

ONLINE HARM IN JOURNALISM

LE JOURNALISME FACE À LA HAINE EN LIGNE

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Introduction

Survey Objective

Measure and understand the online harm journalists and others working in the media sector are experiencing in doing their jobs.

Methodology

Survey: Conducted in English and French and distributed widely via 12 journalism associations and Canadian media organizations.

Dates: September 27 to October 13

Total Respondents: 1,093 journalists and media workers

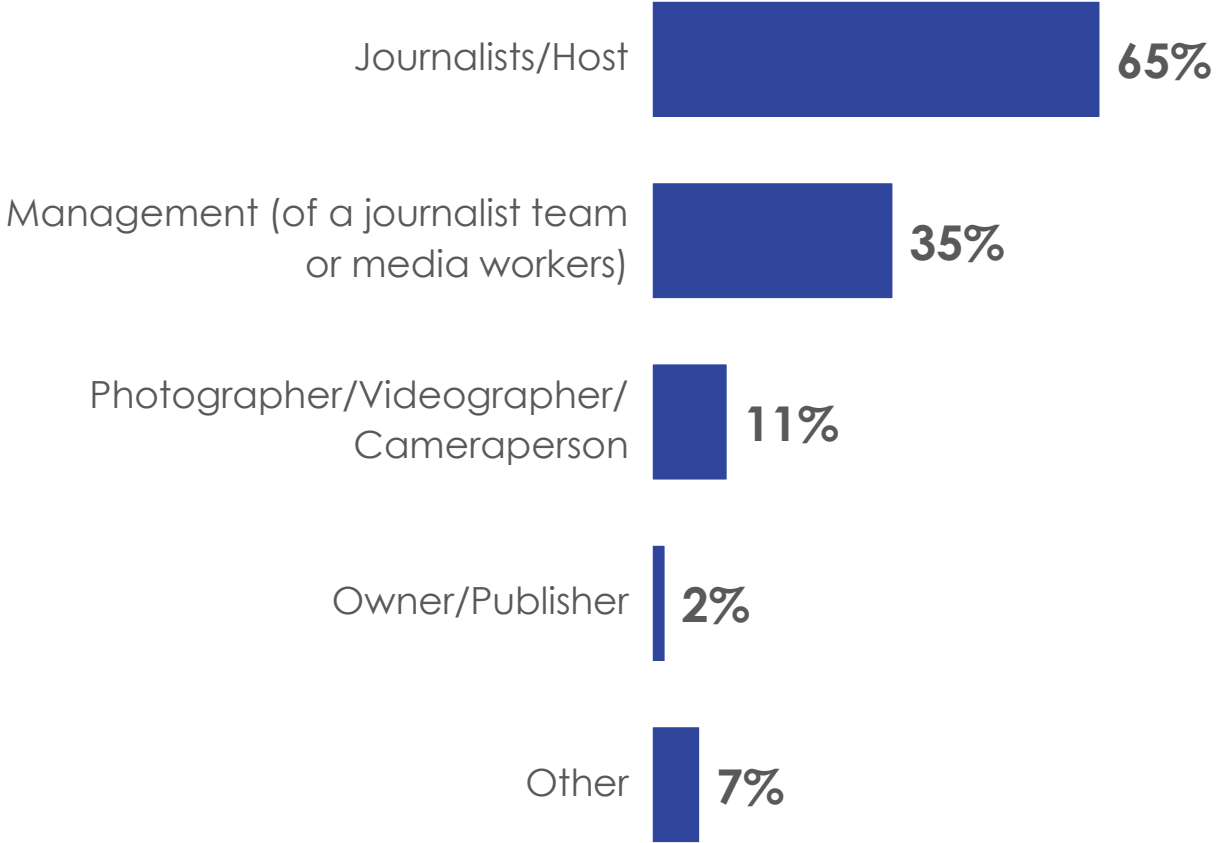
Average Survey Length: 15 minutes

Weight: Unweighted given that the age, gender and regional distribution of respondents closely matches Statistics Canada data.



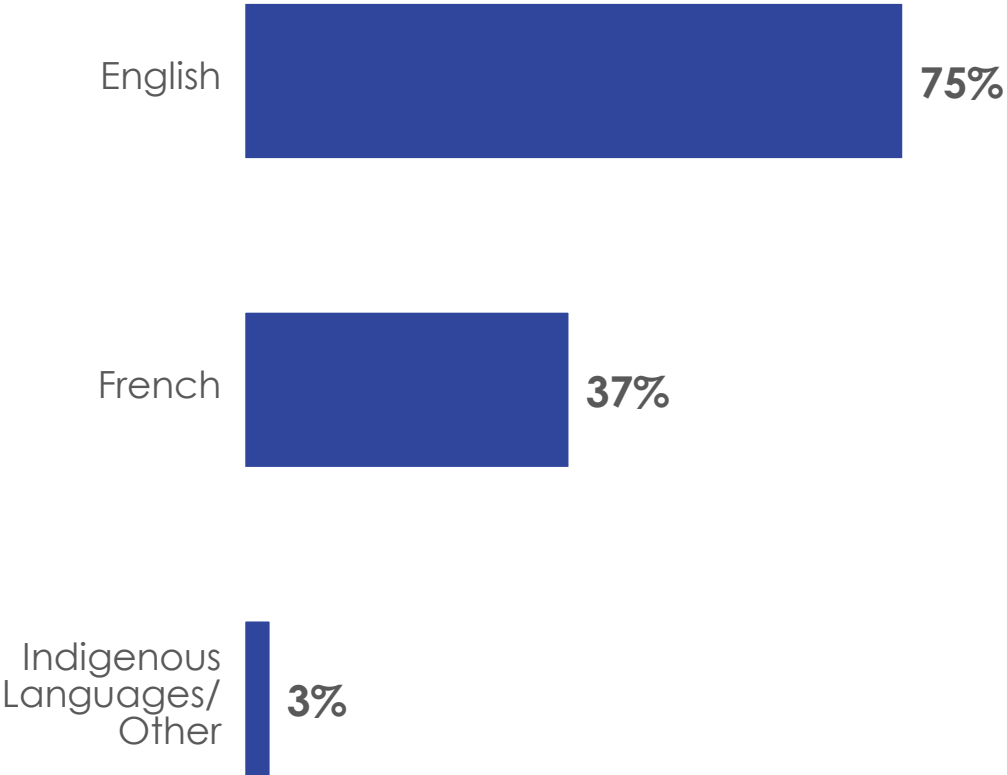
SAMPLE DEMOGRAPHICS

FORMAL STATUS AS A JOURNALIST OR MEDIA WORKER



Base: All respondents (n=1,093)
Q1. What is your formal status as a journalist or media worker? Please select all that apply.

