

IDENTIFYING THE SECTORS DESCRIBED IN PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE LITERATURE: A systematic review

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SUMMARY

- The International Health Regulations (2005) and the European Union Decision 1082/2013/EU specify the need for multisectoral collaboration for successful preparedness and response to public health emergencies (PHEs).
- Yet, there are no guidelines for how and with whom collaboration should take place during PHEs.
- The majority of the sectors mentioned when describing actions and collaborations during PHEs in peer-reviewed articles published between 2005 and 2020 can be attributed to 4 of the 28 sectors defined in this systematic review.
- More research and efforts must be undertaken to operationalise multisectoral collaboration for future PHEs.

Introduction

The comprehensive nature of the COVID-19 pandemic has been a reminder of the need for multisectoral collaboration during PHEs.

European Union Joint Action SHARP European public health professionals were surprised by the breadth of sectors they needed to collaborate with.

There are no legal agreements, published guidelines, or systematic studies that provide a concrete overview of the sectors that should collaborate during PHEs.

Hence, we conducted a systematic review using the PRISMA framework to identify the sectors named most frequently in peer-reviewed literature on PHE preparedness and response.

Our results

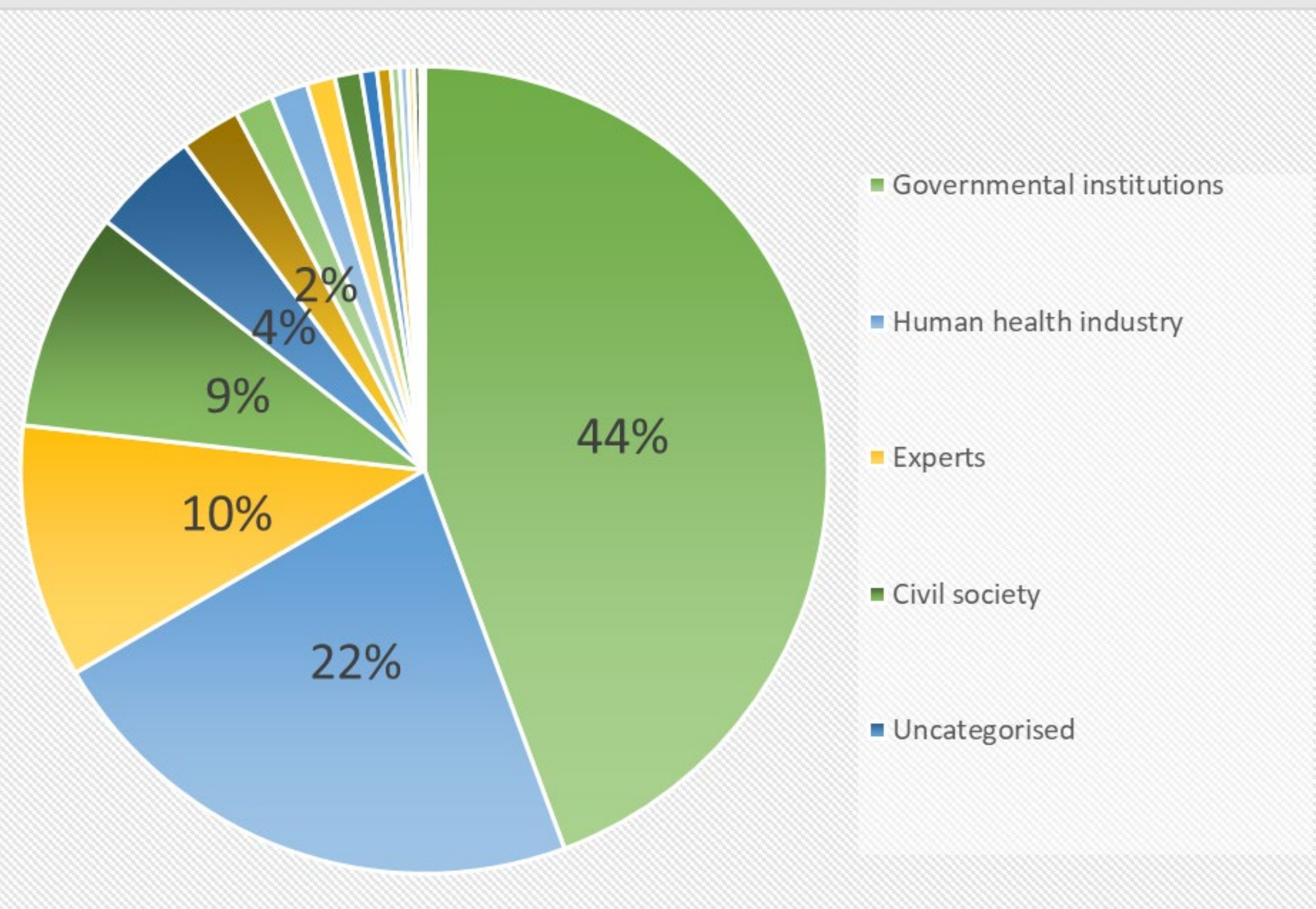
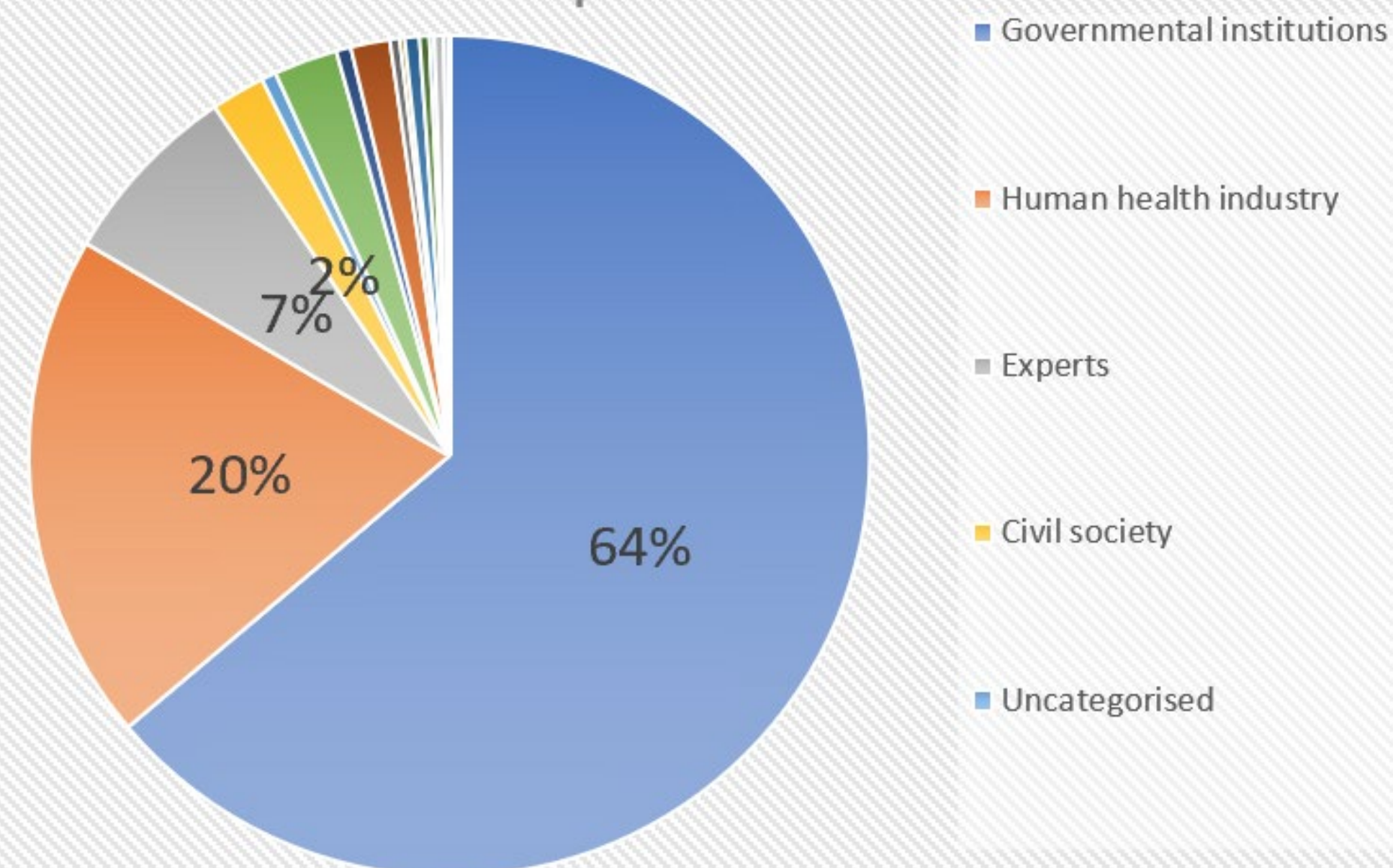


Figure 1 shows that 85% of the sectors mentioned could be attributed to 4 of the 28 pre-defined sectors (based on the European Commission's list of sectors and economic activities).

