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Public Perceptions on the First Anniversary of the First Ministers' 10-Year Health Action Plan

Thursday, September 15, 2005



Methodology

- Telephone interviews among 1,001 adult Canadians between September 6th and September 8th, 2005.
- A sample of this size has a margin of error of $\pm 3.2\%$, 19 times out of 20.
- Margins of error are higher within regional and demographic subgroups.



Methodology

- After the initial question on “optimism” respondents were read the following introduction:
 - “In September 2004, the provincial and territorial premiers and the Prime Minister committed to a 10-year plan to strengthen health care. A key component of this plan was to establish benchmarks for medically acceptable wait times for treatments for cancer and heart ailments, diagnostic imaging, joint replacements, and sight restoration by December 31, 2005. These benchmarks will be used to measure changes in health services over time and to ensure that wait times in these five areas are reduced to acceptable levels by 2007.”
- Prior to the questions on Health Human Resources respondents were read the following:
 - The First Ministers also promised to establish targets for the training, recruitment and retention of health professionals by December 31, 2005.



Key Findings

- One year after the “plan for a decade” over 5 in 10 Canadians are less optimistic than they were a year ago.
- More than 3 in 4 say that wait time benchmarks will lead to better access to health services and lasting improvements to the healthcare system, however, only 1 in 3 are confident that their governments will follow through with the commitment to establish these benchmarks by December 2005.
- Almost 9 in 10 say that targets for the training, recruitment and retention of health professionals will lead to better access to health services and are the 1st step in ensuring Canada’s supply of HHR meets its needs, however, only 1 in 3 are confident that their governments will follow through with the commitment to establish these targets by December 2005.
- Over 6 in 10 say that the Federal Government should withhold all or some of the increased funding for health care if either of these commitments is not met.



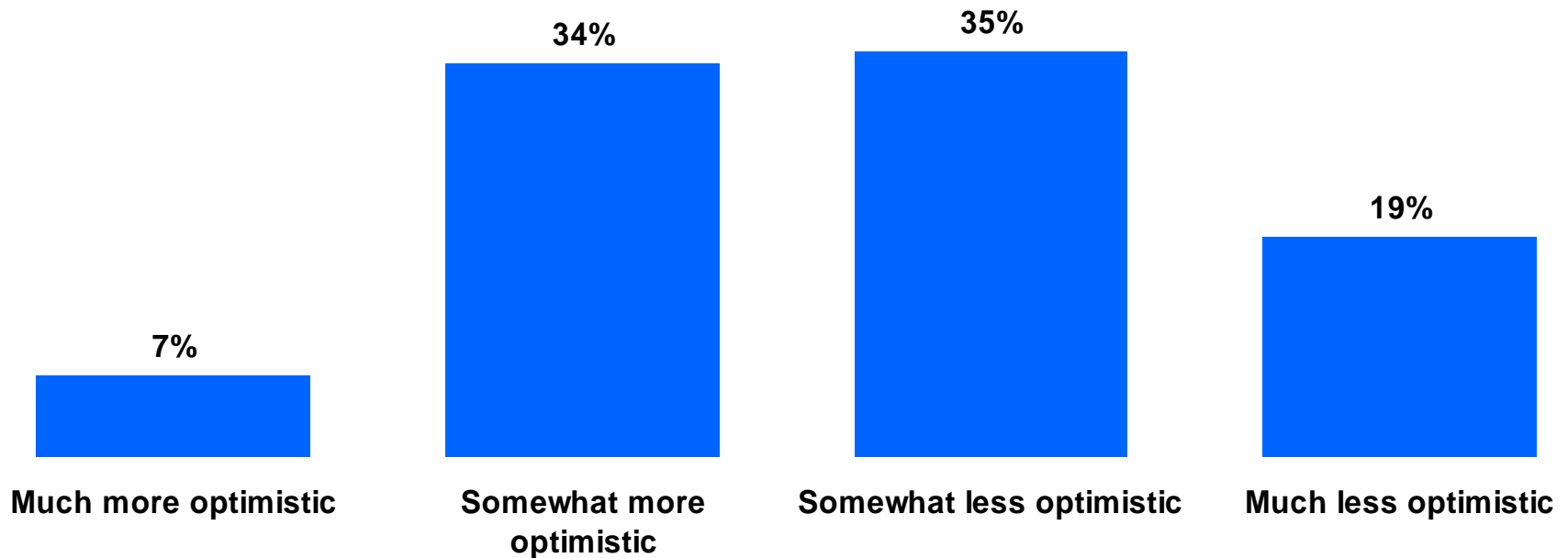
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Detailed Findings



Will Health Care Services Get Better or Worse?

