

DID YOU SMOKE? A TEN YEAR PERSPECTIVE OF LUNG CANCER PATIENTS AND STIGMA

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BACKGROUND

The presence of lung cancer stigma is well documented in the scientific literature (Chapple et al, 2004; Chambers et al, 2012; Marlow et al, 2015) and has been shown to impact the care and treatment of lung cancer survivors (Tod et al. 2008; Carter-Harris et al 2014).

In 2008, a large survey of over 200 patients, 200 oncologists, and 1000 members of the general population revealed that most respondents believed lung cancer was principally caused by external factors, was preventable, and that lung cancer patients were at least partly to blame for their illness (Weiss et al. 2014; Weiss et al. 2017).

We sought to understand whether perceptions in the three distinct groups have changed over the last decade with the advent of screening, increased advocacy and a changing treatment paradigm. These are the results of the patient survey

METHODS

Along with 1001 members of the general public, and 206 oncologists, 208 patients with lung cancer were surveyed with the identical instrument from the 2008 survey. Five to fifteen additional questions were added at the end of the patient questionnaire, including the strongest-loaded items from the validated Cataldo Lung Cancer Stigma Scale (Cataldo et al, 2011).

The survey was conducted by Russell Research by phone and online between June 6 and July 26, 2018 with the same methodology as the original study.

Statistical analysis was performed comparing 2008 and 2018 datasets using paired t-tests if normally distributed or Mann-Whitney U tests for continuous data and Chi-squared or Fisher's exact test for categorical data.

