
Findings of Telephone Survey on Supplementary Healthcare Financing

4 – 13 December 2008

Food and Health Bureau

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government

December 2008

Opinion Survey on Supplementary Healthcare Financing (4 – 13 December 2008)

(A) Key findings

- Among the three supplementary healthcare financing options asked in the survey, voluntary healthcare financing schemes has the highest percentage of support (62%), which is followed by healthcare financing schemes involving employer-employee contribution (52%). [[Chart 1](#)]
- On the other hand, a relatively higher percentage (36%) of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed to implementing mandatory healthcare financing schemes, which is followed by healthcare financing schemes involving employer-employee contribution (29%). [[Chart 1](#)]
- Though people overwhelmingly favour voluntary schemes, there is notably a higher support and lower opposition in the young age group. On the other hand, there is a lower support and higher opposition in the low income group. [[Charts 1 to 1b](#)]
- On the whole, there is about the same proportion of support and opposition to mandatory scheme. However, when analyzed by age, higher proportion of the young age group supported mandatory scheme and lower proportion opposed it. It is also noted that relatively higher proportion of the high income group agreed to mandatory scheme. [[Charts 1 to 1b](#)]
- There is slightly over half of the respondents supporting employer-employee contribution scheme, with a notably higher degree among higher income groups. [[Charts 1 to 1b](#)]
- Overall, 71% of the respondents agreed or strongly agreed to the government continuing with public consultation on supplementary healthcare financing within the next six months. [[Chart 2](#)]
- Another 11% (among all respondents) agreed or strongly agreed to it if the government defers implementation of the supplementary financing scheme until the economy recovers. [[Chart 3](#)]
- Yet another 4% (among all respondents) agreed or strongly agreed with public

consultation within the next six months if the government proposes voluntary financing scheme and defers its implementation. [Chart 4]

- A further 2% (among all respondents) agreed to the government continuing with public consultation (with no timeframe specified) even though not agreeing to all of the above. [Chart 5]