LANGUAGES OF WORK



Base: All respondents excluding students and those fully retired from the media sector (n=1082)
Q3. In which language(s) do you work? Please select all that apply.

Key Findings

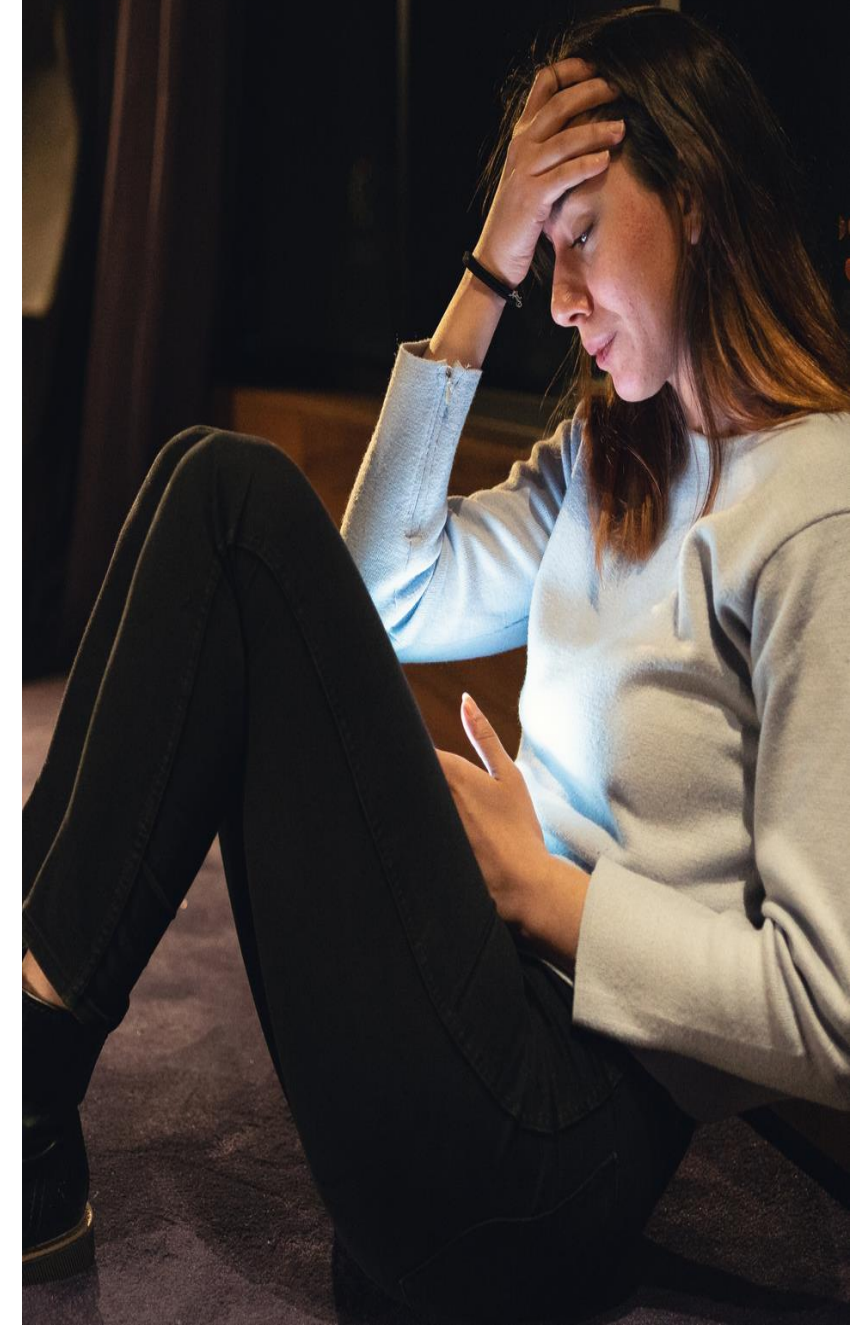


Harassment is prevalent and pervasive

The impact of harassment experienced on the job has severe personal effects and industry-wide consequences

Much of the harassment goes unreported

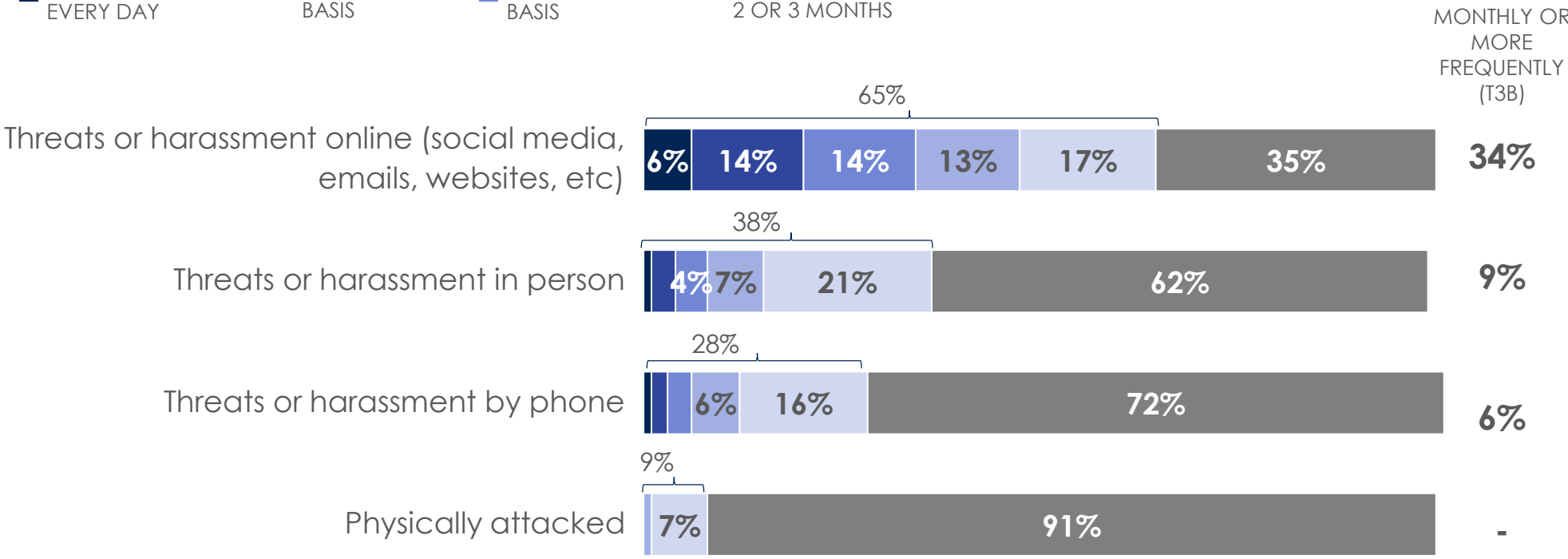
A large majority of those targeted have not accessed any resources. Those who did, found them less than adequate



