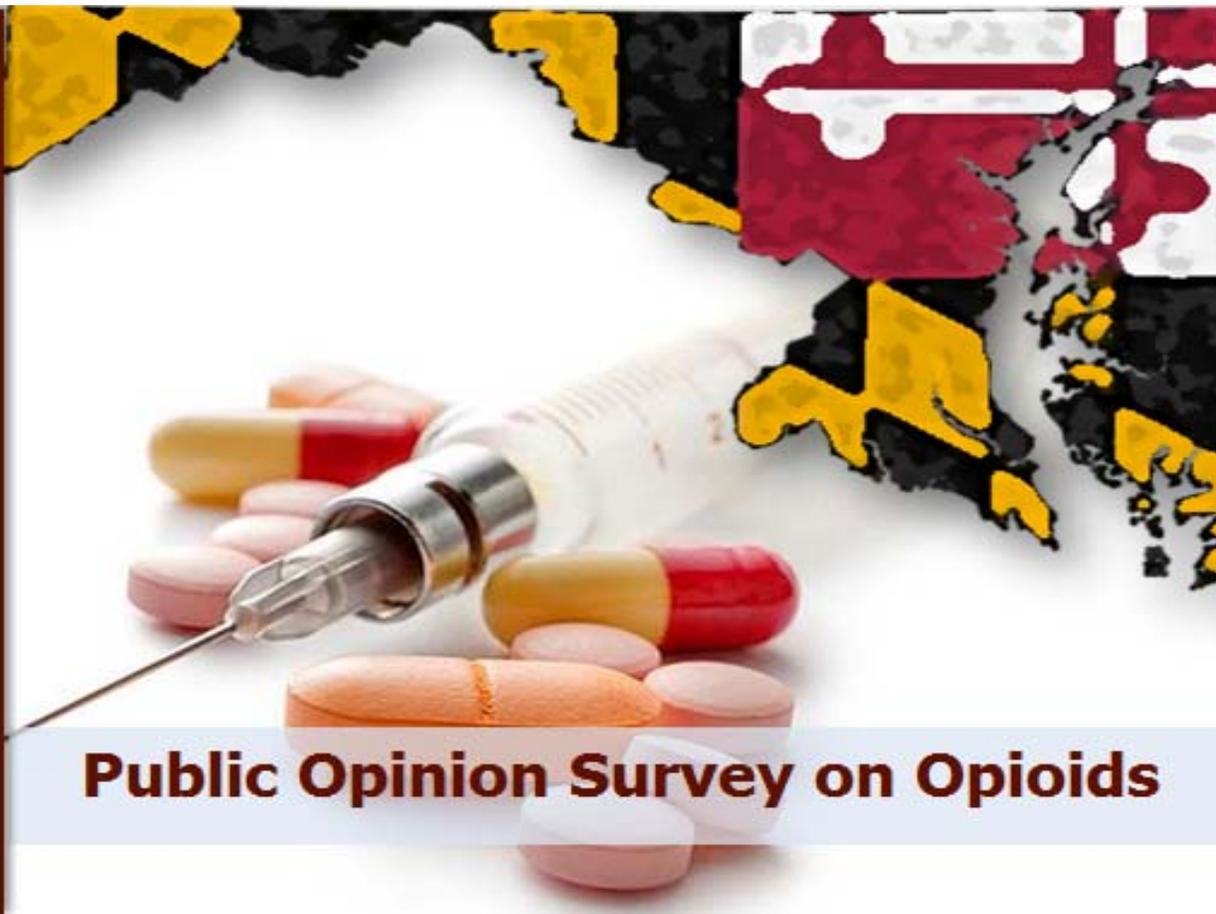




UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

MARYLAND



Françoise Pradel, PhD
MACo Summer Conference - August 14, 2015

Why Conduct MPOS?

Rationale – Lack of information on Marylanders' perceptions, attitudes and practices surrounding prescription opioids and heroin

Aim - To inform local OMPP needs assessment efforts and media campaigns

Survey Instrument

- Anonymous 52-item web-based survey
 - Use
 - Access
 - Perception of risk
 - Awareness of efforts
- Marylanders 18 years and older
- Institutional Review Board approval from UMB & DHMH

Survey Recruitment & Administration

- Survey advertised
 - OMPP Facebook page
 - Facebook groups
 - Facebook paid advertising
 - Prevention coordinators
 - MSPF coordinators
- Weekly incentives





Maryland Opioid Misuse Prevention Survey
Community

Sign Up Share

Timeline About Photos Likes More

671 likes 0 this week

Promote Your Page
Connect with more of the people who matter to you

Promote Page

ABOUT

The University of Maryland School of Pharmacy is conducting a public opinion survey to learn about Marylanders' awareness, perceptions, and use of opioids.

<https://www.umaryland.e...> Promote Website

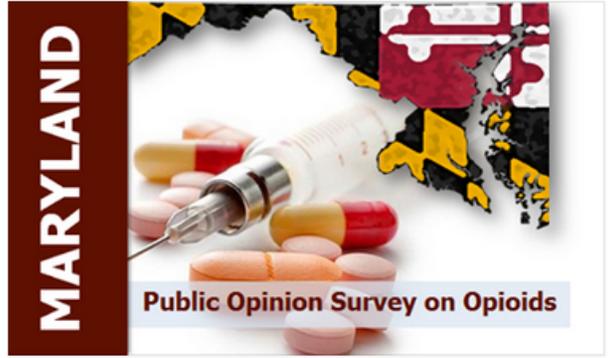
PHOTOS



Status Photo / Video Offer, Event +
What have you been up to?

