



Socioeconomic wellbeing and human rights-related experiences of people with disabilities in Covid-19 times in South Africa. Findings from a Survey

13th October 2021

Findings from the provisional data analysis.

Detailed analyses to be shared over the next couple of months.

Programme

South Africa Time	Presenter	Topic
10.00	Dr Mary Wickenden	Welcome
10.10	Dr Tim Hart	Background and methodology
10.20	Dr Mercy Ngungu	Demographics
10.25	Mr Tinashe Rubaba	Economic circumstances – pre and during pandemic
10.35	Ms Yamkela Majikijela	Psychosocial experiences
10.45	Dr Tim Hart	Service Challenges
10.55	Ms Nthabi Molongoana	Accessibility to care services
11.05	Adv Gary Pienaar	Perceptions of the state's handling of the pandemic
11.15	Dr Yul Derek Davids	Vaccine Demand
11.25	Dr Tim Hart	Future Expectations
11.40	Dr Mary Wickenden	Q&A from audience
12.00	Ms Therina Wentzel	Thanks & Closure of Session 1
12.05	All	15-minute break
12.20	Dr Stephen Thompson	Session 2 Interactive session
12:25	All	Break away Groups
12:50	All	Plenary presentations
1.00	Closure and Way forward	Dr Stephen Thompson

Welcome

Chair Mary Wickenden – Institute for Development Studies UK (IDS)

SLI and real time captioning are available

Slides will be available later and have been accessibility checked

Please tell us if you have any access needs

Write your questions and comments in the QnA box or chatbox – they will be addressed by the team in QnA at the end of the presentations

Purpose & Methodology

Tim Hart – Chief Research Specialist (HSRC)



Background 1

- Between 12%-20% of the population over 5yrs have some form of disability
- COVID-19 – What is impact of the pandemic and mitigation measures on persons with disabilities in South Africa?
- Reports during initial 4 months
 - Overlooked generally by disaster relief
 - Ignored by pandemic directives

Background 2

- Seemingly overlooked by National Disaster Management Framework
 - Specific needs and circumstances being ignored
 - Diversity not considered
 - DMA regulations more concerned with reducing infection (overlook mitigation of pandemic and regulations)
- Few specific state interventions – onus on others?
- No means of tracking & identifying those most in need

Purpose

- IDS, HSRC, NCPD partnership – Newton Agile (UKRI gov Fund) response opportunity July 2020
- Focus:
 - Socioeconomic and human rights experiences
 - Voices, attitudes, needs and changing circumstances
 - Only for persons with disabilities - parents, guardians and carers able to assist (<18 legal guardian consent)
 - Vaccine questions included to understand the debate
 - Included WG short questions and qualitative options

Survey Methodology

- Online survey - COVID-19 regulations
- 119 item instrument – Constructed with and by persons with disabilities
- HSRC and IDS ethics approval
- POPIA (2013) compliance
- Survey link disseminated to networks, organisations and individuals – through state, private and civil society and personally known individuals

Outcomes

Survey period
(1 July to
31 Aug
2021)

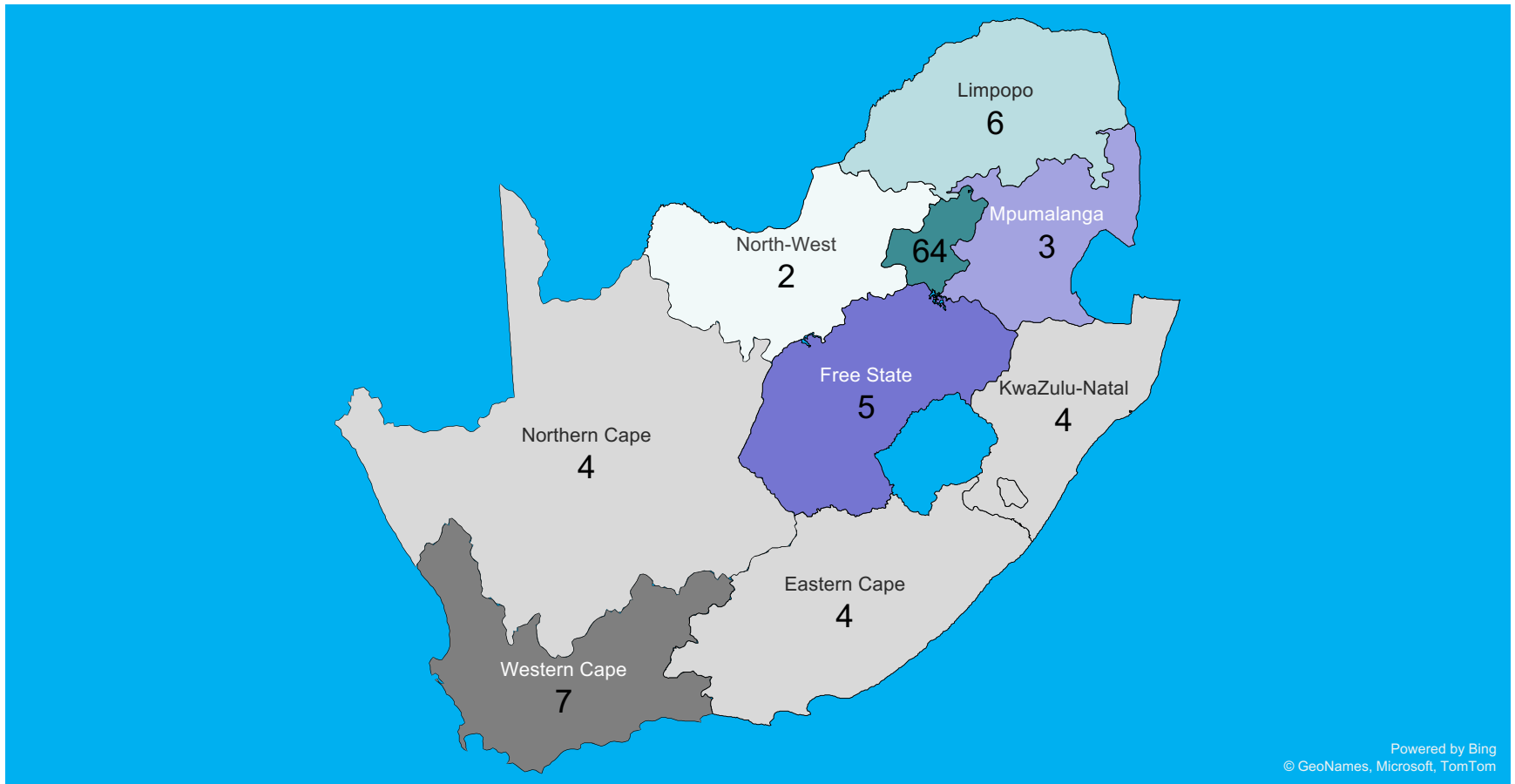
1857 valid
cases

94.3% of
responden
ts >18yrs

96%
completed
without
assistance

87% defined
themselves as
a person with a
disability

Geographic spread of sample



Survey Considerations 1

- Findings relate only to sample and not population
- Self definition of disability – numerous
 - Some more independent than others so might not consider al WGSQ challenging
- Voluntary versus stratified or random
- Access with and familiarity with ICTs
- Fatigue – 119 items

Survey Considerations 2

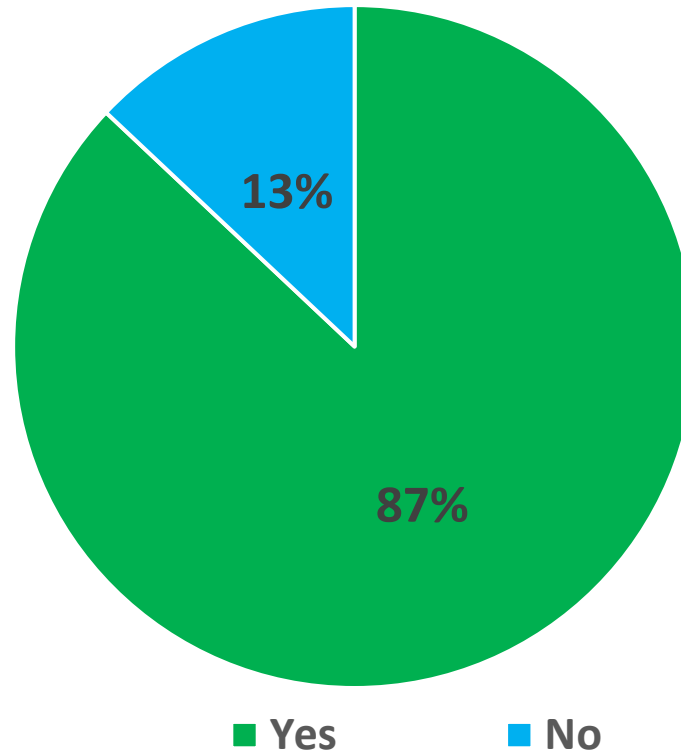
- Self administered online survey limitations
 - Unsure of item understanding – although piloted
- Inability to explore
 - Response inconsistencies
 - Depth
- Snapshot - Biases at time of survey
 - Recall limitations
 - Current issues predominate or Early issues resolved
 - Media messages
 - Assisted responses might be inaccurate (4%)

Demographics & Severity of disability

Mercy Ngungu Data Manager (HSRC)

Person with disability

N=1875



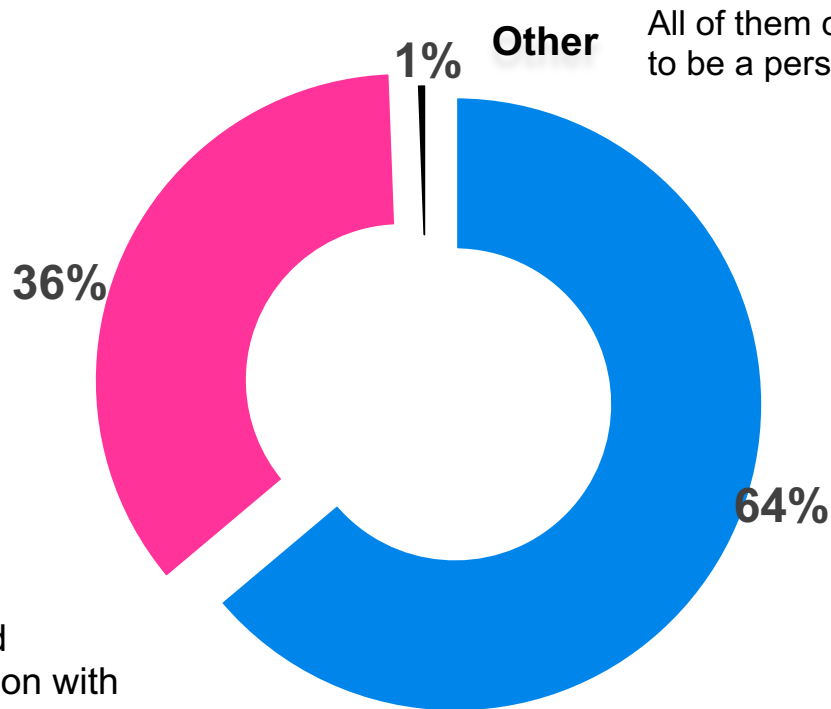
Self-identification permitted

Gender

N=1875



95% of them considered themselves to be a person with a disability



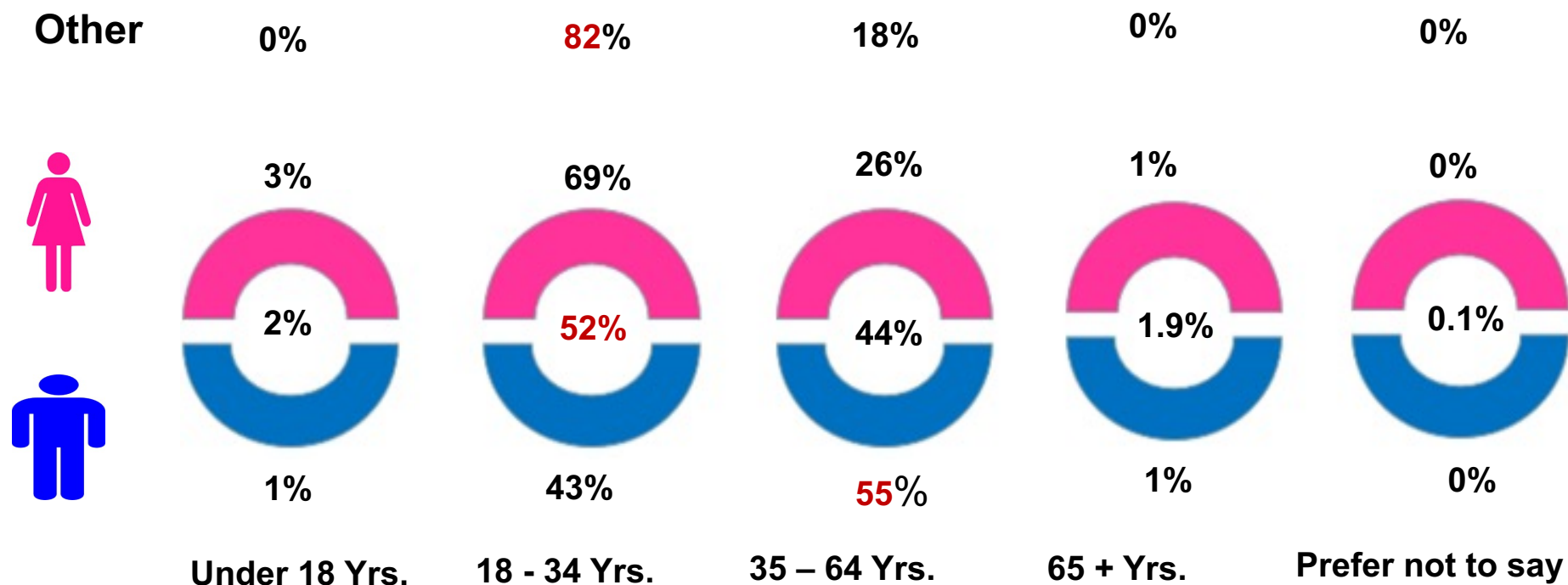
All of them considered themselves to be a person with a disability



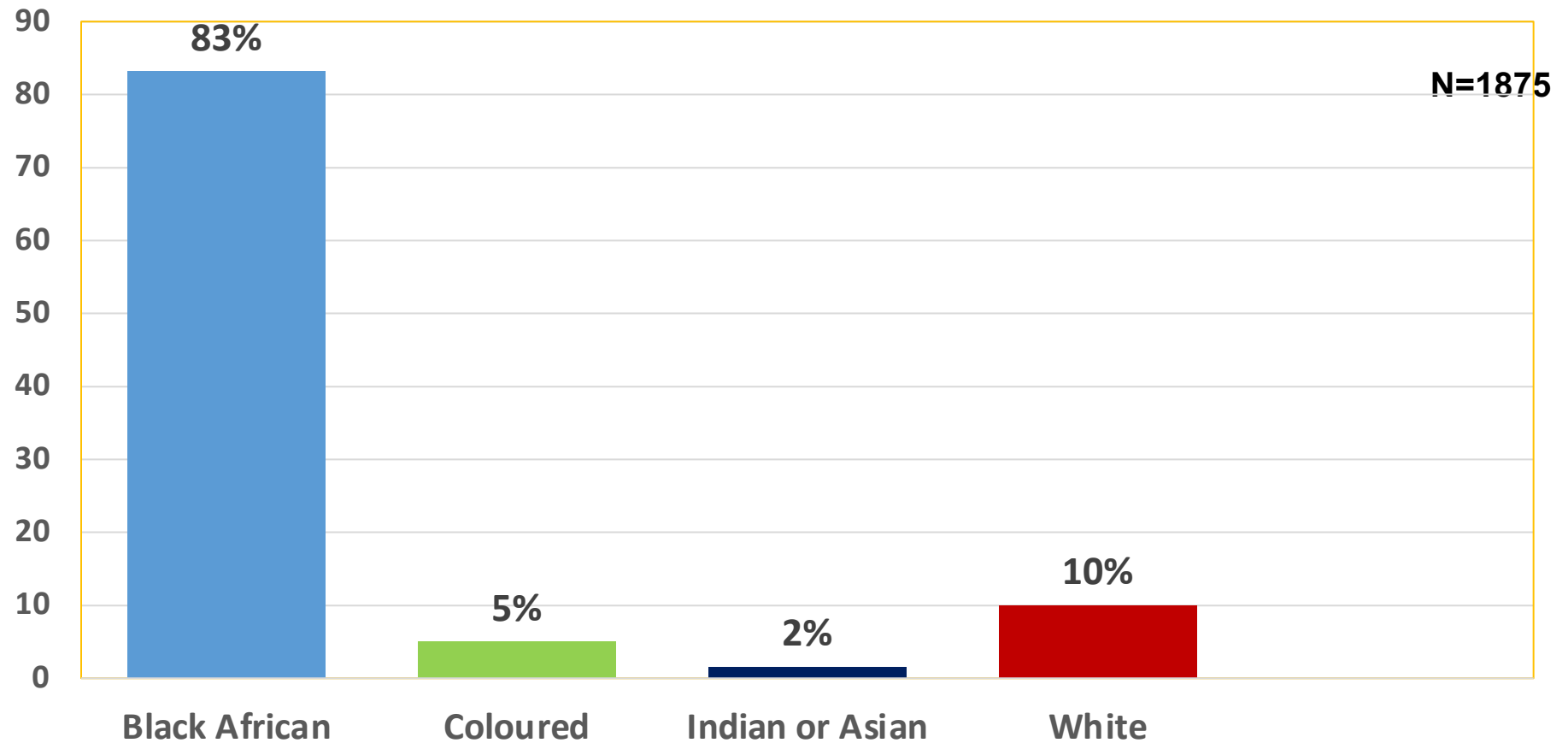
83% of them considered themselves to be a person with a disability

