

# **Public attitudes to Coronavirus November update**

**Polling from March – August 2021**

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**November 2021**



**Scottish Government**  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
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## Introduction

This report draws together findings on key indicators from polling work on public attitudes to the Coronavirus pandemic in Scotland. Seven reports covering earlier survey work were published on [8 May](#), [12 June](#), [5 August](#), [9 October](#), [20 November 2020](#), [29 January](#), and [24 March 2021](#). As with previous reports, it is not intended to provide comprehensive analysis of the large amount of polling information available, but rather to draw together findings on some key indicators. The report contains brief descriptions and explanations of the included measures, and data from surveys which took place between March and August 2021.

Results should be interpreted in the context of surveys that were designed and undertaken during a rapidly changing situation and bearing in mind the limitations of the data source noted below.

## Data sources

The source is an online survey by YouGov. It is a bespoke commission by Scottish Government. Further information about this source can be found in Annex A and the data tables are published [here](#). This report contains results from 2 March to 25 August, inclusive. During this period there were significant easing of Coronavirus restrictions, with Stay at Home regulations lifted on 2 April and hospitality (pubs, restaurants and cafes), gyms and non-essential retail reopening on 26 April, alongside travel within the UK. All of Scotland moved to Level 0 from 19 July, and “beyond Level 0” on 9 August.<sup>1</sup> This included the removal of most remaining restrictions, notably rules on physical distancing and social gatherings, although restrictions remained around face coverings on public transport / in indoor public spaces, as well as collection of contact details at hospitality venues. Positive new cases of Coronavirus were low throughout March, April and May, rising again towards the end of June; cases had fallen by the end of July however began to rise again in mid-August.<sup>2</sup> By [23 August](#), over 4 million people (age 18+) had received their first Coronavirus vaccine (91% of the population), and over 3.5 million (80% of the population) had received both doses.

Fieldwork dates are provided in Annex A. These dates and what was happening in relation to the pandemic should be kept in mind when interpreting the data. Due to the evolving situation and government responses to Coronavirus (see Annex B), questions were introduced at different times, or not asked at all waves.

## Limitations

A polling survey has a number of limitations. Sub-group analysis is not always possible due to small sample sizes (see Annex A for details). Furthermore, the nature of online research inherently excludes those who do not have internet access. The data source nevertheless provides useful and timely information, as long as appropriate caveats are applied. As the survey has been conducted using a quota

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<sup>1</sup> [Scotland to move beyond level 0 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [PHS CORONAVIRUS](#)

sample, rather than a random probability sample, statistical significance can only be used on an indicative basis. Differences over the survey waves are only highlighted if they are likely to be significant, however not all possible significant differences have been described.

## Key Points

- Worry about the effect of restrictions on jobs and the economy has remained high (over 70%).
- The pandemic has continued to have an ongoing negative impact on wellbeing. Around half of respondents have felt lonely at least some of the time and over one third have consistently reported high levels of anxiety.
- Levels of optimism fluctuated between March and August. From March to the beginning of June over half of respondents (53% to 63%) consistently agreed that things would get better soon, however this then dropped below 50%. By the end of August, optimism had fallen to its lowest levels, with 36% agreeing that things would get better soon.
- Support for the way the restrictions have been handled in Scotland has remained high (at over half of respondents). However, there has been a decline in those who feel the restrictions and rules are working in Scotland.
- People continue to feel that advice from the Scottish Government on Coronavirus is clear and helpful, and have trust in the Scottish Government to decide when and how to lift and re-impose restrictions, although both of these have seen a decline over time.
- Levels of self-reported 'high' compliance has remained relatively stable (around 70%) throughout this period, with the majority reporting they are following the rules and regulations.
- From April through to August, there has been high agreement on the importance of the protective measures, such as wearing a face covering and washing/sanitising hands. Respondents rated opening windows/doors (when with people from outside of the household) as the least important protective measure.
- The public have remained cautious as restrictions have eased, with around 7 in 10 agreeing that they do not want to rush into doing things, and over 4 in 10 agreeing that thinking about resuming activities makes them feel anxious.
- At the end of August, there was support for a Covid vaccine certificate, with 74% of respondents (excluding any who selected "not applicable") agreeing they would be happy to use a certificate if it allowed them entry to certain venues.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Description given: 'One possible approach to allow entry to venues such as stadiums, arenas and nightclubs is to introduce a Covid certification scheme. The exact details of this would need to be confirmed but an example may involve showing a certificate that proves you have been fully vaccinated or tested negative in the last 48 hours'.

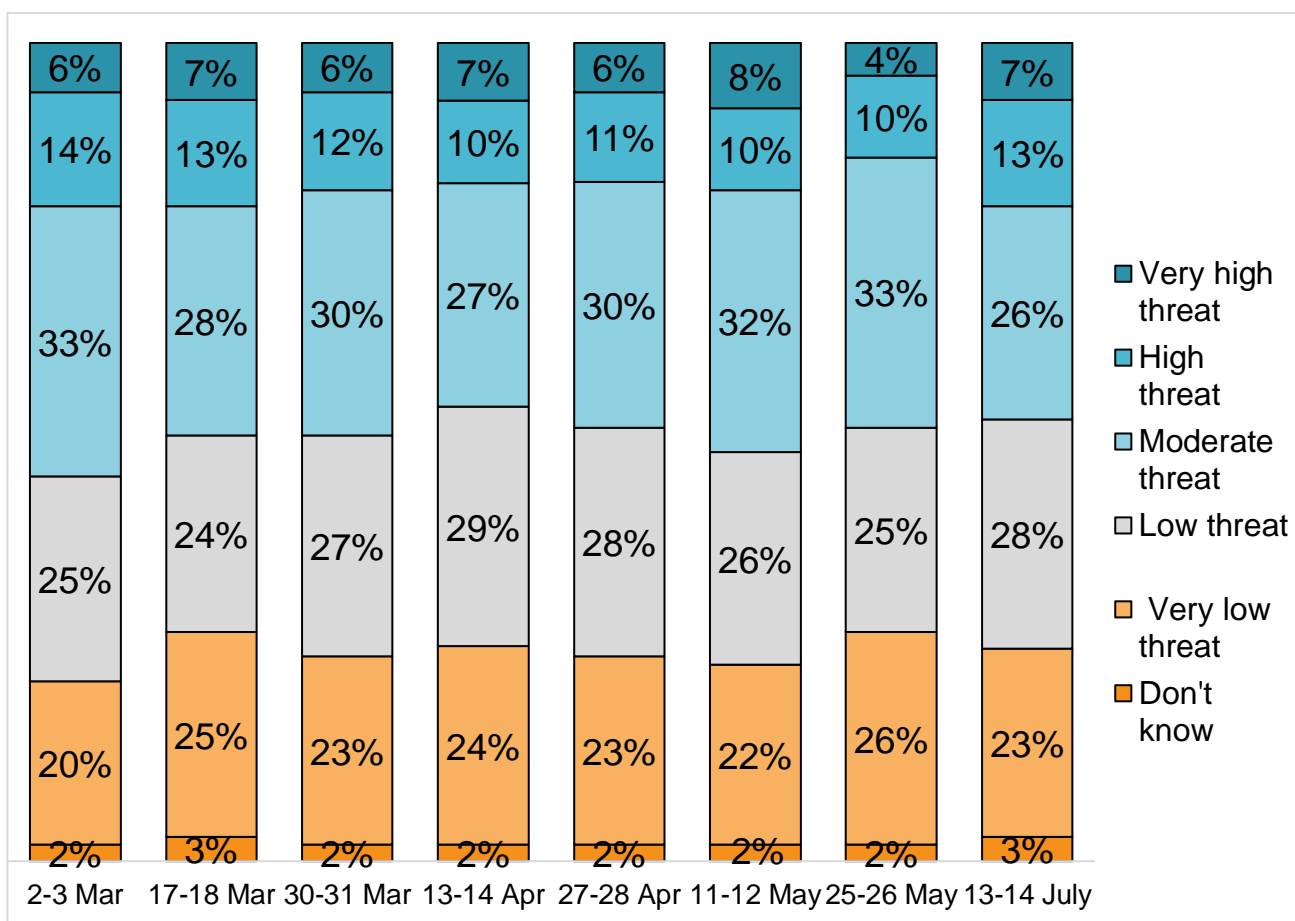
# 1. Impact of Coronavirus

Data was collected on the day-to-day impacts of Coronavirus on people's finances and health. This section presents some information on how respondent's finances and health have been affected by the pandemic.

## Financial impact

Respondents were asked about the perceived level of threat to their job resulting from Coronavirus. Figure 1 shows that in March (2-3), one fifth of those employed perceived a 'very high' or 'high' threat to their job. The proportions perceiving a 'high'/'very high' threat to their job remained at similar levels from March through to mid-July.

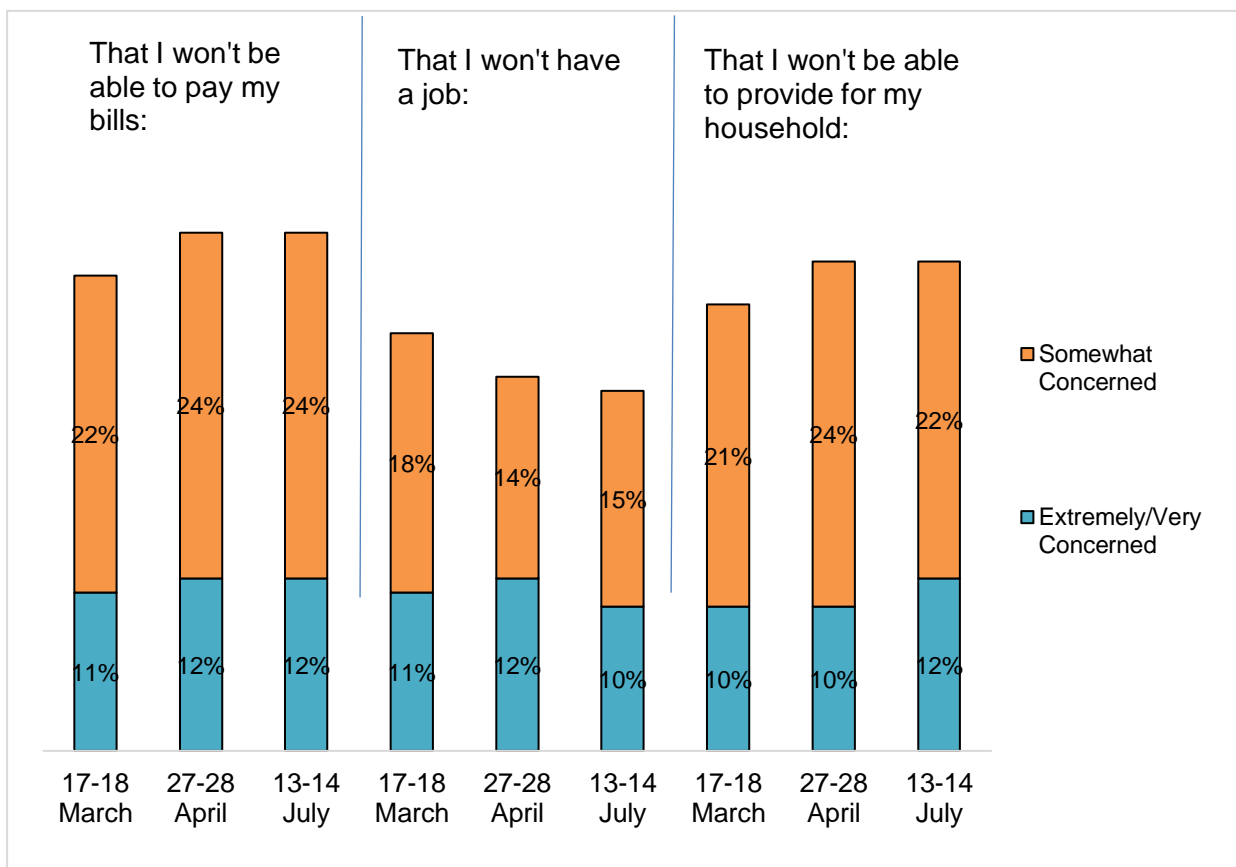
Figure 1: Perceived threat to job among those employed



Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults who are working or furloughed or due to return to work after shielding (n=406-466)

Respondents were asked in March (17-18), April (27-28) and July (13-14) how concerned they felt, a month ahead, about paying their bills, not having a job and not being able to provide for their household. This remained stable, with around 1 in 10 respondents either 'very' or 'extremely' concerned about paying their bills, losing their job or being unable to provide for their household. Between 22% and 24% of respondents were 'somewhat concerned' about being able to pay their bills, 14% to 18% were 'somewhat concerned' that they won't have a job, and between 21% and 24% that they would not be able to provide for their household.

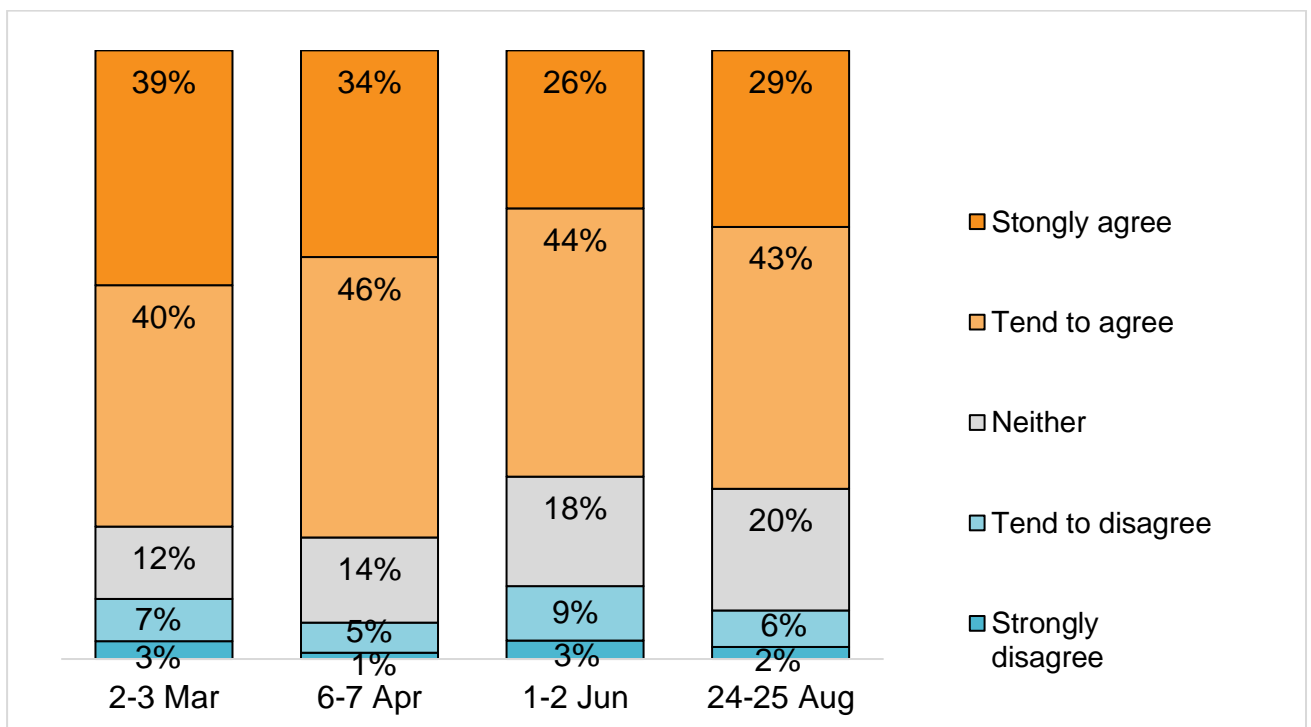
Figure 2: Proportion of respondents who were very/extremely concerned about the scenarios shown



Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=1001-1028)

As shown in Figure 3, worry about the effect of restrictions on jobs and the economy has remained high. At the beginning of March, around 8 in 10 respondents either tended to or strongly agreed that they were worried about the long-lasting impact of the restrictions on jobs and the economy. This remained high in April although declined in June, with just over 7 in 10 respondents agreeing they were worried about the long lasting impact of restrictions. On 24-25 August, respondents were asked whether they were worried about the long lasting impact of the 'pandemic' on jobs and the economy and over 7 in 10 (73%) agreed.

