

SURVEY OF TEACHERS IN CANADA ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 AND TEACHING



Presented by Stefan Stefanovic, Association for Canadian Studies and Metropolis Institute
October 22, 2021



METHODS

- Web-based surveys
- Administered to teachers
- Survey via Survey Monkey platform



DATASETS USED

Teachers' Survey (Wave 1, 2 & 3)

- **Wave 1**
 - August, 2020 (in English and French)
 - 471 responses
- **Wave 2**
 - May, 2021 (in English and French)
 - 240 responses
- **Wave 3**
 - September, 2021 (in English and French)
 - 150 responses

ACS-Leger Covid 19 Social Impacts Survey (Week 62 & 74)

- **Week 62**
 - May 21-24, 2021
 - 1,624 responses
- **Week 74**
 - August 13-15, 2021
 - 1,5150 responses



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WHO ARE TEACHERS WHO RESPONDED TO OUR SURVEY?

PROFILE OF TEACHER FROM OUR LATEST SURVEY: FEMALE, 35-44 OLD, HAS 5 TO 10 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE, TEACHES IN ALBERTA AND PRIMARILY IN ENGLISH

	Sex		Age group			
	Female	Male	18-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Wave 1	72%	28%	18%	39%	31%	12%
Wave 2	66%	34%	18%	37%	33%	12%
Wave 3	70%	30%	22%	41%	29%	8%

	What province or territory do you teach in?										
	Prince Edward Island	Newfoundland and Labrador	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	British Columbia	Yukon
Wave 1	0.5%	/	0.5%	2%	0.2%	27%	6%	1%	61%	2%	/
Wave 2	0.4%	/	14%	0.8%	5%	58%	5%	3%	7%	8%	/
Wave 3	/	0.7%	4%	0.7%	0.7%	27%	4%	1%	56%	6%	0.7%

	How many years have you been a teacher for?						What language(s) do you teach in?			
	Less than 5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-25 years	25+ years	English	French	Both English and French	Other
Wave 1	9%	15%	18%	21%	22%	16%	89%	2%	9%	0.7%
Wave 2	7%	15%	18%	24%	22%	14%	81%	10%	9%	/
Wave 3	13%	24%	14%	22%	17%	11%	87%	4%	9%	0.7%

Source: Teachers' Survey Wave 1, 2 and 3



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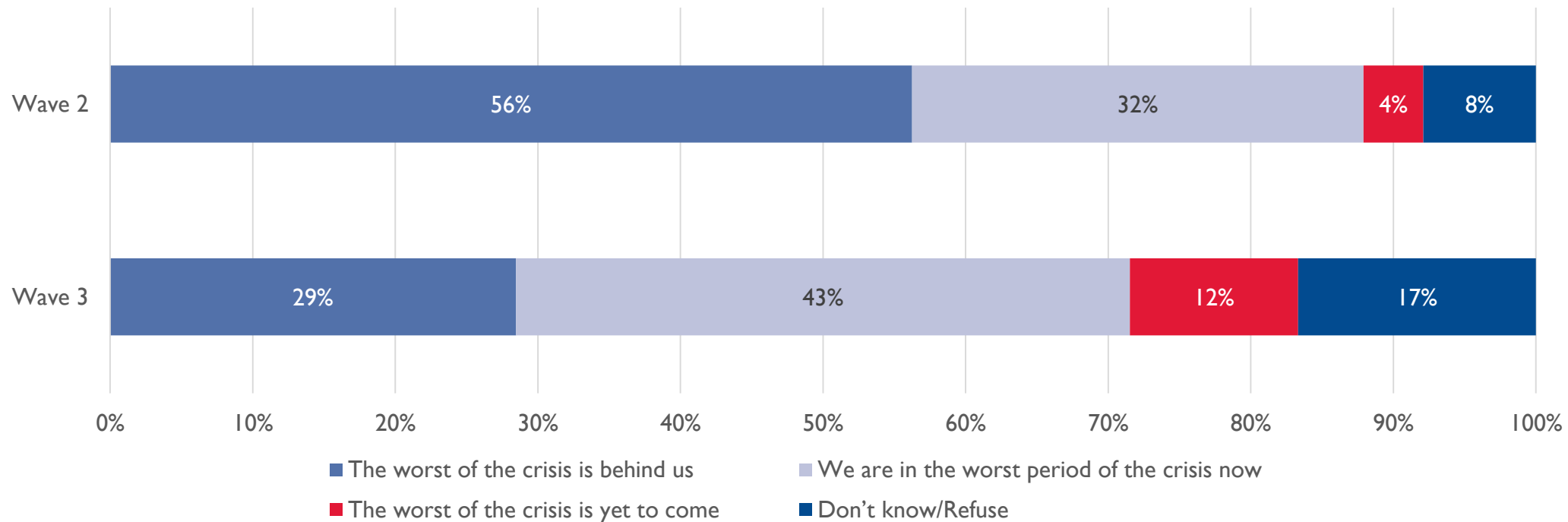
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WHAT ARE TEACHERS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS COVID-19?

