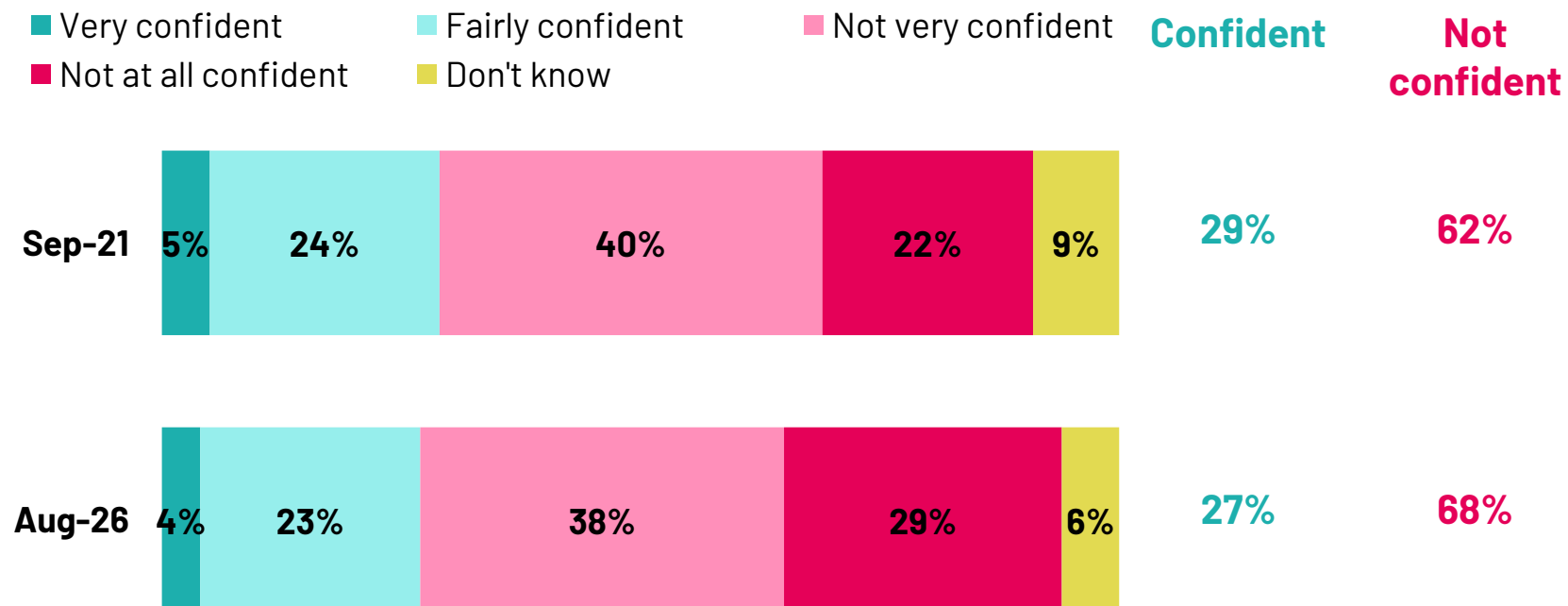


IPSOS UK PRISONS POLLING

August 2026

Just over 1 in 4 (27%) are confident in the current Government's handling of crime and justice in the UK, on a par with the 29% who were confident in the previous Conservative government's handling.