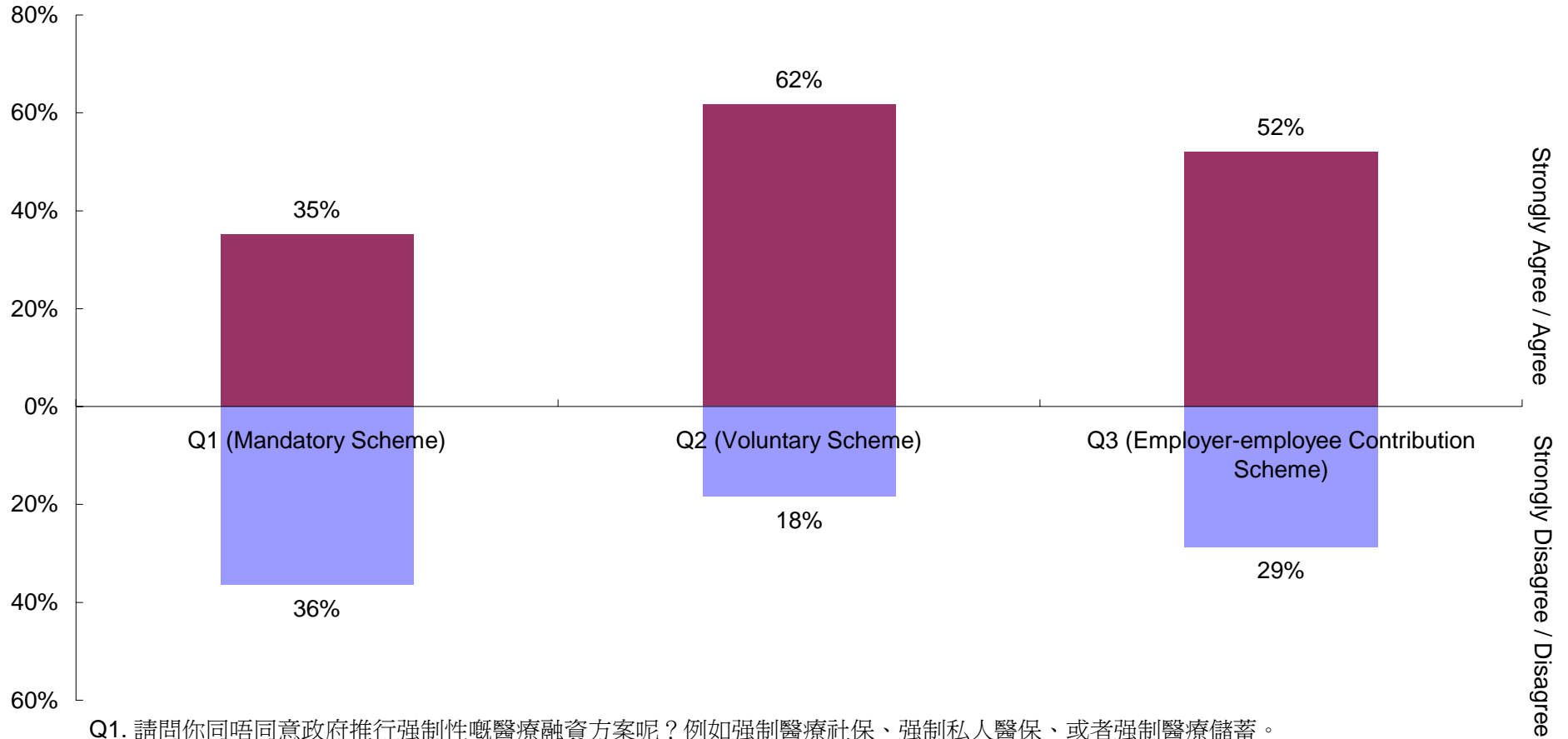
(B) Background

1. The Government commissioned Karl Research Ltd. to conduct an opinion survey on supplementary healthcare financing from 4 to 13 December 2008.
2. The opinion survey was conducted via telephone interview. During the fieldwork period, a total of 1 026 persons were successfully interviewed.
3. The opinion survey solicited the public's views on:
 - (i) the support for conducting stage 2 of healthcare financing consultation in the coming 6 months; and
