

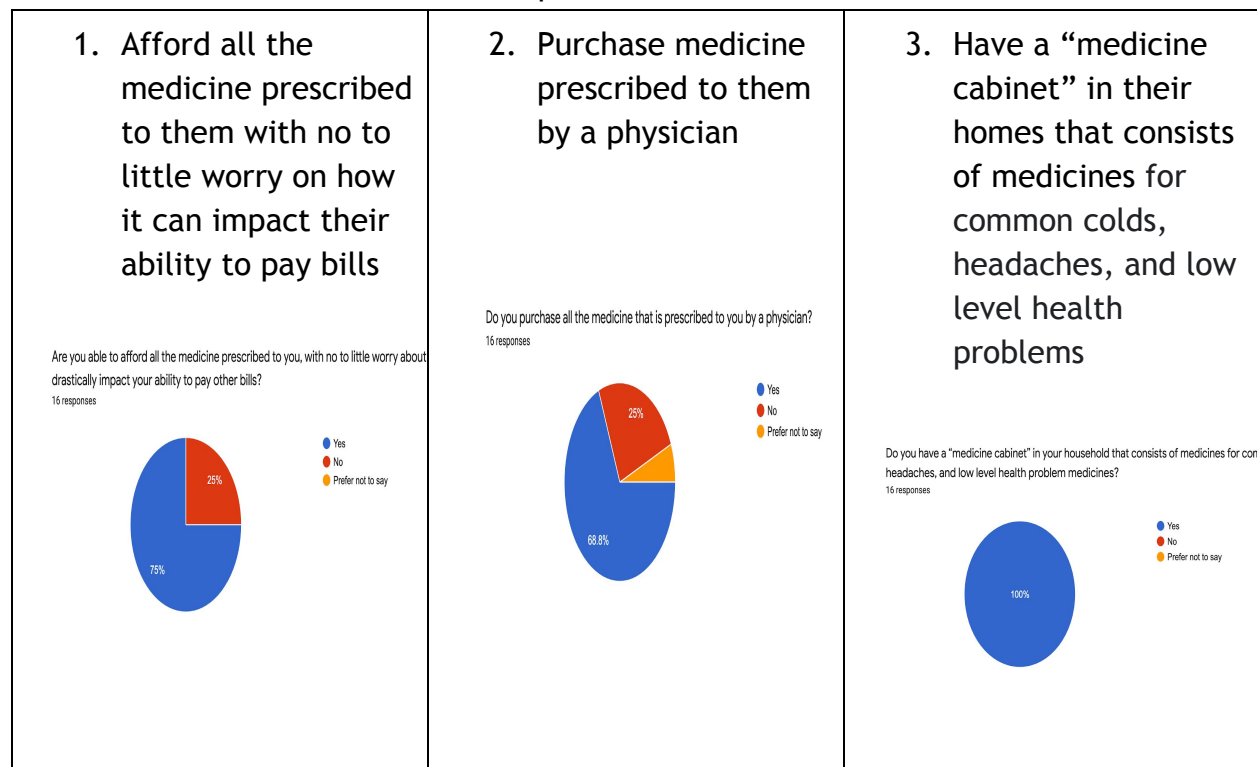
Summary of Data Collected:

For the previous assignment, my task was to conduct background research on the problem space “Access to Canadian Healthcare” and investigate how various income and education levels impact Canadians accessing their healthcare. This paper will summarize the key findings of my primary research on the impacts of income levels affecting Canadians access to Canadian healthcare, as well as the findings of my secondary research on education (in particular, literacy) on the same topic.

How Income affects Canadians accessing their Healthcare:

Canada has a universal, publicly funded healthcare system for access to physicians and hospital services throughout the country, however this often does not cover, or fully cover, prescribed medication. An inability to afford prescribed medication is under our problems for Canadians accessing healthcare. Fortunately, the results of an online survey I conducted showed that most Canadians from a diverse range of income levels are able to afford and purchase prescription medication, as well as afford to have a “medicine cabinet” in their households.