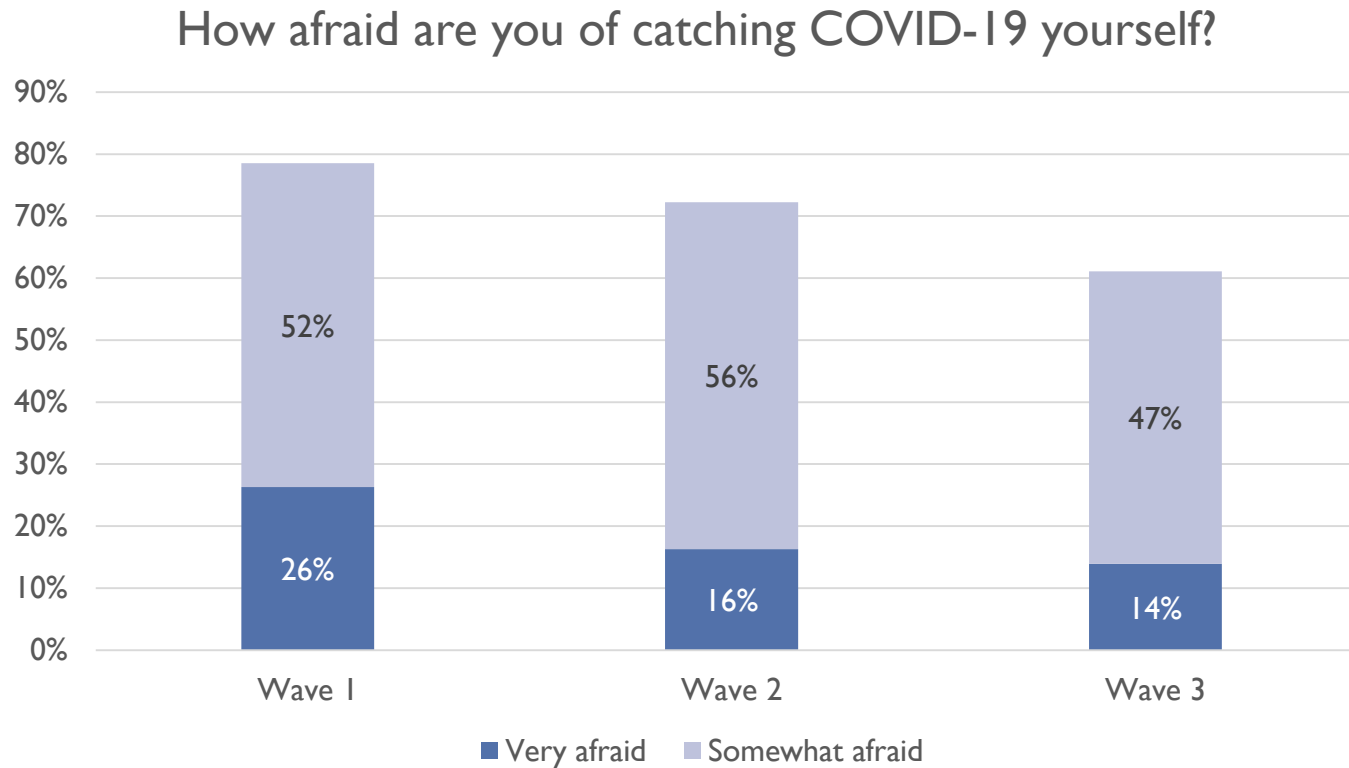
WHILE MORE THAN HALF OF RESPONDENTS (56%) IN WAVE 2 SAID THAT THE WORST OF THE COVID-19 CRISIS HAS PASSED, LESS THAN ONE-THIRD SAID THE SAME THING IN WAVE 3

What statement best describes your personal opinion of the COVID-19 crisis for Canada?



Source: Teachers' Survey Wave 2 and 3

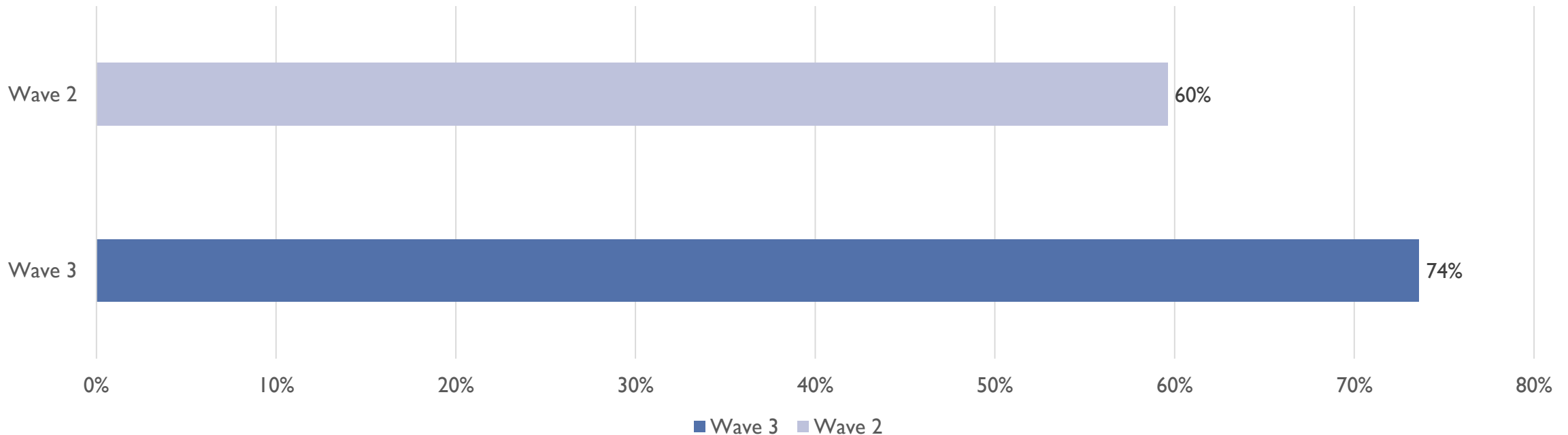
THERE IS A DOWNWARD TREND WHEN IT COMES TO FEAR OF CATCHING COVID-19 AMONG TEACHERS. WHILE IN WAVE 1, 79 PERCENT SAID THEY WERE AFRAID, COMPARED TO 61 PERCENT IN WAVE 3