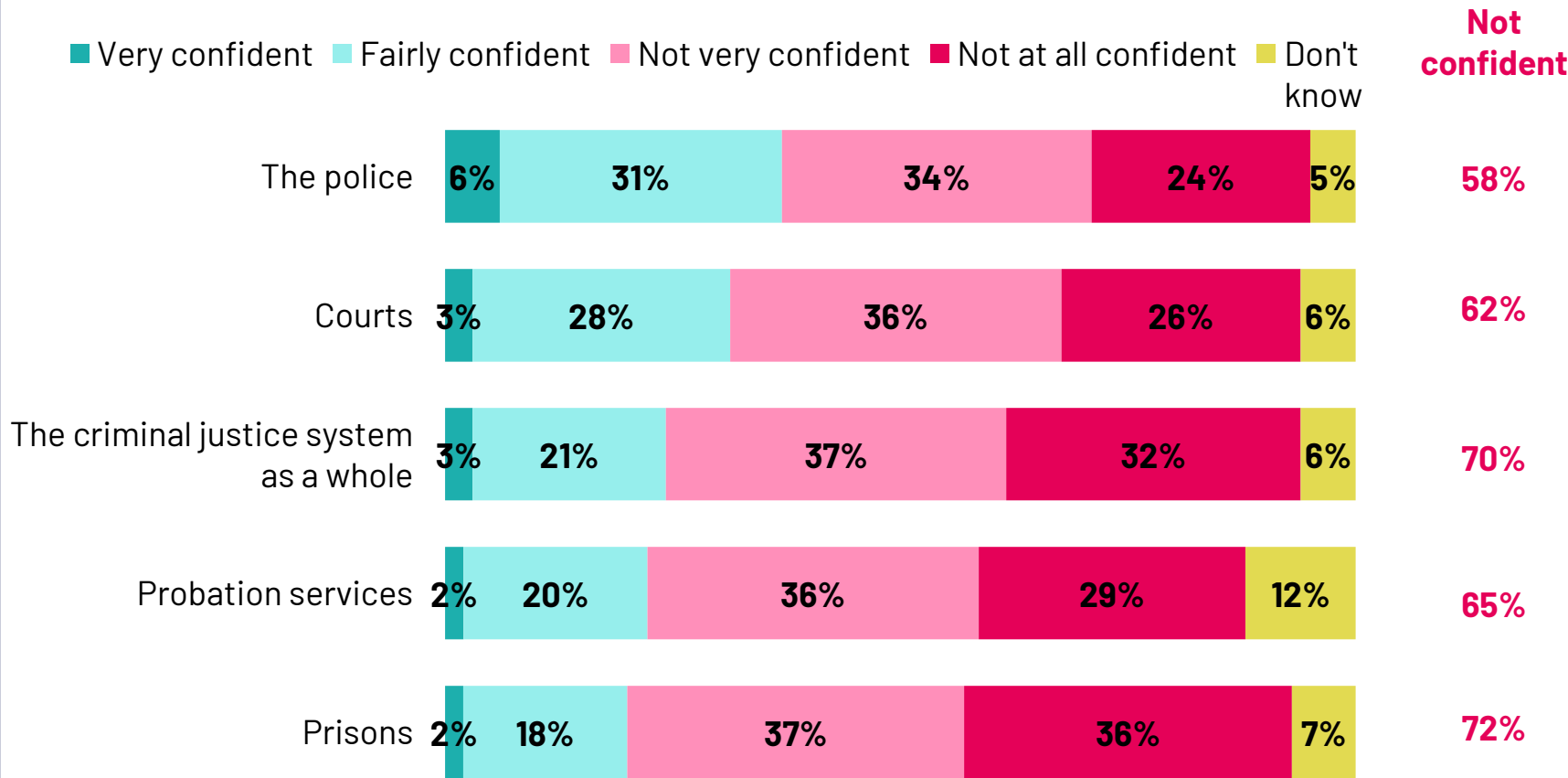
Overall, how confident, or not, are you in the current Government's handling of crime and justice in the UK?



Sep-2021 base: **2,006** Online adults in the UK aged 18-75, 3-4 September 2021
 Aug-2026 base: **1,084** Online adults in Great Britain aged 18-75, 7-11 August 2026

Confidence is also low on how well aspects of the CJS are working, with public confidence highest in the police (37%) and courts (31%) – though a much larger share say they are not confident.

