



# 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

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

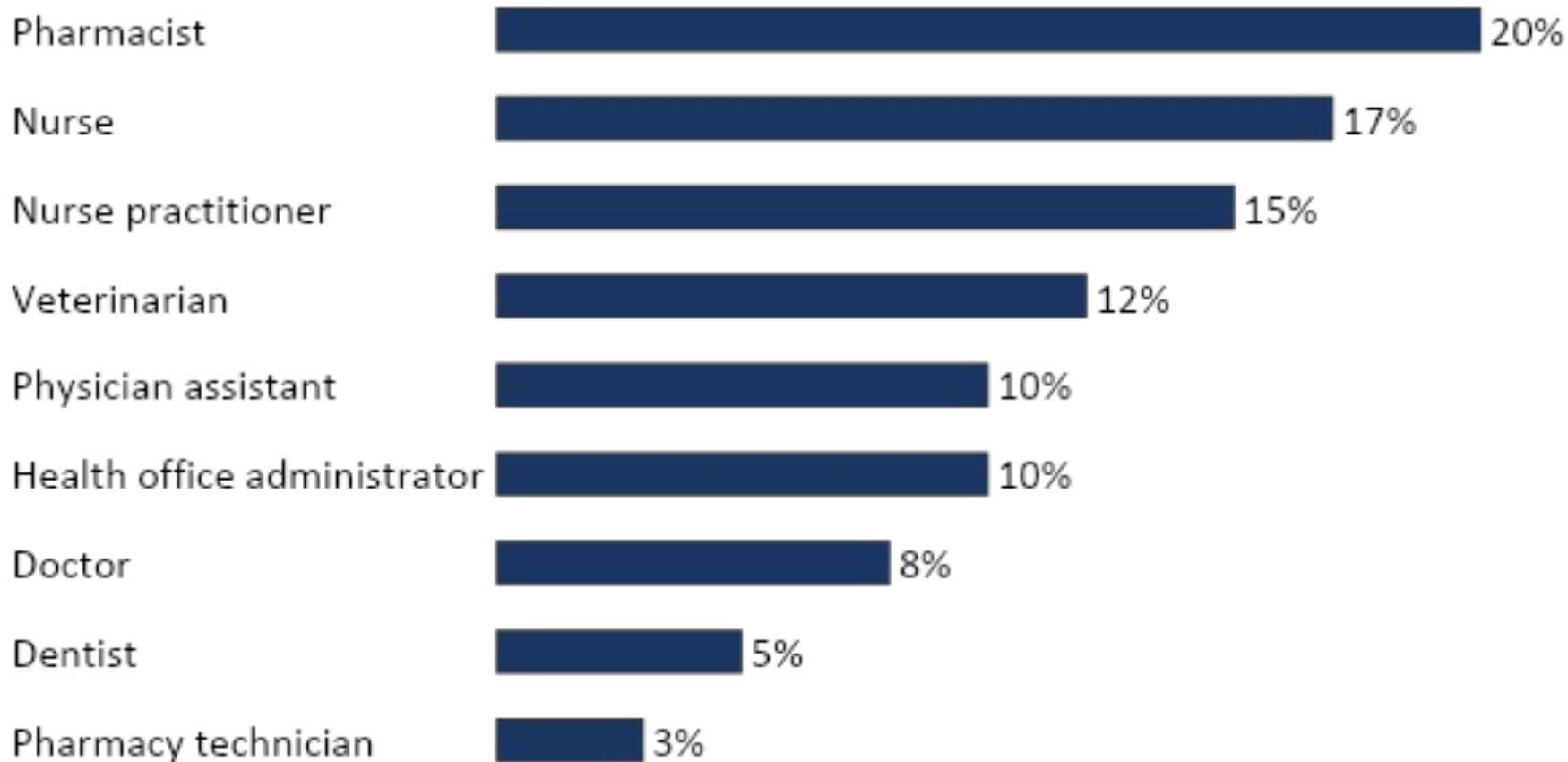
*(Note: Not All Results Will Sum to 100% Due to Rounding)*