Source: Teachers' Survey Wave 1, 2 and 3

AS THE PANDEMIC WENT ON, THE PERCENTAGE OF TEACHERS, WHO KNEW SOMEONE FROM THEIR INNER CIRCLE WHO HAD COVID-19 INCREASED BY 14 PERCENTAGE POINTS

Do you know anyone in your immediate family or circle of friends who had COVID-19?



Source: Teachers' Survey Wave 2 and 3



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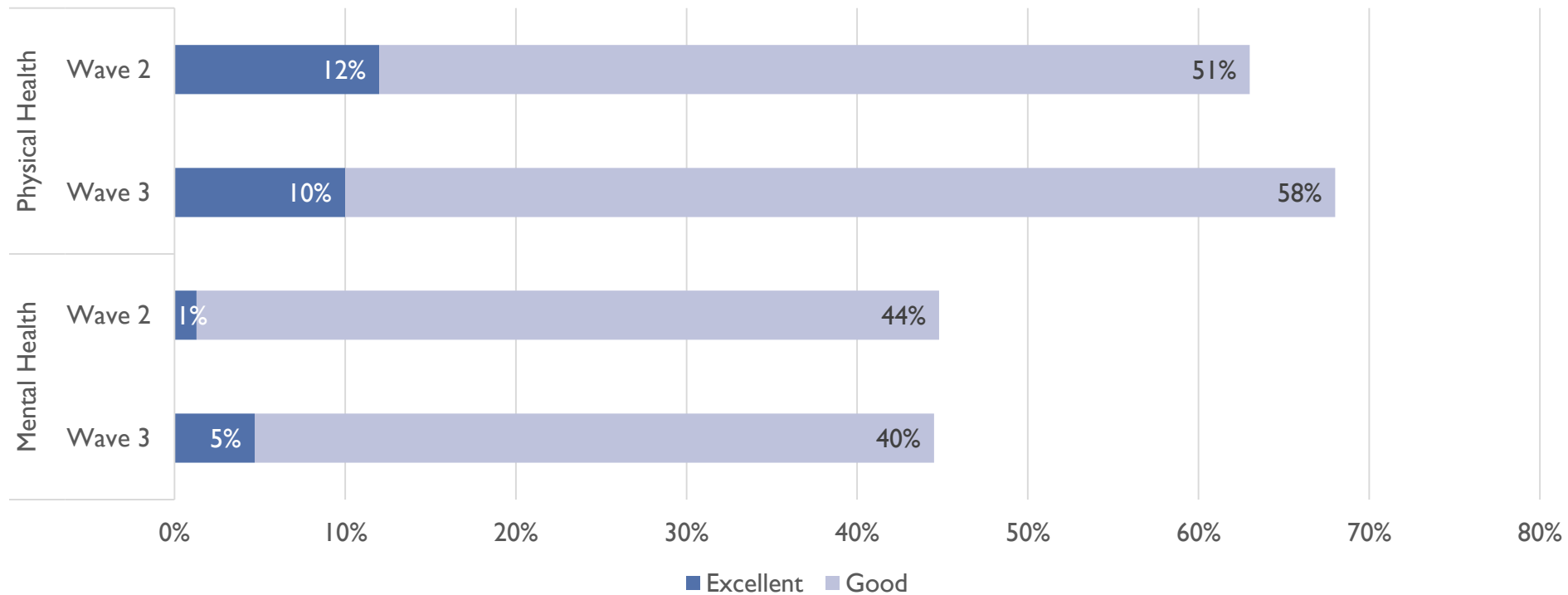
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WELL-BEING DURING COVID-19

TEACHERS WERE MORE LIKELY TO REPORT THAT THEIR PHYSICAL HEALTH IS EITHER EXCELLENT OR GOOD THAN THEIR MENTAL HEALTH IN BOTH WAVES

