



albertapatient
Your Voice Matters

COVID Check-in Tracking

November 2022

albertapatient Covid Check-in & Scope of Practice - November 2022

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>> Study information

Research methodology

- Online survey fielded via the albertapathients online research panel
 - Field dates: November 1 - 9, 2022
 - Sample size: n=2,500
- Results reflect a representative sample of patients in Alberta
- Data was weighted to reflect gender, age and region of Albertans who have used the health care system within the past year
- A random stratified sample of albertapathients.ca panelists were invited to complete the survey. For interpretation purposes, a probability sample of this size would yield a margin of error of +/- 1.9 percentage points 19 times out of 20 at a 95% confidence interval
 - Accuracy of sub-samples of the data decline based on sample size

This research was conducted with and for the albertapathients.ca online community, operated by the Alberta Medical Association and research partner ThinkHQ Public Affairs Inc.

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» COVID's Consequences

Tracking the Care Deficit & Impacts on Patients

The physical and mental health impacts of the COVID pandemic are beginning to decline. particularly negative mental health impacts. This is good news for Albertans, for the system and the health care workers who have worked so hard to provide care and address the backlog

That said however, elements of the “Care Deficit” persist, and in some cases are even worse than in spring of this year.

- Over four-in-ten (44%) of patients say their physical health is worse today than before the COVID pandemic began, although this represents a modest improvement since spring (when 48% reported a physical decline during COVID).
- Mental health impacts from the pandemic have also improved, this time notably, since the spring. Although almost one-half (48%) still feel their mental health today is worse than it was prior to COVID's outbreak, this represents significant progress since the spring when 65% reported negative mental health impacts (a 17-percentage point shift).
- Women, patients under the age of 55 and those living with chronic conditions tend to report higher negative health impacts, both physical and mental, from the pandemic



COVID's Consequences

Tracking the Care Deficit & Impacts on Patients

The Care Deficit arising from COVID is, in many respects, deepening according to patients. In spring, fully 41% reported no disruptions in the health care needs due to COVID, a figure which has dropped to 25% this fall meaning three-quarters of patients HAVE had health needs disrupted.

Access is a growing problem for patients. Fully 41% say they have had delayed/avoided appointments with family physicians (up 7-percentage points since the spring), while 23% report the same for specialist appointments (up 4-points). Meanwhile 39% say they have been unable to see their physician (family doctor or specialist) in person and are experiencing significant wait times to see family doctors (36%) and specialists (29%).

One-quarter (25%) of patients continue to have trouble getting referrals to specialists this fall (up from 17% in the spring).

Cancellations/delays for non-urgent surgical procedures are the one area showing some modest positive momentum – only 9% of patients reporting this, compared to 13% last spring.

Among those experiencing health care disruptions, fully 45% note these have negatively impacted their health (10% saying “a great deal”)

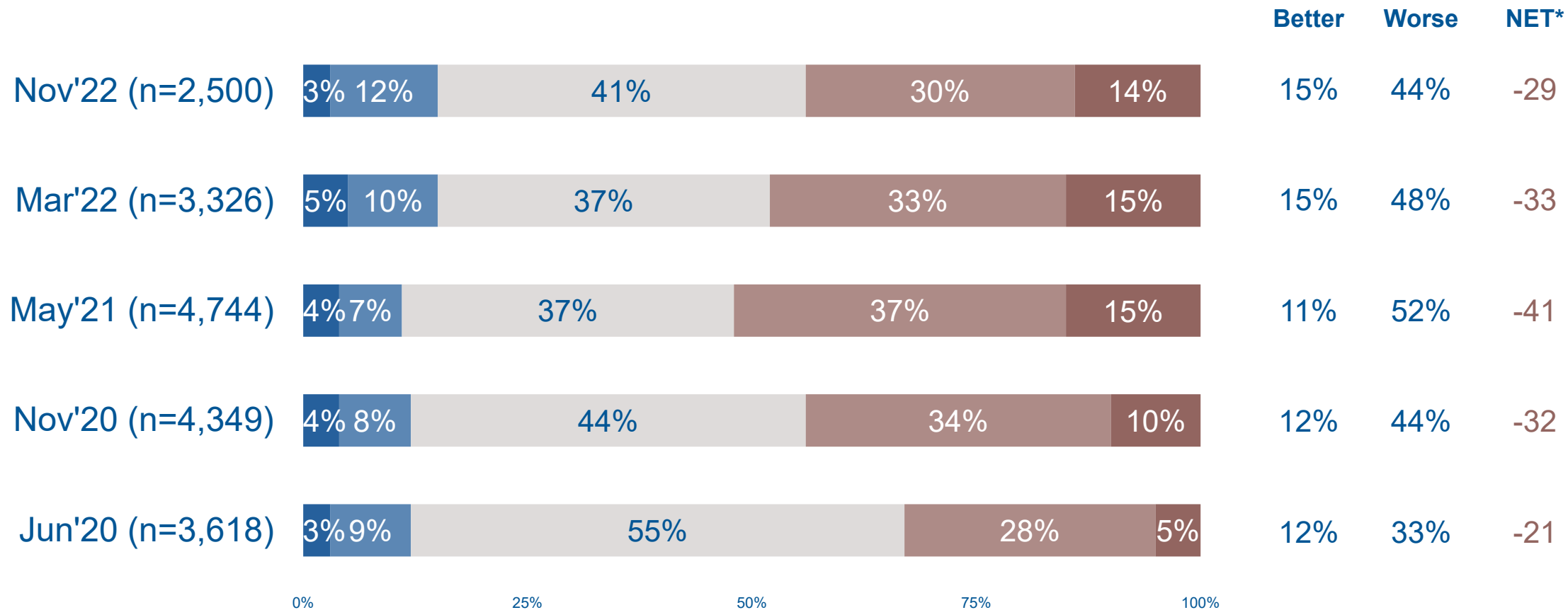
- Negative impacts on health due to Care Deficit disruptions are more common among women and patients with chronic conditions, and declines with household income