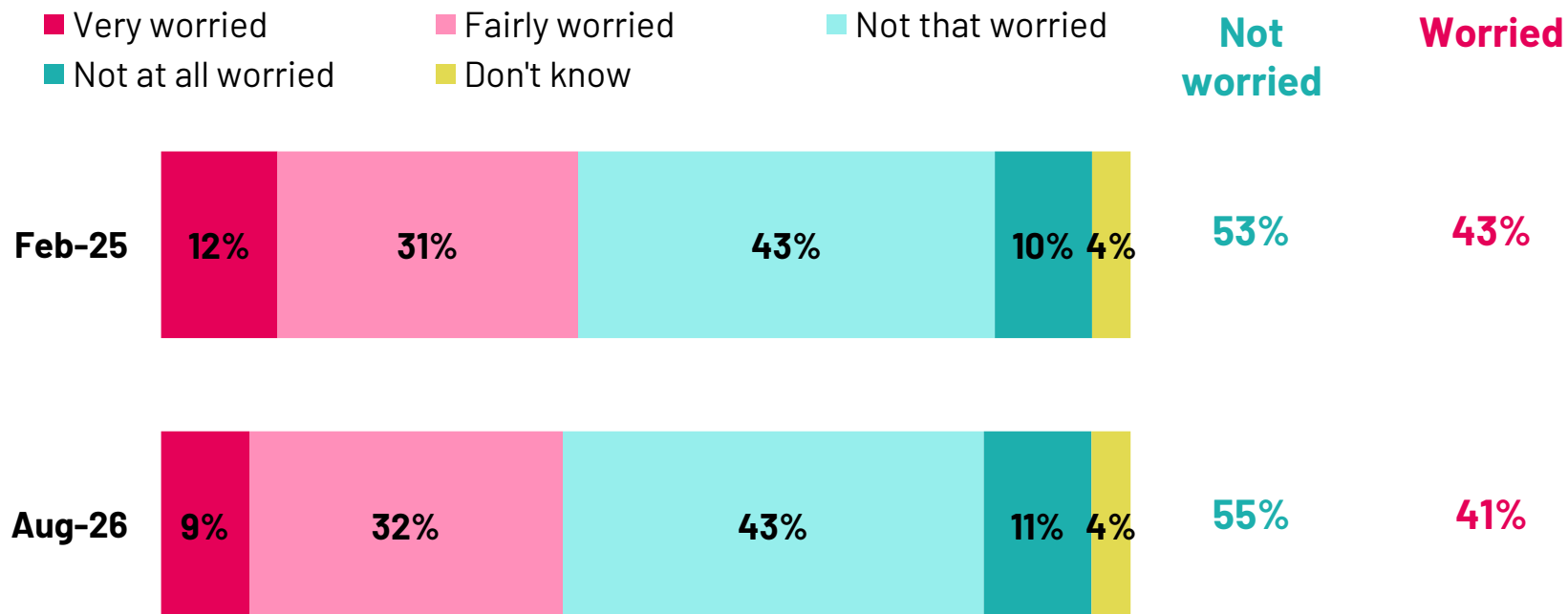
How confident, or not, are you that each of the following aspects of the UK's crime and justice system are working well?



Aug-2026 base: 1,084 Online adults in Great Britain aged 18-75, 7-11 August 2026

4 in 10 (41%) are worried about themselves personally being a victim of a crime, compared to 55% who are not worried, marking no change since February 2025.

