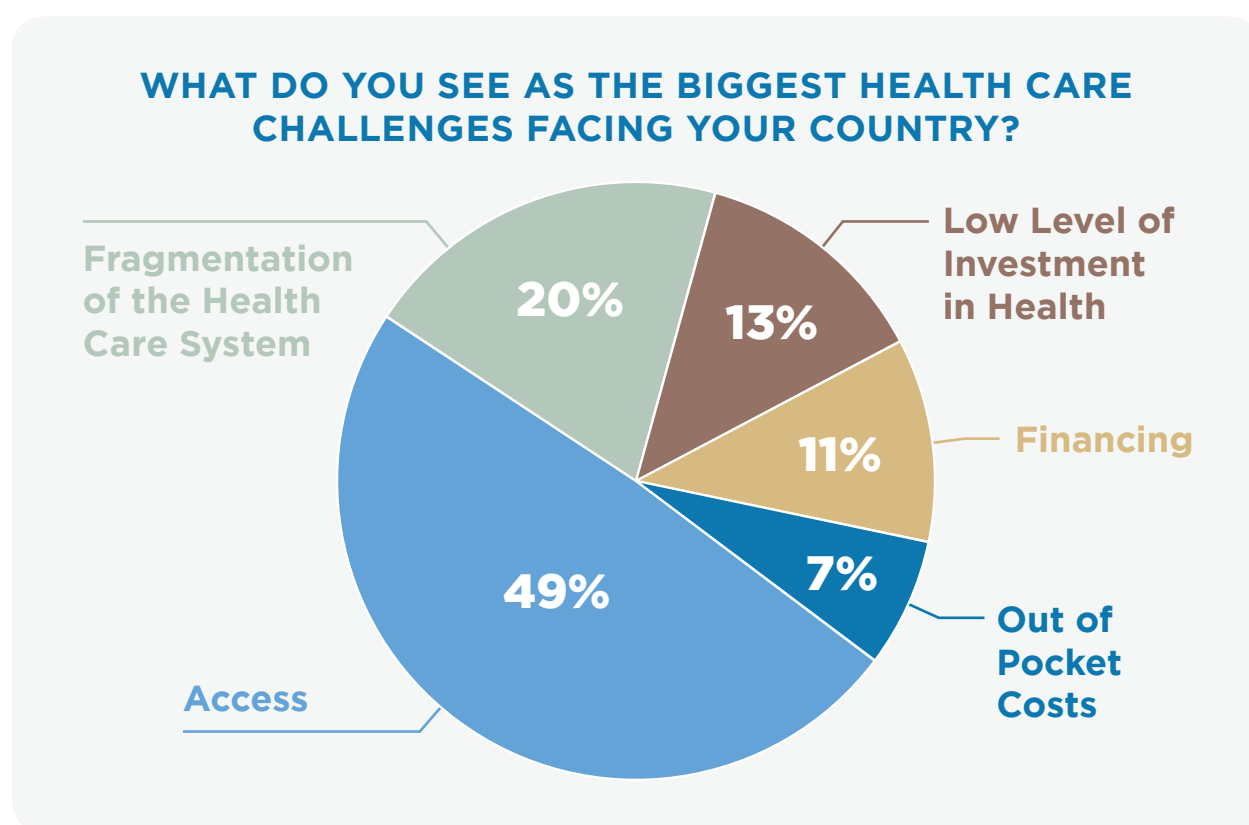


INNOVATION: PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES IN HEALTH SYSTEMS IN LATIN AMERICA

In March 2019, 50 organizations representing patients throughout Latin America participated in a survey conducted by the Global Alliance for Patient Access to gain insights on key challenges for patients in the region. The participants represent patients in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru and Panama.

HEALTH CARE CHALLENGES IN LATIN AMERICA

Health care systems in Latin America face a range of threats and challenges, including issues related to patient access, financing, health coverage, out-of-pocket costs, system fragmentation and overall investment. As demonstrated by the survey results, low levels of overall health investment is widely viewed as a significant challenge in the region.