Age groups by gender

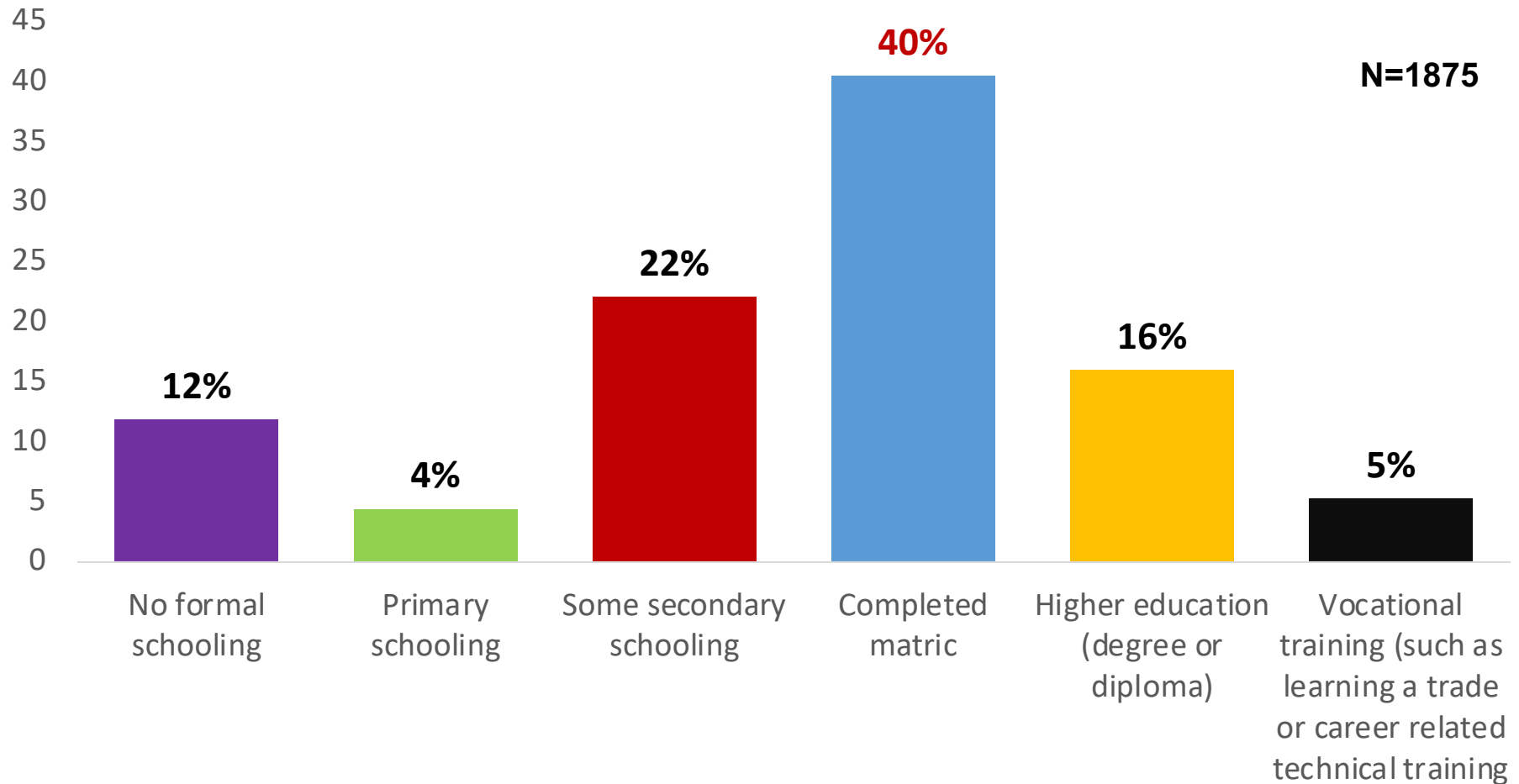
N=1875



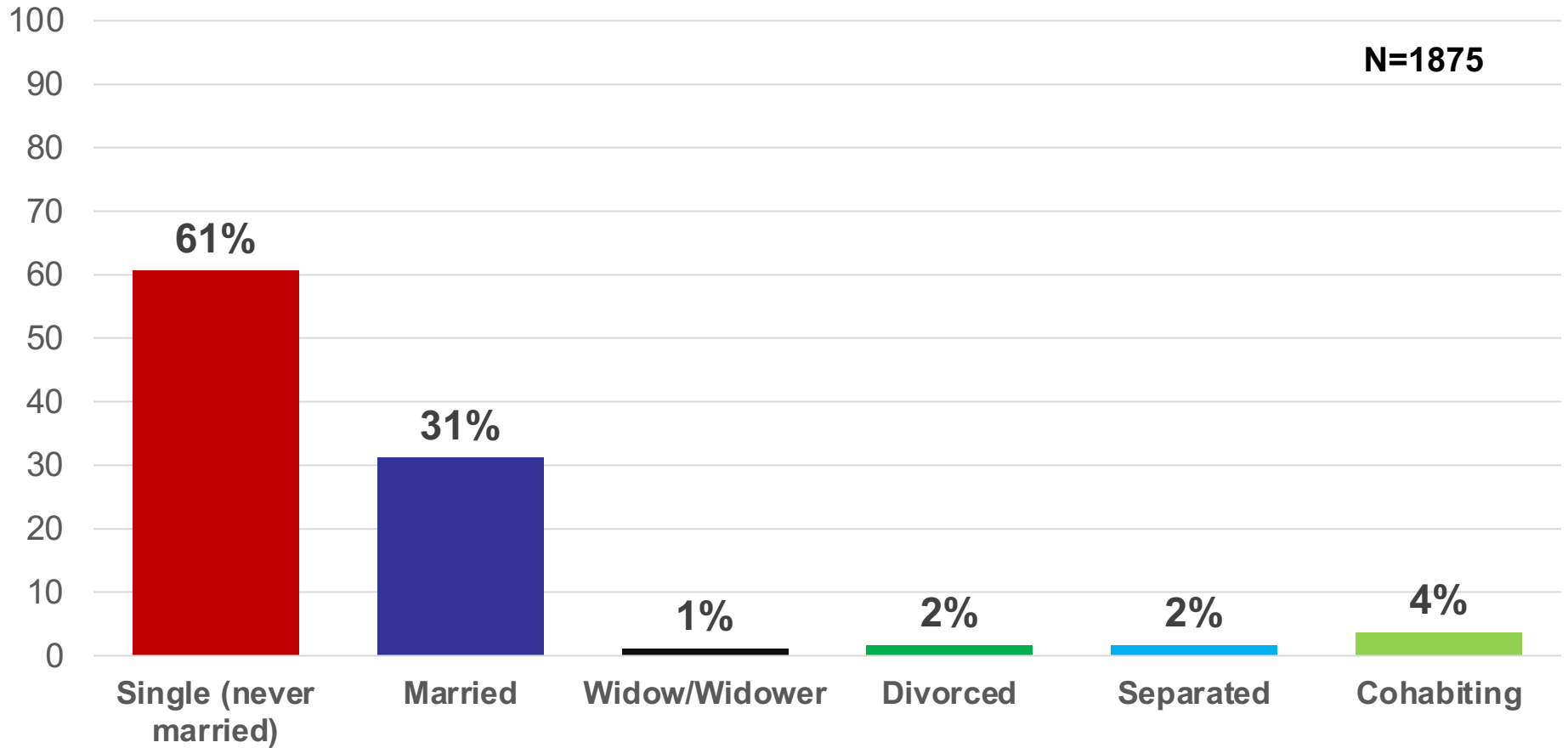
Race



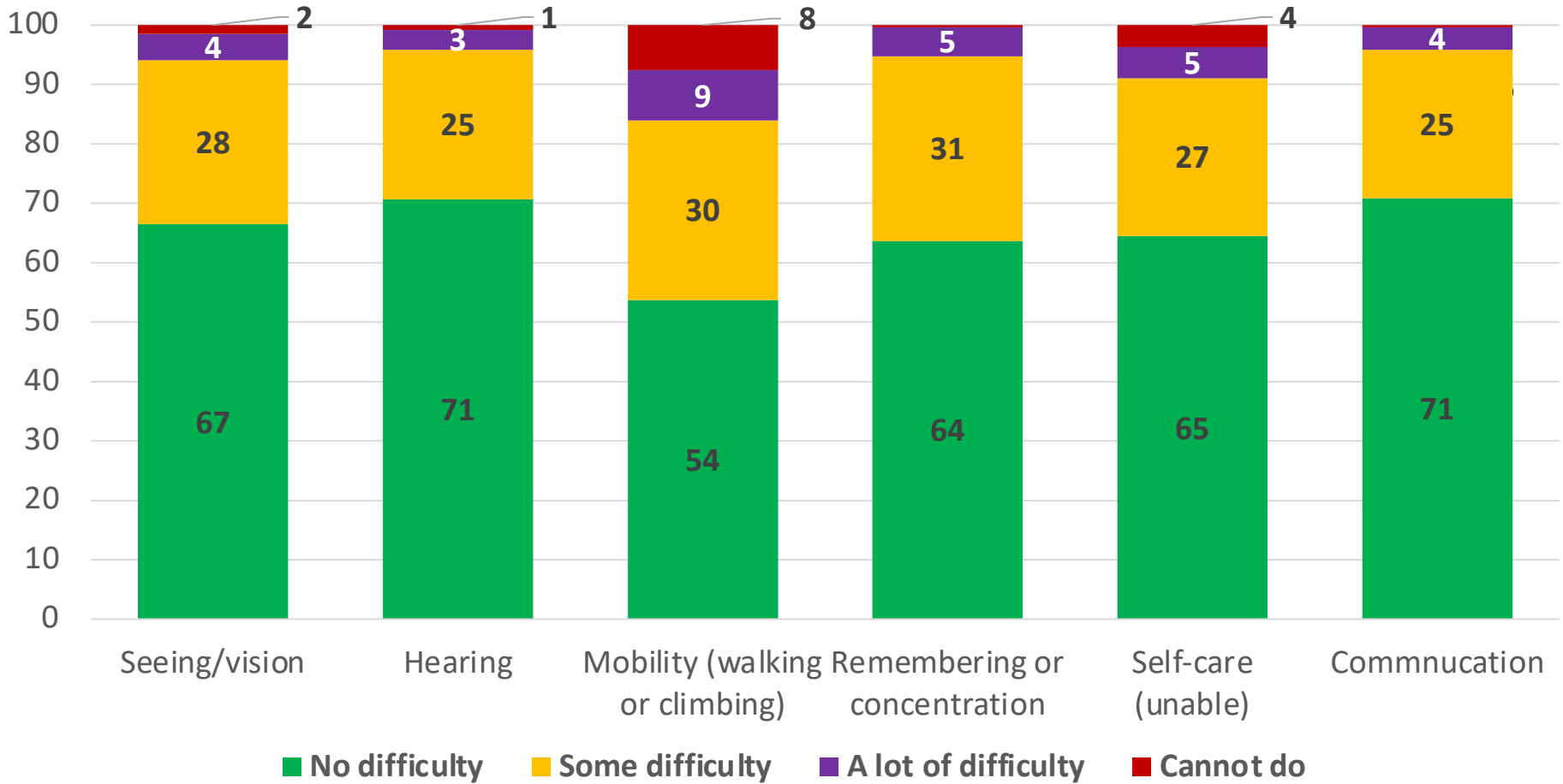
Education



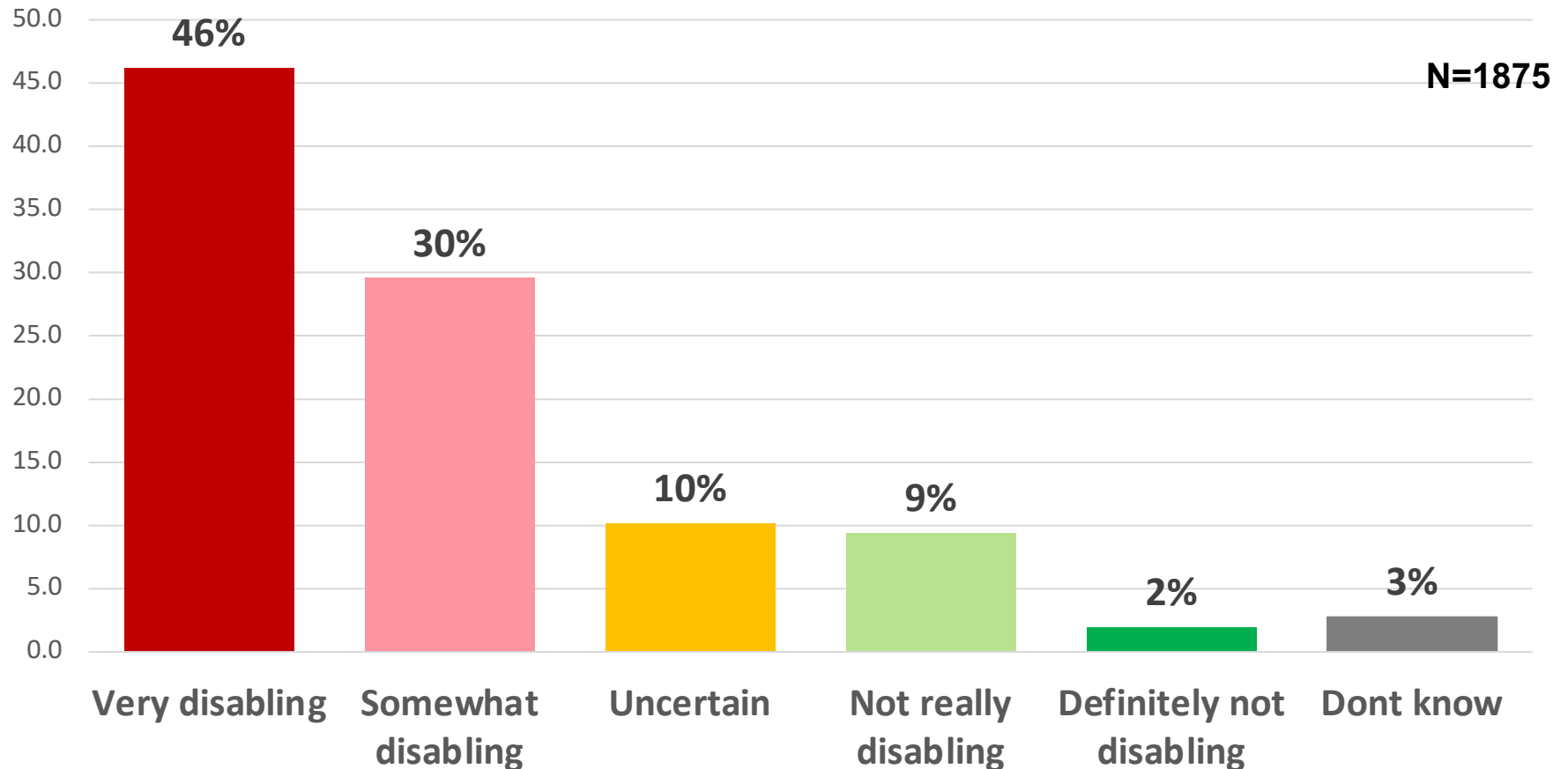
Marital Status



Disability - WGSQ



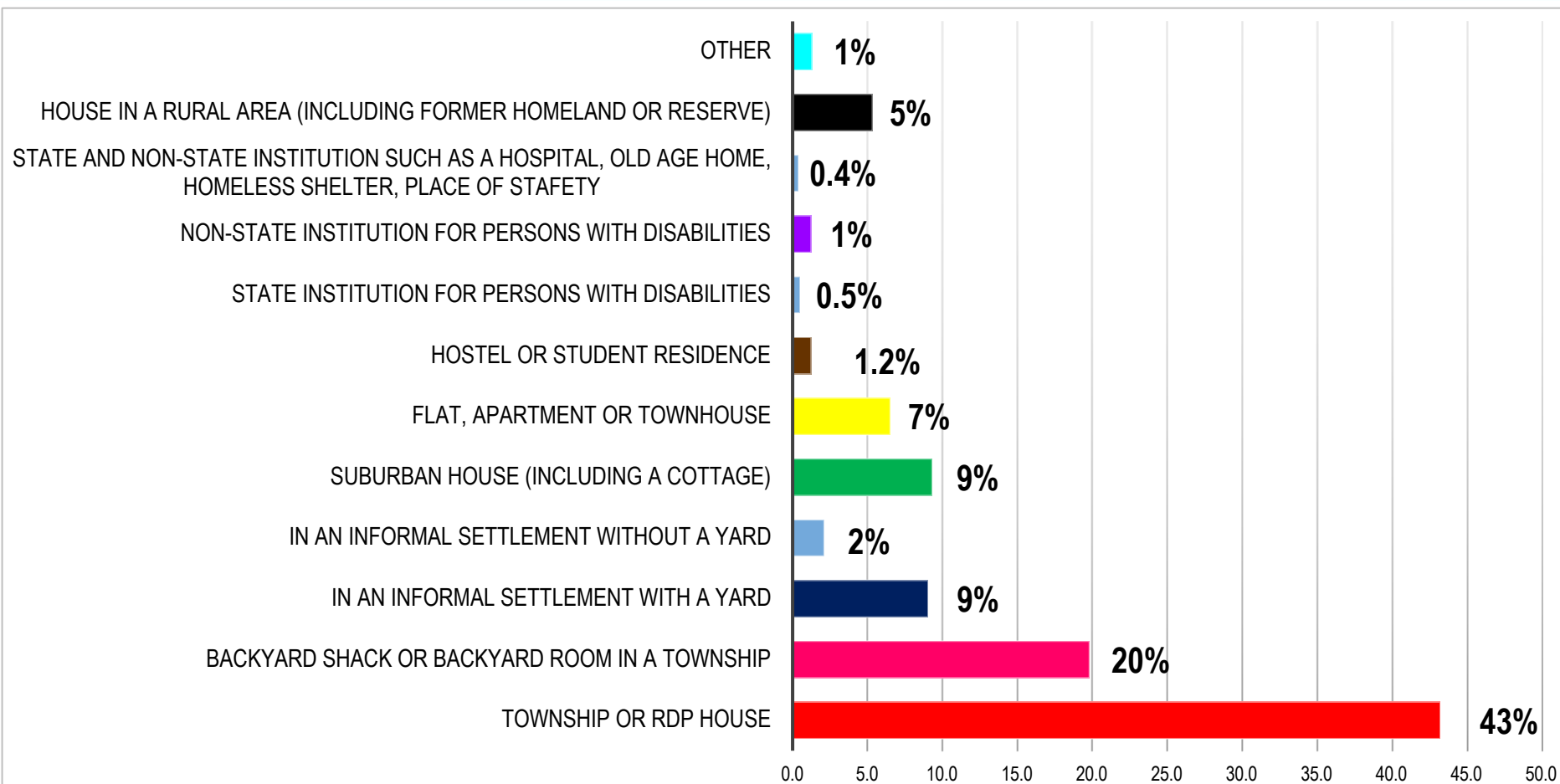
How disabling do you experience your disability



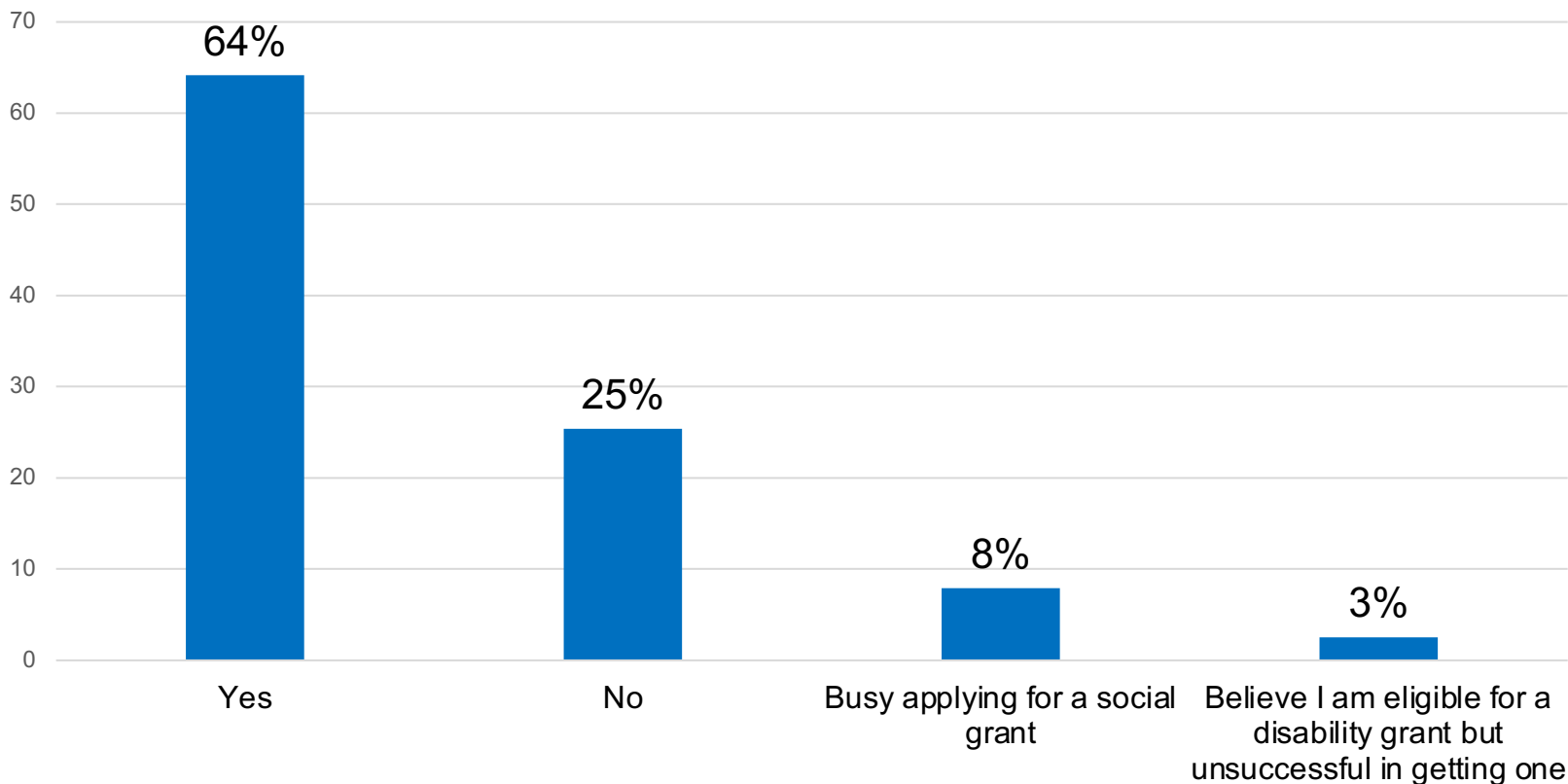
Economic circumstances – pre and during pandemic

Tinashe Rubaba Projects Coordinator (NCPD)

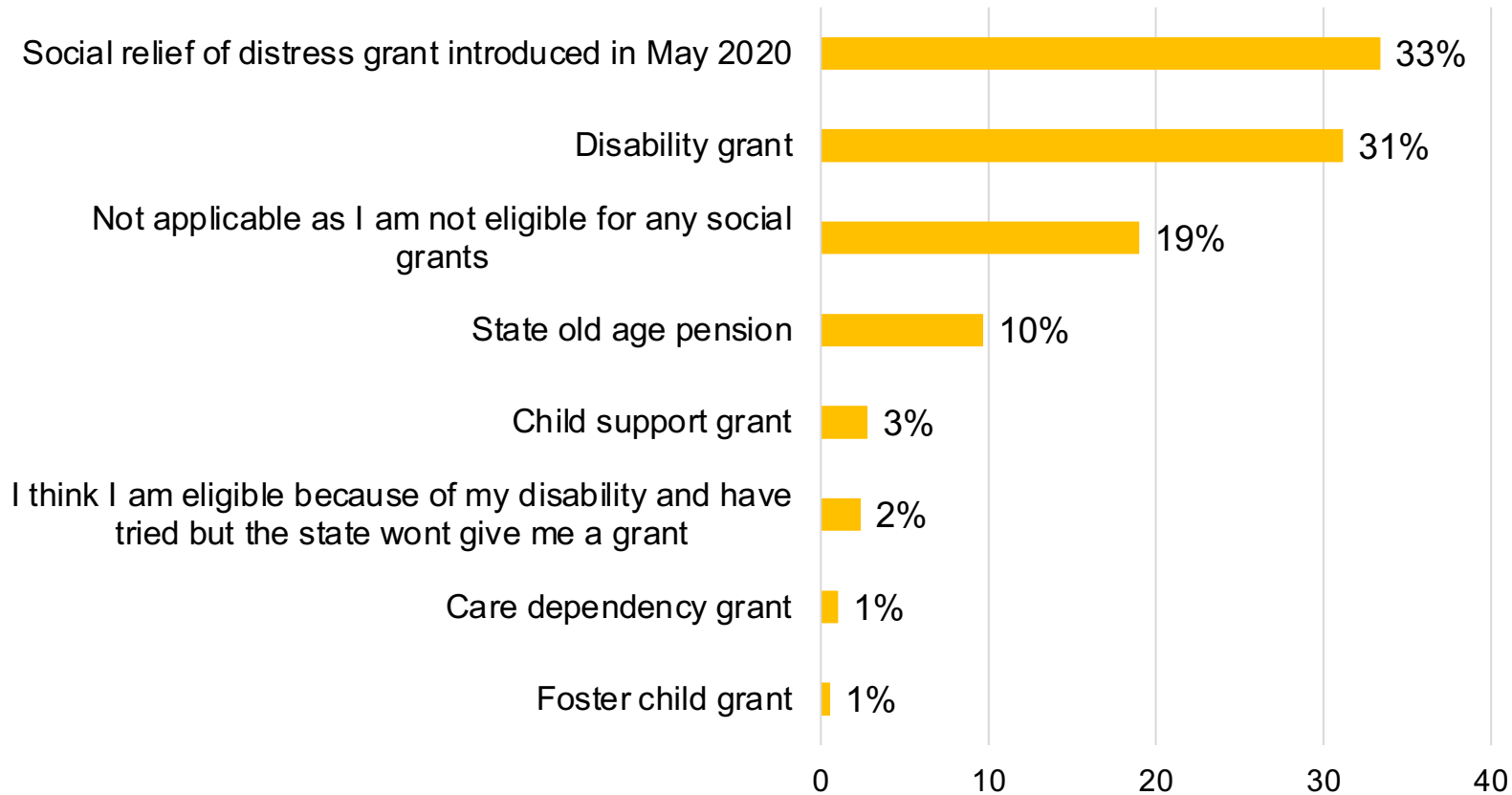
Where are persons with disabilities living?



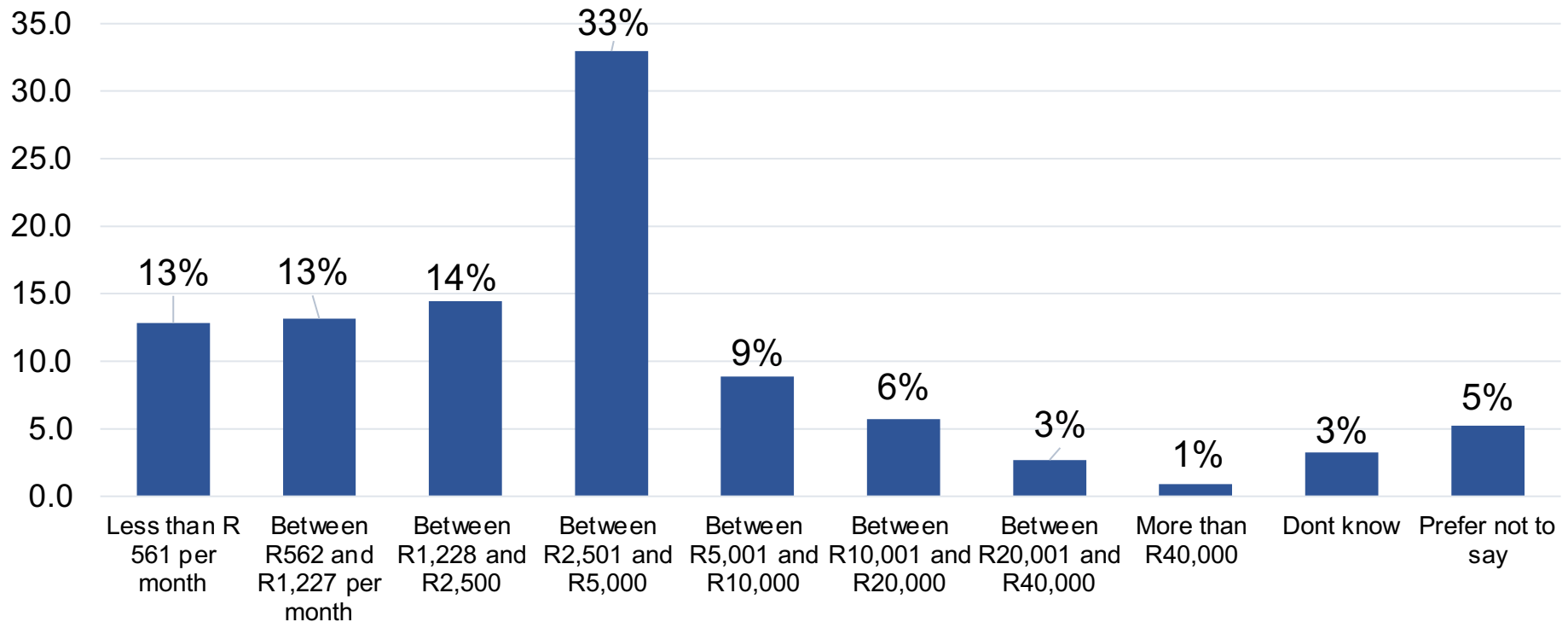
Receive a social grant from the Government?



Which of the following social grants do you receive?