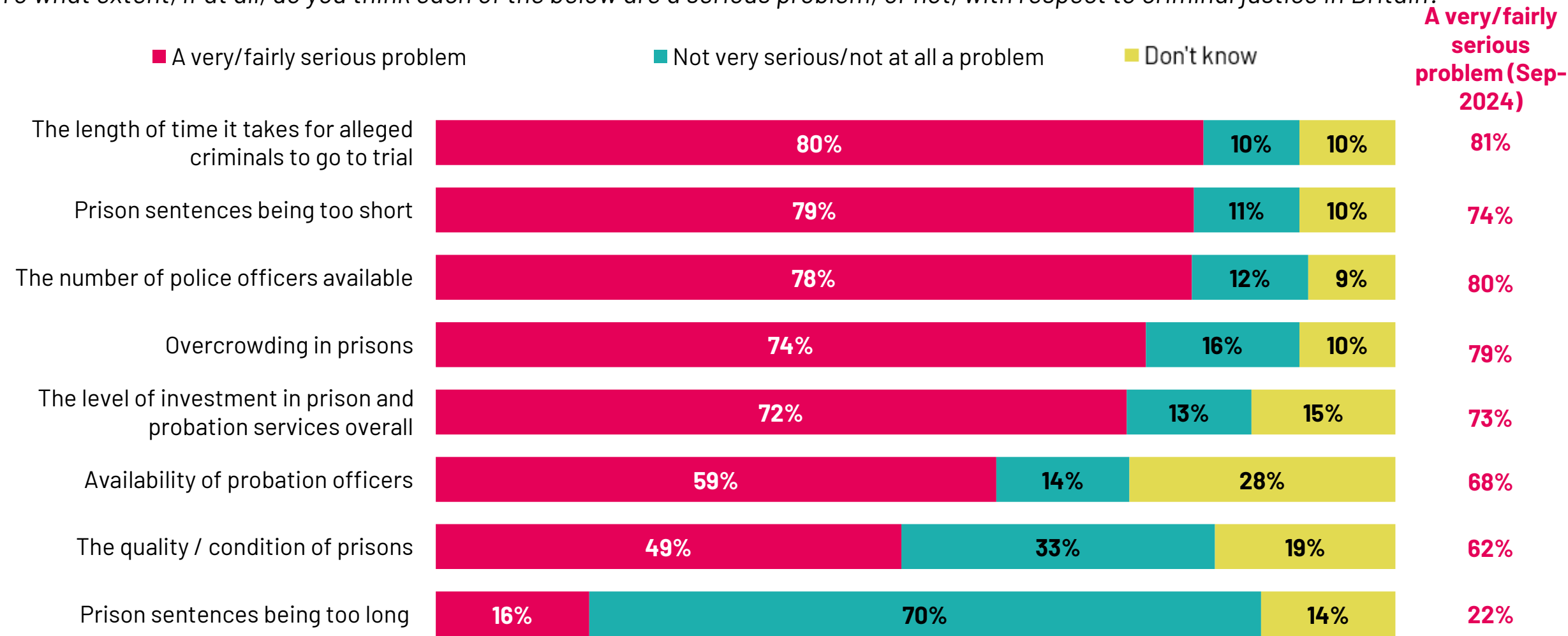
How worried, if at all, are you personally about being a victim of crime?



Feb-2025 base: **1,087** Online British adults aged 18-75, 3-5 February 2025
 Aug-2026 base: **1,084** Online adults in Great Britain aged 18-75, 7-11 August 2026

Overwhelming majority think that a number of key issues are a serious problem in respect to criminal justice in Britain

