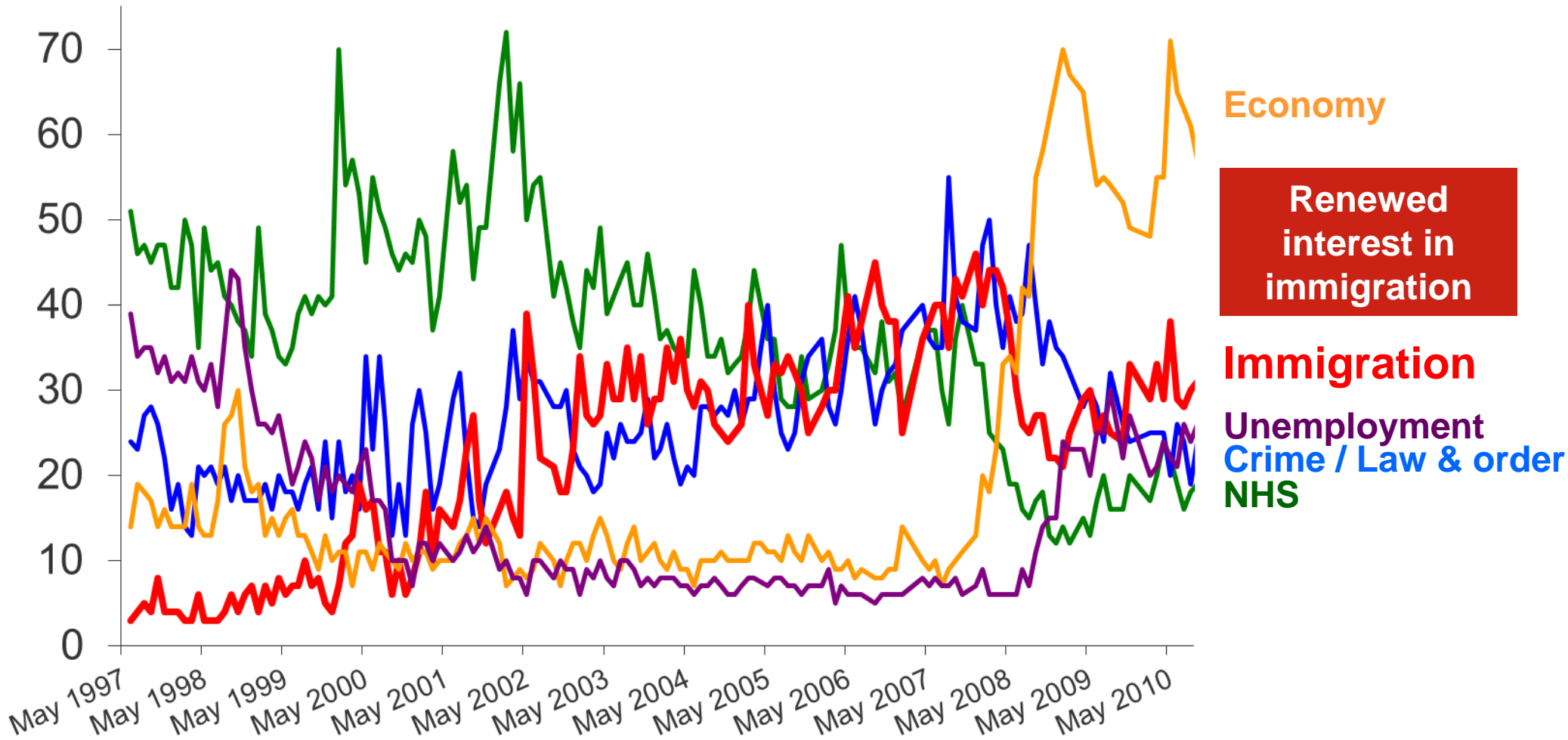


Does immigration matter?

For several years now, the public has been telling us that immigration is one of the most important issues facing Britain

Immigration has risen from minority issue in 1997 to one of the most important issues facing Britain today

What do you see as the most/other important issues facing Britain today?

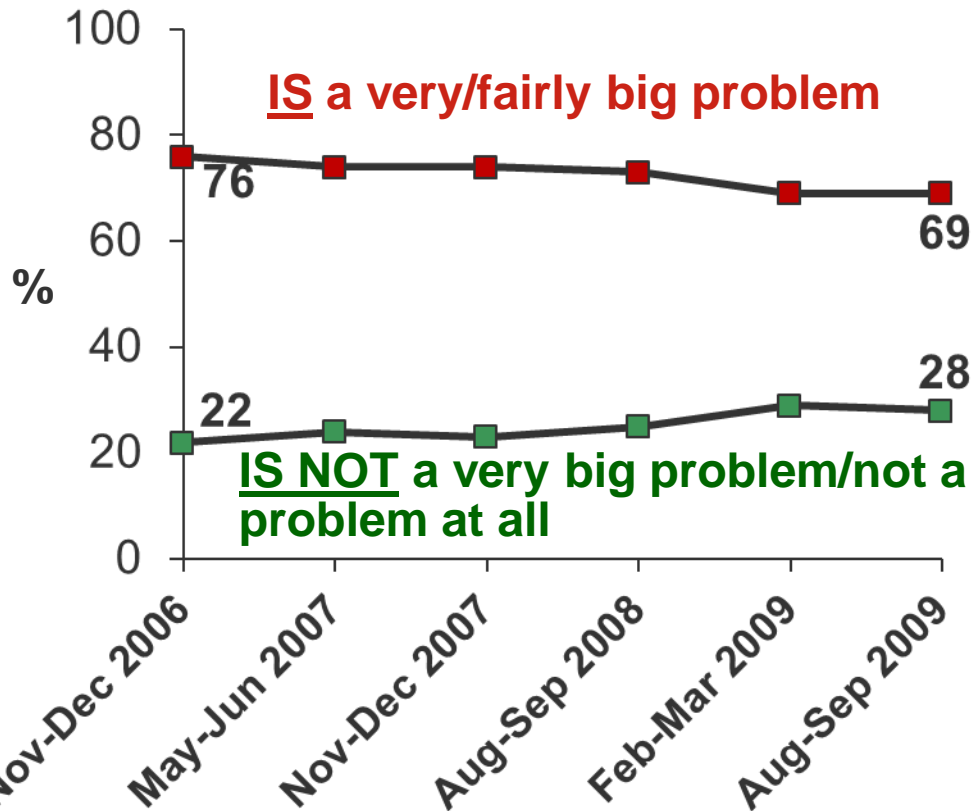


How big a problem is immigration?

