Safely Managing COVID-19: Greater Manchester Population Survey

Survey 5 Report

April 2021

Based on fieldwork 17 – 29 Mar, during initial relaxation of national lockdown restrictions (roadmap stages 1a and 1b)

Carried out on behalf of Greater Manchester partners

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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 residents 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. Residents are unequally equipped and empowered to stop the spread of the virus and its 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, the 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
  - support the behaviour change that needs to be inspired 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.
- Five surveys have so far been completed. Details of responses are below.
- From survey 2 onwards the quantitative surveys are accompanied by deep-dive qualitative interviews, each 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.

Survey	Fieldwork start	Fieldwork end	Total respondents	Web respondents	Phone respondents
1	20 November 2020	2 December 2020	1016	707 (70%)	309 (30%)
2	18 December 2020	31 December 2020	1007	751 (75%)	256 (25%)
3	14 January 2021	27 January 2021	1010	757 (75%)	253 (25%)
4	11 February 2021	25 February 2021	1003	753 (75%)	250 (25%)
5	17 March 2021	29 March 2021	1008	750 (74%)	258 (26%)

Report contents and guidance

Report contents & guidance

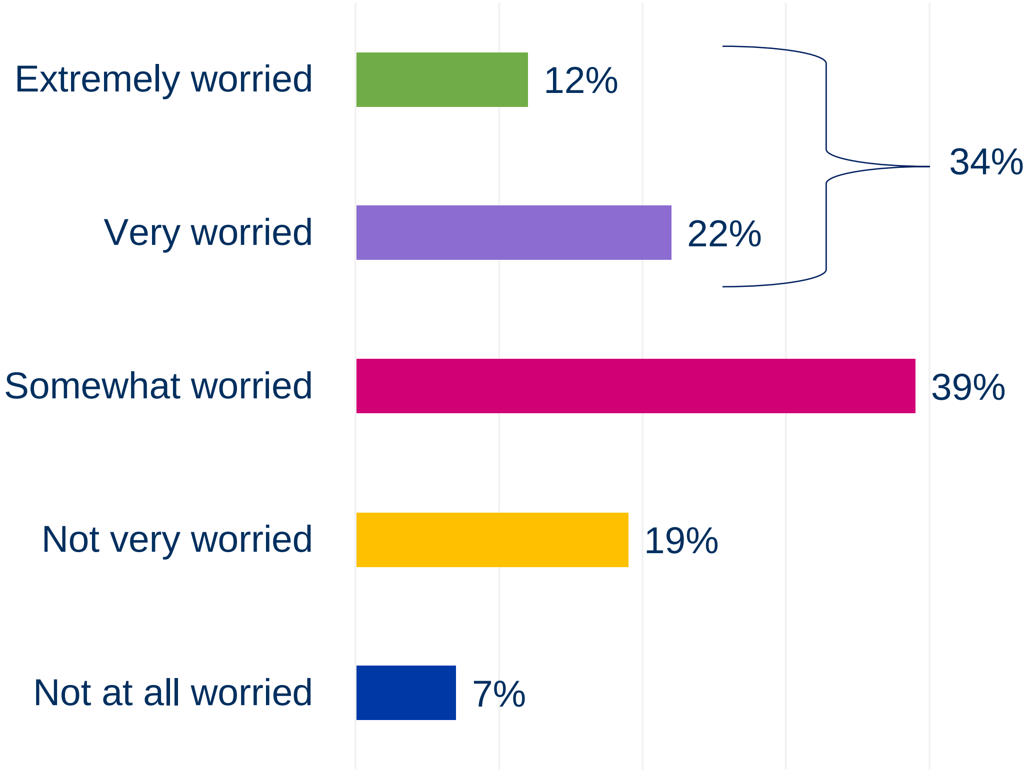
- **This report focuses on the findings from survey 5 (March),** as England was starting to emerge from the nationwide lockdown introduced on 5 January. At the point of this fieldwork, children / students had returned to schools and colleges, and people were able to meet with one other person for exercise or recreation. Immediately after its conclusion, on 29 March, further ‘stage 1’ relaxations would see outdoor gatherings of either 6 people or 2 households allowed, and outdoor sports facilities reopened; while the ‘stay at home’ rule would end, many restrictions would remain in place.
- The survey provides ongoing insight into concerns and impacts of the pandemic among Greater Manchester respondents, and their attitudes and behaviours towards the national lockdown restrictions and measures as they started to be eased. Survey 5 also aims to understand more about the ongoing vaccination rollout, and attitudes towards community / workplace coronavirus testing for people without symptoms – two key elements of ensuring a safe easing of lockdown measures.
- 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 Greater Manchester’ sample i.e. all 1008 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 Greater Manchester’ figures (i.e. the Greater Manchester average).
- Where questions have remained consistent, the report provides comparisons with surveys 1 (undertaken in November), 2 (in December), 3 (in January) and 4 (in February); differences between the surveys that are statistically significant are indicated by up and down arrows.
- 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 1008 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 initial section provides a “highlights” summary of key findings; it is followed by more detailed survey findings for residents’ feelings and concerns, coronavirus impacts, and attitudes and behaviours. These are followed by analysis of the more detailed interviews focusing on people’s experiences of lockdown easing.

Highlights

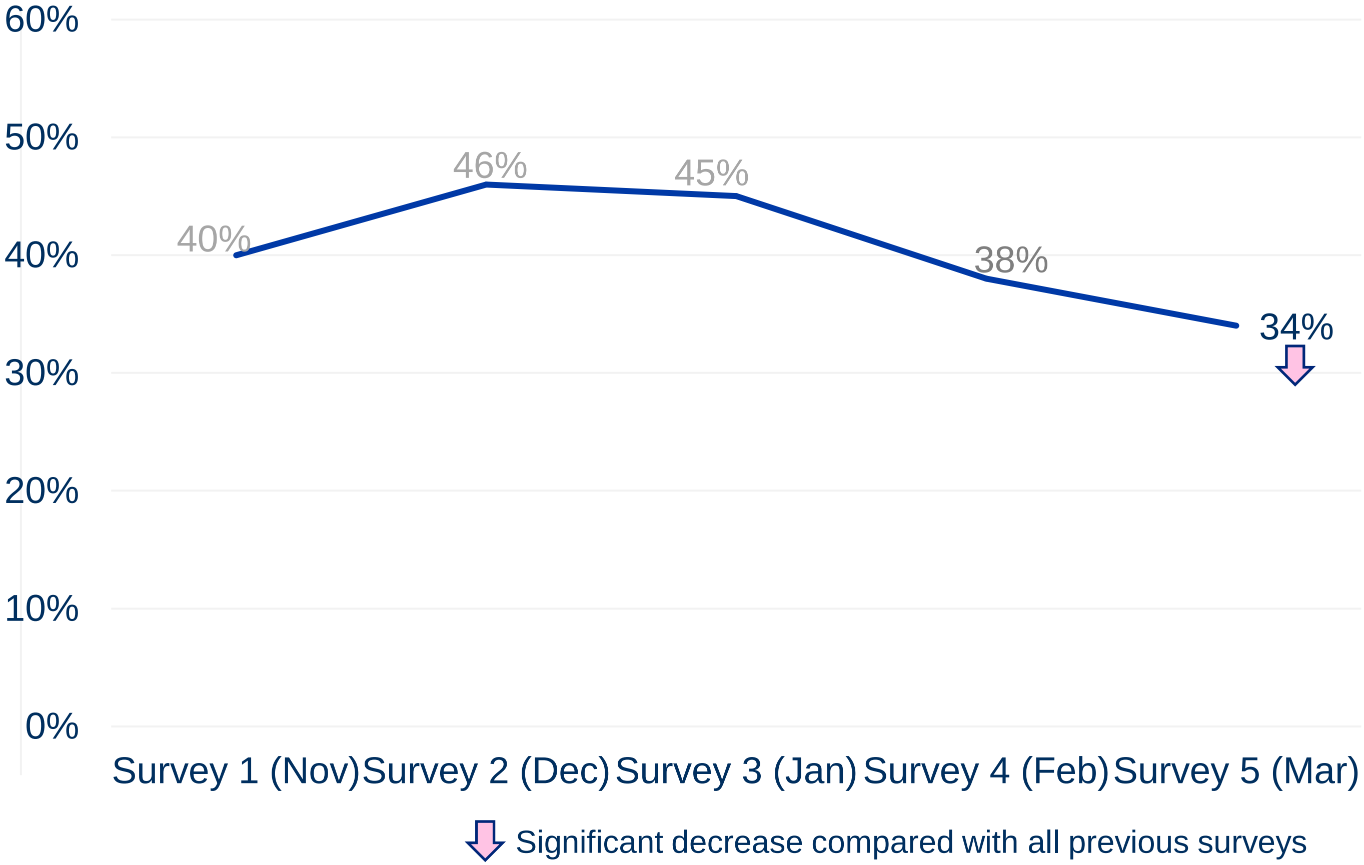
Concerns	pages 7, 8	Bubbles	page 21
Compliance with guidelines	page 9-14	Vaccines	page 22
Financial and employment impacts	pages 15-19	Asymptomatic testing	page 23
Impacts on children	page 20		

Overall levels of concern about coronavirus have fallen further since February, and are now significantly lower than in all previous surveys. This is accompanied by declines in anxiety levels and increases in life satisfaction levels across the population.

Overall, how worried are you about coronavirus….

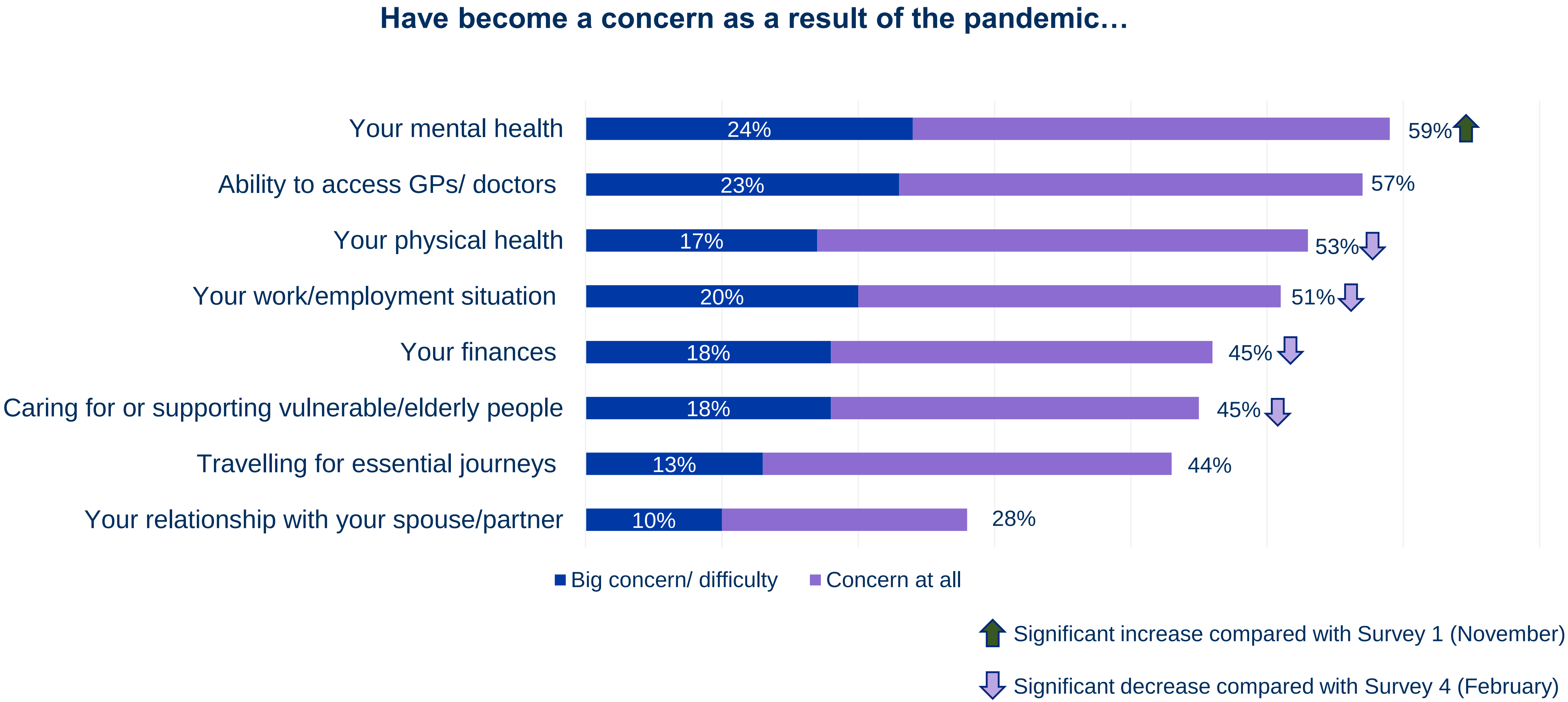


% Extremely/very worried about coronavirus – overall



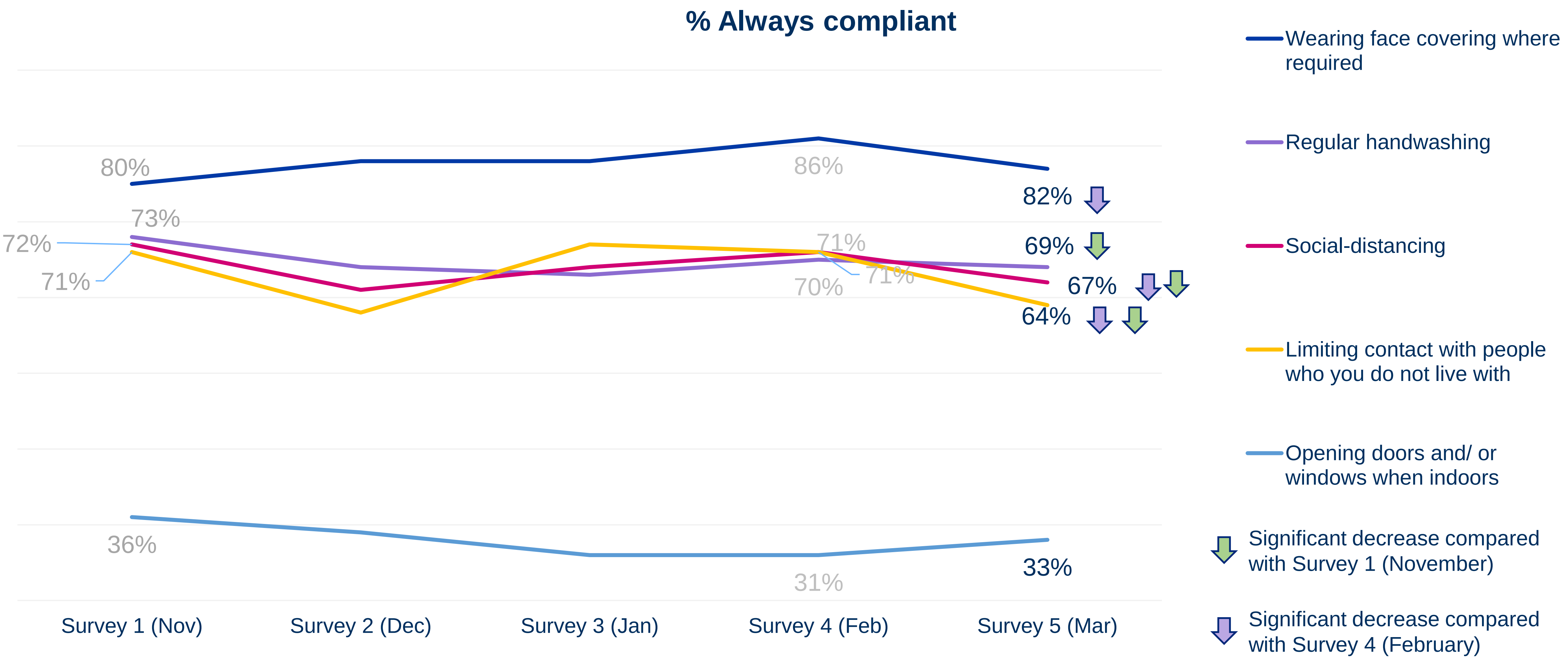
For further detail see "feelings and concerns", page 25, page 26, page 27, and page 28

The proportions of respondents with specific concerns are lower than in previous surveys on all key issues, except for mental health which remains a concern for significantly more people than in November.



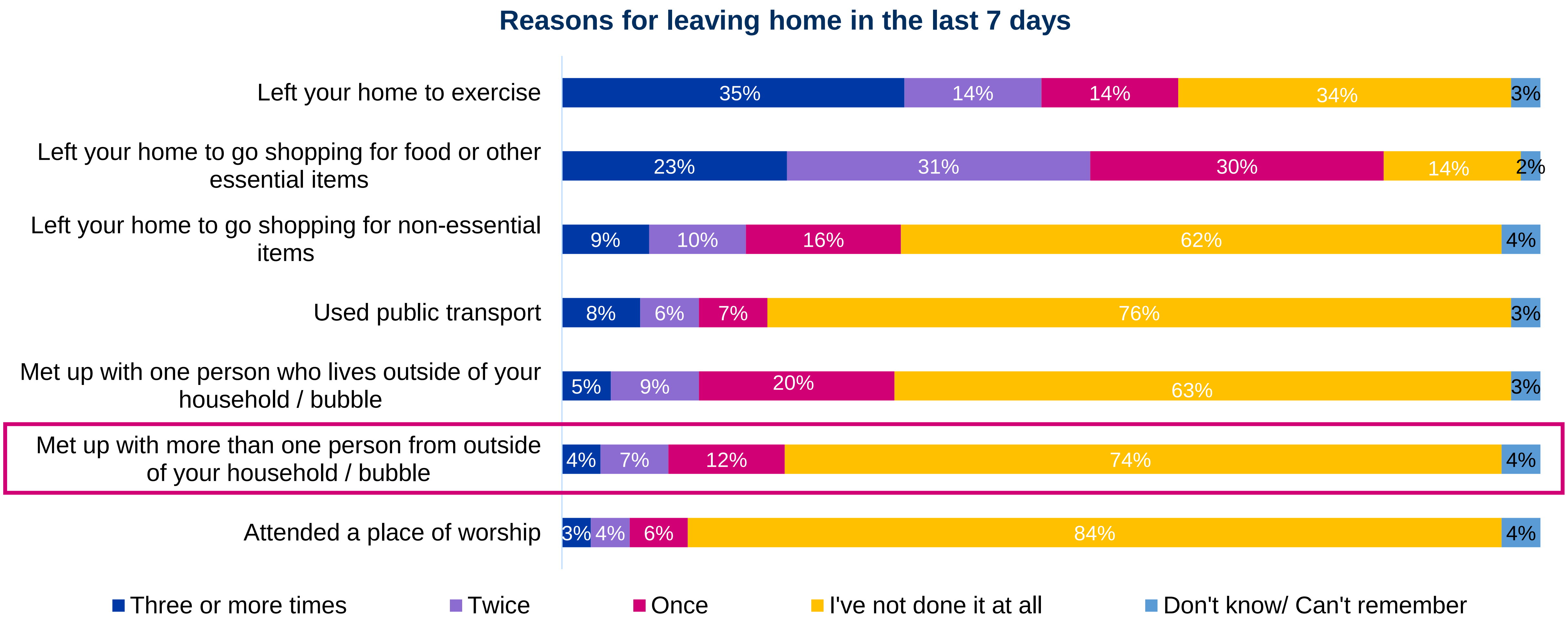
For further detail see "feelings and concerns – risks and specific concerns", page 29, page 30, page 31, and page 32

The declines in worries and concerns have been accompanied by a significant decrease in compliance with key measures to stop the spread of the virus.



For further detail see "attitudes and behaviours – compliance with guidance", page 50 and page 51

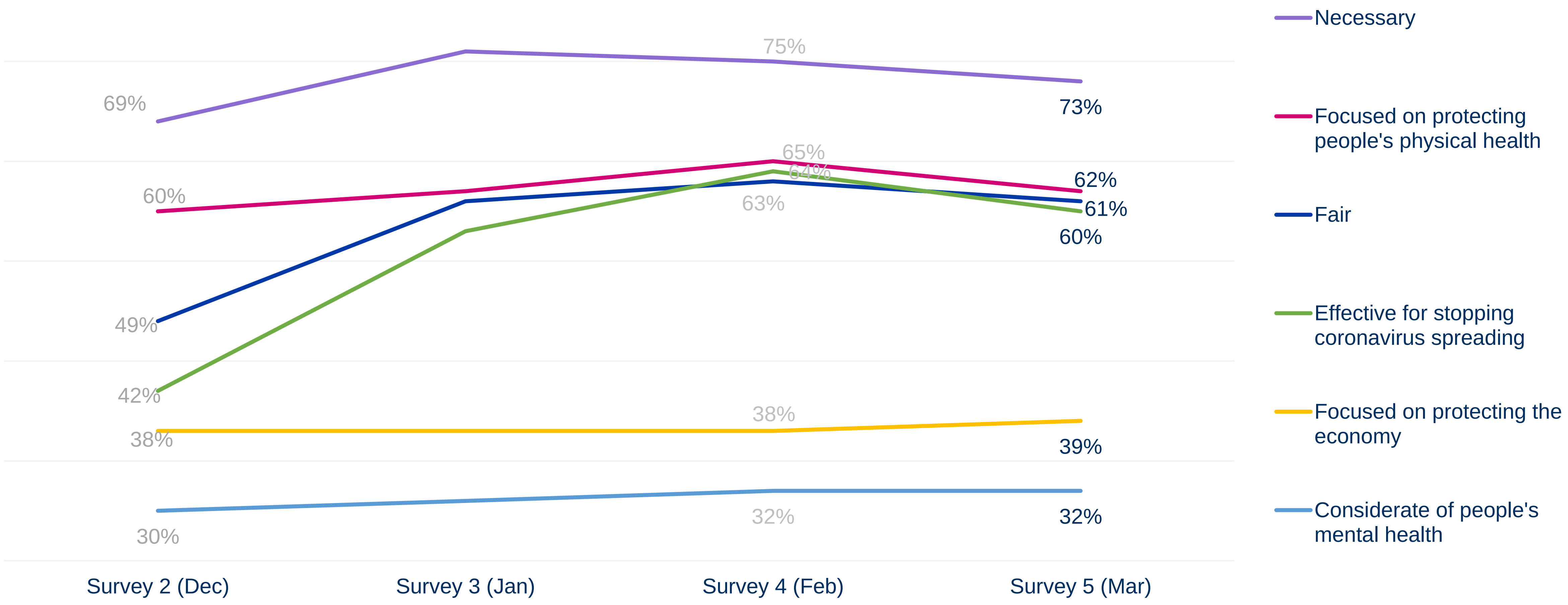
The proportion of respondents who have met up with more than one person from outside their household or bubble in the past week has increased significantly since February. This coincides with the loosening of lockdown restrictions, but was still against restrictions in place at the time of the survey.



For further detail see "attitudes and behaviours – compliance with guidance", page 52 and page 53

The initial loosening of restrictions has seen little change in the perceptions of the restrictions. Most still agree they are fair, necessary, effective and protective of people's health.

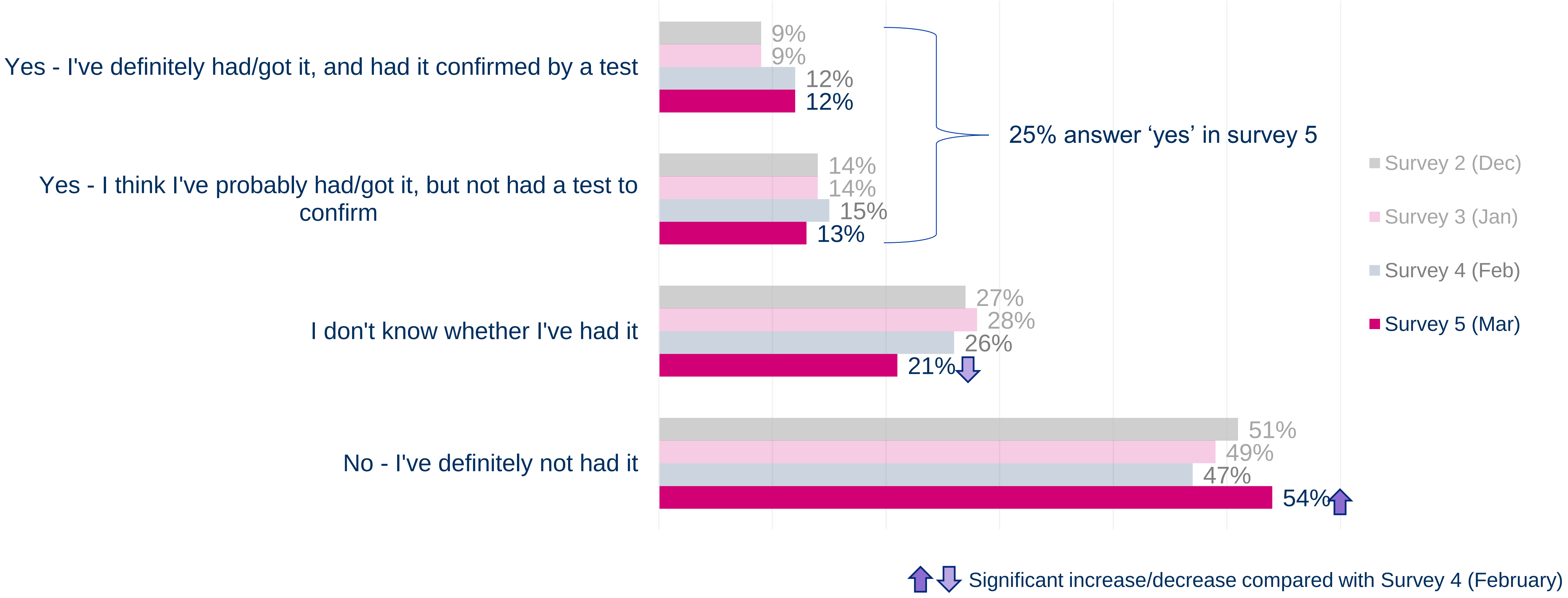
Agreement that the current restrictions & guidelines are…



For further detail see "attitudes and behaviours – attitudes to restrictions", page 49

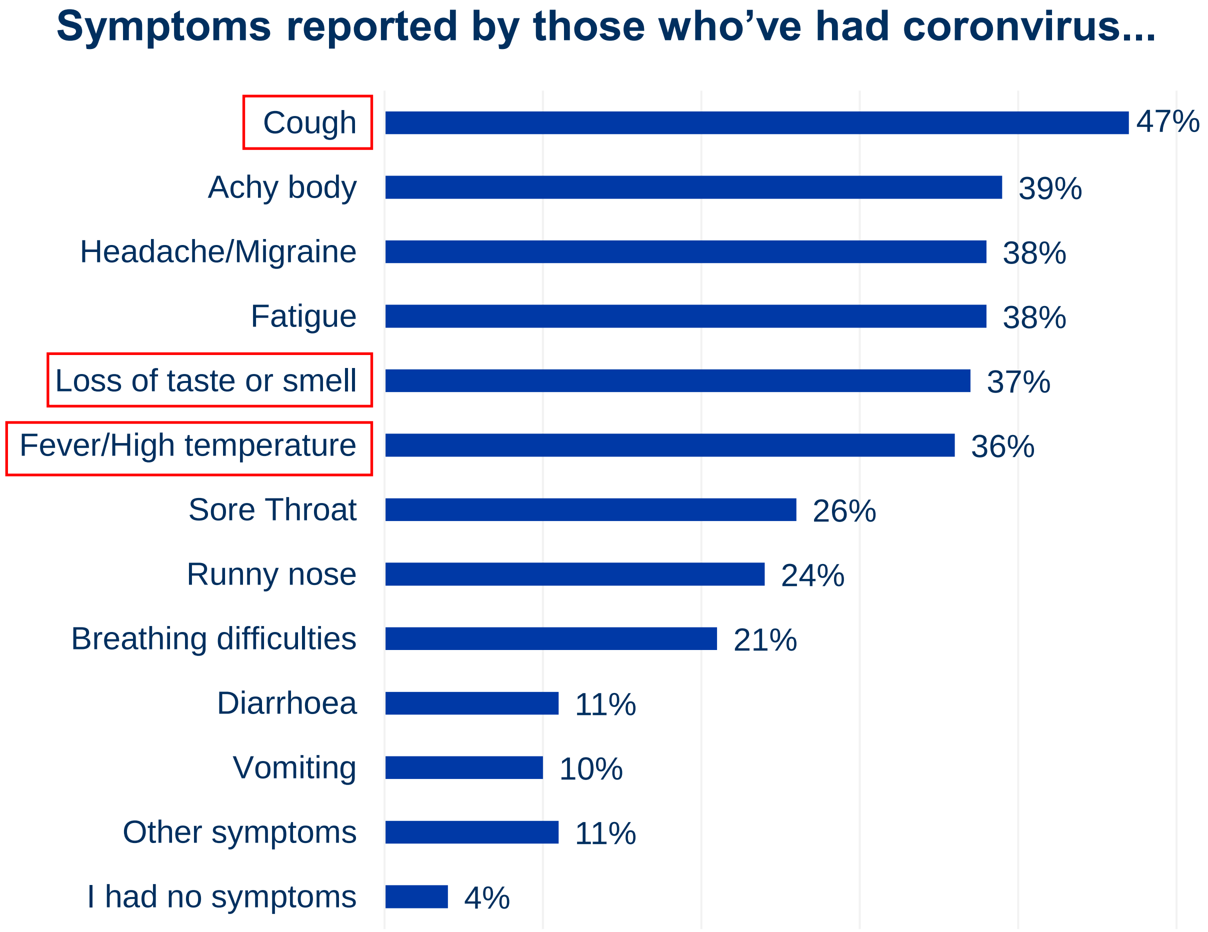
The proportion of respondents who have had coronavirus has stabilised, at 1 in 4 (25%). A slight majority of those who say they have had coronavirus have not had this confirmed by a test – although this proportion appears to be falling.

Do you know or think you have had coronavirus?