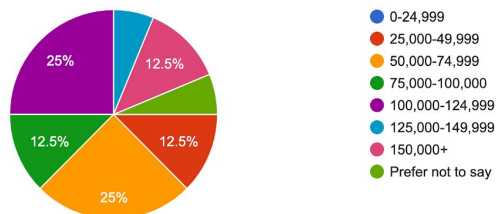
Table 1.1: The results of an online questionnaire.



It is most important to note that these results come from individuals from a diverse range of income levels:

Please estimate your average household income range.

16 responses



These findings show that accessing prescription medication is not a problem for most Canadians. Furthermore, 81.3% of the participants of this survey answered “yes” to having sufficient healthcare coverage for their current healthcare needs. To “Are you able to take time off work to attend a doctor’s appointment and not worry about your job security or paycheck?”, 53.3% answered “yes”, 26.7% answered “no”, and 20% answered “prefer not to say”. Hence, current income levels and bills, as well as job security and office politics, are ruled out as huge problematic factors for Canadians accessing prescription medication and healthcare services. In conclusion, based on this survey results, income levels do not significantly impact a Canadian from accessing the Canadian healthcare system.

How Education affects Canadians accessing their Healthcare:

A secondary background research study on literacy and health concluded that literacy affects individuals access to healthcare by inhibiting them from comprehending and assessing the medical instructions, documents, and verbal communication regarding health. This article concluded that even after individuals obtained access to healthcare, they did not benefit from their access as much as a competent literate individual person would. Therefore, the comprehension of individuals with low literacy skills is their problem in accessing healthcare.

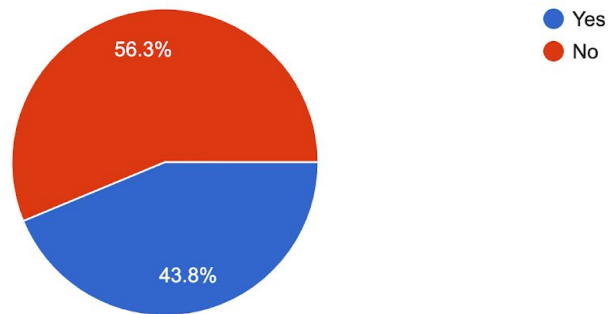
Insights:

Based on my findings summarized above, there is not a significant problem with income impacting Canadians’ access to healthcare, but there is an impact from literacy. For future assignments, we will need to work on developing a technological product that is easily understandable to people from all literacy levels. I envision making medicines more universally understood in a similar manner to WHMIS symbols.

Appendix:

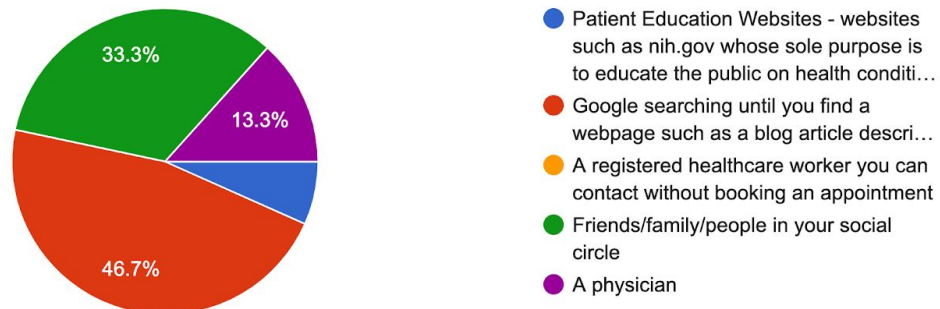
Do you attend annual doctor checkup appointments?

16 responses



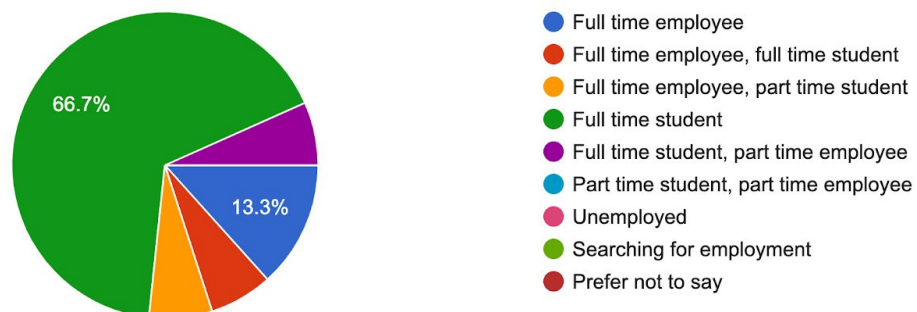
When you feel pain, discomfort, or confusion on your health, where do you first go to for a medical explanation?

