

Elko County, Nevada Community Health Needs Survey

Office of Statewide Initiatives
University of Nevada School of Medicine
Reno, Nevada

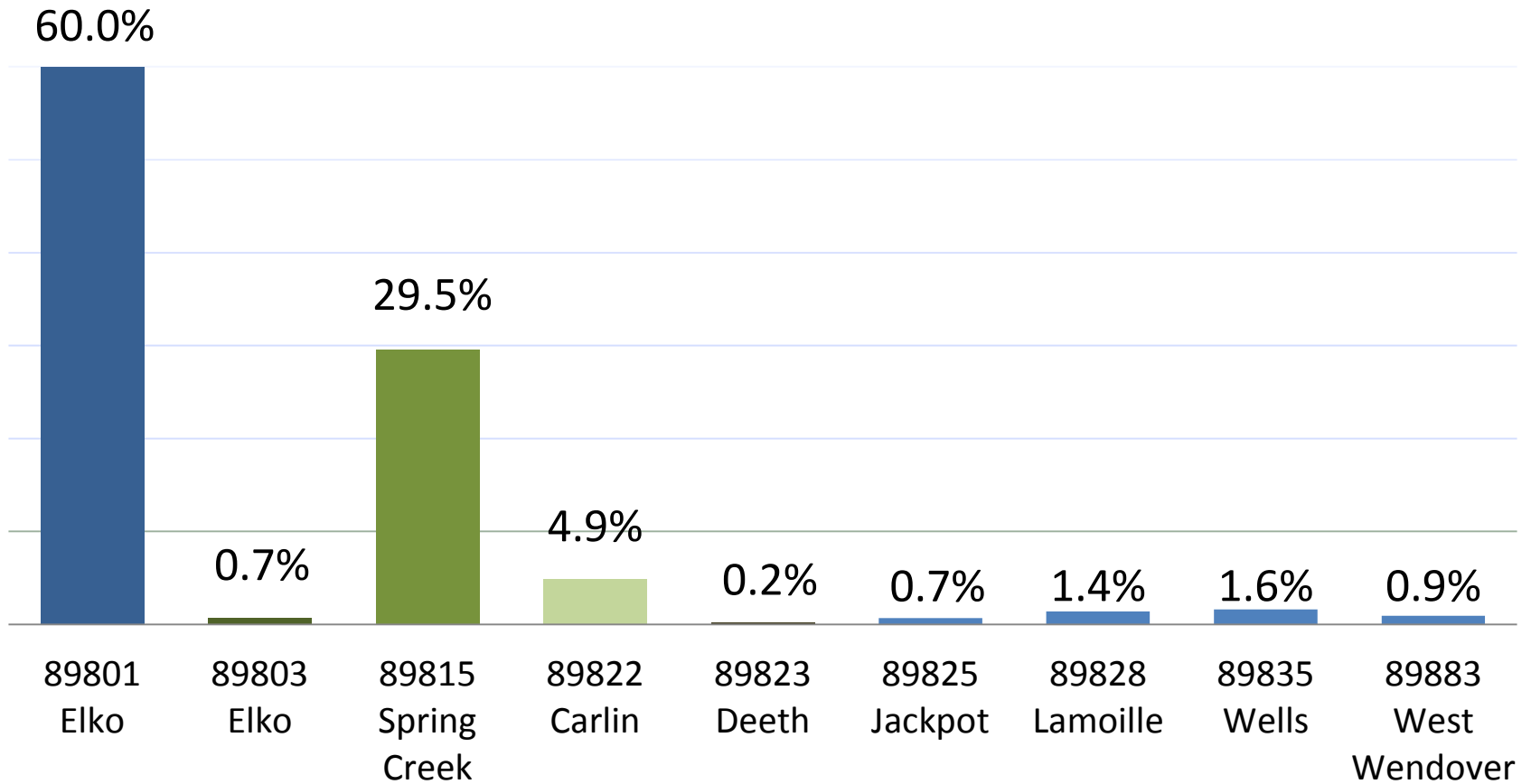


University of Nevada
School of Medicine

Overview of Community Health Needs Survey

- Questionnaire
 - 33 total questions: 12 multiple choice, 5 fill-in-the-blank, 5 Likert scale, 5 yes/no, 6 open-ended
 - Survey assessed self-reported health status, access to medical services, knowledge of public health and demographic information
- Survey and Questionnaire Distribution
 - Survey was conducted from December 3, 2013 to January 10, 2014
 - Surveys were distributed via convenience and snowball sampling methods
 - 458 total questionnaires were completed: 72 paper copies were received and 391 were completed online

What is the zip code of your current residence? (Q30)



N = 425

What about living in Elko County contributes to people's health and well-being in a positive way? (Q1)

Positive Factor	Percent
Access to the outdoors, wide open spaces	35.0%
Clean air and water, lack of pollution	31.6%
Community relations, culture, family ties	16.4%
Rural lifestyle, 'small town feel'	15.1%
Availability and effectiveness of services	10.4%
Strong economy, availability of jobs	5.7%
Overall safety	2.1%
Other	4.2%

What are the top health problems people in our community face? (Q2)

Health Concern	Percent
Access to healthcare services	46.7%
Access to Medicaid and Medicare providers	43.0%
Cost of healthcare	36.7%
Drug abuse	26.3%
Mental illness	23.8%
Alcohol abuse	19.4%

What are the top health problems people in our community face? (Q2, continued)

Health Concern	Percent
Obesity	14.0%
Inadequate services for seniors	13.8%
Cancers	10.8%
Domestic violence	7.3%
Teenage pregnancy	6.0%
Suicide	5.4%

What about living in Elko County contributes to health and well-being in a negative way? (Q4)

Negative Factor	Percent
Availability of or access to medical care	21.4%
Poor lifestyle choices, alcohol and drug abuse	18.7%
Casinos, gambling, bars and 24-hr lifestyle	11.1%
Mining shift work, job accidents, job difficulties	9.4%
Remoteness, distance to needed services	6.2%
High cost of healthcare, transportation	5.7%

What about living in Elko County contributes to health and well-being in a negative way? (Q4, continued)

Negative Factor	Percent
Poor quality healthcare, lack of concern by providers	4.9%
Environmental problems	4.7%
Lack of Medicare and Medicaid providers	4.5%
High cost of living and housing, homelessness	4.5%
Problems with the local hospital	3.3%
Smoking, tobacco use	2.7%
Other	2.9%

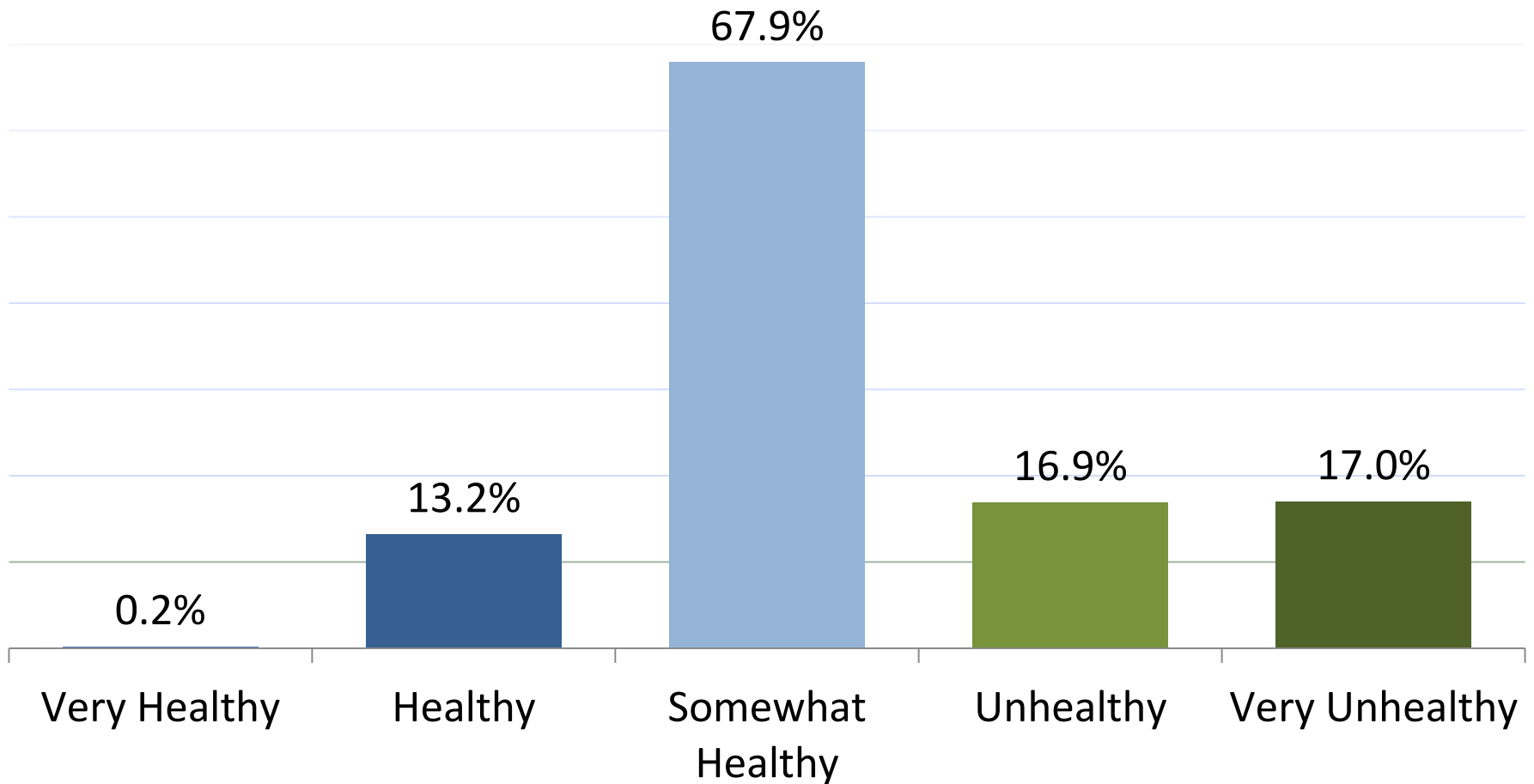
Important factors for a healthy community and improved quality of life? (Q5)

Contributing Factor	Percent
Access to healthcare	46.7%
Good jobs and a healthy economy	39.5%
More affordable medical care	31.5%
Strong family life	27.1%
Affordable housing	26.1%

Important factors for a healthy community and improved quality of life? (Q5)

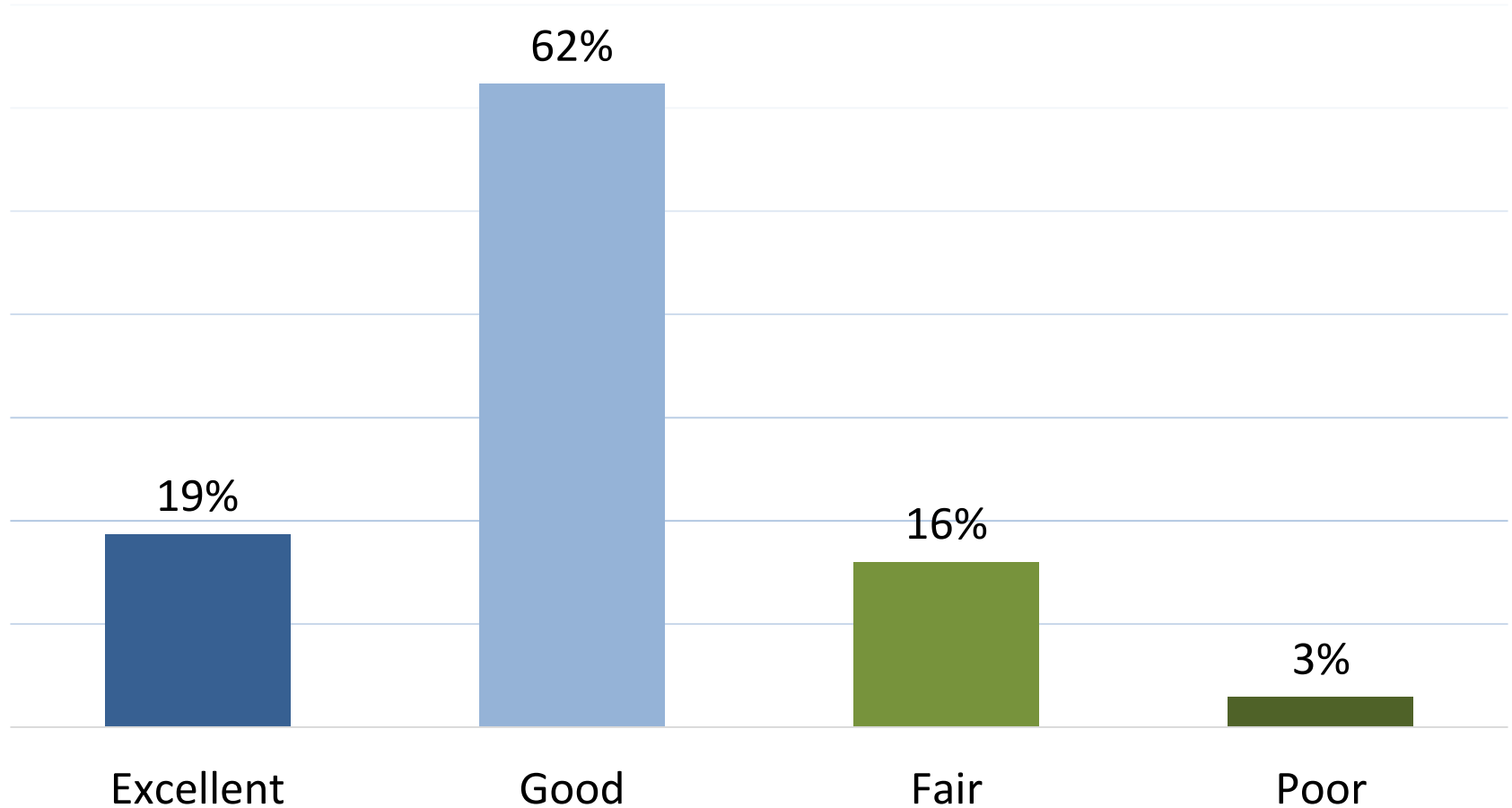
Contributing Factor	Percent
Low crime and safe neighborhoods	19.9%
Good place to raise children	15.3%
More affordable health insurance	15.3%
Good schools	14.7%
Parks and recreation	10.8%
Religious or spiritual values	10.8%

