Immigration: The Political Challenge

October 2008

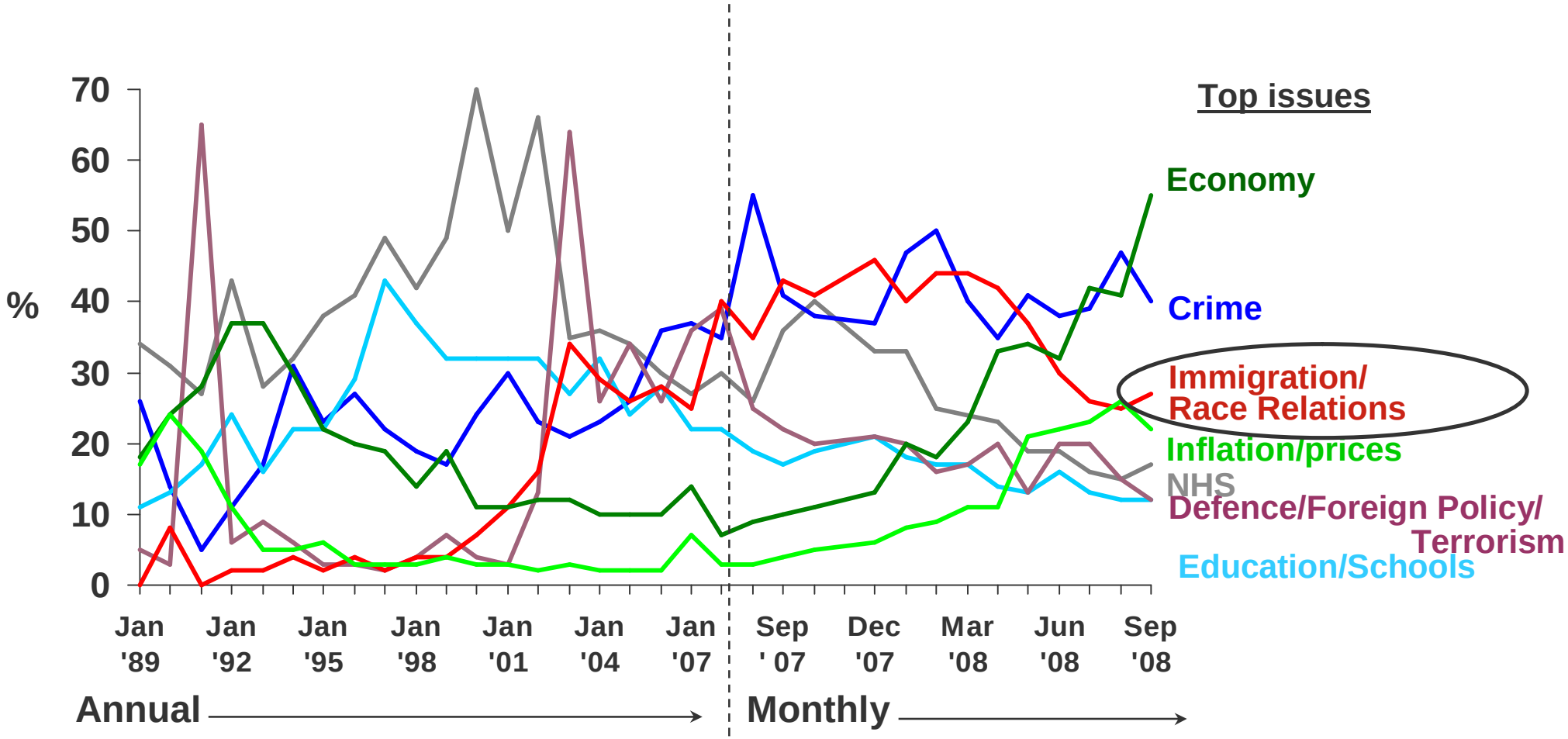
Presented by Kully Kaur-Ballagan

Ipsos MORI

Why is it a challenge?

We're obsessed by it....

Q. What would you say is the most important issue facing Britain today?
Q. What do you see as other important issues facing Britain today?



Source: Ipsos MORI Political Monitor Long Term Trends, http://www.ipsos-mori.com/polls/trends/issues.shtml
Base c.1,000 British adults aged 18+ years

