

INTRODUCTION

In partnership with the BVA Institute, the French Centre of Palliative Care and End-of-Life have conducted a national survey to measure how French citizens perceive end-of-life issues and palliative care.

Following an initial edition in 2022, the 2025 survey updates these findings in a context marked by intense public debate around 2 legislative proposals.

Two main objectives:

- Observe the evolution of French attitudes toward end-of-life;
- Build a recurring national barometer on this sensitive topic, designed to inform public policies and professional practices.

METHODS

Representative sample of 1,000 adults aged 18 and over, using quota-based sampling.

Identify trends in perceptions, attitudes, and knowledge.

Items explored :

- Personal concern about end-of-life,
- Preferred conditions for dying,
- Willingness to discuss wishes with relatives or healthcare professionals.
- Awareness of legal frameworks,

CONCLUSION

The 2025 edition still reveals significant gaps in knowledge of the legal provisions but the willingness to discuss end-of-life wishes has increased, reflecting a cultural shift toward dialogue, possibly amplified by the recent parliamentary debates.

These findings highlight the need for longitudinal monitoring to understand how French attitudes toward end-of-life evolve alongside societal and legislative change.

We now plan to develop a regular national barometer, serving as a reference tool for policymakers, healthcare professionals, and citizens.

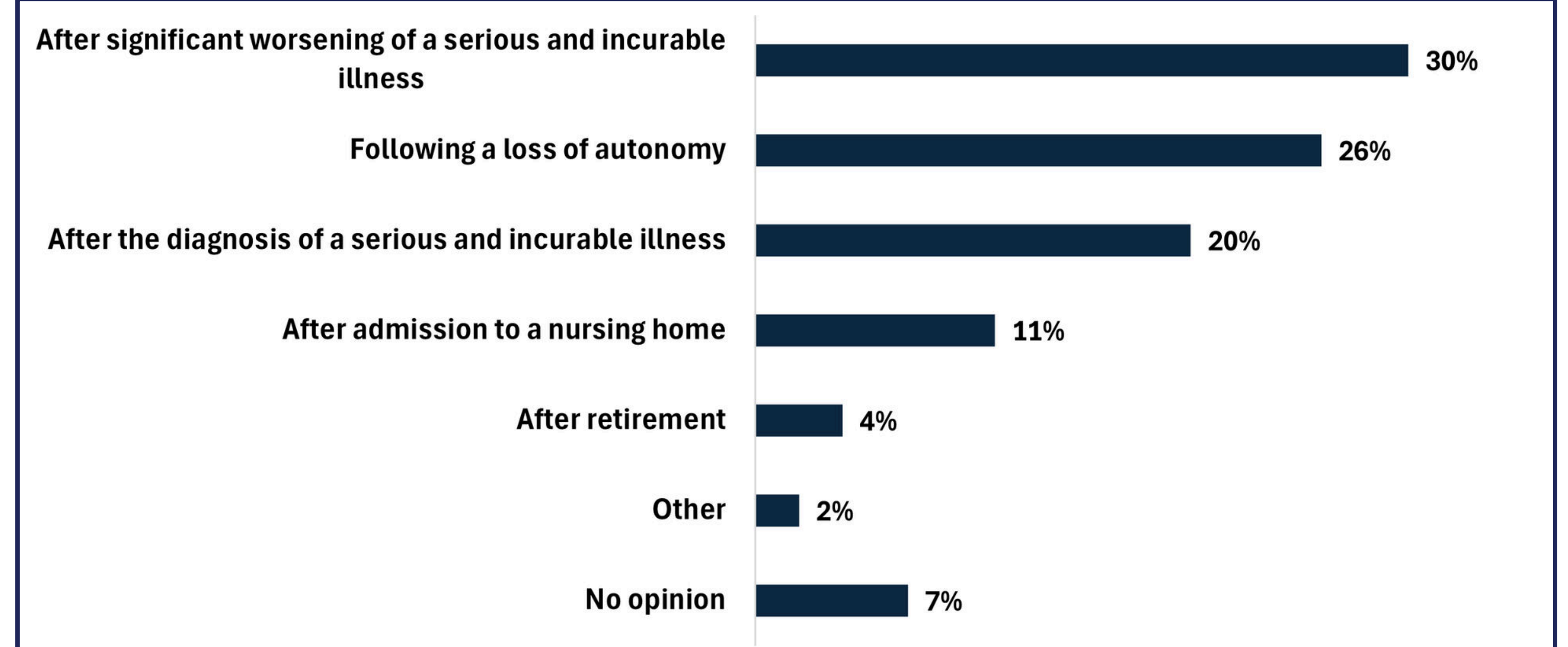
WHAT « END-OF-LIFE » MEANS FOR FRENCH CITIZENS?

