





Dialego

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Gene Tests

A survey by Dialego AG

October 2005

- **Project Documentation**
- **Main survey**
 - When are gene tests justifiable?
 - Are gene tests generally accepted?
 - Will gene tests become compulsory?
- **Summary**
- **Contact**

■ Background:

- Dialego AG asked German consumers about their opinion towards gene tests in October 2005. The intention was to find out in which situations they find gene tests acceptable and in which situations they can imagine having a gene test themselves.

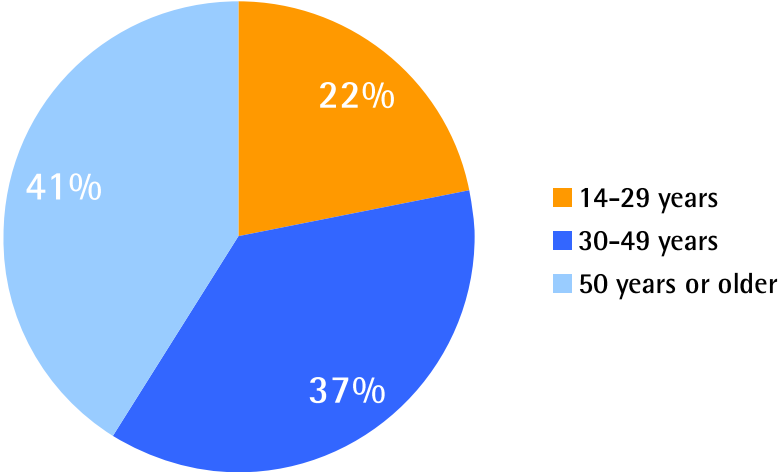
■ Approach:

- Online survey in UK with 1,000 participants.
- Participants were recruited from the Dialego Access Panel and chosen according to their age and gender.
- Participants received personal emails inviting them to participate in the survey.
- Random samples were quoted after the differences in age and gender according to the population within Germany.

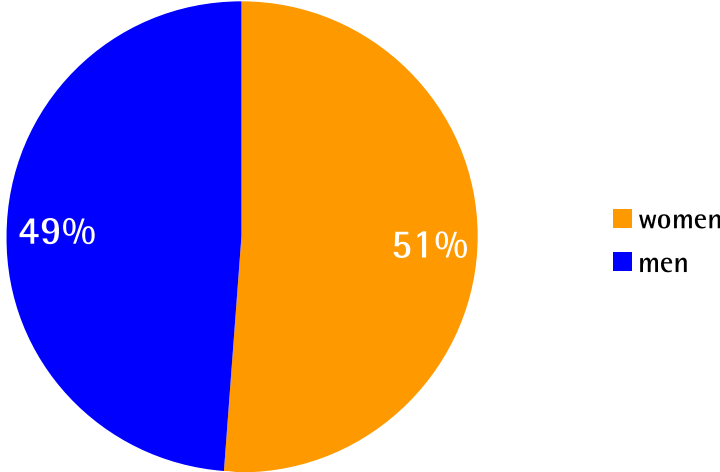
■ Survey period:

- Start: 01.10.2005
- End: 09.10.2005

Age



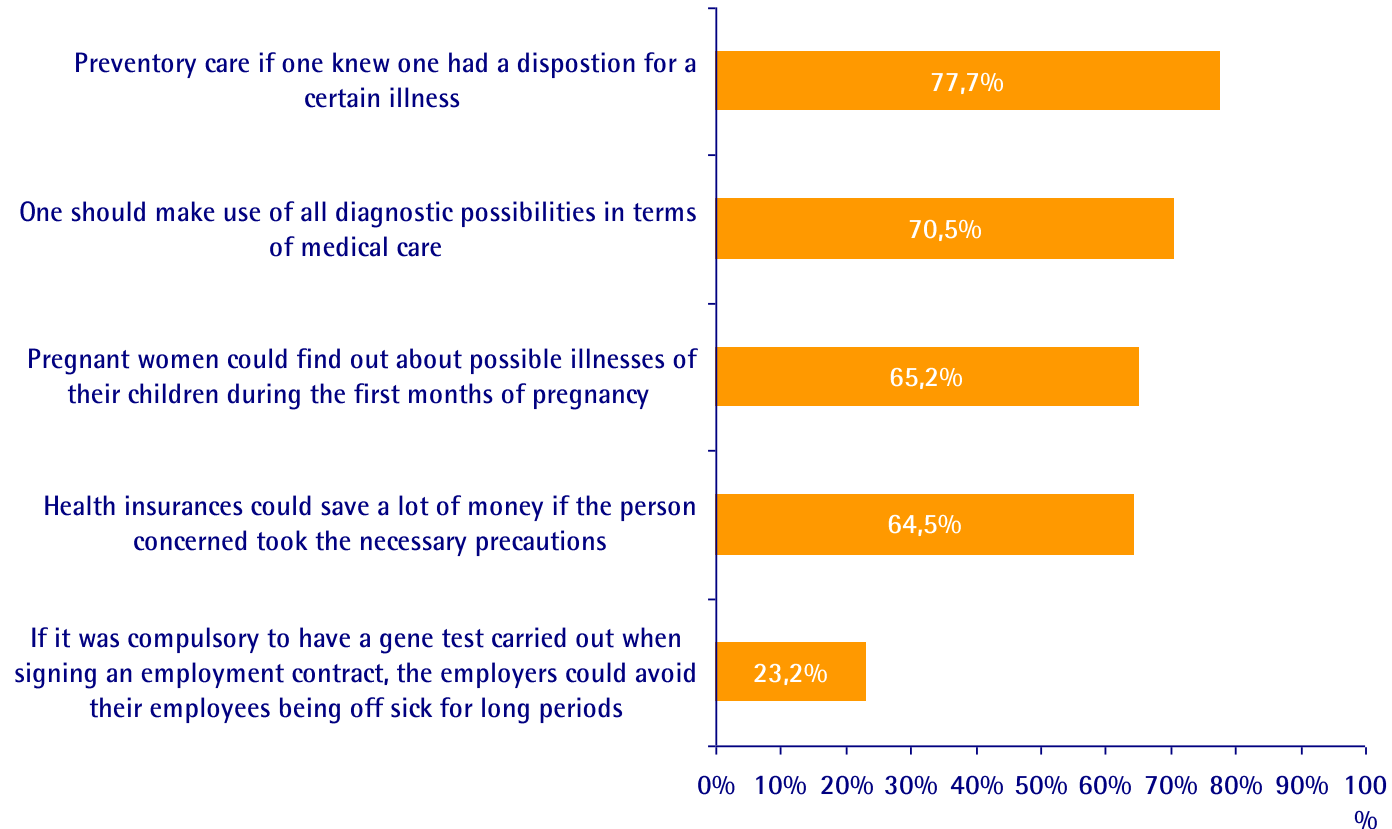
Sex



Basis: n = 1,000 consumers

Reasons for gene tests

What might be the arguments for a wide implementation of gene tests?

