



Comhairle na nDochtúirí Leighis
Medical Council

Survey of Public Attitudes to Doctors' Professionalism

Published July 2015



Background & Methodology

- The Medical Council regularly undertakes research with the general public to inform its activities.
- In 2014, Amárach Research was commissioned to conduct a bespoke face-to-face survey.
- Interviewing was conducted with respondents in their own home by trained Amárach Field Staff.
- A combination of quota controls and weighting was used to ensure the sample of 1,000 adults aged 16+ is aligned to the population in terms of gender, age, social class and region.
- Fieldwork took place 20th October – 25th November 2014.



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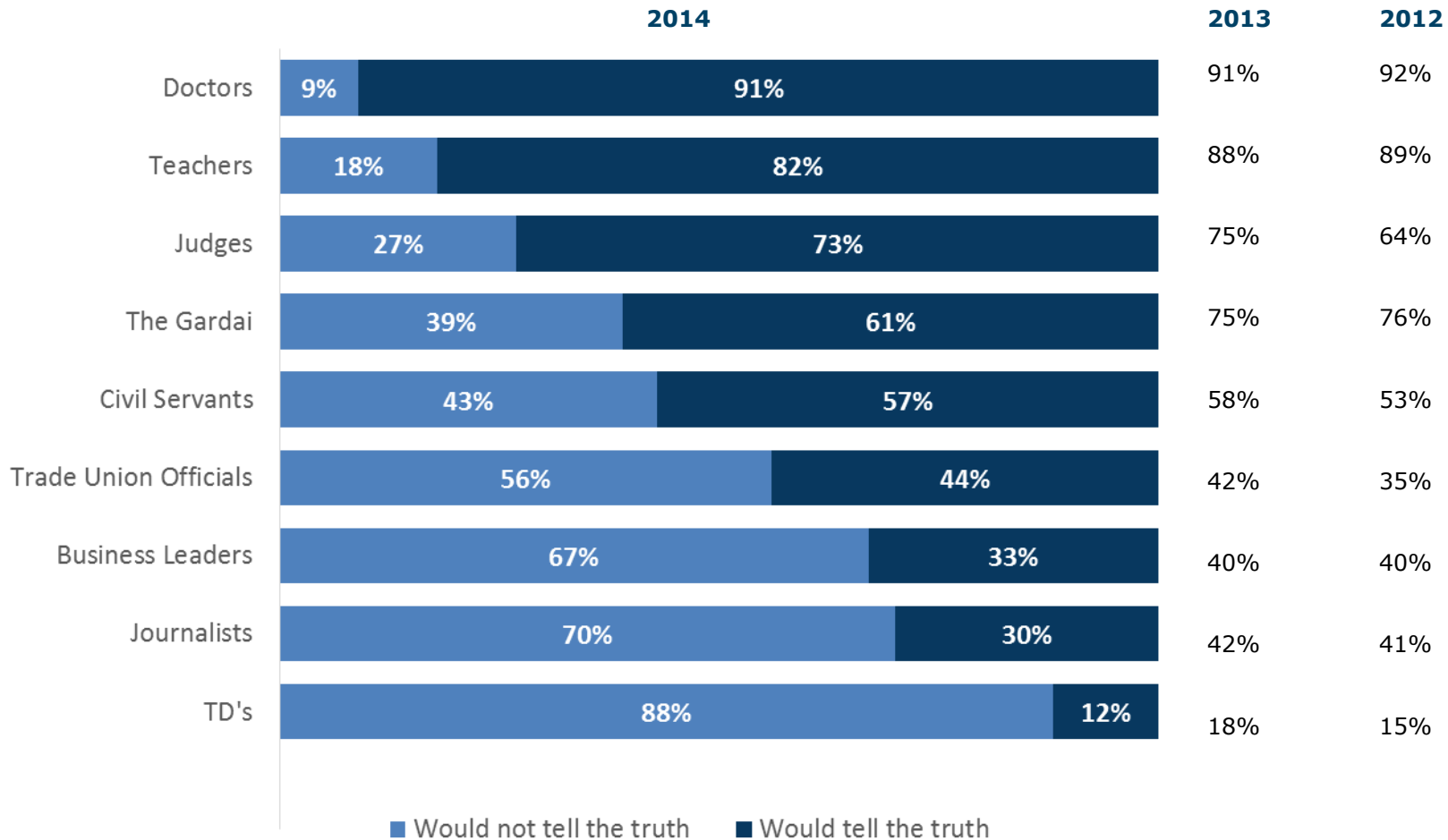
Trust in Doctors



Doctors remain the most trusted profession

(Base: All adults aged 16+ years)

Can you please tell if you trust each of the professions listed to tell the truth or not?



