

# **Patients and Health Policy**

April 22, 2007

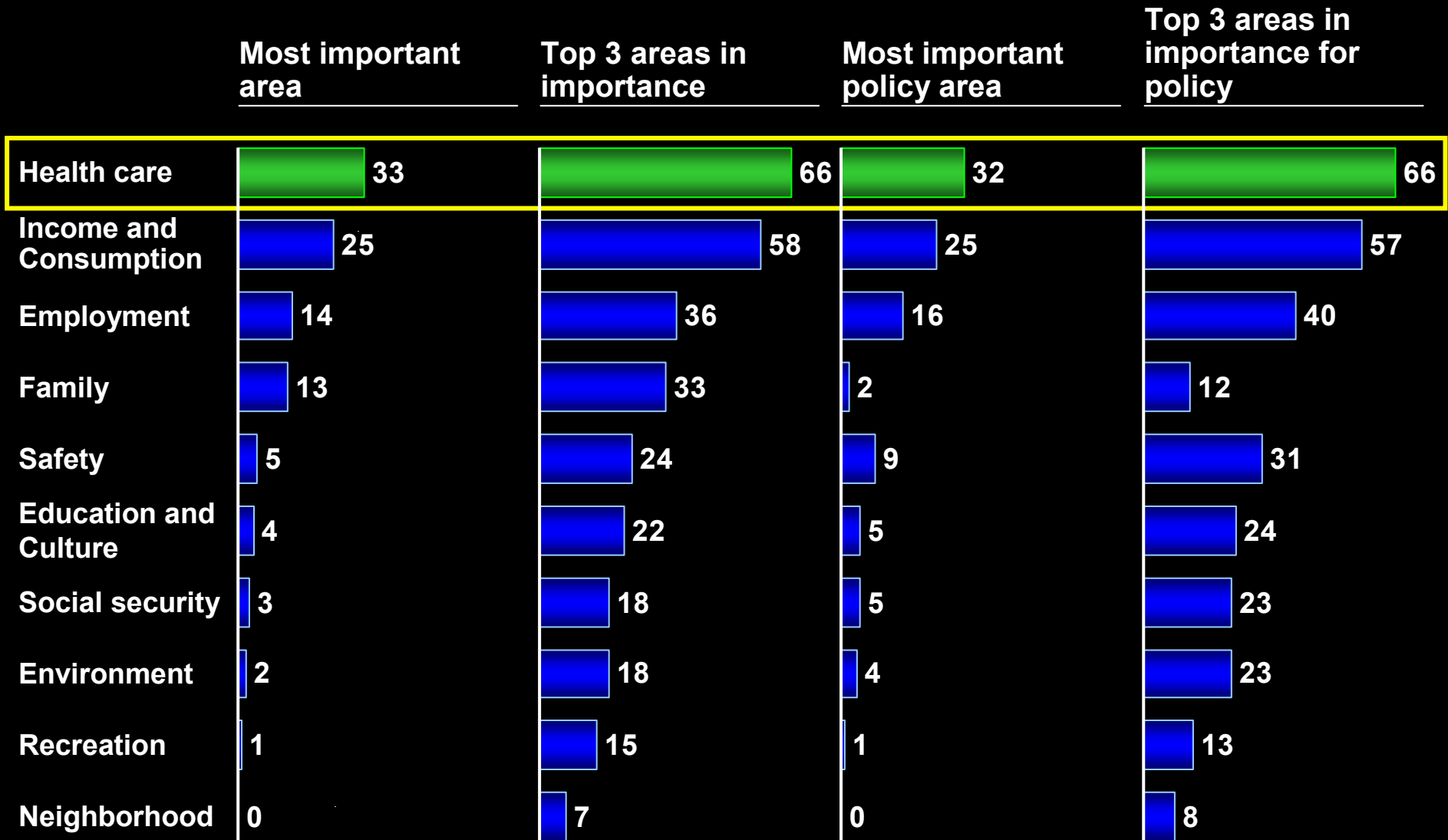
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# Public, most interested in health care

