

# ASK ONTARIO'S DOCTORS

Media Briefing

Jan. 19, 2022

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# Key Takeaways

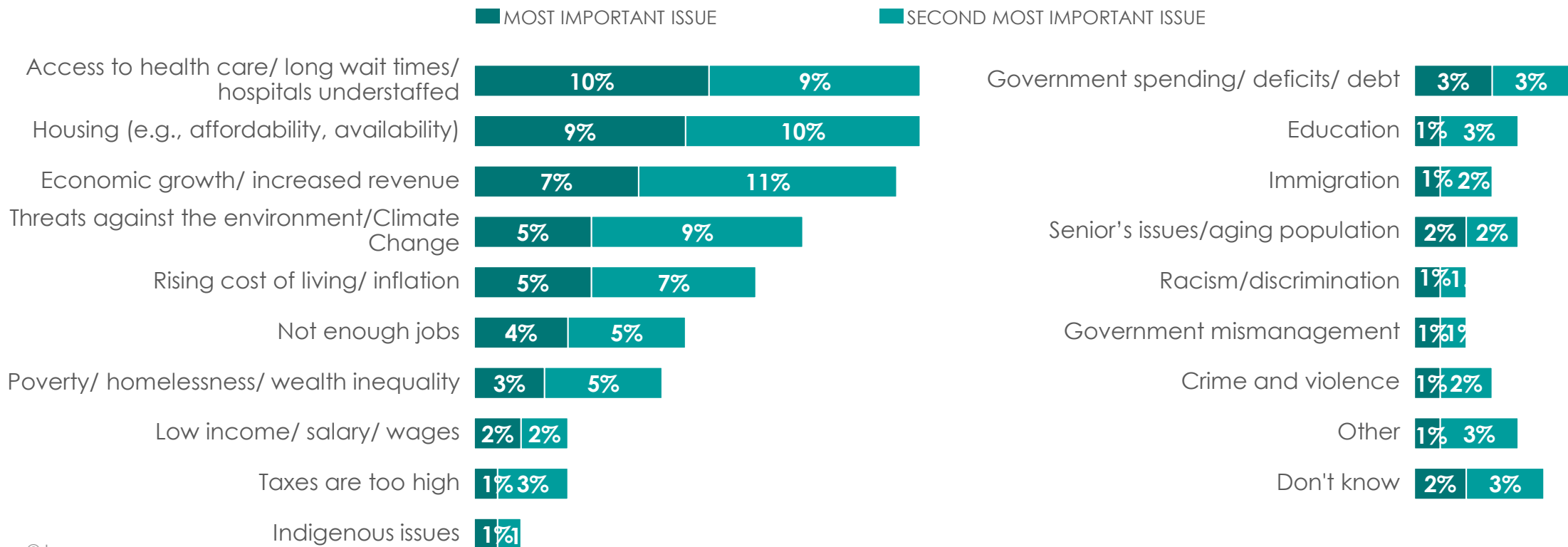
- When asked to identify the issue that is most important to them, Ontarians chose COVID-19, followed by wait times and the backlog in health-care services.
- However, younger people are more interested in mental health issues, indicating a significant growing generational divide.
- Ontarians are willing to trade off economic growth for health-care spending at least until COVID and the backlog of care are dealt with.
- Housing affordability and climate change have risen greatly as priorities.



Q1: Thinking about the issues currently facing Ontario, which ONE do you feel should receive the GREATEST attention from the Ontario provincial government? That is, what should be the top priority? [OPEN-END] And what is the second most important priority? [OPEN-END] Responses under 1% not shown.

**COVID-19 is the most important issue identified by 40 per cent of those surveyed (down from 63 per cent in April), followed by access to health care/long wait times/understaffed hospitals at 10 per cent, and then economic growth (7 per cent). Housing affordability and climate change have risen as issues.**

**COVID -19 : 40% MOST IMPORTANT (down from 63% in April), 12% SECOND MOST IMPORTANT**



Q2. I am going to read out pairs of priorities. For each pair, please select the one you think should be a higher priority. Pairs randomized and shown an even number of times. Base: All respondents (n=1000). The percentages shown below represent the proportion of times each item was selected when it was shown in a pair. For example, support for the backlog was chosen 51% of time it was shown in a pair.

