

Unraveling the story behind challenges with journal data sharing requirements: an Open Pharma survey

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WHY WAS THIS NEEDED?

- Journal policies increasingly request open sharing of data to support published research findings and to increase research transparency and reproducibility.
- Pharma-sponsored research often includes patient-level data; data sharing concerns of pharma companies can differ from those of academic institutions (e.g., intellectual property, data ownership as well as patient privacy and patient consent).
- Anecdotally, the nuances of these concerns have led to data sharing compliance challenges for pharma-sponsored publications.
- As a multi-sponsor collaboration connecting pharma and publishers to improve the publications framework, we at Open Pharma wanted to know whether these reports of compliance challenges reflect a common and complex reality for pharma-sponsored research.
- This research project was led by the Open Pharma data sharing working group.

WHAT DID WE DO?

AIMS

- To assess the ease with which those involved in submitting pharma-sponsored research for publication can comply with journal data sharing requirements.
- To understand potential barriers to compliance with journal data sharing requirements.

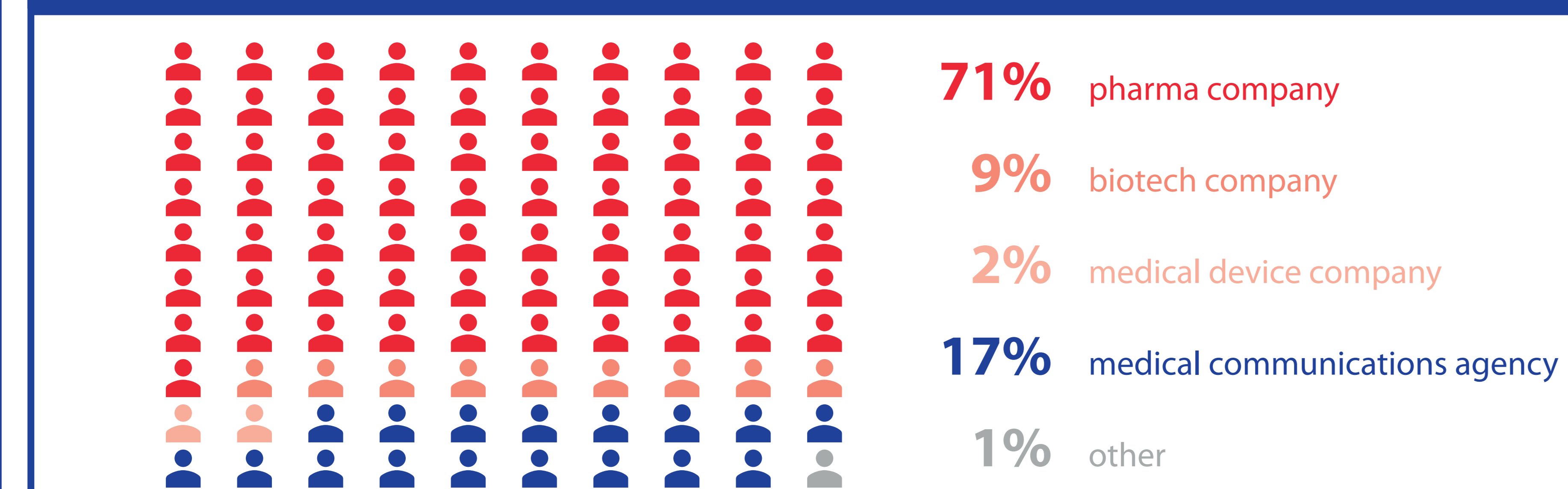
METHODS

- We conducted a 10-question, global survey developed by members of the Open Pharma data sharing working group, with critical review by the International Society for Medical Publication Professionals (ISMPP) Global Transparency and Trends Committee.
 - Full details of the survey can be found at the QR code at the bottom of the poster.
- The survey launched on April 12, 2023 and closed on May 31, 2023.
- Dissemination was performed by Open Pharma via email, LinkedIn, Twitter and the Open Pharma website, and by ISMPP via their newsletter and Twitter channel.
- Anyone involved in either submitting pharma-sponsored research for publication or fulfilling journal data sharing requirements was eligible to respond.

WHO RESPONDED TO OUR SURVEY

- In total, 82% (83/101) of respondents worked in pharma companies and biotech or medical device companies (Figure 1).
 - Of these respondents, 48% had expertise in R&D, 19% in publications planning and 15% in Medical Affairs.

Figure 1: Most of the 101 respondents were from pharma companies



WHAT DID WE FIND?