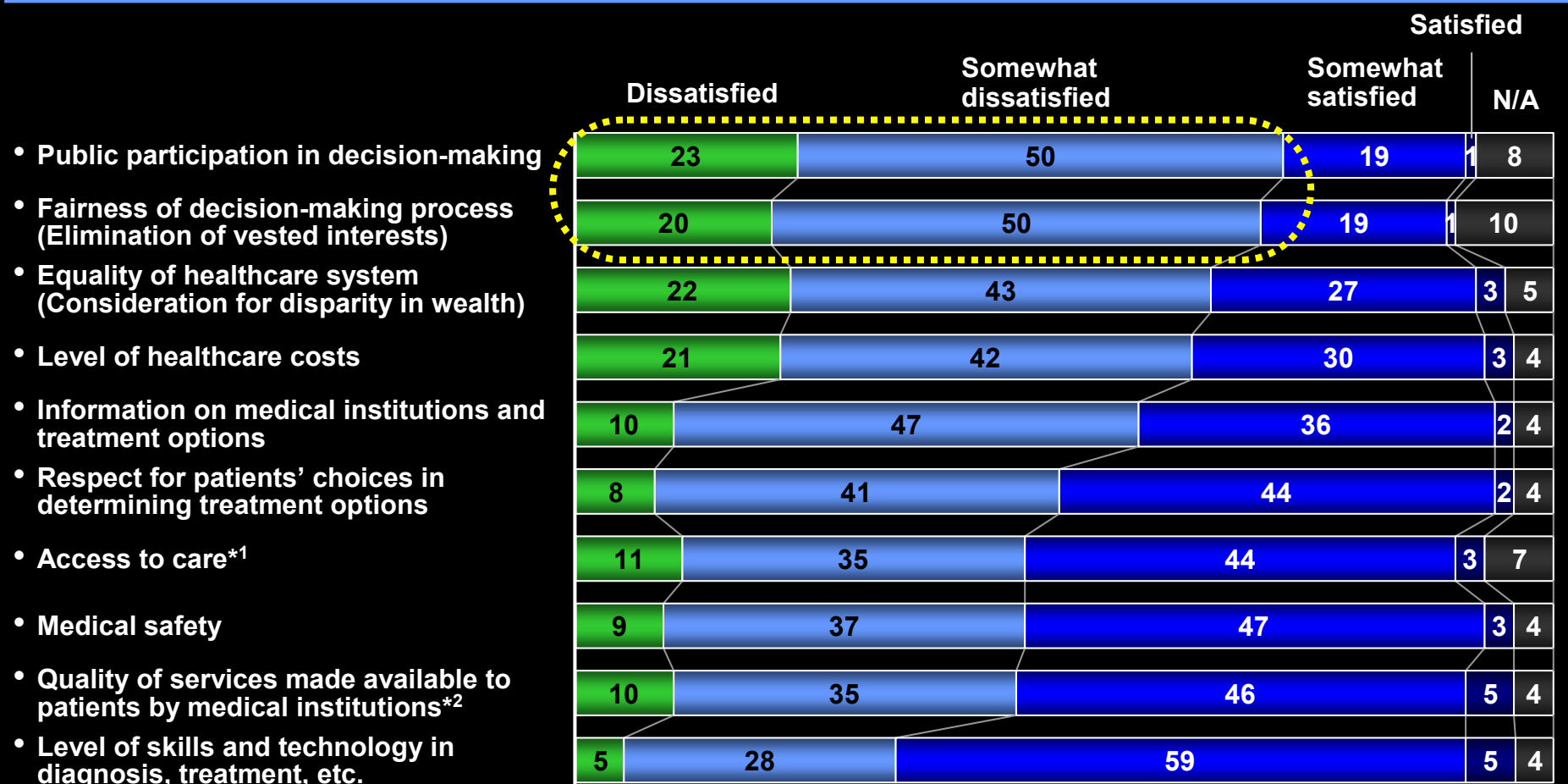
(%)



# The biggest dissatisfaction is decision making process

(%; January 2007; n=1,076\*)

How satisfied are you with the current healthcare system?