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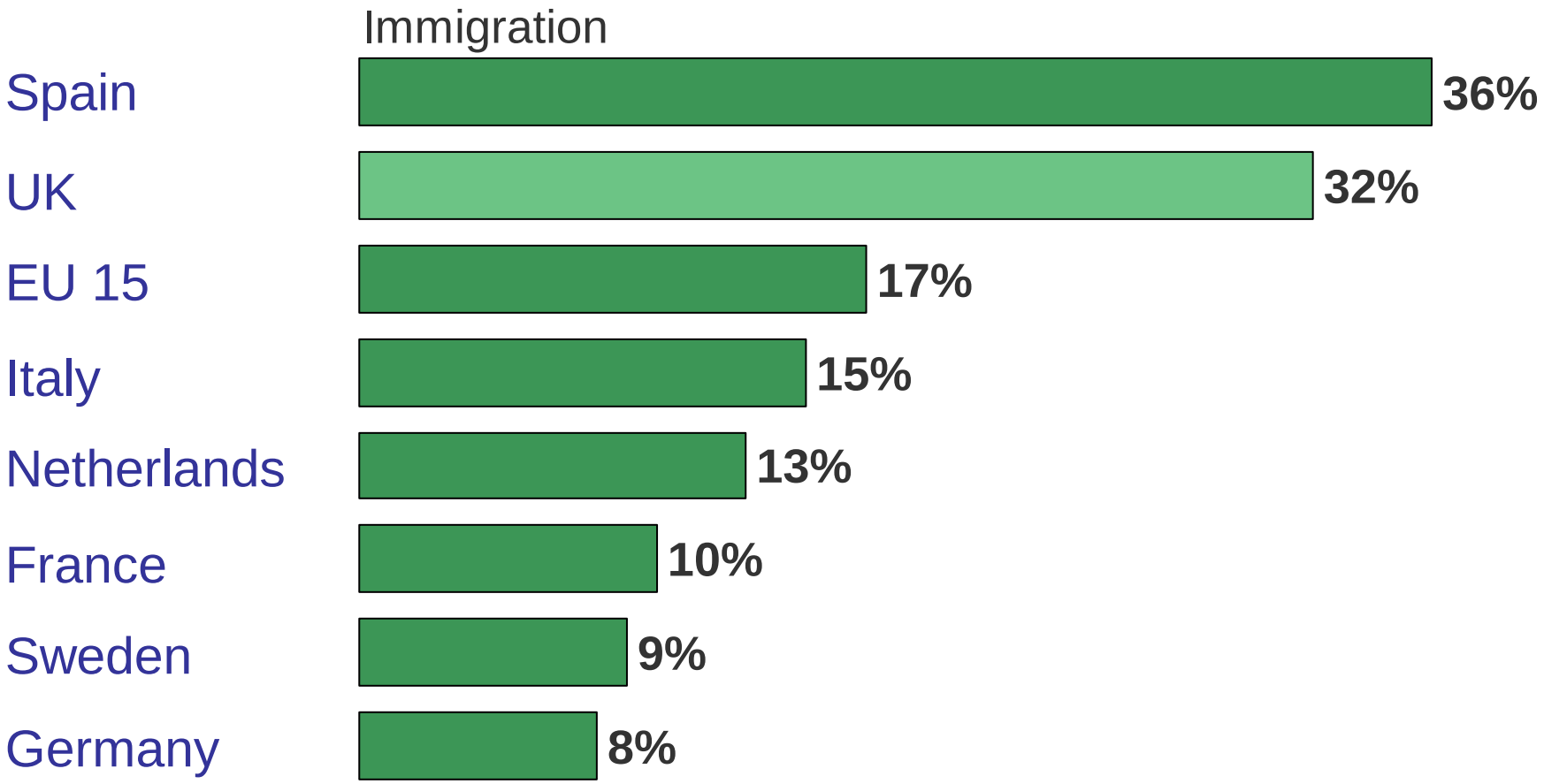
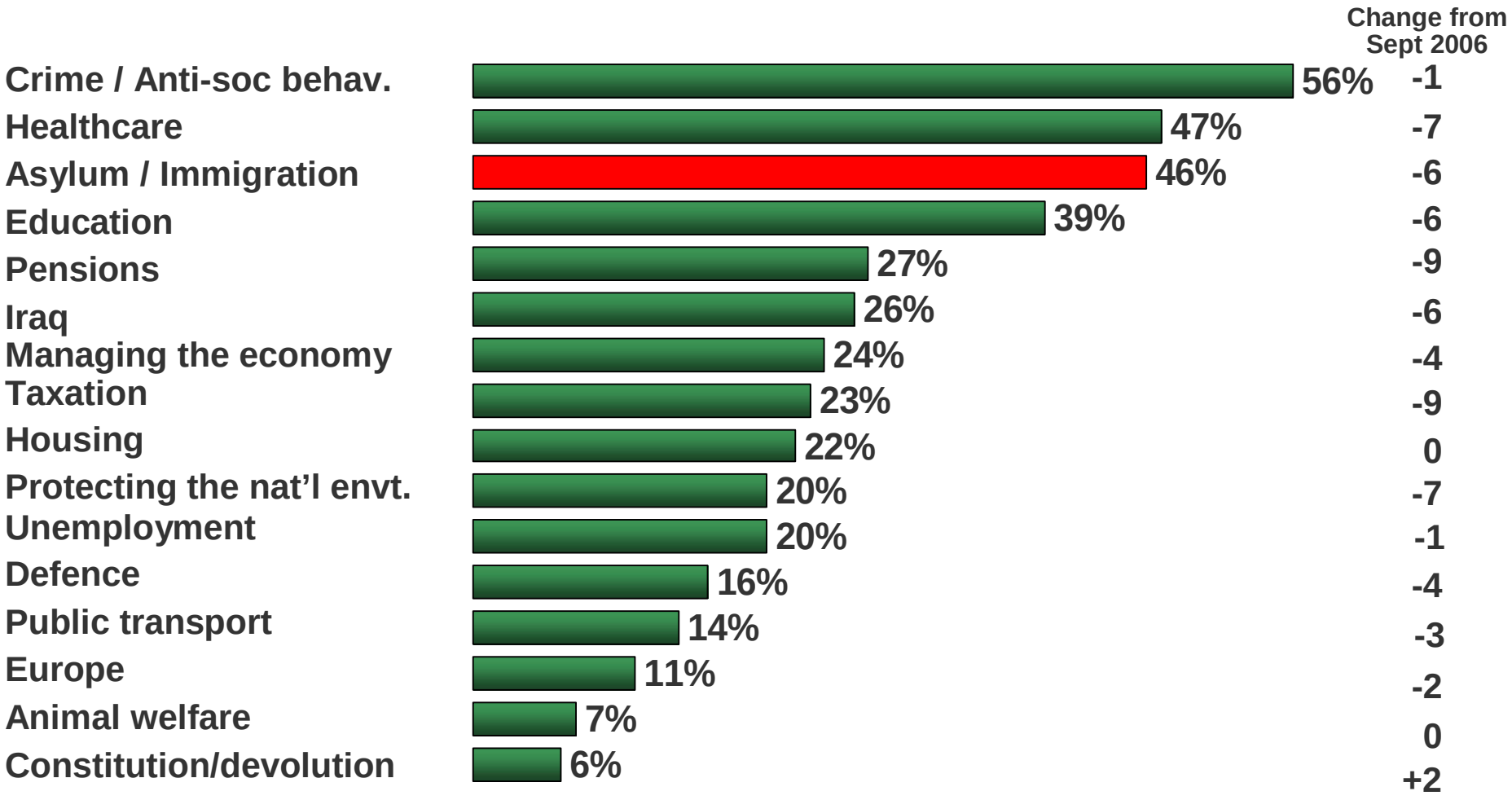
.....and more so than others

Q What do you think are the two most important issues facing your country at the moment?



It's important in how we vote..

