








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

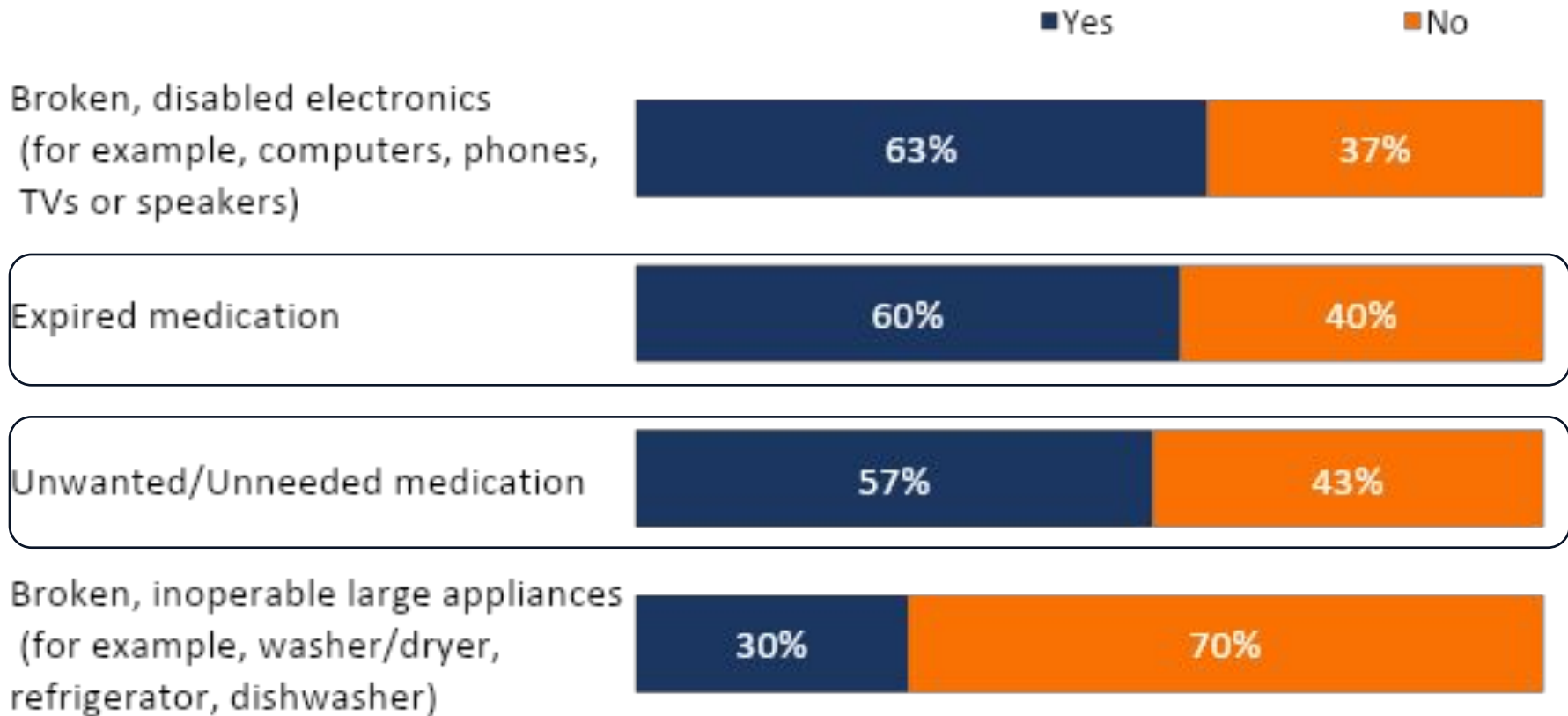
(Note: Not All Results Will Sum to 100% Due to Rounding)



