



CALIFORNIA  
HEALTHCARE  
FOUNDATION

# Attitudes Toward End-of-Life Care in California

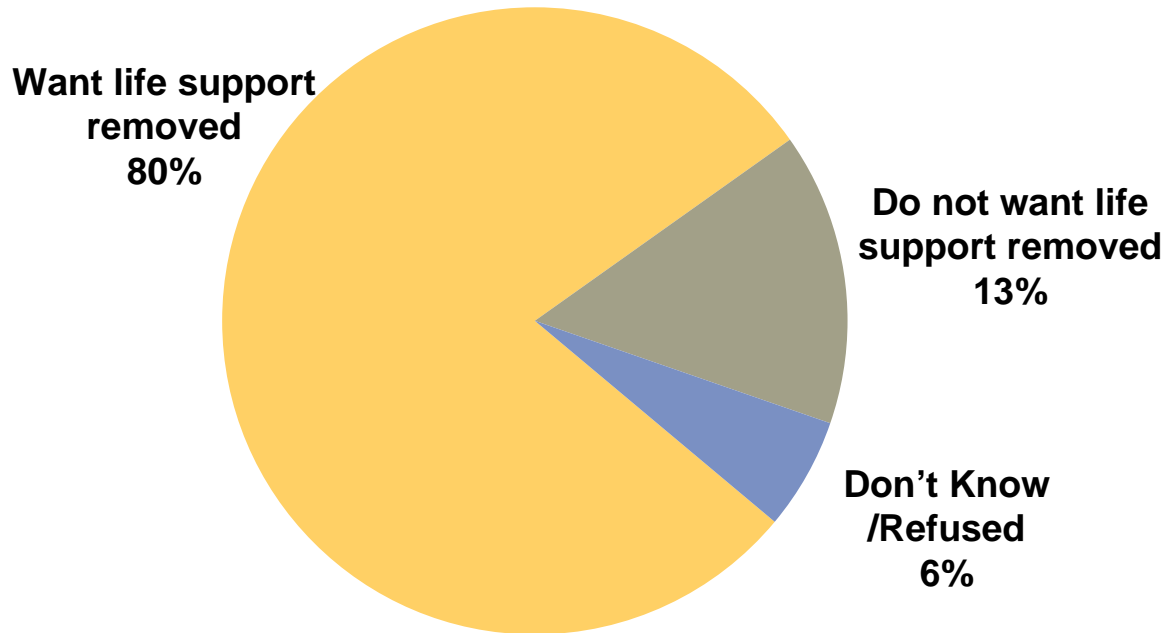
Selected Slides

Lake Research Partners

November 2006

# Views About Removing Own Life Support

If you were in a persistent coma with no hope for significant recovery would you....



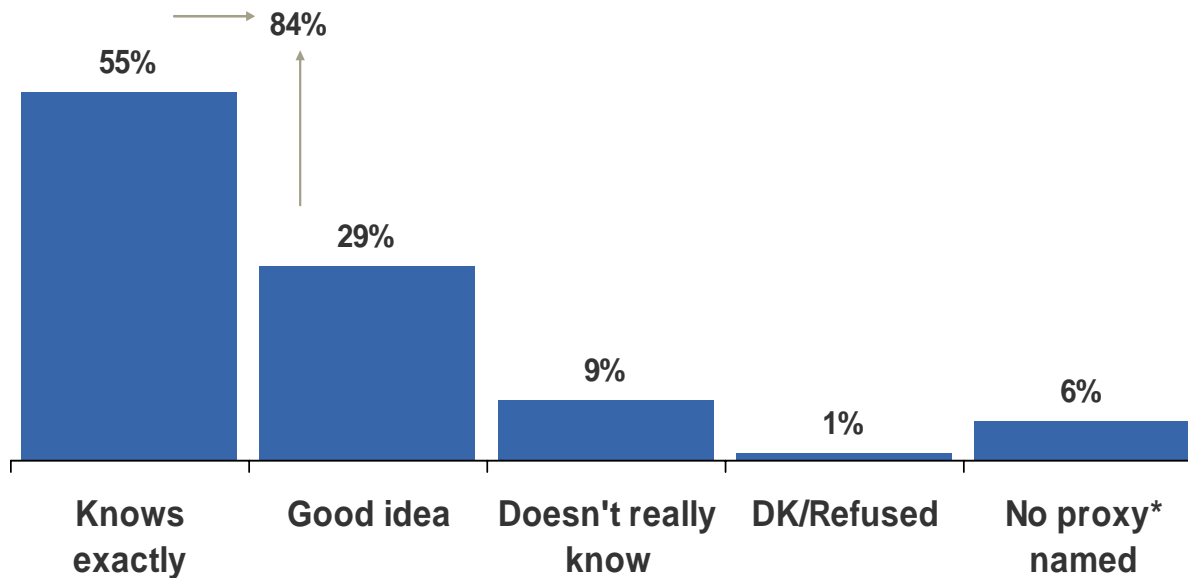
“My husband and I talked, and I told him that I don't want to be put on a machine if I'm going to die. If I'm going to die let me go. Don't try and save me for a reason that's ridiculous because you want me there, because that isn't fair to me, and I want to die with dignity. Just let me go in peace.”

-White Caregiver  
(focus group)

Source: End-of-Life Issues and Care in California, statewide survey of 1,778 adults, conducted by Lake Research Partners, March to April 2006.

# Knowledge of End-of-Life Wishes

If you were in this kind of circumstance (e.g., persistent coma), how well does your proxy\* know your wishes about medical treatment?



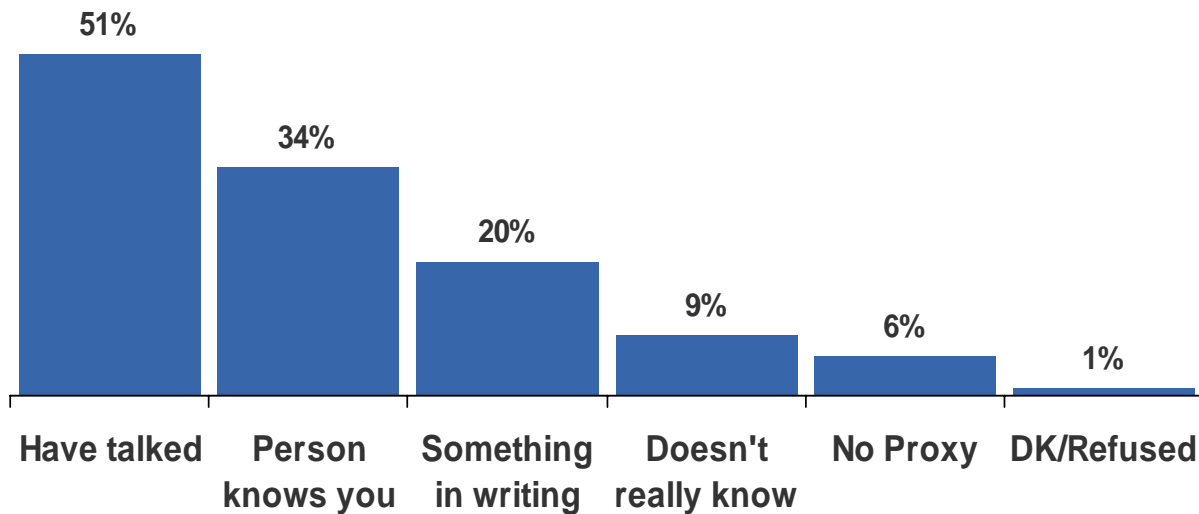
Among those who say they, themselves, have given little or no thought to their end-of-life medical treatment wishes, the majority (72%) believe a loved one knows their wishes, including 39 percent who believe this person knows exactly what they want.