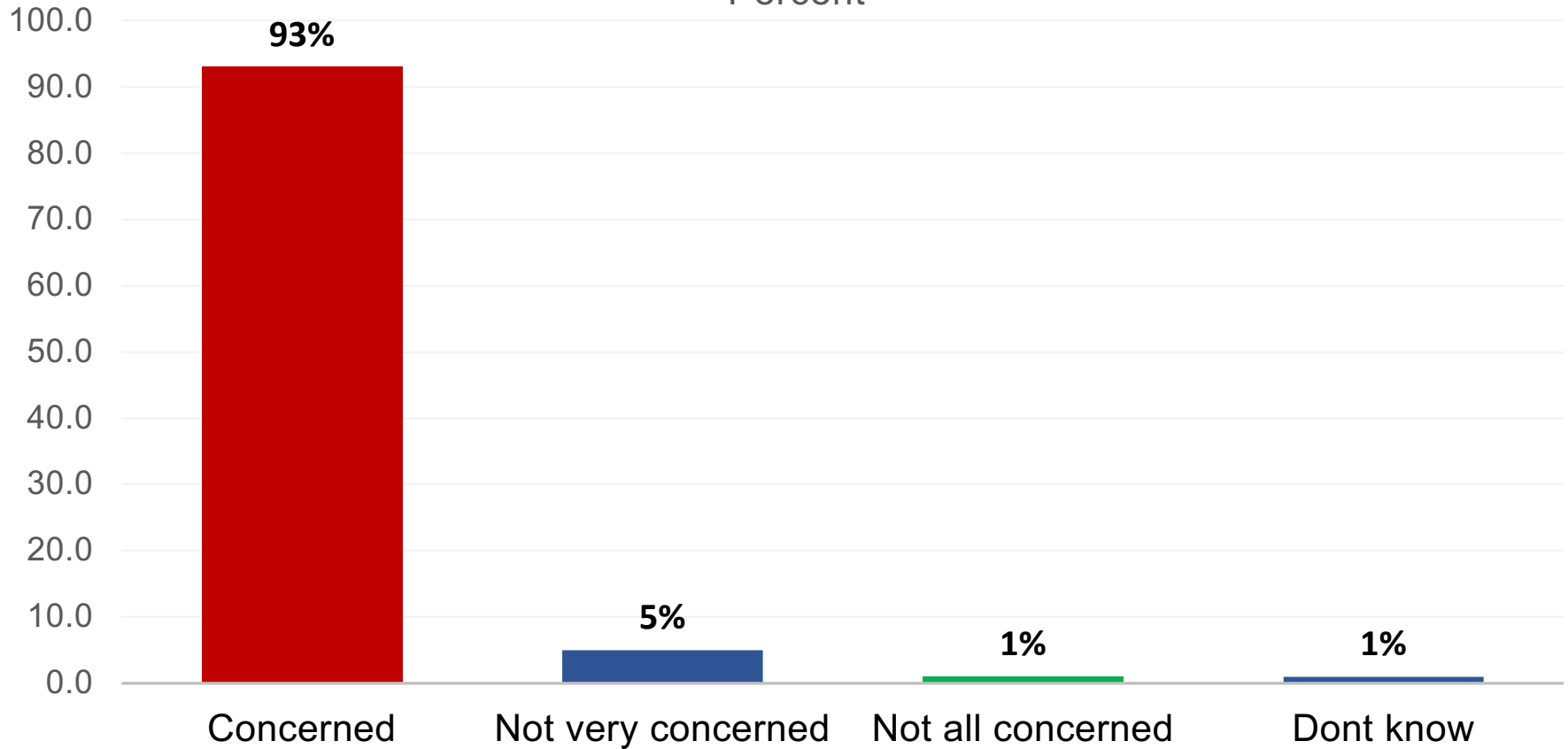


Monthly average income (n=1857)

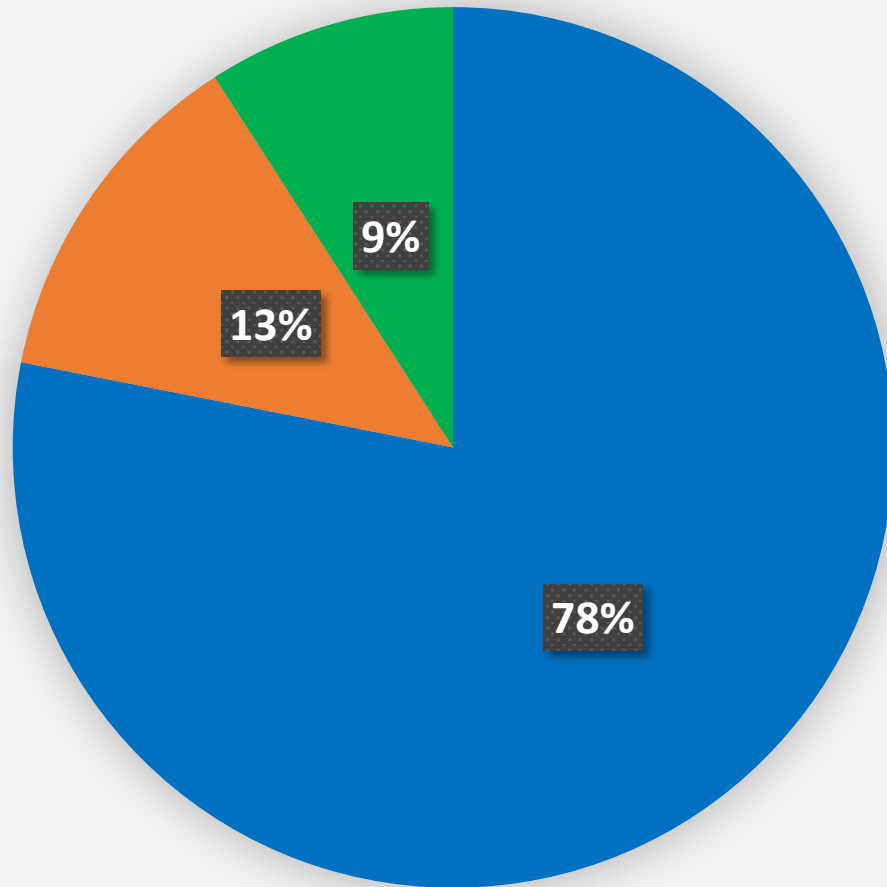


Concern about Personal Financial Situation (N=1857)

Percent

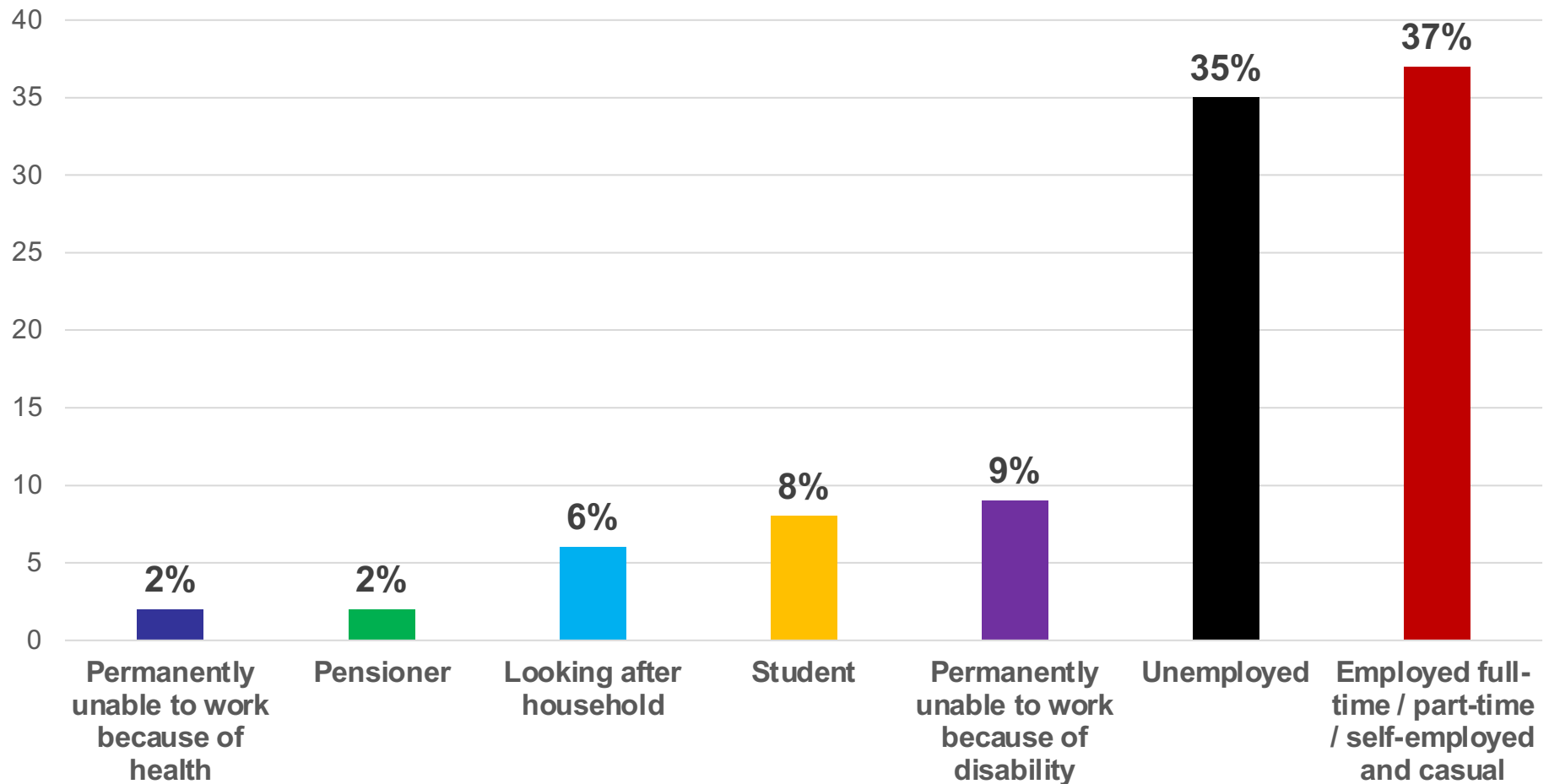


Concern different than before Lockdown? (N=1857)

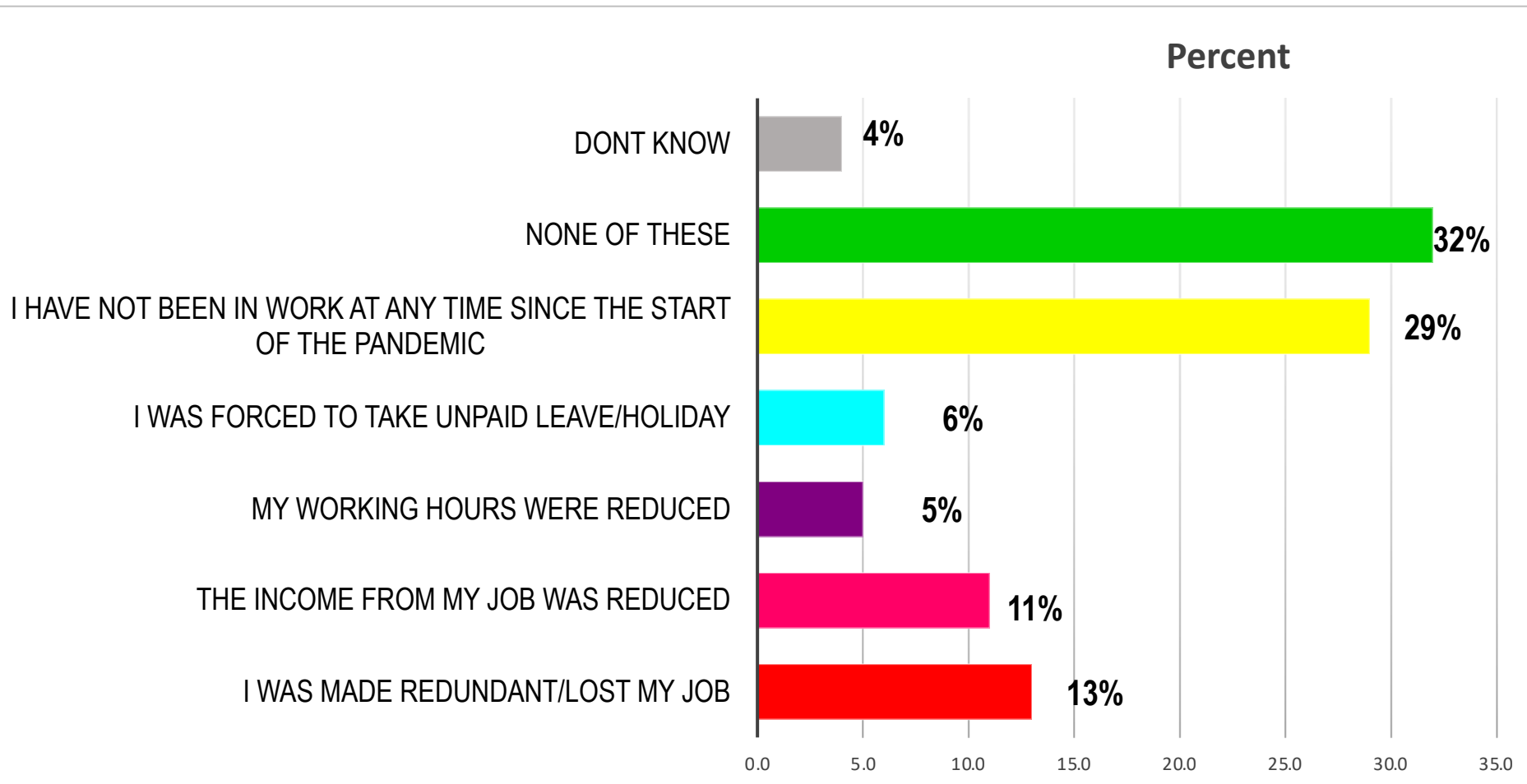


- Much more concerned than before Covid-19 and the lockdown
- Less Concerned
- About the same level of concern

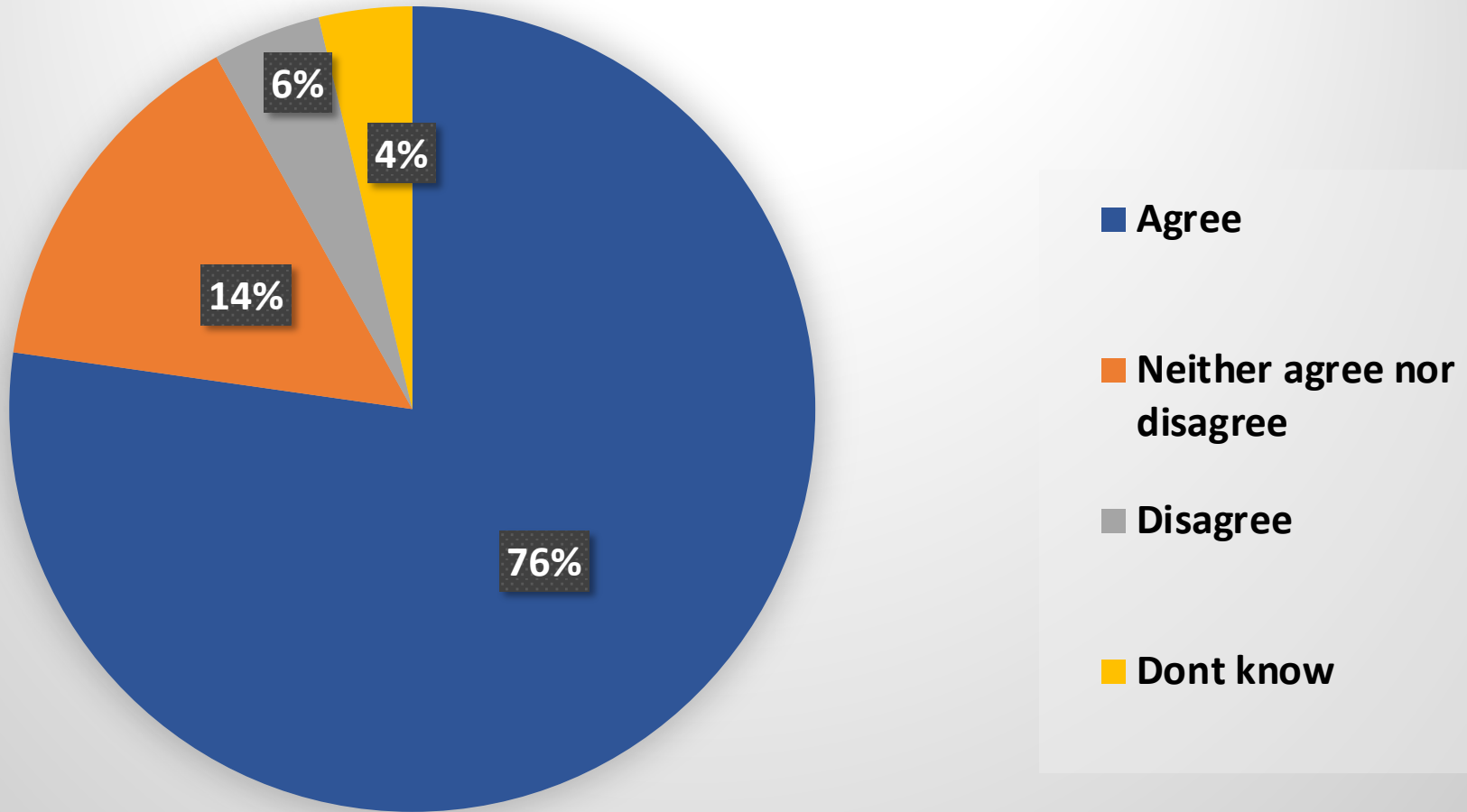
Best describes what you were doing at lockdown onset on 27 March 2020?



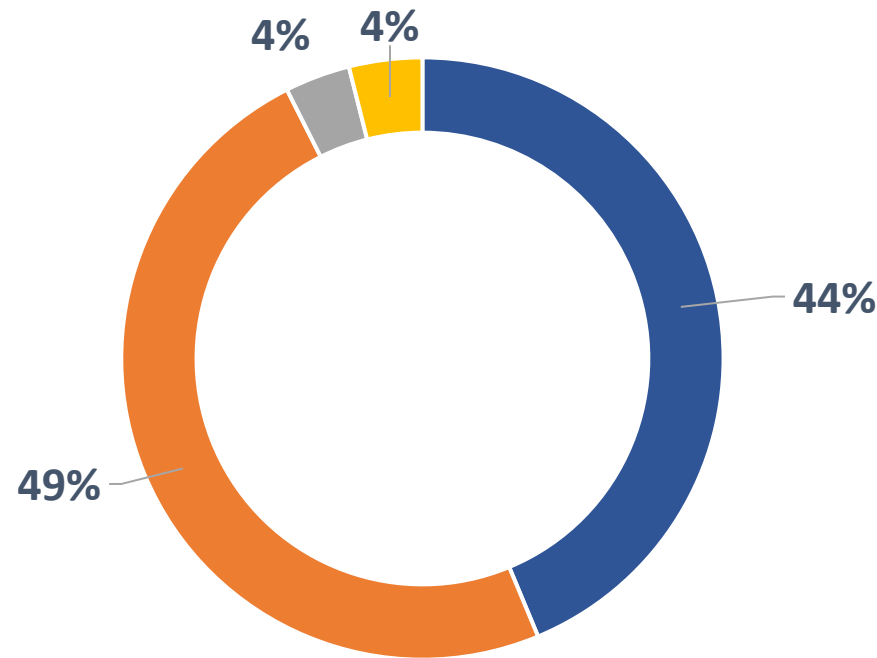
Employment as a result of the pandemic (N=1857)



Due to my financial situation, as a result of lockdown, I have difficulties paying for my living expenses? (N=1857)

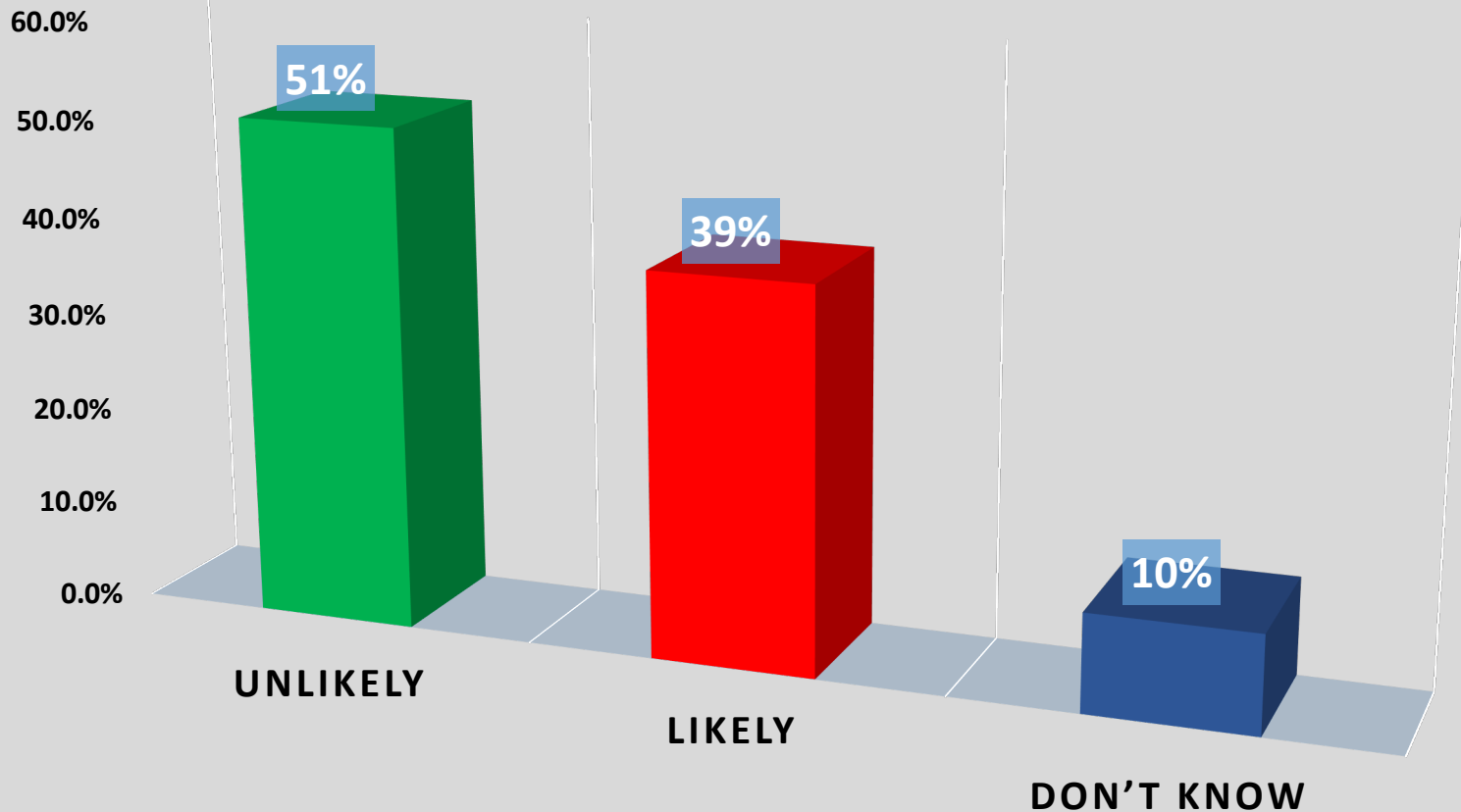


Financial situation in terms of covering disability related expenses since Lockdown (N=1857)



■ Stayed the same as before lockdown ■ Got worse ■ Has got better ■ Dont know

Likelihood of personal situation to economically/financially get worse in the next few months due to the economic consequences of coronavirus (N=1857)



Psychosocial experiences

Yamkela Majikijela PhD Candidate (HSRC)