Figure 2: The majority of respondents had a favorable view of journal policies that promote open data sharing

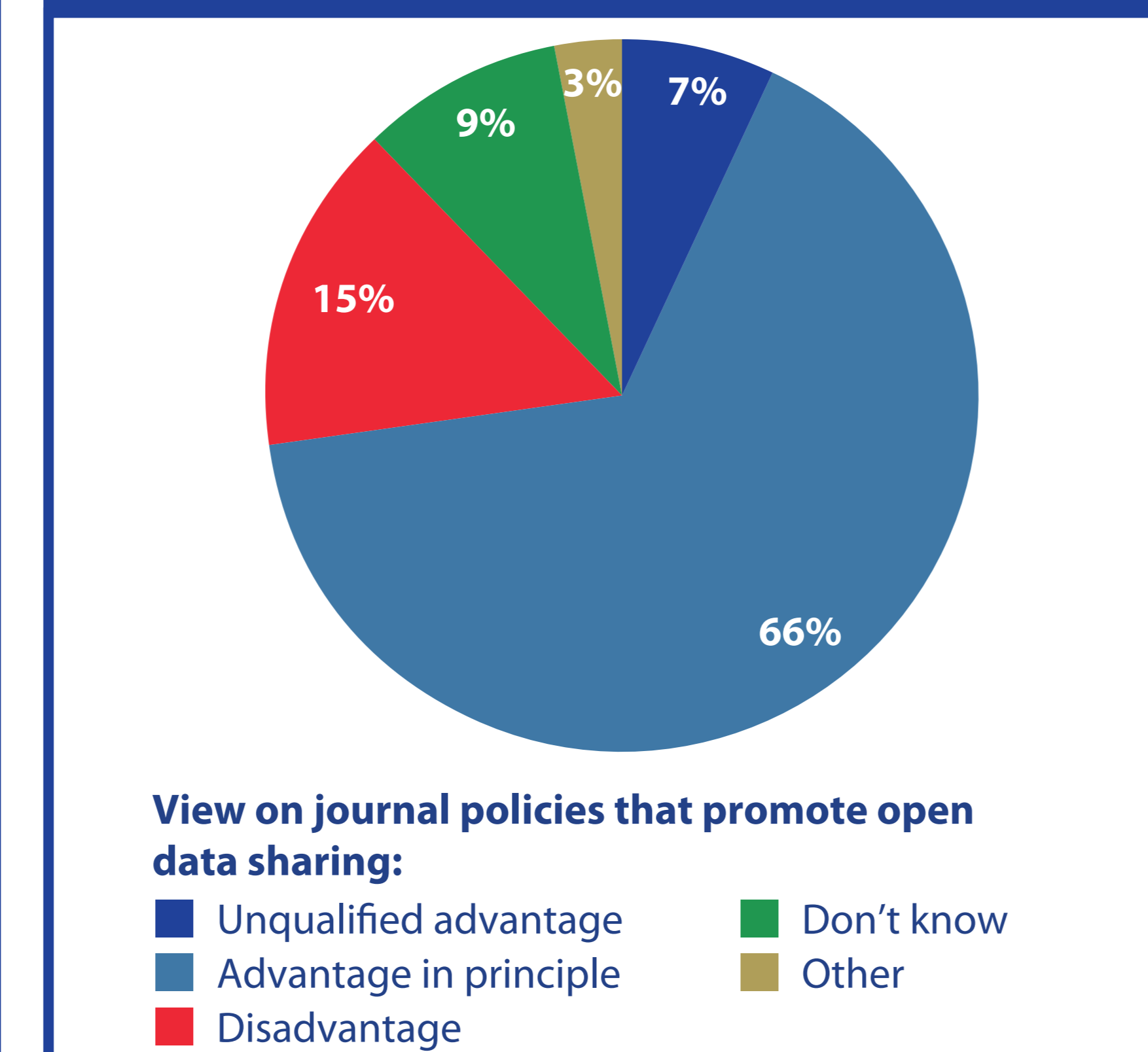


Figure 3: Only a minority of respondents indicated that it was easy to comply with journal data sharing requirements