Figure 3: Proportion of respondents who agreed/disagreed with the statement 'I am worried about the long-lasting effect of the restrictions on jobs and our economy' <sup>4</sup>



Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=1007-1055)

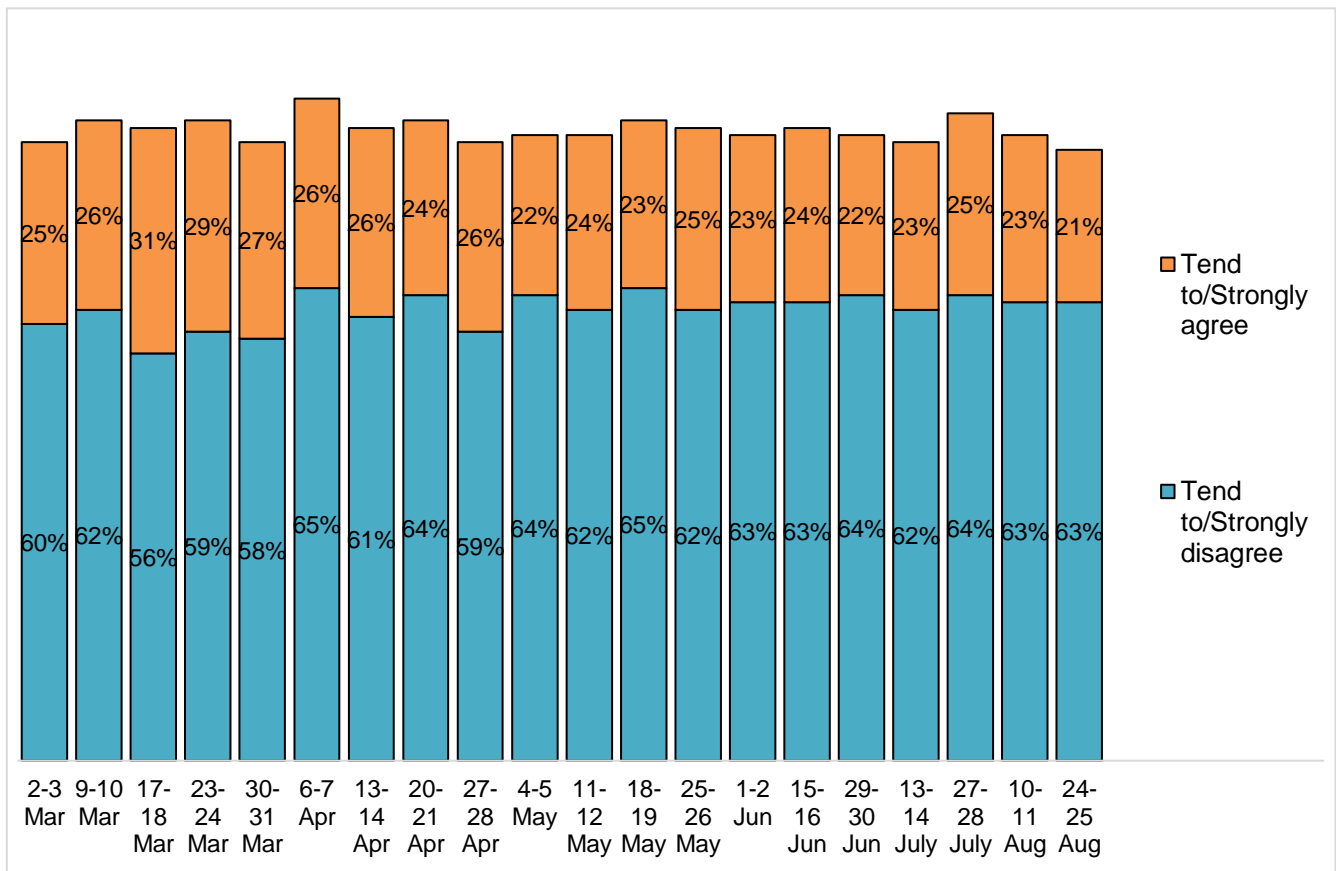
### Health impacts

To understand the potential impact on non-COVID related health issues, respondents were asked if they would avoid contacting a GP for immediate non-Coronavirus medical concerns. As shown in Figure 4, from the beginning of March through to August, between 21% and 31% agree that they would avoid contacting their GP even with an immediate medical concern not related to Coronavirus. At the end of August (24/25 August) this had fallen to just over one fifth (21%) of respondents.

<sup>4</sup> Question wording change at 24-25 August to "I am worried about the long lasting effects of the pandemic on jobs and our economy"



Figure 4: Proportion who agreed/disagreed that 'I would avoid contacting a GP practice at the moment even with an immediate medical concern (not related to Coronavirus)'



Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=807-1063)

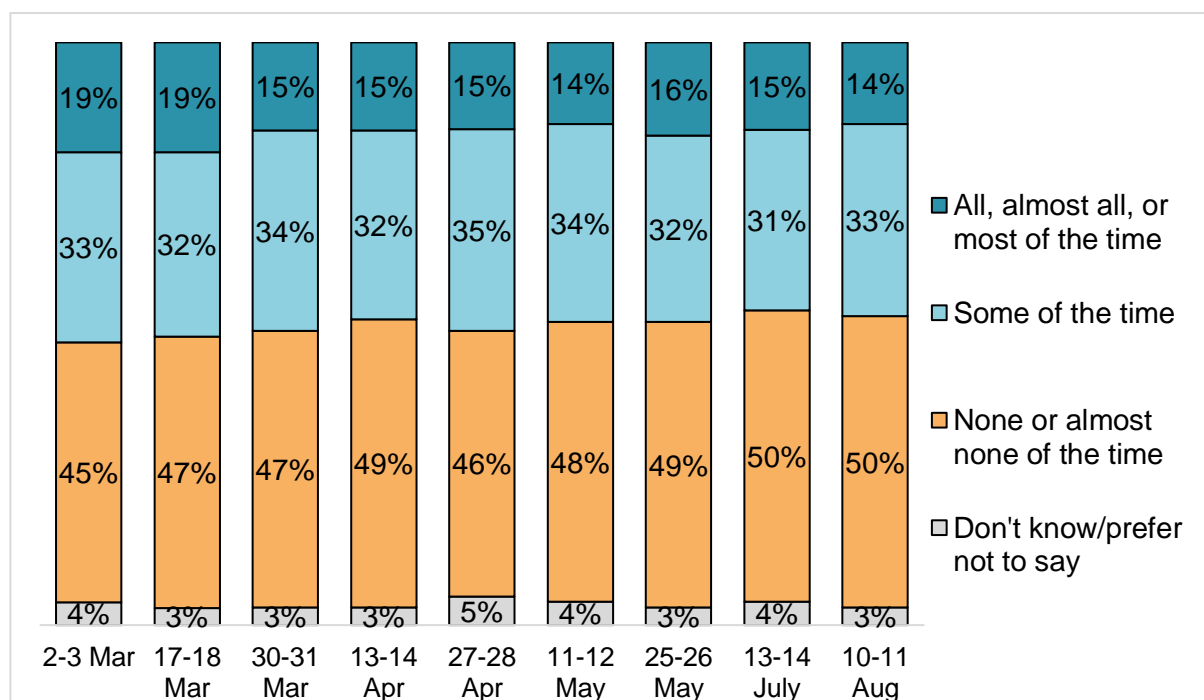
## 2. Wellbeing

The Coronavirus pandemic continues to have a wide range of impacts on personal wellbeing. This section presents data about the impacts of the pandemic on feelings such as happiness, loneliness, optimism, and anxiety.

### Levels of loneliness, anxiety and happiness

To understand social isolation, respondents were asked how much of the time during the past week they had felt lonely. As shown in Figure 5, the proportion who felt lonely at least some of the time has remained fairly stable from March through August at around half (between 46% and 52%) of respondents.

Figure 5: How often respondents felt lonely during the past week



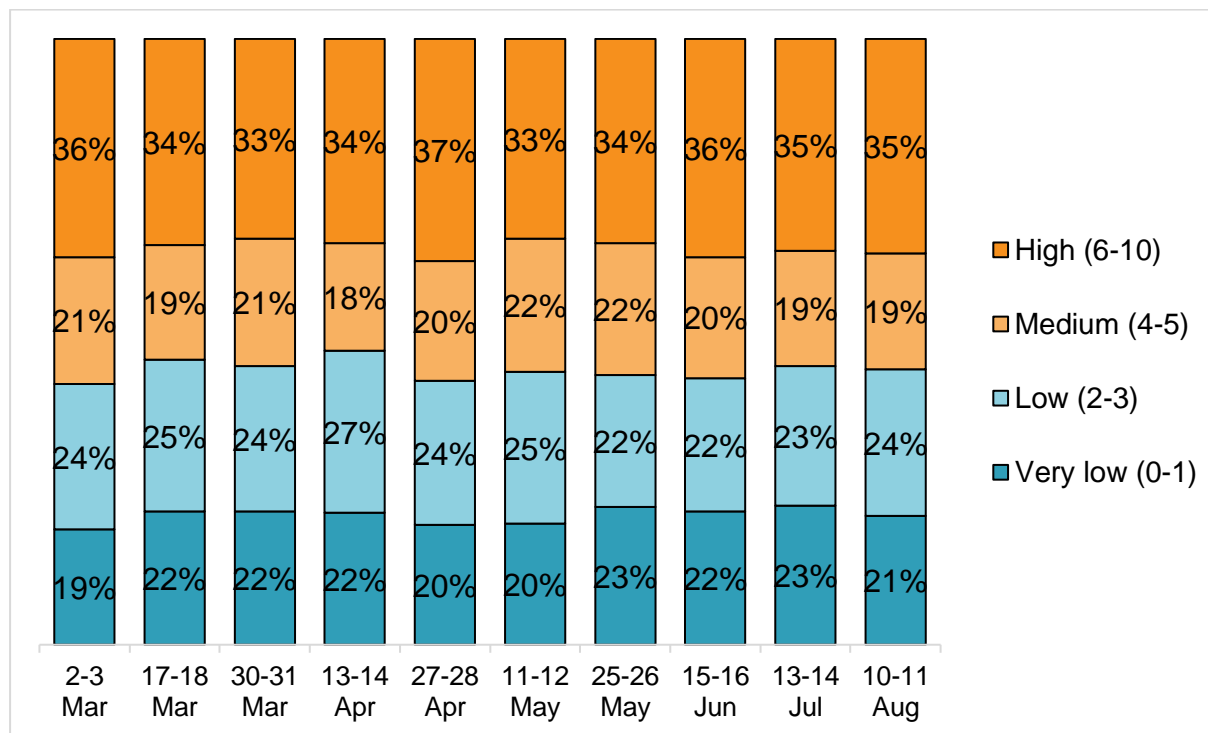
Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=1001-1028)

The survey also included two of the Office for National Statistics' (ONS) wellbeing questions to measure levels of anxiety and happiness. Respondents were asked how anxious, and how happy, they felt 'yesterday', on a scale of 0 to 10. As shown in Figure 6, over one third of respondents (33% to 37%) consistently reported 'high' anxiety (score of 6-10). The numbers of respondents with 'high' anxiety remain higher than pre-pandemic measures (23% of the population in Scotland)<sup>5</sup> but lower than the high levels (60%) reported at the beginning of the first national lockdown<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> ONS, 2020 Respondents are asked 'Overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?' and are asked to respond on a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is "not at all" and 10 is "completely". The Annual Population Survey (APS) is a continuous household survey, covering the UK. It uses data from two waves of the main Labour Force Survey (LFS). The data comprise 12 months of survey data and are disseminated quarterly. The achieved sample size is approximately 320,000 respondents.

<sup>6</sup> Public attitudes to coronavirus: April summary - gov.scot ([www.gov.scot](http://www.gov.scot))

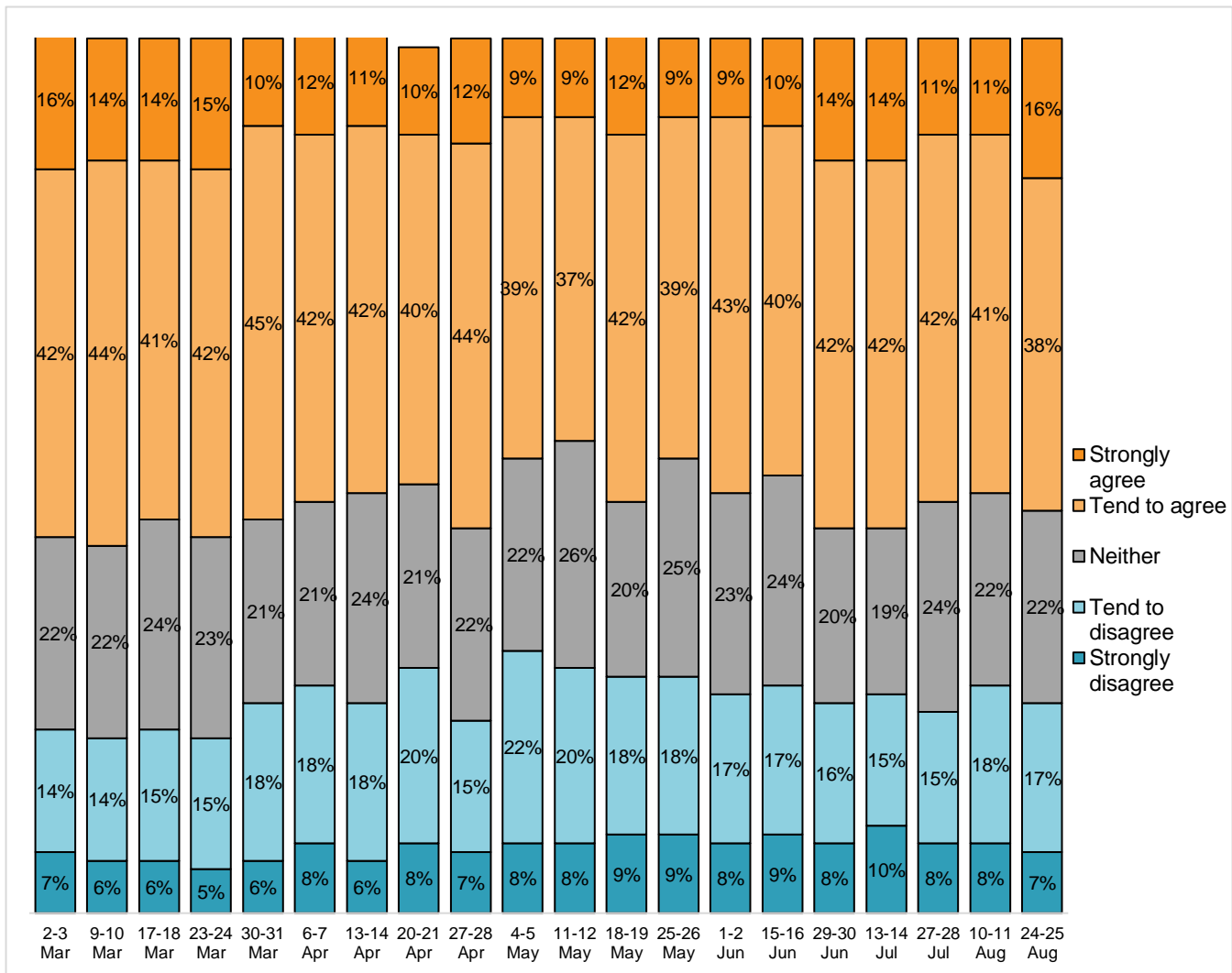
Figure 6: How anxious respondents felt yesterday on a scale of 0-10



Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=1001-1028)

Respondents have remained worried about the Coronavirus situation throughout this period. As shown in Figure 7, worry was highest at the beginning of March, with just under 6 in 10 (58%) respondents agreeing that they felt worried about the Coronavirus situation, and has since varied between 46% and 57%. At 24-25 August, over half (54%) of respondents remained worried about the Coronavirus situation.

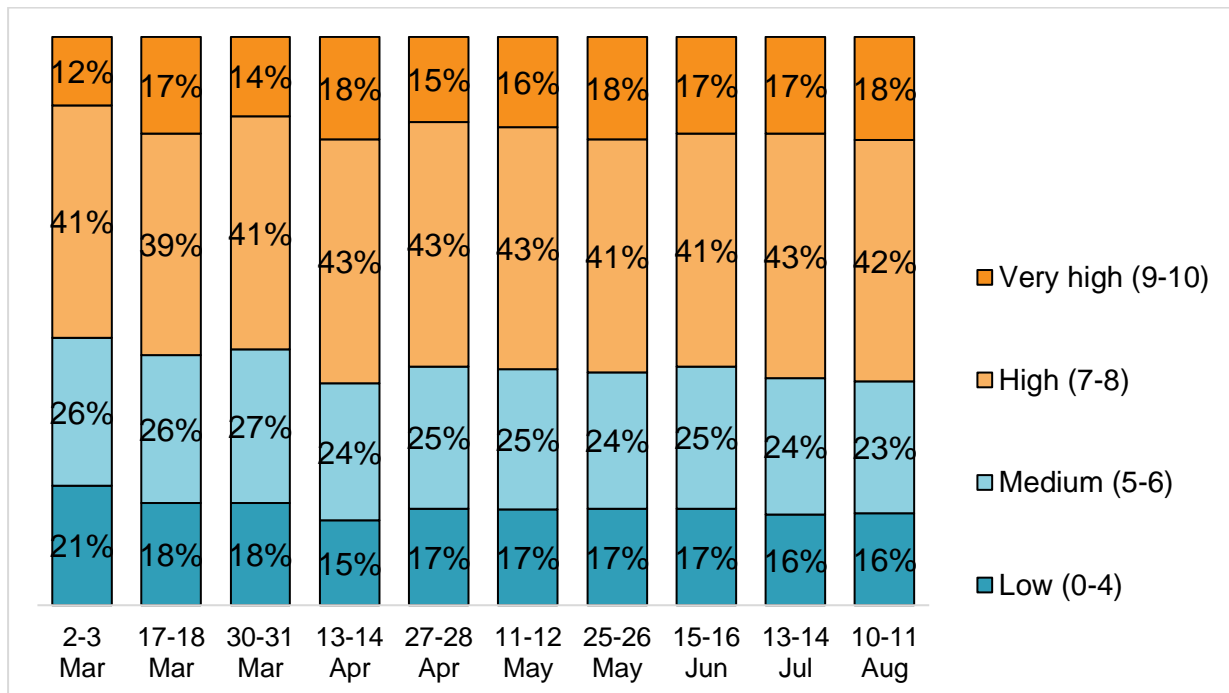
Figure 7: Proportions who agreed/disagreed with the statement 'I feel worried about the Coronavirus situation'



Source: YouGov Scotland Survey. Base: Adults (n=807-1063)

As shown in Figure 8, on 2-3 March, just over one in five (21%) respondents reported 'low' happiness (score of 0-4). This declined slightly over subsequent polling and by August (10-11), 16% felt low levels of happiness (score of 0-4).