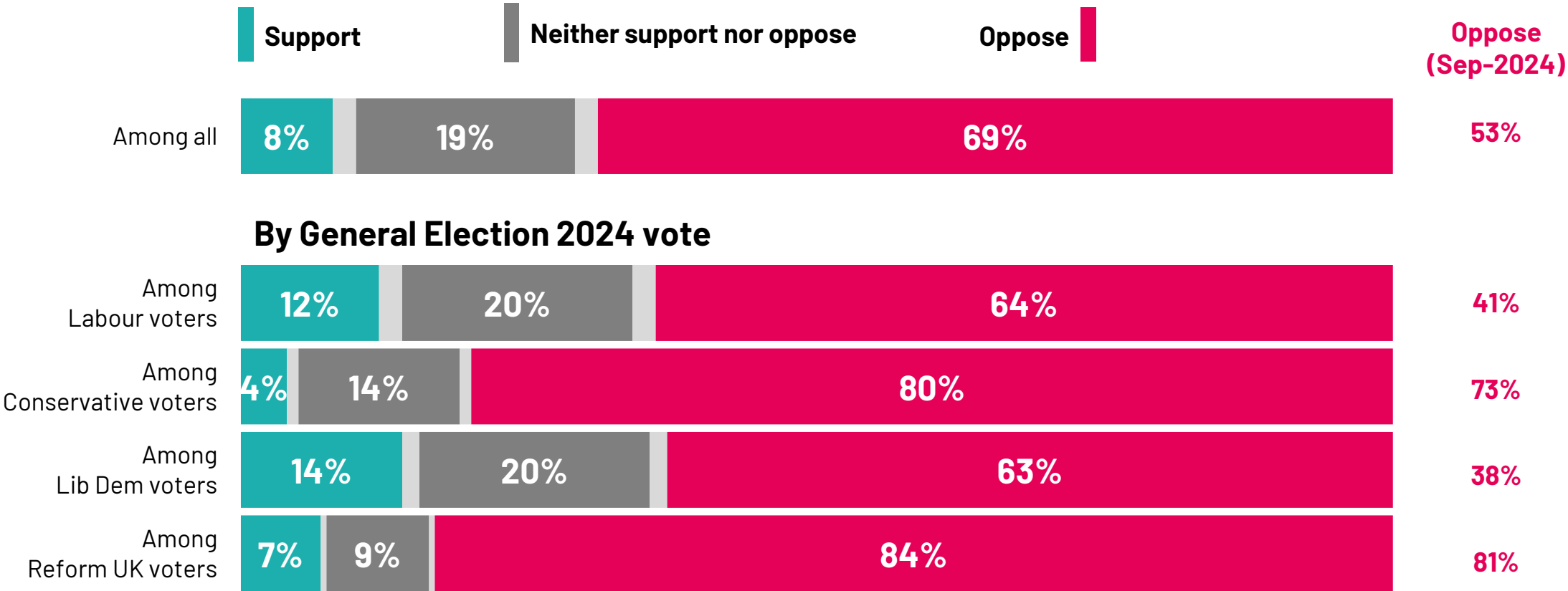
To what extent, if at all, do you think each of the below are a serious problem, or not, with respect to criminal justice in Britain?



Sep-2024 base: **1,059** Online British adults 18-75, 20-23 September 2024
Aug-2026 base: **1,084** Online adults in Great Britain aged 18-75, 7-11 August 2026

Fewer than 1 in 10 (8%) support the early release of certain prisoners, with 2 in 3 (69%) opposing the initiative (+16 vs Sept. 2024).

As you may know, certain prisoners are released early as a response to overcrowding in prisons. To what extent do you support or oppose this initiative?