Maryland Opioid Misuse Prevention Survey
Published by Nicole Sealton (?) · March 16 ·

The 2015 Maryland Opioid Misuse Prevention Survey is now closed. We received over 6,600 surveys from residents all across Maryland! Thanks so much for all who participated and for spreading the word! We'll post again when findings from the survey are available. Thanks for making the Maryland Opioid Misuse Prevention Survey a success!



Promote

THIS WEEK

0 Page Likes

0 Post Reach

0 Sign Up

Recent 2015

Maryland Opioid Misuse Prevention Survey
Sponsored ·

Are you a Maryland community needs you



What's your opinion?
Please complete a 10-minute survey to help your community. Enter to win a \$100 gift card.

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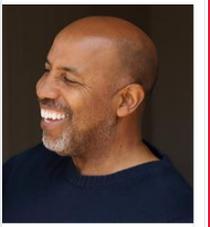
18 years old? If so, your



prescription opioids and heroin in a \$50 gift card and a grand prize

Learn More

18 years old? If so, your



prescription opioids and heroin in a \$50 gift card and a grand prize

Learn More

Opioid Misuse Prevention Survey

ment and at least 18 community needs you!

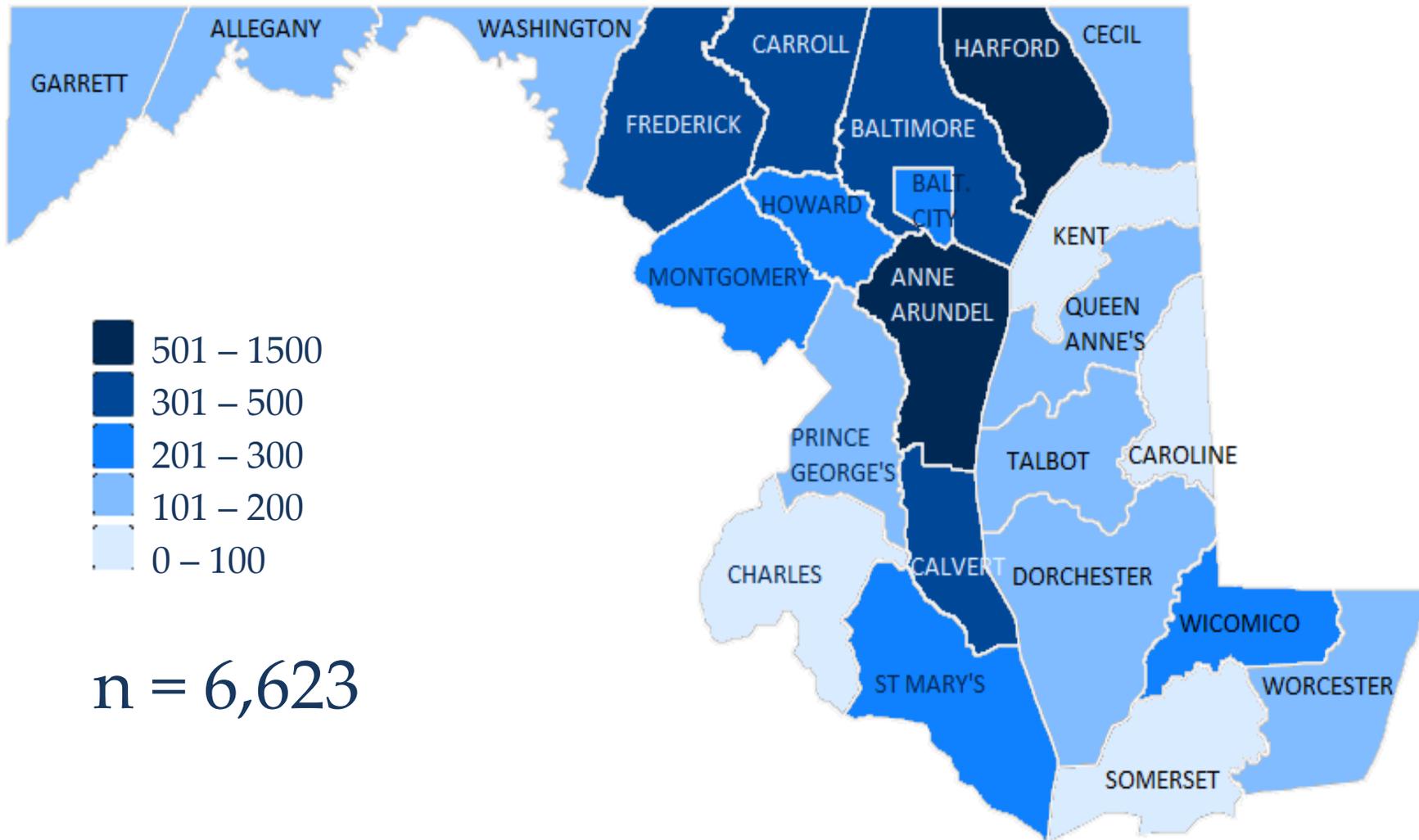


What's your opinion?
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www.surveymonkey.com