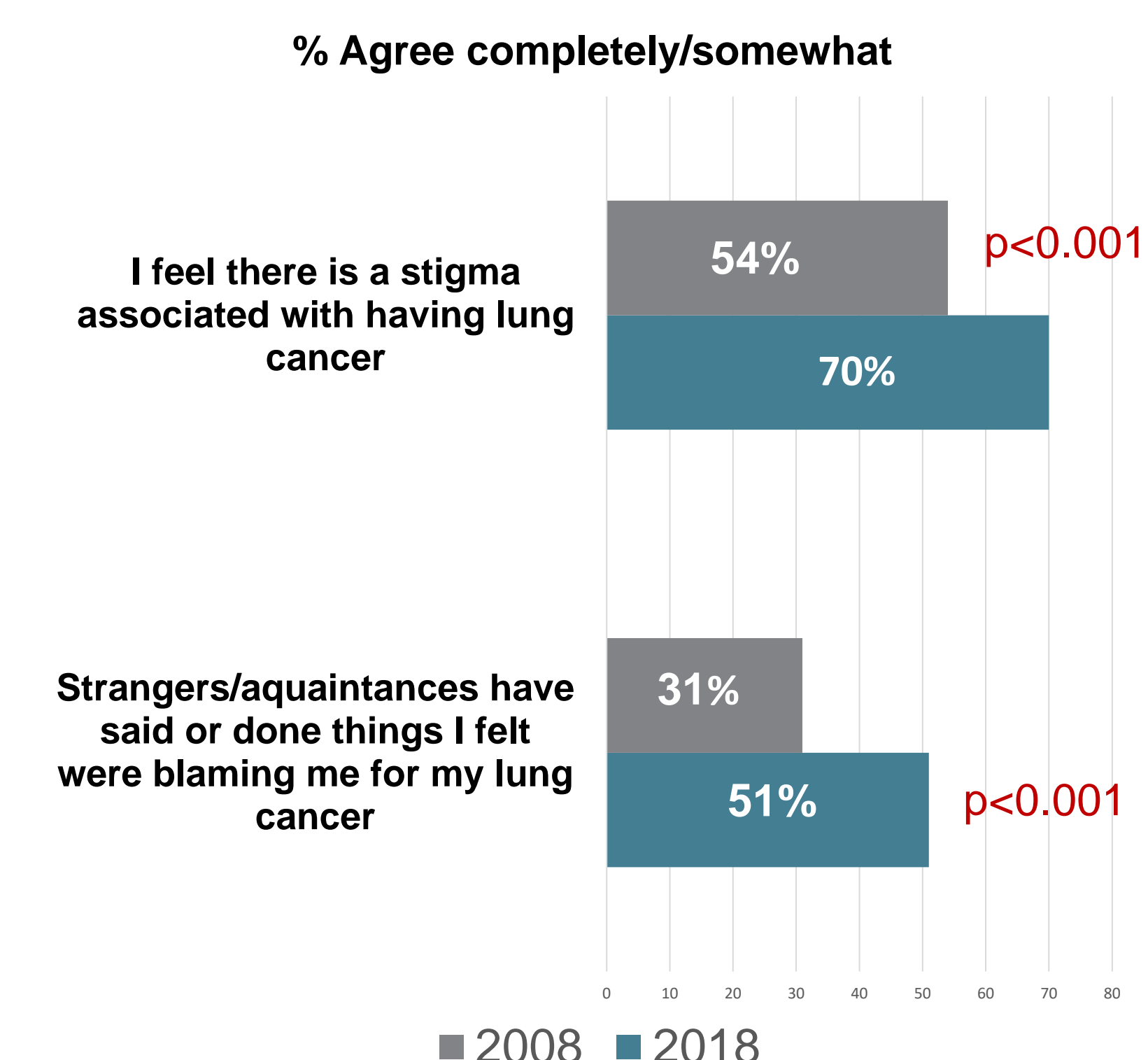
DEMOGRAPHICS AND CHARACTERISTICS

	2018 n=208	2008 n=204
Gender		
Female	50%	50%
Male	50%	50%
Mean age	58	61
Cancer stage		
Advanced (III & IV)	80%	83%
Ethnicity		
Caucasian	88%	95%
Smoking status		
Never smokers	31%	14%
Current smokers	16%	18%
Mean years smoked	28	29

RESULT: INCREASE IN STIGMA

Patients were asked to respond to the following statements and asked to respond according to a 5-point Likert scale that ranged from agree completely to disagree **completely**.

For most statements, **more patients felt stigmatized or blamed for their lung cancer compared to a decade ago**. p values in red indicate statistically significant changes.



RESULT: INCREASE IN STIGMA, CONT

Over half (51%) indicated strangers have said or done things that blame them for their cancer, up significantly from 31% in 2008.

One in four believed loved ones would be more supportive if they had a different type of cancer, up significantly from the 11% who felt this way in 2008.

