

# Results of the Tokyo-iCDC Risk Communication Team's Survey on Residents

March 16, 2023

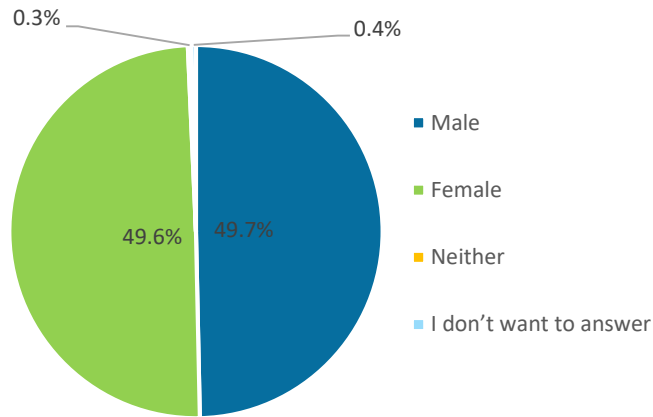
- **Survey Method:** Internet survey
- **Target Audience:** Men and women residing in Tokyo from their 20s to 70s
- **Sampling method and sample size:**
  - Quota sampling based on gender, age, and location composition proportional to the population ratio of Tokyo
  - **10,429 Samples**
- **Survey Period:** February 15 to 21, 2023
- **Survey items:**
  - Feelings and experiences regarding COVID-19
  - Preparation regarding COVID-19
  - Behaviors and infection prevention measures after the change of classification (after May 8)
  - Future intentions and reasons for wearing masks, basic infection prevention measures etc.

# Basic Attributes of Valid Responses

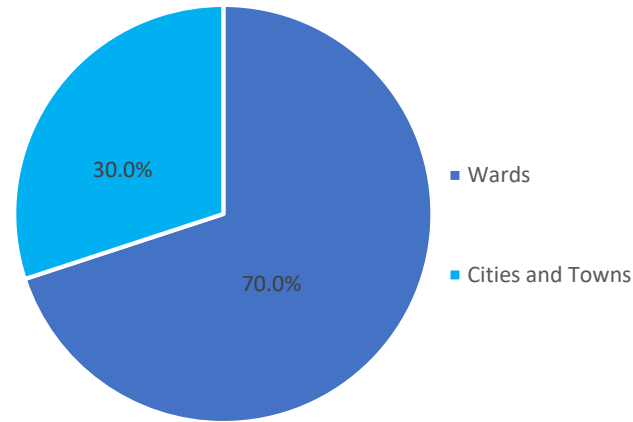
Number of Valid Responses:

**n=10,429**

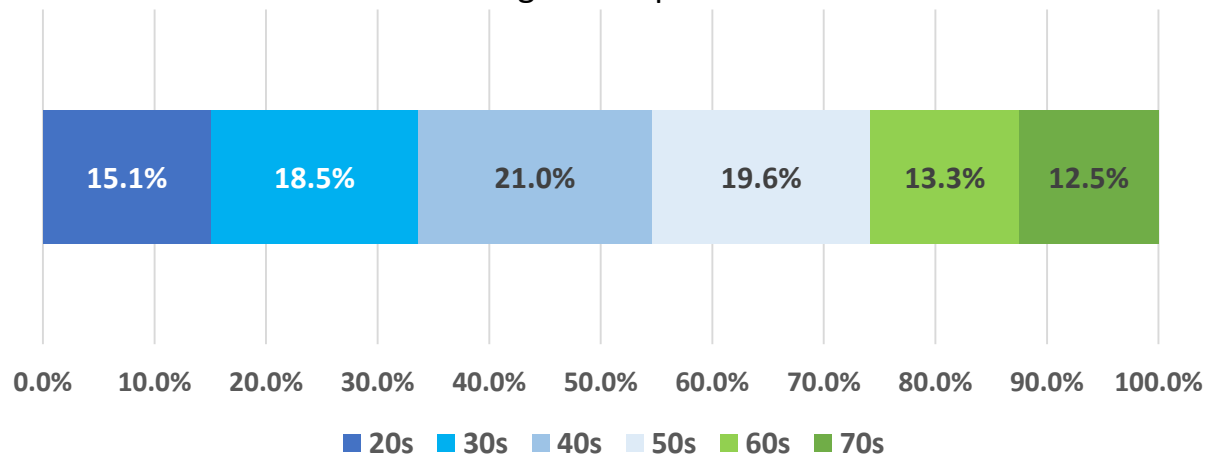
### Respondent's Gender



### Respondent's Location



### Age of Respondents

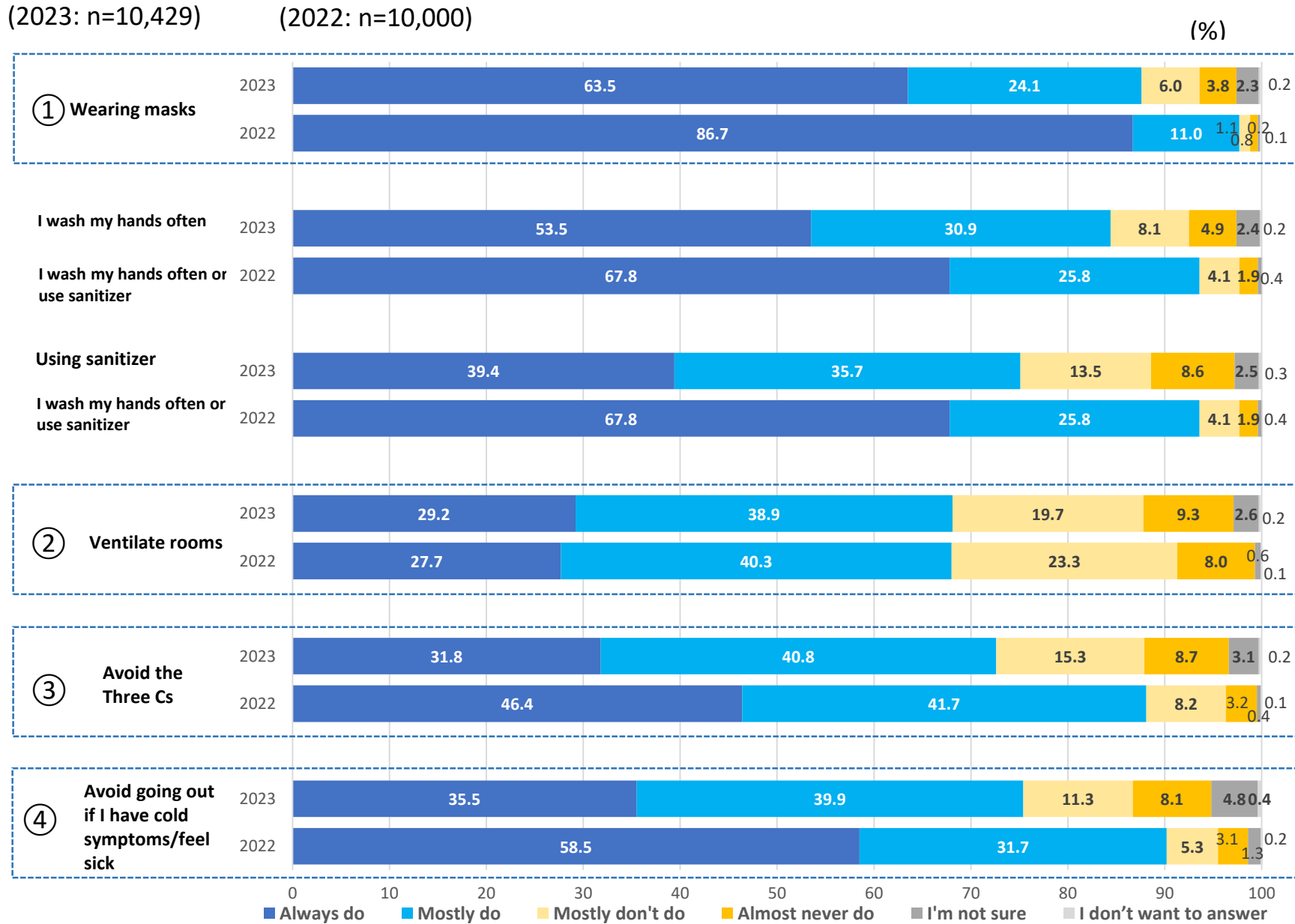


### Respondent's Career (In %)

Respondent's Career	(In %)
Managers	8.4
Professional/technical workers	13.9
Clerical workers	19.0
Sales workers	3.9
Service workers	10.8
Security workers	0.7
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries workers	0.1
Production process workers	1.5
Transport and machinery operators	0.9
Construction and mining workers	0.8
Transportation, cleaning, and packaging workers	1.8
Occupation not classifiable	3.6
Homemaker	13.9
Student	2.4
Unemployed	13.4
I don't want to answer	4.9
Overall	100.0

Note: Because the composition ratios of this survey result are rounded to the second decimal place, the total may not necessarily equal 100.