Would you say that you personally are much more optimistic, somewhat more optimistic, somewhat less optimistic or much less optimistic about the future of health care services in your community than you were a year ago?



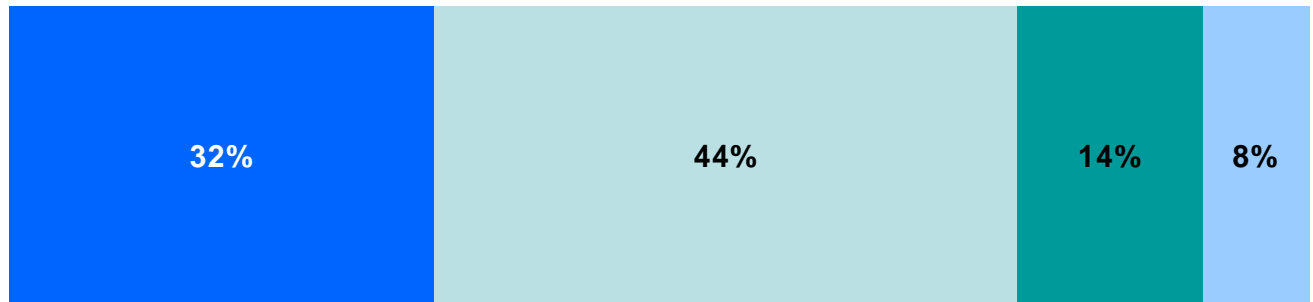


Optimism About Wait Time Benchmarks

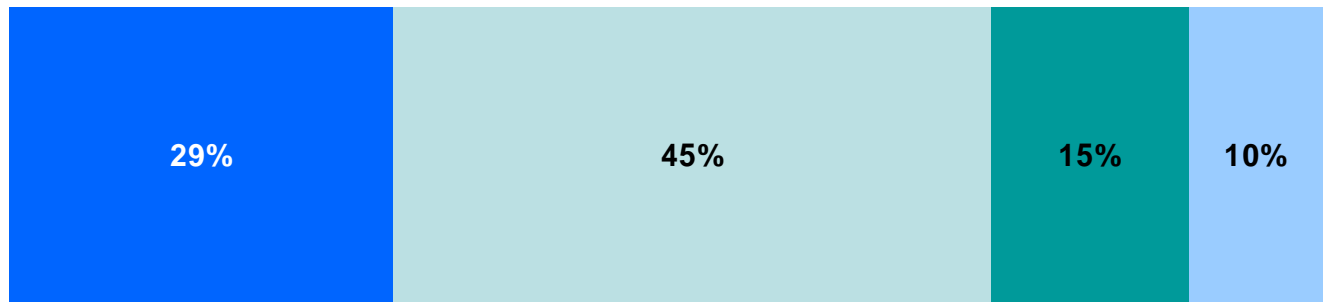
Please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements.

■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Strongly disagree

Establishing wait time benchmarks is a good idea because they will ultimately lead to better access to health services



Establishing wait time benchmarks is the first step toward making lasting improvements to Canada's healthcare system





Optimism About Training, Recruitment and Retention of Health Professionals

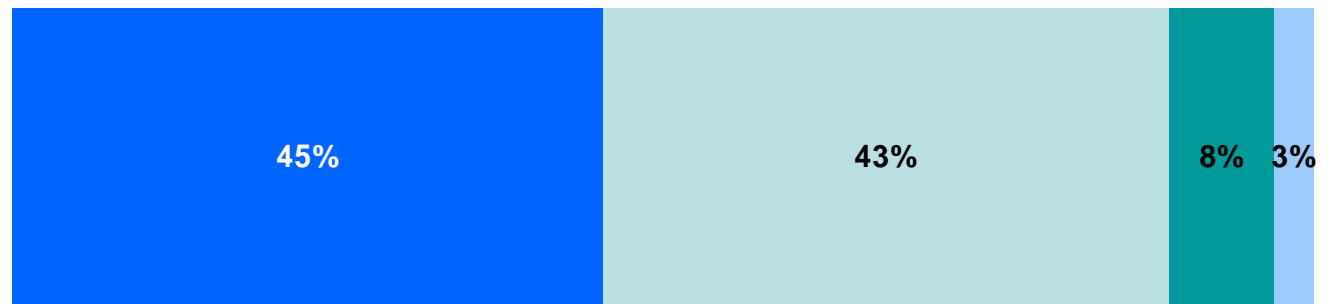
Please tell me whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements.

