



Essex County Council Regular Meeting Agenda

Date: Wednesday, September 4, 2024
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Council Chambers, 2nd Floor
360 Fairview Avenue West
Essex, Ontario N8M 1Y6
<https://video.isilive.ca/countyofessex/live.html>

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request. Contact Clerk's Office, clerks@countyofessex.ca, 519-776-6441 extension 1353

Pages

1. Closed Meeting

There is no Closed Meeting scheduled for September 4, 2024

2. Moment of Reflection

3. Singing of 'O Canada'

4. Land Acknowledgement Statement

We acknowledge the land on which the County of Essex is located is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibway, Odawa and Potawatomie Peoples.

We specifically recognize Caldwell First Nation and other First Nations which have provided significant historical and contemporary contributions to this region.

We also value the contributions of all Original Peoples of Turtle Island, who have been living and working on this land from time immemorial.

5. Recording of Attendance

6. County Warden's Welcome and Remarks

7. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

8. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the August 14, 2024 Essex County Council Regular Meeting.

Recommendation:

Moved by _____

Seconded by _____

That the minutes of the August 14, 2024 Regular Meeting of Essex County Council be adopted as presented.

(Vote by show of hands)

9. Delegations and Presentations

Recommendation:

Moved by _____

Seconded by _____

That the delegation from the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus be permitted to make a presentation to Council.

(Vote by show of hands)

9.1 Western Ontario Warden's Caucus (WOWC)

21

Kate Burns-Gallagher, Executive Director, WOWC to bring forward an update on the WOWC 2024-25 Strategic Priorities

Also attached are two pieces of correspondence.

1. Social and Economic Prosperity Review Advocacy for Municipalities
2. News Release - Rural Municipal Leaders Support 'Solve the Crisis' Campaign to Address Homelessness and Mental Health

10. Communications

10.1 Correspondence

Recommendation:

Moved by _____

Seconded by _____

That the correspondence listed on the Regular Agenda for September 4, 2024, be received and any noted action approved.

(Vote by show of hands)

10.1.1 County of Essex - Official Plan Meeting Notice
Statutory Public Meeting Notice

Essex County Council will hold a statutory public meeting, pursuant to Section 26(3) of the Planning Act, R.S.O., 1990, as amended, for the purposes of discussing the proposed new Official Plan. The public meeting will be held as follows:

Thursday, September 5, 2024 at 6 p.m.
County of Essex Council Chambers, Civic Centre
360 Fairview Avenue West, Essex, ON, N8M 1Y6

The Public Meeting is intended to provide an opportunity for the public to offer comments regarding the draft of the new Official Plan.

A copy of the draft Official Plan, together with reports that have been prepared as part of the Official Plan Comprehensive Review, are available on the County's Comprehensive Official Plan Review page.

10.1.2 Outdoor Accessibility Fest-for-All

Invitation to Members of Council and the Public:

Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee is hosting the Outdoor Accessibility Fest-for-All at the Colchester Park in Harrow

Event date September 13, 2024

10.1.3 Residents Invited to Complete Affordable Housing Survey

The County of Essex and City of Windsor are developing a Regional Affordable Housing Strategy in consultation with local municipalities and are inviting residents to provide input through a survey.

[More Information Here](#)

SHS Consulting has been hired to assist and, as a first step, is conducting a survey of Essex County and Windsor residents that will provide a better understanding of housing needs and challenges in the region. By participating in this survey, residents will provide an understanding of what kinds of housing people in Essex County and Windsor need, what problems they face finding quality housing that they can afford and what they want for the future. This information will assist in improving housing for everyone in the region. All information collected through the survey will be kept confidential.

Participants will not be asked for their name or contact information. Participation is voluntary.

The deadline for completing the survey is Sept. 2, 2024, at 11:59 p.m. Go to the survey here: [Windsor-Essex Regional Affordable Housing Strategy - Resident Survey](#)

10.1.4 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

- AMO [Watchfile Newsletter](#)
- AMO [Policy Updates](#)
- AMO Calendar - [Education Events](#)

10.1.5 Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (GLSLCI)

42

- August 2024 - Making Waves Newsletter
- August 1, 2024 [News Release RE Dearborn Heights partners with Cities Initiative to develop flood control and habitat restoration designs for the North Branch of Ecorse Creek](#)

10.1.6	Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island (TWEPI) <u>TWEPI Fall Event Guide 2024</u>	
10.1.7	Invest WindsorEssex (IWE) <u>2023 IWE Annual Report</u>	
10.1.8	Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Resolution regarding the request for creation of a province-wide long-service medal program for police and paramedics, modelled after the existing award for firefighters.	46
10.1.9	Municipality of Stirling-Rawdon August 21 2024 - Resolution RE Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act 1996	48
10.1.10	City of Cambridge August 15, 2024 Letter and Market Research Study RE Mental Health and Addictions Crisis	49

10.2 **Resolutions**
There are no resolutions for September 4, 2024

11. **Consent Agenda**

Recommendation:
Moved by _____
Seconded by _____
That the Administrative Report listed as agenda item 11.1 and the minutes listed as items 11.2 through 11.3 on the Consent Agenda for September 4, 2024, be received and approved as presented.

(Vote Electronically)

11.1	Summary of Outstanding Reports Report number 2024-0904-LCS-R26-KH, Summary of Outstanding Reports for September 4, 2024, from Katherine Hebert, Clerk	102
11.2	Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes of the July 18, 2024 Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting	106

11.3	Windsor Essex Regional Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan Minutes of the Windsor Essex Regional Community Safety and Wellbeing Systems Leadership Table meeting, dated March 21, 2024	111
12.	Reports and Questions	
12.1	AMO Conference Delegation Update Report number 2024-0904-CAO-R10-SZ, AMO Conference Delegation Update, dated September 4, 2024 from Sandra Zwiers, Chief Administrative Officer Recommendation: Moved by _____ Seconded by _____ That Essex County Council receive report number 2024-0904-CAO-R11-SZ, 2024 AMO Conference – Delegation Update, as information. (Vote Electronically)	115
12.2	Roadway Expansion Plan Funding Model Report number 2024-0904-FIN-R19-MR, Roadway Expansion Funding Model, dated September 4, 2024 from Melissa Ryan, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer Recommendation: Moved by _____ Seconded by _____ That Essex County Council receive report number 2024-0904-FIN-R18-MR, Roadway Expansion Plan Funding Model as information. (Vote Electronically)	134
12.3	Procurement Updates for Contracts Exceeding Budget Report number 2024-0904-R18-FIN-MR, Procurement Updates for Contracts Exceeding Budget, dated September 4, 2024 from Melissa Ryan, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer	140

Recommendation:

Moved by _____

Seconded by _____

That Essex County Council receive report number 2024-0904-FIN-R18-MR, Procurement Updates-Contracts Exceeding Budget as information.

(Vote Electronically)

13. Unfinished Business

14. New Business

14.1 Public Reporting of Closed Meeting

There is no Closed Meeting scheduled for September 4, 2024.

15. Adoption of By-Laws

Recommendation:

Moved by _____

Seconded by _____

That By-law 2024-40, be given three readings, and having been read a first, second and third time, be finally passed and enacted.

(Vote Electronically)

15.1 By-law Number 2024-40

146

Being a by-law to Confirm the Proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex for the Regular Meeting held September 4, 2024

16. Notice of Motion

17. Adjournment

Recommendation:

Moved by _____

Seconded by _____

That the Essex County Council meeting for September 4, 2024 be adjourned at [Time] PM.

(Vote by show of hands)



Essex County Council, Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 14, 2024

6:00 PM

Council Chambers, 2nd Floor

360 Fairview Avenue West

Essex, Ontario N8M 1Y6

<https://video.isilive.ca/countyofessex/live.html>

- Council:
- Michael Akpata, Deputy Mayor, Town of LaSalle
 - Joe Bachetti, Deputy Warden / Deputy Mayor, Town of Tecumseh
 - Tracey Bailey, Mayor, Municipality of Lakeshore
 - Sherry Bondy, Mayor, Town of Essex
 - Kimberly DeYong, Deputy Mayor, Town of Kingsville
 - Chris Gibb, Deputy Mayor, Town of Amherstburg
 - Hilda MacDonald, Warden / Mayor, Municipality of Leamington
 - Gary McNamara, Mayor, Town of Tecumseh
 - Michael Prue, Mayor, Town of Amherstburg
 - Dennis Rogers, Mayor, Town of Kingsville
 - Rob Shepley, Deputy Mayor, Town of Essex
 - Larry Verbeke, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Leamington
 - Kirk Walstedt, Deputy Mayor, Municipality of Lakeshore
 - Mark Carrick, Councillor, Town of LaSalle (Alternate Member)
- Absent:
- Crystal Meloche, Mayor, Town of LaSalle
- Administration:
- Allan Botham, Director, Infrastructure & Planning Services
 - Jayne Brooks Keller, Administrator, Sun Parlor Home
 - Katherine Hebert, County Clerk
 - Justin Lammers, Chief, Essex-Windsor EMS
 - Darrel Laurendeau, Director, Information Technology
 - Don McArthur, Manager, Communication and Organizational Development
 - Kyla Pritiko, Director, Human Resources
 - Melissa Ryan, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer
 - David Sundin, County Solicitor
 - Crystal Sylvestre, Coordinator, Legislative and Community Services
 - Sandra Zwiers, Chief Administrative Officer
 - Dee Blais, Executive Assistant to the CAO

1. Closed Meeting

A Closed Meeting was held at 1:00 PM on July 22, 2024.

There was no Closed Meeting scheduled for August 14, 2024.

201-2024

Moved By Joe Bachetti

Seconded By Rob Shepley

That Council move into a closed meeting pursuant to Section 239 (3.1) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended for the following reason:

A meeting of a council or local board or of a committee of either of them may be closed to the public if the following conditions are both satisfied:

1. The meeting is held for the purpose of educating or training the members.
2. At the meeting, no member discusses or otherwise deals with any matter in a way that materially advances the business or decision-making of the council, local board or committee.

Carried

202-2024

Moved By Gary McNamara

Seconded By Joe Bachetti

That Essex County Council adjourn, and rise from the July 22, 2024

Closed Meeting at 2:55 PM.

Carried

2. Moment of Reflection

3. Singing of 'O Canada'

4. Land Acknowledgement Statement

We acknowledge the land on which the County of Essex is located is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibway, Odawa and Potawatomie Peoples.

We specifically recognize Caldwell First Nation and other First Nations which have provided significant historical and contemporary contributions to this region.

We also value the contributions of all Original Peoples of Turtle Island, who have been living and working on this land from time immemorial.

5. Recording of Attendance

Warden MacDonald and members of Council attended the meeting at the Essex County Civic Centre, Council Chambers.

Crystal Meloche was absent. Mark Carrick attended as an alternate member for the Town of LaSalle.

6. County Warden's Welcome and Remarks

Warden MacDonald welcomed everyone to the meeting and reflected on the great number of public events held throughout the County during the summer season.

The Warden encouraged all residents to participate in the We Check the Trails program; an online feedback mechanism to offer information about the trail system.

7. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest raised.

8. Adoption of Regular Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the July 17, 2024 Essex County Council, Regular Meeting

203-2024

Moved By Chris Gibb

Seconded By Dennis Rogers

That the minutes of the July17, 2024 Regular Meeting of Essex County Council be adopted as presented.

(Voted by show of hands)

Carried

9. Delegations and Presentations

There were no Delegations scheduled for August 14, 2024.

10. Communications

10.1. Correspondence

204-2024

Moved By Gary McNamara

Seconded By Joe Bachetti

That the correspondence listed on the Regular Agenda for August 14, 2024, be received and any noted action approved.

(Voted by show of hands)

Carried

10.1.1 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

- AMO [Watchfile Newsletter](#)
- AMO [Policy Updates](#)
- AMO Calendar - [Education Events](#)

10.1.2 Town of Cochrane

Resolution regarding O.Reg. 391/21 Blue Box for 'Ineligible' Sources

10.1.3 Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury

Resolution regarding the request for creation of a province-wide long-service medal program for police and paramedics, modelled after the existing award for firefighters.

10.1.4 Call to Action to Meet the Deadline of an Accessible Ontario

Resolution RE Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and Deadline for an Accessible Ontario by 2025

- Prince Edward County
- City of Stratford

10.1.5 Township of Emo

July 5, 2024 Resolution RE Operational Budget Funding; and, July 8, 2024 Resolution RE Request to Province of Ontario for New Provincial-Municipal Fiscal Framework

10.1.6 Resolutions Requesting the Province to Support Family Physicians

Various resolutions requesting the Province to Support Family Physicians

- Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and Ontario Medical Association (OMA)

- City of Toronto
- Township of Lucan Biddulph
- Township of Limerick
- Municipality of Wawa

10.1.7 Cost of Ontario Provincial Police Force

Resolutions regarding the reabsorption of cost of Ontario Provincial Police Force by the Province

- Municipality of Tweed
- Municipality of Wawa

10.1.8 Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus

- [July Newsletter](#)

10.1.9 Asset Retirement Obligations

Asset Retirement Obligations

- Municipality of Wawa
- Township of Larder Lake
- Town of Cobalt

10.1.10 Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island (TWEPI)

[W.E. Keep You Informed: New FedDev Grant Opportunities Open, OMCA Marketplace Coming To Windsor, Complimentary Content Marketing, Upcoming Fall Events & MORE!](#)

10.2. Resolutions

10.2.1 Town of Amherstburg

July 17, 2024 Town of Amherstburg Resolution regarding Phragmites Control

205-2024

Moved By Sherry Bondy

Seconded By Michael Prue

That Essex County Council receive and support the Town of Amherstburg resolution regarding phragmites control and bring the subject forward at the Regional CAO Meeting.

(Voted by show of hands)

Carried

11. Consent Agenda

206-2024

Moved By Larry Verbeke

Seconded By Michael Akpata

That the recommendation in the Administrative Report and minutes listed as items 11.1 through 11.4 on the Consent Agenda for August 14, 2024, be received and approved. (Voted Electronically)

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, Kirk Walstedt, and Mark Carrick

Carried

11.1. Summary of Outstanding Reports

Report number 2024-0814-LCS-R24-KH, Summary of Outstanding Reports for August 14, 2024, from Katherine Hebert, Clerk

11.2. Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee (ECAAC)

Minutes of the June 6, 2024 Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting

11.3. Essex Windsor Solid Waste Authority (EWSWA)

Minutes of May 7, 2024 Essex Windsor Solid Waste Authority Board Meeting and the Essex-Windsor Residential Waste Diversion Annual Report 2023

11.4. Essex County Library Board (ECL)

Minutes of the June 26, 2024 Essex County Library Board Meeting

12. Reports and Questions

12.1. Proposed Reserve Management Policy

Report number 2024-0717-FIN-R16-MR, Proposed Reserve Management Policy, dated July 17, 2024, from Melissa Ryan, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

Melissa Ryan introduced the Reserve Management Policy that provides clear guidelines for managing reserves, aiding informed

decision making and ensuring long term financial stability for the Corporation.

The policy includes direction for the establishment and classification of reserves and reserve funds, target levels for reserves along with strategies for reaching and maintaining these levels, and outlines the frequency and manner for which reporting and monitoring of reserve balances and usage will be brought forward for review.

The policy will be reviewed in accordance with the County's Policy and Procedures Governance Framework to ensure continued adherence to regulations.

207-2024

Moved By Tracey Bailey

Seconded By Sherry Bondy

That Essex County Council approve report number 2024-0814-FIN-R16-MR, Proposed Reserve Management Policy for the County of Essex and the accompanying By-law to Adopt a Reserve Fund Policy; and,

That Essex County Council approve the transfers of funds between the reserves and amalgamate reserves as indicated in Appendix B to coincide with the result in Appendix C.

(Voted Electronically)

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, Kirk Walstedt, and Mark Carrick

Carried

12.2. Destruction of Records Policy Review and Update

Report number 2024-0814-LCS-R25-KH, Destruction of Records Policy Review and Update, dated August 14, 2024, from Katherine Hebert, County Clerk

Katherine Hebert explained that the proposed updates to the policy sought to improve compliance with industry standards, enhance record protection, and streamline destruction processes.

The report further recommends classifying the updated policy as an Administrative Policy rather than a Corporate Policy, which aligns with the County's Policy and Procedures Governance Framework,

and the need for frequent amendments as the records management program develops and matures over time.

208-2024

Moved By Gary McNamara

Seconded By Chris Gibb

That Essex County Council receive and approve report number 2024-0814-LCS-R25-KH, Records Destruction Policy Review and Update; and

That amendments to the Records Destruction Policy 001-2005 be adopted as presented; and

That the Records Destruction Policy 001-2005 be deemed an Administrative Policy, with the Authority to make amendments to the policy delegated to the Senior Leadership Team and CAO, under the County of Essex Policy and Procedures Governance Framework.

(Voted Electronically)

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, Kirk Walstedt, and Mark Carrick

Carried

12.3. Financial Projected Results of Operations for 2024

Report number 2024-0814*-FIN-R17-MR, Financial Projected Results of Operations for 2024. dated August 14, 2024, from Melissa Ryan, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

Melissa Ryan provided the report indicating that at the time of the report it was projected that the Corporation would end the 2024 fiscal year in a surplus position.

Key assumptions include stable winter control costs, favourable social services and housing expenses, and steady investment returns.

It was further noted that in accordance with Corporate policy, any surpluses would be allocated to the Rate Stabilization Reserve and deficits would be drawn from reserves.

209-2024

Moved By Joe Bachetti

Seconded By Kirk Walstedt

That Essex County Council receive report number 2024-0814-FIN-R17-MR, Financial Projected Results of Operations 2024 as information.

(Voted Electronically)

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, Kirk Walstedt, and Mark Carrick

Carried

13. Unfinished Business

13.1. Resolution 196-2024 - Tecumseh School Safety Zones - Correction to July 17, 2024 Resolution

210-2024

Moved By Gary McNamara

Seconded By Sherry Bondy

That Council Resolution 196-2024 from the July 17, 2024 Regular Meeting of Essex County Council, be corrected to reflect the proper by-law number of 26-2002 as the By-law to be amended, rather than by-law 51-2023 which was incorrectly cited, thereby permitting that by-law 2024-38 on the August 14, 2024 agenda be appropriately considered.

(Voted Electronically)

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, Kirk Walstedt, and Mark Carrick

Carried

13.2. Council and Committee Remuneration Policy Update

Verbal report from Sandra Zwiers, Chief Administrative Officer, regarding 2024-018 Council and Committee Remuneration Policy, resulting from the July 17, 2024 County Council resolution 194-2024 in relation to Alternate Members of Council pay.

Sandra Zwiers outlined the updates required to the policy as a result of the change in Alternate Member Remuneration that was passed at the July 17, 2024 Regular Meeting of County Council.

211-2024

Moved By Sherry Bondy

Seconded By Chris Gibb

That Essex County Council approve the amended 2024-018 Council and Committee Remuneration Policy, and that the approved policy be attached to previously approved By-law to Establish the Method for Calculating Remuneration for Members of County Council, Committees and Local Boards.

(Voted Electronically)

In Favour (11): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, and Mark Carrick
Opposed (3): Tracey Bailey, Michael Prue, and Kirk Walstedt

Carried

14. New Business

14.1. Public Reporting of Closed Meeting

A Closed Meeting of Essex County Council was held on July 22, 2024, pursuant to Section 239 (3.1) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended.

During the closed meeting, County Council was presented with information for education the members, and at the meeting, no member discussed or otherwise dealt with any matter in a way that materially advanced the business or decision-making of County Council.

As part of the education session, Council received a tour of the NextStar Energy Facility.

14.2. Sandwich St. and Lowes Sideroad Improvements

Notice of Motion introduced by Deputy Mayor Chris Gibb, on July 17, 2024, as follows:

Whereas the intersection of Sandwich St and Lowes Side Road requires improvements to ensure pedestrian and cyclist safety;

Be It Resolved that Council support Mayor Prue and Deputy Mayor Gibb in their efforts to introduce a motion at County Council requesting improvements and changes to the County Road 20 as it approaches the Sandwich St and Lowes Side Road intersection in an effort to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety.

Given local observations and changes in property usage in the area, the Town of Amherstburg is requesting;

1. That Administration of the County of Essex complete a review of traffic and pedestrian conditions at and near the intersection of County Road 20 and Lowes Side Road; and,
2. That the County of Essex consider a reduction in the posted speed limit along County Road 20 from Lowes Side Road and southerly approximately 500 metres; and,
3. That the County of Essex consider installing signage indicating pedestrians crossing at the County Road 20 at Lowes Side Rd intersection; and,
4. That the Administration communicate with the Town of Amherstburg, Infrastructure Services department as part of the review.

212-2024

Moved By Chris Gibb

Seconded By Michael Prue

That Administration of the County of Essex complete a review of traffic and pedestrian conditions at and near the intersection of County Road 20 and Lowes Side Road; and,

That the County of Essex consider a reduction in the posted speed limit along County Road 20 from Lowes Side Road and southerly approximately 500 metres; and,

That the County of Essex consider installing signage indicating pedestrians crossing at the County Rd 20 at Lowes Side Rd intersection; and,

That the Administration communicate with the Town of Amherstburg, Infrastructure Services department as part of the review.

(Voted Electronically)

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, Kirk Walstedt, and Mark Carrick

Carried

15. Adoption of By-Laws

213-2024

Moved By Chris Gibb

Seconded By Michael Prue

That By-laws 2024-37 through 2024-39, be given three readings, and having been read a first, second and third time, be finally passed and enacted.

(Voted Electronically)

In Favour (14): Michael Akpata, Joe Bachetti, Tracey Bailey, Sherry Bondy, Kimberly DeYong, Chris Gibb, Hilda MacDonald, Gary McNamara, Michael Prue, Dennis Rogers, Rob Shepley, Larry Verbeke, Kirk Walstedt, and Mark Carrick

Carried

15.1 By-law Number 2024-37

Being a By-law to adopt a Corporate Policy, Entitled "Reserve Management Policy", for the Corporation of the County of Essex

15.2 By-law Number 2024-38

Being a By-law to Amend By-law Number 26-2002, Being a By-law to Regulate Traffic and Parking on Highways within the Essex County Roads System - Schedule I

15.3 By-law Number 2024-39

Being a by-law to Confirm the Proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex for the Closed Meeting Held on July 22, 2024 and the Regular Meeting held August 14, 2024

16. Notice of Motion

There were no notices of motion for August 14, 2024.

17. Adjournment

214-2024

Moved By Gary McNamara

Seconded By Joe Bachetti

That the Essex County Council meeting for August 14, 2024 be adjourned at 6:50 PM.

(Voted by show of hands)

Carried

Hilda MacDonald,
Warden, County of Essex

Katherine Hebert,
County Clerk

Date Signed

WESTERN ONTARIO WARDENS' CAUCUS

Essex County Council Delegation
September 4, 2024



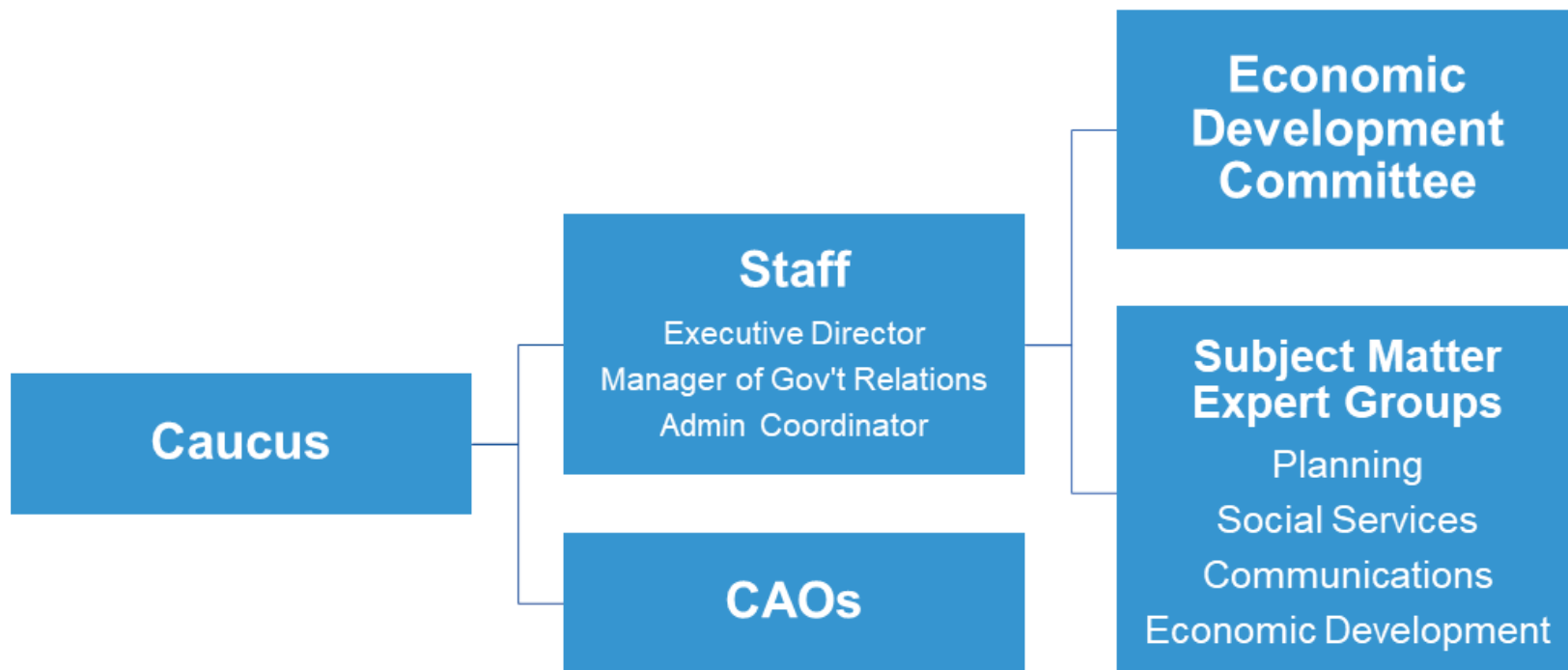
PURPOSE OF WOWC



- To realize Western Ontario's full potential for sustainable economies and communities by presenting a unified voice on behalf of local governments.
- Looking at the big issues that affect all member Counties and how the power of the Wardens can implement positive change in the region



HOW DOES THE WOWC OPERATE?



ADVOCACY

- The WOWC's advocacy work has been executed through:
 - Meetings with Ministers and senior government officials
 - Partnerships with local and regional municipalities and organizations, and joint projects/advocacy with stakeholders
 - Letters, financial analyses, ERO submissions, pre-budget submissions
- The WOWC monitors government legislation and provides research and analysis on issues affecting Western Ontario
- Where applicable, the WOWC supports and partners with other organizations such as SWIFT, AMO, FCM, EOWC, etc.



2024-25 PRIORITIES: HOUSING

ISSUE

Housing affordability, particularly in rural areas, continues to remain a strong focus within rural Western Ontario. Given the current housing and rental market, it is crucial to focus on increasing the supply of affordable housing, of all forms, so that all residents regardless of income level have a safe place to call home.

The Asks

1. The WOWC requests that the Province of Ontario reinstate housing services and the cost of land as eligible development charges (DC) costs.
2. The WOWC requests equity for small and rural municipalities regarding housing infrastructure funding.



2024-25 PRIORITIES: INFRASTRUCTURE

Issue

As Western Ontario continues to be the economic driver of the Province, and more investments are being made in our region, we need to ensure that there is the infrastructure to support the growth.



The Ask

The WOWC requires clear communication from the Province of Ontario on the infrastructure build out in Western Ontario, including clarity from the government on what to expect for utility investments, including hydroelectricity, natural gas, water, and wastewater.



2024-25 PRIORITIES: WORKFORCE

Issue

There has been an ongoing focus for the WOWC over the past few years on workforce retention and expansion. This has been highlighted in the collaborative regional work through the Western Ontario Workforce Strategy.

The Ask

The WOWC requires several important considerations regarding workforce development in rural Western Ontario, both to support economic growth and to stabilize the regional economy.



2024-25 PRIORITIES: MENTAL HEALTH, ADDICTIONS & HOMELESSNESS

Issue

Funding for our rural communities is a necessity. We are less equipped with fewer resources than our urban counterparts to tackle the growing mental health and addictions crisis.



The Asks

1. The WOWC continues to emphasize its request for the Province that a specific portion of the Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) funding be allocated specifically for small and rural communities.
2. The WOWC continues to advocate for permanent funding for the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) programs, through annualized funding and permanently-funded mental health officer positions.



BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

WESTERN ONTARIO 10
WOWC
WARDENS CAUCUS



Project Results

63,932

PREMISES PASSED



4,250

SERVED ROAD KMs

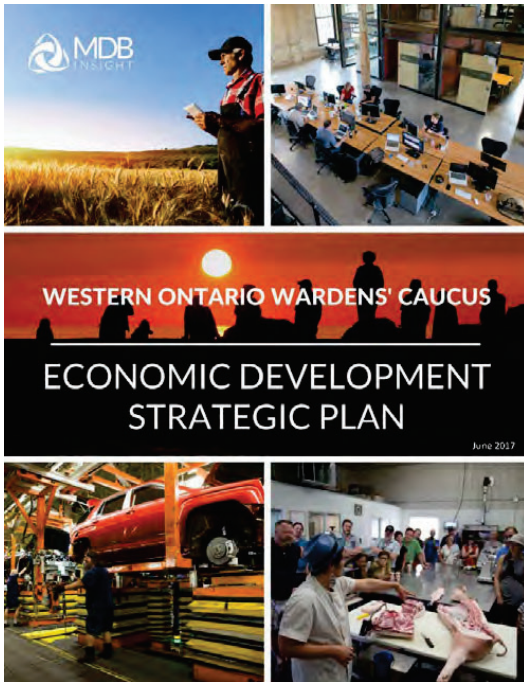


\$270M

TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE
INVESTMENT



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



The WOWC with investment from Community Futures Western Ontario continues to implement the actions of the regional Economic Development Strategic Plan.

The Project

- Identify opportunities to advance the economy of Southwestern Ontario that also leverages the ongoing efforts of WOWC.
- Improve the underlying conditions for economic development throughout the region.
- Generate a series of actions at the regional level that enables the creation of jobs, wealth and investment across the region.



ONTARIO WEST MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE

WESTERN ONTARIO 12
WOWC
WARDENS CAUCUS

REGISTER NOW

WESTERN ONTARIO
WOWC
WARDENS CAUCUS

**ONTARIO WEST
MUNICIPAL
CONFERENCE 2024**
October 25, 2024 | Chatham-Kent, ON

INNOVATE & NAVIGATE: CARVING OUR TRAIL OF SUCCESS



ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- Ensured Western Ontario retained its current number of rural federal seats as part of the federal riding redistribution plan
- Advocated to the province to reverse course on proposed farm lot severance policy
- Leave to Construct Threshold Increase
- Secured Community Response Pilot Project funding for region
- Attendance at the Provincial Housing Forum
- Return of the Western Ontario Municipal Conference



THANK YOU

Kate Burns Gallagher

Executive Director

Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus

kate@wowc.ca

519-495-6059





August 18, 2024

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Bldg, Rm 281
Queen's Park, Toronto, ON M7A 1A1
doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

The Honourable Paul Calandra
Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
College Park, 17th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3
Minister.mah@ontario.ca

The Honourable Kinga Surma
Minister of Infrastructure
777 Bay Street 5th Floor, Room 5E200
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3
Minister.MOI@ontario.ca

The Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy
Minister of Finance
Frost Building South, 7th Floor
7 Queen's Park Crescent
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1Y7
Minister.fin@ontario.ca

The Honourable Lisa Thompson
Minister of Rural Affairs
College Park
777 Bay St
Toronto, ON M7A 2J4
minister.mra@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford and Ministers,

As you know, municipalities provide the services that Ontarians rely on every day. The fiscal framework that enables municipalities to do this work is broken. Failing to fix this problem fails residents, small businesses, health and public safety partners, and major industries.

Since last fall, AMO has called on your government to commit to working with municipalities on a Social and Economic Prosperity Review to put municipalities on solid fiscal footing for the benefit of Ontario's competitiveness and quality of life. Representing 230 of Ontario's 444 municipalities across Ontario, the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, the Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus, and the Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus are united and fully support the urgent need for a review.

Together, it is imperative that we form sustainable partnerships to ensure Ontario's overall future prosperity and growth. The review calls on the provincial government to sit down with municipalities and work together to conduct a joint review of revenues, costs and financial risks, as well as an analysis of Ontario's infrastructure investment and service delivery needs. Since its launch, more than 150 municipalities and organizations have passed resolutions supporting this work – *and counting*.

AMO, the WOWC, EOMC and EOWC, and its members remain committed to this important initiative. The review is critical to Ontario's ability to make progress on the issues people care about most, including infrastructure, housing, healthcare, cost of living, and public safety. The municipal fiscal sustainability challenge is urgent, province-wide, and central to Ontario's social and economic prosperity.

This work has received support from the opposition, who recognize the importance and urgency of a conversation on the state of municipal finances and the need for a comprehensive review of provincial-municipal fiscal arrangements. All three opposition leaders have committed to a New Deal for municipalities if elected in the next election.

Municipalities continue to call on Premier Ford to work together with municipal governments to get it done for Ontarians. We urge the Ontario Government to commit to this review.

Working together, we can build a better Ontario.

Sincerely,



Peter Emon
Chair, 2024
Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus
Info@eowc.org



Glen McNeil
Chair, 2024
Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus
gmcneil@huroncounty.ca



Jeff Leal
Chair, 2024
Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus
jleal@peterborough.ca

CC: Association of Municipalities of Ontario, policy@amo.on.ca



News Release

Rural Municipal Leaders Support 'Solve the Crisis' Campaign to Address Homelessness and Mental Health

Sunday, August 18, 2024

City of Ottawa - Representing 230 municipalities and over 2.6 million people across Ontario, the [Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus](#), [Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus](#), , and Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus join the call to action around the ['Solve the Crisis' Campaign](#), led by the [Ontario Big City Mayors](#).

During their joint meeting at the start of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) 125th Conference, the three caucuses are stating their collective support around the need for the Ontario and Federal Governments to take immediate and targeted action to help solve the crisis around homelessness and mental health.

There is a homelessness and mental health crisis happening on streets across our communities, small and big, rural and urban. Municipalities continue to step up, but do not have the tools, expertise or capacity to fully address the intersectional and complex issues around housing, homelessness, health care, and social services.

We appreciate the actions that both the Federal and Ontario Governments have taken to-date including Ontario's Roadmap to Wellness, the creation of the Homelessness Prevention Program, and investing in youth wellness hubs. But we need to do more to 'Solve the Crisis' together as government partners, and we need to act swiftly.

As municipalities continue to raise, the rising number of homeless encampments and the human toll of the opioid crisis are a symptom of deeper system failures that hurt Ontario's overall social and economic prosperity. The WOWC, EOMC, and EOWC will be sending a letter to Premier

Ford to further underscore the need for a [Social and Economic Prosperity Review](#). We need a municipal fiscal relationship that supports the foundations of a strong economy, sustainable communities and quality of life that reflects modern day and front-line realities.

Organizations and Ontarians can join the call to support the 'Solve the Crisis' campaign by visiting www.solvethecrisis.ca.

Quotes

"As Chair of the WOWC, I see the impacts first-hand around the homelessness and mental health crisis. Municipalities have been working tirelessly on the front-lines to address complex issues. We want to build safe, health communities and the only way to do so is to work together. Let's step up and 'Solve the Crisis' together." – **WOWC Chair, Glen McNeil, Warden of Huron County**

"In communities of all sizes, not just big cities, people are unhoused, suffering and dying. We need to help them and municipalities do not have the financial tools and resources to do it alone. It is time to take action to 'Solve The Crisis' together with municipalities, the Ontario Government, the Federal Government, and community partners at the table." – **EOWC Chair, Peter Emon, Warden of Renfrew County**

"This is something we (the Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus) have been pursuing, over the last year: the need for substantial investment by both the Government of Ontario and the Government of Canada, to deal with this unprecedented humanitarian crisis that all municipalities are now facing." – **EOMC Chair, Jeff Leal, Mayor of the City of Peterborough**

About our organizations

[Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus](#)

The Western Ontario Wardens Caucus Inc. (WOWC) serves as a unified voice for the 15 upper and single tier municipalities in Southwestern Ontario, advocating for their collective interest. Through collaborative efforts, WOWC works to address the unique challenges faced by rural and small urban

communities, playing a pivotal role in shaping policies and initiatives that positively impact the region's 1.6 million residents.

Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

The Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus Inc. (EOWC) is a non-profit organization advocating for 103 small urban and rural municipalities across Eastern Ontario. The EOWC covers an area of 50,000 square kilometres, serving 800,000 residents. For more than 20 years, the EOWC has gained support by speaking with a united voice to champion regional municipal priorities and work with the government, businesses, non-profit organizations, Indigenous leaders, the media, and the public.

The Eastern Ontario Mayors' Caucus

The Eastern Ontario Mayor's Caucus (EOMC) is comprised of ten Eastern Ontario municipalities that advocate for the region's needs and priorities, especially in the areas of health care, infrastructure, and economic development. The caucus works collaboratively with other levels of government, health care providers, community organizations, and interest holders to address the challenges and opportunities facing Eastern Ontario.

Ontario Big City Mayors

Ontario's Big City Mayors (OBCM) is an organization that includes mayors of 29 single and lower-tier cities with a population of 100,000 or more, who collectively represent nearly 70 percent of Ontario's population. OBCM advocates for issues and policies important to Ontario's largest cities.

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GREAT LAKES AND
ST. LAWRENCE
CITIES INITIATIVE

making waves newsletter

2024

Making Waves is the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative's monthly newsletter. Read on to learn about our events and activities, along with important announcements and updates from our policy and program teams!

CEO Message

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you're all enjoying a wonderful summer. Over the past month, our team has been hard at work planning a variety of programs and initiatives for the remainder of the year.



Recently, several of our Members attended the U.S. Republican Party convention. We also organized a reception for mayors attending the convention to inform prospective members about our organization and our efforts to advance the basin's economic transformation. While we remain a non-partisan organization, these events enable us to engage with Members and leaders from across the political spectrum and keep them informed about our initiatives while they are all in one location.

Looking ahead, our team is preparing for our participation at the Democratic National Convention and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference this month. We will host events at both conventions, engaging with more of our region's mayors to educate them about our activities. See our Upcoming Events section for more information.

We are also beginning to plan for the Federation of Québec Municipalities convention this September in Quebec City. We will keep you informed of our activities at this conference.

As U.S. elections approach and Canadian federal elections seem increasingly likely this coming spring, our staff has been conducting scenario planning to ensure we are prepared to work with any new American administration and Canadian government that forms next year. Our team will also engage in scenario planning at our Mid-Year Meeting.

As fall quickly approaches, keep an eye out for more information to register with a super saver rate for our 2025 Annual Conference taking place May 13-16 in Milwaukee, WI. You will also be receiving your membership renewal notices and invoices this fall.

We look forward to seeing you at some of the many activities we have planned for the rest of this summer. Stay tuned for more to come this fall!

Warm regards,

Jonathan Altenberg
President and CEO

Basin Bulletin

Program Updates

- On July 18, **Mayor Andrea Matrosovs** (Town of the Blue Mountains), Co-Chair of the Mayors' Commission on Water Equity, together with Cities Initiative staff,

hosted a roundtable discussion with Ontario municipalities on source water protection and water infrastructure issues and needs. Three Member mayors and 47 municipal staff participated in the event. A report, to be shared in August, will guide the Cities Initiative's commission and program planning.

- The Resilient Coastal Projects Initiative (RCPI) has kicked off preliminary design with six members – Dearborn Heights, MI; Buchanan, MI; Cheboygan, MI; Pentwater, MI; Kenosha, WI; and Two Rivers, WI. Stay tuned for project highlights.

Policy Updates

- The U.S. presidential election has entered uncharted waters, with **President Joe Biden** announcing his decision to withdraw from the presidential race. Biden subsequently endorsed **Vice President Kamala Harris** to be his successor. Prior to becoming Vice President, Harris served in the U.S. Senate for four years and as Attorney General of California for six years. While most pledged delegates have endorsed Vice President Harris, she will not become the Democratic Party's official presidential nominee until a virtual roll-call vote that is expected to be held in early August, a couple of weeks before the 2024 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, IL.
- The Republican National Convention was held in Milwaukee, WI earlier this month, where **former President Donald Trump** selected **Senator J.D. Vance of Ohio** as his Vice-Presidential running mate. The two were then formally nominated as the GOP ticket for the November election. Vance currently serves as Senate Co-Chair of the Great Lakes Task Force and was one of the original cosponsors of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2024.
- At the 2024 Great Lakes Sustainable Growth Forum in Toronto, the Cities Initiative and the Council of The Great Lakes Region (CGLR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalize our partnership on Economic Transformation. This collaborative effort will see us exploring economic opportunities in the region, particularly in the manufacturing (auto sector, industrial, etc.), trades and labour, and energy sectors, all of which are key aspects of the Cities Initiative's Mayors Commission on Economic Transformation. Canadian Co-Chair and Cobourg **Mayor Lucas Cleveland**, along with other esteemed representatives including Ontario **Premier Doug Ford**, auto manufacturers, unions, and other partners, were part of this inclusive and forward-thinking initiative.



Mayor Lucas Cleveland (Cobourg, ON) speaks at the Great Lakes Sustainable Growth Forum in Toronto

- We are collaborating with Environment Canada to hold a consultation on PFAS this summer (date to be confirmed) as part of the Government of Canada's [national engagement](#) on the subject. For more information, please get in touch with [Eamonn Horan-Lunney](#),

Member Spotlight

If you have a story you would like to share, please contact our Chief Development Officer, [Phil Murphy-Rhéaume](#).

Welcome to our new Members!



[Mayor Kirsten Holzheimer Gail of Euclid, OH](#)



[Mayor Ross Kentner of Meaford, ON](#)

Mayors Commission Updates

- **Mayors Commission on Economic Transformation** – We are actively seeking more members to serve on this commission. The commission will convene every other month from September 2024 through May 2025 to develop the *Action Plan for the Economic Transformation of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin, 2025-2035*, to be released at our next Annual Conference in Milwaukee, WI. The action plan will provide a roadmap for basin communities seeking to transform their industries, energy grids, transportation sectors, and waterfronts.
- **Mayors Commission on Water Equity** – We are pleased to announce that **Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard** of Mount Vernon, NY, has agreed to serve alongside **Mayor Cavalier Johnson** of Milwaukee, WI, as a U.S. Co-Chair of this commission. **Mayor Patterson-Howard** became a member of the Cities Initiative in 2023 as one of the inaugural recipients of the Richard M. Daley Water Equity Community Award and has since been an active member of the organization, participating in our delegations to the One Water Summit in Tucson, AZ, in 2023 and Great Lakes Day in Washington, DC, in 2024. We look forward to working with Mayor Patterson-Howard to advance equitable access to clean, safe and affordable water for all basin residents.

Interested in joining a commission? Please contact [Travis Wheeler](#), Chief Policy Officer, to learn more about opportunities to get involved.

Word on the Hills



Parliament Hill

- Parliament and the provincial legislatures are on hiatus until the fall, with a return expected in mid-September or October. Prior to the summer break, the federal government successfully passed legislation to create the [Canada Water Agency](#). We can anticipate increased activities and initiatives from this new agency in the coming months.

- Over the summer, Cities Initiative staff are participating in a series of meetings between [Climate Proof Canada](#) coalition, of which we are a member, and federal department and agency officials in Housing, Infrastructure & Communities, Emergency Preparedness, and Public Safety Canada, Infrastructure Canada, the Canada Infrastructure Bank, Natural Resources Canada, and others to discuss the [National Adaption Strategy](#), national flood mapping, and other climate preparedness programming as they prepare for Budget 2025

Capitol Hill

- On July 9, 2024, the **House Committee on Appropriations** approved the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Appropriations Act for Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. The proposed legislation would provide \$368 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), consistent with the FY24 enacted level. The proposed bill would also provide \$883.52 million for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), \$246.48 million less than the FY24 enacted level. Subsequently, On July 25, 2024, the **Senate Committee on Appropriations** approved its version of the FY25 Appropriations Act for Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, which would provide \$371 million for the GLRI and \$1.13 billion for the DWSRF. Neither the House nor the Senate versions have been considered in the respective full chamber.



June 20, 2024

SENT VIA EMAIL

Hon. Doug Ford MPP
Premier of Ontario
Premier's Office, Main Legislative Building
Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario

Dear Premier,

As I know you will agree, Ontario's paramedics, police officers and firefighters are our frontline heroes, regularly putting themselves at risk to protect the rest of us.

In recent months, local resident, paramedic and former volunteer firefighter, Charles Shaw, has been advocating for paramedics and all police officers to receive the same long-service medal as exists today for firefighters and Ontario Provincial Police officers.

Our Town Council agrees with Mr Shaw, and passed the below resolution unanimously requesting the province create such medals. Here is the resolution:

Resolution 2024-206

Whereas paramedics, firefighters and police officers are our frontline heroes, regularly putting their own health and safety at risk to help others in need;

Whereas the Ontario Fire Services Long Service Medal was created in 1971 to honour firefighters who have served the public for twenty-five years or more and the Governor General's Fire Services Exemplary Service Medal was created in 1985 and 'honours members of a recognized Canadian fire service who have completed 20 years of service, ten years of which have been served in the performance of duties involving potential risks;

Whereas the Ontario Provincial Police Long Service and Good Conduct Medal honours OPP officers who have served for twenty years or more and the Governor General's Police Exemplary Service Medal, created in 1983, 'recognizes police officers who have served in an exemplary manner having completed 20 years of full-time service with one or more recognized Canadian police forces;

Whereas many non-OPP police services have similar local long-service medals within their forces, but there is not a province-wide long-service medal for non-OPP police officers;

Whereas the Governor General's Emergency Medical Services Exemplary Service Medal, created in 1994, recognizes 'professionals in the provision of pre-hospital emergency medical services to the public who completed 20 years of exemplary service, including at least 10 years in the performance of duties involving potential risk;

Whereas there is no province-wide long-service medal for paramedics in Ontario;

Therefore, The Corporation of the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury Council:

- 1. Endorse the creation of a province-wide long-service medal for police and for paramedics, modelled after the existing such award for firefighters;*
- 2. In furtherance of this resolution, that the Mayor write to the Premier, Minister of Health, Solicitor General, Minister of Citizenship and our local MPP urging them to work collaboratively to create such awards; and*
- 3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to all Ontario municipalities.*

I believe this is a relatively simple but important measure your government could take to honour our paramedics and police officers, as we already honour our firefighters. I understand the creation of such an award would involve several different ministries, and I hope you might instruct your cabinet to work together to create this award.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



James Leduc
Mayor
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury

cc

Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health
Hon. Michael Krezner, Solicitor General
Hon. Michael Ford, Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
Hon. Caroline Mulroney, MPP for York—Simcoe
Cllr Jonathan Scott, Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
Mr. Charles Shaw
Ontario's Municipal Councils



2529 Stirling-Marmora Road
Box 40
Stirling, ON K0K 3E0
Phone: 613-395-3380 Fax: 613-395-0864

August 21, 2024

Premier's Office
Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Hon. Ford,

Re: Public Sector Salary Disclosure

At the August 6, 2024 Standing Committees meeting, Committee made the following recommendation:

Moved by Councillor Dean Graff

Seconded by Councillor Don Stewart

That the report from the CAO-Treasurer entitled, "Public Sector Salary Disclosure" be received; and

That Committee recommends to Council the following resolution be adopted and forwarded to the Province of Ontario Premier's Office, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and all Ontario Municipalities;

Now Therefore Be It Resolved That the Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act be updated to reflect the inflation rates since 1996; and further

That the Act be further updated so that the inflation rate is applied each year to the requirement to report public salaries.

Carried.

This resolution was subsequently ratified and confirmed by Council at their meeting of August 19, 2024.

Sincerely,

Sydney Dodson
Deputy Clerk

/sd

Cc: Roxanne Hearn – CAO/Treasurer, Premier Doug Ford, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, AMO, all Ontario Municipalities

The Corporation of the City of Cambridge

50 Dickson Street, P.O. Box 669
Cambridge ON N1R 5W8
(519) 740-4517



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
AND COUNCIL

Delivered by hand and electronic mail.

August 15, 2024

Dear Mayors, CAOs, Provincial, and Federal Party Leaders,

Re: Mental Health and Addictions Crisis

I do not think it is an overstatement: the current mental health and addictions crisis is the greatest calamity of our time. This crisis has leached into the very fabric of our lives – it has turned our streets into the theatre of mental crises and places for open drug use, it has affected economic development on a micro and macro scale, and most importantly, the negative impact to the health and wellness of our community members of all ages will be felt for generations.

For about three decades, we have debated and engaged in discourse on this topic with very little to show for it. The situation has never been worse. Actions taken to this point have only exacerbated the crisis. Daily, my office is inundated with calls and emails regarding the lack of mental health and addiction services in our community.

When I became mayor, one of the goals I set out to accomplish was to make a difference where it counted, to change the ever-increasing numbers of people in the throes of addiction and mental health crises; or at the very least stabilize the numbers. We have been spinning in circles, not achieving anything while we continue to talk at people. I felt I knew what needed to be done but I wanted to hear from the people who live with this every day. As the leader of my community, I realized I needed to take it to the people and then listen carefully, so I decided to do a poll. I believe this poll captures what every government needs to know when allocating funds, which is how do we help in the best way possible. If we as leaders do this, we can change the catastrophic future of our current path

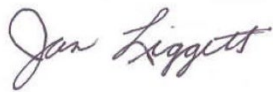
Last year, I was presented with the opportunity to begin work on an Ontario-wide study to determine how Ontarians feel about the current state of mental health and addictions

services. The study, conducted by Campaign Research, indicates that Ontarians want to see this crisis addressed. Ontarians overwhelmingly support the idea of a dedicated revenue stream to solve the problem and have expressed a desire for the provincial government to institute legislative changes to allow families and physicians to provide mental health and addiction treatment to involuntary patients. I attach herewith the condensed findings for your review.

I am comforted to see that across regional and political lines and market segments Ontarians want to see this crisis solved.

I encourage you to share the results of this study with your network. I am eager to discuss this matter further and work together towards a solution for this is happening on our collective watch. Please feel free to reach out to my Executive Assistant, Ana Djukic, by email at djukica@cambridge.ca, should you wish to obtain a full copy of the results or schedule a time for us to speak.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jan Liggett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jan Liggett
Mayor



MARKET RESEARCH & BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE SERVICES

WHAT'S YOUR CHALLENGE? ?

Aug 1st, 2024

**Public Opinion Research
City of Cambridge
Mental Health and Addictions
1 August 2024**



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METHODOLOGY

METHODOLOGY

Mental Health and Addictions

Public Opinion Research

Quantitative Market Research - Ontario

This study was conducted from July 30th 2024 to July 31st 2024, among a sample of 2027 respondents who are residents of Ontario and are members of Maru Blue's online panel. For comparison purposes, a probability sample of a similar size would have a margin of error of +/- 2%, 19 times out of 20.

Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding.

Where & How is the Study Conducted?

The study included respondents from an online panel of eligible voters in Ontario, 18 years old and older. The sample is weighted to regional, age and gender demographics, as per Statistics Canada.

STATS TESTING

-  Significantly higher than Ontario
-  Significantly lower than Ontario

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Awareness of existing mental health and addiction services in the community

67% of Ontario adults were aware of existing mental health and addiction services in their community while 33% said they were “not very aware” or “not at all aware”. Awareness of these services was somewhat higher with younger male respondents (under 35 years of age) and somewhat higher with females under 55 years of age. Interestingly, respondents who resided outside the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA) were more aware of existing mental health and addiction services compared to residents in the GTHA. [Slides 13-14](#)

Importance of accessible and timely mental health and addiction services

Nearly all Ontario adults believed it was “important” to have accessible and timely mental health and addiction services in their community. Six out of 10 respondents believed it was “very important”. Females were much stronger in their views that it was “very important”. Respondents broke out roughly the same way across the regions of Ontario. [Slides 15-16](#)

Are current mental health and addiction services adequate

22% of respondents believed that current mental health and addiction services were adequate while 44% disagreed. 34% of the respondents were “unsure”. Females were more of the view that these services were inadequate. Respondents were consistent across Ontario. [Slides 17-18](#)

Who has accessed mental health or addiction services

1 out of 3 Ontario adults said that they had personally accessed mental health or addiction services. Nearly half of all respondents under 35 years of age said that they had personally accessed these services. [Slides 19-20](#)

6 out of 10 respondents said they knew someone who had accessed either mental health or addiction services. Two-thirds of those under 35 years of age said they knew someone who had accessed these services. [Slides 21-22](#)

Quality of mental health and addiction services that are currently available

Respondents were split on the quality of the mental health and addiction services available. 33% of the respondents said “excellent” or “good” while 44% said “fair” or “poor” and 24% said they were “unsure” (only 16% said “poor”). Younger respondents were more positive about the quality of services compared to older respondents. Female respondents who were somewhat more negative about the quality compared to males. Respondents broke out roughly the same way across Ontario. [Slides 23-24](#)

Is a lack of government funding seen as the overall problem with mental health and addictions (Forced Choice)

33% of respondents believed the overall problem with mental health and addiction was not necessarily a lack of government funding while 45% believed that government needed to spend much more on mental health and addiction services to address the ever-growing problem. Females were much more of the view that government needed to spend much more money on mental health and addiction services. [Slide 25-26](#)

Support/ oppose government creating a dedicated stream of money to fund mental health and addiction services

Four out of 5 respondents supported the government of Ontario creating a dedicated a stream of money to specifically fund mental health and addiction services. Despite strong support from males, females were even more supportive of a creating a dedicated stream of money to fund these services. Respondents broke out roughly the same way across the regions of Ontario. [Slides 27-28](#)

Support/ oppose a new tax to fund mental health and addiction services

Respondents were more split on whether the government should create a new tax to fund mental health and addiction services. 40% of respondents supported a new tax to fund these services while 48% were opposed. Respondents who were over 54 years of age were much more opposed to a new tax compared to younger respondents. Respondents residing in more rural areas of Ontario were more opposed to the creation of a new tax to fund these services. [Slides 29-30](#)

Willingness to pay additional taxes to support mental health and addiction services

50% of respondents were not willing to pay additional taxes to support mental health and addiction services while 30% said they would. Those over 34 years of age were much more opposed compared to respondents under 35 years of age. Respondents broke out the same way across most regions across Ontario. [Slides 31-32](#)

How much in additional taxes would Ontarian's be willing to pay to support mental health services

33% of respondents were not willing to pay any additional taxes to support mental health and addiction services. Another 34% of respondents were willing to pay between \$0-\$25 per year in new taxes and another 19% were willing to pay between \$25-\$100 in new taxes per year to fund these services. Younger respondents were more willing to pay a new tax compared to older respondents. Respondents broke out roughly the same way across the regions of Ontario. [Slides 33-34](#)

Perceived effectiveness of a dedicated revenue stream to improve mental health and addiction services

Two to 1, respondents believed a dedicated revenue stream would be effective to improve mental health and addiction services. Younger respondents held this view much more than older respondents. Respondents broke out roughly the same way across Ontario. [Slides 35-36](#)

Mental health and addiction services that should be prioritized with new funding [Slide 37](#)

- 57% - Youth and adult mental health services
- 51% - Mental Health Crisis intervention services
- 37% - Rehabilitation programs and facilities
- 23% - Community-based support groups like Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous etc.
- 16% - Inpatient detox facilities

Support/ oppose a political candidate (political party) willing to raise taxes to fund mental health and addiction services

Nearly half of the respondents said they would support a political candidate who was willing to raise taxes to increase mental health/ addiction services while 36% were opposed. Males were slightly more opposed compared to females. Respondents residing in Eastern region (not including the City of Ottawa) were much more opposed (48%) compared to others in Ontario, who were more supportive. [Slides 38-39](#)

Necessity of building new brick-and-mortar facilities for mental health and addiction services

Two to 1, respondents believed that building new facilities for mental health and addiction services was necessary. Respondents broke out roughly the same way across the regions of Ontario. [Slides 40-41](#)

Barriers faced when trying to access mental health and addiction services [Slide 42](#)

- 54% - Availability of services
- 44% - Cost
- 29% - Quality of services
- 27% - Stigma
- 19% - Lack of information

How government should sustain the funding for mental health and addictions services [Slide 43](#)

- 59% - Reallocate existing funds
- 48% - Public-private partnerships
- 44% - Private donations and grants
- 26% - Increase taxes (to create a dedicated revenue stream for mental health and addiction services)

Agree/ disagree to government partnerships with private organizations to fund mental health and addictions services

Three out of 4 respondents agreed that the government of Ontario should explore partnerships with private organizations to fund mental health and addiction services. Respondents broke out roughly the same way across Ontario. [Slides 44-45](#)

Agree/ disagree that larger corporations should contribute a portion of profits to fund mental health and addiction services

Seven out of 10 respondents agreed that larger corporations should contribute a portion of their profits to fund mental health and addictions. Respondents broke out roughly the same way across Ontario. [Slides 46-47](#)