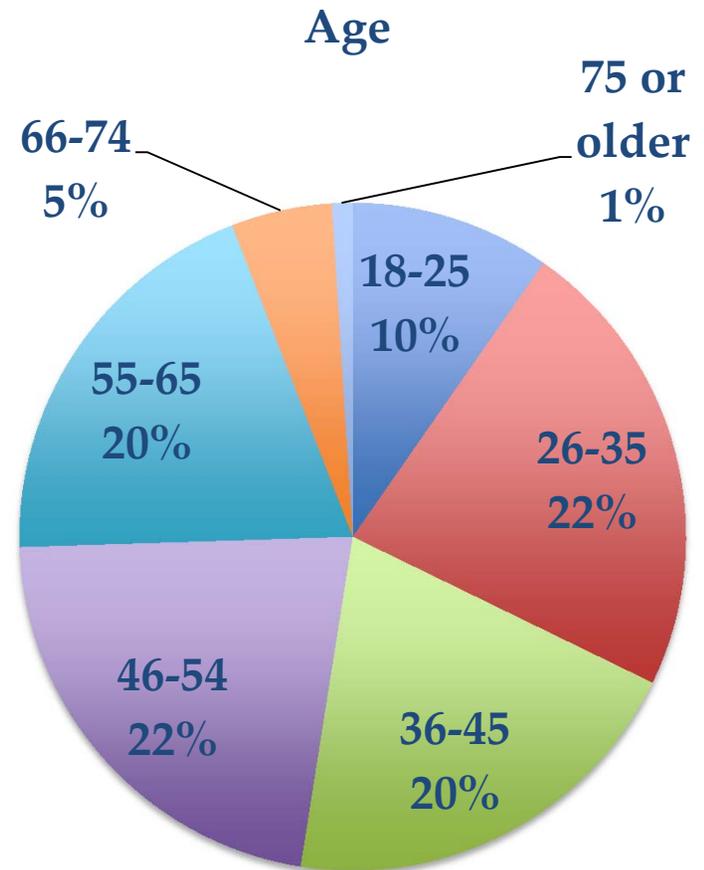
Learn More

Residence

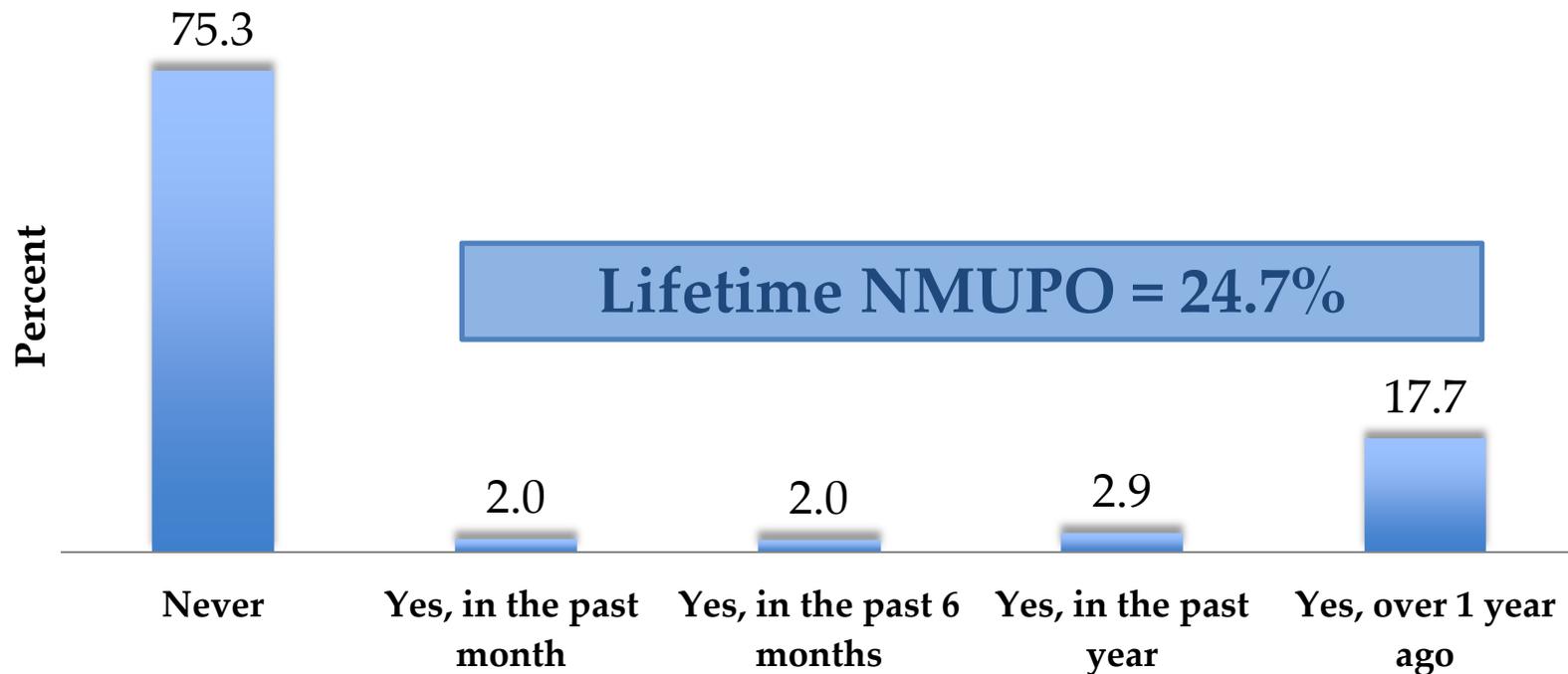


Respondents Demographics

	MPOS %	State %
Gender		
Female	79.1	51.6
Male	19.8	48.4
Other	1.1	N/A
Race/Ethnicity		
White	91.6	60.5
Black/African American	4.8	30.1
Hispanic or Latino	1.5	9.0
Asian	1.4	6.1
Other	2.6	4.8