 - (ii) the support for supplementary financing schemes with the following nature:
 - voluntary participation
 - mandatory participation
 - both employer and employee need to contribute.
4. A response rate of 46% was achieved during the ten days' fieldwork.
5. The questions asked in the survey (both Chinese and English versions) are given in **Annex I**.

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Chart 1: Views on different supplementary financing options



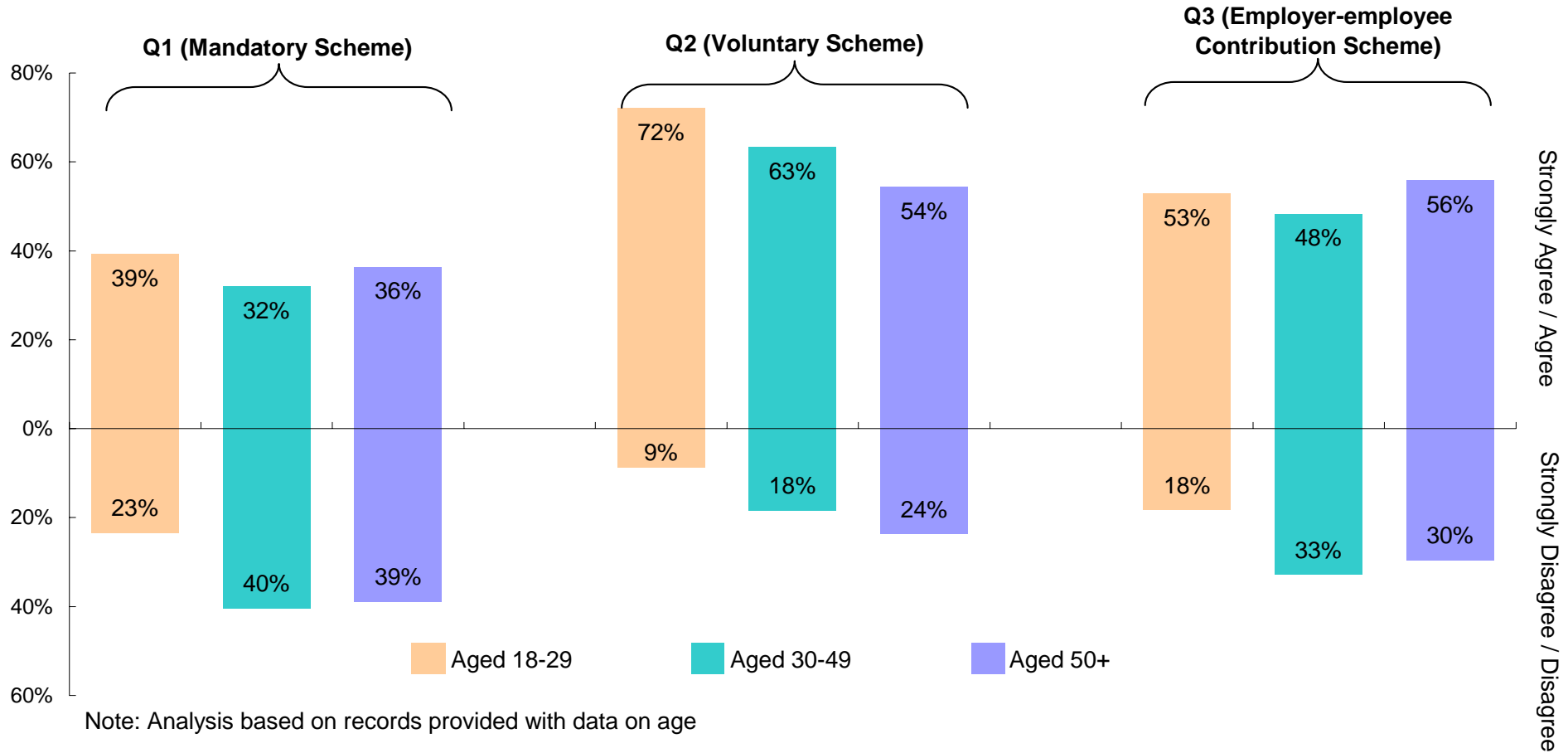
Q1. 請問你同唔同意政府推行强制性嘅醫療融資方案呢？例如强制醫療社保、强制私人醫保、或者强制醫療儲蓄。