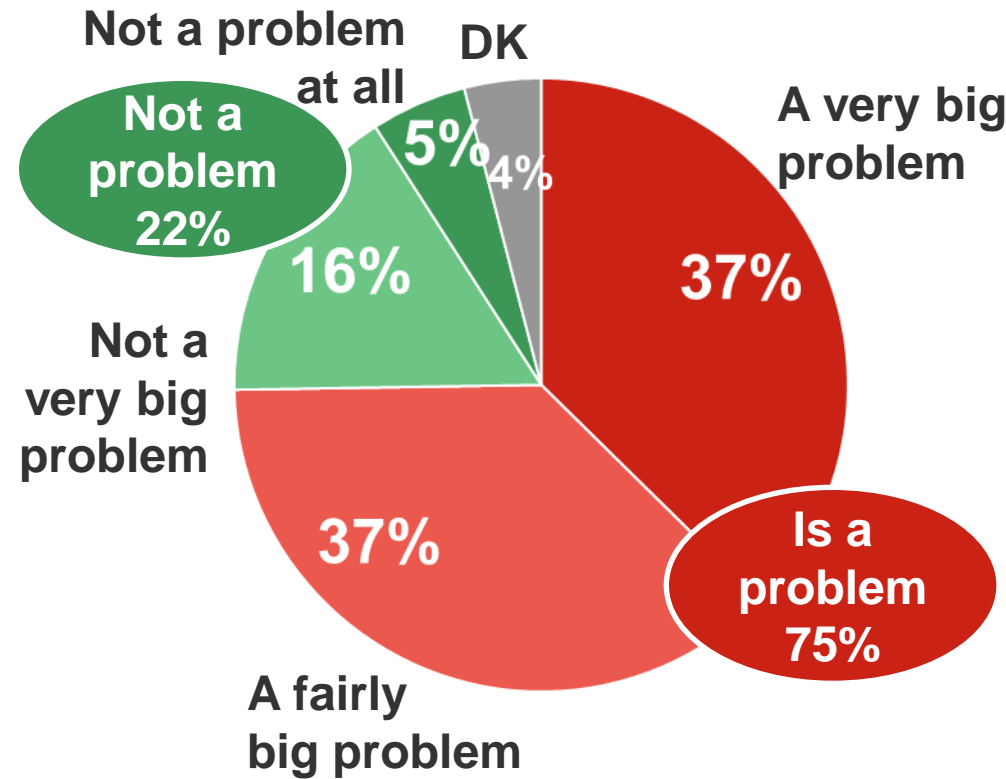
The majority thinks immigration is a problem in Britain – and concern appears to be growing

Q. Overall how much of a problem, if at all, do you think immigration is in Britain at the moment?

2006-2009



Feb 2011



Base: Adults aged 16+ in GB, Nov-Dec 2006 (1,001); May-Jun 2007 (1,011); Nov-Dec 2007 (1,004); Aug-Sep 2008 (539); Feb-Mar 2009 (1,030); Aug-Sep 2009 (1,030); Feb 2011 (1,004)

There are relationships between thinking immigration is a problem and age, worker type and newspaper choice

% Responding that it is a very big/fairly big problem

- Older people are more likely than other age groups to say that immigration is a problem



- Lower skilled workers are also more likely than other groups to say immigration is a problem

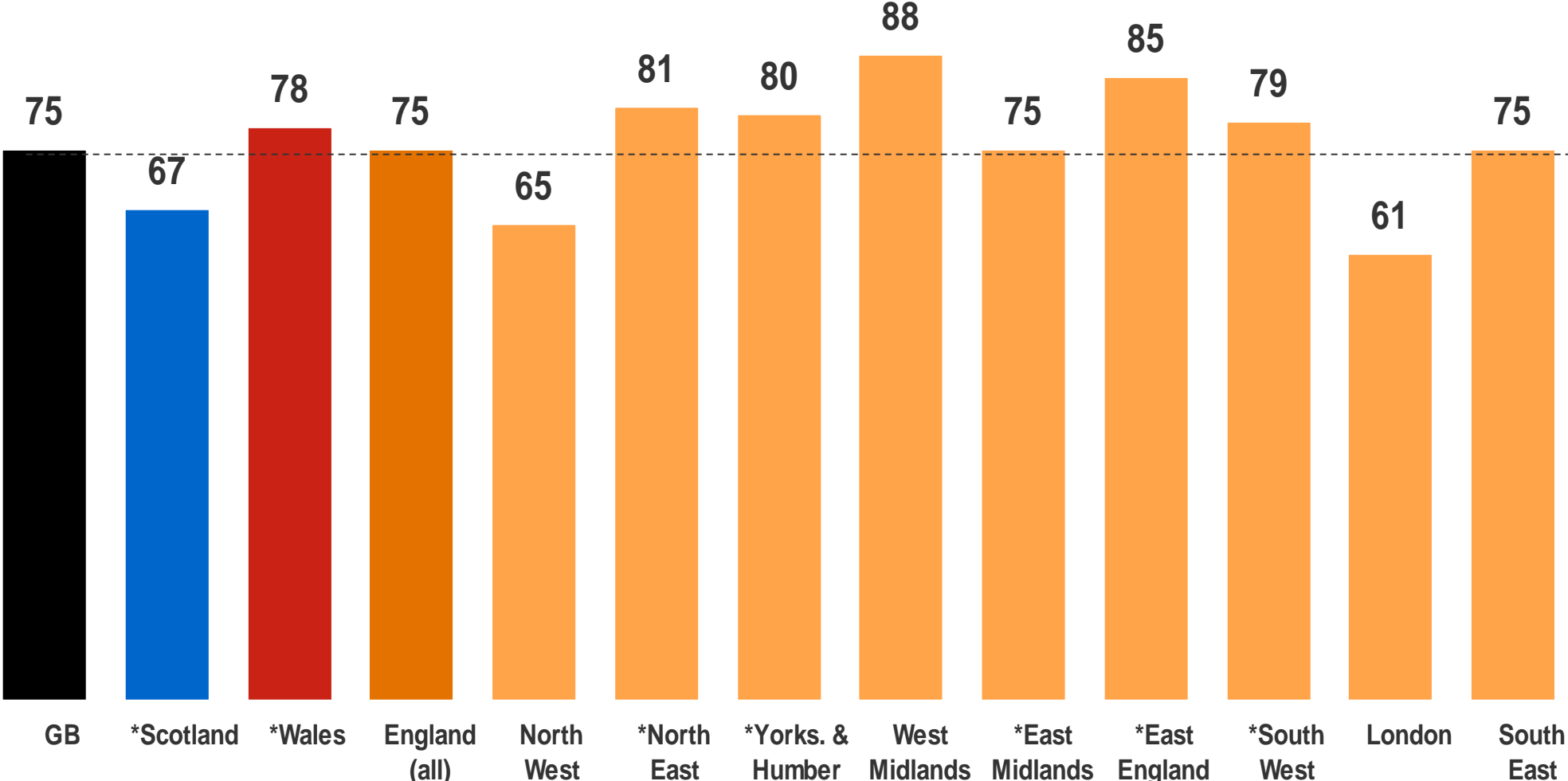


- Readers of the popular press or centre right newspapers are more likely to say that immigration is a problem



The perceived problem of immigration in Britain differs by region; those in the West Midlands are most concerned

Q. Overall, how much of a problem, if at all, do you think immigration is in Britain at the moment? ALL RESPONDING 'A very big or fairly big problem'