For further detail see "coronavirus impacts – experience of coronavirus", page 34 and page 35

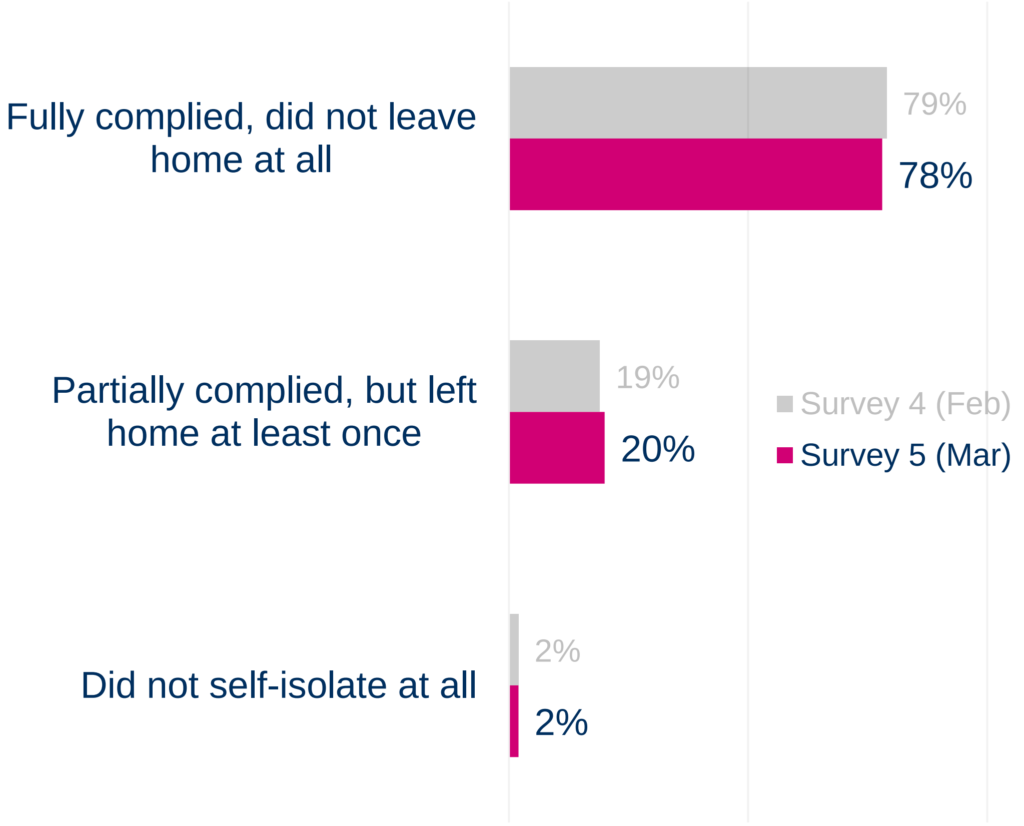
A wide range of symptoms beyond the three 'main' symptoms were frequently reported by respondents who say they have had coronavirus. But just 4% of those who say they've had coronavirus reported no symptoms – well below the 1 in 3 figure often quoted nationally.



For further detail see "common symptoms", page 36

In line with previous surveys, 1 in 3 (34%) respondents have needed to self-isolate. While most fully comply, over 1 in 5 (22%) do not. The proportion breaking self-isolation for work or financial reasons has almost doubled since February (to 19%).

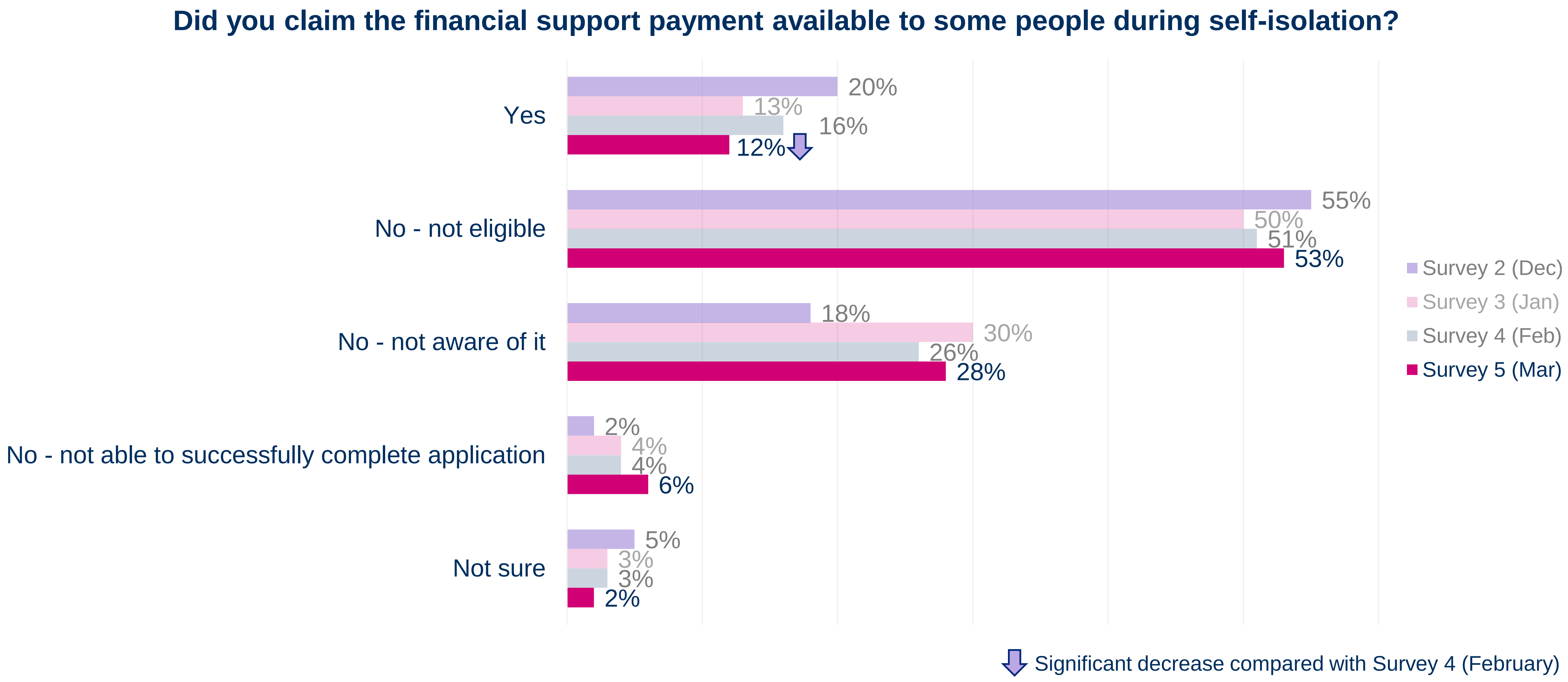
Compliance with self-isolation…



Reasons for non-compliance...

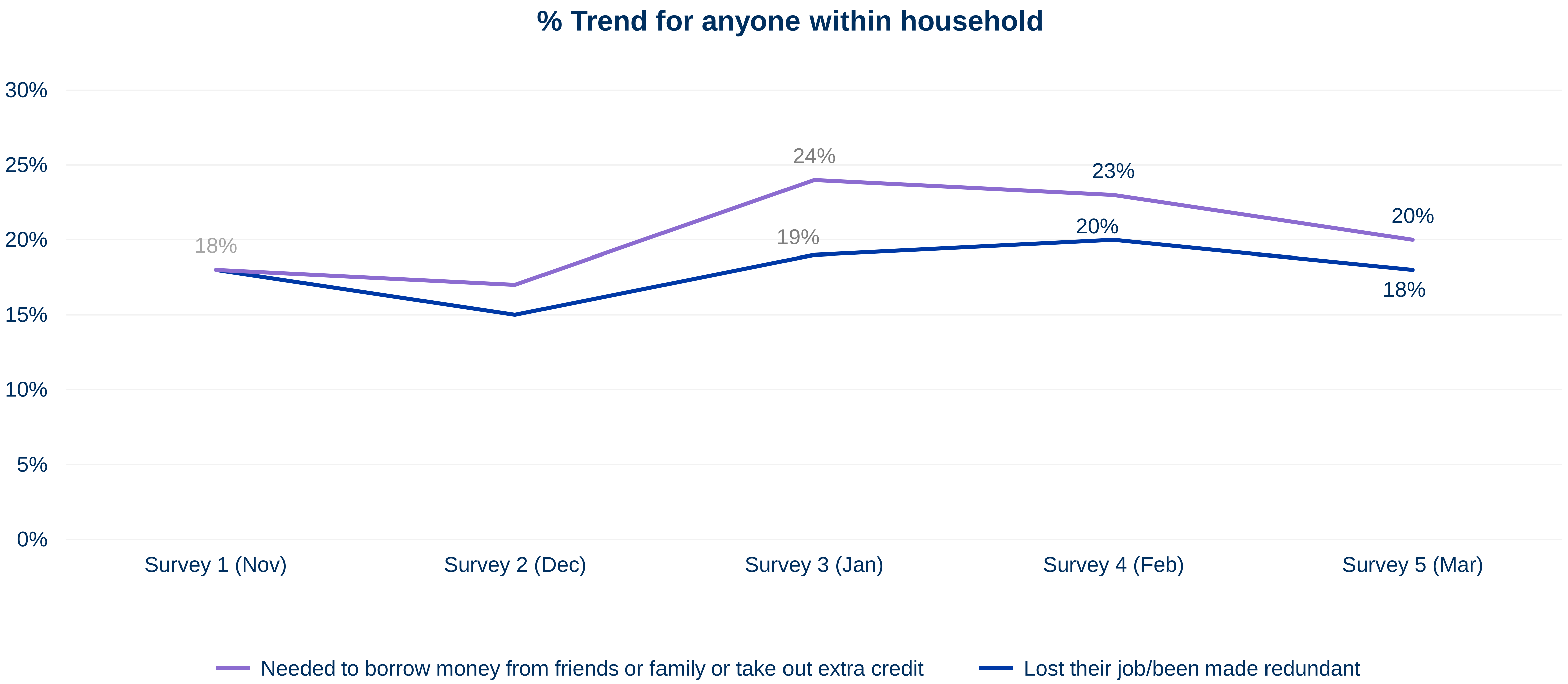
For further detail see "coronavirus impacts – self-isolation", page 38

Only 12% of those who self-isolated claimed financial support. As with previous surveys, perceived ineligibility is the most common reason given for not doing so.



For further detail see "coronavirus impacts – self-isolation", page 39

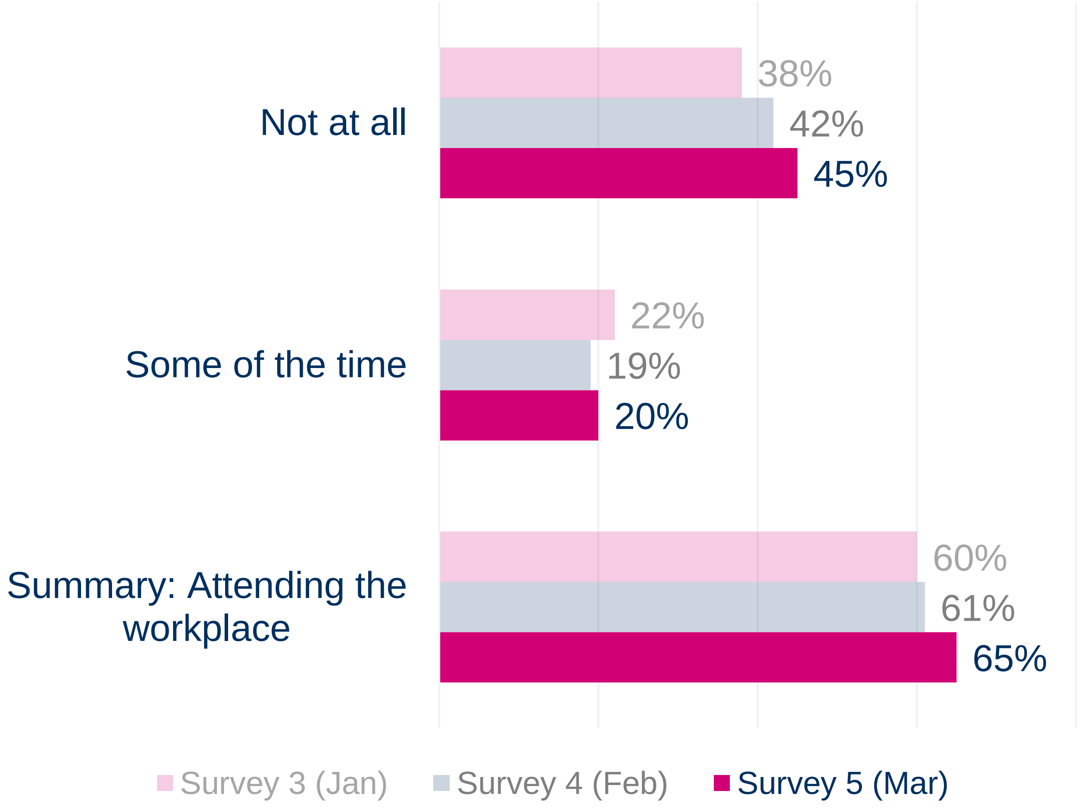
Around 1 in 5 have been financially impacted by the pandemic, either through losing their job or needing to borrow money. This is consistent with previous surveys.



For further detail see "coronavirus impacts – finance, page 41 and page 42

Despite people being advised to work from home during the national lockdown unless they cannot reasonably do so, two in three (65%) workers are still going into their workplace at least some of the time.

Currently, how often are you working from home….



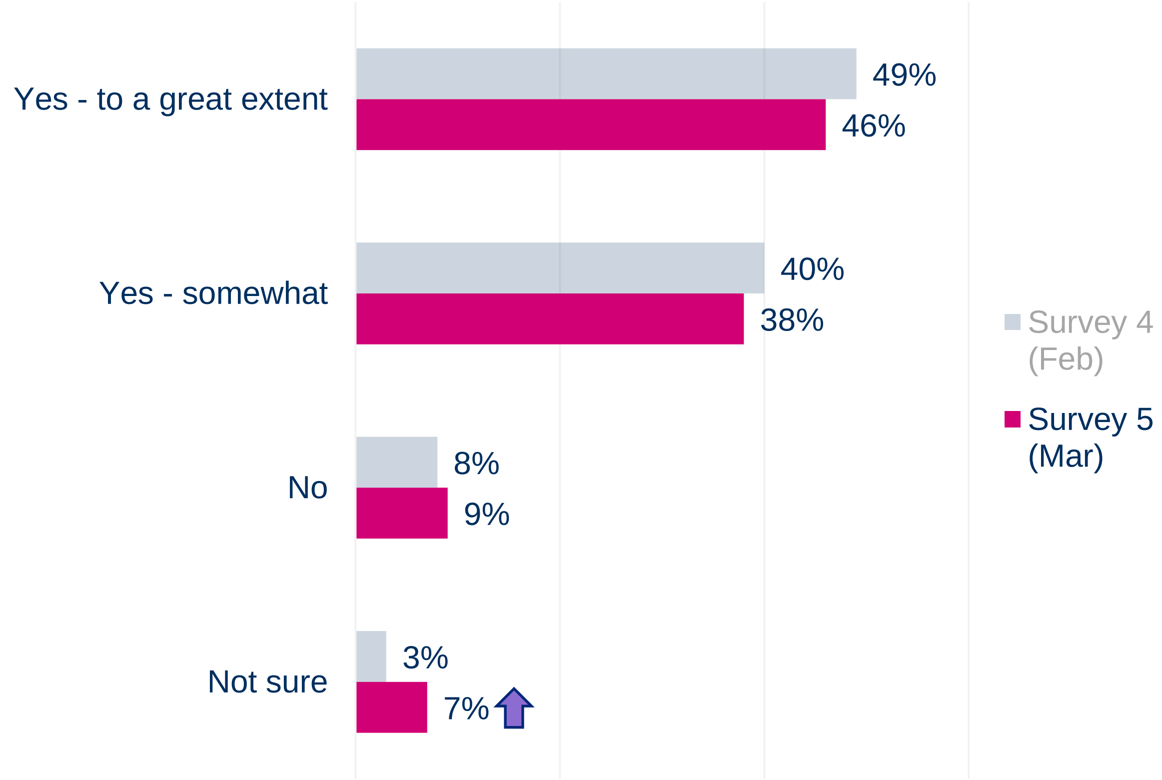
Significantly more likely to be going into their workplace (vs. 65% on average):

- Those living in Bolton (83%) or Rochdale (76%)
- Those working in: hospitality, arts, and recreation (81%), wholesale / retail / distribution / personal services (78%), and health and social work (75%)
- Part-time employees (77%)
- Aged 45-64 (72%)
- Educated to below degree level (70%)
- Women (69%; 60% men)

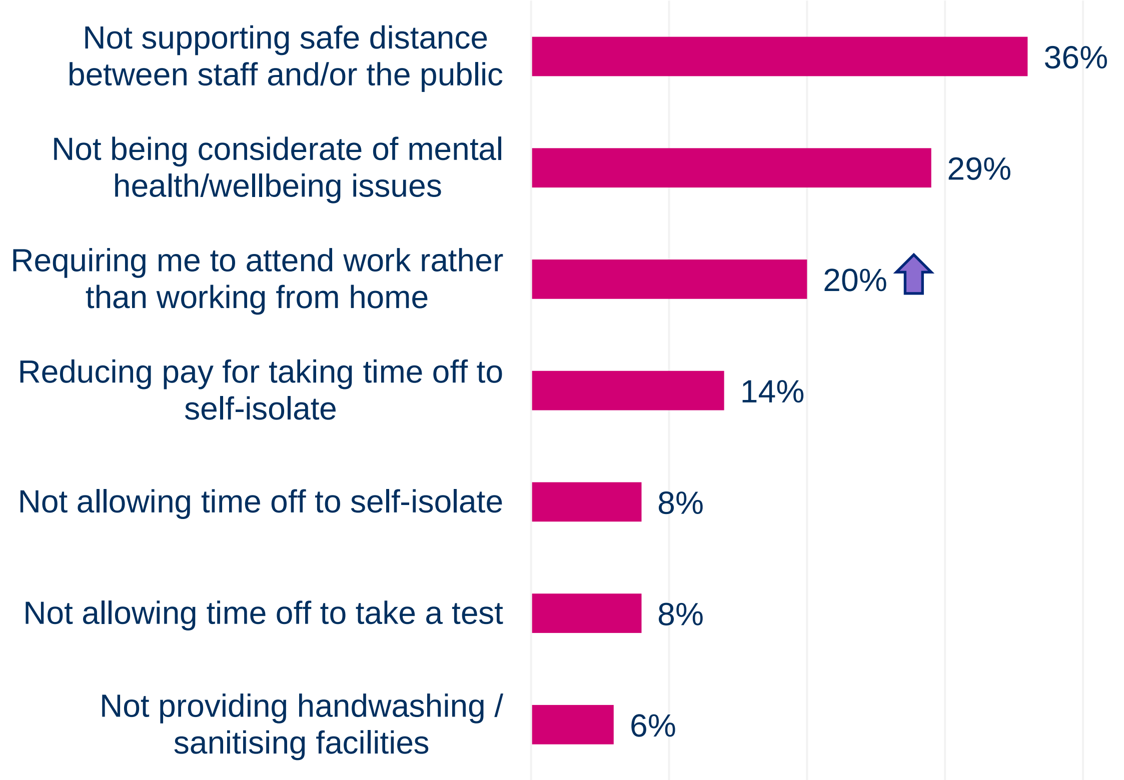
For further detail see "coronavirus impacts – employment", page 43

The number of people still going into work who feel their workplace is coronavirus-safe has remained relatively unchanged since February. Where unsafe, lack of distancing or being considerate of mental heath issues remain the most frequent concerns.

Is your employer offering a safe working environment?



Reasons why employers are not offering a safe working environment...

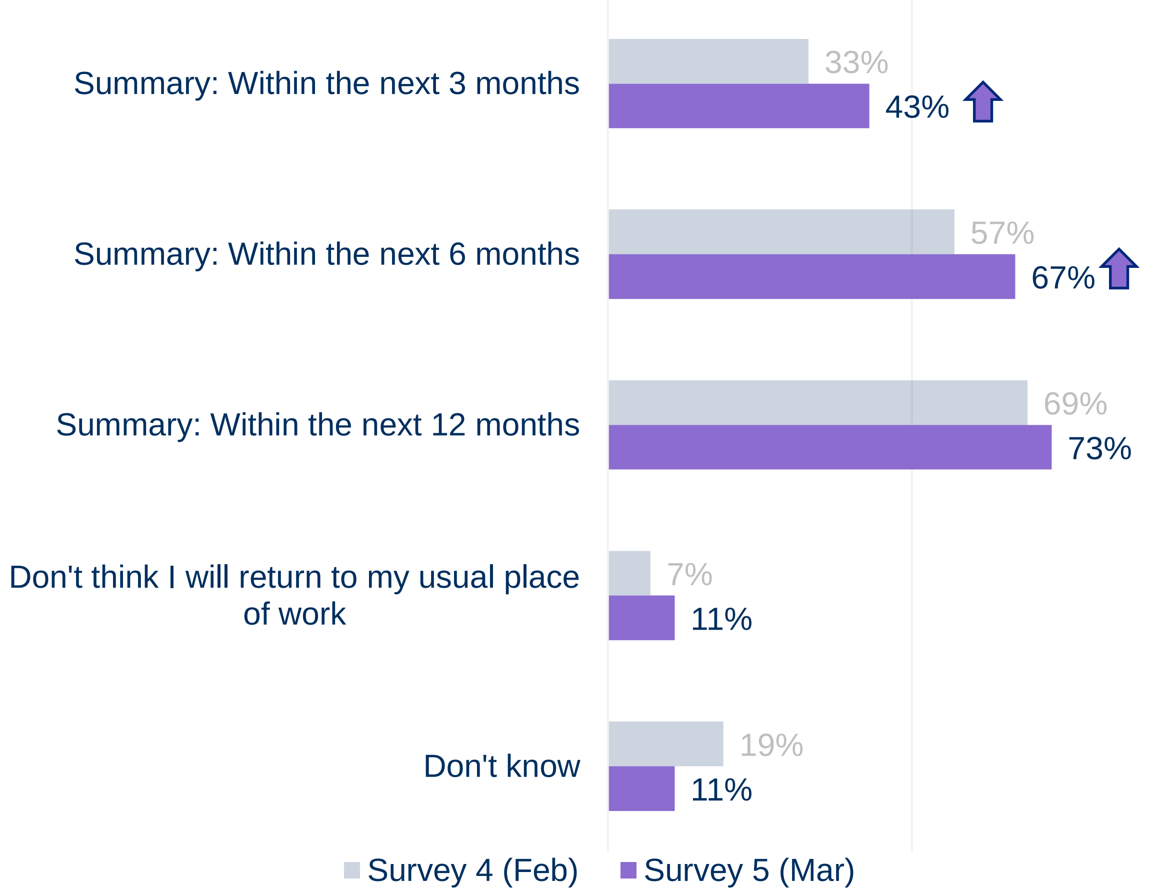


Significant increase compared with Survey 4 (February)

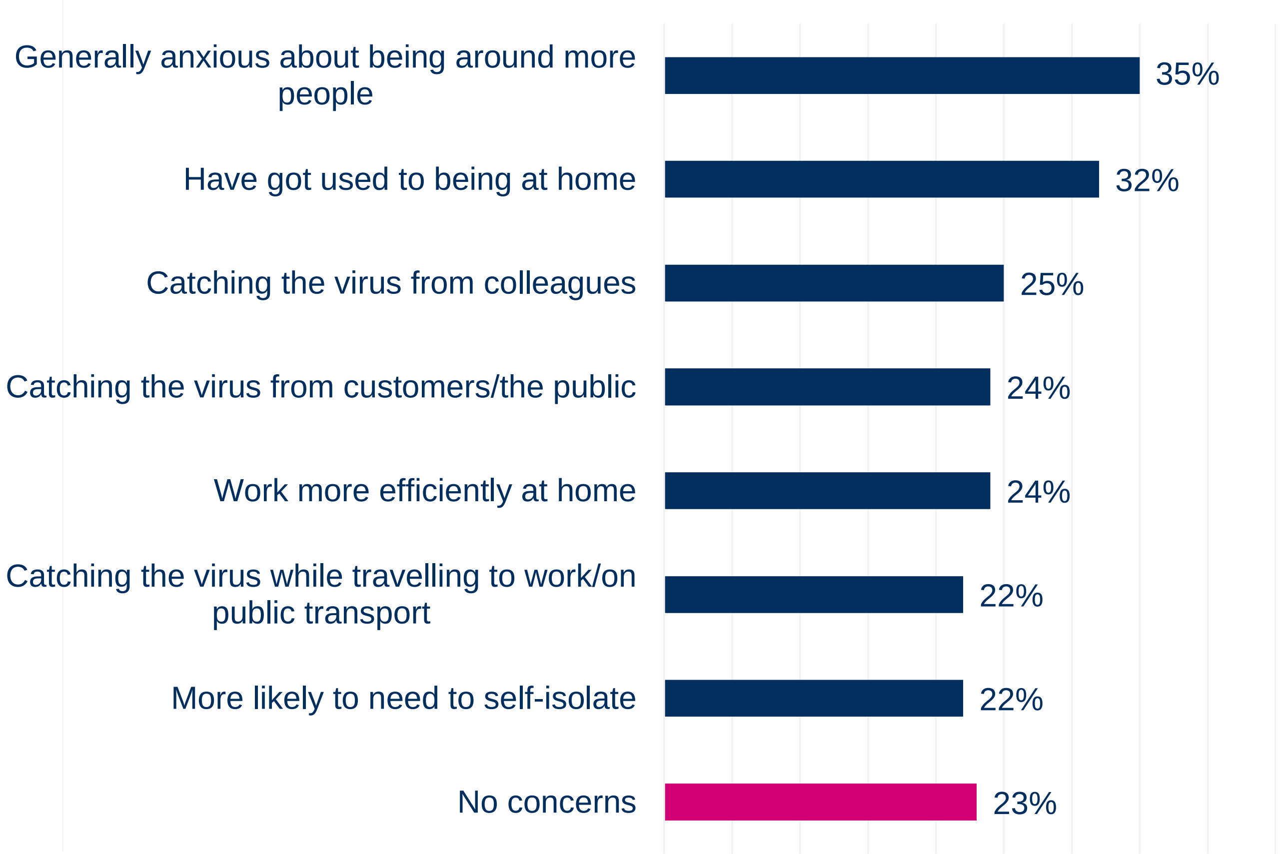
For further detail see "coronavirus impacts – employment", page 44

As lockdown restrictions begin to be lifted, there has been a significant increase in those expecting to return to their usual workplace within 3 months. 3 in 4 workers currently working from home have concerns about returning to their place of work.

Expectation of return to the workplace…



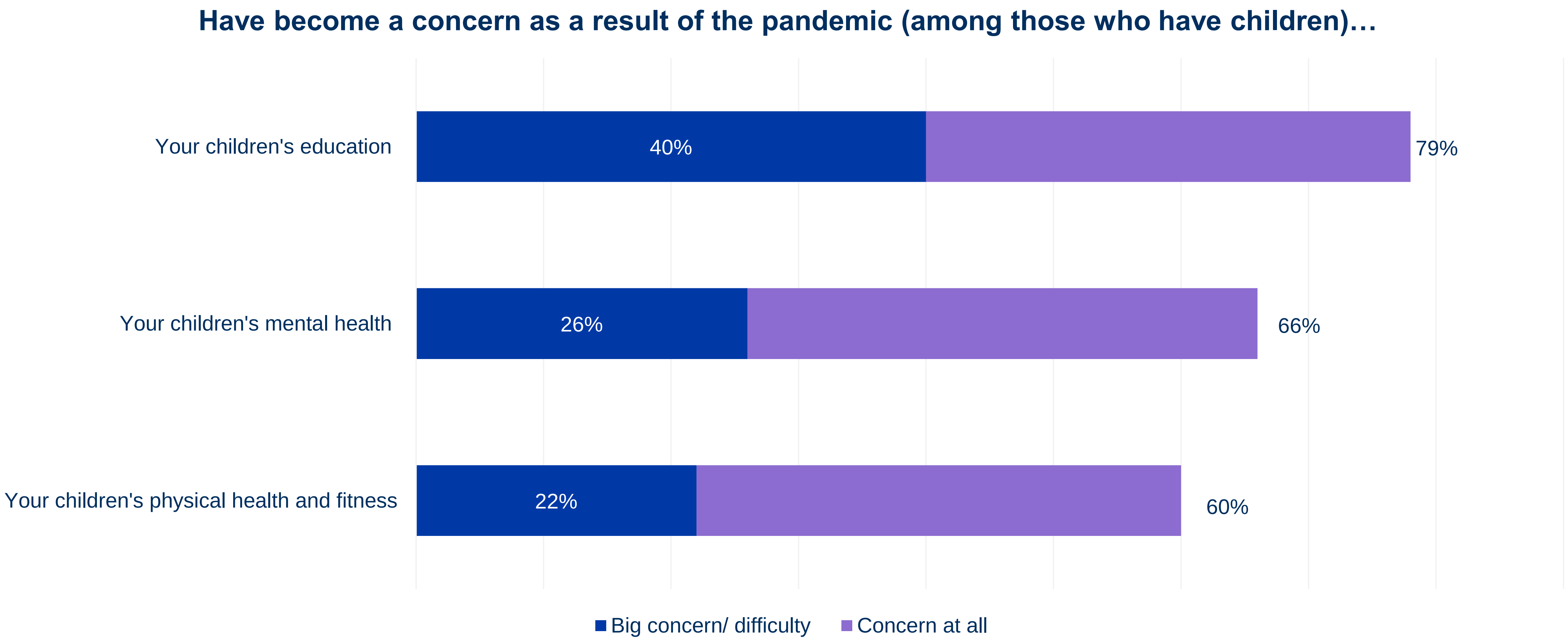
Concerns about returning to the workplace...