Q2. 你同唔同意政府推行自願性嘅醫療融資方案呢？例如提供稅務優惠鼓勵市民自願購買醫療保險。

Q3. 你同唔同意政府提出僱主同僱員雙方都要供款嘅醫療融資方案呢？

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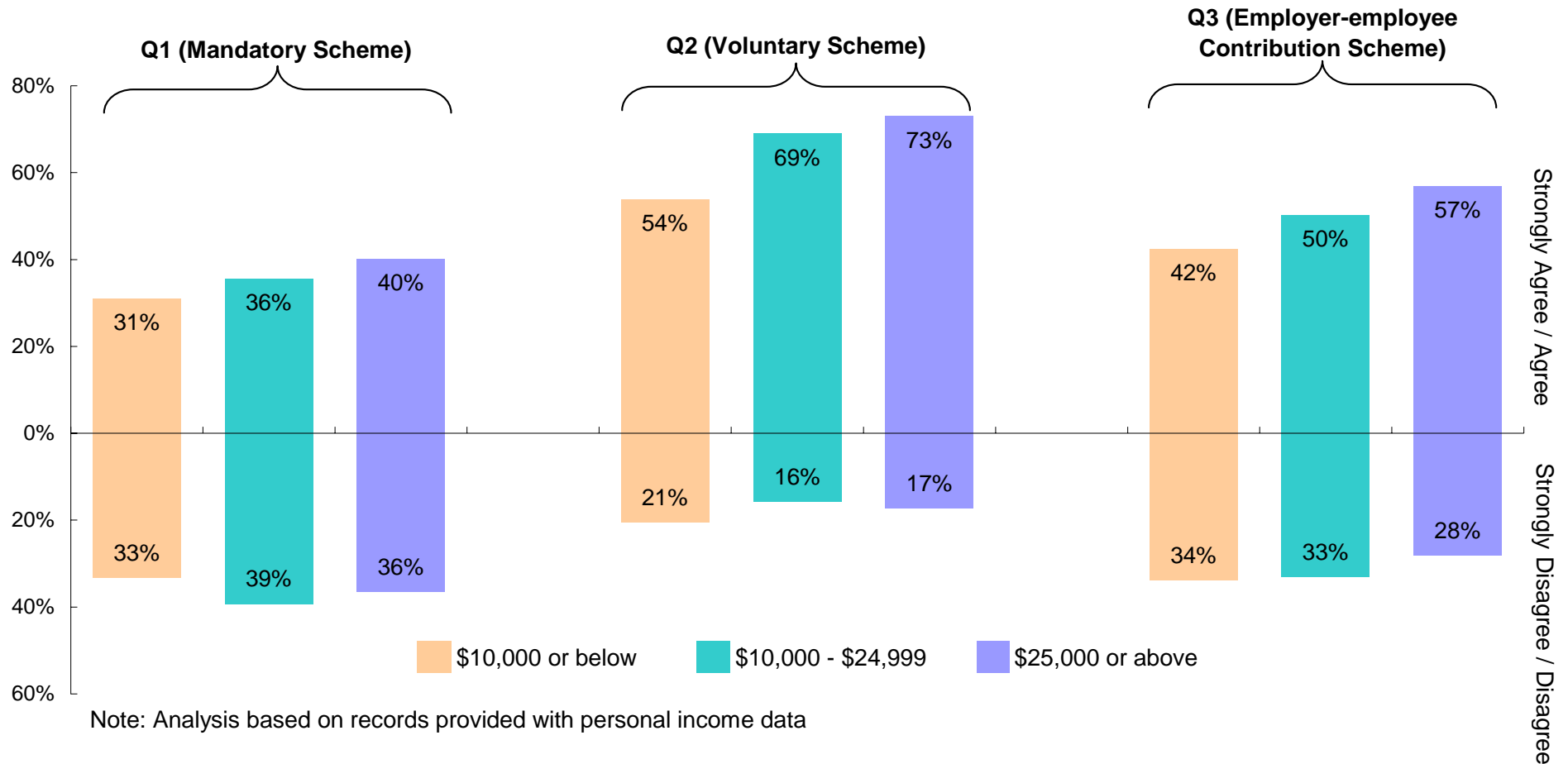
Chart 1a: Views on different supplementary financing options by age