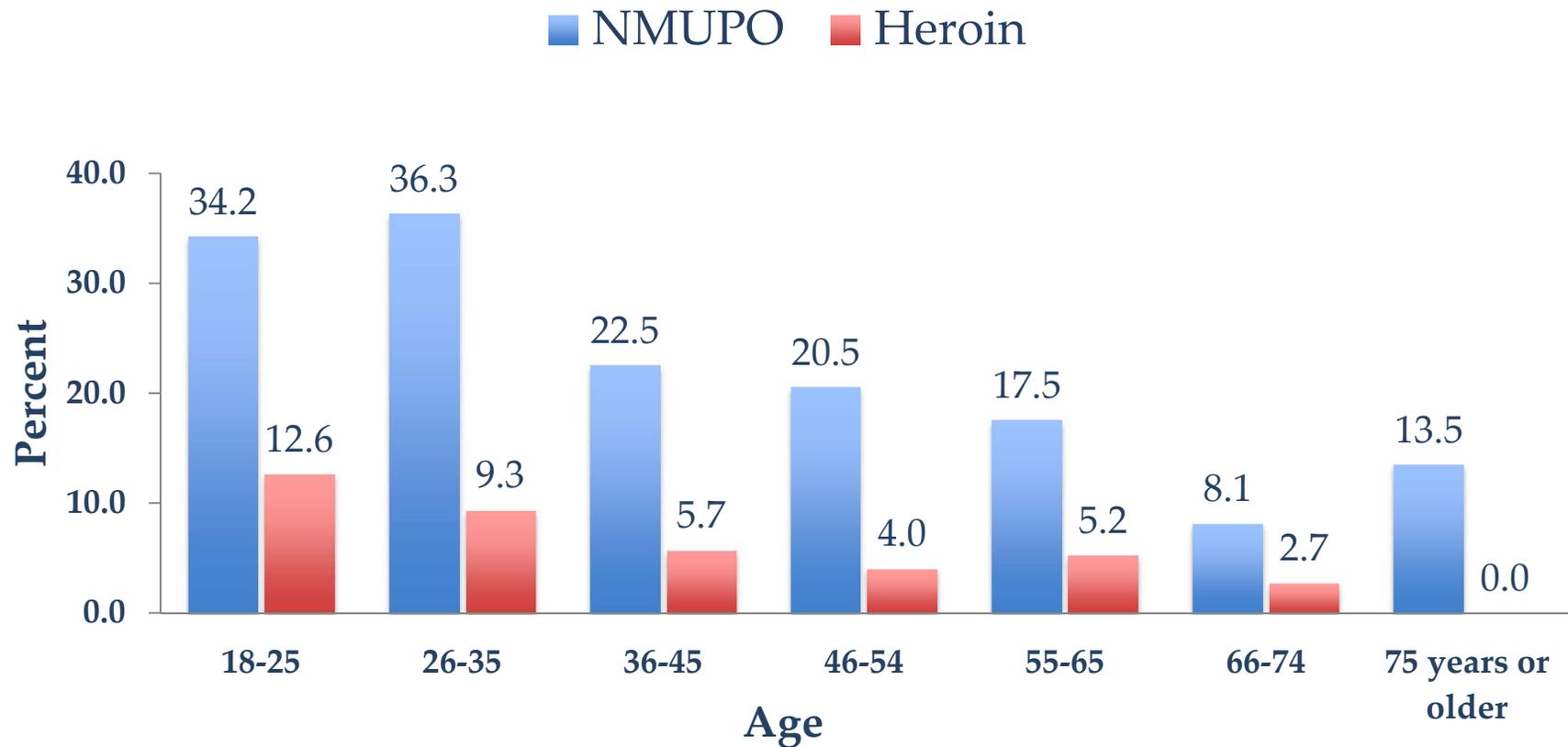


In your lifetime, have you ever taken a prescription opioid without a doctor's permission' (n = 5,362)