Regarding temporality

26%
Of respondents thought that end of life is the **last months** of life

22%
Of respondents thought that end of life is the **last hours** of life

Regarding physical status



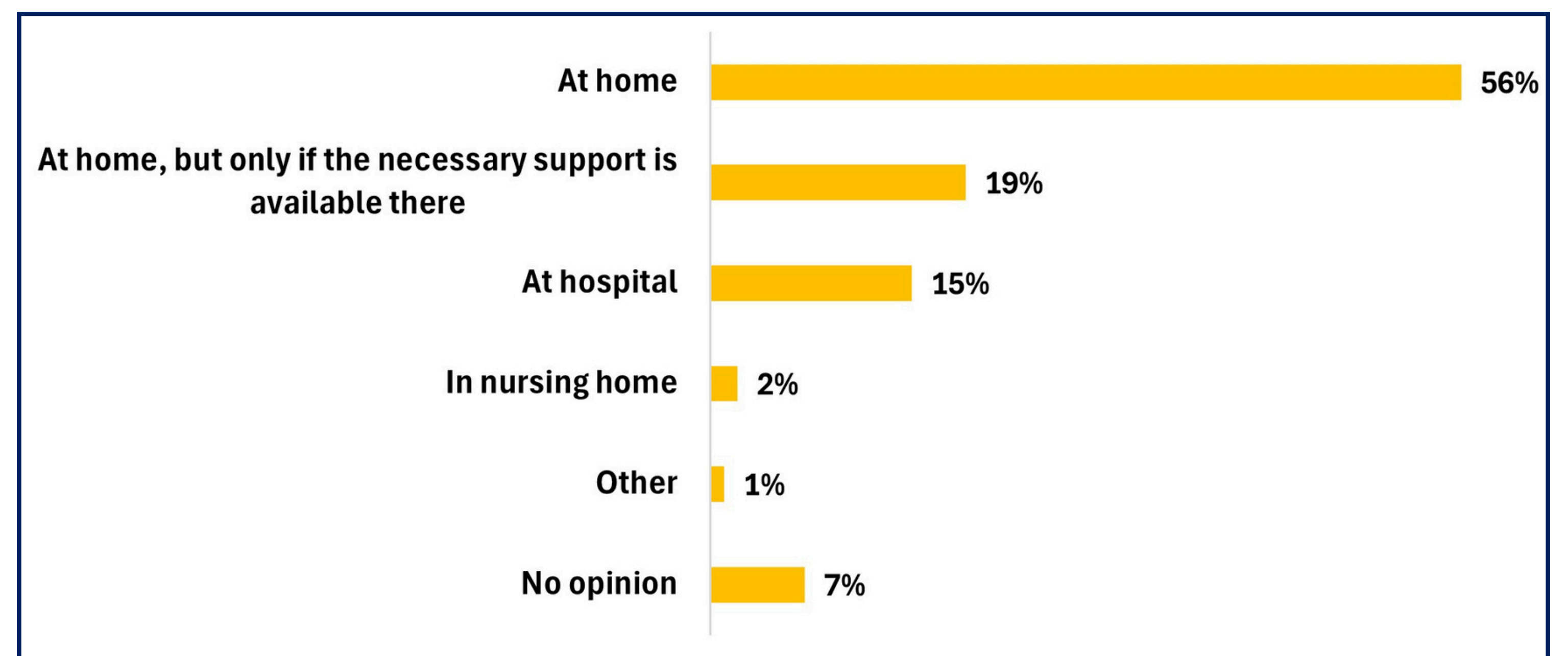
PREFERRAL CONCERNS FOR END OF LIFE

40%
Report having already reflected on their end-of-life preferences (vs 45% in 2022)