15 responses



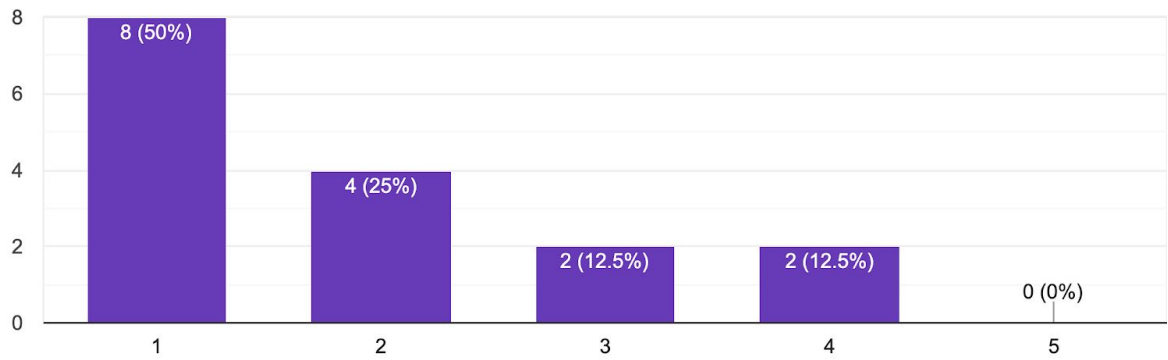
What is your current occupation status?

15 responses



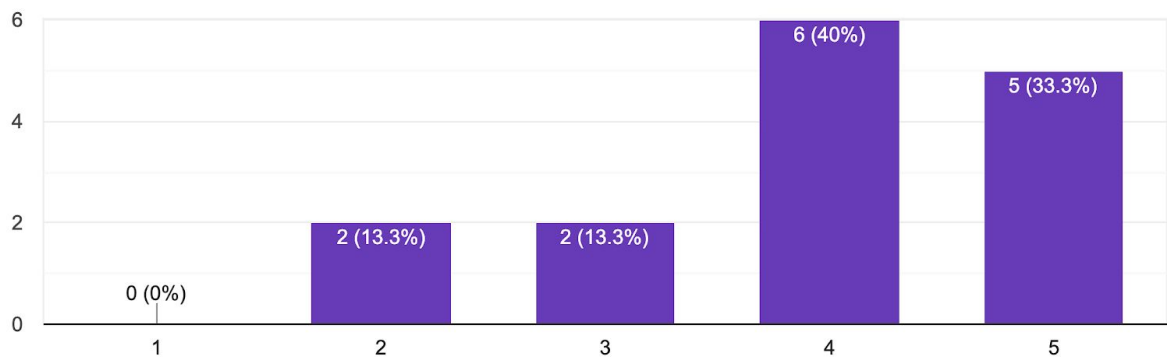
How do you feel about this statement?: "High cost of care is a problem I face in accessing healthcare in Canada"

16 responses



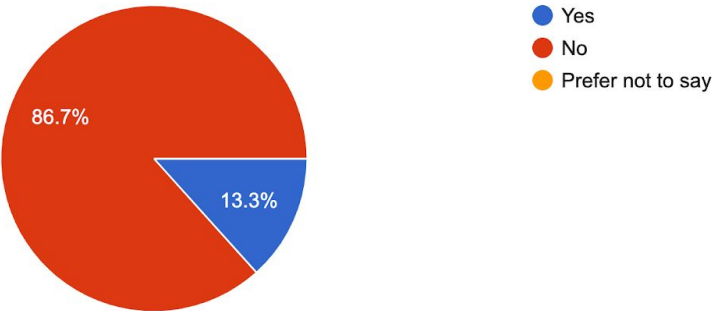
How do you feel about this statement?: "I am able to afford a healthy diet lifestyle"

