

# Exploring Public Trust in Drug Repurposing

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## Abstract

This research presents findings from a survey investigating public attitudes towards drug repurposing. Through analysis of trust levels, skepticism, and acceptance, we uncover insights into societal perceptions of this innovative healthcare approach. The study offers valuable insights for healthcare stakeholders, aiding in fostering greater trust and understanding in drug repurposing initiatives.

## Background

Drug repurposing, also known as repositioning or reprofiling, is a strategy focused on finding new therapeutic uses for existing drugs that were originally developed for different purposes. This approach has gained significant attention due to its potential in finding solutions for unmet medical needs [1].

## Objectives

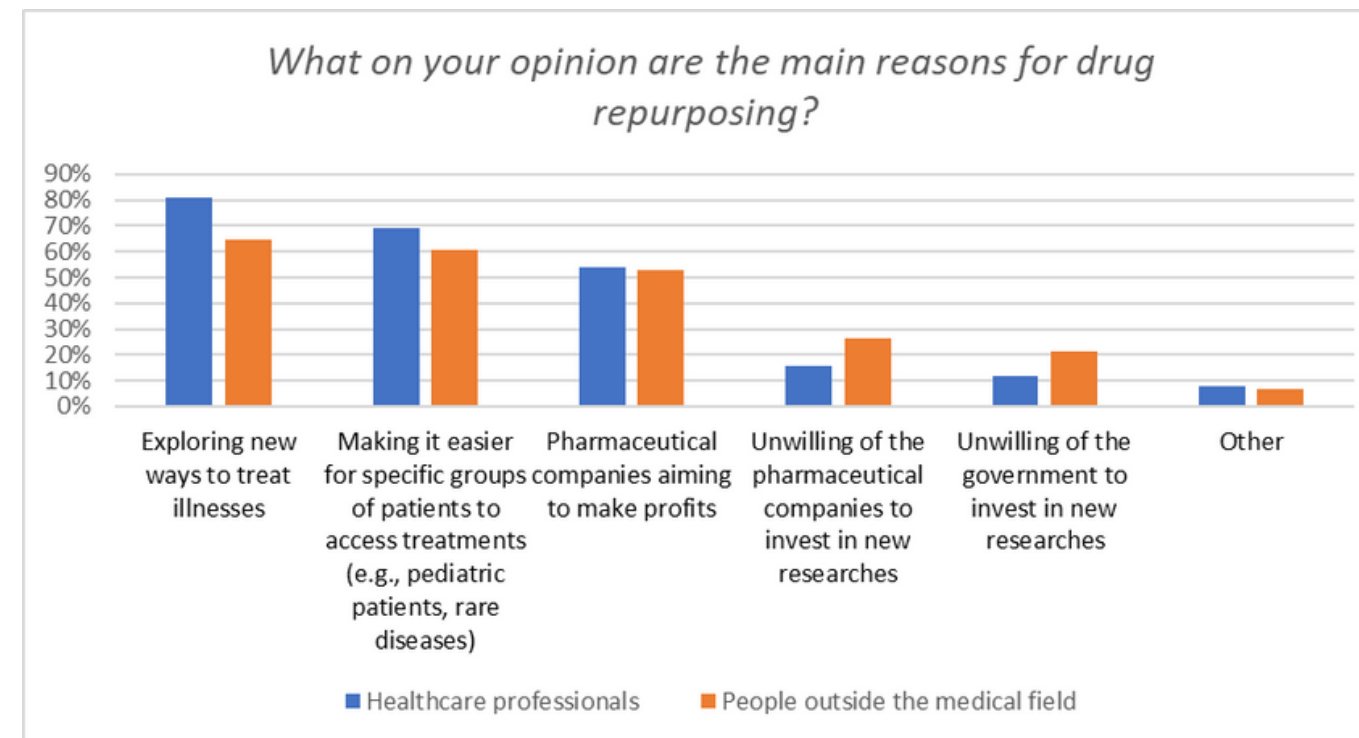
- Assess trust levels in medical professionals and the public regarding drug repurposing.
- Identify methods to enhance public awareness of drug repurposing initiatives.