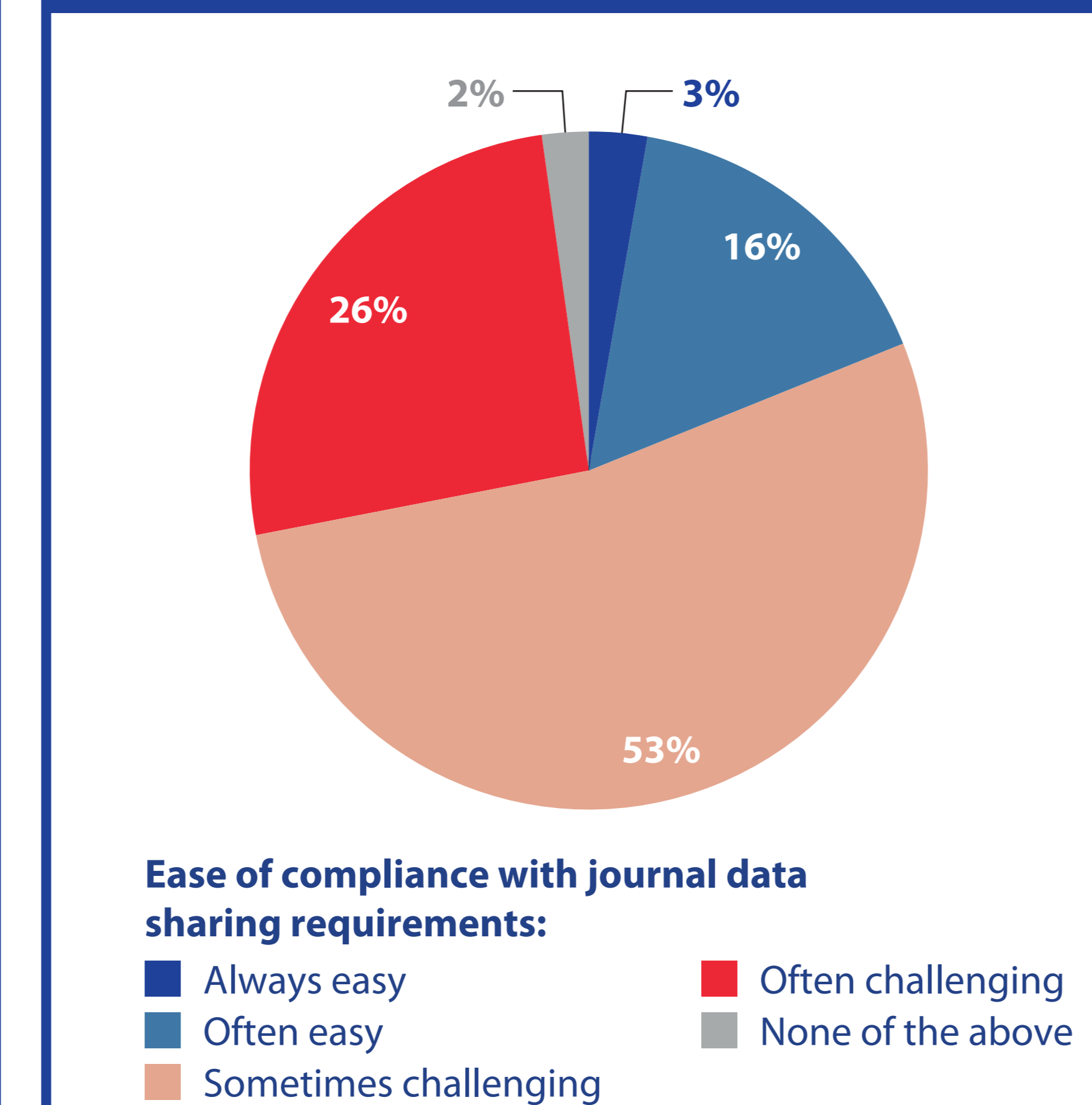
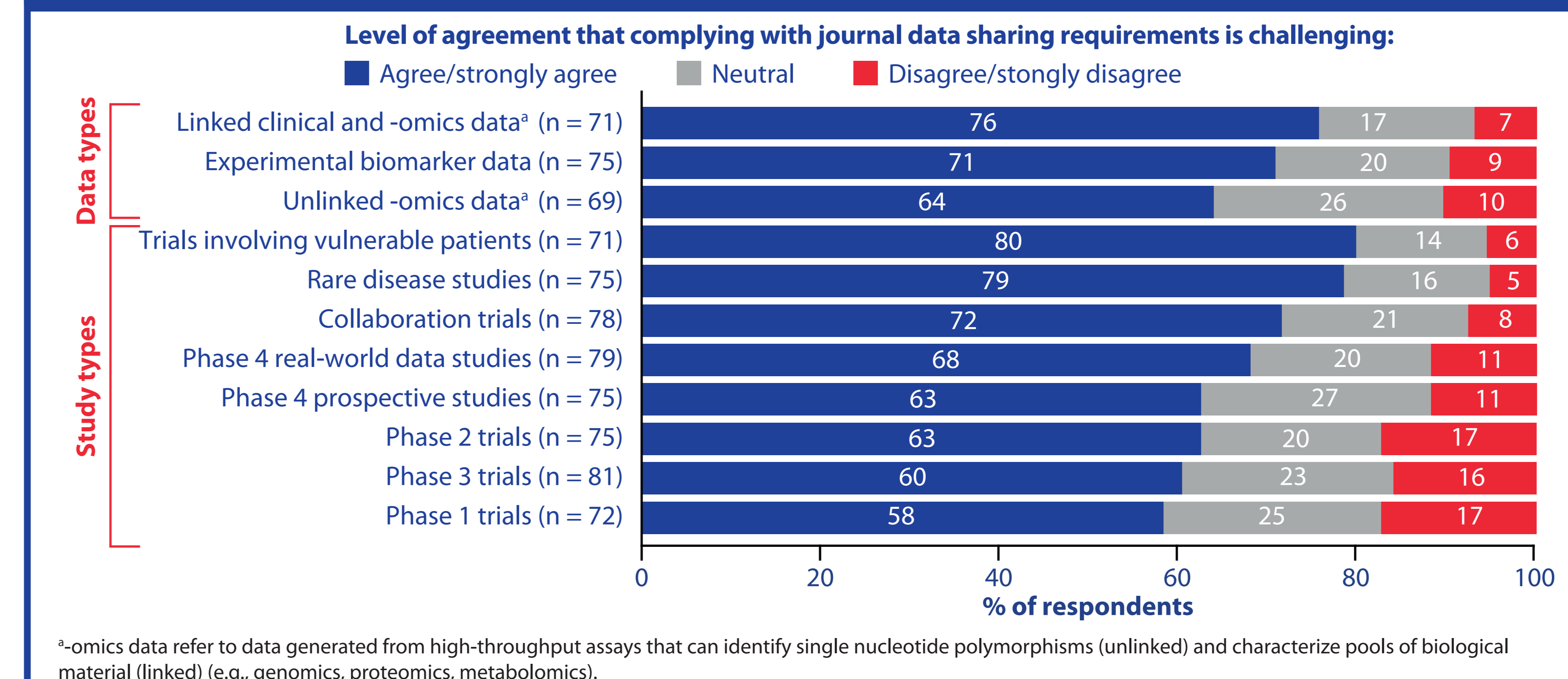