COVID Pandemic Impacts on Physical Health Tracking

Compared to before the COVID-19 pandemic, how would you rate your physical health today?

■ Much better ■ Somewhat better ■ About the same / prefer not to say ■ Somewhat worse ■ Much worse



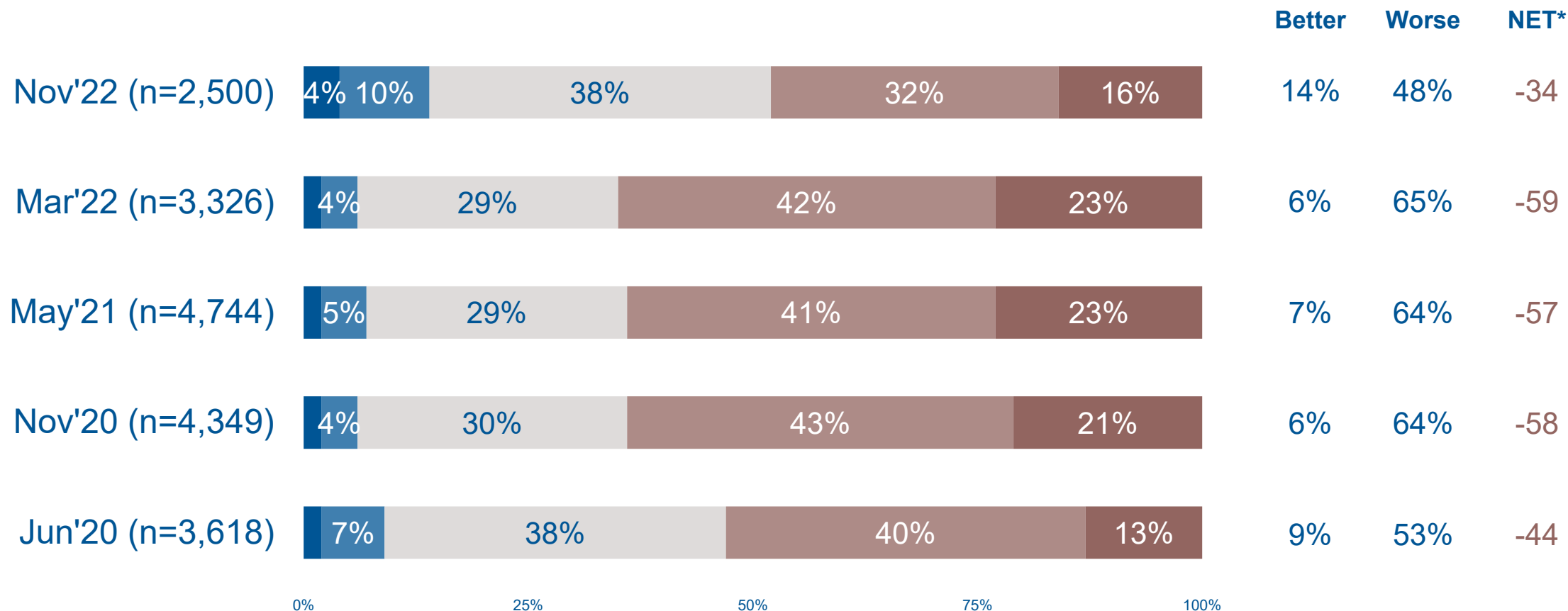
Base: All respondents | *NET: Better minus worse



COVID Pandemic Impacts on Mental Health Tracking

Compared to before the COVID-19 pandemic, how would you rate your mental health today?