Figure 8: How happy respondents felt yesterday on a scale of 0-10

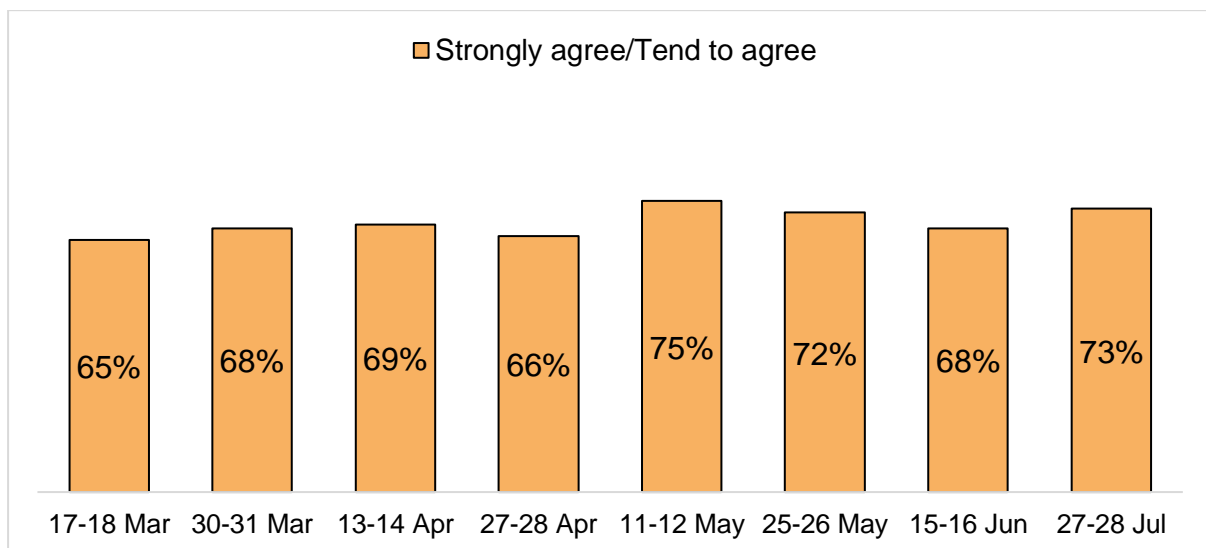


Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=1001-1023)

### Coping and Optimism

Overall the majority of respondents have agreed that they are coping okay during the current Coronavirus situation. From 17-18 March through to 27-28 July this ranged between 65% and 75%.

Figure 9: Proportion who agreed with the statement 'I am coping okay during the current Coronavirus situation'

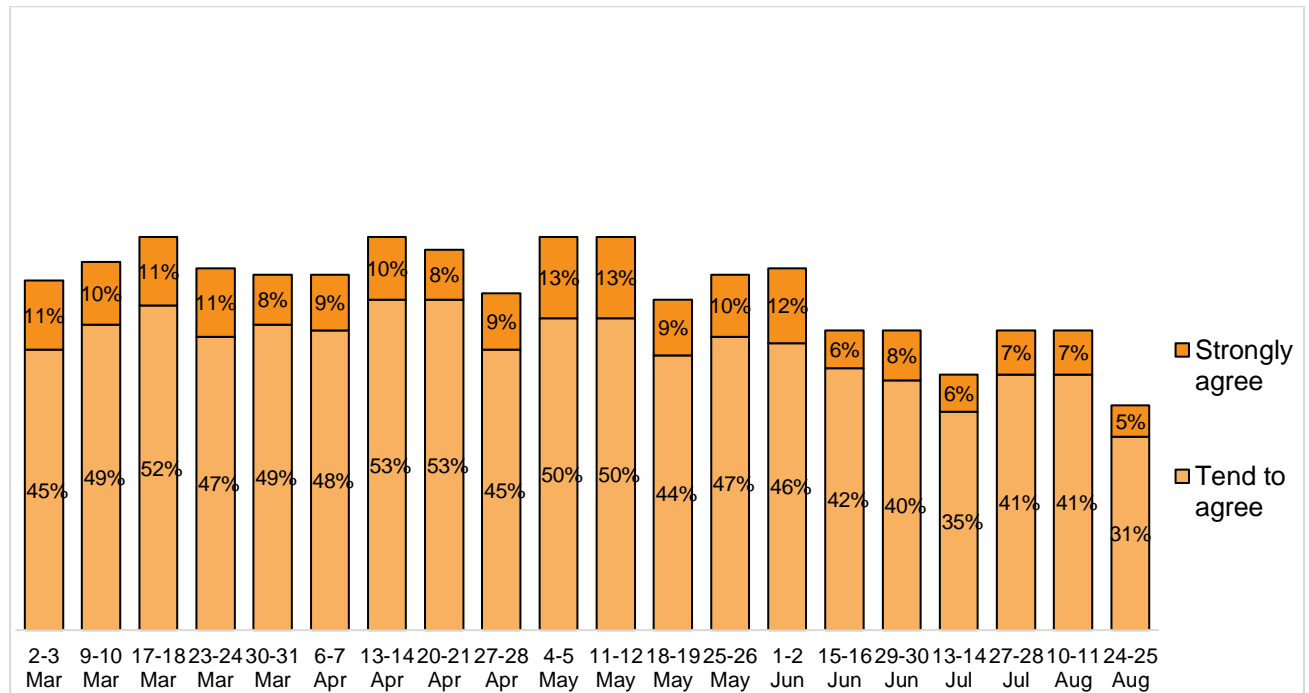


Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=980-1028)

Respondents were asked whether they agree or disagree with the statement 'I'm sure that things will start to get better soon'. As shown in Figure 10, levels of

optimism fluctuated between March and August. From March to the beginning of June, over half of respondents (between 53% and 63%) either tended to or strongly agreed that things would start to get better soon. From mid-June onwards, these figures had fallen to under 50%. By the end of August (August 24-25), only 36% of respondents agreed they were sure that things would start to get better soon.

Figure 10: Proportion who agreed with the statement ‘I’m sure that things will get better soon’

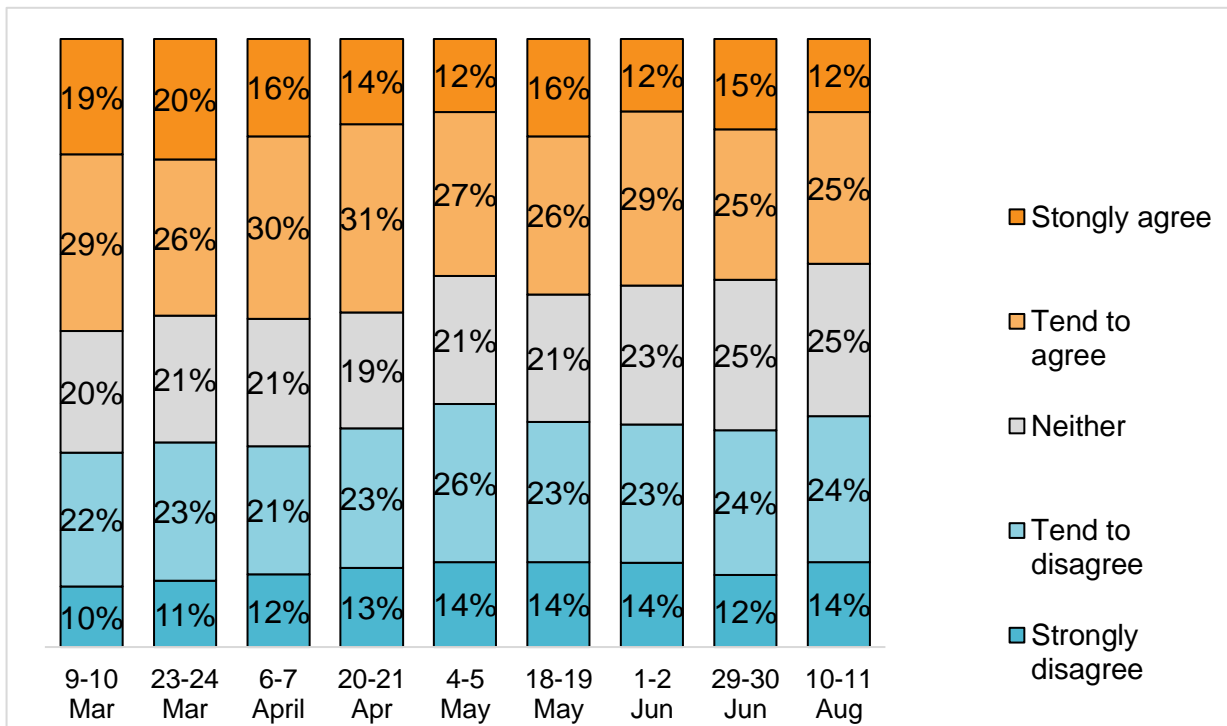


Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=807-1063)

## Mental Health

Respondents were asked about whether they were worried about the effect of lockdown and restrictions on their mental health. In March polling, when ‘Stay at Home’ restrictions were still in place, 2 in 10 respondents ‘strongly agreed’ that they were worried about the impact of lockdown on their mental health. Between April and June, 12% to 16% of respondents ‘strongly agreed’ that they were worried about the effect of ongoing restrictions on their mental health. By August (10/11), 12% ‘strongly agreed’.

Figure 11: Proportion who agreed/disagreed with statements about being worried about the effect of the ongoing pandemic on their mental health<sup>7</sup>



Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=807-1063)

<sup>7</sup> Note question wording change. "I am worried about the effect of ongoing lockdown on my mental health". This changed from 6-7 April to 4-5 May and on 29-30 June to "I am worried about the effect of ongoing restrictions on my mental health". On 10-11 August this changed to: "I am worried about the effect of the ongoing pandemic on my mental health"

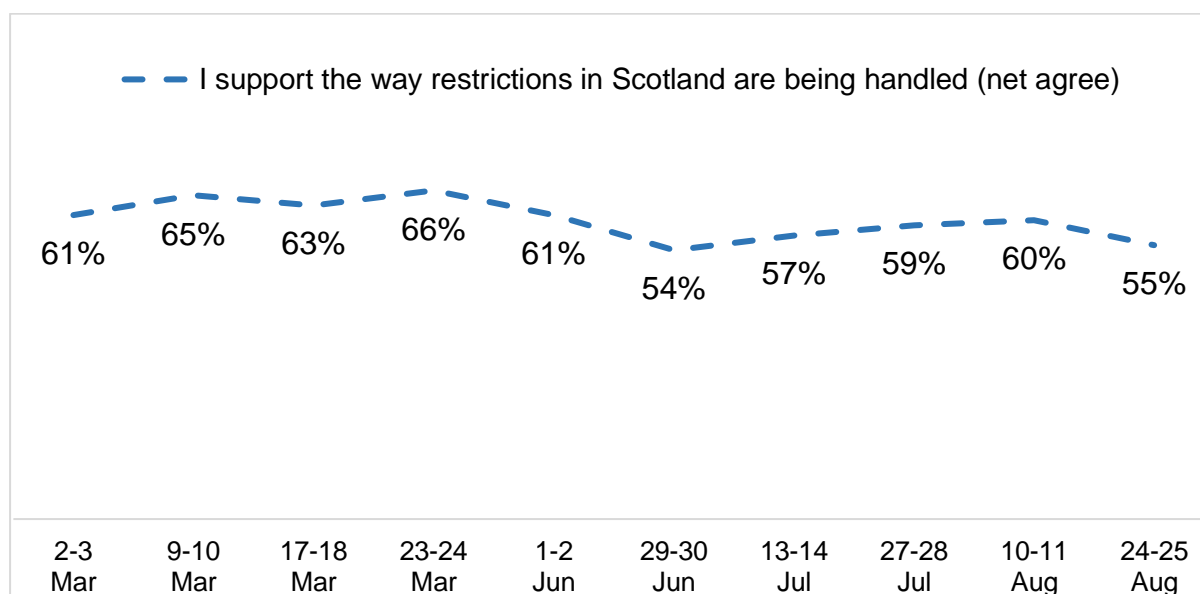
### 3. Attitudes towards Restrictions and Recent Changes

To understand attitudes towards Coronavirus restrictions, respondents were asked their views on the current restrictions and whether they felt these were eased at the right pace, whether advice from the Scottish Government was clear and whether they trusted the Scottish Government to make decisions around lifting and re-imposing restrictions.

#### Views on Restrictions

Respondents were asked whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement 'I support the way that restrictions in Scotland are being handled'. As shown in Figure 12, in March, over 6 in 10 (between 61% and 66%) respondents agreed that they supported the way restrictions were being handled. This dipped at the end of June (to 54% of respondents). At 24-25 August, 55% of respondents supported the way restrictions are being handled.

Figure 12: Proportion who tend to/strongly agree with the statement 'I support the way that restrictions in Scotland are being handled' <sup>8</sup>



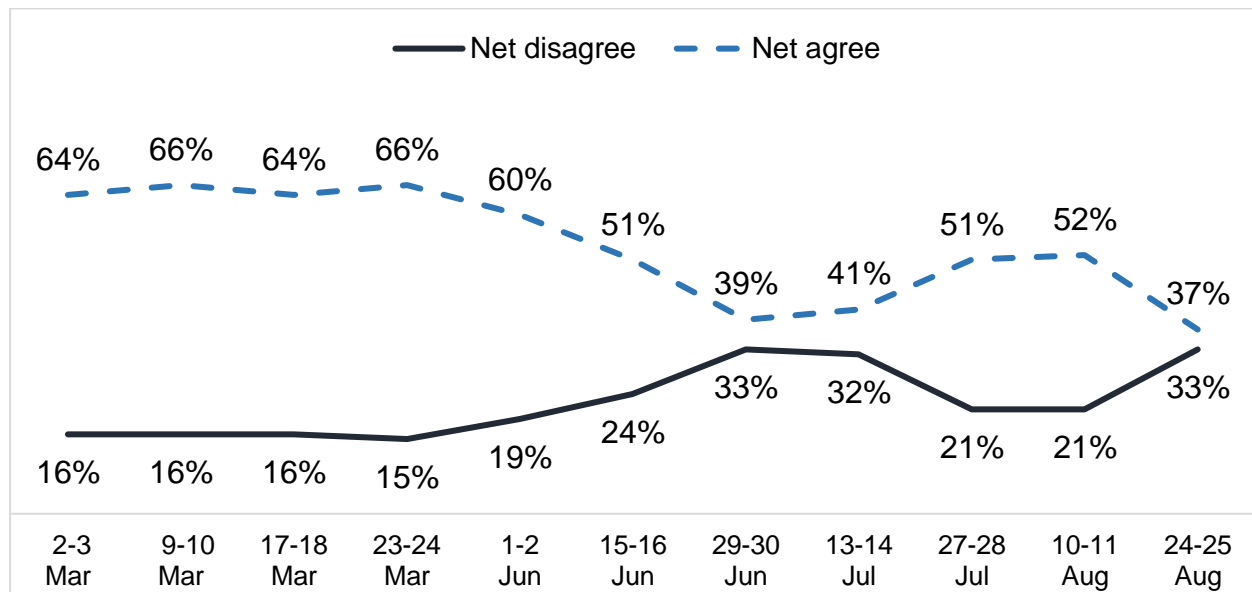
Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=980-1028)

There has been a decline in the numbers of respondents who agree with the statement 'It feels like the restrictions and rules are working in Scotland'. In March, over 6 in 10 (64-66%) agreed that restrictions and rules were working. At 24-25 August, this figure had decreased to under 4 in 10 (37%).

<sup>8</sup> Note this question was paused from the end of March to the beginning of June due to the pre-election period.



Figure 13: Proportion who tend to/strongly agree or disagree with the statement ‘It feels like the restrictions and rules are working in Scotland’<sup>9</sup>

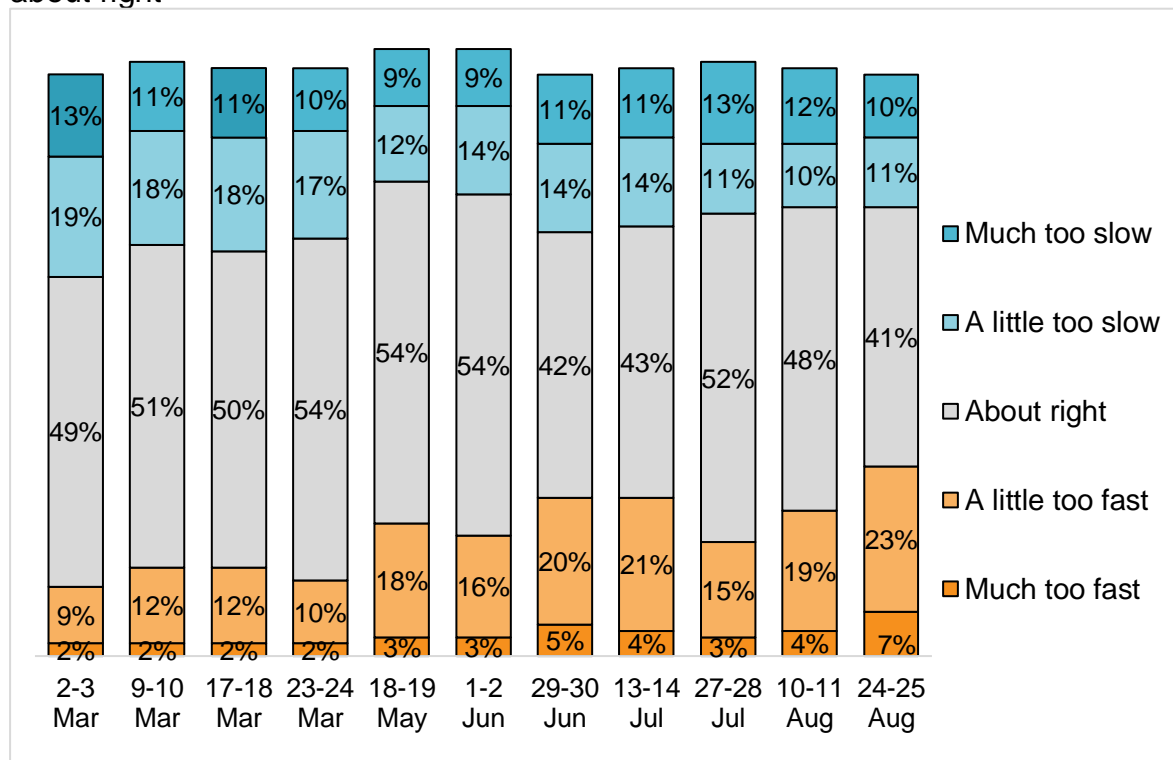


Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=980-1028)

Respondents were asked what they thought about the speed at which restrictions in Scotland were being eased. As shown in Figure 14, at the beginning of March, when ‘Stay at Home’ restrictions were still in place, around half of respondents felt that the speed of easing restrictions was ‘about right’, 12% felt the speed was ‘too fast’ and 32% that this was ‘too slow’. Overall, as restrictions eased, an increasing number of respondents felt that restrictions were being eased ‘too fast’, and decreasing numbers felt this was ‘too slow’. By August 24/25, 41% felt that the pace was still ‘about right’, 30% felt the restrictions were being eased ‘too fast’ and 21% ‘too slow’.