More than seven in ten report having experienced any type of harassment in the course of their work over the last year.

TYPE OF HARASSMENT EXPERIENCED IN PAST 12 MONTHS

■ EVERY OR ALMOST EVERY DAY
 ■ ON A WEEKLY BASIS
 ■ ON A MONTHLY BASIS
 ■ ONCE EVERY 2 OR 3 MONTHS
 ■ LESS OFTEN
 ■ NEVER



LGBTQ2+ (78% in the past year).

EXPERIENCED ANY TYPE OF HARASSMENT

72%

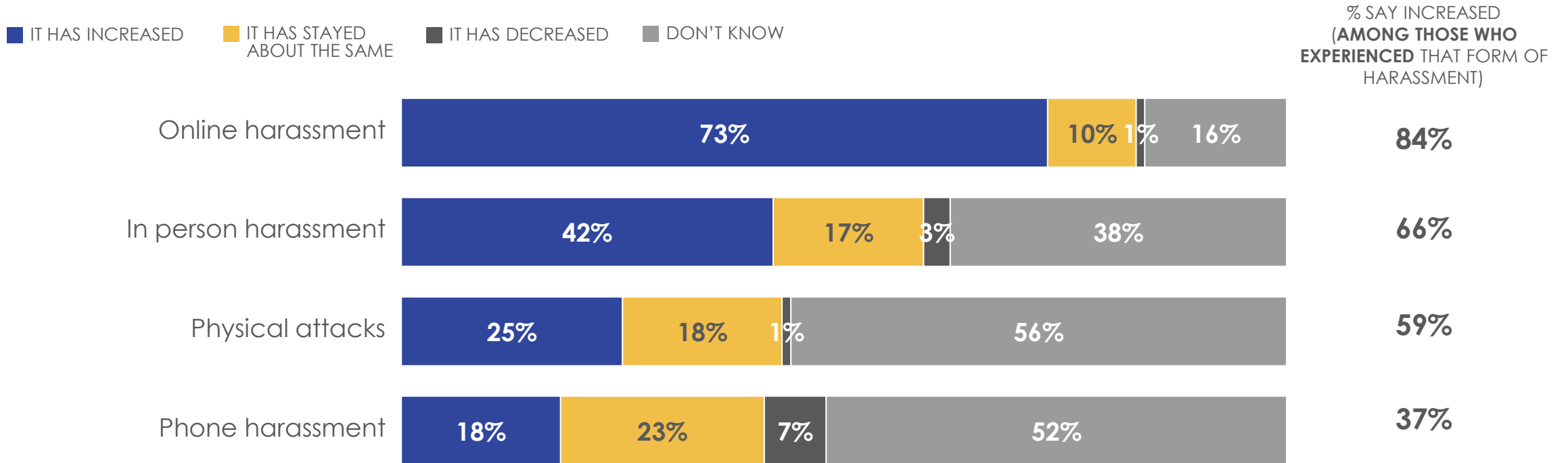
<4% Labels are not shown

Base: All respondents excluding students and those fully retired from the media sector (n=1082)
 Q7a. In the past 12 months, how often have you experienced any of the following as a result of the work you do in the field of journalism or media? Please select all that apply.



A large majority (73%) believe that the frequency of online harassment has increased over the last 2 years.