15 responses



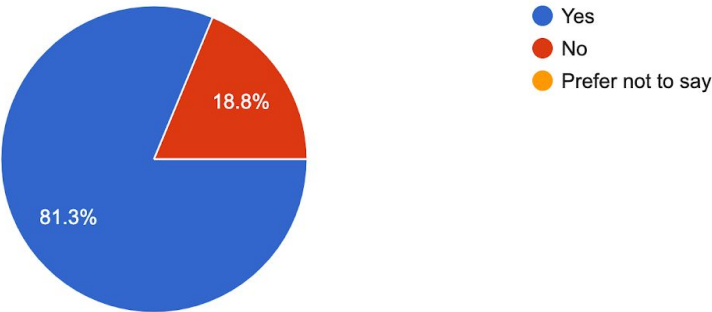
Do you have any dependents that would make it difficult for you to attend a healthcare service in Canada?

15 responses



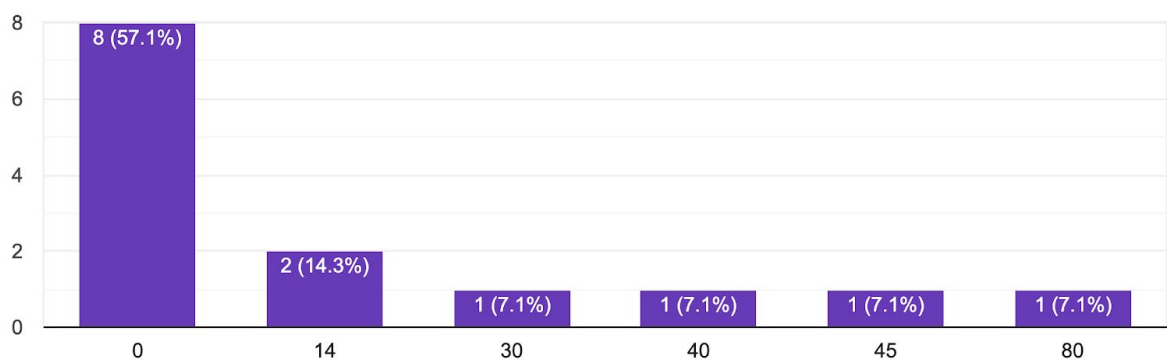
Do you have sufficient healthcare coverage for your current healthcare needs?

16 responses



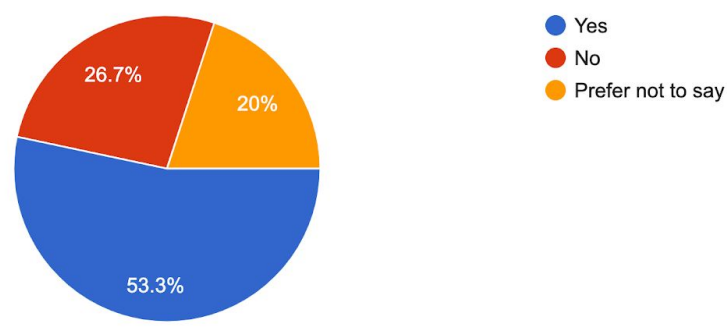
How many hours a week do you work?

14 responses

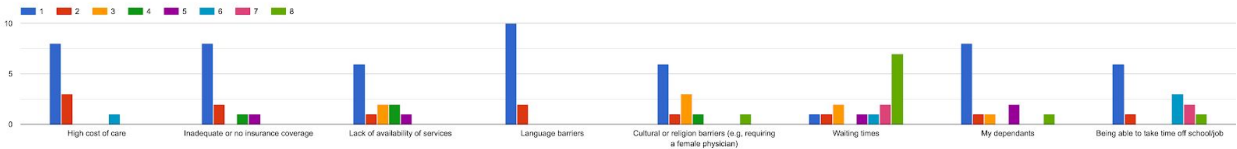


Are you able to take time off work to attend a doctor’s appointment and not worry about your job security or paycheck?