Agree/ disagree that laws in Ontario need to change for involuntary patients

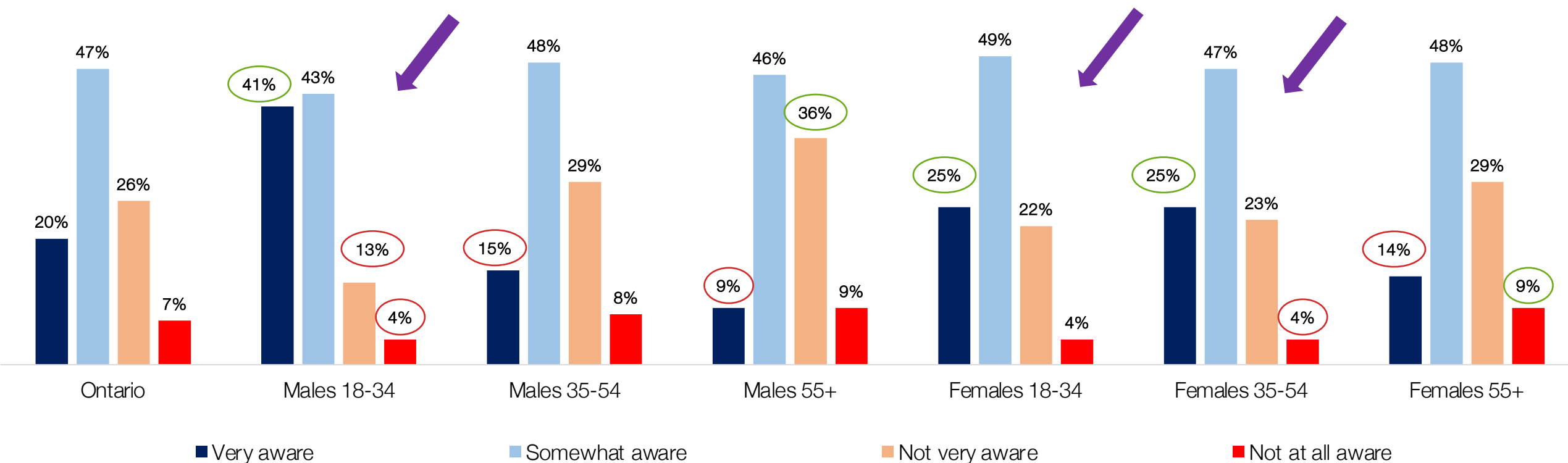
Two-thirds of respondents agreed that Ontario's laws needed to change to allow families and physicians to provide mental health and addiction treatment to involuntary patients. Respondents broke out roughly the same way across Ontario. [Slides 48-49](#)

Agree/ disagree that "Drug Treatment Courts" should be offered more widely in Ontario

68% of respondents agreed that Drug Treatment Courts should be offered more widely in Ontario. Females were even stronger in their support of Drug Treatment Courts compared to males. Respondents broke out roughly the same way across the regions of Ontario. [Slides 50-51](#)

DETAILED FINDINGS

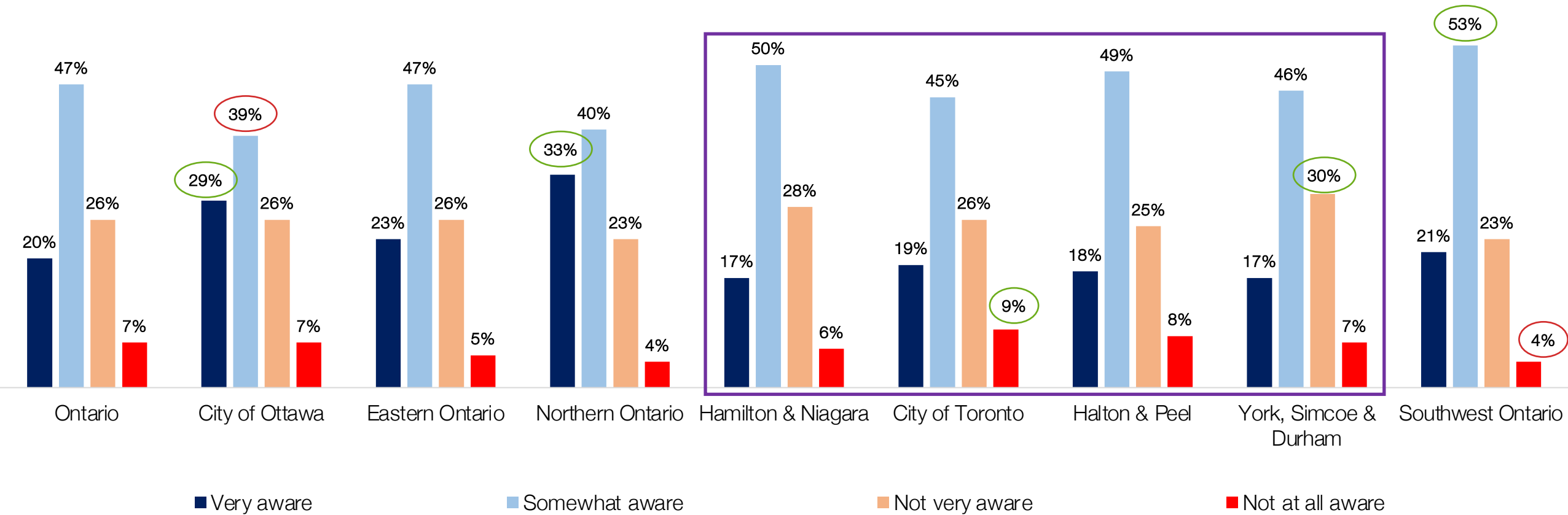
67% of Ontario adults were “aware” of existing mental health and addiction services in their community while 33% said they were “not very aware” or “not at all aware”. Awareness of these services was somewhat higher among younger male respondents (under 35 years of age) and females (under 55 years of age) compared to older respondents (over 54 years of age).



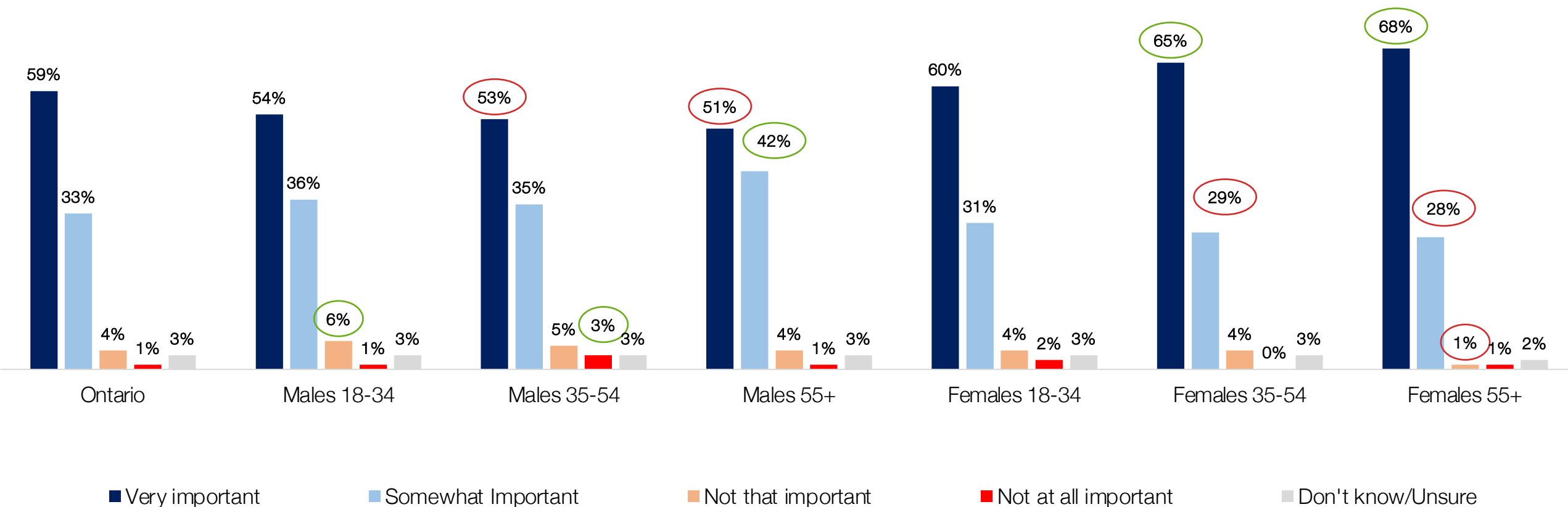
Awareness of existing mental health and addiction services in the community

Regions

Awareness of existing mental health and addiction services was slightly higher in all the regions outside the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area (GTHA).



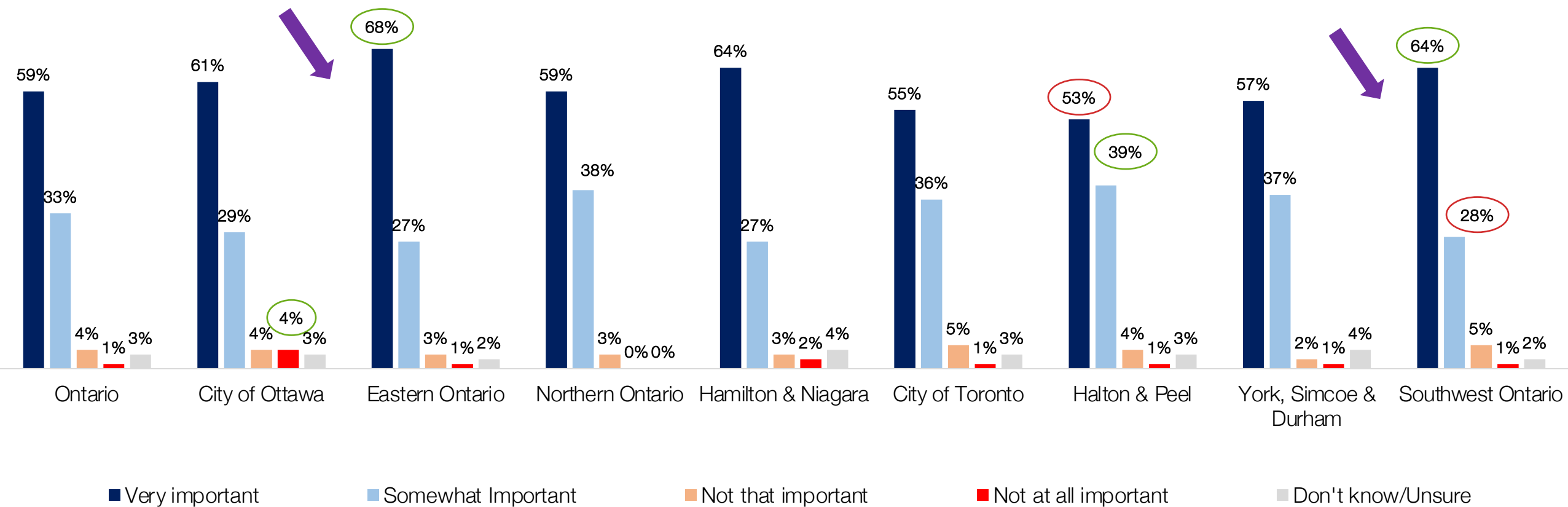
Nearly all Ontario adults believed it was 'important' to have accessible and timely mental health and addiction services in their community, with six out of 10 respondents indicating it was 'very important'. Females were much stronger in their view that it was “very important” compared to males.



i Importance of accessible and timely mental health and addiction services

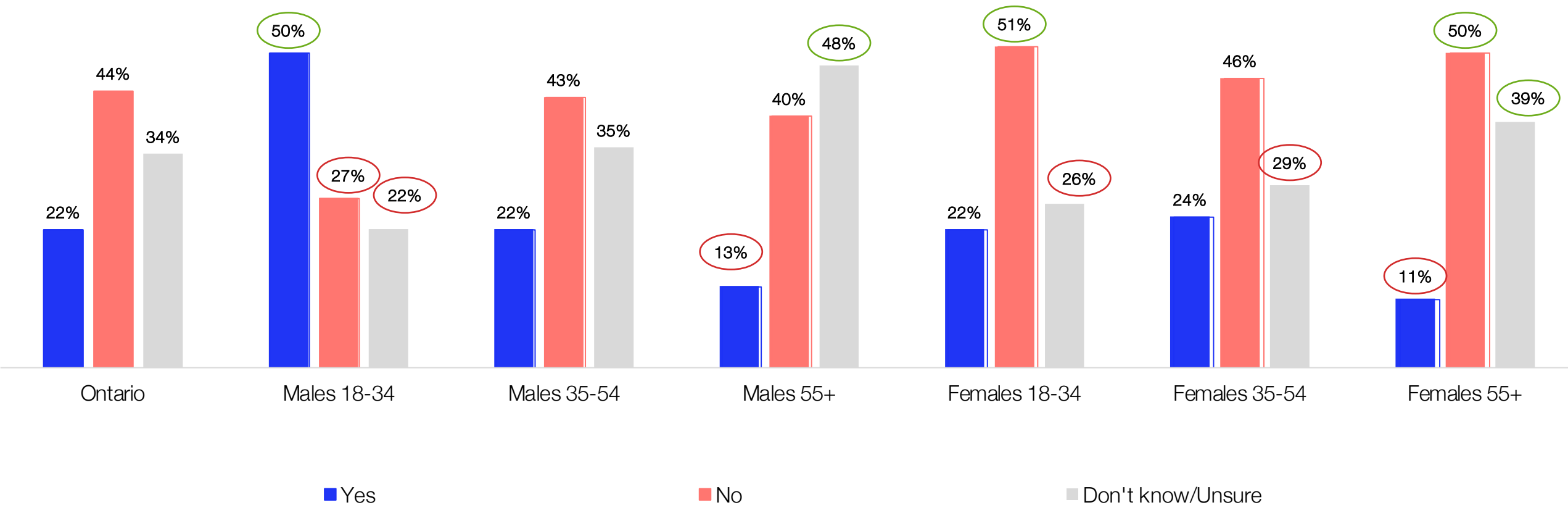
Regions

Findings were consistent across the regions of Ontario, with significantly more respondents residing in the Eastern and Southwestern regions who believed it was “very important”.



Q2 - How important do you think it is to have accessible and timely mental health and addiction services in your community? Base = 2027

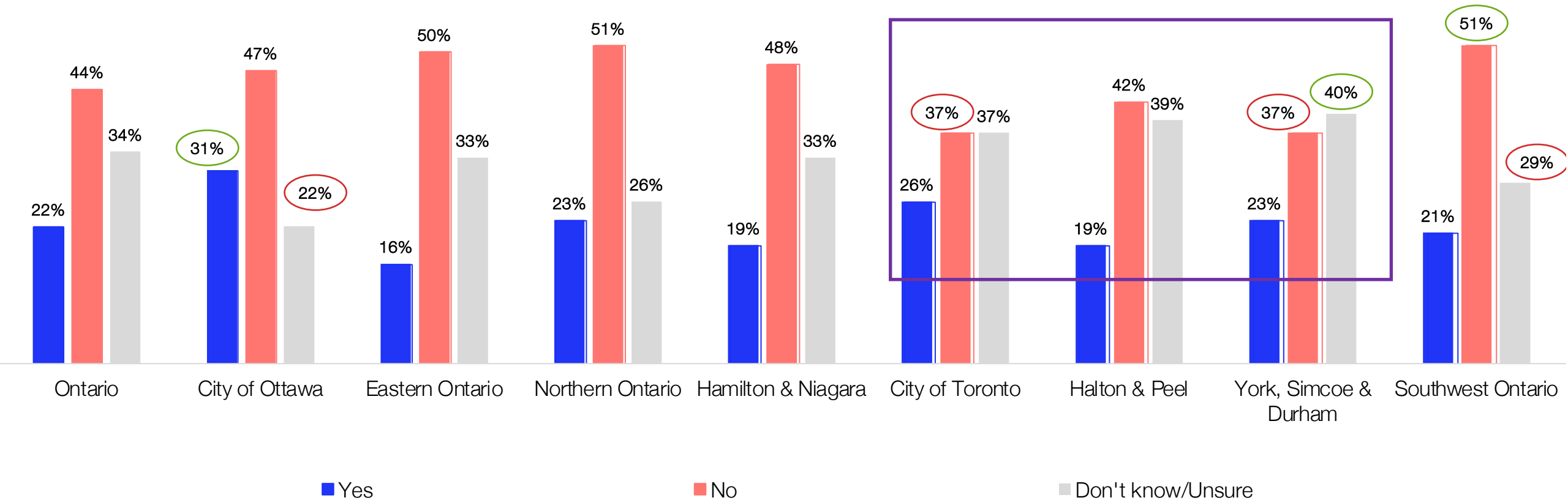
Only 22% of respondents believed that current mental health and addiction services (in their communities) were adequate while twice as many, (44%) disagreed. 34% of the respondents were “unsure”. Females were much more of the view that these services were inadequate compared to males.



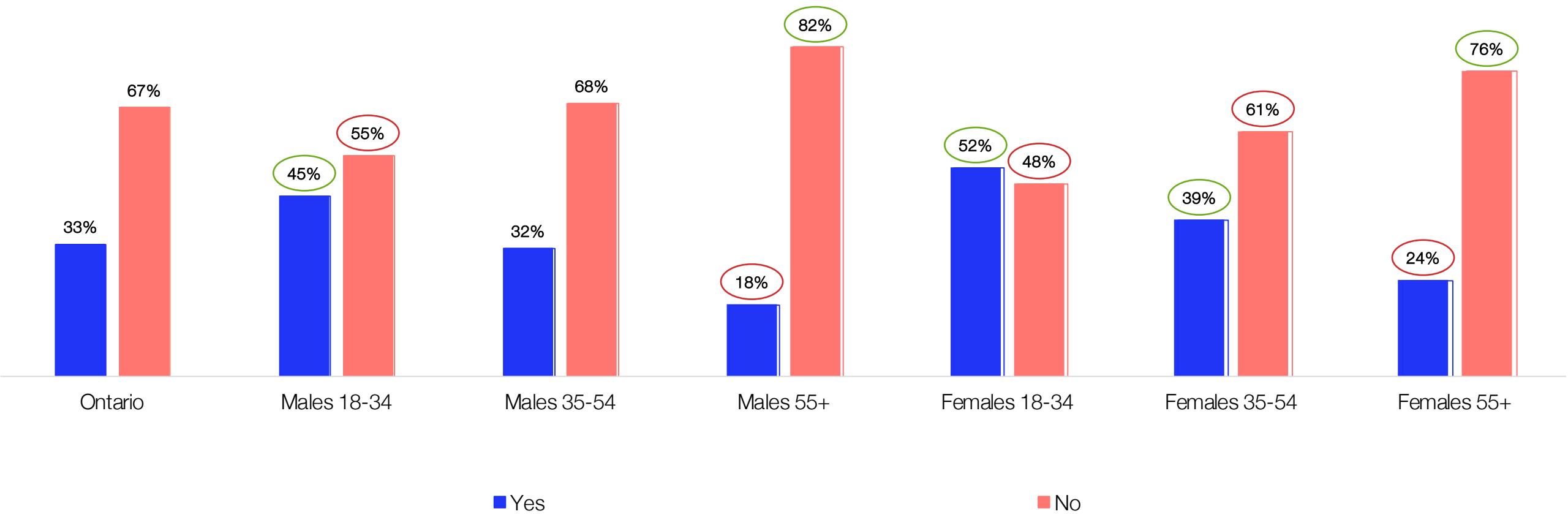
i Are current mental health and addiction services adequate

Regions

Respondents broke out roughly the same way across the regions of Ontario. In the GTA respondents were somewhat more “unsure” compared to those residing in other regions.



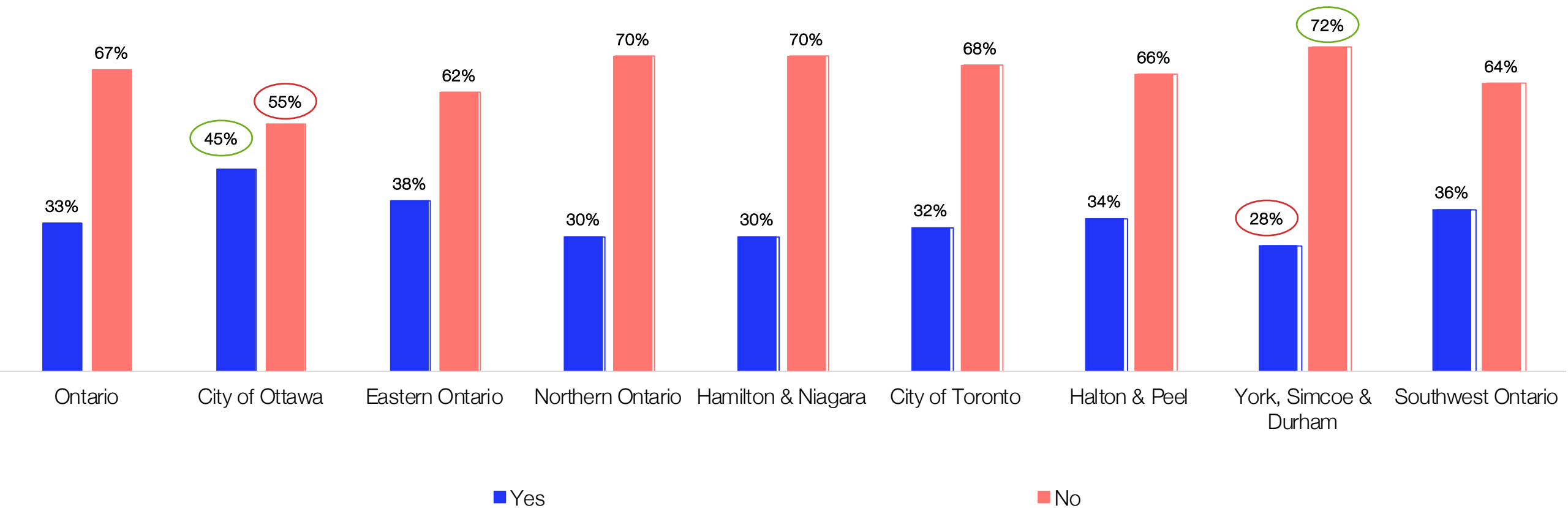
1 out of 3 respondents said they had personally accessed mental health or addiction services. Nearly half of all respondents under 35 years of age said they had personally accessed these services.



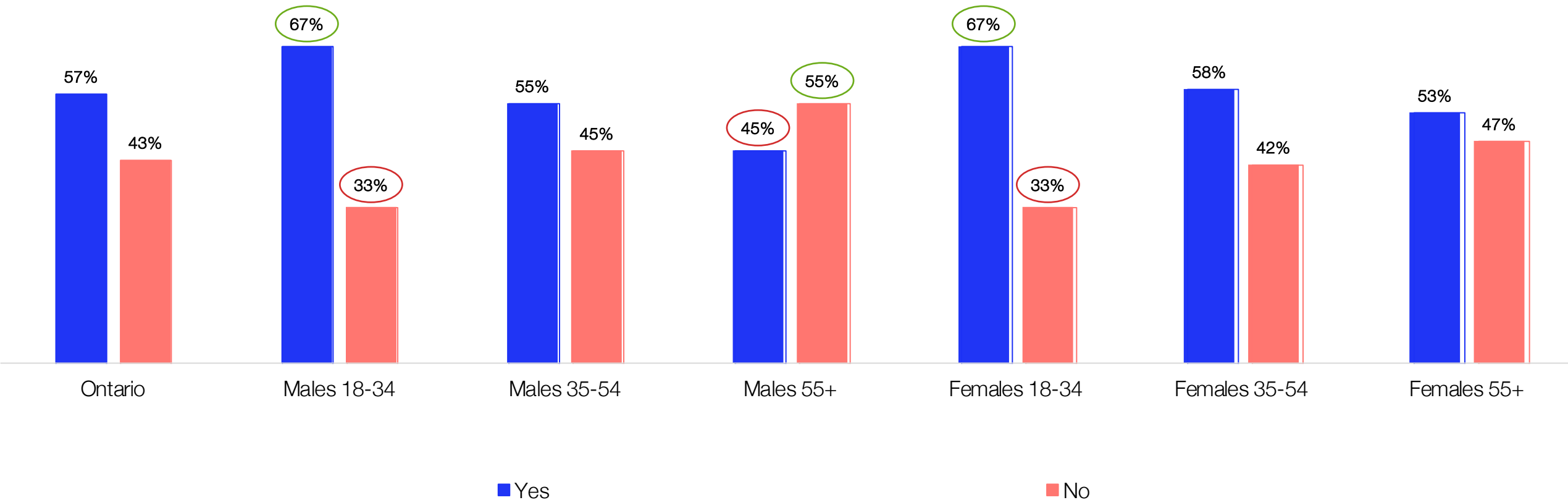
Personally accessed mental health or addiction services

Regions

Responses were largely uniform across all regions of Ontario with those respondents residing in the City of Ottawa region saying they had accessed mental health and/or addiction services much more than all others.



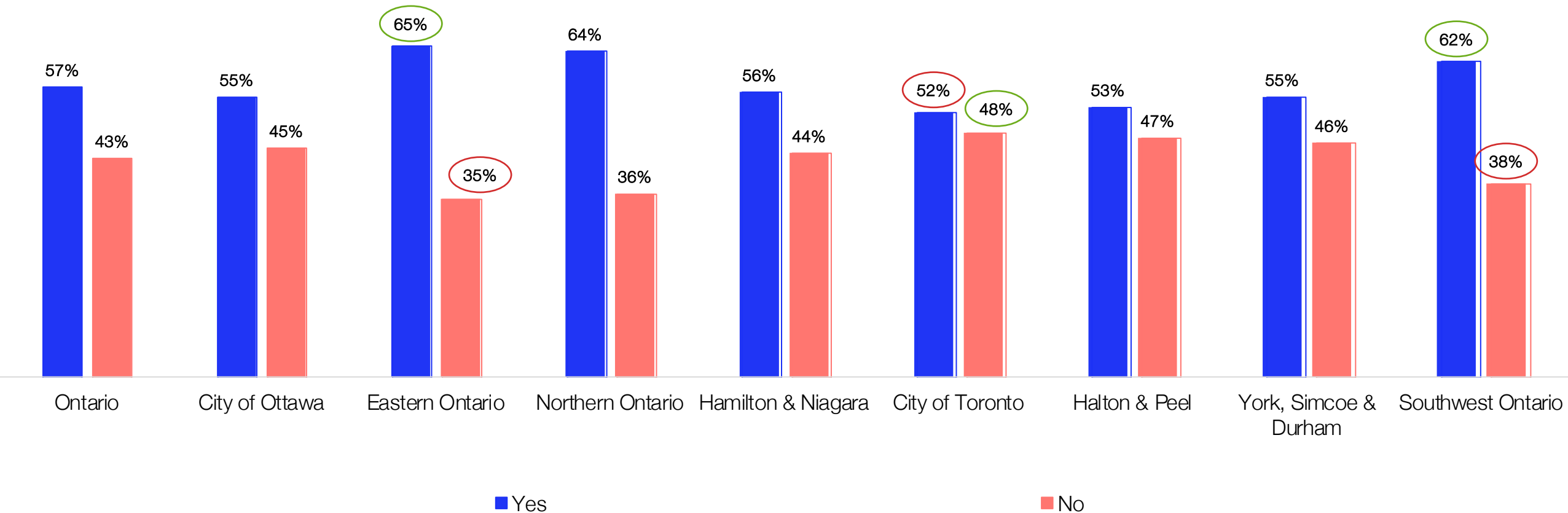
Overall, nearly 6 out of 10 respondents said they knew someone who had accessed either mental health or addiction services. 2/3rds of respondents under 35 years of age said they knew someone who had accessed these services.



