

COVID-19 and Manitoba Provincial Politics

The Free Press/CTV Winnipeg

September 2023 Probe Omnibus Survey

The
Free Press



PROBE
RESEARCH INC.

Contact:

Scott MacKay
President



204-955-9777



scott@probe-research.com

Probe Research is working to ensure its documents exceed modern accessibility and screen-readability standards. If you encounter any barriers to accessing this content or if you require this document in an alternative format, please contact probe@probe-research.com or 204-926-6565.

PROBE RESEARCH INC.



603 – 191 Lombard Ave.
Winnipeg, MB R3B 0X1



(204) 926-6565



www.probe-research.com



Key Findings

- A slim majority of Manitobans would like their provincial government to call a public inquiry into how Manitoba responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. While 55 per cent are in favour of this idea – which has been proposed by the New Democrats during the provincial election campaign – another 45 per cent of Manitobans are against the idea of holding this type of investigation into how the provincial Progressive Conservative government addressed the different aspects of Manitoba’s pandemic response.
- Not surprisingly, two-thirds of NDP supporters and six in ten Manitoba Liberal supporters back this call for a public inquiry, compared to just one-third of those who prefer the PCs. Younger adults, those living in Winnipeg and lower-income earners are also more likely to be in favour of investigating the government response to COVID-19.
- A significant proportion of Manitobans also say the PC government’s handling of COVID-19 makes them not want to vote for this party. While six in ten say the pandemic response has no real influence on deciding which party to vote for on Oct. 3, fully one-third say this is a major factor that is encouraging them to seek out political party options other than the PCs. Slightly fewer than one in ten affirm that the PC government’s response actually makes them more enthusiastic about voting for this party. Again, younger adults (as well as Winnipeg residents and university graduates) are more likely to report that the PC response to COVID-19 makes them less eager to vote for this party.

Methodology

Probe Research surveyed a random and representative sampling of 1,000 adults residing in Manitoba between September 7 and 18, 2023.

With a sample of 1,000, one can say with 95 per cent certainty that the results are within ± 3.1 percentage points of what they would have been if the entire adult population of Manitoba had been surveyed. The margin of error is higher within each of the survey's population sub-groups.

The sample consists of 535 Manitobans randomly recruited via live-agent operator and 465 Manitobans randomly recruited via Interactive Voice Response (IVR). All respondents completed the survey on an online platform.

Modified random digit dialing, including both landline and wireless numbers, ensured all Manitoba adults had an equal opportunity to participate in this Probe Research survey.

Minor statistical weighting has been applied to this sample to ensure that age and gender characteristics properly reflect known attributes of the province's population. All data analysis was performed using SPSS statistical analysis software.

About the Probe Research Omnibus

For more than two decades, Probe Research Inc. has undertaken quarterly omnibus surveys of random and representative samples of Manitoba adults. These scientific telephone surveys have provided strategic and proprietary insights to hundreds of public, private and not-for-profit clients on a range of social, cultural and public policy topics. The Probe Research Omnibus Survey is the province's largest and most trusted general population survey.