■ Strongly agree ■ Somewhat agree ■ Somewhat disagree ■ Strongly disagree

Establishing targets for the training, recruitment and retention of health professionals is a good idea because they will ultimately lead to better access to health services.



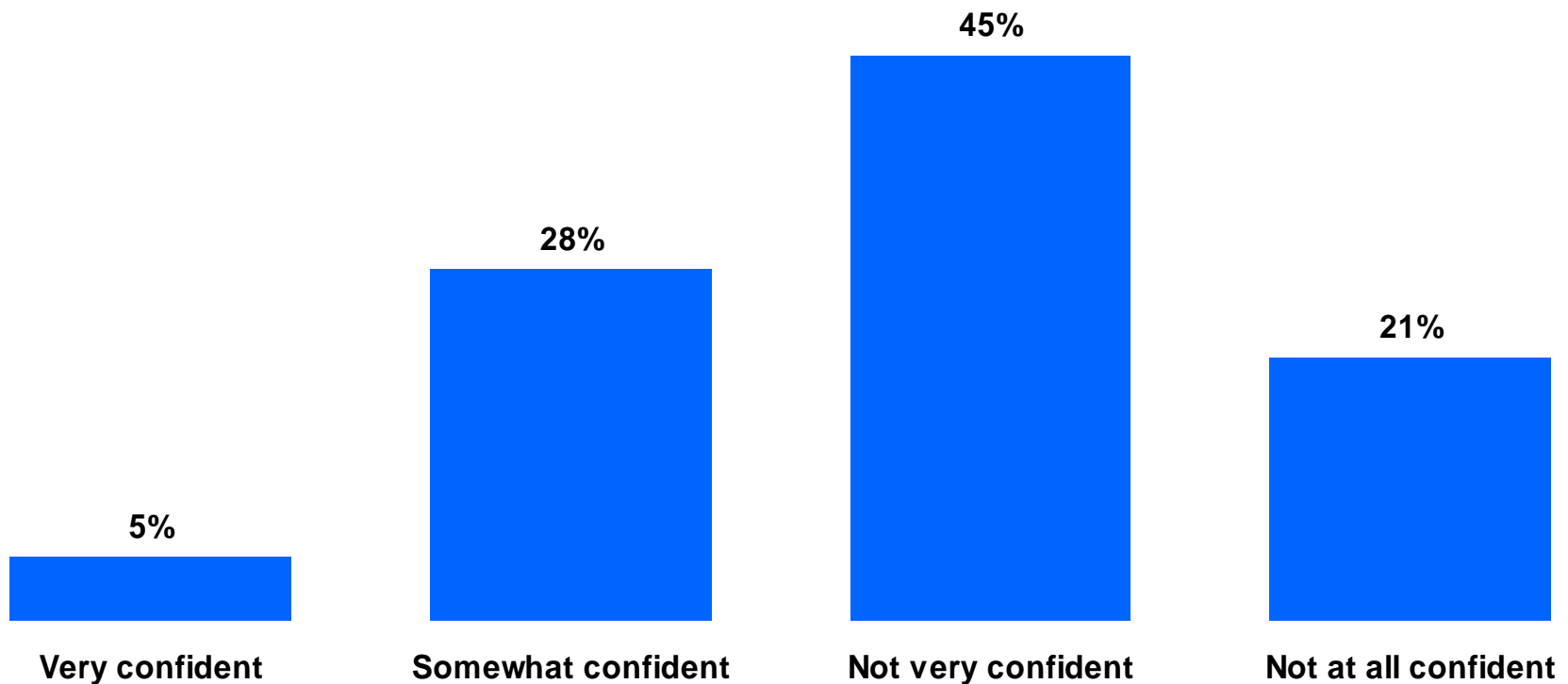
Establishing targets for the training, recruitment and retention of health professionals is the first step in ensuring that enough health professionals are trained and educated in Canada to meet our own country's needs