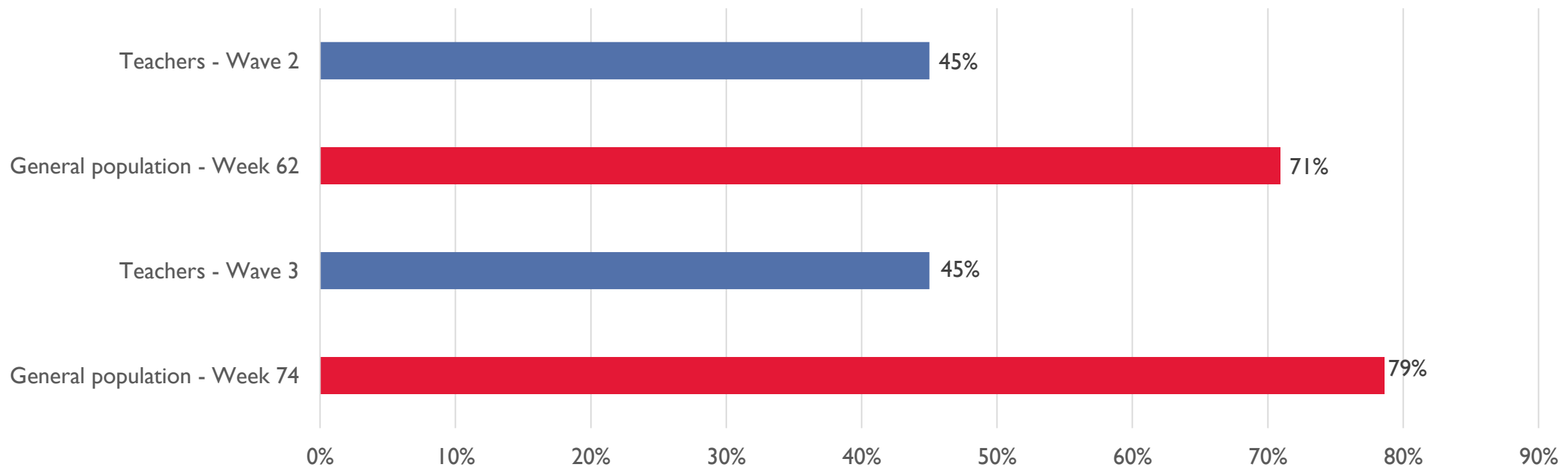
Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, how would you rate your...?



Source: Teachers' Survey Wave 2 and 3

IN BOTH WAVES, TEACHERS WERE LESS LIKELY TO REPORT EXCELLENT, VERY GOOD OR GOOD MENTAL HEALTH COMPARED TO THE GENERAL POPULATION

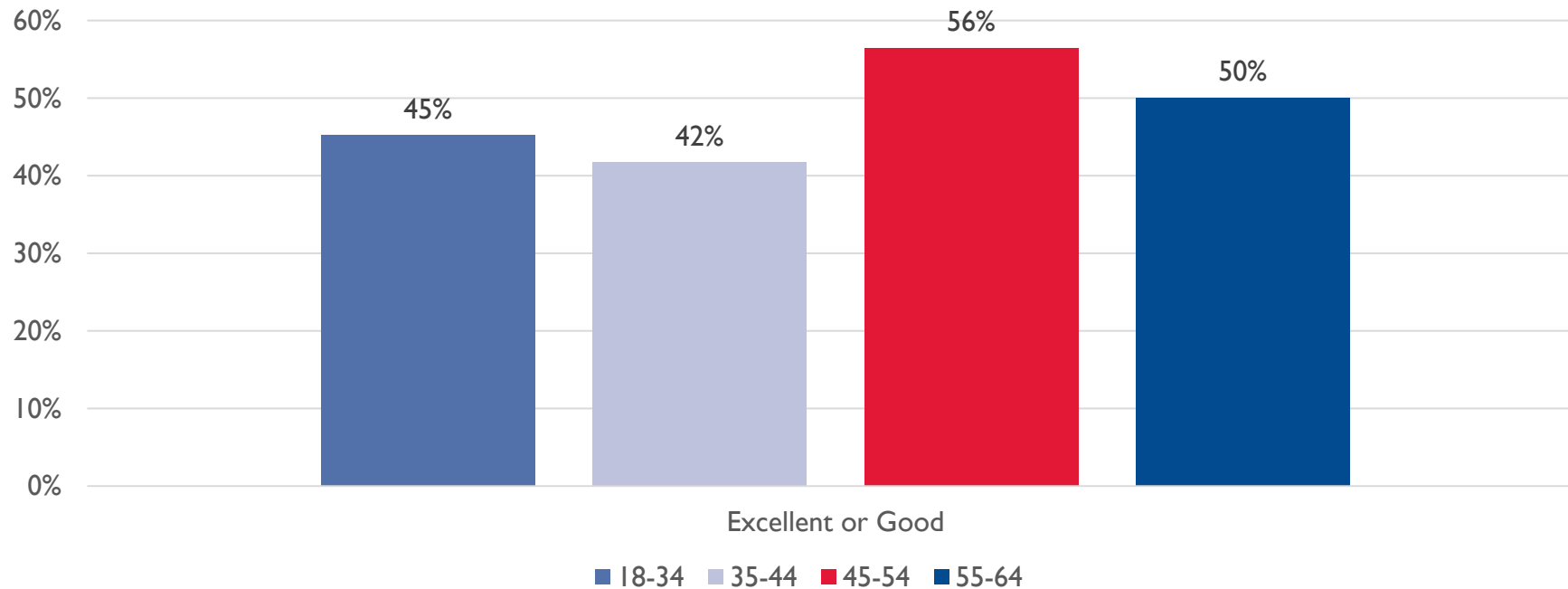
Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, how would you rate your mental health?
(% of Excellent, Very Good or Good)



Source: Teachers' Survey Wave 2 and 3 and ACS-Leger COVID-19 Social Impacts Survey Week 62 and 74