Medicine Disposal Awareness

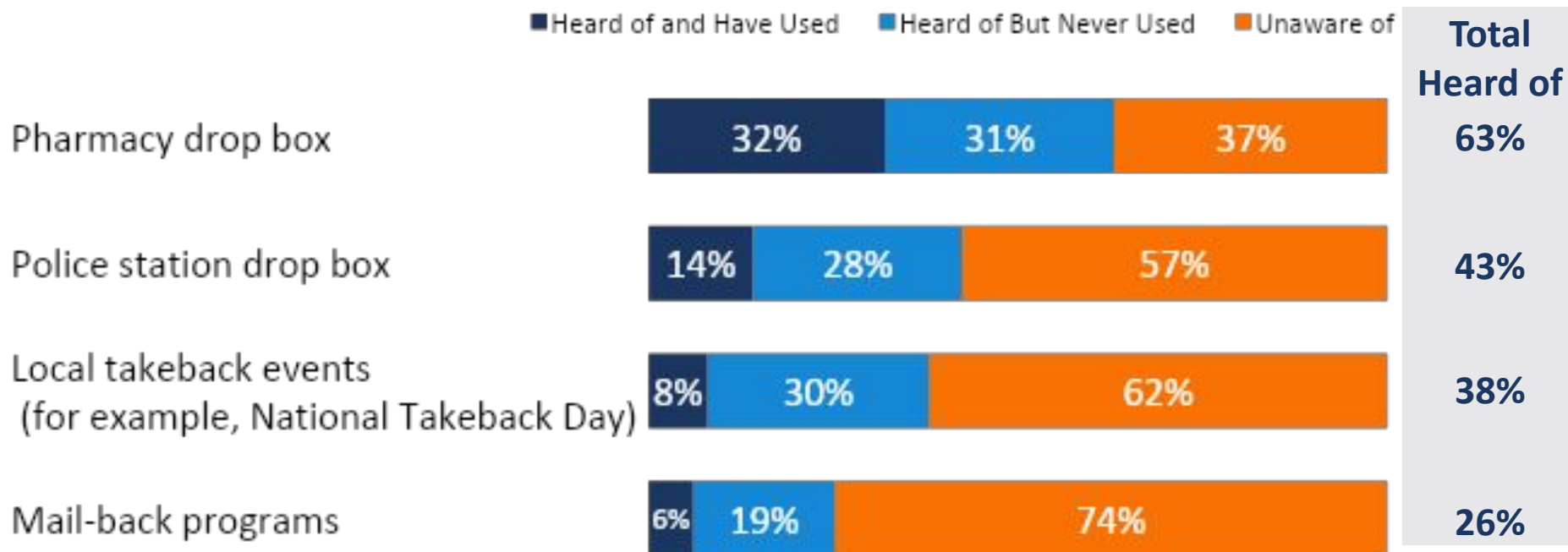
A majority of San Mateo County residents have unwanted or unneeded medication in their home.

Do you ever have the following items in your home?



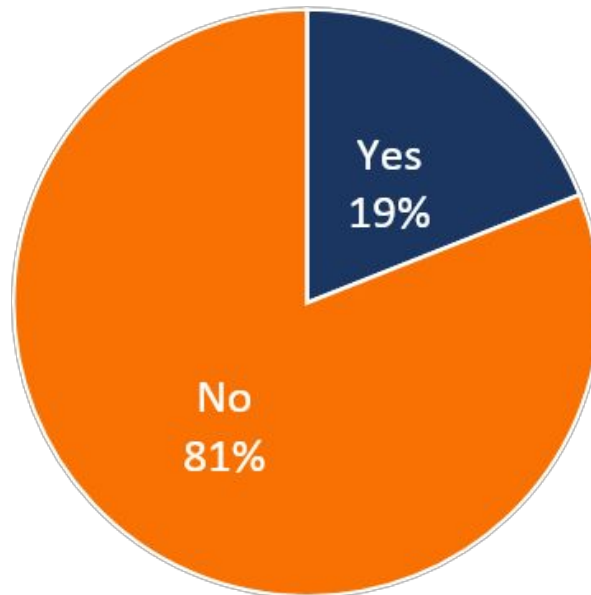
Three in five have heard of a pharmacy drop box; it is also the disposal method they are most likely to have used.

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.