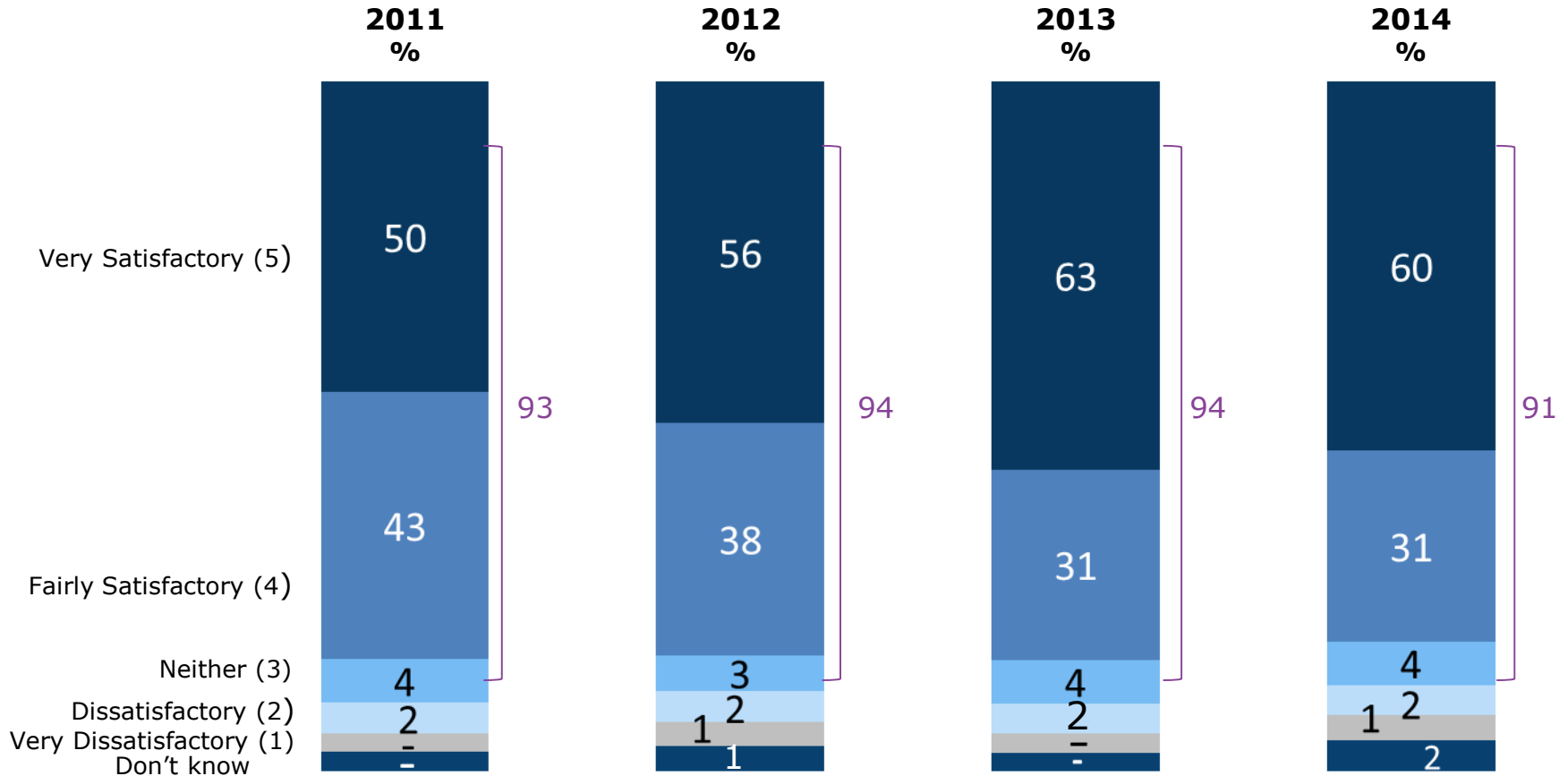
*Number of professions reduced in 2014



Rating of Doctor Attended Most Often

(Base: All adults aged 16+ years)

How would you rate your overall experience of the doctor you attend most often?