Has anyone you know ever accessed mental health or addiction services

Regions

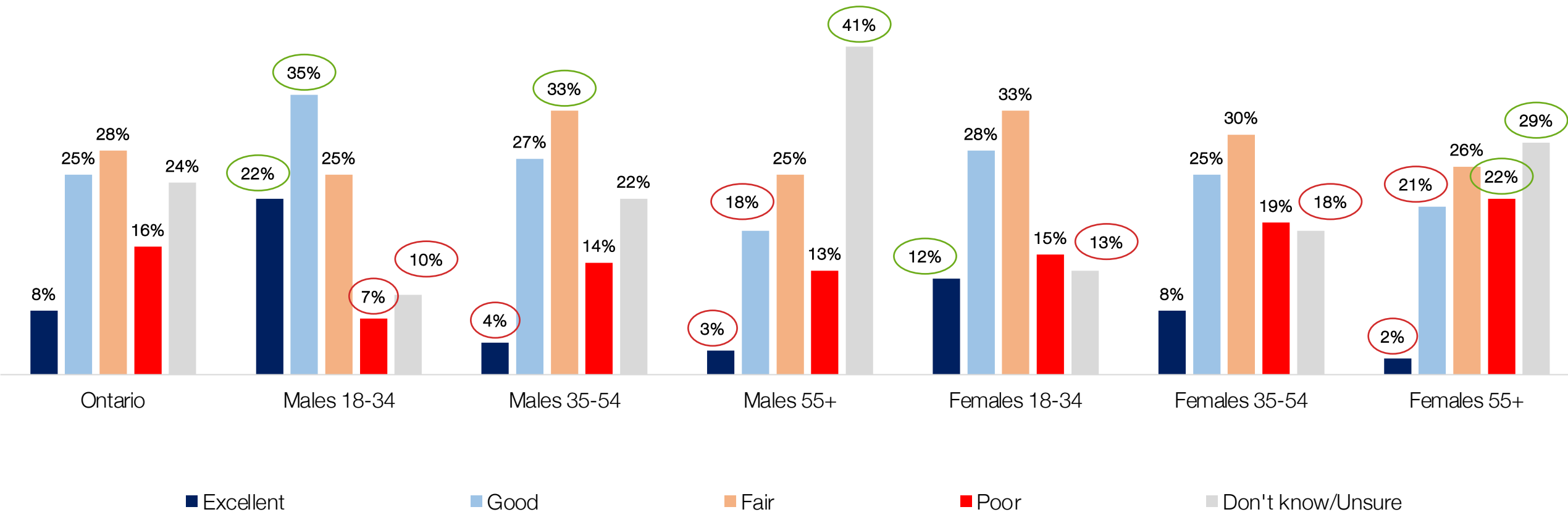
Interestingly, residents in less urban/ more suburban and/ or rural regions were more likely to know someone that had accessed these services compared to those residing in the GTA regions.



i Rate the quality of mental health and addiction services that are currently available

Age and Gender

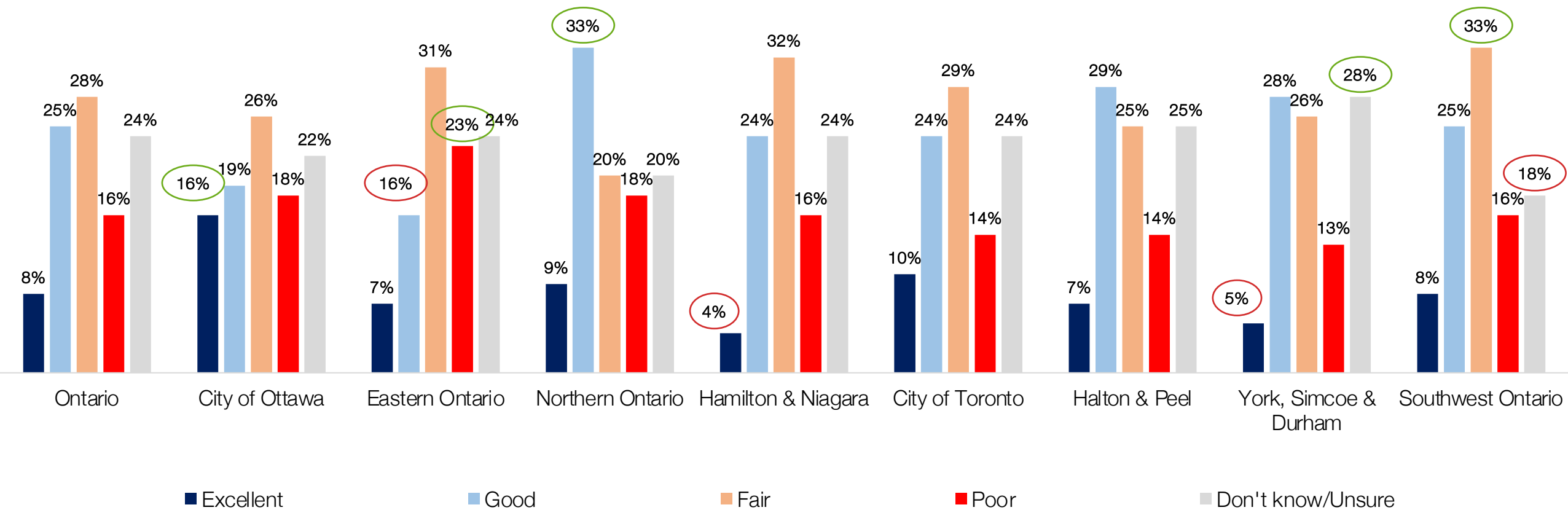
Respondents were split on the quality of the mental health and addiction services available in their area. 33% of the respondents said “excellent” or “good” while 44% said “fair” or “poor” and 24% said they were “unsure”. Younger respondents were more positive about the quality of services compared to older respondents and female respondents who were somewhat more negative.



i Rate the quality of mental health and addiction services that are currently available

Regions

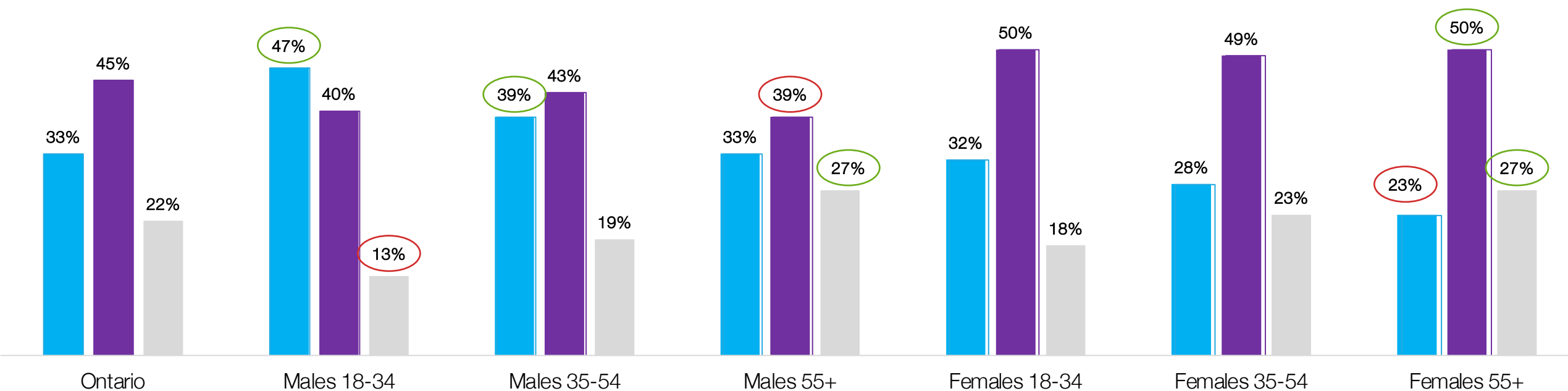
Respondents broke out roughly the same way across the regions of Ontario.



Forced Choice: Is the overall problem around mental health and addictions a lack of government funding or something else?

Age and Gender

33% of respondents believed the overall problem with mental health and addiction was not necessarily a lack of government funding while 45% believed that government needed to spend much more on mental health and addiction services to make progress with the ever-growing problem. Females were much more of the view that government needed to spend much more on mental health and addiction services.



Some people say that governments are already spending billions upon billions of dollars on mental health and addiction services and the overall problem isn't a lack of funding

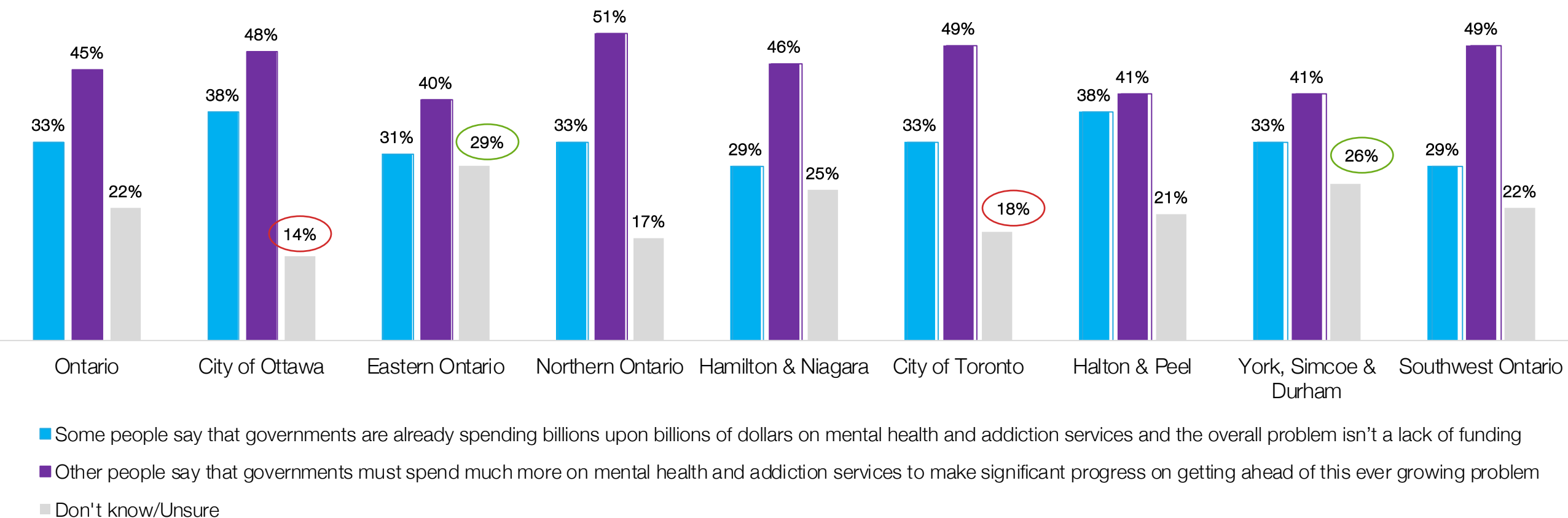
Other people say that governments must spend much more on mental health and addiction services to make significant progress on getting ahead of this ever growing problem

Don't know/Unsure

Forced Choice: Is the overall problem around mental health and addictions a lack of government funding or something else?

Regions

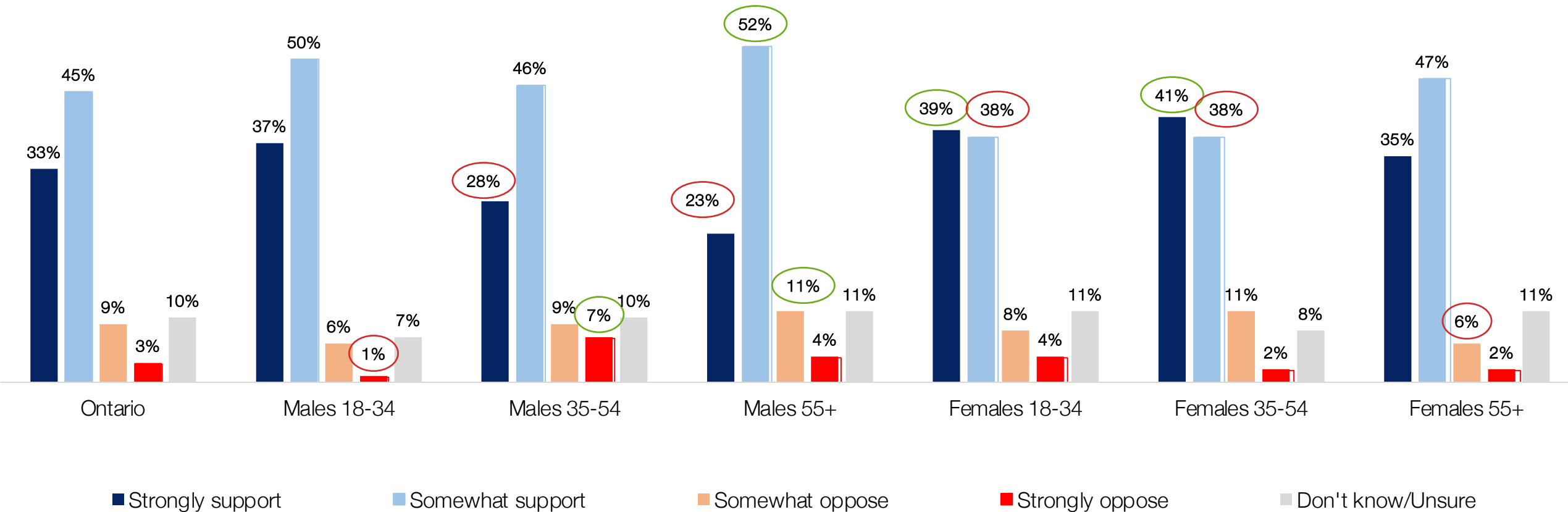
Responses were aligned across the regions of Ontario.



Support/ oppose government creating a dedicated stream of money to fund mental health and addiction services

Age and Gender

4 out of 5 respondents supported dedicating a stream of money to specifically fund mental health and addiction services in Ontario. Even with the high level of support coming from males, females were even more supportive of a dedicated stream of money to fund these service.

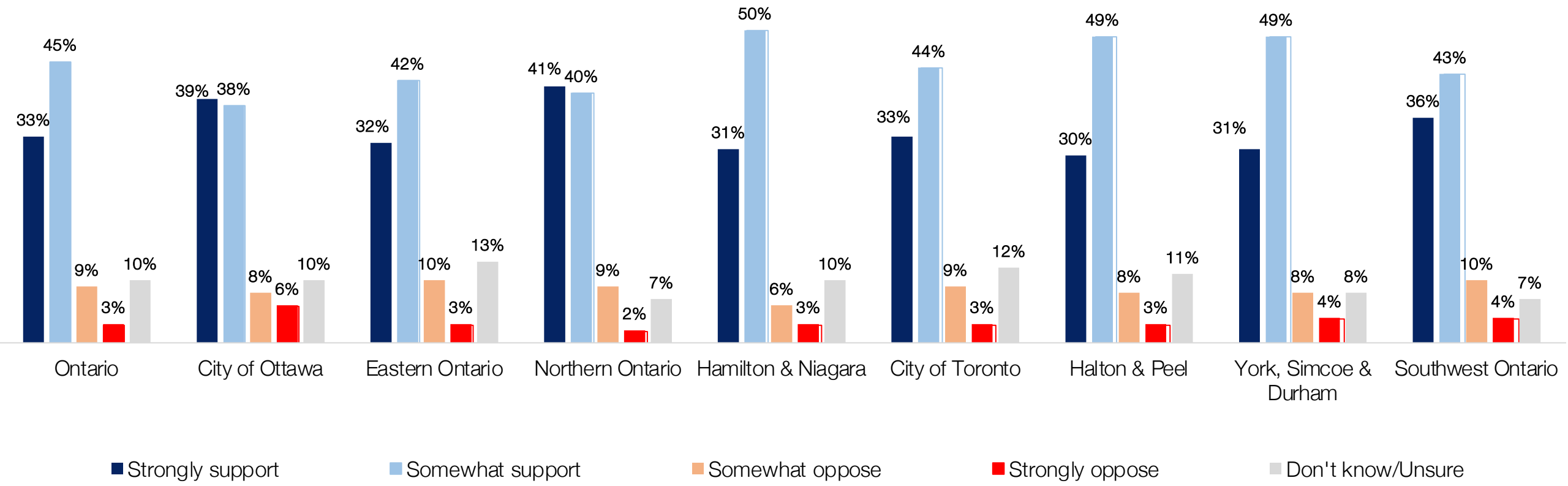


Q8 - Do you support or oppose the government of Ontario creating a dedicated stream of money that would be specifically set aside each year to fund mental health and addiction services in Ontario? Base = 2027

Support/ oppose government creating a dedicated stream of money to fund mental health and addiction services

Regions

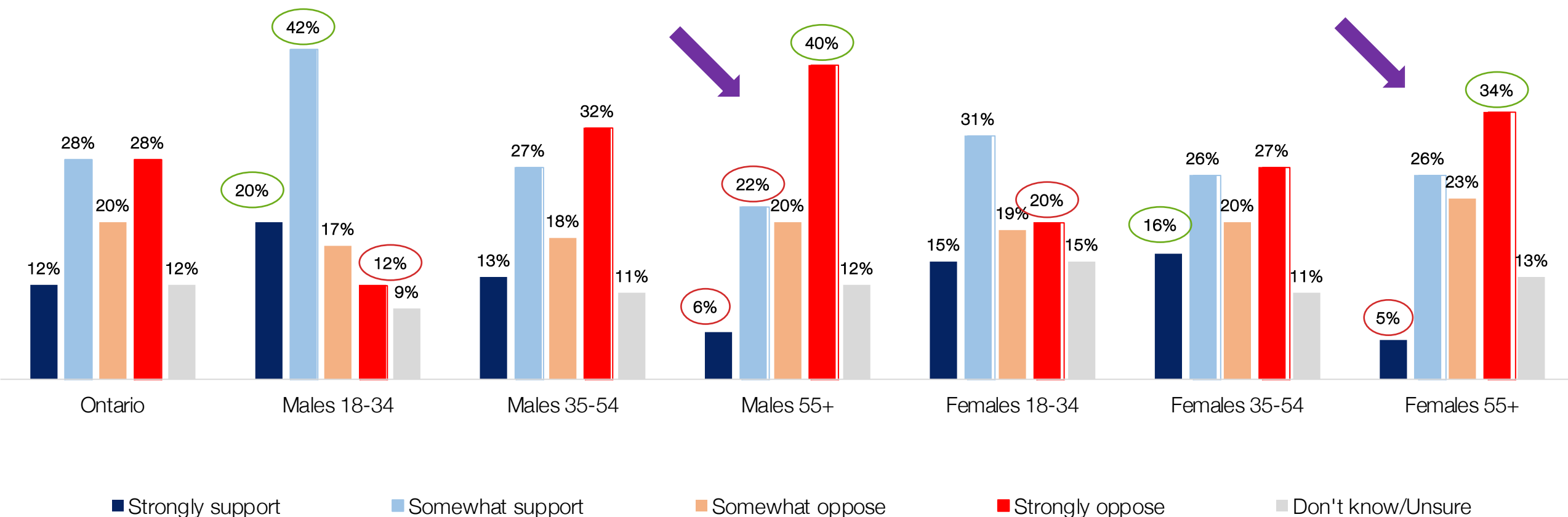
Respondents broke out roughly the same way across the regions of Ontario.



i Support/ oppose a new tax to fund mental health and addiction services

Age and Gender

Respondents were split when it came to whether the government should create a new tax to use to fund mental health and addiction services in Ontario. 40% of respondents were supportive while 48% were opposed. Respondents over 54 years of age were much more opposed compared to younger respondents.

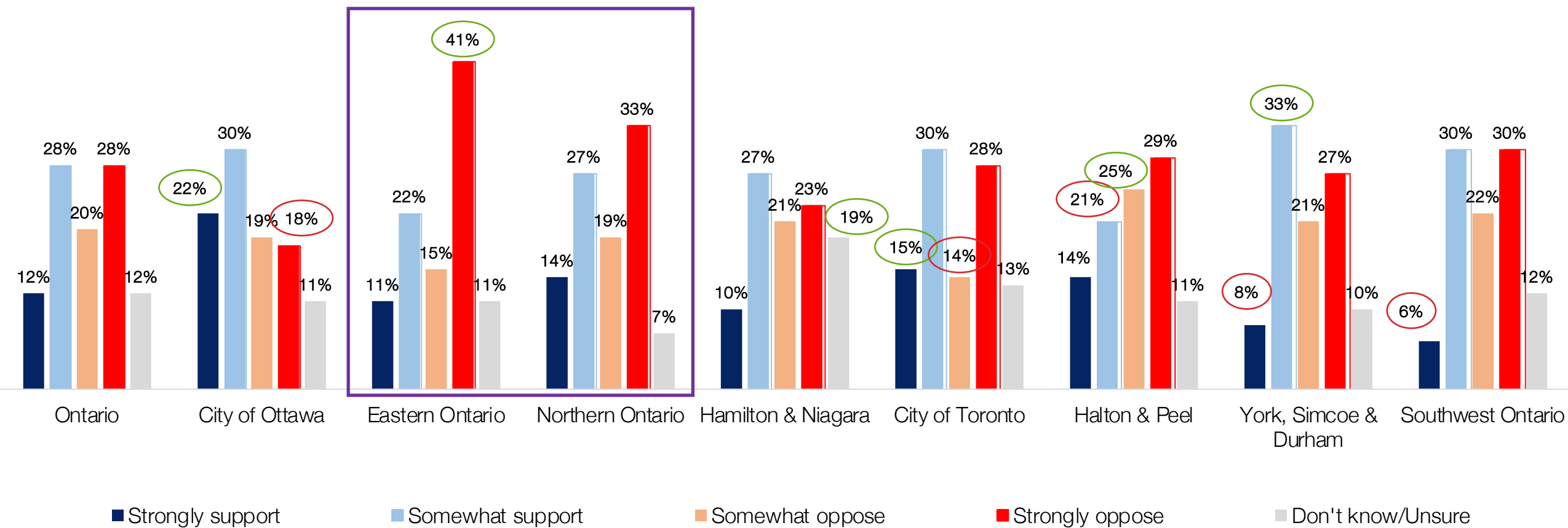


Q9 - More specifically, do you support or oppose the government of Ontario creating a new tax that would be collected and used specifically to fund mental health and addiction services in Ontario? Base = 2027

i Support/ oppose a new tax to fund mental health and addiction services

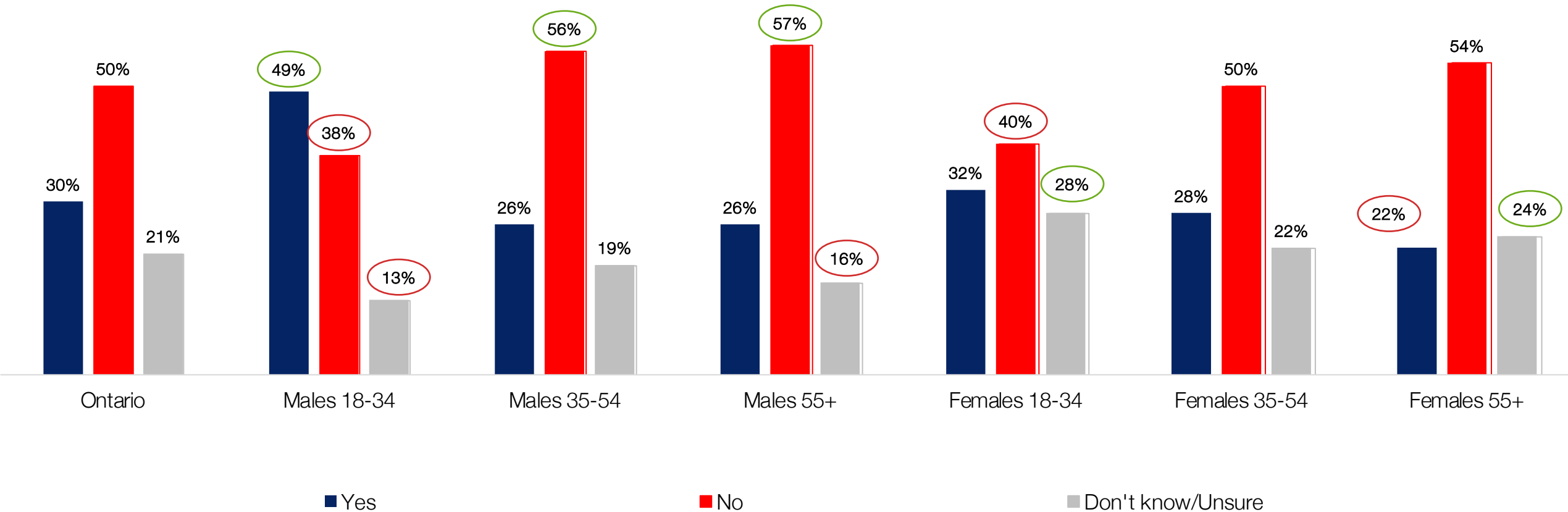
Regions

Respondents residing in the more rural areas of Ontario were more opposed to the government creating a new tax to use to fund mental health and addiction services.



Q9 - More specifically, do you support or oppose the government of Ontario creating a new tax that would be collected and used specifically to fund mental health and addiction services in Ontario? Base = 2027

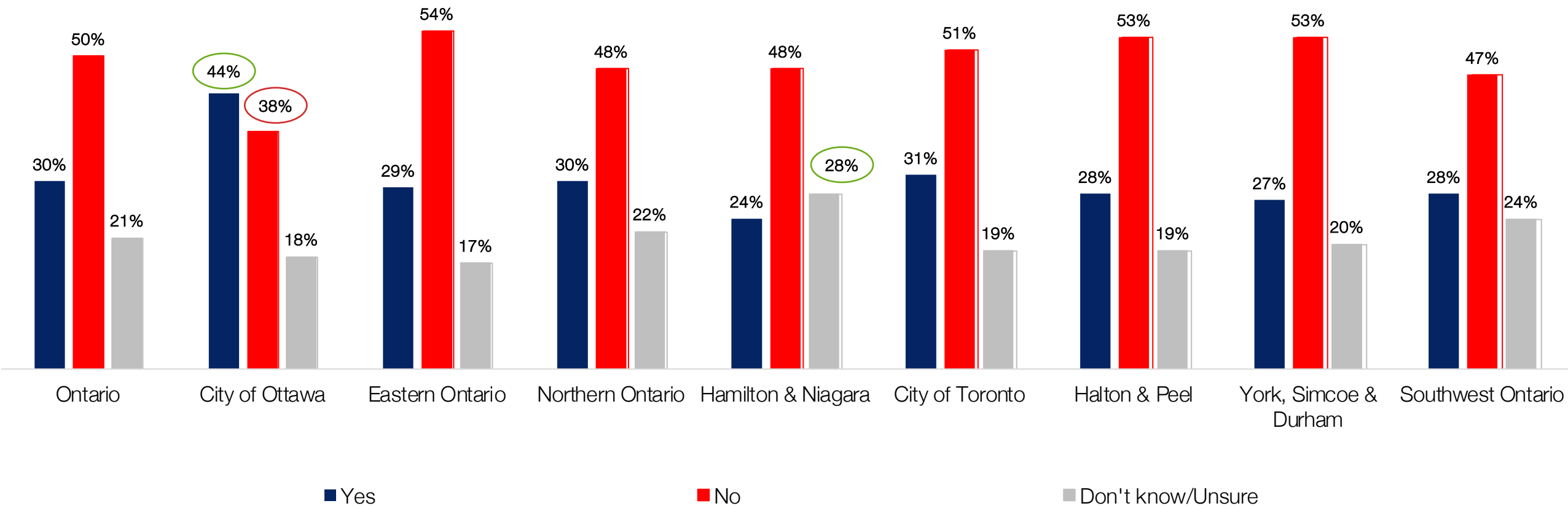
Half of the respondents (50%) were not willing to pay additional taxes to support mental health and addiction services while 30% said they would. Respondents over 34 years of age were much more opposed to paying additional taxes to support these services compared to respondents under 35 years of age.



Willingness to pay additional taxes to support mental health and addiction services

Regions

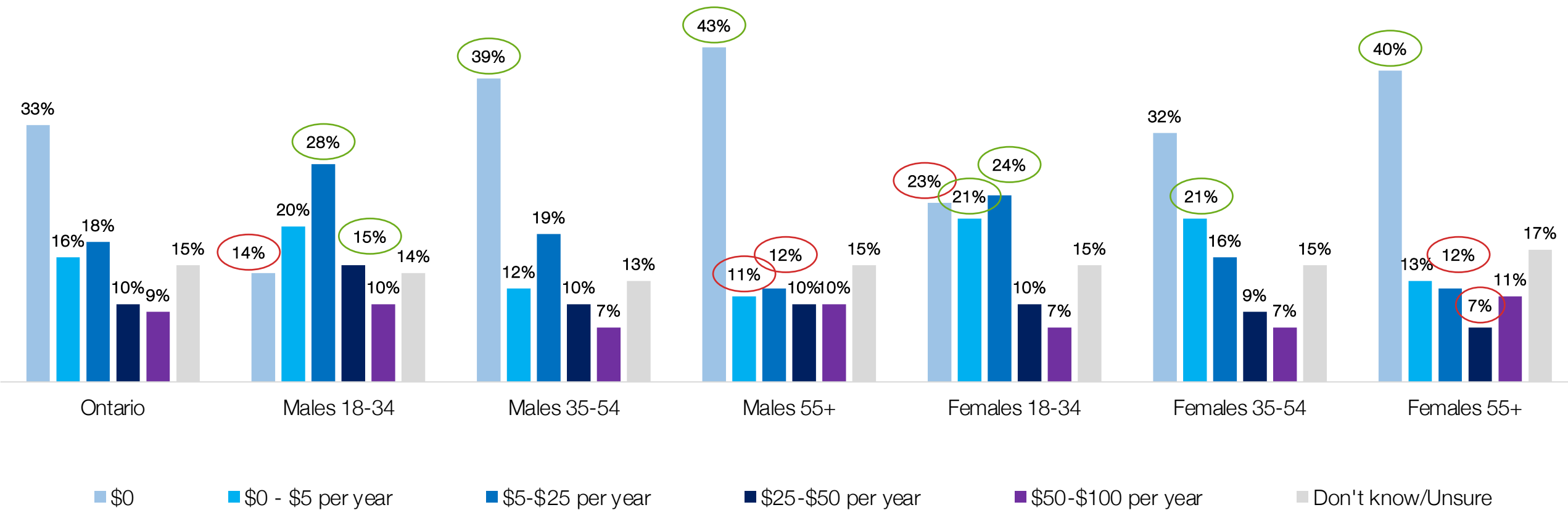
Most regions of Ontario broke out the same way (50% unwilling to pay additional taxes and 30% willing to pay) except for the City of Ottawa region where they were much more evenly split on the question (38% unwilling to pay additional taxes and 30% willing to pay) .



How much in additional taxes would Ontarian's be willing to pay to support mental health services?

