

Dementia Study 2022/2023

**Part C – Quantitative Study**

# **Quantitative survey among Vienna's residents on dementia issues**

Conducted by the Austrian Gallup Institute on behalf of Vienna Social Fund

# Dementia Study 2022/2023

The following quantitative study is part of a comprehensive study by Vienna Social Fund which is composed of three parts:

## **Part A: Research of best practice examples**

Part A provides an overview of successful national strategies and measures adopted across Europe to deal with dementia and outlines the experiences in implementing these measures as a knowledge base to support the implementation of Vienna's Dementia Strategy. It also contains research on dementia counselling centres in Austria.

## **Part B: Qualitative study**

Part B illustrates problems and requirements of people with dementia and their (caregiving) relatives and identifies obstacles to the use of services within the existing system.

## **Part C: Quantitative study**

Part C consists of a representative online survey among Vienna's residents (18 years and older) about society's knowledge and perception of the term dementia and the illness it describes and of available offers of information and support.

All part studies serve as a knowledge base that will help to prioritise measures for implementation within the fields of action defined under Vienna's Dementia Strategy. Deductions from the results will be integrated into the evaluation of the nursing and care services of Vienna Social Fund and for strategies to develop new service offers for people with dementia.

### **Publishing details**

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# Quantitative survey among Vienna’s residents on dementia issues

## Study description

From October 2023 to December 2023, Vienna Social Fund undertook a representative quantitative study on dementia issues. The aim was to illustrate how Vienna’s residents think about the meaning of the term “dementia”, what attitude they have towards dementia, what knowledge they require on the issue, and whether they know about prevention options, platforms and contact points.












1,000 Viennese aged 18 years or older were surveyed by means of an online questionnaire and the sample was structured to represent Vienna’s population.

The Austrian Gallup Institute was tasked with carrying out the project.

## Survey and study design

<b>Task</b>	Conducting a representative survey on dementia issues among people aged 18 years or older in Vienna
<b>Method</b>	Online survey at the “gallupforum” online panel of the Austrian Gallup Institute
<b>Sample</b>	n = 1,000 interviews, representing Vienna’s residents aged 18 years or older
<b>Representativeness</b>	Selected by age, country of birth Austria yes/no (if “no”: sufficient German language proficiency to participate in the survey)
<b>Survey period</b>	04/10/2023 to 13/12/2023

# Key findings from the written survey

	<b>43%</b>	feel well informed about the issue of dementia.
	<b>71%</b>	perceive “dementia” as a rather neutral term.
	<b>64%</b>	have already had contact with someone living with dementia.
	<b>84%</b>	think that you can prevent the onset of dementia while you are still younger.
	<b>88%</b>	think that there are medicines and therapies which can mitigate the symptoms of dementia and slow down the progress of the illness.
	<b>82%</b>	worry that they will become a burden on their family should they get dementia.
	<b>62%</b>	believe that people with dementia can enjoy their lives.
	<b>86%</b>	think that nowadays there is a lot that you can do to improve the lives of people with dementia.
	<b>25%</b>	state that they have already heard about the Geriatric Psychiatric Centre of the Vienna Psychosocial Services.
	<b>26%</b>	want to be cared for by their family should they have severe dementia.
	<b>46%</b>	are interested in information about dementia.