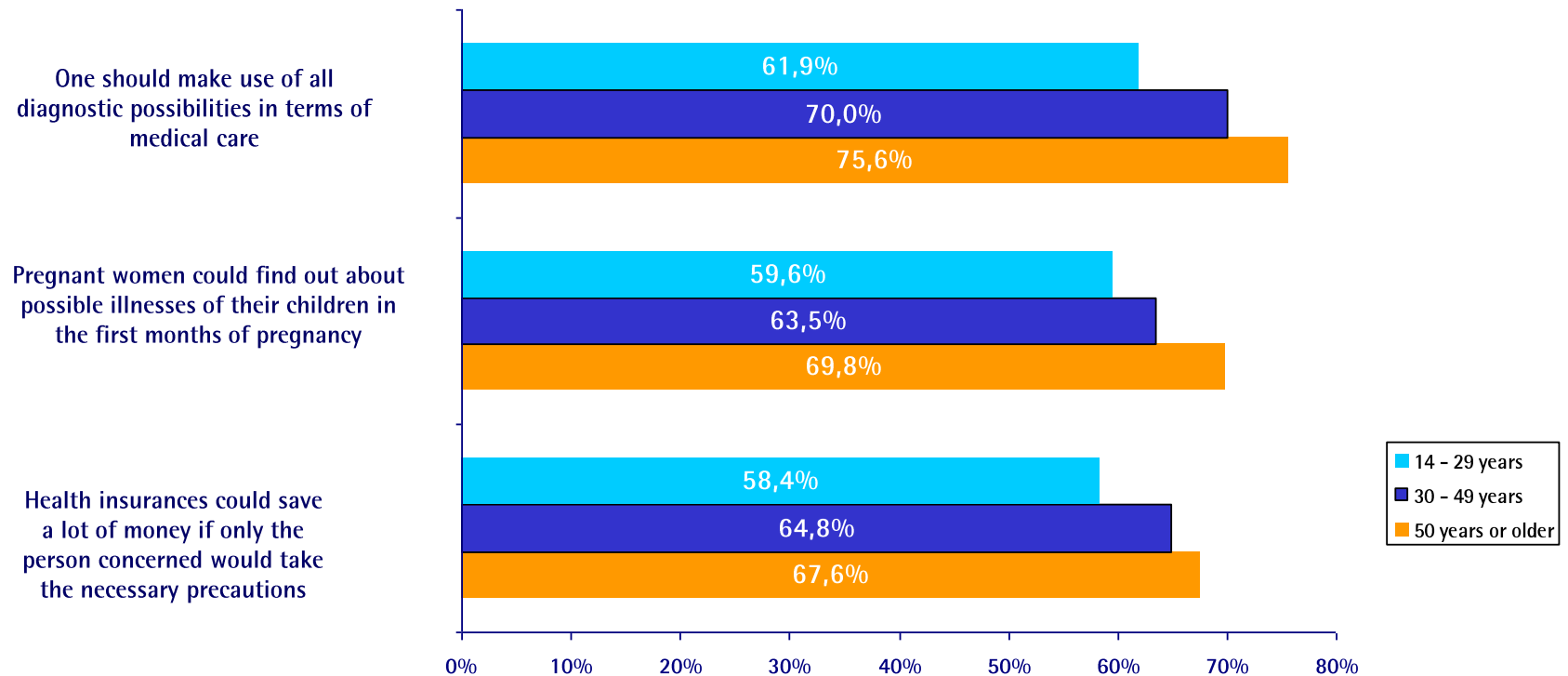


Basis: n = 1,000

Arithmetic average. Scale from „Applies totally“ = 100% to „Doesn't apply at all“ = 0%

