

Dementia friendly palliative care: are we confident?



Care
Compassion
Understanding



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INTRODUCTION

Palliative care has not traditionally been involved in supporting people with dementia (PWD). A survey was undertaken to:

- Establish baseline knowledge of dementia amongst hospice staff to guide education initiatives, construct competence frameworks and support local service development.
- Identify staff confidence to provide end of life care for PWD.

METHOD

- A survey was made available to all clinical and non-clinical staff to gather organisation-wide data as a baseline.
- The questions were based on the Department of Health document 'Common Core Principles for Supporting People with Dementia'¹.
- The survey generated both quantitative and qualitative data.
- Agreed codes for analysing the qualitative data were generated, and any ambiguous answers were cross checked.

1. Common Core Principles for Supporting People with Dementia - A guide to training the social care and health workforce, © Skills for Care & Skills for Health 2011. www.skillsforcare.org.uk

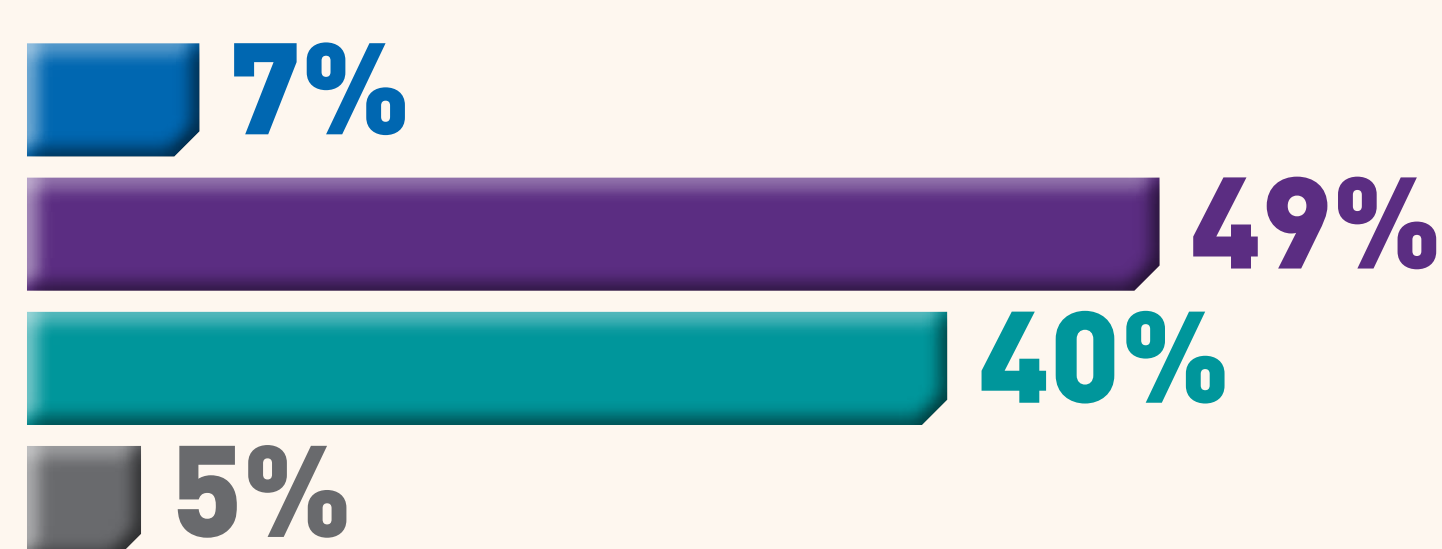
RESULTS

Key

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Staff Confidence to Support PWD