## The most important findings from the survey analysis

- 1.** Respondent's subjective rating of how well they feel informed about dementia is at a medium level. 43% say they feel well informed about the issue of dementia. The older people are, the better they feel informed. Persons who have had the main responsibility for the support or care of family members with dementia within the past 5 years feel quite well informed. Their answers differ a lot from those of people who did not have the main responsibility.
- 2.** The majority of respondents (71%) perceive the term "dementia" as rather neutral than derogatory. 62% feel that the word "dementia" is more a medical technical term than everyday language.
- 3.** 64% of respondents say that they have already come into contact with someone who has dementia. In most cases, the person with dementia is a family member (mostly a grandparent). In the majority of cases, the person with dementia also lives or lived in Vienna (59%), followed by Lower Austria (13%).
- 4.** 84% of respondents think that you can do something yourself to prevent dementia while you are still younger and before the onset of the first symptoms. 16% do not agree with that.
- 5.** 88% of respondents think that there are medicines and therapies which can mitigate the symptoms of dementia and slow down the progress of the illness. 92% agree that there are non-medication-based therapies (e.g. dance therapy, memory therapy, animal therapy) which improve the wellbeing of people with dementia.
- 6.** 82% of respondents worry that they will become a burden on their family should they get dementia themselves. 83% of Viennese worry that the family member or loved one with dementia might change drastically and 81% fear that they might change drastically should they develop dementia themselves.
- 7.** 62% of respondents agree that people with dementia can enjoy their lives. 64% think that the happiest time in life is far from being over in old age.
- 8.** 25% of respondents say they have already heard of the Geriatric Psychiatric Centre of the Vienna Psychosocial Services. The "Dementia-friendly Vienna"

platform is less known (16% of respondents know it). 83% of those who know the Geriatric Psychiatric Centre would contact it to get help and information should a family member or loved one get dementia. 91% of respondents knowing the “Dementia-friendly Vienna” platform would contact the platform in that case.

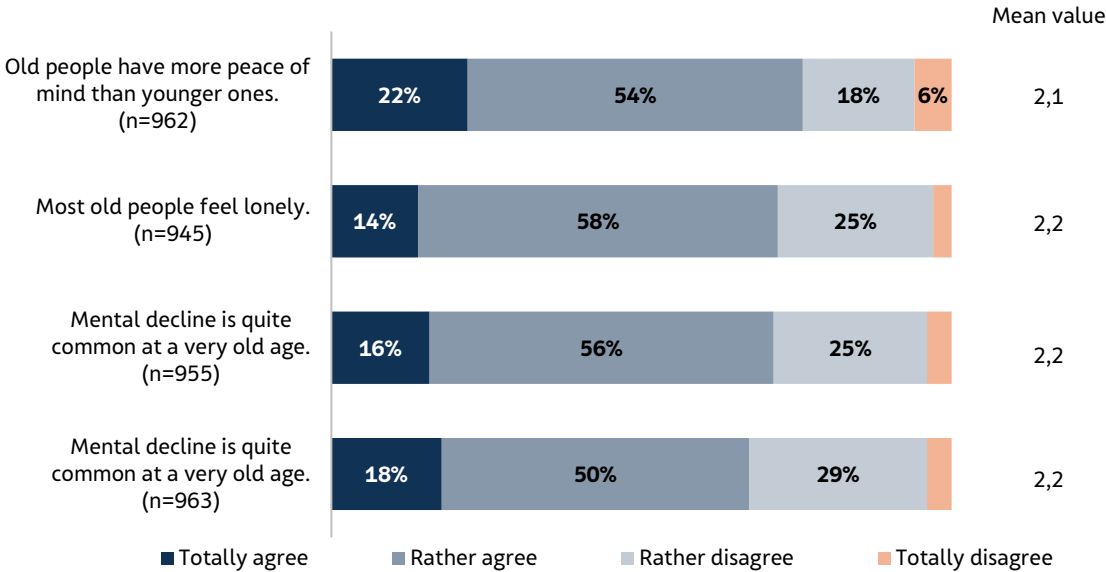
- 9.** In the event of developing severe dementia, 59% of respondents consider a residential care home to be the ideal type of care. 45% want 24-hour-care and 39% at-home care services. Slightly more than a quarter (26%) want to be cared for by their family should they develop severe dementia. In case of slight dementia, 69% want to be cared for by their family.
  
- 10.** 46% are interested in information about dementia. People who have already come into contact with someone who has dementia show greater interest. The interest in information is varied. 93% of respondents interested in information would like to learn more about prevention possibilities. 89% are interested in the diagnosis process and therapy options and/or in dementia support services, 88% are interested in knowledge on the illness (cause, types, symptoms, progress) and 87% are interested in how to deal and communicate with people with dementia.