Significant increase compared with Survey 4 (February)

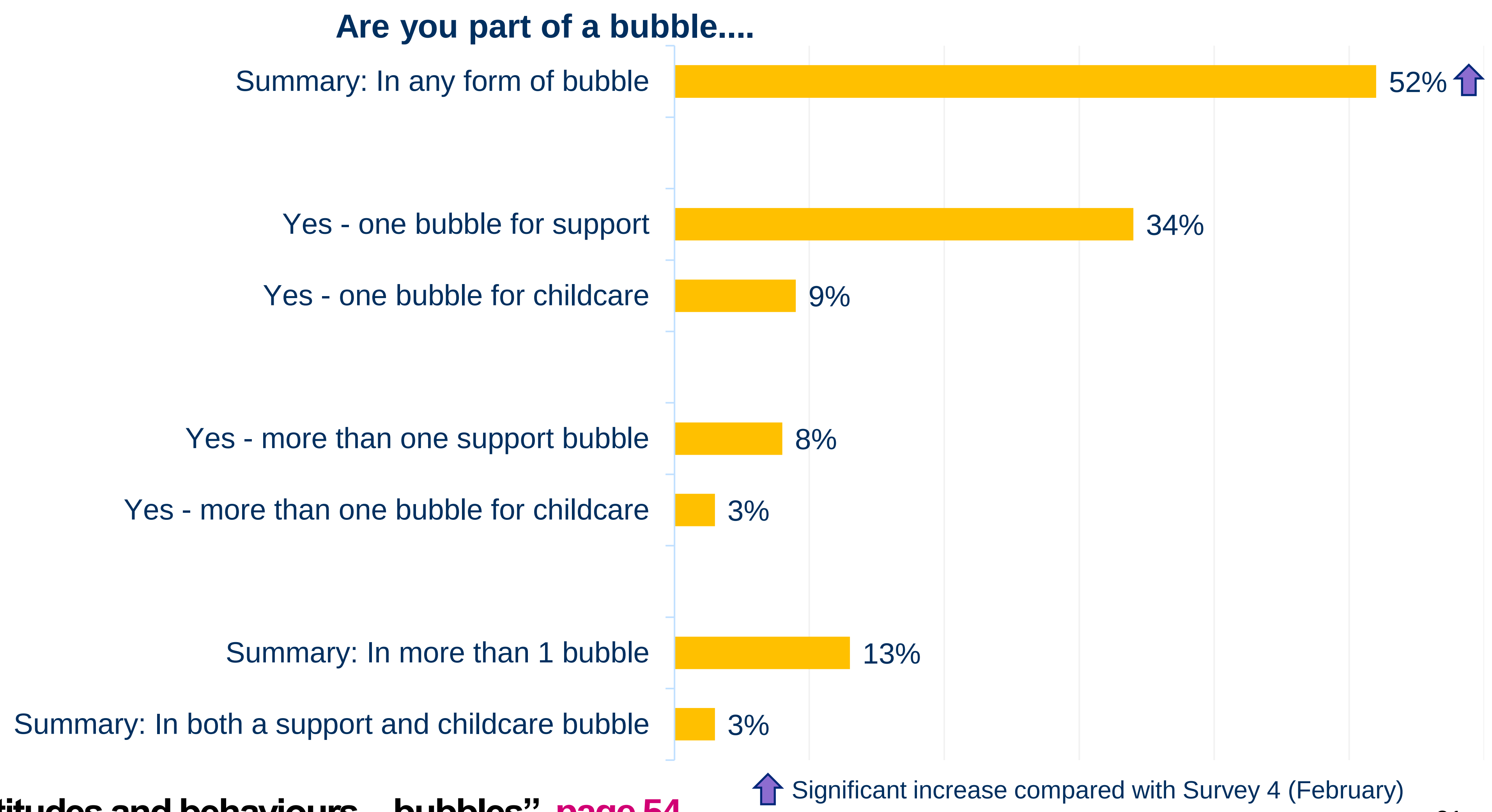
For further detail see "coronavirus impacts – employment", page 45

In terms of impacts on children, concern around education remains highest (79%). But while 2 in 5 (40%) say this is a big concern, this proportion is significantly lower than in December and January (both 50%).



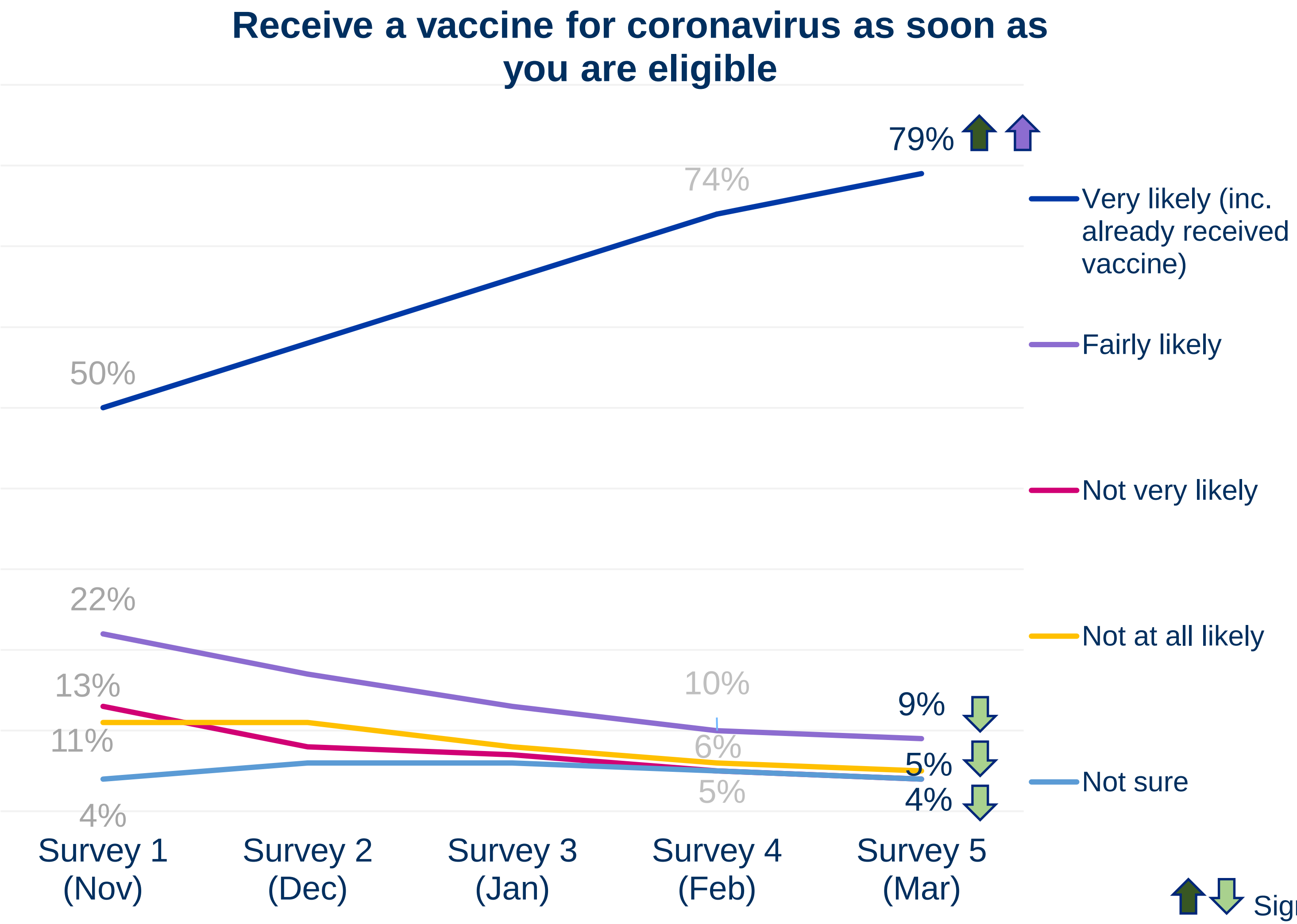
For further detail see "coronavirus impacts – children and education", page 46

An increased proportion of just over half (52%) of respondents are 'bubbled' with another household for childcare or support reasons. Although only 3% say they have both kinds of bubble, as permitted, 13% say they are in more than one bubble.



For further detail see "attitudes and behaviours – bubbles", page 54

Almost 8 in 10 (79%) say they have or would receive the vaccine – significantly higher than any previous survey. But hesitancy remains in some communities.



More respondents from the following groups are not very/not at all/not sure about getting the vaccine (compared to 12% average among all respondents):

- Muslim respondents (32%)
- Those who have English as an additional language (29%)
- Respondents from ethnic minorities (28%)
- Students (28%)
- Parents of children under 5 (27%)
- Those not yet eligible – aged 16-24 (23%) or 25-44 (17%)
- Those with mental ill health (19%)
- Those living in most deprived areas (17%)

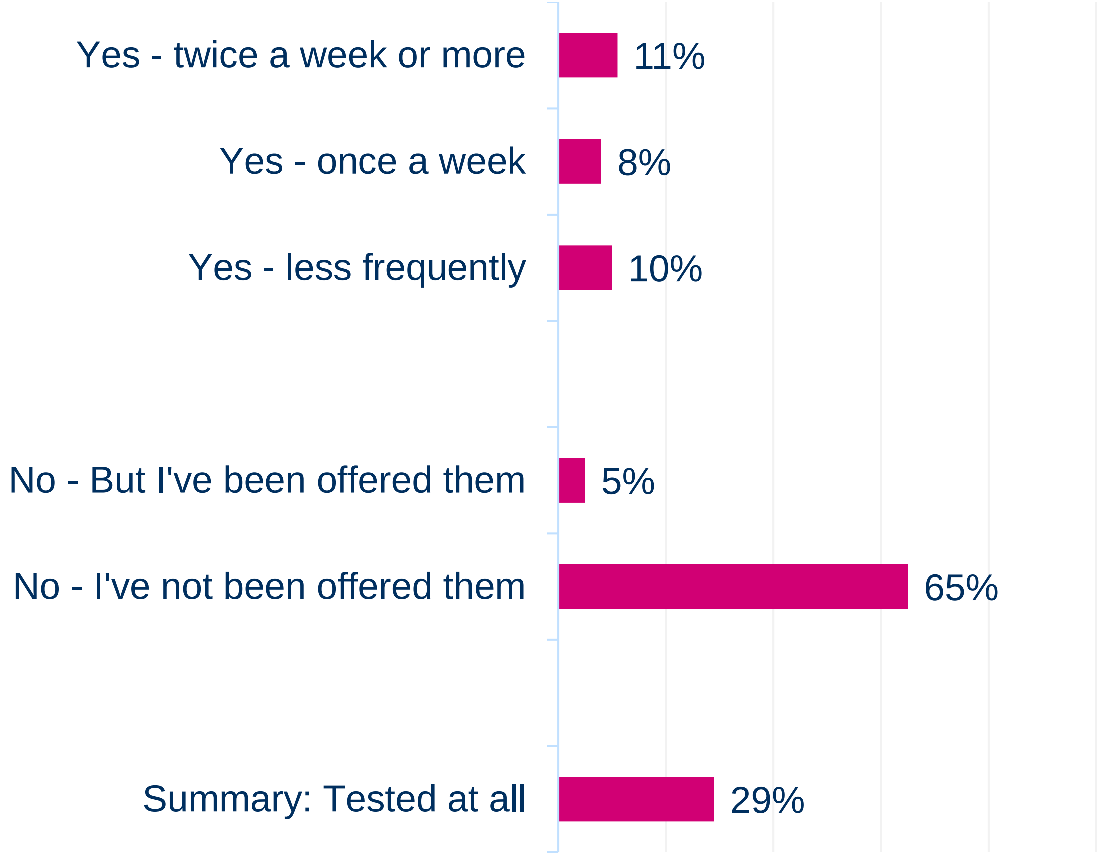
Significant increase/decrease compared with Survey 1 (November)

Significant increase compared with Survey 4 (February)

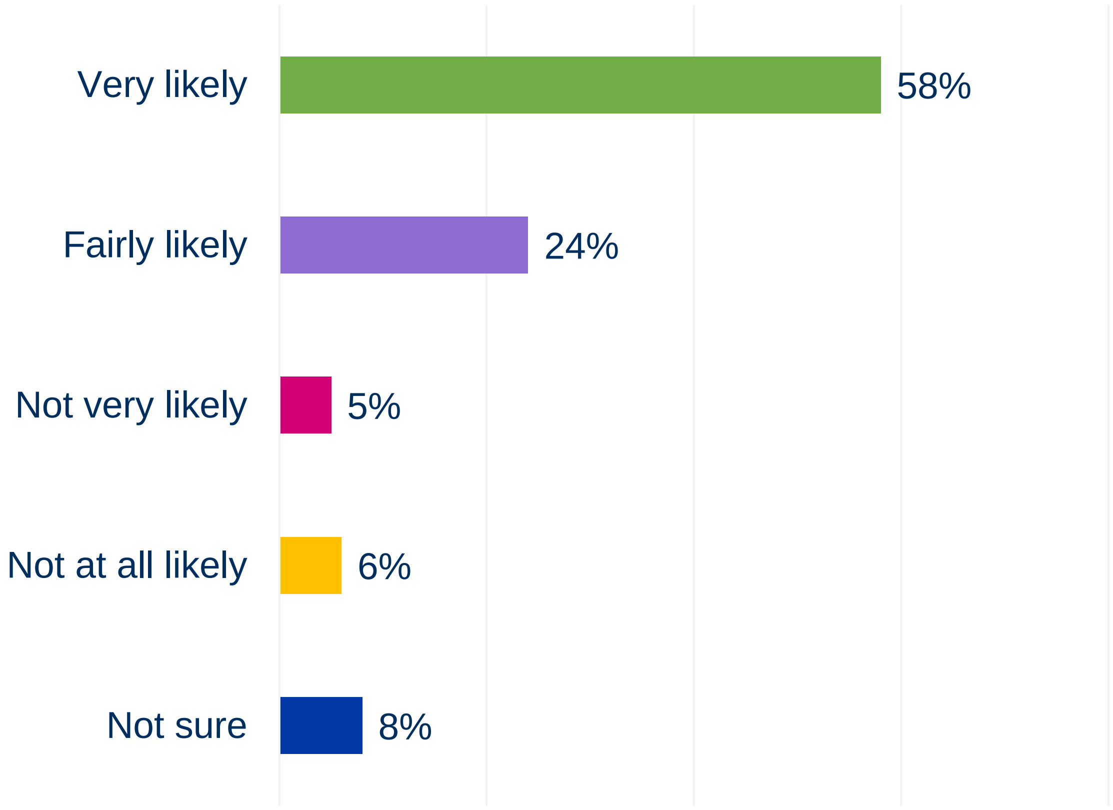
D5. How likely would you be to do each of the following? **Base below 50
Unweighted base: All respondents: Survey 1: 1015; Survey 2: 1007; Survey 3: 1010; Survey 4: 1003; Survey 5 (1008)
At time of fieldwork, vaccines were available to over 50s: care home residents and staff; frontline health and social care; clinically extremely vulnerable.

While almost 3 in 10 (29%) respondents are now taking asymptomatic tests, just 1 in 10 (11%) are doing so at the recommended twice-weekly frequency. Ahead of the universal roll-out of these tests to all adults, a high proportion of those not being offered them (82%) say they would be likely to take them.

Taking asymptomatic tests...



Likelihood to take tests amongst those not currently being offered….



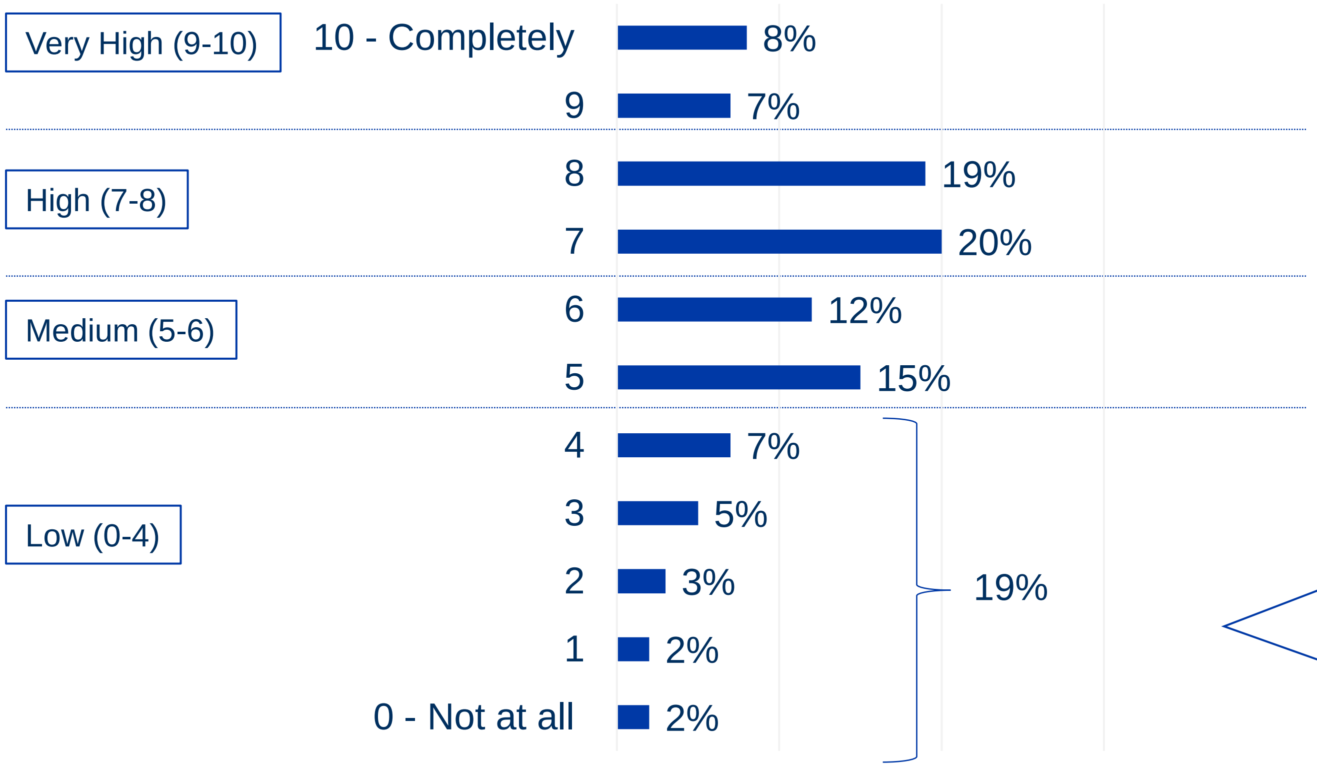
For further detail see "attitudes and behaviours – asymptomatic testing", page 59 and page 60

Feelings and concerns

Life satisfaction	page 25
Anxiety	page 26
Levels of worry	pages 27-28
Risks of coronavirus	page 29
Specific concerns	pages 30-32

The proportion of respondents with ‘low’ levels of life satisfaction has fallen significantly since February, but remains above the November baseline. While the average life satisfaction rating has increased, those out of work, with a disability or health condition, 16-24s and women continue to have lower levels than others.

How satisfied are you with your life nowadays?



	Survey 1 (Nov)	Survey 2 (Dec)	Survey 3 (Jan)	Survey 4 (Feb)	Survey 5 (Mar)
% with ‘low’ levels of satisfaction (0-4)	16%	19%	22%	24%	19%
Mean score	6.56	6.21	6.11	5.97	6.31

% ‘low’ life satisfaction is significantly higher among:

- Respondents out of work** (37%)
- Respondents with a disability (32%), and in particular mental ill health (47%)
- Where someone in household has lost their job due to COVID (29%)
- 16-24 year olds (27%)
- Respondents at high risk of COVID (27%)
- Females (22%; 16% of males)

Significant increase compared with Survey 1 (November)

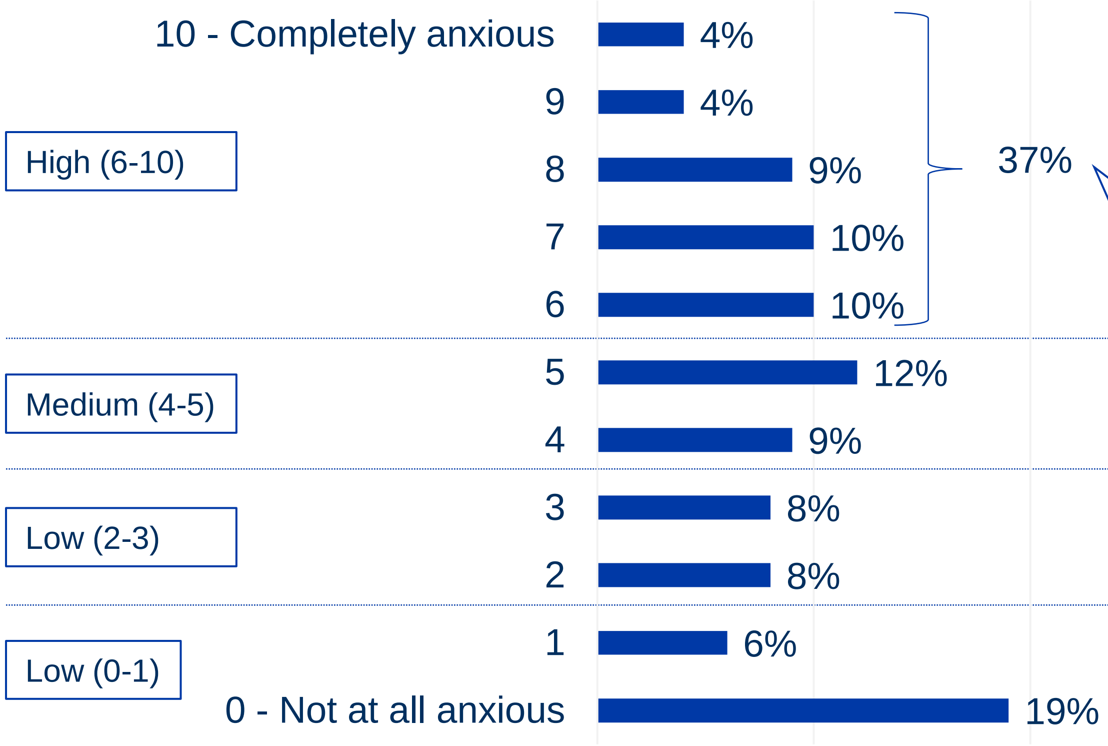
Significant increase/decrease compared with Survey 4 (February)

A1. Where 0 is “not at all” and 10 is “completely”…
Unweighted base: 1008 (All respondents from Survey 5) **Base below 50

The proportion of residents with high levels of anxiety has also fallen significantly since February. Fewer than 2 in 5 respondents now report ‘high’ levels of anxiety.

	Survey 1 (Nov)	Survey 2 (Dec)	Survey 3 (Jan)	Survey 4 (Feb)	Survey 5 (Mar)
% with ‘high’ levels of anxiety (6-10)	39%	39%	41%	42%	37%
Mean score	5.63	5.50	5.46	5.5	5.8

How anxious did you feel yesterday?



% with ‘high’ anxiety higher among:

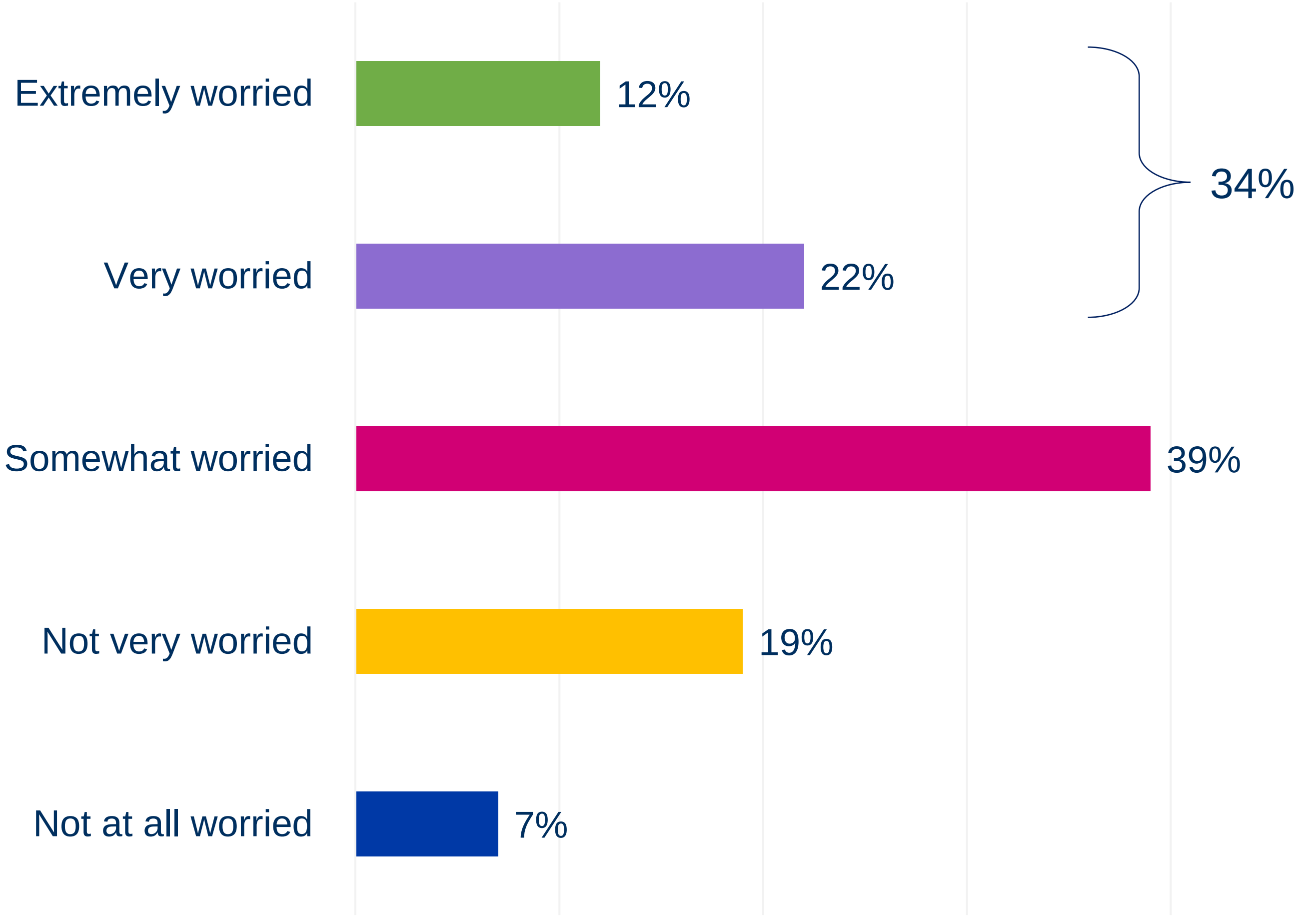
- Respondents not in work due to ill health** (67%)
- Those working in health and social care (54%)
- Respondents with a disability (53%) and in particular mental ill health (70%)
- Non-heterosexual (52%) and in particular bisexual** respondents (61%)
- Where someone in household has lost their job due to COVID (55%)
- Respondents that have served in the armed forces (52%)
- Carers (49%)
- Respondents at high risk of COVID (48%)
- Muslim respondents (47%)
- Parents of children under 5 (46%)
- Respondents that have been furloughed or are on reduced hours or pay (46%)
- 16-24 year olds (45%; compared to 26% among 65+ year olds)
- Women (42%; compared to 29% men)

⇩ Significant decrease compared with Survey 4 (February)

A1. Where 0 is “not at all” and 10 is “completely”…
Unweighted base: 1008 (All respondents from Survey 5) **Base below 50

Around 1 in 3 (34%) respondents are now extremely or very worried about coronavirus. The proportion most concerned increases to around half among those experiencing employment impacts, with a disability or health condition, looking after the home, Asian, Muslim and bisexual respondents, among others.

Overall, how worried are you about coronavirus….



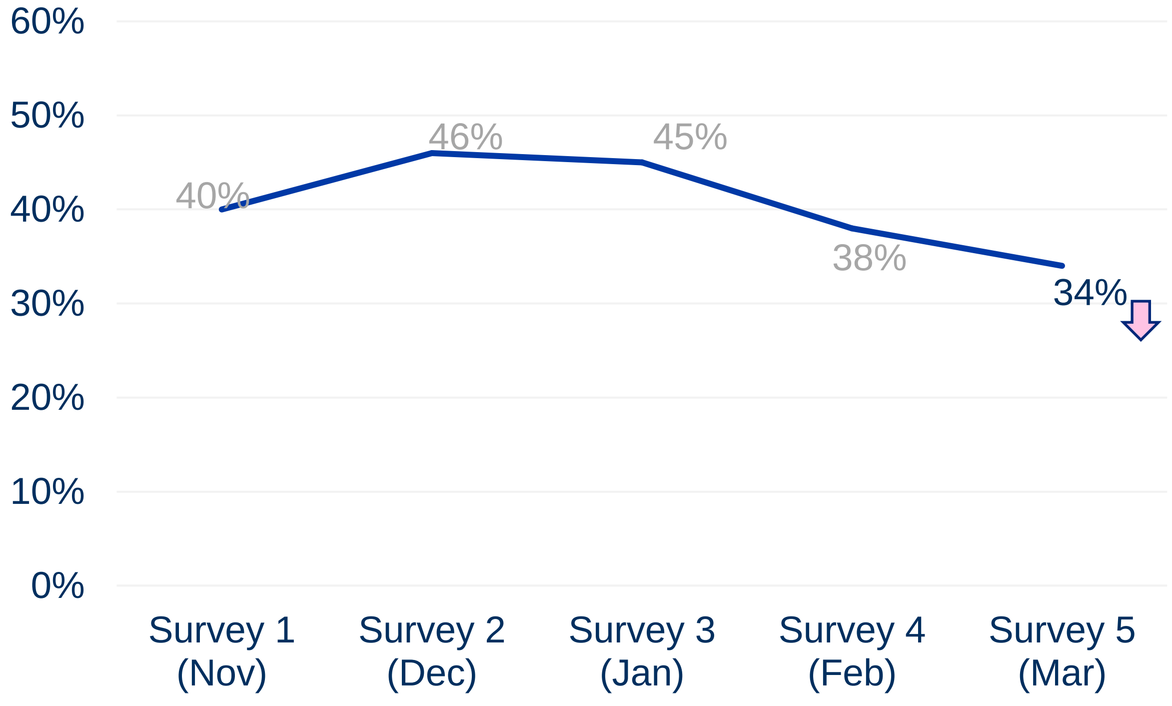
Respondents more likely to be extremely/very worried (vs. 34% on average):

- Respondents looking after the home (51%) or not at work due to ill health** (49%)
- Respondents working reduced hours (49%)
- Respondents with a mobility disability (48%)
- Respondents at high risk of coronavirus (48%) or where they have someone in the household who is (47%)
- Muslim respondents (47%)
- Respondents from ethnic minorities (44%) and in particular Asian respondents (52%)
- Non-heterosexual (44%) and in particular bisexual** respondents (53%)
- Respondents with children (39%) and in particular under 5 (44%), at primary school (46%) or college* (48%)
- Those living in the most deprived areas (41%)

B1. Overall, how worried are you about coronavirus?
Unweighted base: 1008 (All respondents from Survey 5) **Base below 50

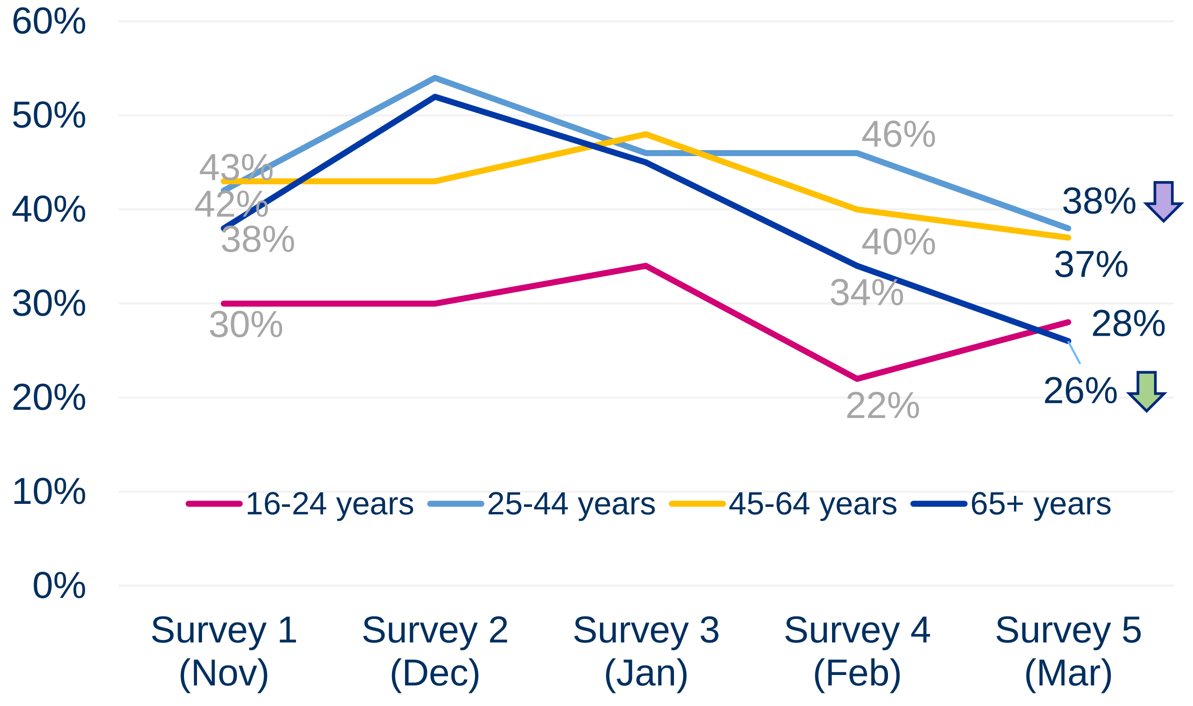
The proportion of respondents extremely or very worried about coronavirus (34%) is now lower than in all previous surveys. Most age groups have seen a further fall in worry, with a particular decrease in those aged 65+ (who will have been eligible for the vaccine), as well as 25-44 year olds.