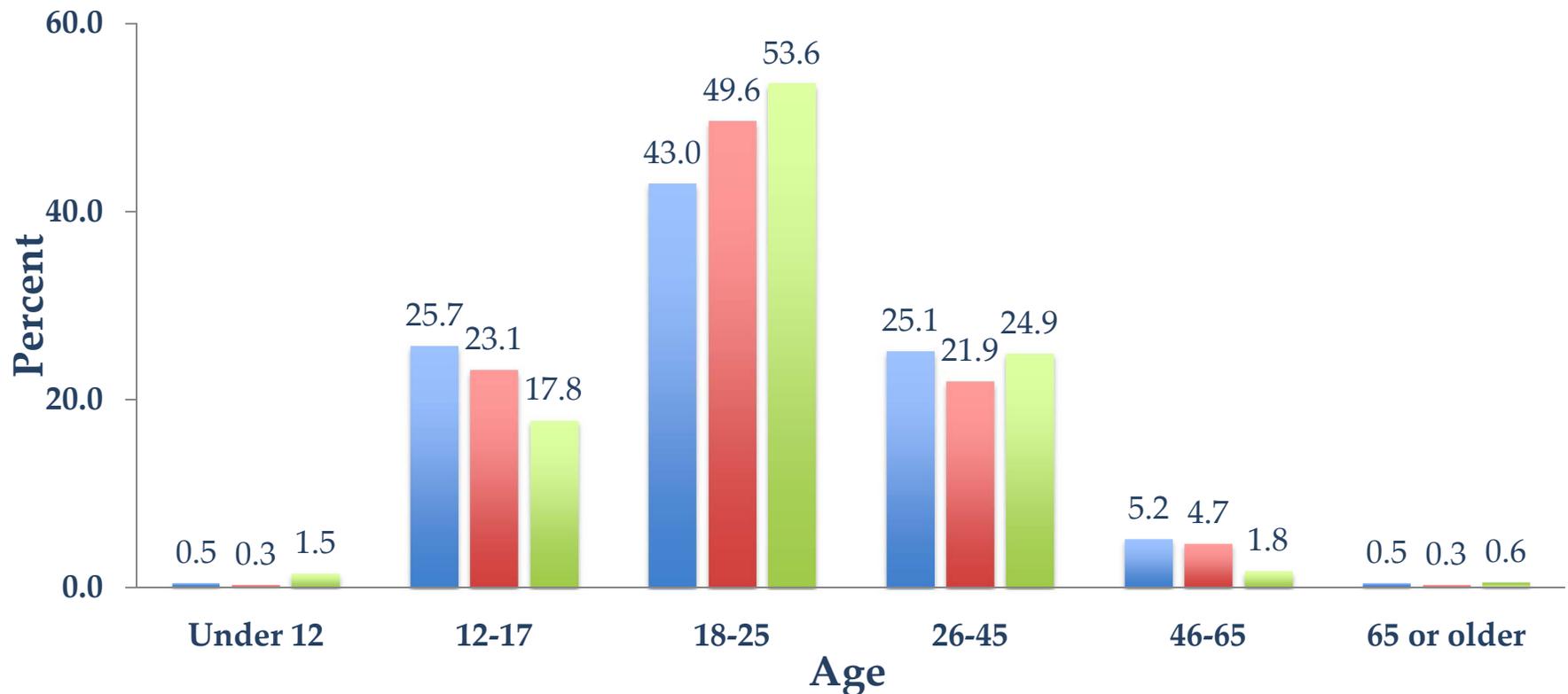


Lifetime Heroin Use = 6.7%

Lifetime Opioid Use by Age



Age of First Use



- Age when respondents first took prescription opioids NOT prescribed to them (n=1,194)
- Age when respondents first took prescription opioids prescribed to them but for the experience, feeling they caused, or to get high (n=661)
- Age when respondents first used heroin (n=338)

In your opinion, how do people get prescription opioids to get high?

Non Users (n)

Steal from family	2,757
Drug dealers	2,173
Friends provide	1,943
Doctors	1,820
Steal from friends	1,347
Fake prescriptions	655
Family provides	571
Internet	191
Pharm/Pharm T	144

Users (n)

Drug dealers	810
Steal from family	798
Friends provide	747
Doctors	730
Steal from friends	313
Family provides	211
Fake prescriptions	141
Pharm/Pharm T	56
Internet	38

Access to Opioids

In your opinion, how easy or difficult would it be for someone to get ...	Somewhat easy or very easy
prescription opioids from a friend/family member to get high? (n = 5,495)	83.5%
prescription opioids from a doctor in your community to get high? (n = 5,481)	51.8%
heroin from a friend/family member in your community? (n = 5,483)	56.1%

Perception of Risk

How much do people risk harming themselves (physically or in other ways) if they use prescription opioids that were not prescribed for them to treat their pain? (n=5,717)

No risk of harm	0.2 %
Slight risk of harm	4.4 %
Moderate risk of harm	22.4 %
Great risk of harm	68.3 %
Don't know	4.7 %