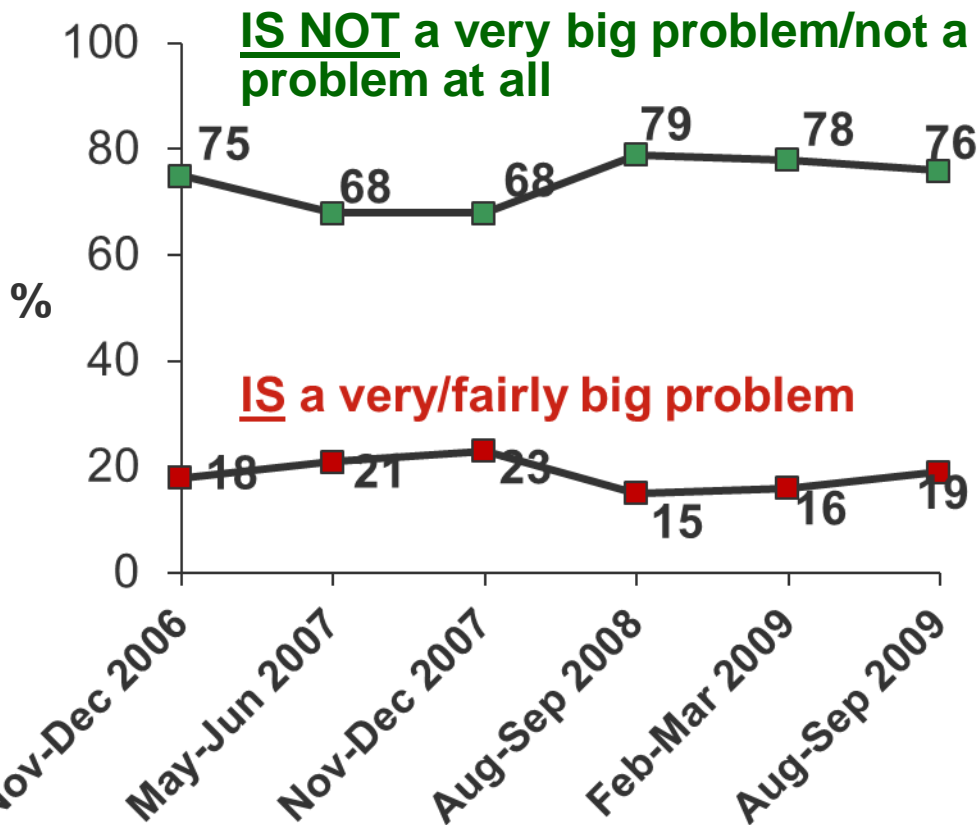


* Asterisk denotes small base, please interpret with caution

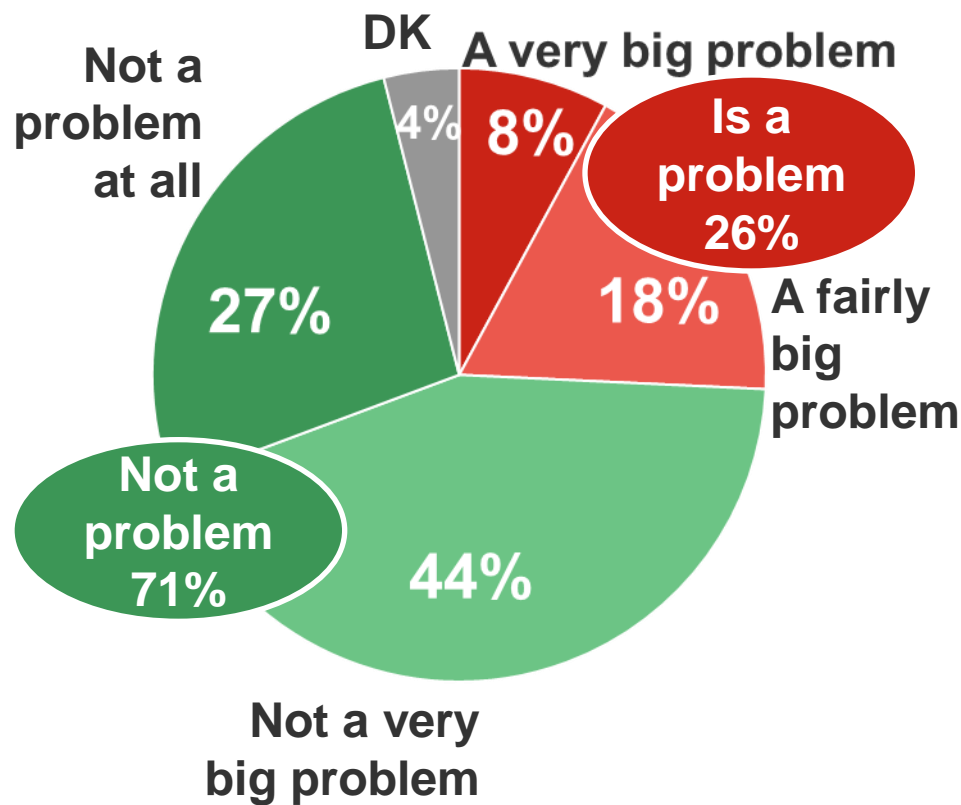
Most do *not* see immigration as a problem in their local area – but concern here is also growing

Q. Overall how much of a problem, if at all, do you think immigration is in your local area at the moment?

2006-2009



Feb 2011



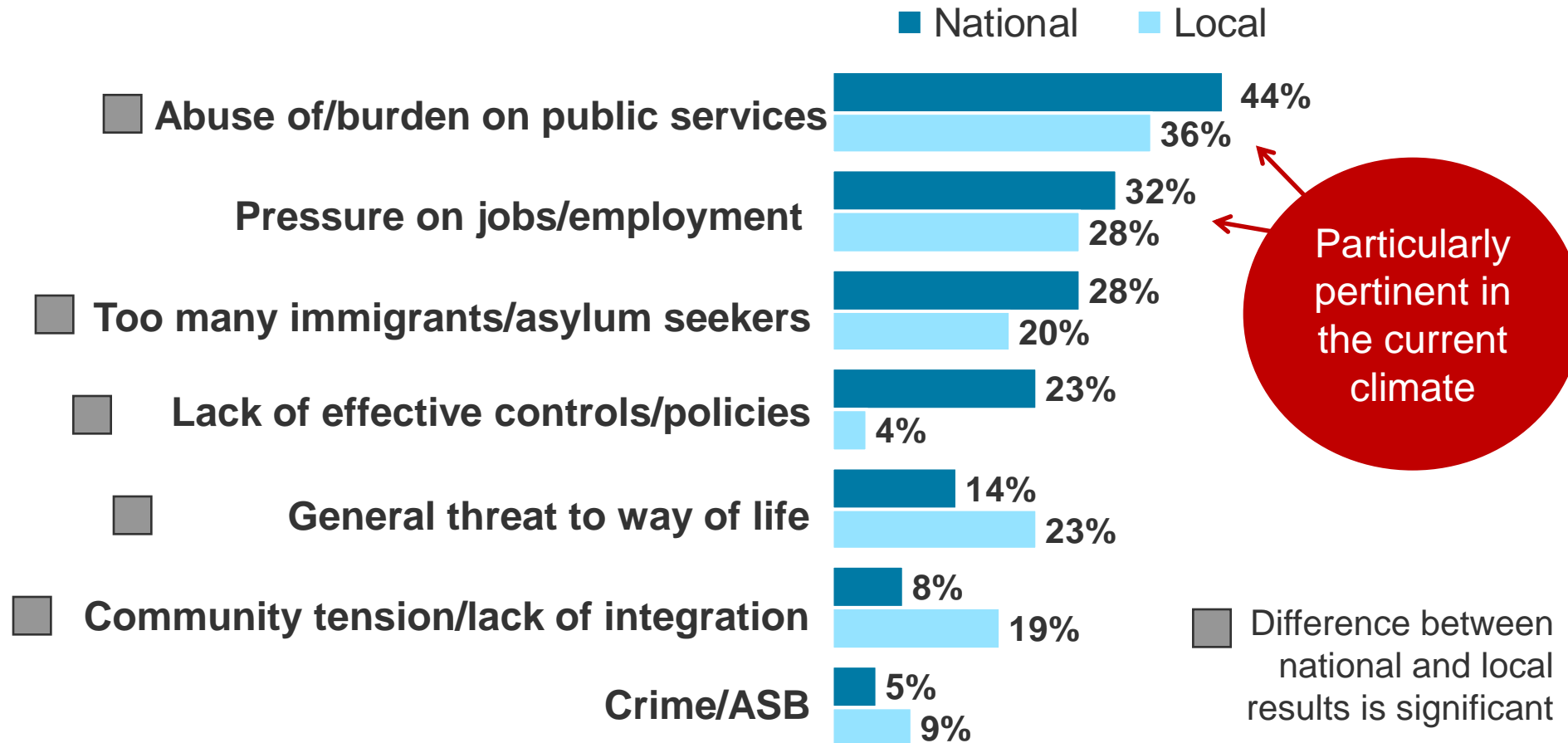
Base: Adults aged 16+ in GB, Nov-Dec 2006 (1,001); May-Jun 2007 (1,011); Nov-Dec 2007 (1,004); Aug-Sep 2008 (539); Feb-Mar 2009 (1,030); Aug-Sep 2009 (1,030); Feb 2011 (1,004)