<sup>9</sup> Note this question was paused from the end of March to the beginning of June due to the pre-election period.

Figure 14: Proportion who feel the restrictions are being eased too fast, too slow or about right

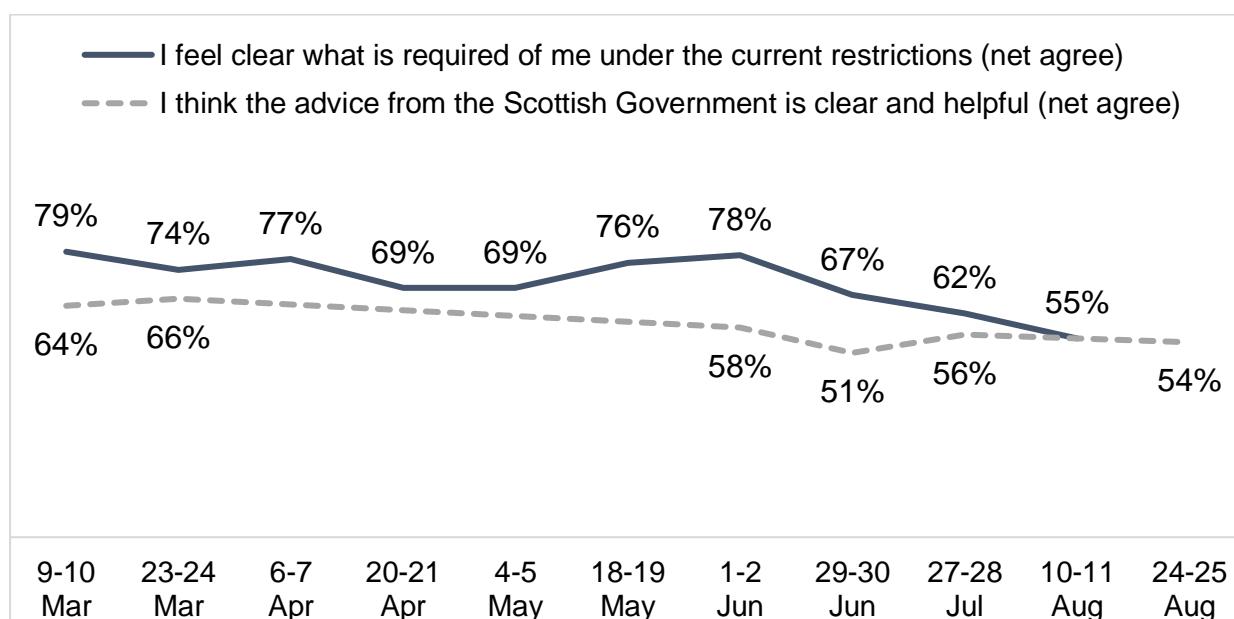


Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=807-1063)

Respondents were asked if they agreed or disagreed with the statement 'I think the advice from the Scottish Government is clear and helpful' in relation to the current Coronavirus pandemic. In March polling, over 6 in 10 (64%) respondents agreed the advice given was clear and helpful. At 29-30 June, this decreased to just over 5 in 10 (51%). At 24-25 August, 54% of respondents agreed that advice from Scottish Government is clear and helpful.

On 9-10 March, just under 8 in 10 (79%) respondents agreed with the statement 'I feel clear what is required of me under the current restrictions'. This fluctuated over April and May and from the end of June, there has been a decline in those who agree. At mid-August (10-11), 55% of respondents agreed that they feel clear what is required of them under the current restrictions.

Figure 15: Proportions who tend to/strongly agree with the following statements<sup>10</sup>

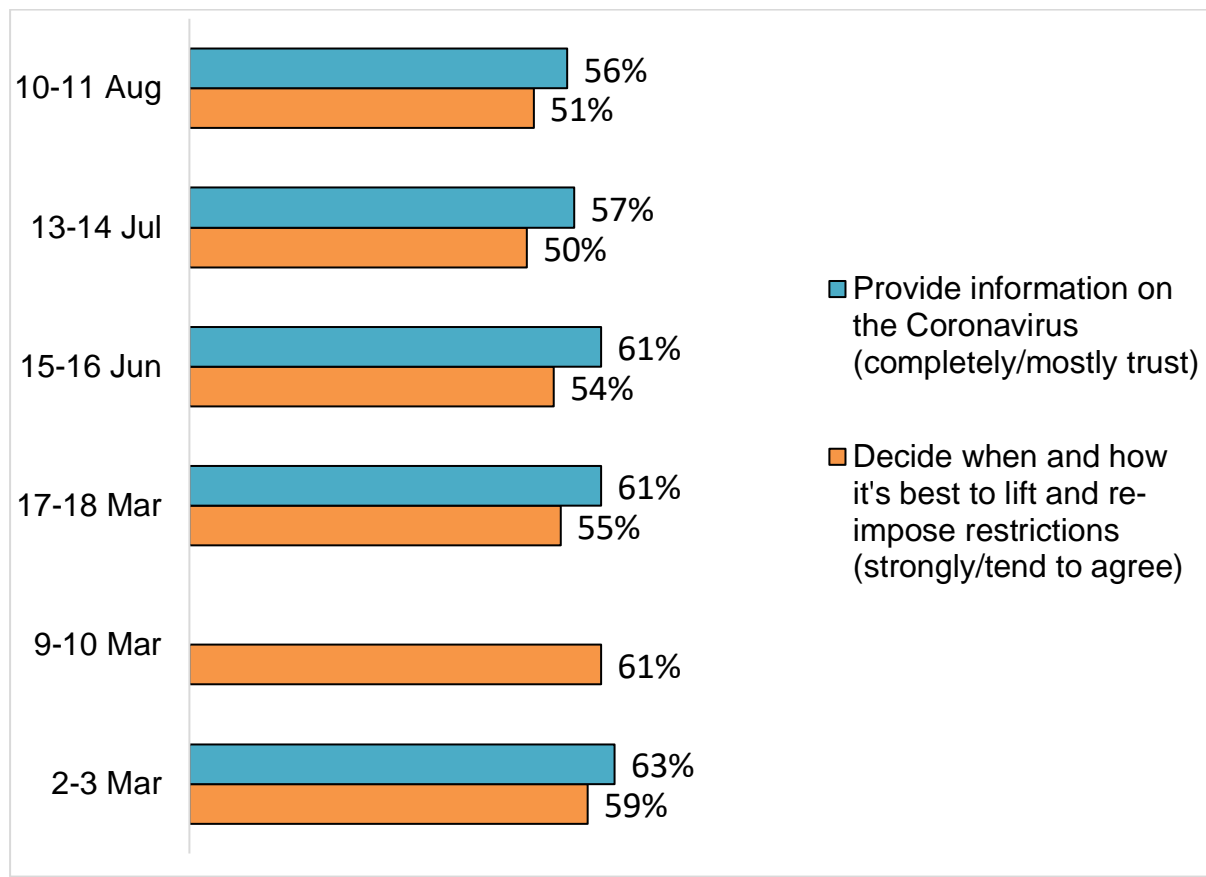


Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=807-1055)

As shown in Figure 16. At the beginning of March, 63% of respondents reported that they trust the Scottish Government to provide information on Coronavirus and 59% reported that they trust the Scottish Government to decide when and how it's best to lift and reimpose restrictions. By mid August (10-11), this was 56% and 51%.

<sup>10</sup> Note change of question wording. 10-11 August: "I feel clear what is required of me as the latest changes come in". 24-25 August: "I feel clear about what is required of people who live in Scotland as the restrictions change"

Figure 16: Proportions who trust the Scottish Government to do the following:<sup>11</sup>



Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=1001-1028)

<sup>11</sup> Note this question was paused from the end of March to the beginning of June due to the pre-election period.

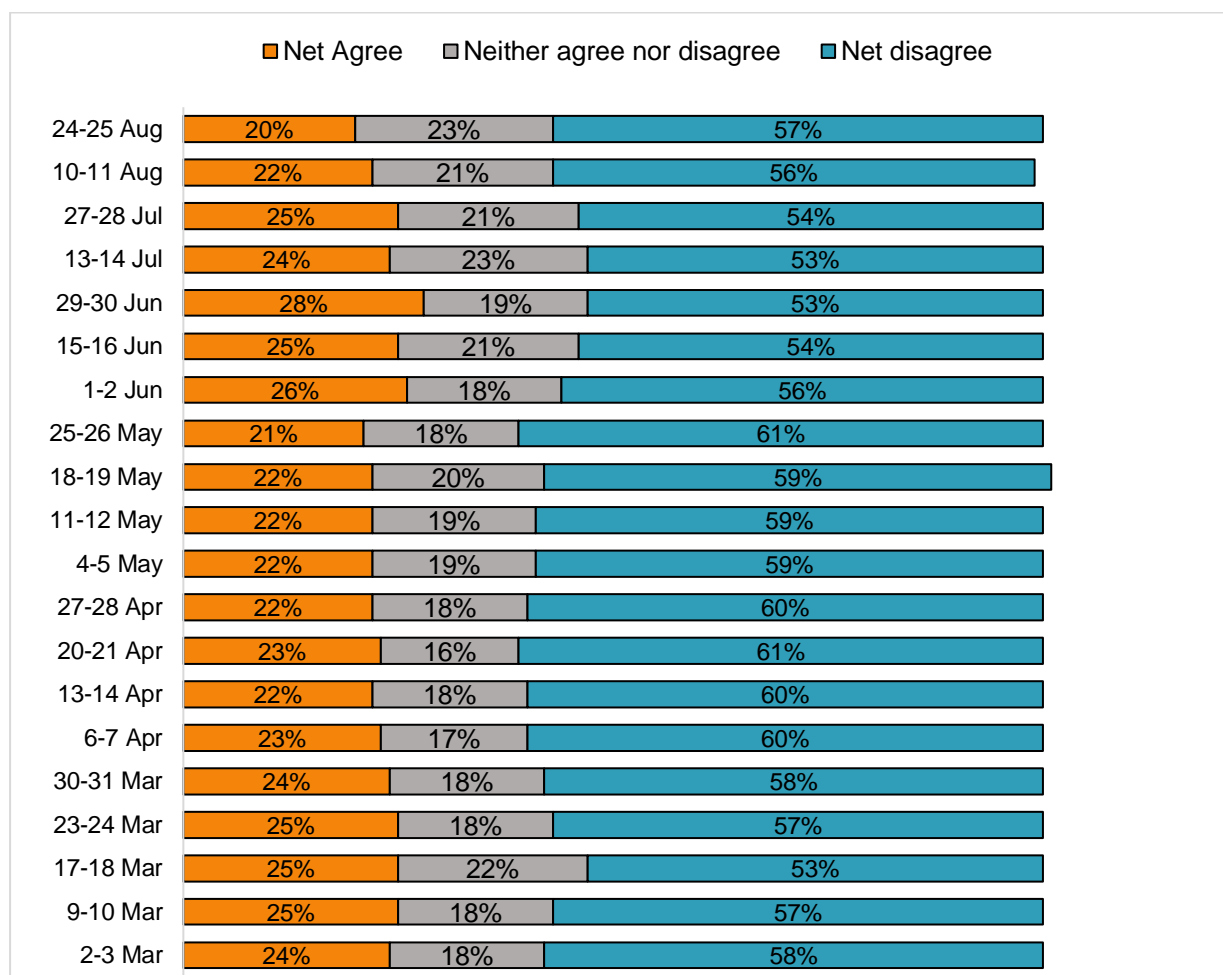
## 4. Compliance

This section presents data about public awareness of, and reaction to, Coronavirus measures.

### Following the guidance

Respondents were provided with statements about government advice and guidance, and asked about the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with each. Throughout this period, between 20% and 28% of respondents agreed with the statement 'I am finding it hard to always stick to the government guidelines'. At the end of August (24-25), 20% of respondents agreed that they found it hard to always stick to government guidelines.

Figure 17: Proportion who agree/disagree with the statement 'I am finding it hard to always stick to government guidelines'



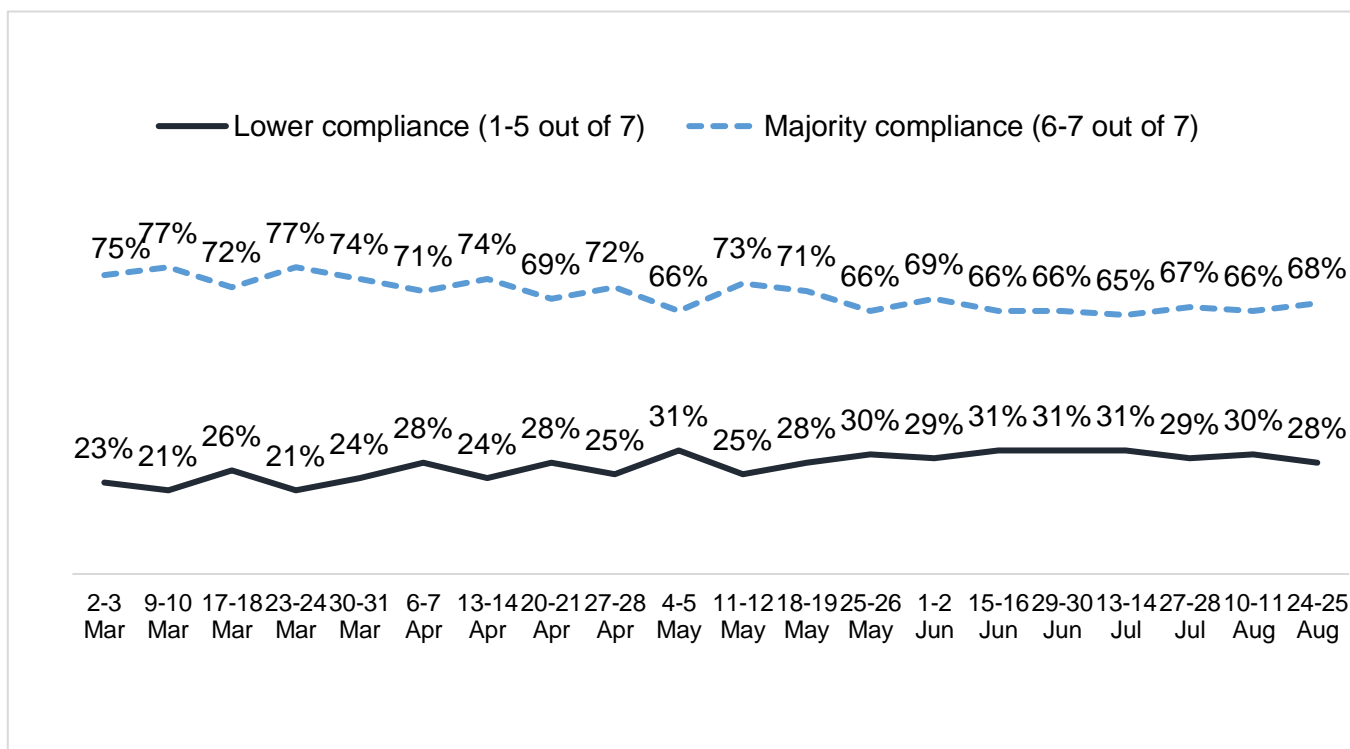
Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=807-1063)

### Compliance with restrictions

Respondents were asked to what extent, on a scale of 1-7, they felt they were following the regulations and guidance on what to do and not to do during the

Coronavirus pandemic.<sup>12</sup> Levels of compliance have remained high throughout this period. At the beginning of March, three quarters of respondents reported 'majority' compliance (score 6-7) and just under one quarter (23%) 'lower' compliance (score 1-5). During April and May, 'majority' compliance ranged between 66%-74% and 'lower' compliance between 24%-31%. From June through to August, around two thirds of respondents reported 'majority' compliance, and under a third (28%-31%) lower levels of compliance.