## Ontarians appear willing to trade off economic growth for health care at least until the backlog of care is cleared. Respondents were asked to select each one of the two items in a pair should be the higher priority.



Q3. Aside from COVID-19, what, in your view, should be the top priorities for healthcare in Ontario? [OPEN-END]

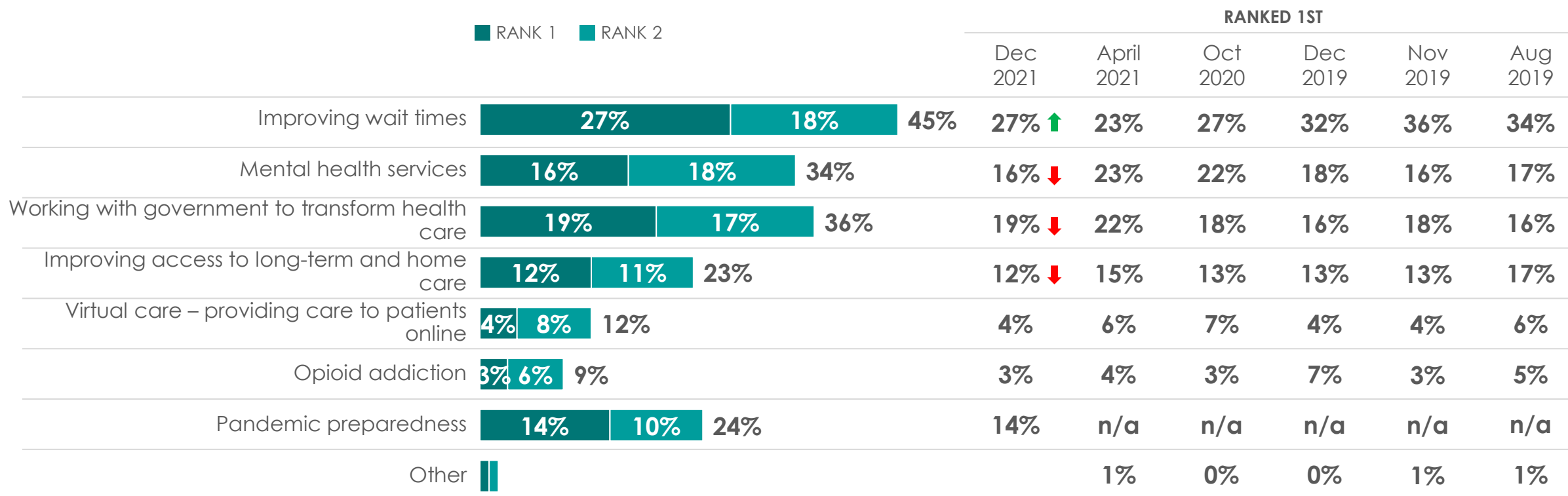
Base: All respondents (n=1000) Responses under 3% not shown unless there is tracking. Since respondents were permitted to give more than one response totals may add to more than 100%

## Ontarians' top health-care priorities after COVID-19 are wait times, hiring more hospital staff, care for seniors and the backlog of surgeries.