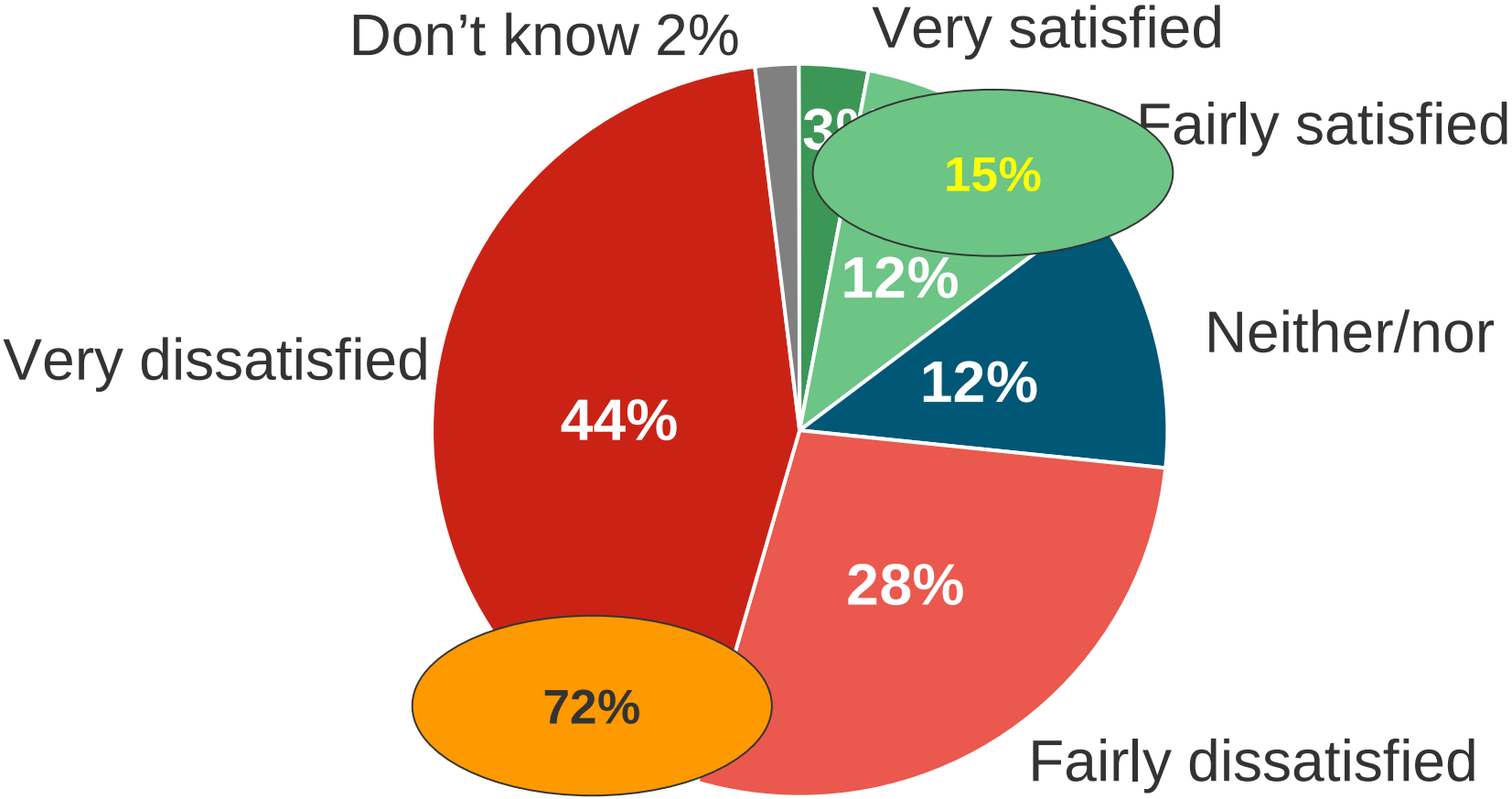
Q Looking ahead of the next General Election, which, if any, of these issues do you think will be very important to you in helping you decide which party to vote for?



Ipsos MORI Base: 988 British adults 18+, 20-26 Sept 2007

And we're unhappy with how govt. is dealing with it

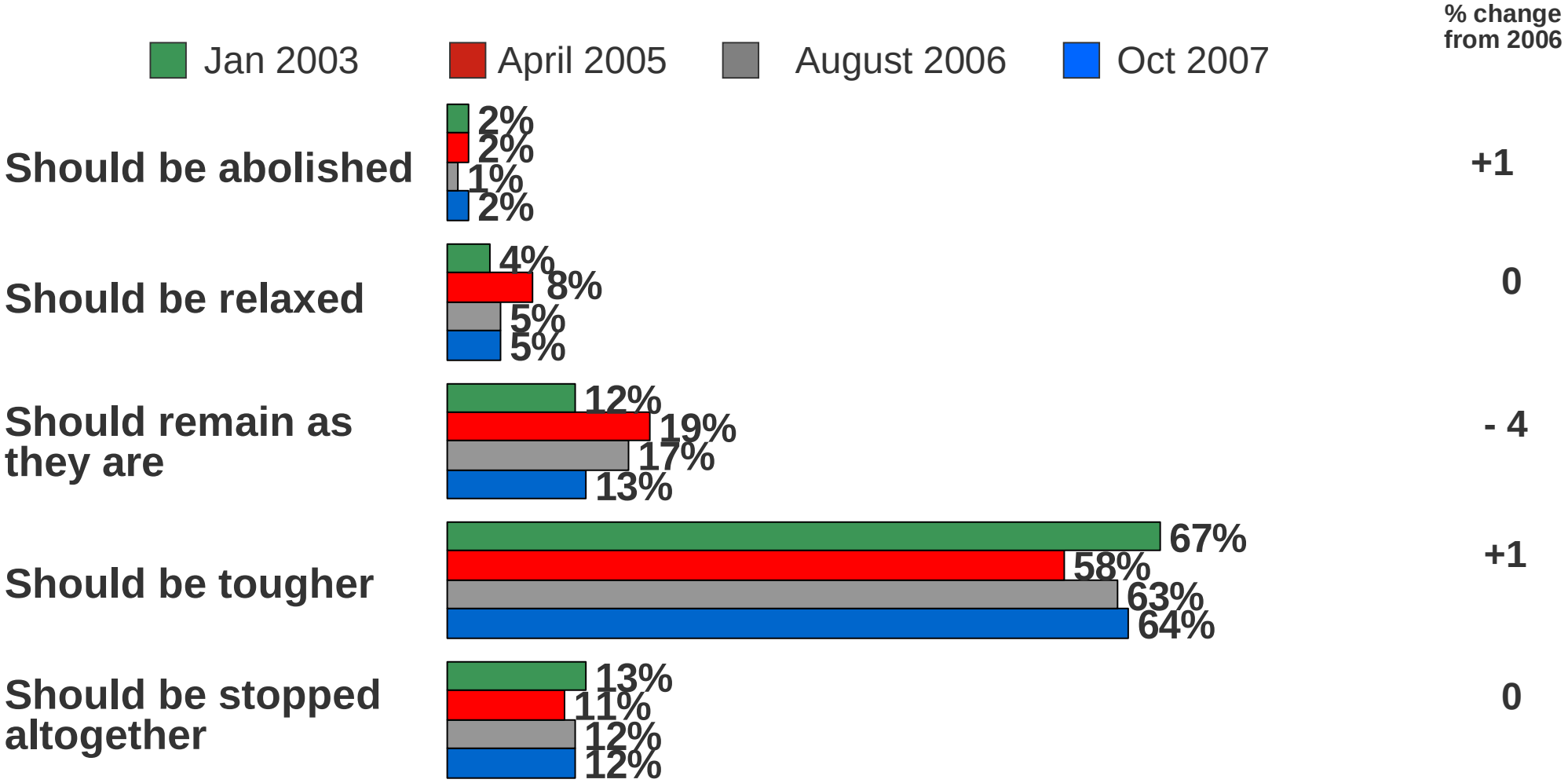
Q Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way the government is dealing with immigration and asylum?