Perception of Risk

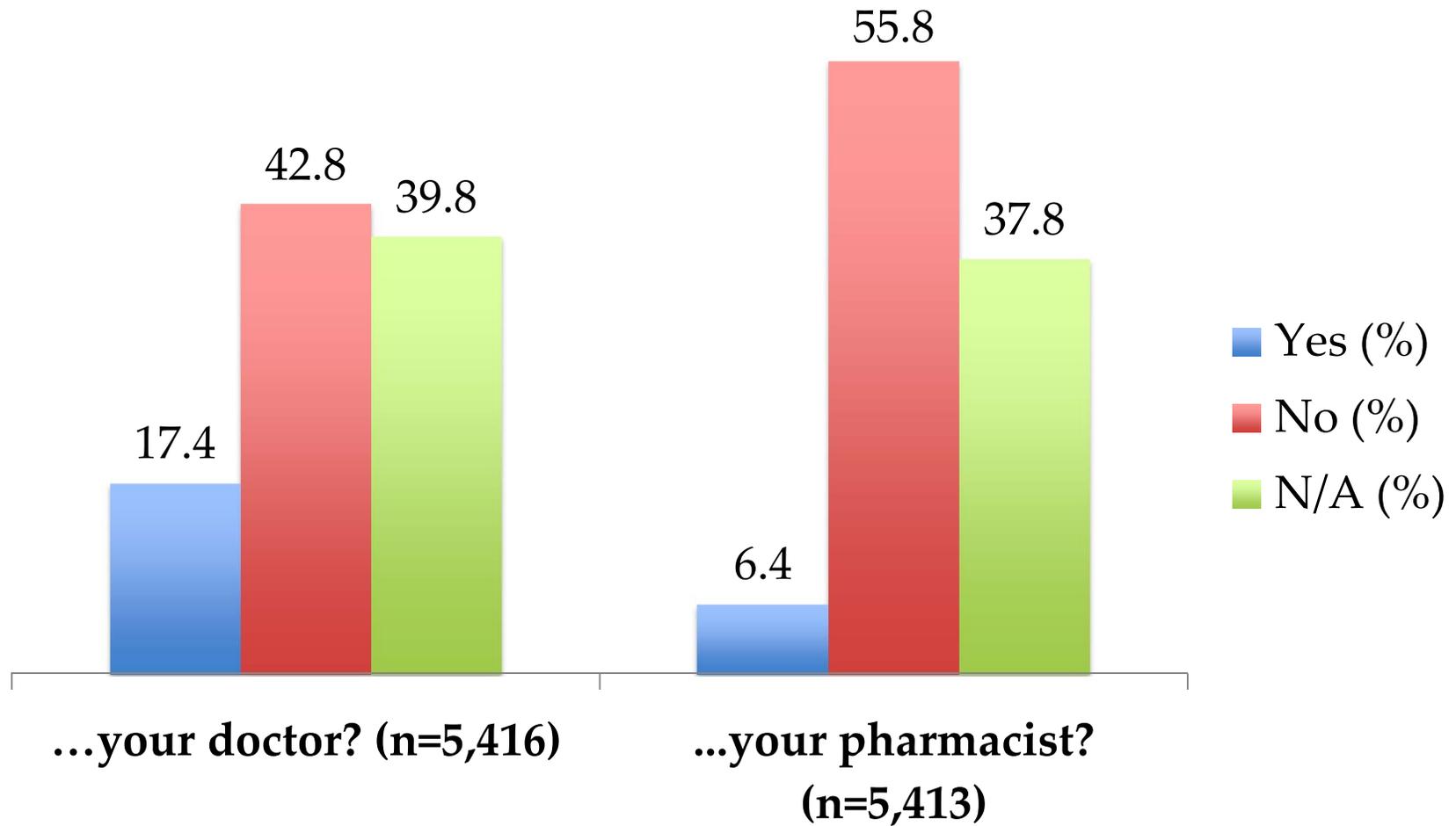
It is safer to get high with prescription opioids than with street drugs (n=6,027)

Strongly agree	3.5 %
Agree	14.8 %
Disagree	24.8 %
Strongly disagree	45.7 %
Don't know	11.2 %

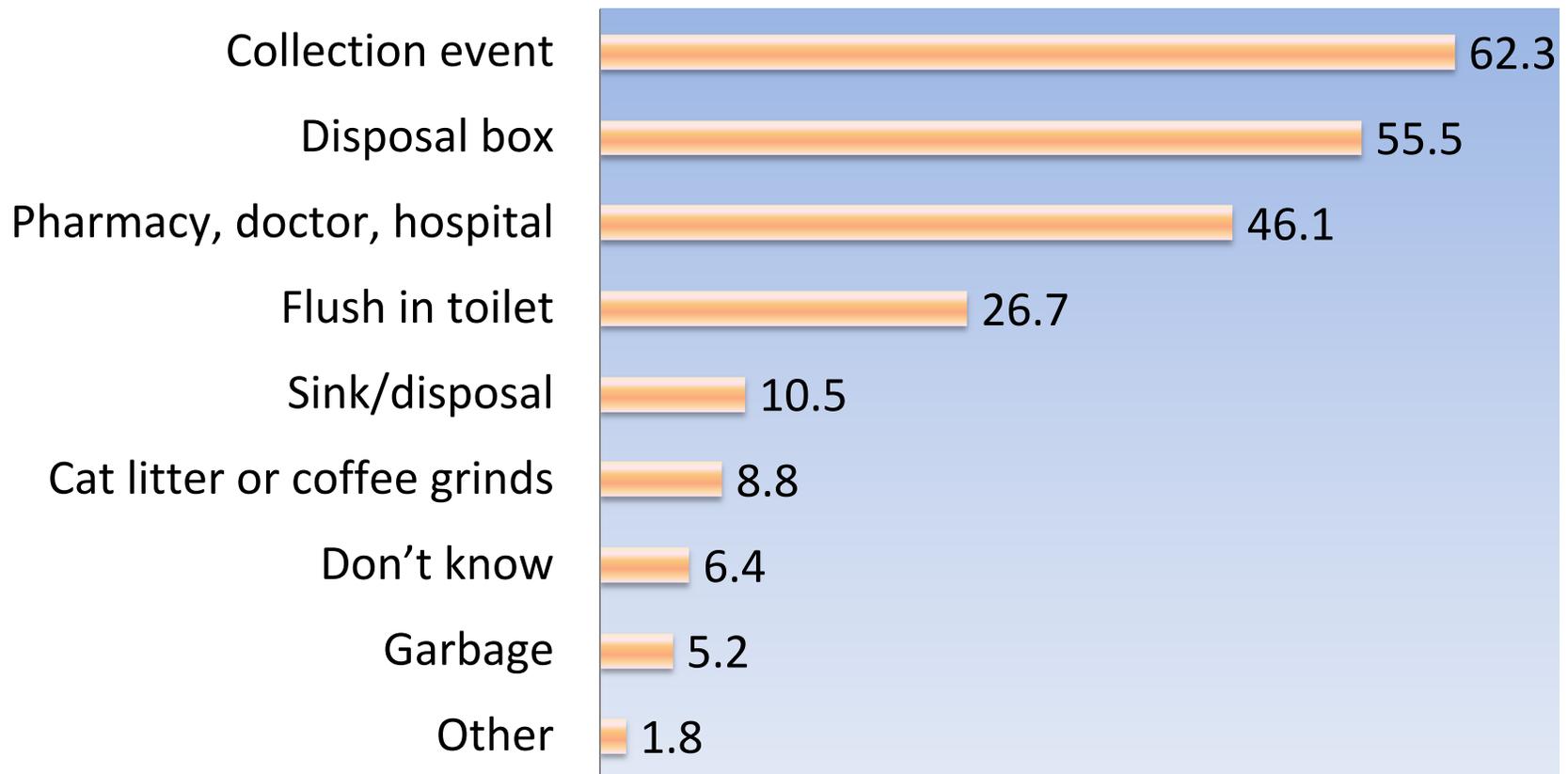
In your opinion, are prescription opioids safer than...Heroin (n=5,730)