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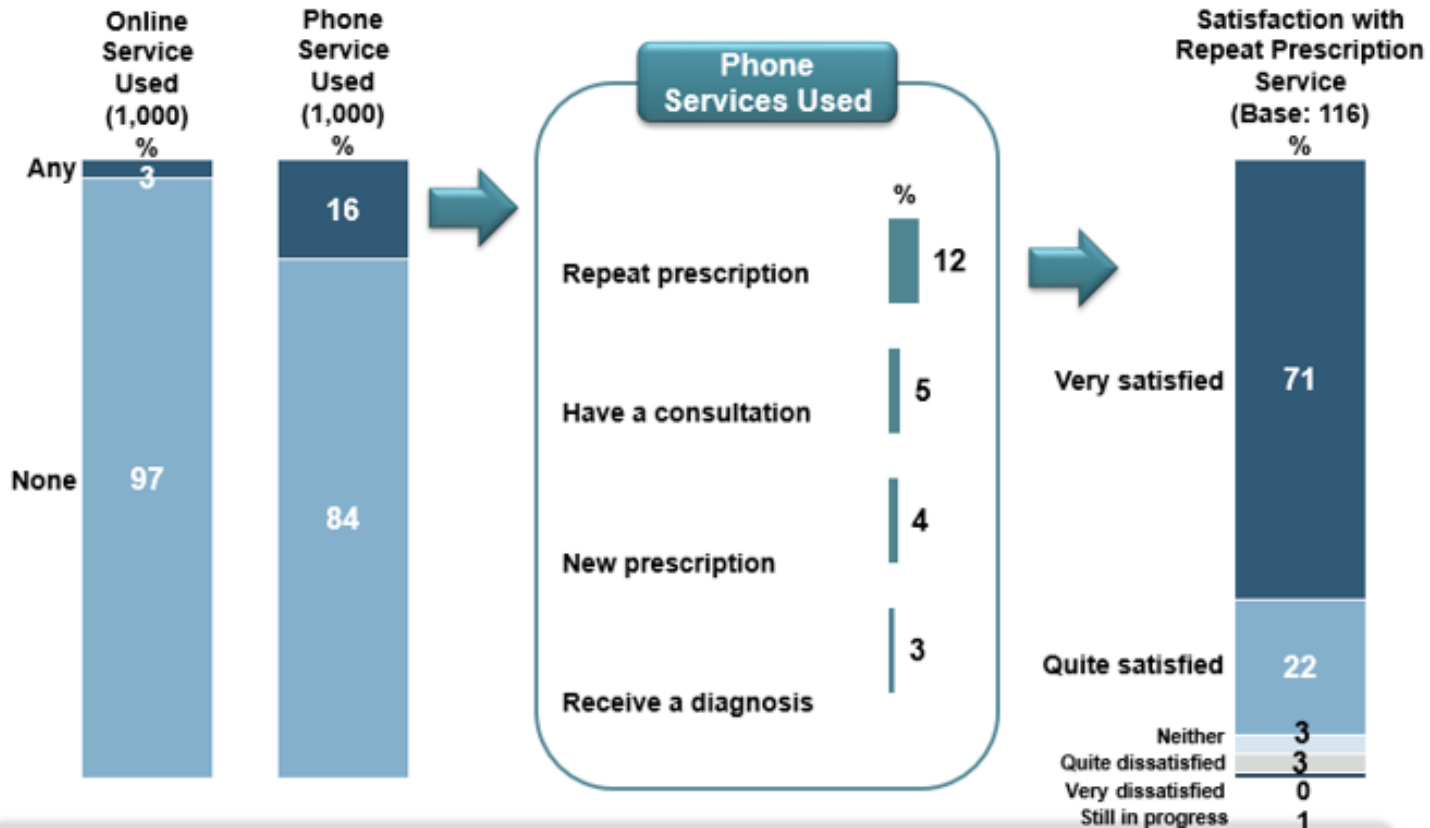
Accessing Doctors' Services Online or by Phone



Incidence of Using Telemedicine Services

Telemedicine is the use of technology such as telephones, websites, skype etc. to get clinical health care. Have you used telemedicine services **online/ over the phone** to.....?

(Base: All Adults aged 16+ years)