Ipsos MORI Base: 1,013 British adults 18+, 31st Oct - 1st Nov 2007

We want tougher laws

Q Which of these statements comes closest to your views on laws about immigration in Britain?



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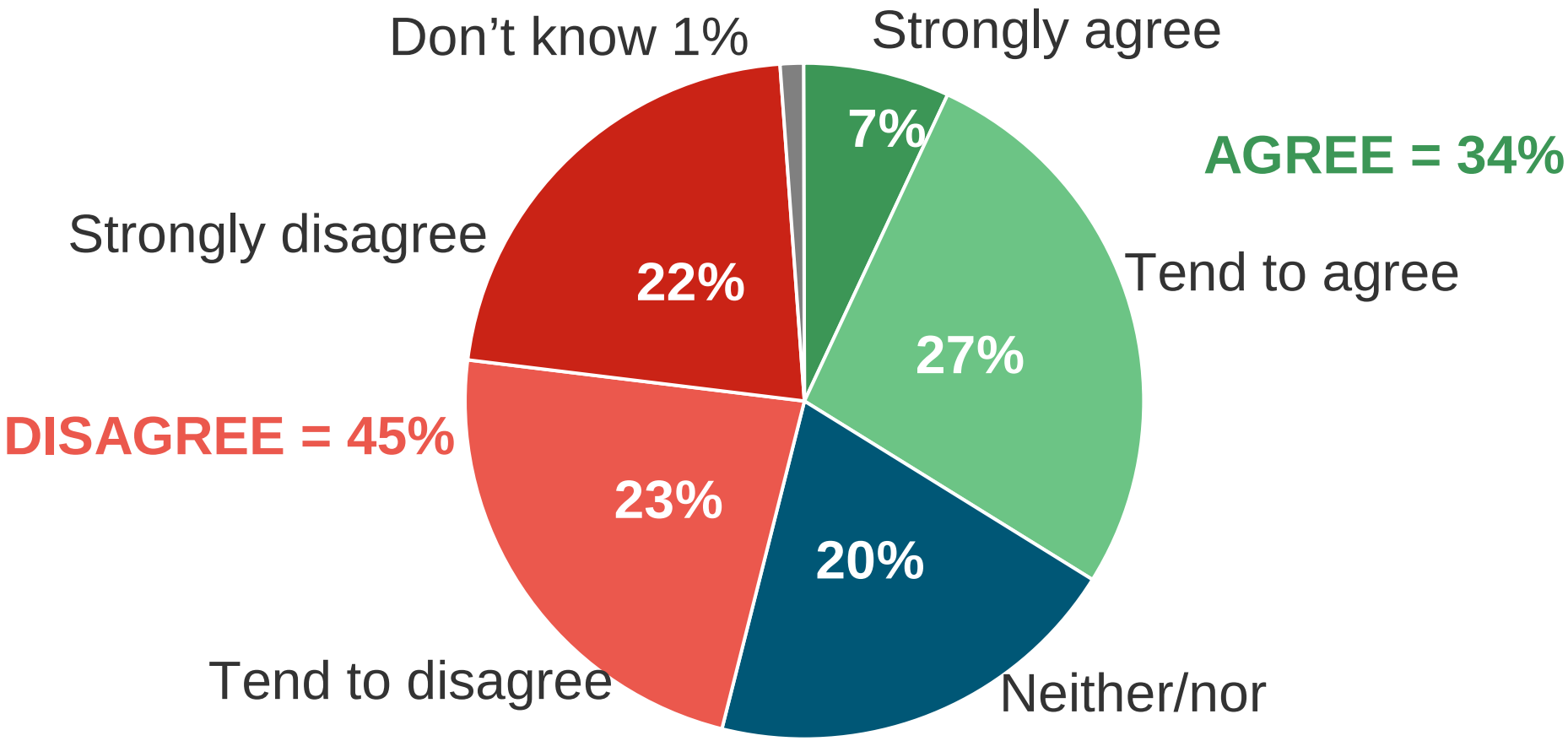
Base: 1,013 British adults 18+, 31st Oct - 1st Nov 2007

and we're not convinced it's good for Britain

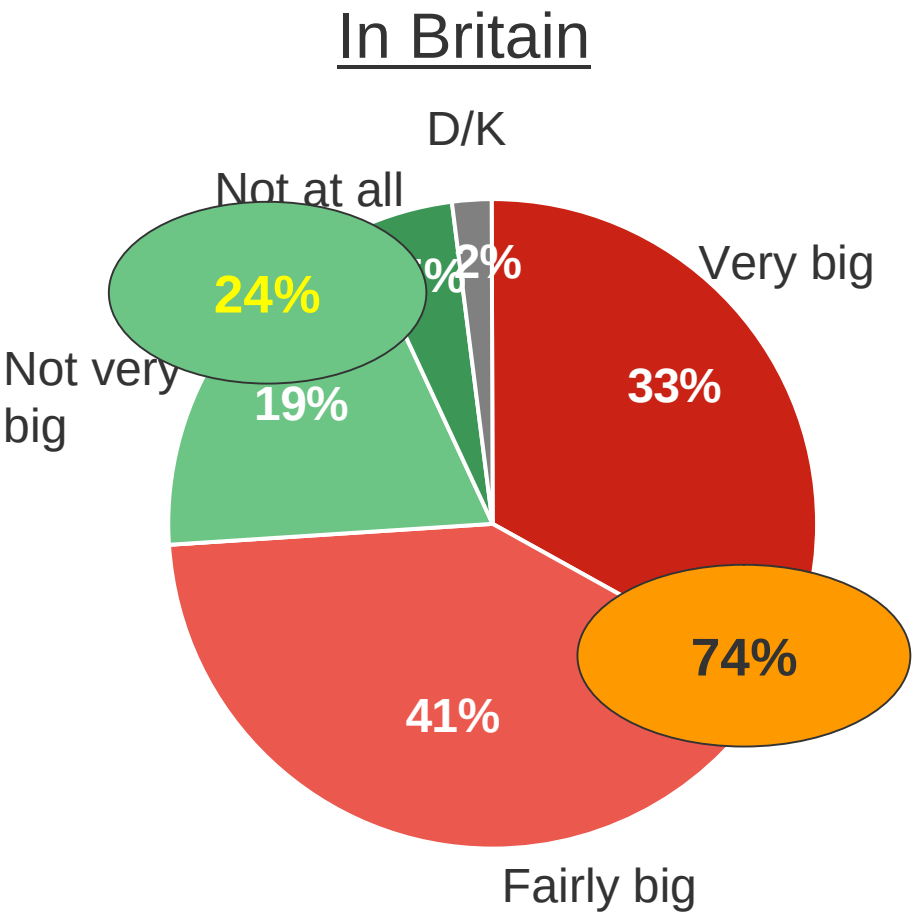
Q To what extent do you agree or disagree that Immigration is generally good for Britain

