

**Survey with CareNet member doctors**

# **Questionnaire on Cancer Education**

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# Survey Overview, Respondent Attributes

Subject: Survey on the cancer education initiative in schools  
Survey period: January 5 to 6, 2022  
Respondents: 3,858 CareNet member doctors  
No. of doctors who responded: 152

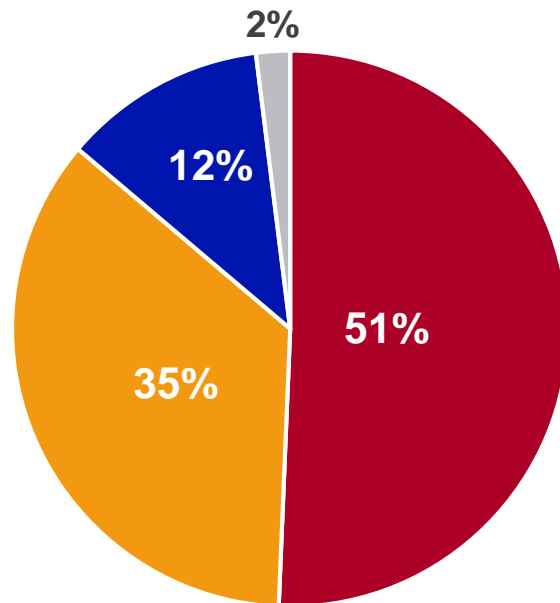
Department	n
Respiratory medicine	89
Respiratory surgery	23
Internal medicine	10
Other	30

No. of beds	n
0	3
1 to 19	0
20 to 99	2
100 to 199	12
200 or more	135

Age group	n
20s	4
30s	45
40s	54
50s	34
60s	14
70s or older	1

# Awareness of Cancer Education

Q1. The national guidelines for education were revised in 2016 and 2017, and “cancer education” has been initiated as one component of health education in elementary schools (from FY2020), junior high schools (from FY2021), and high schools (from FY2022). Did you know about this initiative? Which is closest to your awareness? [SA] (n=152)



- I didn't know about it at all.
- I've heard of it but don't know it well.
- I know the overview to some extent.
- I am/was involved in the initiative.

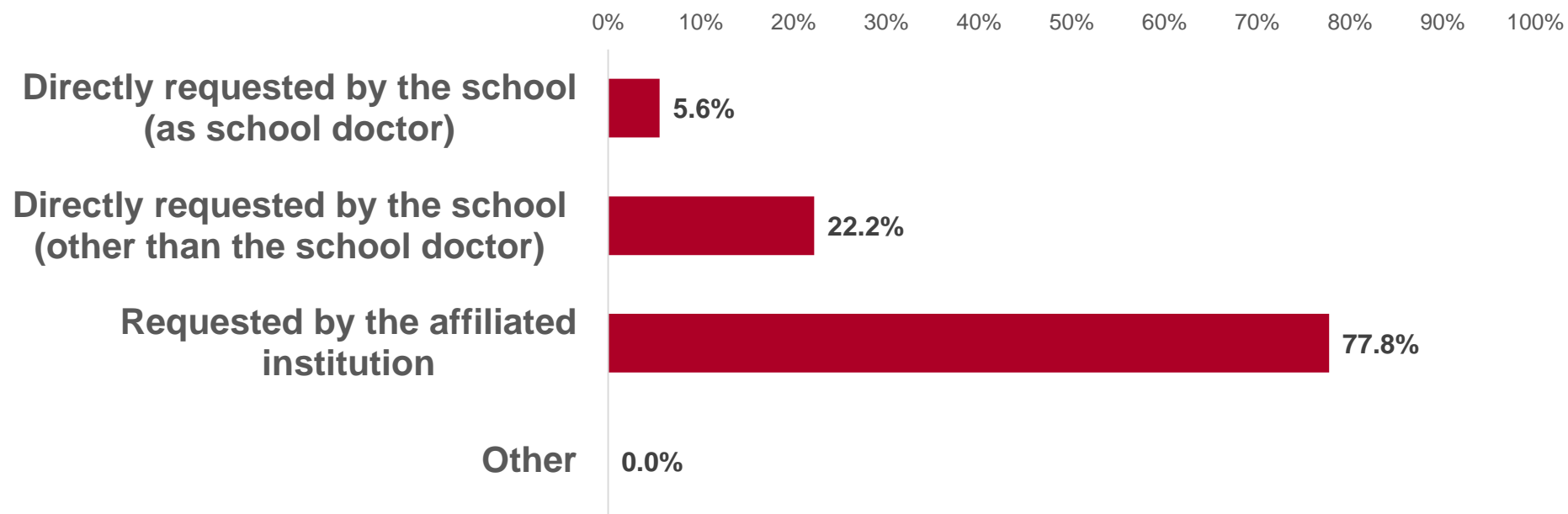
**More than half of the doctors responded “I didn’t know about it at all” to the question about the cancer education initiative.**