		April 2021	Oct 2020	Dec 2019	Nov 2019	Aug 2019	Mar 2019
COVID-19/Corona virus/pandemic	5% ↓	9%	27%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wait times/reduce wait time	17%	18%	18%	31%	27%	32%	21%
Senior care/long-term care/free...	14% ↓	18%	13%	11%	9%	13%	9%
Equal care/access to care for everyone	6%	7%	12%	6%	12%	15%	5%
Hire more doctors/nurses/hospital staff	16%	15%	11%	18%	15%	19%	12%
Lower costs/too expensive	2%	3%	6%	8%	11%	10%	2%
Pharmacare plan/cover more prescriptions	4%	3%	5%	9%	2%	16%	4%
Mental health services	8% ↓	12%	5%	5%	4%	6%	3%
Better quality of care overall/better services	3%	4%	4%	5%	12%	9%	4%
Free dental care	4% ↑	2%	4%	3%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Expand coverage/everything included (i.e., eye care)	4% ↓	15%	3%	6%	14%	10%	n/a
More hospital beds/end hallway medicine	4% ↑	2%	3%	9%	8%	7%	4%
Better medical research/assistance to diagnose/cure specific...	1%	2%	3%	2%	2%	5%	n/a
More clinics/hospitals needed	4%	5%	3%	2%	2%	3%	1%
Access to specialists/diagnostic services	0% ↓	3%	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%
More funding is needed	3%	4%	1%	6%	9%	4%	7%
Catching up on backlog of surgeries / screenings / wait lists	12% ↑	n/a					
Support for health care workers / Higher wages for professionals	7% ↑	n/a					
Restructure/ make the system more efficient	3%	1%					

Q4. Please rank the top two priorities for doctors to play an active role in health care where '1' is the most important priority for doctors and '2' is the second most important priority for doctors. Base: All respondents (n=1000) Note: Data labels 3% or less removed from chart.

**When offered the following choices, wait times was the No. 1 health-care priority and has risen from 23 per cent to 27 per cent since April. Transforming the health-care system and mental health come next. Mental health is the most important issue in northern Ontario (27 per cent).**



↑↓ Significant change from previous wave.

Q5. Please rank the top two priorities for doctors to play an active role in health care where '1' is the most important priority for doctors and '2' is the second most important priority for doctors. Base: All respondents (n=1000) Note: Data labels 3% or less removed from chart.

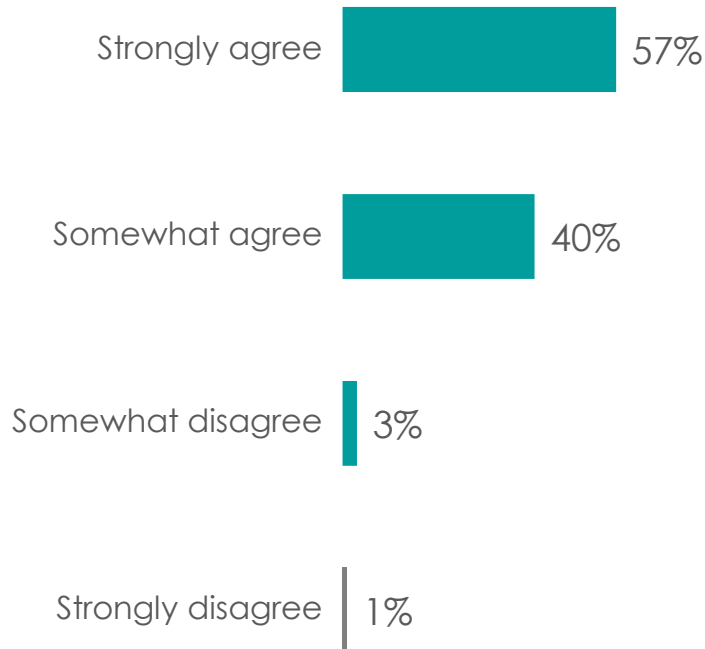
**When offered the following choices, mental health is more of a priority for Gen Z and Millennials than older Ontarians, whereas improving wait times is a greater priority for Gen X and for Boomers transforming health care and long-term/home care are greater priorities.**

	RANKED 1ST			
	Gen Z	Millennial	Gen X	Boomer
Improving wait time	23%	22%	<b>31%</b>	26%
Mental health services	<b>25%</b>	<b>22%</b>	16%	10%
Working with government to transform health care	15%	16%	17%	<b>25%</b>
Improving access to long-term and home care	9%	6%	8%	<b>18%</b>
Virtual care – providing care to patients online	5%	5%	4%	3%
Opioid addiction	4%	4%	2%	3%
Pandemic preparedness	12%	19%	16%	11%
Other	-	1%	*	1%

# 96 per cent of Ontarians support the five pillars of the OMA's Prescription for Ontario: Doctors' 5-Point Plan for Better Health Care.