# Profile of Respondents

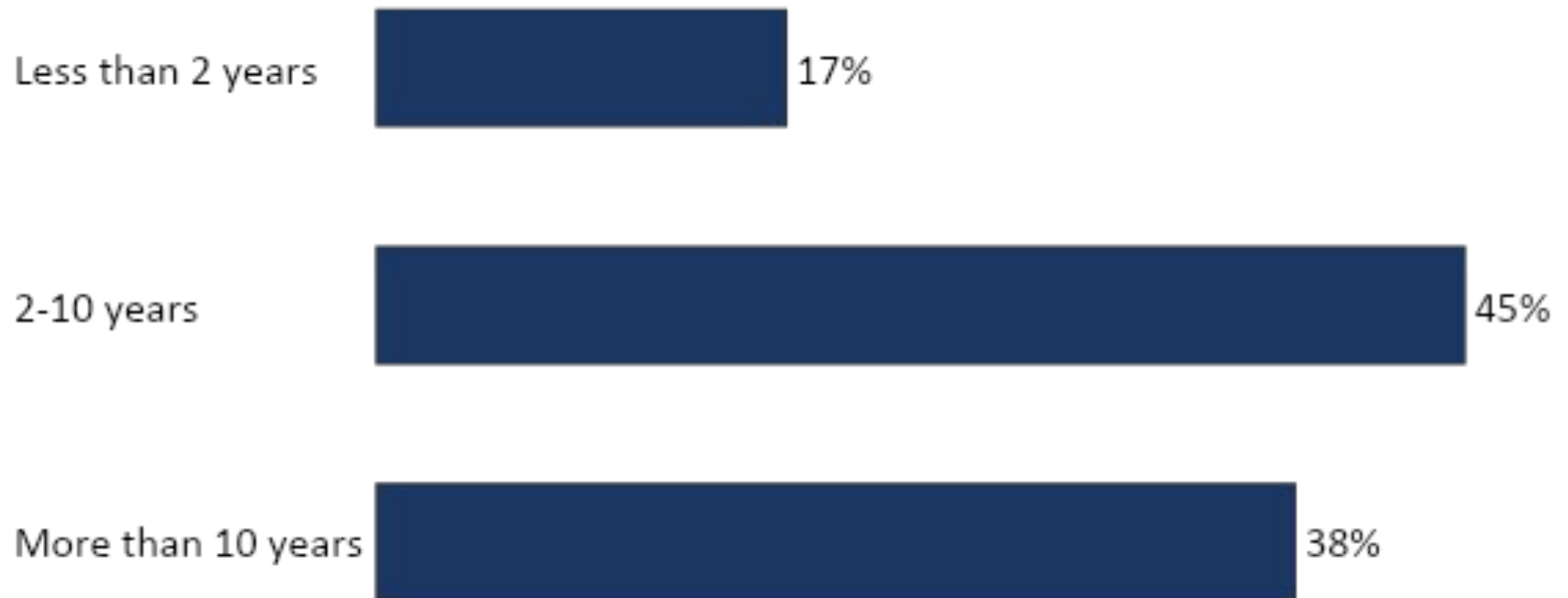
# Professional Background

*What is your profession?*



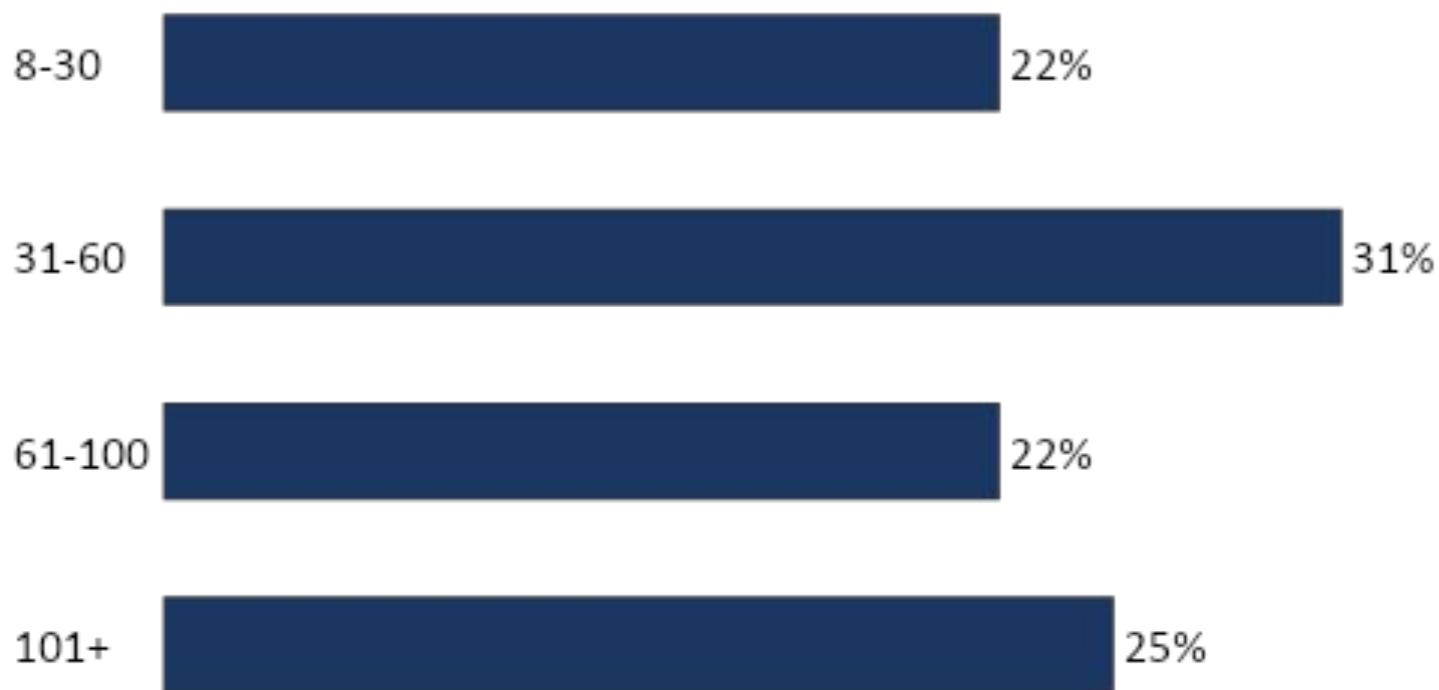
# Years Practicing in San Mateo County

*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)*

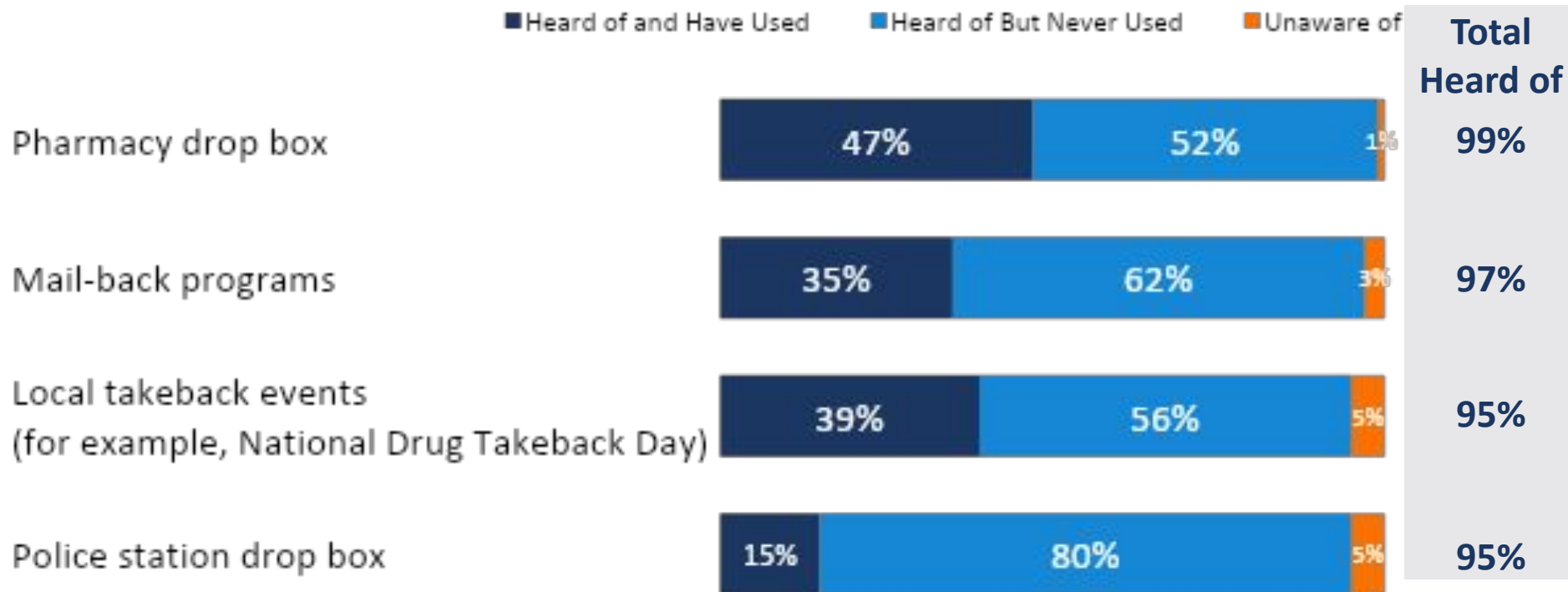