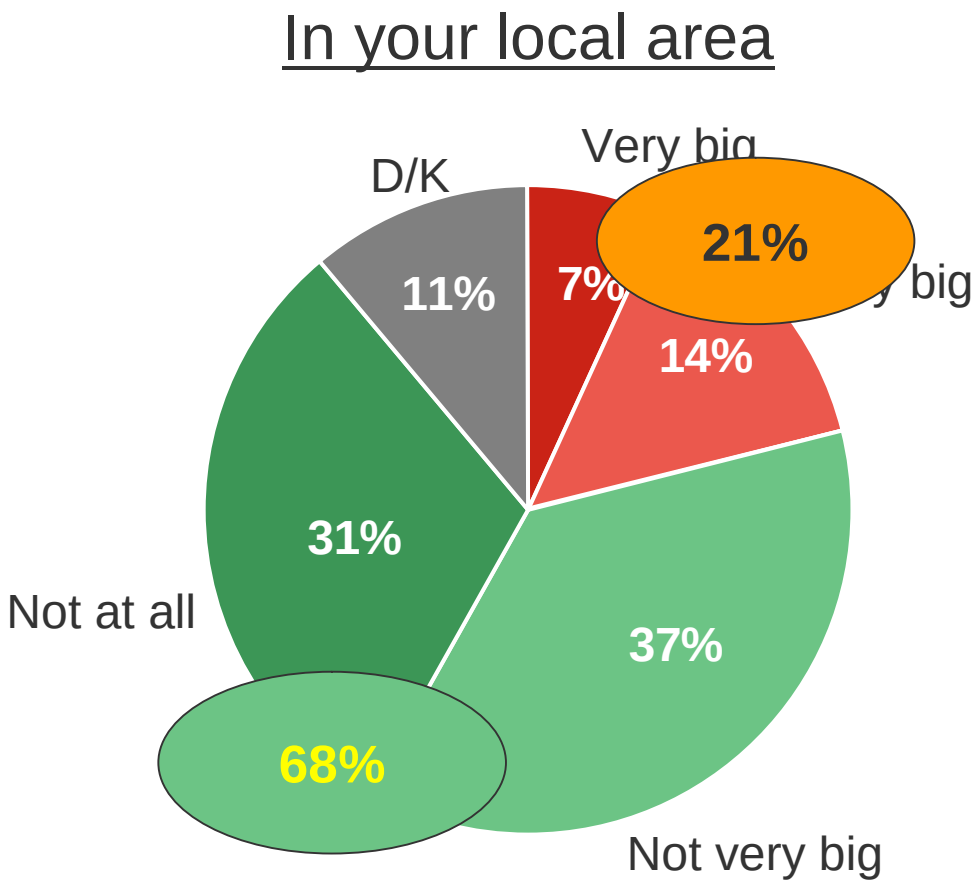


Ipsos MORI Base: 1,013 British adults 18+, 31st Oct - 1st Nov 2007

It's seen as a national problem rather than a local problem

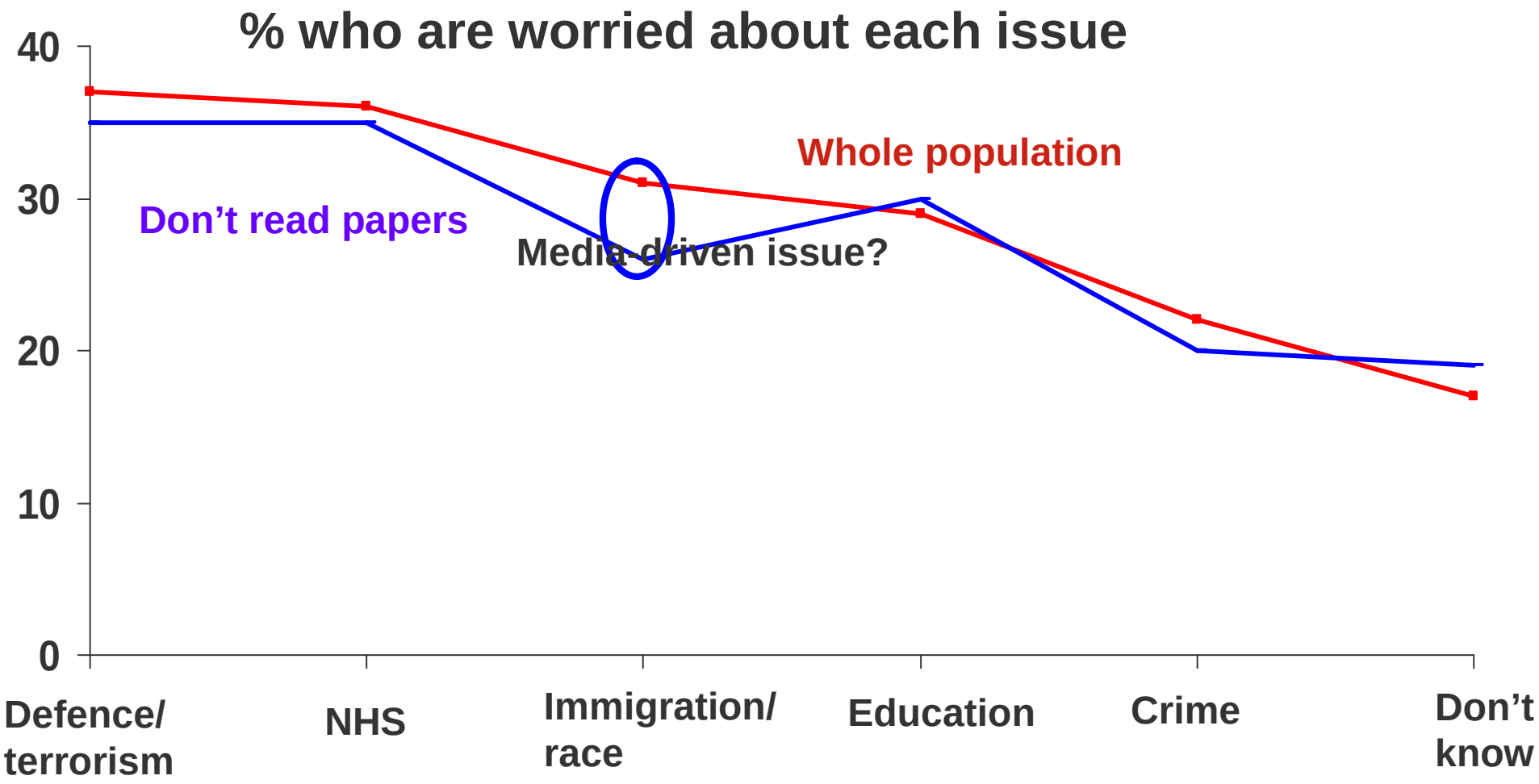
Q How much of a problem, if at all, do you think immigration is….