# Please select the COVID-19 countermeasures you are currently using (as of mid-February).



Even in **mid-February 2023**, around three years after the outbreak of COVID-19 and after the transition to Category 5 was announced, **many Tokyo residents are still cautious about infection prevention measures.**

(1) Regarding "**wearing masks**," the proportion of those who answered "always" or "mostly" is **about 90%**. However, the proportion of those who are "always careful" has **decreased by about 20% compared to the survey results of March last year.**

(2) For "**room ventilation**," the proportion of those who answered "always" or "mostly" is **about 70%**, which is **similar to the survey results of March last year.**

(3) On "**avoiding the Three Cs**," the proportion of those who answered "always" or "mostly careful" was about **70%**.

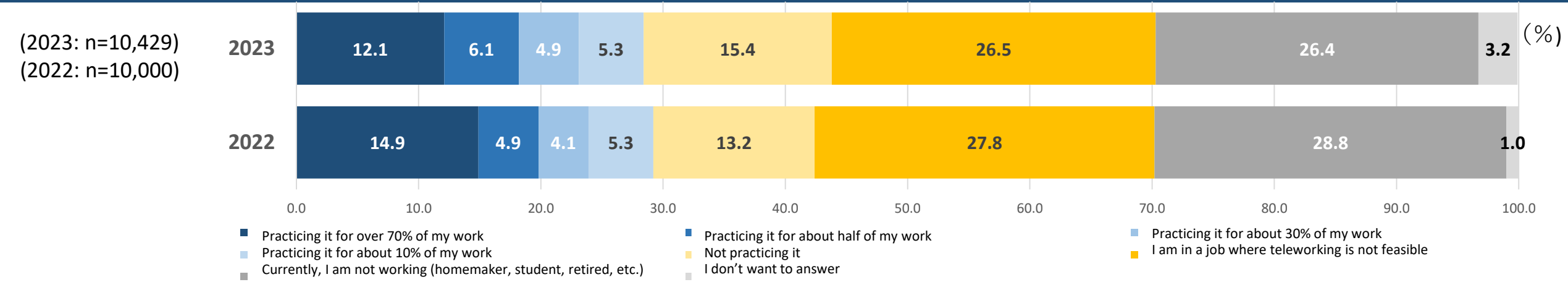
However, the proportion of those who "always do" has **decreased by about 15% compared to the survey results of March last year.**

(4) Regarding "**avoiding going to work or going out when feeling unwell**," the proportion of those who answered "always" or "mostly" is about **75%**.

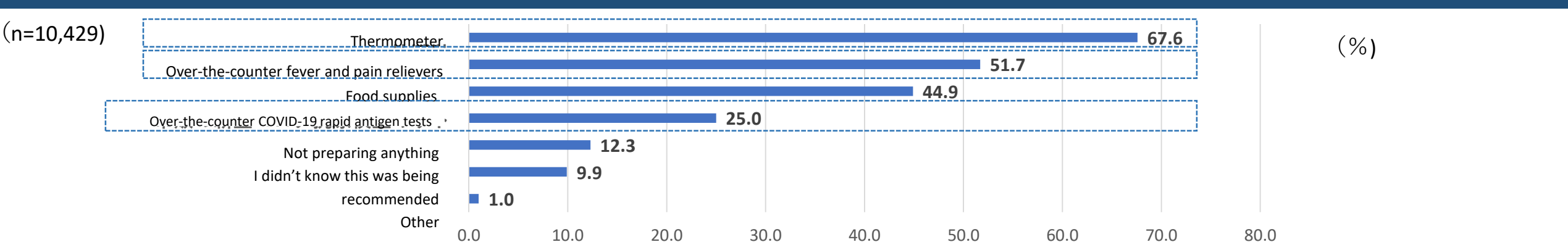
However, the proportion of those who are "always" has **decreased by about 20% compared to the survey results of March last year.**

# To those working: In the past month, how much have you practiced teleworking?

Please select one option that applies.



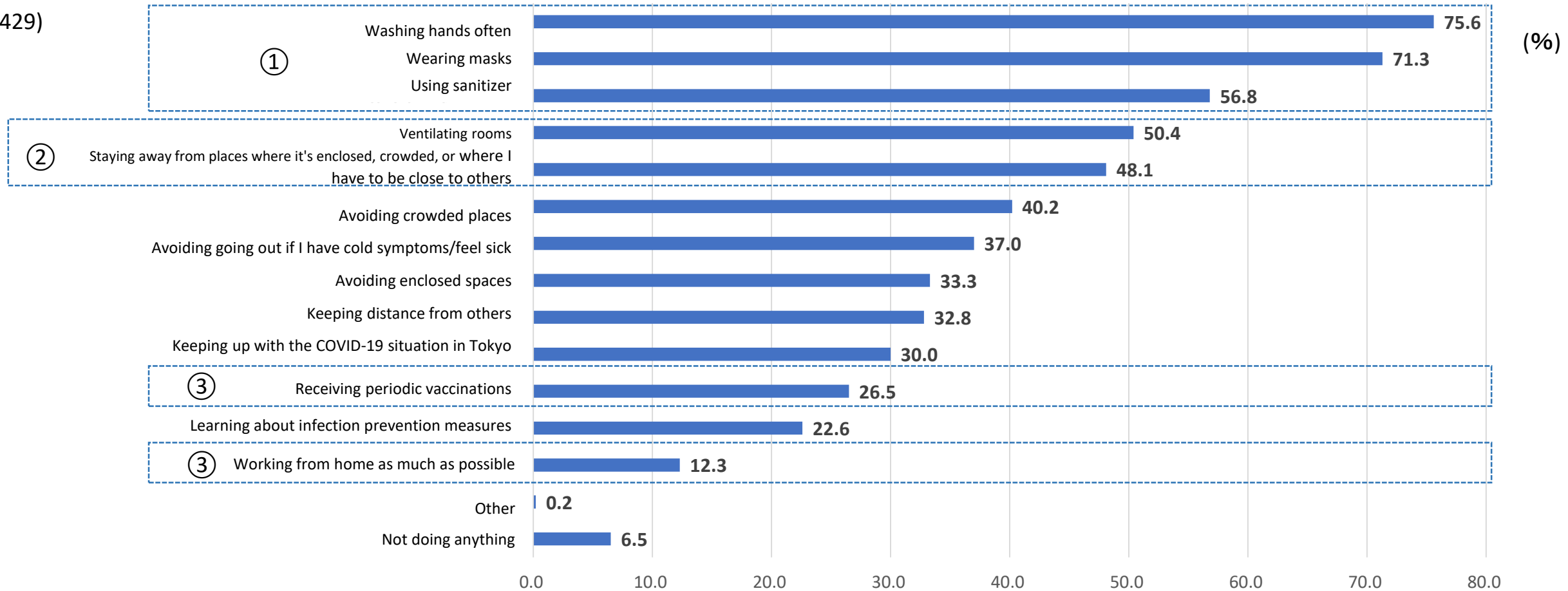
# Tokyo residents are being recommended to prepare things like test kits, medicine, and food in anticipation of COVID-19. Please select everything you are preparing.



- ◆ **About 30%** of people were **practicing telework** at the time of the survey, which is **similar to the survey results from March last year**.  
(However, this percentage rises to about **60%** when excluding those who are in jobs where telework is not possible or those who are currently not working.)
- ◆ **In preparation for COVID-19, about 70%** of people have prepared **thermometers**, and **about 50%** have prepared **over-the-counter fever and pain relievers**. Additionally, about **25%** of people have prepared **over-the-counter COVID-19 antigen test kits**.

# Which measures do you yourself intend to continue after May 8, 2023? Please select all that apply.

(n=10,429)



(1) Many people indicate they will **continue basic infection prevention measures** such as "frequent hand washing," "wearing masks," and "using sanitizer" even after the classification change on May 8th.

(2) **About 50%** intend to continue **ventilating rooms** and **avoiding the three C's**.