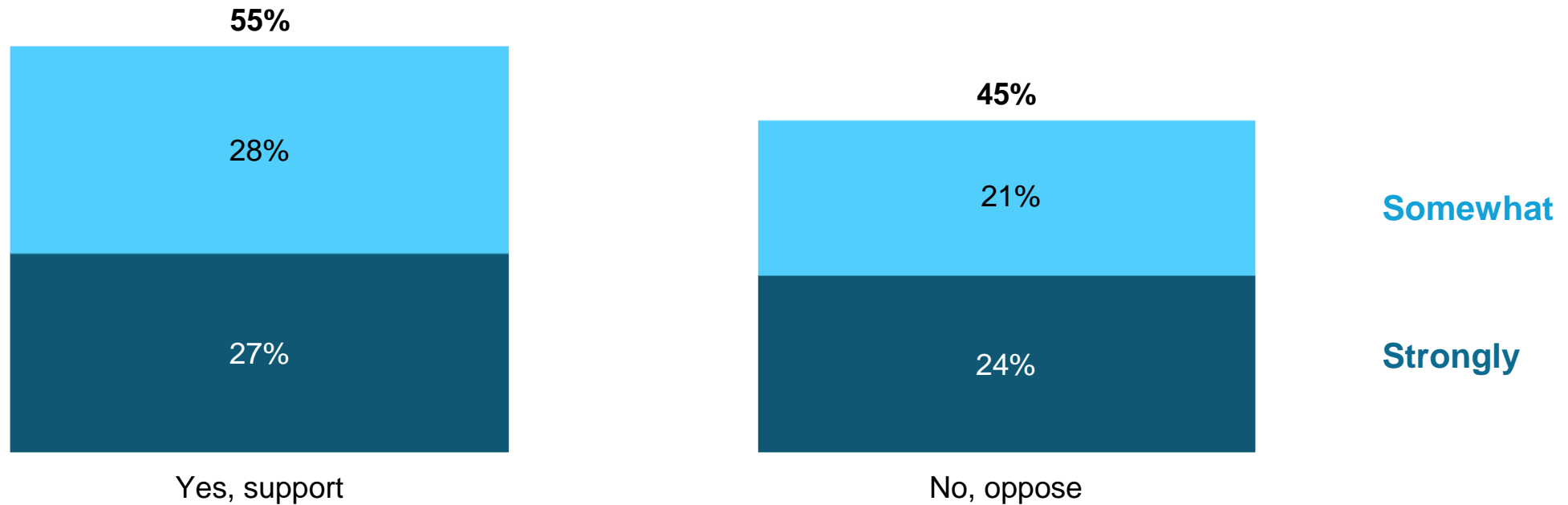
Survey Instrument

The survey instrument was designed by Probe Research in close consultation with the *Free Press* and CTV Winnipeg.

Support for a COVID-19 Public Inquiry

Slightly more than one-half of Manitobans want an examination of how the pandemic was handled

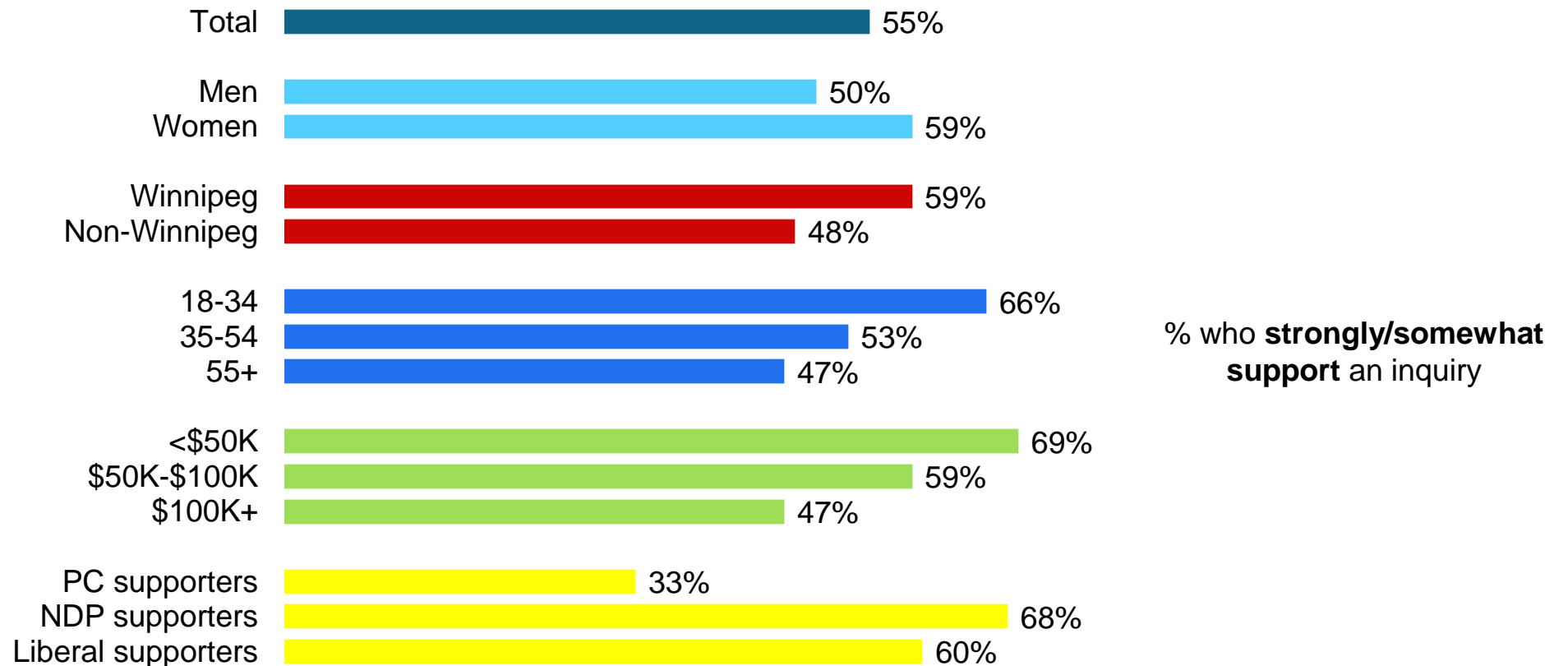
Q9. Manitoba experienced a proportionately higher number of deaths than most other parts of Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic. This has caused some people to call for a public inquiry into the Manitoba government's response and handling of this pandemic. What do you think? Should there be or not be a public inquiry into this matter? (Base: All respondents, N=1,000)