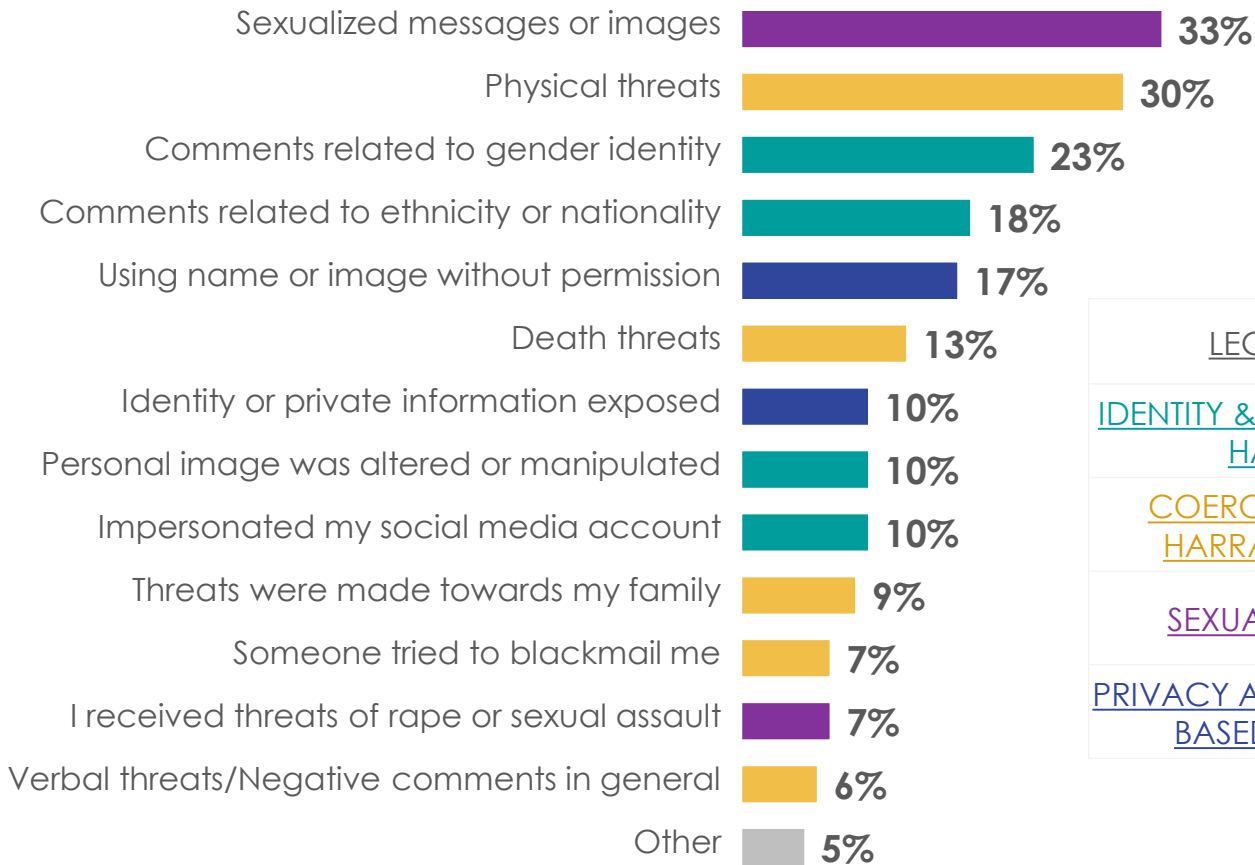
CHANGE IN FREQUENCY IN THE PAST 2 YEARS



Base: All respondents excluding students and those fully retired from the media sector (n=1082)
 Q7b. Do you feel that the frequency of harassment has changed over the past 2 years?

Respondents experienced a wide variety of online harassment including receiving sexualized messages/images, physical threats, and targeted comments.

ONLINE HARASSMENT EXPERIENCED IN PAST 12 MONTHS



LEGEND:	
<u>IDENTITY & REPUTATION HARM</u>	53%
<u>COERCION AND HARRASSMENT</u>	45%
<u>SEXUAL HARM</u>	34%
<u>PRIVACY AND SECURITY BASED HARM</u>	25%

LGBTQ2+

(51%) report being targeted and harassed specifically about their gender identity/sexuality -

Journalists

More likely to have been the target of sexual and identity/ reputation-based harm than others

Female and Younger Workers

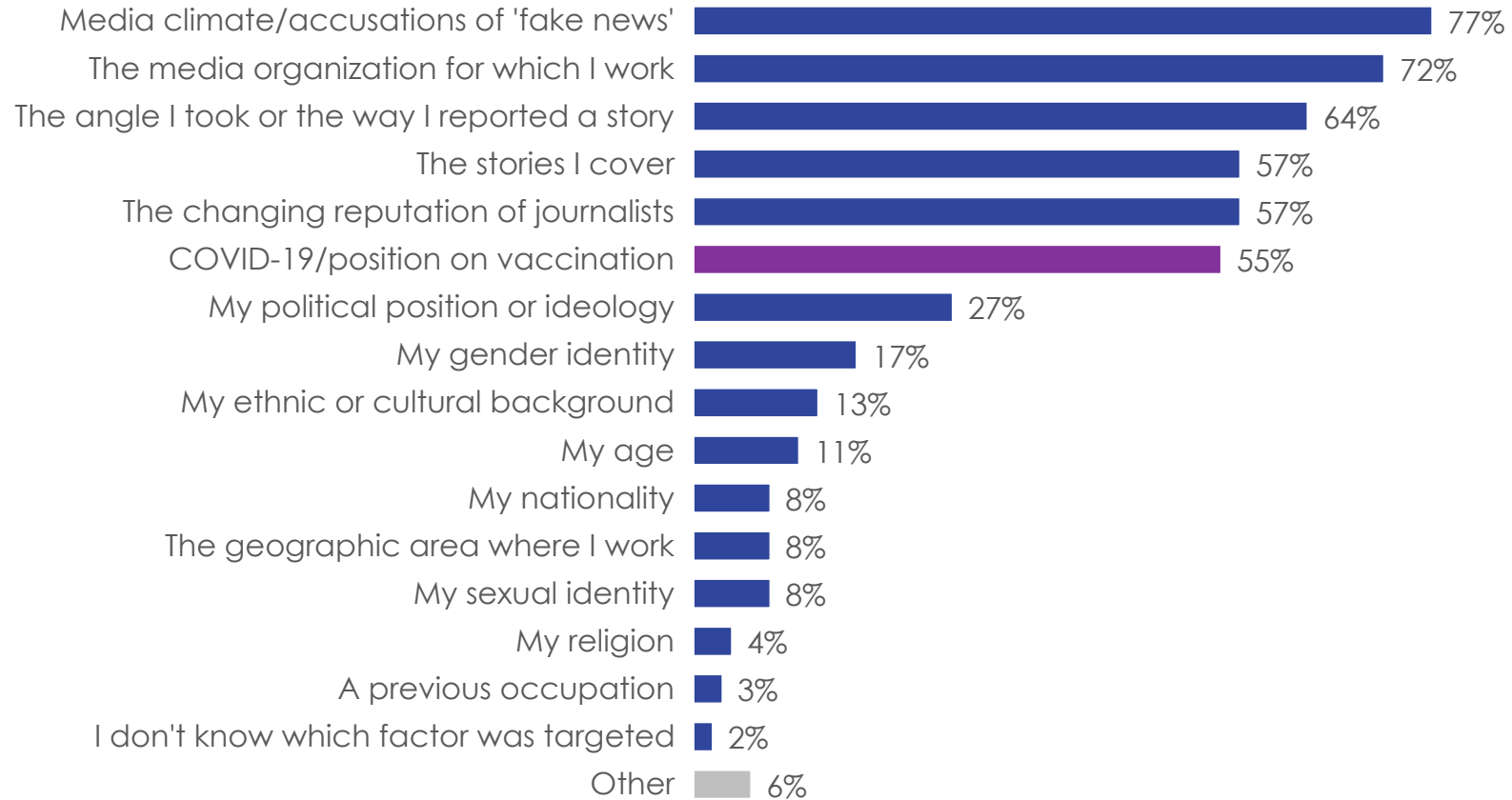
Targeted more for all forms

Base: If experienced online harassment/threats in past year (n=703)

Q8. As a journalist or media worker, have you personally experienced any of the following forms of online harassment in the past 12 months? Please select all that apply

Accusations of reporting 'fake news' is the most common factor leading to online harassment, closely followed by objections to the media organization one works for.