Why is immigration such a problem?

Previous research cites abuse of public services and pressure on jobs as key reasons

Q. You said that immigration in Britain is a very big/fairly big problem.

Q. You said that immigration in your local area is a very big/fairly big problem.
Why do you say that?

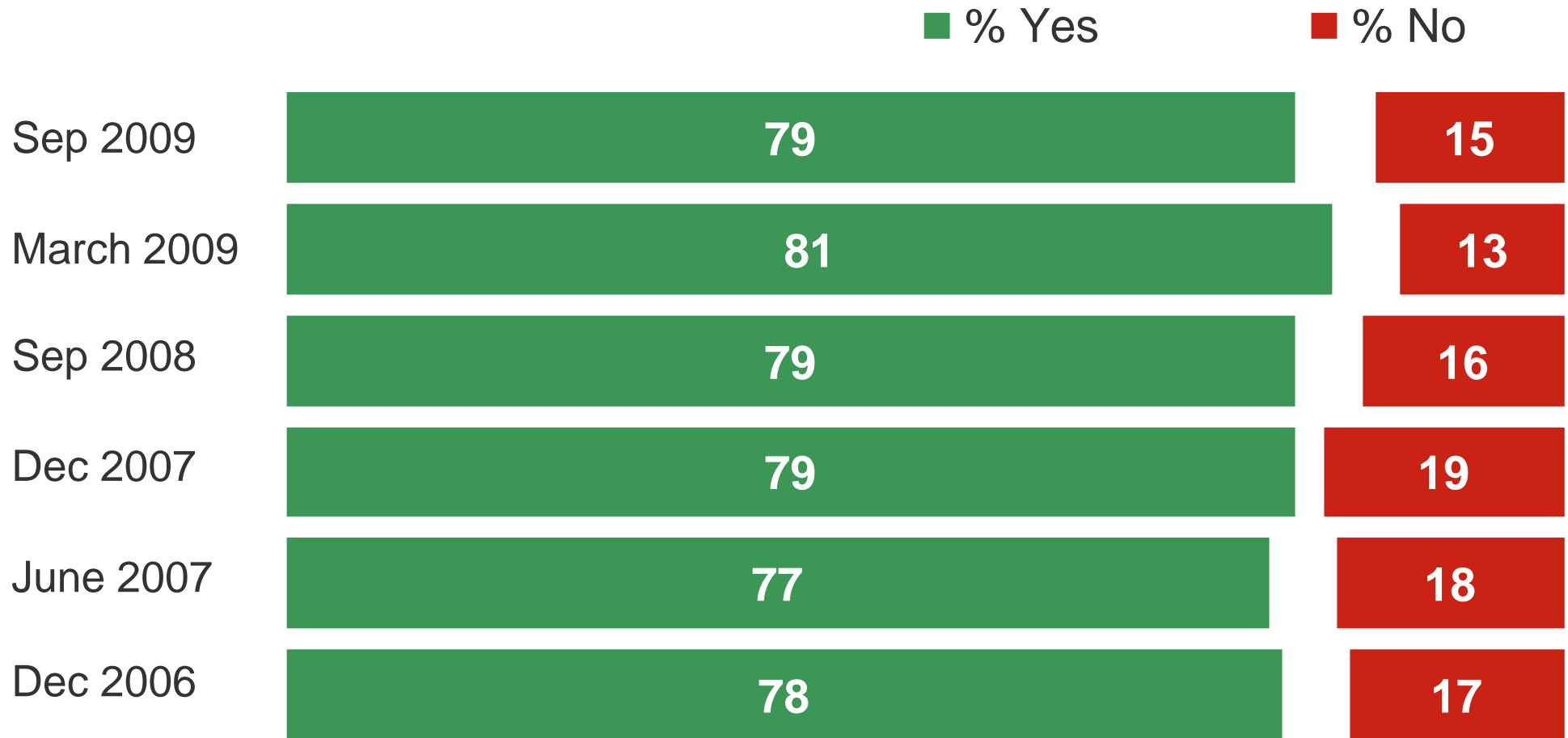


Base: All who see immigration as a very or fairly big problem in Britain Aug-Sep 2009 (735)
All those who see immigration as a very or fairly big problem in their local area Aug-Sep 2009 (198)

Will the public support the coalition government's cap on immigration?