How would you rate the overall health of our community? (Q3)



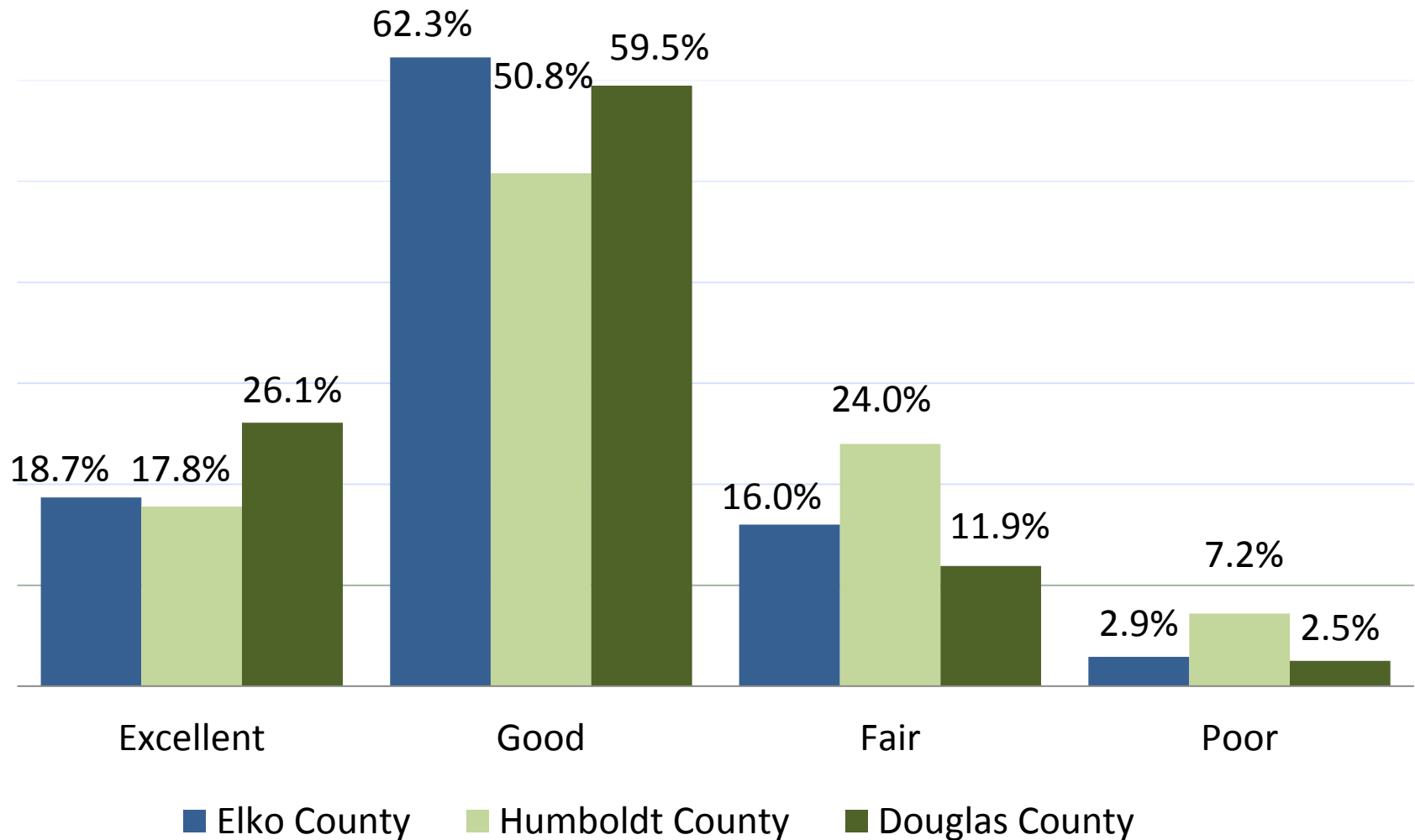
N=456

How would you rate your personal health? (Q6)



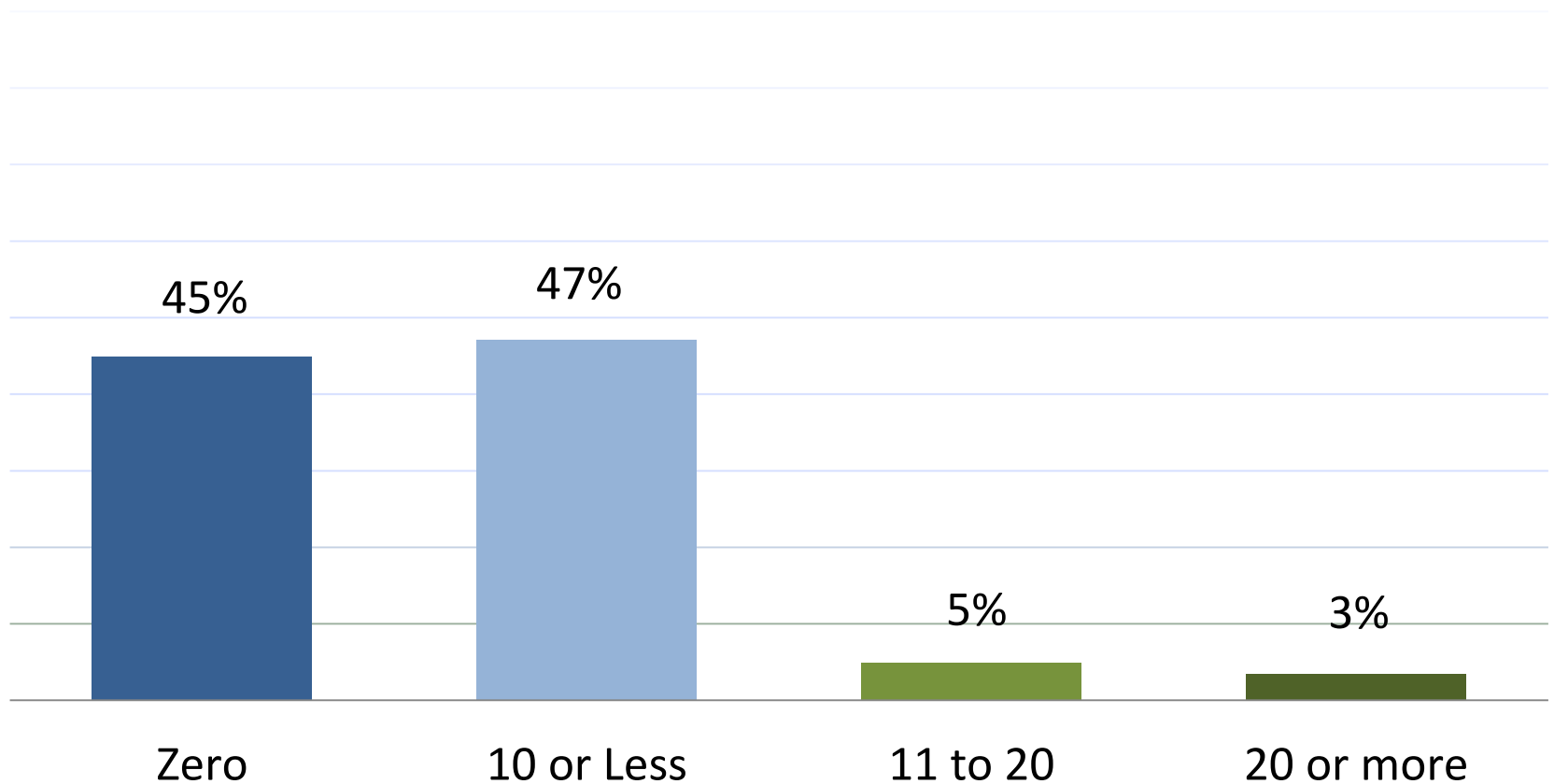
N=438

How would you rate your personal health?



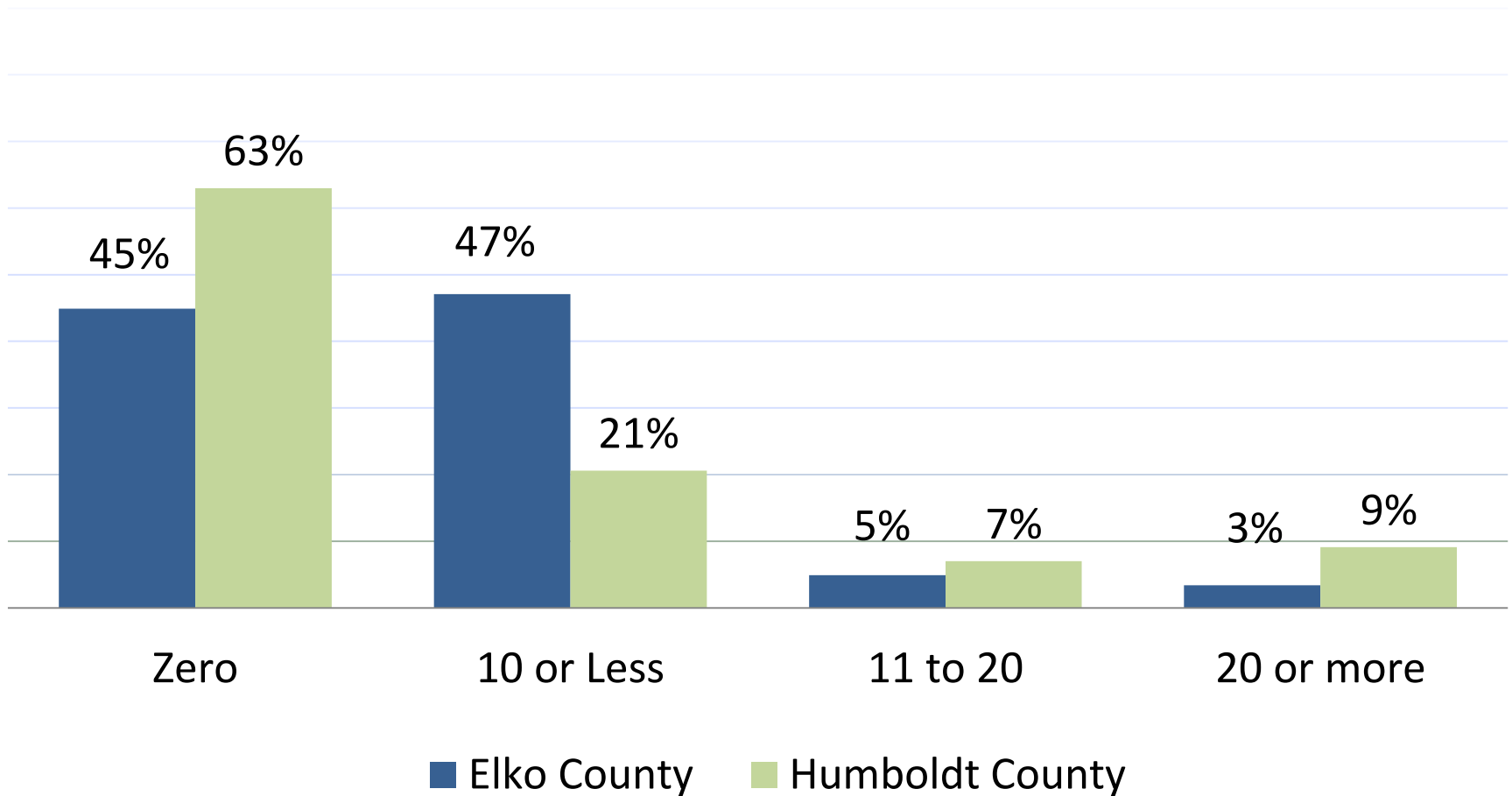
N=438 (Elko County)

How many days during the past 30 days was your physical health not good? (Q7)



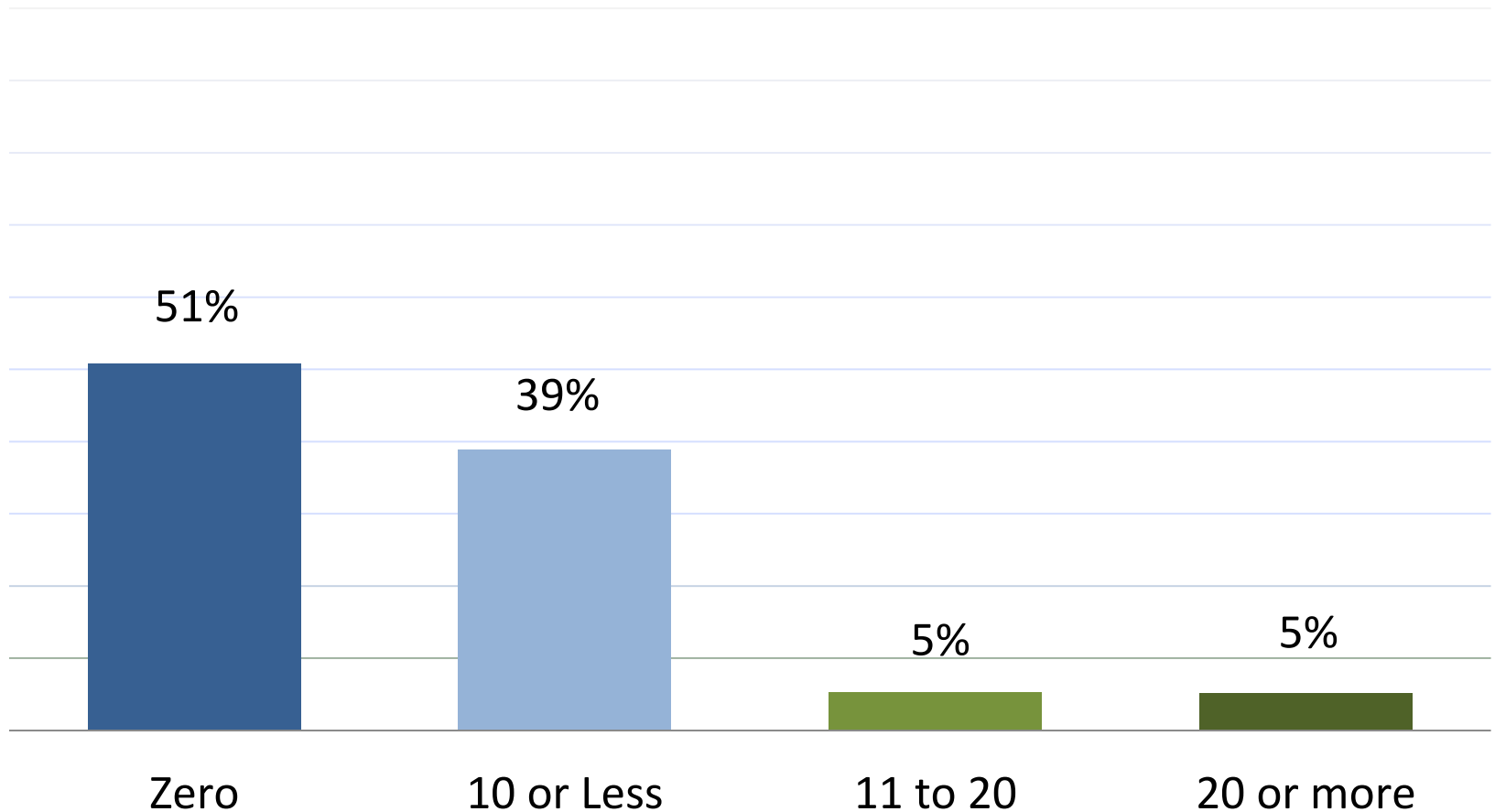
N=438

How many days during the past 30 days was your physical health not good?