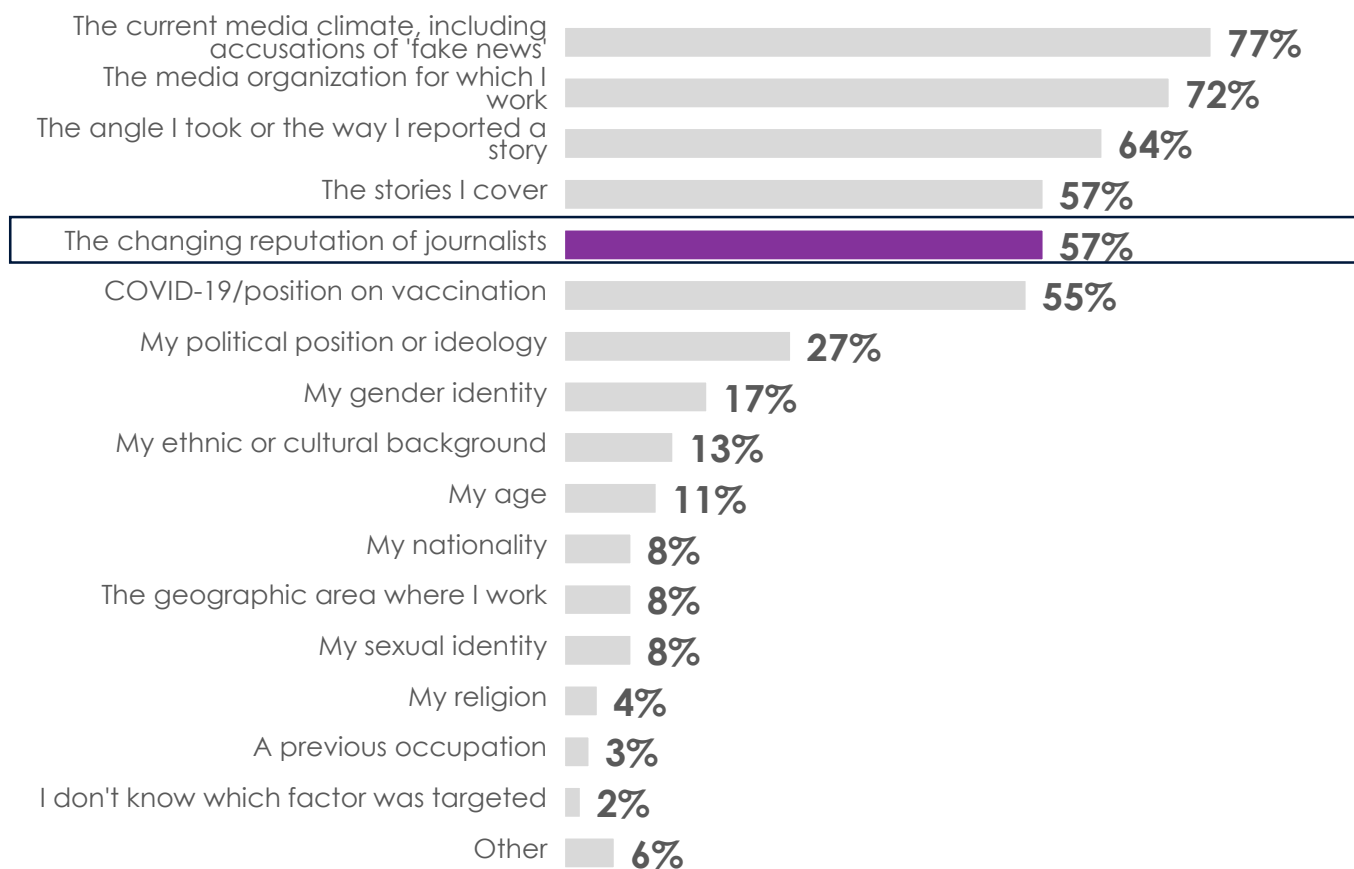
FACTORS LEADING TO BEING A TARGET FOR HARASSMENT



Base: If experienced online harassment/threats in past year (n=703)

Q10. Please identify which of the following factors have been targeted as part of the online harassment you experienced. Select all that apply.

Ipsos' Global Trustworthiness Index highlights the precariousness of the public's trust in journalists – only one-in-four Canadians rate journalists as “trustworthy”.



CANADA TRUSTWORTHINESS TRENDS 2019-2021

	Trustworthiness Index Scores	2019	Vs 2019
Doctors	70%	64%	6%
Scientists	64%	56%	8%
Teachers	62%	58%	4%
Judges	49%	45%	4%
Armed Forces	45%	51%	-6%
The Police	44%	47%	-3%
Ordinary men/women	42%	41%	1%
Clergy/Priests	29%	29%	0%
Bankers	29%	27%	2%
Television news readers	26%	26%	0%
Journalists	26%	28%	-2%
Civil Servants	26%	28%	-2%
Lawyers	23%	24%	-1%
Pollsters	17%	16%	1%
Business Leaders	17%	19%	-2%
Government ministers	17%	16%	1%
Politicians generally	13%	11%	2%
Advertising executives	9%	11%	-2%