# **Familiarity with Safe Medicine Disposal**

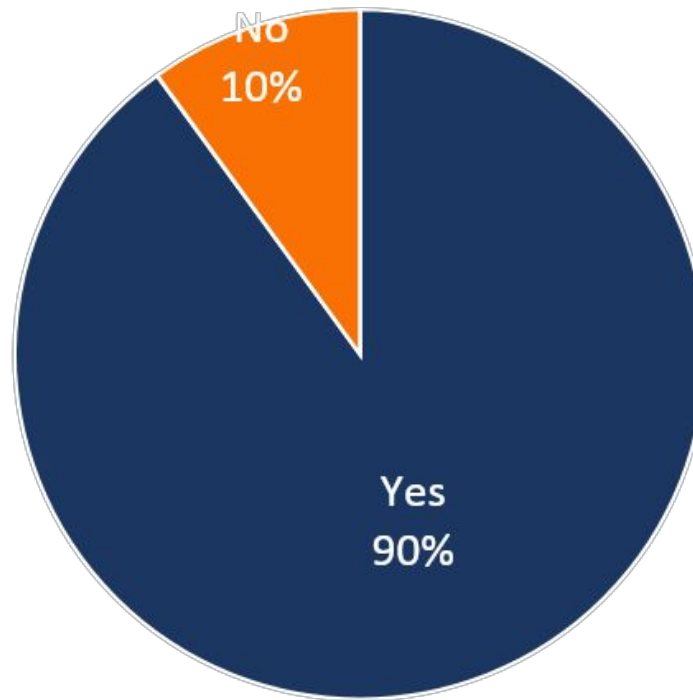
# Providers express widespread awareness of safe medicine disposal; they most commonly have used pharmacy drop boxes.

*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

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



**Total Agree** **Total Disagree**

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

These takeback programs are available and accessible.



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

These programs are convenient.