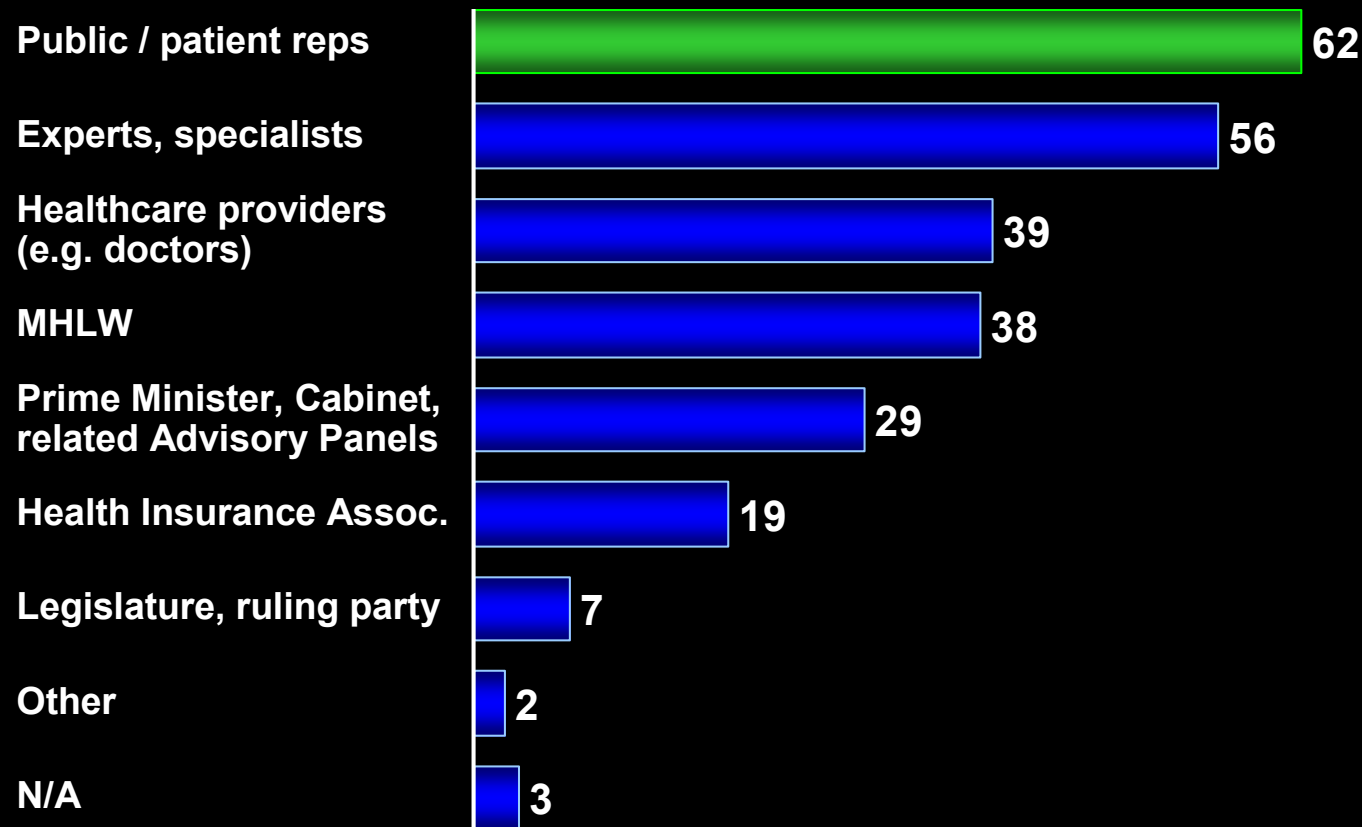
\*1 Non-medical services including responsiveness of employees, environment of medical institutions, waiting time

\*2 Possibility of receiving medical care at the medical institution and the timing of one's choice

# Public/patient representatives selected as the group to lead healthcare reform

(%; January 2007; n=1,076\*)