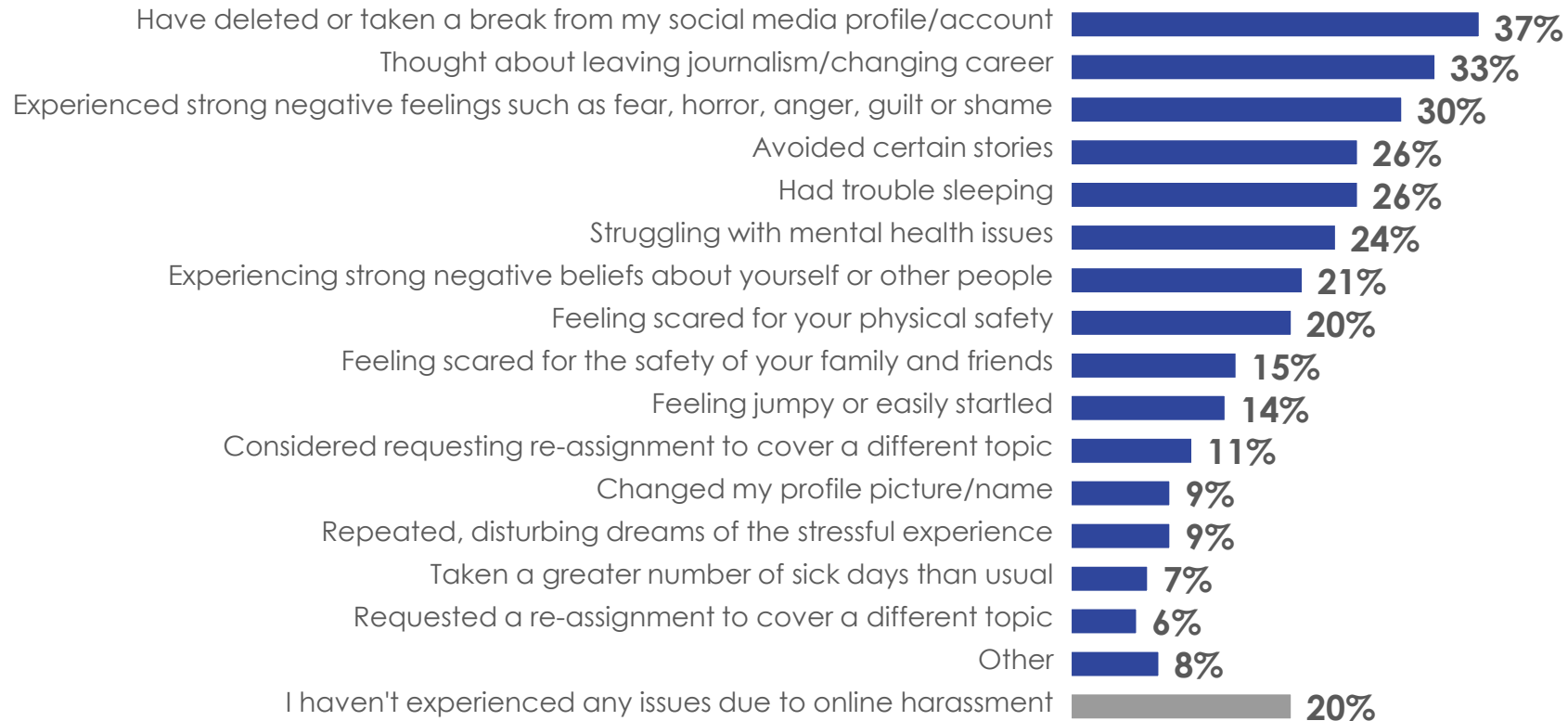
Source: Ipsos Global Trustworthiness Index

Base: If experienced online harassment/threats in past year (n=703)

Q10. Please identify which of the following factors have been targeted as part of the online harassment you experienced. Select all that apply.

Nearly four-in-ten (37%) felt the need to take a break from social media/delete their accounts and a third (33%) considered leaving journalism altogether.

EXPERIENCES OF THOSE TARGETED



>=WEEKLY
50%
47%
38%
34%
36%
42%
27%
26%
22%
17%
19%
14%
17%
15%
5%
6%
12%

Base: If experienced online harassment/threats in past year (n=703)

Q14a. As a result of being harassed online, are you experiencing or have you experienced any of the following? Please select all that apply.

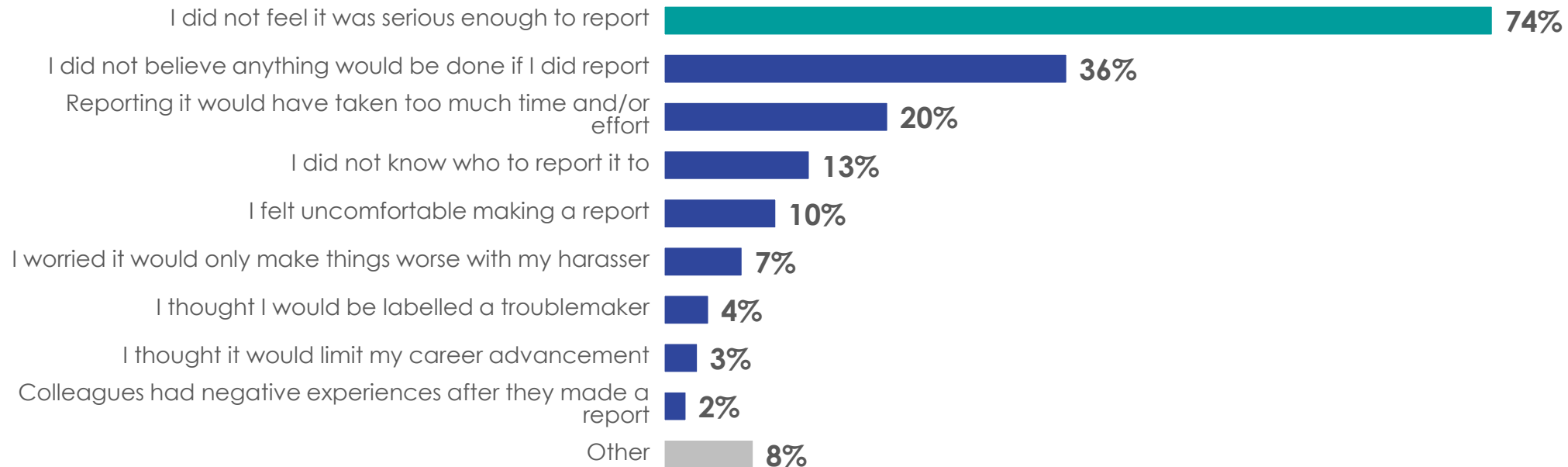
RECOURSE AND RESOURCES

A man in a grey suit is sitting at a desk, looking down at a laptop. He has a stressed expression, with his right hand covering his forehead. The background is a blurred office setting.

Even though the harassment led to mental health and safety concerns, a vast majority (74%) of those who did not report the incident did not see it as serious enough to report.