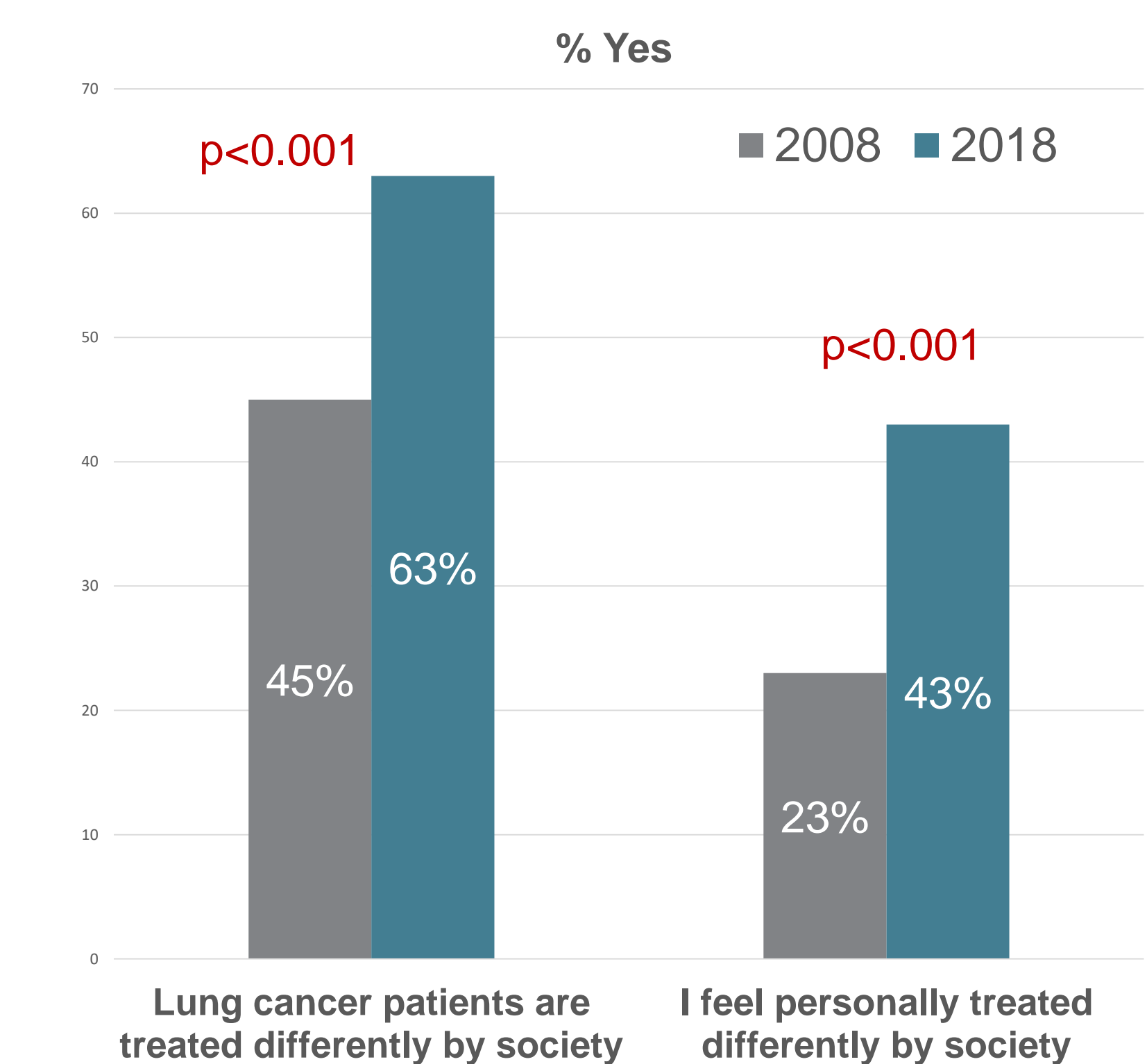
Nearly one third said that family/friends have said or done things that blame them for their lung cancer, up from 2008 although not significantly.

RESULTS: DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT

In 2018, significantly more patients answered yes to:

Do you feel that people with lung cancer are viewed or treated differently than people with other types of cancer by our society in general?