15 responses

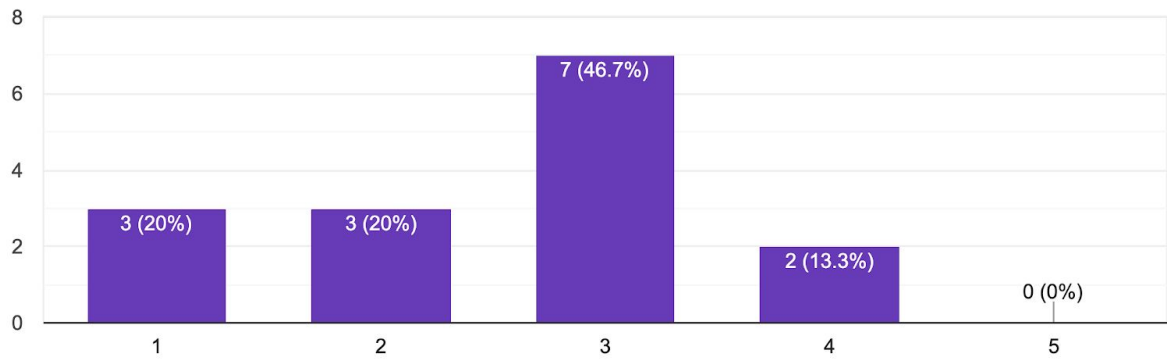


Rank the following for which you feel is the biggest barrier in your access to Canadian healthcare:



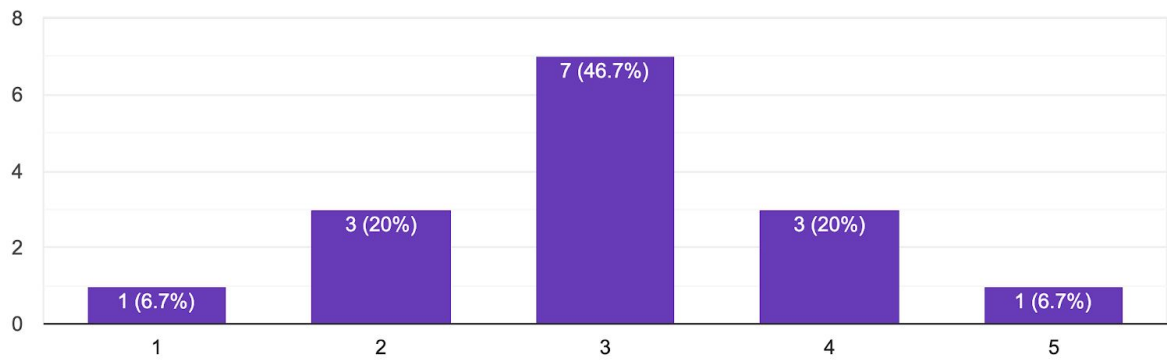
How often do you feel it is a waste of your time and resources to receive medical attention for your health related problems/concerns?

15 responses

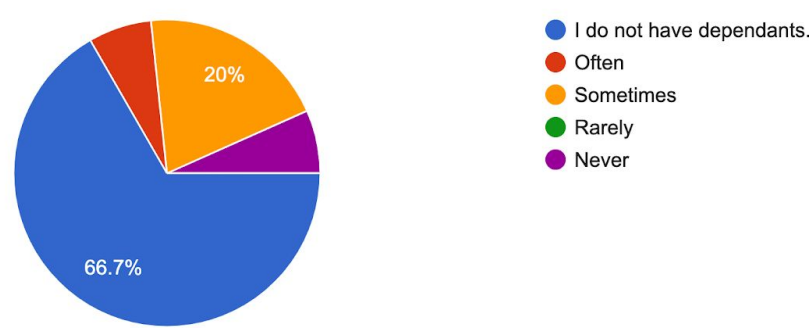


How satisfied do you typically feel with the time and resources you have spent to receive medical attention?