Ipsos MORI Base: c 1,000 British Adults aged 16+ years, June 2007

Media clearly have an impact – but its not just them….



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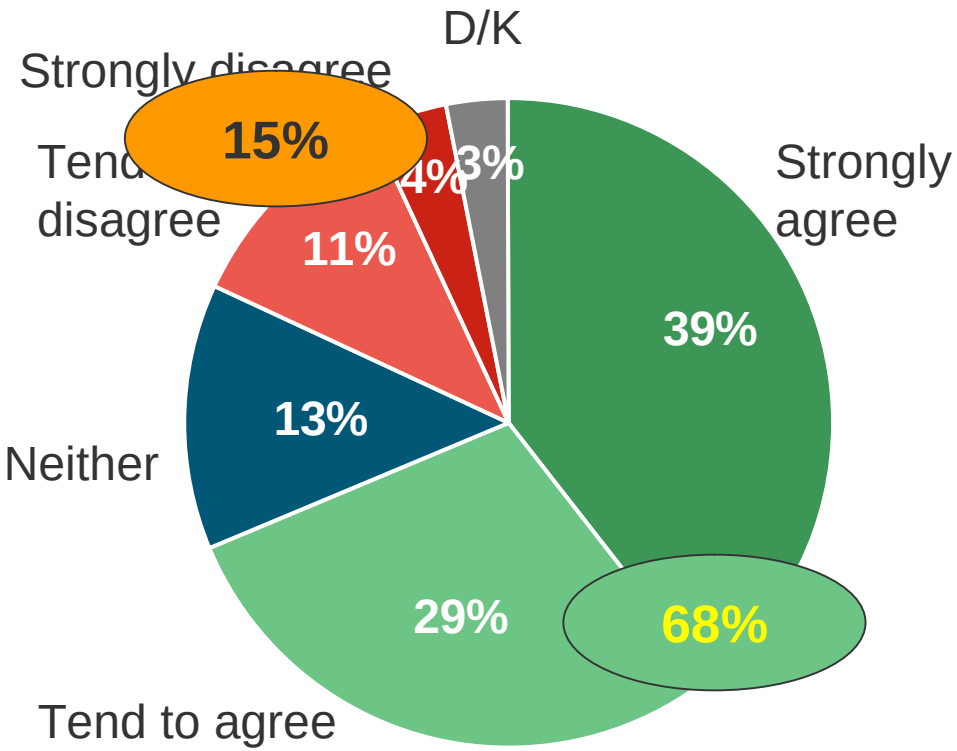
What is driving attitudes towards immigration?

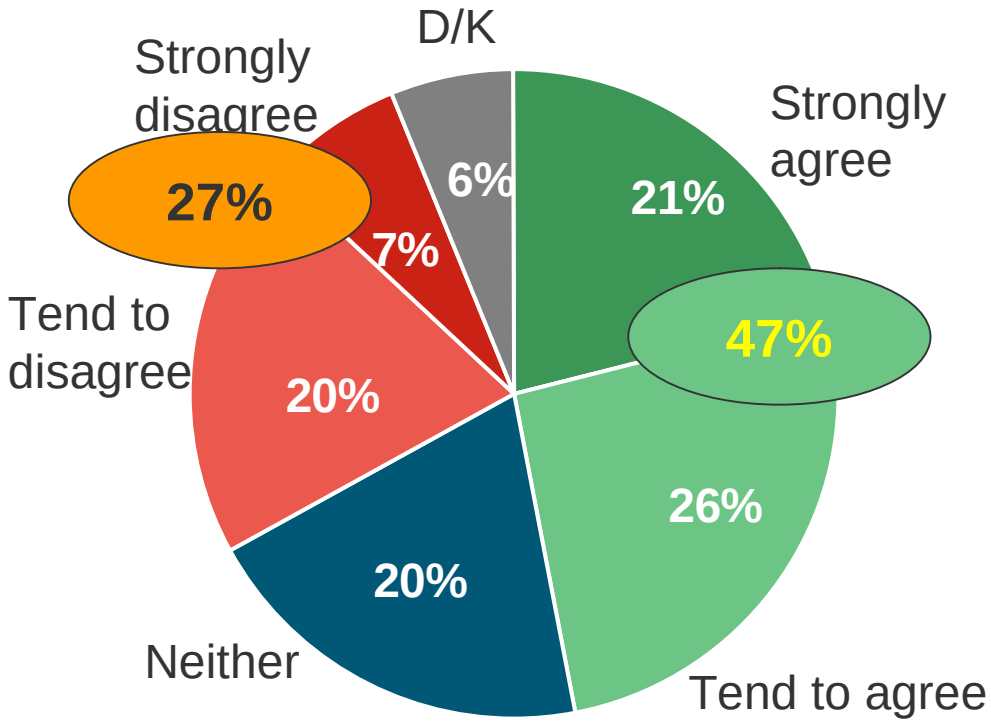
Too many immigrants and concerns about crime

Q What extent, if any do you agree or disagree with each statement?