**Only 2% of doctors have actually been involved in cancer education.**

# How Doctors Got Involved in Cancer Education

Q2. A question for doctors who have been involved in the cancer education initiative: How did you get involved in the cancer education initiative? Please choose all that apply. [MA]

(n=18)

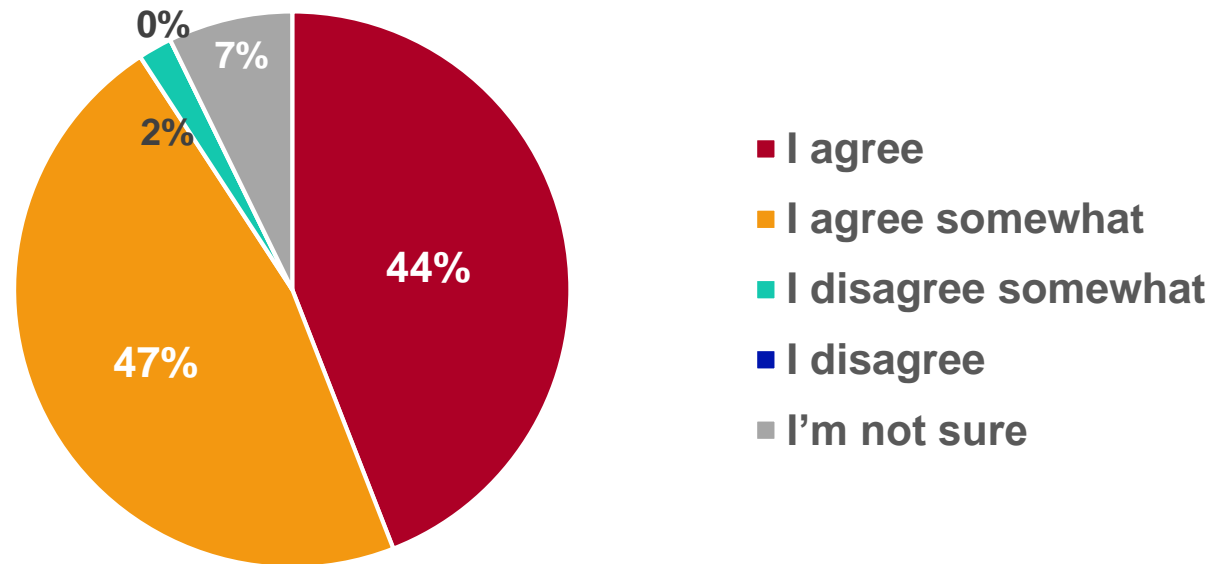


**About 80% of the doctors who have been involved in cancer education participated in the initiative at the request of their institutions.**

# Perception of Cancer Education

Q3. What are your thoughts on cancer education being provided in elementary, junior high, and high schools? Which is closest to your thoughts? [SA]

(n=152)



**More than 90% of the doctors responded “I agree” or “I agree somewhat” to the question about the provision of cancer education.**

**None of the doctors chose “I disagree.”**

# Reasons for the Perception of Cancer Education

## Q4. Reasons for the Responses to Q3 [FA]

### Responses to “I agree”

Knowing about cancer from an early age will make you more aware of your own health and the well-being of others.

Raising awareness of the need to stop smoking is effective in preventing the onset of lung cancer, etc. There's no harm in becoming aware of it early on.

We tend to avoid topics such as illness, aging, and death, but everyone must face them.

It is essential to learn to fear cancer correctly.

We can start with its prevention by adopting lifestyle habits such as quitting smoking.

I believe that schoolchildren should know how to be involved when someone close to them has cancer.

We need to help them understand how smoking, among other things, is harmful to health.

As the lifetime risk of developing cancer continues to rise, a better understanding of the disease will benefit them.

As advances in medical care are leading to an increase in the prevalence of cancer, living with cancer is expected to become more common. I therefore believe that it is necessary to have an educational setting where cancer, including onset prevention, is taught from early childhood.

Since the prevalence of cancer is high, it is important to acquire correct knowledge from an early age.

It is important to learn about it in a proper way, not through social media, etc.

It is a common disease, and the basics should be taught in school.