Age and Gender

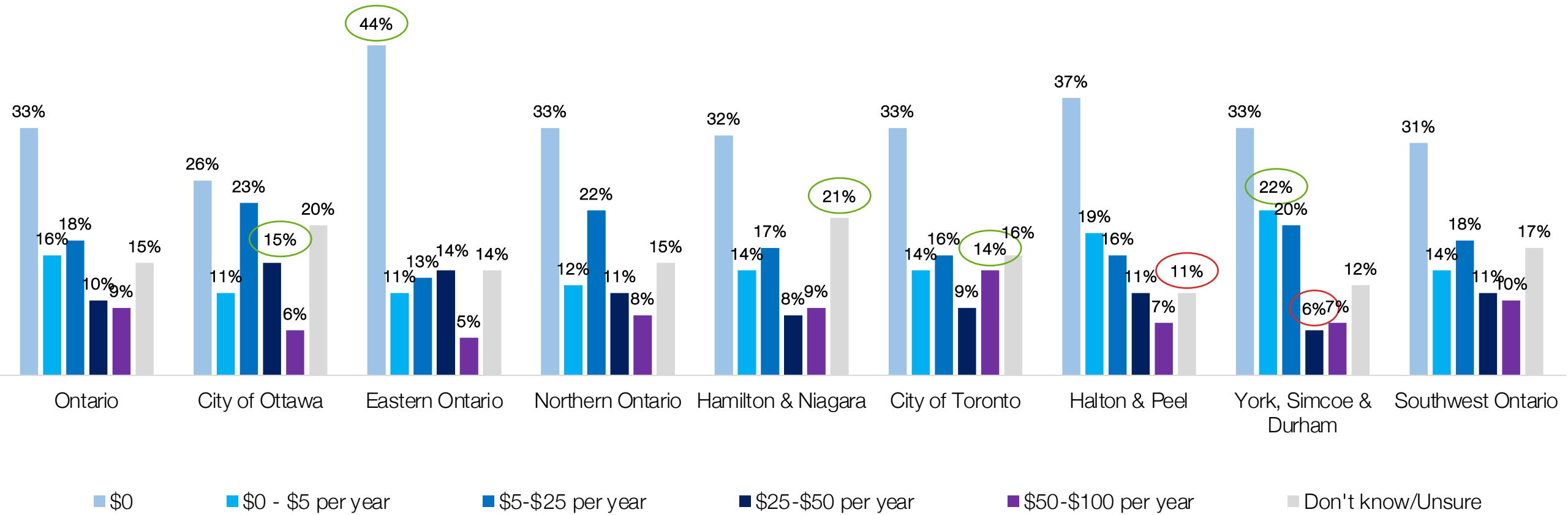
33% of respondents were not willing to pay any additional taxes to support mental health and addiction services. Another 34% of respondents were willing to pay between \$0-\$25 per year in new taxes to support mental health and addiction services and another 19% were willing to pay between \$25-\$100 in new taxes per year to fund these services. Younger respondents were more willing to pay a new tax compared to older respondents.



How much in additional taxes would Ontarian's be willing to pay to support mental health services?

Regions

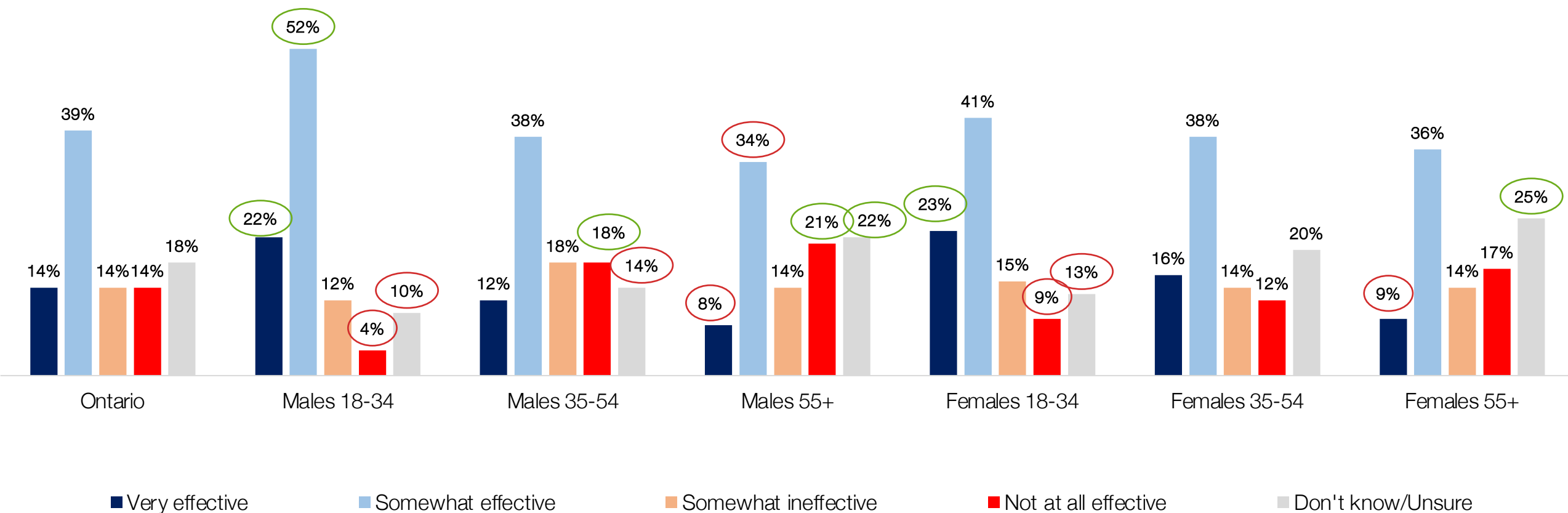
Respondents broke out roughly the same way across the regions of Ontario.



Perceived effectiveness of a dedicated revenue stream to improve mental health and addiction services

Age and Gender

2 to 1, respondents believed a dedicated revenue stream would be effective in improving mental health and addiction services. Younger respondents were more of this view compared to older respondents.

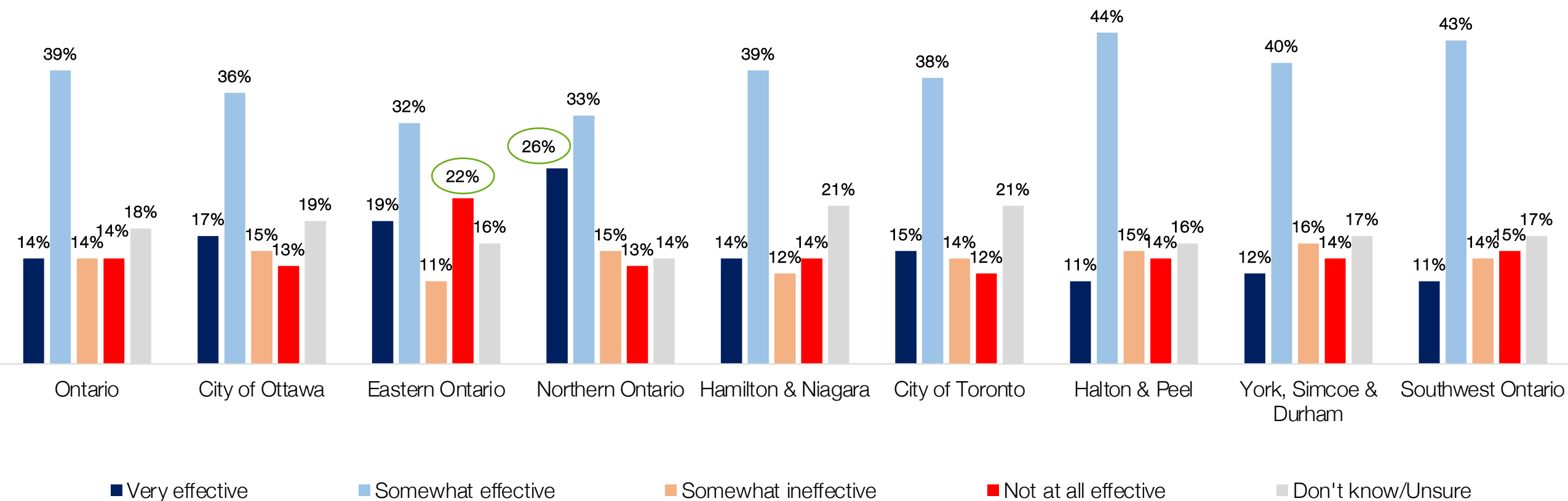


Q12 - How effective do you believe a dedicated revenue stream would be in improving mental health and addiction services? Base = 2027

Perceived effectiveness of a dedicated revenue stream to improve mental health and addiction services

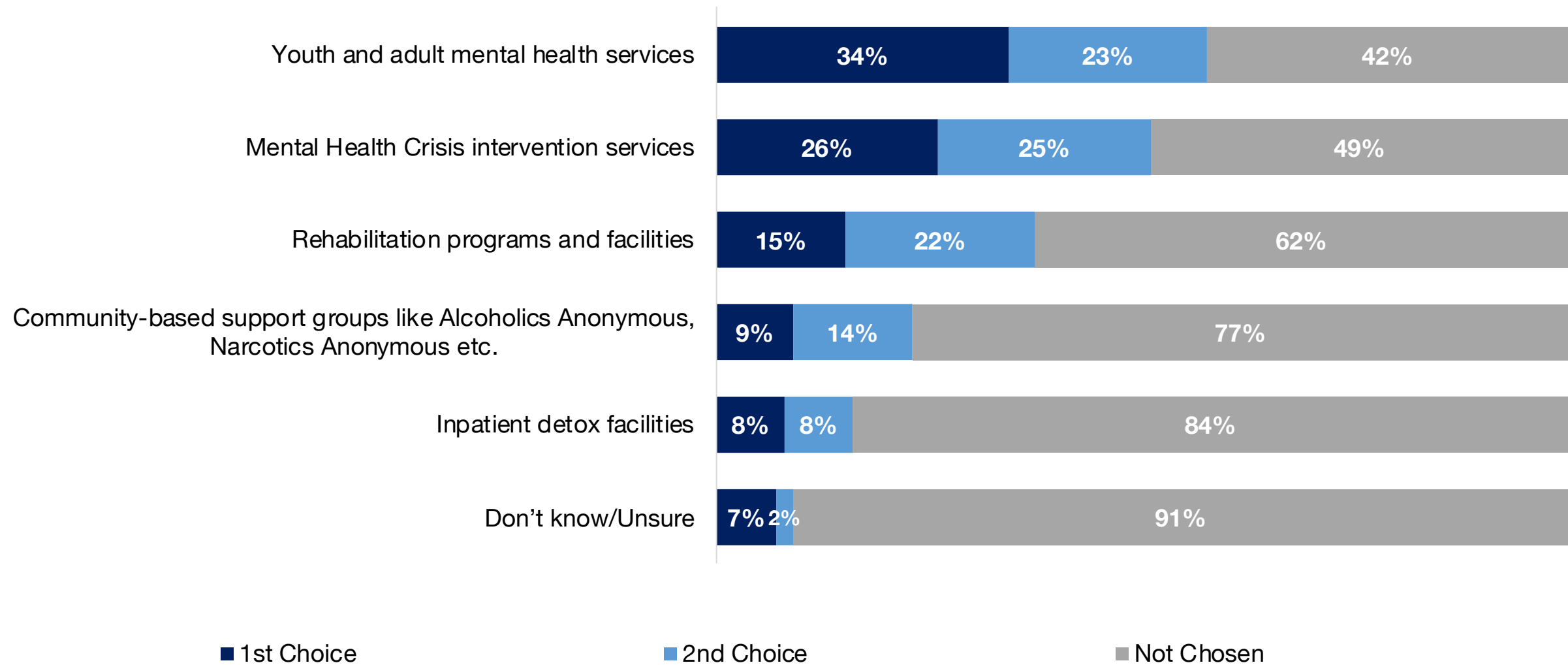
Regions

Respondents broke out roughly the same way across the regions of Ontario.



Q12 - How effective do you believe a dedicated revenue stream would be in improving mental health and addiction services? Base = 2027

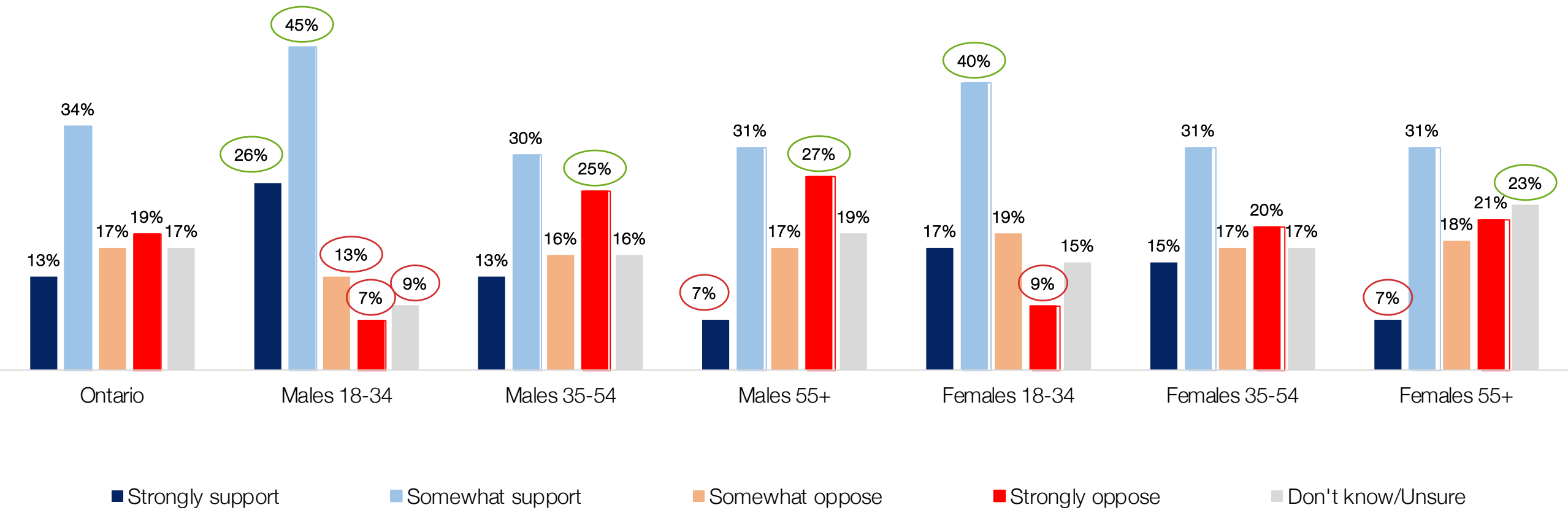
i Top 2 choices: Mental health and addiction services that should be prioritized with new funding



Support/ oppose a political candidate/ political party willing to raise taxes to fund mental health and addiction services?

Age and Gender

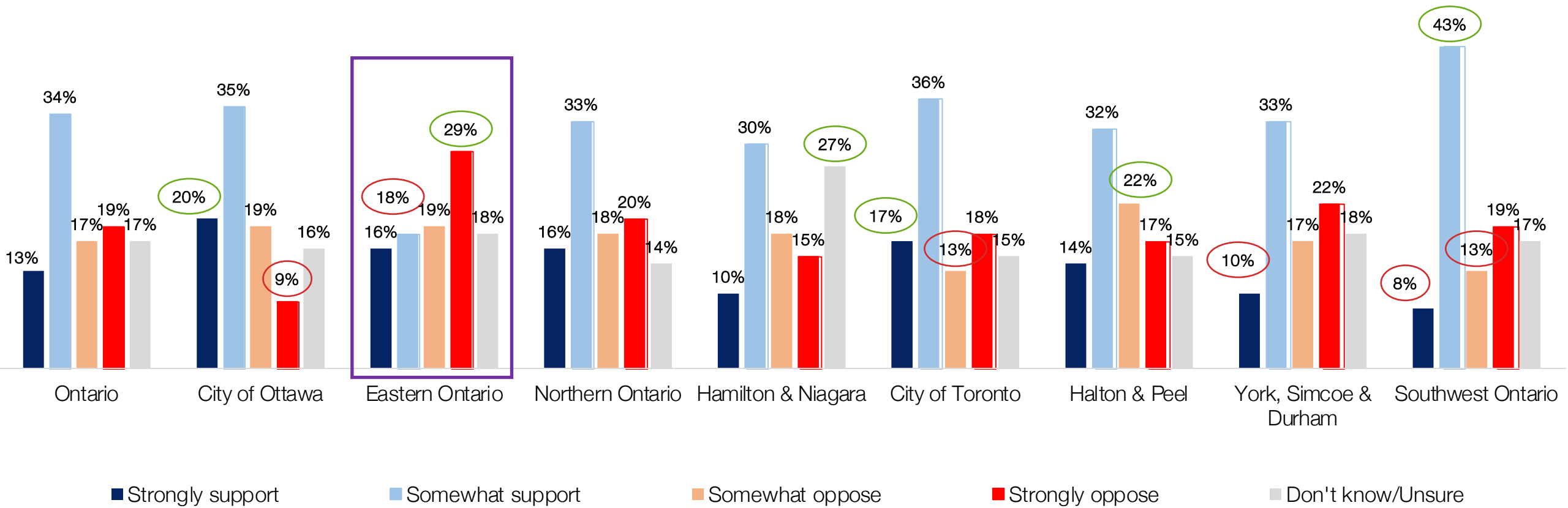
Nearly half of the respondents (47%) would support a political candidate who was willing to raise taxes to increase mental health and addiction services while 36% were opposed. Males were slightly more opposed compared to females.



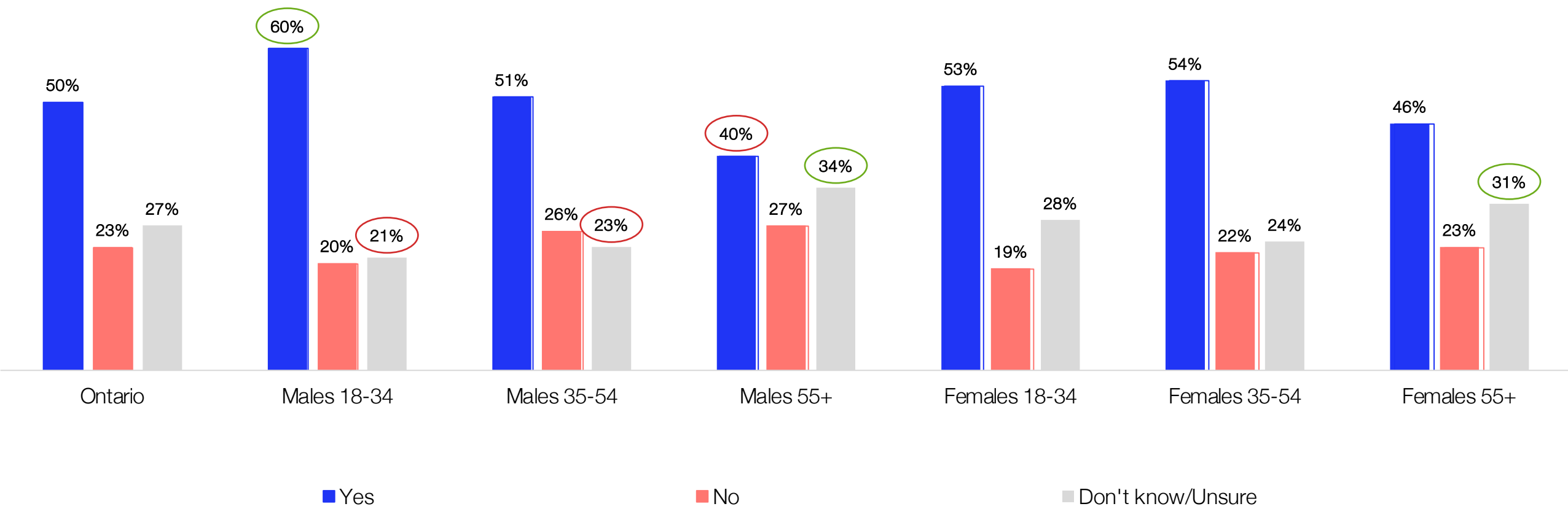
Support/ oppose a political candidate/ political party willing to raise taxes to fund mental health and addiction services?

Regions

Except those respondents residing in Eastern region (not including the City of Ottawa), the remaining respondents broke out roughly the same way in the question.



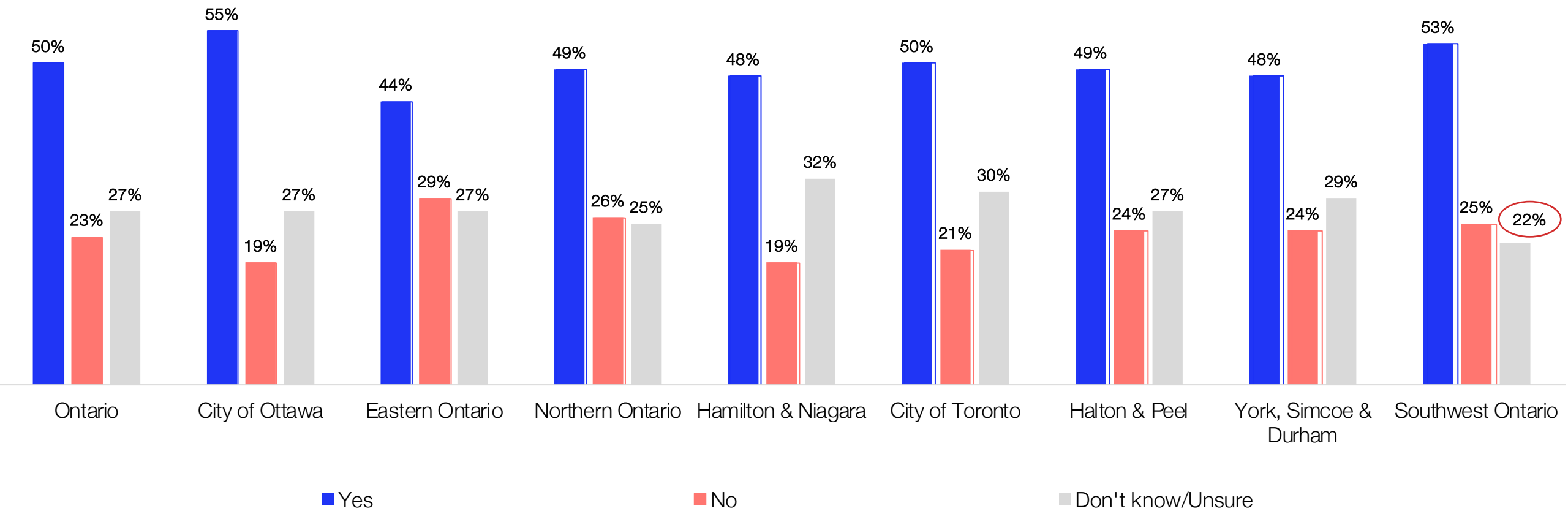
2 to 1, respondents believed that building new facilities for mental health and addiction services was necessary.



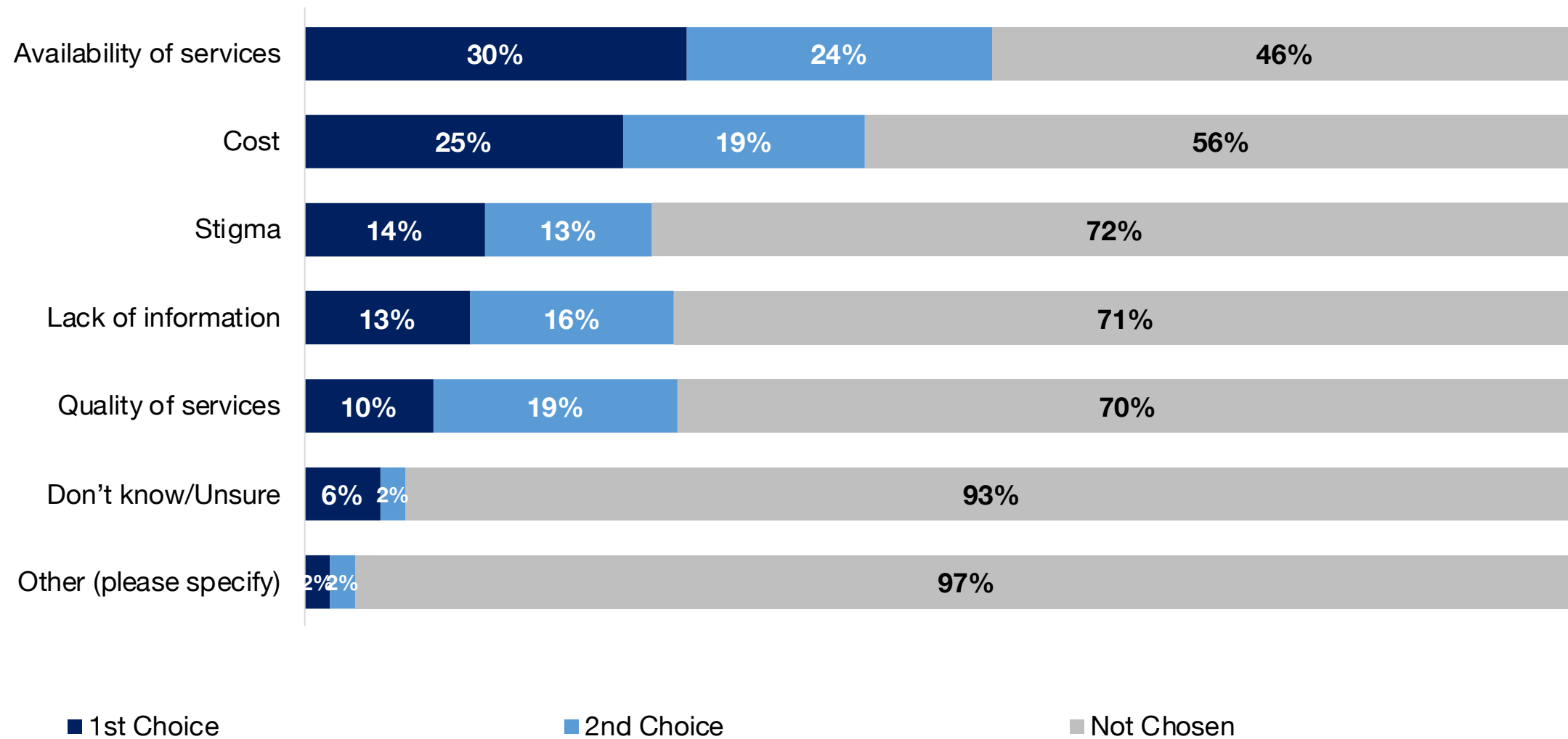
Necessity of building new brick-and-mortar facilities for mental health and addiction services?

Regions

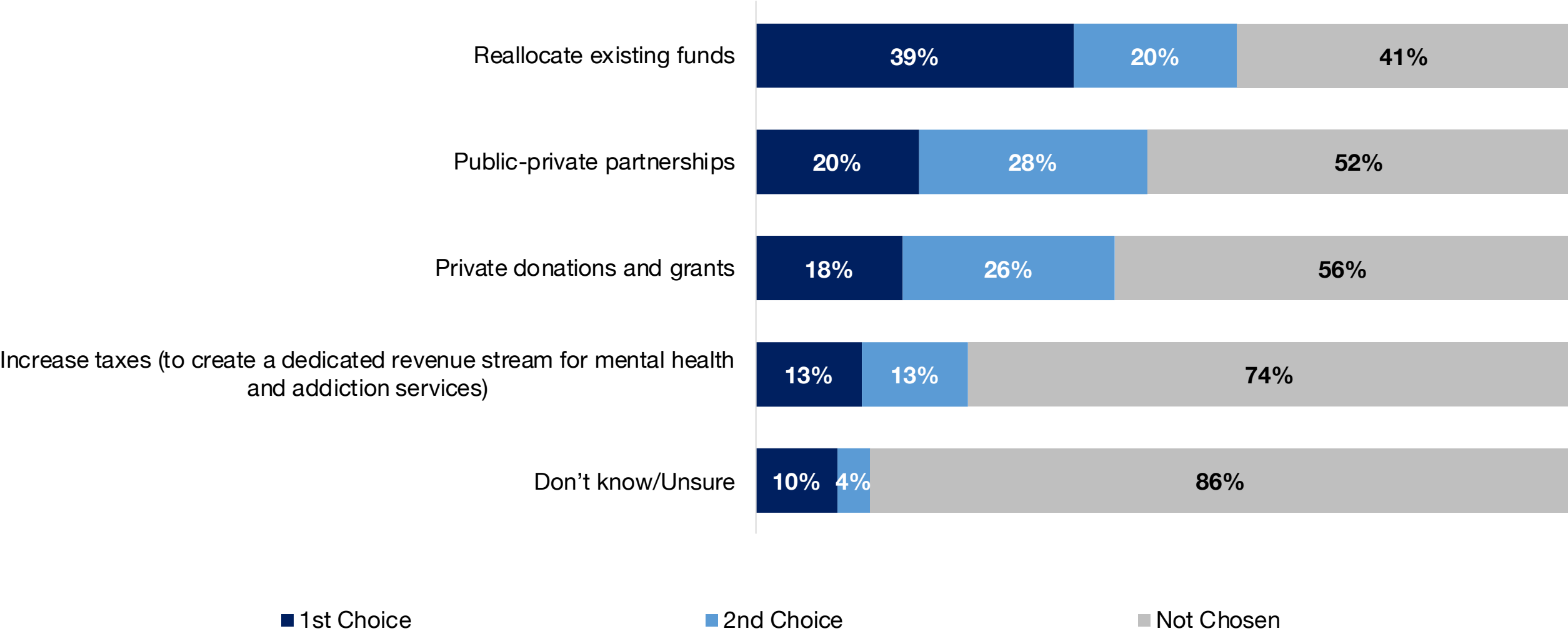
Results were consistent across the regions of Ontario.