UK Research
and Innovation

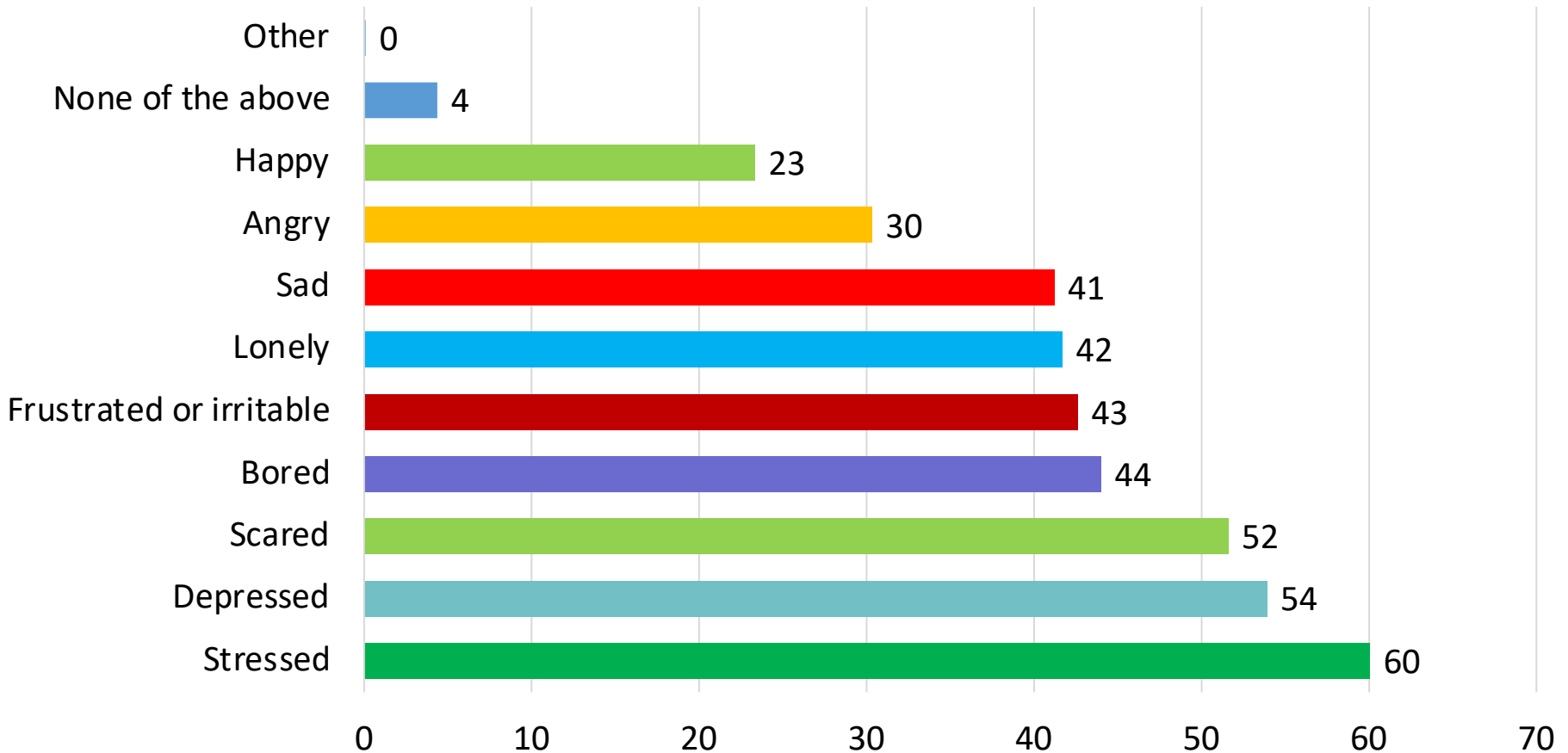


Newton
Fund



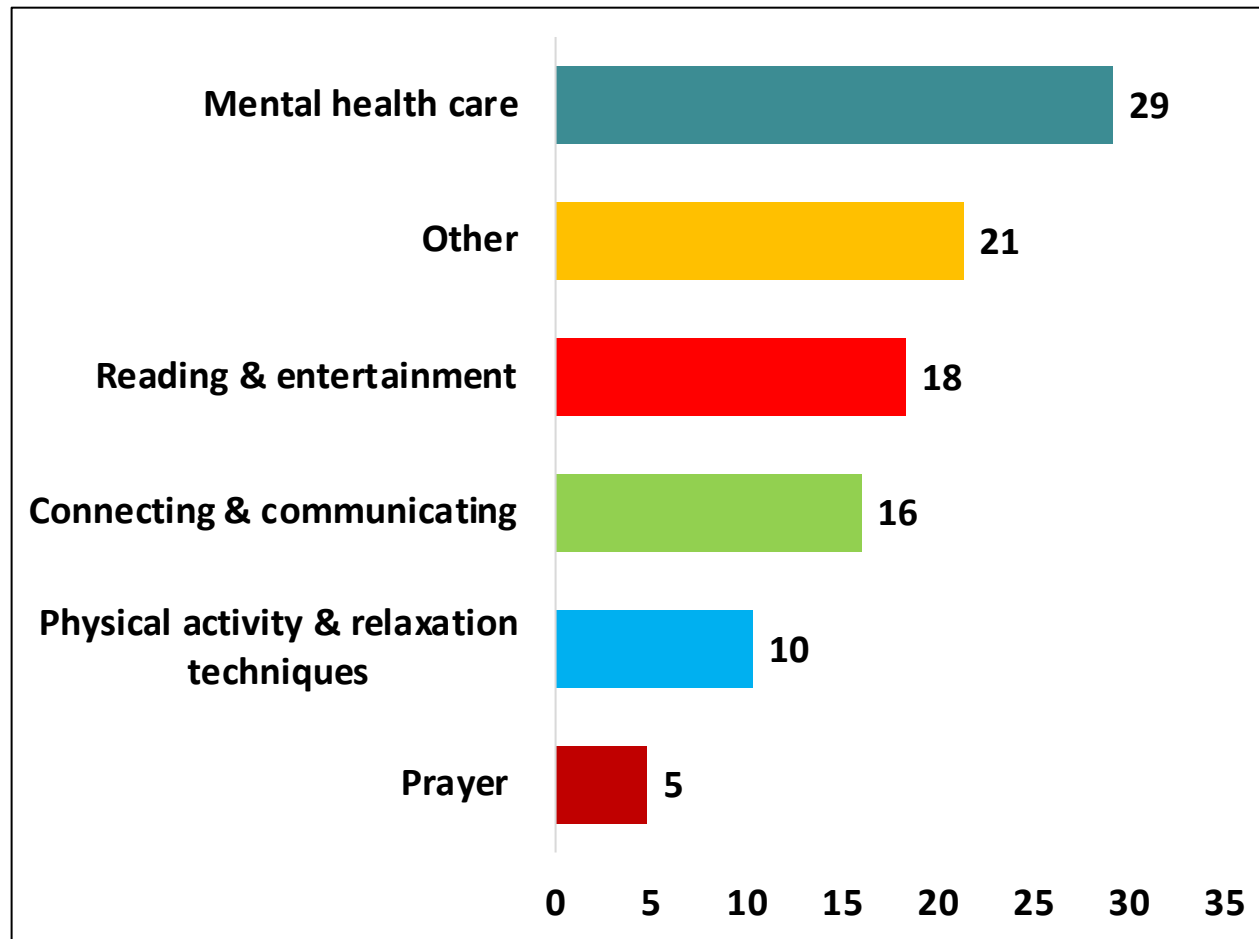
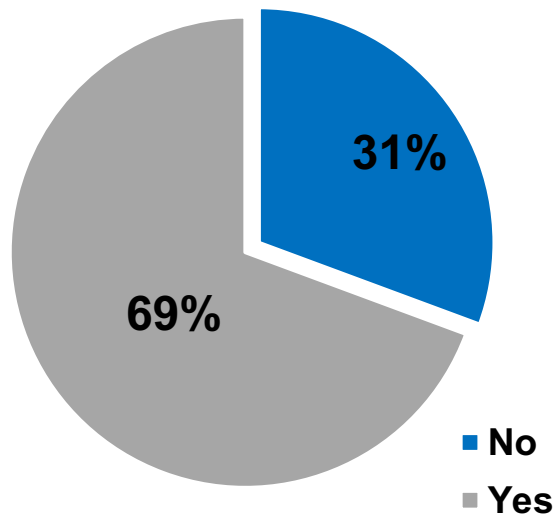
science & innovation
Department:
Science and Innovation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Emotional experiences under lockdown (MR %)

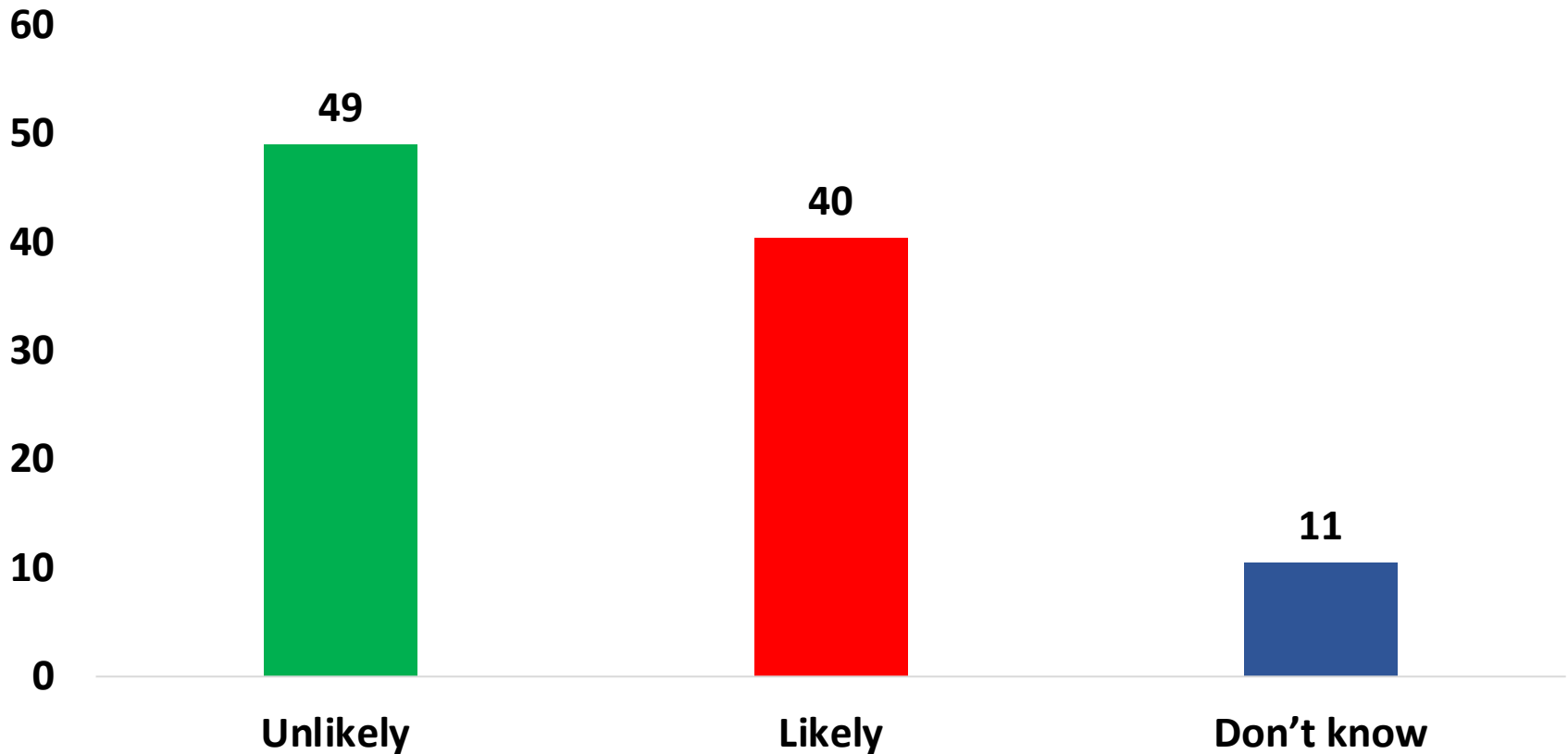


Common thematic explanations for addressing negative emotions (%)

Did you address the negative feelings

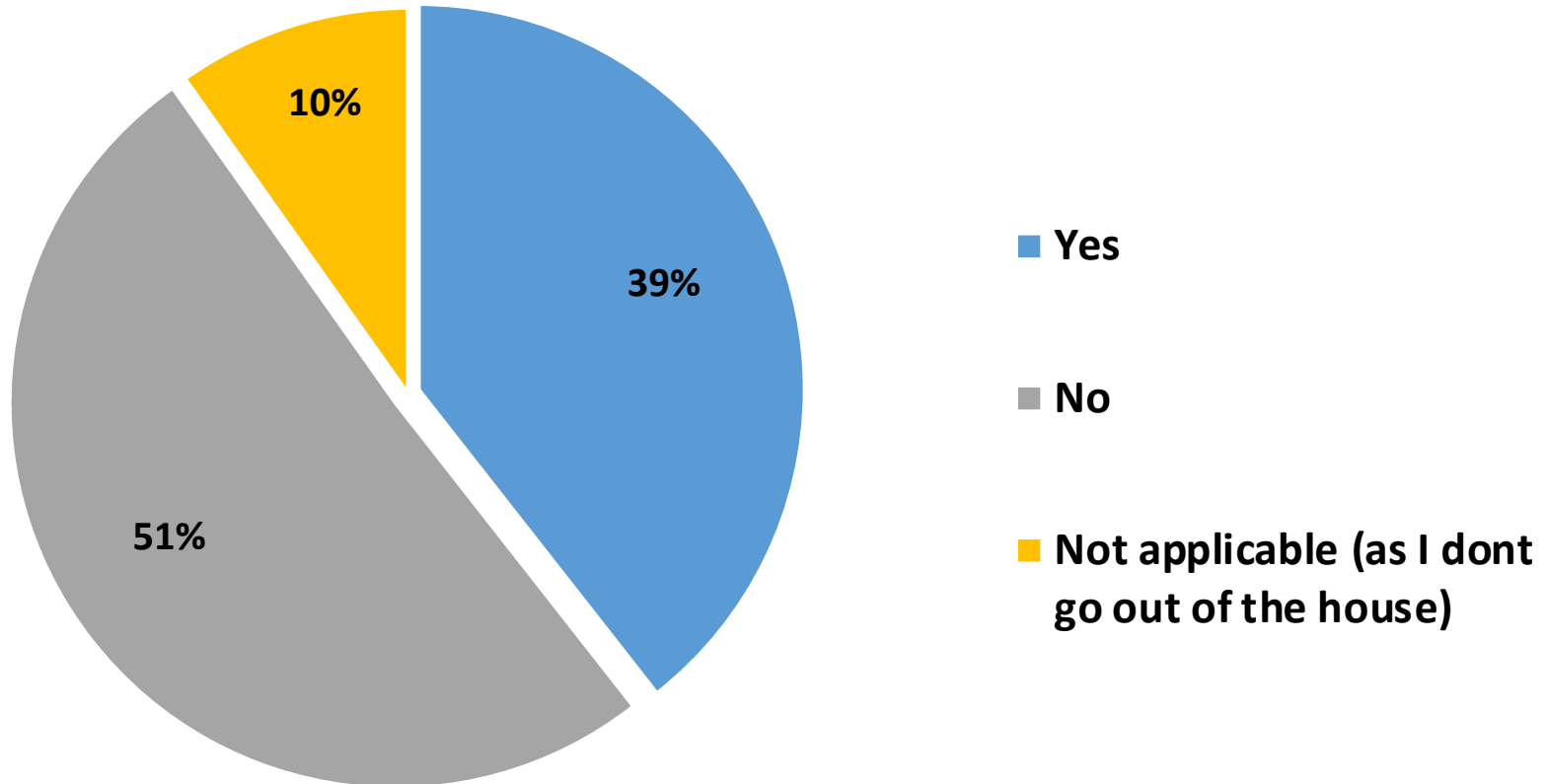


Likelihood of personal social situation worsening (%)

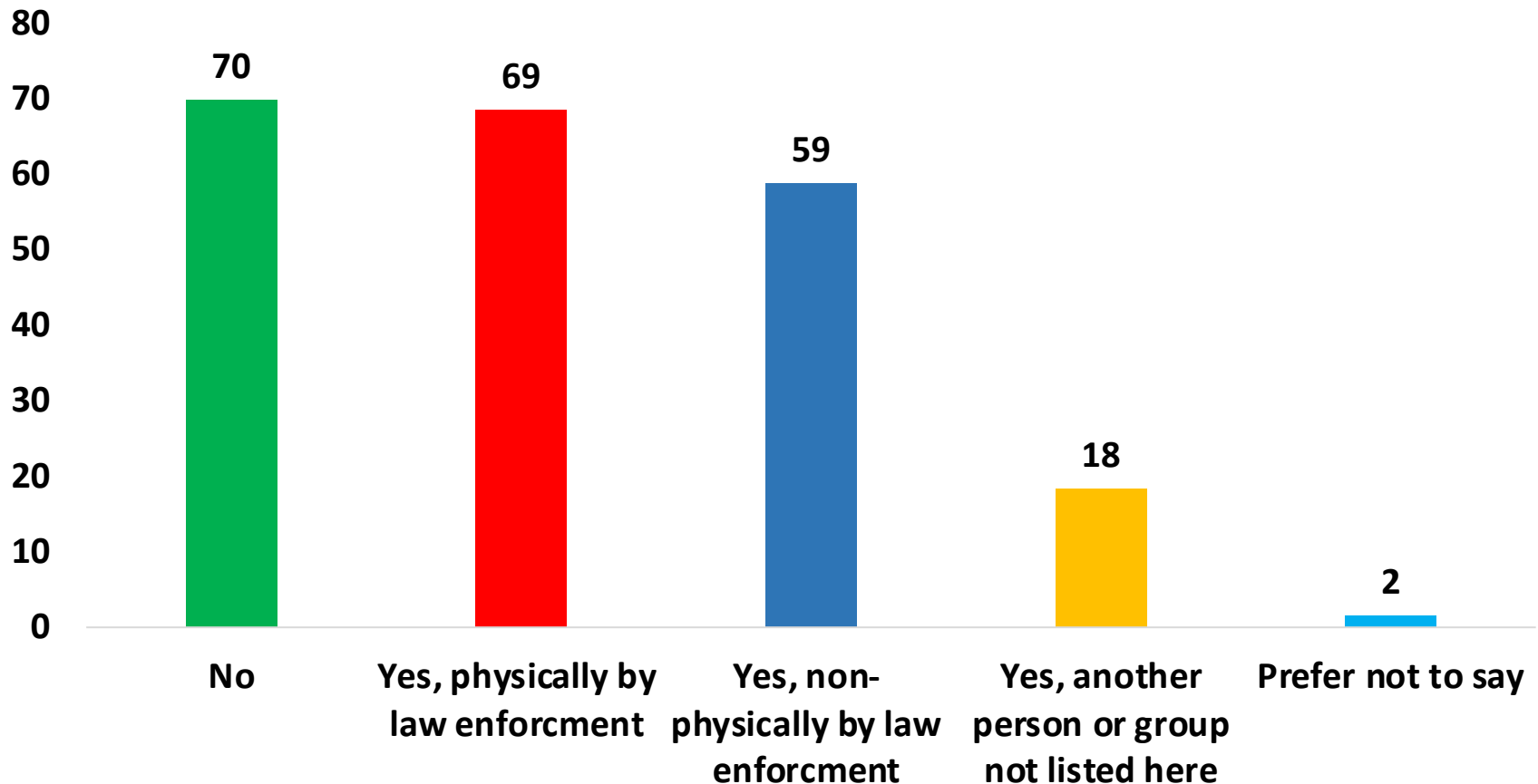


Experiences with law enforcement

Have the police or army stopped to check why you are outside of your home

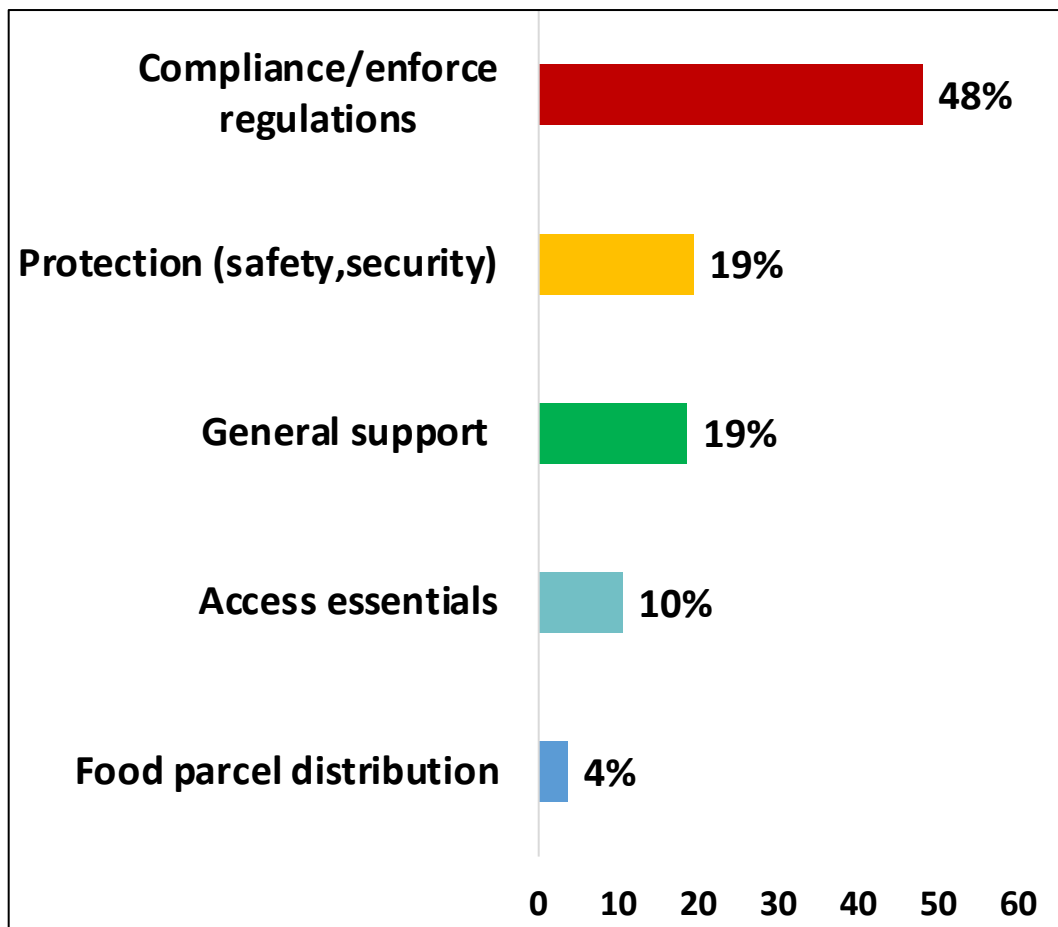
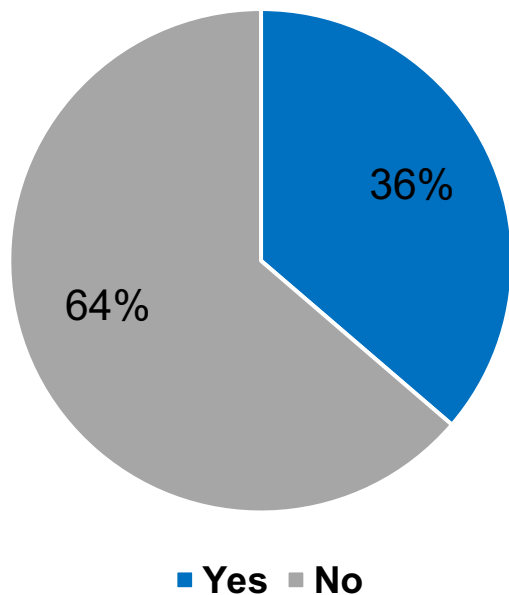


Direct harassment from law enforcement (MR %)



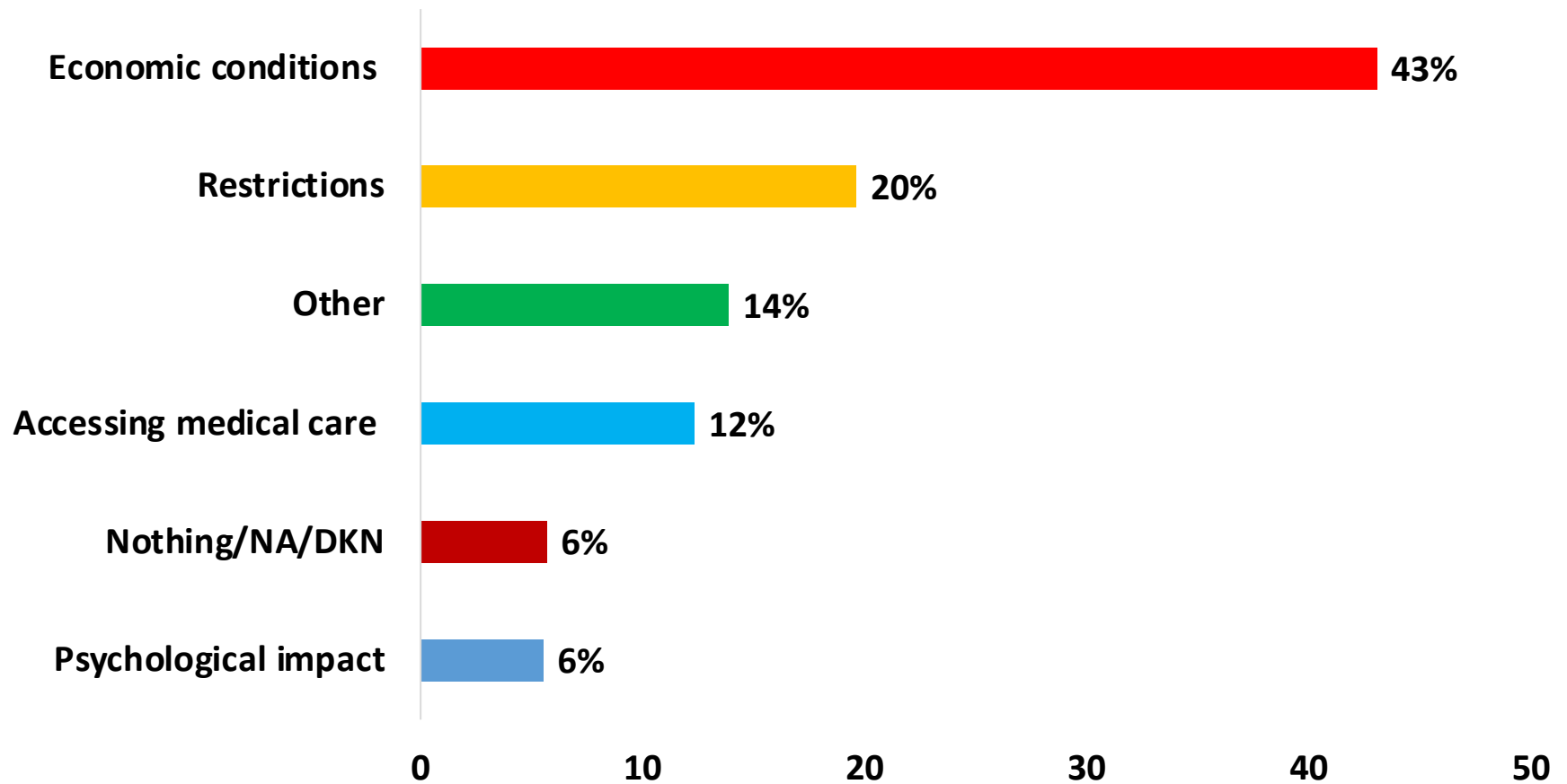
Common thematic explanations for support (%)