# Survey results

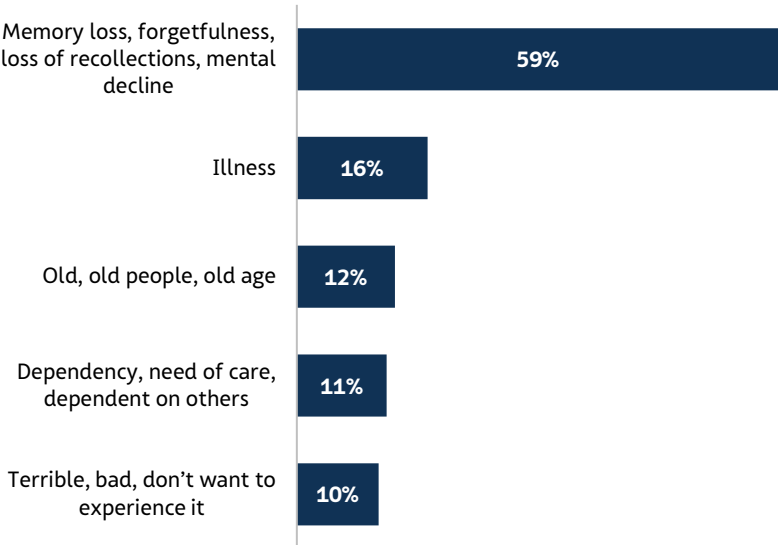
The following chapter presents selected results of the quantitative survey.