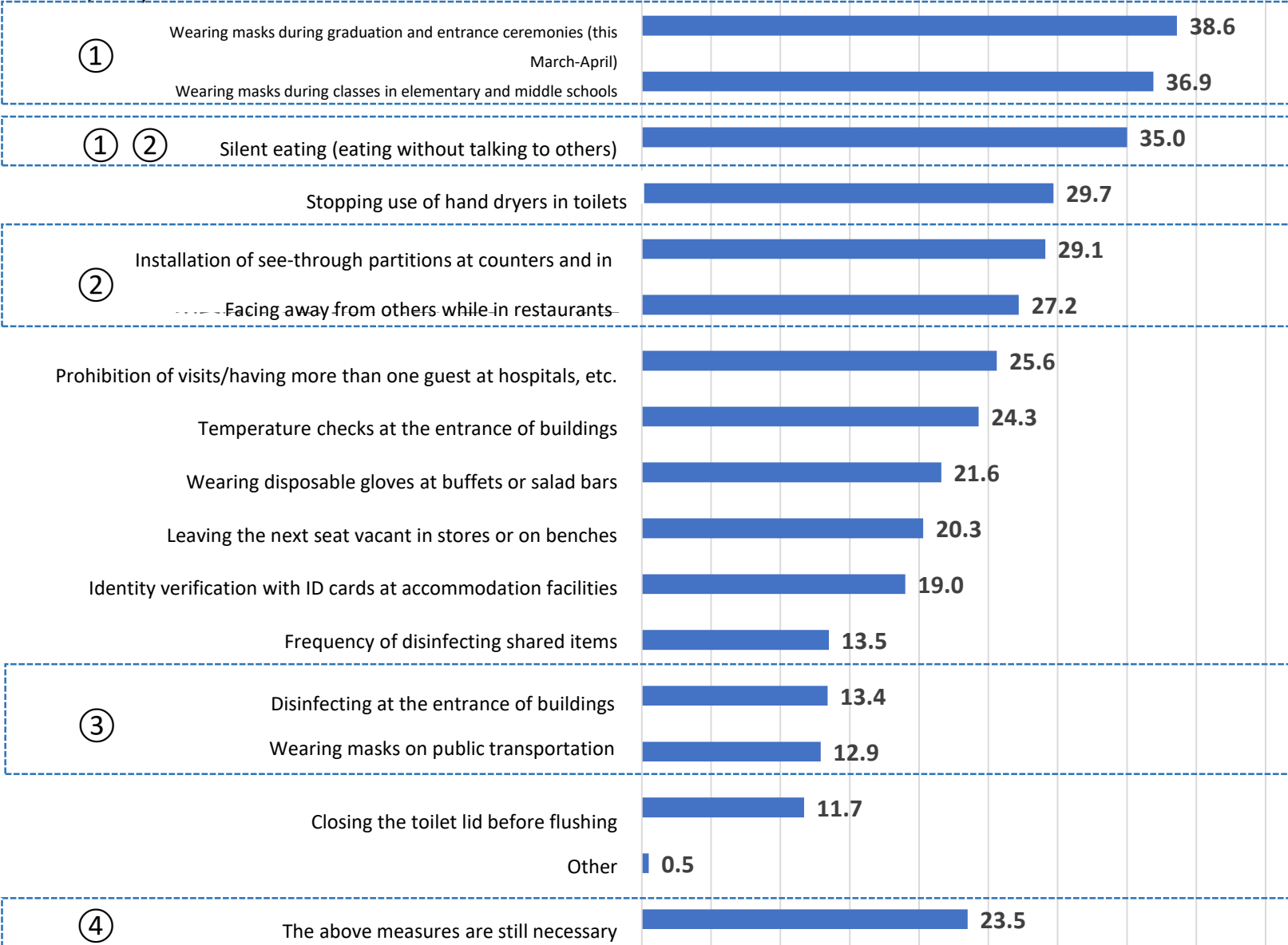
(3) **The intention to have regular vaccinations and telework is lower.**

(For **teleworking**, about **25%** of respondents, excluding those currently **not working or in jobs where telework is not possible**, intend to continue.)

# What infection prevention measures do you think should be stopped? Please select all that apply.

(n=10,429)

(%)



(1) For "wearing masks during graduation and entrance ceremonies," "wearing masks during classes," and "silent eating," **over 35%** of people responded that it should be stopped. **It can be inferred that there is a significant desire to relax measures that restrict children's lives.**

(2) Regarding dining, about **30%** of people also responded that "silent eating," "installation of see-through partitions at counters and in restaurants," and "facing away from others while in restaurants" should be stopped.

(3) **about 10%** of people think that "disinfecting at the entrance of buildings" and "wearing masks on public transportation" should be stopped.

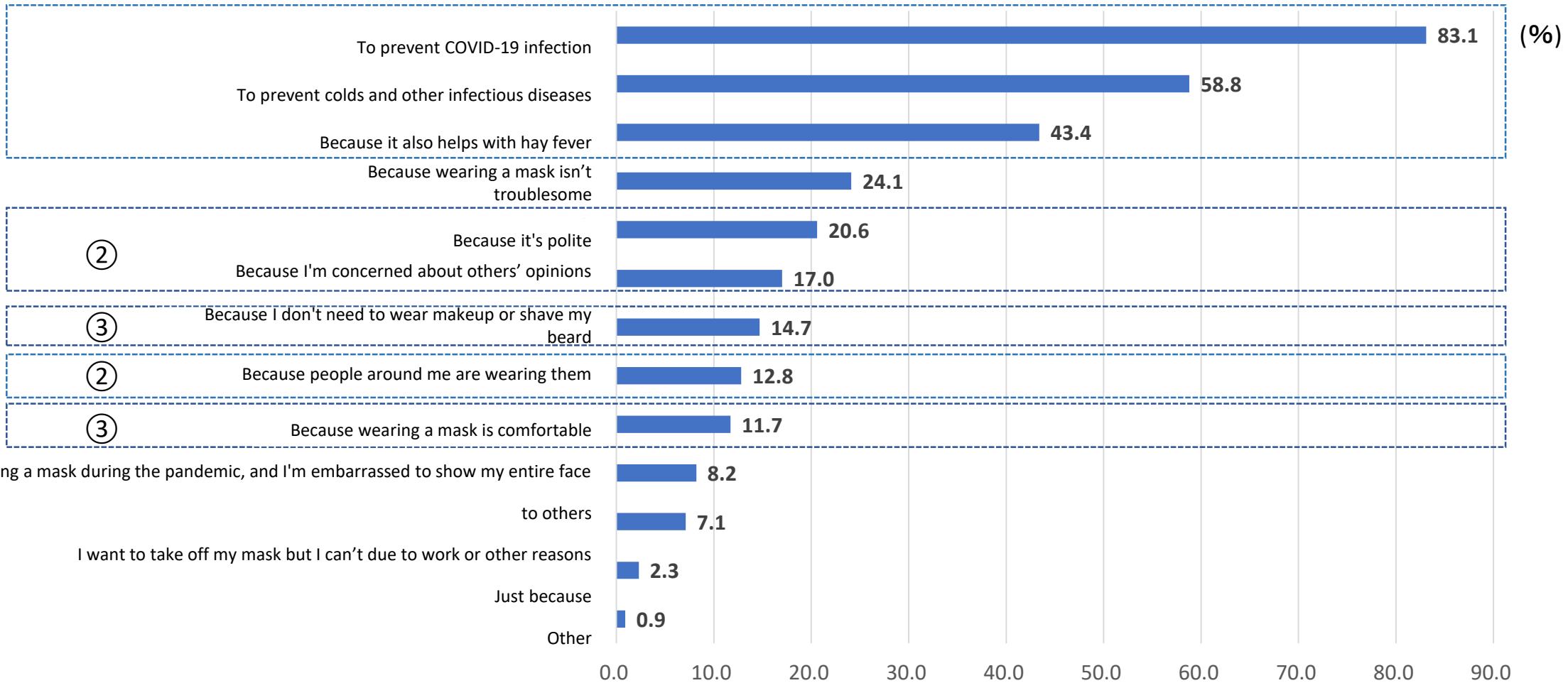
(4) On the other hand, **over 20%** of people responded that **the above measures are still necessary.**

0.0 5.0 10.0 15.0 20.0 25.0 30.0 35.0 40.0 45.0

# To those that answered that “wearing masks” is still necessary. Why do you think so?

Please select all that apply.