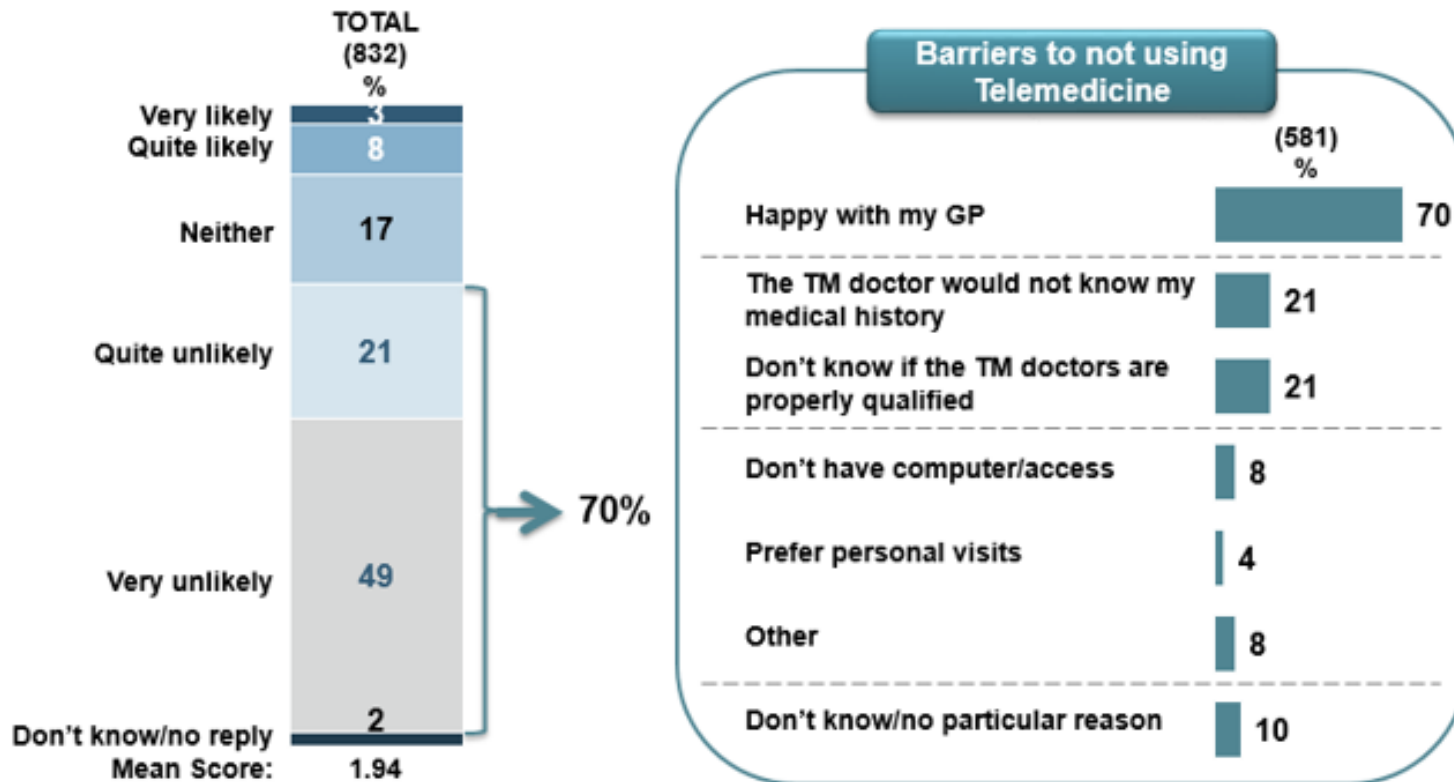




Likelihood of Using a Telemedicine Service

How likely or unlikely are you to use a telemedicine service in the next year or so?

(Base: All who have not used a telemedicine service)



There is currently modest interest in using telemedicine. For those unlikely to use such a service in the near future, the main barrier is inertia – 7 in 10 are happy with their GP – although 1 in 5 are concerned about the medical qualifications held by TM practitioners.



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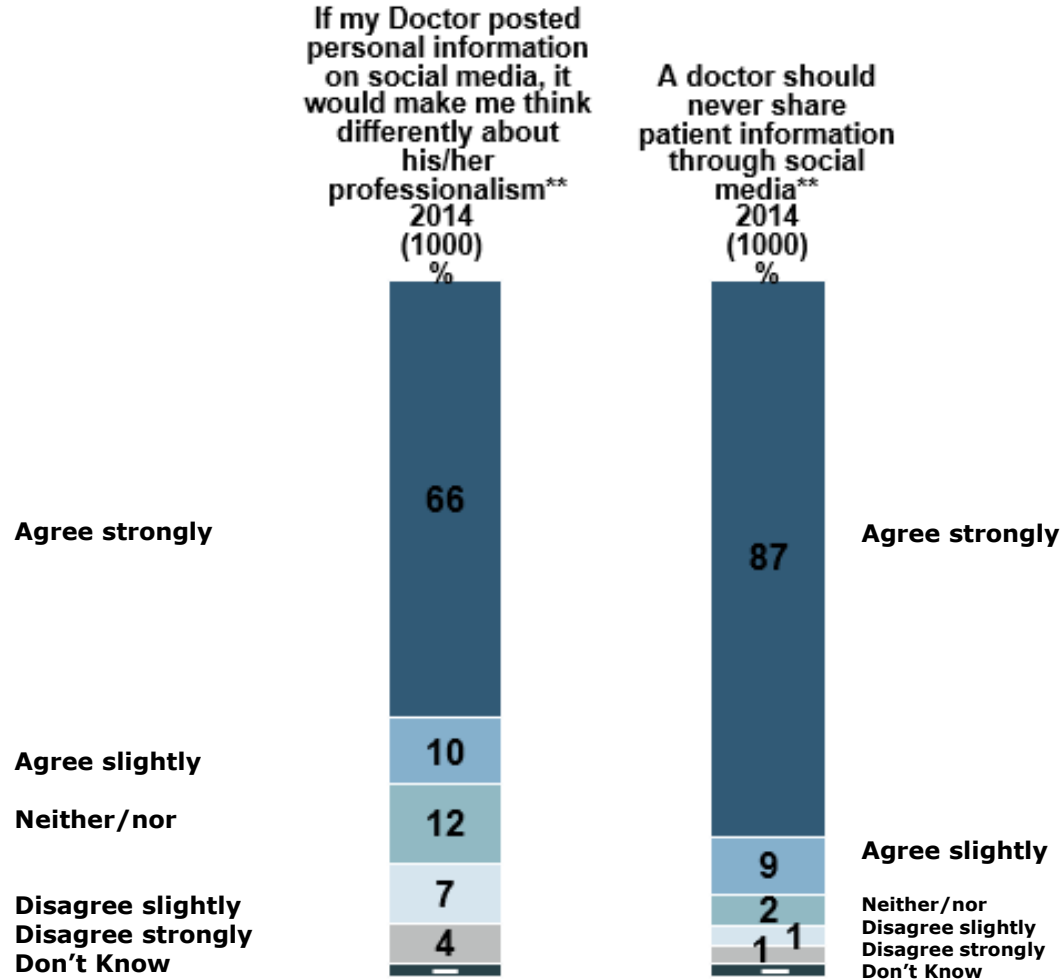
Doctors' Use of Social Media