Reasons for Gene Tests

Answers according to age

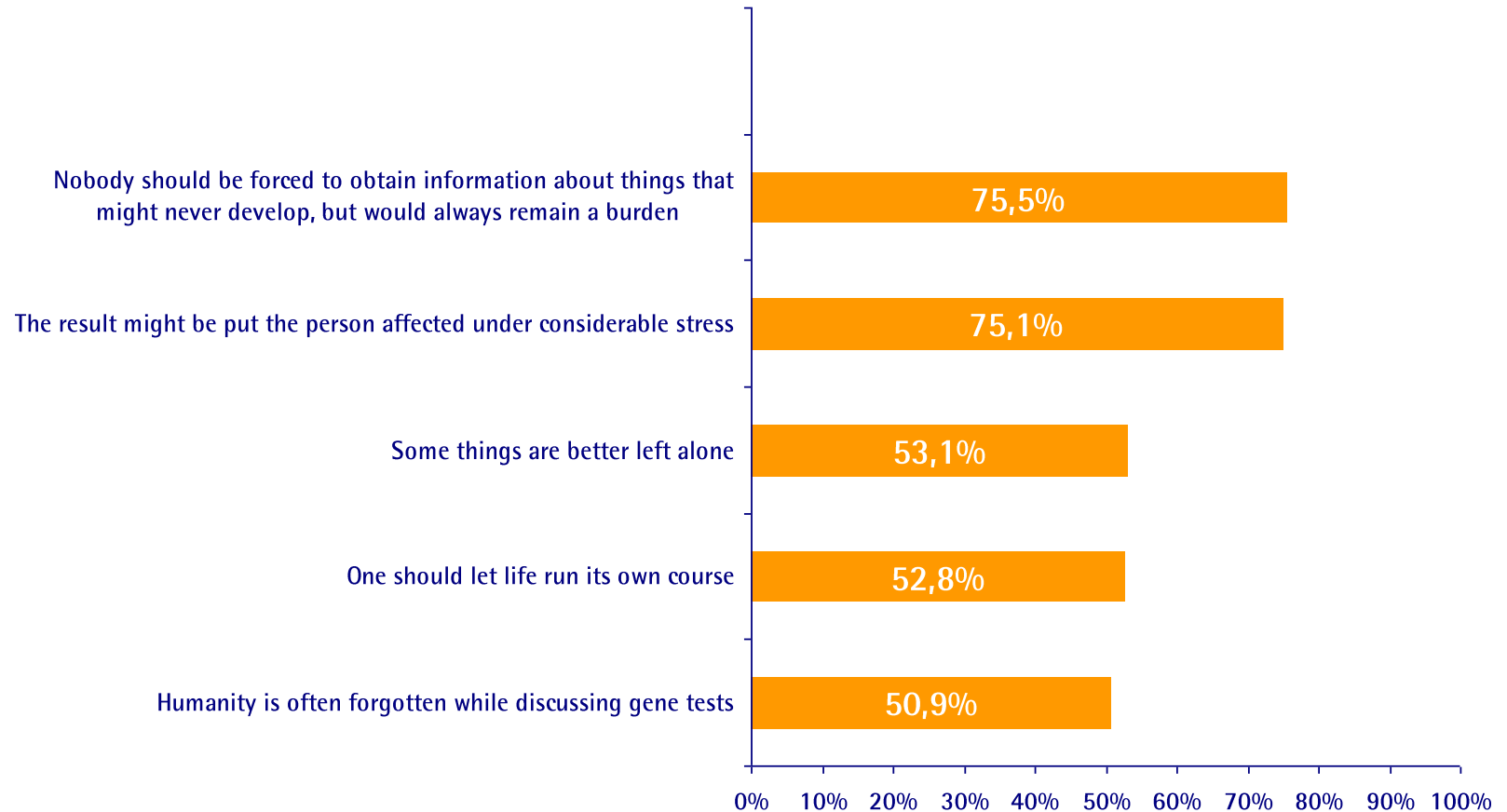


Basis: n = 1,000

Arithmetic average. Scale from „Applies totally“ = 100% to „Doesn't apply at all“ = 0%

Reasons against Gene Tests

What might be the arguments against a gene test?