■ Much better ■ Somewhat better ■ About the same / prefer not to say ■ Somewhat worse ■ Much worse



Base: All respondents | *NET: Better minus worse

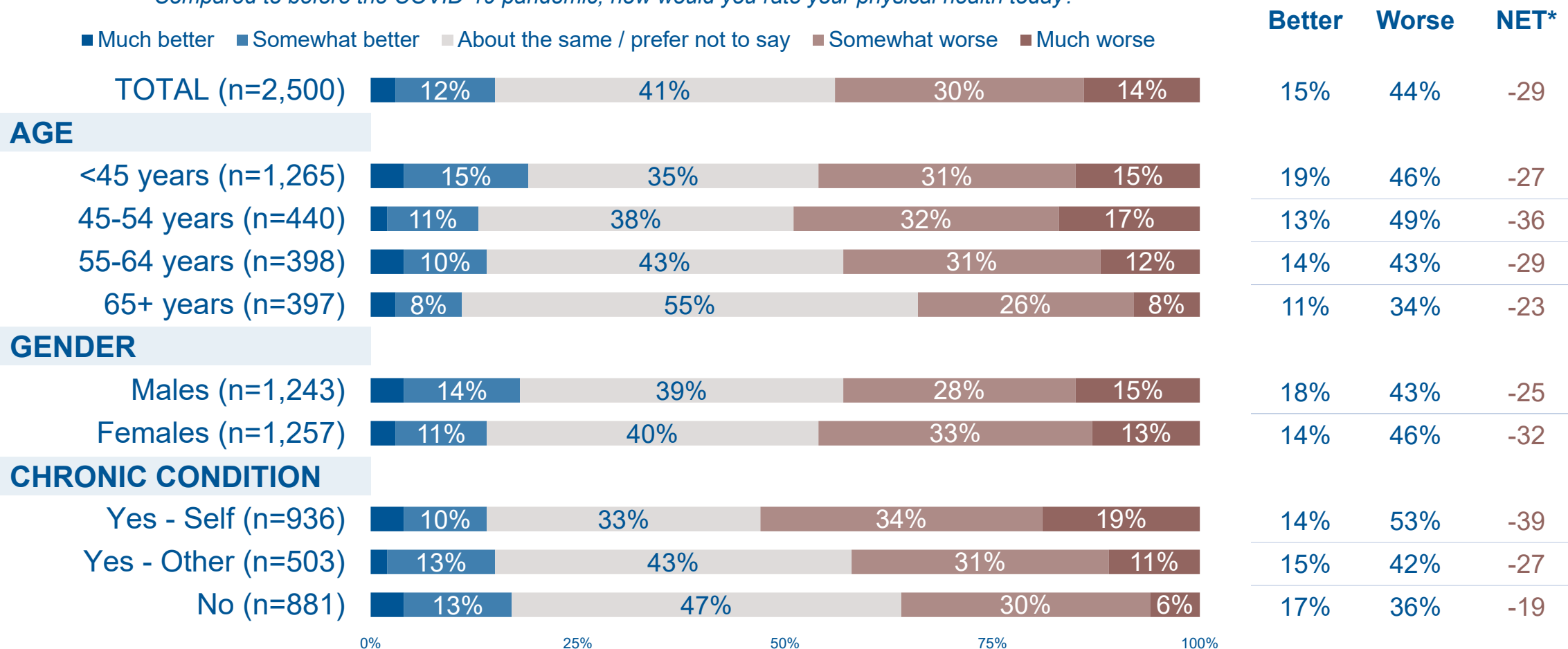


COVID Pandemic Impacts on Physical Health

By Age, Gender and Chronic Condition

Compared to before the COVID-19 pandemic, how would you rate your physical health today?

■ Much better ■ Somewhat better ■ About the same / prefer not to say ■ Somewhat worse ■ Much worse