Figure 18: Proportion who rated their compliance as 1-5 (lower) or 6-7 (majority)



Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=980-1063)

We asked respondents to indicate which activities (from a list) they had undertaken in the previous week. Separate questions covered indoor meetings, outdoor meetings, travel and transport. We then grouped together as 'non-compliant' anything in contravention of the regulations at the time.<sup>13</sup>

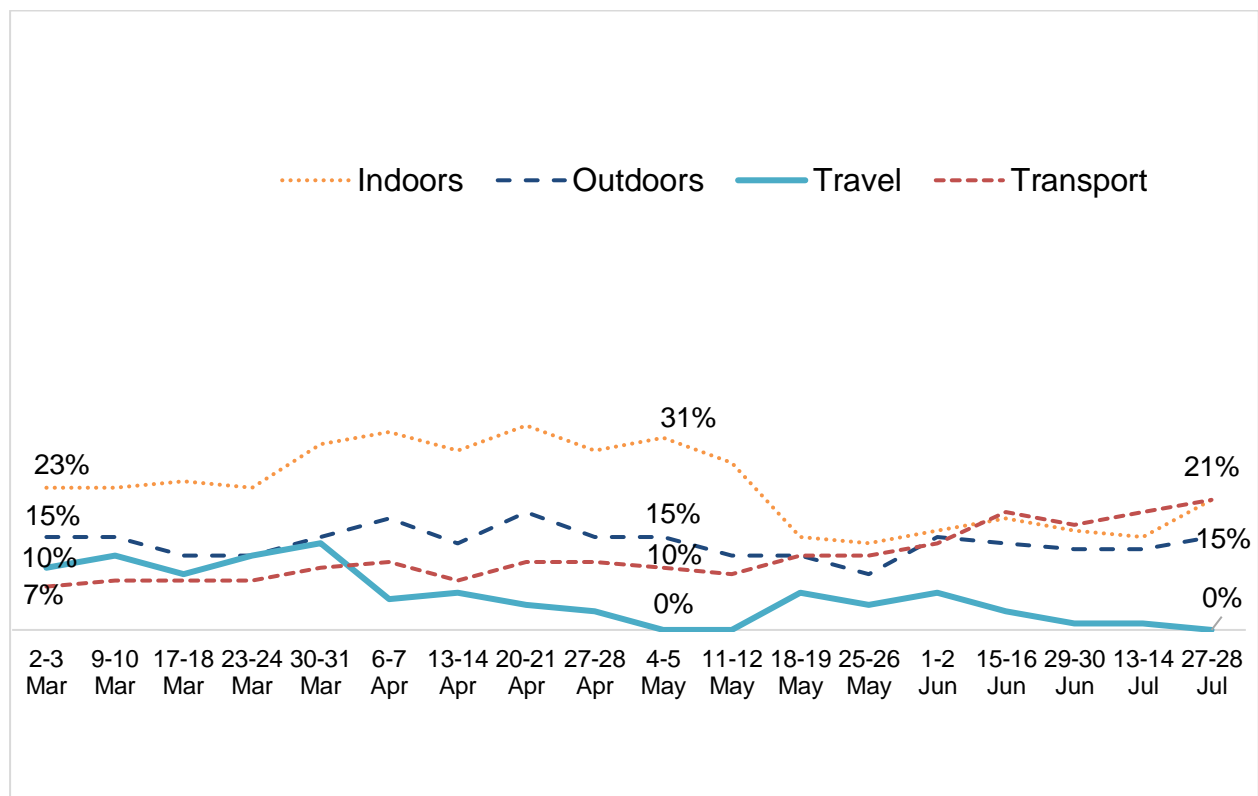
As shown in Figure 19, at the beginning of March, 7% of respondents reported non-compliant behaviour in transport (such as travel in a car without a face covering with someone not in their household, or travel on public transport without a face covering). This increased to 21% at the end of July.

<sup>12</sup> Full question: Thinking about ALL of the guidance on what to do and what not to do during the Coronavirus pandemic (including distancing, protection measures and all restrictions)... On a scale of 1-7, where 1 is 'Not at all' and 7 is 'Completely', to what extent do you feel you are following the regulations and guidance?

<sup>13</sup> March 2021: all of mainland Scotland and some islands in lockdown with 'Stay at Home' guidance in place. 2 April 2021: Stay at Home regulations lifted in favour of a Stay Local order. 26 April: All of Scotland moves to Level 3 restrictions. 17 May: most of mainland Scotland moves to Level 2 restrictions, most of islands moves to Level 1. 5 June: Glasgow moves to Level 2 whilst 15 mainland local authorities move to Level 1. 19 July: Scotland moves to Level 0. 9 August: Scotland moves 'beyond Level 0'.

At the beginning of March, when there was strict guidance around indoor meetings, 23% reported any 'non-compliant' behaviour indoors (such as meeting up indoors with more than one person over 12 years old from another household). By 4/5 May, this increased to 31% and by 27-28 July, it had fallen to 21%. 'Non-compliant' behaviour outdoors has varied between 9% and 19%. At the beginning of March, 10% of respondents reported 'non-compliant' travel (including travel for non-essential reasons when 'Stay at Home' guidance was in place). By the end of July, this had fallen to 0% (when 'non-compliant' behaviour included travel for non-essential purposes to a 'red list' country).

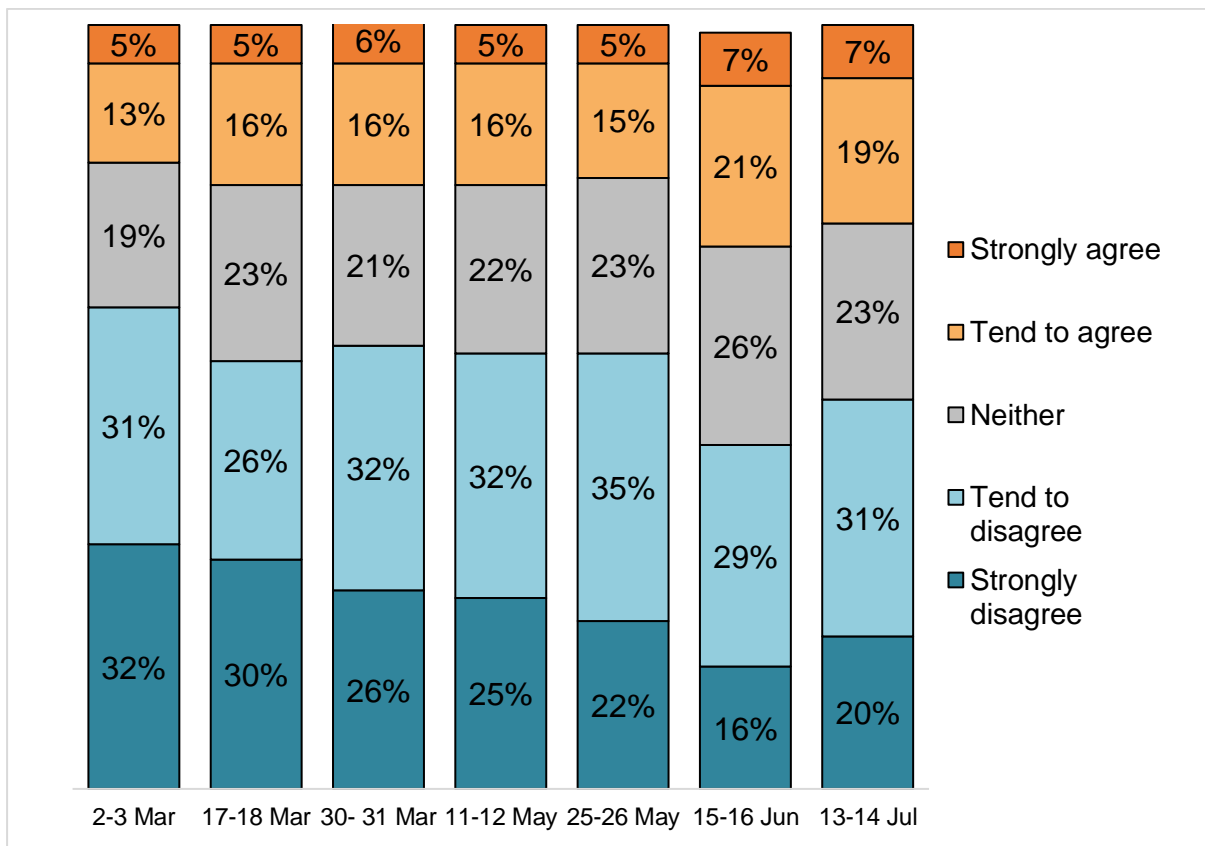
Figure 19: Proportion who engaged in any non-compliant behaviour in the past week:



Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=807-1063)

From March through to July, respondents were also asked if they have been adapting the guidance as they did not think everything was necessary. There was an increase in the proportion of respondents who agreed with the statement 'I have been adapting the guidance as I don't think everything is necessary', from just under 1 in 5 (18%) on 2-3 March to just over a quarter (26%) on 13-14 July.

Figure 20: Proportion who agreed/disagreed with the statement 'I have been adapting the guidance as I don't think everything is necessary'

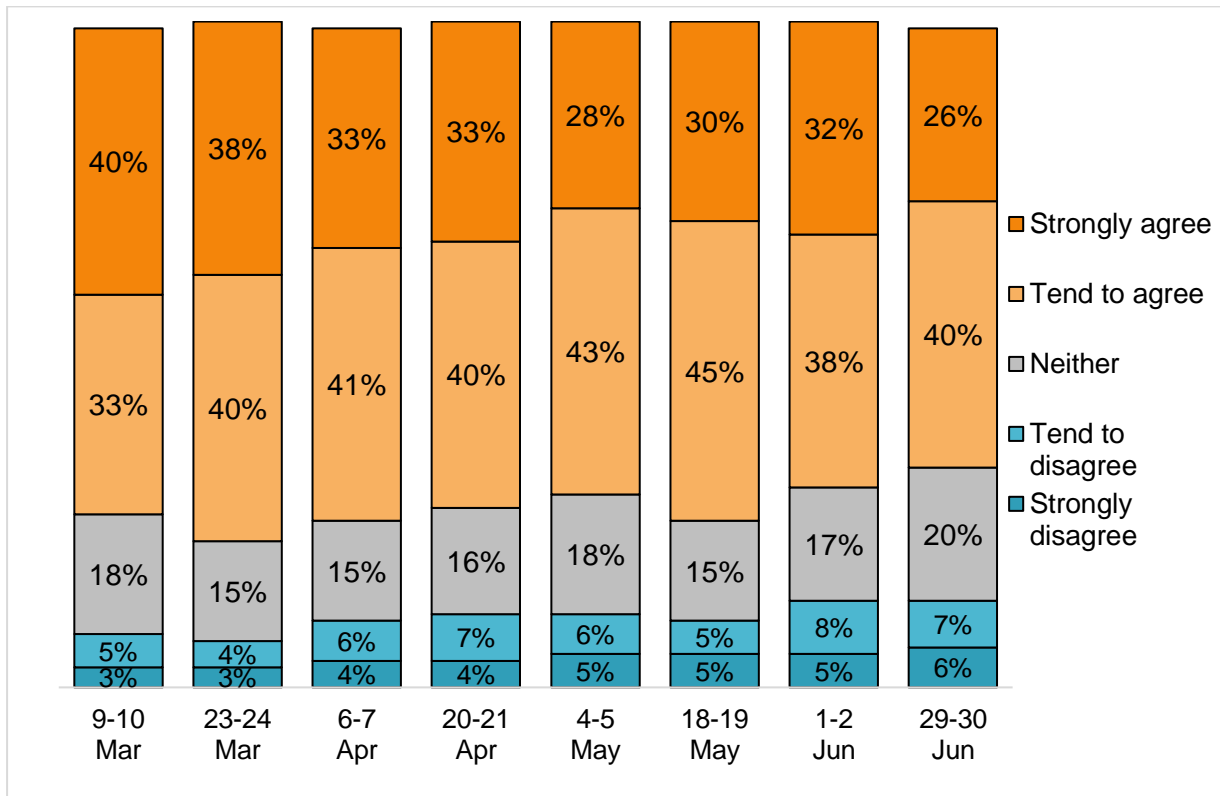


Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=1001-1028)

As shown in Figure 21, between March and May, 71% to 78% of respondents said they either 'tend to' or 'strongly' agree that 'It is more important now than ever to stick to the rules'. In June, this declined to 66%.



Figure 21: Proportion who agreed/disagreed with the statement 'It's more important now than ever to stick to the rules'



Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=807-1063)

### Protective measures

Respondents were asked how important they felt different measures are for keeping Coronavirus under control. Throughout this period, a high proportion of respondents rated the protective measures as being 'very' or 'fairly' important. Respondents have consistently rated 'washing/sanitising hands' as being the most important measure (88%-94%), and opening windows/doors (when with people from outside of the household) as the least important (75%-79%). Over time, there has been a small decline in how important respondents think some of the protective measures are particularly washing/sanitising hands, keeping either 1m (or previously 2m) away, wearing face coverings, and avoiding crowded/busy places.

Figure 22: Proportion who rated the following as 'very' or 'fairly important' in helping to keep the spread of Coronavirus under control<sup>14</sup>

Protective Measure	6/7 Apr	4/5 May	1/2 Jun	13/14 Jul	10/11 Aug	24/25 Aug
Opening windows/doors* if with people from different household	79%	76%	76%	76%	75%	77%
Only meeting outdoors in the fresh air**	84%	79%	77%	Not asked	Not asked	Not asked
Meeting others outdoors in the fresh air whenever possible	Not asked	Not asked	Not asked	80%	82%	83%
Wearing a face covering	86%	86%	84%	83%	81%	80%
Washing/sanitising hands***	94%	93%	Not asked	90%	90%	88%
Avoiding crowded/busy places	93%	89%	88%	88%	86%	84%
Self-isolating and testing at the first sign of symptoms	Not asked	Not asked	92%	91%	89%	Not asked
Staying at least 2m/1m**** away from others not in household	87%	83%	80%	Not asked	Not asked	78%

Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=1001-1055)

Respondents were also asked how well they thought they were doing various activities. Throughout this period, a high proportion of respondents report that they are adhering to each of the protective measures either 'very' or 'fairly well'. Over 90% of respondents have consistently reported they are wearing a face covering, if required, either 'very' or 'fairly well'. A lower proportion of respondents have reported they are opening windows/doors when with people from different households, although this has increased slightly since April (from 69% in April to 74% in August). There has been a decline in those who report avoiding crowded/busy places well (from 94% in April to 85% in August) and those who feel they are maintaining physical distancing from others not in their household (from 86% in April to 77% in August).

<sup>14</sup> Note Question Wording Changes: \*'Doors' added on 13/14 July. \*\*Meeting outdoors 'whenever possible' replaced 'only meeting outdoors' on 13/14 July. \*\*\*Changed from 'Washing hands every time you get back from trips outside the home' to 'Washing /sanitising hands regularly when out and about' on 10-11 Aug. \*\*\*\*Distance changed from 2m to 1m/3ft on 13/14 July.

Figure 23: Proportion who reported doing each protective measure 'very' or 'fairly' well<sup>15</sup>

Protective Measure	6/7 Apr	4/5 May	1/2 Jun	13/14 Jul	10/11 Aug	24/25 Aug
Opening windows/doors* if with people from different household	69%	70%	72%	74%	Not asked	74%
Only meeting outdoors in the fresh air**	89%	84%	79%	Not asked	Not asked	Not asked
Meeting others outdoors in the fresh air whenever possible	Not asked	Not asked	Not asked	82%	Not asked	78%
Wearing a face covering	95%	93%	94%	91%	Not asked	93%
Washing/sanitising hands***	89%	88%	84%	89%	Not asked	88%
Avoiding crowded/busy places	94%	92%	90%	88%	Not asked	85%
Staying at least 2m/1m**** away from others not in household	86%	83%	80%	79%	Not asked	77%

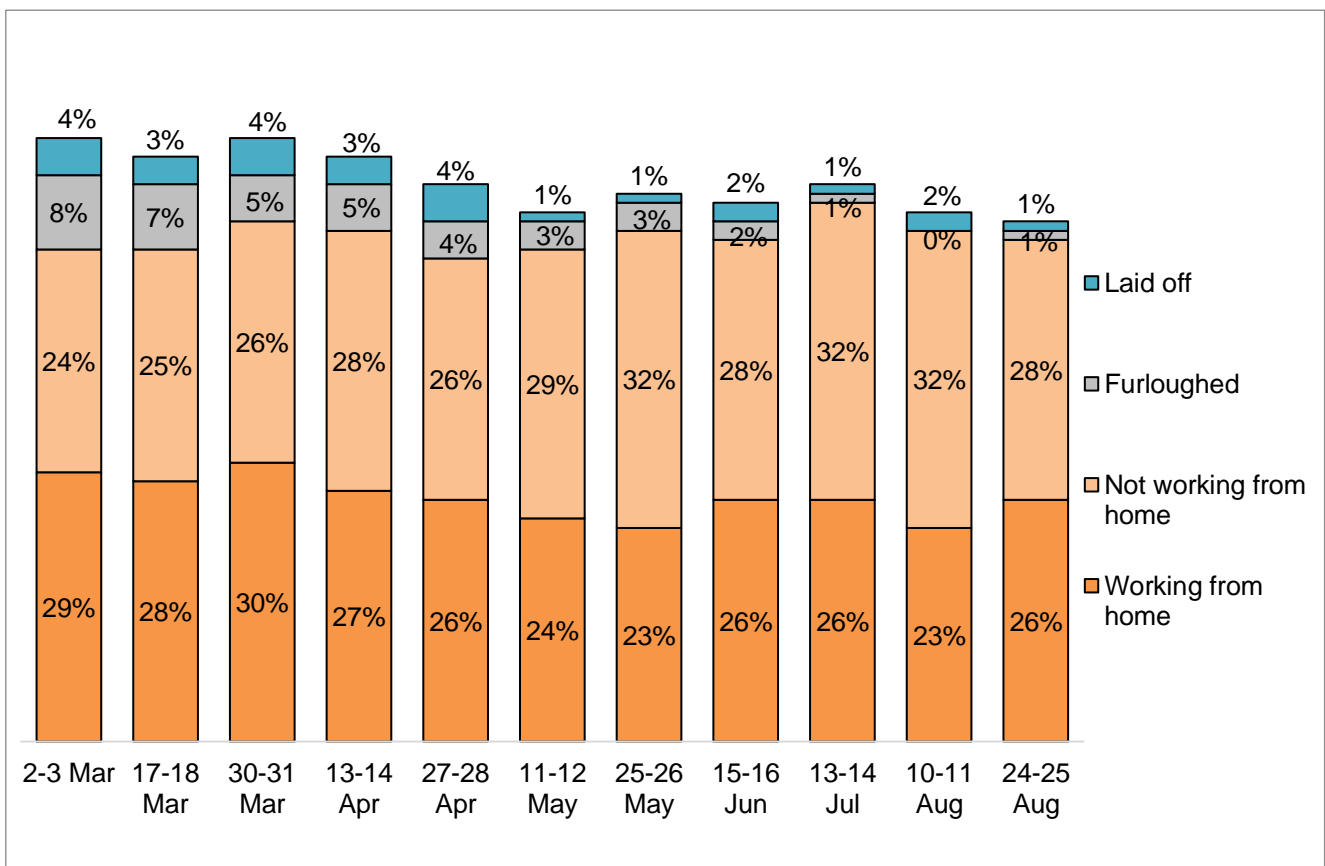
Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=1001-1055)

### Working from home

As shown in Figure 24, at the beginning of March, 29% of respondents were working from home. By the end of April, this dropped slightly to just over a quarter and has remained at similar levels throughout May, June, July and August. On 2-3 March, 8% of respondents said they were currently furloughed/placed on the job support scheme. This has declined throughout subsequent polling and had fallen to 1% by 24-25 August.