\*Proxy: Not used in the legal sense, it includes any relatives or friends named by respondents who would make medical decisions for them.

Source: End-of-Life Issues and Care in California, statewide survey of 1,778 adults, conducted by Lake Research Partners for the California HealthCare Foundation, March to April 2006.

# Communication of End-of-Life Wishes

How does your proxy\* know your wishes for end-of-life medical treatment? (multiple responses accepted)



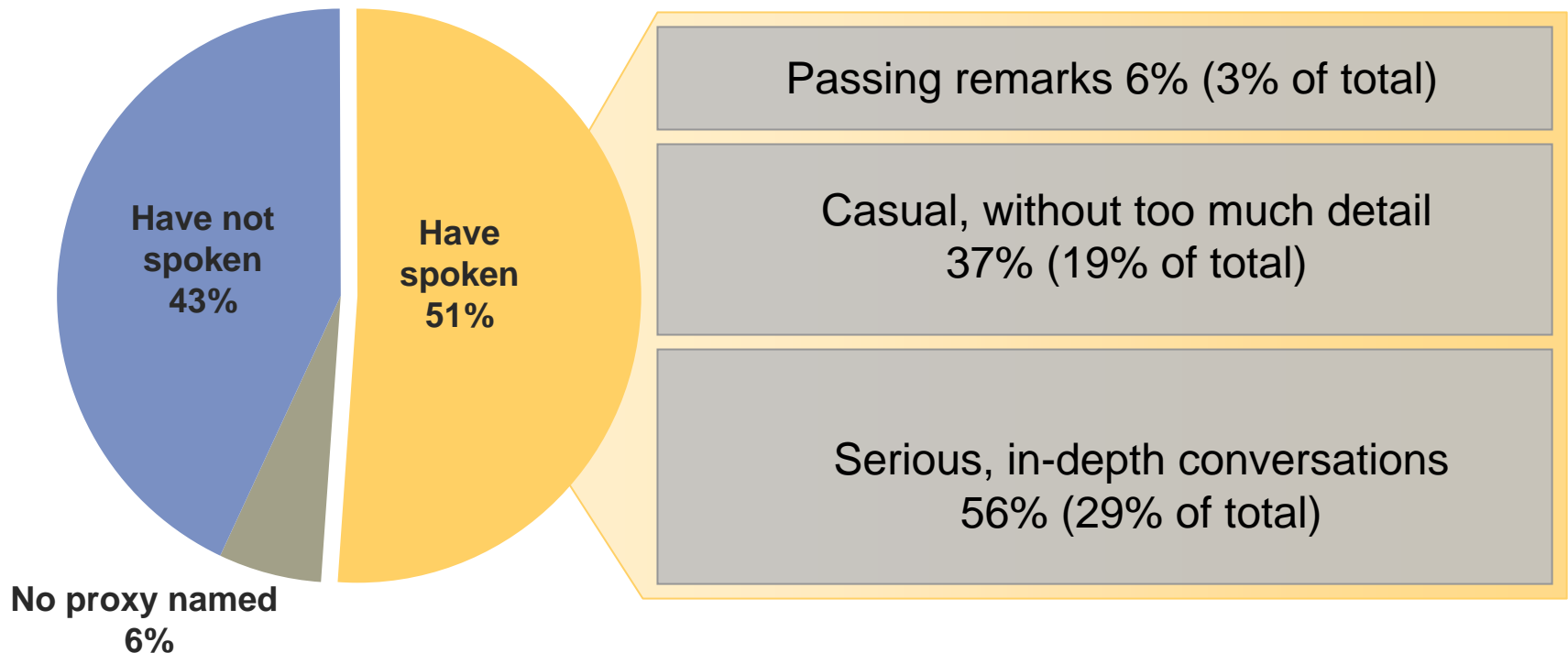
22% of all respondents said their proxy knows their end-of-life wishes based only on the fact that the person knows them well.

\*Proxy: Not used in the legal sense, it includes any relatives or friends named by respondents who would make medical decisions for them.

Source: End-of-Life Issues and Care in California, statewide survey of 1,778 adults, conducted by Lake Research Partners for the California HealthCare Foundation, March to April 2006.

# Conversations About End-of-Life Wishes

Which of the following best describes the conversations you've had with your proxy\*?

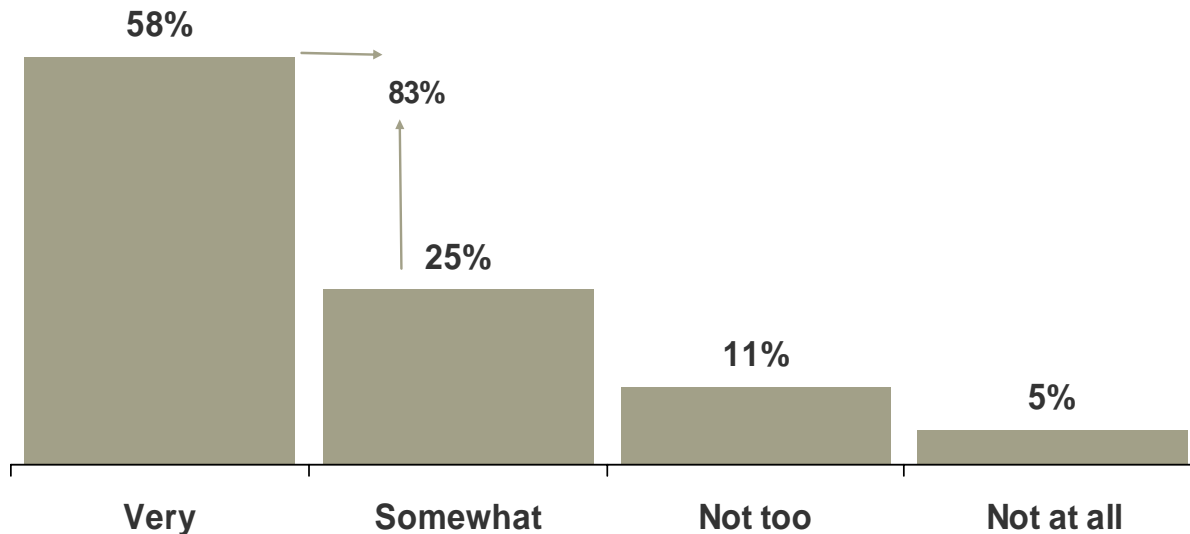


\*Proxy: Not used in the legal sense, it includes any relatives or friends named by respondents who would make medical decisions for them.

Source: End-of-Life Issues and Care in California, statewide survey of 1,778 adults, conducted by Lake Research Partners for the California HealthCare Foundation, March to April 2006.

# Importance of Having End-of-Life Wishes in Writing

How important is it for you at this stage of life to have your end-of-life wishes in writing?