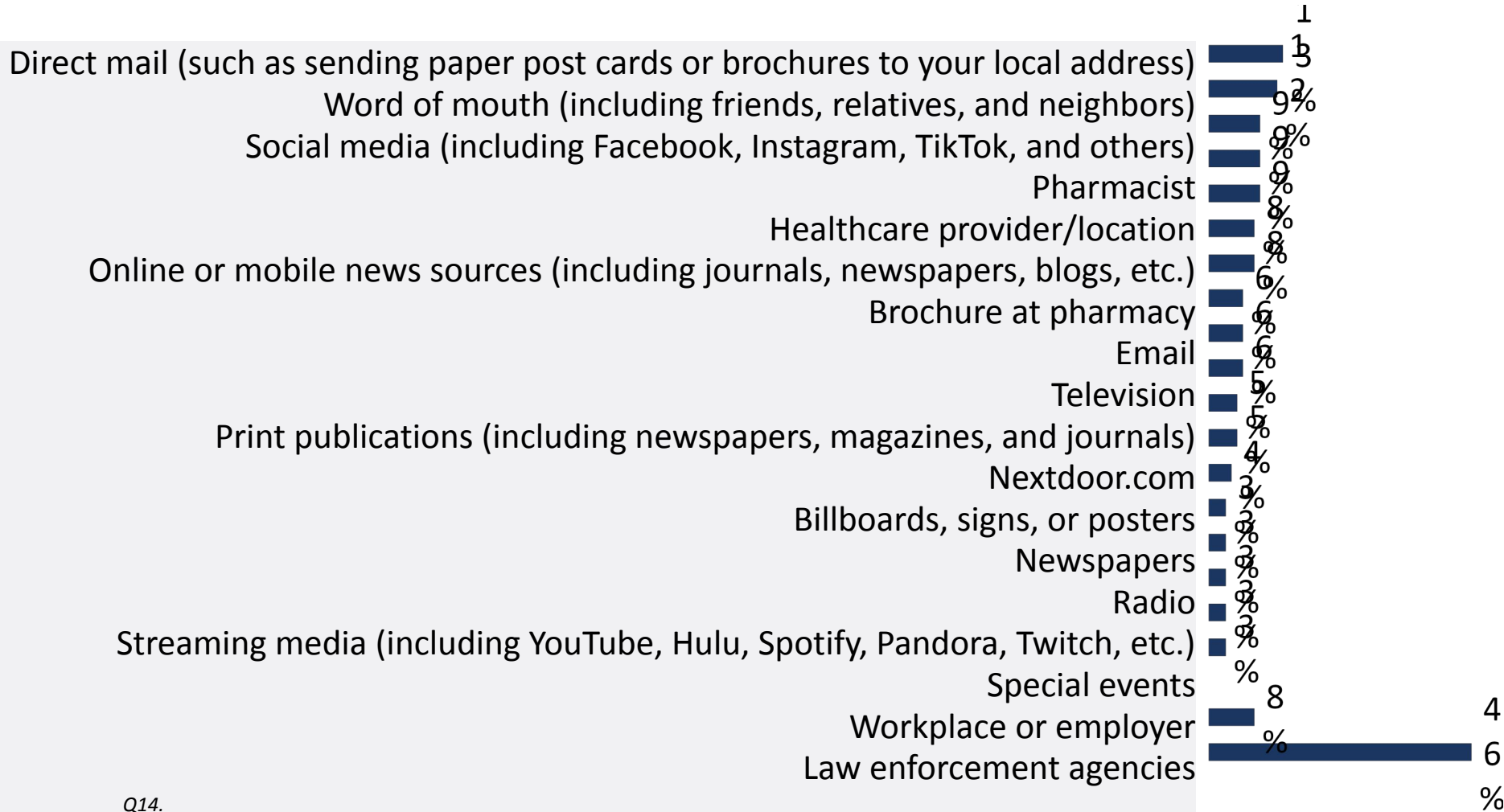
One in five have seen advertisements about drug takeback programs in San Mateo County.

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.

