

Results of the Belgian survey on sustainability in eyecare; Current measures and future opportunities

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on behalf of SOOS/BBO sustainability in Eye Care working group

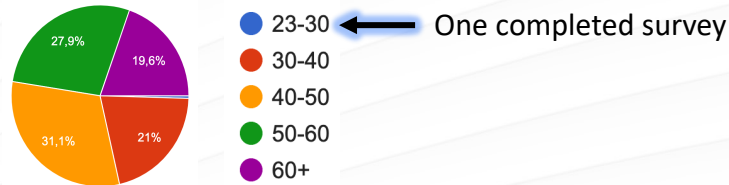
METHOD

- Digital questionnaire and reminder sent to all (~1000) Belgian Ophthalmologists in early 2023
- 219 questionnaires completed
- +/- 20% of Belgian ophthalmologist

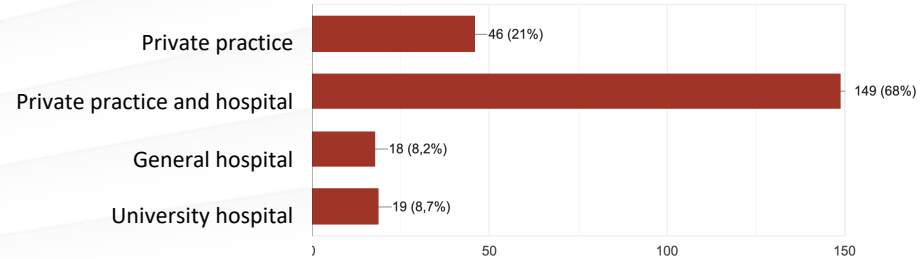
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- Koen Vermorgen: Glaukos (C)
- The remaining authors have no financial interests or relationships to disclose

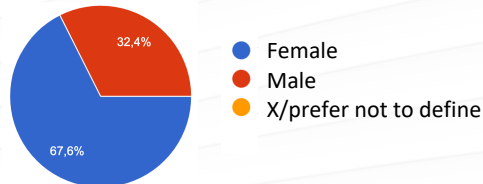
AGE DISTRIBUTION



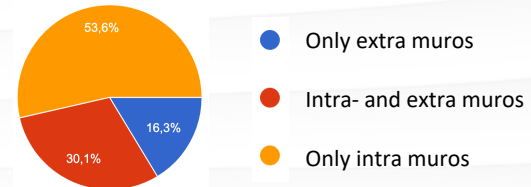
WHAT SETTING DO YOU WORK IN?



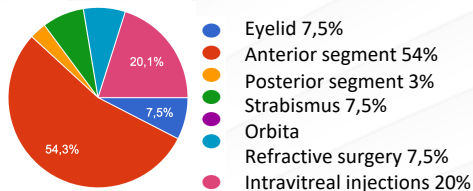
SEX DISTRIBUTION



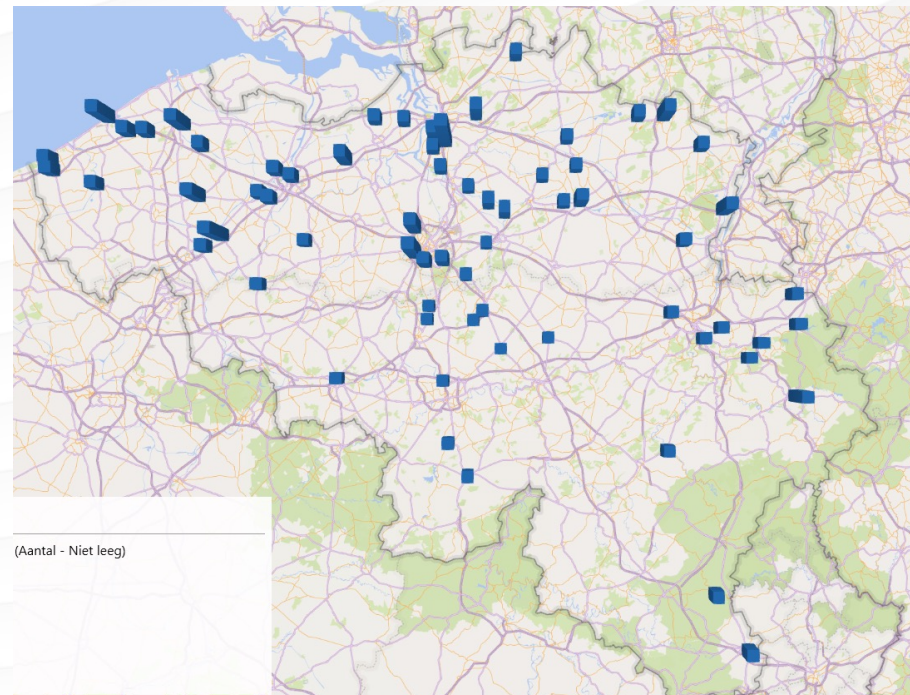
SETTING YOU OPERATE IN



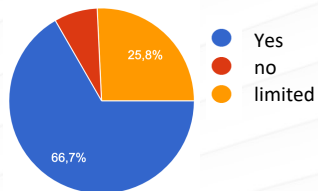
THE SURGERY YOU DO IS MOSTLY:



HEATMAP OF THE MAIN WORK LOCATION OF THOSE WHO COMPLETED THE QUESTIONNAIRE

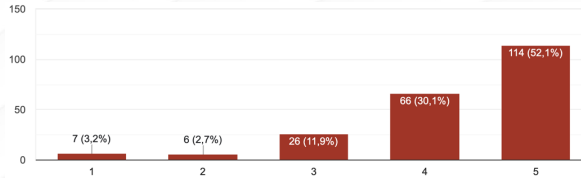


CAN YOU PARTICIPATE IN THE DECISIONMAKING PROCES FOR PROCURMENT OF NEW INSTRUMENTS/ MEDICATION FOR USE DURING OPERATIONS IN THE HOSPITAL YOU WORK IN?



