familiar with options for safe medicine disposal in San Mateo County.
- They widely view these as easy to use, accessible, and convenient, although they are slightly less likely to say these have clear instructions for usage.
- Nearly all providers report receiving information about takeback programs in the last two years.
- They prefer to receive this information by word of mouth and in their workplace.
- Three-quarters have encouraged their patients or clients to use safe medicine disposal.
- They express a high degree of concern regarding the dangers of storing expired or unwanted medicines.
- Providers are willing to recommend a number of safe disposal methods to their patients.

**For more information,  
contact:**



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