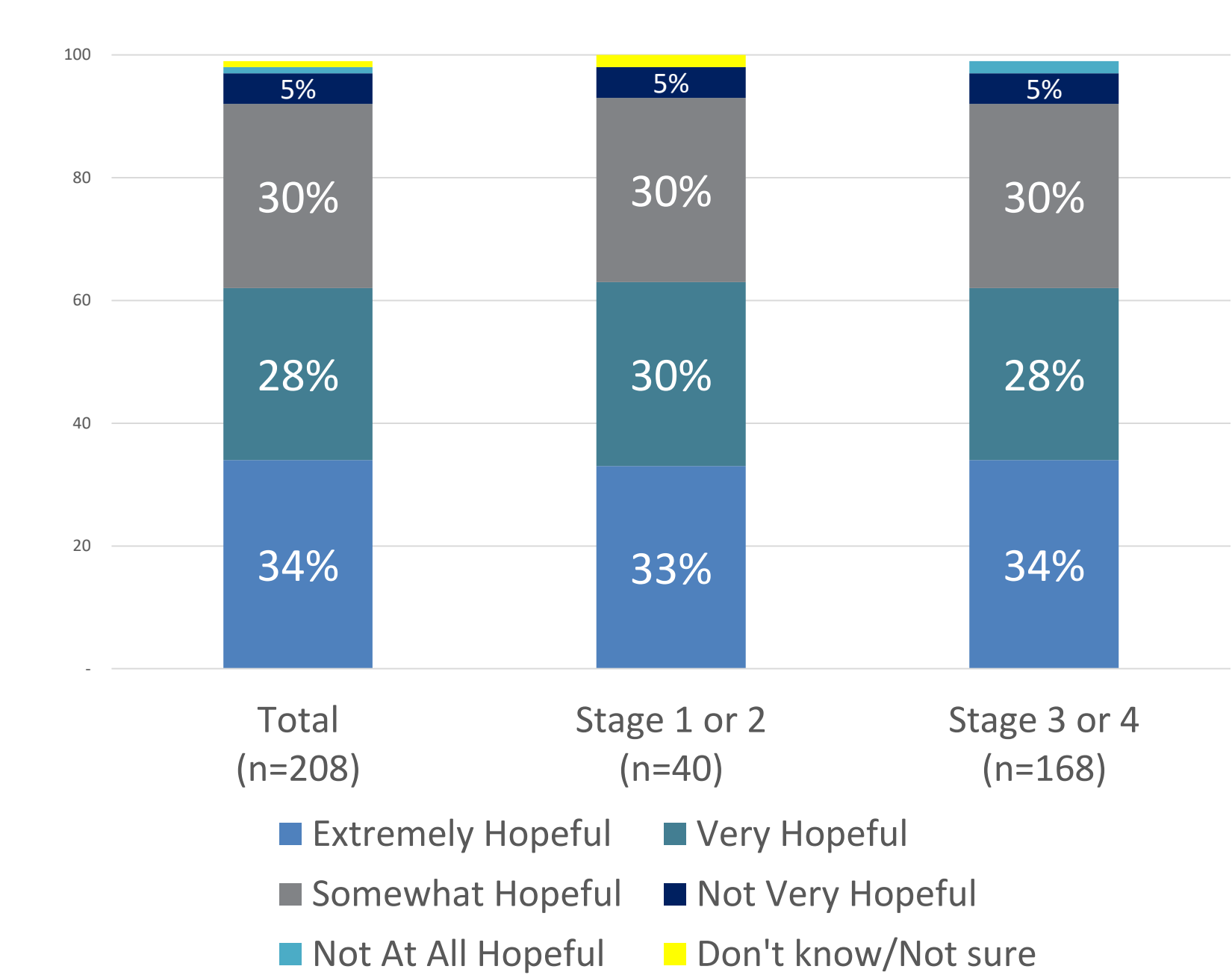
Do you feel that you, personally, have been viewed or treated differently by our society in general?



Of those who felt society treats lung cancer patients differently, **89% indicated the immediate association with smoking** as one of the reasons.