Demand for a cap on immigration has been consistently high in recent years

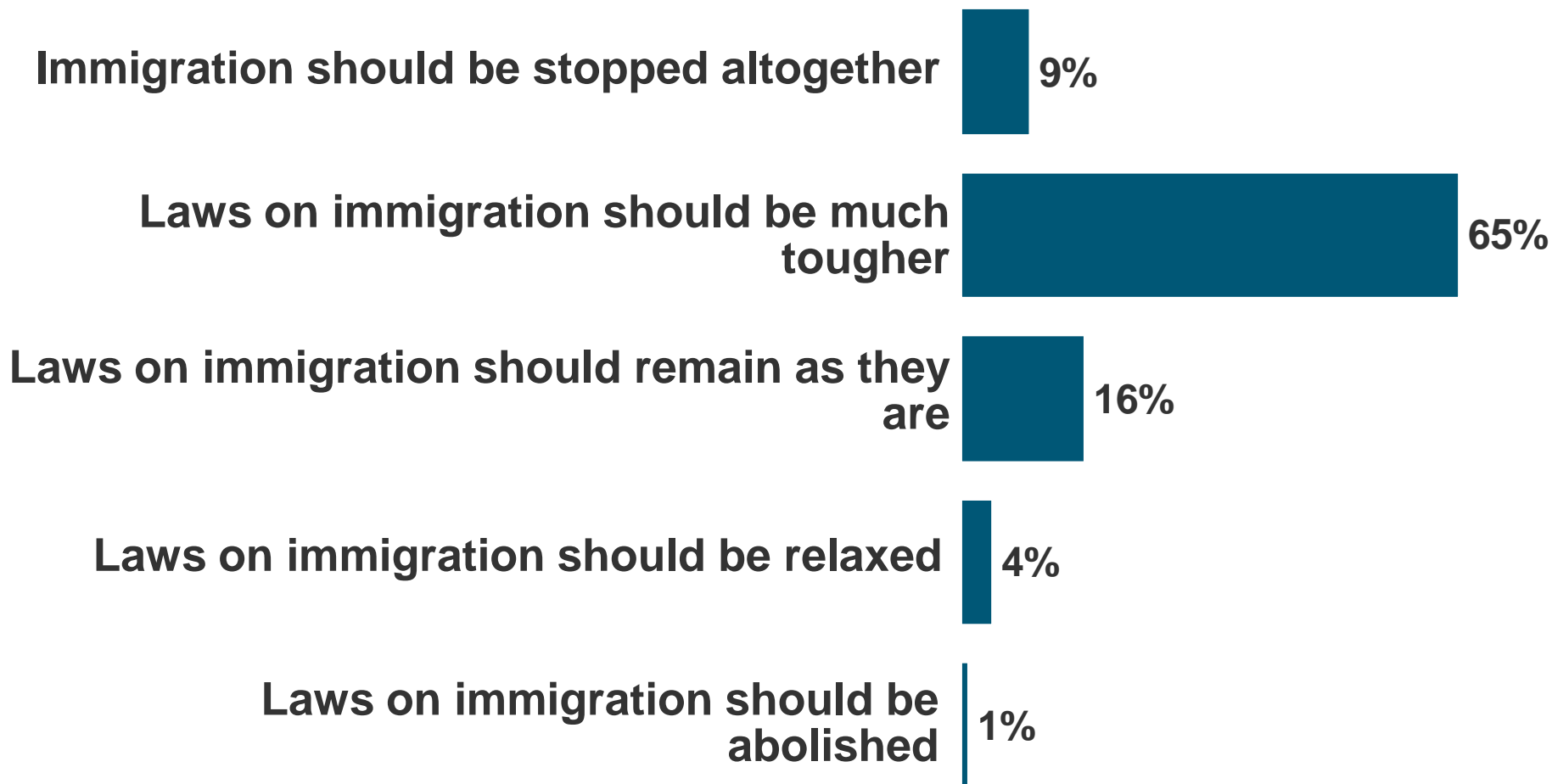
Do you think the government should set a strict limit on the number of immigrants allowed into Britain each year?



Base: All Respondents: Nov/Dec 2006 (1,001); May-June 2007 (1,011); Nov-Dec 2007-8 (1,004); Aug-Sept 2008 (539); Feb-Mar 2009 (1,030); Aug-Sept 2009 (1,040)

Previous research shows us that, overall, most people *want* tougher laws

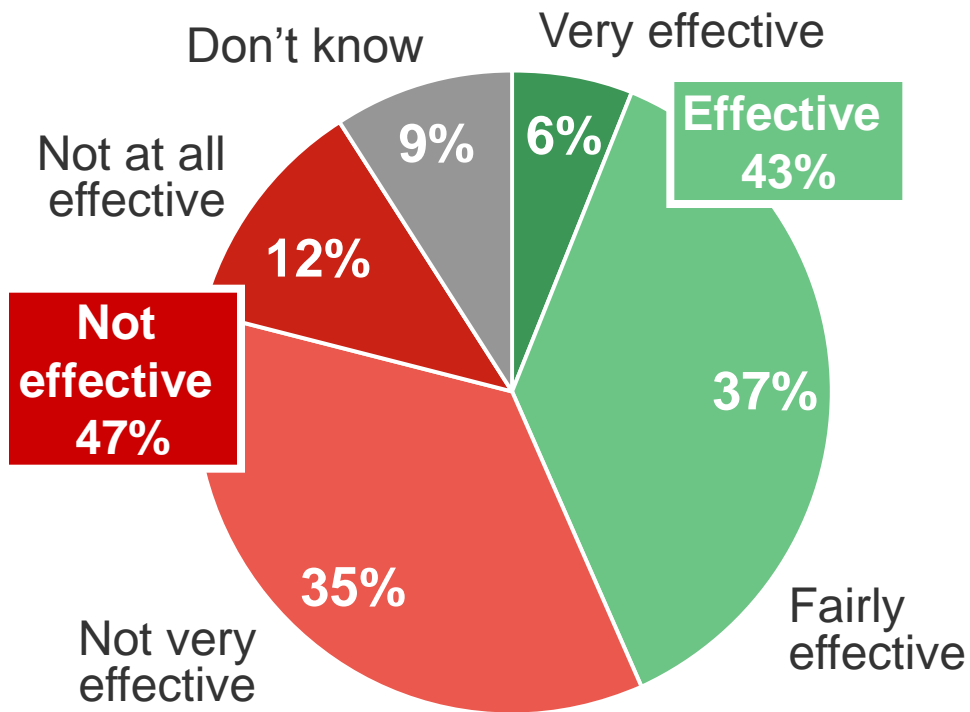
Please tell me which one of these statements comes closest to your views on laws about immigration in Britain?



Opinion is divided on the effectiveness of the planned cap – but the majority supports it anyway!

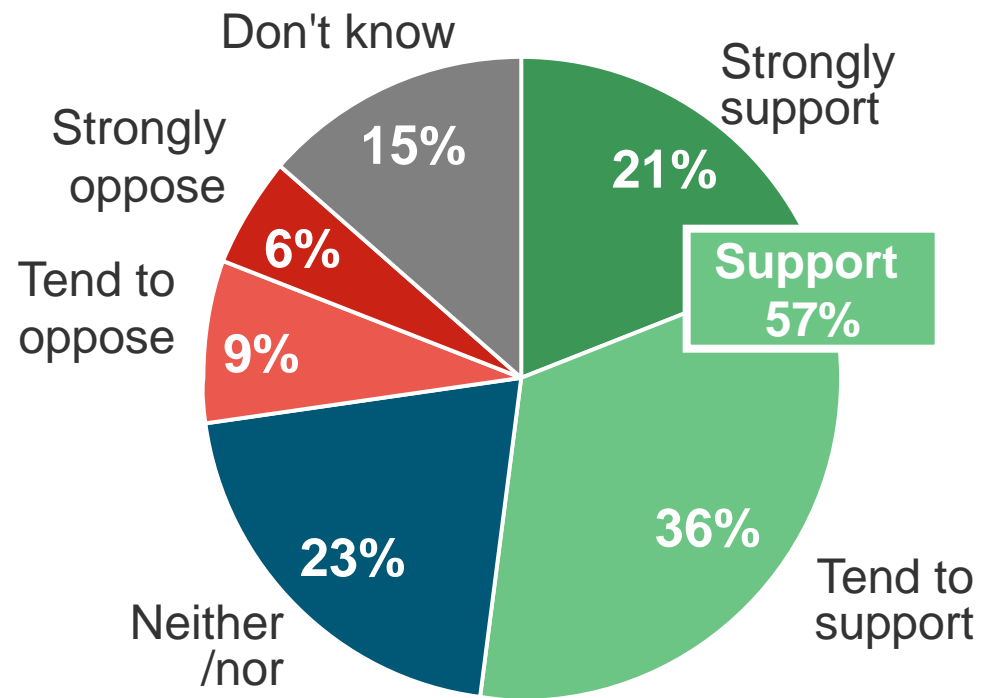
How effective, if at all, do you think this cap will be as a way of controlling the level of overall immigration into Britain?

Perceived effectiveness



To what extent do you support or oppose the coalition government's annual cap on the number of workers coming into Britain from countries outside the European Union or European Economic Area?