Public Views of Doctors' Social Media Use

(Base: All Adults aged 16+ years)

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?





Doctors & Social Media

(Base: All adults aged 16+ years)

'If my Doctor posted personal information on social media, it would make me think differently about his/her professionalism.'

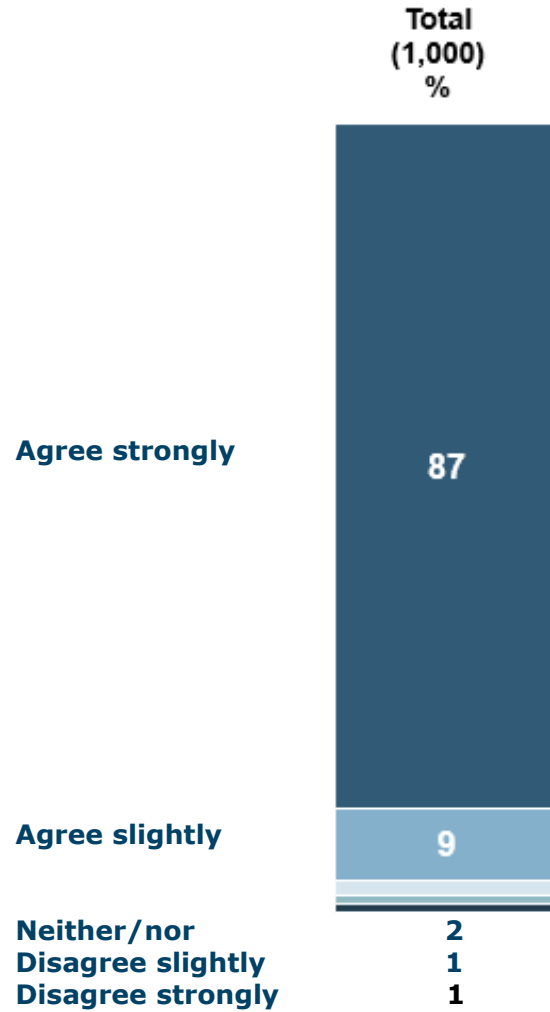
	Total (1,000) %	Age 16-24 (147)	Age 25-34 (213)	Age 35-49 (282)	Age 50-64 (208)	Age 65+ (150)
Agree strongly	66	64	64	64	71	70
Agree slightly	10	10	10	14	9	7
Neither/nor	12	13	11	12	10	11
Disagree slightly	7	8	8	7	5	8
Disagree strongly	4	5	6	3	4	4
Don't know	*	-	1	*	-	-



Doctors & Social Media

(Base: All adults aged 16+ years)

'A Doctor should never share patient information through social media'