% Extremely/very worried about coronavirus – overall



Significant decrease compared with all previous surveys

% Extremely/very worried about coronavirus –by age



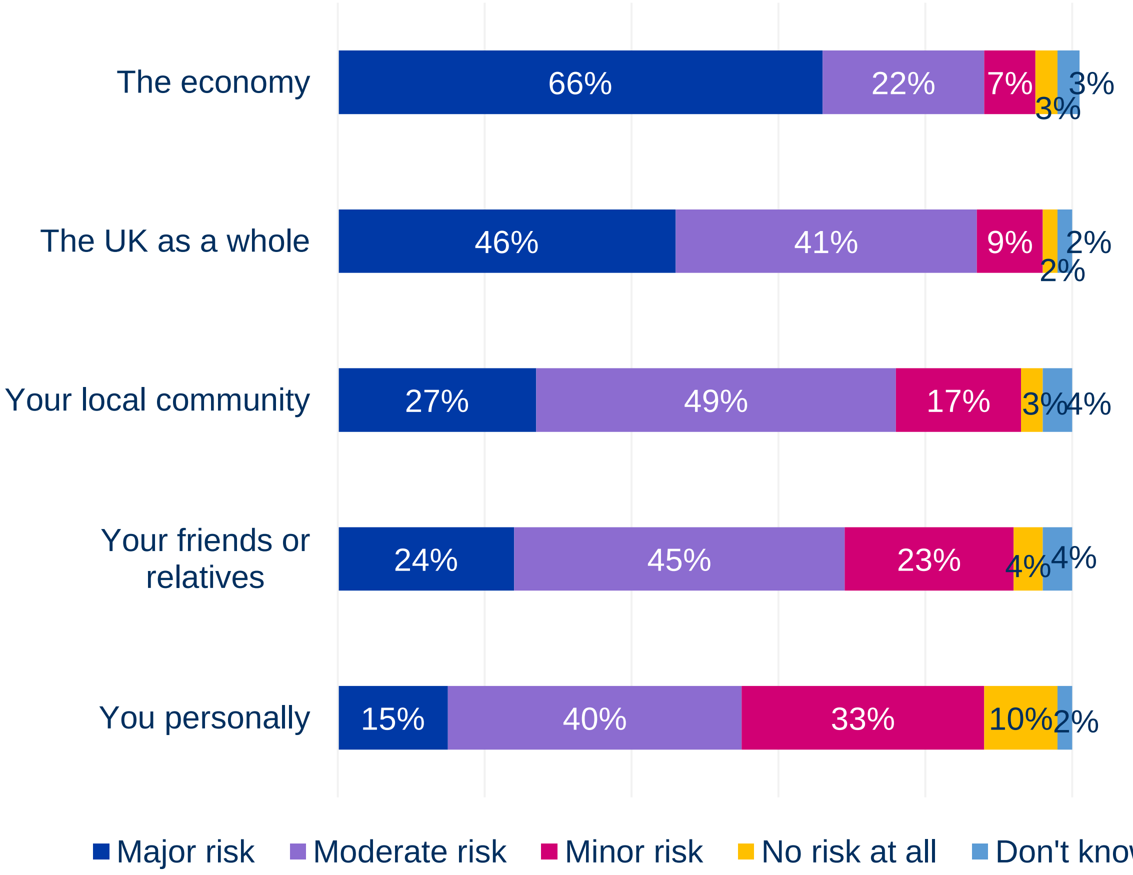
Significant decrease compared with Survey 1 (November)

Significant decrease compared with Survey 4 (February)

B1. Overall, how worried are you about coronavirus?
Unweighted base: All respondents: Survey 1: 1015; Survey 2: 1007; Survey 3: 1010; Survey 4: 1003; Survey 5: 1008.

As the vaccine roll out continues and national restrictions begin to be lifted, the proportion of respondents who see coronavirus as a 'major risk' in each issue has fallen to the lowest levels recorded in the survey. The economy continues to be the area where most people see major risks.

How much of a risk coronavirus is to…



% consider it a 'major risk' to…				
Survey 1 (Nov)	Survey 2 (Dec)	Survey 3 (Jan)	Survey 4 (Feb)	Survey 5 (Mar)
60%	73%	73%	72%	66%
55%	58%	62%	54%	46%
37%	32%	34%	32%	27%
33%	34%	34%	31%	24%
25%	21%	21%	23%	15%

More likely to say it's a 'major risk' to them personally (vs. 15% average)

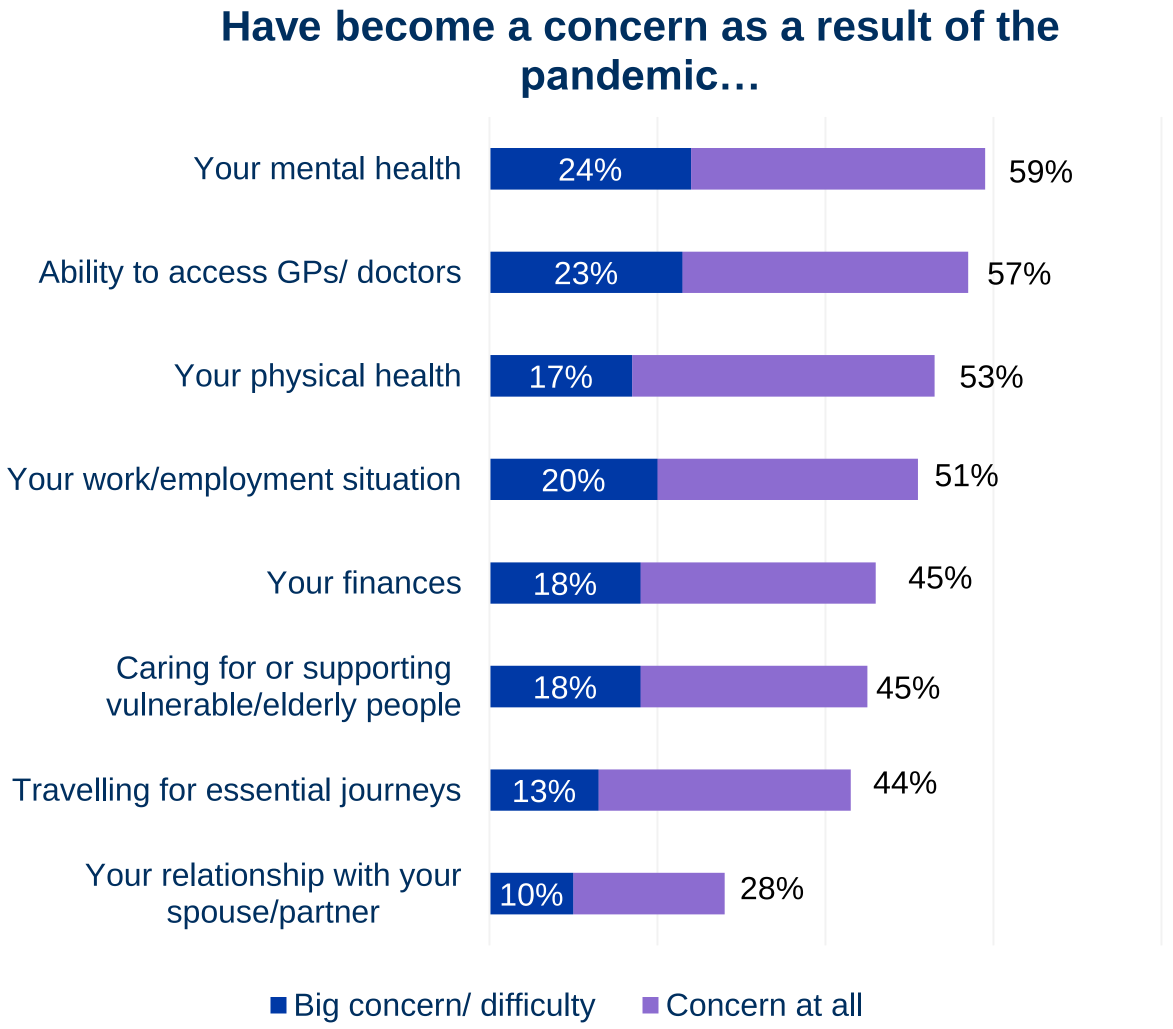
- Those at high risk of coronavirus (31%)
- Those looking after the home (29%) or not in work due to ill health** (31%)
- Respondents who have a disability (25%), in particular a mobility disability (32%)
- Have served in armed forces (24%)
- Respondents in Bury (22%)
- Carers (21%)
- Aged 65+ (20%)
- Those living in the most deprived areas (18%)

Significant decrease compared with Survey 1 (November)

Significant decrease compared with Survey 4 (Feb)

D1. How much of a risk do you think coronavirus is to ...?
Unweighted base: All respondents: Survey 1: 1015; Survey 2: 1007; Survey 3: 1010; Survey 4: 1003; Survey 5: 1008 **Base below 50

The proportions of respondents with specific concerns have fallen for all aspects asked about. Individual's mental health remains the issue of most frequent concern, and significantly above the November baseline.



% Concerned at all				
Survey 1 (Nov)	Survey 2 (Dec)	Survey 3 (Jan)	Survey 4 (Feb)	Survey 5 (Mar)
54%	64%	59%	62%	59% ⇧
N/A	66%	58%	60%	57%
57%	60%	58%	60%	53% ⇩
N/A	53%	58%	57%	51% ⇩
42%	52%	54%	52%	45% ⇩
N/A	50%	48%	50%	45% ⇩
47%	51%	47%	44%	44%
31%	32%	31%	31%	28%

⇧ Significant increase compared with Survey 1

⇩ Significant decrease compared with Survey 4

B4. Which if any of the following have become a concern or difficulty for you as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic?
Unweighted base: 1008 (All respondents from Survey 5)

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

Physical health

Greater Manchester Average: 53%

- Those not in work due to ill health/disability (80%)**
- Respondents with a disability (75%) and particularly a mental health illness (74%) or mobility disability (76%)
- Those working reduced hours (71%)
- Those who have had coronavirus confirmed by a test (70%)
- Where they personally are at high risk of coronavirus (70%)
- Non-heterosexual respondents (68%)
- Where they or someone in their household has lost their job due to COVID (66%)
- Respondents who have had to self-isolate (64%)
- Those working in wholesale/retail/distribution or personal services (61%)
- Carers (61%)
- Those living in the most deprived communities (60%)
- Aged 25-44 (58%)
- Qualified to degree level or above (58%)
- Women (56% cf. 49% Men)

Mental health

Greater Manchester Average: 59%

- Those not in work due to ill health/disability (83%)**
- Students (81%)
- Non-heterosexual respondents (79%)
- Aged 16-24 (78%) or 25-44 (71%)
- Respondents who have had coronavirus, whether confirmed by a test (76%) or not (68%), and respondents that have had to self-isolate (71%)
- Where a member of their household has lost their job due to coronavirus (76%)
- Respondents from ethnic minorities (70%), and in particular respondents from Black** (80%) and Mixed** (80%) backgrounds
- Respondents in Oldham (69%)
- Qualified to degree level or above (67%)
- Respondents with a disability (67%), in particular those with a mental health illness (89%)
- Women (67%; 51% men)
- In employment (64%), particularly those working in health and social work (73%), those who are working reduced hours (78%), or working from some of the time (73%)
- Those living in the most deprived areas (64%)
- Have children at all (63%), in particular those with children under 5 (70%), or at college** (75%)

B4. Which if any of the following have become a concern or difficulty for you as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic?
Unweighted base: 1008 (All respondents in Survey 5) **Base below 50

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

Work/employment

Greater Manchester Average: 51%

- Respondents who are furloughed (76%), working reduced hours (79%) or on reduced pay (82%)**
- Where a member of their household has lost their job due to coronavirus (72%)
- Those who have served in the armed forces (72%)
- Those working in hospitality/arts/recreation (70%), wholesale/retail/distribution/personal services (62%) or the non-public sector more generally (55%)
- Respondents out of work (70%)**
- Self-employed respondents (69%)**
- Respondents from Black backgrounds** (69%)
- Where English is not their first language (63%)
- Muslim respondents (62%)
- Those living in Manchester (61%)
- Those who have had to self-isolate (60%)
- Those who have had coronavirus, whether confirmed by test (60%) or not (66%)
- Respondents at high risk of COVID (59%)
- Aged 16-24 (58%) and 25-44 (56%)

Finances

Greater Manchester Average: 45%

- Where a member of their household has lost their job due to coronavirus (75%)
- Muslim respondents (69%)
- Respondents from ethnic minorities (68%), particularly Asian (68%) and Black** (65%) respondents
- Respondents working in hospitality/arts/recreation (68%), wholesale/retail/distribution/personal services (65%), or the non-public sector more generally (54%). Those who are furloughed (76%), working reduced hours (75%) or on reduced pay (75%)**
- Respondents who have had coronavirus, whether confirmed by test (67%) or not (56%), and those who have had to self-isolate (59%)
- Respondents with mental health illness (67%)
- Non-heterosexual respondents (65%), particularly those who are bisexual (73%)**
- Those who have served in the armed forces (64%)
- Aged 16-24 (63%) or 25-44 (55%)
- Where English is not their first language (60%)
- Have children at all (54%), in particular those with children under 5 (67%), at primary school (56%) or college (71%)
- Respondents at high risk of COVID (53%)
- Employed respondents (53%) and those out of work (61%)
- Those living in the most deprived communities (51%)
- Qualified to degree level or above (51%)

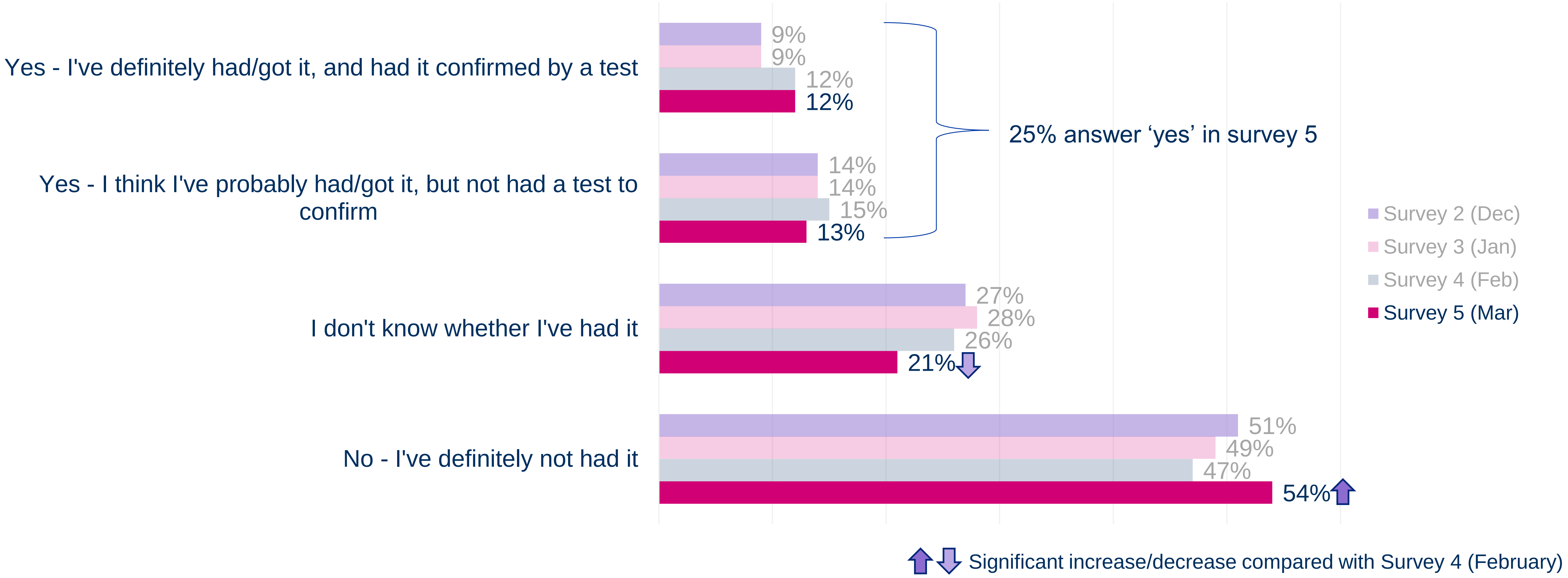
B4. Which if any of the following have become a concern or difficulty for you as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic?
Unweighted base: 1008 (All respondents in Survey 5) **Base below 50

Coronavirus impacts

Experience of coronavirus	pages 34-36
Self-isolation	pages 37-39
Indirect health impacts	page 40
Finance and employment	pages 41-45
Children and education	pages 46-47

The proportion of respondents who have had coronavirus has stabilised (25%). Over half of those who say they have had coronavirus (52%) have not had this confirmed by a test – although this proportion is falling slightly month on month.

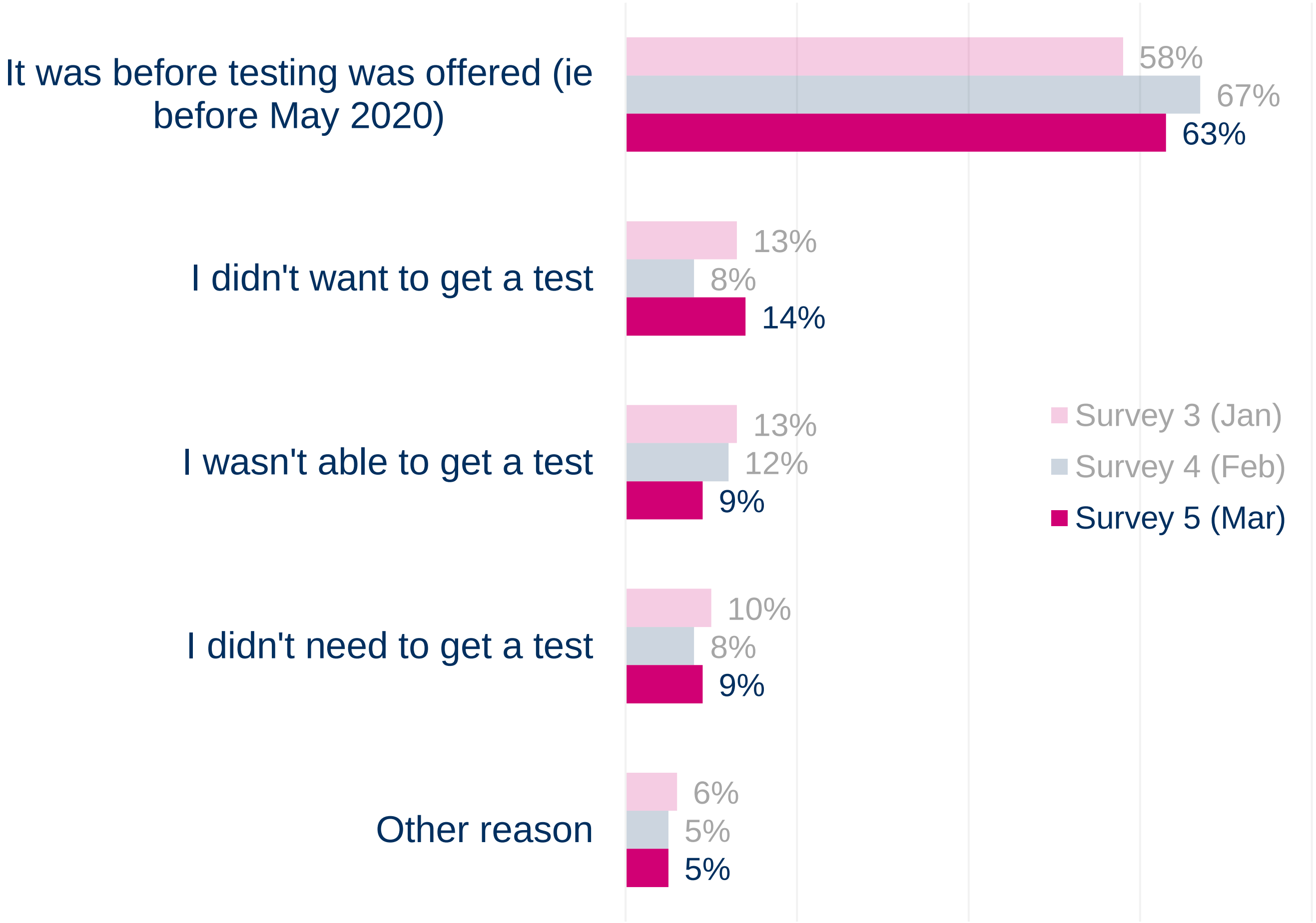
Do you know or think you have had coronavirus?



B24. Do you know, or think, you have had coronavirus?
All respondents: Survey 2: 1007; Survey 3: 1010; Survey 4: 1003; Survey 5: 1008
N.B. Comparisons with survey 1 are not possible for this indicator due to the questions being asked in a different way

Most of those who believe they have had coronavirus but not had a test to confirm say this is because they believe they had it before testing was offered. However, the proportion saying they did not want a test has increased since February (to 1 in 7 14%), while almost 1 in 10 (9%) say they were not able to get a test.

Reasons for not getting a test...



Think they've had coronavirus but not had it confirmed by a test… significantly higher among:

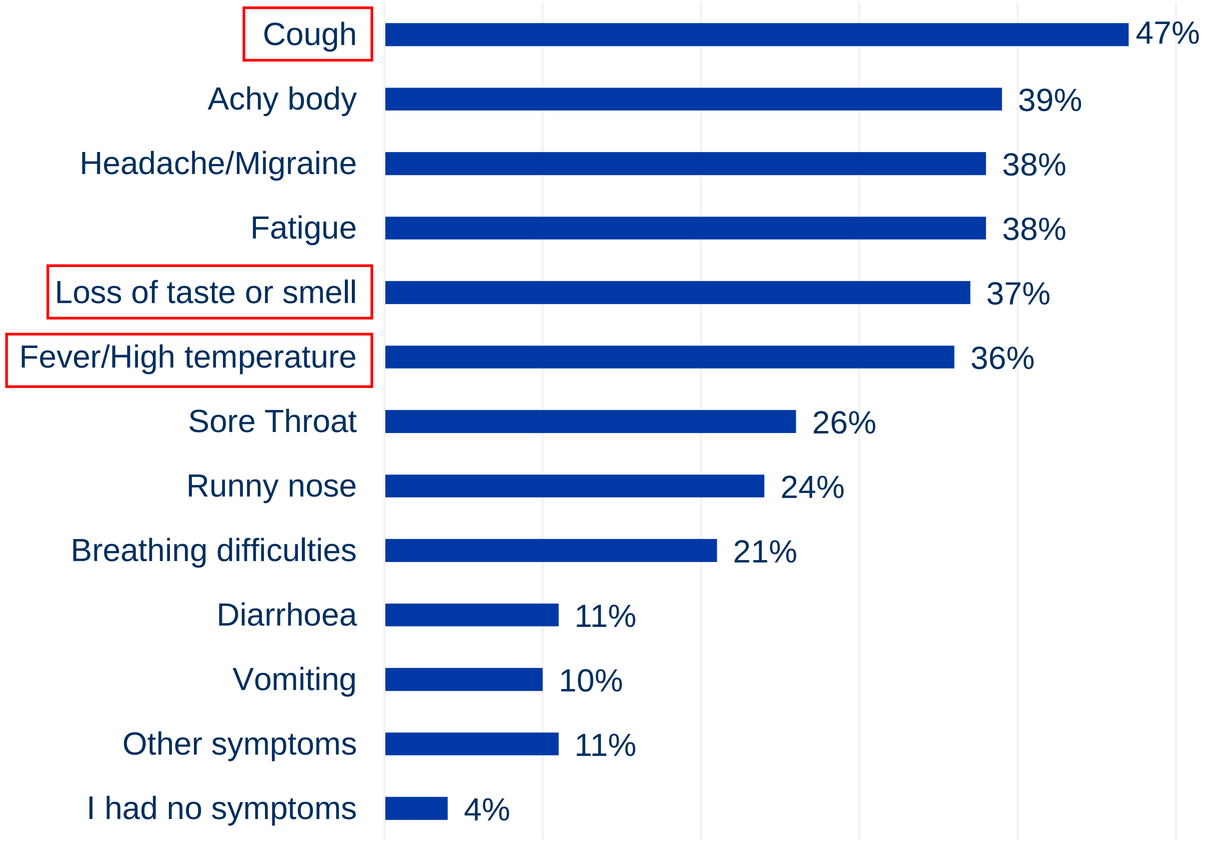
GM Average: 13%

- Respondents with children under 5 years who are not in early years (26%)**
- Students (26%)
- Have served in the armed forces (26%)
- 16-24 year olds (24%)
- Respondents who speak English as an additional language (23%)
- Muslim respondents (23%)
- Have a disability (21%) and in particular mental ill health (29%)
- Respondents in Tameside (21%)
- Not heterosexual (20%)

B24. Do you know, or think, you have had coronavirus? All respondents: 1003
B24a. Why did you not get a test to confirm whether you had coronavirus?
Unweighted base: 136 in Survey 5 (Those who think have had coronavirus, but did not get a test) **Low base under 50

While cough is the most common symptom among those who say they have had coronavirus, a wide range of others beyond the three ‘main’ symptoms were frequently reported. But just 4% of those who say they’ve had coronavirus reported no symptoms – well below the 1 in 3 figure often quoted nationally.

Symptoms reported by those who’ve had coronvirus...