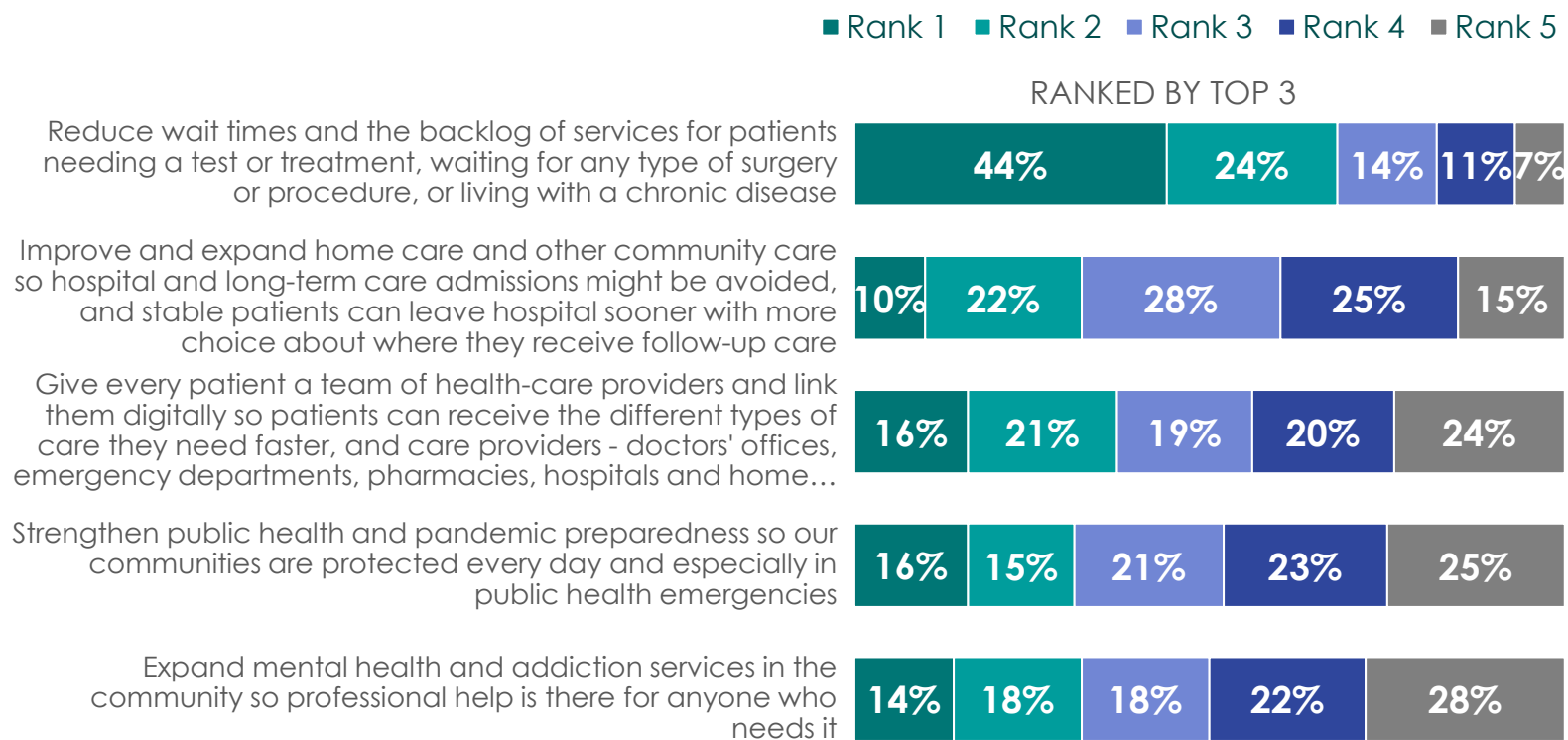
## AGREEMENT THAT PILLARS ARE THE 5 MOST PRESSING HEALTH CARE ISSUES IN ONTARIO

24D. To what extent do you agree or disagree that these are the 5 most pressing issues in health care in Ontario?



