



albertapatients
Your Voice Matters

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Exploratory Research: Opioid Incidence Among Alberta Patients

May 2018

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

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>> Research Methodology

- Online survey was fielded via the **albertapatients** online research panel
 - Field dates: May 24 - May 31, 2018
 - Sample size: n=2191
- 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.
- This online survey utilizes a non-random sample; therefore, the margin of error is not applicable. However, for interpretation purposes, a probability sample of this size would yield a margin of error of +/- 2.1 percentage points 19 times out of 20 at a 95% confidence interval.
 - Accuracy of sub-samples of the data decline based on sample size

Opioid Incidence

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>> Key Findings

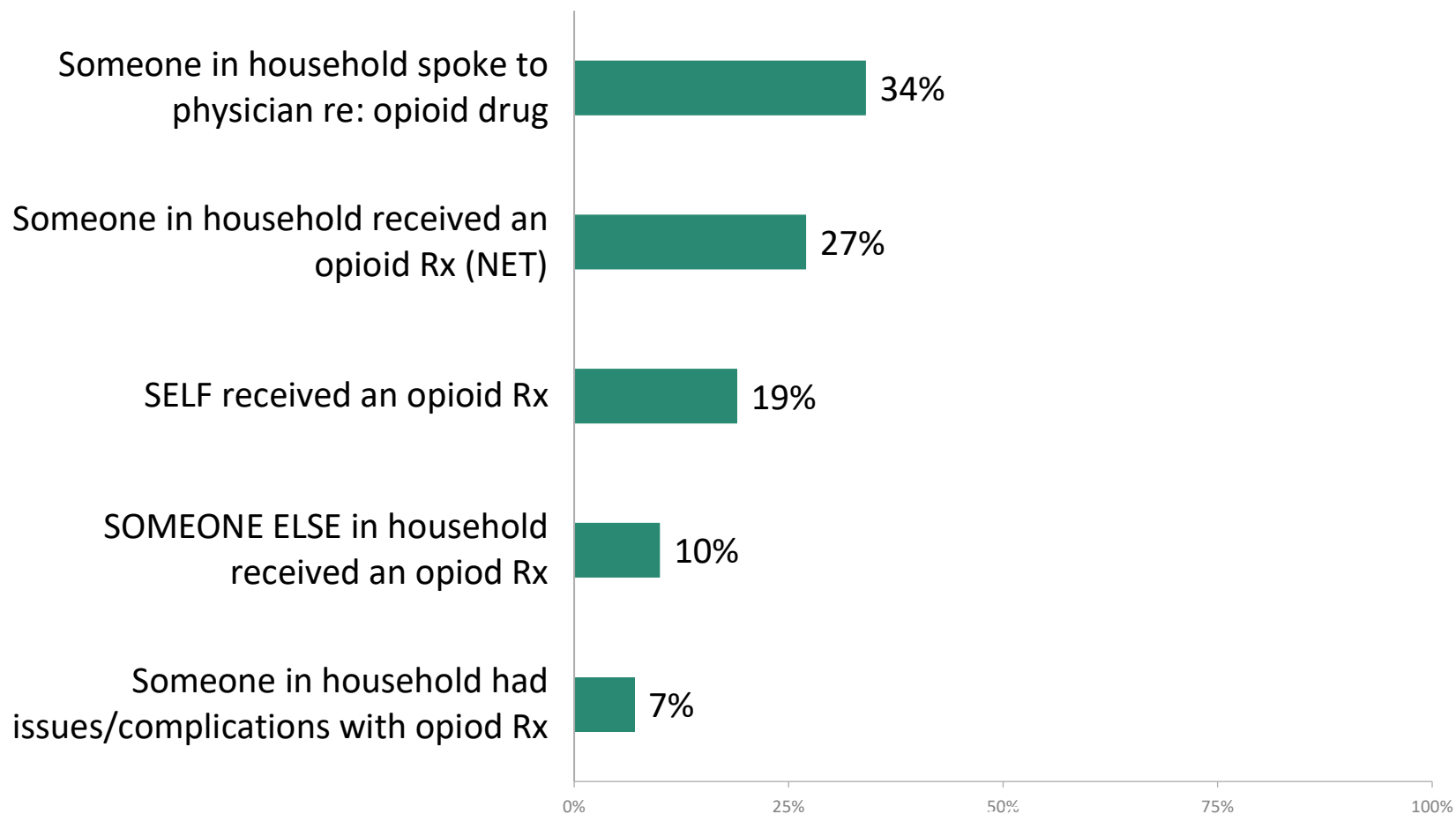
OPIOIDS

- **One-third** of Alberta Patients report that they or another member of their household have spoken to a physician within the past year about using an opioid to manage pain
 - However, only **27%** of patient households actually received a prescription - **19%** for individual patients
- **One-quarter** of Alberta Patients report that someone in their household has received an opioid Rx within the past year
 - **19%** self
 - **10%** someone else in household
- Among those receiving an opioid Rx, roughly half report that a second Rx was required while just under one-third did not finish the entire first Rx
- Fully **7%** of all Alberta patients report that they or someone in their household has had an issue or complication with an opioid Rx they have received within the past year
 - That translates into **27%** of patients or family members who have used an opioid Rx in the past year