Symptoms according to whether they had a test to confirm coronavirus		
	Had coronavirus **confirmed by test**	Think they’ve had coronavirus but **not confirmed by test**
Loss of taste or smell	48% ↑	27% ↓
Achy body	42%	36%
Headache/migraine	40%	36%
Cough	39% ↓	54% ↑
Fever/High temperature	35%	37%
Fatigue	34%	41%
Diarrhoea	16% ↑	7% ↓

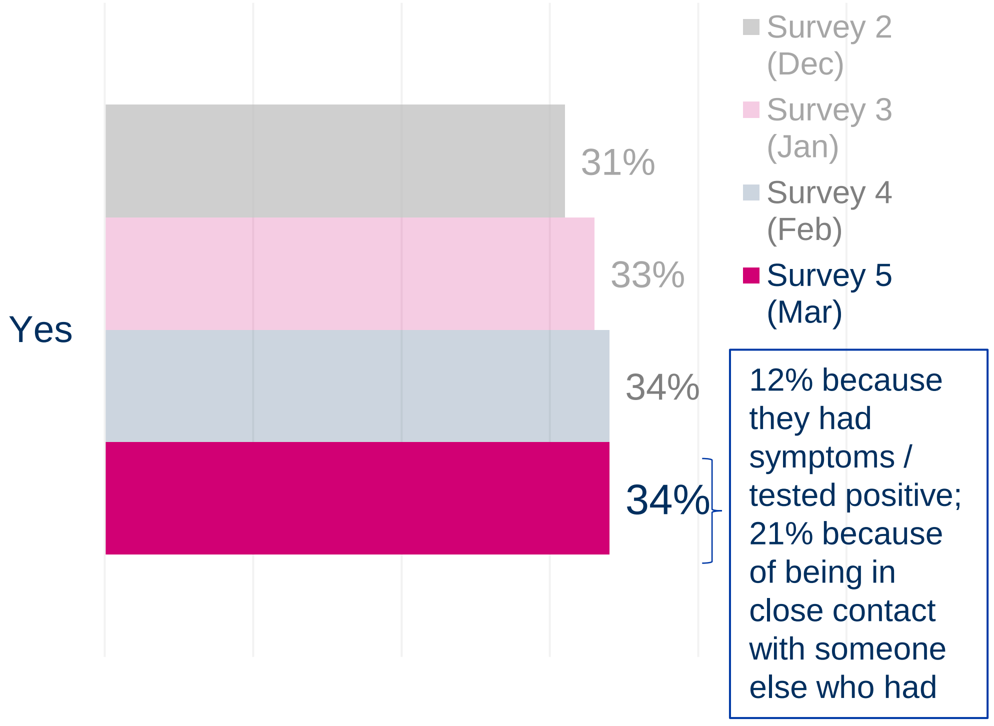
↑↓ Significantly higher/lower than GM average

‘Main’ coronavirus symptoms appear with red box

B40. What symptoms did you have?
Unweighted base: 254 in Survey 5 (Those who think have had coronavirus, whether confirmed by test or not)

1 in 3 (34%) say they have needed to self-isolate at some point, consistent with previous surveys. While nearly all (94%) of those who tested positive for coronavirus knew they needed to self isolate, the rate continues to be far lower (56%) among those who say they've had coronavirus but not 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 4 (Feb): Whether needed to self-isolate	Yes	No
All respondents	34%	66%
Had coronavirus **confirmed by test**	94%	6%
Think they've had coronavirus but **not confirmed by test**	56%	44%

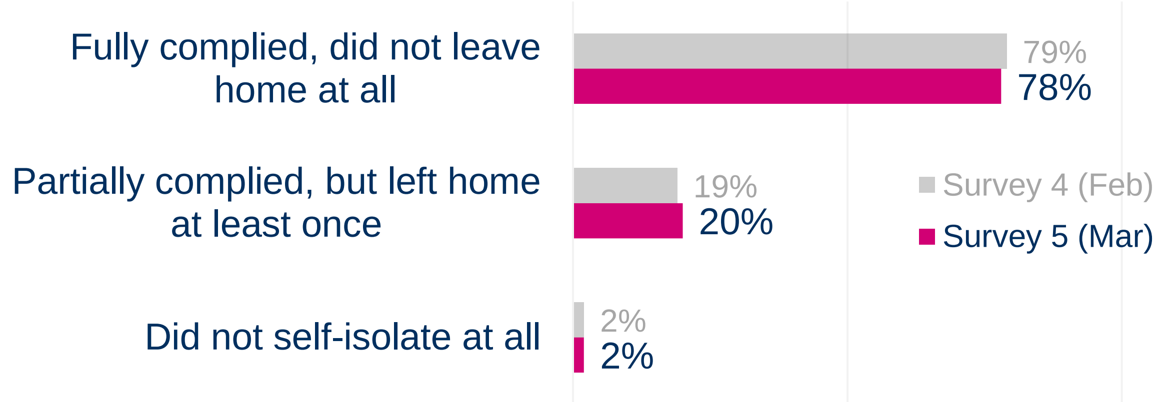
The proportion that have needed to self-isolate increases to at least half among:

- Those who have served in the armed forces (62%)
- Those working in health and social work (59%) or the public sector generally (46%)
- Where someone in their household has lost their job due to COVID (56%)
- Muslim respondents (53%)
- Aged 16-24 (52%)
- Are currently furloughed (51%) working reduced hours (54%) or on reduced pay (49%)
- Respondents who speak English as an additional language (49%)
- Respondents with children under 5 years (49%) of primary school age (47%) or at college (54%)
- Students (49%)
- Respondents from ethnic minorities (49%), particularly Asian (54%) and Mixed** (52%) respondents
- Non-heterosexual (48%) and in particular bisexual respondents** (53%)
- Respondents with mental ill health (48%)

B25. Have you needed to self-isolate due to symptoms, a positive test, or being a close contact of someone with coronavirus?
Unweighted base: 1008 (All respondents); **Low base under 50

As in February, around 1 in 5 (22%) who needed to do so did not fully comply with self-isolation. Adherence is significantly higher among those with symptoms or a positive test than for those told to self-isolate after coming into contact with someone with the virus. The proportion breaking self-isolation for work or financial reasons has almost doubled since February (to 1 in 5, 19%)

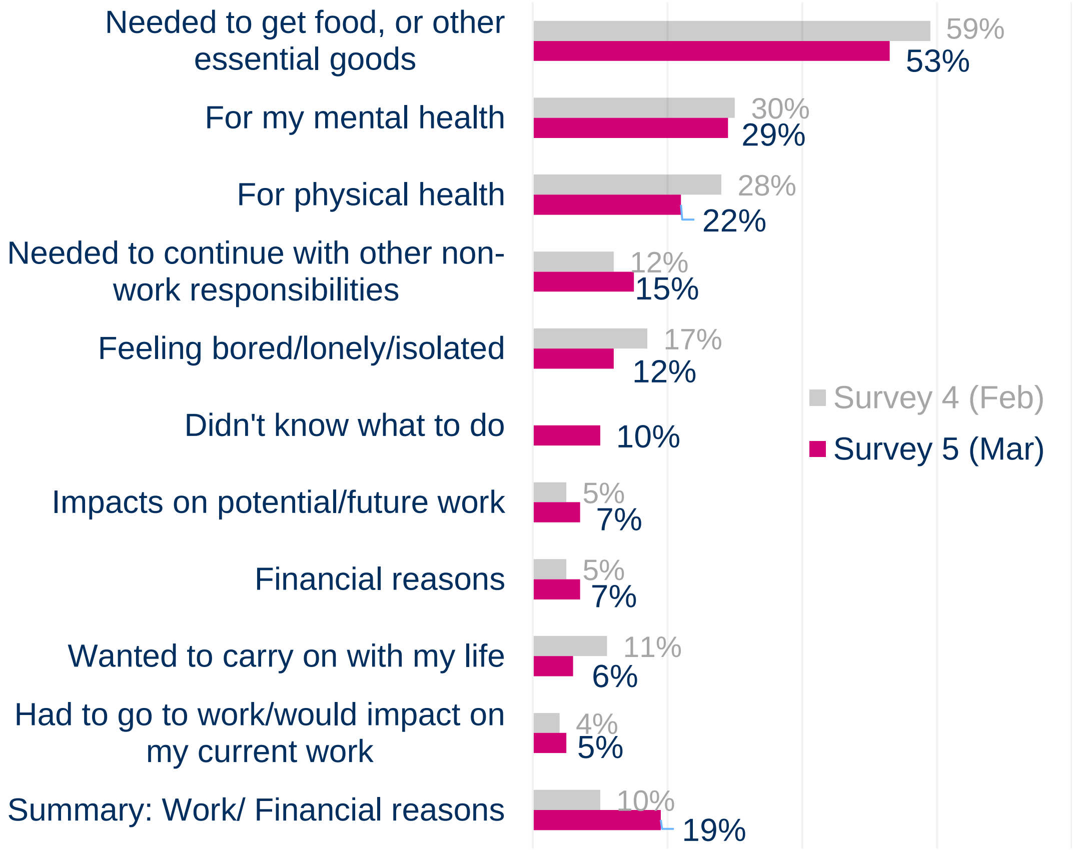
Compliance with self-isolation…



Those who are significantly less likely to have fully complied with the self-isolation instructions (vs. 78% on average):

- Those who say their reason for self isolation was due to coming into close contact with someone else who had symptoms/had tested positive (74%), rather than them personally having symptoms/testing positive (82%)
- Those who have had coronavirus but not had it confirmed by a test (65%)
- Respondents currently furloughed** (65%), or working reduced hours (68%)
- Those who have served in the armed forces (61%)**

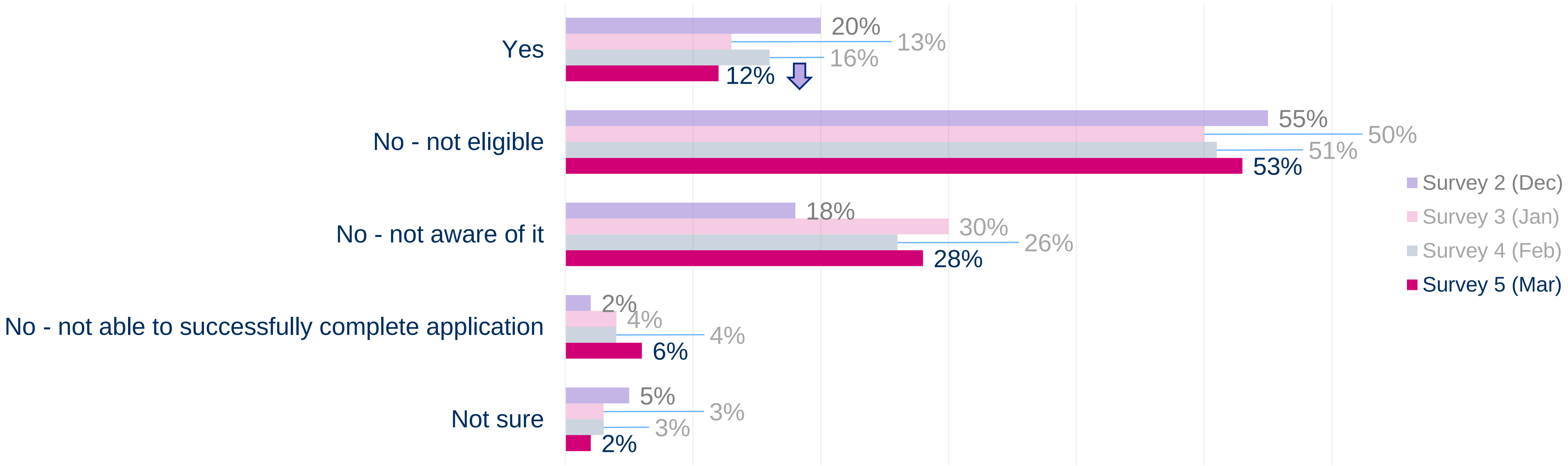
Reasons for non-compliance...



B25a. Which of the following best describes what you did in your most recent period of self-isolation?
B25b. Why did you not fully comply/self-isolate?
Unweighted base: 342 (where needed to self-isolate); 72 (Where did not self-isolate) in survey 5 **Low base under 50

12% of respondents who have had to self-isolate have successfully claimed the Test and Trace payment financial support, which is lower than the proportion in previous surveys. More than half of those self-isolating (53%) believe they were not eligible, while over 1 in 4 (28%) were not aware of the support.

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



Claims remain significantly higher amongst those employed full-time (17%) when compared to the total population. They increase to around 1 in 3 among those currently furloughed (35%) or who have served in the armed forces (37%).

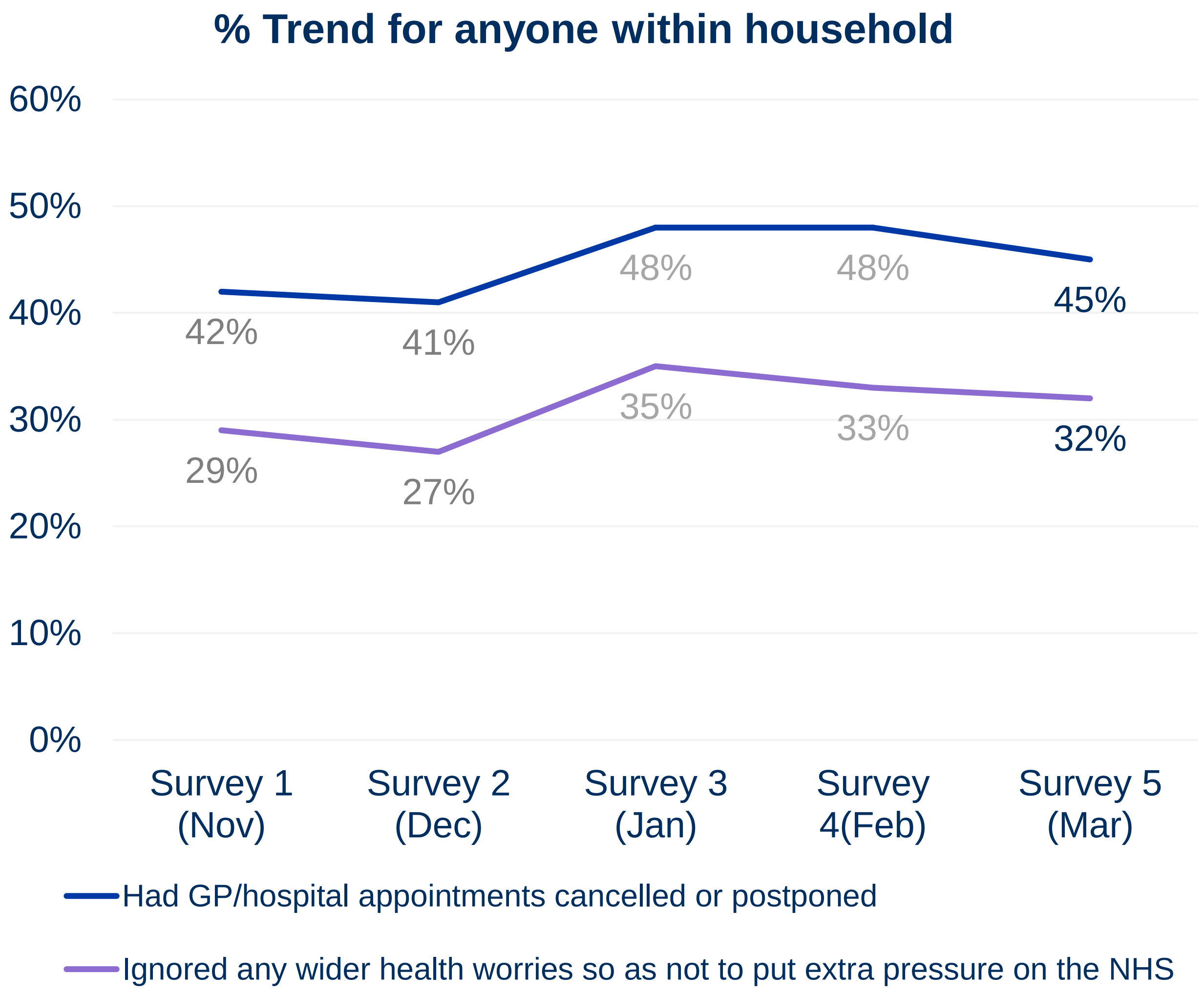
Claims are significantly lower among White respondents (9%) than those from other ethnic backgrounds (22%).

⇩ Significant increase/decrease compared with Survey 4 (February)

B26 Did you claim the financial support payment available to some people during self-isolation?
Unweighted base: 315 (Those who self-isolated) **Low base under 50

The proportion of respondents ignoring health concerns or having medical appointments cancelled has remained consistent with previous months.

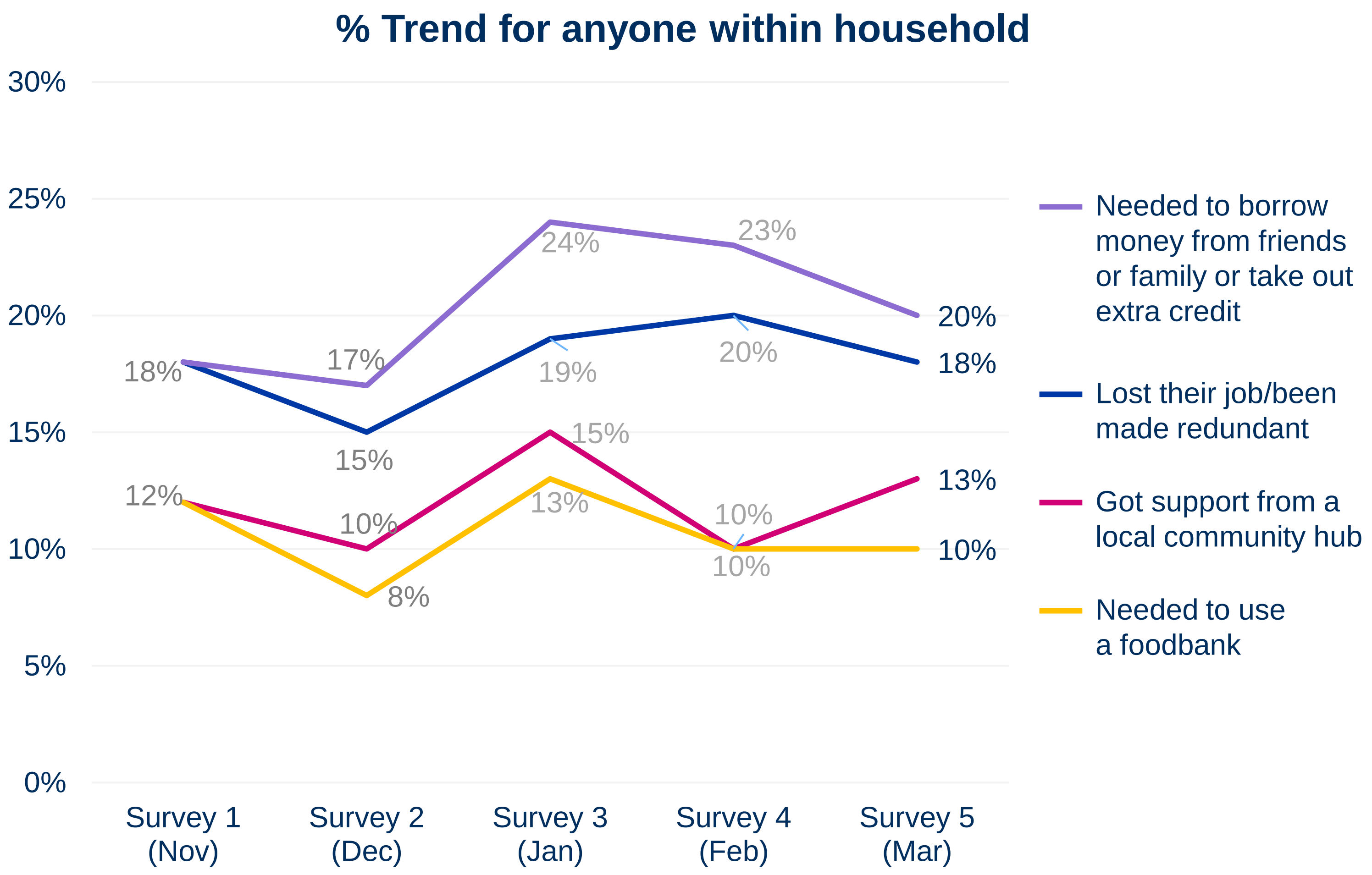
Health impacts	Themselves	Someone else in household	Anyone in household
Had GP/ hospital appointments cancelled or postponed	27%	24%	45%
Ignored any wider health worries so as not to put extra pressure on the NHS	23%	13%	32%



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; Survey 4 1003; Survey 5: 1008

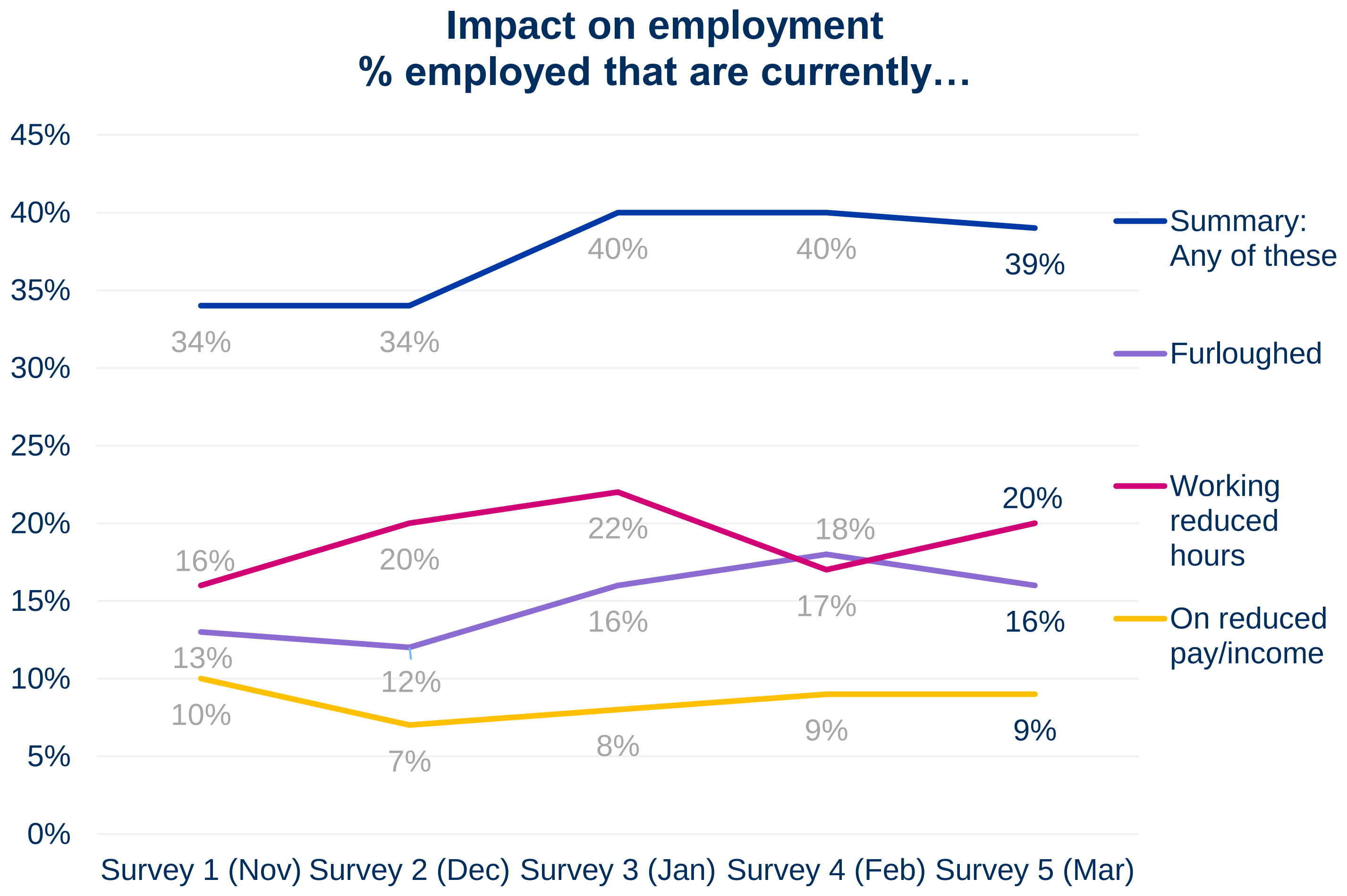
Financial impacts continue to be experienced by between 1 in 10 (using foodbanks) and 1 in 5 (borrowing money) households. These levels show no significant change since February.

Financial impacts	Themselves	Someone else in household	Anyone in household
Needed to borrow money from friends or family or take out extra credit	15%	7%	20%
Lost their job/been made redundant	8%	10%	18%
Got support from a local community hub	7%	7%	13%
Needed to use a foodbank	6%	4%	10%



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; Survey 4: 1003; Survey 5: 1008

Of those in employment, the proportions furloughed, on reduced hours, or reduced pay are also stable. Ethnic minorities and 16-24 year olds remain disproportionately affected, with hospitality / arts / recreation the most impacted sector

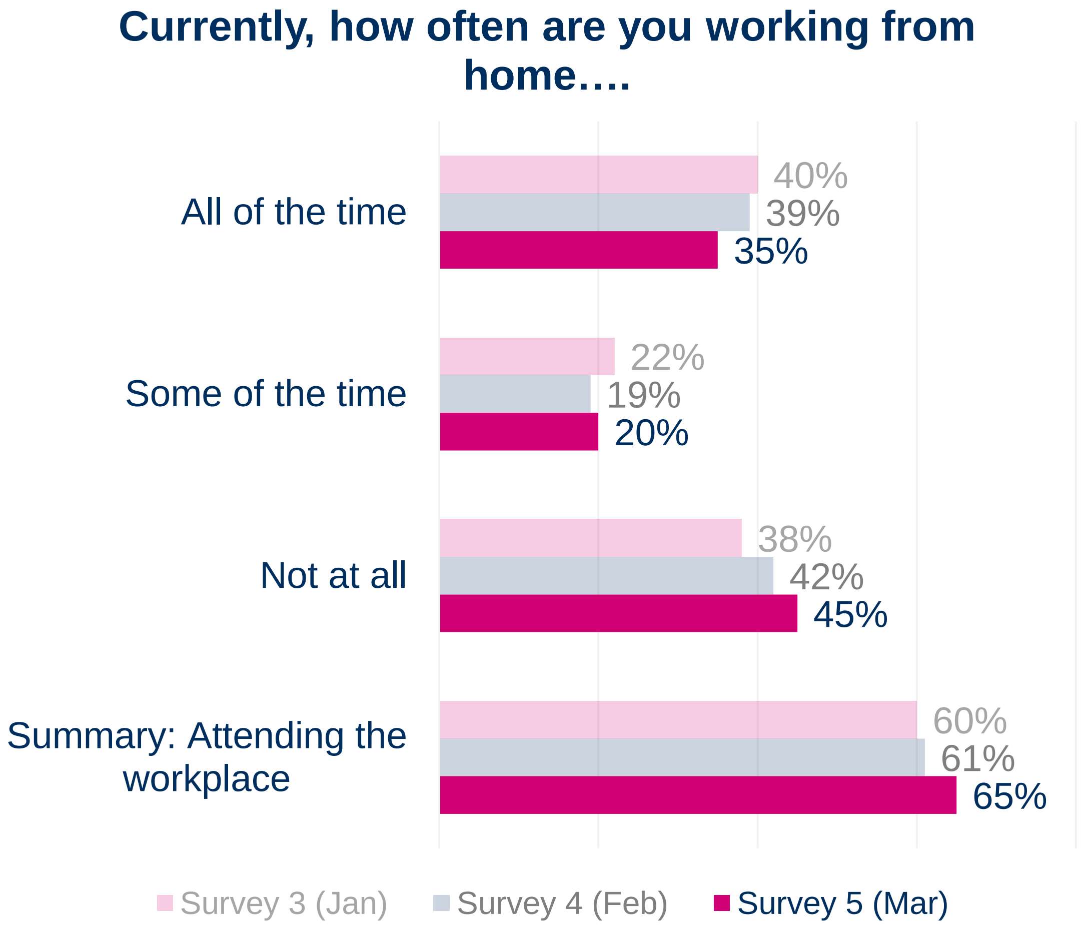


Some of the groups significantly more likely to be affected by any of these (vs. 39% on average):

- Muslim respondents (73%)
- Where have served in armed forces (73%)
- Respondents whose first language isn't English (68%)
- Aged 16-24 (65%)
- Those working in hospitality/arts/recreation (63%), wholesale, retail, distribution or personal services (48%) and non-public sectors generally (45%)
- Non-heterosexual respondents (63%)
- Respondents with a disability (51%), in particular those with mental ill health (61%)**
- Respondents from ethnic minorities (58%), particularly Asian respondents (55%)**
- Where respondent is at high risk of COVID (58%)
- Have children under 5 years (52%)
- Respondents in Manchester (52%)
- Had coronavirus, whether confirmed by test (50%) or not (53%)
- Part-time workers (49%)

B20b. As a result of the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic are you currently?
Unweighted base: 532 (Those who are in employment) **Low base under 50

Despite people being advised to work from home during the national lockdown unless they cannot reasonably do so, two in three (65%) are still going into their workplace at least some of the time.



Significantly more likely to be going into their workplace (vs. 65% on average):

- Those living in Bolton (83%) or Rochdale (76%)
- Those working in: hospitality, arts, and recreation (81%), wholesale / retail / distribution / personal services (78%), and health and social work (75%)
- Those being tested twice a week for coronavirus (79%)
- Part-time employees (77%)
- Aged 45-64 (72%)
- Educated to below degree level (70%)
- Women (69%; 60% men)

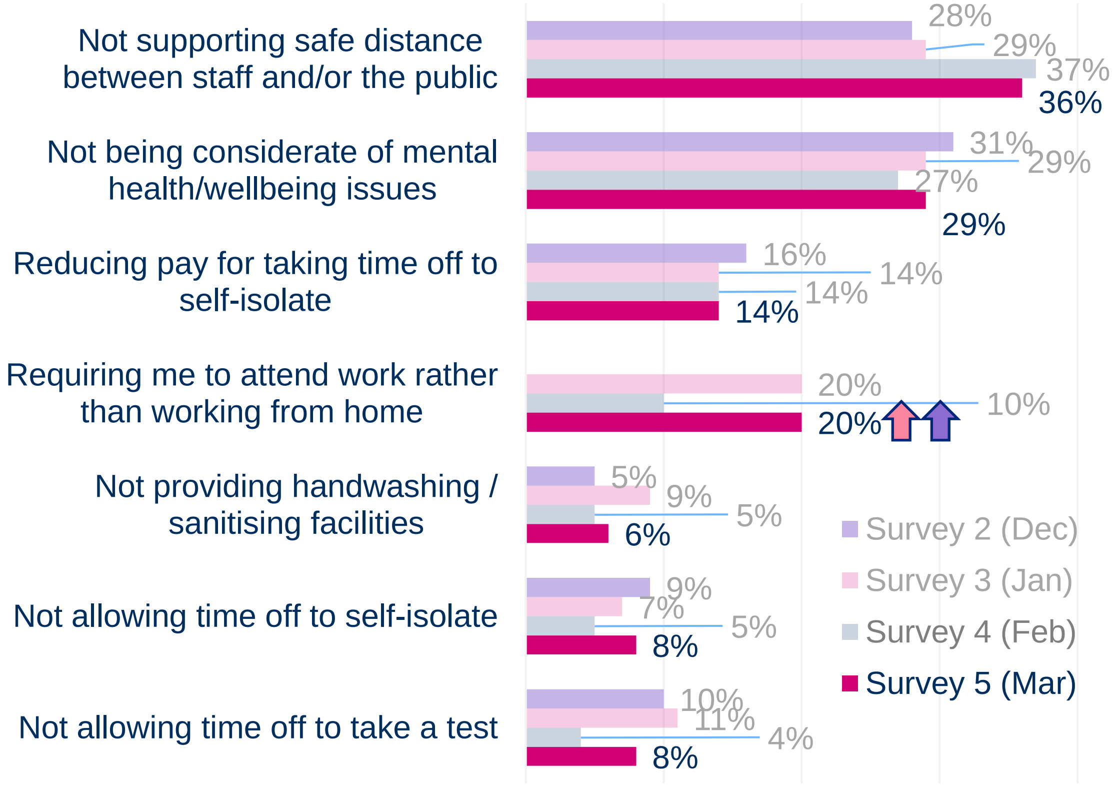
B14. Are you currently working from home...?
B37. You mentioned that you are currently working from home at least some of the time. Is this because of the COVID-19 pandemic, or is that your usual arrangement?
Unweighted base: 602 (Those who are in employment), 312 (Where working from home)

Fewer than half (46%) of respondents still attending their workplace consider their employer to be offering a safe working environment to a great extent. This has reduced since December. Those working in hospitality / arts / recreation are particularly likely to consider their working environment less COVID-safe.

Is your employer offering a safe working environment?

The hospitality/arts/recreation sector is significantly less likely to say their employer is offering a safe working environment to a great extent (30% cf. 46% total).

