

MEDICARE DATA HUB

International Comparisons

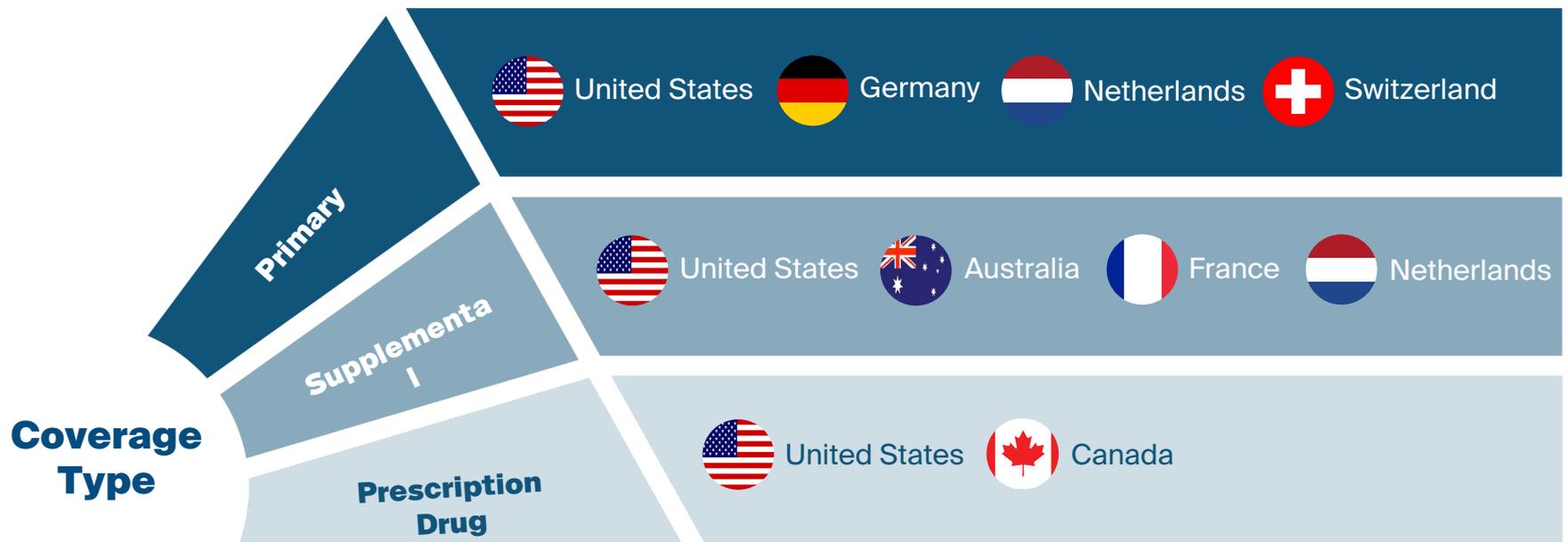
October 2021



The
Commonwealth
Fund

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

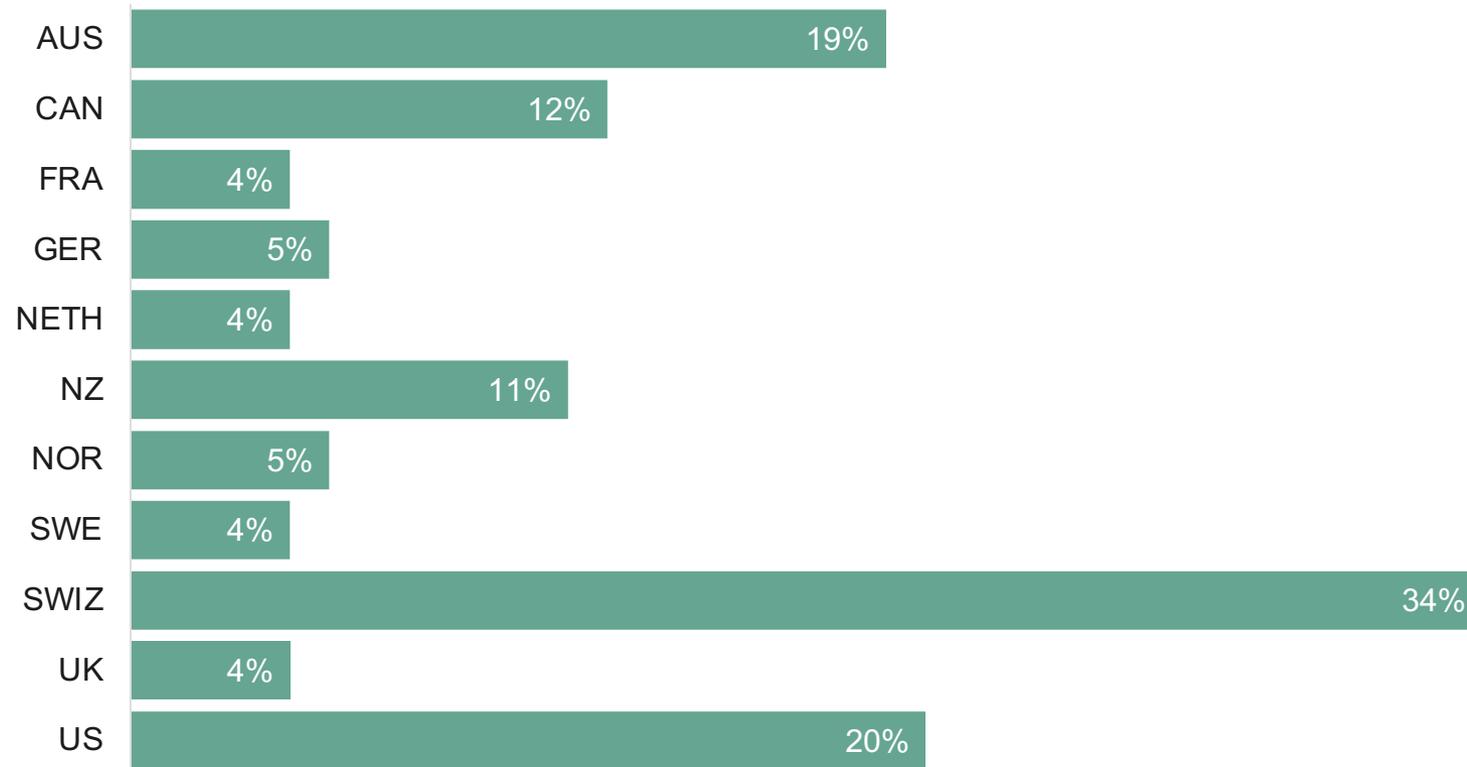
In the U.S. Medicare program, private plans offer primary, supplemental, and prescription drug–only coverage, similar to models of private plans in other countries.



INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS: AFFORDABILITY

A larger share of older adults in Switzerland, the United States, and Australia had high out-of-pocket health care costs compared to other high-income countries.