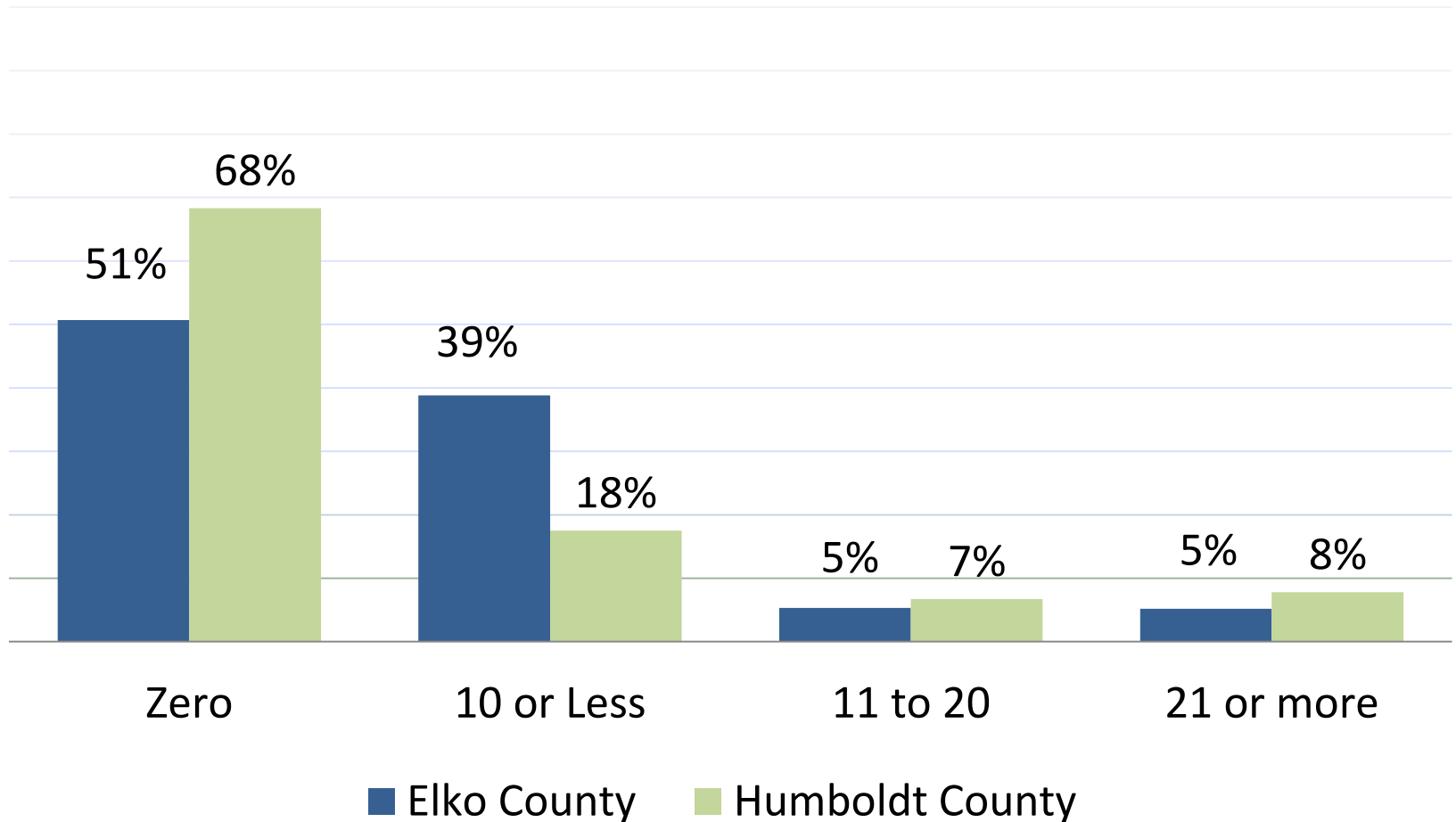
N=438 (Elko County)

How many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good? (Q8)



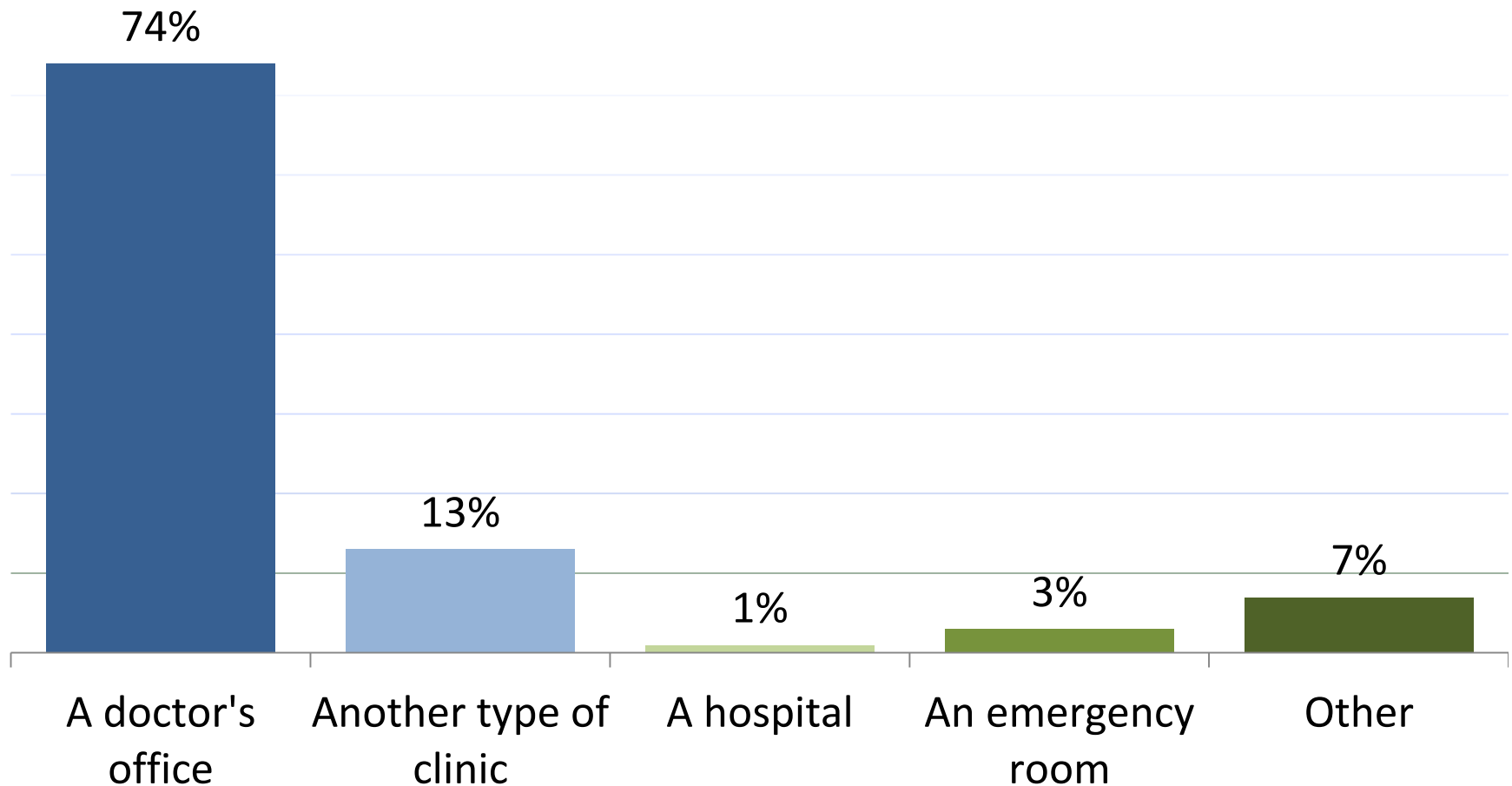
N= 435

How many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good?

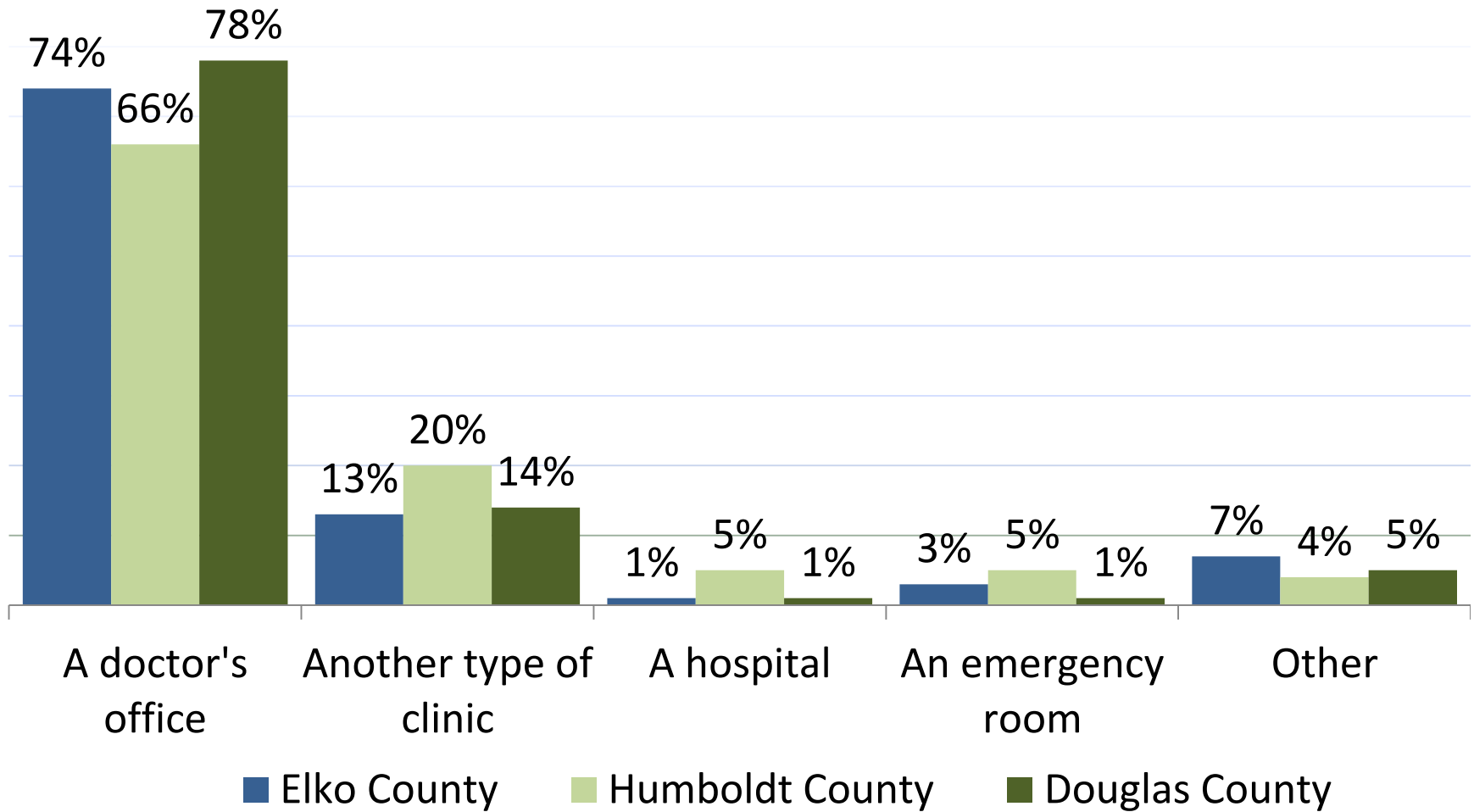


N= 435 (Elko County)

Where do you go most often to receive medical care? (Q9)