# Degree of Interest in Cancer Education

Q5. To provide cancer education classes, school doctors and cancer specialists are expected to be used as external lecturers. Which is closest to your feelings? [SA]

(n=152)



**While only 5% of the doctors chose “I don’t want to get very involved” in responding to the question about providing cancer education classes, many doctors were positive about getting involved, depending on the opportunity and content.**

# Reasons for Interest in Cancer Education

Q6. Reasons for the Responses to Q5 [FA]

## Responses to “I want to be actively involved, or I am already involved”

I wanted to do something other than routine clinical practice.  
To promote home palliative care.

I want to tell them how we work in the field and how they should be involved with their families.  
For the future of Japan.

I work in a related field.

I am interested.

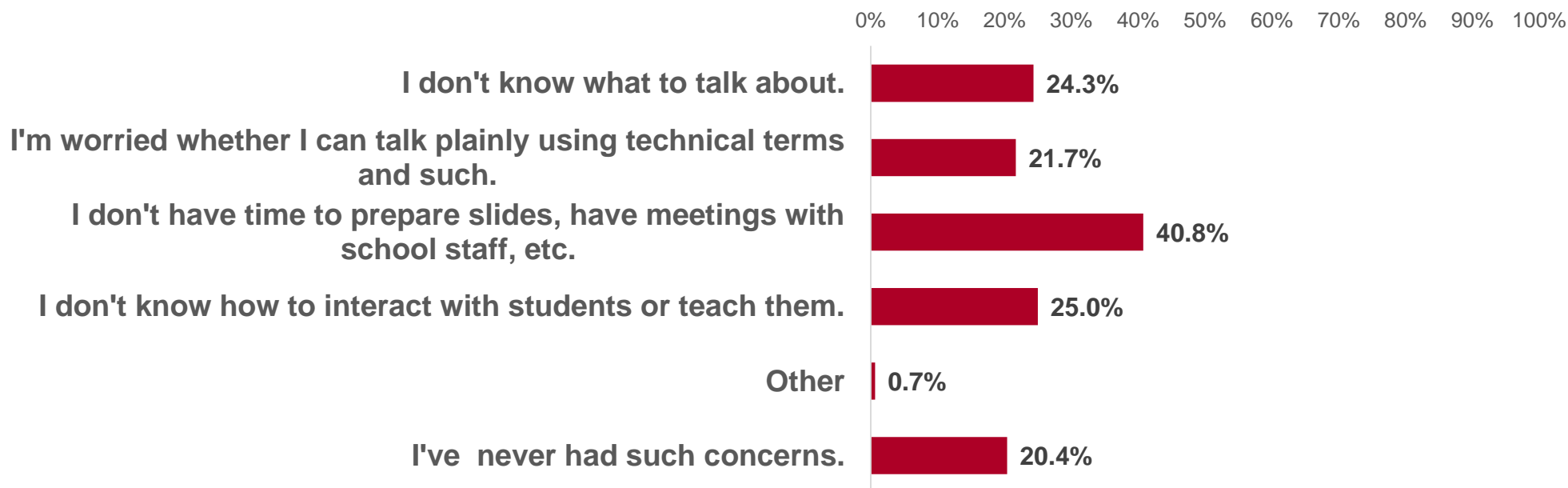
I want to contribute to cancer control.



# Concerns about Providing Cancer Education

Q7. Have you ever had any concerns about providing cancer education in elementary, junior high, or high school? Please choose all that apply. [MA]

(n=152)