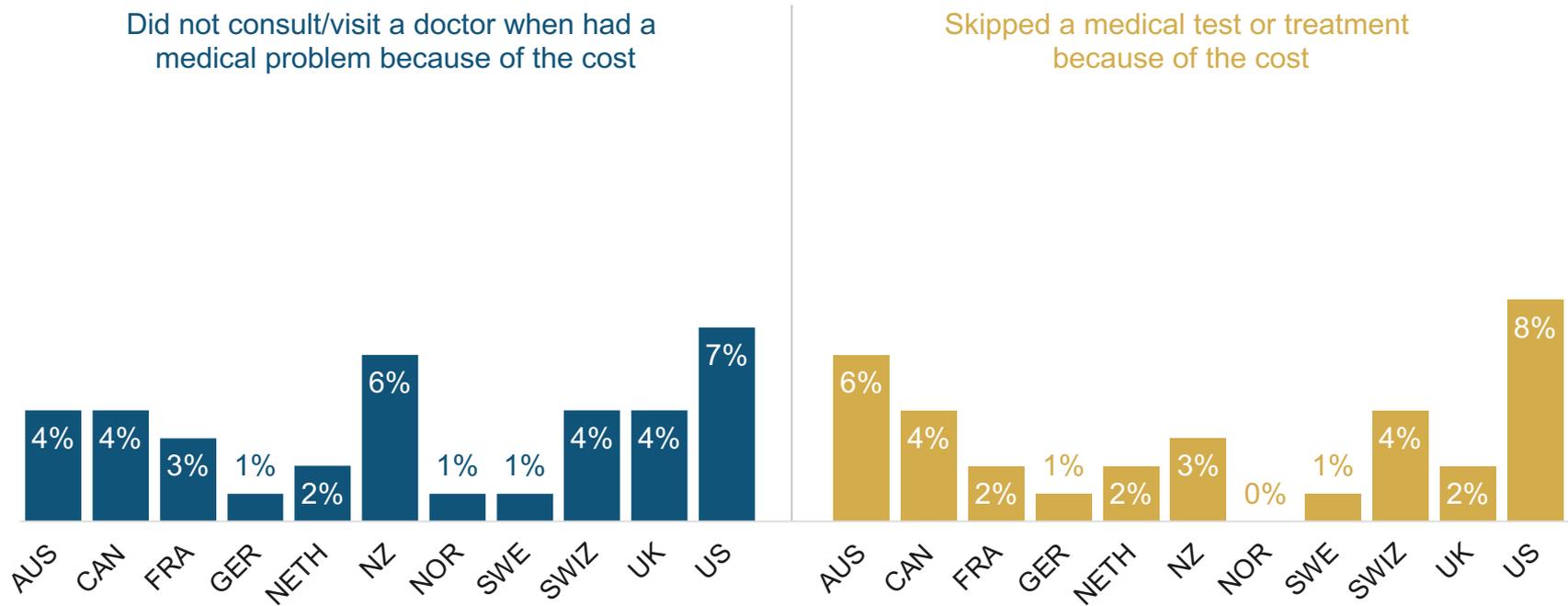
Percent of adults age 65+ who reported out-of-pocket costs of more than USD 2,000 in the past year, by country



INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS: AFFORDABILITY

Americans age 65 and older were more likely to report postponing or forgoing health care because of the cost than older adults in other high-income countries.

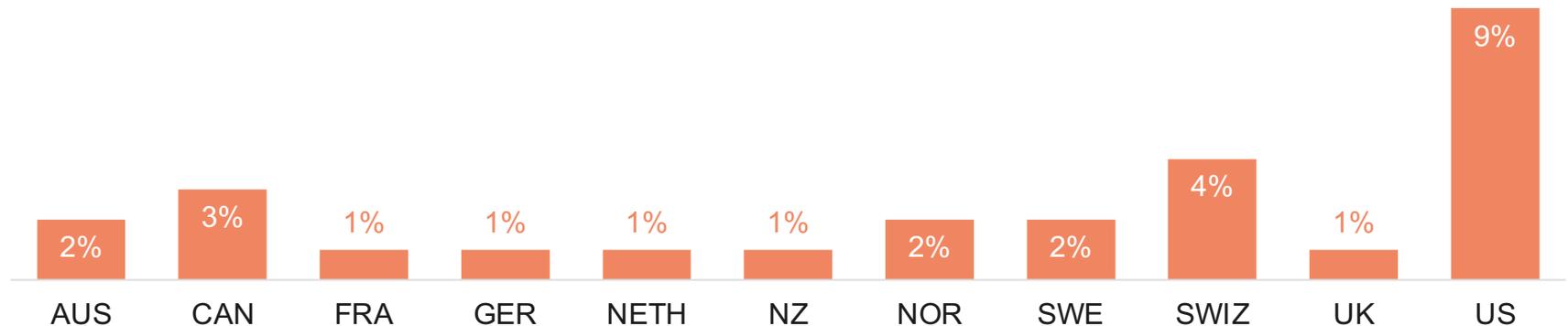
Percent of adults age 65+ who reported they skipped doctor visit or medical test/treatment in the past year because of the cost, by country



INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS: AFFORDABILITY

Americans age 65 and older were more likely to report not filling a prescription or skipping a medication dose because of the cost than older adults in other high-income countries.