Have the police or army offered you any support

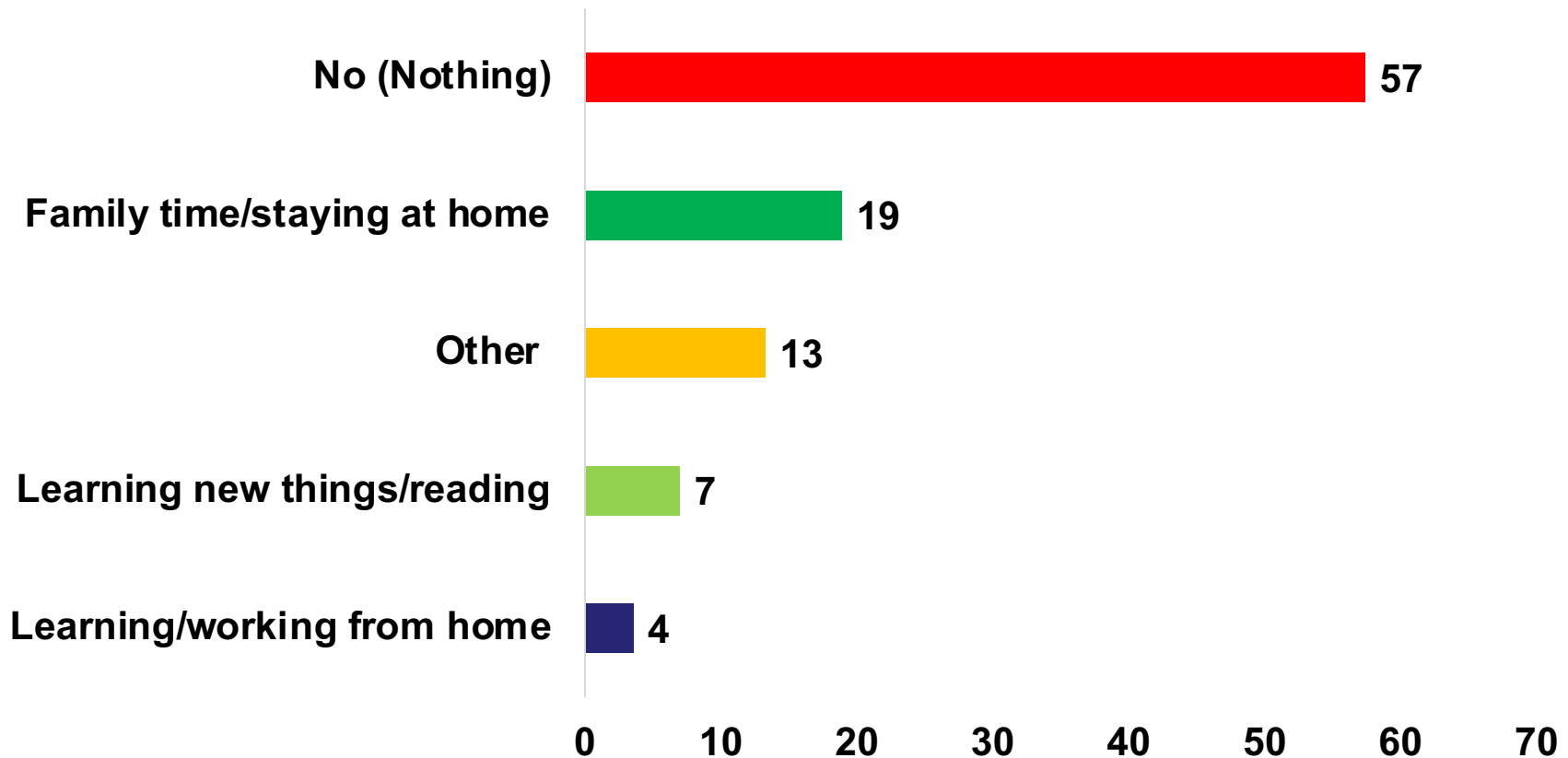


Worst and best thing about lockdown

Common thematic explanation about WORST single thing about the lockdown (%)



Common thematic explanation about BEST single thing about the lockdown (%)



Service Challenges

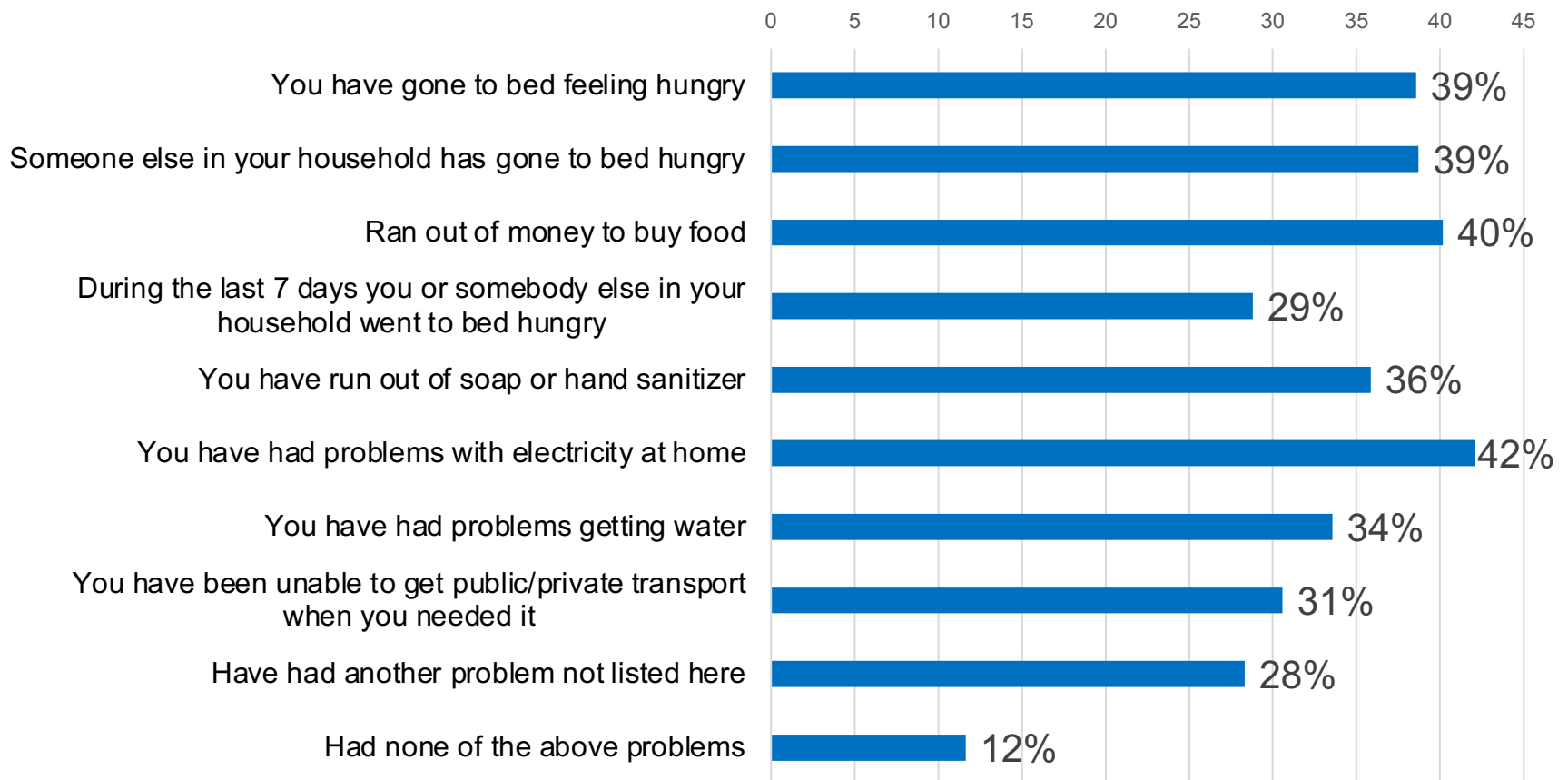
Tim Hart Chief Research Specialist (HSRC)



Introduction

- Despite government attempts to control the spread of COVID-19 challenges are evident
- Mitigation probably not initial key concern – social scientists included into advisory committee much later
- Measures provided are not disability aware
 - Income negatively affected
 - At least 1/3 are unemployed

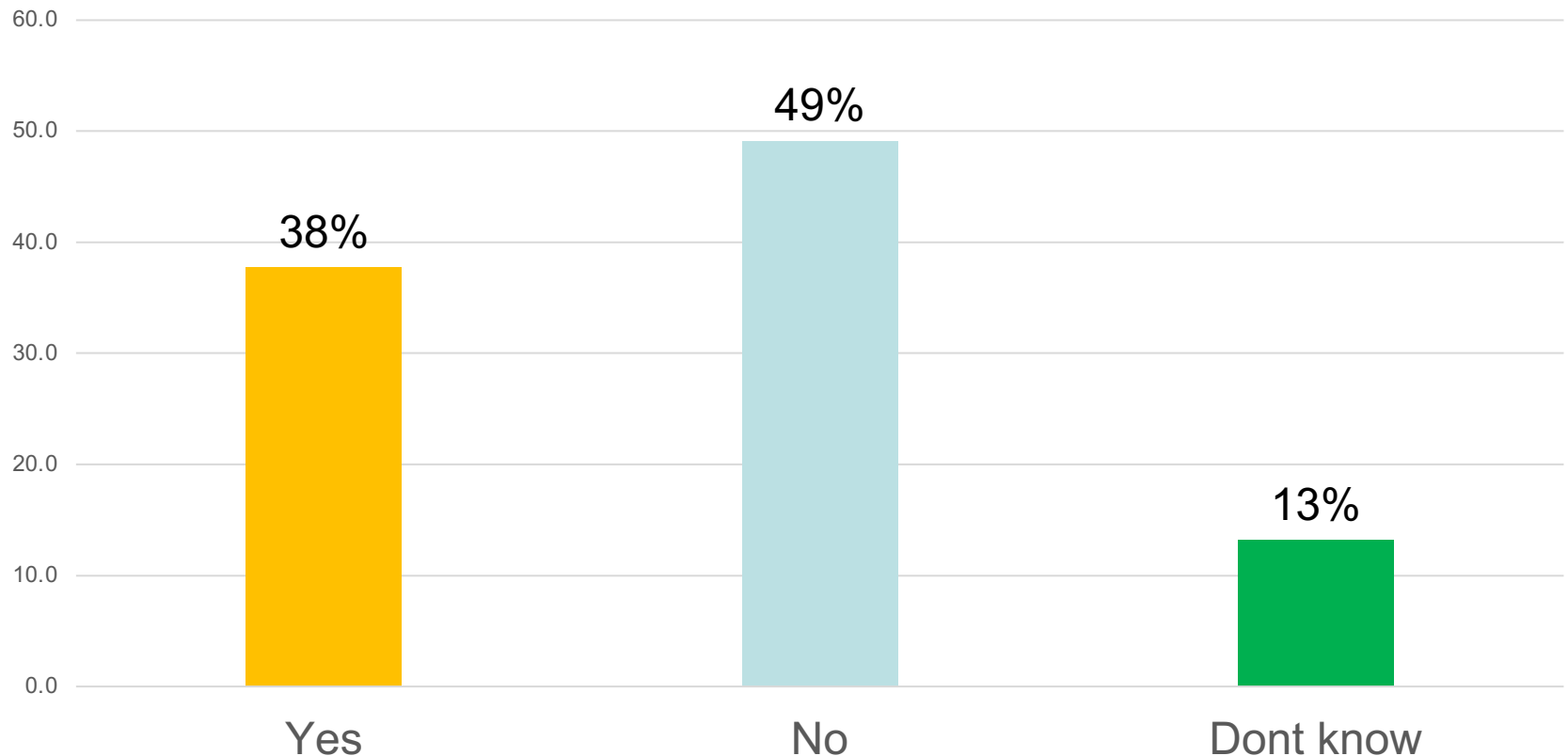
Events not normally experienced (MR)



Synthesis

- Running out of money a big challenge
 - Food insecurity security has largely doubled for some at times during the pandemic
 - Concern that in July and August 2021 that 29% reported that at least one person in the household went to bed hungry during the last 7 days
 - Lack of access to water, sanitizer or soap a concern
 - Electricity a problem for cooking and sanitization but also a concern for using assistive devices
 - Despite interventions many are unfocused or insufficient

Awareness of government special forms of assistance



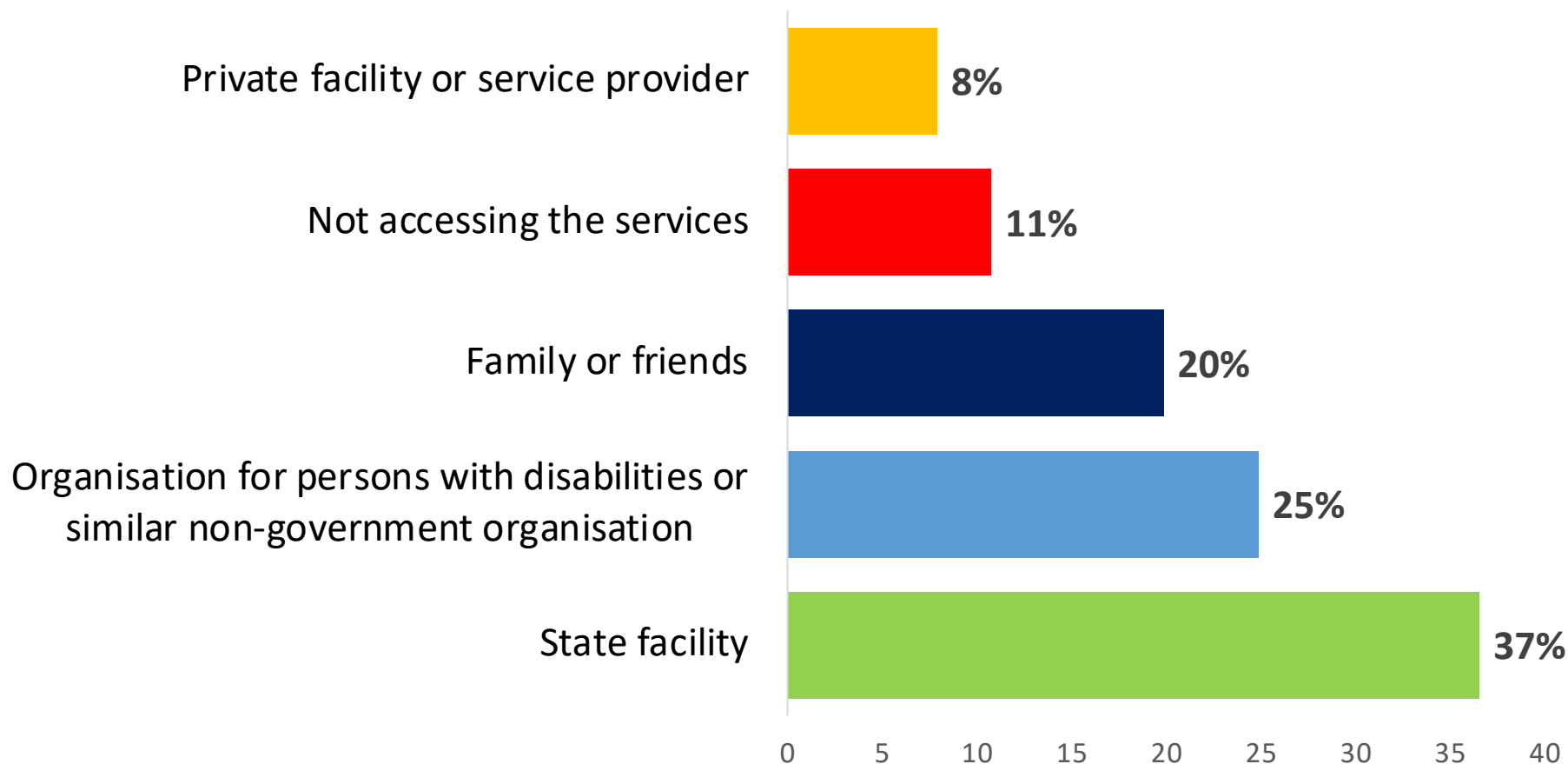
Special forms of Government assistance (yes)

- Increase in social grants and SRD but a limited period
- Food parcel delivery - At the community centres and shopping centres
- ICASA mandated that South African Sign Language be available when COVID-19 information is televised.
- I was aware of special forms of special assistant services – but these were interrupted
- They said everything in place there but nothing of sort
- I had [own] measures were in place

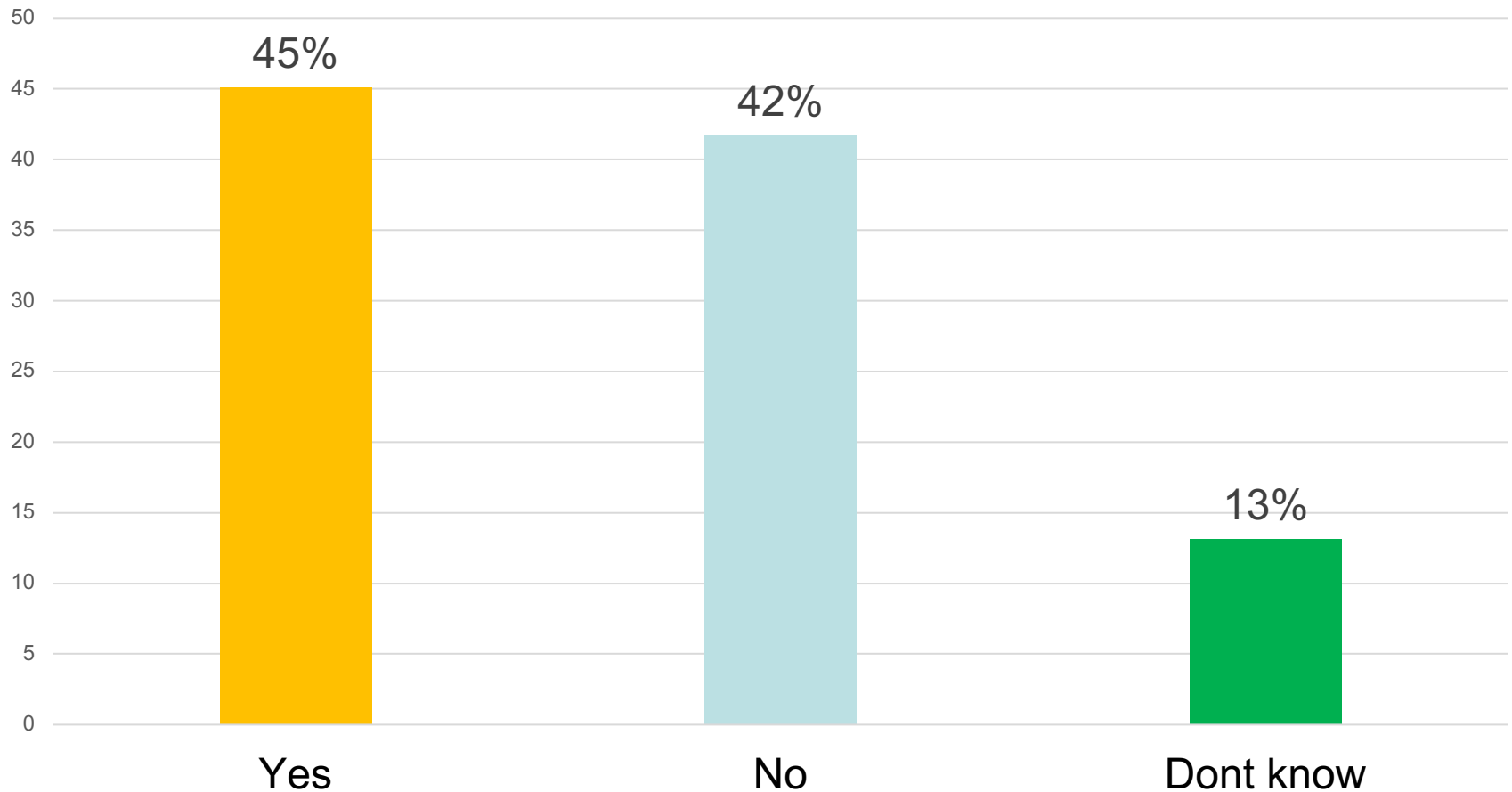
Special forms of Government assistance (No/DK)

- in the beginning there were grants and food parcels available but it didn't appear organised or efficient or enough.
- The conditions we confronted with during lockdown was really very bad
- The increment on Disability grant but later taken away, why?
- Special measures put in place for people with disabilities were conspicuous in their absence.
- No captions on TV

Accessing needed services



Receive all necessary disability required support during pandemic

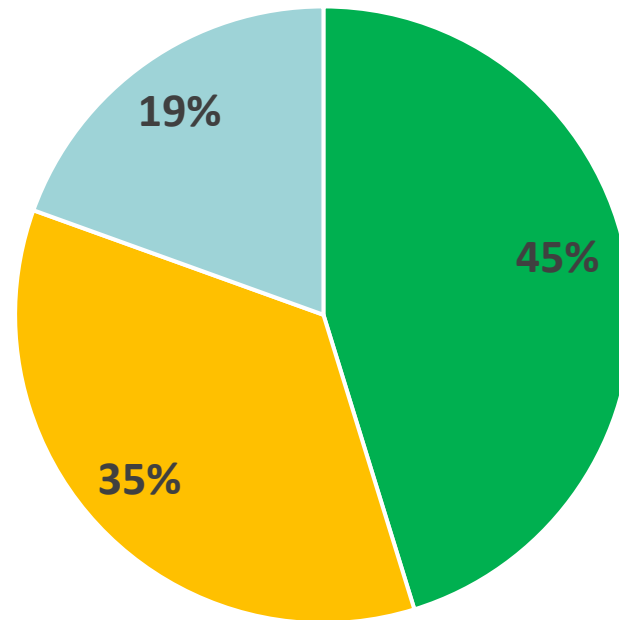


Yes

No

Dont know

Interruption of disability related services



■ Yes ■ No ■ Not applicable

Conclusion

- Expect some disruption during a national disaster
- Little recognition of special needs
- Service catch-up slow in terms of persons with disabilities is slow
- Many reliant on non-state service providers
- interventions unfocused or insufficient

Accessibility to care services

Nthabiseng Molongoana Research & Development (NCPD)



Accessibility to personal caregivers and carer support

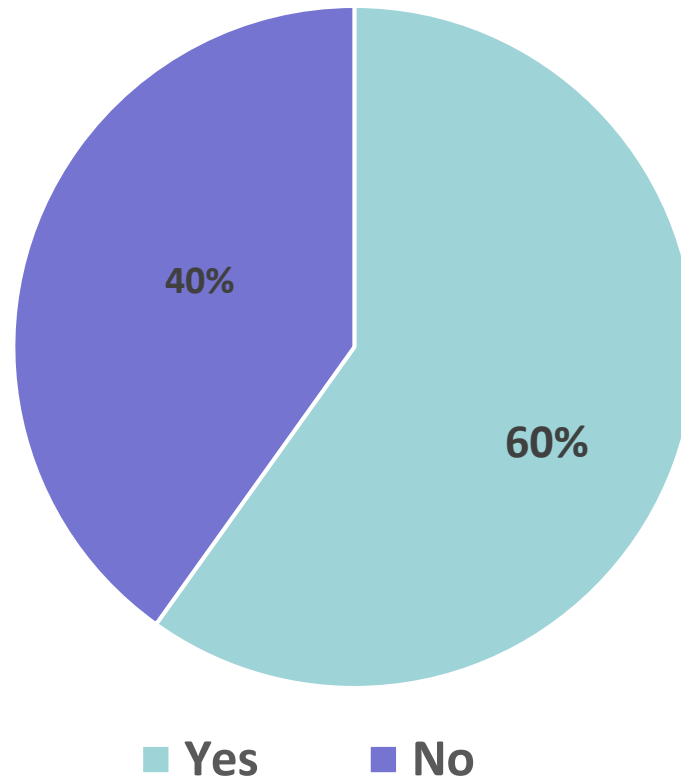
- **General challenges exacerbated by COVID-19**
 - ✓ Persons with disabilities who are dependent on support for their daily living may find themselves isolated and unable to survive during lockdown measures;
 - ✓ Those living in institutions are particularly vulnerable;
 - ✓ Barriers for persons with disabilities in accessing health services and information are intensified as they are not prioritised;
 - ✓ Discrimination and other barriers in accessing livelihood and income support, participating in online education, and seeking protection from violence.

Accessibility to caregiver and support services because of **COVID-19** and lockdown

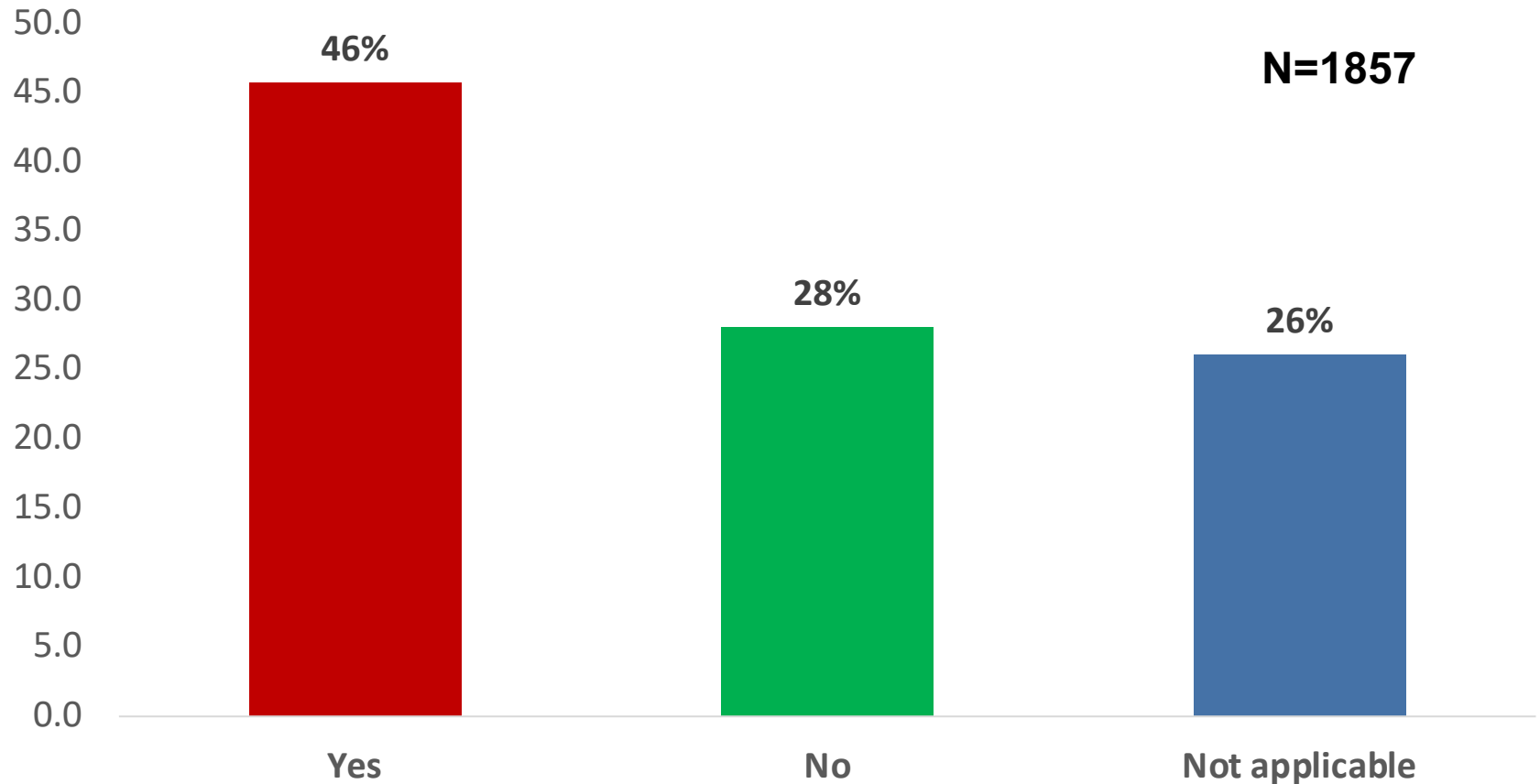


Requires a caregiver or somebody to support in daily activities

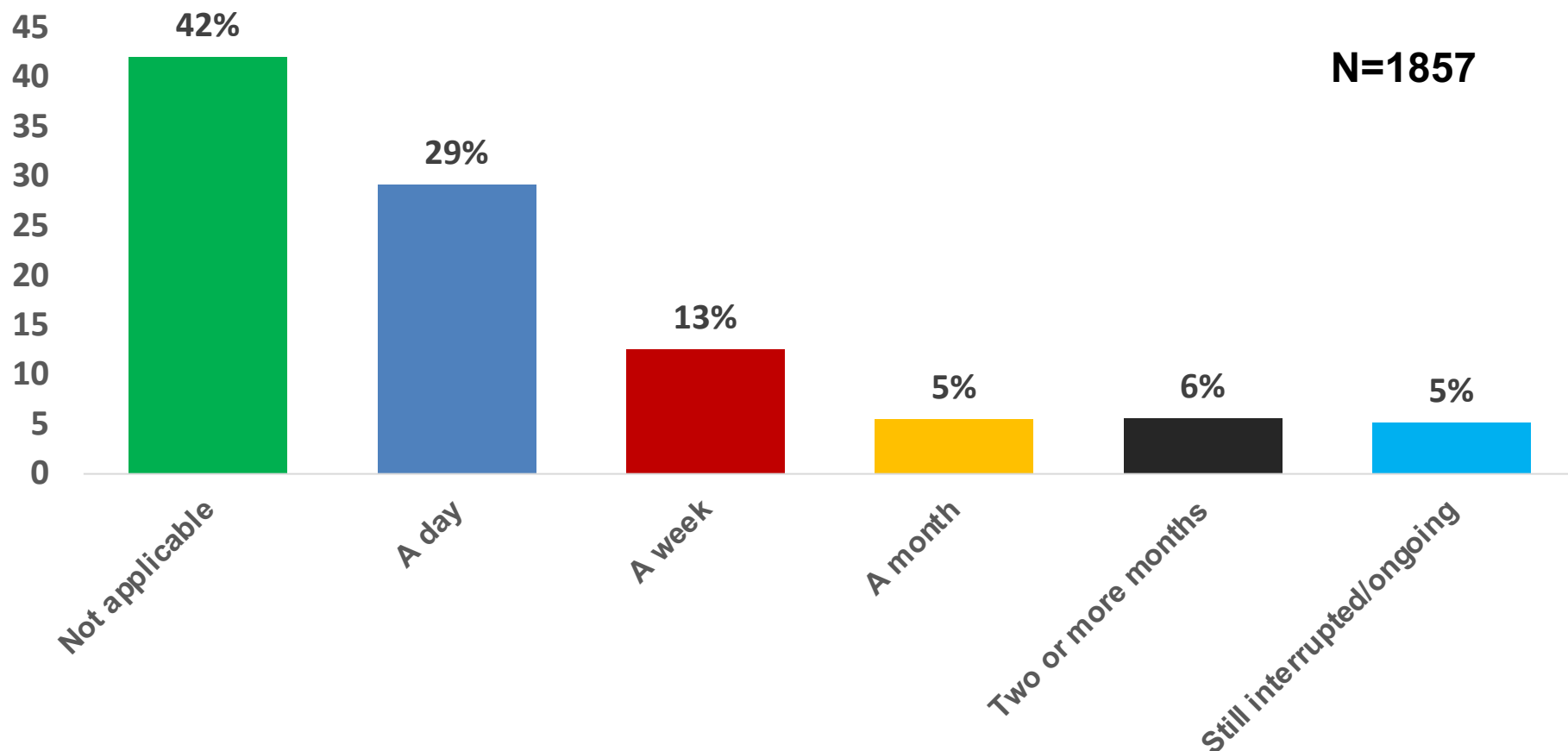
N=1857



Interruption of caregiver support due to COVID-19 and the subsequent lockdown



How long was the interruption?



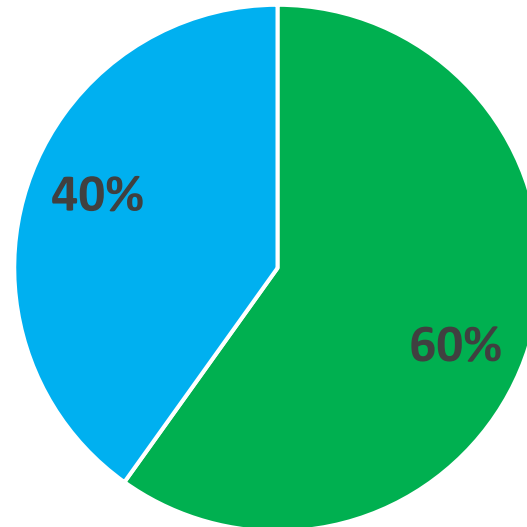
Perceptions of the state's handling of the pandemic

Gary Pienaar Senior Research Manager (HSRC)

Access to Information

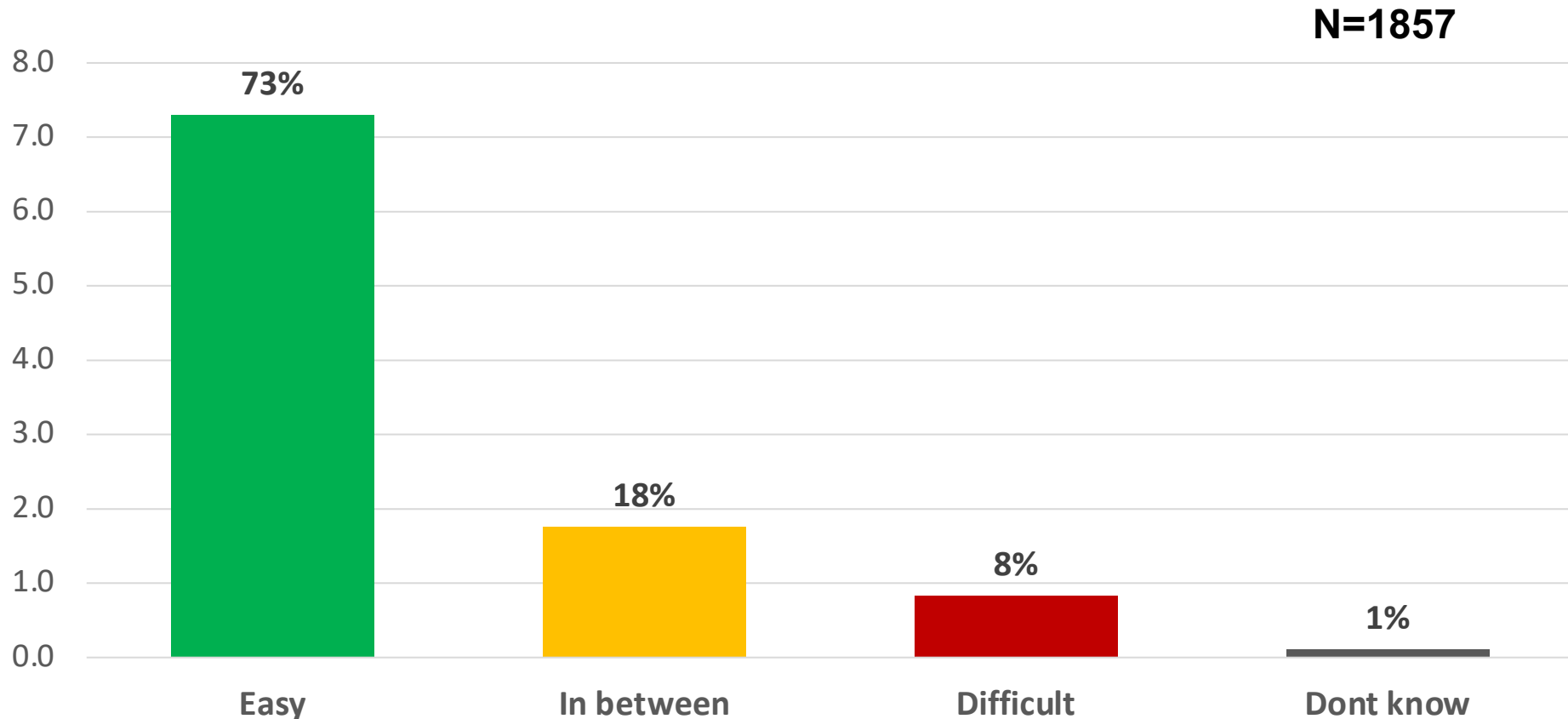
Do you have any challenges in accessing information? (% saying yes or no)

N=1857

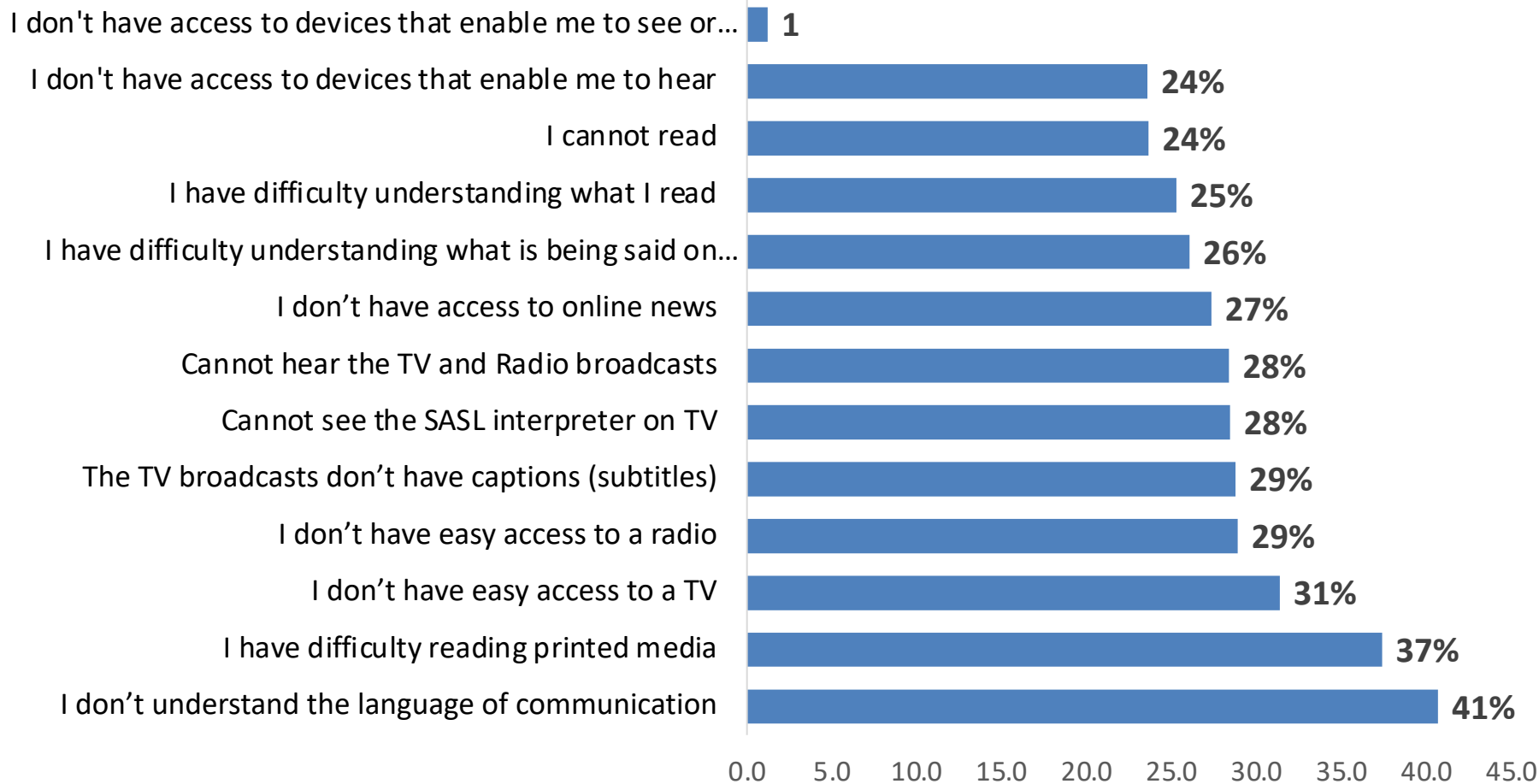


■ Yes ■ No

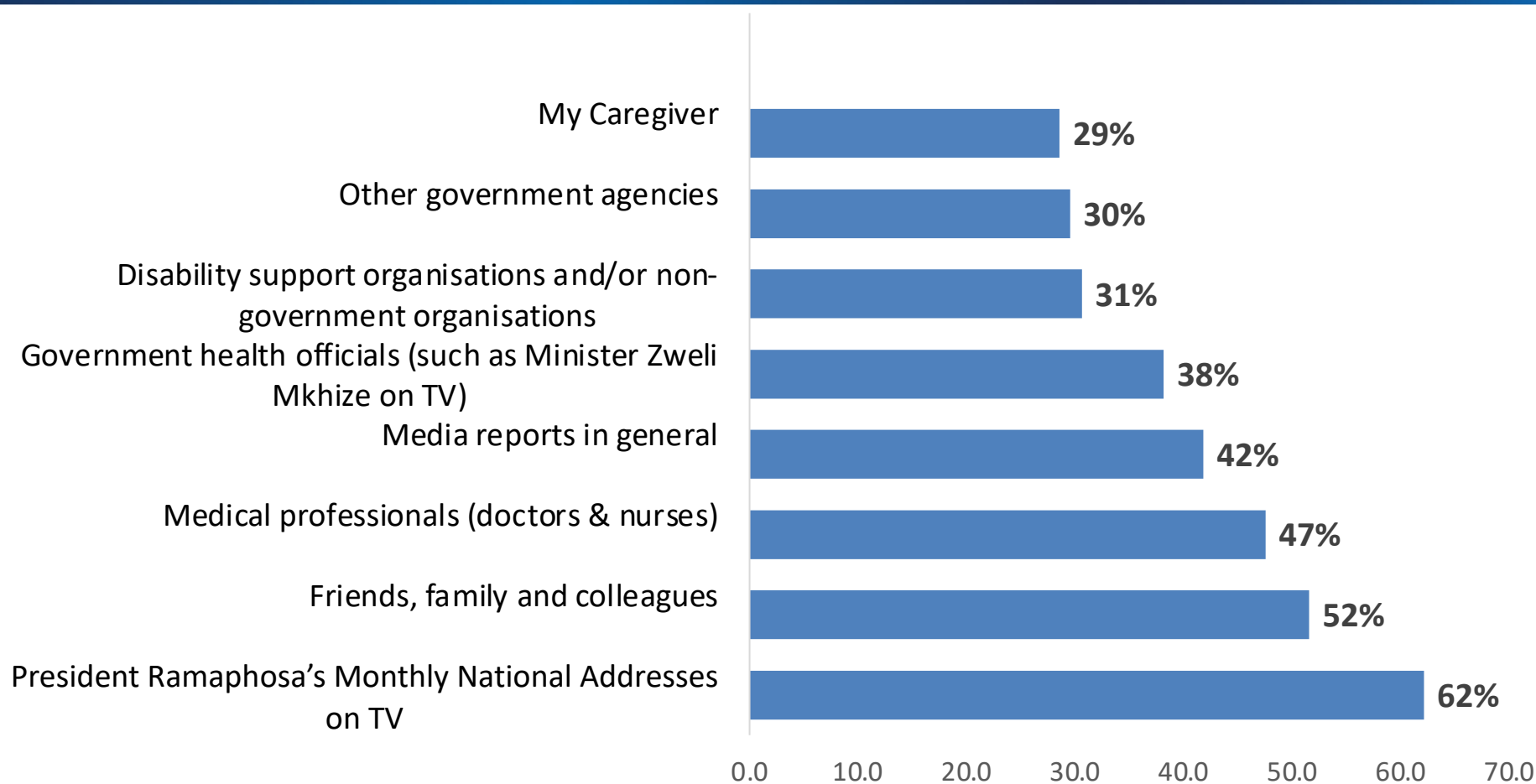
Ease of access to information in the context of your disability (%)



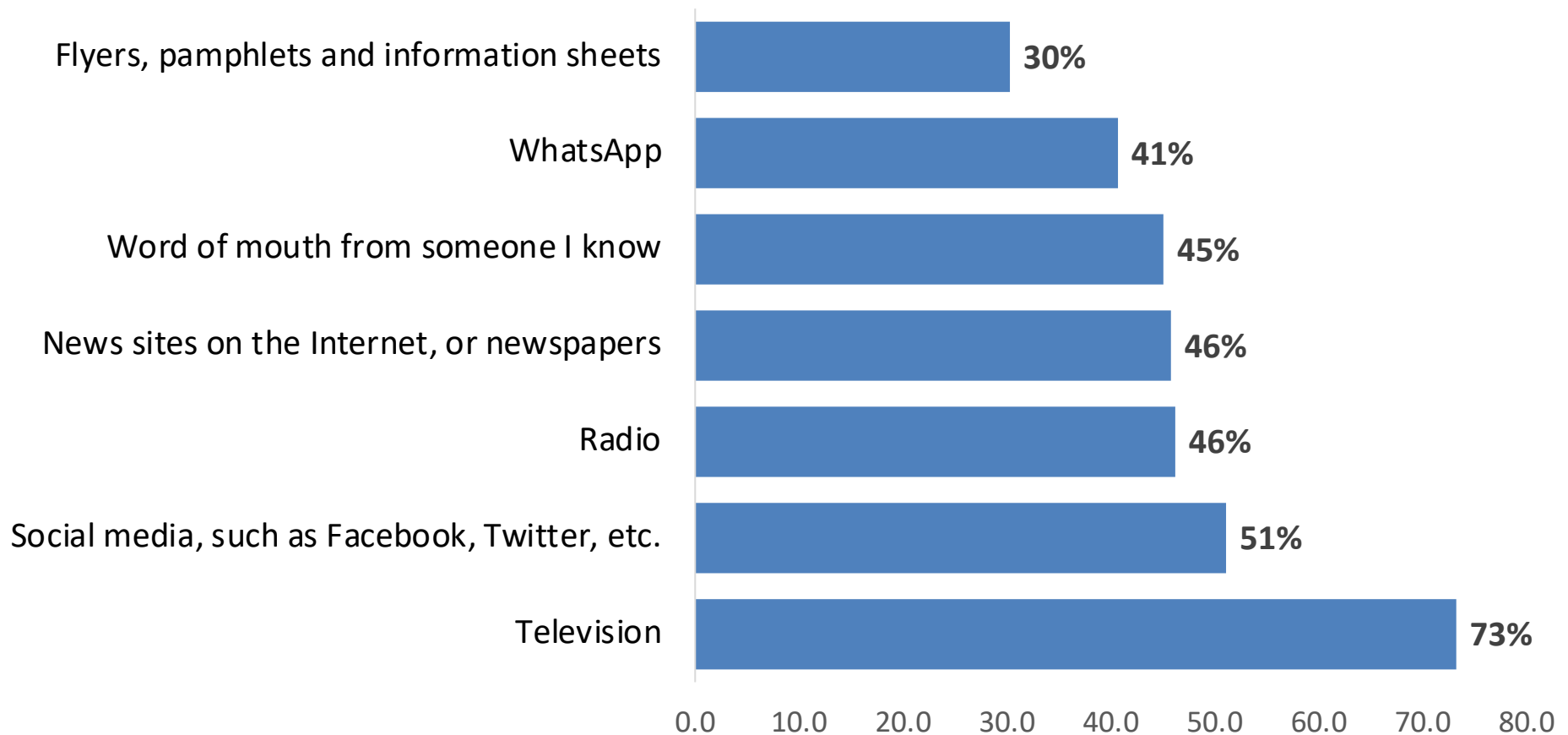
Challenges in accessing information (MR)



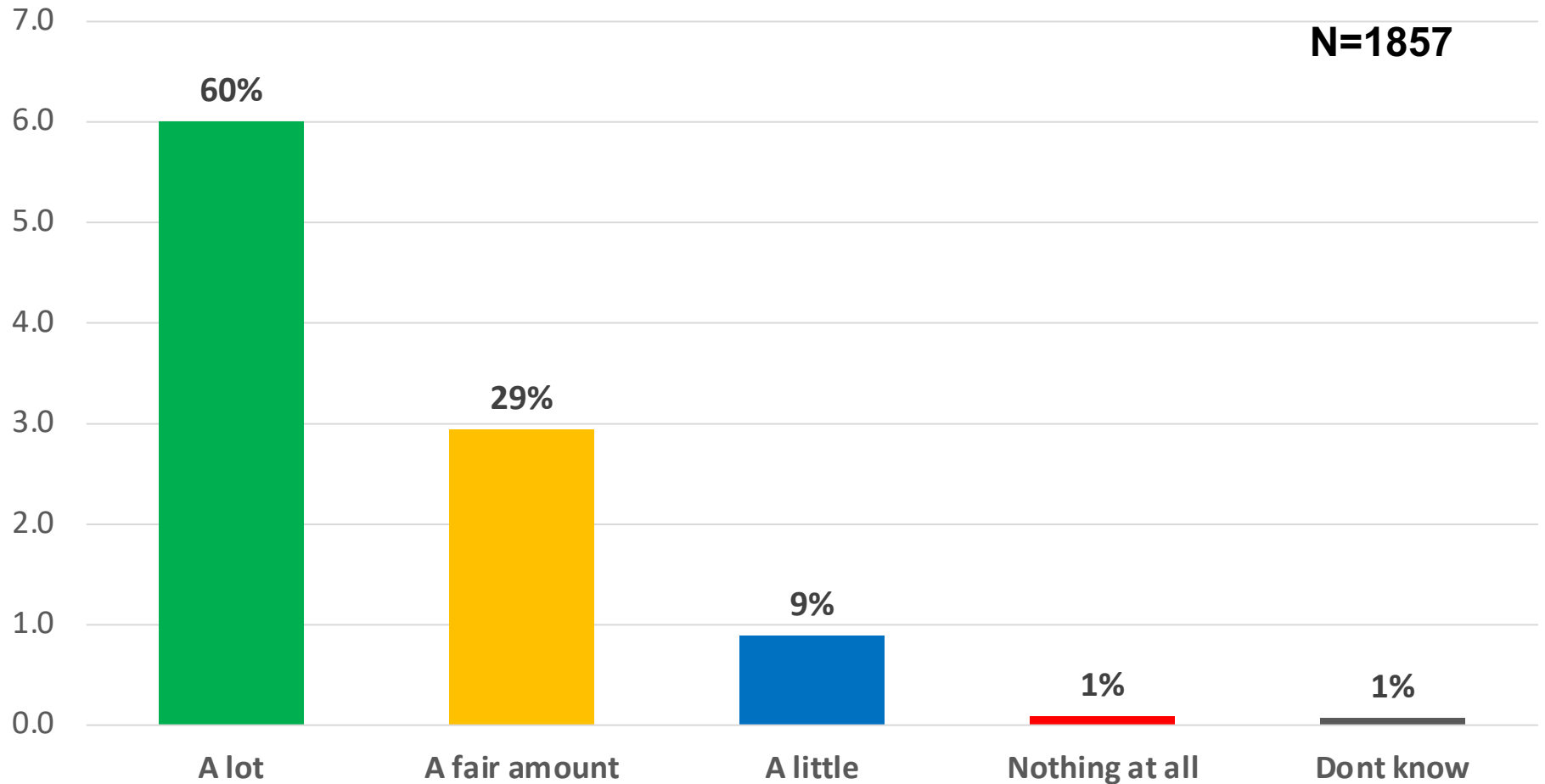
Main sources of information about the Coronavirus pandemic and the measures taken? (MR)



Main platforms to receive of information about the Coronavirus pandemic and the measures taken? (MR)

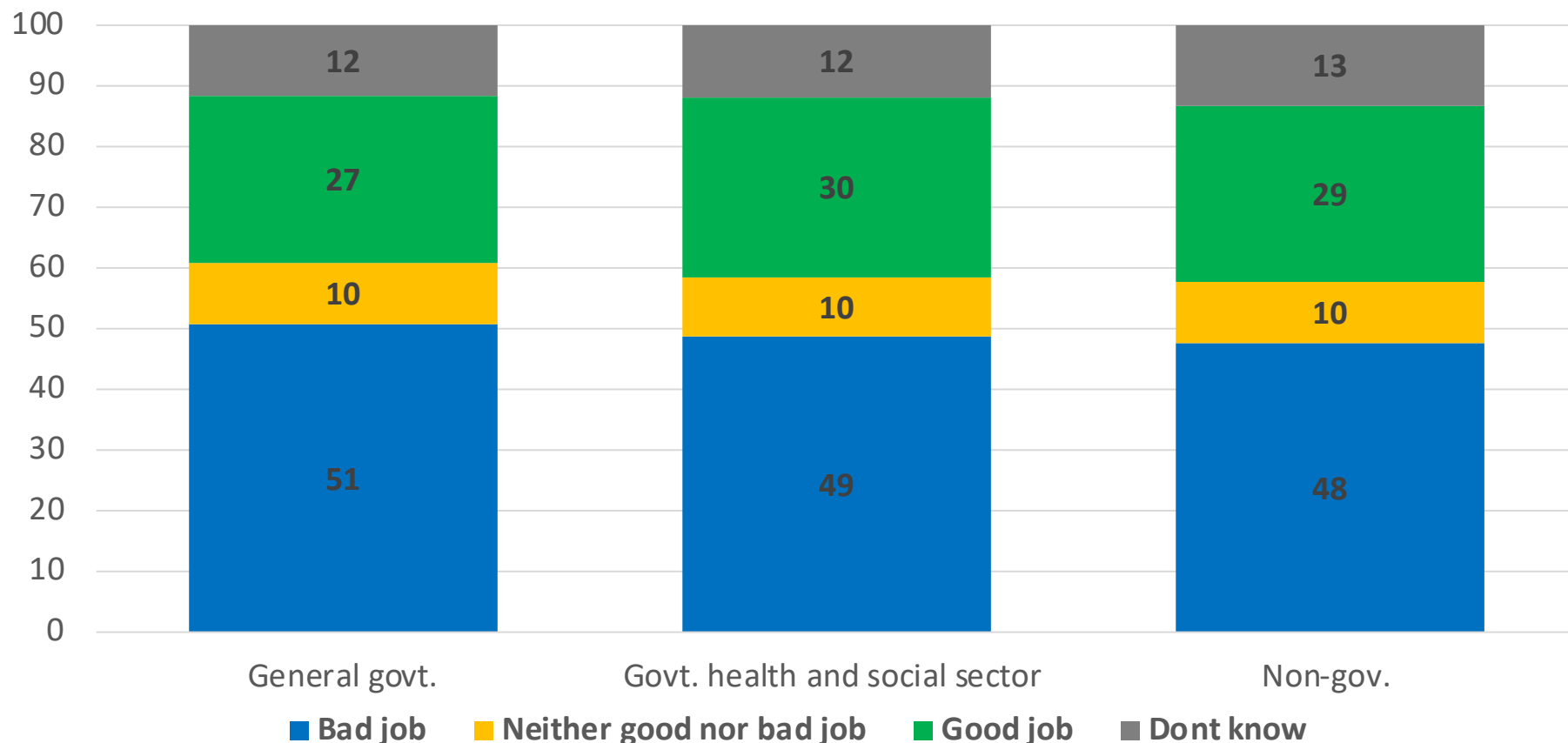


Knowledge about COVID-19 (%)

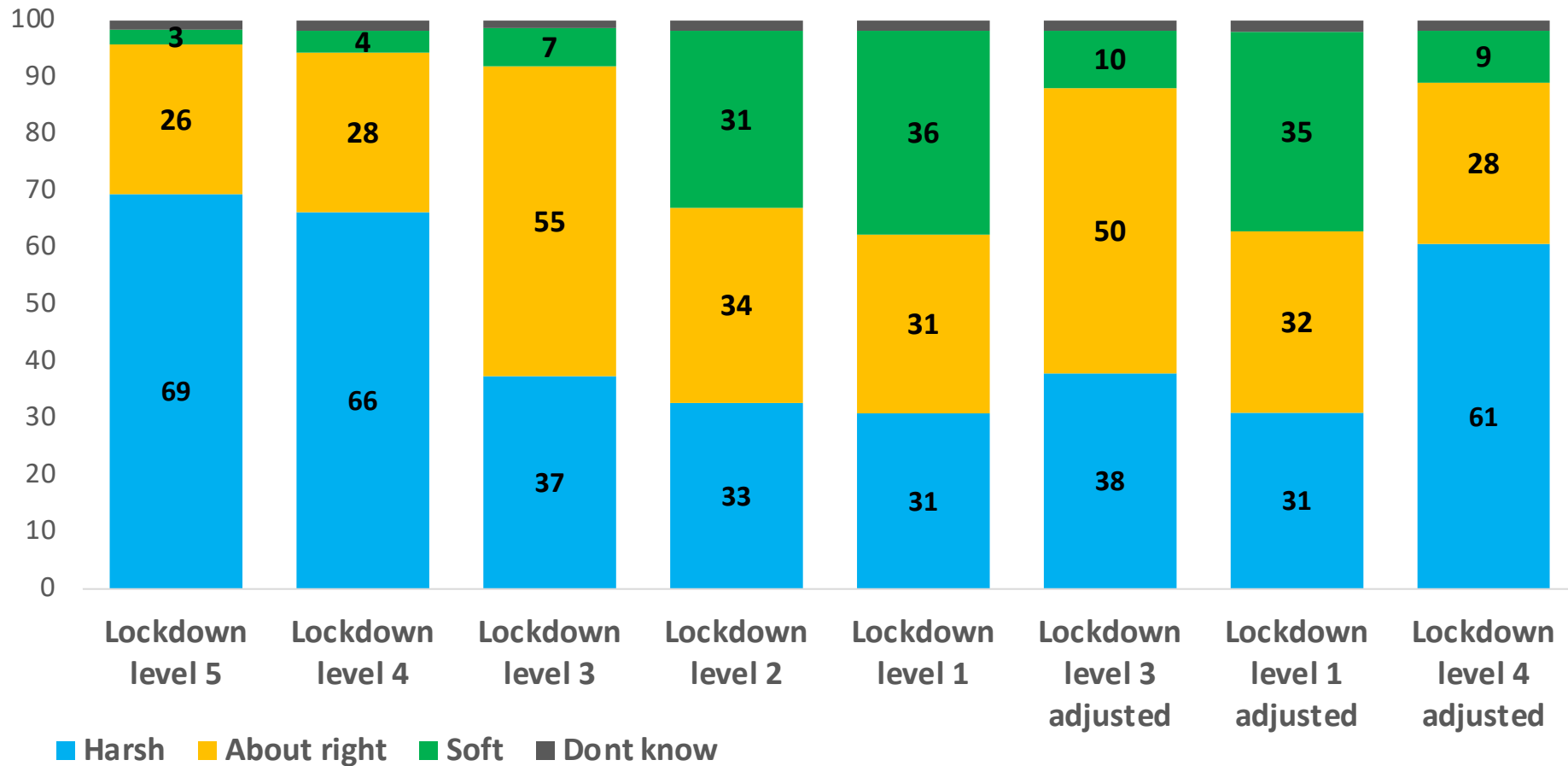


N=1857

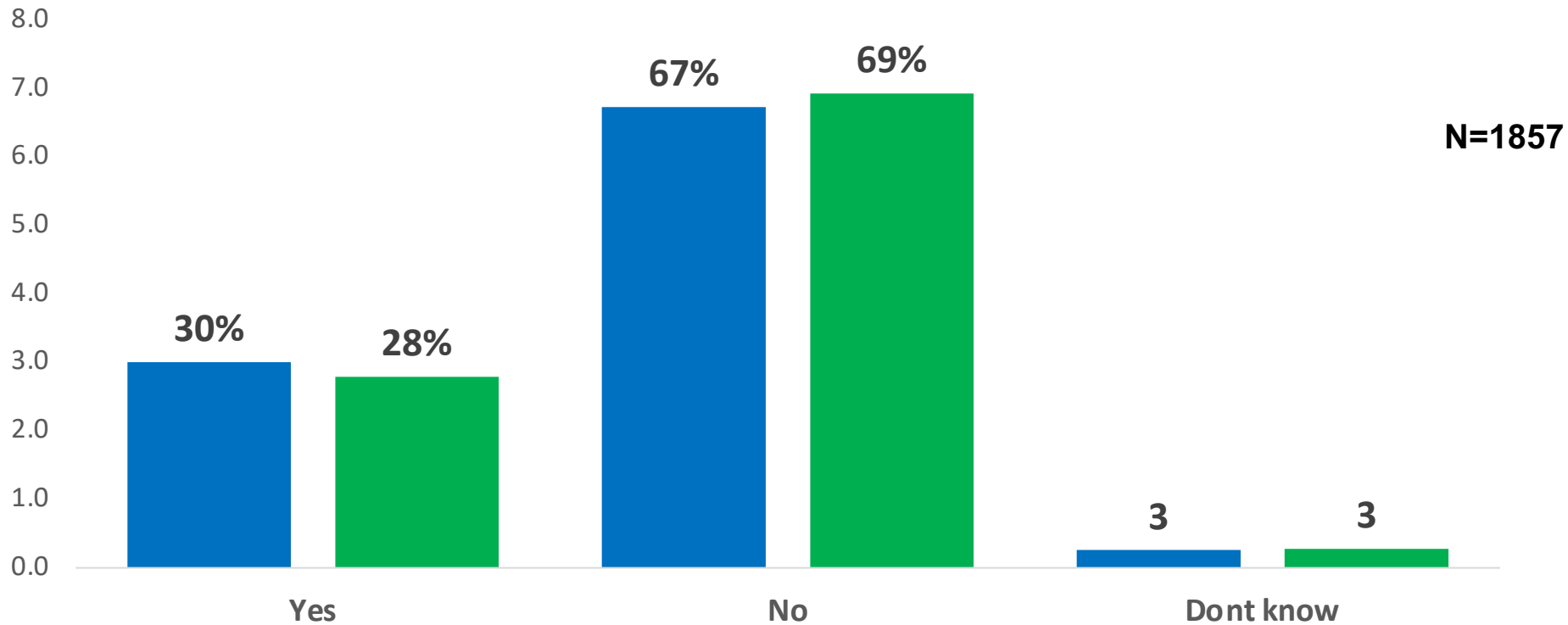
Would you say the following are doing a good job in accommodating the needs and rights of persons with disabilities in their responses to the Pandemic? (N=1857) %



Considering your disability, do you think the restrictions imposed during Lockdown Levels (March 20 to June 21) were...? (N = 1857)



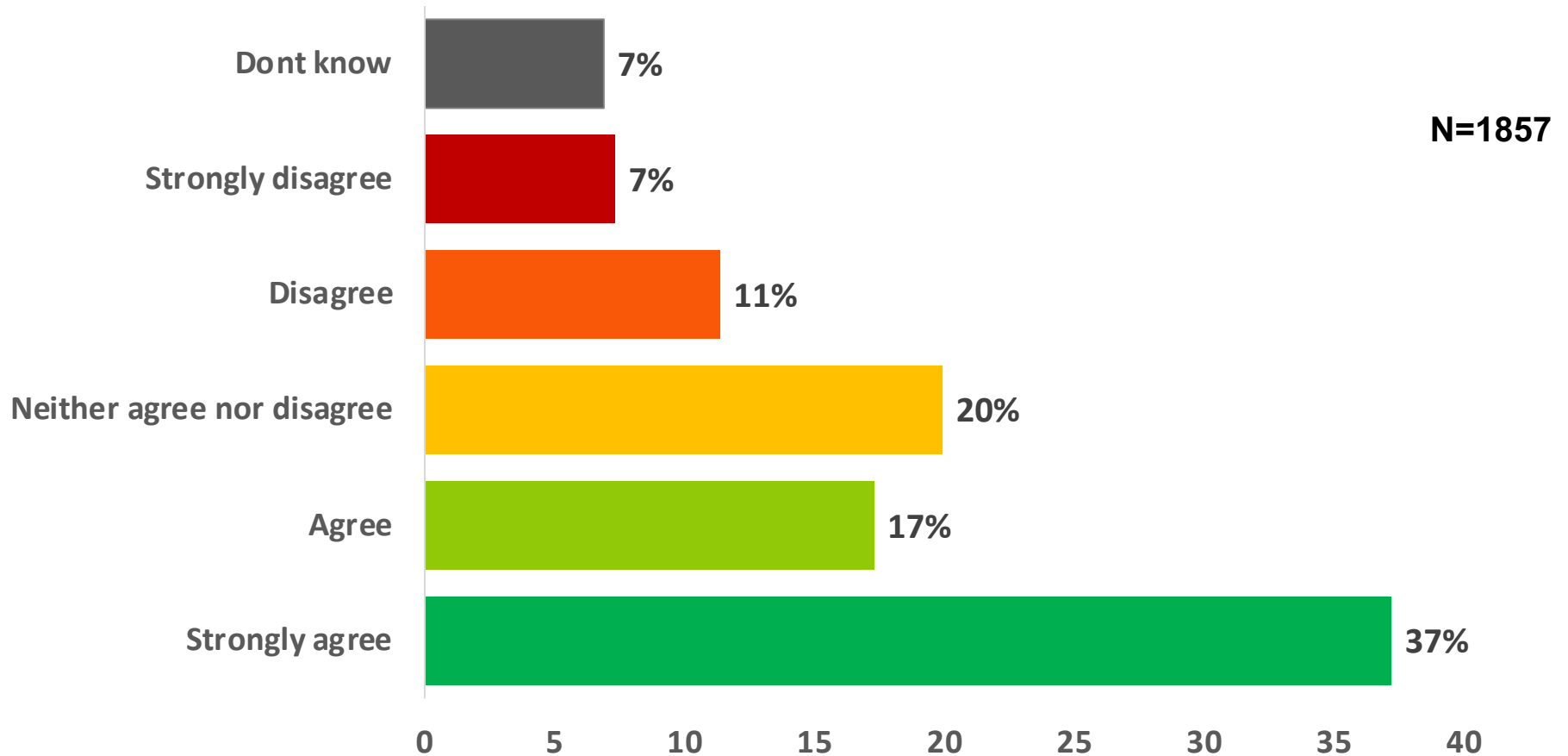
Face mask Challenges (%)



■ Have you had difficulty using a face mask?

■ Have you had difficulty communicating with other people who are wearing face masks

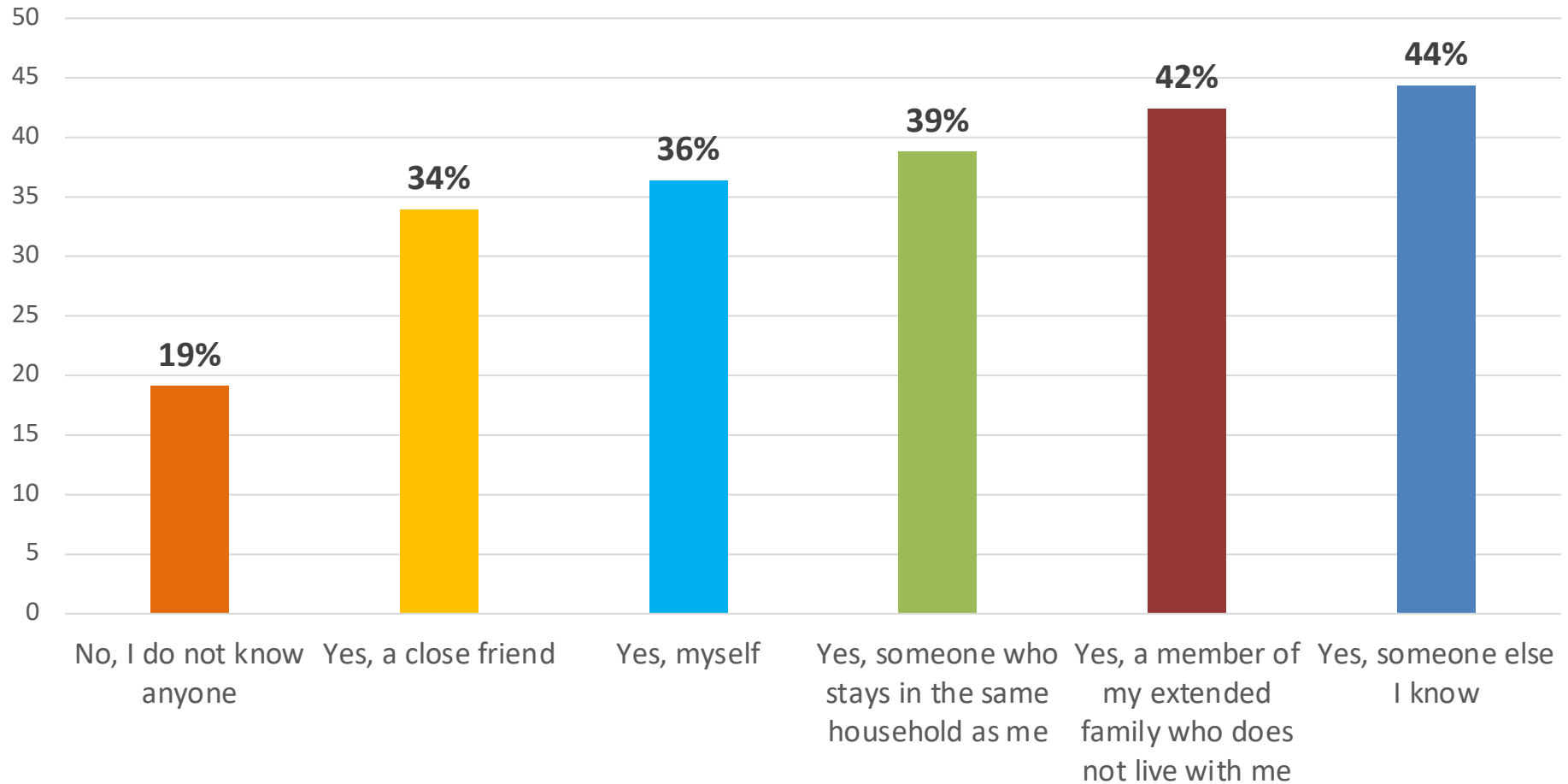
The government has taken the circumstances and needs of persons with disabilities into account in its response (%)



Vaccine Demand

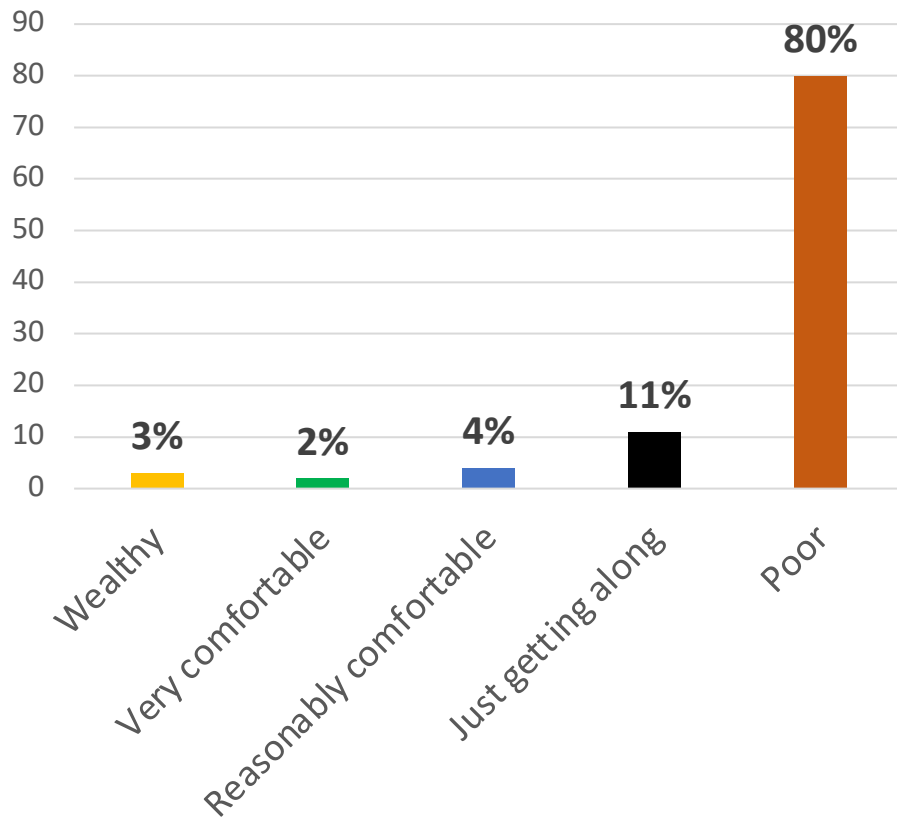
Yul Derek Davids Research Director (HSRC)

Personally know anyone who currently has coronavirus? (Multiple Response)

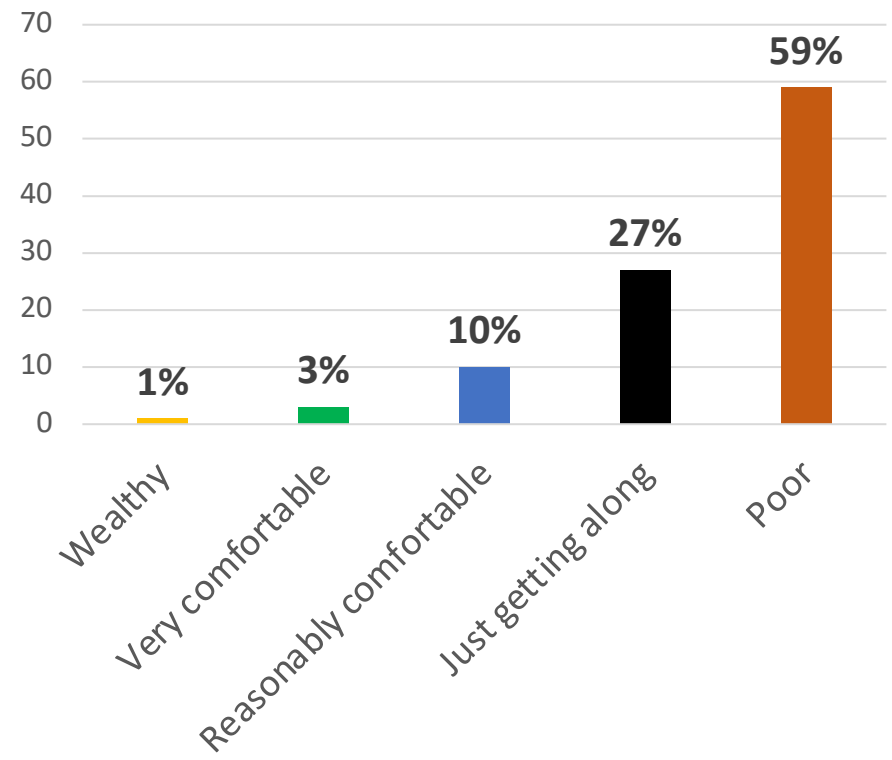


Personally know anyone who currently has coronavirus? By poverty status (MR)

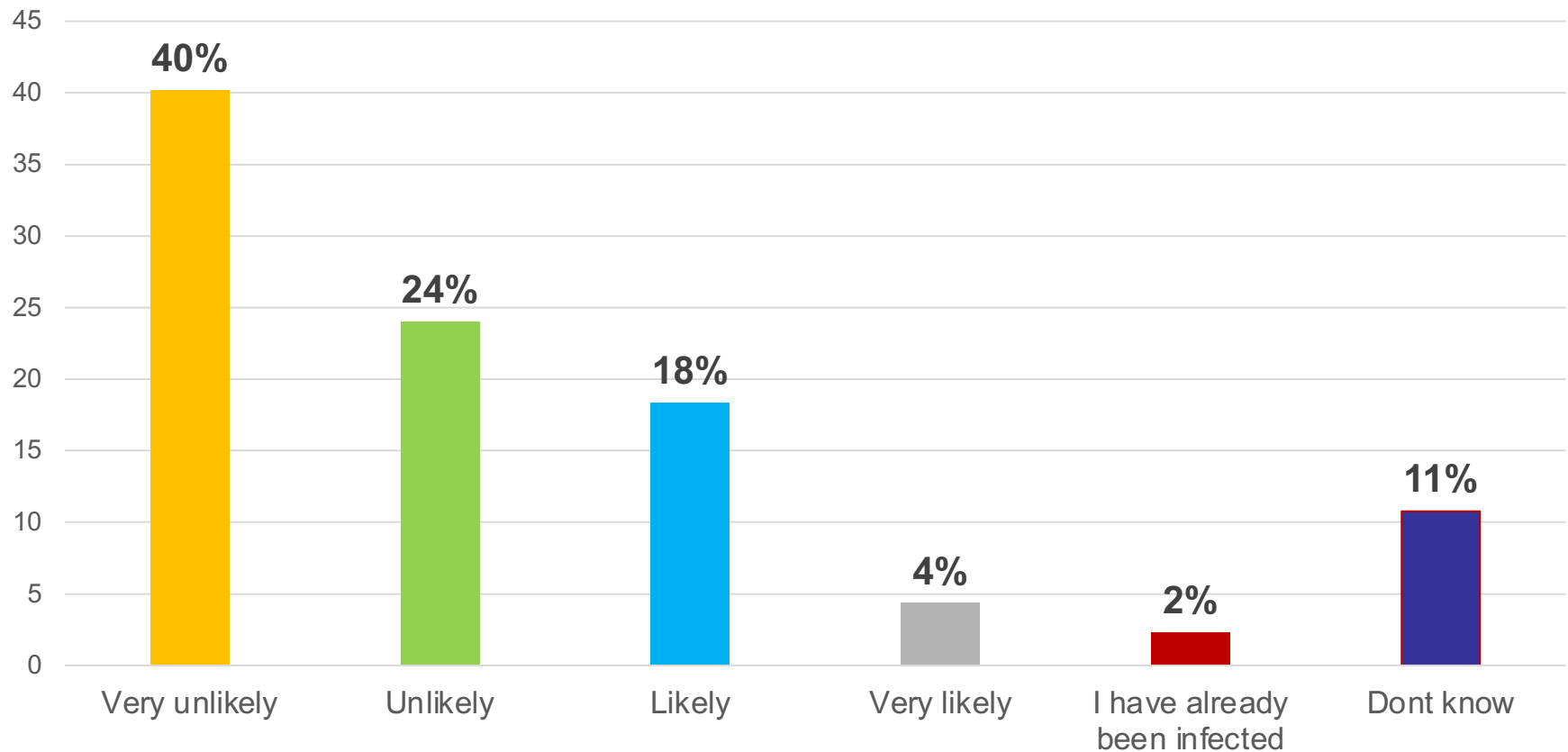
Yes, myself (N=651)



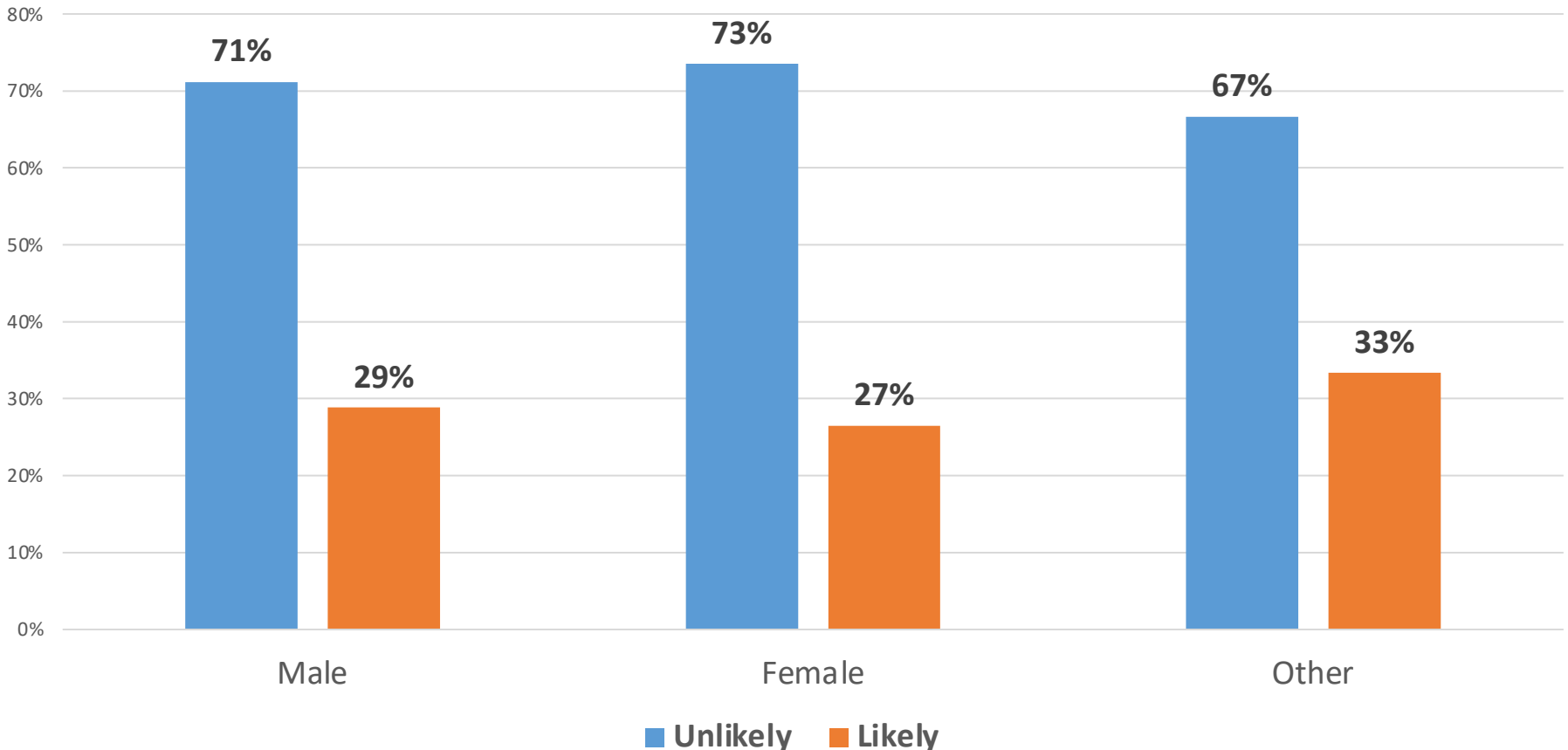
Yes, member of my extended family (N=759)



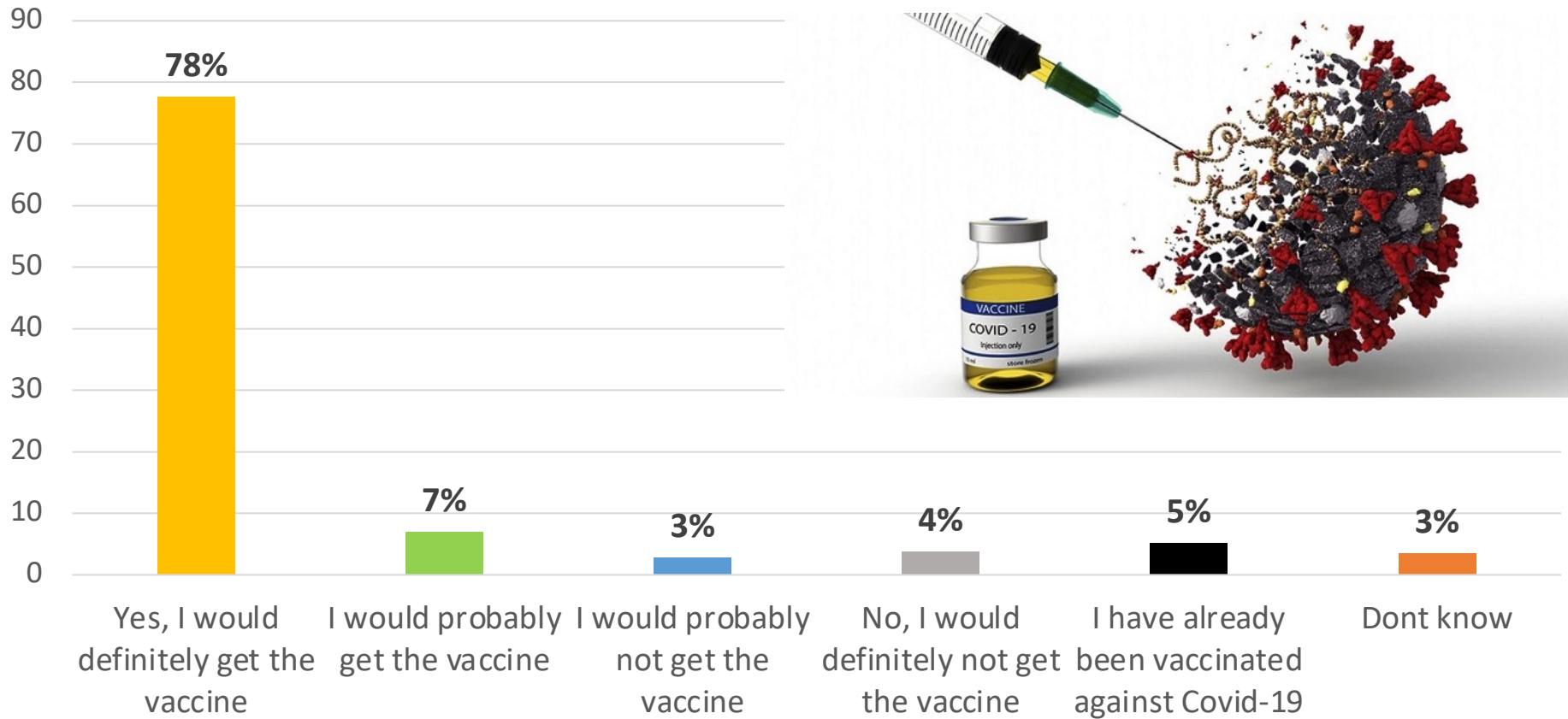
Likely to get infected with Coronavirus in the next few months



Likely to be infected with Coronavirus in the next few months by gender



If a Covid-19 vaccine became available to you, would you take it (% saying; n= 1857)



Future Expectations

Tim Hart Chief Research Specialist (HSRC)



Introduction to future expectations

- What support should we anticipate?
- White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Implementation Matrix: 2015 – 2030 - Little done by DCOGTA
- Section 3.5 Protection during situations of risk and disaster 100% completion 2015-2019 – *‘work in progress’*
 - No tracing, tracking or much support evident beyond SASSA and DSD grants

WPRD: Protection during situations of risk and disaster

3.5.1 Review all government disaster management plans to ensure provisions for persons with disabilities in emergencies

- *'Still work in progress'*

3.5.2 Provide accessible disaster relief services.

National and provincial disaster management centres must ensure that psychosocial support service personnel that have the capacity to assist persons with disabilities

- Evidence suggests this not the case (60% stressed)

Protection during situations of risk and disaster (2)

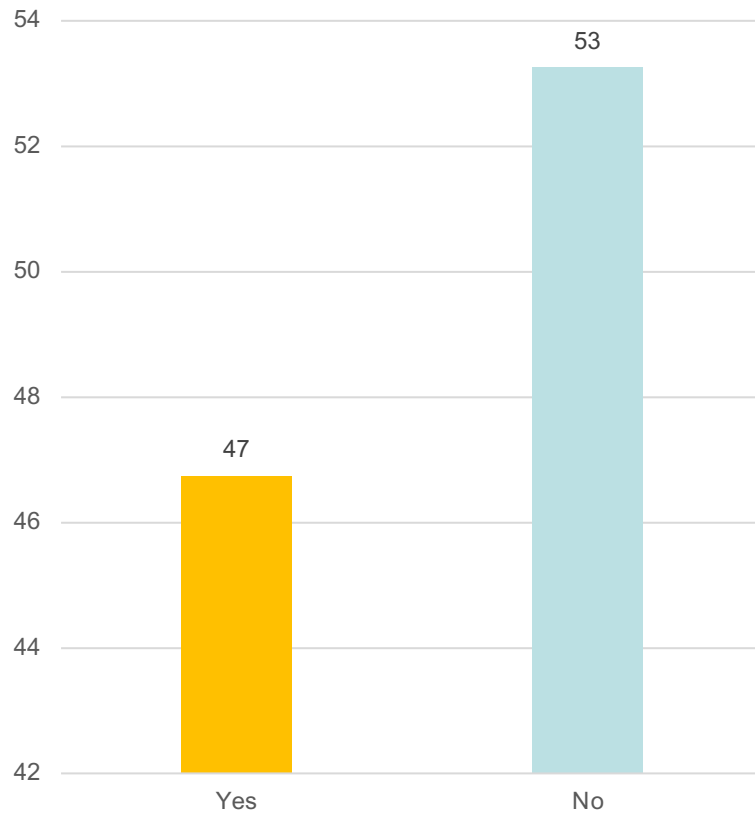
3.5.3 Provide accessible emergency services.

Municipal emergency services must put in place reasonable accommodation support systems and trained emergency personnel to ensure equitable and immediate access to these services for persons with disabilities.

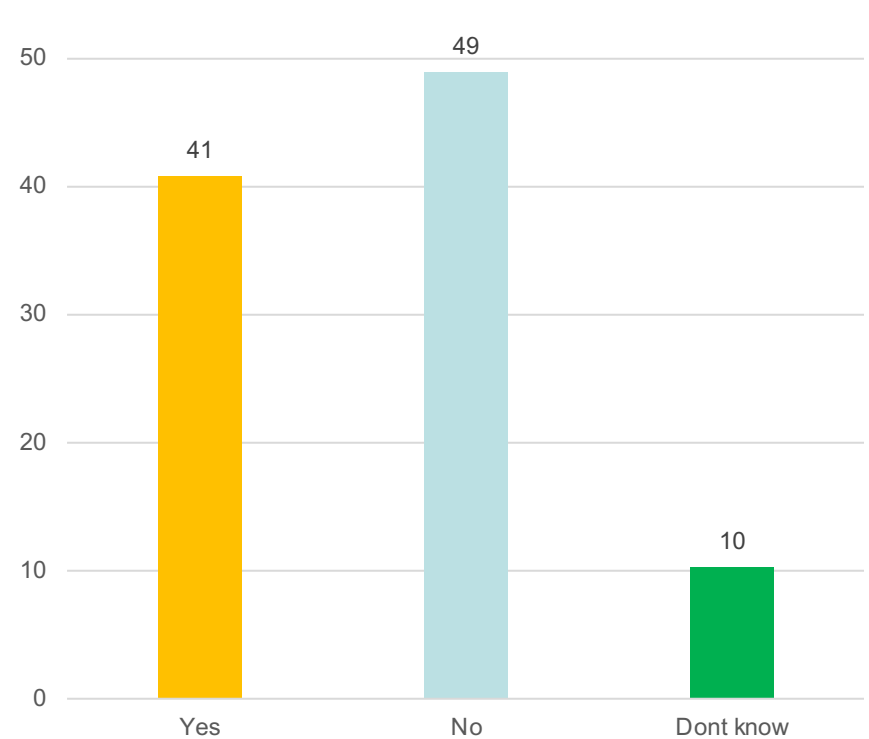
-Evidence suggest that this is not in place – reliance on NGOs, Police and army challenges in terms of disability responsiveness

RMF Awareness and consultation

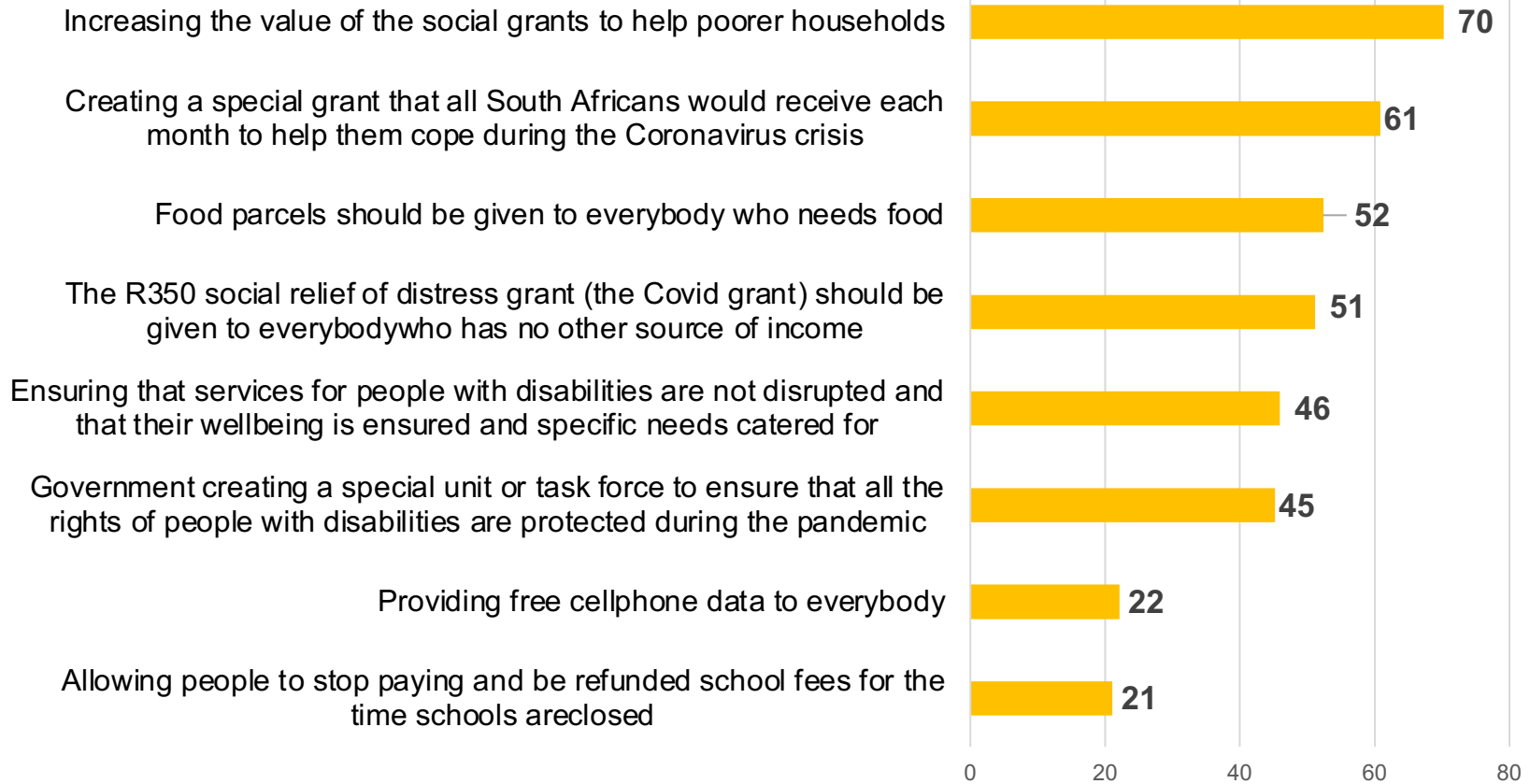
Aware of the disaster framework for persons with disabilities



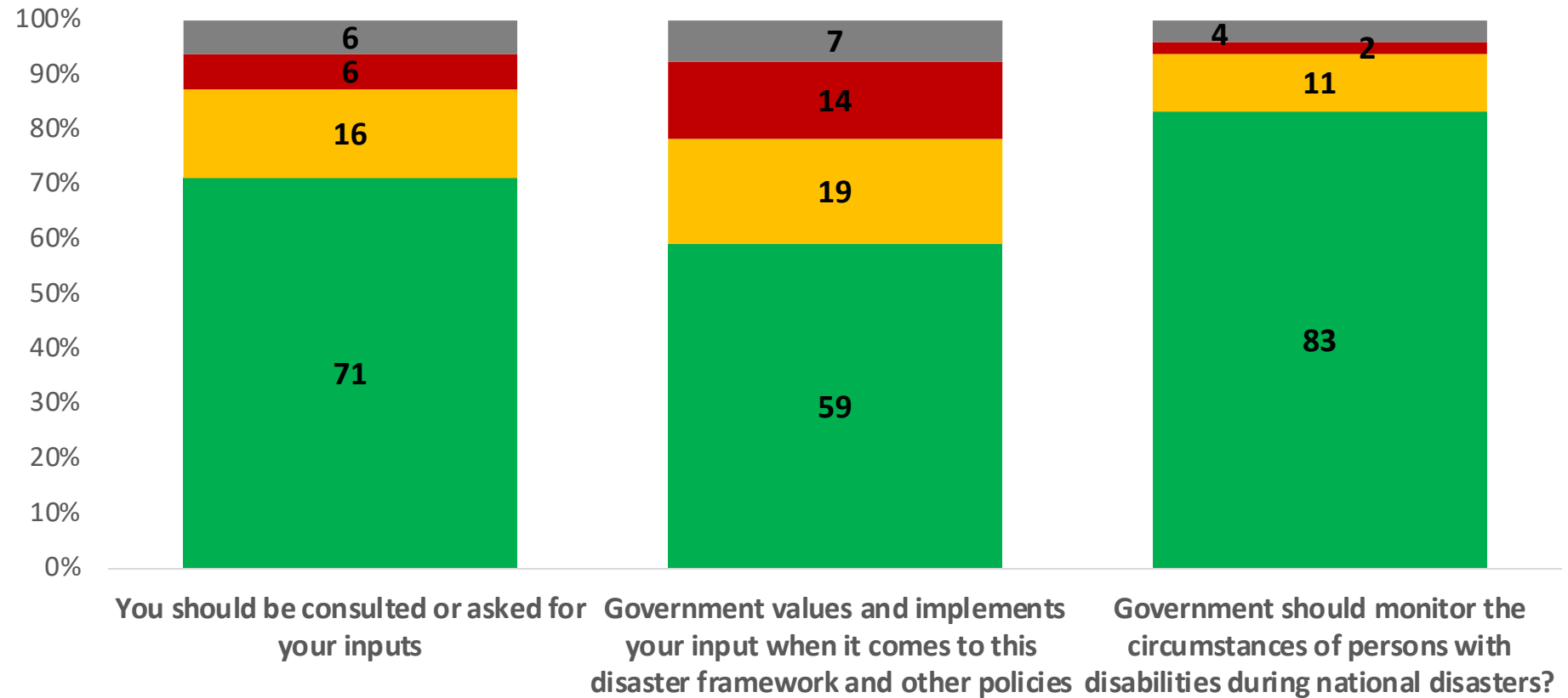
Previous Consultation with respect to Framework



Interventions that should be supported by Government (MR)



Government's framework to monitor Disasters (N= 1857) %



■ Agree
 ■ Neither agree nor disagree
 ■ Disagree
 ■ Dont know

Conclusions 1

- Disaster and risk framework for persons with disabilities far from complete – no baseline when pandemic hit
- Few disaster regulations focus on persons with disability – DSD and DBE
- Various needed services interrupted
- Making DRF disability inclusive is urgent now and for recovery
- Little communication between departments and with DPOs – No sharing and compiling of datasets – no mapping or tracing

Conclusions 2

- As more than half (51%) reported getting services from OPDs these must be included in improving the framework.
- Most respondents happy to be monitored during disasters if this is beneficial (83%).
- Persons with disabilities must be consulted on the development of the framework (71%), yet only 41% acknowledge any previous input.



Thank You

Loneliness, Stress, Depression and Anxiety are going to be with us for a while – intervention is necessary. Disability inclusive disaster framework is needed at all tiers.

QnA session

- Please write your questions or comments in the QnA box or the chatbox

Vote of Thanks

Yul Derek Davids
Research Director (HSRC)