Base: All respondents | NET: Better minus worse

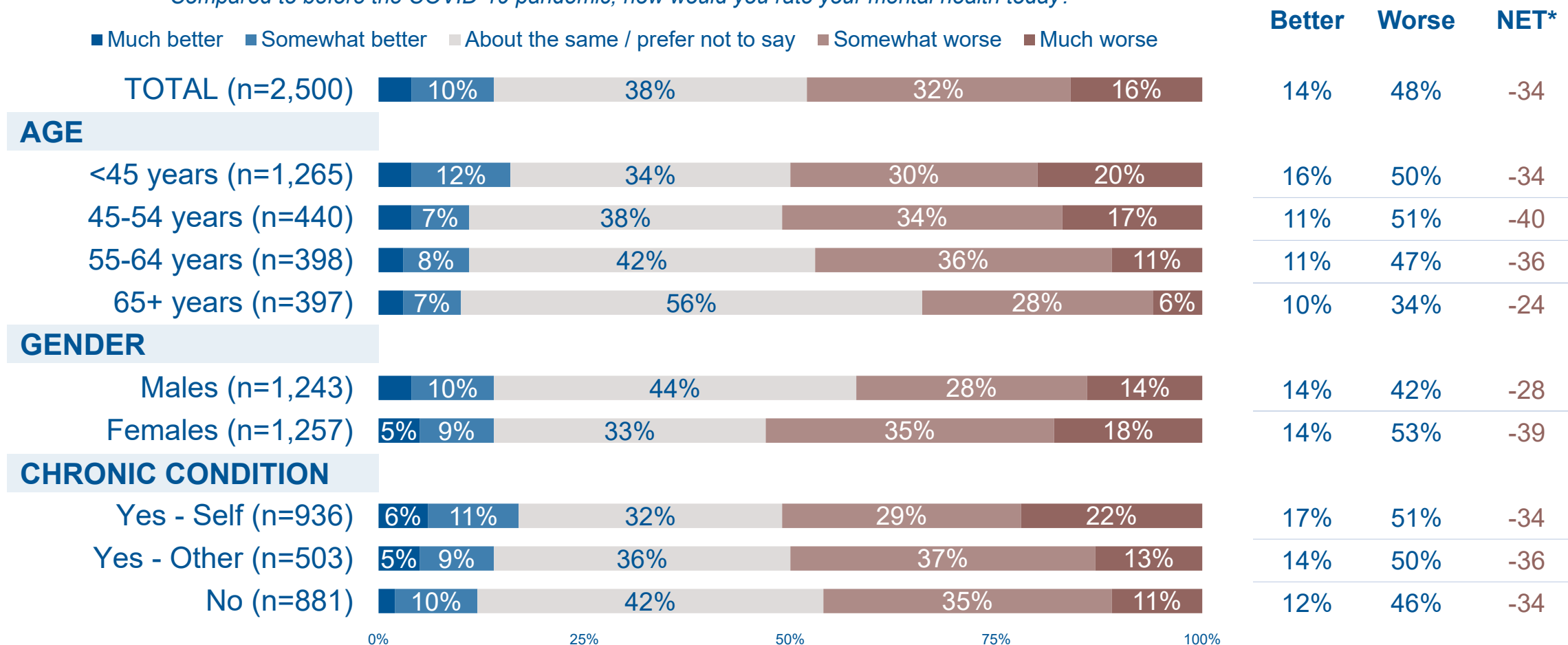


COVID Pandemic Impacts on Mental Health

By Age, Gender and Chronic Condition

Compared to before the COVID-19 pandemic, how would you rate your mental health today?