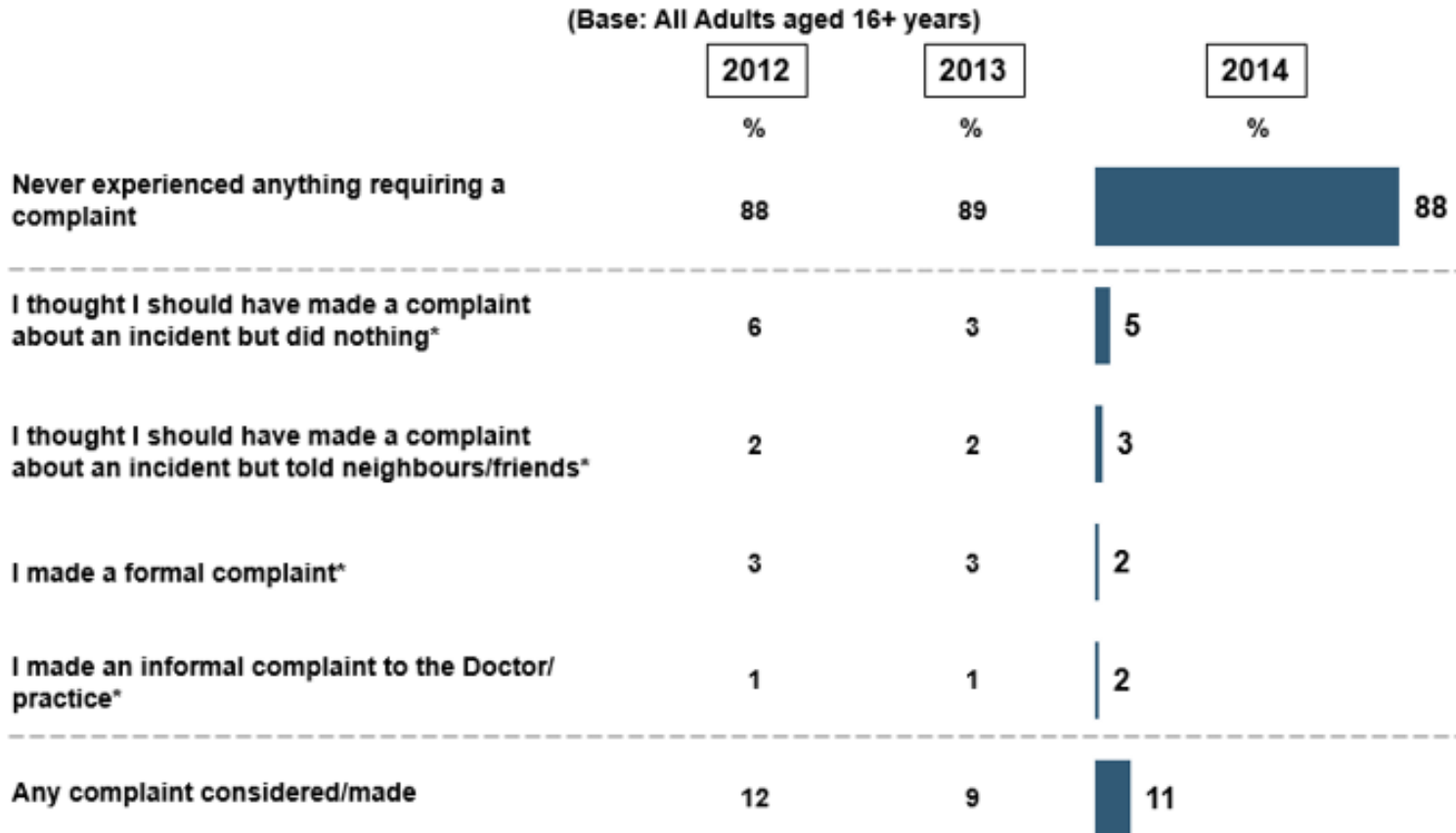
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Public views on complaints



Majority have never needed to complain about their doctor

Which of the following statements best describes your past experience in relation to making a complaint about a doctor?