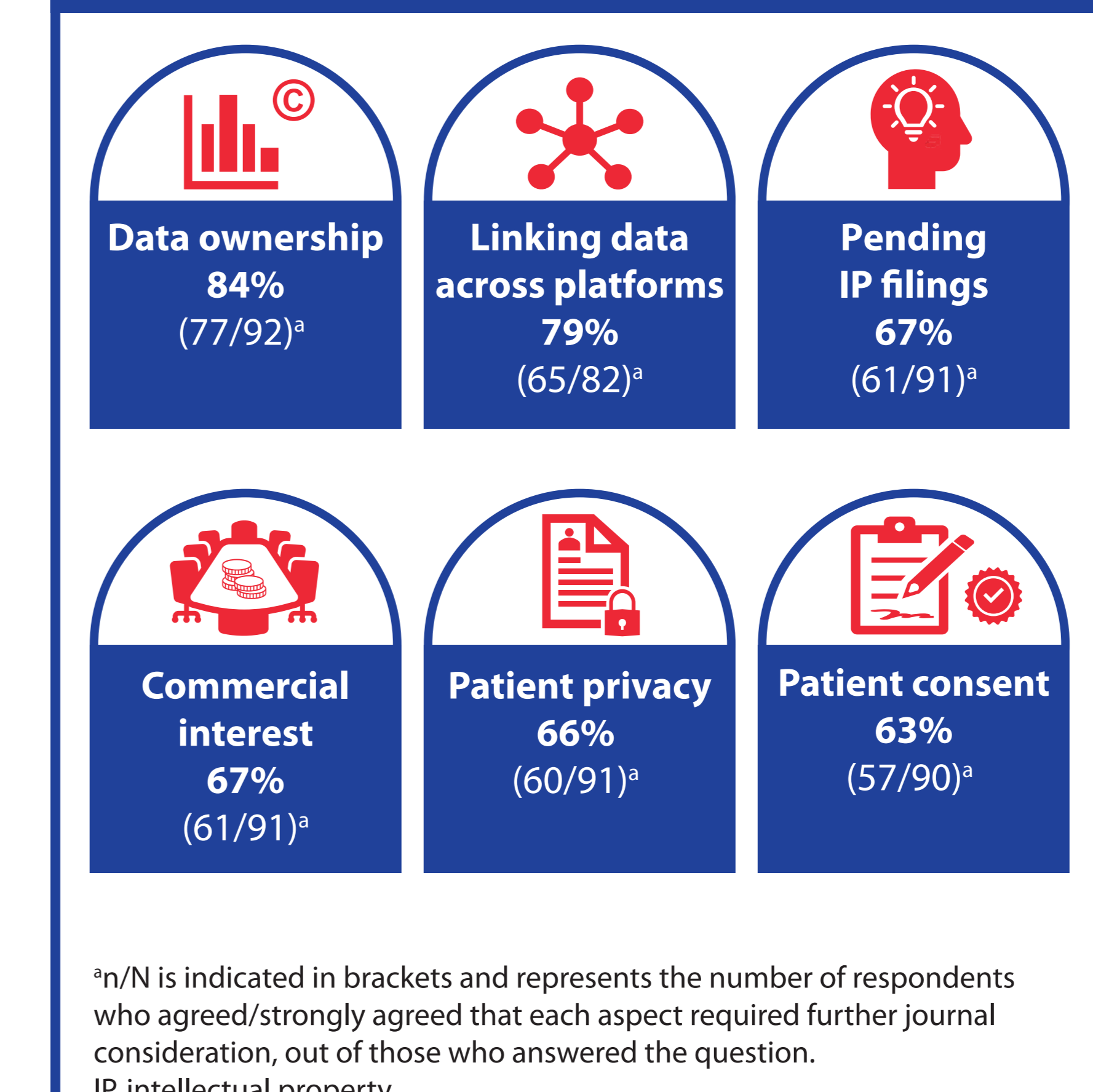