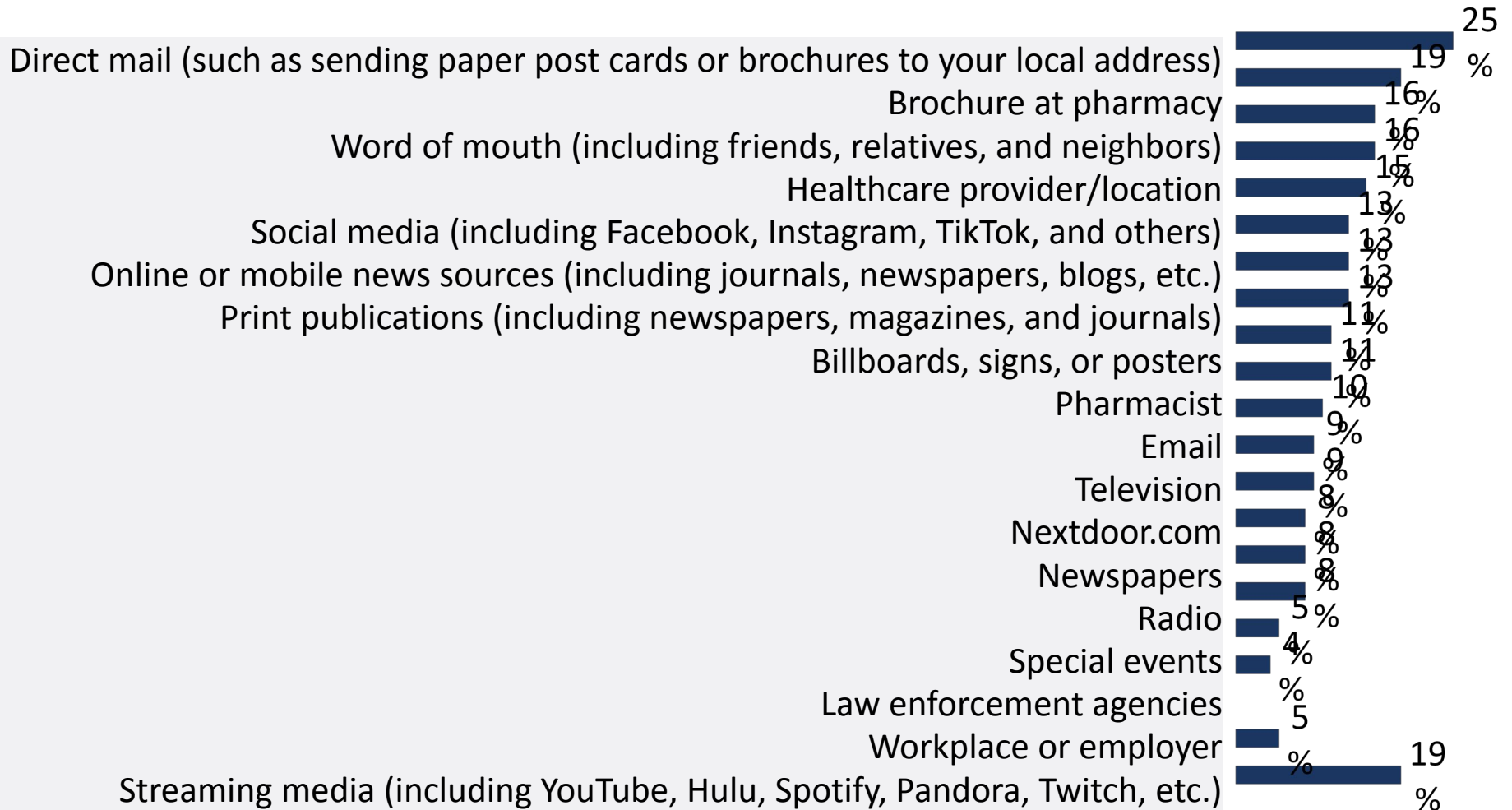
*Where did you see the advertisements or receive information?
(Multiple Responses Accepted)*



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)



Q14.