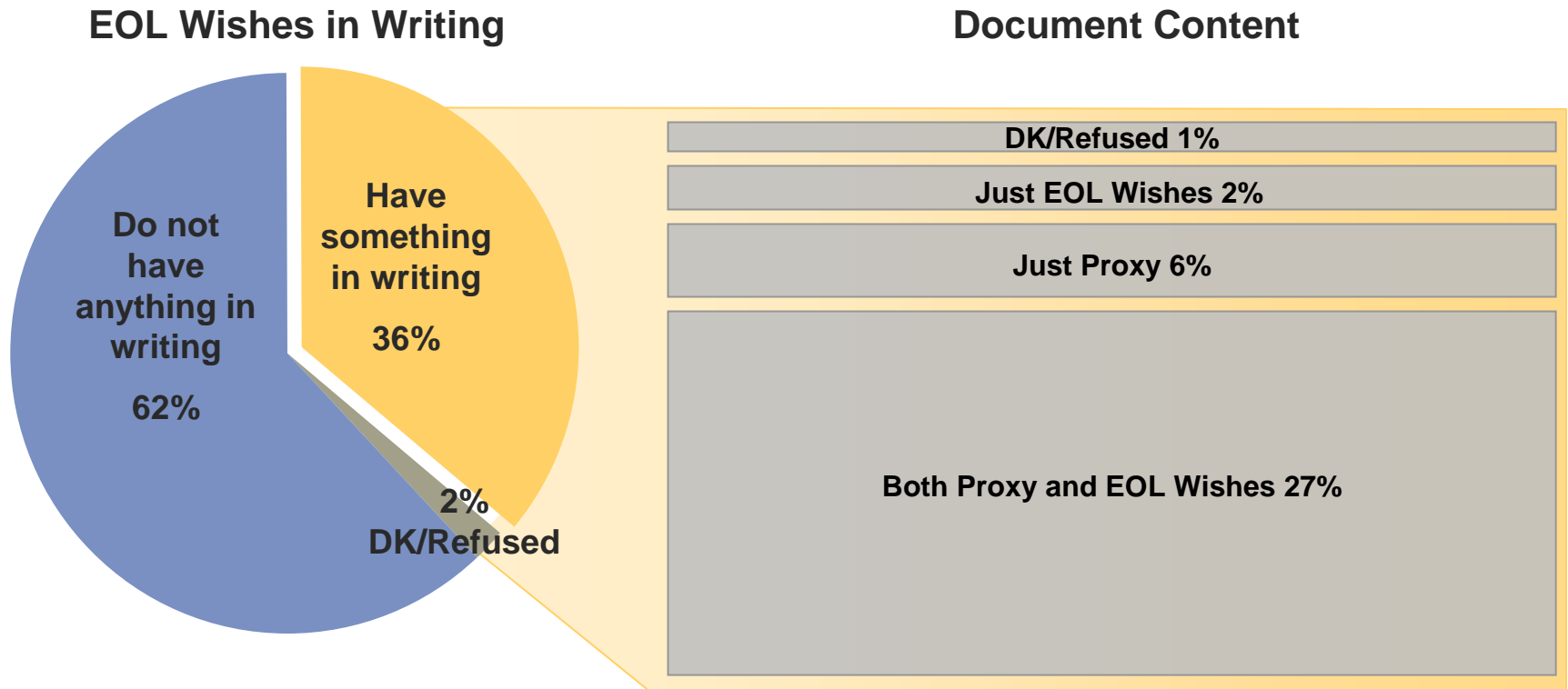
“I think that it’s a good idea because this way, everything is in order. It’s written and there are no problems with anyone.”

-Latino Caregiver  
(focus group)

Source: End-of-Life Issues and Care in California, statewide survey of 1,778 adults, conducted by Lake Research Partners for the California HealthCare Foundation, March to April 2006

# Content of Advance Directive

Do you have your end-of-life wishes in writing? If you do, does this document say what kind of medical treatment you would or would not want if you were unable to make decisions for yourself? Does it name the person (proxy\*) whom you would want to make those decisions?

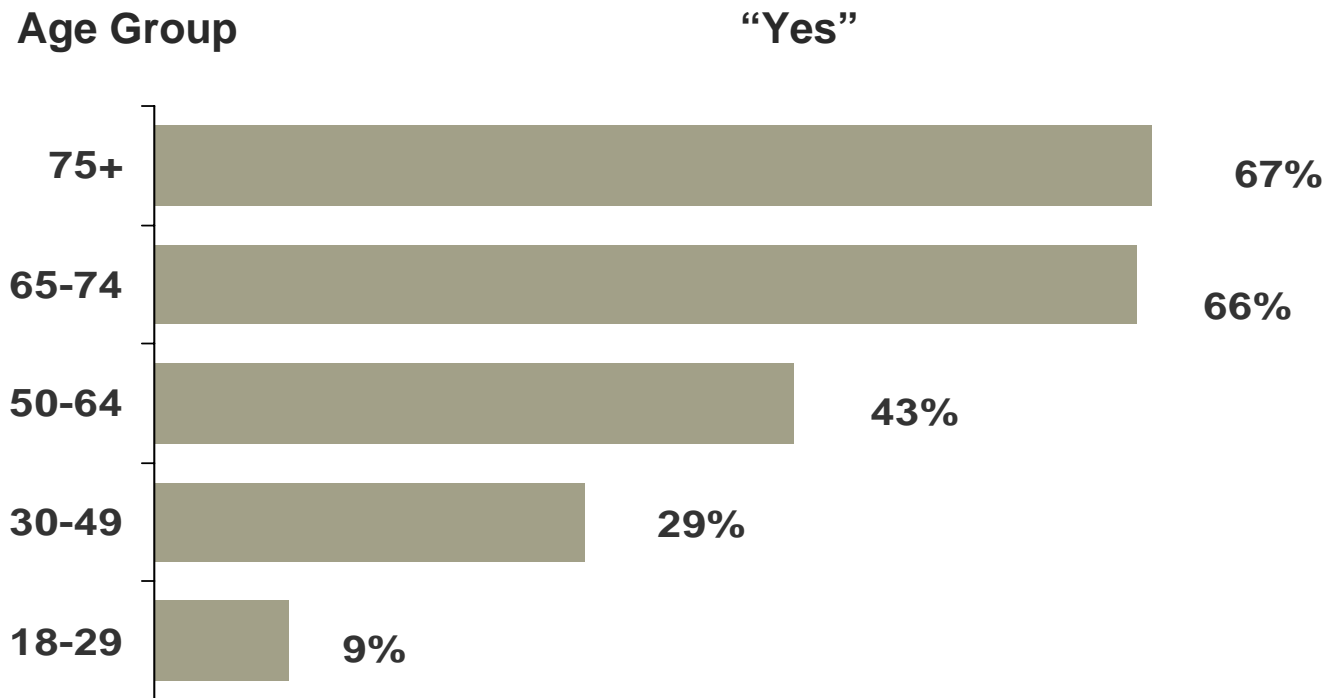


\*Proxy: Not used in the legal sense, it includes any relatives or friends named by respondents who would make medical decisions for them.

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# End-of-Life Wishes in Writing, by Age

Do you have your end-of-life wishes in writing?