Figure 4: The majority of respondents agreed/strongly agreed that there are challenges complying with journal data sharing policies for all study and data types covered by the survey



- Most respondents (73%) supported journal policies that promote open data sharing in principle, but only 7% viewed them as an unqualified advantage (Figure 2).
- Despite their broad support of journal policies that promote open data sharing, most respondents (79%) reported challenges complying with journal data sharing requirements in general (Figure 3).
- When respondents were asked about specific study/data types, the majority (58%–80%) agreed that there are challenges complying with journal data sharing policies for all study/data types (Figure 4).
- Respondents agreed/strongly agreed that data ownership (84%), linking data across platforms (79%), pending intellectual property filings (67%), commercial interest (67%), patient privacy (66%) and patient consent (63%) can present challenges when trying to meet journal data sharing requirements (Figure 5).
- Most participants believed that challenges complying with journal data sharing requirements could lead to publication delays, withdrawal of manuscripts and their resubmission to an alternative journal or influence target journal selection (83%, 62% and 71% of respondents, respectively).
- Sensitivity analysis showed consistency between the overall results and the results from the pharma company group (data not shown).

Figure 5: Nature of challenges experienced by the majority of survey respondents when trying to comply with journal data sharing requirements



WHAT DOES THIS TELL US?

- To our knowledge, this survey is the first formal assessment of the scale and nature of challenges associated with journal data sharing requirements for pharma-sponsored research publications.
- The survey results may be limited by our sampling approach, by varying levels of knowledge of patient-level data sharing among our respondents, and by the short nature of the survey, which may not have captured insights into challenges for specific data/study types.
- Nevertheless, we confirmed that the majority of respondents support journal policies that promote open data sharing in principle but found a clear need for dialog between pharma and publishing stakeholders to facilitate policy compliance.
- Quantifying and describing the nature of common compliance challenges has prompted a publisher initiative to create best practice guidance to clarify the requirements of data policies with regard to medical and health sciences data, led by the STM Open Research Committee.

VIEW THE E-POSTER AND FULL SURVEY, HERE:



VIEW A VIDEO PRESENTATION OF THE SURVEY RESULTS, HERE:



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ROLE OF FUNDER

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DISCLOSURES

JO – Oxford PharmaGenesis employee; PM – Oxford PharmaGenesis employee; RB – UCB Pharma employee and shareholder; MC – Taylor & Francis employee; ML – AstraZeneca employee; REO – F. Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd employee and shareholder; HS – Roche Products Ltd employee; RTG – Taylor & Francis employee; JT – Janssen Scientific Affairs, LLC, a Johnson & Johnson Company employee; AC – Oxford PharmaGenesis employee.