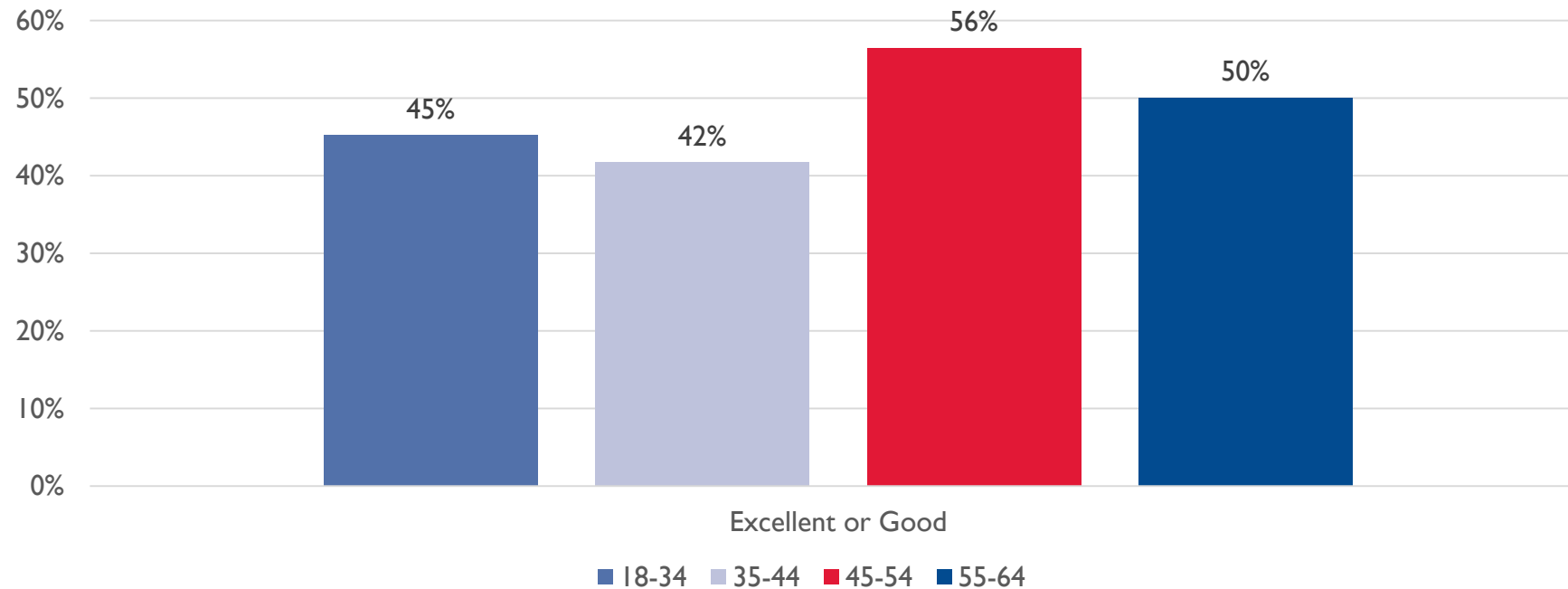
TEACHERS 44 AND YOUNGER WERE LESS LIKELY TO REPORT THAT THEIR MENTAL HEALTH IS EITHER EXCELLENT OR GOOD COMPARED TO THOSE 45 AND OLDER

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, how would you rate your mental health?



TEACHERS 44 AND YOUNGER WERE LESS LIKELY TO REPORT THAT THEIR MENTAL HEALTH IS EITHER EXCELLENT OR GOOD COMPARED TO THOSE 45 AND OLDER

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, how would you rate your mental health?



OPEN-ENDED QUESTION: BRIEFLY EXPLAIN WHAT ACTIONS HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN BY YOUR SCHOOL/DISTRICT TO SUPPORT YOUR WELL-BEING AS A TEACHER DURING THE PANDEMIC

- *"Not enough, that's for sure. We are shell-shocked. Online briefly from March-June. Cohorts and some additional cleaning. Some ventilation upgrades. Not enough, that's for damned sure."*
- *"There's a lot of *talk* about mental health and self care, and there's a lot of expression of support from the board and administrators. However I'm not satisfied that much in the way of concrete support is available. For instance, I had no designated prep time (NONE) for 5 solid months last year. While still in the heart of the pandemic, we are (rightly) being expected to actively implement anti racism, diversity and equity in our courses; however we have no new resources/content available to us, and no time to create new content."*
- *"Nothing. My school district has basically ignored the pandemic for teachers, asking more of us, checking in much less."*
- *"They send out emails about accessing our benefits for mental health online. Other than that I feel it's been largely ignore."*
- *"Admin read from a scripted Power Point unenthusiastically told us their door was always open, but people who have approached them have not been supported. There is a website that didn't look helpful. Kept repeating the phrase "We're all this together"."*
- *"Mental health supports offered for sharing with students as well as professional help for staff if needed."*
- *"We have a wonderfully supportive admin team. I know there is support if I need it."*
- *"Encouraging teacher to be kind to themselves and taking sick days for mental health issues."*
- *"Tokens of appreciation, wellness programs such as Zoom yoga and meditation."*
- *"They have altered the class schedule to blocks rather than five classes per day."*
- *"Councillors provided any time they were needed. Understanding of sick days used for mental health days."*