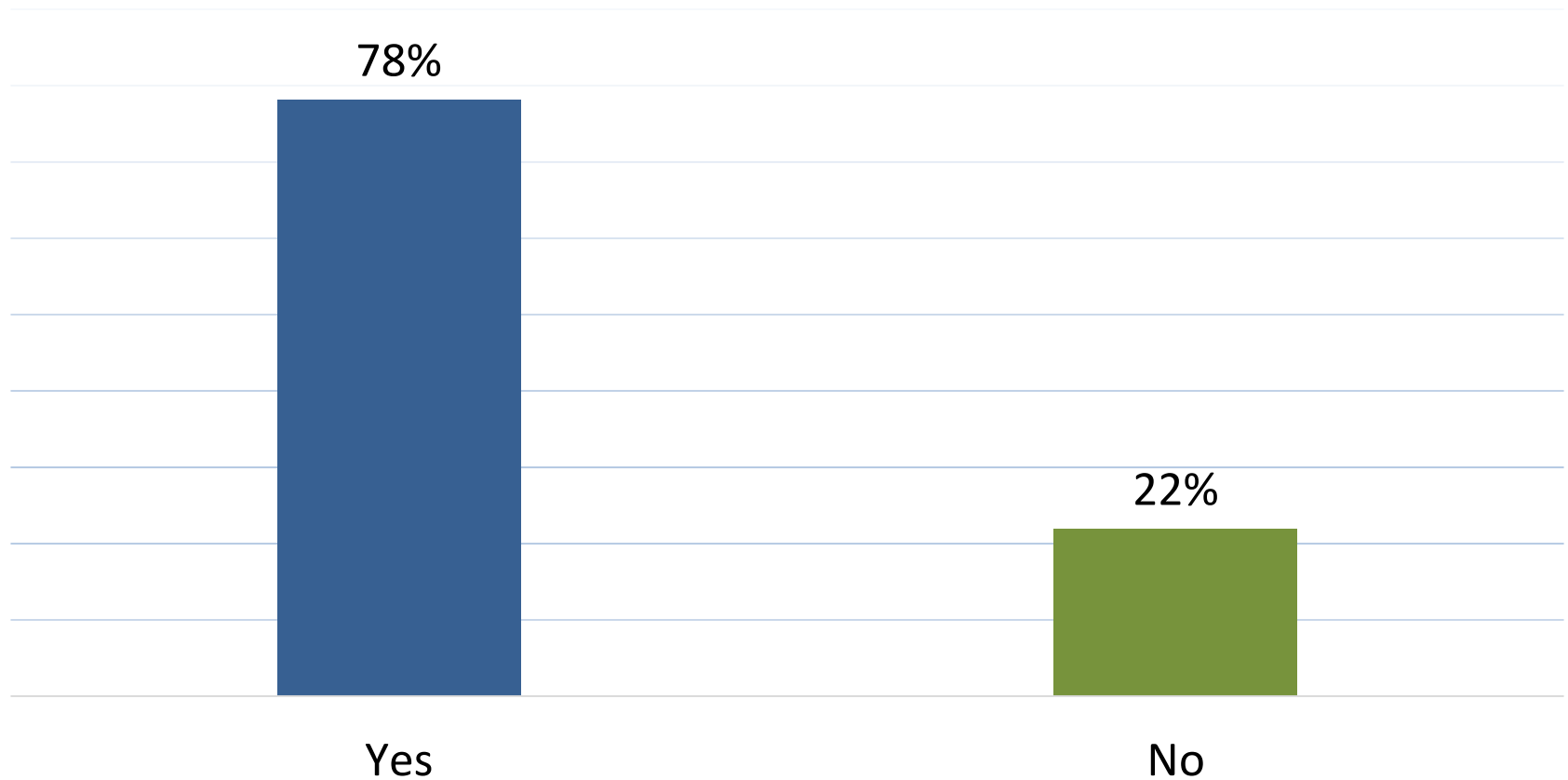


Where do you go most often to receive medical care?

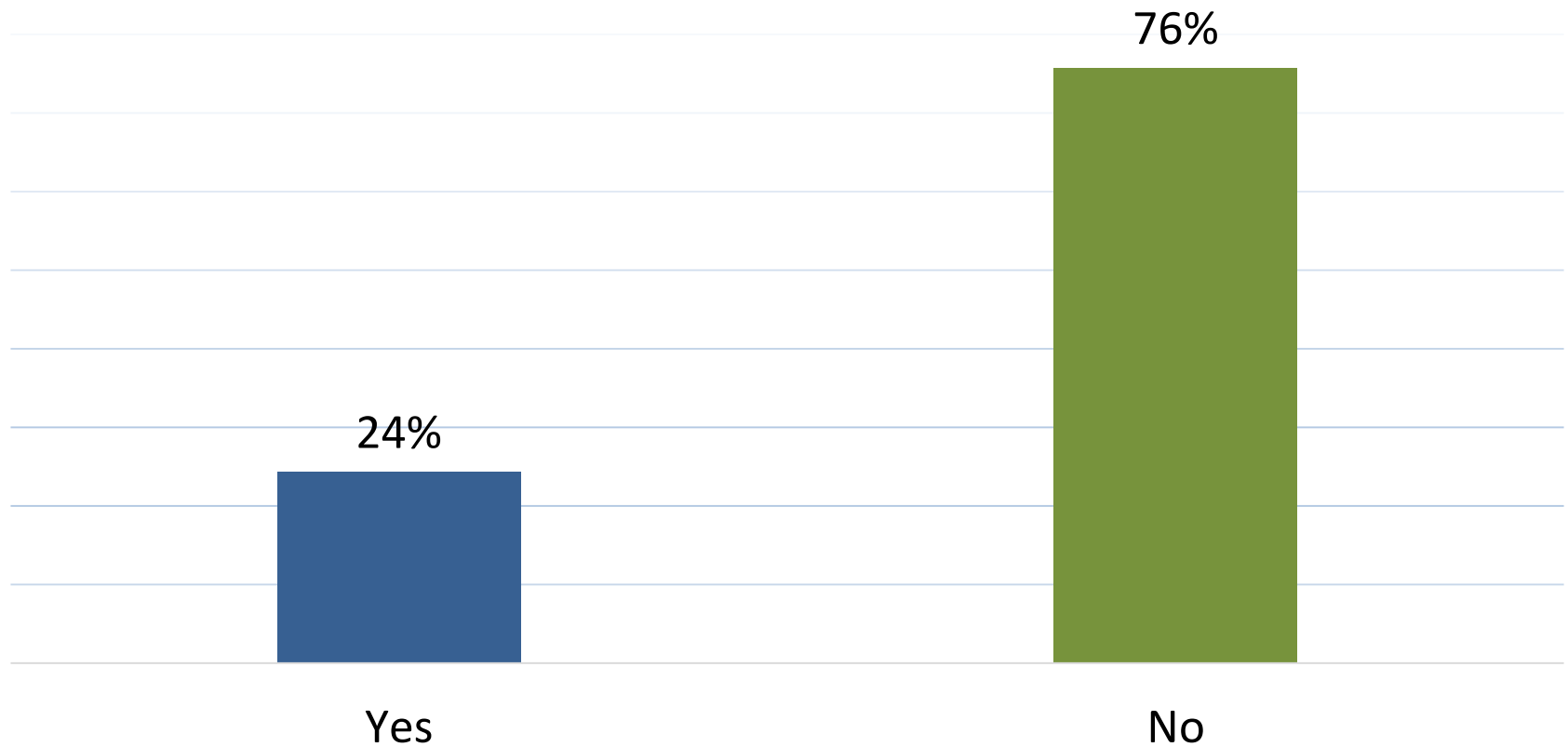


N=439 (Elko County)

Do you have at least one person you think of as your healthcare provider? (Q10)

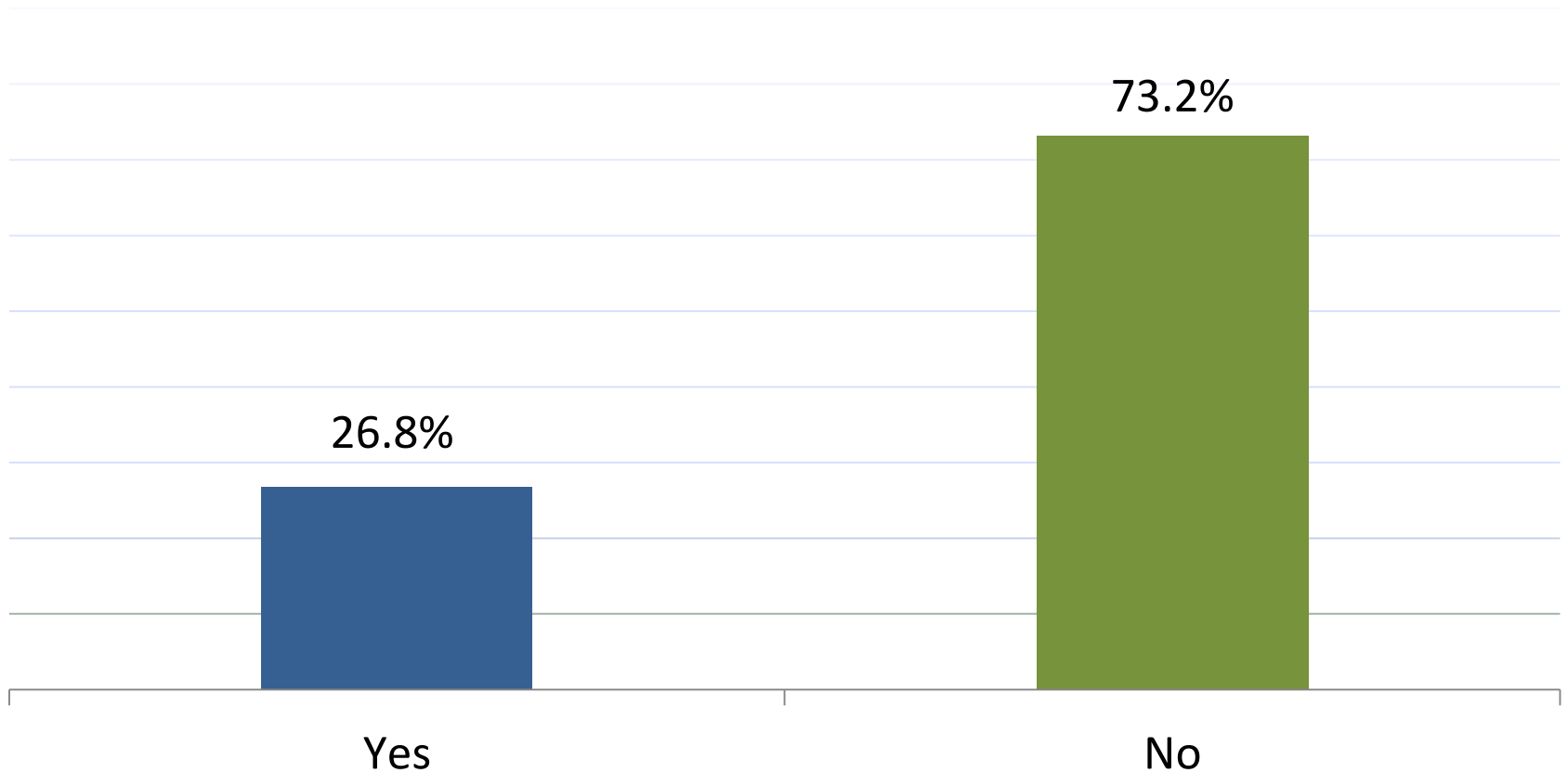


Was there a time in the past 12 months when you could not see a doctor due to cost? (Q15)



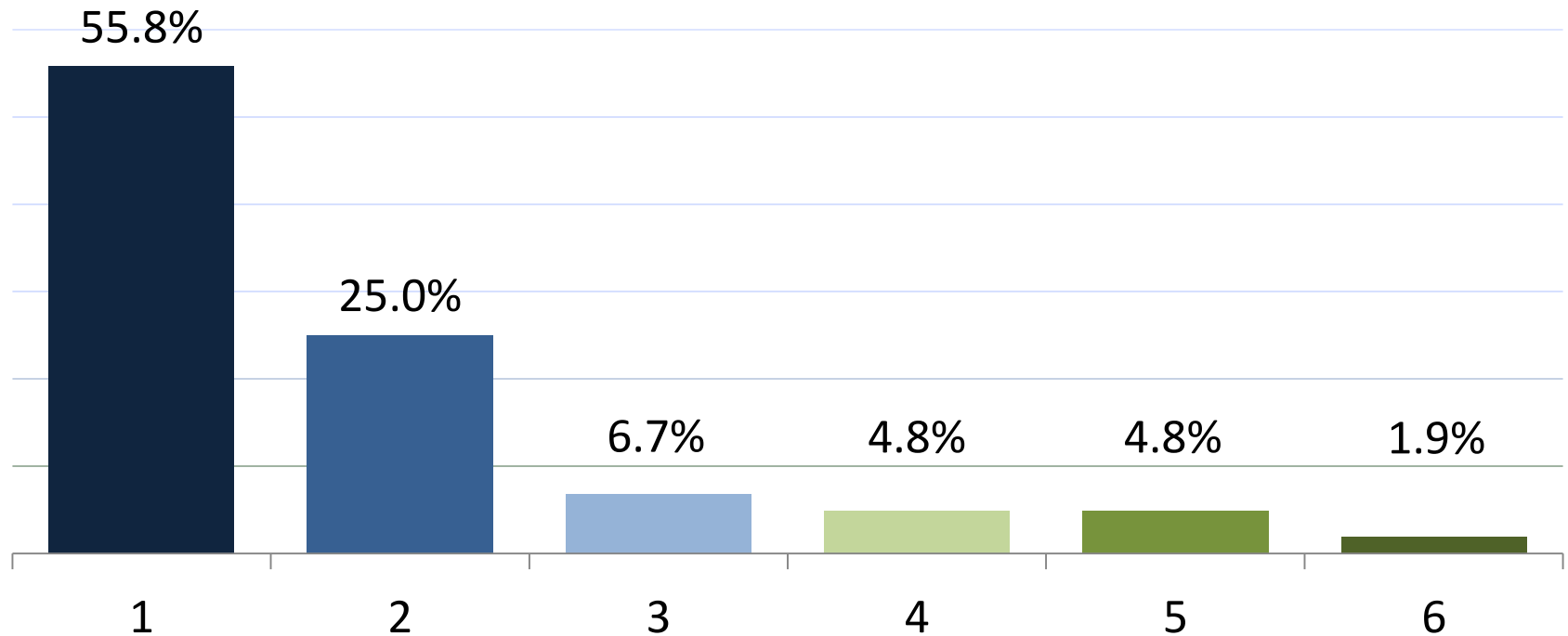
N=439

In the past 12 months, have you used an emergency room? (Q11)