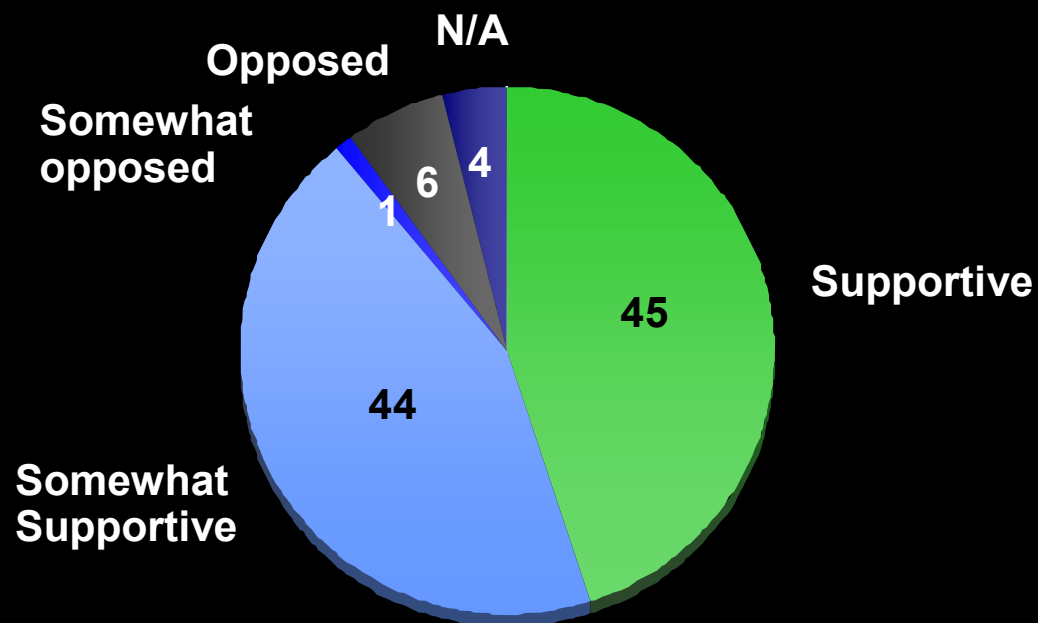
Who do you think should lead the decision-making in national healthcare system reforms? (Up to 3)



# 90% of Japanese public seek mandatory public and patient representation in government healthcare committees

(%; January 2007; n=1,076\*)

What is your view of the opinion that it should be made mandatory for national and local councils on the healthcare system to include citizens and patient representatives?



# Stakeholders place the most hope on patients for reform

(Scores from 1-3\*; Oct. 5, 2004)

■ #1 Expectancy  
■ #2 Expectancy

Who?

For Whom?

	Decision-makers	Healthcare providers	Patient supporters	Medical journalists	Medium
Legislature	1.8	1.9	1.6	1.5	1.7
Government	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.9	1.9
Healthcare providers	2.4	2.4	2.3	1.9	2.3
Patients, medical consumers	2.1	2.2	2.5	2.9	2.4
Medical fee payer	2.0	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.5
Media	2.2	2.1	1.7	2.3	2.1

\* 0=No expectations, 1=Low expectations, 2=Moderate expectations, 3=High expectations

Source: Questionnaire for students, Healthcare and Social Policy Leadership Program, University of Tokyo

# Cancer Patients driving reforms

Coalition of cancer patient advocacy groups



Balanced billing  
(Cabinet Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy)