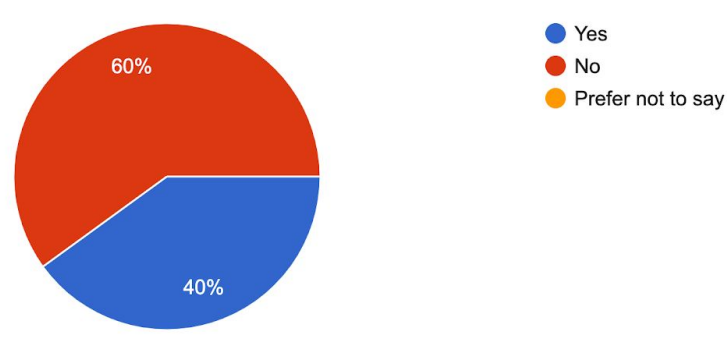
15 responses



How often are you able to attend a doctor’s appointment and not worry about your dependents?
15 responses

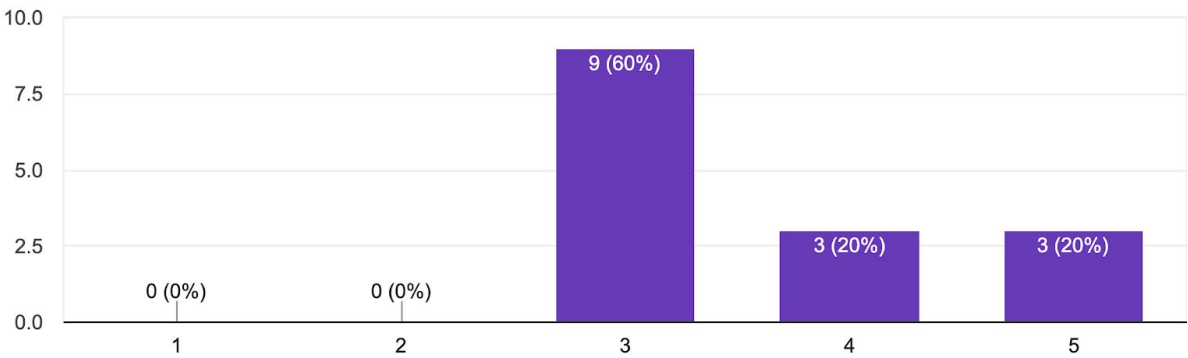


Do the locations of nearby walk-in clinics impact your likelihood of attending a doctor’s appointment?
15 responses



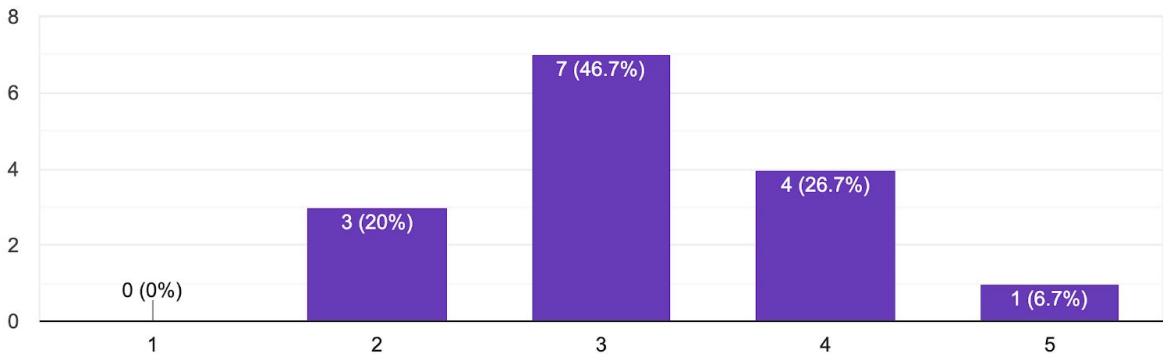
How friendly do you typically find the healthcare workers that treat you?

15 responses



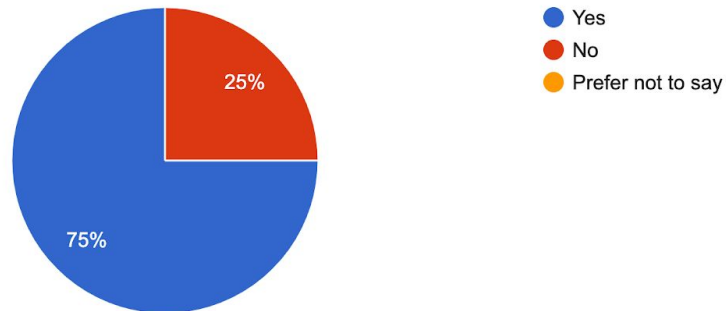
How friendly do you typically find the receptionist of a clinic/hospital?