(n=7,437)

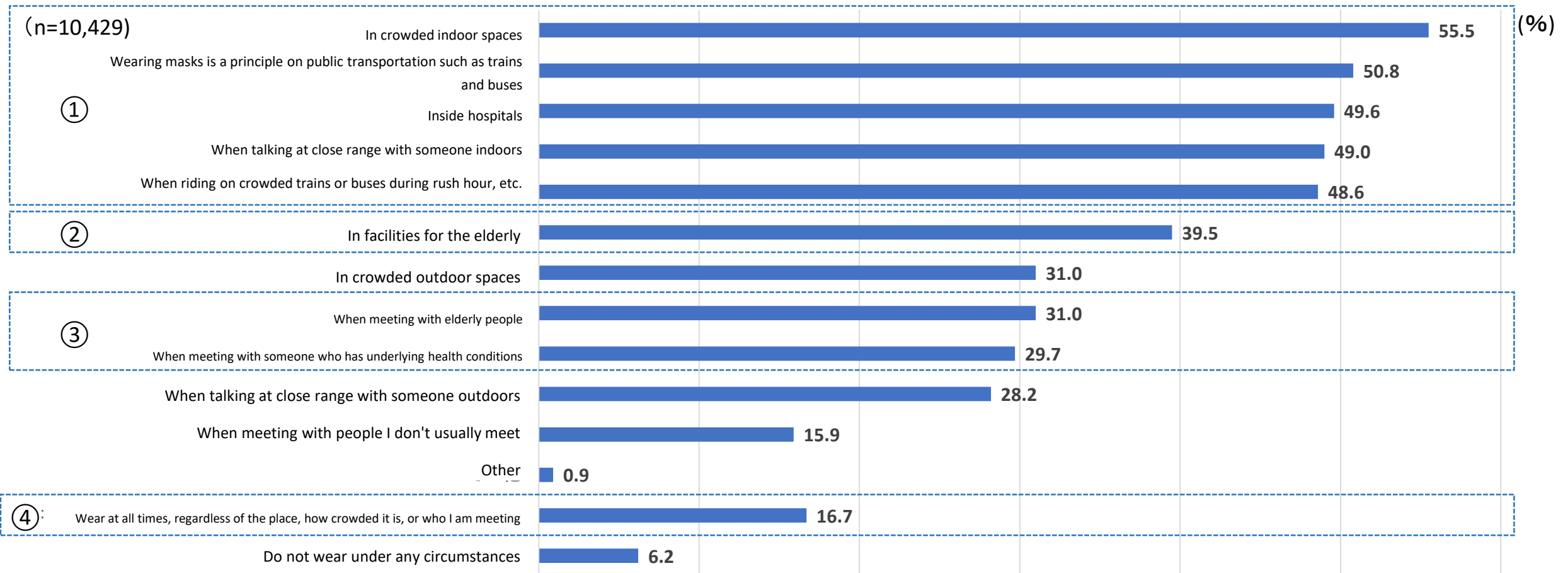


(1) The reasons given by those who answered they will continue “wearing masks” include “to prevent COVID-19 infection” at about 85%, “to prevent colds and other infectious diseases” at about 60%, and “because it also helps with hay fever measures” at about 45%, indicating that many wear them as health protection measures.

(2) “Because it's polite” accounted for about 20%, “because I'm concerned about others' opinions” about 15%, and “because people around me are wearing them” also about 15%.

(3) “Because I don't need to wear makeup or shave my beard” was about 15%, and “because wearing a mask is comfortable” was about 10%.

# We would like more details about your mask usage. In what kind of situations do you plan to continue wearing them? Please select all that apply.



(1) The scenes where respondents wear masks include "in crowded indoor spaces," "on public transportation," "inside hospitals," "indoors when talking at close range with someone," and "on crowded trains or buses during rush hour" with response rates **around 50%**.

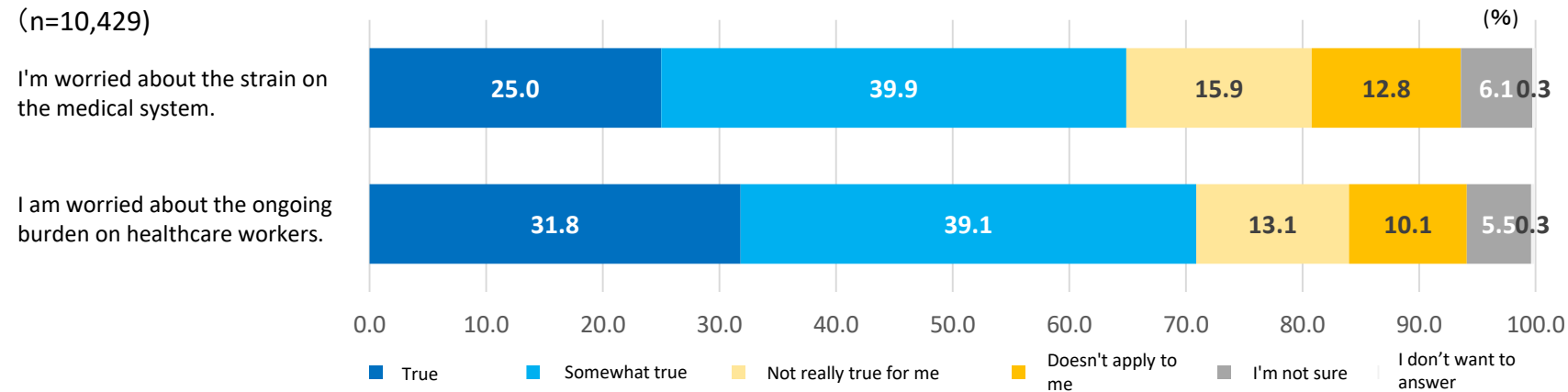
(2) The response rate for "in facilities for the elderly" is **about 40%**.

(3) The response rates for "when meeting with elderly people" and "when meeting with someone who has underlying health conditions" are **around 30%**.

(4) Adding those who answered, "always wear" (16.7%) to the above categories ①, ②, and ③, the rates of mask-wearing become about **70% for ①, about 55% for ②, and about 45% for ③.**

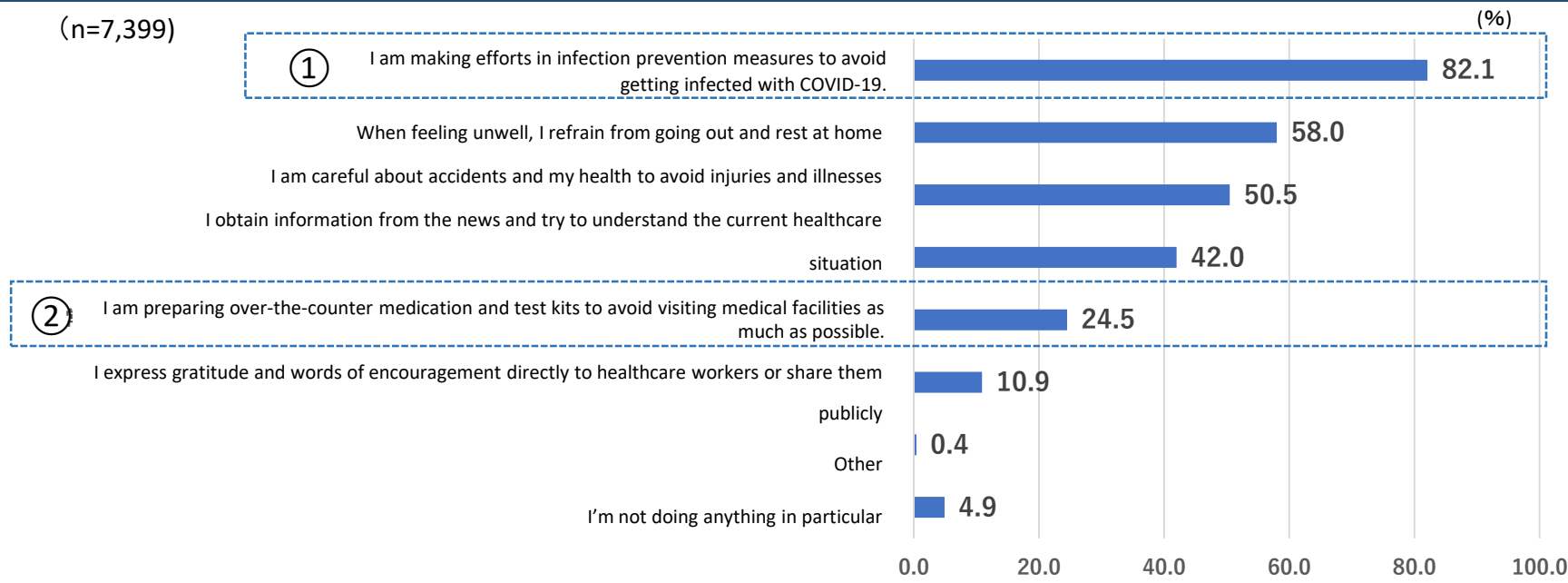


# Feelings about the medical care system and the burden on healthcare workers (excerpted from "What applies to your feelings about COVID-19")



- ◆ Regarding COVID-19, about **65%** of people answered true/somewhat true to being worried about the strain on the medical system.
- ◆ About **70%** of people answered true/somewhat true to being worried about the ongoing burden on healthcare workers.