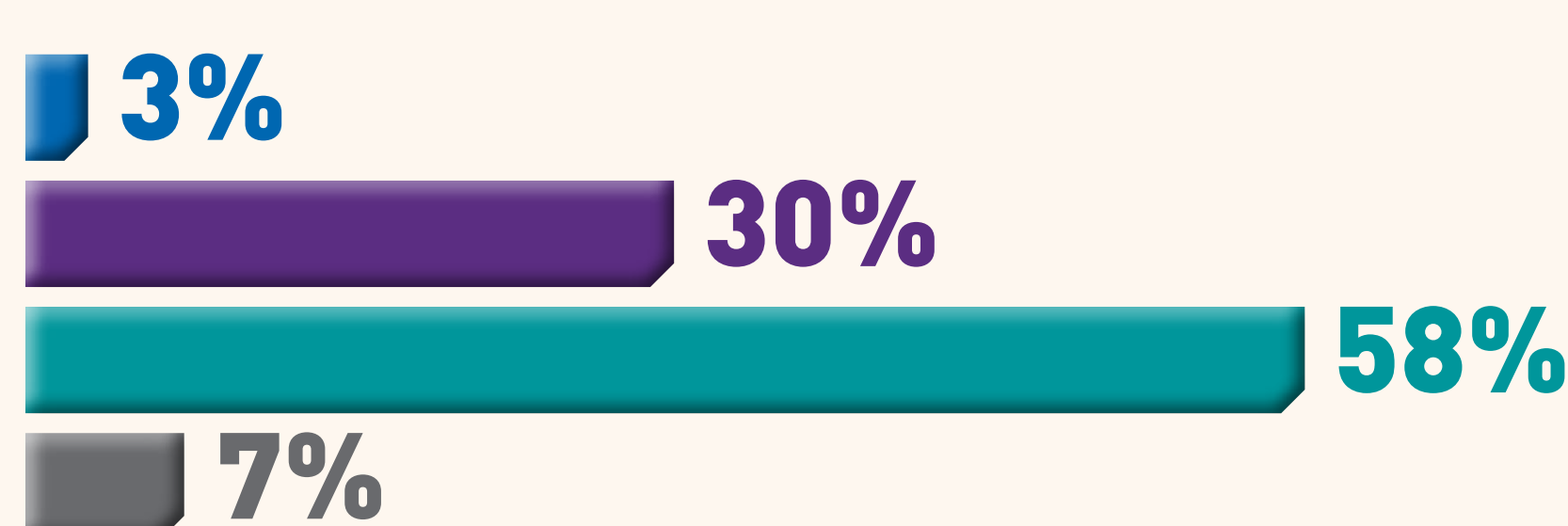
"I am confident that I can recognise the early signs of dementia."



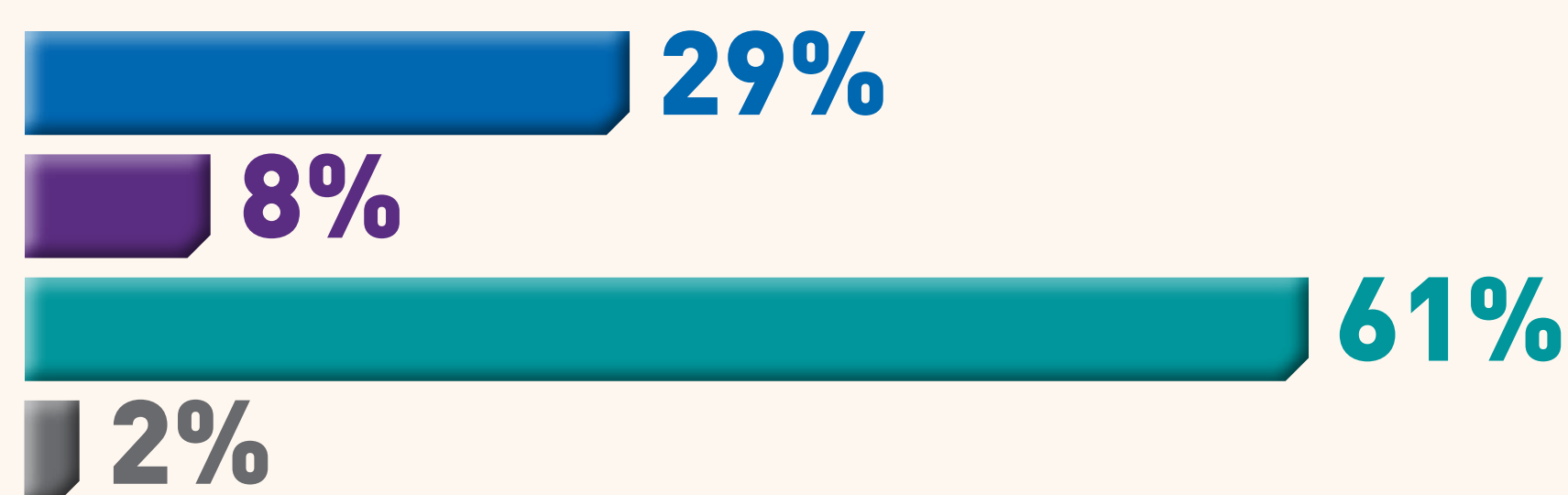
"I am confident that I can communicate effectively with someone with dementia."