Support for a COVID-19 Public Inquiry: By Sub-Group

Younger adults, lower-income earners more likely to want an inquiry to take place

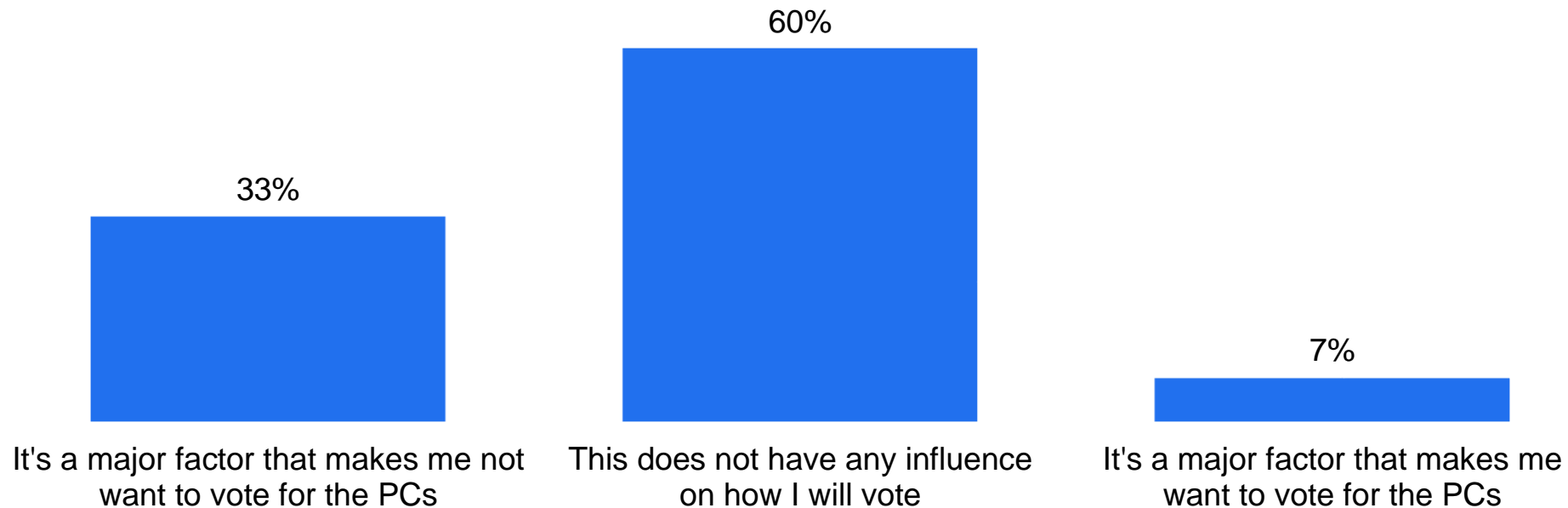
Q9. Manitoba experienced a proportionately higher number of deaths than most other parts of Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic. This has caused some people to call for a public inquiry into the Manitoba government's response and handling of this pandemic. What do you think? Should there be or not be a public inquiry into this matter? (Base: All respondents, N=1,000)



Impact of Provincial Government Handling of COVID-19 on Voting

One-third say PCs' pandemic decision-making makes them not want to vote for this party