Top 2 choices: Barriers faced when trying to access mental health and addiction services



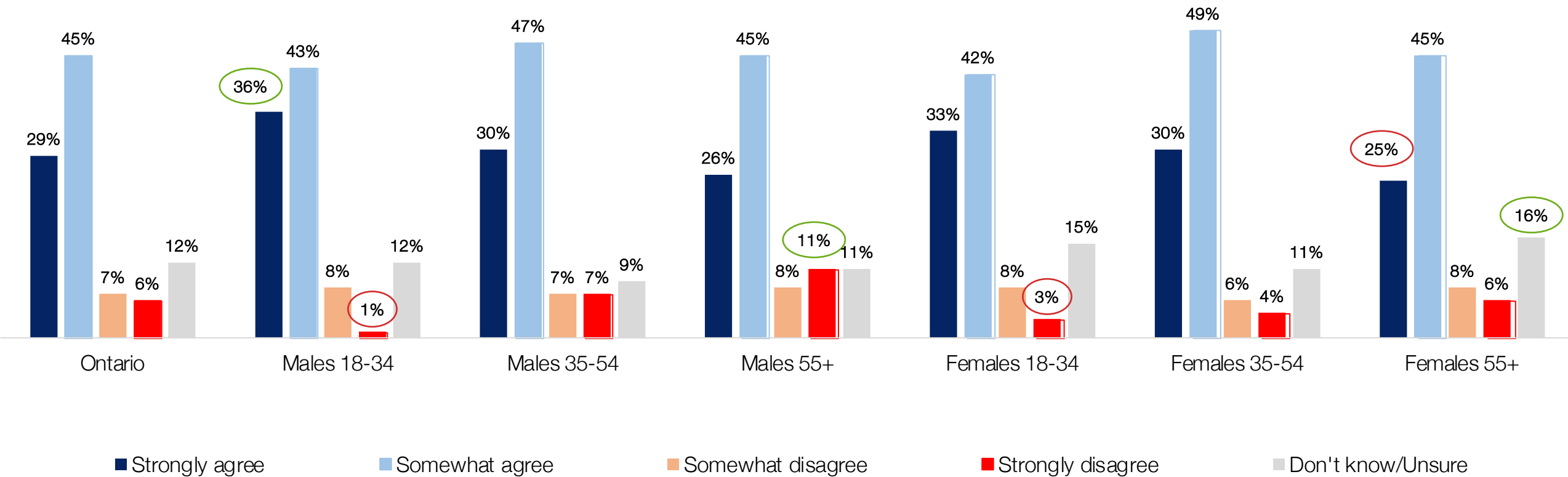
i Top 2 choices: How government should sustain the funding for mental health and addictions services



Agree/ disagree to government partnerships with private organizations to fund mental health and addictions services?

Age and Gender

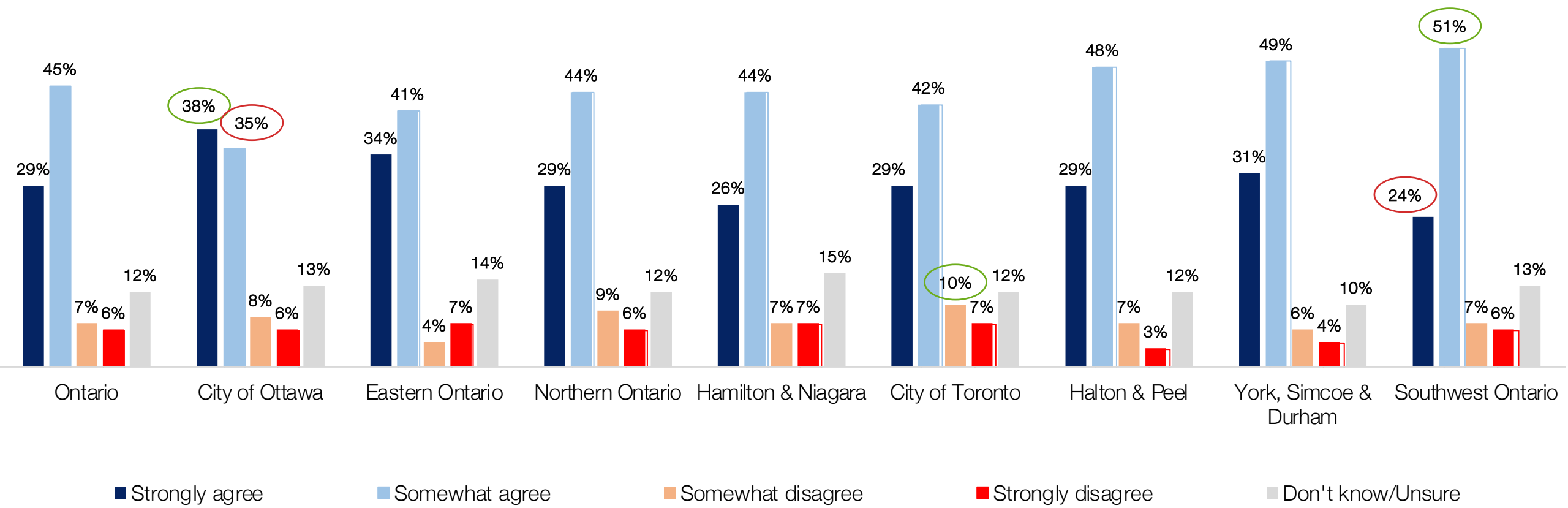
3 out of 4 respondents agreed that the government of Ontario should explore partnerships with private organization to fund mental health and addiction services.



Agree/ disagree to government partnerships with private organizations to fund mental health and addictions services?

Regions

Findings were consistent across the regions of Ontario.

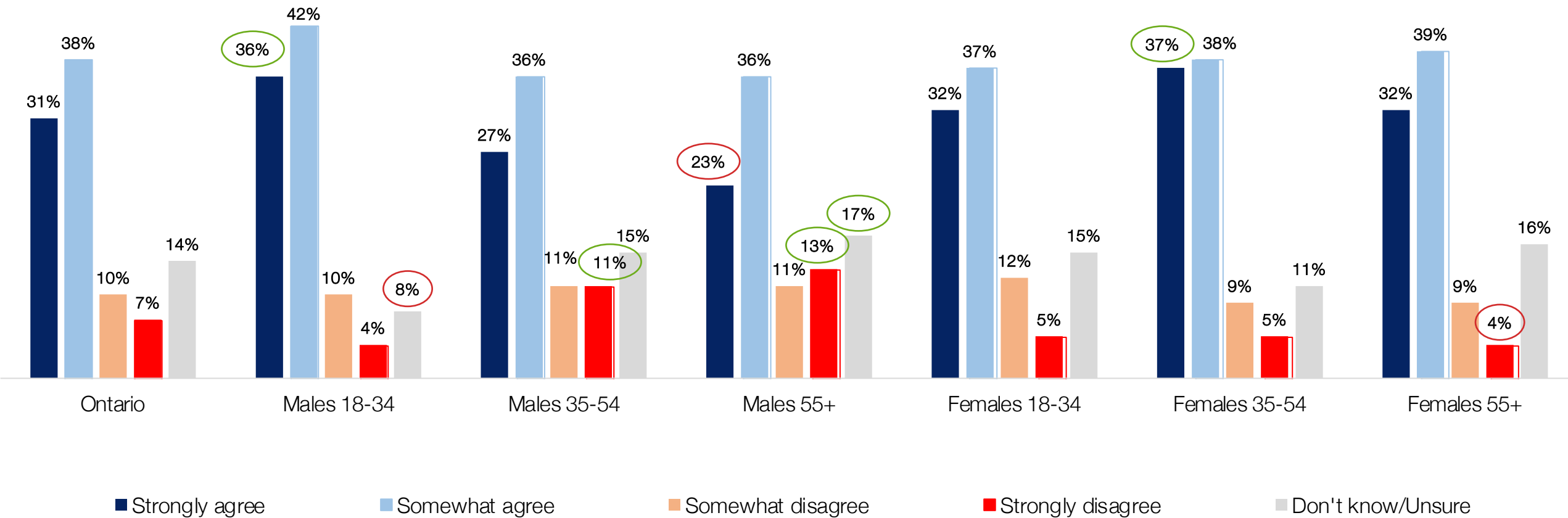


Q18 - Do you agree or disagree that the government of Ontario should explore partnerships with private organizations to fund mental health and addiction services? Base = 2027

Agree/ disagree that larger corporations contribute a portion of profits to fund mental health and addiction services?

Age and Gender

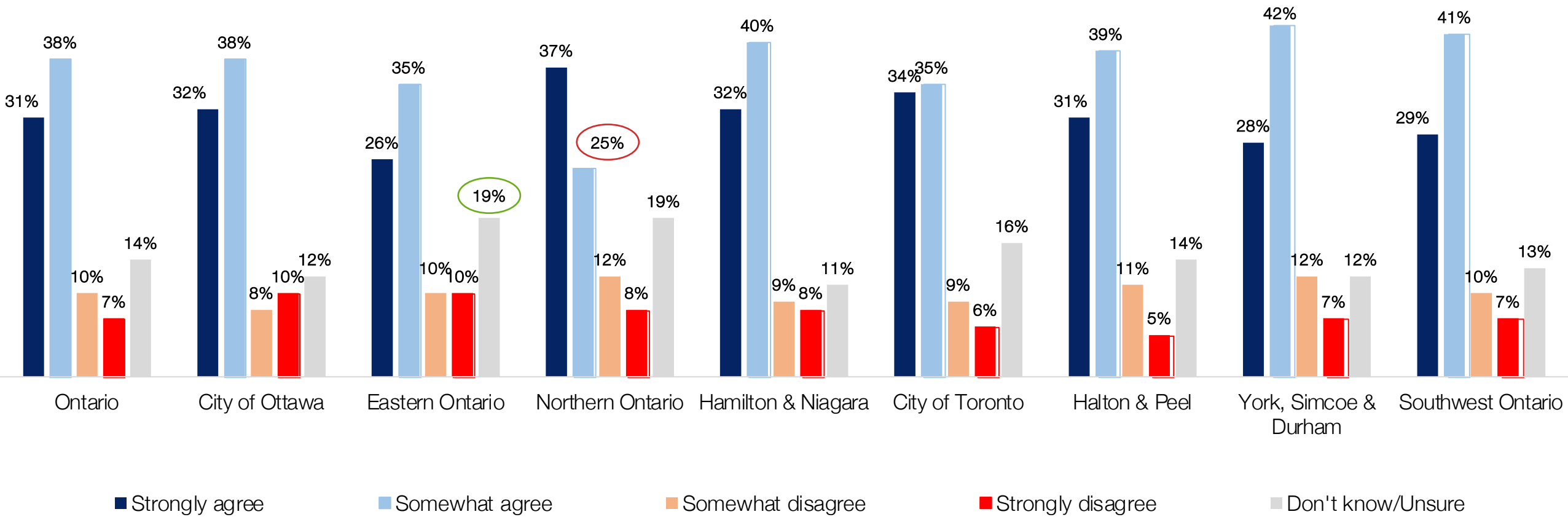
7 out of 10 respondents agreed that larger corporations should contribute a portion of their profits to fund mental health and addictions.



Agree/ disagree that larger corporations contribute a portion of profits to fund mental health and addiction services?

Regions

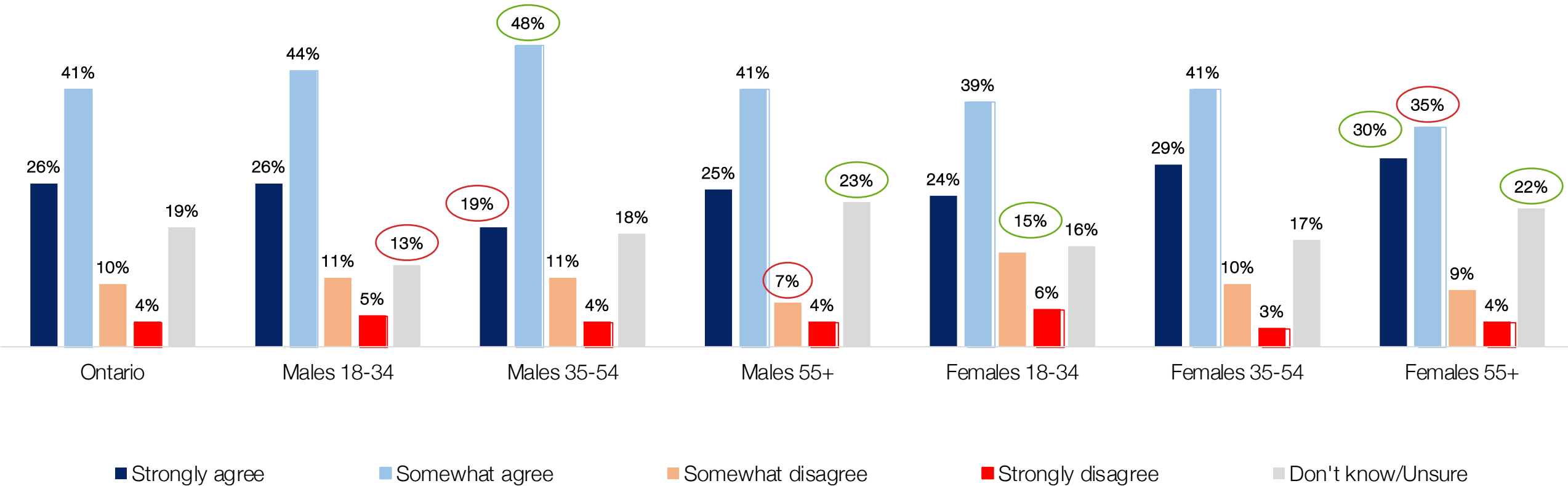
Respondents broke out roughly the same way across the regions of Ontario.



Agree/ disagree that laws in Ontario need to change for involuntary patients

Age and Gender

2/3rd's of respondents agreed the laws in Ontario needed to change so that families and physicians could provide mental health and addiction treatment to involuntary patients.

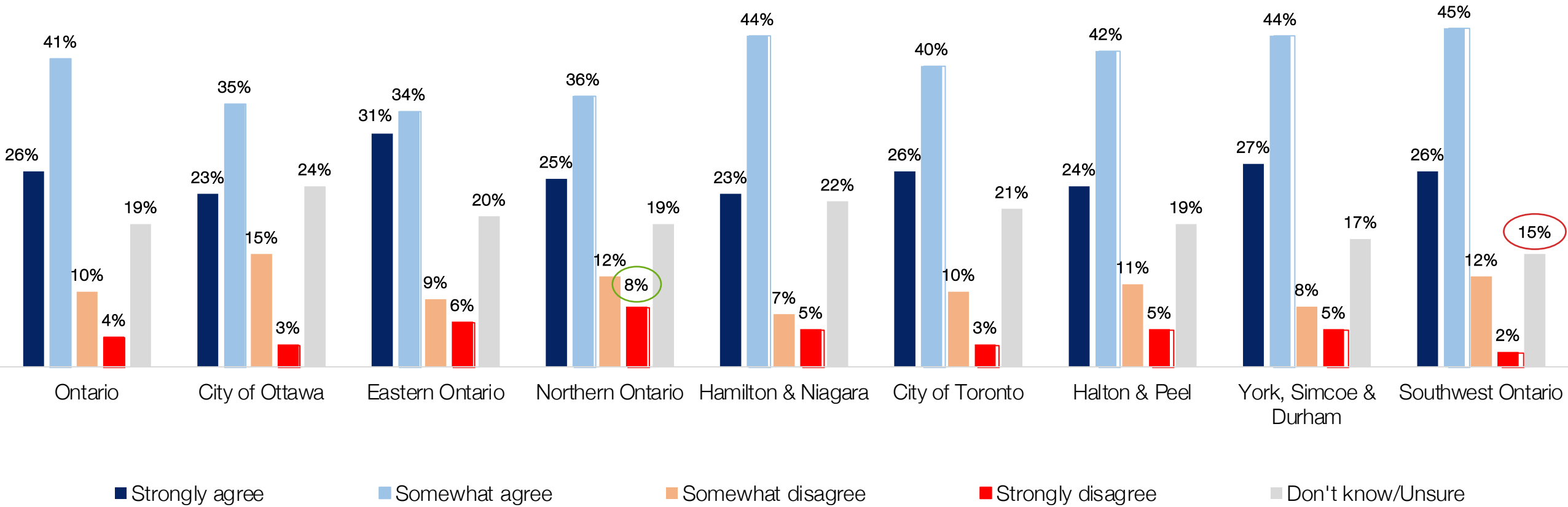


Q20 - Do you agree or disagree that the laws in Ontario need to change so that families and physicians can provide mental health and addictions treatment to involuntary patients? Base = 2027

Agree/ disagree that laws in Ontario need to change for involuntary patients

Regions

Respondents broke out roughly the same way across the regions of Ontario.

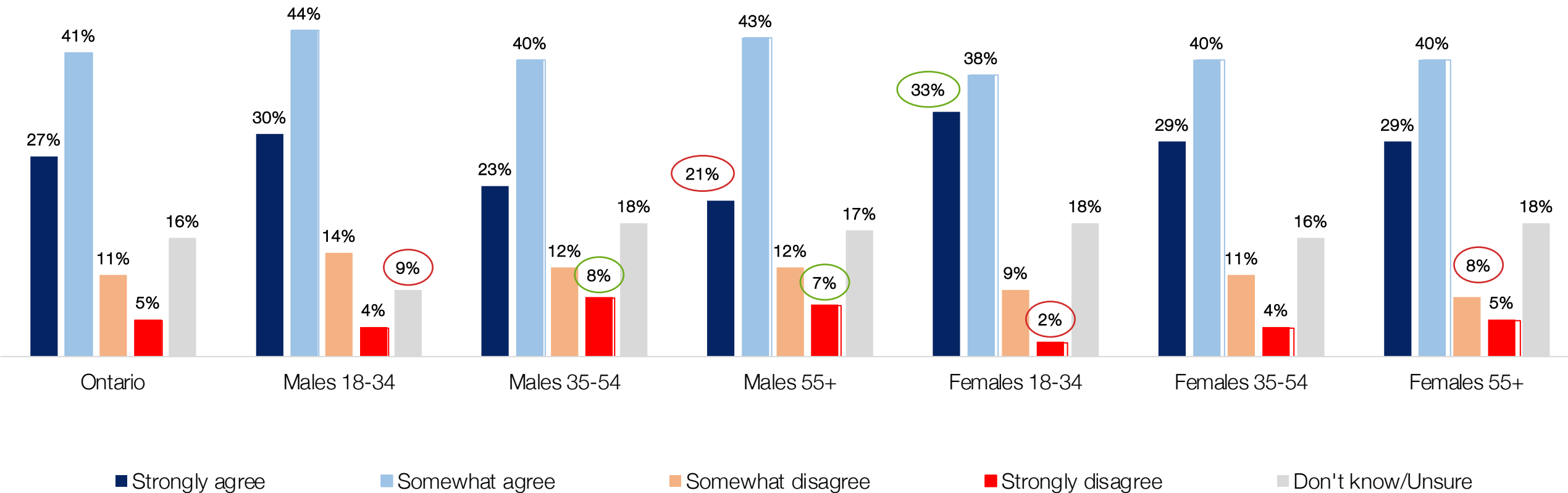


Q20 - Do you agree or disagree that the laws in Ontario need to change so that families and physicians can provide mental health and addictions treatment to involuntary patients? Base = 2027

i Agree/ disagree that "Drug Treatment Courts" should be offered more widely in Ontario

Age and Gender

7 out of 10 respondents agreed that drug treatment courts should be offered more widely in Ontario. Females were even stronger in their support of drug treatment courts compared to males.

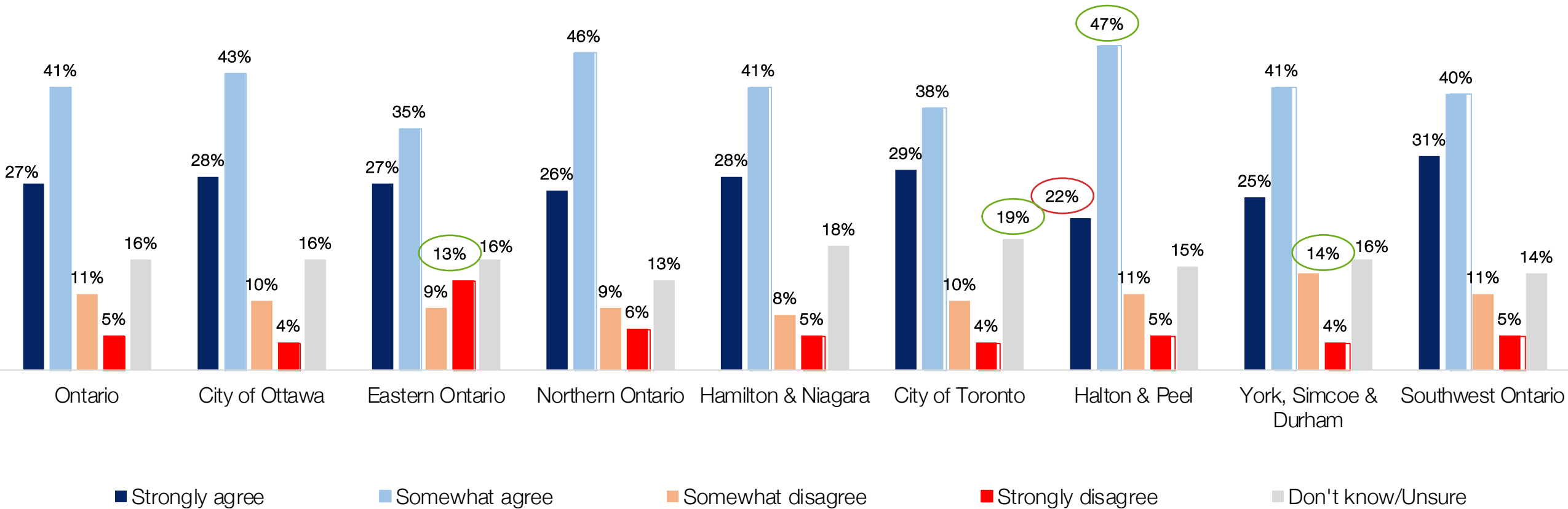


Q21 - Drug Treatment Courts provide judicially-supervised treatment instead of incarcerating individuals who have a substance use problem that is related to their criminal activities (e.g., drug-related offences such as drug possession, use, or non-commercial trafficking and/or property offences committed to support their drug use). Do you agree or disagree that "Drug Treatment Courts" should be offered more widely throughout Ontario? Base = 2027

i Agree/ disagree that "Drug Treatment Courts" should be offered more widely in Ontario

Regions

Respondents broke out roughly the same way across the regions of Ontario.



Q21 - Drug Treatment Courts provide judicially-supervised treatment instead of incarcerating individuals who have a substance use problem that is related to their criminal activities (e.g., drug-related offences such as drug possession, use, or non-commercial trafficking and/or property offences committed to support their drug use). Do you agree or disagree that "Drug Treatment Courts" should be offered more widely throughout Ontario? Base = 2027



Summary of Outstanding Reports

Meeting Date: Wednesday, September 04, 2024

Report #: 2024-0814-LCS-R24-KH

Purpose

To provide County Council with a summary of outstanding reports and an estimated timeline for reporting back to Council on such matters.

In accordance with Procedure By-law 2024-26, Section 11.13.2., items listed have been requested by Council, by resolution during the current term of Council.

Summary Table

Meeting Date	Direction/Motion	Status/Action Taken	Anticipated Report/Completion
2023-11-01	316-2023 Moved by Michael Prue Seconded by Chris Gibb Whereas Amherstburg Town Council has voted at their October 10, 2023 meeting to direct Mayor Prue and/or Deputy Mayor Gibb to introduce a Notice of Motion to County Council requesting a Traffic Control Study at the intersection of County Rd 9 and Alma Road; And whereas this intersection is owned by the County of Essex and is located within the Municipality of Amherstburg; Now therefore, Essex County Council requests that County Administration conduct a Traffic Study for the said intersection	Pending Due to the ongoing construction in this vicinity, it is not possible to currently obtain accurate traffic counts. This study will be undertaken upon the conclusion of the construction anticipated by August 2024. Completion of this report is not anticipated until early fall 2024.	2024-11-06

Katherine Hebert, Clerk

Corporation of the County of Essex, Main Floor, Suite 201, 360 Fairview Ave. W., Essex, ON N8M 1Y6

Phone: 519-776-6441, ext. 1353, Email: khebert@countyofessex.ca

Meeting Date	Direction/Motion	Status/Action Taken	Anticipated Report/Completion
2024-04-03	099-2024 Moved by Gary McNamara Seconded by Chris Gibb That Essex County Council direct Administration to consult with ERCA on the feasibility of reviewing and enhancing the Clean Water Green Spaces Program with an aim at achieving an accelerated rate of natural restoration in the County and provide a report back to Council; And, further that Essex County Council direct Administration to bring back a report and draft by-law/policy to meet the obligations of Section 270(1)7 of the Municipal Act with regard to the protection and enhancement of tree canopy.	In-Progress Rebecca Belanger (Further consultation required amending the expected completion date.)	2024-10-16
2024-05-01	132-2024 Moved by Crystal Meloche Seconded by Michael Akpata Whereas the intersections at Martin Lane and Front Road, and Victory and Front Road are owned by the County of Essex, but located within the Town of LaSalle; And Whereas Front Road has seen an increase in traffic volume, which volume will only further increase with the new developments on Martin Lane; Be It Resolved that Council support Mayor Meloche and Deputy Mayor Akpata in their efforts to introduce a motion at County Council requesting a traffic control study at the intersections of Martin Lane and Front Road, as well as at Victory and Front Road, to assess the requirement for	Pending Allan Botham	2024-10-16

Meeting Date	Direction/Motion	Status/Action Taken	Anticipated Report/ Completion
	traffic signalization, to assist not only with the traffic flow but also with pedestrian safety.		
2024-05-15	147-2024 Moved by Joe Bachetti Seconded by Michael Prue That Essex County Council receive report 2024-0515-R08-RB regarding the Advancement of a County Development Charges Study and By-law for information; and That Essex County Council approve the utilization of rate stabilization reserves up to a maximum of \$60,000 to fund the Development Charges Study.	Assigned Rebecca Belanger (External consultants retained, with it being expected that they will appear at Council in November for information and consultation purposes.)	2024-11-06
2024-08-14	212-2024 Moved by Chris Gibb Seconded by Michael Prue That Administration of the County of Essex complete a review of traffic and pedestrian conditions at and near the intersection of County Road 20 and Lowes Side Road; and, That the County of Essex consider a reduction in the posted speed limit along County Road 20 from Lowes Side Road and southerly approximately 500 metres; and, That the County of Essex consider installing signage indicating pedestrians crossing at the County Rd 20 at Lowes Side Rd intersection; and, That the Administration communicate with the Town of Amherstburg, Infrastructure Services department as part of the review.	Assigned Allan Botham	Spring 2025

Meeting Date	Direction/Motion	Status/Action Taken	Anticipated Report/ Completion
2024-08-14	Direction to bring forward a report regarding the process for reviewing and allocating resources for infrastructure works, such as bridges, intersections and roadways and how prioritization of projects is achieved, based on Best Management Practices.	Assigned Allan Botham (Information report in-progress with analysis to be brought forward by the end of 2024)	2024-10-02

Recommendation

That Essex County Council receive report number 2024-0904-LCS-R26-KH, Summary of Outstanding Reports as information.

Approvals

Respectfully Submitted,
Katherine Hebert
 Katherine Hebert, Clerk

Concurred With,
Sandra Zwiers
 Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer.



Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 18, 2024

5:00 PM

Council Chambers, 2nd Floor

360 Fairview Avenue West

Essex, Ontario N8M 1Y6

<https://video.isilive.ca/countyofessex/live.html>

Committee

Members:

Dennis Sanson, Chair
Debbie Alexander, Vice Chair
Sherri Currie
Kimberly DeYong, Deputy Mayor - Town of Kingsville
Rachel Jewell
Julie Miles

Absent:

Diana Kirkbride

Administration:

Katherine Hebert, County Clerk/ Manager, Records and Accessibility
Crystal Sylvestre, Coordinator, Legislative and Community Services

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM

2. Land Acknowledgement Statement

We acknowledge the land on which the County of Essex is located is the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibway, Odawa and Potawatomie Peoples.

We specifically recognize Caldwell First Nation and other First Nations which have provided significant historical and contemporary contributions to this region.

We also value the contributions of all Original Peoples of Turtle Island, who have been living and working on this land from time immemorial.

3. Recording of Attendance

Members of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee attended the meeting at the Essex County Civic Centre Council Chambers.

Diana Kirkbride was absent.

Rachel Jewell attended the meeting virtually from a remote location.

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no conflicts of pecuniary interest declared.

5. Adoption of the Minutes

Minutes of the June 6, 2024 meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee

Moved By Sherri Currie

Seconded By Kimberly DeYong

That the minutes of the June 6, 2024 meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee be adopted as presented.