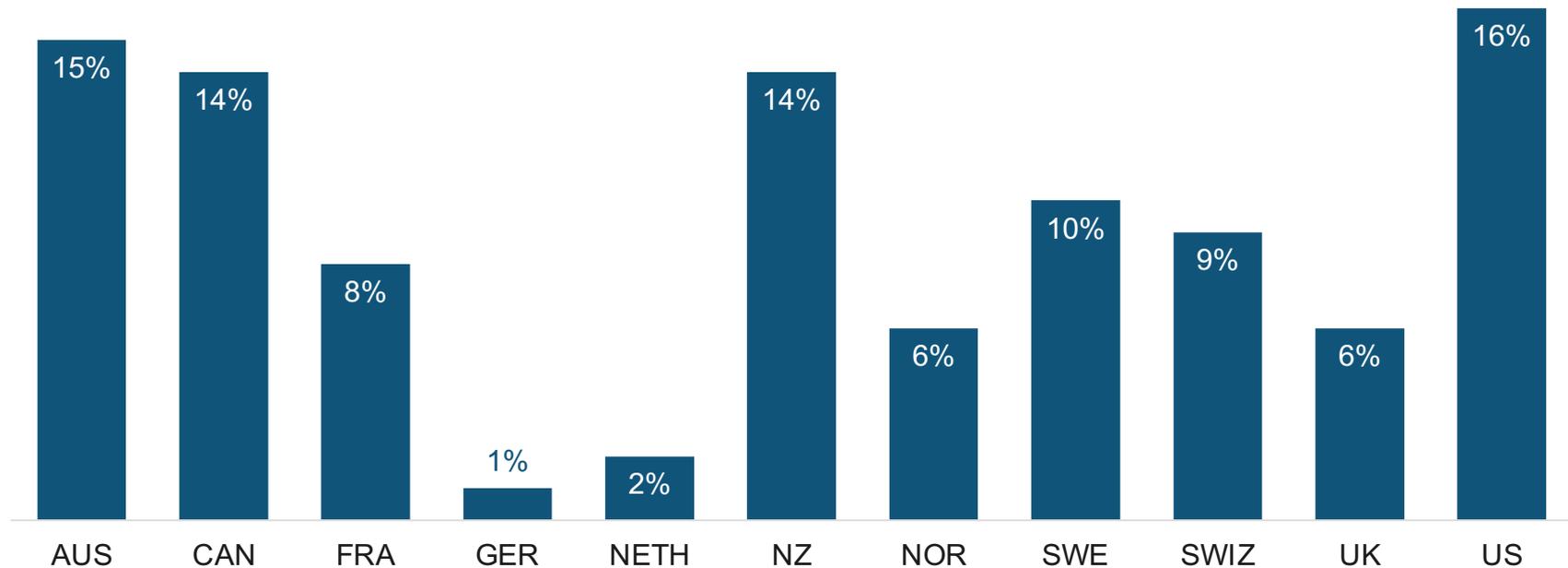
Percent of adults age 65+ who reported they did not fill a prescription or skipped a dose of medication in the past year because of the cost, by country



INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS: AFFORDABILITY

About one of six older adults in the United States, Australia, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand reported skipping a dental visit because of the cost.