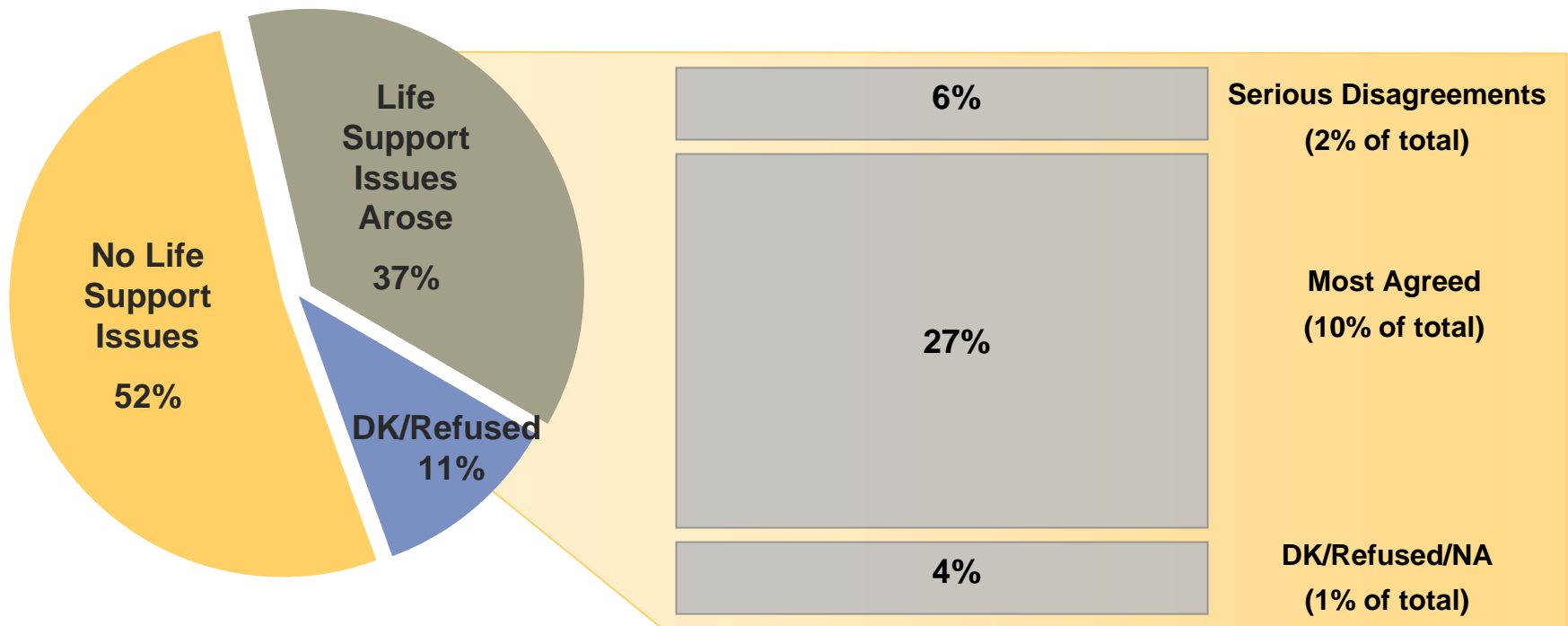


Source: End-of-Life Issues and Care in California, statewide survey of 1,778 adults, conducted by Lake Research Partners for the California HealthCare Foundation, March to April 2006.



# Life Support Issues

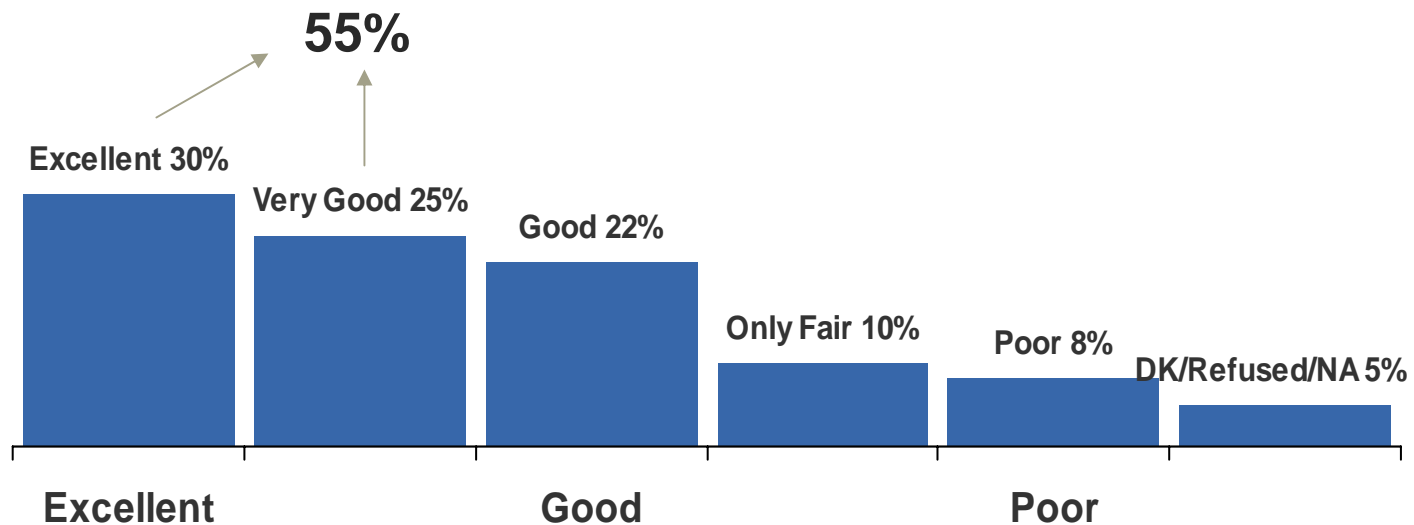
[For those who lost a loved one within the past year] Did life support issues come up? If yes, were there serious disagreements among your loved one's family members and friends about what decision to make, or did most everyone agree on what to do?



Source: End-of-Life Issues and Care in California, statewide survey of 1,778 adults, conducted by Lake Research Partners for the California HealthCare Foundation, March to April 2006.

# Rating Loved One's Care at End of Life

How would you rate the care your loved-one received at the end of life (time leading up to his/her death)?\*

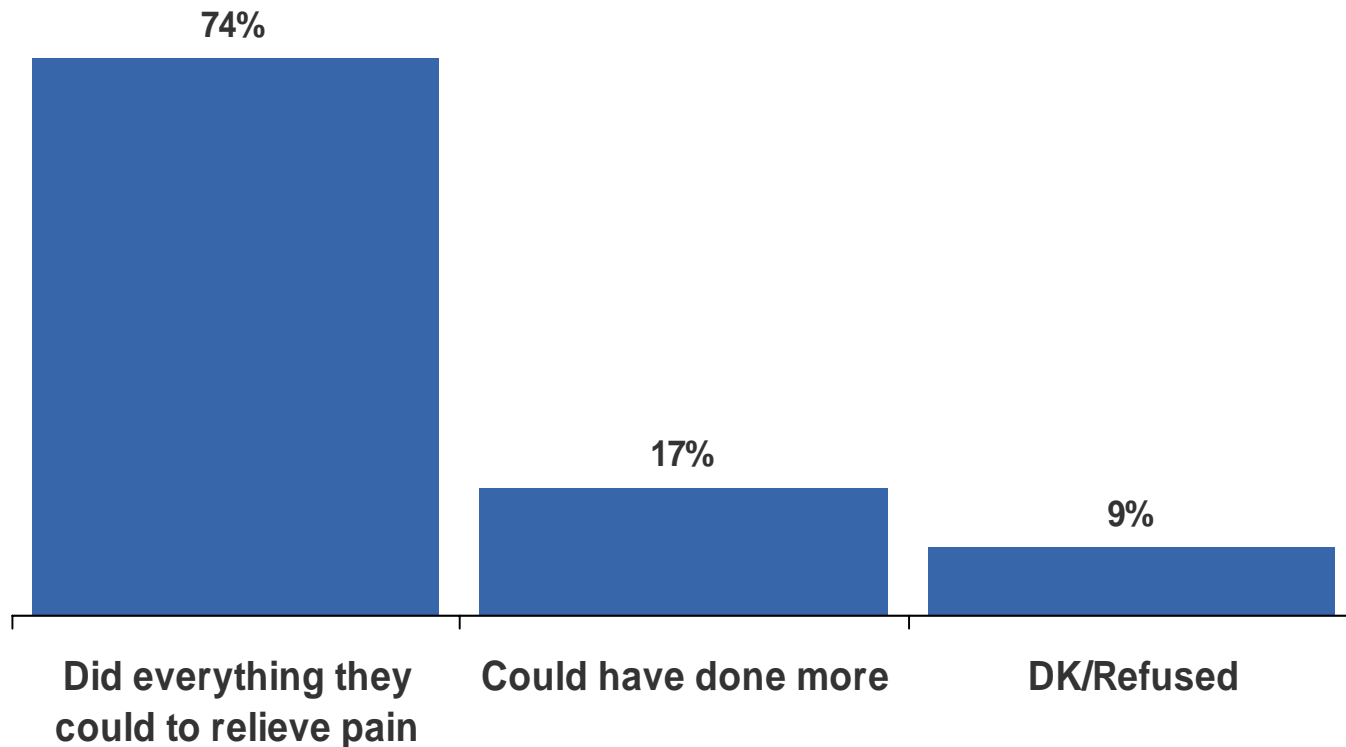


\*For those who lost a loved one within the past year.