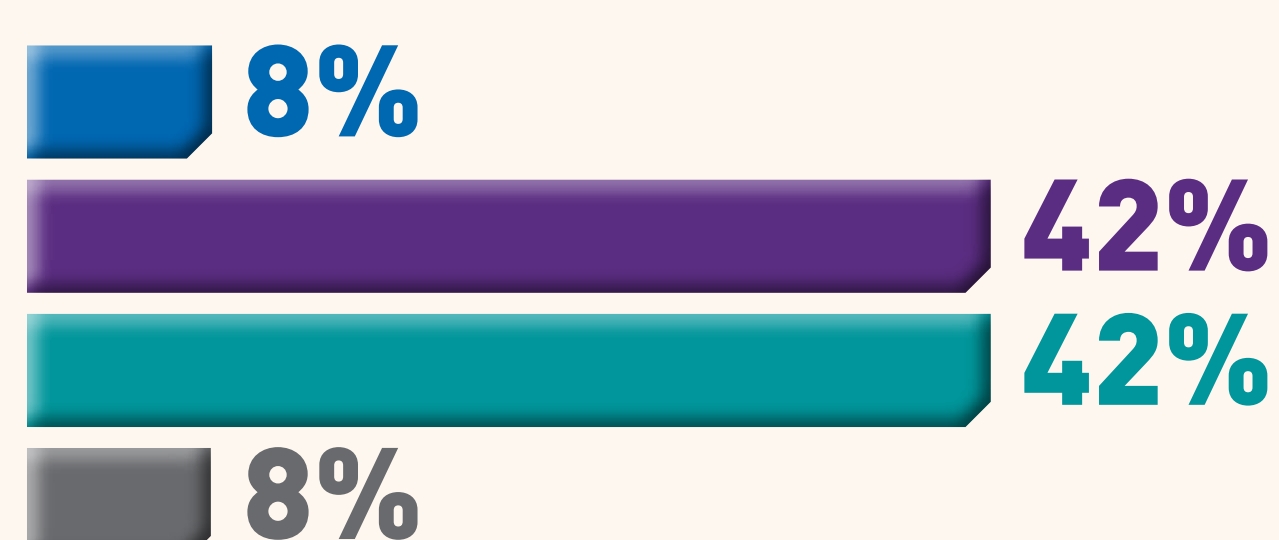
"I am confident that I can promote independence in someone with dementia."



"I understand why a person with dementia may act out of character."