46% did not report any acts of harassment

REASONS FOR NOT REPORTING THE ONLINE HARASSMENT

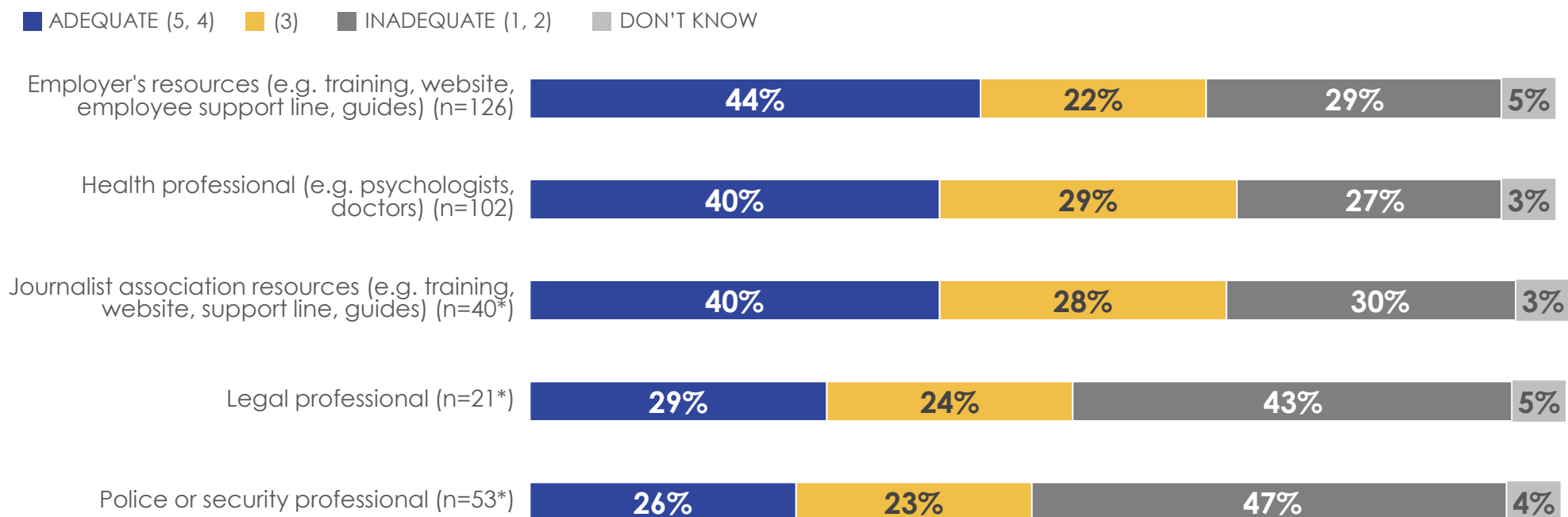


Base: If experienced online harassment/threats in past year and did not report it (n=322)
Q13. Thinking about the online harassment you experienced but did not report, please indicate the reason(s) for not reporting the situation(s).

A large majority of those targeted have not accessed any resources. Of those who have, few can vouch for the adequacy of support.

64% did not access any resources

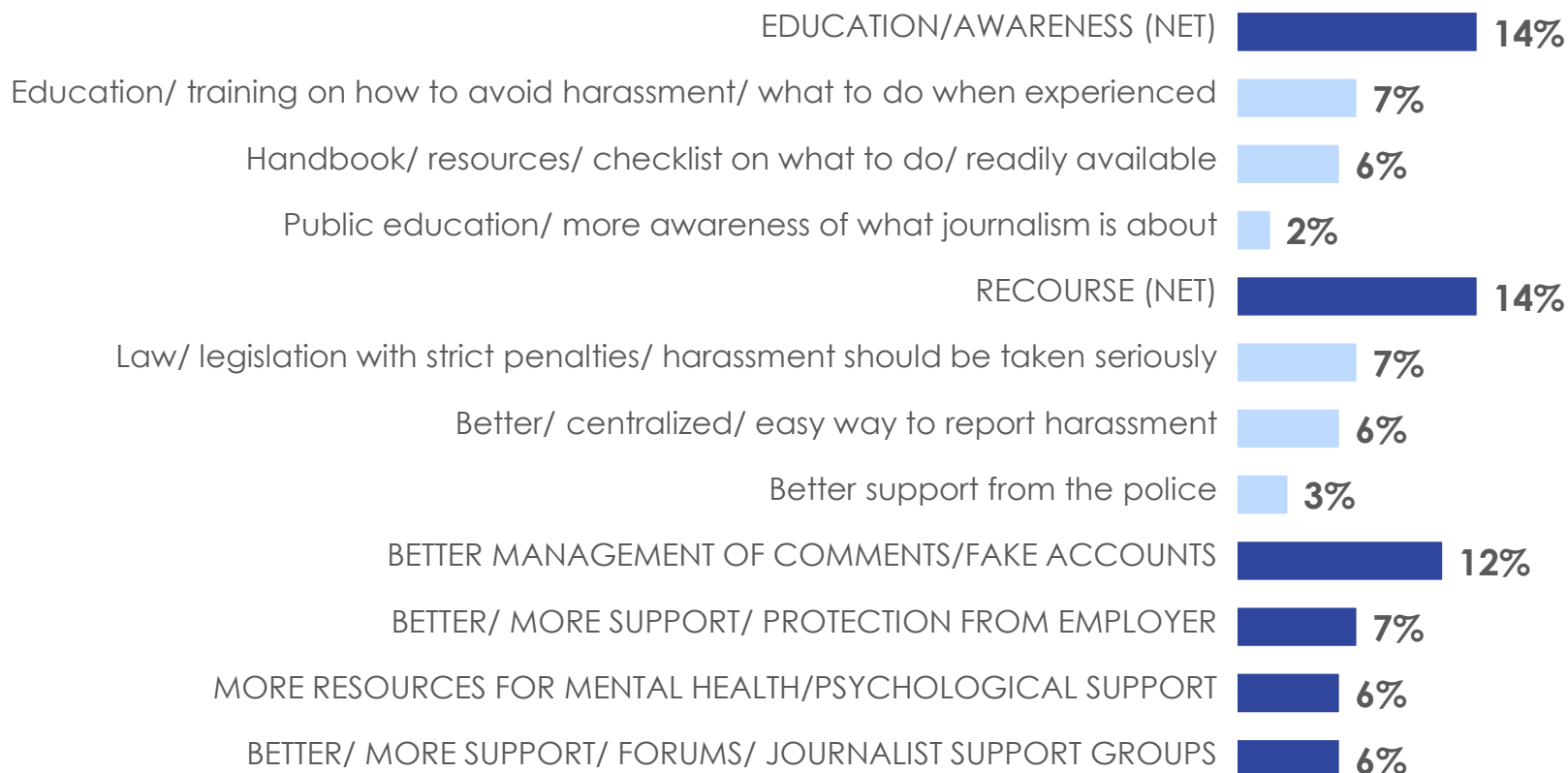
ADEQUACY OF EXISTING RESOURCES TO HELP DEAL WITH ONLINE HARASSMENT



Base: If experienced online harassment/threats in past year and accessed resources to help deal (n=Varies)
Q16a. How adequate do you feel the existing resources at your disposal are when it comes to dealing with the issue of online harassment?