Source: End-of-Life Issues and Care in California, statewide survey of 1,778 adults, conducted by Lake Research Partners for the California HealthCare Foundation, March to April 2006.

# Assessing Pain Management

**Did the health care providers do everything they could to alleviate your loved one's pain, or could they have done more?\***

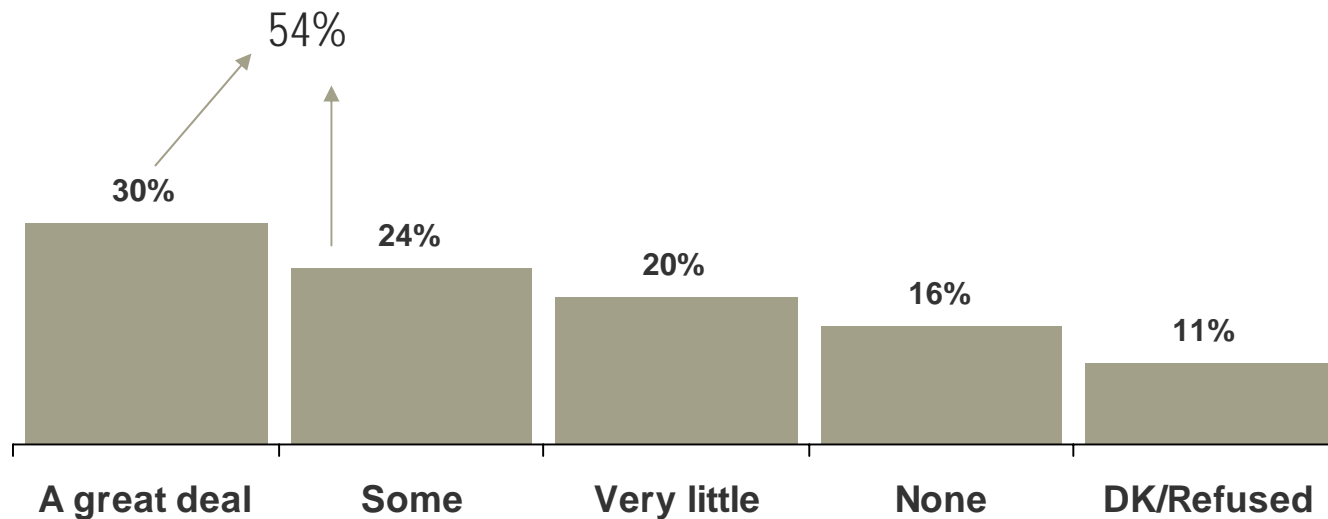


\*For those who lost a loved one within the past year.

Source: End-of-Life Issues and Care in California, statewide survey of 1,778 adults, conducted by Lake Research Partners for the California HealthCare Foundation, March to April 2006.

# Concerns About Death and Dying

During your loved one's end of life, how much physical pain was he/she in?

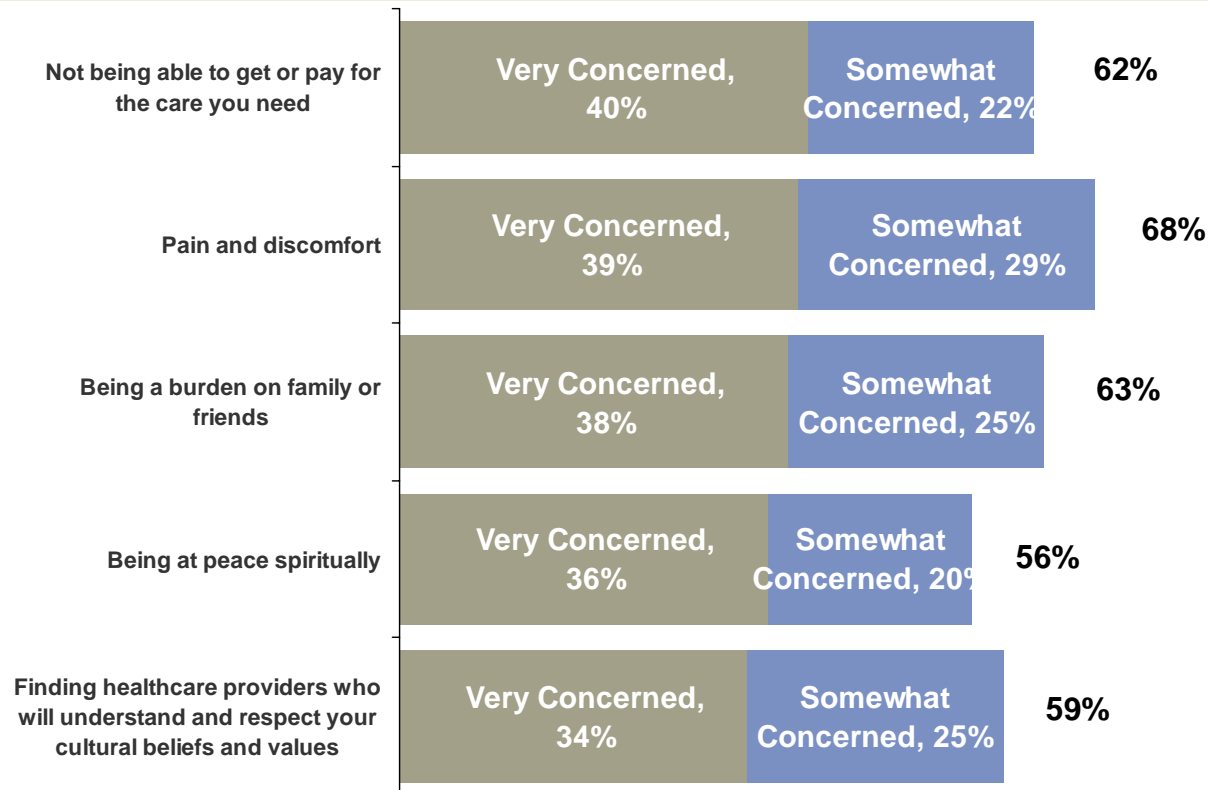


\*For those who lost a loved one within the past year.

Source: End-of-Life Issues and Care in California, statewide survey of 1,778 adults, conducted by Lake Research Partners for the California HealthCare Foundation, March to April 2006.