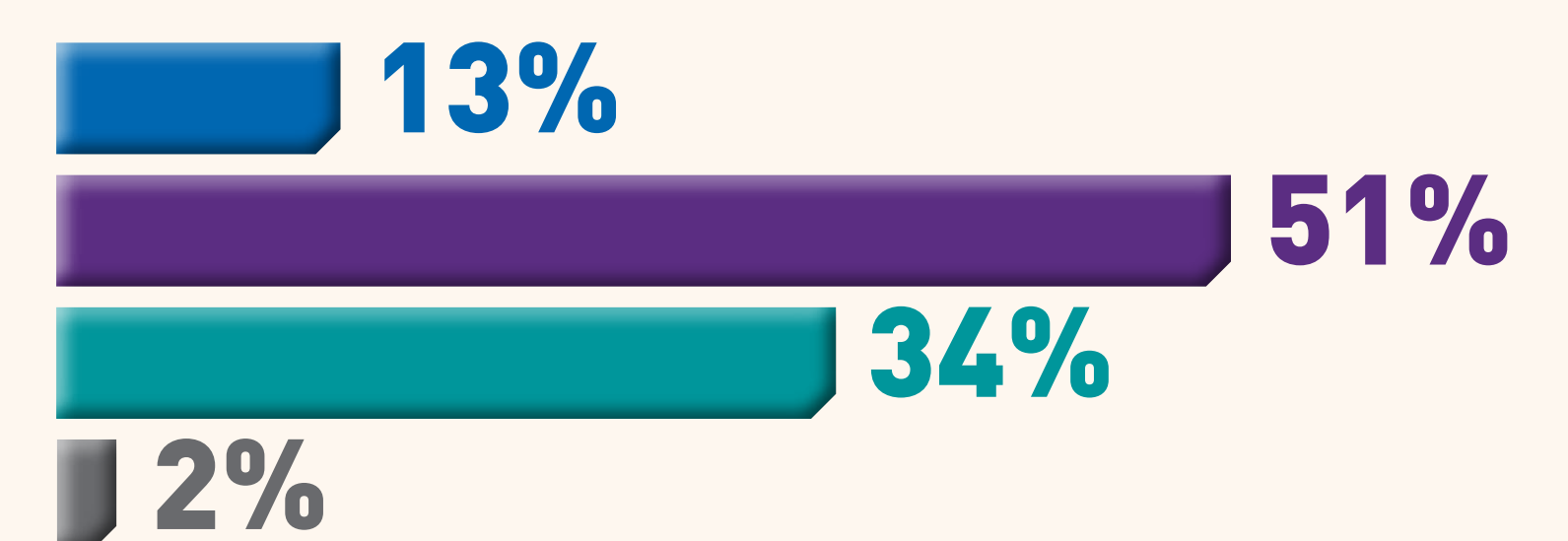


"I am confident that I know how to support the carer(s) of someone with dementia."

