

The role of seasonal influenza immunisation in cardiovascular care: a survey of cardiologists¹

Seasonal influenza immunisation has been shown to reduce cardiovascular (CV) events in people with atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease and those with recent acute coronary syndrome, exceeding the relative risk reduction of statins and antihypertensives

Uptake of the influenza vaccine in high-risk groups such as these, however, remains low

Further insight into potential barriers to vaccine uptake in high-risk patient groups is needed

STUDY AIM:

This study aimed to describe Australian cardiologists attitudes and behaviours regarding seasonal influenza immunization



STUDY METHODS:

The study used an exploratory sequential mixed methods design

10 cardiologists were initially interviewed to identify themes for further evaluation in the online survey



Online survey conducted in Australia between November '20 and January '21



63 cardiologists completed the survey

TOPICS EXPLORED INCLUDED:



Attitudes and behaviours regarding influenza immunization



Engagement with colleagues and professional bodies

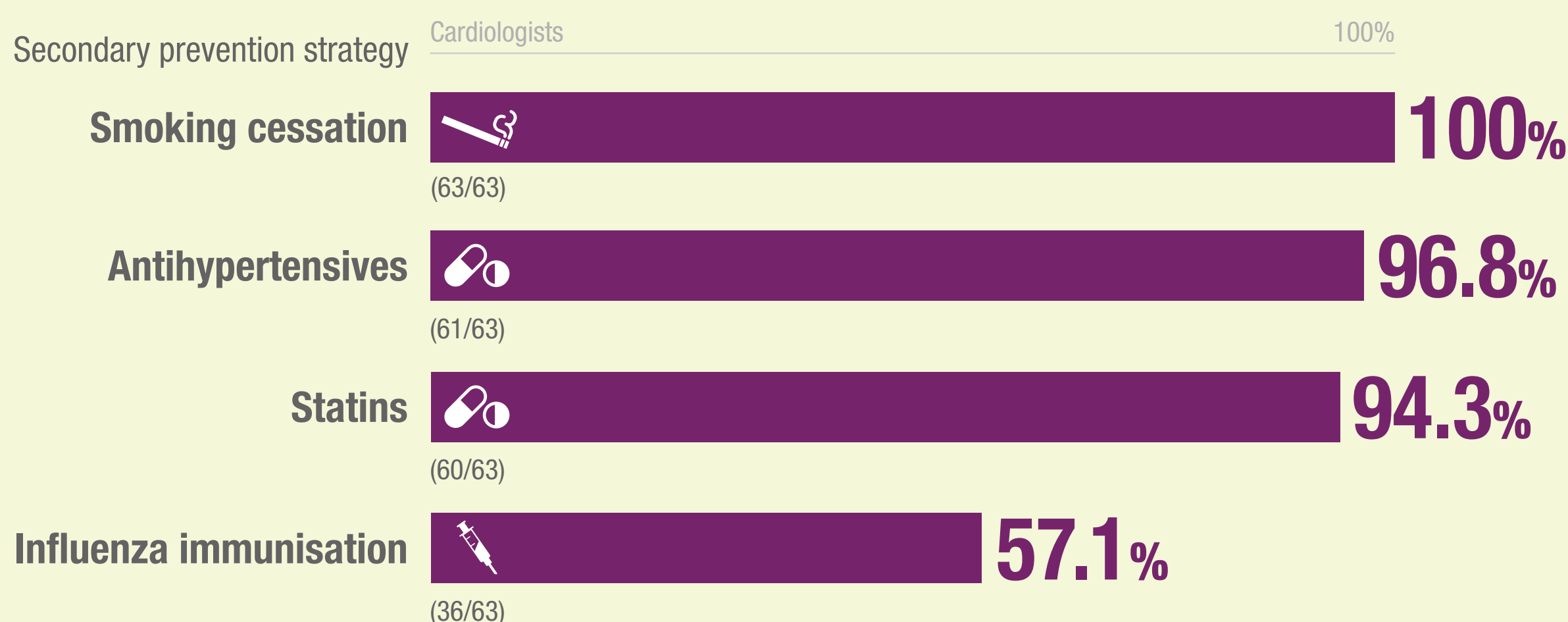


Preventative care in cardiology

KEY FINDINGS*

SECONDARY PREVENTION STRATEGIES RATED AS IMPORTANT/VERY IMPORTANT

Influenza immunisation was considered **lower priority** than other strategies for secondary prevention of cardiac events, for example:



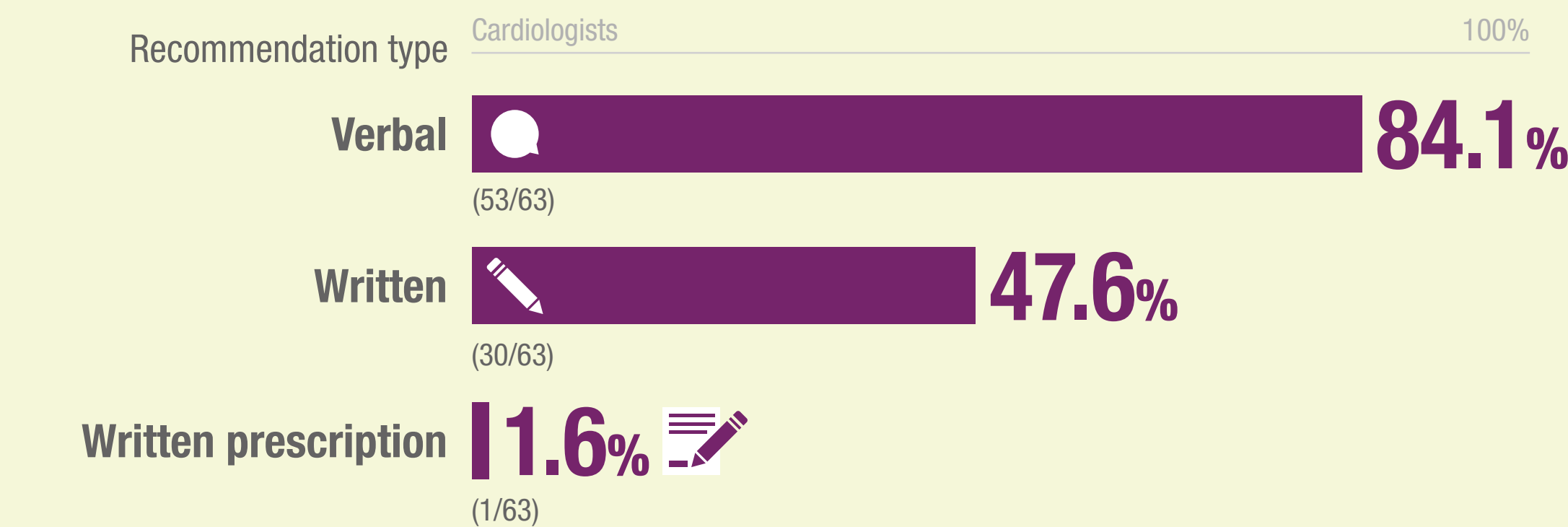
*Selected data shown

RECOMMENDATION OF INFLUENZA IMMUNISATION

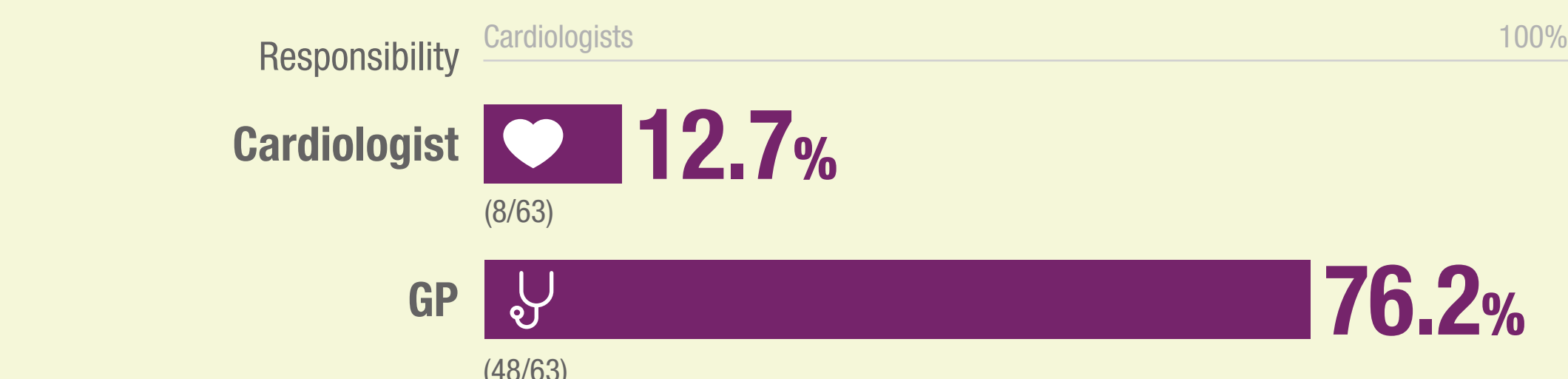


Only **1 in 4** cardiologists recommended influenza immunisation to all their patients (25.4%, 16/63)

When provided, recommendations were most often verbal:



Most cardiologists believe that immunisation is the responsibility of the GP:



Influenza immunisation is neither prioritised nor recommended by many cardiologists. Increased awareness and advocacy among cardiologists is needed to facilitate greater uptake of influenza immunisation by patients with CV disease

To download a copy of this infographic visit the Nivel FluCov website:

<https://www.nivel.nl/en/project/fluov-influenza-covid-19-understanding-and-communicating-impact-covid-19-influenza>

CV, cardiovascular; GP, general practitioner. Reference: 1. Monagle SR et al. The role of seasonal influenza immunisation in cardiovascular care: a survey of cardiologists. e-poster presented at ESC congress 2023, Amsterdam, Netherlands.