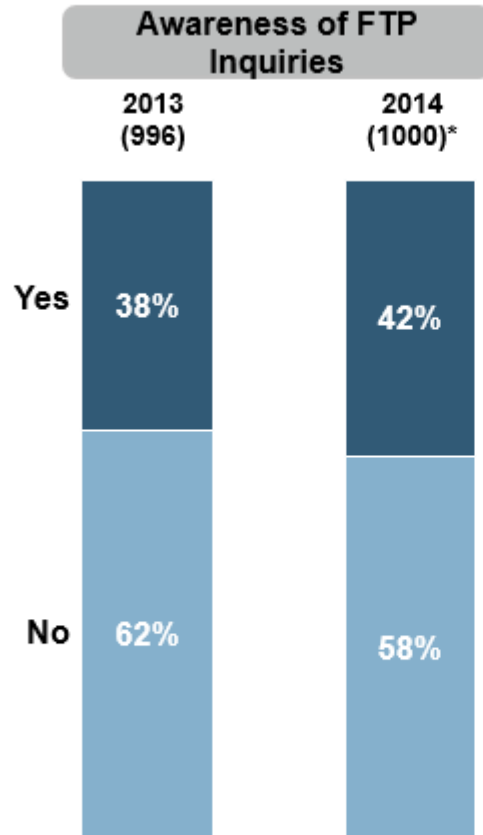


*Wording change in 2014

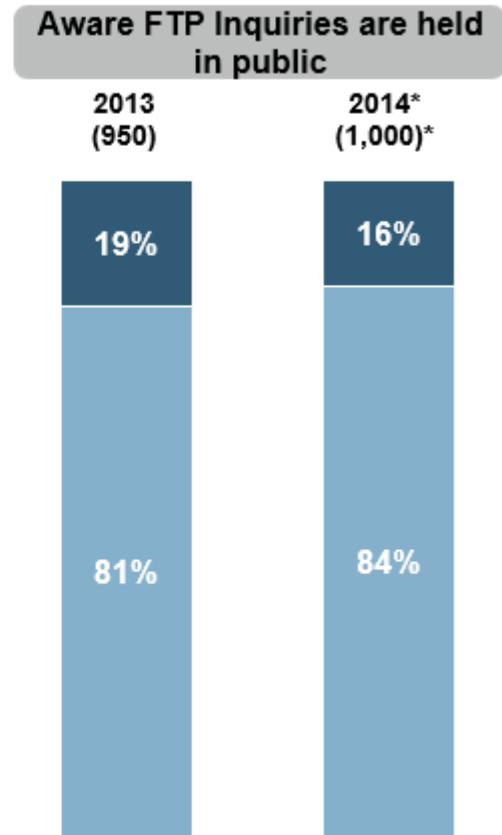


Awareness of Fitness to Practise Inquires

Were you aware of FTP inquiries before today? (Base: All adults aged 16+ years)



Were you aware that FTP Inquiries are held in public?



A higher proportion (+4%) of adults claim to be aware of FTP Inquiries in 2014 although fewer of these appear to be aware that Inquiries are held in public (-3%).

*Routing change in 2014

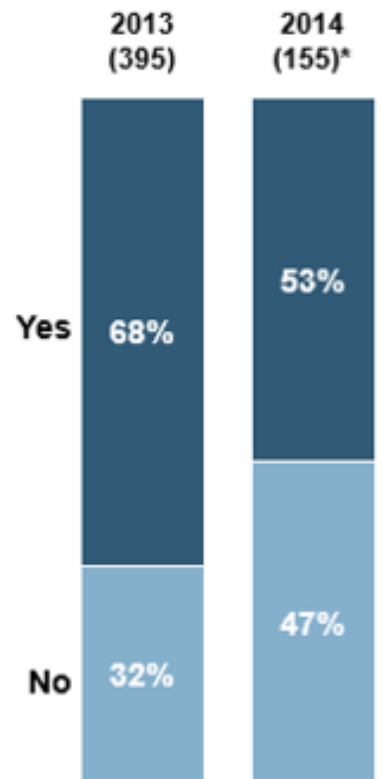


Awareness of Media Coverage of FTP Inquiries

(Base: All aware FTP Inquiries are held in public)

Have you seen or heard anything about FTP Inquiries involving doctors in the past year?

Aware of FTP Media Coverage



*Routing change in 2014



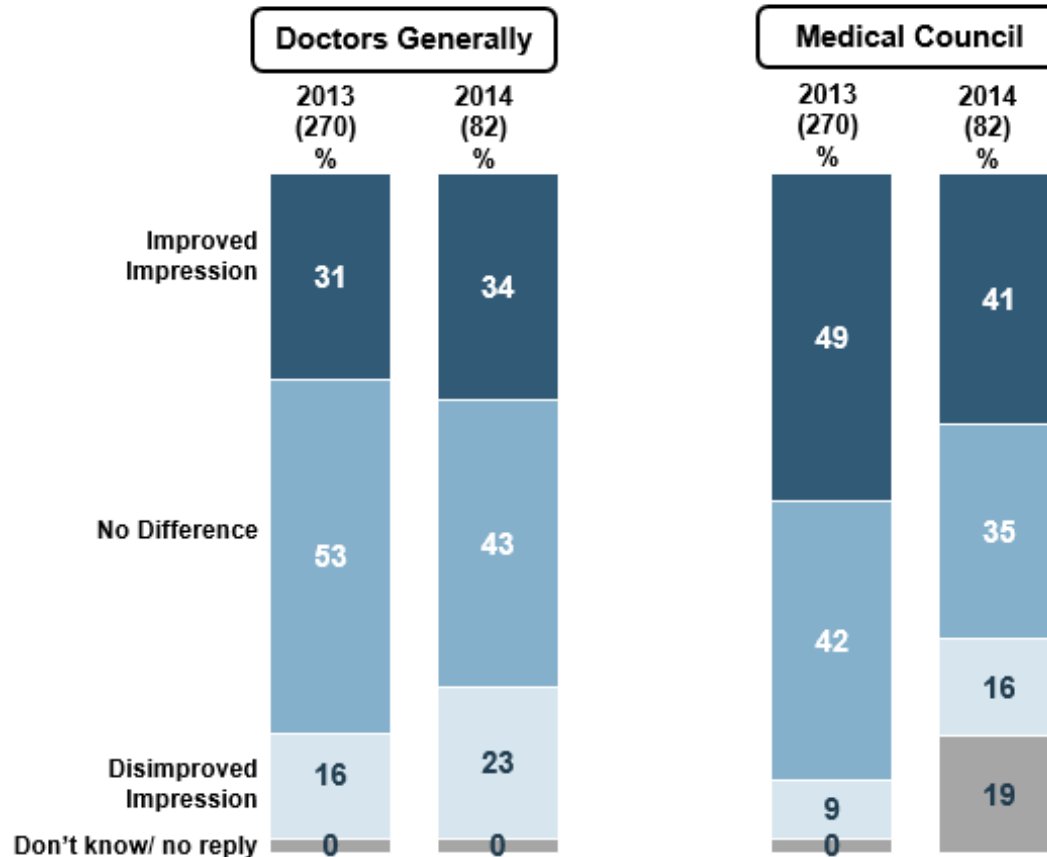
Impact of Fitness to Practise Media Coverage

Has the media coverage of Fitness to Practise inquiries that you have seen or heard?