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

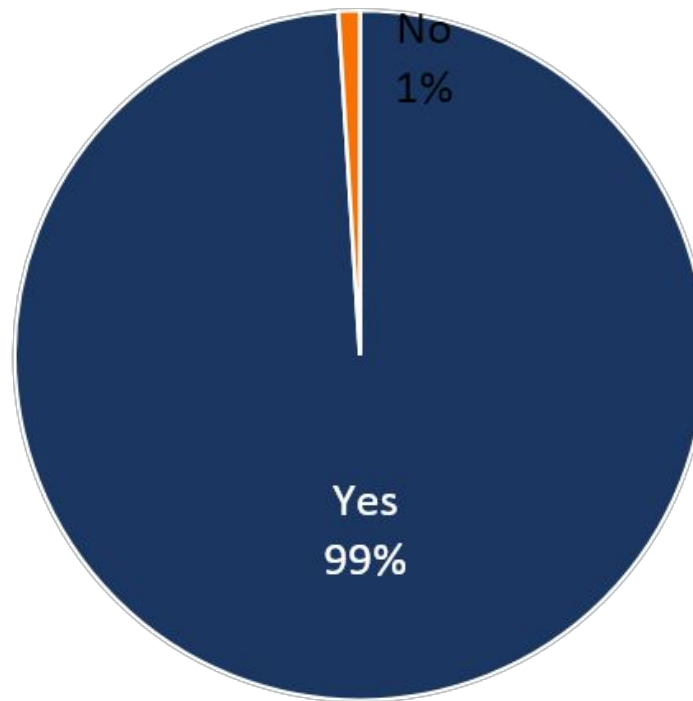
These programs have clear instructions for usage.



**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.

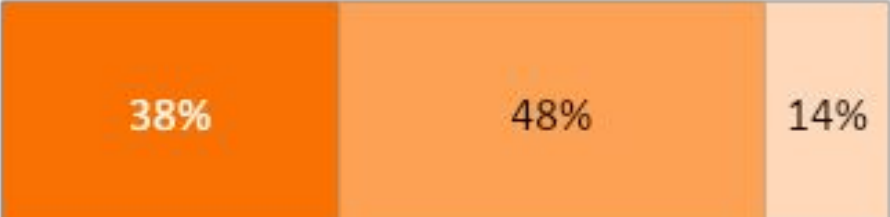
Ext. Conc.   Very Conc.   Smwt. Conc.   Not Conc.   Don't Know/No Opi