Yes	48.8 %
No	39.5 %
Don't Know	11.7 %

Have you ever discussed the risks of taking prescription opioids with ...?

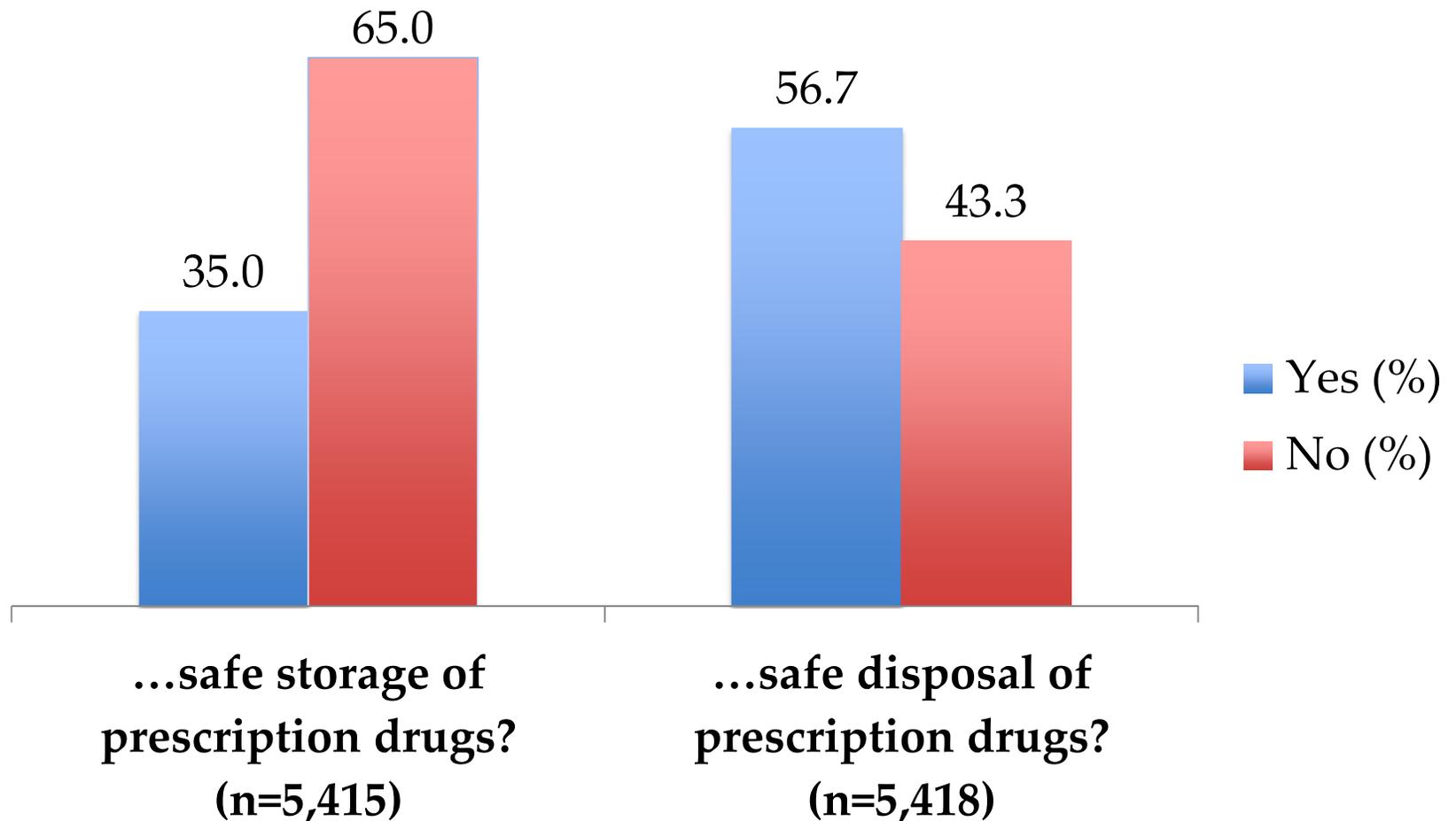


In your opinion, how should unused prescription opioids be disposed?