Reasons why employers are not offering a safe working environment…



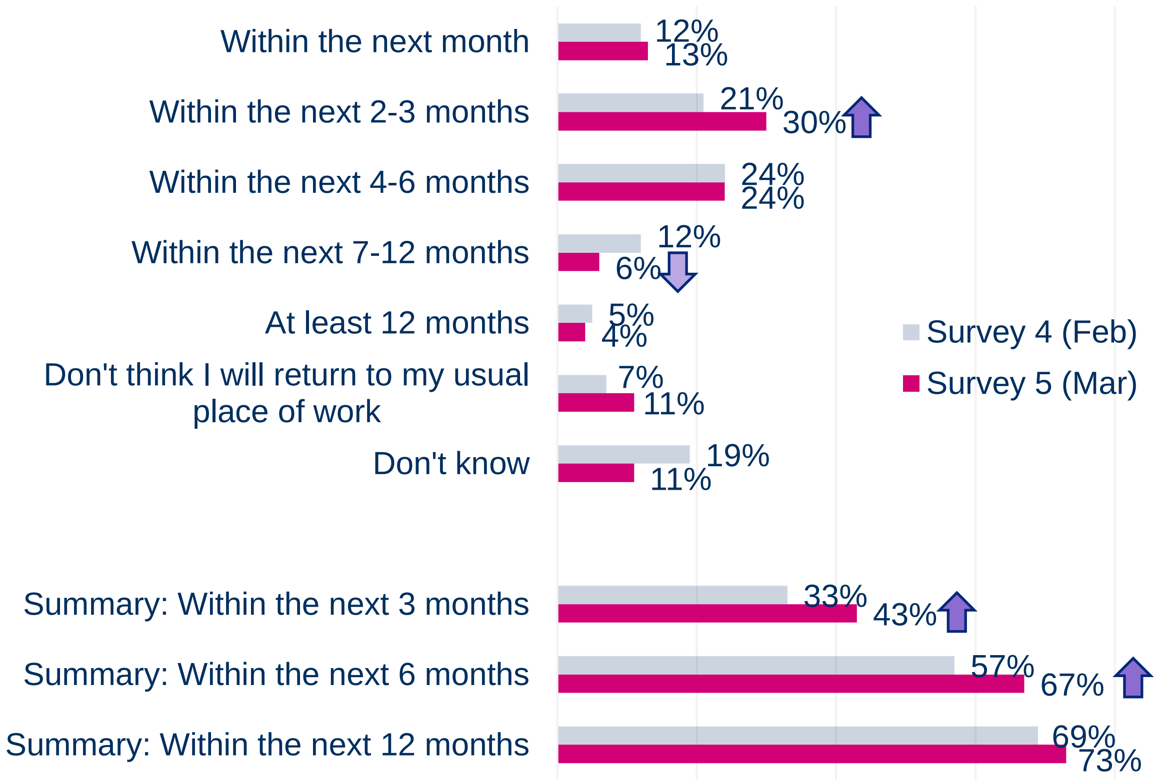
B31 To what extent if at all is your employer offering a safe working environment for you and your colleagues during the COVID-19 pandemic?
B32. In what ways has your employer not been offering a safe working environment?
Unweighted base: 391 (Those who were employed and not working from home all the times), 185 (Those whose employer is not offering a safe working environment to a great extent)

⇧⇩ Significant increase/decrease compared with Survey 2 (December)

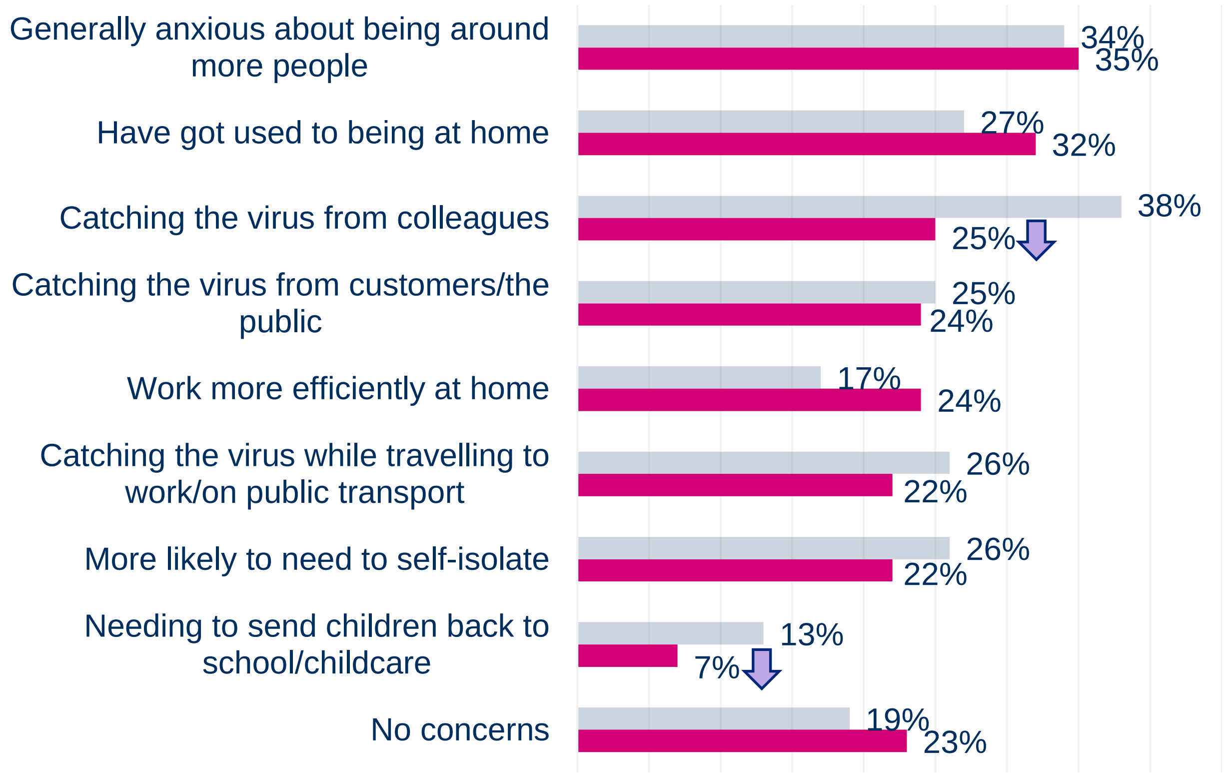
⇧ Significant increase compared with Survey 4 (February)

Increased proportions of respondents currently working from home expect to return to their usual workplace within the next 3 or 6 months, compared to February. Over 3 in 4 (77%) have at least one concern about returning to the workplace.

Expectation of return to the workplace…



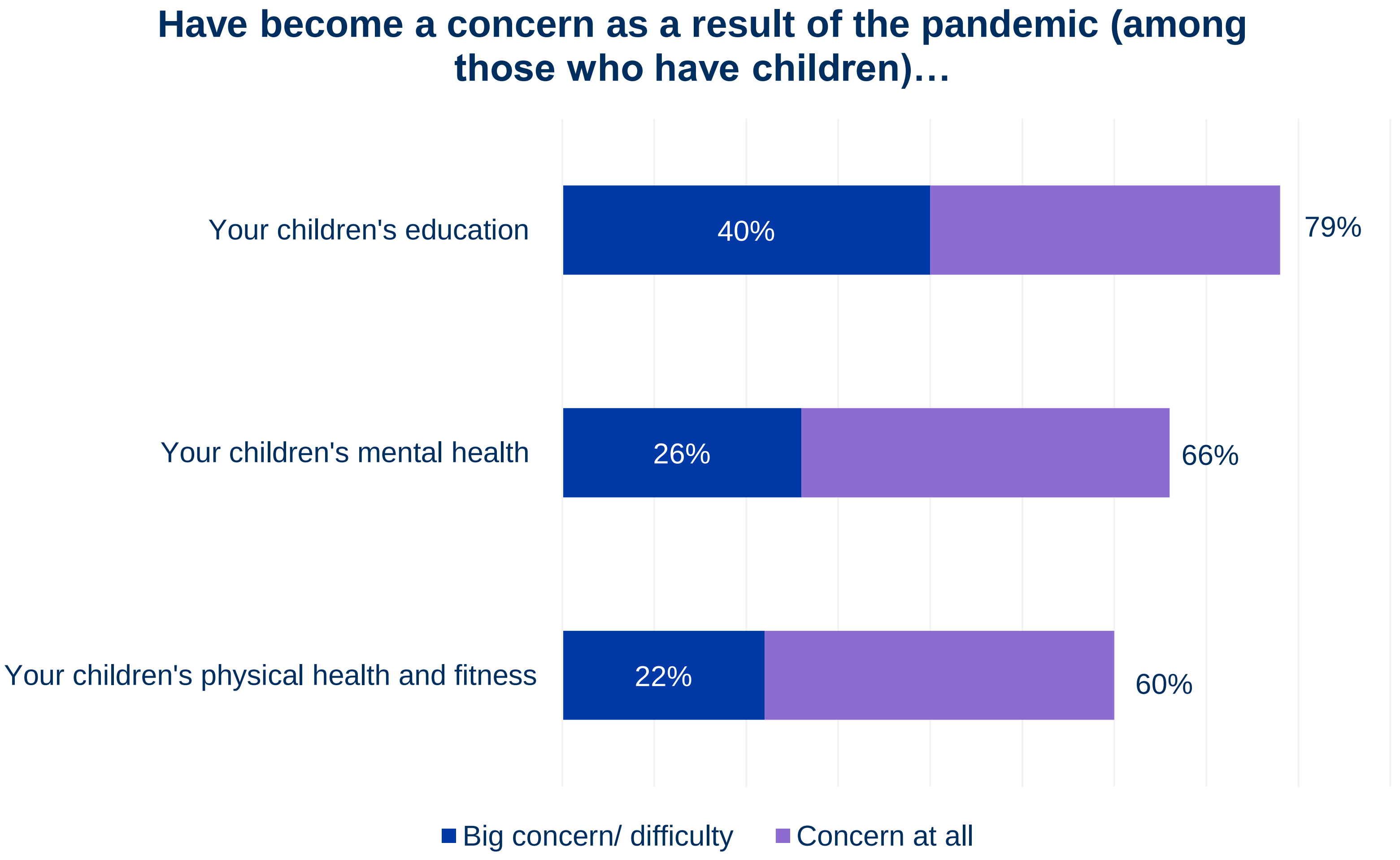
Concerns about returning to the workplace...



Significant increase/decrease compared with Survey 4 (February)

B38. When do you expect to return to your usual place of work i.e. your employer's premises, or to be working there as often as you usually would, before COVID?
B39. Do you have any concerns or anxieties about returning to your usual place of work, or going there more often than you do now?
Unweighted base: 234 (where working from home due to the pandemic)

Despite the reopening of schools / colleges, 8 in 10 (79%) continue to be concerned about their children's education. However, those who feel their children's education is a big concern has declined significantly when compared to the last two surveys (40% cf. 50% in survey 3 and 4).

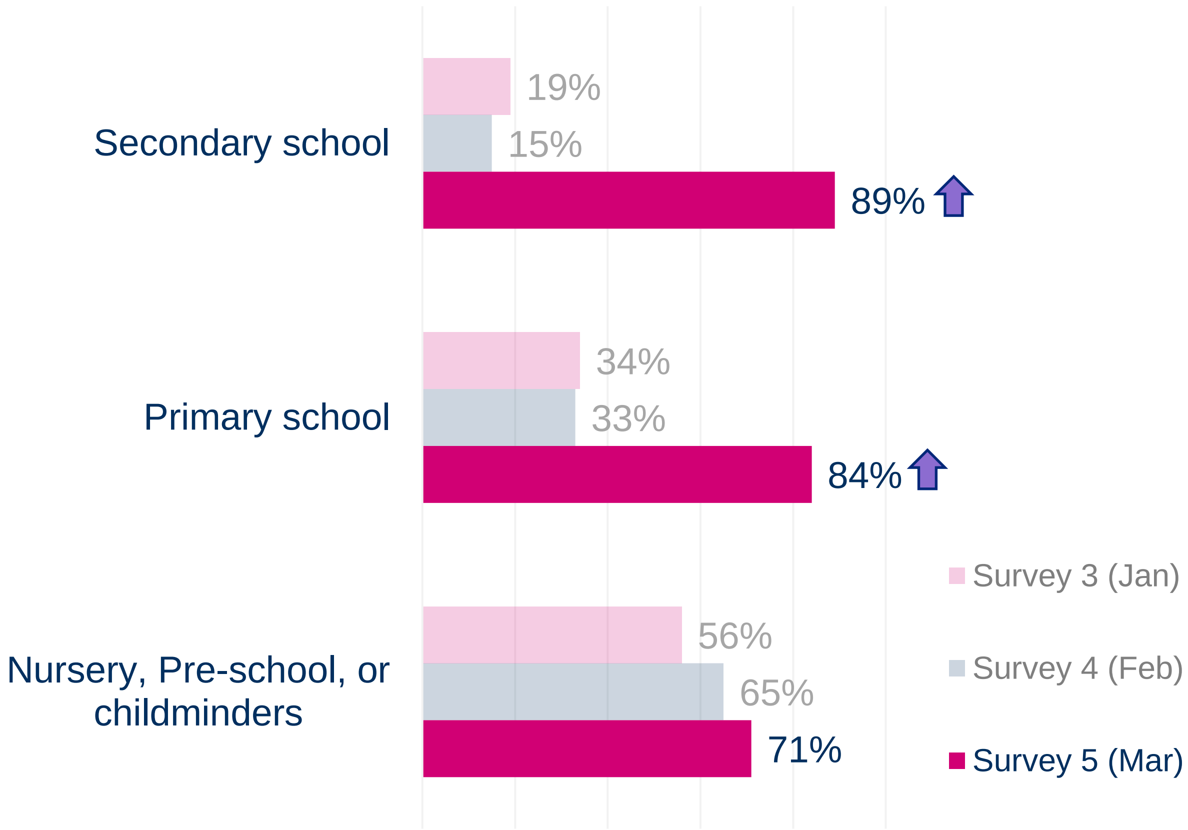


Survey 1 (Nov)	Survey 2 (Dec)	Survey 3 (Jan)	Survey 4 (Feb)	Survey 5 (Mar)
N/A	80%	85%	83%	79%
N/A	67%	71%	72%	66%
N/A	N/A	62%	65%	60%

B4. To what extent, if at all have each of the following become a concern or difficulty for you, as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic?
Unweighted base: 306-415 (Those who have children)

More than 8 in 10 parents of primary (84%) and secondary (89%) pupils say their children are now attending education. However 1 in 10 (11%) parents of primary age children and 6% of secondary did not want their children to return, so have kept them at home.

Currently, are your children attending…?



Children not currently attending (Survey 5 – Mar)

No – I didn't want them to return, so have kept them home	No – They are self-isolating	No – They are off for another reason (not related to coronavirus)
6%	4%	1%
11%	3%	3%
0%	2%	14%

Among the parents that have kept their children at home (24 respondents) the main reasons are that they think school/nursery isn't safe (39%), travelling to school/nursery isn't safe (33%) or they feel home-schooling is better for their education (28%)

Significant increase/decrease compared with Survey 4 (February)

B11a. Currently, are your children attending…?
Unweighted base: 249 (where children are in school or early years provision)

Attitudes and behaviours

Attitudes to restrictions page 49

Compliance with guidance pages 50-53

Bubbles page 54

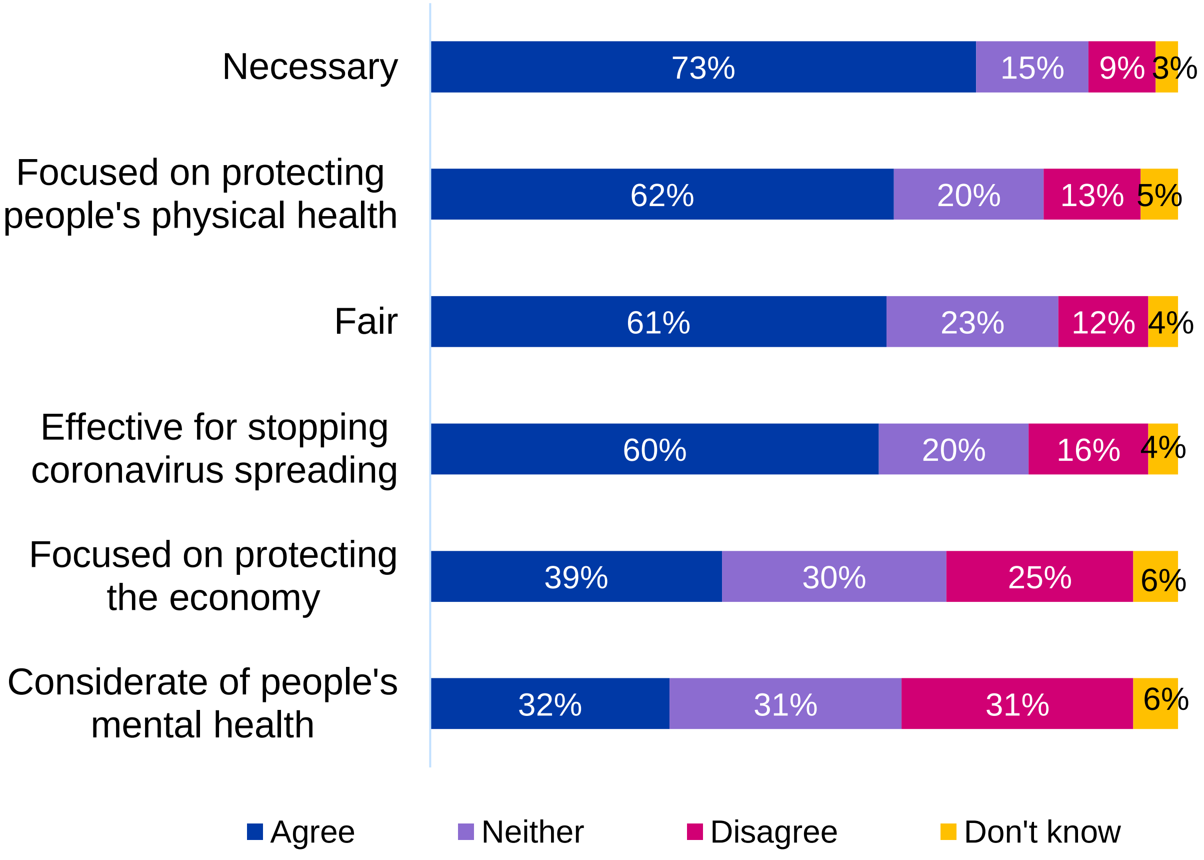
Support for Test and Trace page 55

Vaccines pages 56-59

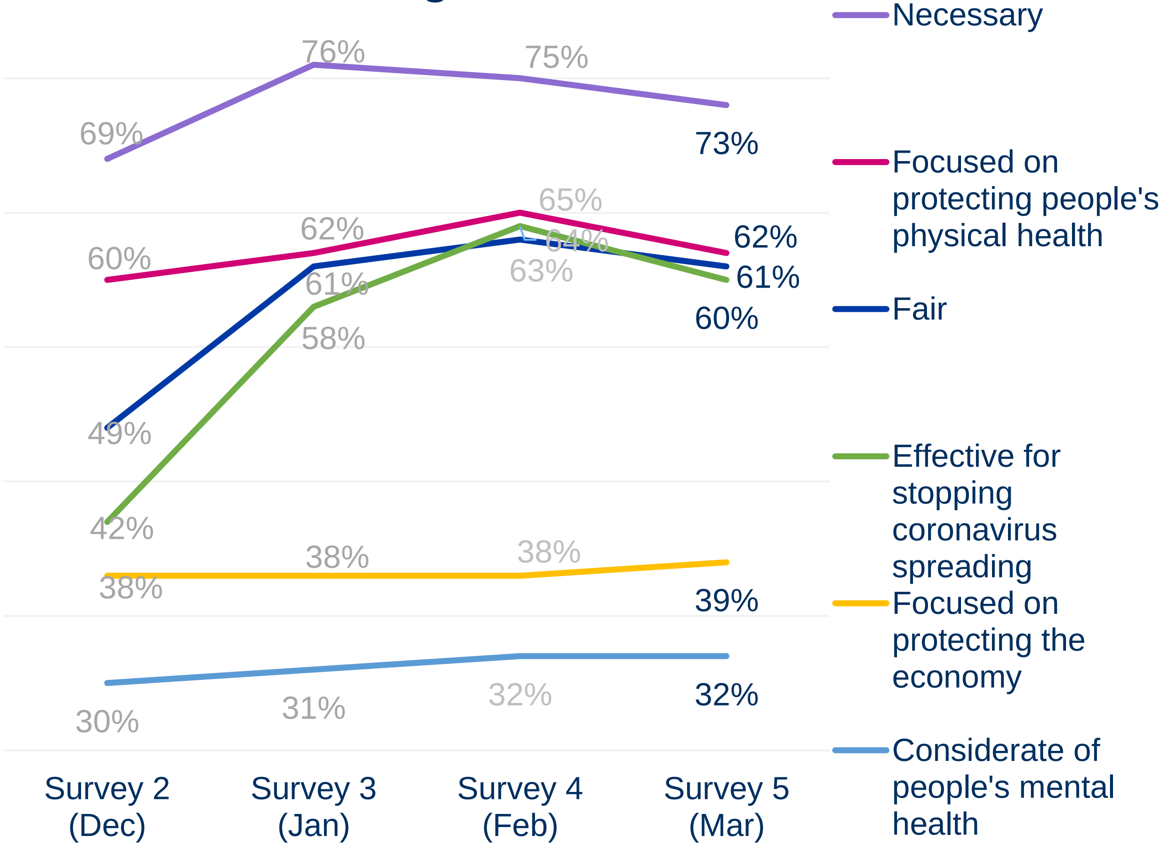
Asymptomatic testing pages 60-61

Perceptions of the restrictions remain relatively unchanged despite the initial easing of lockdown. Most still feel the restrictions are necessary, fair, and effective at stopping the spread.

The current restrictions are …

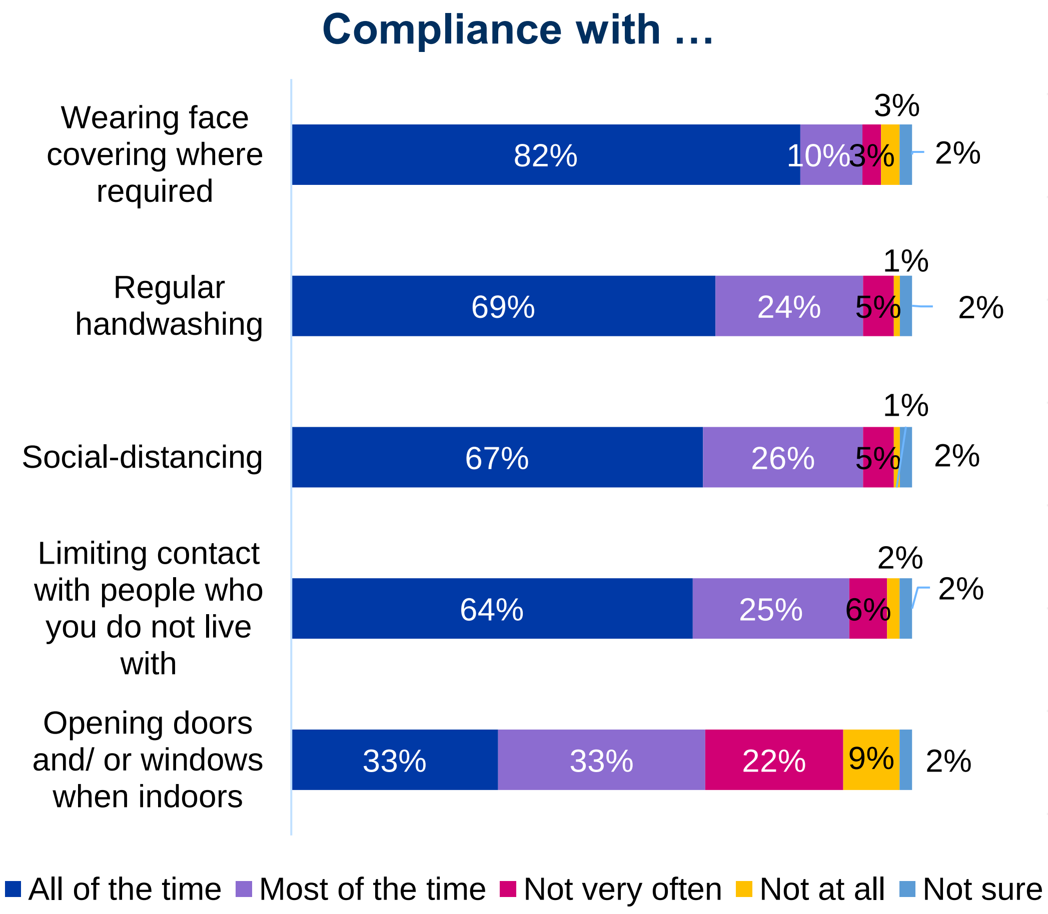


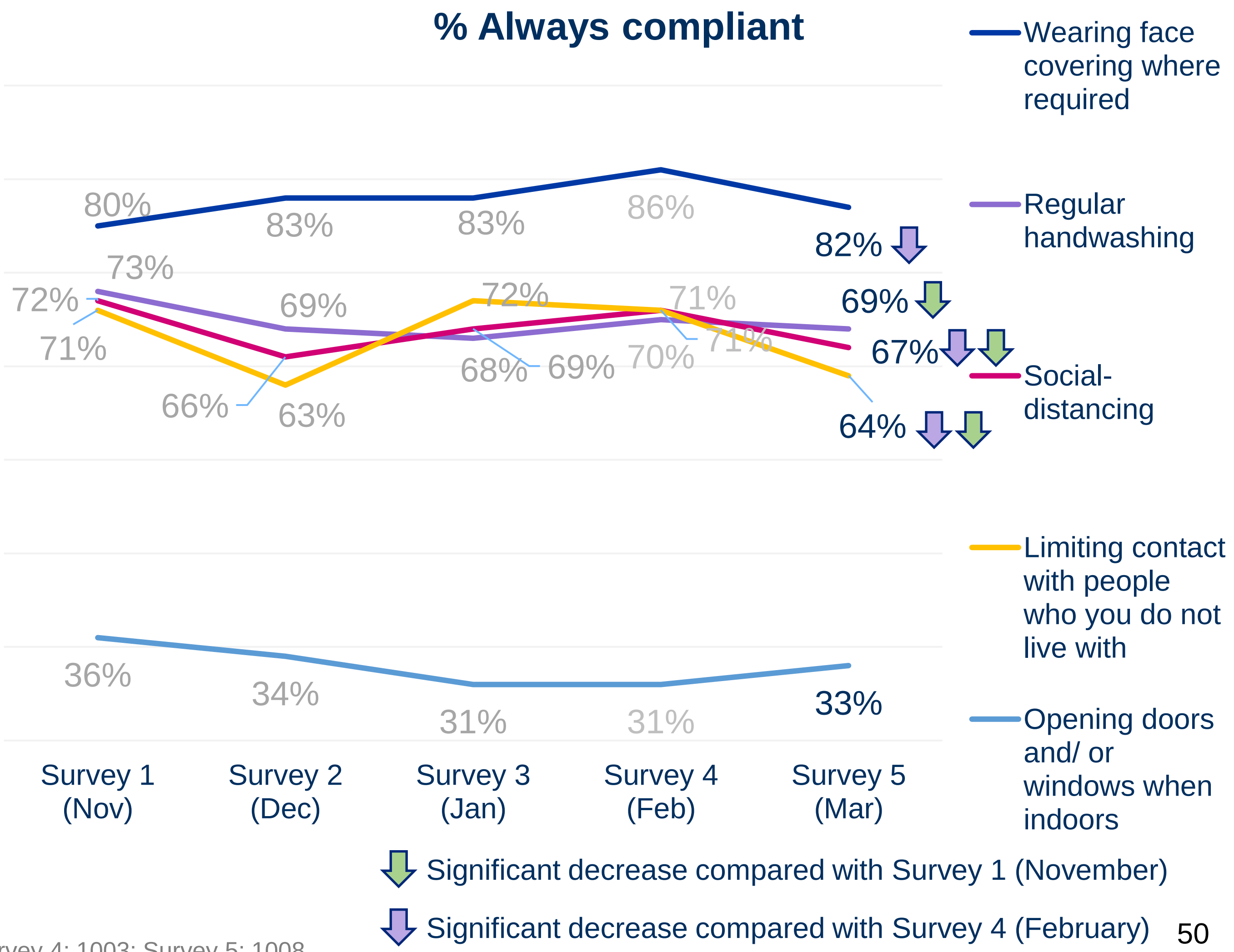
Agreement that the current restrictions & guidelines are…



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; Survey 4: 1003; Survey 5: 1008

Following the announcement of relaxation of restrictions in meeting up with other people, but ahead of its introduction in late March, significantly fewer people were already limiting contact with others. Alongside, compliance with key safety guidance – face coverings, handwashing and social distancing – has decreased.





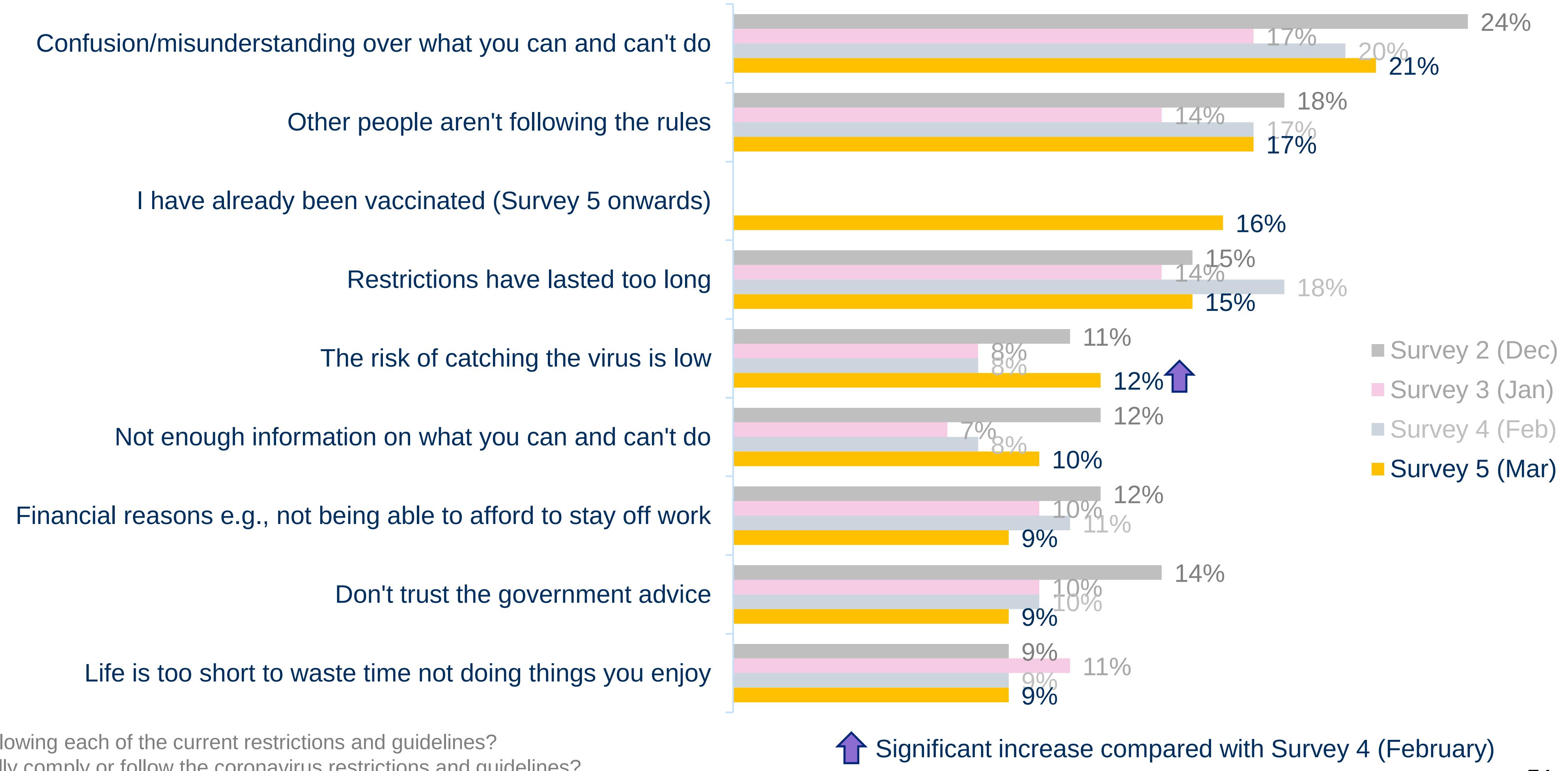
D4. Are you complying with or following each of the current restrictions and guidelines?
Unweighted base: All respondents: Survey 1: 1015; Survey 2: 1007; Survey 3: 1010; Survey 4: 1003; Survey 5: 1008

Those not always complying with restrictions and guidelines as they feel at low risk of catching the virus have significantly increased. While confusion and the influence of others remain the main barriers for non-compliance, 1 in 6 (16%) respondents give being vaccinated as a reason.

Those who are significantly more likely to not be compliant all of the time (vs. 77% on average):

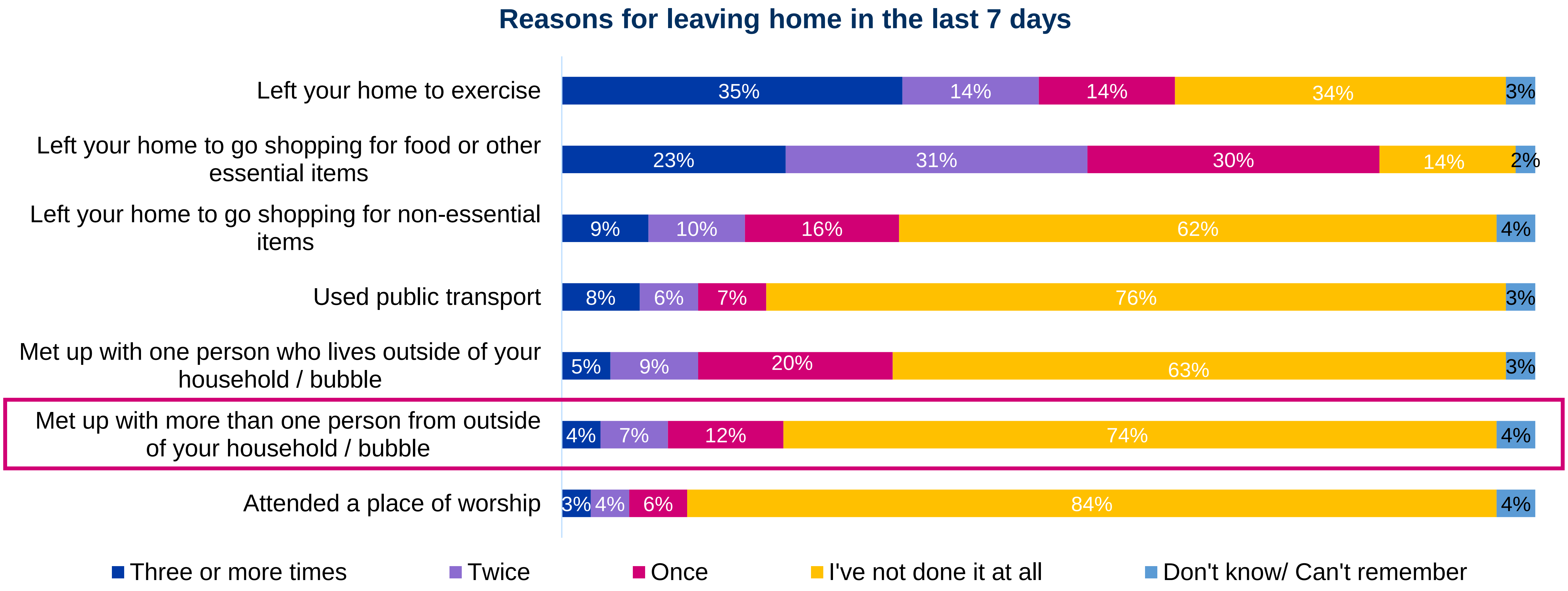
- Those who say they are unlikely to get vaccinated (94%)
- Those whose first language is not English (93%)
- Those who partially complied with self-isolation (88%)
- Muslim respondents (87%)
- Age 16-24 (85%)
- Educated to degree level or above (81%)

Reasons for non compliance



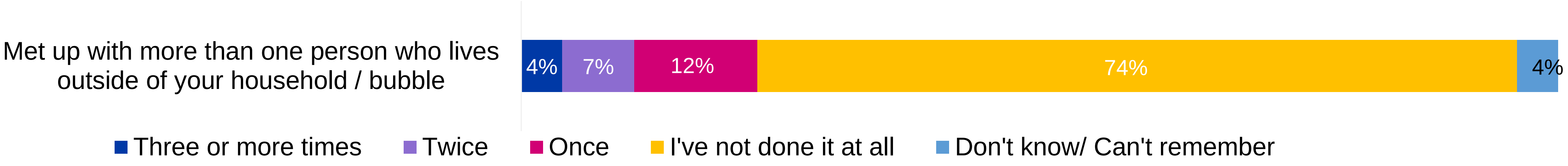
D4. Are you complying with or following each of the current restrictions and guidelines?
D6. Why might you not always fully comply or follow the coronavirus restrictions and guidelines?
Unweighted base: 1008 (All respondents); 765 (Those who do not comply with restrictions all the times) **Base below 50

During continued ‘Stay At Home’ instructions, 9 in 10 (93%) respondents left their home in the past 7 days. This included an increased proportion since February who met up with more than one person from outside their household / bubble at least once (just under 1 in 4, 23%), against the restrictions then in place. Shopping for non-essential items also increased (from 30 to 35% of respondents).



D13. In the last 7 days, how often, if at all, have you done each of the following…
Unweighted base: 1008 (All respondents)

Respondents more likely to have met up with other people as a group during lockdown include those who are taking part in asymptomatic testing – suggesting a negative rapid test result could lead to people feeling more confident in not following the rules in place

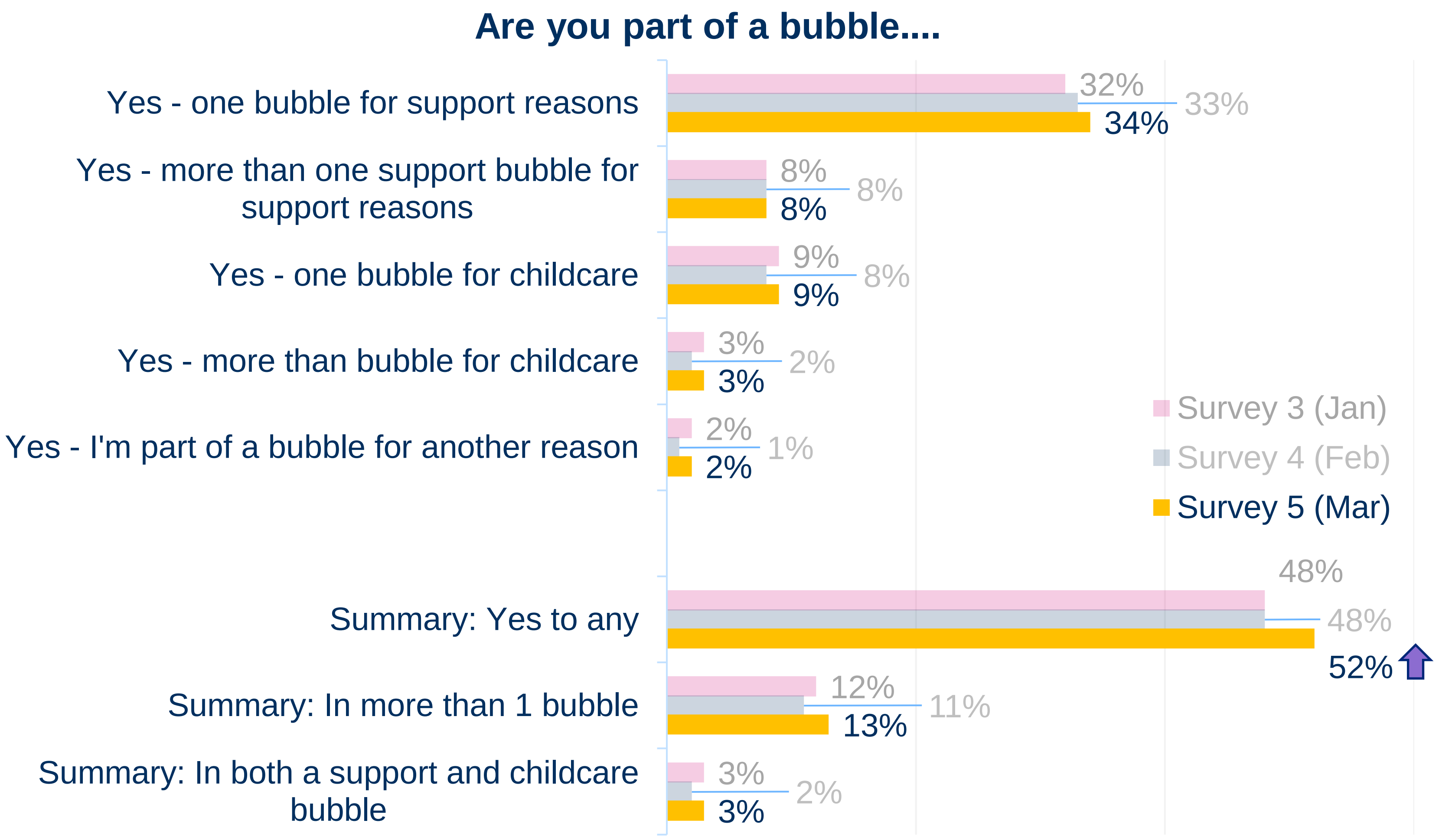


Those who are significantly more likely to have met up with more than one person from outside their household or bubble (vs. 19% on average):

- Muslim respondents (43%)
- Students (43%)
- Aged 16-24 (42%) or 25-44 (27%)
- Those who are being tested for coronavirus less than twice weekly (41%)
- Those whose first language is not English (40%)
- Those who have had coronavirus either confirmed by a test (39%) or those who believe they've had it but not had it confirmed by a test (37%)
- Parents of children under 5 years (37%), or those in primary school (35%), or college (35%)**
- Black (37%)** and Asian respondents (36%)
- Where a member of their household is at high risk of coronavirus (35%)
- Those who have mental ill health (33%)
- Those who have had to self-isolate (30%), particularly those who only partially complied (55%)
- Full time employees (28%)
- Those living in the most deprived areas (28%)
- Educated to degree level or above (27%)
- Those in a bubble (27%)

D13. In the last 7 days, how often, if at all, have you done each of the following…
Unweighted base: 1008 (All respondents) **Base below 50

Just over half (52%) of respondents are now in a bubble for childcare and/or support. Although only 3% say they have both kinds of bubble, as permitted, 13% say they are in more than one bubble.



Those who are significantly more likely to be in more than one bubble (vs. 13% on average):

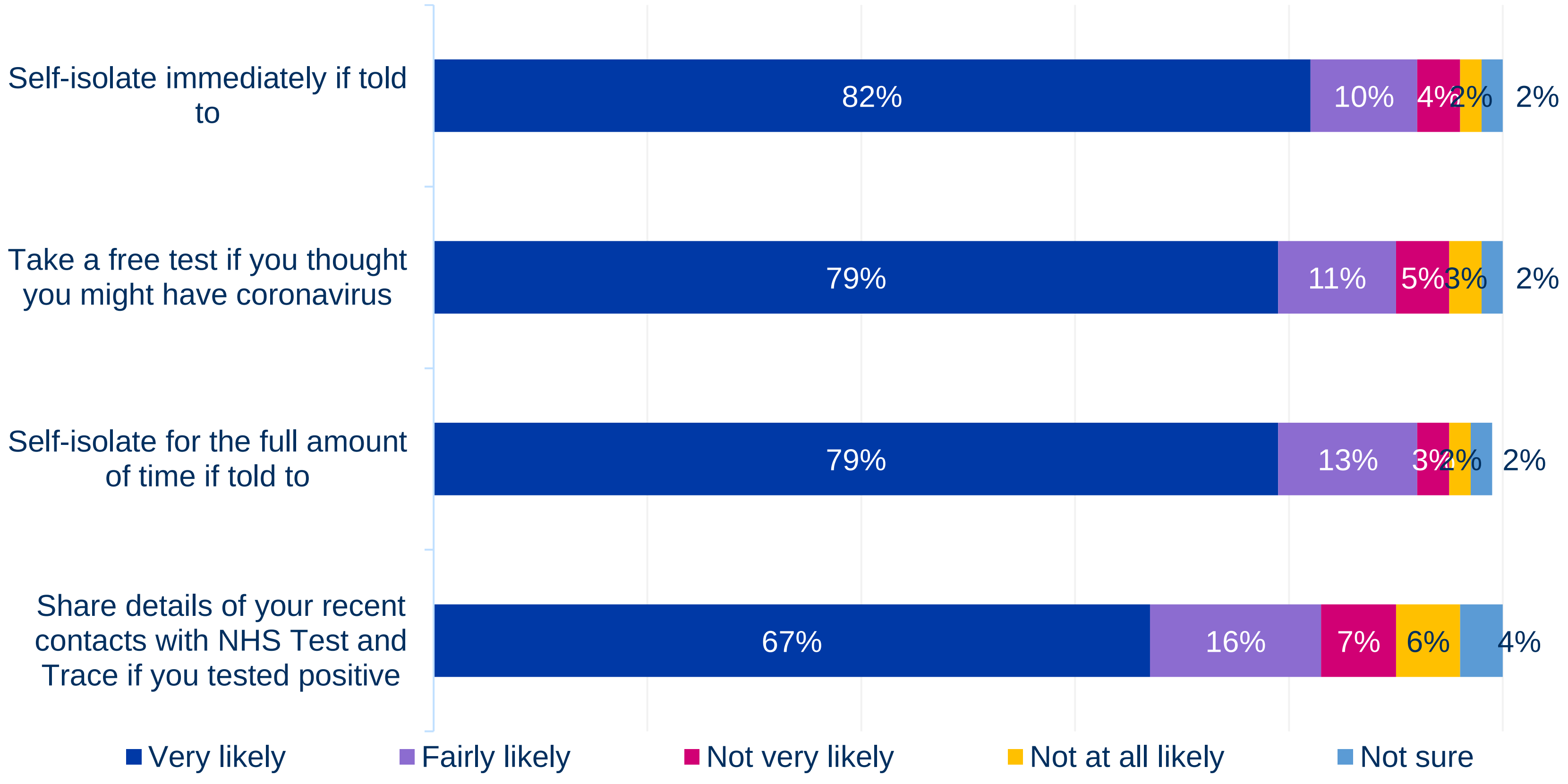
- Have served in armed forces (35%)
- Muslim respondents (25%)
- Those living in Tameside (24%)
- Unlikely to receive vaccine (23%)
- Asian respondents (23%)
- Carers (22%)
- Parents of children under 5 years (22%) or of primary school age (18%) or in college (28%)**
- Had coronavirus either confirmed by a test (22%) or those who believe they've had it but not had it confirmed by a test (24%)
- Aged 16-24 (20%)
- Those whose first language is not English (20%)
- Those who have needed to self-isolate (19%)
- Those undergoing asymptomatic testing (19%)
- Where they personally are at high risk of coronavirus (18%)

Notably, many of these groups, who are significantly more likely to be in more than one bubble, are also significantly more likely to be meeting up with multiple people from outside their bubble or household.

Significant increase compared with Survey 4 (February)

B35. Are you part of a bubble with another household?
B36. How many other households are you in a bubble with?
Unweighted base: 1008, 532 (Those in a bubble) **Base below 50

Levels of likely compliance with elements of NHS Test and Trace remain broadly constant. 4 in 5 (82%) say they would comply with self-isolation instructions – matching the number which said they did so when required (78%). But reluctance to share details of recent contacts with NHS Test and Trace has increased.

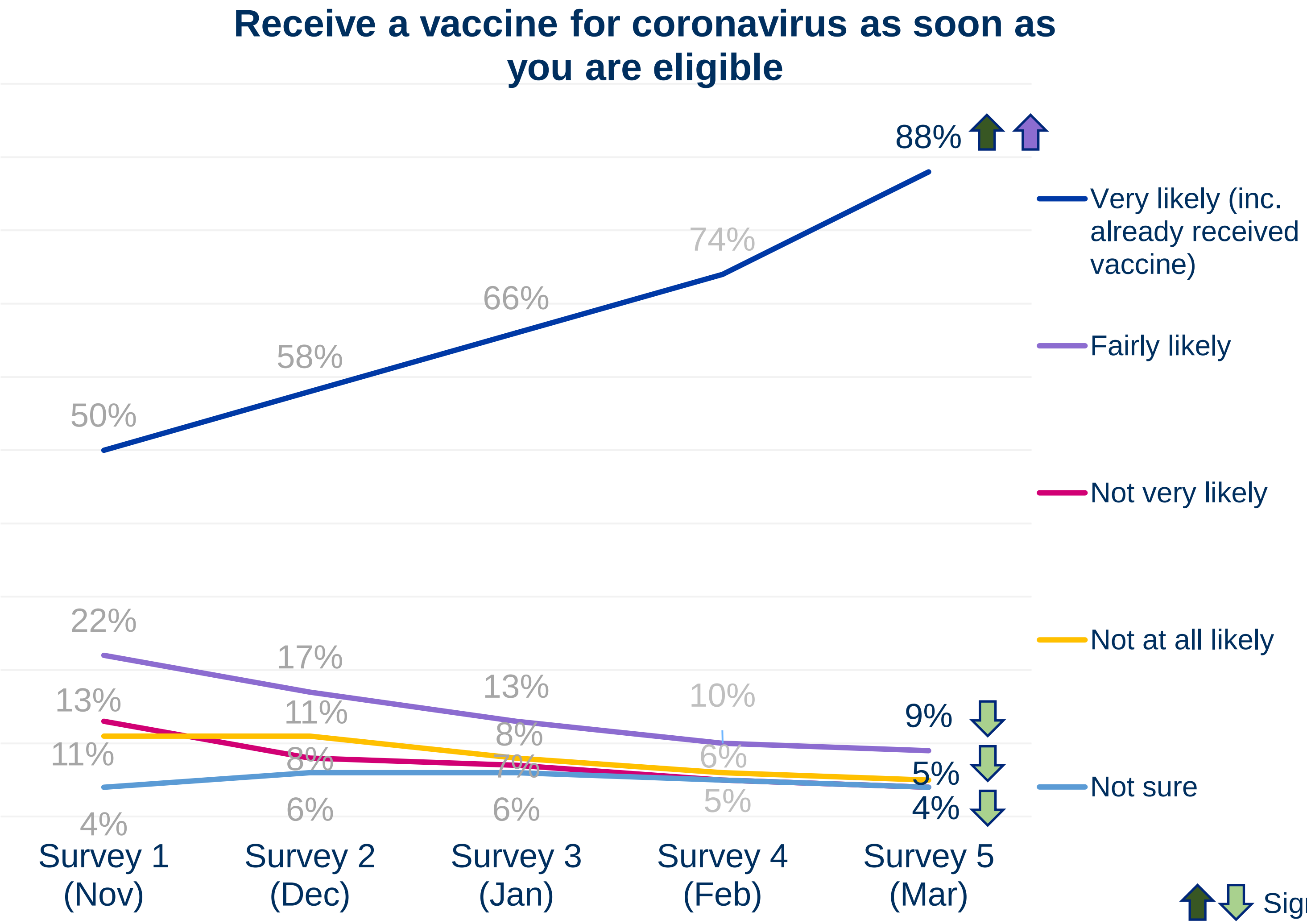


% Not very/ Not at all likely/ Not sure				
Survey 1 (Nov)	Survey 2 (Dec)	Survey 3 (Jan)	Survey 4 (Feb)	Survey 5 (Mar)
7%	7%	8%	7%	9%
9%	11%	11%	8%	10%
7%	8%	9%	8%	8%
15%	18%	17%	13%	18% ⇧

⇧ Significant increase compared with Survey 4 (February)

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; Survey 4: 1003; Survey 5: 1008

Overall, the proportion of respondents who would receive the vaccine, or have already had at least one dose, continues to increase significantly. But vaccine hesitancy is enduring in some ethnic minorities and among younger people.



More respondents from the following groups are not very/not at all/not sure about getting the vaccine (compared to 12% average among all respondents):

- Muslim respondents (32%)
- Those who have English as an additional language (29%)
- Those out of work for more than 6 months (29%)**
- Respondents from ethnic minorities (28%)
- Students (28%)
- Parents of children under 5 (27%)
- Those being offered asymptomatic testing but not taking it (24%)
- Aged 16-24 (23%) or 25-44 (17%)
- Those with mental ill health (19%)
- Manchester respondents (19%)
- Those living in most deprived areas (17%)
- Females (16%; 9% among males)

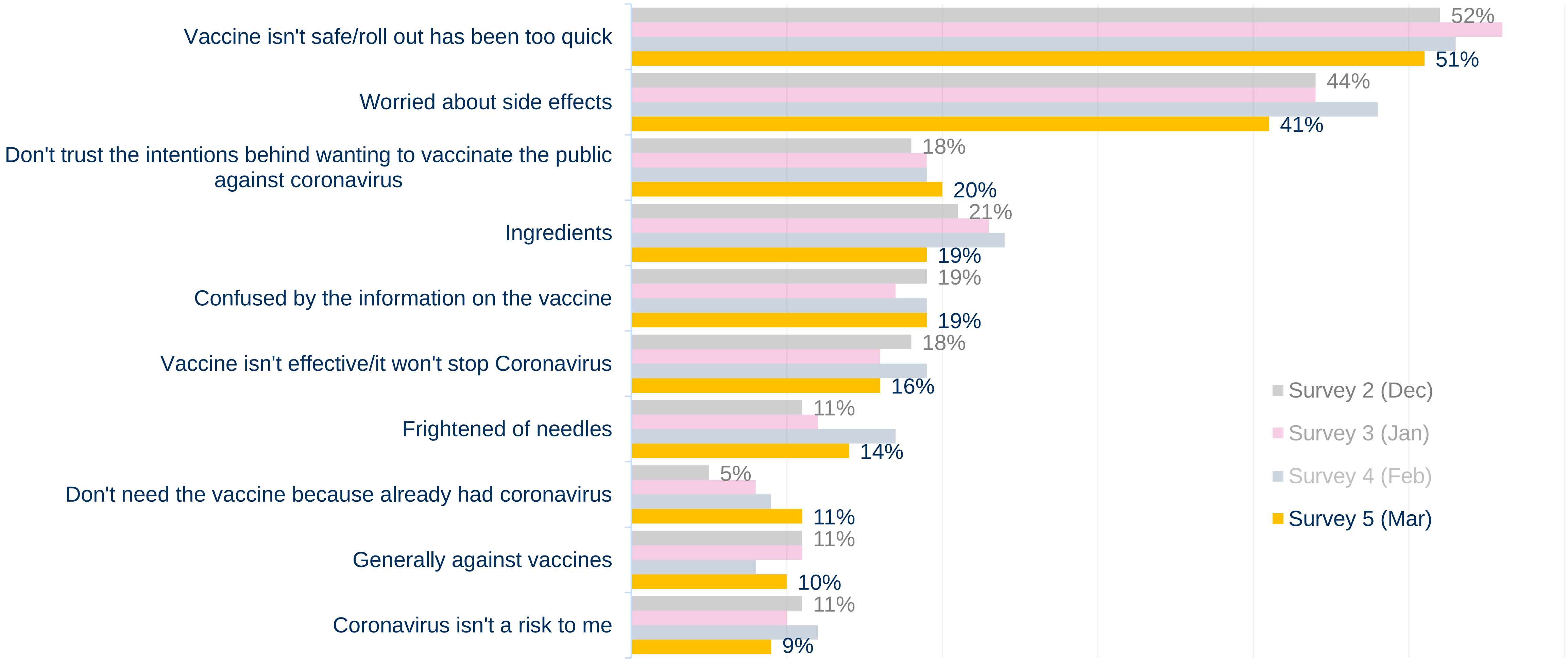
Significant increase/decrease compared with Survey 1 (November)

Significant increase compared with Survey 4 (February)

D5. How likely would you be to do each of the following? **Base below 50
Unweighted base: All respondents: Survey 1: 1015; Survey 2: 1007; Survey 3: 1010; Survey 4: 1003; Survey 5 (1008)
At time of fieldwork, vaccines were available to over 50s: care home residents and staff; frontline health and social care; clinically extremely vulnerable.

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

Reasons for not getting vaccinated...

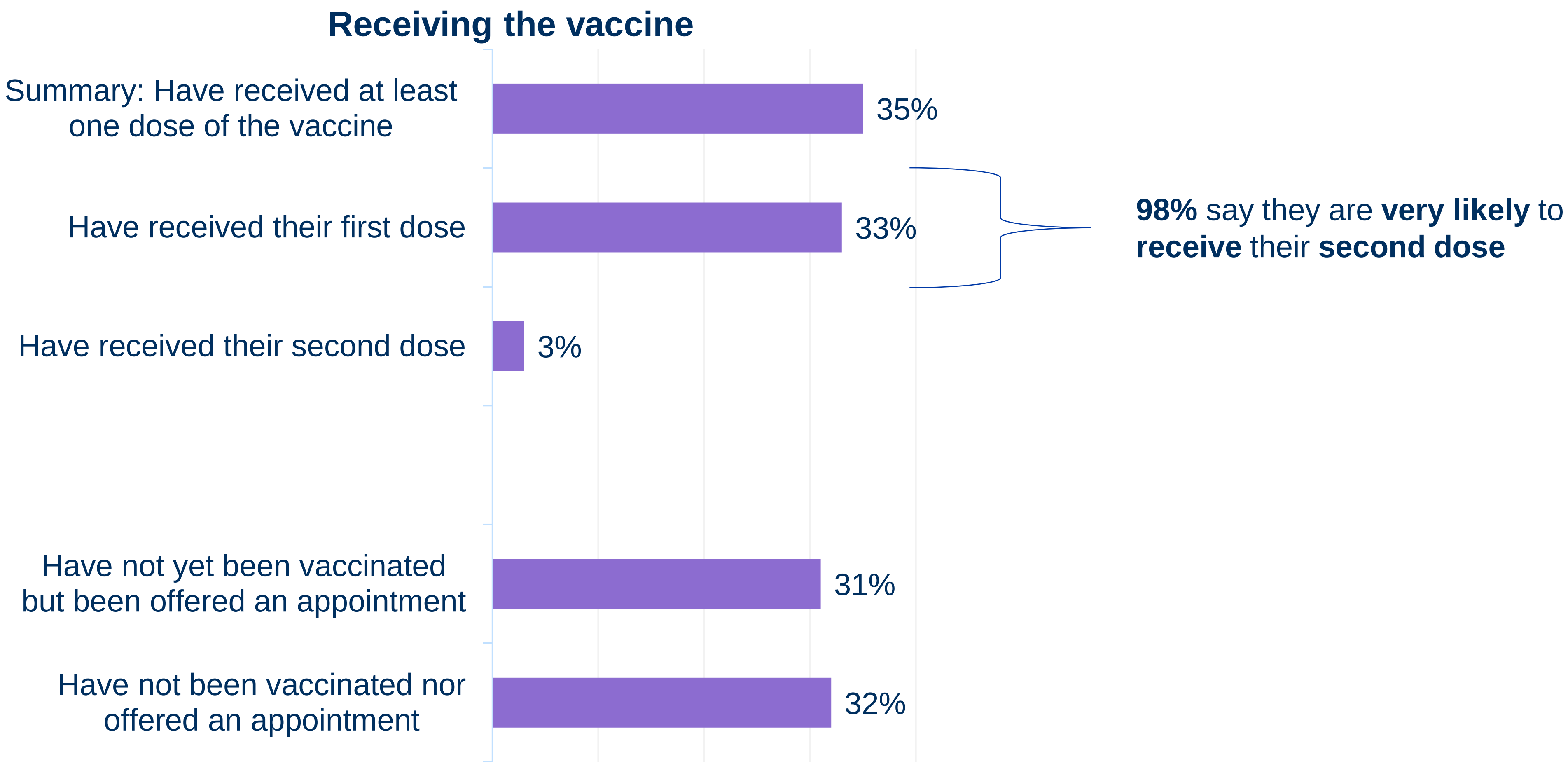


D9. Why are you unlikely to get vaccinated against coronavirus?

Unweighted base: 195 (Those who aren't already vaccinated or not very likely to get the vaccine when offered)

At time of fieldwork, vaccines were available to over 50s: care home residents and staff; frontline health and social care; clinically extremely vulnerable

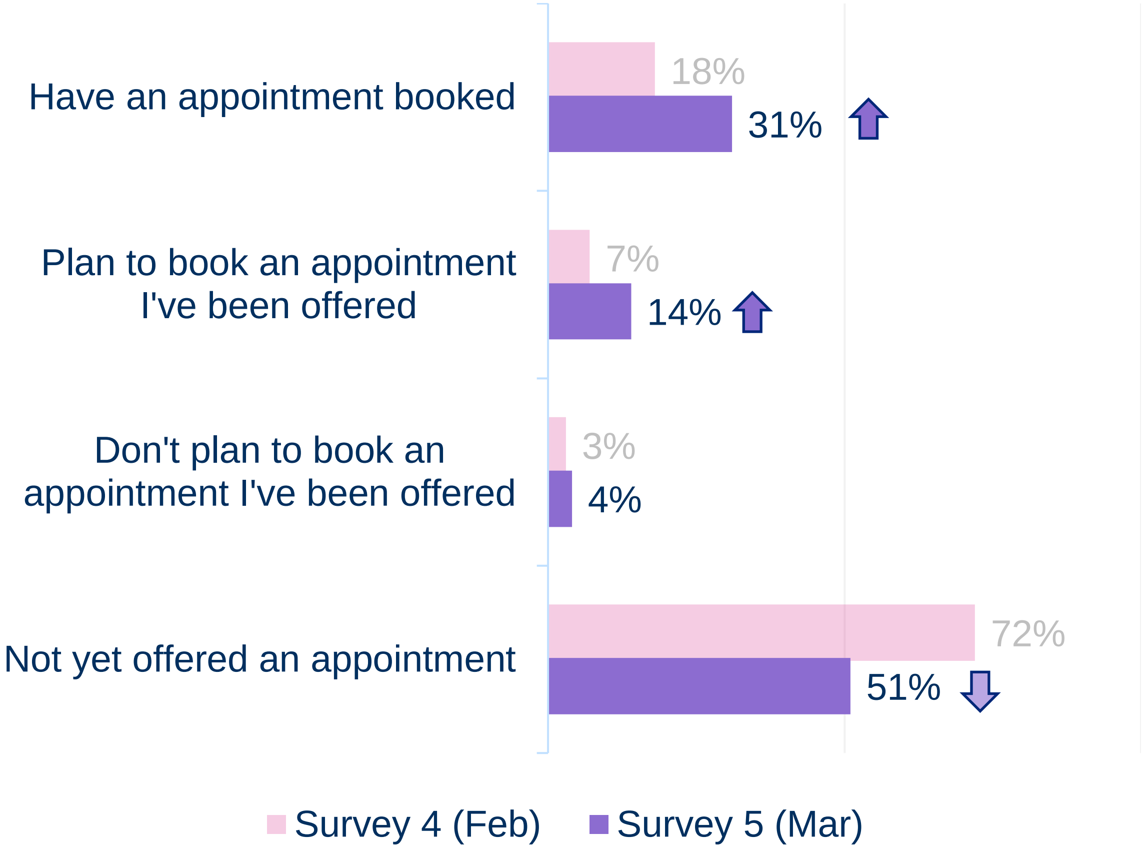
1 in 3 (35%) respondents had received at least one dose of the vaccine. Almost all who have received their first dose are very likely to receive their second (98%).



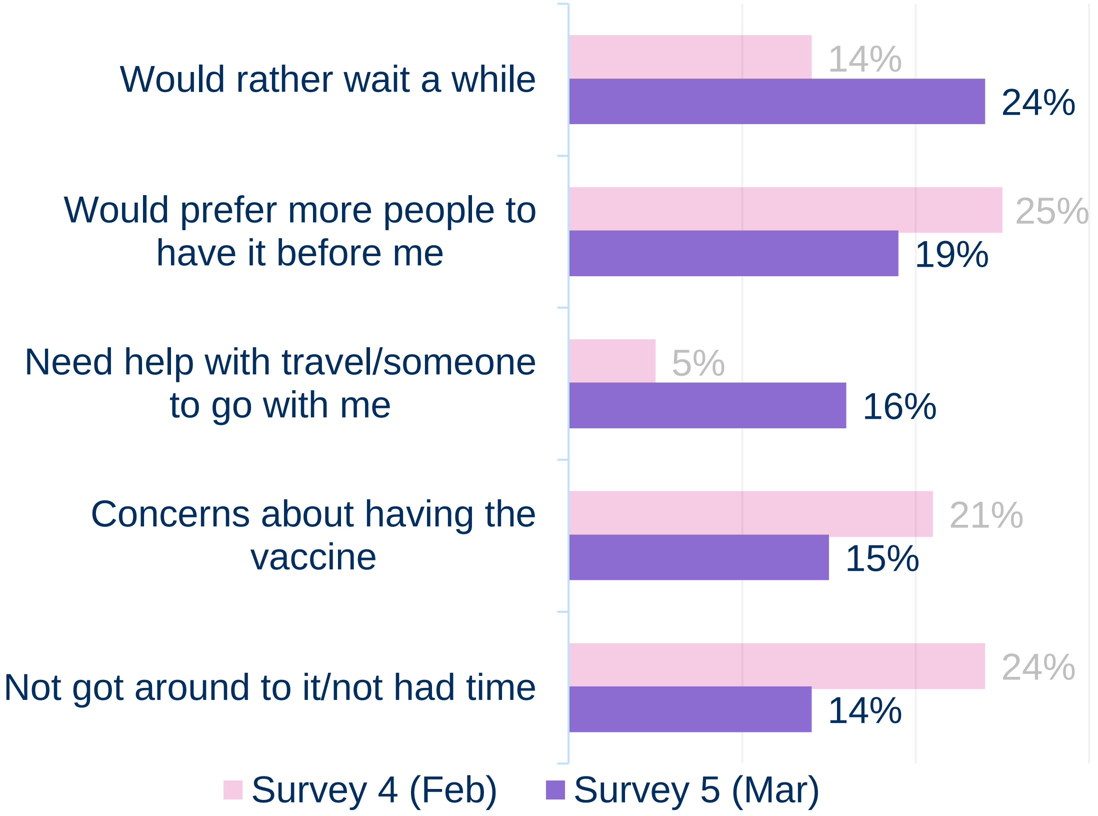
D17. Have you received both doses of your vaccine or just one?
D17a. How likely are you to receive your second dose?
Unweighted base: 380 (where received vaccine); 353 (where had 1st dose)
At time of fieldwork, vaccines were available to over 50s: care home residents and staff; frontline health and social care; clinically extremely vulnerable.

Of those who have not yet been vaccinated, significantly increased proportions of those offered an appointment have already booked (31%) or are planning to (14%).

Of those not yet vaccinated...



Reasons for not yet booking an appointment if offered

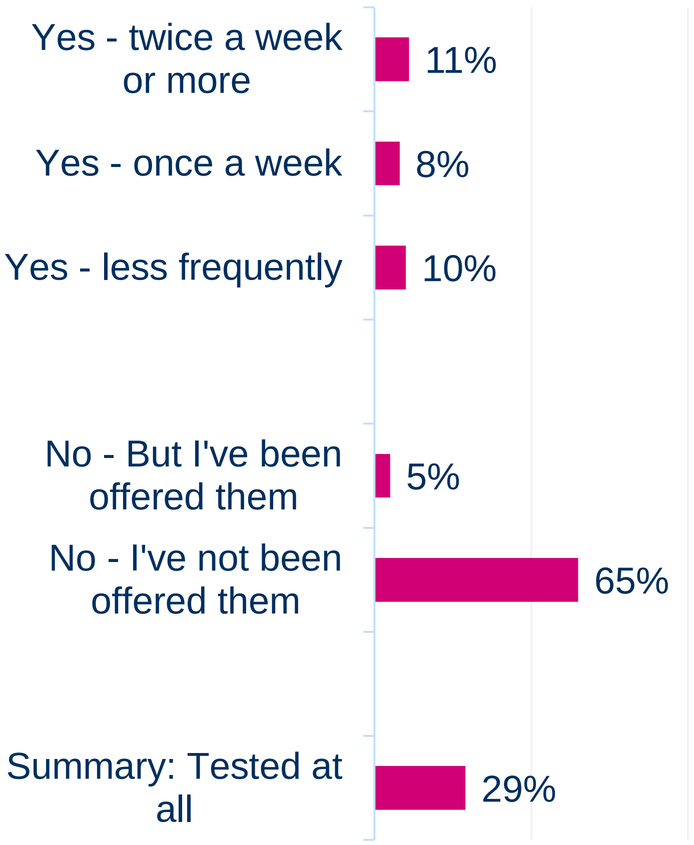


Significant increase / decrease compared with Survey 4 (February)

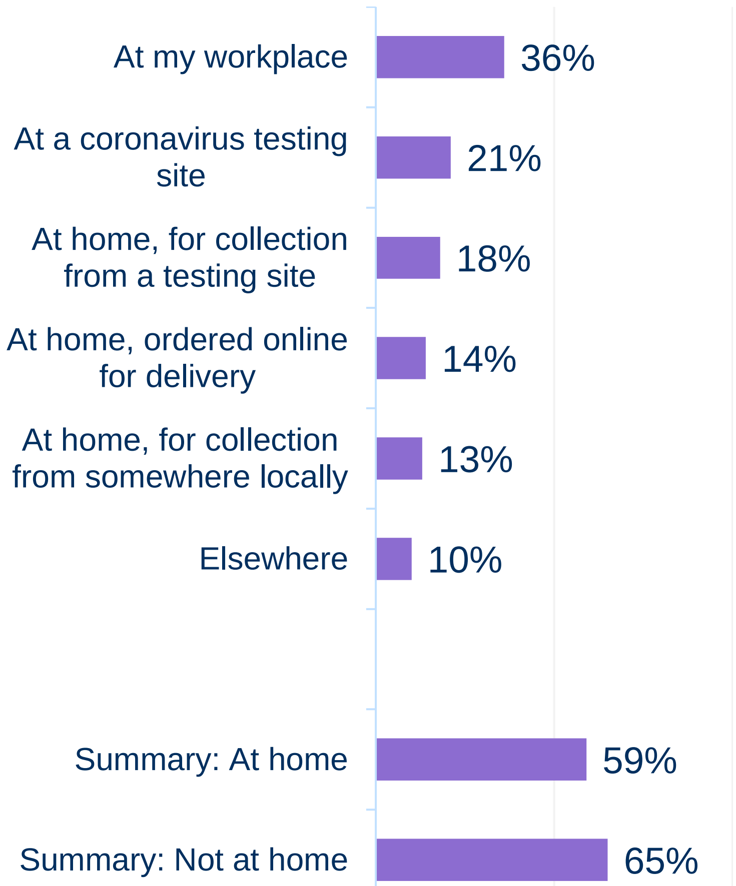
D18. Have you been offered an appointment yet for a COVID vaccine?
D19. Why have you not booked an appointment yet?
Unweighted base: 628 (Where not already received vaccine); 81 (where planning on booking their vaccine appointment)
At time of fieldwork, vaccines were available to over 50s: care home residents and staff; frontline health and social care; clinically extremely vulnerable.

Just under 1 in 3 (29%) respondents are taking asymptomatic tests, but only 1 in 10 (11%) are doing so twice a week as recommended. Just 5% of those who have been offered them haven't taken them up, while 4 in 5 of those currently not being offered tests say they would take them in the future.

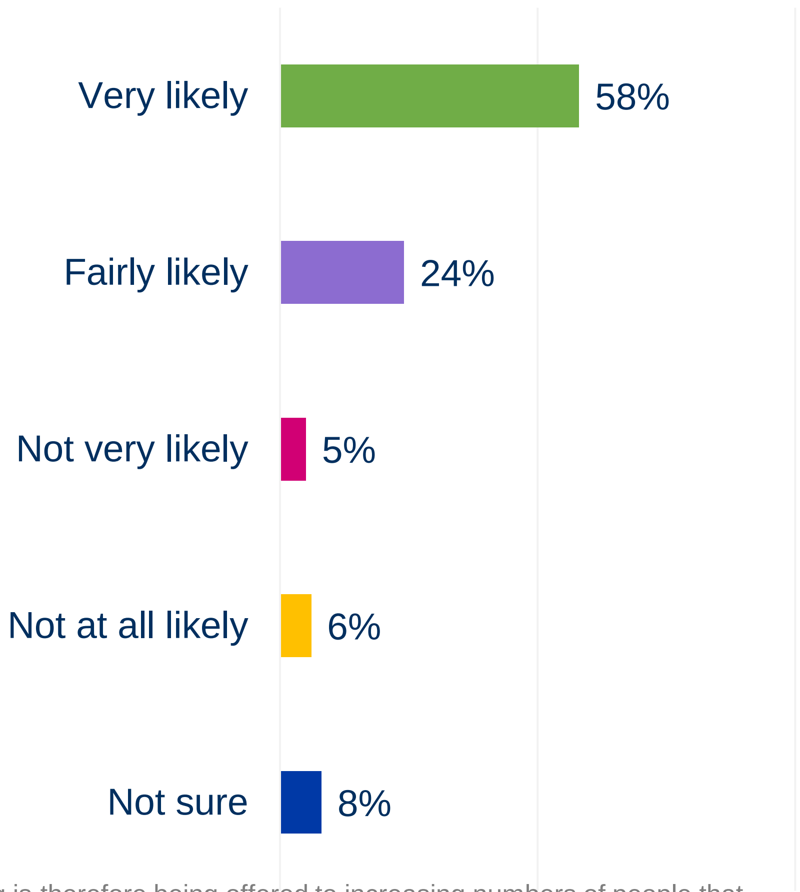
Taking asymptomatic tests...



Where being offered...



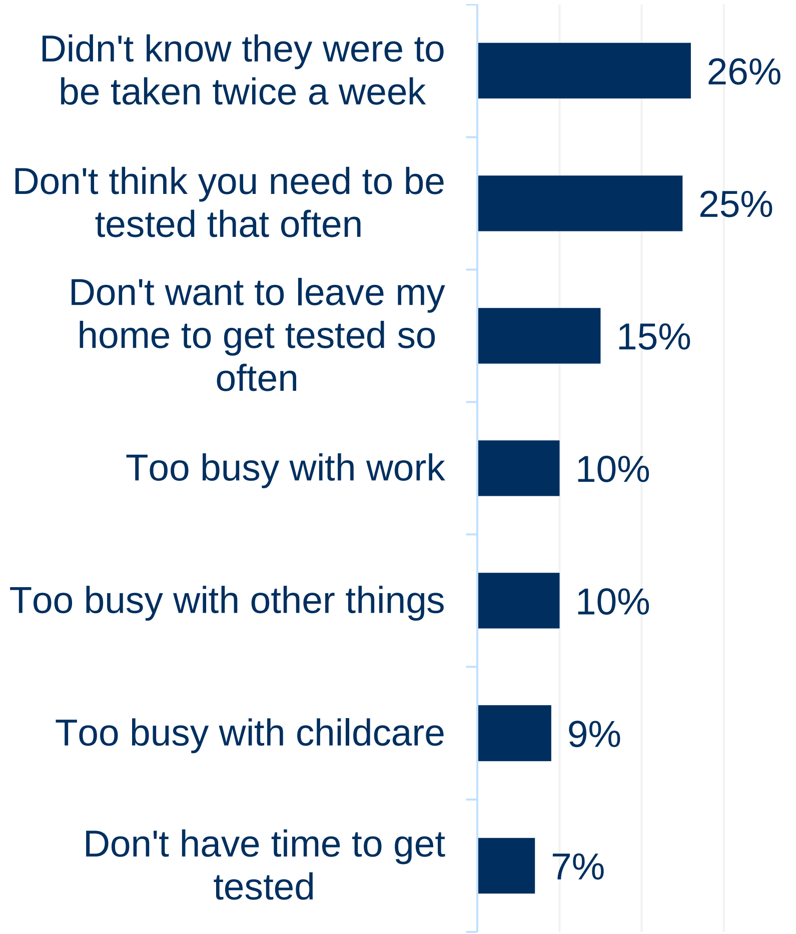
Likelihood to take tests amongst those not currently being offered….



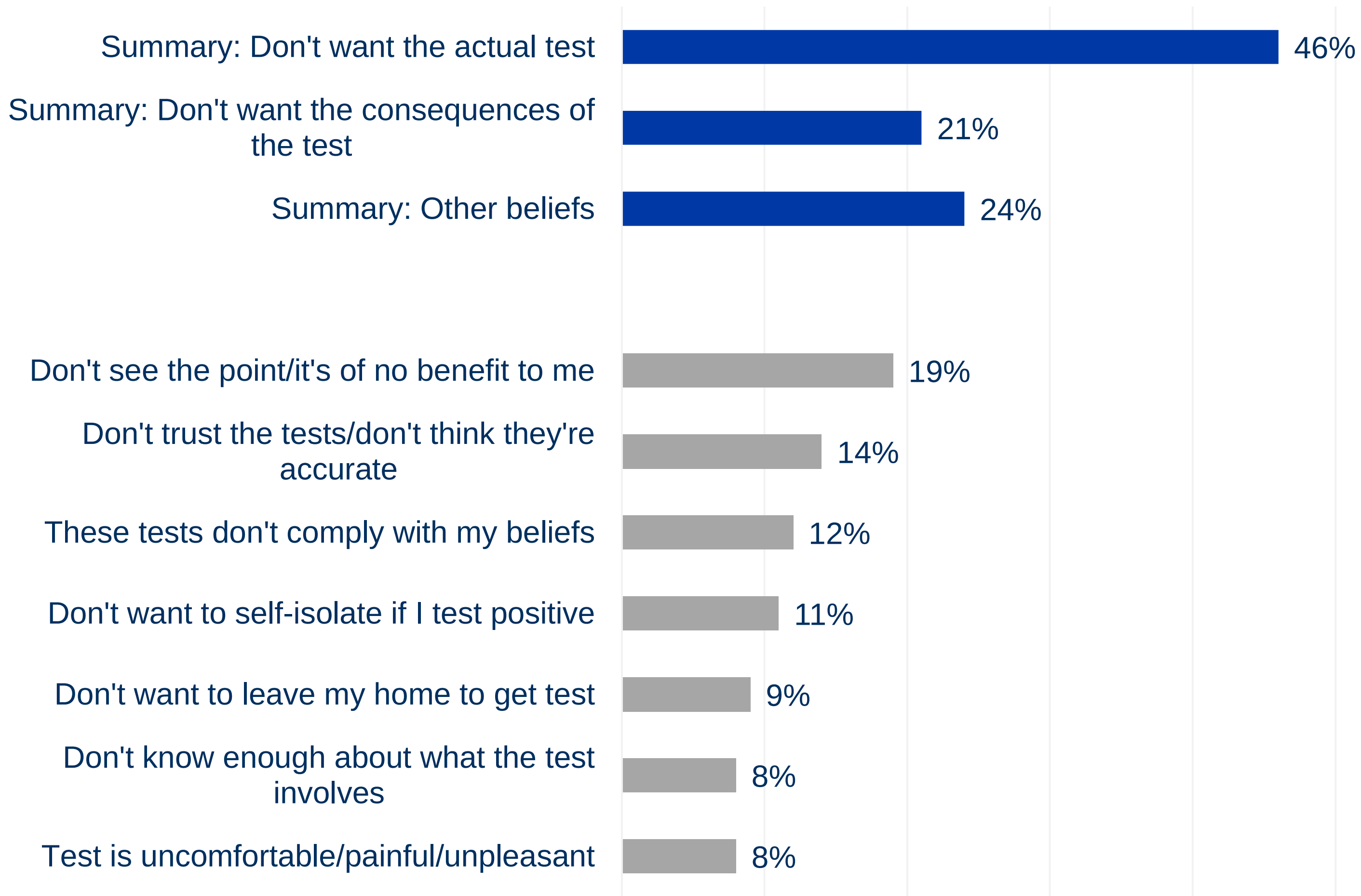
D20a. Around 1 in 3 people who have COVID-19 don't have any symptoms and can spread it without knowing. Regular COVID testing is therefore being offered to increasing numbers of people that have no symptoms. Are you taking these tests?
D20b. Where are you being offered these tests?
D20. How likely would you be to take these free tests if offered?
Unweighted base: 1008 (all respondents); 335 (where being offered); 673 (where not offered tests)

Most common barriers to twice-weekly testing are lack of awareness of and belief of need for this recommended frequency. Lack of perceived value and trust in the tests' reliability are the main barriers to uptake more generally.

Why not taken twice a week...



Reasons for not getting tested despite offer... *(Base of 53)*



D20c. It is recommended these tests are taken at least twice a week, has anything prevented you from doing so?
D21a. Why have you not taken the tests?
Unweighted base: 163 (where taken but less than twice weekly); 53 (Where offered tests but not taking them)

Deeper insight: The roadmap out of lockdown

Qualitative research – overview of approach

- **10 in-depth qualitative telephone interviews**, ranging from 25 to 45 minutes, were held focusing on the Government's roadmap and easing of national lockdown restrictions. In particular they explored:
  - general thoughts of coming out of lockdown
  - understanding of the roadmap
  - views of *'dates driven by data'*
  - concerns and cautious behaviours
  - thoughts and experiences of local versus national approaches.
- 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:
  - Five individuals in full-time employment, one retired, one self-employed (owns a business), two out of work, and one university student who is furloughed.
  - Of the five in employment, one works from home all of the time, another works from home some of the time, and three cannot work from home at all.
  - The self-employed individual also cannot work from home.
  - Five males and five females.
  - Four are from ethnic minorities.
  - Spread of ages: two aged 18-24 / four aged 25-34 / one aged 35-44 / one aged 45-54 / one aged 55-64 / one aged 65+

General thoughts of coming out of lockdown

- Most are **generally positive about the roadmap to easing restrictions**, and respondents typically believe that easing restrictions indicates a degree of normality is returning.
- However, some expressed **concern this could lead to an increase in cases and further deaths**.
- For a minority, the **roadmap is being implemented too soon**. Some mention the Government's '*track record*' of easing restrictions too fast, referring to last year when a rise in cases resulted in a second lockdown, and are now sceptical that it is the right time to do so again.

"I'd rather wait a little while longer now and have less freedoms, then go back to normal by the end of this year, rather than have some freedom to just be locked down again for longer." – Male, 16-24, University student and furloughed.

- For most participants, the main thing they are looking forward to is being able to **reconnect with friends and family again**, with some reporting that they haven't seen their families since the Covid-19 pandemic began.

"I'm looking forward to being able to see my friend and have a girly get together without any restrictions, we haven't been able to see much of each other, we have Zoom cocktail parties but it's not the same." – Female, 55-64, full-time employment.

- While the self-employed participant is keen to reopen to **begin trading again**. The business owner describes lockdown as financially difficult, as they have had to maintain the rent and bills for a vacant property as well as try to support a family on a furlough wage.
- The university student feels that the roadmap gives hope to the possibility of **on-campus learning**, and is eager to continue their learning in a practical environment and to socialise with friends.

Understanding of the roadmap out of lockdown

- All respondents are **able to identify the 12th April as a key milestone,** describing this as the opening of outside pubs and restaurants, gyms, hairdressers and beauty salons, as well as retail.

"From Monday (12th April) I can have my hair cut, go to the gym and sit outside in a pub with my friends." – Male, 25-34, out of work.

- Likewise, all participants are able to recall **the 21st June as the end of the roadmap**, when all restrictions are lifted, signalling a return to a sense of normal.

"The 21st June is a pretty memorised date by everybody, as there's no more Covid restrictions at all, no social distancing, no maximum capacity for gatherings and things like that." – Female, 16-24, full-time employment.

- However, the date in between these two milestones, **the 17th May, is unclear for most and is generally remembered by those who were able to attribute it to an important event.**
- For one individual of Islamic faith, the 17th May stuck out as a key date for allowing households to meet indoors, also coinciding with the **end of Ramadan and the celebration of Eid,** and is looking forward to seeing their parents and other family to eat together.

"Ramadan finishes around May 17th which is when you can go indoors and see family, so that's what our plan is, to go at Eid and celebrate with family." – Female, 25-34, full-time employment.

(it should be noted that Eid falls on 12-13 May, ahead of this planned date for change in restrictions – so this way of celebrating indoors would not be allowed under the restrictions in place)

- For another person, the easing of restrictions in May was a stand out point as **international travel** may become possible, meaning the she may be able to go on her holiday to Greece in June.

"On the 17th May I can have six from two households inside my house and other things open up, international travel might resume meaning hopefully I can go on my holiday in June." – Female, 55-64, full-time employment.

- While most believe that the roadmap is a way out of lockdown through the gradual easing of restrictions, it is also **understood that the easing may be reversed if cases rise**, despite this not being part of the official government messaging.

Behaviours as we come out of lockdown – what individuals feel cautious of

- Although the **majority are happy with the roadmap**, some describe a growing feeling of **anxiety about mixing with the wider public** again.
- Most have **concerns about the ability to socially distance in crowded areas** as restrictions are eased, believing that people will ‘*go mad*’ at the different stages of roadmap, with some opting to wait until they perceive areas to have calmed down.

“I feel anxious about when the pubs open, as every man and his dog will be going, so I will be avoiding it for the first 2 to 4 weeks.” – Male, 25-34, full-time employment.

- Furthermore, most described **wanting to reduce the number of times they need to mix with large public crowds**, such as visiting large shopping centres. It is thought to be an unnecessary risk, as respondents believe there will be some who are not abiding by social distancing and hygiene measures, increasing their chances of catching Covid-19. Some feel they need to weigh up the risks of attending crowded areas, as keeping family safe is a priority.

“I wouldn’t actively go somewhere that’s very busy, I’d rather focus on seeing my family rather than going to a busy city centre on a Saturday, I wouldn’t want to go on a busy weekend day to the shops when probably a lot of people are going to be there, no matter how much you try to control it there will always be one or two who actually don’t care.” – Female, 25-34, full-time employment

- **The cleanliness of public transport is a concern** as it starts to get busier, with particular worry about others following hygiene rules such as hand sanitisation and wearing face coverings. One person who will have to travel by public transport around Greater Manchester and possibly other areas in the UK, describes being scared due to the lack of hygiene and would be reassured by the presence of staff members ensuring people are abiding by rules and disinfecting surfaces.

“I will have to work in different places around Manchester and sometimes further, and I’m kind of scared to use public transport, people are going to be touching their face and touching the buttons, and there’s not a member of staff making sure people are wearing their masks, or cleaning areas that people have touched, and there should be.” Male, 16-24, University student and furloughed.

- While another describes they have had to **travel** to London for work and use the underground, which made her feeling anxious and left her wanting to get off, after being surrounded and close to so many people.
- One individual fears that relaxing restrictions will **increase passenger numbers and make social distancing much more difficult**.

Behaviours as we come out of lockdown – what individuals feel cautious of (cont.)

- Some also report **anxiety around socialising in general**, as the limited social interaction over the past year may have impacted their social skills and how comfortable and relaxed they feel in a social setting. Some feel it has become normalised to stay away from people and to suddenly be surrounded may now feel alien.
- One person comments they **appreciate the staggered approach** to the easing of restrictions as it allows for their '*brain to get into gear*' by slowly reintroducing interactions with others.

"We've all got to adapt back and in a sense it's getting our brains back into gear, I think if we did it all at once we would go insane." Male, 45-54, business owner

- Anxieties of socialising with other people is felt more strongly for one individual with underlying mental health issues, who **feels pressured to meet other people again**. He reports having an influx of visitors wanting to see his new baby when that is permitted and he is concerned about adapting from no social interaction to a deluge. Instead, he believes he would feel relief if dates of the roadmap were to be pushed back, giving him more time to prepare himself and create his own roadmap to slowly stagger social interactions and events.

"Everyone's going to want to come and see us because we've got a new baby, so we'll have a queue at the door probably. Whereas I'm happy to just shut the door, close the blinds and sit in for a little bit longer. I think I need to make my own roadmap of a plan of how we're going to handle it." Male 25-34, out of work.

- For those with **children, there is a concern about their socialisation back into society**, having had limited contact with other children outside of school to play. One mother feels her daughters have lost confidence in themselves and the ability to be children, and is worried about their reactions when things begin to reopen.

"The girls (daughters) have suffered tremendously really, they've lost a lot of confidence in themselves and the growth and their ability to be kids. We were always outside and messing around and being children and they haven't been able to do that." Female, 24-35, business owner.

‘Driven by data, not dates’ - general thoughts and support

- Although a majority would be disappointed if dates had to be moved backwards, **most support the rationale of dates being driven by data**, often referring to the scientists as the ‘experts’ in deciding if it is safe to ease restrictions.

“If they (the scientists) could show that there's been an increase in cases, and we need to do it, it’s necessary. Disappointing but understandable.” – Male, 45-54, business owner.

- Some individuals feel they would be excited **if dates in the roadmap were to be brought forward**, although most would also be concerned to do so, as they feel there needs to be a considerable amount of time between each date and easing of more restrictions in order to decide whether to keep progressing.

“We need to give a decent length of time between each move and see how it goes, and decide whether to keep on easing things.” Male, 65+, retired.

- Many describe a difficult balancing act as restrictions are eased. While most place importance the protection of health, lives, and the NHS as reasons to halt the roadmap, there is also a **general feeling that the economy should begin to reopen.**

“You’re providing safety to the public, you don’t want to be catching it and taking it to your family. It’s a catch 22 isn’t it? The Government are trying to do the right thing, I just don’t think there’s enough support for businesses.” – Female, 25-34, business owner.

- For one person, it would **need to be a substantial spike in cases to halt the easing of restrictions**, and not just a ‘*little increase*’. She believes that cases may still rise as the country moves out of lockdown, but the general public will need to learn to live some cases, comparing the Coronavirus to the flu.

“I think it has to be a substantial spike, because there will be ups and downs, a little increase in cases is not enough, it has to be substantial.” – Female, 55-64, full-time employment.

‘Driven by data, not dates’ – negative implications

- The **self-employed** often emphasise the need for the economy to reopen, feeling that the **pushback of dates would have a ‘*devastating*’ impact.** An owner of a salon is worried she may have to fold her business if there are further delays to reopening, reporting a lack of funding and support causing her to get into debt to ensure that rent and bills paid, as well as her providing for her family.

“I’ve worked so hard to build a well known, reputable business but I can’t afford the upkeep of an empty salon and to feed my children and buy them school clothes they’re growing out of.” – Female, 24-35, business owner but furloughed.

- Meanwhile, individuals **working from home appear to be less affected by date changes**. While they too would be disappointed, they are able to continue working from home and are perhaps less financially impacted by the easing of restrictions.
- Some participants express the **possible detrimental impact to the general public’s mental health** if dates within the roadmap were to be moved back. Some describe these milestones as providing a light at the end of the tunnel, and to take that away from people who may already have had a hard year mentally and may be vulnerable could have negative consequences.

“If something’s going bad and then see that light at the end of the tunnel and then someone takes that away, I can understand how people would be affected if they’re mentally relying on that day to get you through, it’s upsetting sometimes when you’re looking forward to something anyway.” Female, 24-35, full-time employment

- For one **parent with an autistic child**, the possibility of reopening facilities at a date on the roadmap, to later have to close again due to rising Covid-19 case numbers may cause additional stress. To have to factor swimming lessons back into the weekly routine one week, only for the next to not be allowed, he reports would cause significant upheaval and distress to his child, who cannot understand why.

“That will cause a lot of grief in my family because we are very organised and very planned, so we think right we can adjust to this now but if that gets wiped from underneath our feet we’re back to square one, having to do that over and over again would cause a lot of havoc. For us to one day say he can go swimming and can’t the next it’s hard as my son he just wont understand the change and doesn’t understand coronavirus. ” Male, 24-35, out of work.

Perceptions of a local versus national approach of restrictions

- All feel that the previous **local approach to restrictions was not effective,** with the majority believing they were **unfair and frustrating.** Individuals feel frustrated witnessing others enjoy freedoms, while business owners feel it's unfair that they're limited. For a salon owner, restrictions often mean closing fully and unlike pubs or restaurants, as they cannot adapt to a take-away service.

"I found it very frustrating that other people had more freedoms than I did, I've got friends that live in Liverpool who were in a lower tier and its frustrating." – Female, 55-64, full-time employment.

- While most understand rationale behind local restrictions, many believe it was **difficult to police and implement** and so its benefits are undermined. Some report that due to the practicalities of local restrictions, with a new area possibly being a road away, **it is easy for individuals to flout the rules**, travelling to other areas to access services or facilities.

"I'm based in Greater Manchester but literally two minutes down the road was Lancashire, when Lancashire went into tier three and we were in tier two, everybody just came to us, so it doesn't work, there's no point to it. Whereas if it's a full blanket restriction, everything's shut." Male, 45 -54, business owner.

- It's generally perceived that **younger people are the most likely to flout local restrictions** and so some will break rules to visit neighbouring cities, such as Liverpool, where restrictions are eased.
- One business owner feels if local approaches were to be introduced again it would create **difficulties for his staff**, describing the process of NHS Test and Trace as time-consuming, so to add a further element of checking where people are coming from is an additional stress and worry.
- One individual felt that **local restrictions were used as a political statement,** describing Greater Manchester as largely Labour run and actively vocal against restrictions, feeling as though harsher restrictions were kept in place despite a decrease in positive cases.

"Andy Burnham is Labour, and very vocal, whereas the Government is Conservative… And even when our case numbers went down our tier number wasn't reduced, so I think there's a lot of politics about it as well, so I think it was done because of who Andy Burnham was." Female, 55-64, full-time employment.

- **All would prefer a national easing of lockdown, and if necessary, reintroduction of restrictions to the whole of England** instead of locally. Although a few feel that if local restrictions were to be introduced again there is little they can do other than to '*get on with it*'.

Carried out on behalf of Greater Manchester partners