There are too many immigrants in Britain



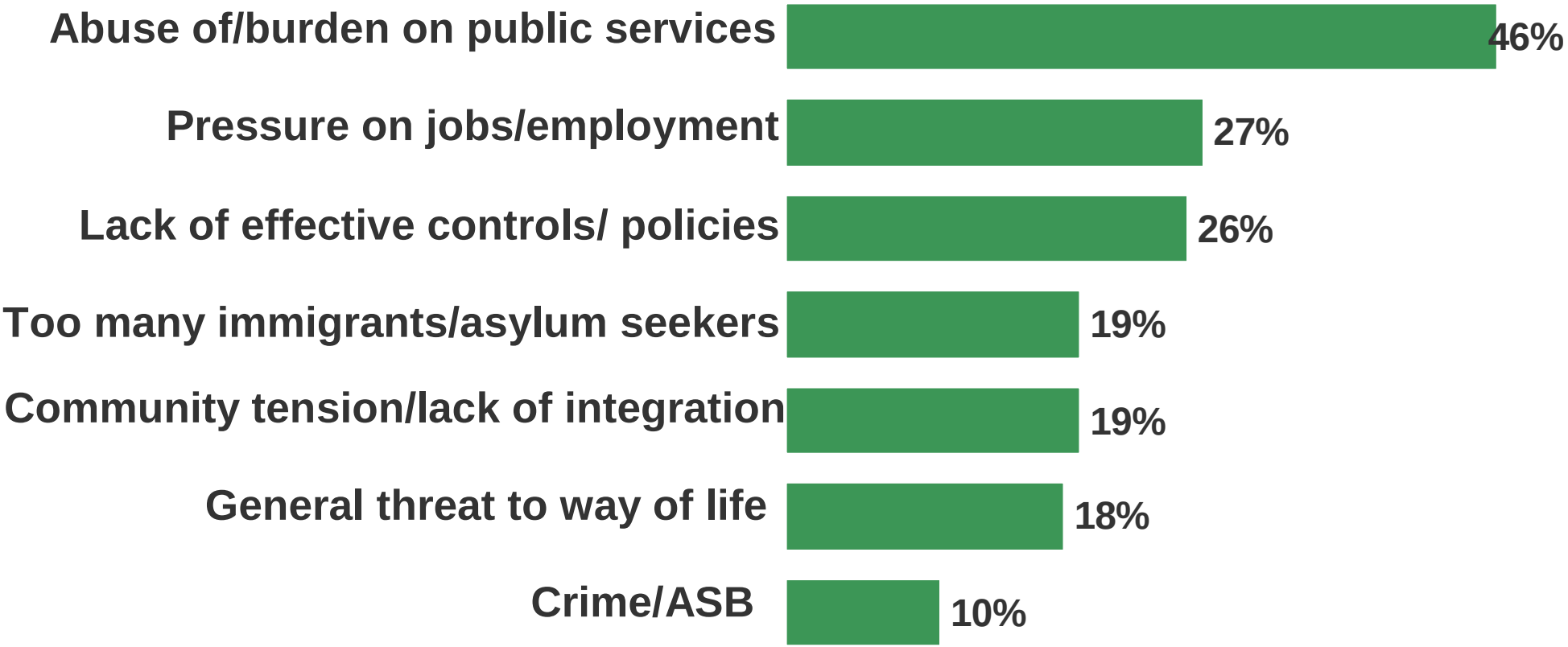
Immigration increases crime rates



Base: c 1,000 British Adults aged 16+ years, June 2007

Concerns about burden on public services and community cohesion

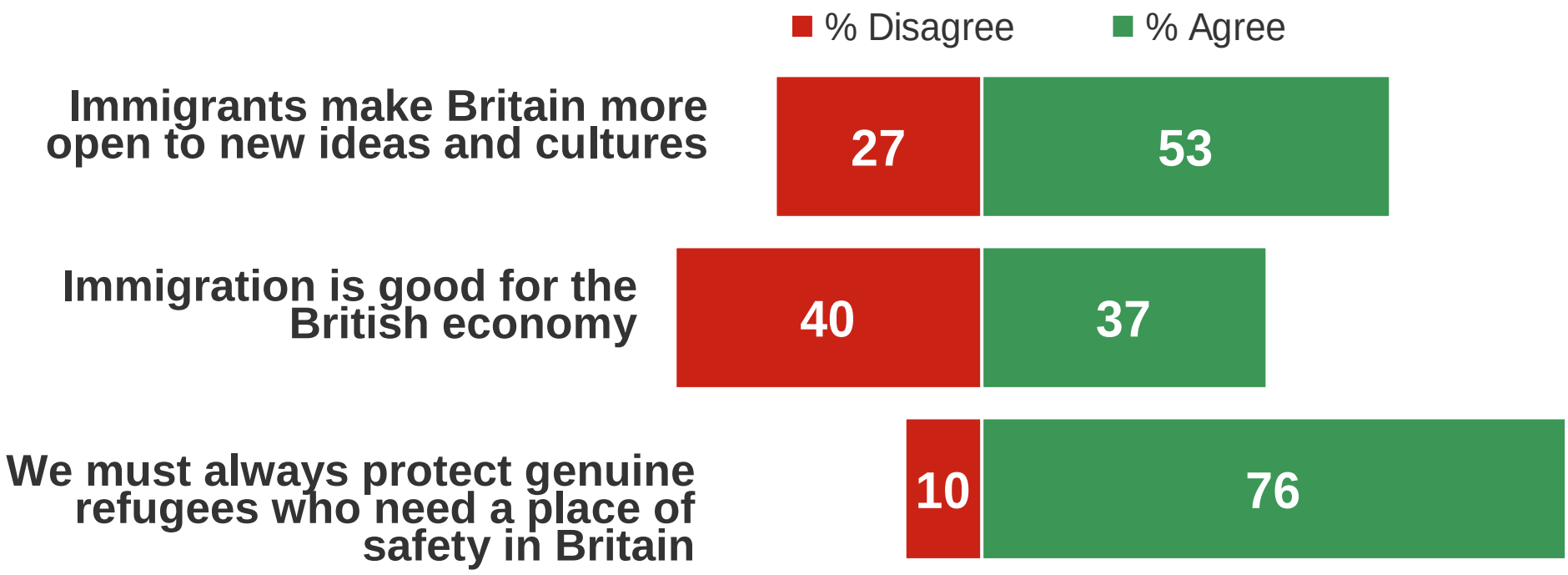
Q4 You said that immigration / migration in Britain is a very big/fairly big problem. Why do you say that?



Base: All who see immigration as a very or fairly big problem in Britain, June 2007

People are more positive about cultural aspects, the economy and protection for genuine refugees

Q11 To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with each statement?