<sup>15</sup> \*\*'Doors' added to the question on 13/14 July. \*\*Meeting outdoors 'whenever possible' replaced 'only meeting outdoors' on 13/14 July.\*\*\*Changed from 'Washing hands every time you get back from trips outside the home' to 'Washing /sanitising hands regularly when out and about' on 10-11 Aug. \*\*\*\*Distance changed to 1m/3ft on 13/14 July.

Figure 24: Current working situation for respondents who are not retired

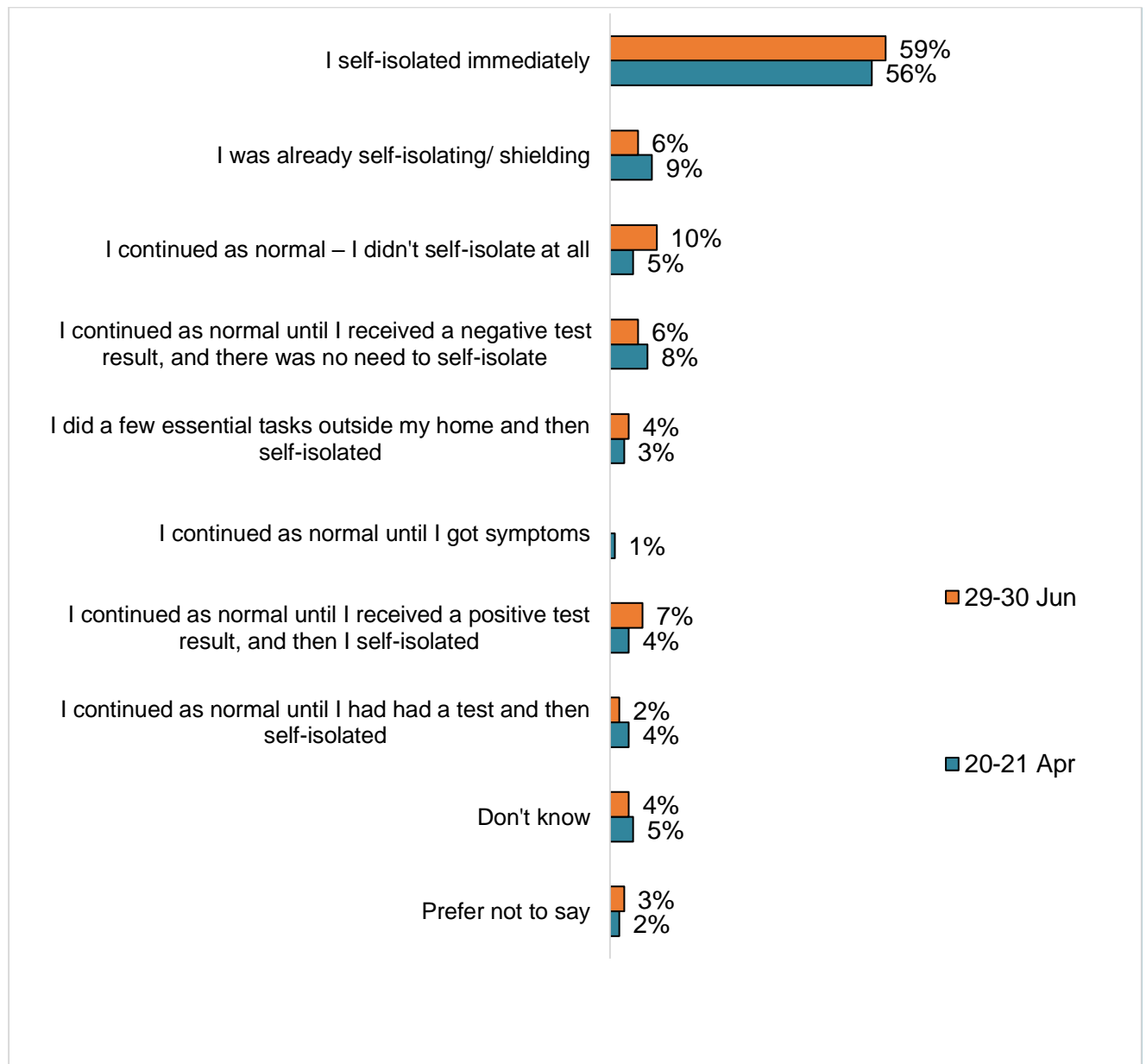


Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults not retired (n=742-767)

### Self-isolation

For respondents who had reported experience of, or possible contact with, Coronavirus over the preceding three months, they were asked what actions they had taken as a result. Over half of respondents in April 20-21 (56%) and June 29-30 (59%) reported that they had immediately self-isolated.

Figure 25: Proportions who took each action following some experience of, or possible contact with, Coronavirus in the past 3 months

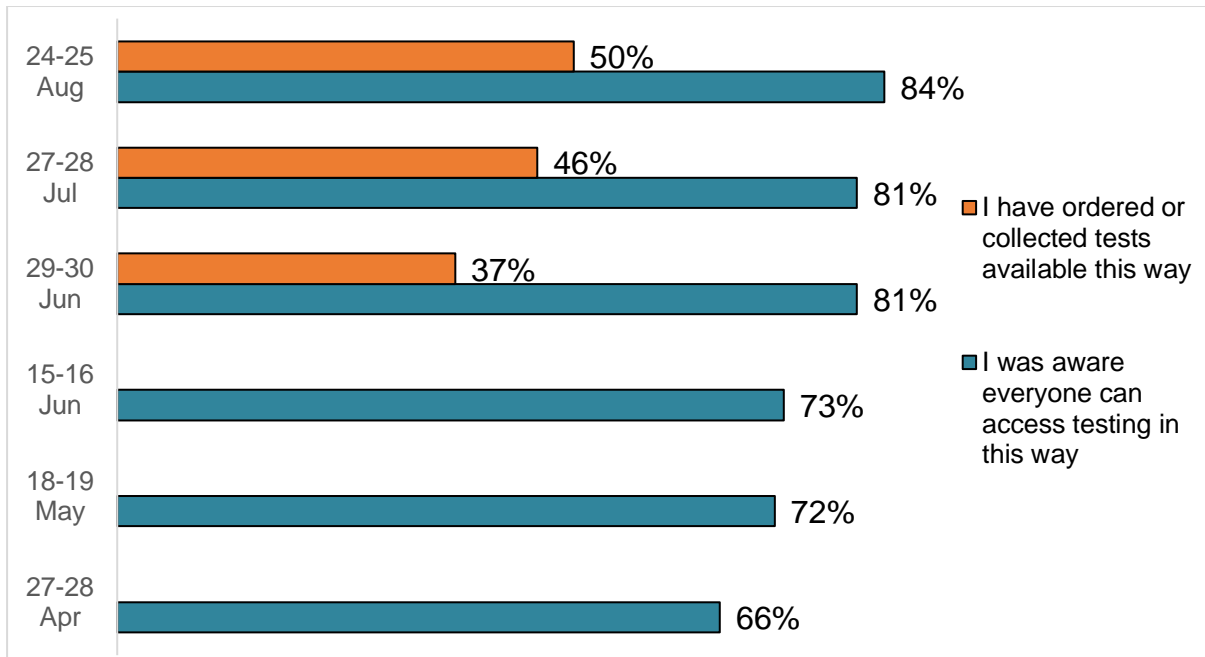


Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults who had experience of, or contact with, possible Coronavirus since beginning of January 2021 (20-21 April, n=116) and since the beginning of April 2021 (29-30 June, n=90)

### Regular testing for Coronavirus

From 26<sup>th</sup> April, any adult in Scotland has been able to access testing for Coronavirus twice weekly when they don't have symptoms. Respondents were asked their awareness that everyone could access tests in this way. As shown in Figure 26, at the end of April (27-28), 66% of respondents were aware of this ability to receive twice weekly tests. This rose by the end of August (24-25) to 84% of respondents. From 29-30 June respondents were also asked if they had ordered or collected tests available in this way since 26<sup>th</sup> April. This rose from 37% of the total sample at the end of June to 50% of respondents at the end of August.

Figure 26: Proportion who are aware that everyone can access twice weekly Coronavirus tests and proportion who have ordered or collected tests available in this way

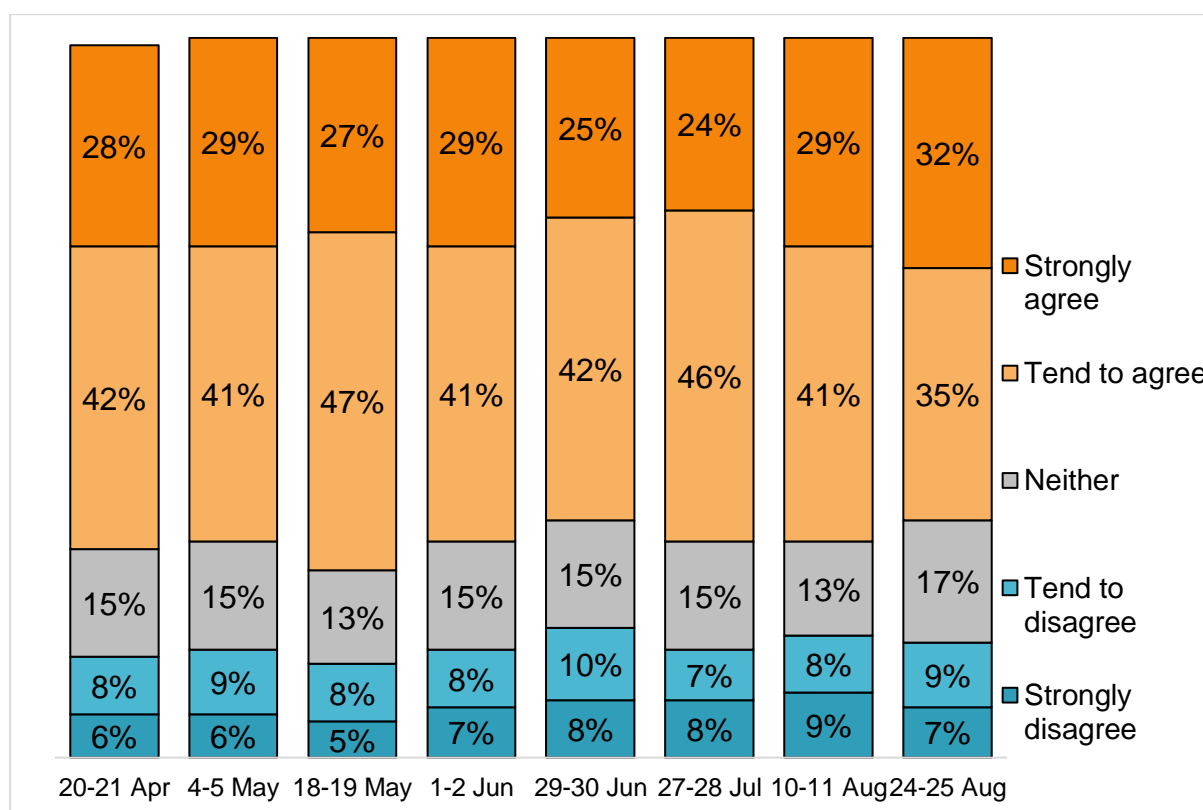


Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: All Scottish Adults (n=980-1063)

## 5. Behaviour and Attitudes as Restrictions Change

Respondents were asked about their behaviour and intentions to resume previous behaviours as restrictions were easing. Respondents have remained consistently cautious about resuming activities. From April through to August, around 7 in 10 respondents either 'strongly agree', or 'tend to agree', with the statement "Even though the restrictions are changing, I don't want to rush into doing things". At 24-25 August, 67% of respondents agreed that they did not want to rush into doing things.

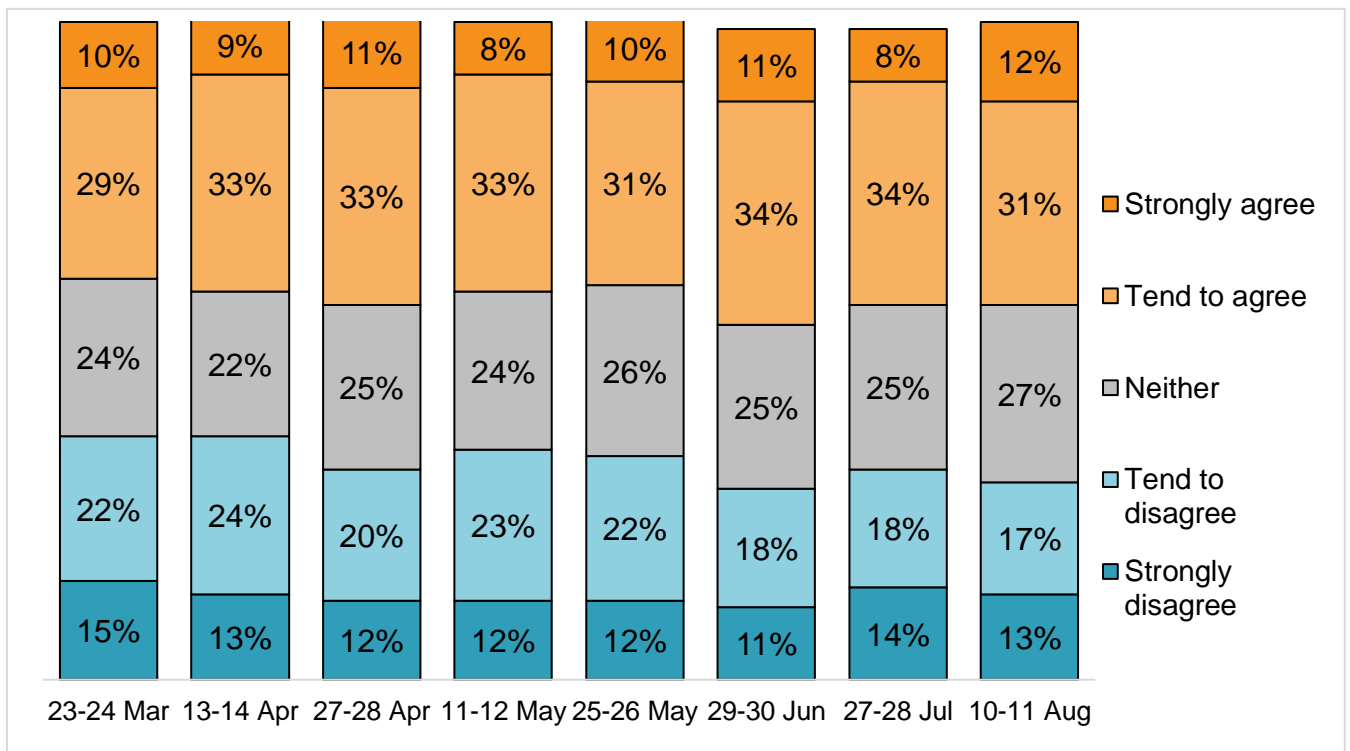
Figure 27: Proportion who agree or disagree with the statement 'Even though restrictions are changing, I don't want to rush into doing things'



Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=980-1063)

As shown in Figure 28, on 23-24 March, 39% of respondents said they either 'tend to' or 'strongly' agree with the statement 'Thinking about resuming activities as restrictions ease makes me feel anxious'. From April to August, over 4 in 10 respondents have consistently agreed this makes them feel anxious (40% to 45%).