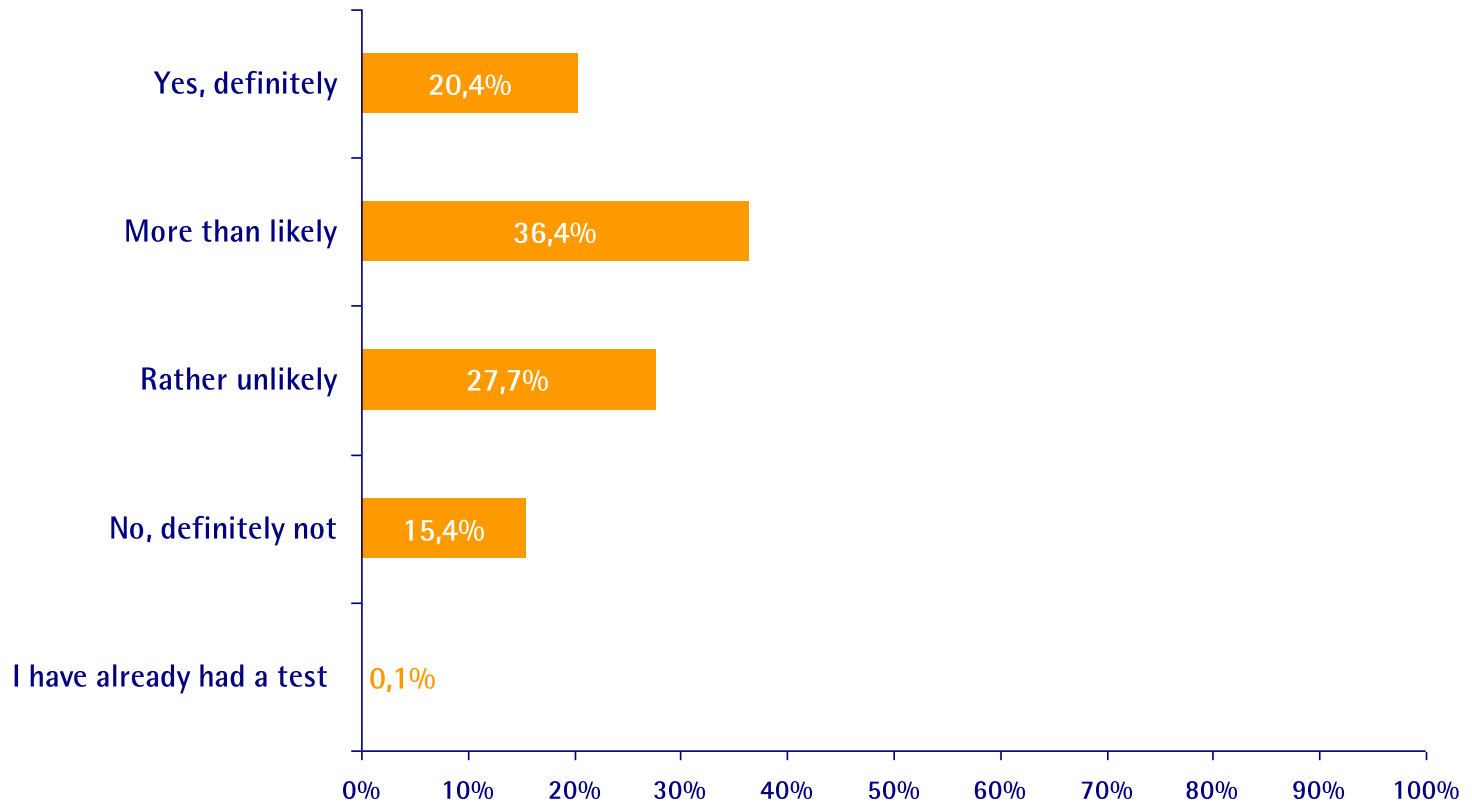


Basis: n = 1,000

Arithmetic average. Scale from „Applies totally“ = 100% to „Doesn't apply at all“ = 0%

Personal Gene Test

Can you imagine having a gene test to find out about possible illnesses you might develop during your life?