## RESPONDENTS WERE ASKED TO RANK FROM 1 TO 5 HOW PRESSING THESE ISSUES ARE IN THEIR COMMUNITY

24E\_1. Please rank these pillars in order from 1 to 5, where 1 is the most pressing in your community today and 5 is the least pressing issue in your community today? Base: All respondents (n=1000) Due to rounding, some totals may not add to 100%

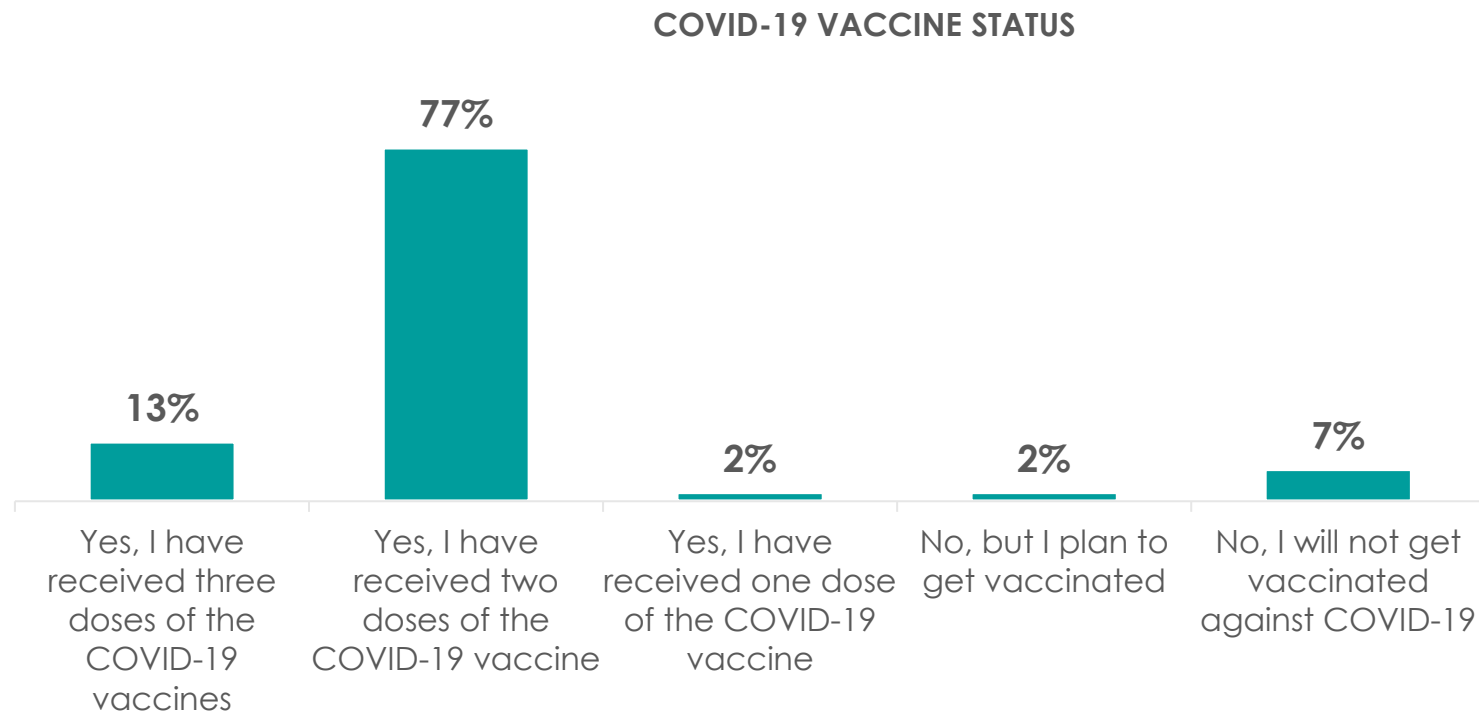




Q7. Have you received a COVID-19 vaccine? Base: All respondents (n=1000)  
Due to rounding, some totals may not add to 100%

## One in 10 Ontarians report they have not been vaccinated against COVID-19 or have received only one dose. Seven per cent do not plan to get vaccinated.