- Q1. 請問你同唔同意政府推行强制性嘅醫療融資方案呢？例如强制醫療社保、强制私人醫保、或者强制醫療儲蓄。
- Q2. 你同唔同意政府推行自願性嘅醫療融資方案呢？例如提供稅務優惠鼓勵市民自願購買醫療保險。
- Q3. 你同唔同意政府提出僱主同僱員雙方都要供款嘅醫療融資方案呢？

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Chart 1b: Views on different supplementary financing options by monthly personal income



Note: Analysis based on records provided with personal income data

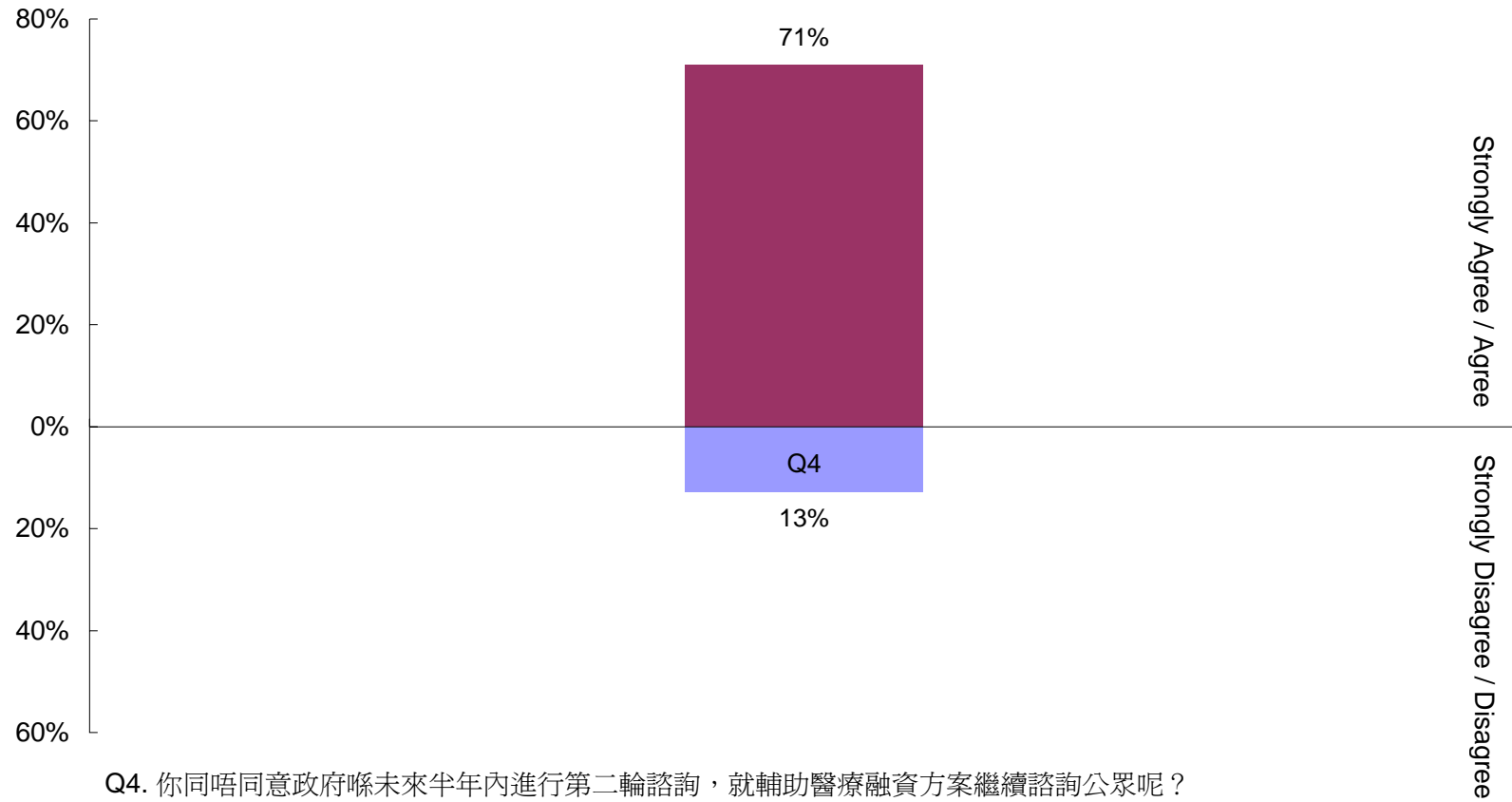
Q1. 請問你同唔同意政府推行强制性嘅醫療融資方案呢？例如强制醫療社保、强制私人醫保、或者强制醫療儲蓄。