46%
Want to write their preferences

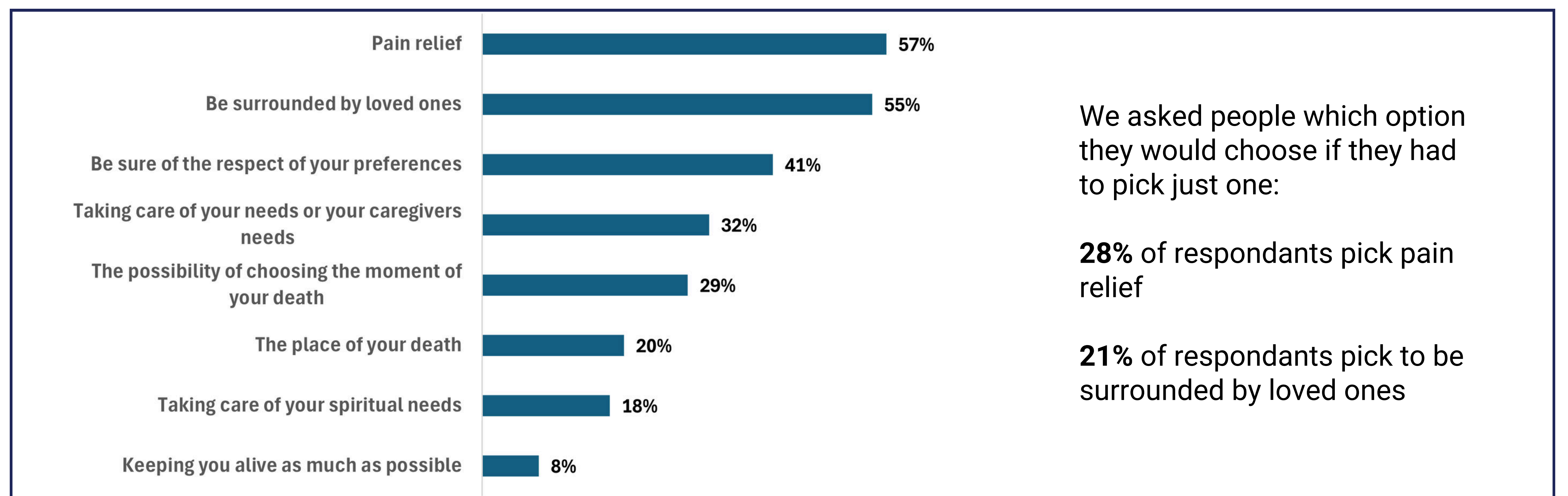
43%
Want to express their preferences orally

Preferred place of death



40% of French citizens want to keep their preference at home, 33% at relatives and 33% at a notary office. Only 14% want to upload their preference in an app.