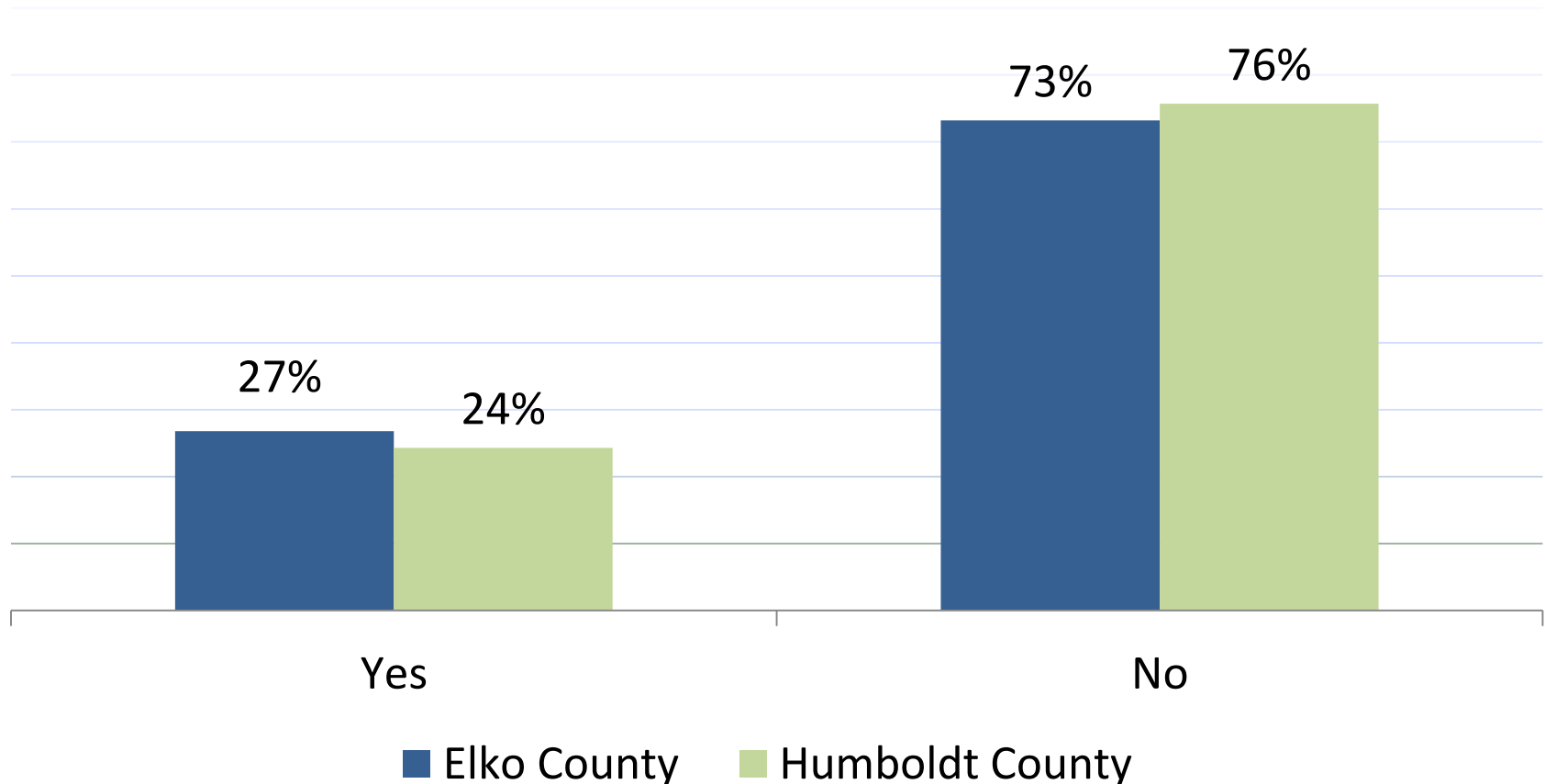
N=436

If yes, how many times did you go to the emergency room? (Q11, continued)



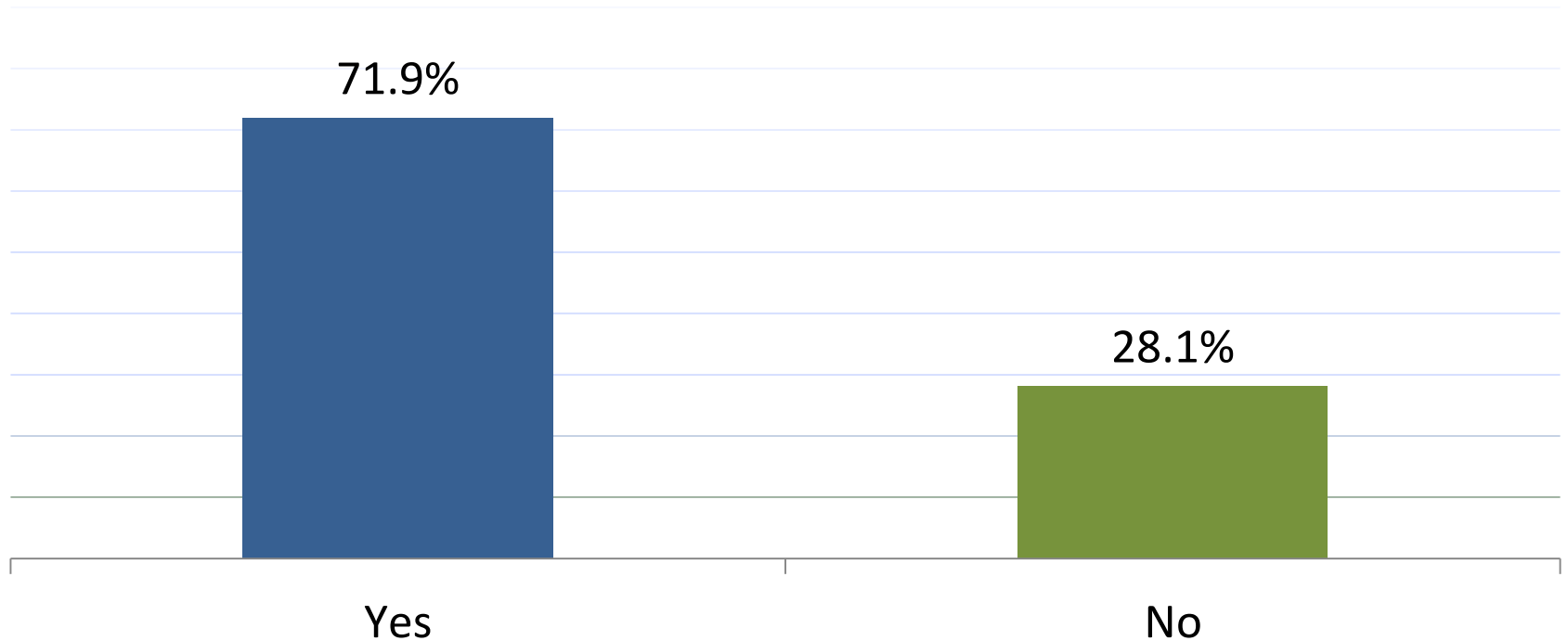
N=102

In the past 12 months, have you used an emergency room?

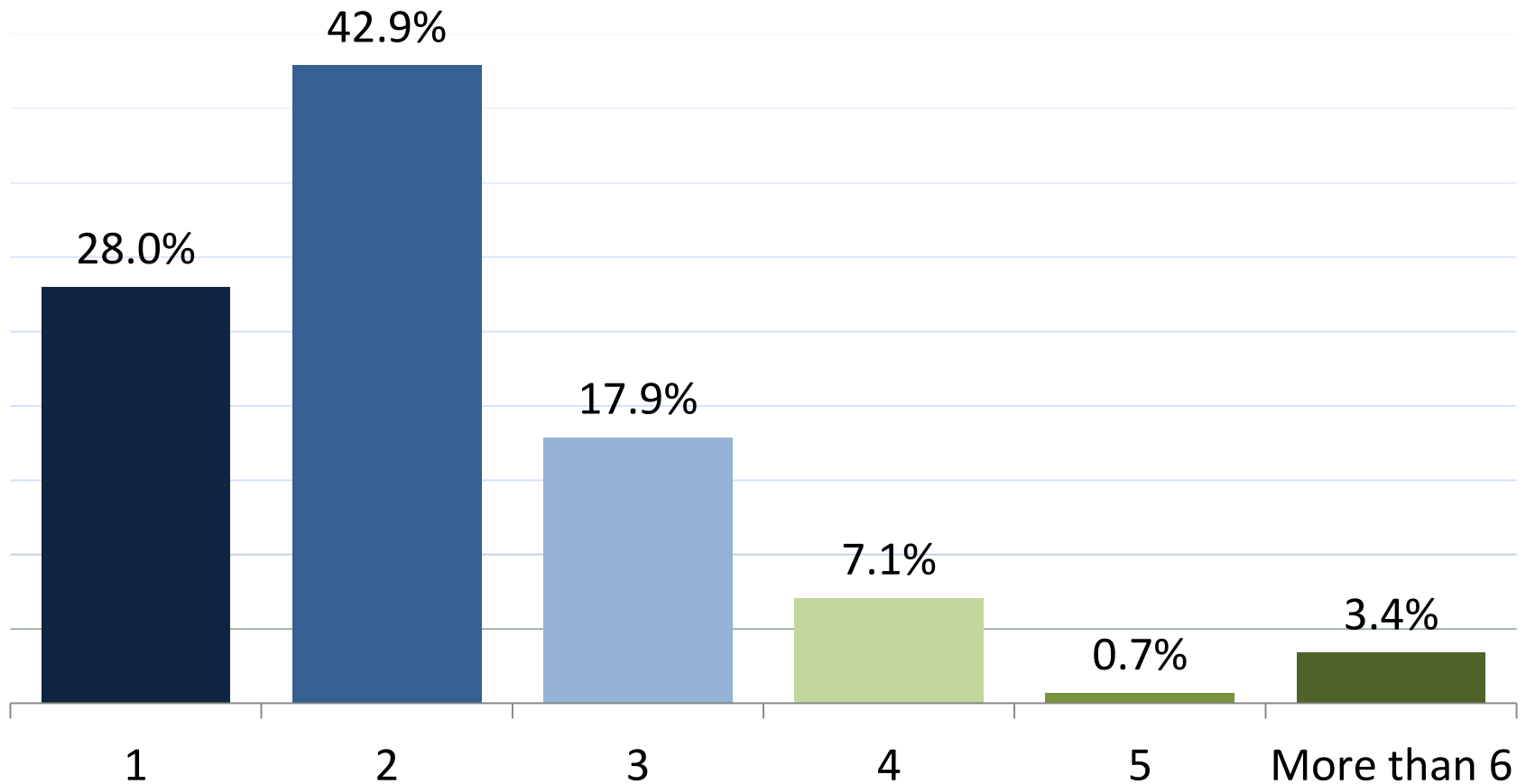


N=436 (Elko County)

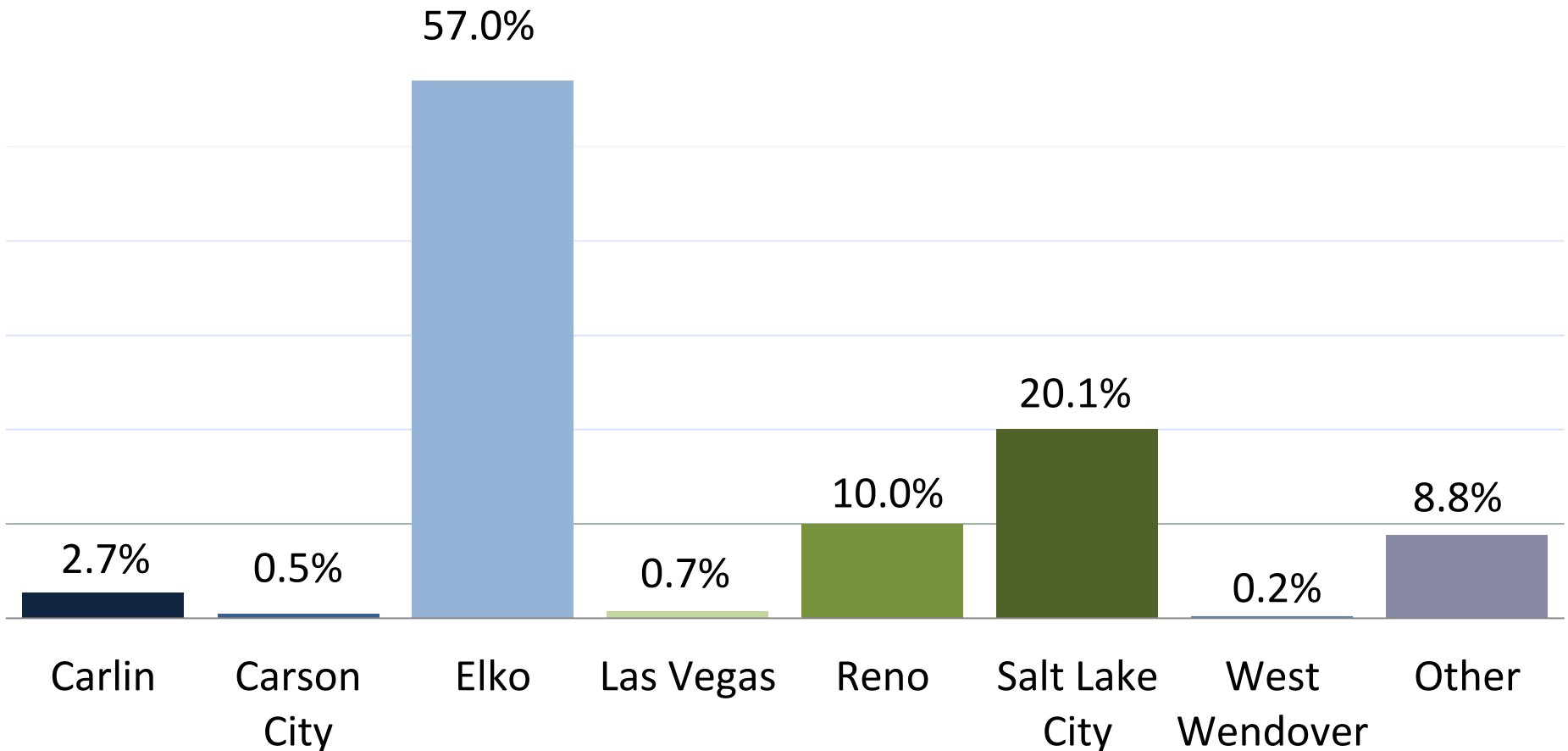
In the past 12 months did you visit a dentist or dental clinic for dental care? (Q12)