## Attitude towards age and dementia

### Attitude towards age

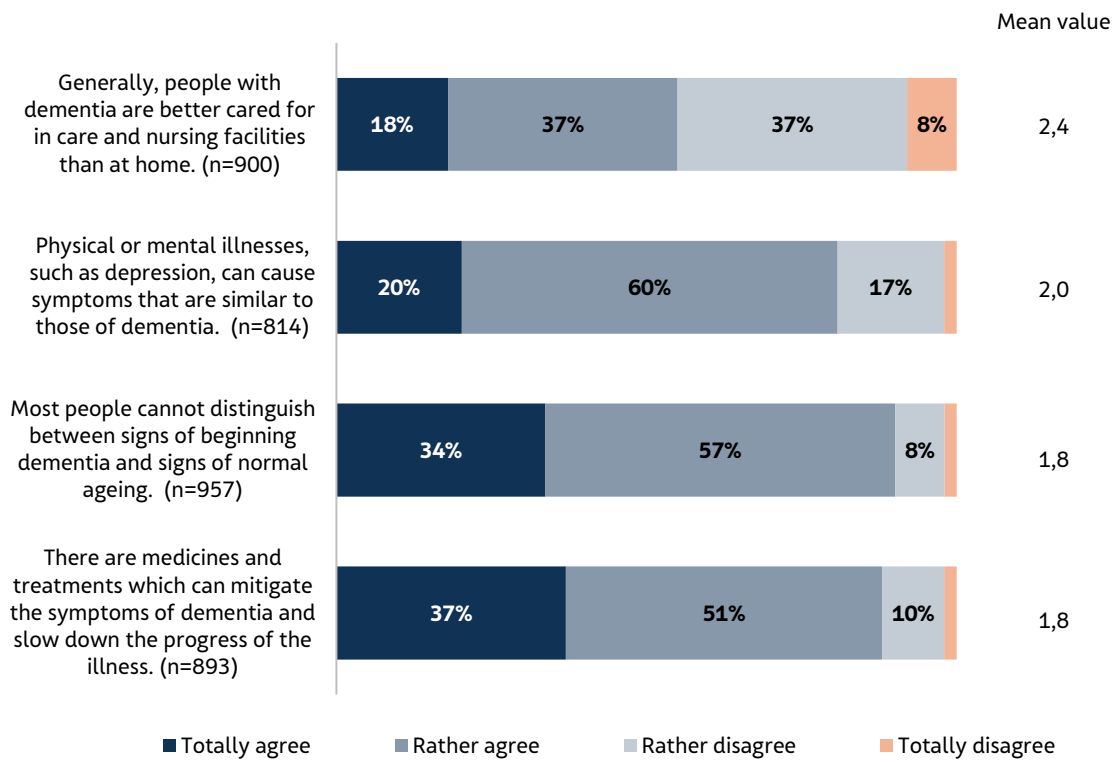


### Spontaneous associations with dementia (TOP 5 mentions; n=984)

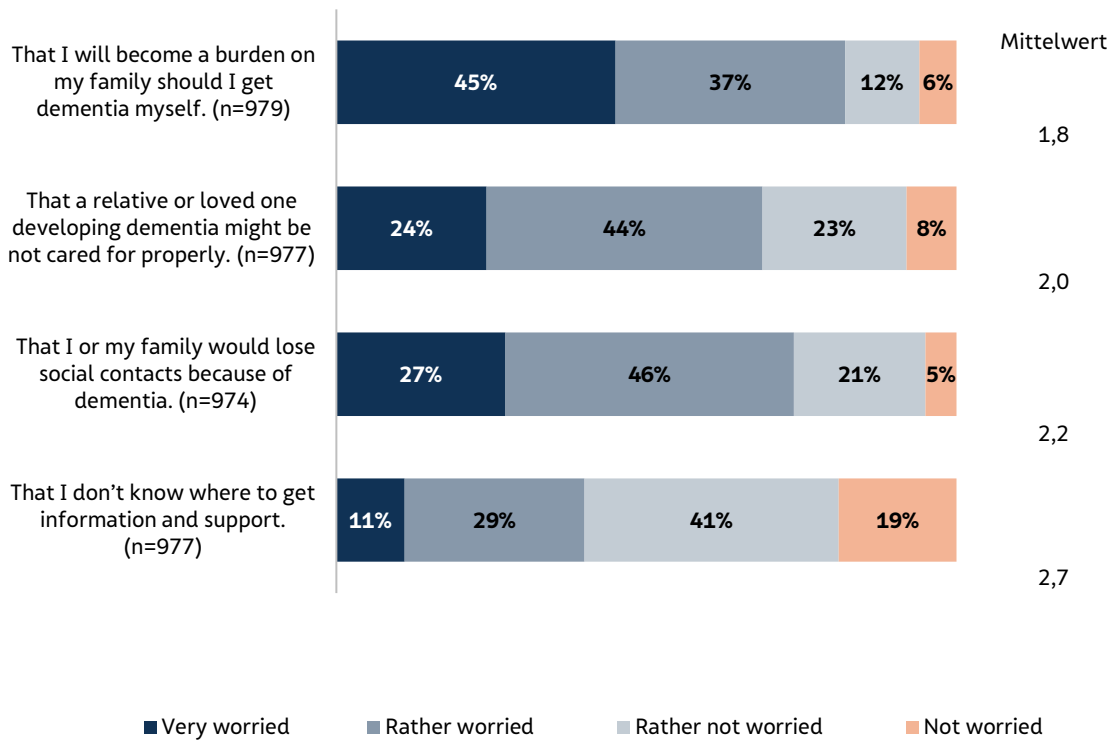


# Knowledge of dementia

## Attitude towards early diagnosis and treatment of dementia

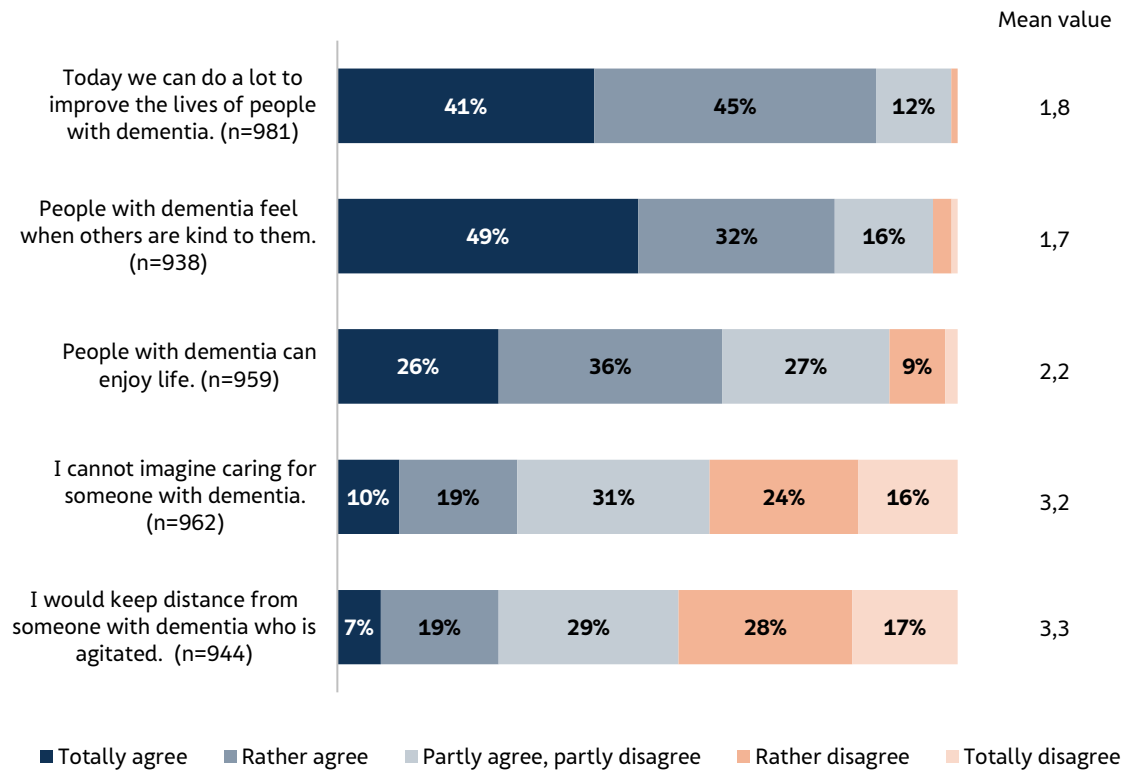