Using Medicine Disposal Services

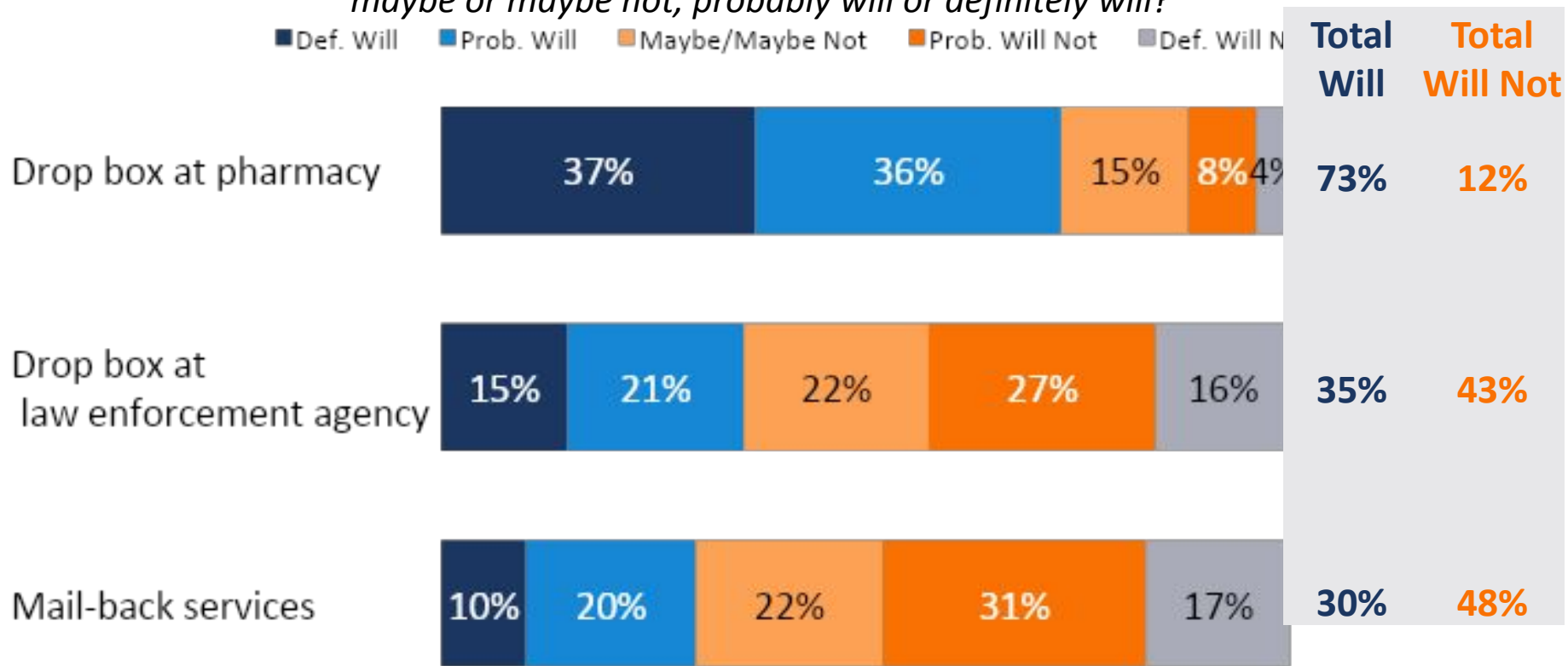
San Mateo County residents prefer to receive information via email and direct mail.

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?

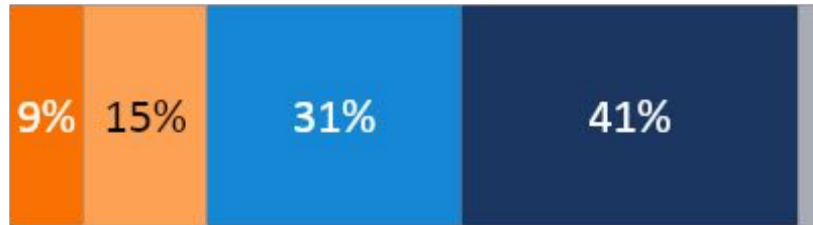


For the most part, residents do not find the dangers of keeping expired medicines in the home highly concerning.

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

Keeping **expired and/or unwanted medicines** in the home can lead to accidental poisonings or overdoses¹



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

Keeping **expired and/or unwanted medicines** in the home can provide the opportunity for family members or friends to abuse them²



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