## Methods

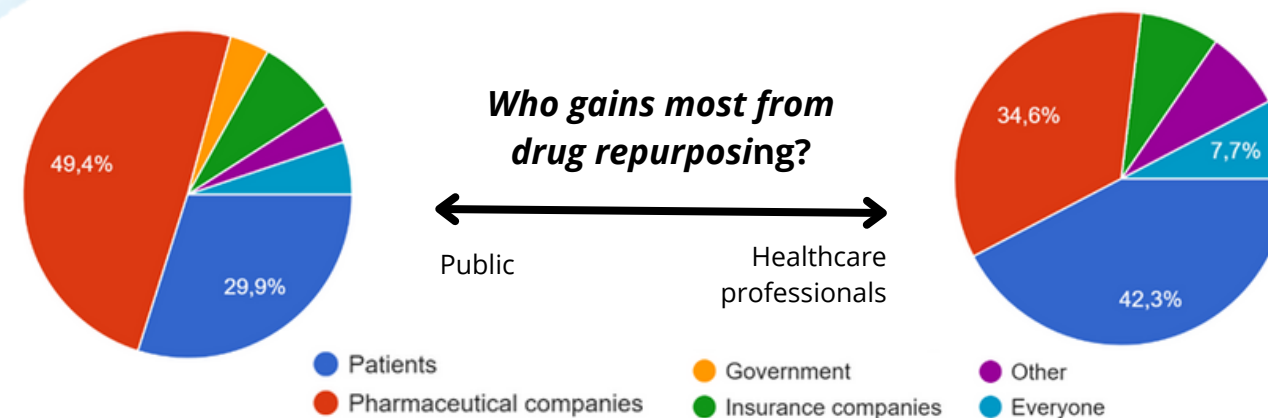
This work encompassed thorough documentary research, examining literature from various authors pertaining to drug repurposing. Additionally, a survey involving over 100 participants (25% healthcare vs. 75% non-healthcare workers) was conducted and analyzed using descriptive statistical methods.

## Results

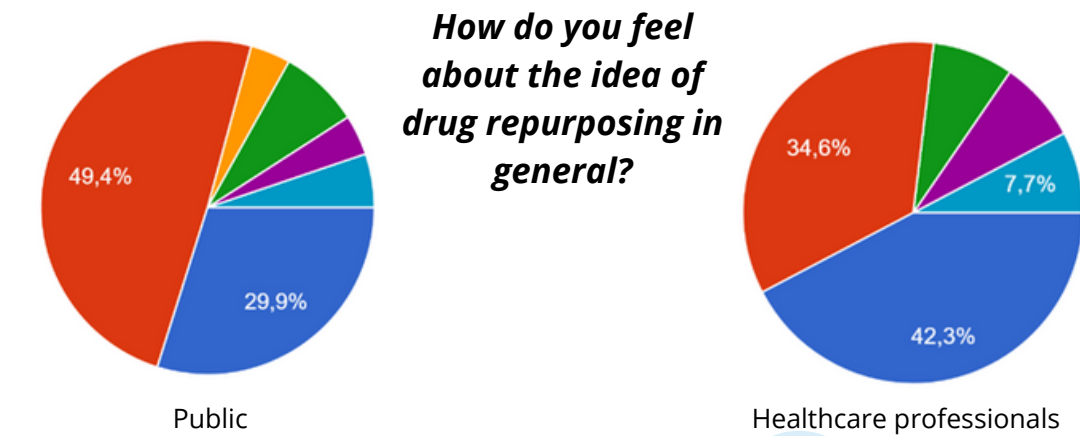
The survey results depict that the majority of respondents believe that repurposing is necessary to find new treatment pathways and help specific patient groups. However, there is a trend indicating that individuals outside the medical field tend to think that repurposing is used due to a reluctance to invest in new developments.



Additionally, respondents were asked who benefits most from drug repurposing (not necessarily monetary gain). A distinct contrast emerged: individuals in the medical field see patients as the primary beneficiaries, while those outside it view companies as gaining the most advantage.



As the study concluded, participants were queried about their overall stance on drug repurposing. The findings suggest a generally positive attitude towards this practice among respondents.



## Conclusions

The graphs show an overall positive attitude of the general public towards the drug repurposing. However, there are concerns that profit motives overshadow the benefit to patients. This belief is quite often at odds with reality, as the development of repurposed medicines also requires investment, and cost recovery is complicated by the availability of generics and off-label uses. Thus, an education campaign aimed at addressing fears and providing evidence of the efficacy of repurposed medicines could build confidence in repurposing medicines among both the general public and health care professionals, thus contributing to a broader pharmaceutical market.

## References

[1] Low, Z. Y., Farouk, I. A., & Lal, S. K. (2020). Drug Repositioning: New Approaches and Future Prospects for Life-Debilitating Diseases and the COVID-19 Pandemic Outbreak. *Viruses*, 12(9), 1058.