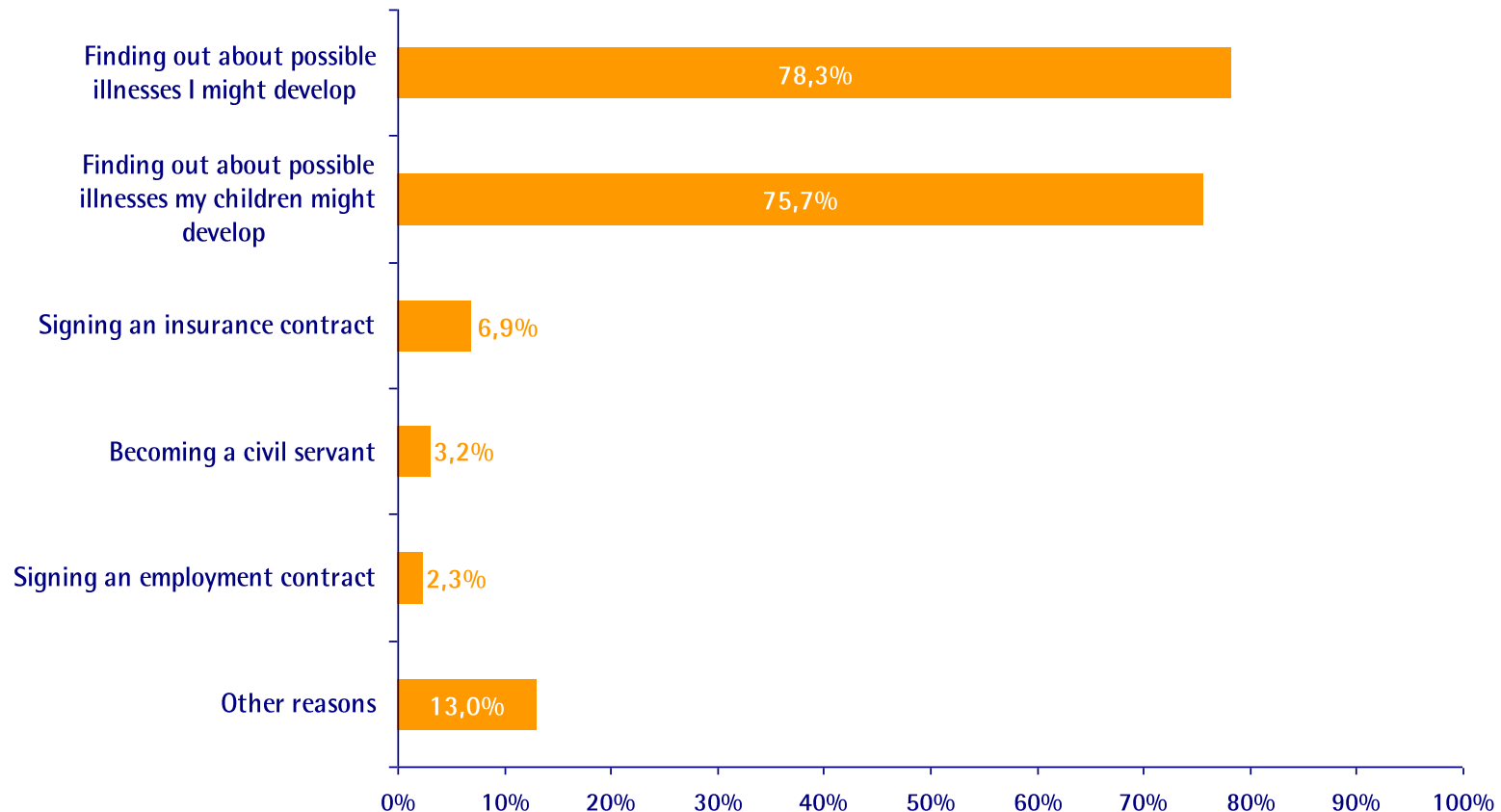


Basis: n = 1,000

Conclusion: More than half of the Germans asked can imagine having a gene test

Personal Reasons for Gene Tests

Which of the following reasons would make you consider having a gene test?



