

Survey to Eye Care Professionals on potential PFAS ban and its impact on patients

The survey below is addressed to the Eye Care Professionals in the EU,
Switzerland, Norway and the United Kingdom.

Results

March – May 2023

Methodology

- Survey run online from 23rd March 2023 to 30th May 2023
- The survey link was circulated by ECOO (European Council of Optometrists and Opticians) to its members
- 513 participants completed the survey^{*}

^{*}

Only 1 possible submission from one device and browser

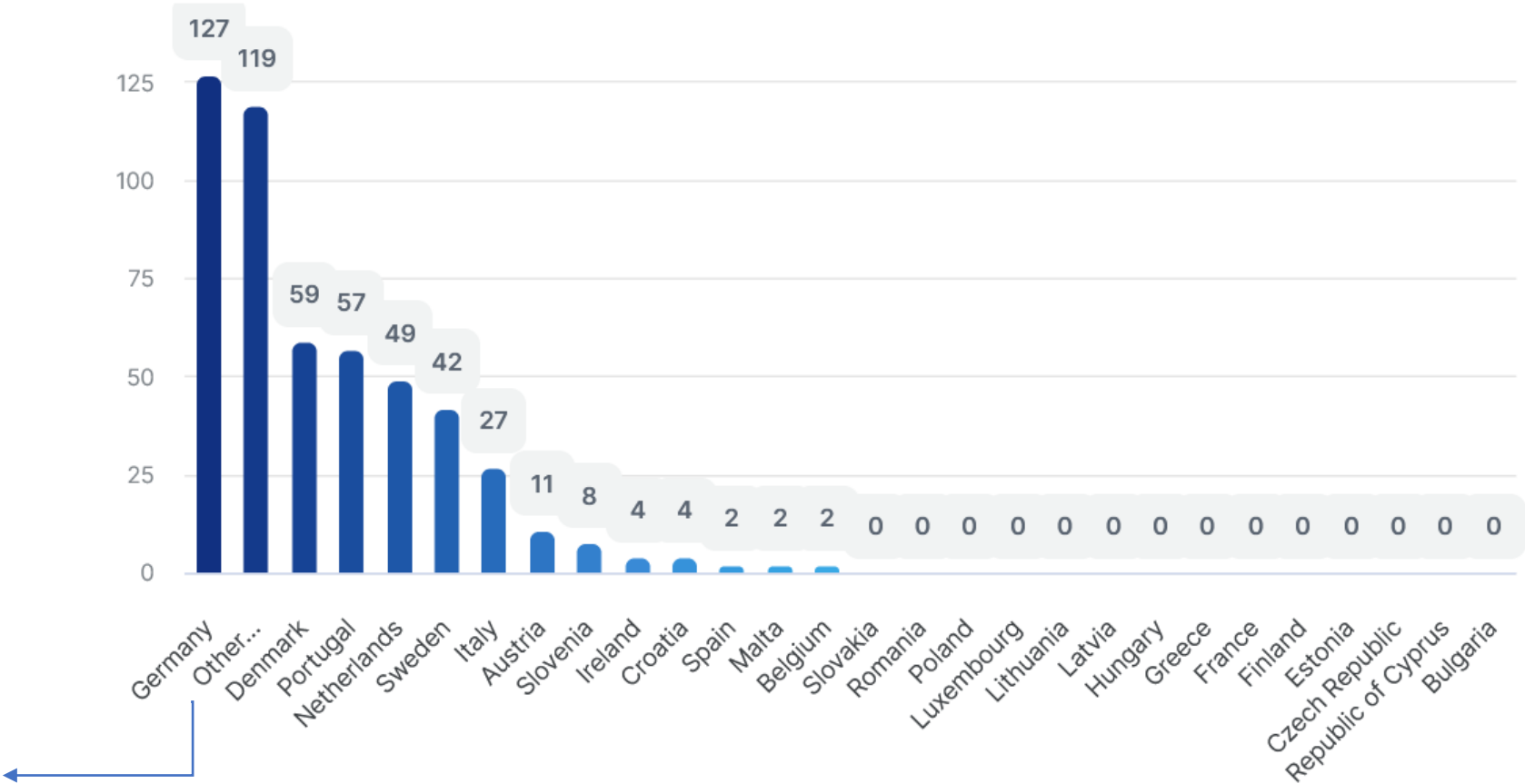
Profile of respondents

Where is your practice located ?