Q2. 你同唔同意政府推行自願性嘅醫療融資方案呢？例如提供稅務優惠鼓勵市民自願購買醫療保險。

Q3. 你同唔同意政府提出僱主同僱員雙方都要供款嘅醫療融資方案呢？

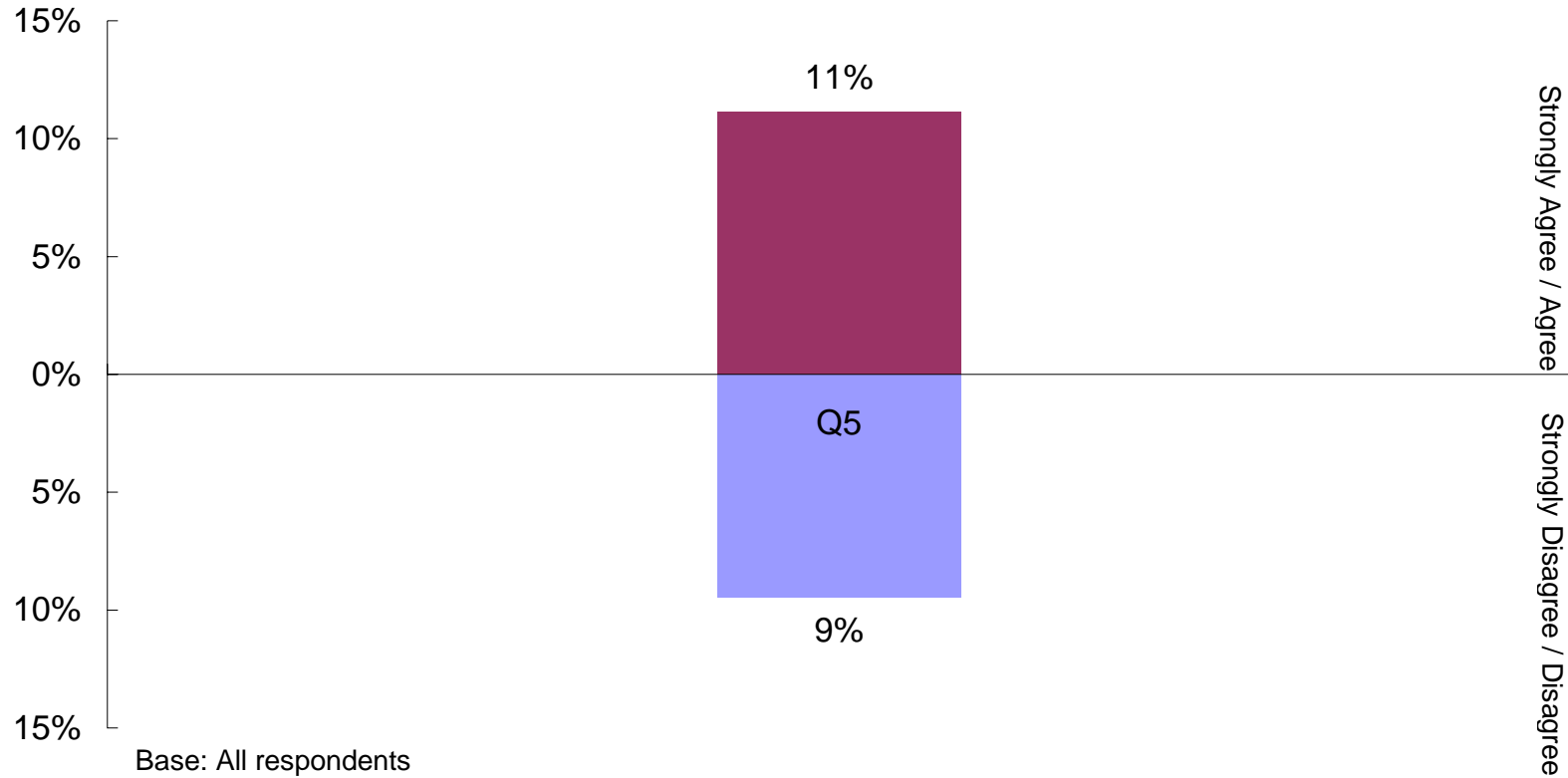
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Chart 2: Views on continuing with second stage consultation on supplementary healthcare financing within next 6 months