Unapproved drug committee



National cancer patients gathering



Debate between ruling and opposition parties on  
cancer information center



Establishment of cancer information center



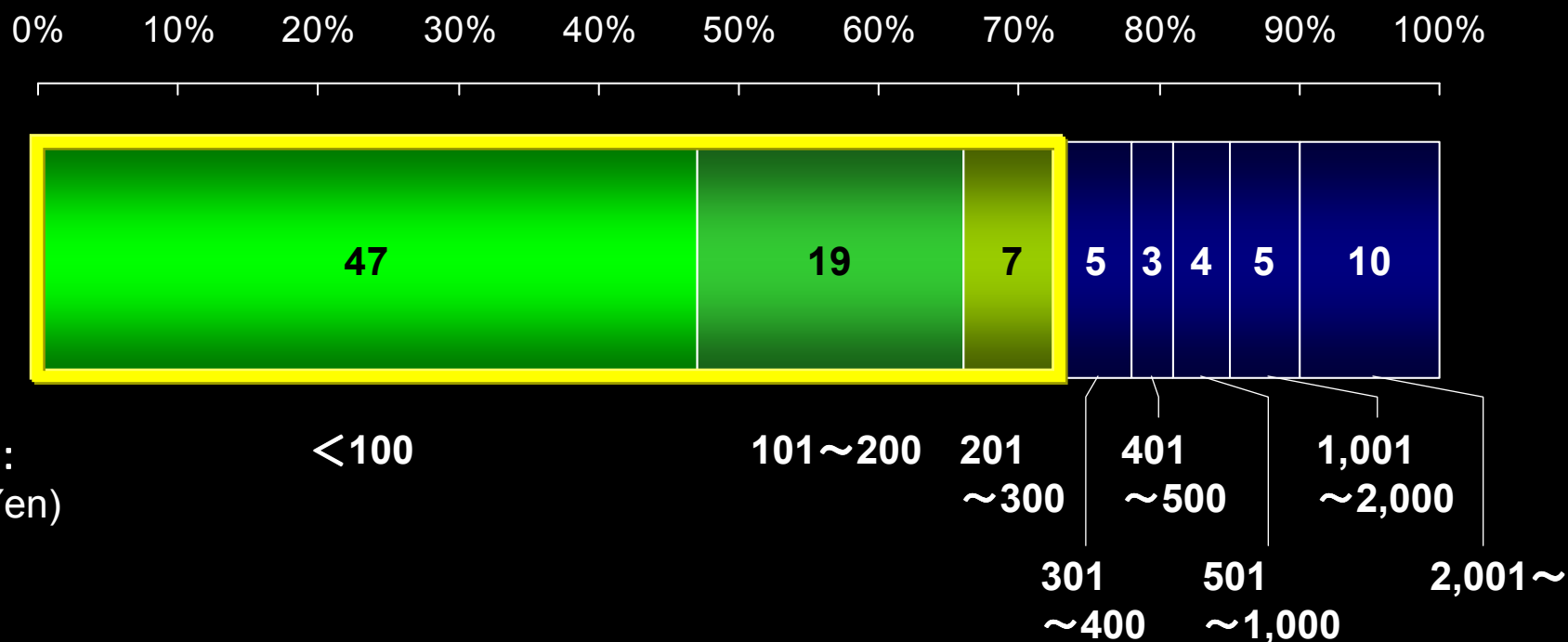
Enactment of Basic Cancer Law



⋮

# 73% of patient organizations have annual budget of under 3 million Yen

(N=825)