# Assessing Physical Pain

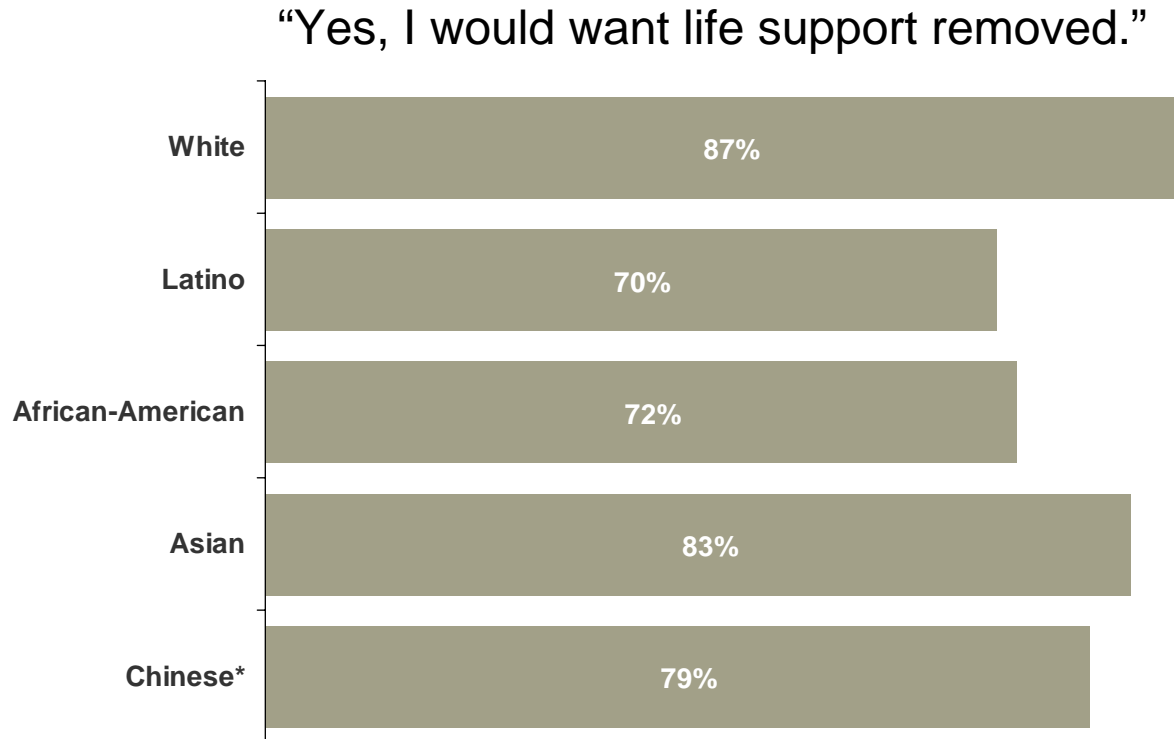
When you think about death and dying, how concerned are you about...



Source: End-of-Life Issues and Care in California, statewide survey of 1,778 adults, conducted by Lake Research Partners for the California HealthCare Foundation, March to April 2006

# Views about Removing Own Life Support by Race/Ethnicity

If you were in a persistent vegetative state or a coma with no hope for significant recovery, would you want to have your life support removed or not?

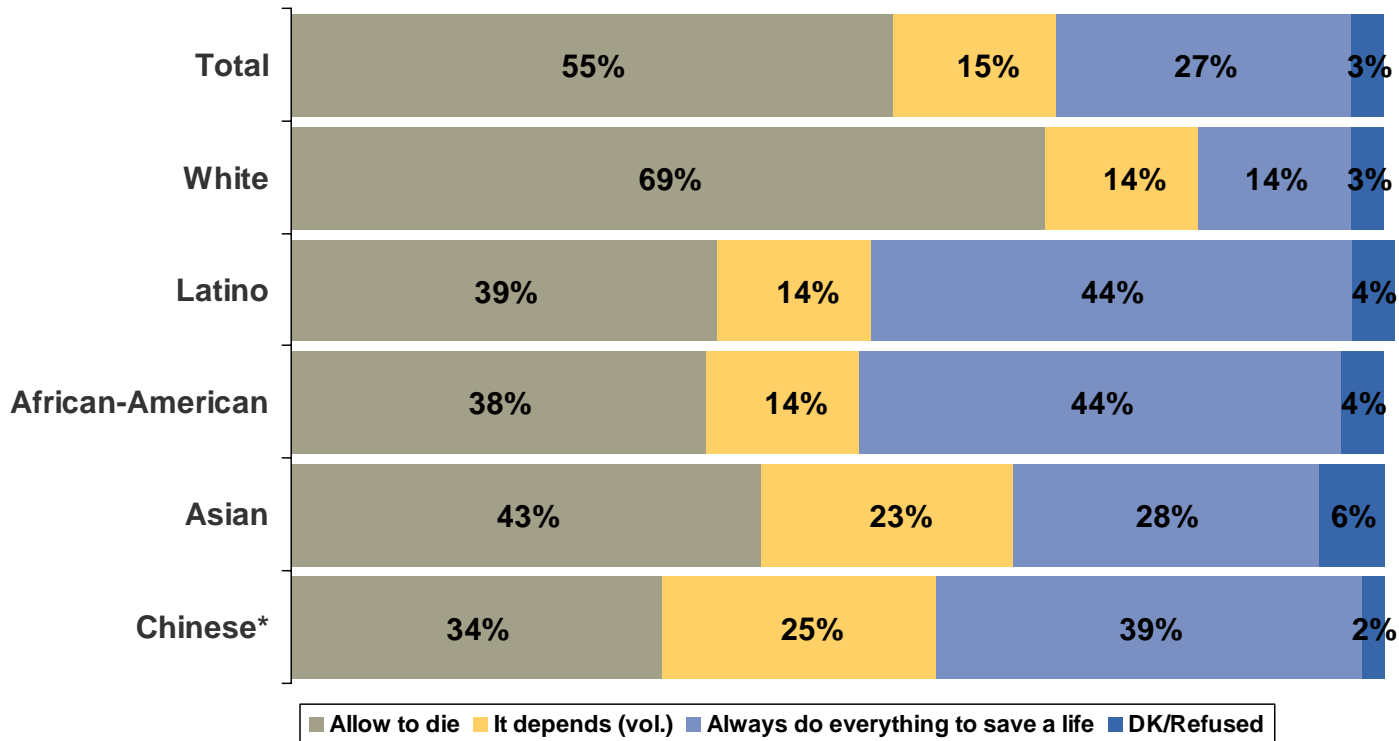


\*Chinese: Mandarin and Cantonese-speaking subset of Asian population surveyed.

Source: End-of-Life Issues and Care in California, statewide survey of 1,778 adults, conducted by Lake Research Partners for the California HealthCare Foundation, March to April 2006