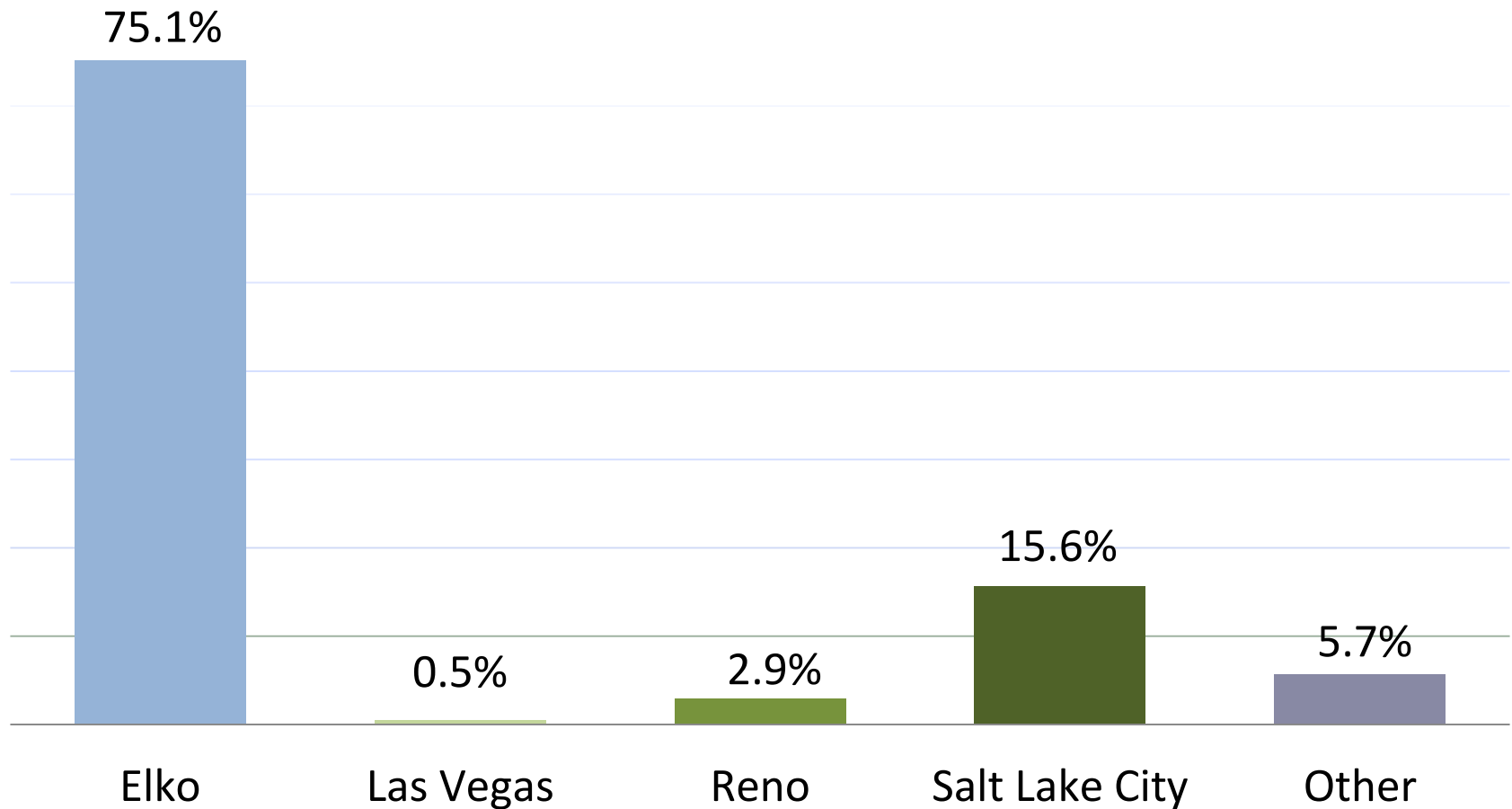
If yes, how many times did you go to the dentist? (Q12, continued)



Which town or city do you mostly go to for your non-emergency healthcare? (Q13)

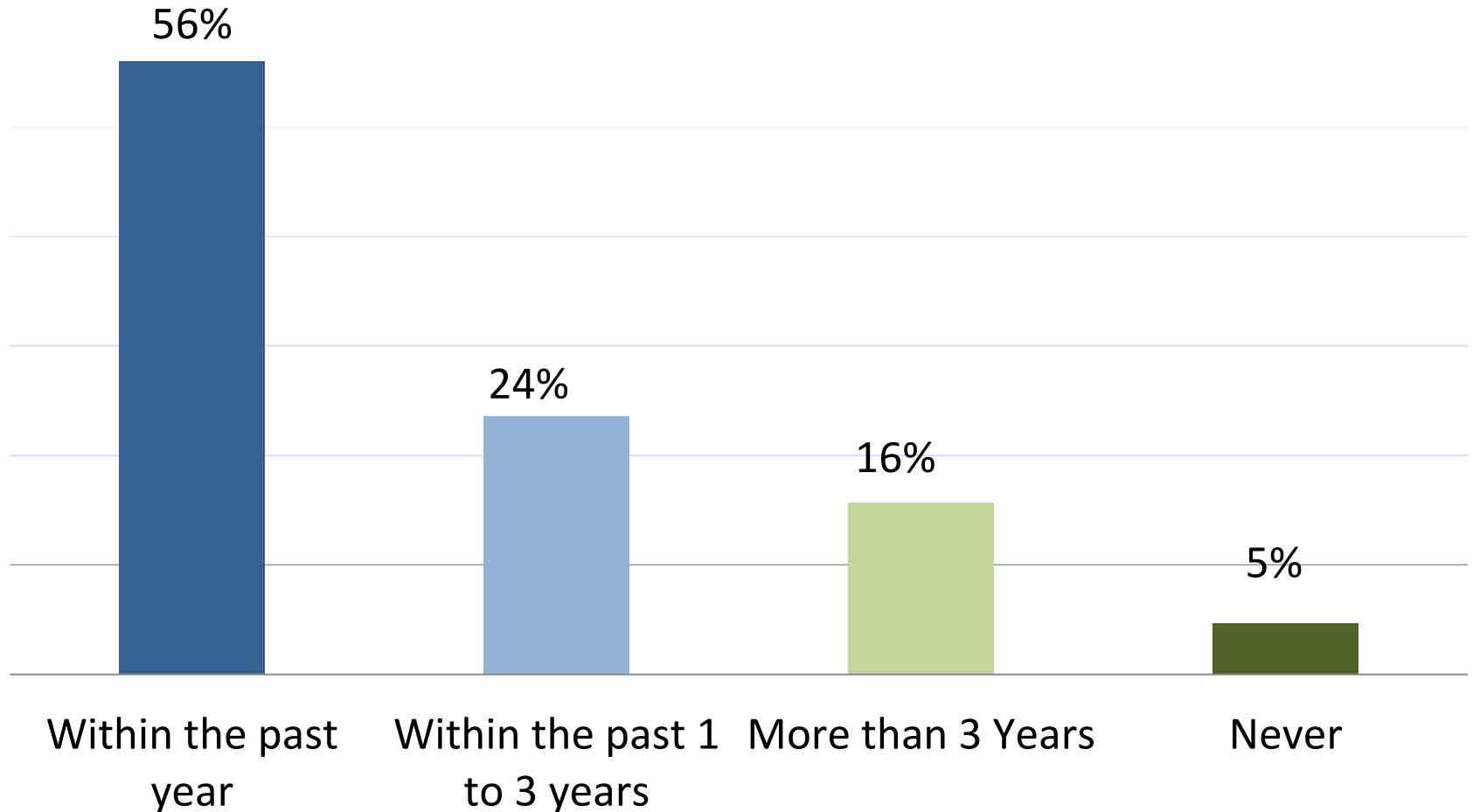


Which town or city do you mostly go to for your emergency healthcare? (Q14)



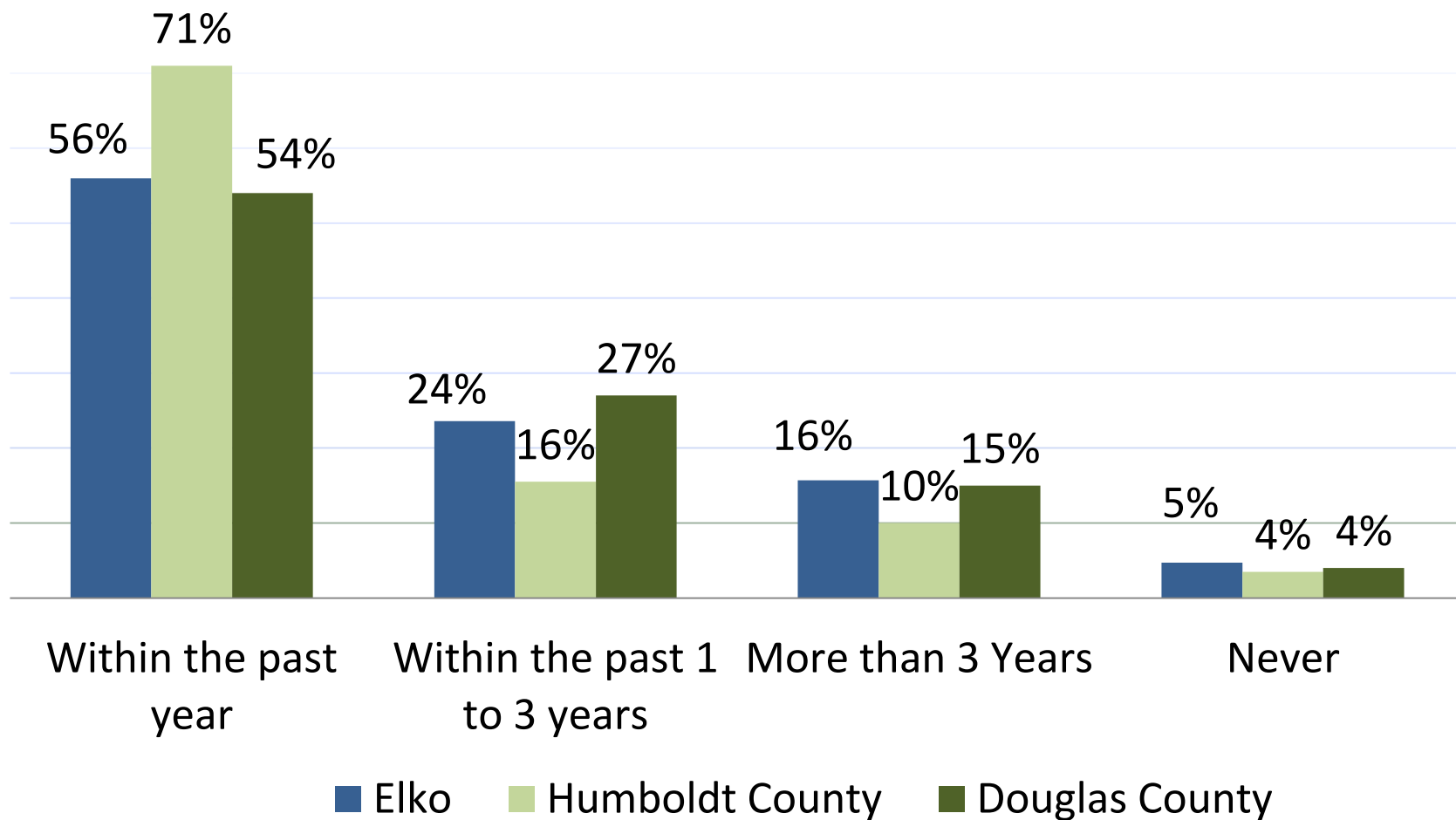
N=404

How long has it been since your last routine check-up? (Q16)



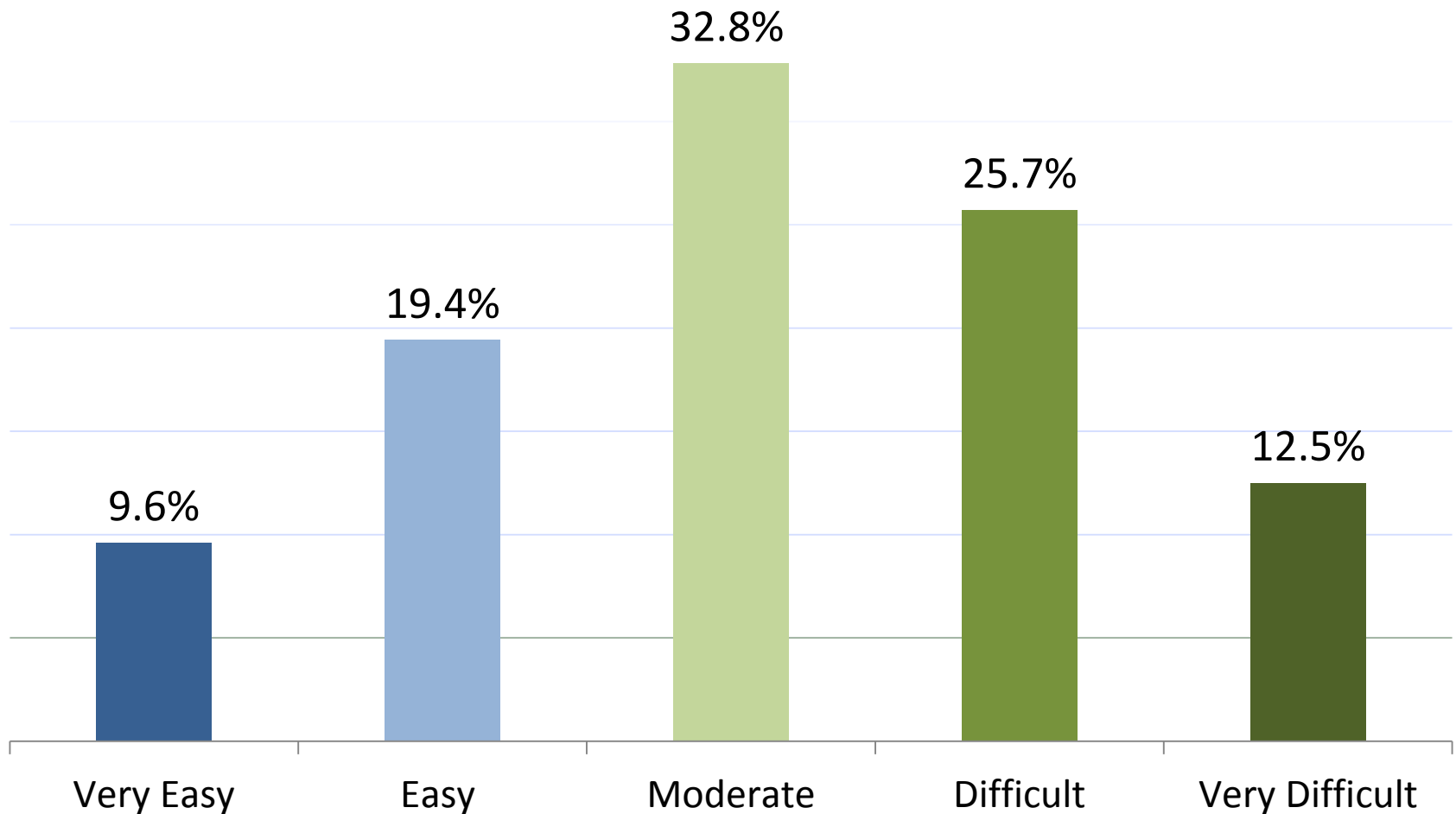
N=440

How long has it been since your last routine checkup?