Carried

6. Delegations and Presentations

6.1. Civic Centre Parking Lot

Moved By Sherri Currie

Seconded By Debbie Alexander

That Randy Pearson, Supervisor, Facility Operations be permitted to address the Essex County AAC

Carried

Randy Pearson provided information regarding alterations to the West parking lot at the Essex County Civic Centre.

Additional accessible parking spaces were being planned that would be closer to the entrance.

Randy also noted that the North entrance would have a lift installed during 2024 and three more accessible spots were being painted into that lot to accommodate the potential for increased usage.

Randy explained that all parking spaces in the Civic Centre lot were wider than the requirements for Type A and B accessible

parking spots per O.Reg 191/11 and two on each side would have access aisles painted for side loading.

7. Communications

Moved By Julie Miles

Seconded By Debbie Alexander

That items listed on the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting agenda, as items 7. Communications, be received and that any noted action are taken.

Carried

7.1. Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility

The [Design of Public Spaces Standards Development Committee](#) has drafted initial recommendations about accessible standards in the built environment.

[Public Consultation: Improving accessible built environment standards](#)

Share your feedback at this survey: <https://lnkd.in/g23r7xDF>

Deadline to provide feedback is August 29, 2024.

7.2. Accessibility News

- [CNIB News](#)
- July 2, 2024: Global News [B.C.'s building code accessibility changes raise concerns among developers](#)
- July 3, 2024: Toronto Star [Creating a more accessible built environment](#)

7.3. Accessible Standards Canada

Advancing Accessibility Standards Research Program: Call for Expressions of Interest

Funding available!

Open from June 6, 2024 to August 16, 2024: [check your eligibility for the program and show your interest now!](#)

7.4. Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)

[AODA Toolbox Latest Edition and Archives](#)

7.5. Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Alliance

[AODA Alliance, What's New in Our Program?](#)

7.6. AccessForward

accessforward.ca

Free Training Website sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility

8. Unfinished Business

There was no Unfinished Business for July 18, 2024.

9. Reports from Administration

9.1. Accessibility Festival July Update

Crystal Sylvestre provided information regarding the organizations that responded to the opportunity through the Expression of Interest form and also through connections to Administration directly, such as County of Essex departments, local municipal partners and allied agencies.

The ECAAC assessed each party for their suitability to the theme of the event and approved the list entirely.

A draft site plan of the event was reviewed and approved.

The budget for the event was discussed and the ECAAC was supportive of allocating their annual budget to this event.

The ECAAC brainstormed a formal event title and named it the "Outdoor Accessibility Fest-for-All".

Moved By Kimberly DeYong

Seconded By Debbie Alexander

That the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee receive report 2024-0718-LCS-R02-CS as information.

Carried

10. New Business

There was no New Business for July 18, 2024.

11. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee is scheduled for August 15, 2024 at 5 PM in Council Chambers at the Essex County Civic Centre.

12. Adjournment

Moved By Debbie Alexander

Seconded By Julie Miles

That the July 18, 2024 meeting of the Essex County Accessibility Advisory Committee be adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Carried



**MEETING OF THE
WINDSOR ESSEX REGIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING
SYSTEMS LEADERSHIP TABLE**

MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, MARCH 21ST, 2024; 8:30AM TO 9:30AM

VISION: "A COMMUNITY WHERE EVERYONE FEELS SAFE, HAS A SENSE OF BELONGING, EQUITABLE ACCESS TO SERVICES AND OPPORTUNITIES, AND CAN HAVE THEIR NEEDS MET ACROSS WINDSOR AND ESSEX COUNTY"

In Attendance

Co-Chairs

Andrew Daher, Sandra Zwiers

Members

Mary Birch, Karel DeGraaf, Jeanie Diamond-Francis, Eric

Nadalin, Joyce Zuk

Guest Speakers

Cheryl Eastman, Sylvie Guenther

Project Team

Amanda Alchin, Stephen Lynn, Michelle Oake

Regrets

Members

Kevin Blondin, Angela Ferguson, Bill Marra, Carolyn

Warkentin, Jason Woods

Agenda Item	Highlights	Action/Update
Call to Order	1.1 Welcome - Andrew Daher, Co-Chair, Regional Systems Leadership Table (RSLT) and Commissioner, Human & Health Services, City of Windsor, welcomed members. - It was announced that guest speakers, Cheryl Eastman and Sylvie Guenther from the Violence Against Women Coordinating Committee Windsor-Essex (VAWCCWE), would be joining the meeting at 9:15 am to share some of the great work that their committee is engaged in. 1.2 Establish Quorum and Call to Order 7 members were present, establishing quorum. - The meeting was called to order at 8:34 am. 1.3 Approval of Today's Agenda Moved by: Karel DeGraaf Seconded by: Sandra Zwiers - The Meeting Agenda for December 12, 2023, was approved. Carried. 1.4 Declaration of Conflicts of Interest - N/A	

	1.5 Approval of December 13th, 2023 Meeting Minutes Moved by: Mary Birch Seconded by: Karel DeGraaf The December 13, 2023, Meeting Minutes were approved. Carried.	
Matters of Discussion	2.1 Progress Updates: WERCSWB Projects - A high-level review of the four priority areas within the WERCSWB Plan (henceforth the 'Plan') was provided: Priority #1: Good Governance & Data Priority #2: Engaged & Safe Communities Priority #3: Mental Health & Substance Use Supports Priority #4: Financial Security & Economic Equity - Each priority category consists of two goals and up to three initiatives per goal. In total, eight goals have been set, and 17 initiatives were established to achieve and action the goals. 2.1.1 Community Investment Fund - The RSLT was provided with an update regarding Goals 3, 4, and 7 being actioned through the Community Investment Fund. 2.1.2 Building Safer Communities Fund (BSCF) - The implementation activities (e.g. expansion of programs provided by New Beginnings and Youth Diversion, Public Call for Proposals, and Development of a Regional Crime Prevention Council), and timelines were discussed. - The first Regional Crime Prevention Council meeting was held with immense support from our community partners. 2.1.3 WE-SPARK - The Project Team launched a survey to assess the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System's (HIFIS) user experience. Once the survey closes, results will be analyzed and shared. 2.1.4 Substance Supports in Neighbourhoods Accessed through Police Partnerships (SSNAPP) - A brief recap was provided regarding the SSNAPP initiatives underway, and how the SSNAPP Grant's partnerships and key performance indicators simultaneously action the Plan's Goal 4, Goal 5, and Goal 6. 2.2 Upcoming Council Report - To provide an update on the Plan, it's progress, and timelines, a report is being drafted that will appear before Windsor City Council. Efforts will be made to ensure a similar report appears before Essex County Council as well.	ACTION Michelle Oake will share the council report with RSLT Members once it is public.

Unfinished Business	3.1 RSLT Terms of Reference • <i>Terms of Reference</i> have been disseminated for signature through DocuSign. Signing is ongoing. 3.2 New Structure of RSLT Meetings • Goal 2 of the Plan was reviewed: ‘Improve representation and inclusion of priority populations in collaborative decision-making processes for CSWB initiatives.’ 3.2.1 Review Committee for Future (ESN and PWLE) RSLT Members • The process and status on the expansion of the RSLT, to include members of the Enhanced Sector Network (ESN) and People with Lived Experience (PWLE), was discussed. • The <i>New Member Selection Committee</i> met to review and evaluate the Expressions of Interest submitted. A standard evaluation process and grading rubric was used. • The individuals who collectively scored the highest by this committee were discussed. Approval was given for the Project Team to reach out to these individuals to confirm their membership in the RSLT.	
New Business / Round Table Discussion	4.1 Good News • In addition to what has been highlighted, we have secured <i>new</i> community partnerships through the BSCF, which will be official by April 2024. 4.2 Review of Events 4.2.1 First Meeting of the Regional Crime Prevention Council (RCPC) • The RCPC held their first meeting on February 22, which was met with great support. Next steps involve confirming membership, scheduling quarterly meetings, and drafting the <i>Terms of Reference</i> and 2024 action and implementation plan. 4.2.2 Action Planning Session (Goal #7) • On February 28, the social policy review’s steering committee, met to oversee and discuss the Project’s Action Plan. 4.2.3 WERCSWB Symposium: Ignite Change & Mitigate Risk • The Plan hosted a successful symposium, ‘Ignite Change & Mitigate Risk,’ at the Ciociaro Club on March 7, 2024. The day was filled with keynote speakers, insightful discussions, and networking opportunities. Attendees learned about regional prevention initiatives related youth gun and gang violence. 4.2.4 Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute Training (CTRI) • In partnership with the SSNAPP Grant Team, multiple crisis training intervention workshops have been hosted by the CTRI. Most recently, on February 27, a workshop was held, ‘Addictions and Mental Health – Strategies for Complex Issues Workshop,’ to provide a framework for	

	assisting people to move forward with healthy ways of coping. Multiple service providers through Windsor Essex attended.	
Guest Presentation	5.1 Community Spotlight: Update from Community Leaders - Context regarding Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) being declared an epidemic by Windsor City Council was provided. This included discussion on the council resolution and council question on IPV. - Cheryl Eastman and Sylvie Guenther, Coordinators VAWCCWE, led a presentation, which included an introduction of the VAWCCWE, discussion of the prevalence of IPV in Windsor Essex and Ontario, and information related to work that VAWCCWE is engaged in.	
Adjournment	6.1 Next Quarterly Meetings - June 12, 2024 (Virtual: 9:00 am – 10:00 am) - September 11, 2024 (Virtual: 9:00 am – 10:00 am) - December 11, 2024 (Virtual: 9:00 am – 10:00 am) 6.2 Meeting Adjourned - The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 am.	



Administrative Report

To: Warden MacDonald and Members of Essex County Council

From: Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA
Chief Administrative Officer

Date: Wednesday, September 4, 2024

Subject: 2024 AMO Conference – Delegation Update

Report #: 2024-0904-CAO-R11-SZ

Purpose

To provide County Council with a summary of the advocacy efforts undertaken by the Corporation as part of the 2024 Association of Municipalities of Ontario Annual Conference held in Ottawa, Ontario from August 18th to the 21st.

Background

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) holds an annual conference to provide members an opportunity to collaborate, learn and advocate. A significant feature of the conference is the ability to directly interact with provincial Cabinet Ministers on many of the critical issues confronting municipalities. The ability to delegate in front of Cabinet Ministers (or their designates) is considered a highlight of the conference and involves advance approval and subject matter preparation.

The 2024 AMO Conference was well attended by over 3,300 municipal leaders, government officials, public servants, sponsors, exhibitors and media personnel.

County of Essex Delegation Process

To ensure a professional and well-informed delegation presentation to Ministers/designates, the following process is in place at the County of Essex:

- 1) Issue Identification - Administration assesses provincial priorities, operations, industry trends, County Council discussions/directions and anticipated service provision challenges to identify issues that warrant provincial advocacy.

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Corporation of the County of Essex, 360 Fairview Ave. W., Essex, ON N8M 1Y6
Phone: 519-776-6441, ext. 1350; Email: szwiers@countyofessex.ca

- 2) Apply to Delegate – Approximately 10 weeks ahead of the AMO Conference, application forms are completed for delegation status on an issue/Ministry basis. Administration completes these applications on behalf of the Corporation. The application includes the name of the Ministry the Corporation would like to meet, who from the Corporation will be presenting, a summary of the issue to be presented as well as any pertinent background information.
- 3) Refine Presentation – While the Corporation waits for its application to be approved or denied, Administration further refines the presentation's advocacy points and prepares deliverables that will be used and/or given to the Minister during the meeting. These deliverables include: speaking notes for the presenters, a briefing note of the advocacy issue, a more detailed backgrounder report and an executive-level infographic (if appropriate).
- 4) Results of Delegation Status – About three weeks prior to the AMO Conference, the Corporation learns whether its application has been approved and is provided with the date and time of its delegation.
- 5) Final Preparations – During the days immediately preceding the AMO Conference, the presentation team members meet to confirm speaking roles and review the final deliverables. The Communications Department prepares printed packages and provides them to the CAO, who ensures the materials are presented to the Minister/designate.
- 6) (NEW) Notice to County Council – Prior to the start of the AMO Conference, the CAO will provide a summary of the approved delegation topics by email to all members of County Council for their awareness/information.
- 7) Delegation Presentation – The Warden, as the head of Council, and the CAO, as the head of Administration, lead all of the Corporation's delegations. Department Heads/Directors and/or agency partners (when applicable) serve as subject matter experts depending on the advocacy issue/topic. If available, local MPP's attend in a supportive role. Delegations are time limited, generally to 15 minutes, requiring presenters to be well prepared to ensure professional and impactful advocacy.
- 8) Public Reporting of Delegation Efforts – At the next regular meeting of County Council after the AMO Conference, the CAO prepares a summary report of the Corporation's delegation efforts. The report includes a summary of the process, identification of Ministries to which delegation applications were made, what advocacy issues were put

forth, the success of applications and a summary of the advocacy issues, including deliverables submitted to the Ministry.

Immediately following the public report at County Council, the Communications Department posts the advocacy information to the Corporation's website and social media channels.

Discussion

The Corporation submitted, and was approved for, three delegations at the 2024 AMO Conference:

1) Ministry of Transportation – Roads to Prosperity

Unprecedented growth in our region is putting added pressure on all County services. Generational investments like the EV Battery Plant, Gordie Howe Bridge and new regional hospital are translating into a demand for housing and population growth, the likes of which the County of Essex has not seen.

The delegation to the MTO highlights a critical transportation artery linking planned housing to employment in the area of County Road 22 and 19. Relieving existing congestion and planning for housing growth necessitates the construction of grade separated intersections. The proposal aims to unlock developable lands in the region to achieve provincial housing targets.

The delegation (attached as **Appendix A**) was presented by the Warden, CAO, Daniel Baggio and David Sundin to Minister Prabmeet Sarkaria.

2) Ministry of Health - More Hours, More Patients, More Care

Increasing access to healthcare for Essex County residents remains a key priority. Building on work that began in 2023 through collaboration with our partners at the Windsor Essex Ontario Health Team, the County applied to delegate jointly with the Town of Amherstburg to address the lack of urgent/after hour care. As access to clinicians wanes in the afternoon hours, residents are left relying on hospital emergency rooms or going without care. The result is a strain on EMS resources and the general deterioration of health of our residents.

In alignment with WEOHT, the County is advocating for increases to team-based solutions that increase the number of rostered patients. In turn, health team hours can be expanded and rostered patients will have increased access to the care they need, when they need it.

The delegation (attached as **Appendix B**) was presented jointly by the Warden and CAO with the Town of Amherstburg to Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health, MPP Anthony Leardi.

3) Ministry of Health – Answering the Call

The current dispatch model for Windsor/Essex County involves the deployment of paramedic resources by a communication centre that is entirely separate from the management of the service. The County is seeking further discussion with the Province to explore a pilot project that would transfer the responsibility for the Windsor Central Ambulance Communications Centre to the County. The pilot is aimed at improving the integration, communication and value for money of the dispatch service while also providing an opportunity to advance efficiencies and better manage the increasing demand for EMS services within the growing region.

The delegation (attached as **Appendix C**) was presented by the Warden, CAO and Chief Lammers to the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health, MPP Anthony Leardi. Attending in support was Chief Michael Sanderson of the Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs.

4) Ontario Medical Association

The Ontario Medical Association extended an invitation for interested municipalities to meet to discuss local healthcare priorities affecting their members. The County of Essex requested, and was approved for, a meeting during the conference. The meeting provided an opportunity to meet association executive staff and open a discussion about Essex County issues relating to physician shortages, lack of after hour urgent care and explore meaningful ways municipalities can work collaboratively with medical professionals.

The meeting was attended by the County CAO, as well as the CAO and Deputy CAO of the Town of Amherstburg.

Financial Implications

Preparing for delegations at the AMO Conference requires the resources of a number of departments: the operational department most impacted by the advocacy issue, the Communications Department, the CAO's office and the Warden. The Corporation is fortunate to have in-house expertise to manage the process and develop and create the deliverables. The cost of this work is absorbed in the daily running of the business.

The opportunity to advocate before a Minister is considered a privilege and while no financial commitments are secured from the Province during delegations, these opportunities open the door to the potential for new programs and financial supports from the Province, which can work to reduce pressures on the Corporation’s tax base.

Consultations

N/A

Strategic Plan Alignment

Working as Team Essex County	Growing as Leaders in Public Service Excellence	Building a Regional Powerhouse
☒ Scaling Sustainable Services through Innovation ☐ Focusing “Team Essex County” for Results ☒ Advocating for Essex County’s Fair Share	☐ Being an Employer with Impact ☒ A Government Working for the People ☐ Promoting Transparency and Awareness	☒ Providing Reliable Infrastructure for Partners ☒ Supporting Dynamic and Thriving Communities Across the County ☒ Harmonizing Action for Growth ☐ Advancing Truth and Reconciliation

Recommendation

That Essex County Council receive report number 2024-0904-CAO-R11-SZ, 2024 AMO Conference – Delegation Update, as information.

Approvals

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Zwiers

Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix	Title
A	Roads to Prosperity
B	More Hours, More Patients, More Care
C	Answering the Call

**County of Essex AMO Submission: Roads to Prosperity
AMO Conference, Aug. 19, 2024 - 11:05 a.m. to 11:20 a.m.
Infrastructure Request - Ministry of Transportation**

What we are requesting

1. \$60 million to build a grade-separated interchange at the intersection of County Road 22 and County Road 19, where traffic lights can no longer handle increased traffic and where gridlock is frustrating commuters, creating unsafe conditions and threatening to impede economic development. There were 123 collisions at this intersection between 2014 and 2023, the highest number of any location on the Essex County road network.
2. \$60 million to build a partial interchange or flyover at the intersection of County Road 22 and Lesperance Road. There were 111 collisions at this signalized intersection between 2014 and 2023. It is part of the crucial artery linking Essex County and the economic nucleus of Windsor-Tecumseh to the Gordie Howe International Bridge and two other border crossings. It is situated between the intersection of County Road 22 and County Road 19 and the intersection of E.C. Row Expressway (County Road 22) and Banwell Road (County Road 43), where the Province is investing \$50 million in a City of Windsor project that will improve the flow of traffic.

An environmental assessment completed in partnership with the Province in 2008 recommended grade-separated interchanges on County Road 22 at both Lesperance Road and County Road 19.

The County's priority is the intersection of County Road 22 and County Road 19, since it is the most congested and dangerous intersection along this vital economic artery and because it has a direct linkage to Highway 401. But any improvements to this intersection – and the recently announced improvements to E.C. Row Expressway (County Road 22) and Banwell Road – will have limited positive impact unless the intersection between them – at County Road 22 and Lesperance Road– is similarly upgraded.

The County is prepared to invest \$45 million in each of these \$105-million projects. This is in line with the funding arrangement between the Province of Ontario and the City of Windsor for improvements to the intersection of E.C. Row Expressway (County Road 22) and Banwell Road. The County allocates tens of millions of dollars annually for capacity expansion and, given the pressing need for these projects, funding can be reallocated from other long-term projects.

The County of Essex could leverage provincial funding to begin design work and identify property acquisition requirements in 2025-2026 as well as continue working on a detailed design and construction plan for a stormwater management solution at the intersection of County Road 19 and 22. Property acquisitions and planning would continue in 2026-2027 and a staging plan would be developed for the construction in 2028 of two interchanges.

This timeline would ensure the completion of other key projects, particularly improvements to the County Road 42 corridor, which also runs east-west and could handle detour traffic without imperiling commerce and the flow of motorists and goods.

Why we are making this request

- The province, the federal government, the County of Essex and the City of Windsor have come together to facilitate unprecedented economic development that will create tens of thousands of jobs in the region, inject hundreds of millions of dollars into government coffers, and ignite an unprecedented surge in residential, commercial and industrial growth. These transformational projects include:
 - The \$5-billion NextStar Energy electric vehicle battery plant.
 - The \$2-billion regional hospital.
 - The \$6.4-billion Gordie Howe International Bridge border crossing.
- The intersection of County Road 22 and County Road 19 and the intersection of County Road 22 and Lesperance are within three kilometres of the NextStar Energy plant. The corridor is already heavily congested with commuter traffic and traffic will increase dramatically with the opening of the plant. These intersections are along one of the main routes through Essex County to the new regional hospital site, the Gordie Howe International Bridge and two other border crossings.

- The Town of Tecumseh and Municipality of Lakeshore are preparing for the creation of 13,000 more housing units along County Road 22 to the east of these intersections, which will increase the traffic travelling to and from Windsor. Essex County has been preparing for this growth, but the addition of the battery plant, the new border crossing and associated spinoff businesses have accelerated the timeline.
- More than 47,000 vehicles a day travel through the County Road 22/19 and County Road 22/Lesperance intersections, which are already failing during peak traffic times.

A daily average of 14,898 westbound vehicles travel on County Road 22 east of County Road 19, and an average of 18,981 vehicles travel westbound on County Road 22 east of Lesperance Road. These numbers are comparable to a daily average of 16,430 westbound vehicles on Highway 401 east of County Road 19, according to Streetlight Insight 2020 data.

Fixing these two intersections simultaneously would achieve cost and project efficiencies and minimize economic and traffic disruptions.

- Grade-separated interchanges at County Road 22 and County Road 19 and at County Road 22 and Lesperance Road will smooth the flow of traffic going toward and away from Windsor, maximizing the province's \$50-million investment in upgrading the Banwell Road (County Road 43) and E.C. Row Expressway (County Road 22) intersection.

What Essex County has done to move these projects forward

- An environmental assessment completed in partnership with the province in 2008 recommended grade-separated interchanges at the County Road 22 intersections with Lesperance Road and County Road 19.
- The county is working closely with the Town of Tecumseh to advance stormwater management work in preparation for upgrading the County Road 22 and County 19 intersection.
- Essex County is in the midst of spending \$105 million to expand and enhance the County Road 42 corridor from just west of County Road 43 to just east of County Road 19. County Road 42 runs parallel to County Road 22 and provides access to the hospital and battery plant from the south.

- Essex County is committed to an ambitious program of road capacity improvements, spending over \$30 million per year. It is prepared to commit that annual spending to creating grade-separated interchanges on County Road 22 at Lesperance Road and at County Road 19, with preparatory work beginning in 2025-2026 and construction starting in 2028.

What will happen if the province does not fund these projects

- The County of Essex does not have the financial resources to undertake these projects, complete the upgrade of County Road 42 and improve other critical links around Windsor in a timely way. Our comprehensive capacity-building program is funded for the long-term and did not contemplate the need to accommodate in the short term the explosive industrial, commercial and residential growth generated by historic investments like the battery plant.
- Traffic tie-ups at the County Road 22 intersections with Lesperance Road and County Road 19 will hurt business investment in the fast-growing area, frustrate residents and commuters, create roadblocks for farmers and jeopardize the construction of new housing.
- The province's \$50-million investment in upgrading the E.C. Row Expressway and Banwell Road intersection will have limited positive impact as traffic continues to be backed up at two intersections to the east on County Road 22, as well as on County Road 19 and Lesperance Road.

Who to Contact for More Information

The Ontario government has consistently shown its support for Windsor-Essex and expressed its belief that the region can leverage its skilled workforce, history of manufacturing excellence and proximity to the border to become a powerhouse that drives the provincial economy.

The County of Essex is seeking continued support to maximize the positive impact of the generational opportunities before it.

We had excellent discussions with government officials at last year's AMO conference and, more recently, at the Ontario Goods Road Association conference, and look forward to more positive dialogue.

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County of Essex/Town of Amherstburg
More Hours, More Patients, More Care
AMO Conference, Aug. 19, 2024

What we are requesting

The County of Essex and the Town of Amherstburg are seeking provincial support to address the lack of weekend and after-hours health care options in a rapidly growing town with an expanding population of seniors that is isolated geographically from hospitals in the urban centres of Windsor and Leamington.

Amherstburg is an outlier in the County of Essex in that it has no urgent-care clinics or walk-in clinics catering to non-rostered patients. The Amherstburg Family Health Team offers a walk-in clinic one day per week and one day on the weekend, but only to rostered patients. The Town's Nurse Practitioner-led clinic, which similarly treats only rostered patients, offers no care past 6 p.m. or on weekends.

Funding for additional physicians for the Amherstburg Family Health Team or funding for additional nurse practitioners to the town's NPLC would enable either facility to dramatically expand the number of patients they serve while also expanding their hours into the evenings and weekends. It would effectively address the issue of care for non-rostered patients by expanding the number of attached patients.

The wholistic suite of services provided by team-based models of care like health teams, nurse practitioner-led clinics and community health centres are proving particularly effective in rural areas like Amherstburg, where seniors and marginalized communities face barriers in accessing care located outside of municipal borders. Residents are voting with their feet. Amherstburg's NPLC has a wait list of 50 that grows by the week and the NPLC in Essex has a waitlist of 133 people.

Provincial investments into successful team-based models of health care like this will yield immediate and appreciable impacts because the infrastructure is already in place and because people are already accessing these services, helping to ensure the province gets the biggest bang for its health care buck.

An annual investment of just \$300,000 to support the placement of one additional physician or two additional nurse practitioners into existing facilities would provide for the rostering of 1,600 additional patients and provide the flexibility for expanded hours during the evening and on the weekend. An investment of \$600,000 would allow for the rostering of 3,200 additional patients and even more flexibility to offer Amherstburg residents quality care when and where they need it most.

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These investments would have a cascading positive impact on the regional health care system as a whole as these expanded services would reduce demand for after-hours care provided in neighbouring municipalities and it would reduce chronic systemic pressures affecting our 911 system. A rising tide lifts all ships and a health care investment in one Essex County municipality benefits them all.

Amherstburg supports the town's NPLC by offering it rental rates below market value in a municipal building and is eager to explore additional opportunities with the province to support the expansion and improvement of regional health care for the residents of Amherstburg and Essex County.

Key Facts

9 to 5 Care: Amherstburg residents experience health care issues around the clock seven days per week but health care services in the municipality are largely limited to daytime hours during the week. None of those services are offered to non-rostered patients, who have no choice but to rely on 911 or travel to clinics outside of their municipality, located at least 30 minutes from hospitals in the urban centres of Leamington or Windsor. This distance is a barrier to care for seniors and marginalized communities, including an influx of new Canadians.

The Amherstburg Family Health Team offers a walk-in clinic one day per week and one day on the weekend but only to rostered patients and the nurse practitioner-led clinic, which also treats only rostered patients, offers no treatment past 6 p.m. or on weekends. The inability of residents to obtain treatment outside of the 9-5 weekday window contributes to poorer patient outcomes as treatment of minor ailments is put off until they become urgent and it contributes to an overreliance on our congested 911 system.

Expanding the number of physicians or nurse practitioners at the Town's existing clinics would enable these facilities to expand their hours while taking on thousands of additional patients who are currently unattached to a primary health care provider. By investing in existing infrastructure and proven, team-based models of care, the Province would be getting the biggest bang for its health care dollar.

Doctor Shortage: A recent study commissioned by the Ontario College of Physicians found 2.3 million residents of the province are without a family doctor. More than 31,000 residents in Windsor-Essex are without a physician and the problem will only get worse with our region expecting to grow more than 10 per cent over the next decade. Nearly fifty per cent of those people live in neighbourhoods with the lowest average incomes. Physician retirements over the next five years may see as many as 100,000 area residents without access to a family doctor.

These problems are more pronounced in rural areas like Amherstburg lacking medical clinics with evening and weekend hours. While creative solutions like speeding up the accreditation process for foreign-trained doctors in exchange for commitments to practice in rural areas may address the issue, investments in team-based models of care like family health teams or NPLCs, which are proving incredibly successful, would lead to immediate, appreciable improvements.

Growing Demand: The demand for the services provided by family health teams and NPLCs is overwhelming and growing, particularly in predominantly rural communities like Amherstburg and Essex with a growing population of seniors. The NPLC in Amherstburg has a waiting list of 50 that continues to grow by the week. The Essex location has 133 people on a waitlist and the Kingsville location is quickly approaching its capacity limits. These clinics are proving extremely popular not only because of the wholistic suite of services they provide but also because of the lack of alternatives. Patients who are lucky enough to even find a rostered spot have to wait weeks for simple appointments and there is a shortage of accessible urgent and walk-in clinics with evening and weekend hours across the region.

Historic Growth: The Windsor-Essex region added as nearly many people in 2023 as it had in the previous two decades. Our local population skyrocketed by 41,877 people over the past two years compared to the 35,333 people added between 2002 and 2021. That's an astonishing rate of growth only likely to increase as generational investments like the Gordie Howe Bridge, a new hospital and the NextStar Energy Battery Plant ignite an historic surge in commercial, industrial and residential development. The population of Essex County increased by more than 6 per cent from 2016 to 2021 and is expected to increase by as many as 115,000 residents over the next 30 years.

EMS Efficiencies: The lack of access to doctors and clinics with weekend and evening hours has created an unsustainable strain on local health care resources as residents resort to using 911 for non-urgent needs. Windsor-Essex has an extraordinarily high percentage – the highest in Ontario – of patients who arrive by ambulance at emergency rooms, a trend fueled in part by a lacklustre regional transit system our local municipalities are working to improve. The provincial average for June was 19 per cent and the average for each of our three hospitals was 39 per cent, 31 per cent and 22 per cent.