Other...

UK : 92

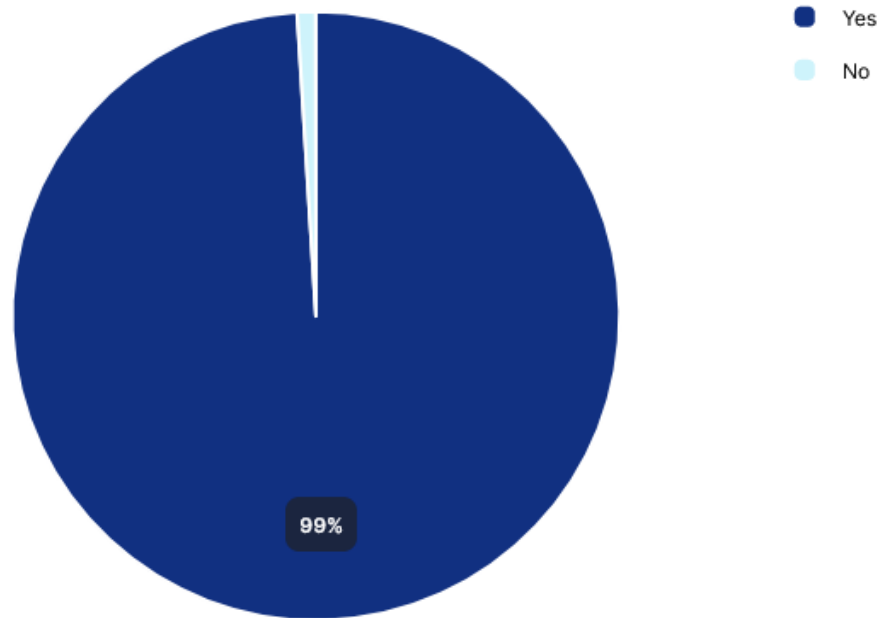
Switzerland : 26



Reading : 127 respondents to the survey have their practice located in Germany.