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



**Ext./Very Concern**  
92%

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



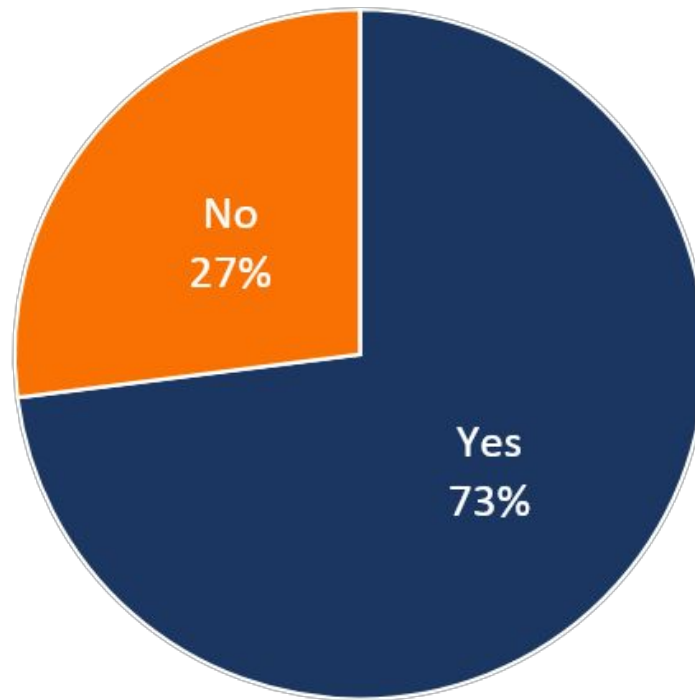
**Ext./Very Concern**  
86%



# **Discussing Medicine Disposal with Patients**

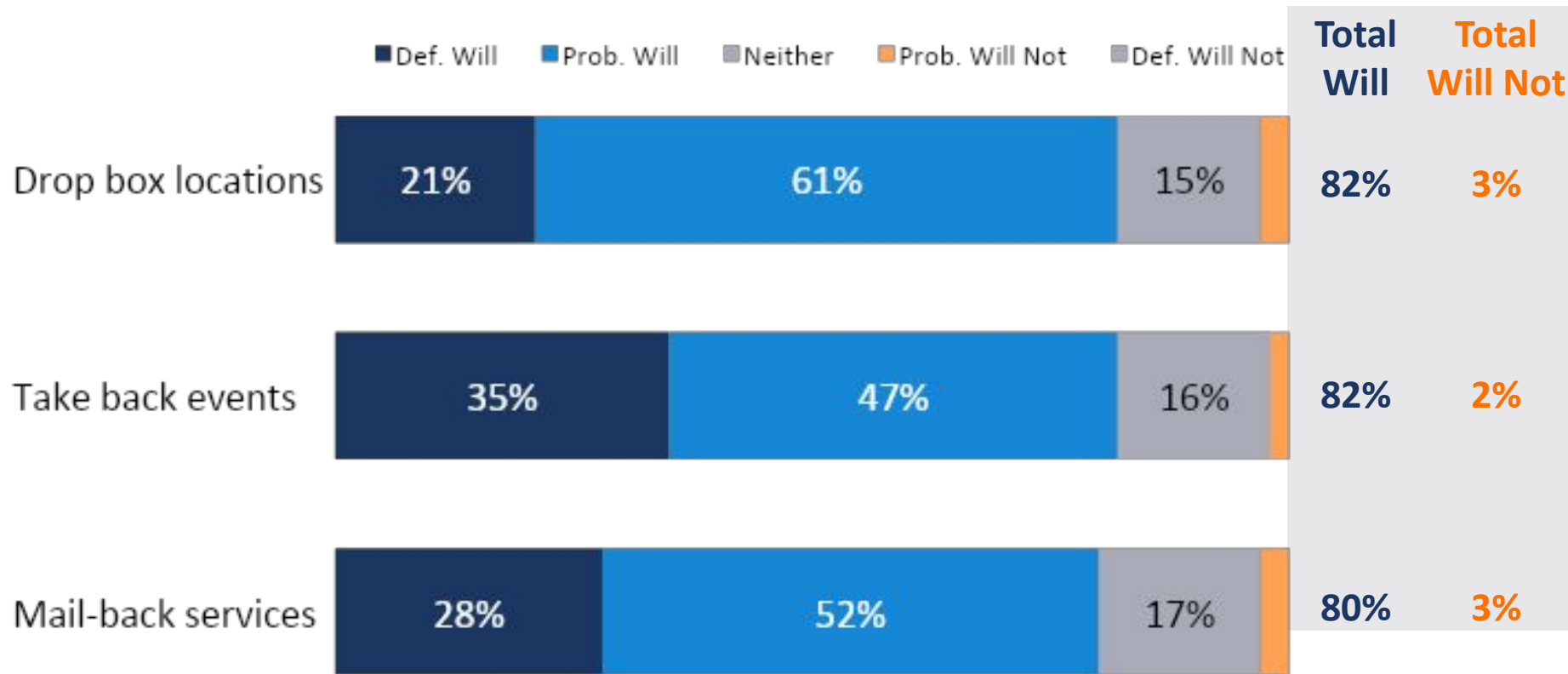
# Approximately three-quarters have encouraged their patients to use drug takeback services.

*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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