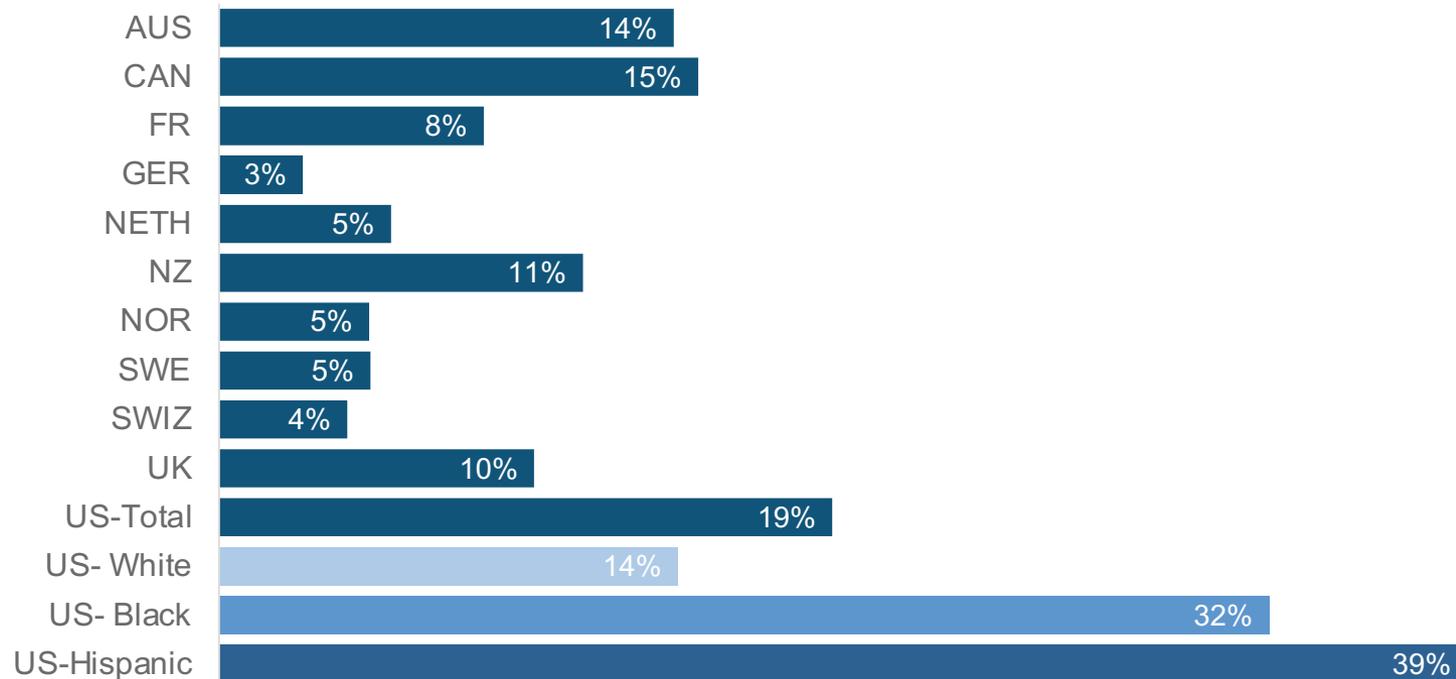
Percent of adults age 65+ who reported they did not visit the dentist in the past year because of the cost, by country



INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS: COVID-19

More older adults in America, especially Black and Hispanic adults, reported negative economic consequences because of the pandemic compared to those in other countries.

Percent of adults age 65+ who reported either using up all or most of their savings or losing job/source of income because of the coronavirus pandemic



Older adults with multiple chronic conditions in the U.S. reported the highest rates of cancelling or postponing medical appointments because of the pandemic compared to those in other countries.