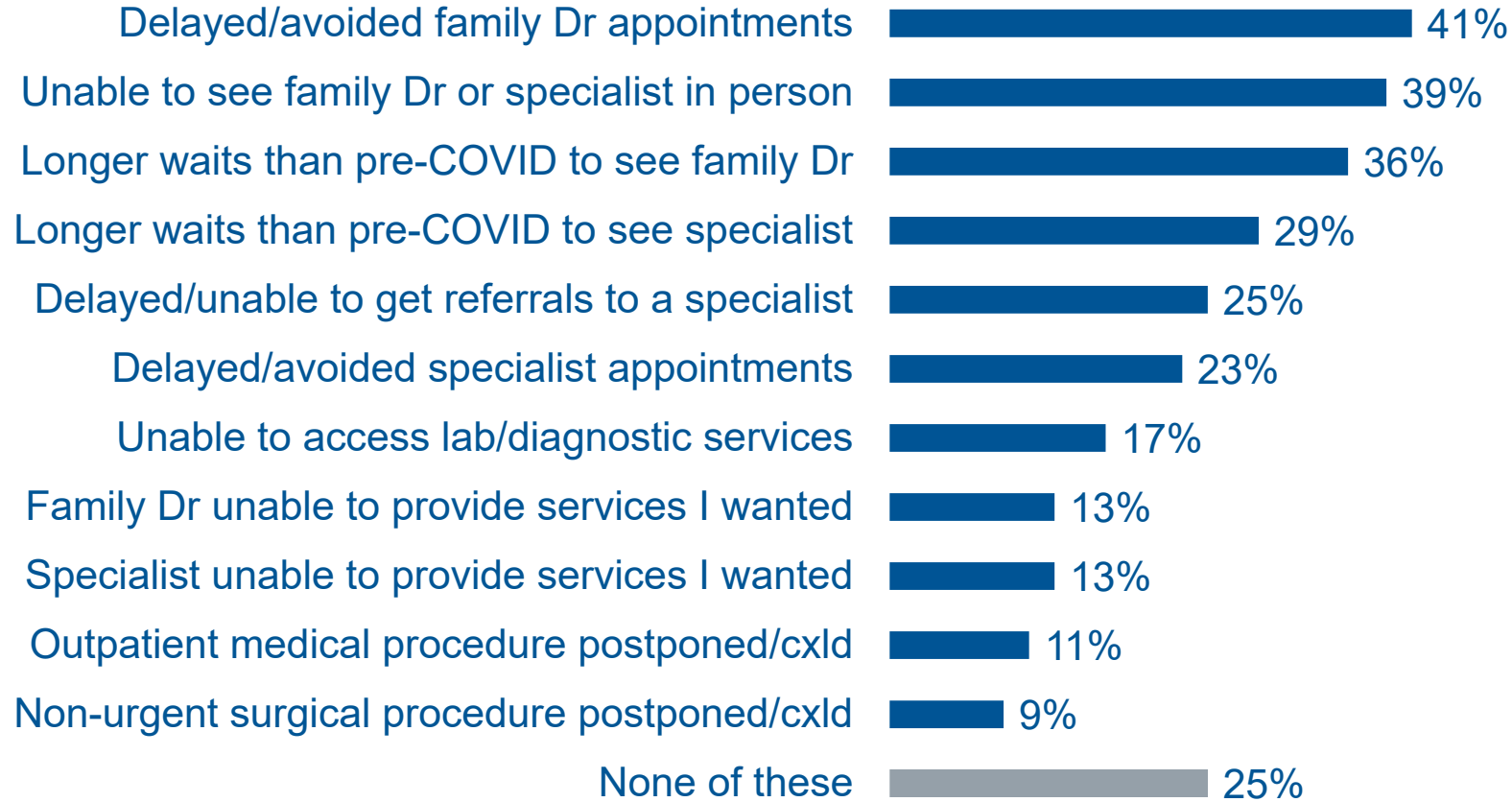
■ Much better ■ Somewhat better ■ About the same / prefer not to say ■ Somewhat worse ■ Much worse



Base: All respondents | NET: Better minus worse

>> COVID-19 Disruptions on Regular Health Care Needs

Have you personally had your regular health care needs disrupted in any way by COVID-19?



NET: Had disruptions: 75%

Summary:

No disruptions	25%
1 or 2 disruptions	33%
3 or 4 disruptions	23%
5+ disruptions	19%

Base: All respondents (n=2,500) | MULTIPLE MENTIONS



COVID-19 Disruptions on Regular Health Care Needs Tracking

Have you personally had your regular health care needs disrupted in any way by COVID-19?

	Nov'22 (n=2,500)	Mar'22 (n=3,326)	May'21 (n=4,744)	Nov'20 (n=4,349)	Jun'20 (n=3,618)
Delayed/avoided family Dr appointments	41%	34%	34%	34%	33%
Unable to see family Dr or specialist in-person*	39%	-	-	-	-
Longer waits than pre-COVID to see family Dr*	36%	-	-	-	-
Longer waits than pre-COVID to see specialist*	29%	-	-	-	-
Delayed/unable to get specialist referral	25%	17%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Delayed/avoided specialist appointments	23%	19%	20%	21%	20%
Unable to access lab/diagnostic services	17%	16%	15%	20%	20%
Family Dr unable to provide services I wanted	13%	12%	9%	11%	N/A
Specialist unable to provide services I wanted	13%	12%	11%	12%	N/A
Outpatient medical procedure postponed/cxld	11%	8%	8%	8%	10%
Non-urgent surgical procedure postponed/cxld	9%	13%	9%	10%	8%
Something else	-	-	1%	1%	7%
None of these	25%	41%	46%	41%	37%