15 responses



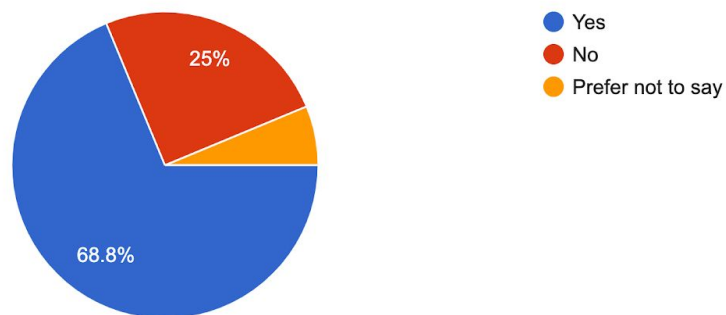
Are you able to afford all the medicine prescribed to you, with no to little worry about how it can drastically impact your ability to pay other bills?

16 responses



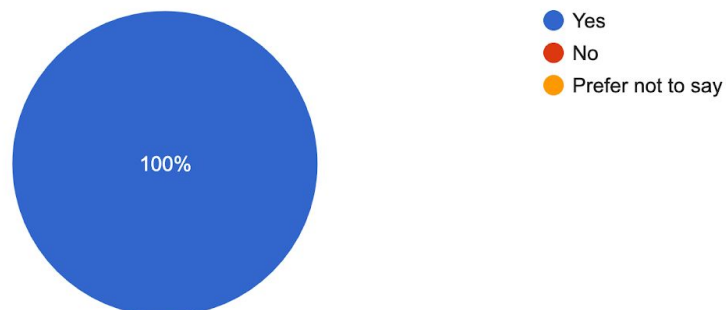
Do you purchase all the medicine that is prescribed to you by a physician?

16 responses

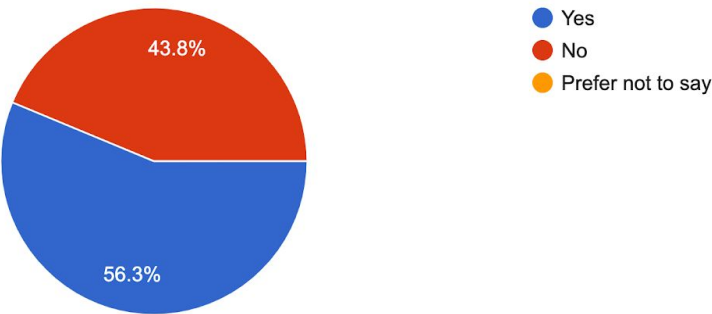


Do you have a “medicine cabinet” in your household that consists of medicines for common colds, headaches, and low level health problem medicines?

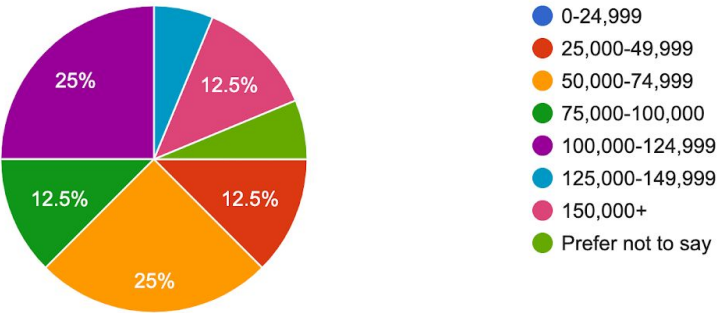
16 responses



Would you be able to afford/receive healthcare if it weren't for Canada's universal free healthcare?
16 responses



Please estimate your average household income range.
16 responses



Please estimate your personal average income range.
16 responses