Confidence that Governments will Meet Deadline for Establishing Benchmarks

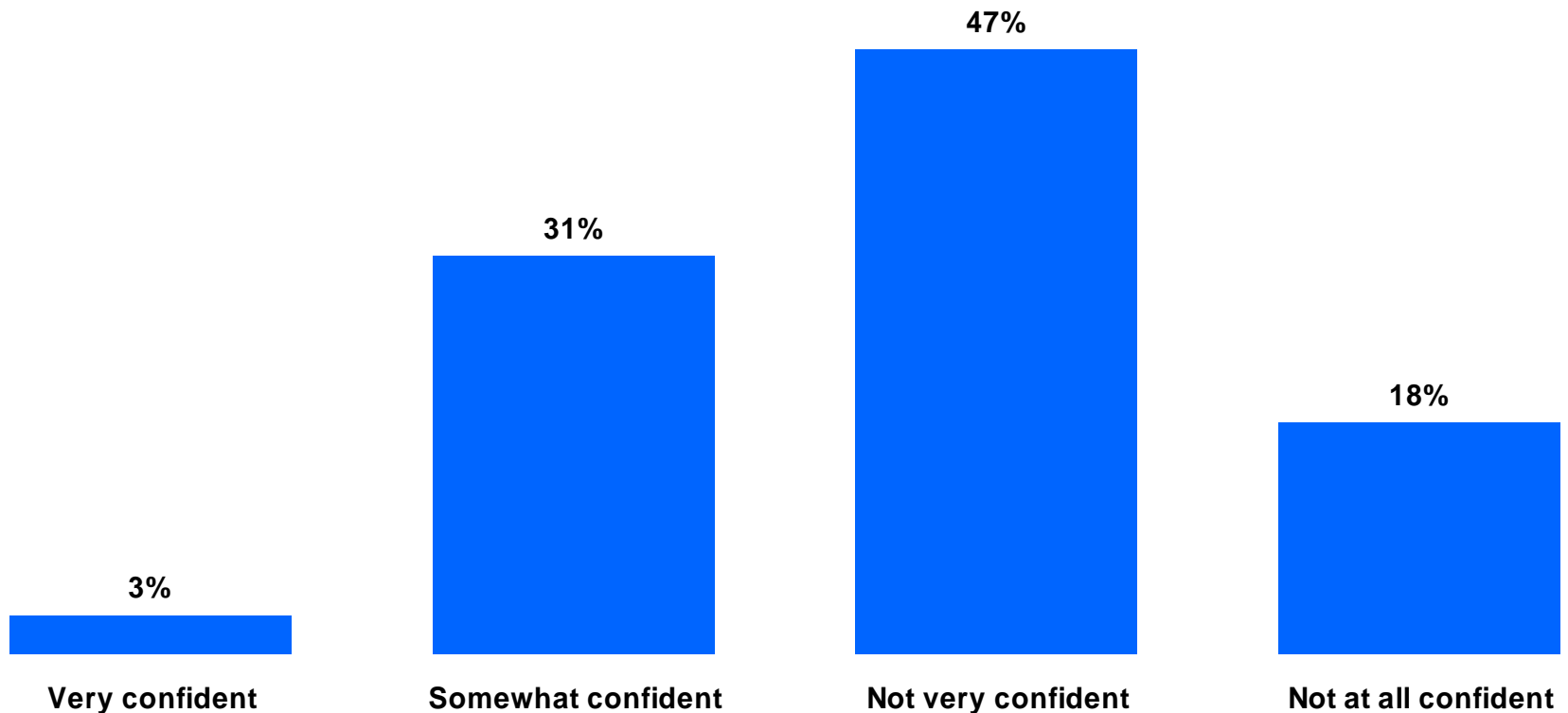
Would you say that you are very confident, somewhat confident, not very confident or not at all confident that the federal government and your provincial/territorial government will live up to these commitments and establish wait time benchmarks for health services by December 2005?





Confidence that Governments will Meet Deadline for Establishing HHR Targets

Would you say that you are very confident, somewhat confident, not very confident or not at all confident that the federal government and your provincial/territorial government will live up to these commitments and establish targets for the training, recruitment and retention of health professionals by December 31, 2005





Public Views on Conditions for Increased Federal Funding

In return for making these commitments to establish wait time benchmarks and targets for the training, recruitment and retention of health professionals the Federal government agreed to transfer an additional \$41 billion in health care funding to the provinces/territories over the next 10 years. If a province or territory does not meet these commitments which of the following statements most closely represents your view?