Level of support



There are relationships between perceived effectiveness and gender, age and type of worker

% Responding that it will be very or fairly effective

- Women are more likely than men to think it will be effective

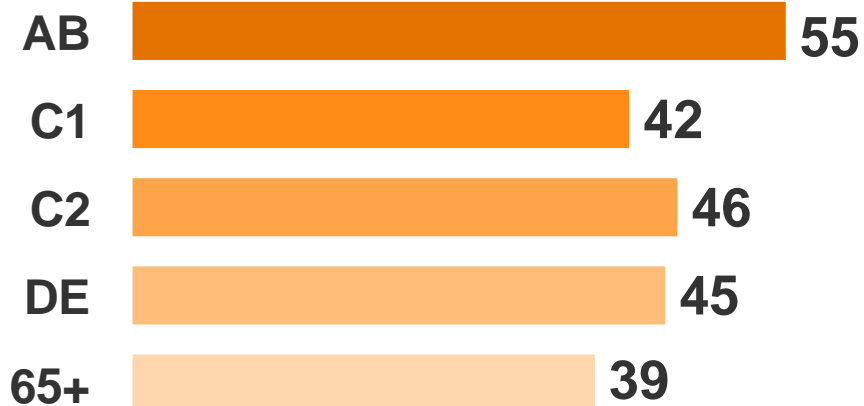


- The majority of the youngest adults think it will be effective



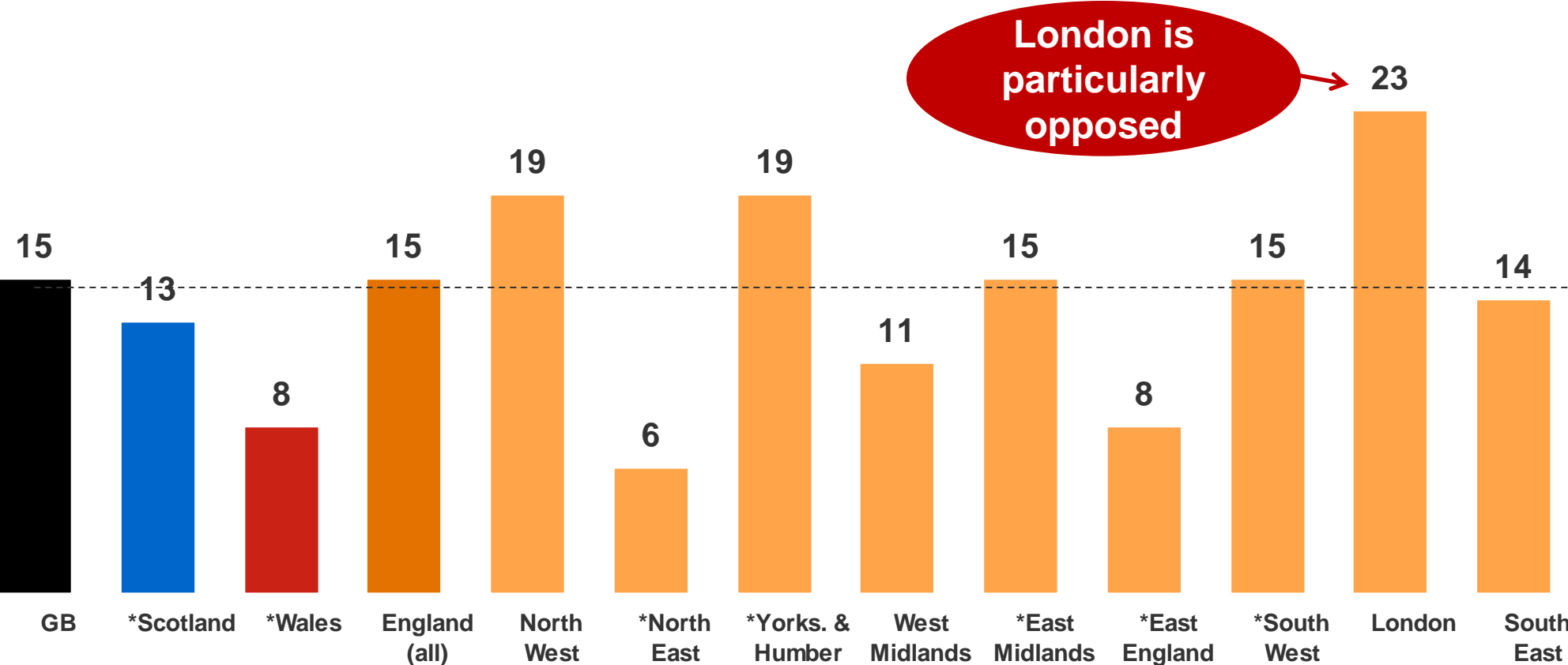
% Responding that it will be very or fairly *ineffective*

- Higher skilled workers are likely to think it will be *ineffective*



Region has little influence on perceptions of effectiveness but *does* play a role in terms of *opposing* the cap

To what extent do you support or oppose the coalition government's annual cap on the number of workers coming into Britain from countries outside the European Union or European Economic Area?



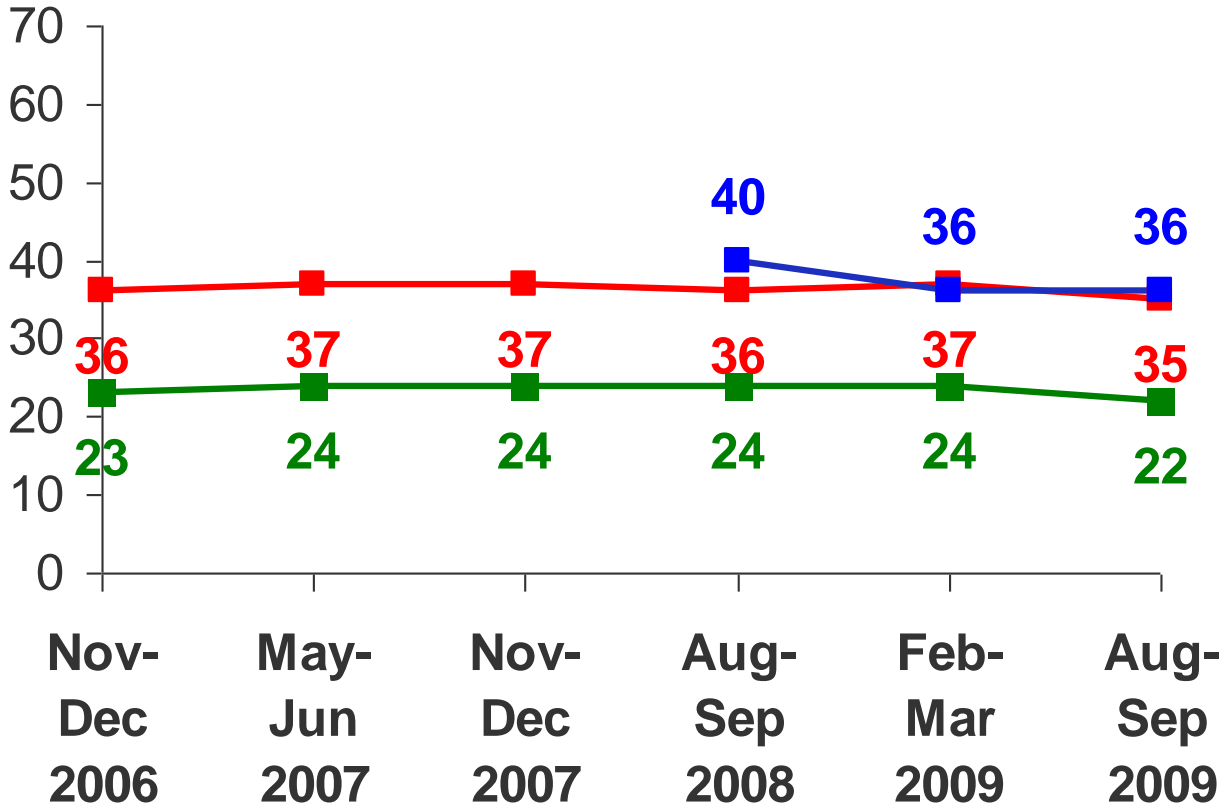
* Asterisk denotes small base, please interpret with caution

Is it really all about control and quantity or immigrants?