Base: All respondents | MULTIPLE MENTIONS | *New in Nov'22



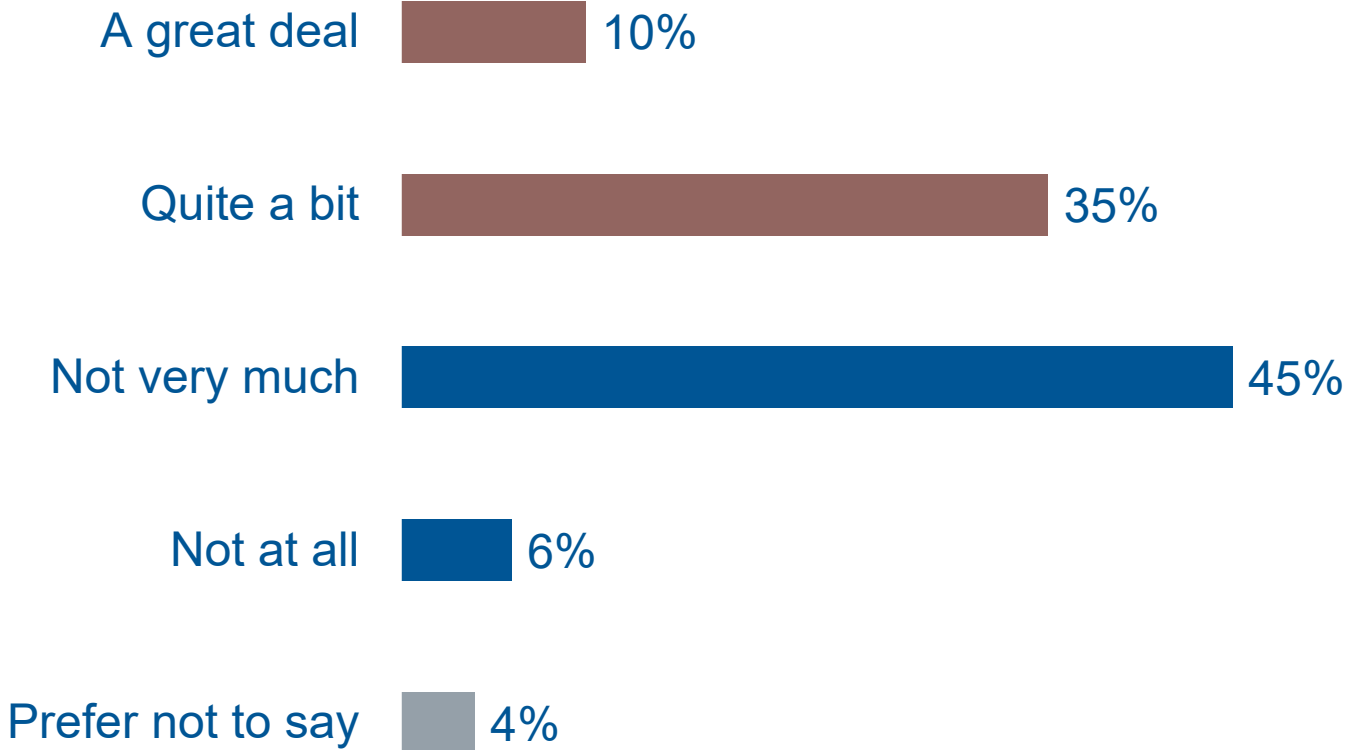
Significantly higher



Significantly lower

>> Impact of COVID Health Care Disruptions on Personal Health

How, if at all, has the disruption in your health care access during the COVID situation impacted your health?



Summary:

Had more impact	45%
Had less impact	51%
NET	-6

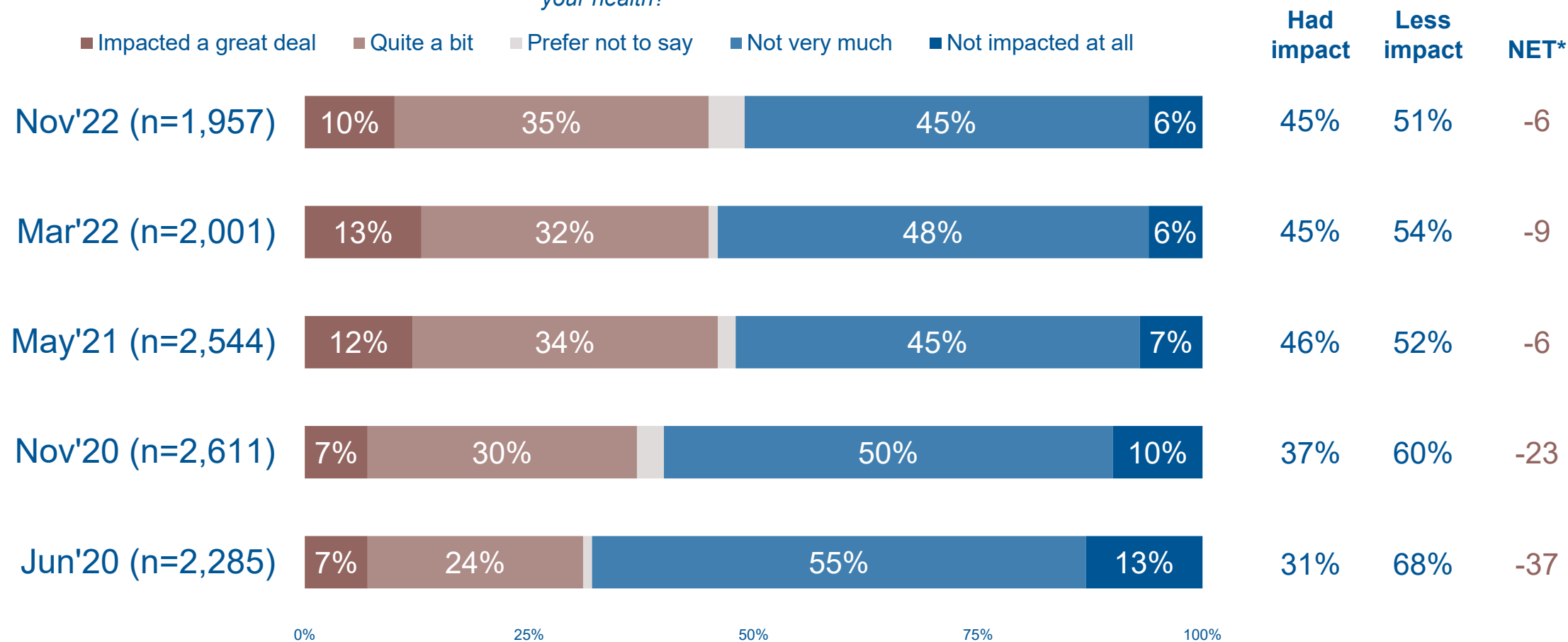
Base: Healthcare needs disrupted by COVID (n=1,957) | NET: Had more impact minus had less impact