## Dementia and worries

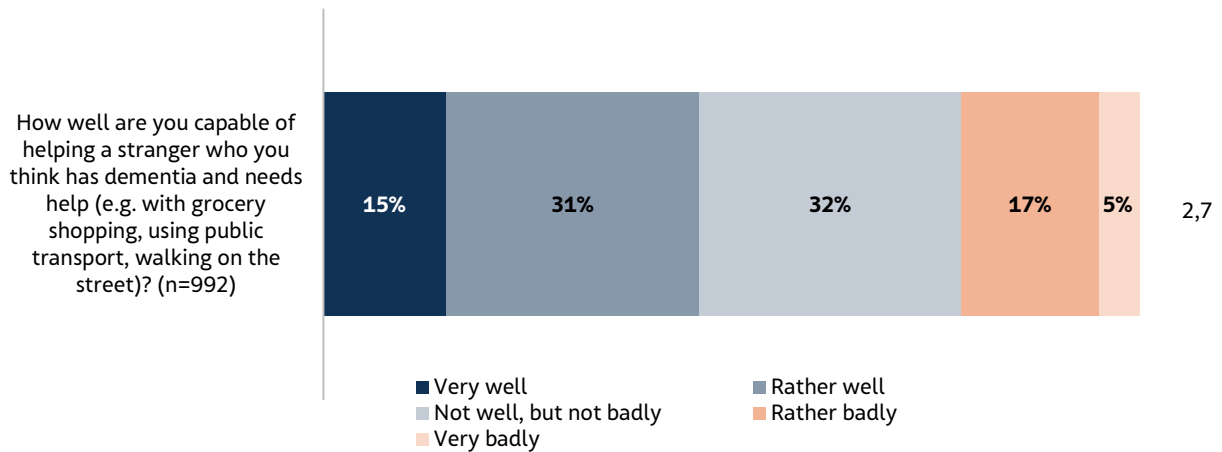




## Attitude towards people with dementia

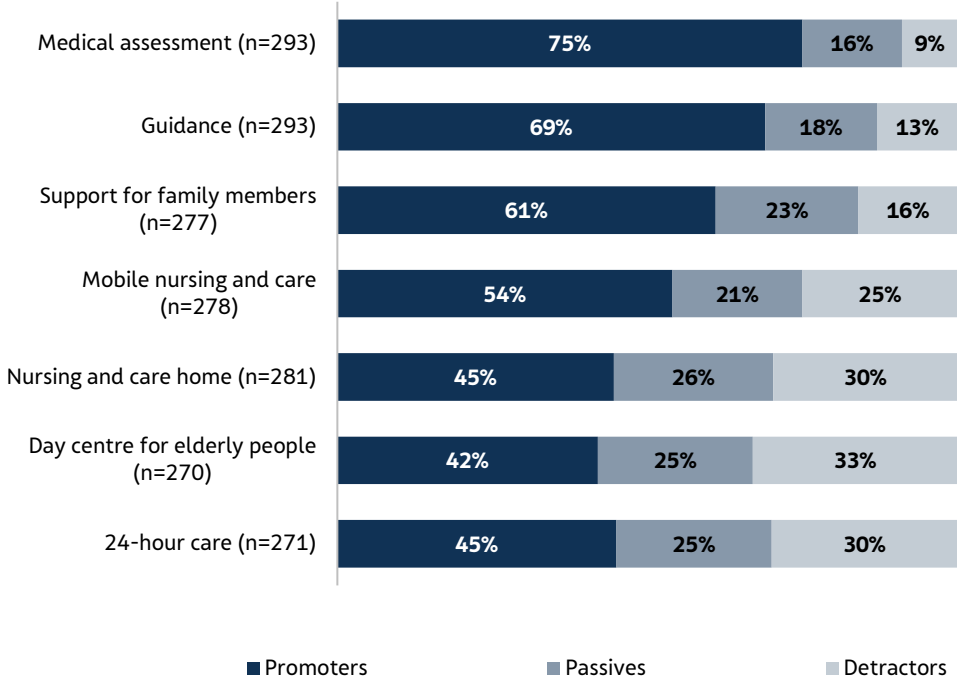


## Helping strangers with dementia

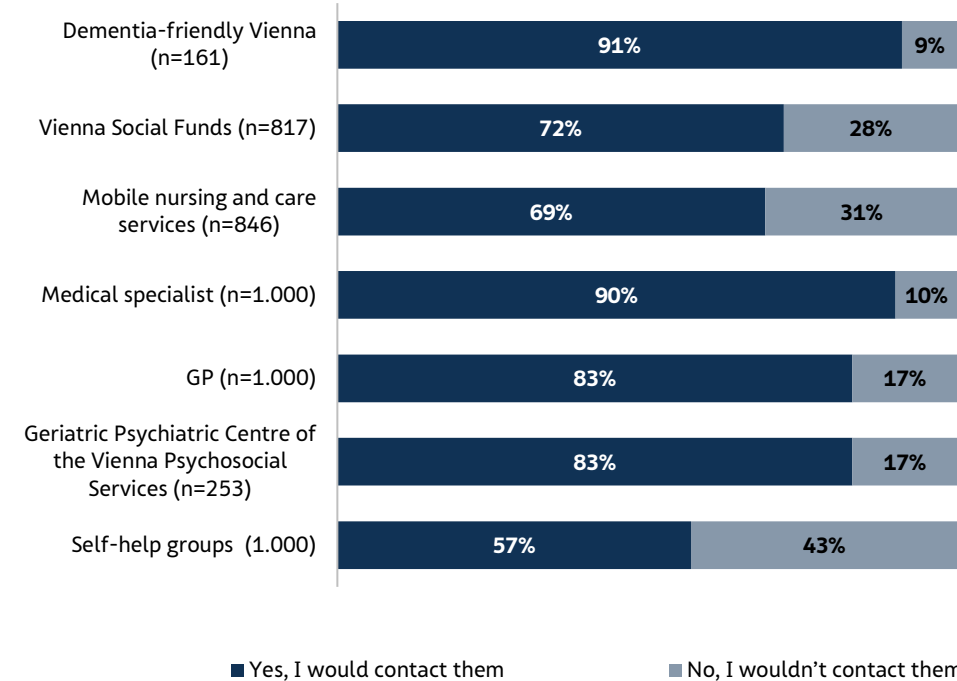


# Recommendation and contact points

## Recommendation



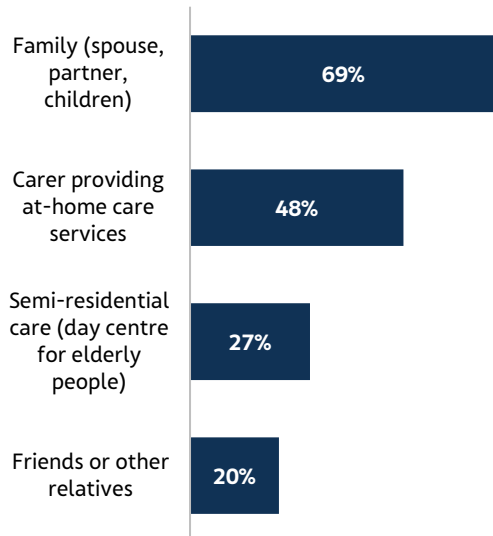
## Contact points



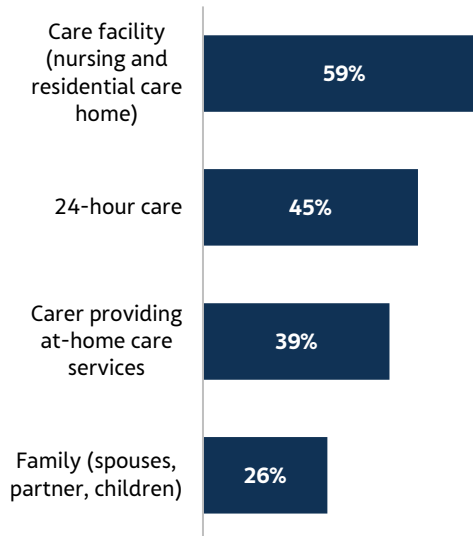