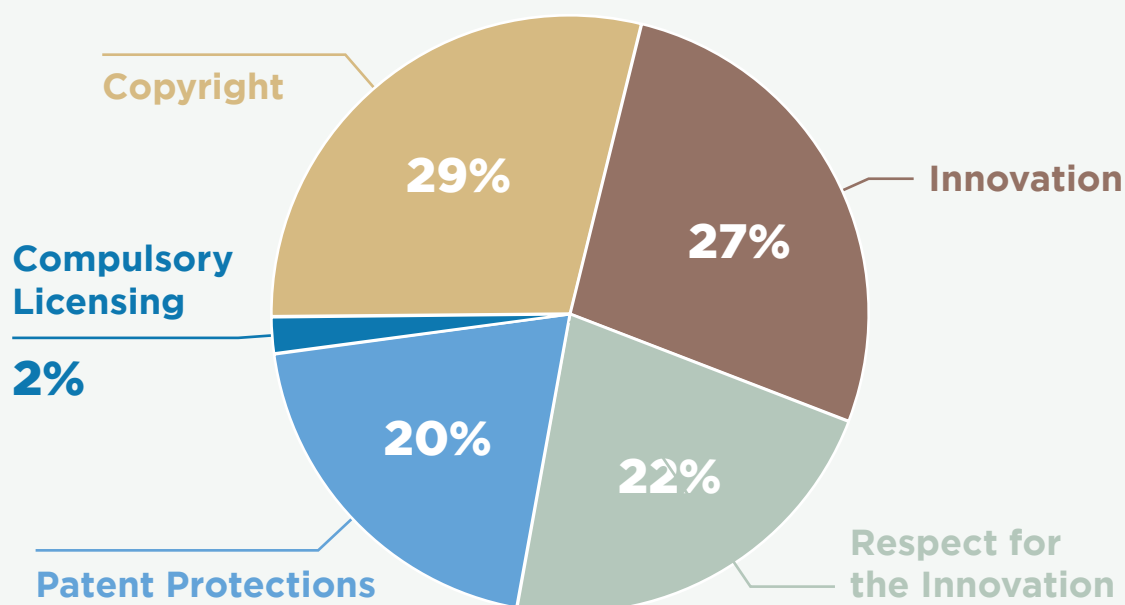


When asked about which challenge has the greatest impact on patients, one respondent noted: *“The current political situation in our country and the decline in investment in health [is our greatest challenge].”*

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DRIVES INNOVATION

Intellectual property is a multi-faceted issue that involves a range of stakeholders with varying interests and concerns. Survey respondents were largely divided on which issues they most associate with intellectual property, with responses close to evenly split between innovation, patent protections, respect for inventions and copyright. Notably, however, only a small fraction of respondents – less than 3 percent – associated intellectual property with compulsory licensing – a drastic policy that breaks patents on new drugs.

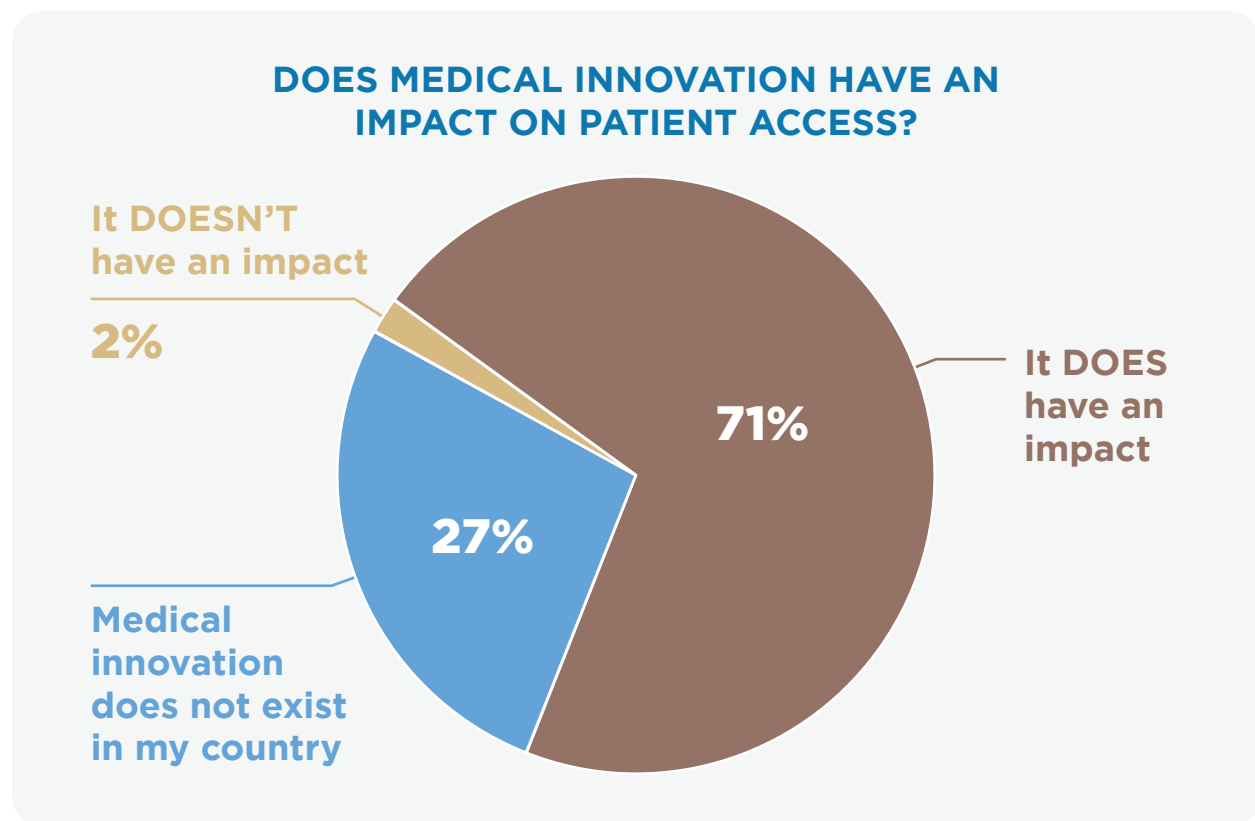
WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, WHAT IS THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO MIND?