# Views about a Patient's Right to Die by Race/Ethnicity

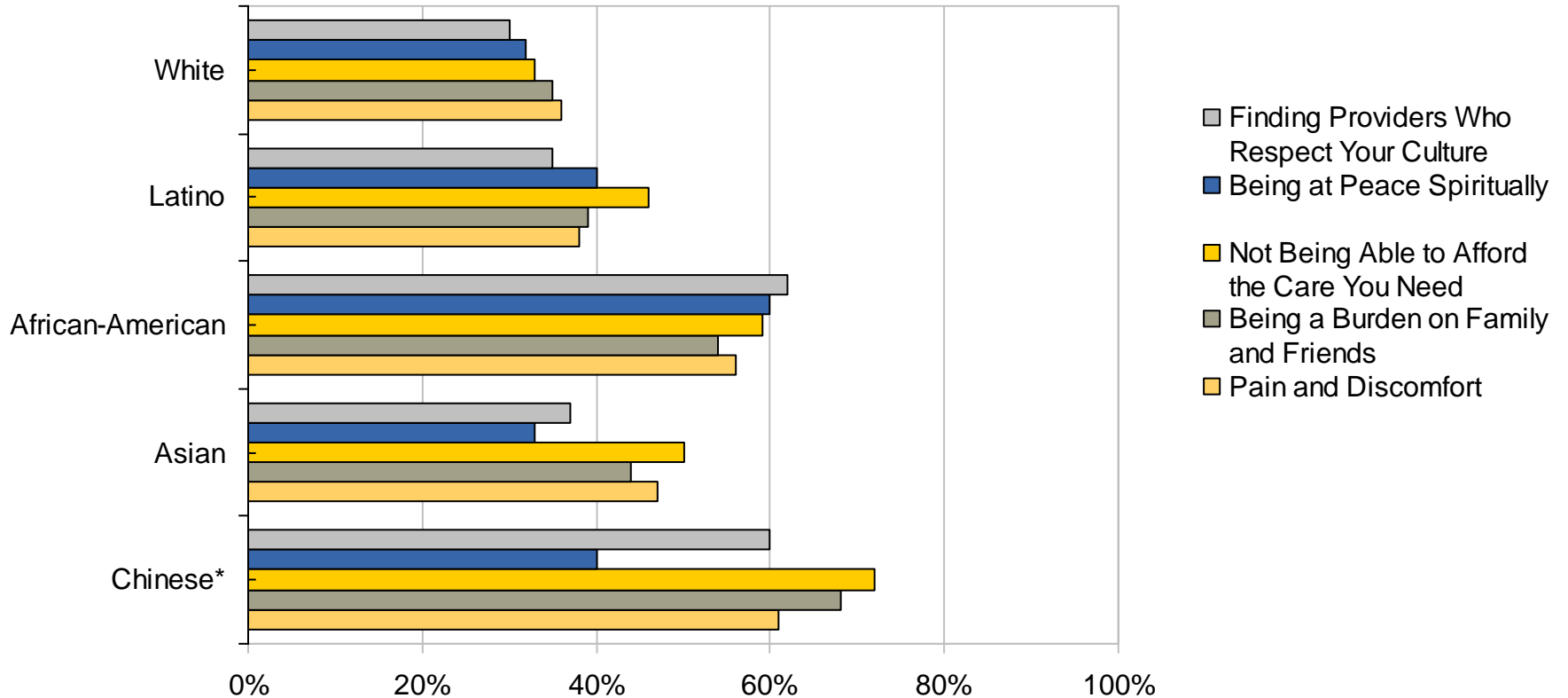
Which comes closer to your view? “Doctors and nurses should always do everything possible to save a life.” OR,  
“Sometimes there are circumstances where a patient should be allowed to die.”



\*Chinese: Mandarin and Cantonese-speaking subset of Asian population surveyed.

Source: End-of-Life Issues and Care in California, statewide survey of 1,778 adults, conducted by Lake Research Partners for the California HealthCare Foundation, March to April 2006.

# Levels of Concern About Death and Dying by Race/Ethnicity



\*Chinese: Mandarin and Cantonese-speaking subset of Asian population surveyed.

Source: End-of-Life Issues and Care in California, statewide survey of 1,778 adults, conducted by Lake Research Partners for the California HealthCare Foundation, March to April 2006.



# Different Groups Have Different Concerns – and Levels of Concern – about Death and Dying

	White	Latino	African-American	Asian	Chinese-Speaking Chinese
1.	Pain and Discomfort 36%	Not Being Able to Afford the Care You Need 46%	Finding Providers who Respect Your Culture 62%	Not Being Able to Afford the Care You Need 50%	Not Being Able to Afford the Care You Need 72%
2.	Being a Burden on Family and Friends 35%	Being at Peace Spiritually 40%	Being at Peace Spiritually 60%	Pain and Discomfort 47%	Being a Burden on Family and Friends 68%
3.	Not Being Able to Afford the Care You Need 33%	Being a Burden on Family and Friends 39%	Not Being Able to Afford the Care You Need 59%	Being a Burden on Family and Friends 44%	Pain and Discomfort 61%
4.	Being at Peace Spiritually 32%	Pain and Discomfort 36%	Pain and Discomfort 56%	Finding Providers who Respect Your Culture 37%	Finding Providers who Respect Your Culture 60%
5.	Finding Providers who Respect Your Culture 30%	Finding Providers who Respect Your Culture 35%	Being a Burden on Family and Friends 54%	Being at Peace Spiritually 33%	Being at Peace Spiritually 40%

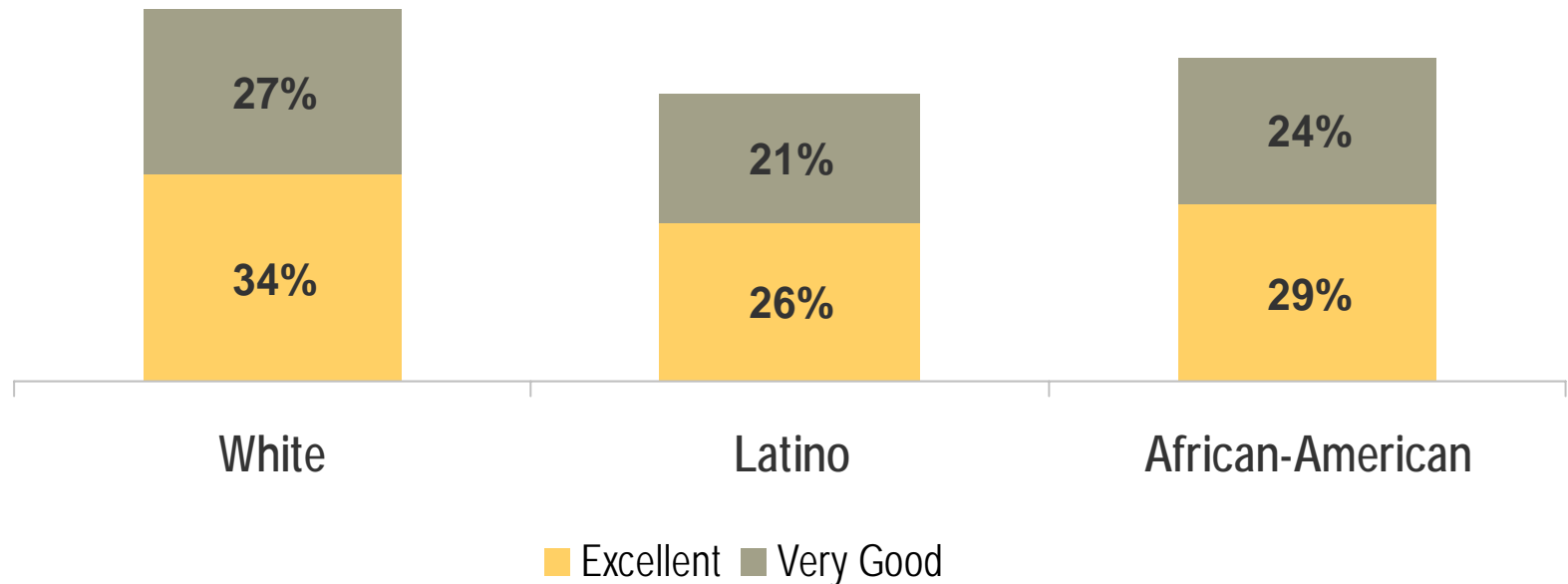
\*Chinese: Mandarin and Cantonese-speaking subset of Asian population surveyed.