While many did not share an opinion on potentially useful resources, among those who commented, tools for education/awareness building and recourse are highlighted

RESOURCES TO DEVELOP TO BETTER SUPPORT JOURNALISTS

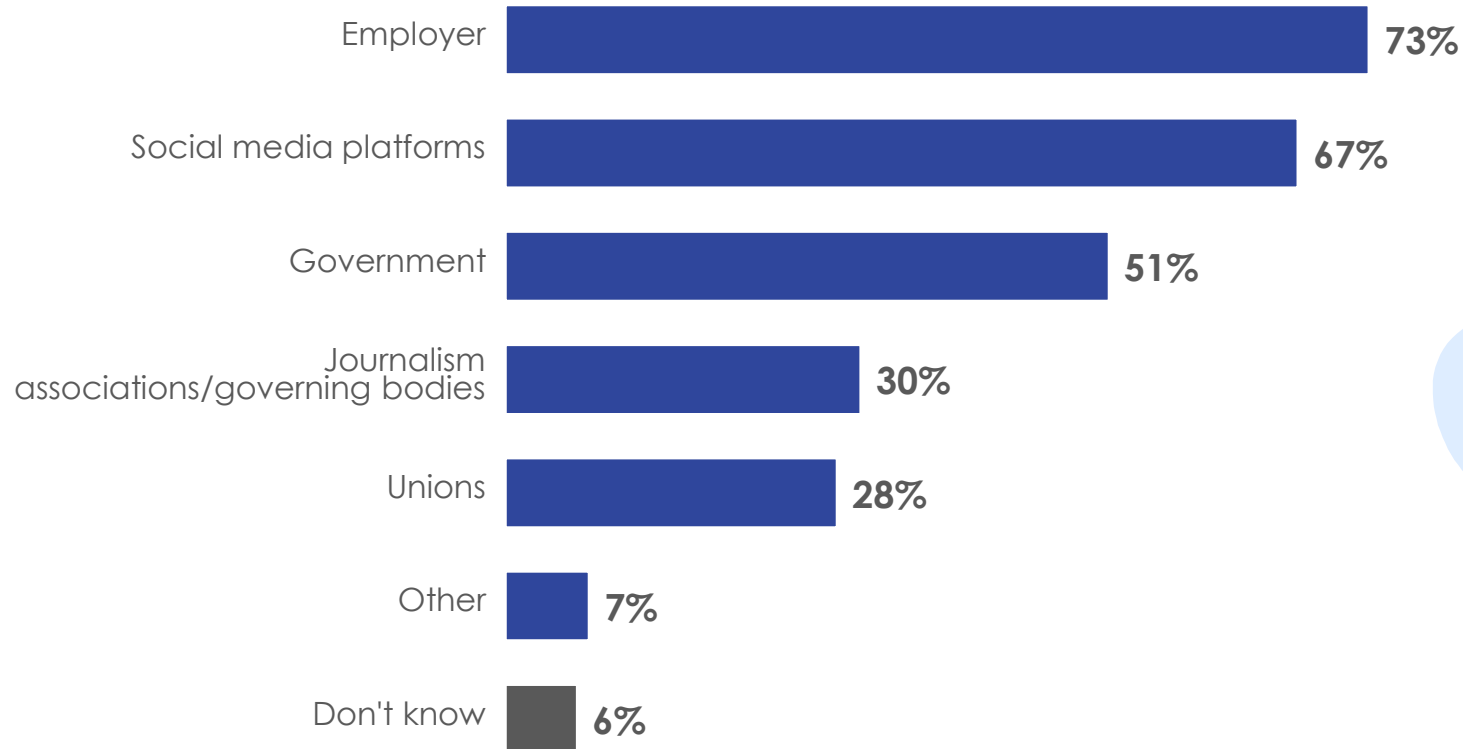


48%
Don't know/did not answer

Base: If experienced harassment/threats in past year (n=784)
Q16b. In your opinion, what resources could be developed in the future to better support journalists and media professionals who experience online harassment?

Most respondents believe the onus for protecting journalists from potential online harm rests with employers or with social media platforms.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROTECTING WORKERS



*I believe **employers** can do a lot more to train employees and take action to support them when a threat does come in.*

Base: All respondents excluding students and those fully retired from the media sector (n=1082)
Q17. Who should be held responsible for protecting journalists from online harm?

Impact of Online Harassment in Their Words...

Impact on ability to work effectively...

I get unfounded feelings of **self-doubt**

Feeling **anxious, racing thoughts, unable to focus on work**

I've had to **change the way I cover certain stories** due to concern of being swarmed by a mob

Managers have requested I be **reassigned to other topics** because I am a frequent harassment target, which **frustrates me** because I enjoy covering difficult topics

Exodus of voices...

I did **leave journalism** for a while, and often think it's **not worth my energy** anymore

Switched to more behind the **scenes roles** (from reporting), it caused me to be **anxious** every time I filed a story

Published work **without my byline** to avoid personal attacks via email

Fear for safety...

Much more cautious about leaving and coming to the office. I **check for suspicious vehicles**, people, etc.

I **moved out** of Alberta

Made my social accounts private; **do not mention who my employer is** to family, friends or strangers

I **don't typically reveal my occupation or employer publicly anymore**

Base: If experienced online harassment/threats in past year (n=703)

Q14a. As a result of being harassed online, are you experiencing or have you experienced any of the following? Please select all that apply.

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