(Base: All aware FTP Inquiries are held in public)

Impact of FTP Media Coverage

(Base: All aware of coverage in past year)





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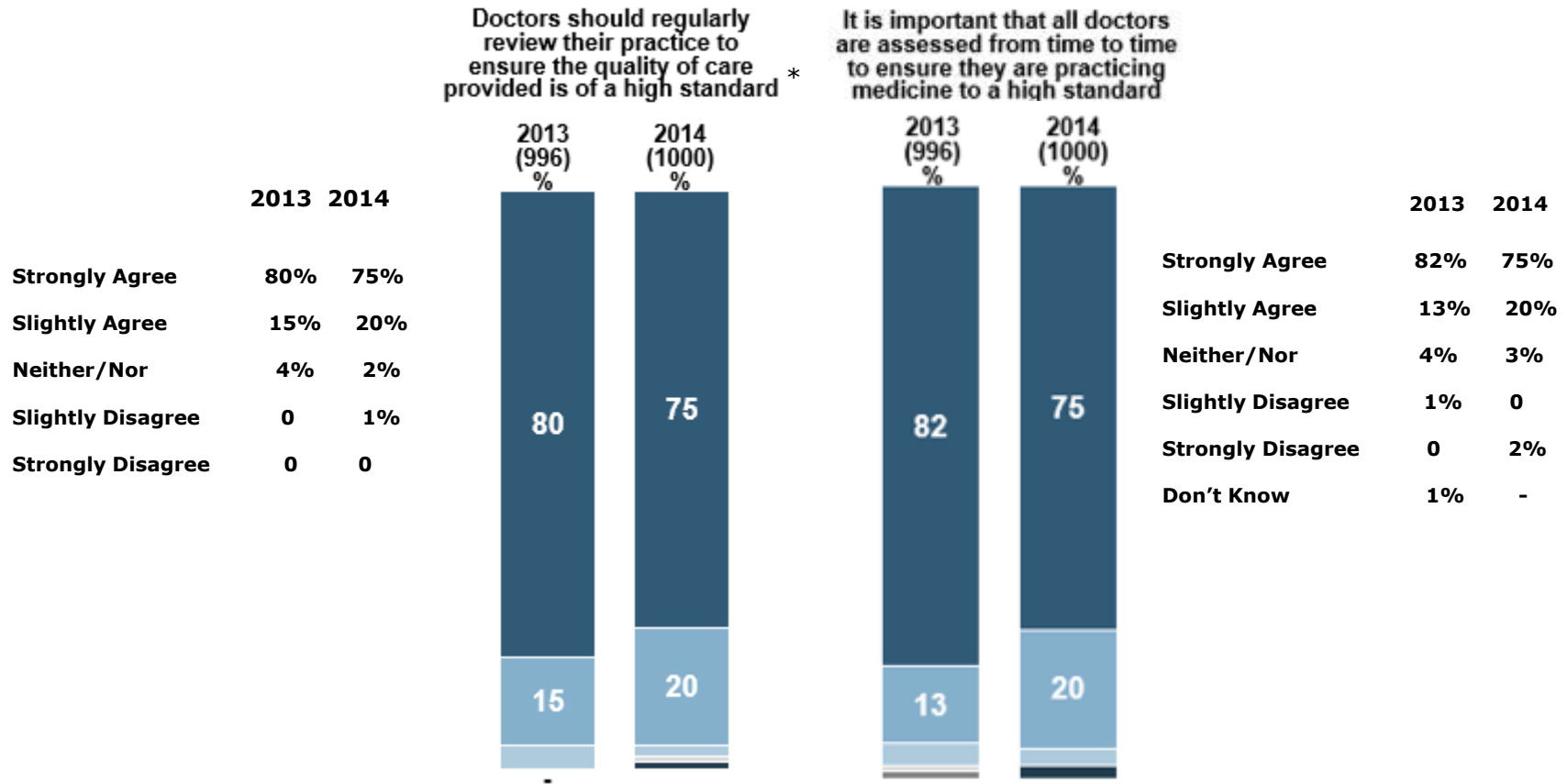
Assessment of Doctors



Review & Assessment of Doctors

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

(Base: All Adults aged 16+ years)



A consistent high proportion of respondents agree doctors should regularly review their practice and be assessed to ensure the highest medical standards are being met.

*Wording change in 2014