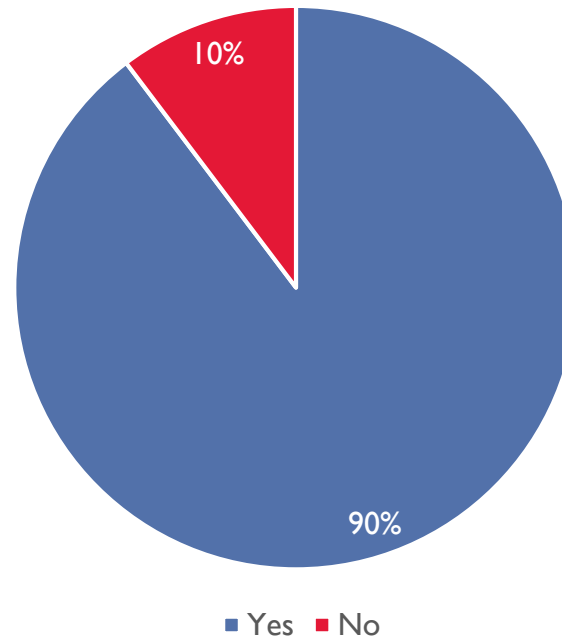
OPEN-ENDED QUESTION: WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BEST APPROACHES IN DEALING WITH STUDENT ANXIETY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?

- *"In my experience in the last school year: - community building with humour - do not take a "toxic positivity" approach to mental health and anxiety - acknowledge it's ok to allow yourself to feel crappy - be mindful of talking about mental health in a way that feels trite/phony - Make the distinction that being upset/anxious/distraught about a bad situation (i.e, our individual situations as well as our societal collective COVID experience) is not the same as "mental illness"."*
- *"Letting students know that it is okay. Everyone is going through through this event. We will all experience it differently and that is completely normal."*
- *"Listen to them, be friendly - their mental health comes first, allow them extra time to complete work, offer differentiated instruction, provide extra support at lunch, get rid of final exams."*
- *"Open communication, honesty with the students, open door policy, reminding them to stay home and focus on their health if they are sick, and not worry about school."*
- *"Reminding students that fresh air and exercise will help, being flexible and adaptable, not holding strict deadlines, being available after school hours."*
- *"Sitting and talking - I wish we had more supports, but this is the best I've found. Sometimes they just want to talk through their concerns without a parent/adult trying to "stop" them from feeling that way."*
- *"Task reduction, assessments given in small amounts, extra time for processing information, access to mental health supports."*
- *"Validate their feelings and provide a safe space for students to talk about how they're feeling. Collaborate and share ways to cope during crisis."*
- *"Adhering to safety protocols have addressed some anxiety issues. Recognizing that some students may need accommodations to alleviate anxiety."*
- *"Be understanding of their mental health. Give more time for work. Keep in contact with home weekly. Teach essentials."*
- *"Smaller classes; improved ventilation, education around health measures."*

Source: Teachers' Survey Wave 3

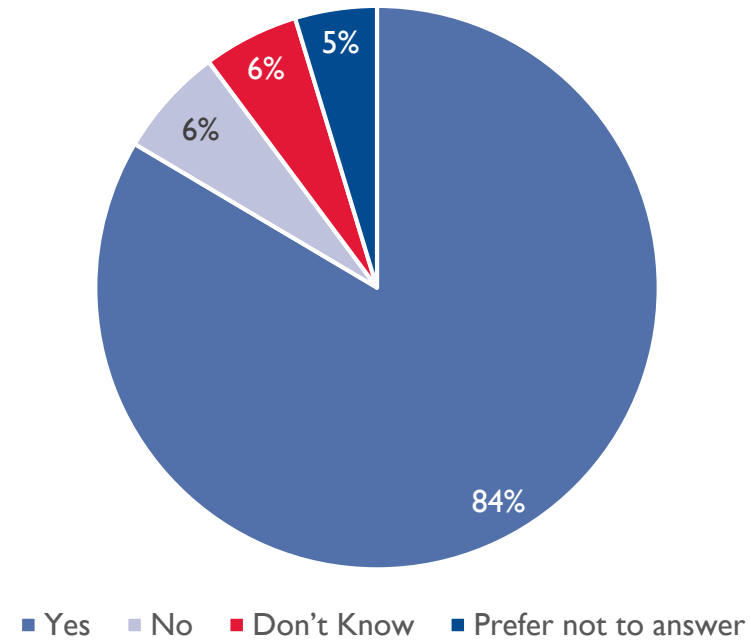
DATA FROM WAVE 2 SHOWED THAT 9 OUT OF 10 TEACHERS (90%) RECEIVED AT LEAST ONE DOSE OF THE COVID-19 VACCINE

Have you received any vaccination doses against COVID-19?