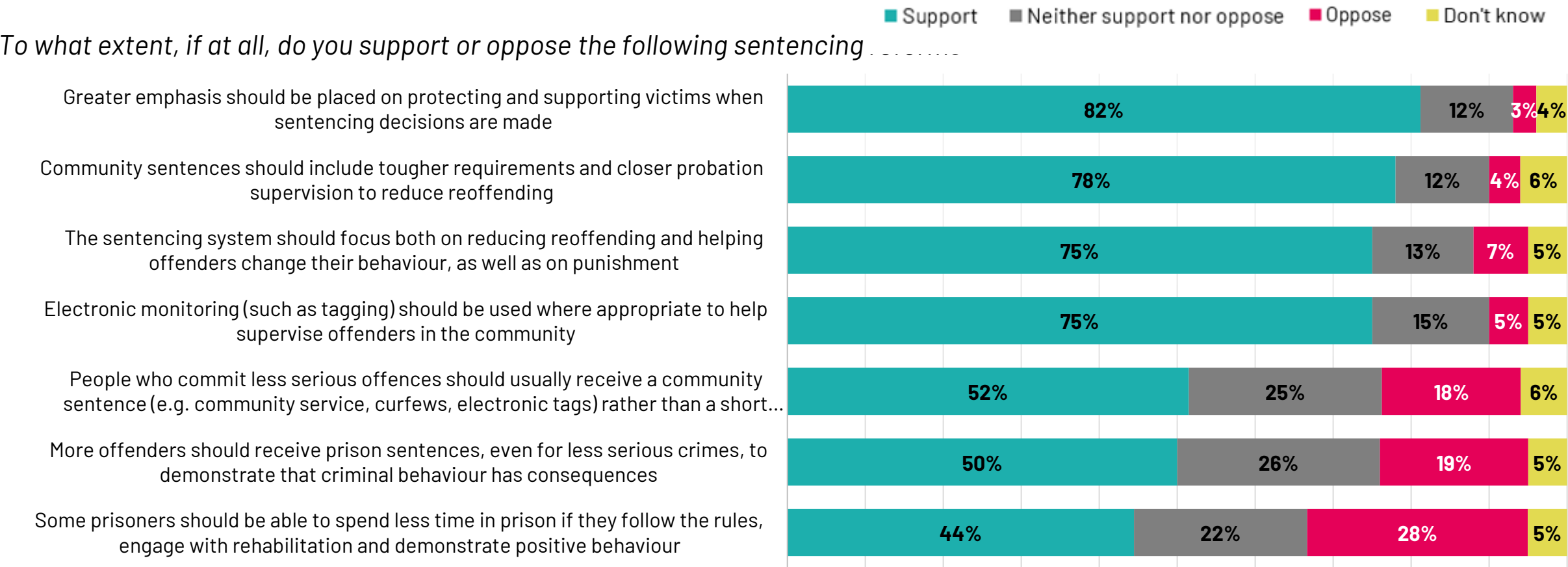


Sep-2024 base: 1,059 Online British adults 18-75, 20-23 September 2024, including 18-34-year-olds (339), 35-54-year-olds (374), and 55-75-year-olds (346) and 2024 GE Labour voters (363), Conservative voters (164), Liberal Democrat voters (103), and Reform UK voters (107).

Aug-2026 base: 1,084 Online adults in Great Britain aged 18-75, 7-11 August 2026, including 18-34-year-olds (326), 35-54-year-olds (394), and 55-75-year-olds (365) and 2024 GE Labour voters (293), Conservative voters (135), Liberal Democrat voters (105), and Reform UK voters (128).

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More than 8 in 10 support a greater emphasis being placed on protecting and supporting victims when sentencing decisions are made, with fewer than half supporting the idea that some prisoners should be able to spend less time in prison on the basis of rehabilitation efforts and good behaviour.

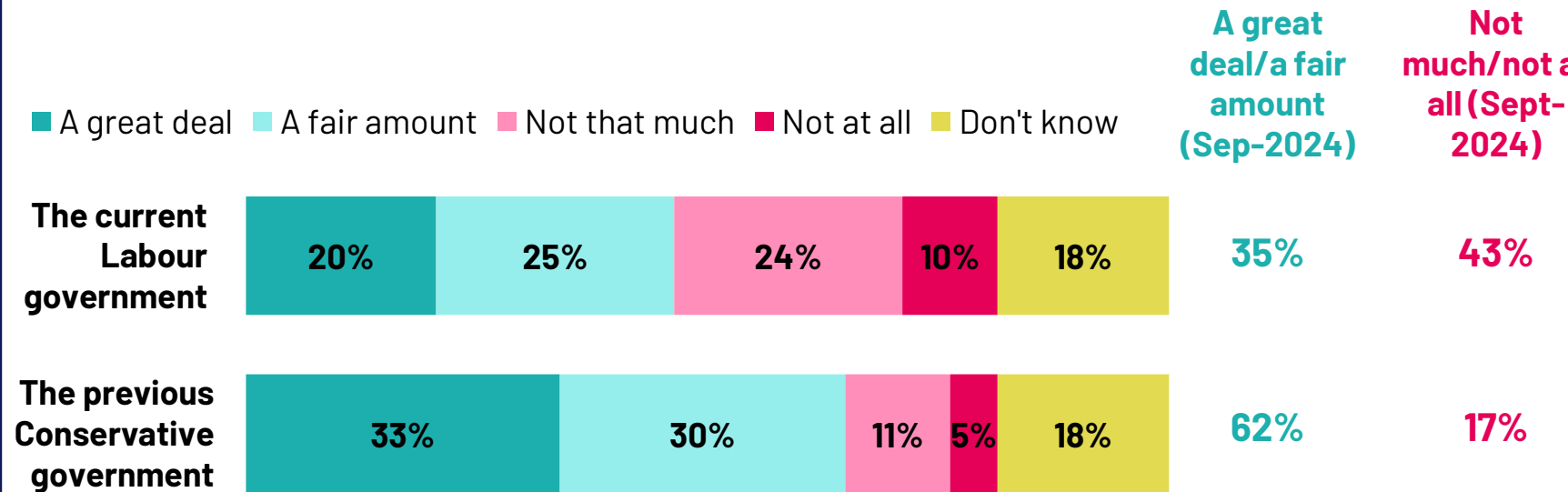


Aug-2026 base: 1,084 Online adults in Great Britain aged 18-75, 7-11 August 2026



6 in 10 (63%) still consider the previous Conservative government responsible for overcrowding in prisons, compared to 45% who hold the current government responsible.