Those unlikely to get vaccinated skews slightly toward Millennial/Gen X and women.



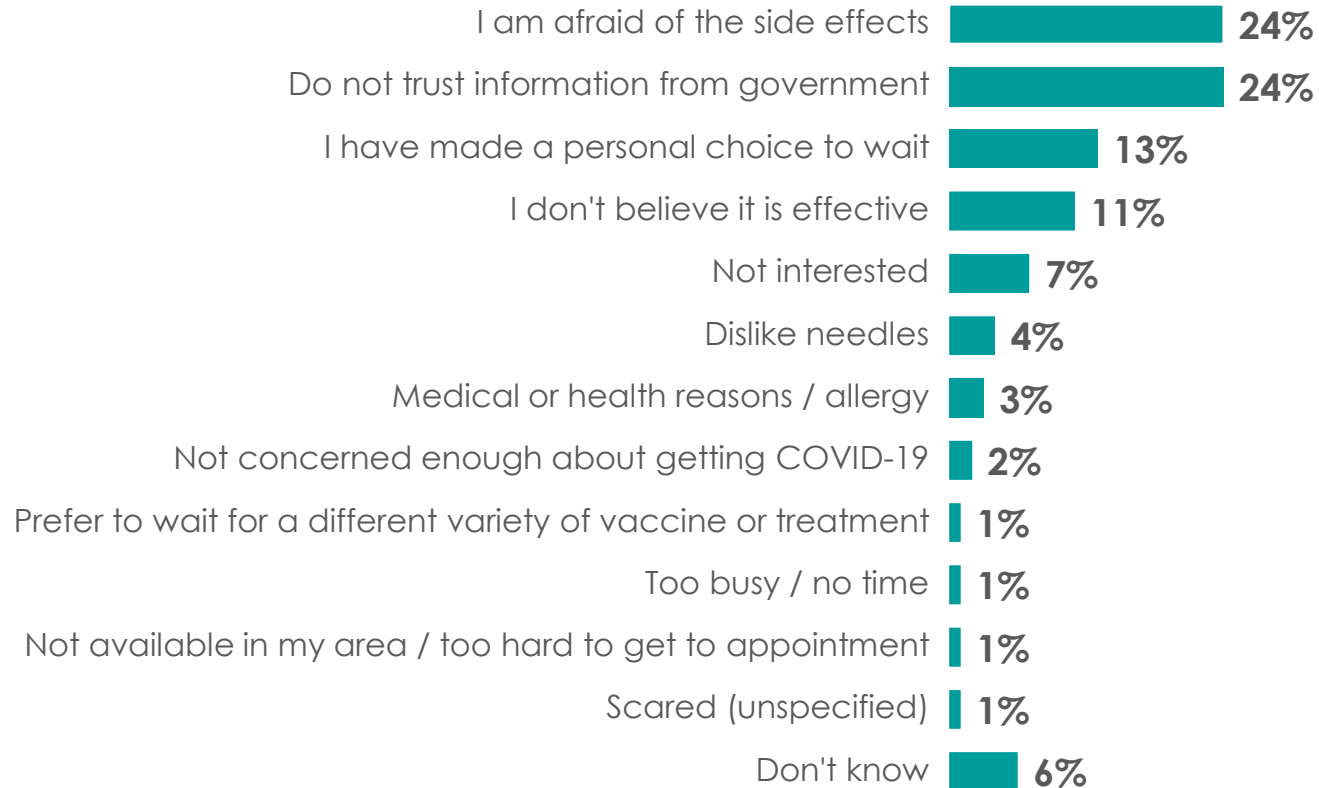
No, I will not get vaccinated:

Gen Z:	7%
Millennial:	9%
Gen X:	9%
Boomer:	3%
Women:	8%
Men:	5%

QB. What is the main reason you have not received a COVID-19 vaccine? Base: Not vaccinated (plan to, or do not plan to be vaccinated n=86)

## Fear of the side effects and lack of trust in information from the government are the main reasons for delaying or avoiding vaccination.