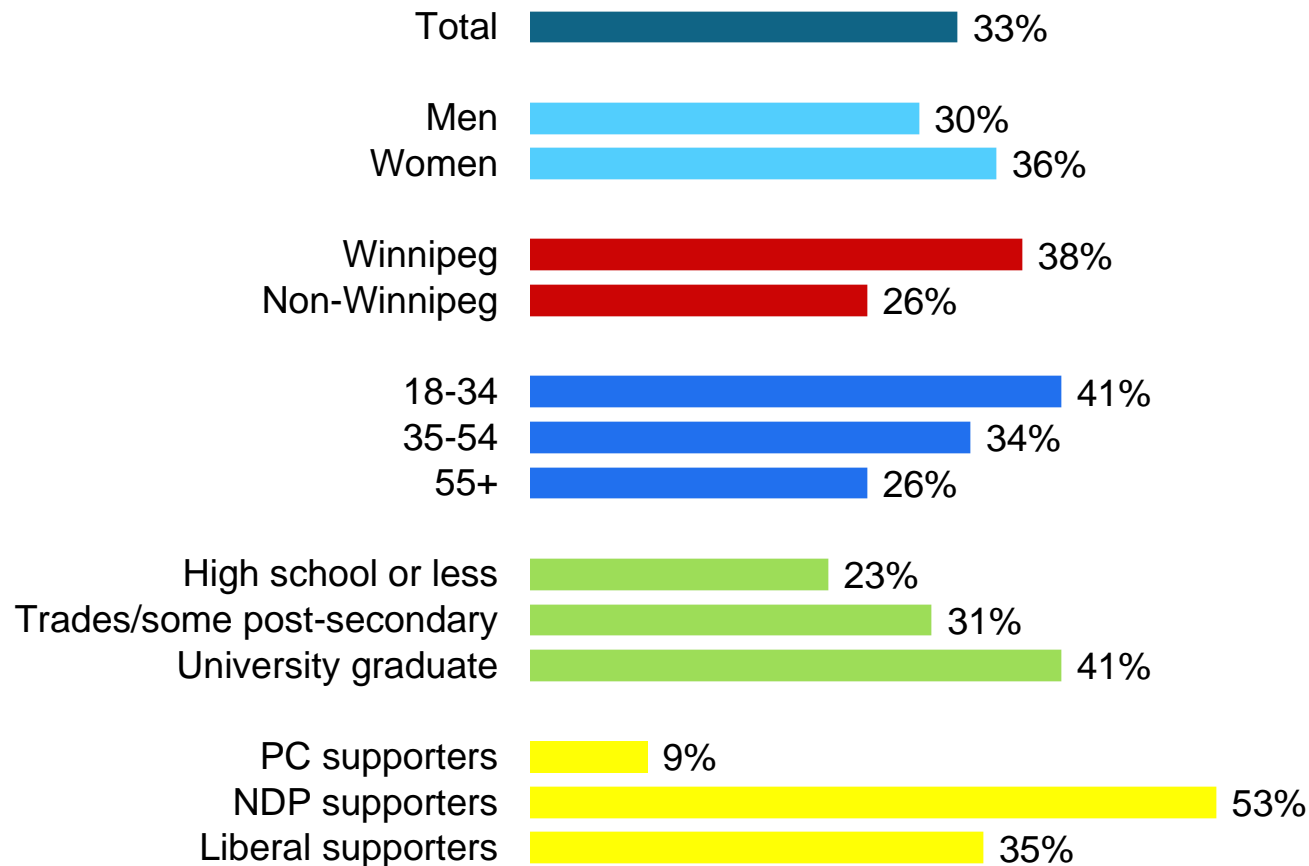
Q9. When you consider how you will vote in the upcoming provincial election, what kind of influence, if any, does the way the provincial government handled COVID-19 have upon your voting decision? (Base: All respondents, N=1,000)



Impact of Government Handling of COVID-19: By Sub-group

Winnipeg residents, younger adults and university graduates more likely to say it has an effect

Q9. When you consider how you will vote in the upcoming provincial election, what kind of influence, if any, does the way the provincial government handled COVID-19 have upon your voting decision? (Base: All respondents, N=1,000)



% who say the PC government's handling of the pandemic makes them **not want to vote for this party**