Items that matter the most for citizens in end-of-life



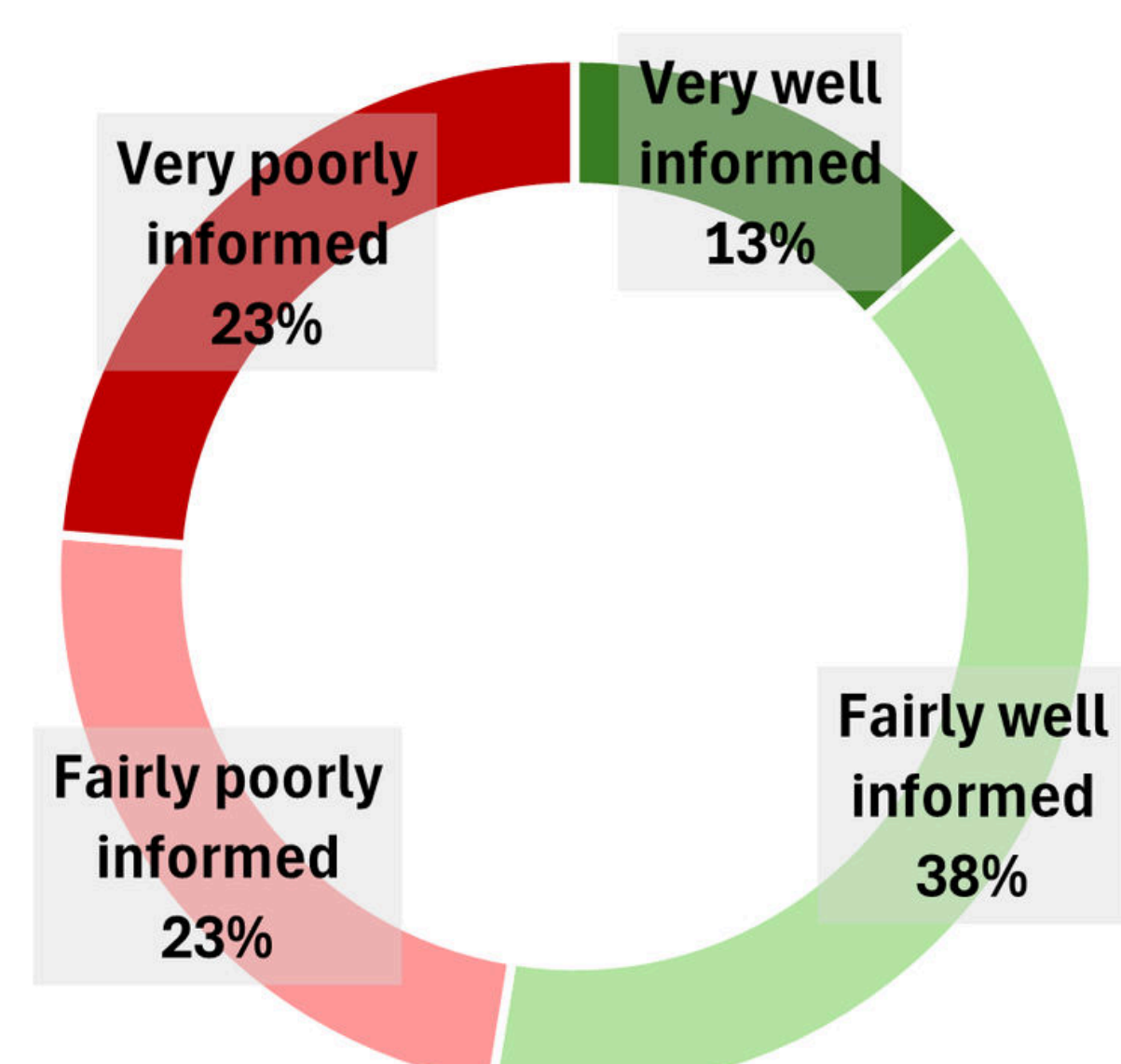
We asked people which option they would choose if they had to pick just one:

28% of respondents pick pain relief

21% of respondents pick to be surrounded by loved ones

AWARENESS OF LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

Who think they are well-informed ?



Who is well-informed ?

Right to refuse a treatment proposed by the physician	92%
Right of the doctor not to initiate or to stop a treatment deemed unnecessary or disproportionate	70%
Role of the trusted person (healthcare proxy)	56%
Person who can request access to deep and continuous sedation	70%
Purpose of the deep and continuous sedation	30%
Criteria of the deep and continuous sedation	54%
Purpose of advance directives	22%
Definition of unreasonable obstinacy	44%
Respect of advance directives by Physicians	16%

On average, citizens gave 4,5 correct answers for these 9 items

Scan the QR code for downloading the barometer:

