



# Safely Managing COVID-19: Greater Manchester Population Survey

Survey 3 Report

February 2021

Based on fieldwork 14 – 27 Jan, while under national lockdown restrictions

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# Introduction and methodology

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# Background and methodology

## Background

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) is having significant impacts on the lives of respondents and the city region of Greater Manchester (GM) as a whole.
- The nature and extent of these impacts are not evenly experienced across the population, which affects how well-equipped and empowered parts of the population are to stop the spread of the virus & the resulting impacts.
- Although there is extensive national research into these issues, particularly from during the earlier stages of the pandemic, relying on national surveys does not give the level of detail required on who within the GM population is being most affected, the issues they are facing, what support they need, and how communications and support may be best targeted and delivered.
- The focus of this research is therefore to provide regular ongoing insight on these issues and impacts across GM as a whole, and within its 10 Local Authorities, to:
  - Help ensure communications and engagement activities are insight-led and appropriately delivered and targeted; and
  - To support the behaviour change GM needs to inspire across the population to stop the spread of coronavirus and its unequal impacts.

## Methodology

- BMG Research was commissioned to undertake monthly online and telephone (CATI) surveys, of at least 1,000 respondents of GM each time, with a sample of at least 100 respondents in each Local Authority.
- Quotas were set to ensure the sample broadly reflected the profile of respondents by gender, age, ethnicity and disability, with further consideration for wider protected and key characteristics.
- Weights have been applied to the data gathered to ensure the sample matches the population profile by these quota variables more precisely, and to ensure consistency between individual surveys.
- Each monthly survey should take 15 minutes on average for respondents to complete, however due to the emotive nature of the topic interviews by telephone take longer than this.
- Three surveys have so far been completed:
  - Survey 1: fieldwork took place between 20th Nov and 2nd Dec 2020: 707 surveys were completed online and 309 by CATI – a total sample of 1016.
  - Survey 2: fieldwork took place between 18th and 31st of Dec 2020: 751 surveys were completed online and 256 by CATI – a total sample of 1007.
  - Survey 3: fieldwork took place between 14th and 27<sup>th</sup> of Jan 2021: 757 surveys were completed online and 253 by CATI – a total sample of 1010.
- From survey 2 onwards the quantitative surveys are accompanied by deep-dive qualitative interviews with 10 respondents, investigating in more detail key issues or audiences of interest. Participants are selected from telephone survey participants who have consented to be contacted for a follow-up. During restrictions, these interviews are undertaken remotely, by video and telephone call.

# Report contents and guidance

## Report contents & guidance

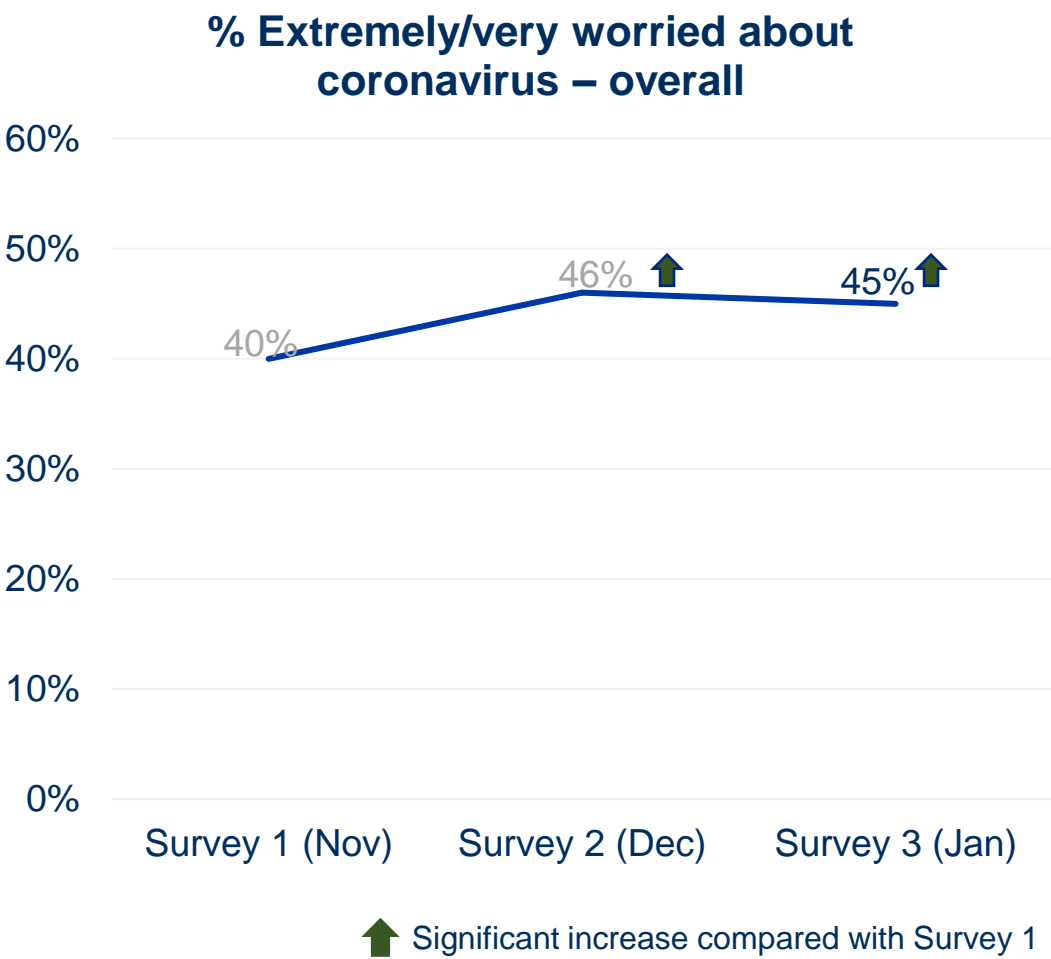
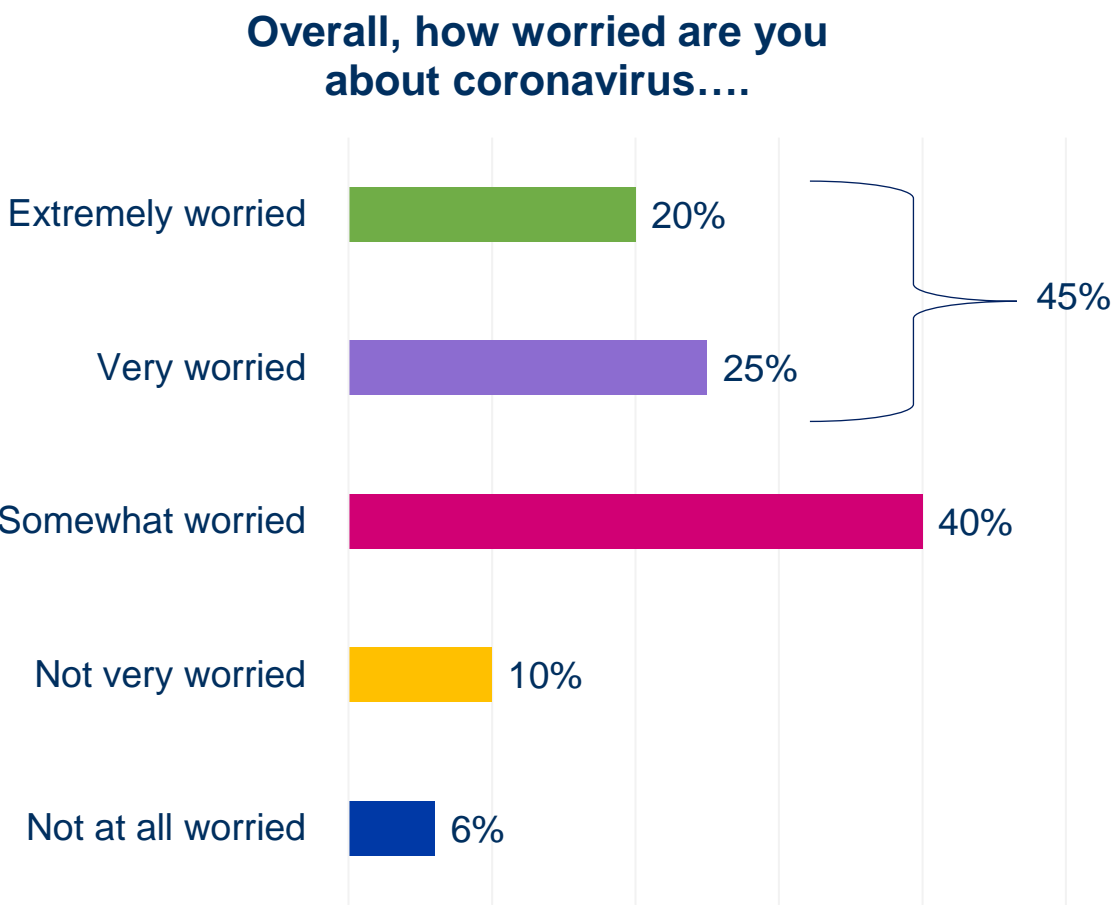
- **This report focuses on the findings from survey 3 (January)**, and where questions have remained the same provides comparisons with surveys 1 (in November) and 2 (in December); differences between the surveys that are statistically significant are indicated by up and down arrows. As well as continuing to understand concerns and impacts of the pandemic among GM respondents, and their attitudes and behaviours towards the restrictions and measures introduced in the latest national lockdown, survey 3 aims to understand more about how parents are coping with the challenges faced by school closures, further understanding of respondents' views with regards to receiving a vaccine, and how respondents are making use of 'bubbles' for childcare and / or support.
- The report presents a range of tables and charts with accompanying narrative to highlight the key findings from each section of the survey among the 'total GM' sample i.e. all 1010 respondents. Where relevant, differences by local authority and other population characteristics are also reported. These differences are significantly different statistically (at the 95% level of confidence) compared with the 'total GM' figures i.e. the GM average.
- On some questions responses have been filtered on those who were asked relevant questions (e.g. those in work or with children), and bases may be lower than the full sample of 1010 in some instances. Where relevant, this has been noted on the slides, along with the unweighted base sizes. Any low bases with an unweighted base size below 50 have also been noted.
- The following pages of the summary highlight the key findings with regards to the key concerns, anxieties and impacts the pandemic has had on Greater Manchester overall, as well as respondents' knowledge and understanding, attitudes and behaviours with regards to coronavirus itself, and the measures, restrictions and guidelines that have been put in place or are planned to try and stop its spread. The summary also covers any significant changes between surveys 1, 2 and 3 in any of the measures reported, where questions have stayed consistent between surveys.
- The report then outlines the detailed survey findings on each area of interest, including significant variations for specific demographic groups compared to the population as a whole.



# Highlights

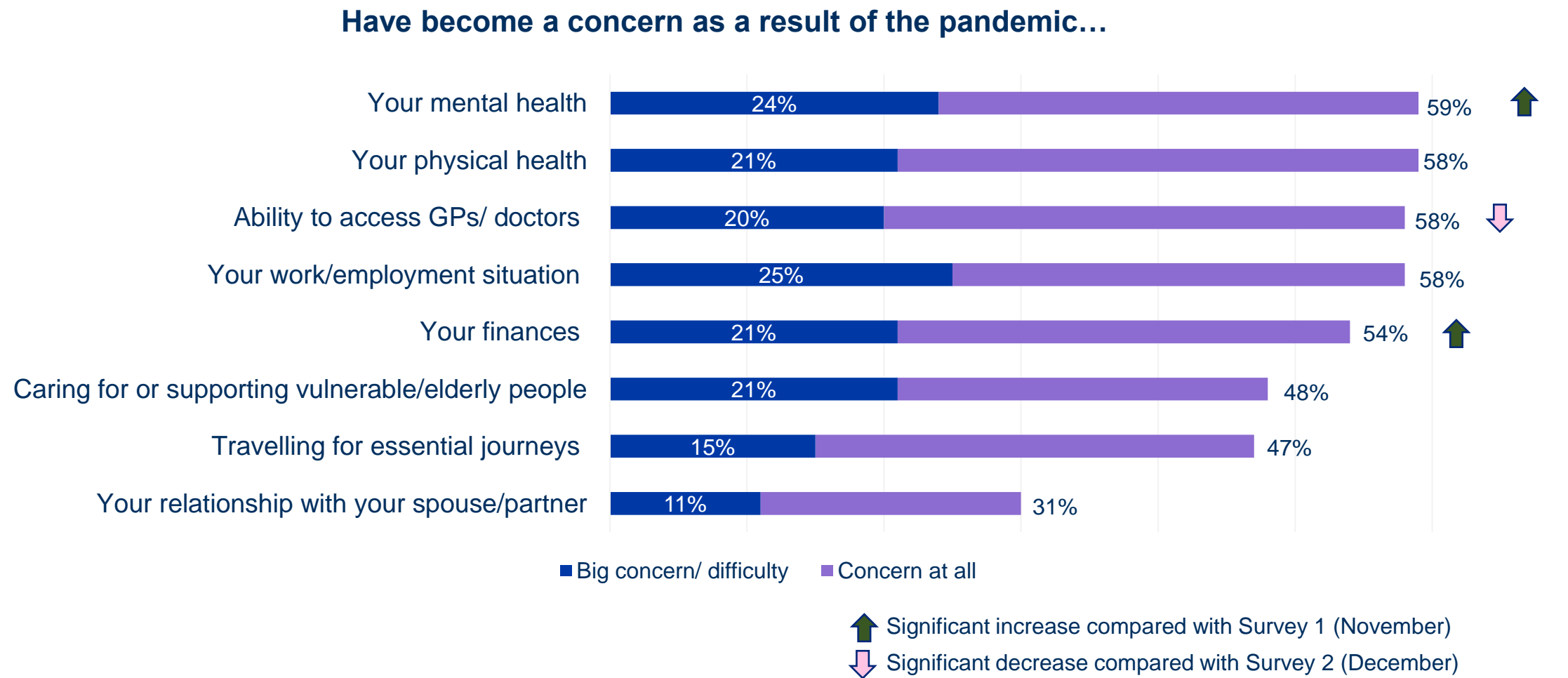
Concerns	<a href="#">pages 7, 8</a>	Impacts on children	<a href="#">page 15</a>	Vaccines	<a href="#">page 24</a>
Experience of coronavirus	<a href="#">page 9</a>	Education	<a href="#">pages 16, 17</a>	Asymptomatic testing	<a href="#">page 25</a>
Self-isolation	<a href="#">pages 10, 11</a>	Bubbles	<a href="#">page 18</a>		
Financial impacts	<a href="#">page 12</a>	National lockdown – attitudes and behaviours	<a href="#">pages 19-23</a>		
Employment	<a href="#">pages 13, 14</a>				

Overall **levels of concern** about coronavirus remain higher than in the November baseline. More than 2 in 5 (45%) respondents are now extremely or very worried.



For further detail see “feelings and concerns – levels of worry”, [page 29](#) and [page 30](#)

# Increased proportions of respondents have **specific concerns** for their mental health and finances than in November.

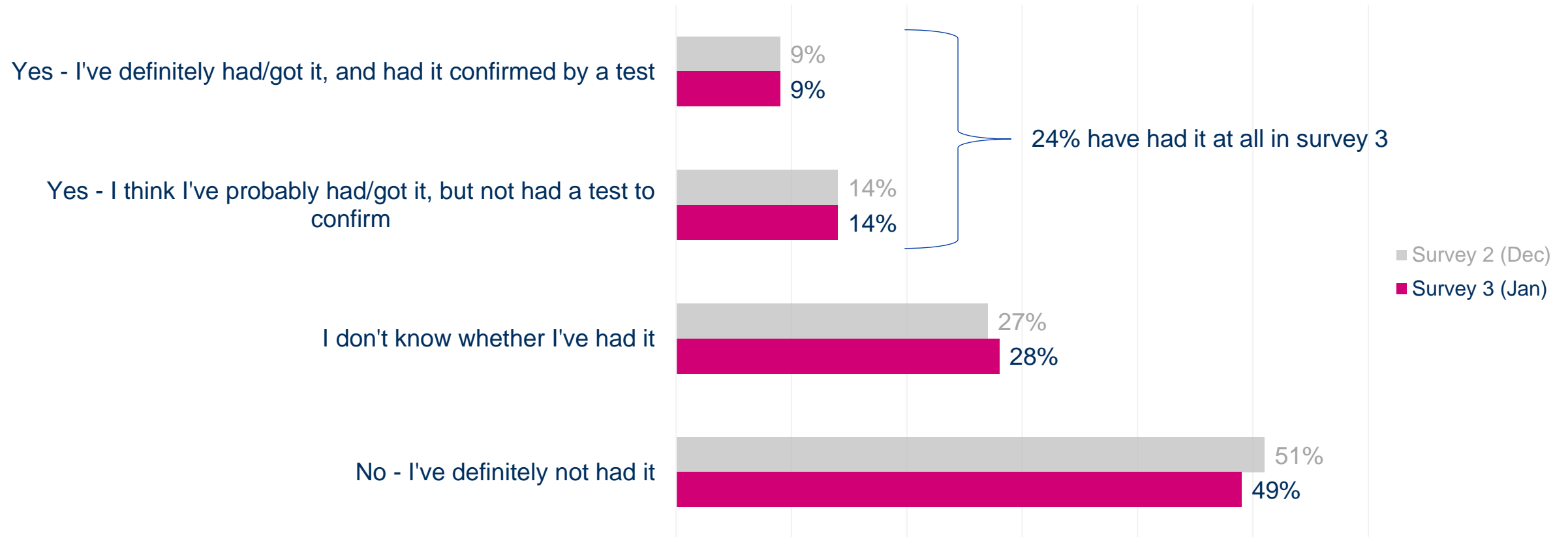


For further detail see “feelings and concerns – specific concerns”, [page 32](#), [page 33](#) and [page 34](#)



**Around 1 in 4 (24%) respondents say they **have had coronavirus**. However, around 3 in 5 (60%) of these have not had this confirmed by taking a test.**

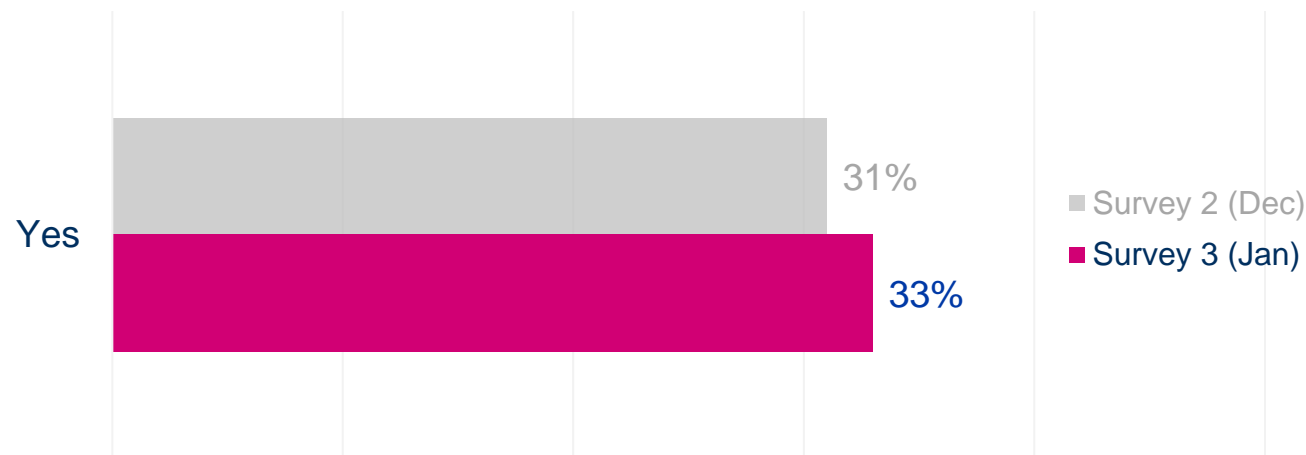
**Do you know or think you have had coronavirus?**



For further detail see “coronavirus impacts – experience of coronavirus”, [page 36](#) and [page 37](#)

1 in 3 (33%) respondents say they have **needed to self-isolate** at some point. Of those who have tested positive, 1 in 10 (10%) believe they have not needed to self-isolate; this rises to 2 in 5 (41%) among those who say they have had coronavirus but not had it confirmed by a test.

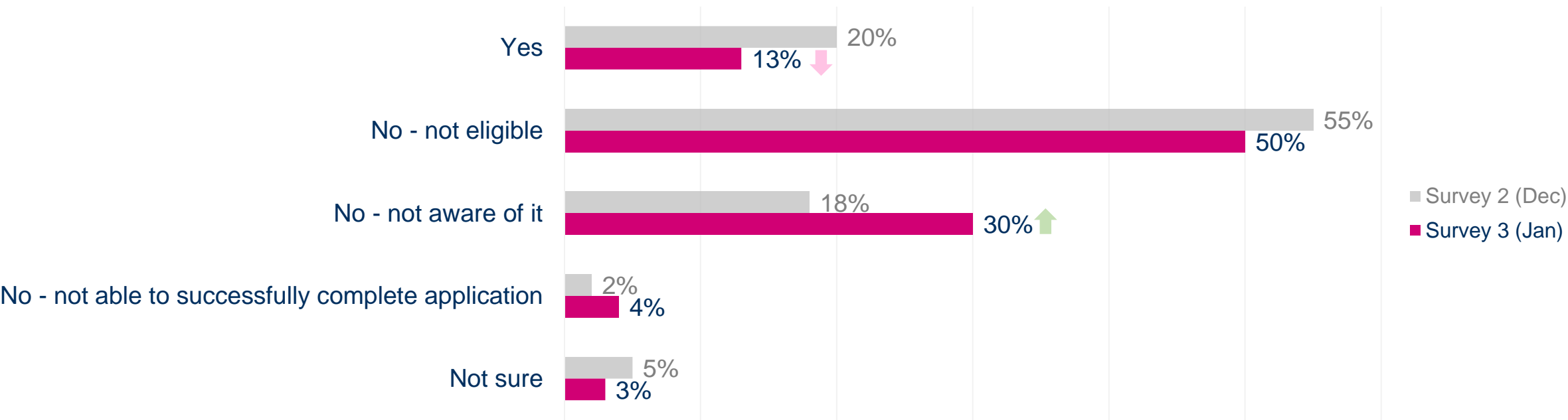
Have you needed to self-isolate due to symptoms, a positive test, or being a close contact of someone with coronavirus?



Survey 3 (Jan): Whether needed to self-isolate		
	Yes	No
All respondents	33%	67%
Had coronavirus <b>confirmed by test</b>	90%	10%
Think they've had coronavirus but <b>not confirmed by test</b>	59%	41%

Only around 1 in 8 (13%) of those needing to self-isolate have been able to claim **financial support**. The proportion doing so has fallen since December.

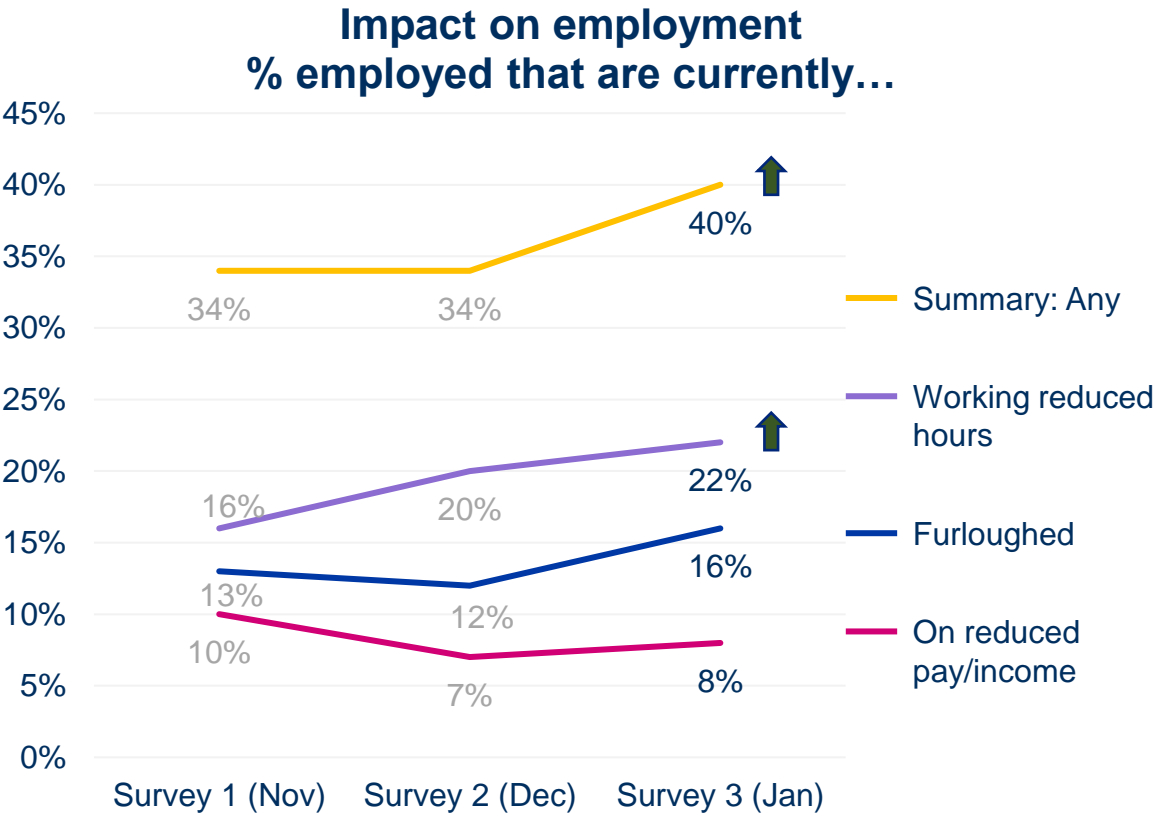
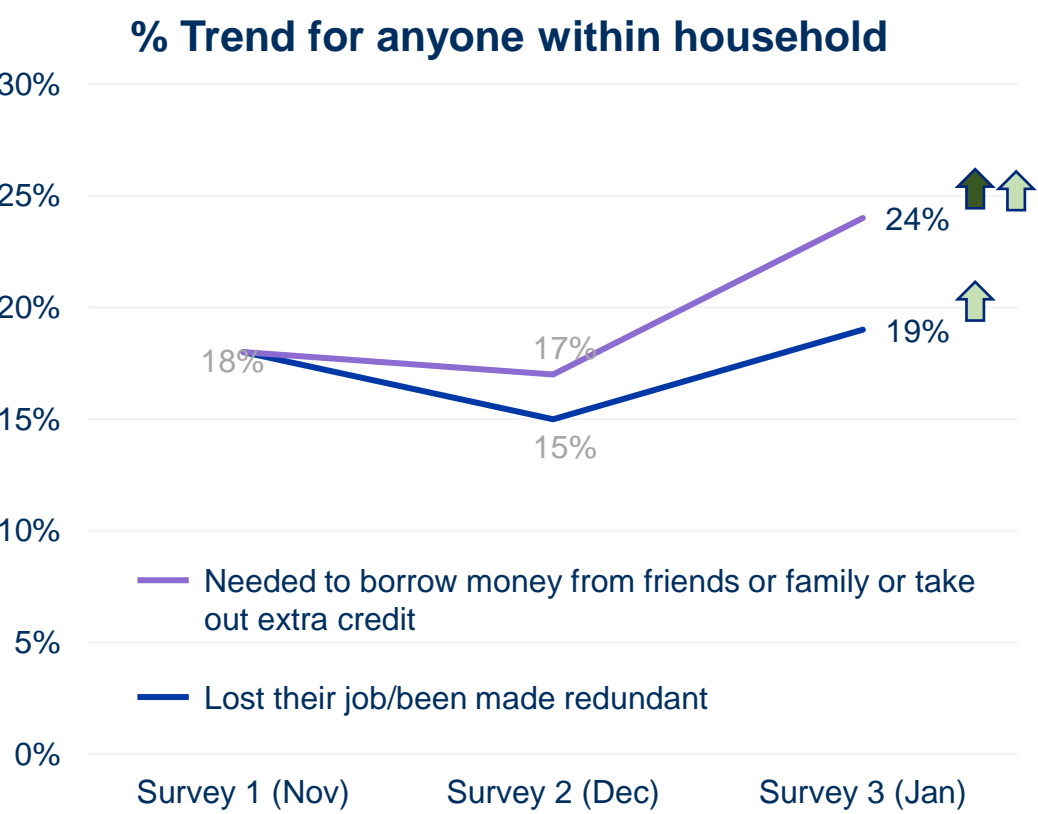
Did you claim the financial support payment available to some people during self-isolation?



Claims, awareness and perceived eligibility are no higher among the groups that the payment is aiming to target than among the population as a whole.

↑ ↓ Significant increase/decrease compared with Survey 2

Since December there has been a significant increase in **financial impacts**. Higher proportions say they or someone in their household has lost their job and/or needed to borrow extra money. More of those in work are working reduced hours.



↑ Significant increase compared with Survey 1

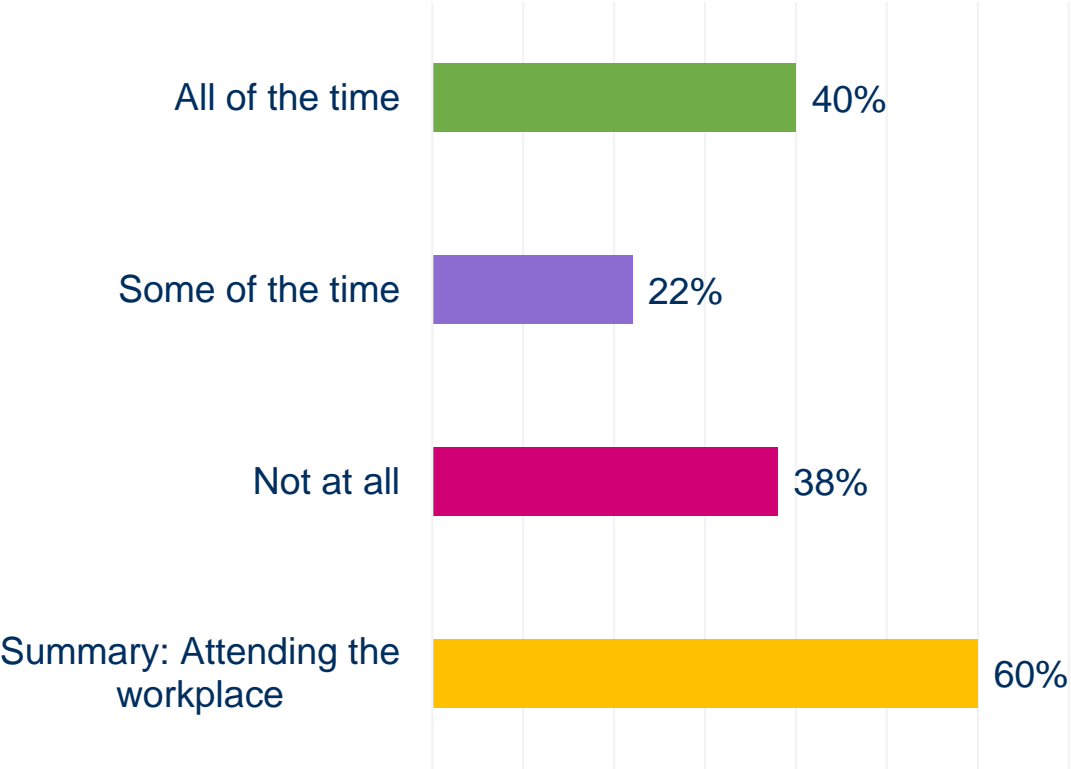
↑ Significant increase compared with Survey 2

For further detail see “coronavirus impacts – finance and employment”, [page 41](#) and [page 42](#)



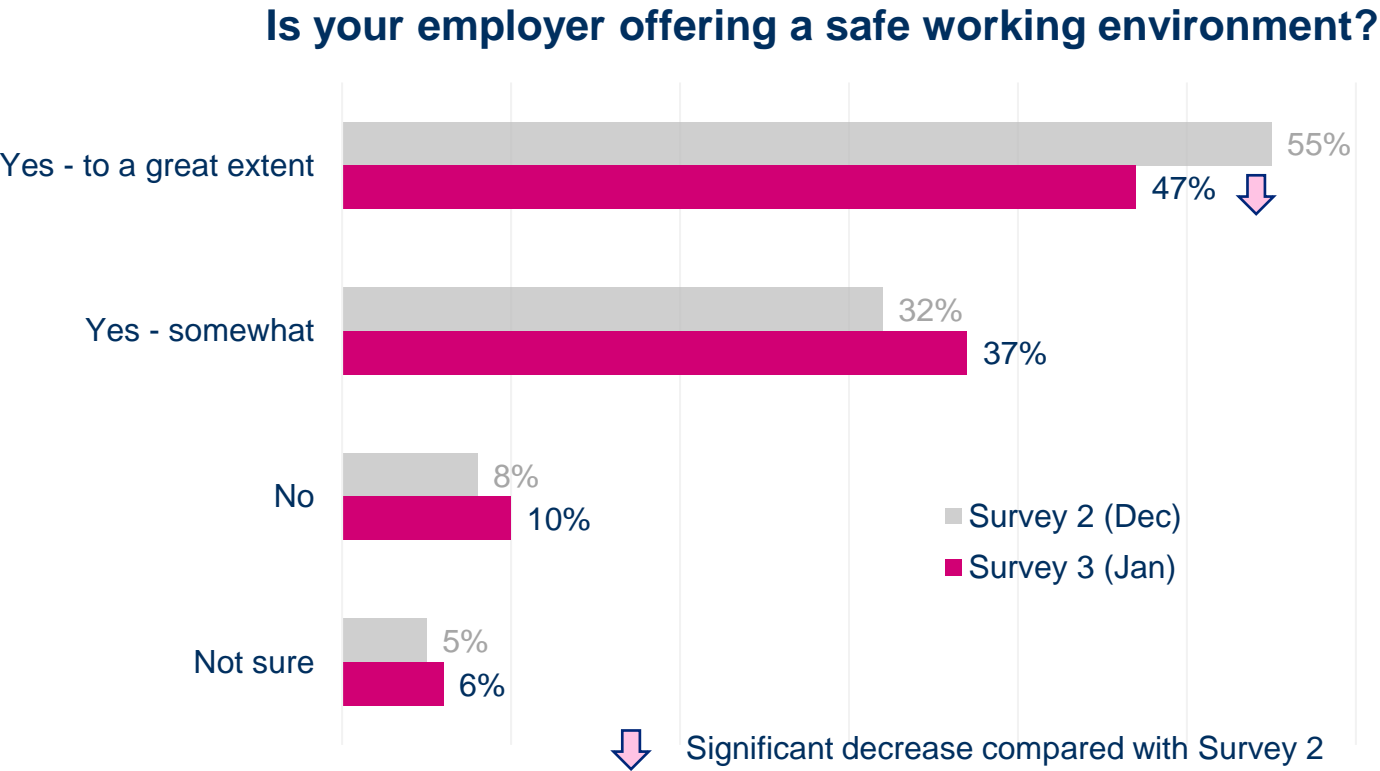
Despite people being advised to work from home during the national lockdown unless they cannot reasonably do so, 60% of people in work are **still going into their workplace** at least some of the time.

Currently, how often are you working from home....



- Significantly more likely to be attending their workplace:
- Those working in
    - wholesale / retail / distribution / other services (e.g. hair, beauty, repairs) (82%)
    - health and social work (71%)
  - Respondents living in Rochdale (77%)
  - Those educated to non-degree level (71%), in particular GCSE or below (75%)
  - Single adult households (69%)
  - Part-time staff (68%)
  - Those without caring responsibilities (66%)
  - Those without a disability (63%)

The number of people still going into work who **don't feel their workplace is coronavirus-safe** has increased since December. Lack of safe distancing or being considerate of mental heath issues remain the most common reasons given.



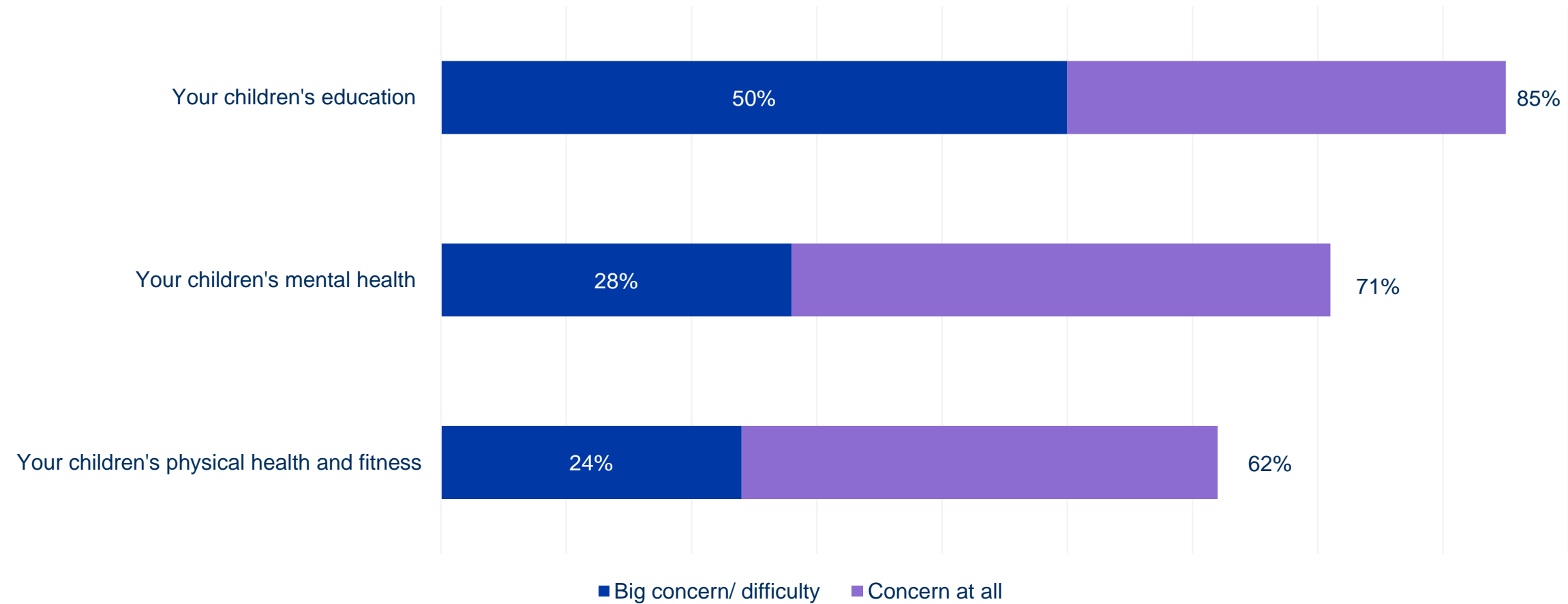
Those working in

- wholesale / retail / distribution / other services (e.g. hair/beauty, repairs)

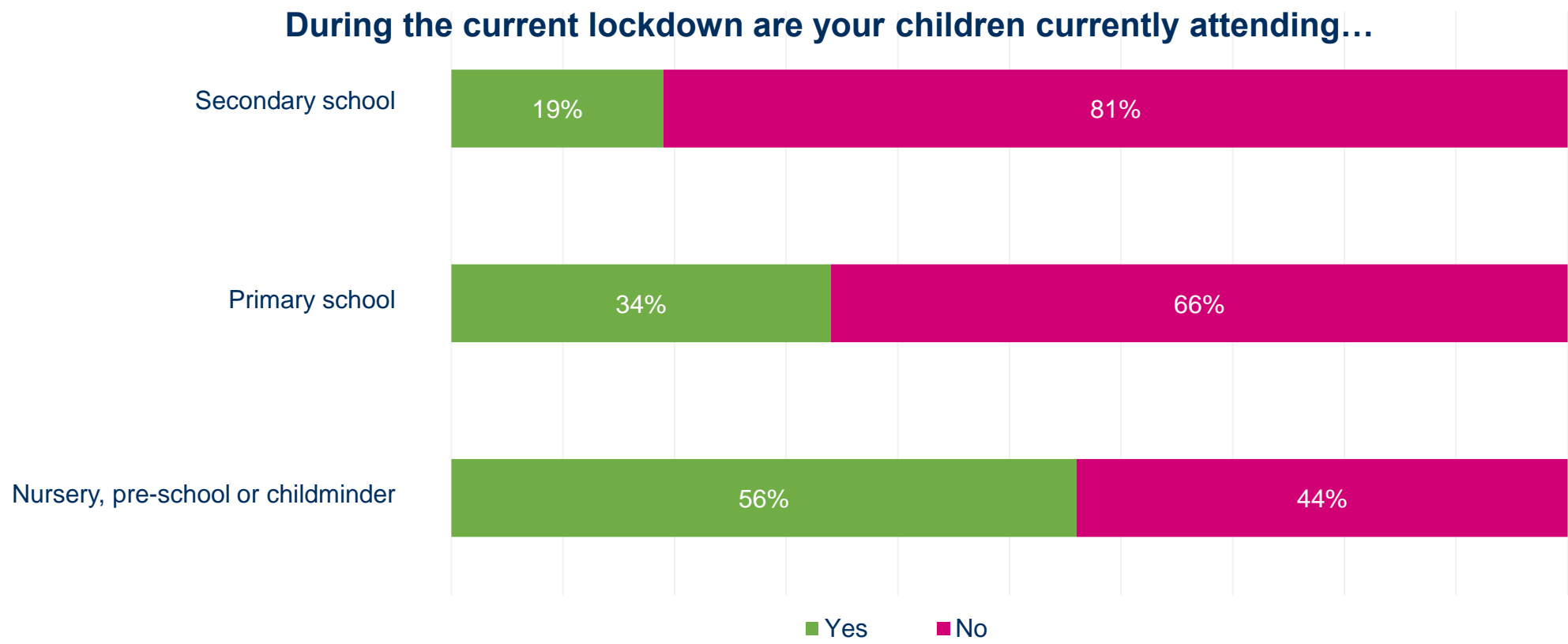
are less likely to say their employer is offering a safe place to work 'to a great extent' (37%, vs. 47% on average)

In terms of **impacts on children**, more than 8 in 10 (85%) respondents with children are concerned about their education, with 1 in 2 considering this a ‘big concern’.

Have become a concern as a result of the pandemic (among those who have children)...

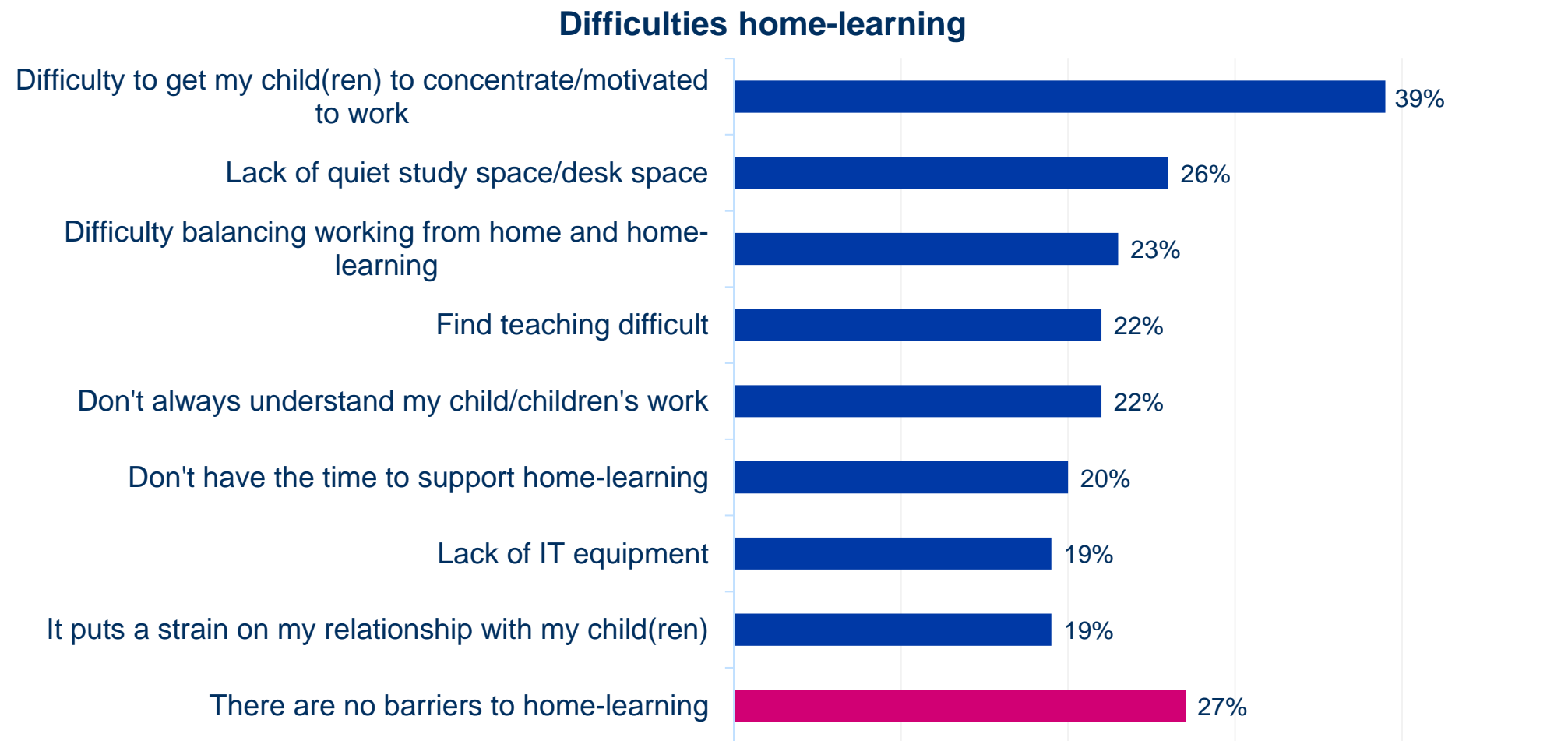


Around 1 in 3 (34%) parents of primary and 1 in 5 (19%) parents of secondary pupils still **have children in school during the national lockdown**. The main reason given is that parents are key workers – but 12% say they are not key workers but having to go into work and so need to send children into school.



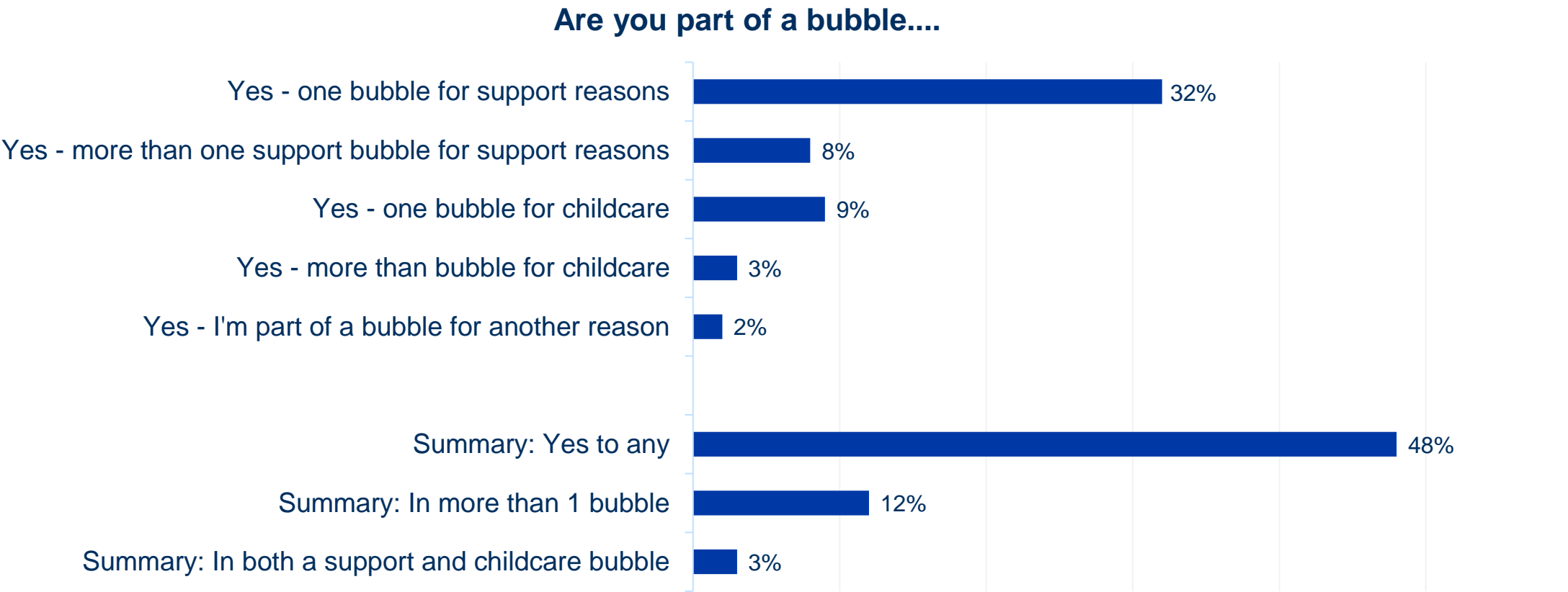


**Around 3 in 4 (73%) of those with children not attending school during the lockdown are experiencing **difficulties with home-learning**.**

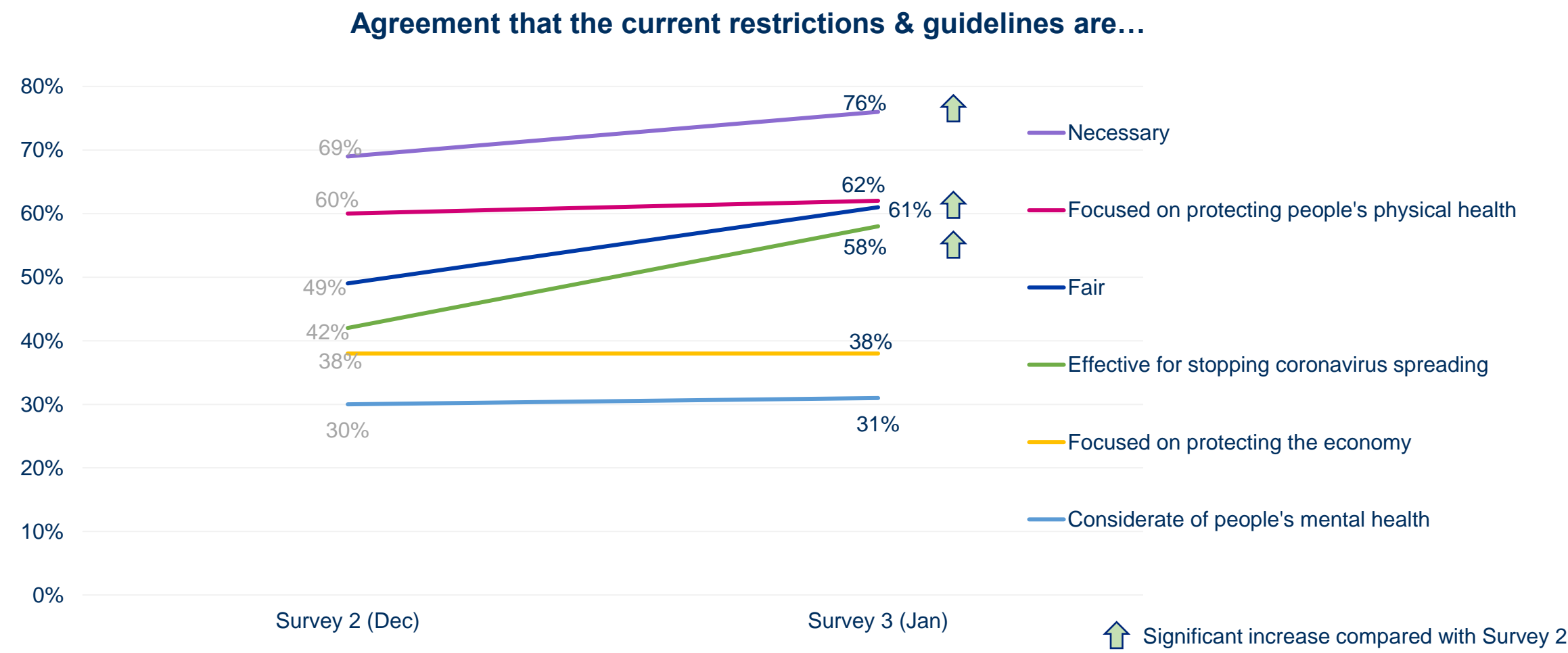


**For further detail see “coronavirus impacts – children and education”, [page 48](#)**

**Around 1 in 2 (48%) respondents are **in a bubble** for childcare and/or support. Although only 3% say they have both kinds of bubble, as permitted, 12% say they are in more than one bubble and 15% in a bubble with more than one other household.**

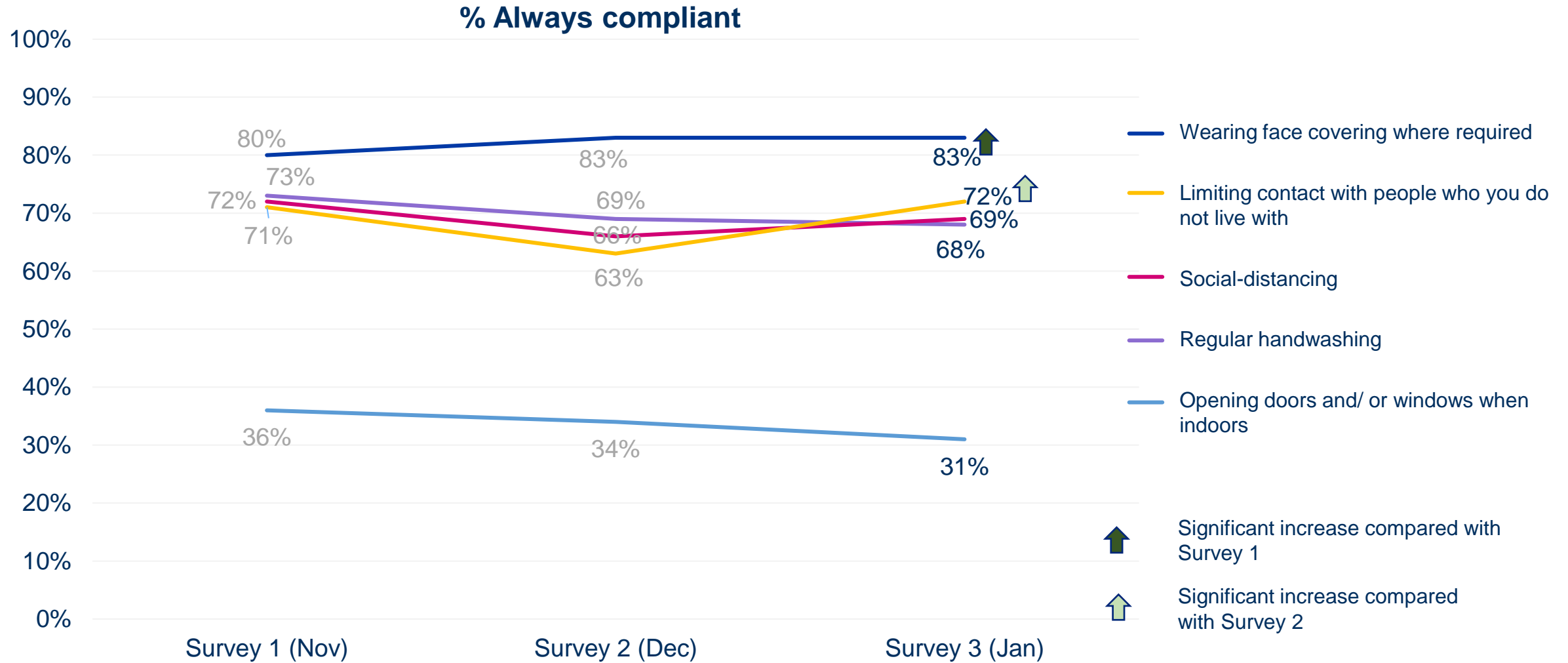


The move from regional restrictions to national lockdown has seen an increased proportion of respondents feeling **restrictions are fair, necessary, and effective.**



For further detail see “attitudes and behaviours – attitudes to restrictions”, [page 59](#)

# The move to national lockdown appears to have been accompanied by an increase in **compliance** with regards to limiting contact with others.

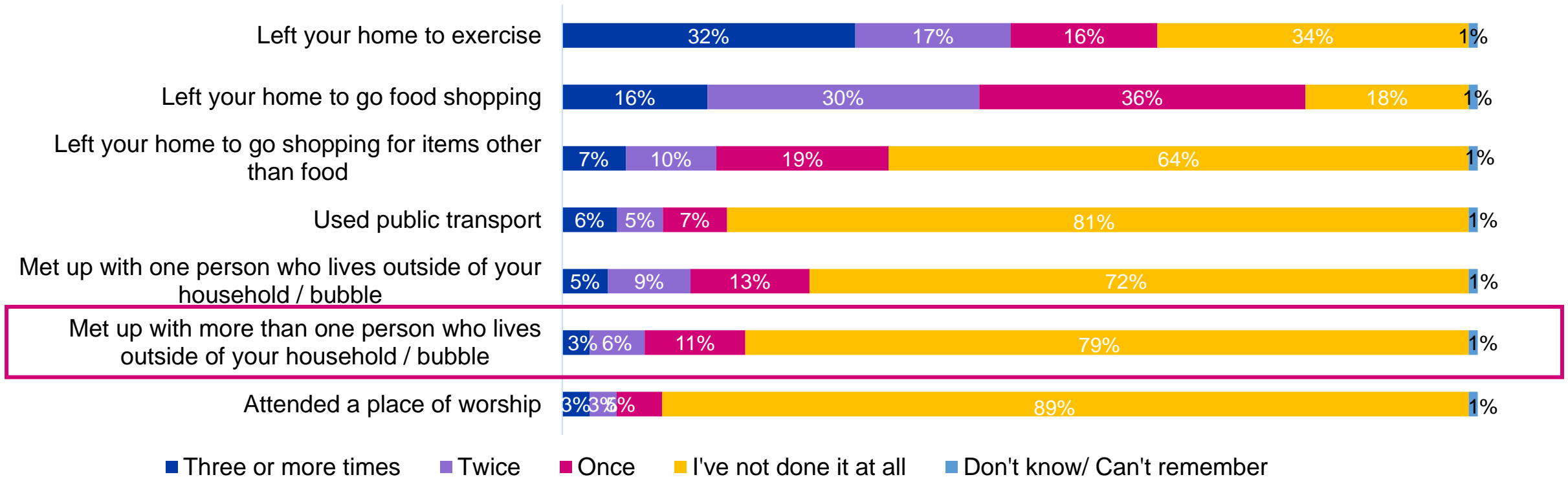


For further detail see “attitudes and behaviours – compliance with guidance”, [page 60](#) and [page 61](#)



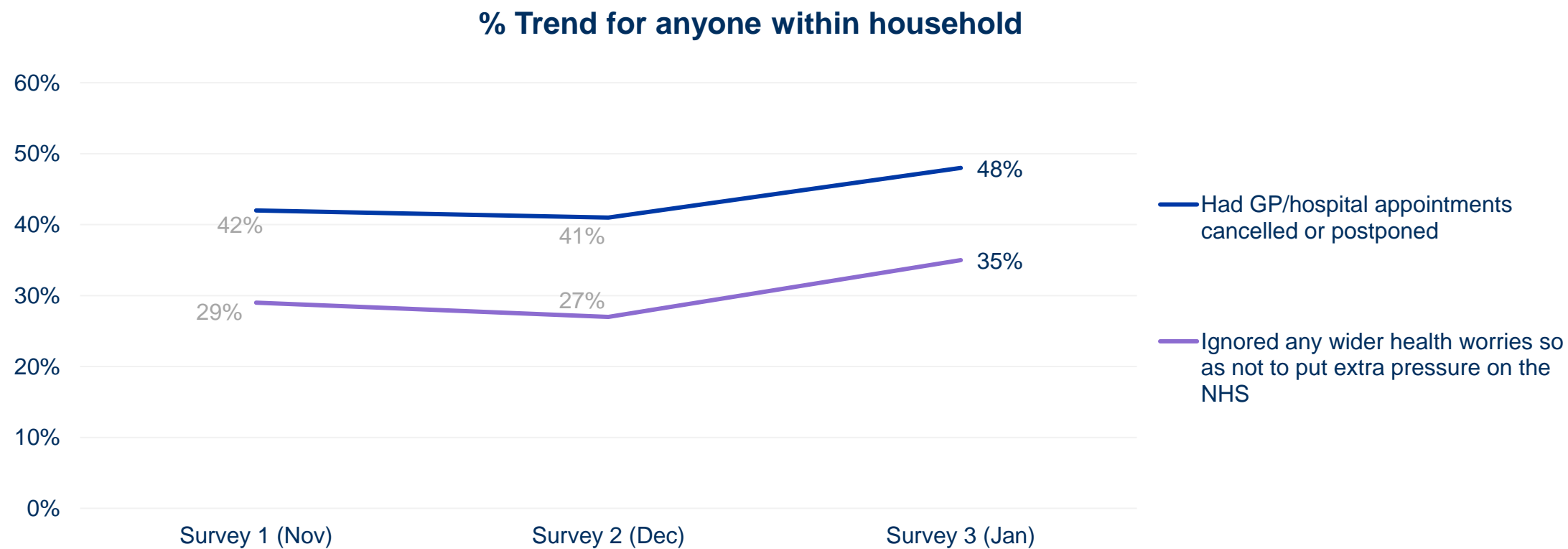
**Despite the increase in people saying they are limiting contact with others, 1 in 5 (20%) respondents **met up with more than one person** from outside their household or bubble at least once in the last seven days – against the restrictions in place.**

### Reasons for leaving home in the last 7 days

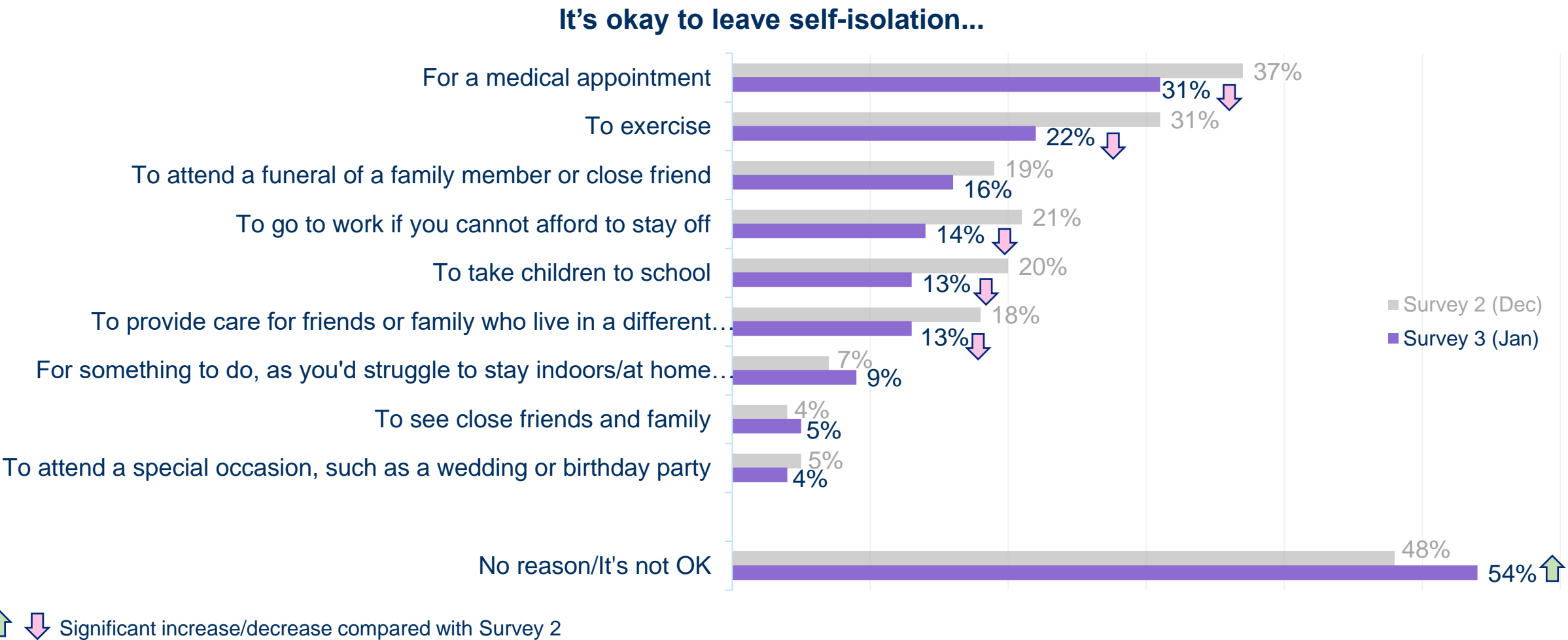


For further detail see “attitudes and behaviours – compliance with guidance”, [page 62](#) and [page 63](#)

The proportion of respondents **ignoring health concerns** or having medical appointments cancelled has also risen significantly since both the November baseline and the previous survey in December. This could suggest an unintended consequence of the “Stay Home, Protect the NHS” message.

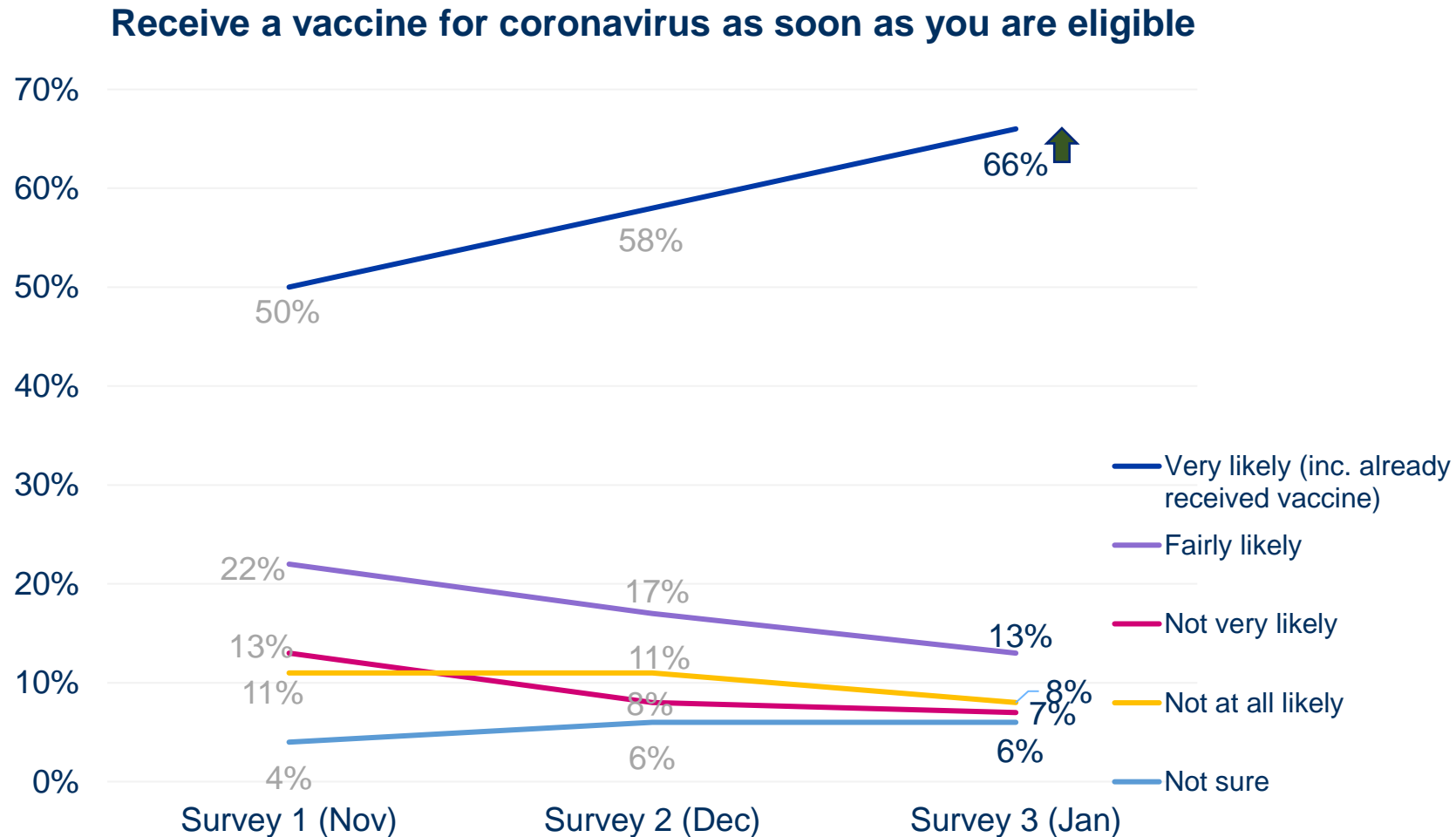


The proportion of respondents who think it is **ok to leave self-isolation** for any reason has decreased since December. This may be due to the national lockdown and the broader ‘stay at home’ messaging.



For further detail see “attitudes and behaviours – attitudes to self-isolation”, [page 64](#)

Almost 4 in 5 respondents (79%) now say they **would receive the vaccine**, or have already done so. Those very likely have increased by 16 percentage points compared with November.



More respondents from the following groups are not very/not at all/not sure about getting the vaccine (compared to 21% average among all respondents):

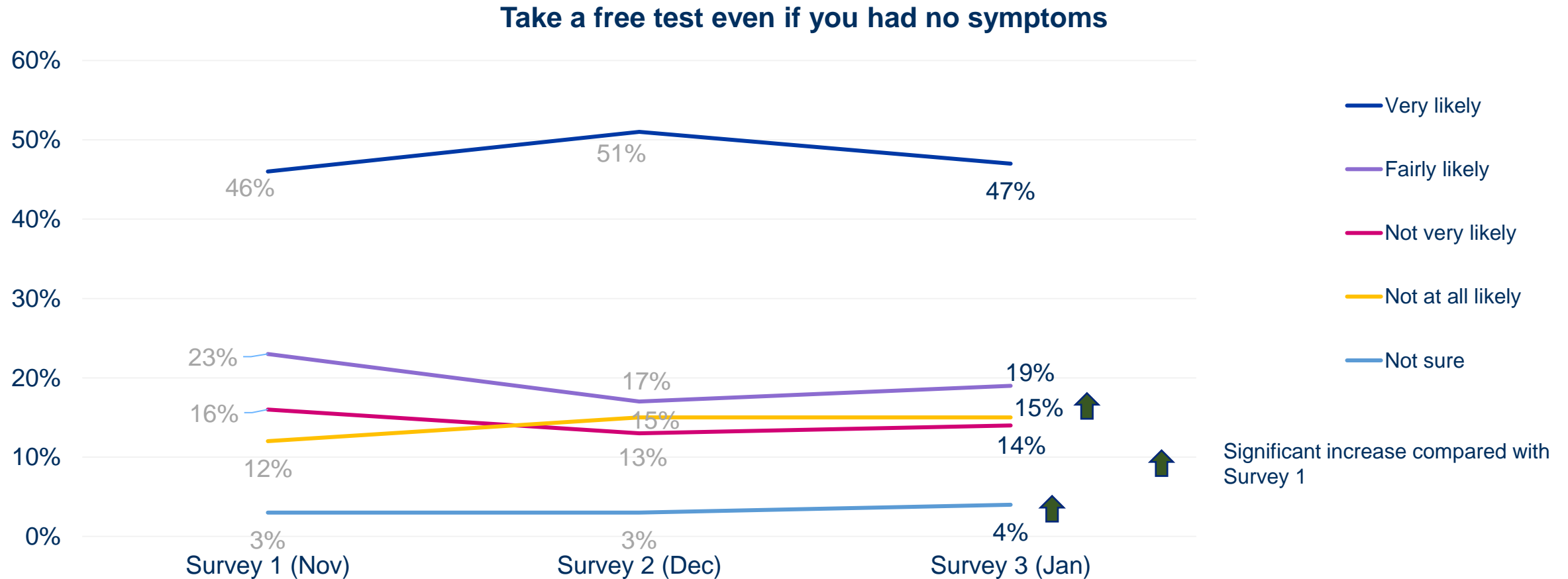
- Asian respondents (46%)
- Those who have English as an additional language (45%)
- Muslim respondents (41%)
- Aged 16-24 (39%)

↑ Significant increase compared with Survey 1

For further detail see “attitudes and behaviours – vaccines”, [page 68](#), [page 69](#) and [page 70](#)



**1 in 3 (34%) respondents are not likely or not sure about taking a test when showing no symptoms of coronavirus.**



For further detail see “attitudes and behaviours – asymptomatic testing”, [page 67](#)

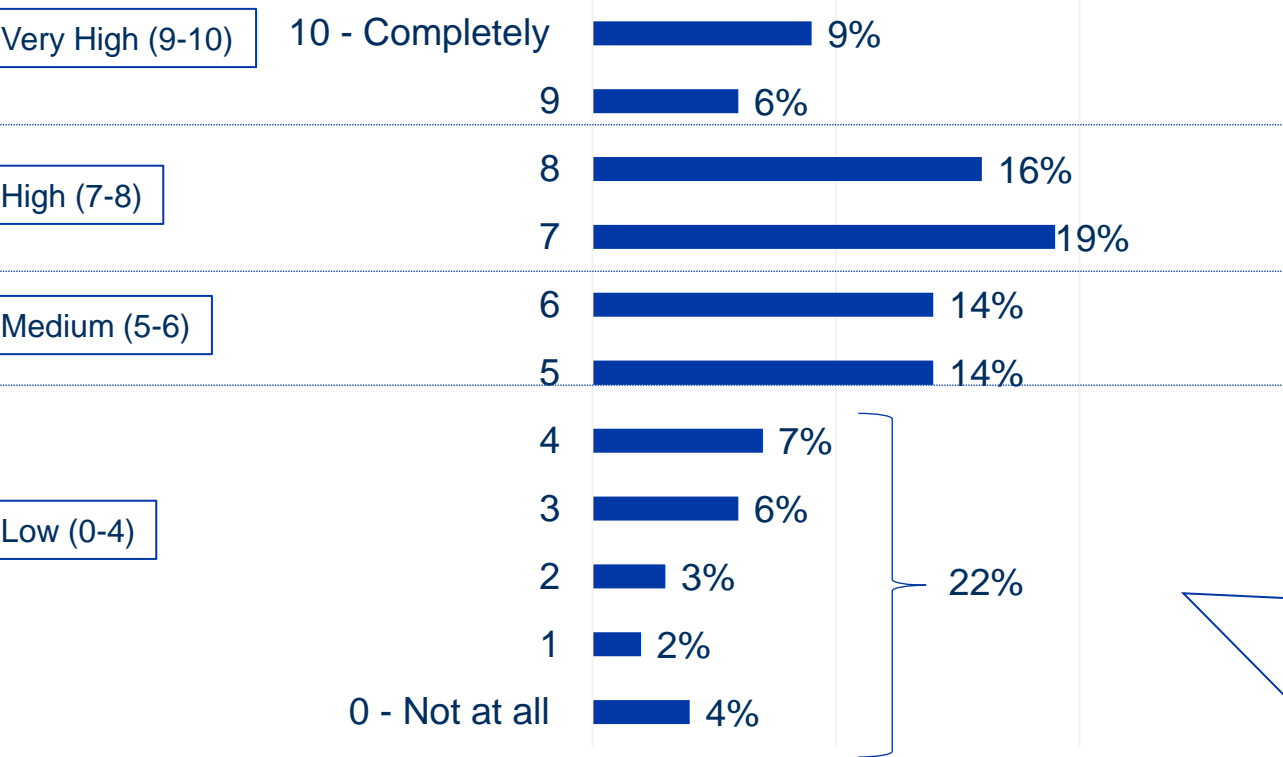


# Feelings and concerns

Life satisfaction	<a href="#">page 27</a>
Anxiety	<a href="#">page 28</a>
Levels of worry	<a href="#">pages 29, 30</a>
Risks of coronavirus	<a href="#">page 31</a>
Specific concerns	<a href="#">pages 32-34</a>

The proportion of respondents with ‘low’ levels of **satisfaction with life** continues to be higher than in the November baseline. 16-24 year olds, people out of work and those on furlough are among the least satisfied.

### How satisfied are you with your life nowadays?



	Survey 1 (Nov)	Survey 2 (Dec)	Survey 3 (Jan)
% with 'low' levels of satisfaction (0-4)	16%	19%	22%
Mean score	6.56	6.21	6.11

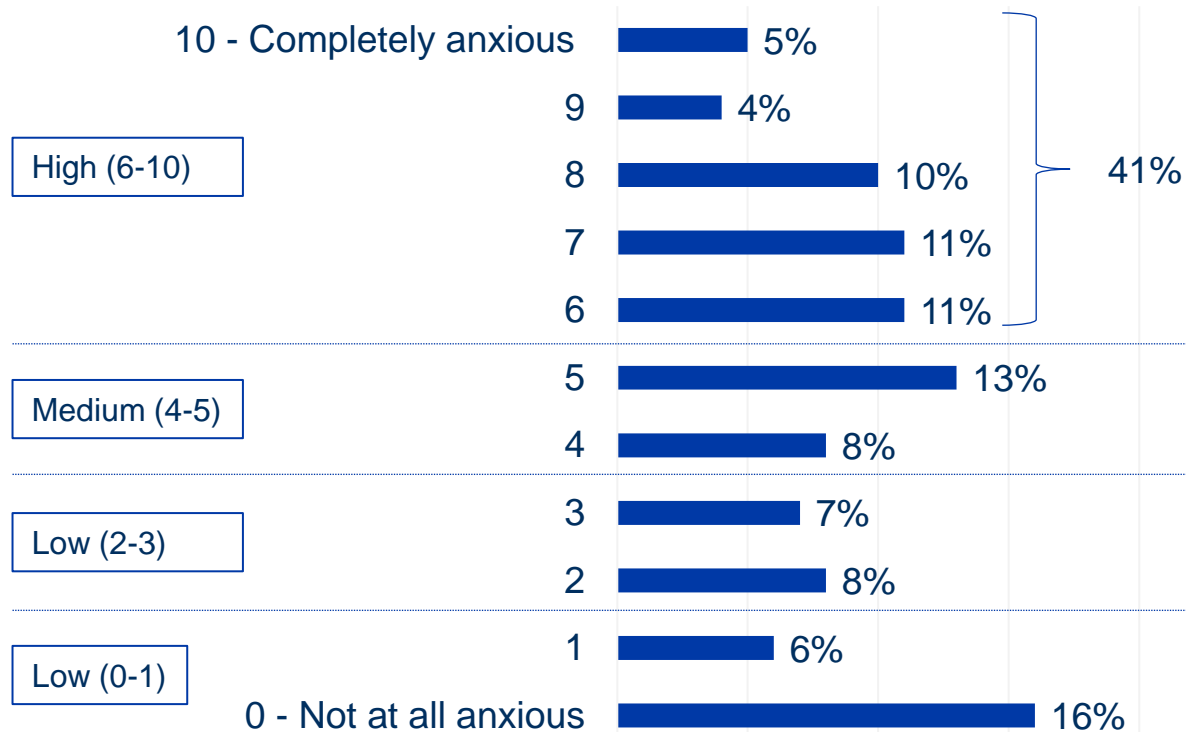
- % 'low' is significantly higher among:
- Respondents out of work (37%) and in particular those who have been out of work for at least 6 months\*\* (44%) and those out of work due to ill health\*\* (47%)
  - 16-24yr olds (34%)
  - Respondents with a disability (34%) and particularly a mental health illness (50%)
  - Respondents currently furloughed (33%)
  - Where someone in the household is at high risk of coronavirus (31%)
  - From racially diverse backgrounds (30%)
  - Females (25%; 19% of males)

A1. Where 0 is “not at all” and 10 is “completely”...  
 Unweighted base: 1010 (All respondents from Survey 3) \*\*Base below 50

Significant increase compared with Survey 1

## 2 in 5 (41%) respondents report ‘high’ levels of anxiety. The proportion increases to 1 in 2 among those at higher risk of COVID.

How anxious did you feel yesterday?



	Survey 1 (Nov)	Survey 2 (Dec)	Survey 3 (Jan)
% with 'high' levels of anxiety (6-10)	39%	39%	41%
Mean score	5.63	5.50	5.46

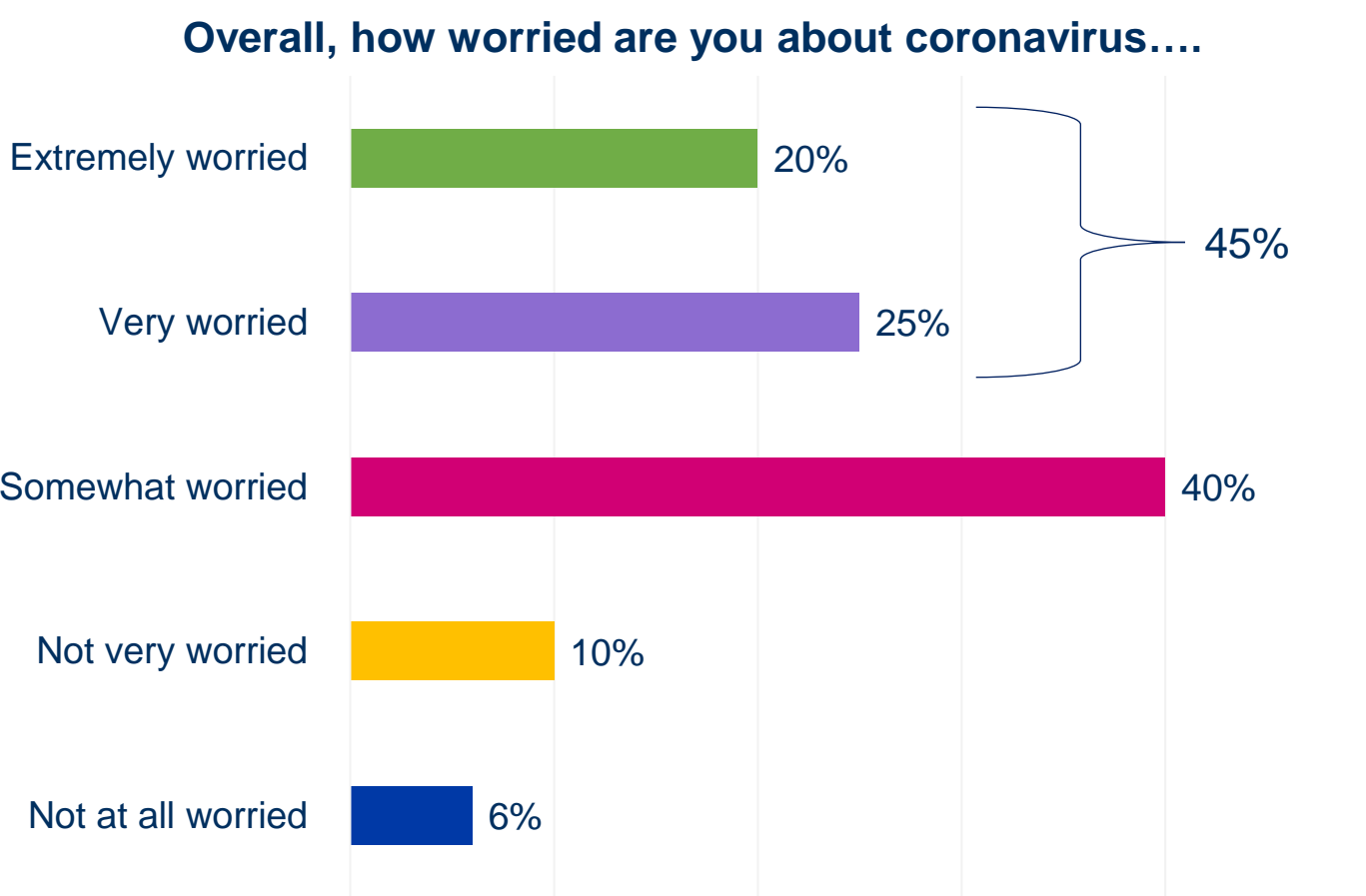
% with 'high' anxiety higher among:

- Respondents not in work due to ill health\*\* (56%)
- Where someone in the household is at high risk of coronavirus (51%)
- Respondents with a disability (50%) and particularly a mental health illness (65%)
- 25-44yr olds (48%)
- Respondents working full time (47%), and particularly those working in public services\*\* (56%) or health and social work (52%), or who are currently furloughed (54%) or on reduced pay (56%)
- Respondents with children (46%) and particularly those with under 5s not in early years settings (56%); with children that usually attend primary school (51%), and where their children are not currently attending school or nursery (52%)
- Respondents at degree level or above (46%)

A1. Where 0 is "not at all" and 10 is "completely"...

Unweighted base: 1010 (All respondents from Survey 3) \*\*Base below 50

More than 2 in 5 (45%) respondents are extremely or very **worried about coronavirus**. Those with children who would usually attend primary school or university are among those most concerned.

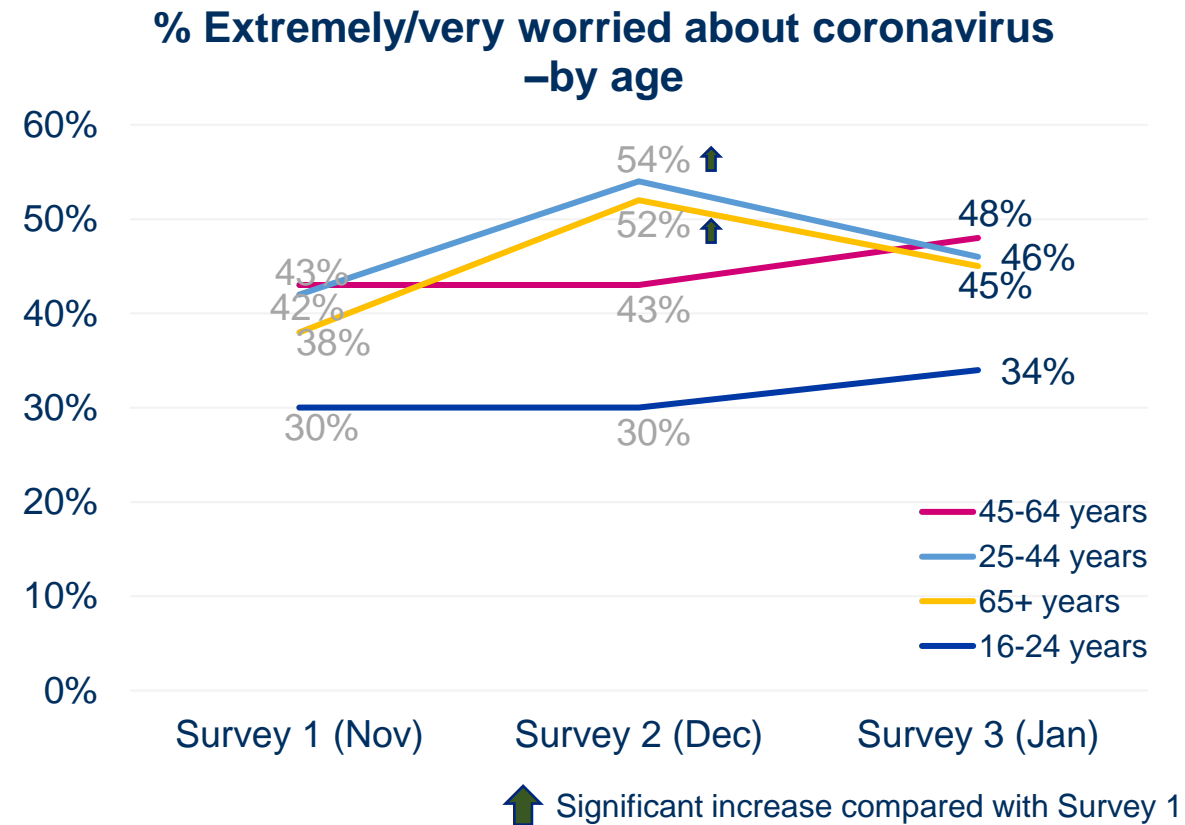
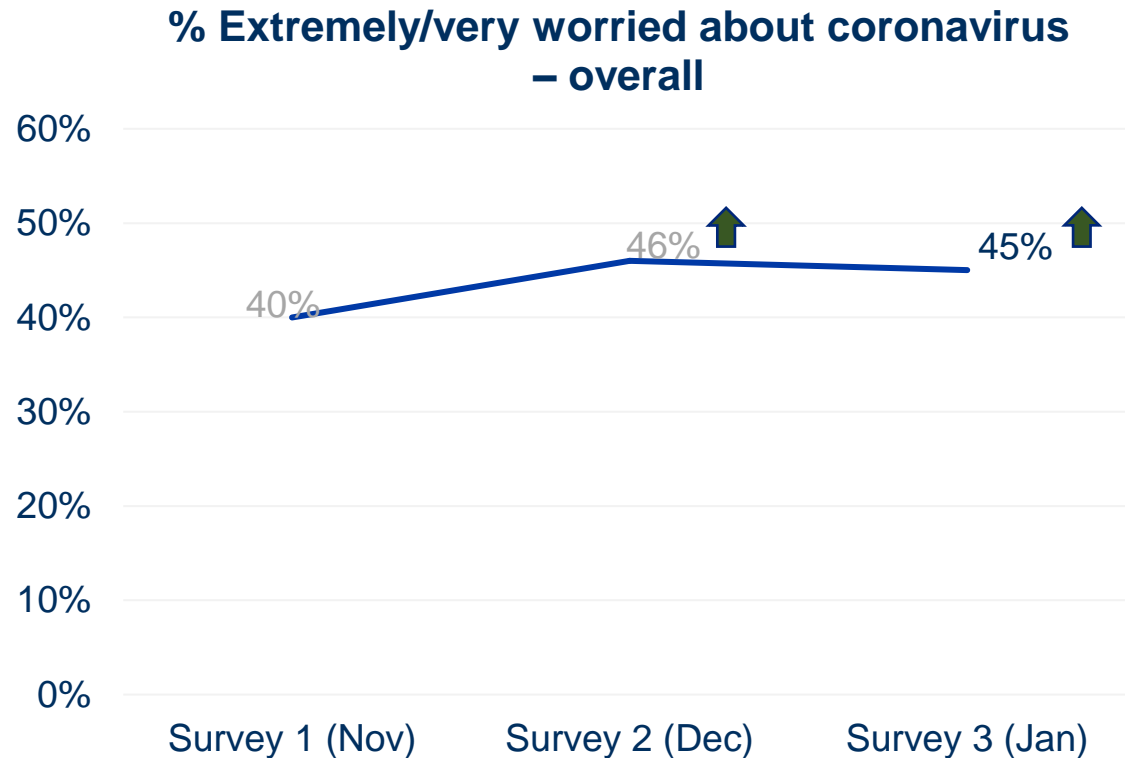


- Respondents more likely to be extremely/very worried (vs. 45% on average):**
- Where they personally are at high risk of coronavirus (65%)
  - Respondents currently furloughed (60%) and those working from home all the time (52%)
  - Respondents with a mobility disability (58%)
  - Respondents with children (50%) – particularly where their children usually attend primary school (59%) or university\*\* (62%), or they aren't currently attending their educational setting i.e. school or nursery (53%)
  - Respondents in employment (48%), and particularly those working in the education sector (62%)

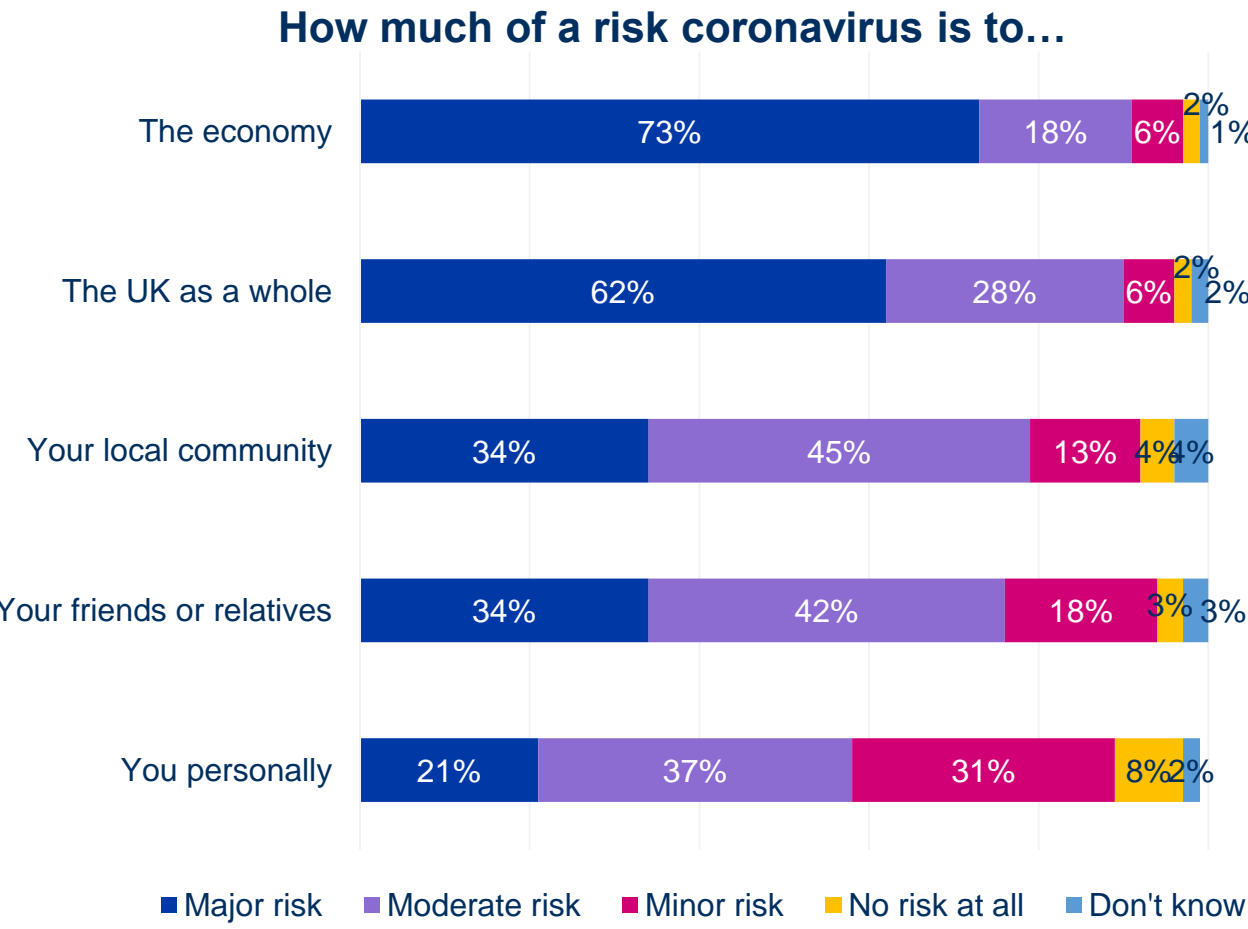
B1. Overall, how worried are you about coronavirus?  
Unweighted base: 1010 (All respondents from Survey 3)

\*\*Base below 50

The proportion of respondents **extremely or very worried about coronavirus** (45%) remains significantly higher than in November. Despite their lower life satisfaction, respondents aged 16-24 remain significantly less likely than older age groups to express these higher levels of concern about the virus.



Respondents continue to believe that **coronavirus is most likely to pose a ‘major risk’** to the economy, and an increased proportion think so compared with November. Respondents are least likely to see it as a risk to themselves personally.



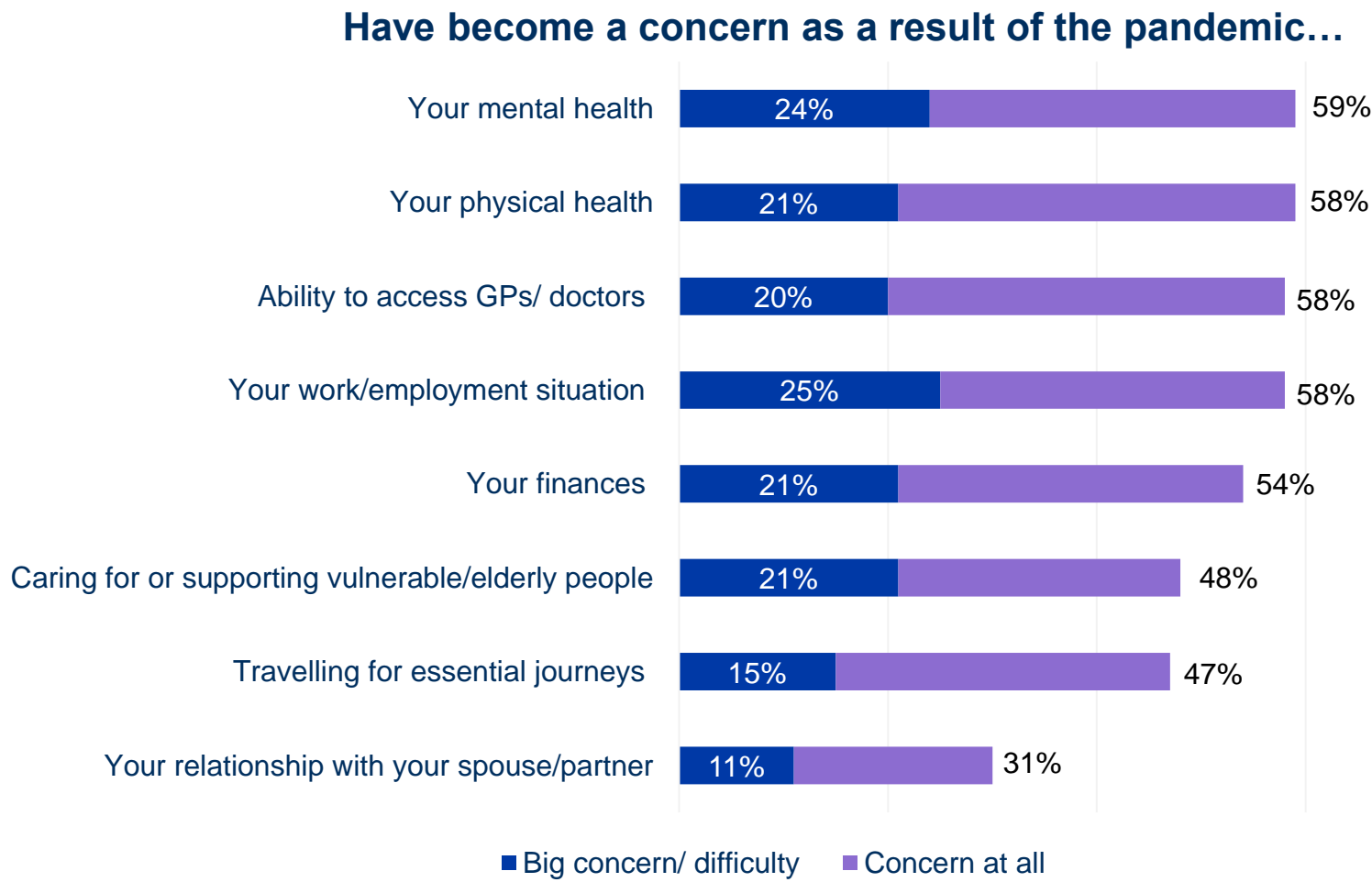
% consider it a 'major risk' to...		
Survey 1 (Nov)	Survey 2 (Dec)	Survey 3 (Jan)
60%	73%	73%
55%	58%	62%
37%	32%	34%
33%	34%	34%
25%	21%	21%

More likely to say it's a 'major risk' to them personally (vs. 21% average)

- Where they are personally at high risk of coronavirus (50%)
- Respondents with no qualifications (40%)
- Those working in the primary sector, construction or utilities\*\* (38%)
- Tameside respondents (32%)
- Respondents with a disability (31%) and particularly a mobility disability (40%)
- 65+ year olds (29%)
- Christian respondents (25%)



Since the baseline in November, **specific concerns** around mental health and finances have increased. Around 3 in 5 (58%-59%) are concerned about their mental health, accessing a GP, their physical health and their employment situation as a result of the pandemic.



% Concerned at all		
Survey 1 (Nov)	Survey 2 (Dec)	Survey 3 (Jan)
54%	64% <span>↑</span>	59% <span>↑</span>
57%	60%	58%
N/A	66%	58% <span>↓</span>
N/A	53%	58%
42%	52% <span>↑</span>	54% <span>↑</span>
N/A	50%	48%
47%	51%	47%
31%	32%	31%

↑ Significant increase compared with Survey 1  
↓ Significant decrease compared with Survey 2

B4. Which if any of the following have become a concern or difficulty for you as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic?  
 Unweighted base: 314-1010 (Those with children/All respondents in Survey 3)

# Some groups are significantly more likely to say each has become a **specific concern** (compared with the average for the population as a whole)

## Physical health

GM Average: 58%

- Not in work due to ill health (81%)
- Where they personally are at high risk of coronavirus (81%)
- Respondents with a disability (77%) and particularly a mental health illness (83%) or mobility disability (80%)
- Those who have had coronavirus confirmed by a test (76%)
- 16-24 year olds (68%)
- Living in the most deprived communities (63%)
- In employment (61%), and particularly those on furlough (71%), reduced working hours (68%) or reduced pay\*\* (83%)

## Mental health

GM Average: 59%

- Respondents with a mental health illness (90%)
- Students\*\* (83%), those out of work for at least 6 months\*\* (83%)
- 16-24 year olds (78%) and 25-44 year olds (72%)
- On furlough (76%), reduced working hours (75%) or reduced pay\*\* (89%)
- Working from home some (77%) or all the time (69%)
- Had coronavirus, whether confirmed by test (72%) or not (74%)
- Not heterosexual (72%)
- Where they personally are at high risk of coronavirus (69%)
- Living in Manchester (69%)
- In employment (67%) and particularly those in hospitality/arts/recreation\*\* (77%) and health and social work (71%)
- Have children at all (66%), children under 5 (76%), at primary school (68%) or university\*\* (75%)
- Females (66%)
- Qualified to degree or above (64%)

# Some groups are significantly more likely to say each has become a **specific concern** (compared with the average for the population as a whole) (cont.)

## Work/employment

GM Average: 58%

- On furlough (82%), reduced working hours (77%) or reduced pay\*\* (86%)
- Where someone in household has lost job (75%)
- Working from home some of the time (73%)
- Where English is not their first language (72%)
- Where they or someone in their household is at high risk of coronavirus (72%)
- Those out of work (72%)
- Living in Manchester (70%)
- Qualified to degree or above (67%)
- 25-44 year olds (64%)
- Employed or self-employed (62%) and particularly those in hospitality/arts/recreation\*\* (76%), business/professional services (66%) and education (72%)

## Finances

GM Average: 59%

- On furlough (91%), reduced working hours (80%) or reduced pay\*\* (90%)
- Those out of work or more than 6 months\*\* (83%)
- Where English is not their first language (79%)
- Muslim respondents (79%)
- Bisexual (78%) or not heterosexual (78%)
- Asian (77%), and Pakistani respondents\*\* (86%)
- 16-24 (75%) and 25-44 year olds (68%)
- Where their children are currently attending school or nursery (74%)
- Have a mental health illness (72%)
- Have children under 5 (70%), at primary school (68%) or secondary school (63%)
- Have had coronavirus but not had it confirmed by a test (70%)
- Where they or someone in their household is at high risk of coronavirus (66%)
- Where employed (63%) and particularly self-employed\*\* (72%); those working in hospitality/arts/recreation\*\* (86%), wholesale/retail or personal services (64%) or business/professional services (64%)
- Qualified to degree or above (62%)
- Living in Manchester (66%) and the most deprived communities (61%)



# Coronavirus impacts

Experience of coronavirus [pages 36, 37](#)

Self-isolation [pages 38, 39](#)

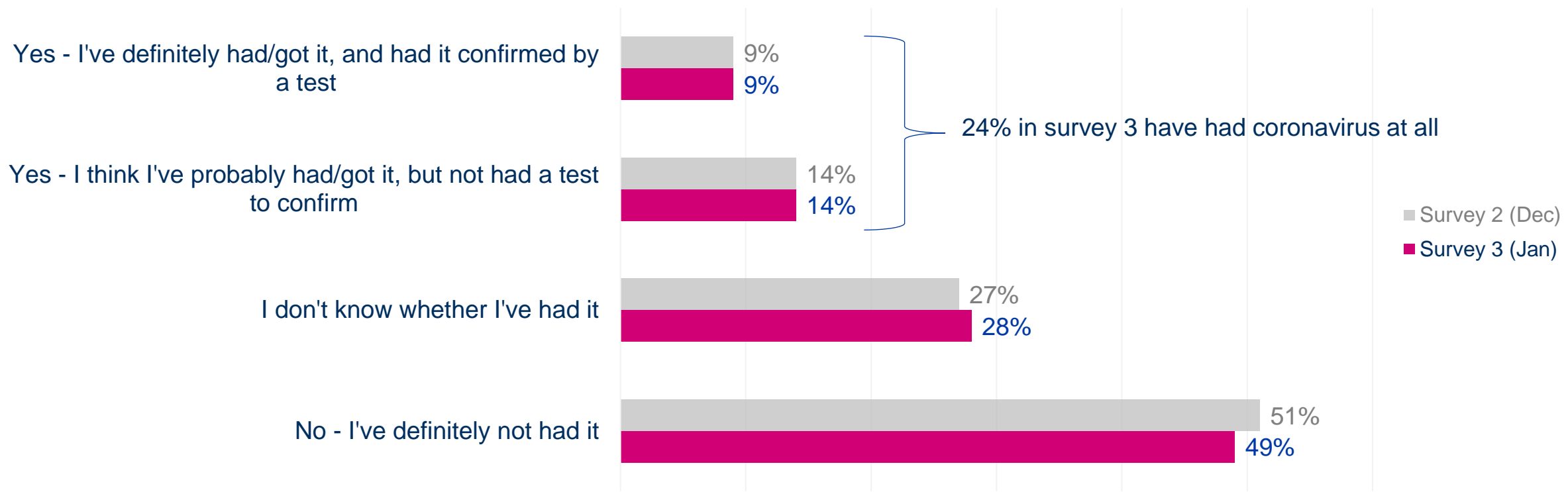
Indirect health impacts [page 40](#)

Finance and employment [pages 41-45](#)

Children and education [pages 46-48](#)

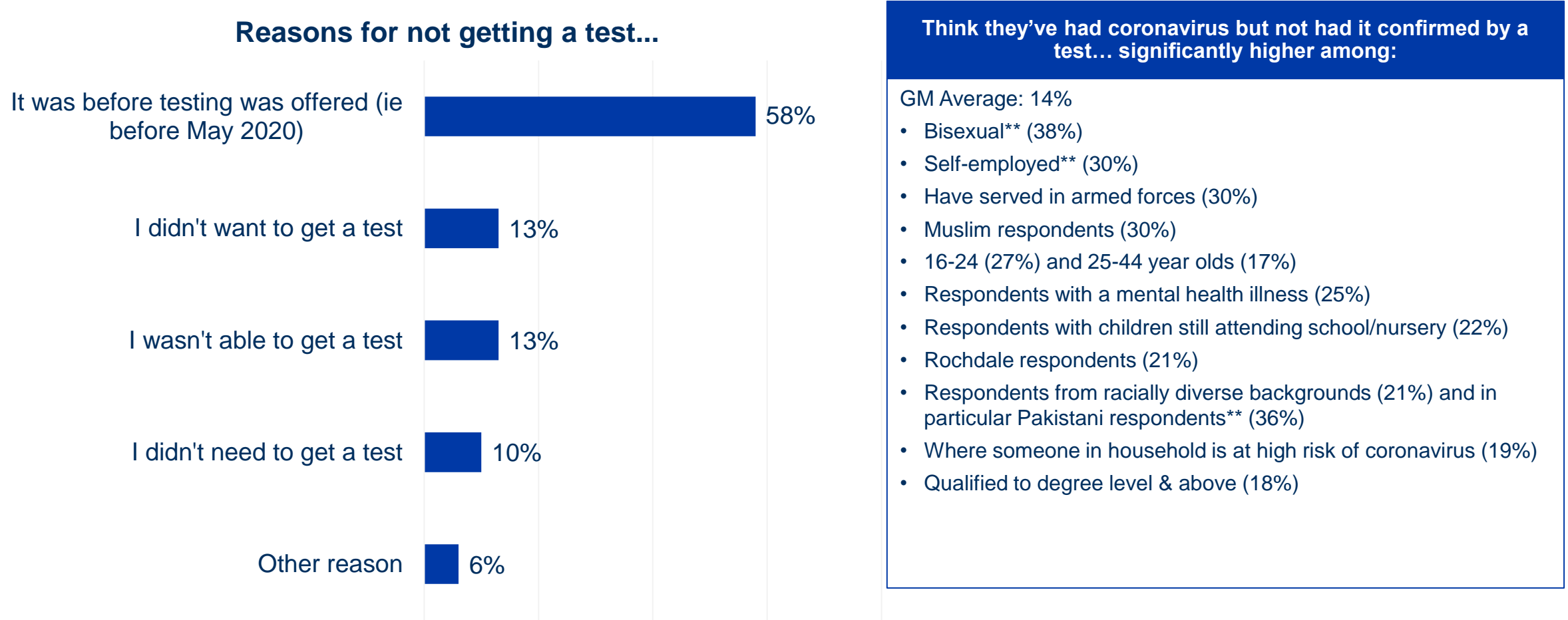
The proportion of respondents who have **had coronavirus** remains consistent with December, at 1 in 4 (24%). But, as in December, 3 in 5 (60%) of those who say they have had coronavirus have not had a test to confirm.

Do you know or think you have had coronavirus?



B24. Do you know, or think, you have had coronavirus?  
All respondents: Survey 2: 1007; Survey 3: 1010  
N.B. Comparisons with survey 1 are not possible for this indicator due to the questions being asked in a different way

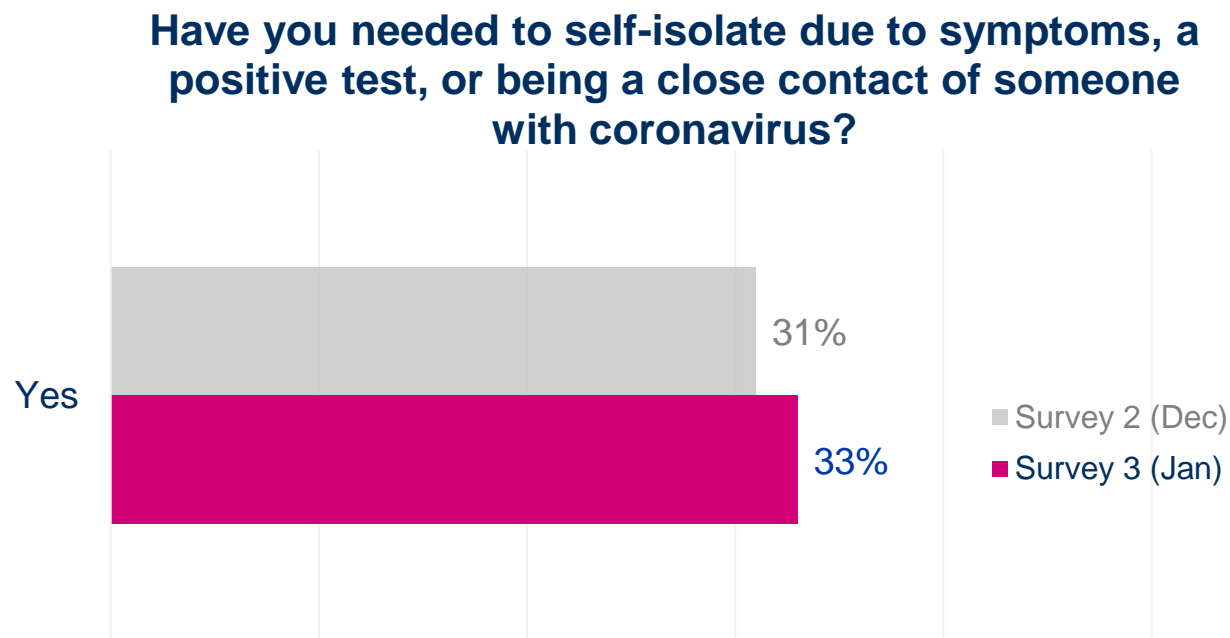
Young people and those who have served in the armed forces are among those most likely to say they have **had coronavirus but not had a test to confirm**. The main reason for not getting tested is that it was before tests were offered. But 1 in 4 (23%) say they didn't want a test or didn't think they needed one.



B24. Do you know, or think, you have had coronavirus? All respondents: 1010  
B24a. Why did you not get a test to confirm whether you had coronavirus?  
Unweighted base: 130 (Those who think have had coronavirus, but did not get a test)

\*\*Base below 50

1 in 3 (33%) respondents say they have **needed to self-isolate** at some point. Of those who have tested positive, 1 in 10 (10%) believe they have not needed to self-isolate; this rises to 2 in 5 (41%) among those who say they have had coronavirus but not had it confirmed by a test.



Survey 3 (Jan): Whether needed to self-isolate		
	Yes	No
All respondents	33%	67%
Had coronavirus confirmed by test	90%	10%
Think they've had coronavirus but not confirmed by test	59%	41%

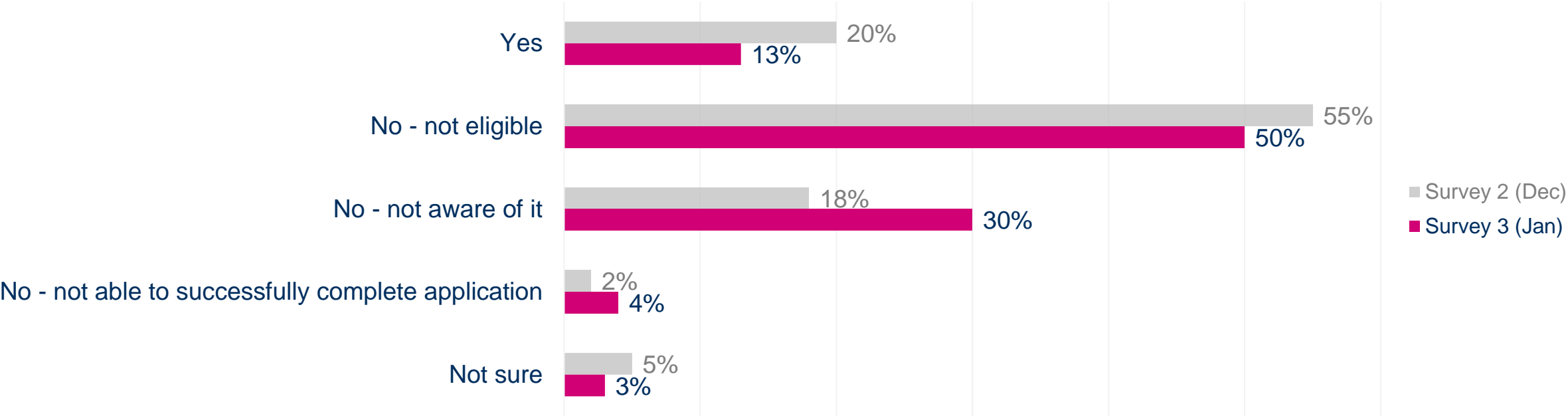
The proportion that have needed to self-isolate increases to at least half among:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Have served in the armed forces (62%)</li><li>Students (59%)</li><li>Aged 16-24 (58%)</li><li>Pakistani respondents** (56%)</li><li>Bisexual** (54%)</li><li>Muslim respondents (53%)</li><li>Respondents with children under 5 years (52%) and those with children still attending school/nursery (56%)</li></ul>	

B25. Have you needed to self-isolate due to symptoms, a positive test, or being a close contact of someone with coronavirus?  
Unweighted base: 1010 (All respondents);      \*\*Low base under 50



13% of respondents who have had to self-isolate have claimed **financial support**. This is significantly lower than the proportion in December (20%). Half of respondents believe they were not eligible (50%) and nearly 1 in 3 (30%) were not aware of the support.

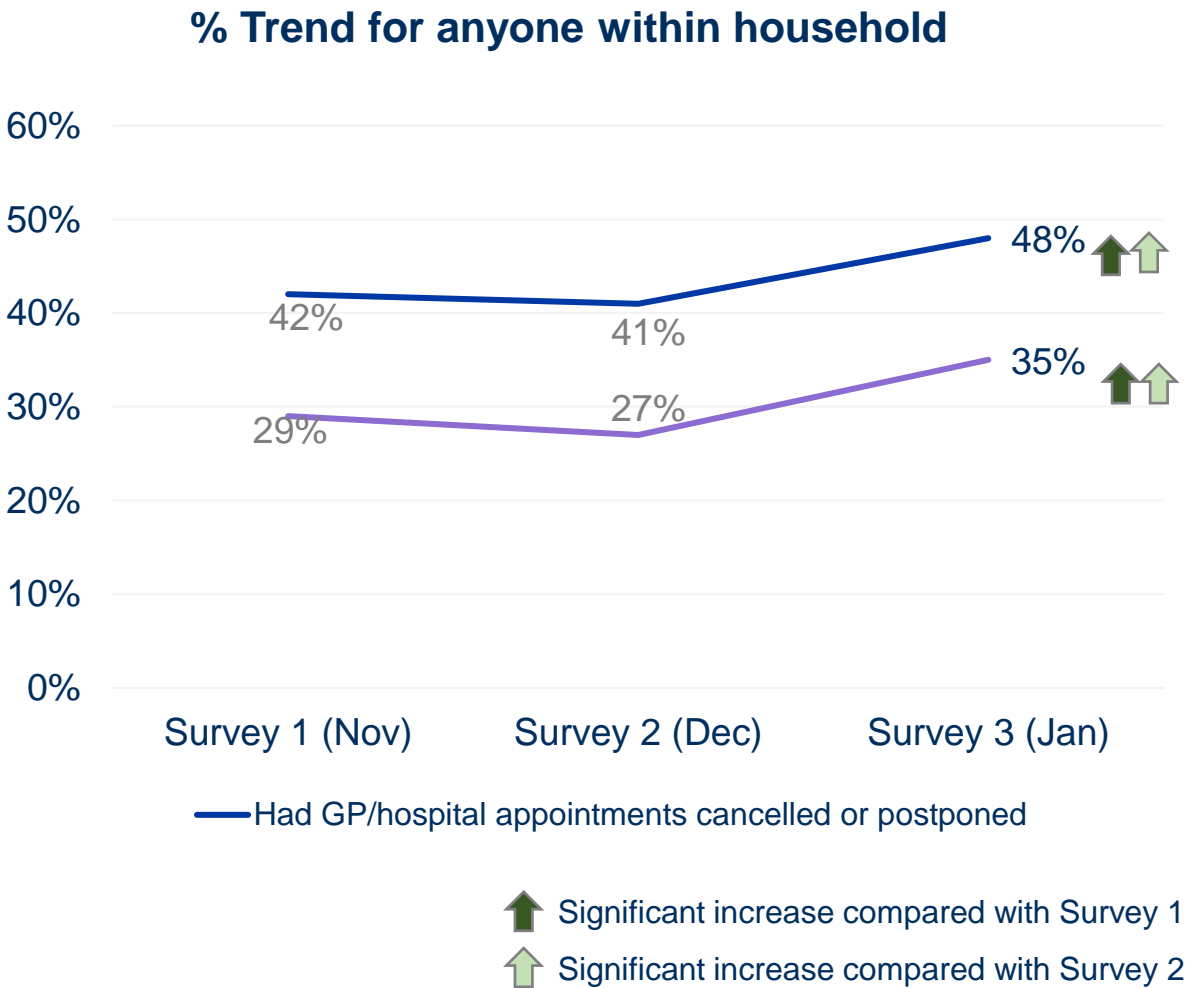
Did you claim the financial support payment available to some people during self-isolation?



Claims, awareness and perceived eligibility are no higher among the groups that the payment is aiming to target than among the population as a whole.

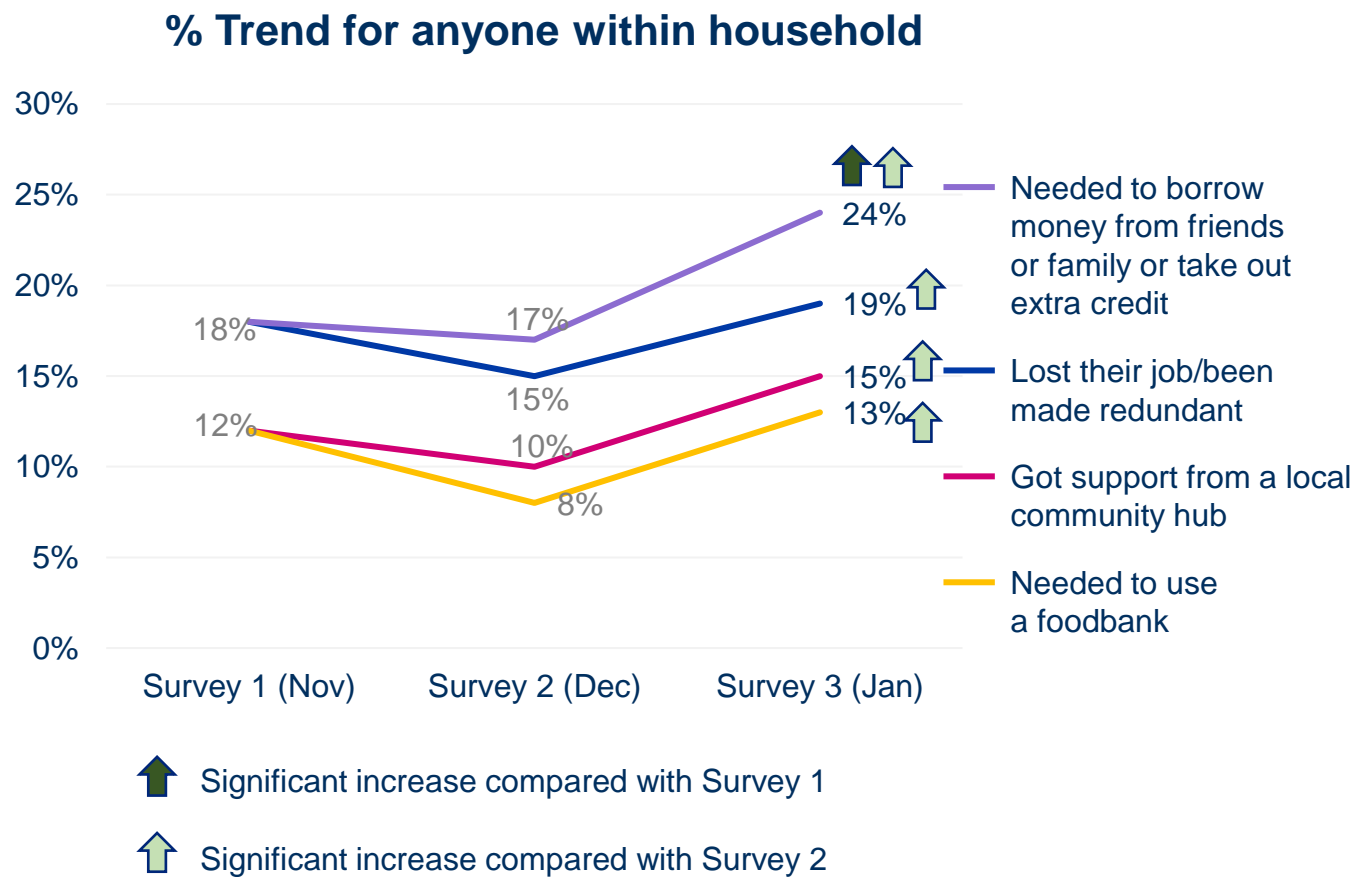
The proportion of respondents **ignoring health concerns** or having medical appointments cancelled has risen significantly since the baseline in November and since December.

Health impacts	Themselves	Someone else in household	Anyone in household
Had GP/hospital appointments cancelled or postponed	28%	27%	48%
Ignored any wider health worries so as not to put extra pressure on the NHS	25%	15%	35%



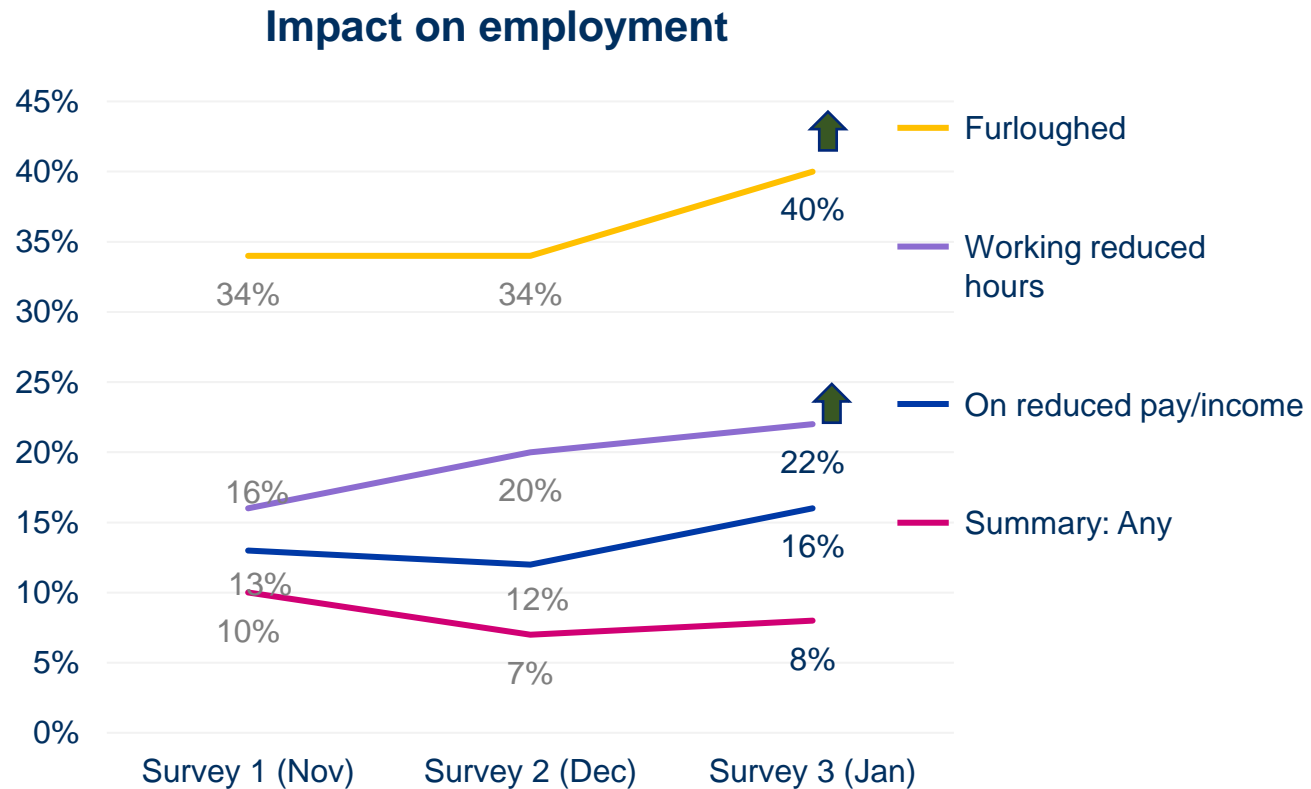
As with health impacts, all **financial impacts** have seen a significant increase in the number of respondents affected since December.

Financial impacts	Themselves	Someone else in household	Anyone in household
Lost their job/been made redundant	9%	11%	19%
Needed to borrow money from friends or family or take out extra credit	17%	9%	24%
Got support from a local community hub	7%	8%	15%
Needed to use a foodbank	7%	7%	13%



B8. Have any of the following happened to you, or someone else in your household as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic?  
Unweighted base: All respondents: Survey 1: 1015; Survey 2: 1007; Survey 3: 1010

**2 in 5 (40%) of those in employment are currently furloughed, on reduced hours, or reduced pay. This is a significant increase since December. At 3 in 5 (63%), 16-24 year olds are particularly affected.**



Some of the groups significantly more likely to be affected by any of these (vs. 40% on average):

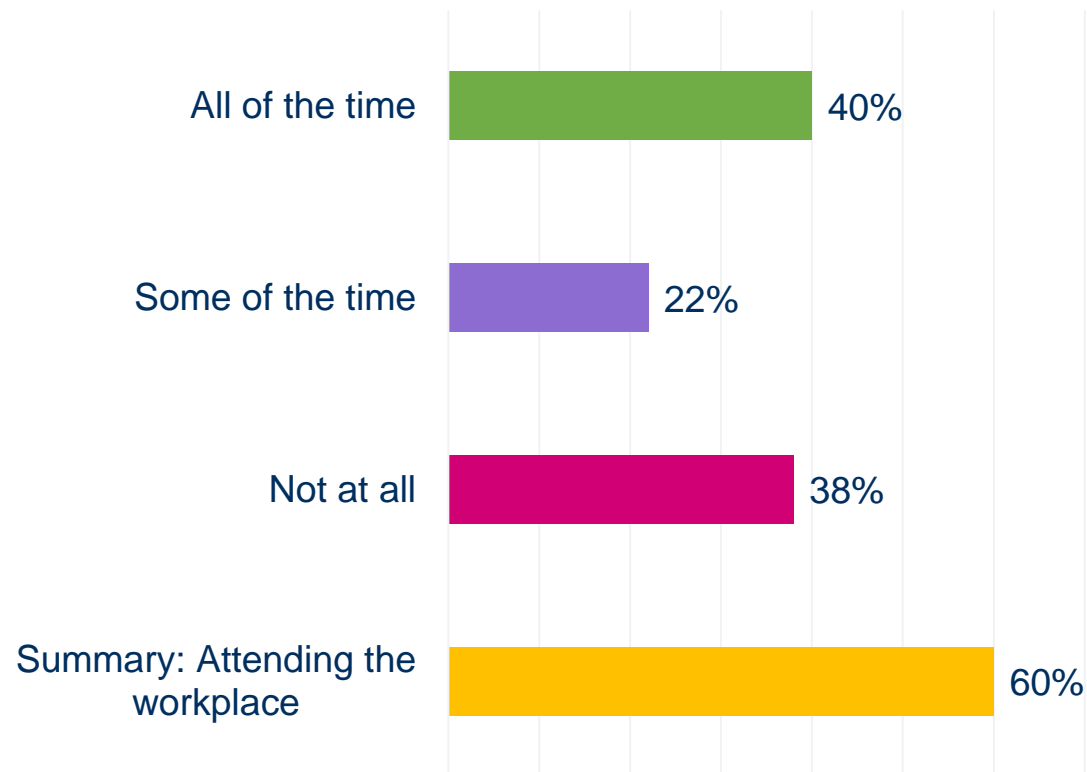
- Those working in hospitality/arts/recreation (72%), and non-public sectors generally (45%)
- Where have served in armed forces (68%)
- Respondents whose first language isn't English (65%)
- Aged 16-24 (63%)
- Part-time workers (62%)
- Respondents with a disability (62%), in particular those with mental ill health (65%)
- Carers (59%)
- With children under 5yrs (57%)
- Had coronavirus, whether confirmed by test (55%) or not (50%)
- Respondents from racially diverse backgrounds (50%)
- Those living in the most deprived areas (45%)

↑ Significant increase compared with Survey 1

B20b. As a result of the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic are you currently?  
Unweighted base: 552 (Those who are in employment)

**Despite people being advised to work from home during the national lockdown unless they cannot reasonably do so, 60% of people in work are **still going into their workplace** at least some of the time.**

**Currently, how often are you working from home....**

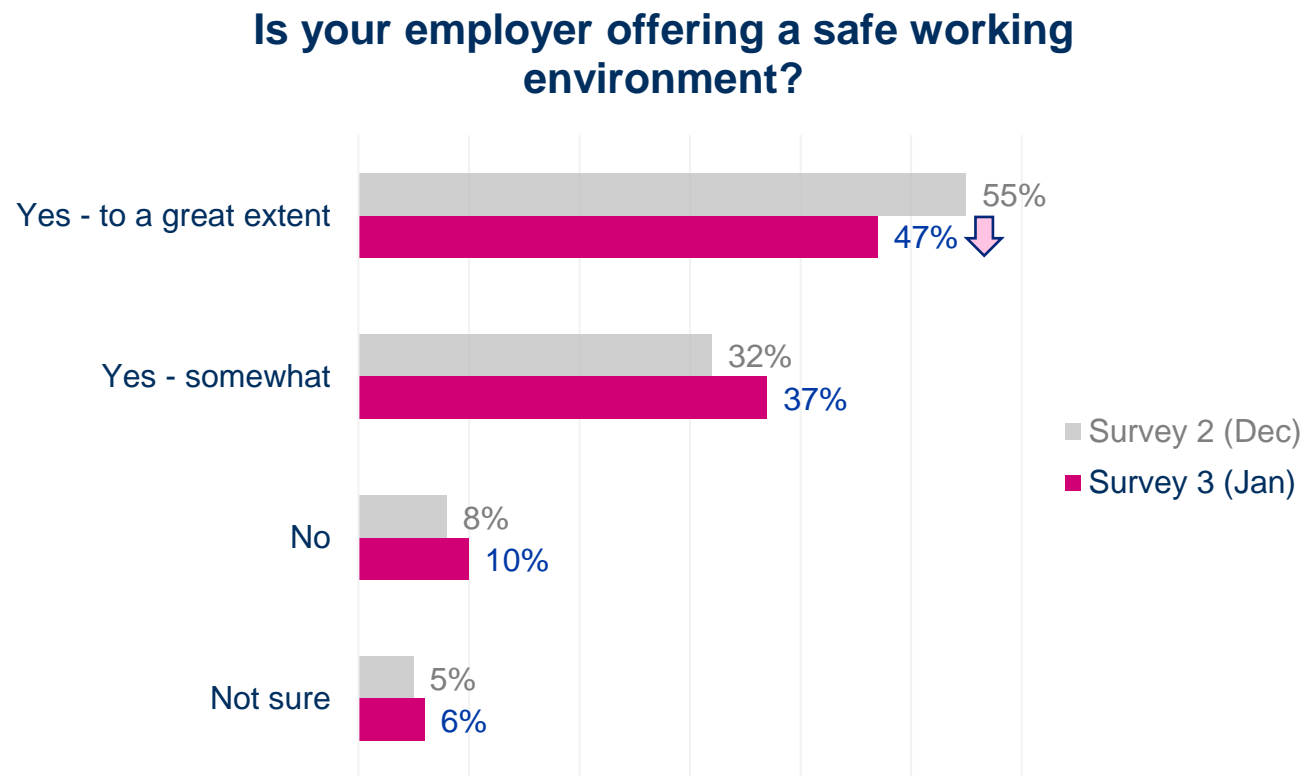


B14. Are you currently working from home...?  
Unweighted base: 552 (Those who are in employment)

Significantly more likely to be attending their workplace:

- Those working in
  - wholesale / retail / distribution / other services (e.g. hair, beauty, repairs) (82%)
  - health and social work (71%)
- Respondents living in Rochdale (77%)
- Those educated to non-degree level (71%), in particular GCSE or below (75%)
- Single adult households (69%)
- Part-time staff (68%)
- Those without caring responsibilities (66%)
- Those without a disability (63%)

# An increased proportion of respondents still attending their workplace do not consider their employer to be offering a **safe working environment**.



Those working in

- wholesale / retail / distribution / other services (e.g. hair/beauty, repairs)

are less likely to say their employer is offering a safe place to work 'to a great extent' (37%, vs. 47% on average)

↓ Significant decrease compared with Survey 2

B31 To what extent if at all is your employer offering a safe working environment for you and your colleagues during the COVID-19 pandemic?  
Unweighted base: 337 (Those who were employed and not working from home all the times)

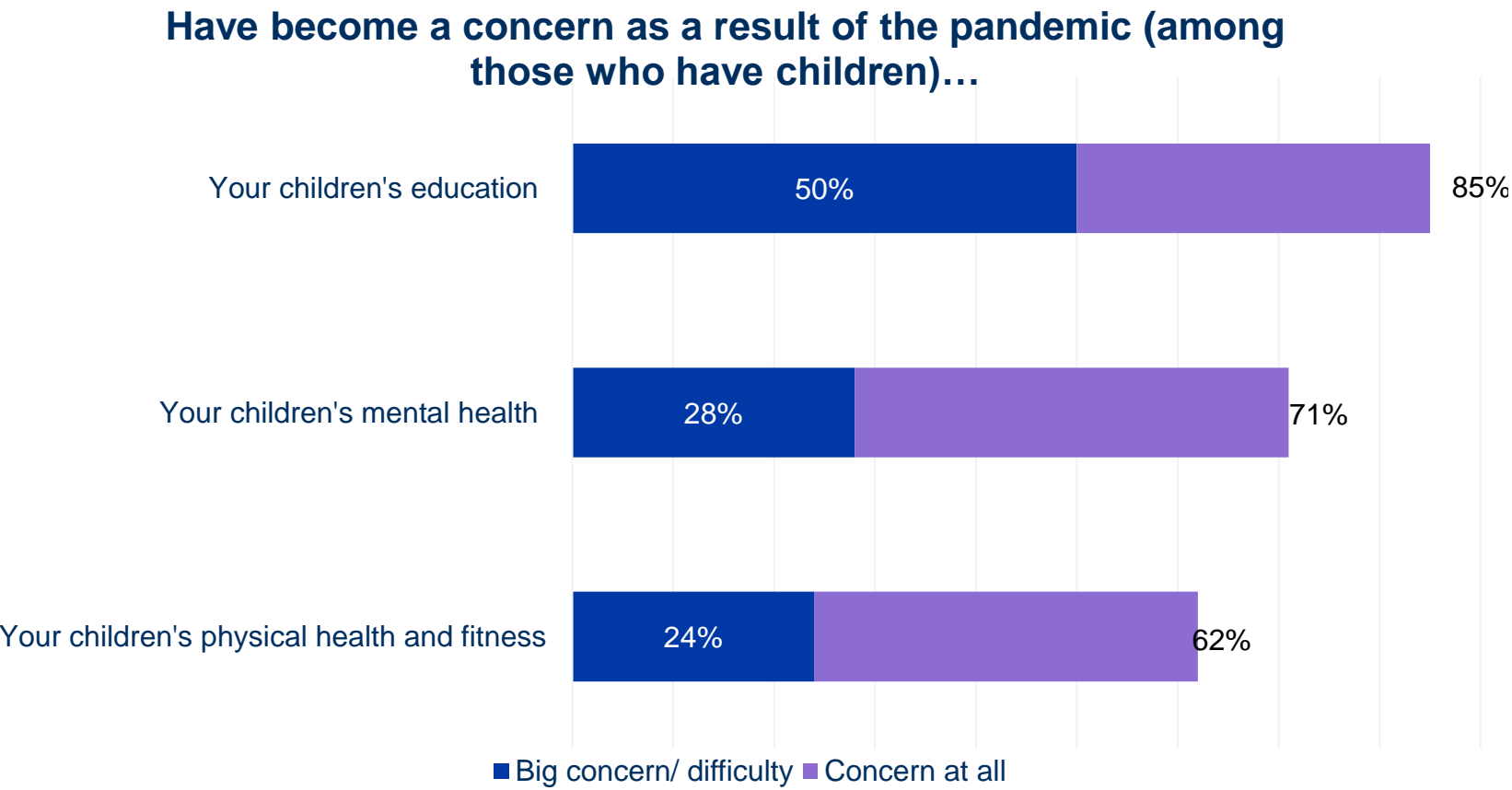
Not supporting social-distancing or being considerate of mental health issues are the most common reasons as to why their workplace is not considered coronavirus-safe.



B32. In what ways has your employer not been offering a safe working environment?  
Unweighted base: 162 (Those in employment but not offered a safe working environment)



# More than 8 in 10 (85%) are concerned about their children’s education and 7 in 10 (71%) about their mental health.

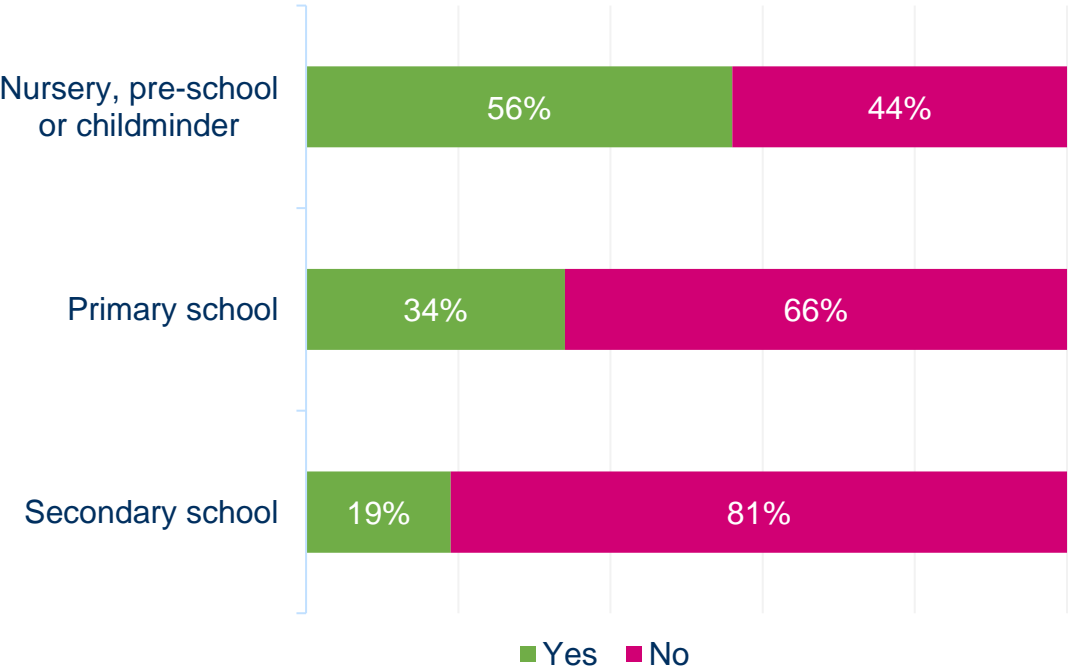


Survey 1 (Nov)	Survey 2 (Dec)	Survey 3 (Jan)
N/A	80%	85%
N/A	67%	71%
N/A	N/A	62%

B34. Do you have any difficulties with home-learning?  
Unweighted base: 180 (Those who have children in school or early years provision but are not attending)

1 in 3 (34%) respondents are still sending their children to primary school and 1 in 5 (19%) to secondary. Almost half (47%) who are **sending their children to school or nursery** are key workers. But 12% are doing so as they must attend work, despite not being key workers, and so require childcare.

During the current lockdown are your children currently attending...



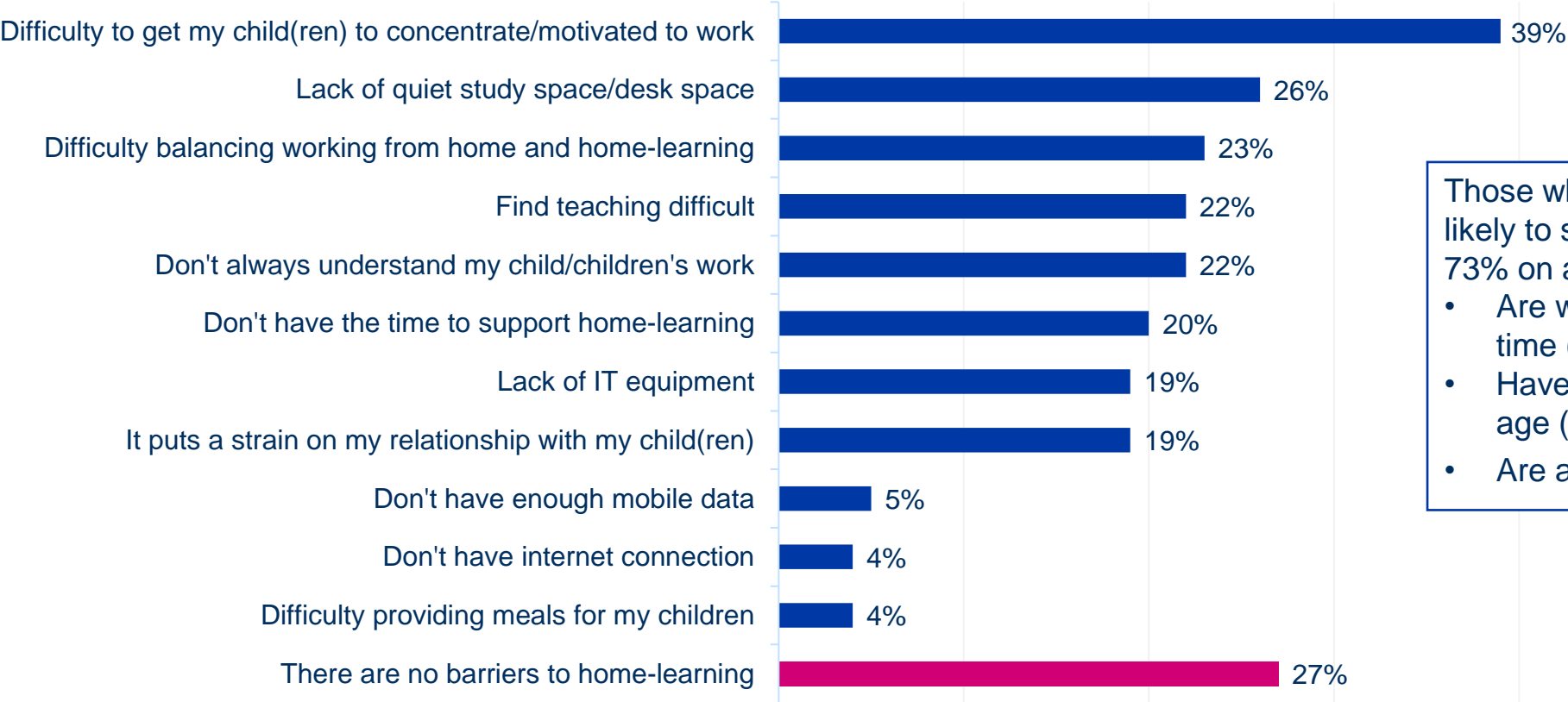
Reasons children are still attending...



B11a. During the current lockdown, are your children currently attending?  
B33. You mentioned that your child(ren) are still attending nursery, pre-school or a childminder / primary school / secondary school, why is this?  
Unweighted base: 257 (where children are in school or early years provision); 90 (Those who have children in school or early years provision)

**3 in 4 (73%) experience at least some barriers to home-learning. Most commonly those who are home schooling struggle to get their children to concentrate or motivated to work (39%).**

**Difficulties home-learning**



Those who are significantly more likely to say they face barriers (vs. 73% on average):

- Are working from home all of the time (83%)
- Have children of primary school age (80%)
- Are aged 25-44 (78%)

B34. Do you have any difficulties with home-learning?  
Unweighted base: 180 (Those who have children in school or early years provision but are not attending)



# Deeper insight: Parents / carers and families during national lockdown

Overview of approach	<a href="#">page 50</a>
General feelings	<a href="#">page 51</a>
Education and childcare	<a href="#">pages 52, 53</a>
Other impacts	<a href="#">page 54</a>
Bubbles and support	<a href="#">pages 55, 56</a>

# Qualitative research – overview of approach

- **10 in-depth qualitative telephone interviews**, each between 30 and 45 minutes, were held focusing on parents and issues specifically relating to them during the national lockdown. In particular, they explored: **general feelings**; **impacts** on the children; **education and childcare**; and **support** including use and understanding of ‘bubbles’
- Participants had all taken part in the main surveys and were **selected for interview on the basis of their responses**.
- Every effort was made to ensure that the composition of the ten interviews reflected a **broad range of different life situations and experiences**. The final sample included:
  - Eight parents of children not currently attending school or early years / Four with children still attending (two had both situations)
  - Three individuals with one adult in the household; the remaining seven had at least two
  - Eight from a White British background, and two from other backgrounds
  - Three males and seven females
  - Seven individuals in employment, and three looking after the home

With children in the following stages of education (some have children in more than one category)	
In early years/aged 0-4 attending nursery, pre-school or childminder	4
Primary school	6
Secondary school	5
At college/in a training programme or apprenticeship	1

Age group	
18 to 24	1
25 to 34	2
35 to 44	6
45 to 54	1
50	

# General feelings about lockdown

- Most with children felt that the **main impact of national lockdown was around homeschooling**. Other changes due to lockdown had limited impact, as significant restrictions have been part of life since March and so the latest lockdown didn't feel like a drastic change. Some saw it as essential and overdue.
- Those with **children in nursery** reported that lockdown would have been a much of a more significant problem for their family if the nurseries had also been closed, and that they were relieved to learn this was not the case.
- While most reported that they have generally dealt with lockdown, some feel that this has been **more difficult to handle because of the weather**.

*“This one has been harder than any of the other lockdowns. I don't know if it's just that in the others it was summer, so we would go out in the garden, but now it's dark by 5pm. I'm sure that's had some sort of effect.” (Mother, 35-44, two children aged 2 and 14)*

- Most with children in school **expect their children to return in mid March**, but that significant restrictions in other areas of life will continue into the summer.
- **Homeschooling would be the biggest area of concern if lockdown were to be extended**, both in relation to the quality of education and also missing out on socialising with friends.
- Some also expressed **concern about missing out on sharing experiences, enjoying days out and making memories with their children**, with some particularly concerned about elderly relatives not being able to spend time with them.

*“It's family that might not be there in the future. You want them to spend as much time as possible with [child], and have those memories, and that's being taken away from people. You can put them in a box where they don't do anything, but then what memories have they got? They're just spending the last days of their lives being miserable because they're missing family, when that's all they're living for, potentially.” (Mother, 35-44, one child aged 20 months)*

# Education and childcare

- **Most with children are currently homeschooling** them, feeling that they would not meet the criteria to send them to school as this was only available to keyworkers and those with special needs. One parent classed as a keyworker decided not to send their child to school, feeling that it was manageable as she worked from home and that someone else would be in more need of that place.
- Most reported that **homeschooling is the main difficulty** they are having, and some reported that their children are not performing as well in their school work as they had been when in a classroom environment. This was particularly a concern for those with children studying GCSEs.

*“The school does a newsletter that they send to parents, and when they were in the classroom, [my son] would always be in there for great work or a good attitude in some subject or another. But now [with homeschooling], he’s never in it.” (Mother, 35-44, two children aged 2 and 14)*

- **Opinions were divided about the quality of homeschooling** being offered, but most reported that this includes Zoom calls with the class as well as worksheets and activities, but the general view was that this remains an inferior alternative to conventional classroom learning, particularly because of the lack of socialisation opportunities.
- Those with children in different year groups often reported that the **standard of remote learning was higher for some years than others**, particularly that it was much better in primary school compared to secondary school.
- While **most reported that their employers have been flexible and understanding**, many reported considerable difficulties in supervising homeschooling and ensuring that their children complete the work, because they do not have the time to do so.

*“He’s in his bedroom, so I don’t actually know what he’s doing, without sitting next to him and watching him. He might just not be doing [the work], for all I know... I work full-time, so I just wouldn’t have the time to sit with him and see what he was doing.” (Mother, 35-44, two children aged 2 and 14)*
- Some have received **communication from the school expressing concern** that their child was not completing the work.



# Education and childcare (continued)

- Some reported that the **pressure of homeschooling had an effect on their work**, with some working additional hours and becoming stressed as a result.

*“Sometimes it can be difficult because I am out of focus, and I think working hours have increased because I feel like I’m not picking up what I should be. I tend to work into the evenings after my daughter’s gone to bed, until midnight some nights.” (Single mother, 35-44, one child aged 10)*

- One parent has a child attending school because he has autism, but is not worried about this as the school enforces social distancing, and the **child needs the specialist support** to complete the work.
- A couple also reported difficulties due to **not having a proper transition between primary and secondary school**.
- **Those with children still in nursery reported few difficulties** with this, and that the ability to keep children in nursery was very positive because of the development and social benefits this will bring their child, as well as making the process of managing childcare and fulfilling work duties much easier.
- One was concerned with the risk of sending children to nursery, and in particular **not knowing if it would then be safe to send children to be looked after by their grandparents**.
- Few **financial barriers or difficulties** were reported, though some reported higher electricity and food bills through a combination of working from home and having children at home. Some had purchased laptops or other equipment to help manage home schooling. One individual had to borrow the money to fund a laptop as they only had one between the two children.

*“We requested a laptop from the high school and they said there’s a shortage and they’re trying to get some. That was two months ago and I haven’t heard anything, so I borrowed some money to get a laptop a couple of days ago. If I was working properly I wouldn’t mind that kind of money, but at the moment it’s very difficult.” (Father, 45-54, 3 children aged 8, 16 and 18)*

# Other impacts on children

- Many also reported that they had concerns about their **children's mental health and anxiety**, and the impacts of them being separated from their friends and unable to engage with sports clubs and other activities

*"She does appear to be a little lost at times... she does miss the interaction with other children." (Single mother, 35-44, one child aged 10)*

- Some also expressed concern that their children were **unable to bond with relatives**, and not able to enjoy any special days out such as visiting the zoo.
- Many noted that their children are **getting frustrated** at having little to do and being bored.
- Those with very young children were particularly worried that they were **unable to create a relationship with their grandparents, aunts/uncles, cousins, and other family members.**

*"They haven't [visited family] for over a year now, and they don't have that bond with them that they used to." (Father, 25-34, 2 children aged 3 (SEN) and 2)*

- Where children are very young, parents were generally most concerned about them being **unable to develop their social skills**

*"She's a bit nervous about parks, and seeing other children. The more children you see, the more confident you get with the interactions. They're more shy, they don't know how to interact as easily." (Mother, 35-44, one child aged 20 months)*

- Those with more than one child often reported that **behaviour has got worse** because of spending a lot more time in close proximity to the other(s), with fights and arguments between them getting more common because they are restless, often with more energy being built up as a result of being unable to engage in sport or physical activity.

*"They're getting frustrated with each other a lot more, they're arguing with each other a lot more, they're fighting a lot more. That comes as part and parcel of being locked up with each other in the same household." (Father, 25-34, three children aged 11, 9 and 4)*

# Support for families

## Bubbles

- Most had **some understanding of the ‘bubble’ concept**, though the difference between a support bubble and a childcare bubble was often unclear, with some describing a childcare bubble but referring to it as a ‘support bubble’ or simply ‘their bubble’. One incorrectly believed a bubble was either no more than six people or just family members and other descriptions did not seem to be entirely accurate

*“They’re the people who you spend time with on a regular basis, and generally speaking you’re not really supposed to have more than one bubble. They’re the people you’re supposed to be socialising with and you shouldn’t really be going outside of that bubble” (Father, 25-34, three children aged 11, 9 and 4)*

- Many are **part of a childcare bubble** and this is usually with their children’s grandparents, and while this is mainly for childcare it is also advantageous to receive a bit more social interaction and emotional support.
- None reported being in **more than one support bubble or more than one childcare bubble**, but one withdrew from a childcare bubble because a member of the other household was apparently not following the rules. A small number were in both and this was commonly a childcare bubble with their children’s other parent, and a support bubble with their partner.

## Other support

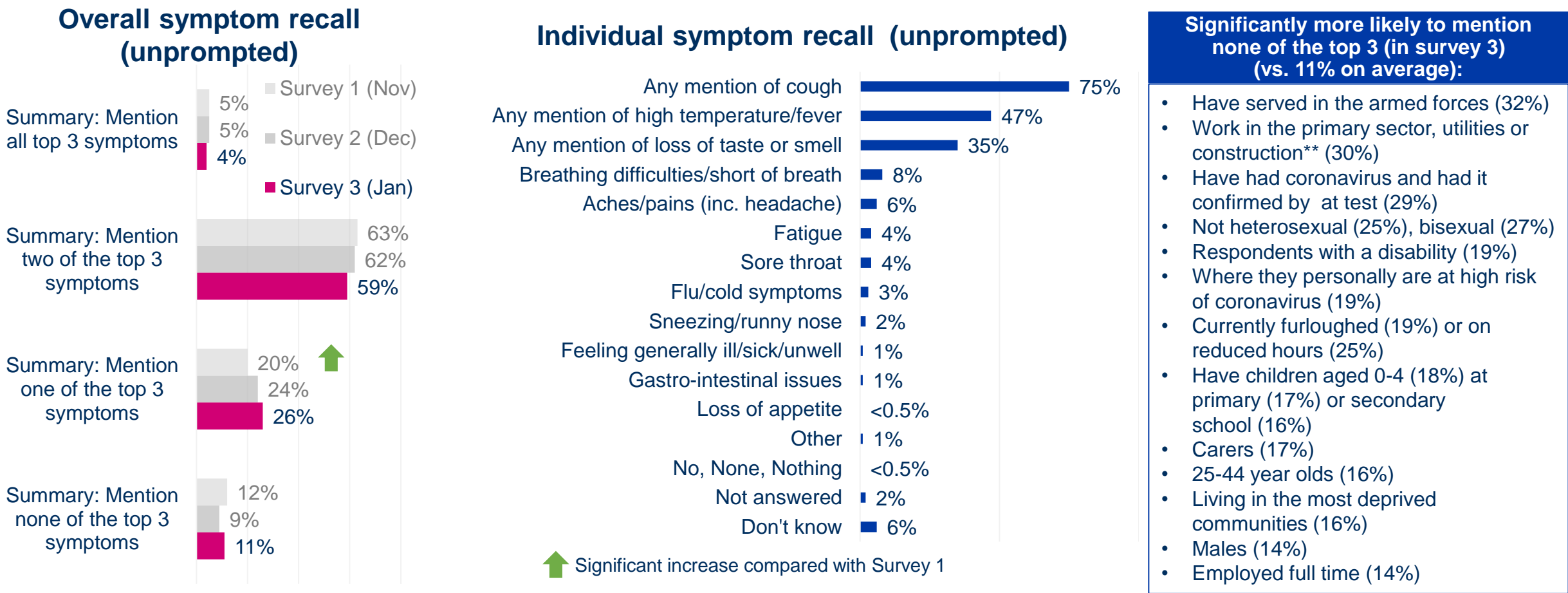
- Most reported that their **childcare needs are being fulfilled despite the lockdown**, in part because those in employment are working from home anyway, and nurseries remain open.
- Some would have **previously received help with childcare on an occasional, irregular basis**, but this would typically be so that parents could go for a meal together or attend an event, and therefore this is not required in lockdown anyway.
- Most had **not met any friends or family outside of their bubbles**, but some reported going for walks with others which helped unwind and provided some adult social contact; some have been dissuaded from doing so by the cold weather
- The most commonly cited type of support parents are missing out on is the **informal socialising with their friends and other parents**; some have attempted to replicate this via videoconferencing but feel this is ‘just not the same’



# Knowledge and understanding

Coronavirus symptoms [page 57](#)

Very few respondents are able to recall all three of the **main symptoms** of coronavirus. The proportion knowing just one has increased. Those who have had coronavirus are among the least knowledgeable.



C2. What do you think are the 3 most common symptoms of coronavirus?  
Unweighted base: (All respondents) \*\*Base below 50





# Attitudes and behaviours

Attitudes to restrictions [page 59](#)

Compliance with guidance [pages 60-63](#)

Attitudes to self-isolation [page 64](#)

Bubbles [page 65](#)

Support for Test and Trace [page 66](#)

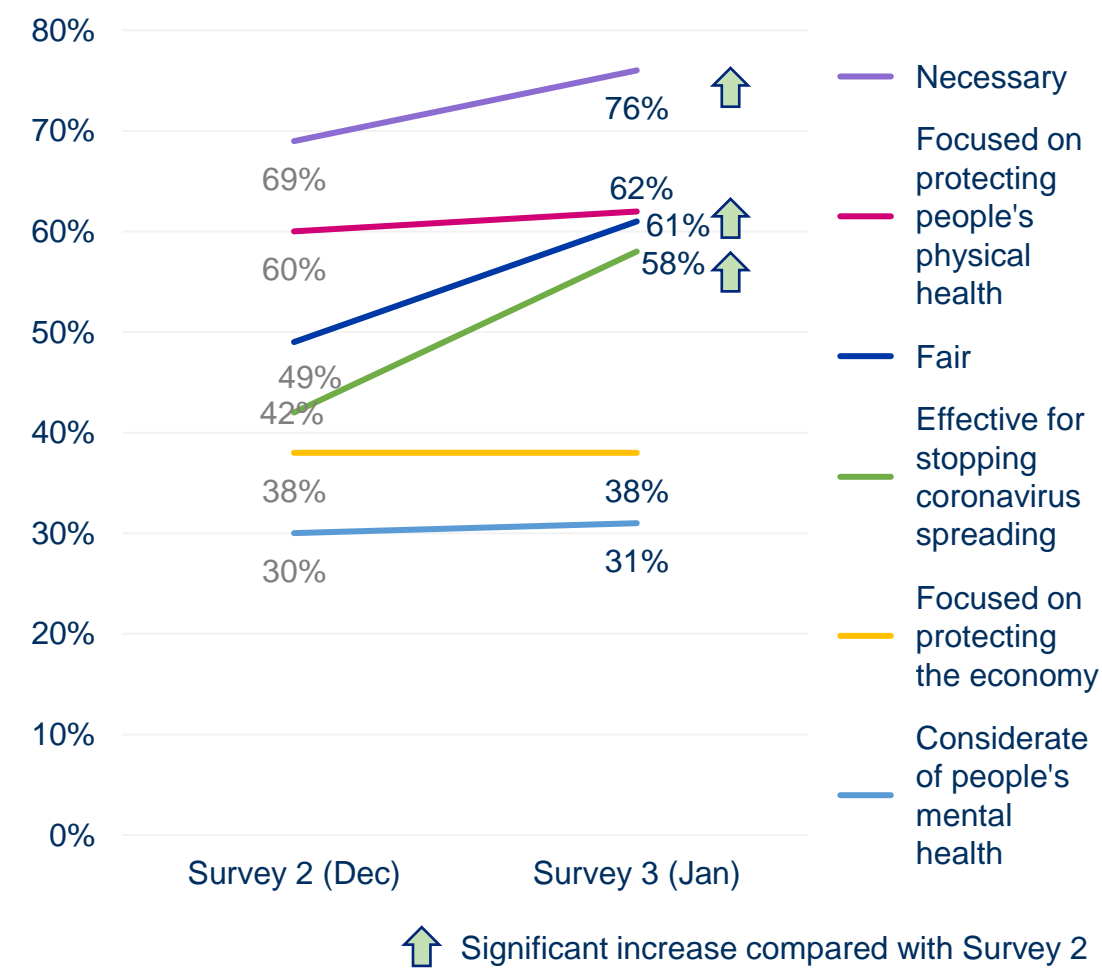
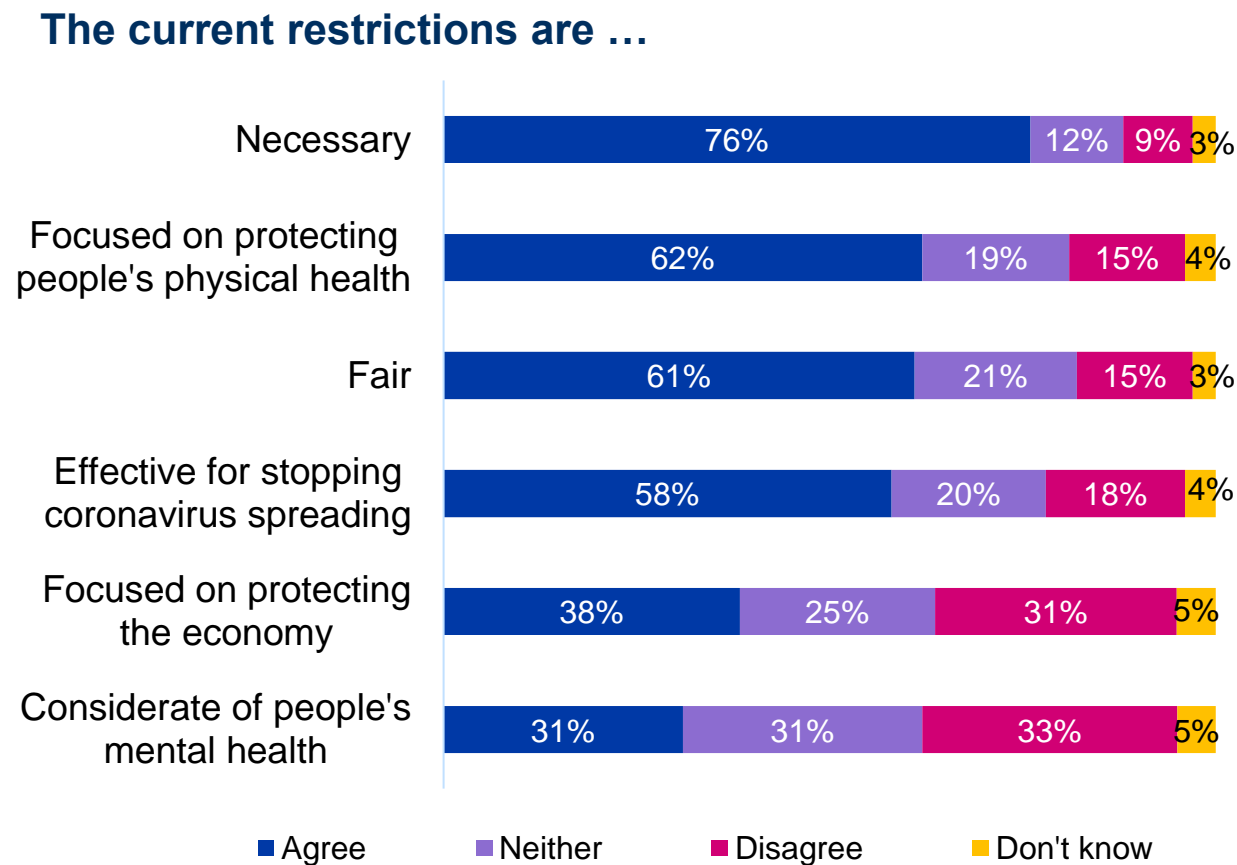
Asymptomatic testing

[page 67](#)

Vaccines

[pages 68-70](#)

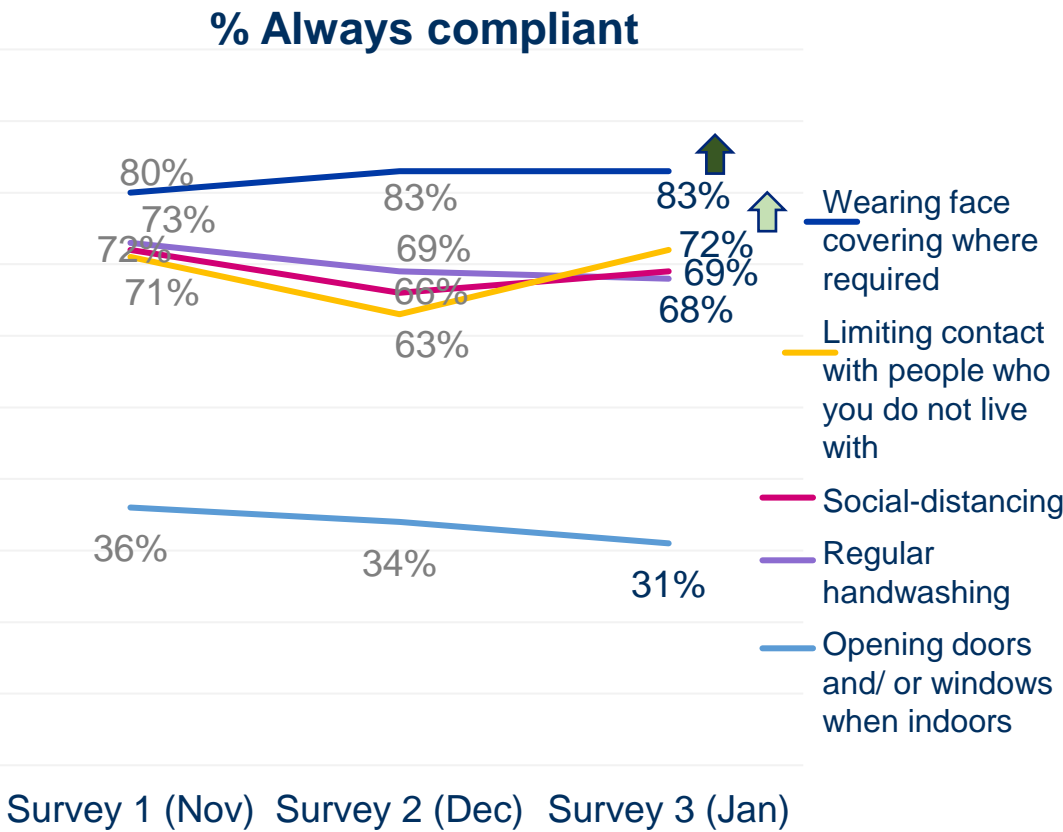
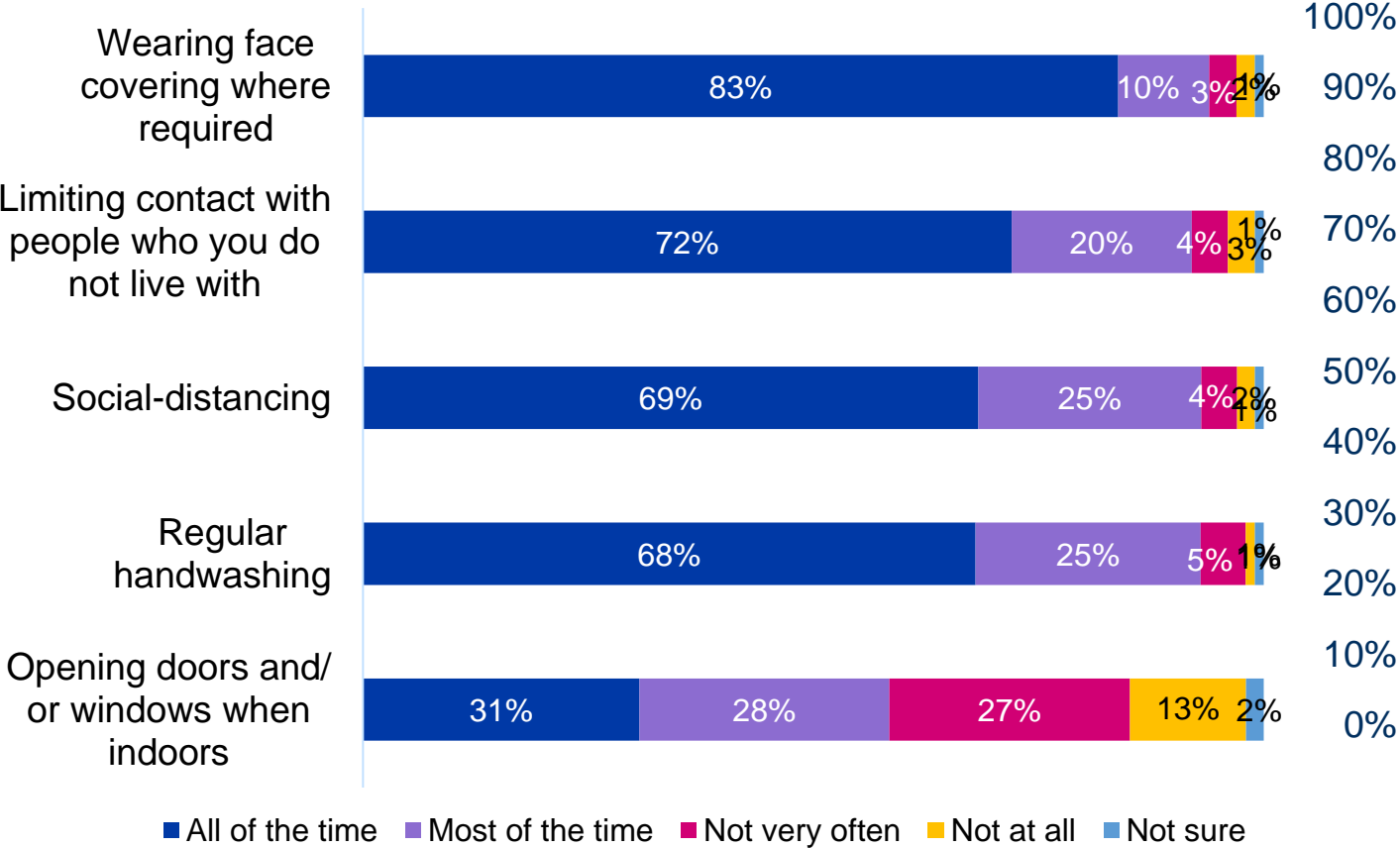
# The move from regional restrictions to national lockdown has seen increased proportions of respondents think the **restrictions are fair, necessary, and effective.**



D2. Do you agree or disagree that the current restrictions and guidelines in your local area are...  
Unweighted base: All respondents: Survey 1: 1015; Survey 2: 1007; Survey 3: 1010

1 in 4 respondents (24%) say they are always **compliant with the key guidance**. The proportion limiting their contact with others ‘all of the time’ has increased significantly since December. But an increased proportion are not regularly washing their hands ‘all of the time’ (32%).

Compliance with ...



D4. Are you complying with or following each of the current restrictions and guidelines?  
Unweighted base: All respondents: Survey 1: 1015; Survey 2: 1007; Survey 3: 1010

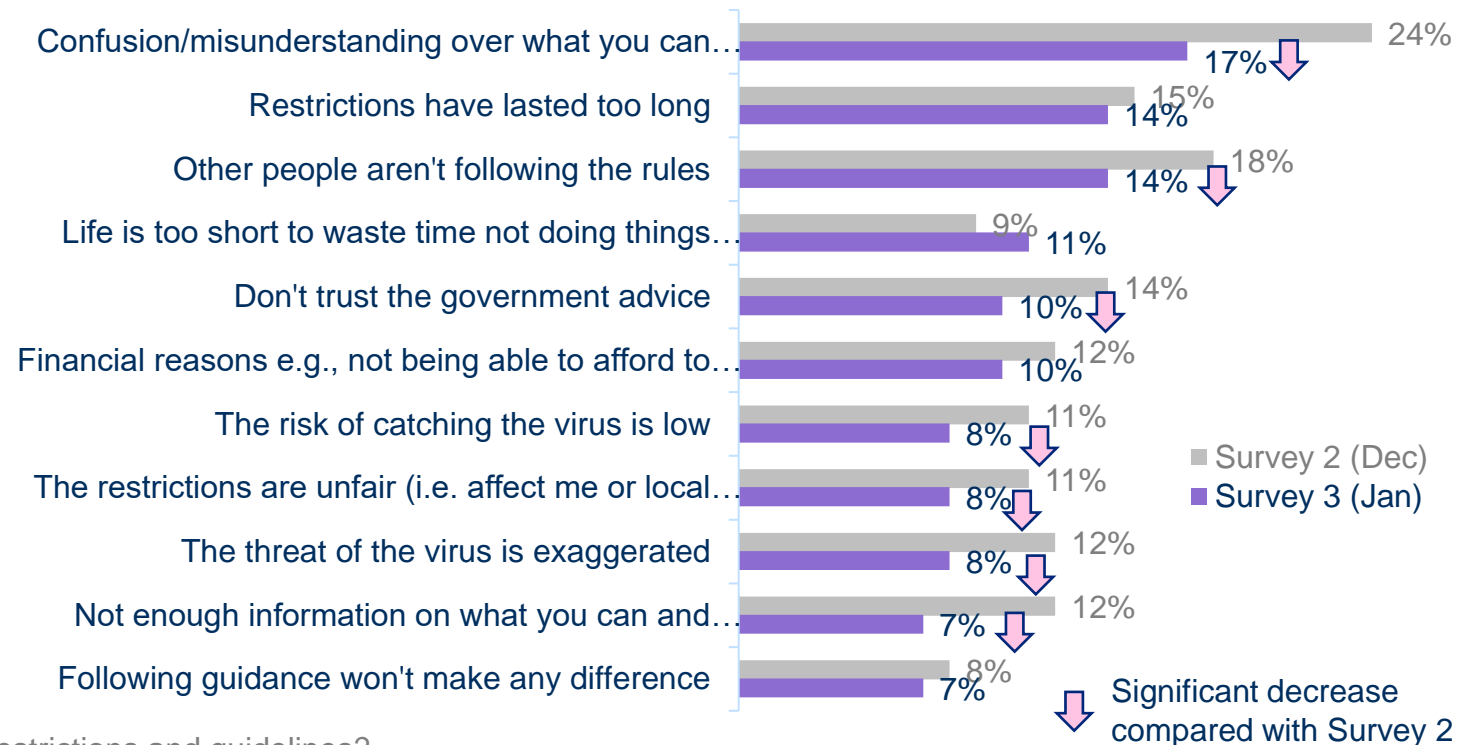


**Health and social care workers, those with children aged under 5 and those who think they have had coronavirus are among those **most likely to not always follow the guidance** for stopping the virus. Fewer respondents than in December cite confusion as their reason for non-compliance, suggesting nationwide lockdown restrictions are clearer for some.**

Those who are significantly more likely to not be compliant all of the time (vs. 76% on average):

- Work in health & social care (89%)
- Have children under 5 (87%)
- Have had coronavirus but not had test to confirm (86%)
- Unlikely to receive a vaccine (86%)
- Are aged 16-24 (85%)
- Feel their employer is not offering a safe working environment (85%)
- Has had a member of their household lose their job due to coronavirus (83%)
- Not very/not at all worried about coronavirus (83%)
- Qualified to degree level or above (80%)
- Are part of a bubble (79%)

### Reasons for non compliance



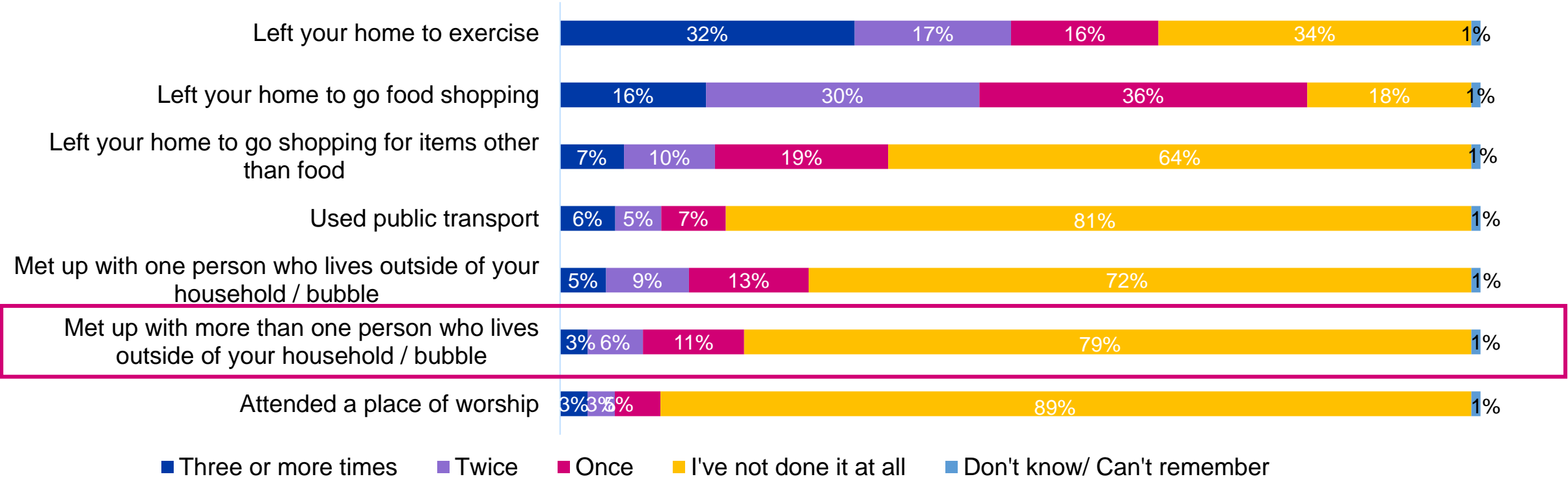
D4. Are you complying with or following each of the current restrictions and guidelines?

D6. Why might you not always fully comply or follow the coronavirus restrictions and guidelines?

Unweighted base: 1010 (All respondents); 764 (Those who do not comply with restrictions all the times)

9 in 10 (92%) respondents **left their home** in the 7 days prior to them completing the survey. 1 in 5 (20%) met up with more than one person from outside their household or bubble at least once, breaking the national lockdown restrictions.

Reasons for leaving home in the last 7 days



D13. In the last 7 days, how often, if at all, have you done each of the following...  
Unweighted base: 1010 (All respondents)

**Those most likely to have met up with more than one person from outside their household or bubble, in the 7 days prior to survey 3, include parents of young children and people aged under 25.**

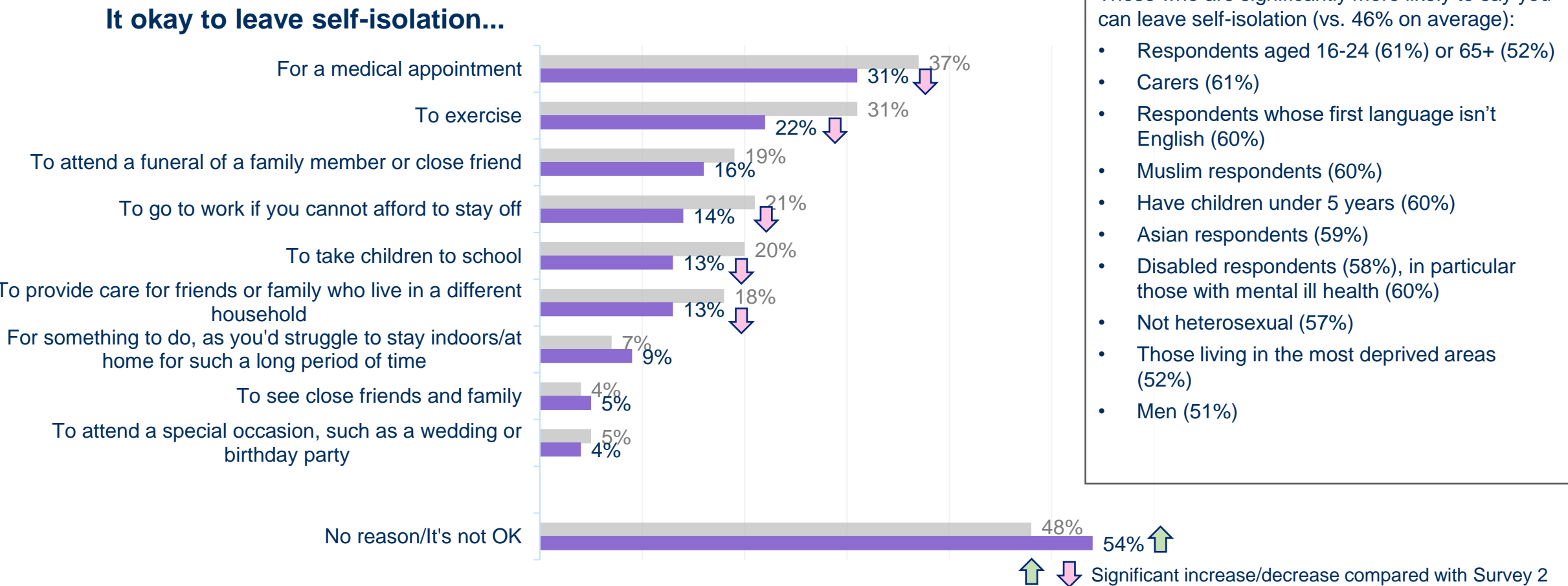


Those who are significantly more likely to have met up with more than one person from outside their household or bubble (vs. 20% on average):

- Parents of children under 5 (36%)
- Those aged 16-24 (33%) or 25-44 (23%)
- Carers (33%)
- Respondents from racially diverse backgrounds (33%), including Pakistani respondents\*\* (34%)
- Muslim respondents (32%)
- Respondents who are not-heterosexual (31%), including Bisexual (35%)
- Those whose first language isn't English (30%)
- Disabled respondents (30%)
- Those where a member of their household is at high risk of coronavirus (29%)
- Those living in the most deprived areas (24%)
- Those in employment (23%)

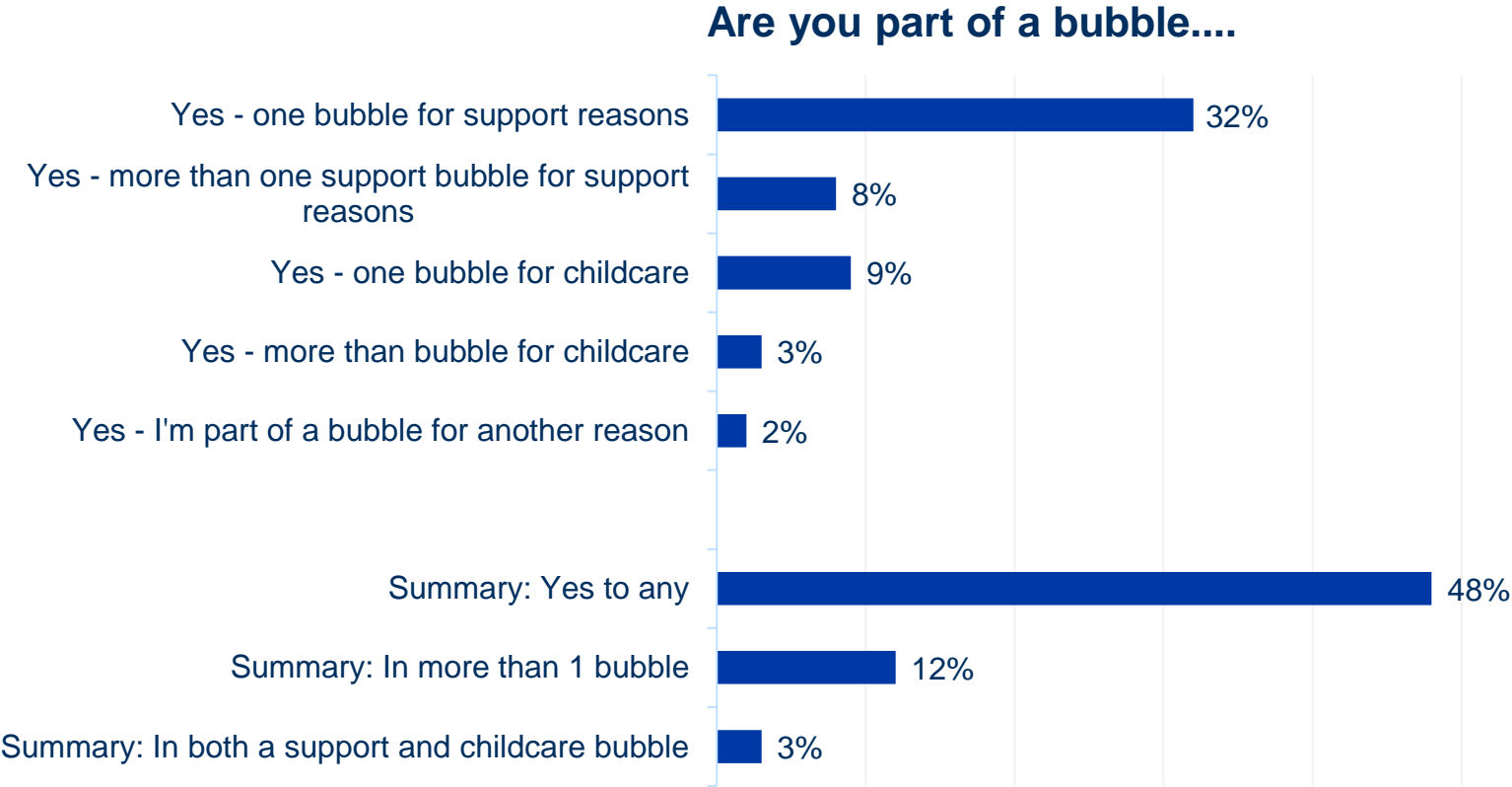
D13. In the last 7 days, how often, if at all, have you done each of the following...  
Unweighted base: 1010 (All respondents)

Since December fewer respondents think it is okay **to leave self-isolation**. This may be due to the national lockdown and the broader ‘stay at home’ messaging.



C6. In which, if any, of the following circumstances is it OK for someone to leave their home during self-isolation?  
Unweighted base: 1010

Around 1 in 2 (48%) respondents are **in a bubble** for childcare and/or support. Although only 3% say they have both kinds of bubble, as permitted, 12% say they are in more than one bubble and 15% in a bubble with more than one other household.



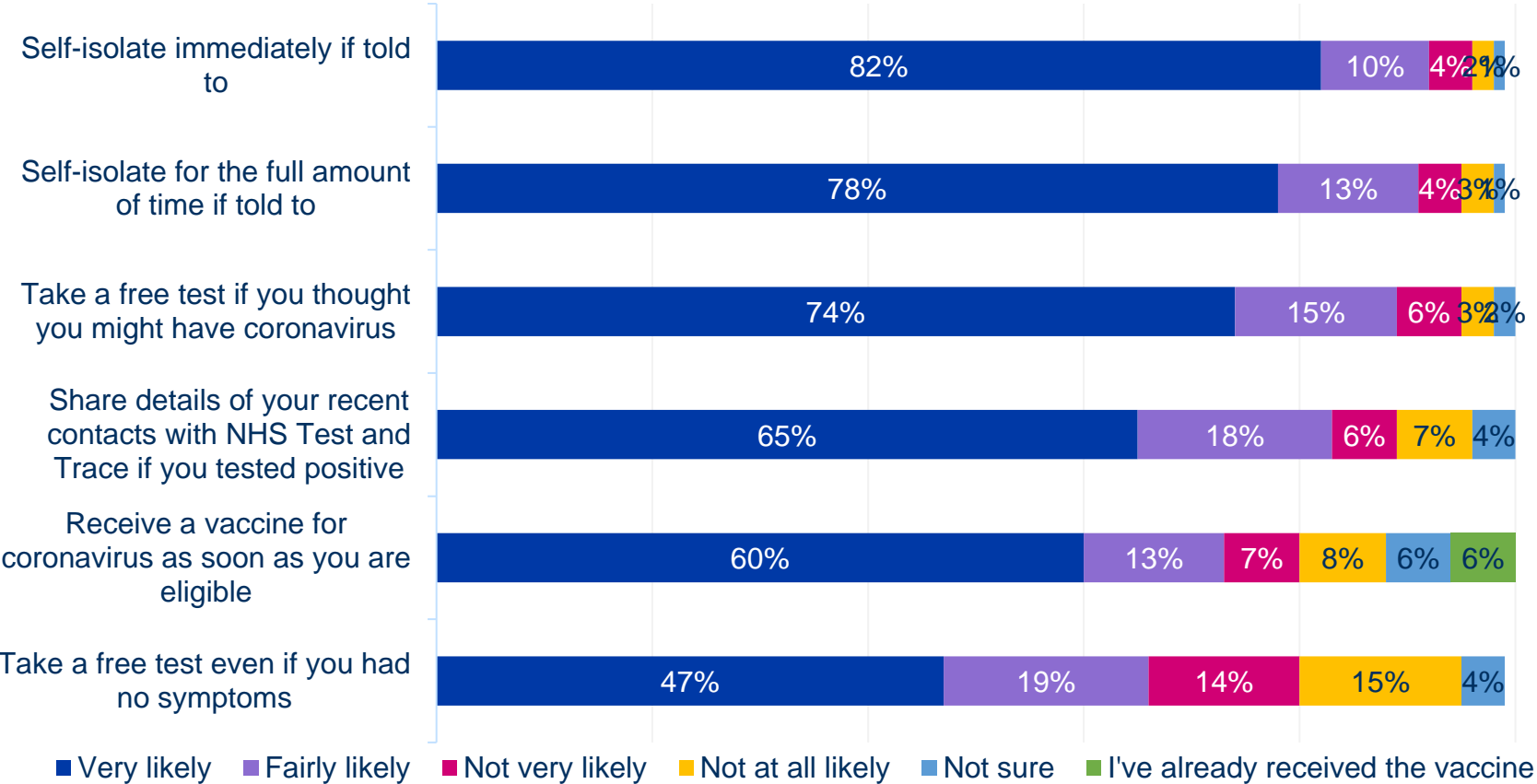
Those who are significantly more likely to be in more than one bubble (vs. 12% on average):


- Have a disability (22%), in particular those with mental ill health (26%)
- Have a member of their household who is at high risk of coronavirus (20%)
- Carers (19%)
- Are aged 16-24 (18%)
- Have children (16%), especially those in primary school (18%) or under the age of 5 (29%) and where their children are currently attending school (29%)
- Are in employment (14%)

Of those in a bubble - the vast majority are only in a bubble with one other household (70%); 1 in 5 are in bubbles with 2 other households (20%), and 10% are in bubbles with at least 3 other households.

B35. Are you part of a bubble with another household?  
B36. How many other households are you in a bubble with?  
Unweighted base: 1010, 503 (Those in a bubble)

# Most respondents are still likely to comply with NHS Test and Trace requirements. The lowest proportion are ‘very likely’ to take a test if showing symptoms (47%).



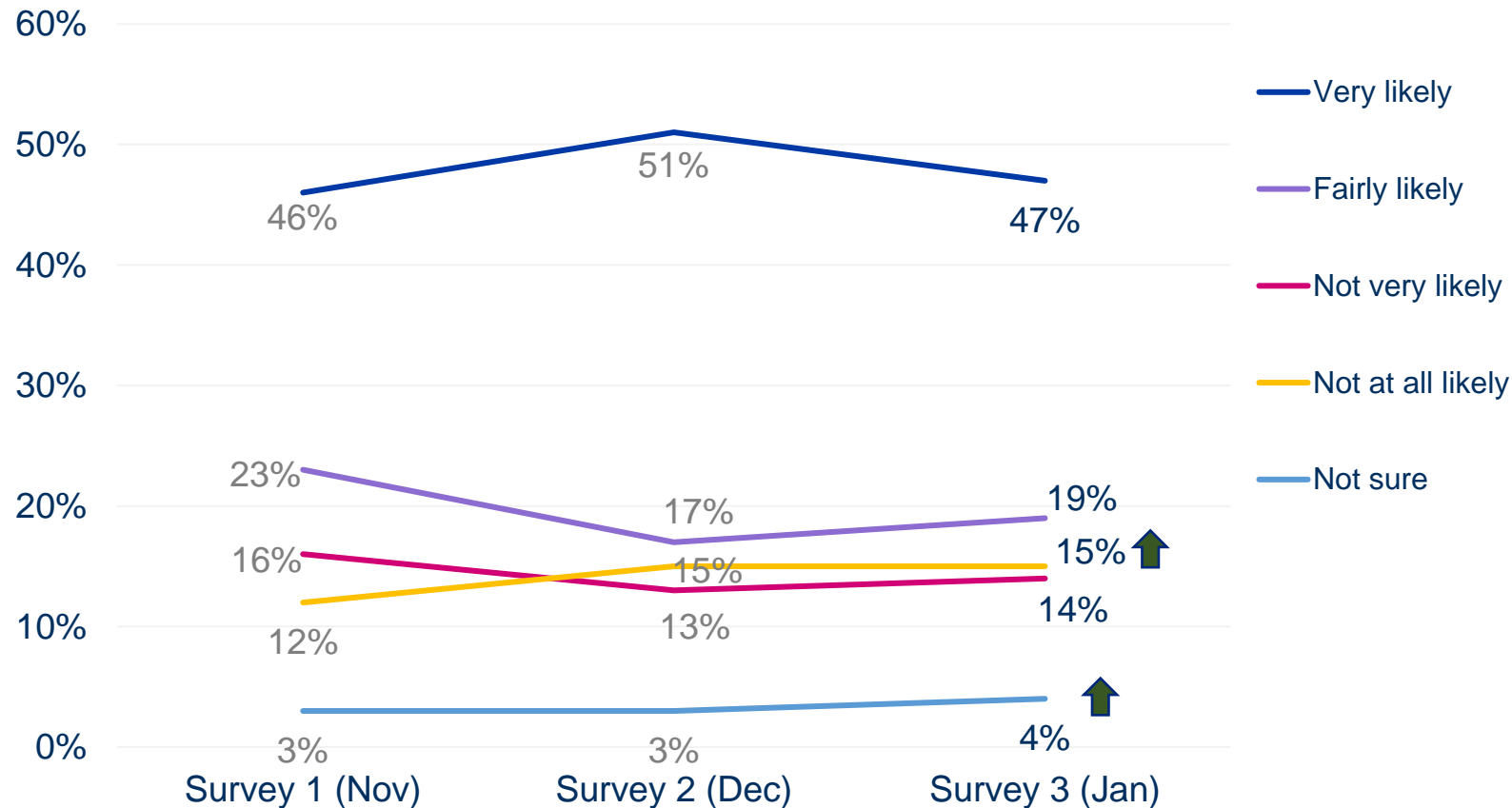
% Not very/ Not at all likely/ Not sure		
Survey 1 (Nov)	Survey 2 (Dec)	Survey 3 (Jan)
9%	11%	11%
30%	32%	34%
7%	7%	8%
7%	8%	9%
15%	18%	17%
28%	25%	21% 

D5. How likely would you be to do each of the following?  
 Unweighted base: All respondents: Survey 1: 1015; Survey 2: 1007; Survey 3: 1010

 Significant decrease compared with Survey 1

**1 in 3 (34%) respondents are unlikely or not sure about taking a test when showing no symptoms. This includes 15% not at all likely.**

### Take a free test even if you had no symptoms



Some of those significantly more likely to not take a test when showing no symptoms (vs. 34% on average that are not very/not at all likely/not sure):

- Not very/at all likely or not sure about receiving vaccine (60%)
- Self-employed\*\* respondents (56%), students\*\* (50%), or those looking after the home (53%)
- Not very/at all worried about coronavirus (47%)
- Aged 16-24 (43%) or 25-44 (40%)
- Live in the least deprived areas (41%)
- Female respondents (37%)
- Not previously had to self-isolate (36%)

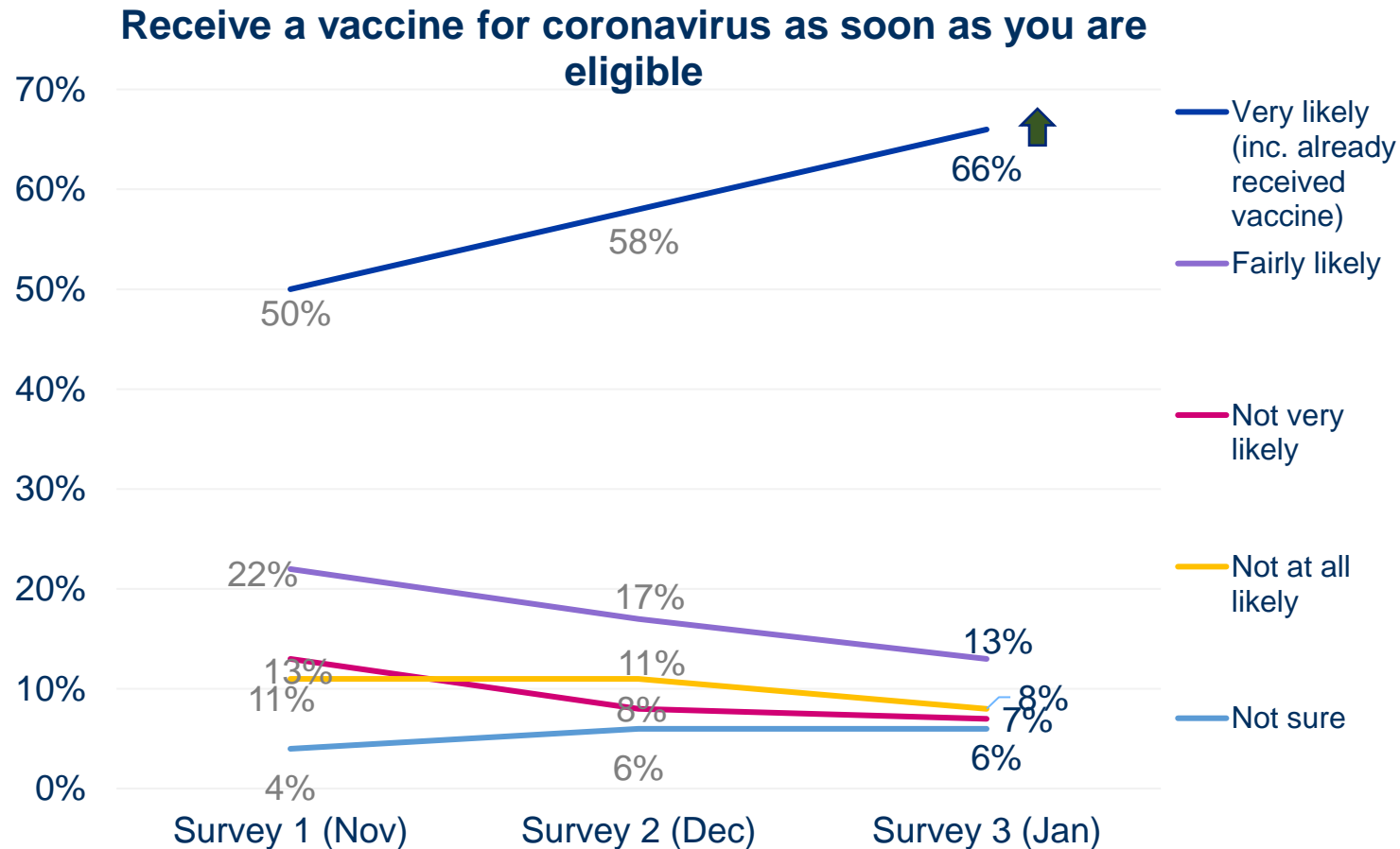
↑ Significant increase compared with Survey 1

D5. How likely would you be to do each of the following?

Unweighted base: All respondents: Survey 1: 1015; Survey 2: 1007; Survey 3: 1010

\*\*Low base under 50

Almost 4 in 5 respondents (79%) now say they **would receive the vaccine**, including 6% that have already had it. Those very likely have increased by 16 percentage points compared with November. Hesitancy is higher among younger and Asian respondents, among others.



Some of those significantly more likely to be hesitant about receiving a vaccine (vs. 21% on average not very/not at all likely/not sure):

- Asian respondents (46%)
- Those who have English as an additional language (45%)
- Muslim respondents (41%)
- Aged 16-24 (39%) or 25-44 (30%)
- Not very/at all worried about coronavirus (36%)
- Have served in armed forces (34%)
- Mental ill health (32%)
- Live in Oldham (32% or Rochdale (30%))
- Live in the most deprived areas (29%)
- Think they've had coronavirus but not had test to confirm (29%)
- Have children (24%), in particular those with under 5s (38%)
- Be in employment (23%), a student (35%), or looking after the home (33%)

D5. How likely would you be to do each of the following?

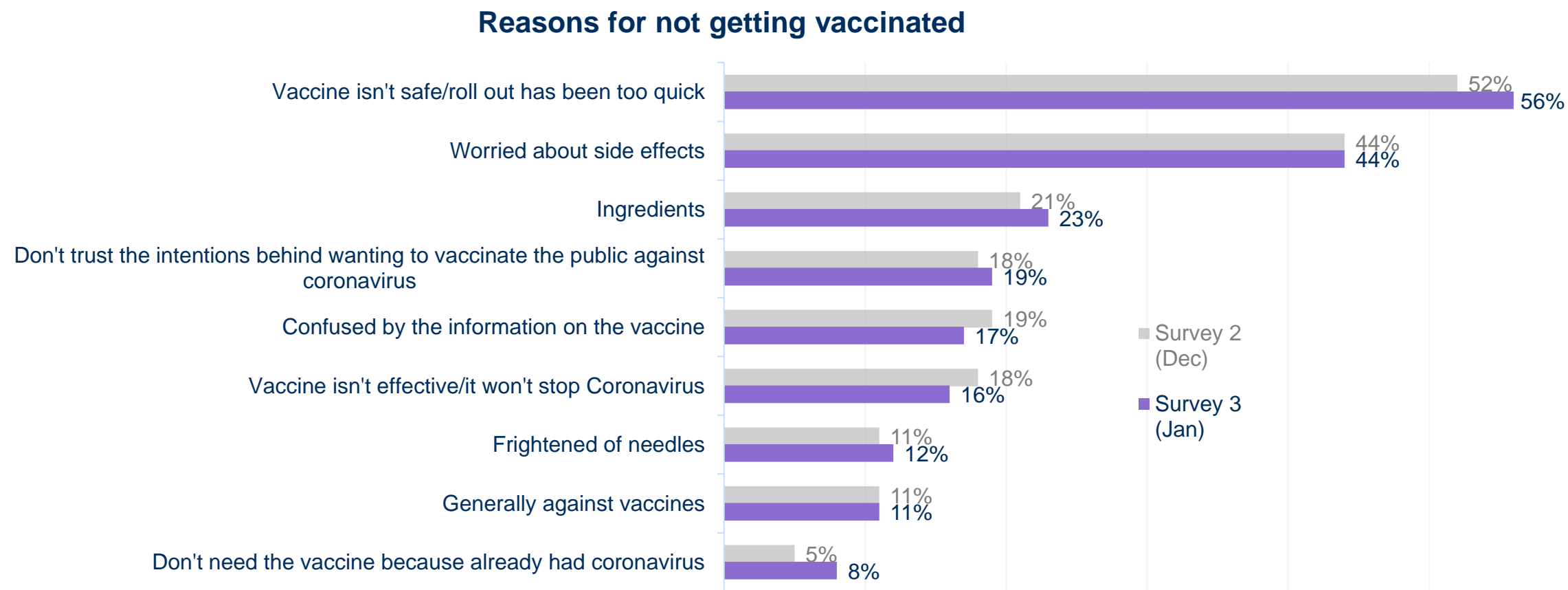
Unweighted base: All respondents: Survey 1: 1015; Survey 2: 1007; Survey 3: 1010



Significant increase compared with Survey 1

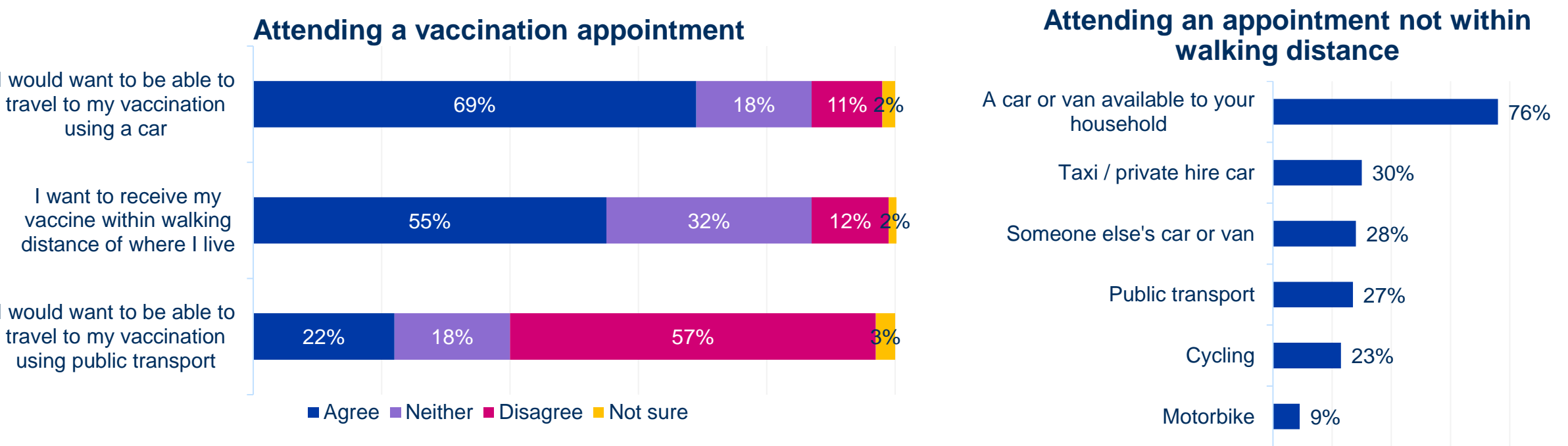


Safety concerns and worries about the side effects remain the two main reasons why respondents are hesitant to be vaccinated.



D9. Why are you unlikely to get vaccinated against coronavirus?  
Unweighted base: 255 (Those who aren't already vaccinated or not very likely to get the vaccine when offered)

Most respondents (69%) want to **travel to their vaccination** appointment using a car. Fewer than 1 in 4 (22%) would use public transport. If the vaccination centre was not within walking distance, nearly 1 in 3 (30%) would go by taxi.



Those significantly more likely to want to use public transport to travel to their vaccination appointment: are aged 25-44 (31%), have a disability (29%), not heterosexual (40%), have a member of their household is at high risk of coronavirus (29%), no qualifications\*\* (35%), not in work due to ill health (38%), have served in armed forces (49%), live in Manchester (31%), have no private vehicle access (38%), live in the most deprived areas (29%), and speak English as an additional language (37%).

D12. Thinking about coronavirus vaccinations, do you agree or disagree with the following statements ...?  
D14. If your nearest vaccination centre was not within walking distance of your home, how likely or not likely would you be to access it by: ...?  
Unweighted base: 749 (where likely to be vaccinated)      \*\*Low base below 50