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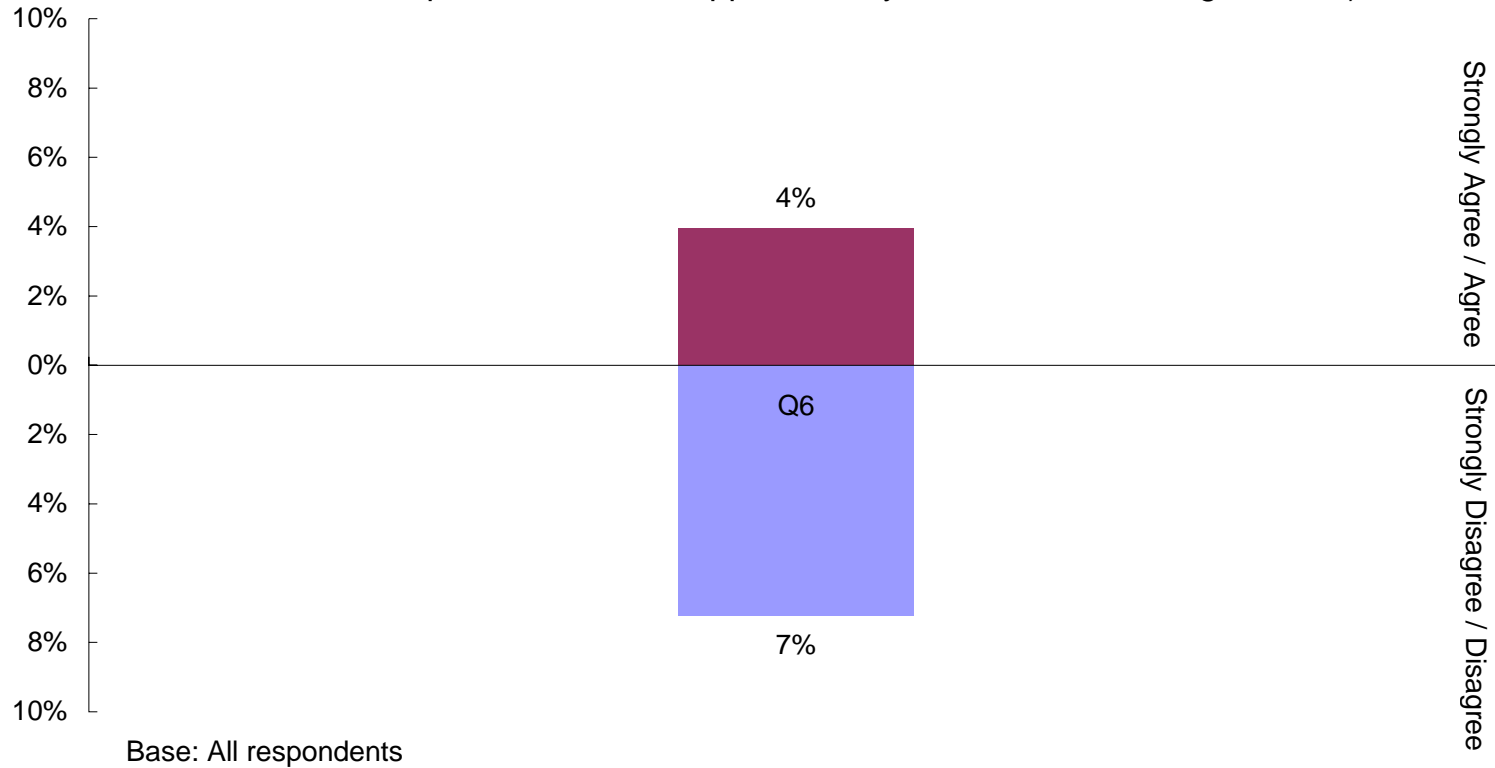
Chart 3: Views on continuing with 2nd stage consultation within next 6 months if government defers implementation of any supplementary financing scheme until the economy recovers
(for those not agreeing to government conducting second stage consultation in next 6 months)