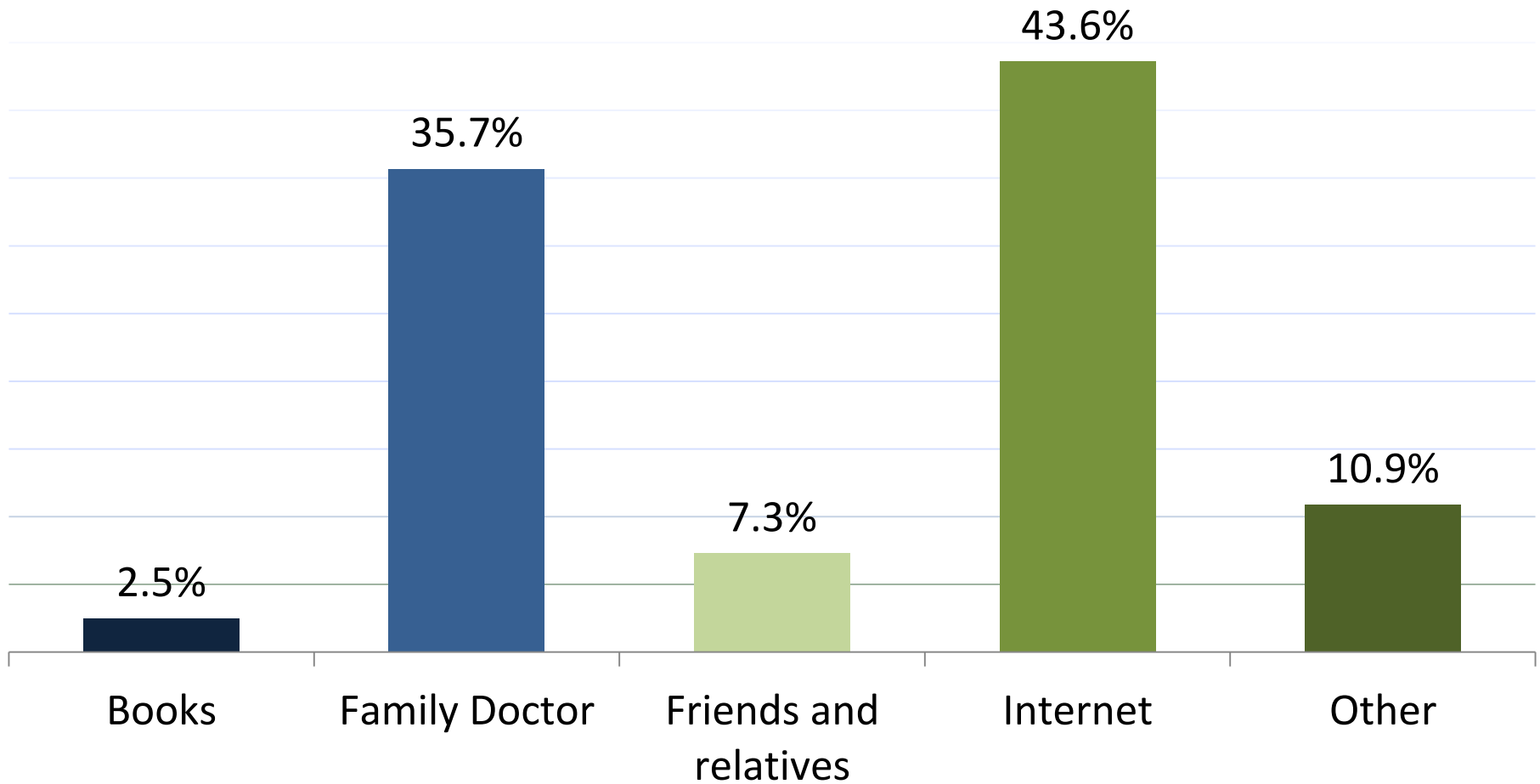
N=440 (Elko County)

How difficult is it to obtain medical information? (Q18)



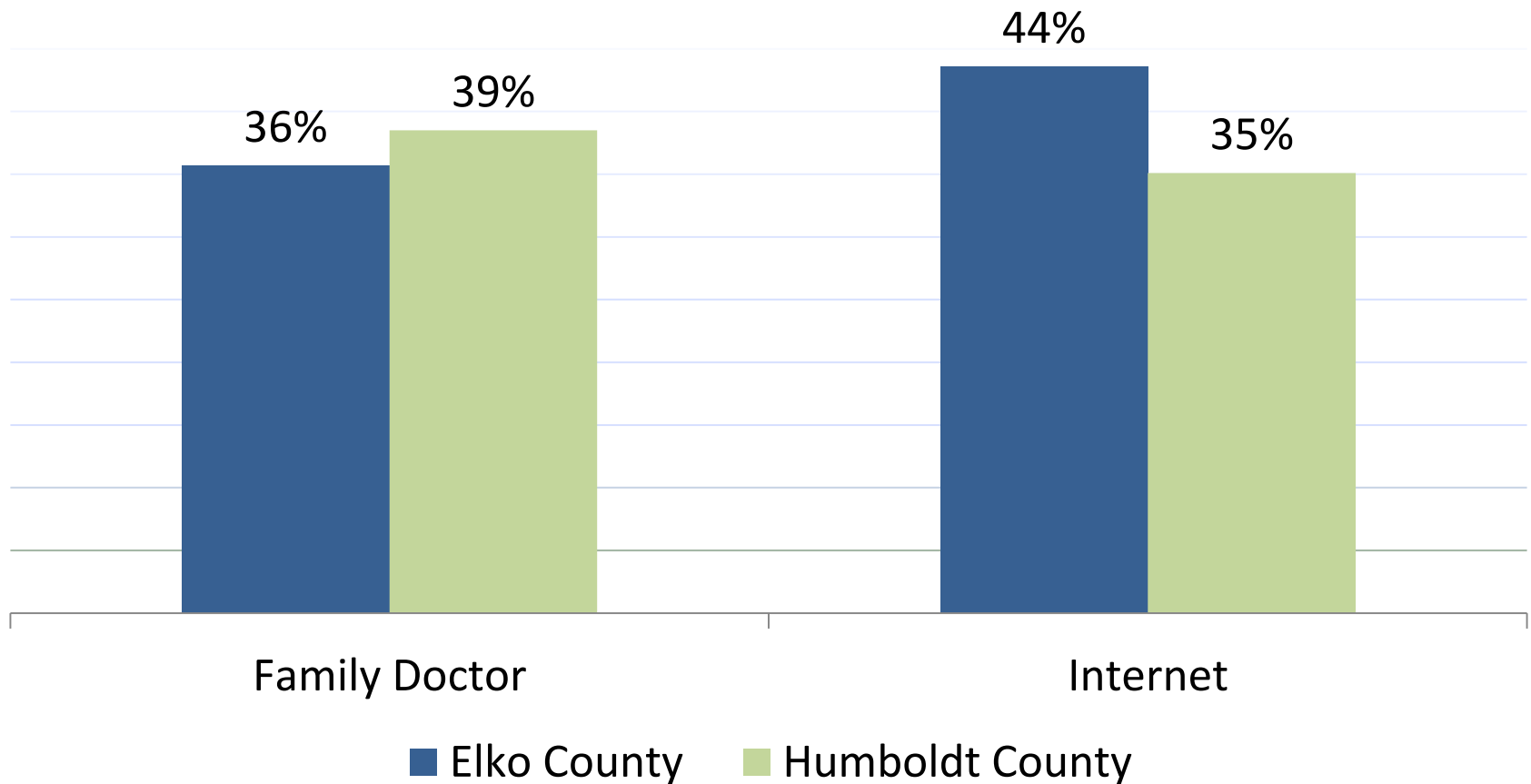
N=439

What is your primary source for medical information? (Q17)



N=435

What is your primary source for medical information?



N=435 (Elko County)

What are the main barriers you face in accessing health care in our community? (Q19)

Barrier	Percent
Inability to get an appointment	30.7%
Finding low cost services	16.5%
Finding a place open when I am not working	15.1%
Finding a place that takes my insurance	11.9%

What are the main barriers you face in accessing health care in our community? (Q19, continued)

Barrier	Percent
Finding obstetrical or gynecological care	4.1%
My ability to take off work without losing pay	2.3%
Lack of transportation to my doctor or provider	1.1%
Finding child care when I need to see a doctor or provider	0.9%
Finding a place where they speak my language	0.5%
Other	16.9%

Main concerns about health care in our community (Q20)

Healthcare Concern	Percent
Cost of healthcare, no affordable providers	20.0%
Quality of care and fear of obtaining care	16.6%
Lack of specialty providers and inadequate services	15.6%
Overall shortage of providers, limited access to care	11.9%
Lack of Medicaid and Medicare providers	10.0%

Main concerns about health care in our community (Q20, continued)

Healthcare Concern	Percent
Concern with quality and cost of the hospital, ER	6.8%
Difficulty in obtaining an appointment	5.6%
No walk in clinics, urgent cares, or poor hours	4.1%
Distance to services, transportation issues	3.8%
Fears concerning the Affordable Care Act	2.4%
Other	3.2%

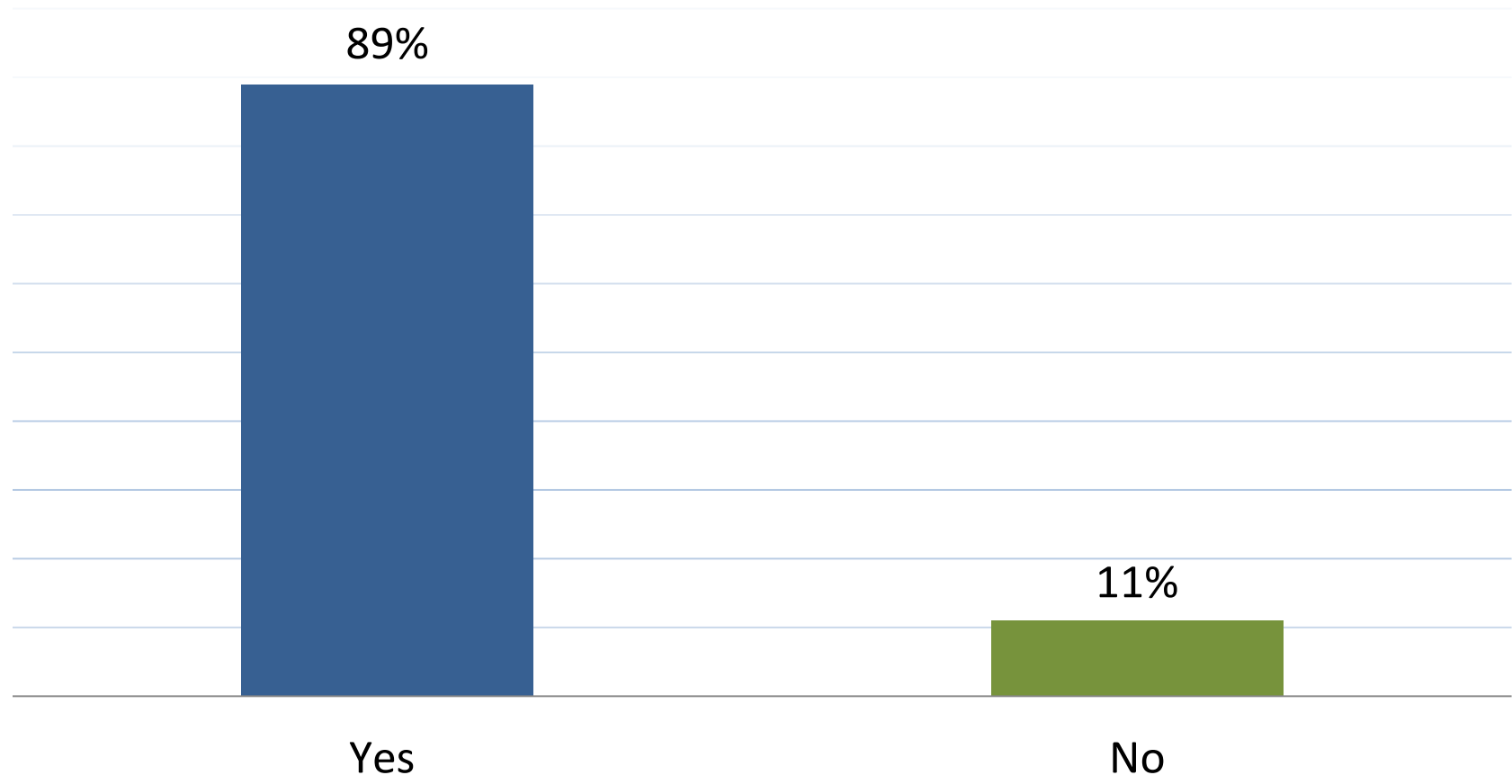
Types of medical services would like to see that do not currently exist (Q21)