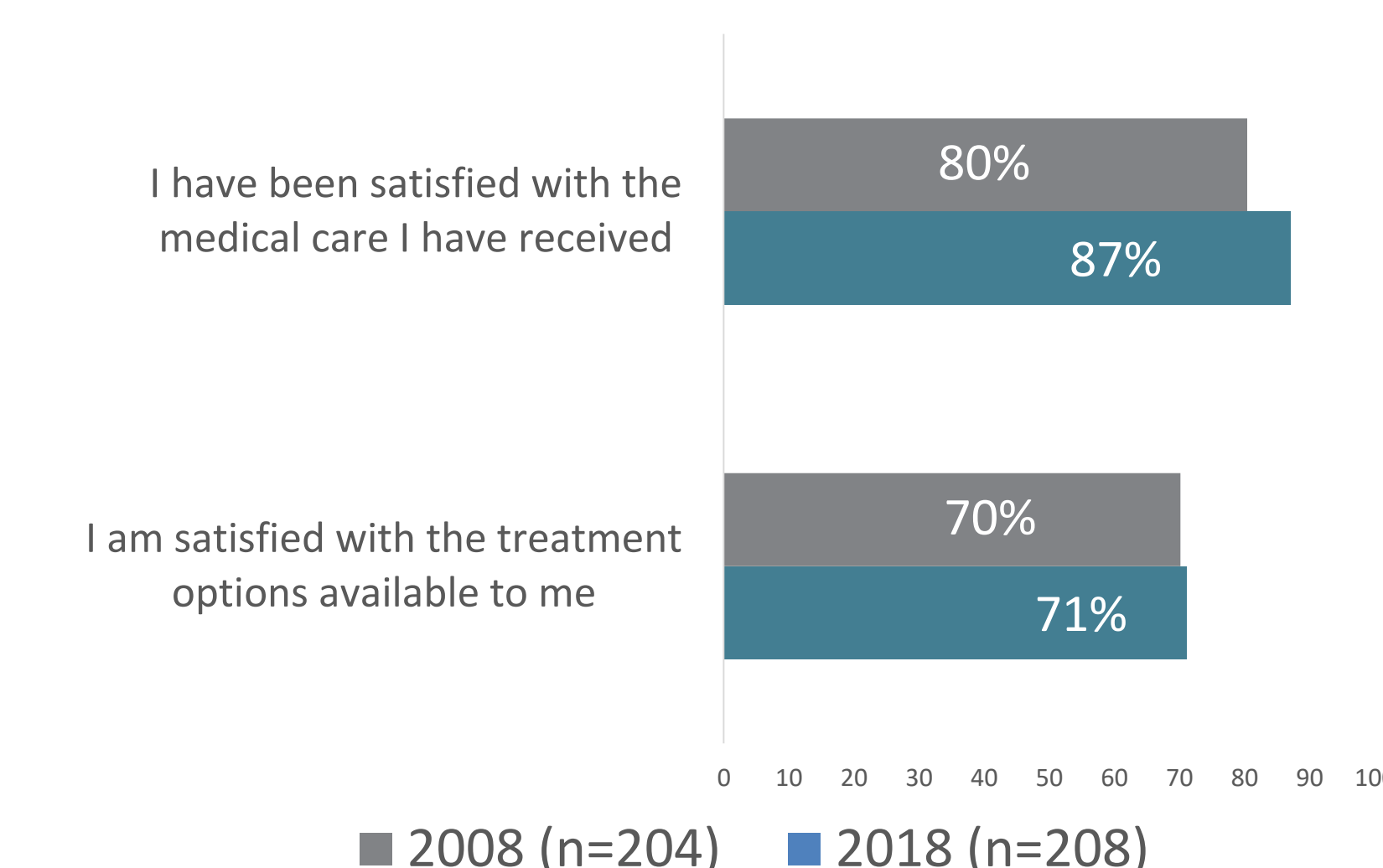
RESULTS: REASONS FOR HOPE

Asked only in 2018, two thirds of patients are hopeful about the future of prevention, early detection and treatment.