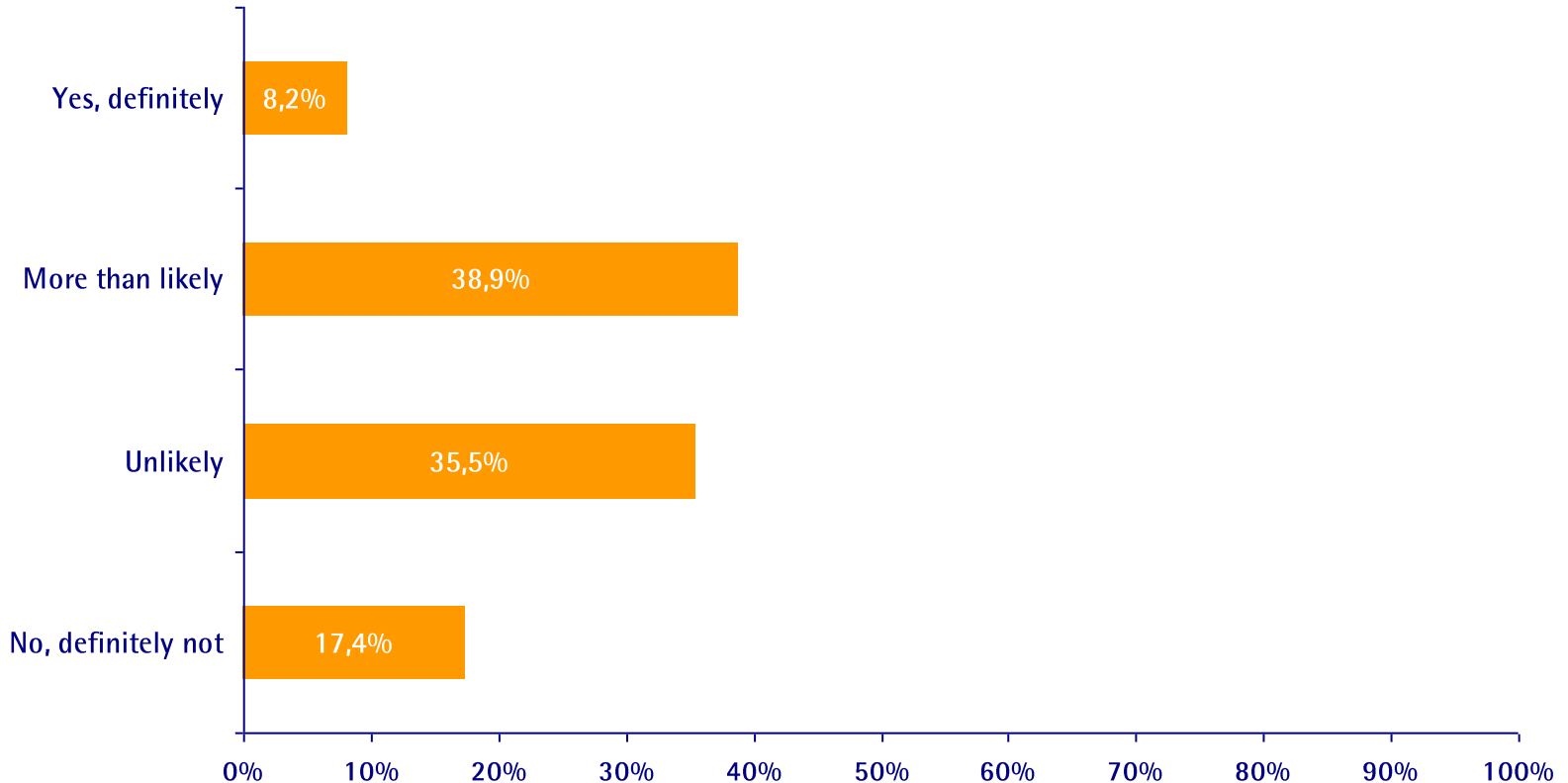
Multiple answers possible

Basis: n = 568 consumers can imagine having a gene test

Conclusion: Yes to gene tests – but only for private reasons

Future of Gene Tests

Can you imagine gene tests becoming compulsory in certain situations in the future?