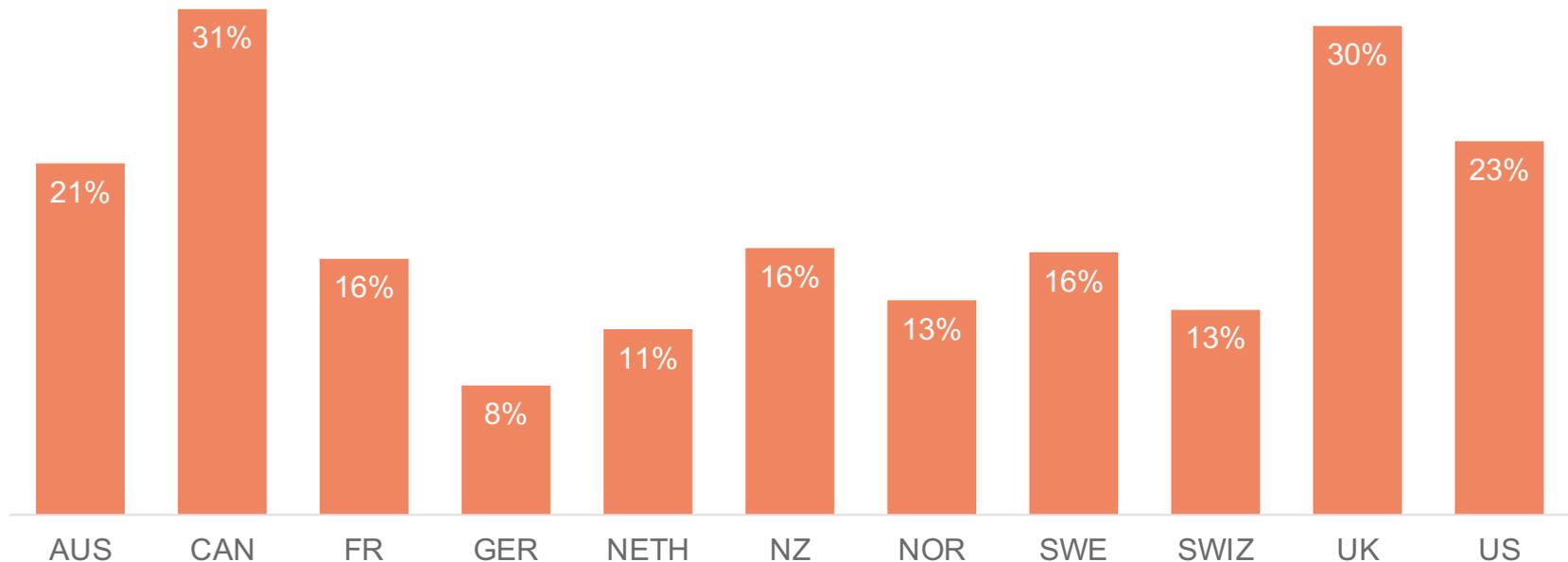
Percent of adults age 65+ with at least two chronic conditions



INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS: COVID-19

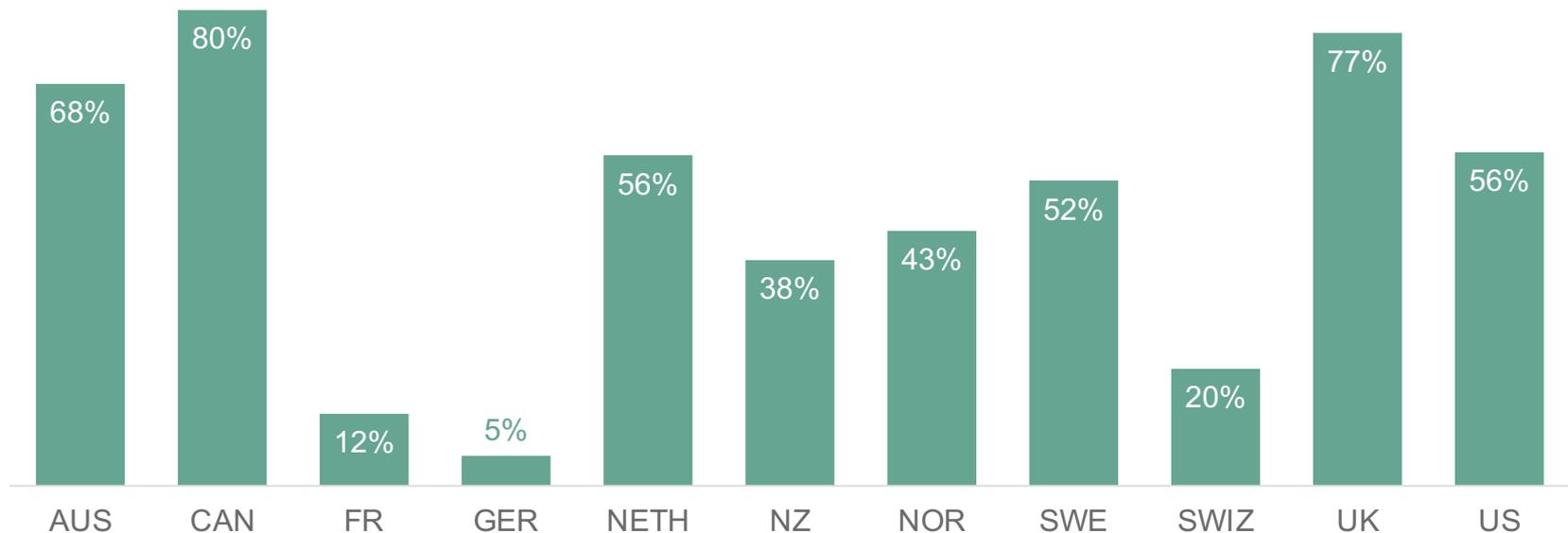
Among older adults who need help with daily activities, those in Canada, the U.K., the U.S., and Australia reported the highest rates of not receiving needed help because services were cancelled or very limited due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Percent of adults age 65+



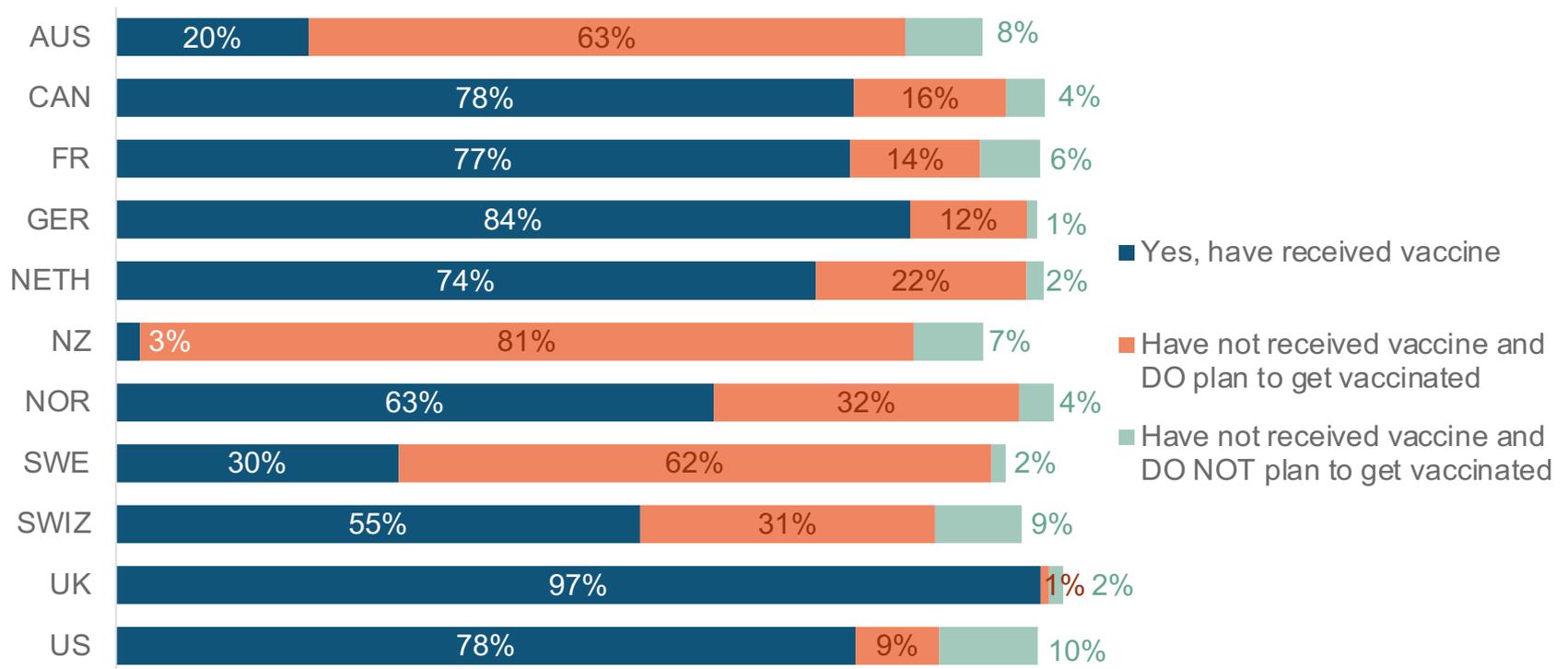
Older adults with multiple chronic conditions in Canada, the U.K., Australia, the U.S., the Netherlands, and Sweden reported higher rates of telephone or video appointments with health care professionals in the past year compared to those in other countries.