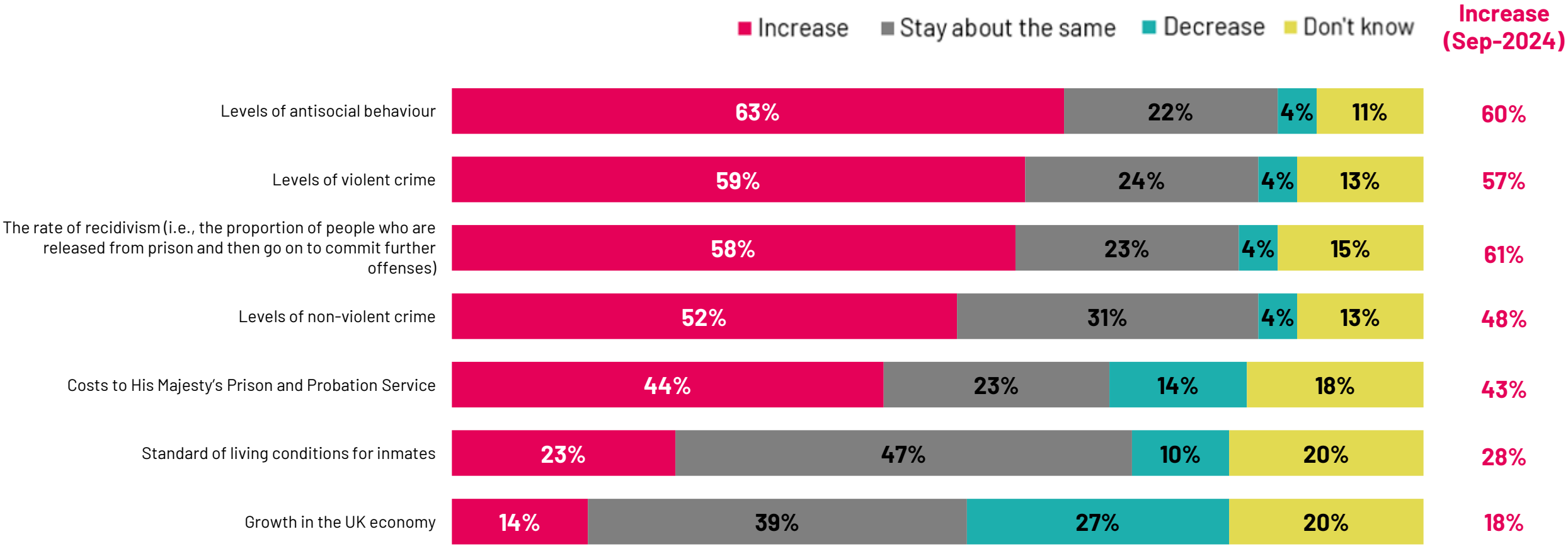
To what extent, if at all, do you think each of the following is responsible for the current overcrowding in prisons within England and Wales?



Sep-2024 base: **1,059** Online British adults 18-75, 20-23 September 2024
 Aug-2026 base: **1,084** Online adults in Great Britain aged 18-75, 7-11 August 2026

The public think the early release of some prisoners will increase the rate of recidivism and levels of antisocial behaviour.

In terms of any impact that the early release of some prisoners could have on British society... Do you think that each of the following will increase, decrease, or stay about the same, in terms of any impact of this?



Aug-2026 base: 1,084 Online adults in Great Britain aged 18-75, 7-11 August 2026