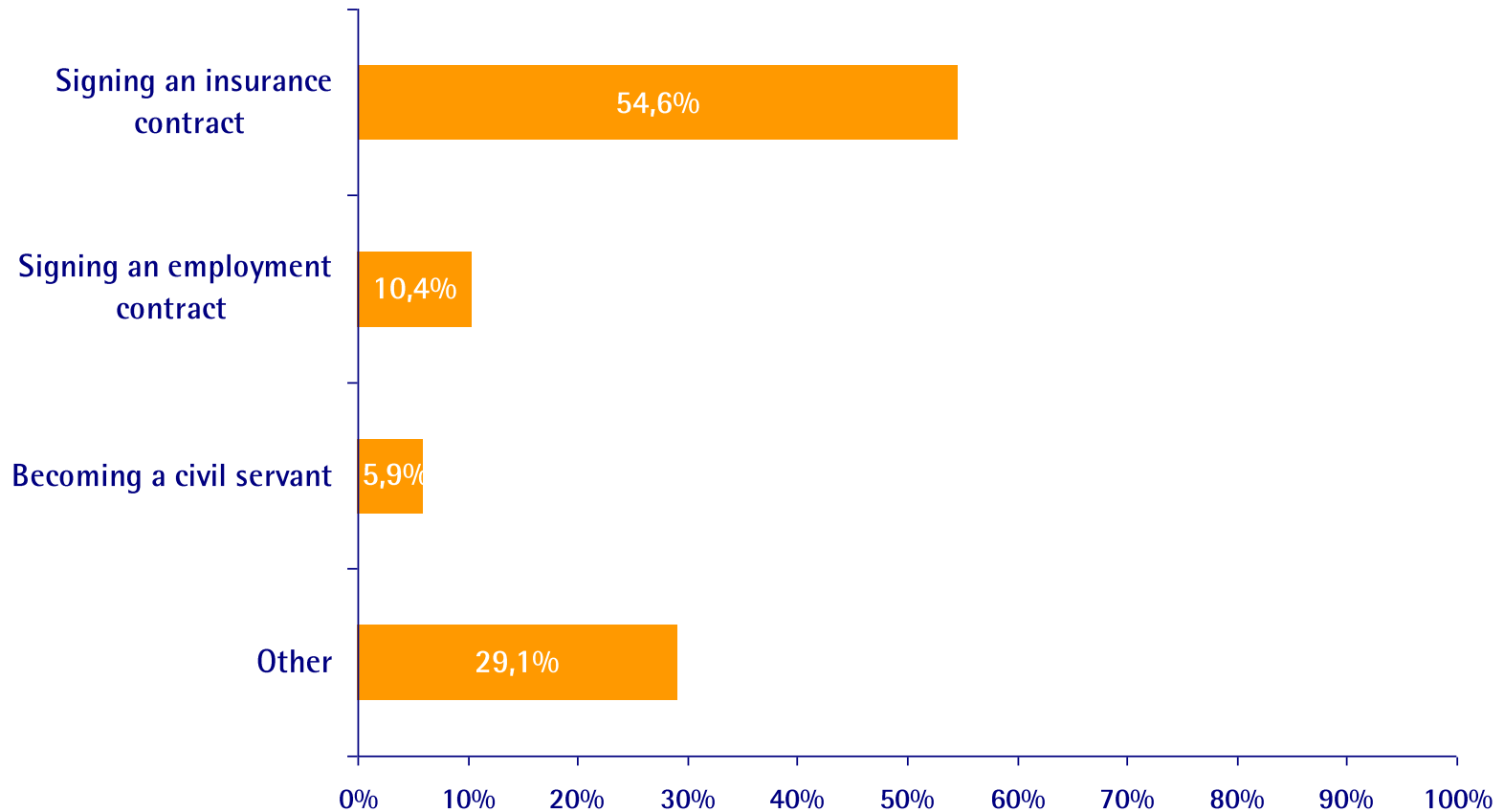


Basis: n = 1,000

Most of the consumers don't believe that a gene test will become compulsory

Compulsory Gene Tests

In which situation can you imagine a gene test becoming compulsory?



Basis: n = 471 consumers can imagine gene tests becoming compulsory in certain situations

Yes to gene tests – but only for private interests

Should a gene test be carried out when hiring a new employee to see how long he or she will stay healthy? Or should a test be made before signing a health insurance contract in order to set up a list of services covered or not covered for a new client or even to refuse a new client?

Not only the Ethics Commission tries to avoid this scenario, the German people also don't want it to happen, although they are not generally against gene tests. 57 percent of them can even imagine having a gene test in order to find out about possible illnesses they might develop. The reasons are always of a private nature, e.g. wanting to be certain about genetic structures (78 percent) and family planning (76 percent). Almost nobody wants a gene test to be a prerequisite to getting insurance (7 percent), becoming a civil servant (3 percent) or getting an employment contract (2 percent). This is the result of a survey from dialego in October 2005.

In general, 20 percent of the consumers think that a gene test carried out before signing an employment contract could be useful. This is tragic because very talented people could be excluded from work although their genetic disposition might never lead to a real illness.

In general, consumers who are 50 years old or older see more advantages in gene tests, the younger groups are less accepting. Medical diagnostic possibilities are accepted by 76 percent of the older group, the 14-29 years old accept this just with 62 percent. If it would be possible to detect a definite risk of getting a certain illness then 78 percent can imagine having a gene test.

There are many reasons against a gene test. First of all the lifelong burden of the knowledge of a genetic disposition is, especially stressful because there is no guarantee of developing the illness (75 percent). Many people think that some things are better left alone (53 percent) and that life should be left to run its own course (53 percent). More than half of the respondents think that humanity should always remain the foreground (51 percent).

Less than half of the Germans asked believe that it will compulsory to have a gene tests before getting insurance, an employment contract or to becoming a civil agent. However, if it does become compulsory they suspect that it would primarily be for insurance purposes.

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