One respondent noted, *"I understand that innovation is extremely relevant, but it needs to be aligned with public policies that guarantee access."*

IMPACT OF MEDICAL INNOVATION ON PATIENT ACCESS

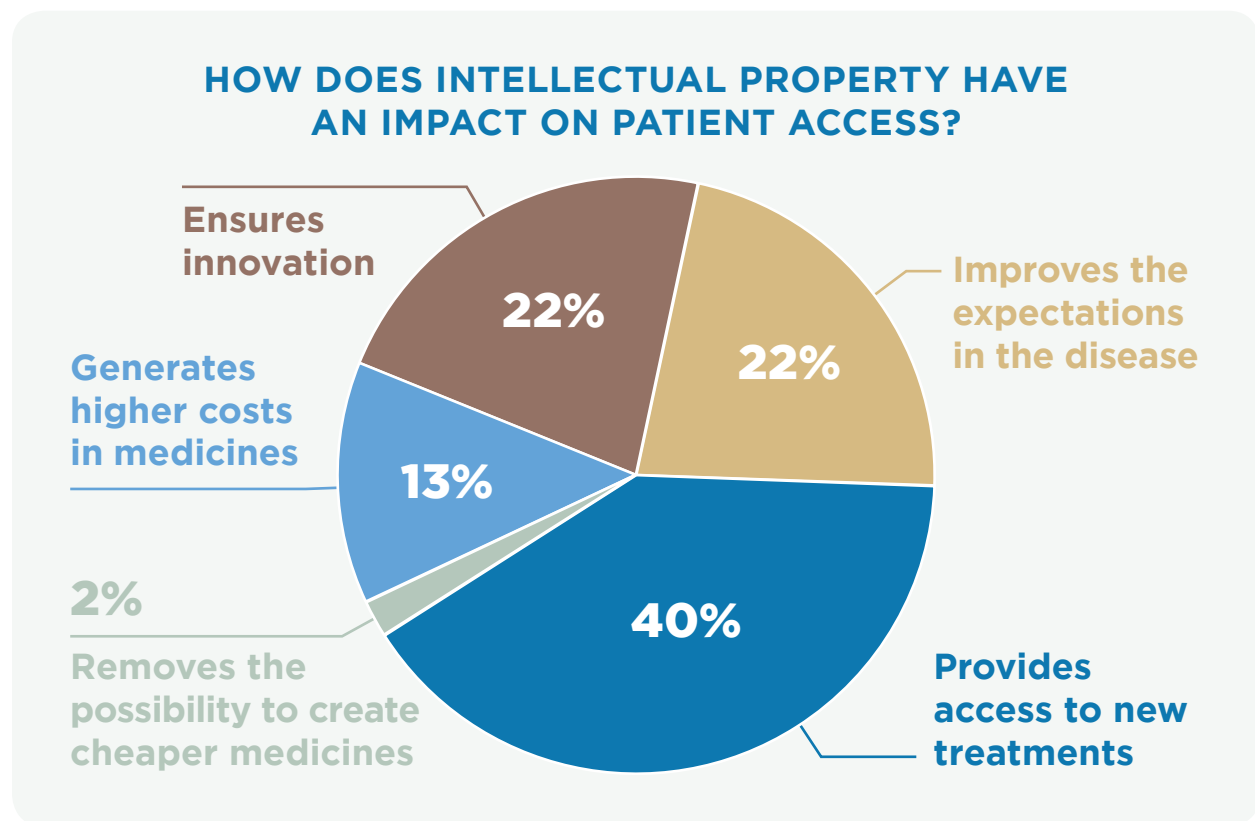
Medical innovation is key to bringing hope to patients. Despite concern that innovation can generate inequality, approximately 71 percent of survey respondents said they believe medical innovation has an impact on patient access, but nearly a quarter said innovative does not exist in their country.



Instead of attributing barriers in access to medical innovation, respondents referenced other issues, such as fragmentation of health services. One respondent stated, *"...fragmentation of health services has a direct impact on cancer patients, as they have less opportunity in their medical care. Patients are insured, but when accessing health services, they may encounter bureaucratic barriers that delay their care. These access difficulties are even greater among the poor and more vulnerable population, affiliated with the subsidized health system."*

IMPACT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ON PATIENT ACCESS

Similar to the question of medical innovation and access, most respondents did not express concerns that intellectual property threatens patient access. In fact, the majority of respondents noted that IP protections ensure innovation, improve disease expectations and provide access to new treatments.



One respondent stated, *"We want to expand research, especially clinical and innovation studies, to allow temporary access to state-of-the-art drugs."*

CONCLUSION

This survey of key health care stakeholders – patients – across Latin America demonstrates the importance of pro-innovation policies and programs that promote medicine access. These unique insights can guide policymakers to make informed decisions about value, safety, cost and, ultimately, patient access.



The Global Alliance for Patient Access

is a network of physicians and patient advocates with the shared mission of promoting health policy that ensures patient access to appropriate clinical care and approved therapies. GAfPA accomplishes this mission through educating physicians and patients on health policy issues and developing education materials and advocacy initiatives to promote informed policymaking.



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