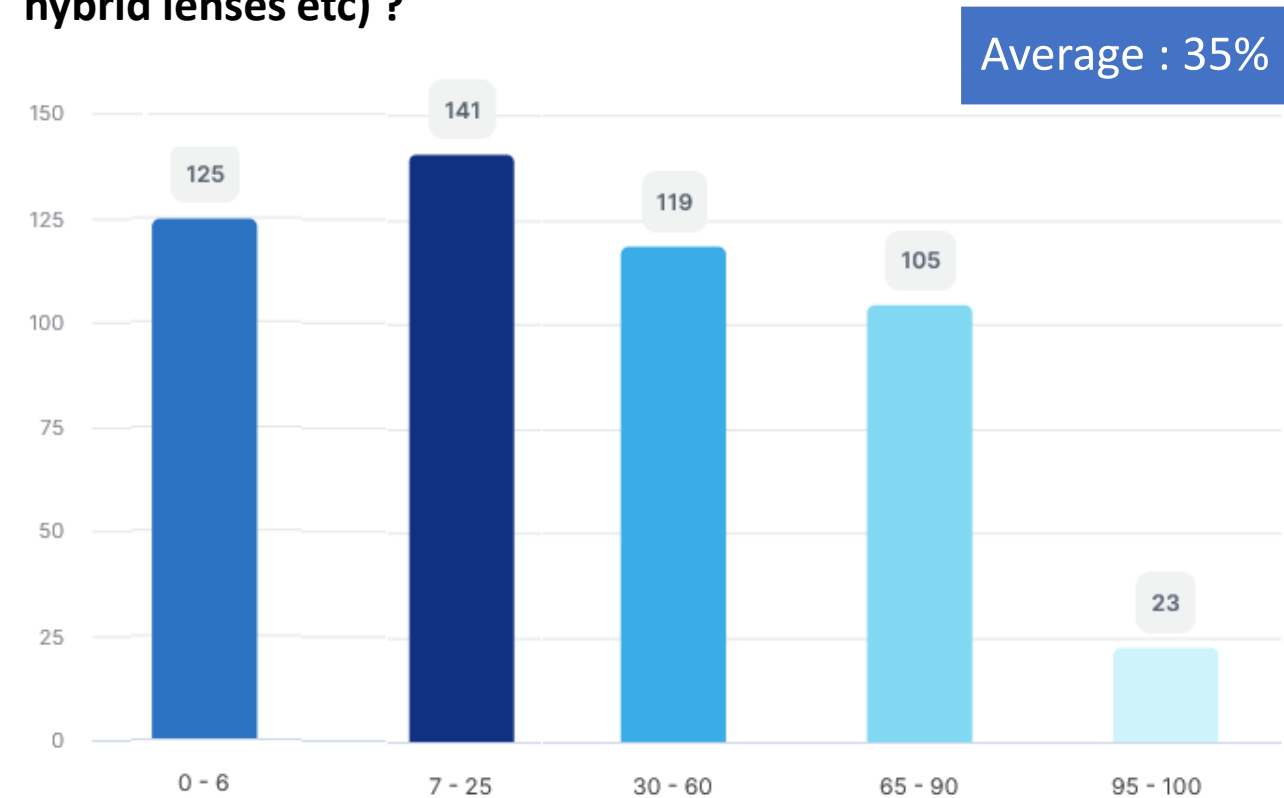
Profile of respondents

Does your practice supply and fit contact lenses ?



Reading : 99% of the respondents supply and fit contact lenses in their practice.

Of your patients that use contact lenses, what is the percentage using RGP contact lenses in your practice (including scleral, orthokeratology, keratoconus, hybrid lenses etc) ?



Reading : 125 respondents have 6% or less of their patients that use contact lenses which use RGP contact lenses.

On average, 35% of patients that use contact lenses use RGP contact lenses in the surveyed practices.

Alternative treatment for patients

If RGP contact lenses were no longer available, approximately what percentage of your current RGP patients...

> could you no longer treat ?



Average : 52% of patients

What conditions would you no longer be able to treat in your patients if RGP contact lenses were no longer available?

Irregular corneas	467	91%
Keratoconus	459	89.5%

*Reading : On average, respondents consider that they could no longer treat 52% of their current RGP patients if RGP contact lenses were no longer available.
91% of respondents declared that they would no longer be able to treat patients with irregular corneas if RGP contact lenses were no longer available.*

Alternative treatment for patients

If RGP contact lenses were no longer available, approximately what percentage of your current RGP patients...

> would be treated with alternative, but less effective, modalities ?

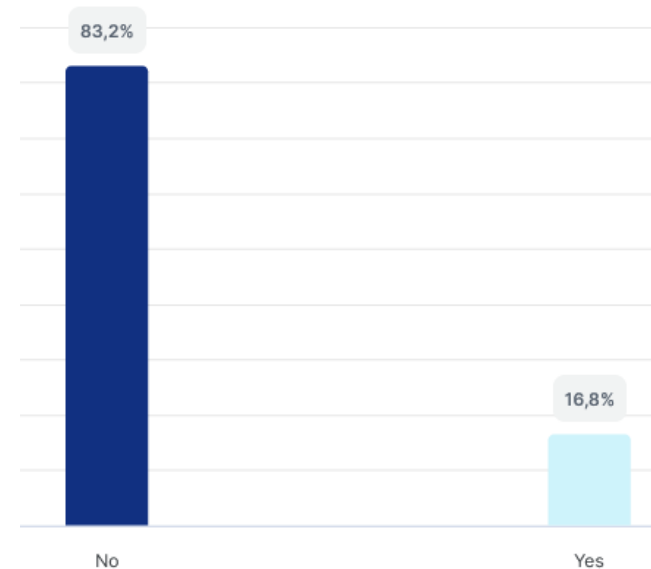


Average : 29% of patients

For which conditions could you find an alternative treatment, if RGP contact lenses were no longer available due to a PFAS total ban?

High astigmatism	219	42.7%
Very severe ametropia	204	39.8%
Myopic children with Ortho-K	189	36.8%
Myopic Adults with Ortho-K	152	29.6%
Dry Eye Patients	149	29%
Post surgery patients	100	19.5%

For these conditions which you can still treat, would the alternative treatment to RGP CL have comparable efficiency, quality of vision and comfort ?



Reading : On average, respondents consider that 29% of their current RGP patients would be treated with alternative, but less effective modalities, if RGP contact lenses were no longer available. 42,7% of respondents declared that they could find an alternative treatment for high astigmatism if RGP contact lenses were no longer available.

Alternative treatment for patients

If RGP contact lenses were no longer available, approximately what percentage of your current RGP patients...