Percent of adults age 65+ with at least two chronic conditions



COVID-19 vaccination rates are high among older adults where vaccines are available. Among the unvaccinated, American older adults report the highest rates of planning to not get vaccinated.

Percent of adults age 65+



Notes: “Not sure” responses not shown. Differences between US and all other surveyed countries except CAN, FRA, and NETH for “yes, have received vaccine” were statistically significant at the $p < 0.05$ level. Differences between US and all other surveyed countries for “have not received vaccine and DO plan to get vaccinated” were statistically significant at the $p < 0.05$ level. Differences between US and all other surveyed countries except AUS, NZ, and SWIZ for “have not received vaccine and DO NOT plan to get vaccinated” were statistically significant at the $p < 0.05$ level.

Data: Reginald D. Williams II et al., *The Impact of COVID-19 on Older Adults: Findings from the 2021 International Health Policy Survey of Older Adults* (Commonwealth Fund, Sept. 2021). <https://doi.org/10.26099/mqsp-1695>

Concerns about safety and side effects were the most cited reasons older Americans do not plan to get vaccinated.

Main reason for not planning to get the coronavirus vaccine, among those who do not plan to get vaccinated when available	CAN	FR	SWE	SWIZ	US
Unweighted N (base: those who do not plan to get the vaccine when available respondents)=	240	155	172	327	219
Do not trust vaccine in general	14%	15%	6%*	12%	14%
Worried about possible side effects	25%	24%	48%*	45%*	22%
Do not trust the government to make sure the vaccine is safe	17%	28%	15%	8%*	24%
It is too difficult to get the vaccine	1%	0%	2%	2%*	0%
You do not think you need the vaccine	7%	3%*	1%*	9%	13%
Some other reason	25%	22%	17%	18%	20%

Notes: Respondents reported ever being told by a doctor they had at least two of the following conditions: hypertension or high blood pressure; heart disease, including heart attack; diabetes; asthma or chronic lung disease such as chronic bronchitis, emphysema, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; depression, anxiety, or other mental health conditions; cancer; joint pain or arthritis; stroke. AUS, GER, NETH, NZ, NOR, and UK excluded because n < 100.

* Indicates country's result on specific response is statistically different from US at the p < 0.05 level.

Data: Reginald D. Williams II et al., *The Impact of COVID-19 on Older Adults: Findings from the 2021 International Health Policy Survey of Older Adults* (Commonwealth Fund, Sept. 2021). <https://doi.org/10.26099/mqsp-1695>