Figure 28: Proportion who agree or disagree with the statement ‘Thinking about resuming more activities as restrictions ease makes me feel anxious’

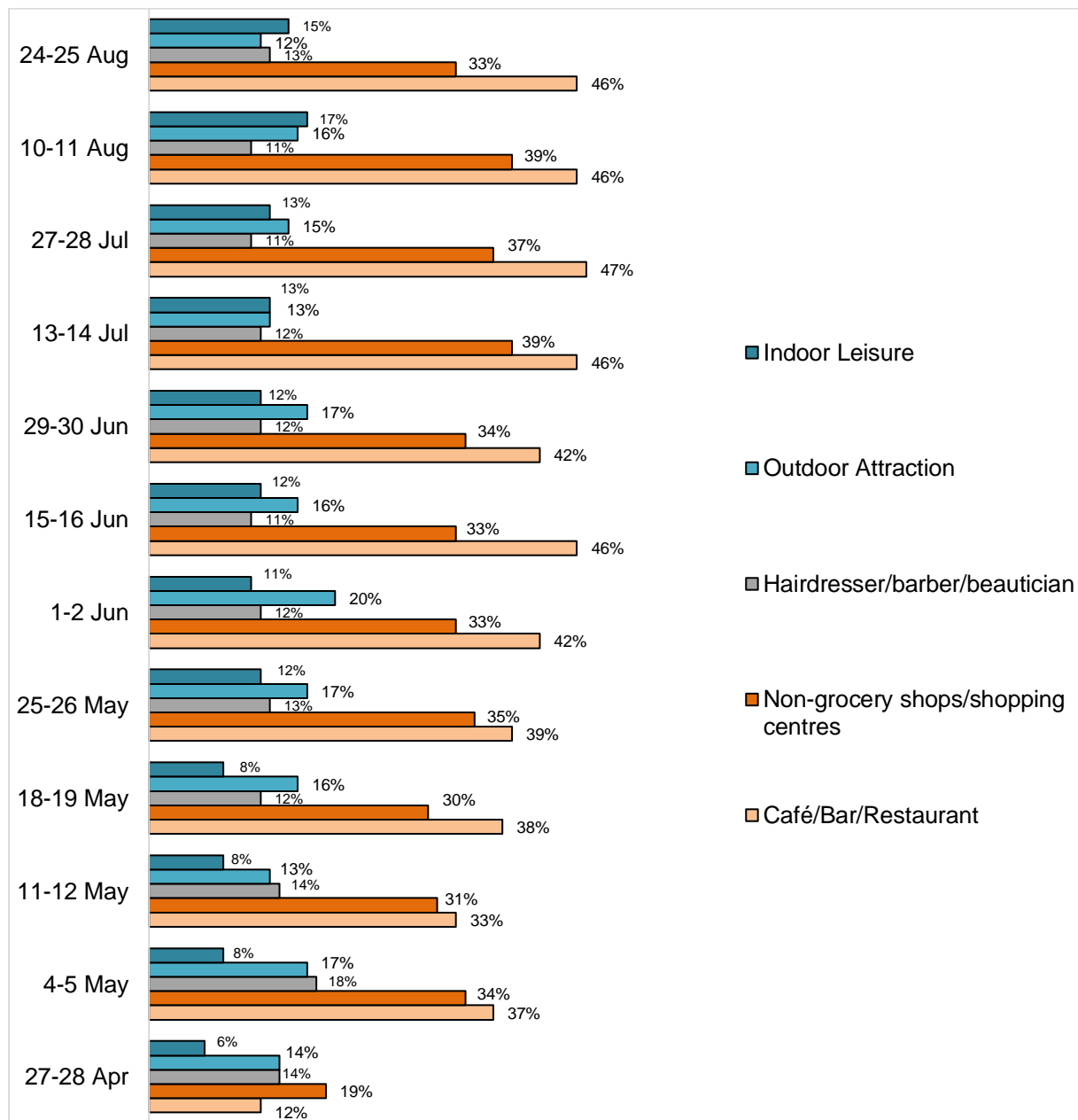


Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=807-1015)

Following the lifting of a number of restrictions in mid-April, respondents were asked which places they had visited in the past week. At 27-28 April, just over 1 in 10 (12%) respondents reported visiting a café/bar/restaurant, and just under 2 in 10 (19%) a non-grocery shop/shopping centre. By the following week, over a third (37%) of respondents had visited a café/bar/restaurant and 34% a non-grocery shop/shopping centre. Between June and August, just over 4 in 10 (42% to 47%) had visited a café/bar/restaurant in the previous week. During the same period, 33% to 39% of respondents reported visiting a non-grocery shop or shopping centre. There has been an increase in proportions of respondents visiting indoor leisure, from 8% in early May up to 15% by 24-25 August.



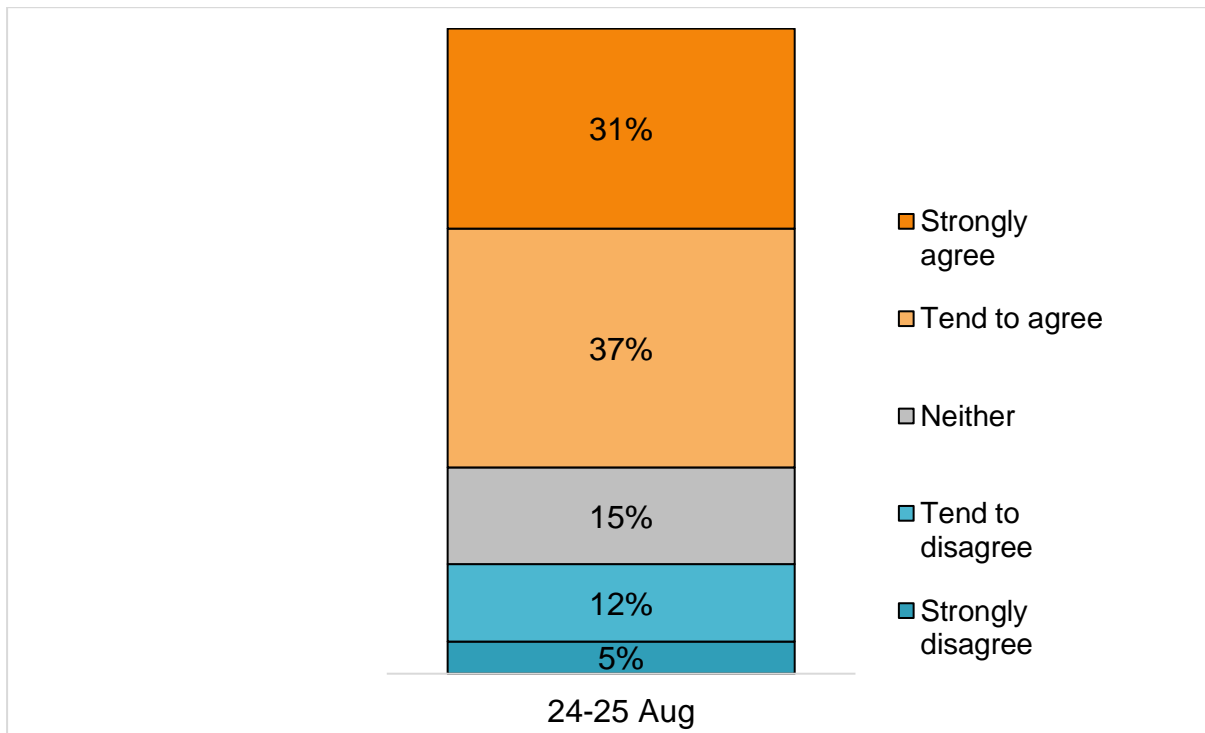
Figure 29: Proportion who had attended the following places in the past week



Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=980-1063)

As shown in Figure 30, at the end of August, just under 7 in 10 (69%) respondents agreed with the statement 'Even though restrictions have eased, I have not yet gone back to doing everything I did before the pandemic'.

Figure 30: Proportion who agreed or disagreed with the statement 'even though restrictions have eased, I have not yet gone back to doing everything I did before the pandemic'

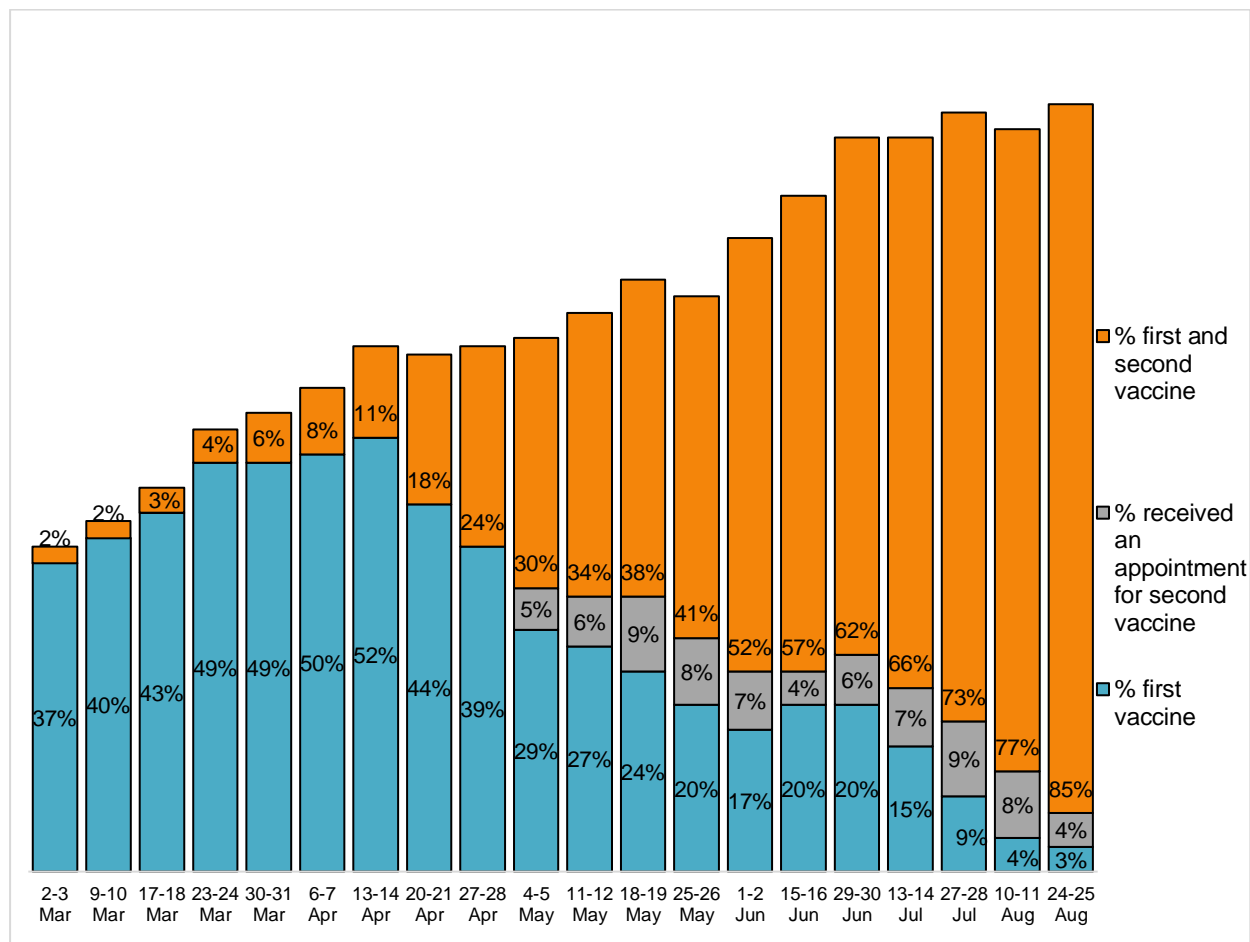


Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=1007)

## 6. Vaccines

The vaccination programme was underway throughout the period from March to August. At the beginning of March (2-3), 37% of respondents had received their first Covid vaccine and 2% had received both a first and second dose. At 1-2 June, over half of respondents had received both vaccines and by 24-25 August, 85% of respondents had received both doses,.

Figure 31: Proportion who had received a COVID-19 vaccination

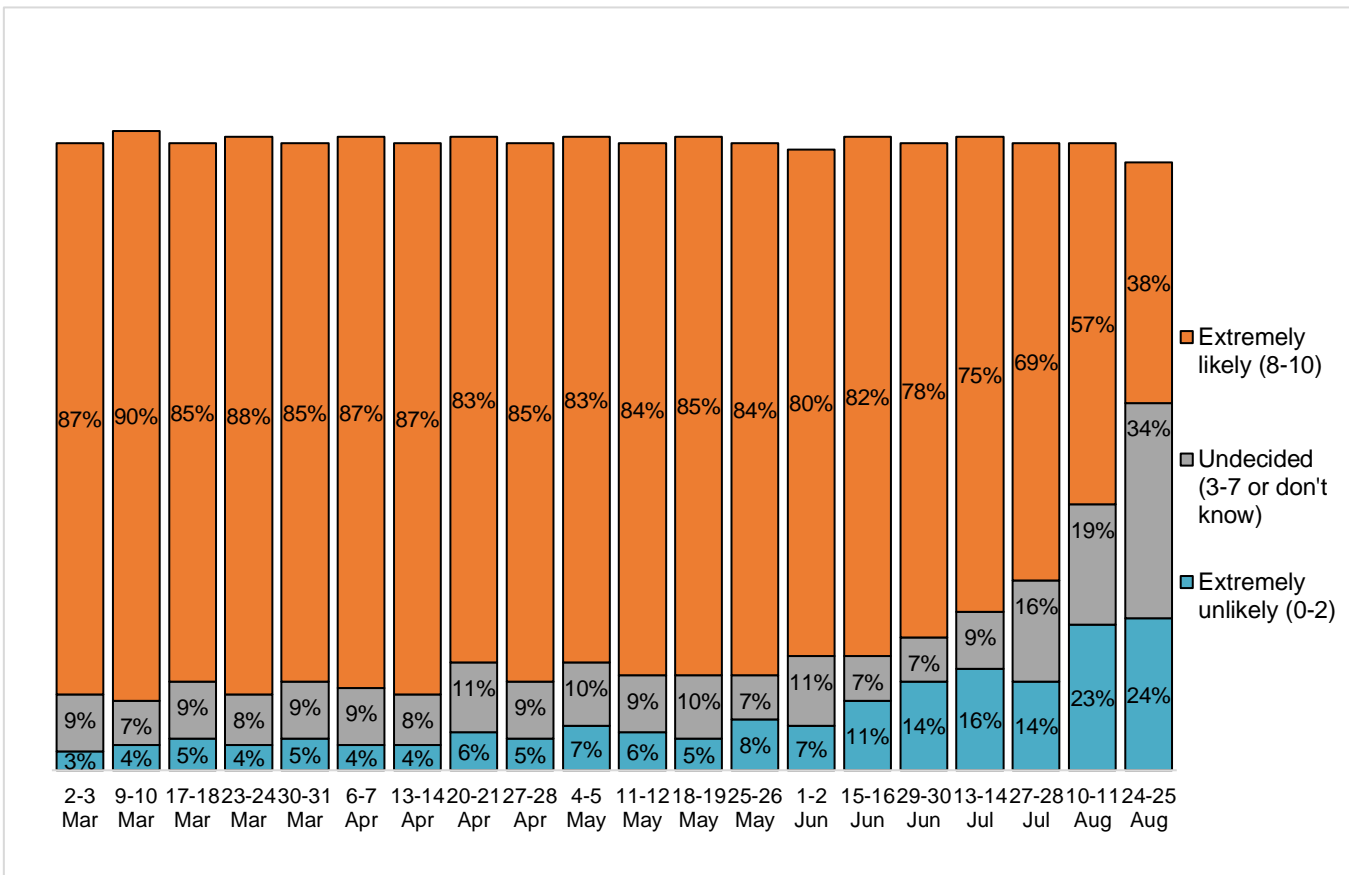


Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=807-1055)

\*\*Note response "I have received an invitation for second vaccination, but have not yet been vaccinated" added from 4-5 May

Respondents who had not received either a first or second vaccine were asked, on a scale of 0-10, how likely or unlikely they were to be vaccinated for Coronavirus when a vaccine became available to them. If respondents had already received a first vaccination, they were asked how likely or unlikely they were to have their second. As shown in Figure 32, at the beginning of March 87% of respondents said they would be highly likely (score 8-10) to be vaccinated. 3% of respondents said they would be highly unlikely (score 0-2) to be vaccinated and 9% were undecided (scoring either 3-7 or 'don't know'). From March through to mid-June over 8 in 10 respondents continued to score 8-10 on their willingness to receive a vaccine. From mid-June onwards, the proportion of respondents who said they were highly unlikely to be vaccinated (score 0-2) increased. However, of note, the sample size reduced as there were increasingly fewer respondents who had yet to receive a first or second vaccine (from 383 respondents in mid-June to 80 respondents at the end of August).