> could you no longer treat ?  Average : 52% of patients

> would be treated with alternative, but less effective, modalities ?  Average : 29% of patients

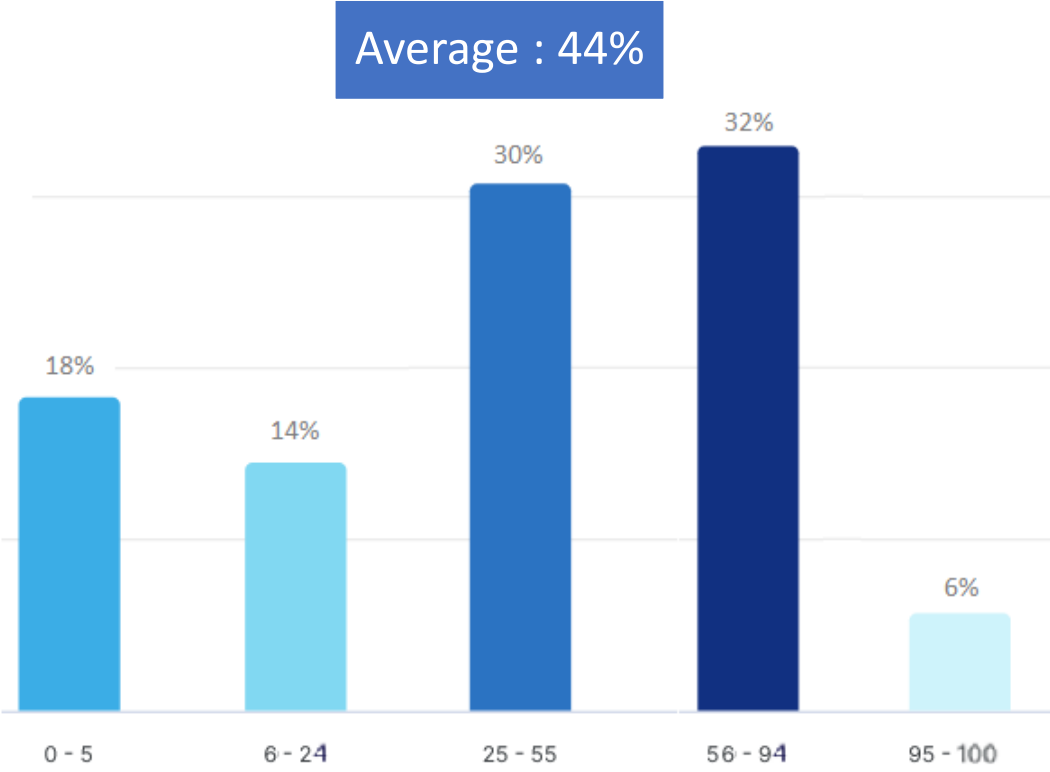
→ 81% of current RGP patients would be no longer treated or treated with less effective alternatives

Impact on patients

What do you anticipate to be the impact for patients who cannot be treated by means of RGP contact lenses due to a total ban on PFAS?

RÉPONSE	RÉPONSES	RATIO
Reduced quality of life	482	94%
Very poor vision	458	89.3%
Inability to drive	400	78%
Inability to work	379	73.9%
Increase in myopia	266	51.9%
Other...	42	8.2%

Please estimate what percentage of your current RGP patients would have a visual acuity less than 6/12 (20/40) in both eyes if you could only use soft contact lenses or glasses to correct their vision



Reading : 94% of the respondents anticipate a reduced quality of life for patients who cannot be treated by means of RGP contact lenses.
6% of the respondents estimate that at least 95% of their current RGP patients would have a visual acuity less than 6/12 (20/40) in both eyes if they could only use soft contact lenses or glasses.
On average, respondents estimate that 44% of their current RGP patients would have a visual acuity less than 6/12 (20/40) in both eyes if they could only use soft contact lenses or glasses.

What, if any, specific health and safety risks to patients do you think would arise if you can no longer treat them with RGP lenses?

RÉPONSE	RÉPONSES	RATIO
Patients will continue to use old/out of date medical devices	386	75.2%
Patients will have no alternative solution resulting in deteriorating eye health	379	73.9%
Patients will source unregulated devices from outside the EU	338	65.9%
Other...	24	4.7%
None	22	4.3%

Reading : 75,2% of the respondents think that patients will continue to use old/out of date medical devices in they can no longer treat them with RGP lenses