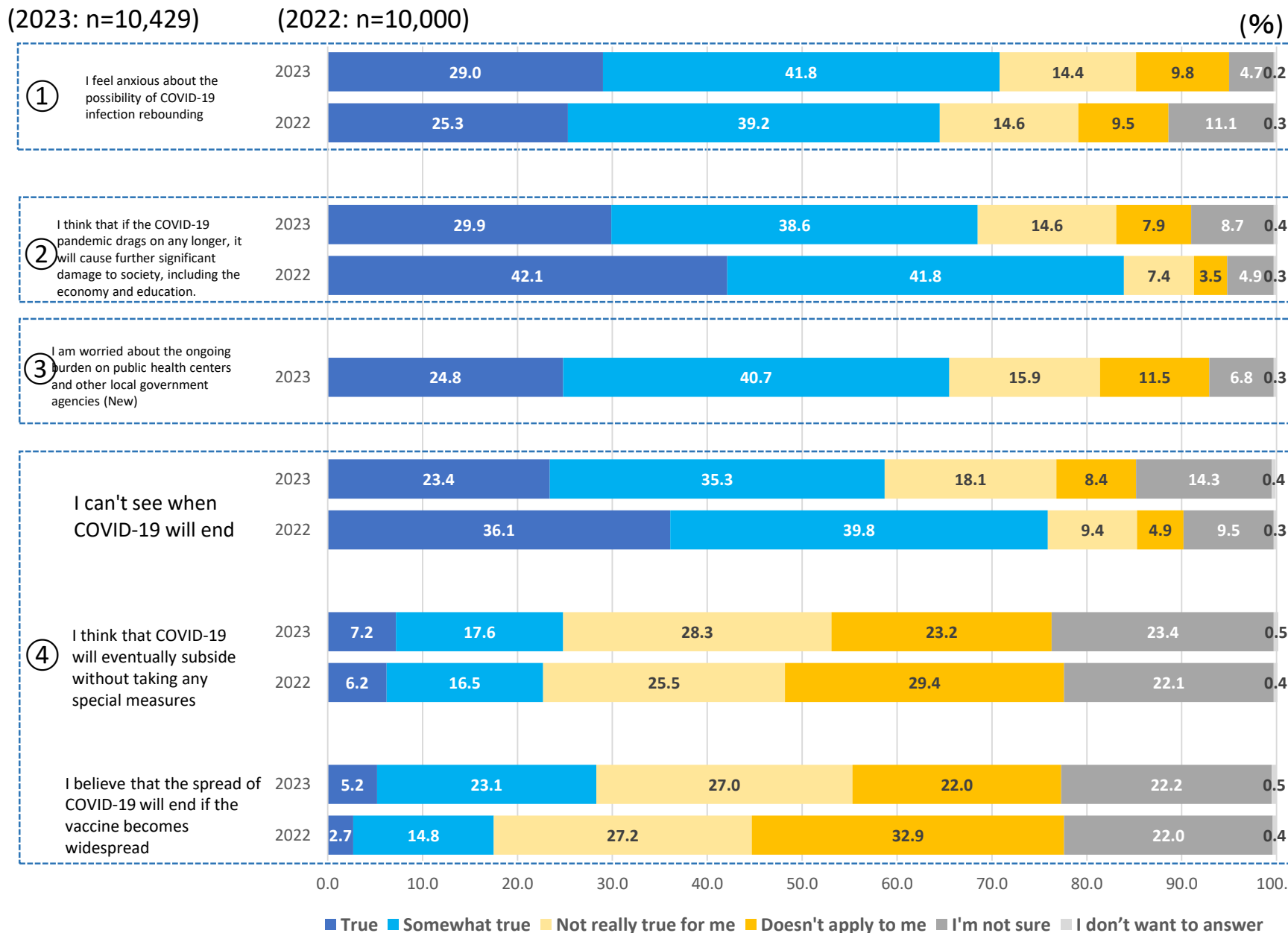
## To those who answered true/somewhat true for "I am worried about the ongoing burden on healthcare workers." What actions are you taking to reduce this burden?



(1) **Around 80%** answered "I am making efforts in infection prevention measures to avoid getting infected with COVID-19."

(2) The proportion of people who answered "I am preparing over-the-counter medication and test kits to avoid visiting medical facilities as much as possible" is **about 25%**.

# Q3 Please select each item that applies to your feelings regarding COVID-19.



(1) **About 70%** of people answered "true/somewhat true" to having anxiety about the infection spreading again. (This is an increase of about 6% from the March survey last year.)

(2) **About 70%** of people think that if the epidemic continues any longer, it will cause further significant damage to society, including the economy and education (this is a decrease of about 15% from the March survey last year).

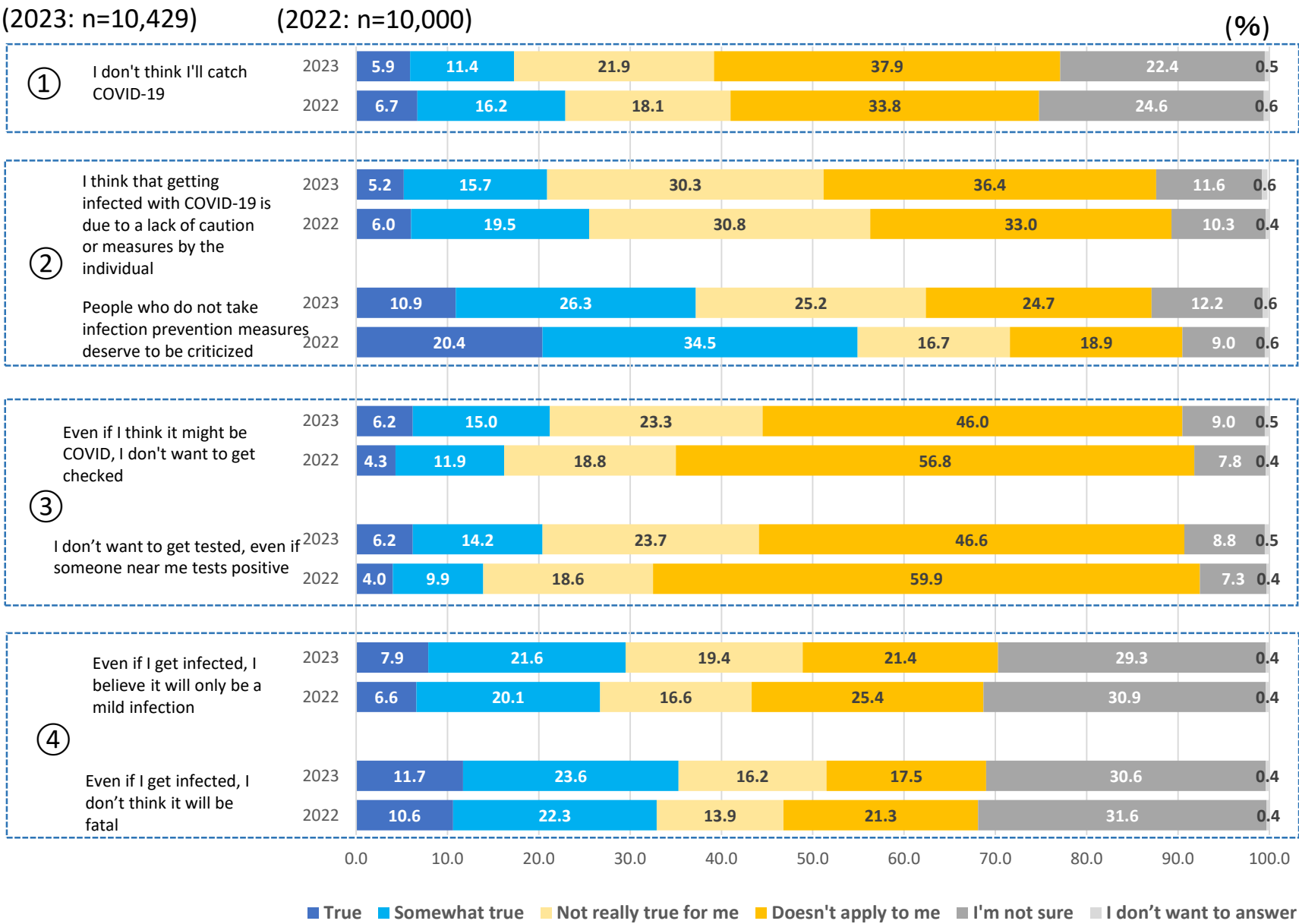
(3) **About 65%** of people are worried about the ongoing burden on public health centers and other local government agencies.