Base: c 1,000 British Adults aged 16+ years, June 2007

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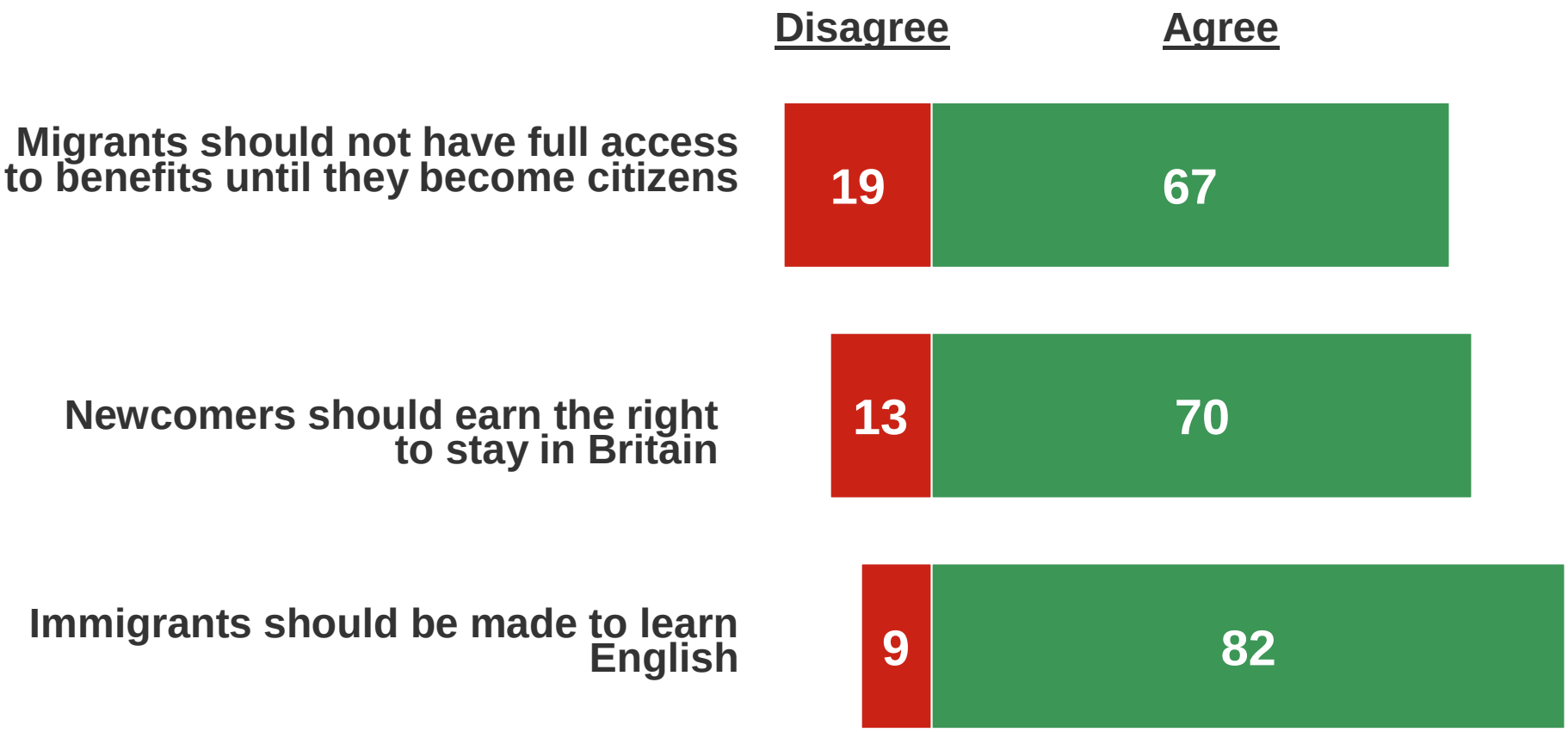
So what should we do about it?

People want responsibility to be placed on immigrants to earn their rights

Q11 To what extent, if at all, do you agree or disagree with each statement?



Base: 2,072 GB adults aged 15+, June 2008

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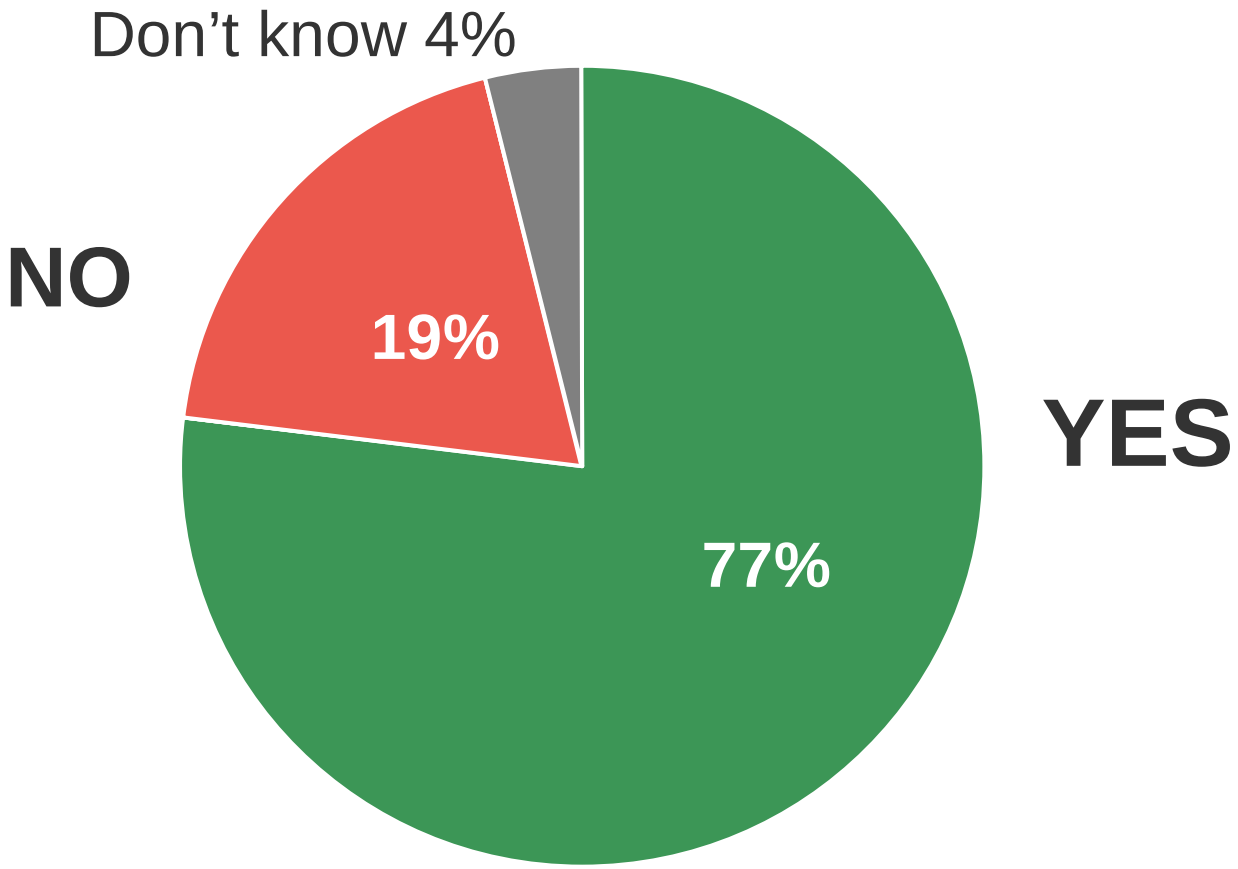
And there is strong support for quotas/limits

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



Ipsos MORI Base: c 1,000 British adults 16+, June 2007

Conclusions

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- The public are concerned about immigration
- Particularly worried about pressure on resources and how it changes local areas – much of this research done before financial crisis in UK, so the question is will this change over coming months?
- Limits/quotas are popular and people want immigrants to earn the right to stay in the UK
- Challenge is to demonstrate govt is balancing the needs of the UK economy, rights of migrants and people's concerns

Thank you

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