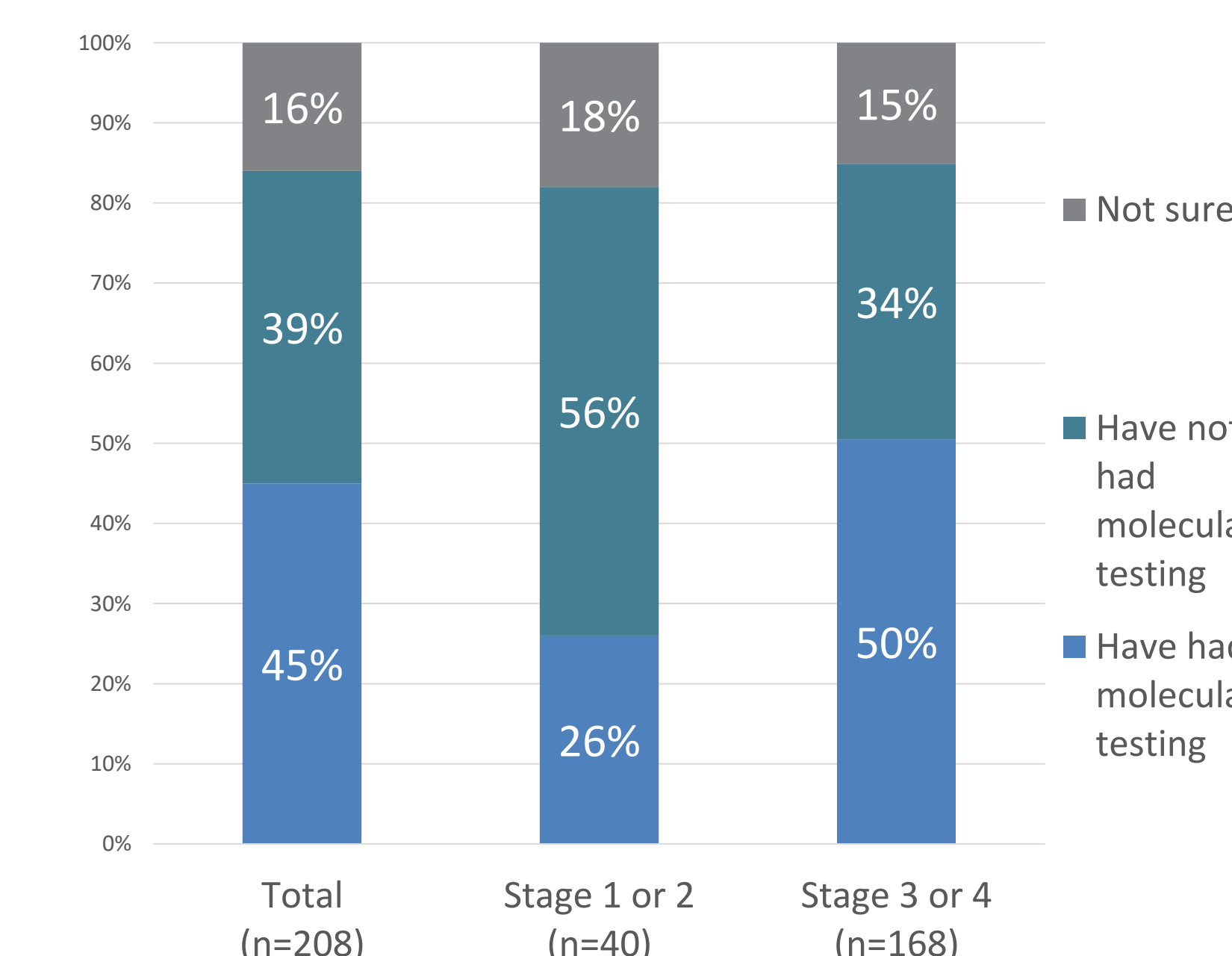
SATISFACTION

Patients remain satisfied with their medical care and treatment options.



MOLECULAR TESTING

Only asked in 2018, 45% reported their cancer had been tested and this was significantly more common in later stage patients.



CONCLUSIONS/FUTURE

After a decade of research progress in lung cancer, these data show that lung cancer stigma has increased amongst patients and they seem to feel it more acutely. This may be due to increased awareness of stigma and empowerment around the disease.

Additional analyses, including correlating responses to the validated Cataldo Lung Cancer Stigma Scale, are ongoing.

CALL TO ACTION

“There is a unique opportunity to be proactive rather than reactive in this arena. Successfully addressing stigma is an important step in fulfilling the promise to reduce the burden of lung cancer.”

- Hamann, Ver Hoeve, Carter-Harris, Studts, and Ostroff (J Thorac Oncol. 2018 Aug;13(8):1062-1075.)

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