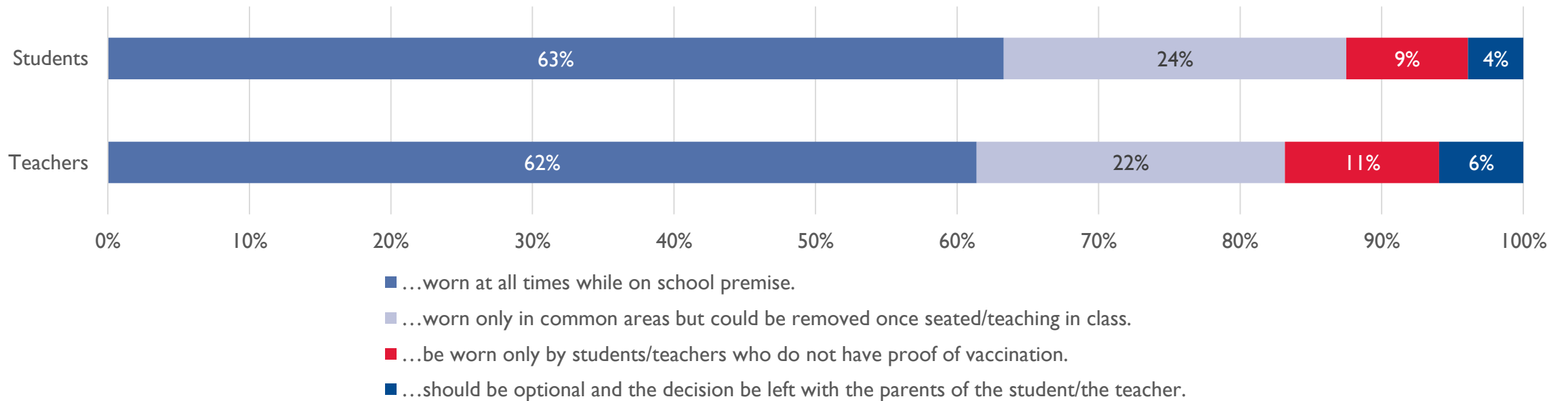
8 OUT OF 10 TEACHERS (84%) THINK THAT ALL STUDENTS SHOULD BE VACCINATED

Do you think all students in your classroom/school should be vaccinated?



THE MAJORITY OF TEACHERS THINK THAT BOTH STUDENTS AND TEACHERS SHOULD WEAR MASKS AT ALL TIMES WHILE ON SCHOOL PREMISE (63% AND 62%)

In the case of students 12 years or older/teachers, faculty and staff, where vaccination is possible, should masks or facial coverings be:





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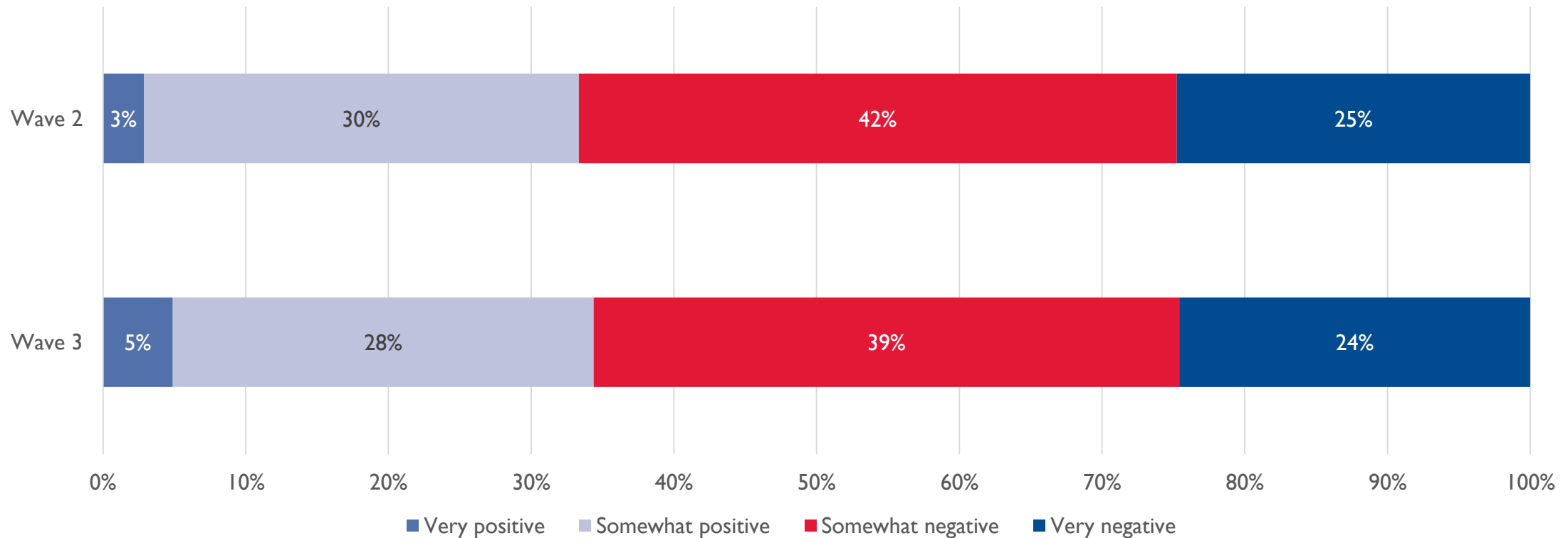
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TEACHING DURING COVID-19

ONLY ONE-THIRD OF TEACHERS (33%) IN BOTH WAVES 2 AND 3 HAD A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE WITH ONLINE LEARNING