When focusing on **collaboration** during PHE's, 90% of the mentions could be attributed to the same 4 sectors:

1. Governmental institutions (63%);
2. Human health industry (16%);
3. Experts (7%);
4. Civil society (5%).

Collaborations that took place



Recommended collaborations

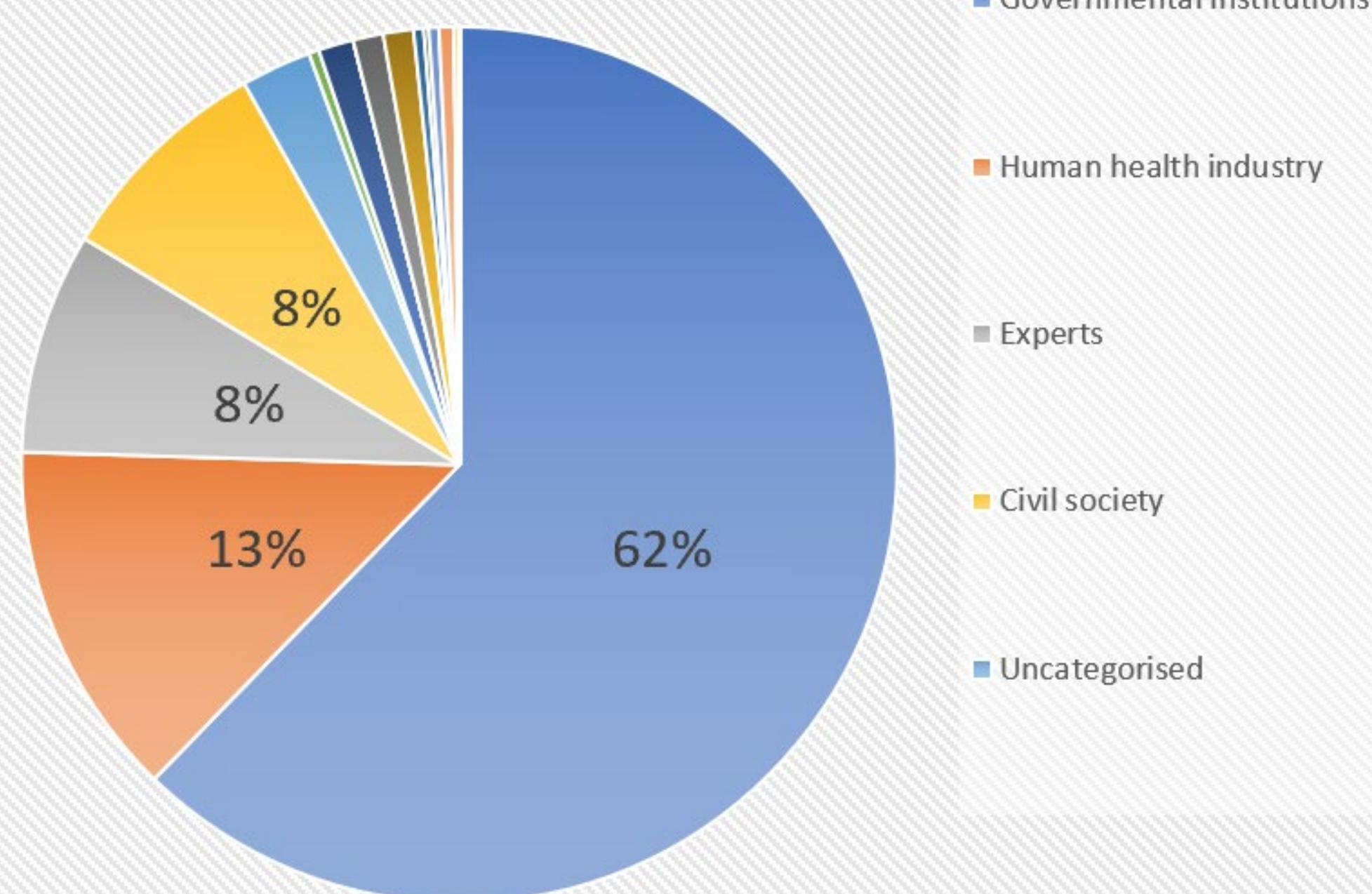


Figure 2 compares the frequency at which sectors are mentioned when describing past and recommended collaborations. It shows that the sector 'Civil society' is mentioned more frequently and 'Human health industry' is mentioned less frequently when describing recommended collaborations than when describing past collaborations.

TAKE HOME MESSAGE

- Despite a push for multisectoral collaboration, only 4 sectors are frequently mentioned in literature describing collaboration during PHEs
- Our future research will focus on
 - the operationalisation of multisectoral collaboration;
 - the concretisation of sectors' potential roles;
 - the added value of including specific sectors in specific collaborations.