Impact of COVID Health Care Disruptions on Personal Health Tracking

How, if at all, has the disruption in your health care access during the COVID situation impacted your health?

■ Impacted a great deal ■ Quite a bit ■ Prefer not to say ■ Not very much ■ Not impacted at all



Base: Healthcare needs disrupted by COVID | *NET: Had more impact minus had less impact

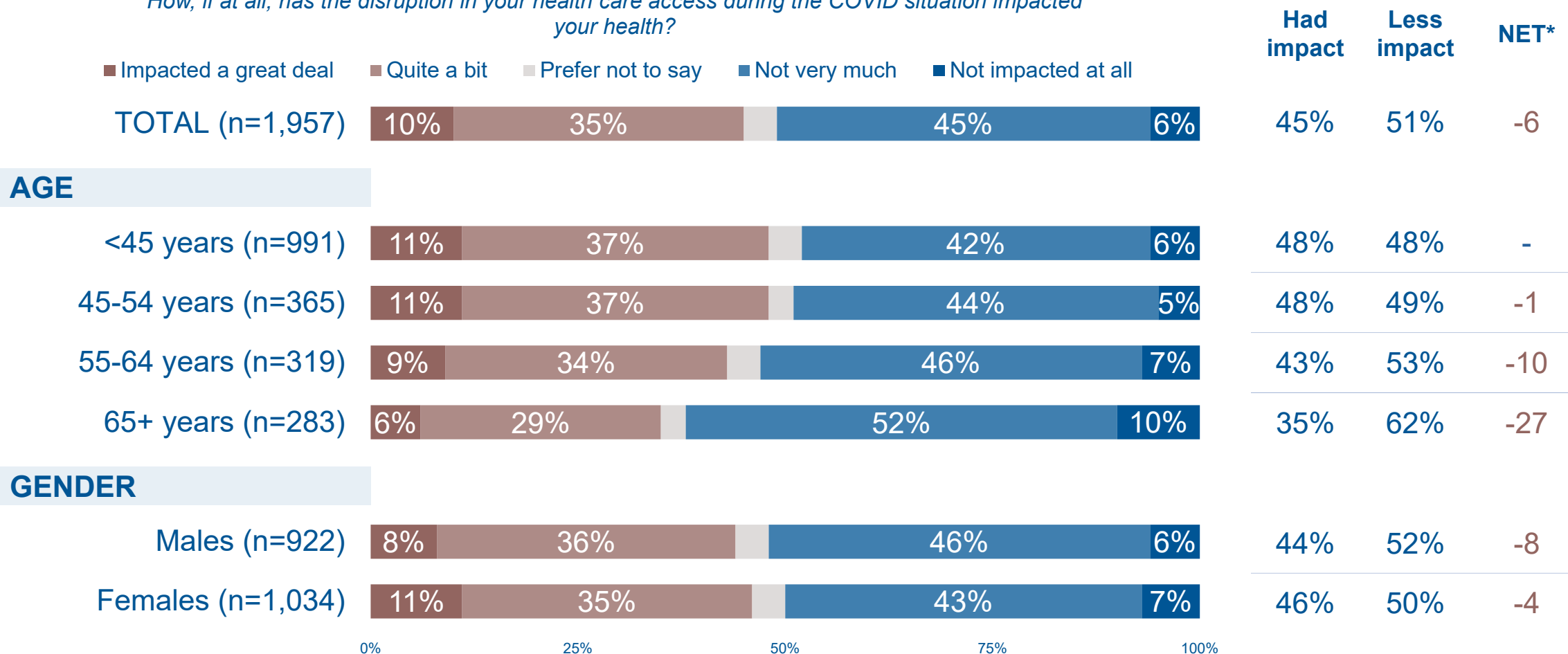


Impact of COVID Health Care Disruptions on Personal Health

By Age and Gender

How, if at all, has the disruption in your health care access during the COVID situation impacted your health?