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# Rating Care at End of Life, by Race/Ethnicity

## by Race/Ethnicity

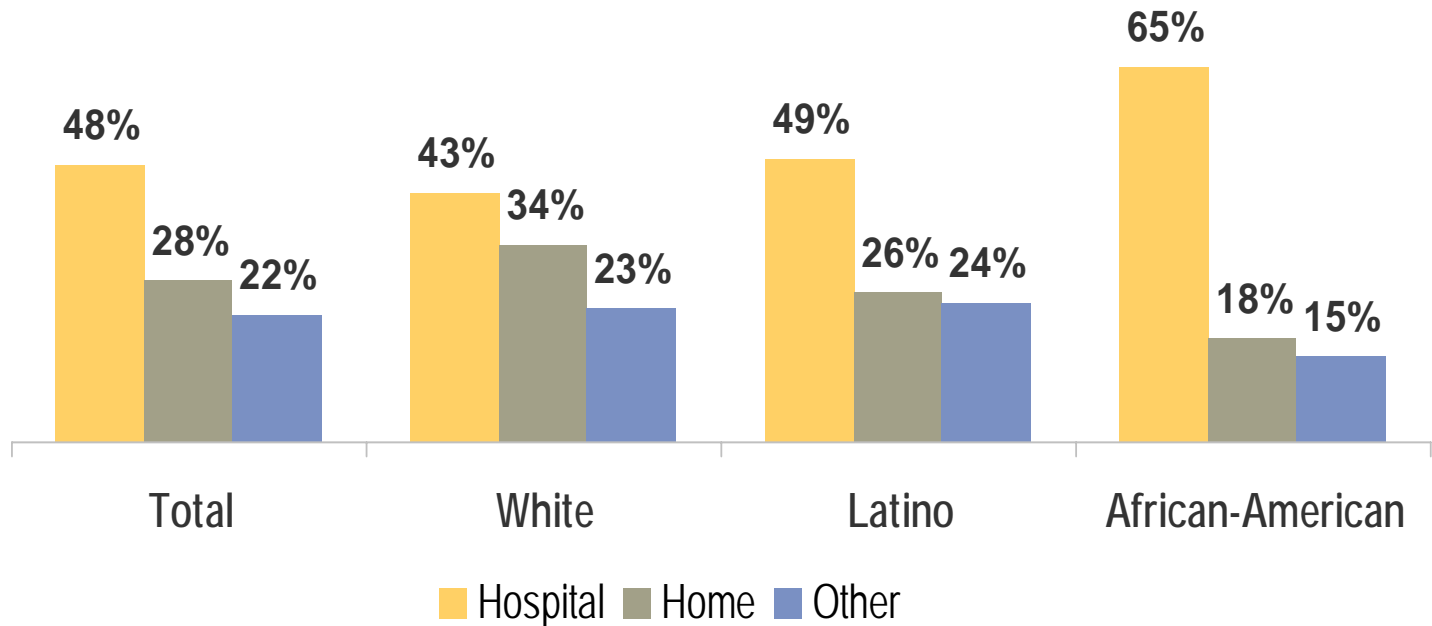
How would you rate the care your loved one received at the end of life (time leading up to his/her death)?



Source: End-of-Life Issues and Care in California, statewide survey of 1,778 adults, conducted by Lake Research Partners for the California HealthCare Foundation, March to April 2006

# Place of Death by Race/Ethnicity

Where did your loved one die?\*

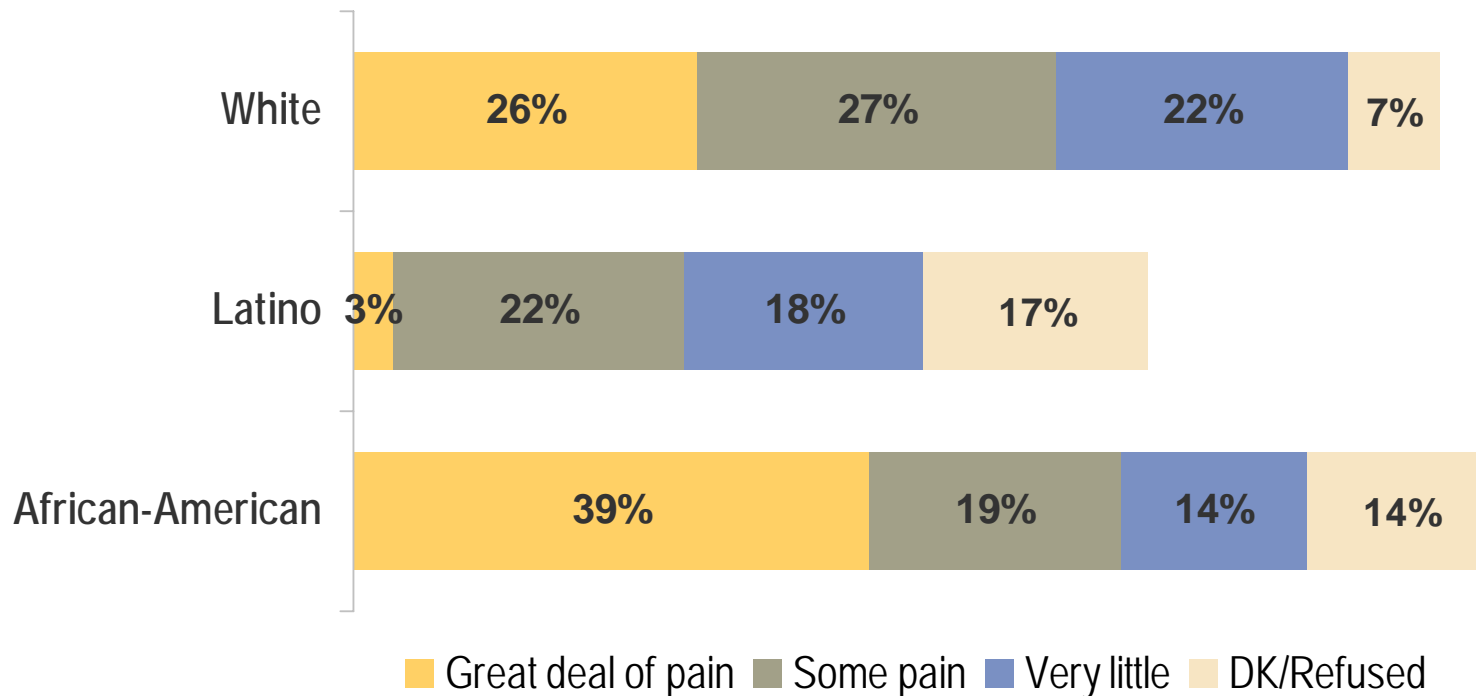


\*For those whose loved one died within the past year.

Source: End-of-Life Issues and Care in California, statewide survey of 1,778 adults, conducted by Lake Research Partners for the California HealthCare Foundation, March to April 2006

# Assessing Physical Pain by Race/Ethnicity

During your loved one's end of life, how much physical pain was he/she in?\*



\*For those whose loved one died within the last year.

Source: End-of-Life Issues and Care in California, statewide survey of 1,778 adults, conducted by Lake Research Partners for the California HealthCare Foundation, March to April 2006

# Methodology - Survey

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## **Number surveyed: 1,778 Californians, ages 18 and older**

- Oversamples of Californians who lost a loved one in the past year, and African-American and Mandarin- or Cantonese-speaking Chinese Californians
- Field dates: March 10 to April 4, 2006
- Margin of error: +/- 4 percentage points
- Conducted by phone using professional interviewers
- Random Digital Dialing sampling, supplemented by listed samples for Chinese and Latino respondents

## **Demographics**

- 911 - White
- 359 - Latino (Interviewed in English and Spanish)
- 226 - African-American
- 163 – Asians, including 101 Mandarin- or Cantonese-speaking Chinese

## **Subgroups of respondents who lost a loved one**

- 688 - Within the past 12 months
- 617 - From one to five years ago
- 454 - More than 5 years ago

# Methodology – Focus Groups

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- Held in November 2005
- Included family members or friends who helped care for and/or make medical decisions for or with their loved one within the past year

## **Group Demographics**

- Chinese (in Cantonese) – San Francisco
- Latino (in Spanish) – Los Angeles
- African-American – Oakland
- White – Los Angeles