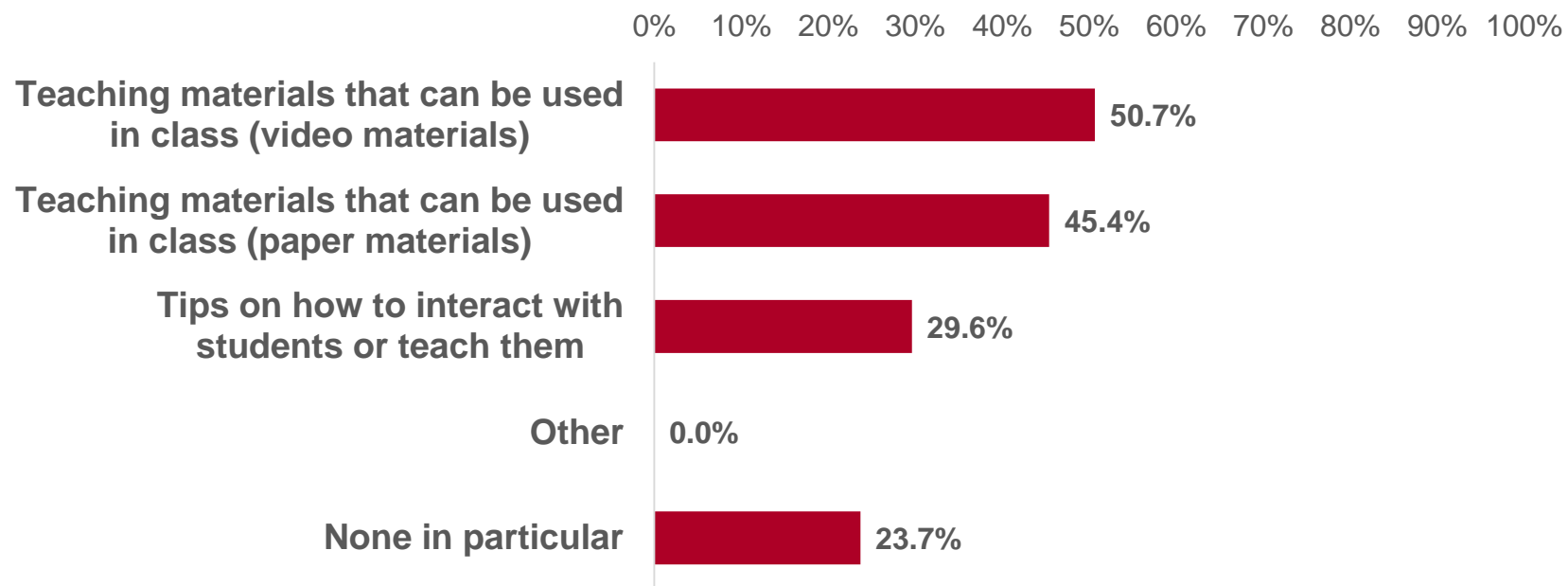
Other response:  
It is actually difficult to talk about topics based on a national consensus.

**Lack of time to prepare was the most commonly cited barrier to doctors in providing cancer education. Some mentioned concerns about the content and how to teach.**

# Useful Information and Resources for Cancer Education

Q8. What kind of information or resources would lead you to become more actively involved in cancer education? [MA]

(n=152)



**About half of the doctors cited the utility of classroom video materials as information or resources for cancer education.**

**About 30% of the doctors cited tips on how to interact with students and how to teach them.**

# What Cancer Education Should Teach Students

Q9. Through cancer education in elementary, junior high, or high school, what do you want students to learn, or what do you want to teach them? Please write your thoughts or comments freely. [FA]

## ● Importance of Prevention and Screening

I want students to know that some cancers can be prevented; that, despite being a difficult disease, cancer can be cured with early detection and treatment.

Cancer is on the rise in Japan, but it can be prevented to some extent by quitting smoking, having a healthy diet, etc.

Now that cancer is curable, it is important to conduct early diagnosis, avoid risks, know about preventive measures such as screenings, receive appropriate examinations, etc.

We should communicate the importance of lifestyle habits in preventing the onset of cancer; We should not be too afraid, and some things can be prevented.

## ● Basic Information on Cancer

Basic knowledge of cancer. Causes of cancer. Information on prevalence, mortality, etc.

Quite apart from how scary it is, cancer may have a greater impact on the physiological mechanism or life expectancy as a practical problem. Prognosis, treatment, cost, mental health, etc. The importance of cancer diagnosis, basics of treatment, and vaccines

## ● An Increasingly Common Disease

Causes of death among Japanese. One in two gets cancer.

I want students to know about juvenile malignant tumors and protect themselves and their loved ones.

This partly hereditary and mostly lifestyle-related disease is characterized by high morbidity.

Many people are being treated for their malignancies, and students may also be affected.

## ● How To Live with Cancer

Cancer is a disease that we live with rather than a disease to be cured.

Having cancer does not mean immediate death. Treatment cannot “completely cure” cancer but can fight it. I don’t want them to be afraid of getting cancer itself.

## ● How To Be Involved with Cancer Patients

I want them to know that some young people are working while suffering from cancer, and that in order for such people to continue working, they need the understanding and support systems of those around them.

It can be an opportunity for students to interact with people of the same generation and people close to them such as grandparents.

How to cope when someone close to them develops cancer.

# What Cancer Education Should Teach Students

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## ● Views on Life and Death

The fact that people will eventually die someday

The importance of living one's life every day

The preciousness of life and living one's life to the fullest

I want them to come to understand the obvious fact that people die

I want students to be grateful that they can live their everyday lives

## ● Harm of Smoking

The importance of quitting smoking

Smoking leads to cancer.

Smoking and other poor lifestyle habits increase the risk of cancer.

## ● Palliative Care

End-of-life care such as palliative care, including treatment and diagnosis

Education to teach them to respect the way people live, not just to prolong their lives

## ● Health Literacy

How to access correct medical information

How to obtain information from the media and other sources, as well as health literacy, etc.