■ Impacted a great deal ■ Quite a bit ■ Prefer not to say ■ Not very much ■ Not impacted at all



Base: Healthcare needs disrupted by COVID | *NET: Had more impact minus had less impact

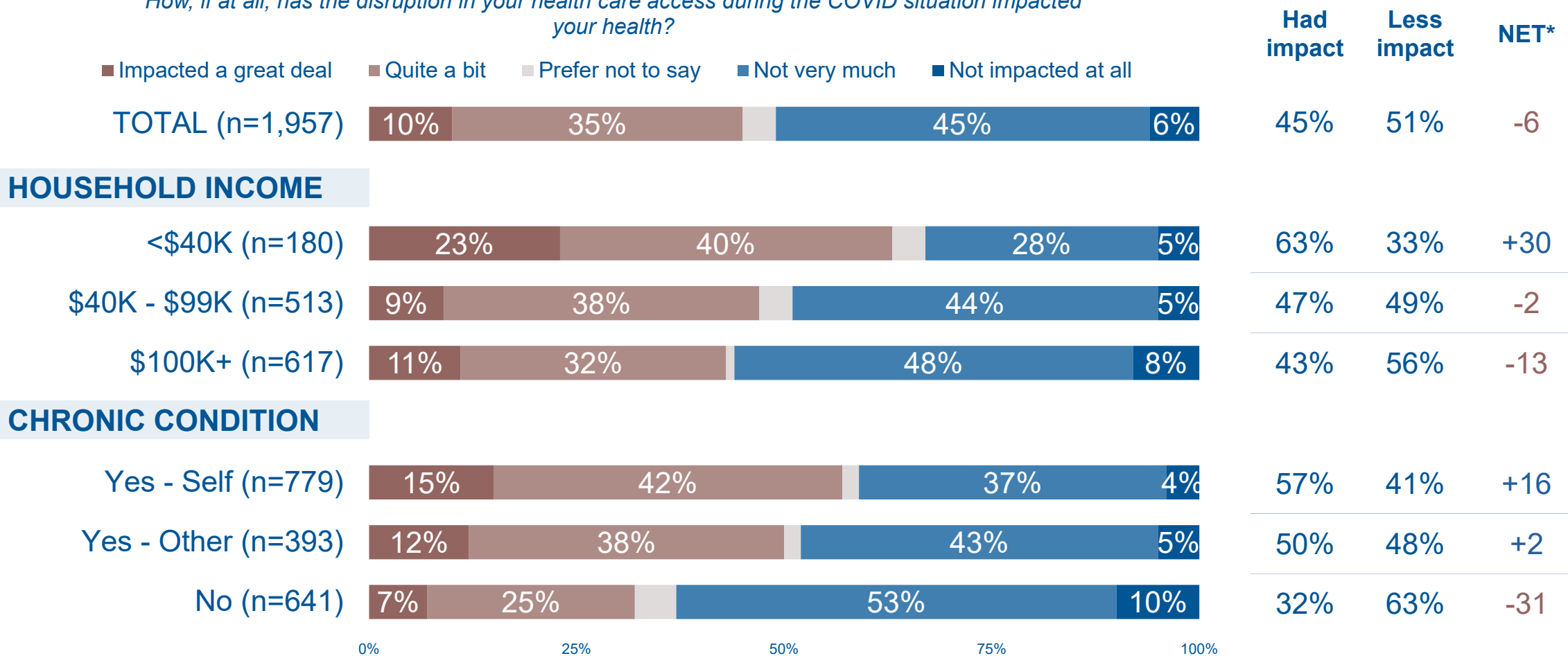


Impact of COVID Health Care Disruptions on Personal Health

By Household Income and Chronic Condition

How, if at all, has the disruption in your health care access during the COVID situation impacted your health?

■ Impacted a great deal ■ Quite a bit ■ Prefer not to say ■ Not very much ■ Not impacted at all



Base: Healthcare needs disrupted by COVID | *NET: Had more impact minus had less impact



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