Poor Patient Outcomes: The chronic physician shortage and the lack of clinics with weekend and evening hours creates an environment where residents put off treatment and addressing ailments until they become emergencies. This creates a strain on our paramedic and emergency resources and it leads to poorer patient outcomes. Premature deaths in Windsor-Essex per 1,000 people are 56.3 per cent higher than Ontario, while potential years of lost life are 63.4 per cent higher. Residents here suffer higher incidents of hypertension, hypercholesterolaemia and other dyslipidemia, depression, asthma and acute and other respiratory diseases and disorders.

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Municipal Commitment: County of Essex representatives heeded the message received from our local MPPs after last year's AMO delegation that it was important for us to work in concert as a region as opposed to individual municipalities when advocating to the provincial government for improved health care. We agree that health care improvements in one municipality have a net benefit for the entire region.

We also agree that municipalities have a role to play in helping the provincial government improve the delivery of health care. Amherstburg offered reduce rental rates to encourage the success of the nurse practitioner-led clinic in its municipality and is preparing to amend its Community Improvement Plan to offer incentives to health care professionals to locate there. The County of Essex and its local municipal partners are likewise prepared to come to the table with resources and creative solutions to support the expansion of team-based primary care, like nurse practitioner-led clinics, family health teams and community health centres.

The Solution

While there is no "silver bullet" which will solve the health care issues affecting our region, provincial investments to expand the number of rostered patients in Amherstburg and the times at which they can seek treatment represent an ideal opportunity to have an immediate and appreciable positive impact.

We know family health teams and NPLCs work because our residents are using them and requesting enhanced access. The growing wait lists are a testament to this. Continued investments in these clinics will alleviate systemic pressures affecting our regional 911 system it will improve patient outcomes.

Essex County's seven local municipalities are united in the call for more health care resources for our region and will continue working collaboratively with the Windsor-Essex Ontario Health Team and the provincial government to improve the delivery of health care across the region.



Answering the Call

Essex-Windsor EMS Request of the Ministry of Health

AMO Conference, August 19, 2024



What we are requesting

Essex-Windsor EMS is requesting that the Ministry of Health direct the appropriate ministry staff to engage with Essex-Windsor EMS to negotiate the transfer of responsibility for the Windsor Central Ambulance Communications Centre (CACC) to the County of Essex for, at minimum, a five-year pilot project. This will require Essex-Windsor EMS to take over operational, day-to-day decision-making at the Windsor CACC under a performance agreement with the Ministry of Health. Land ambulance services and dispatch centres are already successfully functioning this way in Toronto, the Niagara Region, Ottawa and Timmins. This is an opportunity to build on those experiences in a region that is seeing historic growth and is eager to continue building a health system that provides wholistic care to residents when and where they need it.

Essex-Windsor EMS is an agile service with a proven track record of innovation that is working with its partners to achieve a wholistic health-care approach that realizes economies of scale and operational efficiencies to facilitate patient flow. It has already taken one step toward being more involved in dispatch operations by placing Paramedic Patient Navigators in the Windsor CACC. The improvements documented since Paramedic Patient Navigators started working in the dispatch centre two years ago are convincing evidence that taking the next step will make Essex-Windsor EMS even more effective at providing care and moving patients to where they need to be as efficiently as possible.

Essex-Windsor EMS would take leadership and unilaterally control the dispatching of paramedics and ambulances. It would provide the deployment plan and adjust that plan in real time as circumstances require through a clinical hub of regional health-care partnerships. The goals of this approach are to maximize flexibility, minimize red tape, ensure evidence-based best practices and allow for full integration of the regional health-care network.

This is a low-cost step that can help increase the system's capacity and reduce pressure on health-care workers. Essex-Windsor EMS is prepared to take on the risks and work with its health system partners to ensure integrating dispatching with land ambulance service benefits Windsor and Essex County residents and paramedics, as well as providing a model that can be replicated in other parts of Ontario.

Why we are making this request

1. Historic growth

Essex-Windsor EMS and its local partners have had significant success in implementing multiple strategies to deal with increasing call volumes for land ambulance service, hospital capacity constraints and periods of limited to no resources to respond to 911 calls. Yet, the pressure continues to mount as the Windsor-Essex region is experiencing economic developments and population growth that are unprecedented in recent times. It is imperative that the regional land ambulance service get as efficient as possible to meet and stay ahead of the rising demand.

2. The need for a local, wholistic approach

Windsor and Essex County are surrounded by water on three sides, resulting in the unique situation that Essex-Windsor EMS is the only service dispatched by the Windsor CACC. As part of Ministry of Health-supported local efforts to address pressures on the health-care system, Essex-Windsor EMS has two paramedic supervisors – called Paramedic Patient Navigators – in the Windsor CACC 12 hours per day, seven days per week. The benefits of this program have already been realized and are fully funded through the Land Ambulance Service Grant. The Paramedic Patient Navigators have improved the flow of ambulances and patients throughout the region and between the three local hospitals. They have been able to resolve operational concerns in real time and improve communication – between health system partners, Windsor CACC and paramedics.

It is important to have local leadership on site making the necessary decisions to improve operations quickly. The Southwest Field Office in Cambridge oversees the Windsor CACC. Currently, Essex-Windsor EMS creates the deployment plan that is

ultimately approved by the Southwest Field Office, which has a limited ability to be flexible and encourage innovative solutions. It doesn't always consider conditions in the field. The closest ambulance to a scene is traditionally considered the best one to send. This doesn't take into account local circumstances, such as how long the paramedics in that ambulance have been working and whether it would be better to send a Community Paramedic to respond. The closest ambulance is not always the most appropriate one. Situational awareness is crucial to making the best call. The ability of Paramedic Patient Navigators and the rest of the Essex-Windsor EMS team to efficiently utilize resources is currently limited by the constraints of the deployment plan.

The Paramedic Patient Navigators give Essex-Windsor EMS a voice but not enough control to adjust the deployment plan on the fly to adapt to local conditions. A more wholistic, local approach is needed to provide maximum flexibility and efficiency.

3. Better communication with 911 callers

Putting Essex-Windsor EMS in control of the dispatch centre will allow for better integration of its emergency and Community Paramedicine programs. Calls to 911 that would receive more appropriate care from a Community Paramedicine programs could be connected immediately. New pathways to get callers to the most appropriate care could be developed in the CACC, similar to the Niagara Region and in line with best practices followed in the United Kingdom.

4. Value for money

The costs of putting additional ambulances on the road are considerable when paramedic services across Canada are challenged to minimize burnout and recruit new staff. Investments in hiring paramedics and purchasing additional ambulances pay off best when the system they are entering is working as effectively as possible. Integrating land ambulance and dispatch services is a low-cost measure that can achieve that goal.

What Essex-Windsor EMS has done to move this initiative forward

Essex-Windsor EMS operates programs such as the Vulnerable Patient Navigator (VPN), Community Paramedicine for Long-Term Care (CPLTC), the Mental Health and Addictions Response Team (MHART) and the Community Assessment and Triage Team (CATT). The strategic implementation of these programs in coordination with local partners has resulted in patients getting the right care in the right place and has reduced the demand on hospital emergency rooms. Unfortunately, the current model of dispatching ambulances creates barriers to maximizing the effectiveness of these initiatives.

Essex-Windsor EMS has a history of taking the lead in successfully adopting modernization projects, like the bi-directional data flow business proof of concept and Community Paramedicine. It moved quickly during the COVID-19 pandemic to put in place emergent health system support through regional strike teams and to launch the Mobile Medical Support bus. It is continuing to investigate opportunities to meet the growing demands in the County of Essex and City of Windsor, beyond simply adding more ambulances.

The insights gained by Paramedic Patient Navigators working in the Windsor CACC make Essex-Windsor EMS confident it can safely and effectively take responsibility for dispatch services. Its track record of successful innovation and strong health system working relations put it in a prime position to integrate the Windsor CACC into its operation.

This would open the door to providing more nimble, innovative and efficient patient care in the region. Other emergency medical services across Ontario are expressing interest in integrating land ambulance and dispatch services, so the benefits of the lessons learned will go far beyond Windsor-Essex.

Taking a collaborative approach

Essex-Windsor EMS and the County of Essex are ready to take further action and solidify local support if integrating land ambulance service and ambulance dispatching is something the Ministry of Health is prepared to consider. We see this as a low-cost opportunity to collaboratively strengthen health care in Ontario. We understand that there are multiple challenges facing the health-care system that no one remedy will address. We want to direct our time and resources to solutions the ministry supports.



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Administrative Report

To: Warden MacDonald and Members of Essex County Council

From: Melissa Ryan, CPA
Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

Date: Wednesday, September 4, 2024

Subject: Roadway Expansion Plan Funding Model

Report #: 2024-0904-FIN-R19-MR

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information to County Council about the proposed funding model for the 20-year Roadway Expansion Program.

Background

The Director of Infrastructure and Planning Services (IPS) is responsible for developing and implementing the County's Roadway Expansion Program. This comprehensive 20-year plan is informed by the Essex County Transportation Master Plan and the County Official Plan and also aligning with the milestones outlined in the County's Strategic Plan.

The plan is regularly updated to reflect new data and emerging needs and, as of today, the projected annual expenditure over the 20-year period is approximately \$40 million annually. Currently, the County levy contributes \$17,879,640 annually towards roadway expansion. This leaves a funding gap in anticipated annual spending.

As the region continues to grow, it is essential to prevent stagnation in infrastructure development. Without secured provincial and federal funding, the County must develop a long-term financial strategy to support the necessary expansion of our road network. While the County has historically maintained low or no debt, it will be important to incorporate diverse funding sources to ensure our road network expands in step with our community's growth.

Discussion

The funding model developed to support the County's Roadway Expansion Program (Appendix A) is a strategic approach designed to address the significant financial gap identified between the projected annual expenditure and current funding levels. Recognizing the limitations of relying solely on the County levy, this model incorporates a mix of debt financing and reserve funds to ensure that the necessary infrastructure investments can be made in a timely manner.

Debt Financing: The use of debt in the funding model allows the County to spread the cost of roadway expansion over multiple years, aligning the financial burden to the long-term benefits that these infrastructure improvements will provide. This approach enables the County to accelerate critical projects that are necessary to support current and future growth, without placing an unsustainable strain on annual budgets. By taking advantage of interest rates that are on the decline, the County can finance a portion of the expansion at a relatively low cost, thereby maximizing the efficiency of its capital investments.

Reserve Funds: In addition to debt financing, the funding model leverages reserve funds that have been set aside specifically for expansion related infrastructure projects. These reserves provide a flexible and reliable source of funding that can be drawn upon to cover unforeseen costs or to bridge short-term gaps in the financial plan. The strategic use of reserves ensures that the County can maintain momentum on key projects even in the face of economic uncertainties or delays in external funding. Although the proposed plan does deplete the reserves for a period of time, the 20-year plan does include the reimbursement of funds over the period to build the reserve balance back up to an acceptable level.

Potential Development Charge Revenue: The County is currently working on a DC Background Study that, if approved, would strengthen reserve sources and further reduce the pressure on the tax rate and debt. Expansion projects are often rooted in addressing growth related pressures. Historically, the County has funded growth through the levy. Going forward, the intention is to partially fund growth through the application and collection of development charges. Given the infancy of the DC Background Study, this analysis does not include the impact of potential DC sources.

This blended approach of utilizing both debt and reserves in addition to the levy funded portion creates a balanced and sustainable funding model that

mitigates the risks associated with over-reliance on a single funding source. It also allows the County to maintain a level of fiscal prudence by not overextending its debt capacity while ensuring that reserves are used effectively to support long-term infrastructure needs.

To further strengthen the financial sustainability of the program, the model is designed to be flexible, allowing for adjustments as economic conditions evolve and new funding opportunities arise. The County will continue to explore avenues for securing additional provincial and federal funding, as well as considering alternative financing mechanisms, such as county-specific development charges, as noted earlier.

This report is intended to present the information to Council, however, Administration recommends proceeding with the plan outlined in Appendix A, which includes a proposed annual increase of \$1.5 million from levy funds to address the anticipated spending gap. This recommendation will be formally presented to Council during Budget deliberations. The plan in Appendix A will be updated annually to account for actual projects undertaken, incurred costs, and any new funding developments. The current version is based on the budgeted 2024 reserve balance and the expected completion of projects over the next 20 years, with additional support potentially available through development charges or external funding sources.

Financial Implications

The proposed 20-year Roadway Expansion Plan, as detailed in Appendix A, outlines a total program cost of \$641,200,000 (priced in 2024 dollars). This comprehensive funding strategy utilizes a combination of levy dollars, debt, and reserve funds to ensure the County can meet its growing infrastructure demands while maintaining financial stability.

Levy-Funded Contributions

The plan includes an annual levy-funded contribution of \$17,879,640, with an increase of \$1.5 million each year until the total annual contribution just exceeds \$40 million in 2040. This increase is necessary to bridge the gap between current funding levels and the anticipated annual expenditure required for the roadway expansion. The gradual increase in levy contributions will help ensure that the County can fund its share of the \$641.2 million total cost.

Debt Financing

To complement levy funding, the plan incorporates debt financing at strategic intervals to spread the cost over multiple years. The debt financing model includes the following loans:

- **Loan 1:** \$20 million in 2027
- **Loan 2:** \$80 million in 2030
- **Loan 3:** \$60 million in 2032
- **Loan 4:** \$20 million in 2037

These loans total \$180 million, ensuring that the County remains well within its annual debt repayment limit, which currently exceeds \$300 million. This approach enables the County to effectively manage cash flow while ensuring the timely completion of essential infrastructure projects.

Reserve Funds

The model assumes stable investment returns of 3% on reserve funds when a balance is held in the reserves. It also includes a built-in strategy to rebuild reserve funds starting in 2038, which will provide a financial cushion for future infrastructure needs. Alternatively, the County may consider using reserve funds to pay down debt earlier, reducing borrowing costs and improving long-term financial flexibility. This decision will be reassessed as the plan progresses and the County's financial position evolves.

The total cost of the 20-year Roadway Expansion Program is \$641,200,000. The proposed funding model is designed to be both simple and effective, allowing the County to meet its infrastructure needs while maintaining financial responsibility. By gradually increasing levy contributions, strategically utilizing debt, and rebuilding reserve funds, the County can support the necessary roadway expansions without exceeding its borrowing capacity. The model's flexibility allows for adjustments based on future financial conditions and priorities, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the County's infrastructure investments.

Consultations

Hoa Du, Financial Analyst

Allan Botham-Director, Infrastructure and Planning Services

Strategic Plan Alignment

Working as Team Essex County	Growing as Leaders in Public Service Excellence	Building a Regional Powerhouse
☐ Scaling Sustainable Services through Innovation ☒ Focusing “Team Essex County” for Results ☐ Advocating for Essex County’s Fair Share	☐ Being an Employer with Impact ☒ A Government Working for the People ☒ Promoting Transparency and Awareness	☒ Providing Reliable Infrastructure for Partners ☒ Supporting Dynamic and Thriving Communities Across the County ☐ Harmonizing Action for Growth ☐ Advancing Truth and Reconciliation

Recommendation

That Essex County Council receive report number 2024-0904-FIN-R18-MR, Roadway Expansion Plan Funding Model as information.

Approvals

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Ryan

Melissa Ryan, CPA, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

Concurred With,

Sandra Zwiers

Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix	Title
A	Proposed Roadway Expansion Funding Model

Roadway Expansion

Year	Annual Program Funding Requirement Based on IPS 20yr Plan	Annual Borrowing (Debt & Interest Costs)	Total Annual Costs	Levy Funded (Assume \$1.5M increase year over year until 2040)	Reserve Funded	Debt Funded	Other Recoveries	Contribution to Reserve	Interest Income on Reserve Balance (estimated)	Reserve Balance (Roadway Expansion/CWATS) Cumulative
2025	45,650,000		\$ 45,650,000	19,379,640	\$ 26,270,360		-	-	2,186,788	48,809,357
2026	67,000,000		\$ 67,000,000	20,879,640	\$ 46,120,360		-	-	1,464,281	4,153,278
2027	45,050,000	\$ 863,199	\$ 45,913,199	22,379,640	\$ 4,277,876	19,255,683	-	0	124,598	(0)
2028	8,000,000	\$ 1,479,770	\$ 9,479,770	23,879,640	\$ -	-	-	14,399,870	(0)	14,399,870
2029	43,300,000	\$ 1,479,770	\$ 44,779,770	25,379,640	\$ 14,831,866	4,568,264	-	(0)	431,996	-
2030	59,800,000	\$ 4,932,566	\$ 64,732,566	26,879,640	\$ -	37,852,926	-	0	-	30,974
2031	60,400,000	\$ 7,398,849	\$ 67,798,849	28,379,640	\$ -	39,419,209	-	0	929	31,903
2032	27,700,000	\$ 7,398,849	\$ 35,098,849	29,879,640	\$ -	5,219,209	-	0	957	32,860
2033	54,300,000	\$ 9,988,446	\$ 64,288,446	31,379,640	\$ -	32,908,806	-	0	986	33,846
2034	27,000,000	\$ 11,838,158	\$ 38,838,158	32,879,640	\$ -	5,958,518	-	0	1,015	34,862
2035	30,000,000	\$ 11,838,158	\$ 41,838,158	34,379,640	\$ -	7,458,518	-	0	1,046	-
2036	30,000,000	\$ 11,838,158	\$ 41,838,158	35,879,640	\$ -	5,958,518	-	0	-	-
2037	45,000,000	\$ 12,701,357	\$ 57,701,357	37,379,640	\$ -	20,321,717	-	0	-	-
2038	14,000,000	\$ 13,317,928	\$ 27,317,928	38,879,640	\$ -		-	11,561,712	-	11,561,712
2039	14,000,000	\$ 13,317,928	\$ 27,317,928	40,379,640	\$ -	-	-	13,061,712	346,851	24,970,275
2040	14,000,000	\$ 13,317,928	\$ 27,317,928	41,879,640	\$ -	-	-	14,561,712	749,108	40,281,095
2041	14,000,000	\$ 13,317,928	\$ 27,317,928	41,879,640	\$ -	-	-	14,561,712	1,208,433	56,051,240
2042	14,000,000	\$ 13,317,928	\$ 27,317,928	41,879,640	\$ -	-	-	14,561,712	1,681,537	72,294,489
2043	28,000,000	\$ 13,317,928	\$ 41,317,928	41,879,640	\$ -	-	-	561,712	2,168,835	75,025,036
Totals	641,200,000	161,664,850	802,864,850	615,713,160	91,500,462	178,921,368		83,270,143	10,367,361	

Assumptions:
Utilized IPS 20 Year Master Plan provided Aug 1, 2024
Levy funded portion 2024- \$17,879,640. Add \$1.5M until we reach over \$40M which is the expected annual requirement (2040).
Assumes stable investment returns of 3% for years with reserve fund balances.
Borrow in larger increments (for simple modeling): Loan 1-\$20M, Loan 2-\$80M, Loan 3 \$60M, Loan 4 \$20M. IO Rate as of Aug.7-4.2%
Interest Expense Total for Loans: Loan 1 (20 yr)-\$9,595,395, Loan 2 (20 yr)-\$38,381,591, Loan 3 (20 yr)-\$28,786,185, Loan 4 (20 yr)-\$9,595,395



Administrative Report

To: Warden MacDonald and Members of Essex County Council

From: Melissa Ryan, CPA
Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

Date: Wednesday, September 4, 2024

Subject: Procurement Updates-Contracts Exceeding Budget

Report #: 2024-0904-FIN-R18-MR

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Council about the procurement of goods and services at the County (excluding EWSWA and The Library) that exceeded the approved budget, in accordance with the updated Procurement Policy.

Background

On February 7th, 2024, a report was presented to the Council outlining several amendments to the County's procurement policy.

One of the amendments states:

"The Treasurer shall monitor and report to Council regarding procurements that were over budget, but less than 10% of the Council approved budget, and explain how the amount in excess of the Council approved budget is being covered."

In alignment with this revised policy, the current report is being submitted to County Council for informational purposes.

Discussion

Since January 1, 2024, several contracts have been signed to facilitate County operations. In accordance with the procurement policy, all contracts are monitored by the operating department in consultation with their Financial Analyst as well as the Procurement department.

Any Contracts that are over \$500,000 and exceed 10% of the approved budget require Council approval, while those under \$500,000 in total cost but over budget require the Treasurer's approval.

The attached Appendix A, Awarded Projects with Over Budget Variances provides a detailed list of all projects that have been awarded as of July 31, 2024 and have exceeded their budgets. Please note there are several 2024 Projects that have not yet been awarded and therefore a variance could develop throughout the second half of the year which would be reported on next year's report.

This year has been successful, as we are observing a decline in in-year inflation after the significant increases experienced over the past few years. Typically, project quotes are obtained during budget preparation in August/September of the prior year. However, in recent years, these quotes were underestimated due to inflation when projects were actually awarded during the budget year. Appendix A identifies projects from IT, EMS, and IPS that exceeded their budgets. However, none of these overages were significant compared to the overall project budgets within the individual departments. Thanks to savings from other awarded projects within these departments, no additional funds were required from the rate stabilization reserve. Each department remained within their funding envelope, despite deficits in a few projects.

It is important to highlight that the updated Procurement Policy, with its higher limits and expanded authority for Administration to independently manage more tasks, has greatly reduced the need for frequent council reports, streamlining the decision-making process and enabling more efficient and timelier project execution. Minor variances are monitored and managed by Administration, allowing Council to concentrate on more critical issues.

As this reporting is a new requirement under the procurement policy effective February 2024, this initial report is being presented as a regular agenda item to Council. In the future, it will be moved to the consent agenda, as it is intended for informational purposes only. We anticipate that subsequent reports will identify more contracts falling within this threshold, as they will cover a full calendar year. Administration will provide at least an annual report to Council to share this information. For this first year, the report includes only those projects that secured contracts between January 1, 2024 and July 31, 2024 due to the new policy taking effect in February 2024.

Financial Implications

All awarded projects listed in Appendix A have exceeded their budgets; however, current projections indicate that other projects within the same line item have come in under budget. As a result, the total cost can be absorbed within the regular annual budget without the need to draw any previously unplanned funds from the rate stabilization reserves. If any overages occur in 2024, we will address them by utilizing the rate stabilization reserve, in accordance with our Reserve Management Policy approved by Council on August 14, 2024.

Consultations

Manager, Procurement & Compliance-Sandy Pillon

Strategic Plan Alignment

Working as Team Essex County	Growing as Leaders in Public Service Excellence	Building a Regional Powerhouse
☐ Scaling Sustainable Services through Innovation ☒ Focusing "Team Essex County" for Results ☐ Advocating for Essex County's Fair Share	☐ Being an Employer with Impact ☐ A Government Working for the People ☒ Promoting Transparency and Awareness	☐ Providing Reliable Infrastructure for Partners ☐ Supporting Dynamic and Thriving Communities Across the County ☐ Harmonizing Action for Growth ☐ Advancing Truth and Reconciliation

Recommendation

That Essex County Council receive report number 2024-0904-FIN-R18-MR, Procurement Updates-Contracts Exceeding Budget as information.

Approvals

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Ryan

Melissa Ryan, CPA, Director, Financial Services/Treasurer

Concurred With,

Sandra Zwiers

Sandra Zwiers, MAcc, CPA, CA, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix	Title
A	Awarded Projects with Over Budget Variances

Awarded Projects with Over Budget Variances

Department	Project Name	Original Budget	Actual Contract Cost	Over Budget	% Over Budget	Source of Additional Funding
Information Technology	VMWare - software	37,280	73,328	- 36,048	-97%	Although the total cost exceeded the budget for this specific project, other Information Technology projects within the same budget line came in under budget, allowing the excess cost to be absorbed within the current year's budget. As a result, there was no need to draw additional funds from the rate stabilization reserves.
Information Technology	Network Assessment	25,000	54,324	- 29,324	-54%	Although the total cost exceeded the budget for this specific project, other Information Technology projects within the same budget line came in under budget, allowing the excess cost to be absorbed within the current year's budget. As a result, there was no need to draw additional funds from the rate stabilization reserves.
Information Technology	AutoCAD Renewal	46,811	53,352	- 6,541	-12%	Although the total cost exceeded the budget for this specific project, other Information Technology projects within the same budget line came in under budget, allowing the excess cost to be absorbed within the current year's budget. As a result, there was no need to draw additional funds from the rate stabilization reserves.
EMS	EMS Electronic Patient Records Software	230,000	266,589	- 36,589	-14%	Although the total cost exceeded the budget for this specific project, other EMS projects within the same budget line came in under budget, allowing the excess cost to be absorbed within the current year's budget. As a result, there was no need to draw additional funds from the rate stabilization reserves.
IPS	Trucking Excess Soil & Heavy Equipment Services	2,600,000	2,850,000	- 250,000	-9%	Although the total cost exceeded the budget for this specific project, other IPS projects within the same budget line came in under budget, allowing the excess cost to be absorbed within the current year's budget. As a result, there was no need to draw additional funds from the rate stabilization reserves.
IPS	Winter Control Components	320,000	365,000	- 45,000	-12%	Although the total cost exceeded the budget for this specific project, other IPS projects within the same budget line came in under budget, allowing the excess cost to be absorbed within the current year's budget. As a result, there was no need to draw additional funds from the rate stabilization reserves.

Department	Project Name	Original Budget	Actual Contract Cost	Over Budget	% Over Budget	Source of Additional Funding
IPS	Cooling Tower Access Platform	40,000	46,475	- 6,475	-14%	Although the total cost exceeded the budget for this specific project, other IPS projects within the same budget line came in under budget, allowing the excess cost to be absorbed within the current year's budget. As a result, there was no need to draw additional funds from the rate stabilization reserves.
IPS	Crash Truck	205,000	214,220	- 9,220	-4%	Although the total cost exceeded the budget for this specific project, other IPS projects within the same budget line came in under budget, allowing the excess cost to be absorbed within the current year's budget. As a result, there was no need to draw additional funds from the rate stabilization reserves.
IPS	Mower (Bush Hog)	30,000	38,308	- 8,308	-22%	Although the total cost exceeded the budget for this specific project, other IPS projects within the same budget line came in under budget, allowing the excess cost to be absorbed within the current year's budget. As a result, there was no need to draw additional funds from the rate stabilization reserves.
IPS	Utility Tractor	135,000	146,908	- 11,908	-8%	Although the total cost exceeded the budget for this specific project, other IPS projects within the same budget line came in under budget, allowing the excess cost to be absorbed within the current year's budget. As a result, there was no need to draw additional funds from the rate stabilization reserves.
IPS	Waste Management Services	43,000	68,448	- 25,448	-37%	Although the total cost exceeded the budget for this specific project, other IPS projects within the same budget line came in under budget, allowing the excess cost to be absorbed within the current year's budget. As a result, there was no need to draw additional funds from the rate stabilization reserves.
IPS	Hot Mix Overlay & Mill & Pave Contract C	6,475,000	6,558,705	- 83,705	-1%	Although the total cost exceeded the budget for this specific project, other IPS projects within the same budget line came in under budget, allowing the excess cost to be absorbed within the current year's budget. As a result, there was no need to draw additional funds from the rate stabilization reserves.



The Corporation of the County of Essex

By-Law Number 2024-40

A By-law to Confirm the Proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex for the Regular Meeting held September 4, 2024.

Whereas pursuant to Section 5(1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, c.25 as amended, the powers of a municipality shall be exercised by its Council;

And whereas pursuant to Section 5(3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c.25 as amended, a municipal power, including a municipality's capacity, rights, powers, and privileges pursuant to Section 8 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O. 2001, c.25 as amended, shall be exercised by By-law, unless the municipality is specifically authorized to do otherwise;

And whereas it is deemed expedient that the proceedings of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex, at these meetings be confirmed and adopted by By-law;

Now therefore the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex hereby enacts as follows:

- 1) That the actions of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex in respect of all recommendations in reports of committees, all motions and resolutions and all other action passed and taken by the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex, documents, and transactions entered into during the Regular Meeting held September 4, 2024, is hereby adopted and confirmed as if the same were expressly embodied in this By-law;
- 2) That the Warden and proper officials of the Corporation of the County of Essex are hereby authorized and directed to do all the things necessary to give effect to the action of the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex during the said Regular Meeting held September 4, 2024 referred to in Section 1 of this By-law; and

By-Law Number 2024-40

Page 2

- 3) That the Warden and the Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute all documents necessary to the action taken by the Council of the Corporation of the County of Essex during the said Regular Meeting held September 4, 2024 referred to in Section 1 of this By-law and to affix the Corporate Seal of the Corporation of the County of Essex to all such documents.

This By-law shall come into force and take effect after the final passing thereof.

Read a first, second and third time and Finally Passed this Fourth day of September, 2024.

Hilda MacDonald, Warden

Katherine J. Hebert, Clerk

Clerk's Certificate

I, Katherine J. Hebert, Clerk of the Corporation of the County of Essex, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy, of **By-law Number 2024-40** passed by the Council of the said Corporation on this **Fourth day of September, 2024.**

Katherine Hebert, Clerk
Corporation of the County of Essex