To a large extent, yes, although underlying this are doubts that immigration is good for the economy

To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with each statement?

% Agree



We need immigrants to fill skill shortages in the economy

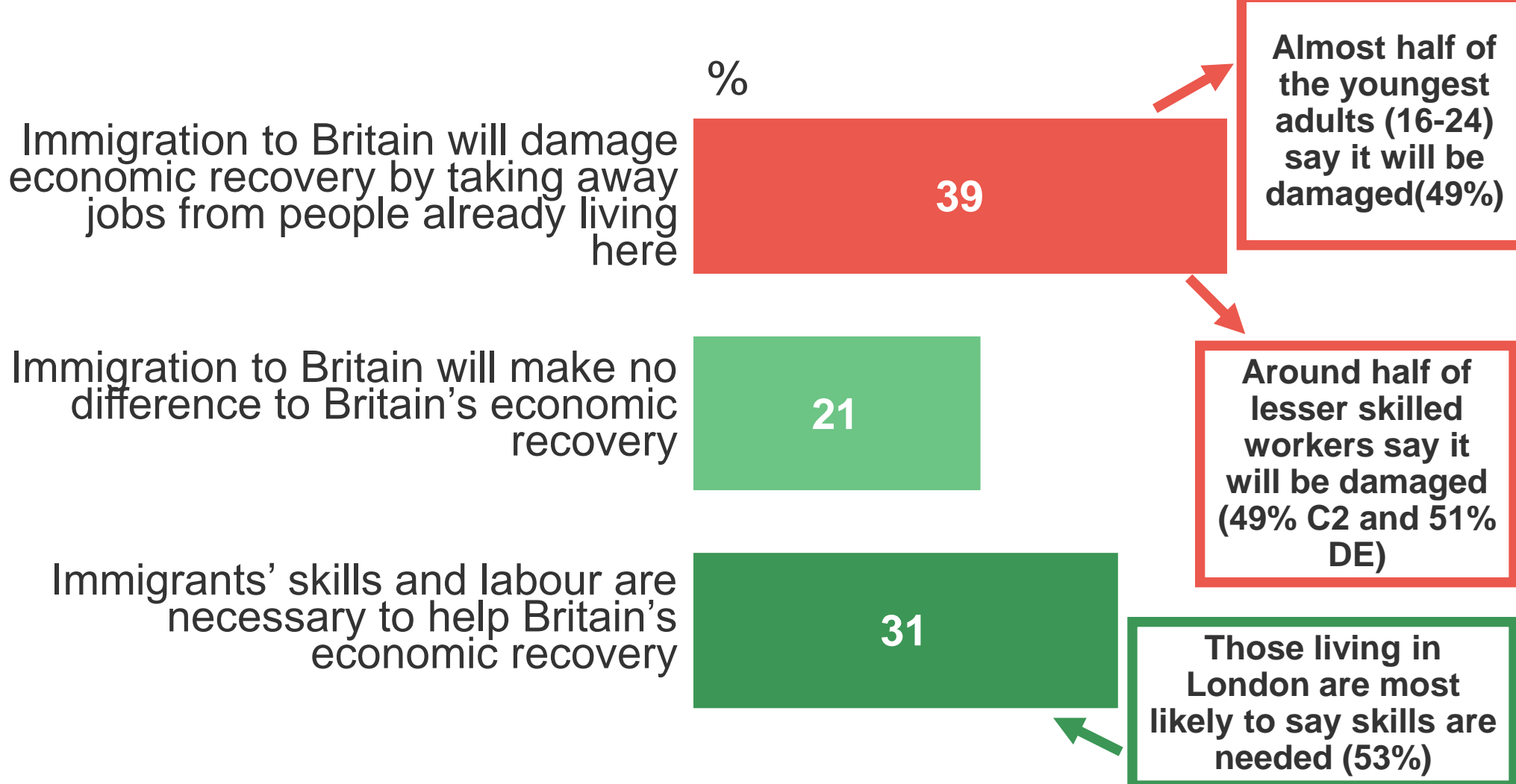
Immigration is good for the British economy

We need more immigrants to do the jobs British people don't want to do



Opinion sways towards the view that immigration will damage the economic recovery

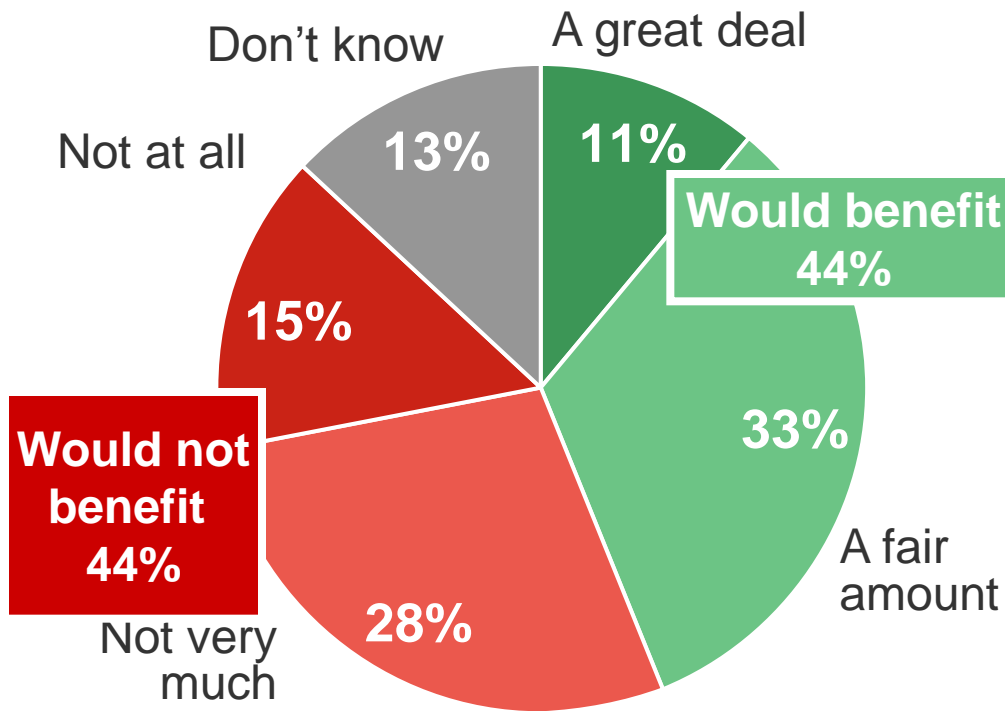
Which one of the following statements, if any, comes closest to your view?