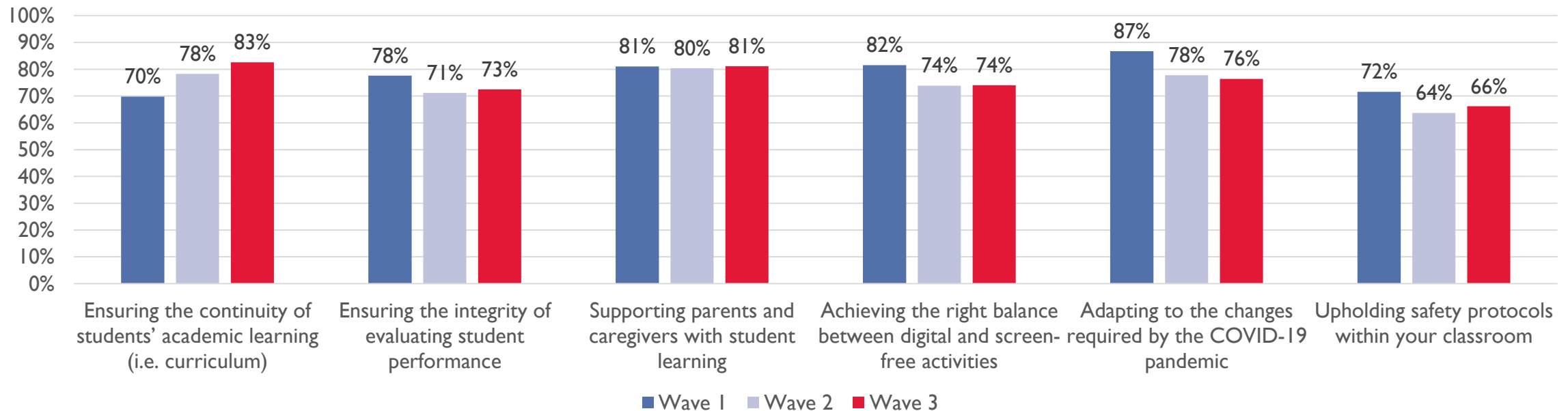
How would you rate your experience this past school year with online learning?



Source: Teachers' Survey Wave 2 and 3

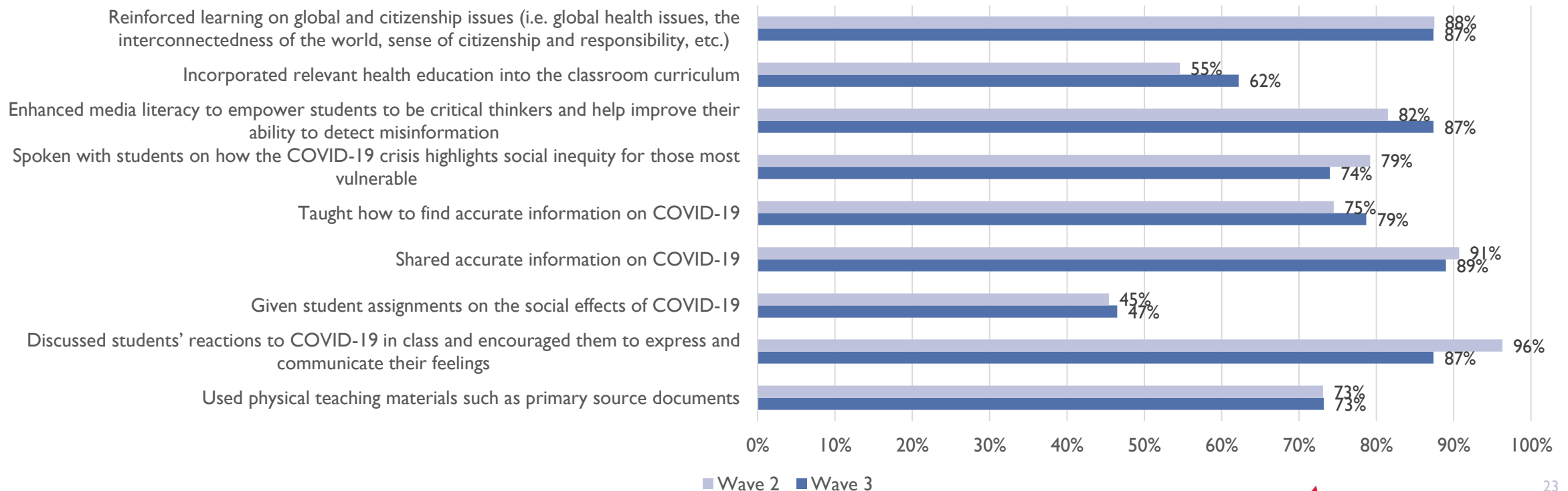
IN WAVE 3, TEACHERS ARE MORE CONFIDENT THAT THEY WILL ENSURE THE CONTINUITY OF STUDENTS' ACADEMIC LEARNING AND LESS CONVINCED THAT THEY WILL ADAPT TO THE CHANGES REQUIRED BY THE PANDEMIC

How confident are you about carrying out each of the following in your teaching?
 (% of Very or Somewhat confident)



LESS THAN HALF OF TEACHERS IN BOTH WAVE 2 AND 3 GAVE STUDENTS ASSIGNMENTS ON THE SOCIAL EFFECTS OF COVID-19 (45% AND 47%)

To address concerns that students may have about COVID-19 in your role as a teacher, have you done each of the following? (% of Yes)





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**DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS
OR QUESTIONS?**



Thank you!

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