**Budget:**  
(10,000Yen)

<100

101~200

201  
~300

301  
~400

401  
~500

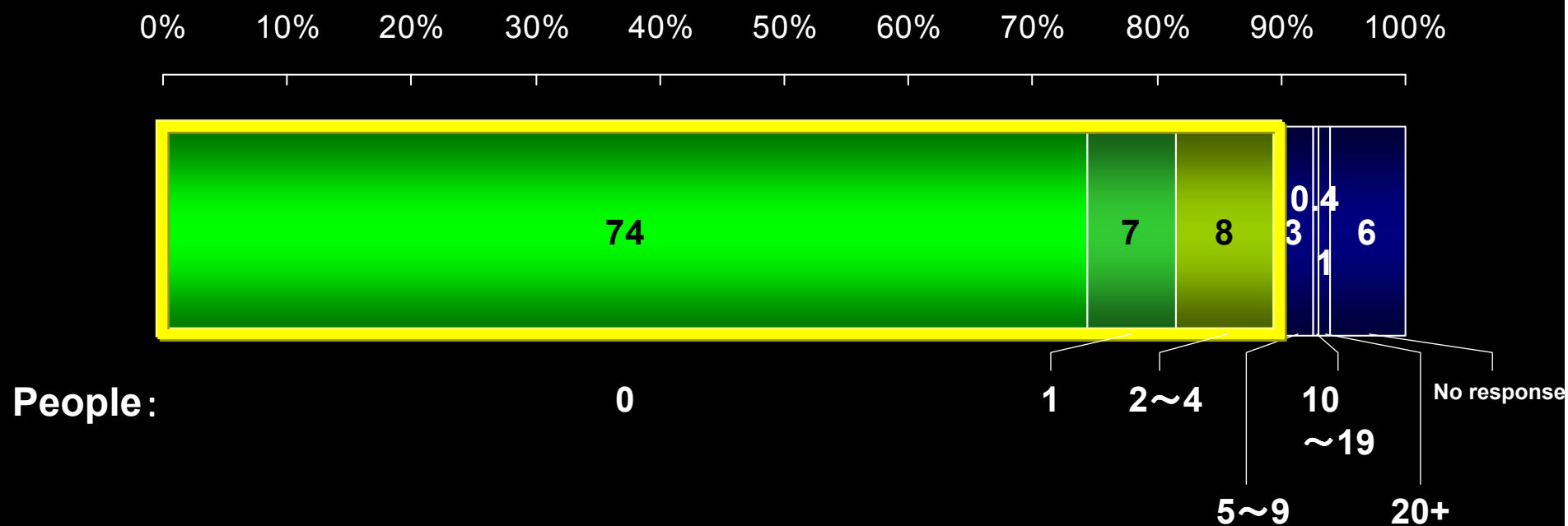
501  
~1,000

1,001  
~2,000

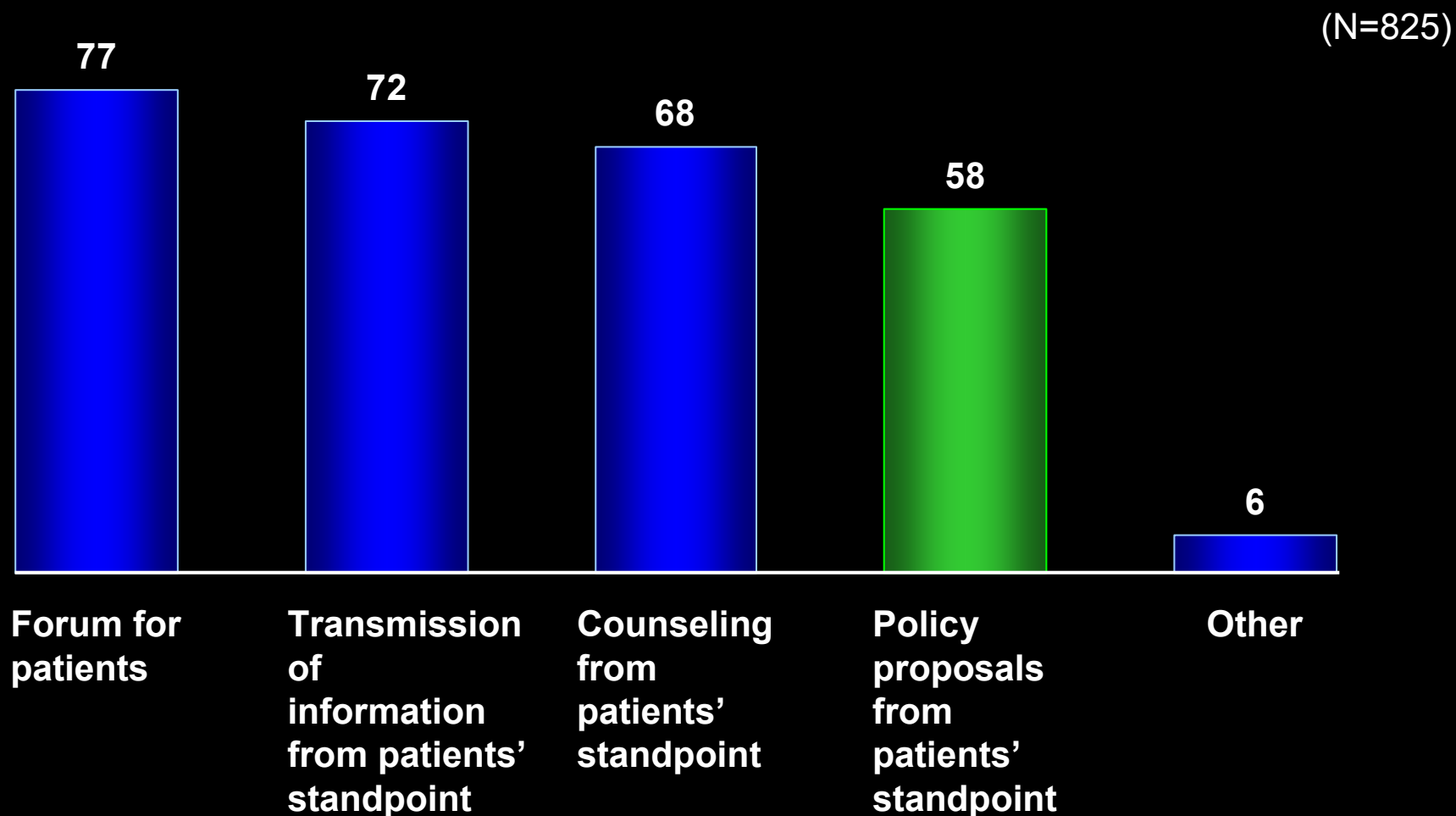
2,001~

# 74% of patient organizations have no full-time paid staff

(N=825)