(4) **About 60%** of people answered "true/somewhat true" to not having a clear outlook on when COVID-19 will end, which is a decrease of about 15% from the results of the March survey last year.

The proportion of those who think "COVID-19 will eventually subside without taking any special measures" is **about 25%**, similar to the March survey last year.

The proportion of people who believe the spread of COVID-19 will end with the widespread administration of vaccines is **about 30%**, an increase of about 10% from the March survey last year.

# Q3 Please select each item that applies to your feelings regarding COVID-19.



(1) The proportion of people who answered “I don't think I'll catch COVID-19” is **about 15%**, a decrease of about 5% from the March survey last year.

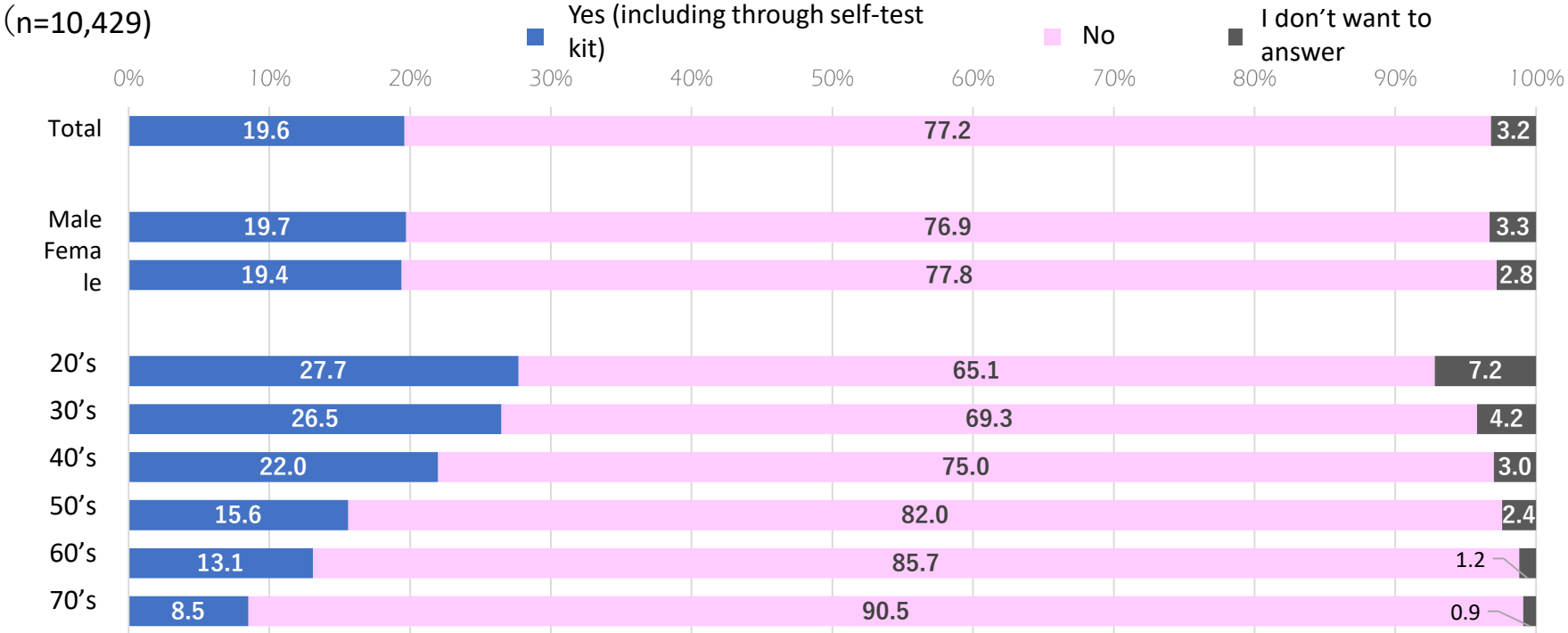
(2) The proportion of people who believe “getting infected with COVID-19 is due to a lack of caution or measures by the individual” is **about 20%**, a decrease of about 5% from the March survey last year.

The proportion of people who think “people who do not take infection prevention measures deserve to be criticized” is **about 35%**, a decrease of over 15% from the March survey last year.

(3) The proportion of people who answered “true/mostly true” to “even if I think it might be COVID, I don't want to get checked.” and “I don't want to get tested even if there are cases around me” is **about 20%**, an increase of about 5% from the March survey last year.

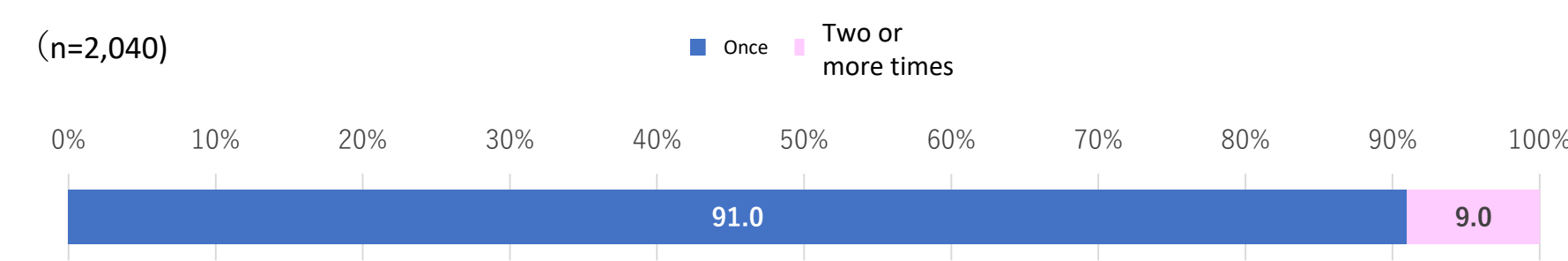
(4) The proportion of people who answered “true/somewhat applicable” to “It will only be mild” and “It won't be fatal” are **about 30% and 35% respectively**, slightly increased from the March survey last year.

# Have you ever been tested positive for COVID-19? Please select one option that applies.



- ◆ Among the respondents, **19.6%** (n=2,040) have tested positive.
- ◆ Examining by gender and age, there is **no difference by gender**, but a higher proportion is seen in the younger generations.

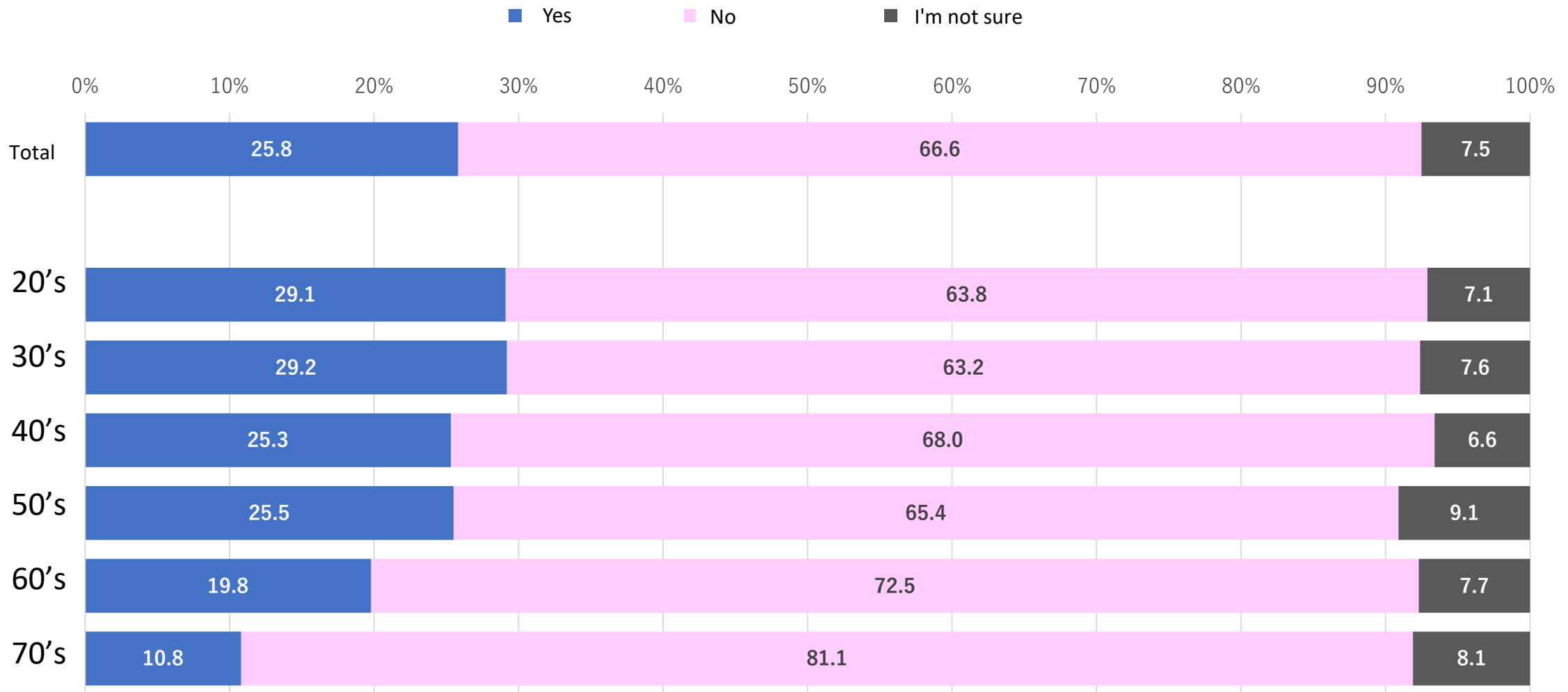
## (For those who have received a positive COVID-19 diagnosis) How many times have you been diagnosed as COVID-19 positive?