## Preferred type of care

If you develop dementia yourself, who would you want to care for you? (TOP 4 mentions)

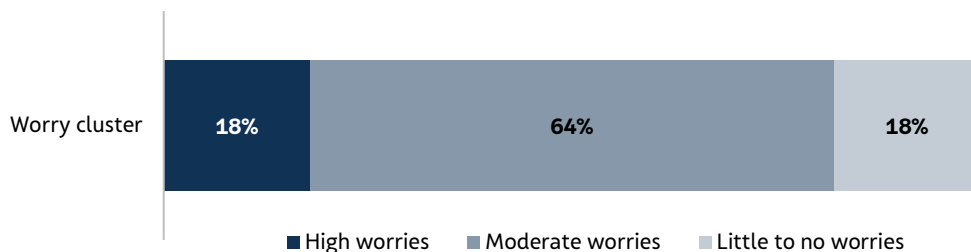
In care of slight dementia (n=964)



In case of severe dementia (n=958)



## Worry cluster



High worries	Moderate worries	Little to no worries
Mainly women between 18 and 40 years	Women and men between 18 and 40 years	Mainly men aged 70 years or older
55% say they are not very familiar with the issue of dementia.	38% say they are not very familiar with the issue of dementia.	30% say they are not very familiar with the issue of dementia.
57% think that people with dementia can enjoy life.	62% think that people with dementia can enjoy life.	71% think that people with dementia can enjoy life.