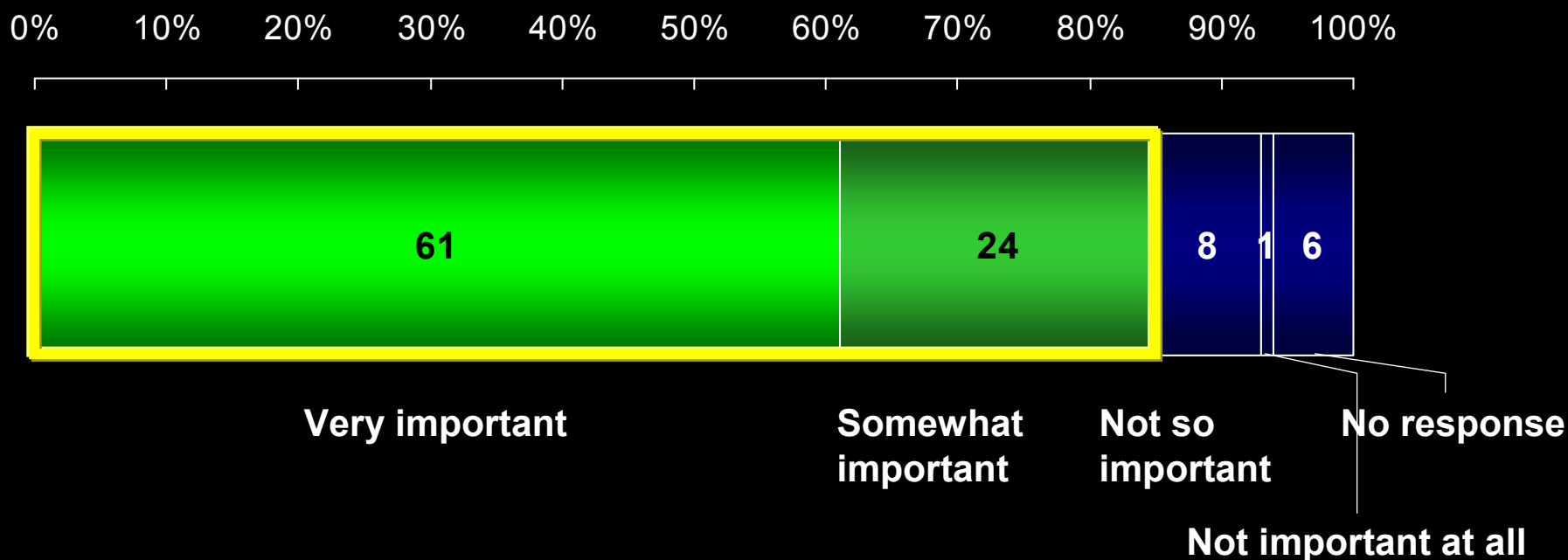


# Advocacy becoming a high priority for patient organizations



# 85% of patient organizations believe “cross-disease collaboration on healthcare reform is important”

(N=825)



# **Kanjakai.org: Health Policy Institute's platform to support patient organizations**

(Launch in Sep.2007 (planned))

- **“Patient surveys on health policy” in cooperation with patient organizations**
  - **“Cancer Refugees” estimation survey**
  - **Survey of coronary heart disease patients’ policy needs**
  - **Collaboration with major patient advocacy groups, in strokes and diabetes**
- **Strengthen management capabilities of patient organizations**
  - **Information infrastructure to connect patient organizations with patients nationwide**
  - **Management education for patients leaders**
- **Connecting patient organizations to health policy community**
  - **Appraisal of patient organization credibility**
  - **Dissemination of advocacy positions**

# Conclusion

- Health care as the most important policy area of the Japanese public
- “Patients” expected to drive health policy reform
- Success cases existing: cancer patients
- Patient organizations lack impact due to
  - Lack of funds (73% with budget under 3 mil yen/year)
  - Lack of full-time staff (74% with no paid staff)
- Emergence of coalitions for advocacy and reform
- Need to establish a platform to empower patient organizations