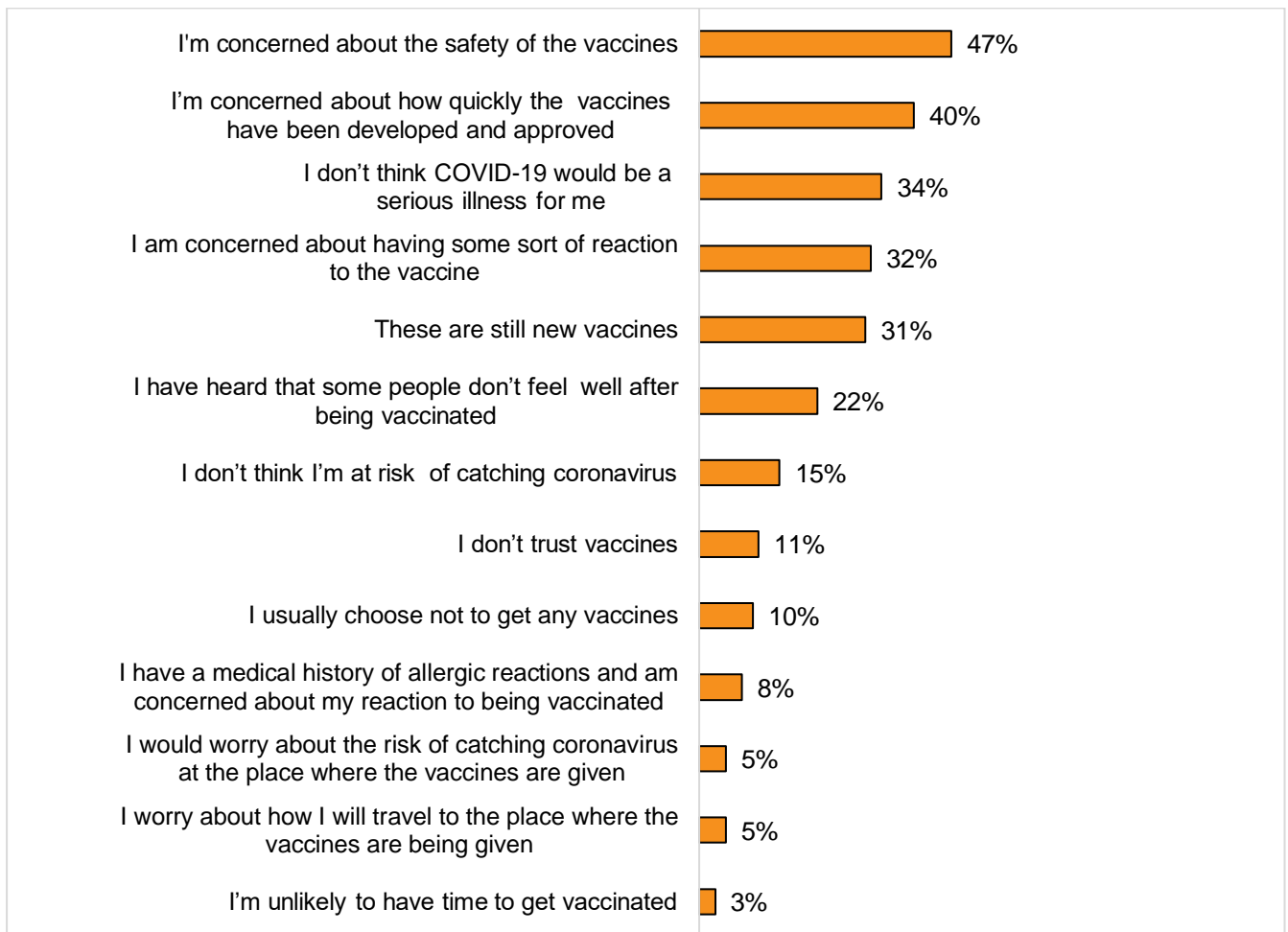
Figure 32: Likelihood of being vaccinated for COVID-19



Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults who are awaiting either their 1st or their 2nd vaccination (n=80-988)

On 21-22 April, respondents who had said they would be extremely unlikely, or undecided about getting a Covid vaccination (score 0-7) were asked why they were unlikely to get a vaccine. 47% of respondents were concerned about the safety of the vaccines, although of note, this was based on a low sample size (n=92).

Figure 33: Reasons selected for being less likely to receive a vaccine (amongst those who rated themselves as less likely to receive it)

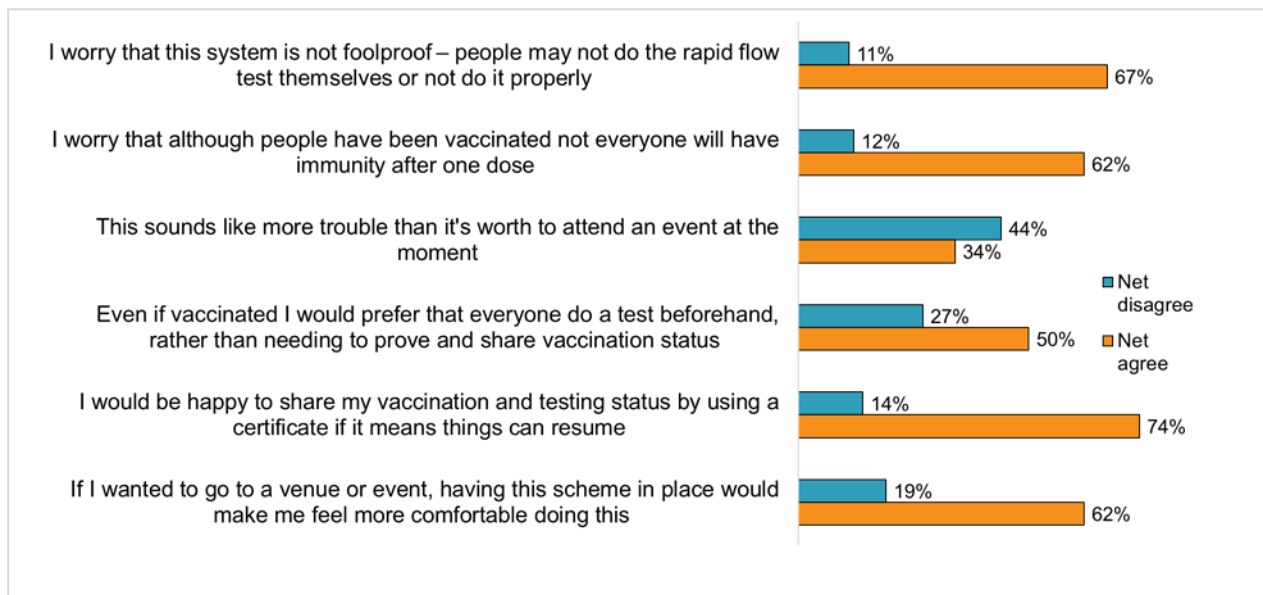


Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults ranked 0-7 on likelihood to get a vaccine (n=92) 20-21 Apr

## Certification

At 24-25 August, respondents were asked their views about a possible Covid certification scheme for access to venues such as stadiums, arenas and nightclubs. 74% of respondents (excluding those who selected not applicable) either 'tend to' or 'strongly' agree that they would be happy to use a certificate if it allowed them entry to such a venue. 62% agree a scheme would make them feel more comfortable attending a venue or event. However, 67% agreed they were worried that the system was not fool-proof, and 50% agreed that even if vaccinated they would prefer that everyone do a test beforehand, rather than sharing vaccination status.

Figure 34: Proportion who tend to/strongly agree or disagree with the following statements about using Covid certification<sup>16</sup>

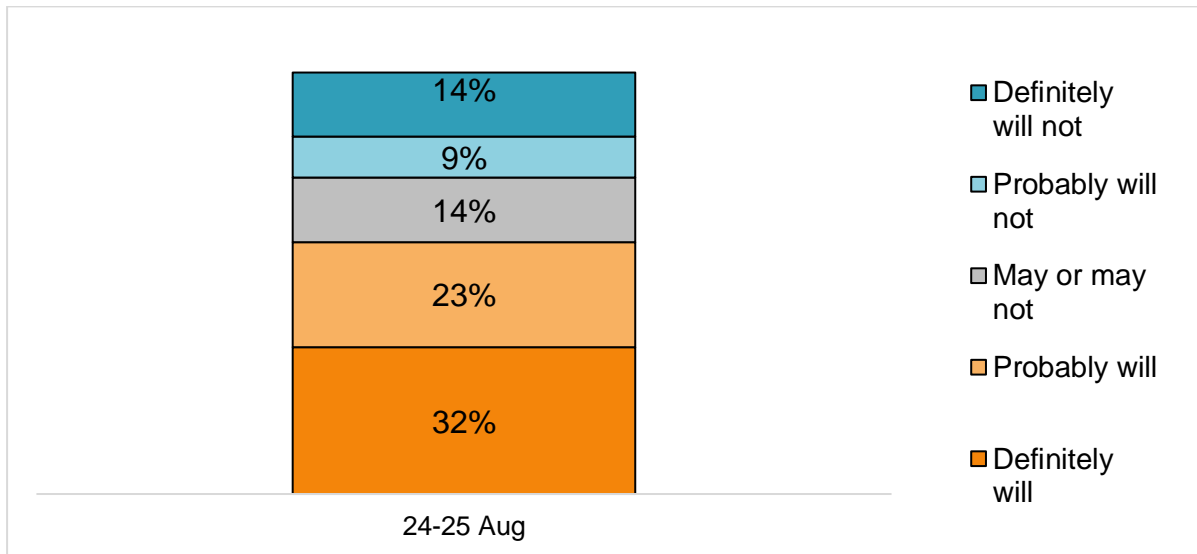


Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (excluding N/A)(n=799-846)

As shown in Figure 35, respondents were also asked how likely they would be to download and use an app which could offer digital proof of Covid vaccination and/or outcome of a recent PCR Test to enable entry to certain venues, allow participation in certain activities or allow international travel. 55% of respondents reported that they definitely/probably would, and 23% of respondents would definitely/probably not, download and use an app.

<sup>16</sup> Question: “One possible approach to allow entry to venues such as stadiums, arenas and nightclubs is to introduce a Covid certification scheme. To what extent do you agree or disagree with these statements about using Covid certification to allow entry to certain venues?”

Figure 35: Proportions of respondents who would download and use a Coronavirus vaccine app<sup>17</sup>



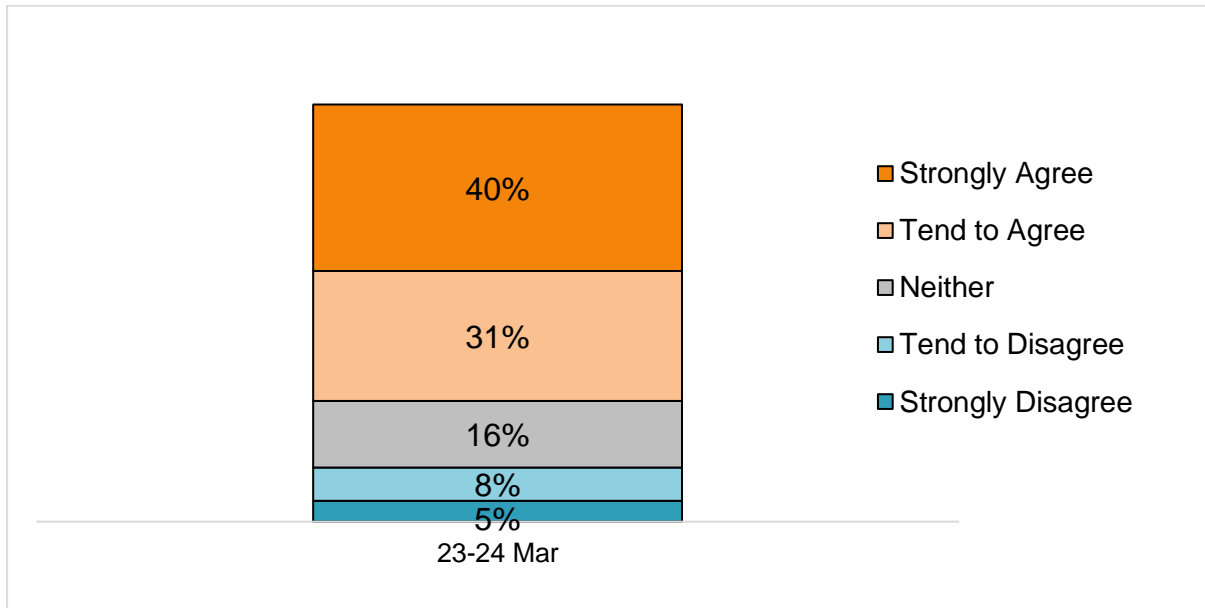
Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults (n=1007)

<sup>17</sup> Question: In future there may be an app which could offer proof in digital form of covid vaccination and/or outcome of a recent PCR Test. This could enable entry to certain venues, allow participation in certain activities or allow international travel. If this app becomes available, how likely will you be to download and use it?

## 7. Parents/Guardians

Following the 15th March, when most children in Scotland were able to return to school/nursery, parents/guardians were asked about the impact of Coronavirus on their children. 71% agreed with the statement 'I have worried about the impact of the Coronavirus situation on my child/ children's mental health'.

Figure 36: Proportions of parents/guardians who agreed/disagreed that they have worried about their child/children's mental health

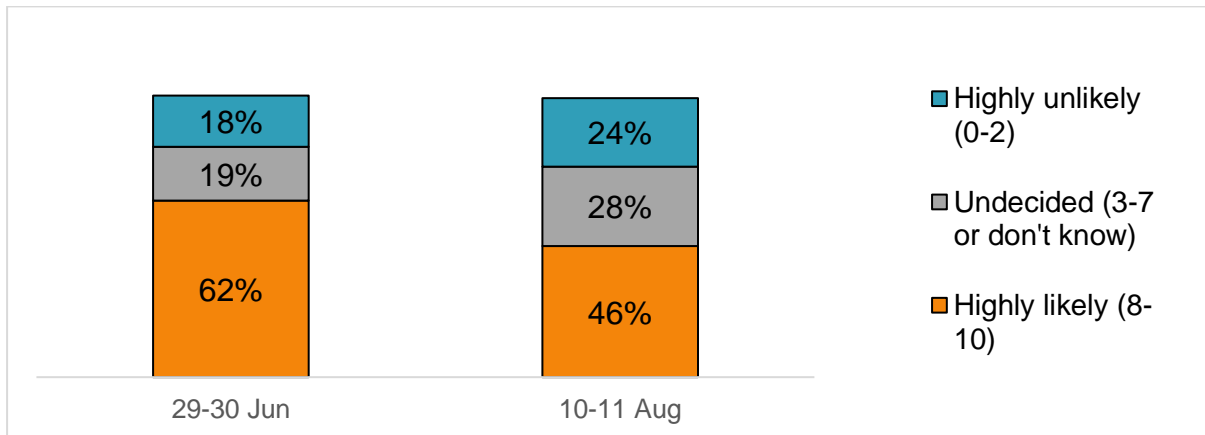


Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults with children aged 17 and under (excluding N/A)(n=143)

On 29-30 June and 10-11 August, parents/guardians were asked how likely or unlikely (on a scale of 0-10) they were to support their child/children aged 12-17 to receive a Covid vaccine. In June 62% of respondents said they were highly likely (scoring 8-10) to support a vaccine, and 18% highly unlikely (score 0-2). On 10-11 August 46% of respondents said they were highly likely to support a vaccine and 24% highly unlikely.



Figure 37: Likelihood of parents/guardians to support a Covid vaccine in their child/children aged 12-17<sup>18</sup>



Source: YouGov Scotland survey. Base: Adults with children aged 12-17 and under (n=79-103)

<sup>18</sup> Note change of question wording: 29-30 June: "It is possible that the vaccination programme may be extended to children aged 12-17. How likely or unlikely would you be to support any child / children of yours from within the 12-17 age group receiving the vaccine if it were made available to them?" 10-11 August: "It has been announced that the vaccination programme will be extended to children aged 16-17, with the possibility of it being further extended to all children aged 12 and over. How likely or unlikely are you to support any child / children of yours from within the 12-17 age group receiving the vaccine when (or if) it is made available to them?"

## Annex A: Sample sizes

YouGov results are based on a sample of c.1,000 adults 18+ across Scotland at each wave. YouGov apply weighting to the data to match the population profile to adjust for any over/under representations and to maximise consistency from wave to wave. Parameters used include age, gender, social class, region and level of education. Fieldwork dates cover the period where the bulk of the survey fieldwork was completed.

**Table 2: Fieldwork information**

Name	Sample size	Age group	Field dates
YouGov weekly survey	Wave 50: 1024	18+	Wave 50: 2-3 March
	Wave 51: 1010		Wave 51: 9-10 March
	Wave 52: 1028		Wave 52: 17-18 March
	Wave 53: 807		Wave 53: 23-24 March
	Wave 54: 1015		Wave 53: 30-31 March
	Wave 55: 1055		Wave 55: 6-7 April
	Wave 56: 1011		Wave 56: 13-14 April
	Wave 57: 1023		Wave 57: 20-21 April
	Wave 58: 1008		Wave 58: 27-28 April
	Wave 59: 1001		Wave 59: 4-5 May
	Wave 60: 1012		Wave 60: 11-12 May
	Wave 61: 1063		Wave 61: 19-20 May
	Wave 62: 1015		Wave 62: 25-26 May
	Wave 63: 1026		Wave 63: 1-2 June
	Wave 65: 1005		Wave 65: 15-16 June
	Wave 67: 1001		Wave 67: 29-30 June
	Wave 69: 1001		Wave 69: 13-14 July
	Wave 71: 980		Wave 71: 27-28 July
	Wave 73: 1012		Wave 73: 10-11 August
	Wave 75: 1007		Wave 75: 24-25 August

## **Annex B: Key events during fieldwork**

This table below summarises of key events taking place between March and the end of August related to Coronavirus in Scotland. It is not exhaustive, however, gives some context to events surrounding data collection. Fieldwork dates should be borne in mind when interpreting the data

2 April 2021: Stay at Home regulations lifted in favour of a Stay Local order requiring people to stay within their local areas.

5 April 2021: Hairdressers, barbers, garden centres, click and collect and homeware stores permitted to reopen.

16 April 2021: Stay Local rule lifted and up to six people from six different households allowed to meet outside again.

26 April 2021: All parts of Scotland move to Level 3 restrictions, with hospitality, gyms and non-essential retail reopening and non-essential travel between Scotland and other UK nations permitted.

17 May 2021: most of mainland Scotland (with the exception of Moray and Glasgow) moved to Level 2 restrictions, with an easing of restrictions around hospitality, entertainment, education and sport. Most of the islands moved to Level 1.

5 June: Glasgow moves to Level 2 while 15 mainland local authorities move to Level 1. All islands currently in Level 1 move to Level 0.

19 July 2021: Scotland moves to Level 0 restrictions, allowing large numbers to meet indoors and attend weddings and funerals.

9 August 2021: Scotland moves 'beyond Level 0', with the majority of restrictions removed. Rules remaining include compulsory face coverings in some settings. Nightclubs are allowed to reopen.



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