- Specialists – 19.5%
 - Neurologist, Orthopedic Surgeon, Dermatologist, Cardiologist
- Urgent Care – 15.9%
 - Open extended hours and weekends, preferably 24/7
- Public health nurse or Walk-in clinic – 11.8%
 - Low costs, sliding fee scale
- Mental health services – 11.2%
- More family medicine doctors, general practitioners, pediatricians – 9.4%
 - Primarily ones that accept Medicaid and Medicare

Types of medical services would like to see that do not currently exist (Q21, continued)

- Better quality doctors and services provided – 8%
- Oncologists and local cancer treatment centers – 6.5%
 - Availability of local radiation and chemotherapy services
 - Local doctors who can care for cancer patients without requiring extended travel to larger cities
- More OB/GYN care, prenatal care, family planning services – 3.8%
 - Especially female doctors and high risk pregnancy specialists
- Home health services, hospice and at home care for seniors and disabled persons – 3.2%

Have you ever heard of the term public health? (Q22)



N=432

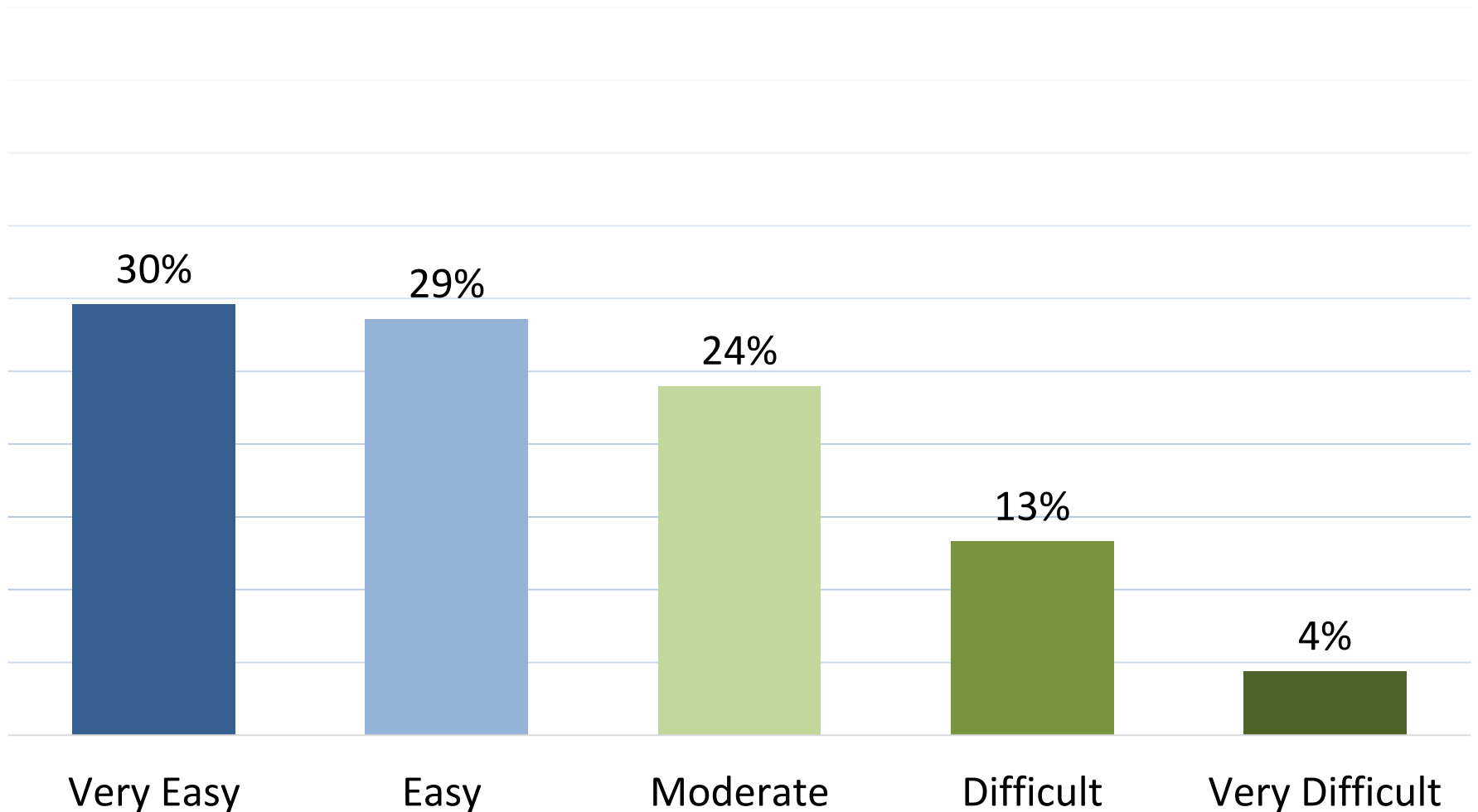
In your own words, what do you believe 'public health' means? (Q23)

- 6.5% of respondents mentioned at least 33% of the definition in their response, when using the definition provided by whatispublichealth.org
 - *Public Health is the science of protecting and improving the health of communities through education, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and research for disease and injury prevention.*
- 17% of respondents mentioned at least 20% of what public health professionals do in their response (www.whatispublichealth.org)
- 49% of respondents mentioned healthcare that was funded by the government, free, universal, etc.

In your own words, what do you believe 'public health' means? (Q23, continued)

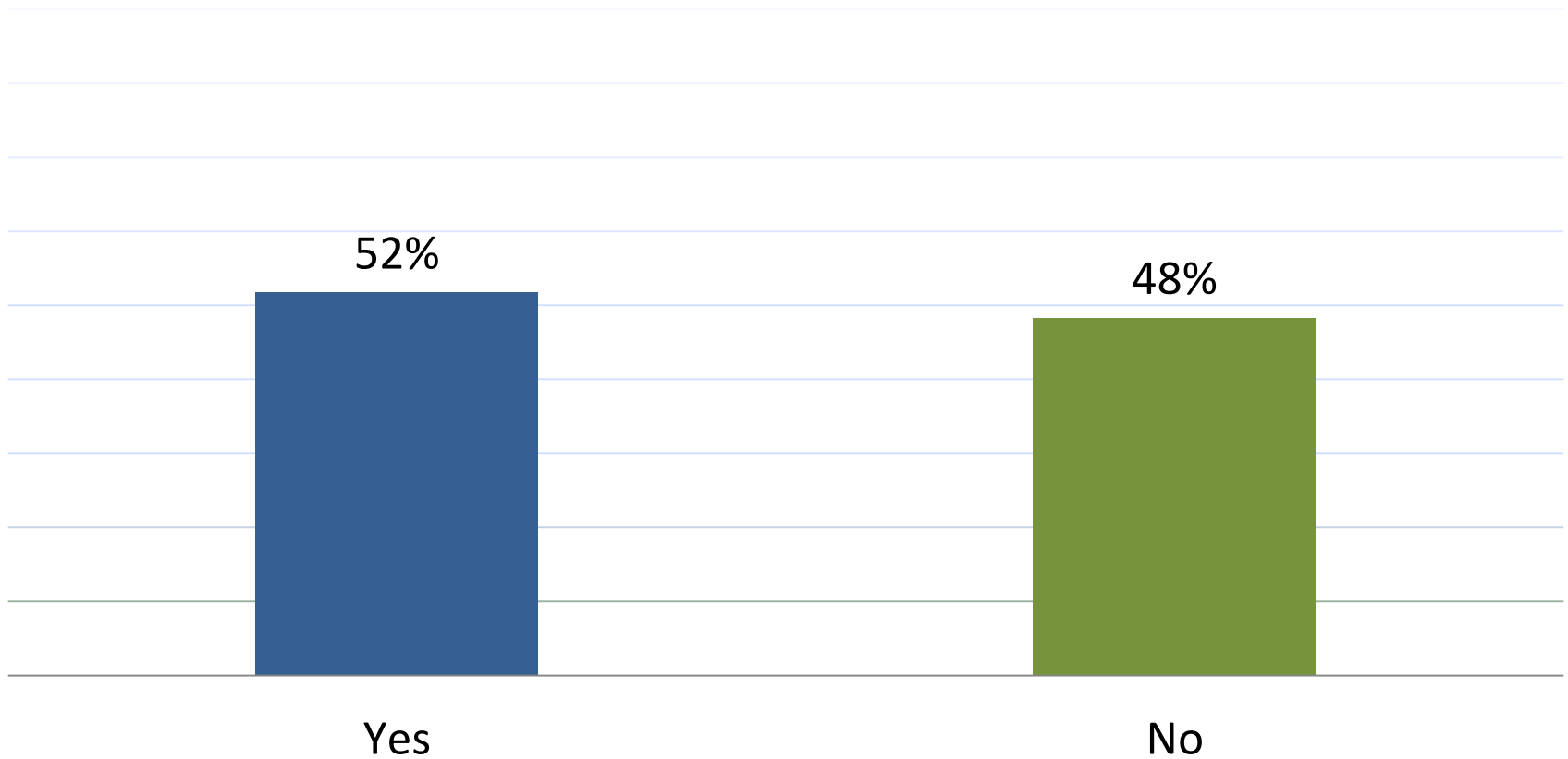
- “A public health nurse that will only see patients certain times a week and are only in the office part time.”
- “We used to have a public health clinic that would see you and help you and now we have Nevada Health Centers that is so poorly ran it’s a joke!”
- “A place poor people can go.”
- “Inefficiently run government programs that are a tangle of paperwork and lame workers.”
- “Blanket healthcare for everyone.”
- “The community as a whole, ...the overall health”
- “Social handout, poor quality.”
- “WE no longer have PUBLIC HEALTH that was a nurse or that was in the area that assisted with medical needs...”
- “Having a public health nurse or a clinic to go to.”

How difficult is it to obtain required immunizations? (Q24)



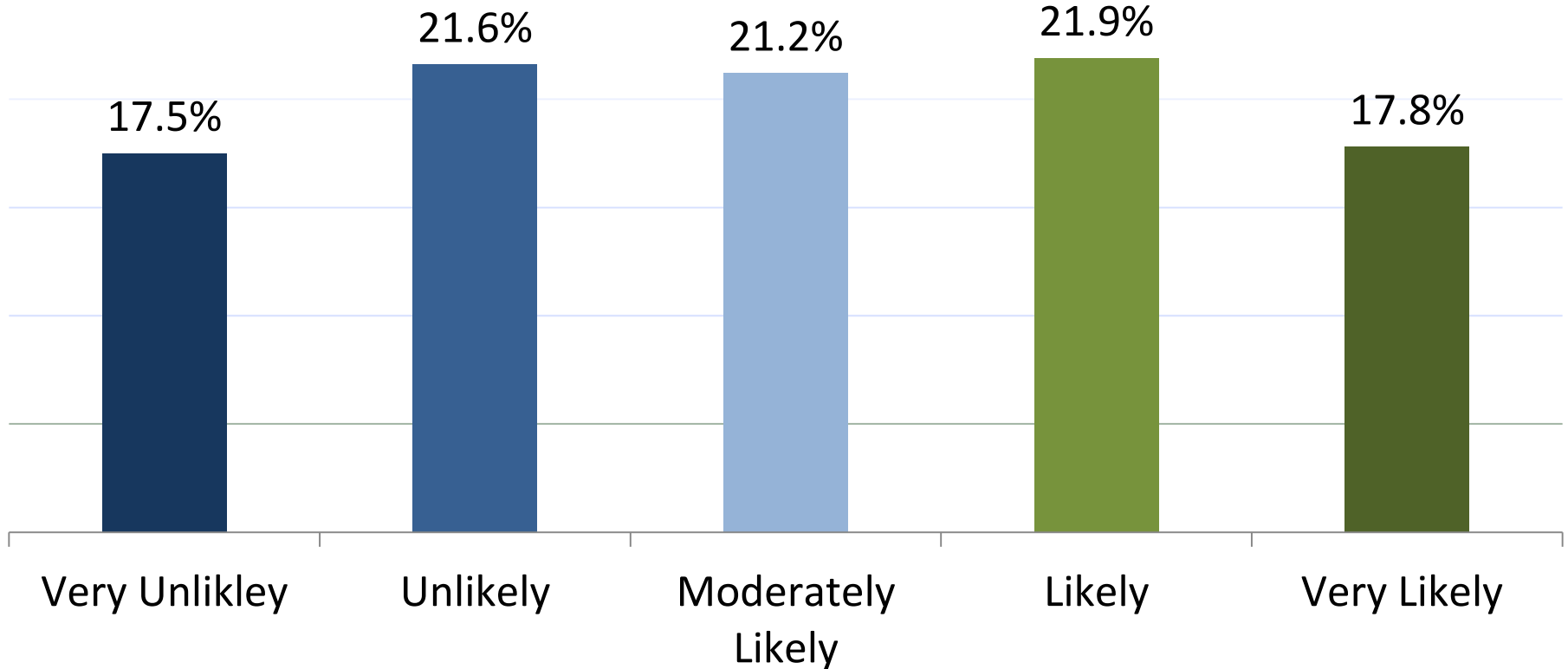
N=400

Are you aware of where you can obtain restaurant inspection scores? (Q25)



N=403

How likely would you be to report a complaint if you were concerned with a restaurant? (Q26)



N=434

Additional comments or concerns (Q33)

- “There needs to be more doctors that see patients after 5pm and have walk-ins.”
- “..it would be nice if health care (appointments) were available when needed and we did not have to wait weeks for an appointment or go to the ER where the cost is astronomical.”
- “Just wish more doctors would come and then stay here.”
- “Our hospital has a horrible reputation, some of it is probably undeserved but most people I know are scared to trust them with anything critical.”
- “Healthcare in Elko County is not a priority for our elected officials. Out County Commissioners and City Council people are more concerned about sage grouse, guns and public lands than they are about the health of the people living here...”

Additional comments or concerns (Q33)

- “More information on where to report a problem with a restaurant would be nice. A dog park would be wonderful.”
- I worry that there are a lot of individuals who are unable to access affordable healthcare. Therefore, the spread of various illnesses are passed onto the public.
- “Right now, I don’t feel as if I have a doctor, much less one that is familiar with me and my medical history.”
- “Great Basin college has wonderful medical programs, but they could be increased.”
- “West Wendover is a part of Elko County and provides a large amount of tax revenue. We should be treated like those in Elko, NOT discriminated against!”
- “If I had the ability to, I would move out of Elko. “
- “Please help with the hospital here.”

Additional Information

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