- ◆ Amongst those who tested positive, **91%** had only tested positive once, and **9%** two or more times.

# (For those who have tested positive) Have you had symptoms that made you suspect long COVID conditions for a period of more than two months after being infectedd with COVID-19?

(n=2,040)

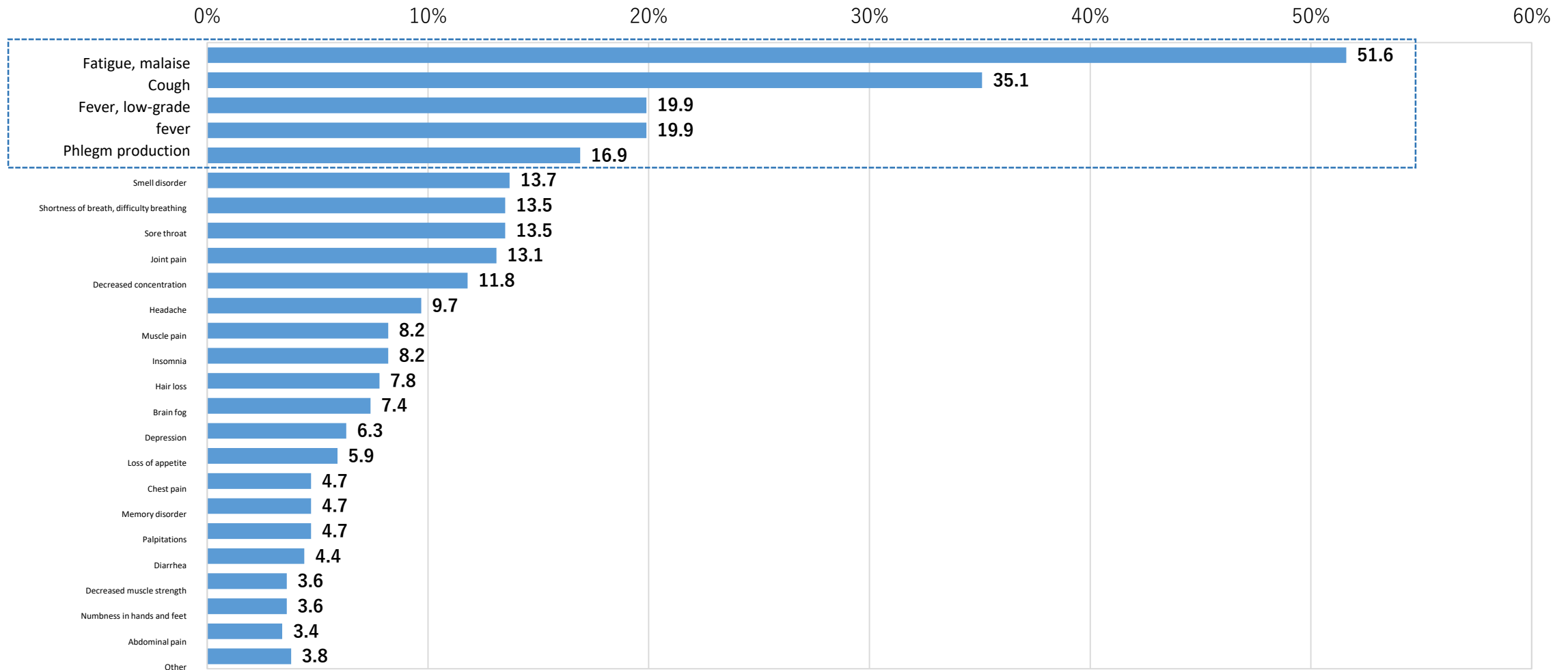


◆ Among those who have tested positive, **25.8%** had symptoms that made them suspect long COVID conditions for a **period of more than two months** after being infected. (n=527)

◆ **A certain number of people reporting symptoms of long COVID conditions were found across all age groups.**

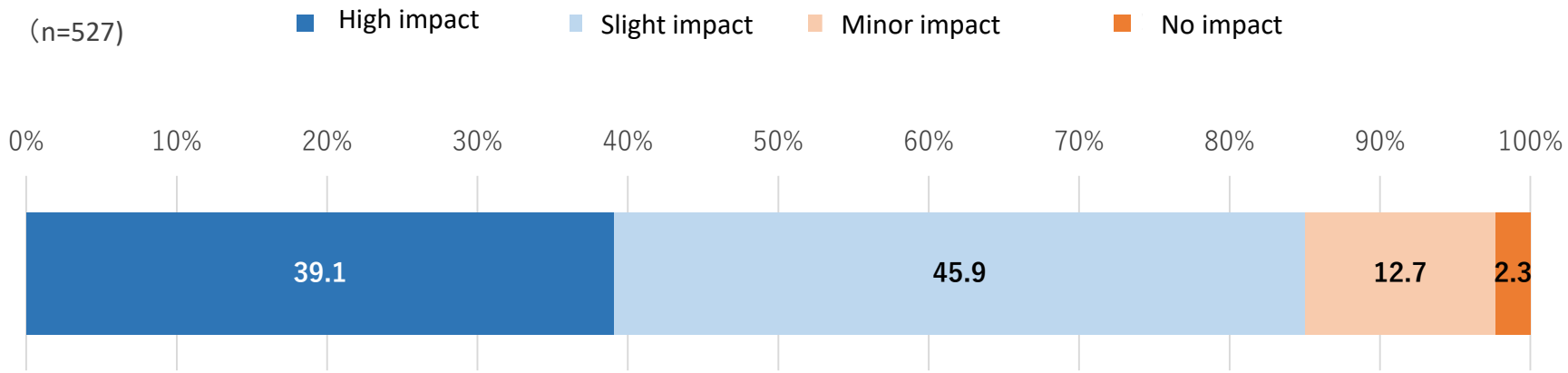
# What kind of symptoms did you experience? Select all that apply.

(n=527)



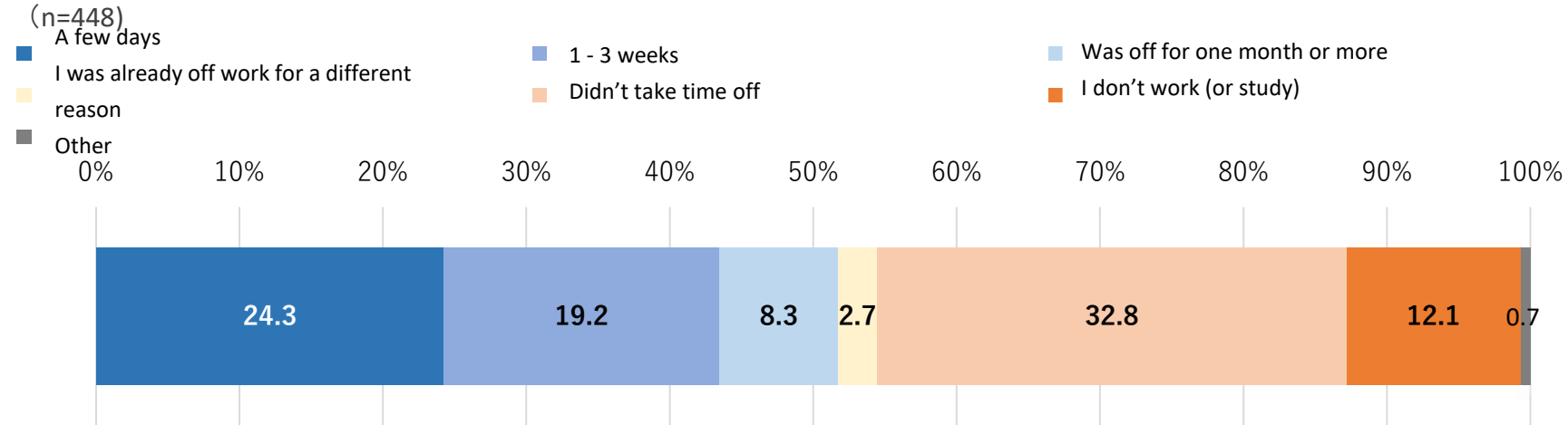
- ◆ Among those who answered they had symptoms suspecting long COVID conditions, "fatigue and malaise" was the most common at approximately half (51.6%), followed by "cough" (35.1%), "fever, low-grade fever" and "phlegm production" (each 19.9%), and "taste disorder" (16.9%).
- ◆ This means some are suffering for an extended period from symptoms that are not typically associated with the common cold.