Q5. (如果非同意政府於未來半年內進行第二輪諮詢) 若果政府承諾會押後推行任何輔助醫療融資方案，直至經濟環境好轉，咁你同唔同意政府喺未來半年內，仍然就輔助醫療融資方案同推行細則繼續諮詢公眾，以爭取時間尋求共識？

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Chart 4: Views on continuing with 2nd stage consultation within next 6 months if government proposes voluntary financing scheme and defers its implementation until the economy recovers
(for those not agreeing to government conducting 2nd stage consultation in next 6 months if government defers implementation of supplementary healthcare financing scheme)

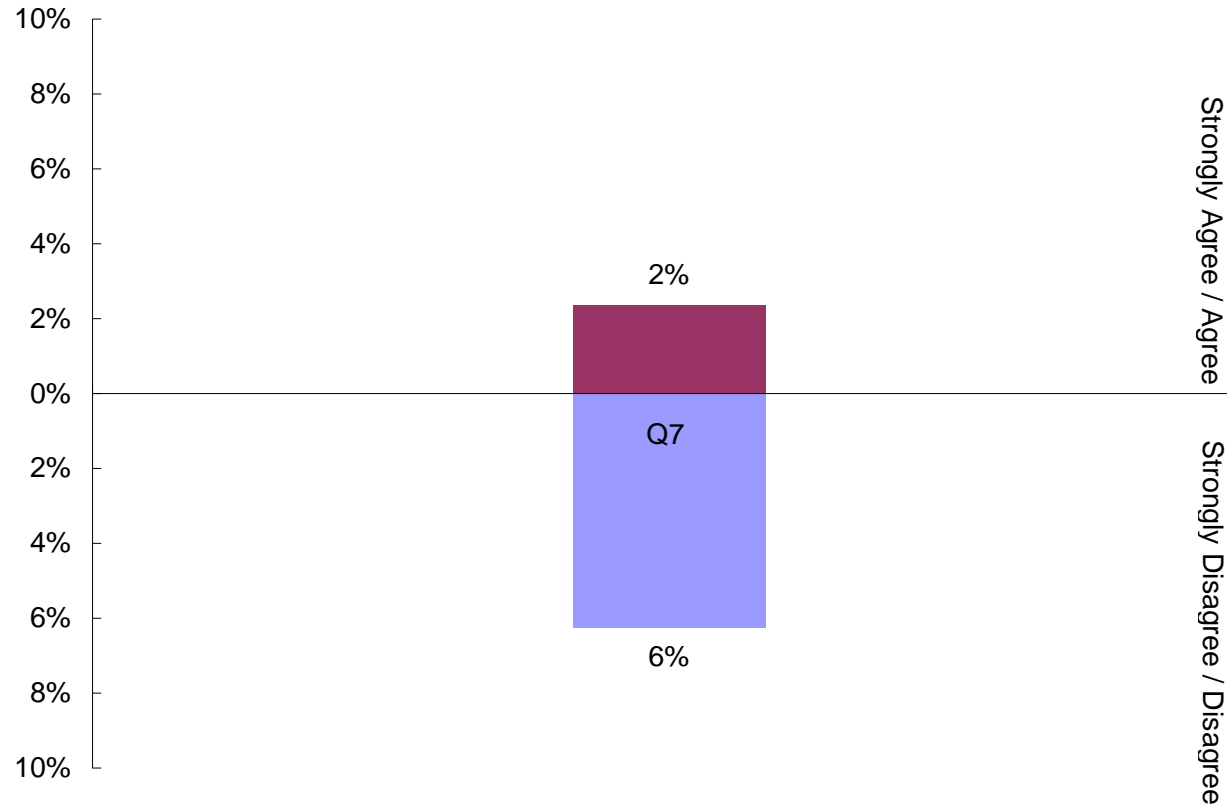


Q6. (如果非同意若政府承諾押後推行輔助醫療融資方案，但於未來半年內繼續諮詢公眾) 若果政府建議推行自願性嘅醫療融資方案，並且承諾會押後推行直至經濟環境好轉，你同唔同意政府喺未來半年內就自願性醫療融資方案嘅細則諮詢公眾呢？

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Chart 5: Views on continuing with public consultation on supplementary financing scheme

(for those not agreeing to government conducting consultation in next 6 months even if government proposes voluntary financing scheme and defers implementation until the economy recovers)



Base: All respondents

Q7. (如果非同意若政府建議推行自願性醫療融資方案並承諾押後推行，但於未來半年內繼續諮詢公眾) 咁你同唔同意政府就輔助醫療融資方案繼續諮詢公眾呢？

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Questions asked in the Survey:

[Q1] 請問你同唔同意政府推行强制性嘅醫療融資方案呢？例如强制醫療社保、强制私人醫保、或者强制醫療儲蓄。

Do you agree that the government should implement mandatory healthcare financing scheme, e.g. mandatory social health insurance, mandatory private health insurance or mandatory medical savings accounts?

[Q2] 你同唔同意政府推行自願性嘅醫療融資方案呢？例如提供稅務優惠鼓勵市民自願購買醫療保險。

Do you agree that the government should implement voluntary healthcare financing scheme, e.g. providing tax incentive to encourage the public to voluntarily take out private health insurance?

[Q3] 你同唔同意政府提出僱主同僱員雙方都要供款嘅醫療融資方案呢？

Do you agree that the government should put forward healthcare financing scheme that requires contribution from both employers and employees?

[Q4] 你同唔同意政府在未來半年內進行第二輪諮詢，就輔助醫療融資方案繼續諮詢公眾呢？

Do you agree that the government should conduct the second stage public consultation within the coming half year to continue soliciting public's views on the supplementary healthcare financing options?

[Q5] (如果**非同意**政府於未來半年內進行第二輪諮詢) 若果政府承諾會押後推行任何輔助醫療融資方案，直至經濟環境好轉，咁你同唔同意政府喺未來半年內，仍然就輔助醫療融資方案同推行細則繼續諮詢公眾，以爭取時間尋求共識？

(For those not agreeing to the government conducting the second stage consultation in the coming half year) If the government pledges to defer the implementation of any supplementary healthcare financing scheme until the economy recovers, do you agree that the government should still continue to conduct public consultation on supplementary healthcare financing within the coming half year in order to gain time for reaching consensus?

[Q6] (如果**非同意**若政府承諾押後推行輔助醫療融資方案,但於未來半年內繼續諮詢公眾) 若果政府建議推行自願性嘅醫療融資方案,並且承諾會押後推行直至經濟環境好轉,你同唔同意政府喺未來半年內就自願性醫療融資方案嘅細則諮詢公眾呢?

(For those not agreeing to the government conducting public consultation in the coming half year even if the government pledges deferring implementation of the supplementary healthcare financing scheme until the economy recovers) If the government proposes a voluntary supplementary healthcare financing scheme and pledges deferring its implementation until the economy recovers, do you agree that the government should conduct public consultation on the details of the voluntary supplementary healthcare financing scheme within the coming half year?

[Q7] (如果**非同意**若政府建議推行自願性醫療融資方案並承諾押後推行,但於未來半年內繼續諮詢公眾) 咁你同唔同意政府就輔助醫療融資方案繼續諮詢公眾呢?

(For those not agreeing to the government continuing with public consultation in the coming half year even if the government proposes voluntary supplementary healthcare financing scheme and pledges deferring its implementation) Do you agree that the government should continue to conduct public consultation on supplementary healthcare financing options?

[Questions on the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the respondents are also asked.]

Note: The Chinese version of the questions was actually used in the survey. The English translation given here is for reference only.