Other reasons for not receiving the vaccine are personal choice, concerns about efficacy, lack of need or interest and dislike of needles. Only 2% of the 9% who are unvaccinated say they are not concerned enough about COVID-19 to get vaccinated.



# Methodology

The survey was conducted online between Dec 7-13, 2021 (before the large increase in OMICRON variant cases in Ontario).

The survey was conducted with a representative sample of n=1,000 Ontario residents ages 18 and older.

The precision of Ipsos online surveys is calculated using a credibility interval. On a sample of n=1000 the survey data is accurate to within +/- 3.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, had all Ontario adults been surveyed.

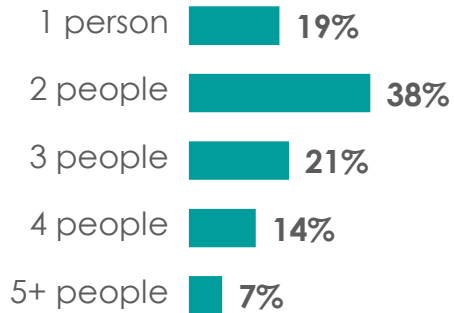


# Demographics

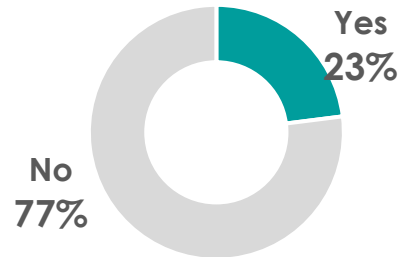
## GENDER



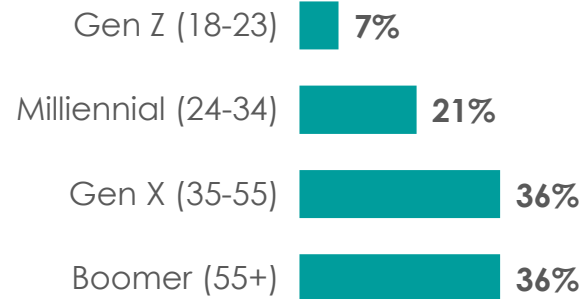
## NUMBER IN HOUSEHOLD



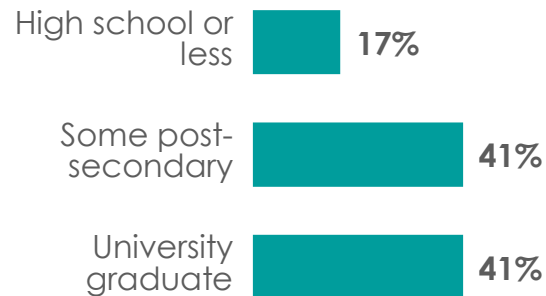
## KIDS IN HOUSEHOLD



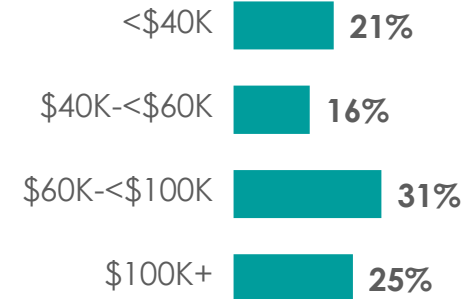
## AGE



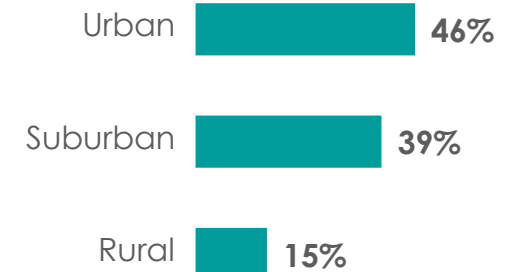
## EDUCATION



## HOUSEHOLD INCOME



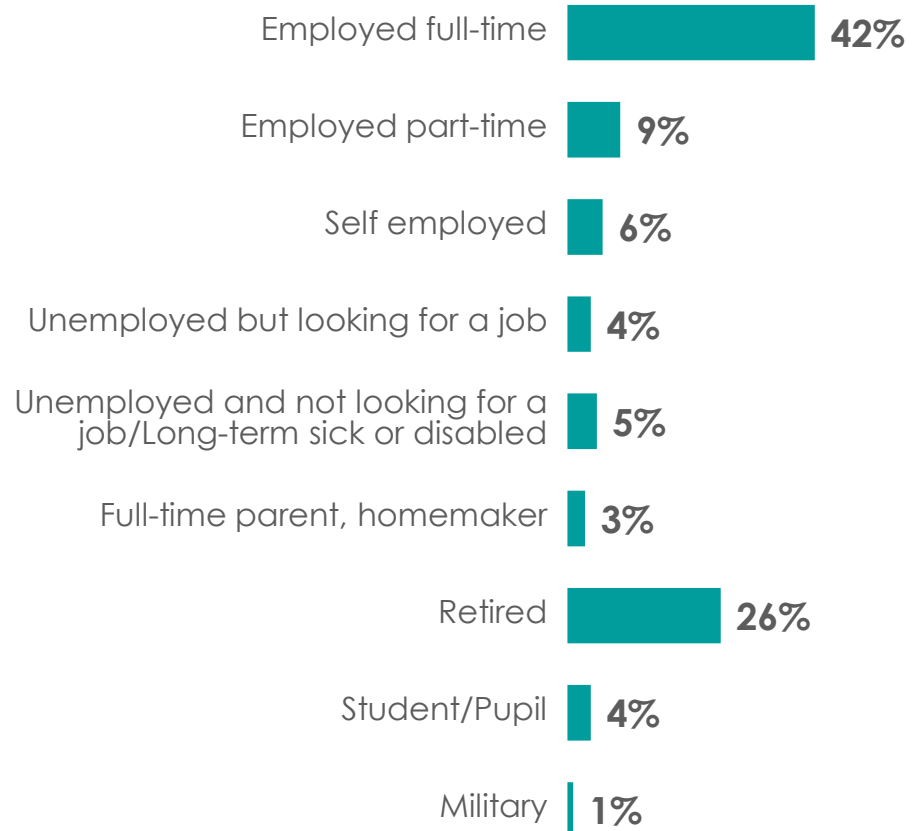
## AREA



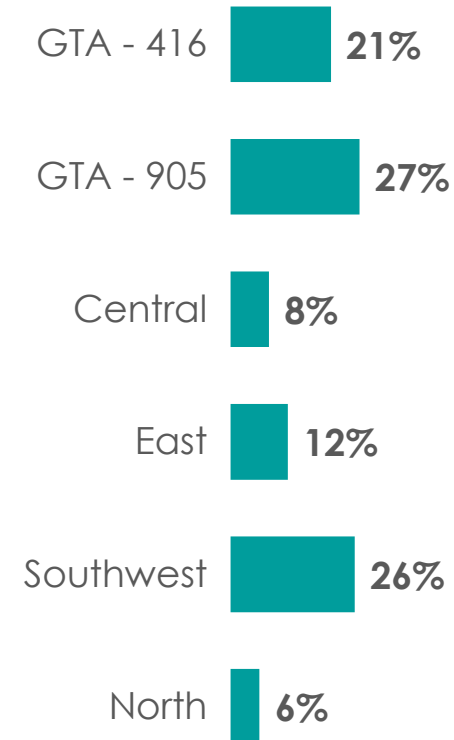
# Demographics



## EMPLOYMENT STATUS



## REGION



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