Respondents selecting each disposal method (%)
(n=5,485)

Within the past 12 months have you seen or heard any information regarding...



Awareness of Efforts

Within the past 6 months, have you heard about the Good Samaritan law? n=5,380

Yes 40.8 %

No 59.2 %

Have you heard of the drug naloxone? n=5,380

Yes 66.5 %

No 33.5 %

Would you know where to refer someone who needs treatment for prescription opioids or heroin dependence? n=5,405

Yes 61.1 %

No 38.9 %

Qualitative Findings

- Five major themes emerged:
 - Access (n=142)
 - Treatment (n=127)
 - Lack of awareness (n=80)
 - Enforcement (n=60)
 - Stigma/ Prejudice (n=30)
- Comments were sub-categorized within the larger themes

Opioid Access: Respondents Views

	n	%
Doctors overprescribe	67	47.2
Heroin is affordable and easily accessible	41	28.9
Concern about access to prescription opioids for legitimate medical needs	13	9.2
People are selling or sharing their prescription opioids	7	4.9
More training on substance use disorder for prescribers	5	3.5
Other	9	6.3
Total	142	100

Opioid Access: Respondents Views

“I have several medical issues and I constantly find that even when I tell them no prescription pain medications, doctors try to push narcotics on me - they give me prescriptions even though I declined ‘just in case’. ...It would be so easy to fill that prescription and sell the pills!”

“My son and his friends started using heroin because one of the friends got prescriptions for back pain. Refills were becoming harder to get and heroin was cheaper.”

Treatment: Respondents Views

	n	%
More treatment centers and options needed	58	45.7
Better quality treatment options needed	22	17.3
Anti medication-assisted treatment	20	15.7
Lack of insurance coverage or payment	16	12.6
Pro treatment	10	7.9
Other	1	0.8
Total	127	100

Treatment: Respondents Views

“There is a tremendous lack of resources for inpatient detox and treatment facilities. No one seeking treatment should have to be put on a 40 patients wait list.”

“The county resources are felt to be inadequate. My family was personally touched by addiction recently and we had to send my son to resources outside the county for help at greater cost and stress to all. Now he is in recovery and I am afraid for him to come back to the county.”

Treatment: Respondents Views

“We need more resources for people who need help. My sister is a recovering addict and it is so difficult to get help. It’s hard enough for an addict to admit they need help, and then once they do, it is so hard for them to find help. 8-10 days in a rehab does nothing. They need to detox and then be armed with resources to help them survive from that point on.”

“Clinics that provide legal substitutes to addicting drugs don’t really address the issue.”

Law Enforcement: Respondents Views

	n	%
More enforcement needed, particularly for drug dealers	25	41.7
Less enforcement and more treatment for those with substance use disorder	13	21.7
Punishment should include treatment	9	15.0
Crime as a consequence of drug use	5	8.3
Other	8	13.3
Total	60	100

Enforcement: Respondents Views

“It is an epidemic in [my county] and nothing seems to be done about it. Why don't they start arresting the drug dealers around here. Even I know who sells heroin around here and where they live and I don't even use the stuff.”

“Even if someone is caught and arrested with illegal drugs or in possession of prescription drugs and are selling them the bonds are low to non existent and the judges let people walk or give a slap on the wrist...”

Law Enforcement: Respondents Views

“This is a very serious issue that belongs in the mental health arena not the criminal justice system. Model programs after other countries that have been successful in reducing illegal opiate use. There are programs that work....”

“It is an epidemic. There is no affordable or free LONG TERM inpatient treatment centers. Instead they put addicts in jail when what they need is mental and addiction treatment....”

Stigma: Respondents Views

“I do not feel it is the properly prescribed ‘opioid’ that is the problem but the people who make the choice to abuse them. I have bulging disc in my back and have used pain medication when needed and as directed. Addiction is the only disease I know you can choose to stop. I am sure many cancer patients would love to have that much control.”

“I feel that the Samaritan law is a farce only to mother and encourage the addict. This does not fix the heroin addiction. This will only give the addicts a get out of jail free card. It’s not right.”

Summary

- 18-35 year olds more likely to misuse opioids
- Perception of opioids as easily accessible
 - Drug dealers, family, friends, doctors
- Few providers discuss risks of prescription opioids with patients
- Low awareness of the Good Samaritan law
- Comments suggest barriers to treatment

Limitations

- Convenience sample and findings are not generalizable
 - Demographics
 - County distribution

Acknowledgements

- Behavioral Health Administration
- Prevention Coordinators
- MSPF Coordinators
- Survey participants



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