Opioid Incidence Among Alberta Patients

-Past 12 Months



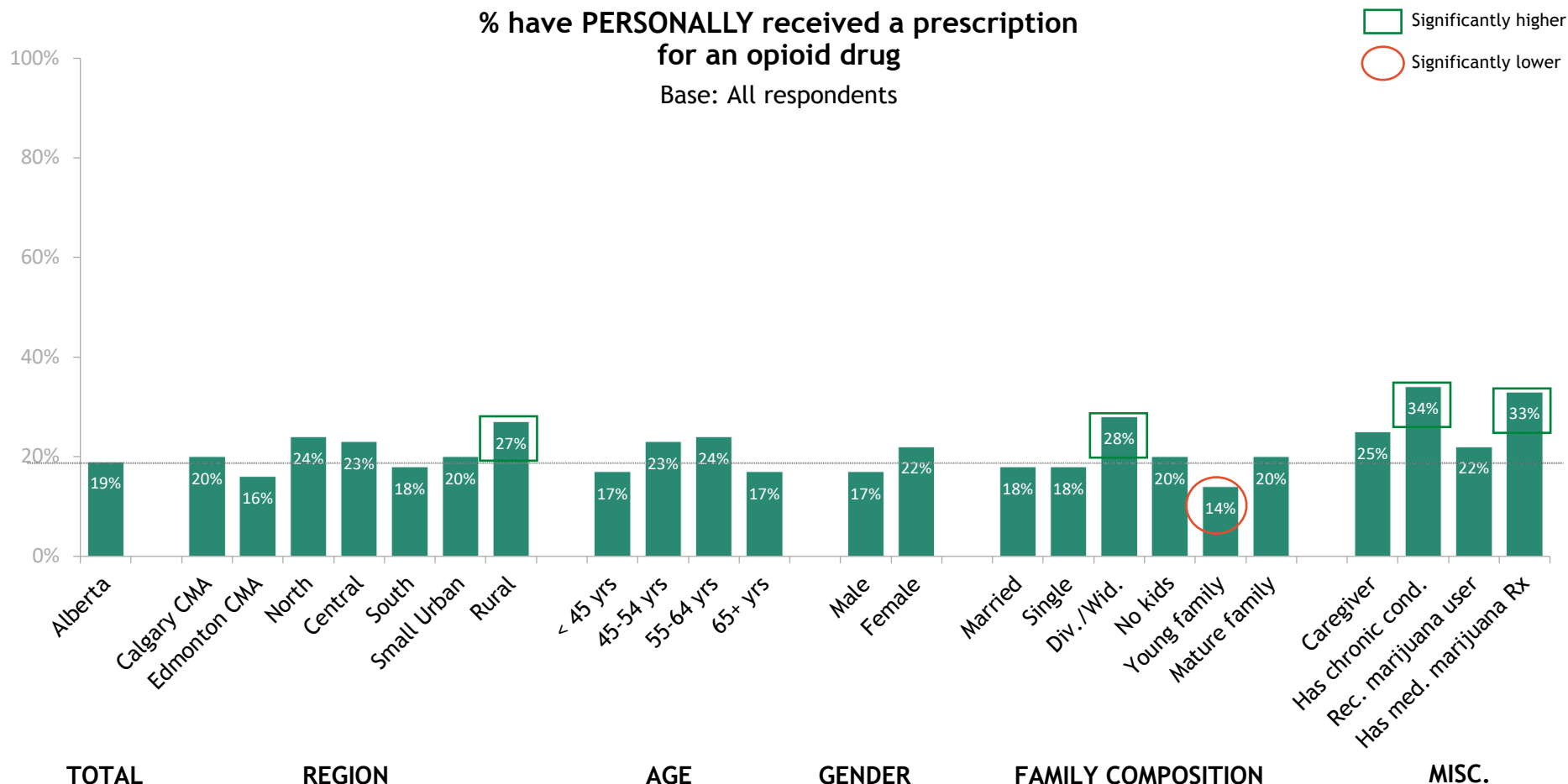
Base: All respondents (n=2191)