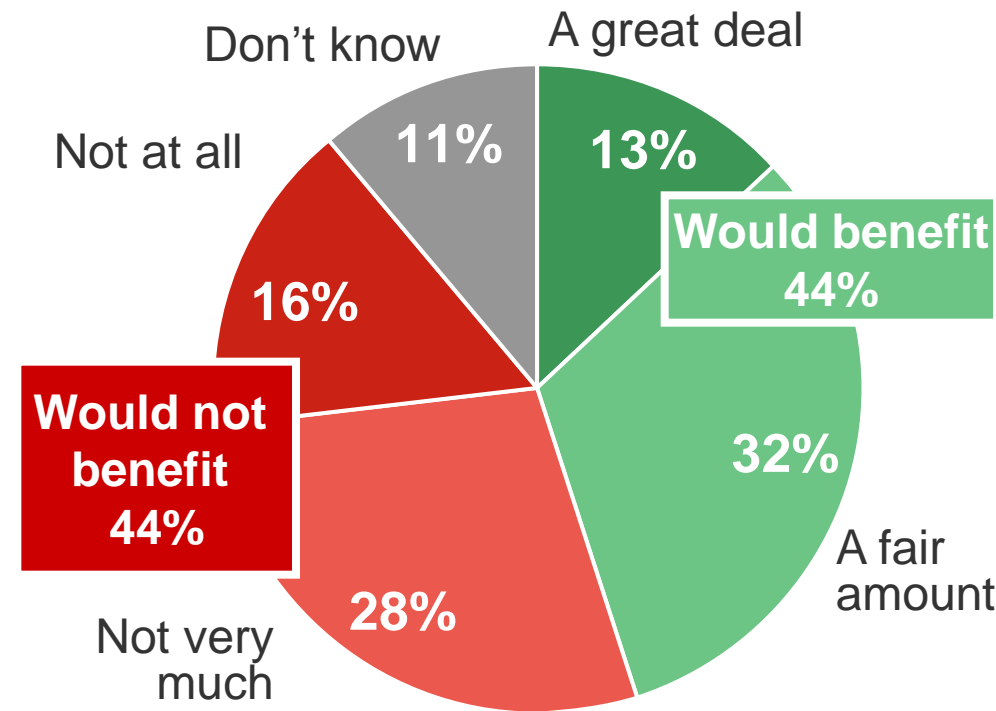
Alternative approaches?

Some believe that Britain would benefit from European-wide policy on immigration and asylum

To what extent, if at all, do you think Britain would benefit from a European-wide policy that decides the number of non-EU **immigrants** allowed into Europe and which countries they go to?



To what extent, if at all, do you think Britain would benefit from a European-wide policy that decides the number of **asylum seekers** allowed into Europe and which countries they go to?



BUT attitudes are formed on misconceptions

Thinking about the number of immigrants / asylum seekers in Britain as a proportion of the total population, how do you think the current level of immigration / asylum compares to other countries in Europe?

%

Britain has a **higher proportion** of immigrants than other countries in Europe

56

Britain has **about the same** proportion of immigrants as other countries in Europe

25

Britain has a **lower proportion** of immigrants than other countries in Europe

7

Britain has a **higher proportion** of asylum seekers than other countries in Europe

58

Britain has **about the same** proportion of asylum seekers as other countries in Europe

22

Britain has a **lower proportion** of asylum seekers than other countries in Europe

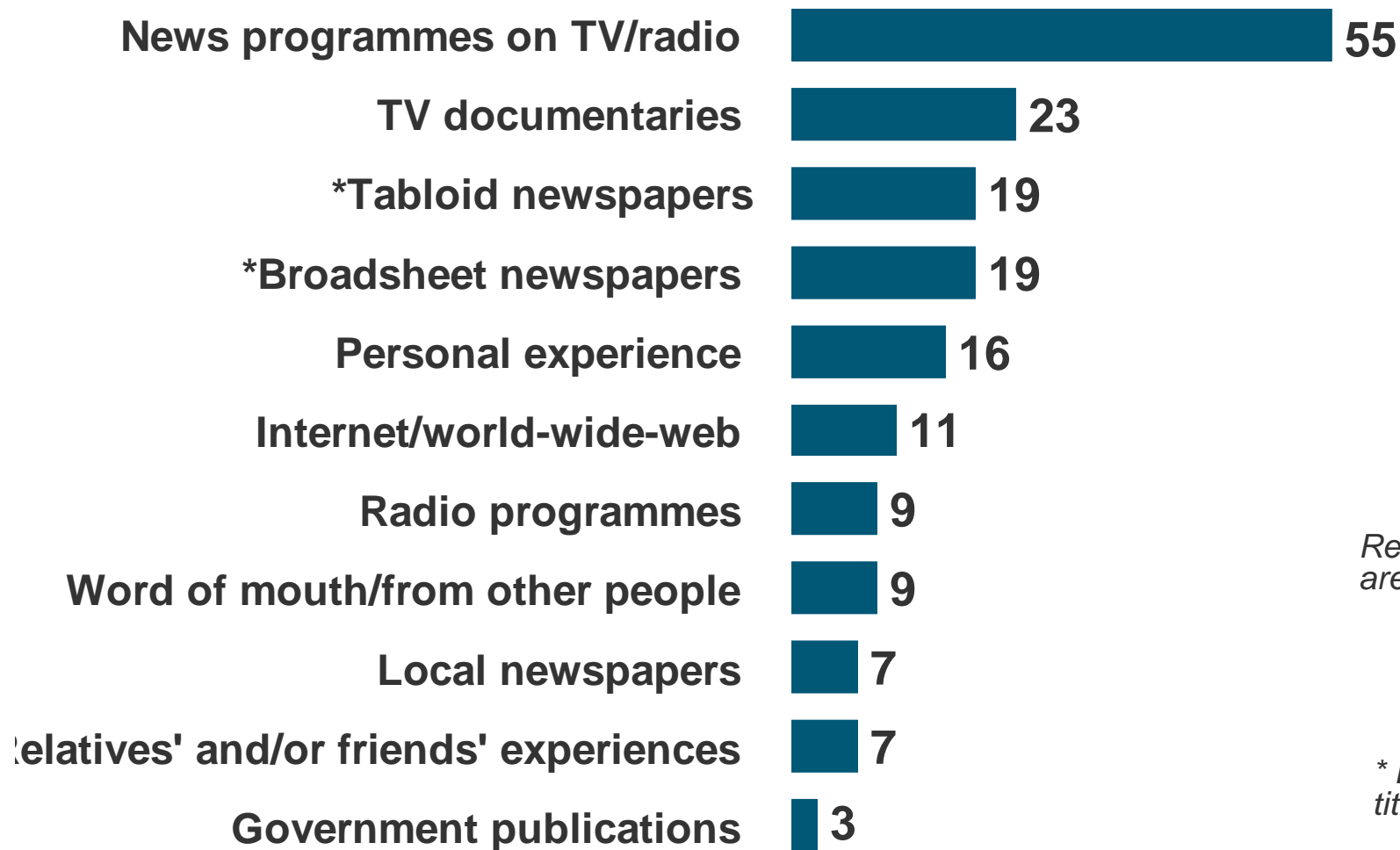
7

Support for European-wide policy could simply be based on the assumption that immigrants and asylum seekers would be redistributed to *other* countries in Europe

How do people get information about immigration?

News programmes top the list

From this list, which TWO sources would you say provides you personally with MOST of your information about immigration and asylum in Britain?



Results 3% or more are presented here

** Example newspaper titles were provided*