IS CLIMATE CHANGE A PROBLEM AND WHAT IS THE ROLE OF HEALTHCARE?

- Urgent problem: **81,8%**.

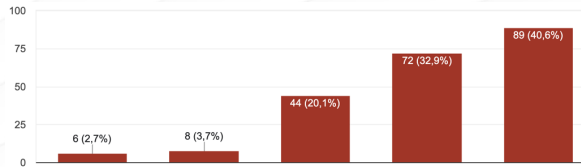


Legend:

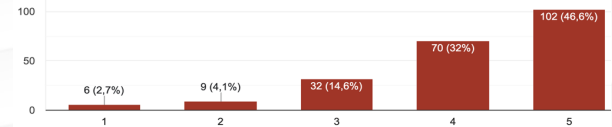
1: strongly disagree

5: strongly agree

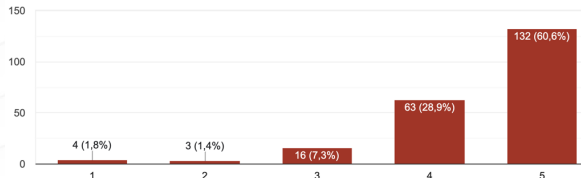
- Healthcare is partly responsible for climate change: **73,8%**



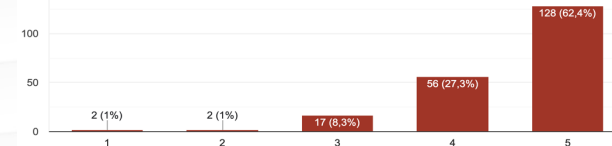
- 78% would like to have more info on measures that can be taken to reduce their impact on climate change during work.



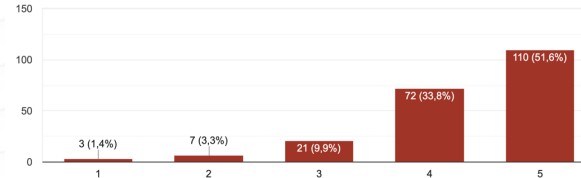
- Our quality of live will be negatively impacted: **89,2%**.



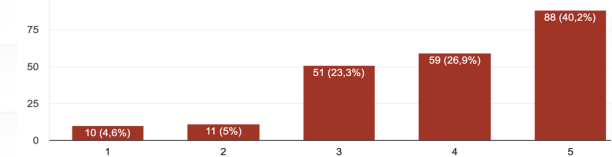
- 89,8% is willing to make changes in OR to reduce their waste production.



- 85,4% agrees there is wasted to much.



- 67,3% is willing to make changes, but fears problems with regulations.



WHAT MEASURES ARE CURRENTLY TAKEN?

- 86% sorting and recycling of waste
- 66% reusable instruments instead of single use
- 61% multidose eyedrops instead of unidose
- 30% energy production with solar panels
- 15% tele-consultation

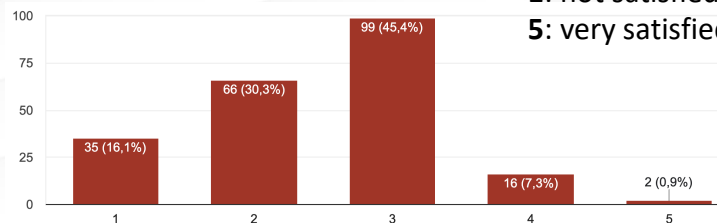
SUGGESTIONS FOR OTHER MEASURES?

E.g.:

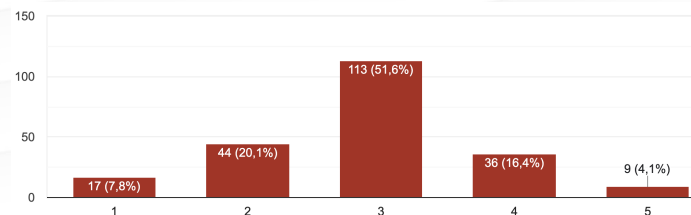
- Same day bilateral cataract surgery
- Compostable and less packaging
- Reducing content custompacks and size drapes
- Reusable operating gown
- Limiting care by home nurse to avoid trips by car

SATISFACTION WITH MEASURES TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABILITY TAKEN BY:

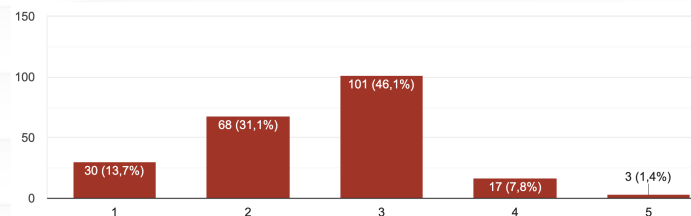
INDUSTRY



PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES



HOSPITAL MANAGEMENT



CONCLUSION

- A survey is not a good tool to get information from young ophthalmologists about their views on sustainability
- Survey results from 2023 show that a majority of Belgian ophthalmologists regard (health-related) climate change as an urgent issue
- The majority of ophthalmologists are willing to make changes to their current practices to become more sustainable
- Implementing these new practices is not always straightforward, with resistance sometimes felt from fear of litigation, colleagues, hygiene committees, hospital management, lack of government agency support, and unfavorable economic models
- Most ophthalmologists ask for more to be done by ophthalmic societies, industry and hospital management to make sustainability easier to implement