Incidence of Opioid Drug Prescription

(Among all respondents)

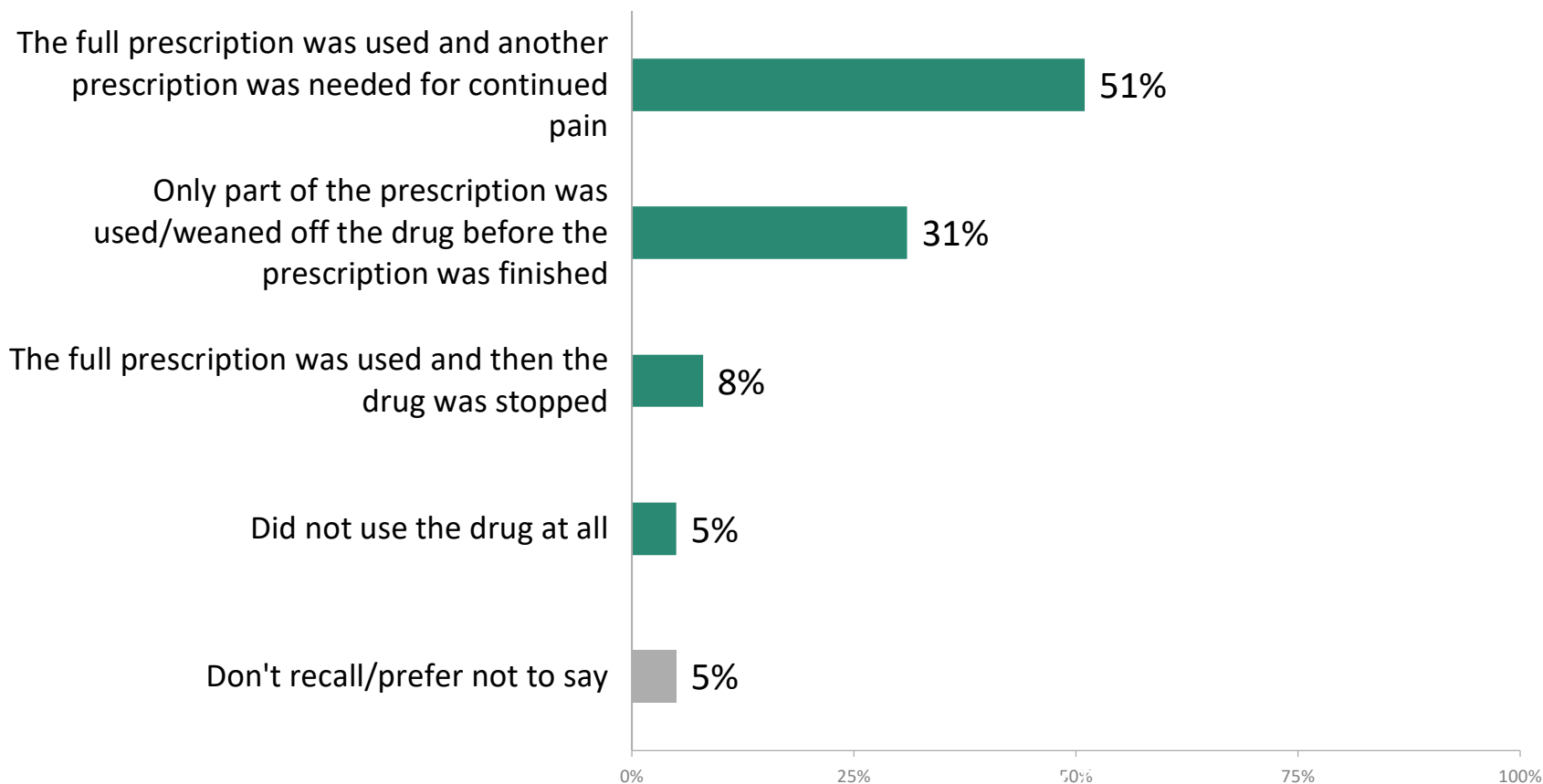
-By Key Demographics

In the past 12 months, have you personally, or has someone else in your household, ever received a prescription for an opioid drug (e.g., Dilaudid, OxyContin, Percocet, etc.) to manage pain?



>> Resulting Opioid Usage from Prescription

How did you, or the other person/people in your household, end up using the opioid medication that was prescribed within the past 12 months? (NOTE: If both you and someone else in your household have been prescribed opioid medication within the past 12 months, please base your response on your own personal experience with the drug.)



Base: Opioid was prescribed (n=593)



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