# How much did these long COVID symptoms interfere with your daily life?



◆ Among those who answered they had symptoms suspecting long COVID conditions, **85%** reported that the long COVID symptoms had **"highly/slightly"** impacted their daily lives.

## (For those who experienced high/slight impacts in daily life due to long COVID symptoms) Have you ever had to take time off work (or school) due to long COVID conditions?



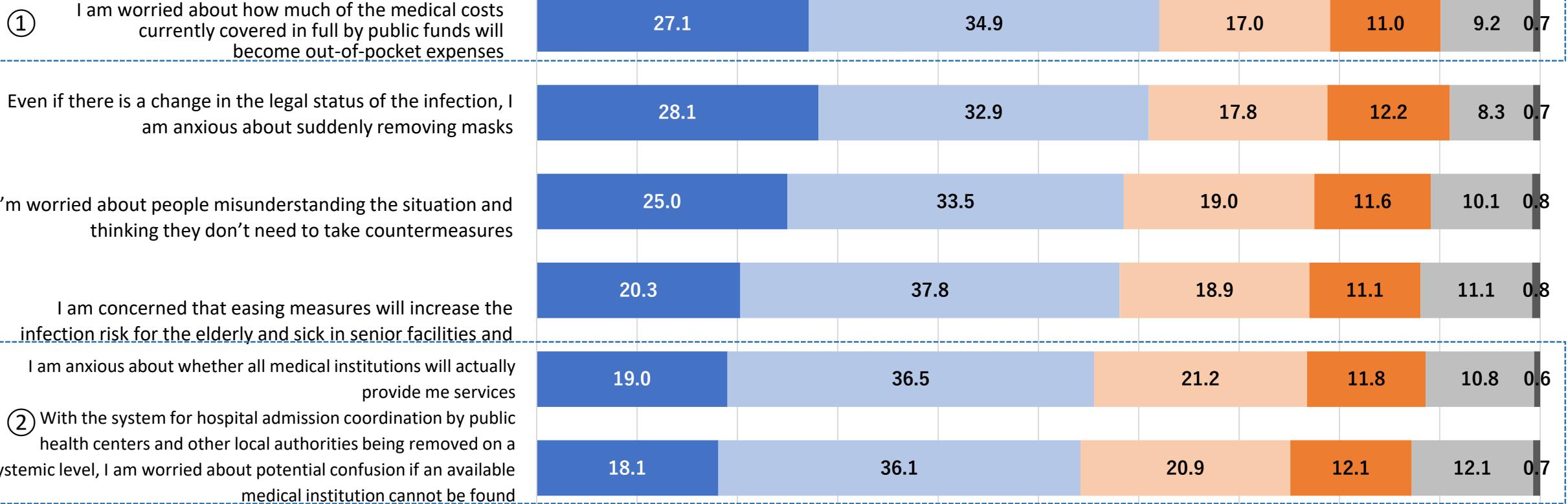
◆ Among those who reported that long COVID symptoms had **high/slight impacts** in their daily lives, **more than half** have taken time off from work (or school).

# What do you think about the reclassification of COVID-19 from May 8, 2023?

(n=10,429)

■ True 
 ■ Somewhat true 
 ■ Not really true for me 
 ■ Doesn't apply to me 
 ■ I'm not sure 
 ■ I don't want to answer

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%



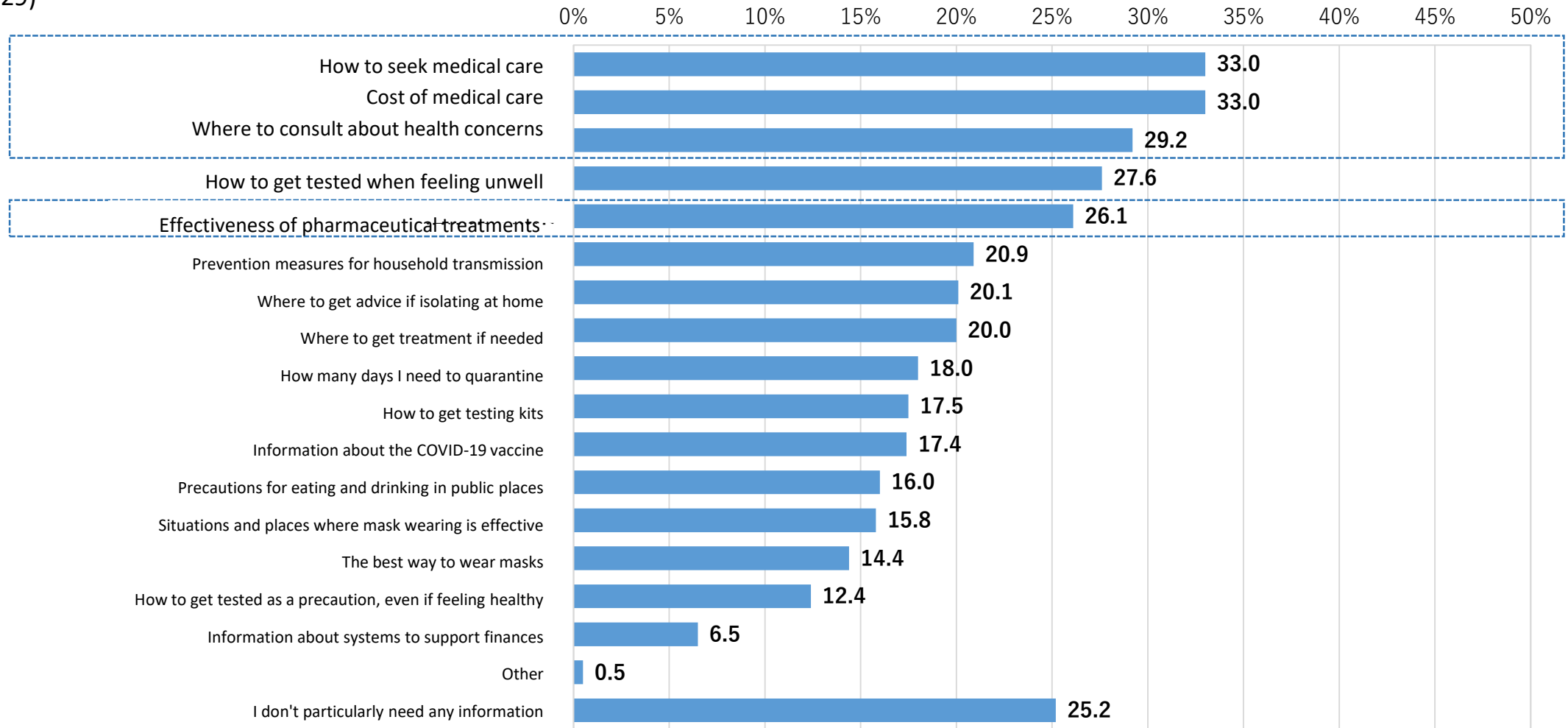
(1) **Regarding future concerns about infection measures and healthcare, over 60%** are worried about "how much of the medical costs will become out-of-pocket expenses."

(2) **More than 50%** are also anxious about "which medical institutions will provide treatment" and "potential confusion when searching for an available medical institution"



# Please select any information you desire regarding COVID-19.

(n=10,429)



◆ **The most sought-after information** for the future includes "how to seek medical care" and "cost of medical care," each at **33%**. Following these, "where to consult about health concerns" at **29.2%** and "effectiveness of pharmaceutical treatments" at **26.1%** indicate a **high demand for clear information related to healthcare.**