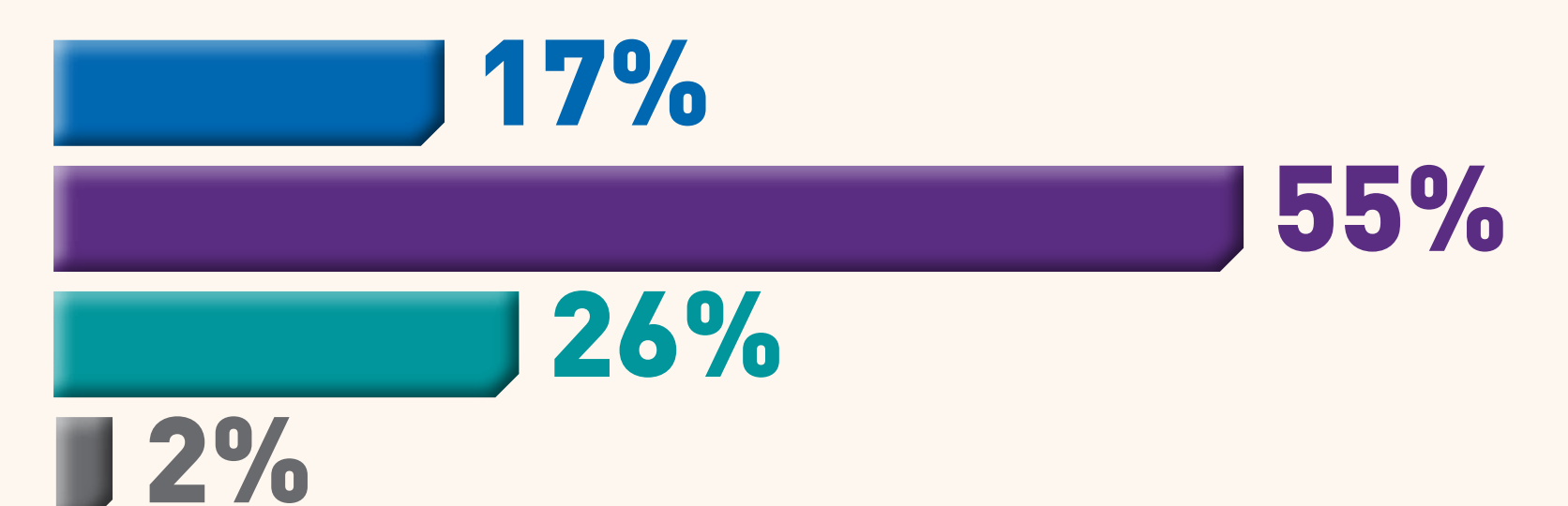


Staff Confidence to provide EOLC to PWD

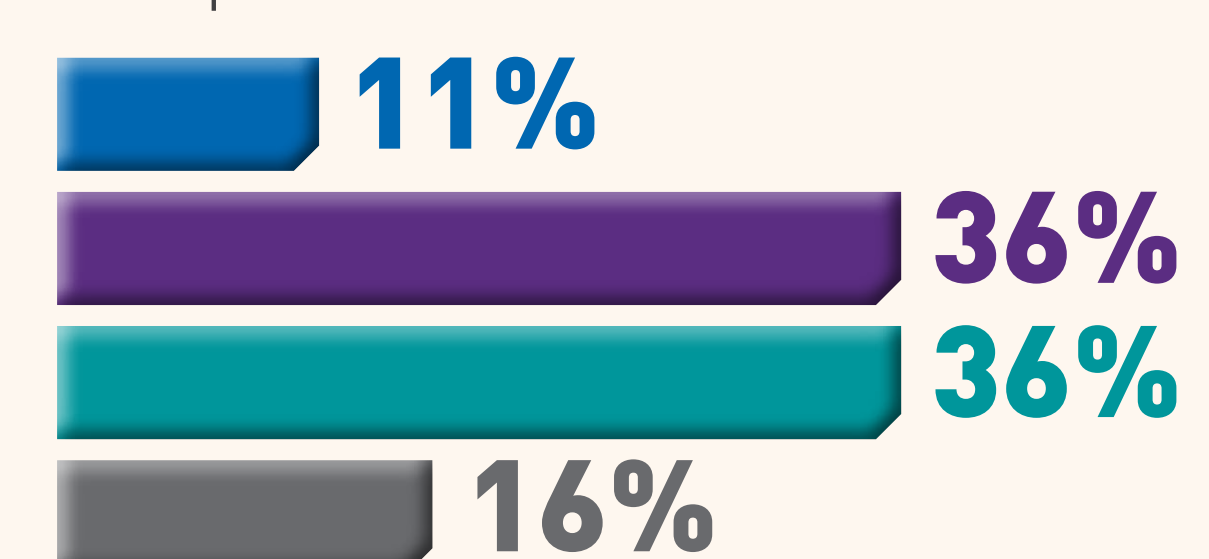
"I am confident that I can provide care and support to a person with dementia at the end of life."



"I am confident that I can provide care and support to the family carers of a person with dementia at the end of life."



"I am confident that I can advise other professionals about the management of the end of life care needs of a person with dementia."



CONCLUSION

The work identified:

- A reasonable basic understanding of how early dementia presents and how it may impact on care needs.
- A lack of confidence and perceived skills in providing EOLC for those with dementia.
- More education is needed to become truly dementia-friendly, particularly in end of life care, in order to support PWD in our local area.

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